



## **Overview of the PMT Data for Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program Grantees: January–June 2017**

The Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program is administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The CASA Program ensures that abused and neglected children receive high-quality representation in dependency-court hearings. It also seeks to serve and improve outcomes for children in the dependency system; provide effective advocacy for abused and neglected children, including foster care youth; and fund programs that support cultural diversity and competency.

CASA programs build on the training and technical assistance (TTA) program that OJJDP developed in collaboration with the National CASA Association (NCASA). Under this program, OJJDP provides TTA to local and state providers to support existing and new CASA programs across the nation. The program serves communities where representation rates are low, the numbers of abused and neglected children are high, and service systems do not meet the needs of families and children. The program also offers TTA assistance for volunteer advocate recruitment and retention, volunteer advocate training, diversity, data collection and reporting, sustainability, and program standards.

### **Report Highlights**

This report is an overview of the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) data for CASA grantees as reported through June 30, 2017. Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the federal program has achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve program and policy decisions at the federal level. The report is divided into two sections:

1. An examination of program information for CASA grantees.
2. An analysis of CASA performance measures.

Performance measurement data was not reported during the January–June 2014 and January–June 2015 reporting periods since subgrantees were not operational during those data collection periods. Consequently, those two reporting periods have been excluded from the analysis of program measures in the second half of this report.

Key findings from the analysis for the January–June 2017 reporting period include:

- CASA program grantees had a 100 percent reporting compliance rate in the PMT.
- There was one active subgrant; the federal award amount was \$13,029,438.
- The total ratio for the number of volunteer advocates to children was 1 to 2.
- Of the total number of volunteer advocates recruited, 17 percent were new volunteers.
- There were 74,550 children served.
- 25 percent of the children served were receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.
- Among the total number of CASA-served youth who left foster care, 79 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

## 1. Examination of Program Information

The CASA program grantees began reporting in the PMT in 2007. The grantees are required to report semiannually for each active federal award. Table 1, below, presents the reporting compliance rate of active federal awards for every reporting period, starting with the July–December 2007 period. During the January–June 2017 reporting period, the CASA grantee completed the PMT reporting requirement for the single active federal award. Across all reporting periods, CASA grantees have an average reporting compliance rate of 92 percent.

**Table 1. Status of CASA Program Reporting by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017**

Data Reporting Period	Status				
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total	Percent
July–December 2007	0	0	2	2	100%
January–June 2008	1	0	1	2	50%
July–December 2008	1	1	2	4	50%
January–June 2009	0	0	2	2	100%
July–December 2009	0	0	4	4	100%
January–June 2010	0	0	2	2	100%
July–December 2010	0	0	4	4	100%
January–June 2011	0	0	2	2	100%
July–December 2011	0	0	3	3	100%
January–June 2012	0	0	2	2	100%
July–December 2012	0	0	1	1	100%
January–June 2013	0	0	1	1	100%
July–December 2013	0	0	1	1	100%
January–June 2014	0	0	1	1	100%
July–December 2014	0	0	1	1	100%
January–June 2015	0	0	1	1	100%
July–December 2015	0	0	1	1	100%
January–June 2016	0	0	1	1	100%
July–December 2016	0	0	1	1	100%
January–June 2017	0	0	1	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>92%</b>

The number of operational subgrants has varied across all reporting periods (figure 1). During the January–June 2014 and January–June 2015 reporting periods, there were no operational subgrants. Therefore, those two reporting periods will be excluded from the analysis of program measures in the second part of this report. During the January–June 2017 reporting period, there was one operational subgrant.

Figure 1. Total Subgrants Versus Number of Operational Subgrants by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017

