

SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

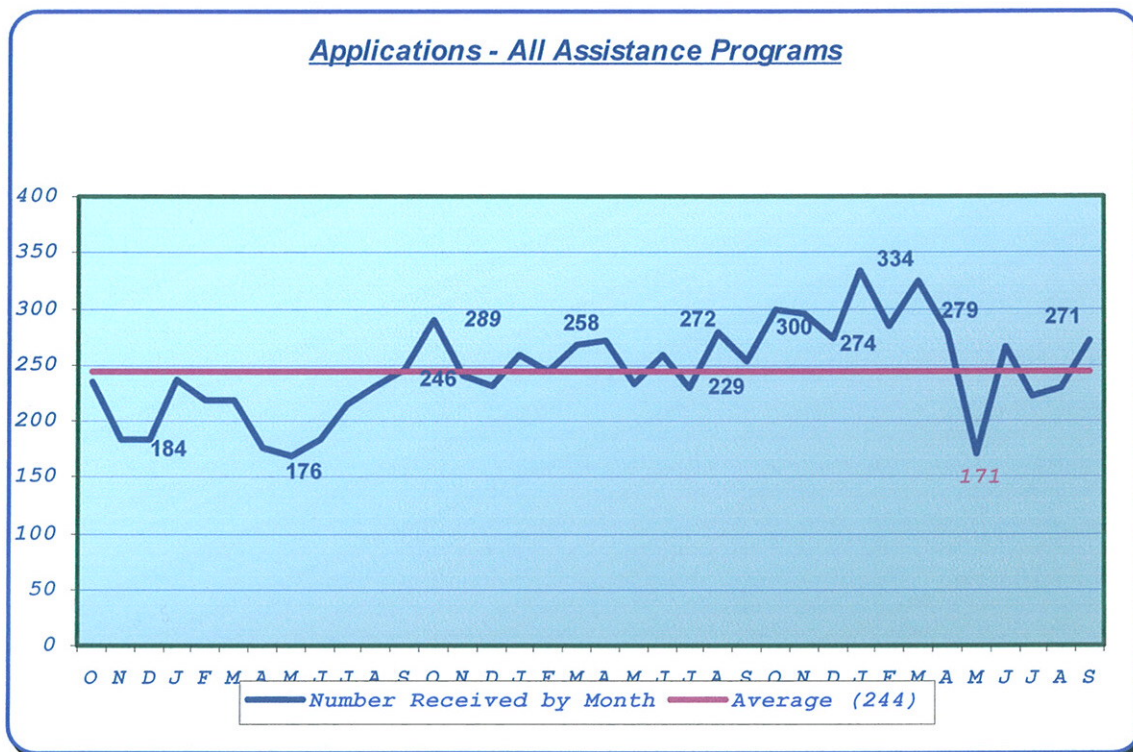
Quarter Ending: September 30, 2010

Social Services Trends is a quarterly report to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and members of the public. This report provides case counts, application data, referrals for services and other workload information in the Department of Social Services. This edition of Trends includes case counts and workload data for the three-month quarter that ended September 30, 2010. The Department welcomes questions regarding the information contained in this report or about our programs and services. Additional information regarding our programs is available by calling (530) 283-6350 or by accessing the County web site at www.countyofplumas.com.

I. WELFARE TO WORK & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DIVISION

A. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Applications for assistance continue to be received in unprecedented numbers by the Department. Most of the applications received by the Department are for Medi-Cal assistance and for the Foodstamp (CalFresh) program. Federal Unemployment Benefits have begun to expire. Unless Congress extends these benefits, the Department expects to see additional residents applying for Foodstamp benefits due to the loss of their Unemployment Benefits.



CONTINUING CASES

(1). Cash Assistance (AFDC/CalWORKs).

