

## Did you know that hearing loss is the #1 physical disability in America?

Approximately 15 million Americans are affected by a hearing loss in some form.

Some types of hearing loss are preventable by healthy hearing behaviors and awareness of hearing damage risks. Other types may be improved medically, while some types cannot.

Permanent hearing loss often requires rehabilitation in the form of hearing aids and devices, counseling, or specialized training in listening techniques.

**If you wonder whether you may have a hearing loss, or you know someone that does, this pamphlet is for you.**

## Why the Lions Help

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is a nonprofit organization with members throughout the state of Illinois. Since 1925, the Lions have taken the challenge given to them by Helen Keller. Addressing the Lions at their convention she urged them to become:

**“Knights of the Blind in the Crusade Against Blindness.”**



Scan here to learn more about LIF.

Questions?  
Email: [LIFoffice@lifnd.org](mailto:LIFoffice@lifnd.org)

Lions of Illinois  
Foundation

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Lions of Illinois  
Foundation

Serving People with Vision and Hearing Needs  
Since 1974.

## Hearing Loss Screening Services



**1 in 5 Americans have a hearing loss. Learn what you can do to protect your hearing.**

#HL-01



## How We Hear



**There are three different parts to the ear: outer, middle, and inner.**

Normal hearing occurs when sound waves enter the ear canal and set the ear drum into vibration. Three tiny bones in the **middle ear**, the malleus, the incus, and the stapes, link the eardrum to the **inner ear**. These bones vibrate in conjunction with the vibration in the eardrum. This mechanical energy received at the **inner ear** (cochlea) is changed into electrical energy by thousands of tiny hair cells. The electrical energy generated by these cells excites the auditory nerve, which in turn, sends the signals to the brain.

There are 3 general types of hearing problems that interfere with this normal process:

1. Conductive hearing loss occurs when structures in the **outer or middle ear** cannot adequately conduct sound vibrations to the **inner ear**. Problems in this area can often be helped with prompt medical attention. They can include (but are not limited to) excessive wax, ruptured eardrum, fluid in the **middle ear**, and dysfunction of the bones of the **middle ear**.

2. Sensorineural hearing loss occurs when the **inner ear** does not properly process sound vibrations. It can result from head injury, severe infection, noise trauma, aging, and a number of other factors.

3. Mixed hearing loss is a combination of both a conductive loss and a sensorineural loss.

## Hearing Loss Affects Everyone

**CHILDREN:** Ear infections are the second most common ailment to which children are susceptible. Most children are not aware of the problem and therefore intervention can be difficult at times. Children may exhibit the following symptoms:

- drainage from the ear
- difficult hearing
- short attention span
- difficulty getting their attention
- delays in speech development

Have your child's hearing tested, if you notice any of these problems. This can be done free of charge through the public schools and the local health department for preschool children. University clinics, hospitals, and sometimes ear, nose, and throat doctors also offer these services.

**ADULTS:** Hearing loss in adults may result from a number of conditions including, viral infections, certain medications, fixation of the stapes, and exposure to excessively loud noise. Notify your doctor, if you notice any changes in your hearing.

**SENIOR CITIZENS:** When sensorineural hearing loss is part of the aging process, it is referred to as presbycusis. Often the individual is unaware of the hearing loss or may not know how to obtain the proper help. Some signs to look for are:

- Frequent requests to have things repeated
- Playing the radio or TV at a louder than normal volume setting
- Straining to follow conversations
- Difficulty hearing in social situations, such as church, lectures, theatre
- Difficulty hearing on the telephone

## Services Available

If you recognize any of these symptoms in someone you know, or suspect that you could have a hearing loss, there are services available.

- **Contact your family physician. Discuss your concerns and ask for advice on how you should proceed.**
- **Contact your local community hospital and see if they have a Speech & Hearing Clinic. Ask for an appointment for a hearing screening.**
- **Check your community calendar and newspaper for the local Lions Club sponsoring the Hearing Mobile Unit in your area.**

The hearing screening is not meant to be used in lieu of an examination by a clinical audiologist. Clinical audiologists are university trained (Masters Degree or Ph.D.) individuals who specialize in the evaluation and rehabilitation of hearing problems. They evaluate the type and degree of hearing loss present. If the hearing loss cannot be fixed by medical or surgical intervention, the audiologist provides information about hearing aids, assistive devices and other rehabilitative services.

The hearing screening test provided by your local Lions Club will only perform a basic hearing test to indicate if you have a hearing problem. Persons found to exhibit signs of a hearing loss are strongly encouraged to seek out the help of other trained professionals, such as their family doctor or an audiologist.

**The Lions of Illinois Foundation's Mobile Hearing Screening Unit provides FREE hearing screenings to individuals age 10 and older.**

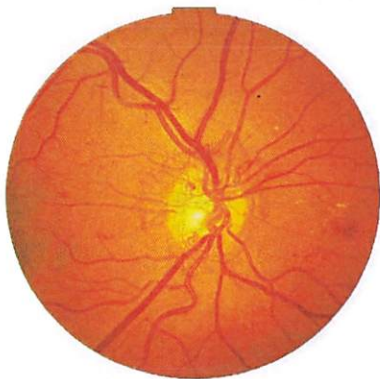


# Diabetic Retinopathy

What you see:



The most common cause of vision loss among people who have diabetes. Vision loss is associated with chronically high blood sugar levels that damage tiny blood vessels in the retina (the light-sensitive tissue of the eye), causing them to leak fluid or bleed.



The retina with diabetic retinopathy.

