

Hearing Loss Does Not Discriminate. **Hearing loss is the most common physical disability in the United States.** The inability to hear speech and other sounds can occur in any individual, regardless of race, gender or age. Fortunately, in most cases, something can be done to improve the hearing impaired person's ability to communicate.

The **effects of noise** can take their toll, physically and financially, on both the employer and the employee. **With one out of every six employees being affected**, hearing loss, fatigue, irritability, poor morale and reduced productivity become products of this exposure to excessive noise. **Screenings and early treatment of hearing loss have** the potential to significantly improve the quality of life and extend the functional status of adult population grappling with communication challenges.

Noise is the number one enemy of our ears. We are exposed to high levels of noise every day. At work, outside, while listening to loud music at home, or at concerts. Often we don't realize that the situations we are in can eventually cause a hearing loss. *But hearing loss is not just an old person's condition.* The majority (65%) of people with hearing loss are younger than age 65.

- 1 in 14 Generation Xers (ages 27-45), or 7.4%, already have hearing loss
- 18 % of adults 45 through 64 years old reported having a hearing loss
- 3 in 10 people over age 60 have hearing loss

Losing some hearing is common as we age, but often individuals do not recognize that it is happening. The effects of age-related hearing loss are very subtle, and the condition advances very slowly. **The hardest part is getting individuals to admit they have hearing problems.**

BENEFITS OF DETECTION. Hearing screening tests provide a quick and cost effective way to separate people into two groups: a pass group and a fail group using a standardized hearing screening protocol of 4 frequencies. . Those who pass this hearing screening are presumed to have no hearing loss. Those who fail are in need of an in-depth evaluation by an audiologist and may also need follow-up care from other professionals.

Although age-related hearing loss usually can't be reversed, it's important to get it treated. If a long period of time goes by where the brain is not expected to tune out background noise or filter speech in the presence of noise, then it's much more difficult to perform those tasks. Treating hearing loss can also help avert related emotional problems. Some people with untreated hearing problems become more isolated and less involved with friends and family, which can lead to depression.

TESTING PROCEDURE. This is a non-invasive test (see photo), which can quickly and easily be performed with accurate on-the-spot results.



- Testing can be held in a variety of settings with normal office noise. No special rooms are needed.
- Both ears are tested with 4 frequencies in less than a minute.
- Individual earpieces are used per person.
- No response from the individual is necessary. (Bi-lingual friendly)
- Up to 100 tested in 4 hours.
- Accurate results printed as PASS or REFER.
- Reproducible Educational materials are provided.



What happens if an individual does not pass the screen? The individual is counseled regarding hearing loss. Counseling may result in a recommendation for further audiologic evaluation.