

Preserving Sight for the Ages

2018 Report to the Governor, the Ohio General Assembly, and the Citizens of Ohio



Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

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

A Message from our Co-Chairs

Governor DeWine, Members of the Ohio General Assembly and Citizens:

Preserving Sight for the Ages is imperative for all Ohioans. The number of Ohio residents with impaired vision, including blindness, could double in the next three decades with the growth of the aging population. An estimated 3.6 million Ohioans have vision problems and, as the population ages, this number will only increase.



The impact of vision loss on the individual, his or her family, and Ohio is a significant personal and public health concern. The estimated financial burden to the Ohio economy due to vision problems, refractive errors, visual impairment, and blindness is \$5.4 billion annually (source: ohiovisionproblems.preventblindness.org/overview/).

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership (AEPPP) brings together a variety of organizations and people from different disciplines to establish and promote vision loss as a policy priority.

The partnership has been working to reduce the incidence of

vision loss by addressing issues related to vision care public policy, vision care services, public and professional awareness, and vision research.

The Ohio Department of Aging, collaborating with the AEPPP, The Ohio State University College of Optometry, and the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness, received funding from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors to participate in the Vision and Eye Health Initiative. The initiative aims to improve vision and eye health through interventions that advance vision and eye health as public health priorities.

Highlights of the Initiative include:

- The Aging Eye Summit presented in conjunction with The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences with a focus on vision research;
- Adult Vision Screening and HealthyEyes Presenters training offered throughout the state;
- Evidence-based healthy aging programs that helped participants learn strategies to manage diabetes, depression, and the risk of falling; and
- Four Vision Research Fellowship Awardees showcased their work at a scientific forum at the University of Akron.

We encourage government leaders, public health professionals, health care providers, aging network, business and community leaders, and all Ohioans to work together to curtail the growth of vision problems in Ohio. To that end, we offer our resources and services to you.

A blue ink signature of Ursel J. McElroy.

Co-Chair
Ursel J. McElroy, MPA
Director
Ohio Department of Aging

A black ink signature of Rafat R. Ansari.

Co-Chair
Rafat R. Ansari, Ph.D., Fellow SPIE
NASA Senior Scientist (retired)
Vision Research and Human Health Diagnostics
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According to the Global Coalition on Aging's recent report, A Life Course of Healthy Vision: A Critical Priority for the 21st Century, "We must take action now to interrupt the current trajectory and elevate vision loss as a high priority on the public health and economic policy agendas."



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Impact of Vision Problems in Ohio

3.6 million Ohioans are estimated to have vision problems. As the population ages, this number will only increase.

\$5.4 billion is the estimated annual financial impact to the Ohio economy due to vision problems, refractive errors, visual impairment and blindness.

