

Overview of the DCTAT Data for Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program Grants: July 2007–December 2015

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. Under this program, OJJDP provides TTA to local and state providers to support existing and new CASA programs across the nation and CASA services in 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 presents an overview of the data from the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) for CASA grantees collected across all reporting periods, with a focus on the current reporting period, July–December 2015.

- The average reporting compliance rate across all reporting periods is 91 percent.
- No performance measure data was reported during the January–June 2014 and January–June 2015 reporting periods, because subgrantees were not operational during those data collection periods.
- Across all reporting periods, the System Improvement category received the most funding, at \$216,820,248. The OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Project category received the next highest amount, at \$145,419,241, followed by the OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency category, at \$1,064,602.
- During the current reporting period, the System Improvement category received \$8,650,839.
- Twenty-six percent of the children served during the current reporting period were children receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.
- Of the total number of volunteer advocates recruited, 16 percent were new volunteers.
- Among the total number of CASA-served youth who left foster care during the current reporting period, 82 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.
- There was no data reported for Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants or System Improvement mandatory performance measures during the current reporting period.

1. Examination of Program Information

The CASA Program grantees began reporting in the DCTAT in 2007. The grantees are required to report semiannually for each active Federal award. Table 1 presents the reporting compliance rate of active Federal awards for every reporting period, starting with the July–December 2007 period. During the July–December 2015 reporting period, the CASA grantee completed the DCTAT reporting requirement for the single active Federal award. Across all reporting periods, CASA has an average reporting compliance rate of 91 percent.

Table 1. Status of CASA Program Reporting by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

| 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 |
| Total | 2 | 1 | 31 | 34 | 91 |

The number of operational subgrants has varied across all reporting periods (Figure 1). There were no operational subgrants during the January–June 2014 and January–June 2015 reporting periods; therefore, those two reporting periods will be excluded from the analysis of program measures in the second part of this report.

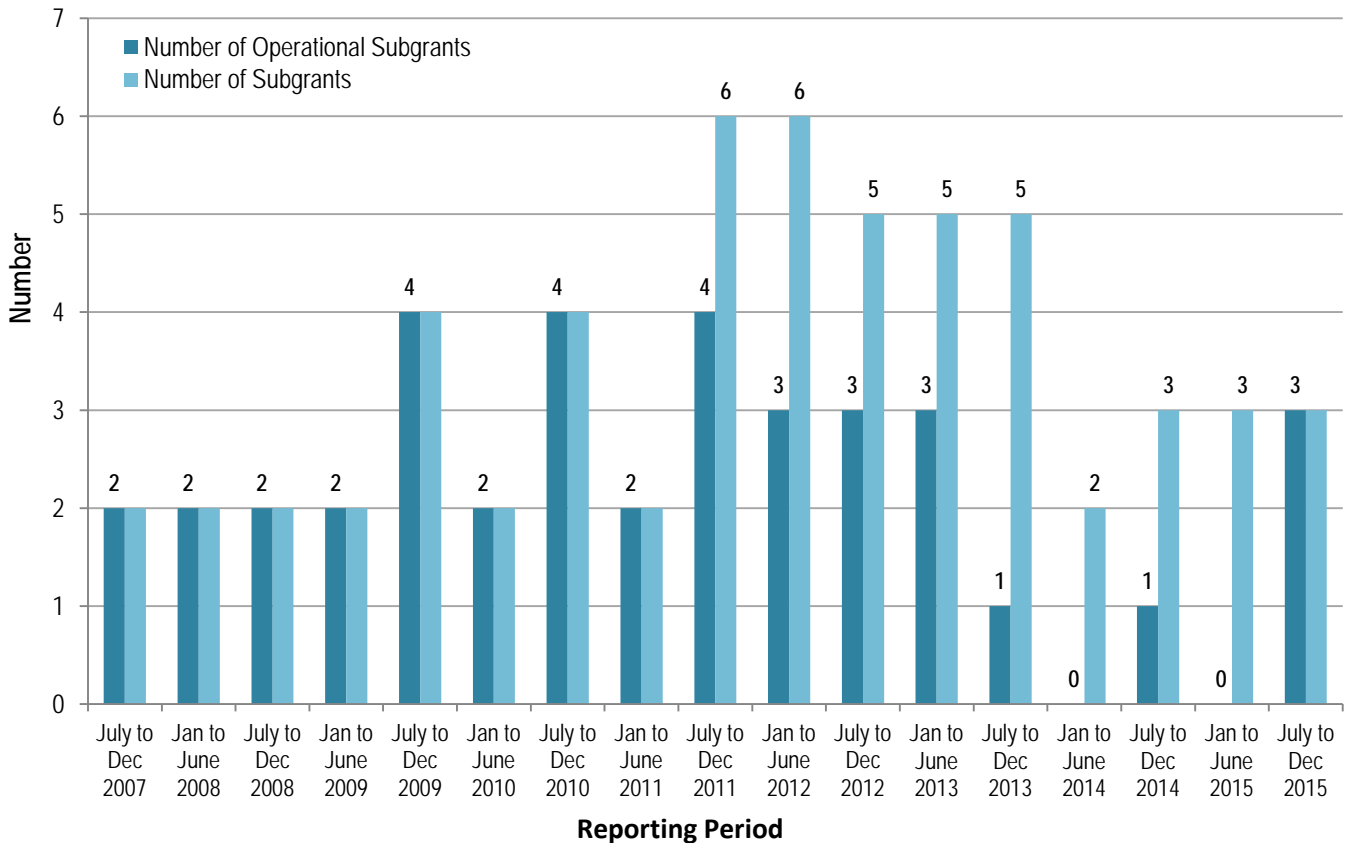
Figure 1. Number of Total and Operational Subgrants by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

Table 2 presents aggregate demographic data for the three most recent reporting periods (July 2014–December 2015). More specifically, the numbers in Table 2 represent the population actually served by CASA grantees during the project period. Targeted services include any approaches specifically designed to meet the needs of the intended population (e.g., gender specific, culturally based, and developmentally appropriate).

