



IFA GLOBAL CAFÉ

In Conversation with Dr Dalia Tsimpida:
Hearing Health in Later Life – The Role of Lifestyle Factors on Hearing Loss?
Postdoctoral Researcher at The University of Manchester, UK

2 July 2021 07:00 - 08:00AM EST



Young Scientist Award VCCA 2021
International Society of Audiology (ISA) Scholarship 2020
British Academy of Audiology (BAA) Award 2018

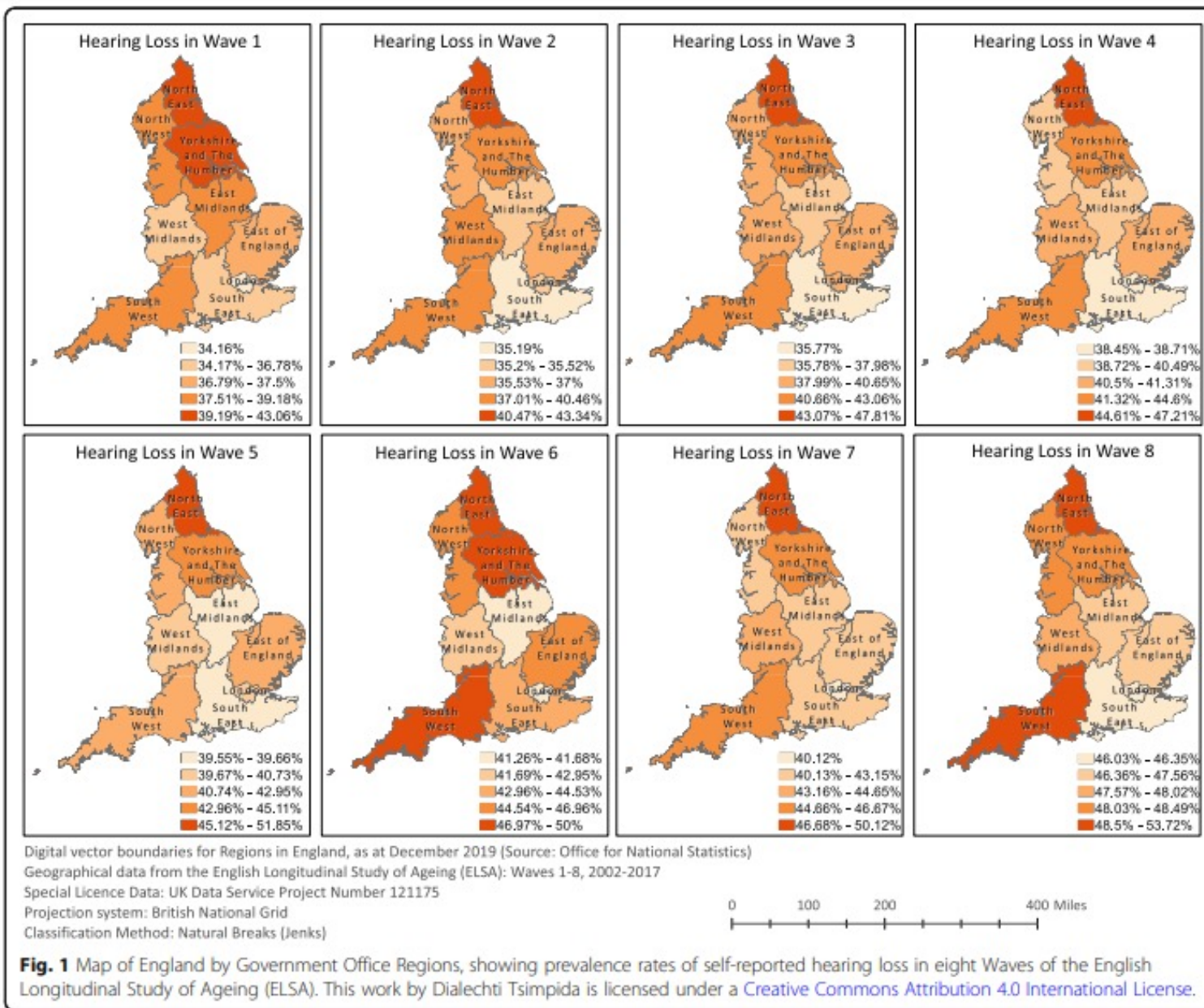
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Tsimpida D., Kontopantelis E., Ashcroft D.M., Panagioti M. (2020) Regional patterns and trends of hearing loss in England: evidence from the English longitudinal study of ageing (ELSA) and implications for health policy. *BMC Geriatrics* 20, 536 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-020-01945-6>

