



SLP Health Care Survey Report

Caseload Trends

2019–2025

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the 2025 *SLP Health Care Survey* to gather information from speech-language pathologists (SLPs) about the workforce, service provision, practice issues, earnings, and other professional topics. Results from this survey are presented in a series of reports, including this report on caseload trends.

Results from the 2019, 2021, and 2023 *ASHA SLP Health Care 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

Employment Status

- In 2025, overall, 70% of SLPs who were employed worked full time—up slightly from 69% in 2023.
- In most years between 2019 and 2025, SLPs in home health care settings were the most likely to work part time.
- In each year between 2019 and 2025, SLPs who had between 1 and 5 years of experience were the most likely to work full time.
- In each year between 2019 and 2025, SLPs in city/urban areas were more likely than those in other areas to be employed full time.

Caseload Size Change

- There was almost no change between 2021 and 2025 in the percentage of clinical service providers who said that their caseload sizes had increased (between 41% and 44%).
- 53% of SLPs in rehabilitation hospitals in 2021, 62% in 2023, and 68% in 2025 said that their caseload sizes had remained the same as in the previous year.
- The percentage of SLPs who said that their caseloads had decreased changed from 23% in 2021 to 8% in 2025.

Employment Arrangement

- The percentage of clinical service providers whose employment arrangement included private practice increased from 27% in 2021 to 31% in 2025.
- The percentage of clinical service providers whose employment arrangement included early intervention increased from 32% in 2021 but was the same in 2023 and 2025 (36%).
- The percentage of clinical service providers whose employment arrangement included telepractice decreased to 37% in 2025 from 43% in 2019.

Employment Status

In 2025, 70% of survey respondents who were employed worked full time—up gradually from 69% in 2023 but down slightly from 72% in 2021 and the same as in 2019 (see Table 1).

Table 1. *Percentage of ASHA SLP Health Care Survey respondents who worked full time, part time, or per diem, by year.*

%				
Status	2019	2021	2023	2025
Employed full time	70	72	69	70
Employed part time	30	28	31	20
Employed per diem ^a	—	—	—	11

Note. These data are from the 2019–2025 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. ^a*Per diem* was added in 2025. *n* = 2,174 (2019); *n* = 1,671 (2021); *n* = 1,672 (2023); *n* = 2,686 (2025).

Employment Status by Health Care Setting

In 2025, SLPs in pediatric hospitals (79%) were more likely than SLPs in other health care settings to work full time; but in 2019, 2021, and 2023, SLPs in skilled nursing facilities were the most likely group to work full time (see Appendix Table 1). In 2019, 2021 and 2025, SLPs in home health care settings were more likely than those in other settings to work part time; but in 2023, SLPs in general medical, VA, military, LTAC, or university hospitals were the most likely group to work part time.

Per diem was added as a new response option in 2025 and diluted the responses of *full time* and, more likely, *part time*; but the exact impact on each is not measurable.

Employment Status by Years of Experience

In 2025, 85% of SLPs who had between 1 and 5 years of experience worked full time; the lowest percentage was among those with 31 or more years of experience (53%), although the progression from highest to lowest was not in a straight line. The pattern was similar for earlier years.

- In 2023, 83% of SLPs who had between 1 and 5 years of experience worked full time; the lowest percentage was among those with 31 or more years of experience (58%).
- In 2021, 86% of SLPs who had between 1 and 5 years of experience worked full time; the lowest percentage was among those with 21 to 25 years and 31 or more years of experience (65%).
- In 2019, 91% of SLPs who had between 1 and 5 years of experience worked full time; the lowest percentage was among those with 31 or more years of experience (59%).

Employment Status by Population Density

Overall, between 2019 and 2025, at least 69% of SLPs worked full time. During each of those years, SLPs in city/urban areas were more likely than SLPs in rural or suburban areas to work full time (see Table 2).

