H&SS INDICATORS

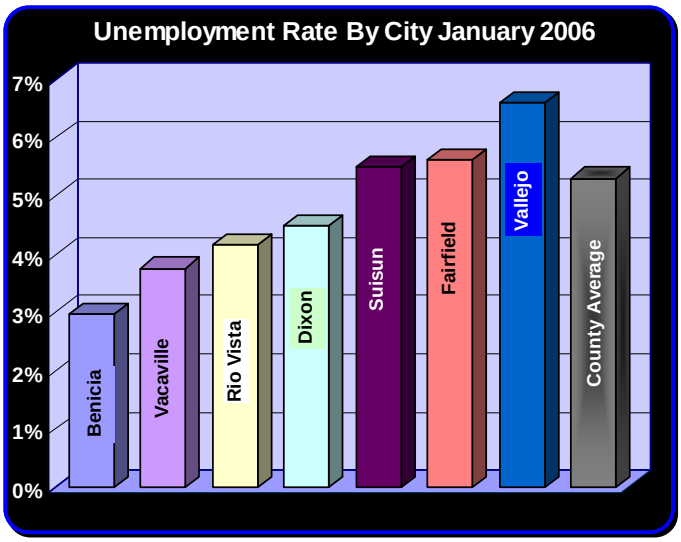
A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

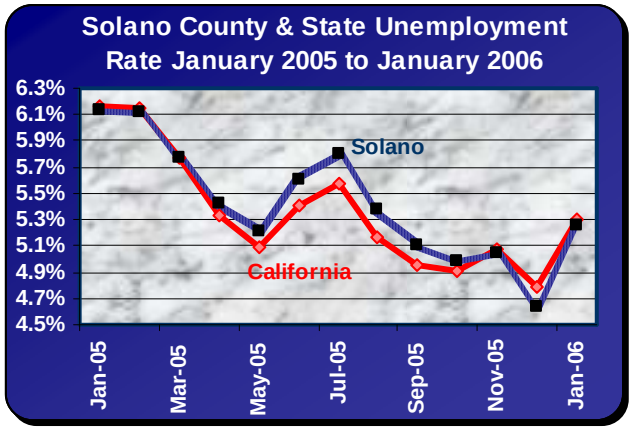
APRIL 2006

ECONOMY

Indicator	November	December	January
Labor Force	212,100	211,700	211,000
Number Employed	201,400	201,900	199,900
Number Unemployed	10,700	9,800	11,100
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.6%	5.3%

- Unemployment increased substantially in January from December. Unemployment generally rises in January as holiday season hiring contracts.
- A year-to-year comparison of January 2006 to January 2005 provides a more accurate reading of labor market trends. Between January 2005 and January 2006, Solano County's labor force increased by 4,100 yet unemployment fell by 1,600. Overall, the unemployment rate declined from 6.1 percent to 5.3 percent.
- Over the past year, Solano County's unemployment rate has generally been just above the State average.
- California Economic Development Department estimates show that unemployment is highest in Vallejo, lowest in Benicia and Vacaville.



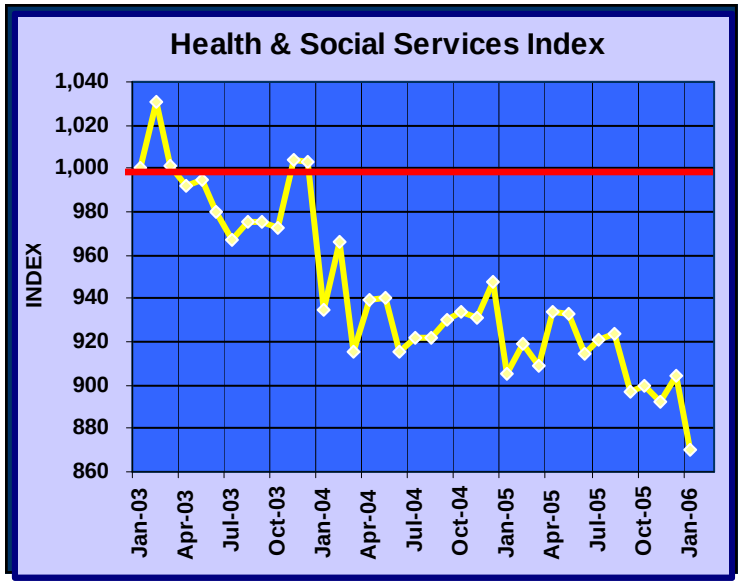


H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index fell to a new low in January in the face of growing client counts and increased unemployment figures. Overall, 11 of the 15 indicators registered increases, 3 saw declines in the number of clients and 1 held steady**. The largest increases were in unemployment, food stamps, and medical clinic visits. On the other hand, Medi-Cal enrollment fell slightly.

