

FY14  
Court Appointed Special Advocate  
(CASA) Programs Report

Programs Funded: 15  
Counties Served: 20

Department of Family Administration  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judiciary

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## I. Children Served During the Year (FY14):

1617 (+ 88 from FY13)

Children Being Served by a Volunteer Advocate on the last day of the fiscal year: 1084 (+ 11 from FY13)

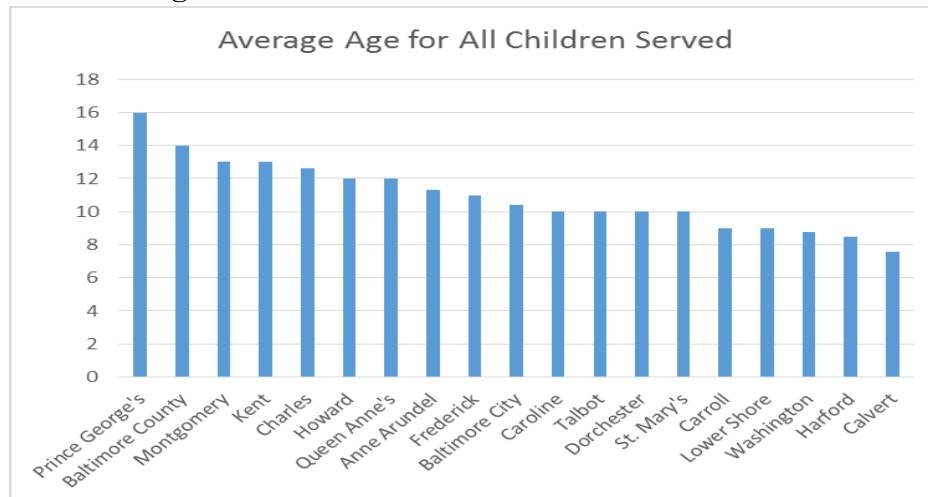
### A. Children Served Breakdown\*

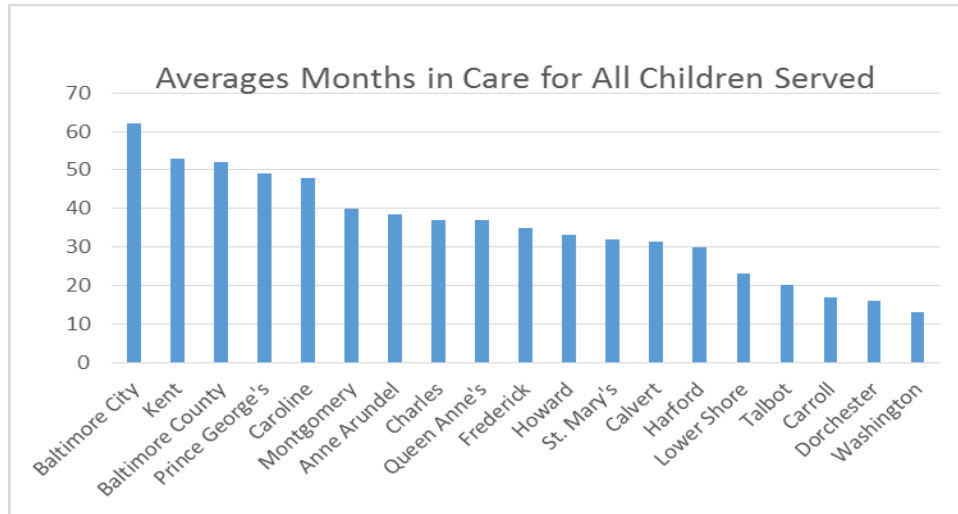
*\*Demographic information collected for calendar year 2013.*

#### 1. Demographics

Birth to 5	325	21.75%
6 to 11	344	23.03%
12 to 17	512	34.27%
18+	313	20.95%
Male	732	48.22%
Female	786	51.78%
African American, Black, African	715	41.76%
Asian American	14	.82%
Caucasian	525	30.67%
Latino	91	5.32%
Native American	8	0.47%
Biracial	130	7.59%
Other	35	2.04%

