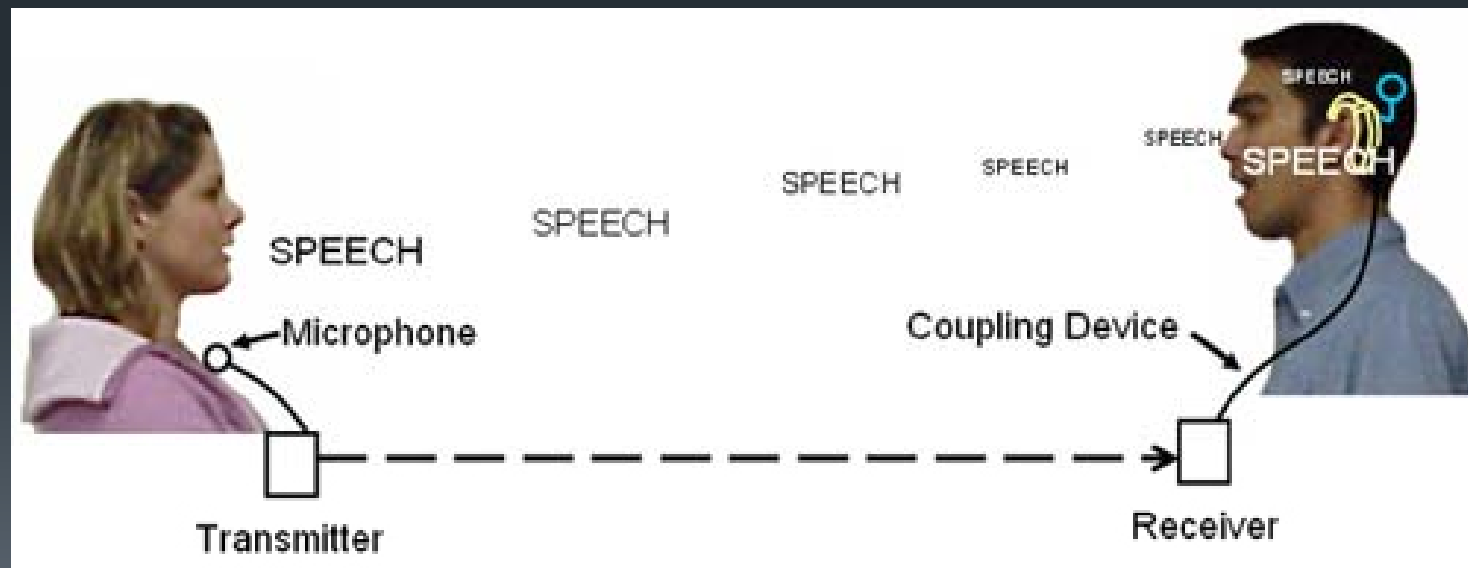


# Awareness of Assistive Listening Devices at a Performing Arts Hall

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# What are assistive listening devices?

- Listening devices that can overcome background noise, reverberation (echoes), and distance from talker to listener.





# Benefits of Assistive Listening Devices

- **Yueh, 2001:** Individuals who used hearing aids with assistive listening devices rated their hearing as less of a handicap than they did prior to using the devices
- **Jerger, 1996:** Use can improve speech recognition scores especially in relatively noisy and reverberant listening environments
- **Jerger, 1996:** Consistent benefit to using assistive listening devices over hearing aid use alone

# Where can you use assistive listening devices?

- For listening to television or radio
- Classrooms
- Cinemas
- Theaters
- Any federally funded facility or public space
  - The Americans with Disabilities Act requires these spaces to provide accommodations for individuals with disabilities, including those with hearing loss.



# The Problem



- How many people are aware that public spaces provide assistive listening accommodations?
- Lack of knowledge of ALDs amongst public.
- Growing concern that audiologists need to be more familiar with ALDs.
- Few studies have assessed awareness of ALDs.

