



SLP HEALTH CARE SURVEY



Survey Report: Caseload Characteristics Trends 2005–2009

Gail Brook
Surveys & Information Team

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
800-498-2071, ext. 8737
gbrook@asha.org

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the 2009 SLP Health Care Survey to gather information about caseloads, salaries, working conditions, and workforce issues from a random sample of ASHA-certified speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Results from this survey are compiled in a series of reports, including this report on caseload characteristics trends. Results from the 2005 and 2007 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys are also included in this report for comparative purposes.

Survey Highlights

For 2005–2009:

- Overall, respondents delivered about 60% of their services to adults and about 40% of their services to infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.
- Respondents from general medical hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities delivered the majority of their services to adults. Those from pediatric hospitals, home health, and outpatient clinics and offices delivered the majority of their services to infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.
- Overall, respondents who worked with adults spent nearly half of their time treating patients with swallowing disorders. They also spent substantial portions of their time treating patients with aphasia and cognitive-communication disorders.
- Respondents from outpatient clinics or offices who worked with adults were more likely to treat patients with voice and resonance disorders than respondents from other settings.
- Overall, respondents who worked with infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children spent most of their time treating patients with articulation and phonological disorders and language disorders. They also spent considerable portions of their time treating patients with cognitive-communication disorders and swallowing and feeding disorders.
- Overall, nearly 90% of respondents indicated that no professionals other than SLPs provided primary swallowing services in their facility.
- Professionals other than SLPs were *most likely* to provide primary swallowing services in pediatric hospitals and *least likely* to provide these services in skilled nursing facilities.

Populations Served

In 2005, 2007, and 2009, survey respondents delivered the majority of their services to adults (59%, 60%, and 59%, respectively; see Table 1).

Table 1.
Populations Served by Health Care-Based SLPs, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

What percentage of your services is delivered to the following populations?			
Populations	2005	2007	2009
Infants and toddlers	14%	16%	15%
Preschoolers	15%	13%	14%
School-age children	12%	12%	12%
Adults	59%	60%	59%

n = 1,923 (2005); *n* = 2,229 (2007); *n* = 1,897 (2009)

Populations Served by Practice Setting

As would be expected, in 2005, 2007, and 2009, populations served varied widely by practice setting. Respondents from general medical hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities delivered at least 80% of their services to adults. In contrast, respondents from pediatric hospitals delivered at least 98% of their services to infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.

Respondents from home health delivered most of their services to infants and toddlers and adults. Respondents from outpatient clinics or offices delivered most of their services to preschoolers and school-age children (see Appendix, Table 1).



Adult Patient Services

In 2005, 2007, and 2009, respondents who worked with adults spent nearly half of their time treating patients with swallowing disorders (45%, 46%, and 45%, respectively). They also spent considerable amounts of time treating patients with aphasia and cognitive-communication disorders (see Table 2).

Table 2.
Adult Patient Services, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing ADULT services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?			
Areas	2005	2007	2009
Accent modification/communication effectiveness	*	1%	1%
Aphasia	17%	17%	17%
Cognitive-communication disorder	21%	21%	*
Dementia	*	*	11%
Traumatic brain injury	*	*	8%
Other	*	*	3%
Motor speech	8%	8%	7%
Prevention	*	1%	*
Swallowing	45%	46%	45%
Voice/resonance	7%	5%	6%
Other	3%	2%	2%

*Not a survey question response category

Note. In 2009, the “Cognitive-communication disorder” category was replaced by the more specific “Dementia,” “Traumatic brain injury,” and “Other” subcategories under the heading “Cognitive communication.”

n = 1,374 (2005); *n* = 1,598 (2007); *n* = 1,279 (2009)

Adult Patient Services by Practice Setting

From 2005 to 2009, the amount of time respondents spent in different areas of adult service varied by practice setting. Respondents from general medical hospitals and skilled nursing facilities who worked with adults spent the majority of their time treating patients with swallowing disorders. Those from rehabilitation hospitals spent the majority of their time treating patients with cognitive-communication disorders and swallowing disorders.

Respondents from home health and outpatient clinics or offices spent considerable portions of time treating patients with aphasia, cognitive-communication disorders, and swallowing disorders. Those from outpatient clinics or offices also spent substantial portions of their time treating patients with voice or resonance disorders (see Appendix, Table 2).

