

SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

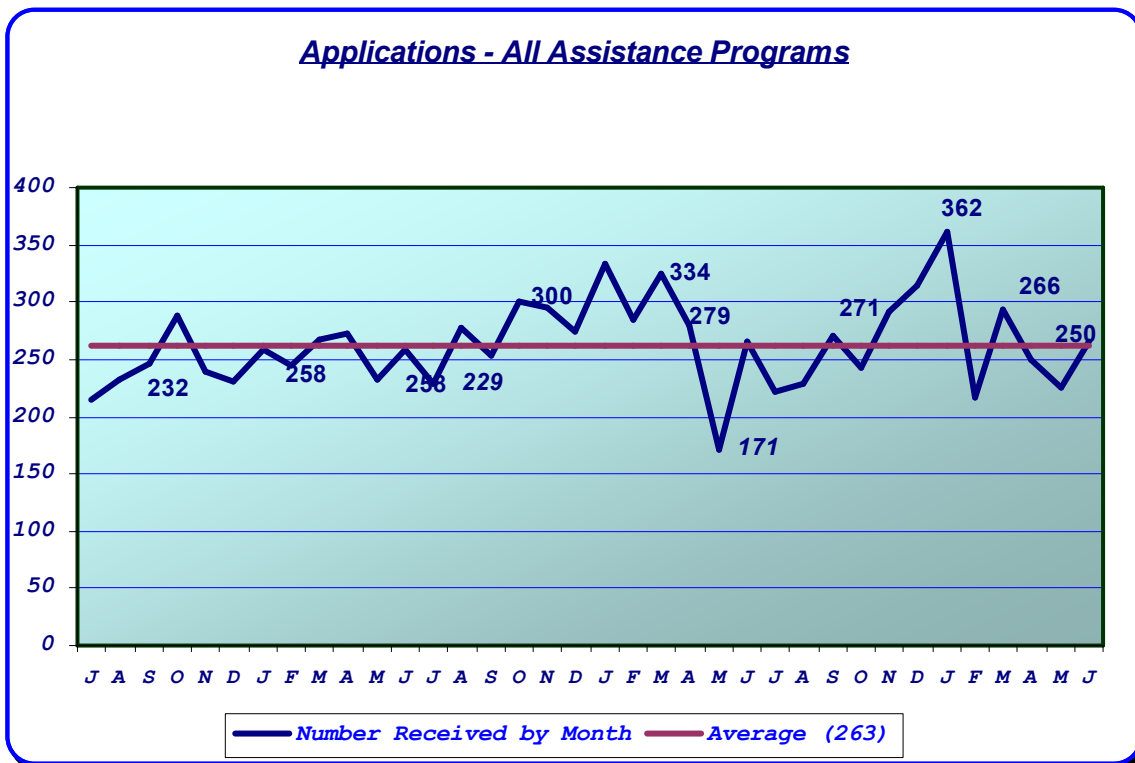
Quarter Ending: June 30, 2011

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 June 30, 2011. 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

While applications for assistance (CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal) continue to be received in unprecedented numbers the trend has been downward since January when we received 362 applications, an historic high count. For thirty-three consecutive months, the application count has exceeded 200 per month with the exception of May, 2010 when applications were closed five days while computer conversion occurred.



CONTINUING CASES

(1). Cash Assistance (AFDC/CalWORKs)

