

RNIB Insight snapshots



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See differently

Eye health and eye care

Demand for eye care is at an all-time high and services are struggling to keep up.

NHS ophthalmology services are in crisis, under-resourced, and unable to meet rising demand.

Around

800,000 people

in the UK are waiting to start treatment.

Ophthalmology has the highest number of people waiting for follow-up appointments.

25%



With an ageing population, the cost of providing eye care is expected to rise by 25 per cent in the next 10 years.

This will require an extra

£1 billion per year

Everyone will need eye health services at various stages of life. Each year, there are:

More than

16 million

NHS-funded eye tests.

More than

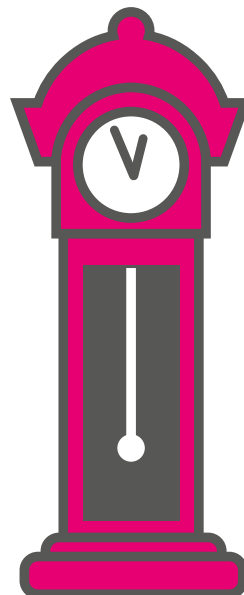
9.5 million

ophthalmology outpatient appointments.

More than

1 million

admitted care day cases or inpatients.



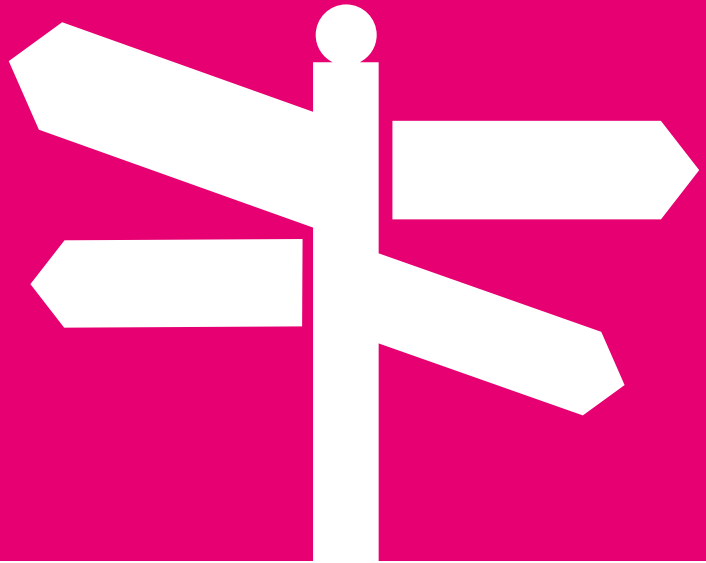
Every day

250 people

start to lose their sight in the UK. This is equivalent to one person every six minutes.

Navigating eye care can be difficult:

- People with sight loss often face long delays, a lack of information or emotional support, and difficulties accessing services.
- Women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and those on lower incomes face extra barriers to accessing services, despite being at greater relative risk of eye conditions.



The Eye Care Support Pathway (rnib.in/ECSP) helps people through their eye care journey by providing guidance, support and continuity of care.



More than **two million people** are living with sight loss in the UK



References

All references for this Snapshot can be found at:



rnib.org.uk/InsightSnapshots

About RNIB's research

RNIB is a leading source of information on sight loss and the issues affecting blind and partially sighted people. Visit our research and data hub at:



rnib.org.uk/research