



Identification of Obstacles to Vision Care After Failed Vision Screenings for Broward County Kindergarten and First Grade Minority Children

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Why is vision important for quality of life?



Photo Courtesy of the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development



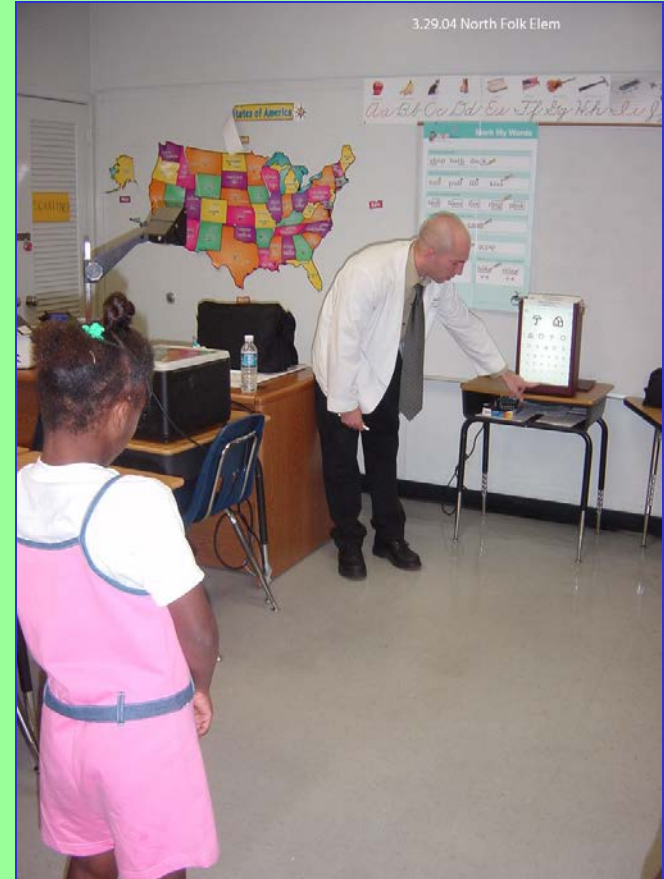
Vision is more than 20/20

- 85% of classroom learning come through the visual system. Poor visual skills can lead to difficulties with reading, learning, overall school performance and even sports.



