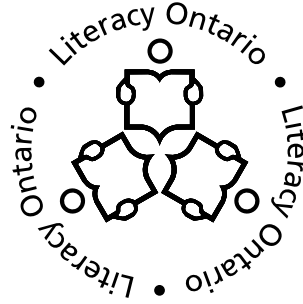


# *Literacy Ontario*

---



## **Literacy Profile of Ontario's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults**

Literacy and Basic Skills Section  
Workplace Preparation Branch  
Ministry of Education and Training

1998



**Order Information**

**Literacy and Basic Skills Section  
Workplace Preparation Branch  
Ministry of Education and Training  
900 Bay Street, Mowat Block, 23<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**

**416-326-5476      Tel  
416-326-5505      Fax  
416-326-5493      TDD**

**General Public:**

**Publications Ontario  
880 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1N8**

**416-326-5300      Tel  
1-800-668-9938      Toll free**

---

This survey was carried out with the assistance of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture, and Recreation (CZR) and GOAL: Ontario Literacy for Deaf People (GOLD).

**Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data**

Main entry under title:

Literacy profile of Ontario's deaf and hard of hearing adults

At head of title: Literacy Ontario

ISBN 0-7778-7898-4

1. Literacy—Ontario—Statistics. 2. Deaf—Ontario—Statistics. 3. Hard of hearing—Ontario—Statistics. I. Ontario. Literacy and Basic Skills Section. II. Title: Literacy Ontario.

LC154.2O5L57 1998

302.2'244'087209713

C98-9640329

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary .....	1
A. Introduction .....	3
1. Study Objectives .....	3
2. Source of Data .....	3
3. Methodology .....	4
4. Report Outline .....	4
B. Basic Characteristics .....	7
1. Population by Level of Hearing .....	7
2. Age Profile .....	9
3. Age Hearing Loss Started .....	10
4. Presence of Disabilities .....	12
5. Education Profile .....	14
6. Reasons for Stopping Education .....	16
7. Lifelong Training .....	18
8. Labour Force Profile .....	20
9. Methods of Communication .....	22
C. Literacy .....	25
1. Importance of Literacy .....	25
2. Literacy Profile .....	27
3. The Effect of Age and Education on Literacy .....	29
4. The Economic Pay-Off of Literacy .....	31
5. Self-Assessment of Literacy Skills at Work .....	33
6. Self-Assessment of Literacy Skills in Everyday Life .....	35
7. Need for Help with Literacy Tasks .....	37
8. Activities Away from Work .....	39
SELECTIVE READINGS .....	41
Appendix A - Survey Background .....	43
Appendix B - Tables: Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing .....	47
Appendix C - Tables: International Adult Literacy Survey, Ontario Sample ..	73

\* \* \* \* \*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objectives of this study are to provide a demographic profile of the Deaf and hard of hearing population living in Ontario and to assess their literacy skills, training needs, and barriers to training. The results of this study are based on the Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a special survey commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training. The survey was conducted by Statistics Canada in the fall of 1996 and it was modelled after the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS).

### Demography

- 135,000 Ontarians or 2% of the provincial adult population age 16-65 are Deaf or hard of hearing: of this number, 36% have difficulty hearing a group; 39% have also difficulty hearing a person; and 25% are completely unable to hear.
- The surveyed population is considerably older than the total Ontario population. Of the total number of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 16 to 65, 45% were 55 or older; the corresponding percentage for the total Ontario population was 10%.
- Loss of hearing is often accompanied by various disabilities: 40% of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 16 to 65 reported eye trouble, a speech disability, or a learning disability (compared to 13% among all Ontarians). The incidence of a learning disability was highest among ages 16 to 45 (36%).
- Almost half of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals have not completed high school. Loss of hearing as such does not appear to be a significant reason for not completing high school. Instead, the most common reason is financial; this rationale is equally true among both those with a loss of hearing and the population at large.
- Fewer Deaf and hard of hearing individuals received training in 1996 than the rest of the population (31% versus 37%). However, the percentage who wanted to take more training was greater among the Deaf and hard of hearing (34% versus 27%). Financial reasons and courses not offered were the two main barriers to further training.
- Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are less likely to be employed and earn less on the average than the rest of Ontarians. This finding reflects mostly their older age profile, as well as their relatively low level of education and, as will be shown later, low literacy levels.

### Literacy

- The literacy level of the Deaf and hard of hearing population falls below that of the rest of the Ontario population. In particular, 52% have a low level of skills (below level 3) in document literacy, compared to 38% among the general Ontario population. Literacy

ranges widely depending on the level of hearing loss: those with partial difficulty have a somewhat lower incidence of low literacy (33%), than the Ontario average while those completely unable to hear have a 71% incidence.

- The lower literacy of the Deaf and hard of hearing people is largely explained by their older age and lower level of education. However, even at the same level of education, loss of hearing is a negative factor, especially when it concerns achieving the top literacy level (level 4/5).
- Low levels of literacy are an important issue. Individuals with low literacy are less likely to be employed, have lower earnings, and tend to rely more on social assistance. These results are similar among the Deaf and hard of hearing and the general population.
- One-fifth of working Deaf and hard of hearing individuals rated their reading skills at work as moderate or poor. The rate increases to one-third among those unable to hear. Correspondingly, almost as high a percentage reported that inadequate reading skills limit their job opportunities.
- Close to one-quarter of all Deaf and hard of hearing people report moderate or poor reading skills in everyday life. An even higher percentage report moderate or poor skills in writing and math. Again, the results are more negative among those unable to hear, with 41% rating their reading skills as moderate or poor, while the corresponding rate for writing and math is around 50%.
- Reading government and business information is the most challenging literacy task for many of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. One-third of all Deaf and hard of hearing need help often (9%) or sometimes (23%). Among those unable to hear, almost one half need help often (19%) or sometimes (27%).
- 44% of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals never go to the cinema or the theatre; the rate increases to 62% among those unable to hear. Attendance at or participation in sports is also lower. However, for most other activities, like reading newspapers and books or participating in voluntary organizations, there are no significant differences between Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the hearing population.

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

### **1. STUDY OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this study are to provide a demographic profile of the Deaf and hard of hearing population living in Ontario and to assess their literacy skills, training needs, and barriers to training. Among the more specific objectives of the study are to find out how literacy skills affect the employment status of Deaf and hard of hearing adults, how literacy skills link to the level hearing loss, age, gender, education and other socio-demographic characteristics, and how the need for literacy services and the expectations of the potential clientele may be estimated.

### **2. SOURCE OF DATA**

The results of this study are based on the Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a special survey commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training. The survey was conducted by Statistics Canada in the fall of 1996 and it was modelled after the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS).

The survey sample was drawn from Ontario residents who were classified as Deaf or hard of hearing by the 1991 Health and Activity Limitations Survey (HALS). According to HALS, 331,000 Ontarians (or 4.4% of the adult population age 16 and over) were Deaf or hard of hearing in 1987. More than half of them were over the age 65. Our survey surveyed 536 of these individuals, age 16 to 70.

The level of hearing loss was confirmed before including participants in the survey. When a hearing aid completely eliminates the hearing problem, or the loss of hearing has lasted less than 6 months, such persons were not included in the survey.<sup>1</sup>

The survey interviewed 529 Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, age 16 to 70. Of this sample:

- 22 were age 25 or under;
- 393 were age 26 to 65; and
- 114 were age 66 to 70.

Analysis of literacy issues was restricted to 473 of the 529 respondents for whom it was possible to calculate a literacy score. Although the survey was conducted in both official languages, only six participants responded in French. As a result, no valid analysis could be made by language of respondent.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for more details on the Ontario Literacy Survey of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

The main focus of the study is on adult Ontarians, age 16 to 65. This focus is particularly appropriate for labour force and adult education issues. It also facilitates comparisons to comparable age groups available from the IALS results for Ontario.

Information on literacy and education for respondents age 66 to 70 is shown in Appendix B, Table 19b. The same table also shows the literacy profile of prelingual deaf. However, because of sample limitations, the latter statistics are subject to a wide margin of error.

The main challenge faced by the study was the small size of the sample. The challenge was compounded by the strong correlation between the level of hearing loss and the age of the individual. In our approach, we tried to strike a balance between two conflicting approaches:

- a) survey results based on broader but less homogeneous groups: in this case, the estimated statistics are more precise, but the results are less revealing since they average out important differences; and
- b) results based on more homogeneous groups: in this case, the estimated statistics are subject to a wider sampling error, but the results are more meaningful because they relate to individuals with more similar characteristics.<sup>2</sup>

### **4. REPORT OUTLINE**

Part A consists of this outline. Part B looks at the characteristics of the Deaf and hard of hearing population in Ontario. Part B:

- estimates their number by level of hearing loss;
- looks at their age of the start of the hearing loss;
- examines the presence of various disabilities;
- profiles their education and reasons for not completing high school;
- looks at their lifelong training;
- probes their labour force activity; and
- looks at methods of communications.

---

<sup>2</sup> The tables were designed so that the number of respondents per cell was at least 100. This cell size is associated with a margin of error of about 8.7 percentage points, 95% of the time. This means that when, for example, 50 out of 100 respondents report that they participated in training in the previous 12 months, the true incidence of training could range from 41.3% to 58.7%. The estimate of the margin of error reflects the survey design effect associated with the cluster sampling method of the survey.

Part C focuses on literacy. It includes the following:

- looks at the distribution of the surveyed population by level of literacy;
- examines the effect of education and age on literacy;
- demonstrates the presence of a positive payoff for the individual and society of literacy;
- reviews the respondents self-assessment of literacy skills at work and in everyday life; and
- looks at their need for help with literacy tasks and the types of activities they are engaged in away from work.

Appendix A provides details on the survey. Appendix B, entitled "Demographic and Literacy Profile of Ontario's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults -- Detailed Tables" provides detailed tables for the Deaf and hard of hearing population based on our survey. Appendix C provides corresponding tables for the total Ontario population based on the Ontario sample of the IALS public use microdata.





## **B. BASIC CHARACTERISTICS**

### **1. POPULATION BY LEVEL OF HEARING**

135,000 Ontarians, or 2% of the provincial population age 16-65, are Deaf or hard of hearing. Of this population, 36% have difficulty hearing what is said in a group conversation; 39% have also difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation one on one; and 25% are completely unable to hear.

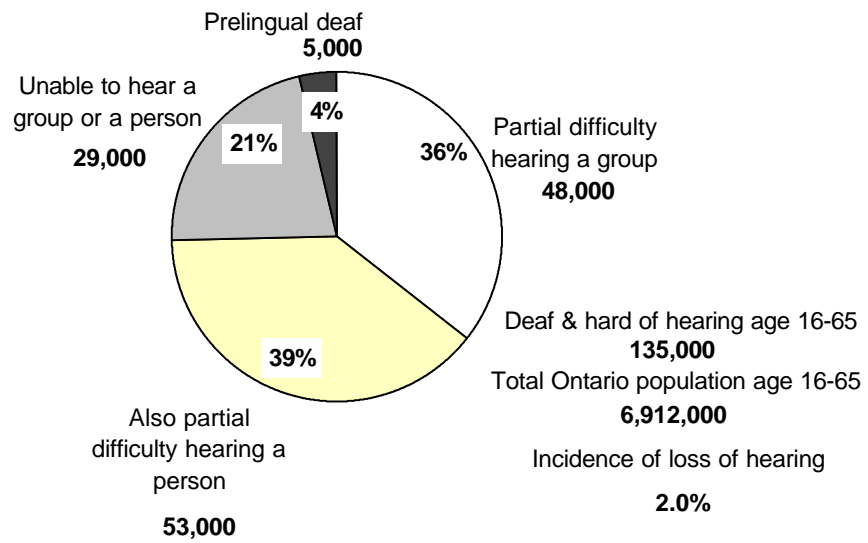
- The focus of this study is on Deaf and hard of hearing Ontarians age 16 to 65. According to the survey, the estimated number in 1996 was 135,000. This number represents 2% of the entire provincial population in the same age range.<sup>3</sup>
- Three levels of hearing loss were identified:
  - (a) partial difficulty hearing in a group situation (48,000); this difficulty was common to the entire survey sample;
  - (b) also partial difficulty hearing one person (53,000); this situation represents a more serious loss of hearing than the previous level; and
  - (c) complete inability to hear a person or a group (34,000); this represents the most serious level of hearing loss.

The last of the above three groups includes an estimated 5,000 individuals whose loss of hearing started before the age of 4. This figure is a rough estimate of the number of pre-lingual Deaf people (individuals who developed a serious loss of hearing before developing verbal communication skills). Although this group is of great interest from the policy point of view, sample size limitations precluded further analysis.

---

<sup>3</sup> The 135,000 estimate of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 16 to 65 is close to the HALS estimate of approximately 150,000 individuals in the same age group.

