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CONTACT:

Byron Johnson
202-842-3600, Ext. 230
kidscount@hagerssharp.com

Lisa Adams-Shafer (Kids Count Research Associate)
New Mexico Voices for Children
2340 Alamo, SE; Suite 120
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-244-9505

Child Well-Being In New Mexico at a Glance
2007 KIDS COUNT New Mexico Fact Sheet

New Mexico ranks 47th in the nation in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The *2007 KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that New Mexico improved on four of the 10 measures reflecting child well-being, experienced setbacks on four and saw no change on two since 2000. The 2007 Essay discusses the need for all children in foster care to develop strong, lasting family connections. The Essay also sets an ambitious national goal to preserve, strengthen, rebuild, or find permanent families for every American child who is at risk of not having one.

Over 3,900 New Mexico children are in need of a permanent family connection.

In 2004, 3,902 children under age 18 in New Mexico lived in foster care at some point during the year, a rate of 8 per 1,000 children. That year, 41 children in the state aged out of the system without having a permanent family. Nationwide, 10 children per 1,000 under age 18 lived in foster care with 22,718 leaving the system at age 18 without a stable family environment.

New Mexico placed in bottom ten among eight out of ten categories.

In comparison to the rest of the nation, New Mexico was ranked in the bottom ten for its rates of child deaths, teen deaths, teen births, high school dropouts, idle teens, securely employed parents, child poverty, and single-parent families.

Child death rate increases sharply.

New Mexico's child death rate went from being below the national average of 22 deaths per 100,000 in 2000 with a state rate of 20 deaths per 100,000, to increasing by 40 percent in 2004 to 28 deaths per 100,000. Nationally, the rate fell by 9 percent to 20 deaths per 100,000 in 2004.

Higher share of New Mexico teens staying in high school.

The largest improvement among any of the indicators for New Mexico was its high school dropout rate, which improved by 38 percent to 10 percent in 2005, down from 16 percent in 2000.

Percentage of children in single-parent families rises.

The rate of New Mexico children living in single-parent families increased by 15 percent between 2000 and 2005, accounting for 38 percent of the state's total child population in 2005. The U.S. recorded a 32 percent single-parent family rate in 2005.