



Annual Workforce Data:
2021 ASHA-Certified Audiologist- and
Speech-Language Pathologist-to-Population Ratios

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July 2022

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Introduction

This report presents the most current ASHA-certified audiologist- and speech-language pathologist (SLP)-to population ratios for the United States overall and by region, division, and state. Ratios for recent past years are also provided for trend purposes. Answers to frequently asked questions are given. The sources for this report are ASHA's membership and affiliation data and population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Annual workforce data: 2021 ASHA-certified audiologist- and speech-language pathologist-to-population ratios*. www.asha.org

Report Highlights

ASHA-Certified Audiologists

In 2021:

- Nationwide, there were 4.1 ASHA-certified audiologists for every 100,000 residents—the same or about the same as in recent past years (4.0–4.1 from 2010 to 2020).
- Across regions, the Midwest had the highest number of ASHA-certified audiologists per 100,000 residents (5.3); the West had the lowest (4.1).
- Across divisions, the West North Central states had the highest number of ASHA-certified audiologists per 100,000 residents (5.8); the Pacific states had the lowest (3.9).
- Across states, Colorado had the highest number of ASHA-certified audiologists per 100,000 residents (7.3), followed by Nebraska (6.8). California had the lowest (2.1).

ASHA-Certified SLPs

In 2021:

- Nationwide, there were 57.7 ASHA-certified SLPs for every 100,000 residents—up steadily from 41.4 in 2010.
- Across regions, the Northeast had the highest number of ASHA-certified SLPs per 100,000 residents (73.8); the West had the lowest (50.3).
- Across divisions, the Middle Atlantic states had the highest number of ASHA-certified SLPs per 100,000 residents (78.2); the Pacific states had the lowest (46.3).
- Across states, Arkansas had the highest number of ASHA-certified SLPs per 100,000 residents (92.4), followed by New York (88.7). Nevada had the lowest (30.0).

Table 1. ASHA-certified audiologist- and SLP-to-population ratios, by state and by state rank, 2021.

State	Resident population	ASHA-certified audiologists			ASHA-certified SLPs		
		Number	Number per 100,000 residents	State rank	Number	Number per 100,000 residents	State rank
Alabama	5,039,877	261	5.2	17	2,357	46.8	45
Alaska	732,673	40	5.5	13	404	55.1	32
Arizona	7,276,316	332	4.6	26	3,154	43.3	48
Arkansas	3,025,891	134	4.4	30	2,795	92.4	1
California	39,237,836	813	2.1	51	15,385	39.2	49
Colorado	5,812,069	424	7.3	1	3,950	68.0	12
Connecticut	3,605,597	200	5.5	10	2,614	72.5	7
Delaware	1,003,384	42	4.2	33	510	50.8	40
District of Columbia	670,050	45	6.7	3	376	56.1	30
Florida	21,781,128	731	3.4	44	11,197	51.4	37
Georgia	10,799,566	362	3.4	45	5,110	47.3	43
Hawaii	1,441,553	53	3.7	40	543	37.7	50
Idaho	1,900,923	67	3.5	43	981	51.6	36
Illinois	12,671,469	496	3.9	38	9,133	72.1	8
Indiana	6,805,985	307	4.5	27	3,469	51.0	39
Iowa	3,193,079	177	5.5	11	1,415	44.3	47
Kansas	2,934,582	193	6.6	4	1,922	65.5	18
Kentucky	4,509,394	138	3.1	47	2,938	65.2	19
Louisiana	4,624,047	231	5.0	21	3,041	65.8	17
Maine	1,372,247	66	4.8	24	908	66.2	16
Maryland	6,165,129	356	5.8	7	3,734	60.6	23
Massachusetts	6,984,723	443	6.3	5	5,153	73.8	6
Michigan	10,050,811	402	4.0	35	5,404	53.8	33
Minnesota	5,707,390	319	5.6	9	3,344	58.6	27
Mississippi	2,949,965	149	5.1	19	1,757	59.6	26
Missouri	6,168,187	327	5.3	15	4,177	67.7	13
Montana	1,104,271	31	2.8	49	567	51.3	38
Nebraska	1,963,692	134	6.8	2	1,393	70.9	9
Nevada	3,143,991	74	2.4	50	943	30.0	51
New Hampshire	1,388,992	52	3.7	39	982	70.7	10
New Jersey	9,267,130	382	4.1	34	7,381	79.6	3
New Mexico	2,115,877	84	4.0	37	1,376	65.0	20
New York	19,835,913	982	5.0	23	17,588	88.7	2
North Carolina	10,551,162	422	4.0	36	6,342	60.1	24
North Dakota	774,948	42	5.4	14	590	76.1	5
Ohio	11,780,017	603	5.1	18	7,198	61.1	22
Oklahoma	3,986,639	167	4.2	32	2,383	59.8	25
Oregon	4,246,155	150	3.5	42	2,226	52.4	34
Pennsylvania	12,964,056	557	4.3	31	8,596	66.3	15
Rhode Island	1,095,610	50	4.6	25	748	68.3	11
South Carolina	5,190,705	167	3.2	46	2,946	56.8	28
South Dakota	895,376	51	5.7	8	503	56.2	29
Tennessee	6,975,218	420	6.0	6	3,530	50.6	41
Texas	29,527,941	883	3.0	48	15,291	51.8	35
Utah	3,337,975	184	5.5	12	1,549	46.4	46
Vermont	645,570	32	5.0	22	505	78.2	4
Virginia	8,642,274	383	4.4	29	4,346	50.3	42
Washington	7,738,692	346	4.5	28	3,636	47.0	44
West Virginia	1,782,959	90	5.0	20	994	55.8	31
Wisconsin	5,895,908	306	5.2	16	3,649	61.9	21
Wyoming	578,803	21	3.6	41	385	66.5	14
U.S.	331,893,745	13,721	4.1	—	191,418	57.7	—

