

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

The National Aphasia Association (NAA) conducted a survey this year to learn how much the general public knows about Aphasia. It turns out we still have a lot of work to do. Here is a summary of the results from the 1,001 people who responded:

- Respondents were > 25 years old and living in the United States.
- **86.2%** of people stated that they **never heard** the term “**Aphasia.**”
- **7%** of Americans have **both heard of Aphasia** and **can identify it** as a language disorder.
- Another **6.8%** had **heard** of Aphasia but **didn't know** what it was.
- Only **29.5%** of those with Aphasia awareness **knew** about it **due to a personal connection.**
- **13.8%** of people recall **first hearing** about Aphasia from a **television or movie.** Other sources for hearing about Aphasia are school or work.



INTEGRATIVE RECONNECTIVE APHASIA THERAPY

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An **advocate** is defined as “**one who supports or promotes the interests of a cause or a group,**” according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

Why are we having such a hard time educating the world about “Aphasia,” or even getting people to recognize the word itself? Perhaps the act of advocating presents a challenge when the person affected by the disorder has limitations with communicative expression. This is why it is crucial for family members and professionals to get involved with Aphasia advocacy, especially early on when it might be particularly challenging for the person with Aphasia to advocate for themselves.

Why is **advocacy** so important?

- It **gets** the word “**Aphasia**” **out there**, educating the public and increasing awareness about the disorder
- It may help to **improve overall quality of life** by improving social inclusion of persons with Aphasia
- It **improves and extends services** and availability of services to those with Aphasia
- It **increases support** for continued Aphasia research
- It **empowers** the individual with Aphasia and their loved ones

With June being National Aphasia Awareness Month, there is no better time to start or continue advocating for yourself, your loved ones, and individuals with Aphasia...



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How can YOU help advocate for yourselves and educate others?

- Use the word **APHASIA**
 - Say it, write it, wear it, show it, repeat it!
 - We need to use the word for people to learn about it and remember it!
- **Create** and **USE** an Aphasia Card
- **WEAR** the word **Aphasia** (hat, t-shirts, bracelets, pins, etc.)
- Create a **video** and share it on social media
 - Videos allow people to really “see” what Aphasia looks like and how it can be so different for each person!
- Host **community events** for Aphasia
- **Start** a local **Aphasia Support Group**, or start an online Aphasia group, or **join** a group that already exists
- **Write** an article, newsletter, or e-book about Aphasia
- Create an **Aphasia blog**
- **Share** news and stories about Aphasia to local media sources
- **Walk** or **run** a race for Aphasia or create your own event
- **Get involved** with the National Aphasia Association (NAA)



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