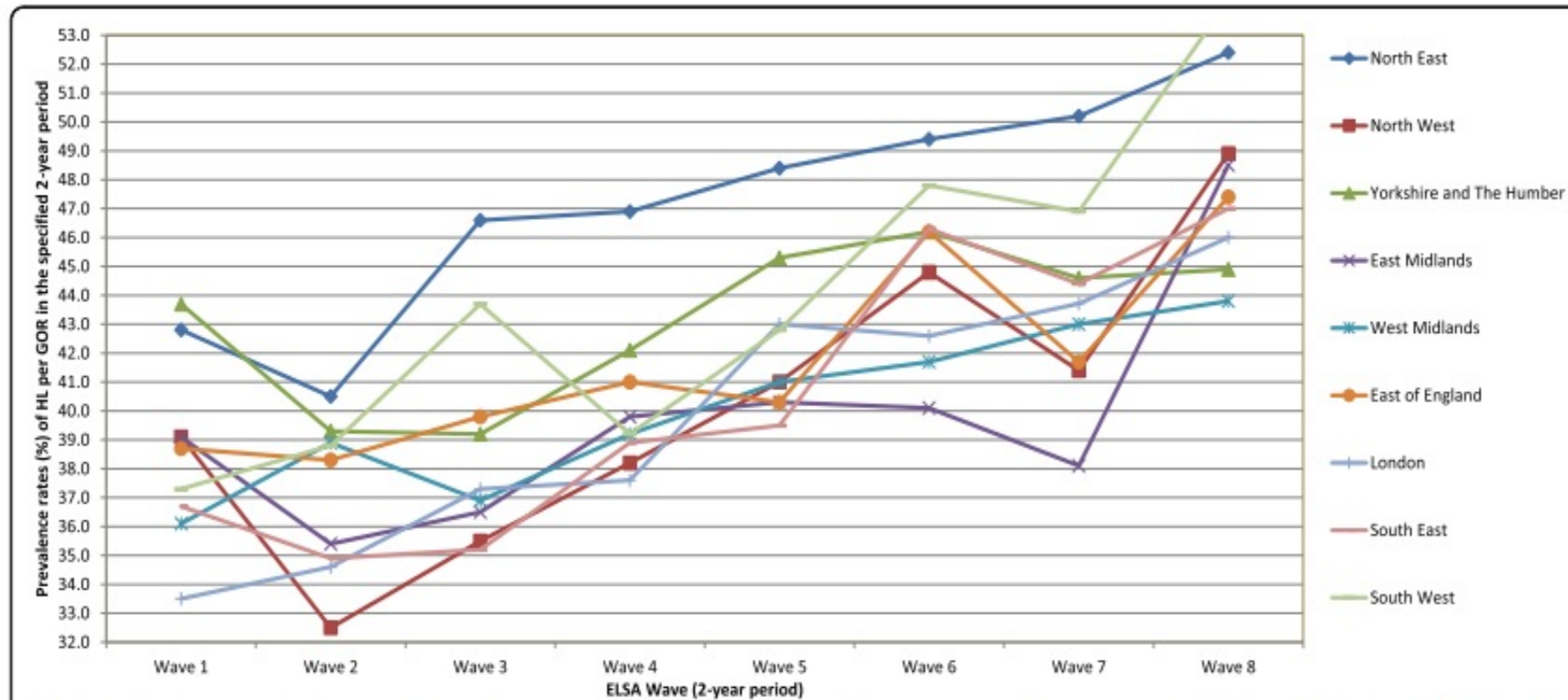
