H&SS INDICATORS

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

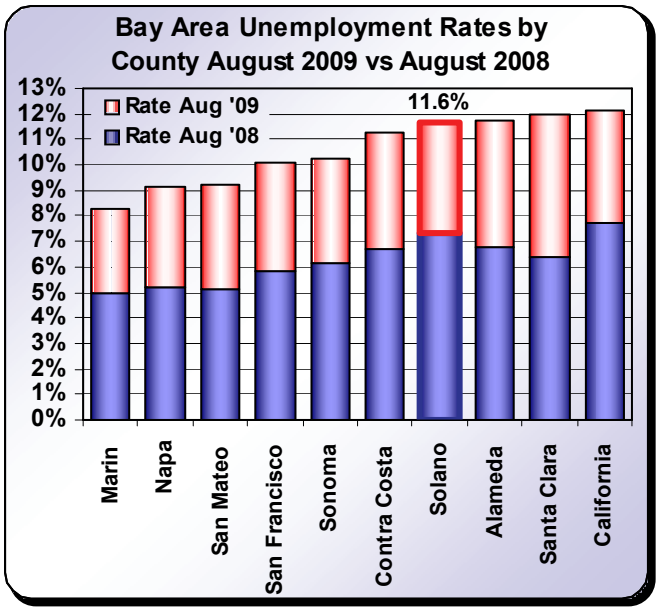
Fall 2009

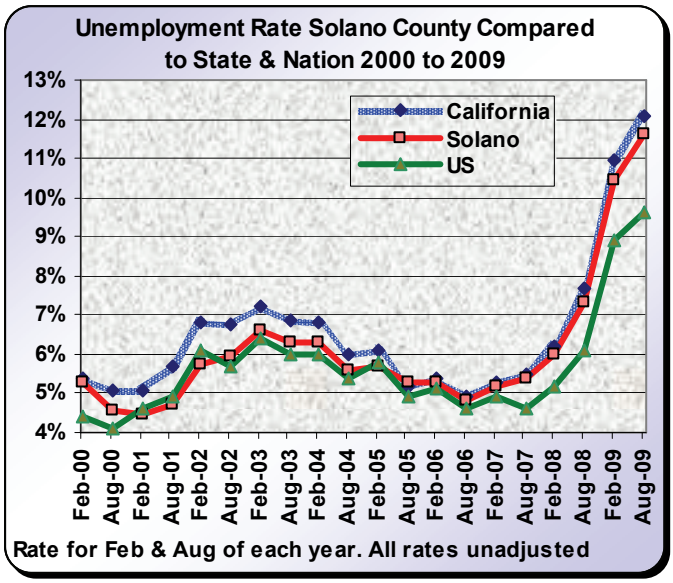
ECONOMY

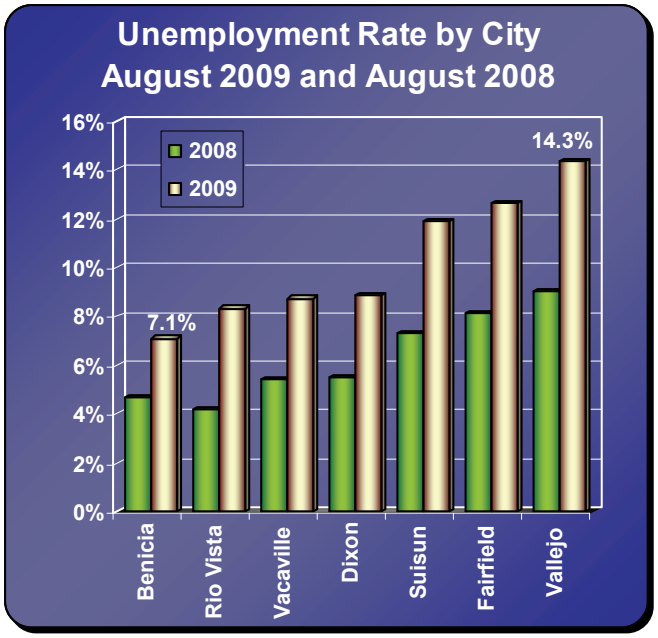
Indicator	Jun	Jul	Aug*
Labor Force	215,200	217,100	216,200
Number Employed	190,800	191,900	191,000
Number Unemployed	24,400	25,200	25,200
Unemployment Rate	11.3%	11.6%	11.6%

