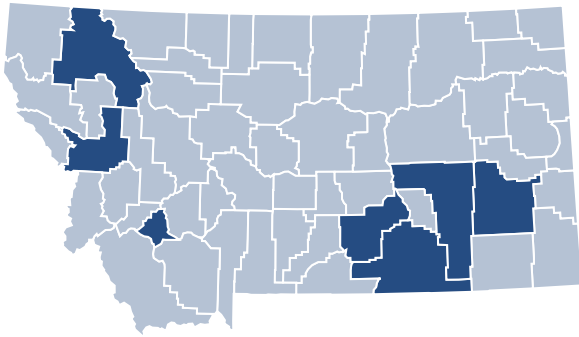




# Summary Results 2019-2023: Diabetes-Related Retinopathy Telehealth Project, Montana Diabetes Program (MDP)



- Poorly managed diabetes can lead to eye disease called diabetes-related retinopathy and, eventually, to blindness. Early diagnosis through dilated eye exams using retinal cameras and treatment is 90% effective in preventing blindness.
- Improving exam access to high-risk patients with low healthcare access is a priority in rural states like Montana.
- Between 7-1-19 and 9-30-2023, seven clinics across Montana used retinal cameras to assess eye health and diabetes-related retinopathy for patients with diabetes. **This report summarizes RetinaVue camera use.**



## Sites

- Bighorn Valley Health Center, Hardin (BVHC)
- SCL Health Billings Diabetes Clinic, Billings (SCL)
- Mercury Street Medical Group, Butte (MSMG)
- One Health Miles City (OHMC)
- CPG Family Medicine and OB, Missoula (CPG)
- Colstrip Medical Center (CMC)
- Glacier Medical Assoc. (GMA), Whitefish & Columbia Falls

## Barriers

- Incorporating camera use into workflows
- Educating patients about importance of retinal exams so they don't decline
- Need support on billing codes for reimbursement
- Lack of dark room to dilate patients' eyes
- Staff turnover depleting trained staff for exams

## Facilitators

- Access to improved camera
- Training provided by camera company
- Management support and encouragement
- Quick turn-around for telehealth report reading
- Strategic contact with patients during intake

## Successes

- Individual patient pathology discovered for treatment
- Integration of project into routine patient care, including incorporating retinal exams in annual visits
- Improved quality scores for clinics
- Several sites want to continue the project

**"[Don't] discount the small steps [you] take along the way that make for [a] bigger change."**

## Data provided in RetinaVue reports



Exams

**231**



Billable exams

**201 (87%)**



Disease cases detected

**55**

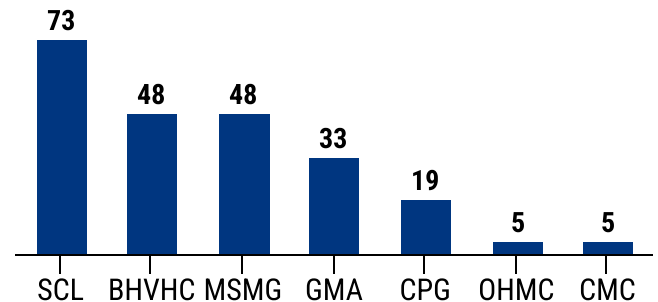


Disease cases deemed vision-threatening

at least **23 (10% of exams)**  
(BVHC unknown)

## Number of Retinal Exams per Clinic During Project Participation\* with MDP

\*GMA has done 341 scans, but only 33 while working with MDP.



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