

SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

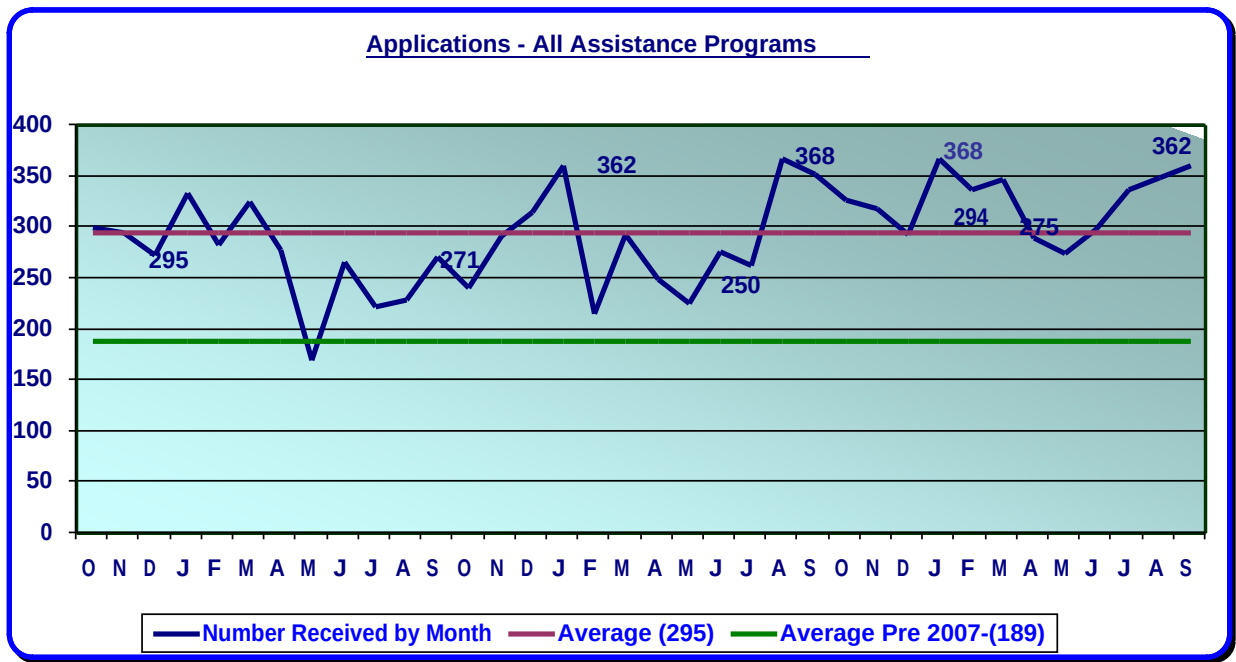
Quarter Ending: September 30, 2012

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, 2012. 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 Plumas County web site at www.countyofplumas.com.

I. WELFARE TO WORK & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DIVISION

A. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Applications for assistance (CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal) trended downward for the six month period from January through June. Now they are headed upward again. From 2000 through 2007, the period prior to the recession, the Department averaged 189 applications per month (indicated by the green line below). For the period following the recession, the average has been 295 per month shown by the red line below. As has been reported in the past, more than half of our applications are for medical assistance either through Path2Health, Medi-Cal or CMSP.



