

Overview of the DCTAT Data for Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program Grants: July–December 2016

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 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 is an overview of the Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) data for CASA grantees as reported through December 31, 2016. The report is divided into two sections: an examination of program information for CASA grantees, and an analysis of CASA performance measures. No performance measurement data were reported during the January–June 2014 and January–June 2015 reporting periods, because 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.

These highlights refer to the July–December 2016 reporting period.

- CASA Program grantees had a 100-percent reporting compliance rate in the DCTAT.
- There was one active subgrant, and the Federal award amount was \$7,806,380.
- The total ratio for number of volunteer advocates to children was 1:2.
- There were 42,587 children served.
- 38 percent of the children served were receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.
- Of the total number of volunteer advocates recruited, 31 percent were new volunteers.
- Among the total number of CASA-served youth who left foster care, 73 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

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 2016 reporting period, the CASA grantee completed the DCTAT 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–December 2016

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
Total	2	1	33	36	92

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. During the July–December 2016 reporting period, there was one operational subgrant.

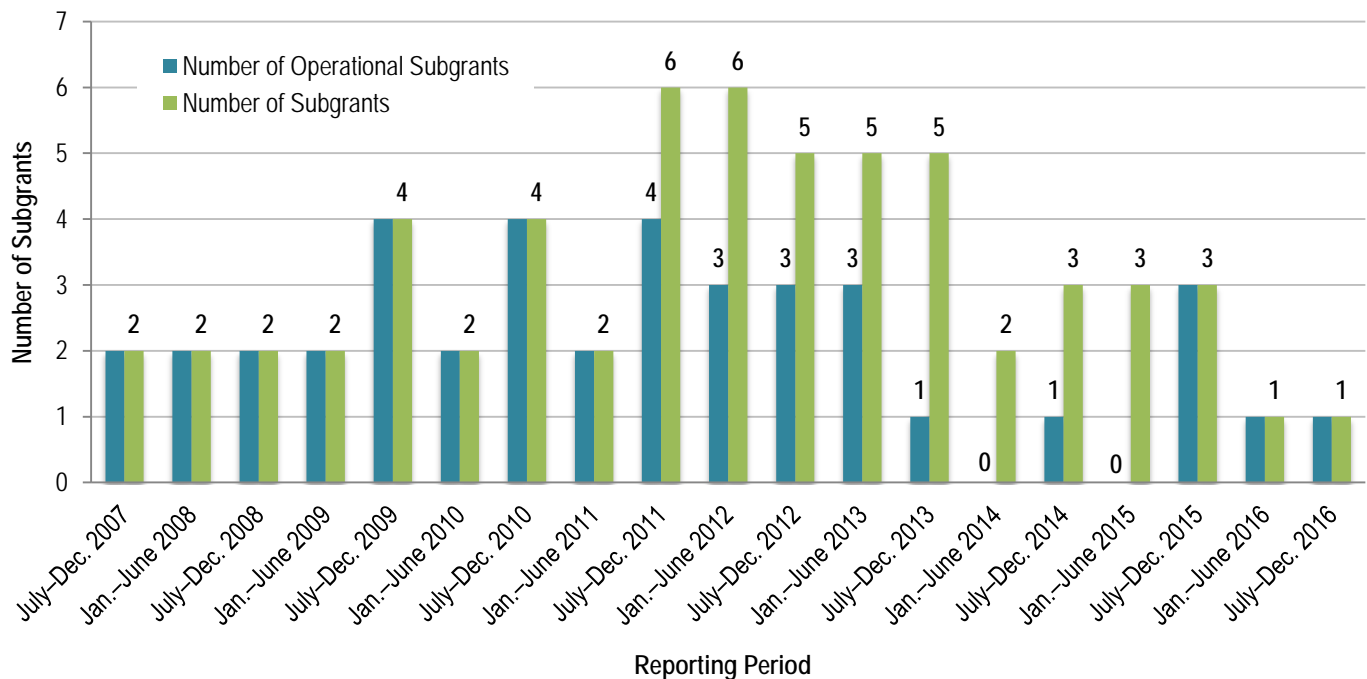
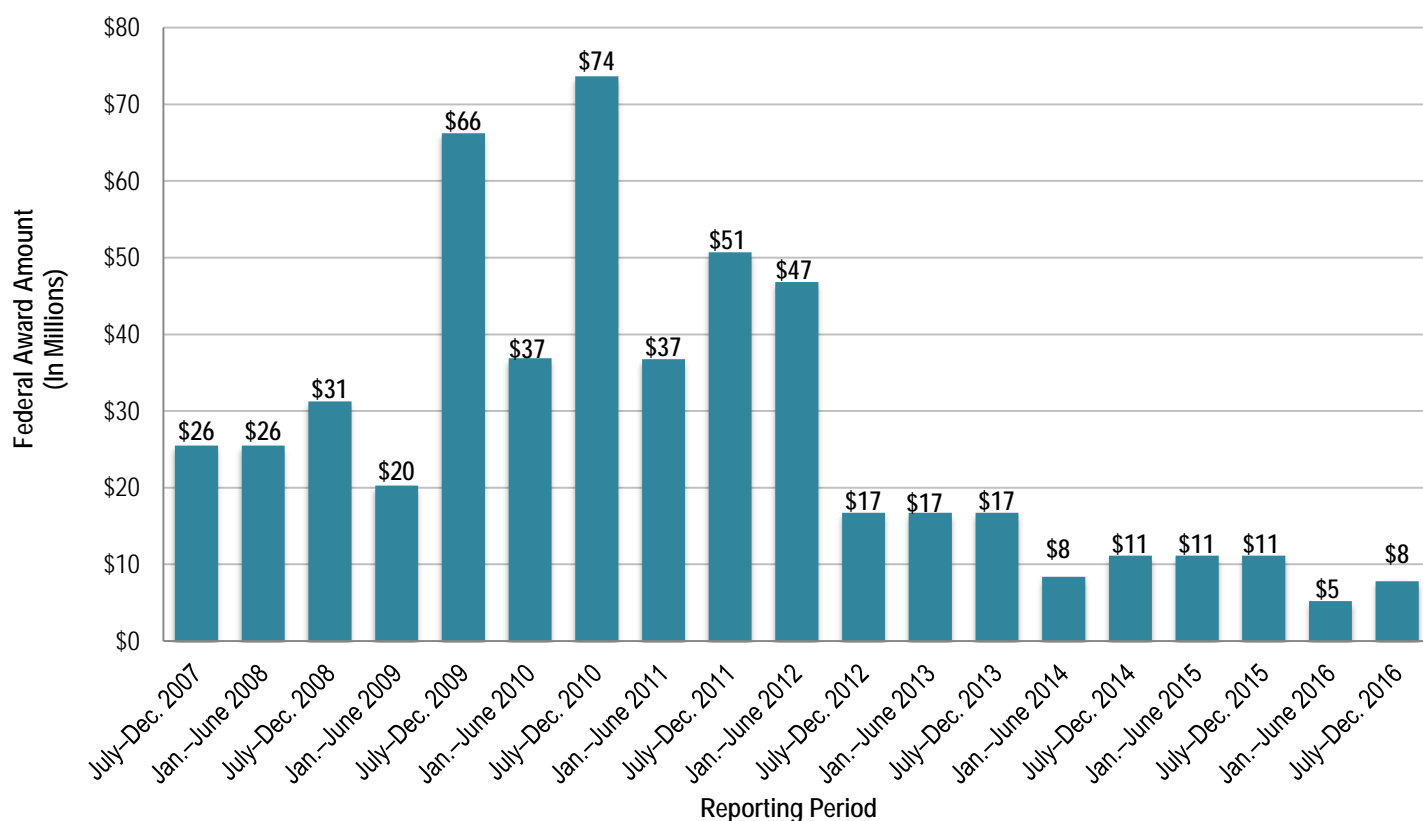
Figure 1. Total Subgrants Versus Operational Subgrants by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016

