



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

SLP Health Care SURVEY 2017

Caseload Characteristics

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Executive Summary

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted a survey of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in the spring of 2017. The survey was designed to provide information about health care-based service delivery and to update and expand information gathered during previous SLP Health Care Surveys. The results are presented in a series of reports.

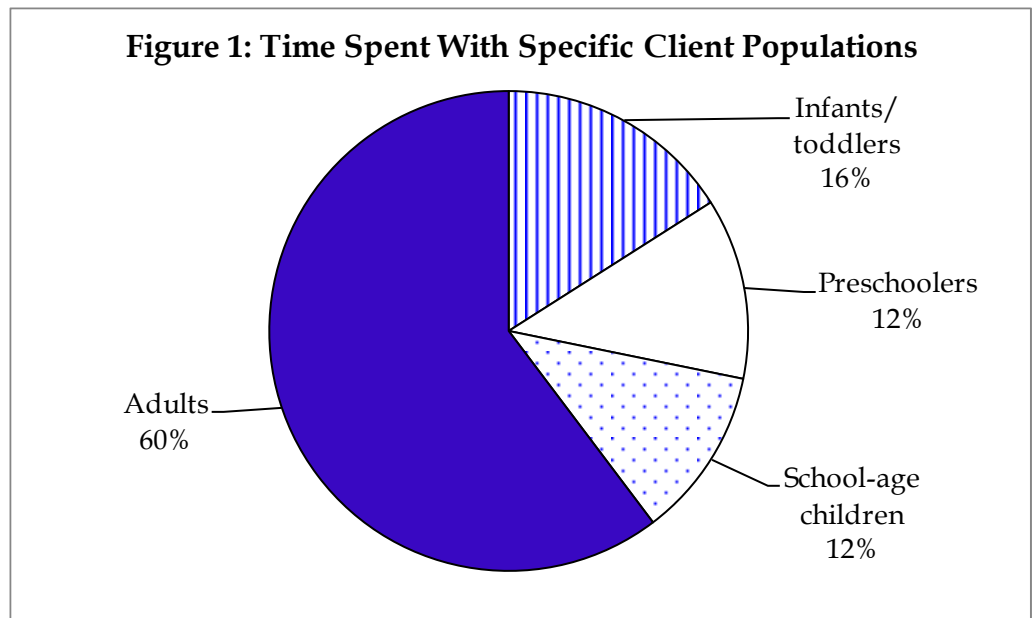
This report addresses only questions on the survey pertaining to caseload. Data are drawn from all six types of health care facilities: general medical, Veterans Affairs (VA), and long-term acute care (LTAC) hospitals; rehabilitation (rehab) hospitals; pediatric hospitals; skilled nursing facilities (SNFs); home health agencies and clients' homes; and outpatient clinics and offices.

Highlights

- ◆ 60% of SLPs' clinical time was spent providing services to adults.
- ◆ In adult settings, 39% of time spent delivering services was in the area of swallowing.
- ◆ Time spent on swallowing with adults was highest in general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals (57%).
- ◆ Time spent on dementia (27%) was highest in SNFs.
- ◆ In pediatric settings, 21% of the time spent delivering services was in the areas of language and literacy and speech sound disorders.
- ◆ SLPs in outpatient clinics and offices who provided pediatric services spent more time on speech sound disorders (24%) than did SLPs in other facility types.
- ◆ SLPs in pediatric hospitals spent more time on swallowing and feeding (35%) than did SLPs who worked with pediatric patients in other facility types.

Populations Served

On average (mean), 60% of time spent on service delivery was with adult clients (see Figure 1). Remaining times were fairly evenly distributed among infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.



Note. *n* = 1,582.

