

Sight loss UK 2012

The latest evidence

RNIB

supporting blind and
partially sighted people



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Foreword

Across the sector, partner organisations are working hard to achieve the aims of the UK Vision Strategy in some of the most challenging economic and political conditions in recent memory. This is a crucial time for the sector to be united in understanding the challenges and barriers that blind and partially sighted people face. Together we need to recognise key demographic and health trends that could influence the prevention of avoidable sight loss.

It is vital that we all have access to the latest research and data. It is in this context that RNIB has collated and published “Sight loss UK 2012”.

I believe that this report is timely, bringing together the findings of key research. The evidence presented in “Sight loss UK 2012” along with the helpful data summary will inform strategic thinking for the health, social care and voluntary sectors. Ultimately, it will support us all in working together to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people and those at risk of sight loss.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley-Anne" followed by a horizontal line and a small circle below it.

Lesley-Anne Alexander

Chair, UK Vision Strategy Strategic Advisory Group and CEO, RNIB

Introduction

“Sight loss UK 2012” is an annual evidence review, based on 45 key indicators, that shows what life is like for those with experience of sight loss, their carers and those at risk of sight loss.

RNIB is working to stop people losing their sight unnecessarily, to support independent living and to create an inclusive society. These three priorities are reflected in this report, with additional demographic, economic and global information to add context.

The aim of this report is to provide everyone working in the sight loss sector, professionals and policymakers with the latest evidence related to the lives of people with sight loss and clear information about the factors affecting people at risk of sight loss. This report will help sight loss professionals to consider the continued relevance and need for developing a strategic approach to supporting blind and partially sighted people and the steps we need to take to prevent avoidable sight loss.

Please note:

- We have used up-to-date evidence for the indicators in this report but there is often a time lag before official data is released. For example, much of the data on eye health relates to the year 2010/11.
- Where data is from regularly updated sources we can track trends over time. When data is from a specific piece of research (such as several indicators taken from Network 1000) trends over time are not available.
- We have included full details of the geographic coverage, year of publication and the source for each indicator in Appendix B.
- The sources use different terminology to describe people with a visual impairment. We have used the terminology of the original source and indicated where the population referred to is registered as blind and partially sighted.

Further information

RNIB’s Evidence and Service Impact team works to improve the impact of services. By talking to customers we understand effective practice and disseminate this to empower blind and partially sighted people and drive up the quality of services provided.

We work collaboratively with internal and external colleagues to ensure service standards are documented, understood and implemented. We act as a central knowledge source on service solutions for blind and partially sighted people, connecting the latest research to policy, and bringing expertise across RNIB group together.

- Please contact RNIB’s Evidence and Service Impact team at research@rnib.org.uk if you have any questions about the information contained in this report.
- For the latest RNIB research reports and news please visit rnib.org.uk/research

1. People living with sight loss and people at risk of sight loss

Indicator	Result	Trend
1. Sight loss – Number of people in the UK living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives	1.86 million	Up
2. Registration – Number of people in the UK registered as blind or partially sighted	358,000	Down
3. Additional disabilities – Percentage of registered blind or partially sighted people who are also reported as having an additional disability	33 per cent	Up
4. Older people – Number of people in the UK aged over 60	14.1 million	Up
5. Later life – Number of people in the UK aged over 85	1.4 million	Up
6. Children and young people – Number of children aged 0–25 who are blind or partially sighted	40,000	Up
7. Learning disabilities – Number of adults with a learning disability who are blind or partially sighted	96,500	–
8. Sight loss and dementia – Number of people living with both dementia and sight loss in the UK	123,000	Up

Sight loss in the UK

There are almost 2 million people in the UK who are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives (**Indicator 1**).

- 1,556,000 in England
- 155,000 in Scotland
- 98,000 in Wales
- 46,000 in Northern Ireland

This figure includes people who are registered as blind or partially sighted and those whose sight is just better than the levels which qualify for registration. It also includes people who are awaiting or having treatment such as eye injections, laser treatment or surgery which may improve their sight. And it includes people whose vision loss could be improved by wearing correctly prescribed glasses. These people are living with significant sight loss. At least one-third has irreversible sight loss and some have vision which is equivalent to people who are registered as partially sighted or blind.

