Third Annual
FOCUS ON EYE HEALTH
National Summit

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National Press Club • Washington, DC
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Healthy Eyes for healthy futures

CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING IN THE U.S.

California Michigan Nebraska

Oregon Texas

Virginia Ohio Illinois

A Snapshot Report on the Status of Vision Screening in State Maternal and Child Health Programs
To develop this snapshot report, the Center relied primarily on two core sources:

- an online survey instrument addressing vision screening targeting the Title V Directors in each state and the District of Columbia
- a series of follow-up telephone interviews with six states to add depth to the survey responses
The State Survey of Title V Agencies
Focused on:

- Administrative law/rule
- Who is screened
- Screening outcomes for preschool children
- The referral process
- Payment resources for vision screening
- Data collection
The Findings

In summarizing the reports from the nation’s health agencies we found that:

• 73% currently have vision screening laws;
• 65% report that they take steps to ensure follow-up is provided for vision screening referrals;
• 54% collect vision screening data;
• 38% provide technical assistance and training for vision screening personnel; and
• 38% of MCH programs specifically consider children’s vision during the needs assessment process.
In your planning for the MCH Block Grant, do you include vision screening and eye health?
The Current Status of Title V (MCH) Vision Screening Data:

• No uniform system for data collection
• When screening data is collected it is done at multiple sites and not in a coordinated/planned system
• Data collected primarily focuses on number screened, number referred
• Data analysis is often not completed in that data is most often not used for program planning or evaluation
Barriers to Improved Title V Program Vision Screening Data Collection:

- No state law permitting data collection
- Concerns regarding confidentiality
- Incomplete reporting across a state
- Lack of outcome based data
- Multiple reporting sites and lack of collaboration
- Insufficient public health work force
- Lack of uniformity in use of screening procedures
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NATIONAL CENTER
for Children’s Vision & Eye Health

AT PREVENT BLINDNESS
The National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health:

- Serve as a technical resource center to states in the development/improvement of comprehensive vision screening programs for children.

- Enhance existing efforts in the surveillance of children’s vision, screening, outcomes to care, and related health disparities.

- Develop and disseminate educational tools and information that promote a comprehensive approach to children’s vision health.