

FY13
Court Appointed Special Advocate
(CASA) Programs Report

Programs Funded: 14
Counties Served: 19

Department of Family Administration
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judiciary

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I. Children Served During the Year: 1529 (+ 13 from FY12)

Children Being Served by a Volunteer Advocate on the last day of the fiscal year: 1073 (-11 from FY12)

A. Children Served Breakdown*

*Information collected for calendar year 2012. 1564 children were served in 2012.

CINAs: 1243 (79.48%)

Post-CINAs*: 321 (20.52%)

(*includes Guardianships & Pending TPR Cases)

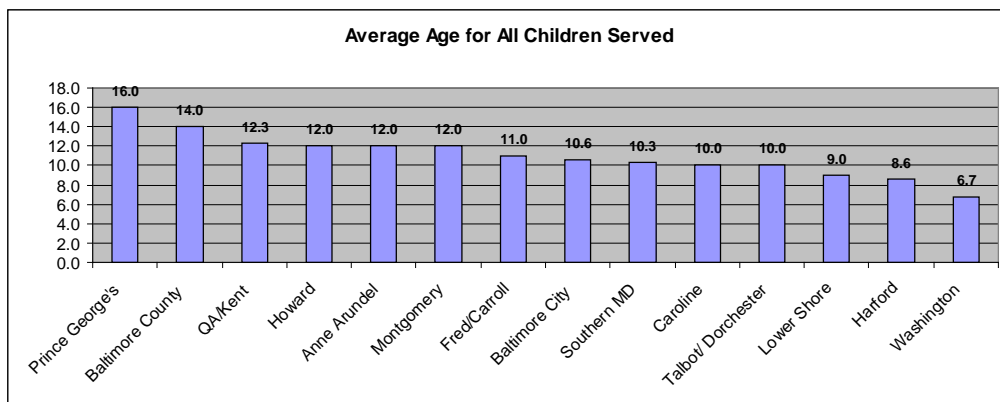
1. Demographics

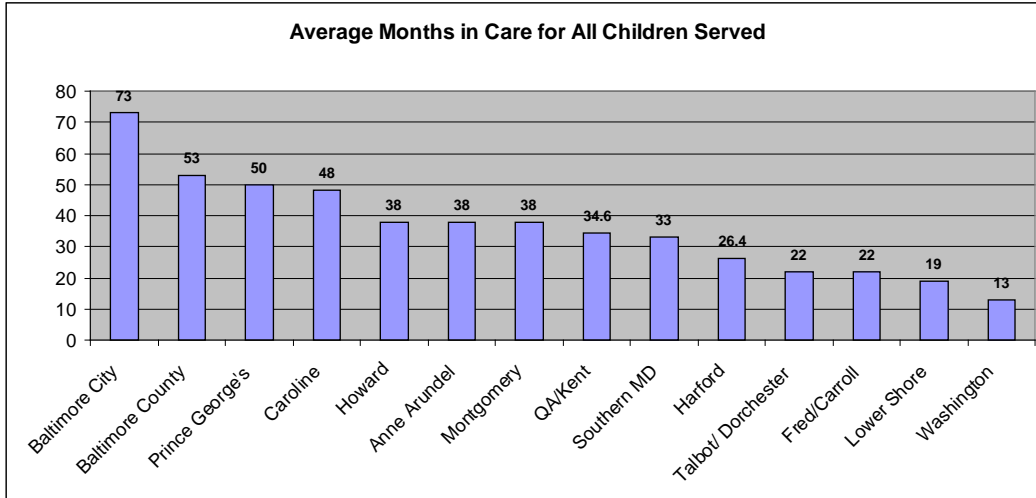
Birth to 5	332	21.45%
6 to 11	360	23.26%
12 to 17	574	37.08%
18+	282	18.22%

Male	744	47.57%
Female	820	52.43%

African American, Black, African	749	47.89%
Asian American	12	.77%
Caucasian	536	34.27%
Latino	94	6.01%
Native American	0	0%
Biracial	168	10.74%
Other	5	0.32%

Average Age	11
Average Months in Care	36.29
Average Months with a CASA Volunteer	27.65





2. Reason for Entering Care

Physical Abuse	171	10.92%
Sexual Abuse	80	5.11%
Mental Injury	3	0.19%
Neglect*	834	53.26%
Extraordinary Needs of Child/Voluntary	62	3.96%
Secondary Victim	38	2.43%
Multiple Allegations	375	23.95%
Other	3	0.19%

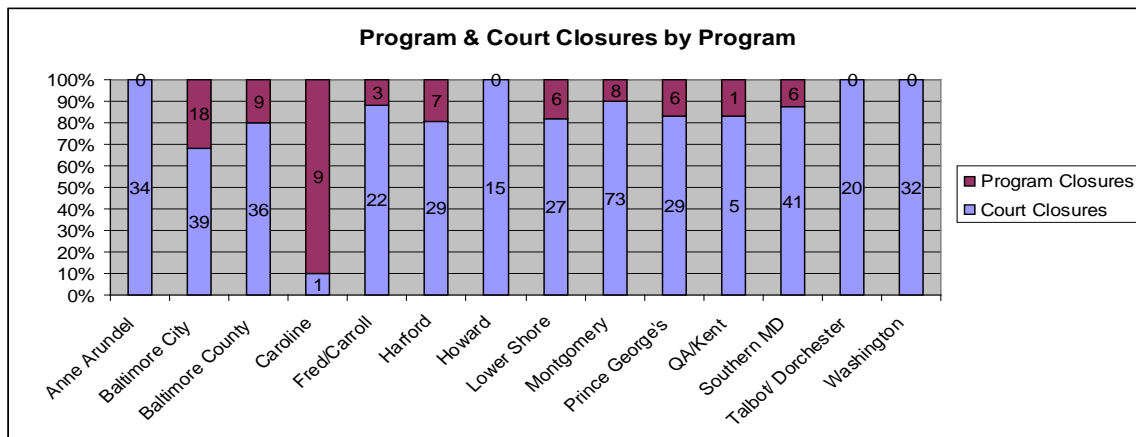
*Neglect includes abandonment, and educational/medical/physical neglect.

B. Case Closures

1. Cases Closed in Court during FY13: 476 (+ 116 over FY12)

73 cases were closed by the programs, but remained open in court

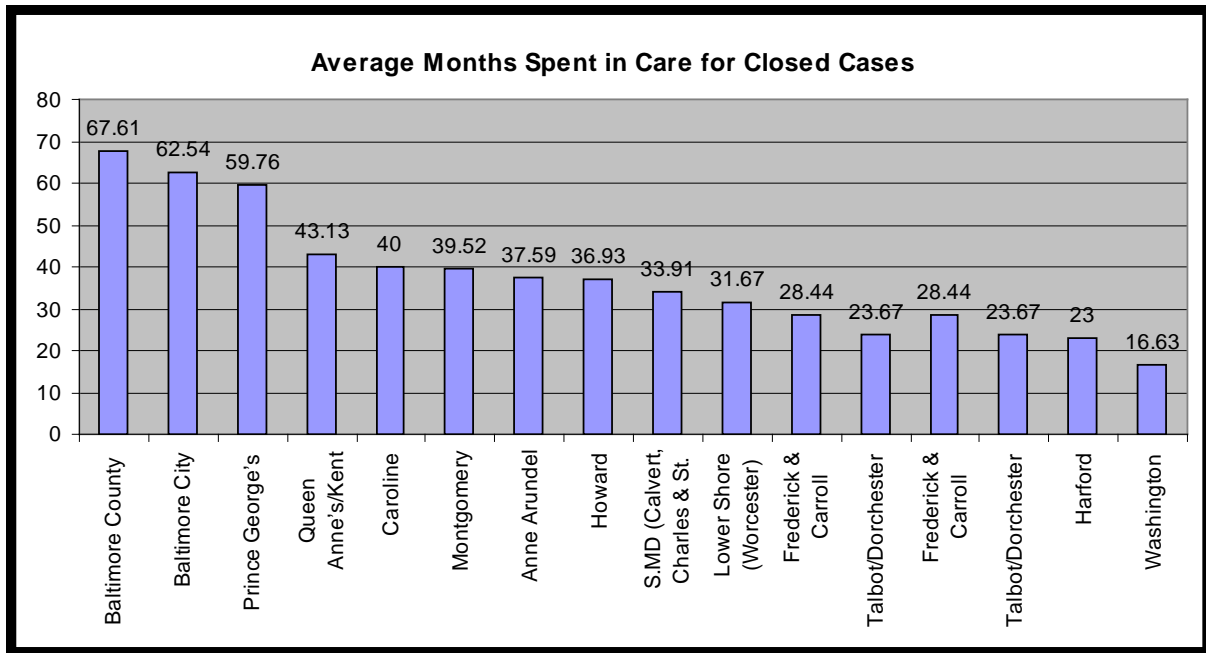
There is a 26.5% increase in closures across the programs. This has been a statewide trend.



2. Average Months Spent in Foster Care: 38.34 (3.2 years)

Breakdown by Program (from most to least time spent in care):

Baltimore County	67.61
Baltimore City	62.54
Prince George's	59.76
Queen Anne's/Kent	43.13
Caroline	40
Montgomery	39.52
Anne Arundel	37.59
Howard	36.93
S.MD (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)	33.91
Lower Shore (Worcester)	31.67
Frederick & Carroll	28.44
Talbot/Dorchester	23.67
Harford	23
Washington	16.63



3. Placement at Closure

94.29% of children were in a permanent placement at closure

Those placements include:

- 46.32%* Returned to Biological Parents/Guardians
- 18.16% Placed with Non-Relative (For Adoption)
- 13.68% Placed with Relative (Not for Adoption)

- 13.16% Child Living Independently (No DSS involvement)
- 5.00% Placed with Relative (For Adoption)
- 3.68% Other (*Placed w/ relative for guardianship; Placed with non-relative for guardianship; etc.*)

**A nearly 10% increase from FY12*

Of the 23 Non-Permanent closures, 11 children were either living independently in an unstable placement or on runaway.

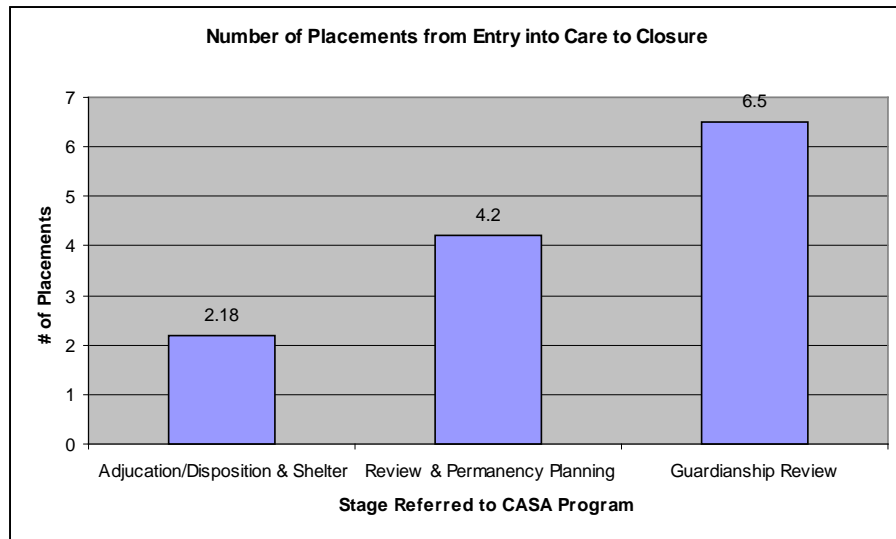
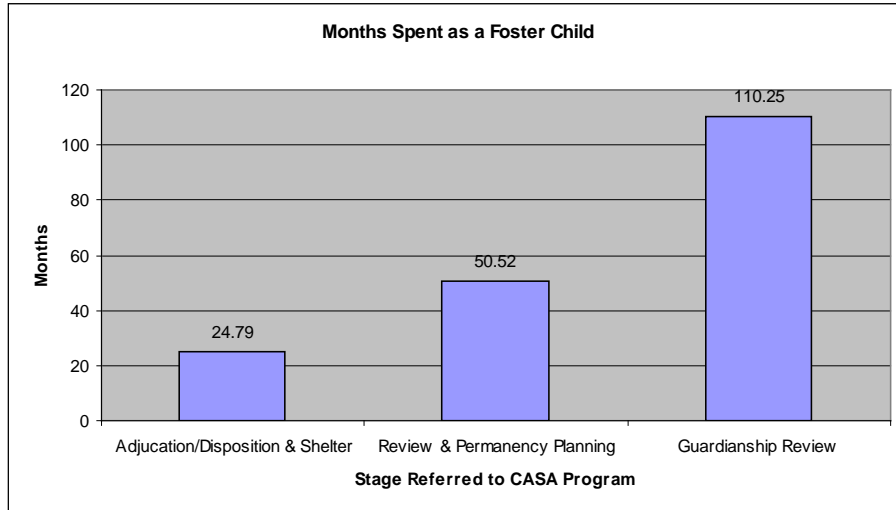
C. Impact of the Stage of CASA Appointment on Outcomes

1. FY13 New Cases Referred to CASA

- 43.4% Referred Pre-Review Stage
 - 56.6% Referred During Review* or Permanency Planning
- *Includes Guardianship Review*

