Supplementary Online Content


eAppendix. Survey questions.

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
Thank you for agreeing to participate in the survey about a number of health-related topics.

General Health

First, some questions about the general state of your health.

1. In general, would you say your health is. . .?


2. When was the last time you visited a health care provider? By health care provider, I mean a doctor, a nurse practitioner, or any other medical professional who has given you a physical examination or written prescriptions for you.

   1. Within the past month
   2. Within the past year
   3. Within the past 2 years
   4. 2 or more years ago
   5. Not sure

3. Have you ever been told by a health care provider that you have any of the following. (Choose all that apply)

   1. Diabetes
   2. High blood pressure
   3. Heart disease
   4. Arthritis
   5. Cancer
   6. None (Skip to 5)
   7. Not sure (Skip to 5)

Are you seeking or receiving treatment or have you received treatment in the past from a health care provider for the following?

(Ask if Q3=1)
4a. Diabetes?

   1. Yes      2. No      3. Not sure

(Ask if Q3=2)
4b. High blood pressure?

   1. Yes      2. No      3. Not sure
(Ask if Q3=3)  
4c. Heart disease?  
1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure  

(Ask if Q3=4)  
4d. Arthritis?  
1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure  

(Ask if Q3=5)  
4e. Cancer?  
1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure  

5. Have you ever had your eyes examined by an eye care provider?  
1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure  

(Ask Q6 and Q7 only if Q5=1)  
6. Did the examiner put in drops to dilate your eyes so he/she could look into them more easily?  
1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure  

7. What was the one MAIN reason you had your eyes examined the last time? (Choose only ONE)  
1. For a regular check up  
2. You needed new eye glasses or contact lenses  
3. You had trouble seeing  
4. You had pain in your eyes  
5. You had headaches  
6. You had an eye infection, injury, or eye disease  
7. You received a notice from your eye care provider for a regular eye examination  
8. A family member or a friend suggested you go  
9. You were referred by another health care provider  
10. Some other reason (SPECIFY)  
11. Not sure
(Ask Q8 only if Q5=2)
8. Is there a particular or one MAIN reason why you have never had your eyes examined by an eye care provider? (Choose only ONE)

1. I haven't had any problems and haven't felt the need for an eye exam
2. My primary care provider has not told me to have an eye examination
3. Eye exam is not covered by my insurance
4. I am fearful of the examination
5. There are no places or doctors close enough to where I live or work
6. I am not sure where to go to have an eye examination
7. I can’t afford it
8. Other (SPECIFY)
9. Not sure

What would you do if any of the following people said you should have an eye exam. For each one, please tell if you would be very likely, somewhat likely, or not likely at all to have an eye exam.

9. Family members


10. Your primary care provider


11. Your pharmacist


12. Your friends


13. Co-workers/employer


14. Religious leader

15. Do you wear any of the following? (Choose all that apply)

1. Glasses
2. Contact lenses
3. Reading glasses only
4. None of the above
5. Not sure

16. How many of the following conditions have you heard of? (Choose all that apply)

1. Cataract
2. Glaucoma
3. Diabetic eye disease such as diabetic retinopathy
4. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
5. None of the above
6. Not sure

17. Has an eye care provider ever told you that you have any of the following? (Choose all that apply)

1. Cataract—a clouding of the lens of the eye
2. Diabetic retinopathy or diabetic eye disease—a complication of diabetes that affects your vision
3. Glaucoma—a disease that damages the optic nerve and causes loss of side or peripheral vision
4. Age-related macular degeneration—an eye disease that affects older people and causes a loss of central or straight-ahead vision
5. Refractive errors:
   - Myopia—trouble seeing things that are far away
   - Hyperopia—trouble seeing things that are close up
   - Presbyopia --the inability to focus up close often referred to as the aging eye condition
6. Any other eye condition or eye disease? (SPECIFY)
7. Don’t know/not sure

Are you seeking or receiving treatment or have you received treatment in the past from a health care provider for the following?

(Ask if Q17=1)
18a. Cataract?