Table 2. Target Population Served: July 2014–December 2015

| Population | Target Population Served During Reporting Period | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| | July–December 2014 | January–June 2015 | July–December 2015 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | |
| African American | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Caucasian/Non-Latino | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Multi-Racial | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Native American | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Do Not Know | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Gender | | | |
| Male | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Female | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Age | | | |
| Birth to 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 0 to 10 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 6 to 11 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 11 to 18 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 12 to 17 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Over 18 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Do Not Know | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Geographic Area | | | |
| Rural | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Suburban | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Tribal | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Urban | 3 | 3 | 3 |

Table 3 presents the number of awards by program area across all reporting periods. Overall, the OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Projects program area received the largest number of awards ($n = 40$). The System Improvement program area received the second largest number of awards ($n = 34$), followed by the OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants ($n = 18$).

Table 3. Awards by Program Area by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

| Reporting Period | OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Projects | OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants | System Improvement |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| July–December 2007 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| January–June 2008 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| July–December 2008 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| January–June 2009 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| July–December 2009 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| January–June 2010 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| July–December 2010 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| January–June 2011 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| July–December 2011 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| January–June 2012 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| July–December 2012 | 4 | 1 | 1 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| January–June 2013 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| July–December 2013 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| January–June 2014 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| July–December 2014 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| January–June 2015 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| July–December 2015 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 40 | 18 | 34 |

Table 4 shows the total allocated award amount by program area. Across all reporting periods, the System Improvement category received the most funding, at \$216,820,248. The OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Project category received the next highest amount, at \$145,419,241, followed by the OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency category, at \$1,064,602. No funding data was reported for the OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency category during the past four reporting periods.

Table 4. Total Allocated Award Amount by Program Area by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

| Reporting Period | OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Projects | OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants | System Improvement |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| July–December 2007 | \$3,269,500 | \$88,500 | \$6,984,247 |
| January–June 2008 | \$3,269,500 | \$88,500 | \$6,984,247 |
| July–December 2008 | \$3,283,500 | \$155,000 | \$12,942,857 |
| January–June 2009 | \$3,283,500 | \$155,000 | \$5,958,610 |
| July–December 2009 | \$1,112,092 | \$73,000 | \$20,839,218 |
| January–June 2010 | \$1,112,092 | \$73,000 | \$14,880,608 |
| July–December 2010 | \$1,152,447 | \$168,500 | \$29,724,406 |
| January–June 2011 | \$40,355 | \$95,500 | \$14,843,798 |
| July–December 2011 | \$16,841,366 | \$77,201 | \$23,494,637 |
| January–June 2012 | \$16,841,366 | \$77,201 | \$19,611,747 |
| July–December 2012 | \$13,605,689 | \$4,400 | \$8,650,839 |
| January–June 2013 | \$13,605,689 | \$4,400 | \$8,650,839 |
| July–December 2013 | \$13,605,689 | \$4,400 | \$8,650,839 |
| January–June 2014 | \$13,552,489 | | \$8,650,839 |
| July–December 2014 | \$13,575,989 | | \$8,650,839 |
| January–June 2015 | \$13,575,989 | | \$8,650,839 |
| July–December 2015 | \$13,691,989 | | \$8,650,839 |
| Total: | \$145,419,241 | \$1,064,602 | \$216,820,248 |

Figure 2 illustrates the total allocated award amount by program areas across all reporting periods. Spanning the initial 10 reporting periods (July 2007–June 2012), the largest amount of funding was provided for System Improvement, followed by OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Projects and OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants. During the July–December 2012 reporting period to the most recent reporting period, OJJDP-Funded CASA Grant Projects received the most funding, followed by System Improvement and OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants. Funding for CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency Grants was not reported during the four most recent reporting periods (January 2014–December 2015).

