



Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

A statewide collaboration preparing for the
growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio

Eyes on Ohio's Vision

Vision Problems
Cost \$1.98 Billion
Annually in Ohio!

Vision-robbing conditions will
DOUBLE by the year 2030...
if nothing is done.
More than **2.5 million**
Ohioans could be affected.



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Director, Ohio Department of Aging

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Member Organizations:

Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Association of Philanthropic Homes for the
Aging (AOPHA)

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

Council for Older Adults

KnowledgeWorks Foundation

NASA Glenn Research Center

Ohio Association of Gerontology and
Education

Ohio Agencies Serving the Blind and
Visually Impaired

Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Insurance/OSHIP

Ohio Ophthalmological Society

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

Ohio Osteopathic Association

Ohio Optometric Association

Ohio Veterans Visual Impairment Services
Team

Opticians Association of Ohio

Prevent Blindness Ohio



Dr. Robert Newcomb and Dr. Bonnie Kantor-Burman
Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership Co-Chairs

The personal, human cost of losing one's vision is immeasurable. Significant vision loss often affects one's independence, ability to work and take care of household tasks, plus it increases the incidence of both falls and depression. As the number of people who suffer vision loss from age-related eye diseases increases, the importance of keeping our eyes on Ohio's vision is vital.

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership's (AEPPP) was formed in 2003 to prepare for the growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio. The AEPPP is a volunteer-driven statewide collaboration that addresses issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, public and professional awareness and vision research that affects the quality of life for Ohio's elders now and will continue to do so in the future.

We are working to ensure that the state and its communities incorporate aging needs into their plans and services. This annual report highlights the need for a coordinated and integrated approach to preserve and improve the sight of older Ohioans so that they can continue to grow, thrive and contribute. The Aging Eye Public Private Partnership offers our services and resources to government leaders, public health professionals, health care providers, business and community leaders and consumers as we strive together to reduce the incidence of age-related eye diseases.

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership is an important tool to help position Ohio on the leading edge of innovation and responsiveness to the growing and changing older population. We appreciate your support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Co-Chair
Bonnie Kantor-Burman, Sc.D
Director, Ohio Department of Aging

Co-Chair
Robert D. Newcomb, OD, MPH, FFAO
The Ohio State University College
of Optometry

Aging Eye Partnership in Action:

Here's how some AEPPP member organizations have joined forces to raise awareness and integrate eye health information and vision loss prevention in Ohio.

- On March 24, 2011, Governor John Kasich signed an executive resolution recognizing Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership. The resolution encourages all Ohioans to join with public and private entities in understanding the importance of vision care.
- AEPPP Co-Chair, Dr. Robert D. Newcomb was interviewed by Anne Fredrickson, host of the Medicare Moments show on WMKV 89.3 FM public radio in Cincinnati about the leading causes of blindness in seniors and the importance of having annual dilated eye examinations.
- AEPPP members Dr. Larry Leguire and Kira Baldonado appeared on the Ohio Department of Aging's Finer with Age news show to talk about the Aging Eye Partnership and how to protect your eyesight.
- The Aging Eye Partnership was involved in two legislative events to educate lawmakers regarding the impact of age-related eye diseases. On February 9, 2011, Prevent Blindness Ohio hosted a legislative breakfast where aging eye issues were addressed by members of the AEPPP. On November 15, 2011, the AEPPP presented The State of Vision, Aging, and Public Health in Ohio which highlighted data from the Ohio Vision Module of the Ohio Department of Health's 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey.
- Four Fellowship awards were presented to female scholars conducting vision related research at The University of Cincinnati, The Cole Eye Institute, and The Ohio State University. The Fellows presented their research at a Vision Research Scientific Forum on November 10, 2011.
- Over 100 people participated in the Aging Eye Summit: Focus on Age-Related Macular Degeneration which was co-hosted by the AEPPP and The Ohio State University Havener Eye Institute on June 16, 2011. The participants learned about the latest research and treatment initiatives, current strategies for prevention, and public health perspectives and resources.

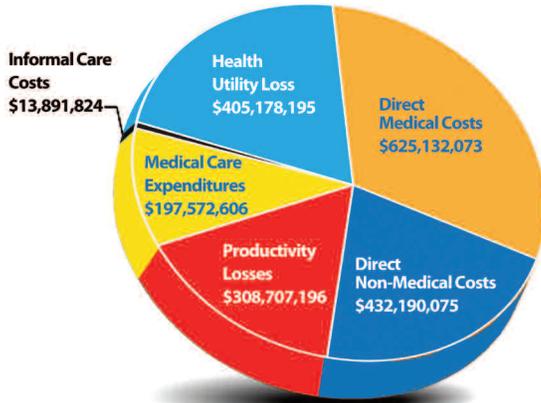


"Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership sends information to our offices at the Ohio Senate every year. Reading that information was responsible for catching my eye disease early! I had been experiencing problems with reading and assumed I needed to update my glasses. Then, I started to notice more changes in my vision. When I looked at the siding on my house, the lines were wavy. I recognized these symptoms from the age-related macular degeneration (AMD) information that the Aging Eye Partnership sent. I called my eye doctor immediately and am now being treated for AMD. If I could share a message with the public about the importance of eye health and safety it would be—Take care of your eyes!"

—Donna Pusecker, Administrative Assistant,
Ohio Senator Mark Wagoner

- Vision care resources were provided to seniors who attended the Welcome to Medicare events throughout the state hosted by the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIP) of the Ohio Department of Insurance.
- Several members of the AEPPP actively participate in the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership's Ohio Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition bringing awareness to the importance of maintaining healthy vision to the decrease the incidence of falls.
- Prevent Blindness Ohio provided adult vision screening services and adult vision screening training for volunteers throughout the state.
- Co-Chair, Dr. Robert Newcomb trained members of the Ohio Diabetes Alliance regarding the scope and importance of early detection and treatment of diabetic eye disease at their Fall 2011 meeting which was coordinated by the Ohio Diabetes Prevention and Control Program at the Ohio Department of Health.
- The Ohio Departments of Aging and Health, Ohio's twelve Area Agencies on Aging and other community partners offer evidence-based prevention and disease self-management programs in the communities they serve including: Healthy U - chronic disease and diabetes self-management programs, Matter of Balance - falls prevention program, and Healthy IDEAS-A depression self-management program.

Total Impact to Ohio: \$1,982,671,969



Total Impact to Ohio: **\$1.98 billion**

Current cost of vision problems per resident of Ohio (age 40 +) **\$375**

Total number of Ohio residents currently affected by vision problems: **1,299,218**

Estimated number of Ohio residents affected by the year 2030: **2,598,436**

Vision Loss Affects More than the Eye

- Vision loss is one of the health conditions feared most by Americans because of the loss of independence.
- Blindness and vision impairment affects mobility, functional ability, and often quality of life.
- Untreated poor vision is associated with cognitive decline, particularly Alzheimer's disease.
- Ohioans age 65+ who have an age-related eye disease are 50% more likely to experience a fall than persons of the same age without an eye disease.
- Vision loss is related to increased incidence of depression, social isolation, and poor health image.
- Vision problems cost Ohio \$1.98 billion annually in direct medical and other medical costs like nursing home care as well as government programs and lost productivity.



Jeff Todd, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Prevent Blindness America discusses advocacy and awareness activities at the Aging Eye Summit: Focus on Age-Related Macular Degeneration at the Ohio State University Havener Eye Institute on June 16, 2011.

Ohio Aging Eye Public Private Partnership Policy and Program Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed by Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership. These recommendations are presented to the Governor and Ohio General Assembly in the AEP's Annual Report and serve as guidelines for the Partnership in initiating or responding to public policy or programming initiatives.



