

# H&SS INDICATORS

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

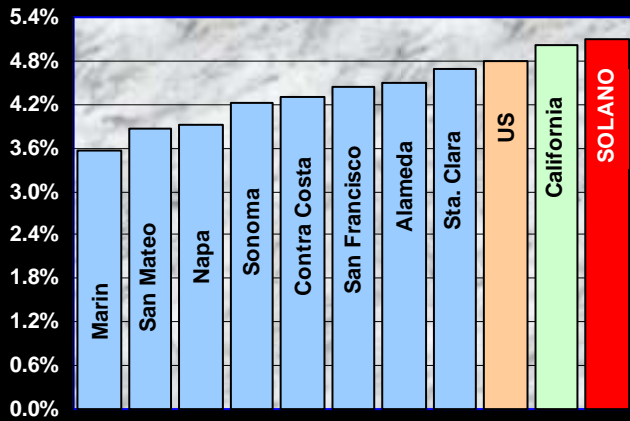
JUNE 2006

## ECONOMY

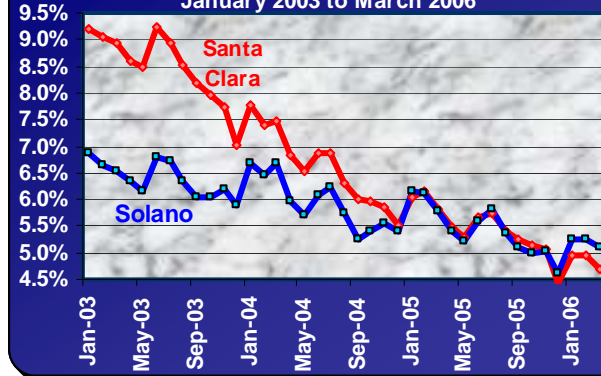
Indicator	January	February	March
Labor Force	211,000	210,100	210,100
Number Employed	199,900	199,100	199,400
Number Unemployed	11,100	11,000	10,700
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.2%	5.1%

- The County's unemployment rate declined gradually over the first quarter of 2006 falling from 5.3% in January to 5.2% in February and 5.1% in March.
- Solano County's unemployment rate remains the highest in the Bay Area and above both the state and national average. (All figures are not seasonally adjusted.)
- During the high tech economic downturn, Santa Clara generally had the highest unemployment rate in the region but, with economic expansion, that situation appears to have ended as Solano's unemployment rate has moved above that of Santa Clara for each month since December.

March 2006 Unemployment Rates  
Bay Area Counties, State, & US



Solano County & State Unemployment Rate  
January 2003 to March 2006



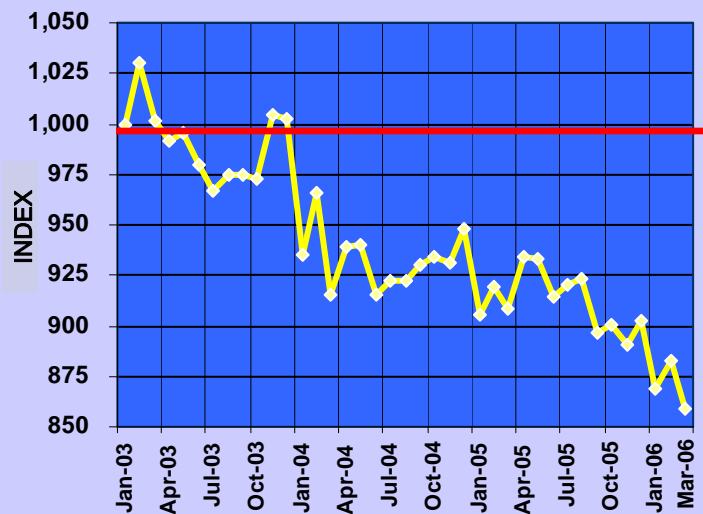
## H&SS INDEX

The Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index fell to a new low in March on the strength of growing client counts. Overall, 14 of the 15 indicators registered increases, only the number of unemployed declined and then only modestly (from 11,000 to 10,700). The largest percentage increases were medical and dental clinic visits, I&R calls, new CalWORKs applications, elder and dependent abuse referrals, and child abuse and neglect referrals. All of the larger public assistance programs — such as Food Stamps and CalWORKs — saw increased clients but the numbers rose only modestly.

