H&SS INDICATORS

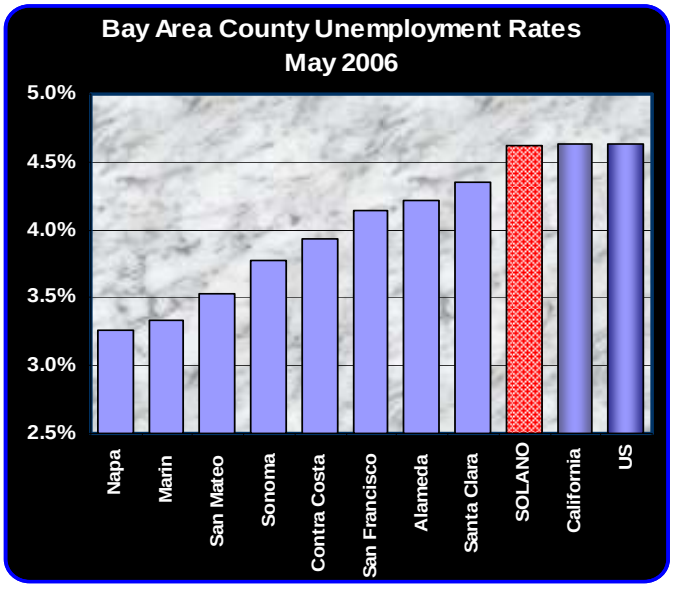
A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

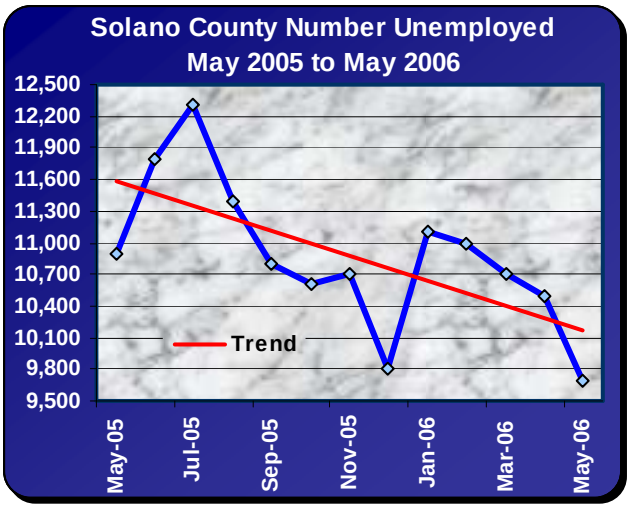
AUGUST 2006

ECONOMY

Indicator	March	April	May
Labor Force	210,100	209,700	210,000
Number Employed	199,400	199,200	200,300
Number Unemployed	10,700	10,500	9,700
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.0%	4.6%

- The County's unemployment rate fell to 4.6% in May. The actual number of unemployed dropped to its lowest level since October 2001 even as the Solano County labor force has increased by more than 10,000 persons.
- While Solano County's unemployment rate matches that of the state and nation it remains the highest in the Bay Area. Neighboring Napa County has the region's lowest unemployment rate.



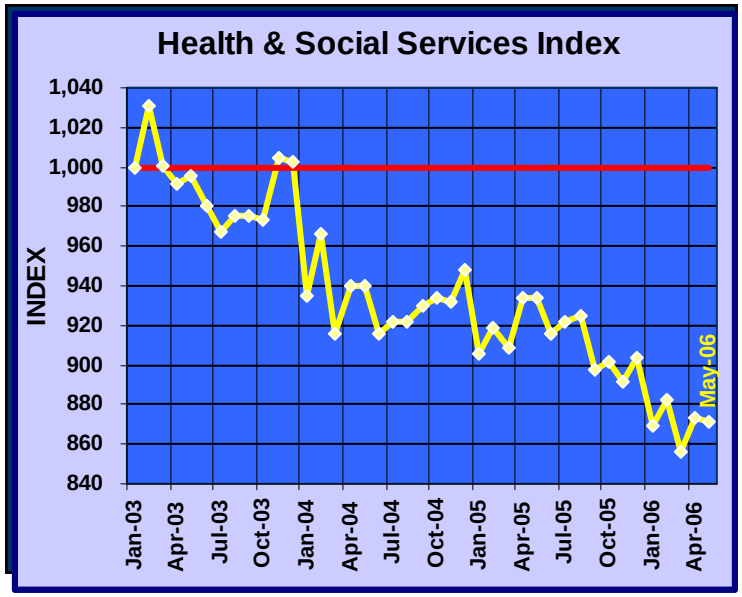


H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** was virtually unchanged in May compared to April. Overall, 9 of the 15 indicators registered increases and 6 declined. The number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries fell by nearly 1,500. The greatest increase was in medical clinic visits which rose by almost 600. The larger public assistance program were mostly unchanged in May compared to April — CalWORKs cash recipients fell by -.0.2% while Food Stamp recipients increased by 0.5%.

