

## SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

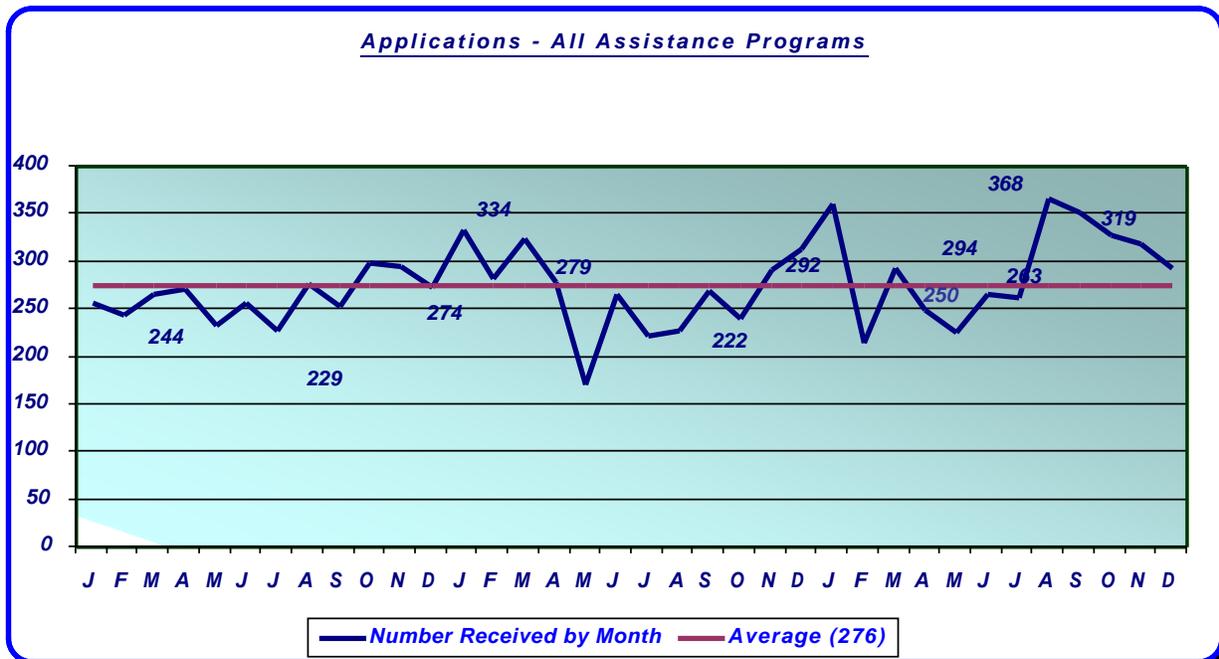
Quarter Ending: December 31, 2011

**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 December 31, 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](http://www.countyofplumas.com).

### I. WELFARE TO WORK & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DIVISION

#### A. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Applications for assistance (CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal) trended downward for the last three months of the fiscal year (October through December) but still remained above or close to 300 applications per month. Nearly one-third of the applications are for CalFresh benefits (formerly Food Stamps). With the exception of one month (during conversion to the C-IV computer system, applications have numbered above 200 per month for all of the three year period shown below. In 2002-2003, the Department averaged 173 applications per month. In the fiscal year just ended in December, the average was 266 per month. The addition of a new position, authorized by the Board in December will ease the work load connected with this increase.



