

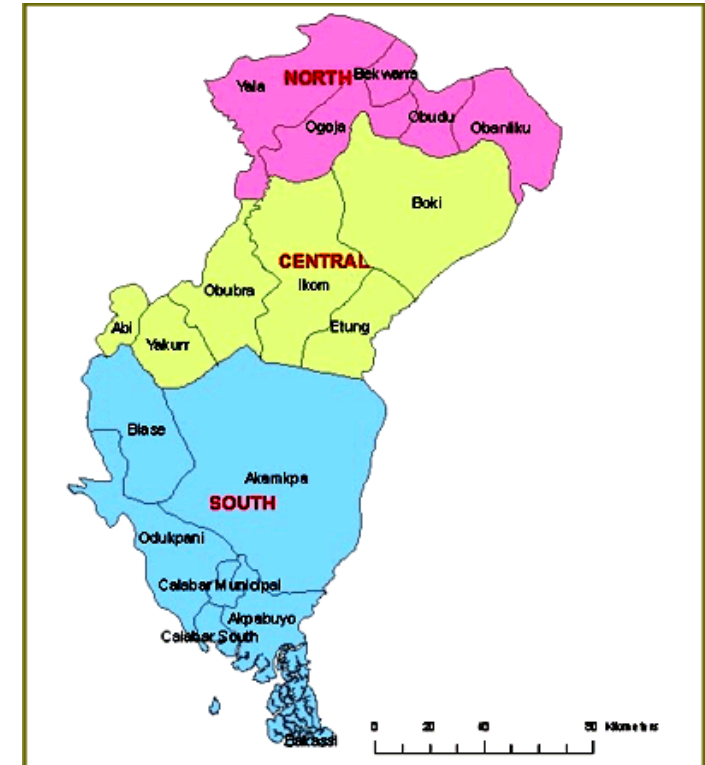
Epidemiology of childhood blindness and severe visual impairment in Cross River State of Nigeria

Roseline Duke, MSc, FWACS
University of Calabar Teaching Hospital
Calabar, Cross River State



Key informant (KI) method for surveys

- Full population-based surveys prohibitively expensive
- KIs - well known & respected community members
- Selected to cover each subdivision: 1 KI / 2500 population



742 KIs covered all of
CRS. Total pop=
2.9million

KI receive standard 1-day training

- After training, KIs have 2 weeks to list all children in catchment area believed to see poorly (talk to parents, teachers, community leaders, & visit homes)



- KIs bring listed children to identified facilities

Schools for the blind

- Children in the school for the blind in Obudu CRS were assessed separately since they would not be found in the communities
- Included only those who actually live in CRS in final tally



