

Schools Survey Report: SLP Caseload Characteristics Trends 2004–2022

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the *2022 Schools Survey* to gather information about professional issues affecting school-based speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists. Results from this survey are presented in a series of reports, including this report on SLP caseload characteristics trends.

Findings from the 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 ASHA Schools Surveys are included in this report for comparative purposes. Questions differ among surveys, so data on all topics are not available for all survey years.

Survey Report Highlights

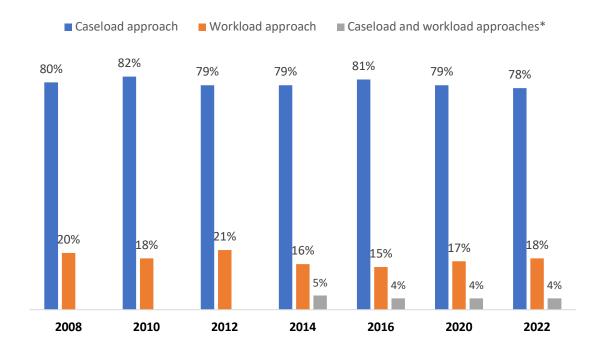
- In 2022, most (78%) SLPs indicated that a caseload approach was used to determine the number of students they served—about the same as in past years (79%–82% from 2008 to 2020).
- In 2022, SLPs had a median monthly caseload size of 48—the same or about the same as in past years (47–50 from 2004 to 2020).
- From 2004 to 2022, median caseload size was lower in special day or residential schools and preschools than in other school settings (20–30 for special day or residential schools and 37–41 for preschools).
- In 2022, SLPs in Indiana had the largest median caseload size (72)—the same or about the same as in past years (72–80 from 2004 to 2018).
- From 2016 to 2022, SLPs in the Northeast had a smaller median caseload size (35–38) than did SLPs in other geographic regions of the country.
- In 2022, most (94%) SLPs served students with autism spectrum disorder—up gradually from 84% in 2006.
- From 2014 to 2022, SLPs served more students per month with language disorders: semantics, morphology, syntax than with other disorders.
- In 2022, SLPs spent most of their time each week (22 hours) in direct intervention—the same or about the same as in past years (22–27 hours per week from 2014 to 2020).
- In 2022, most (60%) SLPs were required to make up missed sessions with students any time they missed a session for any reason—about the same as in past years (54%–63% from 2016 to 2020).
- In 2022, 12% of SLPs indicated that they had used the ASHA Workload Calculator that is on ASHA's website—up slightly from 10% in 2020.

Caseload or Workload Approach

As defined in the survey, a *caseload approach* is based on the number of students served; a *workload approach* is based on all activities required and performed.

In 2022, most (78%) SLPs indicated that a caseload approach was used to determine the number of students they served—about the same as in past years (79%–82% from 2008 to 2020). The remainder indicated that a workload approach, or a combination of caseload and workload approaches, was used (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of school-based SLPs who indicate that a caseload approach and/or a workload approach is used to determine the number of students they serve, by year.



Note. These data are from the 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys.

*This item was not included in the 2008, 2010, and 2012 surveys. In 2008, analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time. In 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, and 2022, analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full or part time.

n = 1,733 (2008); n = 2,153 (2010); n = 2,149 (2012); n = 1,464 (2014); n = 1,566 (2016); n = 1,470 (2020); n = 2,582 (2022).

Caseload Size

In 2022, SLPs had a median monthly caseload size of 48—the same or about the same as in past years (47–50 from 2004 to 2020; see Appendix Table 1). In other words, each SLP served about 48 different students in a typical month.

Numerous variables—including school setting, state, and geographic area—affect caseload size.

Caseload Size by School Setting

Median caseload size varied by school setting. From 2004 to 2022, median caseload size was lower in special day or residential schools and preschools than in other school settings (20–30 for special day or residential schools and 37–41 for preschools; see Appendix Table 1).

Caseload Size by State

Median caseload size varied by state. In 2022, SLPs in Indiana had the largest median caseload size (72)—the same or about the same as in past years (72–80 from 2004 to 2018). SLPs in New York had the smallest median caseload size (30)—the same or about the same as in recent past years (30–31 from 2016 to 2020; see Appendix Table 2).

Caseload Size by Geographic Area

Median caseload sized varied by geographic area. From 2016 to 2022, SLPs in the Northeast had a smaller median caseload size (35–38) than did SLPs in other areas of the country (see Table 1). See page 10 for a key of geographic regions and divisions with corresponding states.

Table 1. Median monthly caseload size of school-based SLPs, by geographic region and division and year.

	_		#	
Geographic region and division	2016 (n = 1,328)	2018 (n = 1,539)	2020 (n = 1,279)	2022 (n = 2,254)
Northeast	38	36	35	37
New England	40	40	40	36
Middle Atlantic	37	35	34	37
Midwest	48	49	46	49
East North Central	50	50	48	50
West North Central	41	43	45	46
South	50	50	52	51
South Atlantic	50	50	50	50
East South Central	55	57	60	55
West South Central	50	50	55	53
West	52	54	54	53
Mountain	52	55	59	52
Pacific	48	52	53	53

Note. These data are from the 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 *ASHA Schools Surveys*. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time.

Areas of Intervention

SLPs served students in numerous areas. From 2014 (or earlier) to 2022, most (about 90%) SLPs served students with (a) autism spectrum disorder, (b) language disorders: pragmatics/social communication, (c) language disorders: semantics, morphology, syntax, and (d) speech sound disorders (see Appendix Table 3).

From 2014 (or earlier) to 2022, SLPs served more students per month with (a) language disorders: semantics, morphology, syntax and (b) speech sound disorders than with other disorders (see Appendix Table 4).

Weekly Activities

In 2022, SLPs spent most of their time each week (22 hours) in direct intervention—the same or about the same as in past years (22–27 hours per week from 2014 to 2020). They spent much of their remaining time each week on documentation (6 hours) and diagnostic evaluations (4 hours)—the same or about the same as in past years (see Table 2).

Table 2. Average number of hours per week that school-based SLPs spend on activities, by year.

			#		
Weekly activity	2014 (n ≥ 989)	2016 (n ≥ 1,033)	2018 (n = 1,423)	2020 (n = 1,279)	2022 (n = 2,024)
Collaborative consultation	_	_	2	2	2
Diagnostic evaluations (e.g., observation, screening, scoring, analysis)	3	3	4	4	4
Direct intervention	_	_	_	_	22
Direct intervention: Classroom- based/integrated services	4	5	7	5	_
Direct intervention: Pullout	18	19	20	19	_
Documentation ^a	7	7	_	_	6
Medicaid billing	_	2	_	_	_
MTSS/RtI activities	1	1	2	1	_
Services to Section 504 students	< 1	< 1	2	< 1	_
Supervision	1	1	4	1	1
Technological support (e.g., hearing aids/cochlear implants, AAC)	1	1	2	1	1
Telepractice		_		< 1	_
Other duties as assigned ^b	4	2	_	3	2

Note. These data are from the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time and had a caseload size of at least one student. In 2014, 2016, and 2018, clinicians worked a maximum of 52 hours per week; in 2020 and 2022, they worked a maximum of 55 hours per week. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. MTSS = multitiered system of supports; RtI = response to intervention; AAC = augmentative and alternative communication. ^aIn 2014 and 2016, this item was documentation/paperwork. ^bIn 2014, 2016, and 2018, this item was other indirect activities.

Missed Sessions With Students

In 2022, most (60%) SLPs were required to make up missed sessions any time they missed a session for any reason—about the same as in past years (54%–63% from 2016 to 2020). About a third (36%) of SLPs were not required to make up missed sessions—about the same as in past years (32%–40% from 2016 to 2020; see Table 3).

Table 3. Percentage of school-based SLPs who are required to make up missed sessions, by circumstance and year.

