

LOCAL CASA
PROGRAM PROFILE
NEW YORK STATE
2006



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Typical CASA Program Snapshots*

All Programs

(N = 23)

Program age: 15 years
3 paid employees
32 active volunteers
11 new volunteers
110 children served
\$87,857 total revenue



Rural Programs

*(Chautauqua, Chenango & Otsego, Essex, Genesee,
Jefferson, Southern Tier, Sullivan)*

Program age: 7 years
2 paid employees
13 active volunteers
7 new volunteers
36 children
\$58,121 total revenue

Urban Programs

(Erie, Monroe, New York City, Onondaga)

Program age: 16.5 years (*mean: 15.5*)
4.5 paid employees (*mean: 6.3*)
57.5 active volunteers (*mean: 75.8*)
13.5 new volunteers (*mean: 30*)
275.5 children (*mean: 495.5*)
\$169,884 total revenue (*mean: \$404,631*)

Mixed and Suburban Programs

*(Broome, Capital District, Dutchess, Fulton/Montgomery,
Nassau, Oneida & Herkimer, Orange, Rockland,
Schenectady, Suffolk, Ulster, Westchester)*

Program age: 17 years
3 paid employees
34 active volunteers
11.5 new volunteers
97.5 children
\$96,730 total revenue

* The programs self-identified as serving a primarily urban, rural, suburban or mixed geographic area. Numbers are based on **median** values, meaning that half of the programs had more than the median amount and half had less. In the case of urban programs, the mean (the sum of the data divided by sample size) is also included because of the small number of programs identifying themselves as urban.



2006 ANNUAL PROGRAM SURVEY REPORT

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 2006 Annual Local Program Survey.

In 2006, there were **23** CASA programs serving **3,640** children in **34** counties in New York State, with **823** volunteers contributing a total of **89,634** 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 (New York City CASA) began operation in 1979 and the newest (CASA of Chenango and Otsego Counties) in 2006. 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 11 are in areas of 100,000 to 400,000, six serving areas where the population is greater than 400,000. Seven programs identify their regions as rural, three as suburban and four as urban. The remaining nine consider their regions to be mixed.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

- ♥ In 2006 there were 823 active volunteers, of whom 296 were new.
- ♥ New York CASA volunteers are well educated. 70% are college graduates and many have earned advanced degrees. Another 20% have had at least some college.
- ♥ Each CASA volunteer contributed, on average, approximately 109 hours of time.
- ♥ 86% are women. (Of new volunteers, 88% are women.)
- ♥ The majority of volunteers (80%) are Caucasian, followed by African American (14%), Hispanic/Latino (3%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (2%). The remaining 3% were identified as multi-racial, Native American, or Other. (Of new volunteers, 74% are Caucasian, followed by African American (18%), Hispanic/Latino (4%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3%), and Multi-racial and Other (1%). Ten programs report having a targeted recruitment campaign to increase volunteer racial/ethnic diversity.

- ♥ More than half the volunteers are at least 50 years old – 12% are under 30; 16%, 30 to 39; 20%, 40 to 49; 23%, 50 to 59; and 29% are 60 or older.
- ♥ More than one third of the volunteers (39%) worked full-time in addition to being a CASA and an additional 15% worked part-time. 22% of the volunteers were retirees, while 5% were students, and 13% were not employed. Employment status for 6% was unspecified.
- ♥ Seventeen programs reported volunteers carrying an average of only one case at a time. Four programs reported assigning an average of two cases per volunteer, one program averaged three cases per volunteer, with one reporting an average of four cases. The mean number of cases per volunteer was 1.37 and the median was 1.
- ♥ Programs reported that their volunteers serve anywhere from one to six children at one time, with a mean of 2.8 and a median of 2.6.
- ♥ Volunteers remain active with CASA programs for an average of 28 months, with a median of 26 months. The most commonly cited reasons for leaving are family, employment concerns and moving out of the area.

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

- ♥ CASA programs in New York State handled 2,119 cases in 2006, serving 3,640 children. 1,310 children were newly assigned to CASA. Of all children, 3,060 (84%) were served by CASA volunteers and 580 (16%) were served by program staff.
- ♥ Boys and girls are equally represented.
- ♥ 31% are 0-5 years old; 30% are 6-11 years old; 32% are 12-18 years old; and 7% were over 18 years old.
- ♥ Of the children served by CASA in 2006, 41% were African American, followed by Caucasian (31%), Hispanic/Latino (18%), Multi-racial (7%), and Native American (1%). The remaining 2% consisted of Asian/Pacific Islanders (12 children), and unspecified ethnic groups (64 children). Of the children newly assigned to CASA, 38% were African American, followed by Caucasian (33%), Hispanic/Latino (20%), Multi-racial (4%), and Native American (1%). The remaining 4% consisted of children whose ethnic groups were not specified.
- ♥ The cases of 1,106 children were closed in 2006. Of these, 6% of their cases were closed within 0-3 months from the time they were assigned to CASA; 12% were closed within 4-6 months; 21% within 7-12 months; and 36% within 1-2 years. The cases of 25% of the children had been open for more than two years after being assigned to CASA.

