

## Employment data for adults who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing

### Snapshot of general employment research:

#### Compared to their hearing peers, Deaf adults:

- Are underemployed and underpaid.
- Do not feel that they have as many chances for promotion, to work their way up, or take on greater responsibility at work<sup>i</sup>.
- Reveal disparities in career advancement<sup>ii</sup>.

#### However...

- Deaf young adults are employed at higher rates than their peers with other disabilities<sup>i</sup>.
- Employment data show potentially promising employment trends for Deaf young adults.

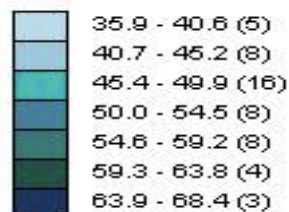
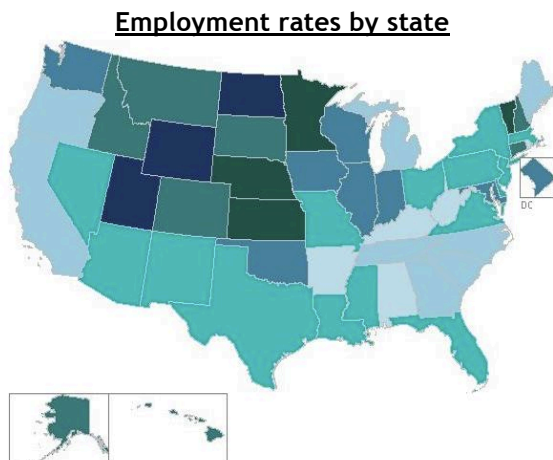
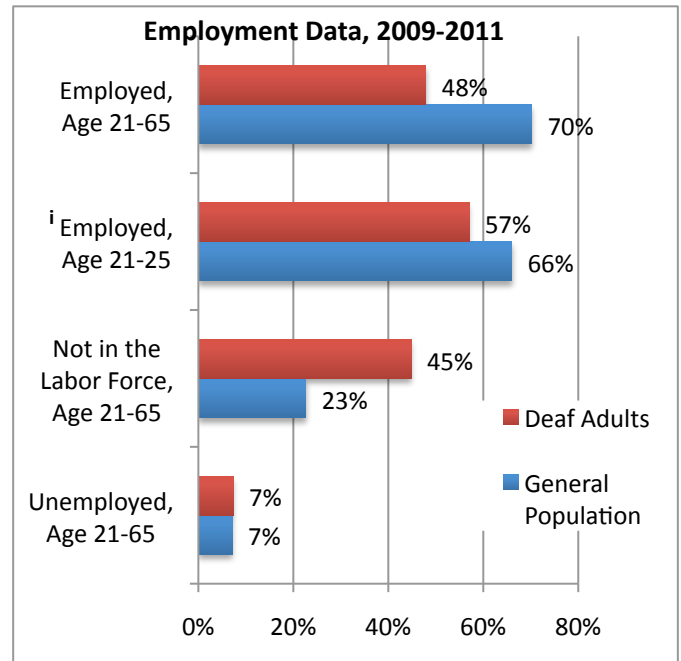
*Deaf adults continue to be underemployed and underpaid, but are employed at higher rates than their peers with other disabilities*

### Employment rates:

- In 2011, 47.9% of deaf adults were employed.
- In 2009, the employment discrepancy was smaller for young adults aged 21-25<sup>i</sup>.
- A greater number of deaf individuals were not in the labor force (44.8%) than in the general population (22.6%).
- 7.3% of deaf adults were unemployed, comparable to the general population (7.1%).

### Employment rates vary across states:

- Ranged from 35.9% in West Virginia, to 68.4% in North Dakota
- Lowest employment rates were in West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, and Rhode Island
- Highest rates were in North Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Nebraska, and Kansas.



\*\*\*The primary data source for this brief was the American Community Survey (ACS), 2011. ACS data were collected in 2011 from individuals between the ages of 21-65. Additional data sources are indicated with superscripts.

## Deaf individuals' average annual earnings

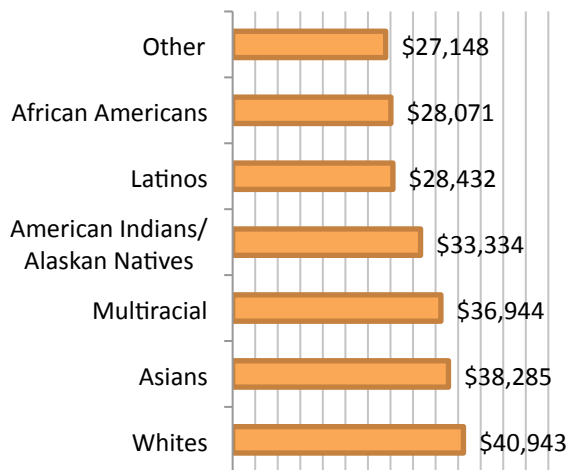
- In 2011, average income was \$39,283, \$4000 less per year than the general population.
- Earning power begins to decline after 31

