

**LOCAL CASA
PROGRAM PROFILE
NEW YORK STATE
2005**



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2005 ANNUAL PROGRAM SURVEY

(Each year the National CASA Association surveys local CASA programs. The information presented here was compiled from the responses of CASA programs in New York State to the 2005 Annual Local Program Survey.)

In 2005, there were **23** CASA programs serving **3,752** children in **32** counties in New York State, with **798** volunteers contributing a total of **89,679** hours. Programs were in a start-up phase in two additional counties, but had not yet begun taking cases.

All CASA programs in NYS operate under the Friend of Court model. The oldest program began operation in 1979 and the newest in 2004. Fourteen of the programs operate under umbrella agencies. Nine are independent not-for-profit organizations. Six are in areas with a population of under 100,000, while ten are in areas of 100,000 to 400,000 and seven serve areas with a population of greater than 400,000.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

- New York CASA volunteers are well educated. 72% are college graduates and many have earned advanced degrees. Another 20% have had at least some college.
- Each CASA volunteer contributed, on average, approximately 112 hours of time.
- 86% are women.
- The majority of volunteers (78%) are Caucasian, followed by African American (15%), and Hispanic/Latino (4%). The remaining 3% were identified as multi-racial, Asian/ Pacific Islander or Other.
- Nearly half the volunteers were at least 50 years old – 13% under 30; 16% 30 to 39; 21% 40 to 49; 23% 50 to 59; and 26% were 60 or older.
- Nearly half the volunteers (44%) worked full-time in addition to being a CASA and an additional 14% worked part-time. 21% of the volunteers were retirees, while 6% were students, and 12% were not employed. Employment status for 3% was unspecified.
- Sixteen programs reported volunteers carrying an average of only one case at a time. Five programs reported assigning an average of two cases per volunteer and one averaged three cases per volunteer..
- Programs reported that their volunteers serve anywhere from 1 to 7 children, with a mean of 3.1 and a median of 3.

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

- 50% are boys.
- 31% are 0-5 years old; 31% are 6-11 years old; 31% are 12-18 years old; and 7% were over 18 years old .
- 66% of the children served by CASA volunteers are children of color, predominantly African American (38%) and Hispanic/Latino (20%).
- The cases of 1416 children were closed in 2005. Of these, 7% had been in the system for 0-3 months at the time their cases were closed; 9% had been in the system from 4-6 months; 19% from 7-12 months; and 65% for more than 12 months.
- Of the children whose cases were closed, 38% were reunified with their families; 11% were removed from the docket; 13% were placed with a guardian; 9% were adopted; 4% had aged out of the system; 7% were transferred; and 1% ran away. 17% of the cases were listed as closed for reasons not captured by the survey options -- institutionalized, freed for adoption, children in home – placement prevented; FTC discharge; stable placement; home study done; DHS let order expire; awaiting finalization of adoption; and no further need for CASA.

PROGRAM STAFF

- In 2005, the 23 CASA programs in New York State employed 37 full time and 29 part time individuals. Of these 66 staff members, more than one third have previously served as CASA volunteers.
- 88% of staff members are female.
- Most staff members are Caucasian (80%), followed by African American (10%), Hispanic/Latino (7%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (3%).
- Staff are well educated. 82% are college graduates and nearly half of those individuals have earned advanced degrees. Another 10% have had at least some college.
- Thirteen directors are full time and 10 are part time. Among those who are part time, some fill other roles at their umbrella agencies.
- The mean hourly wage for all program directors is \$20.57 and the median is \$17.54. For just the downstate programs (NYC, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester), the mean hourly wage is \$38.89. For all other programs, the mean hourly wage is \$16.71.
- Nineteen directors reported receiving health insurance. Ten reported retirement benefits. Three reported receiving no benefits.
- Program directors have served in that position anywhere from 2 months to 24 years, with the average being just over 5 1/2 years.

FUNDING AND EXPENSES

In cases where the CASA program is part of an umbrella agency, these figures pertain only to the CASA program and not to the umbrella agency as a whole.

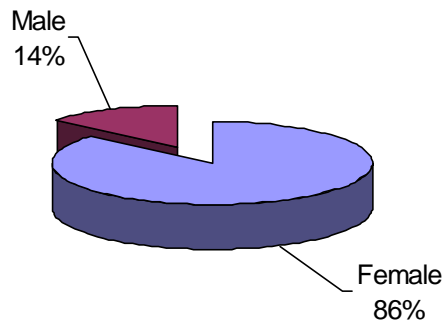
- Total Revenue for all 23 CASA programs in 2005 was \$3,069,655, with a mean of \$133,463 and median of \$73,273.
- Total budgeted expenses were \$3,049,547, with a mean of \$138,616 and median of \$70,750.
- Twelve programs report more funding than in the previous year, five report less, and six report no change.

