Eye care services for older adults with vision impairment

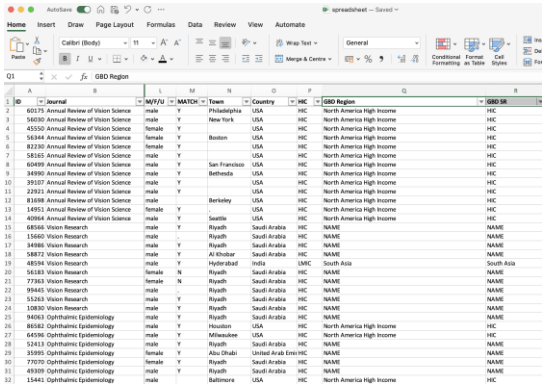
Justine Zhang, Katrina Poppe, Thomas Lumley, Jacqueline Ramke

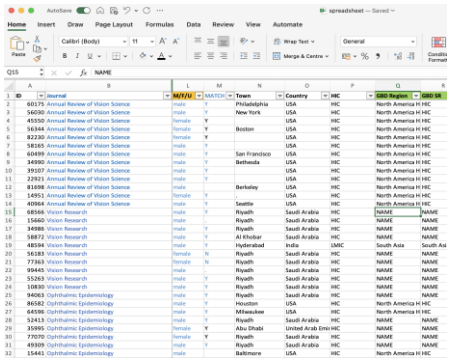
Image from Kanski's Clinical Ophthalmology 8th edition. 2016.

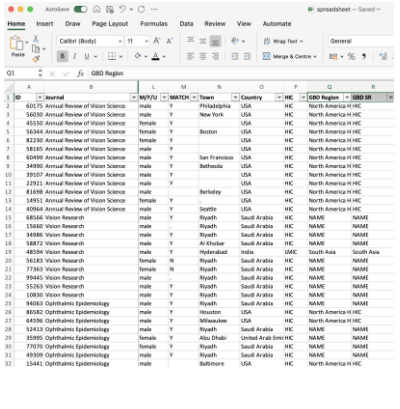
Photo: Sarah Langdon.

Photo: Leonid Skorin Jr.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau
NEW ZEALAND



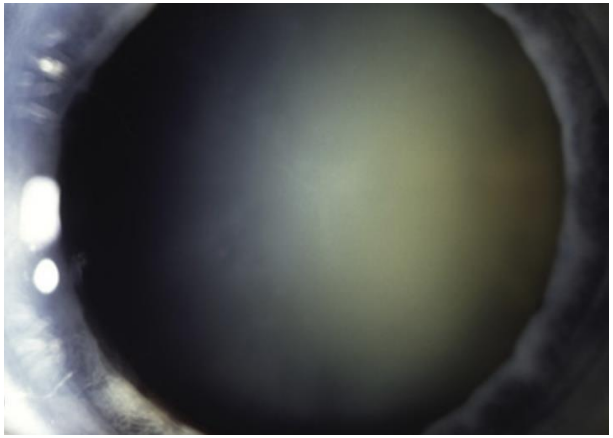


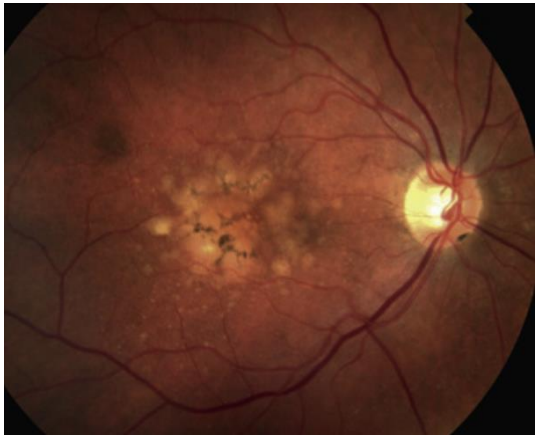


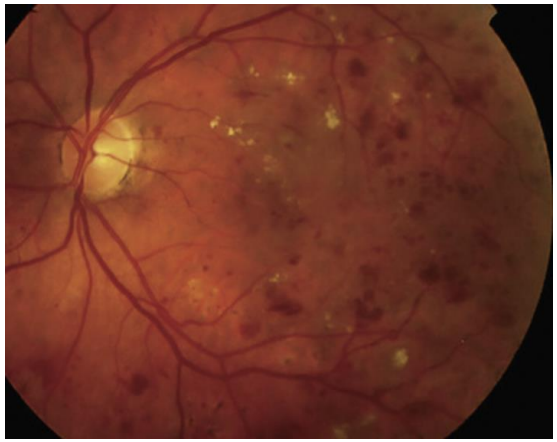
Vision impairment in older adults

- 11% of people >65 yrs report vision impairment

(Stats NZ Disability Survey)