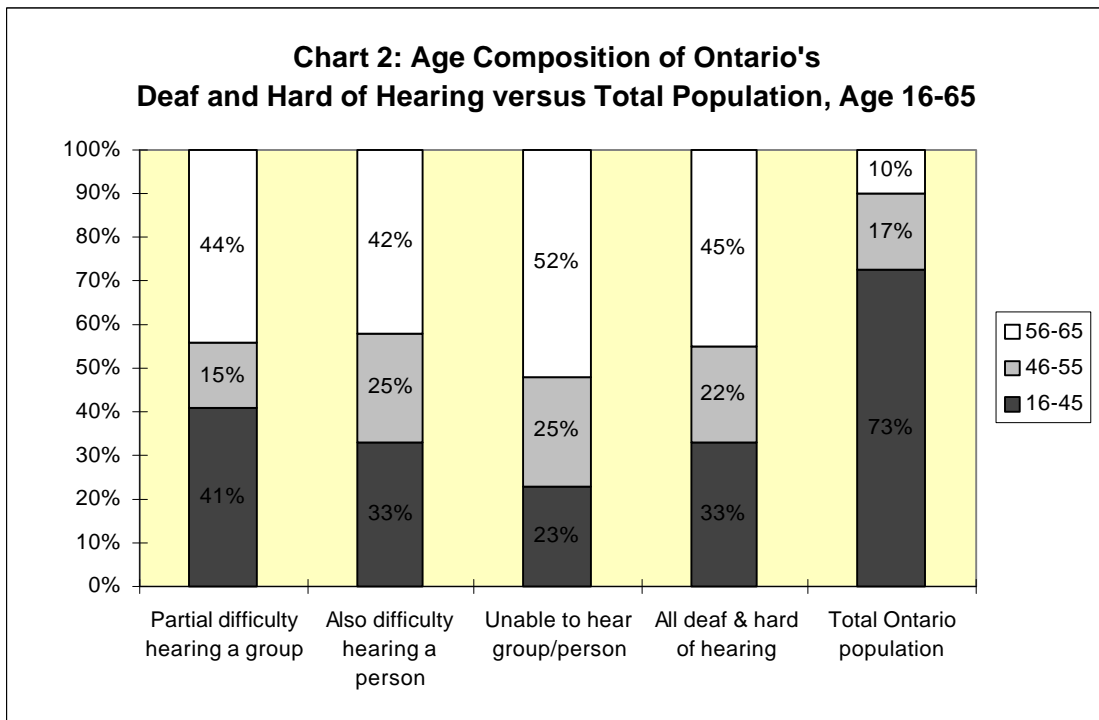
**Chart 1: Estimated Number of Ontario's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals, Age 16-65**



## 2. AGE PROFILE

*The surveyed population is considerably older than the total Ontario population. Of the total number of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 16 to 65, 45% were 55 or older; the corresponding percentage for the total Ontario population was 10%.*

- The population of Deaf and hard of hearing is much older than the rest of the Ontario population. The percentage of older individuals (age 56-65) is even higher among those who are completely unable to hear (52%).
- The incidence of loss of hearing among the Ontario population increases with age -- from 1% among ages 16 to 45, to 9% among ages 56 to 65.
- The consequences of loss of hearing differ with the level of loss of hearing. The latter was used as one of the key characteristics throughout our analysis.
- There is also strong correlation between age, level of education, labour force activity, and other important aspects. Therefore, age was also used as another key variable throughout our analysis.

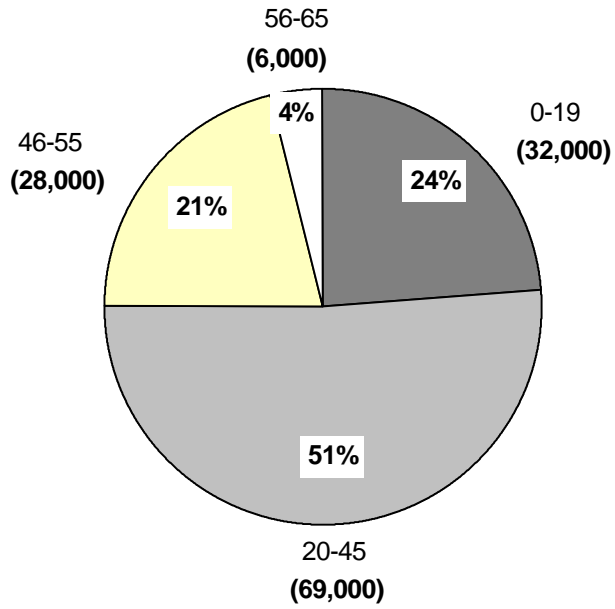


### 3. AGE HEARING LOSS STARTED

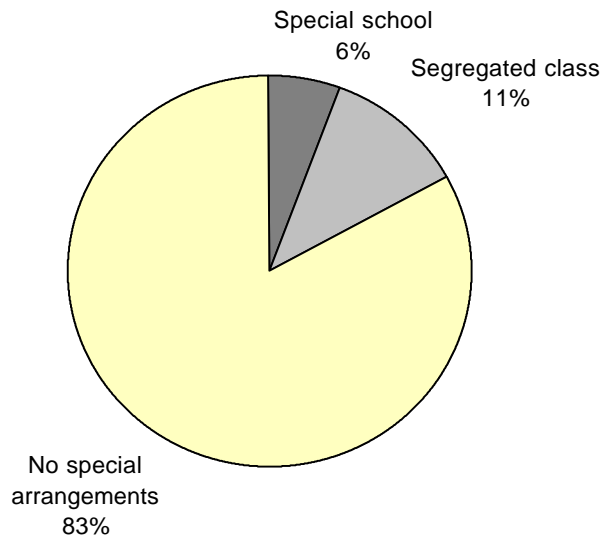
*In one out of four cases, the loss of hearing started before the age of 20; among the latter group of individuals, only 17% had special schooling arrangements.*

- In about 24% of the cases, the loss of hearing started before the age of 20. The percentage is roughly the same for all three levels of hearing loss, although precise estimates are not possible because of sample limitations.
- This group is of particular interest because it provides a possible estimate of the potential demand for special schooling arrangements for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- Among those who first experienced a loss of hearing before age 20, about 17% attended a special school or a segregated class. This percentage more than doubles among those completely unable to hear.

**Chart 3: Age Loss of Hearing Started**



**Chart 4: Special School Arrangements Among Those Whose Loss of Hearing Started Before Age 20**

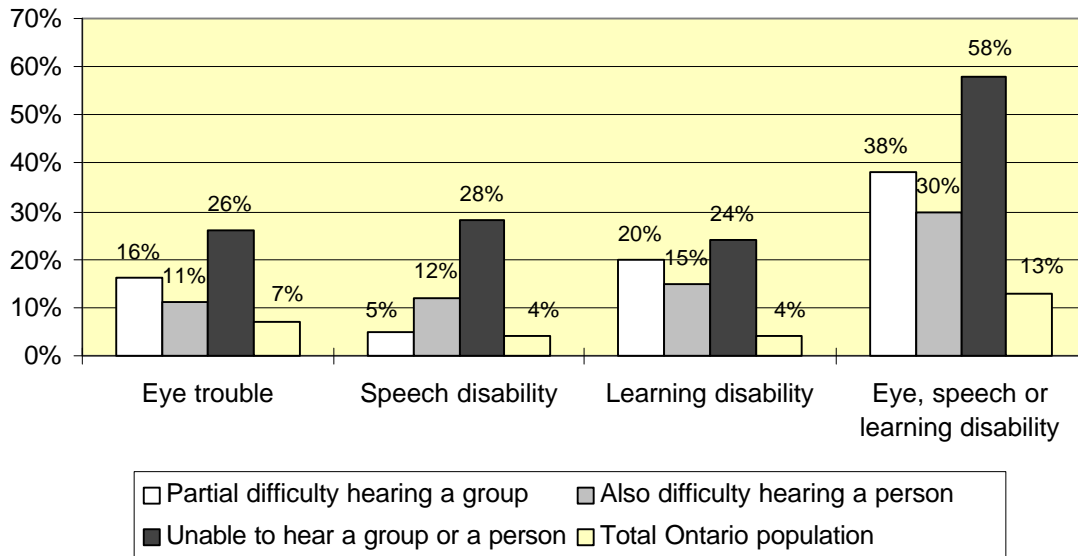


#### 4. PRESENCE OF DISABILITIES

*Loss of hearing is often accompanied by various disabilities: 40% of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 16 to 65 reported eye trouble, a speech disability, or a learning disability (compared to 13% among all Ontarians). The incidence of a learning disability was highest among ages 16 to 45 (36%). The higher incidence suggests that loss of hearing often poses educational and training challenges.*

- Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 16 to 65 are three times more likely to have eye trouble, a speech disability, or a learning disability than all Ontarians in the same age group.
- The incidence of these three types of disability increases with the level of loss of hearing; for those completely unable to hear the incidence is 58%.
- The incidence of eye trouble is similar across age groups. However, those under age 45 are more likely to report a speech or learning disability than the rest of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- Particularly important from the literacy point of view is the high incidence of learning disabilities: 19% of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals reported a learning disability (compared to 4% among the general population). The incidence of a learning disability was highest among ages 16 to 45 (36%).

**Chart 5: Incidence of Selected Types of Disability  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing versus All Ontario, Age 16-65**



**Table 1: Incidence of Selected Types of Disability by Age**

	Eye trouble	Speech disability	Learning disability	Any of the three
<b>Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>				
16-45	13%	23%	36%	60%
46-55	21%	11%	13%	33%
56-65	17%	8%	10%	28%
All ages	17%	14%	19%	40%
<b>Total Ontario Population</b>				
16-45	7%	5%	4%	15%
46-55	3%	1%	4%	7%
56-65	14%	1%	1%	15%
All ages	7%	4%	4%	13%



## 5. EDUCATION PROFILE

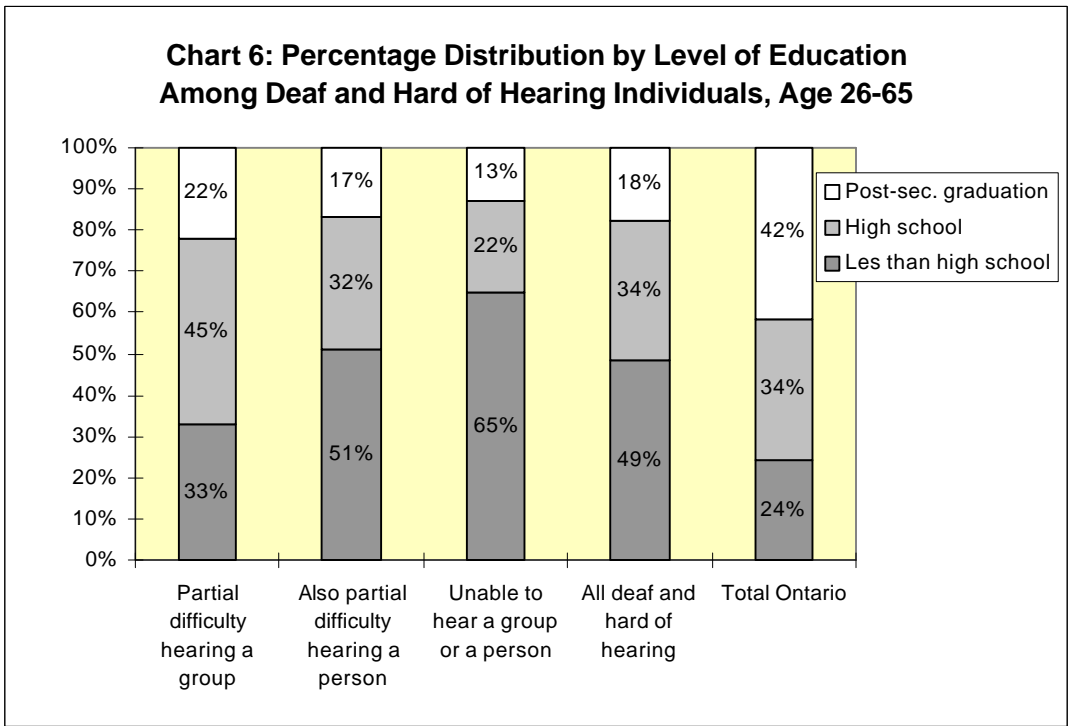
Almost half of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals have not completed high school.

- The discussion of education focuses on ages 26 to 65. The reason for excluding younger ages is because many in this age group are still students and, consequently, their education profile is incomplete.<sup>4</sup>
- Almost half of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals age 26 to 65 (47%) have not completed high school. This percentage is double the rate among the general Ontario population (24%).
- Similarly, at the other end of the education spectrum, the percentage of Deaf and hard of hearing Ontarians with a post-secondary degree or certificate is less than half (17%) of the Ontario average (42%).
- It will be shown later that there are also significant differences in the level of literacy between Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the rest of the Ontario population.
- To a large extent, the difference in levels of education between Deaf and hard of hearing and the total Ontario population is attributable to their different age profile. However, even within the same age group there are still noticeable differences in the level of education.
- Finally, the level of education is lower at higher levels of loss of hearing. Thus, for example, two-thirds of those completely unable to hear do not have high school graduation, compared to one-third among those with partial difficulty hearing a group.

---

<sup>4</sup> Of the total sample of 529 Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, 22 individuals were age 25 or under and were excluded from the education analysis.

