

Vision Problems in Ohio

Prevalence of Adult Vision Impairment and
Age-Related Eye Disease in Ohio



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Source: Vision Problems in the U.S., a publication of Prevent Blindness America in cooperation with the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Published 2002.

Prevalence of Adult Vision Impairment and Age-Related Eye Disease in Lucas County (455,054)

Vision Loss Among Older Ohioans Is Increasing

More Americans than ever are facing the threat of blindness from age-related eye disease. Over 187,000 Ohioans age 40 and older are currently legally blind or visually impaired, largely resulting from the eye diseases of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-macular degeneration (AMD). The number of older Americans affected by these diseases is expected to double over the next 30 years as the Baby Boomer generation ages. **More than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected.** Unfortunately blindness and vision impairment represent a significant burden, not only to those affected by sight loss, but to our Ohio economy as well. It is estimated that blindness and vision impairment cost Ohio \$160,000,000 annually in benefits and lost taxable income.

Below are statistics for adult vision impairment and age-related eye disease, including:

- **Visual Impairment** is defined as having 20/40 or worse in the better eye, even with eyeglasses.
- **Blindness** is defined as visual acuity with best correction in the better eye worse than or equal to 20/200 or a visual field extent of less than 20 degrees in diameter.
- **Myopia** is the same as nearsightedness.
- **Age-Related Macular Degeneration** creates a loss of sharp, central vision. No successful treatment is currently available.
- **Cataract** is a clouding of the eye's naturally clear lens. This is usually treatable.
- **Diabetic Retinopathy** involves abnormal growth of blood vessels in the back of the eye which can leak. Management of diabetes and regular preventative eye exams are the best defense against developing diabetic retinopathy.
- **Glaucoma** causes the loss of peripheral or side vision. Once vision is lost, it cannot be restored; however, further loss of remaining vision can usually be prevented with treatment.

	Total	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Visual Impairment, including Blindness (est. cases): Age 40+	5,455	1,779	3,776	4,714	619	88	34
Blindness (est. cases): Age 40+	1,739	527	1,212	1,444	258	12	9
Myopia: Age 40+	51,523	22,724	28,799	44,981	3,838	894	440
Age-related Macular Degeneration: Age 50+	2,753	961	1,792	2,426	219	31	12
Cataract: Age 40+	34,138	12,523	21,615	29,202	3,539	545	232
Diabetic Retinopathy: Age 18+	8,602	3,924	4,678	6,909	1,247	285	111
Glaucoma: Age 40+	3,569	1,254	2,315	2,556	905	68	39

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