

Not Understanding or Responding  
Unclear Speech  
Not Combining Words  
Saying Few Words  
Not Interacting Socially  
Struggling to Talk

## IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

### COMMUNICATION DISORDERS: Prevalence and Cost in the United States<sup>i</sup>

According to one study, approximately 40 million Americans have communication disorders<sup>ii</sup>, costing the U.S. an estimated \$154 billion to \$186 billion annually<sup>iii</sup>. Intervention is likely to be much more effective and much less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later.<sup>iv</sup>

#### Sources

<sup>i</sup>Because of an apparent paucity of data and peer reviewed survey studies, it is difficult to assess the aggregate number of individuals in the United States who have speech, voice, and/or language disorders. [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

<sup>ii</sup>Source: Medical-Legal and Forensic Aspects of Communication Disorders, Voice Prints, and Speaker Profiles by Dennis C. Tanner

<sup>iii</sup>Source: Redefining the survival of the fittest: communication disorders in the 21st Century, *Laryngoscope*, February 2000

<sup>iv</sup>Source: In Brief: The Science of Early Childhood Development, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2008

<sup>v</sup>Source: National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<sup>vi</sup>Source: National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<sup>vii</sup>Source: National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<sup>viii</sup>Source: National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<sup>ix</sup>Source: National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<sup>x</sup>Independent researcher [www.asha.org/research/reports/hearing.html](http://www.asha.org/research/reports/hearing.html)

<sup>xi</sup>New AARP-ASHA Study [www.asha.org/About/news/Press-Release/2011](http://www.asha.org/About/news/Press-Release/2011)

<sup>xii</sup>Source: Hearing Health Foundation

<sup>xiii</sup>Source: Hearing Health Foundation

<sup>xiv</sup>Source: National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/data.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/data.html)

<sup>xv</sup>Source: Do Early Childhood Intervention Programs Really Work?, April 2003, Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy <http://evidencebasedprograms.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Do-Early-Intervention-Programs-Really-Work7.pdf>

### PREVALENCE OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

#### Speech

- Approximately 7.5 million people in the United States have trouble using their voices<sup>v</sup>
- By the first grade, roughly 5 percent of children have noticeable speech disorders<sup>vi</sup>
- More than 3 million Americans stutter<sup>vii</sup>

#### Language

- Between 6 and 8 million people in the U.S. have some form of language impairment<sup>viii</sup>
- Roughly one million persons in the U.S. suffer from aphasia (the inability to use or understand language)<sup>ix</sup>

#### Hearing

- 31.5 million Americans have hearing loss<sup>x</sup>
- According to an AARP-American Speech-Language-Hearing Association 2011 poll of AARP members, 47 % of respondents reported having untreated hearing loss<sup>xi</sup>
- 1 in 5 Americans (48 million people) have hearing loss in at least one ear<sup>xii</sup>
- Roughly 26 million Americans ages 20-69 have high frequency hearing loss due to exposure to loud noises<sup>xiii</sup>

### COST OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

- The Centers for Disease Control estimate that the lifetime costs for all people with hearing loss born in the year 2000 will total \$2.1 billion. Most of these costs will come from lost wages due to inability or limited ability to work.<sup>xiv</sup>
- Five studies on early detection and intervention have shown that future benefits exceed treatment costs at a ratio as high as 7 to 1.<sup>xv</sup>