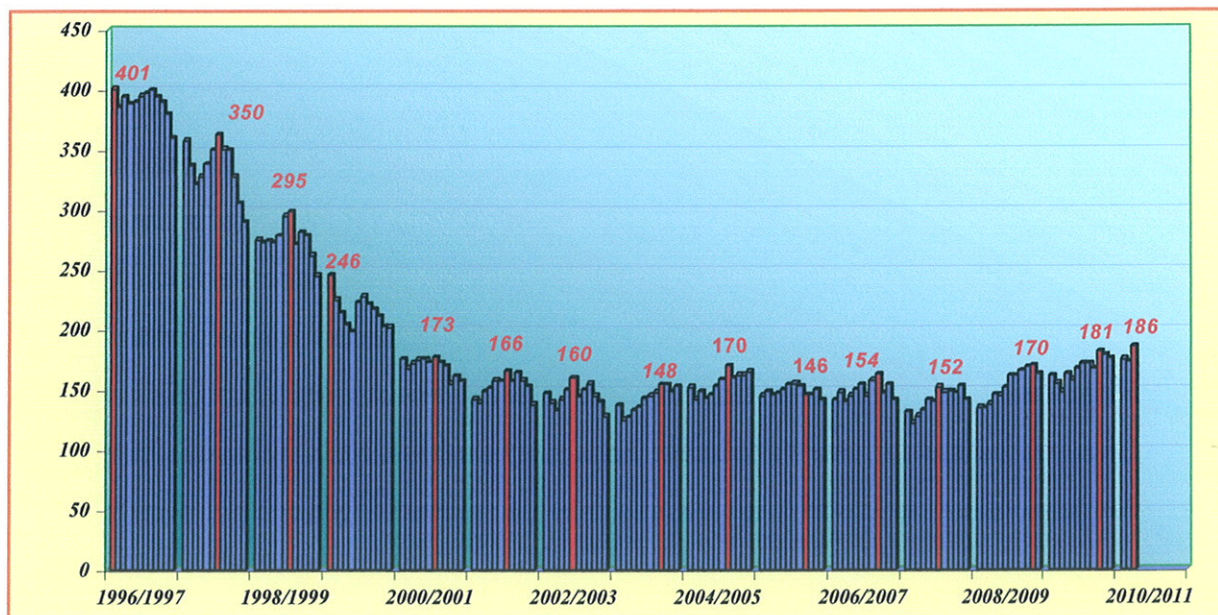
Considering the historic high volume of applications that have been received by the Department the growth in CalWORKs cash assistance cases has been comparatively modest. None the less, the average case count is a little over 16% above the average just two years ago reflecting the continuing impacts of the recessionary economy on Plumas County families.

A family applying for CalWORKs cash assistance must prove that they are residents of Plumas County. In cases where residency may be in doubt, the Department operates an early fraud detection program where our Welfare Fraud Investigator may make a home visit prior to assistance being granted.

Average Monthly Caseload

2008/2009	153
2009/2010	166
2010/2011	178

AFDC/CalWORKs Open Cases at End of Month



(2). Food Stamp Assistance

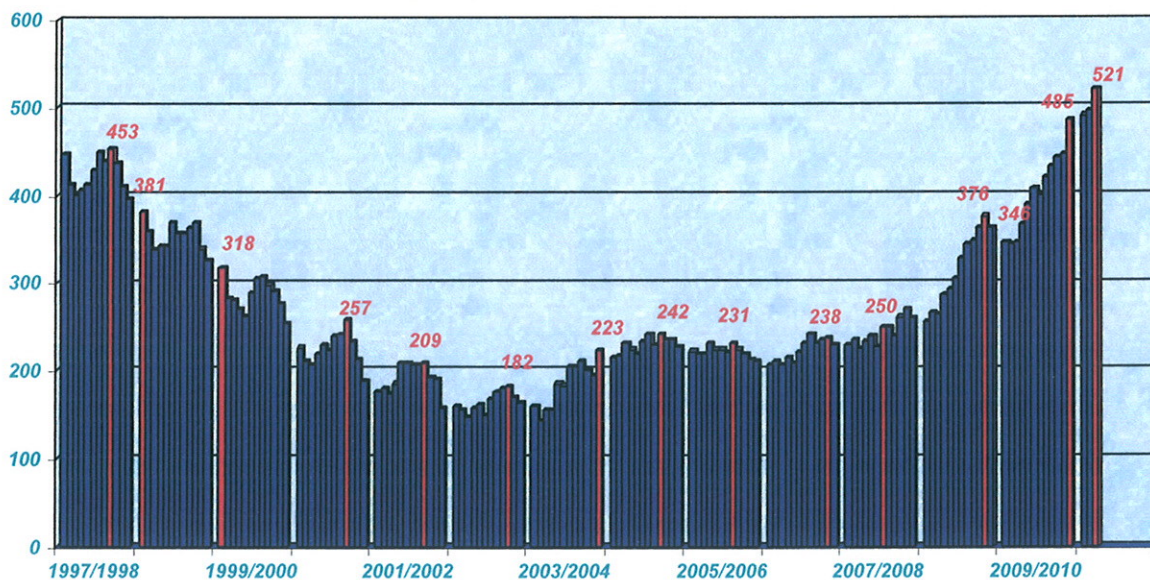
A. Case Count

In prior Trends reports, the Department noted that the record setting case count would likely continue to grow due to extended Unemployment Benefits beginning to expire. With that in mind, the September case count of 521 cases is not unanticipated. None the less, the depth of the recession and the slowness of recovery are reflected in this historic high count. As is discussed in the prior CalWORKs section, applicants for Foodstamps must be residents of Plumas County in order to receive assistance.

