Audiologists and SLPs provide treatment to people of all ages, from infants to older adults. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, cognitive communication, and swallowing disorders. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiology treatment, including hearing aids.

### DEFINING THE PROFESSIONALS

- **Audiologists** specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiology treatment, including hearing aids.
- **Speech-language pathologists (SLPs)** identify, assess, and treat speech, language, cognitive communication, and swallowing disorders.

Audiologists and SLPs provide treatment to people of all ages, from infants to older adults.

### NATIONAL AND STATE DATA

- **About 7%** Americans have some form of language impairment.
- **About 15%** Americans have some degree of hearing loss.

From 2020–2030, Oklahoma is expected to see an increase in demand for speech-language pathologists and audologists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR AUDIOLOGISTS</th>
<th>INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>25%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN OKLAHOMA

- **6 higher education institutions** with communication sciences and disorders degree programs in the state.

Where do Audiologists and SLPs work in Oklahoma?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY TYPE</th>
<th>Audiologists</th>
<th>SLPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH CARE FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all.
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.


SOURCES

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