



CSD Colloquium Series

Longitudinal Policy Surveillance of Private Insurance Hearing Aid Coverage Legislation in the United States

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Hearing aids are an efficacious approach for treating hearing loss yet are largely underutilized in the US. Variability in state-level private health insurance mandates for hearing aids has yet to be evaluated, and it is unknown what effect these mandates have on access to hearing aids and related services. The purpose of the current study was to develop a longitudinal data set of state-specific hearing aid insurance mandates using policy surveillance methods and to quantify yearly averages of the share of insured beneficiaries covered by a private insurance hearing aid mandate using data from the 2008 to 2020 waves of the American Community Survey. This colloquium talk will discuss findings from our policy surveillance, preferred estimates of coverage across the study period, and implications for hearing health care access in the US.

