

FY15
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Programs Report

Issued: September 18, 2015

Programs Funded: 15
Counties Served: 21

Department of Family Administration
Programs Division
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judiciary



This report is being issued by the Department of Family Administration in the Programs Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts pursuant to Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article §3-830(b)(3)(ii).

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I. Overview

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program operates in Maryland subject to Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, §3-830. The Annotated Code of Maryland states that the role of the Court Appointed Special Advocate is to:

Provide the court with background information to aid the court in making decisions in the child's best interest; and

Ensure that the child is provided appropriate case planning and services.

The CASA volunteer is considered a friend of the court and is appointed at the judge's discretion to represent the child's best interests.

II. Program Operations

Counties Served

15 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs were active in Maryland in fiscal year 2015. These programs serve 21 counties. Only Somerset, Wicomico, and Garrett counties do not currently have CASA programs. Cecil County started a program during this fiscal year, but they are not yet serving children.

Program	County/Counties Served	Start Date
CASA of Montgomery County	Montgomery	1987
CASA of Baltimore City	Baltimore City	1988
CASA of the Midshore <i>(formerly known as CASA of Talbot and CASA of Queen Anne's & Kent)</i> <i>(CASA of Talbot/Dorchester merged with CASA of Queen Anne's/Kent in 2014)</i>	Talbot Kent Queen Anne's Dorchester	1990 2009 2009 2010
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Washington County	Washington	1991
Voices for Children of Howard County	Howard	1992
CASA of Harford County	Harford	1996
Anne Arundel County CASA	Anne Arundel	1997
CASA of Southern Maryland	St. Mary's Charles Calvert	1998 2004 2007
CASA of Prince George's County	Prince George's	1992-1995 2001
CASA of Baltimore County	Baltimore County	2002
CASA of the Lower Shore	Worcester Wicomico	2002 2002-2008
CASA of Frederick and Voices for Children of Carroll County <i>(Became one program under the Frederick County Mental Health Association in 2011)</i>	Carroll Frederick	2002 2003
CASA of Caroline	Caroline	2004

Funding Sources

All CASA programs were funded by the Maryland Judiciary in FY15. Every grantee is required to match 100% of the funds awarded.

Other support for the programs comes from a variety of sources and varies depending on the type of program. Some programs are independent non-profits and others are programs of larger non-profit organizations.

a.) Program Funding from Public Sources: **53.4%**

33.95% AOC-DFA CASA Grants

7.76% GOCCP (Victims of Crime Assistance Act)

6.38% County/City

5.24% Other Public Sources (FCCIP, CJAC)

b.) Program Funding from Private Sources: **46.6%**

12.3% Foundations/Grants

13.5% Special Events

5.2% Individual Contributions

5.0% United Way/CFC/MD Charity Campaign, etc.

