

**W E L C O M E**

**ADA 2014 CONVENTION**

**RED ROCK RESORT | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**NOVEMBER 6-9, 2014**



# ***Product Dependence***

**IS IT CO-OPTING OUR EFFORTS TO  
BECOME LIMITED LICENSED PROVIDERS?**



# Presenters

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- Ian Windmill, Ph.D., U. Mississippi School of Medicine
- Brian Taylor, Au.D., Unitron Hearing





# What if...

Shel Silverstein



*Last night, while I lay thinking here,  
Some Whatifs crawled inside my ear  
And pranced and partied all night long  
What if I'm dumb in school?  
What if they've closed the swimming  
pool?  
What if I get beat up?  
What if there's poison in my cup?...  
Everything seems swell, and then  
The nighttime Whatifs strike again!*



Consumers

# Demographic Landscape



**ADA 2014 CONVENTION**

**RAISING THE STAKES:  
GOING ALL IN FOR AUDIOLOGY**



Dept. of Labor

# The Good News

**Increased  
recognition  
for Audiology**



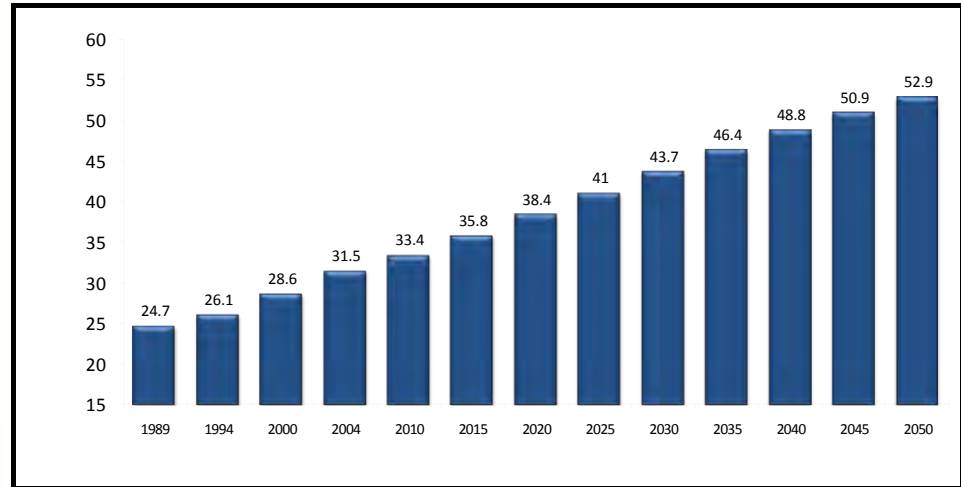
State License Laws

U.S. Department of Education

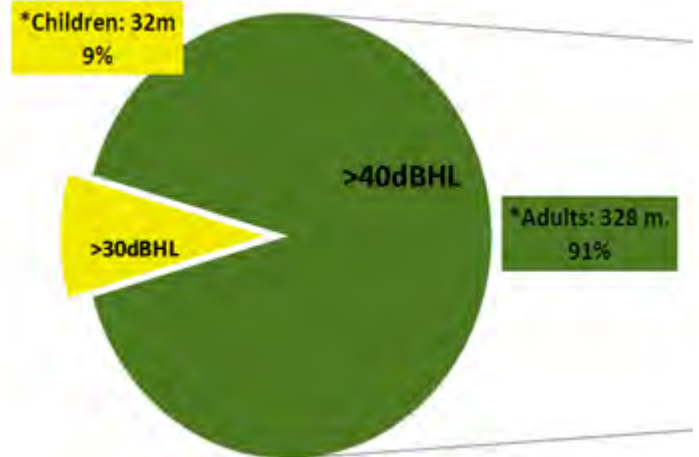
Fed Employee Health Benefit Plans, Dept. of  
Veteran's Affairs, Private 3rd Party Insurance



