



5th Annual

FOCUS ON EYE HEALTH NATIONAL SUMMIT

VISION TO ACTION: Collaborating Around a National Strategy

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Rick Bunner

Presenting the 2016 Recipient of the
Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence
in Vision and Public Health



Children's Vision 2016 – Where We Are and Where We Need To Go

Bruce Moore O.D. FAAO

Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies

New England College of Optometry



Thanks and Acknowledgements



- The memory of Jenny Pomeroy
- Colleagues in CVMA and Prevent Blindness
- Colleagues in Vision In Preschoolers Study
- Family



Current state of children's vision in the US

- Better science
- Successful local and national projects
- Access to care still limited





What's the problem today?

- Limited Awareness
- Limited Access
- Limited Interest



Limited awareness

- Outside of the eyecare provider community
- Within the eyecare provider community



Limited awareness outside eyecare

- Constituents
- Importance of vision health
- Studies show deficits
- Developmental questionnaires
- Health surveys
- Early education settings



Limited awareness within eyecare

- Knowledge limited
- Many won't see children
- Saving eyes, not children
- Relationship between vision, learning, development, and success in life





Limited access



- Focus on screening
- Exams only
- Organizational problems
- Unwillingness to collaborate

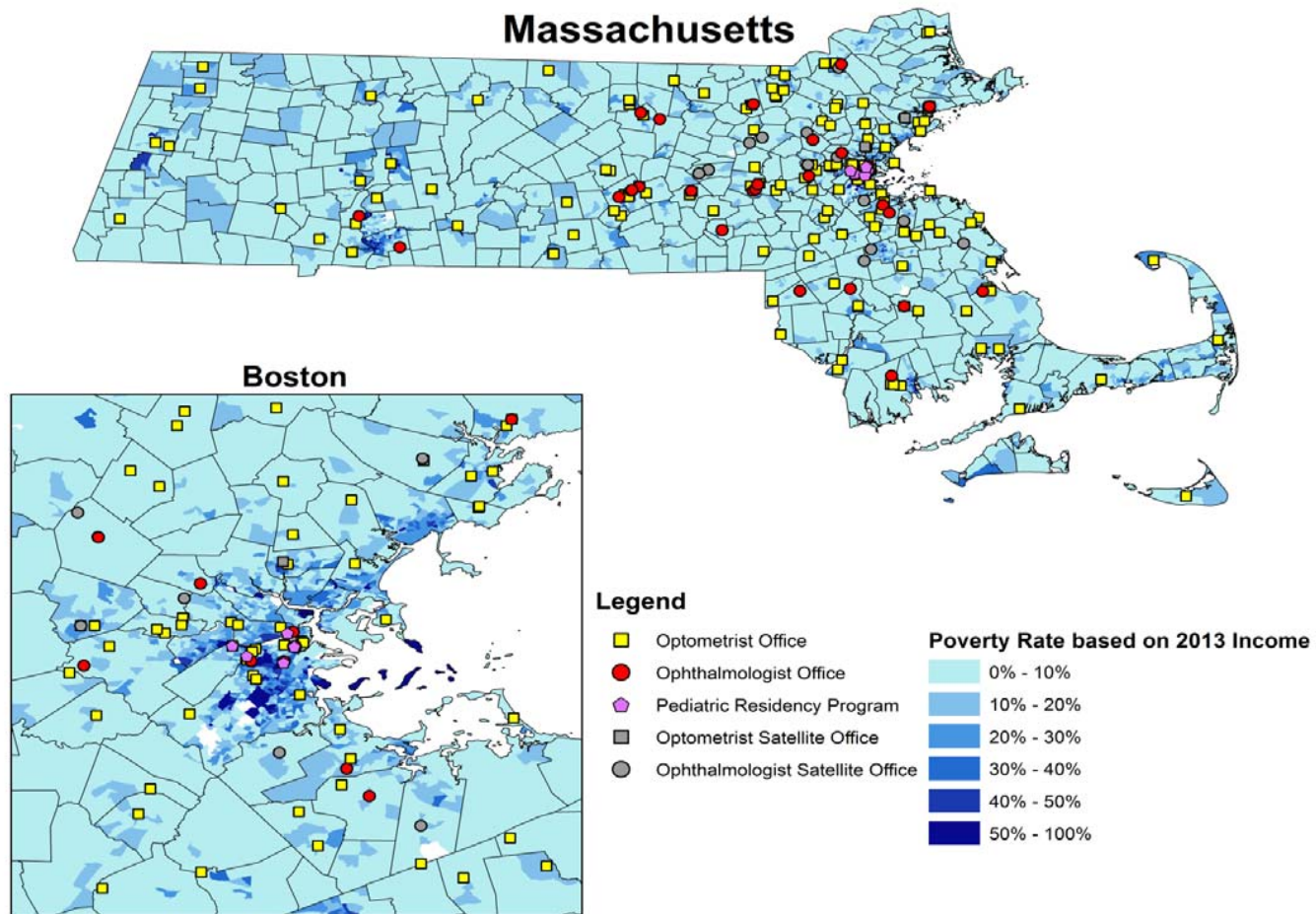


Limited access

- Limited insurance coverage
- Medical, geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic isolation
- Massachusetts GeoMap



Massachusetts GeoMap





Limited interest within eyecare

- Professional conflict
- Messaging to trainees
- Manpower crisis
- Where is the overall vision care community?



Limited interest within primary care

- Limited education
- Discomfort or fear?



What must we do?

- Improve Awareness
- Improve Access
- Improve Interest



Improve awareness

- Push research and systems development
- Ensure evidence basis to guide policy and practice
- Increase awareness of PPC's to benefits of effective vision care
- Educate and engage constituents in the importance of vision care



Improve access

- Improve screening
- Allocate resources
- ACA
- Ensure insurance mandates quality vision care
- Integrate vision care into all health care systems



Improve interest

- Pediatric practice must become popularized, highly valued, and properly incentivized
- Health systems must value and integrate vision health into comprehensive care
- Make a national commitment of resources to deliver vision care to children



Collaboration!!

- Beyond eye doctors
- Primary healthcare and early education
- Government
- Recognize linkages between vision and learning





Summary and Conclusions

- Connection between vision and learning and public policy
- Collaboration to solve the problem



Thanks



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