Average Age	11
Average Months in Care	35.1
Average Months with a CASA Volunteer	25.27





## 2. Reason for Entering Care

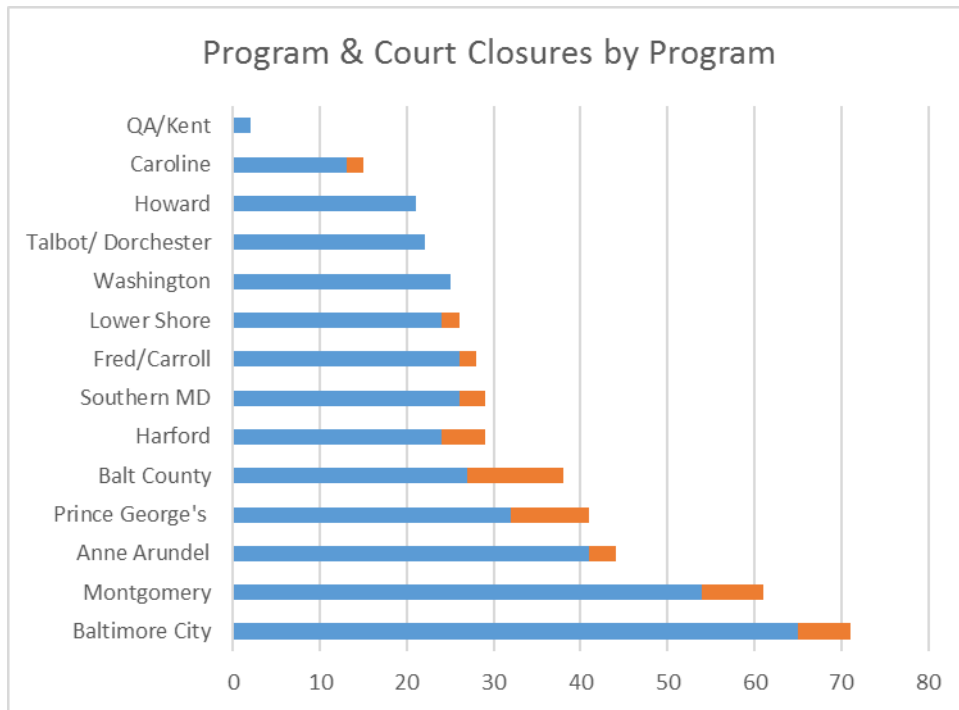
<i>Physical Abuse</i>	210	13.41%
<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	100	6.39%
<i>Mental Injury</i>	55	3.51%
<i>Neglect*</i>	782	49.94%
<i>Extraordinary Needs of Child/Voluntary</i>	46	2.94%
<i>Secondary Victim</i>	30	1.92%
<i>Multiple Allegations</i>	316	20.18%
<i>Other</i>	27	1.72%

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

## B. Case Closures

### 1. Cases Closed in Court during FY14: 402 (-74 from FY13)

*\*Although this seems like a steep drop, FY13 saw a steep and rise in closed cases (up 112 over FY12). Many attribute this to the push to move children out of care.*

