



# Research Brief

## Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion for Students who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

### ENROLLMENT

**Survey on students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing (SDHH) in postsecondary education:**

- 1989-1990: **17,040** SDHH enrolled in postsecondary education
- 1992-1993: On average, 9.8 SDHH at each institution

**National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS):**

- 1989-1990: **258,197** SDHH enrolled in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary education institutions
- 1995-1996:
  - **16%** of students with disabilities reported being deaf or hard-of-hearing
  - **60%** of eighth graders who completed high school went on to enroll in postsecondary education

**National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2)**

- Between 2000 and 2010:
  - **75%** SDHH had ever enrolled in any type of postsecondary institution, compared to 68% in the general population (significantly higher than several other disability groups)
  - **52%** SDHH enrolled in 2-year or community colleges
  - **43%** SDHH enrolled in vocational, business, or technical schools
  - **34%** SDHH enrolled in 4-year colleges
- Between 1987 and 2005: Enrollment of SDHH in any type of postsecondary institution increased by **24-30%**

*According to NLTS2, 53% of DHH young adults had completed any type of postsecondary education, and 37% completed degrees from 2- or 4-year institutions.*

### COMPLETION

**Synthesis of several nationally representative data sets (1988-1994; 1990-1991; 1994-1995)**

- **5%** of DHH individuals graduated from college (in comparison to 13% of hearing population)
- **53%** of DHH individuals had completed any type of postsecondary institution

**NPSAS (1995-1996)**

- **40%** of DHH young adults had attained their degree or certificate by 1994 (began postsecondary in 1989-1990)

**NLTS2 (2000-2010)**

- **53%** of DHH young adults had completed some type of postsecondary education, compared with 52% of students with other disabilities
- **37%** of DHH young adults completed degrees from 2- or 4-year institutions

\*\*\*\* *DISCLAIMER: Some of the numbers included in this document varied significantly according to the source of data. These differences were related to how data was collected, who data was collected from, how deaf and hard of hearing was defined, and other factors.* \*\*\*\*

## References

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