



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**GLAUCOMA (60 SECONDS)**

This is Acting State Health Officer, Doctor Scott Harris. Almost three million people in the United States age 40 and older have glaucoma, and nearly half do not know it because there are no early symptoms, noticeable vision loss, or pain.

By the time symptoms start to appear, this “Sneak Thief of Sight,” as Glaucoma is often referred to, has already started to permanently damage the eye. If left undiagnosed or poorly controlled, glaucoma can cause irreversible damage and, ultimately, the loss of sight.

People with glaucoma often start to notice the loss of their peripheral vision – or the sight around the edges of their field of vision – but by then it’s often too late. Once vision is lost to glaucoma it cannot be restored, so it is important to visit your eye doctor regularly.

If you haven’t been to the eye doctor within the past 2 years, make an appointment for your dilated eye exam today. Be kind to your eyes, and visit our website at Alabama Public Health dot g-o-v for more information!

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