

Barriers in Daily Living Activities for Deaf Older Adults: Analysis of ACCESS Study

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Research Goals

- Understand knowledge gaps on how Deaf older adults age
- Understand how Deaf older adults have adjusted
- Understand daily needs among older Deaf adults to guide potential solution strategies.



Methods

- Semi-structured interview (N=60)
- Questionnaires
- Trained ASL interpreter administered the interviews
- Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and deidentified.

Conclusion

From this study, we were able to better understand the challenges Deaf older adults face, as well as their responses. A lot of the challenges stem from a lack of communication coupled with lack of accommodations. To respond to these challenges, Deaf people mainly find another method, have resources, or avoid the activity.

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Analysis

Percentage of Deaf older adults who had issues with particular activities across a variety of categories

The categories include activities outside the home, activities around the home, shopping and finance, transportation, managing health, and basic daily activities.

qualitative analyzation using MaxQDA to better understand the challenge responses.

Challenges

“Well, I remember my mom when I was trying to take care of her, she **wouldn’t understand me.**”

“If I’m at the movies I have to use **that small device...it’s just not good enough.**”

“Yeah, getting involved with **big groups** is really hard. If I’m **the only one that’s deaf**, it’s tough.”

“..they don’t realize that **sign language** is very important for me to be able to **understand the communication that’s going on.**”

“**My speech is not perfect...** I try to lip read, try to speak, but if they don’t understand me, I **don’t understand them.**”

Responses

“...easier to do **online shopping**. When I shop in person, I usually use **my phone to communicate.**”

“... if I’m able to read a **board**, if it’s there or **approach people**, I tell them. You know, I can’t hear, **so if anything changes, they know that.**”

“**911** is ready in the **VP**. It is not a problem.”

“I have **resources ready**, based on **my experience advocating** for the needs of deaf people.”

“I just kinda **sit there and be quiet**. I- I don’t really feel involved.”