# Methods



- Survey
- Distributed at 2 performances at Meany Hall
- Survey was comprised of 8 questions

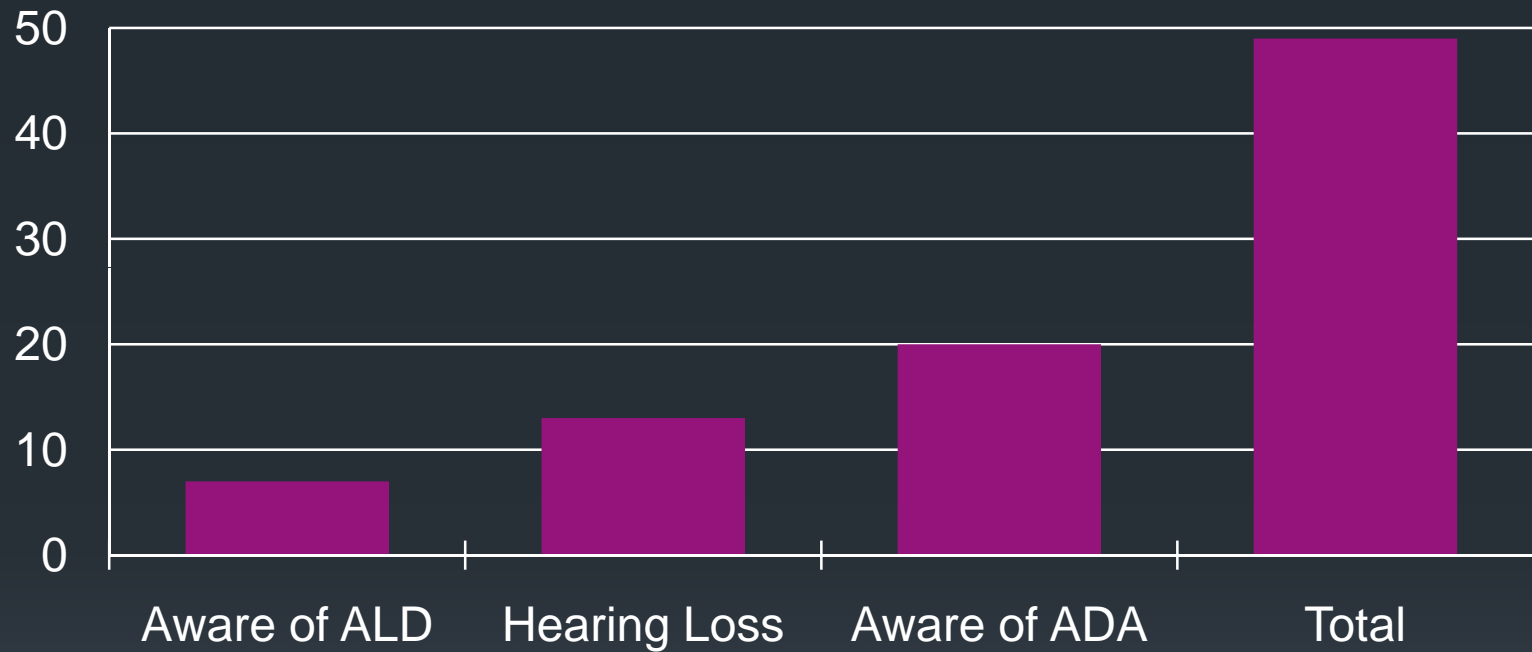


## Survey: example questions

Individuals were asked to circle Yes or No in response to the following questions