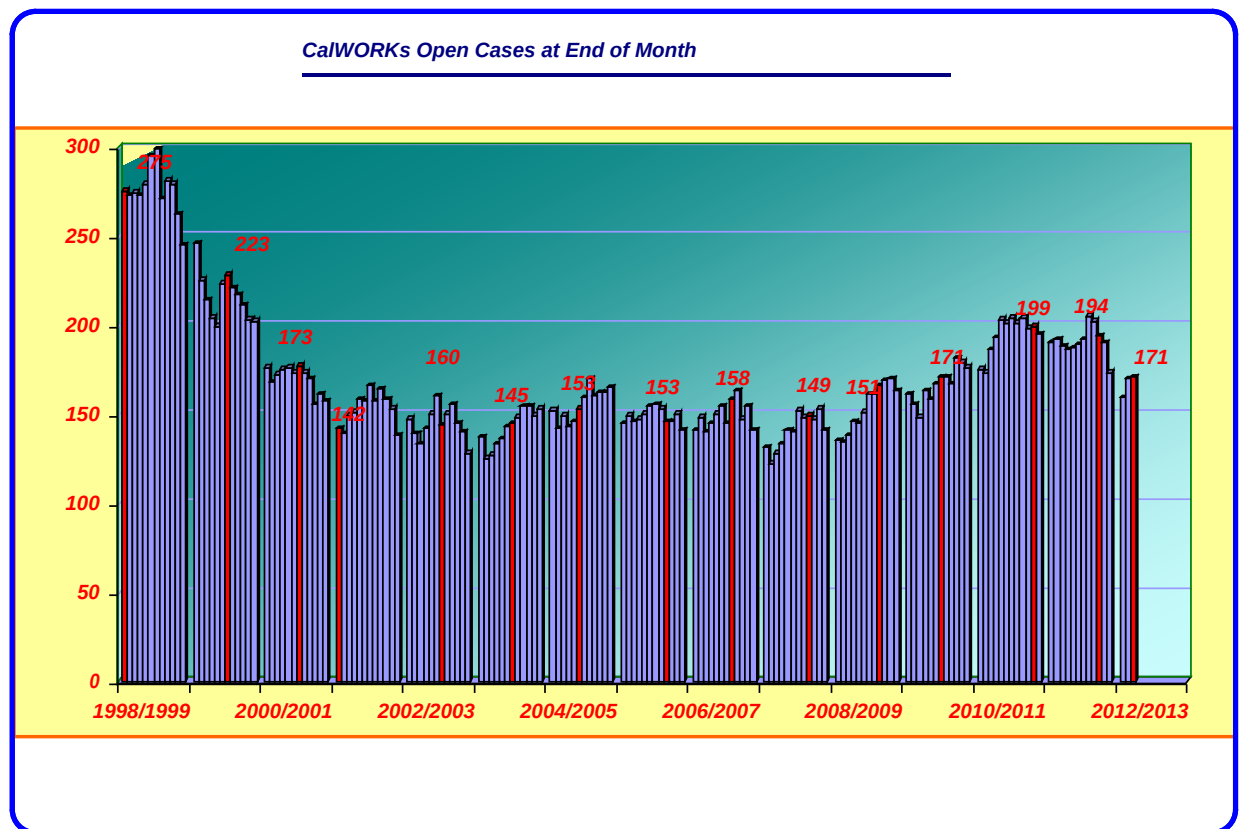
CONTINUING CASES

(1). Cash Assistance (AFDC/CalWORKs)

The case count for CalWORKs assistance has been staying in a range that fluctuates between 160-200 cases. Of particular note is that one-third of the CalWORKs cases are “child only” cases meaning that the adult has another source of income, is a non-needy adult relative. Nearly all of these cases involve children who’ve been placed in the home of a relative or a non-relative extended family member. Those children remain eligible for CalWORKs assistance during the entire period of their placement.

Average Monthly Caseload

2009/2010	166
2010/2011	194
2011/2012	191



(2). CalFresh (Food Stamps) Assistance

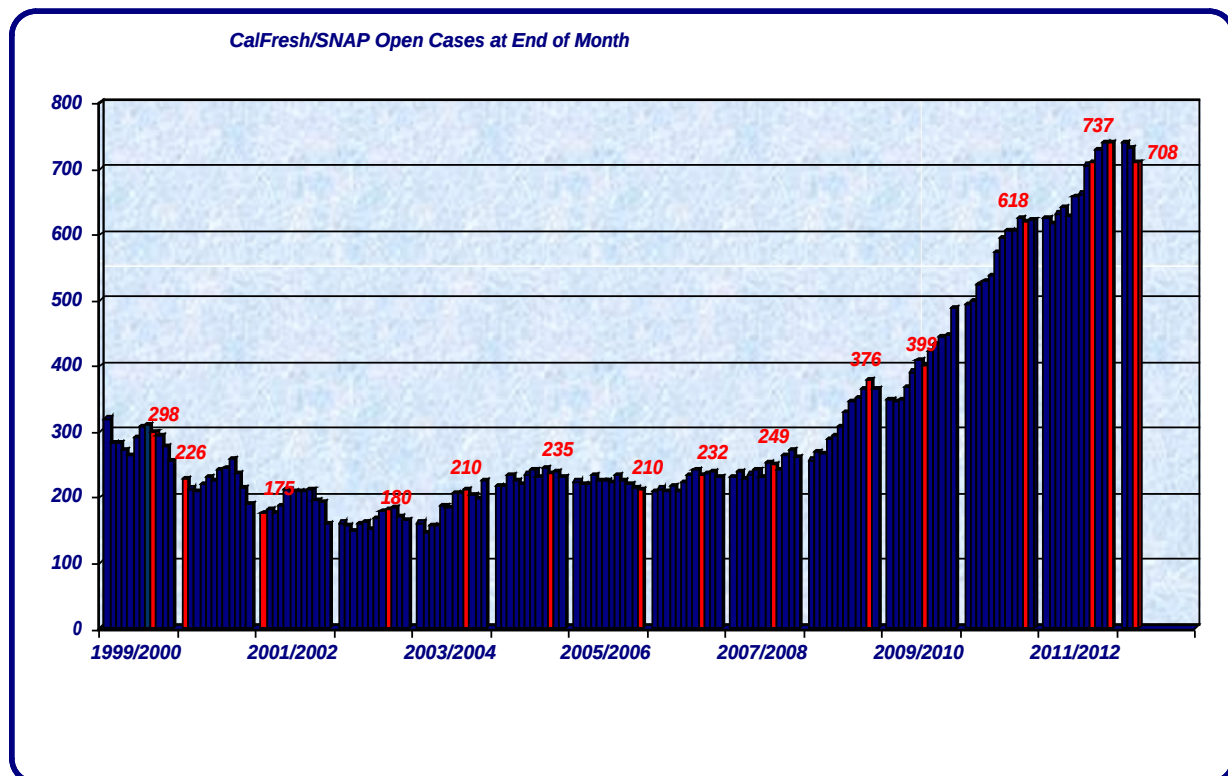
A. Case Count

The unprecedented growth in CalFresh assistance during the past four years appears to have abated at least for the short term. During the past five months, the count has leveled and then declined some although the drop in case count is small at less than three percent. Because there is a seasonal rise in case count from fall into winter, it remains to be seen if this decline is sustained.

