



SignHealth
The Healthcare Charity for Deaf People

iwantbetterhealth

Hundreds of deaf people needed to register for an important research project

SignHealth, the leading healthcare charity for deaf people is leading a consortium of over 50 deaf organisations to undertake the first UK-wide survey of deaf people's health.

We know from small scale surveys and anecdotal reports that deaf people have worse health than their hearing peers.

Past research and recent analysis of the 2008 and 2009 GP Patient Surveys has revealed that:

- ✦ 24% of deaf people have missed a medical appointment because of poor communication
- ✦ 35% of deaf patients were unclear of their diagnosis or condition for the same reason
- ✦ 22% of deaf people expressed dissatisfaction at accessing their surgery for an appointment which is far higher than the hearing population
- ✦ Only 30% of deaf people are in employment compared to 50% of hearing people
- ✦ 20% of deaf people are 'sick or disabled compared to just 6% of the hearing population

"In general, I don't think anyone really understands how my hearing loss affects everything to do with my health, particularly my mental health, and sometimes they appear to equate any slowness on my part as stupidity."

All of this reinforces our belief that deaf people fare less well within the health system which in turn means that if you are deaf, you are likely to suffer worse health.

"Many doctors do not turn away from their computer screens when they are talking to me forcing me to ask them to repeat what they have said. In such cases I have then been addressed as though I am feeble of mind; to the extent where the doctor has patted my hand and called me 'dear'.

5 Baring Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 2NB
| Voice: 01494 687600 | Minicom: 01494 687626 | Fax: 01494 687622 |
info@signhealth.org.uk - www.signhealth.org.uk - www.signtranslate.co.uk

SignHealth is the Healthcare Charity for Deaf People. We are committed to bringing better healthcare and equality of service provision to deaf people through campaigning, working in partnership with other organisations and the provision of specialist services for deaf people. These include Health Promotion, counselling, advocacy, outreach and supported living. Charity number 1011056.

To influence and shape change we need strong, scientific evidence. We need statistics and case stories which we can use to make a difference for deaf people.

This is why we need hundreds of deaf people to register to be involved in this research. All you have to do at the moment is to register your name and contact details. The research team will contact everyone in due course and, of course, participants can withdraw from the programme at any point. As an incentive, everyone who takes part in the survey gets entered into a prize draw.

Please register now and pass on this invitation to deaf friends and colleagues. Contact the team at SignHealth (info@signhealth.org.uk) if you have any queries about the research or just want to find out more.

and
REGISTER NOW AT
www.iwantbetterhealth.org.uk

Notes to Editors

1. Please note: it is the convention adopted within the Deaf community of using an upper case D when referring to those who identify themselves culturally and linguistically as members of the Deaf community. Typically they are prelingually deaf and use British Sign Language [BSL] as their first language.
2. **SignHealth** is the only UK charity focussed on improving the mental and physical health of Deaf people. SignHealth has a track record of delivering change in care and treatment and in providing supported living, advocacy, outreach, counselling and health promotion, all within a BSL supported environment. Projects are located in London, Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham. SignHealth also works with service providers to improve health services for Deaf people and with other health and Deaf charities to provide health information and education. SignHealth in partnership with Deaf organisations across the UK, will launch the largest survey of the health of Deaf people in the UK later this year.
3. For more information on SignHealth, contact Steve Grudgings or Rowena Dean on 01494 687600 or visit www.signhealth.org.uk. sgrudgings@signhealth.org.uk or rdean@signhealth.org.uk
4. SignTranslate is a wholly owned subsidiary of SignHealth. www.signtranslate.com

5 Baring Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 2NB
| Voice: 01494 687600 | Minicom: 01494 687626 | Fax: 01494 687622 |
info@signhealth.org.uk - www.signhealth.org.uk - www.signtranslate.co.uk

SignHealth is the Healthcare Charity for Deaf People. We are committed to bringing better healthcare and equality of service provision to deaf people through campaigning, working in partnership with other organisations and the provision of specialist services for deaf people. These include Health Promotion, counselling, advocacy, outreach and supported living. Charity number 1011056.