



Results

Survey on the Early Detection of Speech/Language and Hearing Disorders

Survey Methodology and Response Rate

On September 25, 2019 the ASHA Surveys and Analysis team sent an online survey to 6,827 ASHA-certified audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who reside in Florida and are employed full- or part-time as clinicians, according to ASHA’s membership records. Follow-up email reminders were sent to non-respondents on October 3 and 11. The survey closed on October 16.

Seven email addresses bounced. This left 6,820 possible respondents. The number of respondents was 700—a 10.3% response rate. All respondents had the opportunity to enter a random drawing to win a \$150 Amazon gift card.

Results

Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100%. Some comments have been edited for grammar and spelling. *All Respondents* includes one member who holds dual certification. Gail Brook, Surveys and Analysis, prepared this report.

1. Please indicate your primary employment facility. (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 36)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 663)	All Respondents (n = 700)
Not applicable (not employed, seeking work, retired, etc.)	2.8	3.9	3.9
School	13.9	50.1	48.1
College/university	0.0	0.8	0.7
Hospital	27.8	11.2	12.0
Residential health care facility (skilled nursing facility, etc.)	0.0	5.4	5.1
Nonresidential health care facility (home health care agency, physician’s office, private practice, speech and hearing clinic, etc.)	52.8	24.9	26.4
Other (Please specify.)	2.8	3.8	3.7

Note. Respondents who selected *not applicable* in Q1 were automatically skipped to the end of the survey.

2. Which of the following clinical services do you provide? (Select all that apply.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 35)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 636)	All Respondents (n = 672)
Not applicable; I do not provide clinical services.	2.9	3.3	3.3
Audiology-related clinical services	97.1	0.5	5.7
Speech-language pathology-related clinical services	2.9	96.7	91.8

Note. Respondents who selected *not applicable* in Q2 were automatically skipped to the end of the survey.

3. Clients/patients from which age group do you treat regularly? (Select all that apply.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 34)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 612)	All Respondents (n = 647)
0 to 6 months	44.1	13.1	14.7
7 months to 2 years	47.1	31.5	32.3
3 to 5 years	64.7	71.2	70.8
6 to 11 years	61.8	67.8	67.4
12 to 17 years	61.8	42.3	43.3
18 to 64 years	64.7	22.7	25.0
65 to 74 years	58.8	16.3	18.7
75 years and older	58.8	16.8	19.2

4. Are your clients/patients, or parents and caregivers of clients/patients, aware of the importance of early detection of speech/language and hearing disorders when you first see them?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 611)	All Respondents (n = 644)
Yes	12.5	15.6	15.5
Somewhat	59.4	61.4	61.2
No	18.8	15.1	15.2
Do not know	9.4	8.0	8.1

5. What do you find to be the average amount of time that the symptoms of hearing loss go undetected in children?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 598)	All Respondents (n = 631)
Less than 6 months	15.6	6.0	6.5
6 months to 1 year	25.0	30.9	30.7
1 to 2 years	25.0	19.1	19.3
More than 2 years	15.6	12.0	12.2
Never detected	0.0	0.7	0.6

Do not know	18.8	31.3	30.6
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6. What do you find to be the average amount of time that the symptoms of speech/language delays or disorders go undetected in children?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 593)	All Respondents (n = 626)
Less than 6 months	0.0	1.9	1.8
6 months to 1 year	12.5	15.2	15.0
1 to 2 years	31.3	41.7	41.1
More than 2 years	31.3	33.4	33.4
Never detected	0.0	0.2	0.2
Do not know	25.0	7.8	8.6

7. What do you find to be the average amount of time that parents wait before taking action after they first observe the symptoms of hearing loss in their children?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 589)	All Respondents (n = 621)
Less than 6 months	21.9	17.7	17.9
6 months to 1 year	37.5	27.7	28.2
1 to 2 years	12.5	16.6	16.4
More than 2 years	15.6	6.5	6.9
Never take action	0.0	0.5	0.5
Do not know	12.5	31.1	30.1

8. What do you find to be the average amount of time that parents wait before taking action after they first observe the symptoms of speech/language delays or disorders in their children?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 582)	All Respondents (n = 615)
Less than 6 months	12.5	10.3	10.4
6 months to 1 year	31.3	34.0	34.0
1 to 2 years	15.6	32.0	31.1
More than 2 years	18.8	15.1	15.3
Never take action	0.0	0.0	0.0
Do not know	21.9	8.6	9.3

9. In your experience, what is the most common reason parents and caregivers give for delaying or avoiding treatment for speech/language or hearing disorders? (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 571)	All Respondents (n = 604)
Fear of social stigmas	0.0	1.9	1.8
Insufficient insurance coverage and/or financial constraints	21.9	12.4	12.9
Lack of awareness of who or where to go to for help/treatment	15.6	21.5	21.2
Lack of understanding/identification of early warning signs	40.6	50.4	50.0
Other (Please specify.)	21.9	13.7	14.1

10. Are parents/caregivers of your school-age clients/patients concerned about there being a stigma associated with diagnosis of and/or treatment for speech/language or hearing disorders?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 571)	All Respondents (n = 604)
Yes	25.0	41.9	41.1
No	31.3	34.5	34.3
Do not know	25.0	13.5	14.1
Not applicable; do not work with school-age clients/patients	18.8	10.2	10.6

11. Are parents of your school-age clients/patients aware that untreated speech/language or hearing disorders can impede socialization and academic performance?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 559)	All Respondents (n = 591)
Yes	46.9	42.6	42.8
No	21.9	26.8	26.6
Do not know	9.4	19.7	19.1
Not applicable; do not work with school-age clients/patients	21.9	10.9	11.5