Applicants for CalFresh (Food Stamps) must be residents of Plumas County in order to receive assistance.

Average Monthly Caseload

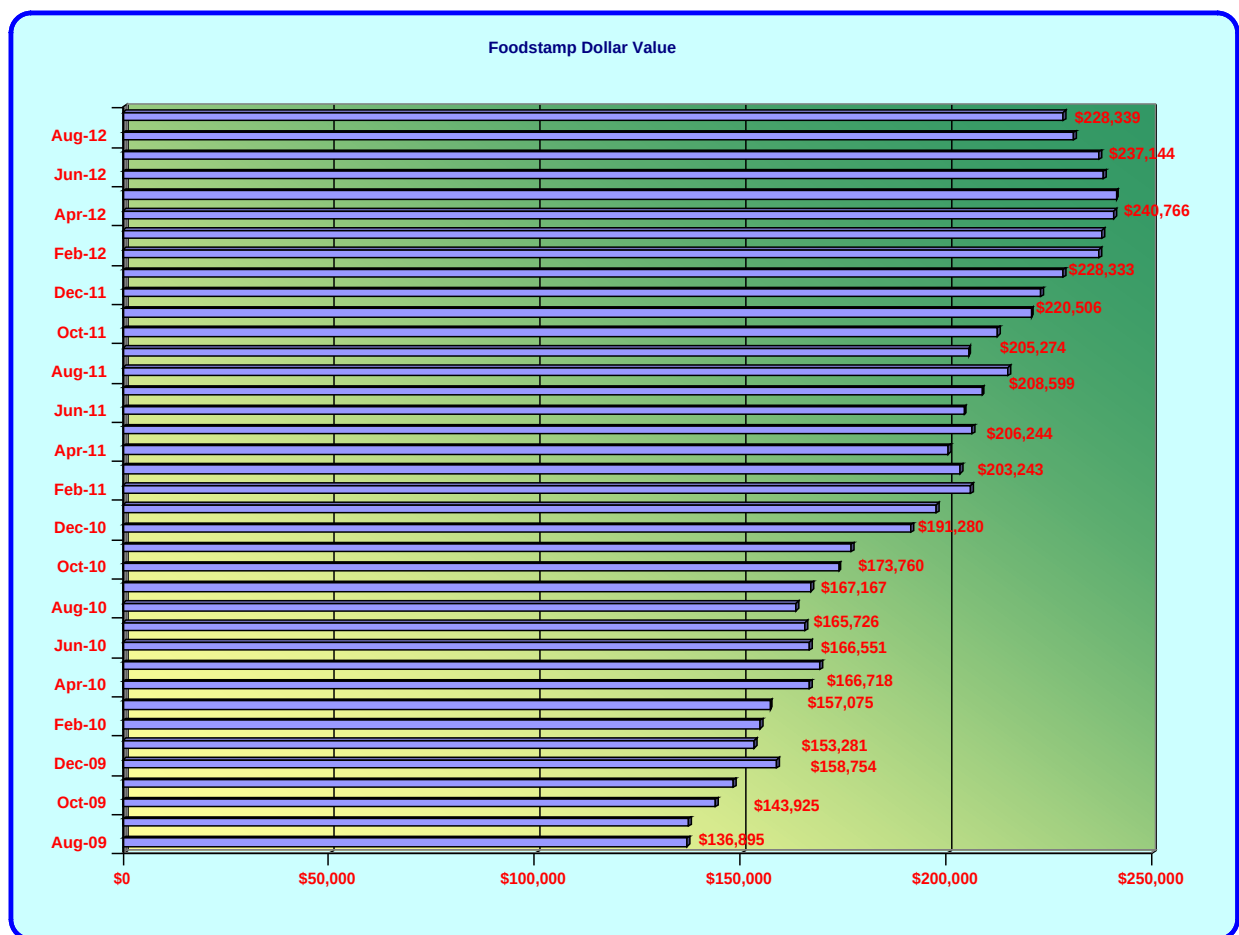
2009/2010	402
2010/2011	567
2011/2012	672



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 the case count has dropped during the past six months so too have the benefits issued dropped. This could be signs of slow recovery, but we also know from experience that the benefit value is likely to grow during the fall and winter months.