Table 2. *Percentage of SLP Health Care Survey respondents who were employed full time, part time, or per diem, by population density and year.*

Status	%			
	Overall	Rural area	Suburban area	City/urban area
2025				
Employed full time	70	70	66	72
Employed part time	20	20	22	19
Employed per diem ^a	11	11	12	9
2023				
Employed full time	69	67	67	72
Employed part time	31	33	33	28
2021				
Employed full time	72	74	68	77
Employed part time	28	26	32	23
2019				
Employed full time	70	70	66	74
Employed part time	30	30	34	26

Note. These data are from the 2019–2025 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Definitions of *rural*, *suburban*, and *city/urban* were not provided in the surveys. ^a*Per diem* was added in 2025.
n = 2,135 (2019); *n* = 1,671 (2021); *n* = 1,640 (2023); *n* = 2,686 (2025).

Caseload Size Change

In 2021, 2023, and 2025, the percentage of clinical service providers who said that their caseload sizes had increased from January of the prior year was nearly identical (between 41% and 44%; see Table 3). There was, however, a steady increase in the percentages who said that their caseload sizes had remained the same (from 34% to 51%) and a corresponding decrease in the percentages of those who said that their caseload sizes had decreased (from 23% to 8%).

Table 3. *Percentage of ASHA SLP Health Care Survey respondents whose caseloads had increased, decreased, or remained the same, by year.*

Caseload Change	%		
	2021	2023	2025
Remained the same	34	45	51
Increased	44	44	41
Decreased	23	12	8

Note. These data are from the 2021–2025 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys.
 $n = 1,249$ (2021); $n = 1,460$ (2023); $n = 2,272$ (2025).

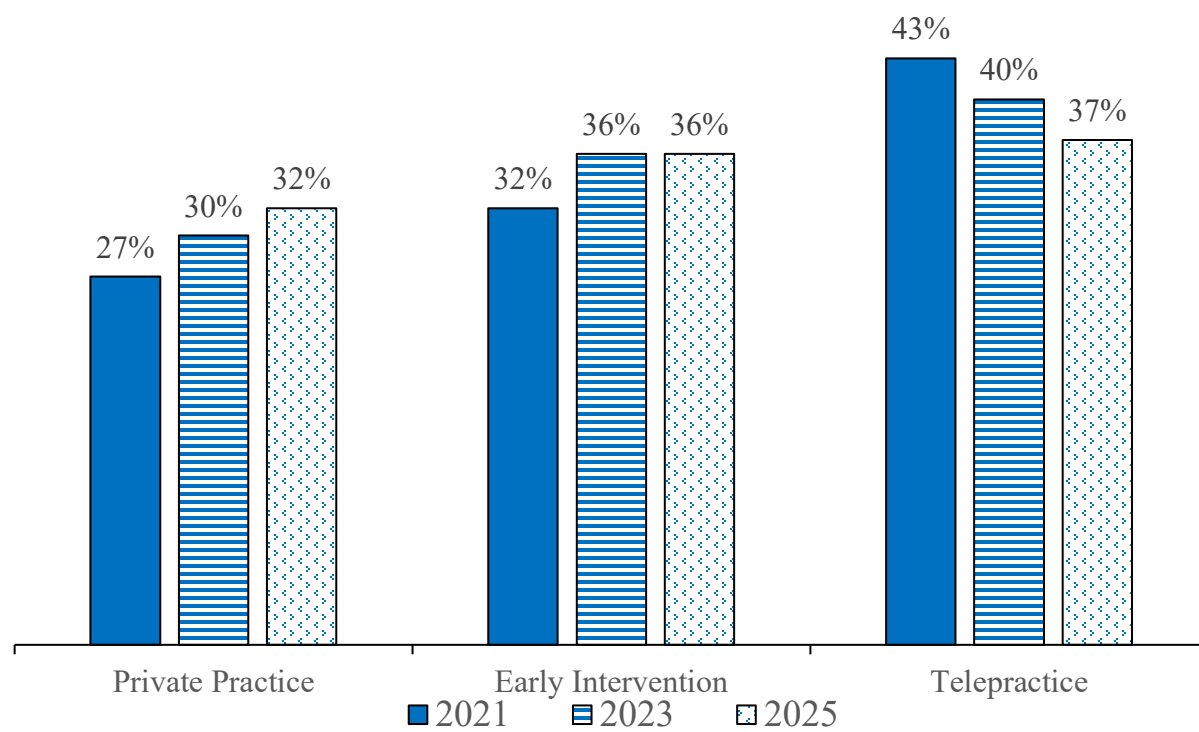
Caseload Size Change by Health Care Setting

