

## INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

### Noise and Children

- Children's toys can produce sound levels of up to 110 dBA. Noise levels above 80 dBA are potentially dangerous depending on length of exposure. (source: [Deafness Research UK, 2009](#))
- Around six per cent of children are thought to suffer hyperacusis (an over-sensitivity to noise). (source: [Deafness Research UK, 2009](#))

### Technology

- There are 180,000 implant users in the world, and 6,000 have received bilateral implants. (source: [The Ear Foundation, 2008](#))
- By the end of 2007, there were more than 40,000 Baha (bone anchored hearing aid) users worldwide. (source: [The Ear Foundation, 2008](#))

### Deafness in later life

- Age-related hearing loss normally begins at around 50, and 55 per cent of people over 60 are deaf or hard of hearing. Over 70% of people over 70 have some degree of hearing loss. (source: [Deafness Research UK, 2009](#))

### Causes of deafness

- 87% of all deafness results from damage to the sensitive hair cells within the inner ear or cochlea. This is known as sensorineural deafness. (source: [Deafness Research UK, 2009](#))
- Sensorineural deafness can result from exposure to loud noise, viral or bacterial infections, genetic causes, prescribed medicines (including some antibiotics) or simply from old age. (source: [Deafness Research UK, 2009](#))