

**LOCAL CASA  
PROGRAM PROFILE  
NEW YORK STATE  
2007**



PHONE: 518-426-5354  
TOLL FREE: 877-80-VOICE  
mail@casanys.org ♦ www.casanys.org

# Typical CASA Program Snapshots\*



## All Programs

(N = 24)

Program age: 15  
3 paid employees  
29 active volunteers  
10 new volunteers  
91 children served

## Rural Programs

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

Program age: 8 years  
2 paid employees  
18 active volunteers  
8.5 new volunteers  
25.5 children

## Urban Programs

*(Erie, Monroe, New York City, Onondaga)*

Program age: 18 years (*mean: 17*)  
4.5 paid employees (*mean: 6.5*)  
52 active volunteers (*mean: 79*)  
11.5 new volunteers (*mean: 30.8*)  
255 children (*mean: 554.8*)

## Mixed and Suburban Programs

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

Program age: 18 years  
3 paid employees  
29 active volunteers  
8.5 new volunteers  
89 children

\* 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.



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## 2007 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 2007 Annual Local Program Survey.*

In 2007, **twenty-four** CASA programs in **36** New York State counties reported serving **3,720** children, with **834** volunteers contributing a total of **101,068** hours.

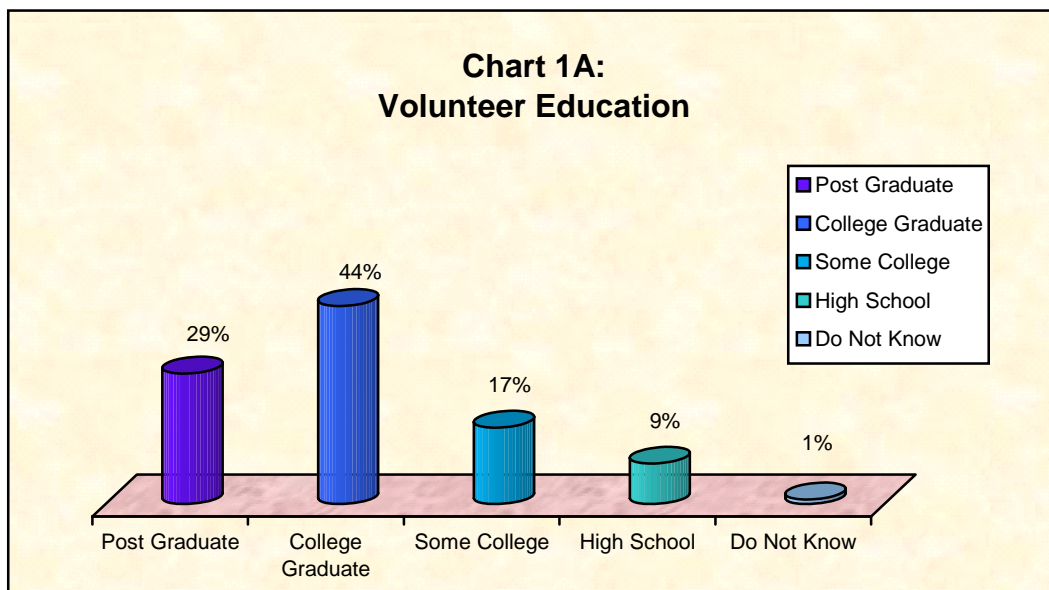
All CASA programs in NYS operate under the Friend of Court model. The oldest program (New York City CASA) began operation in 1979 and the newest (CASA of Ontario County) in 2007. Fifteen of the programs operate under umbrella agencies. Nine are independent not-for-profit organizations. Four are in areas with a population of under 100,000, while twelve are in areas of 100,000 to 400,000; three serve areas where the population is 400,000-800,000; and five serve areas with a population of more than 800,000. Eight programs identify their regions as rural, three as suburban and four as urban. The remaining nine consider their regions to be mixed.

