

There is extensive data on myopia (nearsightedness) prevalence by country, highlighting significant regional variations and global trends.

Global Overview

- As of 2010, approximately **27%** of the world's population was affected by myopia, equating to about **1.45 billion people**. [PMC](#)
- Projections suggest that by **2050**, nearly **50%** of the global population will be myopic, with **10%** experiencing high myopia. [The Lancet+1Myopia Institute -+1](#)

Country-Specific Prevalence

East Asia

East Asian countries report some of the highest myopia rates globally:

- **Singapore:** Up to **90%** of young adults are myopic. [Wikipédia, l'encyclopédie libre+4The Guardian+4WIRED+4](#)
- **South Korea:** Among 19-year-old males, **96.5%** are affected. [SpringerLink+1WIRED+1](#)
- **China:** In urban areas like Shanghai, myopia prevalence among children aged 7–12 years is around **30.8%**, increasing to over **50%** by age 10. [SpringerLink](#)
- **Taiwan:** Among 15-year-olds, the prevalence reaches **81%**.

Europe

European countries exhibit moderate myopia rates:

- **United Kingdom:** Among 12–13-year-olds, prevalence is **29.4%**. [SpringerLink](#)
- **Northern Ireland:** For the same age group, the rate is **17.7%**. [SpringerLink](#)
- **Netherlands:** Among 6-year-olds, the prevalence is as low as **2.4%**. [SpringerLink](#)

North America

In the United States, myopia prevalence has increased over recent decades:

- Among individuals aged 12–54, prevalence rose from **25%** in the early 1970s to **42%** by the early 2000s. [Wikipedia](#)

South America

Data from South America indicate lower prevalence rates:

- **Brazil:** A 2005 study estimated that **6%** of Brazilians aged 12–59 had myopia of –1.00 diopter or more. [Wikipedia](#)
- **Natal, Brazil:** Among students, nearly **13%** were found to be myopic. [Wikipedia+1PMC+1](#)

Africa

African countries generally report the lowest myopia prevalence:

- **Ghana:** Among 12–15-year-olds, the prevalence is **3.4%**. [thesun.co.uk+3SpringerLink+3Wikipedia+3](#)
- **South Africa:** In children aged 5–15 years, the rate is **4.0%**. [SpringerLink](#)



Summary Table

Region/Country	Age Group	Myopia Prevalence
Singapore	Young adults	Up to 90%
South Korea	19-year-old males	96.5%
China (Shanghai)	Children (7–12 yrs)	30.8%
Taiwan	15-year-olds	81%
UK	12–13-year-olds	29.4%
USA	12–54-year-olds	42%
Brazil	12–59-year-olds	6%
Ghana	12–15-year-olds	3.4%
South Africa	5–15-year-olds	4.0%



Observations

- **East Asia** exhibits the highest myopia rates, often exceeding 80% in young adults, likely due to intense educational demands and limited outdoor activities.

- **Europe** and **North America** show moderate prevalence, with increasing trends over recent decades.
- **South America** and **Africa** currently have lower prevalence rates, but urbanization and lifestyle changes may influence future trends.