

Ally's Act Fact Sheet

Incidence

- It's estimated that there are 285,000 potential bone conduction candidates in the US.
- As of July 2022, roughly 118,100 cochlear implant devices have been implanted in adults and 65,000 in children.
- Fewer than 200,000 Americans would gain coverage under Ally's Act, making this a highly targeted policy for an ultra-rare population.

What are bone anchored hearing systems (BAHS) and cochlear implants (CI)?

- A BAHS uses bone conduction to send sound directly to the inner ear, bypassing the outer or middle ear. It consists of an external sound processor and either a small titanium implant (percutaneous) or an internal implant and magnet (active transcutaneous).
- A CI is a surgically implanted device for people with severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss who get little or no benefit from hearing aids. An electrode array is inserted into the inner ear (cochlea) and this stimulates the hearing nerve. The system includes an internal implant and an external sound processor.

Who can benefit?

Adults and children with a variety of congenital and/or acquired pathologies can benefit from bone anchored hearing systems (BAHS) or cochlear implants (CI) including, but not limited to:

Congenital/Perinatal	Acquired
Microtia/Atresia	Chronic Otitis Media (ear infections)
Genetic hearing loss (HL) (eg. Connexin 26 mutation)	Sudden Sensorineural HL
Syndromic HL (eg. Treacher Collins, Goldenhar's syndrome)	Head trauma
Congenital CMV	Meniere's disease
Prematurity/NICU stay	HL secondary to meningitis
Structural malformations of the cochlea or other auditory structures	HL secondary to chemotherapy

Impact of untreated HL

Children with untreated hearing loss are at risk for:

Delayed speech and language development^{1,2}

Poor academic performance^{1,2}

Social-emotional difficulties and isolation^{1,2}

Parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing are at risk for:

Greater stress, higher out-of-pocket expenses, and more lost workdays²

Adults with untreated hearing loss are at risk of:

Cognitive decline and dementia³

Increased risk of falls⁴

Depression, isolation, and unemployment⁵

Expanding access to hearing healthcare – including timely intervention – can dramatically reduce long-term costs to education, healthcare, and social services. In the United States alone, the estimates the cost of untreated disabling hearing loss equals \$133 billion a year.⁹

1. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Effects of hearing loss on development. Retrieved July 1, 2025, from <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Effects-of-Hearing-Loss-on-Development/>

2. World Health Organization. (2016). Childhood hearing loss: Strategies for prevention and care. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/imported2/childhood-hearing-loss--strategies-for-prevention-and-care.pdf>

3. Lin, F. R., et al. (2011). "Hearing loss and incident dementia." Archives of Neurology, 68(2), 214–220.

4. Deal, J. A., et al. (2017). "Association of hearing impairment and chronic diseases with physical functioning among older adults." J Aging Health, 29(8), 1305–1313.

5. World report on hearing. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/world-report-on-hearing>

6. Ruberg, K. (2019, March 18). Untreated disabling hearing loss costs billions – in the US and the rest of the world. Hearing Review. Retrieved July 1, 2025, from <https://hearingreview.com/practice-building/marketing/surveys-statistics/untreated-disabling-hearing-loss-costs-billions-us-rest-world>