INTERNATIONAL CONTACT LENS PRESCRIBING IN 2025

Our 25th consecutive annual survey reveals trends in global contact lens prescribing.

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THIS REPORT marks a quarter century of consecutive annual reports in *Contact Lens Spectrum* that continue to document global contact lens trends. It reflects the efforts of a team of optometrists, ophthalmologists, and others who manage the collection of contact lens prescribing data across their countries or regions. Data are collected via paper forms or an online survey, with the request that participating practitioners (who might be optometrists, ophthalmologists, or opticians, depending on local regulations) provide prospective information about the 10 patients they fit with contact lenses following the commencement of the project each year.

Information is recorded about the following aspects of each contact lens fit: age and gender of the patient; lens material, design, replacement frequency, and wearing modality; the anticipated wearing period of the lenses (as days per week); and the care system recommended. A weighting system is assigned to each fit based on the volume of fits performed by each practitioner, calculated based on the date range provided for the fits reported.

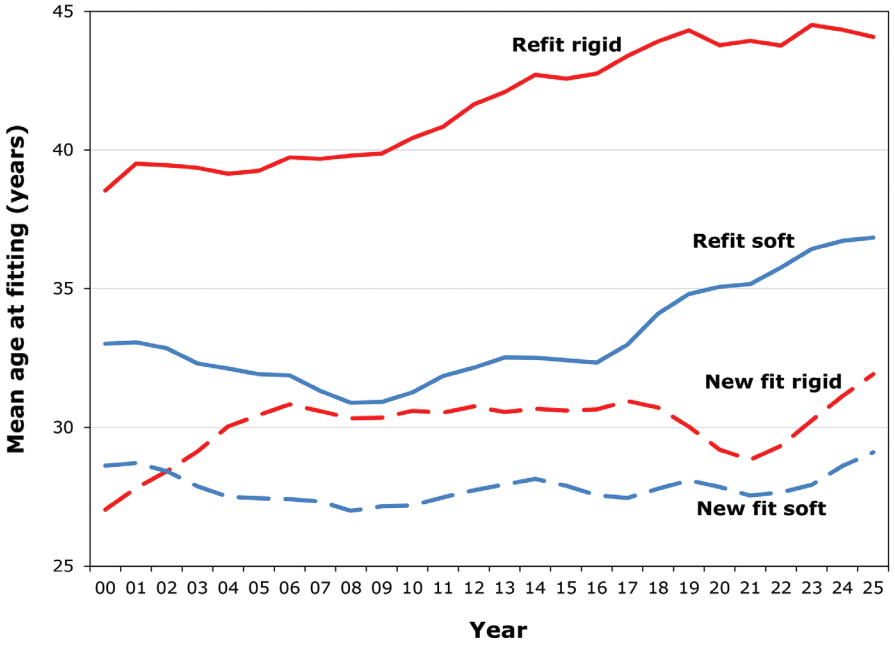

FIGURE 1. Age at fitting for rigid and soft lenses as new fits and refits.
Data are 3-year moving averages.

KEY WEARER INFORMATION

In 2025, data relating to at least 100 contact lens fits were reported for 24 countries (Table 1). Information about fits in 5 other markets was also received, but the low number of fits reported prevents inclusion in the annual report. For the included markets, 11,264 fits were analyzed with more than 1,000 fits reported for Japan and the Philippines. The average age at fitting was 34.7±15.5 years (mean ± standard deviation). Figure 1 shows how age at fitting has varied over the duration of this project. In general, rigid lenses and refits are associated with older patients.

The average age at fitting of new fit patients (no previous or recent contact lens experience) has remained broadly similar over the life of this study (about 28 years for soft lenses and 30 years for rigid lenses), but the average age of refit patients has increased and is now about 37 years for soft lenses and 44 years for rigid lenses. In 2025, 5 markets reported that average age at fitting was greater than 40 years: Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay. As in previous years, about two-thirds of contact lens wearers were female. Also noted for 2025: 35% of patients were designated as new fits and a large majority of patients (90%) were fitted with lenses to be used on a full-time basis (at least 4 days per week).