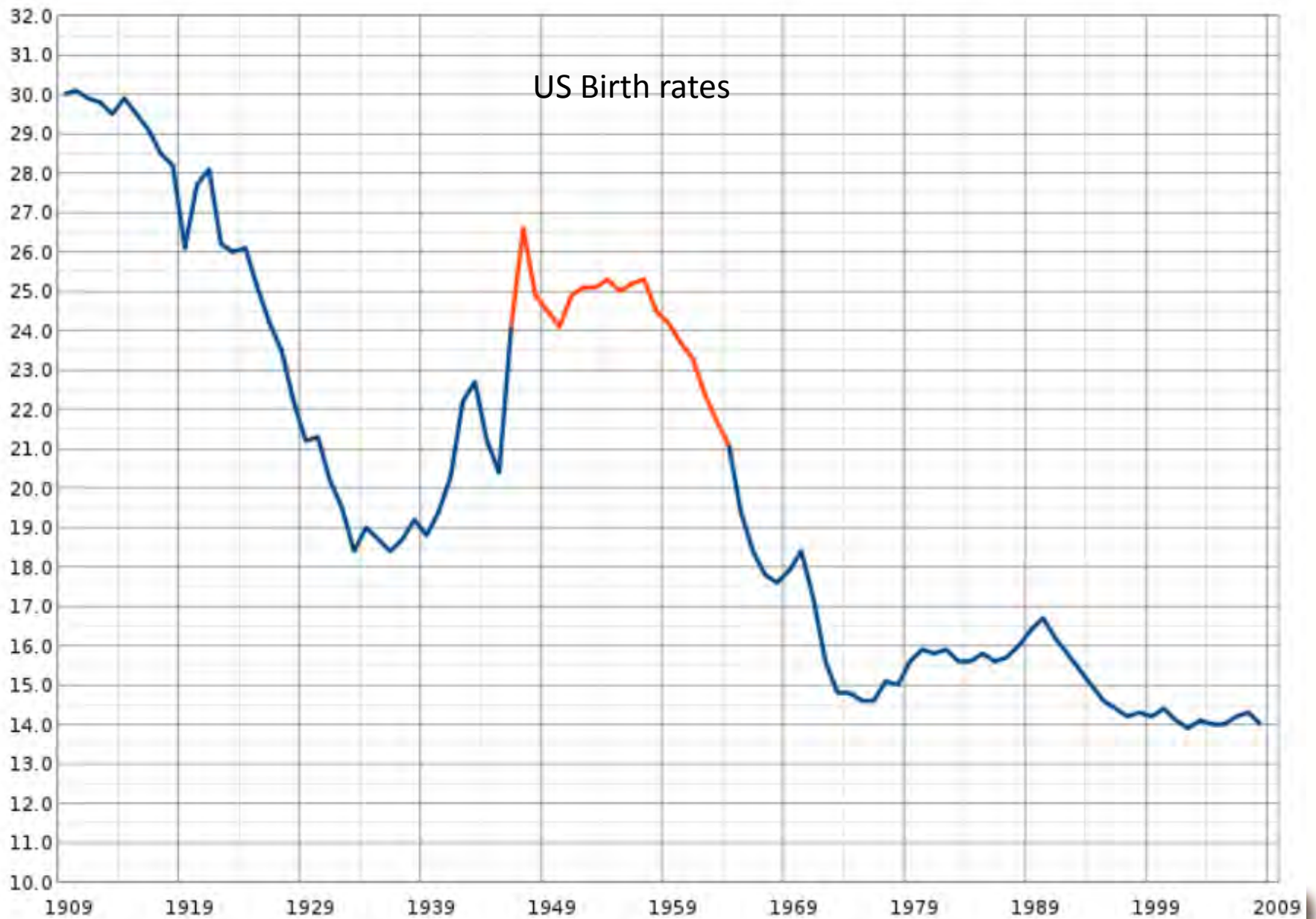
# The Good News



High demand for services









# Unmet Need

*% Using H.aids/% Not Using*

*Severe/Profound  
5% of population*

**70%/30%**

*Mod/Severe HL  
20% of population*

**50%/50%**

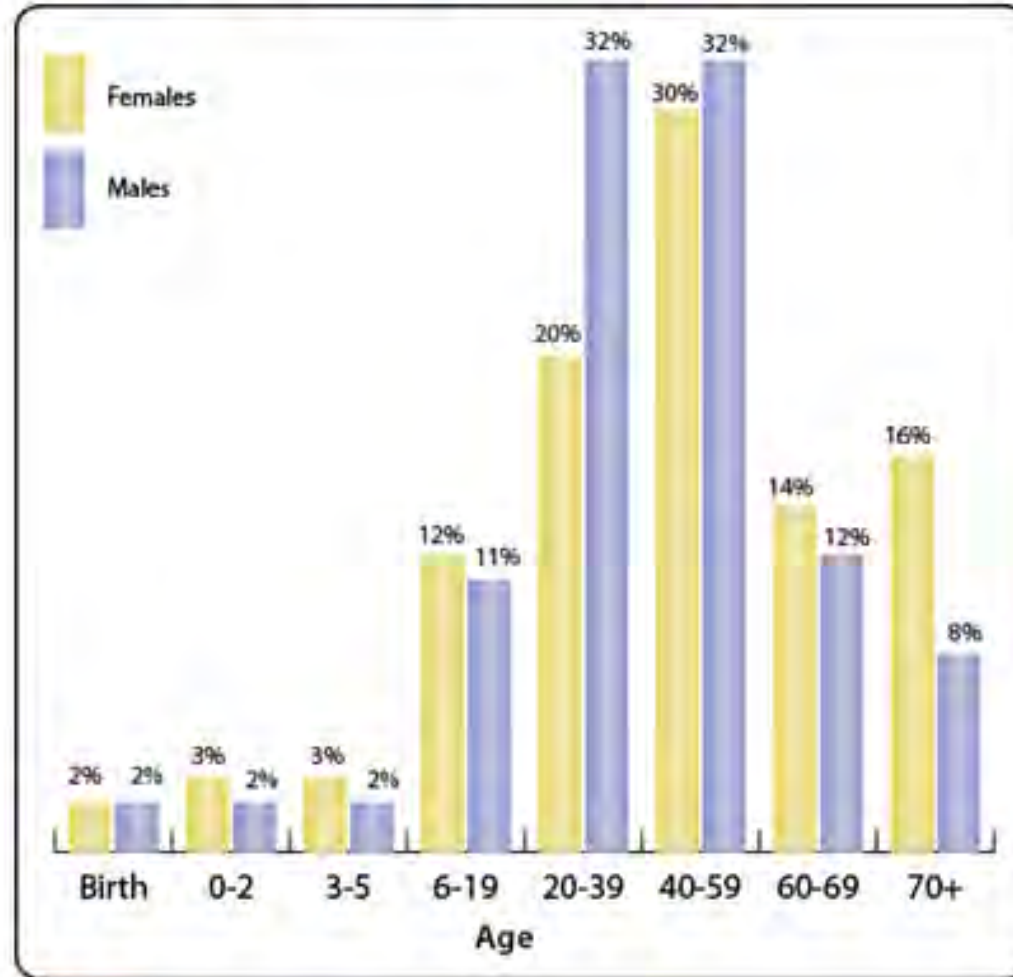
*Mild /Mod HL 75%  
of Population*

**10%/90%**



# Onset of Hearing Loss NIDCD, 2012

## Age at Which Hearing Loss Begins



[Textive image]



