H&SS INDICATORS

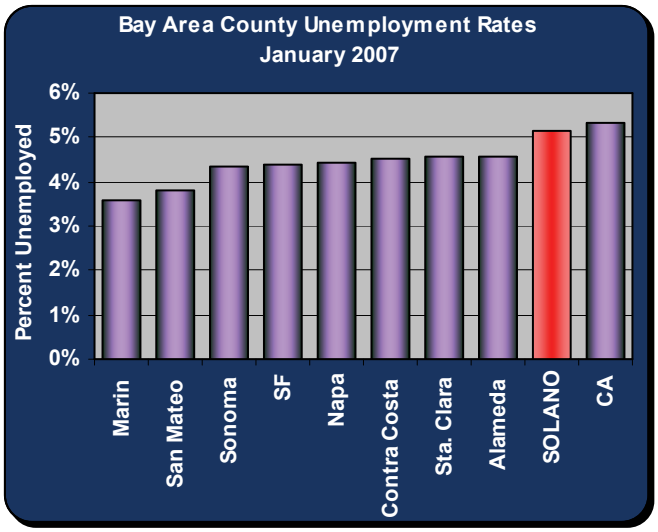
A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

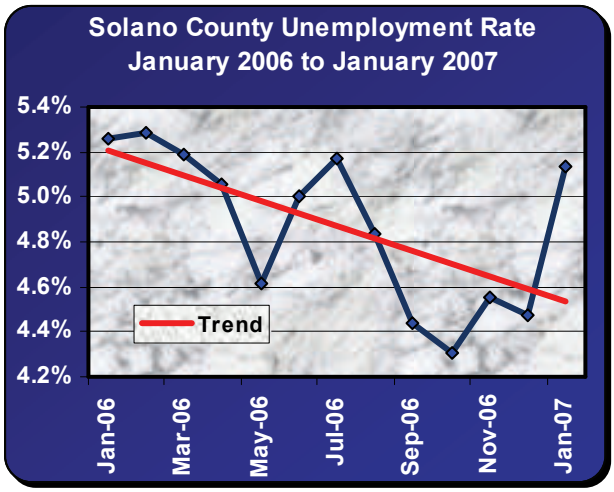
APRIL 2007

ECONOMY

Indicator	Nov	Dec	Jan
Labor Force	215,300	214,500	214,300
Number Employed	205,500	204,800	203,300
Number Unemployed	9,800	9,600	11,000
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.5%	5.1%

- The number and percent of people unemployed in Solano County jumped dramatically in January. However, this is typical as unemployment generally increases after the holiday hiring season. In 2006, unemployment reached a high point in January and February before falling steadily through May. Unemployment rose again in the summer — as it usually does — when new graduates and others enter the job market.
- Solano continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the Bay Area.



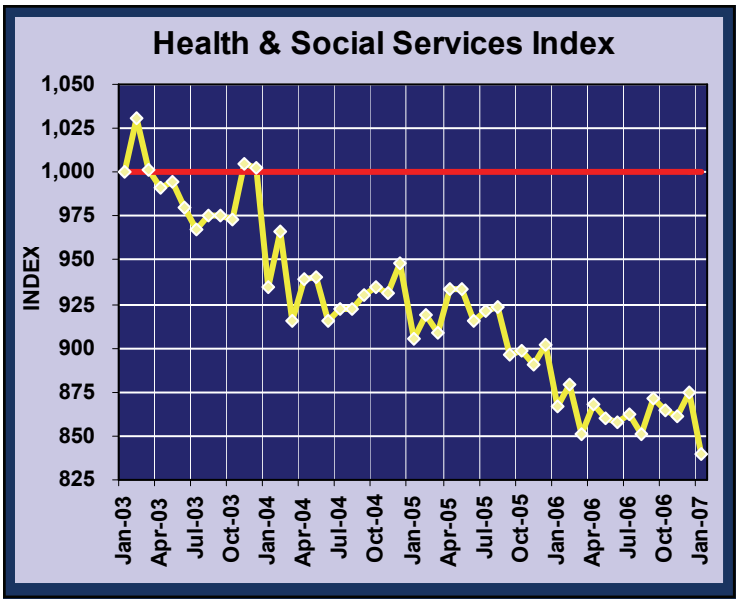


H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** fell in January to its lowest level since tracking began. Overall, 12 of the 15 indicators registered increases in client counts. The substantial increase in the number of unemployed was the single largest factor in the drop in the index. There were also large increases in the number of calls to the Information and Referral Help Line as well as in Mental Health and Substance Abuse clients. The latter increases may have been the result of pent up demand from the holiday season,

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.