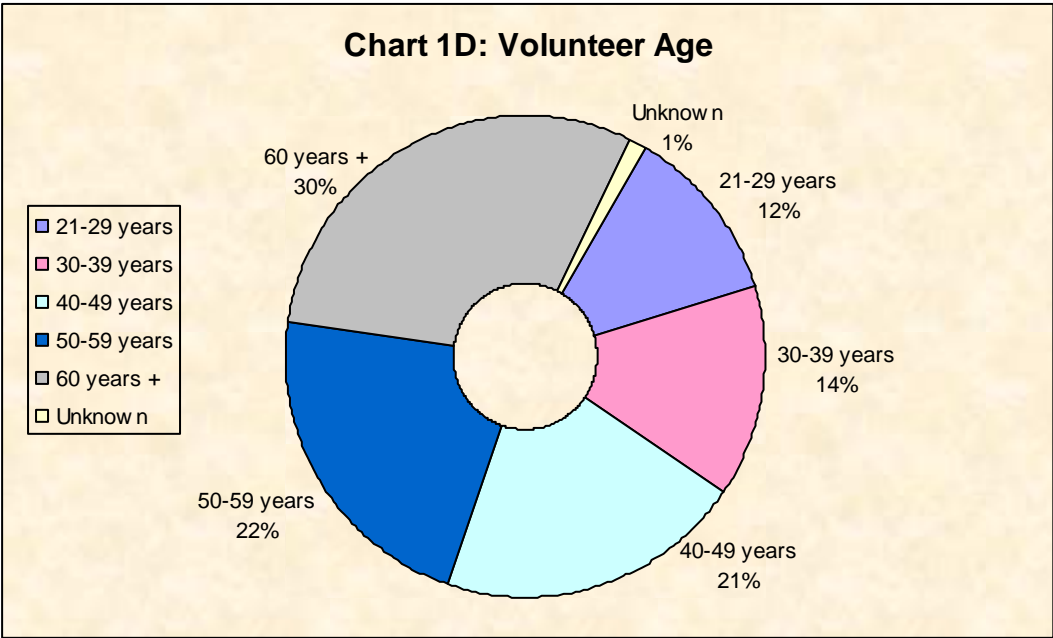
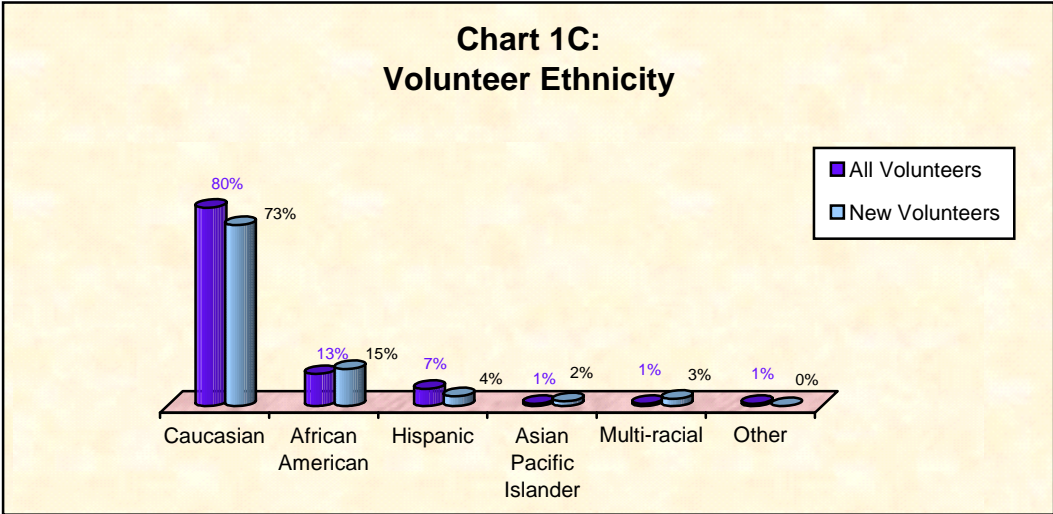
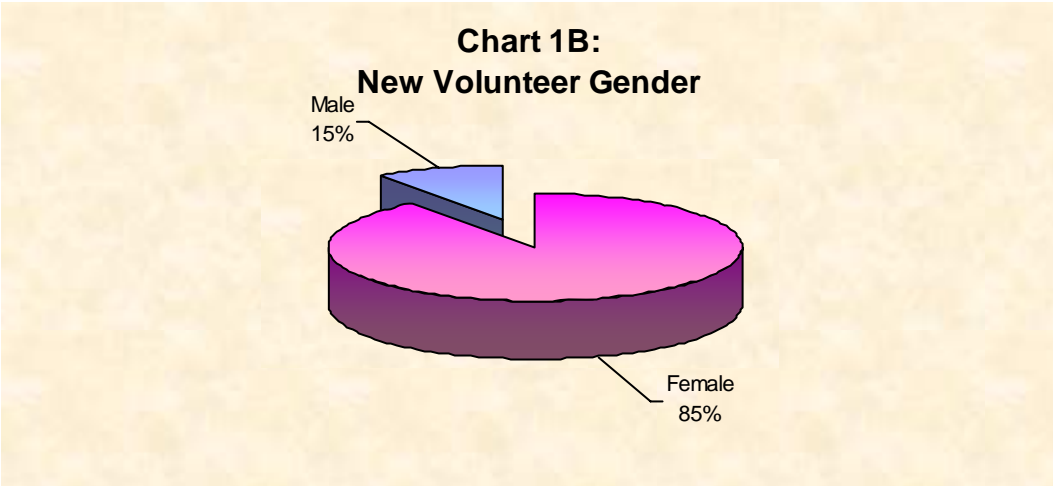
### OUR VOLUNTEERS