CASA'S COSTS AND SAVINGS

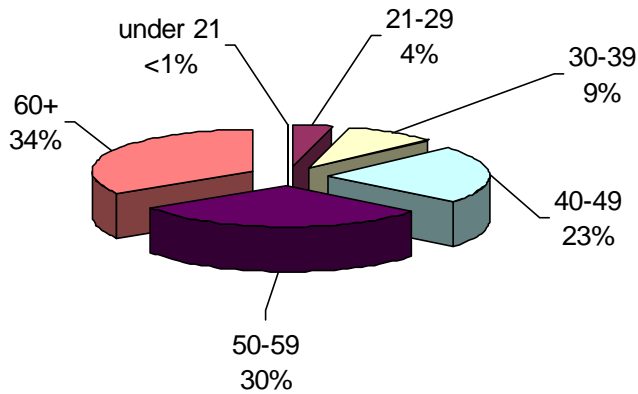
- The average cost for each child served was \$813
- The average cost per volunteer was \$3,822.
- Based on the Independent Sector's 2003 calculation of \$22.77 per hour for a volunteer in New York State, a figure used to quantify volunteer contributions, CASA volunteers' equivalent in paid hours amounts to over 2 million dollars a year in donated time.

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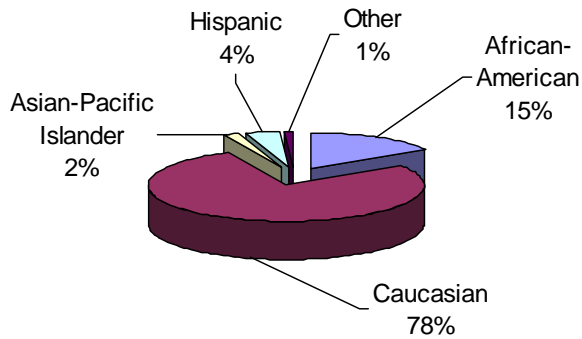
Volunteers: Gender



