

Population and demographics

See differently

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

This level of sight loss is severe enough to have a significant impact on their daily lives. On top of this there are also many people with an eye condition who are at risk of developing sight loss in the future.

**Of this two million...
more than
one million**

blind and partially sighted people are living with sight loss caused by a long-term eye health condition that cannot be reversed, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

The more than two million people living with sight loss includes:

- people who are registered sight impaired or severely sight impaired
- people whose vision is better than the levels that qualify for registration
- people who are awaiting or having treatment or surgery that may improve their sight

- people whose sight loss could be improved by wearing correctly prescribed glasses or contact lenses.

**Around
320,000
are registered as Sight
Impaired or Severely
Sight Impaired.**

This subgroup of the two million has received a Certification of Vision Impairment (CVI). Eligibility is complex, but typically requires someone to be unable to read the top letter on an eye chart.



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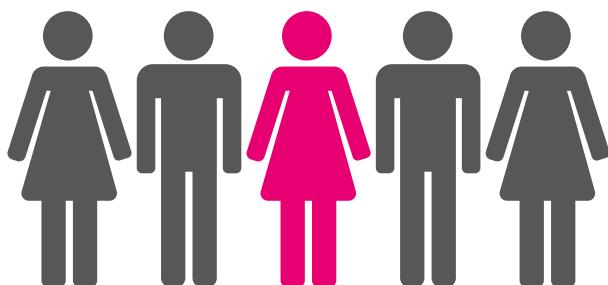
Every day
250

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

This statistic includes sight loss as a result of AMD, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, and some of the other causes of permanent and irreversible sight loss in the UK. Many more people will start to live with sight loss as a result of uncorrected refractive error and cataract.

More people will have sight loss in the future

It is predicted that by 2050 the number of people with sight loss in the UK will double to over four million.



One in five

people will live with sight loss in their lifetime.

Demographics

The majority of people with sight loss are older

Age is a significant risk factor related to eye health and sight loss. Nearly 80 per cent are 65 years or older.

Well over half of people with sight loss are women

Around 60 per cent of people living with sight loss are women.

Younger people from certain ethnic minority groups are at greater risk of some of the leading causes of sight loss

But overall, ethnic minorities are not more likely to have sight loss than white people due to their younger average age.



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 Knowledge and Research Hub at: rnib.org.uk/research