# Hearing Instrument Facts (Marketrak, 2012; Bernstein, 2013)

- 3m hearing aids sold annually in U.S.; 11m globally.
- ~14m hearing aids in use in U.S; 40m globally.
- Average age at purchase: 69 years
- 70% products sold to current users



Providers

# Demographic Landscape



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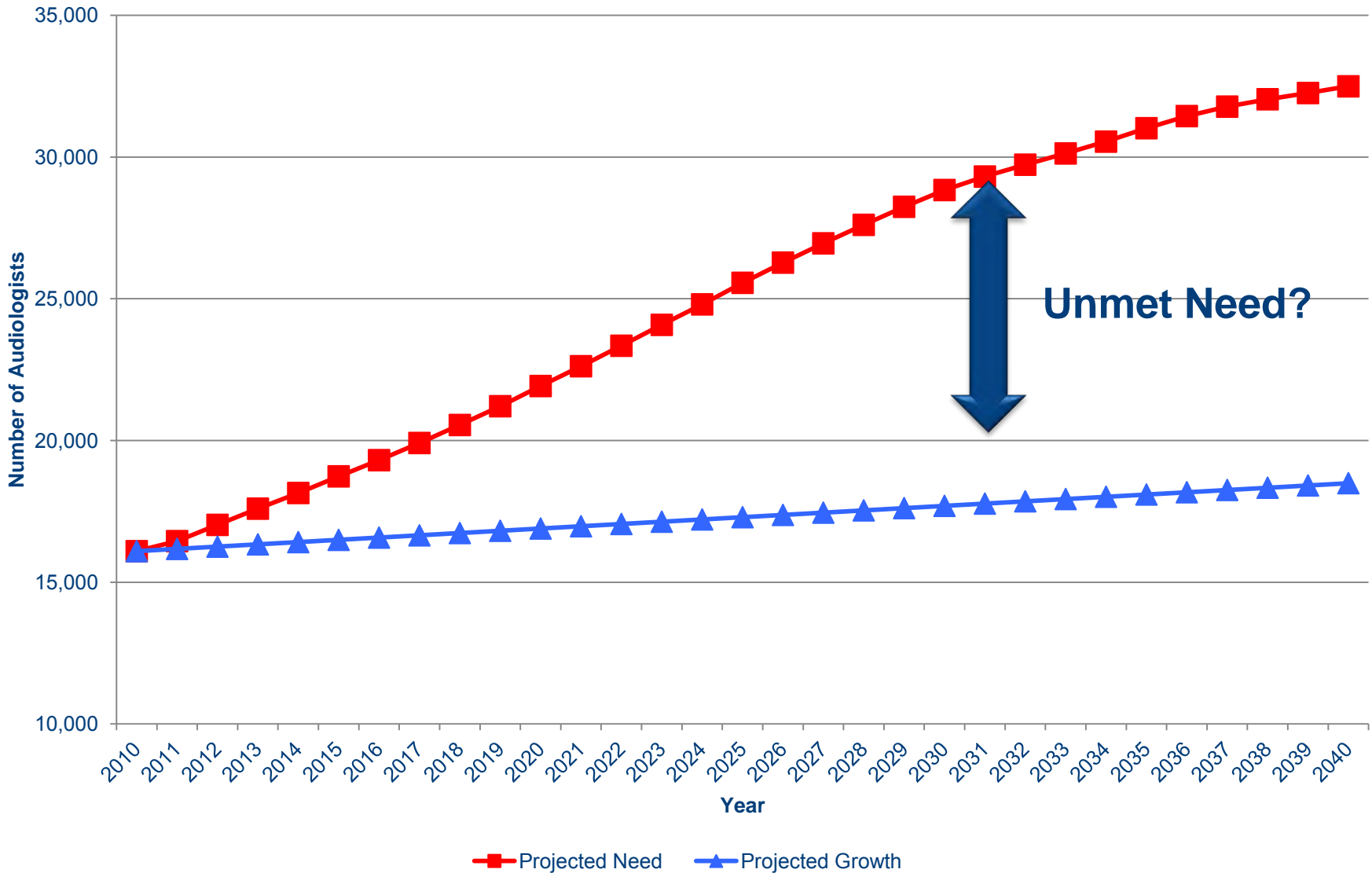
# Hearing Care Providers\*

- Audiologists: 16,095
- Dispensers: 8,203

\*Freeman, 2010



# Projected Need versus Projected Growth of Audiologists





# Challenges

- **Workforce to meet demand**
- **Improvements in practice efficiencies**



# Audiologist: **Best Career**

- Forbes magazine:

*The “Offices of Audiologists” are #15 of the 20 Most Profitable Small Businesses in America.*

- US News & World Report/U.S. Department of Labor:

- 4 consecutive years #1
- “One-on-one helping career”
- “Under-the-radar career”
- “Great independent practice opportunities”