Average Monthly Caseload

2008/2009	316
2009/2010	402
2010/2011	503

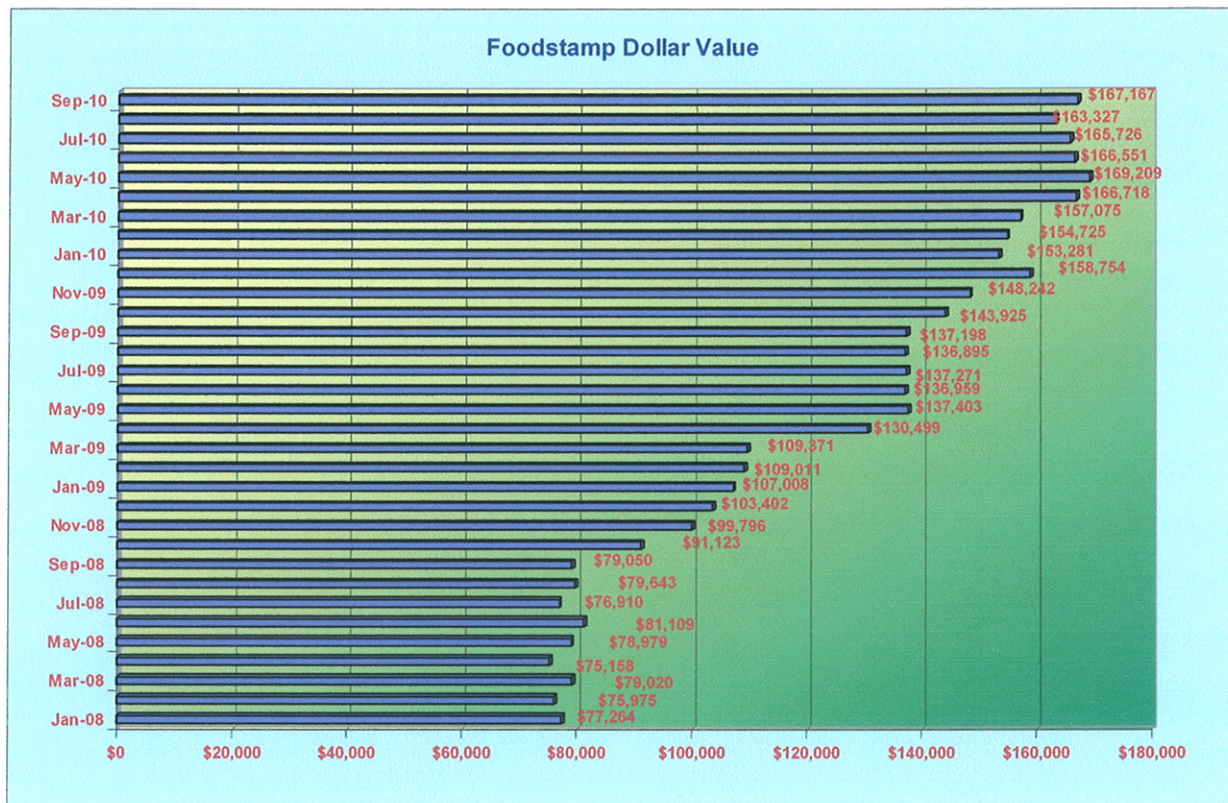
Food Stamp Open Cases at End of Month



B. Foodstamp Dollar Value

On average, an eligible household receives about \$320 in Foodstamp benefits per month. These benefits are intended to supplement food purchasing power.

As has been reported elsewhere by the Department, about 67% of the total Foodstamp benefits issued are spent at local grocery outlets.



(3). Medi-Cal.

