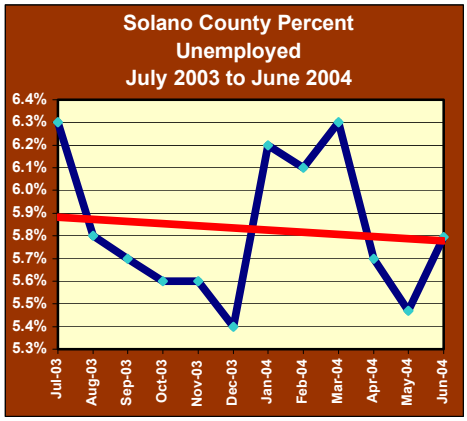
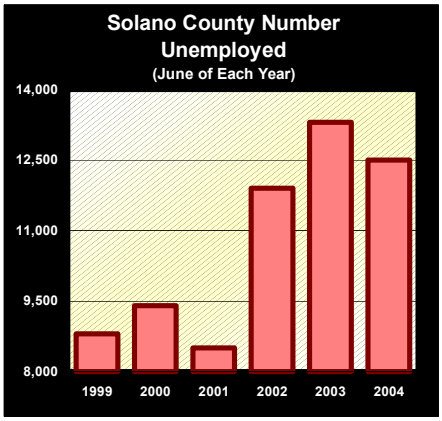
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE INDICATORS

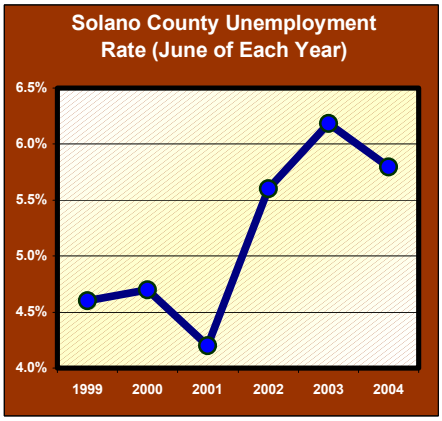
ECONOMY

Indicator	April	May	June
Labor Force	213,400	213,900	215,700
Number Employed	201,100	202,100	203,100
Number Unemployed	12,200	11,700	12,500
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.5%	5.8%

- Both the number and percentage of the unemployed increased in June. However, unemployment usually rises in June as students leave school and enter the job market. A detailed look at June employment data shows that unemployment figures declined last month for the first time since 2001.





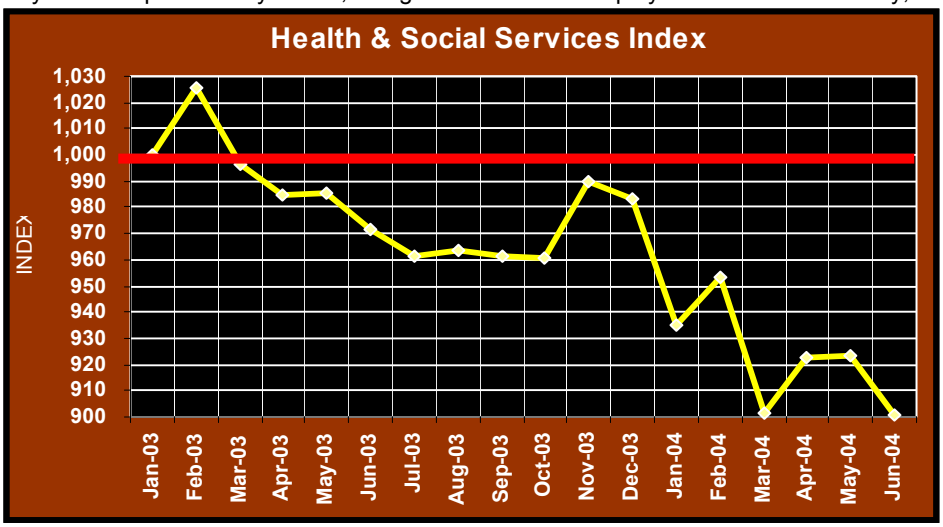


HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** declined in June on the basis of higher unemployment numbers and increased caseloads or referrals in most program areas.

