

FY16  
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)  
Data Summary

*Issued: September 23, 2016*

**Programs Funded: 15**  
**Counties Served: 21**

***Department of Family Administration***  
Programs Division  
***Administrative Office of the Courts***



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 2016. These programs serve 21 counties. Only Somerset, Wicomico, and Garrett counties do not currently have CASA programs.

| Program   | County/Counties Served                       | Start Date                   |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>CASA of Montgomery County</b>  | Montgomery                                   | 1987                         |
| <b>CASA of Baltimore City</b>   | Baltimore City                               | 1988                         |
| <b>CASA of the Mid-Shore</b><br><i>(formerly known as CASA of Talbot and CASA of Queen Anne's &amp; Kent)</i><br><i>(CASA of Talbot/Dorchester merged with CASA of Queen Anne's/Kent in 2014)</i> | Talbot<br>Kent<br>Queen Anne's<br>Dorchester | 1990<br>2009<br>2009<br>2010 |
| <b>Court Appointed Special Advocates of Washington County</b>   | Washington                                   | 1991                         |
| <b>Voices for Children of Howard County</b>   | Howard                                       | 1992                         |
| <b>CASA of Harford County</b>   | Harford                                      | 1996                         |
| <b>Anne Arundel County CASA</b>   | Anne Arundel                                 | 1997                         |
| <b>CASA of Southern Maryland</b>  | St. Mary's<br>Charles<br>Calvert             | 1998<br>2004<br>2007         |
| <b>CASA of Prince George's County</b>   | Prince George's                              | 1992-1995<br>2001            |
| <b>CASA of Baltimore County</b>   | Baltimore County                             | 2002                         |
| <b>CASA of the Lower Shore</b>  | Worcester<br>Wicomico                        | 2002<br>2002-2008            |
| <b>CASA of Frederick and Voices for Children of Carroll County</b><br><i>(Became one program under the Frederick County Mental Health Association in 2011)</i>                                    | Carroll<br>Frederick                         | 2002<br>2003                 |
| <b>CASA of Caroline</b>   | Caroline                                     | 2004                         |
| <b>Allegany County CASA</b>   | Allegany                                     | 2013                         |
| <b>CASA of Cecil County</b>   | Cecil  | 2015                         |

## **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: **56%**

- 54% AOC-DFA CASA Grants
- 20% GOCCP (Victims of Crime Assistance Act)
- 15% County/City
- 11% Other Public Sources (FCCIP, CJAC)

b.) Program Funding from Private Sources: **44%**

- 28% Foundations/Grants
- 34% Special Events
- 14% Individual Contributions
- 7% United Way/CFC/MD Charity Campaign, etc.
- 7% Corporate Contributions
- 4% National CASA
- 4% Other Private Sources
- 1% Groups or Organizations
- >1% Product Sales & Other Fundraising Activities