Manufacturers

# Demographic Landscape



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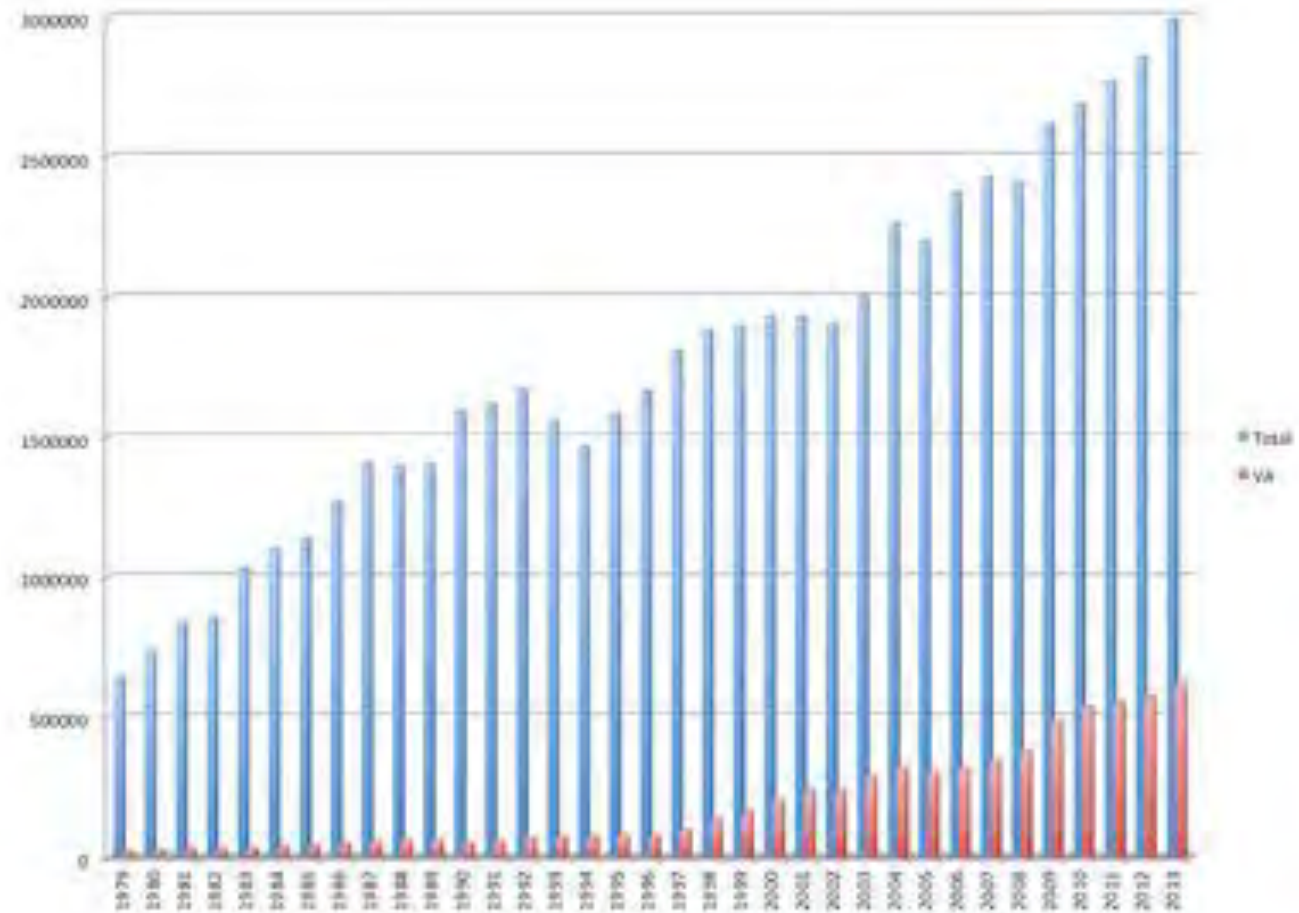
# Understanding the Manufacturers

## Overview

Parent Company	Manufacturers	Ownership	Headquarters
Starkey	Starkey, Nu-Ear, Microtech	Private	USA
GN ReSound	GN Resound, Beltone, Interton, Danavox, Philips	Public	Denmark
William Demant/Holding	Oticon, Bernafon, Sonic Innovations , Phonic Ear, Sennheiser	Public	Denmark
Widex A/S	Widex	Private	Denmark
Siemens	Rexton, Miracle Ear	Public	Germany
Sonova	Phonak, Unitron, Sona, Argosy, Lori, Advanced Bionics, Hearing Planet	Public	Switzerland



# Hearing Instrument Sales:1989-2013



VA accounted for 20.6% of all units a growth unit rate of 7.3% over 2012;

Private-sector dispensing unit growth increased by 4.2% in 2013.

Overall growth: 4.8%. 2,990,104 net units dispensed in 2013.



**ADA 2014 CONVENTION RAISING THE STAKES: COMING ALL IN FOR AUDIOLOGY**



# HA Units: 2009-present

Figure 1: US unit growth





# The Great Unknown: PSAPs

Approximately 1.5 million people with hearing impairment use either direct-mail or personal sound amplifier products (PSAPs) to compensate for their hearing loss;

Approximately 3 out of 4 PSAP users have hearing loss profiles equivalent to those of custom hearing aid users



# Other Unknowns:

- Hearables
- Wearables
- Compatible Accessories



# Hearables

- “Hearables are our next generation of devices that we put in or on our ears...”
- A new generation of technology is going to revolutionize the way we listen to music, as well as for vital signs and fitness sensors.”
- “‘**Hearable**’ technology is a force to be reckoned to be reckoned with...”

