

LOCAL

How many people in Brevard are diagnosed with vision loss each year?

Brevard Association for the Advancement of the Blind offers free resources, courses on navigating life without sight



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Key Points

- Vision loss can be caused by a variety of things— from genetics to accidents and more.
- Top causes of blindness include diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.
- BAAB and other resources are available to guide the newly diagnosed.

While exact figures aren't available for the number of people impacted by vision loss in Brevard County, the Brevard Association for the Advancement of the Blind (BAAB) estimates more than 8,200 people are diagnosed with some type of vision loss each year.

Kara Davis, operations manager, said there aren't specific numbers about the visually impaired in Brevard. There's an estimate of the impact locally, based on national data and our local population figures. This helps determine how many of these new cases are diagnosed in Brevard County per year.

Local figures are determined by looking at national data percentages, then taking Brevard's local population of 630,000 residents to determine estimates. National risk figure percentages help determine the estimate.

More: Health concerns in Brevard? Now's your chance to bring up what matters to you.

There are a variety of reasons for vision loss – from genetics to an accident to a pre-existing health condition like diabetes. Here's how Space Coast numbers break down:

- **Age-related macular degeneration (AMD):** 1,184
- **Diabetic retinopathy:** 1,919
- **Vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy cases:** 368
- **Estimated annual new cases of diabetic retinopathy:** 1,985
- **Estimated annual new cases of vision-threatening diabetic retinopathy:** 397
- **Glaucoma:** 630
- **Stroke-related vision loss:** 454
- **Retinal detachment:** 63
- **Optic neuropathy:** 228
- **Uveitis:** 239
- **Traumatic brain injury vision problems:** 800
- **Total:** 8,267

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For further information on resources available to the visually impaired in Brevard County, visit BAABhelpfortheblind.org.

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