- ♥ Of the children whose cases were closed, 34% were returned to their families; 12% were adopted; 11% were placed with a guardian; 10% had their cases removed from the docket; 3% had aged out of the system; 2% of the cases were transferred; 1% moved; and 1% ran away. 26% of the cases were listed as closed for reasons not captured by the survey options – institutionalized; stable placement; home study done; order expired; judge removed; access issues; lack of CASA volunteer; and no further need for CASA.
- ♥ For the first time in 2006, the National CASA survey included questions about the length of time children, whose cases were closed, had spent in out-of-home care – both the total time in care and the time in care since the assignment of a CASA. Since this was the first time the questions were posed, not all programs had been consistently tracking this data, so the information was listed as “unknown” or “not tracked” for more than 50% of the children. Of those children who were tracked, 19% had spent a total of less than one year in care, (36% of children were in care for less than one month after CASA assignment to case closure). 26% spent a total of one-to-two years in care (37% after assignment). 17% spent a total two-to-three years in care (12% after assignment). 11% spent a total of three-to-four years in care (5% after assignment). 27% of children spent a total of more than four years in care (15% after assignment).
- ♥ Six programs reported serving a total of 174 children for other than abuse and neglect cases. These involved mediation, supervised visitation, divorce/custody, delinquency, home study, visitation, and placement.

PROGRAM STAFF

- ♥ In 2006, the 23 CASA programs in New York State employed 38 full time and 39 part time individuals for a total of 43.27 FTEs. Eleven programs report adding staff time, two have cut staff hours, and ten report no change. Of the 77 full- and part-time staff members, nearly one third have previously served as CASA volunteers.
- ♥ 96% of staff members are female.
- ♥ Most staff members are Caucasian (87%), followed by African American (5%), Hispanic/Latino (4%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3%), and Multi-racial (1%).
- ♥ Staff are well educated. 84% are college graduates and more than half of those individuals have earned advanced degrees. Another 9% have had at least some college.
- ♥ Fifteen directors are full time and eight are part time. Among those who are part time, some fill other roles at their umbrella agencies. *

* There is some inconsistency in the way programs under umbrella organizations responded to questions about staffing, particularly those referring to the “Executive Director.” While most responded, as instructed, with information about the Program Manager or Program Coordinator, a few responded with information pertaining to the Executive Director of the umbrella agency.

- ♥ The mean hourly wage for all program directors is \$21.79 and the median is \$17.33. For just the downstate programs (NYC, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester), the mean hourly wage is \$42.53 with a median of \$39.04. For all other programs, the mean hourly wage is \$17.43 with a median of \$16.25.
- ♥ Nineteen directors reported receiving health insurance. Ten reported retirement benefits. Three reported receiving no benefits.
- ♥ Program directors have served in that position anywhere from seven months to 25 years, with the median being five years.
- ♥ The ratio of staff members to volunteer ranges from 1:4 to 1:24, with the mean and median being just over 1:15.

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.