Table 2 presents demographics of volunteers 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 July–December 2016 reporting period, the total ratio for number of volunteer advocates to number of children was 1:2.

Table 2. Diversity Matrix: July–December 2016

Race/Ethnicity/Cultural Group	Number of Volunteer Advocates	Number of Children	Ratio Volunteers:Children
African American	1,976	4,616	1:2
Asian/Pacific Islander	299	352	1:1
Caucasian/Non-Latino	8,718	10,448	1:1
Do not know	304	1,773	1:6
Hispanic/Latino	1,186	4,386	1:4
Multiracial	294	1,441	1:5
Native American	378	649	1:2
Other	0	0	0:0
Total	13,155	23,665	1:2

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 July–December 2016 reporting period, the Federal award amount was \$7,806,380, an increase of 33 percent from the previous reporting period.

Figure 2. Federal Award Amount by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016

2. Analysis of Program Measures

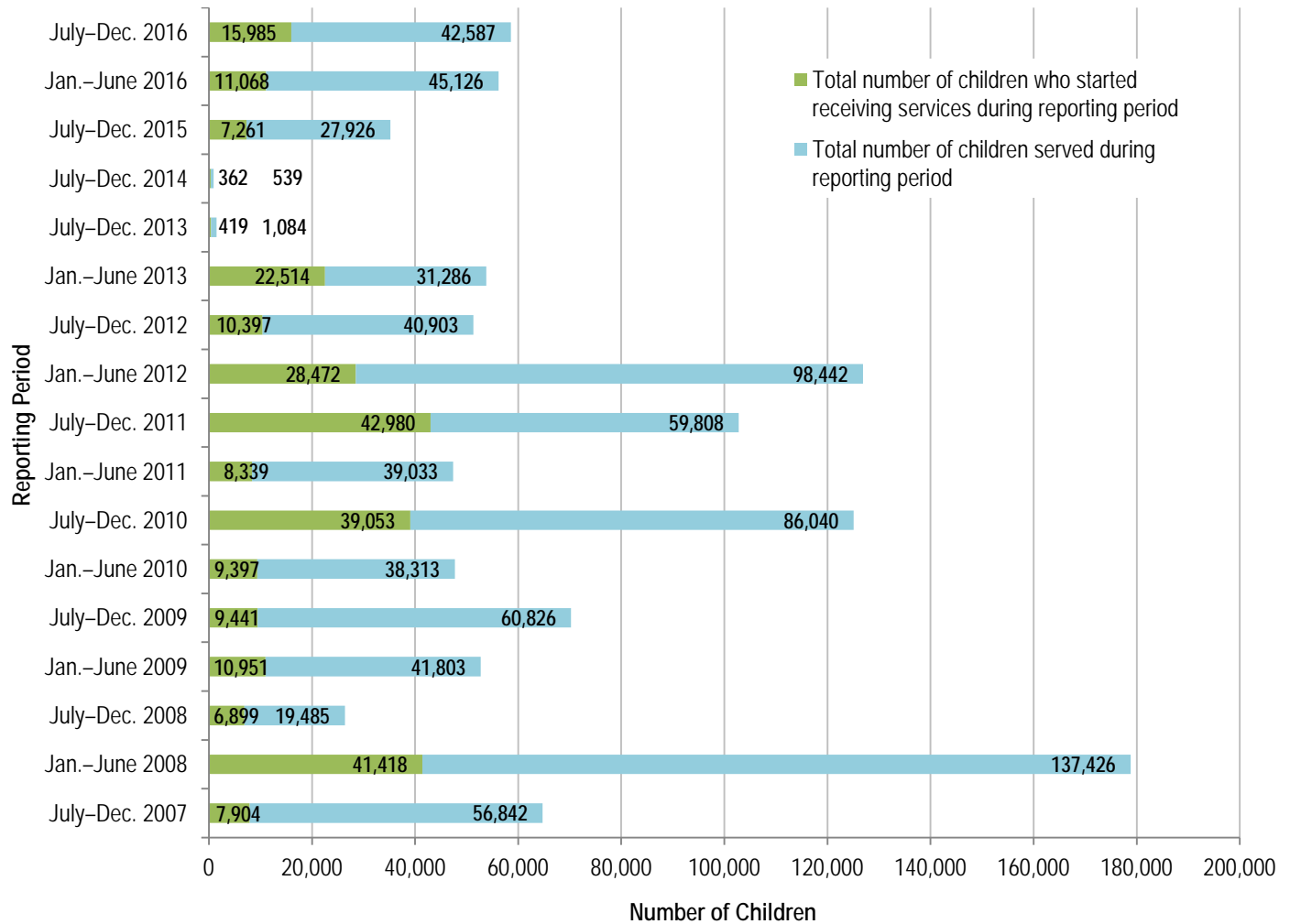
During this reporting period, a total of 42,587 children were served by the CASA grant program, and data were tracked for the number of new children who started receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services. As shown in Table 3, of the total number of children served, 38 percent ($n = 15,985$) were receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.

Table 3. Total Number of Children Served: July–December 2016

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of children who started receiving services	15,985
Total number of children served	42,587
Percentage of children who started receiving services	38%

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 total number of children served has decreased 6 percent since the previous reporting period (January–June 2016).

Figure 3. Number of Children Served by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016



Among the total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve during the current reporting period, 31 percent ($n = 3,193$) were new volunteers (Table 4).

Table 4. Total Number of New Volunteer Advocates: January–June 2016

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of new volunteer advocates available to serve children	3,193
Total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve (new and existing)	10,168
Percentage of new volunteer advocates	31%

Figure 4 presents data for the number of new and existing volunteer advocates since July 2007. Since the previous reporting period (January–June 2016), the total number of new and existing volunteer advocates has decreased 42 percent. The largest number of volunteer advocates (new and existing) served during the January–June 2008 reporting period.

