H&SS INDICATORS

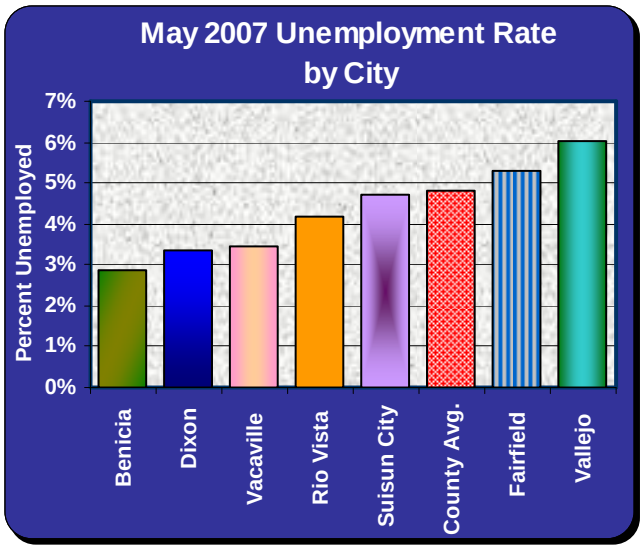
A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

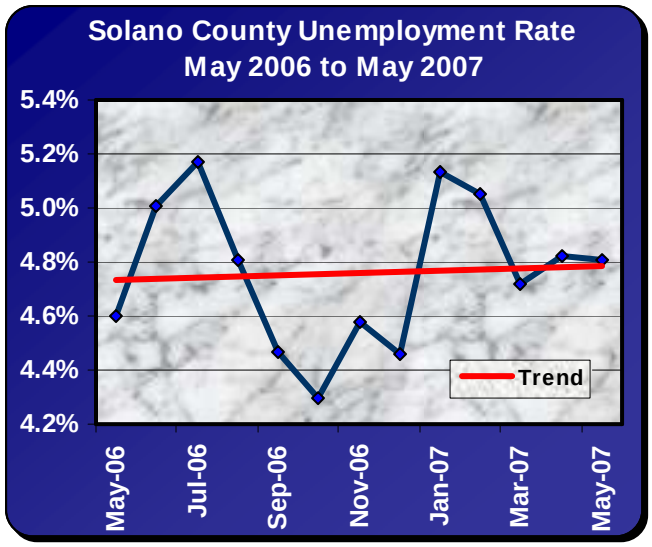
AUGUST 2007

ECONOMY

Indicator	March	April	May
Labor Force	216,000	213,700	214,300
Number Employed	205,800	203,300	204,000
Number Unemployed	10,200	10,300	10,300
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%

- Solano County's unemployment rate has held steady over the past several months at 4.8 percent.
- The County's May unemployment rate was slightly below the statewide average of 4.9 percent but above the 4.3 percent national unemployment rate.
- Unemployment rates were highest in Vallejo at 6 percent; lowest (below 4 percent) in Benicia, Dixon, and Vacaville.



