Asking Questions About Careers:

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (SLP)

What are Speech-Language Pathologists

- Speech-language pathologists are healthcare professionals are experts in speech, language, thinking (cognition), feeding/swallowing, hearing skills, and assistive technology
- Speech-language pathologists provide individuals with screening, assessments, and treatment sessions to help them with their healthcare needs across those domains

When you see this logo, you can click it for more information!

Education of a Speech-Language Pathologist

- Speech language pathologists need at least a masters degree in order to work
- SLPs take courses on anatomy, speech sound skills, language, swallowing and feeding, and thinking skills
- The SLP masters degree helps these professionals specialize in all the areas that they can diagnose and treat (i.e. their "scope of practice")
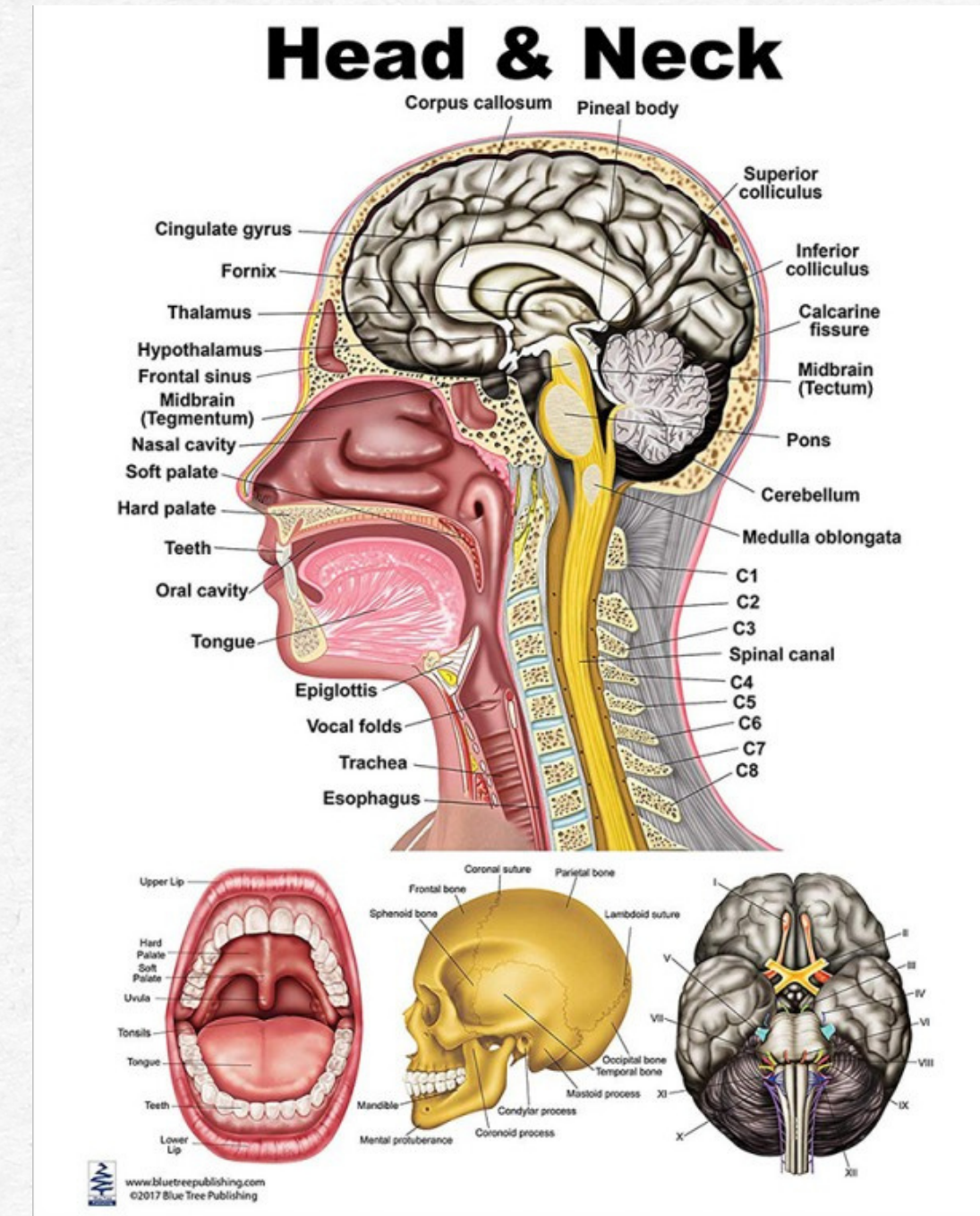
Where do Speech-Language Pathologists Work?

EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

- Private schools
- Public schools
- Colleges
- Universities

HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

- Hospitals
- Non-residential
- Residential facilities (i.e. assisted living)

PRIVATE PRACTICE

- Own your own businesses
- Work in someone else's private practice

Let's do some research about the field of speech-language pathology together

We're going to use two datasets to answer research questions. Both datasets include lots of different professions. Feel free to research any profession you would like.

U.S. BUREAU
OF LABOR
STATISTICS

IES ∷ NCES

Example Research Question #1
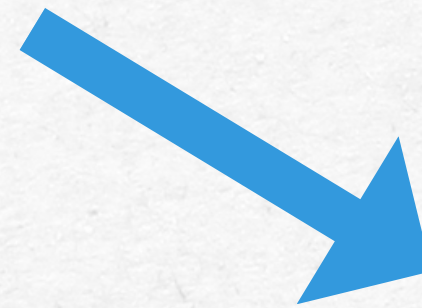Which state has the highest number of estimated available SLP jobs?

Datasets

1. To answer this question, navigate to the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics website

CLICK HERE

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

2. Under the year you wish to access, click the XLS option next to "all data" to download the complete dataset

3. Click the downloaded ZIP file and it should open up in the excel application

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
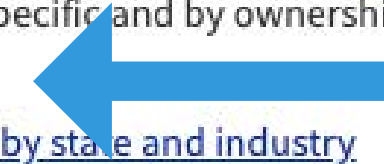
OEWS Home	OEWS Publications ▾	OEWS Data ▾

Tables Created by BLS

May 2022

- Occupation Profiles
- National (HTML) (XLS)
- State (HTML) (XLS)
- Metropolitan and nonmetropolitan area (HTML) (XLS)
- ...specific and by ownership (HTML) (XLS)
- All data (XLS) (TXT)
- ...tes by state and industry
- Additional OES data sets
- Featured Tables

CLICK HERE

Datasets

4. In excel, navigate to data > sort and then sort the data by the column "OCC_TITLE" with the order of "A to Z". To make this very large dataset smaller, do the following:

Scroll down to cell #373090, which should have a OCC_TITLE of "Speech-Language Pathology"

Highlight all rows from #373090 to #373725 (all OCC_TITLE of Speech-Language Pathology)

Copy and paste these data to a new excel spreadsheet (click the + at the bottom of the page) into the second row. Copy and paste row 1 over so you have the column names in your new dataset!

Datasets

5. To answer this question, sort the smaller dataset by AREA_TYPE from "A to Z". Since we are looking into the state data, which is coded as type "2", those are the only cells you will need to look at.

Then, sort the dataset by the TOT-EMP column by smallest to largest values.

Scroll down to the AREA_TYPE of "2" (past all the 1's) and locate the first value (row #86) to last value (row #135)

Which state has the highest number of estimated available SLP jobs?

Answer:
Highest Number: California with 17,100 jobs
Lowest Number: Hawaii with 150 jobs

Let's try another research question together!

Example research question #2
Did more men or women graduate with degrees in speech-language pathology in 2022?

Datasets

1. To answer this question, navigate to the National Center for Educational Statistics

CLICK HERE → **IES ⫶ NCES** National Center for Education Statistics
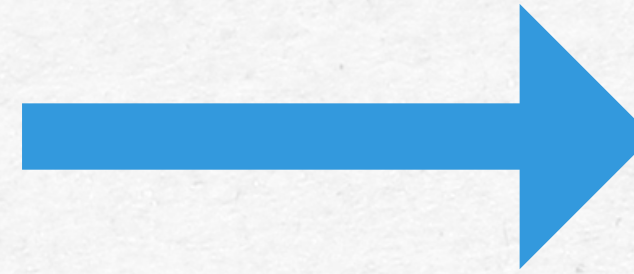
2. Under the topic you wish to access, click the hyperlink next to the description in order to download the excel zip file