Figure 2. Total Allocated Award Amount by Program Areas: July 2007–December 2015

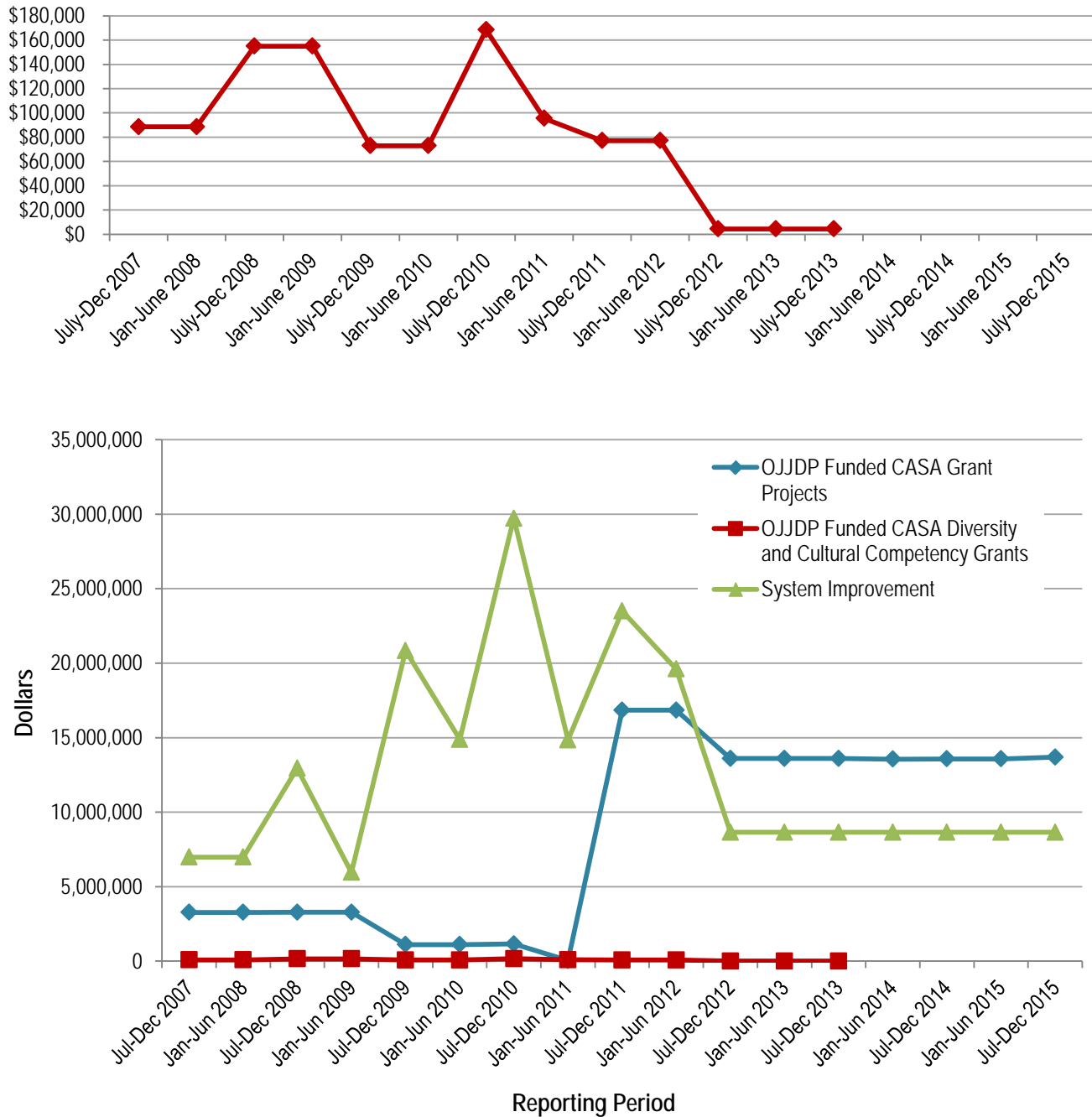
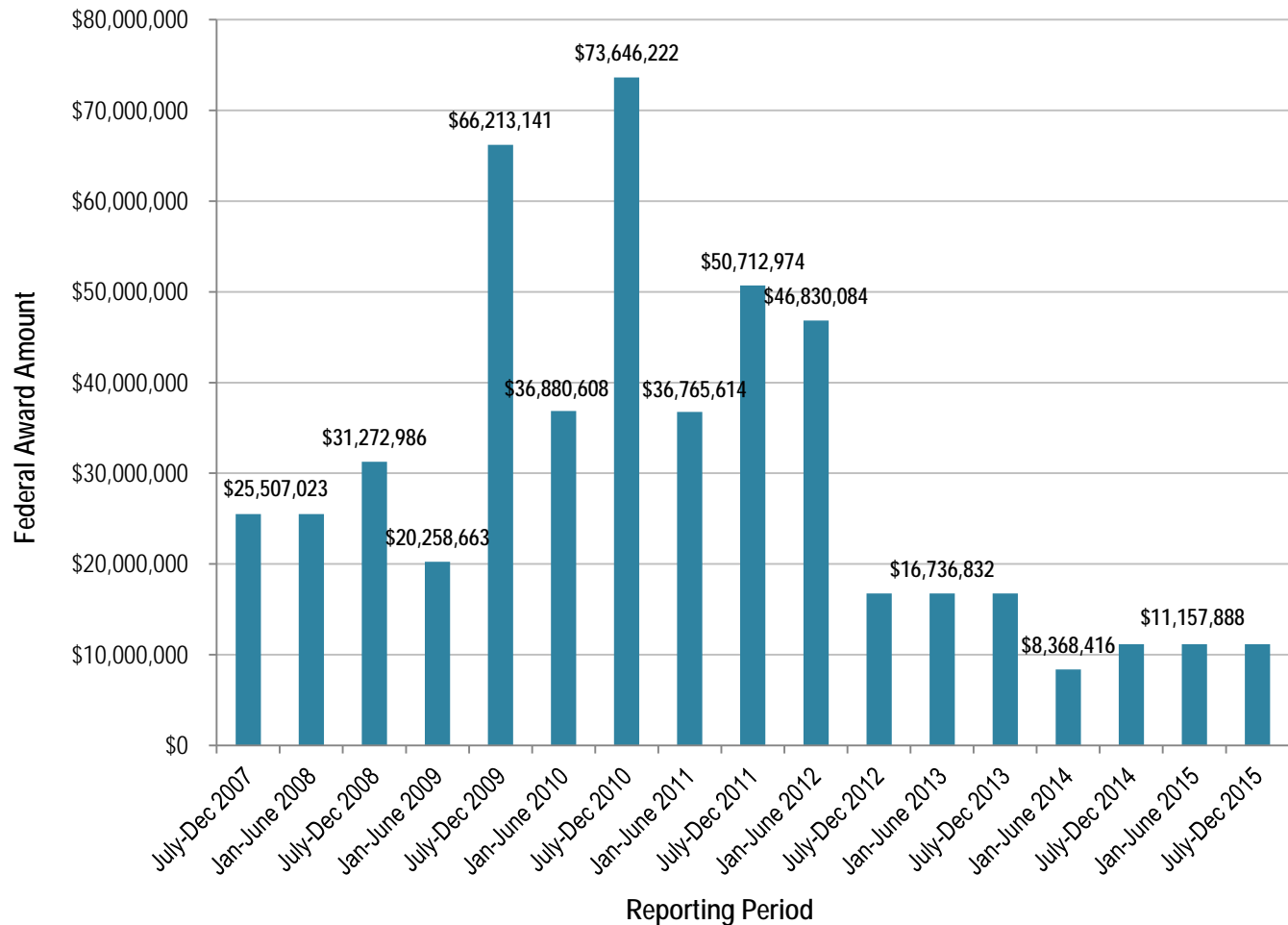


