



## 2021 Demographic Profile of ASHA Members Providing Multilingual Services

### Introduction

State data on the number of multilingual audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are frequently requested from ASHA's Office of Multicultural Affairs for purposes, e.g., seeking information related to grant funding for training programs and preparing recruitment initiatives. In an effort to satisfy those requests, this report presents 2021 ASHA member and affiliate data on multilingual service provision alongside data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) on the potential need for those services.

### What is the ACS?

The ACS is part of the Decennial Census Program of the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey is sent to a small percentage of the U.S. population annually. Its purpose is to refresh data gathered via the Decennial Census, allowing for more current data throughout the decade. For more information, visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

### What data from the ACS are presented in this report?

This report includes three sets of one-year estimates based on data from the ACS. The first set presents the percentage of individuals in a given state who speak English less than "Very Well." These data are the closest estimates available to the number of individuals who would require services in a language other than English. The second percentage represents those who speak a language other than English as their primary language at home. While it is likely that many of these individuals are fluent English speakers, they may feel more comfortable discussing certain issues, e.g., those related to medical, educational, personal, etc., concerns in their native language. Finally, in Table 4 the "non-English at home" column is replaced by the percentage of individuals who speak Spanish at home. All three data elements exclude children under the age of 5 from analysis.

### Which members are considered multilingual service providers?

While ASHA does not offer multilingual certification, on the annual dues notice ASHA provided members with an opportunity to self-identify as being multilingual, which requires native or near-native proficiency in a second language. For more information on multilingual service provision, visit <http://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Bilingual-Service-Delivery/>.

Also on the annual dues notice, ASHA asked a series of questions about multilingual service provision, two of which are critical to this analysis. Following a description of the linguistic proficiency multilingual audiologists and SLPs must have to provide services, respondents were asked "Are you a bilingual service provider?" and "In what language(s) are you qualified to provide bilingual services?" This was followed by an extensive list of languages other than spoken English. Individuals included in this analysis are those who answered "Yes" to the first question, and/or provided a language in the second. Many more respondents indicated they were not qualified or chose not to answer either question; these individuals were excluded from analysis.

### Notes

In addition to completing their dues notice, members can update their demographic information by contacting the Action Center at 800-498-2071 or by going to [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) and selecting "My Account" at the top of the webpage.

The column marked "Total" in Tables 2, 3, and 4 includes certified audiologists and SLPs (including those who are dually certified), individuals who have started—but not yet completed—the certification process, and non-certified constituents.

## Data Snapshot: 2021 ASHA Multilingual Service Providers

### Counts

- **Overall.** At year-end 2021, excluding National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) members, ASHA represented 213,115 audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; and audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel—up from 208,135 at year-end 2020.
- **Multilingual Service Providers.** Of the 213,115 individuals ASHA represented, which excludes National NSSLHA members, 17,373 (8.2%) indicated they were multilingual service providers—up slightly from 8.0% at year-end 2020. Of these, 911 were ASHA-certified audiologists and 15,728 were ASHA-certified SLPs. The remainder included members with dual certification, individuals who had started—but not yet completed—the certification process, and non-certified members.
- **Languages.** There were 83 spoken languages other than English reported by those who indicated they were multilingual service providers—up slightly from 82 at year-end 2020. In addition, 803 individuals indicated that they could communicate using American Sign Language, 103 used Manually Coded English (including SE, SEE, Cued Speech, etc.), and 28 used “other sign languages”.
- **Spanish-Language Service Providers.** Of the 17,373 individuals who indicated they were multilingual service providers, most (11,559 or 66.5%) were Spanish-language service providers—up slightly from 66.2% at year-end 2020. Of these, 373 were ASHA-certified audiologists and 10,807 were ASHA-certified SLPs. The remainder included members with dual certification, individuals who had started—but not yet completed—the certification process, and non-certified members.