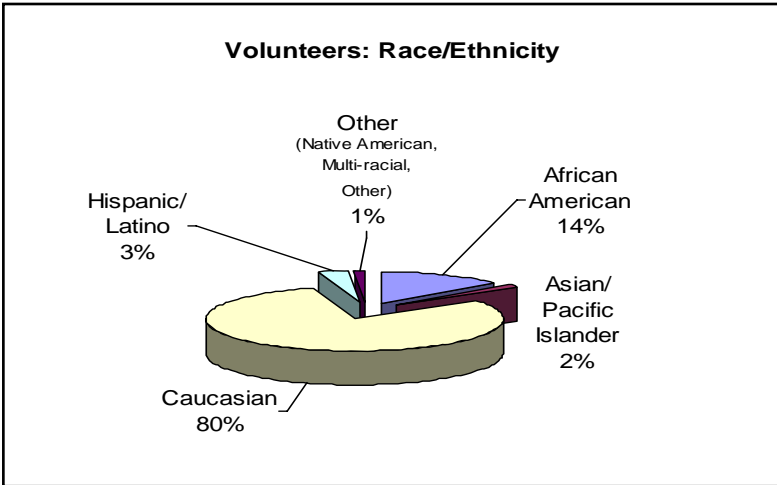
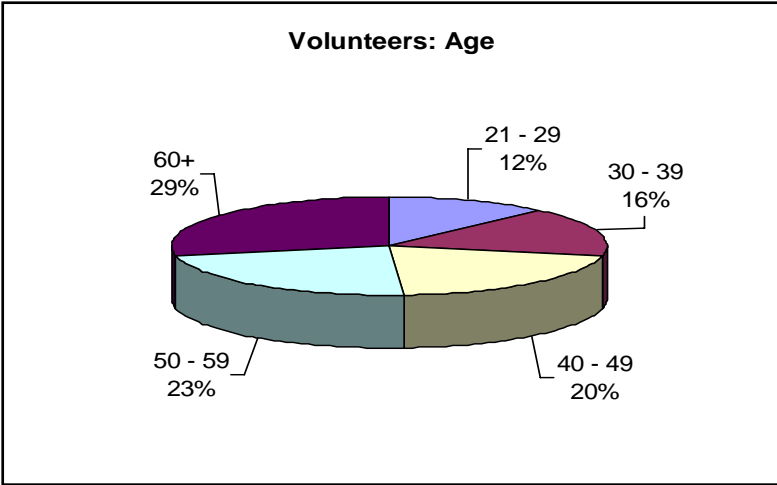
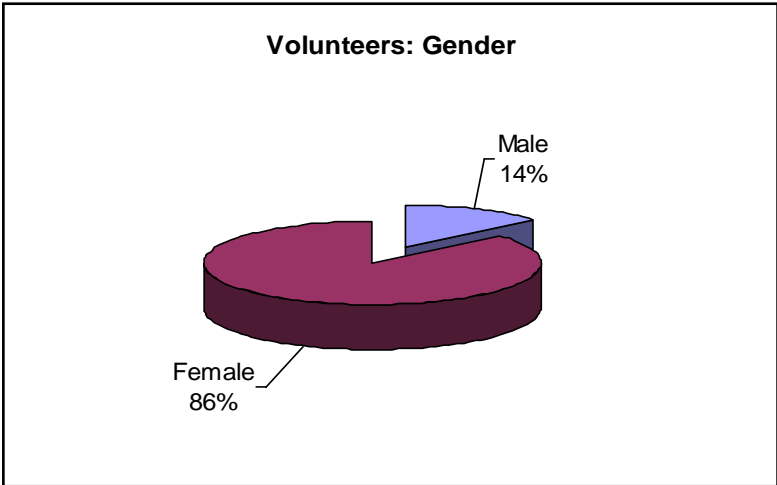
- ♥ Total revenue for all 23 CASA programs in 2006 was \$3,233,277, with a mean of \$140,577 and median of \$87,857.
- ♥ Total budgeted expenses for all programs was \$3,232,378, with a mean of \$140,538 and median of \$87,857.
- ♥ Fourteen programs report more revenue than in the previous year and nine report less.

CASA'S COSTS AND SAVINGS*

- ♥ The median cost per child served was \$1,020.
- ♥ The median cost per volunteer \$3,169.
- ♥ Based on the Independent Sector's 2004 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.

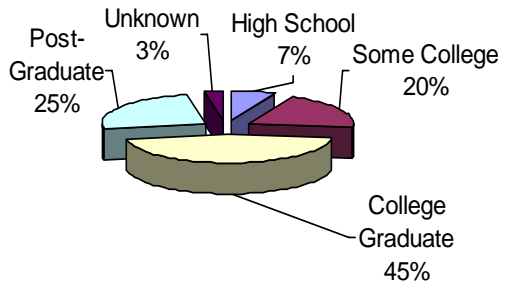
* The cost per volunteer and cost per child are derived by taking the total expenses of each program and dividing by the number of volunteers and number of children, respectively.

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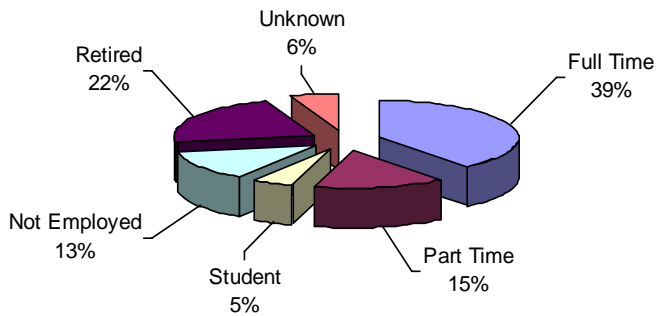


