

Healthy vision in children contributes to readiness for school and learning, which sets a foundation for a higher quality of life and economic well-being in adulthood. Vision is not fully developed at birth, and changes throughout the childhood years, thus, early and consistent vision screening, diagnosis, and treatment is critical before vision problems worsen or result in permanent vision loss. The following data from the [2022 National Survey of Children's Health](#) provides an overview of early intervention efforts in Alaska.



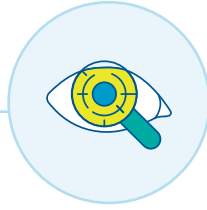
### Vision Screening Requirements

ALASKA		
Preschool vision screening	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
School-age vision screening	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

\*The information above was compiled based on information available at the time of publication. State policies can change often – reference the most current published state legislative code and/or public health rules available.

# CHILDREN'S VISION AND EYE HEALTH IN ALASKA

Based on the 2022 National Survey of Children's Health



### Percent of Children Receiving Vision Screening by Age and Race

ALASKA	
Age 0-5	47%
Age 6-11	64%
Age 12-17	53%
Hispanic	56%
White, non-Hispanic	61%
Black, non-Hispanic	-
Asian	44%
Other, non-Hispanic	49%



### Percent of Children Receiving Eye Examination by Age and Race

ALASKA	
Age 0-5	18%
Age 6-11	40%
Age 12-17	58%
Hispanic	52%
White, non-Hispanic	40%
Black, non-Hispanic	-
Asian	37%
Other, non-Hispanic	35%



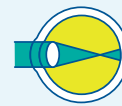
Vision plays an important role in children's physical, cognitive, and social development



More than 1/5 preschool-age children enrolled in Head Start have a vision disorder



The economic costs of children's vision disorders are significant, amounting to \$10 billion annually in the United States.



More than 1/3 of Mexican American and non-Hispanic Black adolescents have inadequately corrected refractive error.



**Children's vision and eye health MUST become a national priority so that children can grow up with their healthiest possible vision and realize their full potential across their lifetime.**

### Support the EDVI Act today!

For more information, please contact Sara Brown, Director of Government Affairs, [sbrown@preventblindness.org](mailto:sbrown@preventblindness.org), 312.363.6031

### Call for Change

The Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act of 2024 (EDVI) will establish state based EDVI programs across the United States to facilitate early detection and intervention of vision impairments in preschool and school-aged children.

The goal of the EDVI Act is to ensure that every child in the United States with a vision problem is identified and connected to appropriate eye care, to support early childhood professionals, school nurses, and health care providers with updated and evidence-based early detection methods, including vision screening, that are complete with established systems of referral to care and follow-up protocols to ensure that children who need eye care receive treatment before a vision problem leads to potential vision loss.

The EDVI Act will accomplish this work through grants to states and communities from HRSA for use in identifying, improving, and implementing approaches for the early detection of visual impairments; create a national technical assistance coordinating center to provide direct assistance to states and communities looking to improve systems of care; and foster collaboration across key federal agencies within HHS and the Department of Education.