ASHA Identify the Signs Campaign Survey Results

Survey Methodology and Response Rate

A survey invitation was emailed on February 17, 2023, to 5,460 ASHA-certified audiologists and 5,534 ASHA-certified speech-language pathologists in the U.S. who are employed as clinical service providers and regularly serve at least one of the following age groups: 6 months or less, 7 months to 2 years of age, and 3 to 5 years of age, according to ASHA’s membership database. The invitation included a survey link. Reminders were emailed to nonrespondents on February 27 and March 6 and 13. The survey closed on March 16.

Of the 10,994 audiologists and SLPs, 137 had previously opted out of receiving online surveys and 9 newly opted out. Also, 189 email addresses bounced, which left 10,659 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 1,027—a 9.6% response rate. Of the 1,027 respondents, 169 were disqualified after answering the first or second survey question, which left 858 possible respondents to answer the remaining questions.

All qualified respondents had the opportunity to enter a random drawing to win a $150 Amazon gift card after completing the survey. Gail Brook, Surveys and Analysis, prepared this report.

Key Findings

Demographics

- Most respondents work in schools (43%), nonresidential health care facilities (29%), and hospitals (21%).
- Most respondents regularly serve age groups 3 to 5 years (79%), 7 months to 2 years (54%), and 6 months or less (32%).

Early Detection

- The majority (65%) of respondents indicated that most families with young children are somewhat aware of the importance of early detection of speech, language, and hearing issues when they first see them.
- About 40% of audiologist respondents indicated that on average, symptoms of hearing loss in young children go unrecognized by parents/caregivers for 6 months to 1 year.
- About 41% of SLP respondents indicated that on average, symptoms of a speech/language delay or disorder in young children go unrecognized by parents/caregivers for 1 to 2 years.
- Nearly half (48%) of audiologist respondents indicated that on average, parents/caregivers wait 6 months to 1 year after observing symptoms of hearing loss in their young children before they take action.
• Nearly half (48%) of SLP respondents indicated that on average, parents/caregivers wait 6 months to 1 year after observing symptoms of a speech/language delay or disorder in their young children before they take action.

• About 39% of respondents indicated that in their opinion, *lack of awareness about signs of disorders* is the leading factor that can hinder parents/caregivers from taking action on communication disorders in young children.

Early Warning Signs

• Only 28% of SLP respondents indicated that most parents of young children are aware of the early warning signs of speech and language disorders.

• Only 21% of audiologist respondents indicated that most parents of young children are aware of the early warning signs of hearing disorders.

• Most (67%) respondents indicated that parents’ awareness of the early warning signs of communication disorders had improved over the last 10 years.

• Of the respondents who indicated that parents’ awareness had improved over the last 10 years, 41% primarily attributed the improvement to *availability of information from the Internet*.

• Of the respondents who indicated that parents’ awareness had not improved over the last 10 years, 34% primarily attributed the lack of improvement to *allied health and education professionals continuing to promote a wait and see approach to parents/caregivers*.

• When asked to indicate which step they thought would be most effective in preventing delayed care and its potential negative impact, 36% of respondents selected *highly visible and widely available information and resources for parents/caregivers*; 36% selected *heightened focus and engagement of allied health and education professionals*.

Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

• Most (80%) respondents indicated that the pandemic had impacted referrals/requests for evaluation of young children, in their opinion.

• Nearly half (45%) of audiologist respondents indicated that they are getting more referrals/requests for evaluation of young children than they did before the pandemic began. When asked what factors are most responsible for the increase, in their opinion, 75% selected *backlog of young children who weren’t referred during stay-at-home order periods (or whose families waited to seek help due to concerns about virus exposure)*.

• More than half (69%) of SLP respondents indicated that they are getting more referrals/requests for evaluation of young children than they did before the pandemic began. When asked what factors are most responsible for the increase, in their opinion, 64% selected *limited opportunities for social interaction/play with peers*.

• Only 7% of respondents indicated that they are getting fewer referrals/requests for evaluation of young children than they did before the pandemic began. When asked what factors are most responsible for the decrease, in their opinion, slightly more than half (51%) selected *family members or friends advising parents/caregivers that young children are expected to be slightly delayed right now due to pandemic-related factors such as limited schooling and limited interaction with peers and others*. 
• When asked what trends they are seeing in the young children they are evaluating and/or treating that they didn’t see before the pandemic began, the most frequent responses were more children with emotional or behavioral difficulties, more children with delayed language or diagnosed with language disorders, and more children with social communication difficulties.

• Most (60%) audiologist respondents and 75% of SLP respondents indicated that they are seeing more young children that are behind by a few months in demonstrating age-appropriate communication skills than before the pandemic began.