2.4% Product Sales & Other Fundraising Activities

1.7% Groups or Organizations

1.5% National CASA

1.1% Corporate Contributions

4.2% Other Private Sources

Staffing

a.) Total Positions: 68

Full Time: 29

Part Time: 39

b.) Total Positions Supervising Volunteers: 45.5

Full Time: 20

Part Time: 26

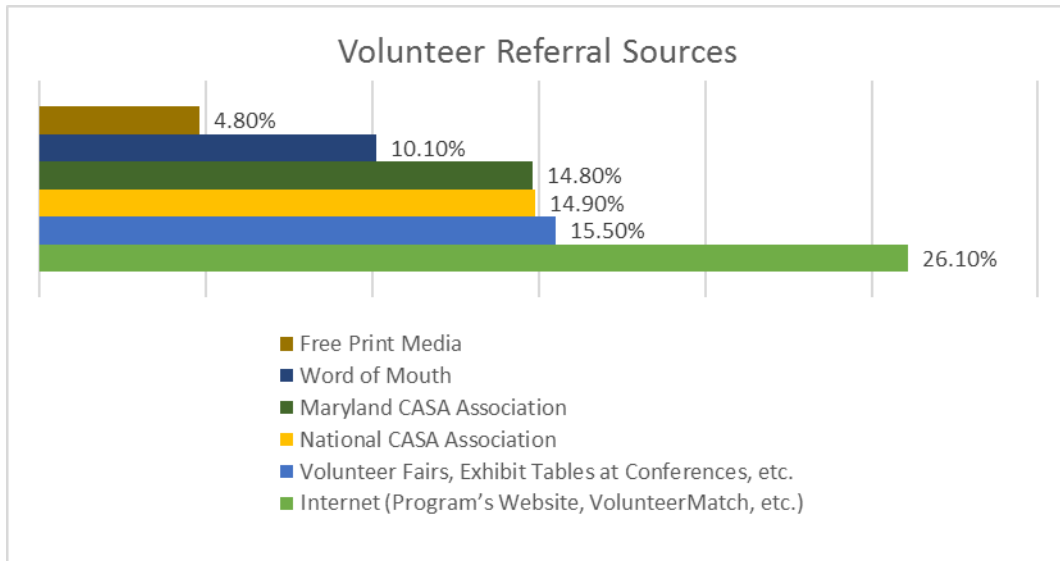
III. Program Activities

A. Volunteers

1. Recruitment

a. Volunteer Inquiries Received: 2,090*

**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 before inquiring directly to the program.*



b. Volunteer Applications Received: 768

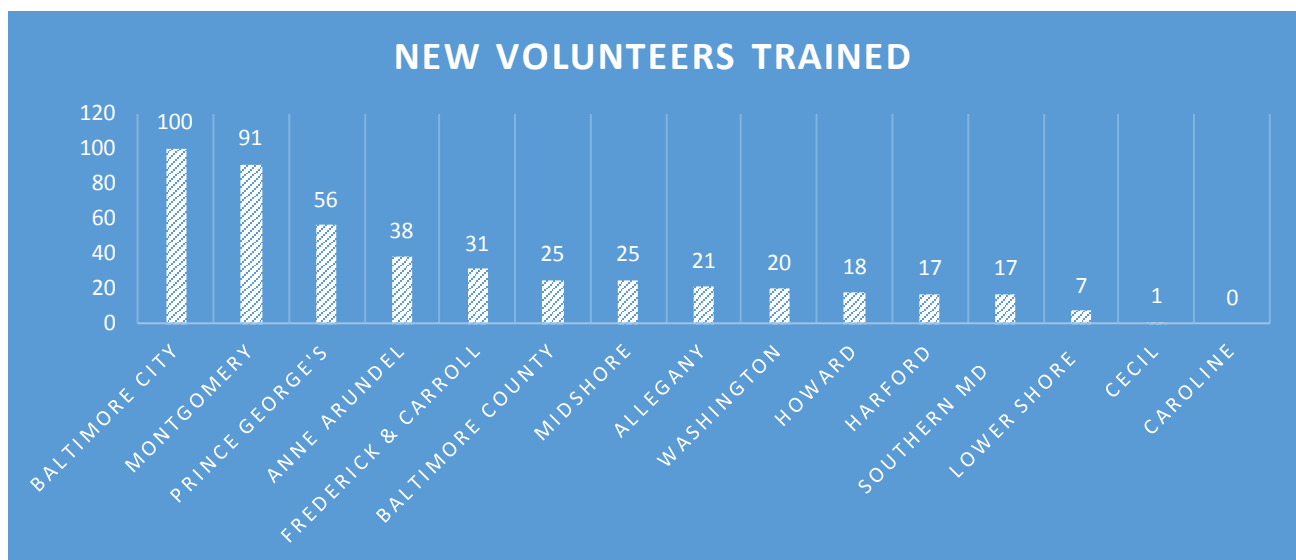
36.7% of total volunteer inquiries resulted in an application being submitted

