

The Future of Hearing Safety and Health Program

OSHA Safe and Sound week
Aug 19, 2022

Thanks to
Chesapeake Region Safety Council
(OTI) for support



FDA's landmark Over-The-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Rule (~~2021 draft~~) – 8/16/22 FINAL

Anticipated effect on the future of hearing healthcare

with

Emphasis on self-managed care

FDA Finalizes Historic Rule Enabling Access to Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids for Millions of Americans

More Affordable Hearing Aids Could Be in Stores as Soon as Mid-October

Self-identify **mild to moderate** hearing loss

Directly purchase hearing aids - no medical exam/prescription/audiologist fitting

Select settings based on personal needs

Know when to seek medical attention

NOTE:

Safety and Effectiveness standards

Electroacoustics, Safety, Design, Labeling, Promotion

Output limit based on 'Occupational Noise Exposure' - CDC-NIOSH

Efforts of 3 Presidents

44th

Directed extensive research (PCAST, NASEM)
Draft bipartisan OTC legislation

45th

Signed off on legislation, 2017
Required FDA Final Rule by 2020

46th

Draft Rule: Oct 2021
Final Rule – Earlier this week!

Why?

37.5 M, age 18 and over with hearing troubles

Concerning increase in hearing loss - particularly among young adults

80% could benefit from but *do not* use hearing aid

Many may not be aware of early signs of hearing loss

Hearing loss is (still) one the most common work-related illnesses

Nonwork noise hazards are well-recognized for contributing to decline - Effect carries over into work

OTC Final Rule

Impacts every individual in the US, 18 years and Older

Education, Awareness, Self-Management in addition to Workplace
Hearing Conservation program

