

Howard J. Hoffman, MA is Director, Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program, Division of Scientific Programs, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institutes of Health (NIH). He has led the NIDCD epidemiology program since 1992. This research program is focused on determining the prevalence, incidence, risk factors, and preventive interventions for conditions or disorders in all the mission areas of the Institute: hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language. He is Project Officer for the Hearing and Balance Components of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) and for many other epidemiologic studies supported by NIDCD in the U.S. and abroad. He is the NIDCD coordinator for measuring and tracking the hearing health objectives in Healthy People 2010. In 2005, he organized a Workshop on the Epidemiology of Communication Disorders. A Program Announcement was issued following the Workshop with the goal of stimulating new epidemiological research studies of communication disorders.

Prior to joining NIDCD, he worked for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), NIH, serving as Chief of the Biometry Branch, Special Assistant to the Director for Infant Mortality Research, and Project Officer on several national and international maternal and child health epidemiological studies. He has published over 190 peer-reviewed articles, several book chapters, and edited two books. He has collaborated on numerous studies of the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), e.g., articles describing epidemiological risk factors, the Back-to-Sleep campaign, and other studies aimed at reducing the risk of SIDS. His research publications in hearing research include a chapter on the "Epidemiology of Tinnitus" for *Tinnitus: Theory and Management* (BC Decker Inc, 2004), several papers on otitis media epidemiology, and papers on the prevalence and risk factors for hearing loss and noise-induced hearing loss. He recently collaborated with NIDDK colleagues, using data from NHANES (1999–2004), to demonstrate that hearing loss is an often under-recognized complication of diabetes. He has also published on the prevalence of smell and taste impairment.