



# Audiology Survey Report: Private Practice Trends, 2006–2023

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## Introduction

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

Findings from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 *ASHA Audiology Surveys* 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.

The statistic that is presented in this report is the *median* (i.e., middle or 50th percentile). Medians are presented because they are more stable than *means* (i.e., averages) and are less sensitive to extreme values. To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.

The salaries and wages presented in this report are *gross salaries/wages* (i.e., salaries/wages prior to deductions). They do not include commissions or bonuses. (That information is presented separately in the report.)

## Survey Report Highlights

### Types of Positions

- In 2023, most audiologists in private practice were owners (42%) or full-time salaried employees (41%). These figures are largely consistent with those of previous survey years.

### Salaries and Wages

In 2023:

- Private practice owners reported a median annual salary of \$87,000—down from \$90,120 in 2021 (a 3.5% decrease). Audiologists who were employed full time in private practice reported a median annual salary of \$80,000—up from \$75,000 in 2018 and 2021.
- Audiologists who were employed part time reported a median hourly wage of \$44.00—up from \$43.20 in 2021 (a 1.9% increase). Full time non-owners reported a median hourly wage of \$43.83.

## Private Practitioner Profile

### Primary Work Setting

In 2023, 84% of audiologists in private practice delivered all or most of their services in nonresidential health care facilities, which include audiologists' and physicians' offices (see Appendix Table 1). A small percentage of audiologists delivered all or most of their services in hospitals (4%) or in audiology franchises or retail chains (8%). These figures are largely consistent with those of previous years.

### Primary Work Role

In 2023, most (90%) audiologists in private practice were clinicians (see Appendix Table 2). A small percentage were administrators, supervisors, or directors (6%) or were contractors/consultants (2%). These figures are largely consistent with those of previous years.

### Type of Private Practice Position

In 2023, most audiologists in private practice were owners (42%) or full-time salaried employees (41%; see Appendix Table 3). A small percentage were part-time salaried audiologists (11%) or contractors/consultants (6%). These figures are largely consistent with those of previous years.

### Geographic Region

From 2006 to 2023, a higher percentage of audiologists in private practice worked in the South than in the Northeast, Midwest, or West. In 2023, 31% of audiologists worked in the South—down from past years (32%–38% from 2006 to 2021; see Appendix Table 4). See page 14 for a key of geographic regions/divisions and corresponding states/District of Columbia.

### Population Density

From 2006 to 2023, a higher percentage of audiologists in private practice worked in suburban and city/urban areas than in rural areas. In 2023, 84% of audiologists worked in suburban or city/urban areas—the same or about the same as in past years (80%–87% from 2006 to 2021; see Appendix Table 5).

### Highest Degree

In 2023, almost three-fourths (72%) of audiologists in private practice held a doctor of audiology (AuD) degree as the highest degree, up steadily from 30% in 2006 (see Appendix Table 6). About one quarter of audiologists (23%) held a master's degree as the highest degree—down from 63% in 2006. A small percentage (4%) held a PhD as the highest degree—about the same as in past years (4%–8%) from 2006 to 2021.

## Pay Basis

In 2023, most (73%) audiologists in private practice were paid primarily an annual salary (see Appendix Table 7). The remainder were paid primarily per hour (23%) or on commission (4%). These figures are largely consistent with those of previous years.

## Annual Salaries

Median annual salaries varied by type of private practice position. In 2023, owners reported a median annual salary of \$87,000—down from \$90,120 in 2021 (a 3.5% decrease; see Table 1). Audiologists who were employed full time reported a median annual salary of \$80,000—up from 2018 and 2021.

**Table 1.** Median annual salaries of audiologists, by type of private practice position and year.

Type of position	\$				
	2014 (n = 358)	2016 (n = 284)	2018 (n = 357)	2021 (n = 242)	2023 (n = 258)
Full-time audiologist	70,000	65,000	75,000	75,000	80,000
Owner	78,439	80,000	80,399	90,120	87,000

Note. These data are from the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys.

## Hourly Rates

Median hourly rates varied by type of private practice position. In 2023, full-time nonowners reported a median hourly wage of \$43.83. Audiologists who were employed part time reported a median hourly wage of \$44.00—up from \$43.20 in 2018 (a 1.9% increase).

**Table 2.** Median hourly rates of audiologists, by type of private practice position and year.

Type of position	\$				
	2014 (n = 137)	2016 (n = 125)	2018 (n = 156)	2021 (n = 79)	2023 (n = 61)
Contractor/consultant	40.00	41.87	40.00	44.26	n/r
Part-time audiologist	35.26	36.03	35.90	43.20	44.00
Full-time audiologist	31.56	31.00	35.77	n/r	43.83
Owner	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r

Note. These data are from the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. n/r = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.)

## Number of Hours Worked per Week

In the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 surveys, audiologists in private practice who were paid at an hourly rate were asked to indicate the number of hours they worked in a typical week. In 2023, the median number of hours worked was 40 for full-time audiologists and 21 for part-time audiologists—the same or about the same as in recent past years (see Table 3).

**Table 3.** Median number of hours worked in a typical week by audiologists who were paid at an hourly rate, by type of private practice position and year.

Type of position	#				
	2014 (n = 177)	2016 (n = 124)	2018 (n = 201)	2021 (n = 86)	2023 (n = 62)
Contractor/consultant	19	20	20	20	n/r
Part-time audiologist	23	20	24	24	21
Full-time audiologist	37	40	40	n/r	40
Owner	26	n/r	30	n/r	n/r

*Note.* These data are from the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. n/r = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.)

## Commissions

### Commission Amount

In 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023, some audiologists in private practice received commissions in addition to their base earnings (annual salary or hourly wages). In 2023, the overall median amount that they received was \$20,000, compared with \$18,999 in 2014, \$14,700 in 2016, \$15,513 in 2018, and \$15,000 in 2021. (These data are not shown in any figure or table.)

### Commission Amount by Type of Private Practice Position

In 2023, private practice employees (full-time audiologists) received a median of \$20,000 in commissions, compared with \$19,946 in 2014, \$15,290 in 2016, \$15,000 in 2018, and \$15,000 in 2021. (These data are not shown in any figure or table.) Sufficient data are not available to allow for the reporting of median commission amounts for private practice owners, part-time audiologists, and contractors/consultants.

## Bonuses

In 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023, some audiologists in private practice received a bonus in addition to their base earnings (annual salary, hourly wages, or commissions). In 2023, the overall median amount that they received was \$5,000, compared with \$3,797 in 2014, \$2,000 in 2016, \$2,500 in 2018, and \$4,000 in 2021. (These data are not shown in any figure or table.)

### Bonuses by Type of Private Practice Position

Median bonuses varied by type of private practice position. In 2023, owners received a median bonus of \$25,000—up from \$15,000 in 2014, \$23,768 in 2016, \$15,000 in 2018, and \$15,000 in 2021. Employees (full- and part-time audiologists) received a median bonus of \$2,000, compared with \$2,000 in 2014, \$1,300 in 2016, \$1,997 in 2018, and \$2,000 in 2021. (These data are not shown in any figure or table.)

## Survey Methodology and Response Rates

A stratified random sample was used to select 5,000 ASHA-certified audiologists who were employed in the United States for the 2023 survey. The sample was stratified by type of facility and by private practice.

The survey was mailed in September 2023. Second and third mailings followed, at approximately 4-week intervals, to individuals who had not responded to earlier mailings.

Of the original 5,000 audiologists in the sample, 64 had incorrect mailing addresses, 7 were retired, and 49 were not currently employed in the profession, which left 4,880 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 1,329—a 27.2% response rate.

Because facilities with fewer audiologists were oversampled and those with many audiologists were undersampled, ASHA used weighting when presenting survey data.

Past *ASHA Audiology Survey* response rates were 52.0% (2010), 51.4% (2012), 45.7% (2014), 39.5% (2016), 39.7% (2018), and 30.7% (2021).

## Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2024). *Audiology Survey report: Hourly wage trends, 2010–2023*. [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

## Additional Information

*Audiology Survey* reports are available at <https://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/audiology-survey/>. *Schools Survey* reports, which present salary and wage data for educational audiologists, are available at <https://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/schools-survey/>.

## Questions?

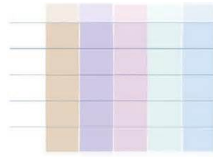
For additional information regarding this report, please contact ASHA's Audiology Professional Practices unit at [audiology@asha.org](mailto:audiology@asha.org). To learn more about how the Association is working on behalf of ASHA-certified audiologists, visit [www.asha.org/aud](http://www.asha.org/aud).

## 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!



# Appendix



**Appendix Table 1.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice, by primary work setting and year.*

Primary work setting	%								
	2006 (n = 968)	2008 (n = 2,356)	2010 (n = 670)	2012 (n = 747)	2014 (n = 678)	2016 (n = 551)	2018 (n = 722)	2021 (n = 534)	2023 (n = 439)
Audiology franchise, retail chain	—	—	—	7	7	10	7	7	8
College/university	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	1
Hospital (e.g., general, pediatric, military, VA)	6	5	7	6	11	5	12	8	4
Industry (hearing aid manufacturing, hearing conservation)	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	3
Nonresidential health care facility (includes audiologists' and physicians' offices)	85	88	87	79	75	82	75	79	84
School	3	3	4	4	3	—	—	—	—
Other work setting	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.

**Appendix Table 2.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice, by primary work role and year.*

Primary work role	%								
	2006 (n = 967)	2008 (n = 2,361)	2010 (n = 671)	2012 (n = 744)	2014 (n = 677)	2016 (n = 555)	2018 (n = 718)	2021 (n = 530)	2023 (n = 439)
Administrator/supervisor/director <sup>a</sup>	4	3	4	4	6	4	5	4	6
Clinical service provider (includes all individuals providing any direct service)	91	94	93	92	91	93	90	91	90
College/university faculty/clinical educator <sup>b</sup>	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Consultant	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
Researcher	0	0	< 1	< 1	1	< 1	< 1	< 1	—
Sales/training/technical support position	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1
Other work role	3	2	1	1	0	< 1	0	1	—

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. <sup>a</sup>In 2021, this item was *administrator/supervisor/director/owner* in half of the surveys. <sup>b</sup>In the 2006 survey, this item was *college/university faculty member*. In the 2008, 2010, and 2012 surveys, it was *college/university professor*. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.

**Appendix Table 3.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice, by type of position and year.*

Type of position	%								
	2006 (n = 952)	2008 (n = 2,380)	2010 (n = 693)	2012 (n = 751)	2014 (n = 681)	2016 (n = 552)	2018 (n = 751)	2021 (n = 496)	2023 (n = 439)
Contractor/consultant (e.g., per diem, hourly, or temporary)	10	8	9	11	10	12	13	13	6
Full-time salaried audiologist	41	38	32	37	40	35	35	34	41
Part-time salaried audiologist	13	15	16	13	14	11	11	9	11
Owner	36	40	44	39	36	42	41	44	42

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.

**Appendix Table 4.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice, by geographic region and year.*

Geographic region	%								
	2006 (n = 979)	2008 (n = 2,380)	2010 (n = 693)	2012 (n = 751)	2014 (n = 677)	2016 (n = 559)	2018 (n = 719)	2021 (n = 540)	2023 (n = 439)
Northeast	23	26	19	23	21	22	25	21	24
South	35	36	38	35	34	33	32	38	29
Midwest	23	20	21	22	23	26	26	24	31
West	19	18	21	19	21	18	18	17	17

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.

*Key of geographic regions/divisions and corresponding states/District of Columbia.*

Geographic region/division	Corresponding states/District of Columbia
<b>Northeast</b>	
New England	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Mid-Atlantic	NJ, NY, PA
<b>Midwest</b>	
East North Central	IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
West North Central	IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
<b>South</b>	
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
<b>West</b>	
Mountain	AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY
Pacific	AK, CA, HI, OR, WA

**Appendix Table 5.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice, by type of area and year.*

Type of area	%								
	2006 (n = 979)	2008 (n = 2,380)	2010 (n = 693)	2012 (n = 751)	2014 (n = 673)	2016 (n = 551)	2018 (n = 716)	2021 (n = 531)	2023 (n = 439)
Rural	17	18	20	17	13	14	14	14	16
Suburban	44	43	41	47	41	49	44	48	46
City/urban <sup>a</sup>	39	39	39	36	46	37	42	38	38

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Definitions of *rural*, *suburban*, and *city/urban* were not provided in the surveys. <sup>a</sup>In the 2006–2012 surveys, this item was *metropolitan/urban area*.

**Appendix Table 6.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice, by highest degree and year.*

Highest degree	%								
	2006 (n = 979)	2008 (n = 2,380)	2010 (n = 693)	2012 (n = 751)	2014 (n = 679)	2016 (n = 560)	2018 (n = 723)	2021 (n = 529)	2023 (n = 439)
Master's	63	49	39	39	32	33	30	28	23
AuD	30	43	53	55	61	62	63	69	72
PhD	6	7	8	6	5	4	6	3	4
Other doctorate	1	1	1	1	1	< 1	1	n/r	n/r
Multiple doctorates	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	n/r	1

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. *n/r* = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.) Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey analysis. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.

**Appendix Table 7.** *Percentage of audiologists in private practice who are paid primarily an annual salary, per hour, or on commission, by year.*

Form of pay	%								
	2006 (n = 926)	2008 (n = 2,277)	2010 (n = 643)	2012 (n = 722)	2014 (n = 667)	2016 (n = 543)	2018 (n = 696)	2021 (n = 524)	2023 (n = 439)
Primarily an annual salary	72	74	72	70	67	68	68	69	73
Primarily per hour	28	26	28	30	26	27	28	26	23
Primarily on commission	—	—	—	—	7	6	4	5	4

*Note.* These data are from the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2023 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.