

**Here is an excerpt of a descriptive statistics table and discussion. This is meant a ROUGH guide. For example, the table below does not include medians.**

We use data from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) to examine earnings gaps between individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who are not. In particular, we use data collected on individuals living in households but not on those living in group quarters. A nationally representative sample of 2,128,104 households with a response rate of 97.6 percent, the household survey includes questions pertaining to each household member's demographic characteristics, labor market activity, and health status. In light of increased rates of hearing loss in middle age (Holt, Hotto, & Cole, 1994; Stevens et al., 2011) and the possibility that those who are already established in their careers may experience smaller earnings penalties as their hearing deteriorates than do those with congenital hearing loss or with hearing loss that occurs prior to adulthood, we restrict the sample to household members aged 25 to 40 years. The ACS provides a dichotomous measure of hearing disability, namely whether or not the individual is deaf or has serious difficulty hearing. Given the limited number of individuals in the deaf and hard-of-hearing subsample who identify their race and ethnicity as other than white, Black, Asian, or Hispanic, we restrict our sample to these four racial and ethnic groups. In addition, given our goal of examining earnings differences by hearing ability and the reporting of earnings in the ACS on an annual basis (wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, tips, and self-employment income during the past 12 months), we restrict our sample to full-time year-round (FTYR) workers. We define FTYR workers as individuals who report positive earnings over the past

year, who worked at least 40 of the past 52 weeks (including paid vacation, paid sick leave, and military service), and who worked at least 35 hours per week in a usual work week over this period. Our sample consists of 1443 deaf or hard-of-hearing men, 172,048 men without a hearing disability, 728 deaf or hard-of-hearing women, and 134,877 women without a hearing disability.

Table 1 displays descriptive statistics by gender and hearing ability for our selected sample. For both men and women, mean earnings are lower among respondents who are deaf or hard of hearing than among those who are not. These differences are significant both statistically ( $p < 0.001$ ) and economically: while men who are deaf or hard of hearing earn 16.4 percent less on average than men without a hearing disability (\$45,244 versus \$54,137), the hearing earnings gap is 14.2 percent (\$37,181 versus \$43,318) among women.

Among both men and women, chi square tests indicate that educational attainment is not independent of hearing ability ( $p < 0.001$ ). Consistent with evidence reported in the literature (e.g., Woodcock & Pole, 2008; Hogan et al., 2009), men and women who are deaf or hard of hearing display lower overall levels of educational attainment than their counterparts without a hearing disability.

Among both men and women, chi square tests also indicate that race/ethnicity is not independent of hearing ability ( $p < 0.001$ ). Consistent with evidence that hearing disability is more prevalent among whites than other racial and ethnic groups (Holt et al., 1994; Lin et al., 2012), the deaf and hard-of-hearing subsamples are disproportionately white.

The mean age is roughly 33 years, ranging from 32.6 to 33.6 years, in all four subsamples. Among men and women, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing are less likely to be married, but the difference is statistically significant only in the case of women.

Table 1

*Descriptive Statistics by Gender and Hearing Status*

	Men		Women	
	Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Not Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Not Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Earnings in \$ (M, SD)	45244 <sup>a***</sup> (34237)	54137 (48475)	37181 <sup>a***</sup> (32236)	43318 (33593)
Educational Attainment (%)				
High School Degree	31.1 <sup>b***</sup>	24.4	20.6 <sup>b***</sup>	16.3
Some College	28.5	21.5	25.5	20.6
Associate's Degree	10.8	8.7	11.4	11.1
Bachelor's Degree	13.4	24.4	21.8	29.7
Master's Degree	4.2	8.2	10.2	13.5
Professional Degree	0.8	2.4	1.8	2.8
Doctoral Degree	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.5
Race/Ethnicity (%)				
White	77.0 <sup>b***</sup>	69.1	74.0 <sup>b***</sup>	67.0
Black	5.1	7.4	10.4	11.9
Asian	2.4	6.2	3.0	6.4
Hispanic	15.6	17.4	12.5	14.6
Age in Years (M, SD)	33.6 <sup>a***</sup> (4.6)	32.9 (4.6)	33.4 <sup>a***</sup> (4.7)	32.6 (4.6)
Married (%)	59.1	60.3	47.8 <sup>c**</sup>	53.3
Sample Size	1,443	172,048	728	134,877

*Note.* Hypothesis tests compare deaf or hard of hearing men (women) with men (women) without a hearing disability: <sup>a</sup>t test for difference between two means, <sup>b</sup> $\chi^2$  test of independence, <sup>c</sup> test for difference between two proportions.

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$ .