

# Vision Problems in California

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

## PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN CALIFORNIA

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	879,628	598,368	967,572	48,935	264,147	197,342	<b>1,477,996</b>
Myopia, age 40 and older	1,955,378	1,678,132	2,200,799	138,768	764,578	529,364	<b>3,633,510</b>
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	131,707	71,697	160,183	5,828	20,937	16,457	<b>203,405</b>
Cataract, age 40 and older	1,574,222	1,032,384	1,617,110	125,441	482,392	381,662	<b>2,606,606</b>
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	454,308	485,110	427,820	53,001	329,807	128,790	<b>939,418</b>
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	184,542	118,764	149,531	33,394	61,433	58,947	<b>303,306</b>
Low vision, age 40 and older	202,235	129,491	204,540	12,311	69,117	45,759	<b>331,727</b>
Blindness, age 40 and older	82,176	47,835	95,008	9,110	10,831	15,062	<b>130,011</b>

## THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN CALIFORNIA

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$637	\$1,166	\$2,590	\$3,199	<b>\$7,592</b>
Indirect Costs	\$81	\$1,678	\$1,345	\$4,950	<b>\$8,054</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$718</b>	<b>\$2,844</b>	<b>\$3,935</b>	<b>\$8,148</b>	<b>\$15,645</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).

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