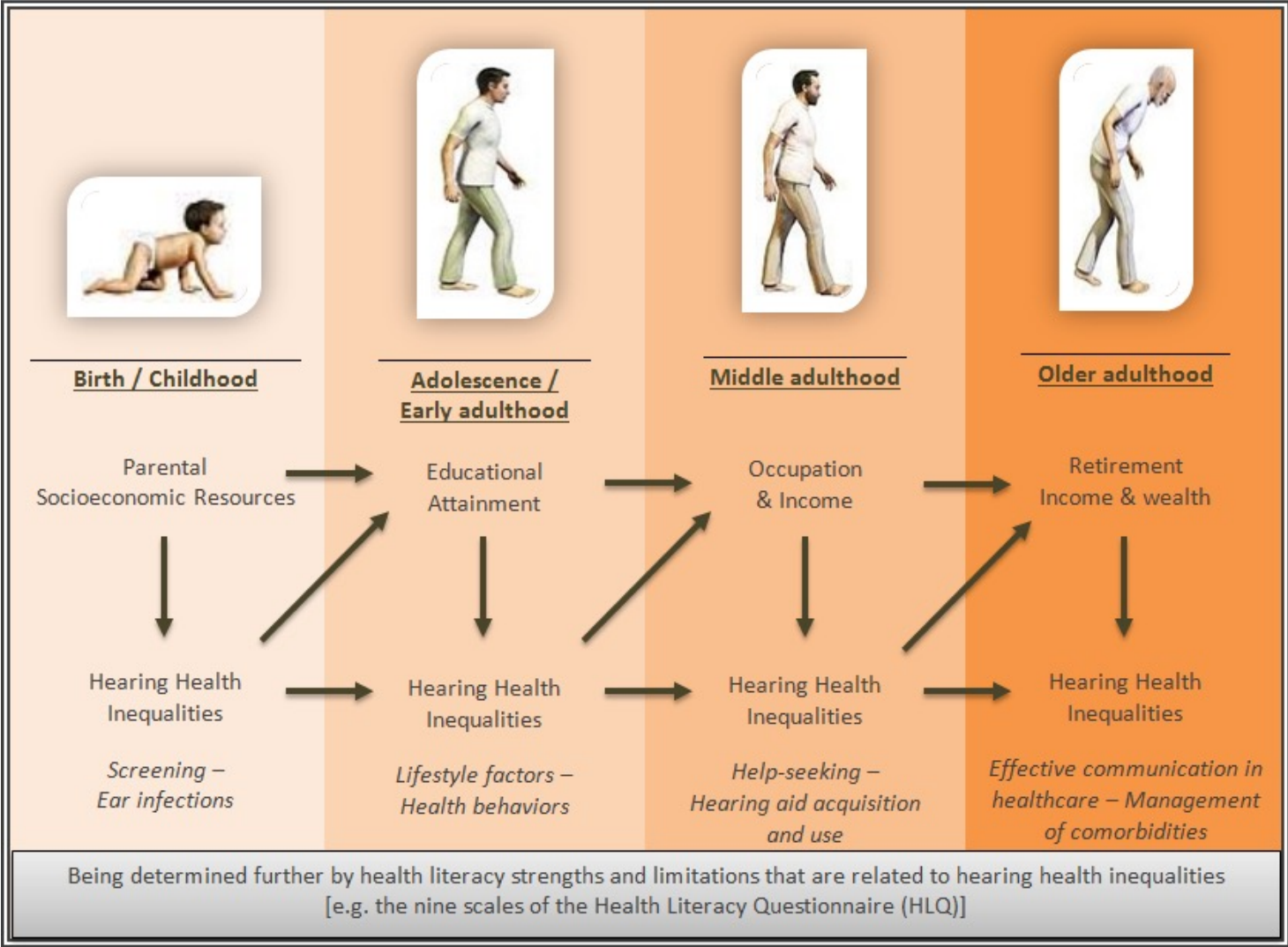