On-the Job

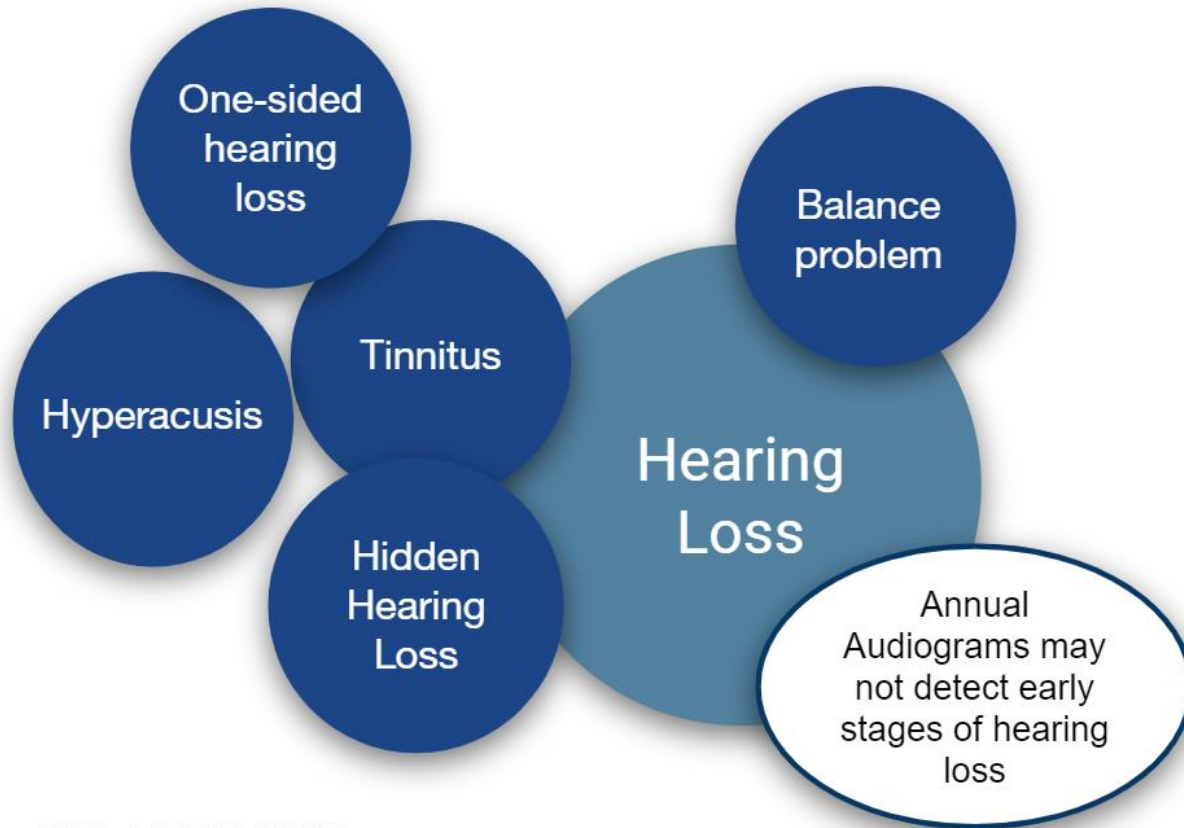
&

Off – the-job

Supports principles of
OSHA: Safety & Health program practices

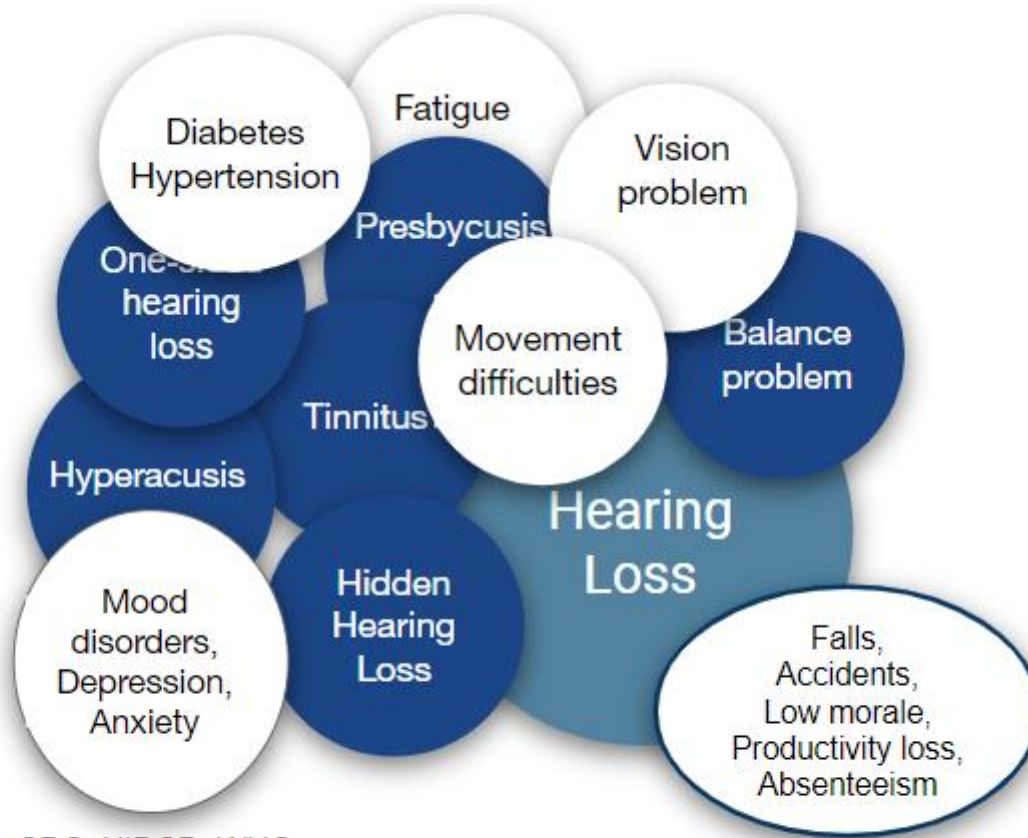
NIOSH: Total Worker Health

Noise hazard: Direct effect



Source: CDC, NIDCD, WHO

Noise hazard: Indirect effect



Source: CDC, NIDCD, WHO

OSHA's 2021 Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Violations



How many caused by unrecognized hearing loss ?

