



**DEAF AND HEARING LOSS**

# COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILE **2022**



**A BOLDER HEALTHIER BIRMINGHAM**

# DEAF AND HEARING LOSS COMMUNITY PROFILE

## INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Globally, hearing loss prevalence increases with age.



**1.7%** FOR CHILDREN UNDER 15  
**1 IN EVERY 4** PEOPLE AGED 60 AND OVER

BY 2050



1 in 10 will be registered with hearing loss around the globe by 2050. The rates of hearing loss are expected to rise to 2.5 billion people worldwide.

**£780 BILLION** Global annual direct and indirect costs of untreated hearing loss

**57%** of these costs are attributed to low and middle income countries



## PREVALENCE IN EUROPE

The average prevalence of all severity of hearing loss in the UK, similar to the European average (13%)

**12%**

## NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

**12 MILLION** DIAGNOSED WITH HEARING LOSS

The number of people in the UK diagnosed with a hearing loss of >25dB. This is expected to rise to 14.2 million by 2035.

**152,158**

People in Birmingham with a hearing loss of 25dB or greater. This is the largest amount of people with hearing loss of any metropolitan district

**15,482**

Estimated number of BSL users in England and Wales (Census 2011)

## PREVALENCE OF HEARING LOSS

(Adult population with hearing loss of 25dB or more)

**18%** BIRMINGHAM **22% NATIONAL AVERAGE**

Birmingham rates are predicted to rise to 20% by 2035, lower than the regional and national rates.

**6.7 MILLION**

According to Hearing Link (2021), 6.7 million people would benefit from hearing aids, but 2 million people only wear them within the UK.

## OVERVIEW

**Dd**



Capital 'D' and lower case 'd' are used to categorise those with hearing loss conditions. A capital 'D' is used to represent those who were born deaf and perceive themselves as part of a linguistic and cultural minority; lower case 'd' is used for deafness or hearing loss later in life after communicating in spoken language and do not always have a strong connection with the deaf community.

## TYPES OF HEARING LOSS



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The risk of developing hearing loss can be reduced by improving regulations and protective equipment at workplaces and implementing global or national safe levels in personal and recreational spaces.

# DEAF AND HEARING LOSS COMMUNITY PROFILE

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**DEPRESSION** rates are **more than double** in the deaf and hearing loss population compared to the hearing population

**27%** DEAF AND HEARING LOSS POPULATION **12%** HEARING POPULATION

### MENTAL HEALTH RISK FACTORS

- Family and relationship problems
- Social exclusion
- Ineffective care due to communication issues

### ALCOHOL: NON-DRINKERS

Deaf men & women are more likely to 'never drink' compared to the general population (28% British men, 44% British women)

**15%** **28%**

**DRUG USE** **54%** OF DEAF PEOPLE

have taken drugs at some stage in their life. A larger proportion compared to 35% of all adults in England aged 16-59 and 36% of all young adults aged 16-24

**35%** AGED 16-59  
**36%** AGED 16-24

**2x** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
More likely to experience as a Deaf woman than a hearing woman. Also more likely to experience other types of abuse

## HEALTHY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

**16%** increased likelihood of developing hearing difficulties with high-fat diet

### OBESE OR OVERWEIGHT

Hearing Loss ↑ General population

**72%** **62%**  
**71%** **58%**

DEAF RESPONDENTS ATE **SLIGHTLY MORE** vegetables than the general population. However, Deaf respondents were more likely to eat fried food and consumed it more regularly

## RISK OF ILLNESS

More deaf women had larger waist circumference than deaf men. This is higher than for both sexes in the general population (34% men and 47% women)

**75.7%** DEAF WOMEN **57.1%** DEAF MEN

**AT LEAST 48%** of Deaf people would be placed in the "high to very high risk" of serious illness categories due to high BMI and waist circumferences.

## GETTING THE BEST START IN LIFE

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT **0.1%** of children are born with Permanent Childhood Hearing Loss (PCHL) in both ears, and an additional 600 children in England develop or acquire PCHL by age 10

**53,954** DEAF CHILDREN AGED 0-19 ACROSS THE UK

**5.2%** increase from 2018

**60%** of local authorities in England do not regard deaf children as **CHILDREN IN NEED** even though the law defines them as such

Deaf children are less likely to achieve the communication and language early learning goals of

**50%** LISTENING AND ATTENTION  
**46%** UNDERSTANDING  
**42%** SPEAKING

## ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**#1** SEN **28%**  
**#2** Deaf SEN children **22%**  
**#3** All children **15%**

# DEAF AND HEARING LOSS COMMUNITY PROFILE

## WORKING AND LEARNING WELL

In the academic year 2019/20, on average, deaf pupils achieved a grade 4 for each subject, this was