Facility

The range of clients' ages varied widely by type of facility ($p = .000$; see Appendix, Table 1):

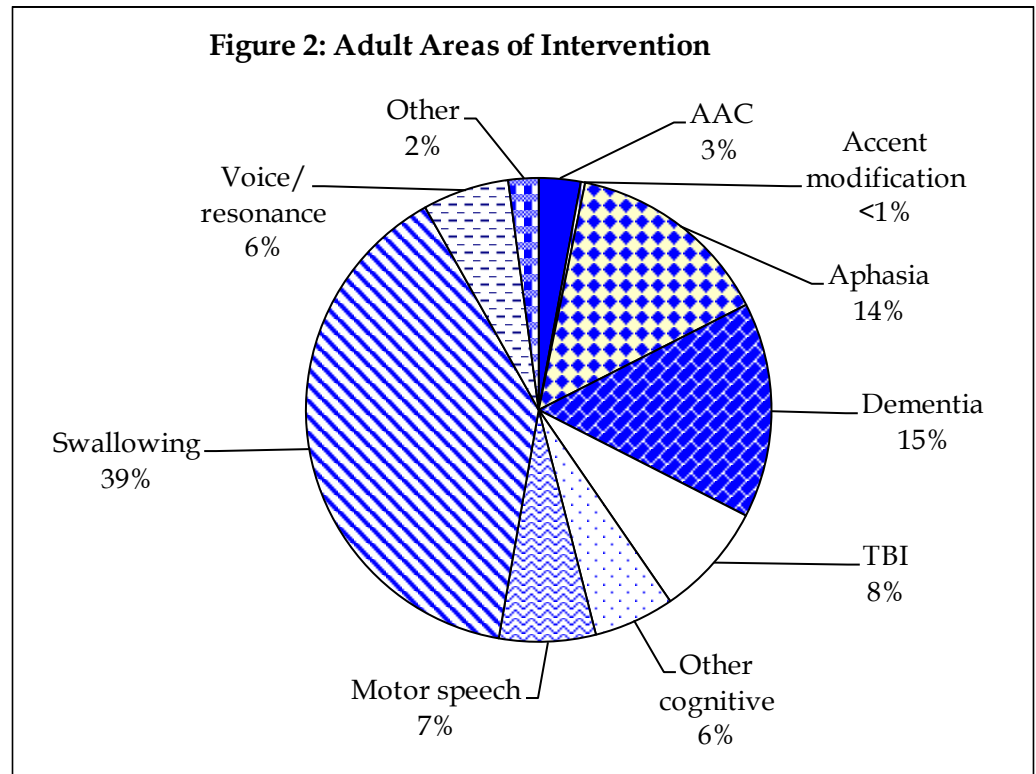
- Not surprisingly, a large majority of service delivery time spent in the following types of activities was with adults: SNFs (98%), general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals (89%), and rehab hospitals (89%).
- In pediatric hospitals, most service delivery time was spent with infants and toddlers (42%).
- In home health agencies and clients' homes, most time was spent delivering services to infants and toddlers (41%) and adults (40%).
- Outpatient clinics and offices showed the most even distribution of time spent delivering services across age groups: 28% to preschoolers and school-age children, 25% to adults, and 19% to infants and toddlers.

Population Density

Clinical service providers identified the type of area where they worked (rural, suburban, metropolitan or urban) and the time spent serving each age group. Only services to adults varied significantly by population density. Those in suburban areas spent 56% of their time with adults, whereas those in metropolitan or urban areas and those in rural areas spent 63% of their time with adults ($p = .021$, not shown in any table).

Adult Services

More adult service delivery time was spent in the area of swallowing (39%) than in any other area of intervention (see Figure 2 and Appendix, Table 2).



Note. $n = 1,074$.