### Employment Characteristics

- **Employment Status.** The majority (77.8%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were employed full time; 15.7% were employed part time. The remainder were on leave of absence, unemployed, or retired. Percentages were similar for the total ASHA membership and affiliation.
- **Primary Work Setting.** Nearly one half (47.4%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were employed in educational settings, including 42.8% in schools and 4.5% in colleges/universities. An additional 43.5% were employed in health care settings, including 25.0% in nonresidential health care facilities, 12.1% in hospitals, and 6.4% in residential health care facilities. Percentages were similar for the total ASHA membership and affiliation.
- **Primary Work Role.** The majority (73.1%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were clinical service providers. Nearly one-tenth (7.6%) held an administrative position, 6.5% were special education teachers, 3.7% were college/university professors, 1.7% were consultants, and 0.5% were researchers. Percentages were similar for the total ASHA membership and affiliation.
- **Private Practice.** About one-third (34.1%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were employed full or part time in private practice. In comparison, 23.1% of ASHA’s total membership and affiliation were employed full or part time in private practice.

## Demographics

- **Race.** The majority (78.3%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were White. More than one tenth (15.0%) were Asian, 3.3% were Black or African-American, 2.4% were multi-racial, 0.8% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.2% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. In comparison, 91.3% of ASHA's total membership and affiliation were White, 3.6% were Black or African-American, 3.1% were Asian, 1.5% were multi-racial, 0.3% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.1% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
- **Ethnicity.** Nearly one half (46.0%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were of Hispanic or Latino descent, compared with 6.2% of ASHA's total membership and affiliation.
- **Sex.** The majority (92.3%) of ASHA multilingual service providers were female, compared with 95.6% of ASHA's total membership and affiliation.
- **Age.** The median age of ASHA multilingual service providers was 40 years, compared with 42 years for ASHA's total membership and affiliation.

**Location.** The largest number of ASHA-certified audiologists who lived in the United States and were multilingual service providers lived in California (138), New York (104), Texas (83), and Florida (77). Many of these were Spanish-language service providers: California (64), Florida (57), Texas (54), and New York (31).

The largest number of ASHA-certified SLPs who lived in the United States and were multilingual service providers lived in Texas (2,670), California (2,496), New York (2,207), and Florida (1,759). Many of these were Spanish-language service providers: Texas (2,401), Florida (1,537), California (1,531), and New York (1,175).

## 2019 American Community Survey Data

- **Individuals Who Spoke English Less Than "Very Well."** The percentages of individuals who indicated they spoke English less than "Very Well" were highest in California (17.1%); Texas (13.3%); New York (13.1%); and Florida and New Jersey (both 12.0%).
- **Individuals Who Spoke a Language Other Than English as Their Primary Language at Home.** The percentages of individuals who indicated they spoke a language other than English as their principal language at home were highest in California (44.5%); Texas (35.6%); New Mexico (34.0%); and New Jersey (32.2%).
- **Individuals Who Spoke Spanish at Home.** The percentages of individuals who indicated they spoke Spanish at home were highest in Texas (29.2%); California (28.8%); New Mexico (26.5%); and Florida (22.5%).

## Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *2021 Demographic profile of ASHA members providing multilingual services*. [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org).

**Table 1. Demographic Profile of ASHA Constituents  
Who Self-Identified as Multilingual Service Providers  
January 1 – December 31, 2021  
(n = 17,373)**

<b>Employment Status<sup>a</sup></b> (n = 15,953)	
Employed Full Time	77.8%
Employed Part Time	15.7%
On Leave of Absence	1.0%
Unemployed/Seeking Work	1.9%
Unemployed/Not Seeking Work	2.3%
Retired	1.3%

<b>Race<sup>b</sup></b> (n = 13,233)	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.8%
Asian	15.0%
Black or African American	3.3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%
White	78.3%
Multiracial	2.4%

<b>Primary Employment Facility<sup>a</sup></b> (n = 14,810)	
Educational Facility	47.4%
School	42.8%
○ Special School	1.9%
○ Preschool	5.1%
○ Elementary School	17.5%
○ Secondary School	2.4%
○ Several Schools	13.1%
○ Unspecified	2.8%
College/University	4.5%
Health Care Facility (HCF)	43.5%
Hospital	12.1%
Residential HCF	6.4%
○ Skilled Nursing Facility	4.9%
○ Other Residential HCF	1.5%
Nonresidential HCF	25.0%
○ Home Health Care	6.2%
○ Private Physician's Office	0.8%
○ AUD's or SLP's Office	2.9%
○ Speech & Hearing Center	2.0%
○ Other Nonresidential HCF	13.1%
All Other Facilities	9.2%

