

What Causes Low Vision?

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Most people develop low vision because of eye diseases like macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma, or as a result of diabetes. Some people get low vision from other eye diseases, injuries, or birth defects.

Normal Vision



Cataract

People with cataracts, a clouding of the lens, see through a haze.



Approximately **1.1 million New Englanders** over age 39 have cataracts.

Macular Degeneration

A leading cause of vision loss in older Americans, AMD results in loss of central vision and some blurring.



Approximately **97,000 New Englanders** over age 49 have age-related macular degeneration.

Diabetic Retinopathy

Vision can become blurred in diabetic retinopathy, due to bleeding in the back of the eye (retina).



Approximately **270,000 New Englanders** over age 17 have diabetic retinopathy.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma often has no early warning signs. Later the field of vision may narrow.



Approximately **110,000 New Englanders** over age 39 have glaucoma.



THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers was developed by the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.