

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association National Statistics 2010

100 West Harrison, North Tower, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98119
(206) 270-0072 (800)-628-3233 CASAforChildren.org

Following are the latest statistics available at the time of publication. Visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway at childwelfare.gov for updates and other powerful figures on the needs of abused and neglected children.

Children Continue to Need Protection and Care

Approximately 3.3 million allegations of child abuse and neglect involving 6 million children were made to CPS agencies in 2008.ⁱ

In 2008, an estimated 772,000 children were substantiated as victims of child maltreatment, a rate of 10.3 per 1,000 children in the US and Puerto Rico.ⁱⁱ

African American children, American Indian or Alaska Native children and children of multiple races had the highest rates of victimization at 16.6, 13.9 and 13.8 per 1,000 children, respectively. Hispanic children and White children had rates of 9.8 and 8.6 per 1,000 children, respectively. Asian children had the lowest rate of 2.4 per 1,000 children. Nearly one-half of all victims were White (45.1%), one-fifth (21.9%) were African American, and one-fifth (20.8%) were Hispanic.ⁱⁱⁱ

Children who had been prior victims of maltreatment were 94.6% more likely to experience an occurrence than those who were not prior victims. The youngest children (from birth through age 4) were most likely to be determined to be maltreated compared to all other age groups.^{iv}

An estimated 1,740 children nationally (compared to 1,760 children for FFY 2007) died from abuse or neglect. The rate per 100,000 children was 2.33 deaths for FFY 2008 compared to a rate

of 2.32 for FFY 2007. Children 0–4 years old accounted for 79.8% of child fatalities. Children younger than 1 year old accounted for 45.3% of all child fatalities.^v

Violence often occurs against women and children in the same family. Research indicates that 50–70% of men who assault their female partners also abuse their children.^{vi}

On September 30, 2008, there were 463,000 children in foster care. They spent a median of 15.8 months in foster care.^{vii}

The race/ethnicity breakdown of the children in foster care as of September 30, 2008, is as follows:^{viii}

Caucasian	40%	183,149
African American	31%	142,502
Hispanic	20%	92,464
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	8,802
Asian American	1%	2,361
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	877
Unknown	2%	10,753
Two or More Races	5%	21,822

Of the children in foster care on September 30, 2008, 123,000 were waiting to be adopted. Only 55,000 children were adopted from the public foster care system in FY 2008.^{ix}

States spent \$25.7 billion in federal, state and local funds on child welfare programs in FY 2006. This is a 9% increase since FY 2004 after adjusting for inflation. Total spending has increased in each biennium since data have been collected (SFY 1996).^x

Federal and state funds increased, while local dollars remained stable. In SFY 2006, states spent \$12.4 billion in federal dollars, \$10.7 billion in state dollars and \$2.6 billion in local dollars. Between SFY 2004 and SFY 2006, federal spending increased by 3%, state spending increased by 14%, and local spending remained virtually unchanged.^{xi}

Total Annual Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States—Direct Costs (costs associated with the immediate needs of abused or neglected children)^{xii}

Services	Estimated Annual Direct Cost
Hospitalization	\$6,625,959,263
Mental Health Care System	\$1,080,706,049
Child Welfare Services System	\$25,361,329,051
Law Enforcement	\$33,307,770
Total Direct Cost	\$33,101,302,133

Total Annual Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States—Indirect Costs (costs associated with long-term and secondary effects of child abuse and neglect)^{xiii}

Services	Estimated Annual Indirect Cost
Special Education	\$2,410,306,242
Juvenile Delinquency	\$7,174,814,134
Mental Health and Health Care	\$67,863,457
Adult Criminal Justice System	\$27,979,811,982
Lost Productivity to Society	\$33,019,919,544
Total Indirect Cost	\$70,652,715,359

Abuse is associated with a range of other risks—juvenile delinquency, suicide, unemployment and poor school performance.^{xiv}

CASA/GAL Programs: Striving to Meet the Need

CASA/GAL volunteers make sure that the abuse and neglect that the children originally suffered at home does not continue as abuse and neglect at the hands of the system.

The CASA/GAL network consisted of 1,055 program offices, including 46 state organizations, at the end of 2009. Over half (57%) of programs were independent nonprofit organizations; 19% were part of a nonprofit umbrella agency; 23% were part of a state or county agency; and 1% had some other administrative structure.^{xv}



In 2009, CASA/GAL programs had 70,919 volunteers donate over 6.0 million hours to making a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. In that year, approximately 23,753 new volunteers were trained to help meet the need.^{xvi}

An estimated 237,095 children were served by CASA/GAL volunteers in 2009.^{xvii}

Changes over the past five years in the number of CASA/GAL volunteers and children served.^{xviii}

Year	CASA/GAL Volunteers	Children Served
2005	53,847	225,204
2006	57,938	220,129
2007	59,717	243,295
2008	68,842	240,894
2009	70,919	237,095

CASA/GAL Programs: High Quality Advocacy

Judges assign CASA/GAL volunteers to nearly half of the abuse and neglect cases before them. They express a great need for more volunteers for their cases.^{xix}

Judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that volunteers make a difference with the children they serve.^{xx}

With a limited number of available volunteers, judges assign CASA/GAL volunteers to their most difficult and complex cases: those with prior maltreatment or contact with child welfare, cases of extreme neglect, physical or sexual abuse and other cases where children have a great level of risk.^{xxi}

CASA volunteers are far more likely than paid attorneys to visit children in their homes and more likely to investigate whether there are appropriate services for the child or family.^{xxii}

CASA volunteers are highly effective in getting their recommendations accepted in court, and their reports led to a higher number of services being ordered for children and families.^{xxiii}

CASA/GAL Programs: Better Service to Children

Low caseloads for CASA volunteers mean the courts can make better decisions for children. They handle just one or two cases at a time so that they can give each child's case the *sustained, personal* attention he or she deserves.

