

The Development of Street Medicine Phoenix's Optometry Program



Introduction

- Being visually impaired can have a significant impact on one's health and quality of life while living on the streets
- We created a street optometry team to address our patients' vision needs and provide a framework for other programs to build their own street optometry teams

Activities

Vision Care Workflow

Eye Chart Vision Screening

- Identify patients with visual complaints
- Is it due to correctable refractive error (w/ or w/o pinhole)
- Prior glasses prescription / last eye exam if applicable



Optical Measurements

- PlenOptika to obtain prescription
- Reading glasses
- Record on Redcap



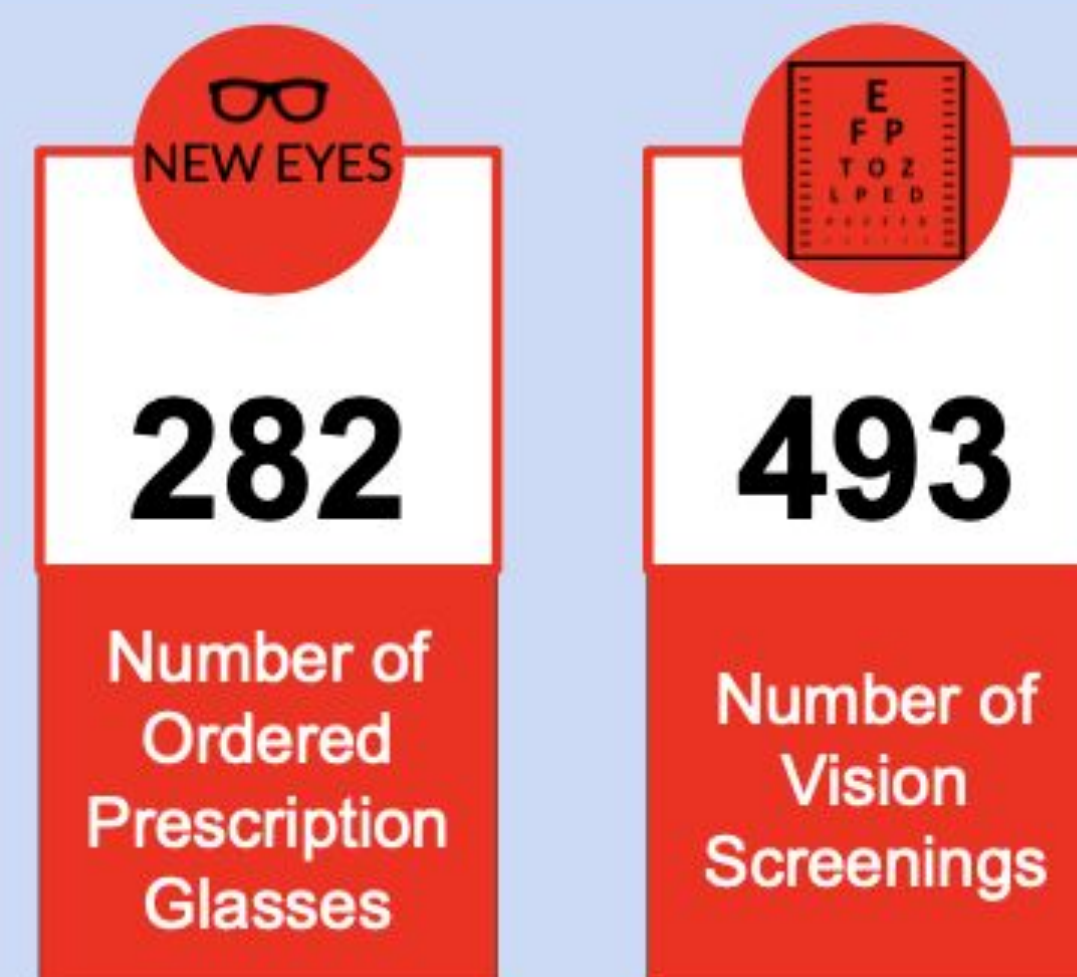
Glasses/Follow-up

- Order glasses from New Eyes for the Needy
- Deliver to community partners: Transitional Housing, Lodestar Homeless Shelter



Outcomes

- Provided prescription eyeglasses at two locations: Transitional Housing and Lodestar Day Resource Center
- Since 2017, we have provided:

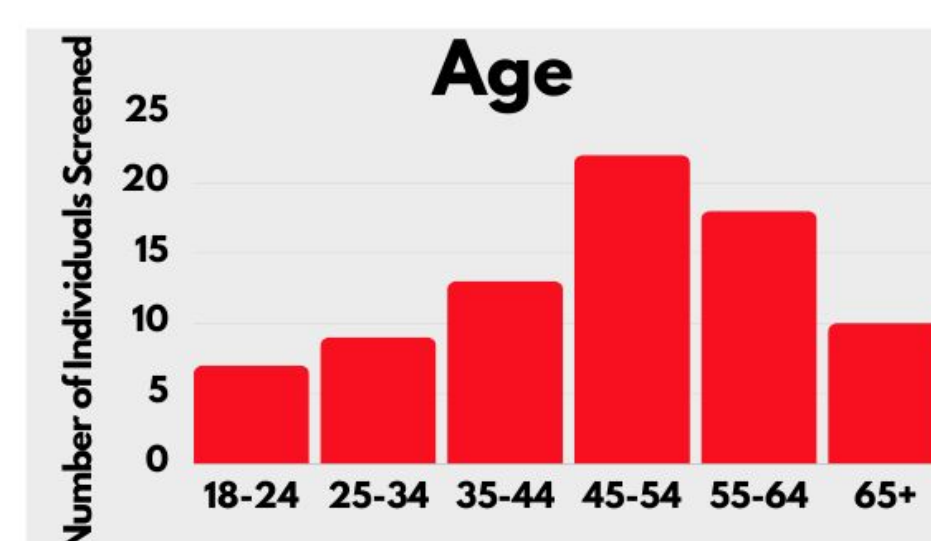


Optometry Team

Total # Glasses Provided Since Jan 2022:
249

Total # Autorefractor Vision Screenings Since 2017:
493

Total # Vision Screenings & Glasses Provided Since 2017:
775

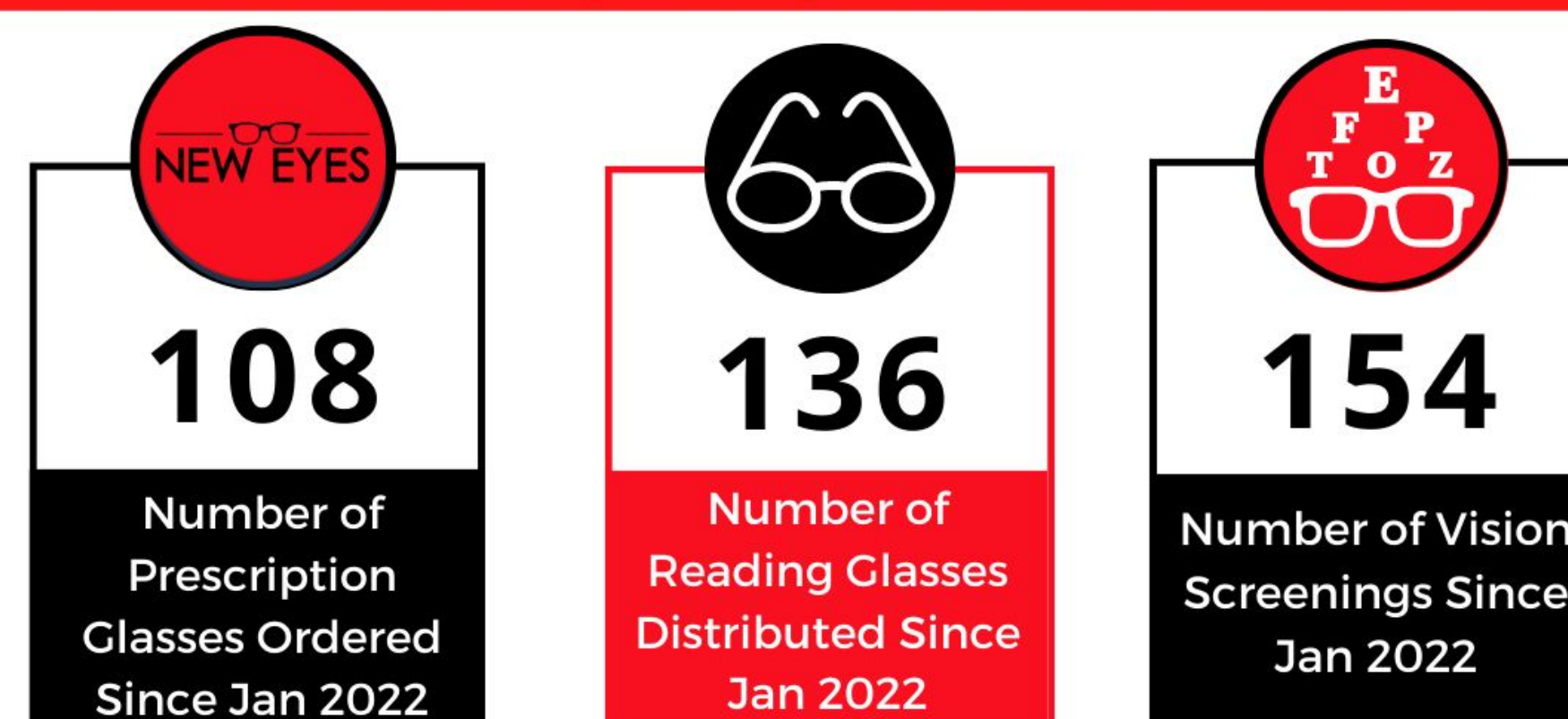


41% Females
47% Males
11% Sex Not Reported



LOCATION OF SERVICES

85007 "The Zone" & 85004
Human Service Campus - Project 8 - Grace Lutheran Church



With Support From Our Partners: PlenOptika Vision Driven Innovation, NEW EYES glasses for those in need

Barriers to Maintaining Vision Care

- Transportation to optometry services
- Difficulty with follow ups
 - Yearly eye exams
 - Prescription glasses pick up
- Out of pocket expenses
- Insurance

Biopsychosocial Consequences

- Difficulty reading
 - Obtaining and maintaining jobs
 - City navigation/transportation
- Vulnerability to theft/violence
- Other symptoms: vertigo, headache, double vision

Discussion

- Our street optometry team is the first on-the-ground project addressing the vision needs of those experiencing homelessness
- Patient testimonial: the glasses "helped a lot" and "made a large positive difference"
 - Felt safer on the streets
 - Able to perform better at his job
- Following up with patients after they have received their glasses is difficult but important for improved continuity of care

Recommendation

- For the future, we aim to:
 - Treat more patients
 - Recheck vision of patients who have received our glasses
 - Recruit an ophthalmologist to diagnose non-refractive error
 - Provide vision care at non fixed locations such as homeless encampments