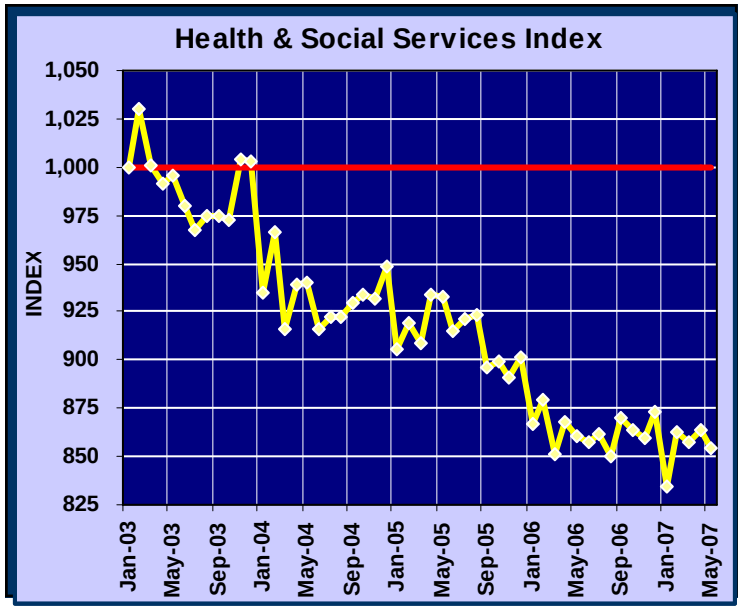


H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** has remained generally stable over the past year and a half. With the exception of January 2007 — which was driven down by an increase in after holiday season unemployment, — the index has ranged between 850 and 875. Some indicators, such as mental health and substance abuse clients, have been trending downward. Others, such as food stamps and health clinic patients have been trending upward. While client counts fluctuate among the programs, there have been few large swings.

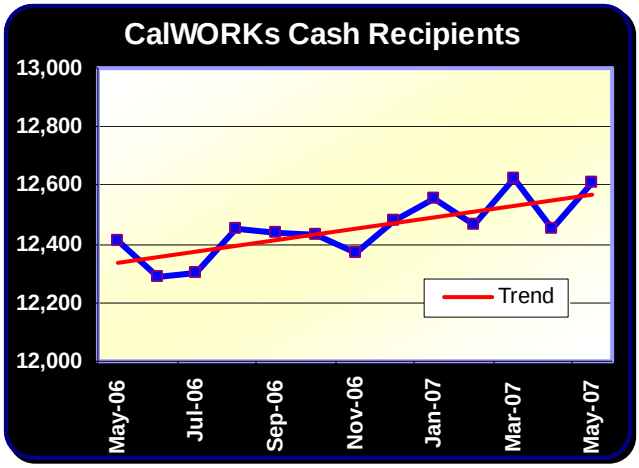
The index combines workload data from 14 key services provided by H&SS, along with data on unemployment in Solano County, to provide a monthly indicator of community demand for health and social services.

All of the monthly numbers are added together and converted into an index score with January 2003 as the index bench line figure of 1,000. Like the Dow Jones, higher scores suggest positive developments — fewer people looking for work or requiring the services that H&SS provides, for example. Falling numbers suggest increasing need for H&SS's services.



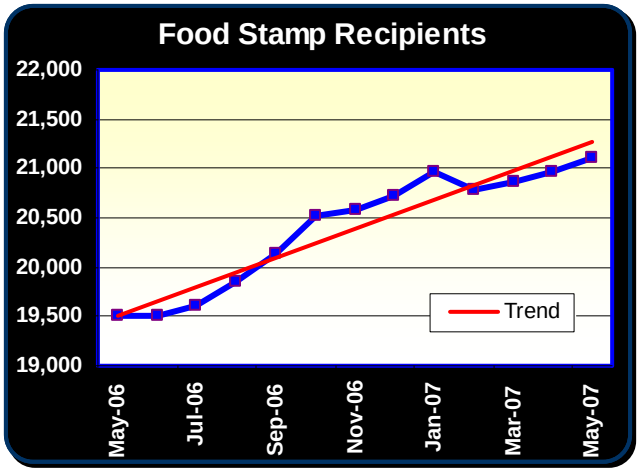
EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

