

Now Hear This . . .



Volume 9, No. 2

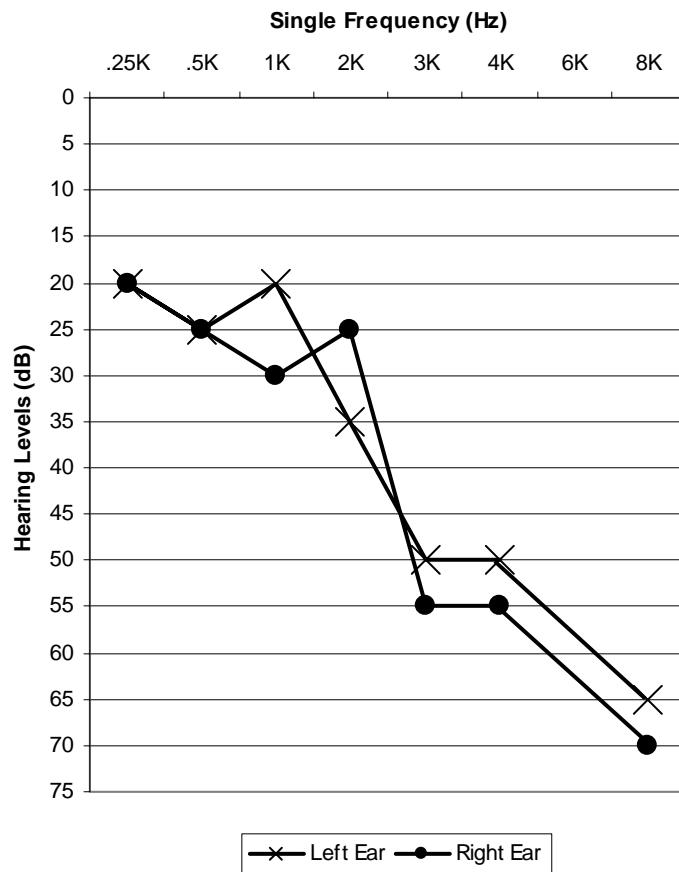
Summer 2006

Excerpts from the Annual Report

What can get lost in the statistics about the frequency of work-related hearing loss (over 400,000 individuals in Michigan with this impairment) is the human story behind the numbers. In this year's announcement of the availability of the latest Annual Report on Work-Related Noise Induced Hearing Loss, we are once again highlighting some of the short clinical histories that are in the report and that describe the individuals who have developed hearing loss from exposure to noise at work. The full report also contains summary figures and tables.

Case 1. A man in his mid-60s had high frequency hearing loss identified after seeing an audiologist. He had worked for an automobile manufacturer for 31 years before retiring eight years ago. The first time he began wearing hearing protection was after six years on the job. He stated that he almost always wore pre-molded earplugs thereafter. He had not been provided hearing testing by his employer. Prior to working in the auto industry he had been in the military for three years. He occasionally has tinnitus starting six years ago. He indicated that he had noise exposure to lawn work for less than one year, but did not wear hearing protection. He had been told his hearing loss was due to a normal loss in hearing. His audiogram is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1.



Case 2. A man in his late 40s had middle to high frequency hearing loss identified after seeing an audiologist. He had worked in construction/cement finishing for 21 years and reported usually wearing foam plugs or earmuffs for the last 17 years. He had not been provided hearing testing by any of his employers. He had no other jobs with hearing exposure and had never been in the military. He denied having tinnitus. He was also exposed to noise outside of work. The activities in which he had noise exposure included hunting for 14 years, motor boating/jet skiing for 16 years, and the following activities for 38 years: Listening to loud music, playing drums in a rock band, and lawn work. He never wore hearing protection during these other activities. He had not been told why he had hearing loss. His audiogram is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2.

