



Supply and Demand Resource List for School-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 school-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.

American Association for Employment in Education Data

The 2008 *Educator Supply and Demand* research report by the American Association for Employment in Education presents job market data on 62 education fields including speech pathology. The report indicates that the speech pathology field is one of 14 fields with “considerable shortage.” These data are an indicator that the job market for school-based SLPs will be strong in future years. The report is available at www.aeee.org/, under the “Research/Grants” link.

U.S. Department of Education Data

Public school employment data are collected by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and disseminated through the *Annual Reports to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. According to the *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report to Congress*, 45,499 “fully certified” SLPs were employed to provide special education and related services to children and youth ages 3–21 with disabilities in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in fall 2004. An additional 2,287 “not fully certified” SLPs were employed as well. Note that ED’s definition of *certified* differs from the ASHA definition. The report is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/osep/2007/parts-b-c/index.html>.

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 is available at 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 school setting versus a health care 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

Over half (55.3%) of school-based SLPs responding to a 2010 survey reported that job openings were more numerous than job seekers. Note that this is a decline from 2008, when 71.9% of respondents reported that job openings exceeded job seekers. In 2010, respondents who worked in multiple school settings and administrative offices reported the largest gap between job openings and job seekers. Nearly two thirds (63.7%) of those in multiple school settings and 61.5% of those in administrative offices reported that job openings were more numerous than job seekers.

Across all school settings, more job openings were reported by SLPs in the Pacific states (78.9%) than in other states. More openings were also reported by SLPs in metropolitan/urban areas (59.0%) compared with those in rural and suburban areas (57.0% and 52.0%, respectively).

Respondents who reported that there was a shortage of SLPs in their type of school setting and geographic area were asked to indicate the impact of the shortage. Most (81.1%) indicated “increased caseload or workload.” More than half (51.6%) indicated “decreased opportunities for appropriate service delivery.” These data are presented in the 2008 and 2010 ASHA Schools Survey *Workforce and Work Conditions* reports available at <http://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/schoolsurvey/>.

ASHA Salary and Wage Data

The 2010 ASHA Schools Survey *SLP Annual Salaries and Hourly Wages* report provides information on the median salaries of ASHA-certified SLPs by work setting and role, years of experience, geographic region, and other variables. This report is available at <http://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/Schools10Salaries.pdf>. See Table 2 for median annual salary and hourly wage data across years.

Table 2. Median annual salaries and hourly wages of ASHA-certified, school-based SLPs, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010.

Salary Basis	2004	2006	2008	2010
Basic Median Annual Salaries				
Academic-year (9–10-month) basis	\$50,000	\$52,131	\$58,000	\$58,000
Calendar-year (11–12-month) basis	\$54,000	\$57,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
Basic Median Hourly Wages	–	–	–	\$50.00

Note. Dash indicates that item was not included in the survey analysis.

Source: 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010 ASHA Schools Surveys.

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

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