Table 2: Education Distribution by Age				
	Les than high school	High school	Post-sec. degree	All levels
<b>Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>				
26-45	15%	55%	31%	100%
46-55	43%	38%	19%	100%
56-65	73%	20%	7%	100%
All ages	47%	36%	17%	100%
<b>Total Ontario Population</b>				
26-45	18%	37%	45%	100%
46-55	27%	33%	41%	100%
56-65	54%	20%	26%	100%
All ages	24%	34%	42%	100%



## 6. REASONS FOR STOPPING EDUCATION

*Loss of hearing as such does not appear to be a significant reason for not completing high school. Instead, the most common reason is financial; this result is equally true among both those with a loss of hearing and the population at large.*

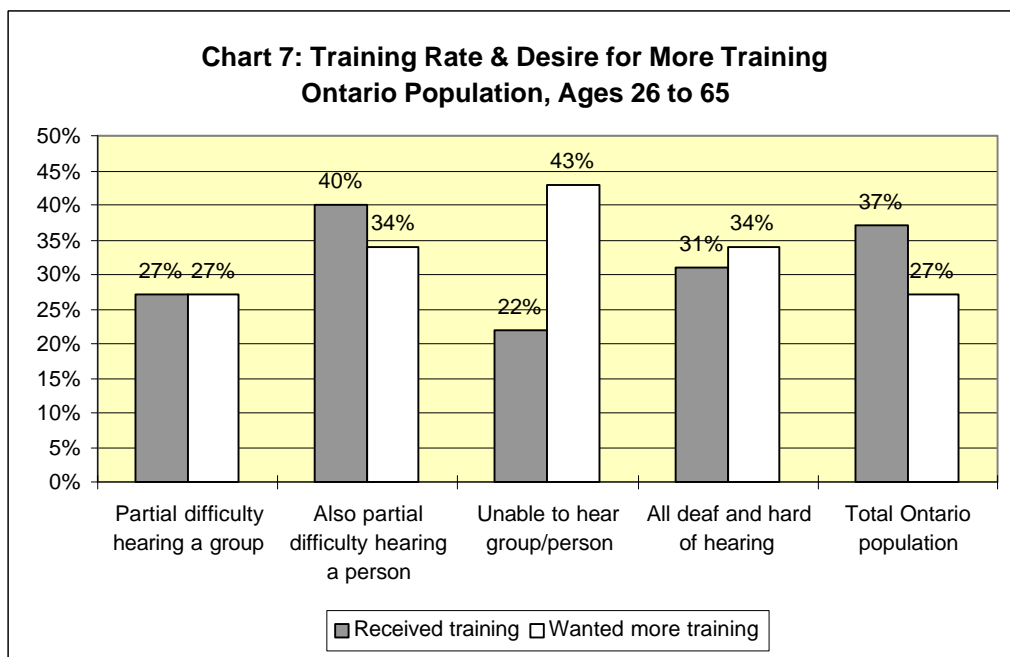
- Almost half of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals did not complete high school. However, virtually no one gave loss of hearing as a reason. The most common reason for both Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the Ontario population at large was financial (40% and 37% respectively).
- Hearing loss is not a common reason for not completing high school; in three-quarters of the cases, the hearing loss started after age 19.
- Among those whose loss of hearing started before age 20, reasons given for why they did not mention the loss of hearing as a factor are: (a) the loss of hearing was not serious; (b) the loss of hearing was dealt adequately through special schooling arrangements; or (c) the loss of hearing was not reported as a reason because there was another, more important reason present.
- The statistics do show that financial reasons are the most common factor for dropping out of high school, both among the Deaf and hard of hearing, like the rest of the Ontario population.
- On the positive side, the drop-out rate has declined significantly over time. This decline is equally true among the Deaf and hard of hearing as well as among the rest of the population.

<b>Table 3: Main Reason Stopped Schooling Before High School</b>		
<b>Ontario Population, Age 26-65</b>		
	Hearing impaired	Total Ontario population
Had to work/ financial reasons	40%	37%
Wanted to work/ wanted to learn a trade	34%	17%
Other reasons	8%	14%
Family/health reasons	11%	13%
Did not like school/ did not do well in school	7%	19%
Due to hearing problem	1%	0%
<b>Any Reason</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 7. LIFELONG TRAINING

*Fewer Deaf and hard of hearing individuals received training in 1996 than the rest of the population (31% versus 37%). However, the percentage who wanted to take more training was greater among the Deaf and hard of hearing (34% versus 27%). Financial reasons and required courses not offered were given as the main barriers to further training.*

- Equally important to the formal level of education is the lifelong process of further learning through training or retraining and continuing adult education. Training, through the employer or through individual initiative, can be viewed as an essential process for maintaining and upgrading human capital and literacy levels.
- The survey asked respondents "during the past 12 months did you receive any training or education including courses, private lessons, correspondence courses, workshops, on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, arts, crafts, recreation courses, or any training or education?"
- While the definition is broad, for the most part respondents reported that training and education was through formal courses and programs. Also, in more than 90% of the cases, one of the reasons for taking training or education course was job or career-related.
- The incidence of training is lower among the Deaf and hard of hearing than the general population (31% versus 37%). In large part, their lower incidence of training is due to their older age profile.
- The desire for more education or training is relatively stronger among the Deaf and hard of hearing: 34% of this population (compared to 27% of the general population) reported that there was training or education that they wanted to take but did not. The rate was even higher among those unable to hear (43%).
- Hearing loss does not appear to be a barrier to training. Financial reasons and non-availability of required courses appear to be the most common reasons among the Deaf and hard of hearing for lack of training.



**Table 4: Reasons Given for Not Taking More Training Among  
Those Who Wanted More Training: Ontario Population Age 26-65**

	Deaf & hard of hearing	Total population
Too expensive/lack of money	37%	12%
Course not offered	27%	7%
Too busy/lack of time	22%	71%
Health reasons	15%	3%
Too busy at work	10%	24%
Course offered at inconvenient time	4%	1%
Family responsibilities	3%	12%
Not accessible for deaf/hard of hearing	3%	n/a
Other reasons	3%	4%
Lack of qualifications	1%	0%
Lack of employer support	0%	0%
Language reasons	0%	0%

*Note: Respondents can give more than one reason. Reasons are sorted descending order among deaf and hard of hearing respondents.*

## 8. LABOUR FORCE PROFILE

*Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are less likely to be employed and earn less on average than other Ontarians. This finding reflects mostly their older age profile and relatively lower level of education as well as their lower literacy levels.*

- Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are less likely to be employed than the total Ontario population. However, the differences are due primarily to the age composition. The two younger age groups have a slightly higher employment rate than the corresponding ages in the total Ontario population. The lower rate among those age 56-65 may reflect the heavier concentration of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals at the upper bound of the age bracket.
- The percentage of employed Deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are working full-time is similar to the Ontario average.
- The unemployment rate of Deaf and hard of hearing is lower than the Ontario average. This finding again reflects mostly the older age of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- The average Deaf or hard of hearing individual earns two-thirds of the Ontario average. This relation though differs significantly depending on age and level of education. For example, in the case of post-secondary graduates, Deaf and heard of hearing individuals outperform the Ontario average.
- Because we are dealing with a subset of a small sample, most of the statistics referring to the labour force characteristics of Deaf and hard of hearing are subject to a wide margin of error. This margin is particularly the case with respect to annual earnings. Therefore, the statistics in this section should be used as broad indicators, rather than as precise measures.

<b>Table 5</b>				
<b>Labour Force Profile by Key Characteristics, Age 16-65</b>				
	Percentage of population employed	Percentage of employed working full-time	Unemploy- ment rate	Average annual earnings
<b>DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING</b>				
<b>Level of Hearing Loss</b>				
Partial difficulty hearing a group	62%	71%	3%	\$24,096
Also difficulty hearing a person	55%	83%	2%	\$18,427
Unable to hear group/person	48%	84%	9%	\$21,860
<b>Age</b>				
16-45	72%	73%	11%	\$25,802
46-55	71%	86%	1%	\$25,525
56-65	37%	79%	1%	\$15,820
<b>Education</b>				
Less than high school	44%	81%	2%	\$17,194
High school diploma	60%	76%	7%	\$17,426
Post-secondary degree/diploma	81%	78%	4%	\$38,226
<b>Literacy Level</b>				
Level 1/2	37%	89%	6%	\$12,687
Level 3	75%	68%	3%	\$27,687
Level 4/5	56%	100%	5%	\$29,604
<b>All Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$21,128</b>
<b>TOTAL ONTARIO POPULATION</b>				
<b>Age</b>				
16-45	67%	74%	9%	\$27,450
46-55	68%	95%	5%	\$42,051
56-65	52%	92%	0%	\$30,051
<b>Education</b>				
Less than high school	41%	78%	21%	\$18,925
High school diploma	74%	84%	6%	\$29,879
Post-secondary degree/diploma	75%	74%	2%	\$34,704
<b>Literacy Level</b>				
Level 1/2	52%	86%	14%	\$28,116
Level 3	73%	73%	4%	\$28,788
Level 4/5	74%	79%	5%	\$33,586
<b>All Ontarians</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>\$30,184</b>



## 9. METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

Even among those completely unable to hear a person or a group only a minority has a good or excellent ability to lip read (8%) or use sign language (12%).

- Most Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are able to hear over the telephone. Even among those unable to hear a person or a group, 63% can hear without an aid, while 26% can hear with an aid; only 12% are not able to hear at all.
- The two most common aid devices used by Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are a hearing aid and a volume control telephone. Other aids or services, used primarily by those completely unable to hear a person or a group, are close caption decoders, T.D.D/T.T.Y. telephone systems, oral or sign language interpreters, a flashing visual alarm and a message relay service.
- About 4% of all Deaf and hard of hearing individuals belong to a Deaf organization; the percentage rises to 14% among those completely unable to hear.
- The most common organization is the Canadian Hearing Society (over 4,000 members), followed by the Ontario Association of the Deaf (796 members) and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (631 members).

<b>Table 6</b>				
<b>How Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals Communicate, Ages 16-65</b>				
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	All deaf and hard of hearing individuals
<b>Able to hear over the telephone?</b>				
Yes, without an aid	83%	78%	63%	76%
Yes, with an aid	17%	18%	26%	20%
No, not able	0%	4%	12%	4%
<b>Which aids or services do you use?</b>				
A hearing aid	20%	25%	49%	29%
A volume control phone	22%	29%	26%	25%
A close caption decoder	1%	4%	14%	5%
T.D.D/T.T.Y.	0%	0%	13%	4%
Oral or sign language inerpreter	0%	0%	13%	4%
A flashing/visual alarm	1%	1%	12%	4%
An amplification system	0%	5%	6%	3%
A mesage relay service	0%	0%	12%	3%
A computer to communicate	0%	1%	1%	0%
<b>Do you use sign language?</b>				
Excellent	0%	0%	8%	2%
Good	0%	1%	4%	1%
Moderate	0%	2%	0%	1%
Poor	11%	4%	3%	6%
Not at all	89%	93%	85%	89%
<b>Can you lip read?</b>				
Excellent	1%	2%	3%	2%
Good	5%	8%	5%	6%
Moderate	20%	7%	18%	15%
Poor	10%	3%	4%	6%
Not at all	64%	79%	70%	71%
<b>All deaf and hard of hearing</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



## **C. LITERACY**

### **1. IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY**

Education has long been recognized in the economic literature as a key determinant of earnings and financial self-sufficiency. Consequently, it has also been recognised that unequal access to education is a contributing factor to income inequality and poverty.

However, the importance of literacy as an outcome indicator has been virtually ignored in the economic literature, primarily because of the absence of literacy data. Instead, the term illiteracy, when raised in the literature, typically refers to the more narrow aspect of an inability to read and write or a low level of education (less than grade 9).

Lack of data has made it difficult in the past to assess fully the impact of literacy on such factors as: the quality of education, workplace training, continuing education, and the use of the literacy "muscle" at work or in everyday life. Also, lack of data on literacy has made it difficult to assess the implications of low literacy on employment opportunities, level of income, and participation in society.

The survey provides a unique opportunity for assessing the level of literacy of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Ontario, to assess whether the level of hearing loss has an effect on literacy and assess their literacy needs.

The IALS, after which this survey was modelled, was the first international, co-operative effort at measuring literacy, as well other related information, such as education and training. The IALS identified three types of literacy: document, prose, and quantitative literacy (Box 2).

For each type of literacy, five levels were defined: 1, 2, 3, and 4/5 (the two top literacy levels were collapsed into one for statistical reasons). Researchers often define literacy below level 3 as low literacy. This definition was also followed in this study.

Finally, for cost and logistic reasons, the survey only assessed document literacy. However, since it has been found that document literacy correlates closely with the other two types of literacy, this is not a major limitation of the survey.

## Box 2

### Definition of Literacy

Three types of literacy were tested by the IALS:

- (a) prose literacy refers to the knowledge and skills needed to understand and use information from texts including editorials, news stories, poems and fiction;
- (b) document literacy refers to the knowledge and skills required to locate and use information contained in various formats, including job applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables, and graphics; and
- (c) quantitative literacy refers to the knowledge and skills required to apply arithmetic operations, either alone or sequentially, to numbers embedded in printed materials, such as balancing a checkbook, figuring out a tip, completing an order form, or determining the amount of interest on a loan from an advertisement.

In each of the three literacy domains, a scale from 0 to 500 was constructed, upon which tasks of varying difficulty were placed. The range of scores corresponding to each level are as follows: level 1 (0-225); level 2 (226-275); level 3 (276-325); level 4 (326-375); and level 5 (376-500).