Volunteers: Age

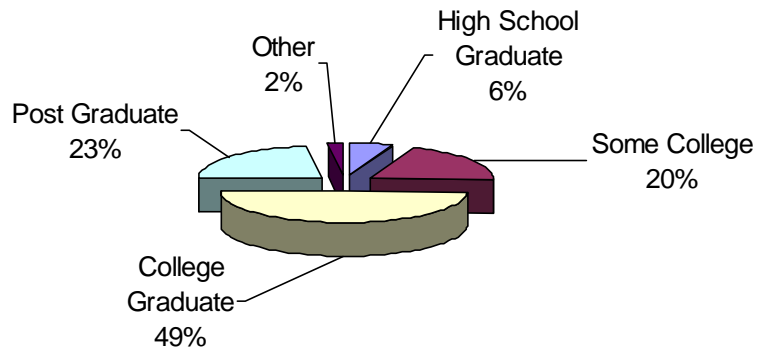


Volunteers: Ethnicity

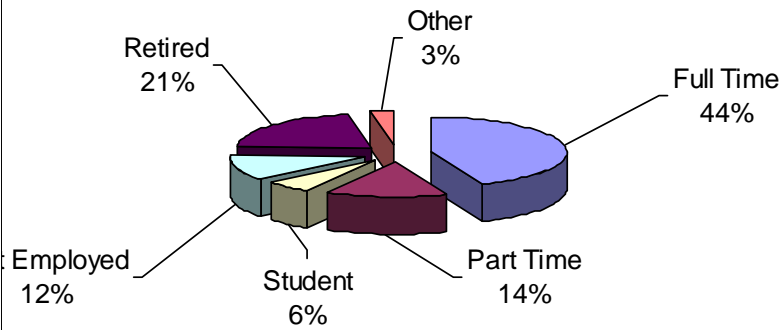


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Volunteers: Education

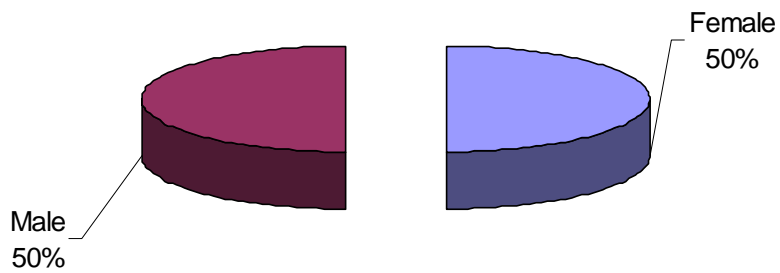


Volunteers: Employment

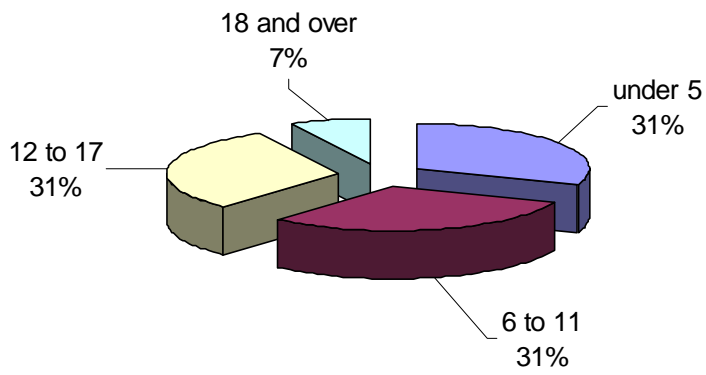


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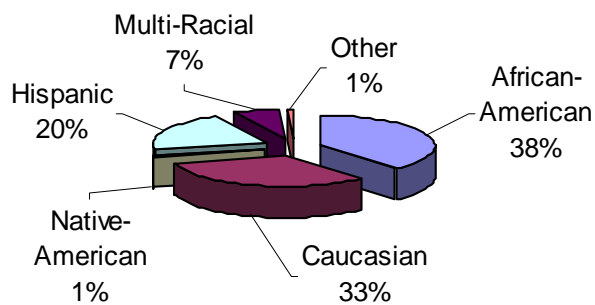
Children: Gender



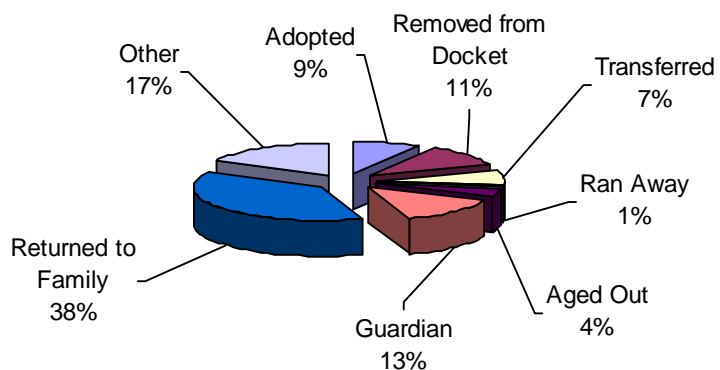
Children: Age



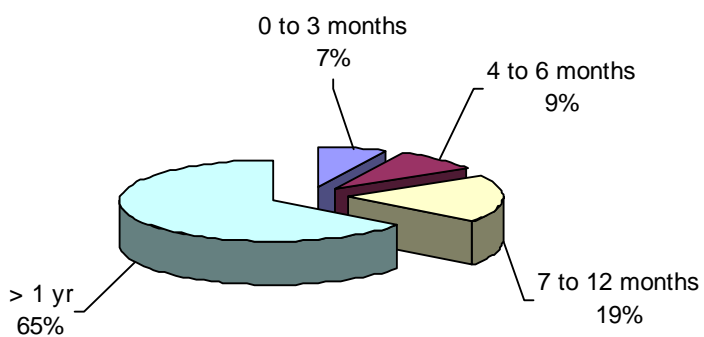
Children: Ethnicity



Children: Reasons for Case Closure



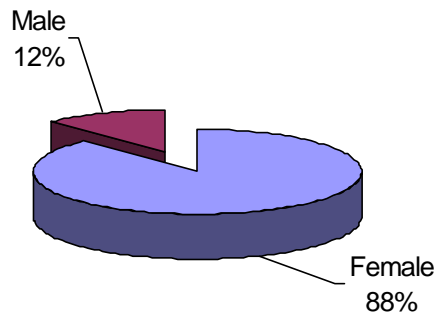
Children: Time in System



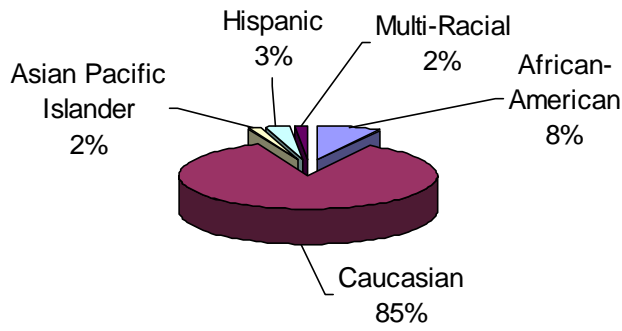
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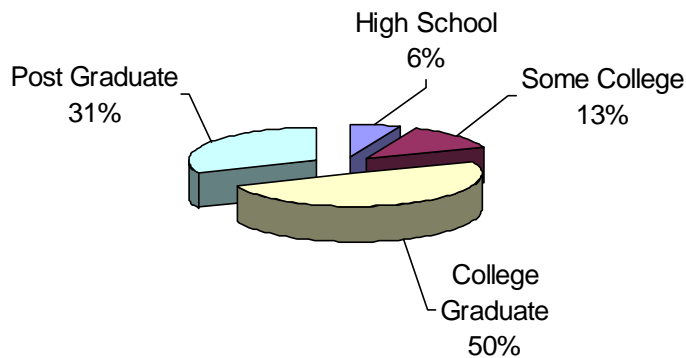
Staff: Gender