Approximately 358,000 people are registered as blind or partially sighted in the UK **(Indicator 2)**.

- 299,000 in England
- 34,500 in Scotland
- 16,250 in Wales
- 8,200 in Northern Ireland

Of the registered blind and partially sighted people, one-third are reported to have an additional disability **(Indicator 3)**.

We know that the number of people living with sight loss is increasing. Over the next decade it is predicted that numbers will increase to over 2.25 million. This increase is due to an ageing population. One in every nine people aged over 60 are currently living with sight loss. Almost 14.1 million people in the UK are aged over 60 and at risk of sight loss **(Indicator 4)**. An increasing number of people are now living to later old age: over 1.4 million people in the UK are aged over 85 **(Indicator 5)**. One in every three people aged over 85 are currently living with sight loss.

Children and young people

There are 40,000 blind and partially sighted children and young people aged 0–25 in the UK **(Indicator 6)**. Approximately 25,000 of these children are aged between 0–16 and 15,000 are aged 17–25.

People with sight loss and complex needs

In the UK an estimated one million adults and 410,000 children and young people aged 0–19 have a learning disability. Adults with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to be blind or partially sighted than the general population. There are an estimated 96,500 blind and partially sighted people aged 20 and over who also have a learning disability in the UK **(Indicator 7)**.

At least 123,000 older people have both visual impairment and dementia **(Indicator 8)**. These people have complex needs, as visual impairment exacerbates confusion in Alzheimer's disease, which can also cause visual processing difficulties. As the population ages, the number of people with both dementia and sight loss will increase.

2. Cost of sight loss

Indicator	Result	Trend
9. Healthcare costs – Total direct NHS expenditure on eye health	£2.5 billion	Up
10. Indirect costs – Total cost of unpaid care, reduced employment and other indirect costs on UK economy as a result of sight loss.	£5.1 billion	Up

Direct healthcare expenditure linked to eye health is over £2.5 billion in the UK (**Indicator 9**). This includes expenditure on hospital care such as inpatient admissions and outpatient appointments; the cost of providing NHS sight tests and optical vouchers to eligible patients; and medications and prescriptions related to the treatment of the eye.

- £2,140 million in England
- £201 million in Scotland
- £113 million in Wales
- £48 million in Northern Ireland

This is an underestimate of healthcare system expenditure on eye health as it only takes into account published data. We have not included any additional costs associated with research and development, capital costs and administration.

Sight loss indirectly costs the UK economy £5.1 billion each year (**Indicator 10**). This includes:

- £2.4 billion linked to informal care costs
- £1.9 billion linked to lower employment rates

3. Preventing avoidable sight loss

Indicator	Result	Trend
11. Sight tests – Number of NHS sight tests per year	14.9 million	Up
12. Certification – Number of new Certificates of Vision Impairment issued in 2009/10	24,238	Down
13. Outpatients – Number of NHS outpatient ophthalmology appointments	7.5 million	Up
14. Inpatients – Number of NHS ophthalmology inpatients and day cases	728,000	Up
15. Waiting times – Percentage of NHS ophthalmology referrals that require inpatient treatment not completed within the 18 weeks referral to treatment guidelines	8 per cent	–
16. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) – Expenditure on Lucentis injections	£129 million	Up
17. Diabetic retinopathy – Percentage of people with diabetes and offered screening who took part in the retinal screening programme	79 per cent	–
18. Cataract – Number of NHS cataract operations	400,000	Down
19. Glaucoma – Total spend on glaucoma prescriptions	£129 million	Up

Sight tests

There were over 14.9 million NHS eye tests in the UK from April 2010 to March 2011 (**Indicator 11**). This is an increase of one per cent on the previous year, and represents an additional 170,000 eye tests.

The rate of eye tests per 100,000 people in each UK country has also increased, in line with the growth in population. For example, in England there are now 23,000 NHS eye tests per 100,000 general population. This figure does not include significant numbers of people who have private eye tests. In Scotland, where NHS sight tests are available for free to the whole population, there are 34,600 NHS sight tests per 100,000 people.