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## Retinal Screening Services

*Vision problems can be detected by vision screenings. Look inside to learn about four eye diseases that can be detected with LIF's Mobile Retinal Unit.\**



*\*A professional eye exam is recommended annually.*

#VIS-01



# Retinitis Pigmentosa

*What you see:*



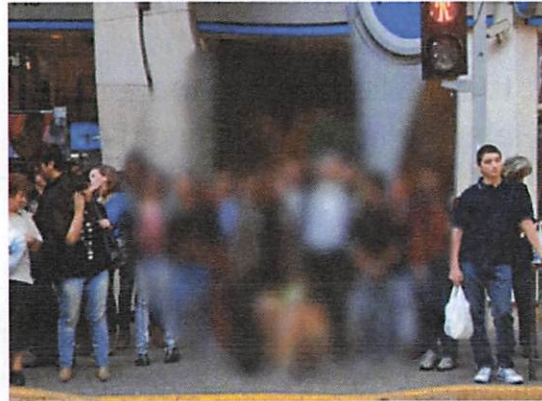
A rare, degenerative disease that affects the retina's ability to respond to light. The disease is inherited and causes a gradual decline in vision because photo-receptor cells (rods and cones) die. As RP progresses, the field of vision narrows and causes "tunnel vision" until only central vision remains.



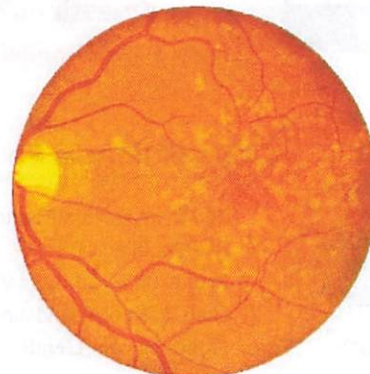
*The retina with retinitis pigmentosa.*

# Macular Degeneration

*What you see:*



Vision loss occurs when the central portion of the retina (the macula) deteriorates from a combination of hereditary and environmental reasons. Risk increases with age with most people being over 55.



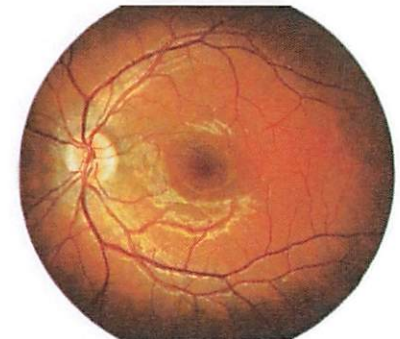
*The retina with macular degeneration.*

# Detached Retina

*What you see:*



If you suddenly notice spots, floaters and flashes of light, you may be experiencing the warning signs of a detached retina. Your vision might become blurry, or you might have poor vision. Another sign is seeing a shadow or a curtain descending from the top or the side of the eye.



*The retina with detached retina.*



# What it Screens For

Patients should only receive a PASS/REFER notice after the screening. The screener is meant for early detection of the following eye disorders but not as a tool for diagnosis:

- Hyperopia (farsightedness)
- Myopia (nearsightedness)
- Astigmatism (blurred vision)
- Anisometropia (unequal refractive power)
- Anisocoria (unequal pupil size)
- Strabismus (eye misalignment)
- Media opacities (e.g. cataracts or corneal scars)
- Amblyopia (lazy eye)

*For more information, please contact the Foundation office.*

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#PLU-02



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## Children's Vision Screenings



Plusoptix S12 Camera



Welch Allyn SPOT Camera

***Screening the vision of  
children 6 months to 6  
years of age***



# The Device

The Lions of Illinois Foundation has collaborated with Plusoptix in order to use the Plusoptix S12 camera to perform free vision screenings for the children of Illinois, specifically those in the formative years of infancy and early childhood. Screenings will be provided by trained Lions in each district.



Young children who may not be able to express their vision problems or who do not know they have them can end up compensating so well that their parents do not realize there is any issue. The longer vision issues go without attention, the greater the risk of long-term effects.

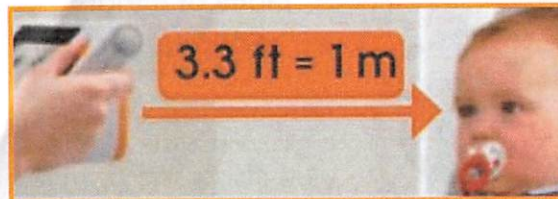
That's why when eye disorders in young children are detected early, prior to annual school vision screenings, it is more likely that they can be addressed so that the child does not experience life-long vision issues.

The free screenings will take place at preschools, daycares, and other child-centered locations. **This pre-screening is not a substitute for the required vision screening for Illinois state public schools.** Parents are simply given a PASS or REFER reading after their child's screening. PASS means that the child's vision is within the normal range. REFER means that they should be seen by an eye doctor. Parental permission is required.

**Screenings do not take the place of an exam given by an eye care professional.**

## How It Works

- There is no physical contact with child and no eye-drops needed.
- Results are produced in seconds.
- Children are screened from approximately three feet away.



# Testimonials



*"Several children were screened, referred to an eye doctor, and got glasses; they improved greatly in class. —O'Fallon*

*"When we returned to a daycare/preschool in Cahokia, a young girl was wearing glasses and was told she received them because of our program. —District 1-CN*

*"Teachers told me of another young boy whom we screened and referred to the eye doctor. They realized several clues were missed: the grandmother said that he always sat so close to watch TV, and a teacher said he always came up close when she read story books to the class."*

*—Lion Barbara Taylor*