

# Facts on Vision



**66% Of the U.S. Work Force Currently Wear Prescription Lenses!**

**93% Of Adults Age 55 And Older Wear Prescription Lenses!**

Vision and eye health problems are the second most prevalent, chronic, health care problems in the United States population, affecting more than 120 million people.

In 2001, approximately 61% of Americans --- about 169 million people --- required some form of vision correction.

Nearly 1 out of 4 American children between the ages of 3 - 16 wears eyeglasses.

10% of American children under the age of 12 need vision correction.

According to a study conducted by Prevent Blindness America, about 11.5% of the U.S. high school population (1.6 million American teens) may have undiagnosed or untreated vision problems.

A Georgetown University Medical Center Study concluded that approximately 1,000,000 new blindness cases each year are curable or preventable through detection and treatment, leading to an estimated annual savings to the federal budget of over \$1 billion.

75% of employees who use a computer will suffer an eye or vision problem. The most common symptoms are eyestrain, headaches, blurred vision and dry or irritated eyes.

According to a study conducted by Health Products Research (HPR), 33.2 million Americans were wearing contact lenses at the end of 1998.

Optometrists performed 70% of the 78 million primary eye exams conducted in 1998.

Across the country, optometrists are geographically more broadly distributed than ophthalmologists. The 33,000 practicing doctors of optometry (nearly twice the number of practicing ophthalmologists) are the only primary eye care providers in more than 4,300 communities.

The number of employers adding managed vision care is growing. A Hewitt Associate's Survey found that 43% of U.S. employers offer a vision plan.

Approximately 40 million Americans received vision care benefits via third-party programs as of December 1994.

More than 16 million Americans have diabetes and diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in adults between the age of 20 and 74. It is estimated that only 40-50% of diabetics are screened annually.

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