



**MAKING EYE HEALTH
A POPULATION HEALTH
IMPERATIVE**

VISION FOR TOMORROW

The National Academies of
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Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative

Vision for Tomorrow

#EyeHealth

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Recommendation 3.

CDC should develop a coordinated surveillance system for eye and vision health in the U.S. Convene a task force comprising government, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, professional organizations, academic researchers, and the health care and public health sectors to design system that includes:

- Developing and standardizing definitions for population-based studies, particularly definitions of clinical vision loss and functional vision impairment;
- Identifying and validating surveillance and quality-of-care measures to characterize vision-related outcomes, resources, and capacities within different communities and populations;
- Integrating eye-health outcomes, objective clinical measures, and risk/protective factors into existing clinical-health and population-health data collection forms and systems; and
- Analyzing, interpreting, and disseminating information to the public in a timely and transparent manner.

Recommendation 7.

State and local public health departments should partner with health care systems to align public health and clinical practice objectives, programs, and strategies about eye and vision health to:

- Enhance community health needs assessments, surveys, health impact assessments, and QI metrics;
- Identify and eliminate barriers within health care and public health systems to eye care, especially to comprehensive eye exams, appropriate screenings, and follow-up services, and items and services intended to improve the functioning of individuals with vision impairment;
- Include public health and clinical expertise related to eye and vision health on oversight committees, advisory boards, expert panels, and staff ...;
- Encourage physicians and health professionals to ask and engage in discussions about eye and vision health in patients' office visits; and
- Incorporate eye health and chronic vision impairment into existing QI, injury and infection control, and behavioral change programs related to comorbid chronic conditions, community health, and elimination of health disparities.

Recommendation 8.

To build state and local public health capacity, the CDC should prioritize and expand its vision grant program, in partnership with state-based chronic disease programs and other clinical and non-clinical stakeholders, to:

- Design, implement, and evaluate programs for the primary prevention of conditions leading to visual impairment, including policies to reduce eye injuries;
- Develop and evaluate policies and systems that facilitate access to, and utilization of, patient-centered vision care and rehabilitation services, including integration and coordination among care providers; and
- Develop and evaluate initiatives to improve environments and socioeconomic conditions that underpin good eye and vision health and reduce eye injuries in communities.

Recommendation 4.

HHS should create an interagency workgroup ... to develop a common research agenda and coordinated eye and vision health research and demonstration grant programs that target leading causes, consequences, and unmet needs of vision impairment. Agenda should include:

- Population-based epidemiologic and clinical research on the major causes and risks and protective factors for vision impairment, with a special emphasis on longitudinal studies of the major causes of vision impairment;
- Health services research, focused on patient-centered care processes, CER and economic evaluation of clinical interventions, and innovative models of care delivery to improve access to appropriate diagnostics, follow-up treatment, and rehabilitation services, particularly among high-risk populations;
- Population health services research to reduce eye and vision health disparities, focusing on effective interventions that promote eye healthy environments and conditions, especially for underserved populations;
- R&D on emerging preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, and treatment strategies and technologies, including efforts to improve the design and sensitivity of different screening protocols.