c. Prospective Volunteers Interviewed: 604

78.6% of total volunteer applications resulted in an interview

2. Training

a. Pre-Service Training: 467 new volunteers were trained

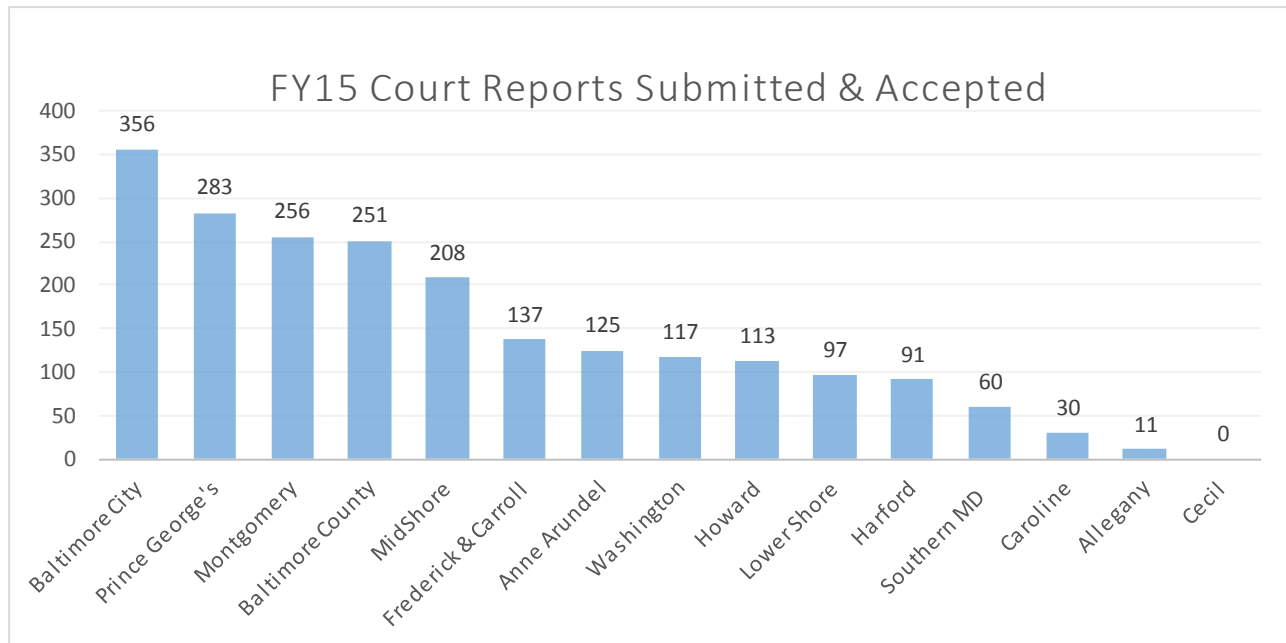


b. In-Service Training: 893 ongoing training hours were offered to active volunteers.

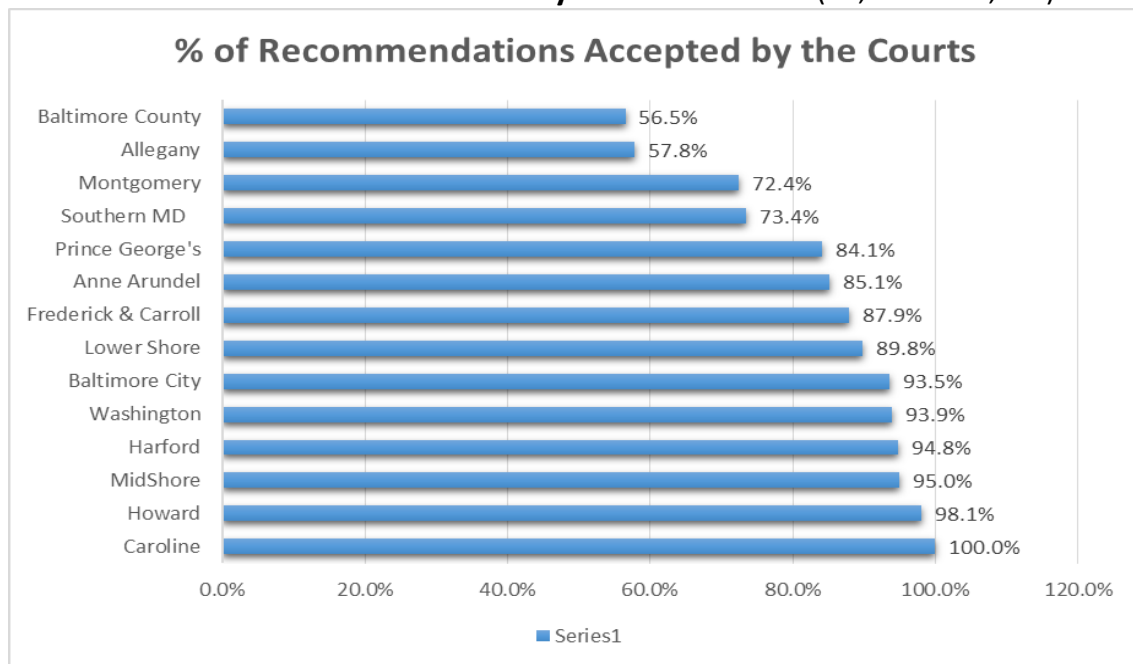
235 hours of that training (26.3%) focused on increasing cultural competence of volunteers.