2. FY13 Closed Cases Served by CASA

When case was referred to the program:	Months Spent as a Foster Child	Months Assigned to a CASA Volunteer	# of Placements	Placement at Closure		
				Permanent	Non-Permanent	Totals*
Shelter Care 6.94%	26.61	24.46	2.36	28	0	28
				100%	0%	
Adjudication &/or Disposition 38.79%	24.44	21.07	2.15	142	5	147
				96.6%	2.72%	
Combined Adjudication /Disposition & Shelter 43.4%	24.79	21.61	2.18	170	5	175
				96.08%	3.92%	
Review 53.1%	50.52	26.77	4.20	195	18	213
				89.06%	10.94%	
Guardianship Review .99%	110.25	31.50	6.50	4	0	4
				100%		



3. Conclusions

a.) Children who are assigned to CASA before their case reaches the review stage (generally within 6 months of entering care) spend an average of **25.73 months less in care** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA review. **This is 2.14 years.**

b.) Children who are assigned to CASA before their case reaches the review stage (generally within 6 months of entering care) have **fewer placements** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA or Guardianship review. (4.2 vs. 2.18)

II. Volunteers

A. Recruitment

1. Volunteer Inquiries Received: 2,132 (-444 from FY12)

(This is a 17% decrease.)

Top Sources of volunteer referrals:

Internet (Program’s Website, VolunteerMatch, etc.): 26.1%

National CASA Association: 18.3%

Free Print Media: 14.6%

Word of Mouth: 10%

Maryland CASA Association: 8.8%

Volunteer Fairs, Exhibit Tables at Conferences, etc.: 8.2%

2. Volunteer Applications Received: 757 (-38 from FY12)

(This is only a 4.7% decrease – despite a 17% decrease in inquiries.)

35.5% of total volunteer inquiries resulted in an application being submitted

3. Prospective Volunteers Interviewed: 594 (-111 from FY12)

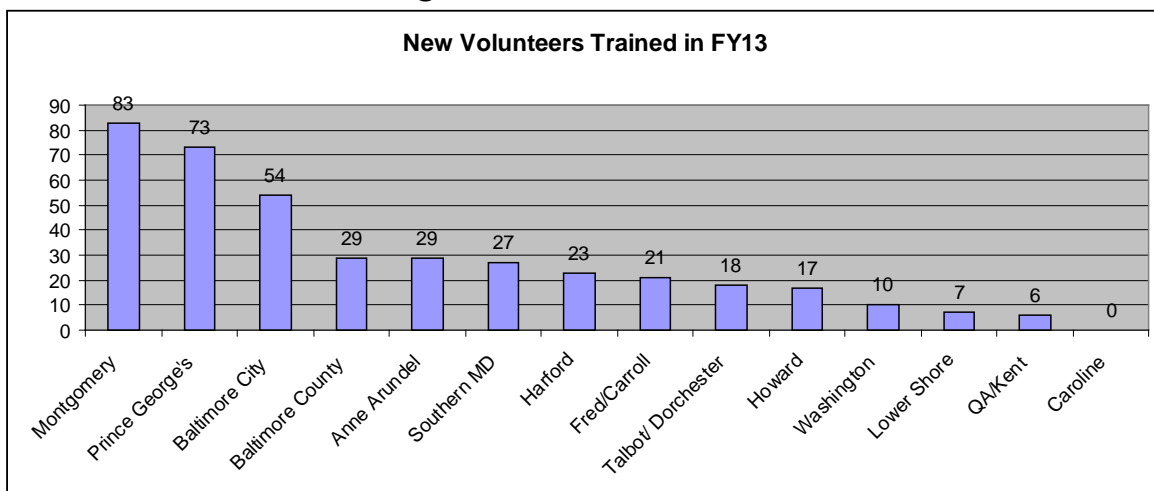
(This is a 15.7% decrease.)

48.2% of total volunteer inquiries resulted in an interview

78.5% of total volunteer applications resulted in an interview

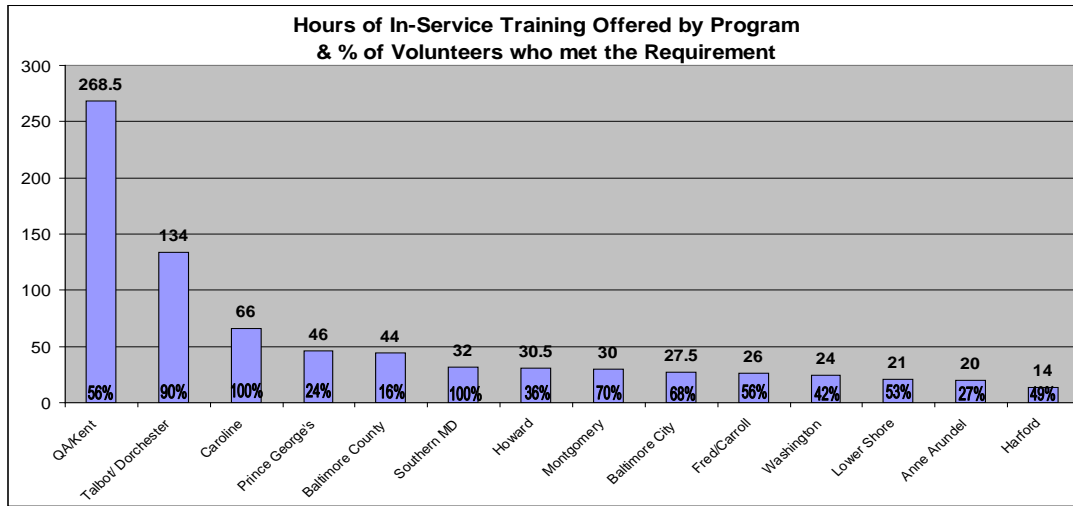
B. Training

1. Pre-Service Training: 397 new volunteers were trained



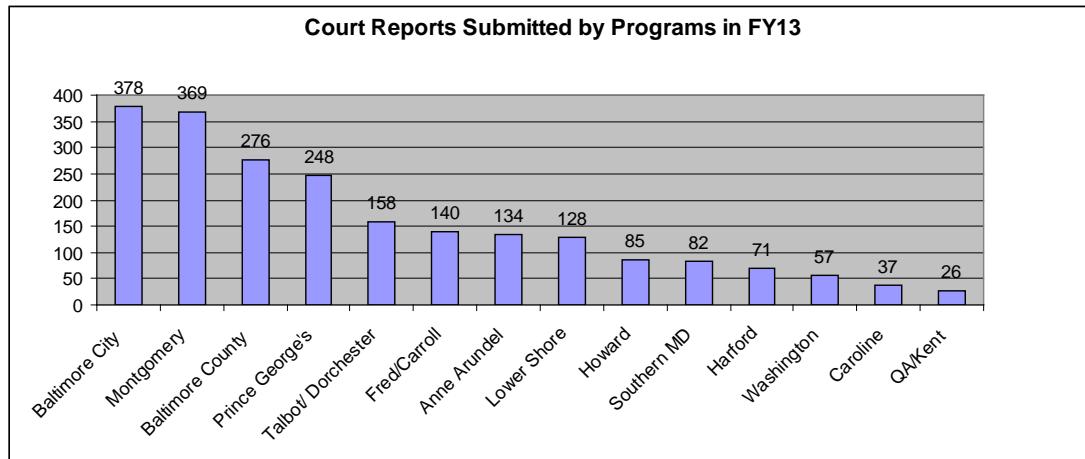
2. In-Service Training: 783.5 hours of training were offered
172.75 hours of that training (22%) were trainings to increase the cultural competence of volunteers.