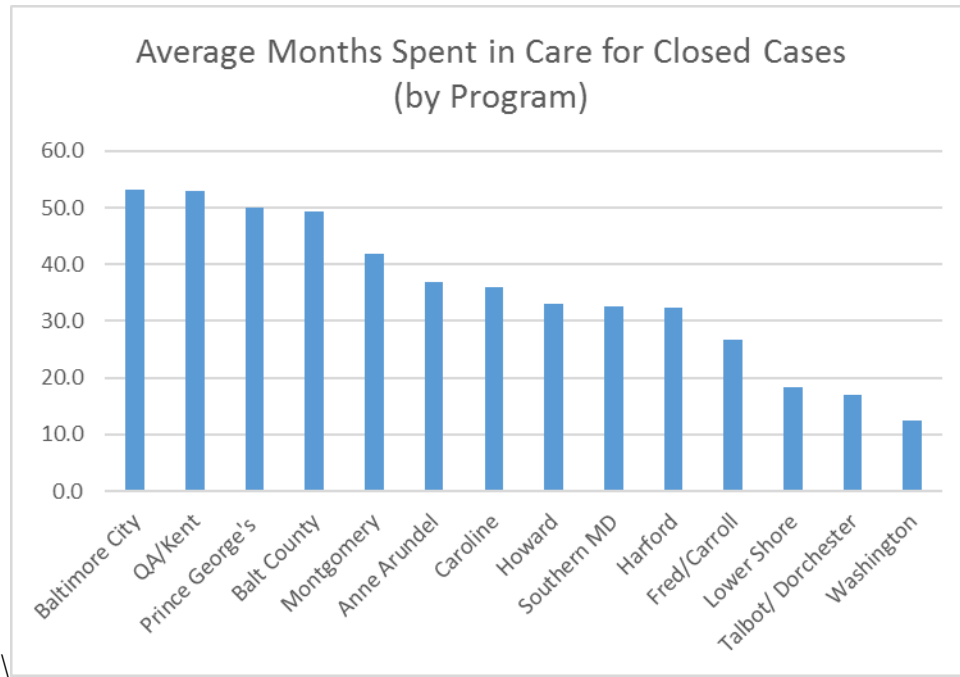


*402 Cases were closed by the Court;  
50 Cases were closed by the programs but remained open in court.*

**2. Average Months Spent in Foster Care: 32.83 (2.73 years)**

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

Baltimore City	53.3
Queen Anne's/Kent	53
Prince George's	50
Baltimore County	49.3
Montgomery	41
Anne Arundel	36.9
Caroline	36
Howard	33
S.MD (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)	32.6
Harford	32.3
Frederick & Carroll	26.8
Lower Shore (Worcester)	18.3
Talbot/Dorchester	16.9
Washington	12.5



### 3. Placement at Closure

93% of children were in a permanent placement at closure

Those placements include:

- 42.74% Returned to Biological Parents/Guardians
- 18.01% Placed with Non-Relative (For Adoption)
- 16.67% Child Living Independently (No DSS involvement)
- 16.13% Placed with Relative (Not for Adoption)
- 2.42% Placed with Relative (For Adoption)
- 4.03% Other (*Placed w/ relative for guardianship; Placed with non-relative for guardianship; etc.*)

Of the 24 Non-Permanent closures, 15 children were either living independently in an unstable placement or on runaway.

## C. Impact of the Stage of CASA Appointment on Outcomes

### 1. CY13 New Cases Referred to CASA

54.3% Referred Pre-Review Stage

20.3% Referred During Review\* or Permanency Planning

*\*Includes Guardianship Review*

## 2. FY14 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*
<i>Shelter Care 9.72%</i>	33.13	30.66	4.8	36	2	38
				95%	5%	
<i>Adjudication &amp;/or Disposition 47.06%</i>	31.66	25.14	2.56	177	9	186
				95%	5%	
<b>Combined Adjudication /Disposition &amp; Shelter 57.6%</b>	<b>31.98</b>	<b>26.06</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>224</b>
				<b>95.09%</b>	<b>4.91%</b>	
<b>Review 41.6%</b>	<b>48.87</b>	<b>29.33</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>171</b>
				<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>	
<b>Guardianship Review .77%</b>	<b>94.33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
				<b>66.67%</b>	<b>33.33%</b>	

### 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 **16.89 months less in care** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA review. **This is 1.41 years.** The courts have recognized the benefits of earlier assignment and increasing number of cases are assigned to CASA earlier in the court process.