3. Advocacy

a. Court Reports Submitted by CASA & Accepted by the Court: 2,135



b. CASA Recommendations Ordered by the Court: 83.7% (10,283 of 12,280)

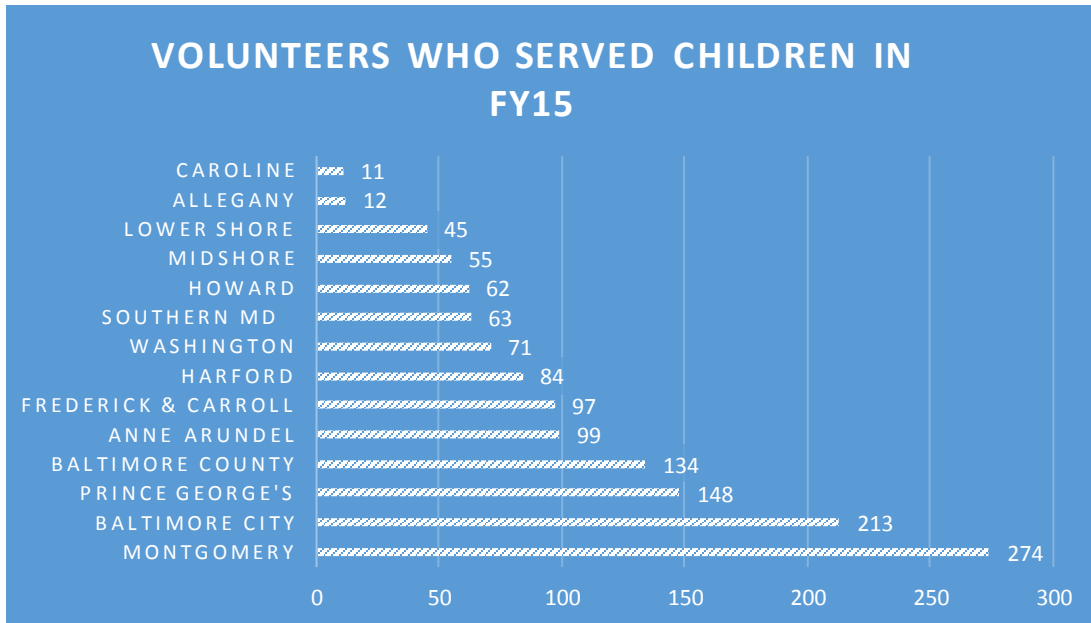


c. Volunteer Attendance at Court: 87.91% of CASA volunteers attended hearing for which they prepared a report.

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

4. Service

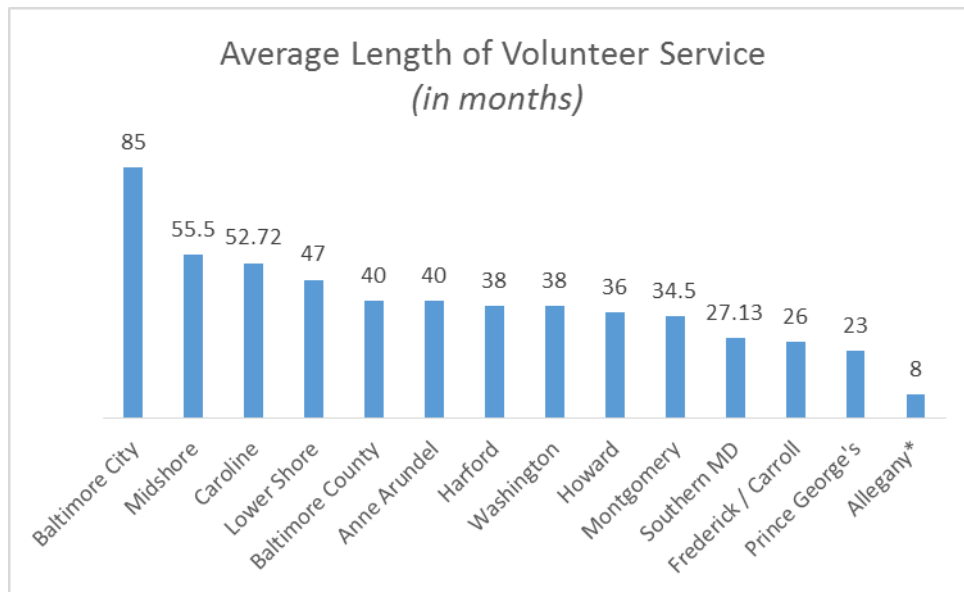
a. Volunteers Serving Children in FY15: 1,368



