

# **Wisconsin Public Psychiatry Network Teleconference (WPPNT)**

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# WPPNT Reminders

## How to join the Zoom webinar

- **Online:** <https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1606358142>
- **Phone:** 669-254-5252
- Enter the Webinar ID: 160 635 8142#.
  - Press # again to join. (There is no participant ID)

## Reminders for participants

- Join online or by phone by 11 a.m. Central and wait for the host to start the webinar. Your camera and audio/microphone are disabled.
- The evaluation survey opens at 11:59 a.m. the day of the presentation. A link to the evaluation survey is posted when the materials are posted.
- Ask questions to the presenter(s) in the Zoom Q&A window. Each presenter will decide when to address questions. People who join by phone cannot ask questions.
- Use Zoom chat to communicate with the WPPNT coordinator or to share information related to the presentation.
- [Participate live to earn continuing education hours \(CEHs\)](#). Complete the evaluation survey within two weeks of the live presentation and confirmation of your CEH will be returned by email.
- A link to the video recording of the presentation is posted within four business days of the presentation.
- Presentation materials, evaluations, and video recordings are on the WPPNT webpage: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wppnt/2025.htm>



# Navigating Dual Identities: The Intersection of Deaf Culture and Mental Health/Substance Use

Wisconsin Public Psychiatry Network Teleconference

March 13, 2025



Visit Our Website

[www.deafinspire.com](http://www.deafinspire.com)



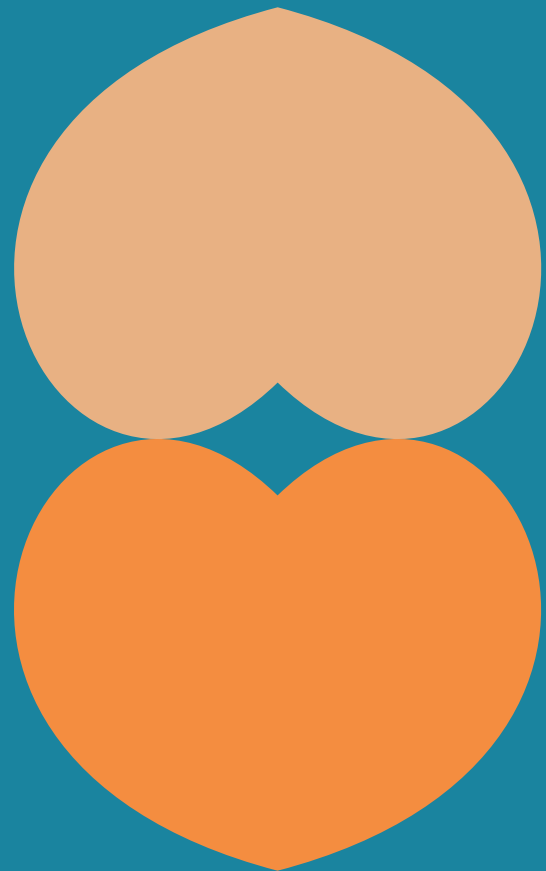


# About Deaf Inspire, LLC

At Deaf Inspire, LLC, our commitment lies in assisting deaf individuals and their families in overcoming the hurdles associated with mental and behavioral health. With a Deaf-Centered approach and certification in Trauma-Informed Care, we offer telehealth and home-based services. Our ultimate goal is to empower and bolster those under our care, equipping them with the resilience and inspiration needed to progress on their personal paths.

## CEO Profile– Katy Hagemeyer

Katy is widely recognized in Wisconsin for her dedication to mental health services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Through her strong advocacy for culturally and linguistically accessible services, she showcases a profound commitment by promoting mental health education and clinical services.



# Disclaimers

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**Content Warning:** Please be aware that you may encounter information that could be upsetting, controversial, or offensive.

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**Interpretation Advisory:** This presentation is being interpreted from American Sign Language to Spoken English, so please note that some translations may be influenced.

# Learning Objectives



## **Understand the spectrum of deafness and its effects on language.**

The audience will learn to identify the spectrum of deafness and various communication methods, as well as recognizing common etiology of deafness.



