

Long-term Findings from the NIDCD/ VA Hearing Aid Clinical Trial

Hearing Aid Usage in CSP-418A

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Support provided by: NIDCD/VA

Hearing Aid Status Questionnaire (HASQ)

- Designed to elicit hearing aid history and pattern of usage information from subjects.
- Series of questions asking the participants to rate the importance different factors played in their hearing aid use decisions.

HASQ, cont.

Four areas of inquiry

- Did Ss get new hearing aids since initial study?
- How much and in what situations did Ss use their hearing aids?
- How much difficulty did the Ss experience in various listening situations, with or without h/a's?
- For those who reported they seldom used or had stopped using their hearing aids altogether, what factors influenced their decision?

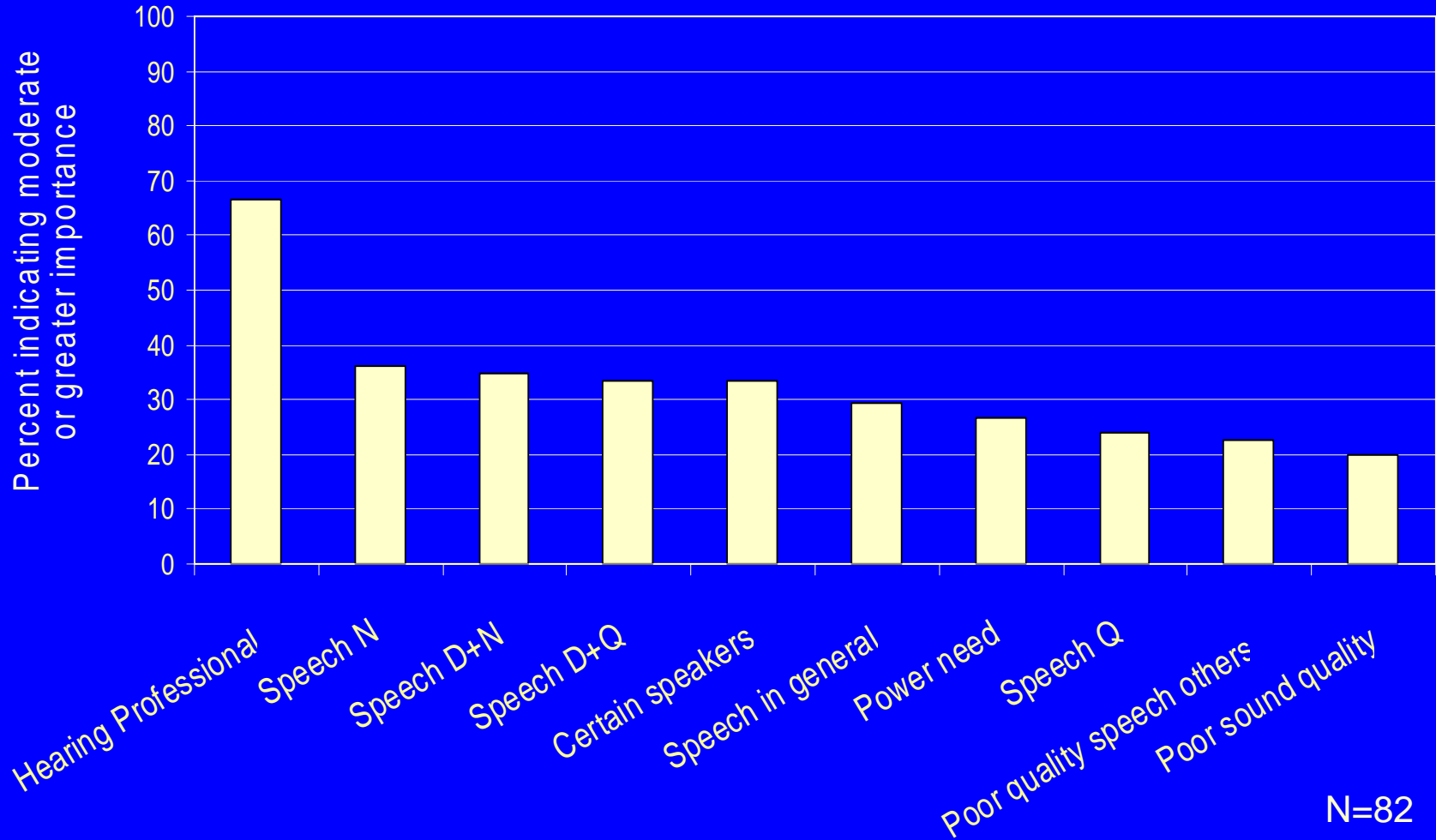
Hearing Aid Use

- 42.5% of participants had obtained new hearing instruments since the initial study (82/193).
- 54.9% of participants reported using original study aids (90/164).
 - 78.5% of participants using original study aids were still using the originally preferred circuit.*

