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## Summary

- This chapter presents information about self-reported eyesight, sight impairments and eye conditions, eyesight tests, and any limitation of eyesight on daily activities caused by eyesight difficulties. The main focus is on poorer eyesight and its association with age and other characteristics.
- Almost two thirds of adults rated their eyesight as excellent or very good, with women slightly less likely than men to give this assessment (66% of men and 62% of women). 8% of both sexes said that their eyesight was fair or poor. Fewer than 1% of adults were certified as blind or partially sighted.
- Self-reported eyesight deteriorated with age for both men and women. Around a quarter of those aged 85 and over rated their eyesight fair or poor (26% of men and 24% of women).
- Those in the lowest income households were around twice as likely to report fair or poor eyesight as those in the highest income households. There was a similar picture for the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- Men and women in the North East reported the poorest eyesight, with 12% of men and 11% of women reporting fair or poor eyesight in this region.
- Those rating their health as very good had much lower levels of fair or poor eyesight than those reporting poorer health.
- A large majority said that they did not have an eyesight condition diagnosed by a doctor or optician (88% of men and 85% of women). Cataracts were the most commonly reported condition (7% of men and 10% of women). While very few below the age of 45 had any diagnosed conditions, half or more of those aged 75 and over had at least one.
- A higher proportion of women than men reported having eye tests at least every two years, the minimum frequency recommended by RNIB (71% of women and 59% of men). As age rose, so did the frequency of eyesight tests.
- The reported frequency of eyesight tests decreased as equivalised household income decreased.
- Around nine in ten adults reported no difficulty with close vision (91% of men, 89% of women), with even more having no difficulties with distance vision (96% and 95% respectively).
- Those who reported any difficulties either with close or distance vision were asked how often their eyesight limited the amount or type of activities they could carry out. 36% of men and 39% of women who experienced difficulties said that it limited their activities at least sometimes, while 40% and 42% respectively said that it never limited their activities.

## 3.1 Introduction

### 3.1.1 Background

Vision impairment has a great impact on people's lives and can restrict leisure activities and the ability to work and live an independent life, which in turn can affect other socio-economic factors. For those from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds accessing practical and emotional support for eyesight impairments can be more challenging, which can heighten their risk of social exclusion and lower their levels of wellbeing, and in turn hinder their progression in education and in securing meaningful employment.<sup>1</sup>

In 2009 nearly two million people were living with sight loss in the UK, including approximately 360,000 people who were registered as blind or partially sighted with severe and irreversible sight loss.<sup>2</sup> This represents only a small proportion of the UK population (estimated at 62.3million in 2009<sup>3</sup>). Recent estimates suggest that blindness and partial sight loss in adults cost the UK economy approximately £22 billion per year,<sup>4</sup> although according to a 1991 report for The Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) only a minority of people with visual impairments who are eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted actually register<sup>5</sup> and so the actual cost of blindness and partial sight loss could be greater.

However, over 50% of sight loss can be avoided.<sup>6</sup> The paper *Improving outcomes and supporting transparency: A public health outcomes framework for England, 2013-2016* now includes indicators for preventable sight loss as part of its aim to reduce the numbers of people living with preventable ill health.<sup>7</sup> Long term health conditions such as diabetes<sup>8</sup> and dementia<sup>9</sup> present great risk to eye health, as do life-threatening conditions such as glaucoma, which can present no symptoms.<sup>10</sup> According to RNIB a straightforward eye examination could identify symptoms that, if treated, could prevent sight loss. They suggest that everyone should have an eye test at least once every two years, even if they do not notice any change in vision.<sup>11</sup>

Many people in England still struggle to access appropriate healthcare services, including eye examinations. Populations such as those living in poverty and those living with physical, mental or learning difficulties report poorer health outcomes and more challenging pathways to care. This means that a demographic perspective is important when assessing eye care. This is particularly the case in light of the ageing population in England as visual impairment predominantly affects older people, with about 8 in 10 people with a visual impairment being over the age of 65.<sup>12</sup> With the population in this age group forecast to increase by 24% by 2020 and the prediction that visual impairment will rise by around 35% by this time, the demand for eye care services is likely to increase.<sup>13</sup> Following the recent restructuring of healthcare services in England and the government's bid to improve the quality of care provision, there is a focus on developing partnerships across primary and secondary care (as well as with the patients) to provide an integrated way to tackle the multitude of health issues faced by certain groups such as the elderly.<sup>14</sup>

This chapter will include information on the prevalence of major eye conditions that can be a contributing or causal factor for visual impairment and blindness. The RNIB has identified five leading causes of sight loss in the UK: refractive error,<sup>15</sup> age-related macular degeneration, cataract, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.<sup>2</sup> According to the National Eye Institute,<sup>16</sup> age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) is the most common cause of serious visual loss in those aged over 50, resulting in a loss of vision that cannot be rectified. 17% of people with sight loss have ARMD,<sup>2</sup> with macular degeneration also accounting for 14% of blind and partially sighted people in the working population (16-64).<sup>13</sup> 14% of people with sight loss have a cataract.<sup>2</sup> According to a 2006 report, over 34,000 patients wait over three months for cataract treatment, with a quarter of all people having developed a cataract by the age of 75.<sup>17</sup>

### 3.1.2 Policy initiatives

The *UK Vision Strategy* was launched in 2008 following the focus of the *World Health Assembly Resolution of 2003*<sup>18</sup> in tackling vision impairment and avoidable blindness. However, the number of people in the UK with sight loss is expected to increase dramatically and it is predicted that by 2050 the number of people with sight loss in the UK will double to nearly four million.<sup>2</sup> In response to urgent need, in March 2012 *The UK Vision Strategy* was awarded funding to support the *Commissioning for Effectiveness and Efficiency project (CEE)*,<sup>19</sup> which was set up following a consultation process to improve the UK's eye health and outcomes for people with vision impairment. There was an emphasis on sharing learning across England about the benefits of an integrated approach in developing eye care and sight loss services, with a focus on the patient.<sup>13</sup>

To support eye health, ministers set up *The National Eye Care Services Steering Group*<sup>13</sup> in 2002. The aim was to help modernise NHS eye care services, with the overall aim to 'improve access, choice, waiting times and quality for all sectors of the community through an integrated and patient-centred service'. The group began by establishing care pathways for cataract, glaucoma, low vision and ARMD.<sup>13</sup> Then in 2013, *The Vision Strategy 2013 – 2018* was launched. This updated strategy aimed to improve the care that people in the UK take of their eyes and their sight, with prompt treatment and accessible support available for those with permanent sight loss. Their vision was 'a society in which people with sight loss can fully participate'.<sup>20</sup> The *UK Vision Strategy* is now known as *Vision 2020*, which focusses on combatting vision impairment and seeks to improve the UK's eye health, eye care and sight loss services through a cross-sector approach.

At the *Vision 2014* conference, the NHS England initiative *Improving eye health and reducing sight loss, A Call to Action* was launched. It serves as a forum for debate between patients, professionals and the public on the provision of eye health services. It will focus attention on preventative approaches, placing early accurate detection by primary care services at the centre of efforts, as well as effective management in the community. The consultation ended in autumn 2014.<sup>21</sup>

## 3.2 Methods and definitions

### 3.2.1. Methods

The eye care module in the Health Survey for England 2013 included a set of 12 questions surrounding self-reported eyesight, major eye conditions, consultation with opticians or medical professionals, frequency of eyesight tests and any disability associated with eyesight. The questions formed part of the individual questionnaire and were asked of all adults aged 16 and over.

The full set of questions can be found in Volume 2 of this report, *Methods and documentation*, Appendix A.<sup>22</sup> All questions about participants' eyesight or difficulties with eyesight asked them to answer assuming that they were using their glasses or contact lenses, if worn.

Poor eyesight is known to have a higher prevalence among older age groups and there are variations by age for demographic variables. Age-standardisation has been used in most of the tables, as is standard practice for the HSE, including tables by region, income and deprivation. This allows comparisons between groups after adjusting for the effects of any differences in their age distributions. More information about age-standardisation can be found in Volume 2 of this report, Section 8.4.<sup>22</sup>

### 3.2.2. Definitions

The experience of sight loss varies from one individual to another; from level of sight impairment to fields of vision that are affected, to the ability to identify colours.

## Blind and partially sighted

Two questions were asked about eyesight quality. The first question asked participants to rate their eyesight on a scale from excellent to poor; it was also recorded if participants said spontaneously that they were certified blind or partially sighted. A second question followed up those that rated their eyesight as fair or poor to ask whether they were certified blind or partially sighted. The term blind was defined for participants as 'severely sight impaired', and partially sighted was defined as 'sight impaired'.

There is therefore a small group categorised as 'blind/partially sighted' where it is known that participants were certified, but not known whether they were blind or partially sighted. This is because those who spontaneously mentioned that they were certified were not asked for further detail.

In the sections that follow several analyses look at the group that reported fair or poor eyesight. This group does not include any participants who spontaneously reported that they were certified blind or partially sighted, although it does include any who mentioned that they were certified blind or partially sighted at the second question.