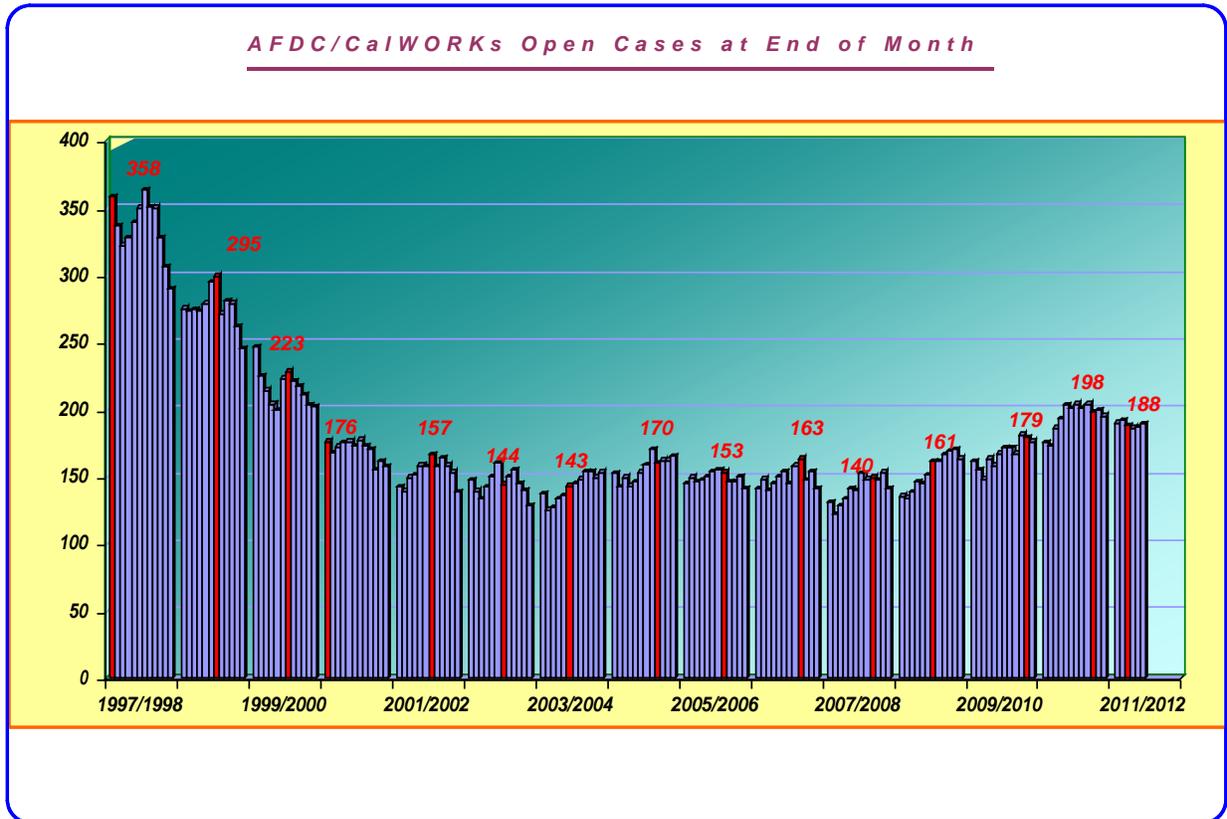
## CONTINUING CASES

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

The count for CalWORKs has been holding steady in the range of about 180-200 cases during the past twelve months. The CalWORKs average case count is still about 25% above the average two years ago.

