# Bringing Awareness to the Needs of Older Adults who are DeafBlind: Accessible Word Document

## Needs of DeafBlind Older Adults Survey Demographic Snapshot

Visual description: The purpose of the study is presented along with some colorful graphs, charts, and infographics.

### Purpose of the study:

* To learn about the service needs of older adults (age 55+) with combined vision and hearing loss on a national scale.
* 334 responses were collected from 45 states and 3 U.S. Territories *(Puerto Rico, Guam, and America Samoa Island)*

### Age of Participants:

Pie chart that depicts the age of participants with 42% being between the ages of 55 to 64 then those between the ages of 65 and 75 representing 38%, with ages of 76 to 85 at 15% and then 5% being above the age of 85.

### Communication Mode:

* Speech Users: 61%
	+ Image: infographic for speech
* Visual and Tactile ASL 45%
	+ Image: infographic for sign language
* <100 because some reported both Speech and ASL

### Spectrum of Vision and Hearing:

Bar graph depicting various levels of vision and hearing loss with 22% reported as totally blind, 25% as low vision, 52% as legally blind and for profoundly deaf 25%, then mild to moderate hearing loss at 30% and hard of hearing at 36% with mixed or other at 9%.

### Significant Statistics of DeafBlind Older Adults:

Three circle graphs of various colors are used to describe significant statistics of DeafBlind older adults the first graph shows that 67% reported difficulty with shopping the next circle is reported need for assistance to travel at 65% and the final circle is reported feelings of isolation sometimes at 47%.

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## Needs of DeafBlind Older Adults Survey Key Findings

Visual Description: 4 Text boxes with different colors present a narrative describing the Key Findings, Significant Quotes, Recommendation, and How can we work together.

### Key Findings – Key Areas of Need

1. Support with Everyday Tasks
2. Reliable Transportation
3. Support with Isolation and Well-Being
4. Improved Communication Access
5. Training for Professionals

### Significant Quotes

* “I am totally isolated from participating with the deaf or the deaf/blind because of the distance and my inability to use public transport.”
* “With no family to help, I wish there was support for those of us DB who are alone. Can be hard to find trusted help. Also wish there was timely support when the unexpected happens. Can be scary.”

### Recommendations

* Promote Support Service Provider (SSP) / Co-Navigator (C/N) Programs.
* Advocate for better public transportation systems.
* Provide accessible opportunities for socialization.
* Improve communication access across settings.
* Train support staff and medical professionals on how to work with people who are DeafBlind.

### How can we work together?

* The Helen Keller National Center can partner with local, state, and national organizations who serve individuals with combined vision and hearing loss over the age of 55.
* This can include nursing homes, vocational rehabilitation agencies, senior centers, etc.
* HKNC can also provide staff trainings, online modules, and workshops on DeafBlindness, mobility, technology, communication, and more.

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Bottom left corner: QR code to the [IRPD website](https://www.helenkeller.org/current-research-rehabilitation-services/) linked to current research on rehabilitation services.

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Bottom right: HKNC Older Adult Specialist: [jalleman@helenkeller.org](jalleman%40helenkeller.org)