H&SS INDICATORS

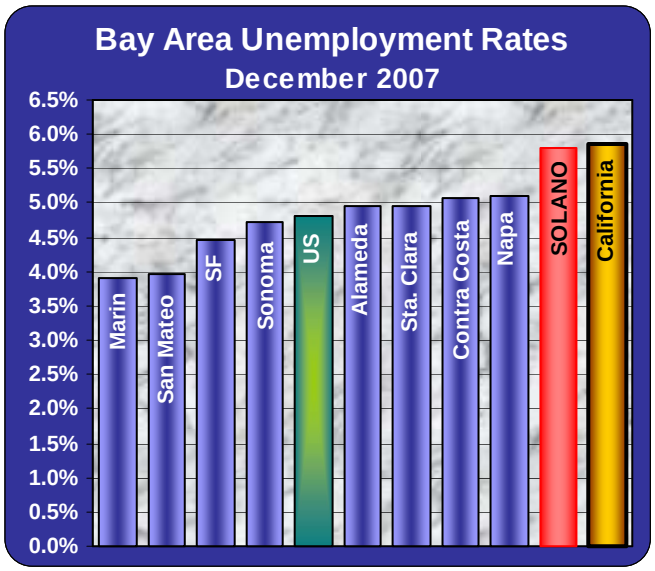
A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

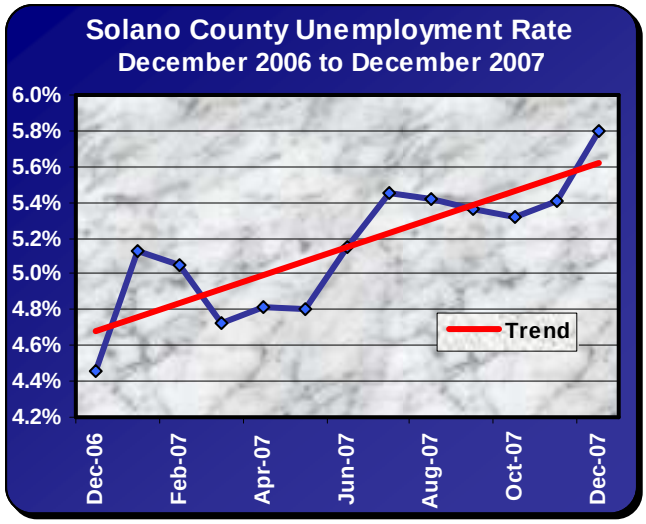
FEBRUARY 2008

ECONOMY

Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Labor Force	218,000	218,400	217,200
Number Employed	206,400	206,600	204,600
Number Unemployed	11,600	11,800	12,600
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.4%	5.8%

- The unemployment rate increased markedly in December. The increase was even more striking because unemployment often declines in December due to seasonal hiring.
- In general, most Bay Area counties fared better than the rest of the state and saw only slight increases in unemployment in December. However, Solano County and its neighbor counties of Napa and Contra Costa saw increases that were among the highest in the region.





H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** has remained fairly stable over the past six months. The increase in the number of unemployed was countered by reductions in the number of clients in several program areas. Decreases were probably due mostly to holiday closings and staff vacations.

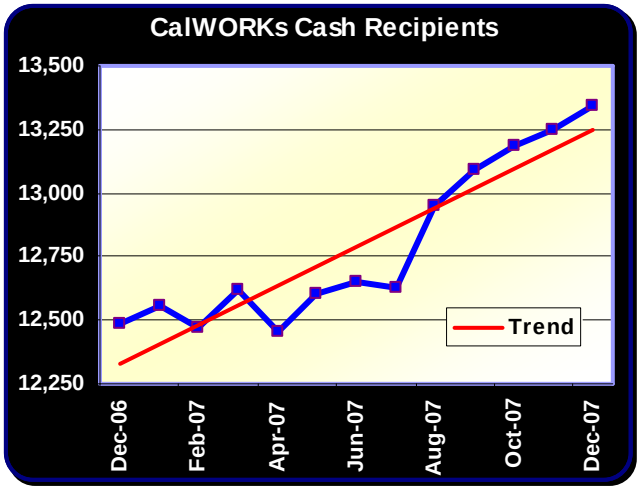
The index combines workload data from 14 key services provided by H&SS, along with data on unemployment in Solano County, to provide a monthly indicator of community demand for health and social services.

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 — for example, fewer people looking for work or requiring the services that H&SS provides. Falling numbers suggest increasing need for H&SS's services.