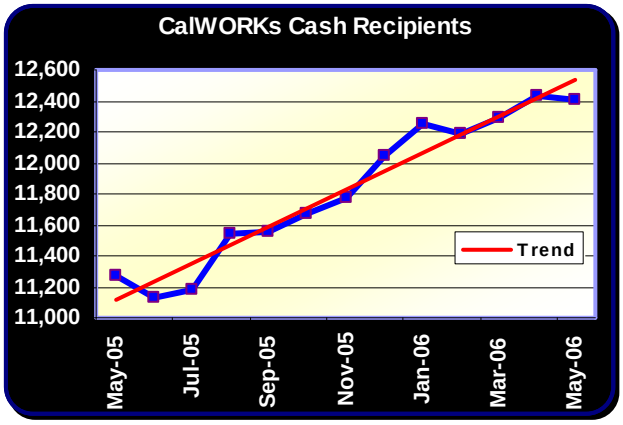
The index combines workload data from 14 key services provided by H&SS, along with data on unemployment in Solano County, to provide a monthly indicator of community demand for health and social services.

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.

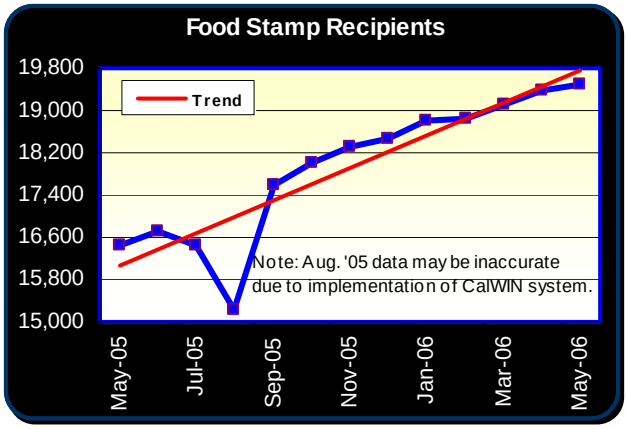


EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

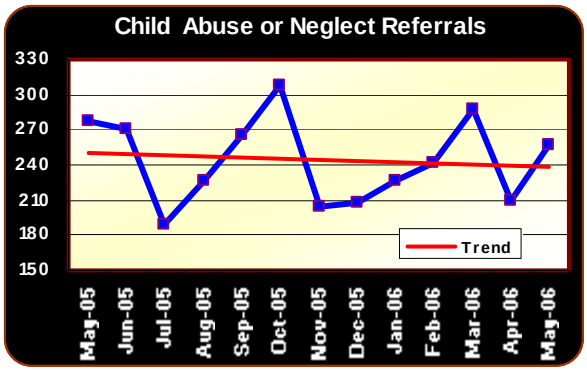
Indicator	January	February	March
Number of I&R Calls	2,481	2,239	2,624
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	12,290	12,430	12,408
New CalWORKs Applications & Restoration Requests	452	389	457
Food Stamp Recipients	19,132	19,399	19,505
General Relief Recipients	699	703	702



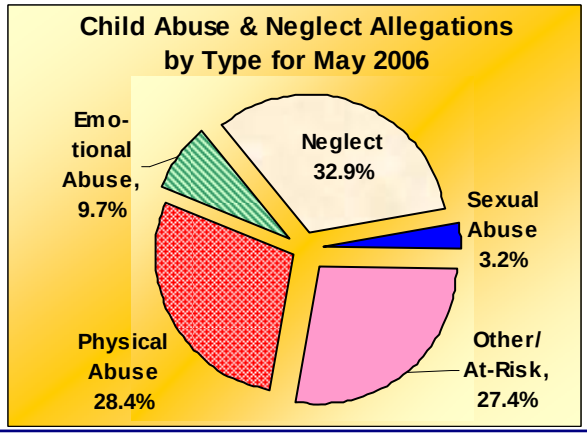
- **Client counts for CalWORKs cash assistance fell slightly in May from April — perhaps an indication that the recent upward trend has begun to moderate.**
- **Over the past year, the percentage increase in Food Stamp clients has been nearly double the increase for CalWORKs. The food stamp program is intended to help low income working households improve their nutrition by supplementing income. The larger growth in the number of food stamp recipients appears to reflect growth in the "working poor" – households that are not earning enough to meet the high cost of living in the Bay Area.**



