

Spring 2025

Occupational Noise & Hearing Health

Workplace noise doesn't just harm hearing—it affects overall health, productivity, and safety. Yet, this issue has long been overlooked. It's time for action before irreversible damage occurs.

Globally, 16% of hearing loss is linked to workplace noise. In the U.S., 22 million workers face hazardous noise annually, with 12% experiencing hearing difficulties. Beyond hearing loss, excessive noise contributes to cardiovascular issues, stress, and decreased productivity.

The best way to prevent hearing loss and manage tinnitus is early intervention. Employers must implement hearing conservation programs when noise exceeds 85 decibels over an 8-hour shift.

Effective measures include:

- ✓ Regular noise monitoring
- ✓ Protective equipment (earplugs, earmuffs)
- ✓ Engineering solutions to reduce noise
- ✓ Worker training & hearing assessments

If you work in a loud environment, make sure you wear employer-provided ear protection, limit noise exposure, and report any concerns to your management team.

If you are worried about your hearing or would just like to know more about noise-induced hearing loss, please give us a call today at (616) 772-1986.

Darrow, K., PhD, CCC-A. (2025, January 9). The Dangers of Workplace Noise: How Occupational Noise Impacts Hearing Health. LinkedIn. Retrieved February 20, 2025, from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/dangers-workplace-noise-how-occupational-impacts-darrow-phd-ccc-a-d0z4e/?trackingId=RoChAVR3TSjtn2fFCRgw%3D%3D>

**Make sure you're hearing your very best.
Call (616) 772-1986 to schedule your appointment today.**



Carli Van Harken, HHS, Owner

Cari Marzolf, Audiologist

The C.E.H. Team

Comprehensive
EAR & HEARING
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300 S State St, Ste 1
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(616) 772-1986



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Dear <First Name>,

As a valued patient, you know how important it is to have your hearing checked each year. To support you in staying on top of your health, Comprehensive Ear & Hearing of Zeeland is hosting a complimentary Spring Hearing Health Event from May 19 - 23 at our Zeeland office.

We invite you to join us for a **FREE** updated hearing screening and special offers—at absolutely no cost to you. Plus, as part of our commitment to your well-being, we're pleased to share this copy of our Spring Newsletter, filled with helpful information about hearing health.

We'd love to see you there! Call (616) 772-1986 to make an appointment.

Sincerely,

Your friends at Comprehensive Ear & Hearing of Zeeland

Comprehensive
EAR & HEARING
of Zeeland

In This Issue:

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- ✓ Special Offers
- ✓ Occupational Noise & Hearing Health

**Special Event!
Limited Time Only!**

**WE'RE OFFERING A
RISK
FREE 1-WEEK TRIAL
AND UP TO \$1000
OFF!**

Hearing Aids & Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence has made its way to the forefront of many industries, including hearing health. But you may be wondering, *“why would I want my hearing aids to feature AI?”* A hearing aid with AI can make hearing even easier by automatically adapting to different listening environments in real-time—meaning it can significantly improve speech clarity by filtering out background noise, prioritizing important sounds like voices, and adjusting settings based on your surroundings. All this can be done without you needing to manually adjust anything, leading to a more natural and personalized hearing experience.^[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Key benefits of AI in hearing aids:

- ✓ **Adaptive noise reduction:** – AI algorithms can distinguish between speech and background noise, effectively reducing unwanted sounds while enhancing the clarity of voices.^[1, 2, 5]
- ✓ **Personalized sound processing:** AI learns your listening preferences over time and adjusts settings accordingly, optimizing sound quality for different situations.^[1, 4, 5]
- ✓ **Automatic environment adaptation:** The hearing aid can instantly adjust to changing environments like noisy restaurants or quiet conversations.^[2, 4, 5]
- ✓ **Improved speech recognition:** By focusing on important sounds like voices, AI can help you hear conversations more clearly, even in challenging environments.^[1, 5, 6]
- ✓ **Reduced cognitive load:** By automatically managing sound processing, AI can lessen the effort your brain needs to put into hearing, which can be especially beneficial for people with hearing loss.^[1, 5, 7]

Comprehensive Ear & Hearing of Zeeland carries the newest hearing technology featuring AI. Call us at (616) 772-1986 today to schedule an appointment and experience them for yourself!

[1] <https://www.americanear.com/blog/ai-hearing-aids-benefits/> [2] <https://www.hearingaid.org.uk/hearing-aid-technology/how-artificial-intelligence-can-help-your-hearing>
[3] <https://www.audiologycharlotte.com/blog/artificial-intelligence-in-hearing-aids> [4] <https://www.americanear.com/blog/ai-hearing-aid-speech-clarity-technology/>
[5] <https://www.wentconsultants.net/understanding-ai-in-hearing-aid-technology/> [6] <https://www.americanear.com/blog/ai-hearing-aid-technology/>
[7] <https://heltonhearing.com/artificial-intelligence-and-hearing-aids/>

Did You Know...?

Research indicates that tinnitus is more prevalent in urban settings due to the increased exposure to environmental noise, particularly traffic noise, which is a significant risk factor for developing tinnitus.^[1, 2, 3] Additionally, urban living can contribute to higher stress levels, which can also exacerbate tinnitus symptoms.^[1, 3, 4]

If you live in a city or more populated area, make sure you take extra care to protect your hearing. **If you're experiencing any symptoms of tinnitus or have questions about prevention, don't hesitate to call us at (616) 772-1986! We're here for you!**

[1] <https://www.lents.com/blog/living-near-a-busy-street-could-increase-tinnitus-risk/> [2] <https://www.dentmd.com/hearing-loss-articles/ent-issues/is-your-tinnitus-being-caused-by-your-environment/> [3] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281401843_Predicting_and_Visualising_City_Noise_Levels_to_Support_Tinnitus_Sufferers
[4] <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4757018/>



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Technology Spotlight

Make Life Sound Extraordinary

Phonak Audéo™ Infinio Hearing Aids

Infuse every moment with exceptional sound quality and comfort from the first use with Audéo Infinio. Featuring technology that transcends the limits of hearing care like never before, Phonak Infinio helps you hear the world with ease and confidence. Embrace life's meaningful moments.



PHONAK
life is on

Comprehensive Ear & Hearing of Zeeland's Spring Hearing Health Event! May 19 - 23

Join us at this special event, and you will receive the following:

- **FREE HEARING SCREENING** Determines the degree of hearing loss present.
- **FREE** otoscopic examination of your ear canal and ear cleaning.
- **\$1000 off** premium technology hearing aids
- **RISK-FREE 1 WEEK TRIAL**

Call (616) 772-1986 today to schedule your appointment.

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of Zeeland

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Zeeland, MI 49464
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Call (616) 772-1986 to schedule your appointment today.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Receive up to \$1000 OFF your purchase of new premium hearing aids

Expires 5/23/2025

Select models only. Rebate is applied at purchase. 3rd party insurance not included.

FINANCING

0% interest for 12 Months

Expires 5/23/2025

With approved credit. 3rd party insurance not included.