

# Let Us Help You See The World Better: Lessons Learned From Vision Partnership In Houston, Texas

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### Background

- Literature suggests that vision related problems among children may affect their performance.
- Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) fostered and implemented a collaborative project - Vision Partnership (VP) - to address the need, utilizing public-private partnership model.
- Key goal of the program was to provide free vision care services & eyewear to the school children (6-18 yrs) who have unresolved referral for eye care.

### Method

- HDHHS built the program utilizing incident command system (ICS) to manage and implement the activities. We cultivated partnership with various local school districts, communities and the One-sight Foundation.
- This collaborative uses a site based client flow model to provide high volume walk through services.

### Results

- In the last four years, the collaborative conducted 5 events, with each being two-week long. We provided extensive vision care services to a total of 10,096 children from 291 schools, representing 10 school districts.
- Of those served, 87 % were provided with needed eyewear. Many students received eyewear shortly after their eye exam produced on-site.
- Children identified with a need of further services were referred to the ophthalmologist.

### Results ...

#### Vision Partnership in Summary

	2010 (Oct)	2010 (Feb)	2009	2008	2007	Program Totals
Clinic Site	Third Ward	Fifth Ward	Fellowship of Fountains	Denver Harbor	Acres Homes	Total
# of School District Served	6	6	5	5	3	25
# of Schools Participating	43	97	48	77	26	291
# Children Served	1479	2901	2426	1838	1452	10,096
# Children Needing Eyewear	1299	2547	2124	1452	1327	8,749
% of Need	88%	88%	88%	79%	76%	87%

In recent years, frequency of Vision Partnership events have increased. For eg., we already conducted 3 such events in 2011.



### Results ...

*“This program is and has been very beneficial to the students at our school. It has given them the opportunity to be productive in class and to receive eye glasses that may not have been possible without this program. Thank you for all your support towards the community.”*

**-Teacher of a participating school**

*“Very convenient for the parents. Flexibility with Medicaid and CHIP students.”*

**-Parent of a student who received the eye exam and eyewear**

### Lessons Learned

- Interdisciplinary collaboration is key to success.
- Pre screening by the school nurse helps identify the students with need and helps in planning the resources accordingly.
- Capacity to produce needed eyewear on-site adds to efficiency and timely services.
- Schools without nurses are unable to complete the necessary pre-screening.
- ICS can be used to effectively manage the high volume walk through type events to provide health care services.
- Effective training of the volunteers is needed to ensure efficiency of the program.

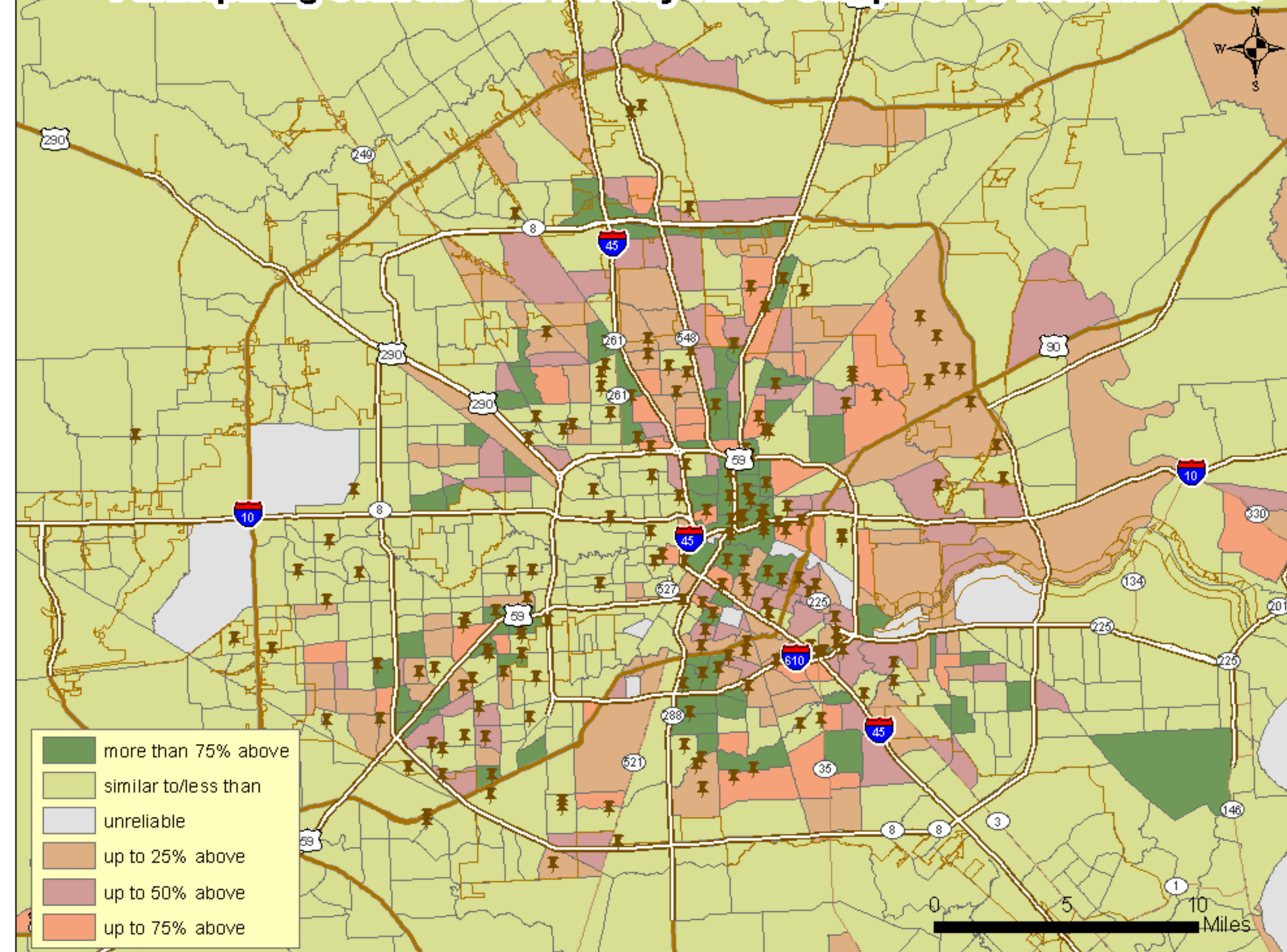
### Moving forward

We plan to continue to provide this service targeting the low income areas of the City. We are also exploring ways to transform this service model into population based approach while focusing on prevention of eye-related problems.

### Acknowledgement

We convey our sincere thanks to the HDHHS leadership, One-Sight Foundation, the community, the schools involved in this project, and colleagues at HDHHS for their support.

Participating Schools with Poverty Rates Compared to Houston Rates



A snap shot of 2010 October event (N=1224)

Sex	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Other
Male	19	231	320	13	16
Female	31	267	299	10	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>
%	4.1	40.7	50.6	1.9	2.8

Majority service recipients were Hispanic students followed by Blacks.

