

Acquired profound hearing loss: a study of psychological distress

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Slide 1:

Research Team

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Three-year research study
Supported by the Community Fund

LINKing Deafened People



Slide 2:

Acquired profound hearing

A large, bright yellow starburst graphic with multiple points, centered on the slide. The word 'LOSS' is written in bold, dark blue capital letters across the center of the starburst.

LOSS

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Slide 3:

LINK's Client Group

- fully established hearing identity
- sudden or progressive onset after mid-teens
- severe/profound deafness
 - 90% report tinnitus
 - 75% report balance problems

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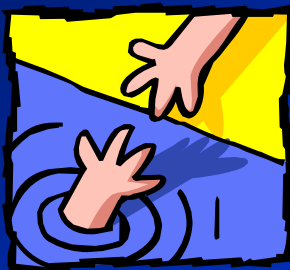


Slide 4:

LINK's role

To assist psychosocial adjustment to living with deafness

- for the deafened person
- and for members of their family



Three-year research study to document:

- impact of late-onset deafness
- service use

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Slide 5:

Methodology

- Recruit deafened people & partners from range of sources
- Structured questionnaire (N=101)
- Battery of self-assessment questionnaires followed by personal interview in own home for NVivo analysis (N=50)

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Slide 6:

Sample characteristics: *deafened*

N = 26 (12 male, 14 female)

- Age range 25-73 years
- 54% sudden onset
- 65% attended LINK intensive rehab course
- 50% forced to give up working

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Slide 7:

Self-report hearing status

Use of aids

- 51% hearing aid
- 37% cochlear implant
- 12% no aid

59% 'cannot hear sounds at all'

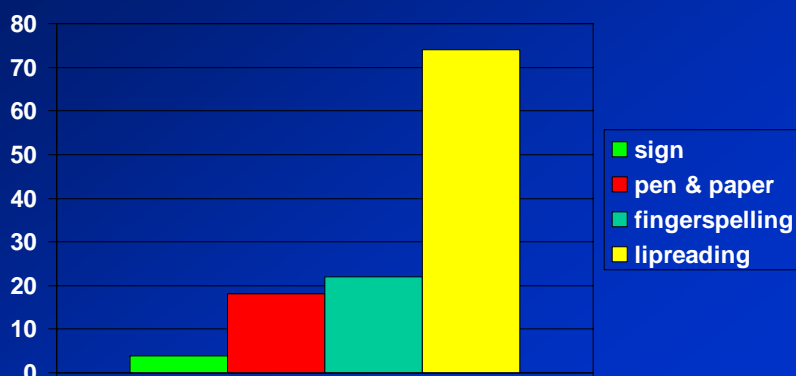
64% find it 'quite' or 'very' difficult to follow someone they know well (even with aids/implant)

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Slide 8:

Self-report communication used 'always' or 'very often'



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Slide 9:

Sample characteristics: *partner*

N = 24 (10 male, 14 female)

- Age range 29-78 years
- 71% spouses
- 25% other relative
- 4% neighbour

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Slide 10:

Key areas of impact

1. Well-being & mental health
2. *Communication strategies*
3. Close relationships
4. *Partners*
5. Public attitudes
6. *Employment*
7. Technology
8. *Service provision*

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Slide 11:

Measures

Hospital Anxiety & Depression Scale
(Zigmond & Snaith, 1983)

Los Angeles Symptom Checklist
(King et al, 1995)

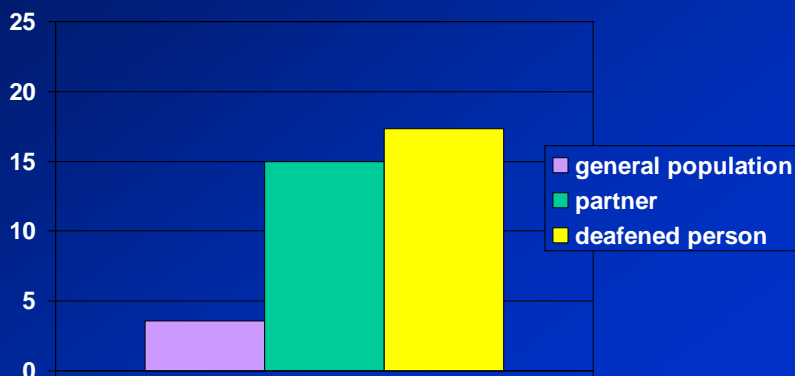
Ways-of-coping Checklist
Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire
Glasgow Health Status Inventory

