

TOP 10 FACTS

YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT DEAFNESS

- ① The Department of Mental Health provides culturally affirmative and linguistically accessible mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse treatment services to all Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers in the state of Missouri.
- ② Deaf people do not consider themselves to be disabled, but rather a cultural group with their own unique language, customs, traditions, social beliefs, art, literature, and values.
- ③ Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals prefer to be called "Deaf" or "Hard of Hearing" (not hearing impaired, deaf and mute, or deaf and dumb, etc.).
- ④ There are approximately 364 million Deaf people worldwide, 22 million Deaf people in the United States with more than 120 different sign languages around the world.
- ⑤ Behind English and Spanish, American Sign Language is the 3rd most widely used language in the United States.
- ⑥ Eighty-seven percent of Deaf Children are born to Hearing families with only 13% of deafness being genetic. More than 70% of families with children who use sign language as their primary language do not/cannot communicate with their children.
- ⑦ Despite popular beliefs, it is physically impossible for a Deaf person to read lips as only 30% of all spoken sounds are visible on the lips.
- ⑧ Deaf people are able to do anything hearing people can like vote, drive cars, hold jobs, etc. Deaf people hold positions as lawyers, artists, dentists, doctors, clergy, professional athletes, actors, chemists, inventors, and writers.
- ⑨ Deaf culture tends to be much more direct and blunt than most hearing cultures and, as a result, can sometimes seem rude in communications; however, this is just a cultural difference.
- ⑩ Some common behavioral norms of the Deaf culture include: certain rules of etiquette for communication, keeping each other informed of what's going on in one's environment, seeking common relationships when introduced to one another for the first time, and viewing time differently, such as showing up late for appointments. These behaviors can sometimes be misinterpreted as disrespectful, rather than being viewed as different.