3. Volunteers who met 12 hour annual in-service requirement in calendar year 2012: 53.69%*

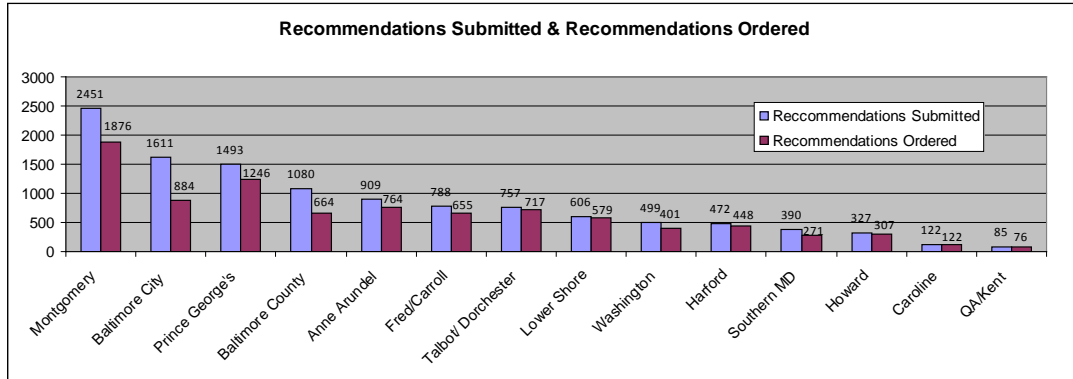


C. Advocacy

1. Court Report Submitted & Accepted by the Court: 2189



2. CASA Recommendations Ordered by the Court: 77.8% (9010 of 11,590)

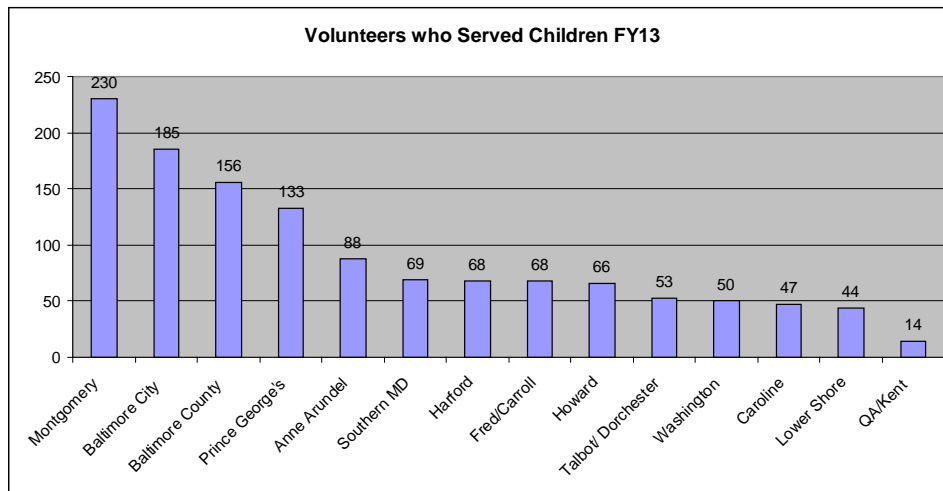


3. Volunteer Attendance at Court: 79.6%* of CASA volunteers attended hearing for which they prepared a report

**This number is often impacted by continuances; a volunteer may appear for the hearing, but be unavailable to attend on the rescheduled date.*

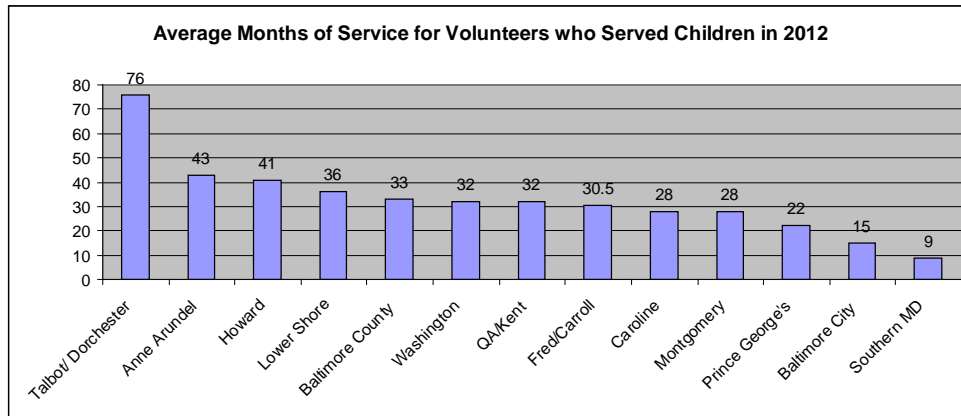
D. Service

1. Volunteers Serving Children: 1271 (-11 from FY12)



2. Volunteers Serving Children on the Last Day of FY13: 987

3. Average Length of Service: 32* months (for calendar 2012)



*Harford County did not report this data.

4. Average Volunteer to Child Ratio: 1:1.1

*National CASA Best Practices encourages a 1:1 ratio and prohibits a volunteer from serving more than two children without written justification.