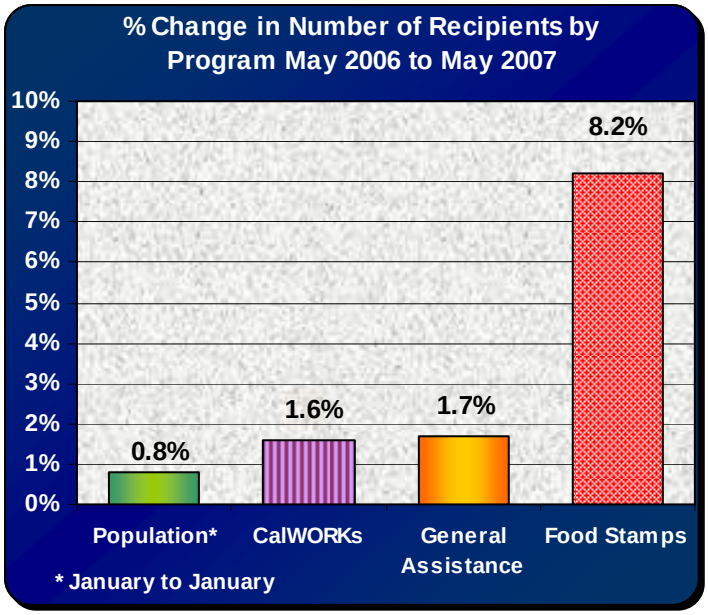
Indicator	March	April	May
Number of I&R Calls	1,615	1,550	1,768
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	12,621	12,453	12,607
New CalWORKs Applications & Restoration Requests	430	418	475
Food Stamp Recipients	20,860	20,969	21,107
General Relief Recipients	685	691	714

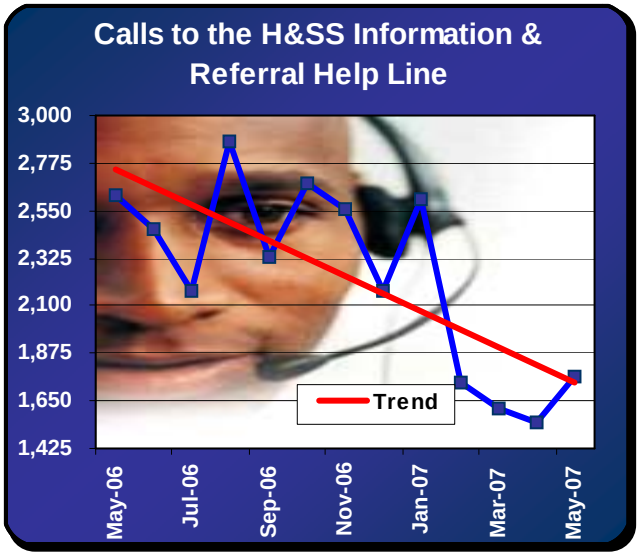


- Client counts for most of the principal public assistance programs have continued to slowly trend upward. The number of persons in households receiving. Food Stamp rolls continue to see the most growth. For Food Stamps, the year-to-year increase was 8.2 percent. CalWORKs cash assistance increased 1.6% in May 2007 compared to May 2006. General Assistance rose 1.7 percent during the same period.

- The number of calls to the H&SS information and referral line has been generally declining over the past year. The Department's toll free Help Line is scheduled to be replaced by 211 service sometime this Fall.







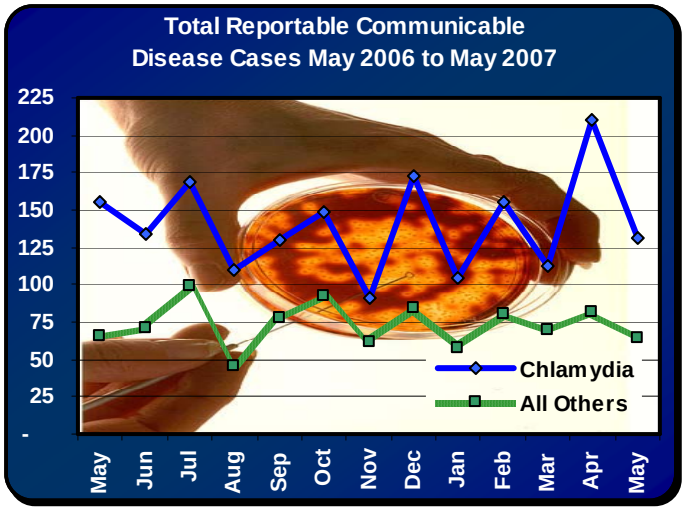
H&SS INDICATORS is produced every other month by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

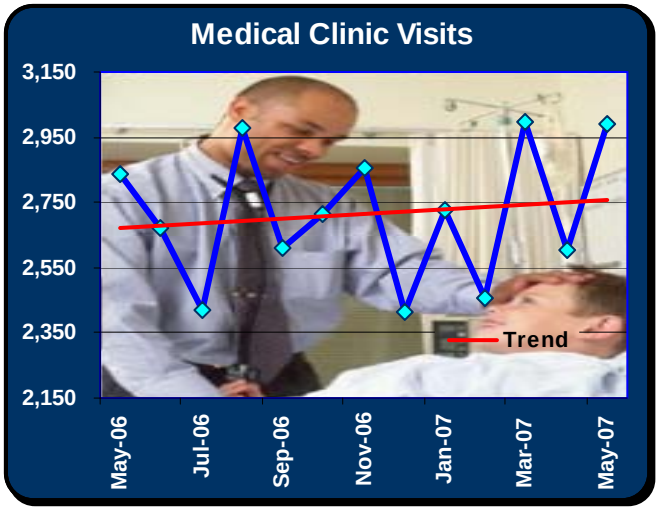
PUBLIC HEALTH

- Maternal, Child & Adolescent client counts were up significantly from one year ago. Calls to the toll-free hotline for women, children and teens were 84% higher during the March, April, May 2007 quarter than for the same period last year. For the programs, the increase was only slightly lower at 72%.
- The number of medical and dental clinic visits has been steadily trending up over the past year despite seasonal fluctuations. Also: wait times to obtain an appointment have been slowly decreasing at the medical clinics although they have not yet come down at the dental clinics.
- Communicable disease reports have been generally stable over the past year. There was a spike in the number of reports in April but the number of cases fell again in May. Since January, there have been an average of 214 reportable CD cases in Solano County each month. Chlamydia remains the most common communicable disease — representing 2 out of 3 CD cases.

Indicator	March	April	May
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Clients[1]	388	436	406
Toll Free Hotline for Women, Children & Teens	673	484	512
Medical Clinic Visits	2,999	2,605	2,989[2]
Dental Clinic Visits	360	383	395[2]
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	183	292	195
WIC[3] Clients	10,188	10,149	10,244

1. Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP), Prenatal Care Guidance (PCG), Black Infant Health (BIH), BabyFirst Solano.
2. Preliminary.
3. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children.



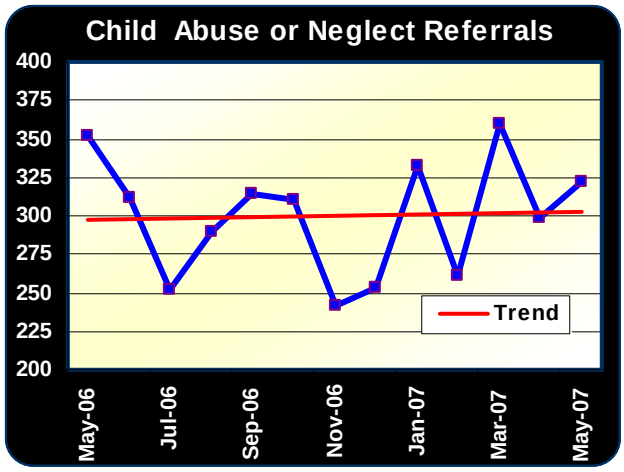


CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	March	April	May
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	360	299	322
Children in Supervised Foster Care*	477	480	500

* Children in placement for 17 of the last 22 months (15 months plus a 60 day grace period).

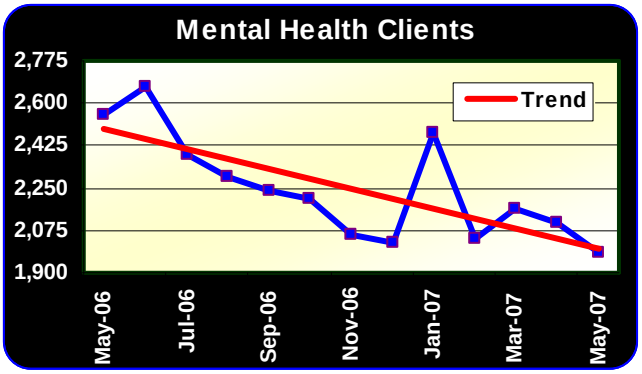
- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect fluctuates throughout the year. From May 2006 to May 2007, the number of referrals has averaged 300 per month.

