

Prevent Blindness Texas provides resources for November's Diabetes-related eye disease awareness month

Vision nonprofit provides videos, fact sheets, social media graphics, and presentations to educate public on the effects Diabetes may have on vision.

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-- A recent study, "Prevalence of Diabetic Retinopathy in the US in 2021," estimated that more than 26 percent of people with diabetes had diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic

retinopathy, the most common form of diabetes-related eye disease, is the leading cause of blindness in adults age 20–74, according to the National Eye Institute.



Prevent Blindness Texas

Our Vision Is Vision.

Prevent Blindness Texas has a mission to prevent blindness and preserve sight.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that approximately 37.3 million people have diabetes, and 96 million people aged 18 years or older have prediabetes. And, new CDC research shows that diagnosed cases of type 1 and type 2 diabetes are increasing significantly among youth in the United States. From 2001 to 2017, the number of people under age 20 living with type 1 diabetes increased by 45 percent, and the number living with type 2 diabetes grew by 95 percent. The longer a person has diabetes, the greater the risk for diabetes-related eye disease.

[Prevent Blindness Texas](#) has declared November as Diabetes-related Eye Disease Awareness Month, providing the public with a variety of helpful tools to prevent unnecessary vision loss from diabetes. The group offers the following at no cost:

Focus on Eye Health Expert Series- Prevent Blindness and Prevent Blindness Texas have two episodes in its Focus on Eye Health Expert Series dedicated to diabetes and vision: Kristen Nwanyanwu, MD, MBA, MHS, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Yale School of Medicine, discusses "Health Disparities and Diabetes-related Eye Disease," and Neil M. Bressler, MD, professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Editor in Chief of JAMA Ophthalmology, is featured in "Diabetes and Your Eyes." Diabetes + The Eyes Educational Toolkit- Available in English and Spanish, this resource includes

Power Point presentations, shareable social media graphics and a dedicated webpage. The Diabetes + The Eyes program, is supported by funding from Regeneron.

Diabetes + The Eyes: Vision Health in Youth Fact Sheet- This new resource provides detailed information on what parents and care partners need to know to help youth with diabetes protect their eye health. This fact sheet was developed with support from UnitedHealthcare. (A Spanish version will be available soon.)

Prevent Blindness and the Focus on Diabetes™ video series- This comprehensive series includes a variety of educational videos designed for consumer audiences. Focus on Diabetes is an eye health initiative of the American Diabetes Association®.

- The Patient Perspective: Diabetes-related Eye Disease
- Diabetes and Your Eyes ABCs
- Newly Diagnosed with Diabetes: What you need to know about your eyes
- Introduction to the Diabetes + the Eyes Educational Toolkit

The Gr8 Eye Movement- Prevent Blindness recently collaborated with award-winning actress, dancer and director Debbie Allen and Regeneron for the Gr8 Eye Movement, a new disease awareness campaign that aims to address gaps in how people understand the risk of developing certain serious retinal diseases, including diabetes-related macular edema and diabetes-related retinopathy. Information may be found at: Gr8EyeMovement.com.

Diabetes-related Vision Loss and Mental Wellness- Many people who have vision loss or blindness as a result of diabetes also experience a significant, negative impact on their mental health. Prevent Blindness and Prevent Blindness Texas offer the Diabetes, Vision Loss, and Mental Wellness video, and the Diabetes-related Eye Disease and Mental Health fact sheet, available in English and Spanish (supported by funding from Regeneron and VSP Vision).

Vision Integration Library- The Center for Vision and Population Health at Prevent Blindness offers the free “Vision Integration Library: Vision and Eye Health Resource Center at Prevent Blindness.” The comprehensive database with updated resources includes listings of vision health programs and resources specifically intended for those in public health, healthcare, and community service providers.

“We know that the number of people at risk for vision loss and blindness from diabetes continues to climb,” said Heather Patrick, President and CEO of Prevent Blindness Texas. “The time is now to take the necessary steps to help those with diabetes, and those at risk for developing diabetes, avoid significant vision impairment by providing educational resources and promoting access to affordable eyecare.”

For more information on the “Diabetes + The Eyes” program, please visit <https://preventblindness.org/diabetes-and-the-eyes-educational-toolkit/>. For general diabetes-related eye disease information, visit <http://preventblindness.org/diabetes> or

<https://preventblindness.org/juvenile-diabetes-and-your-eyes/>, or contact Prevent Blindness Texas at 1-888-98-SIGHT or www.preventblindnesstexas.org.

For a free listing of organizations and services that provide financial assistance for vision care in English or Spanish, please visit <https://preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/>.

About Prevent Blindness Texas

Established in 1956 and incorporated in 1965, Prevent Blindness Texas is the state's leading eye health and safety nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. At Prevent Blindness Texas, our vision is vision – making healthy eyes a priority in Texas. We focus on improving the state's vision and eye health by enhancing community capacity through our core competencies of early detection, patient support, systems enhancement, public policy, public awareness, and health education. Prevent Blindness Texas touches the lives of thousands of Texans through our sight-saving programs and services through our network of volunteers and offices located statewide. For more information, or to contribute to the sight-saving fund, call 1-888-98-SIGHT or, visit us on the Web at www.preventblindnesstexas.org, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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