

What Is Your EYESIGHT WORTH?

Making the Eye Health Connection with Davis Vision

Have you ever wondered how your life would change if you lost your vision?

In public opinion polls over many years, Americans have expressed their fear of vision loss as second only to their fear of cancer.¹ It is a realistic concern.

The number of Americans who will become blind is predicted to rise by 70% to 1.6 million people by 2020, largely due to inadequate treatment of the four most common eye diseases among those over age 40 (see table).²

Davis Vision is dedicated to helping you care for and protect your eyes. That's why Davis Vision's Eye Health ConnectionSM program, unlike other vision programs, targets all four of the most common diseases leading to blindness.

Davis Vision's Eye Health Connection program offers members diagnosed with any of the four targeted diseases—diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration and cataracts—two eye exams and two pairs of eyeglasses per benefit cycle. By seeing you more often, your eye care provider will be able to stay on top of your condition, monitoring changes and adjusting the treatment and prescription accordingly.

Consider the following information to make an estimate on the potential clinical and financial impact that an eye health and wellness program will have for your employees.

EYE DISEASE TO ESCALATE BY 2020

	Condition	Direct Annual Medical Costs
Age-Related Macular Degeneration	 - 1.8 Million ¹³ - 2.95 Million ¹⁴	\$575 Million ¹⁵
Glaucoma	 - 4 Million ¹⁶ - 7 Million ^{16,17}	\$2.9 Billion ¹⁶
Diabetic Retinopathy	 - 5 Million ¹⁸ - 7.2 Million ¹⁹	\$493 Million ¹⁷
Cataracts	 - 20.5 Million ¹⁰ - 30.1 Million ¹¹	\$6.8 Billion ¹⁸
Diabetes	 - 25.8 Million ¹² - 56.8 Million ^{13,14}	\$116 Billion ¹⁹
TOTALS	 - 57.1 Million - 104.1 Million	\$126.77 Billion

Key:

- How Many Have It

- How Many Cases Expected by 2020

Diabetic Retinopathy

- 25.8 million Americans have diabetes, the leading cause of blindness among working age adults.^{/20, 21} Seven million diabetics remain undiagnosed.^{/22} An additional 79 million have pre-diabetes.^{/23}
- Almost one in three diabetics has diabetic retinopathy, which takes the sight of 12,000 to 24,000 people each year.^{/24, 25}

Glaucoma

- Over 2 million people in the U.S. have open-angle glaucoma, the most common form. Glaucoma is called the “silent thief of sight” because there are no symptoms until it has advanced to the untreatable stage.^{/26}

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

- 1.8 million Americans over age 40 have AMD, the leading cause of permanent close-up vision loss among people over age 65.^{/27} An additional 7.3 million are at risk of developing it.^{/28}

Cataracts

- 20.5 million Americans over age 40 have a cataract in one or both eyes, and 6.1 million have had a cataract operation.^{/29}
- Most people who live into their 70s and beyond will develop cataracts.^{/30}

At least half of all blindness can be prevented through early diagnosis and treatment of eye disease.^{/31}

For people over 65, an eye exam is ranked as one of the top 10 most effective preventive medical services by The National Commission of Prevention Priorities.^{/32}

When Was Your Last Eye Exam?

Early diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions are critical to maintaining healthy vision. To protect your eyesight, make an appointment to see your Davis Vision provider this year!

1/ National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research: “NEI Leads in Eye and Vision Research,” 2011
2/ Archives of Ophthalmology: “Causes and Prevalence of Visual Impairment Among Adults in the United States,” 2004; 122:477-485
3/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): “Common Eye Disorders,” July 31, 2009
4/ CDC: “Improving the Nation’s Vision Health,” 2010
5/ CDC: “Announcements: National Glaucoma Awareness Month, January 2010,” Jan. 15, 2010
6/ Ibid.
7/ Ibid.
8/ CDC: “Common Eye Disorders”
9/ CDC: “Improving the Nation’s Vision Health”
10/ CDC: “Common Eye Disorders”
11/ CDC: “Common Eye Disorders”
12/ CDC: “More Than a Third of Adults Estimated to Have Prediabetes,” Jan. 26, 2011
13/ CDC: “Number (in Millions) of Civilian, Non-Institutionalized Persons with Diagnosed Diabetes, United States, 1980-2008,” Dec. 2010
14/ CDC: “More Than a Third of Adults”
15/ Lighthouse International: “Costs of Vision Impairment,” 2011
16/ Ibid.

17/ Ibid.
18/ Ibid.
19/ HealthDay News: “105 Million in U.S. Have Diabetes or Prediabetes, CDC Says,” Jan. 26, 2011
20/ CDC: “More Than a Third of Adults”
21/ American Optometry Association: “Diabetes is the Leading Cause of Blindness Among Most Adults,” November 2010
22/ CDC: “More Than a Third of Adults”
23/ Ibid.
24/ HealthDay News: “Eye Disease Affects Nearly One in Three Diabetics,” August 10, 2010
25/ American Optometry Association
26/ Medical News Today: “Glaucoma Week Designed to Raise Awareness of ‘Sneak Thief of Sight,’” March 14, 2011
27/ CDC: “Common Eye Disorders”
28/ Ibid.
29/ Ibid.
30/ HealthDay News: “As People Live Longer, More Will Develop Cataracts,” August 1, 2010
31/ CDC: “Improving the Nation’s Vision Health”
32/ Ibid.

