

SIZING UP YOUR SALARY



2007 SALARY SURVEY

By Jason Mosheim



Most speech-language pathologists pull in, on average, between \$40,000 and \$60,000 a year, according to the results of the 2007 *ADVANCE* Salary Survey. How does your salary measure up?

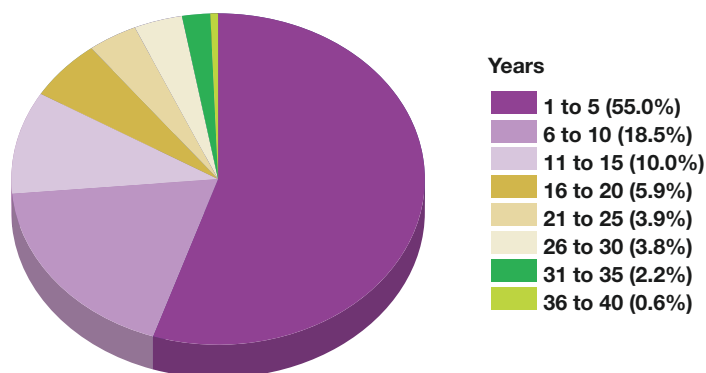
We compiled the data provided by more than 2,900 clinicians from across the country who have utilized our online Salary Calculator tool, which provides an up-to-the-minute snapshot of clinician incomes. The information that follows is based on this figure unless otherwise indicated.

If you have not yet created a free account to use the Salary Calculator, take a minute to register on the *ADVANCE* for Health Care Careers Web site (www.advancweb.com/careers). The free account will allow you to update your salary information continually and access personalized charts, including detailed salary breakdowns by geographic region, job title and specialty.

None of the salary survey questions are mandatory, so result tallies vary and percentages may not add up to 100. The following results are current as of Nov. 26.

Approximately 12 percent of the respondents indicated that they average between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year, and 8.7 percent earn between \$70,000 and \$80,000. While 1.9 percent earn \$90,000 to \$100,000 on average, only 0.5 percent make more than \$150,000. Nearly 1 percent of the respondents gross less than \$20,000 a year. ▶

Experience



Results based on 2,953 respondents.

Individuals with a doctorate in education earn the most money, with an average of \$76,333. Professionals with a doctorate in speech-language pathology (SLPD) average \$53,500.

Clinicians with a master of arts (MA) degree reported earnings of \$55,367, while those who hold a master of science degree (MS) average \$57,256 per year. Clinicians with a high school education or general education development diploma (GED) earn \$45,000 on average.

Based on input from 2,722 participants, men still take home more money than their female colleagues. While last year the salary difference was about \$7,000, this year it jumped to \$8,766. On average, men made \$61,598 and women made \$52,832 in 2007.

Approximately 55 percent of 1,698 respondents indicated that they hold an MS degree, while 35.5 percent have an MA. Less than half a percent (0.4 percent) have their SPLD, and 0.3 percent have a doctorate in education.

Nearly 80 percent of the respondents hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), while 10 percent have other or additional credentials. Only 1.5

percent of respondents are certified by ASHA in both speech-language pathology and audiology.

New clinicians continue to dominate the field. According to last year's survey, 54.1 percent of the respondents reported having one to five years of experience. This year the total was 55 percent.

Those with five to 10 years of experience comprise 18.5 percent of the profession, and 10 percent have 11 to 15 years.

Speech-language pathologists in the Middle Atlantic and Pacific regions of the United States remained the top wage earners. The average salary for clinicians in the Middle Atlantic region

(New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) make almost \$4,000 more than what they made last year (\$58,128); and those in the Pacific region (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington) earn nearly \$2,000 more than last year (\$54,290).

On average, clinicians in nearly every region in the country make over \$50,000 a year. The only region whose speech-language pathologists don't make that figure is the Upper South Atlantic region (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, and West Virginia), where salaries averaged \$49,967 this year.

Out of 2,868 respondents, 49.6 percent indicated that they work in a suburban setting, while 31.9 percent said they work in an urban setting. Just 18.5 percent work in a rural setting.

