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Occupation and the risk of hearing impairment – results from the Nord-Trøndelag study on hearing loss $^{\it 1}$

by Bo Engdahl² and Kristian Tambs

- 1 Full tables 3 and 4
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Table 3. Predicted age-adjusted hearing threshold elevation (in dB) and adjusted prevalence ratio of $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} \ge 35$ dB among men ^a. Occupational groups were sorted by mean PTS_{3-4-6} . All groups with >39 subjects are shown. ($PTS_{3-4-6} = binaural pure-tone average for frequencies of 3000, 4000, and 6000 Hz; <math>PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$ average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz; $PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone$

Nord	ic Classification of Occupational Codes	PTS ₃₋₄₋₆		PTS _{0.5-1-2-4}		Prevalence ratio		Sample
		Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI	— size (N=23 374)
77	Wood work	11.2	6.7–15.7	7.3	4.4-10.2	1.7	1.4-2.3	46
501	Miners (in underground mines, quarrymen, shot firers)	10.9	8.4-13.3	5.7	4.1-7.3	1.8	1.4-2.4	171
765	Linemen & cable jointers	9.5	6.2-12.8	3.5	1.4-5.7	1.4	0.9-2.2	87
774	Construction carpenters & workers	9.2	7.9-10.5	5.6	4.7-6.4	1.6	1.3-2.1	911
612	Able & ordinary seamen	9.2	4.8-13.5	5.8	2.9-8.6	1.6	0.9 - 3.0	49
751	Workshop mechanics	8.5	6.2-10.9	4.3	2.8-5.9	1.1	0.7-1.8	183
753	Machine & motor repairmen	8.5	4.8-12.2	4.0	1.6-6.4	1.4	0.7 - 3.1	68
A30	Military (senior officers)	8.2	4.1-12.2	3.8	1.2-6.4	1.5	0.9 - 2.5	58
876	Oilers & greasers etc	8.1	4.0-12.1	3.6	1.0-6.2	1.1	0.5 - 2.6	57
871	Stationary engine operators	7.9	3.1-12.7	2.5	-0.6-5.6	1.1	0.5 - 2.1	40
791	Masons, bricklayers & plasterers	7.3	4.2-10.4	3.4	1.4-5.4	1.1	0.7-1.8	101
755	Plumbers & pipe fitters	7.3	5.2-9.3	4.2	2.9-5.5	1.8	1.2 - 2.7	256
757	Metal plate & steel structural workers	7.2	4.8-9.7	4.6	3.0-6.2	1.8	1.2-2.7	174
75	Iron and metalware work	7.1	4.1-10.1	3.1	1.1-5.0	1.6	1.1-2.3	106
759	Others in 75 Iron & metalware work	7.1	3.0-11.2	6.0	3.3-8.6	1.0	0.4 - 2.6	56
754	Sheet-metal workers	6.9	4.5-9.3	3.7	2.2-5.3	1.1	0.6-1.9	177
441	Forestry workers & loggers	6.9	4.9-8.9	4.1	2.8-5.4	1.3	0.9-1.8	276
836	Papermakers	6.8	3.9-9.6	3.2	1.4-5.0	1.5	1.0-2.3	124
872	Crane & hoist operators etc.	6.5	2.3-10.7	4.1	1.4-6.8	1.5	0.8-3.1	53
772	Sawmill & planing mill workers	6.4	4.5-8.4	4.2	2.9-5.5	1.4	1.0-1.9	282
874	Operators of earth-moving & other construction machinery	6.4	4.7-8.2	3.3	2.2-4.5	1.2	0.8-1.7	383