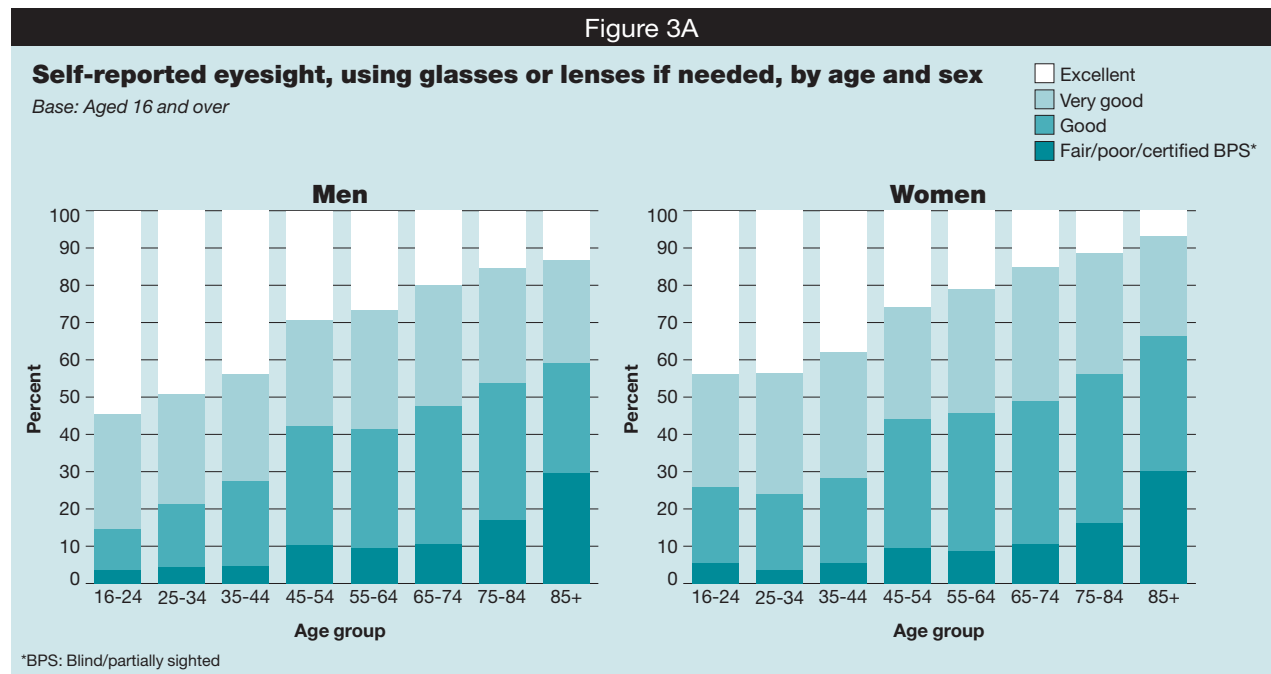
## 3.3 Self-reported eyesight

### 3.3.1 Self-reported eyesight, by age and sex

Adults were asked about their eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed. Almost two thirds of adults rated their eyesight as excellent or very good, with women slightly less likely than men to give this assessment (66% of men and 62% of women). A further 26% of men and 30% of women considered their eyesight to be good. At the other end of the scale, 8% of both sexes said that their eyesight was fair or poor. Fewer than 1% spontaneously mentioned that they were certified blind or partially sighted.

Self-reported eyesight deteriorated with age for both men and women, as shown in Figure 3A.

Table 3.1, Figure 3A

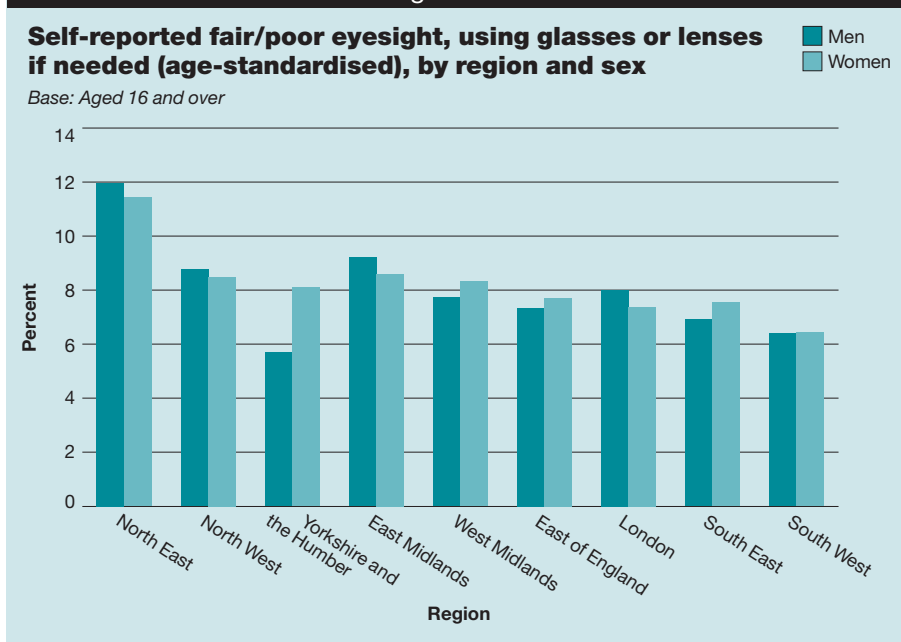


### 3.3.2 Self-reported eyesight by region

Self-reported eyesight varied significantly by region; Figure 3B shows the proportions reporting fair or poor eyesight (but excluding those who spontaneously mentioned that they were blind or partially sighted). Men and women in the North East were most likely to report fair or poor eyesight, while those in the South West were least likely to do so.

Table 3.2, Figure 3B

Figure 3B



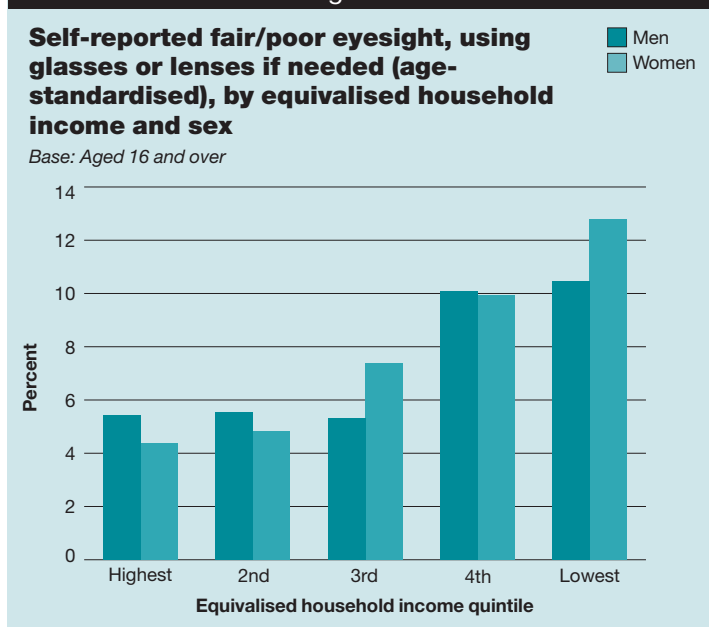
### 3.3.3. Self-reported eyesight by socio-economic factors

There was a gradient in the proportion reporting fair or poor eyesight across quintiles of equivalised household income, as shown in Figure 3C. Those in the lowest two income quintiles were around twice as likely to report fair or poor eyesight as those in the highest quintile.

A similar picture was found when looking at self-reported eyesight by quintiles of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The proportion reporting fair or poor eyesight increased with increasing area deprivation, as shown in Figure 3D.

Tables 3.3, 3.4, Figures 3C, 3D

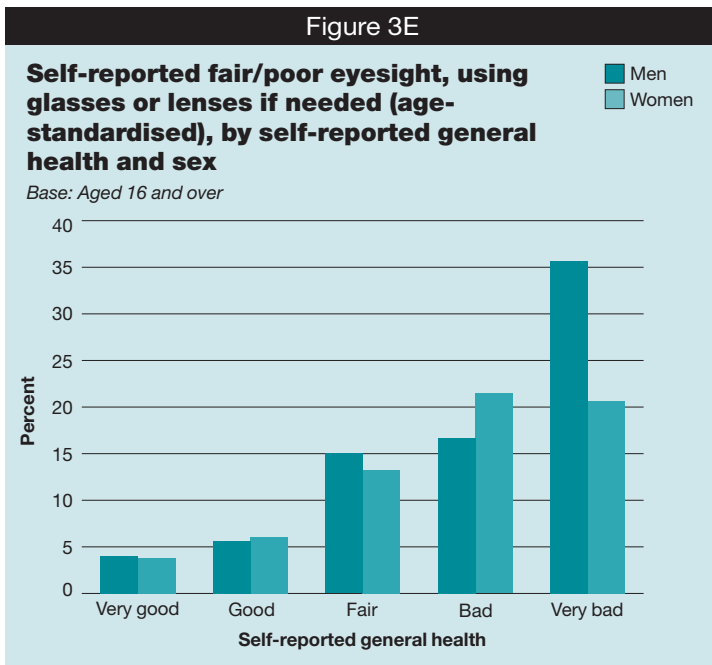
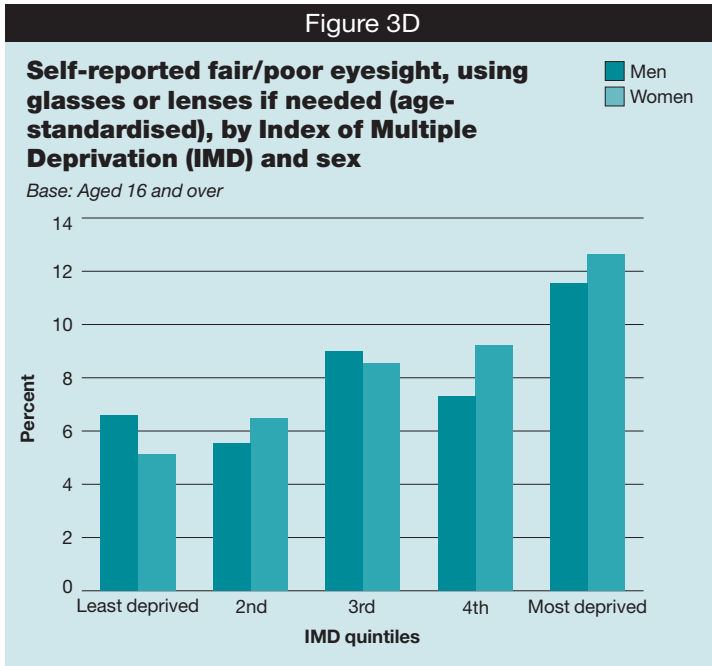
Figure 3C



### 3.3.4. Self-reported eyesight by self-reported general health

When looking at self-reported eyesight by self-reported general health, there was a strong relationship between the two measures. Fair or poor eyesight was more common among those who reported their general health as bad or very bad than among those reporting good or very good health (see Figure 3E).

Table 3.5, Figure 3E



### 3.4 Prevalence of certification as blind or partially sighted

Those participants who answered that their eyesight was fair or poor were asked if they were certified as blind or partially sighted. A small number had already spontaneously mentioned that they were blind or partially sighted in the question about the quality of their eyesight, and for these participants while it is known that they are certified, it is not known whether they were certified blind or partially sighted. Overall, 0.70% of adults were certified blind or partially sighted, and among those where the information was available the majority were partially sighted rather than blind.

The proportion of participants who were certified as blind or partially sighted was higher among those aged 65 and over than among those below this age (2.44% and 0.26% respectively).