Certification

There were 24,238 Certificates of Vision Impairment (CVI) issued in 2009/10 **(Indicator 12)**. This is a decrease of five per cent on the number of CVIs issued in 2008/09. Almost half of all CVIs were issued due to sight loss caused by age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Hospital care

In England ophthalmology has the second highest number of outpatient attendances for any speciality in the NHS. In the UK there were 7.5 million outpatient ophthalmology appointments in 2010/11 **(Indicator 13)**. Around 2.1 million of these attendances were patients attending their first appointment.

In the UK there were 728,000 inpatient or day case admissions related to ophthalmology in 2010/11 **(Indicator 14)**.

Government targets require the time taken from initial referral to treatment to be no greater than 18 weeks. For ophthalmology referrals that result in a hospital admission, eight per cent of patients in England waited longer than this to start their treatment in 2011 **(Indicator 15)**.

Treatments

Some treatments for the leading causes of sight loss can be tracked.

In 2010 Lucentis, a proven treatment for wet AMD, was the fourth most costly drug prescribed across all areas of the NHS in England, with expenditure of £129 million **(Indicator 16)**.

79 per cent of people who were offered diabetic retinopathy screening took part in the NHS retinal screening programme **(Indicator 17)**.

Cataract surgery is the most common surgical intervention performed in the NHS in England. In the UK there were approximately 400,000 NHS cataract operations in 2010/11 **(Indicator 18)**. The NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare provides further information on cataract treatment and how much is spent on it by each Primary Care Trust.

A total of £129 million was spent on glaucoma prescriptions in 2010 **(Indicator 19)**. This is an underestimate because it only includes prescriptions that were dispensed in the community, and does not include any prescription dispensed in hospitals. In total, glaucoma prescriptions represent around two-thirds of all expenditure on eye health prescriptions dispensed in the community.

4. Supporting independent living

Indicator	Result	Trend
20. Early intervention – Number of hospitals that have some form of patient support in their eye clinics	199	Up
21. Qualified support – Number of hospitals with qualified Eye Clinic Liaison Officer support	106	Up
22. Low vision – Number of low vision practitioners in Wales	319	–
23. Isolation – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who feel "moderately" or "completely" cut off from people and things around them	44 per cent	–
24. Trapped – Percentage of people living with sight loss who "always" purposely limit the amount of walking they have to do outside the house	49 per cent	–
25. Wellbeing – Percentage of older people living with sight loss who are also living with depression	35 per cent	–
26. Poverty – Percentage of working age registered blind and partially sighted people who describe their financial situation as "just getting by" or worse	45 per cent	–
27. DLA – Number of blind and partially sighted people claiming Disability Living Allowance	69,800	Up
28. Attendance Allowance – Number of blind and partially sighted people claiming Attendance Allowance	56,900	Down
29. Housing – Percentage of registered blind and partially sighted people living in rented accommodation	21 per cent	–
30. Living in care – Number of older people who are living in residential care or nursing homes	410,000	–

Indicator	Result	Trend
31. Educational attainment – Percentage gap in obtaining five GCSEs between pupils with no special educational needs (SEN) and pupils with a visual impairment (VI) with: a) no additional SEN (age 16) b) additional SEN (age 16) c) VI as main SEN (age 19)	a) 21 per cent b) 50 per cent c) 10 per cent	–
32. Further education – Number of students in further education who are known to have a visual impairment	12,500	–
33. Higher education – Number of students in higher education who are known to have a visual impairment	3,500	–
34. Employment – Percentage employment rate of people who are: a) “long term disabled with a seeing difficulty” b) registered blind or partially sighted	a) 47 per cent b) 33 per cent	Down –

Early support

Being offered emotional and practical support at the time of diagnosis can help people who are experiencing sight loss to retain their independence and access the support they need. Currently we know that 199 hospitals in the UK have some kind of support in place for patients (**Indicator 20**). Of this number, 106 hospitals in the UK offer support from a qualified Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (**Indicator 21**).

Low vision

Low vision rehabilitation is delivered by a wide variety of providers including hospitals (run by orthoptists, nurses or optometrists or a combination of these), commercial providers, social services and the voluntary sector. Although NHS guidelines detail the desirable characteristics of a comprehensive low vision service, there is no standard model of delivery across the UK. However in Wales the National Assembly Government has funded the implementation of an all Wales Low Vision Service as part of the Welsh Eye Care Initiative. As a result access to low vision services is via a community practice and 319 low vision practitioners are registered with the Welsh Low Vision Service (**Indicator 22**).

