# VISION & EYE HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

## What is the Vision and Eye Health Surveillance System (VEHSS)?

The Vision and Eye Health Surveillance System, or VEHSS, leverages new and existing data sources to help health professionals, researchers, policy makers, and patients understand the scope of vision loss, eye disorders, and eye care services in the United States. VEHSS is a national data system that houses publicly available prevalence estimates of over 200 different indicators of vision and eye health at the national, state, and county levels. Examples of information that can be found in VEHSS are the prevalence count and rate of people who have uncorrectable vision acuity loss, and age-related macular degeneration, the number of people on Medicare who are diagnosed with an eye disease, and the number of people who had an eye exam in the last year. VEHSS continues to grow and improve over time to meet the needs of the vision health community.

# CDC.gov/Vision-Health-Data

## VEHSS has two types of prevalence estimates:

- **VEHSS Prevalence Estimates** are created using statistical models that combine information from many single sources of data to provide the most comprehensive estimate possible. Composite estimates are generated for visual acuity loss and blindness, and the major vision threatening eye disorders of age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma.

- **Single data source estimates** summarize the number and percentage of people with vision and eye health indicators from a single source of data. These sources of data include:

- **Five surveys:**
  - American Community Survey
  - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
  - National Health Interview Survey
  - National Health and Nutrition Survey
  - National Survey of Children's Health

- **Four administrative claims databases:**
  - Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Commercial medical insurance carriers
  - Vision insurance carriers
- **One provider database:**
  - IRIS Registry

## How to Find Data on VEHSS:

- **VEHSS Prevalence Estimates:** (CDC.gov/vision-health-data/prevalence-estimates) Overview and topline results for VEHSS's most comprehensive prevalence estimates for Visual Acuity Loss and Blindness, Age-related Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy, and Glaucoma (coming summer 2024).

- **Data Explorer:** (https://ddt-vehss.cdc.gov) Use the VEHSS interactive data visualization application to explore all data for over 200 vision and eye health indicators at the national, state, and county level.

- **Data Portal:** (https://data.cdc.gov/browse?category=Vision+%26+Eye+Health) Need to work with the data directly? View, filter, or download most VEHSS datasets in the VEHSS Data Portal.

- VEHSS is developed by the Vision Health Initiative (CDC.gov/visionhealth) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC.org), along with many partners including Prevent Blindness (PreventBlindness.org), the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO.org), the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington (HealthData.org), the University of Washington Department of Ophthalmology (Ophthalmology.Washington.edu), and other leading organizations in vision and eye health.