E. Demographics*

*Information collected for calendar year 2012

Race/Ethnicity		
a) Black/African/African American	358	27.58%
b) Asian American	85	6.55%
c) Caucasian	594	45.76%
d) Latino	222	17.10%
e) Native American	5	.39%
f) Bi-racial	21	1.62%
g) Other:	13	1.00%
Gender		
a) Male	175	13.41%
b) Female	1130	86.59%
Age		
a) 21-29	146	11.19%
b) 30-39	210	16.09%
c) 40-49	258	19.77%
d) 50-59	324	24.83%
e) 60 + above	367	28.12%
Education		
a) High School	116	8.89%
b) Some College	203	15.56%
c) College	490	37.55%
d) Post-Grad	467	35.79%
Employment Status		

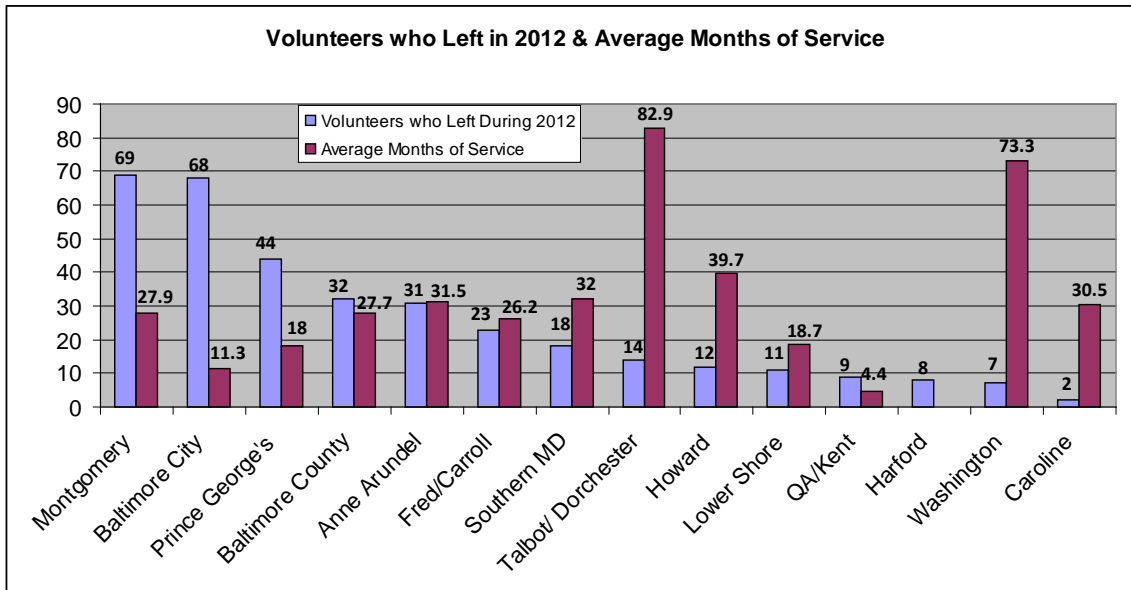
a) Full-time	517	39.89%
b) Part-time	211	16.28%
c) Retired	257	19.83%
d) Unemployed	222	17.13%
e) Other (includes stay-at-home parents)	89	6.87%
Student Status		
a) Full-time	20	3.05%
b) Part-time	46	7.02%
c) Not a Student	589	90%

F. Retention/Attrition

1. Volunteers who Left their Program in Calendar 2012: 348

2. Average Months of Service*: 20.56

**Volunteers are required to commit to one year of service.*



3. Reasons for Leaving:

Time Commitment	88	25.36%
Lost interest or pursuing other volunteer work	59	17%
Moved from area	37	10.66%
Employment Situation	35	10.09%
Family Needs	34	9.80%
Involuntary	32	9.22%
Health Needs	30	8.65%
Frustration with the System	14	4.03%
Burnout/Stress	4	1.15%

III. Programs

A. Funding & Performance Breakdown

	Children Served during FY13	% of Total Children Served	Active Volunteers during FY13	% of Total Volunteers
Montgomery	257	16.81%	230	18.10%
Baltimore City	222	14.52%	185	14.56%
Baltimore County	178	11.64%	156	12.27%
Prince George's	127	8.31%	133	10.46%
Frederick/ Carroll	90	5.89%	68	5.35%
Southern Maryland	107	7.00%	69	5.43%
Howard County	70	4.58%	66	5.19%
Anne Arundel	145	9.48%	88	6.92%
Talbot/ Dorchester	67	4.38%	53	4.17%
Lower Shore	66	4.32%	44	3.46%
Harford	85	5.56%	68	5.35%
Washington	66	4.32%	50	3.93%
Queen Anne's/ Kent	15	0.98%	14	1.10%
Caroline	34	2.22%	47	3.70%
	1529		1271	

B. Statewide Snapshot

1. Funding – Calendar 2012**

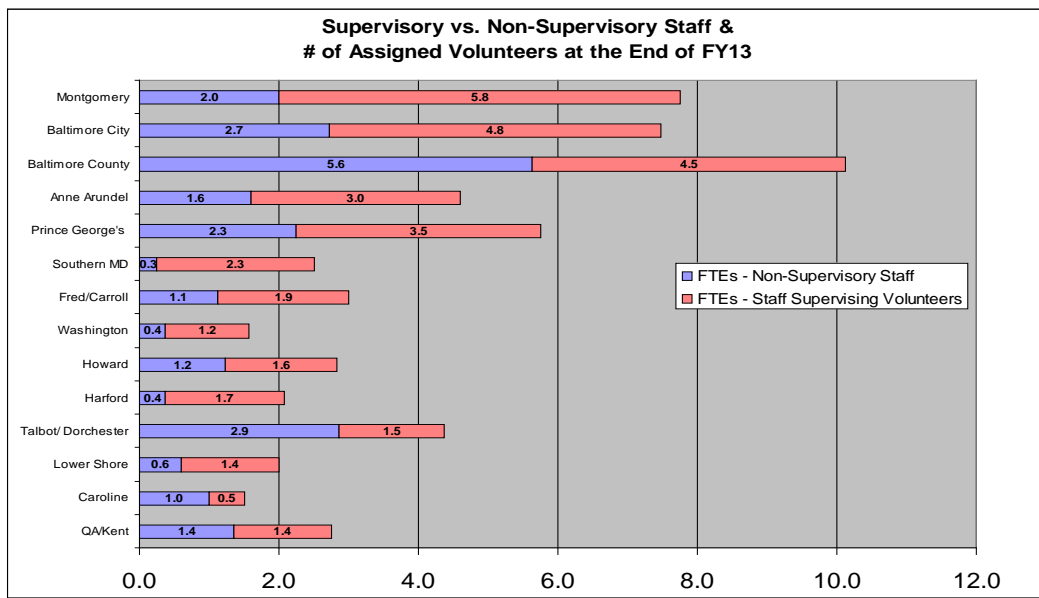
- a.) Program Funding from Public Sources: **55.44%**
69.11% AOC-DFA CASA Grants
14.69% GOCCP (Victims of Crime Assistance Act)
14.17% County/City
2.03% Other
- b.) Program Funding from Private Sources: **44.56%**
34.96% Foundations/Grants
27.41% Special Events
9.81% Individual Contributions
7.11% United Way/CFC/MD Charity Campaign, etc.