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

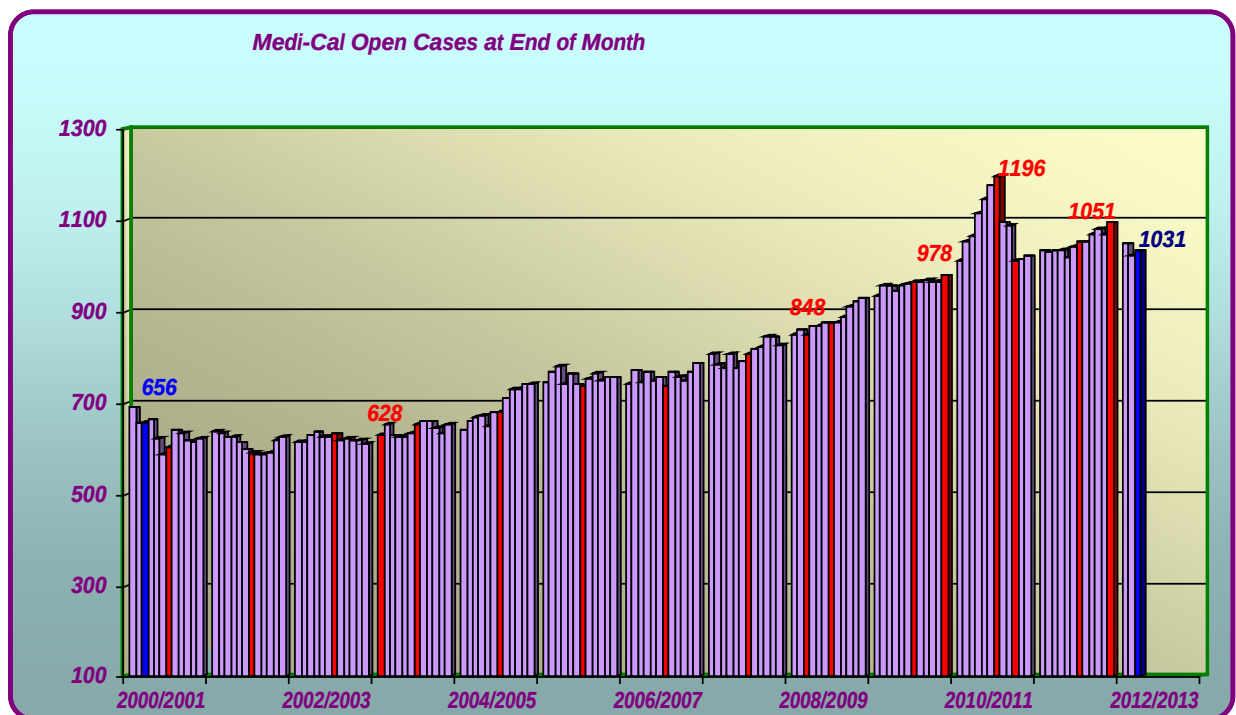


(3). Medi-Cal

The Medi-Cal case count has dropped during the past three months following a period of relatively slow growth. Medi-Cal generally serves working families whose income is below 150% of the Federal poverty level. Some of the current working poor families may shift to employer provided health insurance when the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented.