**Table 3.6**

### 3.5 Prevalence of major eye conditions and surgery

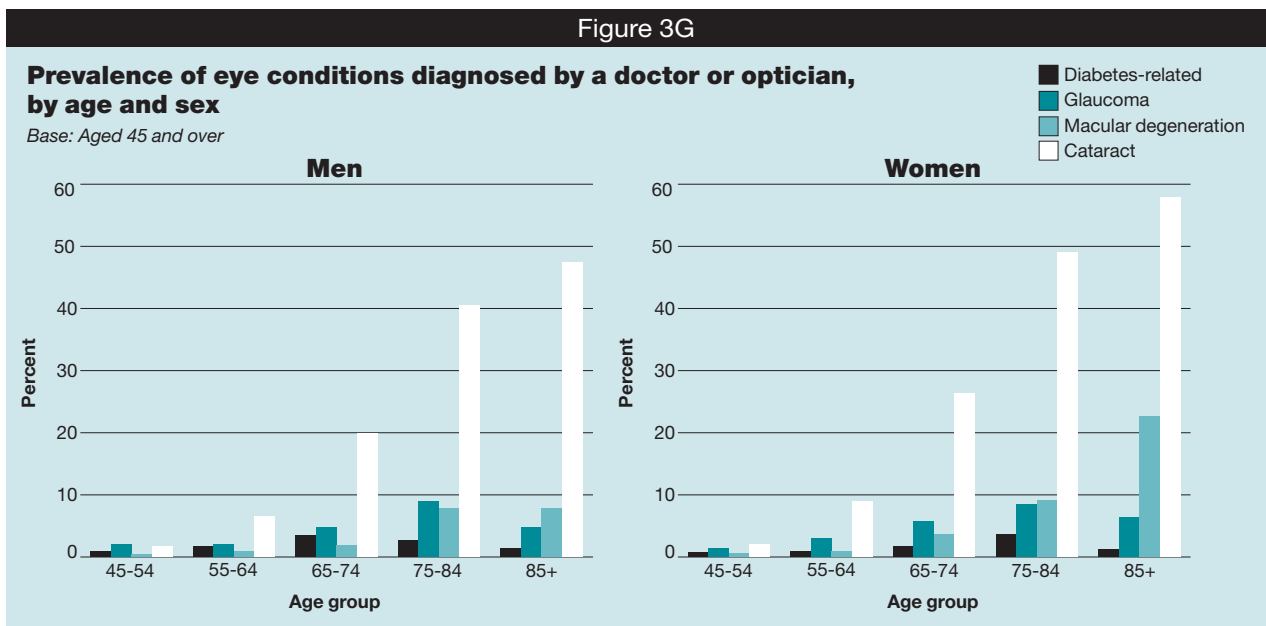
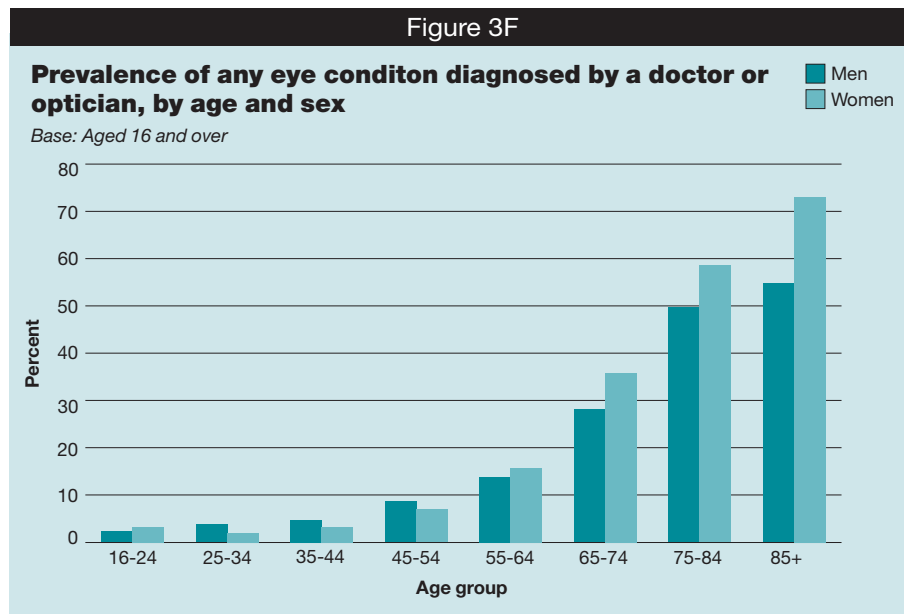
#### 3.5.1 Major eye conditions diagnosed by a doctor or optician

88% of men and 85% of women said that they did not have an eyesight condition diagnosed by a doctor or optician. 7% of men and 10% of women reported cataracts, and no other condition was mentioned by more than 2% of participants.

The prevalence of major eye conditions rose steadily with age, as shown in Figure 3F. While very few people below the age of 45 had any diagnosed conditions, half or more of those aged 75 and over had at least one.

Figure 3G shows the proportions of adults aged 45 and over reporting the four most prevalent diagnosed conditions. Prevalence of each condition increased with age, and this was most notable for cataracts.

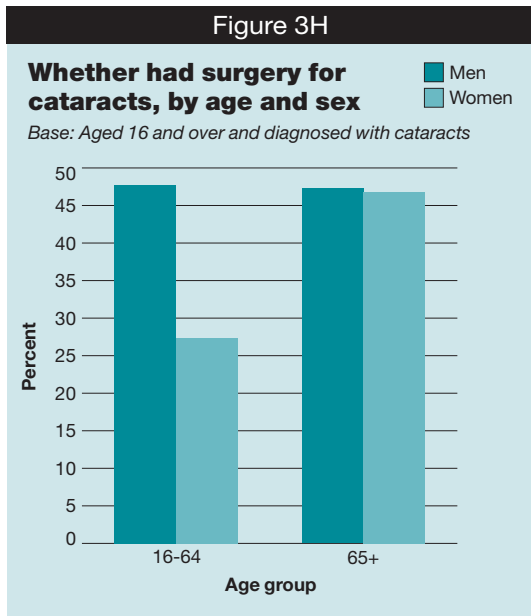
Table 3.7, Figure 3F, 3G



#### 3.5.2. Surgery for cataracts

Of those who reported having been diagnosed with cataracts, just under half of both men and women aged 65 and over had received surgery for their cataracts. Among those aged 16-64 reporting cataracts, again around half of men had received surgery, while only around a quarter of women reported this (see Figure 3H).

Table 3.8, Figure 3H



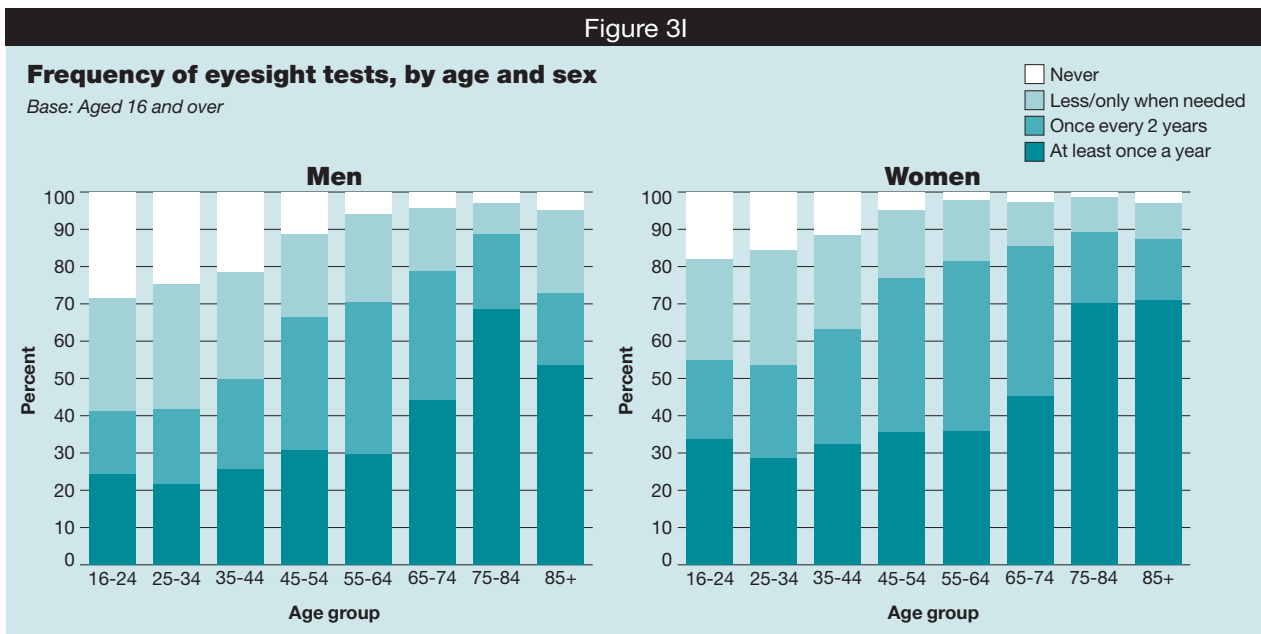
### 3.6 Eyesight tests

#### 3.6.1. Frequency of eyesight tests, by age and sex

A higher proportion of women than men reported having eye tests at least every two years, the minimum frequency recommended by RNIB (71% of women and 59% of men). Most reported annual or 2-yearly tests, with similar proportions mentioning each of these frequencies (around a quarter of men and a third of women in each case). Around one in ten adults said they only had a test if they had a problem, and fewer women than men reported never having a test (8% of women, 16% of men).

The frequency of eyesight tests increased with age up to the 75-84 age group for both men and women, as shown in Figure 3I.

Table 3.9, Figure 3I

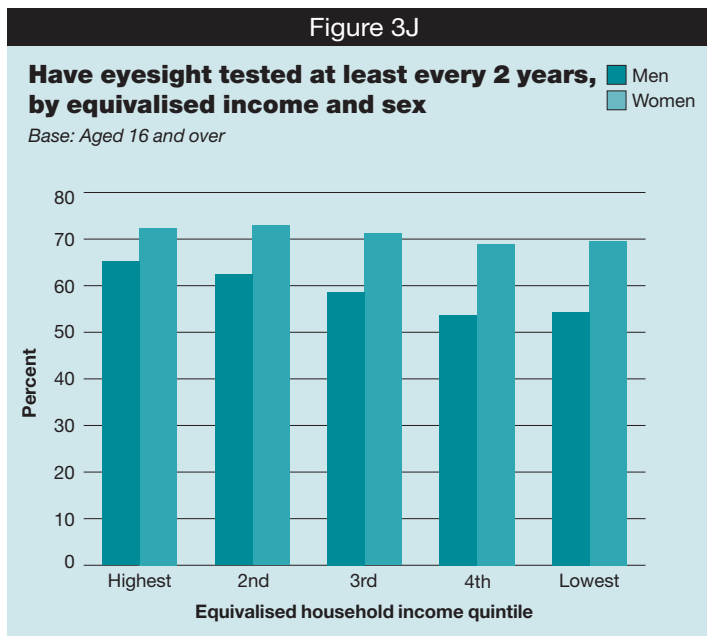




### 3.6.2. Frequency of eyesight tests by equivalised household income

There was significant variation in frequency of eyesight tests across quintiles of equivalised household income, as shown in Figure 3J. Those in the highest income quintiles were slightly more likely to have an eye test at least every 2 years, decreasing to the lowest income quintile. Those in the lowest three income quintiles were more likely to say they never had eye tests (18-21% of men, 10-11% of women) than those in the highest two quintiles (10-13% of men, 5-6% of women).