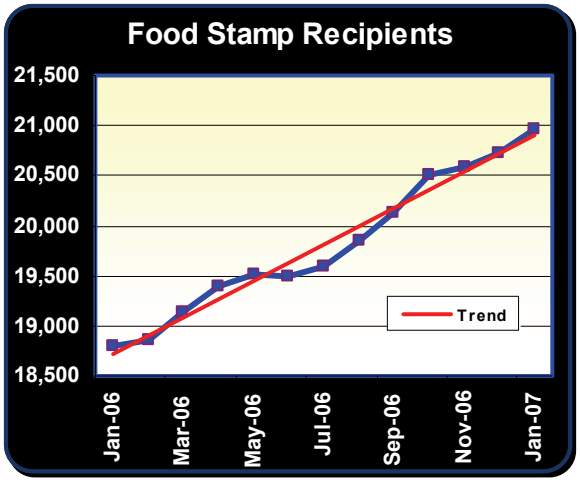


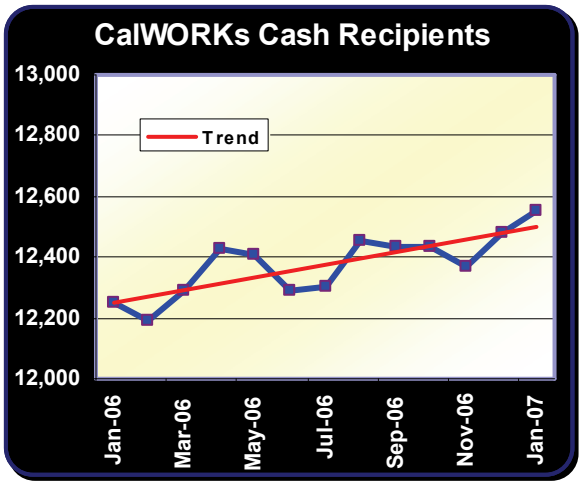
EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

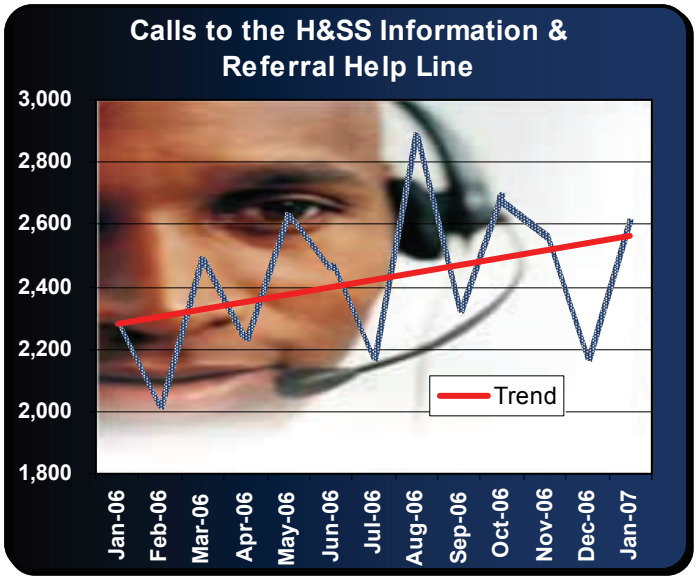
Indicator	Nov	Dec	Jan
Number of I&R Calls	2,559	2,169	2,605
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Recipients	12,370	12,482	12,555
New CalWORKs Applications & Restoration Requests	420	356	455
Food Stamp Recipients	20,591	20,717	20,964
General Relief Recipients	716	685	709

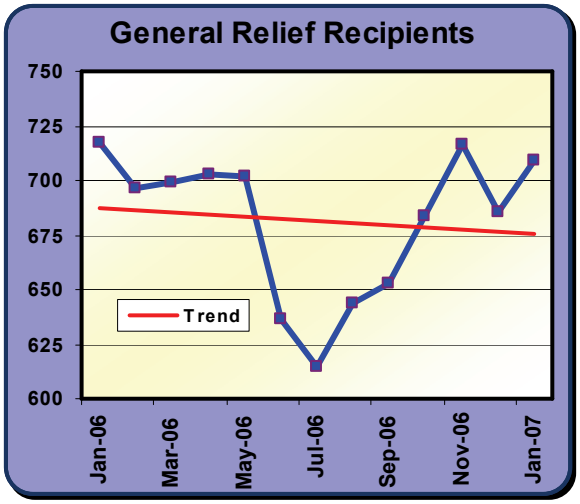
- Client counts for most of the principal public assistance programs have continued to trend upward but at a slower rate than in previous years.. The number of persons in households receiving CalWORKs cash assistance increased 2.5% in January 2007 compared to January 2006. For Food Stamps, the year-to-year increase was 11.5%. General Assistance, on the other hand, saw a 1.1% drop.