## **Staffing**

a.) Total Positions: 76

Full Time: 41                      Part Time: 35

b.) Total Positions Supervising Volunteers: 46

Full Time: 22                      Part Time: 24

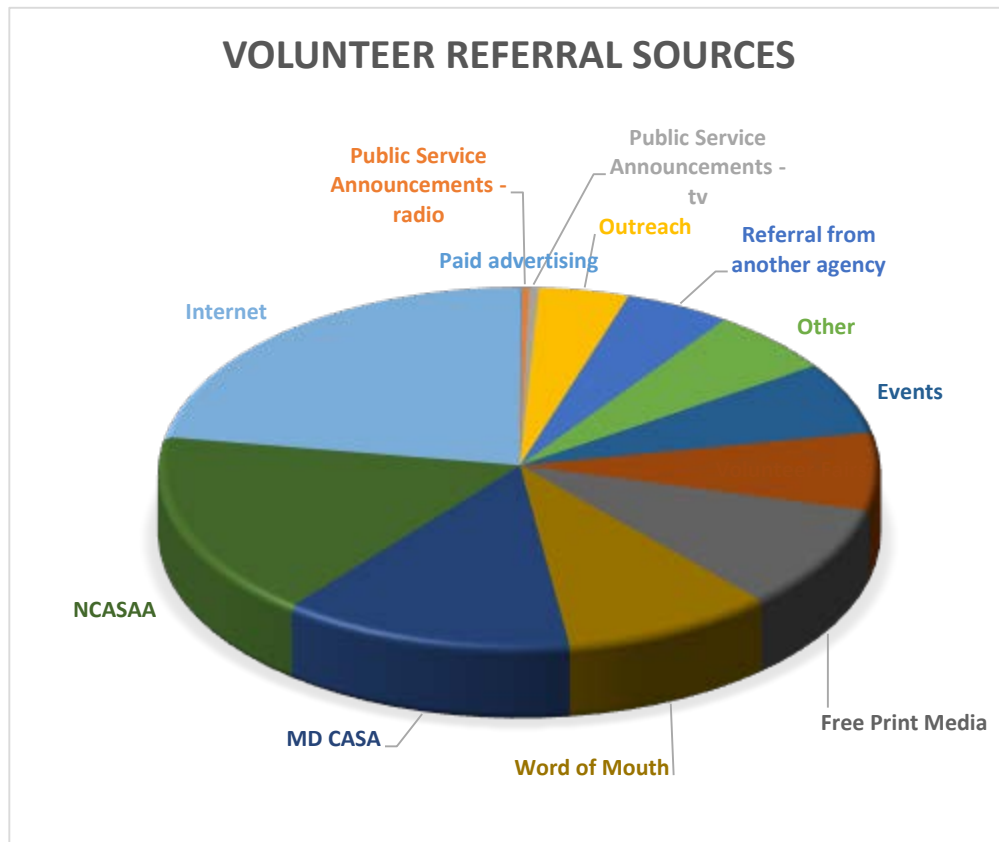
## **III. Program Activities**

### **A. Volunteers**

#### **1. Recruitment**

**a. Volunteer Inquiries Received: 2,263\***

*\*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.*



30% of volunteers were referred to their local CASA program by the National CASA Association (NCASAA) or the Maryland CASA Association. 22% of volunteers were referred to their local CASA program through internet resources. These resources include the program’s website as well as sites such as VolunteerMatch.

