Healthy Signs
National Center for Deaf Health Research March 2013

Deaf Health Survey 2013 (DHS 2013):
We need 300 Deaf ASL users to take the Deaf Health Survey 2013! Survey starts in April.

Open House 2013 - A recap for those who could not attend
H.E.A.R.T - An update

Deaf Health Survey 2013
Help our community learn more about Deaf Health
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Deaf Health Survey (DHS) 2013: What is it?
DHS 2013 is a sign language health survey developed by NCDHR. The survey asks about health topics, like health care, going to the doctor, heart health, feelings, smoking, and other things that may happen in life that can affect health. Any Deaf person age 18 or older can take the survey.

Why is the DHS important?
Every year in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention picks random households to take a health survey over the telephone. Deaf people are not able to participate in national telephone surveys. So, there is not a lot of health information available about Deaf populations.

NCDHR created the first Deaf Health Survey in 2008, so that Deaf people could participate in the same kind of health survey that some hearing people take. In 2008, over 500 Deaf people took the survey!

Why should I take the survey?
Surveys help communities to learn more about their own health. Survey answers can be grouped together to show information, like “how many Deaf people in Rochester have ever had a heart attack?” or “how many Deaf people in Rochester are regular smokers?” or “how many Deaf people in Rochester have had a check-up with their doctor this year?” This information can help community members, healthcare providers, researchers, and policy makers to understand more about the community’s health and needs. It can also help organizations and programs to better understand their community so they can provide better services.

Is the survey confidential / private?
Yes! The survey does not ask for your name. No one will know your answers. All answers are combined into a private database.

Where and when can I take the survey?
NCDHR will host events and will go to Deaf organizations/meetings around Rochester to offer the survey. If you would like to invite NCDHR to your organization, please contact Kelly (see next page).

What if I have already taken an NCDHR survey before?
It’s ok - you can still take the Deaf Health Survey 2013.
A lot of NCDHR surveys look the same, because they use the same survey software program. How will you know you are taking the DHS 2013? You will see the DHS 2013 logo attached to the computer.

**For more information:**
Contact NCDHR research coordinator, Kelly Matthews: Kelly_matthews@urmc.rochester.edu

Check the NCDHR website – we expect to start the survey in April!  [www.urmc.edu/ncdhr](http://www.urmc.edu/ncdhr)

Look for the DHS 2013 logo attached to the computer.

Watch this video: (click on the video to view short film)
If you cannot view the video, [click here](http://example.com/video).
If you have no plans for Saturday, April 20, then you may want to put down on your calendar to attend the Finger Lakes Deaf Health Fair! It will be held at Rochester School for the Deaf from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be over 20 exhibition tables related to health and pet care (see listing below). Interpreters from Genesee Valley Region Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (GVRRID) and student interpreters from NTID’s American Sign Language and Interpreting Education Program will be available to facilitate communication at some of the exhibition tables. Ten ASL fluent healthcare professionals, both Deaf and hearing, will give presentations ranging from nutrition to emergency care. Additionally, there will be health screenings for blood pressure, glucose (diabetes), and body mass index (BMI). This first ever Deaf Health Fair is sponsored by the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC), with the support provided by GVRRID. DHCC is a community partner of the National Center for Deaf Health Research, an academic health research center at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The long-term goal of DHCC is to create a nationally recognized model that empowers the culturally Deaf community to achieve its health potential. While DHCC is still in the process of building its long-term goal, the Finger Lakes Deaf Health Fair is an important step that brings language accessible health information to the Deaf Community, not just from the Rochester (NY) area, but for Deaf communities form neighboring cities (Buffalo, Syracuse, Jamestown, etc.) and from neighboring states (Ohio, Pennsylvania, etc.). Please note that out of town travelers would need to take care of their lodging needs, unless it is a day trip.