• Of the audiologist respondents who are seeing more young children that are behind, 73% indicated that they do not know if most of those children are able to “graduate” from services quickly (i.e., within 6 months). Of the SLP respondents who are seeing more young children that are behind, 69% indicated that most of those children are not able to “graduate” from services quickly.

• About 19% of audiologist respondents indicated that more parents/caregivers of young children are interested in using telepractice for audiology services than they were at the beginning of the pandemic.

• About 38% of SLP respondents indicated that more parents/caregivers of young children are interested in using telepractice for speech-language pathology services than they were at the beginning of the pandemic.

Developmental Milestones

• Most (70%) SLP respondents indicated that in their experience, parents/caregivers are not aware of developmental milestones for their child’s age in terms of speech and language.

• Most (77%) audiologist respondents indicated that in their experience, parents/caregivers are not aware of developmental milestones for their child’s age in terms of hearing.

• Most (62%) SLP respondents indicated that in their experience, parents/caregivers are not aware of developmental milestones for their child’s age in terms of feeding and swallowing.

• Nearly half (46%) of respondents indicated that in their experience, parents/caregivers primarily seek information about their child’s development and milestones from a pediatrician or other health or child care professional.

• Slightly more than half (51%) of respondents indicated that most families do not know where they can go for help if they are concerned their child is not meeting developmental milestones.

• About 27% of respondents indicated that they are aware of steps (governmental or otherwise) being taken that they believe can help prevent delayed care and improve awareness of developmental milestones and the warning signs of communication disorders.

• Some of the steps identified by respondents include newborn hearing screenings, 1-3-6 guidelines, well-child visits, M-CHAT, Head Start programs, the Child Find program, the Early Steps program, and public service announcements.
Findings

Results are presented by profession, and by all respondents. Data with an \( n \) size of < 25 should be considered with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100%. Comments have been edited for spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Demographics

1. Please indicate your primary employment facility. (Select one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (( n = 406 ))</th>
<th>SLPs only (( n = 621 ))</th>
<th>All respondents (( n = 1,027 ))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School (all types, including preschools)</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College/university</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (all types)</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential health care facility (e.g., skilled nursing facility)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresidential health care facility (e.g., private practice, speech and hearing clinic, physician’s office, home health care setting, etc.)</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not employed (retired, seeking work, etc.)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Respondents who selected not employed (retired, seeking work, etc.) were automatically skipped to a disqualification page.

Other

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.
2. If you are a clinical service provider, which age groups do you regularly serve? (Select all that apply.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only ((n = 394))</th>
<th>SLPs only ((n = 606))</th>
<th>All respondents ((n = 1,000))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months or less</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 months to 2 years of age</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 5 years of age</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A; I am not a clinical service provider, and/or I do not regularly serve any of the above age groups.</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Respondents who selected N/A; I am not a clinical service provider, and/or I do not regularly serve any of the above age groups were automatically skipped to a disqualification page.

Early Detection

3. Are most families with young children aware of the importance of early detection of speech, language, and hearing issues when you first see them?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only ((n = 357))</th>
<th>SLPs only ((n = 483))</th>
<th>All respondents ((n = 840))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, very</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, somewhat</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, not at all or hardly</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. On average, how long do symptoms of hearing loss in young children go unrecognized by parents/caregivers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only ((n = 352))</th>
<th>SLPs only ((n = 476))</th>
<th>All respondents ((n = 828))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 1 year</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>30.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never or almost never recognized</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. On average, how long do symptoms of a speech/language delay or disorder go unrecognized in young children by parents/caregivers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 344)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 472)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 816)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 1 year</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never or almost never recognized</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. On average, how long do parents/caregivers wait after observing symptoms of hearing loss in their young children before they take action?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 339)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 469)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 808)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 1 year</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never or almost never take action</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. On average, how long do parents/caregivers wait after observing symptoms of a speech/language delay or disorder in their young children before they take action?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 333)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 463)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 796)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 1 year</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never or almost never take action</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. In your opinion, what is the leading factor that can hinder parents/caregivers from taking action on communication disorders in young children? (Select one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 329)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 458)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 787)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial constraints</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient insurance coverage</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of appropriate or timely referrals from other professionals</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness about signs of disorders</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage of qualified clinical service providers</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, scheduling, or other logistical issue</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.