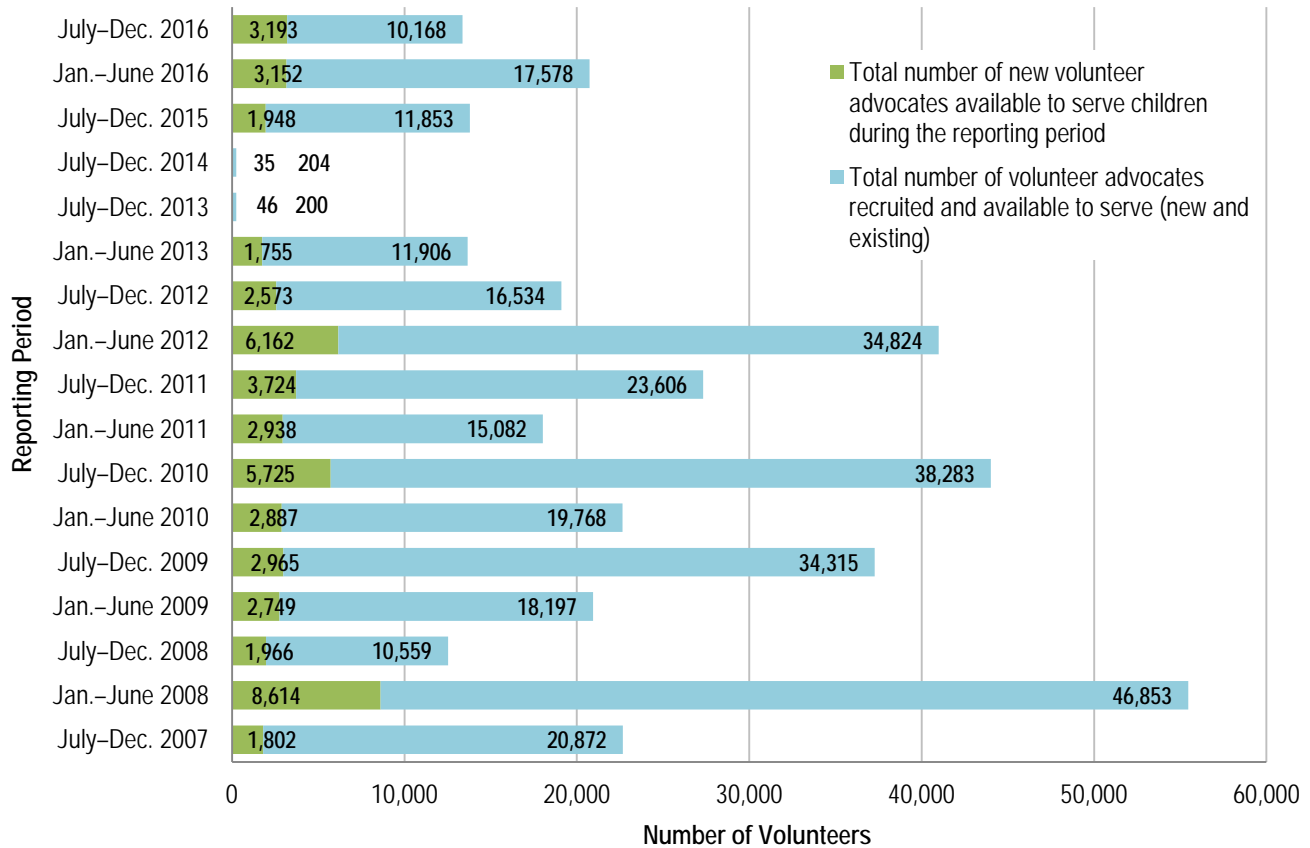
Figure 4. Number of New and Existing Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016

Figure 5 shows that the percentage of new volunteer advocates has varied across all reporting periods. The average percentage of new volunteer advocates from July 2007 to December 2016 is 16 percent.