Examinations

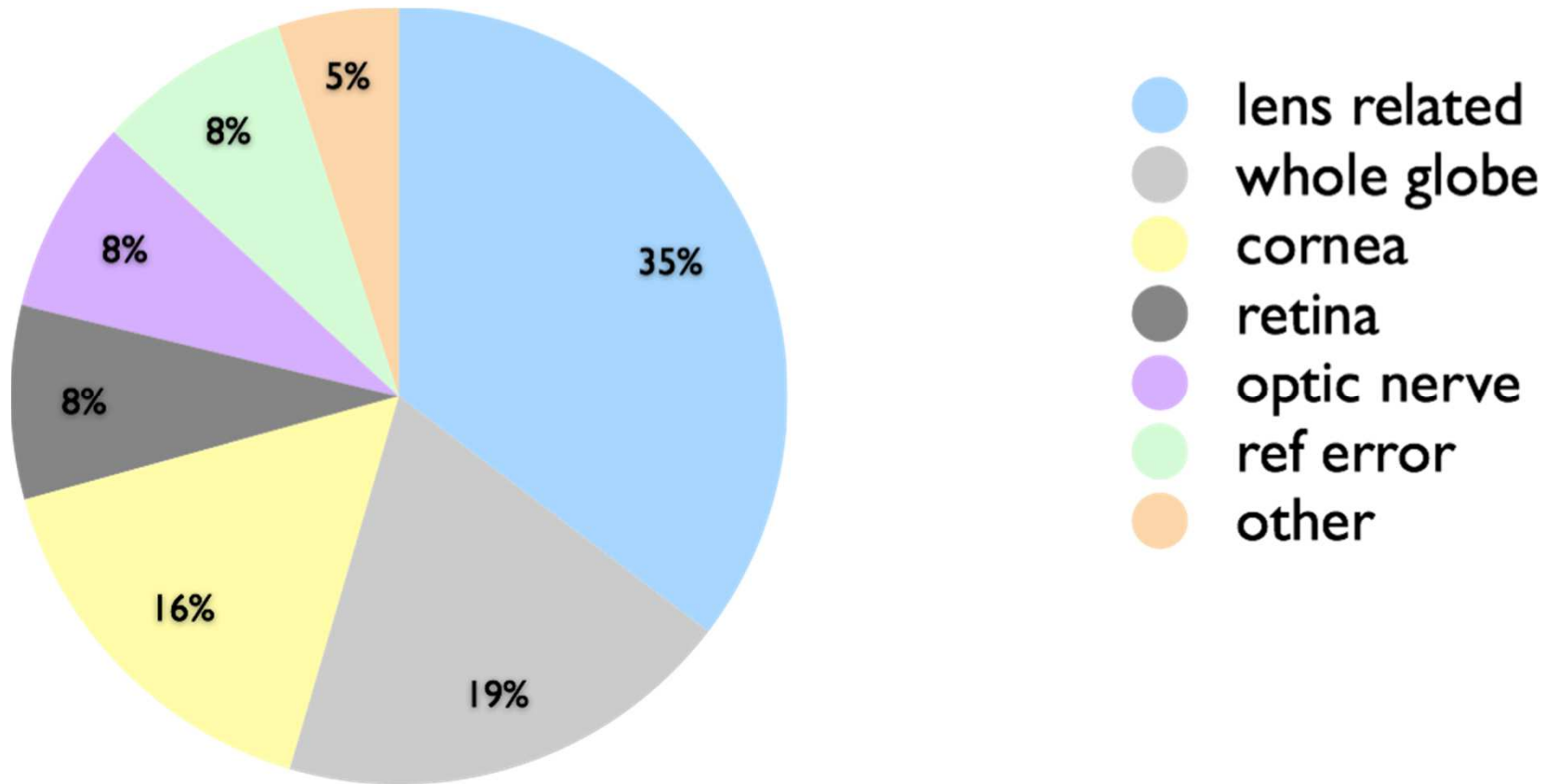
- Performed by pediatric ophthalmologist/team
- Assessed VA by age-appropriate methods
- Field exam to ascertain cause: torch, direct and indirect ophthalmoscope, portable slit lamp?
Referred to clinic if necessary
- Blind/severe visual impairment (BL,SVI)



Results

- 1020 children examined
 - 985 (KIs brought) + 26 (schools) + 9 (ID'd not brought by KIs)
- 108 were blind (88 + 12 + 8)
- Minimum prevalence:
 - 108 / 1.16 mill children = 0.09/1000
- If verification visit was typical then 89% of those not brought were also blind and the true prevalence could be
 - (108+157) / 1.16 million = 0.22/1000

