

Vision 2020: A Quick Look at Eye Health Among Adults 50-Plus

February 2020

Methods

- SSRS Telephone Omnibus (Insert = 4 minutes)
- RDD landline and cell phones (40/60% split)
- Conducted in English and Spanish
- General adult population, age 50+ (100% incidence)
- N=550

Vendor

AUS Marketing Research Systems, Inc. conducted this survey on behalf of AARP.

For further information, please visit their website: <http://ausinc.com/ssrs/>

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Questionnaire

Importance of Vision and Ocular Health

1. In your opinion, how important of a concern is vision or ocular health to...?

	An extremely Important concern	A very important concern	A somewhat important concern	Not a very important concern	Not a concern at all
The US population in general	16%	53%	21%	3%	7%
People aged 50 or older	27%	55%	12%	2%	3%
Your close family	22%	56%	14%	2%	4%
You personally	33%	50%	10%	3%	4%

2. As you get older, how important is maintaining your vision to the quality of your life? [Is that extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?]

Extremely important	53%
Very important	38%
Somewhat important	6%
Not very important	1%
Not at all important	1%

3. Now, I'd like to ask you a series of statements about ocular (eye) health. For each one, please say to what extent you agree or disagree with it. [Is that strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?]

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree
You are concerned about eye health conditions you may experience as	64%	28%
You feel confident that you know the right questions to ask a healthcare professional about eye health conditions you may experience as you	51%	36%
You are interested in learning more about eye health conditions you may experience as you age	46%	35%
You are aware that a wide variety of eye conditions can be identified through a dilated eye exam	56%	29%

You are aware that a wide variety of health conditions that are not necessarily related to you vision can be identified through a dilated eye exam	44%	35%
You are aware that you may be able to prevent or prolong certain types of age-related vision loss or blindness if you have a comprehensive	58%	28%
You clearly understand the difference between an optician, optometrist and ophthalmologist	49%	27%

	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
You are concerned about eye health conditions you may experience as you age	3%	3%	2%
You feel confident that you know the right questions to ask a healthcare professional about eye health conditions you may	4%	5%	2%
You are interested in learning more about eye health conditions you may experience as you age	9%	5%	4%
You are aware that a wide variety of eye conditions can be identified through a dilated eye exam	6%	3%	4%
You are aware that a wide variety of health conditions that are not necessarily related to you vision can be identified through a dilated eye exam	8%	6%	5%
You are aware that you may be able to prevent or prolong certain types of age-related vision loss or blindness if you have a comprehensive dilated eye exam	5%	4%	3%
You clearly understand the difference between an optician, optometrist and ophthalmologist	6%	9%	5%

Health Behaviors: A Focus on Vision

4. When was the last time you had an eye exam? (READ LIST).

Within the past year (skip to Q6)	61%
1-2 years ago (skip to Q6)	23%
3-5 years ago (skip to Q6)	11%
Over five years ago (skip to Q6)	3%
I have never had an eye exam	2%

5. [If Q4=Never had an eye exam] You said you've never had an eye exam. Why is that?
(CAUTION: SMALL n=11).

My insurance doesn't cover it	30%
I just never get around to it	31%
I've never had a problem with my eyes or vision	6%
I don't need it	21%
Some other reason	6%
Don't know	18%

6. When was the last time you had a dilated eye exam, where an eye health professional uses eye drops to dilate your eyes? (READ LIST)

Within the past year (skip to Q8)	51%
1-2 years ago (skip to Q8)	21%
3-5 years ago (skip to Q8)	12%
Over five years ago (skip to Q8)	5%
I have never had a dilated eye exam	9%

7. [If Q6=Never had a dilated eye exam] You said you've never had a dilated eye exam? Why is that? **CAUTION: SMALL n=50**

