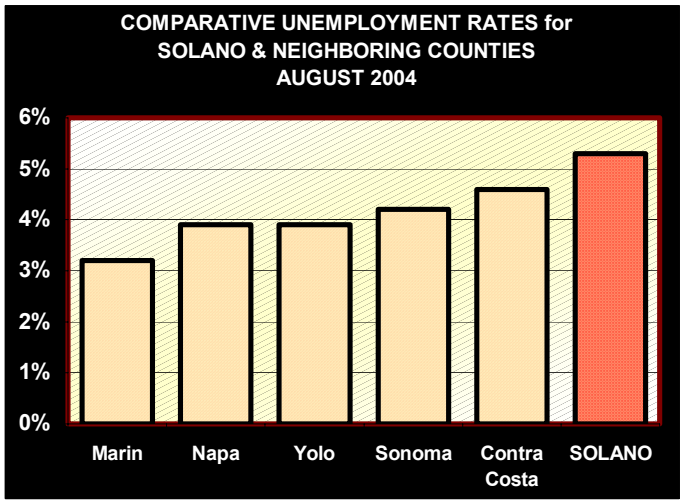
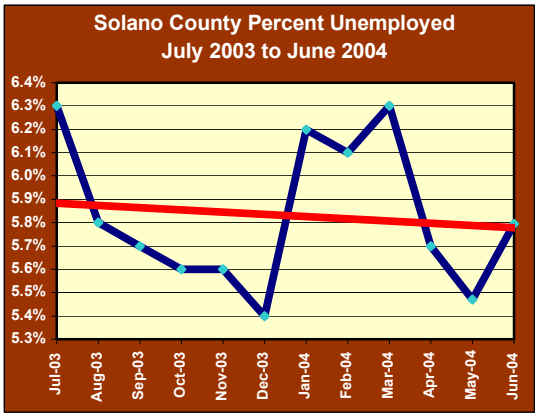
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE INDICATORS

ECONOMY

Indicator	June	July	August
Labor Force	215,800	219,100	218,000
Number Employed	203,100	205,600	206,400
Number Unemployed	12,700	13,500	11,600
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	6.1%	5.3%

- Both the number and percentage of the unemployed decreased markedly in August. However, the number of persons in the labor force also declined. This is probably due in large part to students returning or preparing to return to school.
- In the Bay Area, 3 counties have a higher unemployment rate than Solano County (Alameda, San Francisco and Santa Clara) and 6 counties have a lower rate. However, among the five North Bay counties (Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma), Solano County has the highest unemployment rate.
- Solano County's 5.3 percent August unemployment rate remains below the state average (5.7% in August).



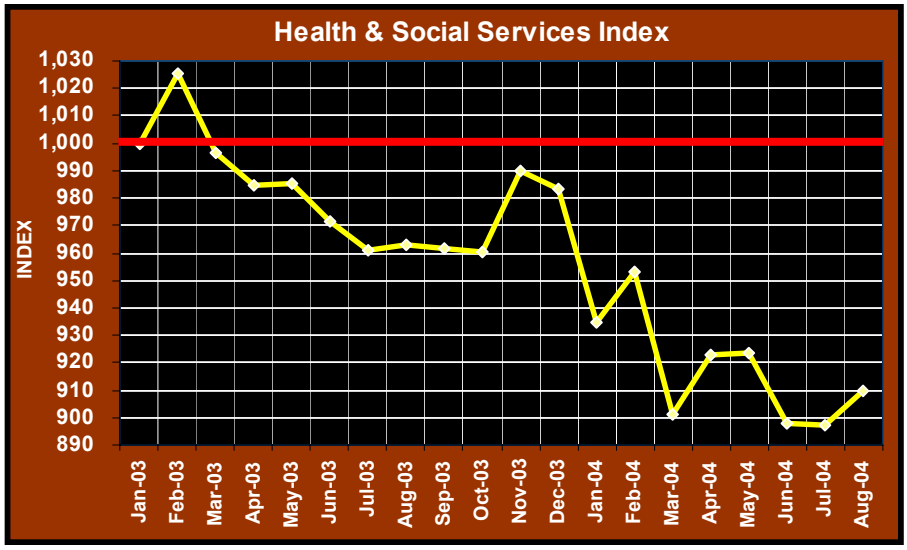


HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** rose in August primarily on the basis of the 14 percent drop in the number of unemployed. CalWORKs, Food Stamp, and Medi-Cal rolls were stable or grew only slightly.

The index combines workload data from 15 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.

