

# Now Hear This . . .



Volume 8, No. 2

Summer 2005

## Excerpts from the 2004 Annual Report

In previous announcements of the availability of the latest Annual Report, the excerpts in our summer newsletter have highlighted some of the important figures and tables from the report.

What can get lost in the statistics is the human story behind the numbers. This year we are excerpting some of the short clinical histories that are in the report about the individuals who have developed hearing loss from exposure at work. The full report contains summary figures and tables.

**Case 1.** A man in his late 30's had high frequency hearing loss identified as part of his company's hearing conservation program, eight years after he began working for a pharmaceutical company. His audiogram showed increased high frequency loss. Prior to working at the pharmaceutical company he had been in the Army for six years. He denied having tinnitus. He indicated he usually wore custom plugs or earmuffs. He had been exposed to a number of chemical ototoxins. He was also exposed to noise outside of work; snowmobiling, power tools, and lawn work. He indicated he usually or always wore hearing protection in these activities outside of work. He had not been told why he had hearing loss. His audiogram with baseline values is shown in Figure 1.

Now Available  
New Annual Report on  
Work-Related Noise-Induced Hearing Loss  
in Michigan (2004)

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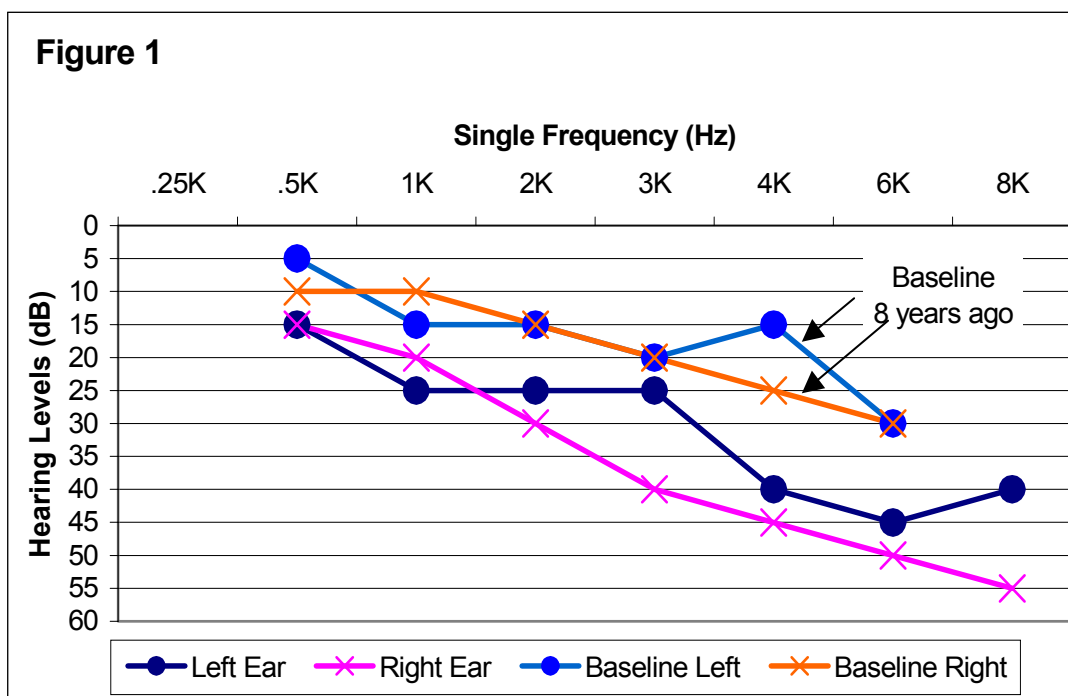
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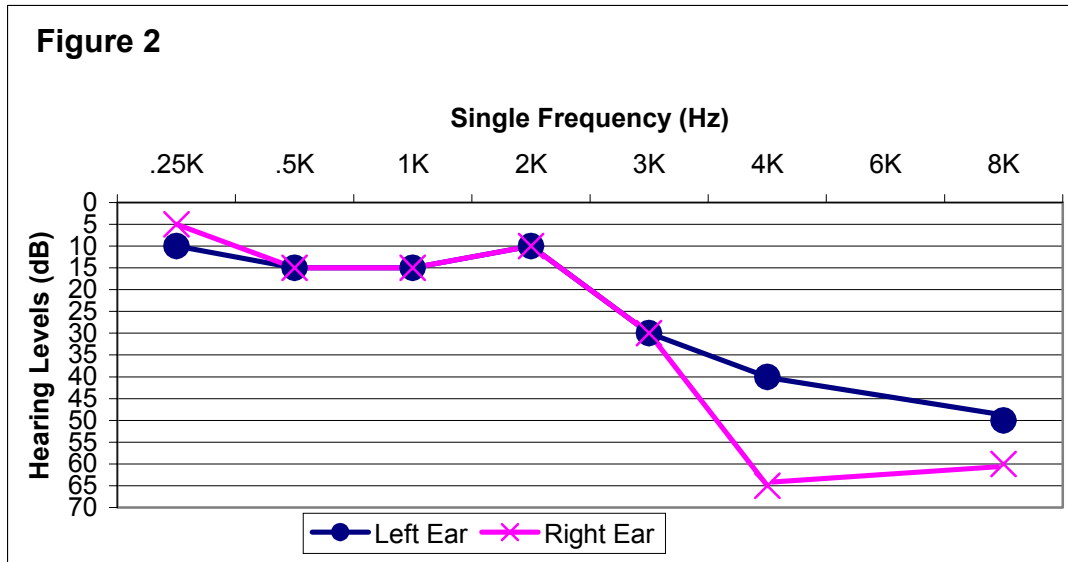
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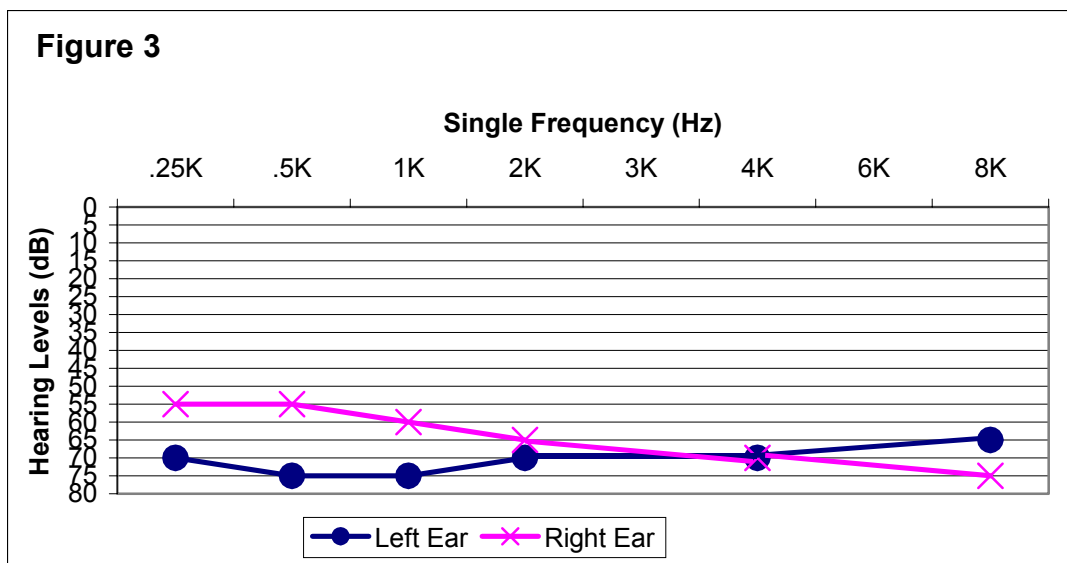
Figure 1