Figure 3 shows the total Federal award amount across all reporting periods. The July–December 2010 reporting period had the largest Federal award amount totaling \$73,646,222. The Federal award amounts have remained the same during the three most recent reporting periods.

Figure 3. Federal Award Amount by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015



2. Analysis of Program Measures

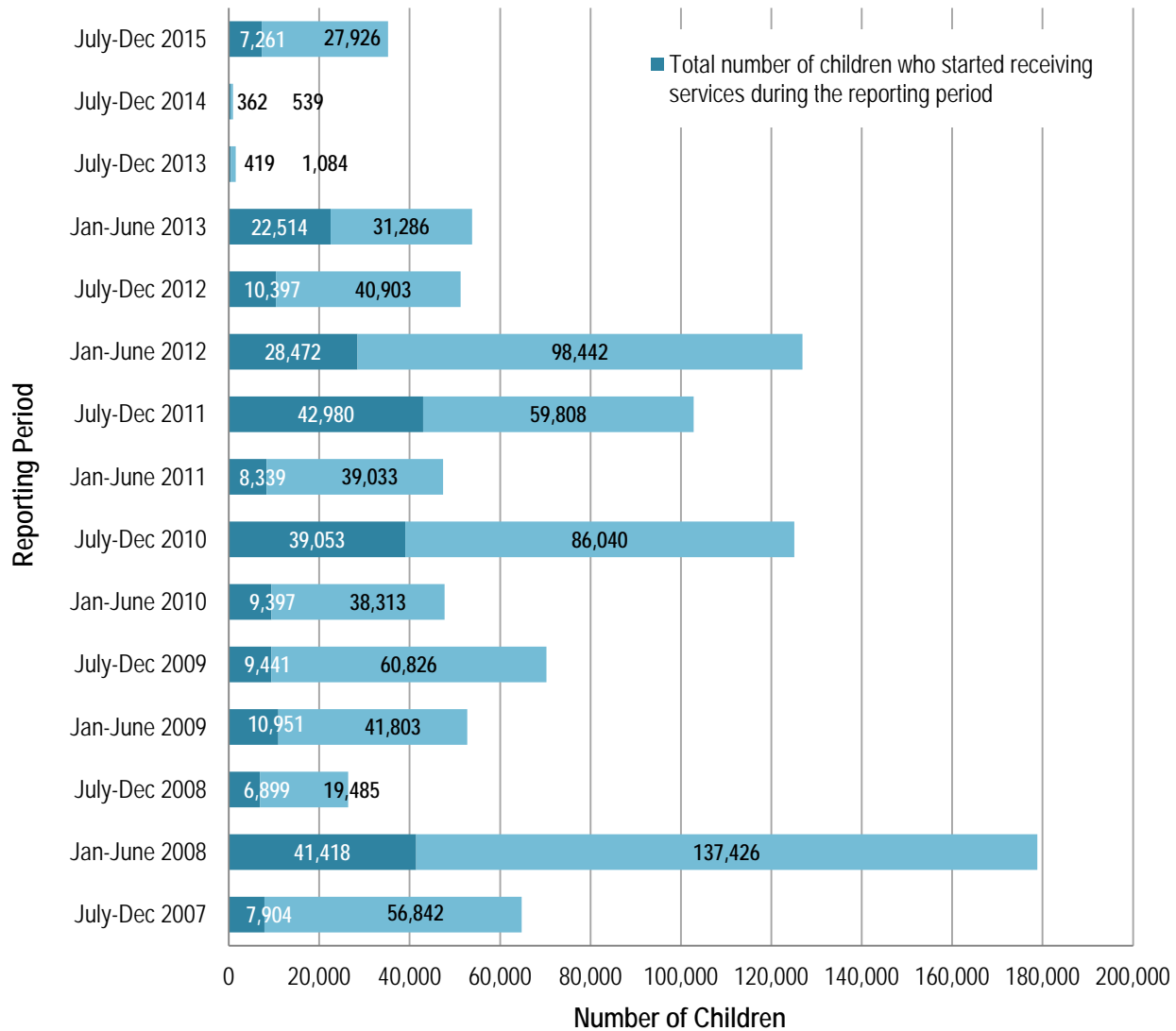
During this reporting period, a total of 27,926 children were served by the CASA Grant program. Data were tracked for the number of new children who started receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services. As shown in Table 5, of the total number of children served, 26 percent ($n = 7,261$) were children receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.

Table 5. Total Number of Children Served: July–December 2015

| Performance Measure | Number |
|---|--------|
| Total number of children who started receiving services | 7,261 |
| Total number of children served | 27,926 |
| Percent of children who started receiving services | 26% |

Excluding the most recent reporting period, the total number of children served has declined since the January–June 2013 reporting period. The largest number of children was served during the January–June 2008 reporting period (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Number of Children Served by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015



Among the total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve during the current reporting period, 16 percent ($n = 1,948$) were new volunteers (Table 6).