IES ⫶ NCES National Center for Education Statistics ☰ MENU

| 2022 | Completions | Awards/degrees conferred by program (6-digit CIP code), award level, race/ethnicity, and gender: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 | C2022_A |
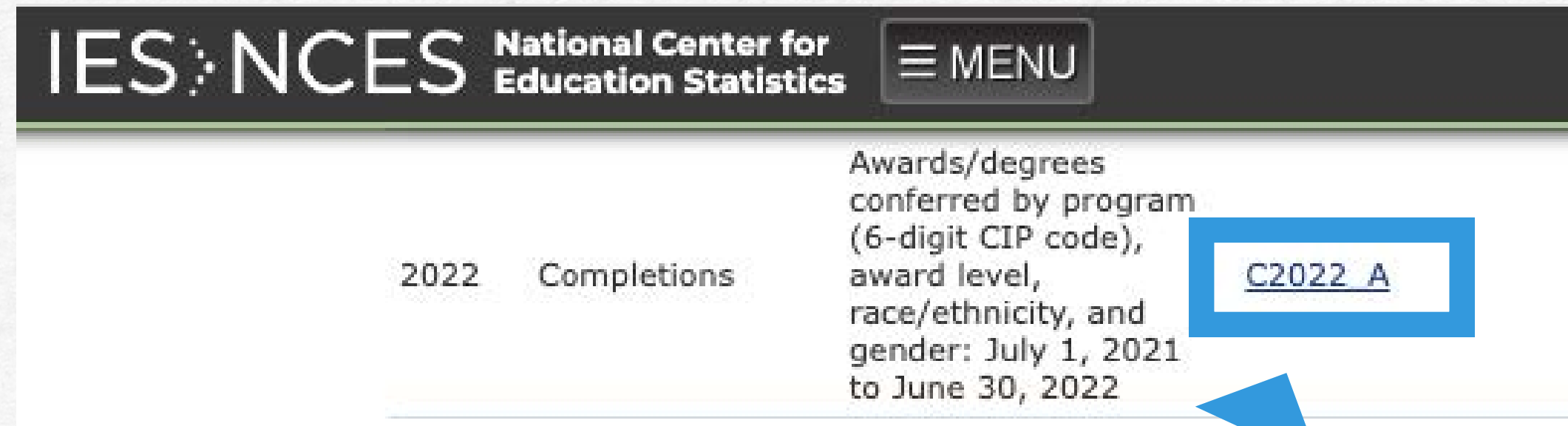
CLICK HERE

3. Click the downloaded ZIP file and it should open up in the excel application. You can also download the "Dictionary" for the column descriptions
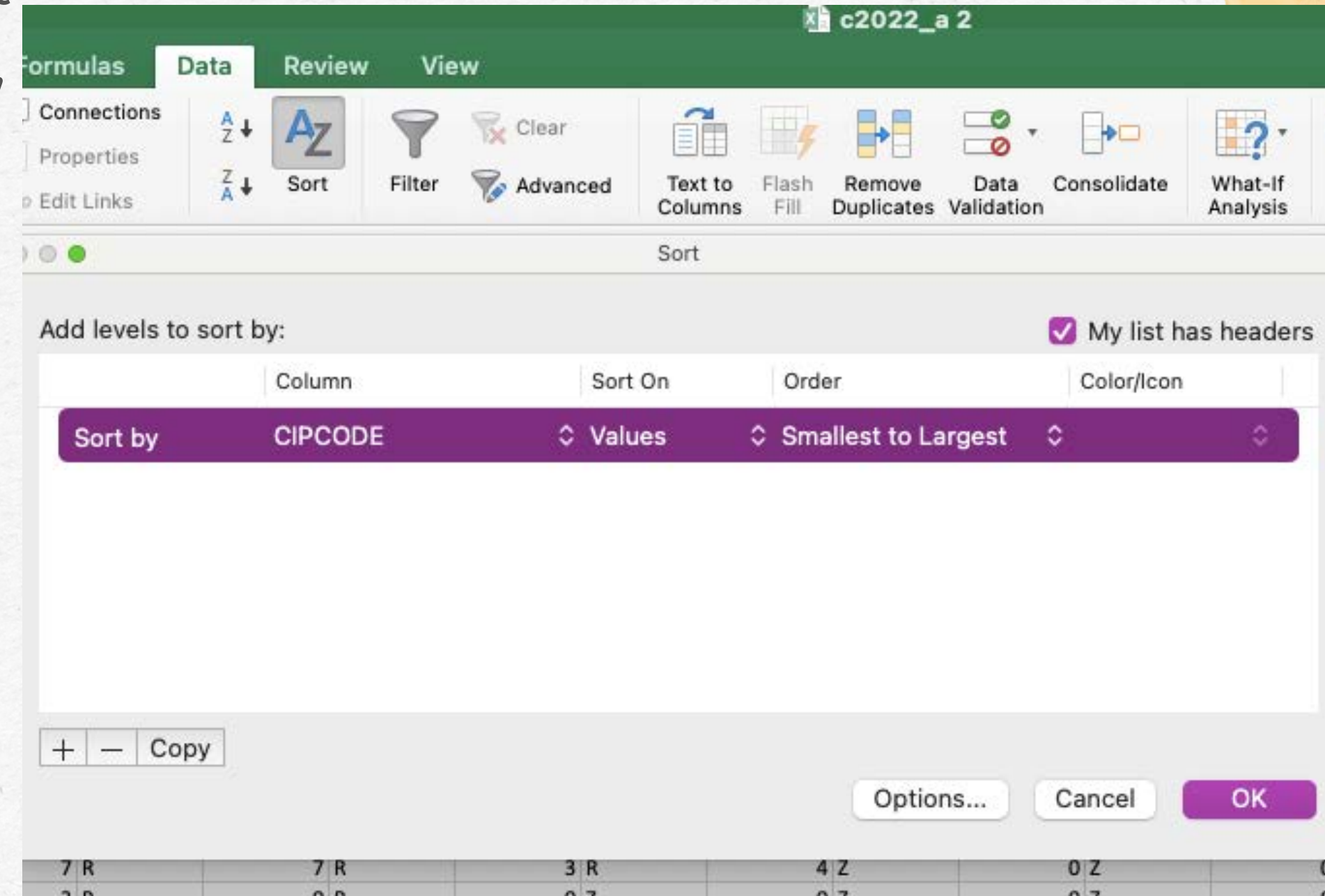
Datasets

