



Documentation - Wealthier

Facts

People with hearing loss who are treated through professional hearing care have a higher income and are less likely to be unemployed or opt for early retirement than those who do not treat their hearing loss

Confirmed by surveys

A survey has found that people who have hearing loss and do not use hearing aids experience a lower income and a higher prevalence of unemployment than people who do use hearing aids. Unemployment is not higher among hearing aid users than among those with normal hearing. Hearing aid users' income is also almost as high as among people without hearing loss.

Other surveys have found that hearing loss increases the risk of incapacity benefit, disability, unemployment or early retirement. People with a hearing loss who are in the labour market also receive lower pay.

Survey

MarkeTrak VIII, Better Hearing Institute, USA, 2008

Findings of MarkeTrak VIII, 2008

The study shows that there is a \$14,100 income differential between subjects with mild and severe hearing loss. People with untreated hearing loss lose as much as \$30,000 annually, depending on their degree of hearing loss.

Hearing aids were shown to mitigate the impact of income loss by 90%-100% for those with milder hearing loss and from 65%-77% for those with severe to moderate hearing loss.

There was a strong relationship between degree of hearing loss and unemployment for subjects without hearing aids. Those with severe hearing loss had unemployment rates of 15.6% - double that of the normal-hearing population (7.8%) - and nearly double that of their peers who used hearing aids (8.3%).

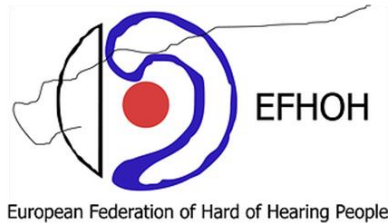
Survey

Impact of Hearing Loss on Household Income, Better Hearing Institute, USA 2007

Findings:

Untreated hearing loss negatively affects household income by on average nearly \$23,000 per year depending on the degree of hearing loss. But the use of hearing aids mitigated the effects of hearing loss on income by about 50%, according to the study's findings.

While people with treated and untreated hearing loss both earn less than people with normal hearing, for people with more severe hearing loss, the income decline is cut in half for hearing aid users. For example,



the difference in income between people with mild versus profound hearing loss is \$20,300 per year for those with untreated hearing loss and \$10,200 for those with hearing aids. For every 10% increment in hearing loss, the difference in income disparity between those with untreated hearing loss and those with hearing aids increases at the rate of approximately \$1,000.

Survey

Hard of Hearing, When hearing fails: Impact of hearing loss on work, education and personal health, Danish Institute for Social Research (SFI), Denmark ,2003

Findings:

In the hearing impaired group, 18% receive disability support. Among the general population, 7% receive disability support. In general, hearing impaired people have difficulty gaining a foothold in the job market. The unemployment rate among them is 7.5% compared to the current general Danish unemployment rate of 4.8%.

Survey

Surveys carried out by Sweden's Organisation for hearing impaired, Hörselskadades Riksförbund, HRF, 2009 and 2014

Findings:

2009: Among Swedes of working age with hearing impairment, 9.3% are on disability, compared with 5.3% of the general population of working age. 11.6% of hearing impaired women of working age are on disability, compared to 5.7% of women in the general population. Among men with hearing impairment, 7.5% are on disability compared to 4.9% of men in the general population.

2014: Twice as many Swedes with hearing problems receive early retirement compared to the general population. 12.2% of the women with hearing loss are given early retirement compared to 5% of women in general.

More studies/Surveys:

Australian Bureau of Statistics:

Hearing impaired people are 1.4 times more likely to be unemployed than the rest of the population. Those hardest hit among hearing impaired workers are women, higher age groups and those with no education. They are the most likely groups to be left out of or near the bottom of the labour market.

Norwegian study, Quoted from HLF, the Norwegian organisation for the hard of hearing (2004)

The study confirmed that hearing impaired people have a harder time finding employment than people without hearing loss. Approximately 63% are employed, compared to 71% of the general public.

The study also found hearing impaired employees also receive on average 16% less pay than those with normal hearing.

EuroTrak 2012 and 2015

People with hearing aids recognize that hearing aids increase the chance of hearing impaired people getting promoted, to getting the right job and to a greater salary.