

Research Panel Discussion HLAA Annual Convention Reno, Nevada 15 June 2008

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Hard of Hearing Students in Postsecondary Settings

A Guide for Service Providers



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National Numbers from K-12

- During 1991, of the 44 million students between the ages of 5 to 7 years, 876,000 (2%) had a hearing loss among whom *only 8% received educational support services mandated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (Ries, 1994: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).
- *This means that 92% of these students received no special educational support services.*

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National Stats for Hearing Loss in General

Table 1-1. Number of Americans with Hearing Loss, 2006

Age Group	Deaf	Late-deafened	Hard of Hearing	Total
15–19	49,200	none	1,376,300	1,425,500
20–44	211,200	1,236,500	4,673,200	6,121,100
45–64	372,800	2,183,400	8,252,500	10,808,800
65–74	169,500	992,200	3,750,400	4,912,100
75 up	254,300	1,489,700	5,630,600	7,374,700
Total	1,057,300	5,901,800	23,683,000	30,642,200

Sources: Reis, 1994; Schroedel, Watson, & Ashmore (2005, May).

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Table 2-1. College Students Who Hear by Age and Attendance Rates, 2004

Age Group	In College	Attendance Rate
18–19	4,624,000	61.2%
20–21	3,030,000	44.1%
22–24	2,551,000	24.6%
25–29	1,914,000	11.4%
30–34	1,276,000	6.7%
35+	2,551,000	1.9%
All	15,946,000	

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Table 2-2. College Students with Hearing Loss, 2004

Age	Number
18–19	108,700
20–21	71,200
22–24	59,900
25–29	45,000
30–34	30,000
35+	99,500
All	414,300

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K-12 vs. Postsecondary Regulations

Table 5-1. Comparison of K-12 and Postsecondary Regulations

K-12	Postsecondary
Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Free and appropriate mandatory education	Optional education
Identification	Self-disclosure
Evaluations provided	Documentation required
Individualized educational plan developed for student	Appropriate accommodations determined based on documentation and with student input
Advocacy provided by educators	Advocacy by students with assistance as necessary
Outcome oriented, successful learning	Equal access, not equal outcomes

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What do we know about these individuals?

- **FOUR STAGES OF READINESS TO ACCEPT HELP**
 - Unaware of the need for help or behavior change.
 - Aware that a problem exists, but unaware that help is possible and available
 - Aware that a problem exists, and that help is possible and available. Not interested in or ready for help.
 - Aware that a problem exists, and that help is possible and available. Interested and ready to seek and accept help.

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Peter: Struggling with Transition

- Peter graduated as the only known hard of hearing student...

...require significant changes to reverse this viscous cycle.

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How HLAA Can Make a Difference

- An organization of Role Models
- Developed Strategies to Overcome Barriers
- You Can Help Young Men & Women to Prepare for Life's Challenges They will Face in Life

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