My eye health professional hasn't recommended it	23%
My insurance doesn't cover it	14%
I can't afford it	9%
I don't know what the purpose is	19%
I've never had a problem with my eyes or vision	24%
I don't need it	25%
It's hard to get to an eye doctor	7%
I don't want to be unable to read, work on a computer, etc...while my eyes are dilated	5%
Some other reason	15%
Don't know	5%

8. I'm going to read you a short list of issues that you might be experiencing with your vision (or have experienced in the past). For each one, please tell me whether you have ever experienced it. (Scramble Rotate)

Difficulty seeing at night	45%
Blurry vision	49%
Difficulty reading up close	55%
Flashes of light	27%
Red, watery eyes	39%
Double vision	15%
NO to all	17%

9. Now, I'm going to read you a list of potential health challenges. After reading the list to you, I'd like you to tell me which one you fear MOST (READ LIST).

Loss of vision	20%
Loss of hearing	2%
Loss of an arm or arm function	2%
Loss of a leg or leg function	4%
Loss of motor function	4%
Loss of the ability to speak clearly	2%
Dementia or Alzheimer's disease	35%
A heart attack or stroke	26%
Don't know	2%

10. There are five senses—hearing, vision or sight, touch, taste, and smell. Which one of these five senses—if you lost it—do you think would have the greatest impact on your independence?

Hearing	8%
Sight/ vision	83%
Touch	3%
Smell	1%
Taste	3%

11. There are a number of health conditions of the eye that may happen to individuals as they age. For each one of these conditions, please tell me how familiar you are with it. [Is that extremely familiar, very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar?] [ROTATE LIST]

	Extremely familiar	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not very familiar	Not at all familiar
Presbyopia	10%	27%	30%	13%	20%
Floaters	13%	24%	30%	12%	21%
Dry Eyes	12%	35%	32%	9%	12%
Cataracts	20%	40%	27%	6%	7%
Glaucoma	12%	32%	33%	10%	12%
Retinal disorders	5%	16%	31%	22%	25%
Conjunctivitis	13%	35%	29%	8%	14%
Corneal disease	7%	12%	28%	24%	29%
Temporal arteritis	4%	8%	17%	25%	46%
Macular degeneration	9%	21%	30%	18%	22%

12. [If Q11= familiar] I'd like you to consider the same list of health conditions that we just discussed and tell me which ones—if any—you have discussed with an optometrist, ophthalmologist or other health care professional? [READ LIST] Have you ever discussed...with an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or other health care professional?

Presbyopia (n=441)	22%
Floater (n=436)	47%
Dry Eyes (n=483)	51%
Cataracts (n=513)	64%
Glaucoma (n=480)	51%
Retinal disorders (n=408)	30%
Conjunctivitis (n=467)	38%
Corneal disease (n=391)	28%
Temporal arteritis (n=295)	19%
Macular degeneration (n=428)	34%

Information-Seeking Behavior

13. Which of the following statements best describes how often you research/ look into issues related to your general health? [Please select one.]

I research/look for health information only when it is necessary	43%
I try to stay up-to-date by researching/ looking up health information on a regular	31%
I do not research/ look up health information	26%

14. Which of the following statements best describes how often you research/ look into issues related specifically to the health of your eyes? [Please select one.]

I research/look for health information only when it is necessary	47%
I try to stay up-to-date by researching/ looking up health information on a regular	19%
I do not research/ look up health information	33%

15. If there were a non-invasive, tech-related solution (e.g., a device that you wear, clothing, apps, etc...) that could relieve or minimize visual difficulties, how interested would you be in learning more about such a product? [Is that extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?]

Extremely interested	12%
Very interested	23%
Somewhat interested	37%
Not too interested	10%
Not at all interested	16%

Methodology

SSRS conducted telephone interviews for AARP among a nationally representative sample of 550 adults age 50 and older. Interviews were conducted from January 17 – 19, 2020. Random Digit Dialing (RDD) was used for both landlines and cell phones. The data were weighted by age, race, sex, region, education, and marital status to reflect national population estimates for adults age 50+. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-4.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The design effect is 1.34. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com.