

Status of Women's Eye Health in the United States



World Sight Day
October 8, 2009

Gender & Eye Health



66%[†] of blind and vision-impaired people in the US are female

- * Of 1.1 million blind, 712,000 are female
- * Of 3.4 million vision-impaired, 2.3 million are female
- † The same statistic applies to women worldwide

Reasons for disparity

- * Women live longer than men; eye disease increases with age
- * Some eye diseases occur in females more than males

75% of blindness and visual impairment is treatable or preventable

Call to Action:

- Make prevention a priority! For example, obesity contributes to diabetic retinopathy, and smoking causes 30% of age-related macular degeneration as well as 20% of cataract
- Make eye checkups routine and accessible to all
- Advocate for Medicare support for visual aids

For more information, visit www.womenseyehealth.org

Based at Schepens Eye Research Institute, an Affiliate of Harvard Medical School

For more information on the global status of women's eye health, visit www.vision2020.org