<b>Ethnicity<sup>b</sup></b> (n = 15,005)	
Hispanic or Latino	46.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	54.0%

<b>Primary Employment Function<sup>a</sup></b> (n = 14,123)	
Clinical Service Provider	73.1%
Special Education Teacher	6.5%
College/University Professor	3.7%
Researcher	0.5%
Doctoral Candidate	0.2%
Administrator	7.6%
○ Administrator/Executive Officer	2.4%
○ Chair/Department Head/Manager	1.7%
○ Supervisor of Clinical Activity	1.7%
○ Other Director/Supervisor	1.8%
Consultant	1.7%
Other Position	6.7%

<b>Age<sup>b</sup></b> (n = 15,301)	
34 and younger	29.1%
35–44	33.7%
45–54	21.6%
55–64	10.5%
65 and older	5.1%

<b>Private Practice<sup>a</sup></b> (n = 13,415)	
Employed Full Time in Private Practice	17.3%
Employed Part Time in Private Practice	16.8%
Not Employed in Private Practice	65.9%

<b>Sex<sup>b</sup></b> (n = 15,941)	
Female	92.3%
Male	7.7%

Note: These counts include ASHA Certified Members and nonmembers, international affiliates, assistants, and associates during the period and whose dues/fees were paid. The percentages are for the number of respondents (n = respondents) to that question only; percentages may not total 100.0% due to rounding.

Sources: <sup>a</sup>Dues Notice 2022. <sup>b</sup>Dues Notice 2020. In addition to completing their dues notice, members can update their demographic information by contacting the Action Center at 800-498-2071 or by going to [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) and selecting "My Account" at the top of the webpage.

**Table 2. Number of ASHA Constituents who have Self-identified as Multilingual Service Providers, by the Language(s) in which they are Qualified to Provide Multilingual Services, December 31, 2021.**

Language	# of Multilingual Service Providers			Language	# of Multilingual Service Providers		
	Audiologists	SLPs	Total		Audiologists	SLPs	Total
Afrikaans	0	1	1	Kiswahili	0	6	6
Akeanon	0	1	1	Konkani	4	4	9
American Sign Language	162	618	803	Korean	26	180	218
Other sign language	3	24	28	Laotian	0	4	4
Amharic	0	4	4	Latvian	0	1	3
Anaang	0	1	1	Lithuanian	0	17	17
Arabic	41	295	373	Luo	0	1	1
Armenian	0	50	52	Macedonia	0	1	1
Assyrian	0	1	1	Malayalam	2	110	116
Azerbaijani Turkish	1	1	2	Manually Coded English (SE, SEE, Cued Speech, etc.)	21	77	103
Bengali	3	37	45	Manyika	1	1	2
Cambodian	1	3	4	Marathi	17	78	100
Chinese-Cantonese	33	223	281	Mien	0	1	1
Chinese-Mandarin	77	424	539	Navajo	0	12	12
Chinese-Wu	1	6	7	Norwegian	0	8	9
Chinese (other dialects)	10	35	48	Oriya	1	4	6
Creek	0	1	3	Pilipino (Filipino)	5	72	83
Creole	0	20	22	Polish	9	137	154
Croatian	0	7	9	Portuguese	10	208	237
Czech	1	4	7	Punjabi	9	68	87
Danish	0	3	3	Romanian	4	20	25
Dutch	1	26	34	Russian	38	599	656
Ebira	0	1	1	Samoan	0	1	1
Farsi (Persian)	20	132	159	Serbian	0	14	15
Finnish	0	3	4	Serbo-Croatian	0	12	14
French	21	437	514	Sinhalese	0	3	3
Fulfulde	0	1	1	Slovak	1	2	3
German	8	143	172	Slovenian	0	1	2
Greek	11	177	202	Somali	0	4	5
Gujarati	15	116	133	Spanish	373	10807	11559
Haitian Creole	3	93	101	Swahili	0	3	3
Hausa	0	1	1	Swedish	1	20	24
Hebrew	22	473	518	Tagalog	4	178	189
Hindi	62	518	615	Taiwanese	6	43	53
Hmong	0	14	15	Tamil	8	115	130
Hopi	0	2	2	Telugu	8	56	70
Hungarian	0	15	16	Thai	2	12	16
Icelandic	1	8	11	Turkish	0	26	29
Ilonggo	0	4	5	Ukrainian	2	40	43
Indonesian	1	18	21	Urdu	18	159	192
Italian	11	116	135	Vietnamese	6	88	96
Japanese	14	78	102	Yiddish	2	397	410
Kannada	8	104	127	Other language	4	46	57