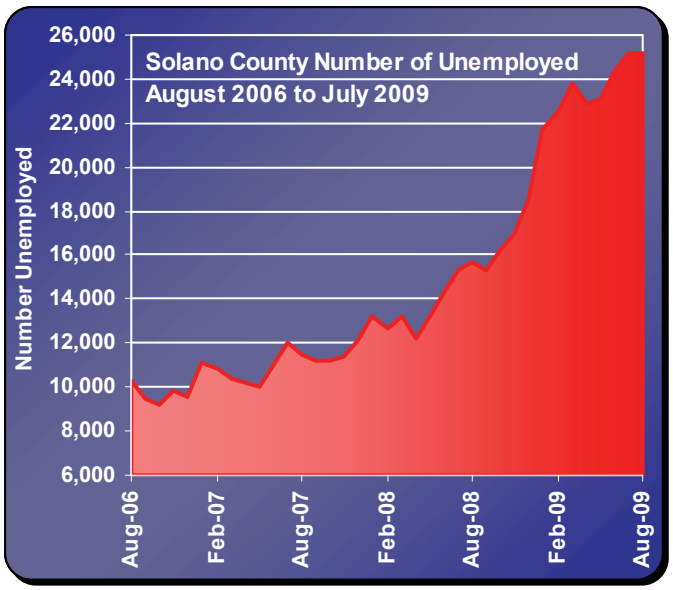
** Figures for August are Preliminary.*

- Solano County's unemployment rate stood at 11.6% in August - up from 7.3% in August 2008 and 5.4% in August 2007.
- The number of unemployed in Solano County rose by 9,500 between August 2008 and August 2009. The number of unemployed rose above 20,000 in January and has remained at that level since, topping 25,000 in July and August.
- Solano County no longer has the highest unemployment rate in the Bay Area. Santa Clara County has moved ahead of Solano which is tied with Alameda for the second highest unemployment rate.





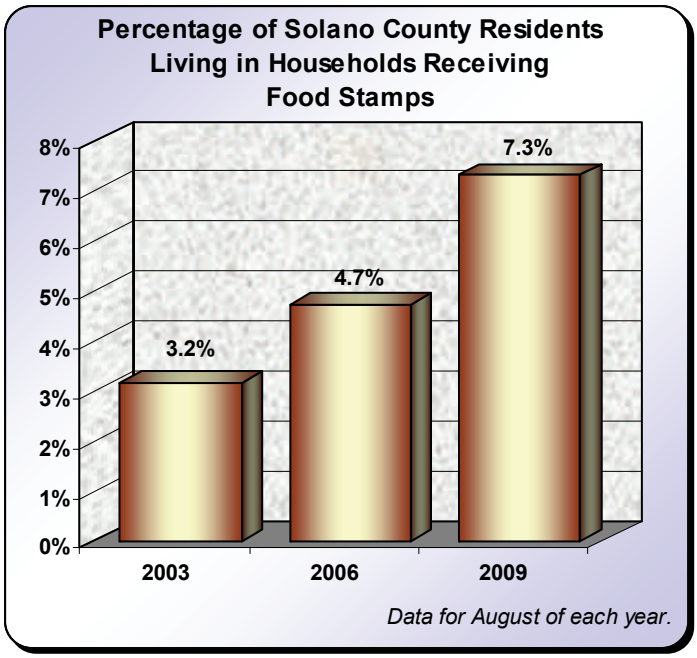


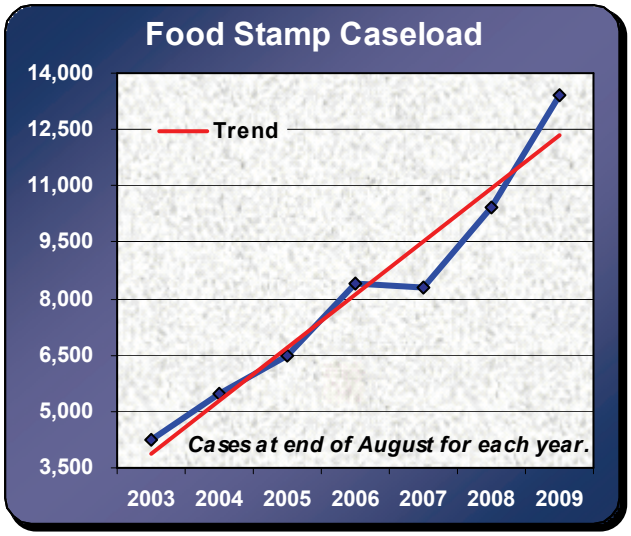


EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

Indicator	Jun	Jul	Aug
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Caseload	5,697	5,789	5,711
New CalWORKs Applications & Restoration Requests	477	511	521
Food Stamp Caseload	13,039	13,326	13,436
General Relief Recipients	598	585	591