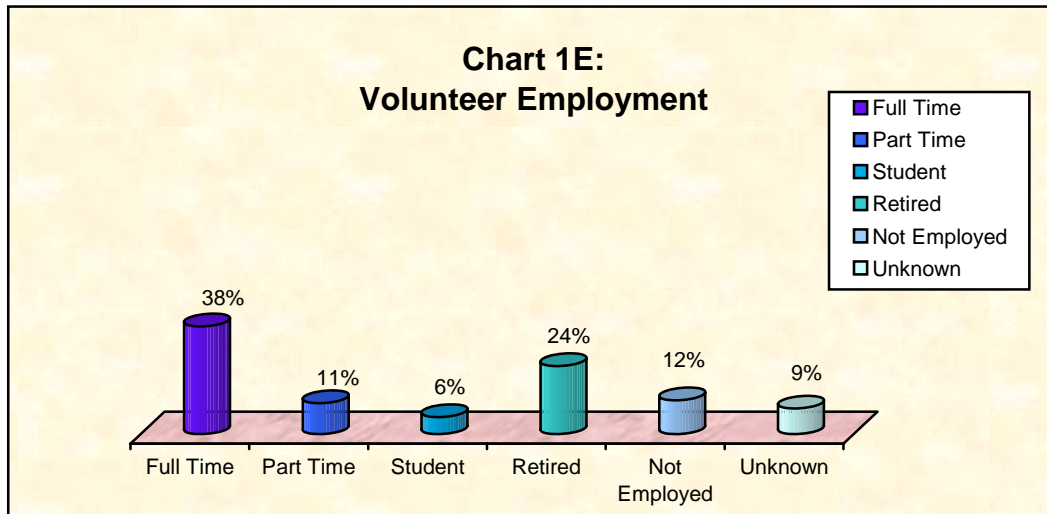
- ♥ In 2007 there were 834 active volunteers, of whom 294 were new.
- ♥ New York CASA volunteers are well educated. **73%** are college graduates and many have earned advanced degrees. Another 17% have had at least some college. (*See Chart 1A.*)
- ♥ Each CASA volunteer contributed, on average, approximately 120 hours of time.
- ♥ 87% are women. (Of new volunteers, 85% are women.) (*See Chart 1B.*)
- ♥ The majority of volunteers (80%) are Caucasian, followed by African American (13%), Hispanic/Latino (7%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (1%). The remaining 2% were identified as multi-racial, Native American, or Other. (Of new volunteers, 73% are Caucasian, followed by African American (15%), Hispanic/Latino (4%), Asian/Pacific Islander (2%), and Multi-

racial (3%). One volunteer was Native American. Five programs report having a targeted recruitment campaign to increase volunteer racial/ethnic diversity. (See Chart 1C.)

