

UK Statistics & Facts

United Kingdom

Statistics are constantly changing. The latest figures showing statistics relating to hearing loss are as follows: -

Approximately 9 million people in the UK have a hearing loss.

This is approximately 19% of the total population or 1 in every 7 persons.

Hearing loss increases sharply with age. About one third of the population aged between 60-70 years and three quarters of the population aged over seventy years have a hearing loss.

The majority of people with a hearing loss are hard of hearing.

The majority of people with a hearing loss have 'acquired deafness'. They become deaf or hard of hearing later in life having acquired spoken language.

People with acquired deafness are much less likely to use sign. They are part of the hearing culture and their most natural method of communication is spoken language.

Approximately 1 in every 1000 children is born with a severe or profound hearing loss.

90% of all deaf children are born to hearing parents.

Approximately 50,000 deaf people in the UK use British Sign Language (BSL) as their first or preferred language. There are many others who know and use sign language but not as their first language.

People who are born with a profound hearing loss may be described as 'prelingually deaf'.

Many people who are born with a profound hearing loss form part of the 'Deaf Community'. They have their own distinctive language (BSL) and culture.

Hearing loss increases sharply with age: By 61 – 70 years of age, one third of the population have a significant hearing loss. In the 70 years and over age group, three quarters have a significant hearing loss.

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Total of people of all ages in the UK with deafness ranging from mild to profound

9 million (1 in 7 of the population)

Hard of Hearing Mild to Severe Deafness

8.3 million (of which 6.5 million are over 60 years of age)

Deafened Those who became profoundly deaf suddenly or progressively –

123,000 (approximately 11,000 are under 60 years of age)

Deaf BSL Users 50,000

Deafblind 24,000

Deaf Children (0-15 years) 23,000

Ninety percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents.
