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## Online Program

319475 Hearing Impairment and Noise-Induced Hearing Injury in the United States Military

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*Tuesday, November 3, 2015*

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### Meeting Information

When:

October 31 - November 04, 2015

Where:

Chicago, IL

The incidence and severity of Service-related hearing impairment and noise-induced hearing injury (HINIH) are very high among Department of Defense (DoD) personnel, as evidenced by the growth of related Veterans Benefit Administration disability compensation payments. We will present the latest findings from the DoD Epidemiologic and Economic Burden of Hearing Loss Study (DEEBoHLS) regarding HINIH rates among active-duty Service Members. DEEBoHLS is a collaborative project between the DoD Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE), The University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH), the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), in consultation with occupational epidemiologists, biostatisticians, health economists, decision analysis experts, otolaryngologists, audiologists, and military and Veterans Affairs costing experts. The Geneva Foundation and HCE facilitate data access and ensure that appropriate measures are taken to ensure data security and confidentiality.

For the main epidemiological analysis, we included 18-64 year old Active Duty Armed Forces (USAF, USA, USN, USMC, USCG) serving during fiscal years (FY) 2008 to 2012, and who have at least one clinical encounter with selected ICD-9 diagnosis of HINIH. We will identify cases of HINIH from direct care (CAPER: Comprehensive Ambulatory/Professional Encounter Record, and SIDR: Standard Inpatient Data Record) and paid provider (TED-I: TRICARE Encounter Data - Institutional and TED-NI: TRICARE Encounter Data - Non Institutional) data sources. We will also identify cases using the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System - Hearing Conservation database (DOEHRS-HC), which maintains hearing conservation and audiometric data across the DoD. The Defense Manpower Data Center will provide data on at-risk denominators by the demographic and job-related characteristics.

We will report prevalence and cumulative incidence rates of HINIH based on several case definitions (e.g., combination of ICD-9 diagnosis codes). We will report rates by demographic characteristics (i.e., gender, age and race/ethnicity), employment characteristics (i.e., branch, grade and rank) and occupational category (i.e., DoD MOC). We will also report on differences in rates by FY. Finally, we will present a comparison with published DoD and civilian rates for comparable case definitions.

#### Learning Areas:

Epidemiology  
Occupational health and safety

#### Learning Objectives:

Explain the impact of hearing impairment on Military readiness, population health, troop management and health utilization. Name various DoD data systems and databases that collect and store auditory health data. Describe the incidence and severity of Service-related hearing impairment and noise-induced hearing injury in Service members.

**Keyword(s):** Epidemiology, Disabilities

#### Presenting author's disclosure statement:

**Qualified on the content I am responsible for because:** I have been working on this study as a graduate assistant for the past year. I am a doctoral student in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at The University of Texas School of Public Health.

**Any relevant financial relationships?** No

I agree to comply with the American Public Health Association Conflict of Interest and Commercial Support Guidelines, and to disclose to the participants any off-label or experimental uses of a commercial product or service discussed in my presentation.

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