Average Monthly Caseload

2009/2010	958
2010/2011	1081
2011/2012	1049

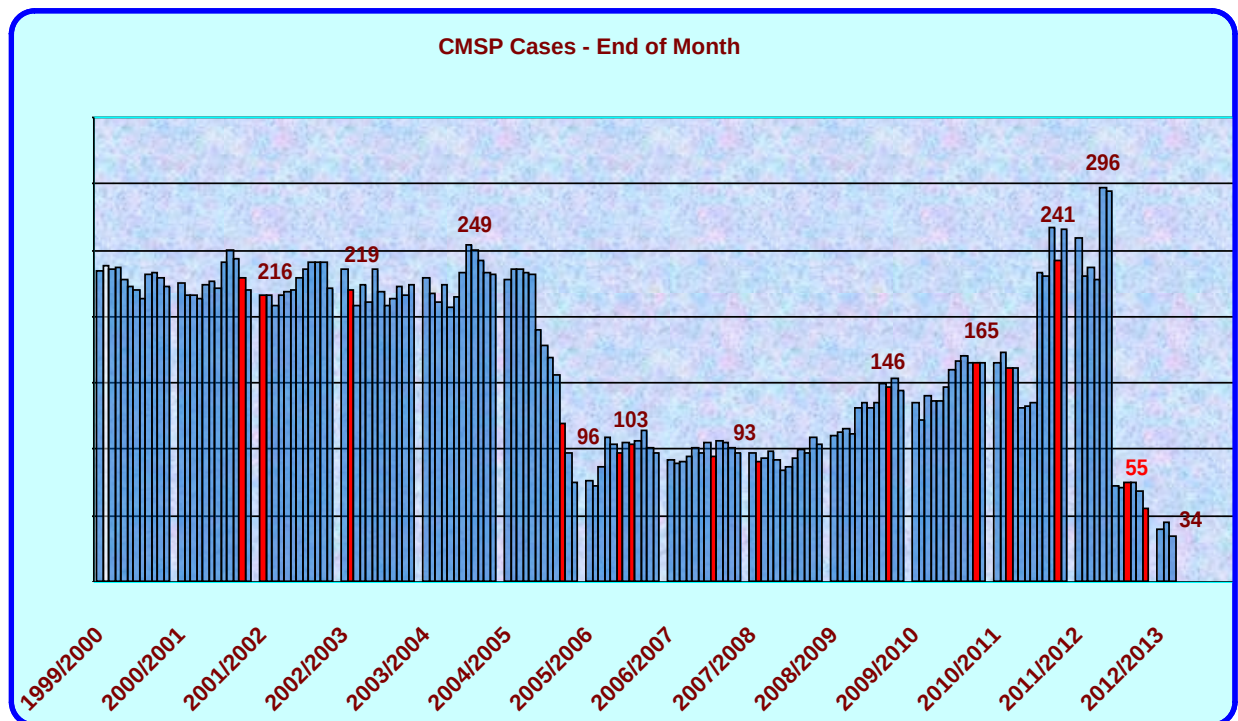


(4). County Medical Services Program (CMSP)

As has been reported to the Board and the public the former CMSP program is now split into two programs. Path2Health is for those individuals who are low income and qualify for federally supported health care under the Affordable Care Act. The second component is residual CMSP for persons who don't qualify for federal assistance. In Plumas County at the end of September we had 34 such individuals. Nearly all of these individuals are persons whose income exceeds 100% of the federal poverty level so they do not qualify for Path2Health.

Average Monthly Caseload

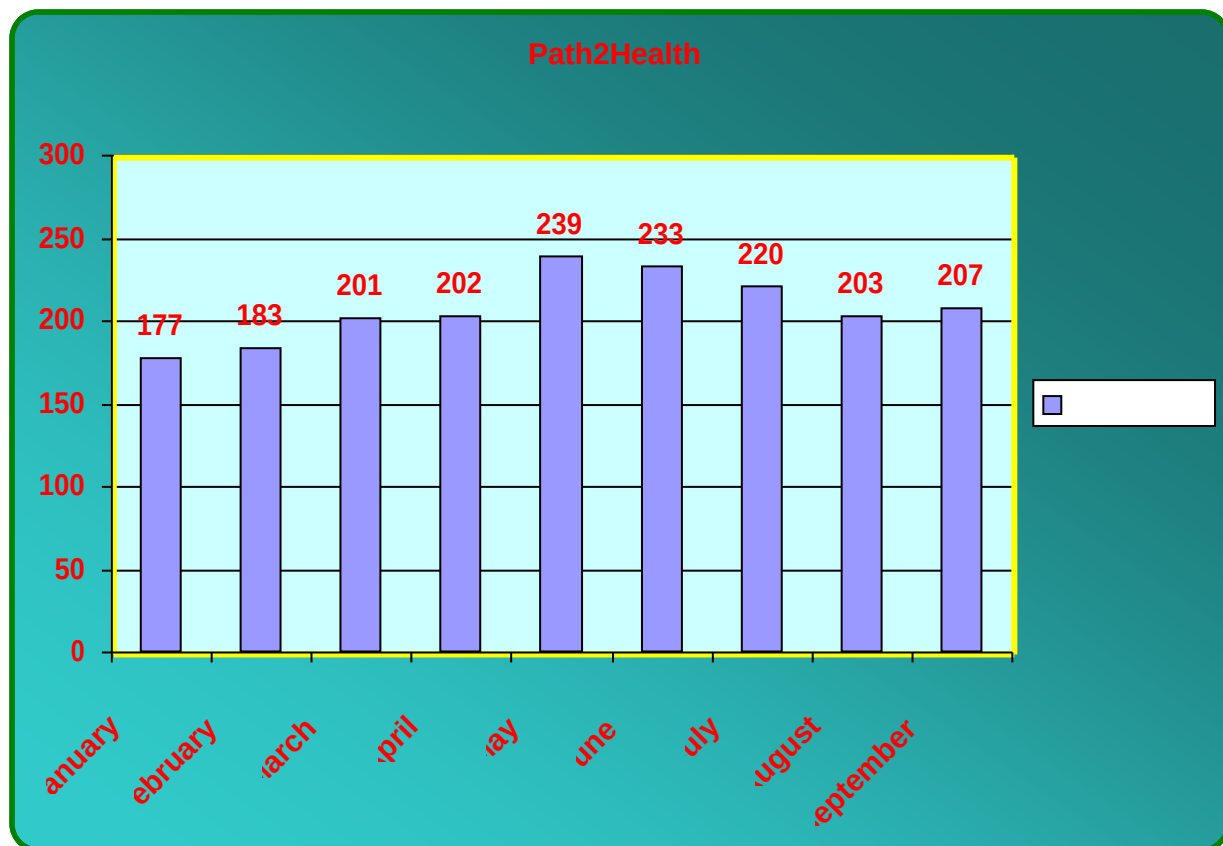
2009/2010	150
2010/2011	191
2011/2012	69



(5). Path2Health

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes a provision which allows states to request a waiver to become an early implementer of some of the provisions of the Act. The waiver enables states (for our purposes here, counties) to utilize the non-Federal dollars they otherwise spend on health care for county citizens as a match to draw down Federal dollars to expand health care to low income populations that are uninsured.

