

# Vision Problems in Massachusetts

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

## PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN MASSACHUSETTS

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	201,873	131,502	302,986	7,751	10,608	12,030	<b>333,375</b>
Myopia, age 40 and older	447,855	362,071	717,045	22,742	32,386	37,753	<b>809,926</b>
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	36,397	17,483	51,239	891	817	933	<b>53,880</b>
Cataract, age 40 and older	346,103	217,453	504,492	19,197	18,374	21,493	<b>563,556</b>
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	87,215	75,738	133,658	8,263	13,034	7,998	<b>162,953</b>
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	37,359	21,229	47,612	5,094	2,295	3,588	<b>58,588</b>
Low vision, age 40 and older	47,053	24,932	65,291	1,836	2,448	2,409	<b>71,985</b>
Blindness, age 40 and older	22,775	10,554	30,722	1,376	395	836	<b>33,329</b>

## THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$99	\$192	\$492	\$680	<b>\$1,462</b>
Indirect Costs	\$13	\$276	\$256	\$1,051	<b>\$1,596</b>
Total Costs	<b>\$111</b>	<b>\$468</b>	<b>\$748</b>	<b>\$1,731</b>	<b>\$3,058</b>

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).

This publication is copyrighted. This sheet may be reproduced—unaltered in hard print (photocopied) for educational purposes only. The Prevent Blindness America name, logo, telephone number and copyright information may not be omitted. Electronic reproduction, other reprint, excerption or use is not permitted without written consent. Because of the time-sensitive nature of the information contained in this publication, contact Prevent Blindness America for updates.