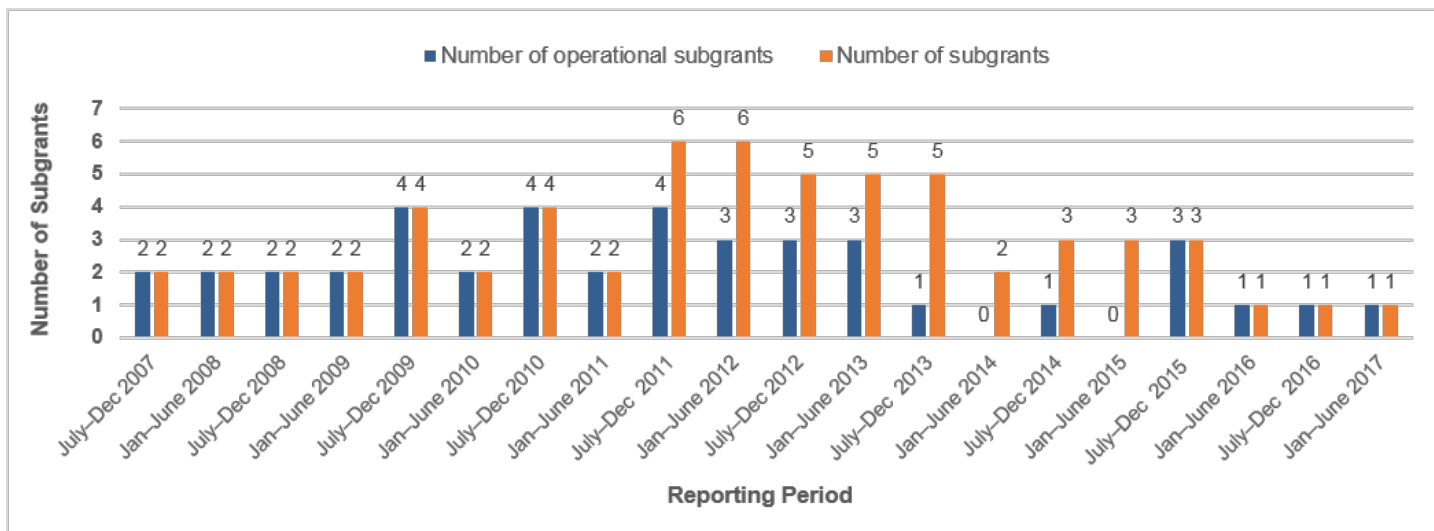


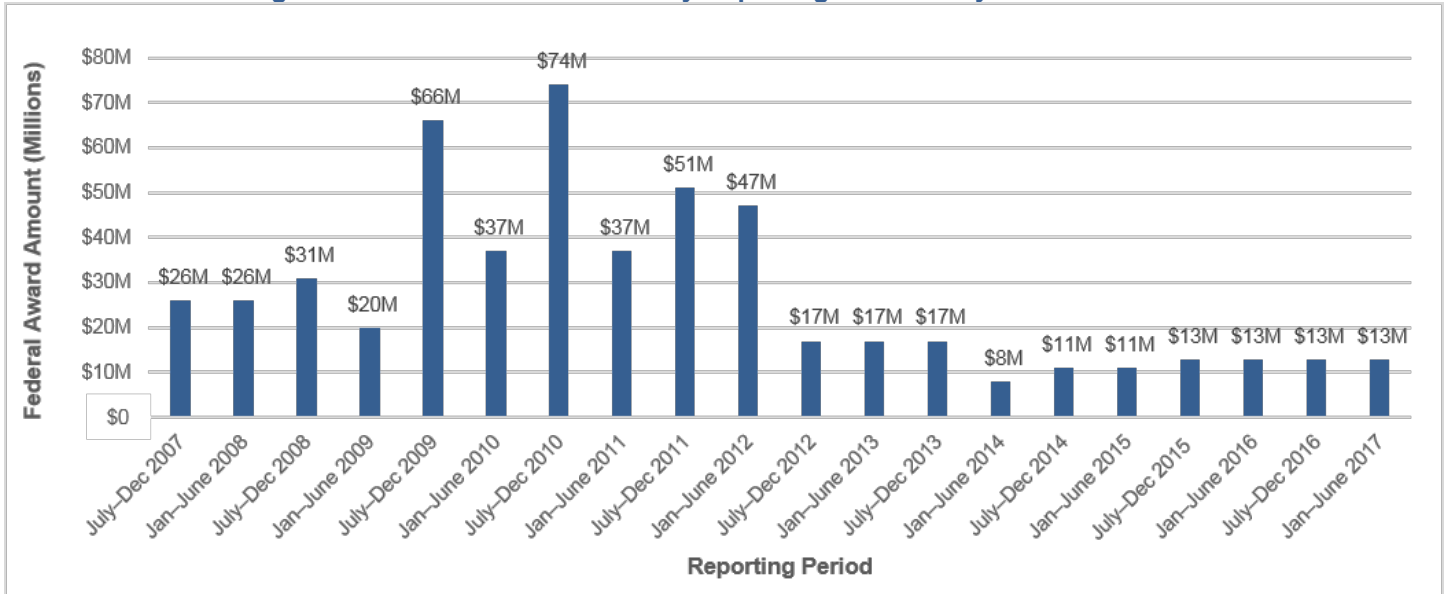
Table 2 presents demographics of volunteer advocates and children. The table’s diversity matrix allows NCASA to show the number of advocates for children by race, ethnicity, or cultural group, as well as the ratio of volunteers to children. These data are collected from activities from the local CASA projects. During the January–June 2017 reporting period, the total ratio for Caucasian/Non-Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander was 1 to 1 while the ratio for African Americans was 1 to 5 and 1 to 11 for Multiracial, suggesting the need for a larger number of volunteer advocates for these groups. The total ratio for number of advocates to number of children was 1 to 2.

Table 2. Diversity Matrix: January–June 2017

Race/Ethnicity/Cultural Group	Number of Volunteer Advocates	Number of Children	Ratio Volunteers:Children
African American	3,145	16,558	1:5
Asian/Pacific Islander	596	299	1:1
Caucasian/Non-Latino	24,896	36,193	1:1
Do not know	838	2,809	1:3
Hispanic/Latino	2,976	12,264	1:4
Multiracial	397	4,227	1:11
Native American	126	436	1:3
Other	0	0	0:0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,974</b>	<b>72,786</b>	<b>1:2</b>

Figure 2 shows the total federal award amount across all reporting periods. The July–December 2010 reporting period had the largest federal award amount, totaling \$73,646,222. During the January–June 2017 reporting period, the federal award amount was \$13,029,438.