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. (2.93 vs. 4.12)

## II. Volunteers

### A. Recruitment

**1. Volunteer Inquiries Received: 2,274\* (+ 142 from FY13)**

*\*Because many programs have informative websites, there has been a consistent decrease in the number of trackable volunteer inquiries. Most interested people, visit the program's website first.*

*Top Sources of volunteer referrals:*

- Internet (Program’s Website, VolunteerMatch, etc.): 19.39%
- National CASA Association: 19%
- Volunteer Fairs, Exhibit Tables at Conferences, etc.: 14.29%
- Maryland CASA Association: 11.3%
- Word of Mouth: 10.5%
- Free Print Media: 5.45%

**2. Volunteer Applications Received: 740** (-17 from FY13)

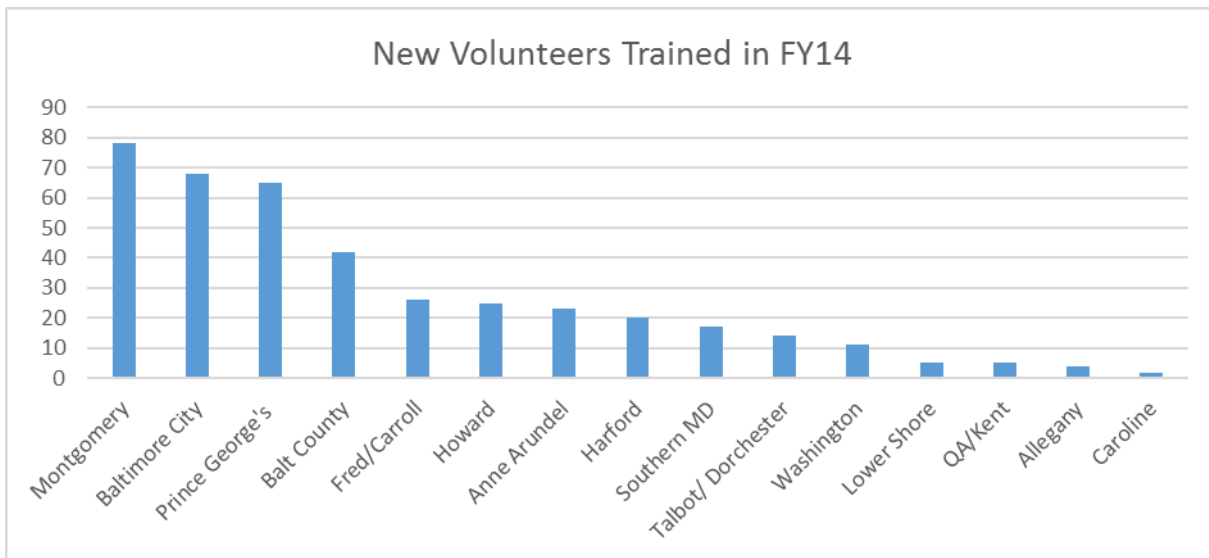
32.5% of total volunteer inquiries resulted in an application being submitted

