



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Vision Screening for Adults with Special Needs

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Introduction

There is a growing population of adults with special needs aging beyond their caregiver's lifespan. With limited knowledge and access to healthcare resources, these adults may be more vulnerable to age-related changes that go undetected until their advanced stage.

Objectives

There is little data available on the prevalence of eye and vision-related changes among the adult population with special needs. Here, we aim to provide vision-screening services for this group of people working in sheltered workshops.

Methodology

A total of 134 employees with special needs participated in a multidisciplinary health-screening program conducted at the Wai Ji Christian Service Workshop in Hong Kong. For vision screening, participants underwent LEA symbols visual acuity (far and near), auto-refraction, colour vision, Random Dot E stereopsis and eye pressure measurements.

Result

Participants' age ranged from 18-65 years (mean= 37.1±9.9 years, 75 males, 59 females). The averaged distance visual acuity in the right eye was 0.48±0.29 logMAR and near binocular visual acuity was 0.65±0.36 logMAR. There were 11.2%, 64.0% and 18.7% of participants who failed colour vision, stereopsis and eye pressure screenings respectively. There is a high rate of undetected visual and eye health problems such as uncorrected refractive errors and abnormal eye pressures among the targeted special needs adults. Future vision screenings and referral programs are warranted to better serve this segment of our population.