Social exclusion

Many blind and partially sighted people face social exclusion, isolation and neglect. 44 per cent of blind and partially sighted people report that they feel “moderately” or “completely” cut off from people and things around them **(Indicator 23)**.

Isolation is a particularly high risk for blind and partially sighted older people. Evidence suggests that the more severe someone’s sight loss is, the higher the probability that they never leave their home. Almost half of people who report poor vision or blindness say that they “always” purposely limit the amount of walking they do outside the house **(Indicator 24)**. This compares to 12 per cent of people who report good or better vision who say that they always purposely limit the amount of walking they do outside the house.

Wellbeing

There is a link between sight loss and reduced psychological wellbeing, particularly for older people. Research indicates that around 35 per cent of older people with sight loss are also living with some form of depression **(Indicator 25)**.

Finance and benefits

45 per cent of working age blind and partially sighted people describe their financial situation as “just getting by” or worse **(Indicator 26)**.

Around 70,000 blind and partially sighted people are claiming Disability Living Allowance **(Indicator 27)**.

Around 57,000 blind and partially sighted pensioners are claiming Attendance Allowance **(Indicator 28)**. It should be noted that with regard to both DLA and Attendance Allowance, there may be other people with sight loss who are getting these benefits but are recorded as living with a different disability – for example learning disability or hearing impairment.

Housing

Registered blind and partially sighted people of working age are more likely to live in rented accommodation than the general population. Overall, 21 per cent are living in rented housing **(Indicator 29)**. In addition, blind and partially sighted people are more likely to be living in social housing, either renting from a housing association or a charitable trust.

An estimated 410,000 older people in the UK are living in either residential care or a nursing home **(Indicator 30)**. Most of this group are over the age of 85 and have additional disabilities: three-quarters have a “severe disability” and around two-thirds have dementia and around one-third have sight loss.

Education

There are an estimated 25,000 blind and partially sighted children and young people age 0–16 years in Britain; 22,000 of these live in England and are known to visual impairment education advisory services. Approximately 50 per cent have additional disabilities and/or other special educational needs.

Approximately 70 per cent of these children are educated in mainstream settings, with the remainder attending special schools. It is estimated that four per cent of these are educated in special schools designated for blind and partially sighted pupils.

At age 16, the gap in educational attainment between pupils with no special educational needs in obtaining five GCSEs and pupils with visual impairment as their only SEN is 21 per cent (**Indicator 31a**). For pupils with visual impairment and additional SEN the difference in educational attainment for 16 year olds is much more marked with a gap of 50 per cent (**Indicator 31b**). For pupils whose primary (main) SEN is a visual impairment the gap in attainment decreases to 10 per cent by age 19 (**Indicator 31c**).

There were 12,500 students in further education (FE) during 2008/09 recorded as having a visual impairment, 4,600 of whom were aged 16–18. Students with visual impairment are well represented within further education, making up 0.5 per cent of the FE student population (**Indicator 32**).

There were 3,500 students in higher education recorded as having a visual impairment in 2008/09 (**Indicator 33**).

Employment

People with sight problems are less likely to be in employment than the general population. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), 47 per cent of long term disabled people with a seeing difficulty are in employment (**Indicator 34a**). We also know from the Network 1000 study that only one-third of registered blind and partially sighted people of working age are in employment (**Indicator 34b**).

The two studies use different criteria for identifying people with sight problems. The LFS covers a wider range of sight loss than in the Network 1000 survey and includes people whose sight loss would not be eligible for registration, but which is still of sufficient severity to affect their everyday lives. The LFS is a quarterly government survey and is a key source of data for the Department of Work and Pensions.

5. Creating an inclusive society

Indicator	Result	Trend
35. Travel* – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who need help to get out of the house	60 per cent	–
36. Out and about – Percentage of registered blind and partially sighted people who would like to leave home more often	43 per cent	–
37. Shopping* – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who need help to go shopping	75 per cent	–
38. Money* – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who need help to manage their money	45 per cent	–
39. Written information – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who report having difficulties with identifying food and medicine labels	79 per cent	–
40. Reading – Percentage of books that are available in large print, unabridged audio and braille including titles available in these formats as eBooks	7 per cent	–
41. Television – Percentage of TV programmes that are broadcast with audio description	22.9 per cent	Up
42. AD awareness – Percentage of people with sight loss who are aware of audio description	58 per cent	Up
43. Computers* – Percentage of blind and partially sighted who use a computer a) 18–74 years b) 75 years and over	a) 78 per cent b) 12 per cent	–
44. Mobile phones* – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who use a mobile phone a) 18–74 years b) 75 years and over	a) 82 per cent b) 28 per cent	–

*Based on the results of interviews with 176 blind and partially sighted RNIB customers.