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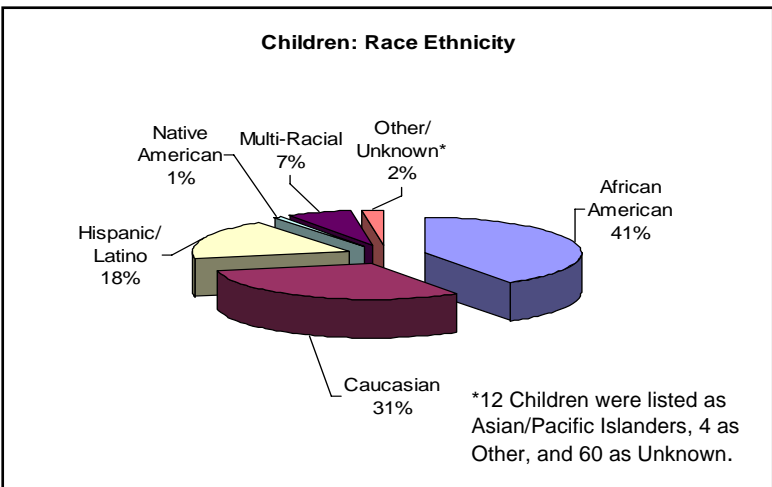
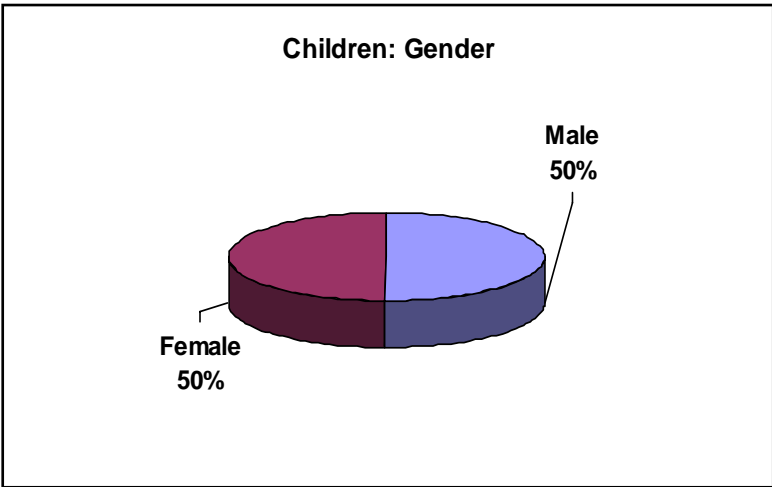
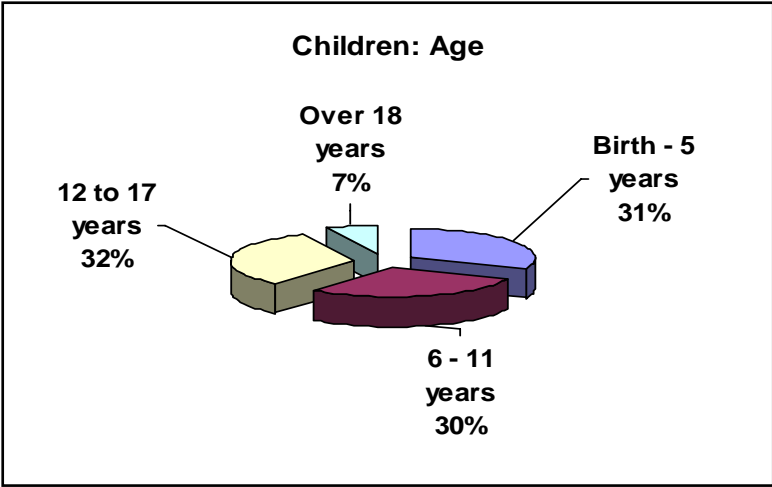
Volunteers: Education
(highest level attained)