Hunn, 2014



- Bluetooth companies are working with Hearing Aid industry...to bring music capability to hearing aid-sized devices.
- The comfort of wearing such lightweight headsets will also destigmatize hearing aids and grow the market for hearing aids.
- The hearing aid industry will start incorporating these into products, with around 60% of hearing aids being Bluetooth based by 2020. The added functionality of these will also stimulate the market
- By 2018 the hearable market will be worth over \$5 billion,

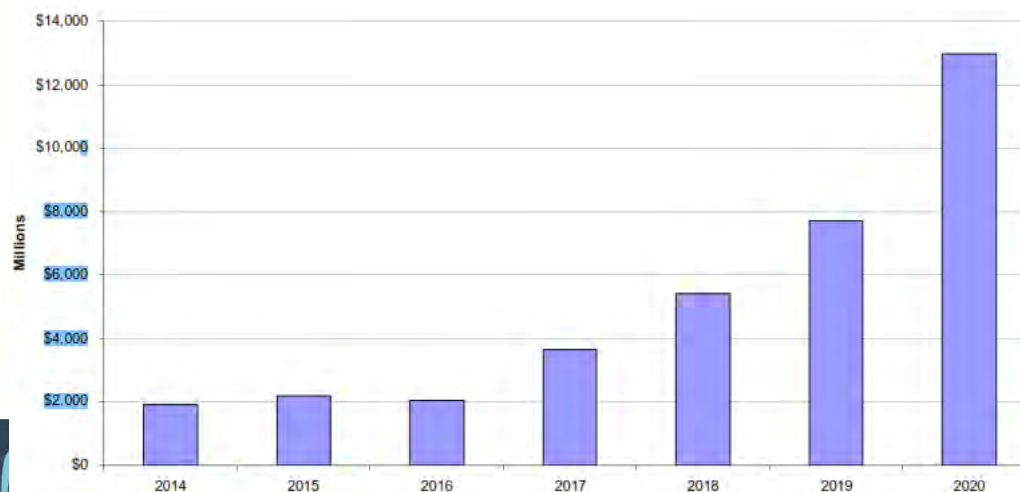


Fig. 5. Global Revenue for Hearables



Jabra Sport Pulse (bluetooth headset with in-ear heartrate monitor).  
Without explicit commentary from management, ... this technology could soon be used by the hearing aid division. If so, GN will be the first mover in hearing aids with integrated body sensors.

## JABRA SPORT PULSE™ WIRELESS EARBUDS:

The next generation all-in-one training solution with integrated heart rate monitor.

Take your training to the next level and get the ultimate wireless workout with Jabra Sport Pulse Wireless earbuds and the Jabra Sport Life™ app. This all-in-one training solution combines an in-ear precision heart rate monitor, immersive Dolby® sound, and real-time voice coaching that will inspire you to achieve the impossible. Cut the clutter and experience true freedom of movement without compromise.





# Audiologist's Role?

- Does our current business model lend itself to meeting future patient services?
- Does separating professional services from product prices make more sense in the evolving world of technology?



# Technology Advancement

- Open platform
- Rechargeable Batteries and Conversion Modules
- Peripherals/Compatible Accessories



**THE DASH**  
WIRELESS  
IN EAR HEADPHONES  
4GB MP3 PLAYER  
MICROPHONE  
BLUETOOTH HEADSET  
FITNESS TRACKER  
HEARTRATE MONITOR



**sona**



# Is it time...

- To eliminate “Hearing Aid” from our vocabulary



# Hearing Aids?

- These are not our grandparents hearing aids!
- Let's rebrand...Audiology Hearables?!
- Let's remove "Hearing Aid" from our language!



# Talk About Professional Differentiation

## Hearing Aids

- Analog or DSP
- Disposable battery
- Bundled price
- Sophisticated amplifier
- Worn by pre-baby-boom generation

## Audiology Hearables

- DSP Wireless
- Rechargeable
- Itemizing to sell peripherals and compatible accessories
- Sought by the current and new generations of hearing impaired and even non-impaired!





# Audiology's Role?

- Will our patient's be able to hear the "hearable"?
- Who should fit and adjust?
  - The Apple Store "certified accessibility" staff?
- Who should counsel to enable our patients to live in a "hearable" world.
- It's more than just a product sale!



# What's in your Sandbox?

Where is the competition NOT playing?



- Tinnitus management?
- Rehabilitation and Counseling?
- Vestibular assessment and management?
- Rechargeability of hearing instruments?
- Compatible accessories?
- Custom products and services?
- What do you offer that differentiates your practice?

