

# Community Education about People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: “What?”

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Minnesota's Road to Volunteer Drivers Virtual Forum Series

 MINNESOTA

# Identity





# Presentation Objectives

- Background Information
- Myths and Misconceptions
- Deaf Culture & Language  
Communication Strategies
- Resources

# Statistics

## HEARING LOSS PREVALENCE

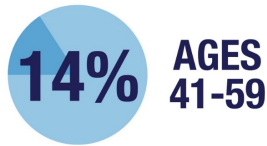
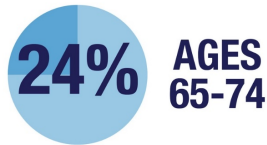


Tinnitus affects 20% of Americans, and hearing loss occurs in 90% of those cases



The number of people who **EXPERIENCE HEARING LOSS** is more than those with Parkinson's, epilepsy, Alzheimer's, and diabetes combined

## HEARING LOSS & AGE

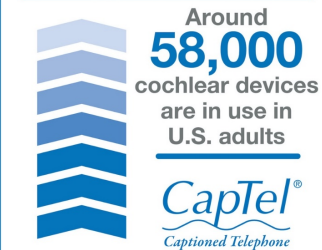
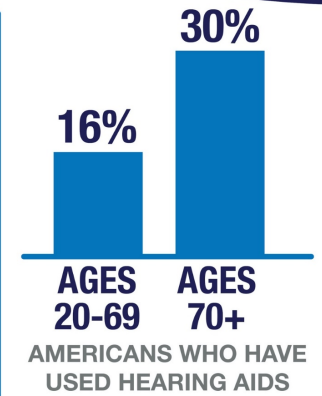


## GENDER & HEARING LOSS



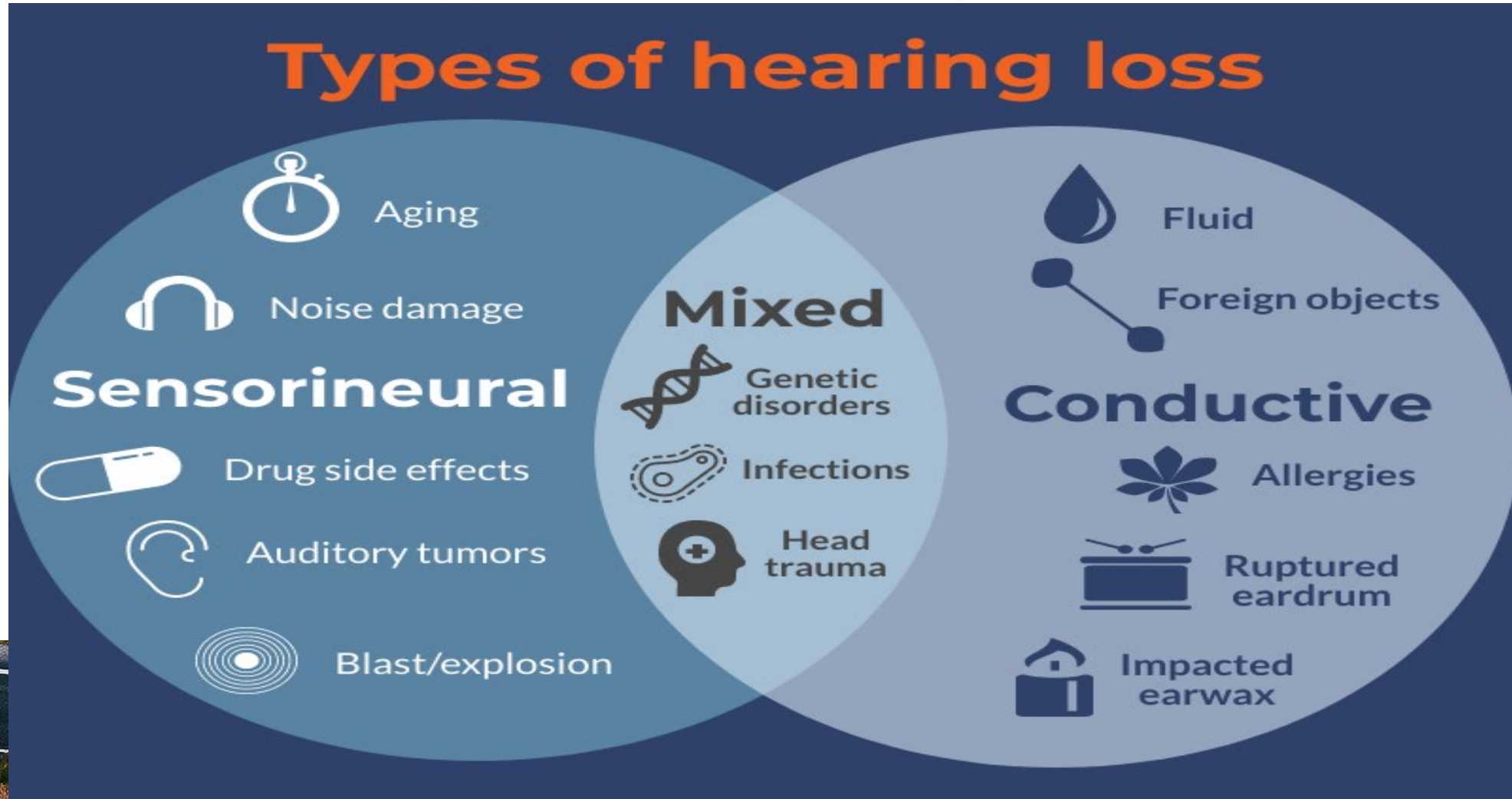
Women tend to hear better at higher frequencies above **2000 Hz**