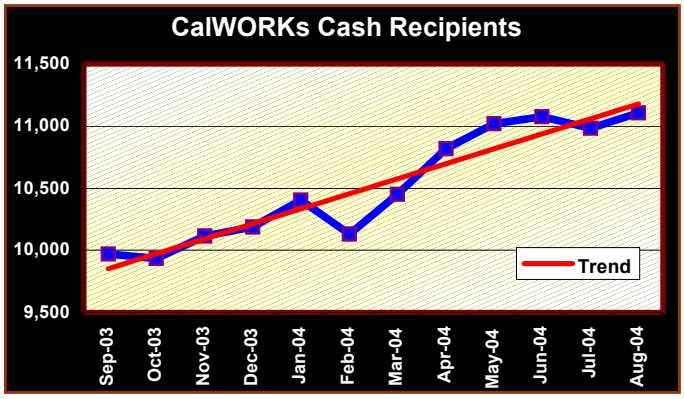


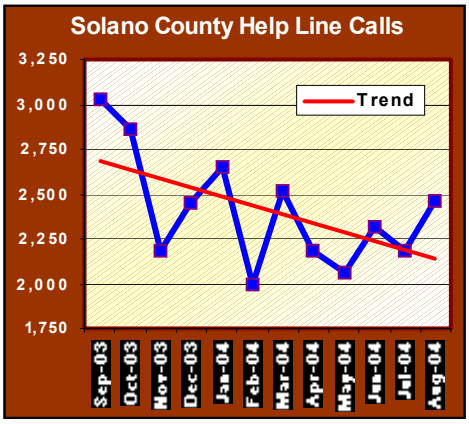
PROGRAM DATA

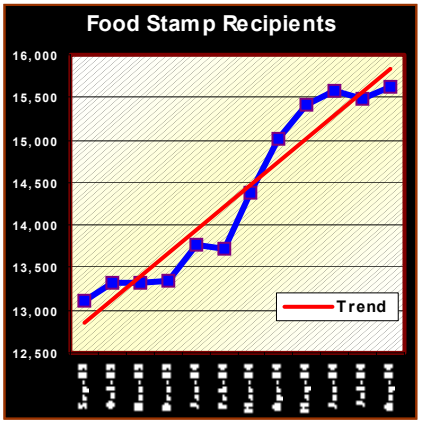
EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

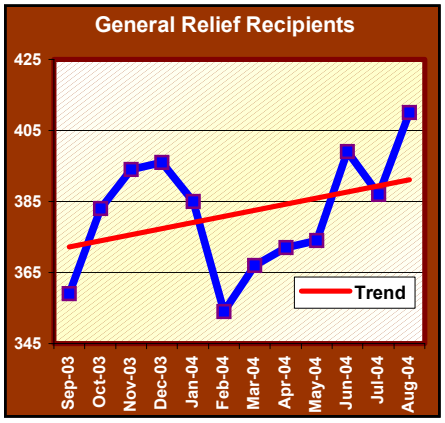
Indicator	June	July	August
Number of I&R Calls	2,317	2,184	2,463
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	11,077	10,982	11,107
New CalWORKs Applications	351	367	429
Food Stamp Recipients	15,586	15,472	15,615
General Relief Recipients	399	387	410

- The number of CalWORKs and Food Stamp recipients has remained stable over the past 3 to 4 months – staying at around 11,100 recipients for CalWORKs and 15,600 recipients for Food Stamps. This may be an indication of a stabilizing economy.
- Although smaller in number, the number of General Relief recipients increased by 6 percent in August over July and has risen steadily since February.
- The number of people calling the Help Line increased in August to the highest level since March. Overall, use has trended down over the past 12 months.