#### Average Monthly Caseload

<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>189</b>



## (2). CalFresh (Food Stamps) Assistance

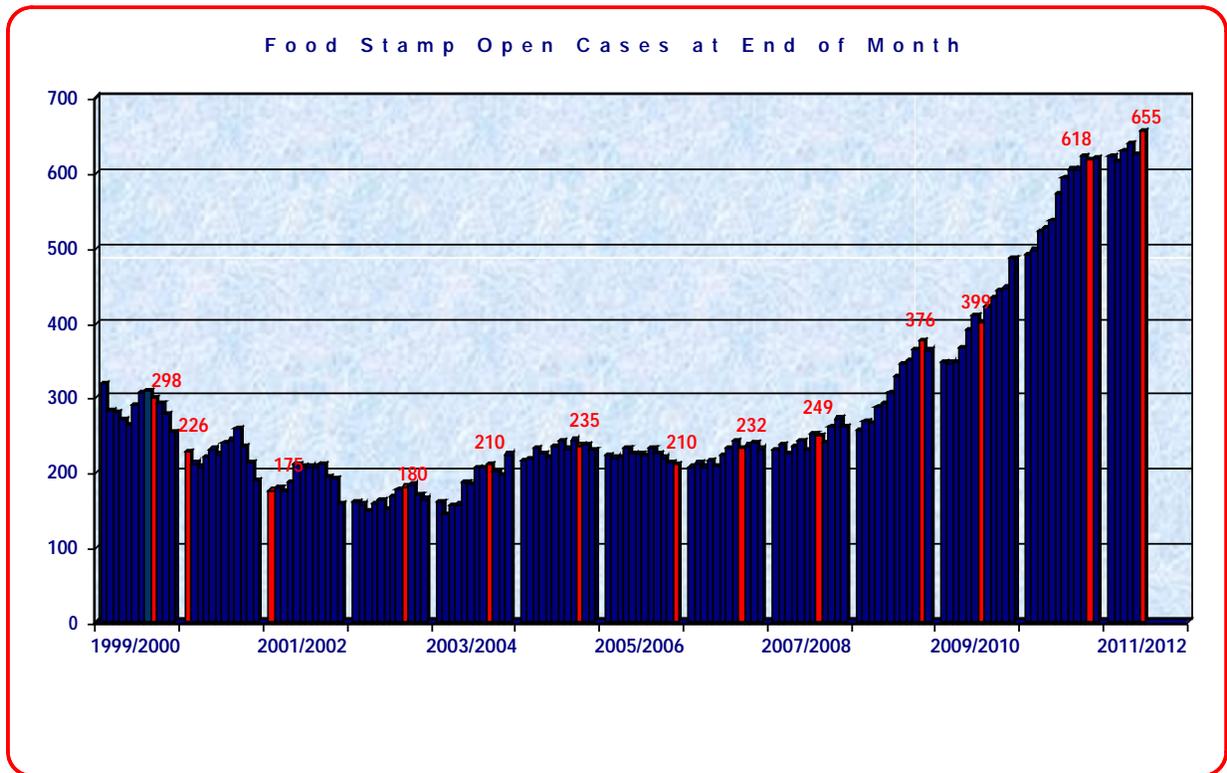
### A. Case Count

The CalFresh (Foodstamp) case count has continued to grow to unprecedented levels. The CalFresh program is what is most commonly meant when the term “the safety net” is used. A single individual whose income is below the poverty level (\$600 per month or less) is generally eligible for an allotment of \$200 per month in CalFresh benefits. The fact that our case count continues to grow is indicative that for many Plumas County residents, the recessionary economy has not begun to recover. In just the past 36 months, there has been a 36% increase in the case count for this program.

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

#### Average Monthly Caseload

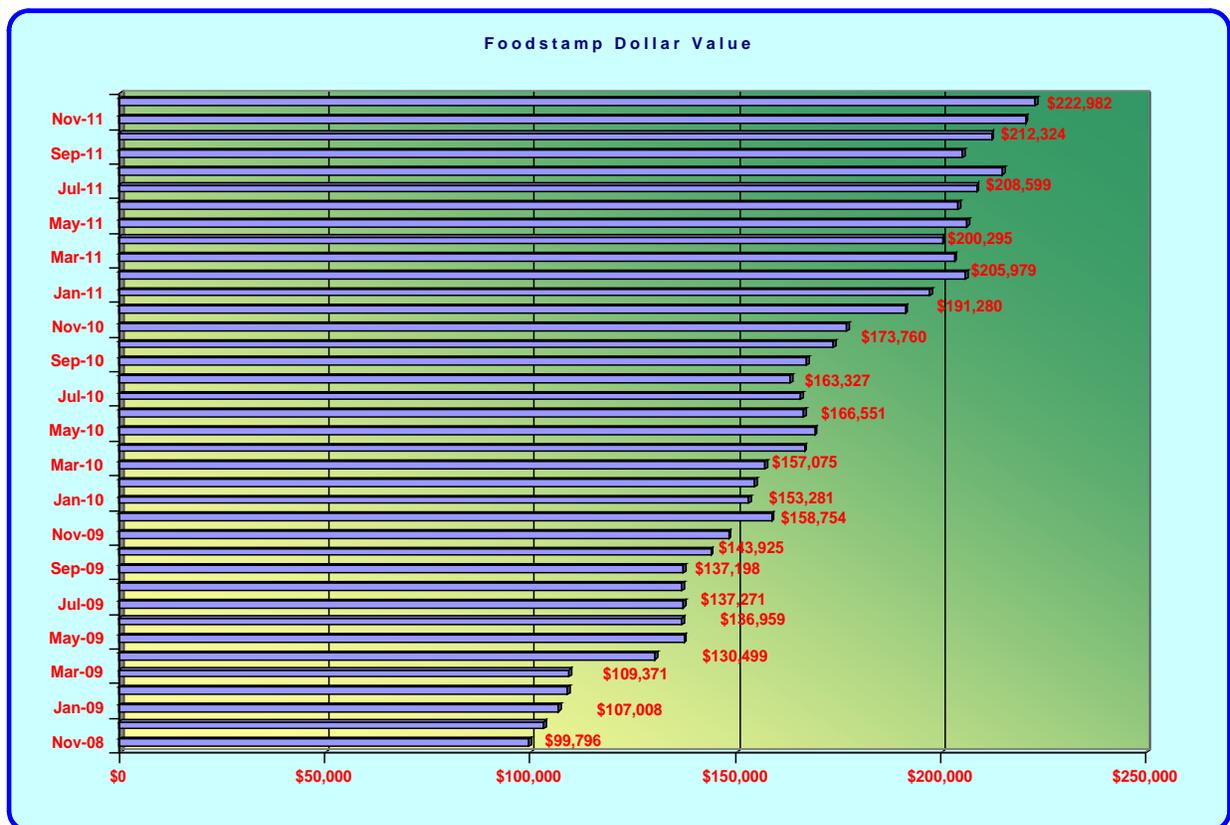
<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>402</b>
<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>567</b>
<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>631</b>