## **Exploring the Interconnections Between Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders and Trauma**

The audience will be able to identify common trauma and its causation within the deaf community.



## **Culturally Affirmative Services**

The audience will learn various strategies and tools that would help provide their clients culturally and linguistically affirmative services/care.

**Estimated number of individuals in Wisconsin who are dealing with hearing loss:**

213,860 people with “Hearing Difficulties”

3.70% of General Population

75+ age group

82,699 people

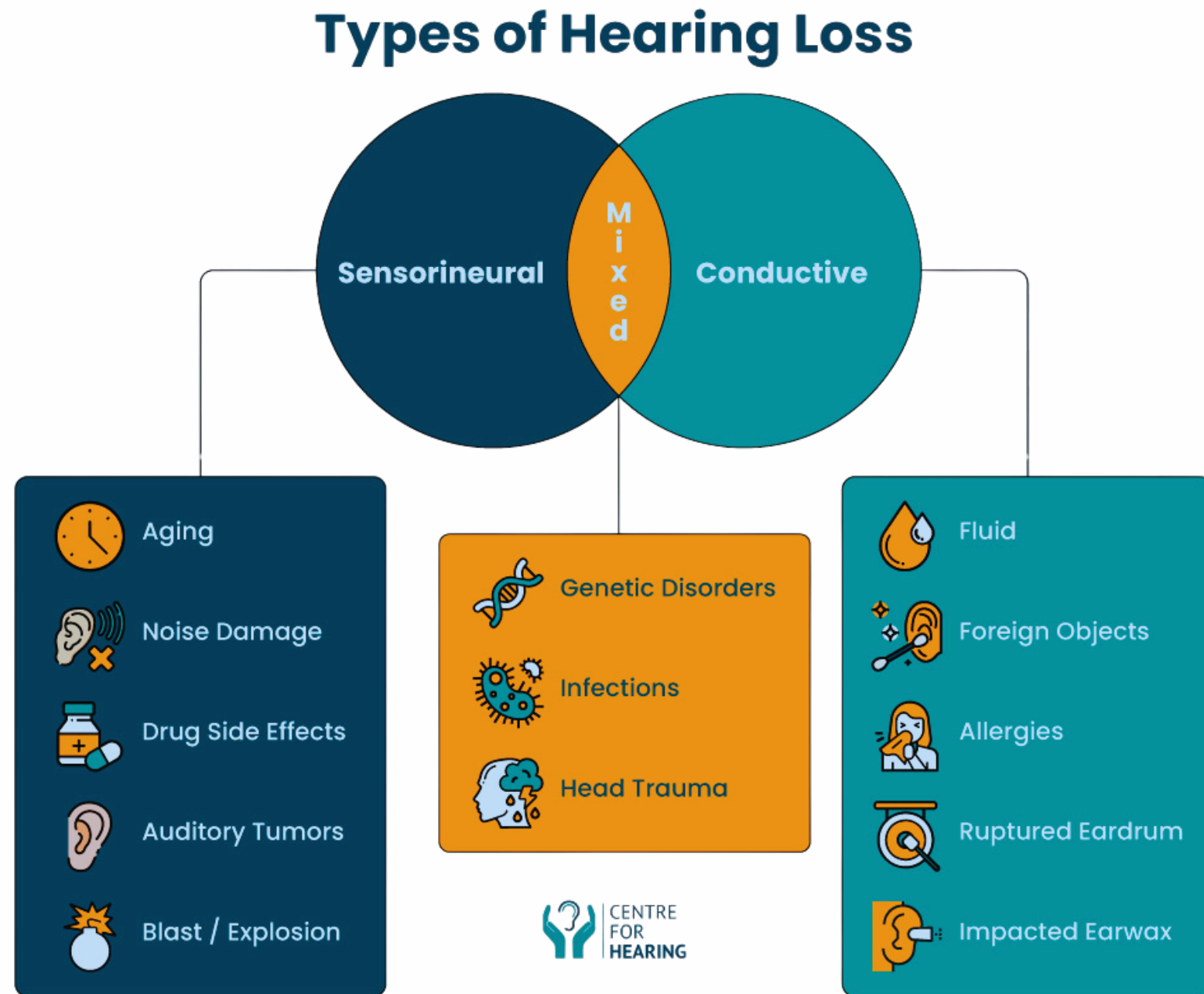
19.40% of General Population

2022 American Community Survey



# Terminology

## Types of Hearing Loss



### Deaf

Very little or no hearing, oftentimes uses sign language for communication.



