

HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS – A PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIC

THE STATISTICS SHOW A TROUBLING TREND:

**From 2000 to 2015, the number of Americans with hearing loss has doubled.
Globally the number is up by 44%.**

- **50 million people in the America and 360 million worldwide**
 - 1 in 5 teens
 - 1 in 5 adults
 - 3 in 5 veterans returning from war
- Hearing loss is the **2nd** most prevalent health issue globally
 - The number of people with hearing loss is more than those living with Parkinson's, epilepsy, Alzheimer's and diabetes combined.
- **Tinnitus (ringing/buzzing in ears) affects ~10% of Americans on a regular basis**
 - 25 million American adults have reported having had tinnitus for five or more continuous minutes in the past year
 - A majority of people with tinnitus also report difficulty hearing
 - 16 million people seek medical attention for tinnitus
- **Causes of Hearing Loss and Tinnitus**
 - Genetic factors
 - Noise
 - Trauma
 - Ototoxic medications (medicine-induced hearing loss)
 - Viral or bacterial infections
 - Aging

SO... WHY THE STEADY INCREASE IN NUMBERS?

1) NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS

People are overexposed to excessive noise at work or in leisure activities

- 26 million people in U.S. between ages 20-69
- 16% of teens ages 12-19 have reported hearing loss due to loud noise
- ~30 million U.S. workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels

2) AGE-RELATED HEARING LOSS

The population of people age 65+ is expanding... rapidly

- 33% of Americans between ages 65-74 and nearly 50% 75+ have hearing loss
- Hearing loss has been associated with cognitive decline, dementia, depression, hospitalization, and heart disease, among other diseases and conditions.

ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH HEARING LOSS

- Lifetime costs of profound hearing loss can be as much as \$1 million per person in the U.S.

Imagine a world where people can enjoy life without hearing loss and tinnitus.

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- <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs300/en/>
- Bulletin of the World Health Organization. May 1, 2014. The global burden of disabling hearing impairment: a call to action: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4007124/>
- NIDCD Fact Sheet: Noise-Induced Hearing Loss: <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/pages/noise.aspx>
- Administration on Aging. A profile of older Americans: 2010: http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Profile/2011/docs/2011profile.pdf
- 1993 study by the Marion Downs Center
- Better Hearing Institute, May 2007
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- NIDCD: nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/Pages/quick.aspx
- From the chapter "The Epidemiology of Tinnitus" in the book "Tinnitus: Theory and Management" (PMPH USA, 2004).
- Article: "Diagnosing Tinnitus." Hearing Health, Summer 2013. hhf.org/diagnosing_tinnitus