## HEARING LOSS & DEVICE USAGE





# Types of hearing loss







- Blindness cuts us off from things, but deafness cuts us off from people

- Helen Keller



# Myths and Misconceptions

- All Deaf people can read lips
- Deafness is genetic
- Sign Language is universal
- The louder, the better

# More myths and misconceptions

- Hearing aids make for normal hearing
- Deaf people cannot talk
- Deaf people cannot drive
- Deaf people know braille



# Lip reading



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# Deaf Culture

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# Deaf vs deaf

## Deaf

Culture

Language is ASL

Deaf is not a disability

Associates with the deaf community

## deaf

Isolation (sometimes)

Medical model

Has a disability

Associates with the hearing community



# Terminology

- Deaf and Dumb or Deaf-Mute
- Hearing Impaired (can go both ways)
  
- deaf
- Hard of Hearing
- Deaf
- DeafBlind or deaf blind

"Deaf people as a linguistic minority have a common experience of life, and this manifests itself in Deaf culture. This includes beliefs, attitudes, history, norms, values, literary traditions, and art shared by Deaf people."

Source: [World Federation of the Deaf](#)



# Features of Deaf Culture

- Members do not wish they could hear.
- Eye contact is important.
- Facial expression and body language are necessary to clearly communicate.
- Expressed in art, theater, poetry, ASL stories and more.



# Features of Deaf Culture

- Deaf people get one another's attention through visual or tactile methods. (flashing lights, waving hands, lightly tapping shoulder, pounding on table, etc.)
- Deaf people tend to be more direct than people who can hear and are part of the mainstream culture in the United States.
- Deaf Schools and Deaf Clubs-proud history.



# American Sign Language

- ASL is the 3rd most used language in the United States
  - Shared primary language of the deaf community
  - Used in the U.S, Canada and some places in Mexico
- Has its own complex grammar that is distinct from English
  - ASL is NOT universal



Is Hard of Hearing a culture?





