

Eye Health in Older Adults



About the US Senior Population



Approximately 18.4 percent of the U.S. population is covered by Medicare.¹



Visual disorders become more common as people age.²



About one in four adults 65 and older cut back on food, utilities, clothing or medication due to healthcare costs.³



37% of adults 65 and older are concerned they will not be able to pay for needed healthcare services in the next year.³

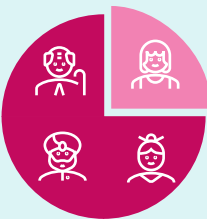
80.8 million

By 2040, the number of older adults in the U.S. is expected to reach 80.8 million.⁴

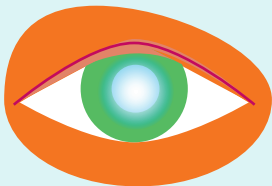
Eye Disease in Older Adults

20%

In the United States, 20% of all people over the age of 85 experience permanent vision loss.⁵



75% of those who are legally blind because of glaucoma are seniors.⁶



More than half of all Americans age 80 or older either have cataracts or have had surgery to get rid of cataracts.⁷



The prevalence of diabetic retinopathy is rising in the elderly and is expected to reach 9.9 million by the year 2050.⁸



In seniors ages 65 and older, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of vision loss and blindness.⁹

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 3 Willcoxon, N. (June 15, 2022). Older Adults Sacrificing Basic Needs Due to Healthcare Costs. Gallup. Retrieved Feb. 17, 2023 from <https://news.gallup.com/poll/393494/older-adults-sacrificing-basic-needs-due-healthcare-costs.aspx>
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 5 Flaxman A, Wittenborn J, Robalik T, et al. Prevalence of Vision Loss or Blindness in the US. JAMA Ophthalmology. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2021.0527. Published online May 13, 2021
 6 Leahy, N. (Jan 15, 2023). Glaucoma: A Guide for Seniors. Retrieved Feb. 17, 2023 from <https://aging.com/glaucoma-a-guide-for-seniors/>
 7 Cataracts. (Jan. 13, 2023). National Eye Institute. Retrieved Feb. 17, 2023 from <https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-conditions-and-diseases/ataracts>
 8 Leley, S.P, Ciulla, T. A., and Bhatwadekar, A.D. (July 15, 2021). Diabetic Retinopathy in the Aging Population: A Perspective of Pathogenesis and Treatment. National Library of Medicine. Retrieved Feb. 17, 2023 from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8289197/>
 9 February is Age-Related Macular Degeneration Awareness Month! (Jan. 29, 2023). UNC School of Medicine: Ophthalmology. Retrieved Feb. 17, 2023 from <https://www.med.unc.edu/ophth/2023/01/february-is-age-related-macular-degeneration-awareness-month/>