



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 1, 2001

Contact: John Chambers
301-713-6672

U.S. Census Monitoring
Board

4700 Silver Hill Road
Suite 1250-3
Suitland, MD 20746

RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS

Phone: (301) 457-9900
Fax: (301) 457-9901

Gilbert F. Casellas
Co-Chair

Cruz M. Bustamante

Everett M. Ehrlich

Lorraine A. Green

Margarita Roque
Executive Director

**WILL POOR CHILDREN BE LEFT BEHIND?
RESEARCH SHOWING 500,000 to 2,000,000 POOR CHILDREN MISSED IN
1990 CENSUS DEMONSTRATES NEED FOR ACCURATE DATA IN 2001**

Washington –The Presidential Members of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board released a study today showing children in poverty are among the hardest hit by an inaccurate census. The study, which can be viewed at <http://www.cmbp.gov>, found that at least 532,769 and as many as 2,099,620 poor children were missed in the 1990 count.

“If we are to combat child poverty, we must first ensure that every child is counted in the census,” said Gilbert F. Casellas, Presidential Co-Chair of the Monitoring Board. “This study shows children will suffer the most if they don’t have the resources that an accurate and reliable census helps to ensure.”

Children in poverty depend on federal programs that rely on census data including Medicaid, Head Start, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance and Social Services Block Grants. The study suggests that decisions about required levels of funding for children could be adversely affected if corrected census data is not released in 2001. The 1990 census missed more than 2,000,000 children nationwide.

The study, conducted by Professors Donald Hernandez and Nancy Denton of the Department of Sociology and Center for Social and Demographic Analysis at the State University of New York at Albany, analyzed child poverty rates and the number of children missed in the 1990 census to estimate the number of children in poverty missed in the 1990 census. Attached are data for the largest 50 U.S. cities. State level data is also available at <http://www.cmbp.gov>.

The study is the first to quantify the number of undercounted children in poverty nationwide. “We know children are disproportionately missed in the census, and our findings show the number of poor children is much larger than indicated by the 1990 census,” said Hernandez. “Our concern is that the 2000 count may reveal a similar pattern of poor children being inaccurately counted.”

The release of this study follows the December 28 release of state population totals resulting from the 2000 count. Although there may be an improved count in the 2000 census, minorities and children are still likely to have been disproportionately missed just as they have been since the undercount was first measured in 1940.

“The results of this study must force us to move beyond the politics of the census. Our future is in the hands of our children. We can’t afford to leave even one of them behind,” said Casellas.