**3. Prospective Volunteers Interviewed: 550** (44 from FY13)

74.3% of total volunteer applications resulted in an interview

**B. Training**

**1. Pre-Service Training:** 405 new volunteers were trained (8 over FY13)

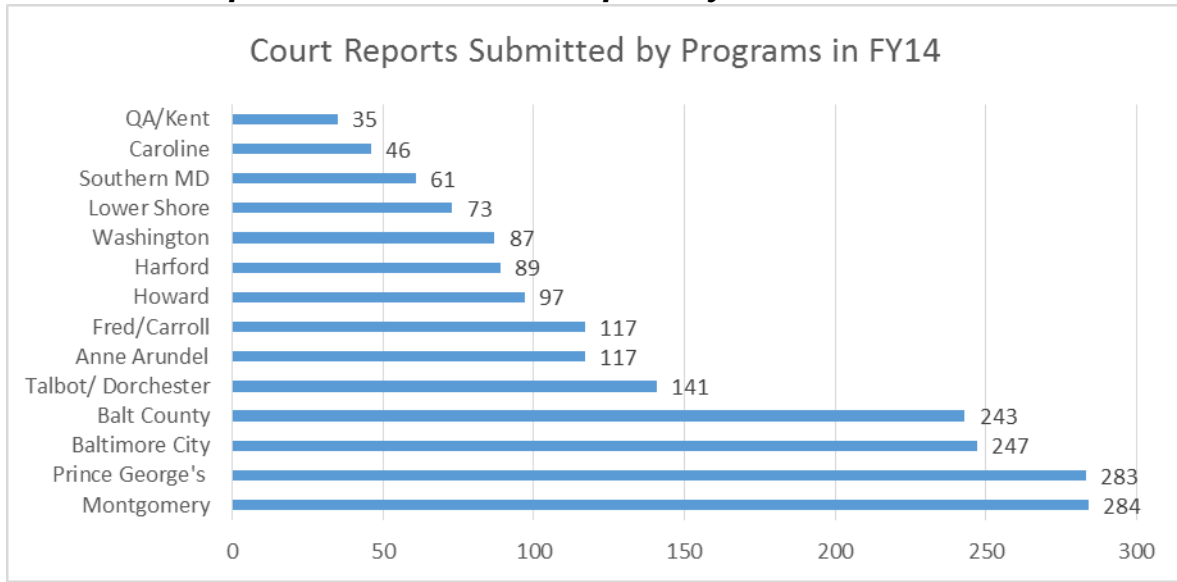


**2. In-Service Training:** 814 hours of training were offered  
248 hours of that training (22%) were trainings to increase the cultural competence of volunteers.

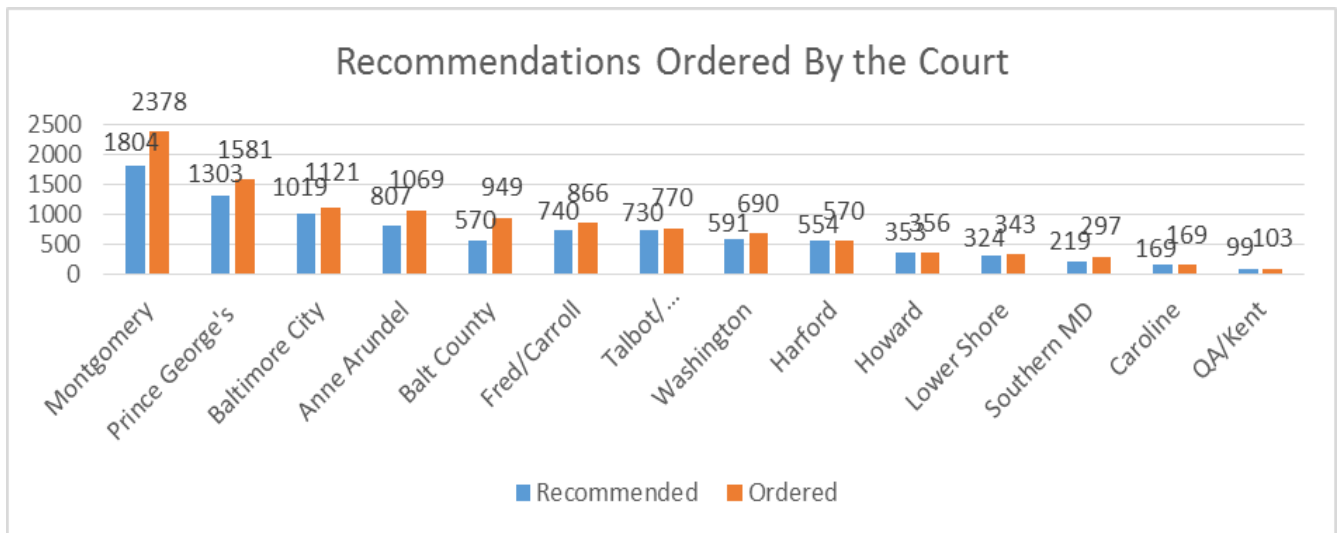
**3. Volunteers who met 12 hour annual in-service requirement in calendar year 2012:** 49.6%