- ♥ More than half the volunteers are at least 50 years old – 12% are under 30; 14%, 30 to 39; 21%, 40 to 49; 22%, 50 to 59; and 30% are 60 or older. For 1% of the volunteers, age was not specified. (See Chart 1D.)
- ♥ More than one-third of the volunteers (38%) worked full-time in addition to being a CASA and an additional 11% worked part-time. 24% of the volunteers were retirees, while 6% were students, and 12% were not employed. Employment status for 9% was unspecified. (See Chart 1E.)
- ♥ Fourteen programs reported volunteers carrying an average of only one case at a time. Eight programs reported assigning an average of two cases per volunteer, and one program averaged three cases per volunteer. The mean number of cases per volunteer was 1.42 and the median was 1.
- ♥ Programs reported that their volunteers serve anywhere from one to five children at one time, with a mean of 2.65 and a median of 2.5.
- ♥ 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, health, and employment concerns.





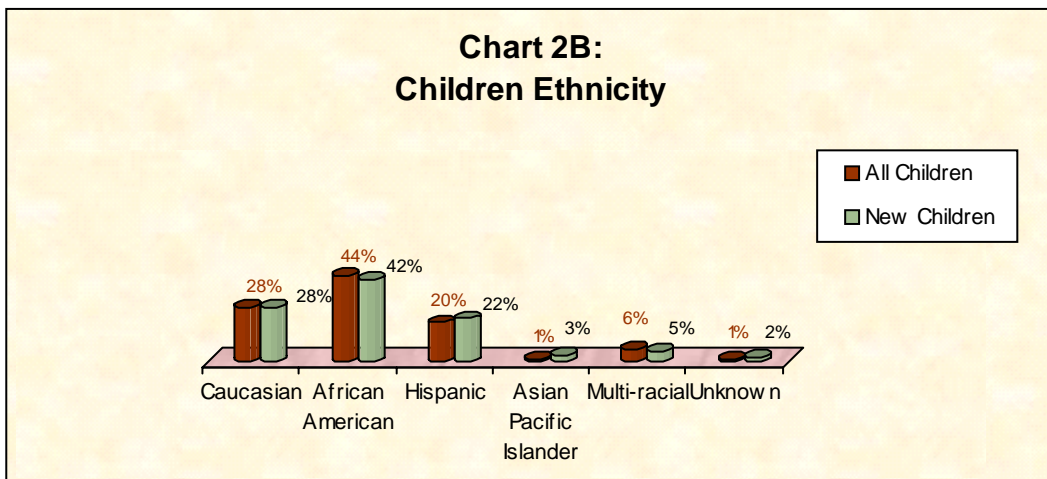
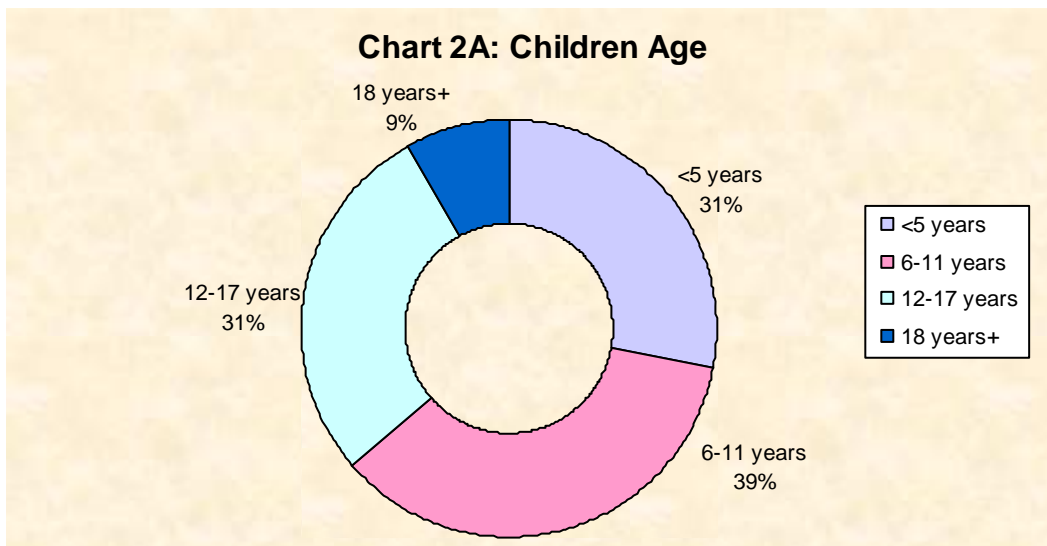