## Average annual income varies by gender:

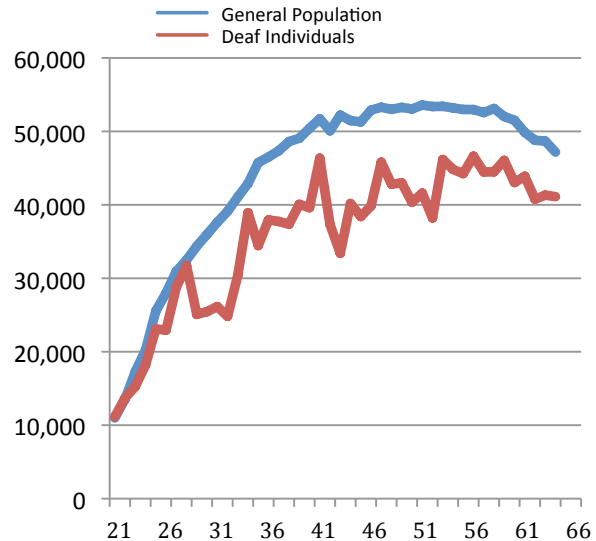
- On average, Deaf men make more than Deaf women (\$44,080 vs. \$29,803)
- Deaf women earn 67.6% of Deaf men's average annual earnings, which is similar to the disparity seen in the general population

## Average annual income also varies by race and ethnicity:

- Whites and Asians report higher earnings.



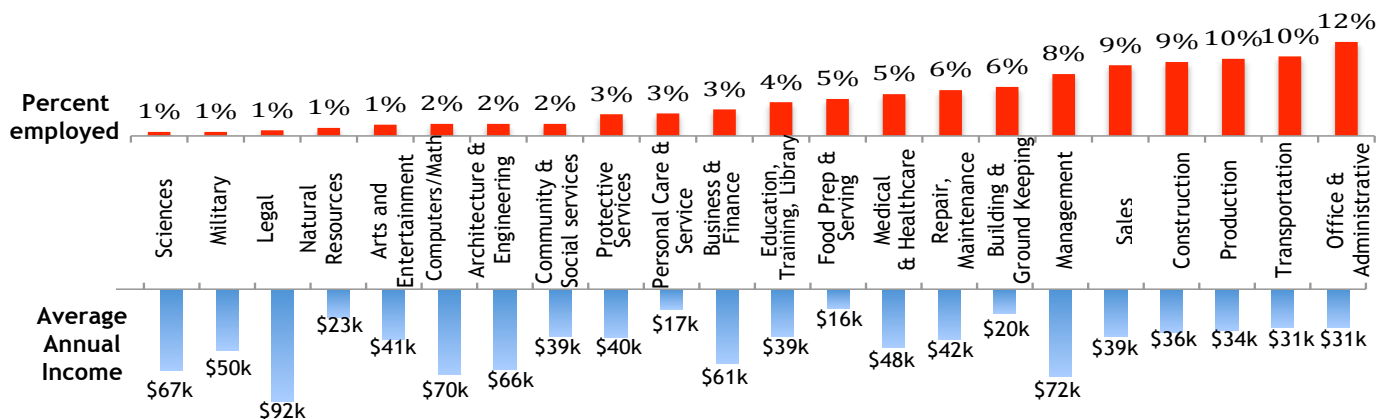
## Average annual income in the United States, 2011



## Educational attainment also affects Deaf individuals' average annual income:

- Graduate degree: \$76,843
- Bachelors degree: \$57,240
- Associates degree: \$40,117
- Some College: \$35,708
- High School diploma or GED: \$31,123
- No High School diploma or GED: \$23,583

## Occupational Data for Deaf adults, 2011



## References

- <sup>ii</sup>Kelly, R. R. (2013). *Deaf college graduates' career advancement relative to their hearing peers: Implications for education*. Paper presentation, Association of College Educators- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Conference, Santa Fe, NM, February.
- <sup>i</sup>Newman, L., Wagner, M., Knokey, A. -M., Marder, C., Nagle, K., Shaver, D., . . . Swarting, M. (2011). *The post-high school outcomes of young adults with disabilities up to 8 years after high school. A report from the national longitudinal transition study-2 (NLTS2) [NCSE 2011-3005] (NCSE 2011-3005)*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI International
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (2011). *American Community Survey: 2011*. Generated by Carrie Lou Garberoglio using DataFerrett. URL: <http://dataferrett.census.gov> (Files generated December 12, 2013).