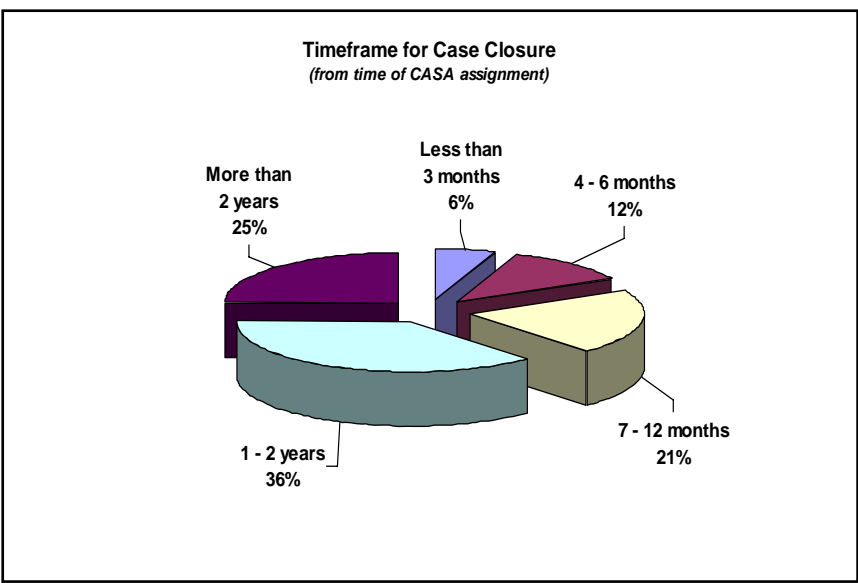
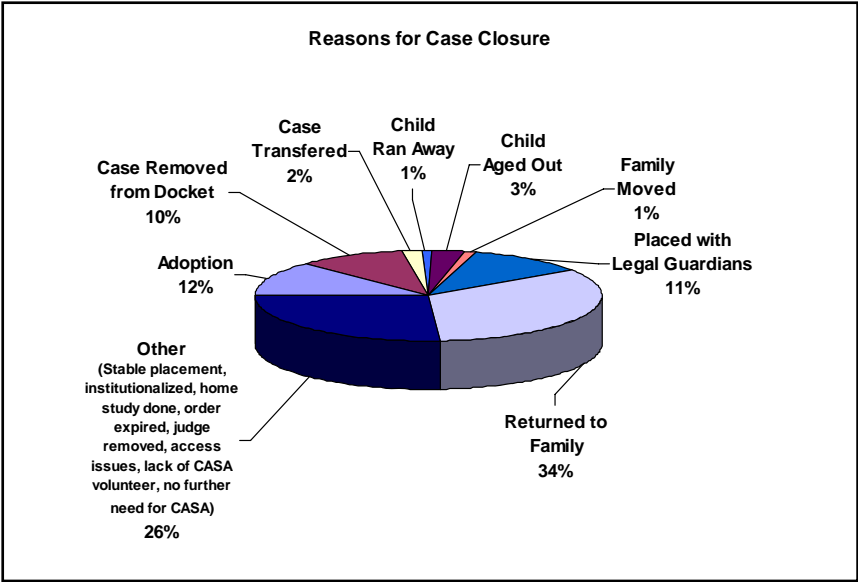


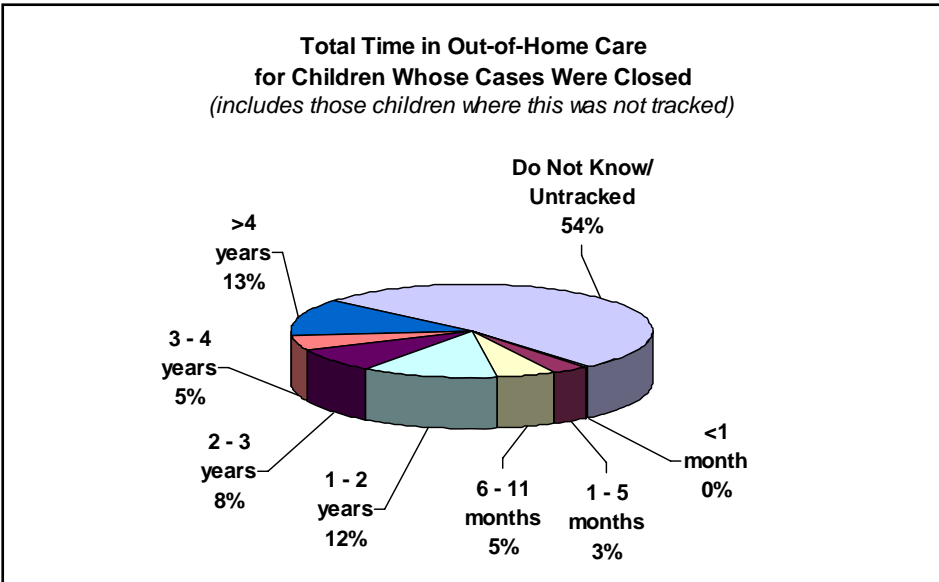
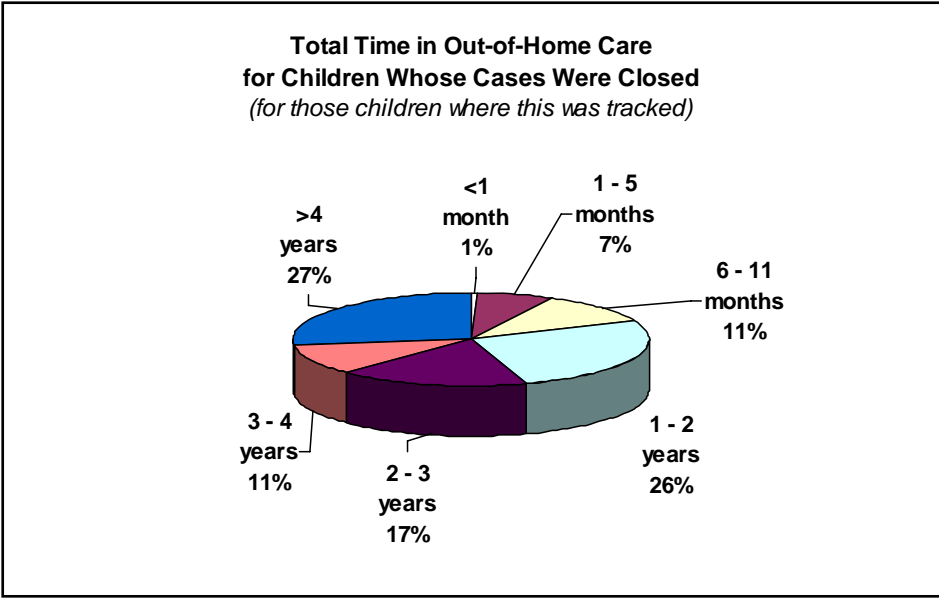
Volunteers: Employment Status