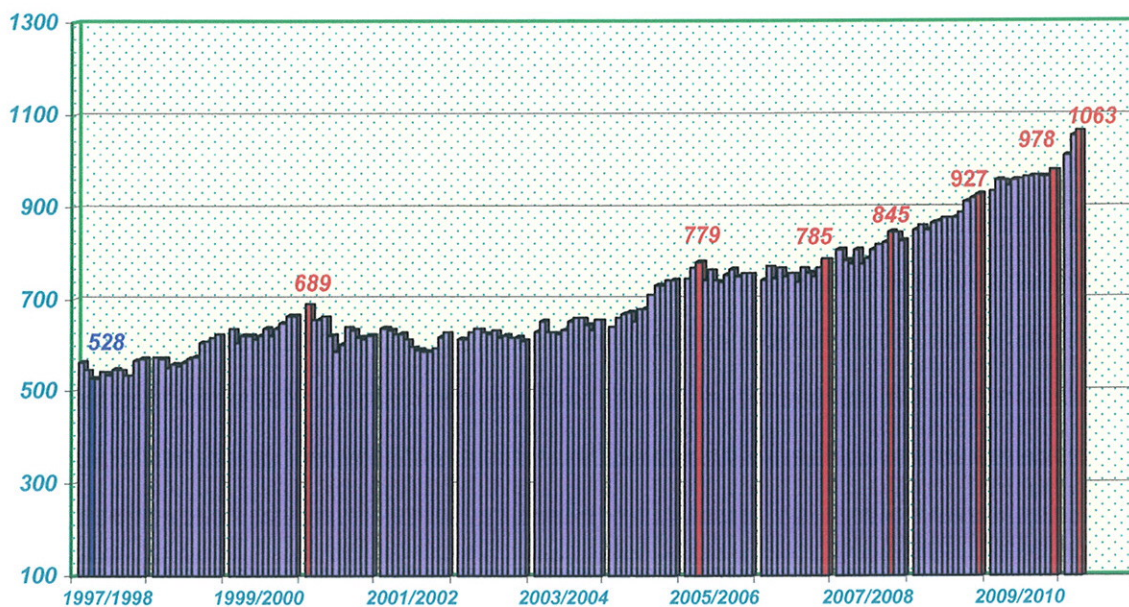
The Department forecasted that the case count for Medi-Cal would exceed 1,000 cases before the end of the calendar year. The steady upward climb has shown no signs of abating any time soon. The growth rate for the past 24 months is at about 15%.

Poor economic conditions, the lack of employer provided insurance and increased focus on health care and health insurance reform at the federal level will likely continue to feed a pattern of growth in this program in the foreseeable future. As with other assistance programs an applicant must be a resident of Plumas County and a resident of California to qualify for Medi-Cal.

Average Monthly Caseload

2008/2009	879
2009/2010	958
2010/2011	1042

Medi-Cal Open Cases at End of Month



(4). County Medical Services Program (CMSP).

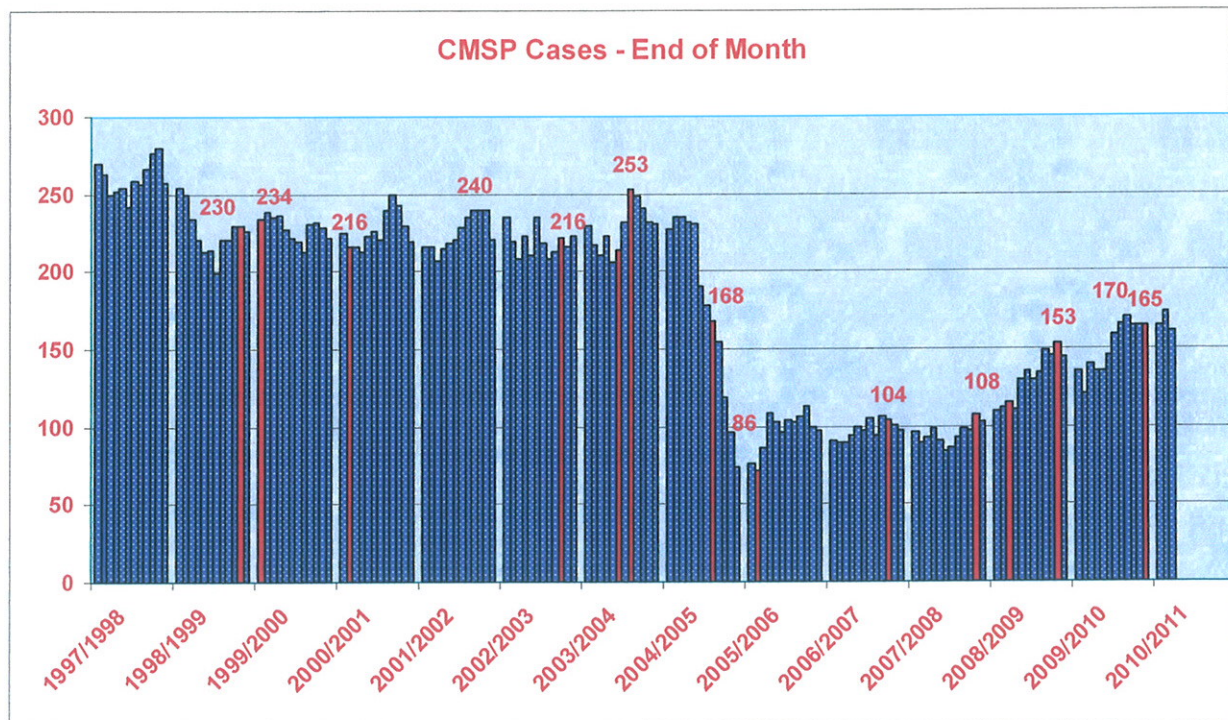
The County Medical Services Program (CMSP) meets the mandate to provide care for medically indigent persons who are the County's responsibility under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. An applicant must be a resident of Plumas County to receive CMSP benefits.