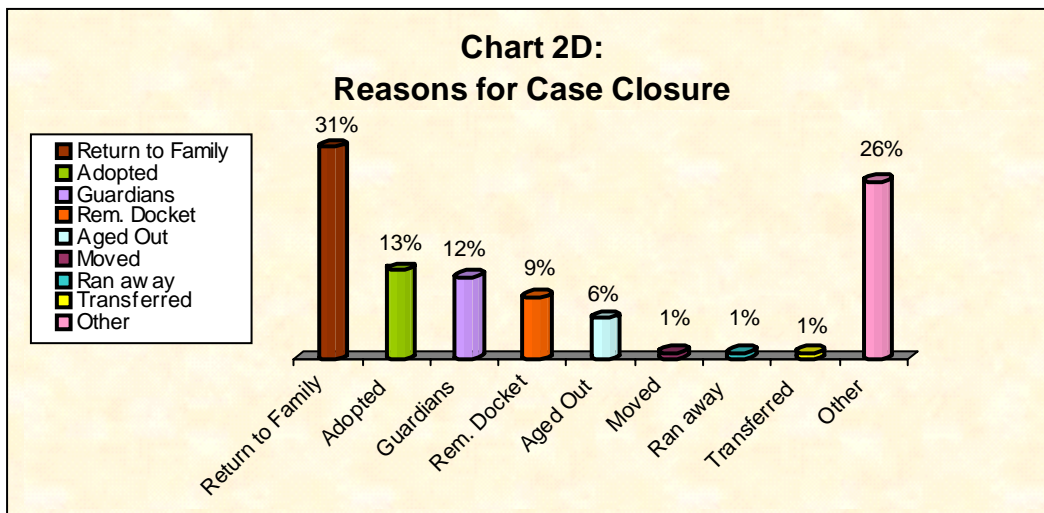
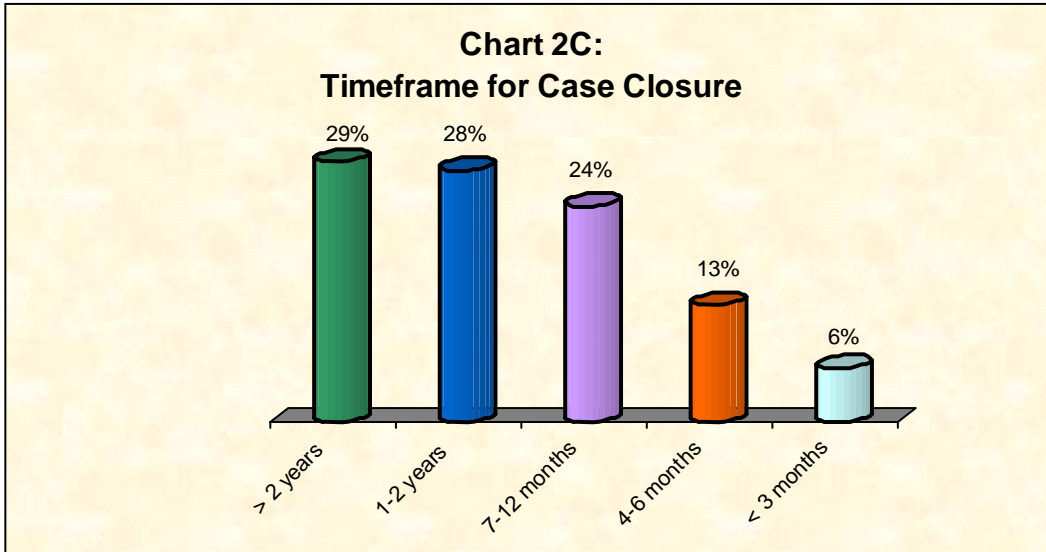
## THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