4. In excel, navigate to data > sort and then sort the data by the CIPCODE (by smallest to largest values). To make this very large dataset smaller, do the following:

Scroll down to cell #208874, which should have a CIPCODE of 51.0203 (speech-language pathology)

Highlight all rows from #208874 to #209114

Copy and paste these data to a new excel spreadsheet (click the + at the bottom of the page) into the second row. Copy and paste row 1 over so you have the column names in your new dataset!

Datasets

5. To answer this question, locate columns H and J, which are the degrees conferred for grand total men (H) and grand total women (J)

Scroll down to the end of the dataset (row #300878). Click below the last value in the "H" column. Then locate formulas > AutoSum. Hit "enter" to get the value

Follow the same process for the "J" column.

Total values should be found in row 300879

Home   Insert   Page Layout   **Formulas**   Data

fx Insert Function   Σ AutoSum   Recently Used   Financial   Logical   Text   Date & Time

SUM   X   ✓   *fx*   =SUM(J2:J300878)

	G	H	I	J	K
300862		8 R		22 R	
300863		183 R		339 R	
300864		0 R		0 R	
300865		1 R		12 R	
300866		5 R		3 R	
300867		2 R		4 R	
300868		21 R		44 R	
300869		0 R		1 R	
300870		0 R		0 R	
300871		93 R		227 R	
300872		883 R		1486 R	
300873		49 R		96 R	
300874		409 R		1304 R	
300875		19 R		50 R	
300876		25 R		31 R	
300877		22 R		61 R	
300878		11 R		7 R	
300879		4331080		=SUM(J2:J300878)	
300880					
300881					

H	I	J
4331080		6500352

Did more men or women graduate with degrees in speech-language pathology in 2022?

Answer:
Grand Total Men: 4,331,080
Grand Total Women: 6,500,352

Women by 2,169,272

Why you should consider this profession?

01

We help people when they need it most in order to make sure that they can communicate, think, and eat and drink safely!

02

Our scope of practice is big, so we can diagnose and treat a lots of different people, across the lifespan, with a variety of impairments

03

The field of speech-language pathology is growing, so there are more jobs opening up for people who want to join this field

Helpful Terminology

"Articulation"	speech sound skills
"Fluency"	how well speech does or does not flow
"Voice"	sound produced by vocal fold vibration
"Resonance"	how our anatomy shapes the vocal fold vibratory sound
"Language"	either receptive (understanding) or expressive (conveying)
"Dysphagia"	disorder of swallowing skills
"Cognition"	thinking and reasoning skills
"Social Communication"	how and why we use language to talk with others
"Communication Modalities"	the different ways that we use to communicate
"Assistive Technology"	any equipment, tool, or strategy that helps people communicate