

President's Insight December 2025

US National Glaucoma Awareness Month is January 2026

Looking ahead to the New Year 2026:

Years ago as a SUNY student at a VOSH clinic in Guatemala, I can still vividly recall an elderly man carrying home his shoulder bag that we packed with donated glaucoma drops. We wondered what his visual future would be. We could only hope that his drops would last long enough and that he would find continuity of care to keep his vision.



Patient in Guatemala

countries.

As Optometrists and eye care providers we know that Glaucoma is a silent condition.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States. But as many as half of people with glaucoma don't know they have it according to the National Eye Institute. Over 80 million people worldwide have glaucoma. The World Health Organization estimates that 4.5 million people worldwide are blind due to glaucoma.

The only way to check for glaucoma is to at least get a comprehensive eye examination with tonometry and Fundus evaluation. Where possible OCT, Fundus Photos and Visual Fields are even more helpful in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma. There's no cure for glaucoma, but starting treatment as early as possible can help prevent vision loss. People at risk for glaucoma need more frequent exams and be monitored for changes.

The lack of awareness of glaucoma affects patients in high and low income

Those at higher risk include people of African, Asian, and Hispanic descent. People over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics, and people who are severely myopic also have a higher risk of glaucoma.

As members of VOSH/International let's continue to lead and address the problem together for those that have undetected glaucoma and limited access to care and treatment. Improving patient awareness is an important start. We can work to help more Optometric educational programs grow and gain expertise worldwide to help reach more patients. This will provide more access to continued care and follow up for patients for the chronic condition of Glaucoma.

Thank you to all of our VOSH Community who have helped people around the world attain better Vision and Health. I wish you all and Happy and Healthy New Year on behalf of VOSH/International.

Gratefully,

Dr. Victoria Molnar Weiss, OD, FVAO, FVI
VOSH/International President

Some Resources:

The American Optometric Association has a downloadable PowerPoint we can use to help educate our patients and communities.

[Glaucoma: Knowing the Facts Can Save Your Sight](https://www.aoa.org/educate-your-community/glaucoma)

Template PPT presentation on Glaucoma: Knowing the Facts Can Save Your Life

<https://www.aoa.org/educate-your-community/glaucoma>