

Did you know... **that in the United States:**

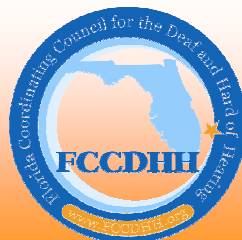
- **2-3 of every 1,000 infants are born deaf or hard of hearing**
- **Hearing loss is the #1 reported injury among Military Veterans**
- **Hearing loss is the 3rd most common disability among seniors**
- **Only 1 out of 5 people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wears one**

***You or your child
may have a
hearing loss and
not even know it.***



Resources for Additional Information

- Alexander Graham Bell Association
www.agbell.org
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
www.ASHA.org
- American Academy of Audiology
www.audiology.org
- American Tinnitus Association
www.ata.org
- Association of Late-Deafened Adults
www.alda.org
- The Florida Department of Education - Exceptional Student Services
www.fldoe.org/ese
- Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI)
www.ftri.org
- Florida Vocational Rehabilitation
www.rehabworks.org
- Hearing Loss Association of America
www.hearingloss.org
- Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)
www.hknc.org
- National Association of the Deaf
www.nad.org
- National Institutes of Health - Cochlear Implants
www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/coch.asp
- National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
www.rid.org
- Service Animal Information
www.servicedogcentral.org



**For further information,
we invite you to visit our
website at
www.FCCDHH.org
or call 866 602-3275 for
voice
or 866 602-3276 for TTY.**

Celebrate Communication in Your Life!



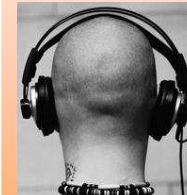
Your Hearing Health Can Be Affected By:



Genetics



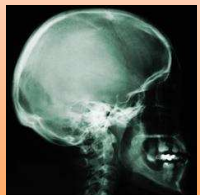
Aging



**Loud
Music**



Medication



Trauma

(just to name a few)

Our world is filled with sound – not only speech, but a million loud and soft sounds that all combine to create the melody of life.

Hearing is one of the most important of the five senses and is often taken for granted. Healthy hearing is important for more than just social interaction and communication. Sound can also alert you to danger, calls for help, or critical safety instructions. It is important to take your hearing seriously and do what you can to protect your ears.

Use these checklists to help determine if you or your child need to see a licensed hearing healthcare professional:

Checklist of Hearing Loss in Children

- Was your child identified with possible hearing loss during newborn screening?
- Does your child ignore you when you speak?
- Does your child fail to turn his/her head toward sound?
- Was your child delayed for any of the developmental milestones?
- Are there any concerns about your child's speech and language?
- Have teachers expressed any concerns about your child's hearing?

Checklist of Hearing Loss in Adults

- Do you ask others to repeat all the time?
- Do you have difficulty hearing in noisy places?
- Do you have difficulty hearing on the telephone?
- Do you misunderstand words?
- Do others complain that your television is too loud?
- Do others complain about your hearing?

If you have answered “yes” to any checklist question, you or your child might be suffering from a hearing loss and you should **see a licensed hearing healthcare professional.**

These are the various types of hearing healthcare professionals you might consult:

1. Ear, Nose and Throat doctors (otolaryngologists) specialize in disorders of the ears, nose, and throat. If the problem can be medically treated, such as otitis media (ear infection) or otosclerosis (a stiff bone in the middle ear), this professional will assist you in addressing or in resolving your ear health issue.

2. Audiologists can diagnostically evaluate your hearing, balance problems, tinnitus, or central auditory processing disorder. They can provide nonmedical treatment or solutions for these issues. These may include, but are not limited to, hearing aids, FM or infrared systems, masking devices for tinnitus, and other assistive listening devices.

3. Hearing Instrument Specialists can assess your hearing for the purpose of a hearing aid, can fit hearing aids, or can suggest other assistive listening devices for a hearing loss that cannot be treated medically.

To find a licensed hearing healthcare professional, visit www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/ and select the specific professional type under the “Health Care Professionals” tab.



If you have a hearing loss, the following are some examples of tools or services you may use:

- Certified sign language interpreters
- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implants
- Bone conduction implants
- Alerting systems using flashing lights and vibrations
- Note-takers
- Hearing dogs
- FM systems
- Induction loops
- Infrared systems
- Video interpreting
- Closed and open captioning
- Certified CART providers
- Telecommunications devices, such as amplified telephones
- Vibrating alarm clocks

