



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

SLP Health Care Survey Report:
Hourly and Home Visit Rate Trends
2005–2015

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the 2015 SLP Health Care Survey to gather information from speech-language pathologists (SLPs) about earnings, service provision, private practice, the workforce, and other professional topics. Results from this survey are compiled in a series of reports, including this report on hourly and home visit rate trends.

Results from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys are included in this report for comparative purposes. Because questions differ among surveys, data on all topics are not available for all survey years.

The rates contained in this report are full- and part-time gross rates (rates prior to deductions). The statistic that is presented is the median (i.e., middle or 50th percentile). Median rates 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 Report Highlights

- In 2015, more than half (57%) of SLPs in health care settings were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs, about the same as in previous survey years.
- In 2015, 50% of SLPs who were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs worked full time, down somewhat from 52% in 2009, 56% in 2011, and 59% in 2013.
- In 2015, SLPs in health care settings who worked full or part time reported an overall median hourly wage of \$42.00, up from \$41.00 in 2013 (a 2% increase).
- From 2005 to 2015, SLPs in home health settings reported the highest median hourly wages; those in pediatric hospitals reported the lowest or among the lowest.
- In 2015, SLPs who owned or co-owned a private practice reported an overall median hourly wage of \$48.00, the same as in 2013.
- In 2015, SLPs in the Midwest, South, and West reported modest (2% to 3%) increases in their median hourly wages from 2013; those in the Northeast reported no change.
- In 2015, a small percentage (13%) of SLPs were paid on a per-visit basis in their main jobs, up gradually from 9% in 2009.
- In 2015, about half (51%) of SLPs who were paid on a per-visit basis worked full time, about the same as in previous survey years.
- In 2015, SLPs reported an overall median per-visit rate of \$65.00, the same as in 2013. Rates were somewhat higher in the Midwest and West, and in city/urban areas.

Pay Basis

In 2015, most (57%) SLPs in health care settings were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs, about the same as in previous survey years (see Table 1). The remainder were paid an annual salary (30%) or per home visit (13%).

Table 1. *Percentage of SLPs in health care settings who were paid an annual salary, per hour, or per home visit in their main jobs, by year.*

Pay Basis	%				
	2007 (n = 2,271)	2009 (n = 1,916)	2011 (n = 2,347)	2013 (n = 1,939)	2015 (n = 1,698)
Annual salary	35	35	33	33	30
Per hour	65	56	55	56	57
Per home visit	—	9	11	12	13

Note. These data are from the 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100%. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey.

Employment Status

In 2015, half of the SLPs who were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs worked full time, down somewhat from 2009, 2011, and 2013 (see Table 2).

Table 2. *Percentage of SLPs in health care settings who were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs, by employment status and year.*

Status	%					
	2005 (n = 1,107)	2007 (n = 1,460)	2009 (n = 1,081)	2011 (n = 1,291)	2013 (n = 1,078)	2015 (n = 974)
Employed full time	45	48	52	56	59	50
Employed part time ^a	55	52	48	44	41	50

Note. These data are from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100%. ^aA definition of *part time* was not provided.

In 2015, about half (51%) of the SLPs who were paid on a per-visit basis in their main jobs worked full time, about the same as in previous survey years (see Table 3).

Table 3. *Percentage of SLPs in health care settings who were paid on a per-visit basis in their main jobs, by employment status and year.*

Status	%			
	2009 (n = 171)	2011 (n = 261)	2013 (n = 227)	2015 (n = 216)
Employed full time	59	49	47	51
Employed part time ^a	42	51	53	49

Note. These data are from the 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100%. ^aA definition of *part time* was not provided.

Hourly Rates

In 2015, SLPs in health care settings who worked full or part time reported an overall median hourly wage of \$42.00, up from \$41.00 in 2013 (a 2% increase; see Table 4). The median hourly wage is the wage at which half of the SLPs earned more than that amount and half earned less.

As shown in the remainder of the report, numerous variables—including work setting and role, private practice position, years of experience in the profession, geographic area, and the type of community in which one works—affect earnings.

Hourly Rates by Health Care Setting

Hourly wages of SLPs typically vary by health care setting. From 2005 to 2015, SLPs in home health settings reported the highest median hourly wages; those in pediatric hospitals reported the lowest or among the lowest (see Table 4).

Table 4. Median hourly wages of SLPs, by health care setting and year.