Pediatric Patient Services

In 2005, 2007, and 2009, respondents who worked with pediatric patients spent large portions of their time treating patients with language disorders and articulation and phonological disorders. They also spent considerable portions of their time treating patients with cognitive-communication disorders and swallowing and feeding disorders (see Table 3).

Table 3.
Pediatric Patient Services, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?			
Areas	2005	2007	2009
Articulation-phonology	25%	24%	24%
Cognitive communication	14%	14%	13%
Fluency	3%	3%	3%
Language	36%	35%	37%
Prevention/wellness	*	1%	1%
Swallowing and feeding	16%	17%	16%
Voice/resonance	3%	3%	3%
Other	3%	3%	3%

*Not a survey question response category

n = 1,034 (2005); *n* = 1,189 (2007); *n* = 955 (2009)

Pediatric Patient Services by Practice Setting

From 2005 to 2009, the amount of time respondents spent in different areas of pediatric service varied by practice setting. Respondents from general medical hospitals and pediatric hospitals who worked with infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children spent large portions of their time treating patients with swallowing and feeding disorders. Those from rehabilitation hospitals spent considerable portions of their time treating patients with articulation and phonological disorders, cognitive-communication disorders, language disorders, and swallowing and feeding disorders.

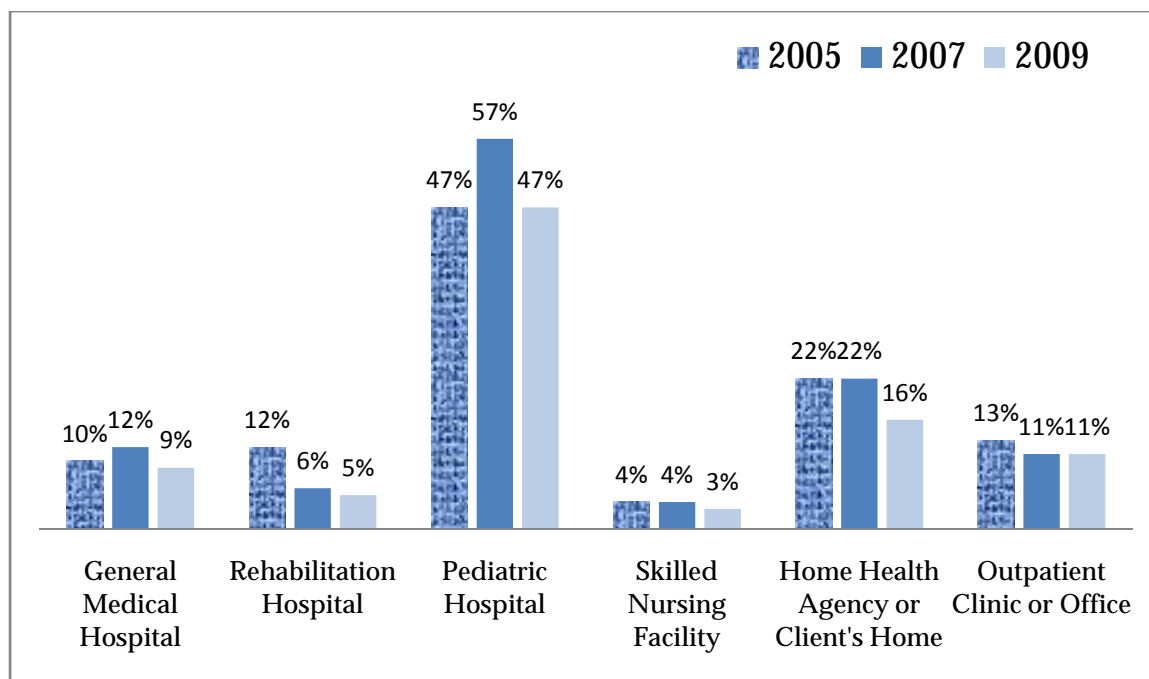
Respondents from skilled nursing facilities, home health, and outpatient clinics or offices spent large portions of their time treating patients with language disorders (see Appendix, Table 3).

Primary Swallowing Services

In 2005, 2007, and 2009, the majority of respondents indicated that no professionals other than SLPs provided primary swallowing services in their facility (87%, 88%, and 90% respectively; data not shown in any table).