Table 6. Total Number of New Volunteer Advocates: July–December 2015

| Performance Measure | Number |
|---|--------|
| Total number of new volunteer advocates available to serve children | 1,948 |
| Total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve (new and existing) | 11,853 |
| Percent of new volunteer advocates | 16% |

Excluding the most recent reporting period, the number of new and existing volunteer advocates has declined since the January–June 2012 reporting period. The largest number of volunteer advocates (new and existing) served during the January–June 2008 reporting period (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Number of New Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

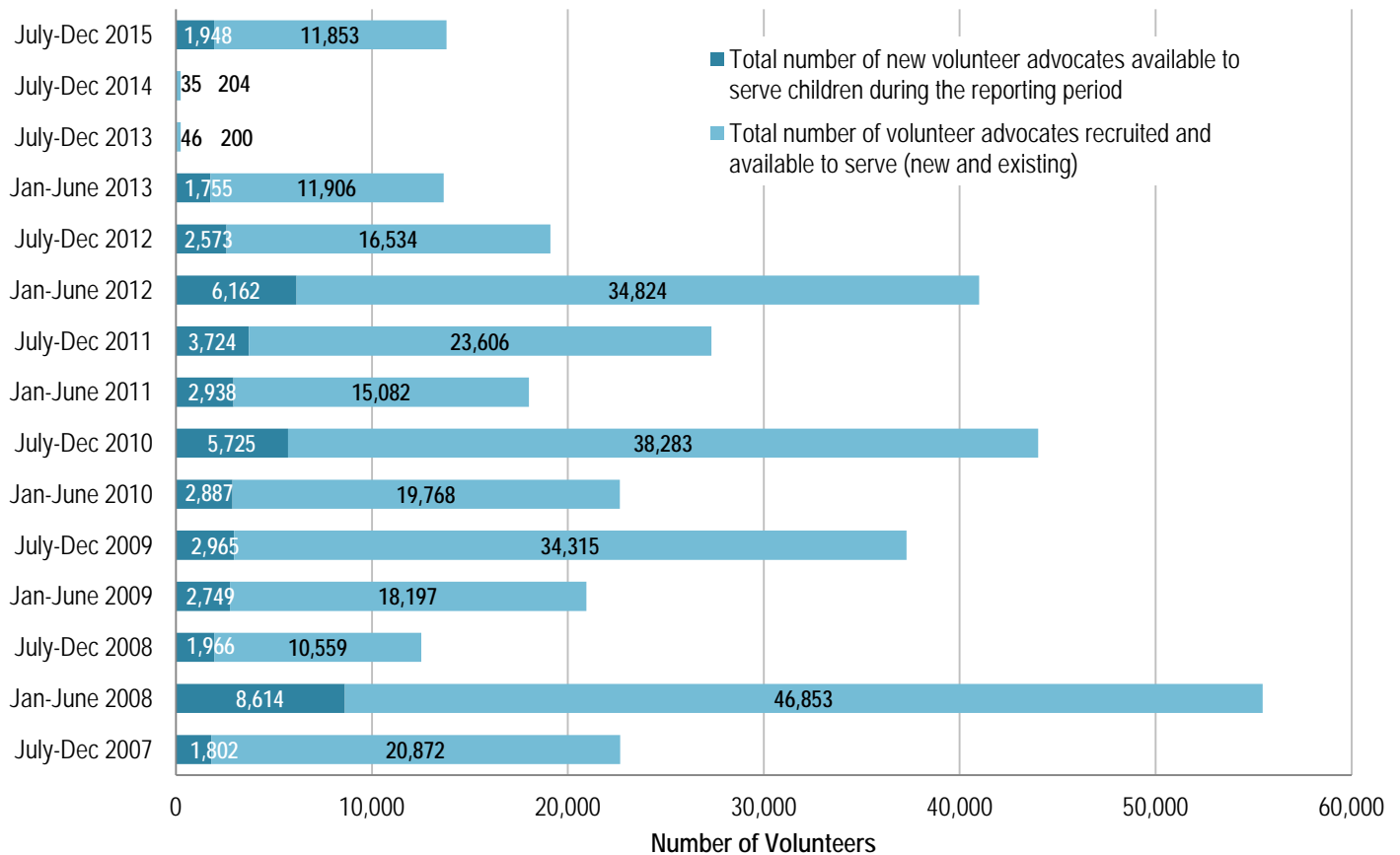


Figure 6 shows the percentage of new volunteer advocates has varied across all reporting periods. The average percentage of new volunteer advocates from July 2007–December 2015 is 16 percent.

