

Kuwait Visual Impairment Registry (KVIR)

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وزارة الصحة

Introduction

- Registries worldwide aim to enhance the level of care, boost research and provide a valuable tool for public health measures.
- Pandova et al. has identified that diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and retinitis pigmentosa as the leading causes of blindness in Kuwait⁽¹⁾.
- Kuwait Visual Impairment Registry (KVIR) provides an insight into the leading causes of vision loss in Kuwait and a starting point for further public health interventions

Methods

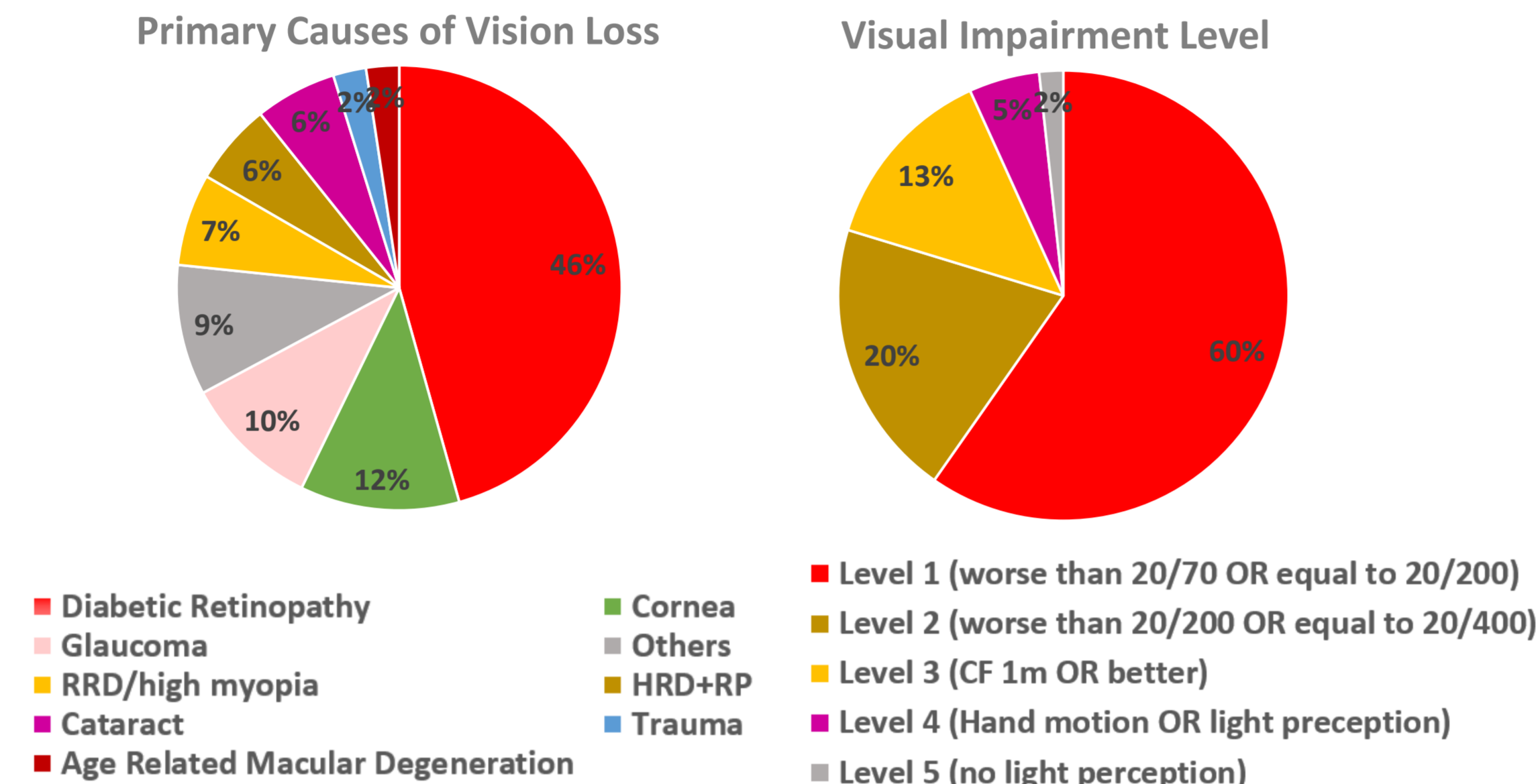
- KVIR was granted the ethical approval of the ministry of health in Kuwait in 2018.
- Data collected from anonymous medical files at Al-Bahar eye center, the largest tertiary ophthalmic hospital in Kuwait.
- Patients age, gender, demographics, best corrected visual acuity of the better eye, visual field, primary causes and secondary causes of vision loss were collected from medical records and entered into the CDC software (Epi Info) 7th version
- Levels of Visual Impairment were identified according to the ICD-10 criteria²:

- Level 1: (worse than 20/70 or equal to 20/200)
- Level 2: (worse than 20/200 or equal to 20/400)
- Level 3: (Counting fingers 1m or better)
- Level 4: (hand motion or light perception)
- Level 5: (no light perception)

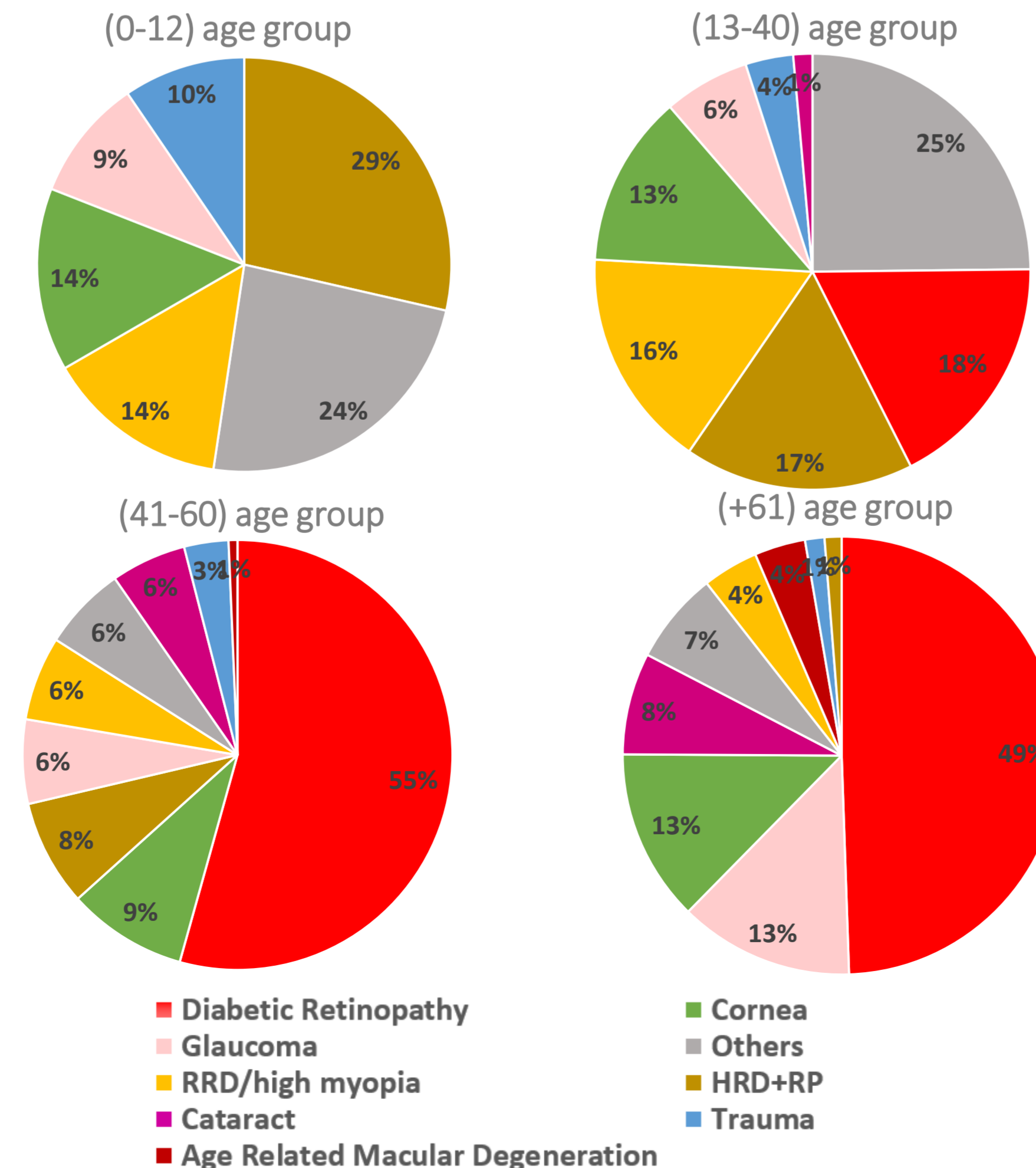
- Data analysis (pie charts) generated from Microsoft® Excel® for Microsoft 365 MSO.