Figure 2. Federal Award Amount by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017



## 2. Analysis of Performance Measures

During this reporting period, 74,550 children were served by the CASA grant program. The program also tracked the number of new children who started receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services. As shown in table 3, below, of the total number of children served, 25 percent ( $n = 18,655$ ) were receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.

Table 3. Total Number of Children Served: January–June 2017

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of children who started receiving services	18,655
Total number of children served	74,550
Percentage of children who started receiving services	25%

Figure 3 presents data for the number of children served and the number of children who started receiving services per reporting period since July 2007. The number of children served has steadily increased since the July–December 2015 reporting period and there was a 43 percent increase in the number of children served since the previous reporting period (July–December 2016).

Figure 3. Number of Children Served by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017

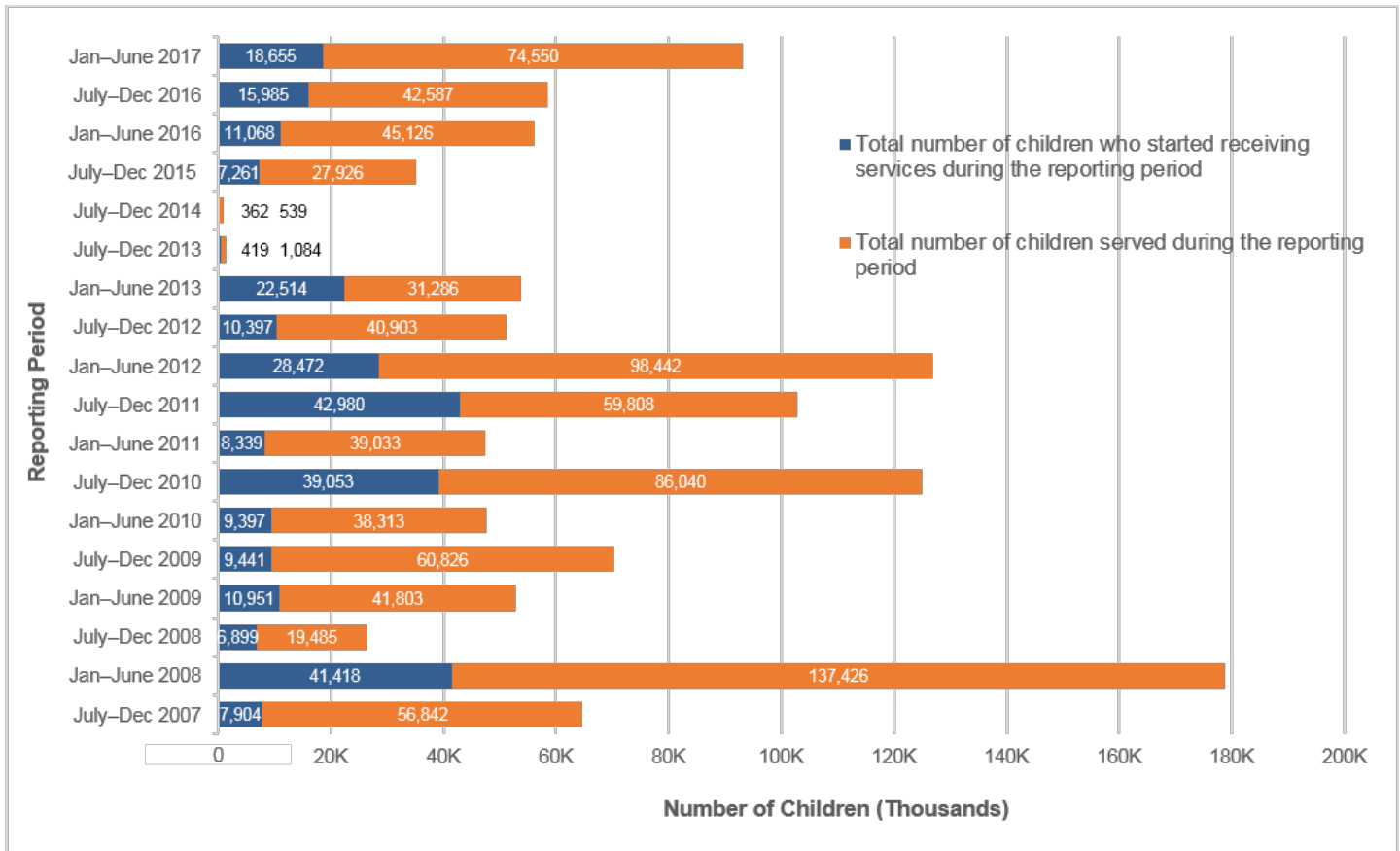


Table 4 presents the number of new and existing volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve children for the current reporting period. Among the total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve during the current reporting period, 17 percent ( $n = 5,641$ ) were new volunteers (table 4).