CASA volunteers are typically appointed to the more complex children's cases—those where there are multiple risk factors which must be fully understood in order to make a placement decision that will be in the child's best interests. These complex cases receive more attention so they can move forward in a timely way.

Children with CASA volunteers may receive more court-ordered services because of the volunteer's detailed knowledge of the child's circumstances. These services can be more carefully targeted so that service dollars are used more effectively.

CASA/GAL Programs: An Investment That Yields Huge Savings

Federal law requires that juvenile and family courts appoint a guardian ad litem, who may be an attorney or CASA/GAL volunteer, in all cases of child abuse and neglect.

By helping to reduce time spent unnecessarily in foster care, CASA programs can reduce child welfare costs. On September 30, 2008, an estimated 463,000 children were in foster care, at an estimated annual direct cost to Americans of \$33 billion. If the median length of stay in foster care (18 months) were shortened for children in foster care by just *one month*, it would realize a savings of approximately \$2.75 billion.^{xxiv}

In 2009, CASA/GAL volunteers contributed more than 6 million hours of advocacy for children. If compensated to perform such a role, the total would be more than \$300 million.^{xxv} 87% of National CASA expenditures went to fund activities directly supporting CASA/GAL programs.^{xxvi}

National CASA expended 11% of income on general and administrative activities and 2% on fundraising. This is significantly less than the 16.3% average administrative costs for human services nonprofit organizations.^{xxvii}

CASA/GAL Programs: Permanent Solutions for Children

Children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care, defined as more than three years in care: 13.3% for CASA cases versus 27.0% of all children in foster care.^{xxviii}

Cases involving a CASA volunteer are more likely to be “permanently closed,” i.e., the children are less likely to reenter the child welfare system than cases where a CASA volunteer is not involved. Just 9% of CASA children reenter the system. This is in contrast to 16% for children not served by a volunteer.^{xxix}

ⁱ US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2009). *Child Maltreatment 2008*. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm08/

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

^{iv} *Ibid.*

^v *Ibid.*

^{vi} McKibben, L., DeVos, E. & Newberger, E. (1989). “Victimization of mothers of abused children: A controlled study.” *Pediatrics*, 84: 531; Start, E. & Flitcraft, A. (1988). “Women and children at risk: A feminist perspective on child abuse.” *International Journal of Health Services*, 18: 97.

^{vii} US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children’s Bureau (2009). *The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report (AFCARS)*. Washington, DC. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report16.htm

^{viii} *Ibid.*

^{ix} *Ibid.*

^x DeVooght, K., Allen, T., Geen, R., Child Trends, *Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2006*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs (2008). http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2009_02_17_FR_CWFinancePaper.pdf.

^{xi} *Ibid.*

-
- ^{xii} Prevent Child Abuse America. (2007). *Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse & Neglect In the United States*. preventchildabuse.org
- ^{xiii} *Ibid.*
- ^{xiv} Cathy Spatz Widom (1991). *Summary of Findings for the American Association for the Advancements of Science*.
- ^{xv} National CASA Association. (2010) *2009 National CASA Association Annual Local Program Survey*. Seattle, WA. CASAforChildren.org.
- ^{xvi} *Ibid.*
- ^{xvii} *Ibid.*
- ^{xviii} *Ibid.*
- ^{xix} Organizational Research Services (ORS), (2005). *Evaluation of CASA/GAL Volunteer Impact: Judicial Survey*.
- ^{xx} Dr. Pat Litzelfelner (2003). *CASA Consumer Satisfaction Survey*. University of Kentucky.
- ^{xxi} Caliber Associates (2004). *Evaluation of CASA Effectiveness*.
- ^{xxii} Weisz and Thai (2003). *The Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program: Bringing Information to Child Abuse and Neglect Cases*. Nebraska.
- ^{xxiii} Caliber Associates (2004). *Evaluation of CASA Effectiveness*.
- ^{xxiv} US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau (2009). *The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report (AFCARS)*. Washington, DC. acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb
- ^{xxv} Bureau of Labor Statistics (2009). "May 2009 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, United States" at www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm. National CASA Association (2010). *2009 National CASA Association Annual Local Program Survey*. Seattle, WA. CASAforChildren.org.
- ^{xxvi} 2006, US Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit of the National CASA Association, as required by Congress.
- ^{xxvii} *Ibid.*
- ^{xxviii} *Ibid.*
- ^{xxix} *Ibid.*