

Factors That Influence the Receipt of Eye Care

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Objectives: To better understand what factors influence the receipt of eye care so that screening and education programs can be designed to promote early detection and treatment. **Methods:** Twenty focus groups were conducted. Analyses entailed debriefing sessions, coding, and interpreting transcribed data. **Results:** Attitudes about eyesight and eye exams influence the receipt of preventive eye care. Limited knowledge about certain eye diseases and conditions was reported. Par-

ticipants stated that their primary care providers did not communicate information with them about eyesight nor did they conduct basic eye screenings. **Conclusions:** Improving provider-patient interactions and developing public health messages about eye diseases and preventive eye care can facilitate increased use of appropriate eye care services.

Key words: health education, health professionals, vision, receipt of care, qualitative research

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