

Key Data on Working-Age Adults with Vision Loss in Wisconsin

The information in this document was extracted from the Big Data Report on Working Age Adults with Vision Loss in Wisconsin, prepared by the VanNasdale Group and published by the VisionServe Alliance in 2024.

The briefing was created to help policy makers and service providers better understand the characteristics and circumstances of working-age adults with vision loss as they make critical budget, policy and operational decisions that impact the well-being of this population.

OVERVIEW

- Around 91,700 working age adults ages 18-64 years old in Wisconsin have some form of serious vision loss.
- 48.6% of working age adults with blindness or low vision are currently working, compared to 73.9% of working age adults without vision loss.
- 40.6% of working age adults with vision loss report that they are unable to work, compared to 5.6% of other working age adults.

- 72.5% of working age adults who are blind or low vision earn less than \$35,000 a year, compared to 25% of working age adults without vision loss.
- 21.1% of working age adults with vision loss did not graduate high school, compared to 8.1% of other working age adults.

VISION LOSS AND HEALTH

- 52.7% of working age adults with vision loss report having fair or poor health, compared to 12.8% of working age adults without vision loss.
- 39% of working age adults who are blind or visually impaired report their physical health was “not good” for at least two weeks over the past 30 days, compared to 10% of working age adults without vision loss.
- 48.1% of working age adults with vision loss report their mental health was “not good” for at least two weeks over the past 30 days, compared to 14.1% of other working age adults.
- Working age adults with vision loss who say they are unable to work have significantly higher rates of hearing loss, diabetes, depression, kidney disease and strokes compared to those who are working.

We encourage advocates to incorporate this data into their communication with policymakers and with other organizations to build their awareness of this population’s needs.