

Factoids

Childhood Hearing Loss

- The vast majority of hospitals now offer newborn hearing screening before discharge from the hospital.
- All children should be screened for hearing loss before 1 month of age.
- 85% of all children experience at least one ear infection.
- Second-hand smoke in the home increases the risk of middle ear infections and respiratory allergies in children.
- Infants may begin to use hearing aids as early as 2-4 months of age.
- Federal laws mandate that all school districts must provide specialized education to children with hearing loss.
- Even a mild hearing loss can seriously impact a child's ability to learn in a school environment.

Fun Facts

- Cicadas have their hearing organs in their stomachs.
- Crickets have their hearing organs in their knees.
- Male mosquitoes hear with thousands of tiny hairs growing on their antennae.
- Fish do not have ears but they can hear. They hear pressure changes through ridges on their bodies.
- Snakes do not have ears, but their tongues are sensitive to sound vibrations.
- In World War One (WWI) parrots were kept on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France because of their remarkable sense of hearing. When the Parrots heard the enemy aircraft coming they would warn everyone of the approaching danger long before any human ear would hear it.

Hearing Loss

- Excessive noise is the number one reason for hearing loss.
- Experts agree that continued exposure to noise of 85 dB or louder, over time, will eventually harm hearing.
- If you cannot carry on a conversation in the presence of noise, it is too loud for your ears and can potentially cause hearing loss.
- 1 in 4 workers exposed to high levels of noise will develop a hearing loss.
- The number one reason people seek a hearing solution is the recognition that their hearing has worsened. Usually this occurs from making a serious mistake, family pressure or safety concerns.
- Professions at risk of hearing loss include firefighters, police officers, factory workers, farmers, construction workers, military personnel, heavy industry workers, musicians, and entertainment industry professionals.
- The ear has over 25,000 tiny hair cells to help you hear the nuances of sound.

Hearing Loss Prevention

- Hearing loss can be prevented by using ear plugs or earmuffs when engaging in activities around excessive noise (i.e. construction, disco, shooting a gun).
- If you have pain in your ears after leaving a noisy area or you hear ringing or buzzing (tinnitus) in your ears immediately after exposure to noise consider this as a warning sign that the sounds are TOO LOUD.
- Examples of dangerously loud recreational activities which may cause hearing loss are: video arcades - (110 dB), firecrackers - (125-155 dB at a distance of 10 feet), live music concerts - (120 dB and above) , gunshots - (150-167 dB), movie theatres - (118 dB), health clubs and aerobic studios (120 dB), sporting events (127 dB), motorboats - (85-115 dB), motorcycles - (95-120 dB), snowmobiles - (99 dB) , "boom cars" - (140 dB and above).

Hearing Loss Solutions

- The vast majority of Americans (95%) with hearing loss have their hearing loss treated with hearing aids. Only 5% of hearing loss in adults can be improved through medical or surgical treatment.
- Modern directional hearing aids can now help the hard-of-hearing to hear in noisy situations.
- Amplified telephones are now available to help people with hearing loss. Auditory assistive listening devices when combined with hearing aids are much like binoculars for the ear.
- Most public places (i.e. movie, place of worship, government building, schools) are required under the American with Disabilities Act to provide assistive listening devices for the hard-of-hearing.
- Nearly 90% of hearing aids are digital.
- Telecoils in hearing aids improve the ability to hear in public places and on the telephone.
- 75% of people with hearing loss in both ears use two (binaural) hearing aids.
- One of the key determinants of success with hearing aids are realistic expectations.
- Successful treatment of hearing loss with hearing aids is associated with greater earning power.
- Treatment of hearing loss will improve interpersonal relationships.
- Hard-of-hearing people are less likely to be discriminated against if they use hearing aids.
- The use of hearing aids is associated with reductions in anger, frustration, paranoia, anxiety and overall improvements in emotional stability.
- Most people who use hearing aids have improved social lives.
- The use of hearing aids is associated with improved perceptions of the hard-of-hearing's mental ability.
- People who use hearing aids report better health than hard-of-hearing people who do not use hearing aids.
- 9 out of 10 hearing aid users report improvements in their quality of life.
- Customer satisfaction with directional hearing aids is 81%.
- A wax protection system on hearing aids reduces hearing aid repairs by 50%.
- Consumers report a 92% satisfaction with hearing healthcare professionals.
- One of the best ways to get a loved one to seek help for their hearing loss is to stop being their hearing helper!
- Only 13% of physicians screen for hearing loss. Ask your doctor for a hearing screening since it is not a routine part of physical exams.
- The majority of people with nerve deafness are helped with hearing aids.
- A large number of people with Tinnitus (ringing in the ears) can be helped with masking devices worn like hearing aids.
- Even people born deaf can learn to hear with cochlear implants.

Prevalence of Hearing Loss & Demographics

- 1 out of 10 Americans have a hearing loss --- that's more than 31,000,000 people.
- 3 out of 1000 children are born with hearing loss.
- 1.4 million children have hearing loss.
- 15% of "baby-boomers" (ages 45-64) have hearing loss.
- 29% of people over age 65 have hearing loss.
- The majority (65%) of people with hearing loss are below retirement age.
- The majority (60%) of people with hearing loss are males.