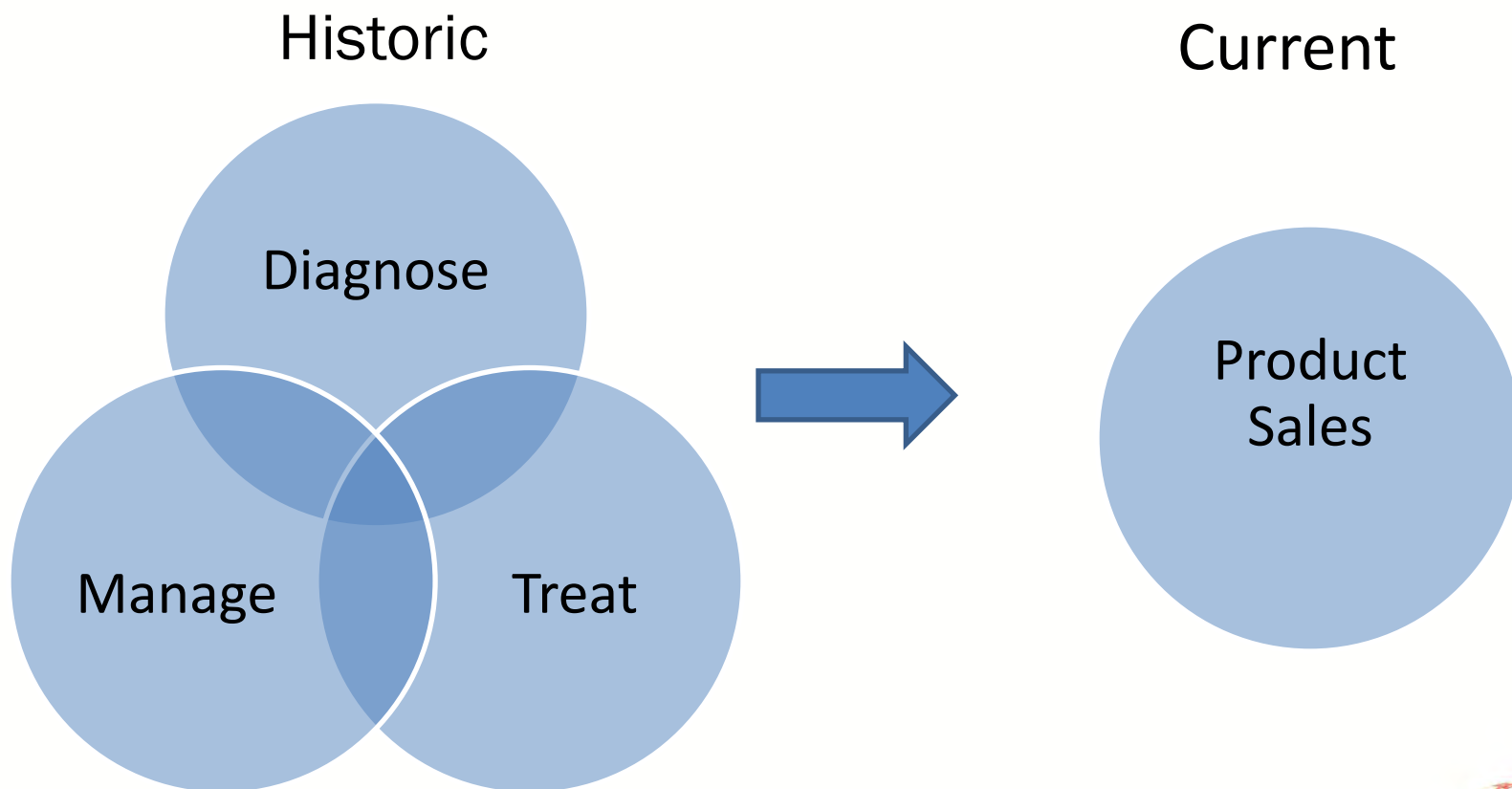


# Chaos Breeds Opportunity!

There should be a lot of opportunities for audiologists!!



# Core Focus: A shift from LLP to Retail Sales



*“If all you do is sell a product, differentiation is impossible because your industry can be cannibalized by corporate America.”*

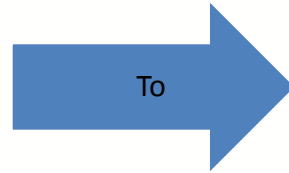
Woods (2013)