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 — clients served, program caseloads, number of unemployed, referrals, etc. — are added together and then converted into an index score. The January 2003 total serves as the index bench line figure of 1,000. The index scores for subsequent months reflect change from the January level. Like the Dow Jones or NASDAQ, 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.

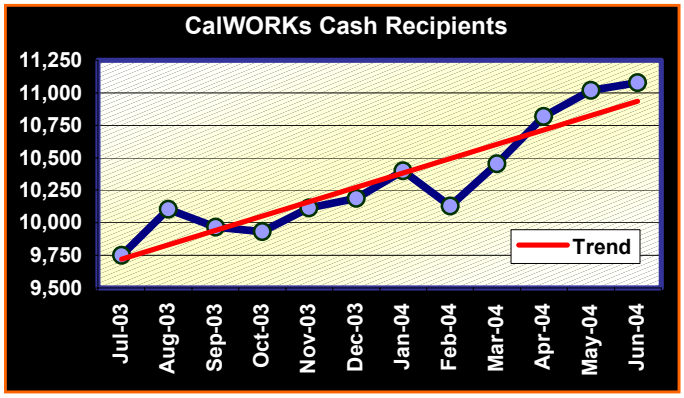


August 2004

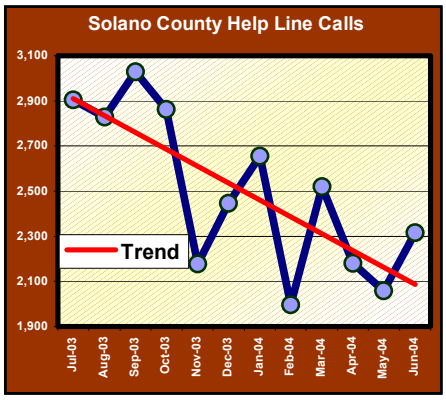
PROGRAM DATA

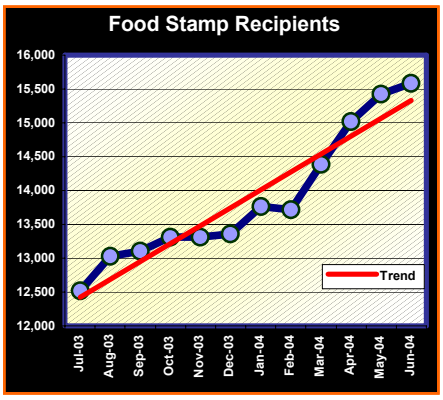
EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY

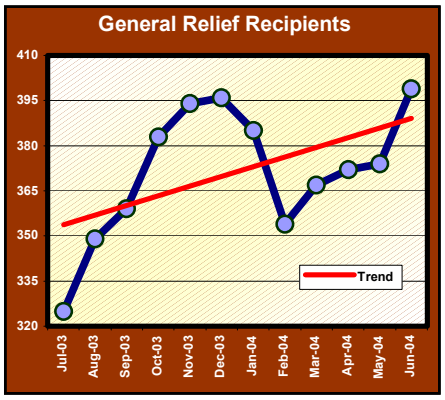
Indicator	April	May	June
Number of I&R Calls	2,179	2,059	2,317
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Caseload	10,816	11,021	11,077
New CalWORKs Applications	366	324	351
Food Stamp Recipients	15,022	15,420	15,586
General Relief Recipients	372	374	399



- The number of CalWORKs and Food Stamp recipients both climbed during the just completed Fiscal Year 2003-04. The number of CalWORKs recipients increased by 14 percent, while the number of persons receiving food stamps grew by 25 percent.
- Because the number of new CalWORKs applications was relatively stable, the growth in the number of recipients appears to reflect the difficulty of moving people from welfare to work in the current economy. Persons are staying on welfare for longer periods.
- The food stamp program is intended to help low income households improve their nutrition by supplementing income. The larger growth in the number of food stamp recipients appears to reflect growth in the "working poor" – households that are not earning enough to meet the high cost of living in the Bay Area.
- The number of people calling the Help Line increased in June over the previous two months but use generally trended down over the course of the fiscal year.