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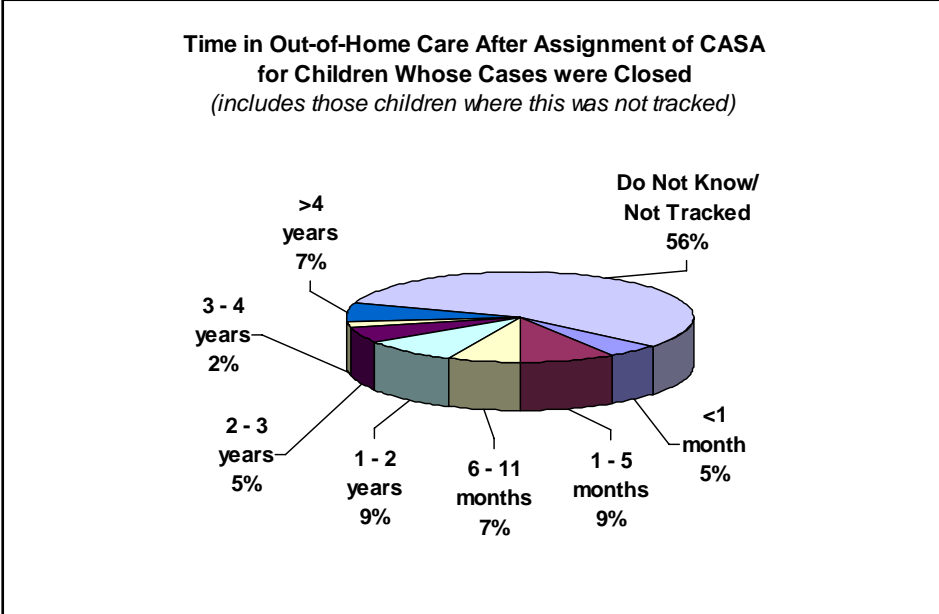
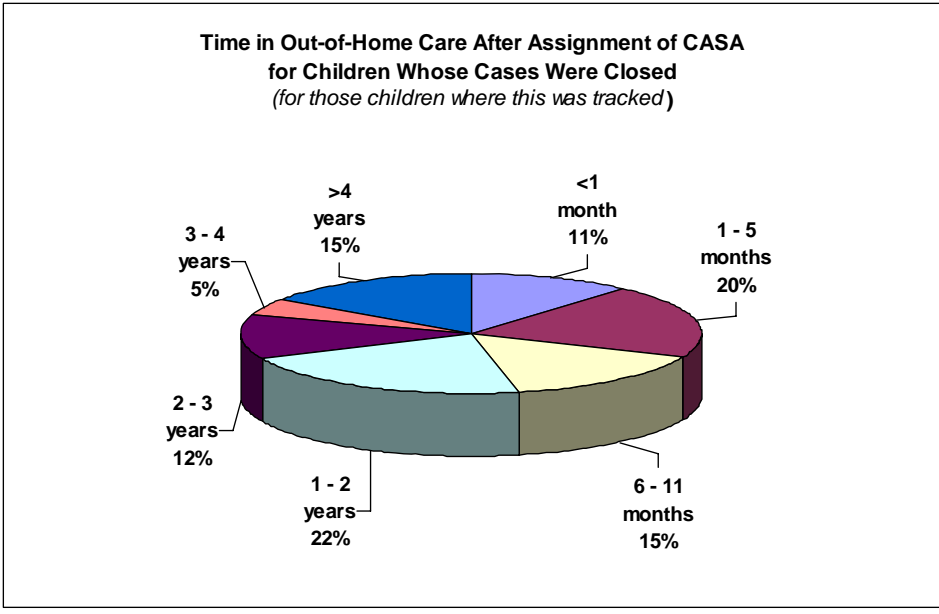