Early Warning Signs

9. In your professional experience, are most parents of young children aware of the early warning signs of . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorders</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n ≥ 327)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 455)</th>
<th>All respondents (n ≥ 782)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech and language disorders</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing disorders</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Do you think parents’ awareness of the early warning signs of communication disorders has improved over the last 10 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 328)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 456)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 784)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>66.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Respondents who selected no were automatically skipped to question 12. Those who selected do not know were automatically skipped to question 13.
11. If yes, what do you primarily attribute this improvement to? (Select one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 213)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 304)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 517)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of information from the Internet</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>50.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater involvement/discussion with allied health and education professionals (e.g., pediatricians, preschool teachers)</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved, expanded, or mandated developmental screenings</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media coverage of communication development and disorders</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More representation/visibility of people with communication disorders</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public education campaigns from professional and government bodies</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced stigma contributing to more open discussion about a potential delay or disorder with family members, friends, etc.</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.
12. If no, what do you primarily attribute the lack of improvement to? (Select one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiology only (n = 55)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 78)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 133)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied health and education professionals continue to promote a wait and see approach to parents/caregivers.</td>
<td>38.2 21</td>
<td>30.8 24</td>
<td>33.8 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive and time-consuming use of popular tech (e.g., smartphones, tablets) by children and parents precludes interaction.</td>
<td>10.9 6</td>
<td>33.3 26</td>
<td>24.1 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misguided advice from family members and/or peers leads parents to think that they don’t need to act early on concerns.</td>
<td>16.4 9</td>
<td>11.5 9</td>
<td>13.5 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents are too busy trying to make a living and meet other challenges.</td>
<td>5.5 3</td>
<td>7.7 6</td>
<td>6.8 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents don’t want to recognize a potential delay or disorder in their child.</td>
<td>18.2 10</td>
<td>3.9 3</td>
<td>9.8 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public education campaigns aimed at families aren’t as big or as constant as they need to be.</td>
<td>1.8 1</td>
<td>5.1 4</td>
<td>3.8 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>1.8 1</td>
<td>1.3 1</td>
<td>1.5 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>7.3 4</td>
<td>6.4 5</td>
<td>6.8 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.
13. Which of the following steps do you think would be most effective in preventing delayed care and its potential negative impact? (Select one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 322)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 445)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 767)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heightened focus and engagement of allied health and education professionals</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly visible and widely available information and resources for parents/caregivers</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More accessible and affordable health care</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.

Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

14. Has the pandemic impacted referrals/requests for evaluation of young children, in your opinion?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 320)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 443)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 763)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. Please select the response that best reflects your current circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 321)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 443)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 764)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am getting more referrals/requests for evaluation of young children than I did before the pandemic began.</td>
<td>44.9% (144)</td>
<td>68.9% (305)</td>
<td>58.8% (449)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am getting fewer referrals/requests for evaluation of young children than I did before the pandemic began.</td>
<td>8.4% (27)</td>
<td>6.1% (27)</td>
<td>7.1% (54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am getting the same number of referrals/requests for evaluation of young children as I did before the pandemic began.</td>
<td>35.2% (113)</td>
<td>15.1% (67)</td>
<td>23.6% (180)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A; I was not employed as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist before the pandemic began, or the nature of my job has changed since then.</td>
<td>11.5% (37)</td>
<td>9.9% (44)</td>
<td>10.6% (81)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Respondents who indicated they were getting fewer referrals were automatically skipped to question 17. Those who indicated they were getting the same number of referrals were automatically skipped to question 18. Those who indicated they were not employed as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist before the pandemic began, or that the nature of their job had changed since then, were automatically skipped to question 23.
16. **What factors are most responsible for the increase, in your opinion? (Select up to three.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 144)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 304)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 448)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backlog of young children who weren’t referred during stay-at-home order periods (or whose families waited to seek help due to concerns about virus exposure)</td>
<td>75.0 108</td>
<td>61.8 188</td>
<td>66.1 296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited formal pre-K/daycare or interaction with outside adults (e.g., child care providers, preschool teachers, extended family)</td>
<td>54.9 79</td>
<td>57.2 174</td>
<td>56.5 253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited opportunities for social interaction/play with peers</td>
<td>49.3 71</td>
<td>64.1 195</td>
<td>59.4 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More time spent using screens/technology such as tablets and smartphones by young children</td>
<td>34.7 50</td>
<td>59.2 180</td>
<td>51.3 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/caregiver stress or competing demands at home that reduced daily opportunities for interactions between young children and adults—opportunities like talking, reading, and/or singing together</td>
<td>23.6 34</td>
<td>40.5 123</td>
<td>35.0 157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>3.5 5</td>
<td>0.7 2</td>
<td>1.6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>4.9 7</td>
<td>5.6 17</td>
<td>5.4 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.
17. What factors are most responsible for the decrease, in your opinion? (Select up to three.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 27)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 26)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 53)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allied health or education professionals advising parents/caregivers that young children are expected to be slightly delayed right now due to pandemic-related factors such as limited schooling or limited interaction with peers and others (e.g., they will “outgrow” delays or “catch up”)</strong></td>
<td>37.0 10 57.7 15 47.2 25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family members or friends advising parents/caregivers that young children are expected to be slightly delayed right now due to pandemic-related factors such as limited schooling and limited interaction with peers and others</strong></td>
<td>51.9 14 50.0 13 50.9 27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>More time for parent/caregiver interactions at home with young children related to talking, reading, and/or singing together</strong></td>
<td>7.4 2 11.5 3 9.4 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents/caregivers losing their jobs and health insurance</strong></td>
<td>11.1 3 11.5 3 11.3 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do not know</strong></td>
<td>18.5 5 11.5 3 15.1 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other (Please specify.)</strong></td>
<td>25.9 7 23.1 6 24.5 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.
18. What trends are you seeing in the young children you’re evaluating and/or treating that you didn’t see before the pandemic began? (Select all that apply.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 281)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 396)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 677)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More children with delayed diagnosis of hearing loss</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer children with delayed diagnosis of hearing loss</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More children with delayed emerging reading and writing skills</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer children with delayed emerging reading and writing skills</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More children with delayed language or diagnosed with language disorders</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer children with delayed language or diagnosed with language disorders</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More children with emotional or behavioral difficulties</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer children with emotional or behavioral difficulties</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More children with social communication difficulties</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer children with social communication difficulties</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More children with untreated (persisting) ear infections (which could interfere with communication development)</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer children with untreated (persisting) ear infections (which could interfere with communication development)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.
19. Are you seeing more young children that are behind by a few months in demonstrating age-appropriate communication skills than before the pandemic began?