**C. Advocacy**

**1. Court Report Submitted & Accepted by the Court: 1920**



**2. CASA Recommendations Ordered by the Court: 84.2% (7,478 of 8,884)**

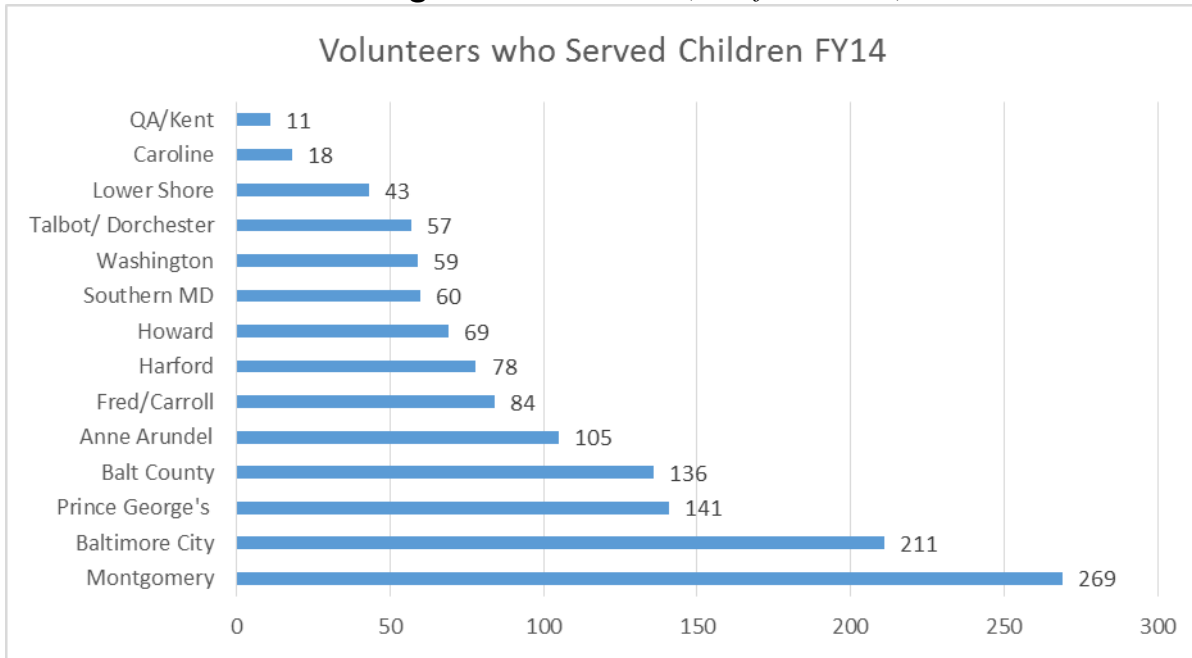


**3. Volunteer Attendance at Court: 81% of CASA volunteers attended hearing for which they prepared a report**

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

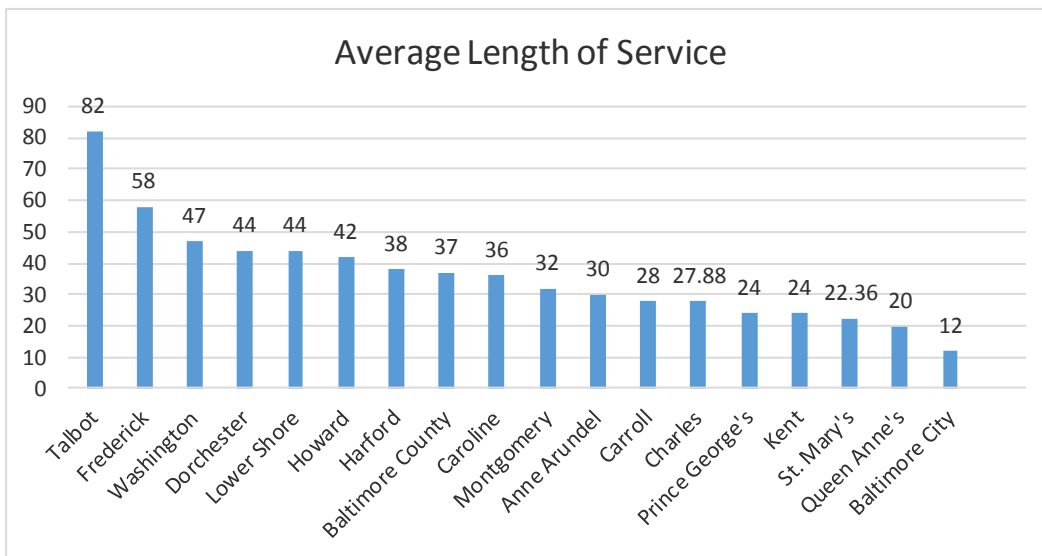
**D. Service**

**1. Volunteers Serving Children: 1341 (+70 from FY13)**



**2. Volunteers Serving Children on the Last Day of FY13: 1007**

**3. Average Length of Service: 36\* months (for calendar 2013)**



*\*Calvert County did not report this data.*

## E. Volunteer Demographics\*

\*Information collected for calendar year 2013

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
a) Black/African/African American	355	28.45%
b) Asian American	23	1.84%
c) Caucasian	789	63.22%
d) Latino	36	2.88%
e) Native American	2	0.16%
f) Bi-racial	17	1.36%
g) Other:	26	2.08%
<b>Gender</b>		
a) Male	180	14%
b) Female	1079	86%
<b>Age</b>		
a) 21-29	141	11.24%
b) 30-39	200	15.94%
c) 40-49	270	21.51%
d) 50-59	304	24.22%
e) 60 + above	340	27.09%
<b>Education</b>		
a) High School	94	7.47%
b) Some College	187	14.85%
c) College	480	38.13%
d) Post-Grad	440	34.95%
e) Not tracked	55	4.37%
<b>Employment Status</b>		
a) Full-time	548	43.84%
b) Part-time	217	17.36%
c) Retired	258	20.64%
d) Unemployed	163	13.04%
e) Other ( <i>includes stay-at-home parents</i> )	64	5.1%
<b>Student Status</b>		
a) Full-time	42	9.07%
b) Part-time	15	3.24%
c) Not a Student	275	59.40%
d) Not tracked	131	28.29%