**b. Volunteer Applications Received: 756**

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

**c. Prospective Volunteers Interviewed: 620**

82% of total volunteer applications resulted in an interview

**2. Training**

**a. Pre-Service Training: 475 new volunteers were trained**

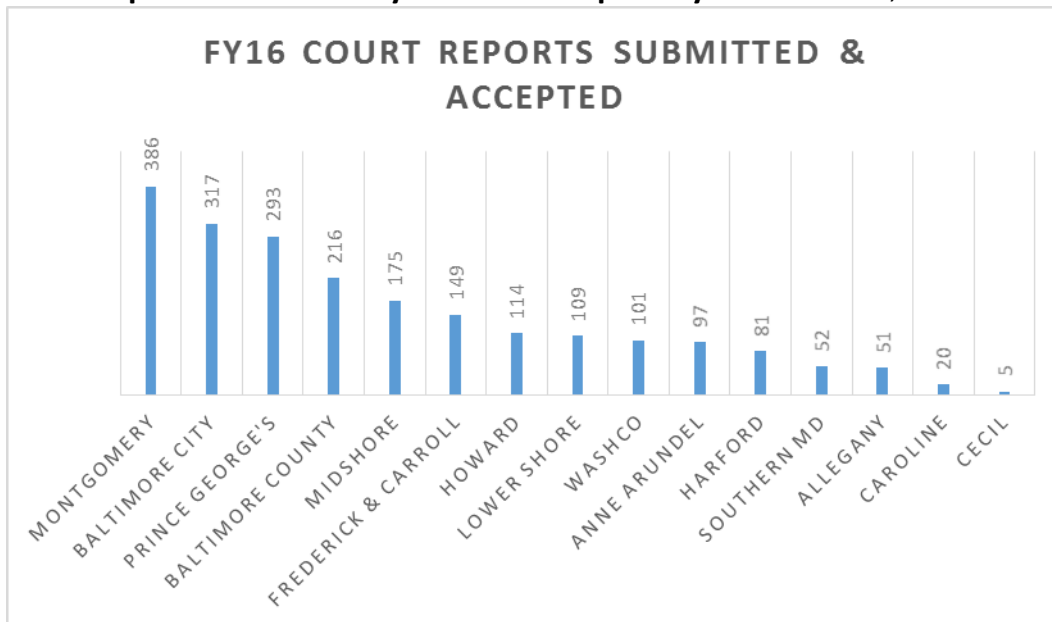


**b. In-Service Training (Continuing Education)**

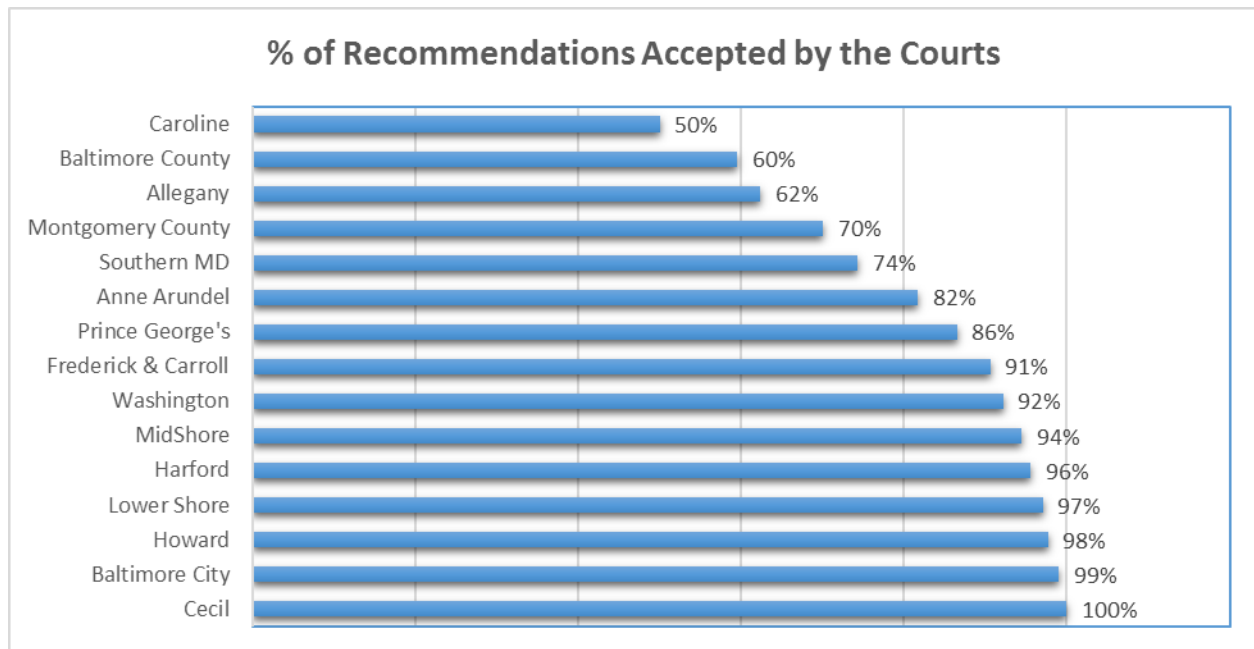
- 822 hours of ongoing training were offered to active volunteers
- 223 hours of that training (27%) focused on increasing cultural competence of volunteers.
- Statewide, each volunteer advocate participated in an average of 11.4 hours of ongoing, continuing education training.

