Childhood Speech & Hearing Disorders

A new study in *Pediatrics* shows speech and hearing disorders are growing causes of disability for U.S. children.

Between 2001-2011, **speech disorders** increased by 63%.

**Hearing disorders** increased by nearly 16%.

Yet, separate research has shown that only 14% of surveyed experts say patients are aware of the **importance of early detection**.

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**Early intervention is transformative.**

Many communication disorders can be reversed or even prevented with early treatment.

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**Early intervention is efficient.**

Early treatment takes less time and money. Every $1 spent in early age saves $7 in education/services later on.

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**Early intervention is necessary.**

Early treatment can help prevent children from falling behind developmentally, academically, and socially.

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**Early treatment is accessible.**

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are employed in early intervention programs, in schools, in private practice, and in diverse health care settings.

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**Sources:**

*Pediatrics, Changing Trends of Childhood Disability, 2001–2011*


Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy

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Visit [http://identifythesigns.org](http://identifythesigns.org) for information and help.