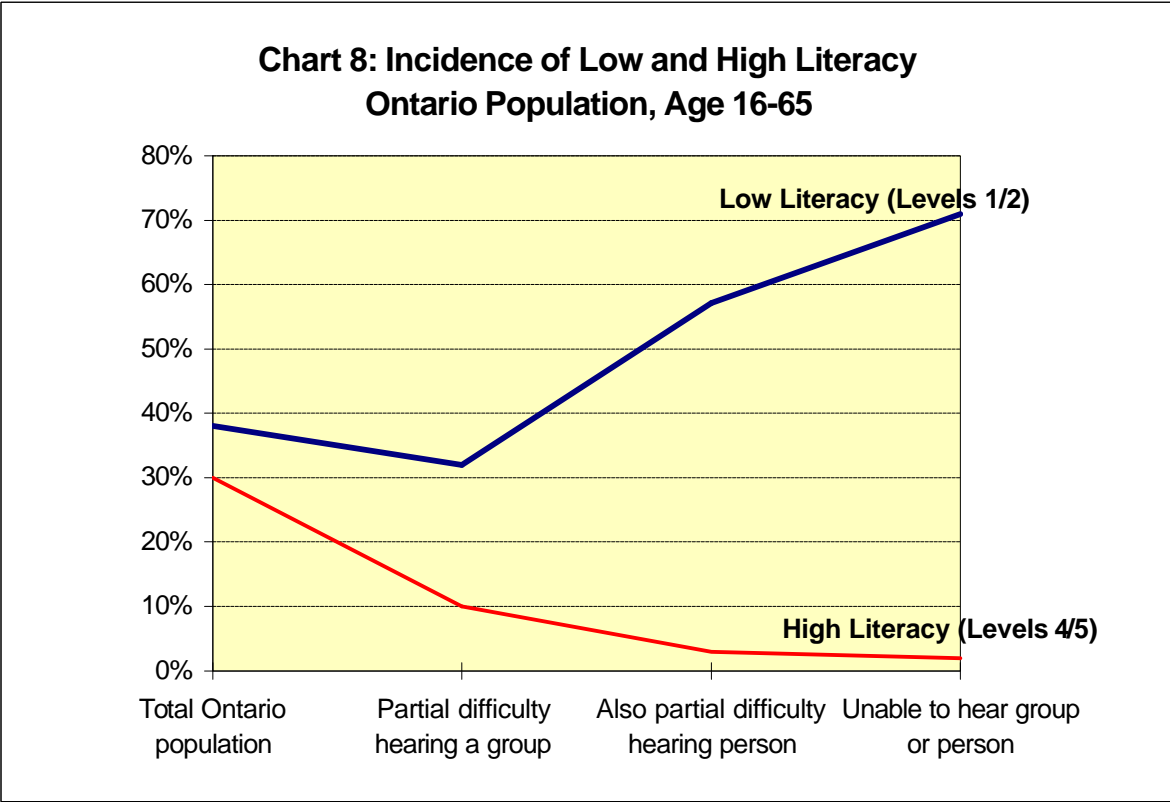
The Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing measured only document literacy. This was done for both methodological and logistical reasons. However, because of the close correlation between the three types of literacy (over 80%), the exclusive focus on document literacy does not impose a major limitation to the findings of this study.

## 2. LITERACY PROFILE

*The literacy level of Deaf and hard of hearing is below that of the rest of the Ontario population. In particular, 52% have low literacy (below level 3), compared to 38% among the general Ontario population. Literacy ranges widely depending on the level of hearing loss: those with partial difficulty have a somewhat lower incidence of low literacy than the Ontario average (33%), while those completely unable to hear have a 71% incidence.*

- The literacy levels of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals is lower than the general population. In particular, the incidence of low literacy (levels 1 and 2) is much higher (52%) than the Ontario average (38%).
- The level of hearing loss appears to have a significant effect on literacy. For example, the incidence of low literacy among those completely unable to hear is 71%, more than double the rate among those with partial difficulty hearing a group (33%).
- The difference in literacy levels is particularly large at the upper range of the literacy scale (levels 4 and 5). Only 5% of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are at that level, compared to 30% among the general population.

<b>Table 7: Distribution by Literacy Level</b>					
<b>Ontario Population, Age 16-65</b>					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	All
<b>Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>					
Partial difficulty hearing a group	15%	17%	58%	10%	100%
Also partial difficulty hearing a person	24%	33%	40%	3%	100%
Unable to hear a group or a person	40%	31%	27%	2%	100%
All deaf and hard of hearing	25%	27%	43%	5%	100%
<b>Total Ontario Population</b>					
	17%	21%	32%	30%	100%



### 3. THE EFFECT OF AGE AND EDUCATION ON LITERACY

*The lower literacy of the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals is to a large extent explained by their older age and lower level of education. However, even at the same level of education, loss of hearing is a negative factor, especially when it concerns achieving the top literacy level (level 4/5).*

- By far, the most important determinant of literacy is the level of education. Both among the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the general population, the incidence of low literacy (levels 1 and 2) drop significantly at higher levels of education.
- Age also appears to have a negative effect on literacy, although this factor is mostly attributable to the lower level of education of the older population.
- The level of hearing loss appears to have a negative impact on literacy that goes beyond the potential impact of their older age or lower education, however. In particular:
  - (a) When comparisons are made within similar age groups, the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals still have relatively lower literacy levels. The difference is most pronounced at the high end of the literacy scale: relative to the rest of the population and regardless of age, the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are more likely to be in the middle literacy range (level 3) than the top (levels 4/5).
  - (b) The same general result holds when literacy comparisons are made within the same level of education. The incidence of low literacy (levels 1 and 2) within each level of education are similar regardless of presence of hearing loss or not. However, there are significant differences in the incidence of high literacy (levels 4/5) between the Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the general population.
- The data suggest that loss of hearing has a negative effect on literacy. This effect cannot be fully explained by their associated older age or lower education. The effect appears most pronounced at the upper range of the literacy scale: it tends to confine individuals to level 3 and make it difficult to move into the top literacy level (levels 4/5).



<b>Table 8: Literacy Level by Age</b>						
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	All
<b>Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>						
	16-45	12%	24%	53%	11%	100%
	46-55	23%	37%	40%	0%	100%
	56-65	35%	24%	38%	3%	100%
	All ages	25%	27%	43%	5%	100%
<b>Total Ontario Population</b>						
	16-45	13%	18%	38%	32%	100%
	46-55	19%	36%	14%	30%	100%
	56-65	44%	22%	20%	14%	100%
	All ages	17%	21%	32%	30%	100%

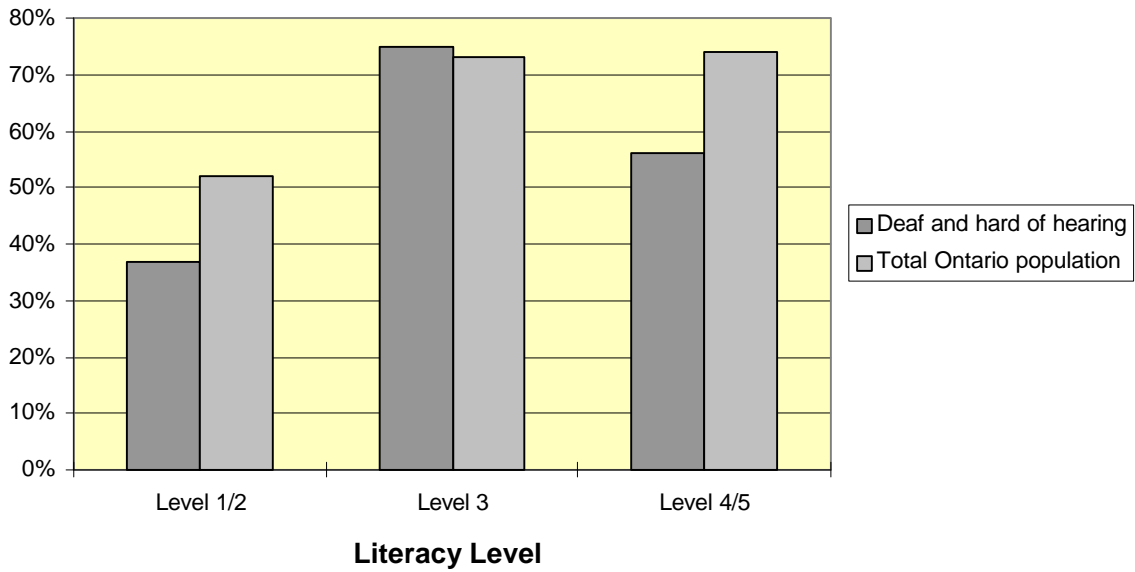
<b>Table 9: Literacy Level by Education</b>						
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	All
<b>Deaf and Hard of Hearing</b>						
	Less than high school	43%	35%	20%	2%	100%
	High school	12%	25%	57%	5%	100%
	Post secondary degree	0%	11%	76%	13%	100%
	All education levels	25%	27%	43%	5%	100%
<b>Total Ontario Population</b>						
	Less than high school	41%	31%	18%	10%	100%
	High school	14%	25%	37%	25%	100%
	Post secondary degree	5%	10%	38%	47%	100%
	All education levels	17%	21%	32%	30%	100%

#### 4. THE ECONOMIC PAY-OFF OF LITERACY

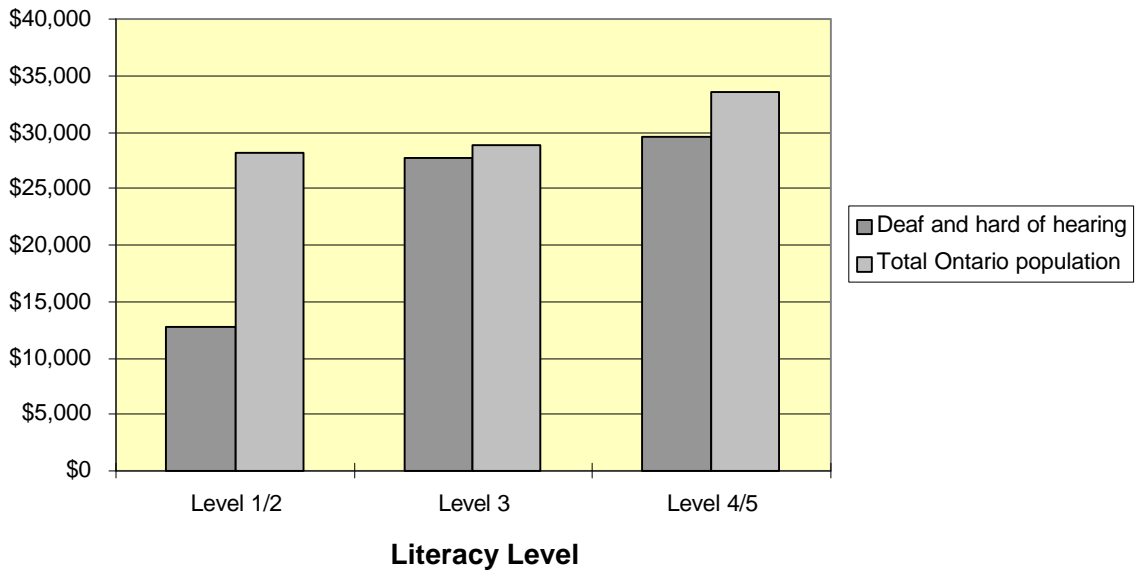
*Low literacy is an important issue. Individuals with low literacy are less likely to be employed, have lower earnings, and tend to rely more on social assistance. These results are similar among the Deaf and hard of hearing and the general population.*

- There are economic benefits associated with higher literacy, both from the individual's and society's point of view.
- From the individual's point of view, those with higher literacy levels are more likely to be active in the labour force and less likely to experience unemployment.
- Moreover, the level of earnings rises with the level of literacy. The earnings differential by level of literacy is particularly high among Deaf and hard of hearing individuals: those with high literacy (levels 4/5) earn on average three times as much as those with low literacy (levels 1/2).
- From society's point of view, analysis of the national IALS data shows that reliance on unemployment insurance and social assistance declines at higher levels of literacy.

**Chart 9: Percentage Employed by Level of Literacy,  
Ontario Population Age 16-65**



**Chart 10: Average Annual Earnings by Level of Literacy,  
Employed Ontario Population Age 16-65**



## 5. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF LITERACY SKILLS AT WORK

*One-fifth of working Deaf and hard of hearing individuals rated their reading skills at work as moderate or poor. The rate increases to one-third among those unable to hear. Correspondingly, almost as high a percentage reports that this factor limits their job opportunities.*

- A high percentage of working respondents rated their literacy skills low. This view was particularly prominent among those unable to hear. Among the later group, close to one quarter rated their reading, writing, and math skills as poor, while an additional 10% rated them as moderate.
- At the same time, a high percentage of respondents reported that their low literacy skills limit their job opportunities. This belief was particularly the case among those unable to hear. Among the later group, about one-fifth reported that their low skills greatly or somewhat limited their job opportunities.
- The self-assessment results reinforce the literacy test results. Both pieces of evidence demonstrate a high incidence of low literacy among the Deaf and hard of hearing, particularly among those unable to hear.

<b>Table 10: Self-Assessment of Literacy Skills at Work</b>				
<b>Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Employed, Age 16-65)</b>				
	Difficulty hearing a group	Difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear	All
<b>Reading skills</b>				
Excellent	38%	58%	36%	45%
Good	49%	24%	32%	36%
Moderate	12%	11%	10%	11%
Poor	0%	7%	23%	8%
<b>Do reading skills limit job opportunities?</b>				
Greatly limiting	0%	5%	7%	3%
Somewhat limiting	4%	16%	22%	12%
Not at all limiting	96%	80%	72%	84%
<b>Writing skills</b>				
Excellent	28%	44%	22%	33%
Good	39%	37%	46%	40%
Moderate	22%	6%	13%	14%
Poor	11%	13%	19%	13%
<b>Do writing skills limit job opportunities?</b>				
Greatly limiting	0%	6%	1%	3%
Somewhat limiting	10%	9%	17%	11%
Not at all limiting	90%	85%	82%	86%
<b>Math skills</b>				
Excellent	38%	51%	34%	42%
Good	58%	33%	32%	44%
Moderate	4%	10%	12%	8%
Poor	0%	5%	22%	6%
<b>Do math skills limit job opportunities?</b>				
Greatly limiting	0%	1%	1%	1%
Somewhat limiting	3%	8%	18%	8%
Not at all limiting	97%	91%	81%	91%
<b>All</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 6. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF LITERACY SKILLS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

*Close to one-quarter of all Deaf and hard of hearing report moderate or poor reading skills in everyday life, and an even higher percentage report moderate or poor skills in writing and math. Again, the results are more negative among those unable to hear, with 41% rating their reading skills as moderate or poor, while the corresponding rate for writing and math is around 50%.*

- The self-assessment of reading, writing, and math skills among all Deaf and hard of hearing presents an even more negative picture than the self-assessment of these skills at work by those currently employed.
- Overall, one-fifth of Deaf and hard of hearing are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their reading and writing skills. The percentage increases to one-third among those unable to hear.
- Clearly, the survey results demonstrate that the Deaf and hard of hearing population, particularly those unable to hear, have low literacy levels, both based on their test results and their own self-assessment. In both cases, the results are lower than to the Ontario average.

