



ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
of OPTOMETRY

# **Attitudes Of Optometrists/Optomety Students Towards People With Intellectual Disability After Participation In Special Olympic Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Vision Screening**

Sandra S. Block, OD, M Ed

Susan A. Kelly, Ph D



# Purpose

- Pilot study evaluating attitudes of optometrists/optometry students towards persons with intellectual disability (ID).
- We attempted to determine if an intervention, specifically participation in a Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes (SOLCIE) vision screening, changed attitudes.



# METHODS

- The Prognostic Beliefs Scale (PBS) is a survey that indirectly measures attitudes about ID.
- The PBS lists 27 items reflecting daily activities. Estimates of capability were asked for each level of ID: mild, moderate, and severe.
- Subjects were asked to check the items they felt people with ID at each level were capable of achieving.
- The survey was administered to 4 subgroups: SOLCIOE volunteers prescreening; same subjects' post screening; SOLCIOE volunteers post screening survey only; and a control group of a random sample of optometric alumni.



# METHODS

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## PROGNOSTIC BELIEFS SCALE

We would like to know what you feel the capabilities of mildly mentally retarded adults are. By mildly mentally retarded we mean adults with below average intelligence in the range of 55 to 75 I.Q. and deficits in adaptive behavior.

Please check the skills which you think he/she would be capable of completing:

- Dressing & toileting independently
- Entering into a marriage contract
- Drinking from a cup unassisted
- Cooking a meal unsupervised
- Raising children



## Finding own way in unfamiliar surroundings

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Using a lock and key

Indicating symptoms verbally to a physician

Budgeting for monthly expensesj

Eating with utensils

Doing own laundry

Making change for a dollar

Telling time

Having an intimate sexual relationship

Filling out a job application

Participating in a simple conversation



Using public transportation independently  
Recognizing traffic and exit signs  
Scheduling daily activities independently  
Using a pay telephone  
Choosing appropriate clothes to wear  
Following a national news event  
Acting appropriately toward strangers  
Sustaining a friendship with another person  
Anticipating hazards appropriately  
Following a one-stage command  
Addressing two people by name

Capabilities Total \_\_\_\_\_



# METHODS

- Subjects were asked to check the items they felt people with ID at each level were capable of achieving.
- The levels of intellectual disability were defined by IQ and level as mild, moderate and severe.



# METHODS

- The survey was administered 4 times to three subgroups:
  1. SOLCIE volunteers prescreening
  2. same subjects' post screening;
  3. SOLCIE volunteers post screening survey only
  4. Control group of a random sample of optometric alumni.



Group I  
Experimental  
n-36

Filled out the PBS Survey  
and Demographic  
questionnaire

Participation in SOOE  
vision screening

2-3 weeks later, survey  
mailed to subjects

Filled out the PBS Survey  
and Demographic  
questionnaire

Group II  
Experimental  
n-63

Participation in SOOE  
vision screening

2-3 weeks later, survey  
mailed to subjects

Filled out the PBS Survey  
and Demographic  
questionnaire

Group III  
Control  
n-65

Survey mailed to  
subjects

Filled out the PBS Survey  
and Demographic  
questionnaire



# Demographics

	GROUPS I	GROUP II	GROUP III
TOTAL – N (%)	36	63	65
Gender			
Male	22 (61.1%)	14 (38.9%)	31 (49.2%)
Female	32 (50.8%)	55 (84.6%)	10 (15.4%)
Age (years):			
Mean (SD)	48.1 (10.3)	38.2 (12.3)	46.3 (16.1)
Range	25-78	21-74	27-77



# RESULTS

- 434 surveys were mailed or administered on site
- 171 surveys were returned.



# RESULTS

- A comparison between the prescreening survey and post screening survey indicated a significant positive difference in attitude ( $F=315.7, p<0.05$ ) as defined by a higher PBS score.
- The control group had lower capability scores for all three levels of ID as compared to the experimental groups. Gender did not have an effect, however age did influence the capability score.



PBS Mean Scores (Standard Deviation) For Each Group By Level of Intellectual Disability

Group	Group I		Group II	Group III	Pediatricians
Level of ID	Pre	Post			
Mild	21.46 (4.39)	23.28 (3.30)	21.98 (4.54)	19.83 (5.48)	20.2 (4.4)
Moderate	12.28 (4.76)	14.25 (4.75)	12.54 (4.36)	10.06 (4.66)	10.3 (4.3)
Severe	5.69 (2.70)	6.72 (3.87)	5.49 (3.36)	3.85 (2.84)	3.5 (3.0)

(Wolraich et al., 1987)



# CONCLUSIONS

Participation in a SOLCIOE vision screening resulted in a positive influence on the attitudes of optometrists/optometry students towards people with ID at the mild or moderate level but had no effect on the attitude of persons with a severe level of ID.



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**Thank You for your attention!**