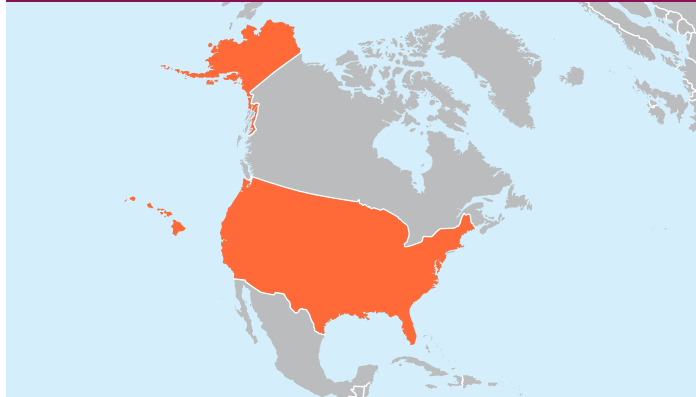


# United States Fact Sheet

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 1980s | Partners: 8



## Country Overview

- » The US spans 3.797 million square miles
- » Population: 331 million
- » 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 21 of 1891 countries<sup>1</sup>
- » Native American Population: 9.7 million<sup>2</sup>

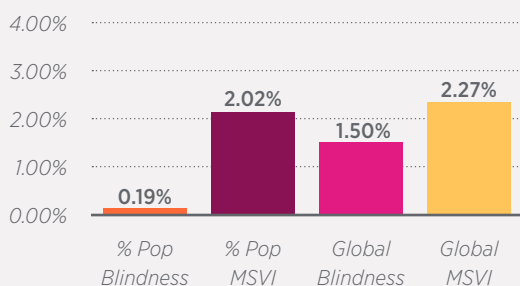
## Scope of Eye Care Needs<sup>3</sup>

- » 0.19% of the US population is blind
- » 2.02% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI
- » The US accounts for 1.50% of global blindness and 2.27% of global MSVI
- » Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is the leading cause of blindness in adults, affecting 1/3 of diabetics over 40 years old<sup>4</sup>

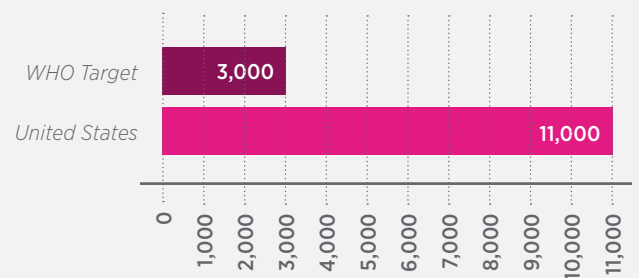
## Nationwide Eye Care Response

- » The US Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 11,000 surgeries per million in 2011
- » 54.7 ophthalmologists per million people in 2015 (17,600 total)
- » 112.4 optometrists per million people in 2019 (37,200 total)
- » 156 allied ophthalmic personnel per million people in 2015 (50,000 total)

### EYE CARE NEEDS



### CATARACT SURGICAL RATE PER MILLION PEOPLE



Eye care capacity and service statistics are aggregated for the U.S. and are not reflective of the actual need in the underserved Native American communities Seva aims to serve.

<sup>1</sup> 2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: [https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf\\_1.pdf](https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 2020: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/race-and-ethnicity-in-the-united-state-2010-and-2020-census.html>

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/>

<sup>4</sup> CDC Diabetic Retinopathy Fact Sheet: <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/pdf/factsheet.pdf>

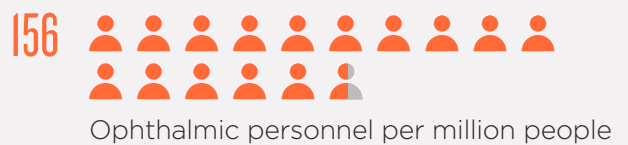
## Seva's Approach in the US

American Indians suffer disproportionately from higher rates of preventable and treatable eye conditions due to a lack of access to affordable, quality eye care. Barriers to care among American Indians include: poverty, geographic isolation, and the lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate eye care providers. Seva's goal with the American Indian Sight Initiative (AISI) is to improve eye health through collaborative, locally based partnerships. We focus on the most common and treatable eye health issues found in American Indian communities: the need for eye health screening, medical treatment, and eyeglasses. With local partners in Nome AK, Anchorage AK, Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Wisconsin we are reducing the barriers to quality eye care in American Indian communities.

## Impact of COVID-19 on Native American Communities

Native American communities across the U.S. were significantly impacted by COVID-19. Higher COVID-19 infection rates and mortality have been observed with Natives compared to the general U.S. population. As a result of CDC recommendations, all routine eye care services were suspended in March 2020 with Seva partners unless it was an emergency. Most of the eye care programs Seva supports have partially resumed offering eye care services, albeit at reduced capacity. Seva partners continue to look for ways to deliver care safely amidst the pandemic.

### EYE CARE PERSONNEL



 = 10 million people

### SPOTLIGHT ON INCREASING ACCESS

Seva's American Indian Sight Initiative exists to meet the eye care needs of the five million indigenous peoples throughout the United States. We structure collaborative, locally-based partnerships with hospitals and clinics in and near Indigenous land, like the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, to enable Native communities to access health and wellness services year-round. Last year, OKCIC provided care to more than 20,000 Native American patients in central Oklahoma.

### IMPACT (FY 2021-2022)\*

3,524

People receiving services

829

Children receiving glasses

1,326

Children screened

445

People receiving services at VCs

1

New VC funded through Seva

2,700

People who now have access to care

\* Numbers based on reports received

## UNITED STATES FACT SHEET

### Resources:

[CASE STUDY: Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation \(KPHC\)](#)

[Eye Care Service Expansion and Sustainability](#)

[Female Leaders in Eye Care](#)

[The Promise of Telemedicine](#)

