AN END TO PASSIVITY:
DEAF PEOPLE PROTESTING
1970 - 2005

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But today we are examining additional data
Operational Definitions

“Protest”

- Conducted by 2 or more people
- Demands social, not individual, change
- Does not include self-help or money-raising
- Uses tactics that are non-normative in the US, such as striking or blocking buses, not just acceptable tactics such as lobbying, suing, or petitioning
- Had to have happened already
“Protest Related to Deafness”

- The issue is relevant to deafness or deaf people only
- Deaf people participating in a cross-disability protest are not included here
- ‘Deafness’ is based upon the issue, not the protesters: A protest about a deaf school by hearing parents of deaf children is included, but an anti-apartheid protest by deaf people is not
“One Protest”

- Same core group with same issue
- Can have sequential tactics or locations over days or weeks
- Simultaneous protests at two locations = 2 protests

“Rights-related demand”

- Demand is about accessibility, discrimination, legal issues or recognition of sign language

“Services-related demand”

- Demand is about money, services or education [unless education is shown separately]
Methodology

- Data = descriptions of protests from newspaper articles, news services, magazines, organization web sites, and personal accounts [verified from other sources]
- Located using print & computerized data bases
- Unit of analysis is events, not people
- N = 136 in US, 112 outside of US
Figure 1: US Protests by Year

- Before DPN: 40
- 1988: 12
- 1989: 3
- 1990: 5
- 1991: 6
- 1992: 4
- 1993: 7
- 1994: 4
- 1995: 4
- 1996: 5
- 1997: 7
- 1998: 6
- 1999: 9
- 2000: 6
- 2001: 8
- 2002: 2
- 2003: 2
- 2004: 1
Figure 2: US Protest Demands

- **Rights**: 21.1% pre DPN, 18.5% post DPN
- **Services**: 42.4% pre DPN, 32.3% post DPN
- **Education**: 15.3% pre DPN, 30.6% post DPN
- **Other**: 21.1% pre DPN, 18.5% post DPN

Differences approach statistical significance.
Figure 3: US Protest Targets

Differences are statistically significant
Differences are statistically significant.
There were none in the Arab Middle East, Eastern Europe or Russia.
Figure 6: Post DPN Protest Locations

[Graph showing US and Non US protest locations from 1989 to 2005]
Figure 7: ~US Protest Locations by Decade

- **Pre DPN**: 1
- **1988 - 9**: 17
- **1990's**: 17
- **2000's**: 19

Legend:
- **UK**
- **Canada**
- **W. Eur**
- **Asia**
- **Africa**
- **Aus, NZ**
- **Other**
Figure 8: Post DPN Demands by Location

Differences are statistically significant.
Figure 9: Comparing Protests

Disruptive

US: 6.6%
non US: 21.2%

Police present

US: 3.7%
non US: 13.2%

Differences are statistically significant.
Overall: Protests in the US

- DPN was not the first or even an early protest in the US
- Post DPN protests were more likely to make demands related to education than were pre-DPN protests
- Post DPN protests most likely to target state governments or educational institutions than were pre-DPN protests
- Protest activity has diminished in recent years
Overall: Protests outside the US

- Pre-DPN protests were primarily in Europe
- Numbers of protests have increased since 1990 and protests have spread to Africa & Asia
- Protests targeted governmental and non-gov’t targets equally; this didn’t change after DPN
- Post DPN were more likely to demand rights or services than US protests
- Protests were more likely to have police present and were more disruptive [by US standards], than US protests
Conclusions:

• In the US, DPN itself, or characteristics of it, diffused

• Outside of the US, the idea of protest diffused, but characteristics of DPN did not—social structural, cultural, political, and economic characteristics can be assumed to affect patterns of protest in other countries more than DPN did