In each year, SLPs in rehabilitation hospitals were the most likely group to say that their caseload sizes had remained the same: 53% in 2021, 62% in 2023, and 68% in 2025 (see Appendix 2). *Skilled nursing facilities* was the facility type where SLPs were most likely to say that their caseload sizes had decreased in both 2021 (46%) and 2023 (27%), but that changed to *home health care* in 2025 (15%).

Employment Arrangement

In the 2021, 2023, and 2025 *SLP Health Care Surveys*, we asked clinical service providers if their work included any of these three employment arrangements: private practice, early intervention, and/or telepractice.

Figure 1. *Percentage of SLPs who were engaged in private practice, early intervention, and telepractice, by year.*



Note. These data are from the 2021–2025 *ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys*. Analyses are limited to SLPs who were employed primarily as clinicians.
 $n \geq 685$ (2021); $n \geq 1,356$ (2023); $n \geq 2,193$ (2025).

Private Practice

The percentage of SLPs who engaged in private practice steadily increased from 27% in 2021 to 32% in 2025 (see Figure 1).

Private Practice by Health Care Setting

In each of the 3 years, SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices were more likely than those in other facility types to say that their current work includes private practice (53% in 2021 and 2023, and 58% in 2025).

Private Practice by State

In 2021 (15%), 2023 (20%), and 2025 (24%), SLPs in the Midwest were the least likely group to say that their work included private practice. Those SLPs who were most likely to include private practice in their work were, by geographic region, in the South in 2021 (34%) and again in 2025 (38%) but in the West (41%) in 2023.

Early Intervention

The percentage of clinical service providers who engaged in early intervention increased from 32% in 2021 to 36% in both 2023 and 2025 (see Figure 1).

Early Intervention by Health Care Setting

Not surprisingly, few SLPs in rehab hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, or general medical, VA, military, LTAC, or university hospitals included early intervention in their employment arrangements. In 2021, 57% of the SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices included early intervention. In 2023 and 2025, SLPs in home health care settings and in outpatient clinics or offices were among the highest groups who included early intervention:

- 2023 — 57% in outpatient clinics or offices and 58% in home health care setting
- 2025 — 57% in outpatient clinics or offices and 59% in home health care setting

Early Intervention by State

In all 3 years, SLPs in the Northeast were the least likely group to engage in early intervention: 25% in 2021, 27% in 2023, and 26% in 2025. SLPs in the South were more likely than those in other areas to engage in early intervention in 2021 (37%) and 2025 (40%); but, in 2023, SLPs in the West were the most likely group to engage in early intervention (45%).

Telepractice

The percentage of clinical service providers who reported that they engage in telepractice decreased from 43% in 2021, to 40% in 2023, and to 37% in 2025 (see Figure 1).

Telepractice by Health Care Setting

In each year, SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices were the most likely group to engage in telepractice: 77% in 2021, 64% in 2023, and 59% in 2025.

Telepractice by State

SLPs in the West were consistently more likely than those in other geographic regions to engage in telepractice: 49% in 2021, 60% in 2023, and 48% in 2025. The region least likely to engage in telepractice was different for each survey year: 32% in the Midwest in 2021, 33% in the Northeast in 2023, and 34% in the Northeast and the South in 2025.

