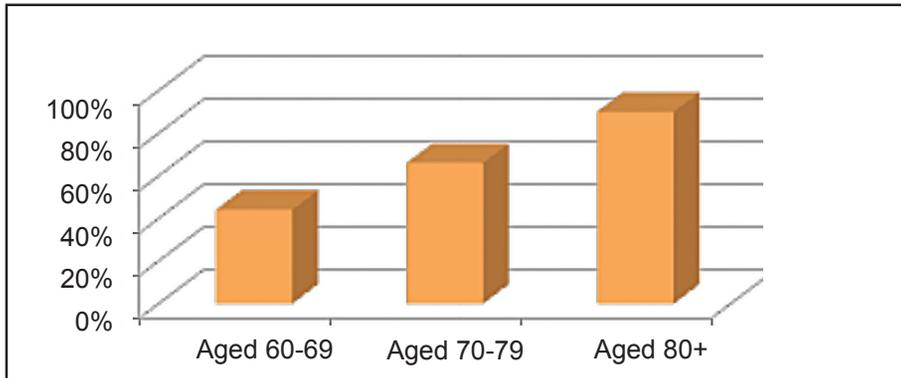


Learn more about our work and visual alarm products

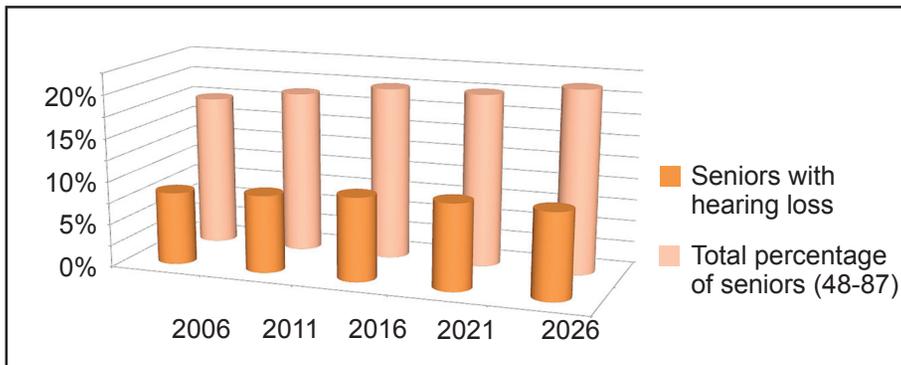
CHS has a long history of working with businesses to design and implement customized accommodation, visual fire alarms and visual notification systems. We also offer a range of visual alarm products for individuals. Contact us and speak to our experts and learn more about these life-saving products.

For more information please contact CHS
1.800.465.4327 • TTY 1.877.215.9530
email CDP@chs.ca • visit chs.ca

Prevalence of Hearing Loss



Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic condition in older adults and the most widespread disability. Its prevalence rises with age.



Almost 25 per cent of adult Canadians have some hearing loss, this figure grows to 40 per cent for people over age 65.

Visual alarms are the difference between life and death



Research states if a fire activates a smoke detector in your home, you may have as little as two minutes to escape. But if you don't hear the alarm, you may have no time at all.

Visual alarms are the difference between life and death

Audible alarms, activated by heat, smoke, toxic fumes or a break-in into a home, warn of imminent danger by sound. Similarly, emergency notification systems in public places (e.g., airports) rely not only on alarms, but also in many cases on the ability to convey urgent information over a public address system.

Now imagine you can't hear any of these in an emergency.

It is a scary thought with potentially life threatening implications that people who are deaf and hard of hearing face every day.

Visual alarms for fire and carbon monoxide detectors, which use a strobe light system instead of sound, can mean the difference between life and death for people who are culturally Deaf, oral deaf, deafened and hard of hearing.

Our position

As the leading provider of services and information serving culturally Deaf, oral deaf, deafened and hard of hearing Ontarians, the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) advocates for fire prevention strategies to help keep our consumers safe.

For the past 10 years, our advocacy work in this area has focused on:

Changing Ontario's Building Code

CHS contributed to recent reforms of Ontario's Building Code. In Ontario, visual fire alarms are now required in public hallways of most buildings, such as arenas, stadiums, hospitals, apartment dwellings, business offices, and so on; as well as the seating areas of theatres and other entertainment facilities.

CHS has made further recommendations to amend regulations in the upcoming revised Ontario Building Code (OBC) to be released in 2014.

Making visual alarms more accessible

Visual alarms can be expensive and not accessible to everyone who needs them. Due to the amount of power required by devices such as a visual smoke detector strobe light, these systems must be hardwired at a considerable additional expense when compared to that of a standard smoke detector.

CHS's view is that it is inequitable that culturally Deaf, oral deaf, deafened or hard of hearing Canadians have to pay this additional cost. It is our position that there should be some financial assistance made available to people who are deaf or hard of hearing for the installation of visual fire alarms and visual notification systems.