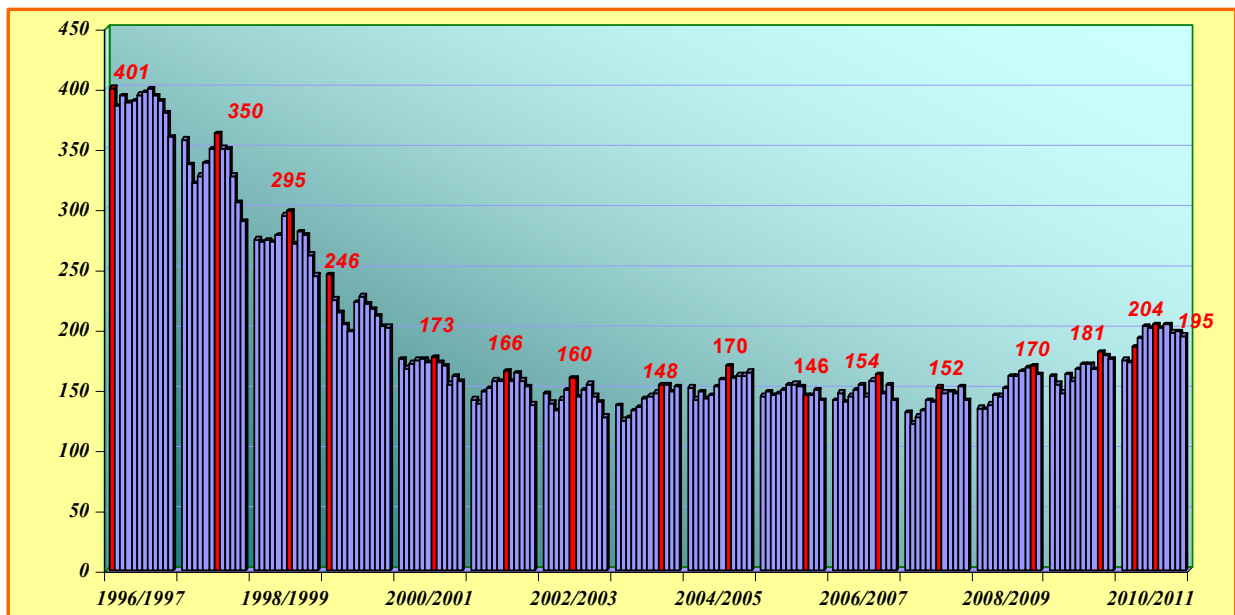
The count for CalWORKs has begun to creep downward ever so slightly. There has been an expectation that economic conditions would eventually turn and this trend may signal the beginning of it. That said, the CalWORKs average case count is still about 25% above the average just two years ago. We have continued to believe that economic recovery will be a very slow process for Plumas citizens. As has been reported to the Board, Plumas' Work Participation Rate is one of the best in the state.

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	194

AFDC/CalWORKs Open Cases at End of Month



(2). Food Stamp Assistance

A. Case Count

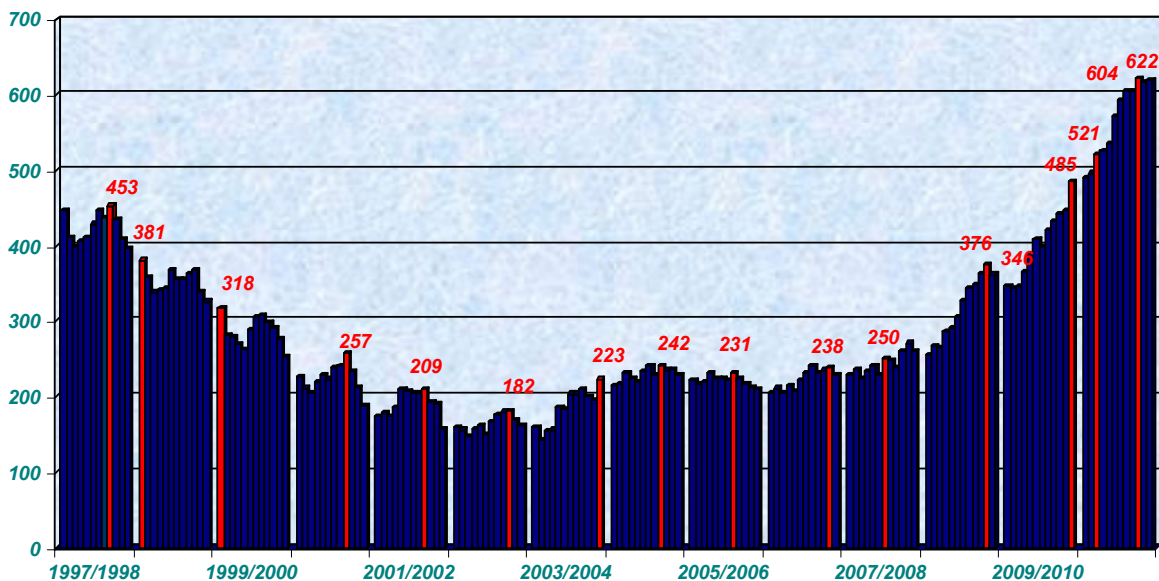
The depth of the economic recession and the slowness of recovery continue to be reflected in CalFresh (Foodstamp) case count which once again achieved an historic high count with 622 cases in May. There are some signs now that we may have reached the peak of the growth as summer tourism has increased employment opportunities. That said, average caseload growth is currently at almost 80% over a two year period.