As has been reported previously in Trends the CMSP case count will rise proportionately with an increase in Foodstamp cases because many Foodstamp recipients are eligible for CMSP and have a medical need at the time of their application.

During the time period that the Department converted from ISAWS to C-IV (July through October) we experienced unusually high case counts for CMSP. We believe the source for this may have been a counting error during conversion (i.e. converted cases being counted as new applications). While this anomaly is being reviewed, average case counts are being used as placeholders for these months.

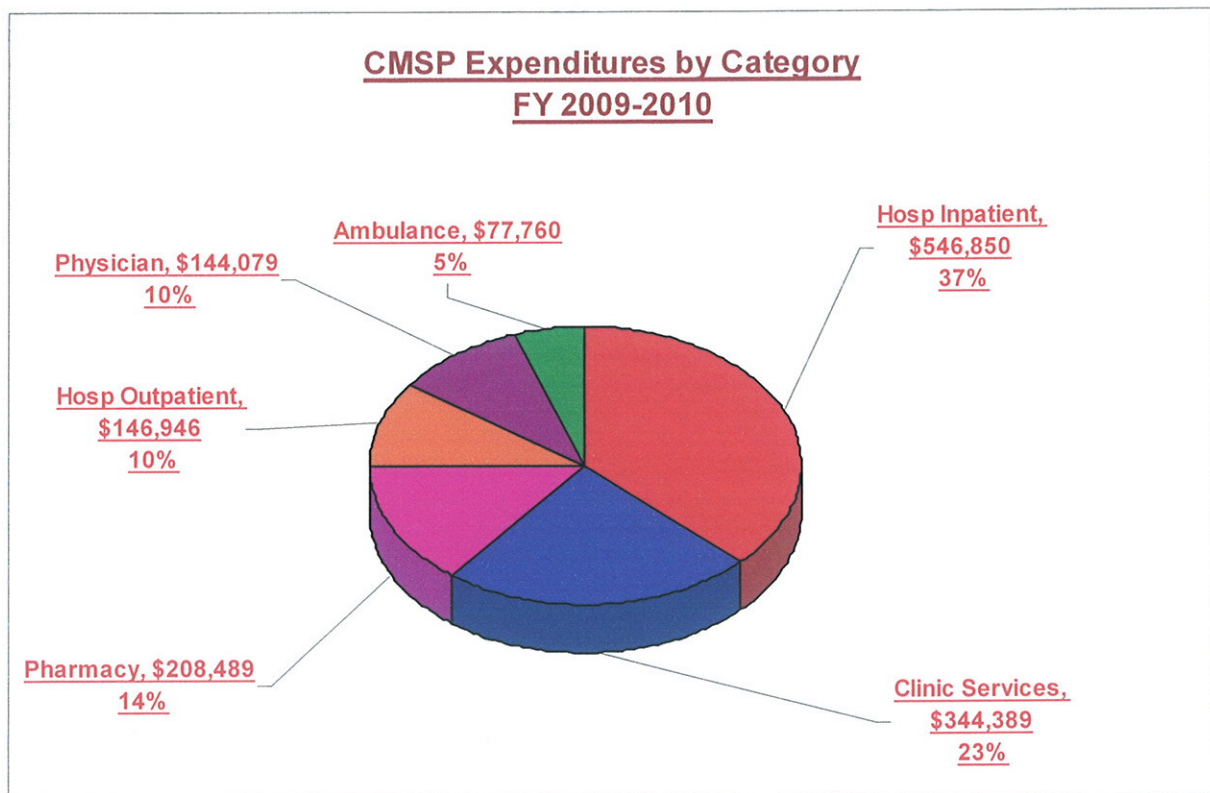
Average Monthly Caseload

2007/2008	95
2008/2009	131
2009/2010	169



(5). CMSP Provider Expenditures by Category.

During Fiscal Year 2009-2010, close to \$1.5 million was paid to CMSP medical providers, hospitals and pharmacies for care and pharmaceuticals provided to eligible CMSP recipients residing in Plumas County. Most (60%) of that expense was paid to hospitals and clinics. Physician payments represented about 10% of the expenditures while pharmacies received about 14% of the total.