### Hard of Hearing

Not able to hear well, but have enough residual hearing that auditory devices could be beneficial.



### DeafBlind

A combination of vision and hearing loss.



### Late Deafened

A person who lost all or most of hearing as an adult



### Hearing Loss or Hearing Difficulties

An individual with a degree of hearing loss from mild to profound



### Child/Kids of Deaf Adults / Allies of Deaf

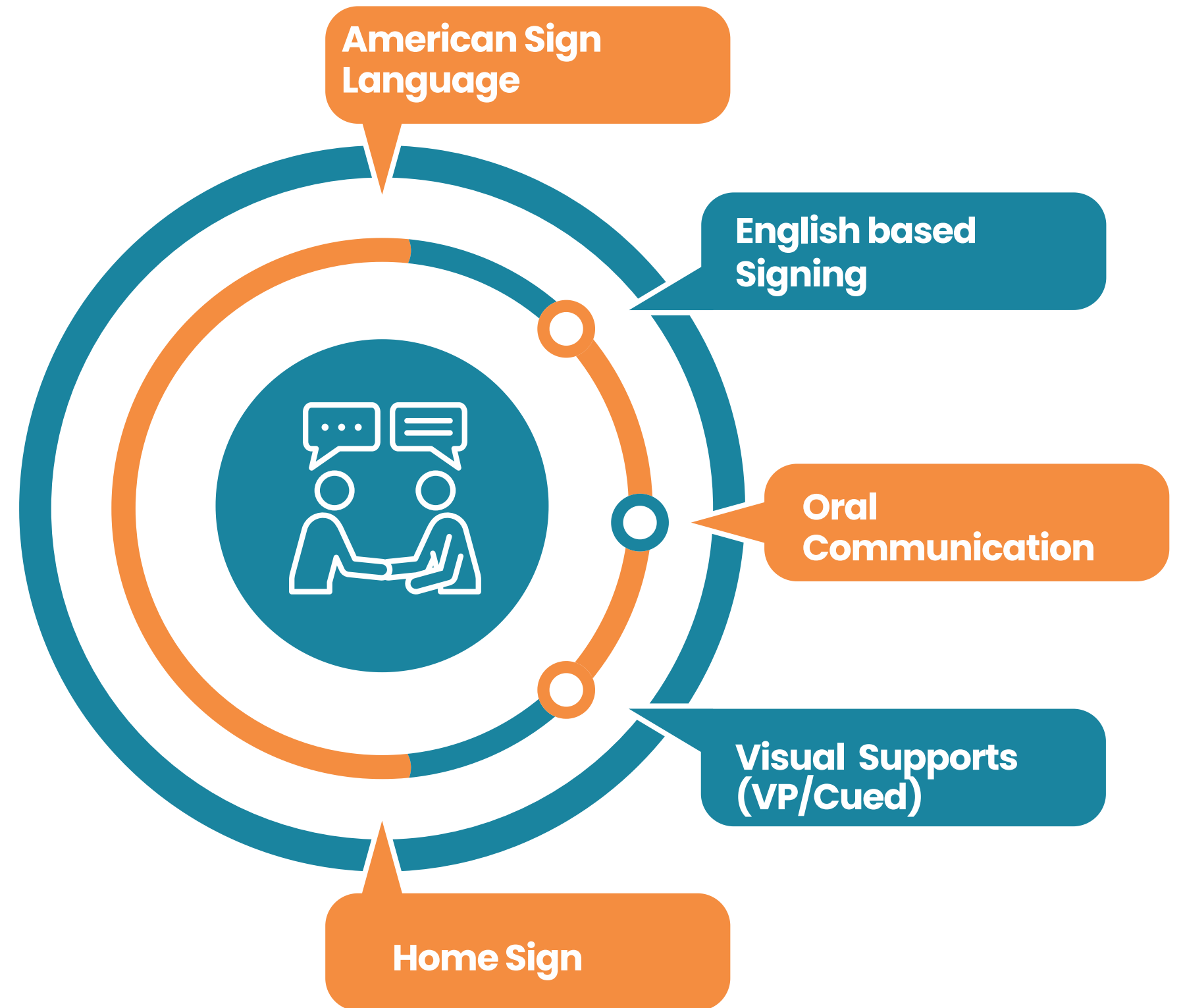
A child that is born to Deaf Adults, usually those who identifies as Deaf. Allies of Deaf are those who work/live within the deaf community.



