

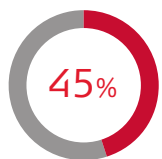
The Netherlands has the lowest rate of hearing tests and is not enough aware of hearing loss comorbidities.

However, 60% of people from the Netherlands with hearing loss don't believe in a correlation with other health issues.

Evidence proves that hearing loss is linked to other health conditions:



- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Falls
- Heart Disease
- Renal Failure
- Premature Death



45% of people with hearing loss have a hearing device. The trend shows that the adoption rate is increasing, as in 2016 the rate was 41%.

Most people from the Netherlands talk first to their family doctor about hearing problems. However, almost 1 out of 4 doctors do not recommend further action.



# HEARING LOSS IN THE NETHERLANDS



1 in 3 of all Dutch individuals aged 74+ is affected by some degree of hearing loss.

Only 26% of the Dutch population with hearing loss had a hearing test during the last 5 years. With this, the Netherlands ranks last compared to the other countries in the EuroTrak study.



95% of Dutch hearing device users find their quality of life improved.

9 out of 10 working hearing aid users state their hearing device is useful for their job.

57% of Dutch people have never taken a hearing test. This is above the European average.



The WHO recommends regular hearing screenings:

- 50+ years > every 5 years
- 65+ years > every 1-3 years



## Policy Recommendations

- Raise awareness of the importance of hearing health, the impact of hearing loss and the benefits of hearing loss treatment among the public and healthcare professionals.
- Promote the need for national hearing health strategies including diagnosis, rehabilitation, service, and maintenance.
- Introduce national Newborn and Over-55 Hearing Screening Programmes.
- Acknowledge access to professional hearing care as a right.
- Promote access to effective treatments including hearing aids, bone conduction devices, and cochlear implants.
- Share best practices among EU Member States.