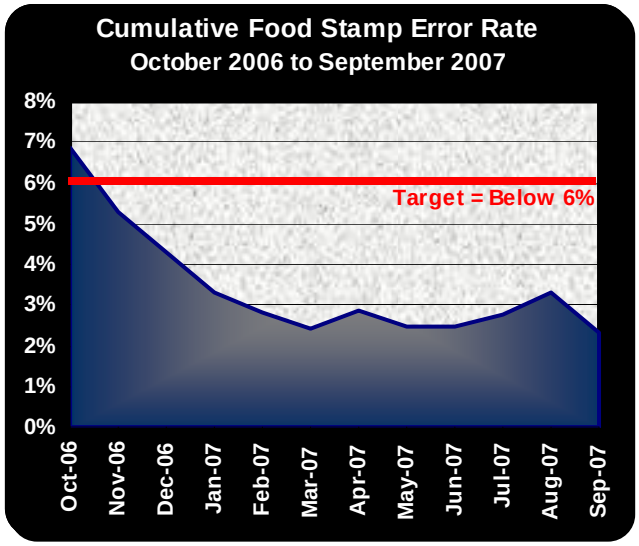
EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

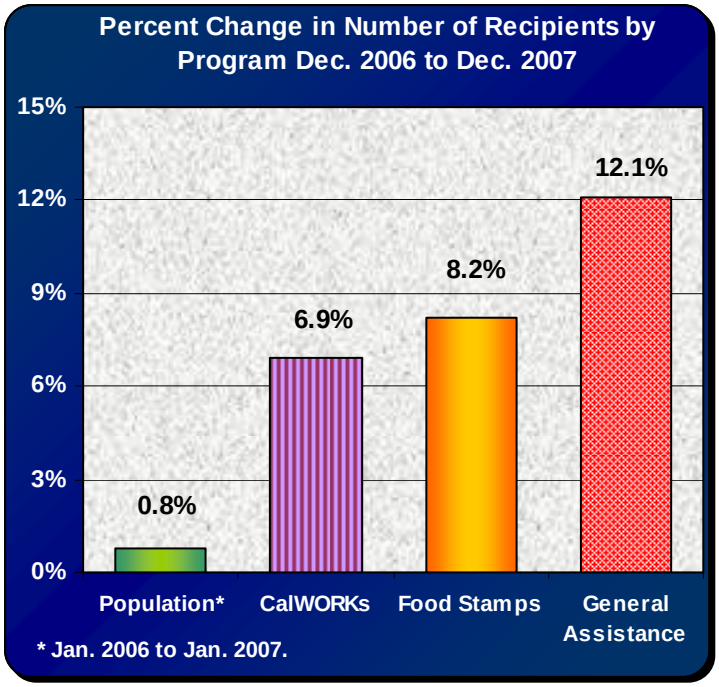
Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of 211 Calls[1]	1,905	1,207	860
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	13,186	13,252	13,344
New CalWORKs Applications & Restoration Requests	515	459	415
Food Stamp Recipients	21,684	22,077	22,417
General Relief Recipients	768	751	768

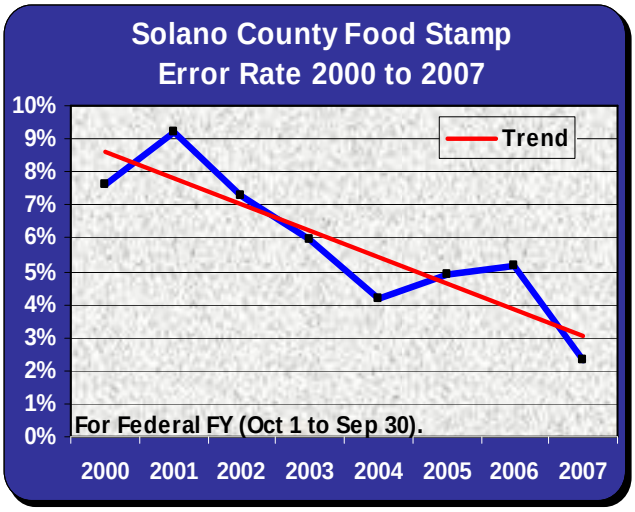
[1] 2-1-1 service replaced the H&SS Information & Referral line in early November.



- Client counts for most of the principal public assistance programs have continued to slowly trend upward.
- The County ended the federal fiscal year with the lowest error rate this decade.
- Calls for help were taken over by the new 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service run by the United Way of the Bay Area. The number of calls to 2-1-1 from Solano County have been substantially less than the number that went to the County's help line. Among the likely reasons for the decrease are that a high proportion of previous calls were inquiries from the client to find out who their caseworker was. Since 2-1-1 cannot provide that information, clients call the main office numbers.







