Study shows number of Utahns with insurance has increased

KUTV

Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Rod Decker


Sara was uninsured, but now she works and so she has health insurance. "There was a possible carbon monoxide leak, and I had to pay out of pocket for a hospital visit, and that was not fun."

Utahns have been up and down on health insurance, 9.3 percent were uninsured in 2004. The percentage rose to 13.4 in 2011, and then fell steeply to 11.6% in 2013.

This is based on more people getting jobs.

Jason Stevenson of the Utah Health Policy project says as Utah’s economy has improved, more people like Sara have gotten jobs that provide health insurance.

Griffeth has a job but declined insurance. It's expensive and he hopes he won't need it, "Other than drive in Salt Lake City I don't do anything dangerous."

Over 300,000 are still uninsured.

President Obama's Affordable Care Act will subsidize insurance and require people to get it.

Stevenson says Governor Herbert's Healthy Utah plan will reduce the number of uninsured, if the legislature will pass it. "We need something like the governor’s Healthy Utah Plan."

(Copyright 2014 Sinclair Broadcast Group.)