

# Better Hearing and Speech Month Fact Sheet



**5%-10% of Americans may have a communication disorder.** (<https://www.asha.org/about/press-room/quick-facts/>)

**5% of children in the first grade will have a noticeable speech disorder.** (<https://www.asha.org/news/2022/back-to-school-key-facts-for-families-new-to-speech-and-language-services/>)

**Communication disorders are highest among children ages 3-6 years old.** (<https://www.asha.org/news/2022/back-to-school-key-facts-for-families-new-to-speech-and-language-services/>)

**More than 1 million students aged 3-21 receive speech and language services in the schools.** (<https://www.asha.org/news/2022/back-to-school-key-facts-for-families-new-to-speech-and-language-services/>)

**Speech Language Pathologists can treat a variety of challenges associated with disabilities and disorders including expressive and receptive language, social communication, problem-solving, memory, reading, and writing.** (<https://www.asha.org/bhsm/>)

**Communication disorders affect approximately 46 million Americans, which is about 15% of the population.** (<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing>)

**Approximately 2-3 out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with a detectable hearing loss in one or both ears.** (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearing-loss/facts.html>)

**Untreated hearing loss can have significant impacts on an individual's quality of life, including increased risk of social isolation, depression, and cognitive decline.** (<https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Untreated-Hearing-Loss-in-Adults/>)

**Early intervention is crucial for children with communication disorders to ensure the best possible outcomes for their speech and language development.** (<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language>)

**Many factors can contribute to communication disorders, including genetics, exposure to loud noises, illness, injury, and developmental delays.** (<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/communication-disorders>)

**Speech and language disorders are among the most common developmental disorders in children, affecting up to 10% of preschool-aged children.** (<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/Speech-and-Language-Disorders-in-Children/>)

**Children with speech and language disorders may have difficulty with articulation, language comprehension and expression, fluency, voice, and social communication.** (<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language-disorders-children>)

**Speech and language disorders can have a significant impact on a child's academic and social development if left untreated.** (<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/impact-on-academic-success/>)

**Communication disorders, including speech and language disorders, are more common in boys than in girls.** (<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-voice-speech-language>)

**There is a strong genetic component to speech and language disorders, but environmental factors such as prenatal drug or alcohol exposure and low birth weight can also play a role.** (<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language>)

**Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are trained professionals who can diagnose and treat speech and language disorders in children and adults.** (<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/Speech-and-Language-Disorders-in-Children/>)