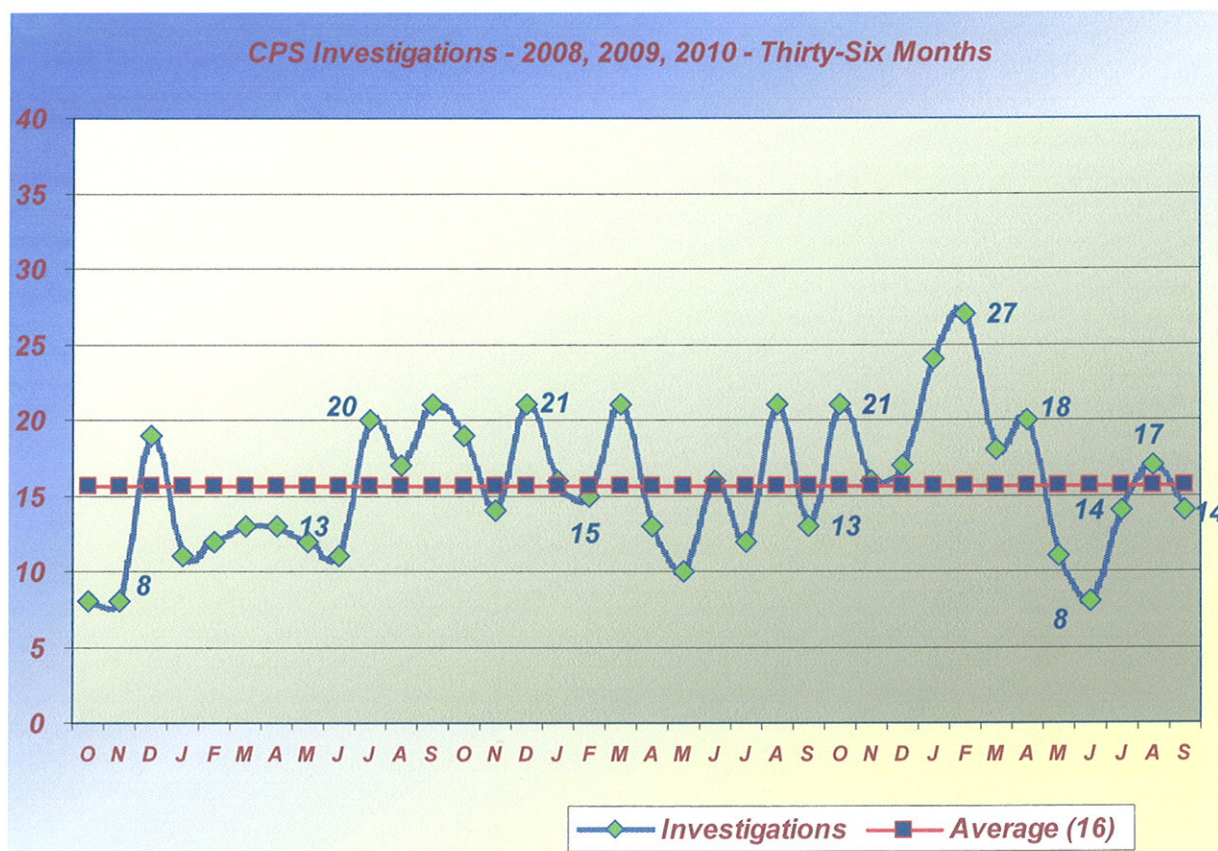


II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Child Welfare Services

Child Protective Services investigations have averaged in the range of about 16 requests per month. For the most recent three month period (July, August and September) requests for investigation of child abuse have been right at the average.

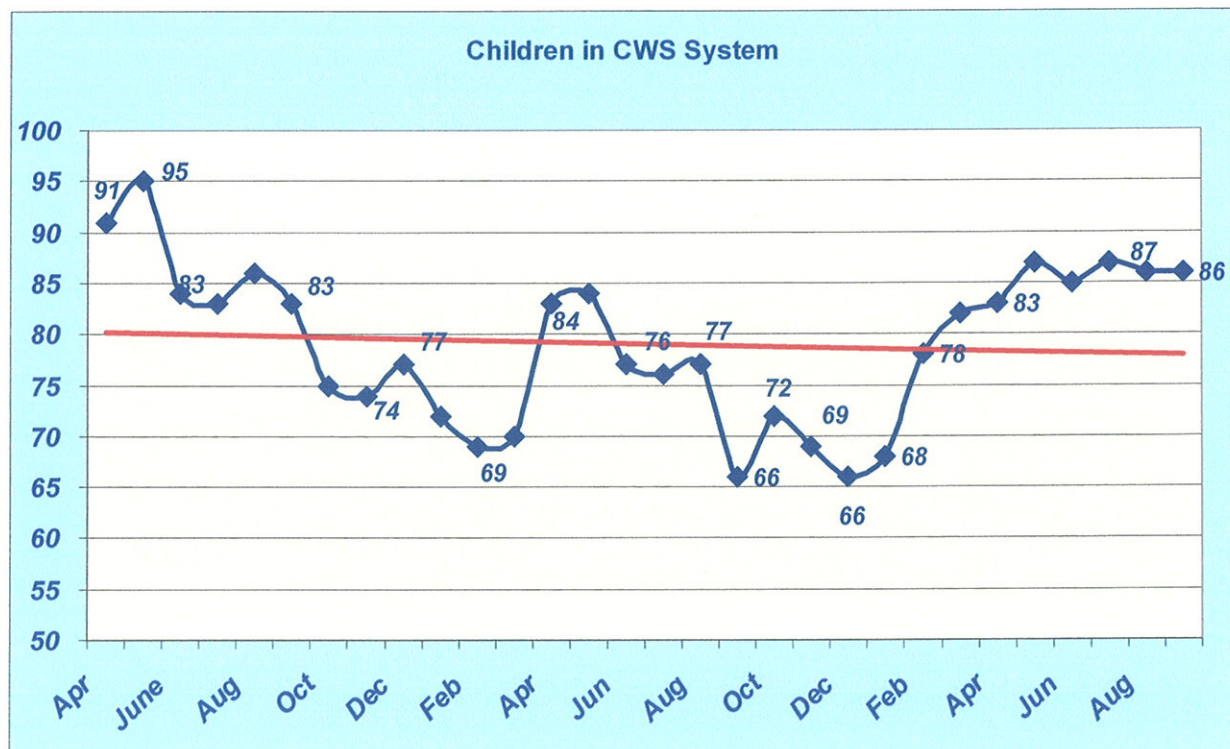
As the Department has noted previously, we have continued to experience significant numbers of cases where the precipitating factors leading to abuse and neglect are associated with substance abuse, in particular methamphetamine but also alcohol abuse. We have also had an unusual number of older children (children over the age of 10) referred for these reasons.