Source: Resident population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Audiologist and SLP numbers are from ASHA. Numbers of audiologists and SLPs per 100,000 residents are rounded.

Table 2a. ASHA-certified audiologist- and SLP-to-population ratios, by region and division, 2021.

Regions and divisions	Resident population	ASHA-certified audiologists		ASHA-certified SLPs	
		Number	Number per 100,000 residents	Number	Number per 100,000 residents
Northeast	57,159,838	2,764	4.8	44,475	73.8
New England	15,092,739	843	5.0	10,910	71.6
Middle Atlantic	42,067,099	1,921	4.5	33,565	78.2
Midwest	68,841,444	3,357	5.3	42,197	61.6
East North Central	47,204,190	2,114	4.5	28,853	60.0
West North Central	21,637,254	1,243	5.8	13,344	62.8
South	127,225,329	4,981	4.5	69,647	57.7
South Atlantic	66,586,357	2,598	4.5	35,555	54.4
East South Central	19,474,454	968	4.9	10,582	55.6
West South Central	41,164,518	1,415	4.2	23,510	67.5
West	78,667,134	2,619	4.1	35,099	50.3
Mountain	25,270,225	1,217	4.2	12,905	52.8
Pacific	53,396,909	1,402	3.9	22,194	46.3
U.S.	331,893,745	13,721	4.1	191,418	57.7

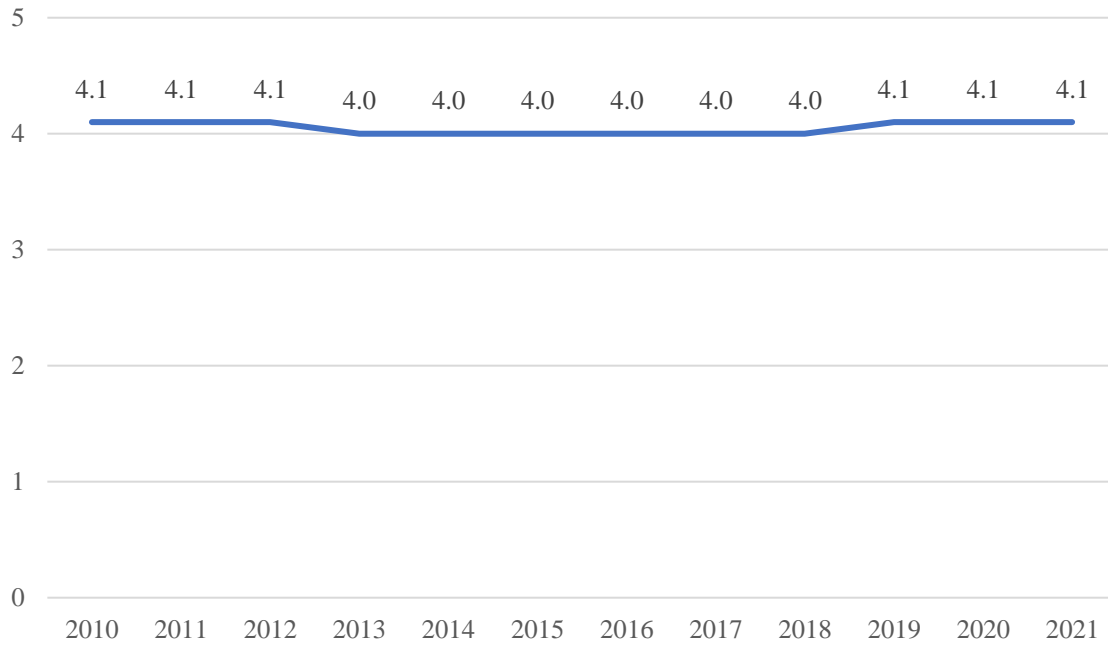
Source: Resident population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Audiologist and SLP numbers are from ASHA. Numbers of audiologists and SLPs per 100,000 residents are rounded.