Table 3.10, Figure 3J



### 3.6.3 Type of eyesight test on last occasion

Free NHS eye tests are available for certain groups of the population, including people:

- aged 16-19 in full time education
- aged over 60
- certified as blind or partially sighted
- with certain eye diseases
- in receipt of certain benefits such as Income Support, Jobseeker’s Allowance and Universal Credit.<sup>23</sup>

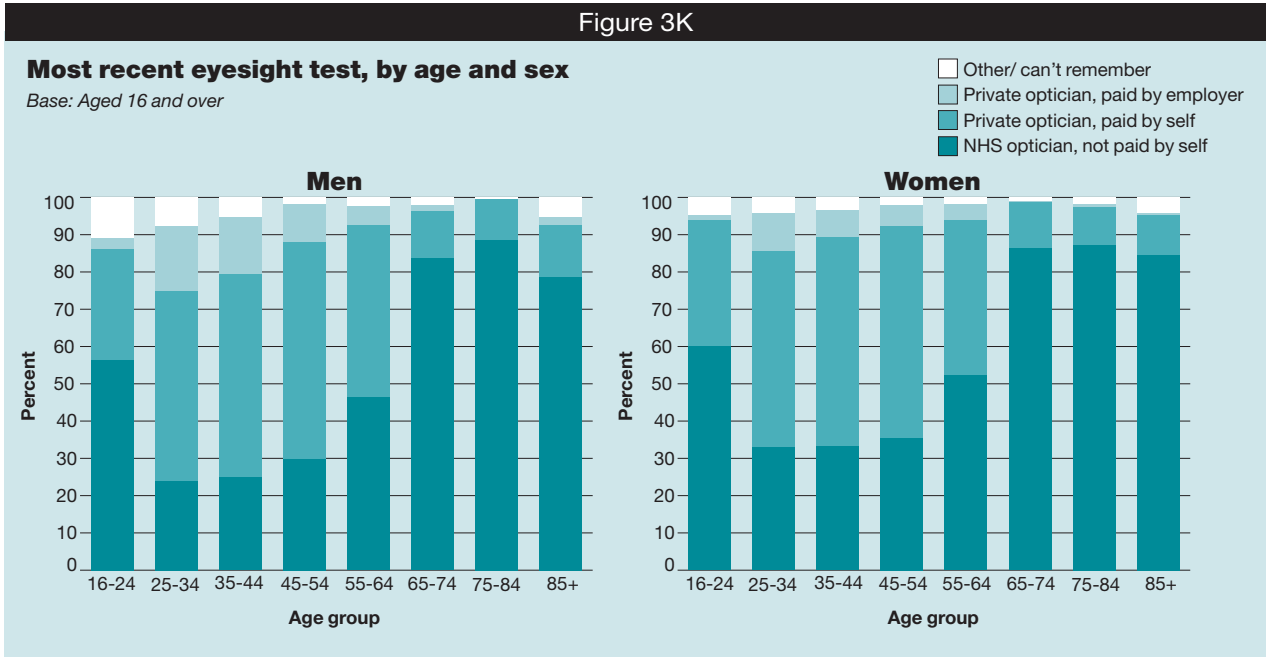
Overall 46% of men and 52% of women reported that their last eye test was with an NHS optician for which they did not pay themselves. Slightly fewer reported a test with a private optician that they paid for (41% of men and 40% of women), while a small proportion had a test paid for by their employer (8% and 5% respectively). Very few had a test at home.

This overall picture masks significant variation by age, reflecting entitlement to free NHS eye tests, as illustrated in Figure 3K. The youngest and oldest age groups were the most likely to report that their last eyesight test was a free NHS test. Those aged between 25 and 64 were much more likely to mention a private test they paid for, and tests paid for by employers were also more common among these age groups.

Participants were also asked whether they were attending an eye hospital or clinic for treatment. 5% of men and 6% of women were attending an eye hospital or clinic, and again there was significant variation by age. Around 3% of both men and women aged 16-64 reported attending a hospital or clinic, and there was a steep increase in older age groups, from 12% of men and 11% of women aged 65-74 up to 20% and 17% respectively in the 85 and over age group.

Table 3.11, Figure 3K

Figure 3K



### 3.7 Disability associated with eyesight

#### 3.7.1 Close and distance vision

Two questions were asked about whether people had any problems with close vision – defined as reading newsprint at arms’ length, and distance vision – defined as clearly seeing the face of someone across a room of four metres. In each case, participants were asked to answer the questions assuming that they were wearing their glasses or lenses, if needed. Around nine in ten adults reported no difficulty with close vision (91% of men, 89% of women), with even more having no difficulties with distance vision (96% and 95% respectively).

As with other aspects of eyesight examined, there were clear differences with age, and the proportion reporting no problems declined with age. Figures 3L and 3M show the pattern for close and distance vision, and it is clear that older people were more likely to experience difficulties with close than distance vision. This was particularly the case for women aged 85 and over, who were the most likely to have difficulties with close vision.

Tables 3.12, 3.13, Figures 3L, 3M

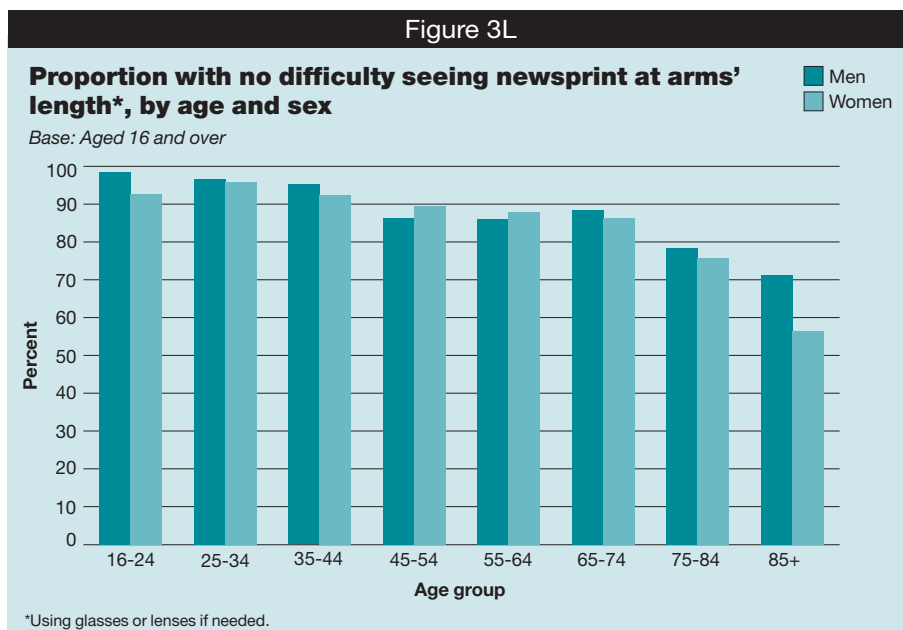
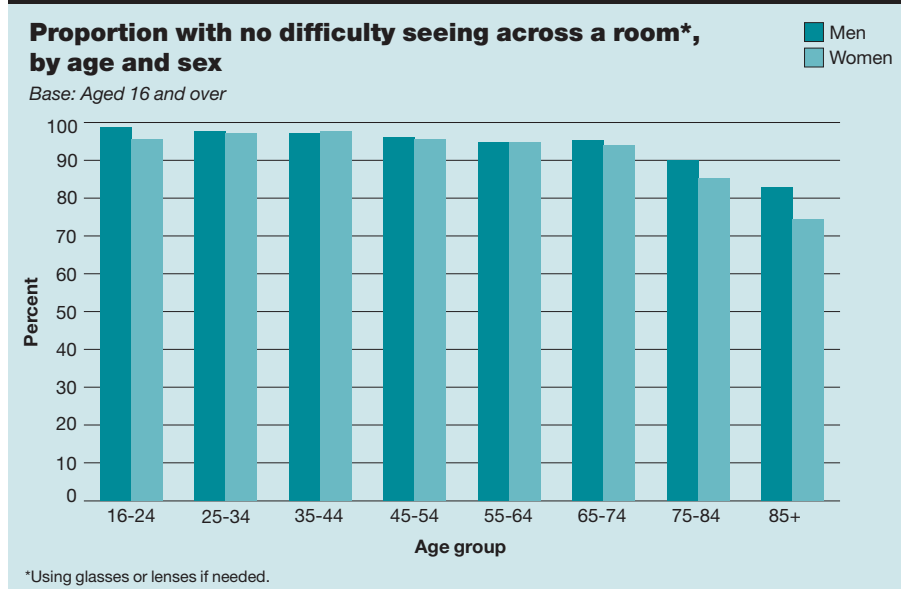


Figure 3M

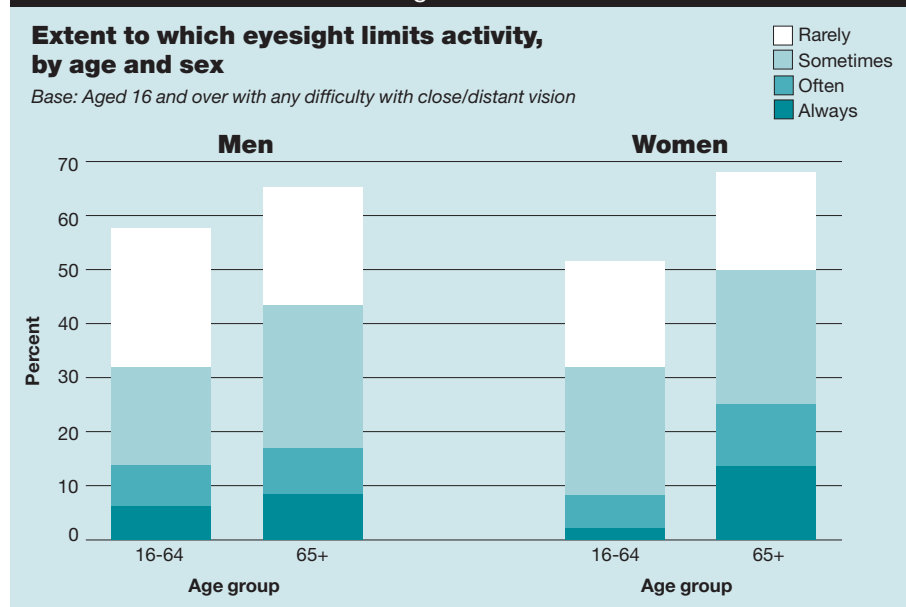


### 3.7.2 How eyesight limits activities

#### By age and sex

Those who reported any difficulties either with close or distance vision were asked how often their eyesight limited the amount or type of activities they could carry out. 36% of men and 39% of women who experienced difficulties said that it limited their activities at least sometimes, while 40% and 42% respectively said that it never limited their activities. Figure 3N shows how this varies between those aged 16-64 and 65 and over, with older participants experiencing limitations more frequently than younger ones. **Table 3.14, Figure 3N**

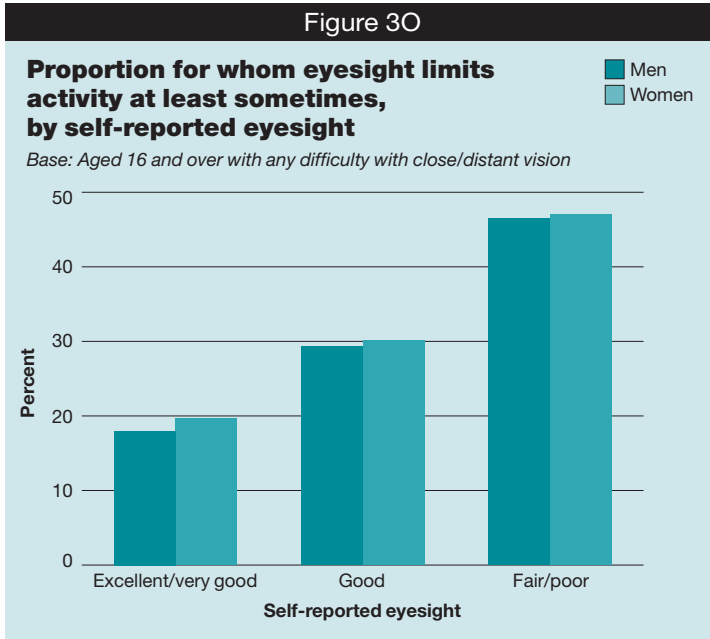
Figure 3N



#### By self-reported eyesight

Figure 3O shows variation in the proportion who found eyesight difficulties limited their activities according to self-reported eyesight. As might be expected, the proportion reporting that their eyesight limited their activities at least sometimes was considerably higher for people who rated their eyesight as fair or poor than for those who rated it as very good or excellent. **Table 3.15, Figure 3O**

Figure 30



**By equivalised household income**

There was variation across quintiles of equivalised household income in the proportion of people with eyesight difficulties who reported that their activities were limited at least sometimes. However, there was no very clear pattern of difference between higher and lower income households; base sizes are small and therefore results should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3.16

**3.8 Discussion**

This chapter has shown that those in the oldest age categories and those with the lowest incomes are the most likely to be affected by poor eyesight. Men and women in the older age categories reported the highest levels of fair or poor eyesight, with those aged 65 and over more likely to report that their eyesight limited the activities they were able to do. Levels of self-reported fair (or worse) eyesight were also higher for those in the lowest income quintiles and most deprived areas in England.

The government aims to reduce the numbers of people living with preventable ill health,<sup>7</sup> and has identified sight loss as one of the indicators of this. Frequent eyesight tests can aid early detection of serious eye conditions and therefore help to prevent some causes of sight loss. The HSE results showed that overall around half of adults had a free NHS eyesight test on the last occasion, rising to around 80% or more of those aged 65 and over. However, substantial proportions of adults (41% of men and 29% of women) did not have their eyes tested at least every 2 years, which is the recommended minimum.

As mentioned previously, other preventable long-term conditions (such as diabetes and dementia) can present great risk to eye health, so the government’s patient-focussed integrative approach to healthcare may improve the current picture. However, further increases in the numbers of people with sight loss are expected as the 21st century progresses. Future attention seems to be focussed on approaches to prevent sight loss, but with increasing numbers experiencing problems it will also be important to provide support to those affected. It has been reported that many who are registered as blind or partially sighted and of working age are not in paid employment,<sup>5</sup> and that nearly half of blind and partially sighted people feel ‘moderately’ or ‘completely’ cut off from people and things around them.<sup>24</sup> Therefore assistance with effective management of sight loss is important to allow those participants who report debilitating levels of eyesight to live as fully in society as possible.

This is the first time HSE has reported on eyesight, and if questions are repeated in future surveys it will be important to see how trends develop and how recent policy interventions impact on outcomes.

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- 3.1 Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed, by age and sex
- 3.2 Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (observed and age-standardised), by region and sex
- 3.3 Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (age-standardised), by equivalised household income and sex
- 3.4 Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (age-standardised), by Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and sex
- 3.5 Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (age-standardised), by self-reported general health and sex
- 3.6 Whether certified as blind or partially sighted, by age and sex
- 3.7 Prevalence of eye conditions diagnosed by a doctor or optician, by age and sex
- 3.8 Whether had surgery for cataracts, by age and sex
- 3.9 Frequency of eyesight tests, by age and sex
- 3.10 Frequency of eyesight tests (age-standardised), by equivalised household income and sex
- 3.11 Most recent type of eyesight test, by age and sex
- 3.12 Ability to see newsprint at arms' length, using glasses or lenses if needed, by age and sex
- 3.13 Ability to see across a room, using glasses or lenses if needed, by age and sex
- 3.14 How often eyesight limits activities, by age and sex
- 3.15 How often eyesight limits activities (age-standardised), by self-reported eyesight and sex
- 3.16 How often eyesight limits activities (age-standardised), by equivalised household income and sex

**Notes on the tables**

- 1. The group on which the figures in the table are based is stated at the upper left corner of the table.
- 2. The data in most tables have been weighted. See Volume 2, Chapter 7 of this report for more detail. Both unweighted and weighted sample sizes are shown at the foot of each table.
- 3. Apart from tables showing age breakdowns, data have been age-standardised to allow comparisons between groups after adjusting for the effects of any differences in their age distributions. See Volume 2, Chapter 8.4 of this report for more detail.
- 4. The following conventions have been used in tables:
  - no observations (zero value)
  - 0 non-zero values of less than 0.5% and thus rounded to zero
  - [ ] used to warn of small sample bases, if the unweighted base is less than 50. If a group's unweighted base is less than 30, data are normally not shown for that group.
- 5. Because of rounding, row or column percentages may not add exactly to 100%.
- 6. 'Missing values' occur for several reasons, including refusal or inability to answer a particular question; refusal to co-operate in an entire section of the survey (such as the nurse visit or a self-completion questionnaire); and cases where the question is not applicable to the participant. In general, missing values have been omitted from all tables and analyses.

Table 3.1

**Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed, by age and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Self-reported eyesight               | Age group |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
|                                      | 16-24     | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+ |       |
|                                      | %         | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %   | %     |
| <b>Men</b>                           |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| Excellent                            | 54        | 49    | 44    | 29    | 27    | 20    | 15    | 13  | 36    |
| Very good                            | 31        | 29    | 29    | 29    | 32    | 32    | 31    | 28  | 30    |
| Good                                 | 11        | 17    | 23    | 32    | 32    | 37    | 37    | 30  | 26    |
| Fair                                 | 3         | 4     | 4     | 9     | 7     | 8     | 14    | 23  | 7     |
| Poor                                 | 0         | 1     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 2     | 2     | 4   | 1     |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | -         | -     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 4   | 0     |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 85        | 78    | 72    | 58    | 59    | 52    | 46    | 41  | 66    |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 4         | 5     | 5     | 10    | 9     | 10    | 16    | 26  | 8     |
| <b>Women</b>                         |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| Excellent                            | 44        | 43    | 38    | 26    | 21    | 15    | 11    | 7   | 30    |
| Very good                            | 30        | 32    | 34    | 30    | 33    | 36    | 33    | 27  | 32    |
| Good                                 | 20        | 21    | 23    | 35    | 37    | 38    | 40    | 36  | 30    |
| Fair                                 | 4         | 3     | 4     | 8     | 7     | 8     | 11    | 14  | 6     |
| Poor                                 | 2         | 1     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 2     | 5     | 11  | 2     |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | -         | -     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 6   | 0     |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 74        | 76    | 72    | 56    | 54    | 51    | 44    | 34  | 62    |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 6         | 4     | 5     | 10    | 9     | 10    | 16    | 24  | 8     |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>            |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 392       | 541   | 629   | 704   | 604   | 614   | 348   | 90  | 3922  |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 477       | 755   | 827   | 884   | 743   | 652   | 386   | 143 | 4867  |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>              |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 632       | 732   | 748   | 764   | 620   | 477   | 273   | 69  | 4315  |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 637       | 752   | 759   | 779   | 638   | 516   | 342   | 128 | 4550  |

