

There are several common myths and "urban legends" about hearing loss. Today's article (Part One of Two in a Series) tries to point out some of the most popular ones, along with the actual truth behind them.

"If I had a hearing loss, my doctor would have told me."

Only 14% of family physicians routinely screen for hearing loss during an examination. Many people with hearing problems can hear well enough to get by in a quiet room like a

"One of my ears hears fine and the other is only down a little. I don't need help."

Most people who believe one ear is "good" and the other is "bad" really have two "bad" ears. When you hear slightly better on one side, you learn to favor that ear and believe it hears well. Most kinds of hearing impairment affect both ears, and about 90% of hearing loss patients need hearing aids for both ears.

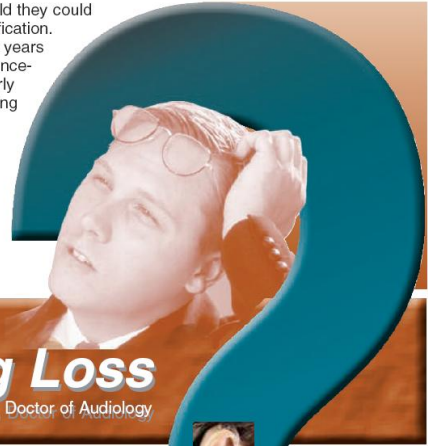
"My hearing loss is 'normal' for my age."

a loss in one ear were told they could not be helped with amplification.

This may have been true years ago, but with all the advancements in technology nearly 90% of people with hearing loss can be helped with hearing devices.

"Only people with serious hearing loss need hearing instruments."

Whether or not you need hearing aids is



Common Myths About Hearing Loss

By Dr. Audrey G. Freeman, Doctor of Audiology

doctor's office, and it may be difficult for your physician to recognize the extent of the problem.

"Hearing loss only affects 'old people'."

You may be surprised to learn that 65% of people with hearing loss in the U.S. are less than 64 years of age. Hearing loss can affect all age groups with close to 6 million people between the ages of 18 and 44.

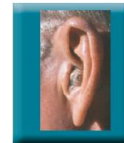
It also happens to be "normal" for overweight people to have high blood pressure. That doesn't mean they should not receive treatment for their problem. The same goes for hearing loss. It may be typical to have hearing loss as we age, but we don't need to suffer and miss out.

"I've been told that my hearing loss cannot be helped."

In years past, people with a high frequency hearing loss, nerve damage, or

dependent not only on the amount of your hearing loss, but also the need to hear for your lifestyle. Even if you have a mild hearing loss, it can be unfavorable. You may need to hear for your job, to hear your children, to communicate better with a spouse or loved ones, and not be left out of the conversation.

The only way to know for sure if you have a hearing impairment is to call an audiologist to have your hearing checked. Call today!



(This information was derived from data obtained by Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D., with permission from the Better Hearing Institute.)