Setting	Median hourly wage (\$)					
	2005 (n = 1,099)	2007 (n = 1,410)	2009 (n = 1,065)	2011 (n = 1,250)	2013 (n = 1,033)	2015 (n = 948)
Overall	32.67	36.85	39.50	40.00	41.00	42.00
General medical, Veterans Affairs (VA), or long-term acute care (LTAC) hospital ^a	30.00	34.00	37.00	36.15	39.78	43.00
Rehabilitation hospital	30.00	32.58	36.00	36.00	37.40	41.91
Pediatric hospital	28.95	31.77	35.83	36.49	34.98	39.99
Skilled nursing facility	32.68	35.00	39.57	39.87	41.00	43.92
Home health agency/ client's home	57.20	58.18	60.00	52.06	58.76	47.46
Outpatient clinic or office	35.00	40.20	50.00	45.00	47.00	40.50

Note. These data are from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. ^aFrom 2005 to 2011, this item was *general medical hospital*. In 2013, it was *general medical or LTAC hospital*.

Hourly Rates by Work Role

Hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings vary by work role. In 2015, SLPs who were primarily clinical service providers reported an overall median hourly wage of \$42.00, up from \$41.00 in 2013 (a 2% increase; see Table 5).

Table 5. Median hourly wages of SLPs, by work role and year.

Role	Median hourly wage (\$)					
	2005 (n = 1,079)	2007 (n = 1,387)	2009 (n = 1,052)	2011 (n = 1,259)	2013 (n = 1,039)	2015 (n = 929)
Clinical service provider	32.50	36.68	40.00	40.00	41.00	42.00
Administrator/ supervisor	34.31	36.72	41.24	43.11	41.16	n < 25

Note. These data are from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys.

Hourly Rates of Private Practice Owners and Co-Owners

In 2015, SLPs who owned or co-owned a private practice reported an overall median hourly wage of \$48.00, the same as in 2013 but down from \$55.22 in 2011 (data not shown in any table).

Hourly Rates by Years of Experience

Hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings typically vary by years of experience in the profession. In 2015, the most seasoned SLPs earned \$12.00 more per hour than those just starting out (see Table 6).

Table 6. Median hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings, by years of experience in the profession and year.

Years of experience	Median hourly wage (\$)					
	2005 (n = 1,084)	2007 (n = 1,405)	2009 (n = 1,062)	2011 (n = 1,263)	2013 (n = 1,054)	2015 (n = 944)
1–3	n < 25	29.32	n < 25	33.50	35.00	38.00
4–6	30.00	31.69	35.00	36.50	37.60	39.98
7–9	30.00	37.00	40.00	40.00	40.99	40.00
10–12	32.00	36.00	38.00	42.00	40.98	42.00
13–15	32.34	35.53	37.00	40.20	42.96	42.45
16–18	32.27	35.00	41.20	40.95	44.00	42.00
19–21	33.00	37.70	45.00	42.00	43.65	41.00
22–24	33.74	38.00	43.00	44.50	41.90	40.84
25–27	34.13	40.00	41.00	40.00	42.00	49.65
28–30	—	—	—	—	—	45.51
28 or more	37.39	42.92	42.75	45.00	45.00	—
31 or more	—	—	—	—	—	50.00

Note. These data are from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey analysis.

Hourly Rates by Geographic Area

Hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings typically vary by the geographic area in which the SLPs work. In 2015, SLPs in the Midwest, South, and West reported small (2% to 3%) increases in their median hourly wages from 2013; those in the Northeast reported no change (see Tables 7a and 7b).

Table 7a. Median hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings, by geographic region/division and year.

Geographic region/ division	Median hourly wage (\$)					
	2005 (n = 1,093)	2007 (n = 1,406)	2009 (n = 1,057)	2011 (n = 1,265)	2013 (n = 1,052)	2015 (n = 945)
Northeast	35.47	45.00	47.50	44.08	45.00	45.00
Mid-Atlantic	40.00	50.00	54.00	46.74	50.00	44.20
New England	32.53	36.50	41.00	40.00	42.00	48.00
Midwest	30.00	33.15	36.00	37.00	38.00	39.00
East North Central	31.01	35.01	36.87	38.93	40.00	40.00
West North Central	29.84	30.27	33.99	33.65	35.00	38.00
South	32.97	37.00	39.52	40.00	41.07	42.00
East South Central	33.03	32.06	35.00	38.00	38.00	40.00
South Atlantic	33.00	38.72	39.63	40.00	41.27	42.00
West South Central	32.00	35.84	43.00	40.00	42.49	45.00
West	35.00	38.00	43.08	42.56	44.08	45.00
Mountain	30.70	33.93	37.83	38.85	39.93	40.00
Pacific	36.42	39.64	46.00	45.04	46.98	50.00

Note. These data are from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys.

Table 7b. Key of geographic regions/divisions and corresponding states.

Geographic region/division	Corresponding states
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

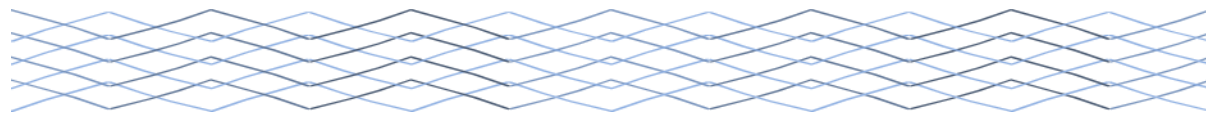
Hourly Rates by Type of Community

Hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings typically vary by the type of community in which the SLPs work. For 2005–2015, SLPs in suburban areas reported the same or higher median hourly wages as those in city/urban and rural areas (see Table 8).