Travel

Independent travel is a challenge for blind and partially sighted people, and as a result many feel themselves to be trapped at home. In a survey of blind and partially sighted RNIB customers, 60 per cent reported that they needed help to get out of the house because of their sight loss **(Indicator 35)**.

Moreover, 43 per cent of registered blind and partially sighted people would like to leave home more often **(Indicator 36)**.

Shopping and money

Access to shops and shopping is also a major challenge for blind and partially sighted people. In a survey with RNIB customers, 75 per cent reported that they needed help to go shopping because of their sight loss **(Indicator 37)**.

In the same survey blind and partially sighted people were also asked about money and finance. 45 per cent said that they needed help to manage their money because of their sight loss **(Indicator 38)**.

In another study on financial inclusion, only 11 per cent of blind and partially sighted people said they could use a cash machine on their own.

Reading

Accessing written information is a challenge for many blind and partially sighted people. In a Guide Dogs survey, 79 per cent of participants reported having difficulties with identifying food and medicine labels **(Indicator 39)**.

Reading is also an important leisure activity for blind and partially sighted people. 77 per cent of Network 1000 participants said they read for leisure. However, only seven per cent of books are available in large print, unabridged audio and braille, including titles available in these formats as eBooks **(Indicator 40)**.

Television

87 per cent of Network 1000 participants identified watching TV or videos/DVDs as a leisure activity. Based on figures from Ofcom we estimate that 23 per cent of TV programmes are broadcast with audio description (AD) **(Indicator 41)**. This figure is based on channels that have audio description obligations, rather than across every available channel. Audio description is an additional commentary describing body language, expressions and movements, costumes, props and the background scene that you might not be able to see, so that you can keep up with the action.

Awareness of audio description has also increased. 58 per cent of people with sight loss are aware of audio description **(Indicator 42)**.

Technology

As in the general population, computer usage amongst blind and partially sighted people is linked to age. Findings from a survey with 176 people highlight that 78 per cent of blind and partially sighted people aged 18 to 74 use a computer **(Indicator 43a)**, compared to only 12 per cent of blind and partially sighted people aged 75 and over **(Indicator 43b)**.

Similarly, responses to the survey suggest that 82 per cent of blind and partially sighted people aged 18 to 74 used a mobile phone **(Indicator 44a)**, compared to only 28 per cent of those aged 75 and over **(Indicator 44b)**.

6. Global sight loss

Indicator	Result	Trend
45. Global sight loss – Number of people living with sight loss worldwide	285 million	Down

Worldwide there are around 285 million people living with a significant sight problem (**Indicator 45**). Around 39 million people are blind and 246 million have low vision.

Overall, sight loss worldwide has decreased in recent years. This is despite an aging global population. This decrease is principally the result of a reduction in visual impairment caused by infectious diseases through concerted public health action (WHO, 2011).

Around 90 per cent of global sight loss occurs in developing countries. In middle and low-income countries cataracts remain the leading cause of sight loss.

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Appendix B: Indicator sources