# Cannibalization

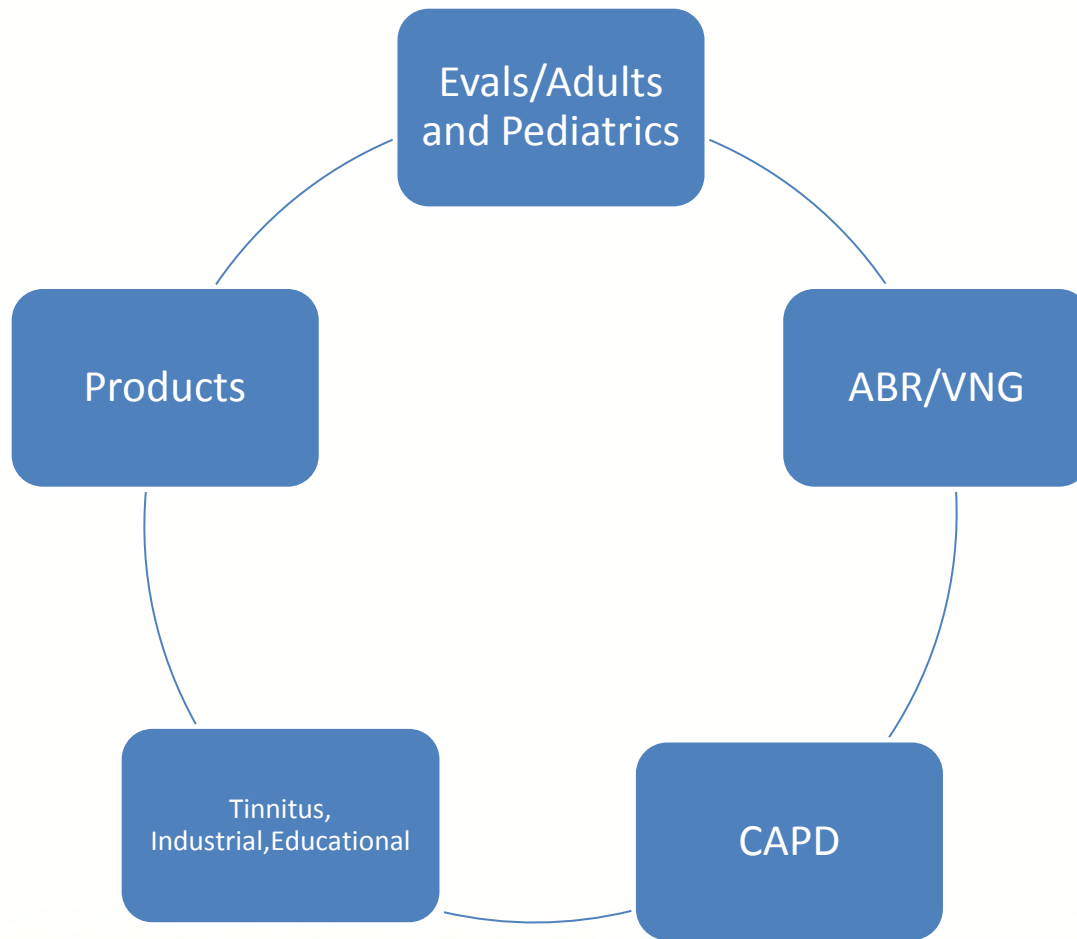
A shift from our goal of becoming LLPs who Diagnose, Manage, and Treat their patients



A goal of selling more products today than yesterday



# Historic: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)



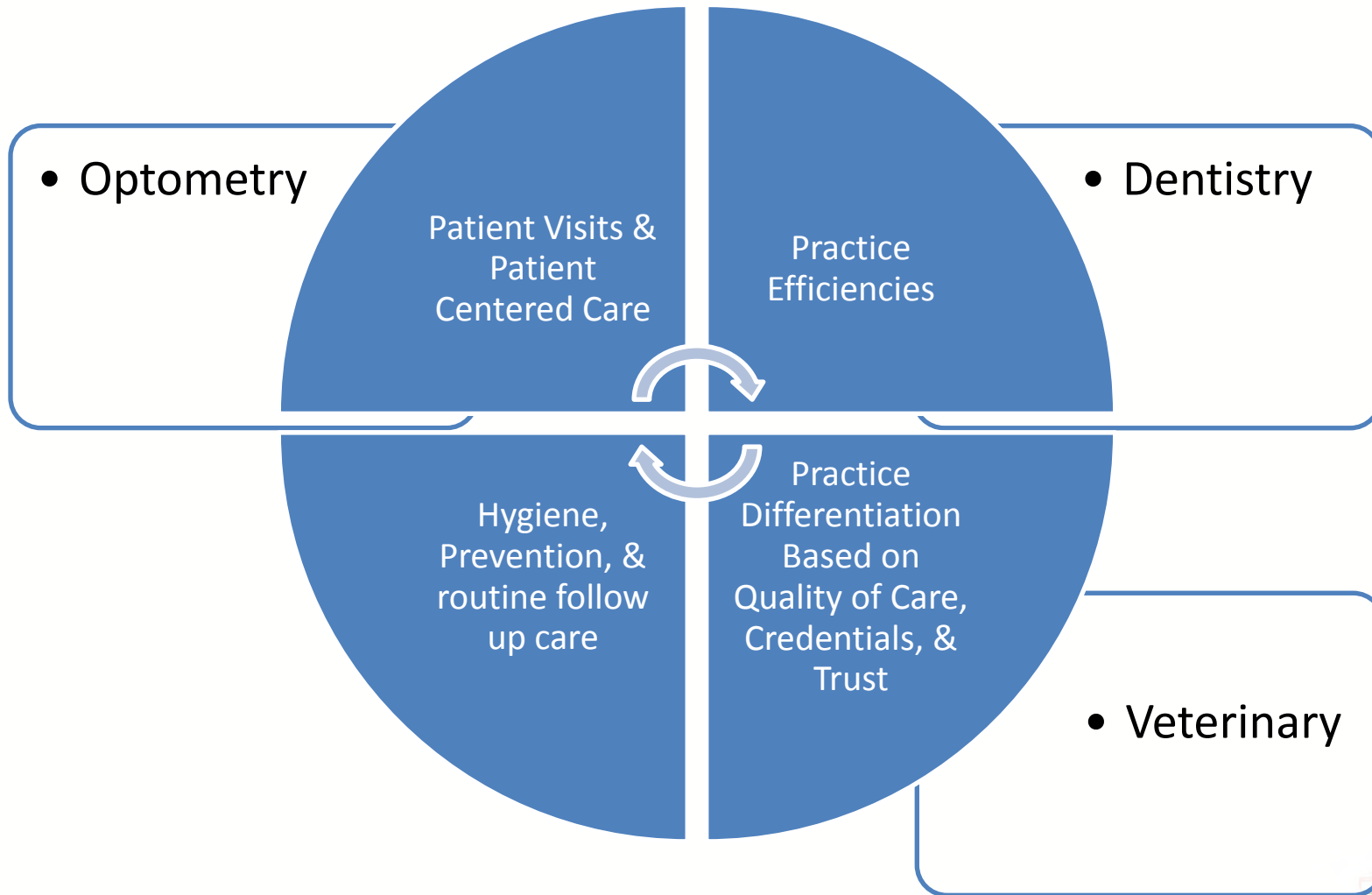
# Current : Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)