	%							
Circumstance	2016 (n = 1,597)	2018 (n = 1,864)	2020 (n = 1,496)	2022 (n = 1,314)				
I am not required to make up missed sessions.	40	40	32	36				
When the student misses a session due to an assembly or a classroom activity	12	13	17	14				
Any time a student misses a session for any reason	8	9	9	7				
Any time I miss a session for any reason	54	54	63	60				

Note. These data are from the 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 *ASHA Schools Surveys*. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full or part time.

ASHA Workload Calculator

In 2022, a small percentage (12%) of SLPs indicated that they had used the ASHA Workload Calculator that is on ASHA's website—up slightly from 10% in 2020 (see Table 4).

Table 4. Percentage of school-based SLPs who have used the ASHA Workload Calculator that is on ASHA's website or know what it is, by year.

	9	%
Passage	2020	2022
Response	(n = 1,436)	(n = 2,603)
Yes	10	12
No, but I know what it is	38	38
Don't know what it is	52	50

Note. These data are from the 2020 and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys. Analysis was limited to clinicians.

Survey Methodology

A paper survey was mailed on February 15, 2022, to a random sample of 8,000 ASHA-certified SLPs and to all 649 ASHA-certified audiologists who were employed in school settings in the United States. The sample was stratified by state. Small groups, such as SLPs and audiologists in Wyoming, were oversampled. A pre-notification email about the survey was sent on February 15 to the audiologists and SLPs in the sample. Paper replacement surveys were mailed on March 28 and April 21 to nonrespondents.

Because small groups were oversampled, ASHA used weighting when presenting survey data.

Response Rates

Of the original 8,000 SLPs in the sample, 39 had incorrect mailing addresses, 20 had retired, 21 were employed in non-school settings, and 114 were not employed in the profession, which left 7,806 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 2,961—a 37.9% response rate. Past ASHA Schools Survey response rates are as follows:

- 2004: 69.7%
- 2006: 64.9%
- 2008: 64.0%
- 2010: 64.8% (overall); 65.5% (among SLPs)
- 2012: 63.6% (overall); 64.7% (among SLPs)
- 2014: 46.0% (overall); 47.0% (among SLPs)
- 2016: 47.4% (overall); 47.9% (among SLPs)
- 2018: 48.0% (overall); 48.8% (among SLPs)
- 2020: 40.3% (overall); 40.1% (among SLPs)

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Schools survey report: Caseload characteristics trends, 2004–2022.* www.asha.org

Additional Information

Companion reports are available on the ASHA website at www.asha.org/Research/memberdata/Schools-Survey/.

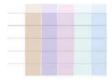
Questions?

For additional information regarding this report, please contact School Services at schools@asha.org.

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 public. Thank you!

Appendix



Key of geographic regions and divisions with corresponding states.

Geographic regions and divisions	Corresponding states
Northeast	
New England	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Middle Atlantic	NJ, NY, PA
Midwest	
East North Central	IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
West North Central	IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
South	
South Atlantic	DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV
East South Central	AL, KY, MS, TN
West South Central	AR, LA, OK, TX
West	
Mountain	AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY
Pacific	AK, CA, HI, OR, WA

Appendix Table 1. Median monthly caseload size of SLPs, by school setting and year.

	#									
School setting	2004 (n = 2,052)	2006 (n = 1,772)	2008 (n = 1,721)	2010 (n = 1,749)	2012 (n = 1,760)	2014 (n = 1,224)	2016 (n = 1,328)	2018 (n = 1,539)	2020 (n = 1,279)	2022 (n = 2,226)
Overalla	50	50	50	50	47	48	48	48	47	48
Special day or residential school	25	27	28	28	25	24	30	27	27	20
Preschool	40	40	40	40	37	41	38	40	40	38
Elementary school	52	52	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Secondary school (middle, junior high, or senior high school)	50	55	49	50	48	50	50	48	48	50
Combination of the above schools	50	55	50	50	50	52	45	48	48	45

Note. These data are from the 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time. ^aOverall includes respondents who did not indicate a school setting.