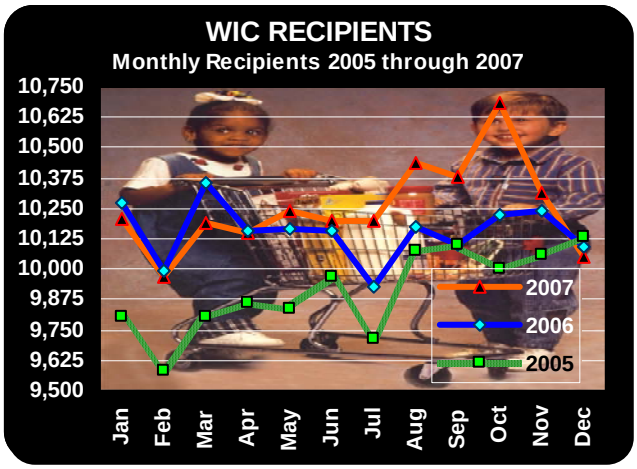
H&SS INDICATORS is produced every other month by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

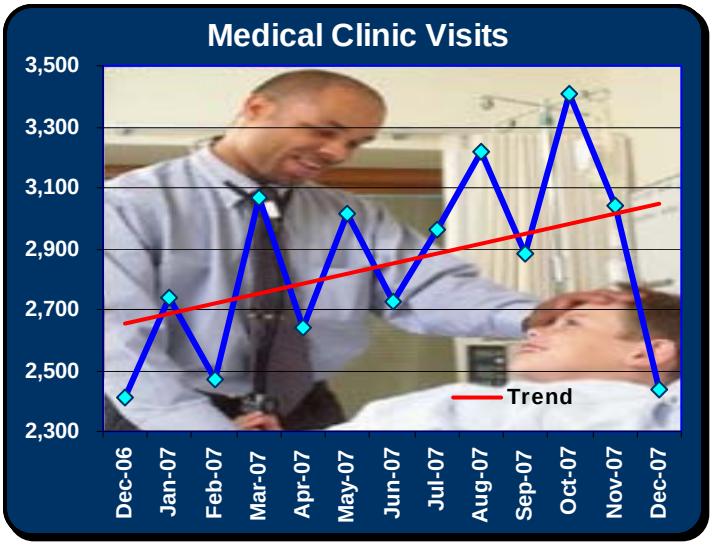
PUBLIC HEALTH

- Maternal, Child & Adolescent client counts remained generally stable over the past quarter. However, the client count was 36% higher during the last quarter of 2007 compared to the same period in 2006. Calls to the toll-free hotline for women, children and teens, on the other hand, were down 7.9% during the fourth quarter of 2007 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2006.
- The number of medical and dental clinic visits has been steadily trending up over the past year despite seasonal fluctuations. Wait times for adults to obtain a routine appointment at the medical clinics has stabilized and even improved slightly in recent months.
- Communicable disease reports rose in December due to a substantial increase in reported Hepatitis C cases. Chlamydia remains the most common communicable disease — representing 66.3 percent of all CD cases during the quarter.
- The number of WIC recipients has been growing steadily each year as shown on the accompanying graph. However, due to budget constraints, local WIC programs have been notified to limit caseload growth and, as a result, the number of recipients fell to pre-2005 levels in December.

Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Clients[1]	388	351	380[2]
Toll Free Hotline for Women, Children & Teens	482	452	353[2]
Medical Clinic Visits	3,409	3,044	2,437[2]
Dental Clinic Visits	456	398	367[2]
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	226	249	308
WIC[3] Clients	10,682	10,311	10,055

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.



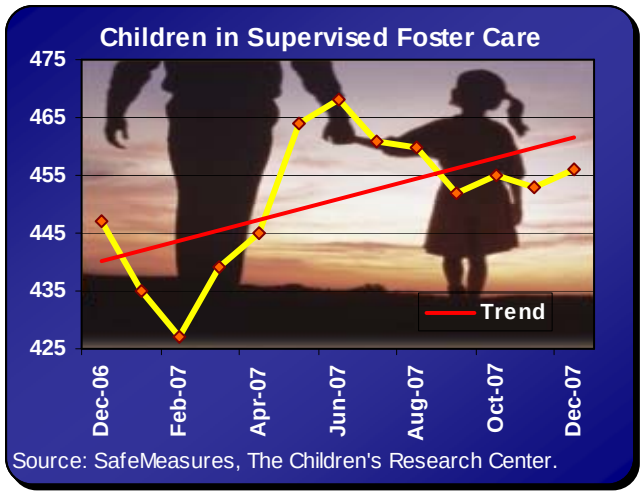


CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	395	287	244
Children in Supervised Foster Care[1]	455	453	456

