



SLP Health Care Survey Report: Caseload Characteristics 2021–2023

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the 2023 ASHA *SLP Health Care Survey* to gather information from speech-language pathologists (SLPs) about service provision, practice issues, earnings, the workforce, and other professional topics. Results from this survey are presented in a series of reports, including this report on caseload trends.

Results from the 2021 ASHA *SLP Health Care Survey* are included in this report for comparative purposes. Questions and response options differ among surveys; therefore, data on all topics are not available for all survey years.

Survey Report Highlights

Pediatric Clinical Services

- In 2021 and 2023, overall, clinical service providers included speech sound disorders, autism spectrum disorder, language and literacy, augmentative and alternative communication, and childhood apraxia of speech as the top five areas that they spent time providing services for in children.

Adult Clinical Services

- In 2021 and 2023, overall, clinical service providers included swallowing, aphasia, cognitive communication: non-degenerative (e.g., acquired brain injury), cognitive communication: degenerative (e.g., dementia), and dysarthria as the top five areas that they spent time providing services for in adults.

Pediatric Clinical Services

In 2021 and 2023, overall, clinical service providers selected speech sound disorders, autism spectrum disorder, language and literacy, augmentative and alternative communication, and childhood apraxia of speech as the top five areas that they spend time providing services for in children (see Table 1).

Table 1. *Pediatric areas selected overall as the top five areas treated most frequently by clinical service providers from all facility types, by year.*

Pediatric Area	%	
	2021 (<i>n</i> = 1,433)	2023 (<i>n</i> = 760)
Speech sound disorders	31	84
Autism spectrum disorder	29	83
Language and literacy	30	82
AAC	14	51
Childhood apraxia of speech	18	48
Swallowing and feeding	20	41
Cognitive communication	11	34
Fluency	8	20
Cleft lip/palate	4	8
Voice/resonance	4	8
Gender affirming voice services	0	1
Other area	3	7

Note. These data are from the 2021 and 2023 *ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys*. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%. In 2023, five areas—dysarthria (childhood), orofacial myofunctional disorder, auditory (re)habilitation, central auditory processing disorders (CAPD), and velopharyngeal dysfunction were removed from the survey. AAC = augmentative and alternative communication. In 2021, responses were included from all SLPs who were clinical service providers and were employed full- or part time. The difference in the number of respondents and the large difference in percentages between the years is most likely because reporting in 2023 was limited to those who were clinical service providers, employed full- or part time, and treated pediatric patients.

Adult Clinical Services

In 2021 and 2023, overall, clinical service providers selected swallowing, aphasia, cognitive communication: non-degenerative (e.g., acquired brain injury), cognitive communication: degenerative (e.g., dementia), and dysarthria as the top five areas they spend time providing services for in adults.

Table 2. *Adult areas selected overall as the top five areas treated most frequently by clinical service providers from all facility types, by year.*

Adult Area	%	
	2021 (<i>n</i> = 1,433)	2023 (<i>n</i> = 939)
Swallowing	59	90
Aphasia	50	83
Cognitive communication: nondegenerative (e.g., acquired brain injury)	40	70
Cognitive communication: degenerative (e.g., dementia)	39	70
Dysarthria	39	69
Voice/resonance	22	36
Apraxia of speech	11	17
AAC	7	12
Speech production (nondysarthria)	—	11
Reading and writing disorders	—	4
Autism spectrum disorder	3	3
Orofacial myofunctional disorder	2	2
Auditory (re)habilitation	1	2
Gender affirming voice services	1	2
Accent modification/ communication effectiveness	1	1
CAPD	1	1
Other area	3	5

Note. These data are from the 2021 and 2023 *ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys*. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%. Two areas from 2021: Cognitive communication (other) and Language and literacy, were removed from the survey. AAC = augmentative and alternative communication; CAPD = central auditory processing disorder. In 2021, responses were included from all SLPs who were clinical service providers and were employed full- or part time. The difference in the number of respondents and the large difference in percentages between the years is most likely because reporting in 2023 was limited to those who were clinical service providers, employed full- or part time, and treated adult patients..

Survey Methodology

The survey was sent February 2, March 9, and April 19, 2023, to a random sample of 5,000 ASHA-certified SLPs who were employed in health care facilities in the United States, according to the ASHA membership database. The sample was stratified by type of facility.

Because facilities with fewer SLPs, such as pediatric hospitals, were oversampled, ASHA used weighting when presenting survey data.

Response Rates

Of the original 5,000 SLPs in the sample, 6 had retired, 42 had unusable addresses, and 89 were not employed in health care facilities, which left 4,863 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 1,677—a 34.5% response rate.

Past *ASHA SLP Health Care Survey* response rates were 54.6% (2005), 63.8% (2007), 54.6% (2009), 62.5% (2011), 53.5% (2013), 46.9% (2015), 52.1% (2017), 50.3% (2019), and 17.5% (2021). The 2005 to 2019 *ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys* were sent via postal mail, and the 2021 *ASHA SLP Health Care Survey* was sent via email. The 2023 *ASHA SLP Health Care Survey* was sent via postal mail.

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2024). *SLP Health Care Survey report: Caseload characteristics, 2021–2023*. <https://www.asha.org/>

Additional Information

Companion survey reports are available on the ASHA website at <https://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/healthcaresurvey/>.

Questions?

For additional information regarding this report, please contact Monica Sampson, director of Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5686, or msampson@asha.org. To learn more about how the Association is working on behalf of ASHA-certified SLPs in health care settings, visit <https://www.asha.org/slp/healthcare/>.

Acknowledgment

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 the public. Thank you.