

Vision Problems in the U.S.

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

PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN THE U.S.

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	8,500,178	5,686,641	11,817,068	784,755	956,761	628,235	14,186,819
Myopia, age 40 and older	18,510,057	15,609,222	27,391,291	2,204,294	2,724,715	1,798,978	34,119,279
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	1,347,911	721,492	1,850,413	92,035	76,202	50,752	2,069,403
Cataract, age 40 and older	14,781,745	9,628,233	19,514,896	1,973,883	1,761,306	1,159,893	24,409,978
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	3,921,037	3,764,200	5,251,907	826,102	1,194,231	412,997	7,685,237
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	1,660,675	1,058,704	1,790,551	520,044	223,551	185,233	2,719,379
Low vision, age 40 and older	1,829,564	1,078,127	2,336,035	189,553	251,365	130,738	2,907,691
Blindness, age 40 and older	844,681	443,593	1,062,942	141,091	39,416	44,826	1,288,275

THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN THE U.S.

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$5,085,558,835	\$9,085,791,485	\$22,245,894,228	\$30,334,929,064	\$66,752,173,612
Indirect Costs	\$648,481,394	\$13,075,186,792	\$11,552,963,596	\$46,940,736,440	\$72,217,368,222
Total Costs	\$5,734,040,229	\$22,160,978,278	\$33,798,857,824	\$77,275,665,503	\$138,969,541,835

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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