## 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.

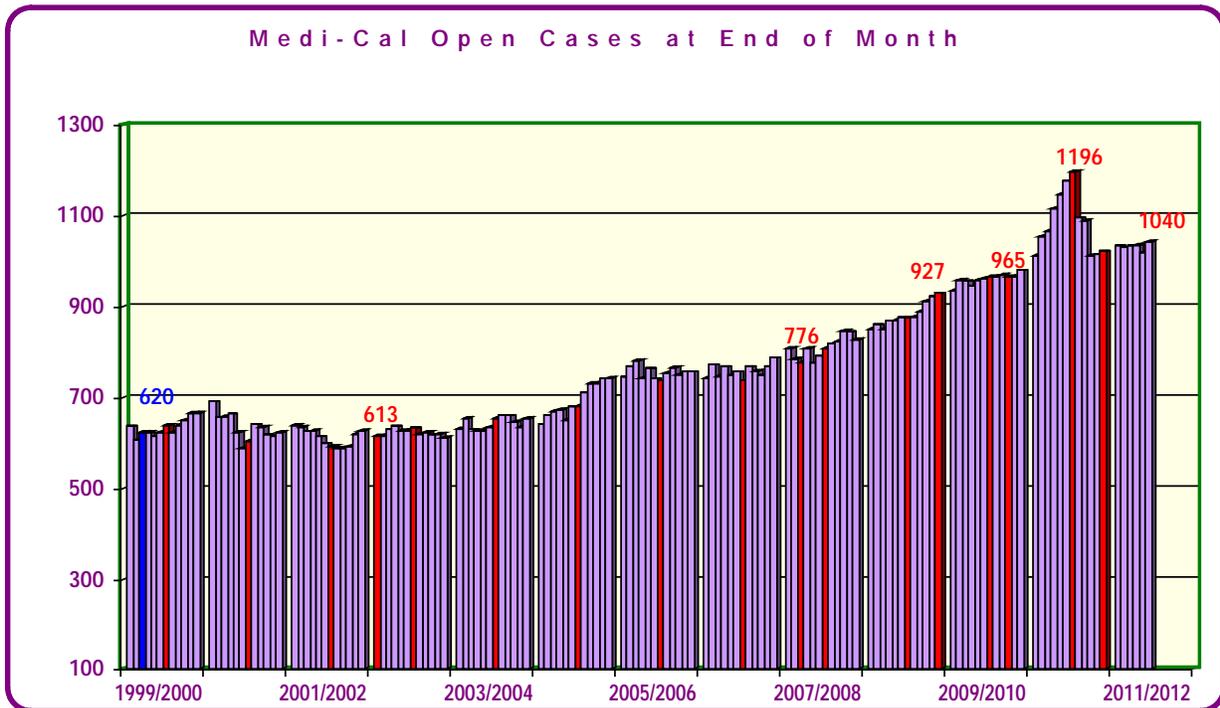


**(3). Medi-Cal**

The case count for the Medi-Cal program took a significant drop about a year ago. At the time, the Department was suggesting that the case count may have reached a plateau for a while. Looking at the trend for the past six months however, it appears that a pattern of growth is emerging again.