Table 4. Total Number of New Volunteer Advocates: January–June 2017

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of new volunteer advocates available to serve children	5,641
Total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve (new and existing)	33,414
Percentage of new volunteer advocates	17%

Figure 4 presents data for the number of new and existing volunteer advocates since July 2007. The January–June 2008 reporting period had the largest number of new and existing volunteer advocates serving the CASA program. Comparing the current and previous reporting periods, there was a 43 percent increase in the number of new volunteer advocates.

**Figure 4. Number of New and Existing Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017**

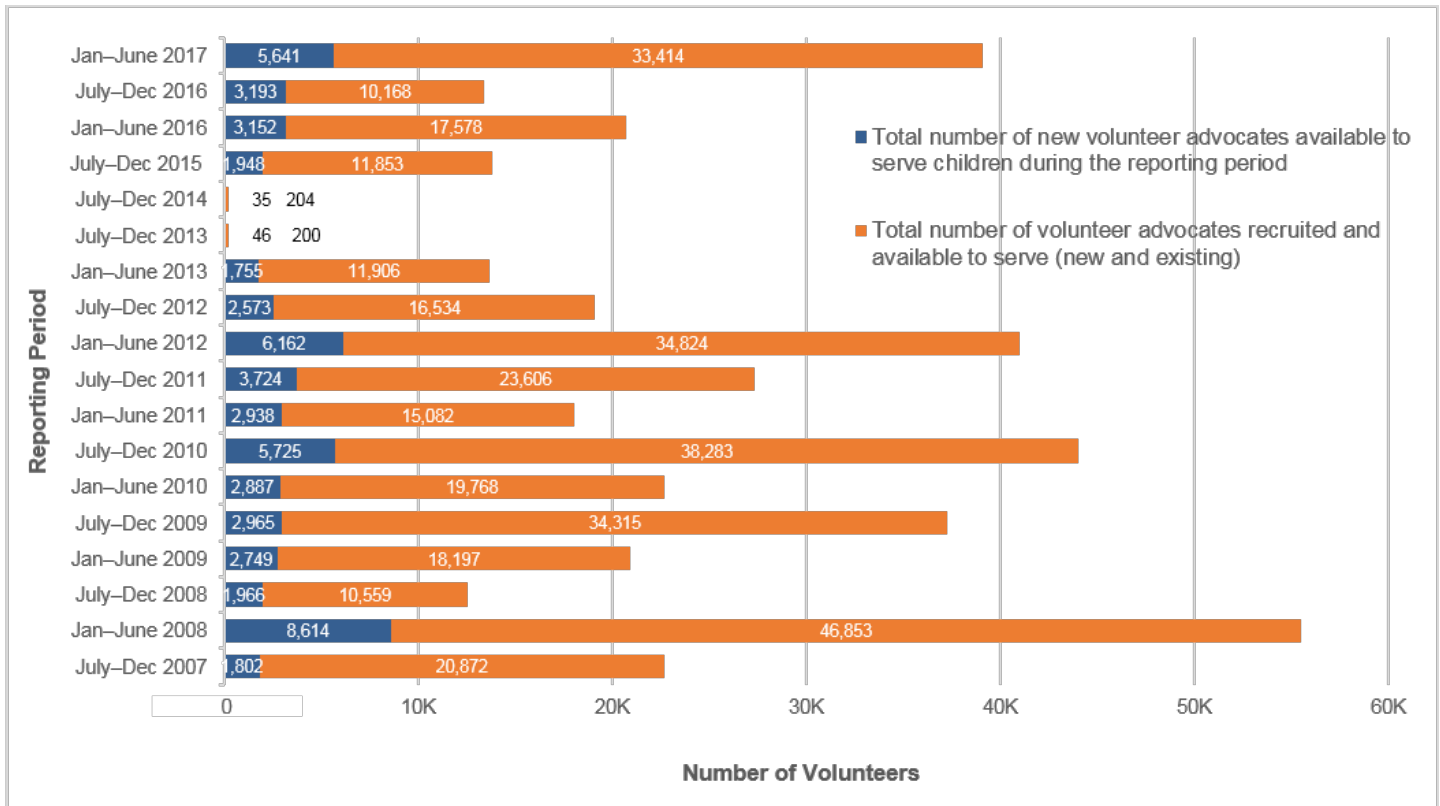


Figure 5 provides a breakdown of the percentages of new volunteer advocates by reporting period. It reveals that the percentage of new volunteer advocates has varied across all reporting periods. Compared with the other reporting periods, the July–December 2013 reporting period had the highest percentage (23 percent) of new volunteer advocates. The average percentage of new volunteer advocates from July 2007 to June 2017 is 16 percent.