AAC = augmentative and alternative communication

TBI = traumatic brain injury

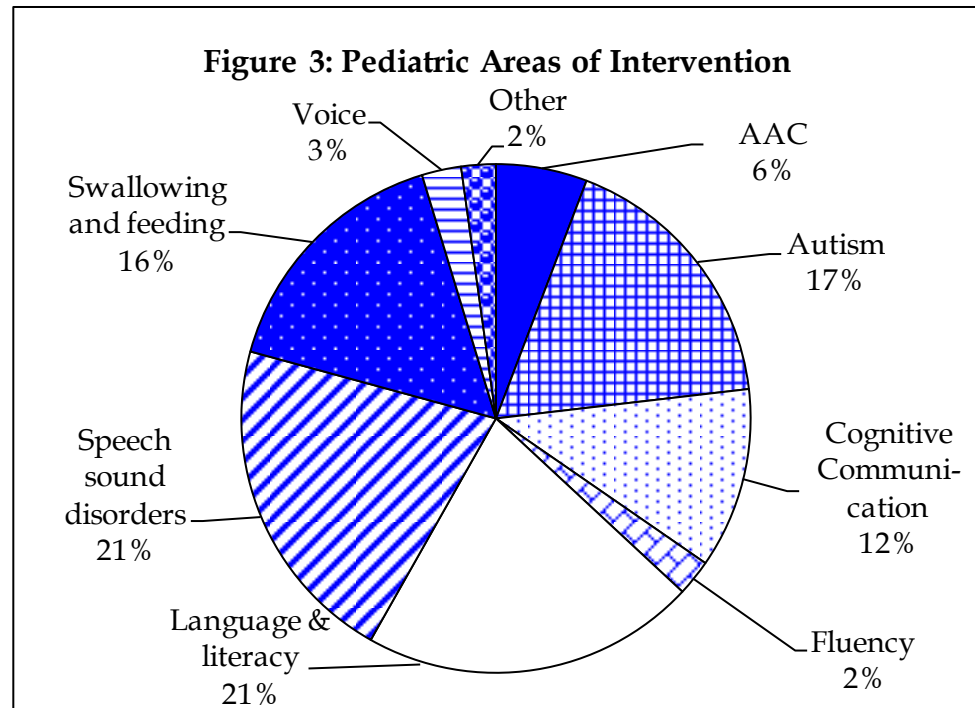
Facility

Nine of the 10 areas of intervention were affected by the type of facility in which the SLPs worked (see Appendix, Table 2):

- SLPs in outpatient clinics and offices spent more time on accent modification (1%; $p = .049$), motor speech disorders (8%; $p = .015$), voice and resonance (14%; $p = .000$), and other disorders (8%; $p = .000$) than did SLPs in other types of facilities.
- Time spent on AAC was highest for SLPs in home health or clients' homes and in outpatient clinics and offices (5%; $p = .000$).
- Time spent on aphasia was highest among SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices and rehab hospitals (19%; $p = .000$).
- Time spent on TBI (17%; $p = .000$) was highest in rehab hospitals.
- Time spent on dementia was highest in SNFs (27%; $p = .000$).
- Time spent on swallowing was highest in general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals (57%; $p = .000$).

Pediatric Services

SLPs who worked with pediatric patients spent a greater percentage of their time on language and literacy and speech sound disorders (21%) than on any other areas of intervention (see Figure 3).



Note. $n = 780$.

Facility

The type of facility in which SLPs worked had an effect on eight of the nine areas of intervention included in the survey (see Appendix Table 3):

- SLPs in pediatric hospitals spent more time on AAC (8%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities ($p = .027$).
- SLPs in home health and clients' homes and in outpatient clinics and offices spent more time on autism spectrum disorder (20%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities ($p = .000$).
- SLPs in home health and clients' homes spent more time on cognitive communication (17%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities ($p = .000$).
- SLPs in outpatient clinics and offices spent more time on fluency (3%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities ($p = .003$).
- SLPs in SNFs spent more time on language and literacy (27%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities ($p = .000$).
- SLPs in outpatient clinics and offices spent more time on speech sound disorders (24%) than did SLPs in other facility types ($p = .000$).
- SLPs in pediatric hospitals spent more time on swallowing and feeding (35%) than did SLPs in other facility types ($p = .000$).
- SLPs in SNFs spent more time on *other* areas (18%) than did SLPs in other facility types ($p = .000$).