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.

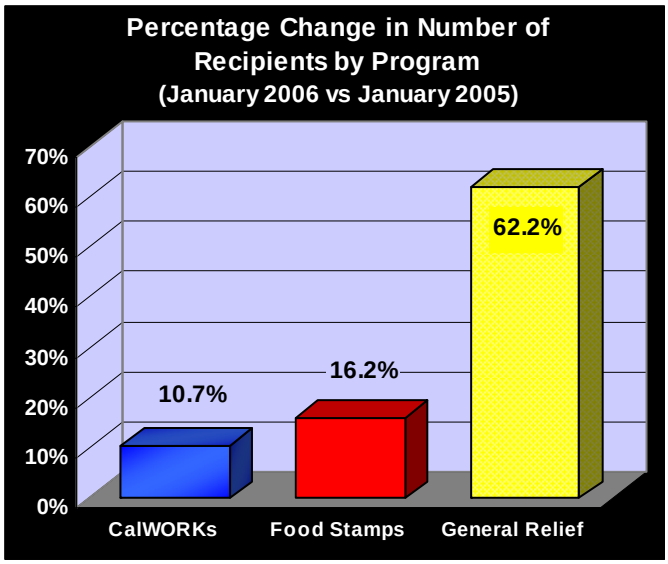
All of the monthly numbers are added together and converted into an index score with January 2003 as the index bench line figure of 1,000. Like the Dow Jones, higher scores suggest positive developments — fewer people looking for work or requiring the services that H&SS provides, for example. Falling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

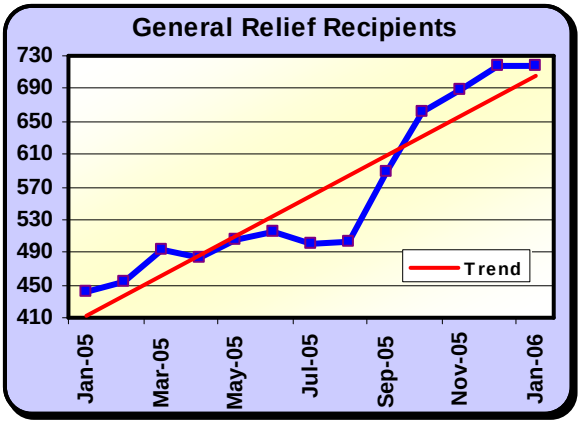


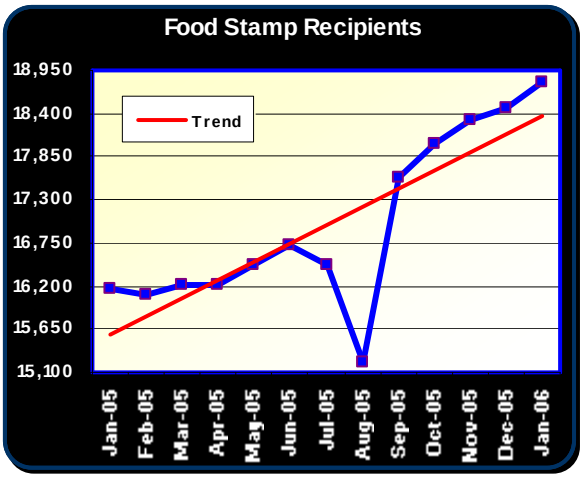
EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

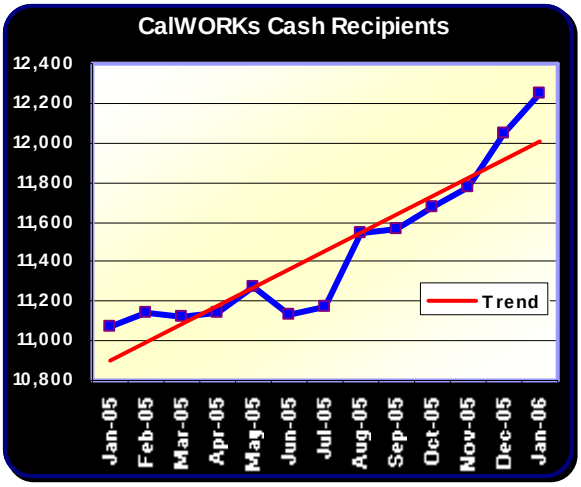
Indicator	November	December	January
Number of I&R Calls	1,855	2,179	2,270
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	11,777	12,048	12,247
New CalWORKs Applications	482	420	486
Food Stamp Recipients	18,307	18,460	18,794
General Relief Recipients	689	718	717

- Client counts for all of the County's cash assistance programs rose steadily throughout 2005.
- Between January 2005 and January 2006, the number of CalWORKs cash assistance recipients increased by more than 1,200. The number of food stamp recipients grew by over 2,600.
- The number of calls to the County's Information and Referral (I&R) line rose in both December and January. The number of calls during much of 2005 may have been lower than normal because of the need to transfer staff to work on CalWIN implementation.