- The number of calls to the H&SS information and referral line has also been increasing in 2006 after falling in 2004 and 2005. The number of calls received in January 2007 was 14.8 percent higher than in January 2006.









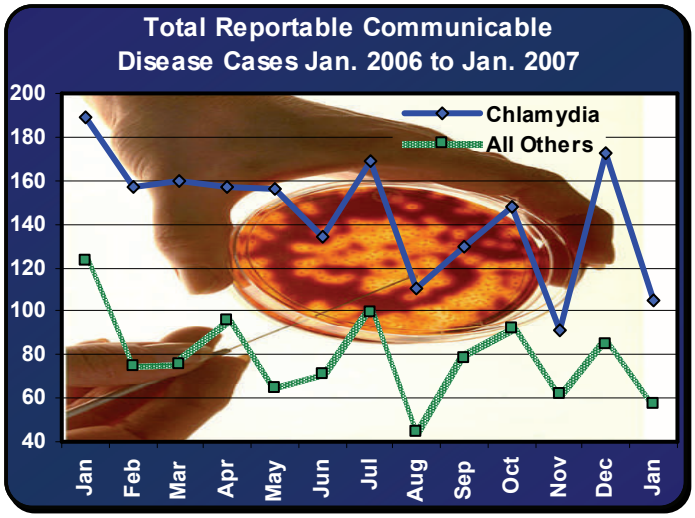
H&SS INDICATORS is produced every other month by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

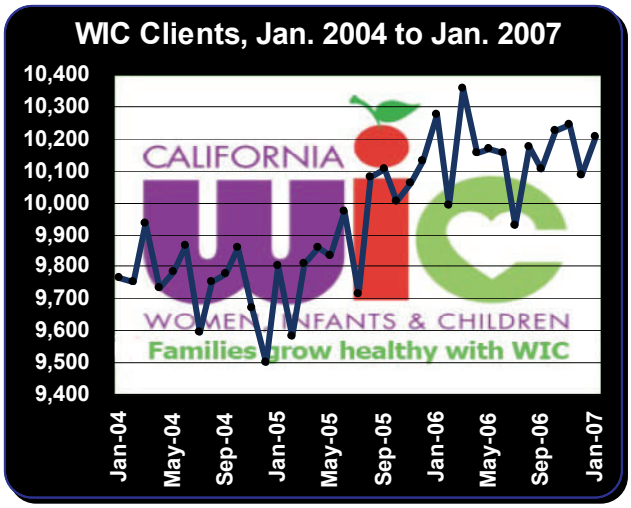
PUBLIC HEALTH

- Program client counts generally fell in December before rebounding in January. The decrease in December was probably due to holiday season office closures and reduced client visits.
- The number of WIC clients has been generally trending upward over the past three years. The program regularly reaches over 97 percent of eligible mothers and children.
- Communicable disease reports have been generally stable over the past year. There was a spike in the number of reports in December but the number of cases fell again in January. Over the past year, there have been an average of 228 reportable CD cases in Solano County each month. Chlamydia remains the most common communicable disease — representing nearly 2 out of 3 CD cases.

Indicator	Nov	Dec	Jan
Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Clients[1]	**259**	**256**	**329**
Toll Free Hotline for Women, Children & Teens	**572**	**453**	**496**
Medical Clinic Visits	2,844	2,383	2,656[2]
Dental Clinic Visits	320	288	332[2]
Reported Communicable Disease Cases	153	258	162
WIC[3] Clients	**10,242**	**10,088**	**10,205**

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.



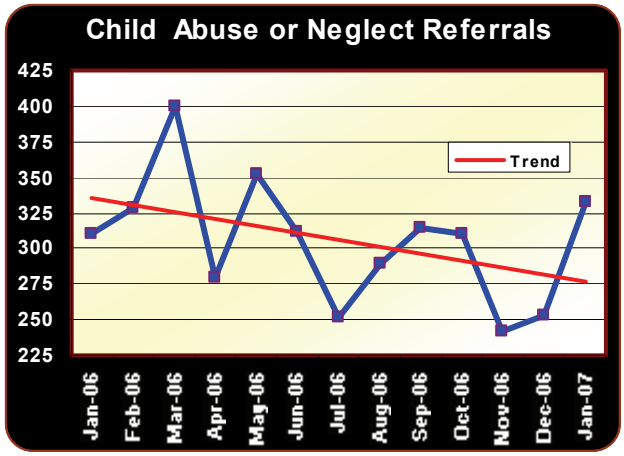


CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	Nov	Dec	Jan
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	242	253	332
Children in Supervised Foster Care*	**498**	**501**	**488**