Figure 5. Percentage of New Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017

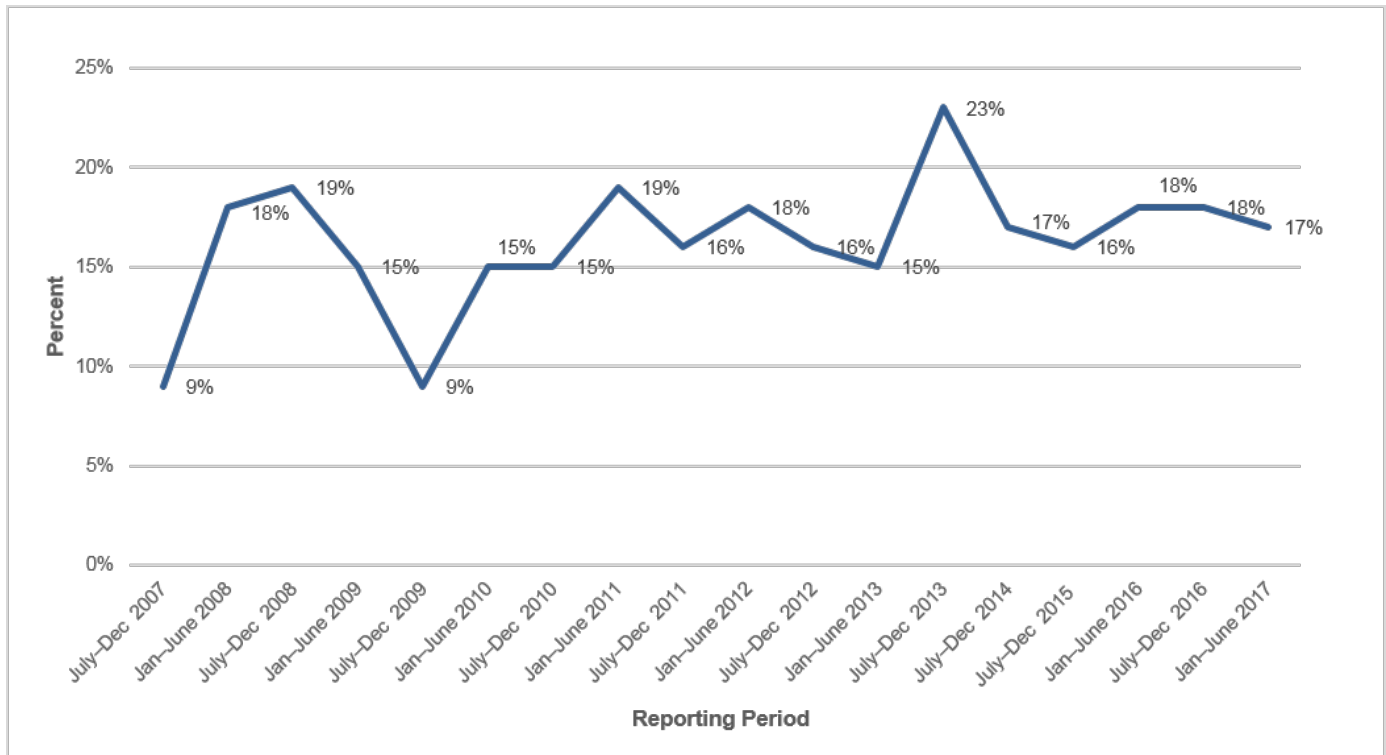


Table 5 presents data for the total number of local CASA programs active during the reporting period. Of the total number of active local programs ( $n = 945$ ), 1 percent ( $n = 5$ ) were new local CASA programs.

Table 5. Number of Active and New CASA Programs: January–June 2017

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of local CASA programs active	945
Total number of new local CASA programs active	5
Percentage of active CASA programs that were new	1%

Figure 6, below, shows the total number of local CASA programs active during each reporting period. The July–December 2008 and January–June 2009 reporting periods had the largest number of active local CASA programs followed by the current reporting period ( $n = 945$ ).

