



## Research question

How can I effectively inform students at IA about Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL) to increase their knowledge and enable them to identify the condition so they can seek immediate treatment for themselves or those around them?

## Prototype



## Intro

Sudden sensorineural hearing loss is a little known, but serious condition that can lead to permanent hearing loss in one or both ears if not treated promptly. Many people, specifically teenagers are unaware of SSNHL and its urgency. My project aims to start raising awareness of SSNHL starting with students at Innovation Academy. By increasing knowledge on this condition, students will be more prepared to recognize symptoms and get medical assistance.

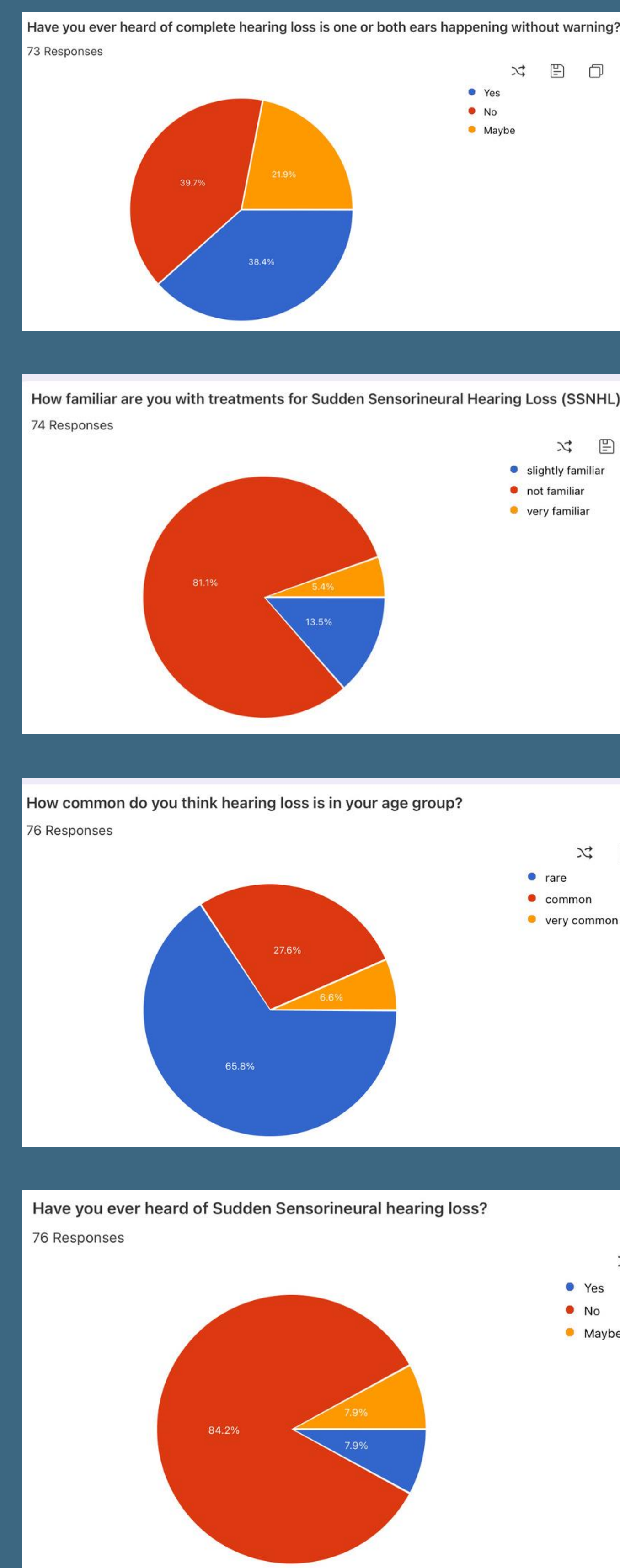
## Background

Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL) is a rare but urgent condition that causes by rapid hearing loss, usually in one ear, which can take a few hours or even days. SSNHL is known as an idiopathic condition, meaning its exact cause is often unknown. But it is sometimes linked to factors like viral infections, autoimmune disorders, or circulatory issues. For individuals affected by SSNHL, immediate treatment is essential, due to the fact that early intervention significantly improves the likelihood of hearing recovery (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [NIDCD], 2023). According to the NIDCD, taking corticosteroids within the first 14 days of getting SSNHL is a common treatment that usually has positive outcomes for many patients. However, due to the lack of public awareness, people most likely will delay seeking treatment, leading to a higher risk of permanent hearing loss.

## Future Research

I hope as the continued research about SSNHL reveals more about the mostly random issue I can continue to learn about and spread the knowledge. I plan to expand the awareness program with things like social media posts or a whole page dedicated to spreading awareness. By doing this I could reach an audience much larger than innovation academy and continue closing the gap in education about SSNHL.

## Survey Findings.



The results of the survey show that IA students are, for the most part, unaware of sudden hearing loss or that it could happen to them or their fellow classmates. Furthermore they are even more unequipped to identify and seek treatment. This goes to prove my hypothesis that students will not have enough knowledge about SSNHL.

## Conclusion

Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL) is a serious but often overlooked condition that can impact anyone—including teens. Our survey shows that the majority of students aren't aware of what SSNHL is or how it's treated, which highlights a major gap in health education. Raising awareness is crucial, because recognizing the symptoms early and seeking prompt medical attention can make the difference between full recovery and permanent hearing loss. By talking about it, learning the signs, and sharing this knowledge, we can help protect ourselves and others from the silent threat of SSNHL.

## Hypothesis

My hypothesis is that very few students are aware of SSNHL because it is not commonly discussed, especially among teenagers due to the fact that it usually, but not always, affects older people.

## Testing

After showing select students the infographic I found that they could answer questions about SSNHL with ease and were able to grasp its urgency. In the future I plan on receiving feed back from students about what format is the most effective for grabbing attention and informing students about SSNHL

## Methodology

For my research, I surveyed students at my school to assess their awareness of Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL), a condition where hearing loss occurs suddenly and without explanation, often requiring immediate treatment to prevent permanent damage. I then used the findings to help design an awareness campaign and do another round of surveys to assess its effectiveness. This design-based research method will help prove my hypothesis and allow me to understand what information needs to be included in order to create an effective awareness campaign. My hypothesis is that very few students are aware of SSNHL because it is not commonly discussed, especially among teenagers due to the fact that it usually, but not always, affects older people.