1. Appoint an individual or a coordinating position for aging vision in the next biennial budget within the Ohio Department of Health-Division of Prevention and Health Promotion to coordinate vision preservation and educational activities across Ohio.
2. Support on-going use of the Optional Vision Module of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health to provide outcome data on which to base statewide public health vision programming.
3. Maintain optional preventive vision care services for the more than 500,000 Ohio adults in the state Medicaid budget.
4. Encourage the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers and its partners to provide technical assistance and support to Ohio's Federally Qualified Health Centers that focus on adult vision loss and provide training and technical assistance to Health Center professionals to implement adult vision assessment in a general wellness exam and emphasize the urgency of professional vision care for patients with diabetes.
5. Support measures that increase vision screening practices among providers of primary health care in the medical home and other sites.
6. Support preventive eye care benefits for all Medicare recipients.
7. Establish adult vision screening as an essential benefit to the Medicare annual medical exam.
8. Develop a state tax incentive for the donors of in-kind professional services (such as comprehensive eye exams and eye surgeries) that benefit vulnerable populations in need of care.
9. Support health insurance coverage for basic vision care, vision education and for vision rehabilitation services.
10. Support vision related Summits which support awareness and encourage research, collaboration and expansion.



The Growth of Vision Loss in Ohio

- The incidence of vision impairment and vision loss increases as the population ages.
- 13.7% of Ohioans 65 and older report moderate or extreme vision loss.
- Nearly 150,000 Ohioans suffer from visual impairment currently while 43,000 are currently blind.
- Vision problems disproportionately affect certain racial and ethnic groups.
- African-Americans are four times more likely to have glaucoma than Caucasians.
- Caucasians are more likely than other groups to develop age-related macular degeneration.

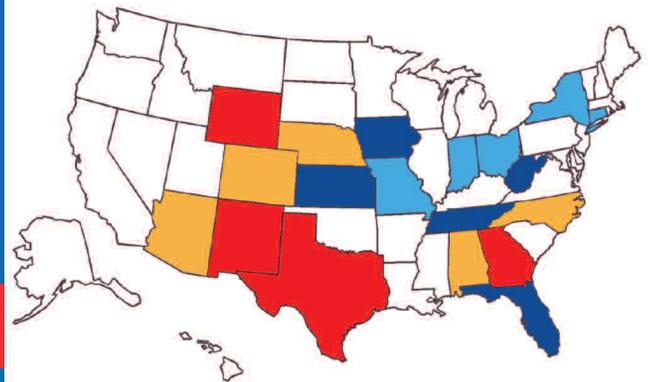
Factors that Impact the Growth of Vision Loss

- The growth in the aging population increases the risk for vision loss associated with aging—the first wave of baby boomers turned 65 in 2010.
- Smoking, diabetes, and eye injuries increase the likelihood of vision problems.
- Lack of regular professional eye exams impact vision loss because many eye diseases, like glaucoma, are asymptomatic.
- Poor health literacy and therefore lack of ability to follow-up on necessary care increases risk for vision loss.
- Poor health habits and chronic disease increase the incidence of eye disease.
- The obesity epidemic impacts the incidence of type 2 diabetes and, therefore, the number of people with diabetic eye disease increases.
- Unemployment and the lack of health care benefits affects access to vision care and the ability to detect and treat eye diseases early.

Spotlight on Diabetes and Vision

People with diabetes are 25 times more likely than the general population to become blind. Ohioans with diabetes are at risk for developing diabetic retinopathy, twice as likely to develop glaucoma, and 45 percent more likely to develop cataracts than those without diabetes. According to the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors Vision and Health Council, “to decrease morbidity from vision loss and blindness, public health professionals must increase public awareness about diabetic eye disease; integrate and coordinate timely screening, diagnosis and treatment to prevent vision loss; ensure continuity of care between medical treatment and supportive care for vision loss; and monitor the status of visual impairment. Most blindness in persons with diabetes results from diabetic retinopathy. An annual dilated eye examination can identify diabetic retinopathy early and permit timely treatment to prevent vision loss and possible blindness. However, about half of persons with diabetes had not had a dilated eye examination in the preceding year.