The 34 CMSP counties received Federal approval to operate the Path2Health program. It was implemented January 1, 2012. Most of the prior CMSP members have been transferred to this program.

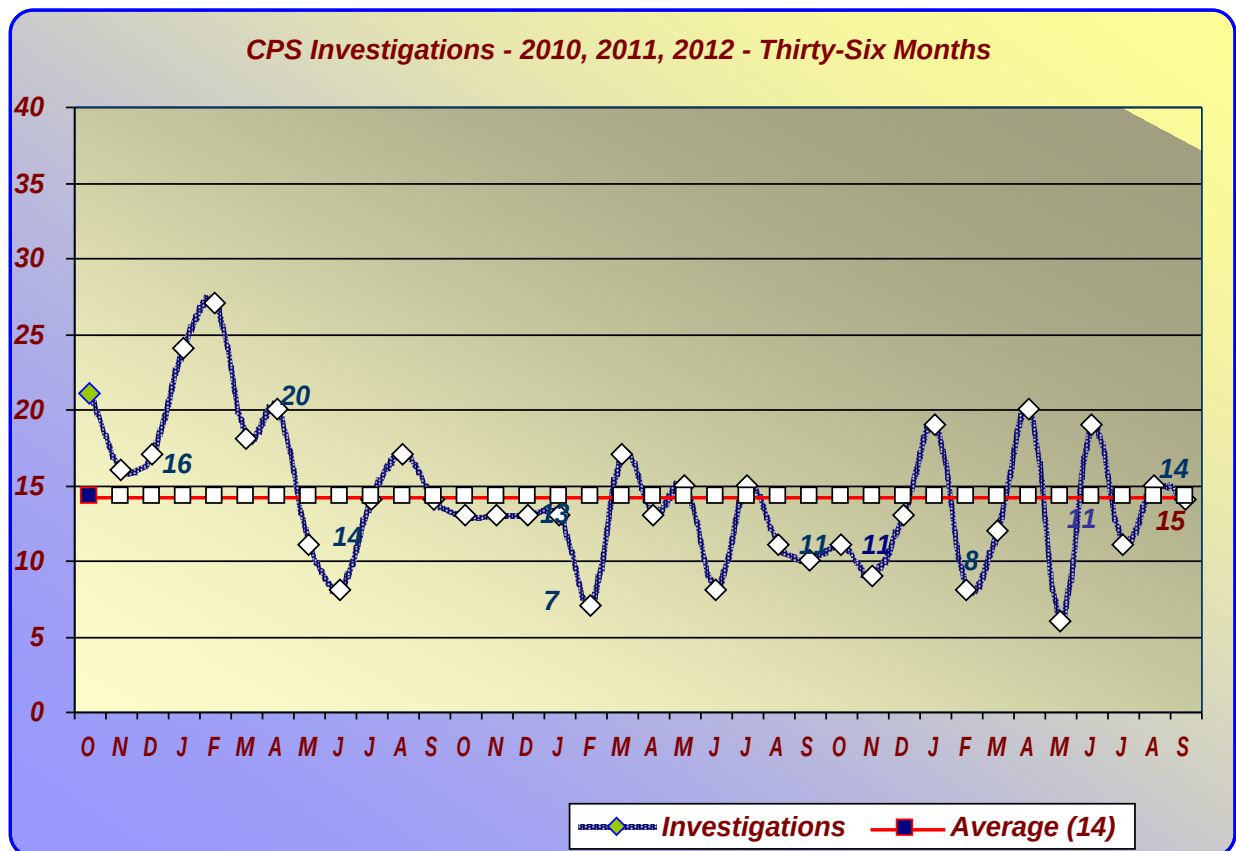


II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Child Welfare Services

The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averages in the range of about 14 child abuse investigations per month. While we had a couple of months with counts that approached 20 requests for investigation, the general pattern seems to be that requests are hovering around the average, more one month but fewer the next.