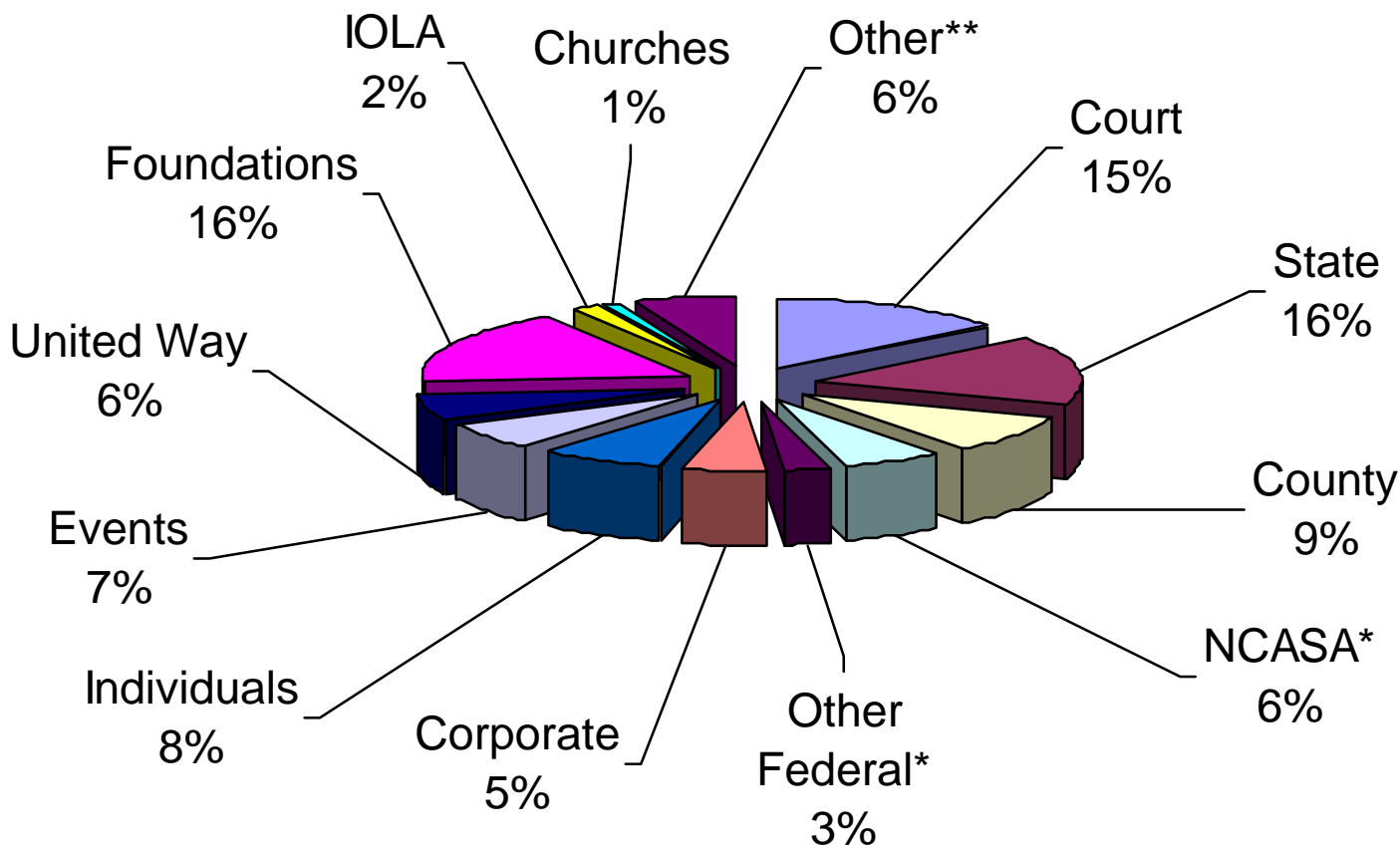
Staff: Ethnicity



Staff: Education



Programs: Revenue Sources



In cases where the CASA program is part of an umbrella agency, these figures pertain only to the CASA program and not to the umbrella agency as a whole.

* Federal funds.
** Includes Community Organizations, Kappa Alpha Theta, Product Sales, Playhouse, Light of Hope, In-Kind, and "Other".