Survey Methodology

The survey was sent via mixed mode to a random sample of ASHA-certified SLPs who were employed in health care facilities in the United States, according to the ASHA membership database. We mailed surveys on February 27, March 27, and April 24, 2025, to 5,000 sample members and sent emails on those dates as well as on May 8 to 10,000 additional sample members via SurveyMonkey. The sample was stratified by type of facility. We sent an email “be-on-the-lookout” message to both samples on February 14. Additionally, we sent a postcard reminder to 5,000 nonrespondents to the SurveyMonkey version on March 13 and another postcard reminder on April 10 to 2,500 members of that group who still had not responded.

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

Response Rates

Of the original 15,000 SLPs in the sample, 7 had retired, 181 had unusable addresses, 43 were not currently employed in health care facilities, and 273 were ineligible for other reasons—which left 14,496 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 2,693—an 18.6% 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), 17.5% (2021), and 34.5% (2023). We sent the 2005–2019 and 2023 *ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys* via postal mail, the 2021 *ASHA SLP Health Care Survey* via email, and the 2025 *ASHA SLP Health Care Survey* via both postal and email.

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2025). *SLP Health Care Survey report: Caseload trends, 2005–2025*. www.asha.org

Additional Information

Companion survey reports are available on the ASHA website at www.asha.org/research/memberdata/healthcare-survey/.

Questions?

For additional information regarding this report, please contact Brooke Hatfield, senior director, Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5692, or bhatfield@asha.org. To learn more about how the Association is working on behalf of ASHA-certified SLPs in health care settings, visit www.asha.org/slp/healthcare.

Appendix



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

Geographic region/division	Corresponding states / District of Columbia
Northeast	
New England	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Mid-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

Employment Status by Health Care Setting and Year

Appendix Table 1. Which one of the following categories best describes your employment status?

Category	Facility type (%)						
	Overall	General medical, VA, military, LTAC, or university hospital ^a	Home health agency or client's home	Outpatient clinic or office	Pediatric hospital	Rehabilitation hospital	Skilled nursing facility
2025 (n = 2,686)							
Employed full time	70	64	58	74	79	71	73
Employed part time	20	18	28	23	16	11	10
Employed per diem ^b	11	18	14	3	6	18	17
2023 (n = 1,672)							
Employed full time	69	58	64	72	74	67	76
Employed part time	31	42	36	28	26	33	24
2021 (n = 1,671)							
Employed full time	72	71	61	73	80	70	83
Employed part time	28	29	39	27	21	30	17
2019 (n = 2,174)							
Employed full time	70	69	59	70	77	70	80
Employed part time	30	31	42	31	23	30	20

Note. These data are from the 2019–2025 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. In 2019, this item was *general medical/Veterans Affairs (VA)/LTAC hospital*. ^b*Per diem* was added in 2025.

Caseload Size Change, by Health Care Setting and Year

Appendix Table 2. *Since January (of last year), my caseload size at my primary place of employment...?*

Size	Facility type (%)						
	Overall	General medical, VA, military, LTAC, or university hospital ^a	Home health agency or client's home	Outpatient clinic or office	Pediatric hospital	Rehabilitation hospital	Skilled nursing facility
2025 (n = 2,272)							
Has remained the same	51	46	46	52	48	68	52
Has increased	41	49	39	41	50	30	35
Has decreased	8	5	15	7	2	2	13
2023 (n = 1,460)							
Has remained the same	45	43	40	47	51	62	41
Has increased	44	50	42	49	47	30	32
Has decreased	12	7	18	4	2	9	27
2021 (n = 1,249)							
Has remained the same	34	37	33	28	47	53	30
Has increased	44	53	36	58	44	36	25
Has decreased	23	10	32	14	9	11	46

Note. These data are from the 2021, 2023, and 2025 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys.