

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**