**3. Advocacy**

**a. Court Reports Submitted by CASA & Accepted by the Court: 2,166**



**b. CASA Recommendations Ordered by the Court: 84% (9,525 of 11,379)**

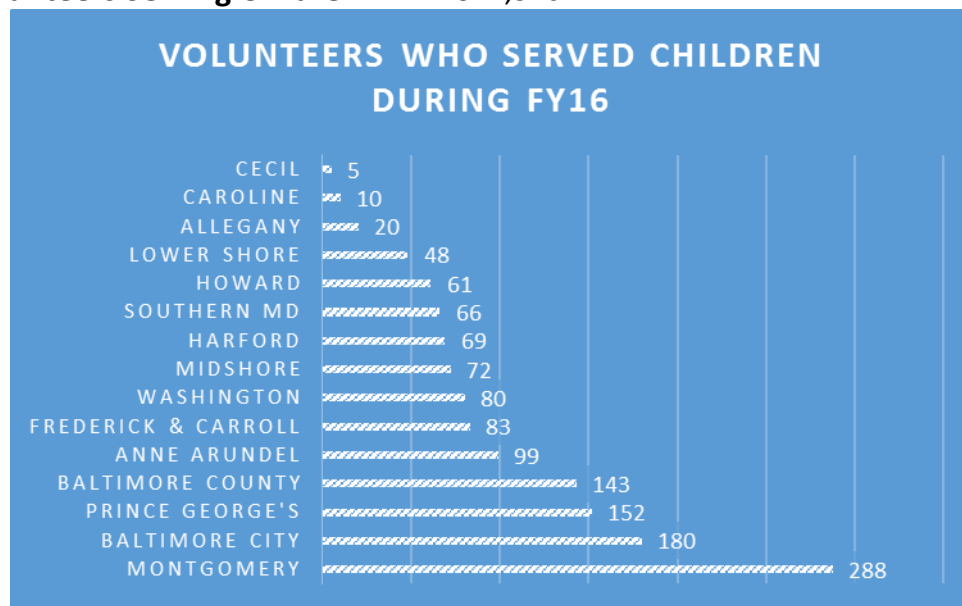


**c. Volunteer Attendance at Court:** 78% of CASA volunteers attended hearing for which they prepared a report.

*\*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 FY16:** 1,376



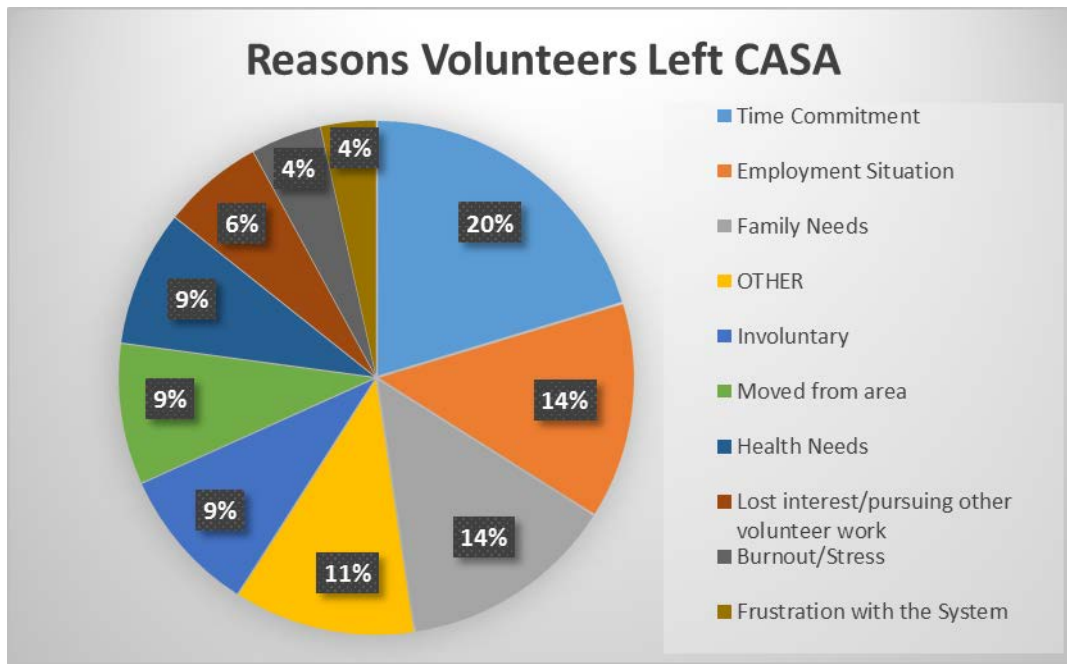
**b. Volunteers Serving Children on the Last Day of FY16:** 985

## 5. Volunteer Demographics

| Race/Ethnicity                        |      |       |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Black/African/African American        | 391  | 29.4% |
| Asian American                        | 21   | 1.6%  |
| Caucasian                             | 840  | 63.1% |
| Latino                                | 42   | 3.2%  |
| Native American                       | 15   | 1.1%  |
| Bi-racial                             | 21   | 1.6%  |
| Other                                 | 2    | .2%   |
| Gender                                |      |       |
| Male                                  | 221  | 16.6% |
| Female                                | 1110 | 83.3% |
| Age                                   |      |       |
| 21-29                                 | 179  | 13.4% |
| 30-39                                 | 204  | 15.3% |
| 40-49                                 | 276  | 20.7% |
| 50-59                                 | 295  | 28.4% |
| 60 + above                            | 378  | 28.4% |
| Education                             |      |       |
| High School                           | 92   | 6.9%  |
| Some College                          | 178  | 13.4% |
| College                               | 557  | 41.8% |
| Post-Grad                             | 468  | 35.1% |
| Unknown                               | 36   | 2.7%  |
| Employment Status                     |      |       |
| Full-time                             | 647  | 48.6% |
| Part-time                             | 201  | 15.1% |
| Retired                               | 287  | 21.5% |
| Unemployed                            | 138  | 10.4% |
| Other (includes stay-at-home parents) | 59   | 4.5%  |