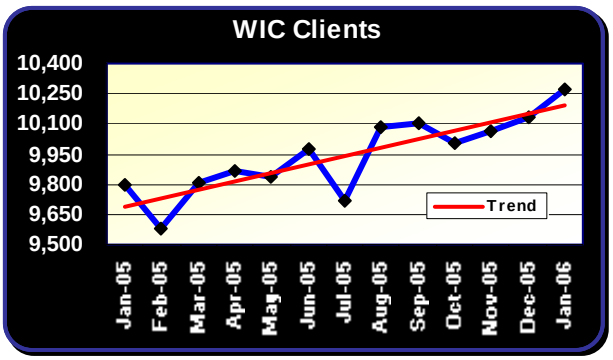






H&SS INDICATORS is produced every other month by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

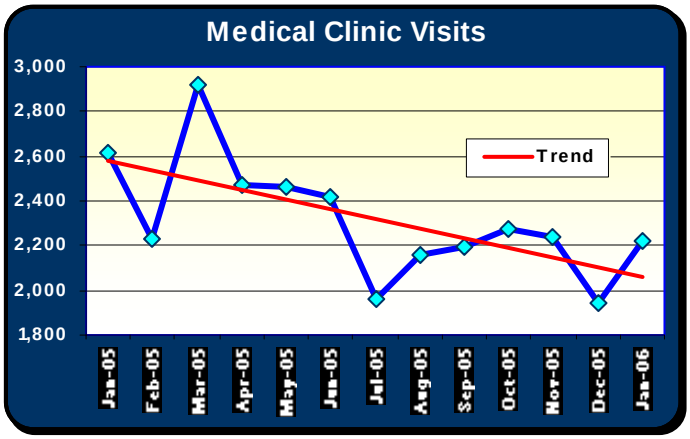
PUBLIC HEALTH



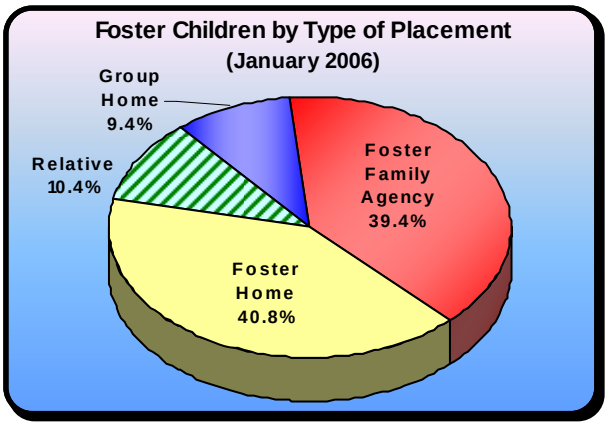
Indicator	November	December	January
Maternal & Child Health Clients[1]	495	789	753
Medical Clinic Visits	2,238	1,946	**2,224**[2]
Dental Clinic Visits	355	262	**341**[2]
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	**212**	**187**	**341**
WIC[3] Clients	**10,062**	**10,131**	**10,272**

1. Adolescent Family Life Program, Prenatal Care Guidance, Black Infant Health, Baby First Solano, Toll Free Line.
2. Preliminary.
3. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children.

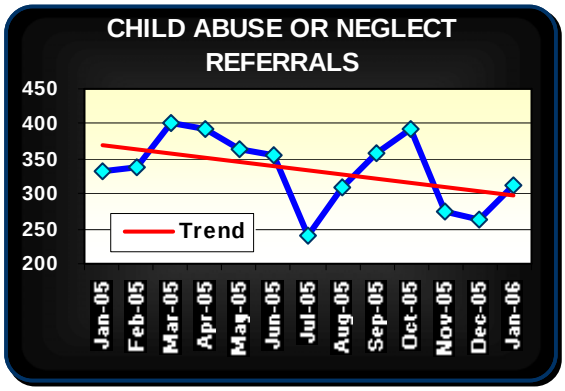
- Visits to the County's two medical and one dental clinic generally trended down during the year. Most of the decline was attributable to doctor retirements and vacancies. The wait time for a medical appointment averaged 6 weeks. Client counts increased 15% in January over December.
- The number of WIC clients rose by 4.8 percent between January 2005 and January 2006.
- Maternal & Child Health program clients increased substantially in December and January over November. Nearly all of the increase was due to an increase in calls to the Women, Children and Teens Toll Free Line.
- Communicable disease reports increased substantially in January over December. Most of the increase was due to a doubling of reported Chlamydia cases which increased from 95 to 189. Chlamydia is the most common communicable disease, followed by gonococcal infections, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.



