



®

CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

FOR CHILDREN

NEW MEXICO CASA ASSOCIATION

The New Mexico CASA Association develops and supports local programs throughout New Mexico that provide quality volunteer advocacy in court for children who are abused and neglected.

CASA believes that every child deserves a safe, loving, and forever home.

2021

LOCAL PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT



The Power of a Caring Adult

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for a child's best interest. The volunteer remains the child's advocate until their case is closed and they reach a safe, permanent home. Volunteers work with legal and child welfare professionals, educators and others to ensure that judges have all the information they need to make potentially life-changing decisions for each child.

The state of New Mexico currently has approximately 1910 children in the foster care system. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) programs statewide are working to make sure those children have a caring and understanding adult to advocate for their best interest. Statewide there are 475 CASA volunteers serving 1467 children.

This leaves nearly 450 children alone to navigate the complex and crowded child welfare system.

Children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect are among the most vulnerable populations in New Mexico. A child in foster care faces physical, psychological or emotional trauma and years of uncertainty as they wait to go home, be adopted, or simply see what happens next.

Having a caring, consistent adult to listen and put a child's best interest before all others' can make all the difference.

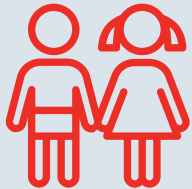
2021

LOCAL PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

New Mexico at a Glance



1,467 Children Served



443 Children Need a CASA



475 CASA Volunteers



1,573 Court Reports filed by CASAs



1,995 Court Hearings Attended by CASAs



27,446 Volunteer Hours Donated

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Impact

There are far too many children in our community who still need the powerful advocacy of a CASA volunteer. Serving every child who needs a volunteer is possible, but we can't do it alone. With everyone's help, we can recruit, train and support more volunteers to reach more children in need. CASA volunteers are there to change lives at the most challenging time in a child's life, and they do. Multiple studies have shown that children who have experienced abuse or neglect fare better with a CASA volunteer by their side.

Children with CASAs are...