12. In your professional experience, are parents of young children aware of the early warning signs of speech/language and hearing disorders?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 560)	All Respondents (n = 593)
Yes	21.9	14.5	14.8
No	56.3	76.1	75.0
Do not know	21.9	9.5	10.1

13. Are parents aware that early treatment of speech/language and hearing disorders is often the least expensive and least time-consuming way to address such problems?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 553)	All Respondents (n = 586)
Yes	3.1	4.3	4.3
No	68.8	74.9	74.6
Do not know	28.1	20.8	21.2

14. In your view, what is the leading barrier to early detection of speech/language and hearing disorders? (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 552)	All Respondents (n = 585)
Caregiver/patient inaction	18.8	20.7	20.5
Cultural hurdles	0.0	2.0	1.9
Fear of social stigmas	0.0	2.2	2.2
Insufficient insurance coverage and/ or financial constraints	18.8	12.7	13.0
Lack of awareness	40.6	54.5	53.7
Other (Please specify.)	21.9	7.4	8.2

15. Do you think parents' awareness of the early warning signs of speech/language and hearing disorders has improved over the last 5 years?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 554)	All Respondents (n = 587)
Yes	53.1	60.3	60.0
No	25.0	19.7	19.9
Do not know	21.9	20.0	20.1

Note. Respondents who selected *no* or *do not know* in Q15 were automatically skipped to Q17.

16. What primarily accounts for this improvement? (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 17)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 333)	All Respondents (n = 351)
Greater involvement/discussion with parents from allied professionals (e.g., pediatricians, preschool teachers)	47.1	55.3	54.7
Popular media coverage of communication development and disorders	17.7	19.2	19.1
Public education campaigns from professional and government bodies (e.g., ASHA's <i>Identify the Signs</i> , CDC's <i>Learn the Signs. Act Early.</i>)	11.8	9.0	9.4
Reduced stigma contributing to more open discussion about a potential problem from family members, friends, and so forth	11.8	12.9	12.8
Other (Please specify.)	11.8	3.6	4.0

Note. All respondents for Q16 were automatically skipped to Q18.

17. What primarily accounts for the lack of improvement? (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 8)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 108)	All Respondents (n = 116)
Excessive and unhealthy overuse of popular tech (e.g., smartphones, tablets) by parents and very young children alike creates the illusion of there being no problems to worry about.	37.5	35.2	35.3
Ill-advised professional advice makes parents think they need not pay attention to warning signs.	37.5	26.9	27.6
Parents are too preoccupied trying to make a living and meeting other challenges.	12.5	17.6	17.2
Parents' own fears of "knowing the truth" about their children's health keeps them from being aware.	0.0	2.8	2.6
Public education campaigns need to be bigger and more constant.	12.5	11.1	11.2
Other (Please specify.)	0.0	6.5	6.0

18. Do most parents know that children who meet the diagnostic/educational or social impact criteria for a speech/language or hearing disorder have a right to services as granted under U.S. law?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 550)	All Respondents (n = 583)
Yes	9.4	14.7	14.6
No	37.5	55.6	54.6
Not sure	53.1	29.6	30.9

Note: The next few questions refer to popular technology used for entertainment purposes—e.g., smartphones, tablets, video game consoles—and not AAC devices.

19. Do you think parents' awareness of the potential negative impact that overuse of popular technology could have on their children's communication development and health has grown over the last 5 years?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 547)	All Respondents (n = 580)
Yes	21.9	26.3	26.2
No	65.6	62.3	62.4
Not sure	12.5	11.3	11.4

20. Are you concerned that popular technology usage habits may be harming children's communication development and health?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 547)	All Respondents (n = 580)
Yes	81.3	96.0	95.2
No	3.1	2.2	2.2
Not sure	15.6	1.8	2.6

21. Do you view excessive technology use by parents and caregivers of children as replacing conversation in households?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 547)	All Respondents (n = 579)
Yes	87.5	96.0	95.5
No	0.0	1.3	1.2
Not sure	12.5	2.7	3.3

22. Do your older patients view untreated hearing loss as an acceptable part of aging?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 32)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 545)	All Respondents (n = 578)
Yes	65.6	30.1	32.2
No	12.5	4.4	4.8
Do not know	3.1	8.4	8.1
Not applicable; do not work with older patients	18.8	57.1	54.8

23. Who has the greatest impact on whether an older patient seeks treatment for hearing loss? (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 29)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 542)	All Respondents (n = 572)
Adult children	24.1	18.6	19.1
Friends	3.5	2.8	2.8
Physicians	0.0	8.5	8.0
Spouse/partner	55.2	28.0	29.4
Others (Please specify.)	3.5	1.9	1.9
Do not know	13.8	39.7	38.3

24. Do you think there is a significant amount of untreated hearing problems among older adults?

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 29)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 542)	All Respondents (n = 572)
Yes	96.6	74.4	75.5
No	0.0	1.3	1.2
Do not know	3.5	24.4	23.3

25. Which reason below is, in your view, the main reason why hearing disorders among older adults may be going untreated? (Select one.)

Response	%		
	CCC-A Only (n = 29)	CCC-SLP Only (n = 532)	All Respondents (n = 562)
Belief the problems are an inevitable part of aging	27.6	35.7	35.2
Concerns about potential stigma	13.8	16.5	16.4
Inaccessibility of the health care system	0.0	4.1	3.9
Worries about the cost of treatment	55.2	33.7	34.9
Other (Please specify.)	3.5	9.6	9.3