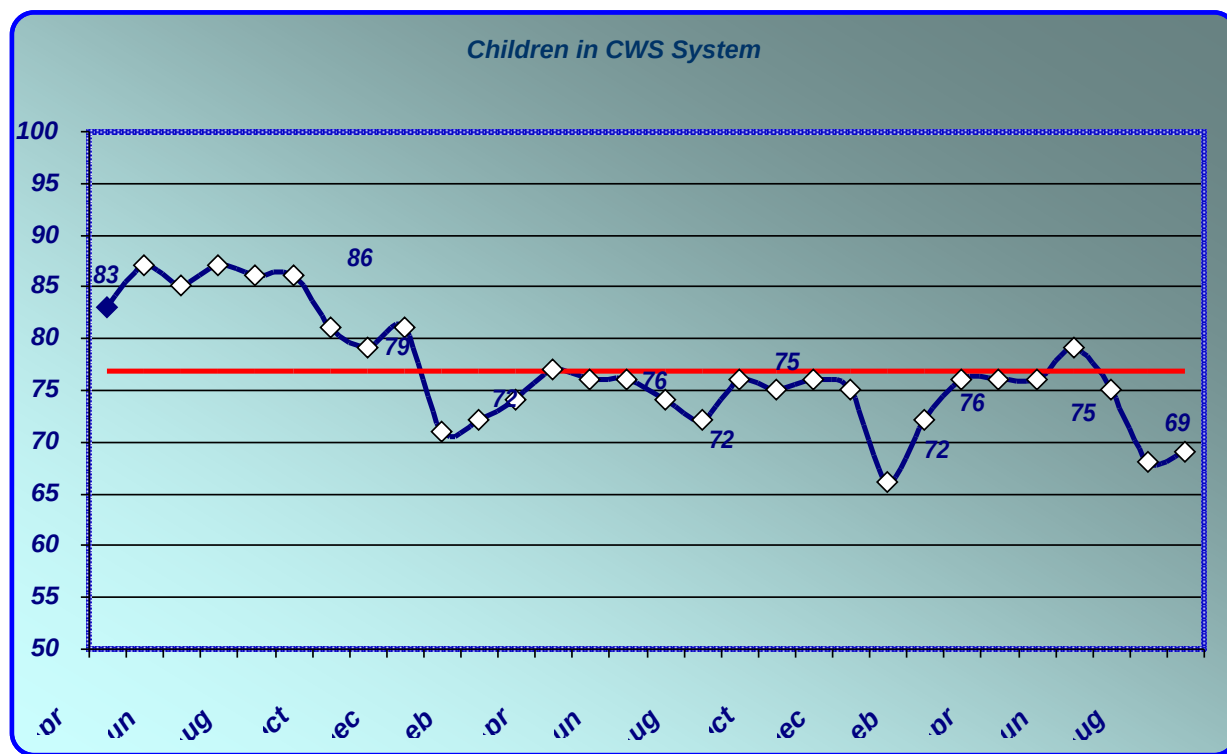
As the Department has noted previously, we have continued to experience significant numbers of cases where the precipitating factors leading to abuse and neglect are associated with substance abuse, in particular methamphetamine but also alcohol and other drugs. With that in mind, we are pleased to see that alcohol and drug services are coming back on line.



B. Children in the Child Welfare Services System

The trend for children who are in the CWS system is moving in the right direction, that is, the count is dropping. Generally, the Department's goals are to keep children from being placed out of their homes however, safety of children is always our primary concern.

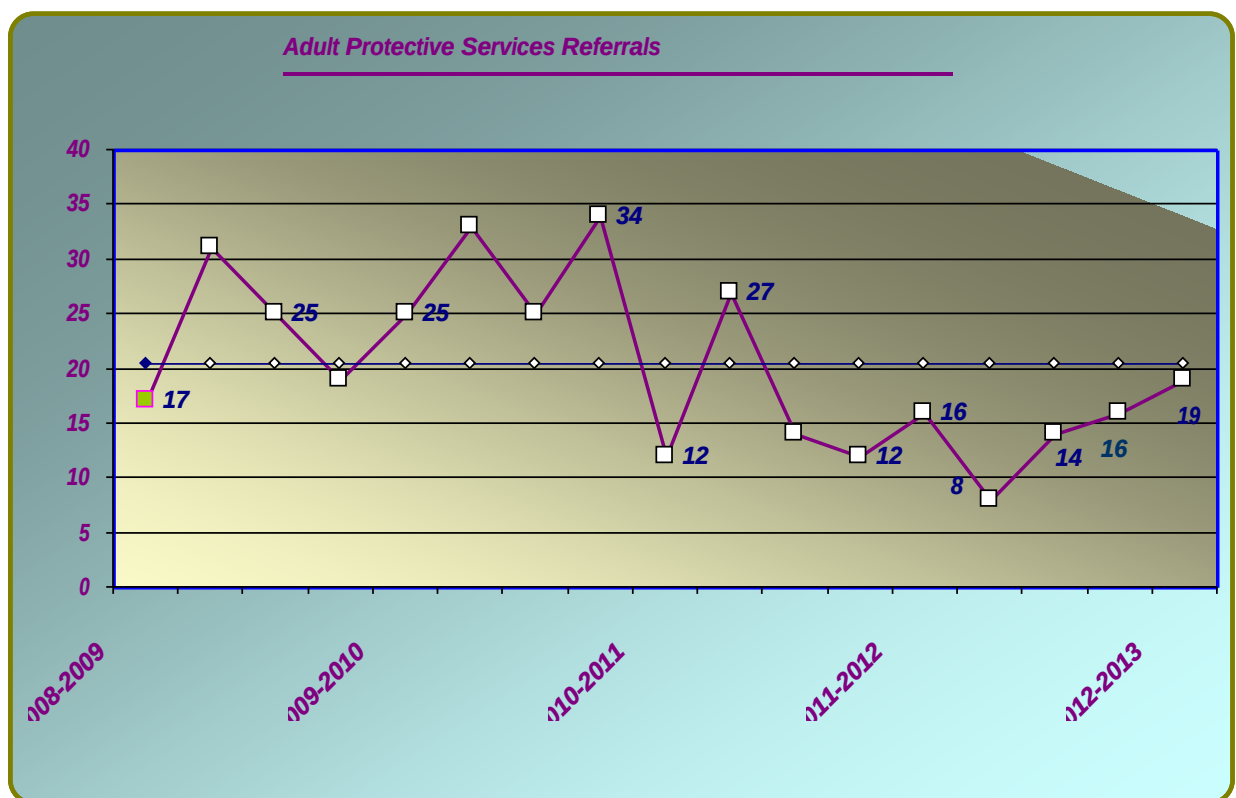
A continuing emphasis in the program now is to make efforts to achieve less restrictive placements and to place children with non-relative extended family members. In some instances the emphasis on placing with non-relative extended family members has resulted in lowered utilization of Foster Family Agency placements.



