

Degrees of Vision Loss

Vision loss is a spectrum. Here are the different terms and what they mean.

- 20/200 vs. 20/20:** A person with 20/200 vision sees from 20 feet away the same detail that a person with 20/20 vision (good vision) can see from 200 feet away.
- Low vision:** Vision that is not fully correctable with glasses or surgery, and varies from person to person.
- Functional vision:** The useful vision someone has for daily life, often supported by good lighting, labels, or magnifiers.
- Legal blindness:** A measurement (less than 20/200 vision or very limited central vision)—not a total loss of sight. Most people who are legally blind still have functional vision.
- Total blindness:** No vision at all, including no light perception. A small percentage of people with blindness are totally blind.