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

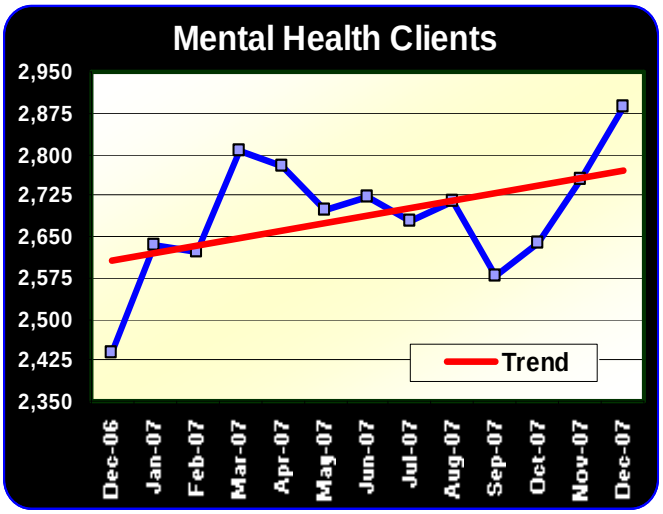
- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect trended downward during the last quarter of 2007. For the entire year, the number of referrals has averaged 297 per month.
- The number of children in supervised foster care rose during most of the first half of 2007 but has generally stabilized over the past six months.

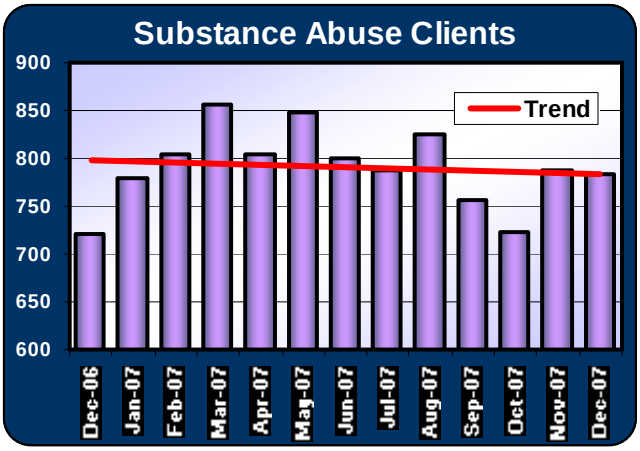


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

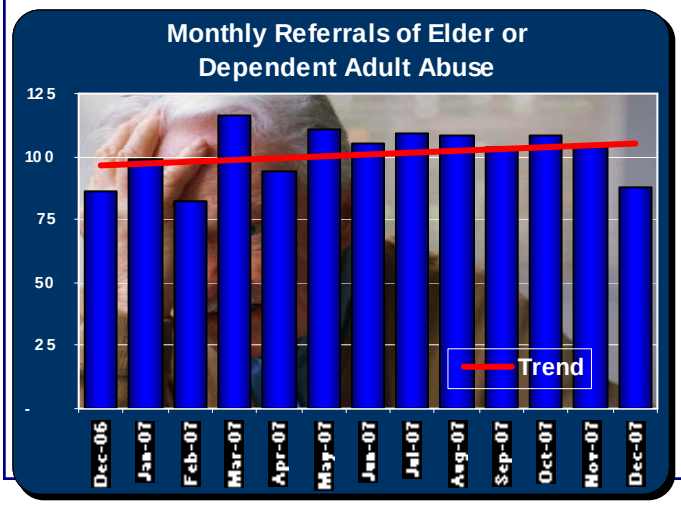
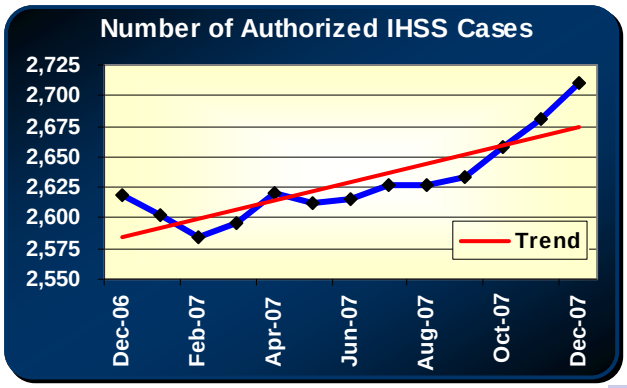
Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mental Health Clients	2,639	2,756	2,886
Substance Abuse Clients	723	788	783

- The number of Mental Health clients continues to trend upward with substantial increases since September — due in part to a number of Mental Health Services Act funded programs coming fully on line.
- Substance Abuse client counts have been generally stable over the past year. Client counts increased in November and December over September and October.





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	Oct	Nov	Dec
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	108	104	88
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	37	38	19
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,658	2,681	2,710

- The number of authorized IHSS cases in December 2007 was 3.5 percent higher than from the previous December.
- The average number of monthly referrals of elder or dependent adult abuse was up 8.2 percent over 2006. For 2007, there were an average of 102 referrals monthly — up from 95 in 2006.