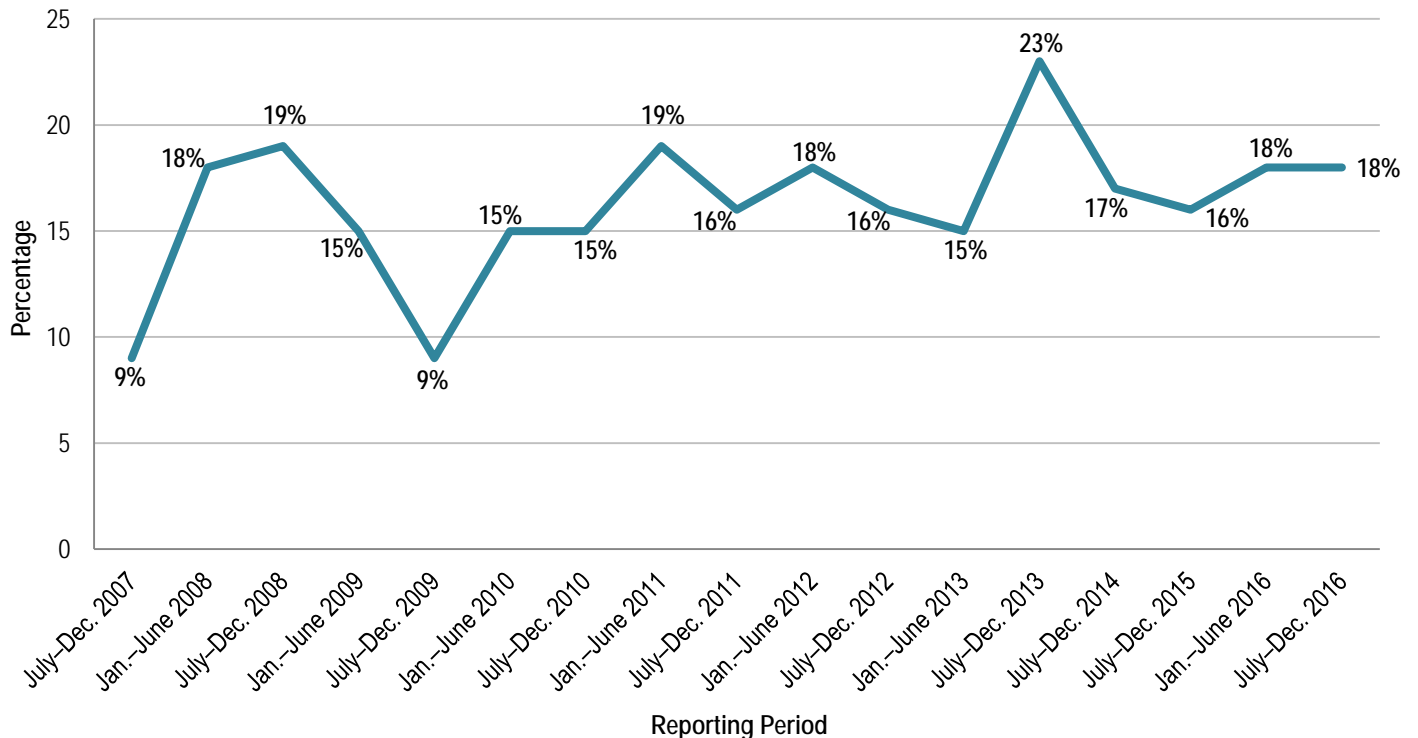
Figure 5. Percentage of New Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016

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 ($n = 938$), 1 percent ($n = 7$) were new local CASA programs.

Table 5. Number of Active and New CASA Programs: July–December 2016

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of local CASA programs active	938
Total number of new local CASA programs active	7
Percentage of new local CASA programs that were active	1%

Figure 6 shows the total number of local CASA programs active during each reporting period. During the current reporting period, there were 938 local CASA programs active. The largest numbers of active local CASA programs were reported during the July–December 2008 and January–June 2009 reporting periods (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Number of Active Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: January 2008–December 2016

