

## SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING FACTS

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### General Facts

Communication disorders affect approximately 46 million Americans. Of these, 28 million have hearing loss and 14 million have a speech or language disorder.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Communication disorders cost the U.S. between \$30 and \$154 billion for lost productivity, special education, and medical care annually.

-- The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

While the median income of all families in 2000 was \$50,046, the median income of families with members with a sensory disability was \$38,775.

-- U.S. Census Bureau

State and federal education departments spend about \$36 billion each year on special education programs for individuals with developmental disabilities who are 3-21 years old.

-- National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

In 2002, the total spending to educate the average student with a disability amounts to \$12,639.

-- U.S. Department of Education

An estimated 15 to 25 percent of young children have some type of communication disorder.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

More than 12,000 babies are born each year with significant hearing loss, which can affect their speech and language development.

-- The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

A new case of autism is diagnosed nearly every 20 minutes.

-- Autism Speaks

The estimated annual cost of autism will increase to \$200-400 billion by 2013.

-- Autism Society of America

### Speech Facts

Approximately one percent of the general population stutters.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Approximately 7.5 million people in the U.S. have trouble using their voices.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

People with severe speech disabilities are more often found to be unemployed or in a lower economic class than people with hearing loss or other disabilities.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Eight out of 10 adults who stutter say that stuttering interferes with their performance at work or at school. Nearly four out of 10 report being denied a job or promotion because of their stuttering.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

An estimated 10 percent of children entering first grade have moderate to severe speech disorders, ranging from substituted and missing sounds to serious impairments that make their speech almost impossible to understand.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Between 28 to 60 percent of children with a speech and language deficit have a sibling and/or parent who is also affected.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

85 percent of adults who had undergone speech therapy had two or more different treatment experiences and 31 percent had five or more.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Boys are three to four times as likely to experience speech disorders as girls.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

## Language Facts

Between six and eight million people in the U.S. have some form of language impairment.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

In 2001, there was a 30 fold increase in the number of children with speech and language disorders in the past ten years.

-- US Department of Education

About one million persons in the U.S. have aphasia (partial or complete impairment of language comprehension and expression caused by brain damage, most often from stroke).

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

It is estimated that approximately 80,000 individuals acquire aphasia each year.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Most people have acquired up to 85 percent of their adult capacity for language by the time they are five years old.

-- Alternatives in Education for the Hearing Impaired

Research indicates that 17 to 20 percent of children in the U.S. experience substantial difficulties in learning to read, and that more than a third of students in fourth grade read below the basic level. Children who are not fluent readers by fourth grade are likely to continue struggling with reading into adulthood, which makes early identification and intervention of reading problems essential to a child's success in school and society.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

About eight percent of American school children have difficulty developing and using language. These difficulties create problems not just with speaking but also with reading and writing.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

A majority of all poor readers have an early history of spoken-language deficits.

-- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## Hearing Facts

As of 2005, more than 31.5 million Americans found it difficult to hear without a hearing aid, an increase of nearly 10 percent since 2002.

-- Better Hearing Institute

For the 24 million Americans with untreated hearing loss, the impact of doing nothing about this problem equates to at least \$100 billion in lost income per year.

-- Better Hearing Institute

Average lifetime costs per person are estimated at \$417,000 for persons with hearing loss.

-- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

One in six baby boomers have a hearing problem; one in 14 Generation Xers already have hearing loss; at least 1.4 million kids have hearing problems. Despite the rising incidence of hearing loss, only about 1 out of 4 people with this problem use a hearing instrument. More than one million children with hearing problems are not being treated.

-- Better Hearing Institute

Projections on the hearing loss population through the year 2050 indicate that the hearing loss population will increase to almost 53 million and that the figure will surpass 40 million by 2025.

-- Better Hearing Institute

Only 17,000 people worldwide had cochlear devices implanted last year. Yet, in the U.S. alone, some 900,000 people are believed to be deaf or near-deaf.

-- *Business Week*, 14 November 2005

Each year, there are about 50,000 to 100,000 people worldwide who become deaf in one ear.

-- *Business Week*, 7 December 2005

Only 1 out of 5 people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wears one.

-- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

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