

Hearing Loss, Hearing Aids, and Dementia

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Does someone you know have a hearing loss?

- If the answer is “yes,” the person in question probably does...
- Hearing loss in people **increases with age**
- Untreated hearing loss has been associated with **loneliness, isolation, depression, and dementia**
- **Screening** for hearing loss determines the need further testing
- An **audiologic evaluation** involves determining the type and degree of hearing loss

“A hearing loss is more noticeable than a hearing aid!”

Where can I have someone tested for a hearing loss?

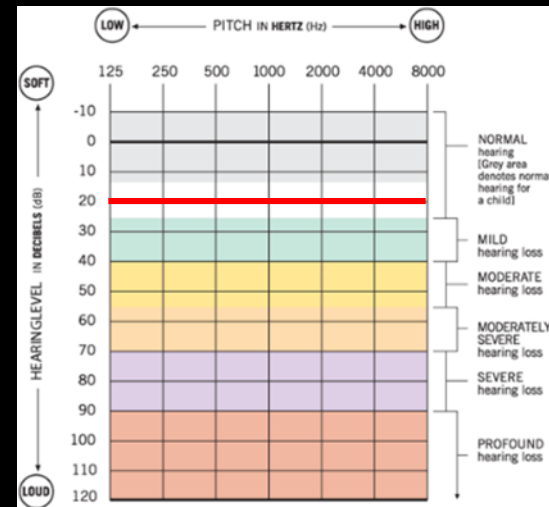
Audiologists:

- have Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degrees
- are licensed through the state of Oklahoma
- are the primary health-care professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss and balance disorders in individuals of all ages

Hearing Aid Dealers/Fitters: conduct minimal testing for the sole purpose of fitting hearing aids and do not perform diagnostic testing to determine the cause of hearing impairment

What happens during testing?

- The examiner will seat the person in a **sound-treated suite** and provide instructions and will have you wear earphones
- Patients will **raise their hand** or say “yes” when they hear tones of different pitches
- Hearing healthcare providers record the softest sounds they can hear on an **audiogram**
- Symbols on or above the **red line** indicate **normal hearing**
- You will be asked to repeat words back and some may be in **background noise**
- If you have a hearing loss, your hearing healthcare provider will tell you about **hearing aids**















What are different styles of hearing aids and what is their power source?

- Nearly all hearing aids are **digital**
- For a power source, either hearing aids
 - Require **small batteries** that **last 5 to 7 days** or



- Are **rechargeable**



In-the-ear hearing instruments (ITE)		Behind-the-ear hearing instruments (BTE)	
<p>These are custom made devices that house all of the hearing instrument's components in a unit that fits within the ear. You may be offered one of the following:</p>		<p>Components in these instruments are contained in the housing that rests behind the ear, connected by a thin tube to a custom ear mould or tip. You may be offered one of the following:</p>	
 <p>CIC Completely-in-the-canal: Fits deeply inside your ear canal</p>		 <p>BTE Behind-the-ear: Fits snugly behind the ear and is attached to a custom earpiece</p>	
 <p>ITC In-the-canal: Small enough to fit almost entirely in your ear canal</p>		 <p>'Open Fit' Ultra-thin tubing is virtually invisible</p>	
 <p>ITE In-the-ear: Made to fit within the external ear</p>		 <p>RIC Receiver-in-the-canal: The smallest BTE instruments</p>	

How much do hearing aids cost?

