

## **Recent Trends in Vision Impairment Certification [CVI] in England**

Certification of sight loss is an important means of identifying patients in need of support and provides an indicator of vision impairment locally and nationally. Trends in CVI certification rates provide essential information on levels of visual impairment which can be used to guide allocation of resources. It also provides information on the effectiveness of current services and treatments.

The CVI form is passed to the patient's GP and local council for support and to the Certifications Office based at Moorfields Eye Hospital for epidemiological analysis.

### **The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF)**

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) published annually by the Department of Health since 2012, provides data on potentially preventable sight loss from age related macular degeneration [AMD], glaucoma, diabetic eye disease as well as total numbers of certifications.

### **Recent Trends**

- There were 22,844 new CVI certifications in 2017/18 in England, or 2-3 new vision impairment certifications every hour. In England the total number of people registered as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI) was 290,475 as of 31st March 2017, equally split between SI and SSI.
- In 2017/18, the rate of new CVI certifications was 41 per 100,000 population which has reduced from 43/100,000 in 2010/11.
- The Certification rate for AMD has reduced from 132/100,000 in 2010/11 to 107/100,000 in 2017-18.
- Certifications for glaucoma, have remained stable at 13/100,000 in 2017/8 with no statistically significant change since 2010/11.
- Certifications for diabetic eye disease have declined from 4/100,000 in 2010/11 to 3/100,000 in 2017/18.
- Certification rates for vision loss from hereditary eye disease show fluctuation but the number of certificates completed in 2017/18 is higher than that in 2010/2011.

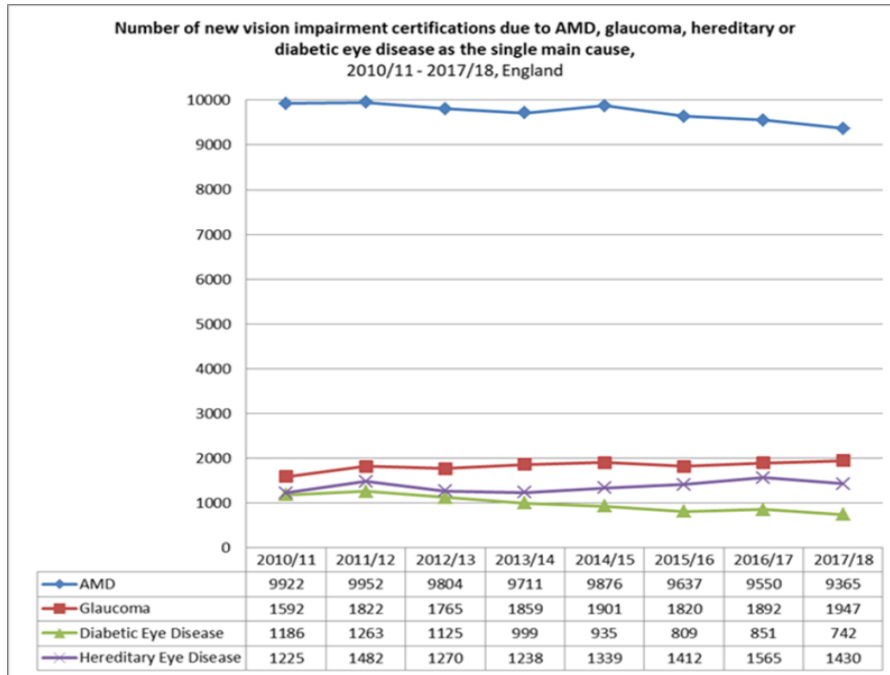


Figure 1: Summary of trends in vision impairment certifications by single cause from 2010 to 2018 (The data provided by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, c/o Certifications Office, based at Moorfields Eye Hospital, captured by the Certificate of Vision impairment (CVI) are Department of Health and Social Care copyright and this work was made possible by collaboration with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. Any views expressed in this publication/document are those of the author(s) alone and not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care.)

## Geographical variations

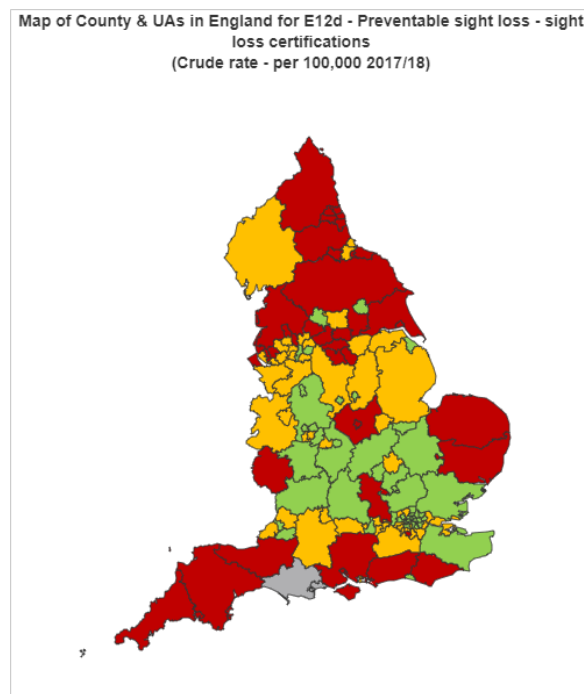


Figure 2: Taken from PHOF: Preventable sight loss certifications 2017/18, Rate /100,000 compared to the benchmark for England: better- green, similar- yellow, worse –red, grey – not compared

The number of vision impaired individuals that each Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has to support varies from 82 to 8 per 100,000 population. This demonstrates the need for CCGs to tailor their investments to their population's needs.

### **The Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO)**

The RNIB and other groups have campaigned for an ECLO in every eye clinic to support patients in understanding their diagnosis and accessing available support.

### **Looking to the Future**

In 2017/18, AMD was a major contributor to almost half of certifications (10,699). 1332 CVIs were due to diabetic eye disease and 3485 due to glaucoma. There has been a decrease in the rate of all CVI certifications. Maintaining this reduction will require investment in new treatments and different ways of delivering care to the elderly population which will increase by 50% over the next 20 years.

CVI data from the Certifications Office demonstrates an increase in rates of vision loss from hereditary eye disease and allows examination of rates due to other causes such as uveitis which support the need for investment in research in these areas.

Addressing current inequalities in care will help to combat the challenges faced. Accessible eye care for all socio-economic and ethnic groups will help to identify patients at risk of preventable sight loss early when treatments are more clinically and cost effective.

It is important that all ophthalmologists continue to provide accurate CVI data to help ensure allocation of adequate resources to reduce avoidable vision loss.

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