H&SS INDICATORS

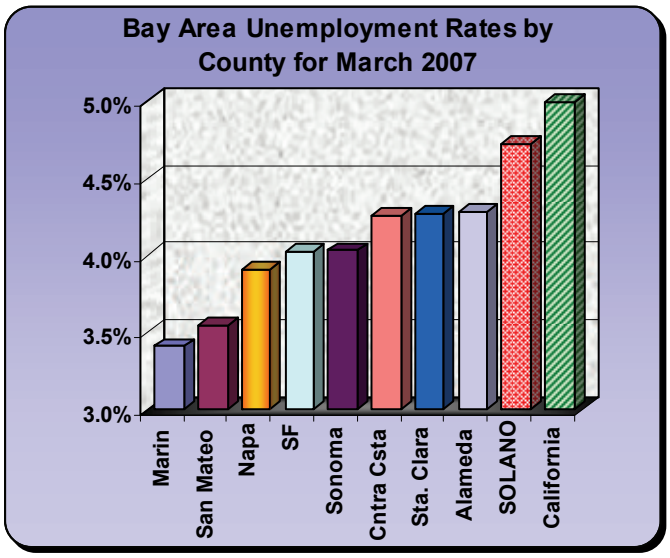
A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

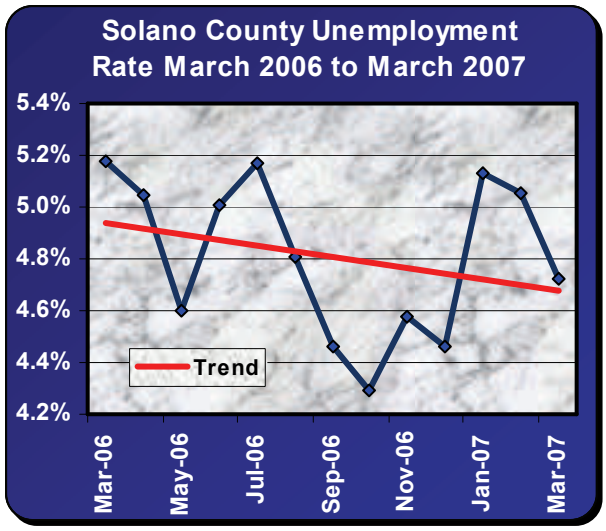
JUNE 2007

ECONOMY

Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar
Labor Force	214,300	213,800	216,000
Number Employed	203,300	203,000	205,800
Number Unemployed	11,000	10,800	10,200
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.1%	4.7%

- **While the County's unemployment rate has been trending down over the past year and remains consistently below the statewide average, Solano County continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the Bay Area and the gap has appeared to widen slightly.**



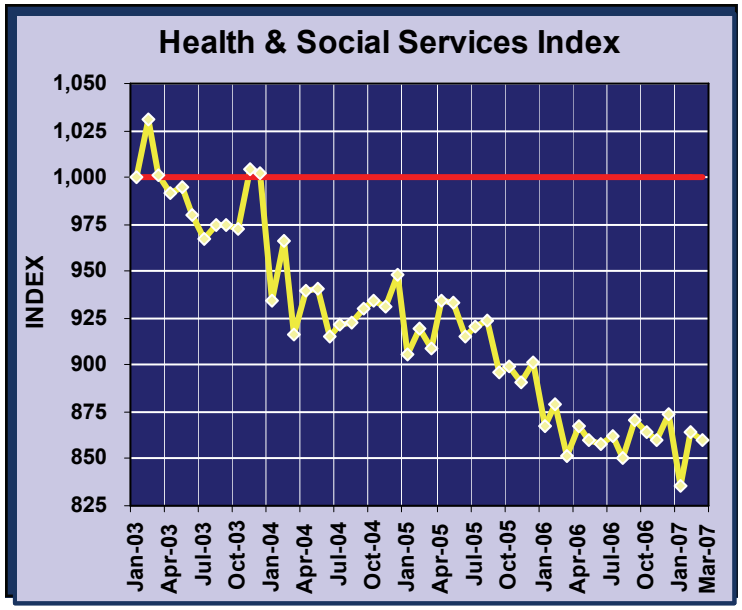


H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** fell to a new low point in January but has since rebounded slightly. The index fell in January due to the increase in unemployment that almost always occurs after the holiday season. The index rebounded in February and March as employment improved and as client counts for a number of programs — such as Food Stamps and CalWORKs — tended to stabilize.

