



Reducing the burden of Preventable Vision Impairment:

*Addressing the inescapable reality of unmet
need in Canada*



Diane van Staden, PhD

Eye Health
Advocacy
Milestones:
1999-2019



Vision 2020: The
Right to Sight (1999-
2020)



World Congress on
Refractive Error and
Service
Development (2010)



UEH Global Action
Plan (2014-2019)

Eye Health
Advocacy
Milestones:
Beyond
2020



WHO's World
Report on Vision
(2019)



Lancet Global
Commission
(2021)



UN Resolution on
Vision (2021)

The Lancet Global Health Commission

The *Lancet Global Health* Commission on Global Eye Health:
vision beyond 2020



- Improving eye health is a practical and cost-effective way of unlocking human potential!²



What is Universal Eye Health?

- A component of **Universal Health Coverage**¹
 - 'UHC means that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.'
 - Full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation across the life course'

The Problem ²

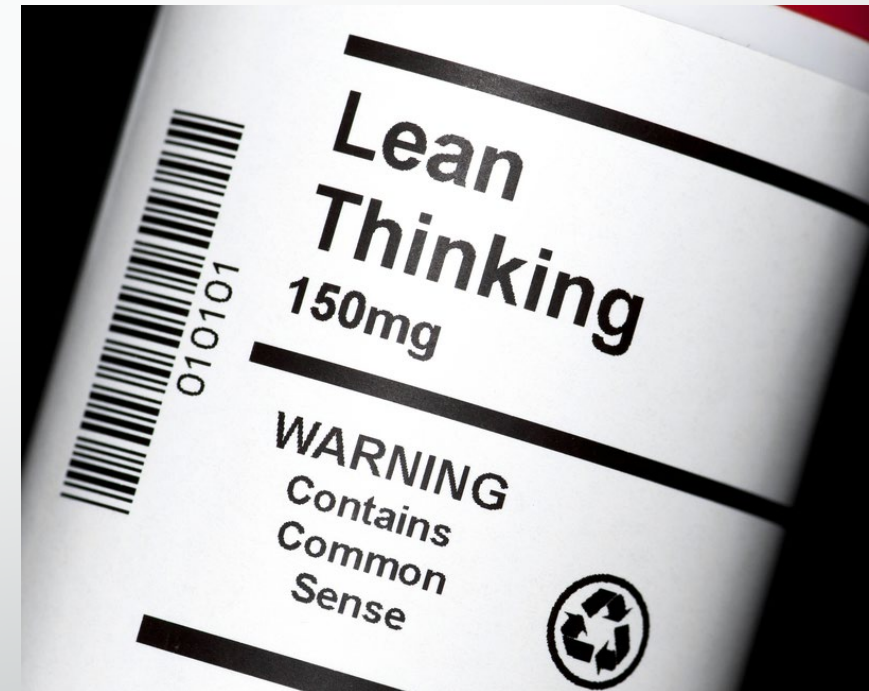
- Almost **everyone** will **experience impaired vision** during their lifetime
- High quality eye health services are **not universally delivered** in most countries



<https://healthitanalytics.com/news/leveraging-ai-for-covid-19-outreach-population-health-management>

The Reality ²

- Cost-effective vision-restoring interventions are available
- Financial barriers to accessing eye care leave many people behind



<https://www.shmula.com/lean-healthcare-spend-some-time-with-mark-graban/23823/>

Current Gaps ²

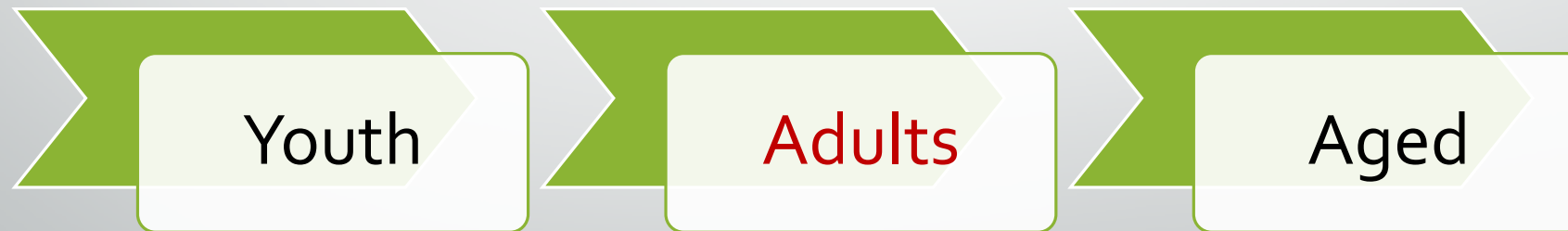
- The **eye health workforce** is unable to meet population needs
- Reliable **service data** is key to progress in eye health
- **Research** is crucial to understanding and treating eye disease
- Barriers to accessing eye health services
- Lack of integration and Underfunding of eye health services