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	567

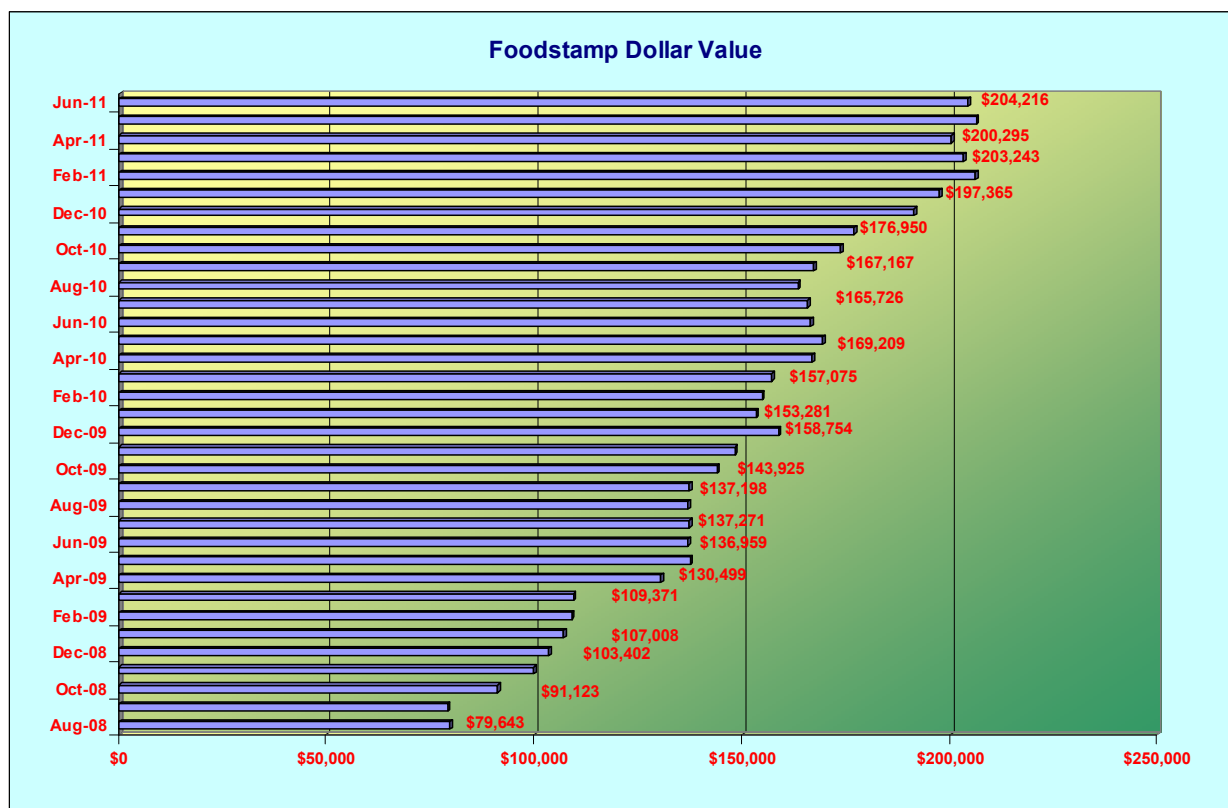
Food Stamp Open Cases at End of Month



B. Foodstamp Dollar Value

On average, an eligible household receives about \$320 in CalFresh (Foodstamp) benefits per month. These benefits are intended to supplement food purchasing power. In just over a two and a half year period the value of CalFresh assistance has more than doubled. As with the case count the value of benefits issued is being driven by the recessionary economy. Many of the people we see have had longer term connections with the labor force.

