

Eye and Overall Health Issues Affecting Various Ethnicities

Since many at-risk employee groups are also the fastest growing within the U.S. population and workforce, understanding their unique eye health needs is important.

	African American	Asian American	Hispanic
Overall Health			
Diabetes	Prevalence 70% higher than in non-Hispanic whites; more likely to develop and die from complications; can lead to diabetic retinopathy. ^{xxxiii}	5th leading cause of death among those 45-64; more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than general population; diagnosis more likely to be late, since they are less likely to be obese. ^{xxxiv}	10% of Hispanics have diabetes; 3 times rate of general population; ^{xxxv} 95% have preventable, type 2 diabetes; ^{xxxvi} can lead to diabetic retinopathy.
HIV/AIDS	Trending upward; cytomegalovirus occurs in 25% of AIDS patients and can lead to retinal detachment and blindness within 2-6 months. ^{xxxvii}	Though not as common among Asians (1% of AIDS cases in U.S.), the number of new cases diagnosed is increasing. ^{xxxviii}	Account for 19% of new AIDS diagnoses and people living with AIDS; 3 times the rate of Caucasians; 4th leading cause of death of those 35-44; ^{xxxix} can lead to vision problems.
Hypertension	40% more likely than non-Hispanic whites to have high blood pressure; 10% less likely to have it under control; can lead to hypertensive retinopathy. ^{xxxix}	Higher levels among the Filipino population; ^{xl} can lead to hypertensive retinopathy.	Affects 29% of Hispanics; can lead to hypertensive retinopathy. ^{xli}
Sickle Cell Disease	1 in 12 is a carrier of the sickle cell trait in the U.S.; can lead to vision problems and blindness; ^{xxxi} 1 in 600 born with sickle cell anemia. ^{xlii}	While not as common as in African Americans, can affect this population. ^{xliii}	Affects 70,000 people in the U.S., primarily African American or Hispanic; ^{xliii} can lead to vision problems and blindness; 1 in 1,000-1,400 born with sickle cell anemia. ^{xliii}
Tuberculosis	Rates 8 times higher than in whites; ^{xliii} can lead to ocular tuberculosis.	13 times more common among Asian populations; serious problem facing women; can lead to ocular tuberculosis. ^{xliii}	Rates 8 times higher than in whites; ^{xliii} can lead to ocular tuberculosis.
Eye Health			
Cataract	1.5 times more at risk for formation and subsequent visual debilitation; 5 times more likely to develop blindness. ^{xxxiii}	Affects the Asian population; prevalence of age-related cataract higher in Asians than Caucasians. ^{xlvii}	Leading cause of visual impairment; affects 1 in 5 Hispanic adults; 3 times more common in older Hispanics vs. whites and African Americans. ^{xlviii}
Glaucoma	5 times more likely than whites to develop glaucoma; 4 times more likely to suffer blindness. ^{xxxiii}	More likely to develop angle-closure glaucoma; ^{xlix} Japanese more prone to low-tension glaucoma.	Open-angle glaucoma most common cause of blindness; ^l affects 6% over 41, 12% over 80. ^{li}
Macular Degeneration	At lower risk, but risk factors such as smoking and UV radiation can still contribute to development. ^{liii}	Assumed to be at lower risk, but risk factors such as smoking and UV radiation can still contribute to development. ^{liv}	10% of Hispanics at risk for developing advanced AMD; 1 in 4 have signs in both eyes. ^{lv}
Myopia	Not as common among African Americans (6.6%); ^{lvi} more prevalent in African-American preschoolers than Hispanic preschoolers. ^{lvii}	More common among Asians; affects 78.5%. ^{xlviii}	Affects 13.2% of Hispanics. ^{lvii}
Pterygia	Exposure to UV radiation is a risk factor.	Exposure to UV radiation is a risk factor.	Hispanics have higher incidence; exposure to UV radiation is a risk factor. ^{lviii}

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