

The **World Hearing Day 2022** by the **WHO** focuses on the importance of safe listening as mean for keeping a good hearing capacity throughout the entire life course. In 2021, the WHO launched the World Report on Hearing that , basing on the best available evidence,

- ‡ presents epidemiological and financial data on hearing loss
- ‡ outlines available cost-effective solutions and sets the way forward through ‘Integrated people-centered ear and hearing care’ (IPC-EHC)
- ‡ proposes a set of key interventions to be delivered through a strengthened health system .

**To hear for life,
listen with care!**

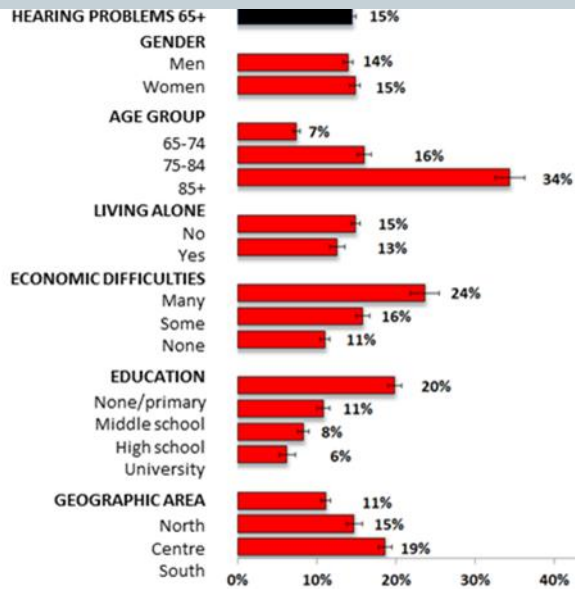


World Hearing Day 2022 (3 March)

How many older individuals suffer from hearing problems in Italy?



Which is the health profile of elderly with hearing problems in Italy?



- PASSI d'Argento estimates the prevalence of elderly with “**hearing deficit**” (they do not hear well or hear well just with acoustic device) and, among them, of those “ **using an acoustic support**” and those who stay with a “**hearing problem**” (not corrected nor possible to correct by device) who live daily life without the chance to talk with other people.
- **Data 2017-2020** from the PASSI d'Argento Surveillance show that **hearing problems are higher than those related to sight or chewing: 15%** vs – respectively – 10% and 13%.
- This prevalence increases as age and is not associated to gender differences. The socioeconomic gradient is significant as well as the residing geographic area: compared to the North Italy, a twice higher quota of elderly with hearing problems is observed in the South.

Health profile and quality of life in elderly with hearing problems are worse than those in the rest of population.

OVER65 OVERALL	%	CI95%	
		Lower	Higher
SOCIAL ISOLATION	18	17,5	18,6
DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS	12	12,2	13,4
FALLING during the last 30 days	8	7,8	8,7
OVER65 with hearing problems			
	%	CI95%	
		Lower	Higher
SOCIAL ISOLATION	42	40,1	43,5
DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS	26	23,4	27,7
FALLING during the last 30 days	11	10,1	12,3

Older individuals suffering from hearing problems show higher prevalence for:

- **Depressive symptoms** (26% vs 13% in the others)
- **Falling** (11% fell down within 30 days prior the interview vs 8% in the others)
- **Social isolation** (42% refers not to meet nor talk with anyone in one typical week)*

*Statistically significant associations confirmed by multivariate analysis between having a not corrected hearing problems and depression, falling and social isolation, with the same gender, age and social determinants (economic resources and educational level).