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
1. Sight loss – Number of people in the UK living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives	1.86 million (2010)	1.8 million (2008)	Up	UK	Access Economics (2009)
2. Registration – Number of people in the UK registered as blind or partially sighted	358,000 (England and Wales, 2011; Scotland, 2010)	368,000 (England, 2008; Wales, 2010; Scotland, 2009)	Down	UK	NHSIC (2011a) Scottish Government (2010) Welsh Government (2011a) Northern Ireland – estimated
3. Additional disabilities – Percentage of registered blind or partially sighted people who are also reported as having an additional disability	33 per cent (England, 2011; Scotland, 2010)	29 per cent (England, 2008; Scotland, 2009)	Up	England and Scotland	NHSIC (2011a) Scottish Government (2010)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
4. Older people – Number of people in the UK aged over 60	14.1 million (2010)	13.8 million (2009)	Up	UK	ONS (2011)
5. Later life – Number of people in the UK aged over 85	1.41 million (2010)	1.37 million (2009)	Up	UK	ONS (2011)
6. Children and young people – Number of children aged 0–25 who are blind or partially sighted	40,000 (2010)	38,000 (2009)	Up	UK	RNIB estimate based on prevalence rates from Morris and Smith (2008) and population estimates from ONS (2011)
7. Learning disabilities – Number of adults with a learning disability who are blind or partially sighted	96,500 (2009)	–	–	UK	Emerson and Robertson (2011)
8. Sight loss and dementia – Number of people living with both dementia and sight loss in the UK	123,000 (2010)	120,000 (2009)	Up	UK	RNIB estimate based on prevalence rates from Thomas Pocklington Trust (2007) and population estimates from ONS (2011)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
9. Healthcare costs – Total direct NHS expenditure on eye health	£2.50 billion (England, 2010/11; Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2009/10)	£2.26 billion (England, 2009/10; Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2008/09)	Up	UK	DH (2011a) ISD (2011a) Welsh Government (2011b) RNIB (2011)
10. Indirect costs – Total cost of unpaid care, reduced employment and other indirect costs on UK economy as a result of sight loss	£5.1 billion (2012)	£4.9 billion (2011)	Up	UK	Access Economics (2009)
11. Sight tests – Number of NHS sight tests per year	14.9 million (2010/11)	14.7 million (2009/10)	Up	UK	NHSIC (2011b) ISD (2011b) Welsh Government (2011c) HSCNI (2012)
12. Certification – Number of new Certificates of Vision Impairment issued in 2009/10	24,238 (2009/10)	25,510 (2008/09)	Down	England and Wales	RNIB (2012a)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
13. Outpatients – Number of NHS outpatient ophthalmology appointments	7.5 million (2010/11)	7.3 million (2009/10)	Up	UK	NHSIC (2011c) Welsh Government (2011d) ISD (2011c) DHSSPS (2011a)
14. Inpatients – Number of NHS ophthalmology inpatients and day cases	728,000 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2010/11; Scotland 2009/10)	710,000 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2009/10; Scotland 2008/09)	Up	UK	NHSIC (2011d) NHS Wales (2011a) ISD (2010a) DHSSPS (2011b)
15. Waiting times – Percentage of NHS ophthalmology referrals that require inpatient treatment not completed within the 18 weeks referral to treatment guidelines	8 per cent (2011)	–	–	England	DH (2012)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
16. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) – Expenditure on Lucentis injections	£129 million (2010)	£95 million (2009)	Up	England	NHSIC (2011e)
17. Diabetic retinopathy – Percentage of people with diabetes and offered screening who took part in the retinal screening programme	79 per cent (2010/11)	–	–	England and Scotland	NSC (2012) NHS Scotland (2011)
18. Cataract – Number of NHS cataract operations	400,000 (2010/11)	405,000 (2009/10)	Down	UK	NHSIC (2011f) NHS Wales (2011b) ISD (2010b) DHSSPS (2011c)
19. Glaucoma – Total spend on glaucoma prescriptions	£129 million (2010)	£124 million (2009)	Up	UK	NHSIC (2011g) NWIS (2011) ISD (2011d) HSCNI (2011)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
20. Early intervention – Number of hospitals that have some form of support in their eye clinics	199 (March 2012)	174 (May 2011)	Up	UK	RNIB (2012b)
21. Qualified support – Number of eye clinics with qualified Eye Clinic Liaison Officer support	106 (March 2012)	101 (May 2011)	Up	UK	RNIB (2012b)
22. Low vision – Number of low vision practitioners in Wales	319	–	–	Wales	Welsh Government (2011e)
23. Isolation – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who feel “moderately” or “completely” cut off from people and things around them.	44 per cent (2006)	–	–	UK	Pey, Nzegwu and Dooley (2006)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
24. Trapped – Percentage of people living with sight loss who “always” purposely limit the amount of walking they have to do outside the house	49 per cent (2005)	–	–	England	Gjonça and Nazroo (2005)
25. Well being – Percentage of older people living with sight loss who are also living with depression	35 per cent (2010)	–	–	UK	Hodge, Barr and Knox (2010)
26. Poverty – Percentage of working age blind and partially sighted people describe their financial situation as “just getting by” or worse	45 per cent (2006)	–	–	Britain	Douglas, Corcoran and Pavey (2006)
27. DLA – Number of blind and partially sighted people claiming Disability Living Allowance	69,800 (May 2011)	69,000 (November 2010)	Up	Britain	DWP (2012a)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
28. Attendance Allowance – Number of blind and partially sighted people claiming Attendance Allowance	56,900 (May 2011)	57,200 (November 2010)	Down	Britain	DWP (2012b)
29. Housing – Percentage of registered blind and partially sighted people living in rented accommodation	21 per cent (2006)	–	–	Britain	Douglas, Corcoran and Pavvey (2006)
30. Living in care – Number of older people who are living in residential care or nursing homes	410,000 (2010)	–	–	UK	Blood (2010)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
31. Educational attainment – Percentage gap in obtaining five GCSEs between pupils with no special educational needs and VI pupils with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) no additional SEN (age 16) b) additional SEN (age 16) c) VI as main SEN (age 19) 	a) 21 per cent b) 50 per cent c) 10 per cent (2008/09)	–	–	England	DfE (2010) Chanfreau and Cebulla (2009)
32. Further education – Number of students in Further Education who are known to have a visual impairment	12,500 (2008/09)	–	–	England	Hewett (2011a)
33. Higher education – Number of students in Higher Education who are known to have a visual impairment	3,500 (2008/09)	–	–	UK	HESA (2010)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
34. Employment – Percentage employment rate of people who are: a) “long term disabled with a seeing difficulty” b) registered blind or partially sighted	a) 47.1 per cent (2010) b) 33 per cent (2006)	52.2 per cent (2008) –	Down –	UK Britain	Hewett (2011b) Douglas, Corcoran and Pavey (2006)
35. Travel – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who need help to get out of the house	60 per cent (2011)	–	–	UK	RNIB (2012c)
36. Out and about – Percentage of registered blind and partially sighted people who would like to leave home more often	43 per cent (2006)	–	–	Britain	Douglas, Corcoran and Pavey (2006)
37. Shopping – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who need help to go shopping	75 per cent (2011)	–	–	UK	RNIB (2012c)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
38. Money – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who need help to manage their money	45 per cent (2011)	–	–	UK	RNIB (2012c)
39. Written information – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who identify having difficulties with identifying food and medicine labels	79 per cent (2006)	–	–	UK	Pey, Nzegwu and Dooley (2006)
40. Reading – Percentage of books that are available in large print, unabridged audio and braille including titles available in these formats as eBooks	7 per cent (2011)	–	–	UK	Kaye and Tipping (2011b)
41. Television – Percentage of TV programmes that are broadcast with audio description	22.9 per cent (2010)	19.1 per cent (2009)	Up	UK	RNIB estimate based on figures published by Ofcom (2011)

