

Trends in Worker Hearing Loss by Industry Sector, 1981-2010

DATA DICTIONARY

Field Name	Field Contents
NID	NIOSH ID number (arbitrary unique number assigned to each worker)
Age_group	Age group (1= 18-25 years; 2 = 26-35; 3 = 36-45; 4 = 46-55; 5 = 56-65)
Gender	Reported sex (M = male; F = female)
Region	U.S. geographical region (MA = Mid-Atlantic; MW = Midwest; NE = New England; SO = South; SW = Southwest; WE = West)
Test_date	Date audiometric testing was conducted
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System 2007 code
NAICS_descr	North American Industry Classification System 2007 code industry title
L500k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 500 Hz frequency*
L1k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 1,000 Hz frequency*
L2k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 2,000 Hz frequency*
L3k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 3,000 Hz frequency*
L4k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 4,000 Hz frequency*
L6k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 6,000 Hz frequency*
L8k	Left ear hearing threshold value for 8,000 Hz frequency*
R500k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 500 Hz frequency*
R1k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 1,000 Hz frequency*
R2k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 2,000 Hz frequency*
R3k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 3,000 Hz frequency*
R4k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 4,000 Hz frequency*
R6k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 6,000 Hz frequency*
R8k	Right ear hearing threshold value for 8,000 Hz frequency*

*Hearing thresholds in decibels on the Hearing Level scale (dB HL) contain codes assigned by NIOSH if the provider data explicitly indicated the worker refused to be tested, that there was no response at maximum value, or that an ear/frequency was not tested:

997 = refusal to test

998 = no response at maximum value

999 = not tested

Note: These data have limitations. The limitations are addressed in the dataset paper (1) and in the first paper utilizing NIOSH Occupational Hearing Loss Surveillance Project data (2):

1. Masterson, E. A., Deddens, J. A., Themann, C. L., Bertke, S. & Calvert, G. M. (2015). Trends in worker hearing loss by industry sector, 1981-2010. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 58, 392-401.
2. Masterson, E. A., Tak, S., Themann, C. L., Wall, D. K., Groenewold, M. R., Deddens, J. A., & Calvert, G. M. (2013). Prevalence of hearing loss in the United States by industry. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 56, 670-681. [Erratum in 2014 - American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 57, 1193]