

Programs and Services

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO is **the** statewide consumer advocate for sight conservation. We promote eye health and safety while working to find the cure for blinding eye diseases. Our mission is carried out through:

Public Information

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO supports **public policies** that advocate good eye health and safety for all Ohioans such as fireworks safety and access to comprehensive, professional vision care for Ohioans of all ages.

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO offers **workplace wellness programming** and **preschool and elementary classroom curricula** that provide facts to make informed decisions about eye health and eye safety.

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO offers a comprehensive selection of **print and audio-visual materials** dealing with all aspects of eye health and safety for use at home, work, school and leisure. Our toll-free hotline number is 800-301-2020.

Research

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO **funds research** by contributing to The Prevent Blindness America Investigator Awards which provide support for clinically-based research investigating public health issues related to the burden of illness of eye-related health and safety. All research grants promote the core mission of Prevent Blindness America - preserving sight and preventing blindness.

Early Detection

Early detection and prompt, professional treatment are essential in halting eye diseases like amblyopia and glaucoma.

Vision training and screening programs enable thousands of volunteers and providers of primary health care to detect potentially blinding eye diseases and refer individuals for professional treatment early, when it is most effective.

Vision Care Outreach programs provide access to comprehensive donated eye care (eye exam, glasses and aftercare) for homeless and medically indigent children and adults.

Governance and Leadership

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO's overall program standards and policies are developed by a volunteer board of directors representing the entire state of Ohio. Prevent Blindness Ohio is among the first of Ohio's 30,000 nonprofit organizations to be awarded a "Standards for Excellence Seal" by the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations. Receipt of this award is based upon PBO's ethical business standards and accountability in our program operations, governance, human resources, financial management and fundraising practices.



Chronology of Sight Saving...

- 1908** Volunteers create Prevent Blindness America when they learn that 30% of blindness in children could be prevented.
- 1917** Efforts lead to federal legislation that virtually eliminates the leading cause of blindness in newborns (ophthalmia neonatorum). Eye drops at birth are now standard procedure.
- 1926** Nationwide preschool vision screening program begins.
- 1930** First eye safety program for industry.
- 1948** The first Ohio Wise Owl Club charter at Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company in Hamilton.
- 1957** Senator John Bricker asks friends statewide to help create an Ohio affiliate of Prevent Blindness America.
- 1958** First annual meeting of the Ohio affiliate.
- 1959** First Ohio Glaucoma Screening is conducted with the Lions Club.
- 1963** Ohio becomes first state to pass School Eye Safety Law, now adopted by most states.
- 1977** Glaucoma Alert Program launched.
- 1984** PBO opens glaucoma screening clinic.
- 1989** Southwest Ohio Chapter formed in Cincinnati.
- 1993** Northeast Ohio Chapter formed in Cleveland.
- 1997** Ohio Eye Care Coalition defeats fireworks bill.
- 1998** The Prevent Blindness Ohio website opens: www.preventblindness.org/ohio
- 1999** Save Our Sight Initiative, led by PBO with 20 partners, provides for a \$1 voluntary donation on Ohiomotor vehicle registration. Funds raised are invested in expansion of vision care education & services for children.
- 2000** Dayton office opens as satellite division of Southwest Ohio Chapter. Wise About Eyes, an interactive children's eye health and safety exhibit developed by PBO premieres at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton.
- 2002** Northwest Ohio Chapter Office opens in Toledo.
- 2003** Aging Eye Public Private Partnership formed by a proclamation from Ohio Governor Bob Taft and supported by the Ohio Department of Aging.
- 2004** Ohio Legislative Task Force to Preserve Adult Vision is formed.



OUR MISSION: To Prevent
Blindness and Preserve Sight
OUR VISION: Helping Ohioans
Enjoy Good Sight for Life!

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO, founded in 1957, is the only statewide, voluntary vision health and safety organization dedicated to the prevention of blindness and the preservation of sight.

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1500 W. Third Ave.,
Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 464-2020
(800) 301-2020
(614) 481-9670 FAX
info@pb ohio.org

SOUTHWEST OHIO CHAPTER

246 McCullough St.
Cincinnati, OH 45226
(513) 531-9001
(513) 531-9002 FAX
info@pb ohio.org

DAYTON OFFICE

313 South Jefferson St.,
Suite 204
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 223-8766
(937) 223-8767 FAX
info@pb ohio.org

NORTHEAST OHIO CHAPTER

6867 Pearl Rd., Suite 101A
Cleveland, OH 44130
(440) 842-1284
(440) 842-1294 FAX
info@pb ohio.org

NORTHWEST OHIO CHAPTER

1819 Canton Ave.
Toledo, OH 43624
(419) 327-2020
(419) 327-2494 FAX
info@pb ohio.org

For more information, call
800-301-2020 or visit
preventblindness.org/ohio

11.04/mr

Why our mission matters to you

An estimated **3.4 million** Ohioans have a potentially blinding eye disease, **120,000** have low vision, and **44,702** are legally blind. Vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is a portal for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, health, and quality of life. Vision impairment is one of the most feared disabilities.

And while it is believed that half of all blindness can be prevented and **90%** of all vision loss due to injury or accident is preventable, the number of Americans and Ohioans who suffer from vision loss continues to increase. Vision disorders and impairment are major public health problems. It is estimated that by **2030**, the number of blind and visually impaired people will double if nothing is done to curb vision problems.

Blindness and visual impairment exact a great price from individuals and society. Vision loss can rob people of their independence, mobility and quality of life. Based on a 2004 study published by the National Eye Institute, the annual economic costs of visual disorders and disabilities in the U.S. and Ohio are estimated to be over **\$67.5 billion & \$2.7 billion** respectively.

Leading causes of vision loss

In adults, the most common eye diseases are **cataracts**, **diabetic retinopathy**, **glaucoma** and **macular degeneration**. In children, serious eye disorders include **amblyopia** ("lazy eye") and **strabismus** ("cross eyed"). Eye injuries in both adults and children at home, in the workplace, and in sports, are also a leading cause of permanent visual impairment.

Eye Opening Facts

- ◆ Vision disorders are the fourth most common disability in the U.S. and the most prevalent handicapping condition in childhood.
- ◆ **91,900** people in Ohio have **glaucoma** and half - **45,900** - do not know it. Glaucoma causes the loss of peripheral or side vision. Once vision is lost, it cannot be restored.
- ◆ Blindness is the most likely complication of diabetes. More than **700,000** Ohioans have **diabetes**, and more than **217,000** suffer from diabetic retinopathy which 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.
- ◆ Approximately **47,300** Ohio preschool children (**1 in 20**) have a vision disorder such as amblyopia (lazy eye) or strabismus (crossed eyes) that can lead to loss of vision or even blindness.
- ◆ Nearly **465,000** Ohio school-aged children (**1 in 4**) have a vision problem. Abnormal visual acuity is the most common chronic medical condition in children of industrialized nations.
- ◆ There are nearly **4,000** serious eye injuries suffered by Ohio children ages 0-14 each year.
- ◆ More than **879,000** Ohioans over 40 years of age suffer from **cataracts** which is a clouding of the eye's naturally clear lens. This is usually treatable.
- ◆ Just over **71,000** older Ohioans are afflicted with **age-related macular degeneration** which creates a loss of sharp, central vision. No successful treatment is currently available.