Appendix B: Indicator sources (cont)

Indicator	Sight loss UK 2012 estimate	Previous estimate	Trend	Area	Sources and notes
42. AD awareness – Percentage of people sight loss who are aware of audio description	58 per cent (2010)	39 per cent (2008)	Up	UK	RNIB (2010)
43. Computers – Percentage of blind and partially sighted who use a computer a) 18–74 years b) 75 years and over	a) 78 per cent b) 12 per cent (2011)	–	–	Britain	RNIB (2012c)
44. Mobile phones – Percentage of blind and partially sighted people who use a mobile phone a) 18–74 years b) 75 years and over	a) 82 per cent b) 28 per cent (2011)	–	–	Britain	RNIB (2012c)
45. Global sight loss – Number of people living with sight loss worldwide	285 million (2011)	314 million	Down	Global	WHO (2011)

Sight loss UK 2012 is an annual evidence review, based on 45 key indicators that show us what life is like for people with experience of sight loss, their carers and those at risk of sight loss.

This helpful data summary provides professionals working in the sight loss sector and policymakers with the latest evidence related to the lives of people with sight loss and clear information about the factors affecting people at risk of sight loss. The aim is to assist the strategic thinking across the sector and help us work together to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people and take the steps we need to prevent avoidable sight loss.

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