Meeting the eye health needs of Canadians

- Aims to "protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada and to **facilitate reasonable access to health services** without financial or other barriers"
- Health insurance plans must ensure support **accessibility**, **comprehensiveness** and **universality** of care for all "medically necessary" services for the purpose of maintaining health, preventing disease or diagnosing illness

The reality of the Unmet Eye Health Needs in Canada

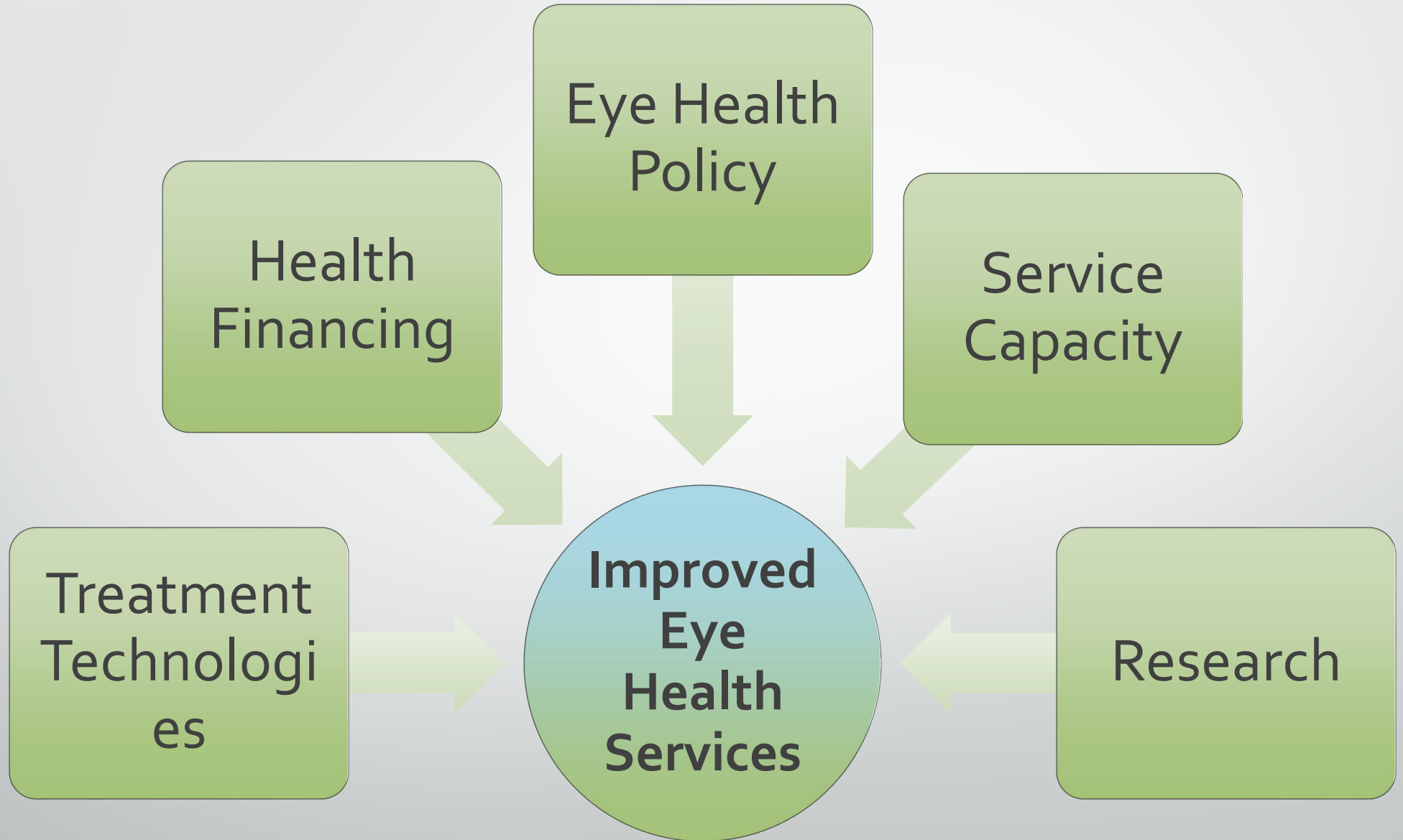
- The Missing Middle?



Implications of unmet eye health needs



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- **Access to services is key to controlling vision impairment and blindness!**



Canada must act now to reduce avoidable Vision Impairment and blindness by 2050!



- ~75% of cases of visual impairment are preventable or treatable!!
- Access to routine eye exams (PHC) supports early intervention and treatment

References

- 1. World Health Organization [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-\(uhc\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc))
- 2. Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(20\)30488-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30488-5/fulltext)
- 3. The Canada Health Act <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-care-system/canada-health-care-system-medicare/canada-health-act.html>