# Communication Modalities

“Sign language is the equal of speech, lending itself equally to the rigorous and the poetic, to philosophical analysis or to making love”

Oliver Sacks



# Etiology of Deafness



## Genetic/Hereditary Disorders

Connexin 26  
Waardenburg Syndrome  
Usher Syndrome



## Aging

Gradual hearing loss  
as part of aging  
process



## Perinatal Injury

Birth Asphyxia  
Hyperbilirubinemia



## Prenatal Exposure

TORCH-  
toxoplasmosis, rubella,  
cytomegalovirus, and  
herpes



## Trauma/Noise

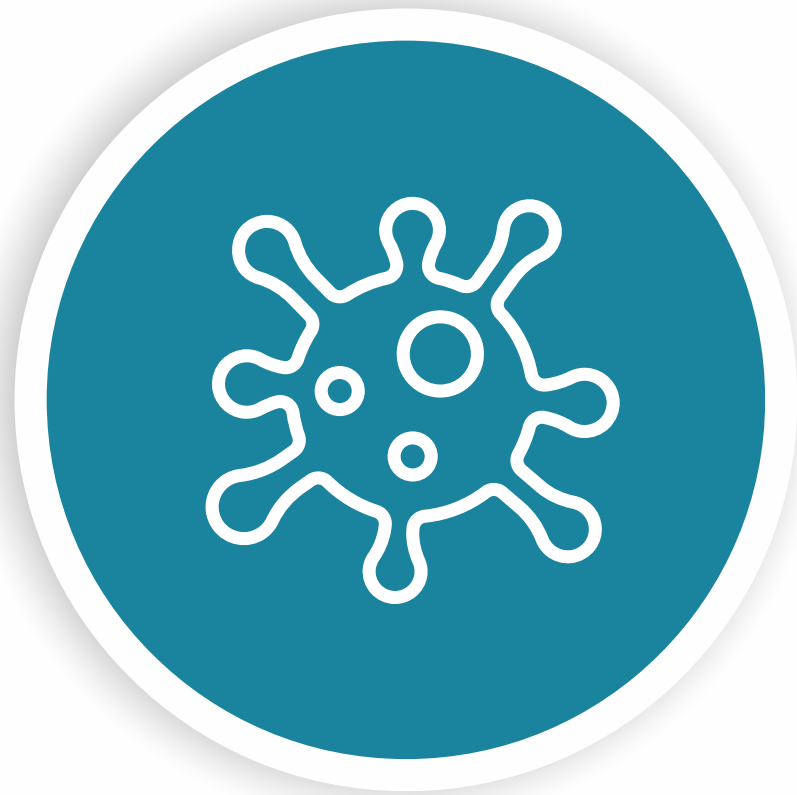
Air Pressure  
Perforation of the  
Ear Drum



## Diseases

Meningitis  
Chicken Pox  
Meniere Disease

# Etiology and Psychology



## Cytomegalovirus

- Pragmatic Language Challenges
- Depression/Anxiety
- Schizophrenia
- Suicide



## Aging

- Alzheimers/Dementia
- Social Isolation
- Depression/Anxiety
- Poor Social Relationships



## Connexin 26

- A strong sense of Deaf identity
- A desire to embrace who they are, rather than seeking to be 'fixed'

# Deaf Community/ Intersectionalities

Abilities

Culture

Socioeconomic  
Factors

Identity



Education

# Trauma and Averse Experiences

## Interpersonal Trauma Exposure

Physical assault, domestic violence, and trauma related to religion are prevalent issues faced by individuals with hearing loss.

