

Vision Problems in the District of Columbia

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 the District of Columbia ages and life expectancy increases. The number of District of Columbia residents with impaired vision, including blindness, could more than double over the next three decades.

PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	132,356	113,867	75,329	144,204	16,155	10,535	246,223
Myopia, age 40 and older	23,929	21,587	20,590	19,769	2,962	2,195	45,516
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	1,626	827	1,240	1,068	81	64	2,452
Cataract, age 40 and older	25,919	13,661	12,924	23,346	1,832	1,476	39,579
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	6,378	7,223	3,676	8,171	1,254	499	13,601
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	4,295	3,216	1,218	5,826	232	235	7,511
Low vision, age 40 and older	2,932	1,688	1,616	2,565	257	181	4,619
Blindness, age 40 and older	1,710	958	777	1,791	41	59	2,668

THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$8	\$23	\$39	\$52	\$123
Indirect Costs	\$1	\$34	\$20	\$80	\$136
Total Costs	\$9	\$57	\$60	\$132	\$258

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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