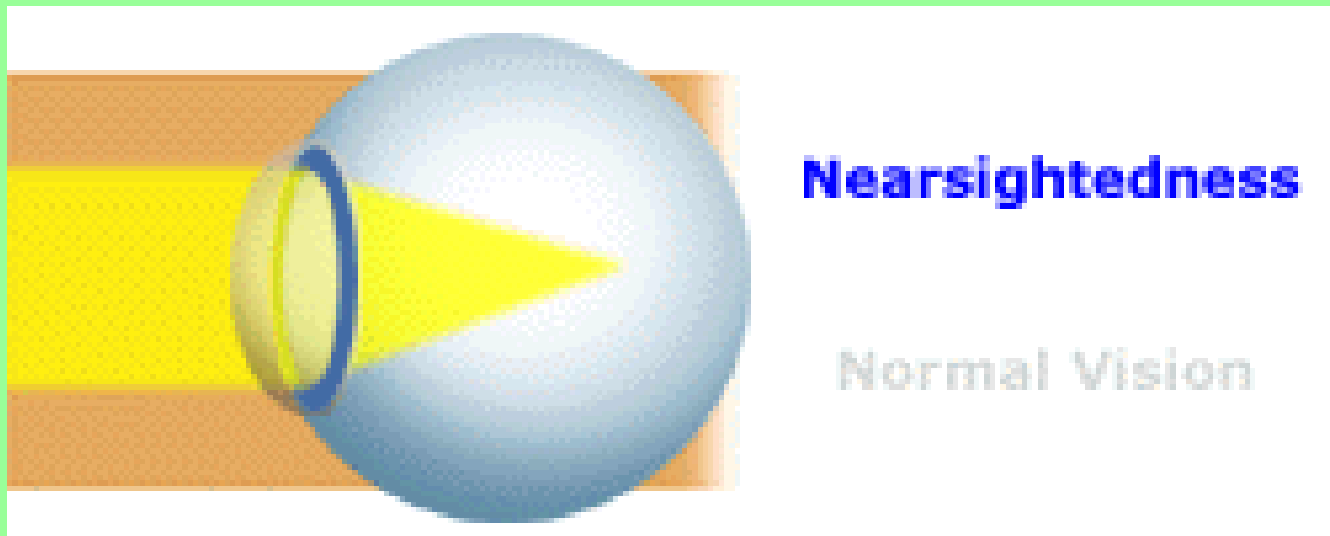
Photo from: www.sightforstudents.org

Visual Acuity (Eye Sight)



Myopia (“Nearsightedness”)

- Difficulty seeing far away, the board, overheads, TV, driving
- Eye ball is typically more elongated



Graphic from the American Optometric Association website: <http://www.aoa.org/conditions/myopia.asp>

Hyperopia (“Farsightedness”)

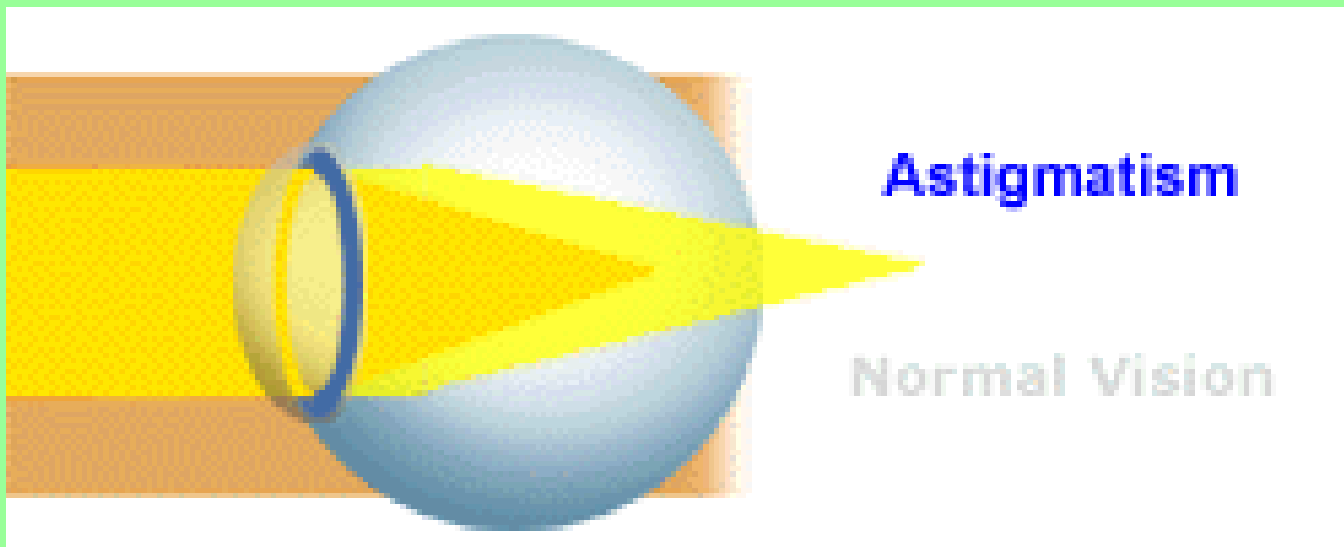
- See better at a distance than close up
- Difficulty with sustained near tasks
- Eye ball is typically smaller in length



Graphic from the American Optometric Association website: <http://www.aoa.org/conditions/hyperopia.asp>

Astigmatism

- Vision is blurry near and far
- Causes squinting, headaches
- Eye ball front surface is more curved like an egg or a football



Graphic from the American Optometric Association website: <http://www.aoa.org/conditions/astigmatism.asp>

Accommodation (Focus)