**Average Monthly Caseload**

<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>958</b>
<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>1081</b>
<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>1030</b>



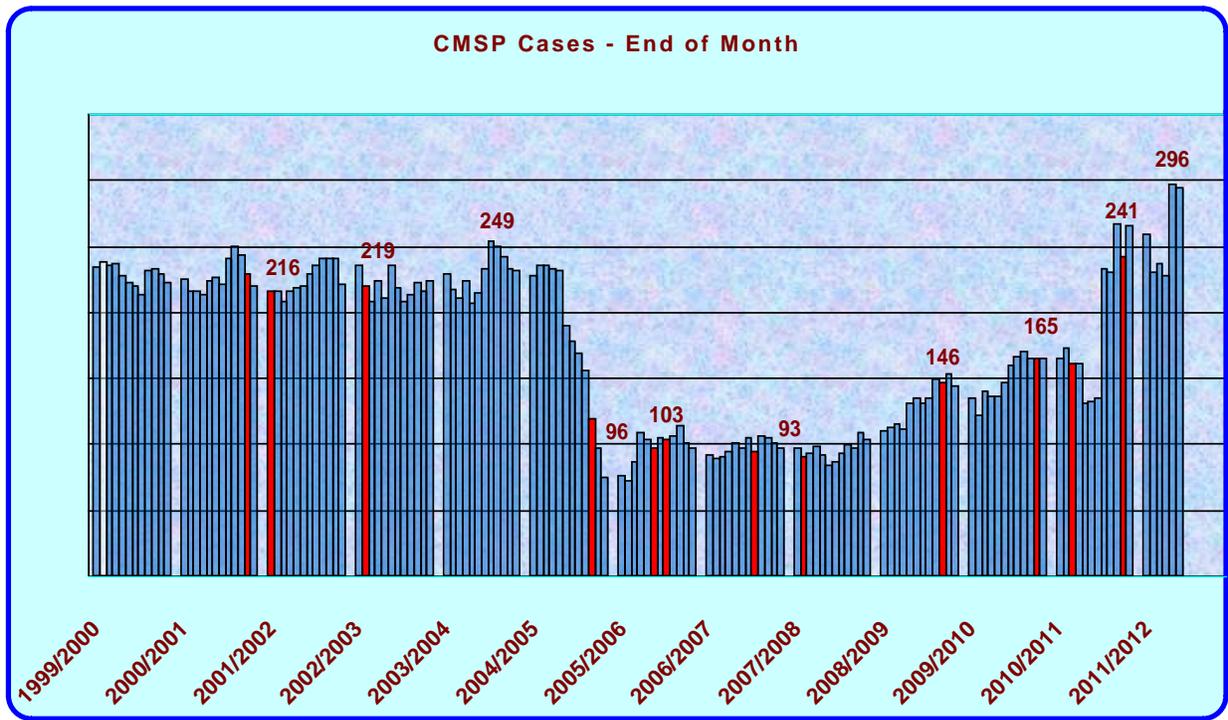
**(4). County Medical Services Program (CMSP)**

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 increase 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. On January 1, 2012, many of our CMSP members were shifted to the new program connected with Federal Health Reform, Path2Health. The Department’s Trends report for the first quarter of 2012 will add a new section that shows the Path2Health caseload.