<b>Table 11: Self-Assessment of the Literacy Skills in Everyday Life (Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)</b>				
	Difficulty hearing a group	Difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear	All
<b>Reading skills</b>				
Excellent	37%	47%	28%	39%
Good	48%	34%	31%	39%
Moderate	13%	11%	24%	15%
Poor	2%	7%	17%	8%
<b>Writing skills</b>				
Excellent	31%	38%	19%	31%
Good	42%	29%	29%	34%
Moderate	18%	21%	31%	23%
Poor	10%	11%	21%	13%
<b>Math skills</b>				
Excellent	44%	32%	25%	34%
Good	46%	45%	28%	41%
Moderate	8%	15%	28%	16%
Poor	2%	8%	19%	9%
<b>Satisfied with reading/math skills?</b>				
Very satisfied	60%	49%	45%	52%
Somewhat satisfied	27%	33%	21%	28%
Somewhat dissatisfied	11%	10%	23%	14%
Very dissatisfied	2%	7%	11%	6%
<b>All</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%

## 7. NEED FOR HELP WITH LITERACY TASKS

*Reading government and business information is the most challenging literacy task for many Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. One-third of all Deaf and hard of hearing need help often (9%) or sometimes (23%). Among those unable to hear, almost one-half need help often (19%) or sometimes (27%).*

- Many Deaf and hard of hearing individuals often or sometimes need help with reading, writing, or math tasks. Help was most often required in reading government or business information. The second most challenging task was filling out forms.
- Other tasks, such as reading newspapers, reading instructions on medical bottles or packages, or doing basic math are less likely to require help often, although the percentage of those who require help sometimes, mostly among those unable to hear, is high.



<b>Table 12: Need for Help with Literacy Tasks</b>				
<b>(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)</b>				
	Difficulty hearing a group	Difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear	All
<b>Help reading newspapers</b>				
Often	2%	3%	5%	3%
Sometimes	4%	7%	18%	9%
Never	94%	91%	76%	88%
<b>Help reading information from government/institutions</b>				
Often	6%	5%	19%	9%
Sometimes	25%	18%	27%	23%
Never	69%	77%	54%	68%
<b>Help filling out forms</b>				
Often	2%	5%	22%	8%
Sometimes	11%	11%	10%	11%
Never	88%	84%	68%	81%
<b>Help reading instructions on medical bottles</b>				
Often	5%	10%	1%	6%
Sometimes	2%	4%	18%	7%
Never	93%	86%	80%	87%
<b>Help reading instructions on packages</b>				
Often	4%	5%	3%	4%
Sometimes	2%	5%	17%	7%
Never	94%	90%	80%	89%
<b>Help reading instructions on packages</b>				
Often	2%	3%	5%	3%
Sometimes	2%	8%	30%	12%
Never	96%	89%	65%	86%
<b>Help writing notes /letters</b>				
Often	2%	8%	10%	7%
Sometimes	14%	6%	10%	10%
Never	84%	86%	80%	84%
<b>All</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%

## 8. ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM WORK

*44% of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals never go to the movies or to a play; the rate increases to 62% among those unable to hear. Attendance at or participation in sports is also lower. However, for most other activities, like reading newspapers and books or participating in voluntary organisations, there are no significant differences between Deaf and hard of hearing individuals and the hearing Ontario population.*

- The loss of hearing affects daily activities, particularly when hearing is essential -- as is the case with movies, plays, or concerts. Participation rates are lower than the Ontario average and they also decline with the level of hearing loss.
- Loss of hearing appears to be less of a problem in attending or participating in sports, and even less so with such activities as using public libraries or volunteering.
- Reading and writing in general is somewhat less frequent among the Deaf and hard of hearing. This difference may not necessarily be connected directly to the loss of hearing, but it may be related to their lower literacy levels.

**Table 13: Non-Work Related Activities  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)**

	hearing a group	hearing a person	hear	All
Daily/weekly	5%		3%	6%
	6%	18%		16%
Several times a year		19%	17%	
Never	44%		54%	51%
Daily/weekly		3%	0%	
Every month	22%		2%	13%
	39%	43%		40%
Never		42%	62%	
<b>Attend/take part in sports</b>				
	23%	30%		26%
Every month		1%	6%	
Several times a year	28%		20%	22%
	42%	51%		48%
<b>Write letters</b>				
Daily/weekly	12%		19%	16%
	19%	15%		19%
Several times a year		29%	12%	
Never	56%		44%	45%
Daily/weekly		26%	12%	
Every month	9%		29%	13%
	15%	14%		12%
Never		53%	57%	
<b>Read newspapers/magazines</b>				
	88%	88%		88%
Every month		7%	3%	
Several times a year	2%		1%	3%
	2%	2%		4%
<b>Read books</b>				
Daily/weekly	47%		46%	49%
	13%	10%		14%
Several times a year		14%	16%	
Never	24%		17%	21%
	100%	100%		100%

## SELECTIVE READINGS

Jones, Stan: *Survey of Adult Literacy in Ontario*. Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, Toronto, 1992.

Kapsalis, Constantine: *Employee Training: An International Perspective*. Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada. Catalogue 89-552-MPE, no. 2

Sacks, Oliver: *Seeing Voices - A Journey Into the World of the Deaf*. University of California Press, Berkley, California, 1989.

Statistics Canada: *Canadians with Impaired Hearing*. Catalogue no. 82-615, 1992.

Statistics Canada and OECD: *Literacy, Economy and Society*. OECD 1995

Statistics Canada: *Reading the Future: A Portrait of Literacy in Canada*. Catalogue no. 89-551-XPE, 1996.



## A A S BACKGROUND

---

The first national survey assessing literacy skills of Canadians was conducted in 1994 in several countries, including Canada. The design of the survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities (LSUDA) became a

The estimates of the literacy skills of selected target populations living in Ontario. IALS is not to provide such estimates, so separate surveys, comparable to IALS, had to be considered.

objective of the Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is the development of a survey that also measures perceived literacy skills, training needs, and barriers to training.

MET and the literacy agencies serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be able to use survey results to find out:

- how low literacy skills are affecting the employment status of Deaf and hard of hearing adults;
- how literacy skills are linked to the level of hearing loss, age, sex, education and other factors;
- both the need for literacy services and the expectations of the potential clientele.

A diagnosis of the situation will be useful for those designing appropriate literacy instruction and other literacy-related programs.

---

The frame file for this survey was the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey. Respondents to this survey who had indicated a hearing problem (a "yes" answer to questions about hearing in a group conversation, or, if there were no answers to both of these questions, they indicated they had a problem hearing over the telephone). Persons with these characteristics and persons on the HALS file in these categories, all were selected for the Ontario Survey.

After the survey, persons who were no longer Deaf) were identified as such using the Background Questionnaire (BQ) status. About 22% of the frame was deemed out-of-scope. This rather large percentage of persons was not used in the HALS survey. Response and non-response records were also

identified. Those records which did not have sufficient data for assigning a literacy score were coded as non-response.

Of the total 1,112 initially sampled records, 529 records were response records, 334 were non-response and 249 were out-of-scope. The overall response rate is calculated as follows:

- 529 response records/ (1,112 total sample - 249 out-of-scope) = 61.1%

The first part of the weighting system matched the HALS frame with the data captured file. The HALS weight was taken for the out-of-scope and response records. An adjustment was then made so that the weights on the Ontario Survey records matched HALS population totals by age and gender. A check was also done to ensure that the distribution of years of education for the HALS frame was similar to that obtained from the newly weighted file. It was not possible to adjust the weights according to the number of years of education because of the large number of records missing a value for this field.

To obtain weights for the hearing impaired only, persons who had answered "yes" to questions A1 (difficulty hearing in a conversation with one person) or A2 (difficulty hearing in a group conversation) were kept. There were 529 such records, providing a population estimate of roughly 166,000 hearing impaired persons in Ontario.

### Age of the Respondent

It is possible to administer the IALS assessment to adults age 16 and over, but collection involving older adults suffers from lower response rates which in turn introduces bias and increases costs. To avoid these problems, the target population was limited to those 16 to 70 years of age.

### Residence of Respondent

Another important dimension in defining the target population is the distinction made between those who live in institutions and those who do not. According to the 1991 HALS, there were 285,000 adults (15-69 years old) with partial or complete hearing loss living in Ontario households and 4,155 living in institutions. Their living conditions and literacy needs are so different from the household residents, that ideally separate estimates should be produced for this sub-population. However, the HALS database has only 66 records of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals residing in Ontario institutions. Therefore, for operational and methodological reasons, individuals in institutions were not surveyed.

### Other Exclusions

For operational or methodological reasons, the following groups of individuals were excluded from the surveyed population:

- individuals with severe visual loss (primarily because severe visual loss has a direct bearing on literacy);

- persons living on living in institutions (primarily for operational reasons); and
- the survey was conducted in both official languages, only six respondents were Francophone. As a result no valid analysis could be made by language of

### Data Collection

As informing them about the upcoming telephone call from a Statistics Canada interviewer. the interviewer called to obtain appointments for personal interviews and to ask if the assistance sign language interpretation was used in nine cases. In many instances, the telephone and addresses were outdated and interviewers had to trace respondents who had moved since the 1991 HALS interview.

administering the literacy test, the interviewers completed a background questionnaire, data on literacy practices, and self-evaluation of literacy skills. Respondents with serious loss were asked to read the questions themselves and point to the answers. The first correctly at least two of the six questions were asked to complete the main part of the test. The tests did not require verbal explanations as written instructions were provided. correctly at least two of the six questions were asked to complete the main part of the test. The tests did not require verbal explanations, as written instructions were provided. Interviews typically lasted one hour.

first questions of the background questionnaire were identical to the HALS questions any bias, all the respondents proceeded with the survey, independently of the result of this Later, the questionnaires of those who did not meet the criteria of being Deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing who worked on this survey had IALS experience. All the interviewers studied a detailed

### Response to the Survey

The according to the 1991 HALS survey were at that time Deaf or hard of hearing. Of the above

- 536 individuals met the survey criteria and responded to the survey;
  - 346 individuals could not be traced, were in poor health condition or, in 88 cases,
-



- 304 did not meet the survey criteria (did not have a hearing impairment or resided outside Ontario or in an institution).

### Literacy Scores

The answers to the test were scored according to the IALS scoring guidelines by two independent scorers, according to the IALS scoring guidelines. Not all the respondents who participated in the survey completed all the literacy tasks. In those cases, the missing scores were imputed when possible. Overall:

- 409 individuals answered enough cognitive items to determine their literacy score with no need for imputations;
- 64 individuals did not answer enough cognitive items. However, it was established from the background information and failing scores that they had low literacy skills. They were assigned the mean score for literacy level 1.
- 56 individuals were not assigned any score because they did not answer enough cognitive items for reasons other than low literacy.

## APPENDIX B - TABLES: ONTARIO LITERACY SURVEY OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Table 1a: Sample Size by Level of Hearing Loss  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Total Sample)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
AGE				
16-25.....	9	11	2	22
26-45.....	40	63	28	131
46-55.....	28	42	30	100
56-65.....	54	69	39	162
66-70.....	42	49	23	114
PRELINGUAL DEAF (BY AGE 3)				
No.....	173	234	100	507
Yes.....	0	0	22	22
ALL.....	173	234	122	529

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 1b: Population Estimate by Level of Hearing Loss  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Total Sample)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
AGE				
16-25.....	3,109	3,698	90	6,897
26-45.....	16,728	13,401	7,722	37,851
46-55.....	7,255	13,396	8,641	29,292
56-65.....	21,213	22,068	17,910	61,192
66-70.....	7,754	14,016	4,633	26,403
PRELINGUAL DEAF (BY AGE 3)				
No.....	56,058	66,579	34,042	156,680
Yes.....	0	0	4,954	4,954
ALL.....	56,058	66,579	38,996	161,634

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 2: Percentage Distribution by Age Hearing Loss Started  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
AGE HEARING LOSS STARTED				
0-19.....	21%	24%	27%	23%
20-45.....	47%	54%	54%	51%
46-55.....	30%	15%	17%	21%
56-65.....	2%	7%	2%	4%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 3: Percentage Incidence of Eye, Speech or Learning Disabilities  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	DID YOU EVER HAVE EYE/VISUAL TROUBLE	DID YOU EVER HAVE A SPEECH DISABILITY	DID YOU EVER HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY	EYE, SPEECH OR LEARNING DISABILITY
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS				
Partial difficulty hearing a group.....	16%	5%	20%	38%
Partial difficulty hearing a person.....	11%	12%	15%	30%
Unable to hear a person or a group.....	26%	28%	24%	58%
AGE				
16-45.....	13%	23%	36%	60%
46-55.....	21%	11%	13%	33%
56-65.....	17%	8%	10%	28%
ALL.....	17%	14%	19%	40%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4: Percentage Distribution by Demographic Characteristics  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
AGE				
16-45.....	41%	33%	23%	33%
46-55.....	15%	25%	25%	22%
56-65.....	44%	42%	52%	45%
SEX OF RESPONDENT.				
Male.....	61%	59%	51%	58%
Female.....	39%	41%	49%	42%
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCATION				
Less than high school.....	32%	50%	65%	47%
High school diploma.....	47%	34%	22%	36%
Post-sec. degree.....	22%	16%	13%	17%
WERE YOU BORN IN CANADA?				
Yes.....	80%	68%	82%	76%
No.....	20%	32%	18%	24%
HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN THIS HOUSEHOLD				
1 member.....	6%	14%	5%	9%
2 members.....	41%	39%	60%	45%
3+members.....	53%	47%	35%	46%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 5a: Percentage Distribution by Level of Education  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 26-65)

	BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCATION			ALL
	Less than high school	High school diploma	Post-sec. degree	
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS				
Partial difficulty hearing a group.....	32%	47%	22%	100%
Partial difficulty hearing a person.....	50%	34%	16%	100%
Unable to hear a person or a group.....	65%	22%	13%	100%
AGE				
26-45.....	15%	55%	31%	100%
46-55.....	43%	38%	19%	100%
56-65.....	73%	20%	7%	100%
ALL.....	47%	36%	17%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 5b: Average Years of Schooling  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 26-65)

	YEARS OF EDUCATION
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS	
Partial difficulty hearing a group.....	12.0
Partial difficulty hearing a person.....	10.5
Unable to hear a person or a group.....	10.1
AGE	
26-45.....	13.4
46-55.....	11.0
56-65.....	9.4
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCATION	
Less than high school.....	8.1
High school diploma.....	12.9
Post-sec. degree.....	15.2
ALL.....	10.9

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 6: Percentage Distribution by Special Schooling Arrangements  
 For Those Who First Experienced Hearing Loss Before Age 20  
 (Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

AGE HEARING LOSS STARTED	
0-19.....	100%
ATTENDED SPECIAL SCHOOL	
Yes.....	6%
No.....	94%
WAS IN A SEGREGATED CLASS	
Yes.....	12%
No.....	88%
SPECIAL SCHOOL OR SEGREGATED CLASS	
Yes.....	16%
No.....	84%
ALL.....	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 7: Percentage Distribution by Main Reason Did Not Complete High School  
 (Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 26-65)

MAIN REASON YOU STOPPED YOUR SCHOOLING	
Wanted to work/Had enough education.....	34%
Had work/Financial reasons.....	40%
Family/Health reasons.....	11%
Did not like school/ did not do well.....	7%
Other reasons.....	8%
Because of loss of hearing.....	1%
ALL.....	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 8a: Percentage Distribution by Education & Training in Previous 12 mths  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 26-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
PAST YEAR DID YOU RECEIVE ANY TRAINING				
Yes.....	27%	40%	22%	31%
No.....	73%	60%	78%	69%
DID TAKE THIS TRAINING FOR JOB PURPOSE				
Yes.....	25%	38%	19%	28%
No.....	75%	62%	81%	72%
DID TAKE THIS TRAINING FOR PERSONAL				
Yes.....	21%	19%	12%	18%
No.....	79%	81%	88%	82%
ANY TRAINING THAT YOU WANTED BUT DID NOT				
Yes.....	27%	34%	43%	34%
No.....	73%	66%	57%	66%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 8b: Percentage Distribution by Education & Training in Previous 12 mths  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 26-65 Who Are Employed)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
PAST YEAR DID YOU RECEIVE ANY TRAINING				
Yes.....	33%	66%	36%	47%
No.....	67%	34%	64%	53%
DID TAKE THIS TRAINING FOR JOB PURPOSE				
Yes.....	33%	63%	33%	45%
No.....	67%	37%	67%	55%
DID TAKE THIS TRAINING FOR PERSONAL				
Yes.....	24%	31%	19%	25%
No.....	76%	69%	81%	75%
ANY TRAINING THAT YOU WANTED BUT DID NOT				
Yes.....	35%	49%	54%	45%
No.....	65%	51%	46%	55%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 26-65)

Yes.....	22%
No.....	78%
REASONS NO TRAIN...TOO BUSY AT WORK	
Yes.....	10%
REASONS NO TRAIN...COURSE NOT OFFERED	
No.....	73%
Yes.....	3%
No.....	97%
REASONS NO TRAIN...TOO EXPENSIVE	
Yes.....	37%
REASONS NO TRAIN...LACK OF QUALIFICATION	
No.....	99%
Yes.....	0%
No.....	100%
REASONS NO TRAIN...COURSE UNREASON TIME	
Yes.....	4%
REASON NO TRAIN...LANGUAGE REASON	
REASONS NO TRAIN...HEALTH REASONS	
No.....	85%
Yes.....	3%
No.....	97%
REASONS NO TRAIN...OTHER	
Yes.....	3%
ALL.....	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 10: Labour Force Profile  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT WORK SITUATION?				
Employed.....	62%	55%	48%	56%
Retired.....	24%	17%	25%	21%
Unemployed/looking for work.....	2%	1%	7%	3%
student(including Work Programs).....	3%	7%	2%	4%
homemaker.....	3%	11%	7%	7%
other.....	6%	9%	11%	9%
WORK MOSTLY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME				
Missing info/not applic	34%	36%	43%	37%
Full -Time.....	46%	48%	44%	46%
Part-Time.....	20%	15%	13%	16%
HOW MUCH PERSONAL INCOME FROM WAGES				
No income.....	30%	42%	47%	40%
Under \$30,000.....	39%	33%	19%	31%
\$30,000 plus.....	32%	25%	34%	30%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
EARN.....	\$24,096	\$18,427	\$21,860	\$21,128

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 11: Labour Force Profile by Key Characteristics  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	PCT OF POPULATION	EMPLOYED WORKING	PCT OF LABOUR UNEMPLOYED	EARN
Partial difficulty hearing a group.....	62%	71%	3%	\$24,096
person.....	55%	83%	2%	\$18,427
Unable to hear a person or a				
AGE				
46-55.....	71%	86%	1%	\$25,525
56-65.....	37%	79%	1%	\$15,820
SEX OF RESPONDENT.				
Male.....	62%	85%	3%	\$26,197
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCATION				
High school diploma.....	60%	76%	7%	\$17,426
Post-sec. degree.....	81%	78%	4%	\$38,226
DOCUMENT LITERACY LEVEL				
LEVEL 1/2.....	37%	89%	6%	\$12,687
Level 4/5.....	56%	100%	5%	\$29,604
Yes.....	60%	76%	3%	\$21,881
No.....	42%	90%	9%	\$18,462
HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN THIS HOUSEHOLD				
2 members.....	42%	83%	1%	\$17,413
3+members.....	72%	75%	6%	\$26,049
ALL.....	56%	78%	4%	\$21,128

Table 12: Percentage Distribution by Family Income Level  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
FAMILY INCOME				
Under \$20,000.....	18%	16%	24%	19%
\$20,000-\$39,999.....	14%	35%	13%	23%
\$40,000 plus.....	68%	49%	62%	58%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 13: Percentage Reporting Various Sources of Income  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
PERSONAL...INCOME FROM WAGES..	79%	63%	57%	67%
PERSONAL...WORKERS COMP./VOC. REHAB.....	13%	20%	19%	17%
PERSONAL...FAMILY ALLOWANCE, U.I.C.....	27%	12%	14%	18%
PERSONAL...CPP/QPP OLD AGE PENSIONS.....	34%	27%	38%	32%
PERSONAL...INCOME FROM INTEREST.....	52%	18%	36%	35%
PERSONAL...INCOME ANY OTHER SOURCES.....	10%	6%	1%	6%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 14: Are you able to hear what is being said over a telephone?  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
ARE YOU ABLE TO HEAR OVER A TELEPHONE?				
Yes, with an aid.....	17%	18%	26%	20%
Yes, without an aid.....	83%	78%	63%	76%
No, not able.....	0%	4%	12%	4%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 15: Which of the following aids or services do you now use?  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
DO YOU NOW USE...A HEARING AID?.....	20%	25%	49%	29%
DO YOU NOW USE...A T.D.D./T.T.Y.....	0%	0%	13%	4%
DO YOU NOW USE...A CLOSE CAPTION DECODER?.....	1%	4%	14%	5%
DO YOU NOW USE...AN AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM.....	0%	5%	6%	3%
DO YOU NOW USE...ORAL INTERPRETER/SIGN.....	0%	0%	13%	4%
DO YOU NOW USE...FLASHING/VISUAL ALARM	1%	1%	12%	4%
DO YOU NOW USE...A VOLUME CONTROL PHONE.....	22%	29%	26%	25%
DO YOU NOW USE...COMPUTER TO COMMUNICATE.....	0%	1%	1%	0%
DO YOU NOW USE...A MESSAGE RELAY SERVICE.....	0%	0%	12%	3%
DO YOU NOW USE...OTHER (SPECIFY)?.....	0%	3%	5%	3%



Table 16: Modes of Communication Used by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
USE SIGN LANGUAGE SUCH AS ASL				
Yes.....	11%	7%	15%	11%
No.....	89%	93%	85%	89%
RATE YOUR ABILITY TO SIGN				
Not applicable.....	89%	93%	85%	89%
Excellent.....	0%	0%	8%	2%
Good.....	0%	1%	4%	1%
Moderate.....	0%	2%	0%	1%
Poor.....	11%	4%	3%	6%
No opinion.....	0%	0%	0%	0%
CAN YOU LIP READ OR SPEECH READ				
Yes.....	36%	21%	30%	29%
No.....	64%	79%	70%	71%
RATE YOUR ABILITY TO LIP READ/SPEECH				
Not applicable.....	64%	79%	70%	71%
Excellent.....	1%	2%	3%	2%
Good.....	5%	8%	5%	6%
Moderate.....	20%	7%	18%	15%
Poor.....	10%	3%	4%	6%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 17: Estimate of Membership in an Organization for the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing People  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
MEMBER OF ANY DEAF ORGANIZATIONS				
No.....	47,845	52,326	30,061	130,231
Yes.....	460	237	4,303	5,000
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF				
No.....	48,275	52,563	34,004	134,842
Yes.....	30	0	359	389
CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF				
No.....	48,305	52,563	34,221	135,089
Yes.....	0	0	143	143
CANADIAN DEAF SPORTS ASSOCIATION				
No.....	48,305	52,563	34,060	134,928
Yes.....	0	0	303	303
CANADIAN DEAFENED PERSONS ASSOCIATION				
No.....	48,305	52,563	34,363	135,231
CANADIAN HEARING SOCIETY				
No.....	47,845	52,545	30,702	131,092
Yes.....	460	18	3,661	4,139
CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION				
No.....	48,275	52,454	33,871	134,600
Yes.....	30	109	493	631
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF ASSOCIATION				
No.....	48,305	52,563	34,363	135,231
NATIONAL FRATERNAL SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF				
No.....	48,305	52,563	34,363	135,231
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF				
No.....	48,305	52,563	33,567	134,435
Yes.....	0	0	796	796
OTHER ORGANISATIONS				
No.....	48,305	52,563	34,363	135,231
ALL.....	48,305	52,563	34,363	135,231

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Table 18a: Population Estimate by Literacy Level  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	DOCUMENT LITERACY LEVEL				ALL
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS					
Partial difficulty hearing a group...	7,199	8,117	26,927	4,586	46,829
Partial difficulty hearing a person...	11,752	16,452	19,759	1,407	49,370
Unable to hear pers. or a group.....	12,418	9,598	8,200	655	30,871
AGE					
16-45.....	5,353	10,217	22,688	4,671	42,929
46-55.....	6,288	10,093	10,844	0	27,225
56-65.....	19,728	13,858	21,354	1,977	56,916
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCAT.					
Less than high schl.	24,860	19,974	11,373	1,417	57,625
High school diploma.	5,637	11,728	26,670	2,443	46,478
Post-sec. degree....	0	2,424	16,798	2,787	22,009
ALL.....	31,369	34,168	54,887	6,647	127,071

Table 18b: Percentage Distribution by Literacy Level  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	DOCUMENT LITERACY LEVEL				ALL
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS					
Partial difficulty hearing a group...	15%	17%	58%	10%	100%
Partial difficulty hearing a person...	24%	33%	40%	3%	100%
Unable to hear pers. or a group.....	40%	31%	27%	2%	100%
AGE					
16-45.....	12%	24%	53%	11%	100%
46-55.....	23%	37%	40%	0%	100%
56-65.....	35%	24%	38%	3%	100%
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCAT.					
Less than high schl.	43%	35%	20%	2%	100%
High school diploma.	12%	25%	57%	5%	100%
Post-sec. degree....	0%	11%	76%	13%	100%
ALL.....	25%	27%	43%	5%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Table 19a: Literacy and Years of Schooling by Selected Characteristics  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	SCORE	DOCUMENT LITERACY BELOW LEVEL 3	YEARS OF EDUCATION
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			
Partial difficulty hearing a group.....	276	33%	12.1
Partial difficulty hearing a person.....	258	57%	10.6
Unable to hear a person or a group.....	242	71%	10.7
AGE			
16-45.....	279	36%	13.2
46-55.....	253	60%	11.1
56-65.....	251	59%	9.7
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
Less than high school.....	236	78%	8.5
High school diploma.....	275	37%	12.8
Post-sec. degree.....	298	11%	15.2
ALL.....	261	52%	11.2

Table 19b: Literacy and Years of Schooling  
Results for Prelingual Deaf and Individuals up to Age 70  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-70)

	SCORE	DOCUMENT LITERACY BELOW LEVEL 3	YEARS OF EDUCATION
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			
Partial difficulty hearing a group.....	271	38%	11.9
Partial difficulty hearing a person.....	245	64%	10.2
Unable to hear a person or a group.....	242	71%	10.1
Prelingual deaf (deaf by age 3).....	208	89%	13.4
AGE			
16-45.....	279	36%	13.2
46-55.....	253	60%	11.1
56-65.....	251	59%	9.7
66-70.....	205	85%	9.2
ALL.....	252	57%	10.9

