

# FACTS

## at your fingertips



Speech & Hearing Month  
Speak well. Hear well. Live well.

May is Speech and Hearing Month  
[maymonth.ca](http://maymonth.ca)

## Audiology

### Did You Know...?

1. Three out of every 1000 babies are born with hearing loss.
2. Children with mild to moderate hearing losses, on average, achieve one to four grade levels lower than their peers with normal hearing, unless appropriate management occurs.
3. There is a higher prevalence (2:1) of permanent hearing loss in people with diabetes than those without the disease regardless of age.
4. Hearing loss changes the brain.
5. While the exact cause of tinnitus (ringing in the ear) is unknown, it may be a symptom of other problems such as hearing loss, exposure to loud noise, exposure to ototoxic medicine or allergies.
6. There is a strong statistical connection between the appearance and degree of hearing loss and all-cause dementia.
7. Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic condition (behind arthritis and hypertension).
8. HALF of all cases of hearing loss are preventable (e.g., ototoxic medications, chronic otitis media, infectious disease, head trauma and noise).
9. Hearing loss causes difficulties with auditory attention, memory and comprehension.
10. The opportunity to communicate is a basic human right. Read more about the International Communication Project (ICP) at [www.communication2014.com](http://www.communication2014.com).

*Corresponding reference material available upon request*

**ONE IN SIX** Canadians has a speech, language or hearing problem.

For communication fact sheets and more information regarding the professionals who provide help and support, visit: [www.sac-oac.ca](http://www.sac-oac.ca)

