

Results of a mobile vision screening program conducted by Ophthalmologists

AUTHORS: Mitch Brinks*, Dong-Wouk Park, Joan Randall, Tosha Zaback*, Verian Wedeking*, Stephanie K. Cramer, Michael F. Chiang

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Vision Health, Health Screenings

ABSTRACT: Problem: Increasing visual impairment prevalence combined with limited evidence on which to base screening programs is a challenge to the U.S. public health system. Programs led by paraprofessionals are challenged to accurately identify eye disease leading to over referral of already financially strained participants.

Approach: We investigated the capacity of an ophthalmologist led screening program to address vision health needs of 4349 participants. Data regarding examination findings were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: A total of 4349 screening participant examinations were analyzed. The most common findings include; refractive error, 2214 (50.9%), normal exams, 1475 (34.0%), glaucoma suspect, 390 (9.0 %), dry eye/blepharitis, 385 (8.8%), and diabetic retinopathy, 237 (5.4%). A total of 924 referrals (21.2%) were made for further evaluation, most frequently for these findings; glaucoma suspect, 314 (7.2%), visually significant cataract, 178 (4.1%), and diabetic retinopathy 96 (2.2%). A total of 1779 corrective spectacle prescriptions and 2685 non-prescriptive reading spectacles were dispensed. The ophthalmologist led program addressed all vision health needs for 78.8% of participants.

Conclusion: Identifying effective vision health screening programs to prevent visual impairment is imperative. By incorporating an ophthalmologist, vision health screening programs may be able to offer participants an efficient resolution of vision health needs.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe the importance of vision health screening.
- Compare vision health screening programs led by paraprofessionals versus Ophthalmologists.

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tosha Zaback, MPH
Research Associate
Casey Eye Institute
5034943034 | zabackt@ohsu.edu