CHILD WELFARE



Indicator	March	April	May
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	287	210	257
Children in Supervised Foster Care	**544**	**540**	**547**



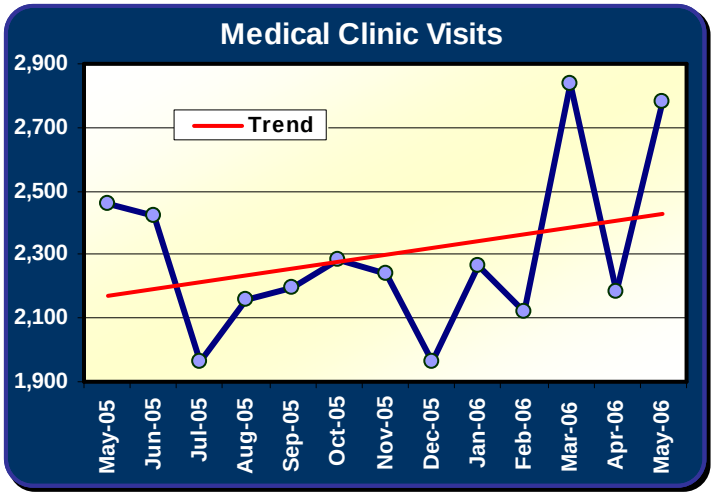
- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect fluctuates throughout the year. It often rises when the school year starts. Over the past 12 months, referrals have averaged 241 per month.
- Neglect accounted for one-third of all referrals in May. Physical abuse was the second leading cause with 28.4 percent.

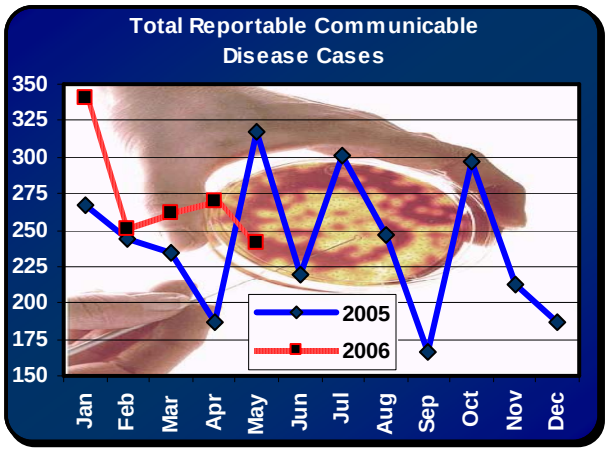
PUBLIC HEALTH

- Visits to the County's two medical clinics have begun to increase after trending down during most of 2005. Last year's lower numbers were largely attributable to doctor retirements and vacancies. Despite the increase in clients, waiting times for appointments have held steady in Fairfield and fallen in Vallejo. As a result of improved staffing along with other administrative improvements, wait times for medical appointments have decreased from 6 weeks to 3 weeks in Vallejo.
- The number of WIC clients rose by 5.5 percent between May 2005 and May 2006.
- Both the number of unduplicated Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) program clients and calls to the toll free line declined slightly during the March through May period.
- A priority of the Solano County Board of Supervisors is to eventually screen all pregnant women for substance use and link those in need of assistance to appropriate services. The MCAH began the program in March at a comprehensive perinatal service provider prenatal care site — the ABC prenatal program. In four short months, the program screened 431 (exceeding target goal) and linked 22 women to services. In June, MCAH worked with the National Training Institute to develop a highly effective tool to screen pregnant women for prenatal substance use. For FY 2006-07, H&SS will work with the Partnership Health Plan of California to outreach to additional prenatal providers, including La Clinica — Great Beginnings.
- Communicable disease reports were lower in May 2006 compared to the previous May. However, the number of reportable CD cases has generally been running higher for the first five months of 2006 compared to 2005. Chlamydia is the most common communicable disease with a rate of 37 cases per 100,000 persons in May.

Indicator	March	April	May
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Clients[1]	543	520	509
Toll Free Hotline for Women, Children & Teens	346	238	268
Medical Clinic Visits	2,836	2,183	2,778[2]
Dental Clinic Visits	385	317	466[2]
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	262	270	241
WIC[3] Clients	10,353	10,157	10,169

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.





