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Family Poverty Experts Available for Comment on Annual Statistics

New Census Numbers Out Today: One Third of America's Poor Are Children

The U.S. Census Bureau's annual report of data on poverty, income, and health insurance – released today – reveals that the official child poverty rate in the United States increased from 18 percent in 2007 to 19 percent in 2008. Researchers at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) are available to comment on what the new numbers mean in to America's children and families and future as a country.

Currently, 35 percent of the people in poverty in America are children. “In addition to the challenges to meet basic needs for America's families with children that these numbers indicate, this kind of widespread economic hardship impact child and adolescent development, health and ultimately has the potential to hinder our nation's competitiveness in the global economy,” says Janice L. Cooper, PhD, interim director at NCCP and one of the experts available to comment further on the story behind the new Census numbers.

To speak with an NCCP child poverty expert about the new poverty numbers, contact Morris Ardoin at 646-284-9616 or ardoin@nccp.org.

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) is the nation's leading public policy center dedicated to promoting the economic security, health and well-being of America's low-income families and children. Part of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, NCCP uses research to inform policy and practice with the goal of ensuring positive outcomes for the next generation.