

Vision Problems in Washington

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

PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN WASHINGTON

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	184,499	131,763	281,332	4,002	9,395	21,533	316,261
Myopia, age 40 and older	424,885	364,561	681,376	13,473	31,532	63,066	789,447
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	28,790	16,382	42,329	442	680	1,721	45,172
Cataract, age 40 and older	302,351	212,395	451,246	9,293	15,367	38,840	514,746
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	81,802	76,017	126,942	4,804	11,993	14,079	157,819
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	32,399	20,551	42,064	2,652	1,938	6,295	52,950
Low vision, age 40 and older	37,748	23,339	54,002	836	2,032	4,218	61,086
Blindness, age 40 and older	17,669	9,748	24,943	664	332	1,478	27,417

THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN WASHINGTON

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$108	\$201	\$496	\$623	\$1,429
Indirect Costs	\$14	\$289	\$258	\$964	\$1,524
Total Costs	\$122	\$489	\$754	\$1,587	\$2,953

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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