

## Use of antipsychotic medications increasing among children

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PolicyLab's <u>David Rubin</u> and <u>Meredith Matone</u> published a <u>study</u> 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 <u>press</u> release and <u>1-page summary</u>.



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