

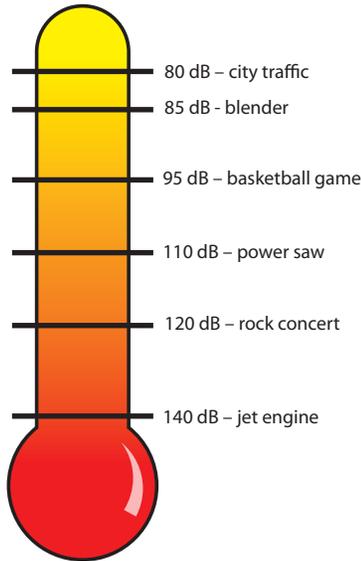
Hearing Loss Facts

Nearly 48 million Americans report some degree of hearing loss. This number has doubled within the last 30 years. Of those with hearing loss, 65% are younger than 65 years old.

The most common causes of hearing loss are noise exposure and aging (presbycusis).

- Exposure to sound over 85 dB can cause damage within 8 hours.
- Exposure to sound over 100 dB can cause damage within 15 minutes.
- Exposure to sound over 120 dB can cause damage instantly.

Sounds are measured in decibels (dB). Anything over 85 dB can cause hearing loss. To put this in perspective:



Only 20% of individuals with hearing loss seek treatment, and they typically wait an average of seven years to do so. Treating your hearing loss can lead to improved mental, cognitive, and physical health.



College of Education Speech and Hearing Clinic UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic, housed within the Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education, is a clinical training site for graduate students earning a master's degree in speech-language pathology. Students get hands-on training from experienced faculty and professionals, while providing comprehensive prevention, evaluation, and treatment of hearing, swallowing, and communication disorders and differences. Graduate students work under the supervision of state-licensed and nationally certified audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

At the same time, the clinic provides a valuable service to the community, offering testing and screening for all ages for more than 60 years. We also provide hearing aid sales and service. Our services are on the forefront of current practices, based on the latest research.

The University of Georgia complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

The University of Georgia cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.

The University of Georgia tuân thủ luật dân quyền hiện hành của Liên bang và không phân biệt đối xử dựa trên chủng tộc, màu da, nguồn gốc quốc gia, độ tuổi, khuyết tật, hoặc giới tính.



Hearing Conservation



College of Education
Speech and Hearing Clinic
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

706-542-4598

593 Aderhold Hall, Athens, GA 30602
www.coe.uga.edu/shc



College of Education
Speech and Hearing Clinic
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reports that occupational hearing loss is the most common work-related illness in the United States. About 22 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels (any sound over 85 dB) at work per year, with four million of those workers exposed to harmful noises every day. More than nine million workers are exposed to ototoxic chemicals, which can also lead to hearing loss. Of those individuals with work-related hearing loss, 72% work in manufacturing.

The threshold for hearing loss to be considered work-related is very high. The hearing loss must be severe enough that the worker is deemed hearing impaired in order for it to be recorded by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This means there are many more individuals suffering from work-related hearing loss that are not counted in these statistics.



College of Education
Speech and Hearing Clinic
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The University of Georgia Speech and Hearing Clinic offers comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic services for patients of all ages with hearing disorders, including:

- Comprehensive Hearing Evaluations
- Hearing Aid Selection and Fitting
- Aural Rehabilitation
- Custom Hearing Protection

In addition to the services for identification, diagnosis, and treatment of various hearing disorders, we offer:

- Speech-Language Pathology Services
- Speech and Hearing Screenings
- Accent or Dialect Reduction/Modification
- Transgender Voice and Communication Services
- Communication Support Groups
- Summer Intensive Communication Programs

Reduce the noise. While this may not be possible, replacing mufflers, making sure equipment is in good working order, and placing a machine inside an enclosure can all help.

Wear hearing protection. Hearing protection devices (HPDs), such as earplugs or earmuffs, are required by law to be provided by your employer, if you work in a potentially dangerous environment.

Take listening breaks. When exposed to loud noises, taking a 10-minute break will give your ears time to recover. If you are exposed to extremely loud noises, such as a hand drill or a lawn mower, for more than two hours, your ears will need a longer break—at least 16 hours.

Aural Rehabilitation

If hearing loss has already occurred, aural rehabilitation sessions can help patients adjust to their hearing loss and take charge of communication, while also teaching them to make the best use of their hearing aids and to explore the use of assistive devices. This form of treatment can also help eliminate the mental, social, and lifestyle difficulties associated with hearing loss.

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists work together to develop this interactive rehabilitation program.

706-542-4598

593 Aderhold Hall, Athens, GA 30602
www.coe.uga.edu/shc

