

Time to Schedule a Hearing Screening

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, a great time to schedule a hearing exam with an audiologist at the WMU Unified Clinics' Charles Van Riper Language, Speech, and Hearing Clinic on Oakland Drive. This screening and is available by calling (269) 387-8047 to set up an appointment.

An estimated 28 million Americans have a hearing loss that can be treated. You may have a hearing loss if you:

- frequently ask people to repeat themselves
- often turn your ear toward a sound to hear it better
- understand people better when you wear your glasses or look directly at their faces
- lose your place in group conversations
- keep the volume on your radio or TV at a level that others say is too loud
- have pain or ringing in your ears

"People who see themselves in these statements should see an audiologist for a hearing test," said audiologist Teresa Crumpton, AuD, coordinator of the audiology services at the Van Riper Clinic. "Even a very slight hearing loss can have an impact on your daily life. Hearing loss is treatable, and there is no reason for anyone to miss all the important sounds of life."

An annual hearing checkup is recommended for people age 45 and up according to audiologists, the professionals who specialize in preventing, identifying, assessing, and treating hearing disorders. Those certified professionals—and those services—are available right here at WMU, as are other health care services provided at the Unified Clinics, clinical programs attached to the departments and schools of the College of Health and Human Services.

"Our comprehensive, quality health care services are available to residents throughout Southwest Michigan, newborns to senior citizens," says Dr. Crumpton. "We participate in many insurance plans and offer services on a sliding pay scale as needed. We also provide excellent supervision and clinical training to students, the health care professionals of the future." For more information about audiology services and the Unified Clinics, visit <http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/unifiedclinics/index.htm>.