# Measuring sound

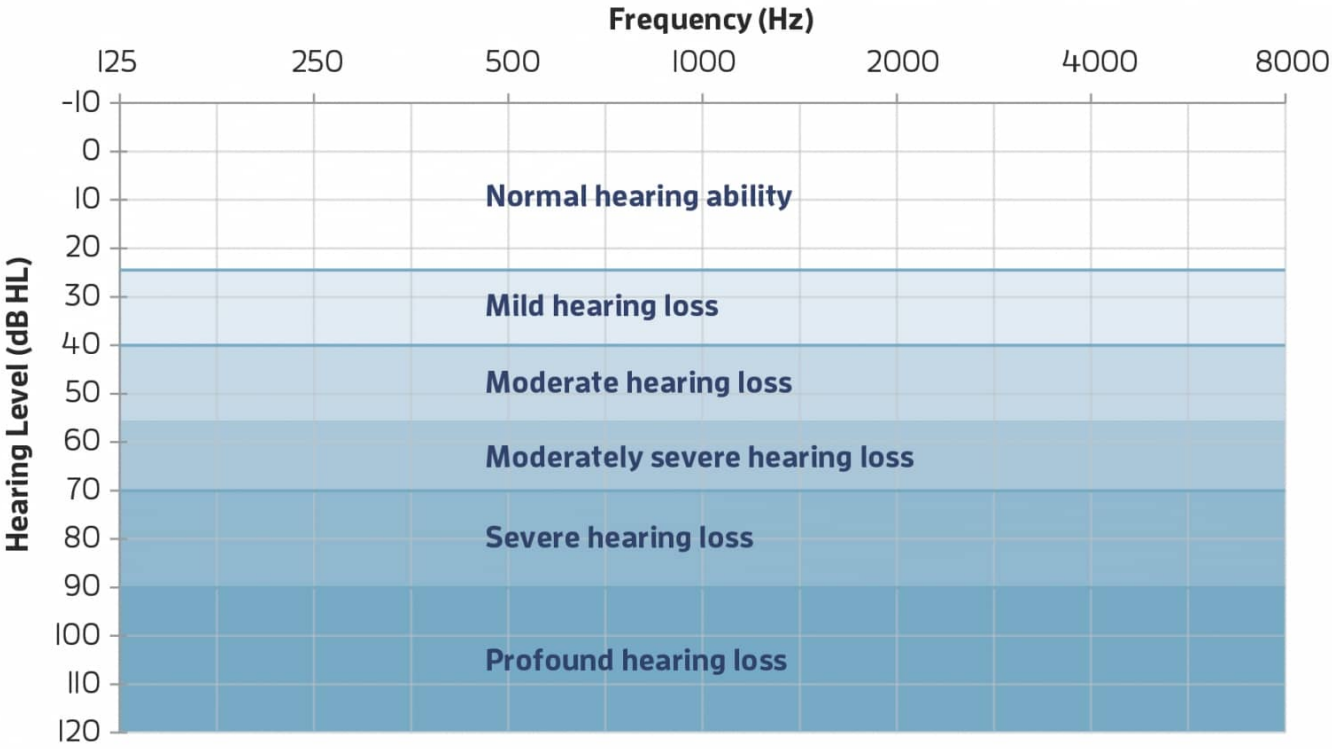
## Decibel levels for some common sounds:

- Breathing: 10 dB
- Normal conversation: 40-60 dB
- Lawnmower: 90 dB
- Rock concert: 120 dB
- Gunshot: 140 dB

<https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/41775-Degrees-of-hearing-loss>



# Measuring frequency



[www.healthyhearing.com](http://www.healthyhearing.com)



# Hearing Loss Simulator

- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=video+hearing+loss+decibel+microphone+classroom&docid=608054720921994768&mid=A4FEA3EBC3155DE5EEBEA4FEA3EBC3155DE5EEBE&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>



# Conditions and Considerations

- Meniere's Disease
- Balance issues
- Tinnitus
- Vertigo
- Sound sensitivity
- Sight sensitivity (Usher's Syndrome)



# Communication Strategies

- Texting
- Speaking into app on phone
- Writing or drawing
- Lip reading
- Gesturing
- When in doubt, ask...in fact, ask first!



# Video Relay Services



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# Captioned Telephones





# Suggestions

- Ask first, what do you need for communication?
- Have paper and pen ready
- Make sure person can see your mouth when you speak
- Keep mouth free of objects
- Keep beard trimmed
- Be patient and mindful
- Always repeat using different phrases





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# Q&A

## Questions?

- Use the Q&A feature at the bottom of your screen to submit questions.
- If joining by phone, press \*9 to raise your hand. The host will allow you to unmute during Q&A time to ask your question.
- Unanswered questions and their responses will be posted on the event webpage with the slides and videorecording.

[www.coordinatemntransit.org/events/volunteerdriverforum/2020-21/apr21](http://www.coordinatemntransit.org/events/volunteerdriverforum/2020-21/apr21)



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