Please note that the charts on this page include only those children who spent any time in out-of-home care while their CASA cases were active.

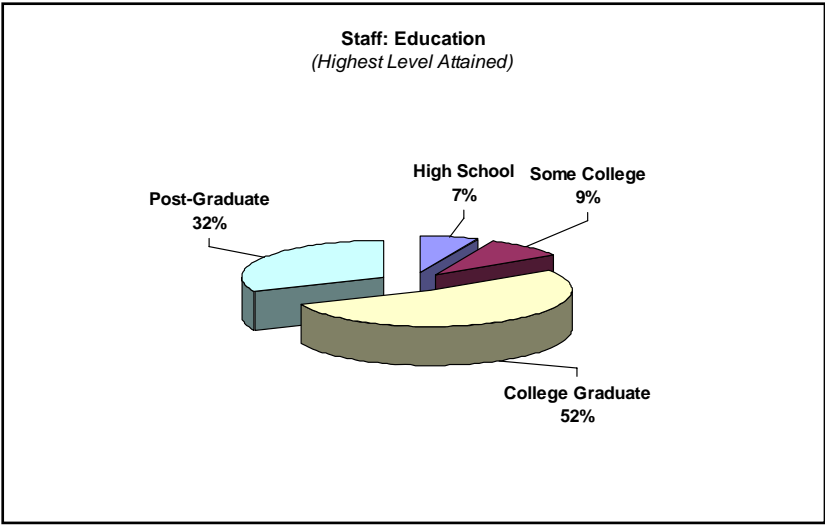
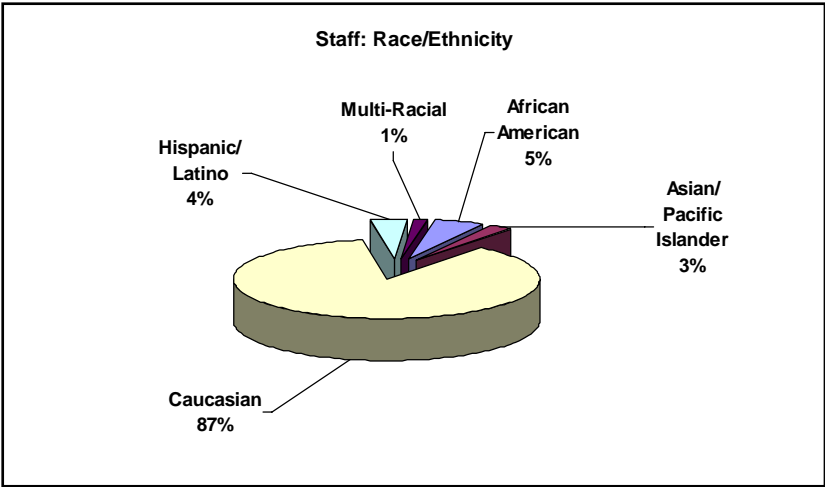
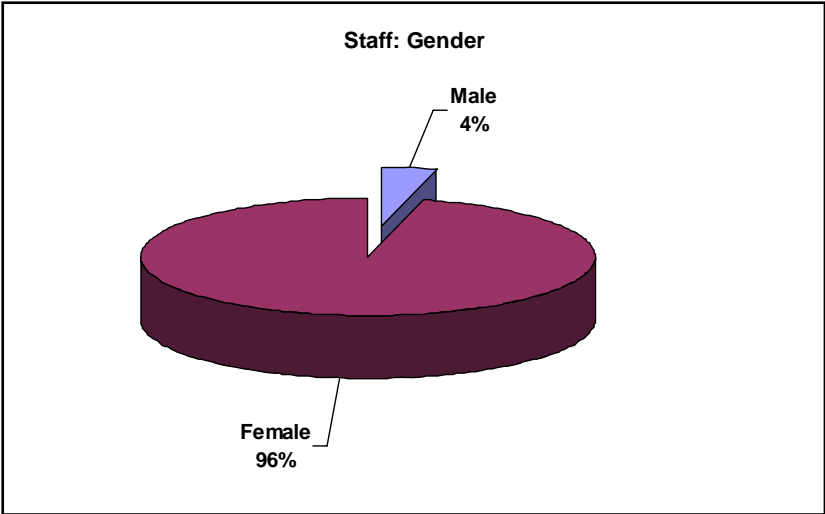