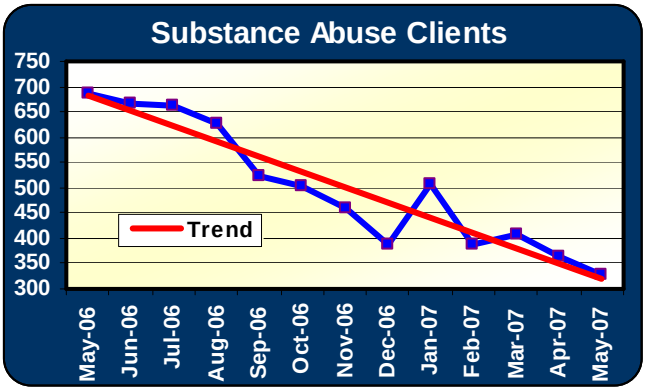


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

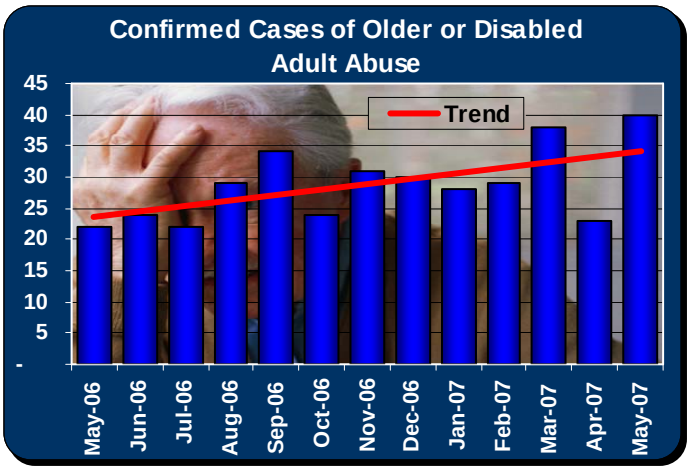
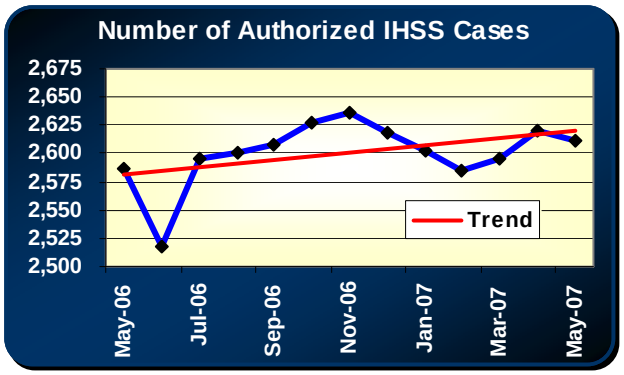
Indicator	March	April	May
Mental Health Clients	2,166	2,109	1,984
Substance Abuse Clients	409	364	329

- For both Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the number of clients continues to trend downward. However, caseloads increased markedly in January for both programs.
- Substance Abuse client counts were down 52 percent in May 2007 from May 2006. Mental Health saw a 22.4 percent decline for the same period.
- However, preliminary figures for June show a substantial increase in client counts for both programs (2,591 for Mental Health, 658 for Substance Abuse).





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	March	April	May
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	116	94	111
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	38	23	40
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,595	2,620	2,612

- The number of authorized IHSS cases has been trending up over the past year despite a slight decrease over the last quarter.
- The number of confirmed cases of older or disabled adult abuse — although small at 40 — has been steadily trending upward. The number of confirmed cases in May was 82 percent higher than during May 2006.