



Unlocking The Silent World: Understanding Deafness, Language and Memory

Wisconsin Alzheimers Institute: Core Skills Training
May 17, 2024

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www.deafinspire.com



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About Deaf Inspire, LLC


At Deaf Inspire, LLC, our commitment lies in assisting deaf individuals and their families in overcoming the hurdles associated with mental and behavioral health. With a Deaf-Centered approach and certification in Trauma-Informed Care, we offer telehealth and home-based services. Our ultimate goal is to empower and bolster those under our care, equipping them with the resilience and inspiration needed to progress on their personal paths.

CEO Profile- Katy Hagmeyer

Katy is widely recognized in Wisconsin for her dedication to mental health services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Through her strong advocacy for culturally and linguistically accessible services, she showcases a profound commitment by promoting mental health education and clinical services.


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Learning Objectives




Understanding Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Recognize and value unique traits of deaf and hard of hearing individuals, acknowledging diversity within the community.




Memory Loss

Identify common signs and symptoms of memory loss while considering how they manifest in Deaf, and Hard of Hearing individuals.



Accessibility and Strategies

Identify accessibility barriers and recommended communication strategies to support Deaf individuals with Alzheimer's or memory loss.



Interventions and Approaches

Enhance quality of life for Deaf individuals with Alzheimer's and Dementia by considering their unique needs and preferences.

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estimated number of individuals in Wisconsin who are dealing with hearing loss.

213,860 people with "Hearing Difficulties"
3.70% of General Population

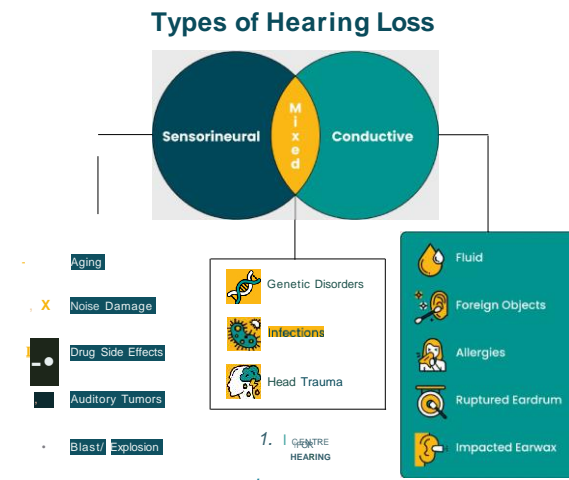
75+ age group
82,699 people
19.40% of General Population