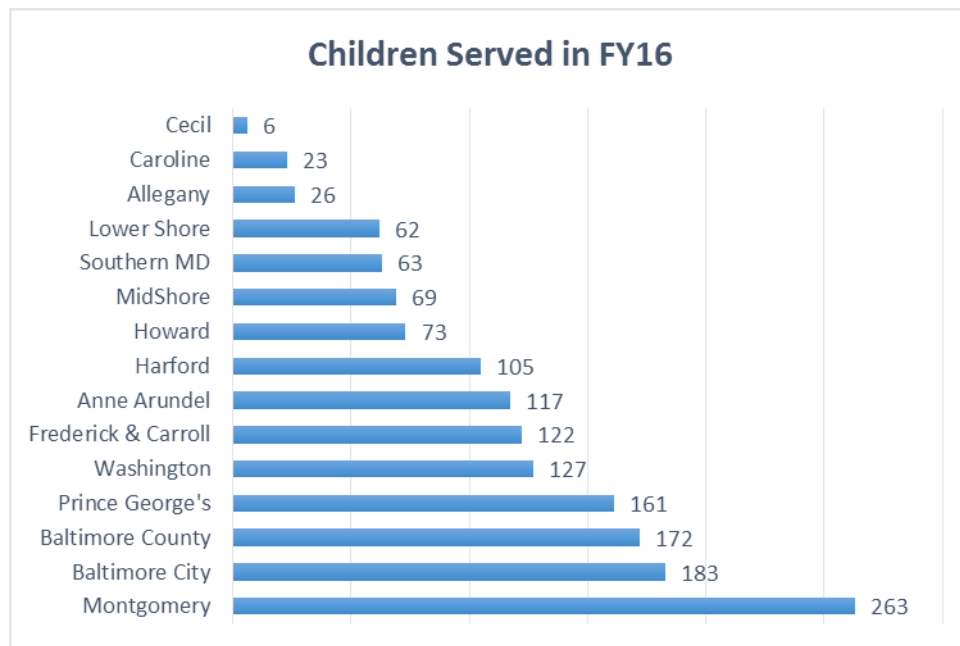
## 6. Retention/Attrition

- a. **Volunteers Who Left Their Program:** 315
- b. **Average Months of Service\*(of volunteers who left):** 26.76 months  
 \*Volunteers are required to commit to 12 months of service.



