

SLP HEALTH CARE 2019 SURVEY

Caseload Characteristics

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Executive Summary

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted a survey of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in the spring of 2019. We designed the survey to provide information about health care–based service delivery and to update and expand information gathered during previous SLP Health Care Surveys. The results are presented in a series of reports.

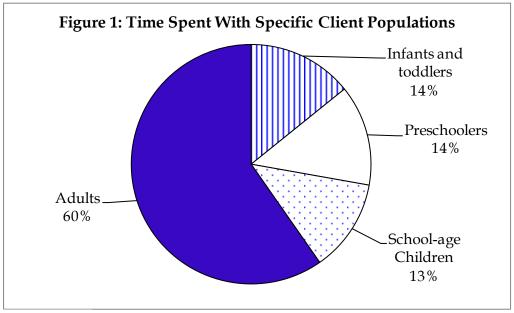
This report addresses only questions on the survey pertaining to caseload. Data are drawn from six types of health care facilities: general medical, Veterans Affairs (VA), and long-term acute care (LTAC) hospitals; home health agencies or clients' homes; outpatient clinics or offices; pediatric hospitals; rehabilitation (rehab) hospitals; and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

Highlights

- 60% of SLPs' clinical time was spent providing services to adults.
- In adult settings, 40% of time spent delivering services was in the area of swallowing.
- Time spent on swallowing with adults was highest in general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals (59%).
- Time spent on dementia was highest in SNFs (26%).
- In pediatric settings, 23% of the time spent delivering services was in the areas of language and literacy.
- SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices who provided pediatric services spent more time on speech sound disorders (25%) than did SLPs in other facility types.
- SLPs in general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals spent more time on swallowing and feeding (48%) than did SLPs who worked with pediatric patients in other facility types.

Populations Served

On average (mean), 60% of time spent on service delivery was with adult clients (see Figure 1). Remaining times were fairly evenly distributed among infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.



Note. n = 1,898.

Facility

The range of clients' ages varied widely by type of facility (p = .000; see Appendix, Table 1):

- Not surprisingly, SLPs in rehab hospitals (91%), general medical,
 VA, or LTAC hospitals (91%), and SNFs (99%) spent most of their time providing clinical services to adults.
- In pediatric hospitals, most service delivery time was spent with infants and toddlers (44%).
- In home health agencies or clients' homes, most time was spent delivering services to adults (44%) and infants and toddlers (36%).
- Outpatient clinics or offices showed the most even distribution of time spent delivering services across age groups: 31% to preschoolers, 29% to school-age children, 23% to adults, and 17% to infants and toddlers.

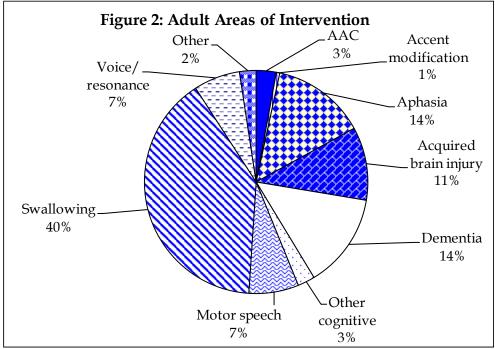
Population Density

Clinical service providers identified the type of area where they worked (rural, suburban, or city or urban) and the time spent serving each age group (not shown in any table).

- Services to preschoolers ranged from 12% of SLPs' time in rural areas to 15% in suburban areas (p = .013).
- Services to school age children ranged from 10% of SLPs' time in rural areas to 14% in suburban areas (p= .005).
- Services to adults ranged from 56% of SLPs' time in suburban areas to 64% in rural areas (p = .016).

Adult Services

More adult service delivery time was spent in the area of swallowing (40%) than in any other area of intervention (see Figure 2 and Appendix, Table 2).



Note. n = 1,244.

AAC = augmentative and alternative communication.

