



## **How common is sight loss? How does sight loss affect people's lives?**

A number of sight loss sector organisations have assessed and agreed a series of key facts for everyone to use. The way they are worded should not be altered in any way: doing so may make them wrong.

Please contact [research@rnib.org.uk](mailto:research@rnib.org.uk) if you have any questions about the statistics used here.



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# Key facts about sight loss

- 1.** There are almost two million people in the UK living with sight loss. This figure includes those that have uncorrected refractive error or cataract that may be reversed. This figure also includes around 360,000 people registered as blind or partially sighted in the UK, who have severe and irreversible sight loss.
- 2.** Sight loss affects people of all ages but especially older people: 1 in 5 people aged 75 and 1 in 2 aged 90 and over are living with sight loss.
- 3.** There are almost 25,000 blind and partially sighted children in Britain. That is equal to 2 in 1,000 children. As many as half of these children may have other disabilities.
- 4.** There is a link between sight loss and reduced wellbeing. Over one-third of older people with sight loss are also living with depression.
- 5.** Two-thirds of registered blind and partially sighted people of working age are not in paid employment.
- 6.** The number of people in the UK with sight loss is set to increase in line with population ageing: by 2050 the number of people with sight loss in the UK could be nearly four million.

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**Sources:** **1, 2 and 6:** Access Economics (2009) Future Sight Loss 1; **1:** RNIB (2012) Sight loss UK 2012; **3:** Morris and Smith (2008) Educational provision; **4:** Hodge, Barr and Knox (2010) Evaluation of emotional support; **5:** Douglas et al (2006) Network 1000