

Why do we need Tele Audiology?

Frances Lockhart.



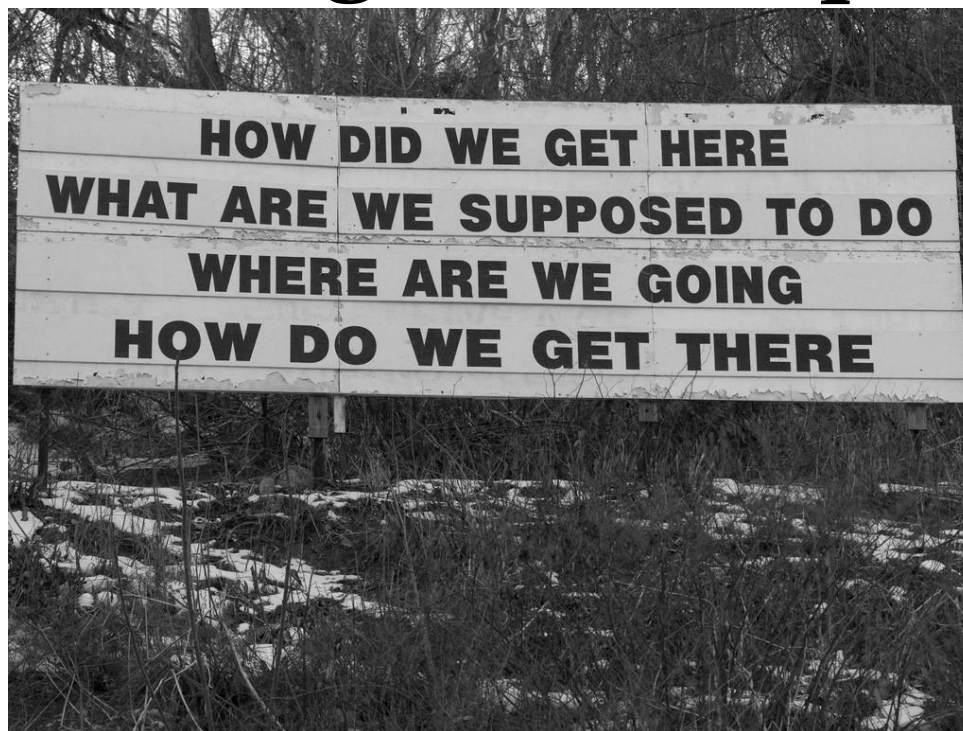
Learning Objectives

Goal :

To understand Why Tele-audiology is an important part of a modern Audiology clinic.

WHY do we need Tele-Audiology?

Let's start first with some background around how we got to this point.



GLOBAL BURDEN OF HEARING LOSS

some recent and increasingly urgent facts:

- **WHO estimated in 2005:**
 - **278 million** people (>40 dB HL)
 - *4.3 % of global population*
 - **647 million** people (>25 dB HL)
 - *9.9 % of global population*
- **In 2008:**
 - **288 million** people (>40 dB HL)
 - **664 million** people (>25 dB HL)

And In 2017:

-466 million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss, and 32 million of these are children.



So the urgency of audiological service provision is increasing .

It is estimated that by 2050 over 900 million people – or one in every ten people – will have disabling hearing loss.

[WHO factsheet](#)



Why do we need to make Audiology more available?

WHO estimates that unaddressed hearing loss poses an annual global cost of 750 billion international dollars.

This includes health sector costs (excluding the cost of hearing devices), costs of educational support, loss of productivity, and societal costs.