More likely

to find a safe and permanent home

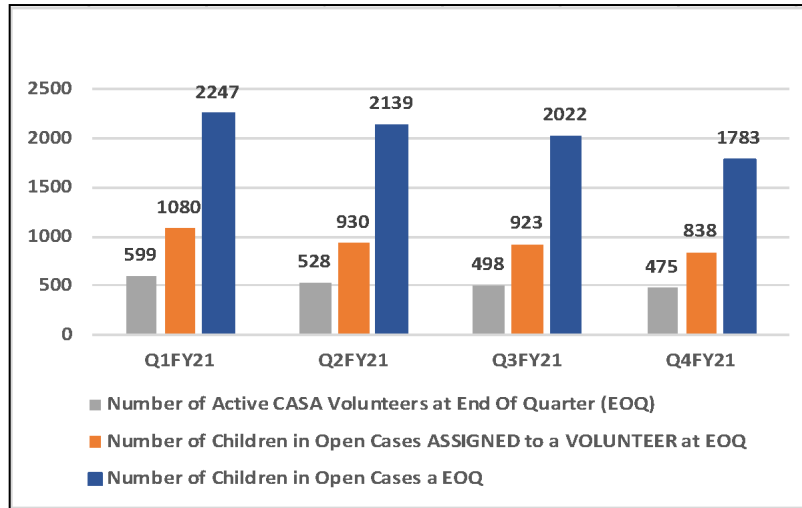
More likely

to succeed in school

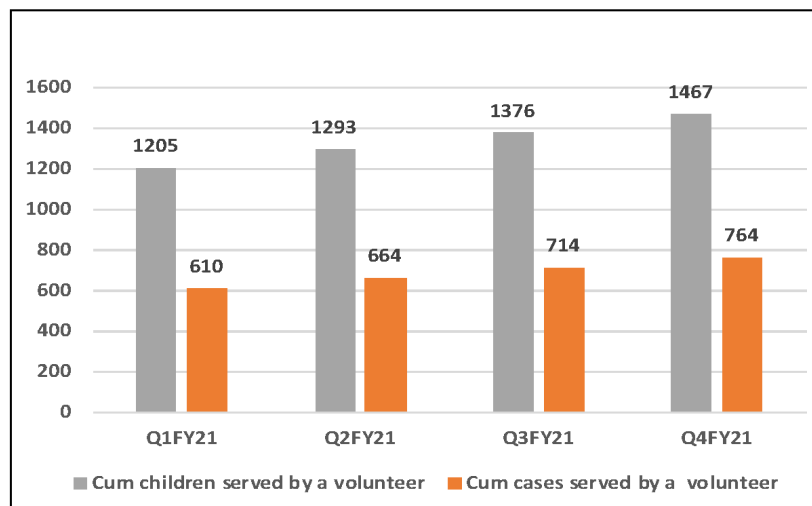
