



PRESS RELEASE

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Report: Immigration raids adversely affect children left behind

ALBUQUERQUE—The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), an Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization, and the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan research organization, released a report today that examines how recent immigration enforcement actions have affected the children of immigrants. New Mexico Voices for Children applauds the report, saying it addresses an issue that has not garnered enough attention.

The report, **Paying The Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on America's Children**, is the first comprehensive assessment of the social, economic, and psychological effects of immigration raids on children. It also looks at the impacts on families and the community institutions that support them, including religious organizations, childcare providers, and school systems. The report profiles three communities that experienced large-scale worksite raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) within the past three years: Greeley, Colorado; Grand Island, Nebraska; and New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The results show a distressing trend: for every two immigrant adults detained, one child is left behind. This means that literally millions of children in this country are at risk of losing one or both of their parents to deportation. The study also found that two-thirds of the children affected are either U.S. citizens or legal residents.

"In the frenzy to address national immigration concerns, the government has acted without considering all of the possible consequences," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of NM Voices for Children. "Workplace raids often leave children – regardless of their citizenship status – in a state of crisis that ultimately affects the whole community. The detrimental effects these raids are already having on our economy are already well-documented and reported. But unless the detrimental effects on children and families get attention, we'll continue down this road, and the destination won't benefit anyone," he added.

The report is attached as a pdf.

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.
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