



Your Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clients are Missing!

Dr Sally Austen, Clinical Psychologist
Dr Ben Holmes, Clinical Psychologist



‘But I don’t have any deaf clients!’

1 in 5 of the population have some hearing loss

This rises to **1 in 3** people over the age of 65.

1 in 1000 babies is born significantly deaf

But **150 in 1000** babies born prematurely will be deaf

40% of those with global learning disabilities are significantly deaf or HOH

But this rises to **90%** in people with Down’s Syndrome



Yes, clients in specialties too!

40% of the prison population have some deafness

This rises to a shocking **90%** where there are multiple limitations in access to services, such as in Australia's Aboriginal prisoner population.

Physical health and sensory health overlap

Poverty and poor education overlap

Poor access to self care, health care and vaccinations overlap



How can DHH clients access your service?

- Do you know how to book an interpreter?
- Do you have a budget for an interpreter?
- Do you know how to work with an interpreter?

- What are the acoustics like in your room?
- Is your face/speech clear?

- Does your building have an audio entry system?!



DHH clients are more likely to need our services

Presenting

Predisposing

Precipitating

Perpetuating

Protective



Prevalence

40% of sign language users need access to MH services

35% of clients in audiology services

35% of DHH have been sexually abused

How long might the DUP (duration of untreated psychosis) be?



Deaf Services

Primary

Secondary

Tertiary

Dual services

eg Autism, Addiction, Personality Disorder, Dementia

Forensics

Accident and Emergency



Adaptations to Assessments and Intervention

Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE)

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)

Individual or group therapy

Video conferencing

Pre-therapy

literacy/Theory of Mind/abstract reasoning/cultural expectation



What does this insight mean for Psychological Professionals?

- **Put People First** – Increase awareness
- **Help Our Communities to Thrive** – Ongoing service access barriers
- **Transform and Innovate** – Longer inpatient stay, poorer health outcomes
- **Unite and Increase Diversity in the Psychological Professions** – Role modelling and access to vacancies within the NHS
- **Make all Health and Care Psychological** – Increase evidence base