

Health insurance expansion likely to increase HTN treatment

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populations.

"Federal and state efforts to expand insurance coverage among nonelderly adults could yield significant health benefits in terms of CVD prevalence and mortality rates and narrow the racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes for patients with hypertension," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—Efforts to expand health insurance coverage are expected to lead to increased treatment rates among nonelderly patients with hypertension, which will have significant health benefits, according to a study published online July 2 in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Preventing Chronic Disease*.

Suhui Li, Ph.D., from The George Washington University in Washington D.C., and colleagues developed a state-transition model to simulate lifetime health events of the population aged 25 to 64 years. The effects of [insurance coverage](#) expansions were modeled on the basis of published findings on the correlation between insurance coverage, use of antihypertensive medications, and cardiovascular disease (CVD)-related events and deaths.

The researchers found that among patients with hypertension, currently anticipated health insurance expansions would lead to a 5.1 percent increase in treatment rates. By 2050, this increase would be expected to lead to 111,000 fewer new [coronary heart disease](#) events, 63,000 fewer stroke events, and 95,000 fewer CVD-related deaths. Slightly greater estimated benefits were seen for men than women, and for nonwhite

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