

MEMBER ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

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MAP Points: Ethics

Introduction

In the fall of 2005, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted a mail survey of 3,000 speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists designed to provide information about practice trends and other topics of interest to the disciplines. A response rate of 57% ($n = 1,702$) was reached.

The results are presented in a series of topical reports, including this one on ethics. Differences are described (such as between audiologists and SLPs or between types of private practice) only when such differences are statistically significant at $p \leq .05$.

Ethics Ratings

Respondents were asked to rate the importance to them of, and ASHA's performance on, 22 programs. One of the programs was "Ethics."

Slightly more than half of the SLPs and the audiologists rated ethics as very important. However, only 25% of audiologists and 32% of SLPs expressed a belief that ASHA's performance was excellent with regard to ethics.

Ethics Education...

Ten areas of ethics education were listed, and respondents were asked to select up to three of them that they would like to have offered (Table 1).

Table 1. Rank Order of Areas of Ethics Education

CCC-A	Area	CCC-SLP
1	Reimbursement issues	5
2	Conflicts of interest	6
3	Private practice	7
4	Employer/supervisor demands	1
5	Use of support personnel	3
6	Supervision	8
7	Multicultural/bilingual issues	4
8	Research	9
9	Clinical Fellowship issues	10
10	Dysphagia	2

Audiologists were most likely to select reimbursement issues (50%), conflicts of interest (46%), and private practice (36%), whereas SLPs most frequently selected employer/supervisor demands (37%), dysphagia (35%), and use of support personnel (32%).

... and Years of Experience (SLPs)

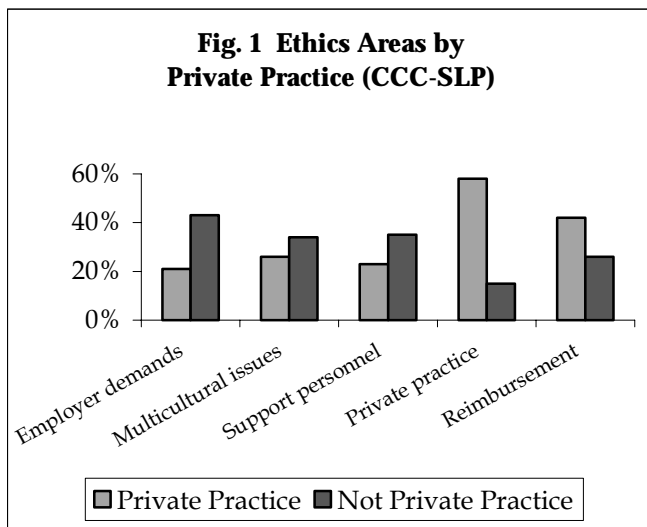
When respondents were divided into approximately thirds by years of experience, (1-7 years, 8-19 years, and 20-46 years), the more years SLPs had, the less likely they were to select dysphagia as one of the three areas of ethics education (42%, 35%, and 29%, respectively). Choosing use of support personnel, however, increased with more years of experience (25%, 34%, 37%).

... and Job Function (SLPs)

SLPs who were clinical service providers (27%) were significantly more likely than those with other job functions (17%) to select private practice as a requested area for ethics education.

... and Private Practice (SLPs)

SLPs who were engaged in private practice, either full time or part time, were more likely than those not in private practice to select private practice and reimbursement issues as areas for ethics education (Fig. 1). They were less likely, though, to select employer/supervisor demands, multicultural/bilingual issues, and use of support personnel.

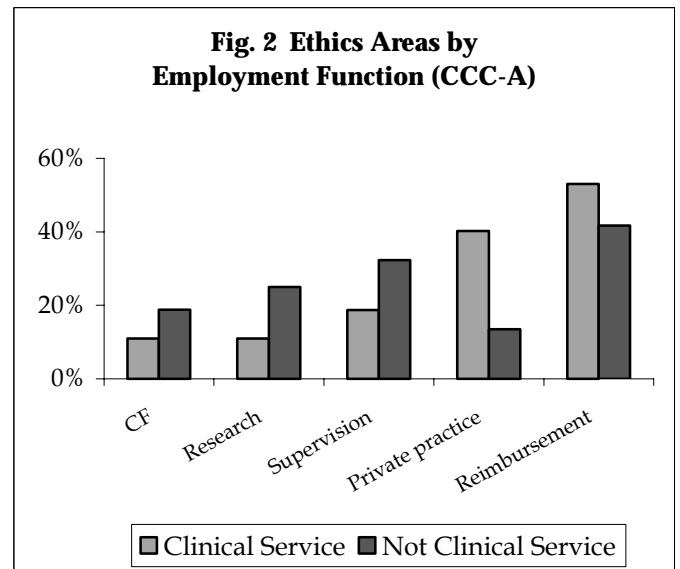


... and Years of Experience (Audiologists)

Years of experience was significantly related to four of the 10 areas of ethics education. As experience increased, the likelihood of selecting the area decreased in three instances. This was true for Clinical Fellowship issues (18%, 11%, 9%), reimbursement issues (54%, 53%, 44%), and research (18%, 16%, 10%). For only one area of ethics education did the rate increase as years of experience increased: conflicts of interest (37%, 47%, and 53%).

... and Job Function (Audiologists)

Audiologists who were clinical service providers were more likely than those who were not to select private practice and reimbursement issues as areas for further ethics education (Fig. 2).



... and Private Practice (Audiologists)

Like the SLPs in private practice, their audiology counterparts were more likely than those not in private practice to select private practice (70% vs. 18%) and reimbursement (61% vs. 46%) as areas for further ethics education.

However, they also selected supervision as an area of interest (88% vs. 75%). On the other hand, non-private practice audiologists were more likely than those in private practice to select multicultural/bilingual issues (21% vs. 8%) and research (17% vs. 6%).

Ethics Resources...

SLPs were significantly more likely than audiologists to select *The ASHA Leader*, (69% vs. 51%), the ASHA Web site (55% vs. 47%), and Special Interest Division newsletters (22% vs. 16%) as resources they would like to see increase or enhance ethics education offerings from among a list of five options that also included ASHA Convention presentations and ASHA telephone seminars.

... and Years of Experience

The more experience, the more likely SLPs were to select Special Interest Division newsletters and the less likely to select both *The ASHA Leader* and the ASHA Web site.

SLPs and audiologists with between 8 and 19 years of experience (20%) were more likely than those with either fewer years (1-7) or more years (20-46) to identify ASHA telephone seminars as a resource for enhancing ethics education (12% for both groups).

... and Job Function

Among SLPs, clinical service providers (71%) were significantly more likely than those with other job functions (62%) to select *The ASHA Leader* as a resource for increased or enhanced ethics education.

There were no other significant differences among SLPs or audiologists with regard to job function as a predictor of the five ASHA resources for ethics education.

... and Private Practice

SLPs in private practice were significantly more likely than those not in private practice to identify ASHA Convention presentations as a resource they'd like to see increase or enhance ethics education offerings (34% vs. 25%).

Among audiologists, only Special Interest Division newsletters showed a difference: 21% of those in private practice and 14% of those not in private practice selected this option.

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2006). *ASHA member activities programs 2005. MAP points: Ethics*. Rockville, MD: Author.

Web Link

More information about the survey, including the frequencies of responses to all 37 survey questions, can be found in the *ASHA member activities programs 2005. MAP points: Frequencies* at the following Web site:

<http://www.asha.org/about/membership-certification/member-data/2005MAP.htm>

Questions?

Contact ASHA's Surveys and Information Team at 800-498-2071.