826	Butchers, sausage makers etc	6.2	3.6-8.7	3.3	1.6-4.9	1.2	0.7 - 2.0	157
793	Cement finishers, excavators etc	6.1	4.6-7.7	4.0	2.9-5.0	1.5	1.1–1.9	509
752	Fitter-machinists	6.1	4.7–7.5	3.6	2.7-4.5	1.7	1.3-2.3	695
834	Mechanical pulp workers	6.0	1.9-10.0	4.3	1.7-6.9	1.7	1.2-2.4	57
A20	Non-commissioned officers & subalterns	5.9	3.4-8.4	3.3	1.7–4.9	1.9	1.4–2.7	164
777	Wood working machine setters & operators	5.8	3.3-8.3	4.9	3.3-6.6	1.6	1.2-2.2	159
0X6	Personnel specialists	5.5	1.2–9.8	2.7	-0.1–5.5	1.5	0.7-3.2	50
821	Millers	5.5	1.2–9.8	3.4	0.6–6.2	1.2	0.7 - 2.1	51
Χ	Occupation not reported	5.3	4.2-6.4	3.7	3.0–4.5	1.7	1.3–2.1	3216
401	General farmers, livestock farmers - working on own behalf	5.3	4.3–6.3	3.1	2.4–3.7	1.4	1.1–1.8	2763
644	Lorry & van drivers	5.2	3.8-6.6	3.4	2.6-4.3	1.4	1.1–1.9	782
875	Material-handling-equipment operators	5.1	1.9–8.3	2.8	0.8–4.9	1.3	0.8 - 2.3	96
851	Concrete product makers etc	5.1	1.6–8.5	3.4	1.1–5.6	1.8	1.2-2.7	80
931	Janitors, vergers etc	5.0	3.2-6.9	3.0	1.8–4.2	1.2	0.9–1.7	333
302	Working proprietors, retail trade	5.0	2.2-7.7	2.5	0.7-4.3	1.0	0.6–1.5	131
881	Longshoremen & vehicle loaders	5.0	1.1–8.8	3.4	0.9–5.9	1.9	1.3-2.7	64
412	Livestock workers (general)	4.3	2.7–6.0	2.4	1.3–3.5	1.2	0.8–1.7	436
A10	Military (corporals & privates)	4.3	2.1–6.5	2.3	0.9–3.7	0.0		247
827	Dairy workers	4.2	1.4–7.0	2.1	0.3-3.9	1.2	0.8-2.0	125
404	Managers & supervisors - farms	4.2	0.8-7.5	3.9	1.7–6.1	1.9	1.3-2.9	84
76	Electrical work	4.1	-0.3–8.5	2.9	0.1–5.7	1.3	0.7–2.3	48
909	Others in 90 (public safety & protection work)	4.1	-0.5–8.6	2.5	-0.4–5.5	1.3	0.7–2.4	44
912	Cooks	4.0	-0.2–8.1	3.8	1.1–6.5	1.6	0.4-5.6	55
297	Real estate managers, store-room keepers etc.	3.8	-0.1–7.6	0.2	-2.3–2.6	1.0	0.5–1.9	64
853	Plastic product makers	3.8	1.3-6.3	2.7	1.1–4.3	1.1	0.7–1.8	163
764	Installers, fitters & repairmen (radio, TV, phone, telegraph)	3.7	0.9–6.5	2.1	0.3-4.0	1.3	0.7–2.2	123
882	Warehouse workers	3.7	1.7–5.6	2.1	0.9–3.4	1.4	1.0–1.9	290
331	Salesmen operating from an office	3.4	1.1–5.8	3.2	1.6–4.7	1.6	1.1–2.5	182
7	Manufacturing & construction work	3.4	0.1–6.8	3.4	1.2-5.5	1.5	1.0-2.3	86
411	Farm helpers - general	3.3	1.7–5.0	2.5	1.5–3.6	1.4	1.1–1.9	429
903	Policemen & detectives	3.3	0.5–6.1	0.7	-1.1–2.5	1.4	0.9–2.2	126
761	Electricians & electrical fitters	3.3	1.6-5.0	1.8	0.7–2.9	1.1	0.7–1.6	410
699	Others in 69 (other transport and communication work)	3.0	-1.8–7.8	2.1	-1.0–5.2	1.4	0.9–2.1	40
299	Others in 29 (other clerical work)	3.0	0.4 - 5.6	2.7	1.0-4.3	1.4	0.9 - 2.2	149

