



Ohio MCH Fact Sheet

Early Childhood Vision

Ohio Data

99.4%

School screening rate of all children enrolled in the required grades (kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9) for vision screening in 2006.

9.4%

Children in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 who received a vision screening and failed the screening in 2006.

7.2%

Children in kindergarten and first grade who received a vision screening and failed the screening in 2006.

40.1%

Preschool-aged children who received a vision screening.

1,899

Children and youth (0-21 years) who received vision clinic services in the Medical Specialty Clinics Program in state fiscal year (SFY) 2006.

Source: Data are from a statewide sample of schools administered every other year through the School Hearing and Vision Screening Report. The denominator was obtained through ODE enrollment data for the 2006-07 school year. Data are reported from school-based preschools only.

Vision disorders are the fourth-most common disability in the United States and one in four school-aged children has vision problems. While the two primary pathways for learning are vision and hearing, only an estimated 14 percent of children receive comprehensive vision examinations before entering school. Furthermore, almost half of all children under the age of 12 have never been seen by an eye-care professional.

Because an eye injury can result in permanent, partial or total loss of vision, preventive measures are good public health policy.

- Eye injuries are the leading cause of blindness in children in the United States and most of those occurring in school-aged children are sports-related. Protective eyewear can eliminate 90 percent of these injuries.
- Sports-related eye injuries in the United States account for more than 100,000 physician visits yearly at a cost of \$175 million.
- More than 42,000 of these sports-related eye injuries require a visit to an emergency room.
- Children under age 15 account for 43 percent of sports and recreational eye injuries overall.
 - In SFY 2006:** 6,487 protective eyewear helmets were distributed through the Save Our Sight program.
 - In SFY 2007:** 7,347 protective eyewear helmets were distributed through the Save Our Sight program.

Source: Save Our Sight

For more information about vision impairment and protective eyewear, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5417a2.htm>

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/sports/pdf/SportsRelatedEyeInjuries.pdf>

Healthy People Objective 28-2 (developmental)

Increase the proportion of preschool children aged 5 years and under who receive vision screenings.

Healthy People Objective 28-3 (developmental)

Reduce uncorrected visual impairment due to refractive error.

Healthy People Objective 28-4

Reduce blindness and visual impairment in children and adolescents aged 17 years and under to 18 per 1,000 children and adolescents.

Healthy People Objective 15-31 (developmental)

Increase the proportion of public and private schools that require use of appropriate head, face, eye and mouth protection for students participating in school-sponsored physical activities.