**B. Children**

**1. Children Served by a Volunteer Advocate During FY16: 1,572**

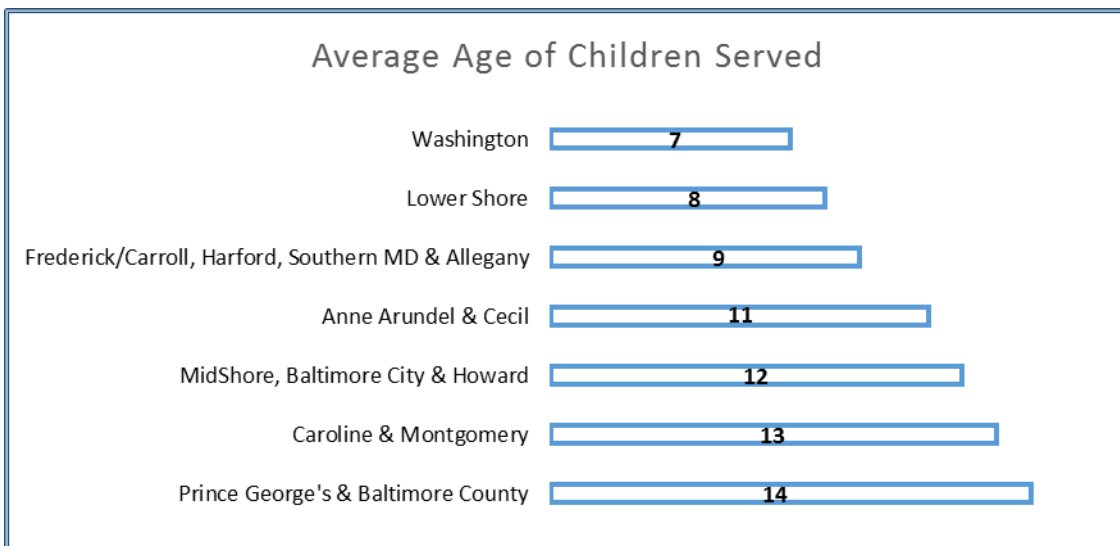


**2. Children Being Served by a Volunteer Advocate on the Last Day of the Fiscal Year: 1,145**

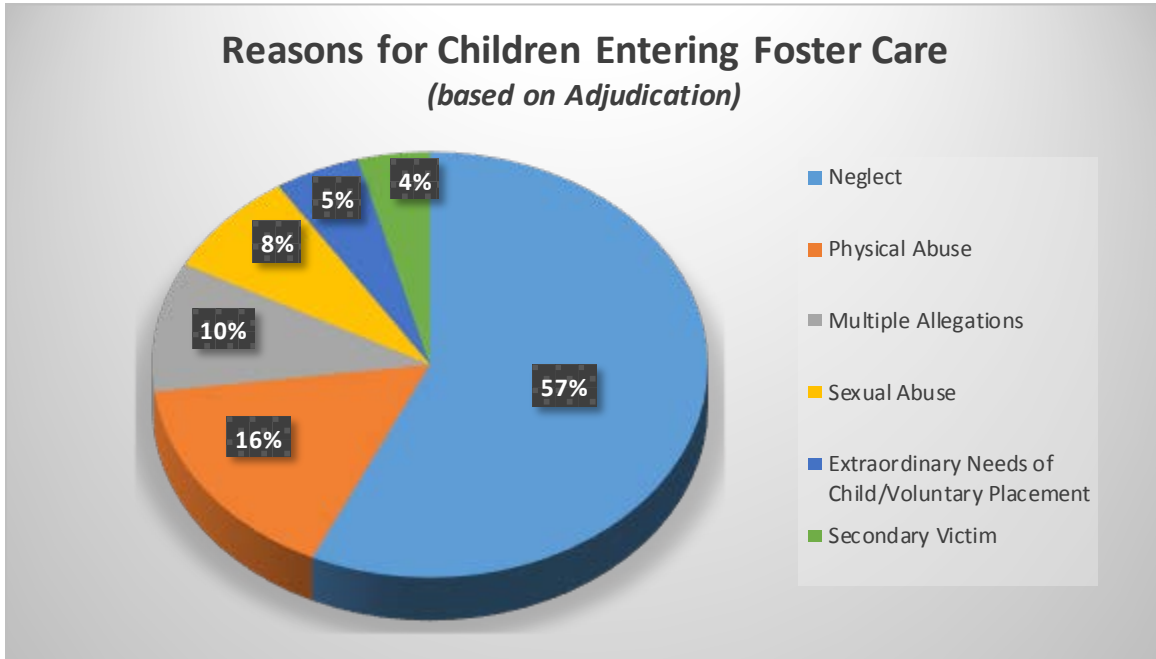
**1. Details about Children Served in FY16**

**a. Demographics**

|                                      |      |       |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Birth to 5                           | 364  | 23.7% |
| 6 to 11                              | 326  | 21.3% |
| 12 to 17                             | 502  | 32.7% |
| 18+                                  | 341  | 22.2% |
| <hr/>                                |      |       |
| Male                                 | 777  | 50.7% |
| Female                               | 756  | 49.3% |
| <hr/>                                |      |       |
| African American, Black, African     | 690  | 45%   |
| Asian American                       | 15   | 1%    |
| Caucasian                            | 546  | 35.6% |
| Latino                               | 95   | 6.2%  |
| Native American                      | 0    | 0%    |
| Biracial                             | 184  | 12%   |
| Other                                | 3    | .02%  |
| <hr/>                                |      |       |
| Average Age                          | 11.1 |       |
| Average Months in Care               | 30.9 |       |
| Average Months with a CASA Volunteer | 22.7 |       |