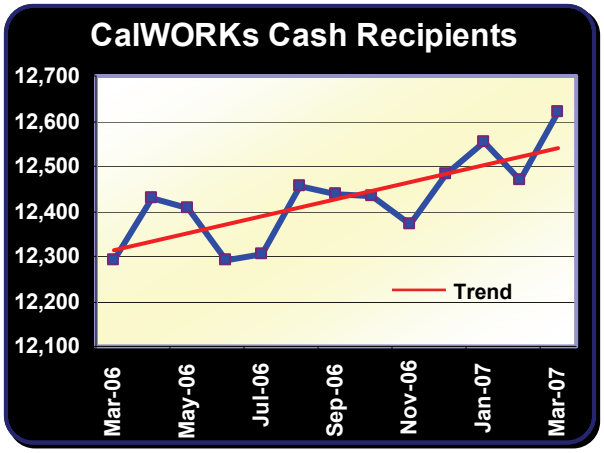
The index combines workload data from 14 key services provided by H&SS, along with data on unemployment in Solano County, to provide a monthly indicator of community demand for health and social services.

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.

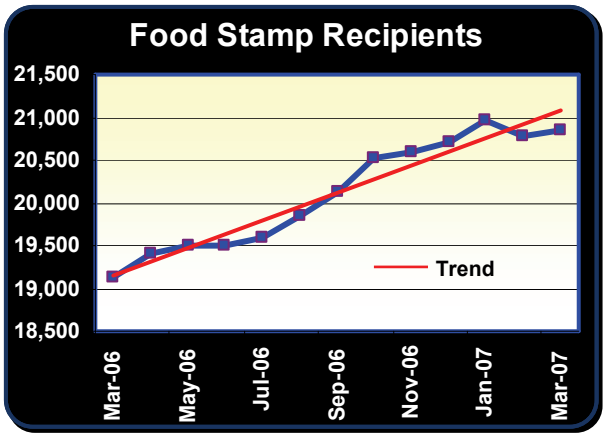


EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

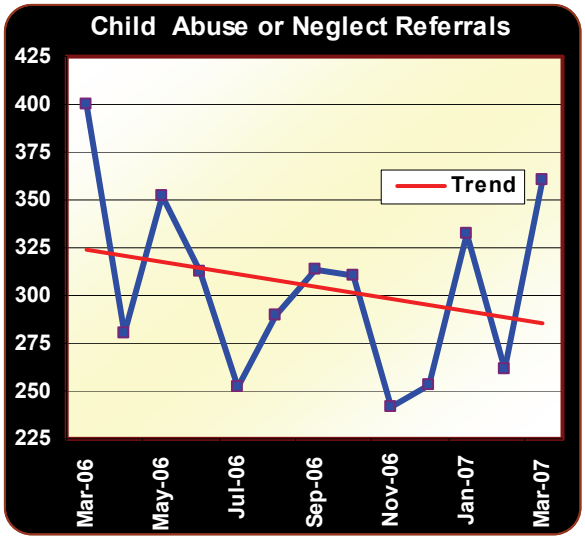
Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of I&R Calls	2,605	1,739	1,615
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	12,555	12,467	12,621
New CalWORKs Applications & Restoration Requests	455	344	430
Food Stamp Recipients	20,964	20,779	20,860
General Relief Recipients	709	696	685



- The number of calls to the County's Information and Referral Helpline have been declining in recent months. Solano County's I&R service will be replaced by the new 211 service in July 2007.
- Growth in the number of cash assistance programs — although continuing to trend upwards — has slowed in recent months. The number of persons in households receiving food stamps actually was lower in February and March compared to January. Even so, the number of food stamp recipients in March 2007 was 9 percent higher than in March 2006. For CalWORKs, the increase was more modest 2.7 percent.



CHILD WELFARE



Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	332	261	360
Children in Supervised Foster Care*	481	477	490

* 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 rose in March. Even so, reports have generally been trending down over the past year.
- Neglect accounted for 38.8% of all referrals in March. Physical abuse was cited in 23.5% of the allegations.