Half as likely

re-enter foster care

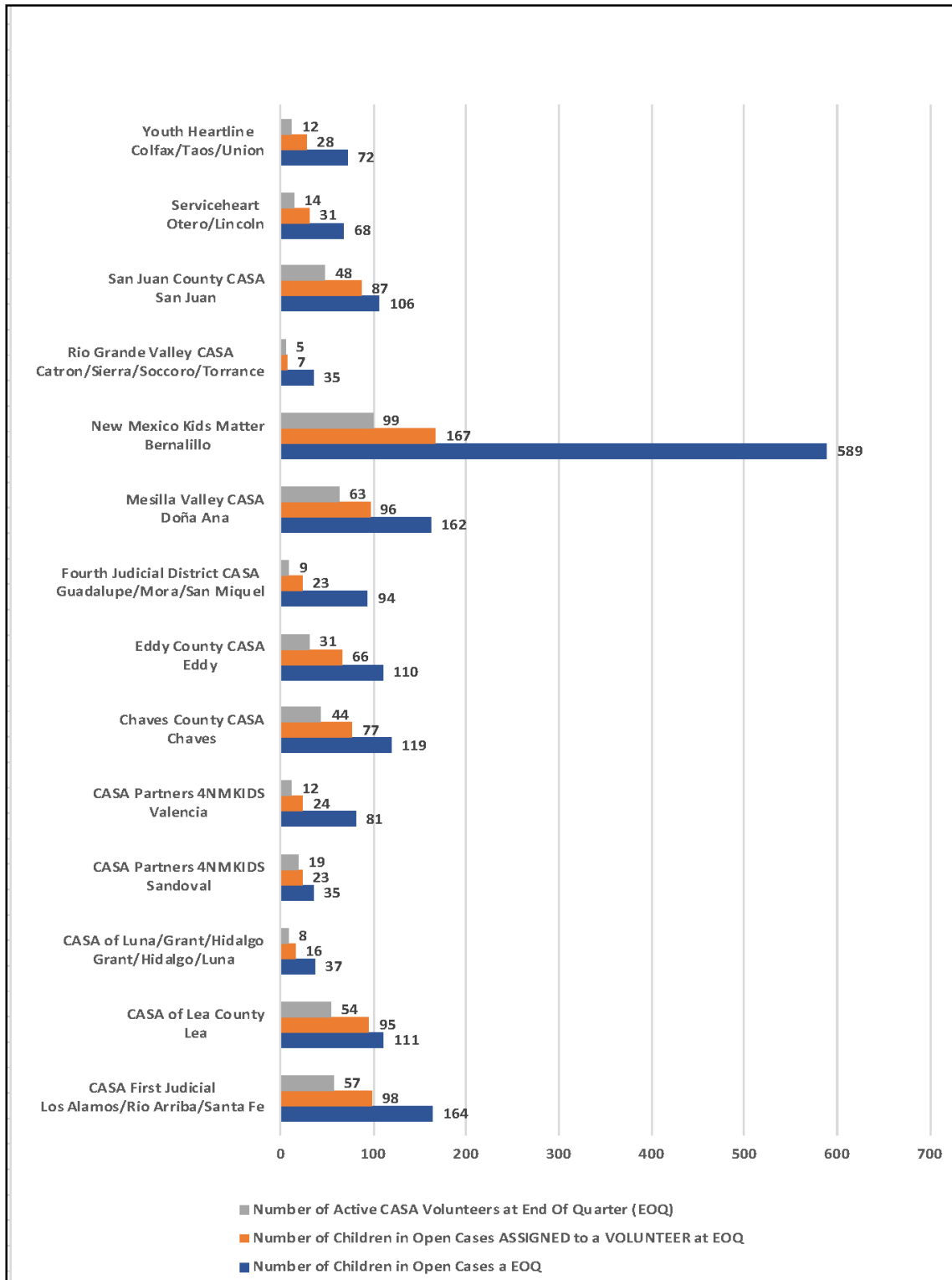
NM CASA Association FY2021 Report State-Wide Summary for the 14 CASA Programs