# *Learning From Other Professions*



# Lessons from other professions





# Lessons from other professions

- Patients

Some will stay with practice

Some will go to Big-box Retail or On-line

Some services will be paid out of pocket with discretionary and disposable income

Some services covered by 3<sup>rd</sup> Party



# What to do?



- Differentiate!
  - Provide a suite of services that distinguishes practice from the market.
  - Diagnose, manage, and treat our patients.
  - Focus marketing on Audiologic care rather than price/product.



# What to do?

- Audiology

Patient Visits &  
Patient  
Centered Care

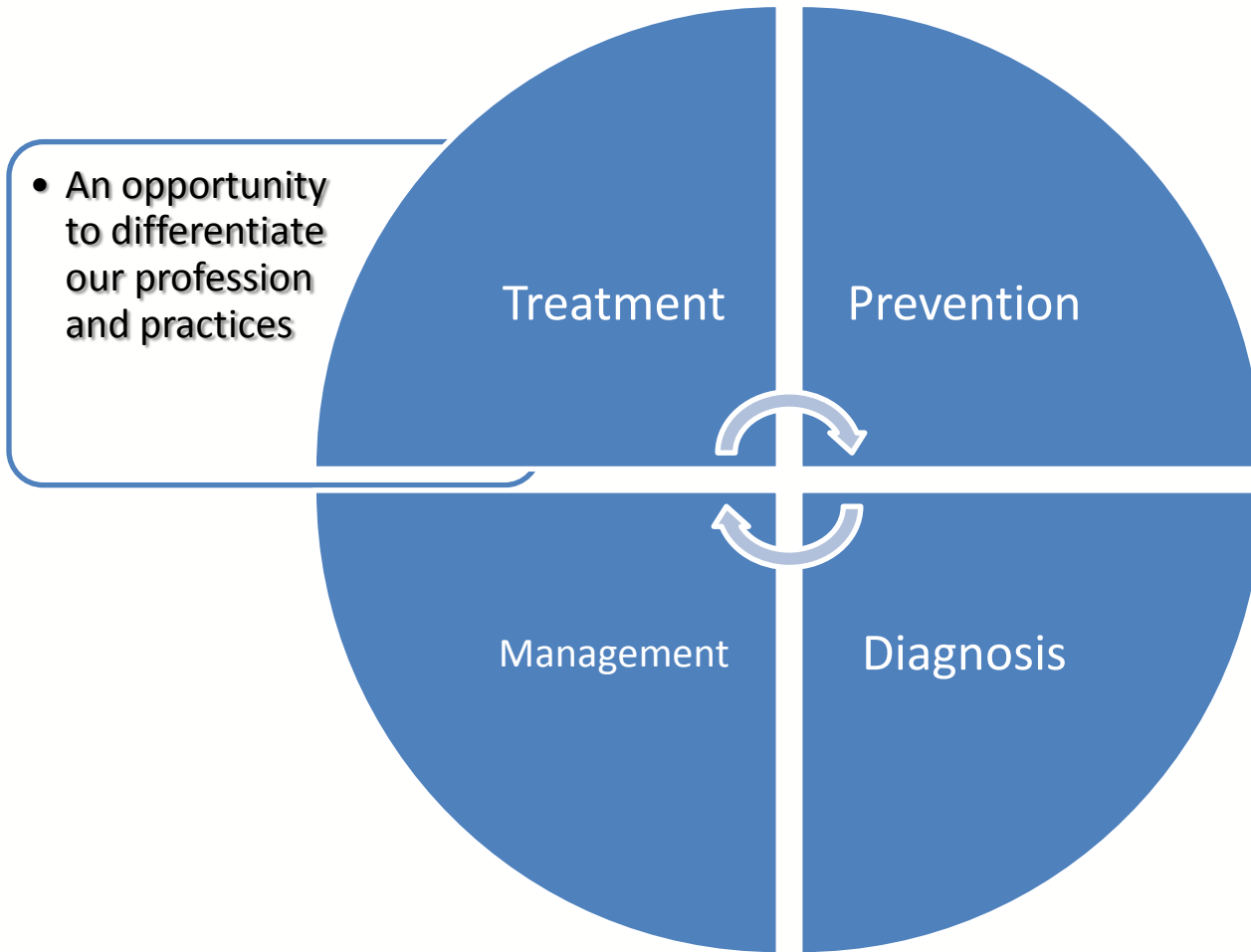
Practice  
Efficiencies;  
Routine Hearing  
and Balance  
Exams

Hygiene,  
Prevention, &  
routine follow  
up care

Practice  
Differentiation  
Based on  
Quality of Care,  
Credentials, &  
Trust



# The Language of Trust (P. Marincovich, 2014)



# So, if the WhatIf's Strike:

- Focus and promote your passion
- Follow best clinical standards and business practices
- Take care of your business—make your bed every morning—organize and plan





# This Should be Our Wake Up Call for Professional Differentiation

**Focus on the full scope of audiologic  
practice and patient centered care**







**Taylor**



**Freeman**



**Amlani**



**Windmill**