7.09% Corporate Contributions
 4.42% National CASA
 9.27% Other (2.14% Groups & Organizations, 1.15% Product Sales, etc. & 5.98% "Other")

2. Staffing

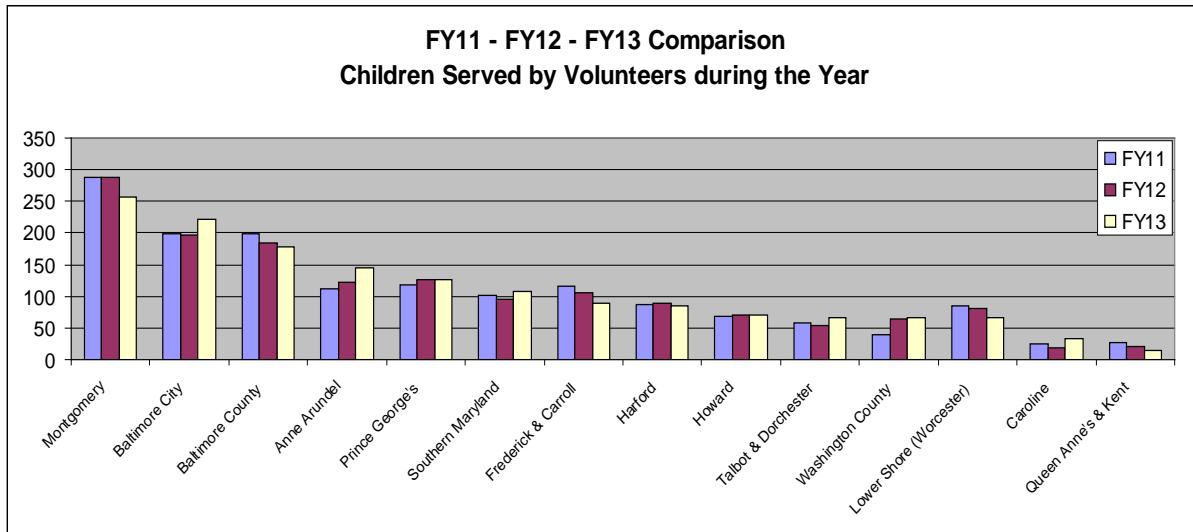
a.) Total Positions: 70
 Full Time: 32 Part Time: 38

b.) Total Positions Supervising Volunteers: 45
 Full Time: 21.5 Part Time: 23.5

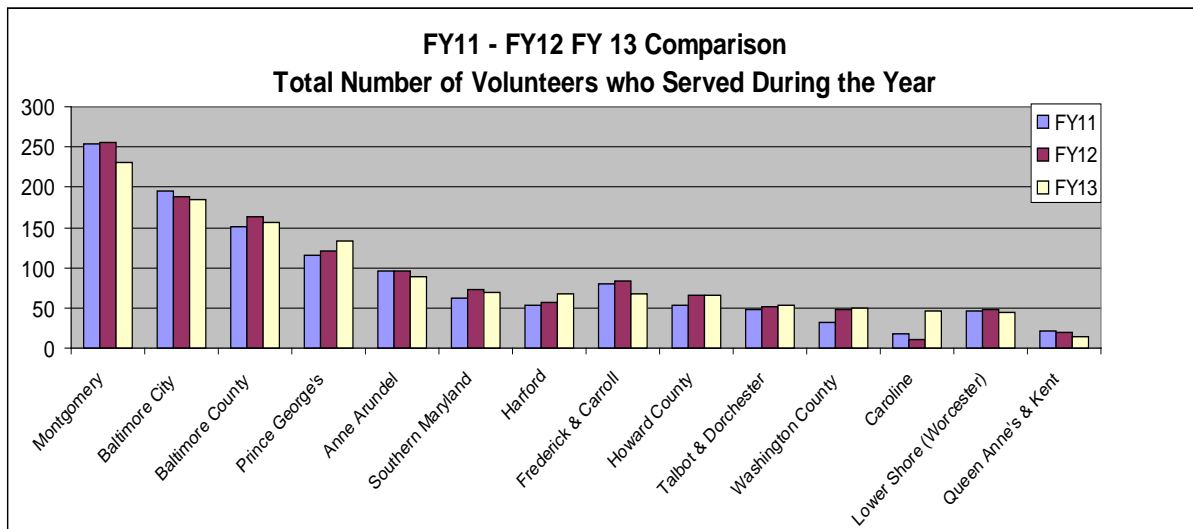


*Ordered by Number of Volunteers on the last day of FY13 (from most to least).

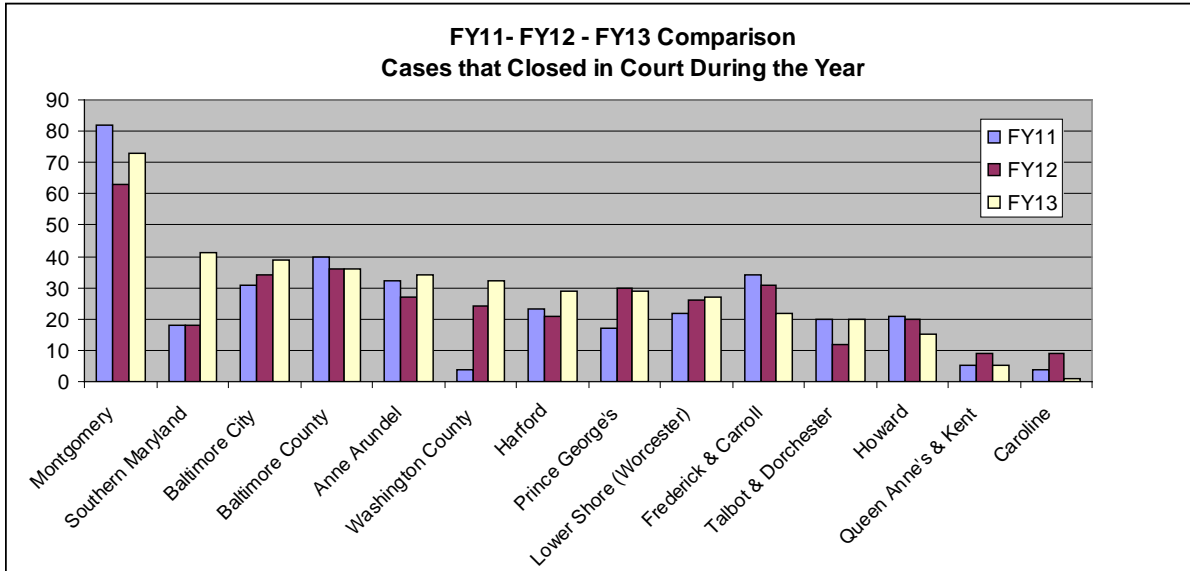
IV. Data Comparisons: FY11 – FY12 – FY13



