

Neighborhood inequity tied to more people living with vision difficulty, blindness

May 15 2024, by Lori Solomon



Residential measures of inequity are associated with a greater number of individuals living with vision difficulty and blindness (VDB), [according to a study](#) published online May 9 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Patrice M. Hicks, Ph.D., M.P.H., from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and colleagues used data from the 2012 to 2016 American Community Survey and 2010 U.S. [census](#) tracts as well as Theil H index, Gini index, and persistent poverty measures from PolicyMap to examine associations between VDB and measures of neighborhood-level inequity. The analysis included 73,198 census tracts.

The researchers found that for every 0.1-unit increase in Theil H index and Gini index, there was a significantly increased odds of VDB after controlling for census tract-level median age, the percentage of the population that identified as female sex, the percentage of the population that identified as a member of a racial or ethnic-minority group, state, and [population size](#).

There was a significant association seen between persistent poverty and increased odds of VDB after controlling for census tract-level [median age](#), the percentage of the population that identified as female sex, the percentage of the population that identified as a member of a racial or ethnic-minority group, state, and population size compared with nonpersistent [poverty](#) (odds ratio, 1.36).

"These associations may inform policies to promote systemic investment and targeted intervention in these high-risk census tracts," the authors write.

More information: Patrice M. Hicks et al, Place-Based Measures of Inequity and Vision Difficulty and Blindness, *JAMA Ophthalmology* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2024.1207](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2024.1207)

Ahmara G. Ross et al, Adopting More Precise Metrics to Move Everyone Closer to Eye Health, *JAMA Ophthalmology* (2024). [DOI:](#)

[10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2024.1208](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2024.1208)

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