Table 3.2

**Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (observed and age-standardised), by region<sup>a</sup> and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Self-reported eyesight               | Region     |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                      | North East | North West | Yorkshire & the Humber | East Midlands | West Midlands | East of England | London     | South East | South West |
|                                      | %          | %          | %                      | %             | %             | %               | %          | %          | %          |
| <b>Men</b>                           |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| <b>Observed</b>                      |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| Excellent                            | 35         | 35         | 39                     | 28            | 33            | 38              | 42         | 37         | 35         |
| Very good                            | 26         | 29         | 31                     | 30            | 33            | 30              | 29         | 28         | 35         |
| Good                                 | 26         | 26         | 24                     | 33            | 26            | 24              | 22         | 28         | 23         |
| Fair                                 | 11         | 7          | 5                      | 6             | 7             | 7               | 6          | 6          | 6          |
| Poor                                 | 1          | 2          | 1                      | 3             | 1             | 0               | 1          | 1          | 1          |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 0          | 0          | -                      | 0             | 1             | -               | 0          | -          | 0          |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | <i>61</i>  | <i>65</i>  | <i>70</i>              | <i>57</i>     | <i>65</i>     | <i>68</i>       | <i>71</i>  | <i>65</i>  | <i>70</i>  |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | <i>12</i>  | <i>9</i>   | <i>6</i>               | <i>9</i>      | <i>8</i>      | <i>8</i>        | <i>7</i>   | <i>7</i>   | <i>7</i>   |
| <b>Standardised</b>                  |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| Excellent                            | 35         | 35         | 39                     | 26            | 35            | 39              | 40         | 38         | 36         |
| Very good                            | 26         | 30         | 31                     | 30            | 34            | 30              | 29         | 29         | 34         |
| Good                                 | 27         | 26         | 24                     | 34            | 23            | 24              | 22         | 27         | 23         |
| Fair                                 | 11         | 7          | 5                      | 7             | 7             | 7               | 7          | 6          | 6          |
| Poor                                 | 1          | 2          | 1                      | 3             | 1             | 0               | 1          | 1          | 0          |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 0          | 0          | -                      | 0             | 1             | -               | 0          | -          | 0          |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | <i>61</i>  | <i>65</i>  | <i>70</i>              | <i>56</i>     | <i>69</i>     | <i>69</i>       | <i>69</i>  | <i>66</i>  | <i>70</i>  |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | <i>12</i>  | <i>9</i>   | <i>6</i>               | <i>9</i>      | <i>8</i>      | <i>7</i>        | <i>8</i>   | <i>7</i>   | <i>6</i>   |
| <b>Women</b>                         |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| <b>Observed</b>                      |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| Excellent                            | 30         | 27         | 33                     | 22            | 31            | 30              | 35         | 31         | 26         |
| Very good                            | 28         | 35         | 29                     | 34            | 32            | 32              | 27         | 32         | 41         |
| Good                                 | 30         | 30         | 28                     | 36            | 27            | 30              | 31         | 28         | 26         |
| Fair                                 | 9          | 5          | 7                      | 7             | 7             | 6               | 5          | 6          | 6          |
| Poor                                 | 2          | 3          | 3                      | 1             | 2             | 2               | 1          | 2          | 1          |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 1          | 0          | 0                      | -             | 0             | 1               | 1          | 0          | 0          |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | <i>58</i>  | <i>61</i>  | <i>62</i>              | <i>56</i>     | <i>64</i>     | <i>62</i>       | <i>62</i>  | <i>63</i>  | <i>67</i>  |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | <i>11</i>  | <i>8</i>   | <i>10</i>              | <i>8</i>      | <i>9</i>      | <i>8</i>        | <i>6</i>   | <i>8</i>   | <i>7</i>   |
| <b>Standardised</b>                  |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| Excellent                            | 30         | 27         | 33                     | 22            | 32            | 31              | 31         | 31         | 27         |
| Very good                            | 28         | 35         | 29                     | 34            | 32            | 31              | 28         | 32         | 41         |
| Good                                 | 30         | 30         | 28                     | 36            | 26            | 29              | 34         | 28         | 25         |
| Fair                                 | 9          | 5          | 7                      | 7             | 7             | 6               | 5          | 6          | 5          |
| Poor                                 | 2          | 3          | 3                      | 1             | 2             | 2               | 1          | 2          | 1          |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 1          | 0          | 0                      | -             | 0             | 1               | 1          | 0          | 0          |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | <i>58</i>  | <i>61</i>  | <i>61</i>              | <i>56</i>     | <i>65</i>     | <i>62</i>       | <i>59</i>  | <i>64</i>  | <i>68</i>  |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | <i>11</i>  | <i>8</i>   | <i>8</i>               | <i>9</i>      | <i>8</i>      | <i>8</i>        | <i>7</i>   | <i>8</i>   | <i>6</i>   |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>            |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| <i>Men</i>                           | <i>338</i> | <i>569</i> | <i>353</i>             | <i>363</i>    | <i>389</i>    | <i>413</i>      | <i>493</i> | <i>624</i> | <i>380</i> |
| <i>Women</i>                         | <i>431</i> | <i>662</i> | <i>464</i>             | <i>440</i>    | <i>481</i>    | <i>505</i>      | <i>645</i> | <i>741</i> | <i>498</i> |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>              |            |            |                        |               |               |                 |            |            |            |
| <i>Men</i>                           | <i>216</i> | <i>590</i> | <i>410</i>             | <i>388</i>    | <i>454</i>    | <i>474</i>      | <i>644</i> | <i>712</i> | <i>427</i> |
| <i>Women</i>                         | <i>226</i> | <i>587</i> | <i>463</i>             | <i>397</i>    | <i>484</i>    | <i>483</i>      | <i>696</i> | <i>729</i> | <i>485</i> |

<sup>a</sup> Regions defined as the former Government Office Regions.



Table 3.3

**Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (age-standardised), by equivalised household income and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Self-reported eyesight               | Equivalised household income quintile |     |     |     |        |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
|                                      | Highest                               | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Lowest |
|                                      | %                                     | %   | %   | %   | %      |
| <b>Men</b>                           |                                       |     |     |     |        |
| Excellent                            | 39                                    | 38  | 35  | 32  | 29     |
| Very good                            | 33                                    | 31  | 32  | 30  | 28     |
| Good                                 | 23                                    | 25  | 28  | 27  | 33     |
| Fair                                 | 5                                     | 4   | 5   | 9   | 8      |
| Poor                                 | 1                                     | 1   | -   | 2   | 2      |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | -                                     | -   | 0   | 0   | 0      |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 72                                    | 69  | 67  | 62  | 56     |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 5                                     | 6   | 5   | 10  | 10     |
| <b>Women</b>                         |                                       |     |     |     |        |
| Excellent                            | 33                                    | 32  | 30  | 28  | 23     |
| Very good                            | 33                                    | 33  | 35  | 30  | 29     |
| Good                                 | 30                                    | 30  | 28  | 31  | 35     |
| Fair                                 | 4                                     | 4   | 6   | 8   | 10     |
| Poor                                 | 1                                     | 1   | 2   | 2   | 3      |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | -                                     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0      |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 66                                    | 65  | 65  | 58  | 52     |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 4                                     | 5   | 7   | 10  | 13     |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>            |                                       |     |     |     |        |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 712                                   | 698 | 580 | 590 | 555    |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 720                                   | 802 | 734 | 770 | 787    |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>              |                                       |     |     |     |        |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 813                                   | 767 | 617 | 585 | 637    |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 695                                   | 762 | 680 | 680 | 706    |

Table 3.4

**Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (age-standardised), by Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)<sup>a</sup> and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Self-reported eyesight               | IMD quintile   |     |      |     |               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----|------|-----|---------------|
|                                      | Least deprived | 2nd | 3rd  | 4th | Most deprived |
|                                      | %              | %   | %    | %   | %             |
| <b>Men</b>                           |                |     |      |     |               |
| Excellent                            | 37             | 37  | 35   | 37  | 35            |
| Very good                            | 33             | 32  | 28   | 31  | 26            |
| Good                                 | 23             | 26  | 27   | 25  | 26            |
| Fair                                 | 5              | 5   | 8    | 6   | 9             |
| Poor                                 | 1              | 1   | 1    | 1   | 2             |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 0              | 0   | 0    | 0   | 1             |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 70             | 68  | 63   | 68  | 61            |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 7              | 6   | 9    | 7   | 12            |
| <b>Women</b>                         |                |     |      |     |               |
| Excellent                            | 32             | 31  | 28   | 30  | 26            |
| Very good                            | 33             | 36  | 32   | 29  | 30            |
| Good                                 | 29             | 26  | 30   | 31  | 32            |
| Fair                                 | 4              | 5   | 6    | 7   | 9             |
| Poor                                 | 1              | 1   | 3    | 2   | 3             |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 0              | 0   | 0    | 1   | 0             |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 65             | 67  | 61   | 59  | 55            |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 5              | 6   | 9    | 9   | 13            |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>            |                |     |      |     |               |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 795            | 852 | 840  | 715 | 720           |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 974            | 998 | 1025 | 948 | 922           |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>              |                |     |      |     |               |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 844            | 920 | 930  | 825 | 796           |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 901            | 943 | 964  | 918 | 825           |

<sup>a</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score at the small area level in England.

Table 3.5

**Self-reported eyesight, using glasses or lenses if needed (age-standardised), by self-reported general health and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Self-reported eyesight               | Self-reported general health |      |      |     |          |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------|-----|----------|
|                                      | Very good                    | Good | Fair | Bad | Very bad |
|                                      | %                            | %    | %    | %   | %        |
| <b>Men</b>                           |                              |      |      |     |          |
| Excellent                            | 48                           | 33   | 24   | 19  | 8        |
| Very good                            | 30                           | 33   | 30   | 26  | 15       |
| Good                                 | 18                           | 28   | 31   | 39  | 41       |
| Fair                                 | 4                            | 5    | 12   | 12  | 22       |
| Poor                                 | 0                            | 1    | 3    | 5   | 14       |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 0                            | 0    | 1    | -   | 1        |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 78                           | 66   | 54   | 45  | 23       |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 4                            | 6    | 15   | 17  | 36       |
| <b>Women</b>                         |                              |      |      |     |          |
| Excellent                            | 40                           | 27   | 18   | 20  | 17       |
| Very good                            | 35                           | 33   | 33   | 25  | 20       |
| Good                                 | 21                           | 34   | 36   | 33  | 39       |
| Fair                                 | 3                            | 5    | 11   | 16  | 11       |
| Poor                                 | 1                            | 1    | 3    | 6   | 10       |
| Certified blind or partially sighted | 0                            | 0    | 0    | 1   | 3        |
| <i>Excellent/very good</i>           | 75                           | 60   | 51   | 45  | 37       |
| <i>Fair/poor</i>                     | 4                            | 6    | 13   | 21  | 21       |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>            |                              |      |      |     |          |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 1258                         | 1643 | 705  | 243 | 73       |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 1592                         | 2029 | 900  | 253 | 92       |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>              |                              |      |      |     |          |
| <i>Men</i>                           | 1483                         | 1827 | 709  | 233 | 63       |
| <i>Women</i>                         | 1548                         | 1905 | 796  | 219 | 82       |

Table 3.6

**Whether certified blind or partially sighted, by age and sex***Aged 16 and over* 2013

| Certification                        | Age group   |             | Total       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                      | 16-64       | 65+         |             |
|                                      | %           | %           | %           |
| <b>Men</b>                           |             |             |             |
| Blind                                | 0.03        | 0.07        | 0.04        |
| Partially sighted                    | 0.14        | 1.26        | 0.37        |
| Blind/partially sighted <sup>a</sup> | 0.09        | 1.10        | 0.30        |
| <i>All blind/partially sighted</i>   | <i>0.26</i> | <i>2.44</i> | <i>0.70</i> |
| <hr/>                                |             |             |             |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>            | <i>6555</i> | <i>2231</i> | <i>8786</i> |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>              | <i>7058</i> | <i>1804</i> | <i>8862</i> |

<sup>a</sup> This includes a small number who spontaneously reported that they were certified blind/partially sighted at the previous question, and were not asked which category they were in. More detail is provided in Section 3.2.2.