Table 2 shows the breakdown of lens fits into 7 major lens categories. Soft lenses account for 88% of lens fits, with standard-design rigid corneal and scleral lenses (10%) and orthokeratology lenses (2%) making up the remainder. Daily disposables accounted for 44% of all fits in 2025, slightly ahead of daily wear reusables at 40%. Extended wear lenses were prescribed in 5% of cases.

TABLE 1.

Demographic Information for All Surveyed Markets Reporting at Least 100 Fits

COUNTRY	TOTAL FITS	MEAN (± SD) AGE	% FEMALE	% NEW FITS	% PART TIME (≤ 3DAYS)
Argentina (AR)	357	35.8±16.4	64%	50%	2%
Australia (AU)	282	38.1±16.1	66%	33%	26%
Bulgaria (BG)	100	29.0±11.4	66%	37%	9%
Canada (CA)	213	39.5±18.2	65%	27%	21%
Denmark (DK)	735	39.9±16.1	61%	29%	16%
Spain (ES)	631	34.0±16.0	64%	47%	20%
Greece (GR)	828	31.3±12.2	56%	31%	15%
Hong Kong (HK)	630	32.2±14.4	62%	42%	25%
Hungary (HU)	100	30.3±15.2	62%	20%	7%
Israel (IL)	255	29.9±8.6	60%	33%	1%
Italy (IT)	515	37.1±17.2	59%	55%	24%
Japan (JP)	2,285	33.1±17.1	63%	40%	12%
Lithuania (LT)	683	31.8±10.8	66%	14%	15%
Latvia (LV)	140	31.0±15.0	69%	16%	5%
Mexico (MX)	125	35.2±13.6	65%	40%	7%
Norway (NO)	110	42.3±16.3	58%	24%	13%
New Zealand (NZ)	144	42.6±20.8	65%	50%	7%
Philippines (PH)	1,006	30.5±10.7	73%	35%	23%
Portugal (PT)	194	36.1±15.1	61%	49%	7%
Sweden (SE)	167	42.3±16.2	62%	18%	6%
Taiwan (TW)	520	32.8±10.2	71%	24%	7%
United Kingdom (UK)	908	41.0±17.2	59%	48%	32%
United States (US)	176	34.8±16.7	66%	14%	7%
Uruguay (UY)	160	41.1±16.6	56%	24%	10%
OVERALL	**11,264**	**34.7±15.5**	**63%**	**35%**	**15%**

RIGID CORNEAL AND SCLERAL LENSES

Further detail about rigid lens prescribing is provided in Table 3 for the 11 markets providing information about at least 35 lens fits. Scleral lenses now account for 19% of reported rigid lens fits, with mid-Dk materials (Dk of 40 to 90) the most popularly prescribed corneal lens type. The use of standard orthokeratology lenses varies considerably, with more than one-third of rigid lenses of this design prescribed in Hong Kong and Italy. A majority of rigid lenses (61%) were prescribed on a planned replacement basis.

SOFT LENSES

Silicone hydrogel materials were the most widely prescribed soft lens type (Table 4), at 78% of fits this year. Figure 2 (available online) shows the use of this material in 18 markets for which information about at least 1,000 fits has been reported for 2021 to 2025. Some markets, such as Lithuania and Colombia, are close to reaching a "saturation" of silicone hydrogel materials within the soft lens category, with most markets prescribing at least 70% of soft lenses as silicone hydrogels. The major outlier is Taiwan, where fits of this material type comprise only a small part of the market.

About half of all soft lenses prescribed in 2025 were spheres, with other lens fits spread across toric, cosmetically tinted, multifocal, monovision, and myopia control designs. Figure 3 (available online) shows the use of toric lenses within standard single vision lenses prescribed. The "expected" value here is around 50%, given that about half the population has a clinically significant level of astigmatism in at least 1 eye. Indeed, many markets are now achieving this level of toric lens prescribing, with 4 markets (Japan, Bulgaria, Taiwan, and Lithuania) revealing rather lower prescribing rates.