Figure 6. Percent of New Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

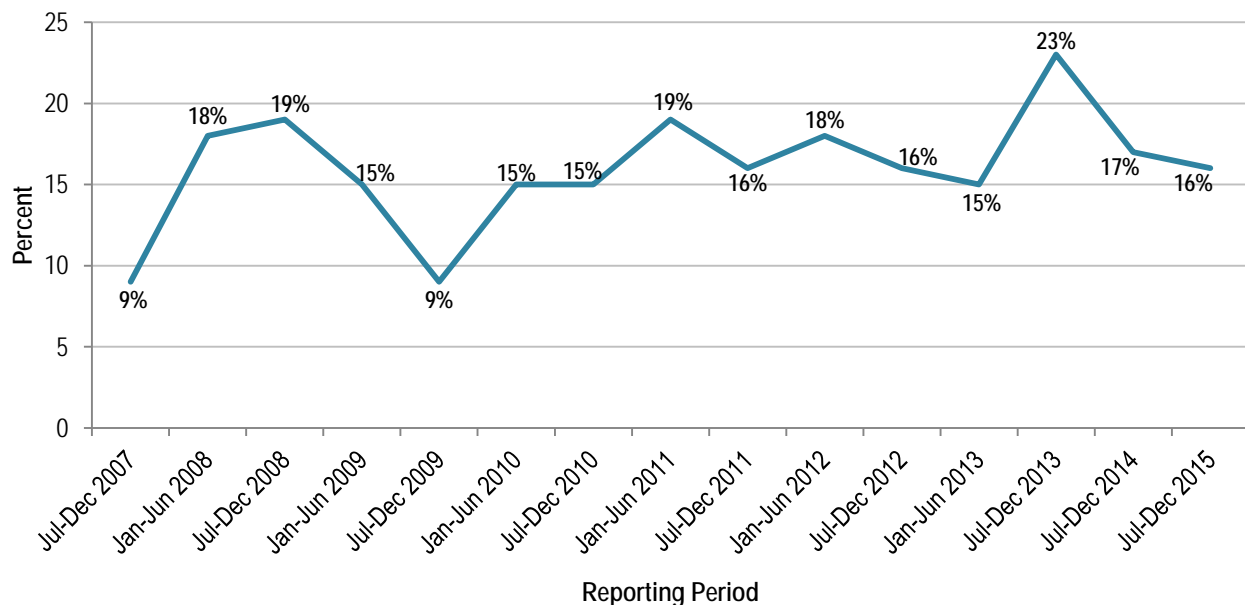


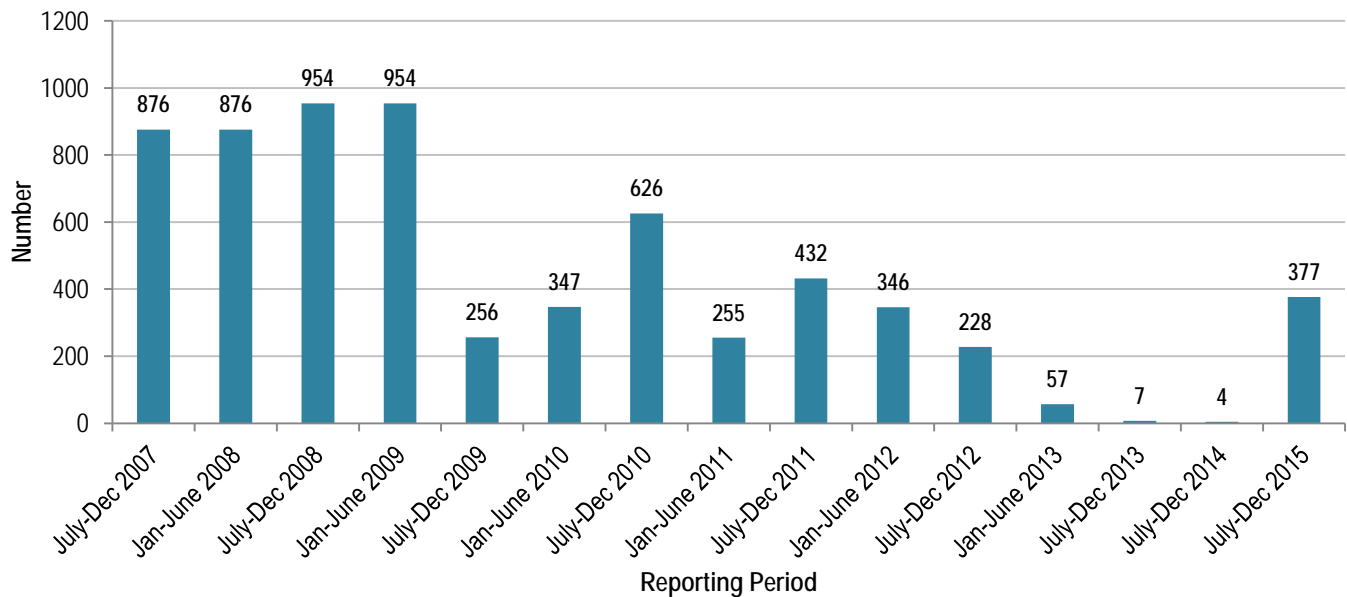
Table 7 presents data for the total number of local CASA programs active during the current reporting period. Of the total number of active local programs ($n = 377$), no new local CASA programs were active.

Table 7. Number of Active and New CASA Programs: July–December 2015

| Performance Measure | Number |
|---|--------|
| Total number of local CASA programs active | 377 |
| The total number of new local CASA programs active | 0 |
| Percent of new local CASA programs that were active | 0% |

