

The State of Aphasia in North America: A CALL TO ACTION

An Aphasia Access Report

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The State of Aphasia

A CALL TO ACTION

Introduction & Executive Summary

Frequency of aphasia

Demographics of aphasia

Impact of aphasia

Communication access

Services & service gaps

A White Paper Report

To stress the pressing need for attention to aphasia
Will be published as a massive data source

Examples of potential uses:

- ✓ An advocacy resource
 - ✓ Setting research/service priorities
 - ✓ Significant resource for grant writing
- ✓ Basis for convincing policy makers of needs
 - ✓ Source of data to persuade administrators
- ✓ Comprehensive data source for educating others

Tidbits: The Frequency Section

**Low estimate:
~2,500,000 people**

**High estimate of
~4,000,000 people**

Preliminary statistics on
Aphasia frequency in the US

- Preliminary statistics on Aphasia frequency in Canada

**Low estimate:
~170,000 people**

**High estimate of
~350,000 people**

Tidbits: Impact Section

Statistics regarding participation

58% of people with aphasia would like to be doing more activities

- Statistics regarding mood

93% of stroke survivors with aphasia versus 50% of stroke survivors without aphasia experienced high psychological distress

- Statistics regarding social situation

20% of people with aphasia reported having NO friends at 6 MPO

Reduced social contact is equivalent to smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day

Tidbits: Communication Access Section

Poor healthcare literacy costs about \$50 billion to \$70 billion dollars per year

62% of rehab. units reported no mandatory staff training re communicating with people with communication disorders

Staff and visitors talk to stroke survivors with aphasia significantly less than stroke survivors without aphasia

Tidbits: Service Gaps Section

- Acute Hospital

77% of acute care assessments by SLPs are for swallowing

Inpatient Rehabilitation

13% of inpatient rehab. treatment time is participation-oriented

- Rehabilitation

One study showed the average direct SLP treatment time per patient per day was 13 minutes

What to Expect

Reams of Statistics

Over 500 References

Over 100 manuscript pages

Quotables to make data 'come alive

"I was desperate because I thought ..."

"My God ... what about my job?"