- Food Stamp cases have increased the most rapidly. The caseload at the end of August was 16% higher than in August 2008. Each case represents a house-hold or family. On average, each Food Stamp house-hold has 2.3 persons. Nearly 31,000 Solano County residents now live in households that depend on food stamps — 1 out of every 14 residents.
- The CalWORKs caseload declined slightly in August from July and has fluctuated in recent months. Even so, the overall trend remains upward. The caseload was up 9.3% in August compared to August 2008. CalWORKs applications jumped significantly in both July & August.



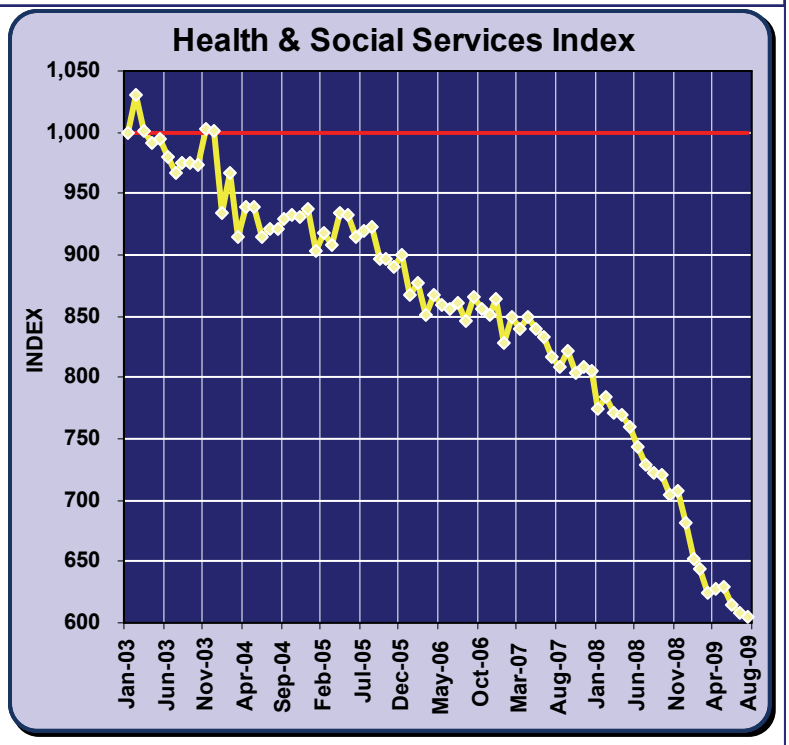


H&SS INDEX

The **Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index** has declined steadily over the past several years and has fallen to its lowest levels during the first two months of FY 2010. 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.

The Index continues to decline. Much of the decrease is driven by the large increase in the number of unemployed which, in turn, places pressure on many of the programs and services provided by H&SS. The number of Solano County residents receiving services through H&SS has generally continued to grow.

