

Faith Burnham and Maya Dye

Background

Life-altering impairments are increasing in prevalence among older adults. However, older adults with these impairments are often an understudied population.

The aging concerns, challenges, and everyday solutions (ACCESS) study attempted to close the gap and gain new insight into how these impairments affect daily living.

The participants were asked questions about their daily living within the following categories.



The ACCESS study goal was to understand how aging with disabilities can introduce unique barriers to everyday living

Understand how older adults respond to these barriers

Participants (n=60) were 65+, diagnosed Deaf before the age of 50, and used American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary form of communication.

Coding Development

Participants engaged in a structured interview about challenges they encounter daily.

Interviews were conducted in ASL, and then translated by trained ASL interviewers, transcribed, cleaned, and uploaded to MaxQDA.

Coding is an analytical process used to categorize data to facilitate data analysis

Three researchers applied and enhanced a coding scheme from the "Vision" and "Mobility" groups to the "Deaf" group. Additional codes designed to better align with the "Deaf" group's discussion topics

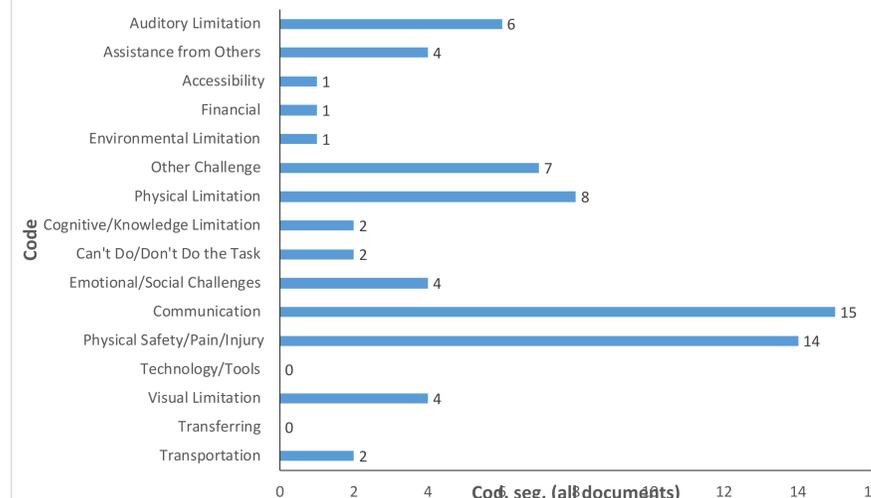
Accessibility: Access to an Interpreter

Communication: including verbal and non-verbal language/sign/symbol systems.

Knowledge Limitation: technical jargon; no ASL

Challenge Codes

The ACCESS transcription coding scheme had challenge codes that were meant to highlight the different types of challenges that deaf older adults encounter. Participants were asked about their everyday challenges.

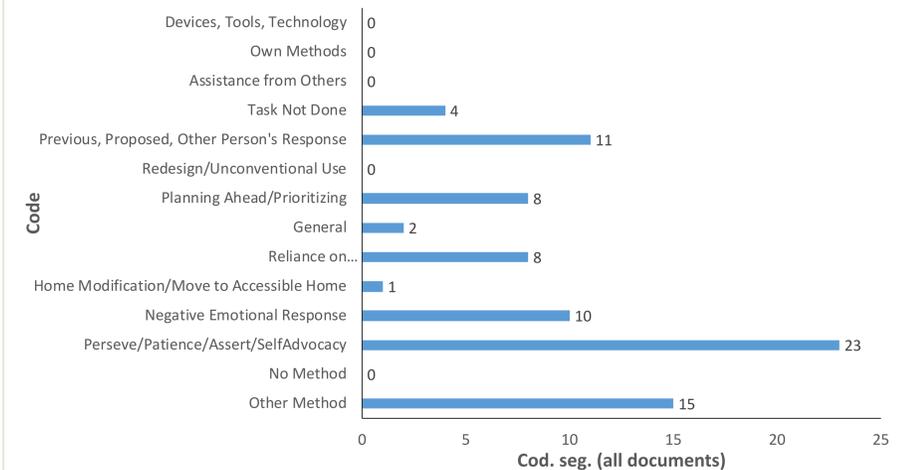


Communication well, it kind of depends. I **lip read** and I see what I can do. We **write back and forth...** so I **don't have to say it.**

--well, if there's **no interpreter**, then I **won't even go.** I won't even show up if there's no interpreter there."

Response Codes

The ACCESS transcription coding had response codes that showed when a participant indicated a response or method to challenges they face.



"...doctors are more aware of deaf people and their knowledge and understanding and so they **speak into a phone and get text on it.** And I think that's really nice."

"My daughter now, she's good. You know, if she's there **she will help and interpret and she knows how to do it.**"