

Hearing Loss Facts

In the United States:

- There are **48 million** Americans who have a significant hearing loss. (*2011 National Health Interview Survey*)
 - Hearing loss ranks as the **third most common health issue** in the country, behind heart disease and arthritis. (*National Institutes of Health*)
 - An estimated **50 million** Americans experience tinnitus (ringing in the ears). 90% of those also have hearing loss. (*Hearing Loss Association of America*)
 - **Men** are more likely to experience hearing loss than women. (*National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders*)
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In Kentucky:

There are nearly 700,000 (16%) deaf and hard of hearing residents. (*2010 American Community Survey Data, United States Census*)

Teens:

An estimated **1 in 5** American teens experience some type of hearing loss. (*Hearing Loss Association of America*)

80% of kids between the ages of six and 19 have hearing loss as a result of listening to loud music, particularly through earbuds at unsafe volumes. (*Hearing Loss Association of America*)

Youth:

About **2 to 3 out of every 1,000** children in the United States are born deaf or hard-of-hearing. Nine out of every 10 children who are born deaf are born to parents who can hear. (*National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders*)

Veterans:

- **Loss of hearing** is the number one war wound among American veterans. Half of all blast-related injuries sustained result in permanent hearing loss for veterans. (*Hearing Loss Association of America*)
- **2.7 million** veterans receive either disability compensation for service-connected hearing disabilities or are in treatment for hearing-related issues. (*Hearing Loss Association of America*)

Employees:

More than **30 million** Americans are exposed to hazardous levels of noise in their workplace. *(Hearing Loss Association of America)*

Adults:

There is a **strong relationship between age and reported hearing loss**. The following groups show a hearing loss: 18% of adults 45-64 years old, 30% of adults 65-74, and 47% of adults 75 years old or older. *(National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)*

Guidelines for Effective Communication:

- Get the person's attention before beginning to speak.
- Keep your face and mouth visible (be aware of lighting).
- Face the person directly when speaking.
- Speak clearly, slowly, distinctly, but naturally, without shouting or exaggerating mouth movements.
- Only one person should speak at a time.
- Avoid talking too rapidly or using sentences that are too complex.
- Reduce background noise.
- Speak clearly and at a moderate pace.
- Write down information or key words.
- Use interpreters when necessary.