**1 GRADE LESS** ON AVERAGE THAN HEARING STUDENTS



**34%** of deaf students achieved 2 A-levels (2019/20), or equivalent compared to **55%** OF HEARING STUDENTS

**42%** of deaf participants in a UK study were working either full or part time compared to **80%** OF THE WIDER POPULATION

**WORKING LIFE** **73%** OF DEAF PEOPLE'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES were limited because of their hearing loss

**BARRIERS AT WORK** Reasons for early retirement due to hearing loss included

DIFFICULTIES USING THE PHONE



COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES WITH COLLEAGUES



## PROTECT AND DETECT

**CANCER SCREENING** PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS ARE

**11%** more likely to attend cancer screening compared to people with no physical disability



**DIABETES** **7.6%** OF DEAF PEOPLE HAD HIGHER THAN NORMAL BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS

and were not aware of this (2% general pop). This suggests that undiagnosed diabetes may be more common in deaf people



**SEXUAL HEALTH** THE DEAF COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES HIGHER RATES OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND STIs THAN THE REST OF THE POPULATION

**ONLY 35%** of deaf students knew that condoms could prevent the transmission of infections, and almost all were not aware of the term STI

## ACTIVE AT EVERY AGE AND ABILITY

**PHYSICAL INACTIVITY** **<30 MINS/WEEK**

#1 Deaf or hard of hearing **57%** #2 All disabled **40%** #3 Non-disabled **21%**



## BARRIERS TO ACTIVITY



LACK OF FITNESS



COMMUNICATION CONCERNS



LACK OF CONFIDENCE

## WALKING AND GARDENING

are the main activities that people with hearing loss partake in



**1 IN 5** SAID THAT COMMUNICATION WAS THE MAIN BARRIER TO SPORT

AROUND 8 IN 10 DEAF PEOPLE SAID THAT THEY WOULD PREFER PLAYING IN A MIXED ENVIRONMENT WITH DEAF AND HEARING PEOPLE

**80%**

**FACILITATORS TO ACTIVITY**

The top three reasons for being active within the hearing loss community are



ENJOYMENT



KEEPING FIT



SOCIALISING

# DEAF AND HEARING LOSS COMMUNITY PROFILE

## CLOSING THE GAPS

**30%** of Deaf people communicate with a doctor in BSL  **80% WOULD LIKE TO**

**24.6%** of Deaf patients 'definitely' have trust in their doctor  **LOWER THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION**

## YEARS LIVED WITH DISABILITY

In 2016 sense order diseases were ranked in the top five contributory factors to overall Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).

**HEARING LOSS WAS RANKED IN THE TOP 5** leading causes of YLDs (Years Lived with disability) in 84% of European countries 

**411** PEOPLE AGED 18+ WITH A HEARING IMPAIRMENT  received adult social care packages from Birmingham City Council

## GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

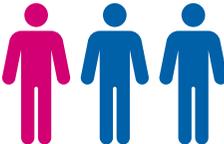
MAJOR ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN d/DEAF INTERACTIONS WITH THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 

SPACE AND PROXEMICS (the study of how space is used in interpersonal communication)

ACOUSTICS AND ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCES

SENSORY REACH MOBILITY AND PROXIMITY LIGHT AND COLOUR

## MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID

MENTAL HEALTH **1 IN 3**  d/Deaf people reported that the pandemic had a major impact on their mental health

## CHALLENGES

   **SICKNESS SOCIAL ISOLATION INTERPRETER**

## AGEING AND DYING WELL

NEARLY ONE THIRD OF DEAF PARTICIPANTS HAD ELEVATED LEVELS OF CHOLESTEROL 

 AS HEARING LOSS INCREASES, THE PACE OF WALKING SLOWS, AND THIS INCREASES THE RISK OF CHRONIC DISEASE

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE **32%** DEAF POPULATION  **50%** GENERAL POPULATION

Older people with dual sensory loss are **3x** more likely to have falls compared to people with sight loss 

**CANCER**  Some types of head and neck cancer (nasopharyngeal) can cause hearing loss. Radiotherapy or chemotherapy (the drug cisplatin) may cause tinnitus. This is often temporary but can sometimes be permanent

**DEMENTIA** The risk of developing dementia increases with hearing loss. The risk in those with hearing loss is said to be **2x** MILD HEARING LOSS **3x** MODERATE HEARING LOSS **5x** SEVERE HEARING LOSS

**41%** of deaf woman had high cholesterol, versus **23% OF MEN**

The reported rates of chronic respiratory conditions among deaf participants is **LOWER THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION**

POSSIBLY LINKED TO THE **COPD** LOWER RATES OF SMOKING 