

Vision Problems in Maryland

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

PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN MARYLAND

	<i>female</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>white</i>	<i>black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>total</i>
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	151,787	94,978	190,640	36,844	7,092	12,190	246,766
Myopia, age 40 and older	338,686	281,516	455,454	105,114	23,400	36,235	620,202
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	23,559	12,155	30,019	4,212	521	962	35,714
Cataract, age 40 and older	269,649	165,807	311,684	90,163	11,846	21,763	435,456
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	71,493	68,747	84,987	38,483	8,731	8,039	140,240
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	34,798	23,218	29,041	23,912	1,506	3,556	58,015
Low vision, age 40 and older	31,922	18,416	38,095	8,344	1,605	2,294	50,338
Blindness, age 40 and older	16,192	8,645	17,451	6,306	259	822	24,837

THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN MARYLAND

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	<i>Ages 0-17</i>	<i>Ages 18-39</i>	<i>Ages 40-64</i>	<i>Ages 65+</i>	<i>All Ages</i>
Direct Costs	\$92	\$170	\$435	\$533	\$1,230
Indirect Costs	\$12	\$244	\$226	\$824	\$1,306
Total Costs	\$104	\$414	\$661	\$1,357	\$2,536

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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