

CURES background and facts

About CURES

The Canadian Uncorrected Refractive Error Study (CURES) – a collaboration between CNIB and the University of Waterloo School of Optometry – was the first population-based study to assess the prevalence of vision loss in any Canadian city. The study was conducted in Brantford, Ontario as it has a population reasonably representative of Canada in terms of age.

Field interviewers went door-to-door and participants were brought to CNIB's office for a vision screening by an eye doctor.

The target population included all people 40 years of age and older in the city of Brantford. Study participants were selected using a cluster sampling strategy based on postal codes.

All participants who wore eye glasses or contact lenses were assessed with their usual eyeglasses or contact lenses on. They were evaluated for both near and distance vision in both eyes, and screened for eye disease.

Funding for the CURES pilot study was provided by CNIB, Essilor Canada, Canadian Association of Optometrists and the Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund, New Brunswick Association of Optometrists, Quebec Association of Optometrists (Fondation Quebecoise pour la sante visuelle), Alberta Association of Optometrists and the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists.

Results and additional facts

- CURES participants included 768 Brantford, Ontario residents who were between 39 and 94 years old.
- The study found that participants who had a longer time lapse since their last eye exam were more likely to have vision loss.

- One in seven adults over age 40 in the study had reduced vision at distance. Seventy (70) per cent of those had uncorrected refractive error, which means that their vision loss could be corrected with a pair of eye glasses or contact lenses.
 - Refractive error is a condition that occurs when the eye's focusing system isn't working properly, resulting in blurry vision. Refractive errors are usually correctible with glasses or contact lenses, and include these conditions: nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), astigmatism and presbyopia. To learn more about refractive error visit: <http://www.cnib.ca/en/your-eyes/eye-care/refractive-0707/>
- Signs of eye disease were detected in 269 of the participants (approximately 35 per cent or 1/3 of the participants) during the vision screening. Cataracts and macular degeneration were the most frequently observed types of eye disease in the study.
- The results of the CURES study are consistent with results from research conducted in Australia and the United States. In both countries, more than half of vision loss was due to uncorrected refractive error.
- CNIB estimates three million Canadians over the age of 40 have some form of undetected vision loss, a number set to double in the next 25 years as those in the baby boomer generation grow older.

About CNIB

CNIB is a registered charity, passionately providing community-based support, knowledge and a national voice to ensure Canadians who are blind or partially sighted have the confidence, skills and opportunities to fully participate in life.

For more information about CURES, Vision Health Month or CNIB, or for an accessible version of this background, please contact:

Erika Bennett, Public Relations Specialist

(416) 486-2500 ext. 8355

erika.bennett@cnib.ca