**Average Monthly Caseload**

<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>257</b>

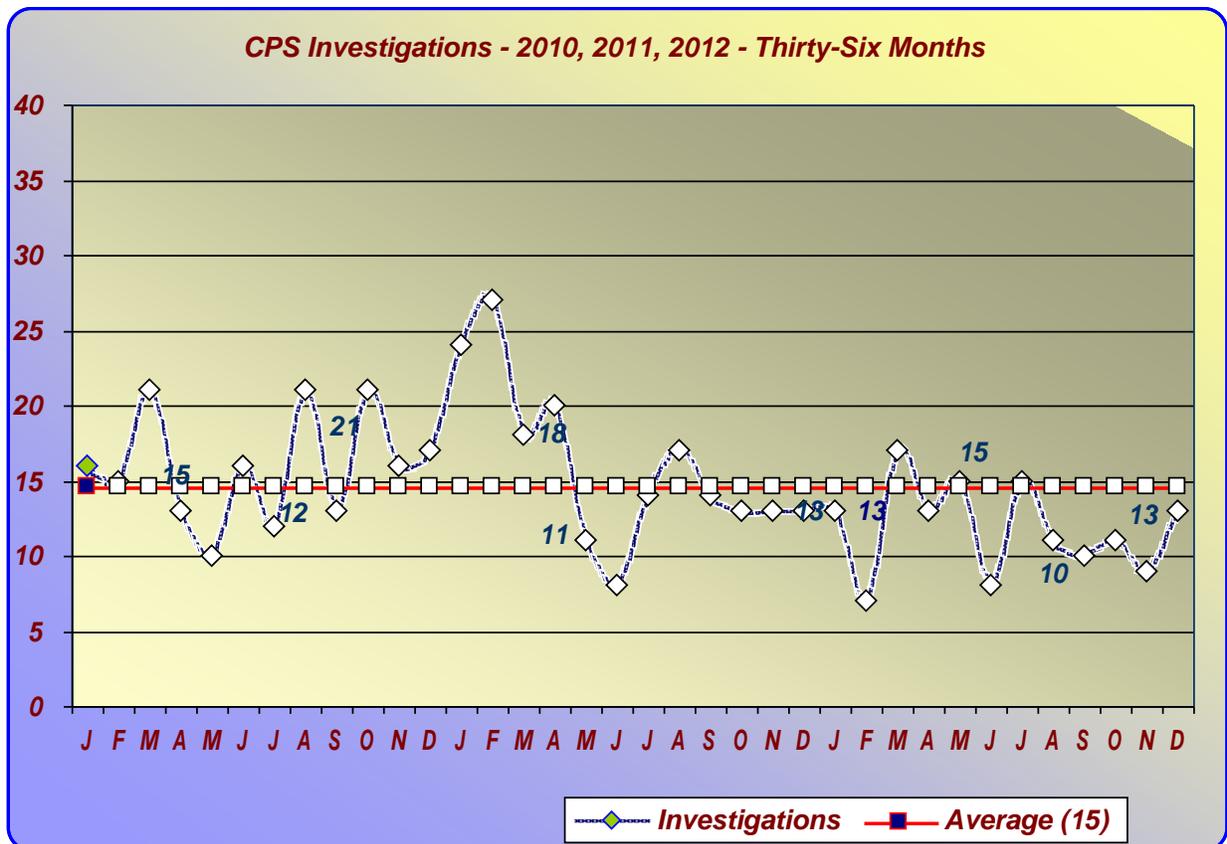


## II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

### A. Child Welfare Services

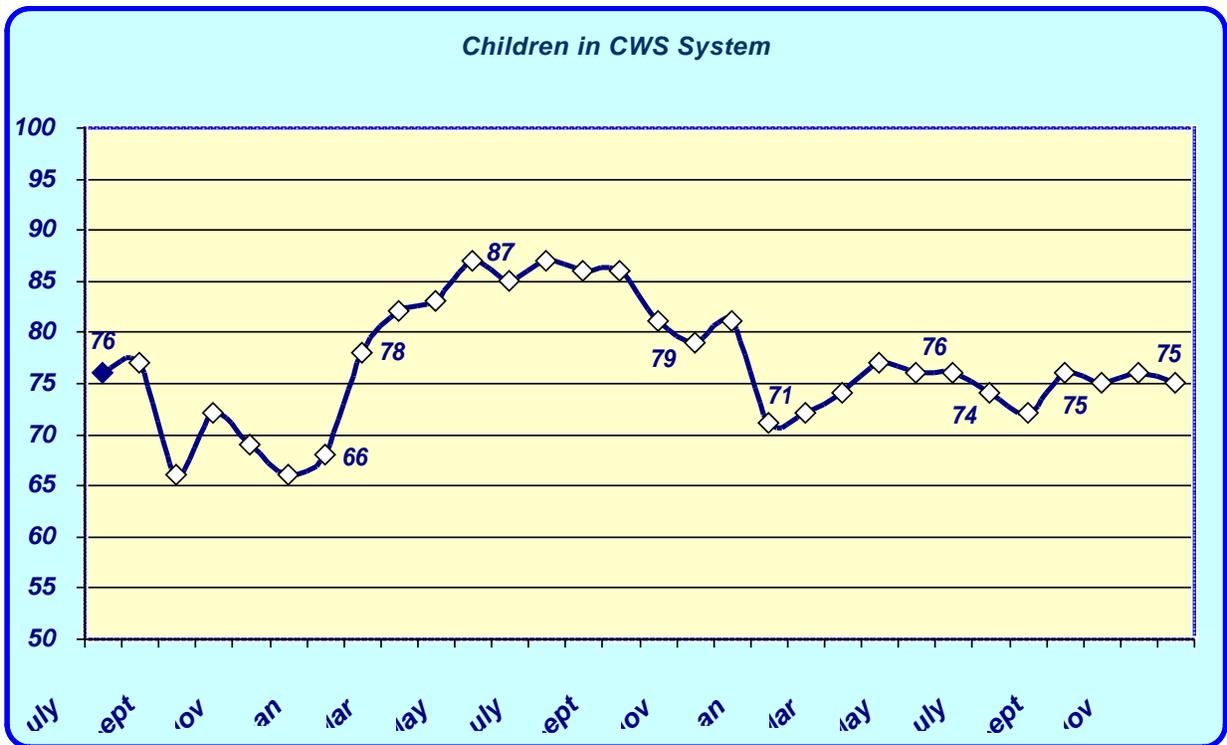
The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averages in the range of about 15 child abuse investigations per month. For the past eighteen months investigations have been running at or below average. This follows a period where referrals for investigation had run above average for close to a year.