- The average cost of one hearing aid in the US is **\$2,500**
- Hearing aids are the **largest out-of-pocket expenditure** for people next to a home or a car
- **Cost** is the major reason people do not get hearing aids
- **Only 1 in 5** individuals who need hearing aids get them
- People, on average, wait **10 years** from the time they first notice a problem until they seek help

Over-the Counter vs. Prescription Aids

“Prescription” Hearing Aids

- \$1,000 to \$7,000/pair
- Fit by licensed audiologist by prescription
- All degree of hearing loss
- Customized discreet options
- 30-day trial period by law
- Audiologic evaluation

Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

- <\$1,000 pair
- Self-fit and purchased at CVS, Walmart, Costco, online...
- Mild to moderate losses
- One size fits all
- No requirement by FDA
- Self-assessment of loss through tools, tests, or software

Successful Use of Hearing Aids in Residential Facilities for the Elderly

- Hearing aid program in place
 - Staff **trained** on care and use of hearing aids
 - **Levels of hearing aid use** for residents
 - **Assistance** with hearing aids provided in caregiving
 - Audiologic services available for **repairs**
- **Caregiver participation** in hearing aid fitting and follow-up
- **Assistive technology** available

Hearing Loss, Hearing Aids, and Dementia

- Untreated hearing loss has been associated with cognitive decline and has been found to result in **brain atrophy**, particularly in the temporal lobe
- Hearing loss is a **modifiable risk factor** for dementia
- People with Alzheimer's disease and hearing loss who wear hearing aids have shown an **increase** in social interaction and a decrease in problem behaviors
- Clinical trials are underway to see if the use of hearing aids will **slow cognitive decline**

Where to get help: United Way Hearing Aid Bank (UWHAB)

- It is a community hearing aid bank that serves adult patients who live in one of these counties: Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie
- We offer entry-level advanced digital technology hearing aids at **\$400/aid** to adults who are **at least 1.7 times** below the US Federal Poverty Level when accounting for household size
- The price **includes**:
 - Appointments
 - Hearing Evaluation
 - Hearing Aid Fitting
 - Two-week Follow-up
 - Four-week Follow-up
 - 90-days of free follow-up services
 - Two-year Warranty
- **Grants** are available from partnering United Way Agencies

UWHAB Application

United Way Hearing Aid Bank Application

Instructions: Please complete this form and mail it with your proof of income to:

John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center
1200 N. Stonewall Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73117
(405) 271-2866 [phone]* (405) 271-3360 [fax]

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Date Address

City County Zip Code

Phone Email address Date of Birth

of family members (including yourself) supported by income Total Monthly Income

How were you referred to this program? _____

Do you have a Smartphone? Yes No

Do you have access to a computer? Yes No

Do you have access to the Internet? Yes No

Have you ever worn hearing aids before? Yes No

Do you have ringing in the ears? Yes No

Do you have or have you had any of the following?

- Arthritis Yes No
- Cancer Yes No
- Diabetes Yes No
- High blood pressure Yes No
- High cholesterol Yes No
- Visual problems Yes No

Will you need accommodations in our clinic? Yes No

If so, How might we serve you best? _____

Will you need an interpreter or translator? Yes No

If so, what type? _____

United Way Hearing Aid Bank

John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center
College of Allied Health
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
(405) 271-2866
Eligibility Criteria

The United Way Hearing Aid Bank is a program of the John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center on the OU Health Sciences Center campus. This program assists qualified individuals who will receive:

- Free diagnostic hearing test
- Digital hearing aids for \$400 per hearing aid (with a 1- or 2- year warranty) plus tax
- Two- and four-week follow up appointments

Eligibility criteria for this program includes:

- Meeting the salary qualifications as outlined in the table below
- Residing in one of the counties served by the Central Oklahoma United Way (Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Oklahoma or Pottawatomie)
- Being ≥ 18-years-old

Income guidelines* Proof of income (i.e., tax form or bank statements) is required!

Number of family members supported by income:	Monthly Income:
1	\$1,878
2	\$2,540
3	\$3,203
4	\$3,865
5	\$4,527
6	\$5,189
7	\$5,851
8	\$6,513

* Income guidelines are based on 175% of the 2021 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Poverty Guidelines

Thank you!

- The UWHAB seeks new applicants needing help for hearing loss, beyond the seven-county region
- The UWHAB and HERO Lab provide free consultative services and staff training for facilities that want to set-up a hearing aid management program
- Contact
 - Phone: (334)744-2017
 - Email: Carole-Johnson@ouhsc.edu