Source: 2021 ASHA Dues Notice. Members can also update their demographic information by contacting the Action Center at 800-498-2071, or by going to [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) and selecting "My Account" at the top of the webpage. ASHA constituents include members, nonmember certificate holders, international affiliates, assistants, and associates.

**Table 3. ASHA Multilingual Service Providers (MSP) and American Community Survey (ACS) Data on English-Language Proficiency and Non-English Households**

State	ASHA Audiologists		ASHA SLPs		ASHA Total		ACS Language Use	
	# of MSP	% of MSP	# of MSP	% of MSP	# of MSP	% of MSP	English < Very Well	Non-English @ Home
Alabama	4	1.5%	38	1.6%	43	1.6%	2.2%	5.5%
Alaska	2	5.0%	23	5.7%	25	5.4%	4.4%	16.3%
Arizona	19	5.7%	339	10.7%	371	10.3%	8.1%	27.2%
Arkansas	6	4.5%	58	2.1%	65	2.2%	3.2%	7.6%
California	138	17.0%	2,496	16.2%	2,742	16.3%	17.1%	44.5%
Colorado	13	3.1%	296	7.5%	315	7.0%	5.4%	16.7%
Connecticut	10	5.0%	164	6.3%	178	6.2%	8.3%	22.5%
Delaware	3	7.1%	21	4.1%	26	4.6%	5.0%	14.0%
Dist of Columbia	6	13.3%	36	9.6%	46	10.6%	5.2%	16.1%
Florida	77	10.5%	1,759	15.7%	1,896	15.6%	12.0%	30.3%
Georgia	10	2.8%	178	3.5%	196	3.5%	5.4%	14.4%
Hawaii	5	9.4%	36	6.6%	42	7.0%	11.9%	27.8%
Idaho	4	6.0%	36	3.7%	42	3.9%	3.6%	10.8%
Illinois	18	3.6%	613	6.7%	650	6.6%	8.4%	23.3%
Indiana	9	2.9%	103	3.0%	118	3.1%	3.1%	8.8%
Iowa	5	2.8%	27	1.9%	33	2.0%	3.6%	8.9%
Kansas	6	3.1%	42	2.2%	49	2.3%	4.6%	12.1%
Kentucky	4	2.9%	30	1.0%	35	1.1%	2.5%	6.0%
Louisiana	3	1.3%	43	1.4%	49	1.5%	2.9%	7.8%
Maine	1	1.5%	18	2.0%	19	1.9%	1.5%	5.9%
Maryland	37	10.4%	236	6.3%	283	6.8%	7.3%	19.4%
