



# National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health

Prevent Blindness

## Annual Report 9/1/23 through 8/31/24

The National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness (NCCVEH) creates a public health infrastructure that promotes a comprehensive system of vision care and eye health for all children.

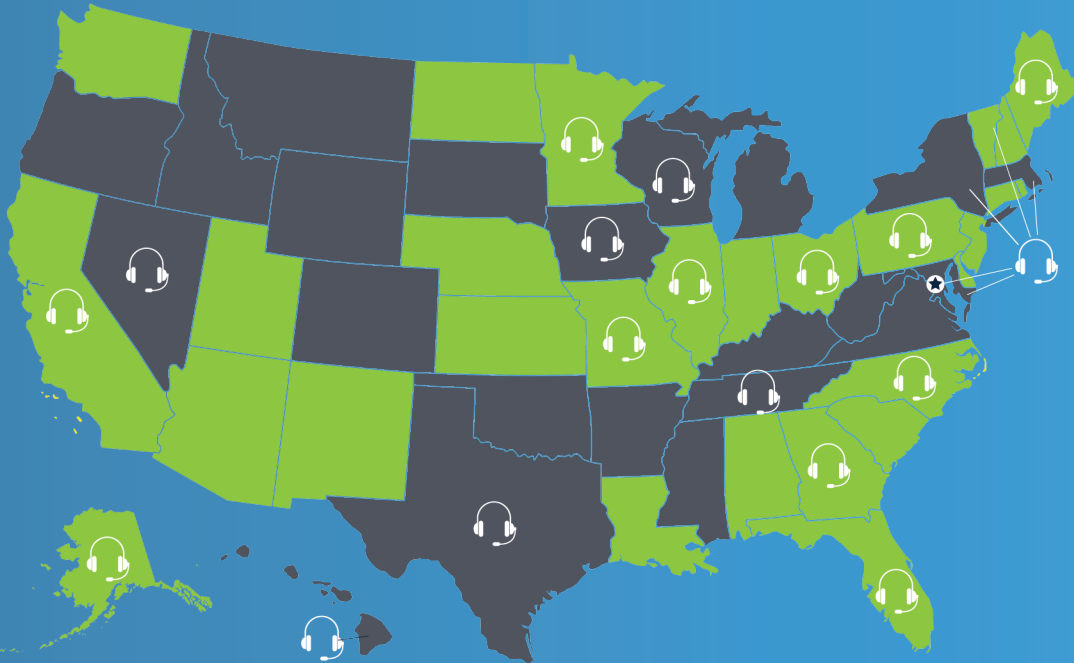
The NCCVEH adopted 3 goals to guide our work in 2023 and 2024:

**Goal 1:** Convene a diverse group of multi-disciplinary stakeholders to partner in efforts to promote and improve eye health and vision care equity and effective children's vision and eye health systems. Sectors include healthcare, education, early childhood care and education, public health, and families.

**Goal 2:** Increase adoption of NCCVEH guidance, data, and measures of accountability to ensure eye health equity and an evidence base for children's vision and eye health policies and practices in communities, states, and nationally.

**Goal 3:** Increase adoption of evidence-based practices through the creation and delivery of educational programming, training, resources, and technical assistance to families; professionals in communities, states, and U.S. territories; national organizations; federal agencies and tribal programs.

# ACHIEVEMENTS



### Children's Vision Screening Certification Course

- 408 total certified by national office and 6,173 certified by Prevent Blindness Affiliates
- Learners from 28 states + DC
- Number of children screened by learners trained by National office = 229,576 and 1,436,869 by the Prevent Blindness Affiliates
- 18 groups of learners were certified



### Technical Assistance

- 50 requests from 21 states + DC, 7 national organizations and 4 international organizations

### Publication Development

- Paper published in *Ophthalmology*: "Association of sociodemographic characteristics with pediatric vision screening and eye care: an analysis of the 2021 National Survey of Children's Health"
- Retinopathy of Prematurity Resources
  - Fact Sheets
    - What is ROP?
    - How is ROP Diagnosed and Treated?
    - What Do I Need to Know About My Child's ROP and Lifelong Vision Health?
  - Videos: Long-form video and 15 short videos to educate families
- Solar Eclipse preschool lesson and book
- Diabetes + Your Eyes: Vision Health in Youth
- Monthly e-newsletters: Distribution August 2024= 6900+ recipients, representing an increase of 14% in one year.
- Drafted 3 vision screening recommendations manuscripts

### Presentations/Webinars

- 19 webinars and presentations were delivered
- 3,367 individuals participated in presentations and webinars

### Highlights of webinars/presentations

- Children's vision and eye health in Community Health Centers
- Bridging the gap between vision screening referrals and eye examinations
- Improving access to eye care for children
- Emerging issues in children's vision
- Inherited retinal diseases: genetic testing and the pathway to diagnosis
- Roundtable discussion on retinopathy of prematurity



### Children's Vision Equity Alliance

Partnered with [BlackDoctor.org](https://www.blackdoctor.org/) for monthly interviews: "Seeing Eye to Eye"



### Children's vision topics:

- Prematurity and retinopathy of prematurity
- Genetic testing and children's vision
- The developing eye what to expect
- My Baby Can't See! Why and What to do?
- Diabetes- No age is spared. What can you do?
- The eyes and sun safety
- Prepared manuscript for publication: "Social risk factors affecting access to pediatric eye health screenings in North America" (systematic review)



### Presentation Highlights

#### Office HALF Hour with Dr. P. Kay Nottingham Chaplin

- Inaugurated half-hour sessions with Dr. Kay answering participant questions about vision screening. 300 individuals participated
- NCCVEH Director Donna Fishman presented to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's "Workshop on the Rise in Myopia: Exploring Possible Contributors and Investigating Screening Practices, Policies, and Programs": *Early Detection of Myopia: What We Know, What Else We Need to Know*



### Hosted 10 interns.

Project examples:

- Vision screening for homeschool children
- State vision screening guidelines chart
- Education content: Blogs, posters, literature reviews, children's eye care models
- World Sight Day tool kit in partnership with the National Association of School Nurses
- Solar eclipse lesson, book, and activities for preschool children



### Funders

UnitedHealthCare, American Astronomical Society, Zenni, Johnson & Johnson, Delta Gamma Foundation, Andersen Foundation, Alcon Foundation, Regeneron, Office of Head Start- National Center for Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety



### Bonnie Strickland award

- Alcon Children's Vision Center- 2024