

Hearing Loss Fact Sheet

In the United States

...there are **48 million** Americans who have a significant hearing loss.

(2011 National Health Interview Survey)



Arthritis

1

...hearing loss ranks as the **third** most common health issue in the country, behind heart disease and arthritis.

Heart Disease

2

Hearing Loss

3

(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)



In Kentucky

...there are nearly **700,000** (16%) deaf and hard of hearing residents.

(2010 American Community Survey Data, United States Census)



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.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING FACT SHEET

Teens



🔊 An estimated **1 in 5** American teens experiences 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)*

👂 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)



Youth

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)*

⚡ More than **30 million** Americans are exposed to hazardous levels of noise in their workplace.

(Hearing Loss Association of America)



Employees

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% adults 65-74, and 47% of adults 75 years old or older. *(National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)*



👂 Nearly **33%** of all American's **over the age of 65** have a hearing loss. *(Hearing Loss Association of America)*

👂 Recent studies conducted by the National Institute on Aging reveals a link between **untreated hearing loss and dementia**, a greater incidence of balance problems, falls and stress related diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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