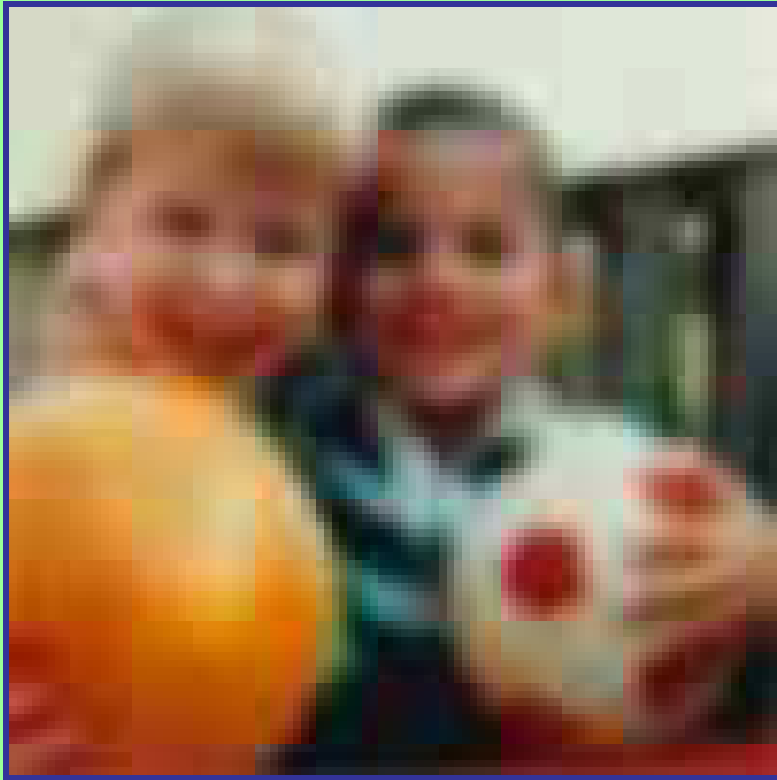


Photo from the National Eye Institute <http://www.nei.nih.gov/photo/>

- Gets very tired after reading for a short time
- Avoids near work (reading, writing)
- Holds book too close to face when reading
- Print is blurry when reading or when copying from the board

Binocularity (Eye Teaming)

Eye teaming
Eye teaming



- Squints, closes or covers one eye when reading
- Tilts or turns head when reading
- Assumes an awkward sitting position when reading
- Sees print “running together”, “jumping” or “moving around”

Eye Movement Skills (Tracking)

- Uses finger or marker to keep place when reading
- Often loses place, skips or rereads words/ letters when reading
- Reads too slowly
- Head moves when reading

