

Table 50 (page 1 of 2). Vision limitations among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2012

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, more data years, and standard errors: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2013.htm#050>.

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

| Characteristic | Any trouble seeing, even with glasses or contacts ¹ | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | Percent of adults | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 years and over, age-adjusted ^{2,3} | 10.0 | 9.0 | 9.2 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 10.9 | 8.3 | 9.1 | 8.8 | 8.4 |
| 18 years and over, crude ³ | 9.8 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 8.6 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 8.8 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18–44 years | 6.2 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 5.3 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| 18–24 years | 5.4 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 6.9 | 7.8 | 4.8 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| 25–44 years | 6.5 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| 45–64 years | 12.0 | 10.7 | 11.2 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 13.8 | 10.8 | 11.6 | 12.0 | 11.3 |
| 45–54 years | 12.2 | 10.9 | 11.0 | 11.7 | 12.3 | 13.3 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 11.7 | 11.2 |
| 55–64 years | 11.6 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 12.7 | 12.1 | 14.4 | 11.2 | 12.7 | 12.4 | 11.5 |
| 65 years and over | 18.1 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 15.3 | 17.5 | 13.1 | 13.9 | 13.6 | 12.7 |
| 65–74 years | 14.2 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 13.6 | 12.9 | 14.3 | 10.3 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 11.0 |
| 75 years and over | 23.1 | 21.9 | 22.0 | 21.7 | 17.9 | 21.1 | 16.5 | 16.1 | 15.2 | 14.9 |
| Sex ² | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 8.8 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.3 | 7.2 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.1 |
| Female | 11.1 | 10.1 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 11.2 | 12.5 | 9.3 | 10.3 | 10.1 | 9.7 |
| Sex and age | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18–44 years | 5.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| 45–54 years | 10.1 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 11.3 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 10.4 | 9.3 |
| 55–64 years | 10.5 | 9.5 | 10.5 | 11.3 | 10.0 | 11.9 | 9.7 | 10.7 | 11.8 | 9.8 |
| 65–74 years | 13.2 | 12.8 | 11.4 | 11.9 | 11.4 | 11.3 | 9.3 | 10.5 | 9.7 | 9.9 |
| 75 years and over | 21.4 | 20.7 | 20.4 | 21.8 | 17.2 | 19.8 | 15.1 | 15.7 | 14.9 | 12.8 |
| Female: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18–44 years | 7.1 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 6.2 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 6.4 |
| 45–54 years | 14.2 | 12.8 | 13.2 | 12.8 | 13.9 | 15.2 | 11.9 | 12.3 | 13.0 | 12.9 |
| 55–64 years | 12.6 | 11.5 | 12.4 | 14.0 | 14.2 | 16.7 | 12.6 | 14.6 | 13.0 | 13.1 |
| 65–74 years | 15.0 | 14.4 | 14.8 | 15.1 | 14.2 | 16.9 | 11.2 | 13.6 | 14.5 | 11.9 |
| 75 years and over | 24.2 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 21.7 | 18.4 | 22.0 | 17.4 | 16.4 | 15.4 | 16.4 |
| Race ^{2,4} | | | | | | | | | | |
| White only | 9.7 | 8.8 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 9.9 | 10.9 | 8.1 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.4 |
| Black or African American only | 12.8 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 11.7 | 10.4 | 12.1 | 10.8 | 9.2 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native only | 19.2 | 16.6 | *14.9 | *16.7 | 18.0 | 14.2 | *12.3 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 13.0 |
| Asian only | 6.2 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 7.0 | 5.7 | 8.9 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 5.7 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only | --- | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| 2 or more races | --- | 16.2 | 16.4 | 15.5 | 16.9 | 16.1 | 14.8 | 13.1 | 12.4 | 15.6 |
| Hispanic origin and race ^{2,4} | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 10.0 | 9.7 | 9.6 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 8.7 | 9.2 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| Mexican | 10.2 | 8.3 | 9.9 | 11.1 | 10.1 | 10.4 | 8.7 | 9.0 | 10.4 | 9.3 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 10.0 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.5 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 8.3 | 9.2 | 8.8 | 8.4 |
| White only | 9.8 | 8.9 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 10.1 | 11.1 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.4 |
| Black or African American only | 12.8 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 10.6 | 11.7 | 10.5 | 12.2 | 10.7 | 9.3 |
| Education ^{5,6} | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 years of age and over: | | | | | | | | | | |
| No high school diploma or GED | 15.0 | 12.2 | 13.5 | 12.9 | 13.4 | 15.9 | 12.6 | 14.1 | 13.9 | 12.9 |
| High school diploma or GED | 10.6 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 9.3 |
| Some college or more | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 10.4 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.9 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 50 (page 2 of 2). Vision limitations among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2012

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, more data years, and standard errors: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2013.htm#050>.