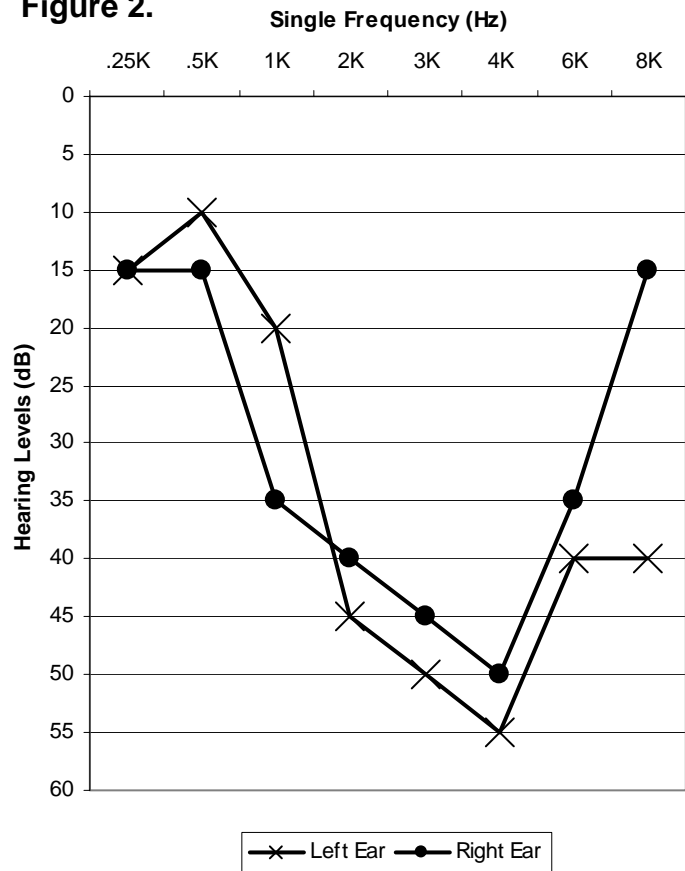
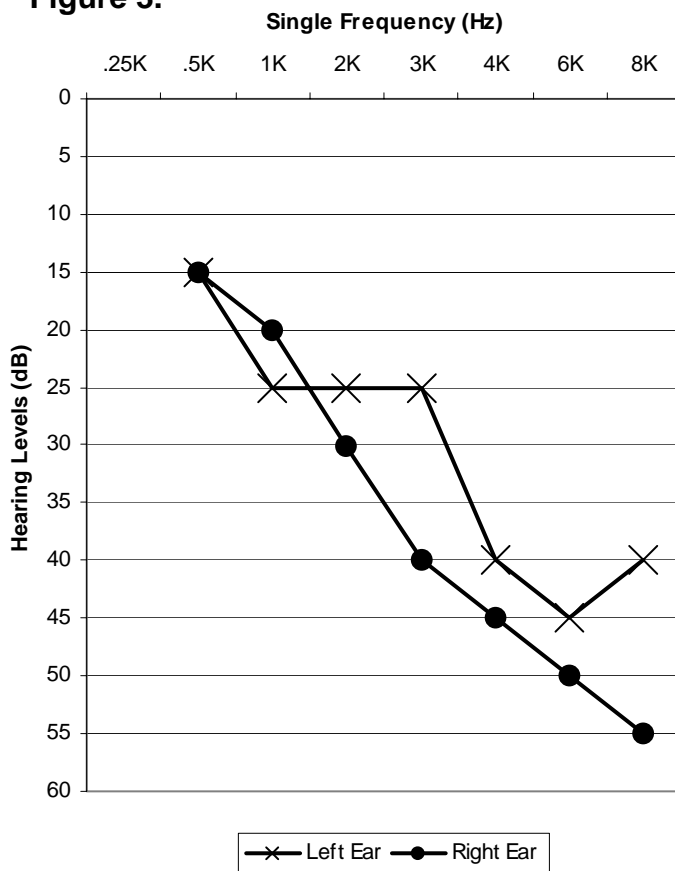


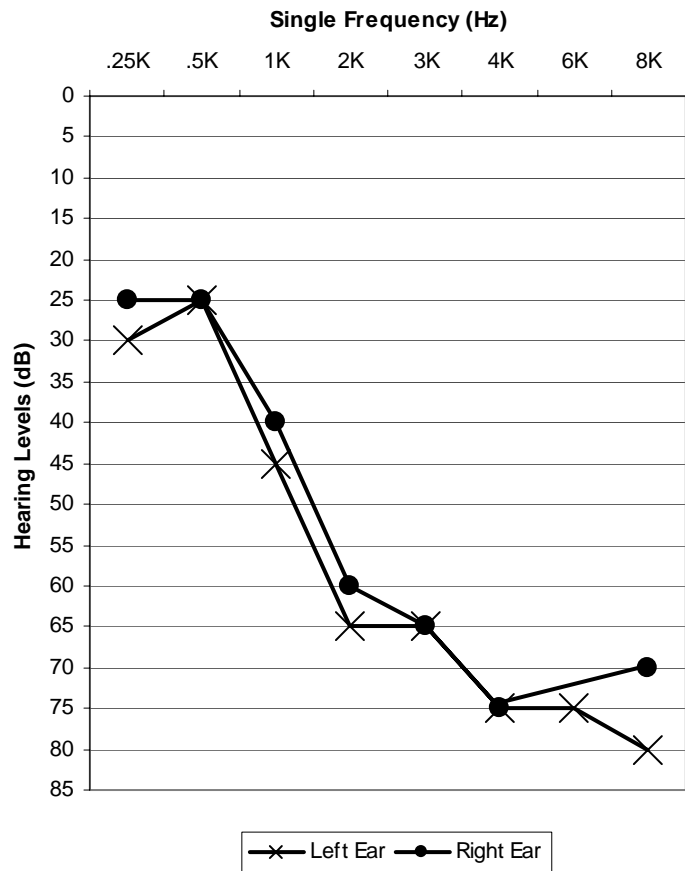
Figure 3.



Case 3. A man in his late 40s had hearing loss identified as part of his company's hearing conservation program, twelve years after he began working for a pharmaceutical company. He stated that he usually wore custom plugs or earmuffs. He had been in the military for six years prior to working for the pharmaceutical company. He denied having tinnitus. He was also exposed to noise outside of work. These activities included snowmobiling, power tools, and lawn work. He indicated that he always wore hearing protection while snowmobiling and usually wore it for the other two activities outside of work. He had not been told why he had hearing loss. His audiogram is shown in Figure 3.

Case 4. A man in his late 70s had high frequency hearing loss identified after seeing an audiologist. He had owned a casting company and had worked there for 56 years before retiring. He began wearing hearing protection five years before retirement, and wore foam plugs, pre-molded plugs, and earmuffs. He had not been provided hearing testing when he first started working in the foundry shop, but did receive a company hearing screening a year before retirement. He had been in the Navy for three years prior to working for the casting company. He denied having tinnitus. Outside of work he had no noise exposure. He had been told his hearing loss was work-related. His audiogram is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4.



Available in September...

Work-Related Noise-Induced
Hearing Loss in Michigan (2005)

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In this issue:
Excerpts from the Annual Report

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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.

Suggested Criteria for Reporting Occupational NIHL

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

Michigan Law Requires the
Reporting of Known or Suspected
Occupational NIHL

Reporting can be done by:

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