Table 8. Median hourly wages of SLPs in health care settings, by type of community and year.

Type of community	Median hourly wage (\$)					
	2005 (<i>n</i> = 1,060)	2007 (<i>n</i> = 1,395)	2009 (<i>n</i> = 1,051)	2011 (<i>n</i> = 1,250)	2013 (<i>n</i> = 1,043)	2015 (<i>n</i> = 930)
City/urban ^a	31.56	35.00	40.00	39.00	40.80	42.00
Suburban	35.00	38.68	40.00	40.00	42.00	43.00
Rural	32.00	35.62	38.00	40.00	40.00	42.00

Note. These data are from the 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Definitions of *city/urban*, *suburban*, and *rural* were not provided. ^aFrom 2007 to 2011, this item was *metropolitan/urban area*.



Home Visit Rates

In 2015, a small percentage (13%) of SLPs in health care settings were paid on a per-visit basis, up gradually from 9% in 2009 (see Table 1 on page 3). In 2015, they reported an overall median home visit rate of \$65.00, the same as in 2013 (see Table 9).

Home Visit Rates by Geographic Region

Home visit rates of SLPs typically vary by the geographic region in which the SLPs work. In 2015, SLPs in the West reported a small (2%) increase in their median home visit rate from 2013; those in the Midwest reported no change; and those in the Northeast and South reported declines (see Table 9).

Table 9. Median home visit rates of SLPs, by geographic region and year.

Geographic region	Median home visit rate (\$)			
	2009 (n = 174)	2011 (n = 265)	2013 (n = 224)	2015 (n = 205)
Overall	65.00	60.00	65.00	65.00
Northeast	65.00	60.00	65.00	60.00
Midwest	65.00	66.17	70.00	70.00
South	65.00	60.00	65.00	62.00
West	74.43	64.16	74.29	76.10

Note. These data are from the 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. See Table 7b on page 6 for a key of geographic regions/divisions and corresponding states.

Home Visit Rates by Type of Community

Home visit rates of SLPs typically vary by the type of community in which the SLPs work. In 2015, SLPs in city/urban areas reported a 9% increase in their per-visit rate from 2013; those from suburban and rural areas reported declines (see Table 10).

Table 10. Median home visit rates of SLPs, by type of community and year.

Type of Community	Median home visit rate (\$)			
	2009 (n = 169)	2011 (n = 255)	2013 (n = 223)	2015 (n = 197)
City/urban ^a	67.88	60.00	65.00	70.61
Suburban	65.00	61.00	65.00	60.00
Rural	63.50	60.00	70.86	65.00

Note. These data are from the 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 ASHA SLP Health Care Surveys. Definitions of city/urban, suburban, and rural were not provided. ^aFrom 2009 to 2011, this item was metropolitan/urban area.

Survey Methodology and Response Rates

The survey was mailed in February 2015 to a random sample of 4,000 ASHA-certified SLPs who were employed in health care settings in the United States. Settings included general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals; rehabilitation hospitals; pediatric hospitals; skilled nursing facilities; home health agencies and clients' homes; and outpatient clinics and offices. An e-mail reminder was sent 1 week later. Second and third mailings followed (in March and April, respectively) at approximately 3- or 4-week intervals to individuals who had not responded to earlier mailings.

This random sample was stratified by type of facility and by private practice. Small groups, such as pediatric hospitals, were oversampled. Therefore, weighting was used when presenting survey data to adjust representation from each facility group to its actual proportion within ASHA.

Of the original 4,000 SLPs in the sample, one was deceased, five were retired, 14 had incorrect addresses, 42 were employed in other types of facilities, six were not employed in speech-language pathology, and five were ineligible for other reasons. This left 3,927 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 1,842—a 46.9% response rate.

Past SLP Health Care Survey response rates were 54.6% (2005), 63.8% (2007), 54.6% (2009), 62.5% (2011), and 53.5% (2013).

Suggested Citation

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Additional Information

Companion survey reports are available on the ASHA website at <http://www.asha.org/Research/memberdata/HealthcareSurvey>.

Questions?

For additional information regarding this report, please contact Gennith Johnson, associate director of Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5681, or gjohnson@asha.org; Monica Sampson, associate director of Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5686, or msampson@asha.org; or Janet Brown, director of Health Care Services, at 800-498-2071, ext. 5679, or jbrown@asha.org. To learn more about how the Association is working on behalf of ASHA-certified SLPs in health care settings, visit <http://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 about the discipline of communication sciences and disorders to the Association membership and the public. Thank you!