

# Vision Problems in North Carolina

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

## PREVALENCE OF AGE RELATED EYE DISEASE IN NORTH CAROLINA

	female	male	white	black	Hispanic	other	total
Hyperopia, age 40 and older	261,318	167,317	365,654	44,490	8,219	10,273	428,636
Myopia, age 40 and older	572,334	476,234	863,696	122,225	30,582	32,065	1,048,568
Age-related macular degeneration, age 50 and older	38,308	20,418	52,124	5,258	551	792	58,726
Cataract, age 40 and older	452,430	283,382	592,645	112,711	12,733	17,723	735,812
Diabetic retinopathy, age 40 and older	118,010	108,992	163,735	46,174	10,313	6,779	227,001
Glaucoma, age 40 and older	52,762	34,805	53,491	29,480	1,623	2,973	87,568
Low vision, age 40 and older	50,706	28,516	64,904	10,868	1,660	1,789	79,222
Blindness, age 40 and older	24,842	12,639	28,488	8,059	275	660	37,481

## THE COST OF VISION PROBLEMS IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Economic Burden of Vision Problems (in \$ millions)	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65+	All Ages
Direct Costs	\$157	\$280	\$692	\$930	\$2,058
Indirect Costs	\$20	\$402	\$359	\$1,439	\$2,220
Total Costs	\$177	\$682	\$1,051	\$2,368	\$4,278

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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