

ECOO

GUEST ARTICLE



WORLD COUNCIL
OF OPTOMETRY

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NEW GLOBAL SURVEY OF OPTOMETRY PUBLISHED

A [new optometry publication](#) summarising a 2023 global survey conducted by the World Council of Optometry (WCO) was published online in autumn 2024. This study investigated the optometric demographics within WCO member countries and information related to the scope of practice and legislation from the perspective of the [WCO Competency Framework for Optometry](#).

In the 39 countries surveyed, one optometrist serves an average of 23,200 persons. Just under half (46.2%) of those surveyed met the recommended ratio of one optometrist per 10,000 people. Additionally, 33% of countries surveyed do not regulate minimum levels of education for entry-level optometric practitioners, 25% limit the use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents, and 20% limit

the use of diagnostic drugs.

“Limiting the use of diagnostic drugs by optometrists hinders the efforts for early detection and timely management of refractive errors in children which may lead to amblyopia (lazy eye), poor performance in school, and may affect their future career choices,” said Dr. Yazan Gammoh, Chair of the WCO Education Committee and lead author of the study. “Many refractive errors in children, such as hyperopia, remain undetected unless diagnostic agents, such as cycloplegics, are used.”

The results obtained from this study—authored by Yazan Gammoh, Priya Morjaria, Sandra Block, Jessica Massie, and Peter Hendicott and made possible through sponsorships from EssilorLuxottica and Johnson & Johnson—are expected to assist policymakers and stakeholders in fulfilling the World Health Organization’s call for optometry

services to provide people-centred eye care through evidence-based information.

As primary eye care providers, optometrists must be active participants in efforts to address

preventable vision impairment worldwide. Interested parties are encouraged to access the full survey manuscript [here](#).

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ABOUT THE WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) is an international membership based non-profit organisation for individual optometrists, industry professionals and optometric organisations. Its vision is a world with accessible eye health and vision care for everyone. Its mission is to advance and promote optometry, global eye health and vision care through collaboration, education, and advocacy.. To learn more visit www.worldoptometry.org

ABOUT ECOO

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) represents the interests of optometrists and opticians across Europe. Our members are national professional associations from 25 countries who together represent more than 200,000 opticians and optometrists. ECOO aims to promote eye health to the public across borders and to harmonise clinical and educational standards of optometric and optical practice throughout Europe.