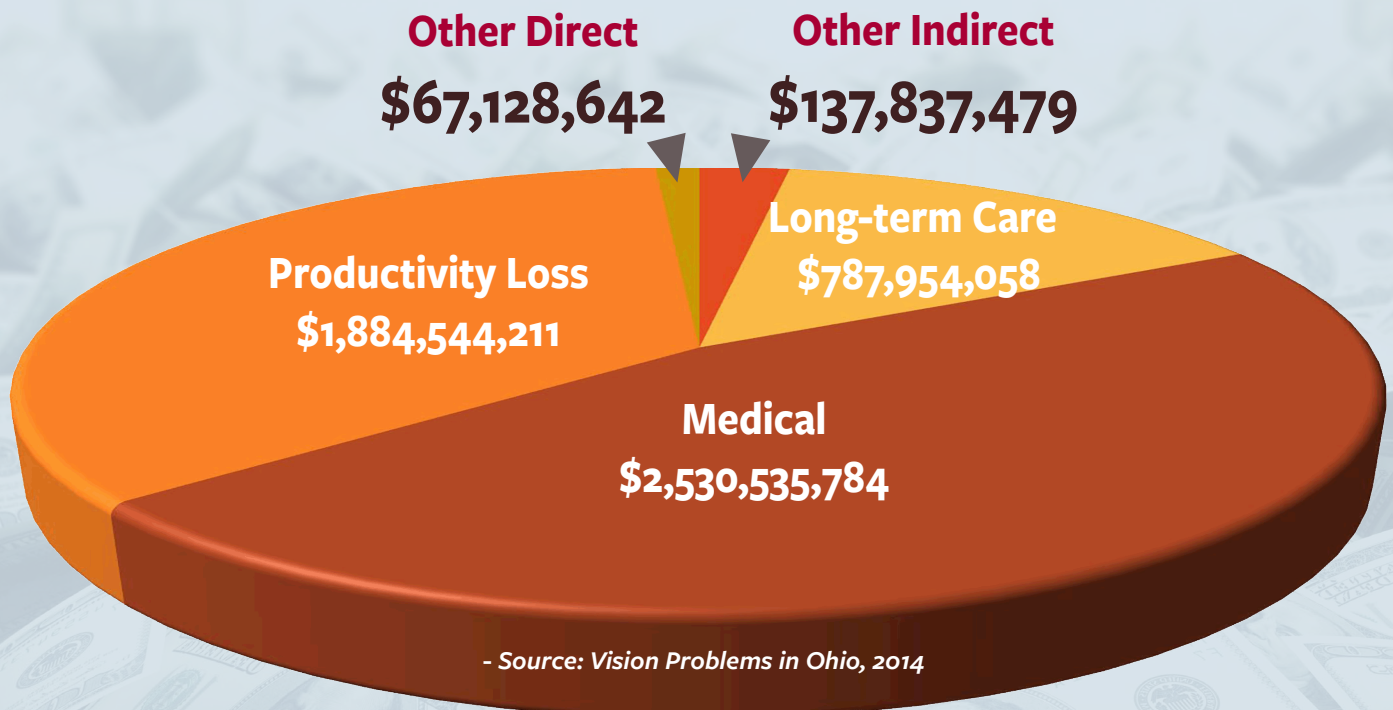
Effects of Vision Loss

- ♦ Increased incidence of falls
- ♦ Increased rate of depression, social isolation, and poor health image
- ♦ Loss of independence
- ♦ Increased likelihood of nursing home admission
- ♦ Cognitive decline, particularly Alzheimer's disease

Total Impact to the State of Ohio

\$5,408,000,175

Financial Impact of Vision Loss



- Source: Vision Problems in Ohio, 2014



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Policy and Program Recommendations

In order to further the overarching goal of decreasing vision loss among Ohio's aging population, the AEPPP developed by consensus the following recommendations:

1. Integrate adult vision messaging and strategies into existing efforts at the Ohio Department of Health (i.e. tobacco cessation, primary care and rural health, diabetes prevention and control, health promotion, falls prevention) and include both adult and child vision issues, including aging vision, in state and local health improvement planning.
2. Support measures that increase multidisciplinary evidence-based vision screening practices and facilitate mechanisms for follow up care.
3. Support and advocate for coverage of comprehensive and corrective preventive eye/ vision care services for adults in the state Medicaid budget.
4. Support and advocate for coverage of comprehensive and corrective preventive eye/ vision care benefits for all Medicare recipients.
5. Establish adult vision screening as a covered service in the Medicare annual wellness visit.
6. Support the continued expansion and development of comprehensive vision care services within Ohio's Federally Qualified Health Centers.
7. Support and advocate for inclusion of vision questions in Ohio and national data collection tools such as the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to provide outcome data on which to base statewide public health vision programming.
8. Support and advocate for health insurance coverage for comprehensive vision care, vision education and for vision rehabilitation services.
9. Support the recommendations of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities' Workforce Integration Task Force, which are aimed at removing barriers to employment for the deaf and blind communities, and all Ohio citizens, in reaching their highest employment potential.
10. Support vision related summits and other activities which supports awareness and encourages research collaboration and expansion.
11. 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.

The Four Most Common Causes of

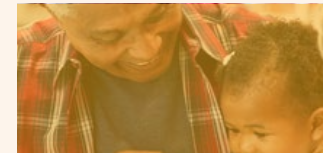
Visual Impairment and Blindness in Ohio

Early detection and treatment are key to Preserving Sight for the Ages. Many eye diseases are asymptomatic and require a comprehensive eye exam to detect. In most cases, once vision is lost, it cannot be restored. However, treatment can stop or slow the progression of the disease.



Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) gradually destroys sharp, central vision. Risk factors include smoking, obesity, and family history. It is more common in females and white populations.