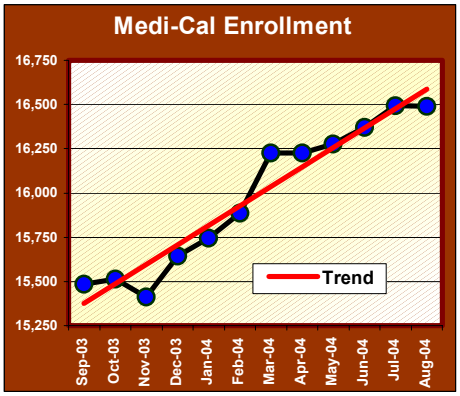


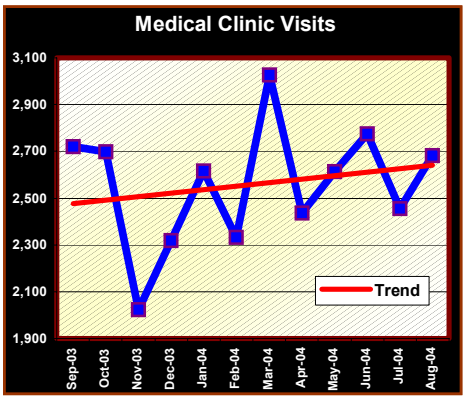


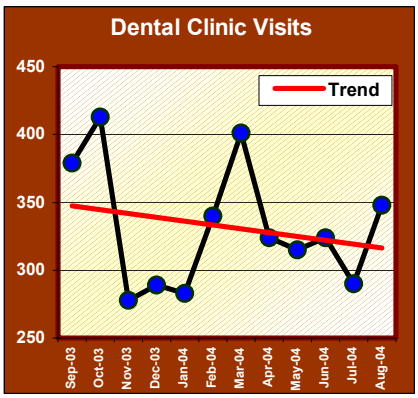
PUBLIC HEALTH

Indicator	June	July	August
Medi-Cal Enrollment	16,369	16,492	16,488
CMSP Enrollment	5,379	5,413	5,361
Medical Clinic Visits	2,776	2,454	2,683
Dental Clinic Visits	324	290	348

- Public health client and enrollment counts were generally stable through the summer.



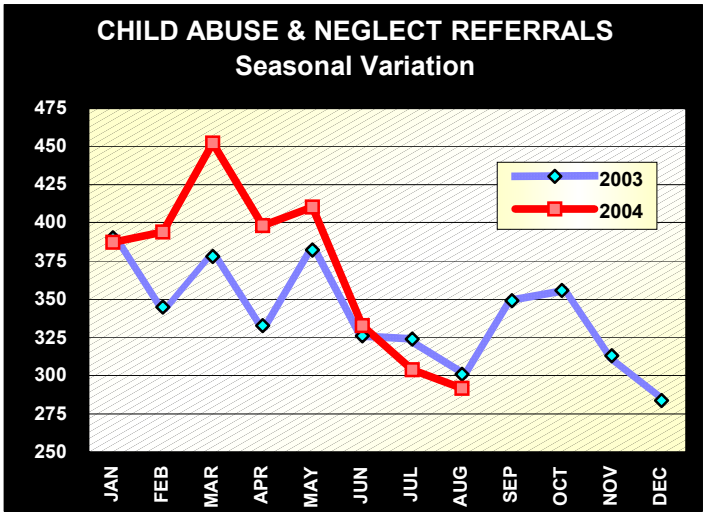


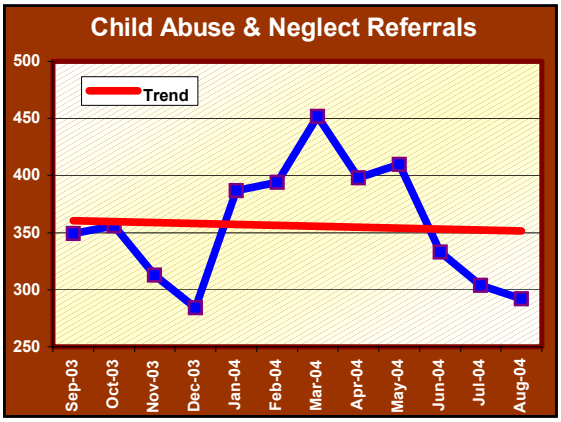


CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	June	July	August
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	333	304	292
Allegations of Physical Abuse	148	106	114

- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect fell in August. A comparison of referrals for the first 8 months of 2004 compared to 2003 shows what appears to be seasonal variation in reporting patterns with a decrease in the summer months. One likely reason – children are out of school and teachers or other school employees who are required by law to report suspected abuse or neglect are not in contact with students.