b. Volunteers Serving Children on the Last Day of FY15: 945

c. Average Length of Service: 40.02 months

**CASA volunteers are only required to make a 12 month commitment*



** Allegany is a newer program that only had assigned volunteers for a short portion of FY15.*

5. Volunteer Demographics

Race/Ethnicity		
Black/African/African American	378	28.9%
Asian American	34	2.6%
Caucasian	826	63.1%
Latino	38	2.9%
Native American	1	.1%
Bi-racial	24	1.8%
Other	9	.7%
Gender		
Male	184	14%
Female	1126	86%
Age		
21-29	143	10.9%
30-39	189	14.4%
40-49	261	19.9%
50-59	315	24%
60 + above	402	30.7%
Education		
High School	88	6.9%
Some College	198	15.4%
College	522	40.7%
Post-Grad	453	35.3%
Unknown	22	1.7%
Employment Status		
Full-time	564	43.1%
Part-time	210	16.1%
Retired	271	20.7%
Unemployed	164	12.5%
Other (includes stay-at-home parents)	80	6.1%

6. Retention/Attrition

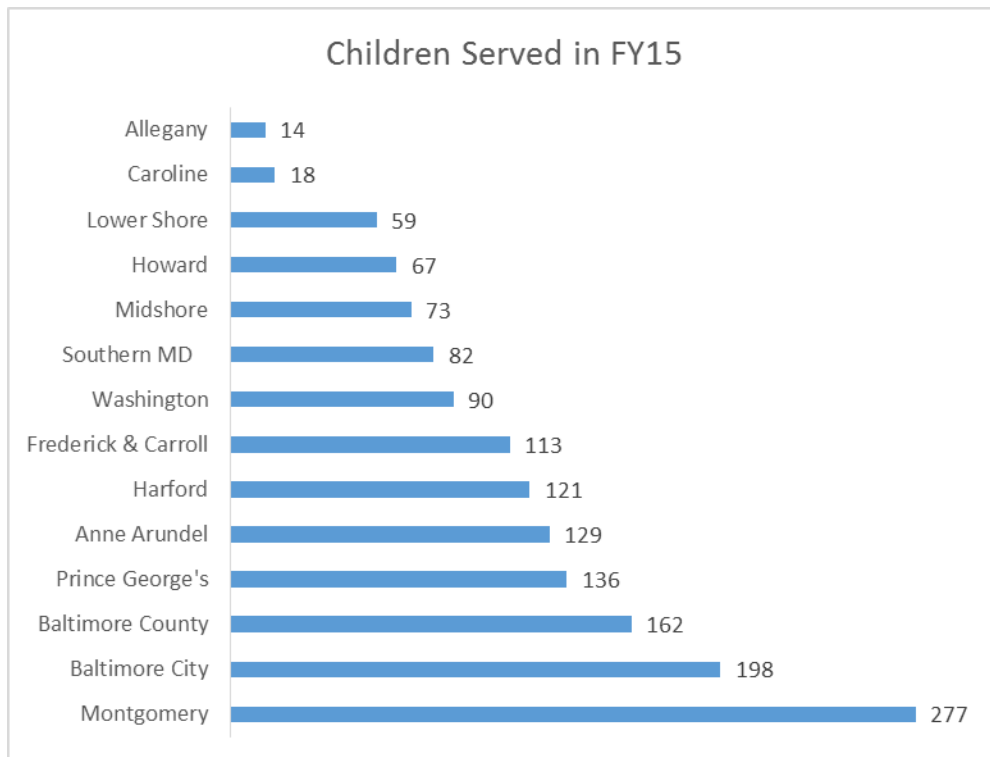
- a. **Volunteers who Left their Program: 277**
- b. **Average Months of Service*(of volunteers who left): 25.3 months**
 *Volunteers are required to commit to one year of service.