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**

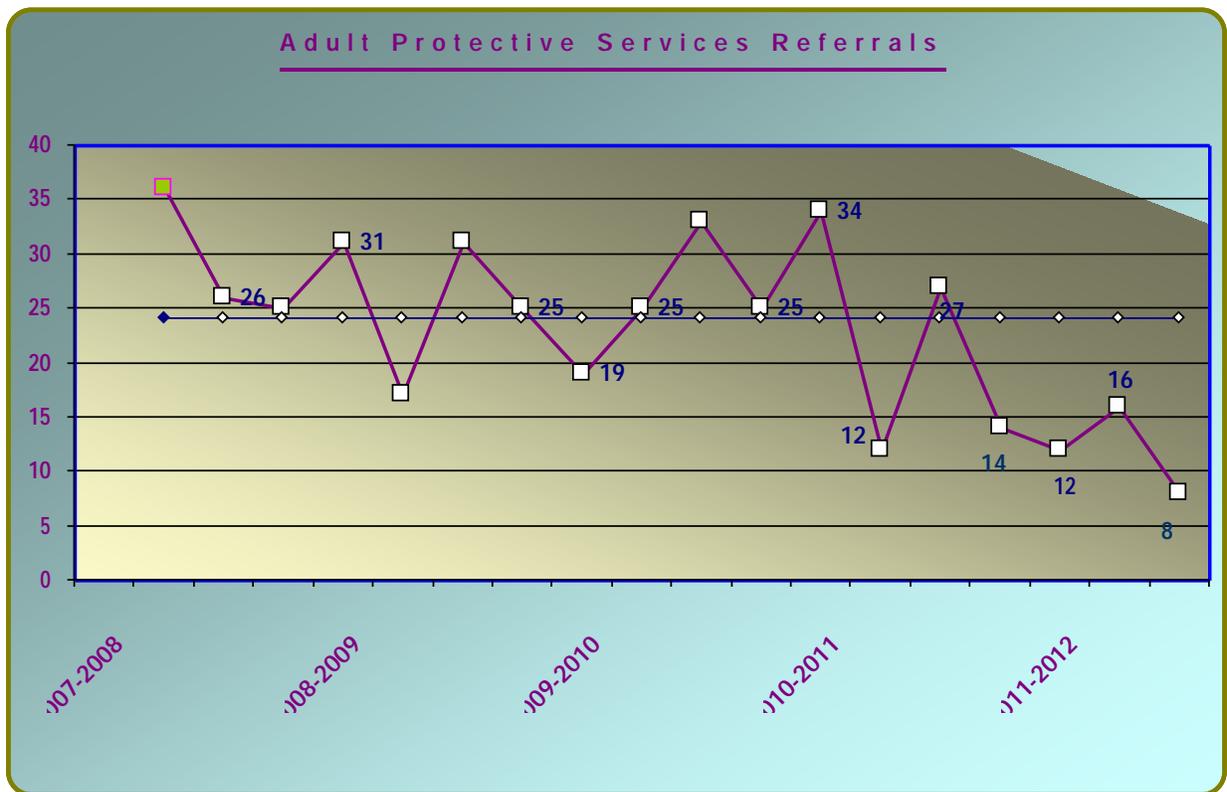
The goal of the Child Welfare System is first and foremost to secure a safe environment for children so that they are able to remain in or be quickly returned to their own home. The trend for children who are in the CWS system has leveled off to an average that fluctuates right around 75 children in the system at any particular time. A continuing emphasis in the program now is to make efforts to achieve less restrictive placements for children that are placed in group home care.