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

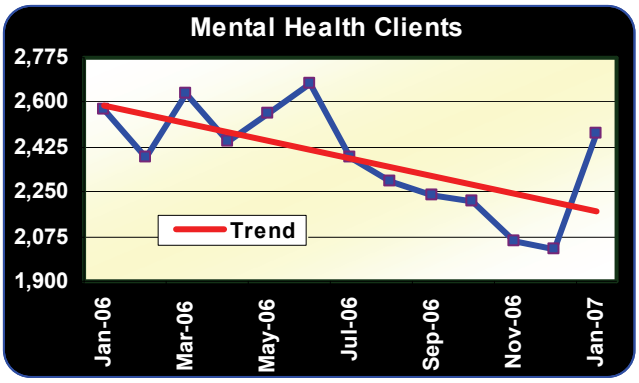
- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect fluctuates throughout the year but has generally been trending down over the past year. Reports often rise when the school year starts and decrease in the summer. For 2006, referrals averaged 304 per month.

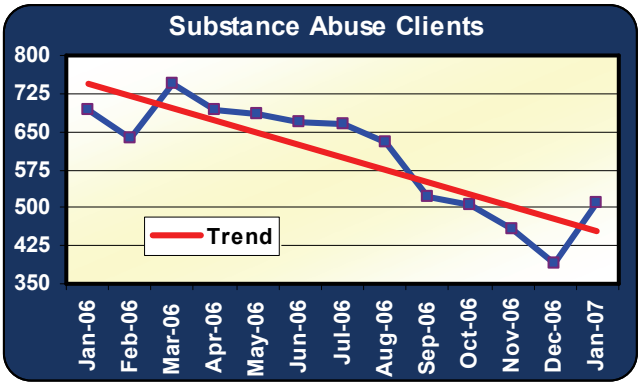


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

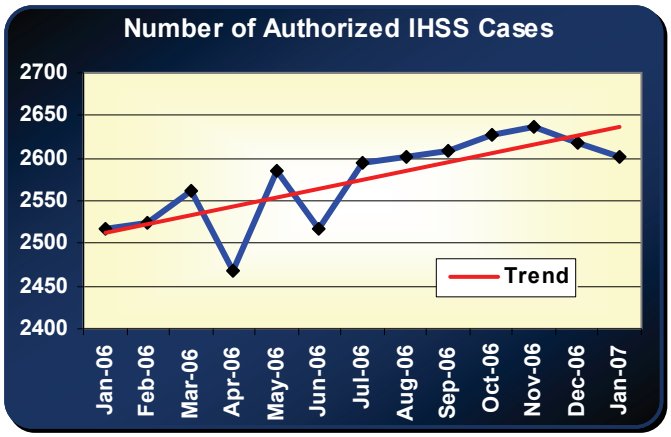
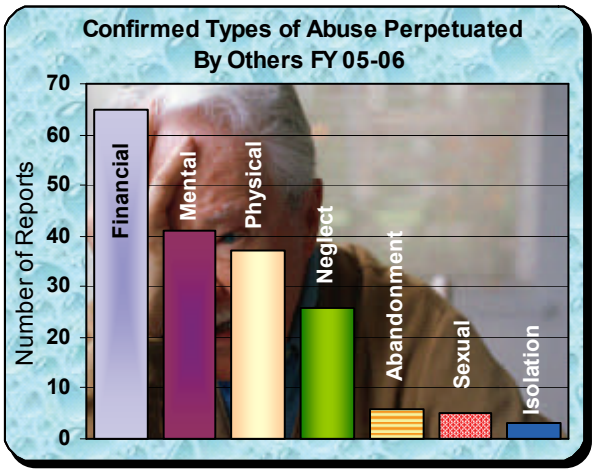
Indicator	Nov	Dec	Jan
Mental Health Clients	2,060	2,022	2,478
Substance Abuse Clients	459	389	508

- For both Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the number of clients has been trending down over the past 12 months. However, caseloads increased markedly in January for both programs.





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	Nov	Dec	Jan
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	87	86	99
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	31	30	28
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,636	2,618	2,602

- The number of authorized IHSS cases has been trending up over the past year despite a slight decrease over the last quarter.
- The most common kind of confirmed abuse or neglect is self-neglect but for abuse by others, the most common type is financial abuse.