B. Children

Served During the FY15: **1,539**

Children Being Served by a Volunteer Advocate on the Last Day of the Fiscal Year: **1,059**

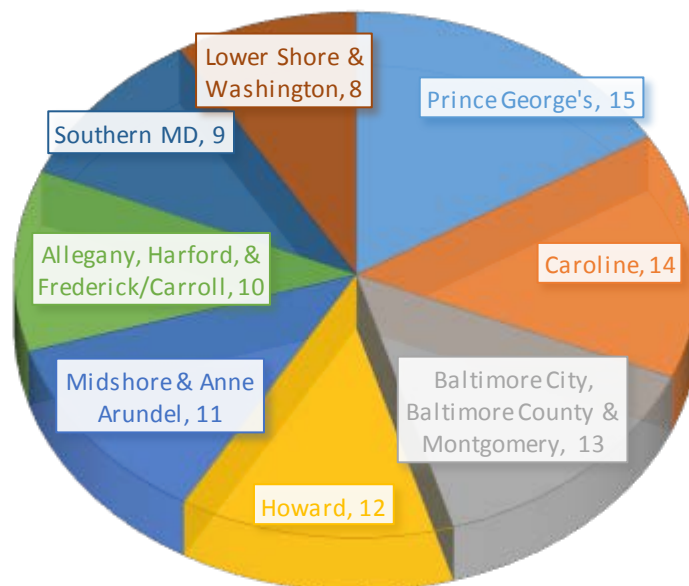


1. Children Served Details

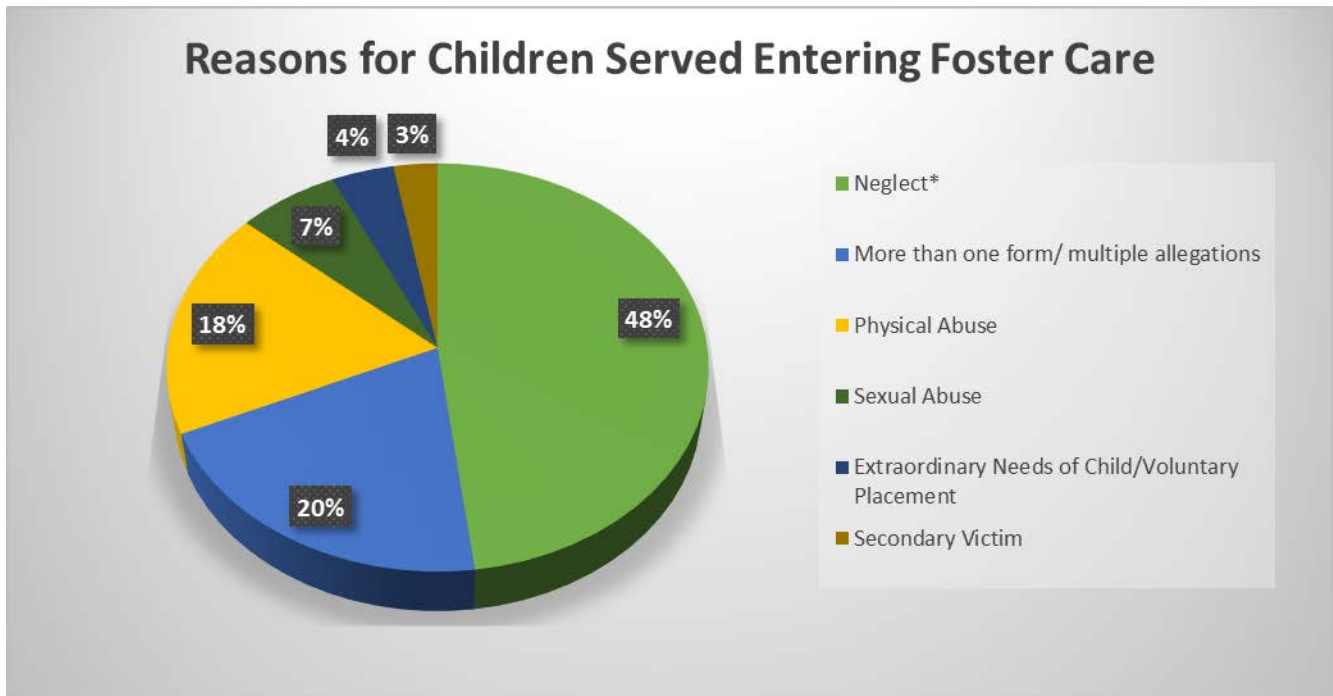
a. Demographics

Birth to 5	334	21.9%
6 to 11	334	21.9%
12 to 17	511	33.4%
18+	349	22.8%
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Male	731	47.8%
Female	797	52.2%
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African American, Black, African	693	45.4%
Asian American	19	1.2%
Caucasian	555	36.3%
Latino	96	6.3%
Native American	0	0%
Biracial	163	10.7%
Other	2	.01%
Average Age	11	
Average Months in Care	33	
Average Months with a CASA Volunteer	24	