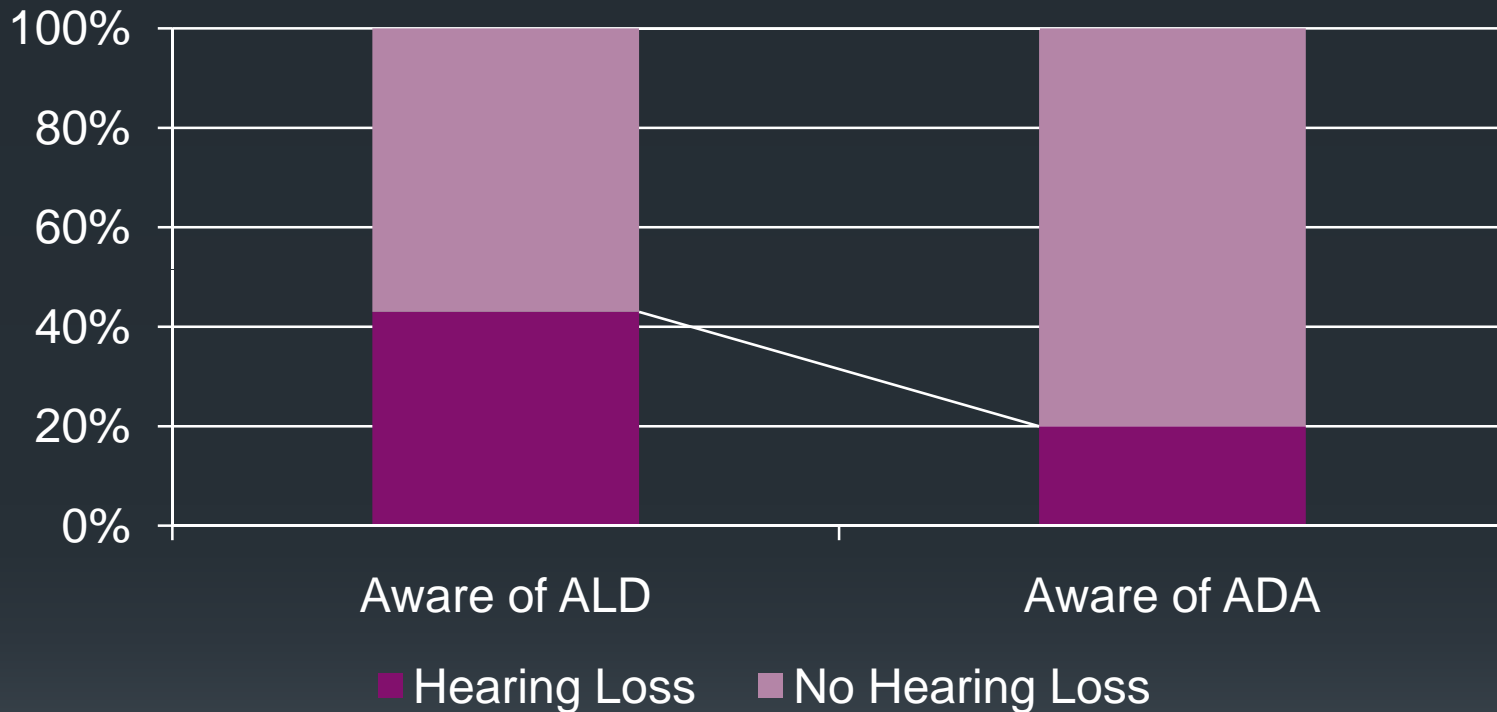
- Do you have hearing loss?
- Are you aware of an assistive listening system available at Meany Hall?
- Are you aware that the Americans with Disabilities Act requires accommodations for hearing loss?