**b. Reasons for Entering Care**



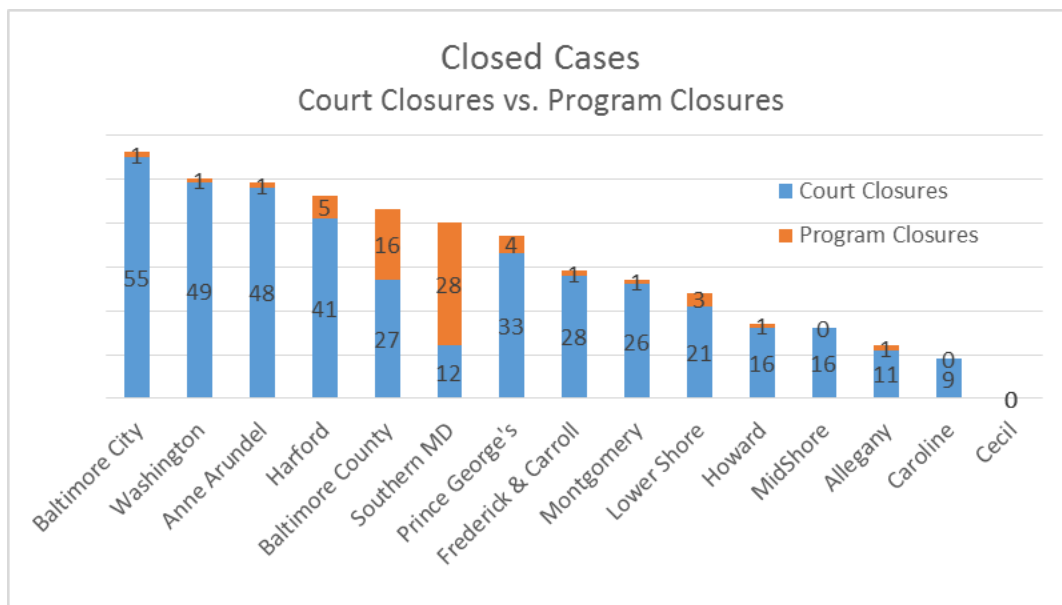
*\*Neglect includes abandonment, and educational/medical/physical neglect.*

**2. Case Closures**

**a. Cases Closed in Court during FY16: 392**

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

*A program may close a case for a variety of reasons. Examples include: an older child who does not want a CASA, a child who is inaccessible to the volunteer due to placement location or runaway status, a child who is in a stable permanent placement and is no longer in need of CASA advocacy.*



**b. Average Months Spent in Foster Care at Closure:**

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

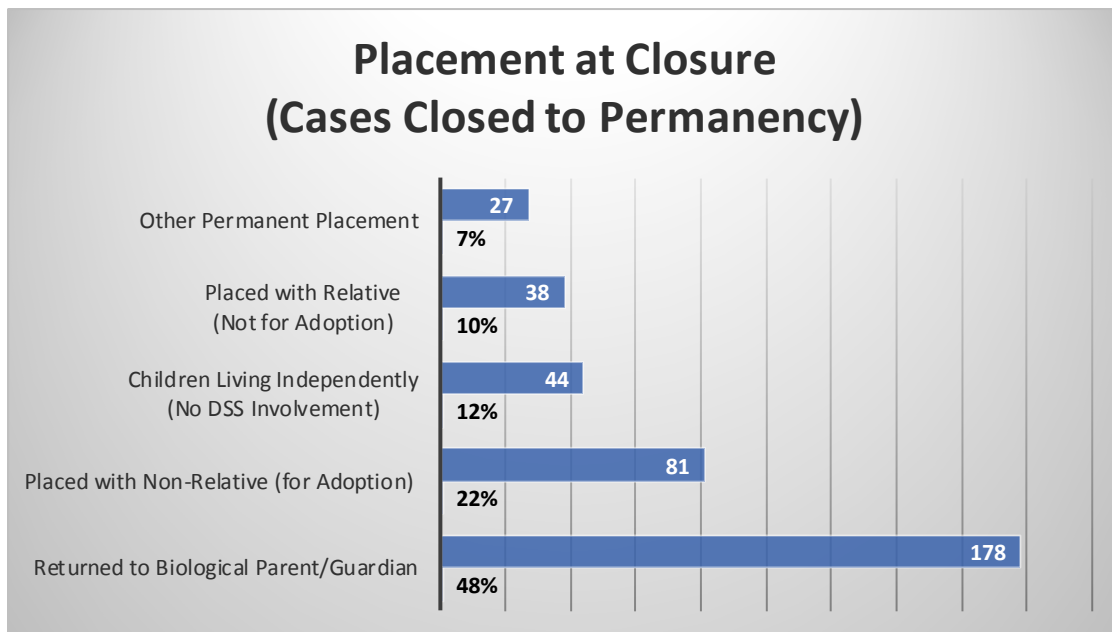
|   |    |
|---|----|
| Baltimore City  | 69 |
| Baltimore County                                      | 49 |
| Caroline  | 49 |
| Prince George's                                       | 49 |
| Montgomery  | 49 |
| Anne Arundel  | 40 |
| Frederick & Carroll                                   | 34 |
| Southern MD<br>(Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)        | 32 |
| Harford   | 29 |
| Howard  | 29 |
| Lower Shore (Worcester)                               | 28 |
| Midshore<br>(Talbot, Dorchester, Kent & Queen Anne's) | 28 |
| Washington  | 19 |
| Allegany  | 16 |