Quarter four data from the courts continue the downward trend shown in the first three quarters. Because of COVID, children are not attending school or other public places where, historically, abuse and neglect are suspect and are reported. The number of cases and children served by a CASA volunteer follow the same downward trend over the year. Empirically, CASA Directors say the loss of volunteers during COVID has substantially hindered their capacity to advocate for children in care.

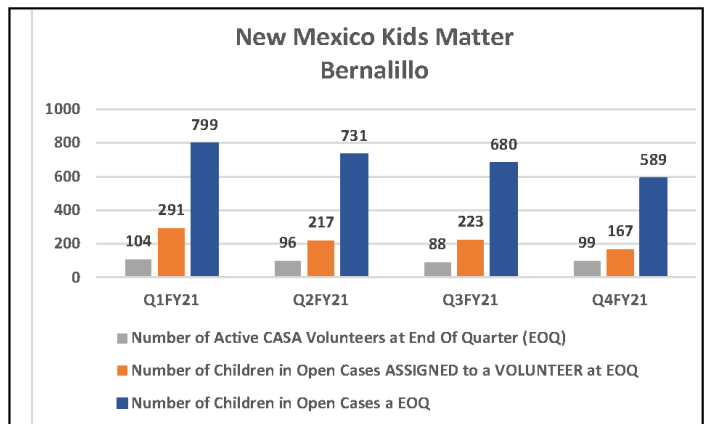
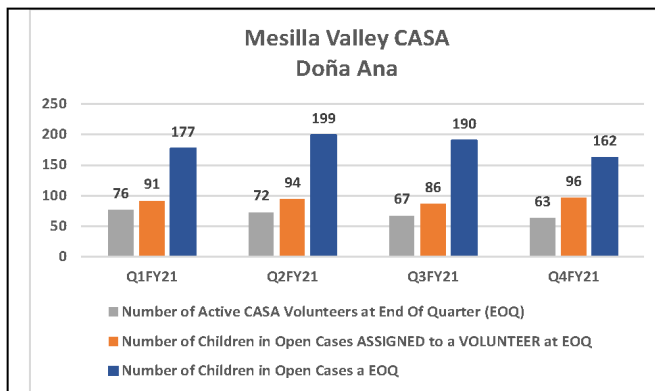
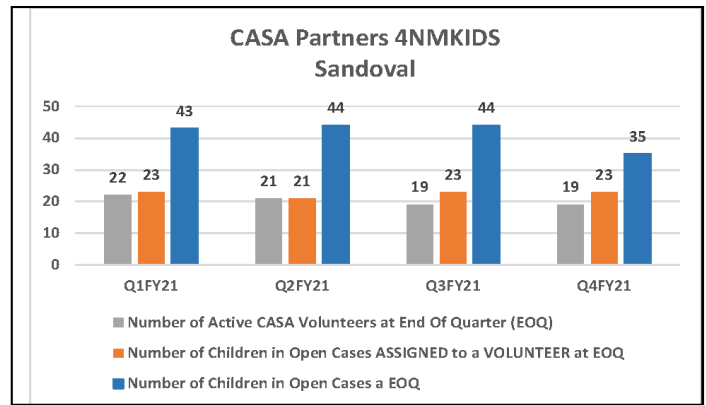
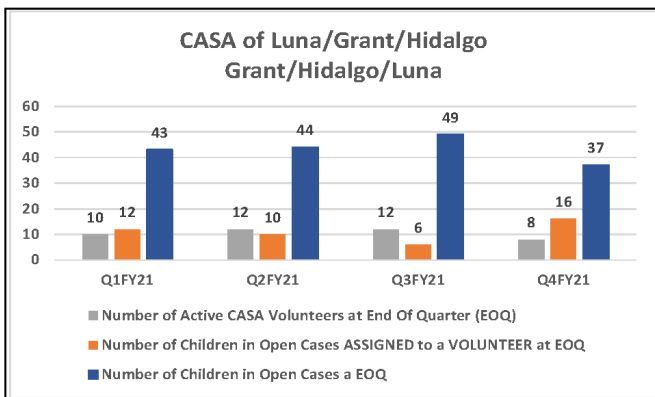
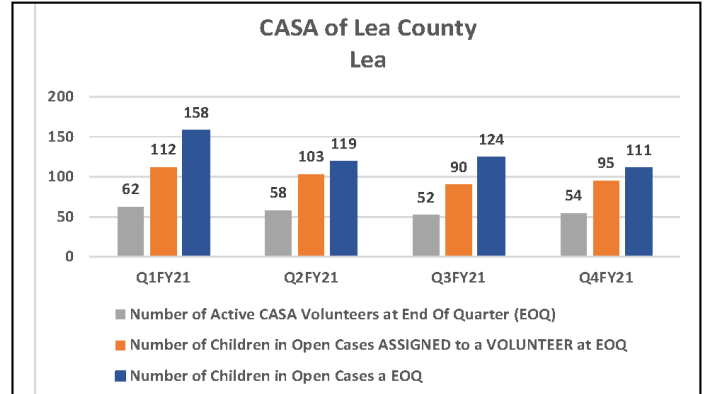
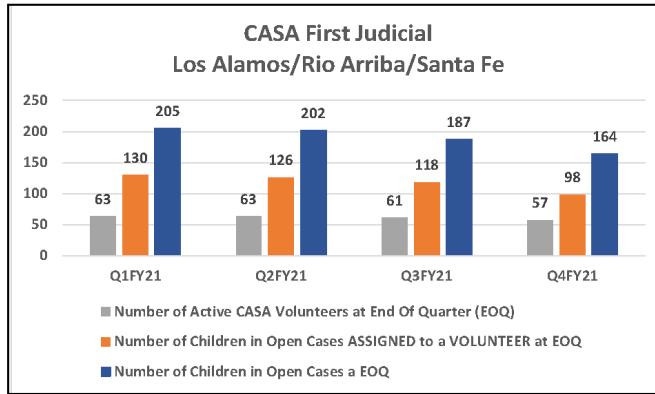


