

## Sixteen percent of live kidney donors uninsured

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(HealthDay)—Sixteen percent of living kidney donors (LKDs) are

uninsured at the time of donation, according to a study published online April 18 in the *American Journal of Transplantation*.

James R. Rodrigue, Ph.D., and Aaron Fleishman, from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, examined correlations between [insurance status](#) and relevant sociodemographic and health characteristics for LKDs. The United Network for Organ Sharing/Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network registry was queried for all LKDs from July 2004 to July 2015.

The researchers found that 16 percent of the 53,724 LKDs with known [health insurance](#) status were uninsured at the time of donation. The likelihood of not having health insurance was increased for younger (age 18 to 34 years), male, minority, non-employed, less educated, non-married LKDs, and for smokers and those with normotension. LKDs with one (18 percent) or two or more (21 percent) health risk factors at the time of donation were more likely to be uninsured than those with no health risk factors (obesity, smoking, hypertension, estimated [glomerular filtration rate](#), proteinuria; 14 percent) (P

"Study findings underscore the importance of providing health insurance benefits to all previous and future LKDs," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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