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

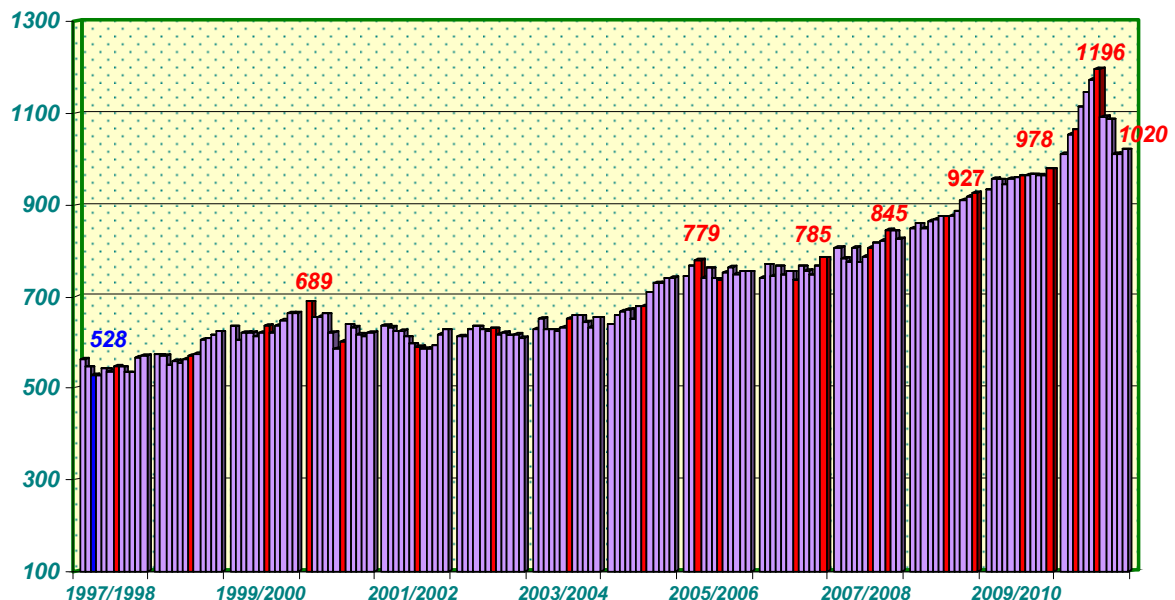
The Department is beginning to see some evidence that we may have achieved a short term (or perhaps longer term) plateau for the Medi-Cal case count. While It remains to be seen whether the flatter profile of the past few months remains, we have believed that at some point the growth that has been so prevalent for the past three years would eventually flatten out. Poor economic conditions, the lack of employer provided insurance and increased focus on health care and health insurance reform at the federal level have been factors in the pattern of growth in this program.