## F. Retention/Attrition

**1. Volunteers who Left their Program in Calendar 2012:** 292 (-56 from 2013)

**2. Average Months of Service\*:** 16

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

**3. Reasons for Leaving:**

Time Commitment	61	22.76%
Family Needs	37	13.8%
Health Needs	28	10.45%
Lost interest or pursuing other volunteer work	25	9.3%
Frustration with the System	23	8.58%
Employment Situation	22	8.21%
Involuntary	22	8.21%
Burnout/Stress	18	6.72%
Moved from area	17	6.34%
Other	15	5.6%

**III. Programs****A. Performance Breakdown**

	Children Served during FY14	% of Total Children Served	Active Volunteers during FY14	% of Total Volunteers
Montgomery	274	16.68%	269	20.06%
Baltimore City	240	14.61%	211	15.73%
Baltimore County	164	9.98%	136	10.14%
Anne Arundel	145	8.83%	105	7.83%
Prince George's	142	8.64%	141	10.51%
Harford	120	7.30%	78	5.82%
Frederick/ Carroll	109	6.63%	84	6.26%
Southern Maryland	91	5.54%	60	4.47%
Talbot/ Dorchester	78	4.75%	57	4.25%
Washington	78	4.75%	59	4.40%
Howard	72	4.38%	69	5.15%
Lower Shore	68	4.14%	43	3.21%
Caroline	26	1.58%	18	1.34%
Queen Anne's/ Kent	10	0.61%	11	0.82%

**B. Statewide Snapshot****1. Funding – Calendar 2013\*\***

a.) Program Funding from Public Sources: 52.6%

65.9% AOC-DFA CASA Grants  
14.76% GOCCP (Victims of Crime Assistance Act)  
13.62% County/City

- b.) Program Funding from Private Sources: **47.39%**  
37.14% Foundations/Grants  
28.43% Special Events  
13.64% Individual Contributions  
6.25% United Way/CFC/MD Charity Campaign, etc.  
3.31% Corporate Contributions  
2.13% National CASA

**2. Staffing**

- a.) Total Positions: 77  
Full Time: 30                      Part Time: 47
- b.) Total Positions Supervising Volunteers: 48.5  
Full Time: 22                      Part Time: 26.5