How Ohio Stacks Up



VISUAL FUNCTION

Percentage of U.S. adults aged 65 years or older who reported moderate or extreme vision loss, by state, BRFSS, 2006–2008

5.4%–11.0%

11.1%–12.8%

12.9%–14.5%

14.6%–16.0%

Did not implement Vision Module

The Growth of Vision Impairment

According to the Ohio Department of Health's 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey of Ohio adults aged 65 years or older

- 8.5% reported they have age-related macular degeneration
- 3.3% reported they have diabetic retinopathy
- 9.4% reported having glaucoma
- 28.6% reported having cataract
- 27.4% reported having cataract, but had them removed

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) results in damaging sharp and central vision. Central vision is needed for seeing objects clearly and for common daily tasks such as reading and driving. AMD affects the macula, the central part the retina that allows the eye to see fine details. There are two forms of AMD, wet and dry. Approximately 92,424 Ohioans age 50+ years old have AMD. This figure is expected to double and impact 184,848 people by 2030 without significant preventive measures.



Cataract is a clouding of the eye's lens and is the leading cause of blindness worldwide, and the leading cause of vision loss in the United States. Although treatment for the removal of cataract is widely available, access barriers such as insurance coverage,

treatment costs, patient choice, or lack of awareness prevent many people from receiving the proper treatment. Approximately 942,197 Ohioans 40+ years old have cataract and by 2030 1.8 million Ohioans will have cataract.



Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a common complication of diabetes and is the leading cause of blindness in American adults. It is characterized by progressive damage to the blood vessels of the retina. The risks of DR are reduced through disease management that includes good control of blood sugar, blood pressure, and lipid abnormalities. Early diagnosis of DR and timely treatment reduce the risk of vision loss; however, as many as 50% of patients are not getting their eyes examined or are diagnosed too late for treatment to be effective. Approximately 171,117 Ohioans 40+ years old have DR. This number is expected to double to 342,234 by 2030.



Glaucoma is a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve resulting in vision loss and blindness. Glaucoma occurs when the normal fluid pressure inside the eyes slowly rises. With early treatment, you can often protect your eyes against serious vision loss. There are two major categories "open angle" and "closed angle" glaucoma. Open angle, is a chronic condition that progress slowly over long period of time without the person noticing vision loss until the disease is very advanced, that is why it is called "sneak thief of sight." Angle closure can appear suddenly and is painful. Visual loss can progress quickly; however, the pain and discomfort often leads patients to seek medical attention before permanent damage occurs. 93,480 Ohioans 40+ report they have glaucoma and this figure is projected to double to 186,960 by 2030.



Pat Cothorn

Artist and AMD patient, Pat Cothorn, displays her artwork at the AMD Summit.

Photos: Age-Related Eye Disease Simulation photos and information courtesy of CDC Vision Health Initiative

AEP PP Resources to Make an Impact

The AEP PP challenges senior-serving organizations to integrate messaging regarding vision preservation, the need for early detection and treatment and healthy lifestyles into existing health programs.

Educational Opportunities

The AEP PP co-hosts Vision Research Scientific Forums, Aging Eye Summits and briefings for legislators and their staff. In June 2011, over 120 participants learned about age-related macular degeneration (AMD) from clinicians, researchers, public health officials and community representatives at The Ohio State University's Havener Eye Institute. Check out www.pbohio.org for announcements of upcoming events.

Evidence-Based Prevention and Self-Management Programs

The Ohio Departments of Aging and Health, and Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging offer a menu of healthy aging programs free of charge. They are community-based workshops that help participants learn proven strategies to manage chronic disease, diabetes, depression and the fear of falling. For more information: 1-866-243-5678 or go to www.aging.ohio.gov.

Diabetic Eye Disease Educator Program

This comprehensive eye health education program is designed to teach outreach personnel and allied health professional about the signs, symptoms, and complications of the secondary diseases of diabetes—diabetic retinopathy, cataract, and glaucoma. The program is available in both English and Spanish.

EyeWatch Presenter Training and Toolkit

The goal of this program is to decrease the incidence of preventable vision loss among Ohio's high risk adult populations through promotion of healthy lifestyles, early detection and treatment, and increased use of eye care access. The Toolkit contains three PowerPoint presentations on age-related eye diseases, vision resources, and healthy living. Also provided are handouts, brochures, and questionnaires to support each of the presentations.

