

Ophthalmic Epidemiology
0928-6586/US\$ 3.50

Ophthalmic Epidemiology
– 1995, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 5-39
© Æolus Press
Buren (The Netherlands) 1995

Accepted 27 October 1994

Available data on blindness (update 1994)

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Introduction The WHO Programme for the Prevention of Blindness created a Blindness Data Bank in 1978 for the planning of activities and for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The compilation of data consists of an open-ended country file for the collection, storage and dissemination of data on blindness. The file, organized in alphabetical order by continent and country in accordance with the United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1991, includes articles, papers, reports and other available information. A summary form is filled in for each country, which includes information listed under headings as follows:

- 1 Continent, country, WHO and World Bank regions
- 2 Population estimate in millions (1990)
- 3 Date of data
- 4 Type of data (registration, survey, census, estimate, etc.)
- 5 Definition of blindness
- 6 Population (area) covered
- 7 Prevalence of blindness
- 8 Prevalence of low vision
- 9 Main causes of blindness
- 10 Source of data

As indicated on the world map on the next page and the separate maps for each continent or region, the present publication contains updated data of varying types for a total of some 60 separate countries, followed by a 2nd world map indicating the status of the national blindness prevention plans and programs.

Keywords blindness, etiology, prevalence, prevention, World Health Organization, databank

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Note to the reader: The present compilation of data consists of a number of population-based assessments from countries all around the world. For a global overview of blindness, and trends assessment, reference is made to document WHO/PBL/94.40: Thylefors, B. et al.: Global data on blindness – an update. Bull. WHO 1995; 73(1).

Contributions in the form of similar epidemiologic data on blindness are appreciated for inclusion in the WHO Blindness Data Bank; reprints, documents or other material may be sent to the above address.