CHILD WELFARE



Indicator	November	December	January
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	275	262	311
Children in Supervised Foster Care	**532**	**544**	**564**

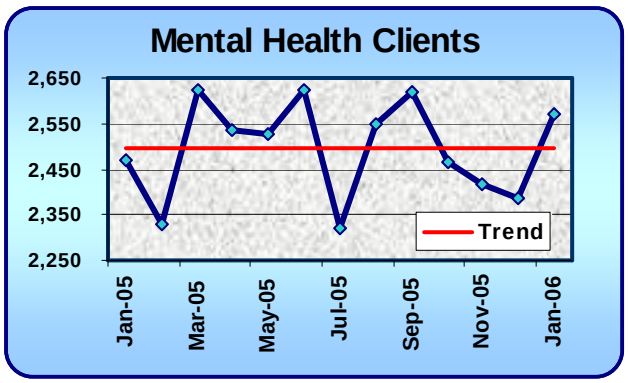


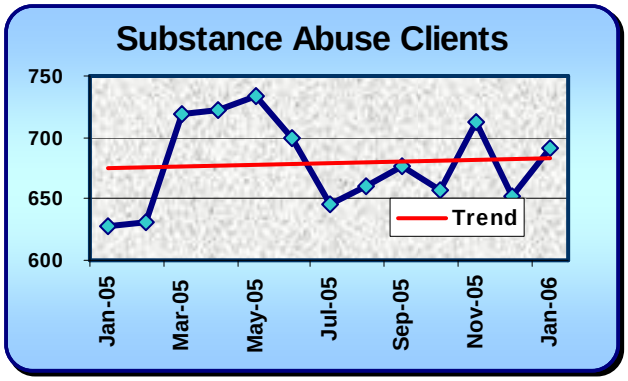
- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect trended down throughout 2005. However, January saw a 19 percent increase over December.
- The number of children in supervised foster care increased steadily over the November 2005 to January 2006 quarter.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

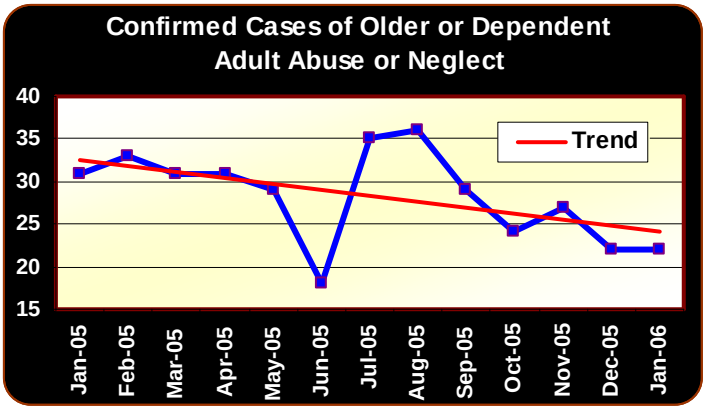
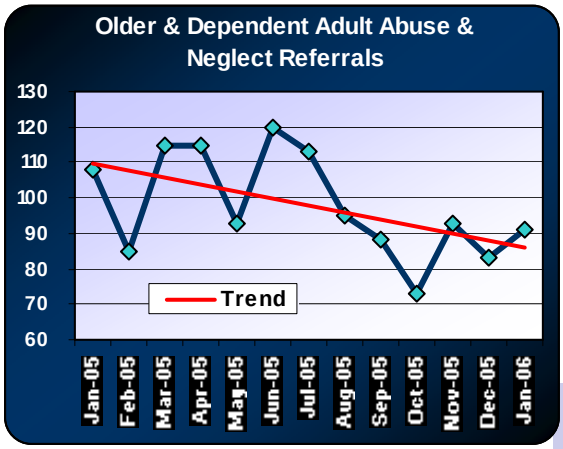
Indicator	November	December	January
Mental Health Clients	2,416	2,386	2,573
Substance Abuse Clients	713	652	691

- For both Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the number of clients remained fairly constant throughout 2005. Static client counts are probably due in large part to limited funding. As MHSA (Prop 63) funding becomes available, client counts should increase in response to increased resources.
- The number of clients seen in December fell slightly and then rose again in January. Client counts generally fall in December due to holiday closings and staff time off.





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	November	December	January
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	93	83	91
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	27	22	22
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,523	2,534	2,518

- Both the number of older and dependent adult abuse referrals and confirmed cases of abuse trended downward over 2005. However, this appears to be a cyclical trend. For the past several years, there have been more referrals during the first half of each year than during the last six months.