Multifocal lens designs accounted for 17% of all soft lens fits in 2025; of course, this proportion is much higher if only presbyopic fits (those to patients aged 45

TABLE 2.

Breakdown of All Lens Fits Into 7 Key Categories of Lens

TYPE/MATERIAL	AR	AU	BG	CA	DK	ES	GR	HK	HU	IL	IT	JP	LT
Rigid (non-OK)	39%	13%	7%	2%	7%	11%	0%	11%	10%	2%	15%	10%	0%
OK	1%	5%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	8%	33%	0%	8%	1%	0%
DD hydrogel	0%	5%	1%	2%	20%	6%	0%	8%	5%	21%	15%	18%	1%
DD SiHy	2%	52%	2%	68%	34%	23%	14%	63%	23%	49%	16%	38%	35%
Reusable hydrogel	13%	1%	18%	1%	3%	11%	13%	1%	0%	10%	24%	7%	4%
Reusable SiHy	37%	21%	66%	25%	26%	47%	63%	10%	27%	15%	19%	22%	44%
Soft EW	8%	3%	7%	1%	8%	1%	9%	0%	1%	3%	3%	3%	16%

TYPE/MATERIAL	LV	MX	NO	NZ	PH	PT	SE	TW	UK	US	UY	OVERALL
Rigid (non-OK)	73%	27%	16%	54%	2%	15%	11%	13%	4%	6%	47%	**10%**
OK	4%	0%	0%	6%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%	**2%**
DD hydrogel	0%	0%	7%	1%	6%	6%	2%	36%	5%	5%	0%	**11%**
DD SiHy	15%	6%	36%	26%	25%	15%	13%	14%	61%	42%	4%	**33%**
Reusable hydrogel	0%	12%	1%	0%	7%	11%	6%	25%	3%	4%	13%	**8%**
Reusable SiHy	7%	54%	38%	12%	54%	51%	62%	8%	26%	38%	33%	**32%**
Soft EW	1%	2%	1%	2%	4%	0%	4%	3%	1%	2%	2%	**5%**

See Table 1 for country abbreviations. **OK,** orthokeratology; **DD,** daily disposable; **SiHy,** silicone hydrogel; **EW,** extended wear

"Daily disposable lenses accounted for just over half of soft lenses prescribed, whereas monthly lenses were the most commonly prescribed reusable lens type."

years or older) are considered. The trends in multifocal prescribing to presbyopes since 2000 are shown in Figure 4. This chart shows 3 main phases: a low rate of fitting (about 30%) between 2000 and 2010, followed by a rapid increase to about 50% of fits in 2018, and then a slower rise.

Although the increase in the use of multifocal lenses in this part of the patient base probably reflects better lens designs and improved confidence of practitioners, it seems that many presbyopes are still prescribed a simple "distance only" lens pair when fitted with contact lenses, given that monovision prescribing is much lower than that of multifocals. There continues to be great opportunity for new products in this part of the contact lens market.

In 2025, daily disposable lenses accounted for just over half (53%) of soft lenses prescribed, whereas monthly lenses were the most commonly prescribed reusable lens type (29%). The use of daily disposable lenses varies markedly across countries. The United Kingdom heads the group of markets surveyed with 67% of soft lens patients fitted with this lens type in 2021-2025 (Figure 5, available online). A number of markets report that about half of soft lens patients were prescribed daily disposables; their use appears to be rather lower in the Latin American markets studied.

