

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 Stark County (pop. 378,098)

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+ | 5,100 | 1,640 | 3,460 | 4,804 | 236 | 19 | 40 |
| Blindness (est. cases): Age 40+ | 1,599 | 487 | 1,112 | 1,487 | 99 | 3 | 11 |
| Myopia: Age 40+ | 47,427 | 21,005 | 26,422 | 45,182 | 1,475 | 198 | 558 |
| Age-related Macular Degeneration: Age 50+ | 2,607 | 921 | 1,686 | 2,498 | 85 | 57 | 15 |
| Cataract: Age 40+ | 31,407 | 11,576 | 19,832 | 29,661 | 1,351 | 934 | 273 |
| Diabetic Retinopathy: Age 18+ | 7,292 | 3,323 | 3,969 | 6,686 | 441 | 53 | 111 |
| Glaucoma: Age 40+ | 3,283 | 1,159 | 2,124 | 2,876 | 364 | 15 | 46 |

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