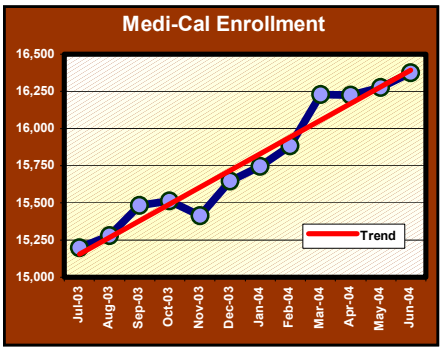


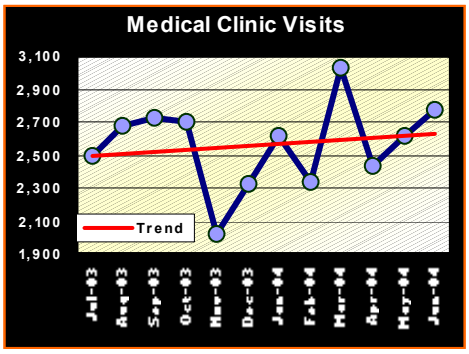


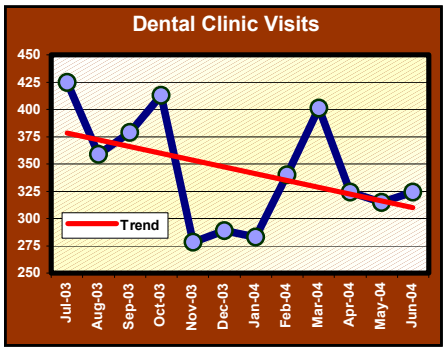
PUBLIC HEALTH

Indicator	April	May	June
Medi-Cal Enrollment	16,226	16,276	16,376
CMSP Enrollment	5,298	5,227	5,379
Medical Clinic Visits	2,437	2,614	2,776
Dental Clinic Visits	324	315	324

- Medi-Cal enrollment increased 7.8% and CMSP enrollment grew by 12% between July 2003 and June 2004. Most of the increase was between November and March. Enrollment remained stable during the final quarter of the fiscal year.
- Visits to the two county medical clinics were fairly stable throughout the fiscal year, despite increased enrollment. Among the possible reasons: As enrollment expands, newer enrollees have fewer medical issues, clients are making less frequent clinic visits (perhaps because their health needs are being better managed), or clinics are operating near capacity and appointments are not readily available.
- Solano County continues to be among those counties with the highest proportion of its residents with health insurance.



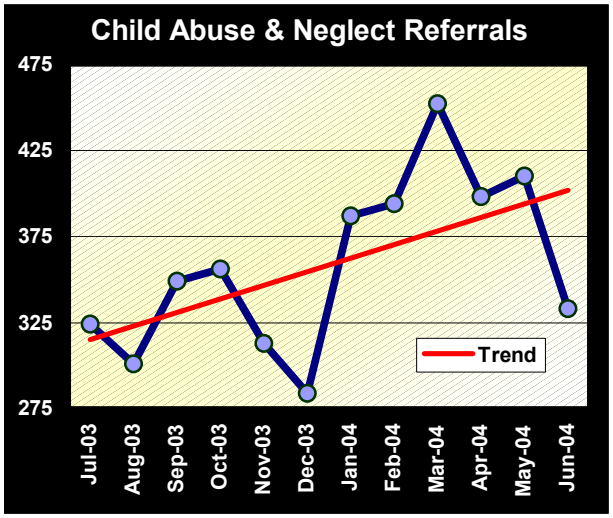




CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	April	May	June
Child Abuse Referrals	398	410	333
Foster Home & Institutional Placements	516	521	502