Massachusetts	24	5.4%	304	5.9%	336	5.9%	9.2%	24.7%
Michigan	17	4.2%	147	2.7%	170	2.9%	3.4%	10.0%
Minnesota	4	1.3%	105	3.1%	112	3.0%	4.4%	12.3%
Mississippi	6	4.0%	12	0.7%	18	0.9%	1.5%	4.0%
Missouri	15	4.6%	53	1.3%	70	1.5%	2.1%	6.6%
Montana	1	3.2%	10	1.8%	11	1.8%	0.6%	4.0%
Nebraska	2	1.5%	17	1.2%	19	1.2%	5.0%	11.8%
Nevada	6	8.1%	76	8.1%	83	8.1%	11.9%	31.2%
New Hampshire	4	7.7%	19	1.9%	23	2.1%	2.5%	8.4%
New Jersey	34	8.9%	705	9.6%	758	9.6%	12.0%	32.2%
New Mexico	11	13.1%	227	16.5%	239	16.1%	8.6%	34.0%
New York	104	10.6%	2,207	12.5%	2,409	12.6%	13.1%	30.7%
North Carolina	16	3.8%	293	4.6%	324	4.7%	4.4%	12.3%
North Dakota	0	0.0%	4	0.7%	4	0.6%	1.9%	5.1%
Ohio	15	2.5%	143	2.0%	165	2.1%	2.7%	7.5%
Oklahoma	5	3.0%	68	2.9%	75	2.9%	3.9%	10.9%
Oregon	9	6.0%	185	8.3%	197	8.2%	5.1%	15.5%
Pennsylvania	16	2.9%	268	3.1%	288	3.1%	4.5%	11.7%
Rhode Island	1	2.0%	39	5.2%	40	5.0%	8.2%	22.7%
South Carolina	3	1.8%	75	2.5%	82	2.6%	3.0%	7.5%
South Dakota	1	2.0%	4	0.8%	5	0.9%	2.1%	5.8%
Tennessee	13	3.1%	78	2.2%	96	2.4%	3.1%	7.6%
Texas	83	9.4%	2,670	17.5%	2,795	17.0%	13.3%	35.6%
Utah	22	12.0%	92	5.9%	117	6.5%	4.6%	16.0%
Vermont	0	0.0%	14	2.8%	15	2.7%	1.7%	5.5%
Virginia	19	5.0%	203	4.7%	230	4.8%	6.1%	16.8%
Washington	25	7.2%	218	6.0%	251	6.2%	7.6%	20.5%
West Virginia	3	3.3%	7	0.7%	11	1.0%	0.7%	2.6%
Wisconsin	1	0.3%	129	3.5%	134	3.3%	2.9%	8.7%
Wyoming	1	4.8%	8	2.1%	9	2.1%	1.6%	6.6%
U.S. Subtotal	841	6.1%	14,972	7.8%	16,309	7.8%	8.3%	22.0%
Puerto Rico	20	87.0%	296	80.0%	358	79.0%	74.4%	93.6%
Other U.S. Terr.	0	0.0%	5	9.4%	6	8.8%	No Data	
Other Countries	50	31.8%	455	23.2%	700	25.4%	No Data	
Total	911	6.5%	15,728	8.1%	17,373	8.2%	No Data	