TABLE 4. Detailed Information for All Prescribed Soft Lenses for Markets Reporting >100 Soft Lens Fits

		AR	AU	CA	DK	ES	GR	HK	IL	IT
	Soft lenses for new fits	53%	80%	91%	95%	95%	100%	83%	100%	78%
	Soft lenses for refits	69%	83%	99%	91%	82%	99%	80%	97%	76%
MATERIAL	Low water content (<40%)	14%	1%	1%	0%	9%	0%	2%	2%	4%
MATERIAL	Mid water content (40-60%)	11%	7%	1%	13%	9%	12%	6%	21%	30%
MATERIAL	High water content (>60%)	1%	1%	2%	14%	2%	2%	2%	9%	20%
MATERIAL	Silicone hydrogel	74%	92%	96%	72%	80%	85%	90%	68%	47%
DESIGN	Sphere	25%	35%	29%	28%	31%	53%	40%	61%	28%
DESIGN	Toric	50%	34%	21%	28%	27%	27%	28%	27%	32%
DESIGN	Cosmetic tint	6%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%
DESIGN	Multifocal	13%	20%	47%	26%	33%	19%	23%	7%	30%
DESIGN	Monovision	3%	4%	1%	10%	0%	1%	5%	0%	0%
DESIGN	Myopia control	0%	6%	2%	4%	6%	0%	3%	4%	9%
DESIGN	Other	3%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
REPLACEMENT	Daily	4%	72%	73%	65%	34%	16%	87%	74%	42%
REPLACEMENT	1-2 weekly	4%	6%	1%	2%	1%	41%	3%	14%	14%
REPLACEMENT	Monthly	63%	20%	26%	31%	64%	42%	7%	12%	29%
REPLACEMENT	3-6 monthly	5%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
REPLACEMENT	Annually	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
REPLACEMENT	Unplanned	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	14%
	Extended wear (EW)	13%	4%	1%	9%	1%	9%	0%	4%	4%
	EW with silicone hydrogels	62%	100%	65%	96%	24%	100%	100%	56%	87%
	MPS solutions	95%	92%	60%	89%	91%	99%	93%	92%	62%
	Presbyopes multi/mono	28%/4%	48%/13%	78%/2%	48%/19%	81%/0%	87%/4%	56%/8%	64%/0%	72%/0%

See Table 1 for country abbreviations. The final row indicates the proportion of multifocal and monovision lenses prescribed for patients over 45 years of age.

TABLE 3.

Detailed Information for All Prescribed Rigid Lenses Only

		AR	AU	DK	ES	HK	IT	JP	NZ	TW	UK	UY	OVERALL
	Rigid lenses for new fits	47%	20%	5%	5%	17%	22%	6%	69%	16%	3%	42%	10%
	Rigid lenses for refits	31%	17%	9%	18%	20%	24%	15%	52%	12%	6%	50%	14%
TYPE/MATERIAL	Scleral	56%	22%	49%	6%	0%	12%	6%	23%	3%	44%	11%	19%
TYPE/MATERIAL	PMMA	0%	5%	0%	3%	0%	1%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	1%
TYPE/MATERIAL	Low-Dk (<40)	29%	0%	4%	32%	1%	2%	8%	0%	0%	5%	0%	6%
TYPE/MATERIAL	Mid-Dk (40-90)	5%	7%	17%	41%	7%	31%	23%	5%	28%	25%	50%	22%
TYPE/MATERIAL	High-Dk (>90)	10%	66%	31%	17%	92%	54%	62%	64%	69%	27%	39%	51%
DESIGN	Sphere	82%	37%	22%	25%	7%	12%	63%	6%	84%	28%	37%	35%
DESIGN	Toric	11%	16%	25%	33%	1%	28%	4%	38%	15%	34%	25%	18%
DESIGN	Multifocal	5%	0%	7%	1%	1%	13%	13%	18%	0%	10%	5%	9%
DESIGN	Monovision	0%	0%	0%	2%	5%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	19%	3%
DESIGN	Orthokeratology	2%	27%	6%	8%	43%	34%	12%	10%	1%	12%	0%	14%
DESIGN	Myopia control	0%	14%	7%	29%	44%	2%	2%	20%	0%	12%	0%	15%
DESIGN	Other	0%	6%	32%	2%	0%	11%	4%	7%	0%	3%	14%	5%
	Planned replacement	73%	50%	67%	78%	84%	83%	21%	90%	35%	72%	5%	61%
	Extended wear	0%	18%	6%	35%	57%	17%	7%	38%	53%	10%	2%	24%

See Table 1 for country abbreviations. Data presented for countries reporting >35 rigid lens fits. **PMMA,** polymethyl methacrylate; **Dk,** oxygen permeability.