Reason for hearing aid change

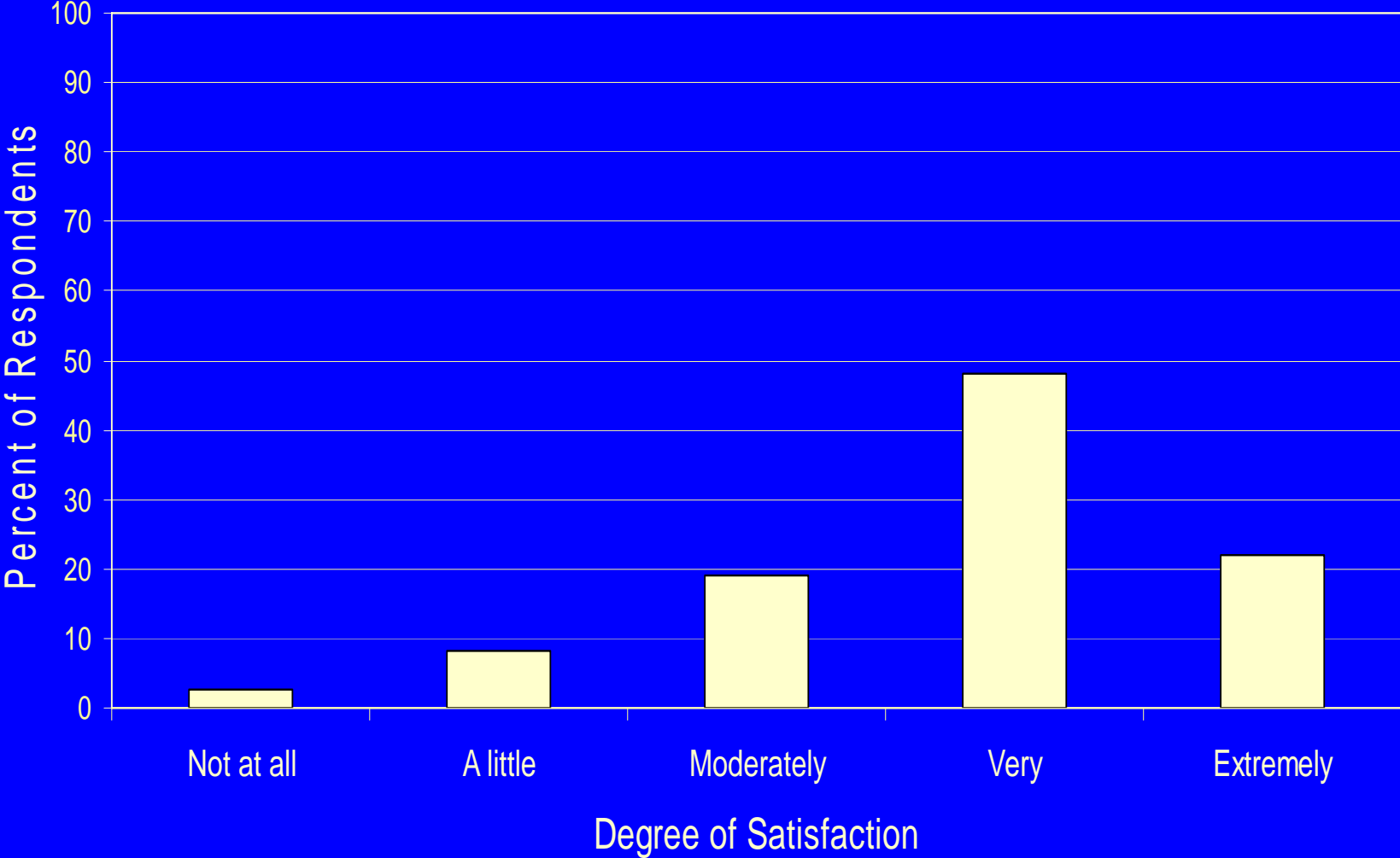
- Subjects were presented with 26 factors
 - Items such as: “*difficulty understanding speech in noise*”, “*advice of a friend*”, “*assumed superiority of digital instruments*”, “*cost of repairs*” were presented for rating.
 - Each factor was rated on a 6-pt scale ranging from “Not important” to “Extremely important” regarding its role in their decision.