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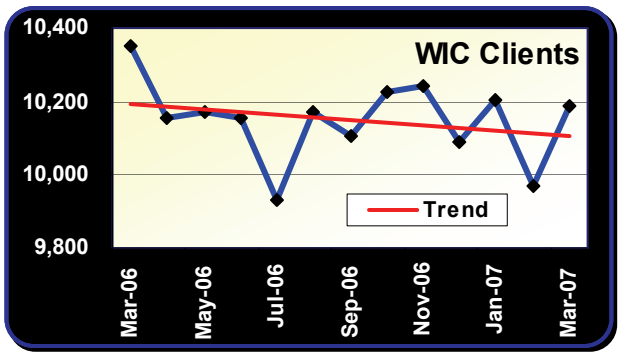
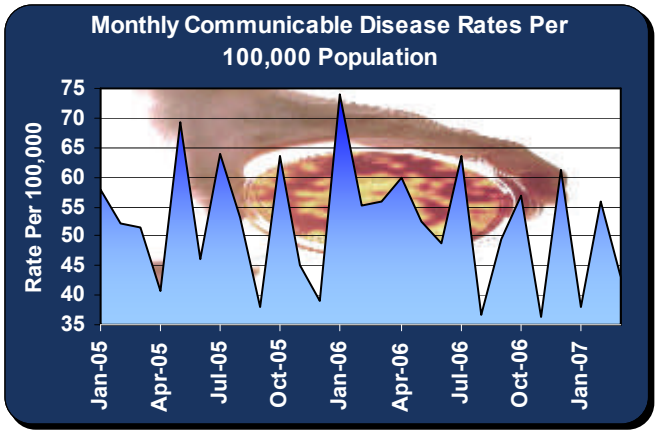
- Visits to the County's 2 medical clinics rose in March to the highest patient count since last August. Dental visits rose to the highest level since September. Clinic counts have been steadily trending upward over the past year. Waiting times for routing apointments have decreased from an average of 6 weeks at both clinic locations a year ago earlier this year to 2.75 weeks in March (3 weeks for Pediatrics.) Wait times for the dental clinic have held steady at about 6 weeks. Improved staffing along with other administrative improvements have helped to reduce the waiting time to get an appointment.
- The number of WIC clients has remained fairly stable, trending down slightly over the past year. The number of clients in March 2007 was down 1.6 percent from the previous March.
- The number of unduplicated Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) program clients rose in both February and March over January. Calls to the Toll Free Hotline are running well ahead of last year's activity. During the first quarter of 2007, the number of calls are 64% above the first 3 months of 2006.
- 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 Bureau began the program March 2006, and started using a validated screening and assessment tool, *4 Ps Plus*, July 2006. The ABC Prenatal Program at NorthBay Medical Center was the pilot site for the project. Since July 2006, the program has screened 480 pregnant women for substance use, including alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD). At ABC, 293 screens were positive for using substances during pregnancy and 83% were provided support services and health education in the prenatal care setting. 53 of 62 (86%) highest-risk pregnant women received ongoing case management services at the prenatal care site. To date, 71% of pregnant women at highest-risk were substance free by the third trimester, and all newborns were born at optimum birth weight and gestational age. MCAH is pleased to announce that La Clinica—Great Beginnings and Sutter Solano Medical Center will join the project in 2008.
- Communicable disease reports fluctuate throughout the year. However, for the first quarter of '07, it appears that the rate per 100,000 population for reported communicable diseases is running below '06.

Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Clients[1]	329	376	388
Toll Free Hotline for Women, Children & Teens	496	516	673
Medical Clinic Visits	2,724	2,448	2,953[2]
Dental Clinic Visits	332	325	359[2]
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	162	237	183
WIC[3] Clients	10,205	9,969	10,188

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.