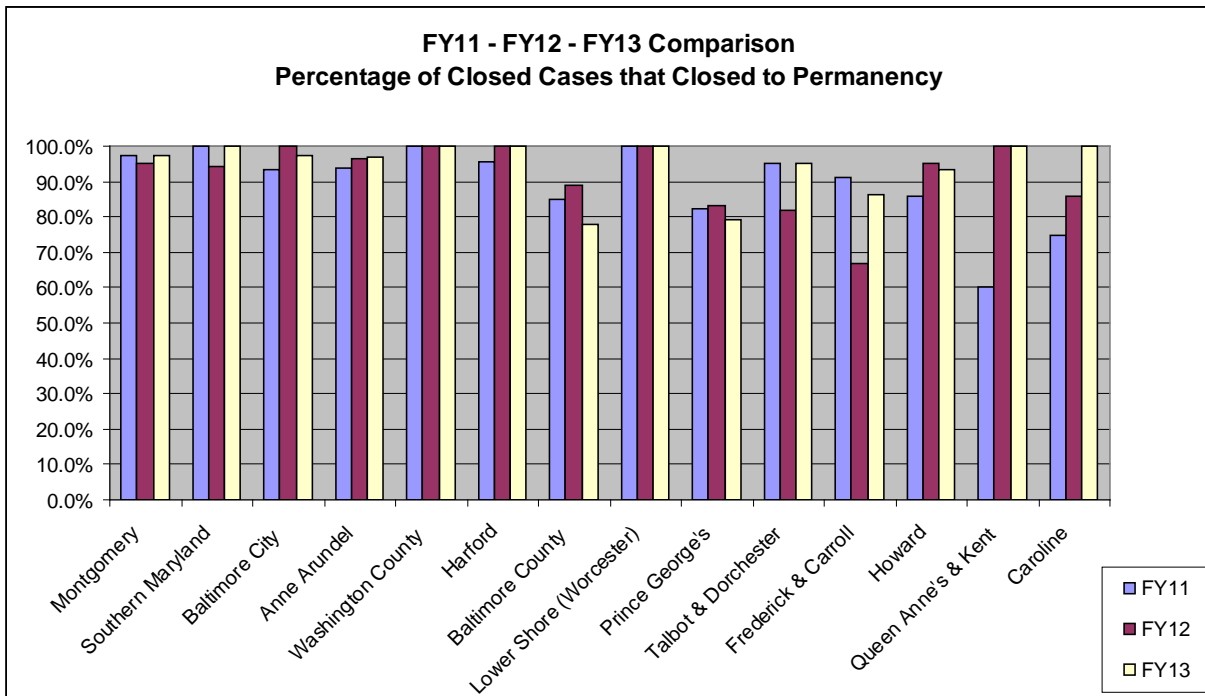
Ordered from most to least in FY13. Overall, there was no real statewide increase in the number of children served from FY11 to FY13; the number only increased by .33% (5 children). While most of the large jurisdictions increased or stayed flat, several of the smaller jurisdictions (primarily eastern shore) decreased somewhat significantly (between 33% & 45%) from FY11 to FY13. This decrease was a direct result of fewer children coming into care in those jurisdictions.



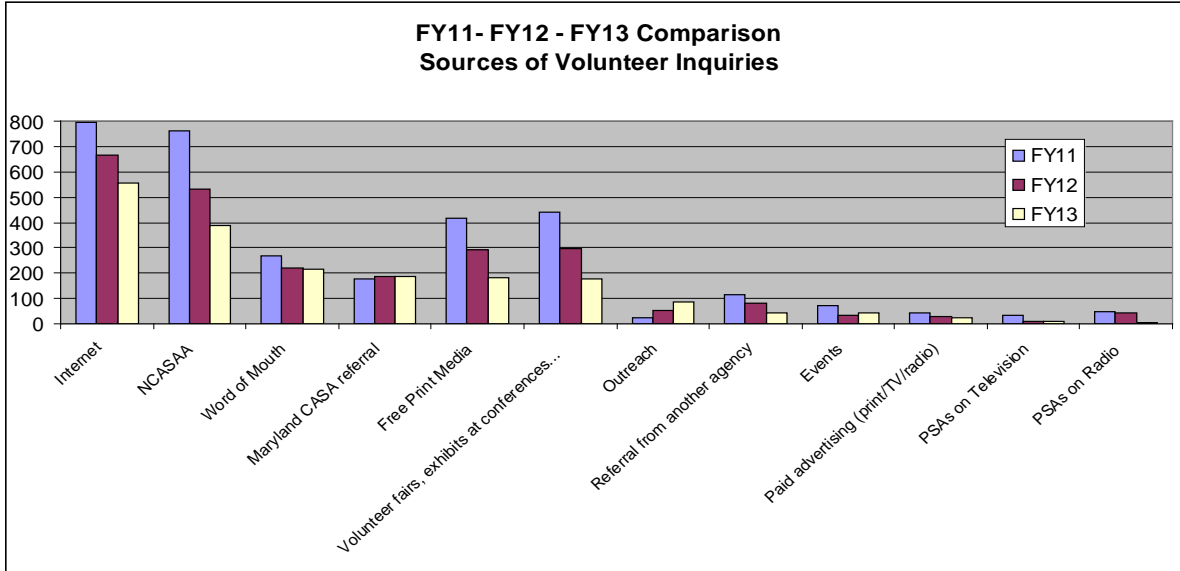
Ordered from most to least in FY13. Despite an overall increase on volunteers of 3.76% from FY11 – FY13, that increase can be attributed primarily to the growth of CASA of Prince George's, Inc., CASA of Harford and CASA of Talbot who added service to Dorchester County during this time period. (*The increase in CASA of Caroline is suspect and data reporting has been erratic.)