Reason for Change of Hearing Aid

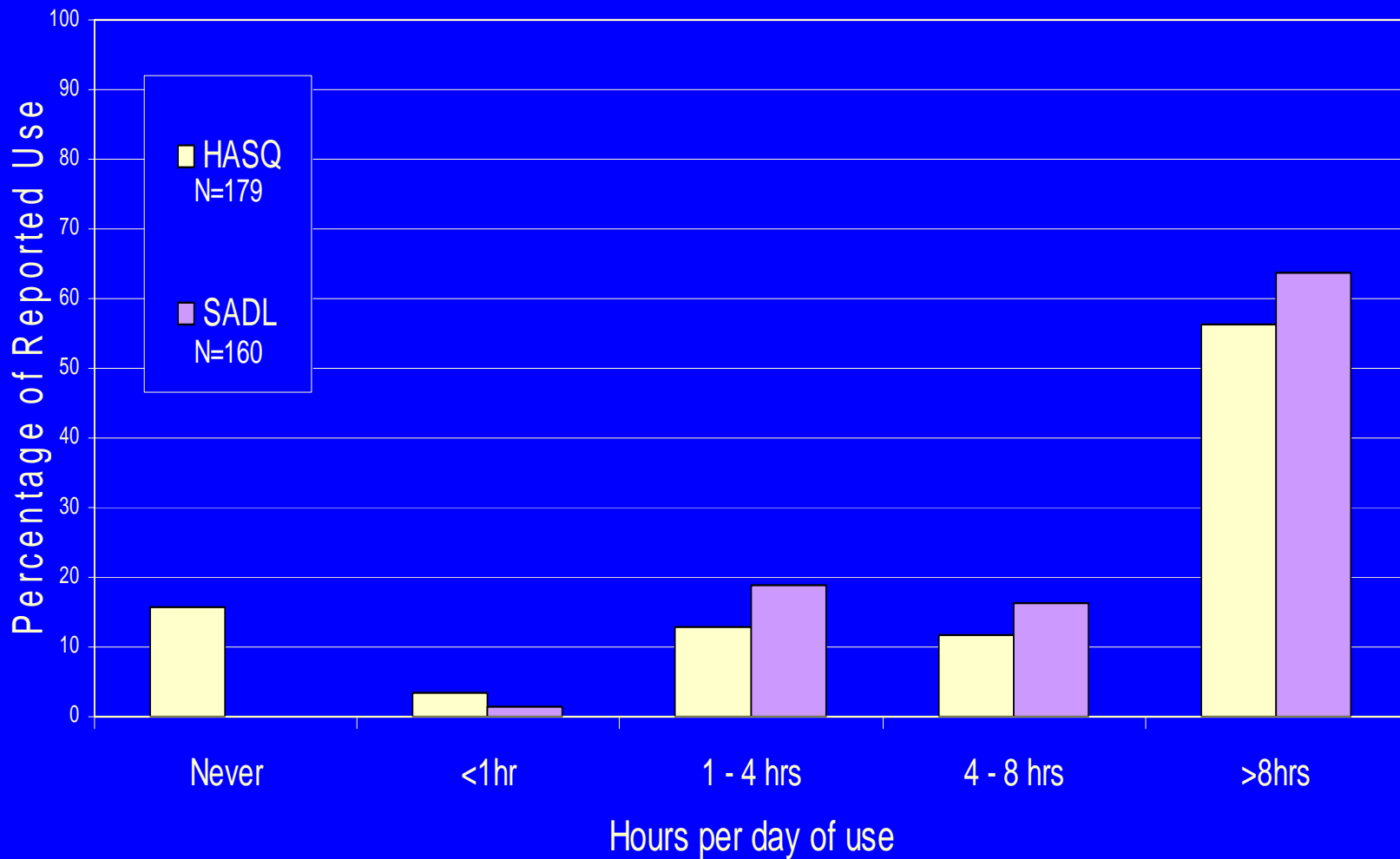


N=82

Satisfaction with Change



Instrument Use Pattern