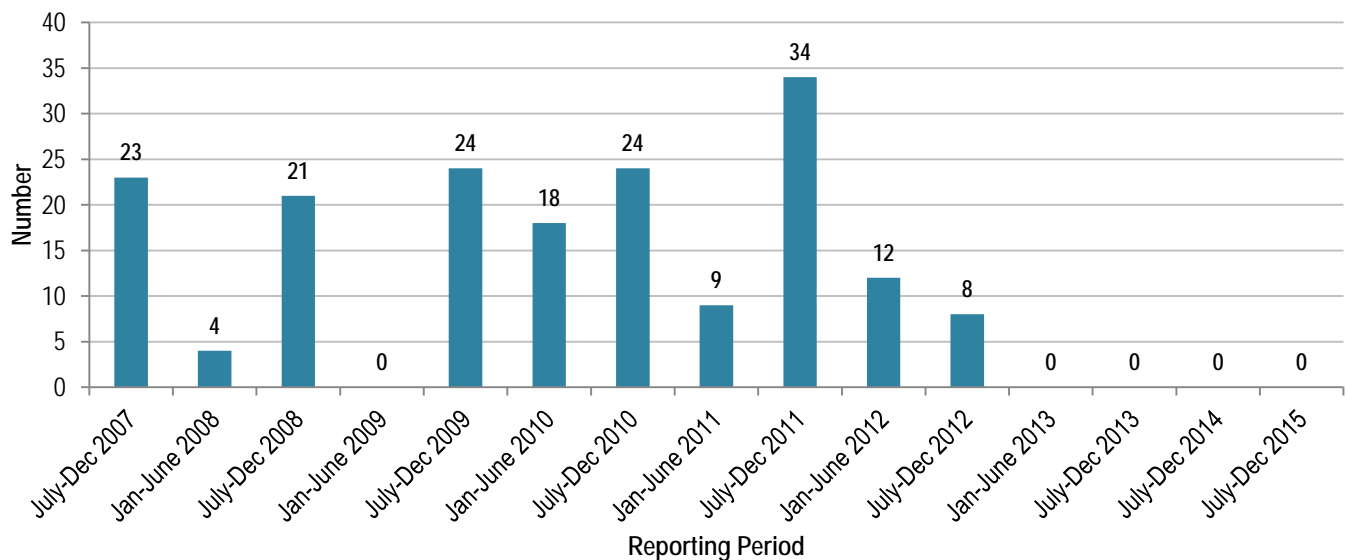
Excluding the most recent reporting period, the total number of active local CASA Programs has steadily declined since the July–December 2011 reporting period. The largest numbers of active local CASA programs were reported during the July–December 2008 and January–June 2009 reporting periods (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Number of Active Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015



The number of active new local CASA programs has declined since the July–December 2011 reporting period. No new local CASA programs were reported from January 2013–December 2015 (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Number of Active New Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015



Child abuse or neglect data were tracked over the short and long term for youth served in the program. As shown in Table 8, 27,926 youth were served in the current reporting period. Of those, 100 percent had a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect.

Table 8. Short-Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: July–December 2015

| Performance Measure | Number |
|--|--------|
| Number of youth served | 27,926 |
| Number of those youth served with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect | 27,926 |
| Percent of youth with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect | 100% |

Table 9 shows the number of youth tracked for child abuse or neglect over the long term. Of the 12,579 youth who ended services 6 to 12 months before the current reporting period, 1 percent had substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect ($n = 143$).

Table 9. Long-Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: July–December 2015

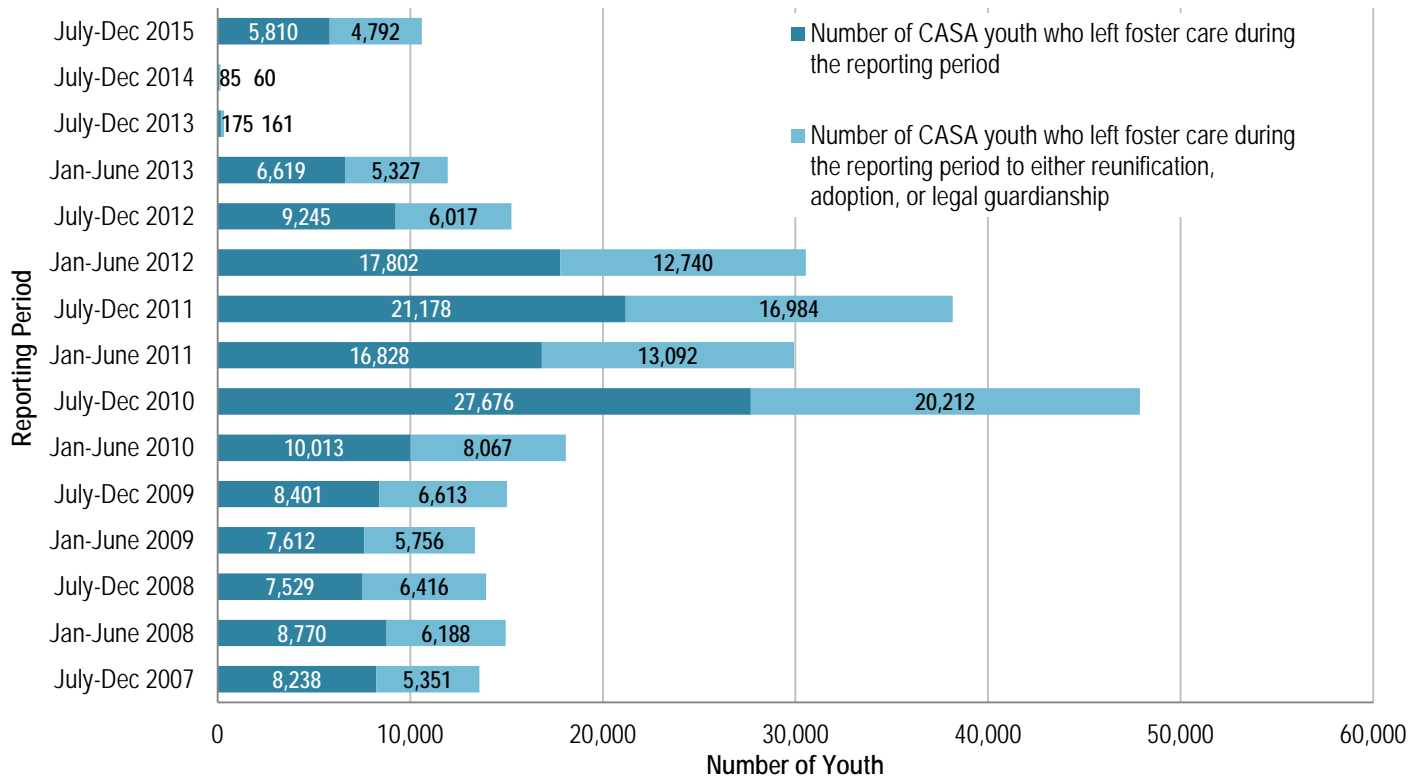
| Performance Measure | Number |
|--|--------|
| Number of youth who ended services 6 to 12 months previous to the reporting period | 12,579 |
| Number of those youth who ended services 6 to 12 months previous to the reporting period with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports | 143 |
| Percent of youth with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports | 1% |

