

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS IN THE U.S.

Hearing loss is an invisible disease that affects almost 50 million Americans.¹ The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss, in partnership with Cochlear Limited, the global leader in implantable hearing solutions, sought to find out the pandemic's impact on those in the hearing loss community. The survey highlights the pandemic's effect on the U.S. hearing loss community's state of hearing and mental health status.²

>>> HEARING LOSS AND THE PANDEMIC



>>> HEARING LOSS AND ACCESSIBILITY



95% of the hearing loss

community say face masks/coverings have created communication barriers since the pandemic began.



89%

report experiencing accessibility issues since the pandemic began (including but not limited to the ability to lipread due to face masks, physical distancing making conversations harder and not having access to captioning across all technology platforms).



35%

say they have experienced a lack of empathy from others for their hearing loss during the pandemic.

>>> HEARING LOSS AND TECHNOLOGY



·° **68%**

of those with hearing loss have **increased their use of technology** during the pandemic to communicate with others.

·• **55%**

say their hearing loss creates challenges while using technology to communicate.

° **45%**

° 68%

use **assistive hearing devices** that make it easier to communicate.

>>> SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS



are represented, plus Puerto Rico.

say pandemic-related increased use of technology has caused them to **become more aware of their hearing loss.**



32% have (a) cochlear implant(s).

diagnosed with hearing

loss for over 30 years.

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE NOTICE A CHANGE IN HEARING OR SUSPECT A HEARING LOSS...

...visit <u>HearingLoss.org</u> for information on how to treat a hearing loss, hearing technology available and community support resources.

For those needing to explore a new hearing treatment beyond hearing aids, find a hearing specialist at Cochlear.us/FindAClinic.

Hearing Loss Basics [Internet]. Hearing Loss Association of America; c2020 [cited 15 Dec 2020]. Available from: https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/hearing-loss-basics/.
COVID-19 & its Impact on the HLAA Community survey. Survey of 1,399 conducted by Survey Monkey, October 10-31, 2020. Data on file.

Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information. © Cochlear Limited 2021. All rights reserved.

The Hearing Loss Association of America provides information on all treatment of hearing loss. HLAA neither endorses any one product or treatment for hearing loss, nor does exclusion of a treatment suggest disapproval. People should seek consultation with their hearing health care providers for individualized, person-centered care.