2022 American Community Survey



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Types of Hearing Loss

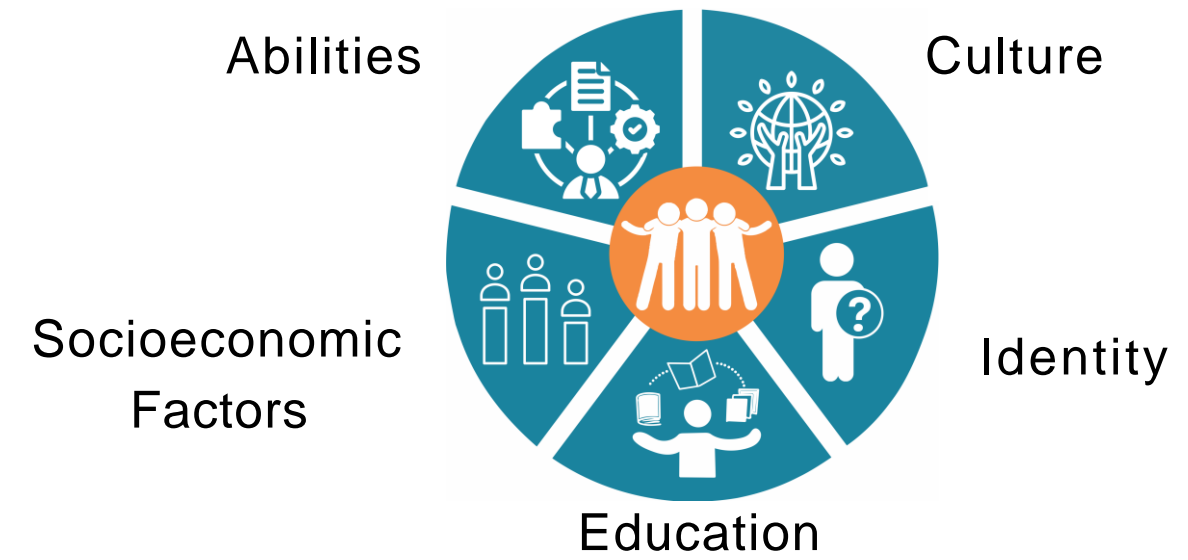


Terminology

- ✓ **Deaf**
Very little or no hearing, oftentimes uses sign language for communication.
- ✓ **Hard of Hearing**
Not able to hear well, but have enough residual hearing that auditory devices could be beneficial.
- ✓ **DeafBlind**
A combination of vision and hearing loss.
- ✓ **Late Deafened**
A person who lost all or most of hearing as an adult
- ✓ **Hearing Loss or Hearing Difficulties**
An individual with a degree of hearing loss from mild to profound
- ✓ **Child/Kids of Deaf Adults / Allies of Deaf**
A child that is born to Deaf Adults, usually those who identifies as Deaf. Allies of Deaf are those who work/live within the deaf community.

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Community/Intersectionalities



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Question of the Day...

Is there a correlation between dementia and hearing loss?



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STATISTICS



John Hopkins Research- Frank Lin, MD, PhD.

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Memory Loss and Hearing Loss

Hearing Aid

1 out of 7 Americans aged 50 or above wear hearing aid. People wait an average 10 years before asking for help.



Hearing Loss >Social Isolation> Dementia

Brain scans shows hearing loss may cause atrophy in brain and increased social isolation which may contribute to Dementia

Cognitive decline and Hearing Loss

Study By Dr. Lin showed that adults with hearing loss had an average of 37% annual rate of cognitive decline as compared to those with normal hearing.



Cognitive Overload Theory

There may be correlations between individual's hearing loss type and life experiences. The later the hearing loss occurs, the auditory signals sent to brain may be fragmented/weak.

Another Question of the Day...

Does person with hearing loss manifest memory loss differently from hearing person?



Answer: Deaf individuals seems to go through similiar changes in communication

Notable difference:

Nonverbal communication becomes important

Sign finding can become difficult

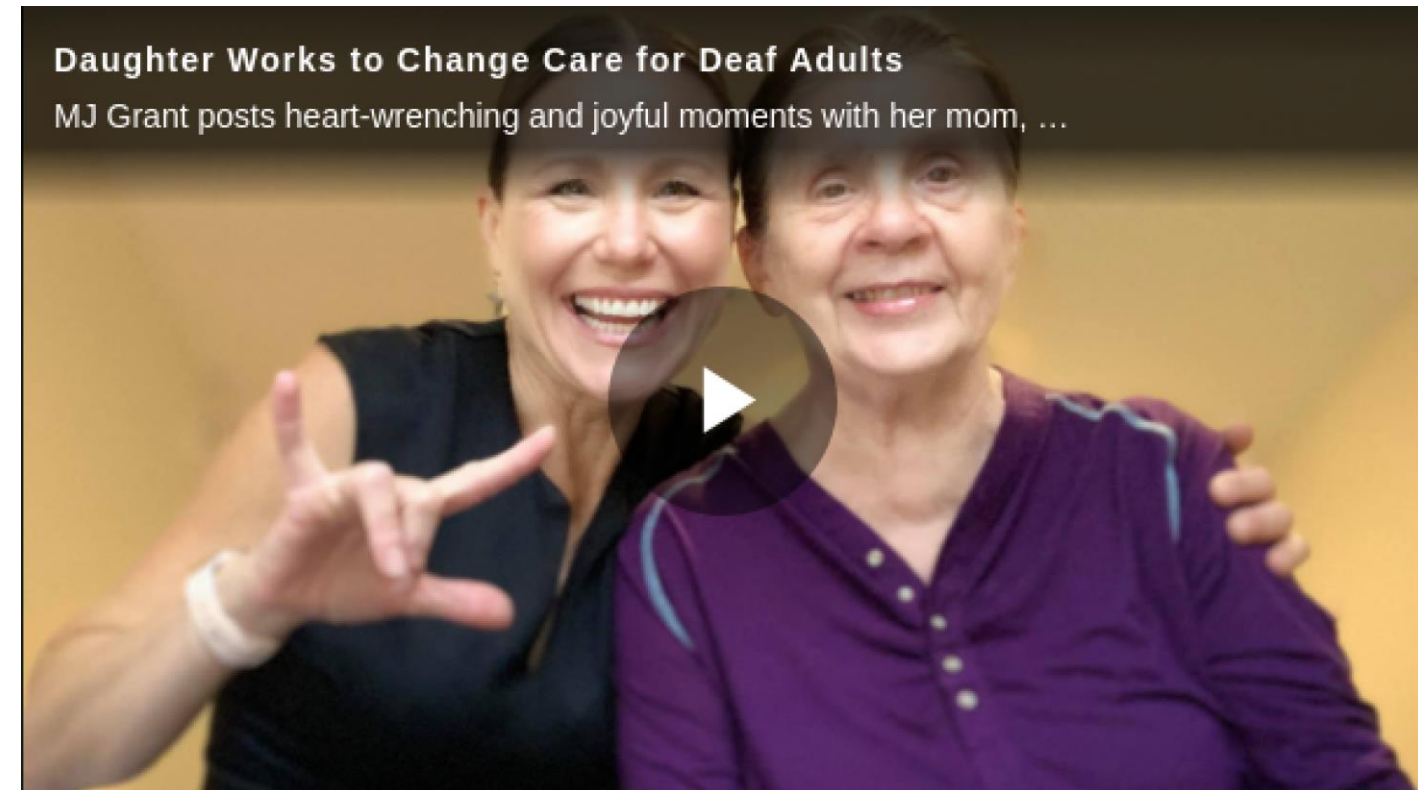
Quality of conversation declines

Adult child typically take active roles and guiding conversations.



Daughter Works to Change Care for Deaf Adults

MJ Grant posts heart-wrenching and joyful moments with her mom, ...



Interventions and Approaches



Communication Access

- Communication Assessment
- Qualified Interpreter (QMHI)
- Certified Deaf Interpreters



Screening

- Mini Cog Screen
- ADS
- Animal Naming*



Testing

- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)-H
- Multi- Mental State Examination (MMSE)
- Dementia Rating Scale (DRS-2)



Living Placement

- Congrate living amongst like abilities individuals
 - Visual accessible environment
 - Communication Access
- Follow up [Video](#)

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Accessibility and Strategies

#1- Addressing Social Isolation

- Deaf Friendly Living Situation** ✓
 Congregate living communities specifically designed for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, equipped with accessible amenities.
- Language Rich Enrichment in Native Language** ✓
 Providing ongoing cognitive enrichment to our patients, fostering protective factors through social and emotion connections.
- Education /Training** ✓
 There continues to be lack of education when it comes to educating people with hearing loss and the risks factors related with dementia with Social Isolation being biggest contributing factor.

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Resources and References

- [Documentary: With Love-](#) Gallaudet University Caregiver Research project
- [Assisted Living for Deaf Seniors](#)
- [Water Tower View](#)
- [Preserving the Etchings of the Mind: Aging, Dementia, and Hearing Loss](#)
- [The Hidden Risks of Hearing Loss \(Dr. Lin\)](#)
- [Quality of Life and Needs of Deaf Informal Caregivers of Loved Ones with Alzheimer's and Related Dementia](#)
- ["Left Behind and Ignored": Increasing Awareness and Accessibility of Resources for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in the Deaf Community](#)
- [Considering hearing loss as a modifiable risk factor for dementia](#)

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Thank You

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