## Language Dysfluency

There are three main causes: physical factors, mental illness, and language deprivation. Notably, language deprivation occurs mostly in individuals with hearing loss.

## Developmental Trauma

Infant, toddlers and children experience disruption in their foundational development.

## Information Deprivation Trauma

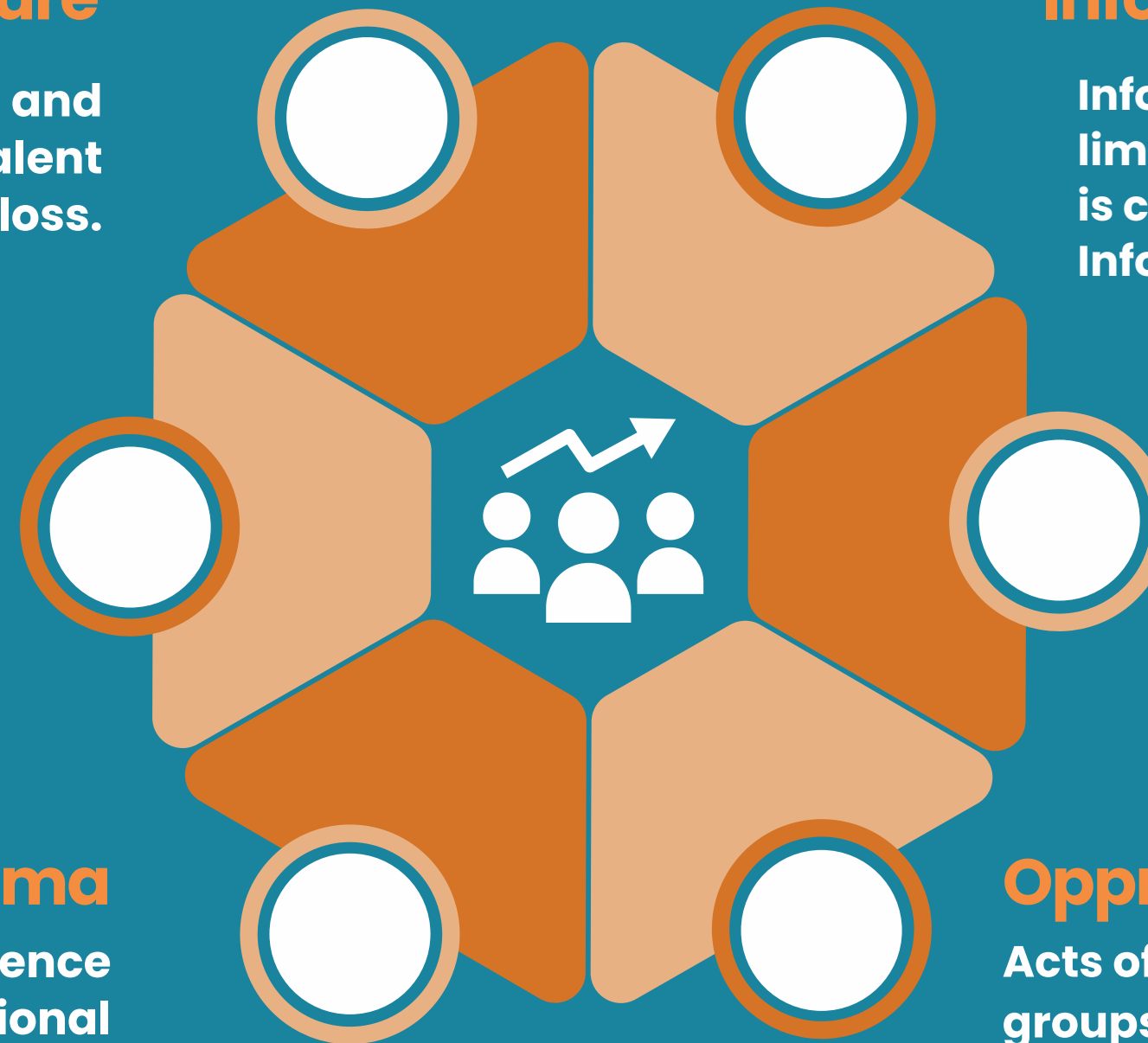
Information or knowledge about the event is limited or entirely absent. This phenomenon is commonly known as the Lack of Fund of Information or Dinner Table Syndrome.

