



FACTS ABOUT BLINDNESS

Every seven minutes someone in America loses their sight permanently (Research to Prevent Blindness).

There are an estimated 15 million blind or visually impaired people in the United States (Prevent Blindness America).

Nationally, among persons ages 21 to 64 who are visually impaired, defined as any difficulty or inability to see words and letters even when wearing glasses or contact lenses, only 41.5% are employed; among individuals unable to see words and letters, this figure decreases to 29.9% (J.M. McNeil, 2001).

Leading causes of new cases of blindness are, in order, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and optic nerve atrophy (Prevent Blindness America).

In 2000, 1.7 million of 10.5 million California residents age 45 or older, and 755,000 of 3.5 million who are 65 or older, had a self-reported vision problem (Arlene R. Gordon Research Institute of Lighthouse International).