Survey Notes and Methodology

The *SLP Health Care Survey* has been fielded in odd-numbered years since 2005 to gather information of interest to the profession. Members, volunteer leaders, and staff rely on data from the survey to better understand the priorities and needs of SLPs.

Response Rate

The survey was fielded in February 2017 to a random sample of 4,000 ASHA-certified SLPs who were employed in health care settings in the United States. From this group, 1,500 SLPs were assigned to a control group to receive surveys via postal mail. They also received an electronic “be-on-the-lookout-for” message at the time of the first mailing. Second (March) and third (April) postal mailings followed, at approximately 3- or 4-week intervals, and a Survey Monkey invitation was sent in May to those who had not yet responded. The 2,500 members of the experimental group were sent a total of four Survey Monkey invitations between February and May as well as two postal invitations in March and April.

The sample was a random sample, stratified by type of facility and by private practice. Small groups, such as pediatric hospitals, were oversampled. Weighting was used when presenting data to reflect the actual distribution of SLPs in each type of facility within ASHA.

Of the original 4,000 SLPs in the sample, 11 were retired, 7 had incorrect addresses, 94 were employed in other types of facilities, 13 were not employed in the field, and 3 were ineligible for other reasons, leaving 3,872 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 2,019, resulting in a **52.1%** response rate. The results presented in this report are based on responses from those 2,019 individuals.

Survey Reports

Results from the *2017 SLP Health Care Survey* are presented in a series of reports:

- Survey Summary
- Workforce
- Practice Issues
- Caseload Characteristics
- Annual Salaries
- Hourly and Per Visit Wages
- Survey Methodology, Respondent Demographics, and Glossary

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2017). *ASHA 2017 SLP Health Care Survey: Caseload characteristics*. Available from www.asha.org.

Supplemental Resources

Practice Portal. (n.d.). Available from www.asha.org/practice-portal
Information for speech-language pathologists. (n.d.). Available from www.asha.org/slp/

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the *ASHA 2017 SLP Health Care Survey*, please contact Gennith Johnson, associate director, Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5681, or gjohnson@asha.org; Monica Sampson, associate director, Health Care Services, ext. 5686, or msampson@asha.org; or Janet Brown, director, Health Care Services, ext. 5679, or jbrown@asha.org. To learn more about resources for ASHA members working in health care, visit ASHA's website at www.asha.org/slp/healthcare/.

Thank You

ASHA would like to thank the SLPs who completed the *ASHA 2017 SLP Health Care Survey*. Reports like this one are possible only because people like *you* participate.

Is this information valuable to you? If so, please accept invitations to participate in other ASHA-sponsored surveys and focus groups. You are the experts, and we rely on you to provide data to share with your fellow members. ASHA surveys benefit *you*.



Appendix:
State Listings and
Data Tables

Regions of the Country

Northeast

- ◆ Middle Atlantic
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - Pennsylvania
- ◆ New England
 - Connecticut
 - Maine
 - Massachusetts
 - New Hampshire
 - Rhode Island
 - Vermont

South

- ◆ East South Central
 - Alabama
 - Kentucky
 - Mississippi
 - Tennessee
- ◆ South Atlantic
 - Delaware
 - District of Columbia
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Maryland
 - North Carolina
 - South Carolina
 - Virginia
 - West Virginia
- ◆ West South Central
 - Arkansas
 - Louisiana
 - Oklahoma
 - Texas

Midwest

- ◆ East North Central
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Michigan
 - Ohio
 - Wisconsin
- ◆ West North Central
 - Iowa
 - Kansas
 - Minnesota
 - Missouri
 - Nebraska
 - North Dakota
 - South Dakota

West

- ◆ Mountain
 - Arizona
 - Colorado
 - Idaho
 - Montana
 - Nevada
 - New Mexico
 - Utah
 - Wyoming
- ◆ Pacific
 - Alaska
 - California
 - Hawaii
 - Oregon
 - Washington