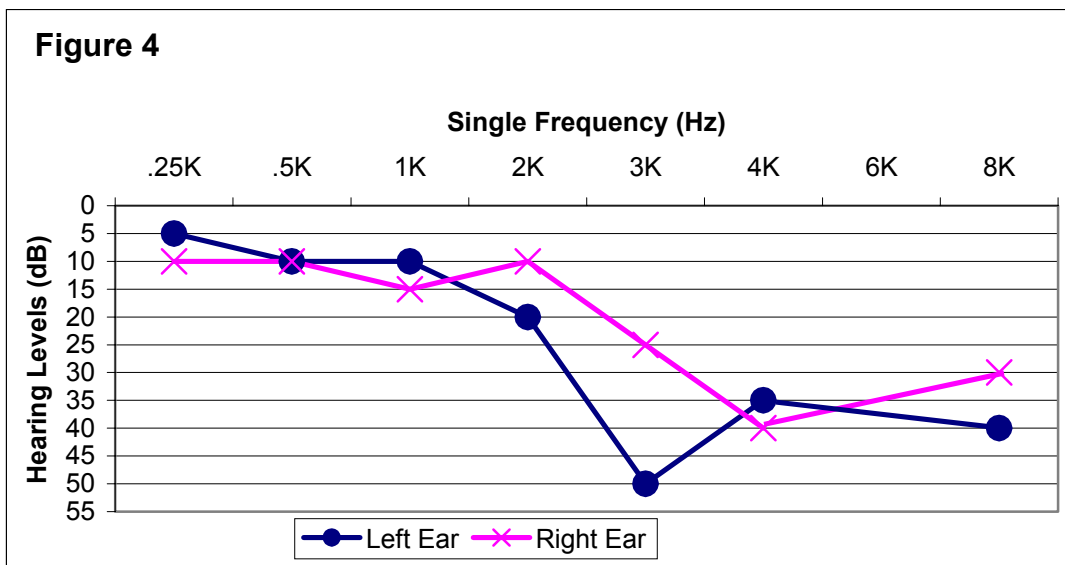
**Case 2.** A man in his early 60's had high frequency hearing loss identified after seeing an audiologist. He had worked at a metal bolt manufacturer for 13 years where he was provided hearing testing and usually wore foam plugs. He was exposed to chemical ototoxins. Prior to that he worked 20 or so years for a police department where he did not use hearing protection. He had been in the Navy for four years. He had daily tinnitus for the past ten years. He hunted and did target shooting. He always wore hearing protection when doing target shooting but rarely when hunting. He had not been told why he had hearing loss. His audiogram is shown in Figure 2.