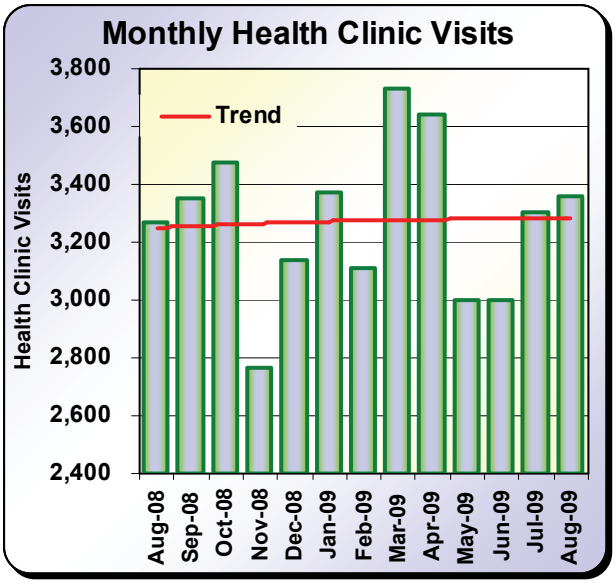


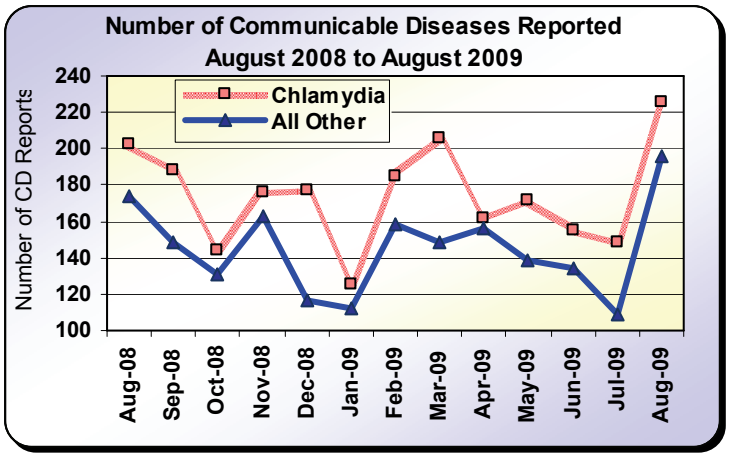
PUBLIC HEALTH

- The number of visits to the County's two medical clinics and one dental clinic rose in July. The dental clinic reached an all time high of 694 visits for the month.
- Wait times for a routine adult medical appointments were steady over the course of the quarter in both Vallejo and Fairfield.
- Overall, the number of reported communicable diseases increased markedly in August. Chlamydia accounts for 55 percent of the reported cases in Solano County and the overall trend for Chlamydia is generally going up. The number of reports of Hepatitis C increased by 52% in August over July.

Indicator	Jun	Jul	Aug
Average Wait Time for Routine Appointment Fairfield Clinic (Adults)	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks
Average Wait Time for Routine Appointment Vallejo Clinic (Adults)	3 weeks	3 weeks	3 weeks
Medical Clinic Visits	3,000	3,302	3,360[1]
Dental Clinic Visits	569	564	694[1]
Reported Communicable Diseases Per 100,000 Population	289	257	422
WIC[2] Clients	10,037	10,066	10,144

1. Preliminary.
2. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children.

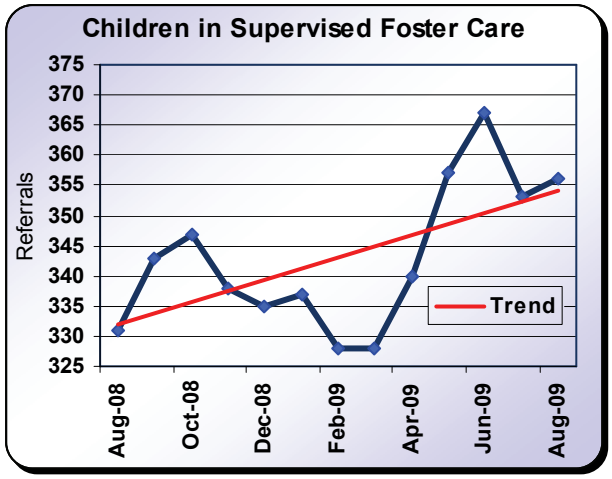




CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	Jun	Jul	Aug
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	311	250	307
Children in Supervised Foster Care	367	353	356

- Although fluctuating from season-to-season, the number of referrals for child abuse or neglect has seen a gradual increase over the past year.
- The number of children in supervised foster has been trending upward over the past year — and especially during the past six months — after decreasing in recent years. The economic downturn may be making it more difficult for some families or relatives to properly care for children. The Child Welfare Services Division aims to keep children with their families whenever possible. CWS provides support services to that end. Whenever possible, families are provided voluntary services to keep the child safe and enhance family functioning.

