

## **Poster title:** Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Users Report on Tools and Techniques They Rely on for Communication

AAC is all the ways people who can't speak all the time or can't speak at all communicate.

### **What is this?**

A group of AAC users, disability organizations, providers, and researchers worked together to make a plan to increase peer support for AAC users. Together they were called the AAC Peer Support Consortium.

The Consortium sent a survey to AAC users across the country. The survey asked about what types of AAC they use to communicate. This was the largest survey about this topic.

There are lots of different kinds of AAC that people use. Most people said they communicate with their bodies and also use tools or devices to help them communicate. Almost all people use more than one way to communicate.

**Image Description:** A bar chart shows the types of communication methods used by AAC users.

- 92 people use Gestures (body movements, like waving your hand or nodding your head).
- 85 people use Computer or tablet with software.
- 82 people use Facial Expressions.
- 81 people use Body Language.
- 77 people use Speech generating devices (a machine or computer that talks).
- 73 people use Communication boards with alphabet, word, phrases, and/or symbols.
- 70 people use Pointing and pantomime (acting using body movements and facial expressions).
- 70 people use Smartphone.
- 58 people use Dedicated speech generating device (a machine or computer that talks).
- 58 people use Sign Language.
- 47 people use Writing (handwriting or typing).
- 38 people use Fingerspelling.
- 34 people use Manual Signs.
- 29 people use Pictures or cards.
- 22 people use Drawing tools (like pens, paint, or digital art).
- 20 people use Communication book with alphabet, word, phrases, and/or symbols.
- 17 people use Symbol (object or paper) exchange.
- 5 people use Non-word sounds (like grunts or meowing).
- 4 people use Media (like videos and music).
- 2 people use Verbal speech/mouth words (talking).

- 2 people use Tactile objects (something you can touch and feel to help you communicate).
- 2 people use Toys.
- 1 person uses Mouthing words without making sounds.
- 1 person uses Partner-assisted scanning.

**Image description:** A bar chart shows the number of communication methods used by AAC users

- 29 people report using between 1-4 tools and techniques to communicate.
- 73 people report using between 5-10 tools and techniques to communicate.
- 22 people report using between 11-15 tools and techniques to communicate.
- 5 people report using between 16-18 tools and techniques to communicate.