

Individual Research Project

Spring 2025, Lauren Bauer

Research Question

How do audiologists and speech-language pathologists working in Connecticut perceive their level of preparedness, confidence, and comfort to provide services to individuals with developmental disorders including autism?

Population

- Licensed audiologists or speech language pathologists
- Distributed to the Connecticut Academy of Audiology (CTAA) as well as the CT Speech Language Hearing Association
- Students from this study were excluded and people not currently providing services to individuals with disabilities.

Methods

- Qualtrics Survey
 - Anonymous survey
- Overview of the survey
 - Purpose, procedures, confidentiality, contact information etc.
- Screening Questions
 - Choosing student or unrelated profession disqualifies you
 - Saying you do not work with kids or adults with disabilities disqualified you

Survey

- Focuses on...
 - Formal training, education, and experience
 - Personal level of preparedness, confidence and comfort
- Personal Preparedness
 - How comfortable are you/how prepared are you for working with people with disabilities
 - Would you be interested in resources.
- Background Questions/Formal Questions
 - Where did you study, did you get any furthering education?
 - What age range do you possibly work with kids with disabilities (0-2,3-22,adults...)

Results

- Survey Results

- 80 percent were audiologists, remaining were students.
- All worked in pediatrics
- Trainings took place in Connecticut, Indiana, North Carolina, and California
- Most reported some training on Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Half reported their externship year had experiences with those with disabilities.

Comparison

- 10+ years
 - Helps people with disabilities multiple times a day
 - Feels confident
 - No formal training inside or outside of school
 - Would be interested in formal trainings
- 1-5 years
 - Helps people with disabilities at least once a week
 - Feels moderately confident
 - Formal training inside and outside of education
 - Would be interested in formal trainings

Further Research

- Sending some resources to the groups we sent this research to!
- See how this compares across state in New England.
- Expand to other professions