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

By Literacy Level and Selected Characteristics  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	PCT OF POPULATION	EMPLOYED WORKING
-----+-----+-----		
LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS		
group.....	63%	71%
Partial difficulty hearing a		
Unable to hear a person or a		
group.....	44%	81%
DOCUMENT LITERACY LEVEL		
Level 1.....	24%	92%
Level 3.....	75%	68%
Level 4/5.....	56%	100%
BROAD LEVEL OF EDUCATION		
Less than high school.....	41%	78%
Post-sec. degree.....	80%	77%
16-45.....	71%	72%
46-55.....	69%	85%
ALL.....	54%	77%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 21: Document Literacy Tasks at Work  
 How often do you read or use information from each of the following  
 as part of your main job?  
 (Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Employed, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
READ MAIN JOB...LETTERS/MEMOS				
Every day.....	35%	68%	60%	53%
A few times a week.....	2%	8%	23%	9%
Once a week.....	5%	14%	6%	8%
Less than once a week.....	23%	6%	7%	13%
Rarely or never.....	36%	5%	5%	17%
READ MAIN JOB...REPORTS, ARTICLES				
Every day.....	31%	42%	32%	36%
A few times a week.....	5%	21%	13%	13%
Once a week.....	6%	17%	8%	10%
Less than once a week.....	6%	8%	9%	7%
Rarely or never.....	53%	11%	38%	34%
READ MAIN JOB...MANUALS/REFER. BOOKS				
Every day.....	27%	46%	21%	33%
A few times a week.....	9%	19%	10%	13%
Once a week.....	8%	3%	7%	6%
Less than once a week.....	27%	11%	5%	16%
Rarely or never.....	29%	20%	56%	32%
READ MAIN JOB...DIAGRAMS OR SCHEMATICS				
Every day.....	18%	25%	14%	20%
A few times a week.....	2%	12%	8%	7%
Once a week.....	0%	11%	7%	6%
Less than once a week.....	28%	9%	4%	15%
Rarely or never.....	52%	43%	67%	52%
READ MAIN JOB...BILLS, SPREAD-SHEETS				
Every day.....	37%	36%	24%	34%
A few times a week.....	1%	6%	5%	4%
Once a week.....	9%	15%	18%	13%
Less than once a week.....	30%	8%	0%	15%
Rarely or never.....	23%	36%	53%	35%
READ MAIN JOB...DIR./INSTR. MEDICINES				
Every day.....	8%	29%	33%	22%
A few times a week.....	8%	5%	1%	6%
Once a week.....	7%	9%	23%	11%
Less than once a week.....	16%	8%	3%	10%
Rarely or never.....	61%	48%	39%	51%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%



Table 22: Prose Literacy Tasks at Work  
 How often do you write or fill out each of the following  
 as a part of your main job?  
 (Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Employed, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
WRITE MAIN JOB...LETTERS OR MEMOS				
Every day.....	24%	44%	33%	34%
A few times a week.....	2%	5%	29%	9%
Once a week.....	6%	14%	18%	12%
Less than once a week.....	13%	7%	1%	8%
Rarely or never.....	55%	30%	20%	38%
WRITE MAIN JOB...FORMS, INVOICES				
Every day.....	20%	43%	24%	30%
A few times a week.....	12%	18%	6%	13%
Once a week.....	5%	1%	18%	6%
Less than once a week.....	26%	6%	6%	14%
Rarely or never.....	37%	32%	47%	37%
WRITE MAIN JOB...REPORTS, ARTICLES				
Every day.....	29%	32%	33%	31%
A few times a week.....	2%	18%	3%	8%
Once a week.....	7%	6%	24%	11%
Less than once a week.....	18%	20%	1%	15%
Rarely or never.....	44%	25%	40%	36%
WRITE MAIN JOB...TECH. SPECIFICATIONS				
Every day.....	16%	16%	17%	16%
A few times a week.....	15%	5%	1%	8%
Once a week.....	0%	3%	1%	1%
Less than once a week.....	6%	8%	1%	5%
Rarely or never.....	64%	68%	81%	69%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 23: Quantitative Literacy Tasks at Work  
 In your main job how often do you use arithmetic or mathematics?  
 (Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Employed, Age 16-65):AGE ADJUSTED

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
MAIN JOB USE MATH MEASURE OBJECTS				
Every day.....	53%	66%	60%	59%
A few times a week.....	3%	10%	1%	5%
Once a week.....	11%	1%	0%	5%
Less than once a week.....	18%	4%	27%	15%
Never.....	14%	19%	12%	16%
MAIN JOB USE MATH CALCULATE PRICES				
Every day.....	20%	33%	14%	24%
A few times a week.....	4%	9%	11%	7%
Once a week.....	2%	2%	0%	2%
Less than once a week.....	26%	13%	10%	18%
Never.....	48%	43%	65%	50%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Table 24: Self-Assessment of Literacy Skills at Work  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Employed, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
MAIN JOB RATE READING SKILL IN ENGLISH				
Excellent.....	38%	58%	36%	45%
Good.....	49%	24%	32%	36%
Moderate.....	12%	11%	10%	11%
Poor.....	0%	7%	23%	8%
READING SKILL IN ENGLISH LIMIT JOB OPPS				
Greatly limiting.....	0%	5%	7%	3%
Somewhat limiting.....	4%	16%	22%	12%
Not at all limiting.....	96%	80%	72%	84%
MAIN JOB RATE WRITING SKILL IN ENGLISH				
Excellent.....	28%	44%	22%	33%
Good.....	39%	37%	46%	40%
Moderate.....	22%	6%	13%	14%
Poor.....	11%	13%	19%	13%
WRITING SKILL IN ENGLISH LIMIT JOB OPPS				
Greatly limiting.....	0%	6%	1%	3%
Somewhat limiting.....	10%	9%	17%	11%
Not at all limiting.....	90%	85%	82%	86%
MAIN JOB RATE MATH SKILL IN ENGLISH				
Excellent.....	38%	51%	34%	42%
Good.....	58%	33%	32%	44%
Moderate.....	4%	10%	12%	8%
Poor.....	0%	5%	22%	6%
MATH SKILL IN ENGLISH LIMIT JOB OPPS				
Greatly limiting.....	0%	1%	1%	1%
Somewhat limiting.....	3%	8%	18%	8%
Not at all limiting.....	97%	91%	81%	91%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 25: Reading and Writing in General  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
HOW OFTEN USE A PUBLIC LIBRARY				
Daily.....	1%	1%	1%	1%
Weekly.....	4%	6%	2%	5%
Every month.....	6%	18%	26%	16%
Several times a year.....	44%	19%	17%	27%
Never.....	44%	56%	54%	51%
HOW OFTEN ATTEND A MOVIE, PLAY				
Weekly.....	6%	3%	0%	3%
Every month.....	22%	11%	2%	13%
Several times a year.....	39%	43%	36%	40%
Never.....	33%	42%	62%	44%
HOW OFTEN ATTEND/ TAKE PART IN SPORT				
Daily.....	3%	3%	10%	5%
Weekly.....	20%	27%	12%	21%
Every month.....	6%	1%	6%	4%
Several times a year.....	28%	19%	20%	22%
Never.....	42%	51%	52%	48%
HOW OFTEN ... WRITE LETTERS ETC.				
Daily.....	6%	11%	3%	7%
Weekly.....	6%	9%	16%	9%
Every month.....	19%	15%	26%	19%
Several times a year.....	13%	29%	12%	19%
Never.....	56%	37%	44%	45%
HOW OFTEN ... VOLUNTEER FOR ORGANISATION				
Daily.....	3%	9%	5%	6%
Weekly.....	7%	17%	7%	11%
Every month.....	9%	7%	29%	13%
Several times a year.....	15%	14%	3%	12%
Never.....	66%	53%	57%	59%
HOW OFTEN DO YOU...READ NEWSPAPER/MAG.				
Daily.....	69%	61%	64%	65%
Weekly.....	19%	27%	23%	23%
Every month.....	8%	7%	3%	6%
Several times a year.....	2%	4%	1%	3%
Never.....	2%	2%	9%	4%
HOW OFTEN DO YOU...READ BOOKS				
Daily.....	39%	41%	26%	36%
Weekly.....	8%	13%	20%	13%
Every month.....	13%	10%	22%	14%
Several times a year.....	16%	14%	16%	15%
Never.....	24%	22%	17%	21%

ALL.....	100%		100%		100%		100%	
+-----+-----+-----+-----+								
1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing								

Table 26: Sources of Information  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
WATCH TELEVISION WITH CAPTIONS				
All or most of the time.....	1%	1%	14%	5%
About half of the time.....	0%	1%	0%	1%
Less than half of the time..	0%	1%	2%	1%
Hardly ever.....	98%	97%	84%	94%
YOUR HOME...DAILY NEWSPAPER				
Yes.....	66%	60%	69%	64%
No.....	34%	40%	31%	36%
YOUR HOME...WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS/ MAGAZINES				
Yes.....	85%	72%	74%	77%
No.....	15%	28%	26%	23%
YOUR HOME...MORE THAN 25 BOOKS				
Yes.....	86%	78%	76%	81%
No.....	14%	22%	24%	19%
YOUR HOME...A (MULTI-VOL.) ENCYCLOPEDIA				
Yes.....	63%	59%	57%	60%
No.....	37%	41%	43%	40%
YOUR HOME...A DICTIONARY				
Yes.....	97%	90%	86%	92%
No.....	3%	10%	14%	8%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 27: Need for Help with Literacy Tasks  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
HELP...READING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES				
Often.....	2%	3%	5%	3%
Sometimes.....	4%	7%	18%	9%
Never.....	94%	91%	76%	88%
HELP...READ INFO FROM GOV./BUS. INSTUT.				
Often.....	6%	5%	19%	9%
Sometimes.....	25%	18%	27%	23%
Never.....	69%	77%	54%	68%
HELP...FILLING OUT FORMS				
Often.....	2%	5%	22%	8%
Sometimes.....	11%	11%	10%	11%
Never.....	88%	84%	68%	81%
HELP...READ INSTRUCTIONS ON MED. BOTTLE				
Often.....	5%	10%	1%	6%
Sometimes.....	2%	4%	18%	7%
Never.....	93%	86%	80%	87%
HELP...READ INSTRUCTIONS ON PACKAGES				
Often.....	4%	5%	3%	4%
Sometimes.....	2%	5%	17%	7%
Never.....	94%	90%	80%	89%
HELP...DOING BASIC MATH				
Often.....	2%	3%	5%	3%
Sometimes.....	2%	8%	30%	12%
Never.....	96%	89%	65%	86%
HELP...WRITING NOTES & LETTERS				
Often.....	2%	8%	10%	7%
Sometimes.....	14%	6%	10%	10%
Never.....	84%	86%	80%	84%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Table 28: Self-Assessment of the Literacy Skills in Everyday Life  
(Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Age 16-65)

	LEVEL OF HEARING LOSS			ALL
	Partial difficulty hearing a group	Partial difficulty hearing a person	Unable to hear a person or a group	
RATE ENGLISH READING SKILLS				
DAILY LIFE				
Excellent.....	37%	47%	28%	39%
Good.....	48%	34%	31%	39%
Moderate.....	13%	11%	24%	15%
Poor.....	2%	7%	17%	8%
RATE ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS				
DAILY LIFE				
Excellent.....	31%	38%	19%	31%
Good.....	42%	29%	29%	34%
Moderate.....	18%	21%	31%	23%
Poor.....	10%	11%	21%	13%
RATE MATH SKILLS DAILY LIFE				
Excellent.....	44%	32%	25%	34%
Good.....	46%	45%	28%	41%
Moderate.....	8%	15%	28%	16%
Poor.....	2%	8%	19%	9%
SATISFIED READ/WRITE ENGLISH				
very satisfied?.....	60%	49%	45%	52%
somewhat satisfied?.....	27%	33%	21%	28%
somewhat dissatisfied?.....	11%	10%	23%	14%
very dissatisfied?.....	2%	7%	11%	6%
ALL.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

1996 Ontario Literacy Survey of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



## APPENDIX C - TABLES: INTERNATIONAL ADULT LITERACY SURVEY, ONTARIO SAMPLE

Table 2: Presence of Selected Types of Disability  
(Total Ontario, Age 16-65)

	DO YOU HAVE EYE/VISUAL TROUBLE	DID YOU EVER HAVE A SPEECH DISABILITY	DID YOU HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY	EYE, SPEECH, OR LEARNING DISABILITY
AGE				
16-45...	7%	5%	4%	15%
46-55...	3%	1%	4%	7%
56-65...	14%	1%	1%	15%
ALL.....	7%	4%	4%	13%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 4: Percentage Distribution by Demographic Characteristics  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

AGE	
16-45.....	72.6%
46-55.....	17.4%
56-65.....	9.9%
SEX	
MALE.....	49.3%
FEMALE.....	50.7%
EDUCATION	
Less than high school.....	25.6%
High school diploma.....	36.2%
Post-secondary degree.....	38.2%
WERE YOU BORN IN CANADA?	
YES.....	70.0%
NO.....	30.0%
ALL.....	100.0%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample



Table 5a: Percentage Distribution by Level of Education  
(Ontario Population, Age 26-65)

	EDUCATION			ALL
	Less than high school	High school diploma	Post-secondary degree	
AGE				
26-45...	17.8	37.5	44.8	100.0
46-55...	26.6	32.5	40.9	100.0
56-65...	53.6	20.3	26.1	100.0
ALL.....	24.1	34.3	41.6	100.0

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 5b: Average Years of Schooling  
(Ontario Population, Age 26-65)

	YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION
AGE	
26-45.....	14.0
46-55.....	12.9
56-65.....	10.8
SEX	
MALE.....	13.1
FEMALE.....	13.7
EDUCATION	
Less than high school.....	8.7
High school diploma.....	12.4
Post-secondary degree.....	16.9
WERE YOU BORN IN CANADA?	
YES.....	13.3
NO.....	13.6
ALL.....	13.4

