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Report: 7 percent of R.I.'s children are uninsured

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Rhode Island remained steady with its number of uninsured children despite rising foreclosures and one of the nation's highest unemployment rates.

Using Census data just released Thursday, [Rhode Island KIDS COUNT](#) reports 7 percent of the state's children were uninsured in the three-year period from 2006 to 2008. That's 16,667 kids and almost the same average, 6.9 percent, the state had for 2005 to 2007.

The state ranks 14th in the nation for children's health-insurance coverage. Massachusetts is doing the best with 4.5 percent of its children uninsured. Florida and Texas has the worst three-year averages with 18.3 and 20.2 percent, respectively.

The national average is 10.8 percent, down from 11.2 percent in 2005 to 2007. The single year rate for the country's uninsured children in 2008 was 9.9 percent, or 7.3 million children. It is the lowest rate for United States since 1987.

"As national health reform takes shape, it is critical that we finish the job and cover all kids," said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, executive director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a statewide children's policy organization. "Rhode Island has long been a leader in children's health coverage. In difficult economic times, it is even more important to make sure that families continue to have the health security that comes with affordable, comprehensive health coverage."



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