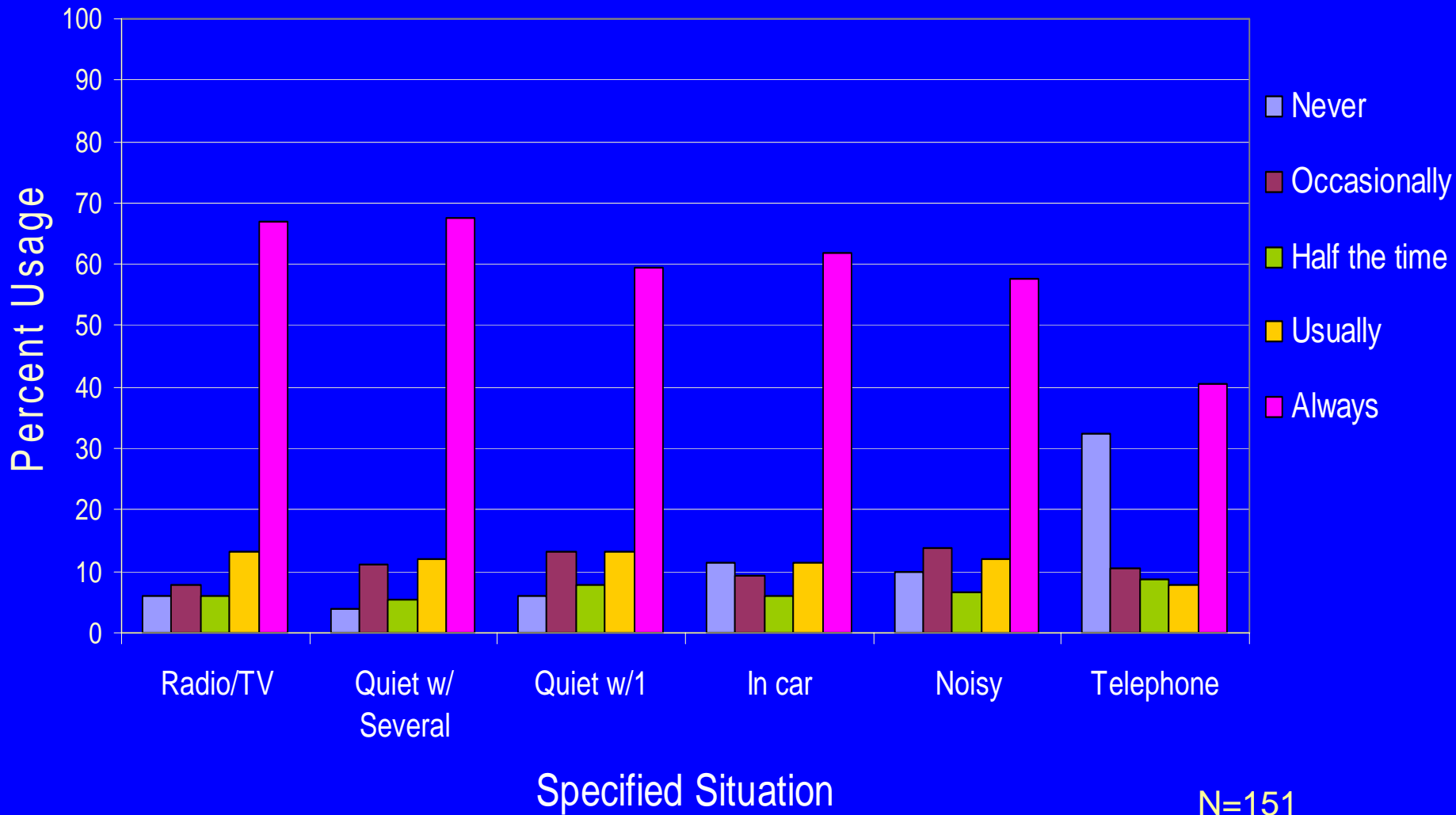


N=179

Situational Hearing Aid Use

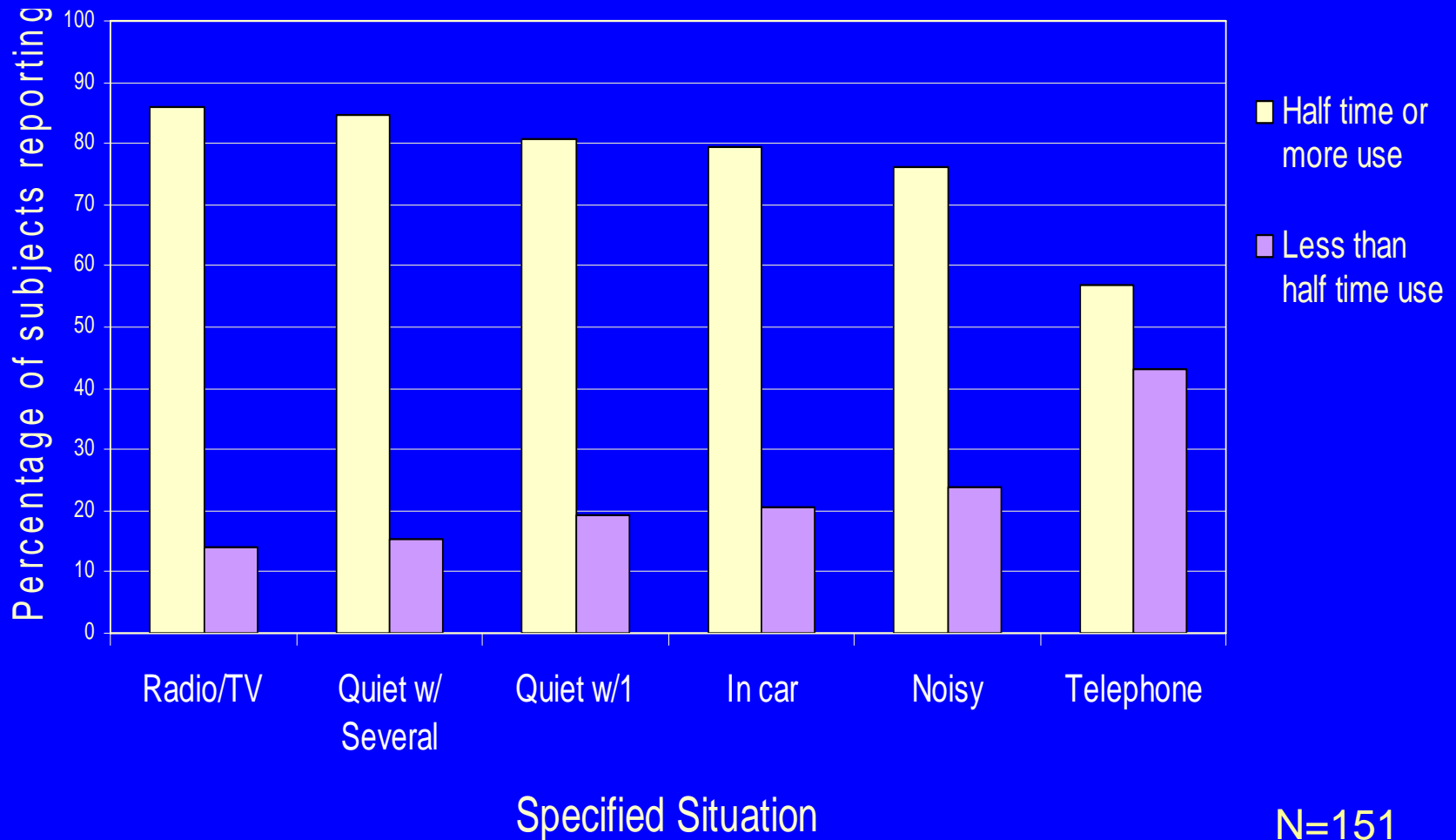
- In quiet with one person
- In quiet with several people
- In noisy situations
- With television or radio
- In the car
- On the telephone

