

# Vision Problems in Kentucky

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

## PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN KENTUCKY

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	128,346	86,658	204,306	6,692	1,567	2,438	215,004
Myopia, age 40 and older	289,492	240,095	497,976	19,038	5,238	7,334	529,587
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	18,951	10,293	28,152	789	112	191	29,244
Cataract, age 40 and older	210,676	138,518	325,420	16,795	2,631	4,347	349,194
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	55,237	47,715	92,204	7,147	2,000	1,601	102,952
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	21,650	13,429	29,596	4,438	338	707	35,079
Low vision, age 40 and older	24,065	13,438	35,049	1,630	369	456	37,503
Blindness, age 40 and older	11,256	5,546	15,363	1,216	59	163	16,802

## THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN KENTUCKY

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$70	\$125	\$321	\$435	\$951
Indirect Costs	\$9	\$180	\$167	\$674	\$1,029
Total Costs	\$79	\$304	\$487	\$1,109	\$1,980

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](http://www.preventblindness.org/publications).

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