

Vision Problems in Rhode Island

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

PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN RHODE ISLAND

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	33,908	21,783	51,226	902	2,124	1,438	55,691
Myopia, age 40 and older	72,835	58,239	117,346	2,791	6,637	4,301	131,074
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	6,585	3,019	9,226	102	162	115	9,604
Cataract, age 40 and older	59,099	36,326	86,995	2,165	3,630	2,634	95,425
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	14,480	12,426	22,347	997	2,614	948	26,906
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	6,291	3,427	8,249	585	453	431	9,718
Low vision, age 40 and older	8,457	4,300	11,768	202	478	309	12,757
Blindness, age 40 and older	4,099	1,808	5,571	154	78	104	5,907

THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN RHODE ISLAND

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$16	\$30	\$79	\$115	\$240
Indirect Costs	\$2	\$44	\$41	\$177	\$264
Total Costs	\$18	\$74	\$120	\$292	\$503

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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