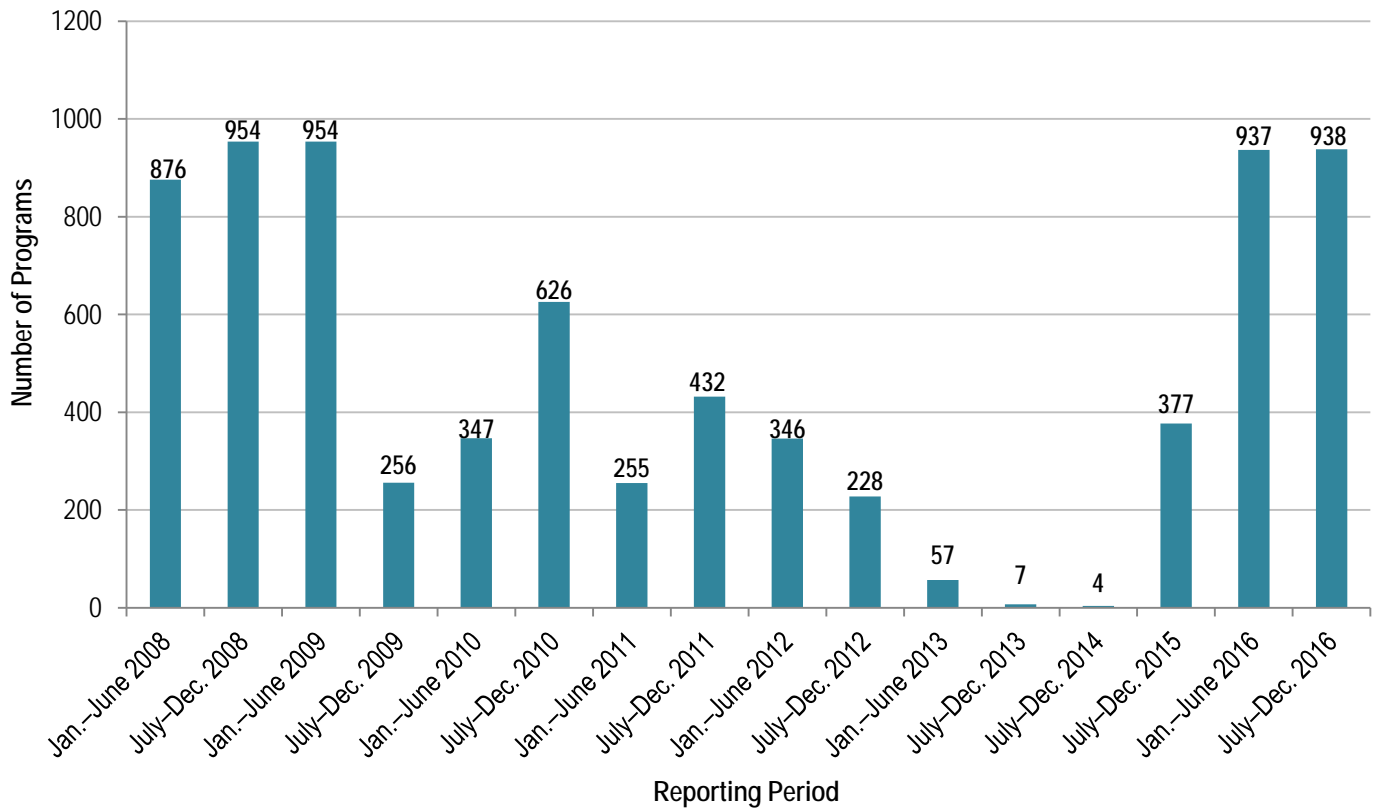
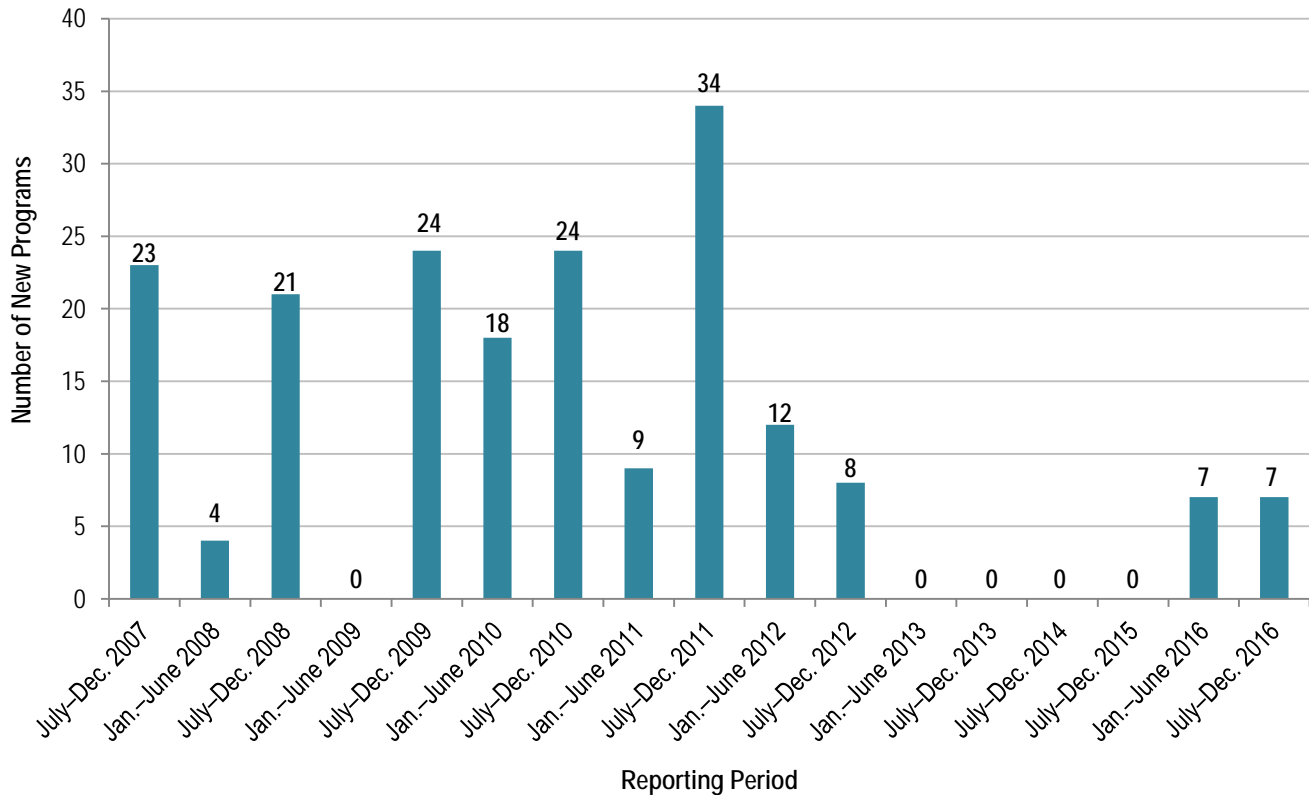


Figure 7 shows the total number of new local CASA programs active during each reporting period. Seven new local CASA programs were reported during the current reporting period (July–December 2016).