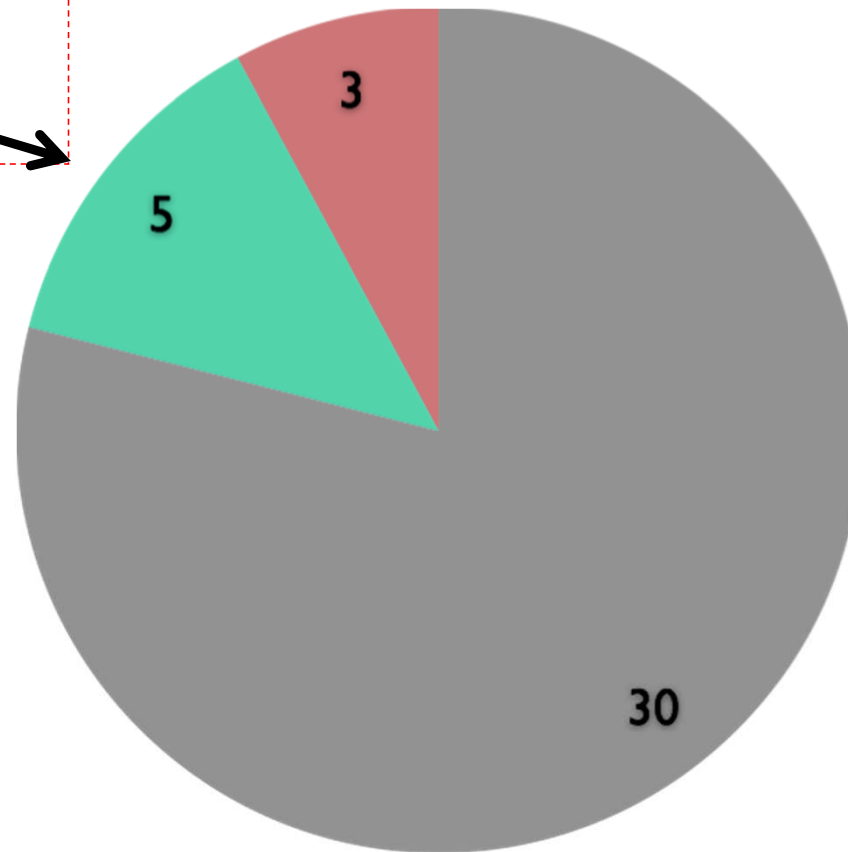
Causes of blindness



Lens related causes

(35% of all blindness)