JP	LT	LV	PH	PT	SE	TW	UK	US	OVERALL
94%	100%	72%	97%	85%	81%	84%	97%	85%	90%
85%	100%	12%	98%	82%	89%	88%	94%	92%	87%
5%	0%	1%	5%	1%	0%	46%	1%	1%	4%
19%	5%	0%	5%	6%	5%	22%	4%	3%	12%
6%	1%	1%	5%	14%	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%
70%	94%	98%	85%	79%	89%	27%	91%	90%	78%
63%	68%	44%	57%	18%	26%	78%	33%	50%	49%
22%	20%	19%	26%	41%	35%	16%	40%	27%	27%
2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	0%	1%	2%	5%	2%
11%	9%	33%	12%	30%	19%	4%	18%	15%	17%
0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	20%	0%	5%	1%	2%
0%	1%	0%	0%	10%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%
0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
65%	43%	68%	34%	26%	18%	60%	70%	54%	53%
33%	1%	4%	0%	2%	7%	3%	2%	9%	16%
1%	56%	25%	61%	70%	71%	34%	28%	37%	29%
0%	0%	2%	5%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%
1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
3%	16%	4%	5%	0%	4%	3%	1%	2%	5%
94%	98%	100%	40%	•	100%	46%	95%	40%	90%
74%	93%	90%	96%	73%	92%	92%	97%	92%	86%
30%/1%	37%/0%	87%/1%	53%/0%	84%/1%	32%/40%	28%/2%	36%/13%	50%/5%	48%/7%

See Table 1 for country abbreviations. The final row indicates the proportion of multifocal and monovision lenses prescribed for patients over 45 years of age.

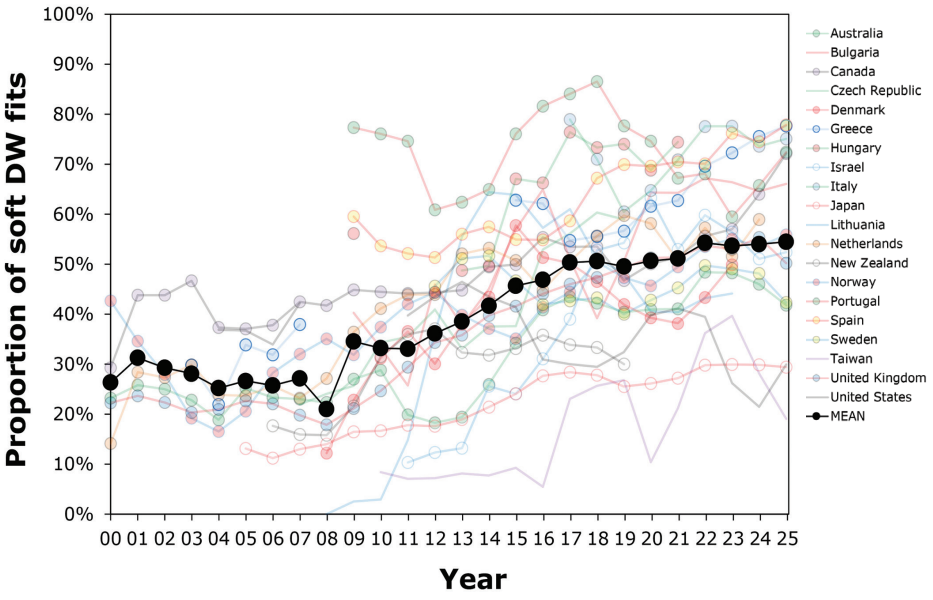

FIGURE 4. Prescribing of soft lens multifocals when patients aged 45 and over are fitted.

The survey also captured that 5% of soft lens patients are prescribed lenses for extended wear (almost always silicone hydrogel materials) and 86% of patients using reusable daily wear lenses are prescribed multipurpose solutions. CLS

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