Percentages varied by practice setting. Respondents indicated that professionals other than SLPs were most likely to provide primary swallowing services in pediatric hospitals and least likely to provide these services in skilled nursing facilities (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.
Primary Swallowing Services by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.
 Percentage of speech-language pathologists responding “yes” to the question “In your facility, do any professionals other than SLPs provide primary swallowing services (e.g., assessment, treatment, instrumental studies)?”



n = 1,943 (2005); n = 2,224 (2007); n = 1,894 (2009)

**Response
Rate (2009)**

The survey was mailed in March 2009 to a random sample of 4,000 ASHA-certified SLPs who were employed in health care settings in the United States. Second (April) and third (May) mailings followed, at approximately 3- or 4-week intervals, to individuals who had not responded to earlier mailings.

The sample was a random sample, stratified by type of facility and by private practice. Small groups, such as pediatric hospitals, were oversampled. Therefore, where results are reported for all respondents (“overall”), either in text or tables, they have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution of SLPs in each type of facility within ASHA. All other results, including the number of respondents (*n*) shown, are unweighted.

Of the original 4,000 SLPs in the sample, 11 were retired, 22 had undeliverable mailing addresses, 18 were not employed in the field, and 169 were employed in other types of facilities, leaving 3,780 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 2,064, resulting in a 54.6% response rate. The results presented in this report are based on responses from those 2,064 individuals.

**Suggested
Citation**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2009). *ASHA SLP Health Care Survey 2009: Caseload characteristics trends, 2005–2009*. Available from www.asha.org.

**Additional
Information**

For additional information regarding the SLP Health Care Survey 2009, please contact Amy Hasselkus, Associate Director of Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5686, ahasselkus@asha.org, or Janet Brown, Director of Health Care Services, at ext. 5679, jbrown@asha.org. To learn more about resources for ASHA members working in health care, visit ASHA’s Web site at www.asha.org/slp/healthcare/default.

Thank You

Without the generous cooperation of the members who participate in our surveys, ASHA could not fulfill its mission to provide vital information about the professions and discipline to the Association membership and public. Thank you!

Appendix:
Data Tables

Table 1.
Populations Served by Health Care-Based SLPs by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

What percentage of your services is delivered to the following populations?							
Populations	Overall	General Medical Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	Pediatric Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility	Home Health Agency or Client's Home	Outpatient Clinic or Office
2005							
Infants and toddlers	14%	6%	4%	39%	1%	47%	18%
Preschoolers	15%	8%	7%	38%	1%	15%	31%
School-age children	12%	6%	8%	22%	1%	10%	27%
Adults	59%	80%	81%	1%	98%	29%	24%
2007							
Infants and toddlers	16%	6%	1%	42%	1%	51%	18%
Preschoolers	13%	6%	4%	33%	1%	14%	30%
School-age children	12%	5%	5%	23%	1%	8%	30%
Adults	60%	83%	90%	2%	98%	26%	22%
2009							
Infants and toddlers	15%	6%	3%	47%	0%	39%	18%
Preschoolers	14%	6%	3%	35%	1%	14%	31%
School-age children	12%	4%	5%	17%	1%	11%	30%
Adults	59%	85%	89%	1%	98%	37%	21%

n = 1,923 (2005); *n* = 2,229 (2007); *n* = 1,897 (2009)

Table 2.
Adult Patient Services by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?							
Areas	Overall	General Medical Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	Pediatric Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility	Home Health Agency or Client's Home	Outpatient Clinic or Office
2005							
Accent modification/communication effectiveness	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Aphasia	17%	15%	22%	<i>n</i> < 25	13%	22%	18%
Cognitive-communication disorder	21%	13%	32%	<i>n</i> < 25	19%	23%	25%
Dementia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Traumatic brain injury	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Motor speech	8%	8%	10%	<i>n</i> < 25	6%	10%	10%
Prevention	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Swallowing	45%	57%	31%	<i>n</i> < 25	60%	37%	18%
Voice/resonance	7%	6%	4%	<i>n</i> < 25	2%	4%	18%
Other	3%	1%	1%	<i>n</i> < 25	1%	4%	11%

(Table 2 continues on next page.)

