Attitudinal Survey of Minority Populations on Eye and Vision Health and Research

James F. Jorkasky, Executive Director, National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)/Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR)

Sept. 18, 2014 National Public Opinion Poll
Sponsors

Support for this poll was provided, in part, by the following:

Research to Prevent Blindness

Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR)

Educating about the Value of Vision Research
Minority Populations

The National Poll was conducted online in August 2014 by Zogby Analytics for Research!America and the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research and supported by Research to Prevent Blindness. Sample sizes and theoretical sampling errors are as follows:

- African-American: sample size, 417; margin of error, +/- 4.9%
- Asian: sample size, 301; margin of error, +/- 5.8%
- Hispanic: sample size, 401; margin of error, +/- 5%
- Non-Hispanic White: sample size, 925; margin of error, +/- 3.2%

*Due to rounding, the total may not add to 100 on some slides.*
Many Americans Rate Losing Eyesight as Having Greatest Impact in Daily Life

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 having the least impact and 10 having the greatest impact on your daily life, how would you rate: losing your eyesight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>10 (Greatest)</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>1 (Least)</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Majority Concerned about Quality of Life As a Consequence of Vision Loss

Which of the following would concern you as a consequence of losing your vision?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Independence</th>
<th>Productivity</th>
<th>Quality of life</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Blindness Ranked High with Other Conditions Among All Groups

Which of the following diseases or ailments is the worst that could happen to you?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
National Support of Eye and Vision Research a Priority

How important is it that our nation supports research that focuses on improving prevention and treatment of eye and vision disorders?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very important</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Many Respondents Say Federal Funding Not Enough

The federal government spends on average $2.10 per person each year on eye and vision research. Would you say that is...

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Health Care Costs for Eye Disorders will Increase by 2050

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Knowledge About Specific Eye Disorders Uneven Among All Groups

How many of the following conditions have you heard of? (Check all that apply)

- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- Diabetic retinopathy or diabetic eye disease
- Age-related macular degeneration
- None of these
- Not sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Excessive Sunlight or Ultraviolet Radiation Risk Factor for Eye Disease

Do you agree or disagree that exposure to excessive sunlight or ultraviolet radiation is associated with greater risk of eye disease?

- **African-American**
  - Strongly agree: 30%
  - Somewhat agree: 40%
  - Somewhat disagree: 7%
  - Strongly disagree: 21%

- **Hispanic**
  - Strongly agree: 39%
  - Somewhat agree: 38%
  - Somewhat disagree: 6%
  - Strongly disagree: 16%

- **Asian**
  - Strongly agree: 35%
  - Somewhat agree: 41%
  - Somewhat disagree: 7%
  - Strongly disagree: 16%

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - Strongly agree: 36%
  - Somewhat agree: 44%
  - Somewhat disagree: 5%
  - Strongly disagree: 15%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Ethnic Heritage Risk Factor for Eye Disease

Do you agree or disagree that individuals have different risks of eye disease depending on their ethnic heritage.

- **African-American**
  - 18% Strongly agree
  - 35% Somewhat agree
  - 13% Somewhat disagree
  - 9% Strongly disagree
  - 26% Not sure

- **Hispanic**
  - 24% Strongly agree
  - 35% Somewhat agree
  - 11% Somewhat disagree
  - 4% Strongly disagree
  - 26% Not sure

- **Asian**
  - 18% Strongly agree
  - 46% Somewhat agree
  - 10% Somewhat disagree
  - 2% Strongly disagree
  - 24% Not sure

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - 15% Strongly agree
  - 45% Somewhat agree
  - 8% Somewhat disagree
  - 2% Strongly disagree
  - 30% Not sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Obesity Risk Factor for Eye Disease

Do you agree or disagree that obesity is associated with greater risk of eye disease?

- **African-American**
  - Strongly agree: 16%
  - Somewhat agree: 26%
  - Somewhat disagree: 12%
  - Strongly disagree: 12%
  - Not sure: 34%

- **Hispanic**
  - Strongly agree: 21%
  - Somewhat agree: 31%
  - Somewhat disagree: 12%
  - Strongly disagree: 7%
  - Not sure: 28%

- **Asian**
  - Strongly agree: 21%
  - Somewhat agree: 36%
  - Somewhat disagree: 15%
  - Strongly disagree: 4%
  - Not sure: 24%

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - Strongly agree: 16%
  - Somewhat agree: 36%
  - Somewhat disagree: 13%
  - Strongly disagree: 5%
  - Not sure: 30%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Smoking Also Considered Risk Factor for Eye Disease

Do you agree or disagree that smoking is associated with greater risk of eye disease?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
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Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
Strong Majority Agree that “Good Eye Health is Important to Overall Health”

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Good eye health is important to overall health.'

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics with support from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, August 2014.
# Vision & Blindness Fact Sheet

**Current Cost:**
- In 2014, the total economic burden of vision loss and blindness in the U.S. was $11.15 billion. Within the National Institutes of Health, the National Eye Institute (NEI) 2014 funding of $671 million is less than half of one percent of this annual cost.
- The estimated cost of vision loss and blindness is 55.8 billion per year. Patients and their families are responsible for paying 42% of the total cost.
- Eye disorders are the 13th most expensive chronic condition to treat, costing $88.8 billion in direct medical costs annually.

**Projected Cost:**
- The population of people with vision loss and blindness is estimated to increase by approximately 150% and direct medical costs are expected to skyrocket with an increase of 195% in 2030.
- The total economic burden is expected to reach $171 billion by 2030 after adjusting for inflation, and the government is projected to pay more than 40% of that cost as baby-boomers age.

**Vision & Blindness**: "If you think research is expensive, try blindness." - Harry Lasker 1920-1994

**Today's Burden:**
- The four leading causes of vision loss in the U.S. are age-related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts, all of which is associated with aging.
- Women are at a higher risk for vision loss and blindness. They make up approximately 60% of the population and tend to live longer with chronic diseases. This trend is expected to continue through 2020.
- African-Americans are nearly twice as likely to develop cataracts and five times more likely to develop glaucoma than non-Hispanic white Americans.

**facts about Vision & Blindness**

**Hope for the Future:**
- National Poll: Americans believe it is important that "our nation supports research that focuses on improving prevention and treatment of eye and vision disorders." 45% rated this as very important while 4% rated it as not at all important.

**Prevalence and the Direct & Indirect Costs**

**The Bottom Line:**
Our nation's investment in vision health is an investment in the overall health of all Americans, and a worthy investment. NEI's breakthrough research is a cost-effective investment, one that is leading to treatments and therapies that can ultimately delay, slow, and prevent health expenditures. It can also increase productivity, help individuals maintain their independence, and generally improve quality of life, especially since vision loss is associated with increased depression and decreased mortality.

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**Case study: Lots of Benefits of Cornea Transplant**

- In 2013, over 46,000 cornea transplants were performed. Is saving sight for many people with vision loss or blindness.
- Researchers have estimated that a person who has their sight restored through a corneal transplant saves $34,000 in indirect costs (such as long-term care) over their lifetime. Nationwide savings from corneal transplants is nearly $1 billion.
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