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	1081

Medi-Cal Open Cases at End of Month



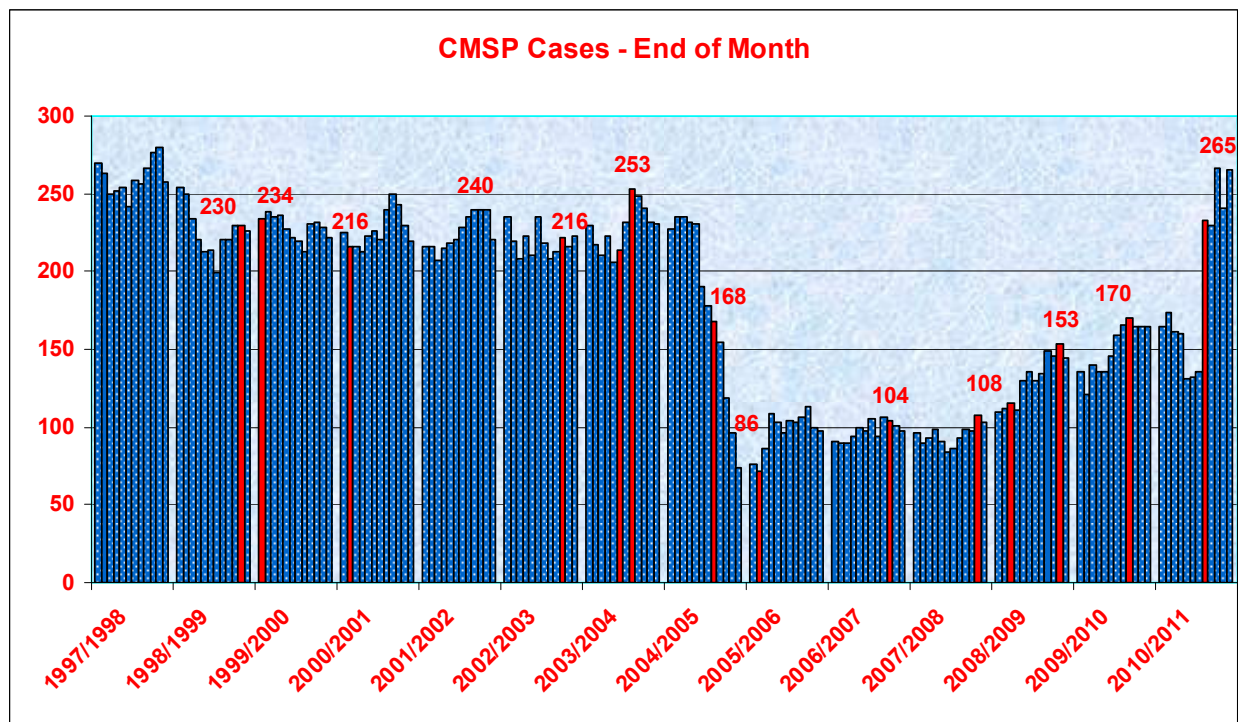
(4). County Medical Services Program (CMSP)

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.