Table 2. (Continued)

Adult Patient Services by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?							
Areas	Overall	General Medical Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	Pediatric Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility	Home Health Agency or Client's Home	Outpatient Clinic or Office
2007							
Accent modification/communication effectiveness	1%	0%	0%	<i>n</i> < 25	0%	1%	4%
Aphasia	17%	15%	22%	<i>n</i> < 25	13%	25%	21%
Cognitive-communication disorder	21%	14%	33%	<i>n</i> < 25	21%	21%	21%
Dementia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Traumatic brain injury	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Motor speech	8%	7%	9%	<i>n</i> < 25	5%	9%	11%
Prevention	1%	1%	1%	<i>n</i> < 25	1%	1%	1%
Swallowing	46%	59%	31%	<i>n</i> < 25	58%	37%	23%
Voice/resonance	5%	5%	3%	<i>n</i> < 25	2%	3%	13%
Other	2%	0%	1%	<i>n</i> < 25	0%	3%	6%

(Table 2 continues on next page.)

Table 2. (Continued)
Adult Patient Services by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?							
Areas	Overall	General Medical Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	Pediatric Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility	Home Health Agency or Client's Home	Outpatient Clinic or Office
2009							
Accent modification/communication effectiveness	1%	0%	0%	<i>n</i> < 25	0%	1%	6%
Aphasia	17%	16%	22%	<i>n</i> < 25	13%	26%	18%
Cognitive-communication disorder	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dementia	11%	5%	8%	<i>n</i> < 25	21%	11%	5%
Traumatic brain injury	8%	6%	19%	<i>n</i> < 25	3%	5%	12%
Other	3%	2%	4%	<i>n</i> < 25	1%	4%	6%
Motor speech	7%	7%	10%	<i>n</i> < 25	5%	9%	10%
Prevention	*	*	*	<i>n</i> < 25	*	*	*
Swallowing	45%	58%	33%	<i>n</i> < 25	54%	35%	20%
Voice/resonance	6%	6%	5%	<i>n</i> < 25	3%	4%	16%
Other	2%	1%	0%	<i>n</i> < 25	0%	4%	8%

*Not a survey question response category

Note. In 2009, the “Cognitive-communication disorder” category was replaced by the more specific “Dementia,” “Traumatic brain injury,” and “Other” subcategories under the heading “Cognitive communication.”

n = 1,374 (2005); *n* = 1,598 (2007); *n* = 1,279 (2009)

Table 3.
Pediatric Patient Services by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?							
Areas	Overall	General Medical Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	Pediatric Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility	Home Health Agency or Client's Home	Outpatient Clinic or Office
2005							
Articulation-phonology	25%	25%	21%	18%	33%	19%	29%
Cognitive communication	14%	11%	21%	12%	12%	19%	12%
Fluency	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	4%
Language	36%	24%	27%	29%	36%	44%	40%
Prevention/wellness	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Swallowing and feeding	16%	30%	21%	31%	15%	14%	7%
Voice/resonance	3%	5%	2%	7%	1%	1%	4%
Other	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%	2%	4%
2007							
Articulation-phonology	24%	24%	11%	16%	31%	22%	29%
Cognitive communication	14%	10%	34%	12%	10%	15%	13%
Fluency	3%	3%	1%	3%	1%	2%	5%
Language	35%	25%	26%	25%	37%	45%	38%
Prevention/wellness	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Swallowing and feeding	17%	30%	20%	35%	20%	14%	9%
Voice/resonance	3%	5%	2%	5%	1%	1%	3%
Other	3%	2%	5%	3%	1%	2%	4%

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Table 3. (Continued)
Pediatric Patient Services by Practice Setting, 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas?							
Areas	Overall	General Medical Hospital	Rehabilitation Hospital	Pediatric Hospital	Skilled Nursing Facility	Home Health Agency or Client's Home	Outpatient Clinic or Office
2009							
Articulation-phonology	24%	22%	17%	16%	28%	22%	28%
Cognitive communication	13%	9%	26%	9%	11%	12%	14%
Fluency	3%	2%	3%	3%	6%	2%	4%
Language	37%	23%	26%	29%	42%	47%	38%
Prevention/wellness	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Swallowing and feeding	16%	38%	24%	34%	10%	13%	8%
Voice/resonance	3%	4%	4%	6%	1%	1%	3%
Other	3%	1%	0%	2%	2%	3%	4%

*Not a survey question response category

n = 1,034 (2005); *n* = 1,189 (2007); *n* = 955 (2009)