Number of Mothers Screened for Substance Abuse & Proportion Linked to Substance Abuse Services

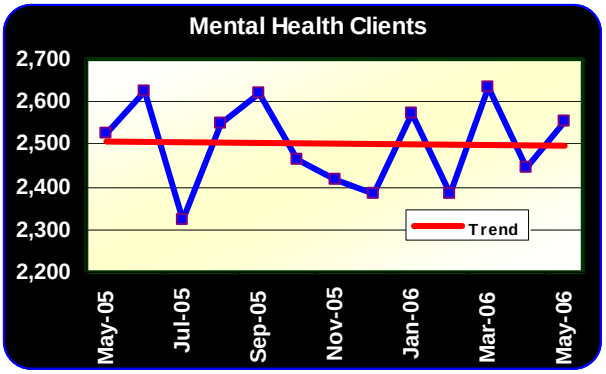
Month	Screened	Linked to Substance Abuse Services	Percent
March	127	6	4.7%
April	112	4	3.6%
May	89	4	4.5%
June	103	8	7.8%
Total	431	22	5.1%

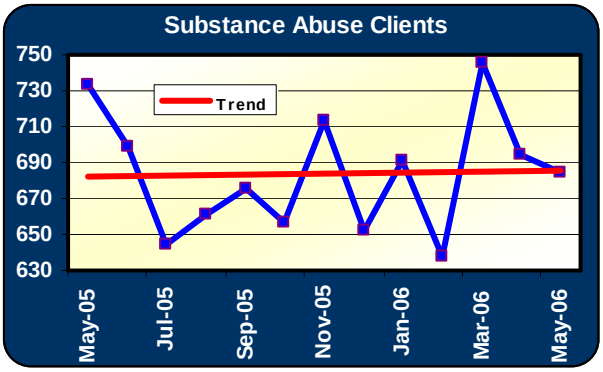
H&SS INDICATORS is produced every other month by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

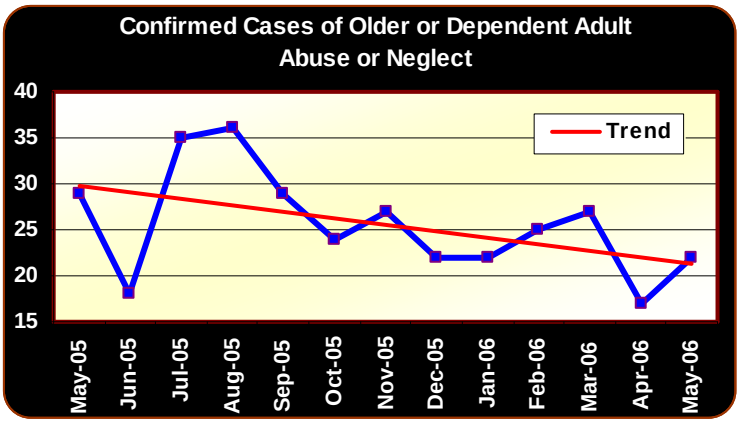
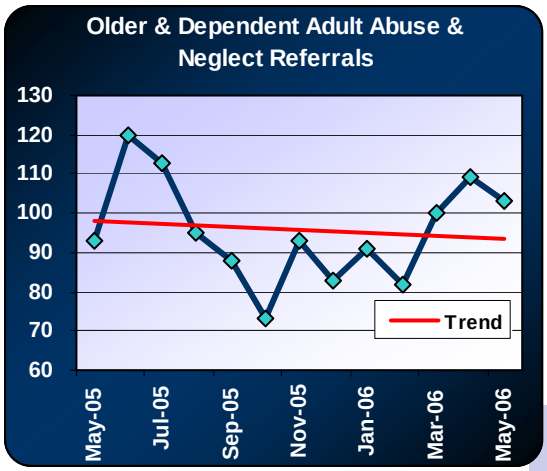
Indicator	March	April	May
Mental Health Clients	2,635	2,444	2,556
Substance Abuse Clients	746	694	685

- For both Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the number of clients, despite monthly fluctuations, remained fairly constant over the past 12 months. Static client counts are probably due in large part to limited funding. As MHSA (Prop 63) funding becomes available, Mental Health client counts should increase in response to increased resources.
- The number of Substance Abuse clients peaked and has since fallen.





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	March	April	May
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	100	109	103
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	27	17	22
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,561	2,468	2,504

- Both the number of older and dependent adult abuse referrals and confirmed cases of abuse trended downward over the past 12 months. However, the number of referrals during the March through May period is up markedly over the previous six months.