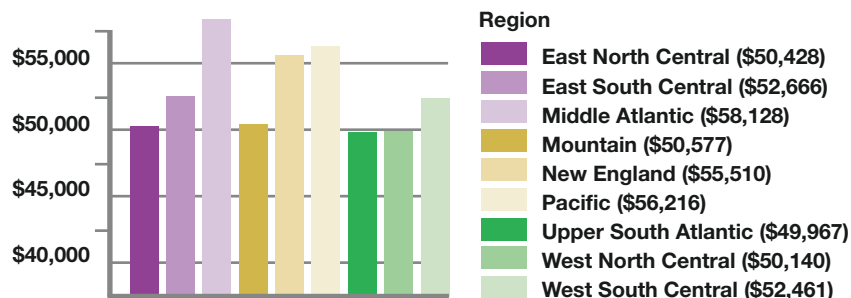
Over 40 percent of 2,911 respondents work in the schools. More than one in five (23.1 percent) work in outpatient clinics, a significant increase from last year, when only 10 worked in that setting.

Approximately 9 percent work in a community or home health setting, and 20 percent of respondents indicated that they work in "other" settings.

The majority of respondents work a normal work week, while 7.3 percent work overtime.

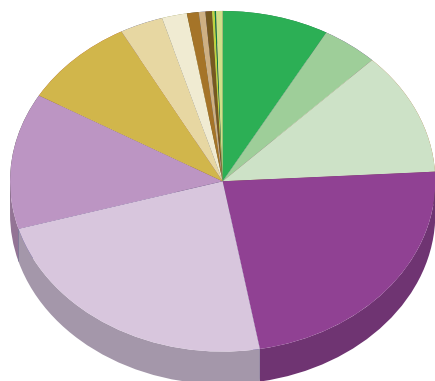
Nearly 59 percent of all respondents pay for some of their health care benefits.

Average Salary by Region

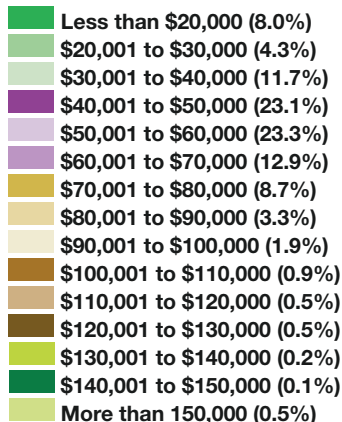


Results based on 2,727 respondents.

Salary Comparison



Salary Range



Results based on 2,727 respondents.

Employers pick up the tab for 21.5 percent. Nine percent pay for their own insurance, and 11 percent are covered by their partner's or spouse's plan.

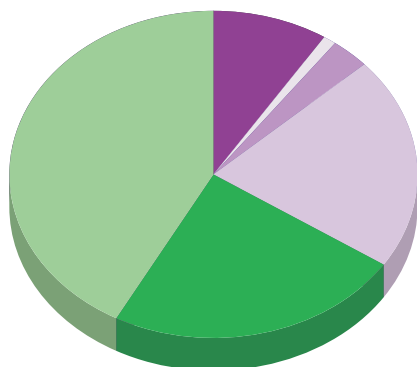
In the past year, 95 percent of the respondents retained their health benefits, while 5 percent lost them.

For a more detailed look at salary and career trends in the field of speech-language pathology, take a moment now to visit the *ADVANCE* Salary Calculator at www.advancweb.com/careers and register. You can access the 2006 *ADVANCE* salary survey online at www.advancweb.com/speech.

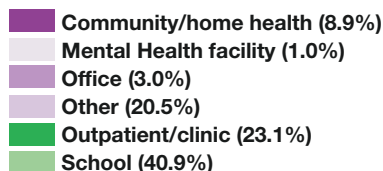
Those who have already participated in the online Salary Calculator are encouraged to update their information annually. Results over one year old are automatically purged from the system. Continual updates from users provide the most accurate results. ■

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Work Setting



Work Setting



Results based on 2,953 respondents.

NEXT WEEK

The cover story of our Dec. 10 issue will address swallowing problems associated with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). *ADVANCE* Associate Editor Alyssa Banotai interviews Tom Franceschini, MS, CCC-SLP, a member of the multi-disciplinary treatment team at the Heartburn and Swallowing Disorders Center of Hancock Regional Hospital in Greenfield, IN.