

Based on the 2024 National Survey of Children's Health

Healthy vision in children supports school readiness, learning, and long-term economic well-being. Vision develops throughout childhood, so early and consistent screening, diagnosis, and treatment is critical before problems worsen or lead to permanent vision loss. The following data from the 2024 National Survey of Children's Health provides an overview of early intervention efforts.



Children's vision disorders cost the US an estimated \$10 billion annually.



Vision shapes children's physical, cognitive, and social development.





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



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

Vision Screening Requirements SOUTH DAKOTA

Preschool vision screening	Yes	
School-age vision screening	Yes	

*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.

Percent of Children Receiving Vision Screening by Age and Race

Age 0-5	38%
Age 6-11	65%
Age 12-17	53%
Hispanic	52%
White, non-Hispanic	51%
Black, non-Hispanic	–
Asian	–
Other, non-Hispanic	63%

Percent of Children Receiving Eye Examination by Age and Race

Age 0-5	21%
Age 6-11	52%
Age 12-17	73%
Hispanic	32%
White, non-Hispanic	50%
Black, non-Hispanic	–
Asian	–
Other, non-Hispanic	65%



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.



Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act

The Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act (EDVI) will establish state-based programs to identify and treat vision impairments in preschool and school-aged children before problems lead to vision loss. The EDVI Act ensures every child with a vision problem is connected to appropriate eye care, and equips early childhood professionals, school nurses, and health care providers with evidence-based screening methods, referral systems, and follow-up protocols.

The EDVI Act will deliver this work through HRSA grants to states and communities while a national coordinating center for technical assistance will be housed at the CDC. The legislation also requires collaboration across HHS and the Department of Education.

Support the EDVI Act today!

For more information, please contact Sara Everett Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs
severettbrown@preventblindness.org, 312.363.6031