



# IMPACT & NEED REPORT 2021

**Our Mission:** To provide services and support that help blind and visually impaired individuals live productive, independent lives with confidence and dignity.

[www.lifebeyondsight.org](http://www.lifebeyondsight.org)



*Finding your way to a life beyond sight*

We're looking ahead to our next 60 years of life-changing service to Southeast Michigan. With expanded programming, we're taking a whole-person approach to sight loss, meeting each person where they are in their vision journey.



**GDABVI offers** daily living skills, technology training, orientation and mobility, support groups, case management for basic needs, information and resources, and opportunities to socialize for blind and visually impaired individuals.



**1 in 4** individuals reaching out to GDABVI are seeking help with basic needs.



GDABVI dedicated over **1,200 contact hours** to helping clients regain their independence through vision rehabilitation services in 2019.



**Our programs foster independence, safety, and overall well-being across the lifespan.**

Vision loss causes a substantial social and economic toll for millions of people including significant suffering, disability, loss of productivity, and diminished quality of life.

## VISION LOSS AMONG OUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COLLEAGUES IN SE MICHIGAN

Vision loss costs **over \$11,430 per person** each year in terms of medical care, supportive services, and productivity.

Number of people with **potentially blinding eye diseases** (approx. 1 in 4)  
**1,159,317**

**Overall number of people**  
Who are blind: **15,259**  
With any vision loss: **92,634**

**Individuals 55 and over**  
Who are blind: **12,262**  
With any vision loss: **63,949**

**Children (0-17)**  
Who are blind: **541**  
With any vision loss: **7,260**



## THE NATIONAL IMPACT OF VISION LOSS & IMPAIRMENT

The annual **economic impact** of major vision problems among the adult population 40 years and older is **more than \$145 billion**.

The **major causes of vision loss** are cataracts, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma.

Scientific evidence shows that **early detection and treatment can prevent** many cases of blindness and vision impairment.

**Anxiety or depression affects 1 in 4 adults** with vision loss. For younger adults with vision loss, the risk is nearly 5 times higher than in adults 65 and older.

**Addressing social determinants** such as income, education, food insecurity, and access to care can **help us reach vision health equity**.

Sources: 1. Vision & Eye Health Surveillance System (VEHSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vision Health Initiative. <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/vehss/project/index.html>. "Any vision loss" is defined as 20/40 and blindness as 20/200. 2. Vision Loss Economics Explorer. <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/economics/overview-definitions.html> 3. Social Determinants of Health, Health Equity, and Vision Loss. <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/determinants/index.html>. 4. <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/resources/features/vision-loss-mental-health.html>. Map courtesy Wayne State University.