One in every ten, or 28 million, Americans has a hearing loss. The prevalence of hearing loss increases with age, up to 1 in 3 over age 65. Most hearing losses develop over a period of 25 to 30 years. Among seniors, hearing loss is the third most prevalent, but treatable disabling condition, behind arthritis and hypertension. 95% of Americans with hearing loss could benefit from hearing aids, but only 22% currently use them. Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) can be caused by a one-time exposure to an intense noise (explosion) or by prolonged exposure to loud noise (factory work). Approximately ten percent of Americans between the ages of 20 and 69 – or 22 million Americans – already may have suffered permanent damage to their hearing from excessive noise exposure.

For more information about hearing loss or to schedule a hearing evaluation, call 614.261.5452 or visit www.columbusspeech.org.