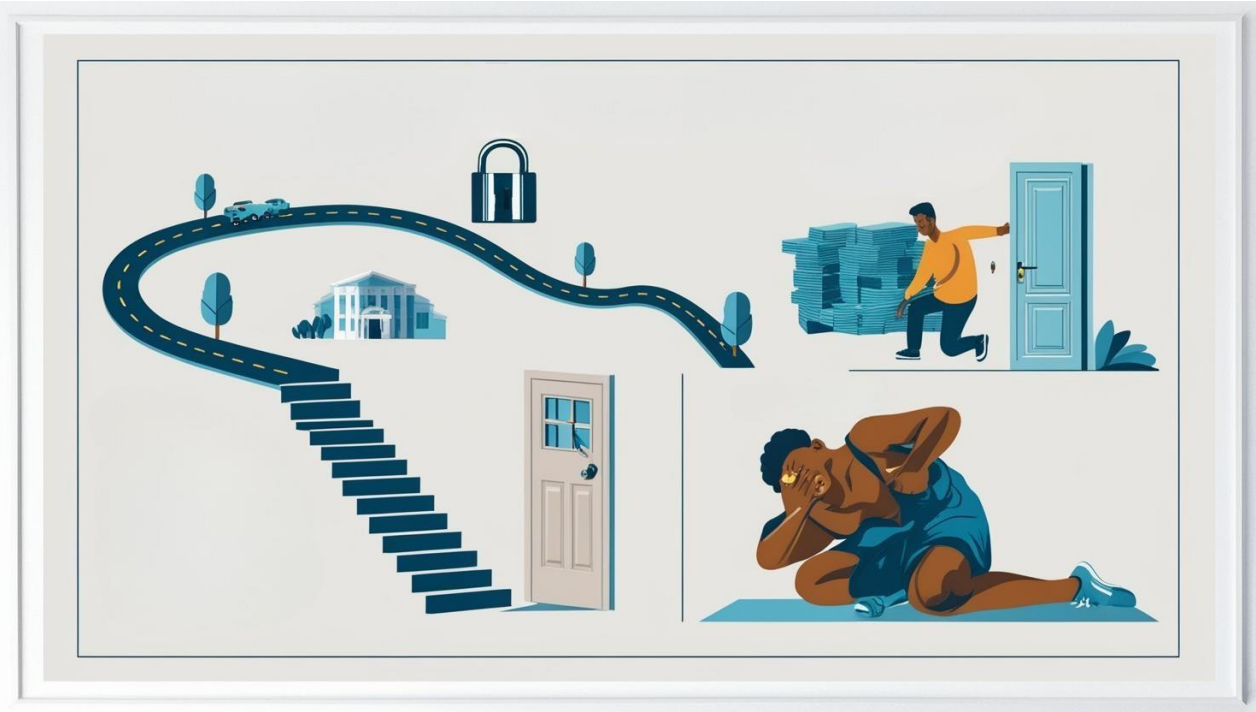




Images from Kanski's Clinical Ophthalmology 8th edition. 2016.

Research question

Using routinely-collected data, what are the **barriers** to accessing eye health services in Aotearoa New Zealand?



AI generated image using Canva by Justine Zhang

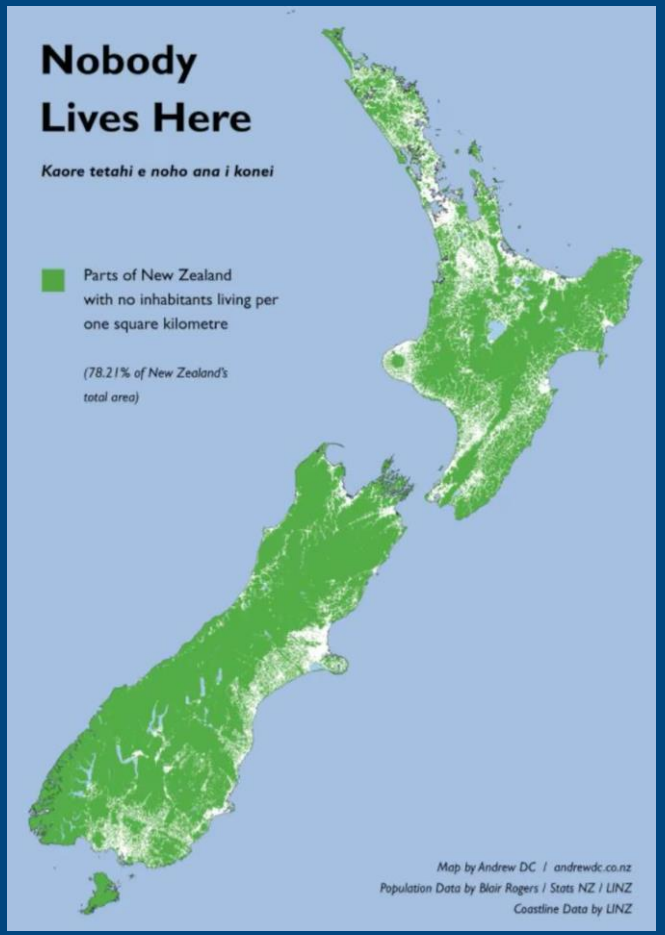
Health Data Platform

- Routinely-collected health service data from Te Whatu Ora National Collections.
- Comprehensive data on all **surgery and procedures**: ACHI and ICD-10 codes
- Data on **ophthalmology outpatient attendance** dates, but no further details
- Data on **diabetic retinopathy screening**
- Virtual diabetes registry
- Pharmaceutical collection
- PHO enrolment
- Mortality data
- Inpatient data

Image by Dave Braunschweig

Planned research directions

- Descriptive analysis of people who have accessed eye services
- Is geographic difficulty in accessing cataract services (e.g. people living >1h travel time) associated with cataract surgical rates?
- Social risk factors associated with accessing eye services, e.g. residential care
- Clinical risk factors, e.g. dementia



Questions for the audience

- Do you frequently encounter older adults who are likely to have high eye care needs but have difficulty accessing eye services? If so, what are the main **social and clinical risk factors**?
- How could health contact data from **services not directly related to eye health** (e.g. data from inpatient admissions) be used to help identify 'at risk groups' who are not accessing eye services?
- Could a **multi-disciplinary** approach be the way forward to improve access to eye services, and if so, how?

justine.zhang@auckland.ac.nz