Figure 7. Number of Active New Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016

Data on child abuse or neglect were tracked over the short and long term for youth served in the program. As shown in Table 6, 42,587 youth were served during the current reporting period. All of those youth had a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect.

Table 6. Short-Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: July–December 2016

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of youth served	42,587
Number of those youth served with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect	42,587
Percentage of youth with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect	100%

Table 7 shows the number of youth tracked for child abuse or neglect over the long term. Of the 8,955 youth who ended services 6 to 12 months before the current reporting period, 4 percent had substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect ($n = 323$).

Table 7. Long-Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: July–December 2016

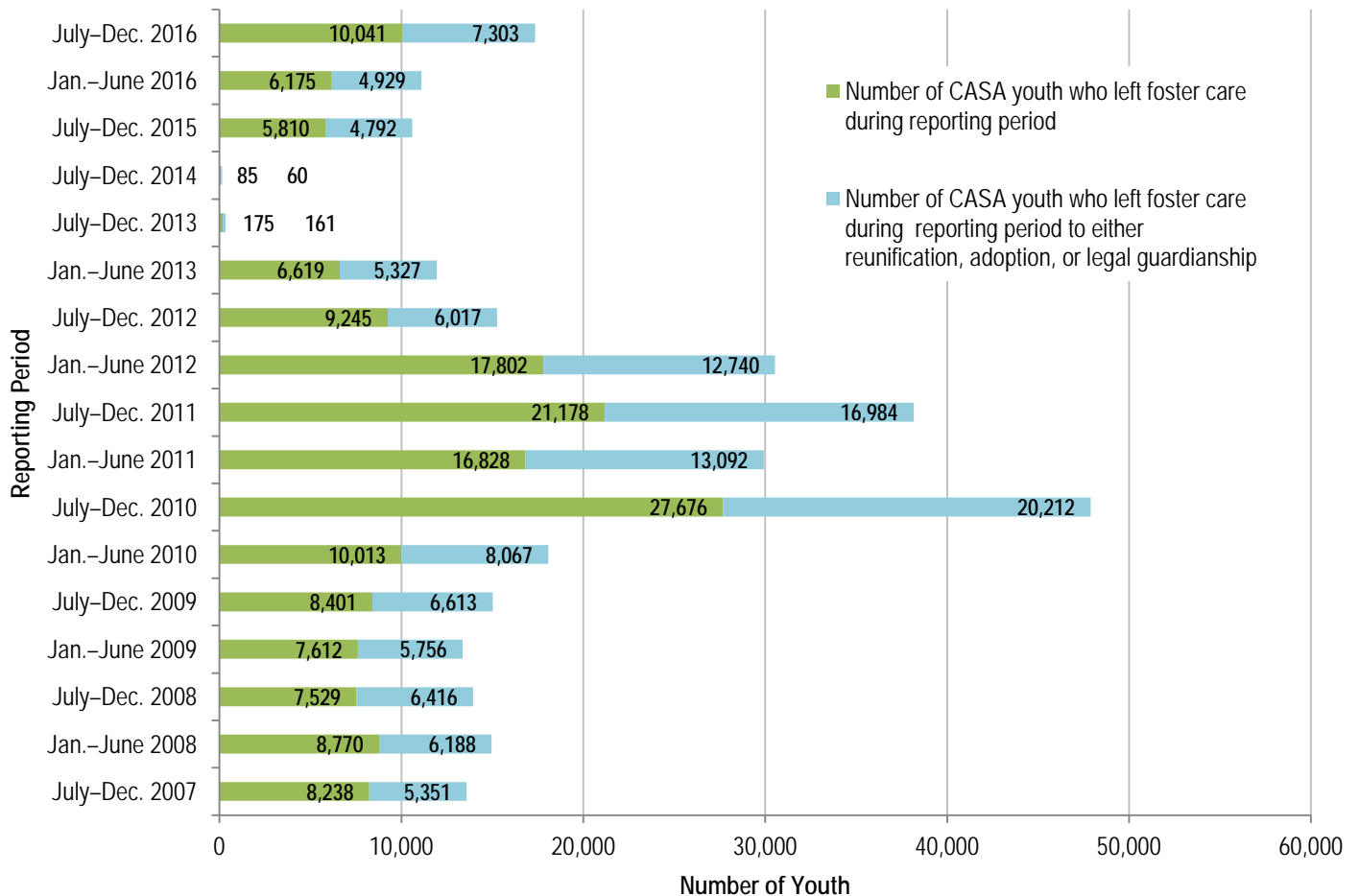
Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of youth who ended services 6 to 12 months previous to the reporting period	8,955
Number of those youth who ended services 6 to 12 months previous to the reporting period with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports	323
Percentage of youth with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports	4%