## Childhood Abuse/Maltreatment

Corporal punishment that is unique to deaf people especially when using alternate communication methods. 77% reported experiencing abuse.

## Oppression Based Trauma

Acts of discrimination and stigma towards minority groups due to their resistance with buying in or adopting dominant culture. Linguisticism and Audism are common examples.





## Say "Water" | Illustration

My art college's illustration class was given the task of creating four illustrations on social issues, and I was moved to focus on the important issue of audism and the Deaf experience. It was a no-brainer as a Deaf...

## Destiny Slater Pennsylvania

“Even today, Deaf children are still being rewarded with treats for uttering a single word. I too have experienced this barbaric practice of being rewarded with food for speaking a certain word when I was a kid.” -Destiny



# Susan Dupor

## Wisconsin

"This is expressive of feelings typical to isolated Deaf children living with non-Signing hearing families. The faces of the other members of the family are blurred, which likens the experience of lipreading to the experience of listening to a TV program disrupted by static. The deaf child, who wears hearing aids, is likened to a family pet that is patted on the head while being told 'Good girl, good girl.'" -Susan

# Medical vs Cultural Perspectives

## Cochlear Implants

Some individuals discover that CI enhances their social interactions and professional lives.

Some argue that CI is not a cure—and see it as a form of ableism that primarily benefits hearing individuals.



## Genetic Therapy/Engineering

An opportunity to restore hearing

Disrespecting the sanctity of human life and limits of human authority.

## Eugenics/Cultural Genocide

An effort to eliminate the undesirable and eradicate the "deaf genes."

The initiative to extinguish our cultural group through Alexander Graham Bell's activism promoting sterilization, preventing deaf individuals from becoming educators, and prohibiting manual communication—has ultimately been unsuccessful.



## Bioethics

Researching on deaf people with intention of fixing.

Respecting the Deaf culture as a linguistic and cultural minority.



# Culturally Affirmative Services

Culturally and Linguistically  
Accessible Services

Personal and Cultural Awareness

Cultural Understanding

Skill Development

Least Restrictive Environment

Communication Requirements





# Mental Health Interpreting

**Required in Wisconsin- Only advanced Interpreter Licensee are able to get endorsed as a Qualified Mental Health Interpreter after intensive training and mentorship**

Specialized knowledge and understanding of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community.

Role, Function and Ethical Decision making differs from typical everyday interpreting situations

Part of Therapeutic Team- Interpreter 's Role

# Common Questions and comments that makes me go 🙄🙄

You don't look Deaf!

You are well educated, I thought Deaf people can't read?

Do you drive?

Does your interpreter live with you?

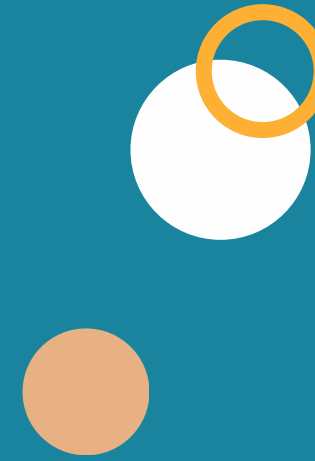
What is it like to be Deaf?

Can you read lips?

Would you like a Braille menu?

Here's your wheelchair (at airport)

thank you



# Thank You

Katy Hagmeyer

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Visit Our Website

[www.deafinspire.com](http://www.deafinspire.com)

Resources:

Google Doc Resource List