### C. Adult Protective Services

The average number of referrals for this program tends to be in the range of about 25 referrals per quarter. For the past twelve months, referrals for investigation of abused or neglected adults have run below 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 referrals we receive.

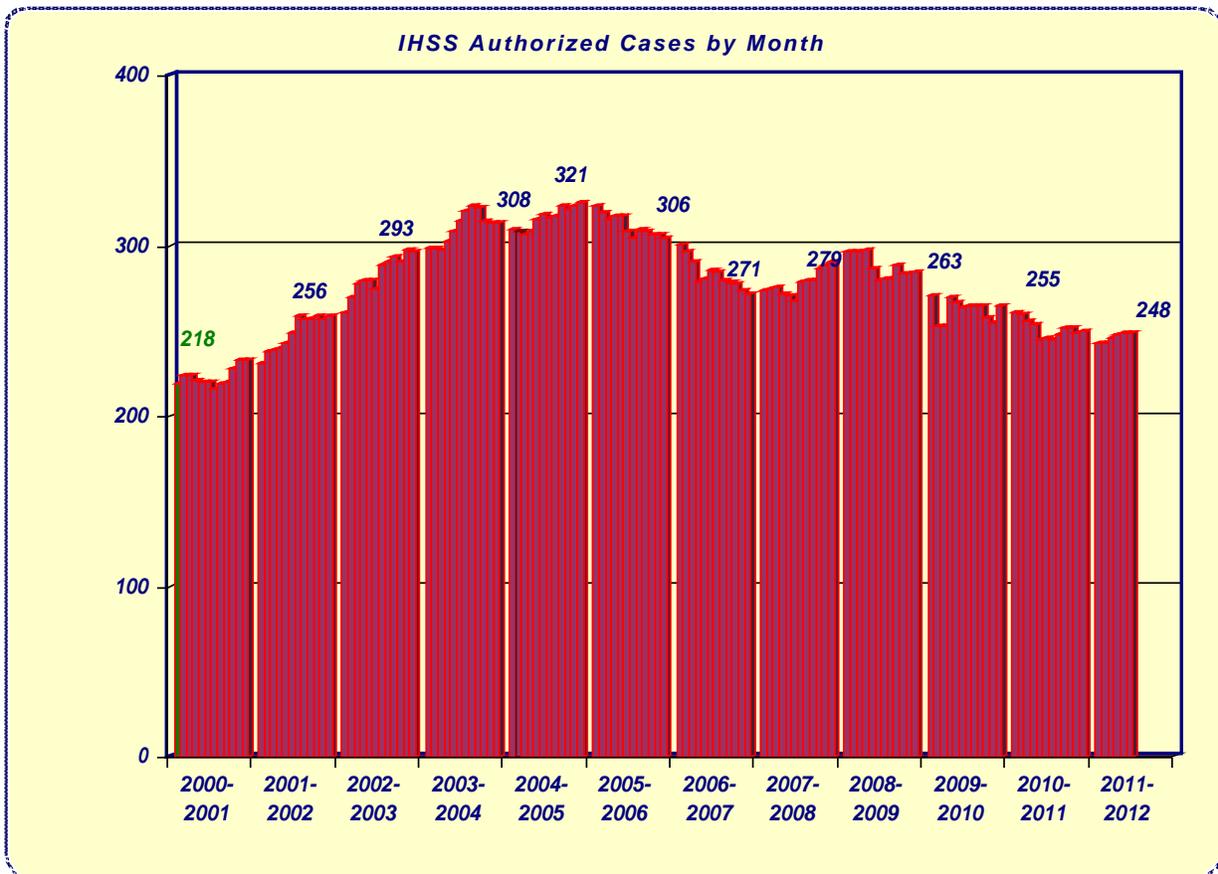


### D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

The case count for IHSS has clearly flattened. Over the course of the past two plus years, there has been about a seven to ten percent fluctuation in the case count with trend heading slightly downward. Presently, we see no indication in the near term that there will be growth in this program.

#### Average Monthly Case Count

<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>251</b>
<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>245</b>



### **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 two new probate referrals that have been received for evaluation for potential conservatorship.