Average Monthly Caseload

2008/2009	95
2009/2010	131
2010/2011	191

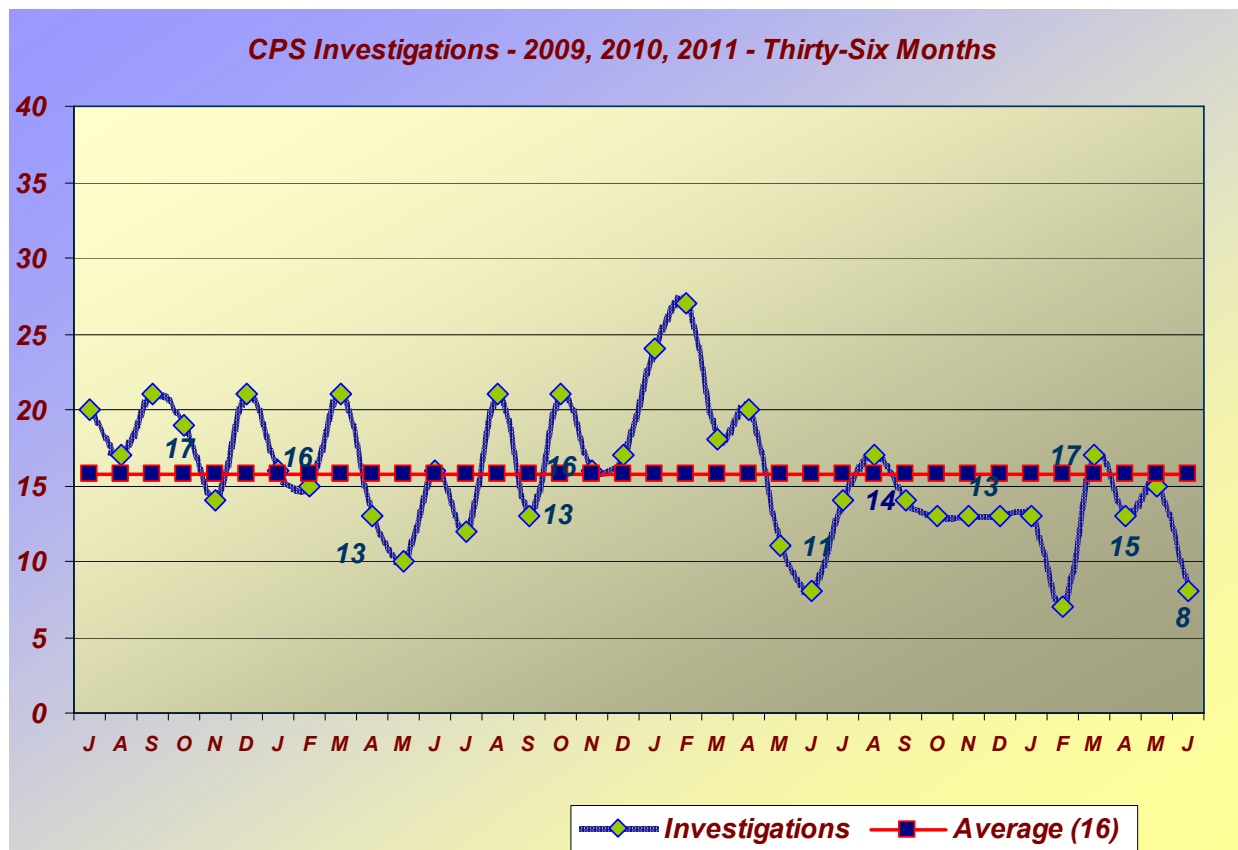


II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Child Welfare Services

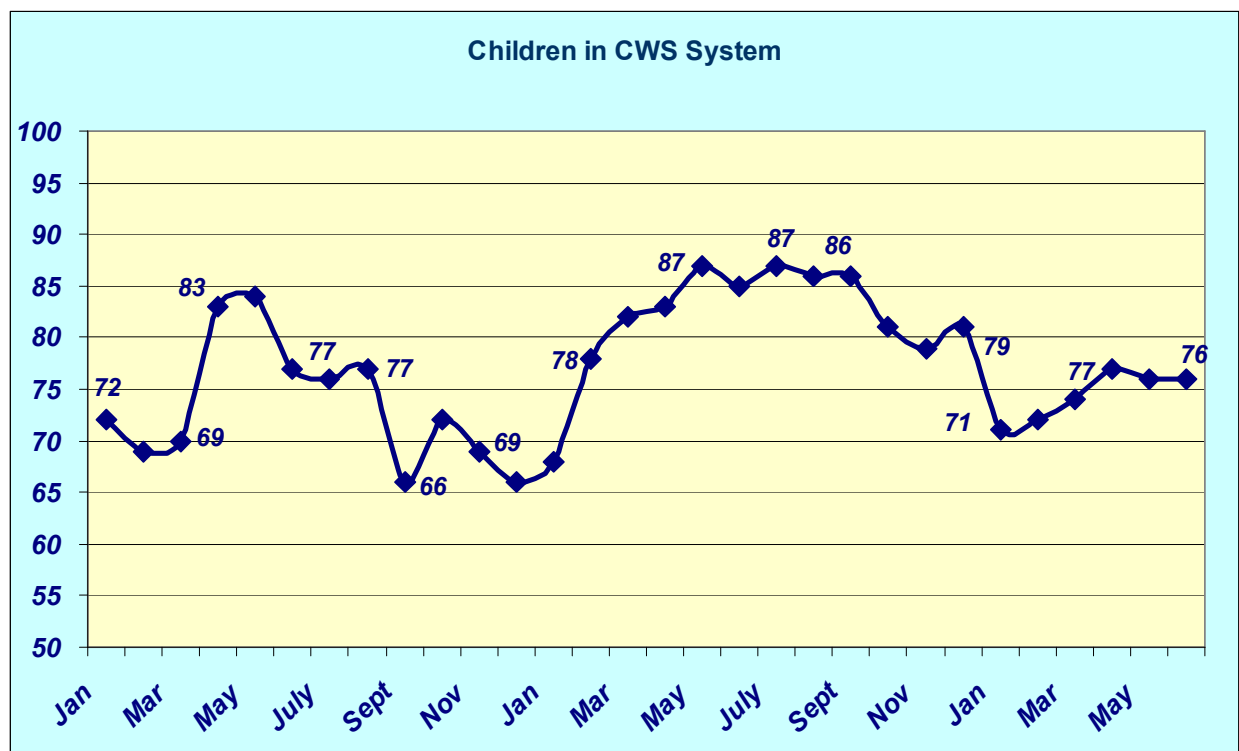
The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averages in the range of about 16 requests per month. During the most recent twelve months, investigations have been running right at or slightly below average.