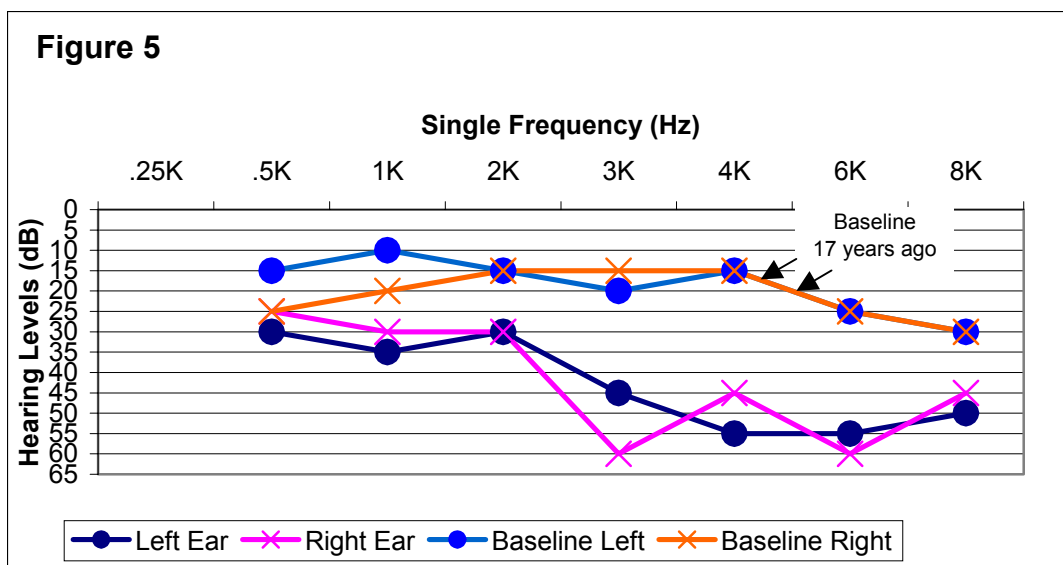
**Case 3.** A man in his 40's had hearing loss across all frequencies for which he wore hearing aids. He had worked since high school as a laborer and equipment operator for the State of Michigan. He had not been provided hearing testing by his employer and did not wear hearing protection in the first ten years of work. He had had no other jobs and had never been in the military. He was bothered by tinnitus but only infrequently. He had been exposed to a number of chemical ototoxins. He was exposed to noise outside of work including hunting, snowmobiling for four years, listening to loud music for seven years, and lawn work. He only wore hearing protection with lawn work. He had not been told why he had hearing loss. His audiogram is shown in Figure 3.



**Case 4.** A man in his early 50's had high frequency hearing loss. He had worked for six years, 20 years ago, for a car dealer doing auto repair. He used no hearing protection. He had no other jobs with noise exposure and had never been in the military. He was bothered daily by tinnitus. Outside of work he indicated he had a hobby where he had used power tools for the past 20 years, and usually wore hearing protection except for the first year. He had not been told why he had hearing loss. His audiogram is shown in Figure 4.



**Case 5.** A woman in her early 60's had worked for 30 years at an auto manufacturer. She had held different jobs including engine assembly and seat upholstery. She had been provided regular audiograms but rarely wore hearing protection. She had never been in the military nor had had any other jobs. She occasionally was bothered by tinnitus. She had no noise exposure outside of work. She was not exposed to chemical ototoxins at work. She had been told her hearing loss was due to noise at work and maybe hereditary. Her audiogram with baseline values is shown in Figure 5.



**Now Hear This...**

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**Address service requested.**

In this issue:  
Excerpts from the 2004 Annual Report

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**Michigan Law Requires the  
Reporting of Known or Suspected  
Occupational NIHL**

Reporting can be done by:

**Internet**

www.oem.msu.edu

**E-Mail**

ODREPORT@ht.msu.edu

**FAX**

517-432-3606

**Telephone**

1-800-446-7805

**Mail**

MIOSHA-MTS Division  
P.O. Box 30649  
Lansing, MI 48909-8149

**Suggested Criteria for Reporting  
Occupational NIHL**

1. A history of significant exposure to noise at work; AND
  2. A STS of 10 dB or more in either ear at an average of 2000, 3000 & 4000 Hz. And the employee's total hearing level is 25 dB or more at the same three frequencies. OR
  3. A fixed loss.\*
- \*Suggested definitions: a 25 dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of: 500, 1000 & 2000 Hz; or 1000, 2000 & 3000 Hz; or 3000, 4000 & 6000 Hz; or a 15 dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of 3000 & 4000 Hz.

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