The Deaf Health Fair is free! But, we would need people interested in attending this health fair to register online. It would help us with our planning, logistics and hospitality, including food. Please keep your eyes open for our upcoming vlog and online registration. Spread the word to your families, friends and co-workers. See you at the Finger Lakes Deaf Health Fair next month! For questions or for more information, contact FLDeafHealthFair@gmail.com
Hearing Loop Installation
Making meetings accessible to people with hearing loss
By Don Bataille

A hearing loop called a Super Loop System (SLS), with HiFi quality sound, has been installed in the lower level conference room (rooms B.309 and B.311) at the Saunders Research Building, providing individuals with cochlear implants and/or hearing aids communication accessibility. The hearing loop has been a hit with the Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2), a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) committee that works closely with NCDHR. The HL2 uses the meeting space for their monthly meetings. A second SLS hearing loop system is planned for the Pearson Family Conference Room (1416), a gift of Dr. Thomas A. Pearson and his family.

A hearing loop creates a magnetic field that is picked up by a T-coil located in a hearing aid or cochlear implant, delivering a clear speech signal absent of conflicting room background noise. The unique hearing loop design, utilizing a series of figure 8 hearing loops, was applied to the concrete floor just before carpet installation. The advantage of an SLS design is that it eliminates signal spill into the adjoining corridor and office areas and assures meeting confidentiality. The SLS design also offers a very even 3D signal level within the meeting room eliminating the need for users to tilt their head for better signal.

The hearing loop design, included as part of the NCDHR office area renovation, was completed by SWBR Architects, 387 East Main Street, Rochester, NY. Don Bataille, AIA, CCS, Architect with SWBR and hearing loop designer, noted the advantage for building owners is that hearing loops provide a superior sound quality without the need to maintain other redundant or encumbering equipment. Don can be reached at dbataille@swbr.com for further information.

A partial hearing loop layout, prior to the carpet installation, is shown.
Open House 2013
A recap for those who could not attend

On the evening of February 11, NCDHR held its first open house for the new year. People were invited to visit the many tables at the open house, which presented information about different studies that are currently enrolling, a selection of information about NCDHR, the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) and the Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2), two of NCDHR’s community partners, and a new survey that will start in the Spring of 2013, the Deaf Health Survey 2013.

Tours were provided for visitors to see the new meeting spaces, display cases, and offices of NCDHR in the basement of the Saunders Research Building. After an hour of open time for people to visit the various tables and take a tour of NCDHR, everyone was invited to attend a public screening of a new NCDHR video as well as a video about the results from the Deaf Health Survey 2008.

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This video titled, “Community Participatory Research With Deaf Sign Language Users to Identify Health Inequities”, is an ASL adaptation of a research article published in the American Journal of Public Health in December 2011. The video was produced by Deaf community members and researchers. To view this video, click here. (The video can be found at the bottom of the page.)

The Deaf Health Survey 2013 video, created by Jamie Marsden, is a video discussing the importance of research and surveillance, as well as an introduction to NCDHR’s upcoming new survey, the Deaf Health Survey 2013. To view this video, click here. Continue to check back to the NCDHR website for more information about the Deaf Health Survey 2013, as well as other research opportunities at NCDHR.

NCDHR has an open door policy. All are invited to come and visit NCDHR any day of the week. Come and see our new offices and meet with our staff.
In September 2011, University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) and Monroe County received a five-year, 3.6 million dollar Community Transformation Grant (CTG) to develop HEART (Health Engagement and Action Towards Rochester’s Transformation). HEART is an initiative to improve the health of those living in Monroe County, more specifically, those within the city’s crescent of poverty and the Deaf community.

Yes! This is the first time the Deaf community has been specifically included in a Community Transformation Grant. NCDHR is working closely with URMC’s Center for Community Health and other community partners to ensure inclusion of deaf individuals in their projects. NCDHR is also working towards adapting national programs for diabetes prevention and heart health to make them accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

HEART’s health areas of focus include Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Diabetes, and Obesity. It’s our hope that with more programs being made accessible for the Deaf community, deaf and hard of hearing individuals will take advantage of these opportunities to improve their health.

Through HEART, NCDHR successfully held the first ever Deaf Farm Stand with their partners, Foodlink and the Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf (RRCD). NCDHR will work with the Deaf Club to host Foodlink’s Farm Stand again this spring and summer of 2013.

If you would like to become a volunteer for the Deaf Farm Stand or learn more about HEART, please contact Kelly at Kelly_Matthews@urmc.rochester.edu
Mission of NCDHR: To promote health and prevent disease in the Deaf and hard of hearing populations through community-based participatory research.