**News Release**

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**Ophthalmologists Encourage Making Your Eyes Part of a Healthy Aging Strategy**

*Nearly two-thirds of American adults report eye or vision problems, but only one in eight have been examined by a medical doctor*

<INSERT CITY, STATE>– [INSERT DATE] – According to a national survey released by the [American Academy of Ophthalmology](http://www.aao.org/), nearly two out of three American adults report having eye or vision problems. A significant percentage of them, however, fail to seek medical attention in the form of regular, sight-saving eye exams. In observance of Healthy Aging Month in September, the [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] joins the American Academy of Ophthalmology in emphasizing the importance of having regular eye exams to maintain healthy eyes and vision.

Some of the more common age-related eye diseases include [age-related macular degeneration](http://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/amd-macular-degeneration), cataract, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Early detection and treatment of these conditions can help to save sight before vision loss occurs [[1]](#endnote-1). Ophthalmologists – the physicians that specialize in medical and surgical eye care – recommend a [dilated comprehensive eye exam](http://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/eye-exams-101) as the best way to prevent these conditions from becoming debilitating.

**U.S. Adults Do Not Get Eye Exams as Often as Recommended**The survey results emphasize a need for more education about the importance of medical eye exams. Findings showed that 64 percent of adults had at least one or more of the following issues with their eyes or vision:

* difficulty seeing at night;
* blurry vision;
* reading up close;
* flashes of light;
* red, watery eyes; and,
* double vision.

Despite experiencing some level of impairment, only 13 percent admitted they had been seen by an ophthalmologist.

[INSERT YOUR SPOKESPERSON’S QUOTE HERE]

**How Often Do Adults Need Eye Exams?**The Academy recommends that a healthy adult get a baseline eye exam at age 40, even if they have no history of eye problems or eye disease. Those who have chronic conditions, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, may require more frequent exams.

Those over age 65 who may be concerned about cost or lack of health insurance, the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s [EyeCare America](http://www.eyecareamerica.org) program offers eligible seniors a comprehensive eye exam and up to one year of treatment at no out-of-pocket cost.

For more information on eye disease and conditions, visit the Academy’s [EyeSmart® website](http://www.aao.org/eye-health/). To interview ophthalmologists or patients who can speak to the importance of eye exams, please contact the Academy’s Public Relations Department at media@aao.org.

About [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME]
[INSERT ORGANIZATION INFO]

**About the Survey**

The survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Poll on behalf of American Academy of Ophthalmology Feb. 1-3, 2016 among 2,048 adults ages 18 and older. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no estimate of theoretical sampling error can be calculated. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables, please contact media@aao.org.

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1. <https://nei.nih.gov/healthyeyes/aging_eye> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)