



WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY
Advocacy | Education | Policy Development | Humanitarian Outreach

Newly Published “2023 Global Survey of Optometry” Conducted by the World Council of Optometry (WCO)

ST. LOUIS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024—A new optometry publication summarizing a 2023 global survey conducted by the World Council of Optometry (WCO) was recently [published online](#) through Dove Medical Press on 20 August 2024. This study investigated the optometric demographics within WCO member countries and information related to the scope of practice and legislation.

The study was authored by Yazan Gammoh, Priya Morjaria, Sandra Block, Jessica Massie, and Peter Hendicott and made possible through sponsorships from EssilorLuxottica and Johnson & Johnson. The 39 countries surveyed were WCO Country Members during the 2022-2023 membership period. Each member organization’s leadership identified key informants for the survey.

“This survey is unique in highlighting the global variations in the scope of optometry practice from the perspective of the [WCO Competency Framework for Optometry](#),” said Dr. Yazan Gammoh, Chair of the WCO Education Committee and lead author of the study.

In the 39 countries surveyed, one optometrist serves 23,200 persons on average. 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, 20% limit the use of diagnostic drugs, and 25% limit the use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

The results obtained from this study are expected to assist policymakers and stakeholders in fulfilling the World Health Organization’s call for optometry services to provide people-centered eye care through evidence-based information. They may also inform the recently launched [WHO SPECS 2030](#) initiative, which envisions a world in which everyone needing a refractive error intervention has access to quality, affordable, and people-centered refractive error services. As primary eye care providers, optometrists must be active participants in such efforts to address preventable vision impairment worldwide.

Interested parties are encouraged to access the full manuscript, *2023 Global Survey of Optometry: Defining Variations of Practice, Regulation and Human Resources Between Countries*, at www.dovepress.com/2023-global-survey-of-optometry-defining-variations-of-practice-regula-peer-reviewed-fulltext-article-PTO.

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About the World Council of Optometry

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) is an international membership-based non-profit organization for individual optometrists, industry professionals and optometric organizations that envisions a world where optometry makes high quality eye health and vision care accessible to all people. Its mission is to facilitate the development of optometry around the world and support optometrists in promoting eye health and vision care as a human right through advocacy, education, policy development and humanitarian outreach. To learn more, please visit www.worldoptometry.org or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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