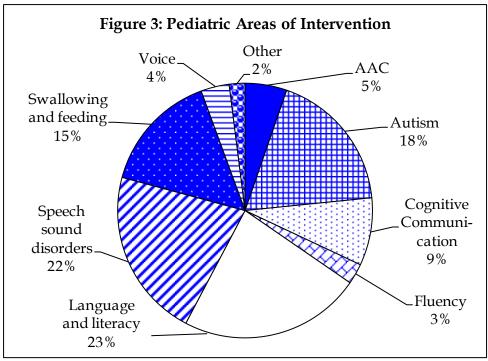
Facility

All 10 areas of intervention were affected by the type of facility in which the SLPs worked (see Appendix, Table 2):

- SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices spent more time on AAC (5%; p = .000), accent modification/communication effectiveness (2%; p = .003), voice/resonance (16%; p = .000), and *other* disorders (10%; p = .000) than did SLPs in other types of facilities.
- Time spent on aphasia (20%; p = .000)) and acquired brain injury (24%; p = .000)) was highest among SLPs in rehab hospitals.
- Time spent on dementia was highest in SNFs (26%; p = .000).
- Time spent on swallowing was highest in general medical, VA, and LTAC hospitals (59%; p = .000).
- Time spent on other cognitive-communication disorders was highest in home health agencies or clients' homes (4% and outpatient clinics or offices (4%; p = .001).
- Time spent on motor speech was highest in outpatient clinics or offices (9%) and rehab hospitals (9%; p = .000).

Pediatric Services

SLPs who worked with pediatric patients spent a greater percentage of their time on language and literacy (23%) than on any other areas of intervention (see Figure 3 and Appendix, Table 3).



Note. n = 929.

Facility

The type of facility in which SLPs worked had an effect on eight of the nine areas of intervention included in the survey (see Appendix, Table 3):

- SLPs in pediatric hospitals spent more time on AAC (9%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities (p = .001).
- Time spent on autism spectrum disorder (21%) was higher in outpatient clinics or offices than in other types of facilities (p = .000).
- Time spent on cognitive communication (27%) was higher in rehab hospitals than in other types of facilities (p = .000).
- SLPs in rehab hospitals spent more time on fluency (6%) than did SLPs in other types of facilities (p = .001).
- Time spent on language and literacy (27%) was higher in home health agencies or clients' homes than in other types of facilities (p = .000).
- SLPs in outpatient clinics or offices spent more time on speech sound disorders (25%) than did SLPs in other facility types (p = .000).
- Time spent on swallowing and feeding (48%) was higher in general medical, VA, or LTAC hospitals than in other facility types (p = .000).
- SLPs in in general medical, VA, or LTAC hospitals and pediatric hospitals spent more time on voice and resonance (5%) than did SLPs in other facility types (p = .032).

Survey Notes and Methodology

The *SLP Health Care Survey* has been fielded in odd-numbered years since 2005 to gather information of interest to the profession. Members, volunteer leaders, and staff rely on data from the survey to better understand the priorities and needs of SLPs.

The survey was fielded in February 2019 to a random sample of 4,500 ASHA-certified SLPs who were employed in health care settings in the United States. Half of each group was randomly assigned to a control group to receive cover letters with the chief executive officer's full signature, and half received letters signed with only her first name. Everyone also received an electronic "be-on-the-lookout-for" message sent two days before the mailing of the first letter. Second (March) and third (April) mailings followed, at approximately 3- or 4-week intervals.

The sample was a random sample, stratified by type of facility and by private practice. Small groups, such as pediatric hospitals, were oversampled. Weighting was used when presenting data to reflect the actual distribution of SLPs in each type of facility within ASHA.

Response Rate

Of the original 4,500 SLPs in the sample, 1 was deceased, 2 were retired, 14 had incorrect postal addresses, 39 were employed in other types of facilities, 7 were not employed in the field, and 4 were ineligible for other reasons, leaving 4,433 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 2,232, resulting in a 50.3% response rate. The results presented in this report are based on responses from those 2,232 individuals.

Survey Reports

Results from the 2019 SLP Health Care Survey are presented in a series of reports:

- Survey Summary
- Workforce
- Practice Issues
- Caseload Characteristics
- Annual Salaries
- Hourly and Per Visit Wages
- Survey Methodology, Respondent Demographics, and Glossary

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2019). *ASHA 2019 SLP Health Care Survey: Caseload characteristics*. Retrieved from www.asha.org.

