



NEWS FROM AVA HEARING CENTER

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HEARING LOSS

Hearing loss is the second most common ailment in the United States (headache is #1), affecting over 31.5 million Americans. Many people associate hearing loss with the elderly but in fact the reverse is true. The majority of people with hearing loss (65%) are under age 65. Here are some other interesting facts about the prevalence of hearing loss.

The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey recently found that 14.9 % of children between the ages of 6–19 years have hearing loss. That's at least 1.4 million school children.

3 in 10 people over age 60 have hearing loss.

1 in 6 Baby Boomers (ages 41–59) or 14.9% have hearing problems.

1 in 14 Generation Xers (ages 29–40) or 7.4 percent already have hearing problems.

Approximately 3 of every 1000 infants are born with serious to profound hearing loss.

To help determine if you have a hearing loss ask yourself the following questions. If you answer "YES" to three or more of these questions, you should have your hearing tested by an Audiologist.

Do I have a problem understanding people over the telephone?

Do I have difficulty understanding what people are saying when there is noise in the background?

Is it hard for me to follow conversation when two or more people talk at once?

Do you feel that people are mumbling?

Do you ask people to repeat often?

Does your family or friends complain that you turn the TV up too loudly?

Do you have "ringing" , "hissing" or "roaring" (tinnitus) in the ears.

Does one ear seem better than the other?

Do I misunderstand what people are saying and respond inappropriately?

Does it seem people around me hear things I don't hear?

These may be signs of decreased hearing sensitivity. Hearing loss can be caused by many different things including ear wax blockage, fluid in the middle ear, trauma, medications, genetic predisposition, fever, to name a few. If you have hearing loss or suspect you have a hearing loss, an audiologist may be able to identify the degree and nature of the problem. Treatment options may be available to correct or compensate for your hearing loss.