NM CASA Association FY2021 Report Program Summary



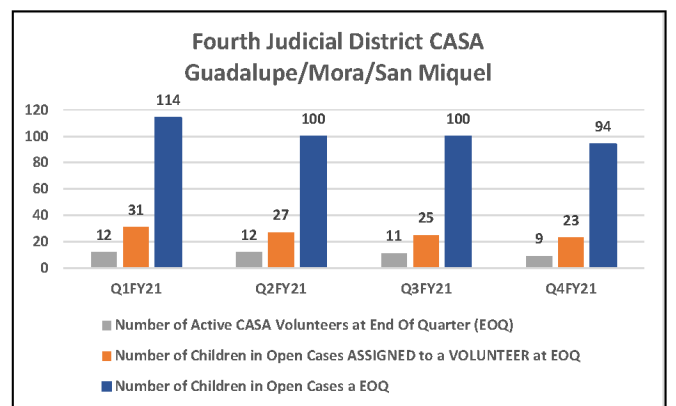
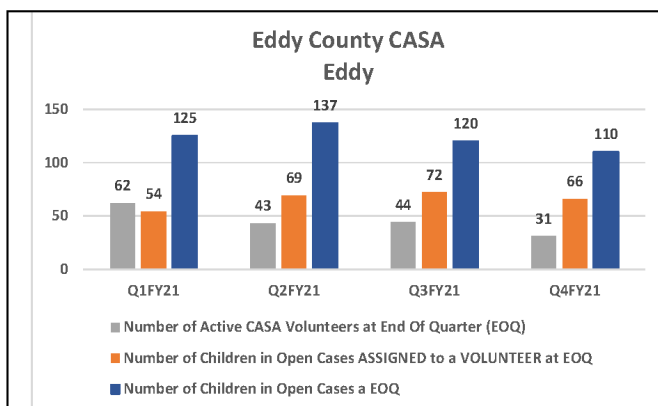
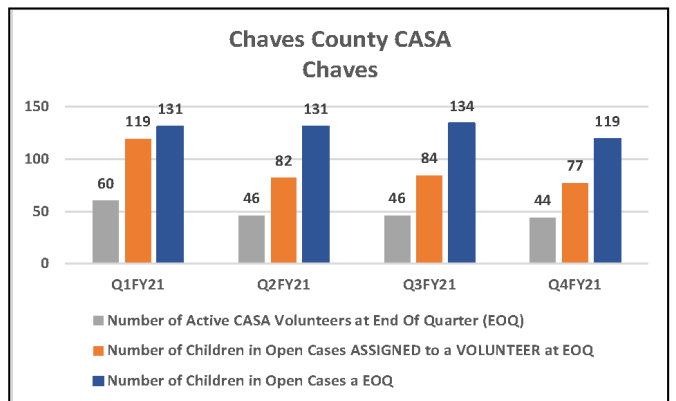
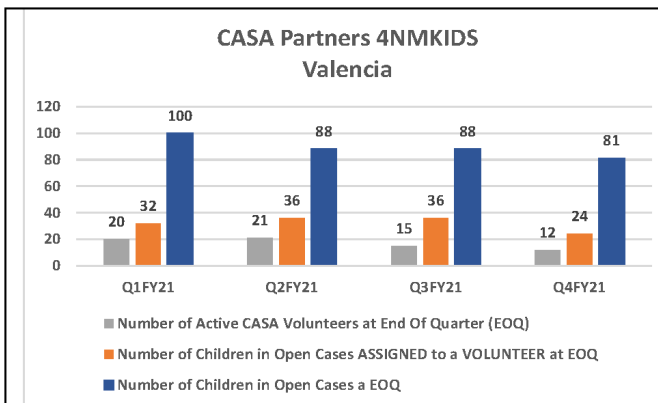
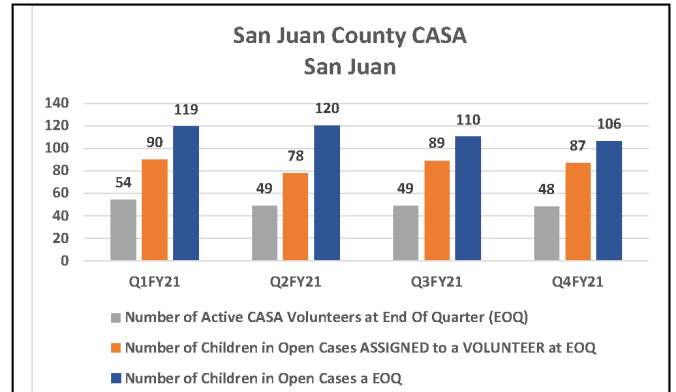
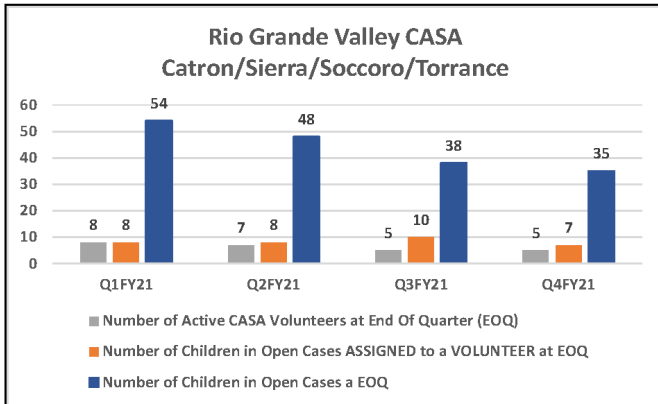


NM CASA Association Report Summary by Individual Program





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