Table 1: Populations Served, by Type of Facility

20. Of the time that you spend providing clinical services, approximately what percentage is spent with the following age groups? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Age Groups	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 1,582)	General Medical/VA/LTAC Hospital (n = 254)	Home Health/Client's Home (n = 301)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 429)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 65)	Rehab Hospital (n = 111)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 383)
Infant-toddler							
Mean	16.0	4.6	40.5	19.2	42.2	2.1	0.5
Standard deviation	28.0	14.7	42.5	19.9	28.3	7.6	3.8
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1536) = 138.8, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Preschool							
Mean	12.2	2.9	11.3	28.1	29.9	3.7	0.6
Standard deviation	19.7	9.4	20.0	21.2	17.8	11.4	4.5
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1536) = 171.6, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 20 continues on next page.)							

Table 1 (Continued): Populations Served, by Type of Facility

20. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing clinical services, approximately what percentage is spent with the following age groups? <i>Total must equal 100%</i> . Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Age Groups	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 1,582)	General Medical/VA/LTAC Hospital (n = 254)	Home Health/Client's Home (n = 301)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 429)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 65)	Rehab Hospital (n = 111)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 383)
School age							
Mean	11.5	3.4	8.0	27.9	26.0	5.3	0.8
Standard deviation	19.9	9.9	17.5	23.3	19.8	13.8	5.3
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1536) = 150.2, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Adult							
Mean	60.3	89.1	40.2	24.8	2.0	88.9	98.1
Standard deviation	46.0	24.9	47.5	37.0	5.4	26.2	10.0
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1536) = 346.5, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					

Table 2: Adult Patients, Areas of Intervention

22. Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Adult Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 1,074)	General Medical/VA/LTAC Hospital (n = 221)	Home Health/Client's Home (n = 146)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 206)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 14)	Rehab Hospital (n = 101)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 357)
AAC							
Mean	2.9	1.4	4.9	5.3	(n < 25)	2.2	1.4
Standard deviation	10.8	3.2	14.7	16.0		7.8	2.8
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 15.0, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Accent modification/communication effectiveness							
Mean	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	(n < 25)	0.1	0.1
Standard deviation	3.0	1.4	1.2	4.0		0.8	1.1
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 2.2, p = .049$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 22 continues on next page.)							

Table 2 (Continued): Adult Patients, Areas of Intervention

22 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Adult Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 1,074)	General Medical/VA/LTAC Hospital (n = 221)	Home Health/Client's Home (n = 146)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 206)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 14)	Rehab Hospital (n = 101)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 357)
Aphasia							
Mean	14.3	11.9	15.8	18.7	(n < 25)	18.5	12.0
Standard deviation	13.3	8.9	12.4	21.4		12.1	8.9
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 12.2, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Cognitive-communication: Dementia							
Mean	15.0	6.0	16.8	6.1	(n < 25)	10.1	26.7
Standard deviation	16.4	8.5	16.0	12.8		12.0	16.0
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 95.5, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 22 continues on next page.)							

Table 2 (Continued): Adult Patients, Areas of Intervention

22 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Adult Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 1,074)	General Medical/VA/LTAC Hospital (n = 221)	Home Health/Client's Home (n = 146)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 206)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 14)	Rehab Hospital (n = 101)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 357)
Cognitive-communication: Traumatic brain injury							
Mean	7.9	8.1	5.9	11.4	(n < 25)	16.7	3.5
Standard deviation	13.9	12.5	12.5	18.6		15.9	6.4
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 21.6, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Cognitive-communication: Other							
Mean	5.6	3.8	6.8	6.8	(n < 25)	7.3	4.9
Standard deviation	13.1	8.4	15.9	20.0		12.3	9.0
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 2.2, p = .052$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is not enough evidence from the data to say that the responses vary by facility type.					
(Question 22 continues on next page.)							

Table 2 (Continued): Adult Patients, Areas of Intervention

22 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Adult Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 1,074)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 221)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 146)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 206)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 14)	Rehab Hospital (n = 101)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 357)
Motor speech							
Mean	6.7	6.1	6.6	8.4	(n < 25)	7.0	5.6
Standard deviation	9.5	9.1	10.4	13.3		7.2	5.6
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 2.8, p = .015$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Swallowing							
Mean	39.1	56.8	35.7	21.4	(n < 25)	34.0	41.7
Standard deviation	24.3	23.9	21.8	23.6		21.0	17.0
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 61.4, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 22 continues on next page.)							

Table 2 (Continued): Adult Patients, Areas of Intervention

22 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%</i> . Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Adult Services	Facility Type						
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Voice/resonance							
Mean	6.0	5.2	5.1	13.6	(n < 25)	3.9	3.6
Standard deviation	13.5	11.0	8.3	24.0		5.8	6.9
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 16.8, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Other							
Mean	2.1	0.6	2.3	7.7	(n < 25)	0.4	0.6
Standard deviation	12.5	3.2	13.4	23.9		1.5	6.2
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 1039) = 10.6, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					

Table 3: Pediatric Patients, Areas of Intervention

21. Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider 							
Pediatric Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 780)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 78)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 197)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 360)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 24)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 36)
Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)							
Mean	5.8	2.7	5.4	6.6	8.4	(n < 25)	2.5
Standard deviation	12.1	11.1	9.8	12.2	18.1		8.6
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 2.5, p = .027$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Autism spectrum disorder							
Mean	17.4	8.8	19.6	20.0	15.4	(n < 25)	8.2
Standard deviation	18.4	17.5	18.5	18.2	18.8		14.1
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 8.9, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 21 continues on next page.)							

Table 3 (Continued): Pediatric Patients, Areas of Intervention

21 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%</i> . Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
Pediatric Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 780)	General Medical/VA/LTAC Hospital (n = 78)	Home Health/Client's Home (n = 197)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 360)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 24)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 36)
Cognitive-communication							
Mean	11.5	11.8	16.6	8.8	10.0	(n < 25)	7.2
Standard deviation	18.3	25.3	21.3	13.6	16.3		13.4
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 7.4, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Fluency							
Mean	2.3	2.1	1.2	3.2	1.6	(n < 25)	0.7
Standard deviation	6.2	5.2	4.0	7.6	5.6		3.8
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 3.6, p = .003$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 21 continues on next page.)							

Table 3 (Continued): Pediatric Patients, Areas of Intervention

21 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%</i> . Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
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Language and literacy							
Mean	21.3	15.9	22.6	23.1	12.7	(n < 25)	27.3
Standard deviation	19.9	21.1	21.0	18.3	14.6		28.3
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 5.5, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Speech sound disorders							
Mean	21.1	19.1	18.9	23.9	12.4	(n < 25)	22.2
Standard deviation	19.4	24.1	18.7	18.2	13.3		24.4
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 4.9, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
(Question 21 continues on next page.)							

Table 3 (Continued): Pediatric Patients, Areas of Intervention

21 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%.</i> Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
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Swallowing and feeding							
Mean	16.0	34.1	13.8	9.8	35.3	(n < 25)	13.3
Standard deviation	25.9	42.1	19.2	17.7	36.5		23.0
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 22.1, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					
Voice/resonance							
Mean	2.5	4.2	0.6	3.2	3.6	(n < 25)	0.6
Standard deviation	11.1	17.9	3.7	12.6	10.8		2.9
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 2.1, p = .067$ <u>Conclusion:</u> There is not enough evidence from the data to say that the responses vary by facility type.					
(Question 21 continues on next page.)							

Table 3 (Continued): Pediatric Patients, Areas of Intervention

21 (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? <i>Total must equal 100%</i> . Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria: ❖ CCC-SLP ❖ Employed full time or part time ❖ Clinical service provider							
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Other							
Mean	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	0.7	(n < 25)	18.0
Standard deviation	12.1	8.7	8.5	7.6	4.9		38.4
		Statistical significance: $F(5, 754) = 15.0, p = .000$ <u>Conclusion</u> : There is adequate evidence from the data to say that the means vary by type of facility.					