

**UK Deaf Sport has produced this factsheet to provide partners with a brief outline of the number of deaf and hard of hearing people within the South West, and how it all compares to the country as a whole.**

**The following figures are based on data created by;  
NHS Information Centre 2010, CRIDE Report 2012, HESA 2011/12**

	<b>Total Population England</b>	<b>South West</b>
Population	56,100,000	5,000,000
Disabled Population	9,400,000 (Office of Disability Issues)	973,696 (Office of Disability Issues)
Deaf Population	253,970	18,613
Hard of hearing (0-64yrs)	28,050	1,675
Deaf School age	37,414	3,318
Deaf University Population	5,043	450

### **Deaf People by School Age**

Area	Total	Pre-School	Primary	Secondary	16+
England	37,414	5,238 (14%)	16,088 (43%)	13,469 (36%)	2,619 (7%)
South West	3,318 (9%)	431 (13%)	1,460 (44%)	1,228 (37%)	199 (6%)

**It is worth noting that 71% of young deaf people do not attend Special school and are in mainstream education.**

- The data overleaf can be broken down further to help identify local priority areas at a county level. If you wish to find out more please contact **UK Deaf Sport**
- People with a hearing impairment are significantly less likely to take part with a mix of disabled and non-disabled people.
- People with a hearing impairment are significantly more likely to want to take part in sport or physical activity with 'only non-disabled people'. They are the most likely of all the impairments groups to take part this way over twice as likely as any other group.
- Although people with a hearing impairment enjoy the physical challenge of taking part with non-disabled people, they can struggle to communicate in such settings. They are therefore more likely to currently take part (16 per cent) and prefer to take part (22 per cent) with other people with a similar impairment.
- People with a hearing impairment are more likely to find activities appealing that are indoors without music.
- They prefer activities focused on fun.
- They are more likely to find energetic activities appealing; they are more likely to be attracted by activities that are with people with the same gender and background to themselves.

Above research taken from English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) disability Lifestyle survey [www.efds.co.uk](http://www.efds.co.uk)

## What are the definitions of different levels of hearing loss?

### Mild hearing loss

People with mild hearing loss can have some difficulty following speech, mainly in noisy situations. The quietest sounds they can hear average between 25 and 39 decibels.

### Moderate hearing loss

People with moderate hearing loss may have difficulty following speech without hearing aids. The quietest sounds they can hear average between 40 and 69 decibels.

### Severe hearing loss

People with severe hearing loss rely a lot on lip-reading, even with hearing aids. BSL may be their first or preferred language. The quietest sounds they can hear average between 70 and 94 decibels.

### Profound deafness

BSL may be the first or preferred language for people who are profoundly deaf, or they might communicate by lip-reading. The quietest sounds they can hear average 95 decibels or more.

## How many people in the UK have some form of hearing loss?

There are more than 10 million people in the UK with some form of hearing loss, or one in six of the population. From the total figure, around 6.4 million are of retirement age (65+) and about 3.7 million are of working age (16 – 64).

From the total number of ten million, more than **800,000** people are severely or profoundly deaf.