B. Children in the Child Welfare Services System

The goal of the Child Welfare System is first and foremost to secure a safe environment for children so that they are able to remain in or be quickly returned to their own home. With the approval and support of the Board of Supervisors, the Department has engaged in a set of structured system improvements that are targeted to meeting this objective. The Department is now in its fourth year of implementing the elements of the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Program (CWSOIP). Our partnerships with community based agencies are targeted toward that goal.

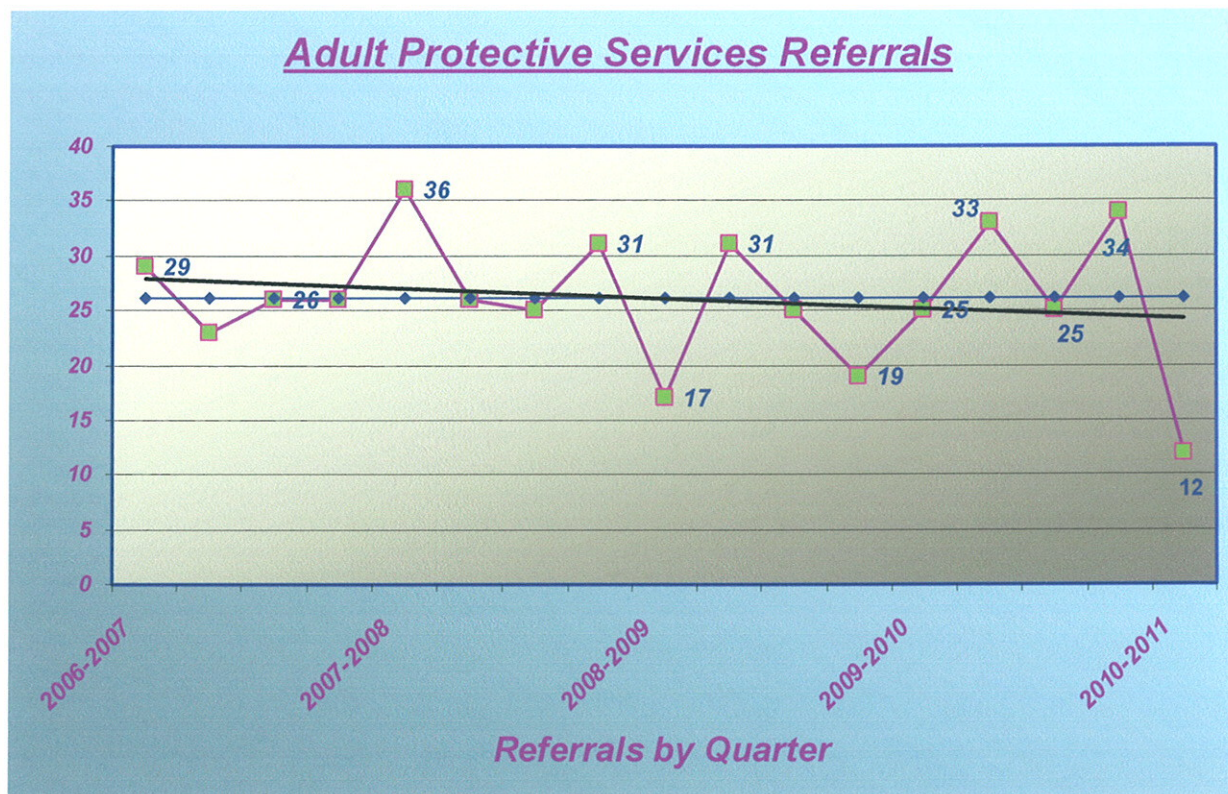
The thirty-six month trend for children in the child welfare system has generally projected downward. More recently however, we have experienced increasing numbers of children in the system. Our goal is to have children reside in a safe environment, preferably their own home, but when circumstances are present that do not provide a safe living situation, children will remain in out of home care.



