

Vision Care IS Health Care

When it comes to health care solutions for Americans, vision care is often overlooked. But vision care needs to be a priority, not an afterthought. Vision impairments are prevalent across all age groups. These issues can have significant negative impacts on the overall health, quality of life, well-being, and productivity in Americans.

Additionally, the prevention and early detection of vision problems is almost always more cost-effective than treating a vision impairment that has gone undiagnosed. By providing your members with access to vision care as one of the foundational components of health care, lives can be changed and associated health care costs can be reduced throughout patients' lives.

80%



1

80% of a child's early learning is visual.¹

Without access to annual screening for common childhood eyesight issues, children's learning in K-6 can be negatively impacted.

2

More than 15% of children with an ADHD diagnosis are found to have vision problems.²

With early intervention to address visual challenges, misdiagnosis of ADHD can be avoided and associated health care costs reduced.

15%



3

Approximately 24% of American adolescents who need glasses don't have adequate access to vision correction services.³

This can lead to difficulties at school, poor performance in sports activities, and difficulties with learning to drive.

24%



4

In adolescents, vision problems are associated with increased frequency of anxiety and depression.⁴

This can lead to increased mental health care costs and hospital admittances.

5

Only half of American adults with a high risk for vision loss have visited an eye doctor in the past 12 months.⁵

Without regular exams, early signs of diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma can be missed, leading to higher costs to treat eye issues and increased risk of permanent vision impairment.

1/2



60%

7

More than half of adults over the age of 65 suffer from untreated cataracts.⁷

Impaired vision due to cataracts can make it hard to read small print on prescription bottles, leading to dangerous medication errors and hospitalizations.

6

More than 60% of adults over 70 may have outdated prescription lenses.⁶

Lack of access to new glasses can mean difficulty in reading food labels and making healthy meal choices, leading to costly health issues like malnutrition or obesity.

8

Seniors with poor vision often have their driver's licenses taken, and can find it hard to make and attend doctor appointments.

For Americans with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), just one missed ophthalmology appointment in a two-year period can lead to additional vision loss⁸ and associated treatment costs. In addition, seniors who lose their driving privilege commonly suffer from social isolation and related depression.⁹

1/2 +



Versant Health is dedicated to improving access to vision care by making vision a priority. Access to routine vision benefits can help reduce spend among health plans due to preventative care and early detection.

To learn more about Versant's offerings, visit versanthealth.com/contact.

 **VersantHealth™**

1) <https://visiontolearn.org/impact/ucla-study-impact-analysis-of-vision-to-learn/#:~:text=As%20background%20research%2C%20UCLA%20doctors.of%20classroom%20learning%20is%20visual.&text=The%20UCLA%20study%20supported%20the.the%20quality%20of%20their%20lives>

2) <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160225101557.htm>

3) <https://edsources.org/2018/correctable-vision-problems-hinder-learning-for-too-many-children/603511&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1620997088892000&usg=AOvVaw2qLjHalAmvHywk3mzQvBiq>

4) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK402367/>

5) <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/resources/features/keep-eye-on-vision-health.html#:~:text=Of%20the%20estimated%2093%20million,vision%20of%20millions%20of%20people.>

6) <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-01-older-people-lens-prescriptions-wrong.html>

7) https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/wilmer/conditions/cataracts_faq.html

8) <https://www.pennmedicine.org/news/news-releases/2020/february/updated-for-aging-patients-one-missed-doctors-visit-can-lead-to-vision-loss>

9) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7901288/>