Supplemental Resources

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Practice Portal. Retrieved from www.asha.org/practice-portal

Information for speech-language pathologists. (n.d.). Retrieved from www.asha.org/slp/

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the *ASHA 2019 SLP Health Care Survey*, please contact Monica Sampson, director, Health Care Services in SLP, ext. 5686, msampson@asha.org; or Rebecca Politis, associate director, Health Care Services in SLP, ext. 5679, rpolitis@asha.org.

Thank You

ASHA would like to thank the SLPs who completed the *ASHA 2019 SLP Health Care Survey*. Reports like this one are possible only because people like *you* participate.

Is this information valuable to you? If so, please accept invitations to participate in other ASHA-sponsored surveys and focus groups. You are the experts, and we rely on you to provide data to share with your fellow members. ASHA surveys benefit *you*.



Appendix: State Listings and Data Tables

Regions of the Country

Northeast

- ♦ Middle Atlantic
 - o New Jersey
 - o New York
 - Pennsylvania
- ♦ New England
 - Connecticut
 - o Maine
 - Massachusetts
 - o New Hampshire
 - o Rhode Island
 - Vermont

South

- ♦ East South Central
 - o Alabama
 - o Kentucky
 - o Mississippi
 - Tennessee
- ♦ South Atlantic
 - o Delaware
 - District of Columbia
 - o Florida
 - Georgia
 - o Maryland
 - North Carolina
 - o South Carolina
 - o Virginia
 - West Virginia
- West South Central
 - o Arkansas
 - o Louisiana
 - Oklahoma
 - Texas

Midwest

- ♦ East North Central
 - o Illinois
 - o Indiana
 - Michigan
 - o Ohio
 - o Wisconsin
- West North Central
 - o Iowa
 - o Kansas
 - o Minnesota
 - o Missouri
 - o Nebraska
 - o North Dakota
 - South Dakota

West

- ♦ Mountain
 - o Arizona
 - o Colorado
 - o Idaho
 - o Montana
 - o Nevada
 - New Mexico
 - o Utah
 - Wyoming
- ◆ Pacific
 - o Alaska
 - o California
 - o Hawaii
 - Oregon
 - Washington

Table 1: Populations Served, by Type of Facility

18. Of the time that you spend providing clinical services, approximately what percentage is spent with the following age groups? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type										
Age Groups	All Facility Types (n = 1,898)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 300)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 330)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 599)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 160)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 414)					
			Infant-todd	ler								
Mean	14.2	4.6	35.7	17.1	44.4	2.3	0.5					
Standard deviation	25.8	16.1	42.1	17.2	28.5	9.4	3.5					
				60) = 141.4, p = . evidence from th	.000 ne data to say tha	t the means vary	by facility					
			Preschoo	I								
Mean	13.6	1.8	11.4	31.1	27.8	3.0	0.4					
Standard deviation	21.3	6.6	21.5	22.5	17.9	11.1	2.5					
		_	` '	60) = 239.6, p = . evidence from th	.000 ne data to say tha	t the means vary	by facility					
					(Quest	ion 18 continues	on next page.)					

Table 1 (Continued): Populations Served, by Type of Facility

18. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing clinical services, approximately what percentage is spent with the following age groups? *Total must equal 100%.*

Analyses limited to respondents who met the following criteria:

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type										
Age Groups	All Facility Types (n = 1,898)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 254)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 301)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 599)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 160)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 414)					
			School-Age C	hild								
Mean	12.5	2.2	8.5	28.8	25.0	3.7	0.8					
Standard deviation	20.7	7.9	18.6	23.8	21.5	9.9	4.7					
			, .	60) = 195.2, p = . evidence from th	000 e data to say tha	at the means vary	/ by facility					
			Adult									
Mean	59.7	91.4	44.4	23.0	2.8	91.0	98.5					
Standard deviation	46.0	21.5	47.3	36.4	7.5	24.2	8.1					
			, .	60) = 450.9, p = . evidence from th	000 e data to say tha	at the means vary	/ by facility					

If you provide services to pediatric clients (infants through school age), answer Q. 19. If you provide services to adults, answer Q. 20. Answer Qs. 19 and 20 if you provide services to both age groups.