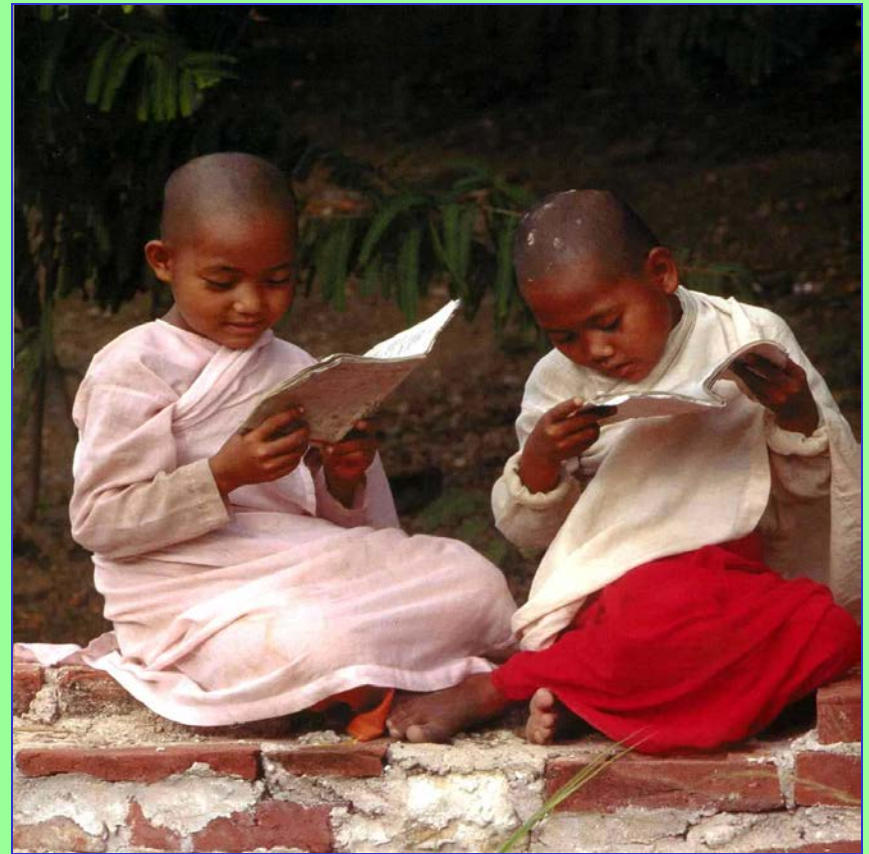


Photo Courtesy of the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development



Visual Processing Skills

RED **BLUE** **ORANGE**

PURPLE **GREEN**

YELLOW **ORANGE**

RED **PURPLE** **BLUE**

ORANGE **YELLOW**

RED **BLUE** **GREEN**

YELLOW **ORANGE**

PURPLE **RED** **GREEN**



Vision is there every step of the way when you learn and process information.

Visual skills are important in reading and learning.



Childhood Vision

What the research tells us

Vision problems are common among children.

Although early detection of problems is key to protecting children's vision, vision screening and eye exam rates are low among pre-school children.



Childhood Vision

What the research tells us

Among children screened for vision problems, rates for follow-up care are low and often delayed.

Medicaid enrollment does not assure that beneficiaries receive vision-screening services.



Vision Screening in Schools





Broward County Screening Protocol

- Each School has a vision screening designee
- Children in K, 1st, 3rd, 6th are to be screened (also new students, ESE students)
- Note gets sent home with student
- If no response in 30 days, another note
- If no response then referred to County Health Department/School Nurse for follow-up

Broward County School Board. Health Services Manual. Vision Screening Procedures

can be found in Section VII on Health Screenings on pages 6-18. Accessed on 10/4/2005

<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentsupport/healthedservices/documents/hsm.pdf>



Data from County Health Department School Health Records

- 43, 358 vision screenings were performed
- 706 abnormal outcome (failed screening)
- 677 completed referrals (95.89%)
- State wide average referral outcome rate (63.73%)

Florida Department of Health. Broward 2003-2004 Summary of School Health Services. Data from County Health Department Annual Reports, Health Management Component, and CHARTS. Page 6.

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/school/reports/03-04_county_data_sheets.pdf

Accessed on 10/4/2005.



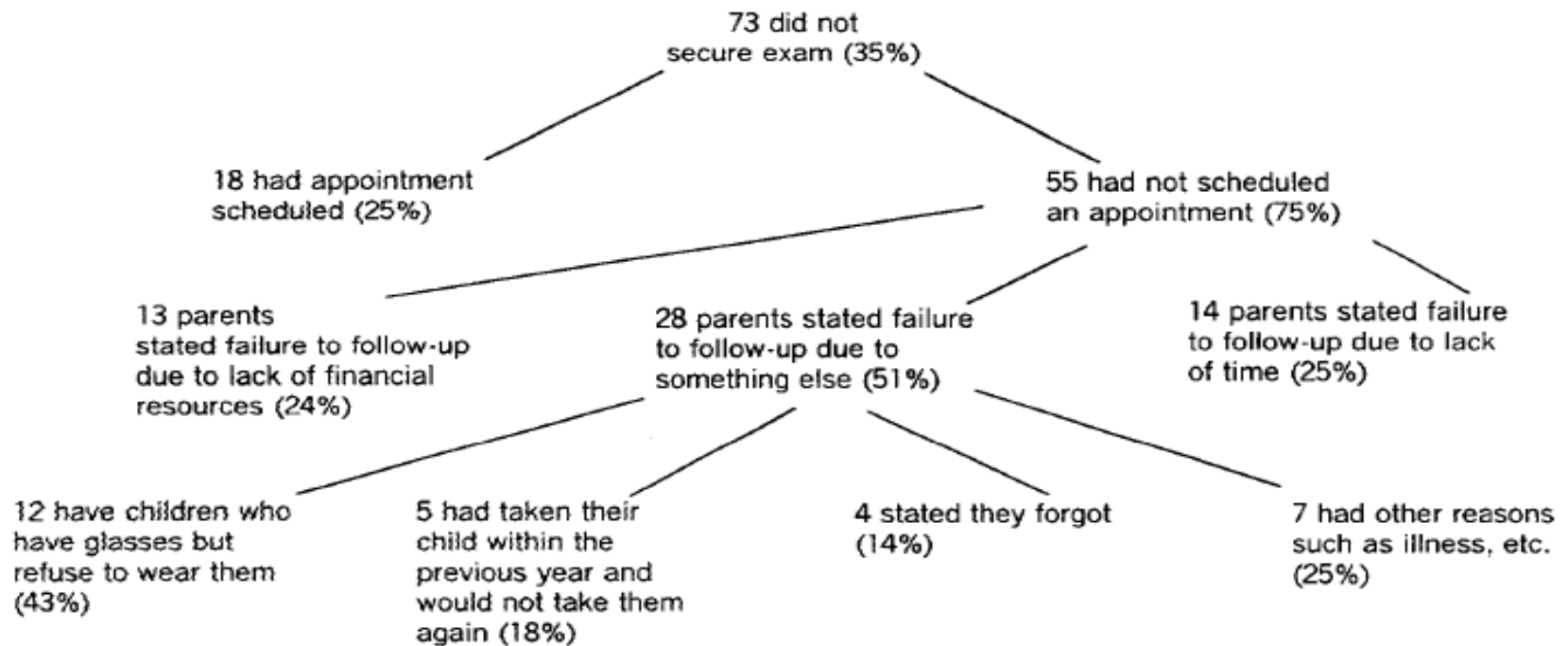
What about the follow-up?

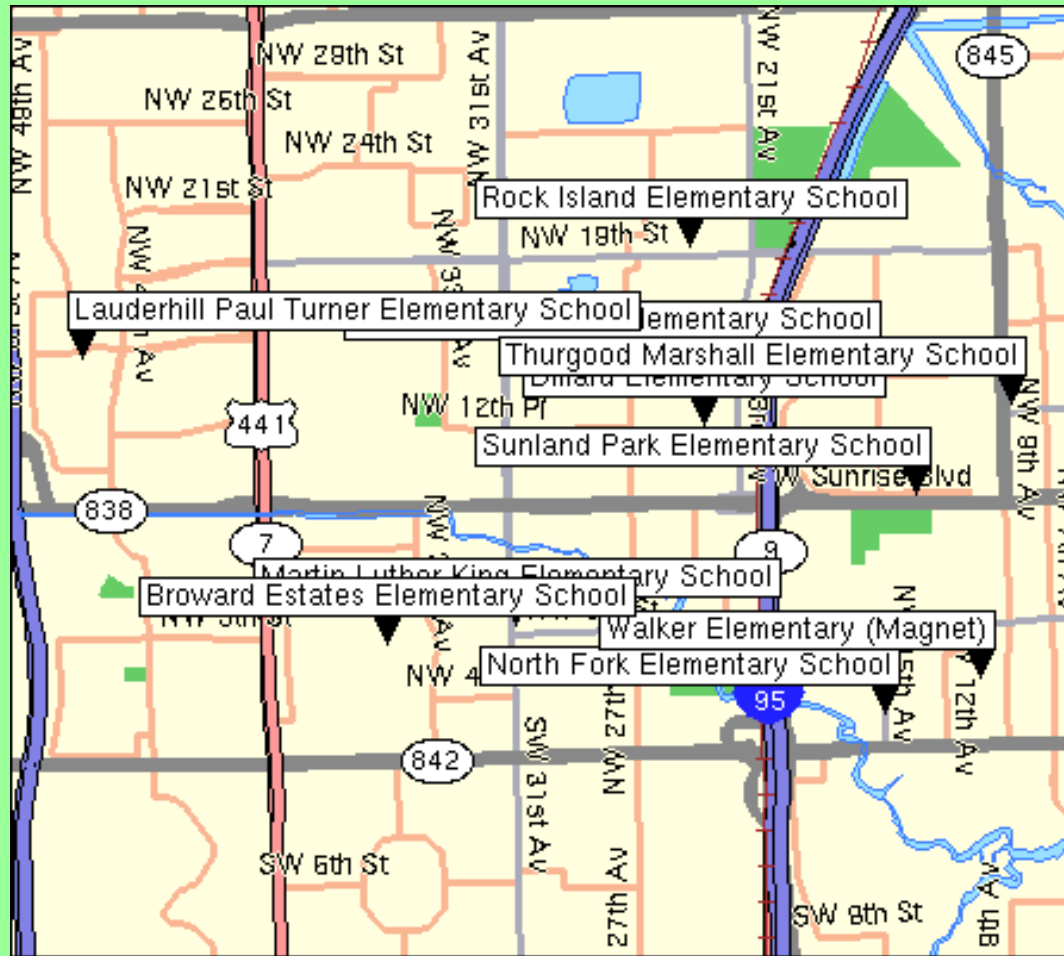
- It is the parent/guardian responsibility to take the child for a vision evaluation.
- Why don't some parents do this?



Parental reasons for non-response for referral following public school vision screening

Figure 2
Parental Reasons for Nonresponse Following a Vision Screen Referral





0.5 MI | ROCK ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & DILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ...
 Map by [Maps On Us](#) (R)
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Demographics

Elementary School Participating in Study	2003 FCAT Score	2003-2004 Stability Rate	% Free/ Reduced Cost Lunch	% Black Ethnicity	% Screening Failures	Total # Screened	Total Study Participants
1	C	90.8	93.9	94.5	20.14	139	24
2	C	89.8	94.4	94	30.1	166	53
3	C	90.3	91.4	98.4	44.89	225	97
4	F	92.9	99.1	98.8	29	124	33
5	D	94.8	89.3	97.4	24.55	220	33
6	D	94.2	79.6	97.3	25.8	252	49
Total						1126	289

Results

- We hoped the results of this study will shed some light on where the barriers are in these poorer black neighborhoods in Broward County.
- The results can be used to formulate appropriate services and policies with respect to these populations.

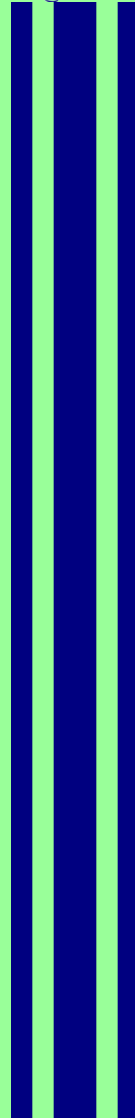
Assumptions about Barriers

- No knowledge of vision care providers in the area**
- No insurance**
- Have Medicaid but didn't know it covers an eye examination and glasses for children**
- If no insurance, income not sufficient for covering examination and treatment**
- If has insurance, not enough money to cover co-payments**
- If has insurance, didn't think child was eligible for vision care**
- Lack of knowledge about the importance of vision care for learning**
- Competing financial priorities/expenses right now**
- Perceived hassle and customer service concerns interfere with eye examination procurement**
- Work schedule interferes with eye examination procurement**
- Transportation problems interfere with eye examination procurement**
- Cultural issues interfere with eye examination procurement**
- Language issues interfere with eye examination procurement**
- Literacy issues interfere with eye examination procurement**
- Lack of child care for other children in household interferes with eye examination procurement**