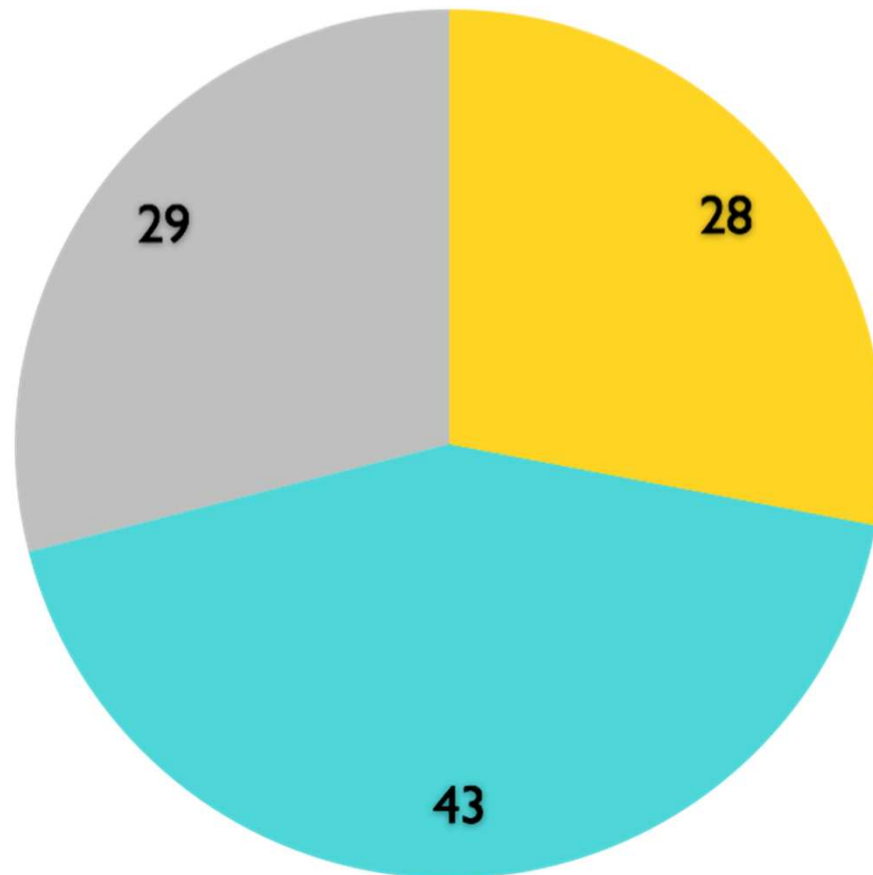
2 amblyopia
2 PCO
1 uveitis



● unoperated cataracts
● pseudophakic
● couched

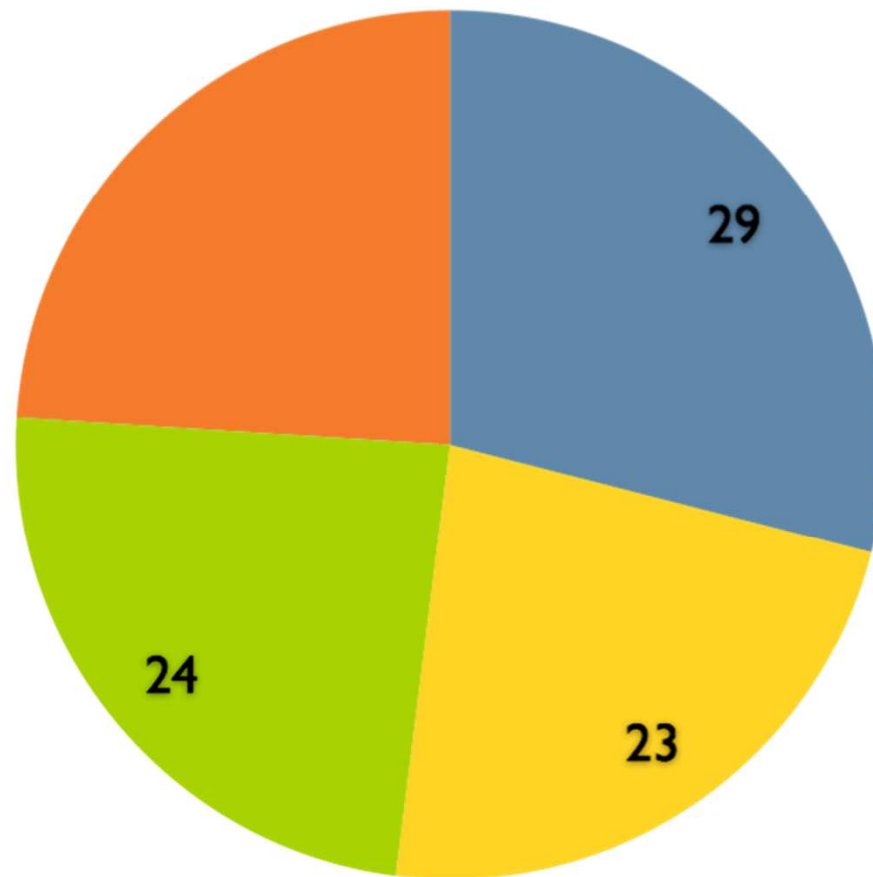
Whole Globe

● pthisis ● glaucoma ● others



Corneal Blindness

- harmful traditional medication
- unknown causes
- measles and vitamin A deficiency
- congenital cau



Conclusion

- KI methodology a reasonable way to estimate prevalence and causes of blindness but important to consider children in schools and children identified but NOT brought by KIs
- Corneal causes of blindness are decreasing and consequently cataract and glaucoma are becoming relatively more important
- Unoperated cataract is an important cause in CRS. Requires innovative schemes to find the children early and provide good quality surgery and rehabilitation.

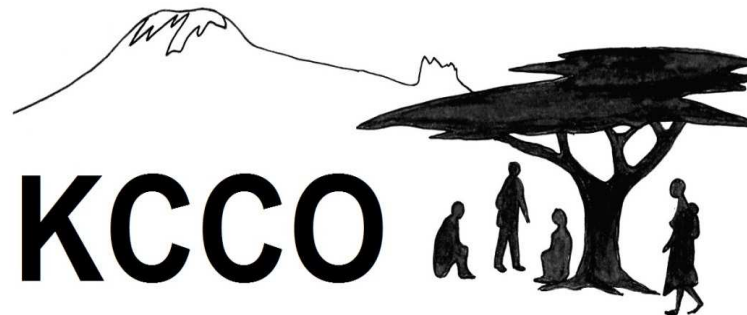
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Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology

- Thank you for listening.