

# Implementing the WHO Global Action Plan in Latin America Through Data Collection and Partnership

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)/VISION 2020 Latin America

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## VISION 2020 Latin America

VISION 2020 is the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness, a joint program of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) with an international membership of NGOs, professional associations, eye care institutions and corporations. The main thrust of the current Action Plan calls for implementation at the country level.

VISION 2020 LATIN AMERICA is part of this initiative and is in strategic alliance with the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). For more information please refer to the VISION 2020 Latin America website: <http://www.v2020la.org/joomla/>.

## VISION 2020 Latin America Members

A complete list of VISION 2020 Latin America members is found here: [http://www.v2020la.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=69&lang=en](http://www.v2020la.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=69&lang=en).

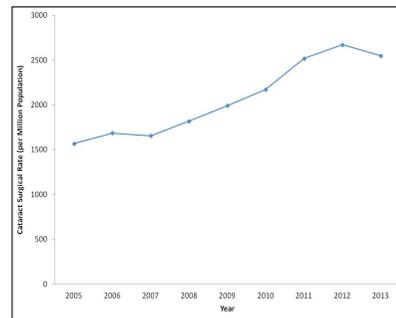


The IAPB/VISION 2020 Latin America Program would like to acknowledge the generous support and ongoing partnership of Orbis for the regional program, data collection, and publications.



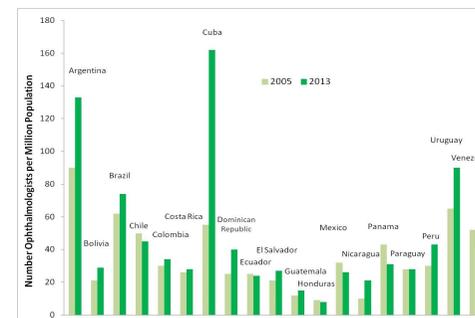
Since 2005, the VISION 2020 Latin America Program has collected eye health indicators, including the Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) and number of ophthalmologists, from the national VISION 2020 committees, national committees for the prevention of blindness, national societies of ophthalmology, and/or the ministries of health in the region. These eye health indicators are now included in the WHO Global Action Plan (GAP) for 2014-2019 (WHA 66/11) and are supposed to be reported periodically by governments as a way to measure progress of the GAP implementation.

## Regional CSR, 2005-2013



Positive trends in increased cataract surgical rates

## # of Ophthalmologists per Country, 2005 vs 2013

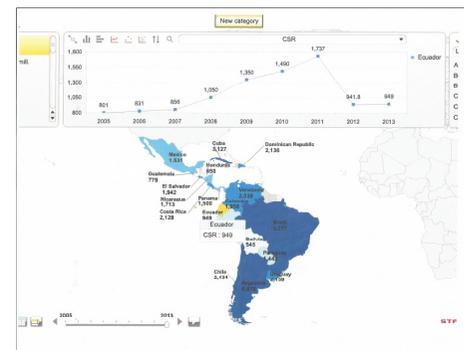


Increased number of ophthalmologists has been reported.

These data are available with other key health personnel, infrastructure, pricing, economic, and demographic data that are also periodically reported and updated (example below right) as a regional statistical map on the website: <http://www.v2020la.org/StatPlanet/StatPlanet.html>.

## Key Publications on the Data Collection Process

- Batlle JF, Lansingh VC, Silva JC, Eckert KA, Resnikoff S. Cataract situation in Latin America: barriers to cataract surgery. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2014; doi: 10.1016/j.ajo.2014.04.019. [Epub ahead of print].
- Lansingh VC, Nano ME, Carter MJ, Zarate N, Resnikoff S, Eckert KA. Complexities and challenges of cataract surgical data collection: comparison of cataract surgery rates in all provinces of Argentina, 2001 vs 2008. *Arq Bras Oftalmol* 2013; in press.
- Furtado JM, Lansingh VC, Carter MJ, et al. Causes of blindness and visual impairment in Latin America. *Surv Ophthalmol* 2012;57:149-177.
- Lansingh VC, Resnikoff S, Tingley-Kelley K, et al. Cataract surgery rates in Latin America: a four-year longitudinal study of 19 countries. *Ophthalmic Epidemiol* 2010;17:75-81.



## Conclusions

- In 2012 the mean regional CSR of 2,549 represented a 62.5% increase from 2005 (CSR =1,569). However, in 2013, the year-on-year CSR decreased by 4.6% (CSR = 2,472).
- These data are impacted by changes in trends of cataract surgery provision, productivity, and resources available. However, reporting systems have also improved, as data are becoming more complete and accurate with validation mechanisms increasingly in place, and include public and private sector. Inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation, including with national societies of ophthalmology, are essential to successful, complete and accurate data collection.
- It is important to continuously monitor and evaluate eye health activities in each country to understand where there is underutilization, poor distribution of services, or external factors that drive new trends, so that the best action can be taken.

## Future Direction of Data Collection

With less than 5 years until 2019, it is important to implement the WHO indicator data collection early, in order to monitor the GAP progress and identify best practices for replication. The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) and Orbis supported Global Indicators Field Testing Project to Pilot the GAP Indicators in Latin America. The project is managed by Strategic Solutions, Inc, in partnership with the IAPB, Orbis and FHF and with the collaboration of PAHO. The long-term goal is to formalize and implement a regional mechanism in Latin America to collect and report eye care indicators in collaboration with ministries of health, national VISION 2020/prevention of blindness committees, national professional societies, and regulatory bodies in 5 countries: Chile, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay. Important objectives include evaluating the feasibility and barriers of accurate data collection, the reliability of the indicators, and the adequacy of the metrics used to define the indicators. The project will conclude with the development of a suggested research protocol for implementation in other regions along with a paper presenting lessons learnt.