

Use of antipsychotic medications increasing among children

Date:

Monday, September 10, 2012

PolicyLab's [David Rubin](#) and [Meredith Matone](#) published a [study](#) in Health Services Research showing an increase in the use of antipsychotic drugs among Medicaid-insured children from 2002 to 2007. This national study, the largest of its kind, found a 62% increase in antipsychotic prescribing across a number of mental health diagnoses. Moreover, researchers found that by 2007, nearly two-thirds of antipsychotic users were taking the medications for diagnoses not clinically indicated for antipsychotic use. The frequent off-label prescription of these medications has raised concern among healthcare providers in light of recent evidence demonstrating serious adverse side-effects associated with use. For more information, see the [press release](#) and [1-page summary](#).

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