

Healthy Sight for Life!

Keeping *Ohio's* vision in

focus

GIVING YOU THE INFORMATION, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP YOUR VISION HEALTHY FOR A LIFETIME!

Vision Problems are Growing...

Half of all blindness can be prevented, but the number of Ohioans who suffer vision loss continues to increase. Because of the growth in the aging population, there will be more than 2.5 million Ohioans affected by vision-robbing conditions by the year 2030. The primary causes are diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

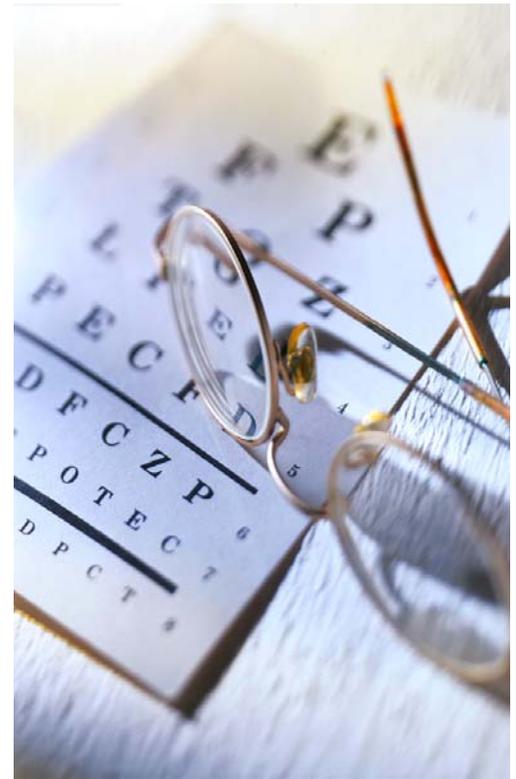
You can take steps now to preserve your sight!

There are several steps you can take to make sure your vision remains healthy for as long as possible.

- Eat a healthy diet as recommended by your doctor
- Exercise
- Do not smoke
- Wear sunglasses
- Have an eye exam performed by an eye care professional on a regular basis!

DID YOU KNOW...

Many eye diseases, including those associated with diabetes and age, do not exhibit any initial symptoms before permanent vision loss can occur. An eye exam with pupil dilation is the best defense against undetected eye disease.



KEEP AN EYE OUT

Certain populations of people are at greater risk for eye diseases and need to pay close attention to their visual health. This includes African Americans and Hispanics over the age of 40, people with diabetes, persons who smoke, and those with a family history of eye disease such as glaucoma and macular degeneration. Vision lost to undetected eye disease cannot be restored! Regular comprehensive eye exams are the only way to diagnose problems before they take your sight! Find out more at: www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye.



Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

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

Something that costs more than a gallon of gas...

A [2007 study](#)* shows vision problems cost the U.S. an estimated \$51.4 billion annually. The impact to the U.S. economy was determined through analysis of direct medical costs, other direct costs, such as nursing home care and government programs, as well as lost productivity. Costs to the individual include medical care expenditures, informal care costs and health utility loss. Health utility loss refers to an evaluation of the quality of life in chronic medical conditions.

*Source "Economic Impact of Vision Problems-The Toll of Major Adult Eye Disorders, Visual Impairment and Blindness on the U.S. Economy" Prevent Blindness America 2007.

In Ohio, annual costs of vision problems are estimated to be \$2 billion annually. This amount is difficult to comprehend... with \$2 billion you could buy:

- 20,000 Mercedes Benz CL-Class automobiles
- 1,000,000 carats of diamonds
- 20,000,000 iPods
- 586,510,264 Big Macs

If appropriate steps are not taken, this cost estimate is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years as Ohio's 3.1 million baby boomers

reach retirement age and beyond.

Families are paying a lot in costs associated with eye diseases too— and the cost is not only financial. What's often not talked about is the bigger toll that vision loss takes on families. Many people and their loved ones feel at a loss following diagnosis of a vision problem. A new American Federation for the Blind poll shows vision loss is the health condition Americans fear most because they worry it means loss of independence.

RESOURCES at your fingertips



Need help finding an eye doctor, prescription assistance, vision rehabilitation services, eye health education materials, or even access to low or no cost eye exams? Call us today for your free copy of the Vision Resources Guide for Ohio— 1-800-301-2020.



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c/o Prevent Blindness Ohio
1500 W. 3rd Ave.; Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43212

www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership (AEPPP) is a statewide collaboration formed to respond to the growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio. The mission of the AEPPP, an initiative supported by the Ohio Department of Aging, is to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision research that impact the quality of life for Ohio's seniors now and in the future. The Partnership and its on-going work is supported by a resolution from Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

Member organizations of the AEPPP are: AOPHA, Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Council for Older Adults, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Ohio Council for Home Care, Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, Ohio Agencies Serving the Visually Impaired, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Insurance, Representative Kathleen Chandler, Ohio Ophthalmological Society, Senator Steve Stivers, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Osteopathic Association, Ohio Optometric Association, Ohio Veterans Visual Impairment Services Team - VISN 10, Opticians Association of Ohio, and Prevent Blindness Ohio.