

Fast Facts about Hearing Loss and Older Adults

Treating hearing loss is important to long-term quality of life

Even a mild hearing loss should be treated

Hearing loss is common, almost as common as aging

Hearing loss is more obvious than hearing aids

- ❖ Over 300,000 Arizona Seniors Aged 65+ are Deaf or Hard of Hearing¹
- ❖ Hundreds of Thousands more Arizonans over the age of 50 are experiencing some degree of hearing loss¹
- ❖ Primary causes of hearing loss are previous exposure to loud noise (e.g. mp3 players) and aging²
- ❖ 76% of seniors with a hearing loss are not using hearing aids, yet many other inexpensive options are available³
- ❖ Many seniors are not aware of their hearing loss and many are in denial
- ❖ Medicare and Medicaid (AHCCCS) do not cover the cost of hearing aids and other assistive devices. Does your insurance cover you?
- ❖ Facilities that provide hearing assistance enable seniors to be more engaged in the activities. Does your meeting center use assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing?
- ❖ Effective hearing technology can cost as little as \$20
- ❖ When hearing aids are not enough, many seniors with moderate to profound hearing loss may qualify for a cochlear device which is covered by Medicare and some private insurers⁴

To learn more about resources and services, see the reverse for steps YOU can take now to address the problem of untreated hearing loss.

Sources:

1. CDC, Nat'l Health Interview Survey (2006) & Aging Trends No. 2 (March 2001)
2. Better Hearing Institute (2009): www.betterhearing.org
3. Kochkin S. Marketrak VII (2005): www.hearingreview.com/issues/articles/2005-07_01.asp
4. Medicare Learning Network/CMS, MLN Matters Number MM3796 (2005)

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