AVERAGE AGE OF CHILDREN SERVED



b. Reasons for Entering Care



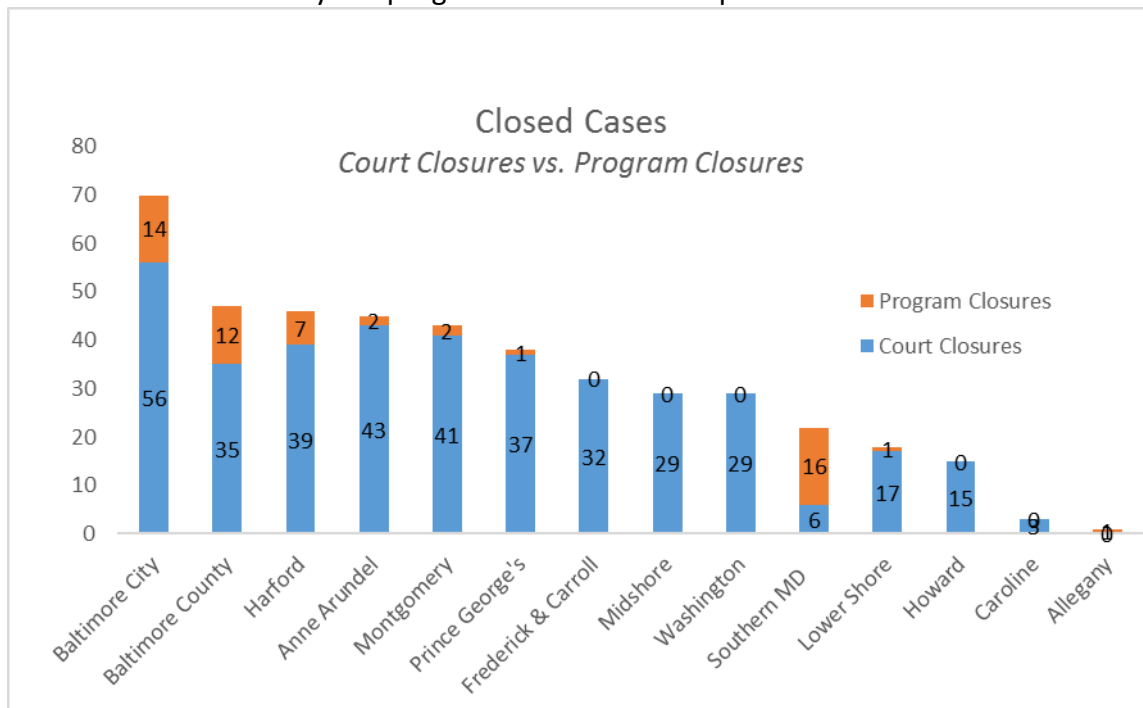
**Neglect includes abandonment, and educational/medical/physical neglect.*

2. Case Closures

a. Cases Closed in Court during FY15: 438

382 Cases were closed by the Court;

56 Cases were closed by the programs but remained open in court.



b. Average Months Spent in Foster Care at Closure: 38.5 (3.21 years)