88,546 Ohioans age 50 and older have AMD.



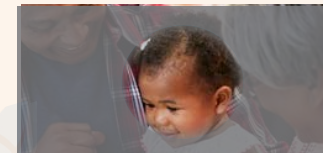
Cataract is a clouding of the lens of the eye that can be successfully treated surgically by removal of the lens and replacement with an intraocular lens. Vision with cataract can appear cloudy or blurry, colors may seem faded and you may notice a lot of glare and have decreased night or low-light vision.

991,628 Ohioans age 40 and older have a cataract.



Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is a leading cause of blindness that occurs when diabetes damages blood vessels inside the retina. Patches of vision loss, cloudy vision, glare sensitivity and decreased night or low light sensitivity is associated with DR. The risks of DR are reduced through disease management and regular, professional eye exams.

284,631 Ohioans age 40 and older have diabetic retinopathy.



Glaucoma causes the loss of peripheral vision. Glaucoma is more common after age 40, among black and Hispanic populations, and in people with diabetes. It is often called the "sneak thief of sight" because it can slowly rob people of their vision.

105, 889 Ohioans age 40 and older have open-angle glaucoma.

Source: Vision Problems in Ohio, 2014



Aging Eye Summit Planning Committee led by Dr. Cynthia Roberts, The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.

Understanding Vision Research: Hope for the Future

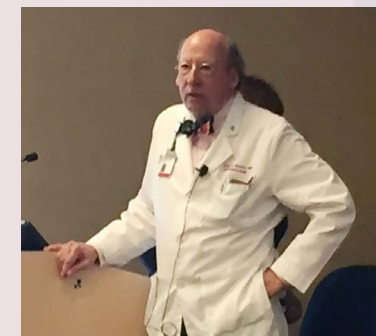
Aging Eye Summit

The Aging Eye Summit was held in April, 2018 at The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.

What did you learn at the Aging Eye Summit?

- High percentage of blindness is preventable!
- Treatment options, strategies and importance of early detection
- I loved the research studies and findings.
- Hope for the future for those with vision deficits

- Comments from Aging Eye Summit Attendees



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Paul Weber, The Ohio State University



2018 Fellowship recipients: (L-R) Yalitza Lopez Corcino, Katelyn Sondereker, Jessica Hsueh, and Isabella Palazzo.

"Thanks so much. It's a privilege to continue driving and being able to see all good things in life-big and small. Being able to see is one of the most important things in life."

- Betty H., Mayfield Heights

Financial Supporters

The work of Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership is supported entirely by donated funds, products, and services from member organizations, and contributions from private sources. Prevent Blindness serves as the fiscal agent for the partnership. Support for educational materials, advocacy, printing, supplies, and meeting expenses have been provided by the following organizations:

- Ohio Department of Aging
- Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
- Vision and Eye Health Initiative at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- The Vision Research Fellowship Program is supported by a grant from the Sarah E. Slack Prevention of Blindness Fund, Muskingum County Community Foundation and the Vision Health Initiative

Sources:

- Ohio Department of Health and the 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (CDC)
- 2012 Fifth Edition of Vision Problems in the U.S., Prevent Blindness America and the National Eye Institute, Wittenborn, John S. & Rein, David B. "Cost of Vision Problems: The Economic Burden of Vision Loss and Eye Disorders in the United States." NORC at the University of Chicago;
visionproblemsus.org
costofvision.preventblindness.org/map/
- Vision Problems in Ohio, Prevent Blindness Ohio (2014)
- Global Coalition on Aging, May, 2019. A Life Course of Healthy Vision: A Critical Priority for the 21st Century, www.globalcoalitiononaging.com

Helpful Links:

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership
ohio.preventblindness.org/ohios-aging-eye-public-private-partnership

Ohio Department of Aging
www.aging.ohio.gov

Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
www.pb ohio.org
ohiovisionproblems.preventblindness.org/map/

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vision Health Initiative
www.cdc.gov/visionhealth

The National Eye Institute National Eye Health Education Program
www.nei.nih.gov/nehep



Ohio's Aging Eye Public/Private Partnership c/o Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate

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www.ohio.preventblindness.org/ohios-aging-eye-public-private-partnership

Leadership Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

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