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Slide 12:

HADS: % scoring above cut-off DEPRESSION

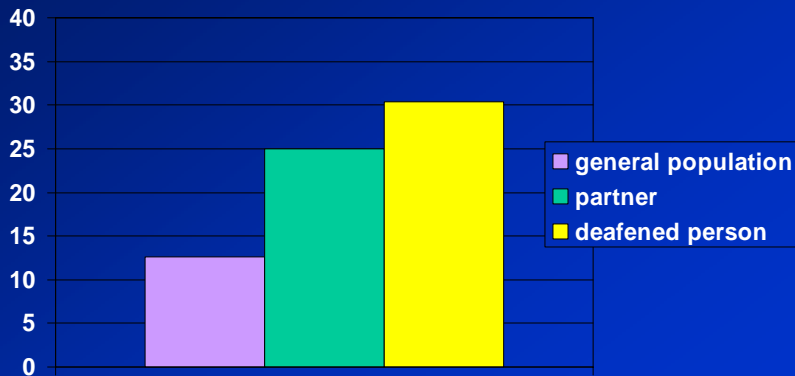


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Slide 13:

HADS: % scoring above cut-off ANXIETY

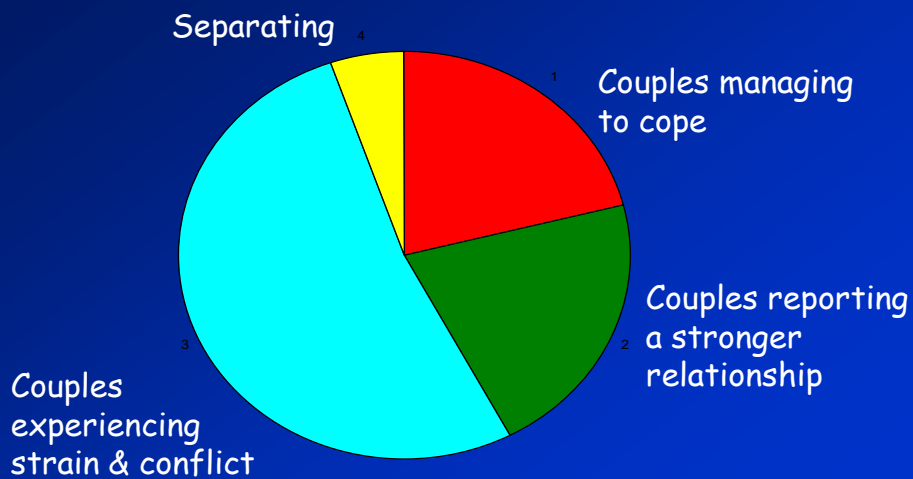


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Slide 14:

Impact on relationships



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Slide 15:

Use of services

Receiving counselling: 3 (11%)

Feel this is helpful: 1

Wanted counselling: 3

Have received in past: 3 (11%)

Feel it was helpful: 3

No partners received counselling

No couples received counselling

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Slide 16:

Summary

Deafened people

- Depression x5 national average
- Anxiety x2.5 national average
- Counselling/therapy not widely used

Partners

- Depression x4 national average
- Anxiety x2 national average
- Counselling/therapy not widely used

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Slide 17:

Key messages

Deafened adults and their partners
report extreme distress and disruption

*They express high levels of
dissatisfaction with current services*

Advances in service provision and
awareness are not benefiting this group



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Slide 18:

*Hidden lives:
the psychological and social impact
of becoming deafened in adult life*

Summary Report
published September 2005

Available from:
info@linkdp.org
www.linkdp.org

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