1. Yes  2. No  3. Not sure
(Ask if Q17=2)
18b. Diabetic retinopathy or diabetic eye disease?

1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure

(Ask if Q17=3)
18c. Glaucoma?

1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure

(Ask if Q17=4)
18d. Age-related macular degeneration?

1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure

(Ask if Q17=5)
18e. Refractive errors?

1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure

19. Do you have health insurance? *(Choose all that apply)*

1. No insurance  
2. Medicare  
3. Medicaid  
4. Other government provided coverage (VA, Tricare, etc)  
5. My insurance is offered through an employer  
6. My insurance is purchased privately  
7. My insurance is purchased through an exchange  
8. Not sure

*(Ask Q20 only if Q19>8)*
20. Many insurers such as Medicare and some private insurers help pay for medical care of eye diseases, but do not help pay for routine eye exams or glasses/contact lenses. Sometimes people have separate vision insurance to help pay for routine eye exams or glasses. Do you have insurance coverage for routine eye exams or glasses?

1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure
21. Select which statement best describes how your insurance situation impacts how often you have your eyes checked. “Because of my insurance situation…”

   1. I have eye exams less frequently than I would like
   2. I never have eye exams because I don’t have insurance coverage.
   3. I am able to have my eyes checked as often as I would like
   4. My insurance situation doesn’t affect how often I have eye exams because I pay for my eyecare out of pocket
   5. Not sure

**Awareness**

**Now we are going to ask some questions about eye health.**

22. During the past year have you seen or heard anything about eye health in… *(Choose all that apply)*

   1. Magazines
   2. Daily or weekly newspapers
   3. Educational pamphlets or brochures
   4. Drugstore or supermarket
   5. TV programs or commercials
   6. Radio programs or commercials
   7. Religious or social organizations
   8. Internet
   9. At a doctor’s office, clinic, or community health screening
   10. Don’t recall seeing or hearing anything about eye health in the last year
   11. Not sure

23. To which of the following people have you spoken with about eye health or eye disease in the past 12 months? *(Choose all that apply)*

   1. Relative or friend
   2. Eye care provider
   3. Primary care doctor or other health provider
   4. Other *(Specify)*
   5. Not sure
24. Which of the following conditions do you think has the most impact on the percentage of Americans who will develop blindness from eye disorders in the U.S.? (Choose only ONE)

1. Cataract  
2. Diabetic retinopathy or diabetic eye disease  
3. Glaucoma  
4. Age-related macular degeneration  
5. None of these

24a. Which of the following conditions do you think has the most impact on health care costs related to eye disorders in the US? (Choose only ONE)

1. Cataract  
2. Diabetic retinopathy or diabetic eye disease  
3. Glaucoma  
4. Age-related macular degeneration  
5. None of these

A recent report looked at the future of eye disease and the cost of such diseases on the health care system out to the year 2050.

25. Thinking ahead to the year 2050, do you think there will be a higher percentage of people with blindness in the US, or a smaller percentage?

1. Increase significantly  
2. Increase slightly  
3. Remain unchanged  
4. Decrease slightly  
5. Decrease significantly  
6. Not sure

(Ask Q25a only if Q25 <6)

25a. Please briefly explain why you feel this way?

26. In your view, how will health care costs from eye disorders change by the year 2050?

1. Increase significantly  
2. Increase slightly  
3. Remain unchanged  
4. Decrease slightly  
5. Decrease significantly  
6. Not sure
26a. Please briefly explain why you feel this way? _______

27. One kind of medical research is often referred to as a clinical trial. In this, volunteers choose to participate to test the safety and effectiveness of certain treatments, drugs or devices. Have you ever heard of a clinical trial to test safety and effectiveness of treatments for eye and vision conditions?

   1. Yes          2. No          3. Not sure

28. What type of eye and vision research are you familiar with? ____________________

29. How did you hear about clinical trials for eye and vision research? (Choose all that apply)

   1. Media (news articles)
   2. Advertisements (in newspapers, TV, radio and online)
   3. Doctor/healthcare provider
   4. Online/Internet (websites)
   5. Patient organization
   6. Friends/family
   7. Clinicaltrials.gov
   8. Community health centers
   9. Not Sure

30. If a health care provider found a clinical trial on eye and vision research and recommended you join, how likely would you be to participate in a clinical trial?


