

Outcomes for Children

Oklahoma CASA Association



The long range outcomes for children with a CASA volunteer are that children have a safe and permanent home and that children don't "fall through the cracks" of the system that is in place to protect them. Oklahoma CASA Association, along with CASA programs across Oklahoma, have identified initial and intermediate outcomes that, when measured, demonstrate the real changes we are making in the lives of children.

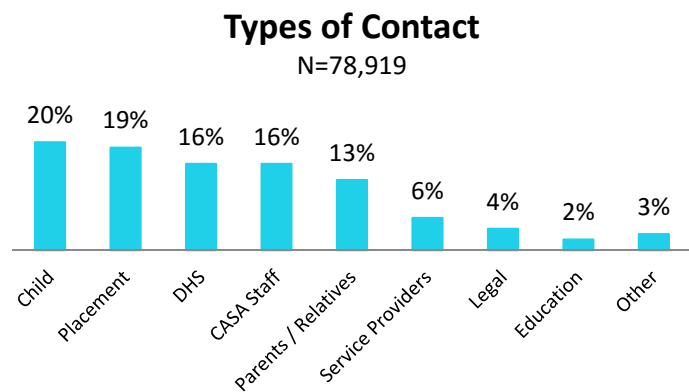
During the 2015 fiscal year, CASA programs in Oklahoma recorded outcomes for the children that were appointed a CASA volunteer. Following are the results for the children statewide.

1 OUTCOME: QUALITY COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY/CASE STATEMENTS ARE COMPILED TO FACILITATE THE CHILDREN'S MOVE TO PERMANENCY.

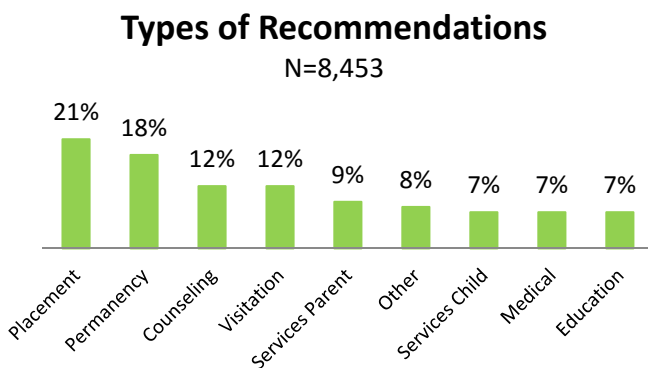
CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the court outside the courtroom. In order to provide judges with the most accurate information in their reports, volunteers must maintain contact with anyone who may have pertinent information to the case.

During FY2015, **78,919 contacts** were made by **CASA volunteers** on 959 cases (with a total of 3,171 children being served on those cases).

CASA volunteers talk to children, foster parents, service providers, educators, parents and relatives. All of the information gathered through these contacts is compiled into a report that is presented to the judge presiding over the case.



2 OUTCOME: SOCIAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, THERAPEUTIC, EDUCATIONAL AND SAFETY NEEDS OF CHILDREN ARE IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED.



In their reports to the judges, CASA volunteers make recommendations based on their independent, objective opinions as to what is in the best interests of the children. A total of **8,453 independent recommendations** regarding services, visitation, placement, etc. were made to the court by CASA volunteers.

"My CASA is advocating for what is best for me, which sometimes I do not appreciate, but she wants to make sure I have the services I need."

-From the CASA Youth survey, ages 12-18

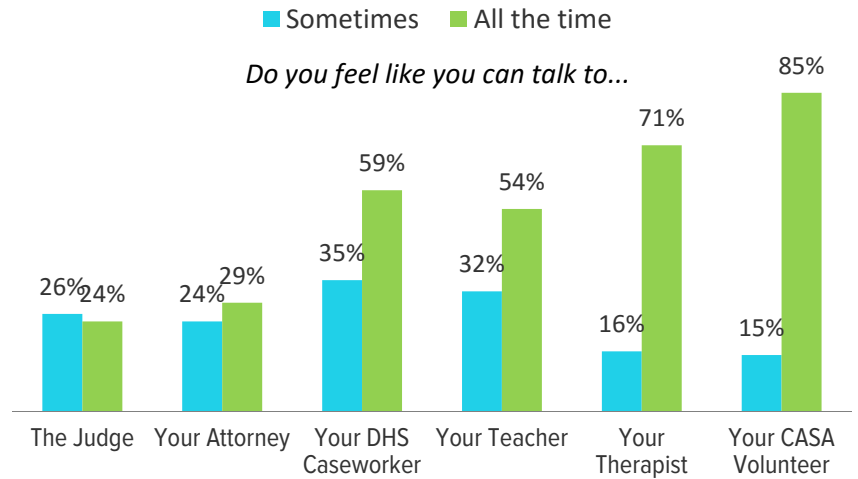
3 OUTCOME: INCREASED STABILITY FOR CHILDREN AND CONTINUITY WITH AN ADULT INVOLVED IN THE CASE.

It is important for children in the judicial system to have a constant presence in their life that is looking out for them. We asked children with a CASA if they felt like they could talk to the adults in their lives (aside from biological and foster parents).

CASA volunteers are a constant in the life of a child. Often times they are the people who have been on the case the longest and have firsthand knowledge of the case's history.

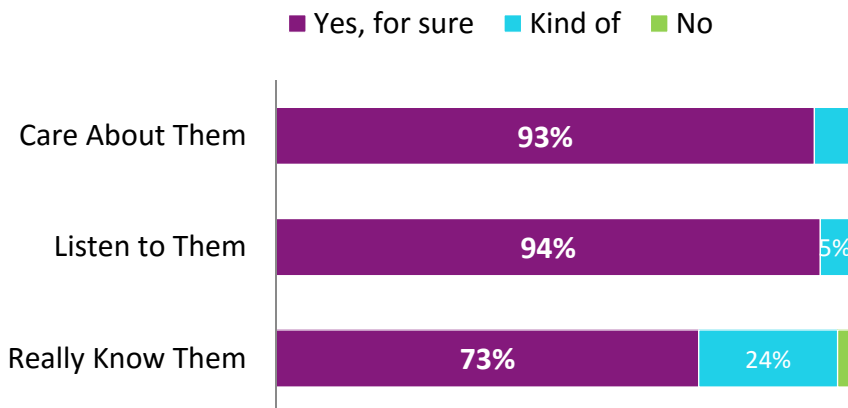
During the 2015 fiscal year, 927 children experienced a change in professionals working on their case. There were **1,173 professional changes** (including social worker, attorney, judge and therapist).

Children Say They Can Talk with CASA Volunteers More (CASA Youth, Ages 6-18) N=286



4 OUTCOME: CHILDREN HAVE A VOICE REPRESENTING THEIR BEST INTERESTS.

Children Say CASA Volunteers: N=286



Within the year, CASA representatives were present at **all** hearings for cases that were appointed a CASA.

During the 2015 fiscal year, **1,079 CASA volunteers spoke up on behalf of 3,172 abused and/or neglected children in the state of Oklahoma.**

For more information on Oklahoma CASA Association, visit www.OklahomaCASA.org or call 800-742-2272.

