

Indicators of the Need for Speech-Language Pathologists; Audiologists; and Speech, Language and Hearing Scientists

- Greater success in the use of life-saving measures at birth of children with potential for communication disorders and prosthetic and augmentative communication devices.
- Dramatic increases in referrals of preschool and school-age children for speech, language and hearing services.
- Changes in U.S. demographics-growing aging population.
- Larger bilingual populations: It is estimated that more than 5 million individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have a speech, language, or hearing disability.
- Greater emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention.
- National public health policy agenda for early identification and diagnosis of hearing disorders in infants and toddlers.
- Greater emphasis on rehabilitation priorities as a result of increased number of young adults with closed-head injuries and the "graying of America."
- Continuous promotional and awareness efforts by The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Passage of federal laws and regulations addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities:
 - Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA)*
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*
 - Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Title VII of the Public Health Service Act*
 - Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act*
 - Medicare and Medicaid*

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http://professional.asha.org/careers/employment_indicators.cfm