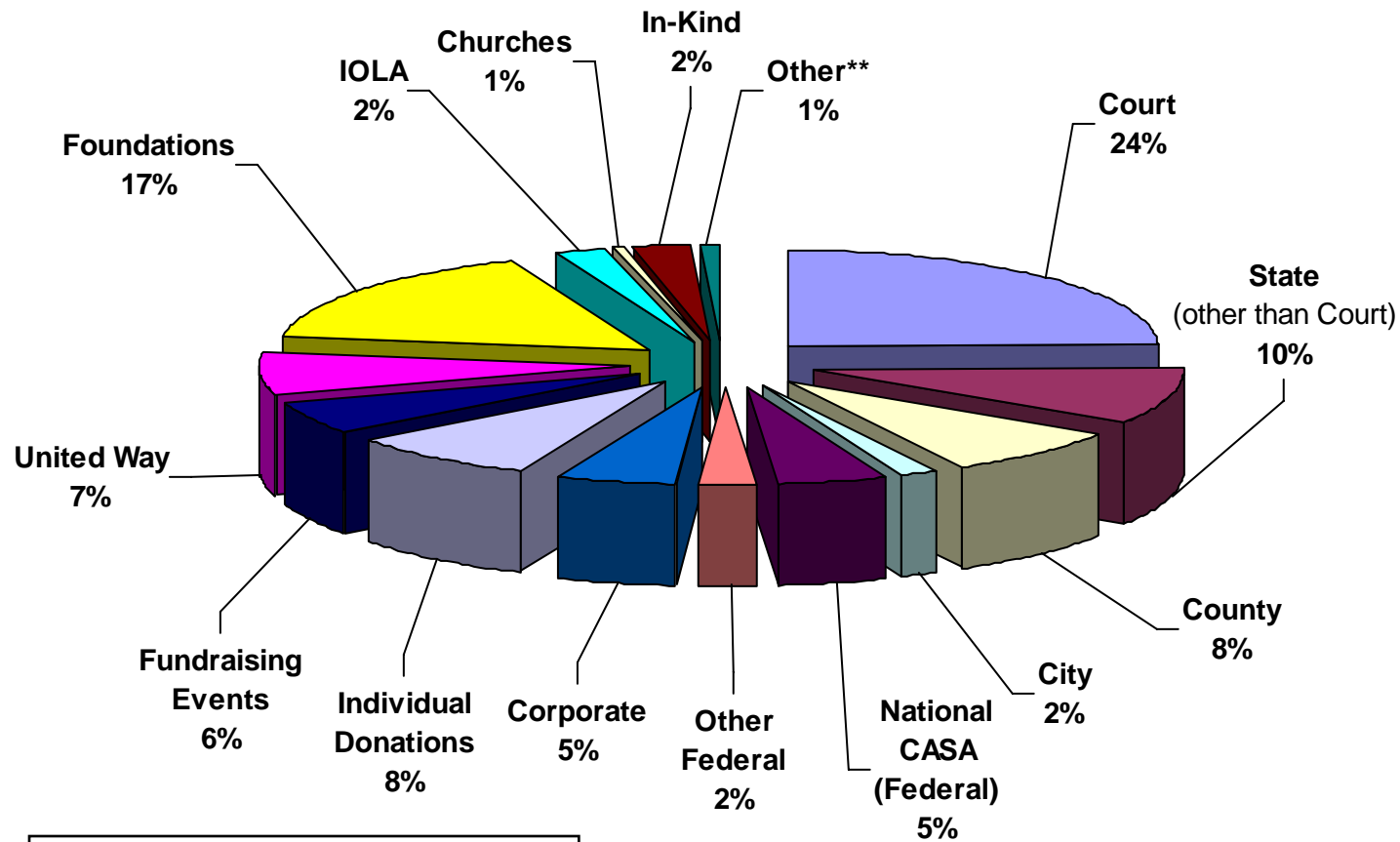
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Programs: Revenue Sources*



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

***Includes Community organizations, Kappa Alpha Theta, Product Sales, and "Other".*