Appendix Table 2. Median monthly caseload size of school-based SLPs, by state and year.

	#											
State	2004 (n = 2,067)	2006 (n = 1,742)	2008 (n = 1,707)	2010 (n = 1,785)	2012 (n = 1,760)	2014 (n = 1,224)	2016 (n = 1,328)	2018 (n = 1,231)	2020 (n = 927)	2022 (n = 2,005)		
Alabama	n/r	50	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Alaska	n/r	n/r	n/r	49	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Arizona	54	55	57	60	57	n/r	n/r	60	65	57		
Arkansas	40	41	40	40	42	n/r	n/r	40	n/r	40		
California	58	58	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55		
Colorado	48	n/r	48	n/r	55	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	45		
Connecticut	42	40	37	40	32	n/r	35	n/r	n/r	33		
Delaware	n/r	50	55	54	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
D.C.	n/r	n/r	n/r									
Florida	72	65	46	65	59	60	64	60	60	60		
Georgia	50	46	43	46	45	52	42	43	48	45		
Hawaii	n/r	35	40	40	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Idaho	n/r	57	61	58	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Illinois	50	55	50	50	48	49	50	49	45	42		
Indiana	74	78	75	80	72	n/r	n/r	76	n/r	72		
Iowa	50	49	55	50	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Kansas	47	n/r	46	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	45		
Kentucky	63	60	65	59	52	n/r	60	60	n/r	53		
Louisiana	50	n/r	45	46	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	55		
Maine	n/r	n/r	n/r	30	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Maryland	50	52	45	43	45	47	45	44	41	43		
Massachusetts	45	40	40	43	42	41	40	41	43	38		
Michigan	57	57	55	60	55	58	50	54	53	53		
Minnesota	42	45	45	42	43	n/r	36	38	46	47		
Mississippi	55	55	50	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r		
Missouri	45	42	48	45	39	40	40	42	36	44		

(Table continues)

	#									
State	2004 (n = 2,067)	2006 (n = 1,742)	2008 (n = 1,707)	2010 (n = 1,785)	2012 (n = 1,760)	2014 (n = 1,224)	2016 (n = 1,328)	2018 (n = 1,231)	2020 (n = 927)	2022 (n = 2,005)
Montana	n/r	45	43	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Nebraska	n/r	54	53	55	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Nevada	n/r	55	n/r	60	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
New Hampshire	n/r	n/r	n/r	31	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
New Jersey	48	46	42	40	40	40	40	40	35	40
New Mexico	35	40	35	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
New York	35	40	40	32	32	35	31	30	30	30
North Carolina	45	56	50	47	43	46	48	48	46	49
North Dakota	n/r	32	33	35	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Ohio	55	60	60	61	60	57	55	55	53	58
Oklahoma	52	54	55	50	50	n/r	n/r	50	n/r	50
Oregon	n/r	60	n/r	50	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	50
Pennsylvania	60	53	53	60	50	50	50	54	56	49
Rhode Island	n/r	n/r	n/r							
South Carolina	58	55	n/r	48	50	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	50
South Dakota	n/r	49	40	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Tennessee	n/r	61	57	60	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	60
Texas	55	55	50	50	50	50	51	55	65	60
Utah	n/r	n/r	65	60	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Vermont	n/r	30	n/r	31	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Virginia	55	55	55	56	53	55	55	49	50	50
Washington	50	51	52	53	n/r	n/r	n/r	48	n/r	46
West Virginia	n/r	50	50	49	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Wisconsin	38	40	40	38	40	n/r	40	40	42	40
Wyoming	n/r	50	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r

Note. These data are from the 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time. n/r = not reported (to preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we do not report data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents).

Appendix Table 3. Percentage of school-based SLPs who serve students in areas of intervention, by area and year.

