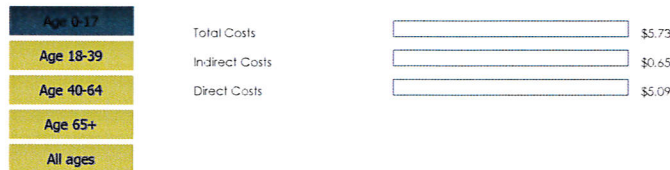




Economic Burden by Age

We estimated costs by four age groups: children aged 0-17 and adults aged 18-39, 40-64, and 65 and older. A majority of costs (55%) are incurred by the 65 and older age group. Children constitute 4% of total costs; while adults aged 18-39 and 40-64 accrue 16% and 24% of total costs, respectively.

Figure 1 Direct and Indirect Costs by Age Group in \$ billions



Costs	Age 0-17	Age 18-39	Age 40-64	Age 65+	All ages
Direct Costs	\$5.09	\$9.09	\$22.25	\$30.33	\$66.75
Indirect Costs	\$0.65	\$13.08	\$11.55	\$46.94	\$72.22
Total Costs	\$5.73	\$22.16	\$33.8	\$77.28	\$138.97

Burden by Cost Category and Age Group

We estimated the total economic burden of eye disorders among the total U.S. population to be \$138 billion per year in 2013 dollars (Table 15.1). Diagnosed disorders, including costs for optometry visits, total \$48.8 billion. Medical vision aids including glasses and contact lenses cost \$13.2 billion. Medical costs attributable to undiagnosed vision loss are \$3 billion. All other direct costs total \$1.7 billion, with the largest components consisting of the cost of special education and school screening (\$770 million) followed by the cost of non-medical assistive devices (\$750 million). Federal assistance programs add \$207 million. Indirect costs, including productivity losses (\$48.4 billion), informal care (\$2 billion), long-term care (20.2 billion) and deadweight loss from transfer payments (\$1.5 billion), total \$72.2 billion.

Table 15.1. Economic burden estimates by cost category and age group, in \$ millions

Cost Category	Age Group				
	0-17	18-39	40-64	65+	All Ages
Direct Costs					
Diagnosed Disorders	2,844	5,067	14,218	26,640	48,769
Medical Vision Aids	1,480	3,335	6,222	2,199	13,236
Undiagnosed Vision Loss	48	474	1,702	798	3,022
Aids/Devices	38	77	81	553	749
Education/School Screening	651	119	0	0	769
Assistance Programs	25	13	23	145	207
Total Direct Costs	5,086	9,086	22,246	30,335	66,752
Indirect Costs					
Productivity Loss	0	12,978	10,828	24,622	48,427
Informal Care	601	0	187	1,264	2,052
Long-term Care	0	0	0	20,248	20,248
Entitlement Programs*	0.5	165	279	1,782	2,226
Tax Deduction*	0	6	11	10	28
Transfer Deadweight Loss	47	98	538	808	1,490
Total Indirect Costs	648	13,075	11,553	46,941	72,217
Total Costs	5,734	22,161	33,799	77,276	138,970

*Not included in Total Costs

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Prevalence

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- The Role of Federal Government in the Public's Vision and Eye Health

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