The cost of hearing care in the United States

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PREVALENCE OF HEARING LOSS

Over 65y have hearing loss

1 in 3

Over 85y have hearing loss

1 in 2

Teenagers have signs of hearing loss

1 in 10

Baby boomers have hearing loss

1 in 6
10-12% of people have no hearing loss but hearing difficulty.
The most common causes of hearing loss:

- Noise Exposure
- Heredity
- Head Injury
- Medications
- Aging
- Illness
Hearing Loss and Hearing Aid Use

About 1 in 6 U.S. adults ages 18 and over reports some trouble hearing. = 37.5 million U.S. adults

28.8 million U.S. adults could benefit from using hearing aids.

Only 1 in 4 U.S. adults ages 20 years and older who could benefit from hearing aids has used them.

About 1 in 6 adults (16%) ages 20 to 69

About 1 in 3 adults (30%) ages 70+

Sources:
NIDCD Epidemiology and Statistics Program, based on December 2015 Census Bureau estimates of the noninstitutionalized U.S. population, personal communication: May 2016.

Based on calculations by NIDCD Epidemiology and Statistics Program staff using data collected by the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), annually for number of persons who have ever used a hearing aid (numerator), and U.S. periodic NHANES hearing exams for the U.S. adult and older adult population (denominator). These statistics are also used for tracking Healthy People 2010 and 2020 objectives.
Hearing aids cost too much!
Prevalence of Hearing Loss by Time Period and Industry Sector, 1981 - 2010, for 1,816,812 Workers

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 2015
Distribution of Claims by Body Part Top Ten

@ $40K/person = $14.5M

Source: Kentucky Department of Worker’s Claims 2017-2018 Annual Report
Estimates of $1.2B for care of hearing loss in 1.8M Veterans in 2012.

Projected Change in Medicare Enrollment, 2000-2050

Currently = 60 million


Payments to physicians (single visit) by Medicare to generate referral for hearing care evaluation, with subsequent payment for those services
Average annual spending of Medicare beneficiaries who use hearing care services = $8,196; spending of those who do not use hearing care services = $10,709

$2,513 annually/person

Reed NS, et al. Trends in health care costs and utilization associated with untreated hearing loss over 10 years. JAMA- Otolaryngology, 2019; 145 (1): 27-34

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>10 Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Costs</td>
<td>$3851</td>
<td>$11,147</td>
<td>$22,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient stays</td>
<td>1.2 x</td>
<td>1.3 x</td>
<td>1.47 x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outpatient visits</td>
<td>+ 7.5 visits</td>
<td>+21.5 visits</td>
<td>+52.2 visits</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other costs associated with hearing loss

- Falls .................... 60% higher
- Unemployment... 2x as likely
- Depression ........... 4x higher
- Anxiety ............... 1.5x higher
- Sick leave.......... 24% more
- Institutionalization. 2.5x higher
Co-morbid conditions associated with hearing loss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percent with the condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>64.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidemia</td>
<td>55.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatoid Arthritis</td>
<td>42.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic Heart Disease</td>
<td>33.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>29.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidney Disease</td>
<td>24.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>21.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>15.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart Failure</td>
<td>15.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>13.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s</td>
<td>12.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atrial Fibrillation</td>
<td>11.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>10.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
<td>9.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>4.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychotic Disorders</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEMENTIA 9 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

1 IN 3 cases of dementia could be prevented by addressing these lifestyle factors

INCREASE
- Education
- Physical Activity
- Social Contact

DECREASE
- Hearing Loss
- Hypertension
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Depression
- Diabetes

Source: Lancet Commission on Dementia Prevention and Care
Credit: Keck Medicine of USC
HEARING HEALTH CARE FOR ADULTS
Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability

Sponsors

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
• Department of Defense (DOD)
• Department of Veteran’s Affairs (DVA)
• Food and Drug Association (FDA)
• Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)
• National Institute on Aging (NIA)
• National Institute on Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders (NIDCD)
• Strengthen efforts to collect and analyze data on hearing loss, its effects and treatment outcomes, including relationships to co-morbid conditions
• Improve access to hearing healthcare for underserved and vulnerable populations
• Promote hearing health in wellness and medical visits
• Evaluate and implement innovative models for hearing care

NASEM recommendations
Thank-you for your time!

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