

Vision Problems in Alaska

Understanding the prevalence and cost of eye disorders will help policy makers develop better policies and interventions for preventing and treating vision problems. If appropriate preventive steps are not taken, costs will burgeon as the population of Alaska ages and life expectancy increases. The number of Alaska residents with impaired vision, including blindness, could more than double over the next three decades.

PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN ALASKA

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	13,918	11,819	20,425	350	584	4,379	25,738
Myopia, age 40 and older	39,205	37,898	60,794	1,220	1,898	13,192	77,104
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	1,333	1,024	1,934	37	43	343	2,357
Cataract, age 40 and older	20,204	16,832	27,744	764	923	7,606	37,036
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	6,775	7,237	9,899	428	755	2,930	14,012
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	2,422	1,828	2,655	221	114	1,260	4,250
Low vision, age 40 and older	1,910	1,454	2,409	62	113	780	3,364
Blindness, age 40 and older	799	566	1,008	52	19	285	1,365

THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN ALASKA

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$13	\$22	\$53	\$41	\$130
Indirect Costs	\$2	\$32	\$28	\$64	\$125
Total Costs	\$15	\$54	\$81	\$106	\$255

This data is based on two reports published by Prevent Blindness America: *Vision Problems in the U.S. – Prevalence of Adult Vision Impairment and Age-Related Eye Disease in America* and *The Cost of Vision Problems: The Economic Burden of Vision Loss and Eye Disorders in the United States*. While *Vision Problems in the U.S.* provides prevalence data for ages 40 and over, *The Cost of Vision Problems* addresses the economic burden for all ages. To read the reports online in full, visit www.preventblindness.org/publications.

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