

## Cases of low vision, blindness estimated to double in 30 years

November 3 2017

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(HealthDay)—Prevalence and incidence rates of low vision and

blindness demonstrate a growing need for low vision rehabilitation services in the United States, according to a study published online Nov. 2 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Tiffany Chan, O.D., from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues estimated the prevalence and incidence of visual impairments based on visual acuity measures as a function of age from the 2007-2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Data were included from 6,016 survey participants to estimate prevalence rates from different age groups.

The researchers found that among older adults ( $\geq 45$  years) in 2017, the prevalence of low vision and blindness was estimated at 3,894,406 [individuals](#) with a best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) less than 20/40, 1,483,703 individuals with a BCVA less than 20/60, and 1,082,790 individuals with a BCVA of 20/200 or less. The estimated 2017 annual incidence of low vision and blindness among adults aged 45 years and older is 481,970, 183,618, and 134,002 individuals with a BCVA of less than 20/40, less than 20/60, and 20/200 or less, respectively. For each BCVA criterion, the total annual incidence was 12.4 percent of the total prevalence.

"Prevalence and [incidence rates](#) show a substantial increase in the need for low [vision](#) rehabilitation services with the aging of the US population," the authors write.

One author disclosed ties to Janssen.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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Citation: Cases of low vision, blindness estimated to double in 30 years (2017, November 3)  
retrieved 4 July 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-11-cases-vision-years.html>

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