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

| Characteristic | Any trouble seeing, even with glasses or contacts ¹ | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1997 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Percent of poverty level ^{2,7} | | | | | Percent of adults | | | | | |
| Below 100% | 17.0 | 12.9 | 15.3 | 14.2 | 15.0 | 16.7 | 14.3 | 14.8 | 14.2 | 13.7 |
| 100%–199% | 12.9 | 11.6 | 11.5 | 12.2 | 13.0 | 14.2 | 11.1 | 12.2 | 11.5 | 10.9 |
| 200%–399% | 9.1 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 11.3 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 8.7 | 7.9 |
| 400% or more | 7.3 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 5.7 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 6.1 |
| Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{2,4,7} | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Below 100% | 12.8 | 11.0 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 13.4 | 12.9 | 12.2 | 10.8 | 13.9 | 13.1 |
| 100%–199% | 11.2 | 9.4 | 8.8 | 9.8 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 8.1 | 10.8 | 9.6 | 10.0 |
| 200%–399% | 8.1 | 9.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 8.3 | 6.8 |
| 400% or more | *8.1 | 10.5 | 8.0 | *7.5 | 10.6 | 7.5 | *4.6 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 7.8 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino: | | | | | | | | | | |
| White only: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Below 100% | 17.9 | 13.1 | 16.2 | 14.9 | 16.3 | 19.5 | 13.4 | 16.8 | 14.4 | 14.5 |
| 100%–199% | 13.1 | 12.0 | 12.7 | 13.4 | 14.2 | 15.6 | 12.1 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 11.7 |
| 200%–399% | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 10.3 | 11.5 | 8.3 | 8.8 | 9.0 | 8.5 |
| 400% or more | 7.3 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 5.8 | 6.7 | 5.9 | 6.0 |
| Black or African American only: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Below 100% | 17.9 | 13.6 | 16.0 | 14.1 | 15.1 | 16.9 | 17.8 | 15.8 | 15.5 | 13.7 |
| 100%–199% | 16.0 | 12.9 | 11.3 | 10.9 | 14.0 | 14.5 | 11.7 | 14.9 | 12.3 | 11.3 |
| 200%–399% | 9.3 | 7.7 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 7.3 | 9.8 | 8.1 | 12.0 | 8.5 | 6.8 |
| 400% or more | 7.7 | 8.3 | 6.4 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 7.4 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 8.6 | 6.4 |
| Geographic region ² | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 8.6 | 7.4 | 8.1 | 7.3 | 8.1 | 9.3 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 6.4 |
| Midwest | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 10.4 | 10.3 | 10.7 | 8.2 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| South | 11.4 | 9.2 | 9.8 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 12.4 | 8.7 | 10.6 | 9.4 | 9.1 |
| West | 9.7 | 9.9 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 10.2 | 8.6 | 8.0 | 9.1 | 8.9 |
| Location of residence ² | | | | | | | | | | |
| Within MSA ⁸ | 9.5 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 9.6 | 10.6 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.2 |
| Outside MSA ⁸ | 12.0 | 11.1 | 11.7 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 12.5 | 9.0 | 11.6 | 10.3 | 9.8 |

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error (RSE) of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%.

--- Data not available.

¹ Respondents were asked, “Do you have any trouble seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses?” Respondents were also asked, “Are you blind or unable to see at all?” In this analysis, any trouble seeing and blind are combined into one category.

² Estimates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 18–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

³ Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown education level.

⁴ The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single-race categories plus multiple-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards with four racial groups, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin. See [Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race](#).

⁵ Estimates are for persons aged 25 and over and are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 25–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

⁶ GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. See [Appendix II, Education](#).

⁷ Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data were imputed for 1997 and beyond. See [Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VI](#).

⁸ MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2006 data, MSA status is determined using 2000 census data and the 2000 standards for defining MSAs. For data prior to 2006, see [Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area \(MSA\)](#) for the applicable standards.

NOTES: Standard errors are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire. See [Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#).