

Personal and professional perspectives on alcohol use disorder recovery in deaf and hard of hearing individuals

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

- The U.S. Deaf community experiences 3x the rate of problem drinking compared to the general population.
- Disparities are driven by a number of disability-related factors and Deaf-specific factors

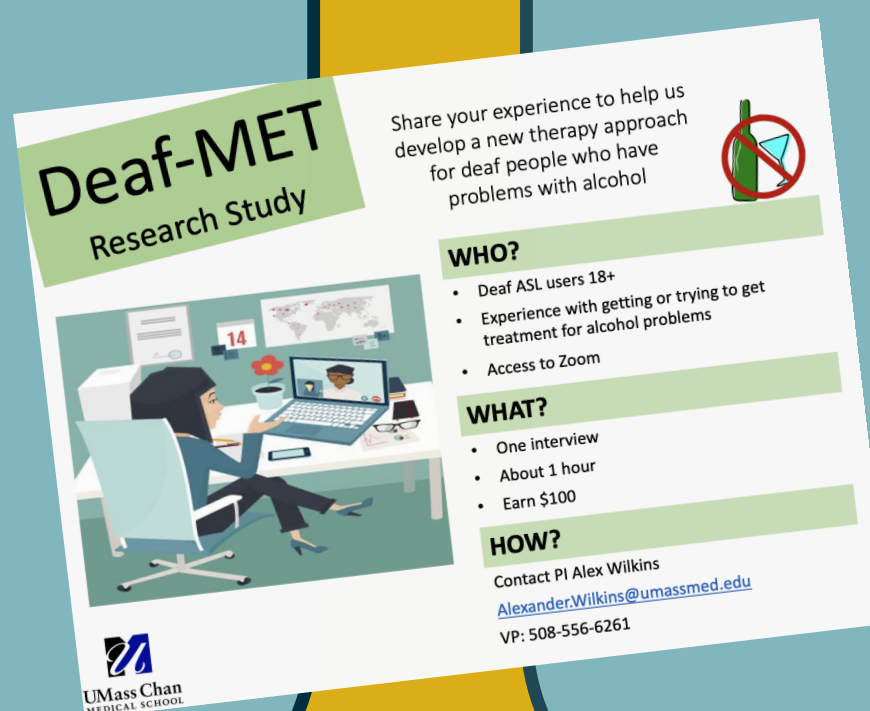
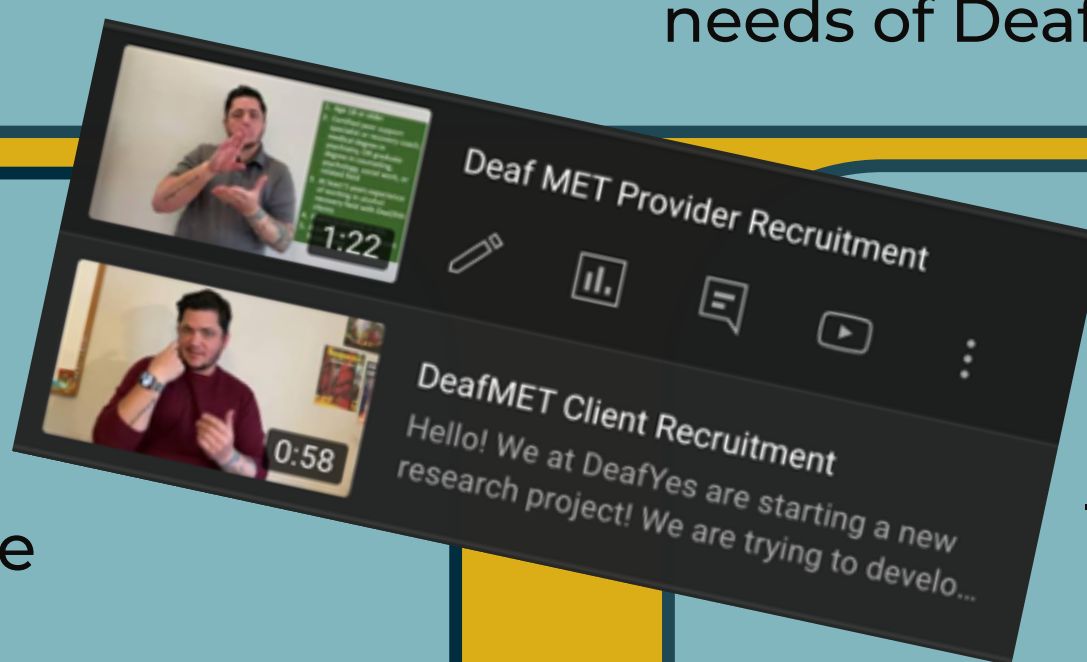
Deaf clients have unique language access needs:

- 4th grade median English literacy
- Health literacy parallels non-English speaking U.S. immigrants

Currently available AUD treatments were designed for hearing populations and fail to meet the unique linguistic, developmental, and cultural needs of Deaf clients.

METHOD

- Semi structured interviews with Deaf adults in recovery and service providers
- Queried history of alcohol use and treatment, facilitators and barriers to treatment, role of other Deaf individuals
- Queried education & job experience, interventions used, barriers to intervention effectiveness, treatment adaptation, and supporting client motivation and resilience.



PARTICIPANTS

- 14 Deaf adults in varying stages of recovery
 - Mean: 49.07 years old
 - S.D.: 11.8 years
 - Range: 31-70 years old
 - Between 1 week - 34 years sober
 - Various treatment types
- 10 service professionals
 - Various backgrounds and positions
 - 5 also in recovery

EMERGENT THEMES

- Pervasive lack of accessibility for treatment (e.g., providing appropriate accommodations or treatments available in ASL)
- Negative effects of this lack of access, additional burden of having to advocate for accommodations
- Mixed feelings about online AA/NA groups
- Desire for more connections with other DHH in recovery
- Difficulty understanding materials presented in treatment.