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 benchmark 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.

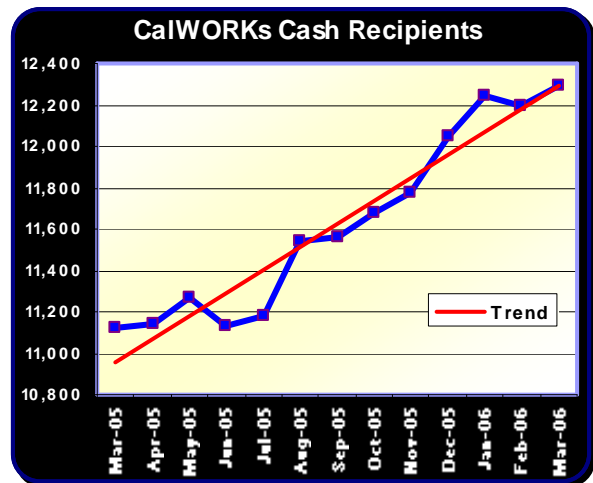
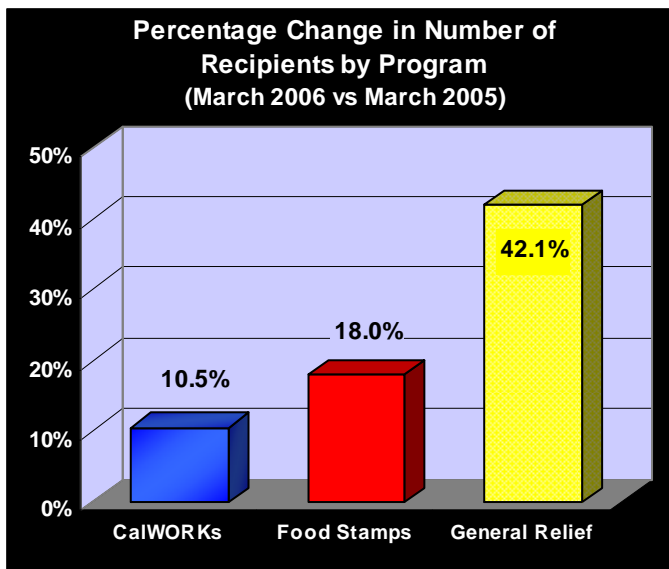
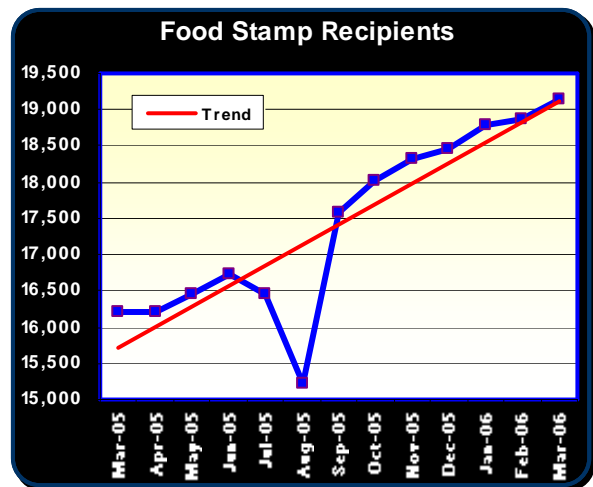
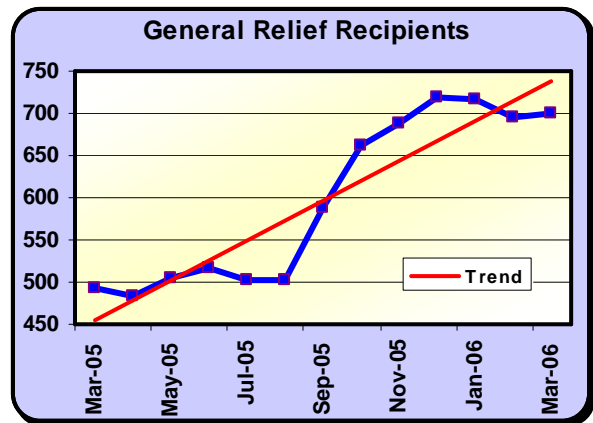
Health & Social Services Index



# EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

Indicator	January	February	March
Number of I&R Calls	2,270	2,019	2,481
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	12,247	12,193	12,290
New CalWORKs Applications	486	338	452
Food Stamp Recipients	18,794	18,865	19,132
General Relief Recipients	717	696	699

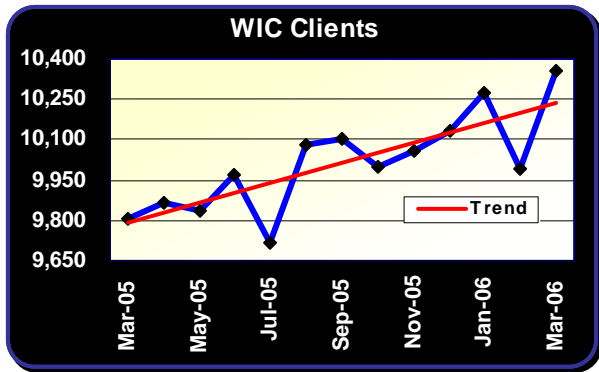
- Client counts for CalWORKs cash assistance and Food Stamps continued to increase during the first quarter of 2006 although at a somewhat slower pace than during most of 2005.
- The number of General Relief recipients has remained steady at just under 700 during both February and March.
- The number of calls to the County's Information and Referral (I&R) line rose to 2,481 in March, the highest monthly number since March 2004.



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



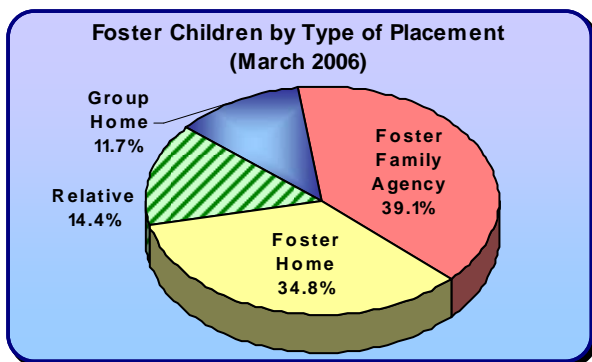
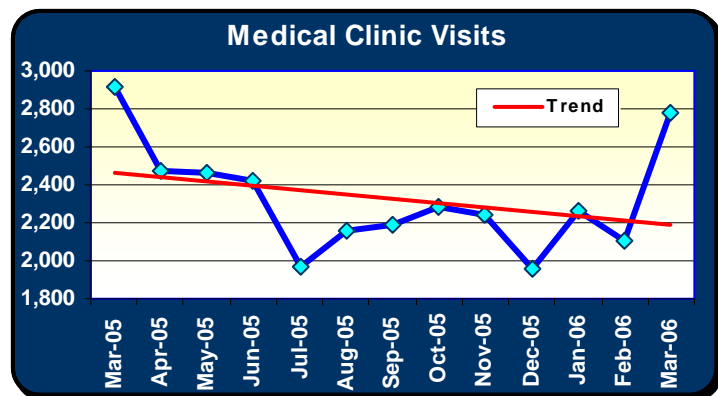
# PUBLIC HEALTH



Indicator	January	February	March
Maternal & Child Health Clients <sup>1</sup>	564	519	534
Toll Free Hotline for Women, Children & Teens	350	328	346
Medical Clinic Visits	2,260	2,101	2,796 <sup>2</sup>
Dental Clinic Visits	341	308	385 <sup>2</sup>
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	341	251	262
WIC <sup>3</sup> Clients	10,272	9,992	10,353