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.



B. Children in the Child Welfare Services System

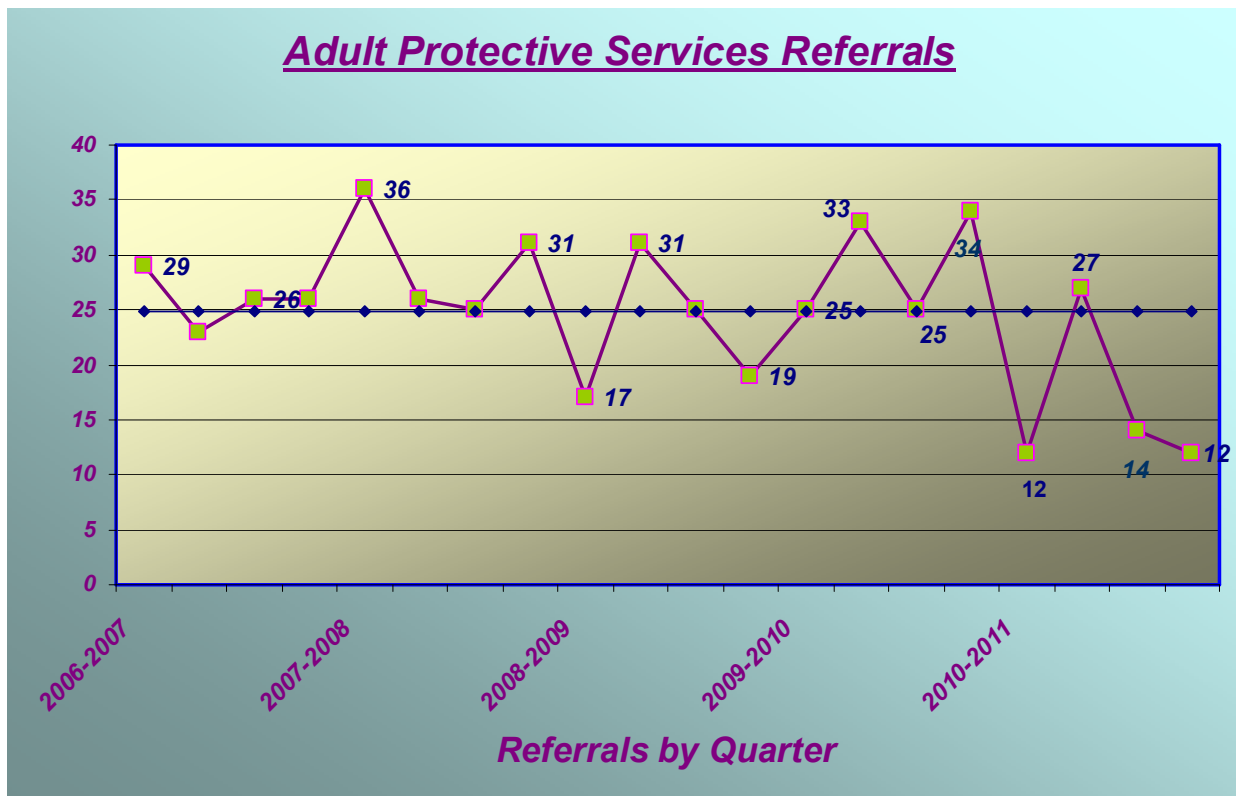
The goal of the Child Welfare System is first and foremost to secure a safe environment for children so that they are able to remain in or be quickly returned to their own home. The thirty-six month trend for children who are in our system projected downward and more recently has leveled off.



