



What is Usher Syndrome?

A **syndrome** is a condition which has at least two characteristics or symptoms. One such syndrome that causes deaf-blindness is **Usher Syndrome**, affecting half (50%) of the deaf-blind population. Usher Syndrome is a hereditary condition that results in hearing loss and progressive vision loss due to **retinitis pigmentosa (RP)**. Symptoms of RP include: night blindness, peripheral (side) vision loss, and eventual central vision loss. Hearing loss of varying degrees is usually present at birth, and the onset of vision loss varies with each individual. Usher Syndrome is inherited when each parent carries a recessive gene that is passed on to the child who eventually is faced with the condition. There are three general types of Usher Syndrome.



State of North Carolina • Pat McCrory, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Aldona Z. Wos, M.D., Secretary
Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh
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Symptom	Type I	Type II	Type III
Hearing Loss	Born deaf with profound hearing loss	Born hard of hearing with a sloping sensorineural loss from mild loss in low frequencies to severe-profound loss in high frequencies	Born with good hearing or mild hearing loss which gets worse over a decade or more
			Looks like Type II in teenagers and young adults; looks like Type I in older people
Balance	Absent inner ear balance	Normal inner ear balance	Progressive balance disturbance
Vision Loss from RP	Night blindness in infancy or early childhood	Night blindness begins in the teens	Night blindness in childhood or teens
	Tunnel vision usually by age 16	Tunnel vision in the late teens to early 20s	Tunnel vision becomes pronounced in the 20s

Revised with permission from Boys Town National Research Hospital; Omaha, Nebraska



*For more information, go to www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh
or call 1-800-999-5737 (V/TTY),
919-874-2212 (V/TTY), or 919-890-0859 (VP).*

How to contact us: We have seven Regional Centers throughout the state to assist you with your needs. Please contact the center nearest you for assistance.

DSDHH's phone listing uses the following abbreviations:

V – voice (for people who do not use telephone assistive equipment)

TTY – phone equipment (for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind people)

VP – video phone (for people who use sign language to communicate)

Asheville:

12 Barbetta Drive • Asheville, NC 28806
828-665-8733 V • 828-333-5830 VP
828-665-8737 TTY • 800-681-8035 TTY
800-681-7998 V • 828-670-5054 Fax

Charlotte:

5501 Executive Center Dr., Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-8558 V • 704-918-1554 VP
704-568-8505 TTY • 800-835-5302 V
800-835-5306 TTY • 704-568-9615 Fax

Greensboro:

122 North Elm Street, Suite 900
Greensboro, NC 27401
336-273-9692 V/TTY • 336-429-5644 VP
888-467-3413 V/TTY • 336-256-0689 Fax

Morganton:

107 Foothills Drive • Morganton, NC 28655
828-430-7185 V • 828-475-6606 VP
828-430-7192 TTY • 800-999-8915 V
800-205-9920 TTY • 828-430-7193 Fax

Raleigh:

4900 Waters Edge Drive • Raleigh, NC 27606
919-859-8526 V (Main) • 800-999-5737 V (Main)
919-233-7082 TTY • 919-890-0858 VP
919-233-7083 Fax

Wilmington:

3340 Jaeckle Drive, The Randall Bldg., Suite 104
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-251-5702 V • 910-777-5770 VP
910-251-5767 TTY • 800-205-9915 V
800-205-9916 TTY • 910-251-2677 Fax

Wilson:

2705 Wooten Blvd. • Wilson, NC 27893
252-243-3104 V • 252-674-1141 VP
252-243-1951 TTY • 800-999-6828 V
800-205-9925 TTY • 252-243-7634 Fax

Home Office:

919-874-2212 V/TTY • 919-890-0859 VP
800-851-6099 V/TTY • 919-855-6872 Fax

www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh