



Supply and Demand Resource List for Health Care–Based Speech-Language Pathologists

June 2011

Introduction

This report presents data on the present and future status of the supply and demand of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) generally and health care–based SLPs specifically. Data from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and external sources, such as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), are presented.

External Resources

BLS Projections

The BLS monitors the supply and demand for more than 800 occupations. According to the BLS, the national employment rate of SLPs is expected to demonstrate *faster than average growth* through the year 2018 (www.bls.gov/oco/ocos099.htm#outlook). An additional 22,100 SLPs will be needed to fill the demand between 2008 and 2018—a 19% increase in job openings. Job prospects are expected to be *favorable*, especially for those who are able to speak a second language, such as Spanish.

The BLS *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010–11 Edition* is available at www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm. Use the Search box or A–Z Index to locate additional information on the job outlook for SLPs.

In occupational projection estimates for 2004 to 2014, speech-language pathology ranked 17th out of the 20 large-growth occupations that usually require a master’s, doctoral, or first-professional degree (www.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2005/winter/art02.pdf, page 20).

State projections of employment growth for the profession of speech-language pathology are available at www.projectionscentral.com/.

- Click “Long Term Projections.”
- Click the “Search” button at the bottom of the grid.
- Select “Title,” “equal,” and “Speech-Language Pathologists.”
- Click “Find.”
- Close the Search box.
- Click the “Export – CVS” button at the bottom of the grid to export the data.

National employment and wage estimates and industry, state, and metropolitan area profiles for the profession of speech-language pathology are available at www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291127.htm.

- National hourly and annual wage estimates are presented at the 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, and 90th percentiles.
- Data reflect May 2010.

State employment and wage estimates for the profession of speech-language pathology are available at www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm.

- Go to the “Wage Data by State” heading and click “By State.”
- Click the state for which you are interested.
- Scroll down to “Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations.”
- Scroll down to occupation code 29-1127 (Speech-Language Pathologists).
- Data reflect May 2010.

The Center for Health Workforce Studies Reports

The Center for Health Workforce Studies, a not-for-profit research organization, published the report *Health Care Employment Projections: An Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Projections, 2008–2018* in March 2010. It is available at <http://chws.albany.edu/index.php?reports>, under the “Center Reports” link.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Reports

Information on the overall health care workforce is available from the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, which operates under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The United States Health Workforce Profile* (published in 2006) is presented, as are reports on the impact of the aging population on the health workforce, diversity in the health professions, and other relevant topics. These reports are available at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/>, under the “Index of All Health Workforce Reports” link.

ASHA Resources

First-Year Enrollment and Graduation Data

ASHA has conducted the Higher Education Data System (HES) Graduate Guide Survey since 2007. This annual survey gathers data on graduate education in communication sciences and disorders, including information on first-year enrollments and degrees granted.

In 2010, a total of 257 academic institutions received the survey, and 229 academic institutions completed and submitted data, representing an 89.1% response rate. Data were provided by 97.2% of audiology entry-level programs (70 of 72 institutions), 89.1% of institutions with master’s speech-language pathology programs (220 of 247 institutions), and 91.5% of institutions with research doctoral degree (PhD) programs (65 of 71 institutions). The data collected reflect the fall 2009 through summer 2010 academic year.

With regard to first-year enrollments, in 2010, academic institutions reported 787 audiology clinical doctoral (entry-level) students, 7,791 speech-language pathology master’s students, and 11 speech-language pathology clinical doctoral (post-entry) students. No speech and hearing sciences master’s students were reported. Institutions further reported 21 audiology research doctoral students, 64 speech-language pathology research doctoral students, and 88 speech, language, and hearing sciences research doctoral students.

Regarding graduate degrees granted, in 2010, academic institutions reported granting 548 audiology clinical doctoral (entry-level) degrees, 6,009 speech-language pathology master’s degrees, and 14 speech-language pathology clinical doctoral (post-entry) degrees. Institutions also reported granting 19 PhDs in audiology, 33 PhDs in speech-language pathology, and 68 PhDs in speech, language, and hearing sciences.

The 2009–2010 Academic Year State-by-State Data on Graduate Education in Communication Sciences and Disorders report and previous years’ HES reports are available at <http://www.asha.org/academic/HES/HESDataReports.htm>.

ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) Holders

ASHA publishes membership and affiliation counts annually. Data on the number of individuals who hold the CCC-SLP are reported. Their employment characteristics and demographics are presented as well. At year-end 2010, more than 128,000 individuals held the CCC-SLP. This represents a 4% increase from 2009. The number of CCC-SLP holders increased by 53% from 2000 (84,425 individuals) to 2010 (128,949 individuals). ASHA membership data are available at <http://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/>.

Trends in the percentage of SLPs who reported their primary employment facility as a health care setting versus a school setting between 2000 and 2010 are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Percentage of ASHA-certified SLPs in school and health care facilities, 2000–2010.

Year	School Setting	Health Care Setting			
		Hospital	Residential Health Care Facility	Nonresidential Health Care Facility	All Health Care Facilities Combined ^a
2000	54.6%	15.5%	8.9%	12.6%	37.0%
2001	54.7%	15.5%	8.8%	12.6%	36.8%
2002	55.7%	14.6%	8.1%	12.9%	35.6%
2003	55.9%	14.4%	7.8%	13.0%	35.2%
2004	55.5%	14.4%	7.7%	13.3%	35.4%
2005	55.4%	14.1%	7.8%	13.6%	35.5%
2006	55.5%	13.6%	7.9%	13.7%	35.3%
2007	55.4%	13.7%	7.9%	13.8%	35.3%
2008	55.2%	13.8%	7.9%	13.9%	35.6%
2009	54.7%	13.0%	9.2%	14.7%	37.0%
2010	54.0%	12.5%	9.7%	15.5%	37.7%

^aIndividual health care facility percentages may not total to the exact combined percentage because of rounding. *Source.* ASHA summary membership and affiliation counts, 2000 to 2010.

ASHA-Certified-Personnel-to-Population Ratios

ASHA-certified-personnel-to-population ratios are published annually. In 2010, nationwide, the number of ASHA-certified SLPs for every 100,000 residents was 41.4, up from 39.7 in 2009 and 38.3 in 2008. State-level ratios ranged from 21.8 in Nevada to 64.5 in New York. The 2010 ASHA-certified-personnel-to-population ratios and frequently asked questions are available at www.asha.org/research/reports/personnel.htm. The ratios are presented by state and geographic region.

ASHA Job Market Data

In recent years, a survey item has been included on several major ASHA data collection initiatives to assess the job market for SLPs. The question and response categories were patterned after definitions used by the BLS. The question reads as follows:

Based on your own observations and experiences, rate the current job market for your profession in your type of employment facility and in your geographic area.

1. Job openings more numerous than job seekers
2. Job openings in balance with job seekers
3. Job openings fewer than job seekers

Almost half (46.6%) of SLPs in health care settings responding to a 2009 survey reported that job openings were more numerous than job seekers. This is a decline from 2007, when 59.1% of respondents reported that job openings exceeded job seekers. In 2009, the largest gap between job openings and job seekers appeared to be in home health/client home settings and skilled nursing facilities, where 61.0% and 56.2% of respondents, respectively, reported that job openings were more numerous than job seekers.

Across all health care settings, more job openings were reported by SLPs in the Pacific states (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington; 57.4%) than in other states. More openings were also reported by SLPs in rural areas (52.0%) compared with those in suburban and metropolitan/urban areas (48.0% and 44.0%, respectively). One quarter of the respondents (25.0%) further indicated that there were funded, unfilled positions for SLPs at their facility. This is a decline from 2007, when 36.8% of respondents indicated that there were funded, unfilled positions for SLPs at their facility. In 2009, the percentage ranged from 20.2% in general medical facilities to 35.4% in home health/client home settings.

These data are presented in the 2007 and 2009 ASHA SLP Health Care Survey *Workforce and Work Conditions* reports available at <http://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/HealthcareSurvey09.htm>.

ASHA Salary and Wage Data

The 2009 ASHA SLP Health Care Survey *Annual Salary* report and *Hourly and Per Visit Wage* report provide information on the median salaries and wages of ASHA-certified SLPs by work setting and role, years of experience, geographic region, and other variables. These reports are available at www.asha.org/research/memberdata/HealthcareSurvey09.htm.

In 2009, the median hourly wage of SLPs in health care settings was \$39.50. The median annual salary was \$70,000. See Table 2 for additional median annual salary and hourly wage data.

Table 2. 2009 median annual salary and hourly wage of SLPs by type of health care setting.

Health Care Setting	Annual	Hourly Wage	Hourly Wage
		(30 or Fewer Hours per Week)	(More Than 30 Hours per Week)
Overall	\$70,000	\$45.00	\$36.00
General Medical Hospital	\$73,000	\$40.00	\$35.00
Rehabilitation Hospital	\$73,400	\$39.00	\$35.85
Pediatric Hospital	\$66,250	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25
Skilled Nursing Facility	\$80,000	\$45.00	\$34.64
Home Health/Client's Home	\$66,000	\$65.00	<i>n</i> < 25
Outpatient Clinic or Office	\$65,000	\$55.00	\$35.47

Note. ASHA does not report salaries and wages for groups of less than 25.

Source. 2009 ASHA SLP Health Care Survey *Annual Salary* report; 2009 ASHA SLP Health Care Survey *Hourly and Per Visit Wage* report.

For additional information about the materials presented in this resource list, please contact:

Gail Brook ♦ Surveys and Information Team
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
gbrook@asha.org or data@asha.org