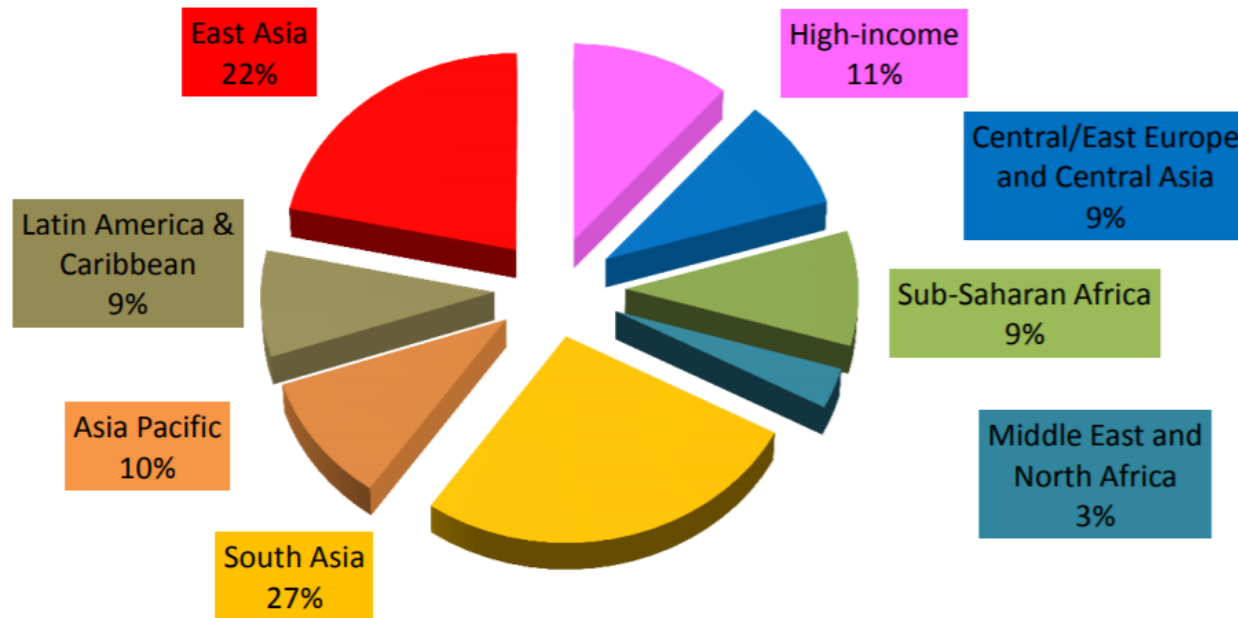
[WHO factsheet](#)

