



WORK LIFE

Survey 2015

Highlights of the 2015 Work Life Survey: SLPs

Demographics

This report is limited to responses from speech-language pathologists (SLPs); a separate report is available for responses from audiologists. See the Summary Reports for a complete list of responses to each survey question by each of the five facility types.

Stratified random sampling was used in selecting the participants in this survey. The population from which the sample was drawn consisted of SLPs who were employed full or part time and who lived in the United States. The sample was stratified by type of facility so that SLPs who work in facilities with smaller number of SLPs, such as colleges and universities, would be adequately represented.

Among the survey respondents, 96% were female, and 4% were male. In addition, 74% were employed full time, 87% were clinical service providers, 54% worked in schools, and 12% owned or co-owned a private practice. In terms of years of experience, the median was 14 years, and the mean was 16 years. More SLPs worked in the South (34%) than in other regions of the country (Qs. 7, 22–28).

ASHA Services and Programs

Overall, 19% of survey respondents said that ASHA was doing an excellent job serving its members. An additional 62% rated ASHA as doing a good job (Q. 1).

Thirty-one percent of SLPs said that they use ASHA's professional consultation services, either via phone or e-mail, for technical assistance less than once a month. This response was highest in hospitals (39%) and colleges and universities (38%) and was lowest in schools (29%) and residential health care facilities (29%; Q. 2).

More than 80% of SLPs agreed or strongly agreed with each of these four statements:

- ASHA is an organization I trust. (95%)
- I recommend ASHA as a resource to colleagues. (89%)
- At ASHA I feel I belong. (88%)
- ASHA values me. (86%; Q. 3)

Career Satisfaction

More than half of the SLPs were very satisfied (53%) with their career choice, and an additional 37% were satisfied. Only 4% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied (Q. 4).

Most of the respondents plan to continue working in their career as long as they are able (48%) or until they are eligible for retirement (36%; Q. 5).

In terms of the year in which they are most likely to retire, the mean is 2034, and the median 2035. The mean year varied from 2028 in colleges and universities to 2037 in residential health care facilities (Q. 6).

Data Access

Survey participants were asked three questions about access to data.

- 85% said they had sufficient access to data to help them identify ways to improve the quality of the services they provide (Q. 8).
- 73% said they had sufficient access to data to help them demonstrate the value of their work to people outside their profession (Q. 9).
- 62% said the public has access to meaningful sources of data from which to make an informed choice among various professionals in their field. This response ranged from 51% in colleges and universities to 65% in schools (Q. 10).

Support Personnel

The median number of speech-language pathology support personnel reported by SLPs was 0, and the mean was 1 (Q. 11).

SLPs who said their facility employed speech-language pathology support personnel were asked to identify which of six activities their support personnel engaged in.

- 77% provide therapy services. The range was from 48% in hospitals to 85% in schools.
- 61% make preparations for a session. The range was from 56% in nonresidential health care facilities to 65% in schools.
- 40% share information with patients, their families, or staff.
- 38% perform administrative tasks, ranging from 35% in schools to 48% in hospitals.
- 23% engage in prevention activities.
- 13% act as interpreter.
- 8% selected *None of the above* as their response (Q. 12).

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The most frequently selected reasons given for not joining a SIG were cost (28%) and time (21%; Q. 13).

Telepractice

Two percent of the SLPs currently deliver services via telepractice. The range was from 0.5% in schools to 10% in colleges and universities (Q. 14).

The total number of SLPs who responded to the follow-up question about the client populations served via telepractice was only 22, which is less than the 25 required to report responses (Q. 15).

Code of Ethics

The average (mean) number of times that SLPs accessed an ASHA Code of Ethics during the last 12 months was 0.9, ranging from 0.6 in hospitals to 2.5 in colleges and universities. The median number of times was 0.0 (Q. 16).

Nearly every SLP (97%) holds a license in the state where they are employed. The range was from 92% in colleges and universities to 96% in schools and 100% in hospitals, residential health care facilities, and nonresidential health care facilities (Q. 17).

The average (mean) number of times that SLPs accessed their state licensing board's code of conduct or ethics during the last 12 months was 0.6. The mean was lowest in hospitals and highest in residential health care facilities but in all cases was less than 1. The median number was 0 in every type of facility (Q. 18).

Recruitment and Retention

Participants were given a list of 11 items and were asked to select three items that were the most important for accepting or staying in a job. Every response but one (relationship with coworkers) varied by type of facility.

- 49% selected *flexibility to balance life and work*.
- 43% selected *compensation/pay*.
- 38% selected *meaningfulness of job*.
- 33% selected *benefits: health care, retirement, etc.*
- 30% selected *type of clients/patients*.
- 24% selected *type of work setting*.
- 21% selected *administration's support of my work*.
- 17% selected *relationship with coworkers*.
- 11% selected *job security*.
- 9% selected *independence*.
- 7% selected *challenging work* (Q. 19).

Service Delivery Models

Definitions of the terms *multidisciplinary team practice* and *interprofessional team practice* were provided, followed by questions about each.

Most of the SLPs (87%) said that they participate in multidisciplinary team practice. The range was from 56% in colleges and universities to 94% in residential health care facilities and 95% in hospitals (Q. 20).

Nearly three-fourths of respondents (72%) said that they participate in interprofessional team practice, ranging from 47% in colleges and universities to 77% in schools and 78% in residential health care facilities (Q. 21).