- ♥ CASA programs in New York State handled 2,003 cases in 2007, serving 3,720 children. 1,403 children were newly assigned to CASA. Of all children, 3,342 (90%) were served by CASA volunteers and 370 (10%) were served by program staff.
- ♥ Boys and girls are equally represented.
- ♥ 31% are under than 5 years old; 29% are 6-11 years old; 31% are 12-18 years old; and 9% were over 18 years old. *(See Chart 2A.)*
- ♥ Of the children served by CASA in 2007, 44% were African American, followed by Caucasian (28%), Hispanic/Latino (20%), Multi-racial (6%), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (1%). The remaining 1% consisted of Native American (15 children), and unspecified ethnic groups (30 children). *(See Chart 2B.)* Of the children newly assigned to CASA, 42% were African American, followed by Caucasian (28%), Hispanic/Latino (22%), and Multi-racial (5%). The remaining 3% consisted Asian/Pacific Islanders (12 children), Native Americans (4 children), and those whose ethnic groups were not specified (35 children). *(See Chart 2C.)*
- ♥ The cases of 1,091 children were closed in 2007. Of these, 6% of their cases were closed within 0-3 months from the time they were assigned to CASA; 13% were closed within 4-6 months; 24% within 7-12 months; and 28% within 1-2 years. The cases of 29% of the children had been open for more than two years after being assigned to CASA. *(See Chart 2D.)*
- ♥ Of the children whose cases were closed, 31% were returned to their families; 13% were adopted; 12% were placed with a guardian; 9% had their cases removed from the docket; 6% had aged out of the system; 1% moved; 1% ran away; 1% of the cases were transferred; and

1 child died. 26% of the cases were listed as closed for reasons not captured by the survey options – institutionalized; stable placement; home study done; order expired; and no further need for CASA. (See Chart 2E.)

♥ The National CASA survey has only recently 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 these questions were newly posed, not all programs have been consistently tracking this data. For the 12 programs that tracked total time in care (and the 15 programs that tracked time in care since assignment of CASA), 31% of the children had spent a total of less than one year in care, (31% of children were in care for less than one year after CASA assignment to case closure). 29% spent a total of one-to-two years in care (39% after assignment). 18% spent a total two-to-three years in care (20% after assignment). 12% spent a total of three-to-four years in care (8% after assignment). 10% of children spent a total of more than four years in care (2% after assignment). Seven programs reported serving a total of 151 children for other than abuse and neglect cases. These involved mediation, supervised visitation, divorce/custody, delinquency, home study, visitation, and placement.

