**National Prevalence**

Approximately 38 million Americans report having some degree of hearing loss.¹

**Mental Health**

Individuals who reported having moderate or worse untreated hearing loss were more likely to use mental health services for psychosocial disorders such as depression than their peers with hearing loss who wear hearing aids.⁴

**Dementia Risk**

Mild untreated hearing loss doubles dementia risk, moderate hearing loss triples the risk, and people with a severe hearing impairment are 5x more likely to develop dementia.⁶

**Health Care Costs**

Untreated hearing loss is associated with 46% higher total health care costs over a 10-year period.⁵

**Hospital Readmissions**

Untreated hearing loss is linked to an increased risk for 30-day hospital readmission, increased risk of emergency department visits, and longer hospital stays.⁷

**Accidental Injuries**

Those who reported having moderate or worse untreated hearing loss were 70% more likely to have an accidental injury at work or at leisure.⁸ Even mild untreated hearing loss results in a 3x greater risk of falls.⁹

**Treatment Satisfaction**

8 in 10 who chose to treat their hearing loss report life-changing results and 91% of hearing aid owners say they are satisfied with their hearing professional.²

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Hearing Aids 101

Hearing aids have made enormous strides. Today’s discreet technology provides clear, rich sound quality and better speech understanding in noisy environments, and may include features like health monitors, fall detection, language translation, and tinnitus maskers. Many manufacturers also make phone apps for hearing aids, so you can adjust your hearing aids right from your smartphone. With Bluetooth connectivity, your hearing aids can stream phone calls, music, and podcasts from your phone directly to your ears, and with additional accessories, you can connect to other technology such as your TV and home entertainment systems.

How to Find a Professional

A hearing professional can test your hearing, help you understand the impact of ignoring your hearing loss, provide advice, answer questions, and describe the options that are available to you.

There are three different types of professionals available for different aspects of hearing health and treatment: audiologists, otolaryngologists (better known as ENT — ear, nose, and throat physician), and hearing instrument specialists/hearing aid dispensers.

Visit hearing.org to find hearing professionals available in your area.

Social Engagement

There was a significant decline in perceptions of loneliness following 4 to 6 weeks of hearing aid use.¹⁰

Noise Trauma for Teens

It is estimated that between 13-18% of American middle and high school students have measurable hearing loss likely due to excessive noise.¹²

Cognitive Health

Hearing loss treatment improves symptoms of those living with cognitive impairment.¹⁴ One study showed that treating hearing loss through hearing aids was the largest factor that protected participants from cognitive decline.¹⁵

Earnings Gap

Those with hearing loss earn 72-78% of the wages of people with no hearing loss, depending on age.¹¹

Economic Impact

Better hearing has a positive effect on the U.S. economy. The untreated hearing loss population produces around $133 billion per year in health and unemployment costs.¹³

Professional Treatment

In a survey of over 3,000 with hearing difficulty, 38% of individuals with hearing difficulty reported having a hearing aid.²

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