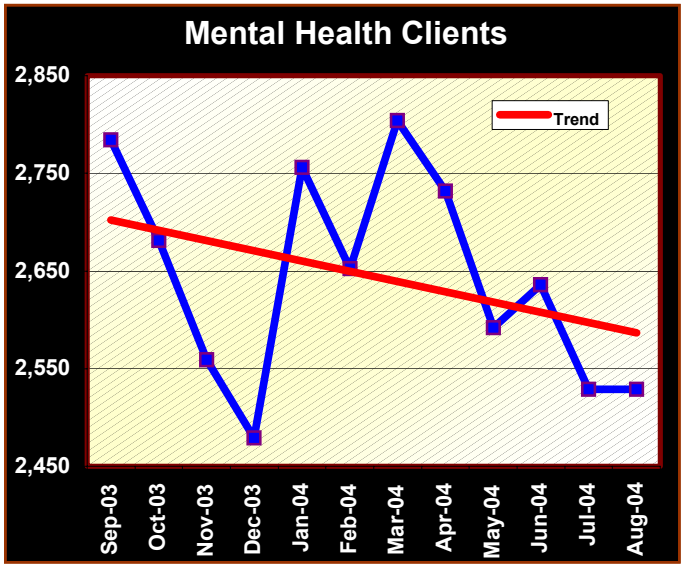


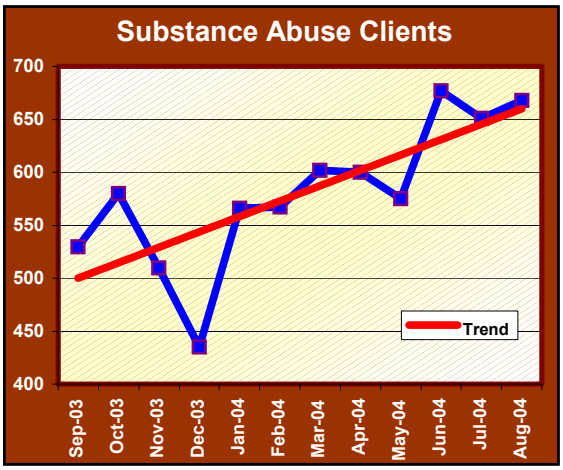


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

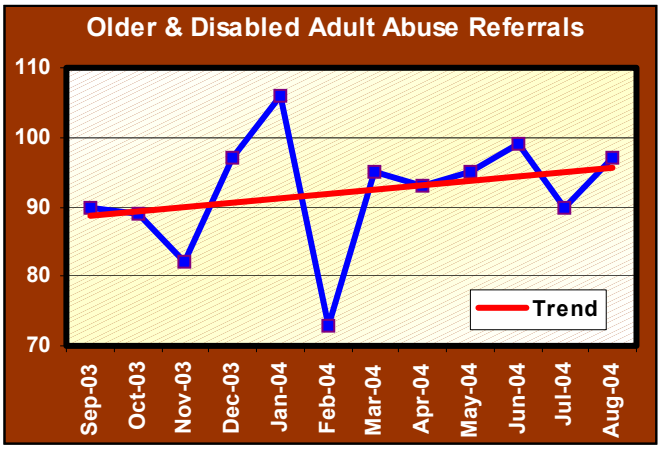
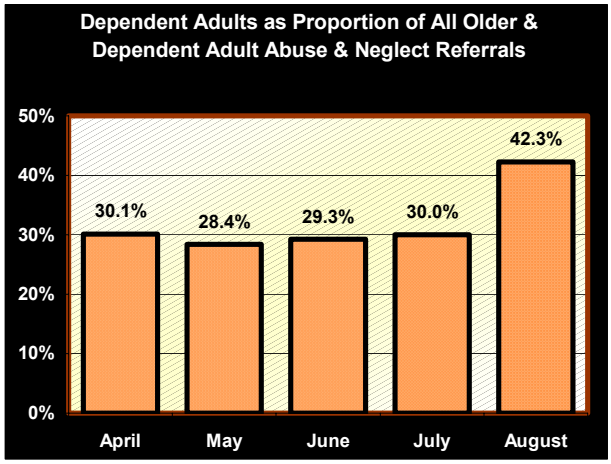
Indicator	June	July	August
Mental Health Clients	2,636	2,529	2,529
Substance Abuse Clients	677	651	668

- The number of unduplicated mental health clients was the same for August as for July. Over the past 12 months, the number of clients seen each month has trended down slightly. The gradual decrease is probably a reflection of reductions and authorized positions and difficulty in recruiting for vacant positions.
- The number of substance abuse clients has trended up over the past 12 months – averaging close to 700 over the summer as compared to around 550 last fall.





OLDER & DEPENDENT ADULTS

Indicator	June	July	August
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	99	90	97
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	31	27	25
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,329	2,328	2,348

- The number of referrals for elder abuse or neglect averaged about 98 per month. On average, 29 percent of the referrals were confirmed.
- Usually, about two-thirds of all referrals each month involve older adults, one-third involve dependent adults. For August, 42% of all referrals involved dependent adults.