> 90% of people with a hearing loss can benefit from hearing aids

Less than 1 in 40 receive one

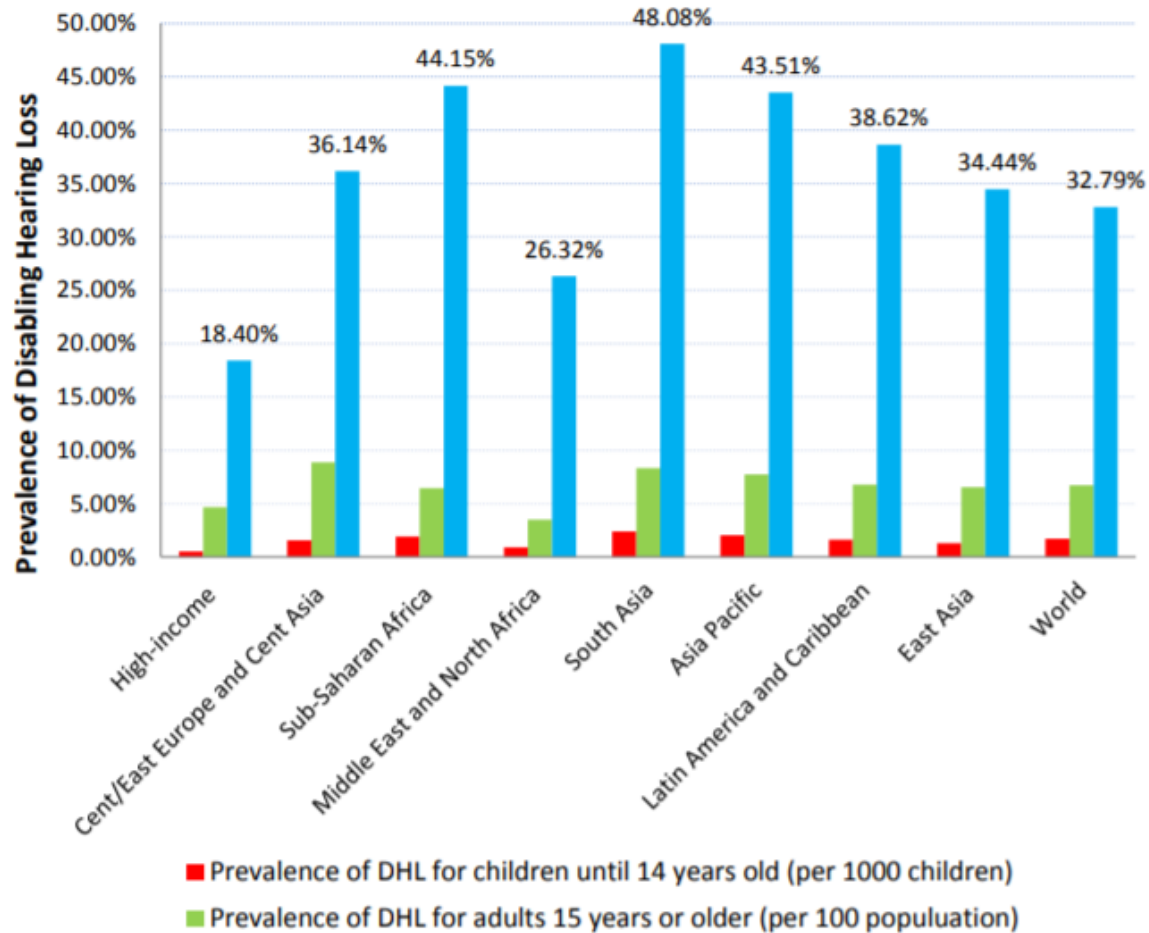


Disabling hearing loss is unequally distributed across the world



MBD, WHO, 2012 DHL estimates; DHL adult threshold is ≥ 41 dB, adults of 15 years or older.

The prevalence in adults above 65 years could be up to 5 times higher, as compared to children and adults up to 65 years of age.



*MBD, WHO, 2011 DHL estimates, where DHL adult threshold is ≥ 41 dB and children threshold is ≥ 31 dB (children 0 until 14 years old).

So how do we as Audiologists spread our Footprint further?

- How do we reach more people?
- How do we ensure that those in countries who don't have well established hearing health care schemes receive some services?
- What do we do in countries that have services but they are unequally distributed?

Activity: Read and Explore

The problem with accessibility

With the global burden of hearing loss increasing, the population increasing and people living longer. Hearing loss services are needed in much greater numbers than are currently available in most countries. Both Audiology and ENT services are in great demand.

Read: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5496047/>

In addition, awareness of hearing loss rehabilitation services and the importance of maintaining good hearing and communication to maintain quality of life and prevent functional disability is low.

Read: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29041791>

ACTIVITY: Read and explore: Capacity to provide care

Think about how Tele-Audiology may be able to bridge this gap.

Read: [Capacity to provide Hearing Care WHO](#)

Read: [World Hearing Day WHO](#)

Read: [Telehealth in audiology-The need and potential Swanepoel Clark IJA 49-3 2010.pdf](#)

And
[Telepractice delivery of family centred early intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.pdf](#)

BUT That's not all:

Hearing Loss Persons of the Future

In the future, persons with a hearing loss will expect care that is:

- Personal
- Flexible
- Involving
- Cost-effective
- Transparent
- Quality of life focused
- Integrating personal technology



Also there is now a shift in how all services are delivered worldwide.