Results

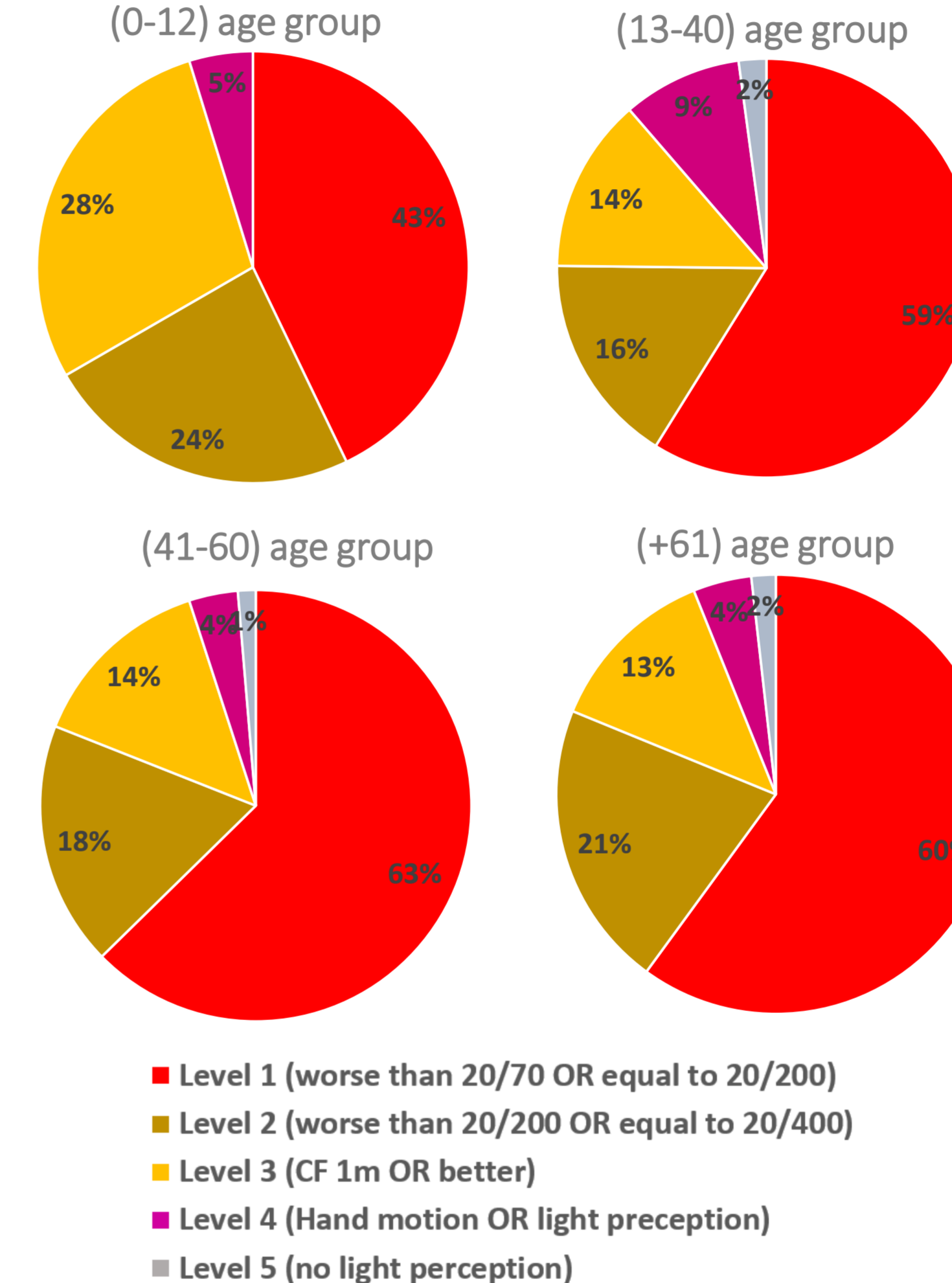
Primary causes of vision loss and levels of visual impairment among all age groups:



Primary causes of vision loss per age group:



Levels of Visual Impairment per age group:



- KVIR included 1045 patients as of May 2022.
- Our data shows that diabetic retinopathy (46%) is the leading cause of vision loss among all patients followed by corneal diseases (12%) and glaucoma (10%), respectively.

Conclusion

- Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of vision loss in Kuwait. It has been estimated that diabetes prevalence is about 19% among Kuwaiti citizens and residents of Kuwait³.
- Our data highlights the burden of diabetes on the ophthalmic healthcare system in Kuwait.
- KVIR will continue to grow in order to provide further guidance for further public health measures in the future.

References

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3. Alkandari A, Alarouj M, Elkum N, Sharma P, Devarajan S, Abu-Farha M, et al. Adult Diabetes and Prediabetes Prevalence in Kuwait: Data from the Cross-Sectional Kuwait Diabetes Epidemiology Program. J Clin Med. 2020;9(11).

Disclosures

- This study was funded by Boubyan Bank in Kuwait.
- The Authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.