As shown in Table 8, among the total number of CASA youth who left foster care during the current reporting period, 73 percent ($n = 7,303$) exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

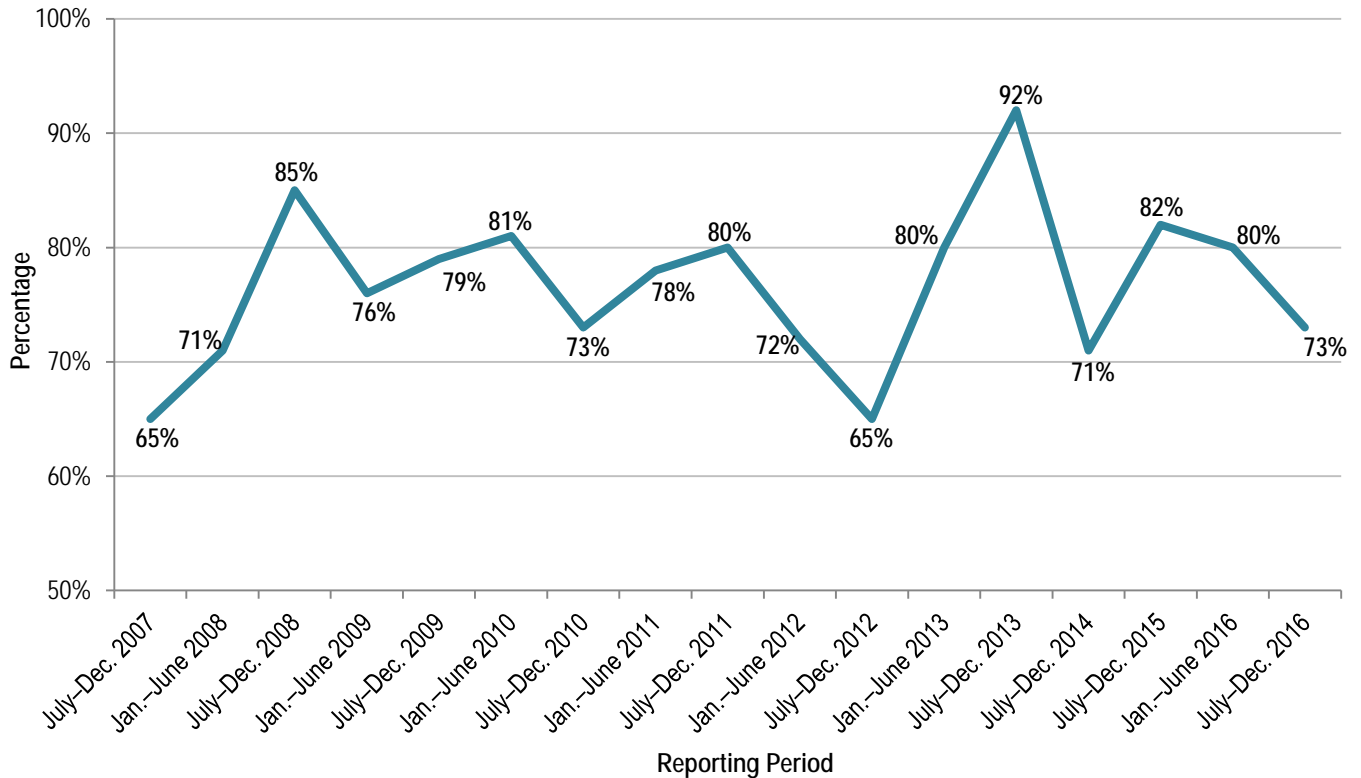
Table 8. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship: July–December 2016

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care	10,041
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	7,303
Percentage of CASA youth who left foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship	73%

Over the last three reporting periods, the number of children exiting CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has been increasing. The most children exited foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship during the July–December 2010 reporting period (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship, by Reporting Period: July 2007–December 2016

The percentage of children exiting CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has varied across reporting periods. Overall, the average percentage of children exiting CASA programs for reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship is 73 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–December 2016

Summary

During the July–December 2016 reporting period, the CASA Program had one Federal award and a 100-percent reporting compliance rate. There was one operational subgrant. Overall, the percentage of reporting compliance for all reporting periods is 92 percent. The Federal award amount for the current reporting period was \$7,806,380, and the ratio for number of volunteer advocates to children was 1:2.

The following data refers to the performance measures data during the current reporting period. A total of 42,587 children were served, and 38 percent of those children received CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time. All of the youth served had a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect. Seven new local CASA programs were active. Among the total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve, 31 percent were new volunteers. Of the total number of CASA youth who left foster care, 73 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

Data entry for the next reporting period, January–June 2017, will begin July 1, 2017.