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Report: Idahoans pay lowest rates for high-risk pool plans

BOISE — A new report says Idahoans pay the lowest rates nationwide for high-risk insurance pool plans. Consumers insured by the high-risk pool are those whose health situations would normally cause them to be denied coverage.

A report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that the median state pool rate for a 50-year-old male non-smoker in 2008 was \$6,288 per year nationwide. In places like Oklahoma the rate was as high as \$10,176, but in Idaho the most commonly purchased plan was \$3,300.

Idaho's 1,500 policyholders pay rates that are just 25 percent above the standard rate, according to statistics in the report. Idaho's high-risk pool has been in operation since 2001.

“The success of Idaho's program is a result of having a stable source of funding and responsible supervision by a qualified board of directors.” Department of Insurance Director Bill Deal said.