					%				
Area	2006 (n = 1,769)	2008 (n = 1,718)	2010 (n = 1,747)	2012 (n = 1,760)	2014 (n = 1,224)	2016 (n = 1,328)	2018 (n = 1,539)	2020 (n = 1,279)	2022 (n = 2,254)
Acquired brain injury ^a	18	14	17	17	0	17	15	13	14
Auditory processing disorder	61	54	47	58	46	37	32	31	29
Augmentative and alternative communication ^b	50	45	53	49	55	55	60	63	71
Autism spectrum disorder ^c	84	84	88	90	90	91	90	92	94
Childhood apraxia of speech	56	58	59	57	63	63	60	58	60
Cognitive communication disorders	_	_	_	_	61	60	48	52	48
Dysphagia (swallowing/feeding disorders)	10	9	9	11	14	11	11	10	8
Fluency disorders	69	67	67	67	68	69	67	68	71
Gender affirming voice care	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
Hearing loss ^d	48	44	46	45	51	46	45	45	42
Language disorders: Pragmatics/ social communication	77	75	81	83	89	90	85	87	89
Language disorders: Semantics, morphology, syntax	_	_	_	_	92	91	91	90	93
Reading and writing (literacy)	37	32	32	30	36	33	31	36	28
Selective mutism	_	_	16	17	18	18	19	23	20
Speech sound disorders ^e	91	94	92	93	93	89	90	89	92
Voice or resonance disorders	29	24	23	22	22	18	19	15	14

Note. These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. From 2006 to 2016, this item was Traumatic brain injury. From 2006 to 2020, this item was nonverbal, augmentative and alternative communication. From 2006 to 2008, this item was Autism/pervasive developmental disorder; from 2010 to 2012, it was Autism spectrum disorders, including pervasive developmental disorder and Asperger's. From 2006 to 2012, this item was hearing disorders. From 2006 to 2014, this item was articulation/phonological disorders.

Appendix Table 4. Average number of students that school-based SLPs serve in a typical month, by area and year.

					#				
Area	2006 (<i>n</i> varies)	2008 (<i>n</i> varies)	2010 (<i>n</i> varies)	2012 (<i>n</i> varies)	2014 (<i>n</i> varies)	2016 (<i>n</i> varies)	2018 (<i>n</i> varies)	2020 (<i>n</i> varies)	2022 (<i>n</i> varies)
Acquired brain injury ^a	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Auditory processing disorder	9	8	7	10	7	6	5	5	4
Augmentative and alternative communication ^b	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	7	6
Autism spectrum disorder ^c	6	7	8	8	9	10	10	11	11
Childhood apraxia of speech	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cognitive communication disorders	_	_	_	_	10	10	9	10	10
Dysphagia (swallowing/feeding disorders)	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	3
Fluency disorders	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Gender affirming voice care	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	7 ^d
Hearing loss ^e	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Language disorders: Pragmatics/ social communication	8	8	8	10	11	12	11	13	13
Language disorders: Semantics, morphology, syntax	_	_	_	_	22	22	21	22	22
Reading and writing (literacy)	15	15	14	14	15	15	14	13	13
Selective mutism	_	_	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Speech sound disordersf	23	22	21	19	21	18	18	19	19
Voice or resonance disorders	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2

Note. These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 ASHA Schools Surveys. Analysis was limited to clinicians who were employed full time. The numbers included in this table were provided by SLPs who do serve students in the areas listed. The *n* values vary widely because SLPs did not serve students in all areas. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. From 2006 to 2016, this item was *Traumatic brain injury*. From 2006 to 2020, this item was *nonverbal*, augmentative and alternative communication. From 2006 to 2008, this item was *Autism/pervasive developmental disorder*; from 2010–2012, it was *Autism spectrum disorders*, including pervasive developmental disorder and Asperger's. This data point is from a group of fewer than 25 survey respondents and is therefore less reliable. From 2006 to 2012, this item was hearing disorders. From 2006 to 2014, this item was articulation/phonological disorders.