ChildSight® Bringing Education Into Focus

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Helen Keller International
World Health Organization 2010
Global Causes of Visual Impairment

A

- Cataract, 33%
- RE, 42%
- Undetermined, 18%
- Childhood, 1%
- Trachoma, 1%
- CO, 1%
- AMD, 1%
- Glaucoma, 2%

RE: Uncorrected refractive errors
AMD: Age-related macular degeneration,
CO: Corneal opacities,
DR: Diabetic retinopathy
Significant regional variation in RE prevalence among children 15 years of age. (WHO’s Refractive Error Study in Children).

- China: 73.1%
- United States: 25% - 35% (HKI DATA)
- Chile: 16.5%
- South Africa: 9.6%

Rates tend to be higher in urban versus rural communities.
GLOBAL INCREASE IN THE PREVALENCE OF MYOPIA

Source: Ian Morgan, Australian Natl Univ.
Prevalence of Refractive Error (RE) in US Children

• 25% - 35% of Middle School age children have RE

• Rates of Uncorrected RE in poor minority communities range from 60%-80%

• Racial Disparities in URE in the United States
  • 12 to 19 year old Mexican-American and non-Hispanic Blacks were three times more likely not to have the glasses they needed than whites.
• Why do high rates of URE persist among poor children in the United States?

• Entitlements exist but the majority of poor Medicaid eligible children still cannot access care.
BARRIERS TO CARE

- Awareness
- Vision Screening Regulations
- Access to Medicaid Providers
- Cost
- Compliance
IMPACT

- Developmental
- Educational
- Behavioral
CHILDREN’S HEALTH FUND SURVEY OF EDUCATORS

• What medical conditions have the greatest impact on learning?
  • 60% education leaders in poor districts cited vision problems.

• What would be helpful?
  • 67% requested links with organizations that can provide services and resources at school.
• Childsight® is dedicated to improving the vision and educational potential of students living in poverty.

• Services are provided without charge, within the school setting, in order to eliminate potential barriers to care.


• ~91,000 screened and 19,000 eyeglasses distributed last year in California, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio

• More than 1.7 million children screened and over 243,000 received free eyeglasses since 1994.
• New target populations

• Challenge – Sustainability

• Medicaid Pilot

• Advocacy – NYC Community Schools
• **Current ChildSight® International Programs**
  - China, Indonesia, Vietnam

• **Seeing is Believing Program**
  - $5 million Pediatric Eye Care Grants
  - Expansion in China (Shanxi Province) and Indonesia (South Sulawesi, Lombok and Jakarta)