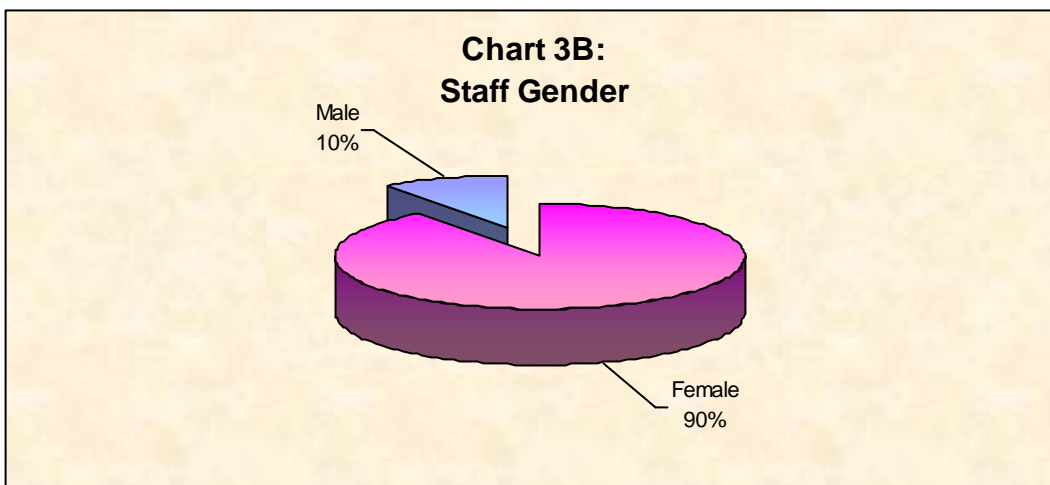
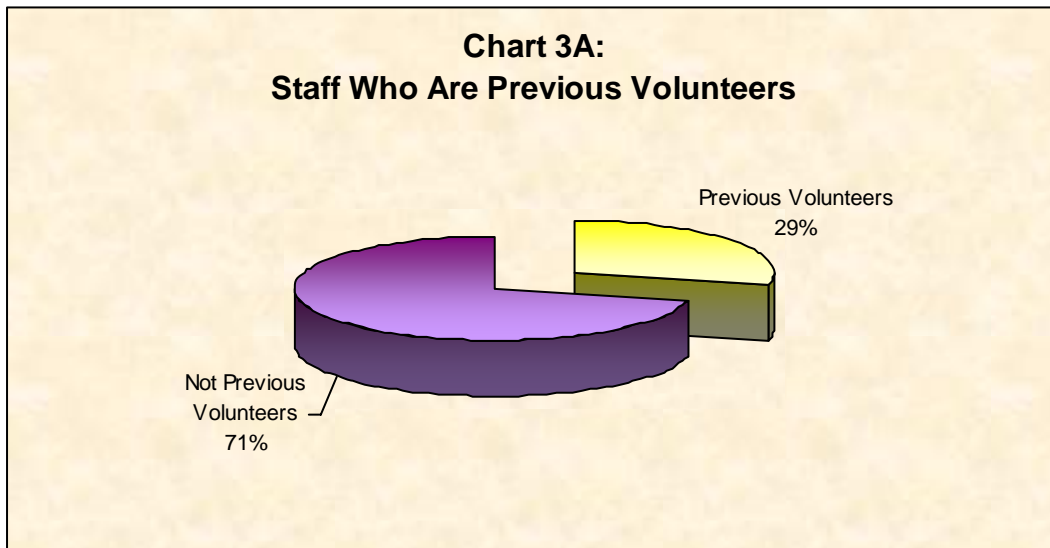