| Answer choices | Audiologists only  
| (n = 282) | SLPs only  
| (n = 395) | All respondents  
| (n = 677) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 59.6 | 168 | 74.7 | 295 | 68.4 | 463 |
| No | 12.1 | 34 | 13.4 | 53 | 12.9 | 87 |
| Do not know | 28.4 | 80 | 11.9 | 47 | 18.8 | 127 |

Note. Respondents who selected no or do not know were automatically skipped to question 21.

20. If yes, are most of those children able to “graduate” from services quickly (i.e., within 6 months)?

| Answer choices | Audiologists only  
| (n = 167) | SLPs only  
| (n = 298) | All respondents  
| (n = 465) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 7.8 | 13 | 15.8 | 47 | 12.9 | 60 |
| No | 19.2 | 32 | 69.1 | 206 | 51.2 | 238 |
| Do not know | 73.1 | 122 | 15.1 | 45 | 35.9 | 167 |

21. Are more parents/caregivers of young children interested in using telepractice for audiology services than they were at the beginning of the pandemic?

| Answer choices | Audiologists only  
| (n = 282) | SLPs only  
| (n = 394) | All respondents  
| (n = 676) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 18.8 | 53 | 9.6 | 38 | 13.5 | 91 |
| No | 36.2 | 102 | 11.9 | 47 | 22.0 | 149 |
| Do not know | 42.9 | 121 | 7.6 | 30 | 22.3 | 151 |
| N/A; I do not provide audiology services. | 2.1 | 6 | 70.8 | 279 | 42.2 | 285 |

22. Are more parents/caregivers of young children interested in using telepractice for speech-language pathology services than they were at the beginning of the pandemic?

| Answer choices | Audiologists only  
| (n = 282) | SLPs only  
| (n = 393) | All respondents  
| (n = 675) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 17.7 | 50 | 37.9 | 149 | 29.5 | 199 |
| No | 9.2 | 26 | 45.3 | 178 | 30.2 | 204 |
| Do not know | 21.3 | 60 | 15.8 | 62 | 18.1 | 122 |
| N/A; I do not provide speech-language pathology services. | 51.8 | 146 | 1.0 | 4 | 22.2 | 150 |
Developmental Milestones

23. In your experience, are parents/caregivers aware of developmental milestones for their child’s age in terms of . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 316)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 437)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 753)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>DK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech and language</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding and swallowing</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24. In your experience, where do parents/caregivers primarily seek information about their child’s development and milestones? (Select one.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 317)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 436)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 753)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloggers or “influencers”/social media</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends/other parents, family, and personal networks</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit associations</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting/medical websites, texting services, or apps</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrician or other health or child care professional</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify.)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for “other” comments.

25. Do most families know where they can go for help if they are concerned their child is not meeting developmental milestones?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audiologists only (n = 317)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 436)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 753)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>31.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26. Are you aware of steps (governmental or otherwise) being taken that you believe can help prevent delayed care and improve awareness of developmental milestones and the warning signs of communication disorders?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer choices</th>
<th>Audologists only (n = 316)</th>
<th>SLPs only (n = 436)</th>
<th>All respondents (n = 752)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>31.3% 99</td>
<td>23.4% 102</td>
<td>26.7% 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>68.7% 217</td>
<td>76.6% 334</td>
<td>73.3% 551</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Respondents who selected no were automatically skipped to question 28 about entering the drawing for an Amazon gift card.

27. If yes, please briefly describe those steps.

Please contact ASHA Surveys and Analysis at data@asha.org for comments.