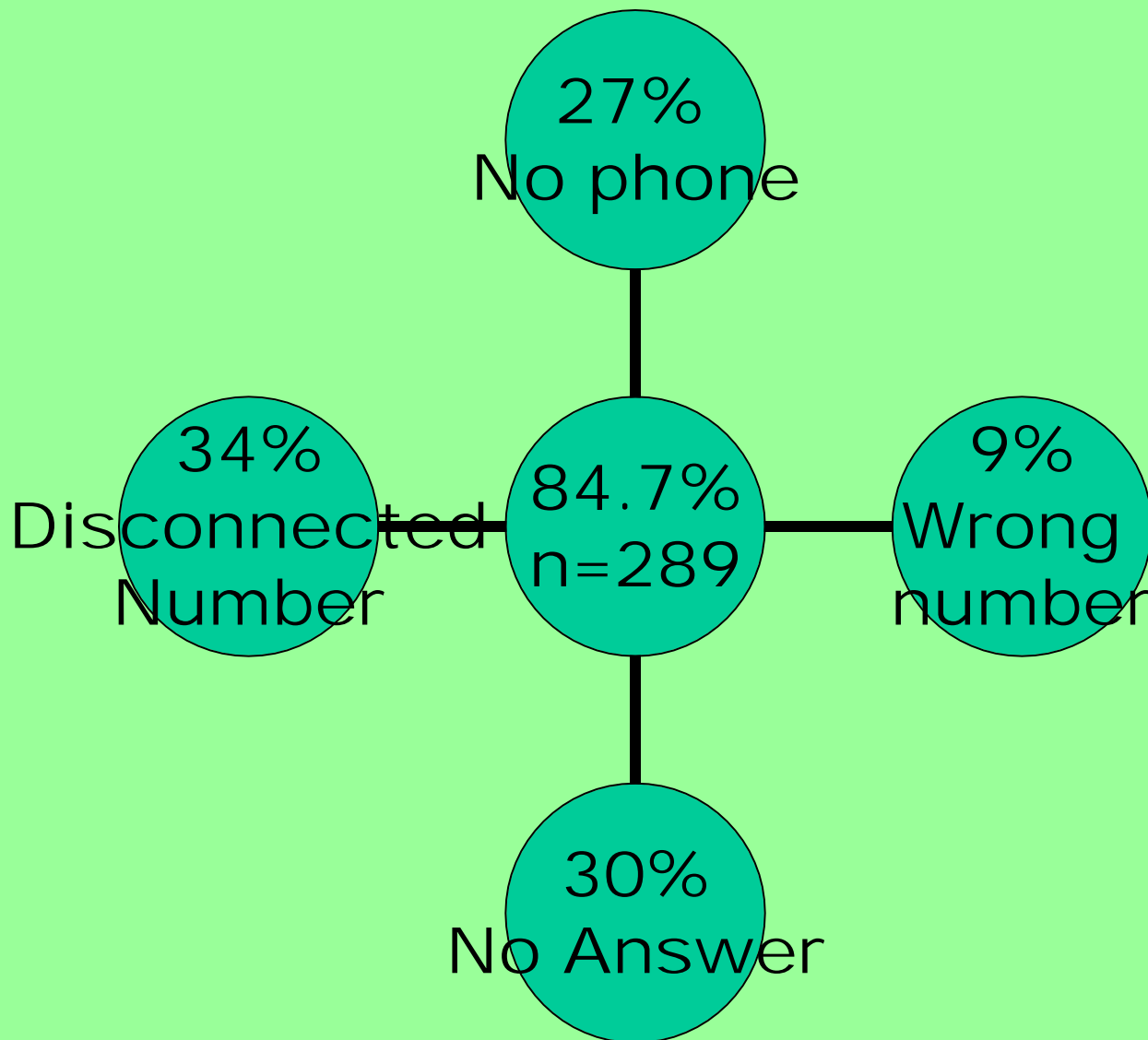


Telephone Survey of Parent/Guardians

- Did you receive the note from school?
- Did you take your child for an eye exam?
- If not, why not?