C. Adult Protective Services

The average number of referrals for this program tends to be in the range of about 20 referrals per quarter. For the fifteen month period prior to the most recent quarter, referrals for investigation of abused or neglected adults were running below average. During this past quarter, we registered 19 referrals for investigation or just about the average.

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 requests for investigation we receive.

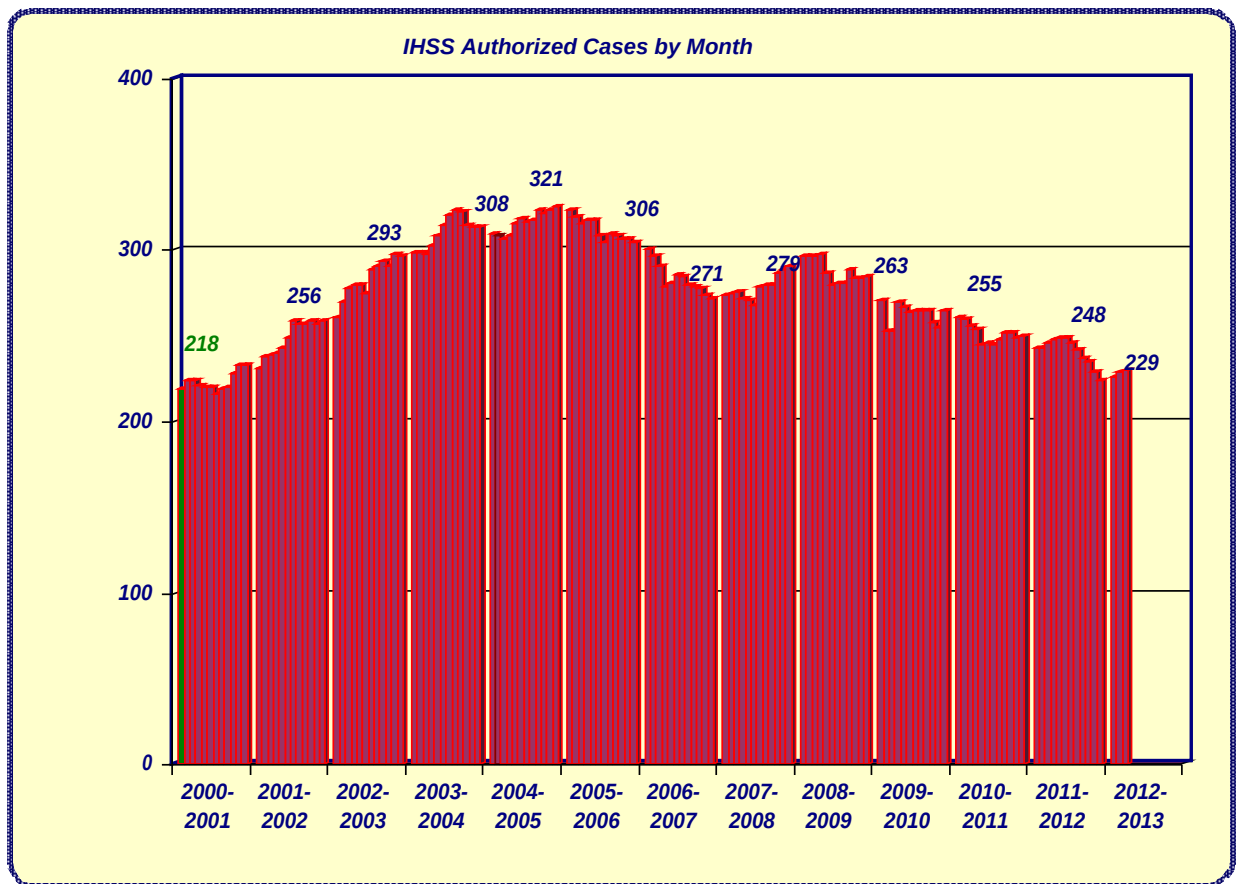


D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

The case count for IHSS has generally been on a downward trend since 2005. This is largely a result of continued reductions in hours and services that are the product of state budget cuts. Presently we see no indication in the near term that there will be growth in this program. There has been about a 10% reduction in the average case count each year for the past three years.

Average Monthly Case Count

2010/2011	251
2011/2012	240
2012/2013	227



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 6 SSI recipients. The Office has one new LPS referral that has been received for evaluation for potential conservatorship.