## UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic 2021 Needs Assessment

An analysis of current need to bridge the gap in access to proper eye care.

# Mobile Eye Clinic Brindator: Urie Claudo L P E D P F C I D R T C I D L P E D P F C I D R T C I D

#### Underserved and Undertreated Adults

32.2 million adult Americans report visual acuity problems, and low-income, marginalized populations are at greater risk for undiagnosed and uncorrected eye disorders than the general population. However, Medi-Cal only covers eye exams and glasses every 24 months, which does not include immediate need.

46%

of Americans do not get comprehensive annual eye <u>exams</u>. 5,000,000

American adults express difficulties in affording eyeglasses.

53%

of Americans express that the largest barrier to eye care is <u>insurance</u>.

### People Experiencing Houselessness

Individuals experiencing houselessness are <u>disproportionately</u> affected by refractive errors, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. Because diseases such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy can greatly <u>impair</u> one's quality of life, there is immediate need for strategies to ensure follow-up care for these individuals.

60,000+

individuals may be found houseless a night in Los Angeles County in <u>2020</u>. 41%

of American individuals experiencing houselessness reported an unmet need for eyeglasses. 48%

of participants in an <u>ophthalmic study</u> for the houseless community were classified as visually impaired.

# Youth in School-Based Programs

Studies show a <u>correlation</u> between school performance and vision problems: children who receive glasses generally perform better in school. Pediatric vision screening is crucial for the <u>early detection</u> of vision-threatening ocular conditions, providing an opportunity to prevent significant visual disability. Because of this, it is <u>imperative to increase access</u> to children's vision care services.

~40%

of American preschool children have never had a vision <u>screening</u>. 25%

American children have some form of visual <u>impairments</u>.

<15%

children get eye

exams.

preschool-age of r

of preschool-age children who received a cycloplegic examination needed glasses in this UCLA study.

#### Non-English Speaking Individuals

Language barriers lead to ineffective communication, mistrust in healthcare, and lower quality healthcare interactions. Further, Los Angeles County has the <u>largest</u> Spanish-speaking population in the United States, highlighting the importance of bridging the language barrier to provide adequate eye care to individuals in need.

66.7%

of Limited English Proficient
Patients reported that language
barriers prevented them from
accessing quality healthcare in
this 2020 research review.

60%

of eye disease in Hispanic and Latinx populations are undiagnosed and <u>undetected</u>. 20%

of Limited English Proficient Patients reported that they did not seek health services for fear of miscommunication in this 2020 research review.

#### **Prescription Shortages**

Vision care and access to eyeglasses are <u>overlooked</u> issues on lists of public health priorities.

Many Americans experience <u>difficulties</u> accessing eye care, but are still met with needs to replace glasses, eyedrops, etc.

There is immediate need to replace lost prescriptions and mend irritated vision from <u>fires</u> and/or <u>poor air quality</u>, a <u>prominent issue in the Los Angeles area</u>.

# COVID-19's Effect on Access to Eye Care

Job loss due to the pandemic has left many Americans subsequently without health insurance coverage. Widespread layoffs cut millions of Americans off from employer-sponsored health insurance, threatening their access to necessary health services, such as eye care.

19.5%

2-3 million

49.7%

of Americans faced unemployment due to the COVID-19 <u>pandemic</u>.

Americans have lost employer-based insurance coverage between March to September 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

do not have any form of vision insurance or vision care <u>coverage</u>.