Phone Findings



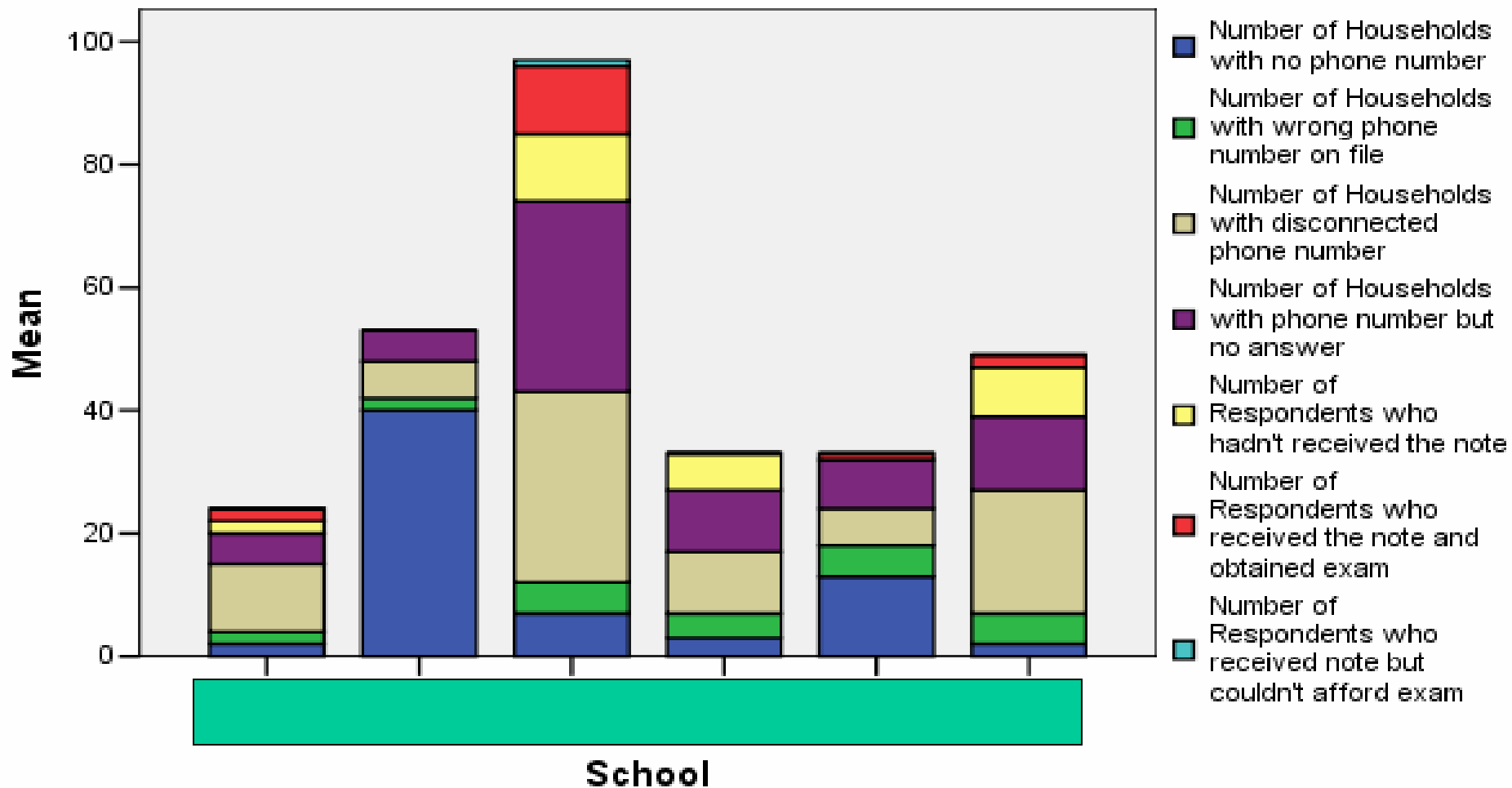


Respondents

- 44/289 or 15% responded to the survey
 - 61% (27/44) stated they *had not* received the note sent home from the school.
 - 36.4% (16/44) had received the note and *had* taken their child to the eye doctor.
 - 2% (1/44) cited financial difficulties, had no insurance, including Medicaid and needed financial assistance to obtain vision care for child.

Distribution of Responses per School:

Number of Households Non-contactable by Phone Compared to the Number of Respondents



How can we make policies to eliminate the barriers to access quality vision care?



Websites for more information about vision and learning:



<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep>

- www.Checkyearly.com
- www.healthinschools.org
- www.visionandlearning.org
- www.pavevision.org
- www.oep.org
- www.covd.org