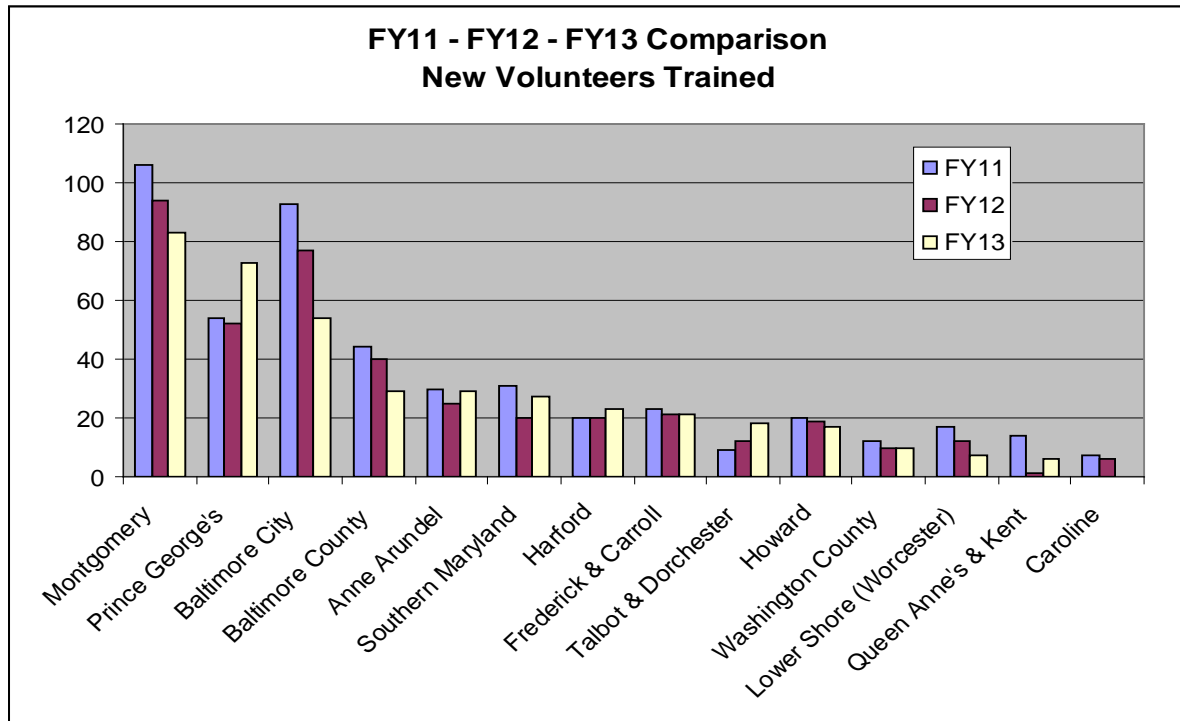
Ordered from most to least in FY13.



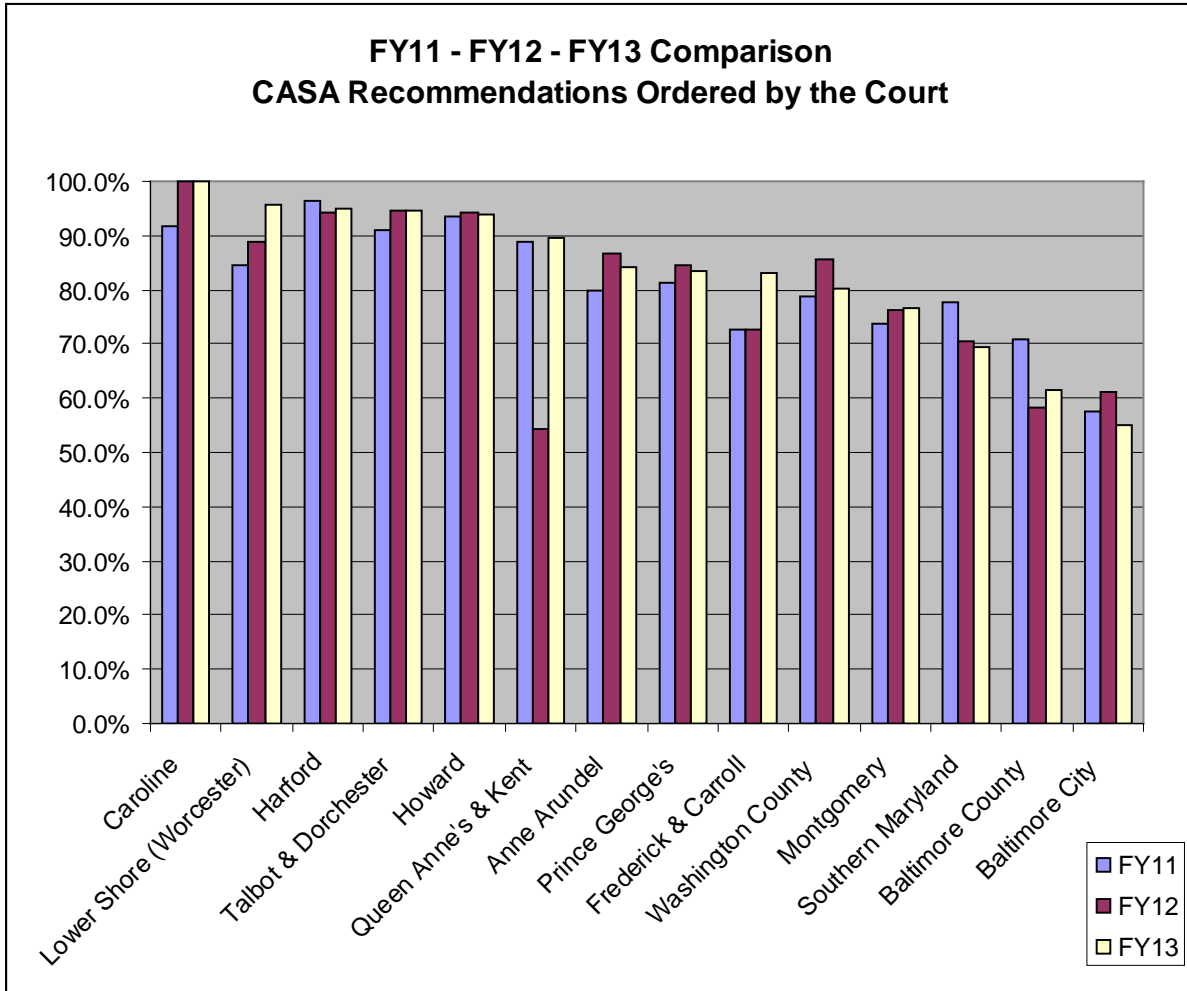
Ordered from most to least in FY13. There has been a 16.21% increase in the number of cases that closed to permanency since FY11. Statewide, the number of cases closing to permanency has increased from 72.5% to 79.8%.



Volunteer inquiries have decreased dramatically since FY11. From 3,195 in FY11 to 1,919 in FY13. This decrease has been coupled with a decrease in applications received and interviews conducted. However, the number of volunteers who have served children has remained stable. The prevalence of information on the web may be resulting in more volunteers finding the information they need without contacting the program directly. The percentage of applications compared with inquiries has risen by 6% - meaning more inquiries are resulting in applications.



The number of volunteers trained in FY13 represents a 17.3% decrease from the number trained in FY11. Only Prince George's, Harford, and Talbot/Dorchester increased the number of volunteers trained.



8 programs have seen an increase in recommendations ordered from FY12 to FY13.
 Programs that did not see an increase, stayed within 2 percentage points of their prior level.