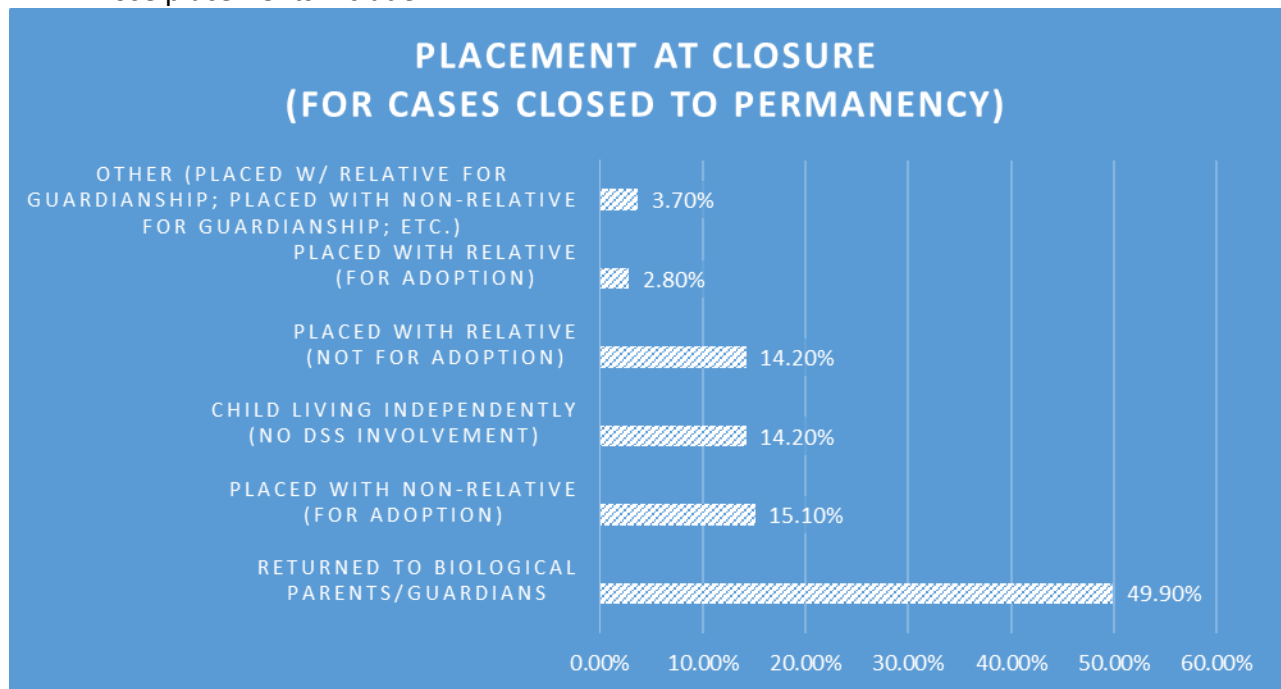
Breakdown by Program (from most to least time spent in care):

Baltimore County	70.43
Howard	52.2
Prince George's	50.41
Anne Arundel	47.02
Baltimore City	46.28
Frederick & Carroll	41.63
Caroline	36.86
Montgomery	34.29
Southern MD <i>(Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)</i>	34
Harford	29.62
Midshore <i>(Talbot, Dorchester, Kent & Queen Anne's)</i>	25.4
Washington	16.52
Lower Shore (Worcester)	15.88

c. Placement at Closure

91.6% of children (351) served by CASA were in a permanent placement at closure.

Those placements include:



Of the 32 children living in a “non-permanent” placement at closure, 17 children were either living independently in an unstable placement or considered to be runaways.

d. Impact of the Stage of CASA Appointment on Outcomes

i. New Cases Referred to CASA

54.3% Referred Pre-Review Stage

20.3% Referred During Review* or Permanency Planning

**Includes Guardianship Review*

ii. 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*
Children who are assigned a CASA volunteer before their case reaches the Review phase. <i>Adjudication /Disposition & Shelter Care</i> 55.7%	30.79	26.44	2.93	202	12	214
				<i>94.39%</i>	<i>5.61%</i>	
Children who are assigned a CASA volunteer after their case reaches the Review phase. <i>Review & Permanency Planning</i> 42.71%	51.39	31.59	4.51	144	19	164
				<i>87.8%</i>	<i>11.6%</i>	
<i>Guardianship Review 1.56%</i>	87.83	36.67	8.33	4	2	6
				<i>66.67%</i>	<i>33.33%</i>	

iii. 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 **20.6 months less in care** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA review or permanency planning hearings. **This is 1 year and 8.6 months.**

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 review (2.93 vs. 4.51) and guardianship review (2.93 vs 8.33).

IV. Funding & Performance Breakdown

Programs (Ordered from most funding to least)	% of Total Funding Received	Children Served	% of Total Children Served	Active Volunteers	% of Total Volunteers
Montgomery	14.8%	277	18.0%	274	20.0%
Baltimore City	13.4%	198	12.9%	213	15.6%
Prince George's	9.4%	136	8.8%	148	10.8%
Baltimore County	9.0%	162	10.5%	134	9.8%
Anne Arundel	8.5%	129	8.4%	99	7.2%
MidShore (Talbot/Dorchester & QA/Kent)	7.3%	73	4.7%	55	4.0%
Frederick/Carroll	7.0%	113	7.3%	97	7.1%
Harford	6.9%	121	7.9%	84	6.1%
Southern MD (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)	5.5%	82	5.3%	63	4.6%
Washington	4.7%	90	5.8%	71	5.2%
Howard	4.7%	67	4.4%	62	4.5%
Lower Shore (Worcester)	2.9%	59	3.8%	45	3.3%
Caroline	2.5%	18	1.2%	11	0.8%
Allegany	1.8%	14	0.9%	12	0.9%
Cecil (Start-Up)	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%