READING FOR ALL!

ACCESSIBLE, NO-COST, HOME-DELIVERED LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THOSE WITH PRINT IMPAIRMENTS

PRESENTED BY: Mary Kearns-Kaplan, MLS MSW. New Jersey State Library Talking Book & Braille Center (TBBC) | mkaplan@njstatelib.org | 800-792-8322, ext 834 | www.njstatelib.org/tbbc

NJ State Library
An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

ABSTRACT

TBBC offers a free, home-delivered, postage-free, accessible library service from the U.S. Library of Congress designed to serve those with print impairments. The development of a print impairment may have negative psychosocial effects. Print impairments may increase as our population ages. Many health care providers are unfamiliar with this free service that can have an enormous impact on the quality of a person's life. TBBC's service enriches a person's life and can ameliorate some of the anxiety and depression associated with a print impairment.

"I want to say thank you for being a great library to me as I have RP [retinitis pigmentosa] through BB [Bardet-Biedl] syndrome. I love to read and am thankful for BARD and the books that come in mail to me. You have no idea how this is a blessing to me as I don't have to depend on others to read to me."

ABOUT TBBC

Part of the New Jersey State Library, TBBC is a regional Library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in the U.S. Library of Congress.

TBBC serves NJ residents of all ages who have print impairments because of:

- Physical Impairment
- Reading Disability
- Vision Impairment

Services provided:

- Audiobooks
- Audio magazines
- Braille
- Downloadable Audio & Braille Materials
- BARD Mobile App for Android, Apple & Kindle Fire devices
- Newsline from the National Federation of the Blind®

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TBBC'S SERVICES?

Individuals are Eligible: TBBC serves children, teens and adults in New Jersey who have difficulty reading standard print or holding a book.

Places are Eligible: TBBC also serves all places in New Jersey that serve eligible individuals, e.g. hospitals, rehabilitation centers, senior living residences, etc.

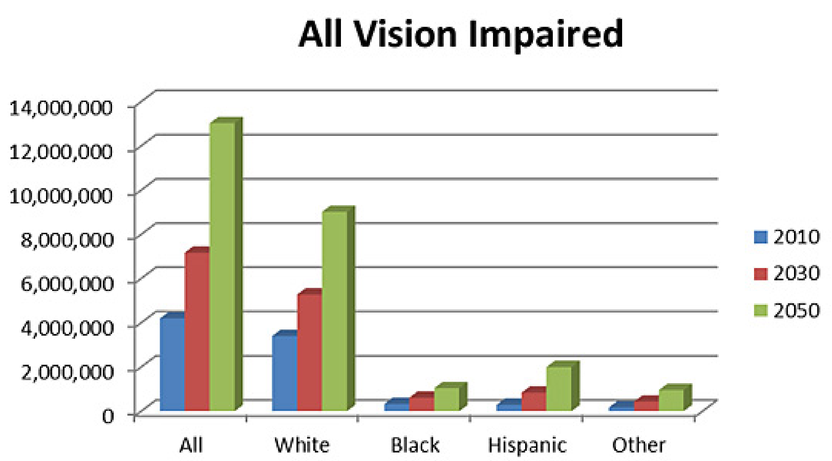
CAUSES OF PRINT IMPAIRMENTS

Here are examples of illnesses that can cause print impairments:

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Arthritis
- Brain Injuries
- Cerebral Palsy
- Dyslexia
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- Stroke
- Vision Loss

A LOOK AT STATISTICS AFFECTING PRINT IMPAIRMENTS

- **12.6% of U.S. population has a disability**
- **U.S. 65+ Population to double by 2050**
- As population ages, increase in disabilities and therefore print impairments. Let's look at one cause of a print impairment: Vision Loss.
  - **Vision Loss in U.S. is on the rise.**
    - **27% ↑ between 2000-2010.**
    - **By 2030, a 72% ↑ projected**
- Social Isolation in the Elderly
  - JAMA study indicates 1 in 20 over 65 is homebound (Ankuda, et al)
  - To ↑ as population ages
  - Another JAMA study: increasing trend toward aging at home (Ornstein, et al)



REFERENCES

Please see supplemental handout.

"I was diagnosed with ALS in 2013 and I've been getting books on tape from you since then. I greatly appreciate this service."

PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACTS OF PRINT IMPAIRMENTS

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Loss of Daily Living Activities
- Social Isolation

HOW TO OBTAIN TBBC'S SERVICES

Applications for TBBC's services can be found on our web site at: **WWW.NJSTATELIB.ORG**
All individual applications must be certified by a health care professional.

"…The audioreader has been such a great addition to the Hospital Elder Life Program. …Just a little anecdote. We have a patient who has been very upset and irritable with almost everything and everyone in the hospital. I played Chicken Soup for the Soul books for him and it's about the only thing he's very happy with!!"

CONCLUSIONS

- Print impairments may produce negative psychosocial impacts.
- As the population ages, print impairments will increase with disabilities.
- Social isolation will increase as more people become homebound.
- TBBC's free, home-delivered accessible library service can help to ameliorate negative psychosocial effects of print impairments.

"I wanted to thank you and your associates for this program. It truly is a miracle gift to persons who cannot see. With these books, my father has a full life and something to look forward to and occupy his mind, each day- as opposed to listening to the same 10 minutes of news on the radio, all day. This is the best use of our tax dollars ever!"