Sources: 2019 American Community Survey and 2022 ASHA Dues Notice.

**Table 4. ASHA Spanish-Language Service Providers (SSP) and ACS Data on English-Language Proficiency and Spanish-Language Households**

State	ASHA Audiologists		ASHA SLPs		ASHA Total		ACS Language Use	
	# of SSP	% of SSP	# of SSP	% of SSP	# of SSP	% of SSP	English < Very Well	Spanish @ Home
Alabama	2	0.8%	26	1.1%	28	1.1%	2.2%	3.6%
Alaska	2	5.0%	13	3.2%	15	3.2%	4.4%	4.0%
Arizona	12	3.6%	292	9.3%	312	8.7%	8.1%	20.3%
Arkansas	1	0.7%	46	1.6%	48	1.6%	3.2%	5.6%
California	64	7.9%	1,531	10.0%	1,668	9.9%	17.1%	28.8%
Colorado	4	0.9%	234	5.9%	243	5.4%	5.4%	11.4%
Connecticut	4	2.0%	109	4.2%	115	4.0%	8.3%	12.3%
Delaware	0	0.0%	13	2.5%	14	2.5%	5.0%	7.1%
Dist of Columbia	2	4.4%	24	6.4%	28	6.5%	5.2%	8.9%
Florida	57	7.8%	1,537	13.7%	1,644	13.5%	12.0%	22.5%
Georgia	4	1.1%	108	2.1%	116	2.1%	5.4%	8.1%
Hawaii	1	1.9%	11	2.0%	12	2.0%	11.9%	2.4%
Idaho	3	4.5%	28	2.9%	33	3.1%	3.6%	8.0%
Illinois	6	1.2%	411	4.5%	430	4.4%	8.4%	13.6%
Indiana	0	0.0%	63	1.8%	66	1.7%	3.1%	4.3%
Iowa	0	0.0%	16	1.1%	16	1.0%	3.6%	4.4%
Kansas	2	1.0%	26	1.4%	28	1.3%	4.6%	7.8%
Kentucky	0	0.0%	17	0.6%	17	0.5%	2.5%	2.9%
Louisiana	2	0.9%	30	1.0%	33	1.0%	2.9%	3.9%
Maine	0	0.0%	8	0.9%	8	0.8%	1.5%	0.9%
Maryland	11	3.1%	137	3.7%	155	3.7%	7.3%	8.7%
Massachusetts	7	1.6%	156	3.0%	164	2.9%	9.2%	9.7%
Michigan	1	0.2%	69	1.3%	71	1.2%	3.4%	2.9%
Minnesota	2	0.6%	72	2.2%	74	2.0%	4.4%	4.0%
Mississippi	1	0.7%	6	0.3%	7	0.4%	1.5%	2.3%
Missouri	6	1.8%	31	0.7%	37	0.8%	2.1%	2.9%
Montana	0	0.0%	7	1.2%	7	1.1%	0.6%	1.3%
Nebraska	0	0.0%	9	0.6%	9	0.6%	5.0%	7.6%
Nevada	3	4.1%	54	5.7%	57	5.5%	11.9%	21.6%
New Hampshire	0	0.0%	11	1.1%	11	1.0%	2.5%	2.8%
New Jersey	12	3.1%	338	4.6%	361	4.5%	12.0%	16.9%
New Mexico	8	9.5%	206	15.0%	215	14.4%	8.6%	26.5%
New York	31	3.2%	1,175	6.7%	1,258	6.6%	13.1%	14.9%
North Carolina	7	1.7%	232	3.7%	250	3.6%	4.4%	7.9%
North Dakota	0	0.0%	4	0.7%	4	0.6%	1.9%	1.6%
Ohio	3	0.5%	76	1.1%	82	1.0%	2.7%	2.4%
Oklahoma	1	0.6%	52	2.2%	53	2.0%	3.9%	7.7%
Oregon	4	2.7%	142	6.4%	149	6.2%	5.1%	9.2%
Pennsylvania	5	0.9%	160	1.9%	168	1.8%	4.5%	5.2%
Rhode Island	1	2.0%	29	3.9%	30	3.7%	8.2%	12.8%
South Carolina	2	1.2%	49	1.7%	53	1.7%	3.0%	4.6%
South Dakota	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2.1%	1.9%
Tennessee	3	0.7%	53	1.5%	59	1.5%	3.1%	4.5%
Texas	54	6.1%	2,401	15.7%	2,489	15.1%	13.3%	29.2%
Utah	11	6.0%	70	4.5%	81	4.5%	4.6%	10.6%
Vermont	0	0.0%	6	1.2%	6	1.1%	1.7%	1.2%
Virginia	5	1.3%	110	2.5%	118	2.5%	6.1%	7.7%
Washington	5	1.4%	123	3.4%	131	3.2%	7.6%	9.0%
West Virginia	0	0.0%	5	0.5%	5	0.5%	0.7%	1.0%
Wisconsin	1	0.3%	110	3.0%	113	2.8%	2.9%	4.8%
Wyoming	0	0.0%	6	1.6%	6	1.4%	1.6%	4.3%
U.S. Subtotal	350	2.6%	10,442	5.5%	11,097	5.3%	8.3%	13.5%
Puerto Rico	20	87.0%	295	79.7%	357	78.8%	74.4%	93.4%
Other U.S. Terr.	0	0.0%	3	5.7%	3	4.4%	No Data	
Other Countries	3	1.9%	67	3.4%	102	3.7%	No Data	
Total	373	2.7%	10,807	5.6%	11,559	5.4%	No Data	

Sources: 2019 American Community Survey and 2022 ASHA Dues Notice.