**Figure 6. Number of Active Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: January 2008–June 2017**

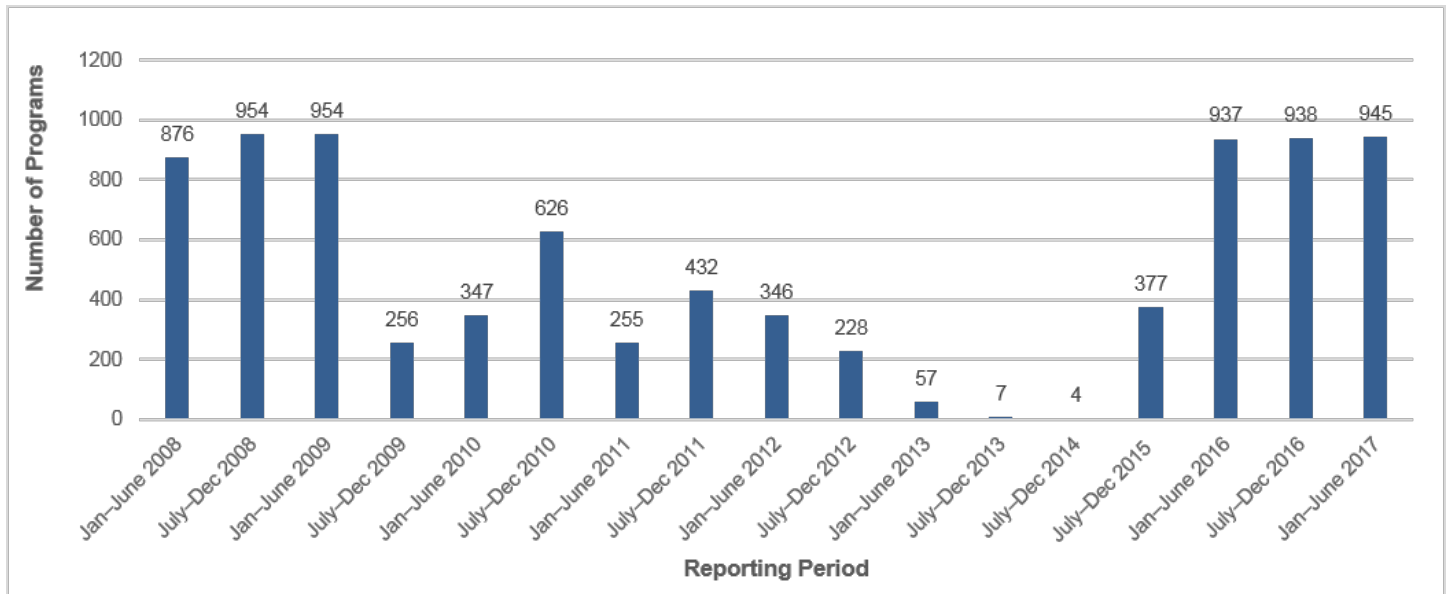
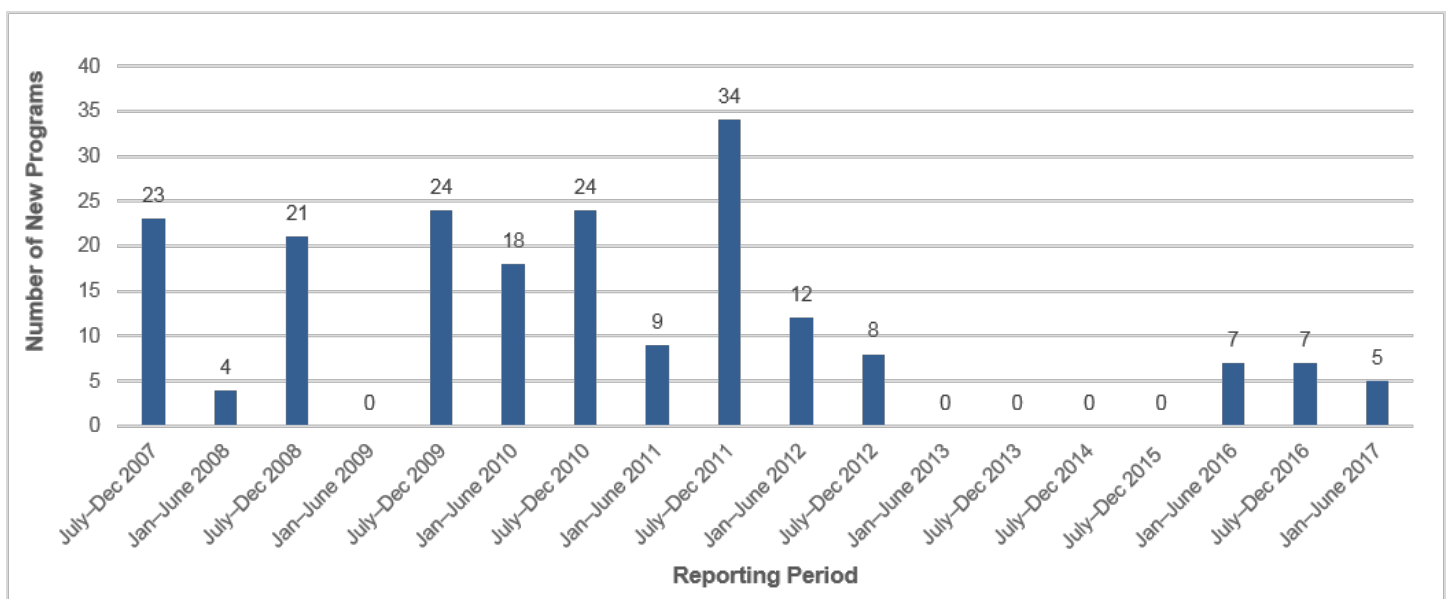


Figure 7 shows the total number of new local CASA programs active during each reporting period. Five new local CASA programs were reported during the current reporting period.

**Figure 7. Number of Active New Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017**





The CASA program tracked short and long term child abuse or neglect for youth served in the program.<sup>1</sup> As shown in table 6, 74,550 youth were served during the current reporting period. All of the youth served by the CASA program reported instances of substantiated child abuse or neglect (which qualifies them for CASA services).

**Table 6. Short Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of youth served	74,550
Number of those youth served with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect	74,550
Percentage of youth with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect	100%

Table 7 presents the number of youth tracked for child abuse or neglect over the long term. The long term data reflect a drastic reduction in child abuse or neglect reports since they are reported 6–12 months following completion of the program. Of the 18,284 youth who ended services 6–12 months before the current reporting period, 2 percent had substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect ( $n = 403$ ).