Table 2b. U.S. Census Bureau regions and divisions with corresponding states and the District of Columbia.

Regions and divisions	Corresponding states and District of Columbia
Northeast	
New England	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
Middle 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

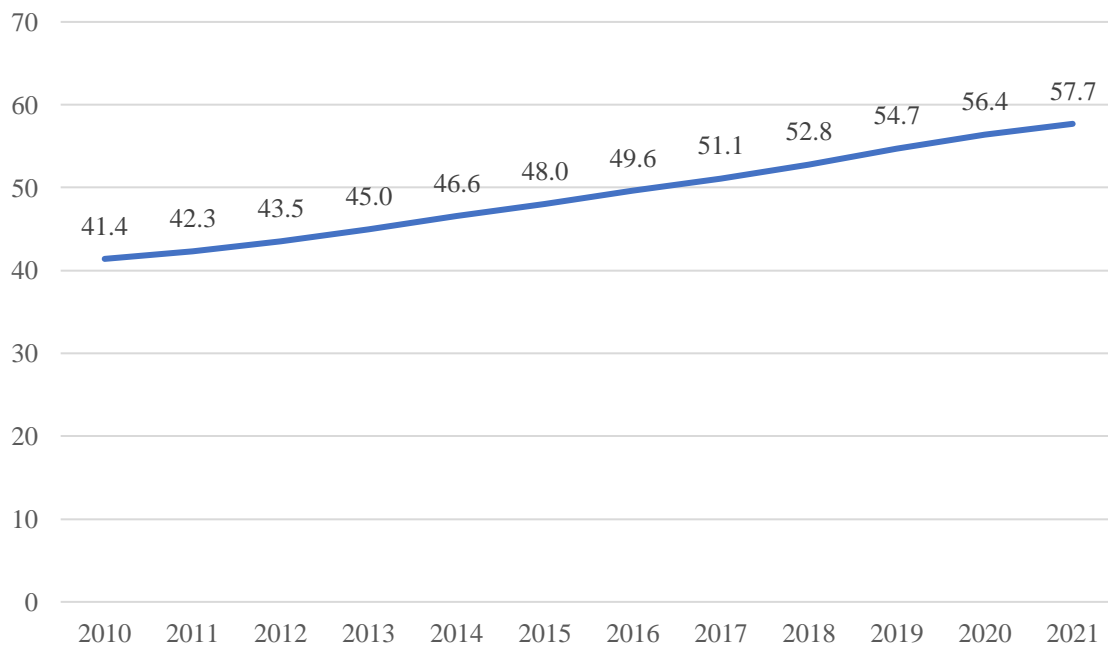
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 1. *Nationwide ASHA-certified audiologist-to-population ratios, 2010–2021.*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, and ASHA. Ratios are rounded.

Figure 2. *Nationwide ASHA-certified SLP-to-population ratios, 2010–2021.*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, and ASHA. Ratios are rounded.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are audiologist- and SLP-to-population ratios?

The ratios represent the number of ASHA-certified audiologists and SLPs for every 100,000 residents in a given geographic area (e.g., the U.S. overall, region, division, or state).

How do we calculate audiologist- and SLP-to-population ratios?

The number of ASHA-certified audiologists or SLPs in a given geographic area is divided by the resident population of that area. The resulting number is then multiplied by 100,000 to arrive at the number of audiologists or SLPs per 100,000 residents in the area. For example, Hawaii had 53 ASHA-certified audiologists and 1,441,553 residents in 2021. Its audiologist-to-population ratio is then calculated as $(53 \div 1,441,553) \times 100,000 = 3.7$. In other words, there were about 4 ASHA-certified audiologists for every 100,000 Hawaii residents in 2021.

What is the source of audiologist and SLP counts?

ASHA presents yearly counts of audiologists and SLPs nationwide and by state. These counts are available on [ASHA's website](#) (see Table 3).

What is the source of resident population estimates?

The U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce estimates resident populations for the nation, regions, and states on an annual basis. These estimates are available on the [Bureau's website](#).

What is a “good” audiologist- or SLP-to-population ratio?

ASHA presents audiologist- and SLP-to-population ratios; we do not determine ideal ratios for geographic areas. However, “good” ratios vary by area and depend on many factors, such as population density, client/patient demographics, service needs, and the presence of support personnel.

Why are audiologist- and SLP-to-population ratios important?

The ratios enable us to compare the distribution of ASHA-certified audiologists and SLPs in two or more geographic areas. Also, the ratios can be used to (a) effect policy changes to ensure that all populations are adequately served, (b) determine trends, (c) offer information for individuals entering or reentering the workforce, or considering relocation, and (d) potentially foster growth of the professions within a given area.

Still have questions or require additional information?

Contact Gail Brook, senior research associate, at gbrook@asha.org or data@asha.org.