Table 2: Adult Patients, Areas of Intervention

20. Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type								
Adult Services	All Facility Types (n = 1,244)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 276)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 160)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 253)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 11)	Rehab Hospital (n = 137)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 385)			
			AAC							
Mean	2.9	1.4	4.9	5.3	(m , OF)	1.6	1.5			
Standard deviation	10.2	2.9	13.8	15.9	(n < 25)	3.0	3.0			
				5) = 15.8, p = .0 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility			
		Accent Modific	ation/Commun	ication Effective	eness					
Mean	0.5	0.1	0.6	1.6	(m : QE)	0.2	0.2			
Standard deviation	4.7	0.6	4.1	9.5	(n < 25)	1.3	1.6			
				5) = 3.6, p = .00 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility			
					(Ques	tion 20 continues	on next page.)			

20. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type										
Adult Services	All Facility Types (n = 1,244)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 276)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 160)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 253)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 11)	Rehab Hospital (n = 137)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 385)					
			Aphasia									
Mean	13.6	12.1	15.7	14.9	(05)	20.3	10.6					
Standard deviation	12.4	8.4	14.9	16.7	(<i>n</i> < 25)	13.2	8.0					
				5) = 15.5, p = .0 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility					
		Cognitive-Con	nmunication: A	cquired Brain Ir	njury							
Mean	10.6	9.1	8.8	12.3	(05)	23.5	6.6					
Standard deviation	14.2	9.7	16.1	17.2	(<i>n</i> < 25)	16.3	8.5					
				5) = 35.6, p = .0 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility					
					(Ques	tion 20 continues	on next page.)					

20. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type										
Adult Services	All Facility Types (n = 1,244)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 276)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 160)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 253)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 11)	Rehab Hospital (n = 137)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 385)					
		Cognitiv	e-Communicat	ion: Dementia								
Mean	13.7	5.1	18.7	5.7	(n < 25)	6.4	26.3					
Standard deviation	16.8	8.0	19.5	12.6	(n < 25)	8.2	16.6					
				5) = 115.5, p = . evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility					
		Cogni	tive-Communic	ation: Other								
Mean	2.5	0.9	3.8	4.2	(m . OF)	1.1	2.4					
Standard deviation	9.6	3.7	12.9	15.0	(<i>n</i> < 25)	5.8	7.0					
				5) = 4.4, p = .00 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility					
					(Ques	tion 20 continues	on next page.)					

20. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type									
Adult Services	All Facility Types (n = 1,244)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 276)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 160)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 253)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 11)	Rehab Hospital (n = 137)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 385)				
			Motor Spee	ch							
Mean	7.2	6.9	7.9	9.3	(m OF)	8.8	5.4				
Standard deviation	9.8	10.5	10.5	13.3	(<i>n</i> < 25)	7.2	6.1				
				5) = 6.5, p = .00 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility				
			Swallowin	g							
Mean	39.8	58.6	32.8	21.3	(m. OF)	33.3	44.1				
Standard deviation	24.2	21.7	20.5	21.9	(<i>n</i> < 25)	18.9	18.2				
		_	, .	5) = 98.2, p = .0 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility				
	•				(Ques	tion 20 continues	on next page.)				

20. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>ADULT</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type									
Adult Services	All Facility Types (n = 1,244)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 276)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 160)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 253)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 11)	Rehab Hospital (n = 137)	Skilled Nursing Facility (<i>n</i> = 385)				
			Voice/Resona	ance							
Mean	6.7	5.6	6.0	15.7	(n + 2F)	4.6	2.8				
Standard deviation	13.8	10.7	8.9	24.2	(<i>n</i> < 25)	8.0	4.5				
			, ,	5) = 31.8, p = .0 evidence from th		at the means vary	by facility				
			Other								
Mean	2.4	0.2	0.7	9.8	(m : QE)	0.3	0.2				
Standard deviation	13.3	1.2	4.2	26.4	(<i>n</i> < 25)	1.8	1.7				
	at the means vary	by facility									

Table 3: Pediatric Patients, Areas of Intervention

19. Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type									
Pediatric Services	All Facility Types (n = 929)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 82)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 196)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 511)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 38)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 24)				
	4	Augmentative a	nd Alternative (Communication	(AAC)						
Mean	5.3	2.0	5.1	5.3	8.7	3.1	(m , QE)				
Standard deviation	10.0	5.6	7.9	8.7	18.3	6.4	(<i>n</i> < 25)				
		•	, ,	3) = 4.2, p = .001 evidence from the	e data to say tha	t the means vary	by facility				
		Au	tism Spectrum	Disorder							
Mean	18.1	4.6	19.6	21.4	11.2	10.0	(m , QE)				
Standard deviation	19.2	10.1	17.4	19.8	15.6	20.4	(<i>n</i> < 25)				
				B) = 16.0, p = .00 0 evidence from the		t the means vary	by facility				
					(Quest	ion 19 continues	on next page				

19. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- ❖ CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

	Facility Type									
Pediatric Services	All Facility Types (n = 929)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 82)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 196)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 511)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 38)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 24)			
		Со	gnitive-Commu	ınication						
Mean	8.6	9.6	12.4	6.1	6.3	26.6	(= .05)			
Standard deviation	16.3	22.5	18.5	10.9	10.7	32.7	(<i>n</i> < 25)			
		_	, .	evidence from the		the means vary	by facility			
			Fluency							
Mean	2.6	1.3	1.3	3.1	3.0	6.0	(= .05)			
Standard deviation	7.2	3.6	5.3	5.9	10.2	21.0	(<i>n</i> < 25)			
				3) = 4.2, p = .001 evidence from the		t the means vary	by facility			
					(Quest	on 19 continues	on next pag			

19. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%*.

- **❖** CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

		Facility Type								
Pediatric Services	All Facility Types (n = 929)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 82)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 196)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 511)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 38)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 24)			
		L	anguage and L	iteracy						
Mean	23.1	11.3	27.4	24.4	14.5	18.5	(OF)			
Standard deviation	21.0	18.3	22.5	19.3	18.1	23.2	(n < 25)			
			, .	b) = 12.2, p = .00 evidence from th		t the means vary	by facility			
		Sį	peech Sound D	sorders						
Mean	21.5	14.9	20.6	25.1	9.5	11.7	(OF)			
Standard deviation	20.0	24.6	19.5	18.7	11.5	17.2	(n < 25)			
				b) = 12.7, p = .00 evidence from th		t the means vary	by facility			
					(Quest	ion 19 continues	on next page.			

19. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%.*

- **❖** CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

	Facility Type									
Pediatric Services	All Facility Types (n = 929)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 82)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 196)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 511)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 38)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 24)			
		Sı	wallowing and	Feeding						
Mean	15.2	47.8	11.5	8.1	38.3	19.0	(m : 05)			
Standard deviation	26.8	44.8	18.9	16.4	38.5	27.9	(n < 25)			
				s) = 54.9, p = .00 evidence from th	0 e data to say tha	the means vary	by facility			
			Voice/Resona	ance						
Mean	3.6	4.9	0.5	4.6	5.2	2.9	/m . OF)			
Standard deviation	14.6	19.0	2.2	16.9	14.8	6.8	(n < 25)			
		9	, .	b) = 2.5, p = .032 h evidence from	the data to say th	at the responses	vary by			
					(Quest	on 19 continues	on next page			

19. (cont'd) Of the time that you spend providing <u>PEDIATRIC</u> services, approximately what percentage is spent in the following areas? *Total must equal 100%*.

- **❖** CCC-SLP
- Employed full time or part time
- Clinical service provider

Pediatric Services	Facility Type						
	All Facility Types (n = 929)	General Medical/VA/ LTAC Hospital (n = 82)	Home Health/ Client's Home (n = 196)	Outpatient Clinic/Office (n = 511)	Pediatric Hospital (n = 64)	Rehab Hospital (n = 38)	Skilled Nursing Facility (n = 24)
Other							
Mean	2.0	3.7	1.5	1.9	3.4	2.2	(n + 25)
Standard deviation	11.3	17.3	9.9	10.4	13.3	14.9	(n < 25)
				(a) = 0.7, p = .629 evidence from the	e data to say tha	t the means vary	by facility