Hearing Aid Use Patterns

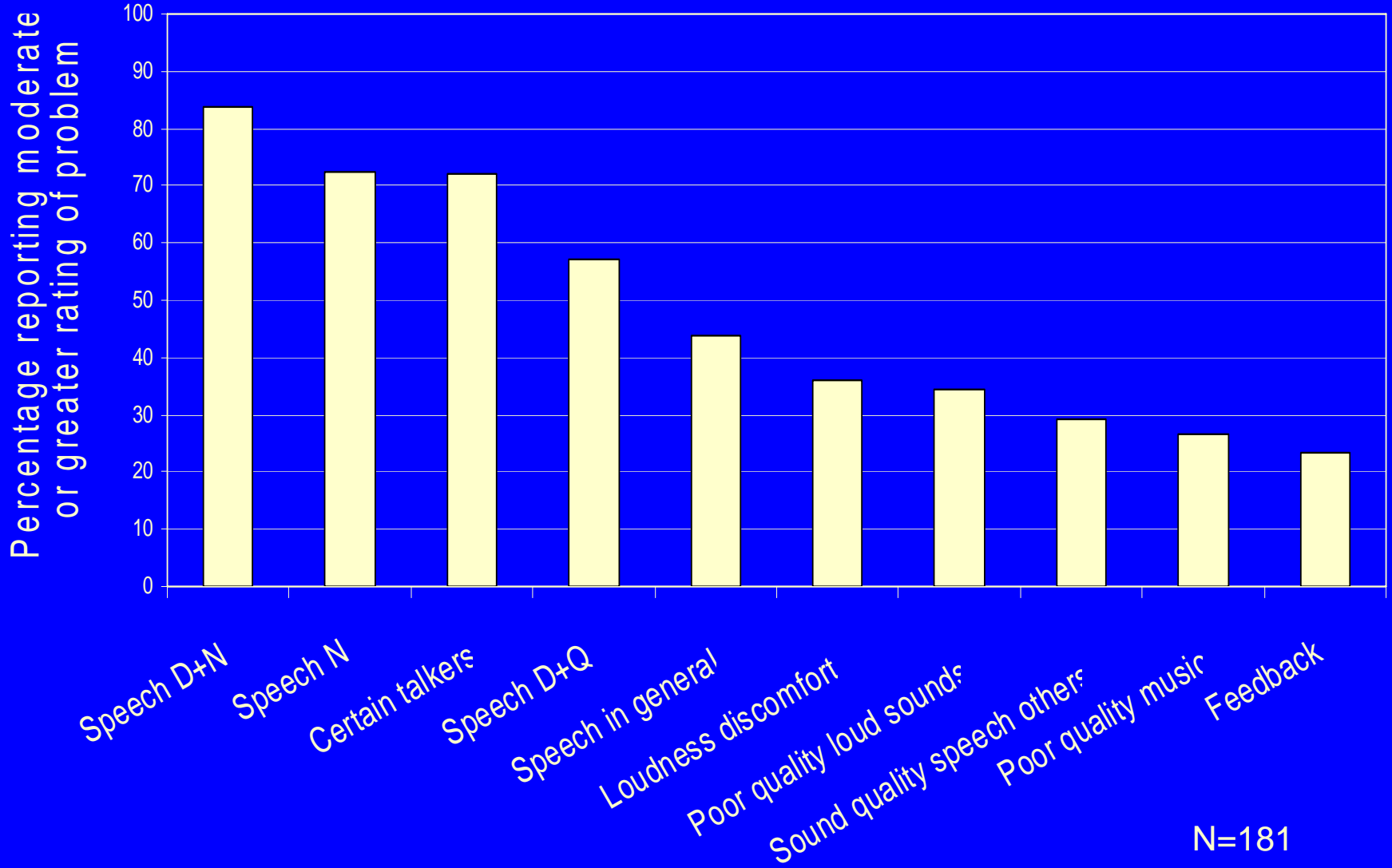


N=151

Situational Hearing Aid Use



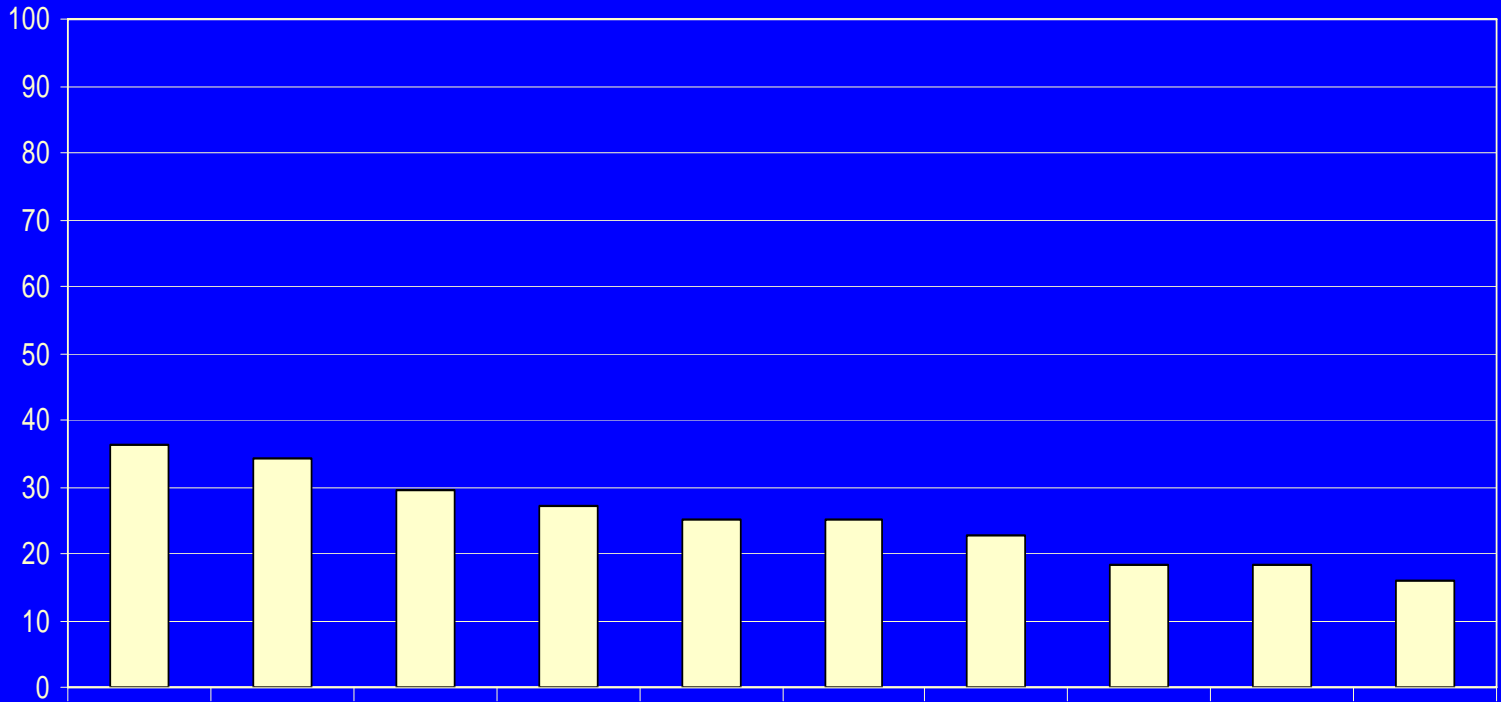
Current Problems



N=181

Reasons for seldom or not using hearing aids

Percent responding factor was moderately or more important in decision



Speech D+N

Speech N

Certain talkers

Not enough difference

Loudness discomfort

Inconvenience

Whistling (feedback)

Sound quality genera'

Sound quality loud'

Sound quality speech other'

N=44

Hearing Aid Usage

The same factors appear to influence the study participants' decision whether or not to use the hearing aid, or to obtain new hearing aids. The same factors also appear to pose the greatest challenges to the majority of hearing aid users in their everyday lives.

The most prominent of these factors are:

- *Understanding speech in noise*
- *Understanding speech at a distance in quiet or in noise*
- *Understanding the speech of certain talkers*
- *Understanding speech in general*

Hearing Aid Usage , cont.

- More than half of the original instruments were still in use 6-7 years after completion of the original study.
- In spite of the difficulties encountered, the majority of the participants used their instruments more than half the time in all of the situations presented, *including in noise.*