Fig. 3 Predicted probabilities and 95% Confidence Intervals of hearing loss (HL) prevalence at Regions of England in eight Waves of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)^{a, b}. ^a The x-axis refers to ELSA Wave (Wave 1: 2002–3, Wave 2: 2004–5, Wave 3: 2006–7, Wave 4: 2008–9, Wave 5: 2010–11, Wave 6: 2012–13, Wave 7: 2014–15, Wave 8: 2016–17), and the y-axis refers to prevalence rates of HL per GOR in the specified 2-year period. ^bThe factor variables (age, sex, education, occupation, income, wealth, IMD and alcohol consumption) were held at their means for each ELSA Wave.

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Conceptual Model for Hearing Health Inequalities (HHI Model)



Tsimpida, D., Kontopantelis, E., Ashcroft, D.M., & Panagioti, M. (2021). Conceptual Model of Hearing Health Inequalities (HHI Model): A Critical Interpretive Synthesis. *Trends in Hearing*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23312165211002963>

Screening for Hearing Loss in Older Adults

US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement

US Preventive Services Task Force

IMPORTANCE Age-related sensorineural hearing loss is a common health problem among adults. Nearly 16% of US adults 18 years or older report difficulty hearing. The prevalence of perceived hearing loss increases with age. Hearing loss can adversely affect an individual's quality of life and ability to function independently and has been associated with increased risk of falls, hospitalizations, social isolation, and cognitive decline.

OBJECTIVE To update its 2012 recommendation, the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) commissioned a systematic review on screening for hearing loss in adults 50 years or older.

POPULATION Asymptomatic adults 50 years or older with age-related hearing loss.

EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT Because of a lack of evidence, the USPSTF concludes that the benefits and harms of screening for hearing loss in asymptomatic older adults are uncertain and that the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined. More research is needed.

RECOMMENDATION The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for hearing loss in older adults. (I statement)

JAMA. 2021;325(12):1196-1201. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.2566

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Corresponding Author: Alex H. Krist, MD, MPH, Virginia Commonwealth University, One Capitol Square, Sixth Floor, B30 E Main St, Richmond, VA 23219 (chair@uspstf.net).

Summary of Recommendation

Asymptomatic adults 50 years or older	The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for hearing loss in older adults.	I statement
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See the Practice Considerations section for additional information regarding the I statement. USPSTF indicates US Preventive Services Task Force.

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August 27, 2020

Comparison of Self-reported Measures of Hearing With an Objective Audiometric Measure in Adults in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Dialechti Tsimpida, MSc¹; Evangelos Kontopantelis, PhD²; Darren Ashcroft, PhD³; Maria Panagioti, PhD³

> Author Affiliations | Article Information

JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(8):e2015009. doi:10.1001/jama. 27 August 2020

A third of over fifties with hearing loss could be undiagnosed

Up to a third of older adults with hearing loss in England could be undetected and untreated, according to a new study by University of Manchester researchers.

The study, published in *JAMA Network Open*, might mean millions of people are not seeing ear specialists or given hearing aids when their hearing has considerably deteriorated.

Women, older people, with fewer qualifications and living in more deprived areas were the at higher risk of not recognising their hearing had deteriorated and thus were less likely to seek help, found the researchers.

The findings reveal many hearing loss cases remain undiagnosed in primary care, since people very often cannot recognise their hearing has been affected, and highlight gaps in the continuity of hearing care pathways.

[PhD Researcher Dalia Tsimpida](#), who led the study, said untreated hearing difficulty can have a negative impact on mental and physical health, and despite that, hearing loss among older people is underdiagnosed and undertreated.

The team examined patterns of health pathways among older adults in England, using hearing data of 8,529 participants aged 50-89 years old from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).

The researchers said that as the survey is representative of the English older population, the findings provide a good representation for England as a whole.

Although participants had objectively been identified as having hearing loss, they did not self-identify their own difficulties correctly and reported themselves as having normal hearing.

Action on Hearing Loss estimates that hearing loss affects over 12 million people in the UK and costs the UK economy around £25 billion a year in productivity and unemployment.

There is no accurate figure for England because of the absence of a screening programme.

By 2035, it is estimated that there will be more than 15 million people with hearing loss in the UK – a fifth of the population.