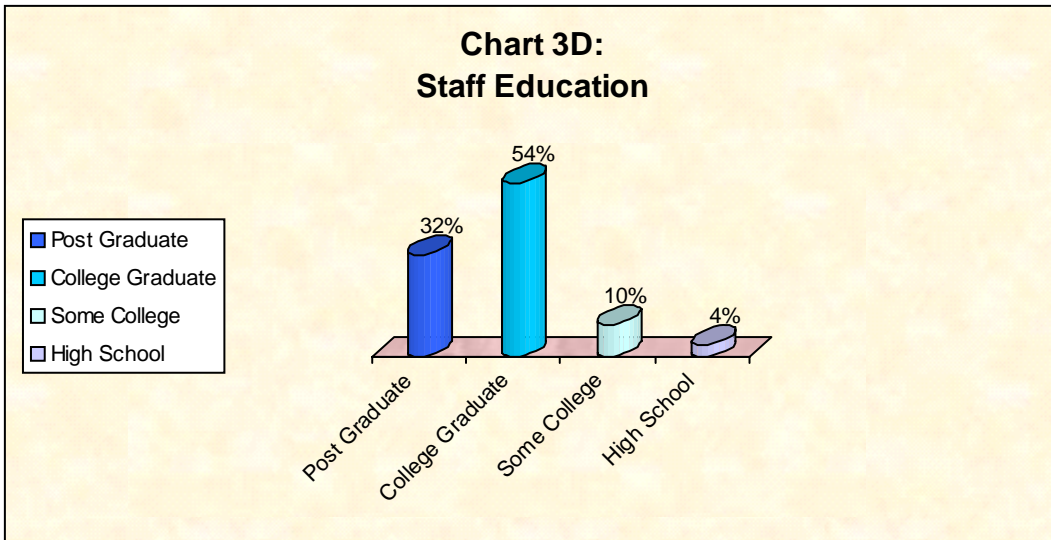
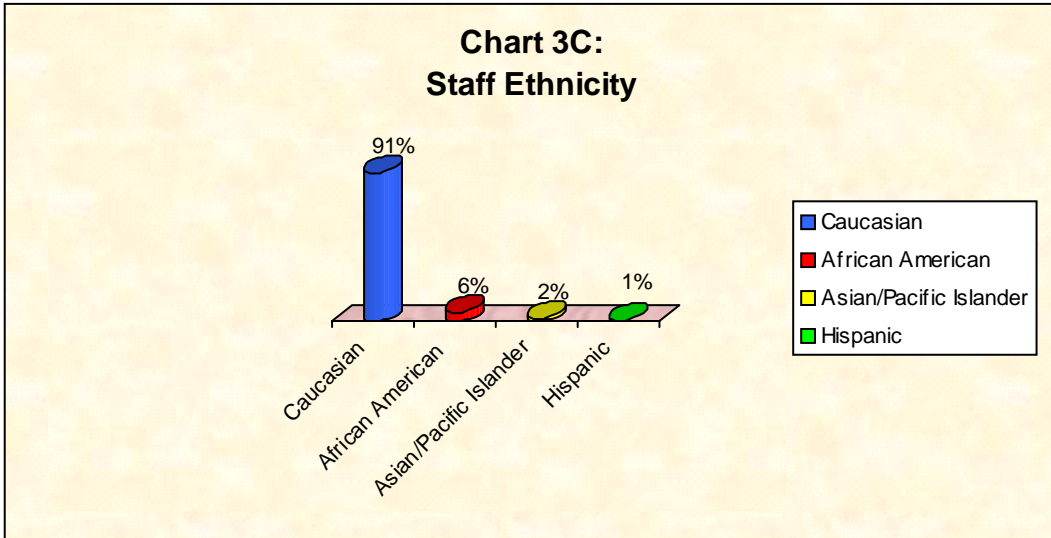


## PROGRAM STAFF

- ♥ In 2007, the 24 CASA programs in New York State employed 40 full time and 46 part time individuals for a total of 60 FTEs. Five programs report adding staff time, three have cut staff hours, and 16 report no change. Of the 86 full- and part-time staff members, nearly one-third have previously served as CASA volunteers. (See Chart 3A.)
- ♥ 90% of staff members are female. (See Chart 3B.)
- ♥ Most staff members are Caucasian (91%), followed by African American (6%), Asian/Pacific Islander (2%), and Hispanic/Latino (1%). (See Chart 3C.)

- ♥ Staff are well educated. 86% are college graduates and more than one-third of those individuals have earned advanced degrees. Another 10% have had at least some college. (See Chart 3D.)
- ♥ Fourteen directors are full time and ten are part time. Among those who are part time, some fill other roles at their umbrella agencies.





## 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 reported revenue for all 24 CASA programs in 2007 was nearly \$3 million, with a mean of just under \$125,000 and median of just over \$70,000.

- ♥ Total budgeted expenses for all programs was reported at approximately \$3.3 million with a mean of approximately \$139,000 and median of nearly \$78,000.
- ♥ Nine programs report more revenue than in the previous year, eleven report less, and three report no change. One program was in its first year of operation.

## **CASA'S COSTS AND SAVINGS\***

- ♥ According to the survey, the median cost per child served was \$861 and the median cost per volunteer was \$2,737.
- ♥ Based on the Independent Sector's 2006 calculation of \$26.16 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 \$2.6 million a year in donated time

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\* 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.