31. What would be most likely to persuade you to join a clinical trial for eye and vision research?

Attitudinal

The next few questions will help us understand the value you place on your eyesight.

Imagine you were to become **visually impaired** and could no longer recognize faces from across a room, read standard sized print or drive at night. Now suppose there was a quick and painless treatment available that would fully restore your vision, but that this procedure was not covered by any insurance.

32. How much money would you be willing to spend on this procedure to restore your vision? $_____________

33. If you were asked instead to pay a share of your available financial resources, what percentage of these resources would you be willing to pay? ____________%
Now imagine you were to become legally blind and could no longer distinguish faces, read at all, drive, or see the television. Another quick and painless procedure not covered by any insurance was available to fully restore your vision.

34. How much money would you be willing to spend on this procedure to restore your vision? $_______________

35. If you were asked instead to pay a share of your available financial resources, what percentage of these resources would you be willing to pay? ____________%

36. Which of the following diseases or ailments is the worst that could happen to you? (Choose only ONE)

1. Arthritis
2. Blindness
3. Heart disease
4. Cancer
5. AIDS/HIV
6. Loss of limb
7. Alzheimer’s
8. Deafness
9. Not sure

37. Which of the following loss of senses is the worst that could happen to you? (Choose only ONE)

1. Blindness
2. Muteness – unable to speak
3. Deafness
4. Loss of smell or taste
5. Not sure

Now I'm going to ask you about how you think certain conditions would affect your day-to-day life. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 having the least impact and 10 having the greatest impact on your daily life, how would you rate each of the following:

38. Losing your memory

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39. Losing your hearing

   1. Least  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 Greatest  11. Not sure

40. Losing your eyesight

   1. Least  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 Greatest  11. Not sure

41. Losing your speech

   1. Least  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 Greatest  11. Not sure

42. Losing a limb

   1. Least  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 Greatest  11. Not sure

43. Would you be willing to pay $1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional eye and vision research?

   1. Yes  2. No  3. Not sure

Lifestyle

Now some questions about lifestyle.

44. Are any of your immediate family members affected by an eye and vision disease?

   1. Yes  2. No  3. Not sure

45. Which of the following would concern you as a consequence of losing your vision? (Choose all that apply)

   1. Independence
   2. Productivity
   3. Quality of life
   4. Other
   5. Not sure

46. When you think about aging, do you worry about changes in or impairment to your vision?

   1. Yes  2. No  3. Not sure
47. Are you currently assisting a family member or friend with impaired vision, for example, taking them to the doctor, driving them on errands, helping around the house?

1. Yes  
2. No  
3. Not sure

48. Do you agree or disagree that individuals have different risks of eye disease depending on their ethnic heritage.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. Not sure

49. Do you agree or disagree that smoking is associated with greater risk of eye disease?

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. Not sure

50. Do you agree or disagree that obesity is associated with greater risk of eye disease?

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. Not sure

51. Do you agree or disagree that exposure to excessive sunlight or ultraviolet radiation is associated with greater risk of eye disease?

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Somewhat disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. Not sure
Research

This final group of questions will deal with research.

52. Do you believe we are making enough progress in eye and vision research in the U.S.?
   1. Yes    2. No    3. Not sure

53. The federal government spends on average $2.10 per person each year on eye and vision research. Would you say that is…

54. In addition to the federal government, industry, patient groups and philanthropies pay for eye and vision research. Do you think all sectors should increase funding for this type of research?
   1. Yes    2. No    3. Not sure

55. How important is it that our nation supports research that focuses on improving prevention and treatment of eye and vision disorders?
   1. Very important
   2. Somewhat important
   3. Not very important
   4. Not at all important
   5. Not sure

56. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Good eye health is important to overall health.”
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Somewhat agree
   3. Somewhat disagree
   4. Strongly disagree
   5. Not sure

Standard demos