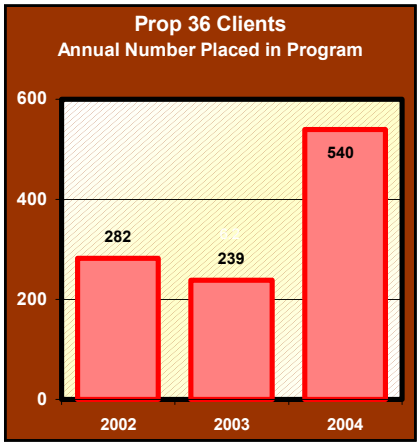
- The number of referrals for child abuse or neglect fell in June. The general trend for the fiscal year, however, was up. There were 18 percent more referrals during the last quarter of FY 2004 than during the first quarter.
- Over 500 children are in foster care in any given month.

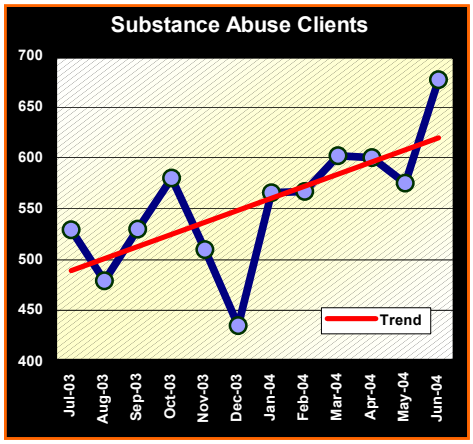


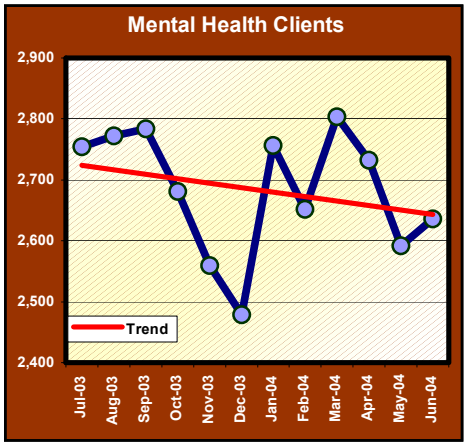
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Indicator	April	May	June
Mental Health Clients	2,732	2,592	2,636
Substance Abuse Clients	600	575	677

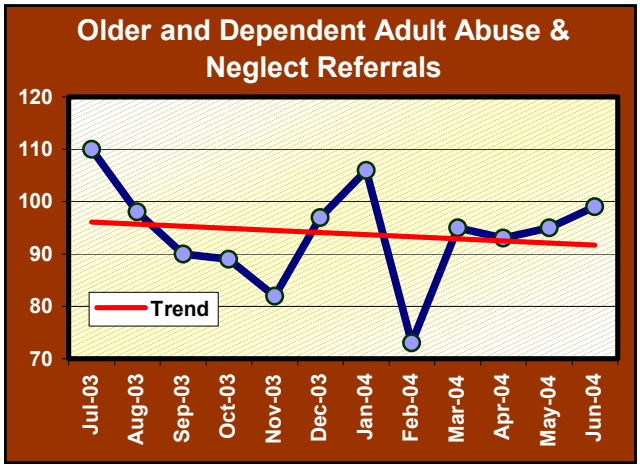
- The number of mental health clients decreased during the second quarter of the fiscal year then rose during the third and fourth quarters but still remained slightly below first quarter levels. The overall trend appears to reflect the impact of reduced funding and staffing levels.
- The number of substance abuse clients in June was 28 percent higher than for July 2003. The number of Prop 36 clients (first and second time non-violent, simple drug possession offenders who can receive substance abuse treatment instead of incarceration) increased substantially in FY 04 over the first two years of the program.
- The data shows that during the holiday season (Thanksgving through New Year's), mental health clients fell while substance abuse clients increased.







OLDER & DEPENDENT ADULTS

Indicator	April	May	June
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Referrals	93	95	99
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	26	26	31
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,329	2,329	2,329

- The number of referrals for elder abuse or neglect averaged about 94 per month. On average, 30 percent of the referrals were confirmed.