**Table 7. Long Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of youth who ended services 6–12 months previous to the reporting period	18,284
Number of those youth who ended services 6–12 months previous to the reporting period with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports	403
Percentage of youth with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports	2%

Performance measures also capture the number and percent of youth who exited CASA programs and were reunited with their families, were adopted or were provided with legal guardianship. As shown in Table 8, among the total number of CASA youth who left foster care during the current reporting period, 79 percent ( $n = 12,410$ ) exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

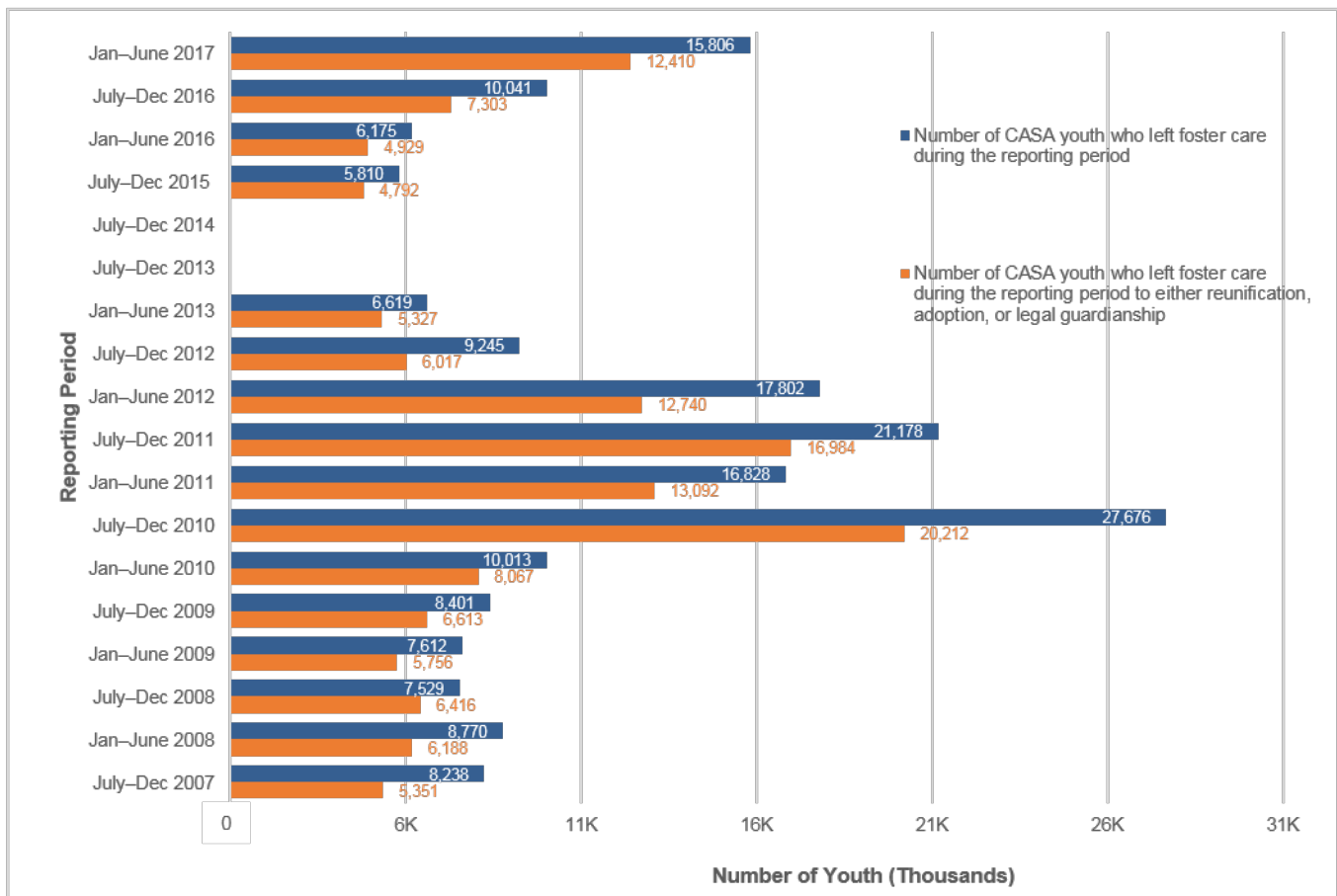
<sup>1</sup> Short term is defined as an unduplicated count of the number of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect served during the reporting period. Long term refers to an unduplicated count of the number of youth who were victims of substantiated or indicated abuse and/or neglect who completed the program 6–12 months previous to the current reporting period.