Month	# screened for risk of using substances	# of screens at risk for using substances	# of at risk screens provided support services & education	% of at risk screens receiving services	# of high-risk women linked to substance abuse services
Jul-07	64	27	27	100%	8
Aug-07	73	34	26	76.4%	4
Sep-07	50	26	10	38.5%	3
Oct-07	33	20	12	60.0%	6
Nov-07	39	13	13	100%	3
Dec-07	53	19	16	84.2%	2
Jan-07	41	23	20	87.0%	7
Feb-07	49	30	26	86.7%	6
Mar-07	78	45	40	88.9%	10
Total	480	293	244	83.3%	53

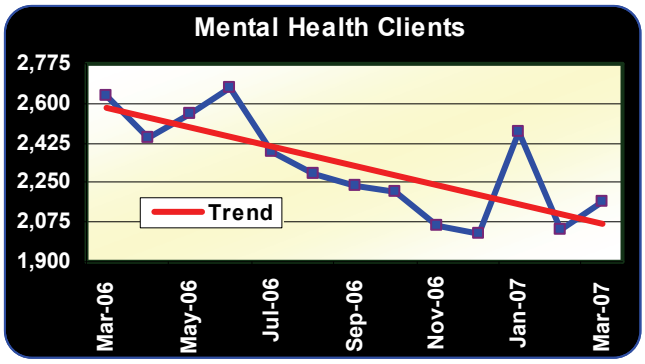


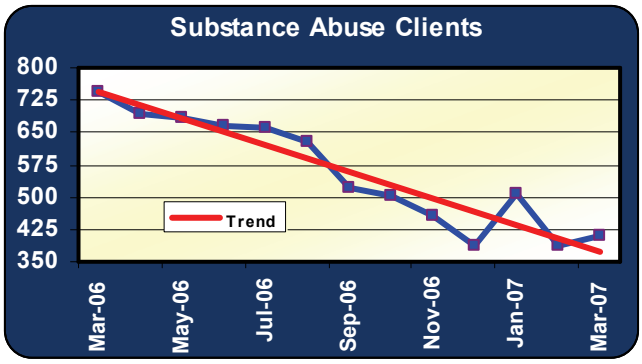


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

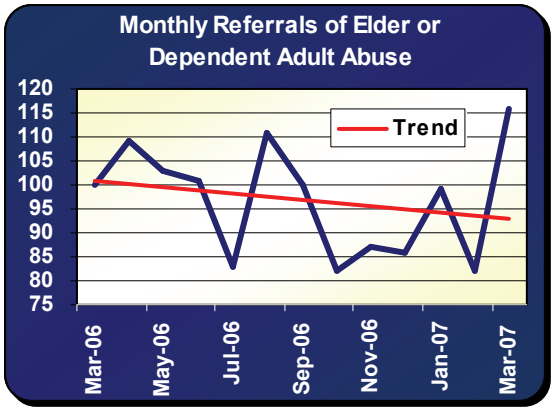
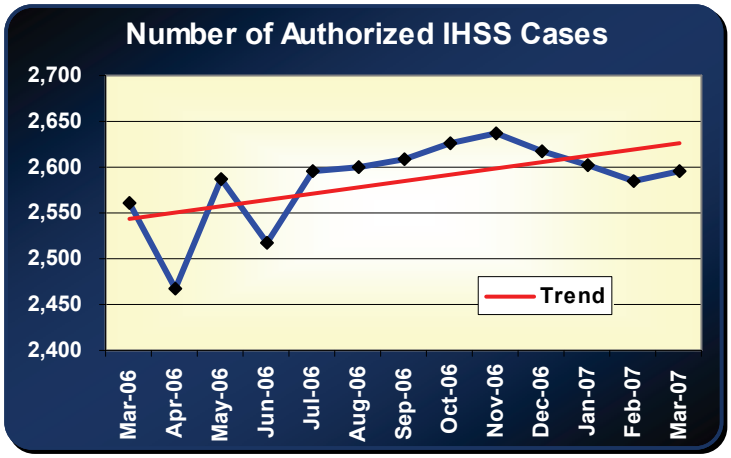
Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar
Mental Health Clients	2,478	2,039	2,166
Substance Abuse Clients	508	386	409

- For both Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the downward trend in clients continued with the exception of a noticeable spike in clients after the holiday season in January.
- The number of Mental Health clients in March 2007 was down 17.8 percent compared to the previous March. For substance abuse, the number of clients in March 2007 was down 45.2 percent from the year before.





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	Jan	Feb	Mar
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	99	82	116
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	28	29	38
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,602	2,585	2,595

- The number of elder or dependent adult abuse referrals increased substantially in March. Over the past year, there have been an average of 97 elder or dependent adult abuse reports each month.