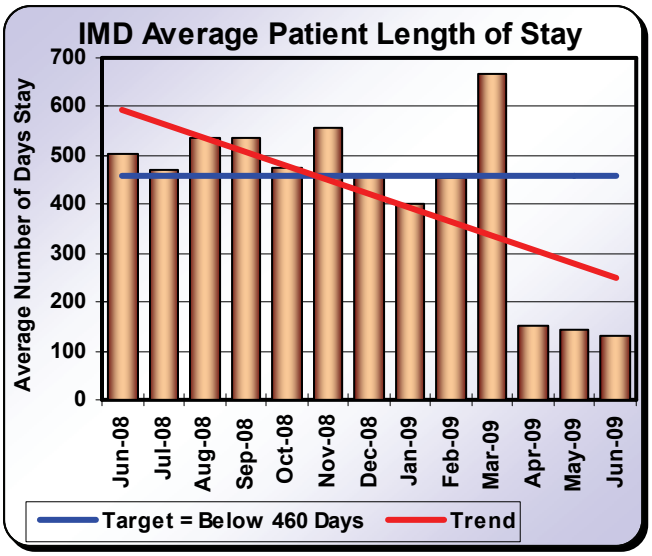


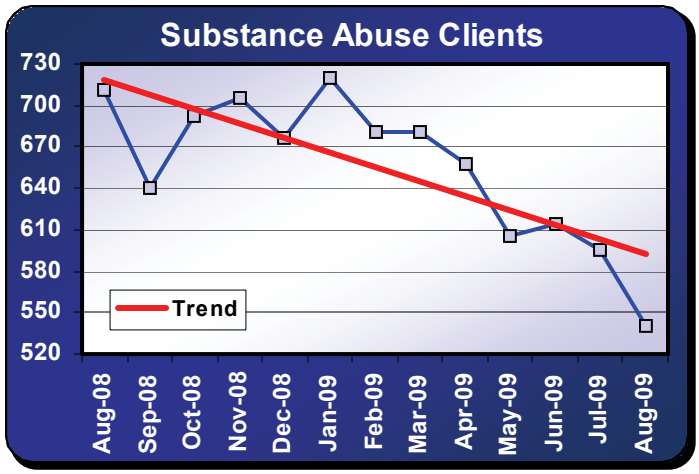
H&SS INDICATORS is produced periodically by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

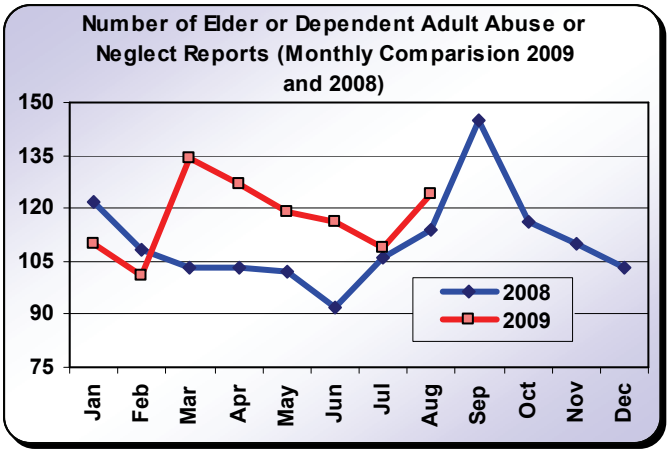
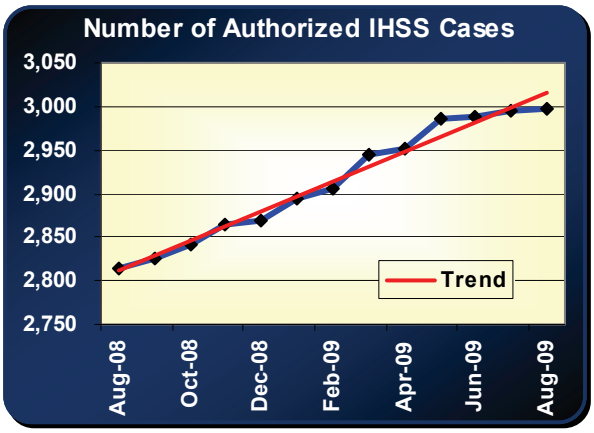
Indicator	Jun	Jul	Aug
Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Average Length of Stay	132.5 days	na	na
Substance Abuse Clients	614	596	541

- The number of Substance Abuse clients has steadily declined over the past year.
- Between June 2008 and June 2009, the average length of stay for a client at an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) fell from 502 days to 132.5 days. The average length of stay began its dramatic fall beginning in April as a result of new policies instituted by the Mental Health Division.





OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	Jun	Jul	Aug
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Reports	116	109	124
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	56	40	35
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	2,988	2,995	2,998

- The number of reports of elder or dependent adult abuse is up through the first eight months of the year. There was an average of 118 reports each month between January and August 2009 — up from 106 for the same period in 2008.
- The number of authorized IHSS cases in August 2009 was 6.6 percent higher than from the previous August. The number of authorized cases is approaching the 3,000 mark although the rate of increase has slowed recently.