As shown in Table 10, among the total number of CASA youth who left foster care during the current reporting period, 82 percent ($n = 4,792$) exited CASA programs either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

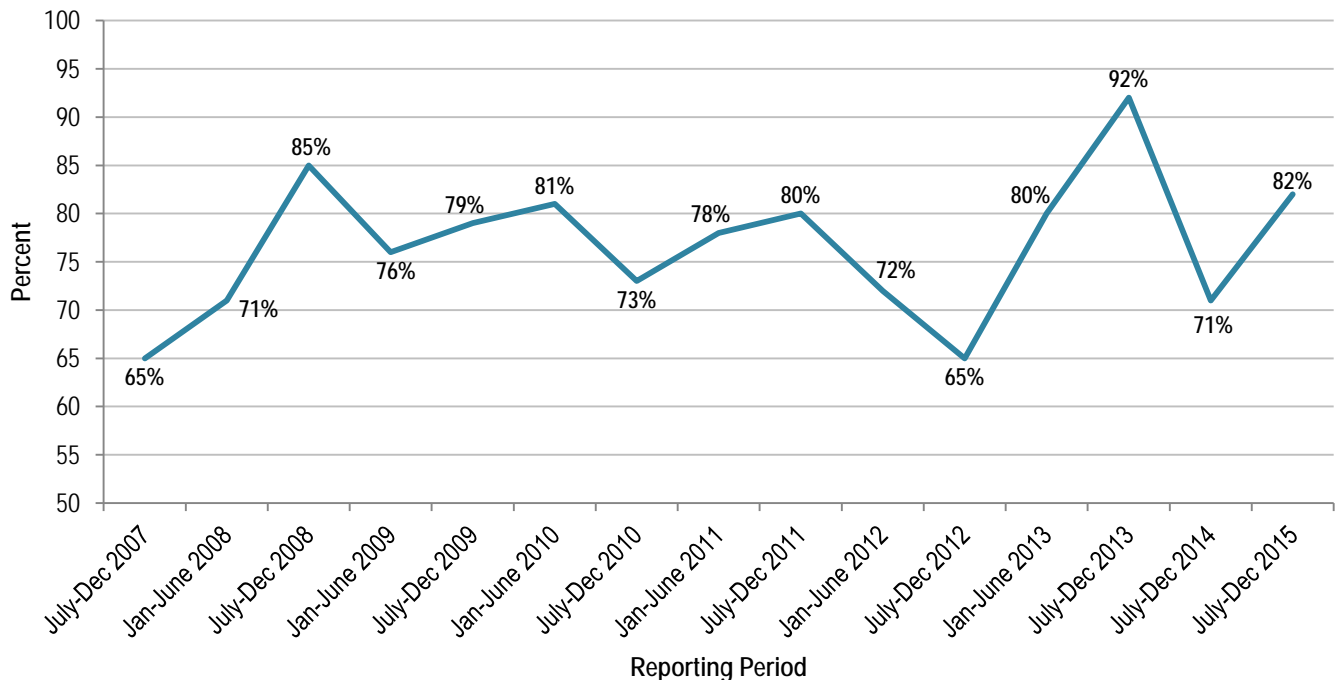
Table 10. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship (short term): July–December 2015

| Performance Measure | Number |
|--|--------|
| Number of CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care | 5,810 |
| Number of those CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship | 4,792 |
| Percent of CASA youth who left foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship | 82% |

The number of children exiting CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has steadily declined since the July–December 2011 reporting period. The greatest number of children exited the programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship during the July–December 2010 reporting period (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship (short term) by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

The percentage of children exiting CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has varied. Overall, the average percentage of children exiting CASA programs for the purposes of reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship is 77 percent (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Percent of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship (short term) by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2015

Summary

During the July–December 2015 reporting period, the CASA Grants program had a 100 percent reporting compliance rate. Overall, the percentage of compliance for all reporting periods is 91 percent. The OJJDP-Funded CASA Grants Project category received the most funding, at \$13,691,989. The System Improvement category received the next highest amount, with \$8,650,839. No funding data was reported for the OJJDP-Funded CASA Diversity and Cultural Competency category across the past four reporting periods.

There were no operational grantees or subgrantees during the January–June 2014 and January–June 2015 reporting periods; therefore, those two reporting periods were excluded from the analysis of program measures.

The following data refers to the current reporting period. The OJJDP-Funded CASA Grants Project category was the only category in which data was reported for mandatory performance measures. A total of 27,926 children were served, and 26 percent of those children received CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time. One hundred percent of the youth served had a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect. No new local CASA programs were active during this reporting period. Among the total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve, 16 percent were new volunteers. Of the total number of CASA youth who left foster care, 82 percent exited CASA programs either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship. Overall, the average percentage of children exiting CASA programs for the purposes of reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship is 77 percent.

Data entry for the next reporting period, January–June 2016, will begin July 1, 2016.