



## Local Optical Committee Support Unit

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SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY  
EYE CARE DEVELOPMENT

### Advice note

**Using the National Eye Health Epidemiological  
Model (NEHEM)**

<http://www.eyehhealthmodel.org.uk>



**LOCSU**

Available on line at [www.locsus.co.uk](http://www.locsus.co.uk)

Or call 020 7549 2051

# Using the epidemiological tool

November 2008

## National Eye Health Epidemiological Model (NEHEM)

### Introduction

The NEHEM is an exciting new tool that, for the first time, provides reliable prevalence estimates for common eye conditions in an easy to access format on the internet. The model provides data for the following conditions:

- AMD
- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- Low Vision

The model is very flexible and can be interrogated for a number of different administrative areas in the UK: Nation, Local Authority, Primary Care organisation, including both new and old English PCT areas, and Strategic Health Areas (England only). The model will be particularly useful in the development of local Enhanced Services where current service provision, particularly in secondary care, tends to be demand led.

The model contains prevalence information, based on the best research evidence currently available and current Office of National Statistics population data giving the (estimated) total

number of people expected to have a condition in the chosen region, both as a total number and as a percentage of the population. It will show total healthcare need, both those diagnosed and known about and the 'unknowns'. Depending on the module interrogated the database will also break down information into risk groups, condition sub-types and age profiles.

### How to use the NEHEM

The figures are prevalence figures, that is the estimated total number of people in the chosen area with the condition, i.e. the total need. The model does not currently include incidence estimates, ie the number of new cases arising in a specific time period such as one year.

Interrogation of the model is simple:

- Using your Web Browser go to the NEHEM website [www.eyehalthmodel.org.uk](http://www.eyehalthmodel.org.uk)
- Select the eye condition of interest, e.g. glaucoma
- Select the type of region e.g. Primary Care Organisation

- Select the locality, e.g. Southwark
- Click the button "Get Data"

AMD	Local Authority	England
Glaucoma	NHS Region	Northern Ireland
Cataract	Nation	Scotland
Low Vision	Primary Care Organisation	Wales
	Strategic Health Authority	
	2006 PCTs	

Get Data

A table will then appear below your selection with the selected data.

### Glaucoma Data

AreaCode	Area Name	Mean Estimated Glaucoma Cases	High Estimated Glaucoma Cases	Low Estimated Glaucoma Cases	Suspects Under 60	Suspects 60+	TotalSuspects	Ocular Hypertension		
	England	449847 1.47%	634946 2.07%	280407 0.92%	1020362 5.00%	713995 7.00%	1734357 5.67%	979429 3.20%	<a href="#">View Detailed Population Figures</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

Export Glaucoma Data To Excel

The presented data, if applicable, may be broken down further, for instance by age group or ethnic origin, using links on the right hand end of the table. If preferred the data can be downloaded to an Excel spreadsheet by clicking on the appropriate button (pop-up blockers must be disabled for this function to operate).

### Use of the data

The outputs from the model will give you the estimated number of people in your chosen area with the selected condition. This data can then be used to review existing services and plan new services. For

example un-met need in the locality might be of interest and could be estimated, perhaps by combining the number of known secondary care patients in your area with the prevalence data.

The model will also allow for the input of local demographic data such as locally held population profiles, local ethnicity information and local prevalence rates.

