

HEARING LOSS IN POLAND



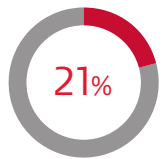
Too few Polish find their way to a hearing device.

Poland has the lowest adoption rate compared to its European neighbours.

Evidence proves that hearing loss is linked to other health conditions:



- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Falls
- Heart Disease
- Renal Failure
- Premature Death



21% of Polish with hearing loss have a hearing device. With this, Poland has the lowest adoption rate in comparison to its European neighbours.

Almost 50% of Ear, Nose, Throat doctors fail to recommend necessary follow-up actions, despite being the initial point of contact for Polish people seeking help for their hearing problems after being referred from their family doctor.



48% of the Polish people are affected by some degree of hearing loss at the ages of 74.

43% of the Polish population with hearing loss had a hearing test during the last 5 years. With this, Poland ranks second best compared to its European neighbours.



94% of Polish hearing device users find their quality of life improved.

Almost 10 out of 10 working hearing aid users state their hearing device is useful for their job.

70% of Polish hearing aid users think they should have gotten hearing treatment sooner.



The WHO recommends regular hearing screenings:

- 50+ years > every 5 years
- 65+ years > every 1-3 years



Policy Recommendations

- Raise awareness of the importance of hearing health, the impact of hearing loss and the benefits of hearing loss treatment among the public and healthcare professionals.
- Promote the need for national hearing health strategies including diagnosis, rehabilitation, service, and maintenance.
- Introduce national Newborn and Over-55 Hearing Screening Programmes.
- Acknowledge access to professional hearing care as a right.
- Promote access to effective treatments including hearing aids, bone conduction devices, and cochlear implants.
- Share best practices among EU Member States.