**Table 8. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship: January–June 2017**

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care	15,806
Number of those CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship	12,410
Percentage of CASA youth who left foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship	79%

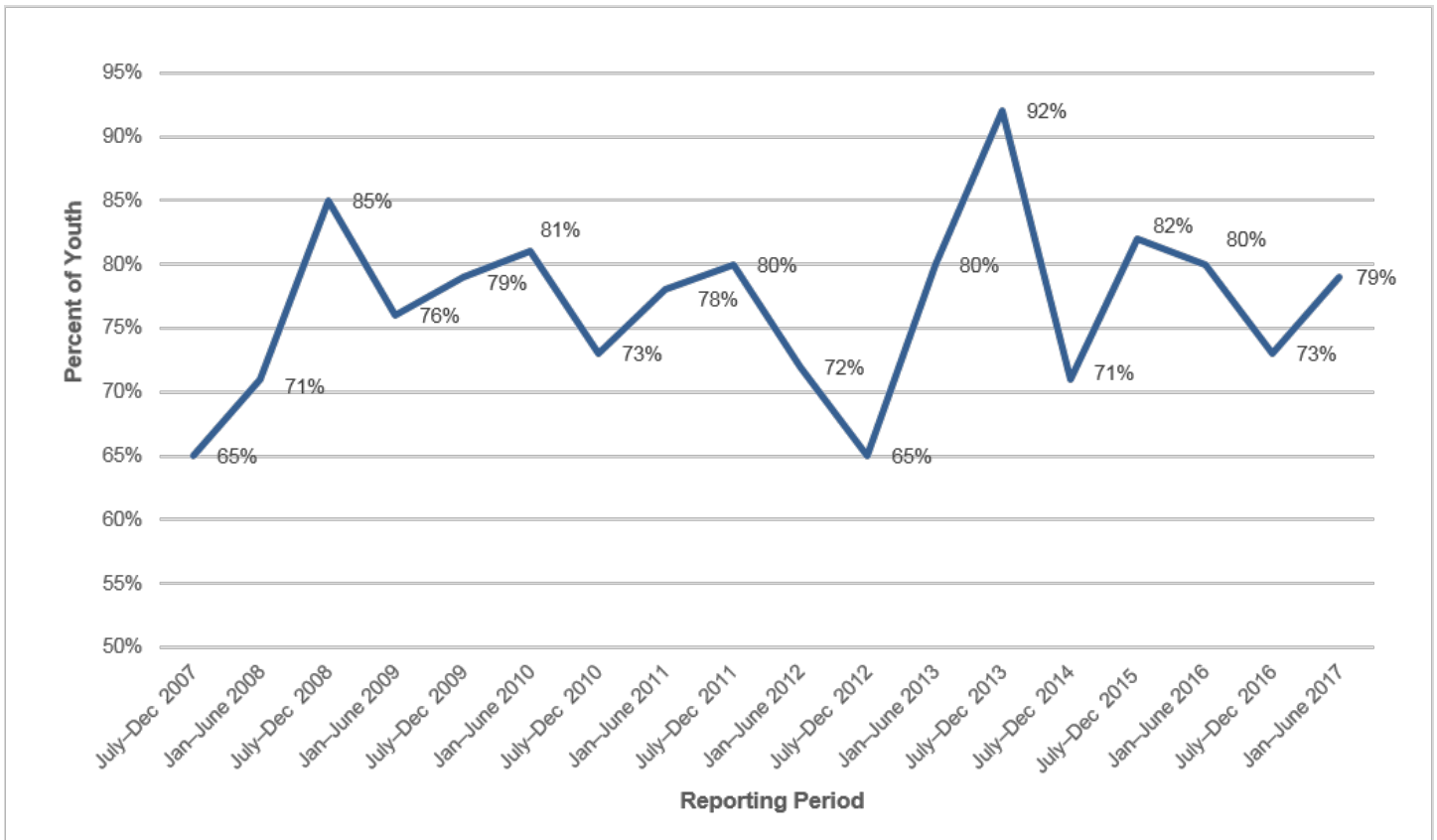
Additionally, over the last three reporting periods, the number of children exiting CASA programs, including youth existing to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has been steadily increasing reaching a total of 12,410 children for the current reporting period (figure 8). It should be noted, however, that the number of youth who exited the program for reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship is a subset of the total number of youth existing the program, so those reporting periods having larger numbers of youth exiting the program are more likely to have larger numbers of youth who exited for reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

**Figure 8. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship, by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017**



The percentage of children exiting CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has varied across reporting periods with the January–June 2013 reporting period having the highest percentage (92 percent). Overall, the average percentage of children who were reunited with their families, adopted or placed under legal guardianship is 77 percent (figure 9).

**Figure 9. Percentage of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship (Short Term) by Reporting Period: July 2007–June 2017**



## **Summary**

During the January–June 2017 reporting period, the CASA program had one active subgrant with a federal award amount of \$13,029,438. The CASA grantee for the current reporting period completed the reporting requirements for a 100 percent reporting compliance rate, and across all reporting periods, CASA grantees have an average reporting compliance rate of 92 percent. Further examination of program information for the January–June 2017 reporting period, including the ratio of volunteer advocates for children by race, ethnicity, or cultural group revealed the need for a larger number of African American and Multiracial volunteer advocates. Looking at the information from the performance measure data, the number of children served by the CASA programs has steadily increased since the July–December 2015 reporting period and there was a 43 percent increase in the number of children served since the previous reporting period. A total of 74,550 children were served during the January–June 2017 reporting period, and 25 percent of those children received CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time. The CASA Program has had a long term impact on youth who participated in the program with only 2 percent of youth who ended services 6–12 months before the current reporting period having substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect. Additionally, of the total number of CASA youth who left foster care, 79 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.