OSHA's \$afety Pays Program

<https://www.osha.gov/safetypays/estimator>

Estimated Total Cost

The extent to which the employer pays the direct costs depends on the nature of the employer's workers' compensation insurance policy. The employer always pays the indirect costs.

Injury Type	Instances	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	Total Cost	Additional Sale (Indirect)	Additional Sale (Total)	
Hearing Loss (occupational disease or cumulative injury)	1	\$ 18,828	\$ 20,710	\$ 39,538	\$ 690,360	\$ 1,317,933	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>

Hearing loss

~\$18K ~\$20K

Totals

Estimated Direct Costs:

Estimated Indirect Costs:

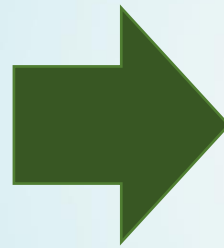
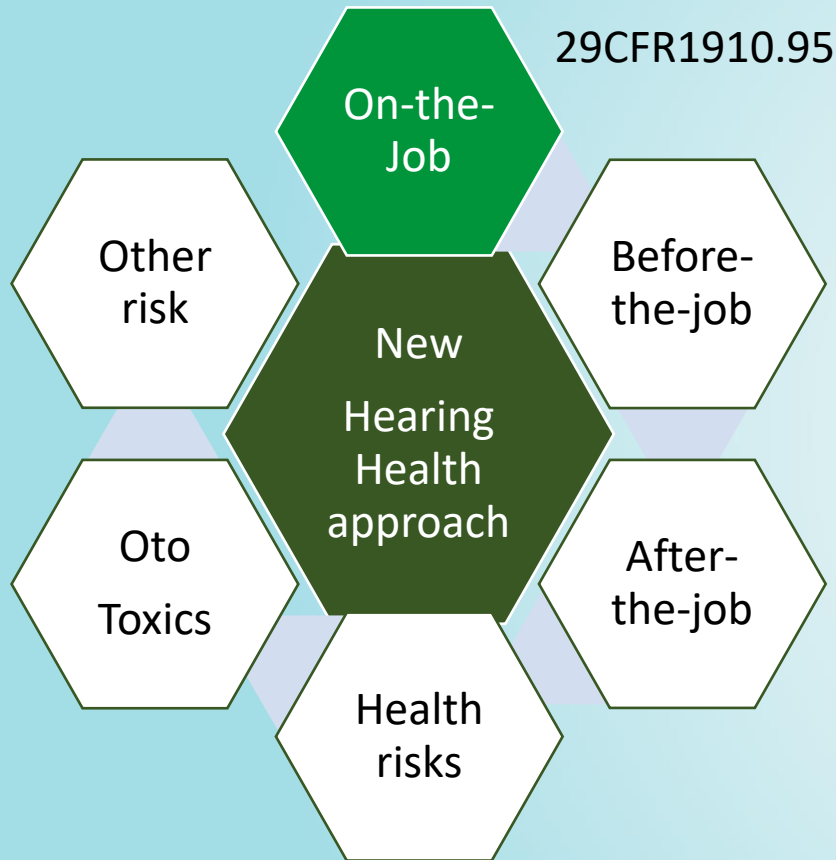
Combined Total (Direct and Indirect Costs):

Sales To Cover Indirect Costs:

Sales To Cover Total Costs: ~\$1.3M

Sales to cover total costs

Education, Engagement for Personalized Hearing Health Program



Fit for Duty
Retention
Morale
Performance
Quality of Life

Thus, **The Future of Hearing Safety and Health Program**

is evolving

based on **consumer-centric**

healthcare standards

lifestyle needs and preferences

regulations and directives

#SafeAndSoundAtWork

Future of Hearing Safety & Health



Integrate new approach within existing program

Check metrics beyond 'hearing'

Audition Technology Enable Self-Management

PROTECT

daily hearing
well-being

Safe-Listen App
and eTool

ENHANCE

hearing with
Mild-Moderate
Hearing Loss

OTC Hearing
Aid, App, eTool

LEARN

hearing safety
culture

Webinars,
Training
Tools