# Results



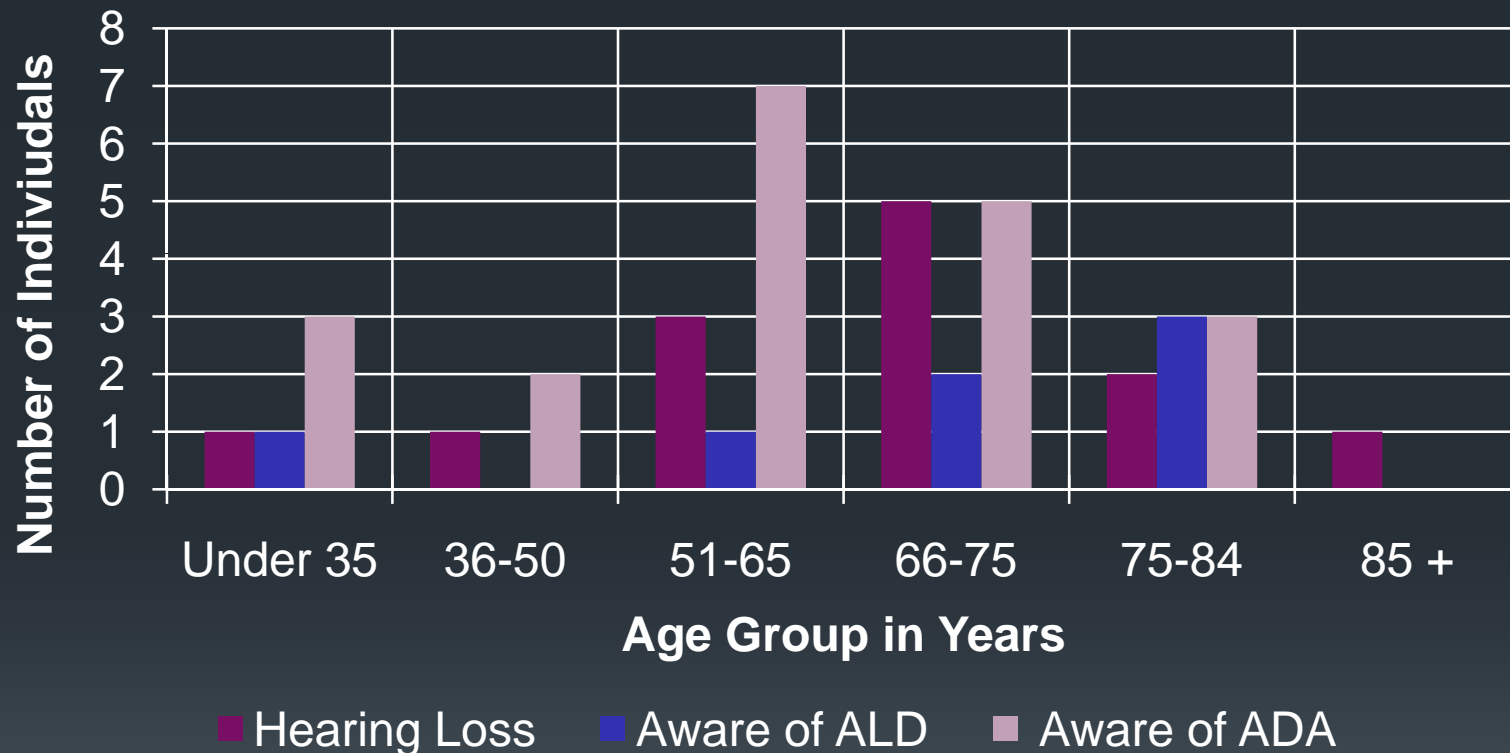
Number of individuals who reported awareness of the assistive listening system (ALD) at Meany Hall, hearing loss, and awareness of the ADA requirement for accommodations for hearing loss.

# Results



Proportion of individuals with and without hearing loss who were also aware of the assistive listening system and the ADA requirement for accommodations for hearing loss.

# Results



Number of individuals who reported awareness of the assistive listening system, awareness of the ADA requirement for hearing loss, and hearing loss across age range groups.



# Results

- No individuals reported use of the assistive listening system.
- How did individuals receive information about the ALD?
  - Email
  - Signage
  - Friends
  - Calling Meany Hall to inquire
  - Website/Online
  - Printed program
- None of the individuals indicated they heard about the system from an audiologist.

## Conclusions

- Few individuals are aware of the assistive listening system at Meany Hall especially those reporting hearing loss
- Promote awareness of ALDs at Meany Hall with the addition of signage
- Encourage audiologists to educate



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