Adult Vision Screening Training

Vision screening training, equipment, and certification is available to health care providers, social service providers, aging network providers, and community groups so that they are able to provide vision screenings and referrals to the populations they serve.

Ohio Vision Resources Guide

A recently updated listing of statewide telephone numbers and Web sites to assist individuals and organizations in finding vision care, prescription assistance, rehabilitation services, educational materials, and access to low or no cost eye exams.

The Economic Impact of Vision Problems: The Toll of Major Adult Eye Disorders, Visual Impairment and Blindness on the U.S. Economy

This report describes the economic burden of the leading age-related eye diseases: age-related macular degeneration (AMD), cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and refractive error. It also looks at the economic impact of vision impairment and blindness.

Vision Fact Sheets

Two useful Ohio-specific fact sheets include information, tools, and resources to maintain healthy vision are now available. They are: Healthy Sight for Life and Your Vision and Diabetes.



Fellowship recipient **Diana Koch** from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine is studying the genetics of Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) and how it causes eye disease. HSV is the leading cause of unilateral infectious blindness worldwide. According to the National Eye Institute 50,000 new and recurrent infections are estimated to occur each year in the United States.

Kate Maurer from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Research Foundation and the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine is working to discover new information about the biology of the retina that can contribute to new therapies to reverse the course of degenerative eye diseases.



Fellowship recipient, **Monica Crary**, from the Department of Molecular Genetics at The Ohio State University is studying whether a particular form of molecular therapy can successfully treat sight threatening Acanthamoeba Keratitis infections which can damage the cornea and cause vision loss.

Tamara Lee from the Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic Foundation is conducting research aimed at preventing the underlying disease mechanism of retinopathy of prematurity which is a leading cause of childhood blindness.



Vision Problems in Ohio

This resource details the prevalence and economic impact of adult vision impairment and age-related eye disease for each of the 88 counties and on a statewide basis.

Web site- <http://ohio.preventblindness.org/ohios-aging-eye-public-private-partnership>

Details the background, goals and membership of the AEP PP and includes studies, fact sheets and other resources on the leading causes of vision loss among adult Ohioans as well as information regarding AEP PP-sponsored activities.

Ohio Governor John Kasich signs bill recognizing March as Macular Degeneration Awareness Month as co-sponsors **Representatives Tom Letson** (D-Warren) and **Marlene Anielski** (R-Walton Hills) look on. Members of the Aging Eye Partnership applaud their efforts to raise awareness.



Financial Supporters

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- **The Ohio Diabetes Prevention and Control Program**
- **Health Care Plus**
- **Ohio Optometric Association**
- **Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission-Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired**
- **The Ohio State University Havener Eye Institute**
- **Prevent Blindness America**
- **Prevent Blindness Ohio**
- **Visiting Physicians Association**
- **Report printed and designed courtesy of the Ohio Department of Health**



"Like all aspects of healthcare, ensuring access to vision care is a critical first step. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, in 2010, 14% of seniors (age 65+) and 30% of Ohioans aged 50-64 reported that cost or lack of insurance prevented them from getting an eye exam."

—**Dr. Theodore Wymyslo, Director, Ohio Department of Health**

Sources

The State of Vision, Aging, and Public Health in America, CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and Division of Diabetes Translation; Vision & Eye Health Council of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors; Ohio Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Fall, 2011 Newsletter; Report on the Council of Scientific Affairs, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Literacy for the Council on Scientific Affairs, American Medical Association, JAMA, Feb 10, 1999; American Journal of Epidemiology, 2010; Ohio Department of Health and 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (CDC). Vision Problems in Ohio 2008 Update to the Fourth Edition.

Age-Related Eye Disease Simulation photos and information courtesy of CDC Vision Health Initiative
http://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/basic_information/eye_disorders.htm

OHIO'S AGING EYE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP C/O PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO

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