Employment data for adults who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing

Snapshot of general employment research:
Compared to their hearing peers, Deaf adults:
- Are underemployed and underpaid.
- Do not feel that they have as many chances for promotion, to work their way up, or take on greater responsibility at work.
- Reveal disparities in career advancement.

However...
- Deaf young adults are employed at higher rates than their peers with other disabilities.
- Employment data show potentially promising employment trends for Deaf young adults.

Employment rates:
- In 2011, 47.9% of deaf adults were employed.
- In 2009, the employment discrepancy was smaller for young adults aged 21-25.
- A greater number of deaf individuals were not in the labor force (44.8%) than in the general population (22.6%).
- 7.3% of deaf adults were unemployed, comparable to the general population (7.1%).

Employment rates vary across states:
- Ranged from 35.9% in West Virginia, to 68.4% in North Dakota
- Lowest employment rates were in West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, and Rhode Island
- Highest rates were in North Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Employment Data, 2009-2011

- Employed, Age 21-65: 48% Deaf Adults, 70% General Population
- Employed, Age 21-25: 57% Deaf Adults, 66% General Population
- Not in the Labor Force, Age 21-65: 45% Deaf Adults, 23% General Population
- Unemployed, Age 21-65: 7% Deaf Adults, 7% General Population

Additional data sources are indicated with superscripts.

***The primary data source for this brief was the American Community Survey (ACS), 2011. ACS data were collected in 2011 from individuals between the ages of 21-65. Additional data sources are indicated with superscripts.
Deaf individuals’ average annual earnings

- In 2011, average income was $39,283, $4000 less per year than the general population.
- Earning power begins to decline after 31

Average annual income varies by gender:

- On average, Deaf men make more than Deaf women ($44,080 vs. $29,803)
- Deaf women earn 67.6% of Deaf men’s average annual earnings, which is similar to the disparity seen in the general population

Average annual income also varies by race and ethnicity:

- Whites and Asians report higher earnings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Average Annual Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$27,148</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>$40,943</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Average annual income in the United States, 2011

Educational attainment also affects Deaf individuals’ average annual income:

- Graduate degree: $76,843
- Bachelors degree: $57,240
- Associates degree: $40,117
- Some College: $35,708
- High School diploma or GED: $31,123
- No High School diploma or GED: $23,583

Occupational Data for Deaf adults, 2011
References