C. Adult Protective Services

The average number of referrals for this program tends to be in the range of about 25 referrals per quarter. The most recent two quarters have had uncharacteristically low referral levels. We would expect that if trends stay true to the past, that we could expect an increase in the referral level during the next three months.

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.

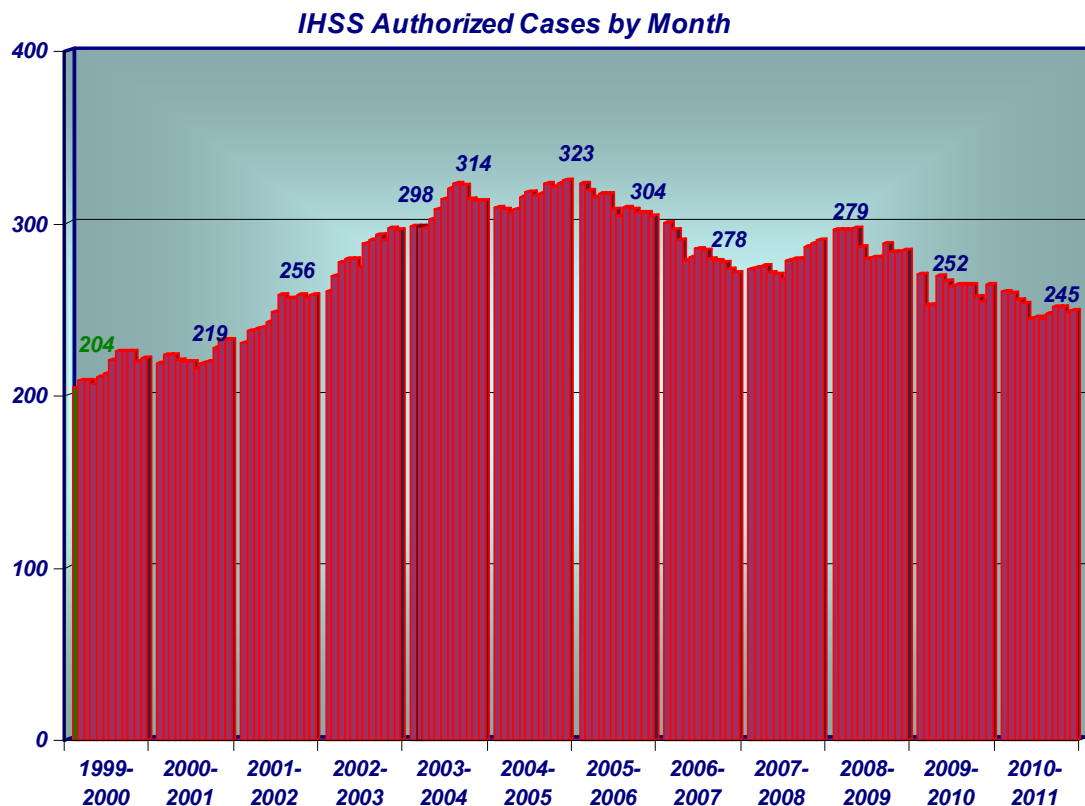


D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Prior Trends reports indicated that the downward trend to the case count has likely been the result of reductions in hours for consumers that have higher levels of function. We also reported our belief that the impact of these reductions has leveled. The case count for the past ten months has been running in the range of 245-265 cases, a reduction of about 23% from the high count of 323 in June 2005.

Average Monthly Case Count

2008/2009	287
2009/2010	262
2010/2011	251



III. PUBLIC GUARDIAN

The 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 7 SSI recipients. Two new conservatorship referrals have been received for evaluation for potential conservatorship.