Percentages are shown to two decimal places in this table because of very low prevalence.

Table 3.7

### Prevalence of eye conditions diagnosed by a doctor or optician, by age and sex

| Aged 16 and over                                      |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       | 2013 |
|---|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|
| Eye condition   | Age group |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | Total |      |
|   | 16-24     | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+ |       |      |
|   | %         | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %   | %     |      |
| <b>Men</b>  |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |      |
| Cataract  | 0         | 0     | 0     | 2     | 6     | 20    | 40    | 47  | 7     |      |
| Glaucoma or suspected glaucoma                        | -         | -     | 1     | 2     | 2     | 5     | 9     | 5   | 2     |      |
| Macular degeneration                                  | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 8     | 8   | 1     |      |
| Diabetes-related eye disease/<br>diabetic retinopathy | 0         | 0     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 3     | 3     | 1   | 1     |      |
| Injury or trauma resulting in<br>loss of vision       | 1         | 2     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 1   | 1     |      |
| Other serious eye condition                           | 1         | 1     | 2     | 3     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 3   | 2     |      |
| None  | 98        | 96    | 95    | 91    | 86    | 72    | 50    | 45  | 88    |      |
| <b>Women</b>  |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |      |
| Cataract  | 0         | 0     | 0     | 2     | 9     | 26    | 49    | 58  | 10    |      |
| Glaucoma or suspected<br>glaucoma                     | 0         | 0     | 1     | 1     | 3     | 6     | 8     | 6   | 2     |      |
| Macular degeneration                                  | -         | -     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 4     | 9     | 23  | 2     |      |
| Diabetes-related eye disease/<br>diabetic retinopathy | 0         | 0     | 1     | 1     | 1     | 2     | 4     | 1   | 1     |      |
| Injury or trauma resulting in<br>loss of vision       | 1         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1     | 1   | 1     |      |
| Other serious eye condition                           | 1         | 1     | 1     | 3     | 4     | 4     | 5     | 4   | 3     |      |
| None  | 97        | 98    | 97    | 93    | 84    | 64    | 41    | 27  | 85    |      |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                             |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |      |
| Men   | 392       | 542   | 629   | 704   | 604   | 615   | 346   | 90  | 3922  |      |
| Women   | 476       | 755   | 827   | 883   | 742   | 651   | 386   | 143 | 4863  |      |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                               |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |      |
| Men   | 632       | 733   | 748   | 764   | 620   | 478   | 271   | 69  | 4314  |      |
| Women   | 635       | 752   | 759   | 778   | 637   | 515   | 342   | 128 | 4546  |      |

Table 3.8

### Whether had surgery for cataracts, by age and sex

| Aged 16 and over and<br>diagnosed with cataracts |           |     |       | 2013 |
|--|-----------|-----|-------|------|
| Had surgery<br>for cataracts                     | Age group |     | Total |      |
|  | 16-64     | 65+ |       |      |
|  | %         | %   | %     |      |
| <b>Men</b>                                       |           |     |       |      |
| Yes  | 48        | 47  | 47    |      |
| <b>Women</b>                                     |           |     |       |      |
| Yes  | 27        | 47  | 43    |      |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                        |           |     |       |      |
| Men  | 53        | 306 | 359   |      |
| Women  | 93        | 446 | 539   |      |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                          |           |     |       |      |
| Men  | 59        | 238 | 297   |      |
| Women  | 79        | 377 | 456   |      |

Table 3.9

**Frequency of eyesight tests, by age and sex**

| <i>Aged 16 and over</i>        |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             | 2013 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------|
| Frequency of eyesight tests    | Age group  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            | Total       |      |
|                                | 16-24      | 25-34      | 35-44      | 45-54      | 55-64      | 65-74      | 75-84      | 85+        |             |      |
|                                | %          | %          | %          | %          | %          | %          | %          | %          | %           |      |
| <b>Men</b>                     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |      |
| Every 6 months                 | 5          | 5          | 4          | 5          | 4          | 7          | 8          | 8          | 5           |      |
| Once a year                    | 19         | 17         | 22         | 25         | 25         | 37         | 60         | 46         | 26          |      |
| Once every 2 years             | 17         | 20         | 24         | 36         | 41         | 35         | 20         | 19         | 28          |      |
| Less than every 2 years        | 13         | 18         | 15         | 14         | 14         | 10         | 6          | 10         | 14          |      |
| Only when a problem with sight | 17         | 15         | 14         | 8          | 9          | 7          | 3          | 12         | 11          |      |
| Never                          | 28         | 24         | 21         | 11         | 6          | 4          | 3          | 5          | 16          |      |
| <i>At least every 2 years</i>  | <i>41</i>  | <i>42</i>  | <i>50</i>  | <i>67</i>  | <i>71</i>  | <i>79</i>  | <i>89</i>  | <i>73</i>  | <i>59</i>   |      |
| <b>Women</b>                   |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |      |
| Every 6 months                 | 5          | 4          | 3          | 4          | 3          | 5          | 10         | 13         | 5           |      |
| Once a year                    | 28         | 24         | 29         | 32         | 33         | 41         | 60         | 58         | 34          |      |
| Once every 2 years             | 21         | 25         | 31         | 41         | 46         | 40         | 19         | 16         | 32          |      |
| Less than every 2 years        | 14         | 17         | 14         | 11         | 10         | 8          | 5          | 7          | 12          |      |
| Only when a problem with sight | 13         | 14         | 11         | 7          | 6          | 4          | 5          | 3          | 9           |      |
| Never                          | 18         | 15         | 11         | 5          | 2          | 2          | 1          | 3          | 8           |      |
| <i>At least every 2 years</i>  | <i>55</i>  | <i>54</i>  | <i>63</i>  | <i>77</i>  | <i>82</i>  | <i>86</i>  | <i>90</i>  | <i>88</i>  | <i>71</i>   |      |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>      |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |      |
| <i>Men</i>                     | <i>391</i> | <i>540</i> | <i>628</i> | <i>703</i> | <i>602</i> | <i>615</i> | <i>348</i> | <i>90</i>  | <i>3917</i> |      |
| <i>Women</i>                   | <i>477</i> | <i>752</i> | <i>827</i> | <i>882</i> | <i>743</i> | <i>652</i> | <i>387</i> | <i>142</i> | <i>4862</i> |      |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>        |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |             |      |
| <i>Men</i>                     | <i>630</i> | <i>730</i> | <i>747</i> | <i>763</i> | <i>615</i> | <i>478</i> | <i>273</i> | <i>69</i>  | <i>4305</i> |      |
| <i>Women</i>                   | <i>637</i> | <i>750</i> | <i>759</i> | <i>777</i> | <i>638</i> | <i>516</i> | <i>342</i> | <i>127</i> | <i>4546</i> |      |

Table 3.10

**Frequency of eyesight tests (age-standardised),  
by equivalised household income and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Frequency of eyesight tests    | Equivalised household income quintile |            |            |            |             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                                | Highest<br>%                          | 2nd<br>%   | 3rd<br>%   | 4th<br>%   | Lowest<br>% |
| <b>Men</b>                     |                                       |            |            |            |             |
| Every 6 months                 | 5                                     | 5          | 4          | 5          | 7           |
| Once a year                    | 29                                    | 26         | 24         | 23         | 26          |
| Once every 2 years             | 31                                    | 32         | 30         | 26         | 21          |
| Less than every 2 years        | 15                                    | 13         | 13         | 14         | 13          |
| Only when a problem with sight | 10                                    | 12         | 10         | 12         | 13          |
| Never                          | 10                                    | 13         | 18         | 21         | 20          |
| <i>At least every 2 years</i>  | <i>65</i>                             | <i>62</i>  | <i>59</i>  | <i>54</i>  | <i>54</i>   |
| <b>Women</b>                   |                                       |            |            |            |             |
| Every 6 months                 | 5                                     | 3          | 4          | 4          | 5           |
| Once a year                    | 34                                    | 35         | 31         | 35         | 33          |
| Once every 2 years             | 33                                    | 34         | 36         | 30         | 32          |
| Less than every 2 years        | 13                                    | 11         | 11         | 13         | 12          |
| Only when a problem with sight | 10                                    | 10         | 8          | 7          | 9           |
| Never                          | 5                                     | 6          | 10         | 11         | 10          |
| <i>At least every 2 years</i>  | <i>72</i>                             | <i>73</i>  | <i>71</i>  | <i>69</i>  | <i>70</i>   |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>      |                                       |            |            |            |             |
| <i>Men</i>                     | <i>711</i>                            | <i>698</i> | <i>580</i> | <i>590</i> | <i>552</i>  |
| <i>Women</i>                   | <i>720</i>                            | <i>801</i> | <i>734</i> | <i>769</i> | <i>786</i>  |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>        |                                       |            |            |            |             |
| <i>Men</i>                     | <i>812</i>                            | <i>767</i> | <i>617</i> | <i>585</i> | <i>632</i>  |
| <i>Women</i>                   | <i>695</i>                            | <i>761</i> | <i>680</i> | <i>679</i> | <i>705</i>  |

Table 3.11

| <b>Most recent type of eyesight test, by age and sex</b> |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
|--|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| <i>Aged 16 and over and ever had eyes tested</i>         |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | 2013  |
| Type of test <sup>a</sup>                                | Age group |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | Total |
|  | 16-24     | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+ |       |
|  | %         | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %   | %     |
| <b>Men</b>   |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| NHS sight test at an optician, not paid for by self      | 56        | 24    | 25    | 30    | 47    | 84    | 89    | 79  | 46    |
| Private sight test at an optician, paid for by self      | 30        | 51    | 55    | 58    | 46    | 13    | 11    | 14  | 41    |
| Private sight test at an optician, paid for by employer  | 3         | 18    | 15    | 10    | 5     | 1     | -     | 2   | 8     |
| NHS eye examination at home, not paid for by self        | 1         | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | -     | 3   | 0     |
| Other/ can't remember                                    | 10        | 7     | 5     | 1     | 2     | 2     | 0     | 2   | 4     |
| Currently attends eye hospital/clinic for treatment      | 2         | 2     | 2     | 3     | 5     | 12    | 18    | 20  | 5     |
| <b>Women</b>   |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| NHS sight test at an optician, not paid for by self      | 60        | 33    | 33    | 35    | 52    | 87    | 87    | 85  | 52    |
| Private sight test at an optician, paid for by self      | 34        | 53    | 56    | 57    | 42    | 12    | 10    | 11  | 40    |
| Private sight test at an optician, paid for by employer  | 1         | 10    | 7     | 6     | 4     | 0     | 1     | 1   | 5     |
| NHS eye examination at home, not paid for by self        | 0         | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 2   | 0     |
| Other/ can't remember                                    | 4         | 4     | 3     | 1     | 1     | 1     | 0     | 2   | 2     |
| Currently attends eye hospital/clinic for treatment      | 2         | 2     | 3     | 4     | 6     | 11    | 18    | 17  | 6     |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                                |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>   | 278       | 407   | 492   | 621   | 565   | 588   | 337   | 86  | 3374  |
| <i>Women</i>   | 389       | 635   | 737   | 840   | 726   | 635   | 383   | 137 | 4482  |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                                  |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>   | 451       | 552   | 588   | 678   | 579   | 457   | 265   | 66  | 3636  |
| <i>Women</i>   | 523       | 635   | 672   | 740   | 624   | 503   | 339   | 124 | 4160  |

<sup>a</sup> Types of eyesight test exclude any current eye treatment at a hospital/clinic.

