

## 140,000 In R.I. Have No Health Insurance, The Highest Level Ever

The number of people in Rhode Island without health insurance has reached its highest level ever — 16 percent of the population or 140,000 people this month, according to a new study. That's an increase of 18,000 since the most recent U.S. Census estimate in 2008 and a near doubling of the rate since 2000.

Job loss has been a big factor in the loss of insurance coverage, but not the only one. The shift toward industries less likely to offer coverage also plays a key role, as do rising premiums that are pushing health insurance out of reach for many.

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