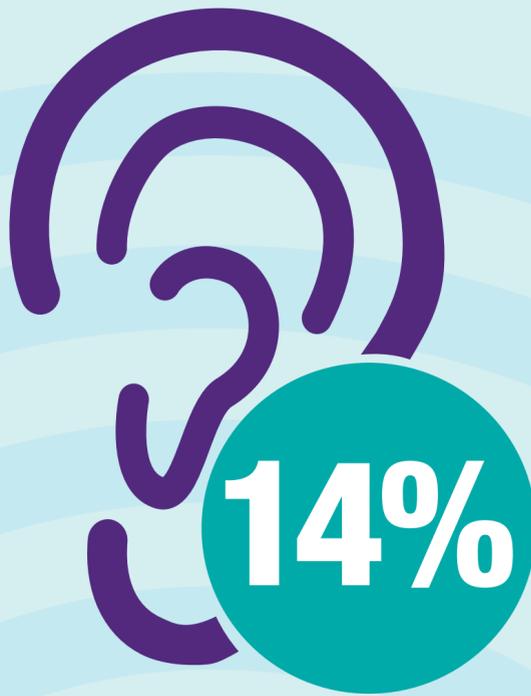


# New Study of Hearing Loss Among U.S. Adults Aged 20 to 69

## Who has hearing loss?

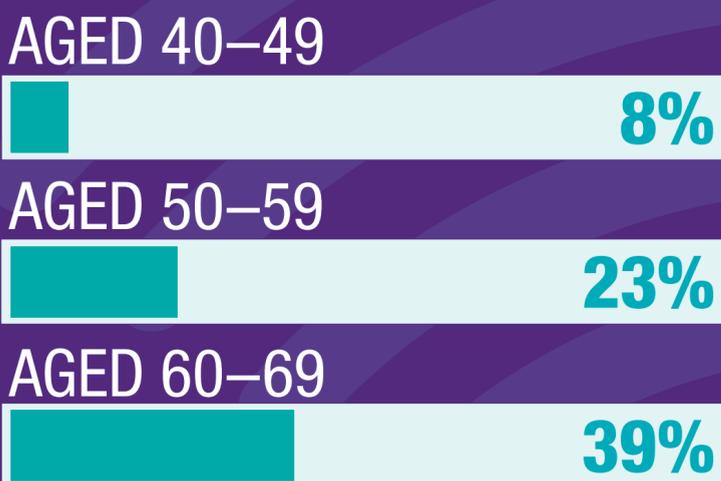


of adults aged 20 to 69 in 2011–2012

Prevalence of hearing loss has **declined slightly** from about **16%** in 1999–2004.

## Who is most at risk for hearing loss?

### Older Age Groups



### Men



Prevalence of hearing loss increases with age.

Men are about twice as likely as women to have hearing loss.

Hearing loss is defined as when the average threshold across four speech frequencies (0.5–1–2–4 kHz) is greater than 25 decibels hearing level. The statistics above are for hearing loss that may occur in one or both ears.

Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2011–2012. Analysis reported in *JAMA Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery*, December 2016.



National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

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