



Do you Hear Me Now?

## The Facts of Hearing Loss

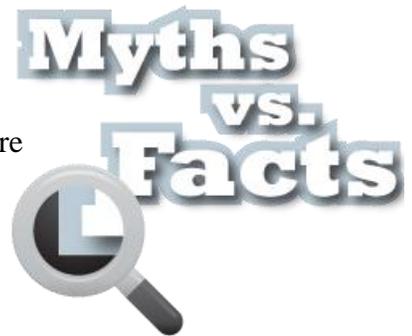
According to the Better Hearing Institute, studies have linked untreated hearing loss to:

- irritability, negativism and anger
- fatigue, tension, stress and depression
- avoidance or withdrawal from social situations
- social rejection, impaired memory and loneliness
- reduced alertness and increased risk to personal safety
- ability to learn new tasks
- reduced job performance and earning power
- diminished psychological and overall health

## The Myths of Hearing Loss

### **Hearing loss affects only “old people” and is merely a sign of aging**

Actually, the prevalence of hearing loss is the reverse of what most people think. The majority (65%) of people with hearing loss are younger than age 65. There are more than six million people in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 44 with hearing loss, and nearly one and a half million are school age. Hearing loss affects all age groups. What I see is a patient’s cognitive health ages when hearing loss is present and treatment is delayed. A patient’s brain must work hard make sense of the environment, and it wears out. Treatment with hearing devices helps keep you cognitively healthy.



### **If I had a hearing loss, my family doctor would have told me**

Not true! Only 13% of physicians routinely screen for hearing loss during a physical. Without special training and an understanding of the nature of hearing loss, it may be difficult for your doctor to even realize you have a hearing problem. So you can see, true measures of hearing loss prevalence can be a difficult thing to determine.

*Susan Baker is the owner and operator of Advanced Hearing Services in Fort Collins. She has been helping people with hearing loss and tinnitus for the past 18 years. Please call (970) 221-5249 for an appointment today.*