

## Healthy Vision Month — May 2019

May is Healthy Vision Month, an annual observance dedicated to making vision and eye health a national priority. During this month, CDC's Vision Health Initiative (VHI) in the Division of Diabetes Translation joins with the National Eye Institute's National Eye Health Education Program to educate the public about preventing vision loss and promoting eye health. Almost 3.22 million U.S. persons are affected by vision impairment, which can be associated with social isolation, disability, and decreased quality of life (<https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/risk/burden.htm>).

In this issue of *MMWR*, VHI staff members report findings from their study examining the association of vision impairment and functional limitations related to subjective cognitive decline (SCD), defined as the experience of worsening or more frequent confusion or memory loss (1). Analysis of data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey for the years 2015–2017 indicated that persons with vision impairment were 3.5 times more likely to report functional limitations related to SCD than were those with no vision impairment.

With the number of U.S. adults with vision impairment projected to double in the next 30 years (2), understanding the impact of comorbid vision and SCD on functioning is just one of many important public health concerns related to vision loss. For information on topics related to vision and eye health, including common eye disorders, prevention, and related state and community programs, please visit the VHI web page (<https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth>).

### References

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2. Chan T, Friedman DS, Bradley C, Massof R. Estimates of incidence and prevalence of visual impairment, low vision, and blindness in the United States. *JAMA Ophthalmol* 2018;136:12–9. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2017.4655>

## Vision Impairment and Subjective Cognitive Decline–Related Functional Limitations — United States, 2015–2017

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Vision impairment affects approximately 3.22 million persons in the United States and is associated with social isolation, disability, and decreased quality of life (1). Cognitive decline is more common in adults with vision impairment (2,3). Subjective cognitive decline (SCD), which is the self-reported experience of worsening or more frequent confusion or memory loss within the past 12 months, affects 11.2% of adults aged ≥45 years in the United States (4). One consequence of SCD is the occurrence of functional limitations, especially those related to usual daily activities; however, it is not known whether persons with vision impairment are more likely to have functional limitations related to SCD (4). This report describes the association of vision impairment and SCD-related functional limitations using Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys for the years 2015–2017. Adjusting for age group, sex, race/ethnicity,

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Continuing Education examination available at [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted\\_info.html#weekly](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly).

