

Table I shows the population under consideration and the distribution of vision problems in numbers and percent for the most prevalent vision problems. In this table, the vision problems are defined as significant deviations from normal, as agreed to by a broad sample of optometric and ophthalmological opinion. It is obvious that some children would have a constellation of problems; for example, a child might have reduced acuity in the left eye, amblyopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, anisometropia, and squint. He would then appear in several rows in the table and each of his vision problems would contribute to the "Total Conditions" but he would be counted only once in the "Total Children."

[Number columns in thousands]

TABLE I.—CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT VISION PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

[Number columns in thousands]

| Age group -----              | 0-4         |              | 5-9         |              | 10-14       |              | 15-19       |              | Total       |              |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                              | Num-<br>ber | Per-<br>cent | Num-<br>ber | Per-<br>cent | Num-<br>ber | Per-<br>cent | Num-<br>ber | Per-<br>cent | Num-<br>ber | Per-<br>cent |
| Population, 1965.....        | 21,242      | 100          | 20,420      | 100          | 18,888      | 100          | 16,977      | 100          | 77,527      | 100          |
| Vision problems:             |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |
| Visual acuity.....           | 850         | 4            | 1,225       | 6            | 1,700       | 9            | 3,059       | 18           | 6,834       | 9            |
| Amblyopia.....               | 425         | 2            | 408         | 2            | 378         | 2            | 340         | 2            | 1,551       | 2            |
| Refractive error:            |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |
| Myopia.....                  | 212         | 1            | 613         | 3            | 2,267       | 12           | 2,886       | 17           | 5,978       | 8            |
| Hyperopia.....               | 1,487       | 7            | 1,225       | 6            | 1,133       | 6            | 1,019       | 6            | 4,864       | 6            |
| Astigmatism.....             | 425         | 2            | 613         | 3            | 567         | 3            | 509         | 3            | 2,114       | 3            |
| Anisometropia.....           | 425         | 2            | 613         | 3            | 756         | 4            | 849         | 5            | 2,643       | 3            |
| Coordination problems:       |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |
| Squint.....                  | 850         | 4            | 817         | 4            | 756         | 4            | 679         | 4            | 3,102       | 4            |
| Esophoria.....               | 212         | 1            | 408         | 2            | 378         | 2            | 340         | 2            | 1,338       | 2            |
| Exophoria.....               | 425         | 2            | 613         | 3            | 567         | 3            | 509         | 3            | 2,114       | 3            |
| Hyperphoria.....             |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |
| Organic problems:            |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |
| Congenital.....              | 212         | 1            | 204         | 1            | 189         | 1            | 170         | 1            | 775         | 1            |
| Traumatic.....               |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |             | (1)          |
| Disease.....                 | 212         | 1            | 204         | 1            | 189         | 1            | 170         | 1            | 775         | 1            |
| Performance problems:        |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |
| Vision performance.....      | 1,062       | 5            | 2,859       | 14           | 3,966       | 21           | 4,244       | 25           | 12,131      | 16           |
| Vision develop-<br>ment..... | ?           | ?            | 2,042       | 10           | 2,267       | 12           | 1,358       | 8            | 5,667       | 7            |
| Vision perception.....       | ?           | ?            | 817         | 4            | 944         | 5            | 679         | 4            | 2,440       | 3            |
| Total conditions.....        | 6,797       |              | 12,661      |              | 16,057      |              | 16,811      |              | 52,326      |              |
| Total children.....          | 2,549       | 12           | 4,084       | 20           | 4,722       | 25           | 5,263       | 31           | 16,618      | 21           |

<sup>1</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

The existing level of care and its adequacy have a major influence in determining the unmet need. Table II presents information on the percent of children in each age group who have had previous professional care (examination, glasses, surgery, etc.) by either an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Effectivity of care is indicated as the percent of those children with vision problems, receiving care, who passed established levels of performance. Two communities of differing socioeconomic levels are compared.

TABLE II.—PREVIOUS VISION CARE BY OPTOMETRISTS OR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS, EFFECTIVITY OF CARE, AND EFFECT OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

[In percent]

|                                          | Age group |     |       |       |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|-------|
|                                          | 0-4       | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 |
| Vision problems.....                     | 12        | 20  | 25    | 31    |
| High income community previous care..... | 3         | 9   | 24    | 39    |
| Effectivity.....                         | 21        | 30  | 41    | 52    |
| Time since last visit (months).....      | 11        | 17  | 18    | 19    |
| Low income community previous care.....  | ?         | 4   | 14    | 18    |
| Effectivity.....                         | ?         | 25  | 30    | 42    |
| Time since last visit (months).....      | ?         | 19  | 26    | 29    |