(continued)

Table 3. Continued.

Nord	dic Classification of Occupational Codes		PTS ₃₋₄₋₆		PTS _{0.5-1-2-4}		Prevalence ratio	
		Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI	- size (N=23 374)
671	Local postmasters, postal assistance	3.0	0.1-5.9	2.5	0.6-4.3	2.0	1.3–3.1	117
095	Editors & journalists etc.	2.5	-2.0-7.1	1.4	-1.5-4.4	0.5	0.1-1.9	44
643	Taxi drivers	2.5	-1.2-6.2	2.4	0.0 - 4.8	1.2	0.7 - 2.0	70
024	Silviculturists & forestry consultants	2.3	-1.6-6.2	-0.2	-2.7-2.4	0.9	0.5 - 1.9	61
681	Postmen	2.3	-1.3-5.8	0.9	-1.4-3.3	1.3	0.7 - 2.1	74
911	Housekeepers etc (not private or public service)	2.2	-2.1-6.5	2.0	-0.8-4.8	1.1	0.4 - 2.7	51
781	Building & furniture painters	2.1	-0.5-4.7	1.8	0.2 - 3.5	1.3	0.9 - 2.0	146
003	Other engineers, engineer technicians, industrial designers, draughtsman	2.1	0.4-3.7	1.5	0.5-2.6	1.3	0.9–1.9	459
641	Bus drivers	2.0	-0.7-4.8	1.4	-0.4-3.2	1.1	0.7-1.9	133
111	Directors, managers & working proprietors	2.0	0.4-3.6	1.1	0.0-2.1	0.9	0.6-1.3	469
432	Fish hatchers	1.6	-2.3-5.6	1.3	-1.2-3.8	0.7	0.2 - 2.8	61
769	Others in 76 Electrical work	1.5	-1.9-4.9	1.5	-0.7-3.7	1.0	0.4 - 2.6	82
333	Shop assistants	1.4	-0.3-3.2	1.5	0.4 - 2.7	1.0	0.6-1.6	373
332	Shop managers	1.4	-0.7-3.5	0.7	-0.7-2.1	1.1	0.7-1.7	236
311	Salesmen of insurance	1.0	-3.5-5.6	-0.1	-3.0-2.8	0.6	0.2-2.3	45
822	Bakers and pastry cooks	0.8	-2.7-4.3	1.0	-1.3-3.2	1.2	0.7-2.0	78
113	Administration secretaries	0.7	-3.4-4.7	-0.1	-2.8-2.5	0.8	0.4-1.6	57
201	Accountants & bookkeepers	0.6	-2.3-3.4	1.3	-0.6-3.1	1.1	0.7-1.7	119
663	Railway supervisors	0.5	-4.1-5.2	1.5	-1.5-4.5	1.5	0.9-2.4	43
002	Chief engineers	0.1	-2.5-2.6	0.5	-1.2-2.1	1.0	0.5-1.7	153
064	Teachers - primary & vocational schools	0.0	-1.5-1.5	0.0	-0.9-0.9	1.0	ref	644
292	Clerks - bank	-0.2	-4.0-3.5	-0.2	-2.6-2.2	0.8	0.2 - 3.0	67
106	Other administrators & exec officials - municipal administration	-0.4	-4.6-3.7	-2.1	-4.8-0.6	0.9	0.4-2.1	54
104	Other adm governmental servants - local state administration	-0.6	-4.0-2.9	-0.3	-2.5-2.0	0.7	0.4-1.5	80
0X1	Auditors	-0.8	-4.6-3.1	1.1	-1.3-3.6	1.1	0.6 - 2.1	64
0X2	Social workers	-0.8	-4.1-2.4	-0.4	-2.5-1.6	0.3	0.1-1.3	92
119	Others in 11 (administration of private enterprises and organizations)	-1.1	-5.0–2.8	0.0	-2.6–2.5	0.5	0.1–1.4	61
403	Gardeners, horticultural farmers & fruit growers (working on own behalf)	-1.1	-5.7–3.5	-1.0	-4.0–2.0	1.1	0.5-2.3	43
021	Veterinarians	-1.1	-5.9–3.7	-1.4	-4.5–1.7	0.8	0.2-2.5	40
031	Other physicians	-1.8	-6.1–2.6	-0.4	-3.3–2.4	1.1	0.4–2.8	49
023	Agronomists & horticulturists, agricultural consultants	-1.8	-5.5–1.9	-1.0	-3.4–1.4	1.1	0.7-2.0	69
060	Headmasters	-1.9	-4.3-0.6	-1.1	-2.6-0.5	0.9	0.6–1.4	169
063	Lecturers with final university degree - secondary schools	-2.0	-4.2-0.2	-0.9	-2.4-0.5	0.6	0.3-1.2	218
103	Leading administrators & exec officials - local state adm	-2.5	-6.5–1.6	-2.0	-4.6-0.7	1.1	0.6-1.9	57
105	Senior administrators & exec officials - municipal adm	-2.7	-5.8-0.4	-1.5	-3.6-0.5	0.7	0.4–1.3	99
0X9	Others in OX [other work in major group 0 (technical, physical science, humanistic and artistic work)]	-3.1	-7.6–1.3	-1.2	-4.1–1.6	•		48

 $^{^{\}mathrm{a}}$ In relation to the reference occupation group 064, "Teachers – primary and vocational schools."

Table 4. Predicted age-adjusted hearing threshold elevation (in dB) and adjusted prevalence ratio of PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} \geq 35 dB among women ^a. Occupational groups were sorted by mean PTS₃₋₄₋₆. All groups with >39 subjects are shown. (PTS₃₋₄₋₆ = binaural pure-tone average for frequencies of 3000, 4000, and 6000 Hz. PTS_{0.5-1-2-4} = pure-tone average of the better ear for frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz, 95% CI = 95% confidence interval).

Nordi	c Classification of Occupational Codes	PTS ₃₋₄₋₆		PTS _{0.5-1-2-4}		Prevalence ratio		Sample — size
		Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI	Mean	95% CI	(N=26 907)
822	Bakers & pastry cooks	5.7	2.1-9.3	4.1	1.4-6.8	1.1	0.6–1.8	45
04	Nursing care	3.8	1.6-6.1	2.0	0.3 - 3.7	0.9	0.6 - 1.4	120
003	Other engineers, engineer technicians, industrial designers	3.5	0.0 - 7.0	1.5	-1.1-4.2	1.6	0.2-11.5	48
681	Postmen	3.4	-0.3-7.2	1.2	-1.6-4.1	0.8	0.1 - 5.3	41
913	Kitchen assistants	3.3	2.0-4.6	2.4	1.4-3.4	1.1	0.8 - 1.5	404
41	Farm work & livestock work	3.3	0.1 - 6.5	1.5	-1.0-3.9	0.9	0.5 - 1.7	56
Χ	Occupation not reported	2.8	2.1-3.5	2.2	1.7-2.6	1.0	0.8 - 1.3	7946
932	Char workers & cleaners	2.7	1.9-3.5	1.9	1.3-2.5	1.0	0.8 - 1.3	1888
049	Others in 04 (nursing care)	2.5	1.1–3.9	2.0	1.0-3.1	1.3	0.9–1.8	355
915	Housekeepers (public service)	2.5	1.4–3.5	1.6	0.8 - 2.3	1.0	0.8–1.2	842
912	Cooks	2.5	0.8-4.1	1.7	0.5 - 3.0	0.9	0.7 - 1.3	247
921	Headwaiters, waiters	2.4	0.9–3.9	1.8	0.7 - 2.9	1.2	0.9–1.6	295
825	Canning & other preservation workers	2.4	-0.4–5.1	2.2	0.1–4.2	1.3	0.6–2.7	80
411	Farm helpers (general)	2.3	1.3–3.3	1.3	0.6-2.1	1.0	0.8–1.3	843
914	Housekeepers, maids (private service)	1.8	0.0-3.5	1.2	-0.1–2.5	0.9	0.6–1.4	212
716	Sewers & embroiderers (textile products, leather garments)	1.7	-0.8–4.2	8.0	-1.1–2.7	0.8	0.4–1.5	94
412	Livestock workers (general)	1.7	0.4–3.0	1.1	0.2–2.1	0.9	0.7–1.2	439
413	Nursery workers & gardeners	1.7	-0.7–4.1	1.5	-0.3–3.3	0.9	0.5–1.5	106
919	Others in 91 (public safety and protection work)	1.5	0.1–3.0	0.7	-0.4–1.8	0.6	0.2-1.5	310
922	Other waiting personnel	1.4	-0.7–3.6	1.1	-0.5–2.7	0.6	0.3–1.3	136
911	Housekeepers etc (not private or public service)	1.4	-0.8–3.6	1.3	-0.3–3.0	1.0	0.7–1.6	129
043	Practical nurses in psychiatric institutions	1.4	-1.6–4.4	-0.4	-2.7–1.8	0.5	0.1–3.0	67
047	Nursemaids in hospitals & other institutions	1.4	-0.9–3.6	1.0	-0.7–2.7	0.4	0.1–3.1	119
292	Clerks (bank)	1.3	-0.5–3.1	0.6	-0.7–1.9	0.6	0.1–2.2	202
203	Other cashiers	1.2	-0.7–3.1	0.5	-0.9–1.9	0.4	0.2-1.0	176
294	Clerks (public health insurance)	1.0	-2.0-3.9	1.0	-1.3–3.2	1.5	0.6–3.4	68
111	Directors, managers & working proprietors	1.0	-2.7–4.7	-0.2	-3.0–2.5	0.6	0.2–1.6	42
0X2	Social workers	1.0	-0.6–2.6	1.0	-0.2–2.2	0.6	0.3–1.4	263
951	Laundry & dry-cleaning workers	1.0	-1.7–3.7	0.4	-1.6-2.4	0.8	0.4–1.4	81
861	Packers—labelers & related workers	0.9	-1.4–3.2	1.3	-0.4–3.1	0.8	0.5–1.5	111
853	Plastic product makers	0.9	-1.5–3.3	0.6	-1.2–2.4	0.4	0.1–1.4	102
333	Shop assistants	0.9	0.1–1.7	0.8	0.2-1.4	0.9	0.7–1.1	2042
941	Barbers, hairdressers & beauticians	0.8	-1.0-2.7	0.4	-1.0–1.8	0.9	0.5–1.6	186
045 401	Other practical nurses	0.7 0.6	-0.2-1.7	0.5 0.0	-0.2–1.2 -0.7–0.8	0.8	0.5–1.1 0.7–1.2	1063 905
401 673	General farmers, livestock farmers (working on own behalf)	0.6	-0.4–1.6 -3.0–4.0	-0.2	-0.7-0.6 -2.9-2.4	1.0 0.9	0.7-1.2	903 47
302	Telephone switchboard operators (public service) Working proprietors, retail trade	0.5		-0.2 -0.5	-2.9–2.4 -2.4–1.4			94
0X3		0.4	-2.1–2.9	-0.5 -0.5		0.9 0.4	0.6–1.4	94 47
066	Librarians, archivists & scientific personnel in museums Teachers (nursery schools)	0.4	-3.1–3.9 -1.6–2.3	0.5	-3.1–2.1 -1.0–2.0	0.4	0.1–1.4 0.0–2.3	165
013	Laboratory assistants	0.3	-2.6-3.1	0.3	-1.0-2.0	0.6	0.0-2.3	73
299	Others in 29 (other clerical work)	0.3	-0.6-1.1	0.4	-0.3-1.0	0.8	0.6–1.0	1636
769	Others in 76 (electrical work)	0.2	-3.3–3.7	0.4	-2.5–2.8	1.5	0.5-4.7	48
041	Professional nurses	0.2	-0.9–1.2	0.0	-0.8-0.8	0.8	0.6–1.1	745
332	Shop managers	0.1	-2.5–2.7	-0.4	-2.4–1.5	0.4	0.2–1.2	89
064	Teachers - primary & vocational schools	0.0	-1.0–1.0	0.0	-0.8-0.8	1.0	ref	902
211	Secretaries & stenographers	-0.1	-2.1–1.9	0.1	-1.4–1.6	1.0	0.4-2.3	161
674	Telephone switchboard operators - private exchange	-0.1	-3.6-3.3	0.2	-2.4–2.9	1.3	1.1–1.7	48
671	Local postmasters, postal assistance	-0.1	-1.9–1.6	0.1	-1.3–1.4	0.9	0.5–1.6	203
063	Lecturers with final university degree - secondary schools	-0.3	-2.3–1.8	-0.3	-1.9–1.2	1.2	0.7–2.1	146
046	Dental assistance	-0.3	-2.8–2.3	-0.4	-2.3–1.5	0.6	0.2-2.2	93
104	Other administration governmental servants - local state adm.	-0.4	-3.6–2.8	0.3	-2.1–2.7	1.6	1.1–2.6	58
675	Telegraph dispatchers	-0.5	-3.6–2.6	-0.3	-2.6-2.0	0.7	0.3-1.7	62
052	Physio- & occupational therapists	-0.6	-2.7–1.5	-0.7	-2.4-0.9	0.3	0.1–1.3	134
916	Concierge - hotels	-0.9	-4.3–2.5	0.9	-1.7–3.4	0.8	0.2–2.5	51
201	Accountants & bookkeepers	-1.0	-3.2–1.3	-0.4	-2.1–1.3	0.7	0.3-2.1	121
	Others in 05 (other professional health & medical work)	-2.4	-5.7–0.9	-0.4	-2.8–2.1			53
059								

^a In relation to the reference occupation group 064, "Teachers – primary and vocational schools.".