The Prevalence and Incidence of Hearing Loss in Children

- The number of Americans with a hearing loss has evidently doubled during the past 30 years. Data gleaned from federal surveys illustrate the following trend of prevalence for individuals age 3 years or older with a hearing loss: 13.2 million (1971), 14.2 million (1977), 20.3 million (1991), and 24.2 million (1993). An independent researcher estimates that 28.6 million Americans had an auditory disorder in 2000. This estimate is reasonably well within projections from the 1971–1993 trend line that evolved from federal surveys.

- According to Niskar and colleagues, approximately 14.9% of U.S. children have low-frequency or high-frequency hearing loss of at least 16 dB HL in one or both ears.

- Profound, early-onset deafness is present in 4–11 per 10,000 children and is attributable to genetic causes in at least 50% of cases.

References


For more information about hearing loss, hearing aids, or referral to an ASHA-certified audiologist, contact the:

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