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 7: Reasons Stopped Schooling Before Completing High School  
 Percentage Distribution Among those who did not Complete High School  
 (Ontario Population, Age 26-65)

MAIN REASON YOU STOPPED SCHOOLING	
WANTED TO WORK/LEARN A TRADE/ENOUGH EDUCATION.....	17%
HAD TO WORK/FINANCIAL REASONS.....	37%
FAMILY REASONS.....	13%
DID NOT LIKE/DO WELL IN SCHOOL/BOREDOM.....	19%
SCHOOL NOT AVAILABLE/ACCESSIBLE.....	1%
OTHER REASONS.....	13%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 8a: Percentage Distribution by Education & Training in Previous 12 mths  
 (Ontario Population, Age 26-65)

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY TRAINING OR ED	
YES.....	37%
NO.....	63%
COULDN'T TAKE TRAIN/ED YOU WANTED (REC)	
YES.....	27%
NO.....	73%
NOT STATED.....	0%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 8b: Percentage Distribution by Education & Training in Previous 12 mths  
 (Ontario Population, Age 26-65 Who Are Employed)

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY TRAINING OR ED	
YES.....	39%
NO.....	61%
COULDN'T TAKE TRAIN/ED YOU WANTED (REC)	
YES.....	32%
NO.....	68%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 9: Reasons Did Not Take More Training  
(Ontario Population, Age 26-65)

TOO BUSY IN GENERAL	
YES.....	71%
NO.....	29%
TOO BUSY AT WORK	
YES.....	24%
NO.....	76%
COURSE NOT OFFERED	
YES.....	7%
NO.....	93%
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES	
YES.....	12%
NO.....	88%
TOO EXPENSIVE-NOT MONEY	
YES.....	12%
NO.....	88%
LACK OF QUALIFICATIONS	
YES.....	0%
NO.....	100%
LACK OF EMPLOYER SUPPORT	
YES.....	0%
NO.....	100%
COURSE OFFERED AT INCONVENIENT TIME	
YES.....	1%
NO.....	99%
LANGUAGE REASONS	
YES.....	0%
NO.....	100%
HEALTH REASONS	
YES.....	3%
NO.....	97%
OTHER REASONS	
YES.....	4%
NO.....	96%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 10: Labour Force Profile  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

CURRENT WORK SITUATION		
EMPLOYED.....		65%
RETIRED.....		4%
UNEMPLOYED/LOOKING FOR WORK.....		5%
STUDENT (INCLUDING WORK PROGRAMS).....		10%
HOMEMAKER.....		11%
OTHER.....		4%
WORKED FULL OR PART TIME		
INFO MISSING/NOT APPLIC.....		35%
Full-Time.....		52%
Part-Time.....		14%
INCOME FROM WAGES		
No wage income.....		26%
Less than 30,000.....		37%
30,000 or more.....		36%
ALL.....		100%
ANNUAL EARNINGS.....		\$30,184

Table 11: Labour Force Profile by Key Characteristics  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

	PCT OF POPULATION EMPLOYED	EMPLOYED WORKING FULL-TIME	PCT OF LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYED	ANNUAL EARNINGS
AGE				
16-45.....	67%	74%	9%	\$27,450
46-55.....	68%	95%	5%	\$42,051
56-65.....	52%	92%	0%	\$30,051
SEX				
MALE.....	74%	95%	6%	\$35,314
FEMALE.....	57%	59%	10%	\$23,411
EDUCATION				
Less than high school.....	41%	78%	21%	\$18,925
High school diploma.....	74%	84%	6%	\$29,879
Post-secondary degree.....	75%	74%	2%	\$34,704
DOCUMENT LEVEL				
LEVEL 1/2.....	52%	86%	14%	\$28,116
LEVEL 3.....	73%	73%	4%	\$28,788
LEVEL 4/5.....	74%	79%	5%	\$33,586
WERE YOU BORN IN CANADA?				
YES.....	69%	81%	6%	\$30,037
NO.....	58%	74%	12%	\$30,577
ALL.....	65%	79%	8%	\$30,184

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 18b: Document Literacy Level  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

	DOCUMENT LEVEL				ALL
	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4/5	
AGE					
16-45.....	13%	18%	38%	32%	100%
46-55.....	19%	36%	14%	30%	100%
56-65.....	44%	22%	20%	14%	100%
EDUCATION					
Less than high schl.	41%	31%	18%	10%	100%
High school diploma.	14%	25%	37%	25%	100%
Post-secondary degr.	5%	10%	38%	47%	100%
ALL.....	17%	21%	32%	30%	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 19a: Document Literacy Score, Low Document Literacy, & Years of Schooling  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

	DOCUMENT LITERACY SCORE	LITERACY BELOW LEVEL 3	YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION
AGE			
16-45.....	299	31%	13.9
46-55.....	272	55%	12.9
56-65.....	218	66%	13.5
EDUCATION			
Less than high school.	228	72%	9.2
High school diploma...	291	38%	12.7
Post-secondary degree.	321	15%	16.7
ALL.....	286	38%	13.7

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 20: Percentage Employed and Employed Full-Time  
 By Literacy Level and Selected Characteristics  
 (Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

	PCT OF POPULATION EMPLOYED	EMPLOYED WORKING FULL-TIME
DOCUMENT LEVEL		
LEVEL 1.....	51%	90%
LEVEL 2.....	53%	83%
LEVEL 3.....	73%	73%
LEVEL 4/5.....	74%	79%
EDUCATION		
Less than high school.....	41%	78%
High school diploma.....	74%	84%
Post-secondary degree.....	75%	74%
AGE		
16-45.....	67%	74%
46-55.....	68%	95%
56-65.....	52%	92%
ALL.....	65%	79%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 21: Document Literacy Tasks at Work  
 How often do you read or use information from each of the following  
 as part of your main job?  
 (Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

DID YOU USE LETTERS OR MEMOS AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	53%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	16%
ONCE A WEEK.....	8%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	5%
RARELY/NEVER.....	19%
USE OF REPORTS/PERIODICALS/ETC AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	46%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	11%
ONCE A WEEK.....	7%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	10%
RARELY/NEVER.....	26%
USE OF MANUALS/REFERENCE BOOKS AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	34%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	11%
ONCE A WEEK.....	11%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	16%
RARELY/NEVER.....	27%
USE OF DIAGRAMS OR SCHEMATICS AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	20%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	8%
ONCE A WEEK.....	5%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	17%
RARELY/NEVER.....	49%
USE OF BILLS/INVOICES/ETC. AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	40%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	9%
ONCE A WEEK.....	8%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	9%
RARELY/NEVER.....	34%
USE OF MATERIAL NOT IN E AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	9%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	1%
ONCE A WEEK.....	1%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	3%
RARELY/NEVER.....	85%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 22: Prose Literacy Tasks at Work  
 How often do you write or fill out each of the following  
 as a part of your main job?  
 (Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

DO YOU WRITE LETTERS OR MEMOS AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	34%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	12%
ONCE A WEEK.....	10%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	18%
RARELY/NEVER.....	27%
DO YOU WRITE FORMS/BILLS/ETC. AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	31%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	7%
ONCE A WEEK.....	10%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	11%
RARELY/NEVER.....	41%
DO YOU WRITE REPORTS OR ARTICLES AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	23%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	8%
ONCE A WEEK.....	7%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	15%
RARELY/NEVER.....	47%
DO YOU WRITE ESTIMATES/ETC. AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	12%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	9%
ONCE A WEEK.....	5%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	6%
RARELY/NEVER.....	67%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample



Table 23: Quantitative Literacy Tasks at Work  
 In your main job how often do you use arithmetic or mathematics?  
 (Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

USE OF ARITH./MATH (SIZE/WEIGHT) AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	41%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	10%
ONCE A WEEK.....	3%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	13%
NEVER.....	33%
USE OF ARITH./MATH (COST/ETC) AT WORK	
EVERY DAY.....	34%
A FEW TIMES A WEEK.....	8%
ONCE A WEEK.....	7%
LESS THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	17%
NEVER.....	34%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 24: Self-Assessment of Literacy Skills at Work  
 (Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

READING SKILLS IN (E/F) FOR WORK	
EXCELLENT.....	66%
GOOD.....	28%
MODERATE.....	4%
POOR.....	2%
READING SKILLS (E/F) LIMIT JOB OPTIONS	
GREATLY LIMITING.....	1%
SOMEWHAT LIMITING.....	7%
NOT AT ALL LIMITING.....	92%
WRITING SKILLS IN (E/F) FOR JOB	
EXCELLENT.....	55%
GOOD.....	35%
MODERATE.....	5%
POOR.....	5%
WRITING IN (E/F) LIMITING JOB OPPORTUN.	
GREATLY LIMITING.....	1%
SOMEWHAT LIMITING.....	5%
NOT AT ALL LIMITING.....	94%
RATE MATH SKILLS FOR MAIN JOB	
EXCELLENT.....	49%
GOOD.....	40%
MODERATE.....	10%
POOR.....	1%
MATH SKILLS LIMITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES	
GREATLY LIMITING.....	1%
SOMEWHAT LIMITING.....	5%
NOT AT ALL LIMITING.....	94%
ALL.....	100%

+-----+-----+

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 25: Reading and Writing in General  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE A PUBLIC LIBRARY	
DAILY.....	2%
WEEKLY.....	12%
MONTHLY.....	16%
YEARLY.....	26%
NEVER.....	43%
DO YOU GO TO A MOVIE/PLAY/CONCERT...	
DAILY.....	0%
WEEKLY.....	9%
MONTHLY.....	34%
YEARLY.....	39%
NEVER.....	19%
DO YOU ATTEND/TAKE PART IN SPORTS	
DAILY.....	7%
WEEKLY.....	22%
MONTHLY.....	12%
YEARLY.....	26%
NEVER.....	32%
DO YOU WRITE LETTERS	
DAILY.....	7%
WEEKLY.....	15%
MONTHLY.....	19%
YEARLY.....	25%
NEVER.....	34%
YOU PARTICIPATE IN VOLUNT./COMM. ORG.	
DAILY.....	3%
WEEKLY.....	10%
MONTHLY.....	12%
YEARLY.....	20%
NEVER.....	56%
DO YOU READ NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES...	
DAILY.....	62%
WEEKLY.....	27%
MONTHLY.....	5%
YEARLY.....	4%
NEVER.....	2%
HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ BOOKS?	
DAILY.....	42%
WEEKLY.....	14%
MONTHLY.....	13%
YEARLY.....	15%
NEVER.....	16%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 26: Sources of Information  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

TIME SPENT EACH DAY WATCHING TV/VIDEOS	
NOT ON A DAILY BASIS.....	12%
1 HOUR OR LESS PER DAY.....	22%
1 TO 2 HOURS PER DAY.....	28%
MORE THAN 2 HOURS BUT LESS THAN FIVE.....	34%
5 OR MORE HOURS PER DAY.....	3%
DO NOT HAVE A TELEVISION OR VIDEOS.....	0%
DO YOU HAVE A DAILY NEWSP. IN YOUR HOME	
YES.....	67%
NO.....	33%
DO YOU HAVE: WEEKLY NEWSP./MAG AT HOME	
YES.....	76%
NO.....	24%
DO YOU HAVE MORE THAN 25 BOOKS AT HOME	
YES.....	86%
NO.....	14%
DO YOU HAVE: MULTI-VOL. ENCYC. AT HOME	
YES.....	55%
NO.....	45%
DO YOU HAVE A DICTIONNARY AT HOME	
YES.....	93%
NO.....	7%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 27: Need for Help with Literacy Tasks  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

NEED HELP TO READ NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.	
OFTEN.....	4%
SOMETIMES.....	4%
NEVER.....	91%
NOT STATED.....	1%
NEED HELP READING GOVERNMENT INFO/ETC.	
OFTEN.....	5%
SOMETIMES.....	11%
NEVER.....	84%
NOT STATED.....	1%
HELP NEEDED TO FILLING OUT FORMS	
OFTEN.....	4%
SOMETIMES.....	8%
NEVER.....	87%
NOT STATED.....	1%
HELP NEEDED TO READ INSTRUCTIONS (MEDS)	
OFTEN.....	4%
SOMETIMES.....	5%
NEVER.....	90%
NOT STATED.....	1%
HELP NEEDED TO READ INSTRUC. (PACK.GDS)	
OFTEN.....	2%
SOMETIMES.....	6%
NEVER.....	91%
NOT STATED.....	1%
HELP NEEDED TO DO BASIC MATH/ARITHM.	
OFTEN.....	2%
SOMETIMES.....	3%
NEVER.....	94%
NOT STATED.....	1%
HELP NEEDED WRITING NOTES/LETTERS	
OFTEN.....	2%
SOMETIMES.....	7%
NEVER.....	90%
NOT STATED.....	1%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample

Table 28: Self-Assessment of the Literacy Skills in Everyday Life  
(Ontario Population, Age 16-65)

RATE YOUR READING SKILLS: DAILY LIFE	
EXCELLENT.....	61%
GOOD.....	27%
MODERATE.....	5%
POOR.....	7%
NO OPINION.....	0%
RATE YOUR WRITING SKILLS: DAILY LIFE	
EXCELLENT.....	52%
GOOD.....	32%
MODERATE.....	7%
POOR.....	9%
NO OPINION.....	1%
RATE YOUR MATH SKILLS: DAILY LIFE	
EXCELLENT.....	48%
GOOD.....	35%
MODERATE.....	13%
POOR.....	4%
NO OPINION.....	1%
SATISFACTION WITH READ./WRIT. SKILLS	
VERY SATISFIED.....	64%
SOMEWHAT SATISFIED.....	25%
SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED.....	5%
VERY DISSATISFIED.....	5%
NO OPINION.....	0%
ALL.....	100%

1994 IALS -- Ontario Sample