

Promoting Independence

(NAPSA)—With the population aging, vision loss is becoming a major public health concern. More than 14 million Americans have low vision, a visual impairment that cannot be corrected with standard glasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery. They have difficulty recognizing faces and performing everyday tasks.



Adaptive devices such as video magnifiers can help people with low vision.

Age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and cataract are the leading causes of visual impairment in people over the age of 65.

Most people are not aware that numerous vision rehabilitation services are available to help them maximize their remaining vision, travel safely, take care of their home, meet career objectives and enjoy leisure activities.

People with low vision should talk to their eye care professionals about making the most of remaining vision. People at risk for low vision should have regular dilated eye exams, as early detection may prevent further vision loss.

For more information, visit the National Eye Institute (NEI) Web site, www.nei.nih.gov/lowvision/. The NEI is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.