VETERANS
HEARING LOSS FACTS

KCDHH
Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

In the United States

...there are **48 million** Americans who have a significant hearing loss. *(2011 National Health Interview Survey)*

Tinnitus and hearing loss are the top two service-connected disabilities among U.S. Veterans. *(Hearing Health Foundation)*

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)*

Over 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)*

Among post-9/11 veterans, **414,000 have come home with hearing loss and tinnitus,** or ringing in the ears. *(News 21, 2013)*

In a 2010 VA report, the VA spent $218 million on hearing aids for veterans, purchasing **one in five hearing aids sold annually in the U.S.** *(Center for Public Integrity, 2014)*

Listen to Sample Tinnitus Sounds

The American Tinnitus Association (ATA) has compiled a playlist of the most common tinnitus sounds, to provide an example of what tinnitus patients hear on an everyday basis. If you have tinnitus, you can follow this link, https://www.ata.org/understanding-facts/symptoms to use a playlist to find the sound that best matches your own condition. You can also share this resource with your primary care provider, audiologist, family, and friends, so they get a sense of the noise in your head.

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
632 Versailles Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
*502-573-2604 V/T * 800-372-2907 V/T * 502-416-0607 VP * 502-573-3594 Fax * kcdhh.ky.gov*

*An agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet * Printed with State Funds*

KCDHH - What We Do

Information & Advocacy

- *Maintains resources, provides information, education, outreach through web, social media, publications, presentations, trainings, workshops and makes referrals to assist consumers.*
- *Provides assistance/advocacy or makes appropriate referrals to agencies that can offer the best assistance for you and your needs.*

KCDHH Website

Deaf Resource Library

Brochures, Fact Sheets & Veteran Resources

Public access to communication through:

- Video Phone
- Computer Website
- Captioned Telephone

Interpreters

- *Receives and coordinates interpreter requests and captioning services for **state agencies only***
- *Provides information to consumers on how to find an interpreter and self-advocate*
- *Provides information to private and non-state entities on how to find an interpreter, available referral agencies, hiring interpreters directly, billing, etc.*

Equipment

Provides specialized telecommunications equipment (STE) to citizens of the Commonwealth who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf blind at no cost to the consumer

Amplified Landline Phones

Speech Impaired Phones

Captioned Phones

Wireless Phones

Public access to test telephone equipment.

For other cabinet locations:
kcdhh.ky.gov/oea/trydevice.html

DeaFestival

- *A one-day FREE event for ALL that celebrate the language, art, diversity and talents of the deaf and hard of hearing community.*
- *DeaFestival gives attendees an opportunity to fully experience and participate in a comprehensive program of cultural enrichment, activities, and artistic performances.*
- *Everyone who attends has the opportunity to immerse themselves in a world of visual wonders and gain a better awareness about the deaf and hard of hearing community.*

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