*\*Cecil County did not have any closed cases in FY16*

**c. Placement at Court Closure**

94% of children (368) served by CASA were in a permanent placement at closure.

Those placements include:



Of the 29 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

**60.3%** Referred Pre-Review Stage

**40.2%** Referred During Review or Permanency Planning

**1.3%** Referred During 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     |
| <b>Children who are assigned a CASA volunteer before their case reaches the Review phase.</b><br><i>Adjudication /Disposition &amp; Shelter Care</i><br><b>60.3%</b> | <b>26.5</b>                    | <b>21.9</b>                         | <b>2.3</b>      | <b>217</b>           | <b>14</b>     | <b>231</b> |
|  |                                |                                     |                 | 94.39%               | 5.61%         |            |
| <b>Children who are assigned a CASA volunteer after their case reaches the Review phase.</b><br><i>Review &amp; Permanency Planning</i><br><b>40.2%</b>              | <b>52.5</b>                    | <b>34.7</b>                         | <b>4.3</b>      | <b>154</b>           | <b>13</b>     | <b>167</b> |
|  |                                |                                     |                 | 92.2%                | 7.8%          |            |
| <i>Guardianship Review 1.3%</i>  | 165.8                          | 43.3                                | 8               | 2                    | 4             | 6          |
|  |                                |                                     |                 | 33.3%                | 66.7%         |            |

#### 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 **26 months less in care** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA review or permanency planning hearings. **This is 2 years and 2 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 (2.3 vs. 4.3) and guardianship review (2.3 vs 8).

## IV. Funding & Performance Breakdown

| <b>Programs</b><br><i>(Ordered from most funding to least)</i> | % of Total Funding Received | Children Served | % of Total Children Served | Active Volunteers | % of Total Volunteers |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Montgomery   | 14%                         | 263             | 16.7%                      | 288               | 20.9%                 |
| Baltimore City   | 13%                         | 183             | 11.6%                      | 180               | 13.1%                 |
| Prince George's  | 9%                          | 161             | 10.2%                      | 152               | 11.0%                 |
| Baltimore County   | 9%                          | 172             | 10.9%                      | 143               | 10.4%                 |
| Mid-Shore  | 7%                          | 69              | 4.4%                       | 72                | 5.2%                  |
| Harford  | 7%                          | 105             | 6.7%                       | 69                | 5.0%                  |
| Frederick/Carroll  | 7%                          | 122             | 7.8%                       | 83                | 6.0%                  |
| Washington   | 7%                          | 127             | 8.1%                       | 80                | 5.8%                  |
| Anne Arundel   | 7%                          | 117             | 7.4%                       | 99                | 7.2%                  |
| Southern MD  | 5%                          | 63              | 4.0%                       | 66                | 4.8%                  |
| Howard   | 5%                          | 73              | 4.6%                       | 61                | 4.4%                  |
| Lower Shore  | 4%                          | 62              | 3.9%                       | 48                | 3.5%                  |
| Allegany   | 2%                          | 26              | 1.7%                       | 20                | 1.5%                  |
| Cecil  | 2%                          | 6               | 0.4%                       | 5                 | 0.4%                  |
| Caroline   | 2%                          | 23              | 1.5%                       | 10                | 0.7%                  |