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.

Positive trends in increased cataract surgical rates

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.

Future Direction of Data Collection

By integrating the WHO Global Action Plan (GAP) indicators into the existing data collection, the VISION 2020 Latin America Program can help track progress towards 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 Members


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.

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.