



Statistical Data on Child Abuse and Volunteer CASA/GAL Advocacy



Child Abuse and Foster Care Statistics

- In 2012, Child Protective Services (CPS) received 3.4 million referrals involving the alleged maltreatment of 6.3 million children. More than 2 million referrals were screened in for a response by CPS
- 1,640 children died as a result of abuse or neglect; of those, 70% died before reaching their 3rd birthday.
- Throughout 2012, approximately 638,000 children were placed outside their homes for their safety.
- The mean time in foster care is 20.4 months. The median time in foster care is 13.4 months.
- Direct costs for services to abused children total over \$33 billion annually. Indirect costs are an additional \$47 billion.
- The Center for Disease Control estimates the cost at \$210,000 per child, totaling as much as \$124 billion for all children each year.

National CASA Statistics

- CASA volunteers make sure that the abuse and neglect that the children originally suffered at home doesn't continue as abuse and neglect at the hands of the system.
- There are 951 CASA/GAL programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia.
- An estimated 238,000 children were served by local CASA/GAL programs in 2013.
- In 2013, CASA/GAL programs had nearly 75,000 volunteers donate more than 5.75 million hours to making a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. (Worth nearly \$290 million if our volunteers had been compensated for their services).
- Nationally, federal support for CASA programs makes up only a portion of needed support. Programs leverage the federal investment to attract a greater percentage of state, private and court funding to support advocacy within their local communities.

Sources:

Child Maltreatment 2012: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2012>

The AFCARS 2012 Report: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/afcars-report-20>

Prevent Child Abuse America, Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse & Neglect In the United States, (2012). [https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/assets/preventchildabusenc/files/\\$cms\\$/100/1299.pdf](https://www.preventchildabusenc.org/assets/preventchildabusenc/files/cms/100/1299.pdf)

Fang, X, Brown, D.S., Florence, C.S. & Mercy, J.A. "The Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the United States and Implications for Prevention", Child Abuse and Neglect, Vol. 36, Issue 2, pp. 156 – 165, February 2012 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213411003140>

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