Shifts
in ageing



Emerging
technology

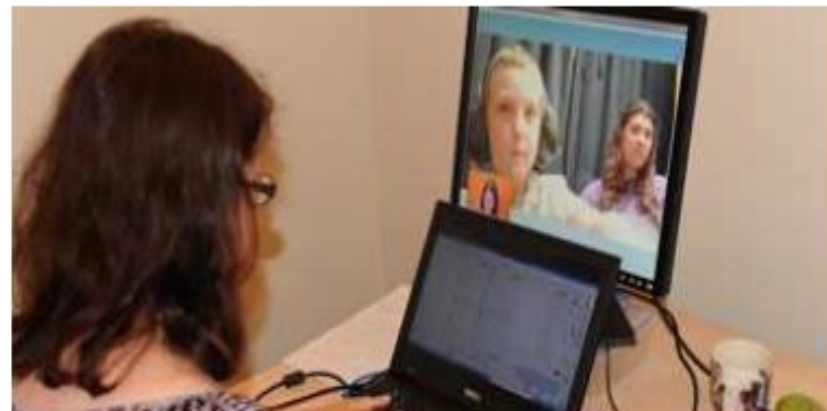


Market
disrupters



Online and
social media
providing
instant
answers and
information

Hearing Loss Person and Professional Benefits



Remain in the comfort of their home
Reduced travel time
Allows for remote and rural access
Increase visits
Opportunity to consult non local professionals
Improved outcomes due to specialist access

Deliver traditional services in new ways
Extend fitting beyond hearing aid fitting
Reach new hearing loss groups
Offer more personalized care
Increased inclusion of communication partners
Provide new services not previously possible
More flexible service delivery model

Ida's 2020 vision identified that we need to be ready.

Are You Fit for the Future?

HEARING CARE MANAGERS WANTED FOR 2020

We need Hearing Care Managers to navigate changes in audiology and provide life-long communication services.

You need to provide 24-hour service and support, including remotely, and build relationships that help patients live well with hearing loss.

Multi-disciplinary: You offer personalized services and solid counseling skills - balance problems and tinnitus included. You feel at home in the clinic, doing community outreach, and explaining the value of counseling.

Tech savvy: You conduct hearing tests and fit hearing aids online and deliver services via social media, including support for disposable, OTC products like self-adjusting hearing aids. Delivery of services with drones a definite plus.

A people person: You're emotionally supportive and readily make at-home visits. You aid shared decision making with patients and their families and are sensitive to different cultural norms. You run group sessions both in person and online with the ease of one-on-one sessions.

Rehabilitation is a life-long process. You're ready to help patients as their needs change. Your patients develop self-management and self-efficacy. Whether you meet in person or online, they're the center of your attention.



Students: Are you prepared?

Clinicians: Do you have the skill set?

Academics: Are you preparing your students?



Activity:

1: investigate what the demographics of your local clinic area are. You can do a survey of your patients or use research done by others or agencies that look at this data. Don't assume, explore.

- What is the average age of your patients now?
- Compare it to what it would have been 10 years ago?
- What form of social media is being used by your patients?
- How many have smartphones?
- How many online audiology services/products are now available in your local area?



Tele-Audiology as a tool for the future.

Combining our traditional face to face services with Tele-Audiology can enhance not only our reach of services but ensure that we see our patients where and when they are ready and in a way they are comfortable with.

Flexibility in service delivery has to be at the core of what we do in order for us to remain person centred.



Tele-Audiology is an effective way of reaching more people at crucial points of their hearing loss Journey.

Tele-Audiology can be used for

- 1: Community education and awareness raising about the impact of hearing loss.
- 2: Detection and diagnosis of hearing loss
- 3: Referral to audiologists and rehabilitation
- 4: Counselling and support for patients and families who are managing Hearing loss.

So Why we need Tele-Audiology is clear. It is an important additional tool of person centred care. A way to assist people in a context that suits them and in an environment that they are comfortable with no matter where they live in the world. It is there to enhance face to face care, not replace it