Table 3.12

**Ability to see newsprint at arms' length, using glasses or lenses if needed, by age and sex**

Aged 16 and over

2013

| Ability to see newsprint at arms' length | Age group |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | Total |
|--|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
|  | 16-24     | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+ |       |
|  | %         | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %   | %     |
| <b>Men</b>                               |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| No difficulty                            | 98        | 97    | 95    | 86    | 86    | 89    | 78    | 71  | 91    |
| Mild difficulty                          | 1         | 2     | 4     | 8     | 9     | 6     | 11    | 15  | 5     |
| Moderate difficulty                      | 0         | 1     | 1     | 4     | 4     | 3     | 6     | 9   | 3     |
| Severe difficulty                        | -         | 0     | 0     | 2     | 1     | 2     | 2     | 2   | 1     |
| Cannot do                                | 0         | 0     | -     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 2   | 0     |
| <b>Women</b>                             |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| No difficulty                            | 93        | 96    | 92    | 90    | 88    | 86    | 76    | 57  | 89    |
| Mild difficulty                          | 6         | 3     | 5     | 7     | 6     | 6     | 11    | 13  | 6     |
| Moderate difficulty                      | 1         | 1     | 2     | 2     | 4     | 4     | 8     | 12  | 3     |
| Severe difficulty                        | 0         | -     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 2     | 4     | 9   | 1     |
| Cannot do                                | 0         | 0     | 1     | 1     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 10  | 1     |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| Men                                      | 392       | 542   | 629   | 704   | 604   | 613   | 348   | 90  | 3922  |
| Women                                    | 477       | 755   | 827   | 884   | 743   | 652   | 386   | 141 | 4865  |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                  |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| Men                                      | 632       | 733   | 748   | 764   | 620   | 477   | 273   | 69  | 4315  |
| Women                                    | 637       | 752   | 759   | 779   | 638   | 516   | 342   | 126 | 4548  |



Table 3.13

**Ability to see across a room, using glasses or lenses if needed, by age and sex**

| <i>Aged 16 and over</i>                   |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | 2013  |
|---|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| Ability to see across a room <sup>a</sup> | Age group |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | Total |
|   | 16-24     | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+ |       |
|   | %         | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %     | %   | %     |
| <b>Men</b>                                |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| No difficulty                             | 99        | 98    | 97    | 96    | 95    | 95    | 90    | 83  | 96    |
| Mild difficulty                           | 1         | 1     | 2     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 5     | 8   | 2     |
| Moderate difficulty                       | 0         | 1     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 3     | 5   | 1     |
| Severe difficulty                         | 0         | -     | -     | 0     | -     | 1     | 1     | 1   | 0     |
| Cannot do                                 | -         | -     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 2   | 0     |
| <b>Women</b>                              |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| No difficulty                             | 96        | 97    | 98    | 96    | 95    | 94    | 85    | 74  | 95    |
| Mild difficulty                           | 4         | 2     | 1     | 3     | 3     | 3     | 8     | 6   | 3     |
| Moderate difficulty                       | 0         | 0     | 1     | 1     | 2     | 2     | 5     | 4   | 1     |
| Severe difficulty                         | -         | -     | -     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 2     | 8   | 1     |
| Cannot do                                 | -         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 7   | 0     |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                 |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>                                | 392       | 542   | 629   | 703   | 604   | 615   | 348   | 90  | 3923  |
| <i>Women</i>                              | 477       | 755   | 827   | 883   | 743   | 652   | 386   | 143 | 4866  |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                   |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>                                | 632       | 733   | 748   | 763   | 620   | 478   | 273   | 69  | 4315  |
| <i>Women</i>                              | 637       | 752   | 759   | 778   | 638   | 516   | 342   | 128 | 4549  |

<sup>a</sup> Clearly seeing the face of someone across a room, that is from 4 metres or 12 feet away.

Table 3.14

**How often eyesight limits activities, by age and sex**Aged 16 and over with any difficulty with close/distant vision<sup>a</sup> 2013

| How often eyesight limits activities <sup>b</sup> | Age group |     | Total |
|---|-----------|-----|-------|
|   | 16-64     | 65+ |       |
|   | %         | %   | %     |
| <b>Men</b>  |           |     |       |
| Always  | 6         | 8   | 7     |
| Often   | 8         | 8   | 8     |
| Sometimes   | 18        | 27  | 21    |
| Rarely  | 26        | 22  | 24    |
| Never   | 42        | 35  | 40    |
| <i>Activities limited at least sometimes</i>      | 32        | 44  | 36    |
| <b>Women</b>                                      |           |     |       |
| Always  | 2         | 14  | 7     |
| Often   | 6         | 11  | 8     |
| Sometimes   | 24        | 25  | 24    |
| Rarely  | 20        | 18  | 19    |
| Never   | 48        | 32  | 42    |
| <i>Activities limited at least sometimes</i>      | 32        | 50  | 39    |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                         |           |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>  | 269       | 192 | 461   |
| <i>Women</i>                                      | 381       | 269 | 650   |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                           |           |     |       |
| <i>Men</i>  | 294       | 144 | 438   |
| <i>Women</i>                                      | 350       | 225 | 575   |

<sup>a</sup> At least mild difficulty with close vision (seeing newsprint at arms' length) or distant vision (seeing a face across a room).

<sup>b</sup> Participants were asked to answer about any eyesight difficulties while wearing their glasses or contact lenses, if needed.

Table 3.15

**How often eyesight limits activities (age standardised), by self-reported eyesight and sex**Aged 16 and over with any difficulty with close/distant vision<sup>a</sup> 2013

| How often eyesight limits activities <sup>b</sup> | Self-reported eyesighth |      |           |
|---|-------------------------|------|-----------|
|   | Excellent/very good     | Good | Fair/poor |
|   | %                       | %    | %         |
| <b>Men</b>  |                         |      |           |
| Always  | 3                       | 2    | 13        |
| Often   | 5                       | 4    | 9         |
| Sometimes   | 10                      | 24   | 24        |
| Rarely  | 37                      | 26   | 20        |
| Never   | 45                      | 44   | 33        |
| <i>Activities limited at least sometimes</i>      | 18                      | 29   | 46        |
| <b>Women</b>                                      |                         |      |           |
| Always  | 1                       | 1    | 6         |
| Often   | 3                       | 4    | 12        |
| Sometimes   | 15                      | 25   | 29        |
| Rarely  | 16                      | 24   | 16        |
| Never   | 65                      | 46   | 37        |
| <i>Activities limited at least sometimes</i>      | 20                      | 30   | 47        |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                         |                         |      |           |
| <i>Men</i>  | 90                      | 181  | 177       |
| <i>Women</i>                                      | 142                     | 253  | 239       |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                           |                         |      |           |
| <i>Men</i>  | 97                      | 167  | 163       |
| <i>Women</i>                                      | 131                     | 226  | 203       |

<sup>a</sup> At least mild difficulty with close vision (seeing newsprint at arms' length) or distant vision (seeing a face across a room).

<sup>b</sup> Participants were asked to answer about any eyesight difficulties while wearing their glasses or contact lenses, if needed.

Table 3.16

### How often eyesight limits activities (age standardised), by equivalised household income and sex

Aged 16 and over with any difficulty with close/distant vision<sup>a</sup> 2013

| How often eyesight limits activities <sup>b</sup> | Equivalised household income quintile |          |          |          |             |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
|   | Highest<br>%                          | 2nd<br>% | 3rd<br>% | 4th<br>% | Lowest<br>% |
| <b>Men</b>  |                                       |          |          |          |             |
| Always  | [1]                                   | 11       | -        | 2        | 9           |
| Often   | [5]                                   | 4        | [1]      | 7        | 9           |
| Sometimes   | [29]                                  | 10       | [9]      | 27       | 16          |
| Rarely  | [19]                                  | 18       | [38]     | 14       | 34          |
| Never   | [47]                                  | 58       | [53]     | 49       | 32          |
| <i>Activities limited at least sometimes</i>      | [35]                                  | 25       | [9]      | 37       | 34          |
| <b>Women</b>                                      |                                       |          |          |          |             |
| Always  | 6                                     | 2        | 5        | 9        | 4           |
| Often   | 3                                     | 7        | 3        | 7        | 6           |
| Sometimes   | 19                                    | 31       | 24       | 20       | 30          |
| Rarely  | 13                                    | 8        | 18       | 17       | 20          |
| Never   | 60                                    | 52       | 49       | 47       | 39          |
| <i>Activities limited at least sometimes</i>      | 27                                    | 40       | 32       | 36       | 40          |
| <i>Bases (unweighted)</i>                         |                                       |          |          |          |             |
| <i>Men</i>  | 46                                    | 62       | 47       | 90       | 88          |
| <i>Women</i>                                      | 51                                    | 71       | 77       | 124      | 148         |
| <i>Bases (weighted)</i>                           |                                       |          |          |          |             |
| <i>Men</i>  | 45                                    | 63       | 42       | 71       | 93          |
| <i>Women</i>                                      | 47                                    | 64       | 70       | 110      | 130         |

<sup>a</sup> At least mild difficulty with close vision (seeing newsprint at arms' length) or distant vision (seeing a face across a room).

<sup>b</sup> Participants were asked to answer about any eyesight difficulties while wearing their glasses or contact lenses, if needed.

[ ] Figures in brackets are based on small numbers (below 50). Results should be interpreted with caution.