



Have you heard?

MAY is Better Hearing and Speech Month!

Hearing loss increases as a function of age, especially for frequencies of 2000 Hertz (Hz) and above. While more than 30% of people over age 65 have some type of hearing loss, 14% of those between 45 and 64 have hearing loss. **Close to 8 million people between the ages of 18 and 44 have hearing loss.** Anytime you have a concern about your hearing, you should ask your doctor about getting a hearing screening.

Adults should be screened at least every decade through age 50 and at 3-year intervals thereafter.

Apart from age, a number of environmental conditions can also cause decreased hearing. Causes include:

- Inner ear damage (caused by aging as well as extended exposure to loud noise)
- Earwax buildup
- Ear infections, abnormal bone growths, tumors
- Ruptured eardrum

Visit www.provider.bcbs.com or call **888-222-9206** to find a provider near you