- 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. Higher numbers in recent months at the medical clinics may be due in part to the initiation of Saturday clinic hours starting on January 28. Through the first 3 full months of Saturday hours, over 360 patients have had appointments. Saturday visits have increased from 77 in February to 131 in March to 147 in April. The wait time for a medical appointment averages 6 weeks.
- The number of WIC clients rose by 5.6 percent between March 2005 and March 2006.
- Both the number of unduplicated Maternal & Child Health program clients and calls to the toll free line were generally stable during the 1st quarter. Clients and calls were down slightly in February and March from January figures.
- Communicable disease reports were lower in February and March compared to January. Chlamydia is the most common communicable disease, followed by gonococcal infections, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

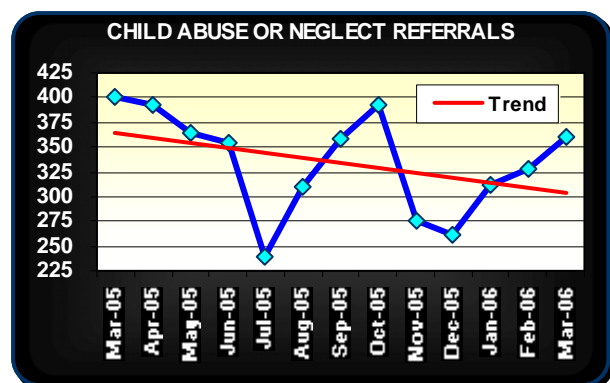
1. Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP), Prenatal Care Guidance (PCG), Black Infant Health (BIH), BabyFirst Solano.
2. Preliminary.
3. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children.



Indicator	January	February	March
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	311	329	360
Children in Supervised Foster Care	557	552	561

- Overall, the number of referrals for child abuse or neglect trended down over the past 12 months. However, the trend may be shifting as the number of referrals has increased each month since December.
- The proportion of children placed with relatives rose from 10.4% in January to 14.4% in March.

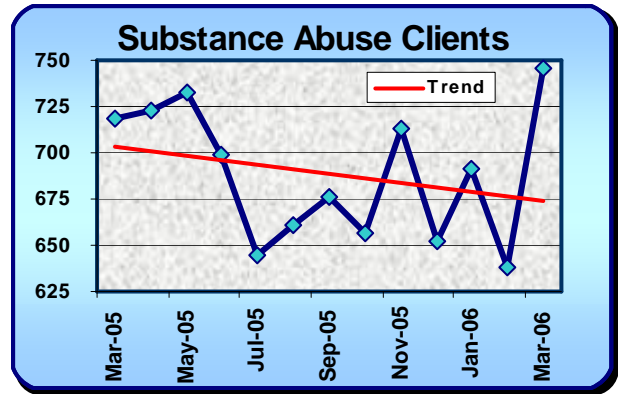
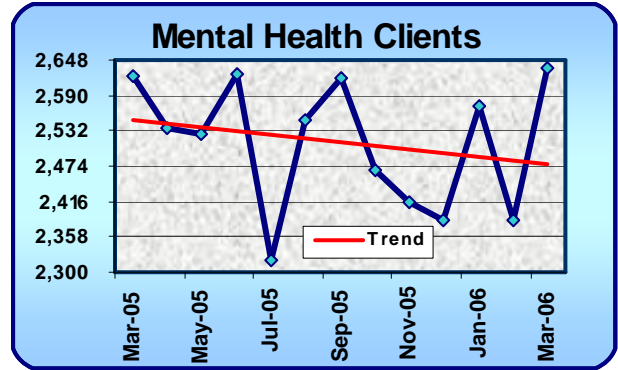
# CHILD WELFARE



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Indicator	January	February	March
Mental Health Clients	2,573	2,384	2,635
Substance Abuse Clients	691	638	746

- For both Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the number of clients, despite monthly fluctuations, remained fairly constant over the past 18 months with a slight overall downward trend. Static client counts are probably due in large part to limited funding. As MESA (Prop 63) funding becomes available, client counts should increase in response to increased resources.
- The number of clients seen in March increased markedly over February. Client counts generally fall in February due to the shorter month and closings for two official County holidays.



# OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	January	February	March
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	91	82	100
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	22	25	27
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,518	2,524	2,561

- Both the number of older and dependent adult abuse referrals and confirmed cases of abuse trended downward over the past 12 months. However, there appears to be a slight increase in confirmed cases over the first quarter of 2006.