C. Adult Protective Services

After receiving 34 referrals in the three month quarter that ended in June, referrals dropped to 12 in the quarter that ended September 30th. That pattern is consistent with the longer term trend over time. The average has been about 26 referrals per quarter and taken together the average for the most recent two quarters is 23 referrals.

Referrals from financial institutions regarding suspicious circumstances connected with an elderly or disabled person's bank account have continued to account for many of the referrals we receive.

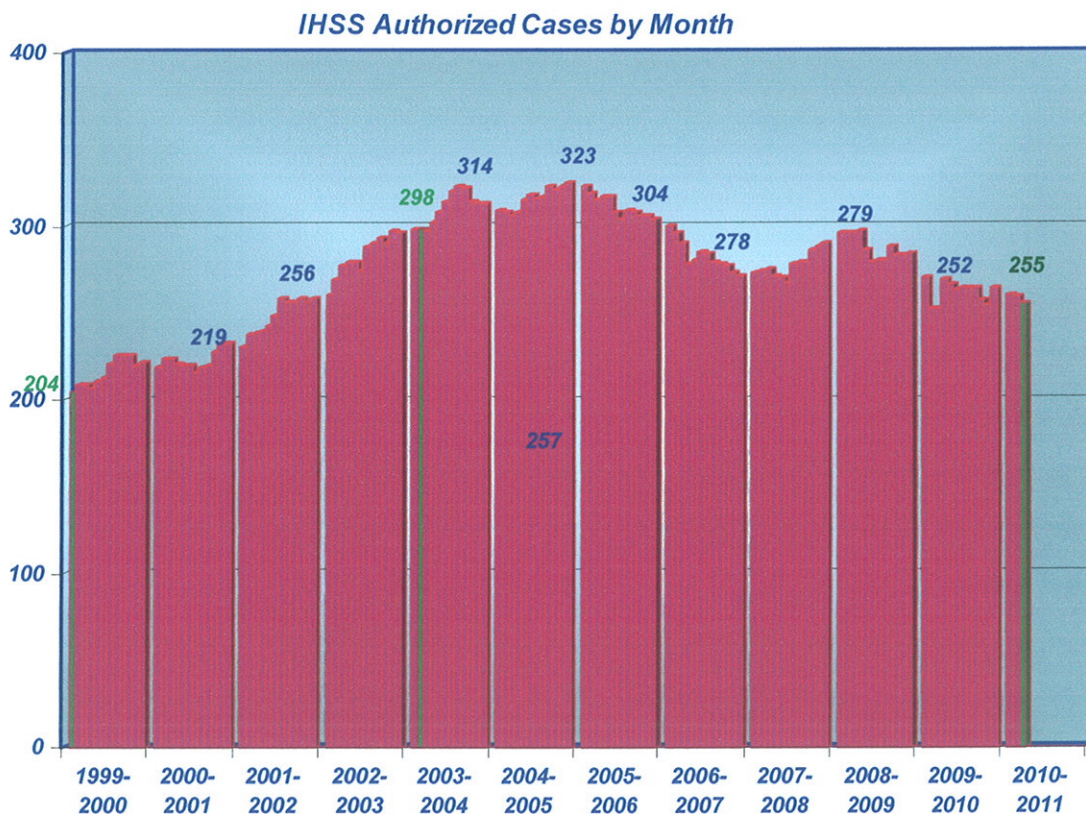


D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).

The case count for the past ten months has been running in the range of 250-265 cases. In prior Trends the Department reported on the likely reduction to the case count as a result of reductions in hours for consumers that have higher levels of function. The Department believes that the impact of these reductions has leveled and we do not anticipate any significant changes from here forward, barring any policy changes that may be adopted by the state (a possibility now that the state has announced that it has yet another projected deficit for 2011-2012 in addition to a current year budget hole).

Average Monthly Case Count

2008/2009	287
2009/2010	262
2010/2011	258



III. PUBLIC GUARDIAN

Public Guardian currently provides guardianship and conservator services to a total of 9 LPS and Probate conservatees. The Public Guardian also serves as representative payee for 6 SSI recipients.