

SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

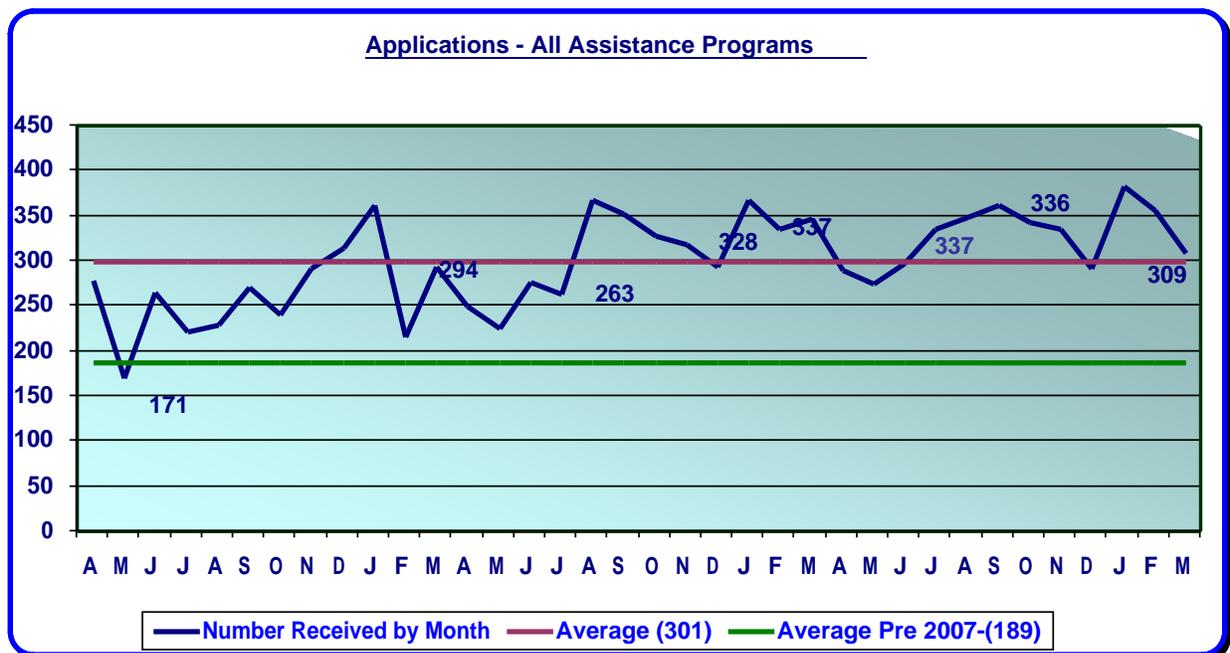
Quarter Ending: March 31, 2013

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 March 31, 2013. 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) have generally stayed above 300 per month for the past nine months. The Department continues to receive applications at a pace that is much greater than prior to 2007. 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 301 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 programs (Medi-Cal, Path2Health or CMSP).



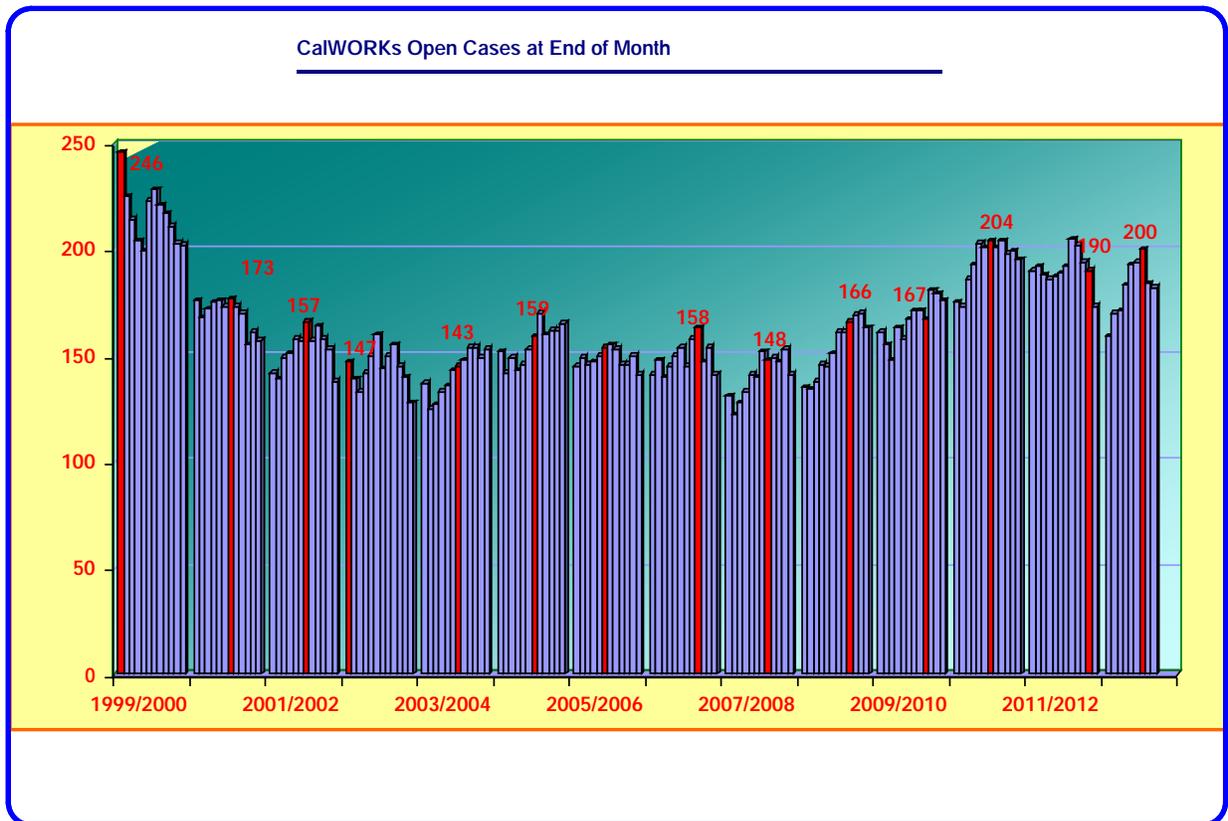
CONTINUING CASES

(1). Cash Assistance (AFDC/CalWORKs)

The case count for CalWORKs assistance has been staying in a range that fluctuates between 150-200 cases. The trend has generally been downward (the average caseload has dropped by a little over 5%). Of particular note is that one-third of the CalWORKs cases are “child only” cases meaning that the adult has another source of income and is likely 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	194
2011/2012	191
2012/2013	182



(2). CalFresh (Food Stamps) Assistance

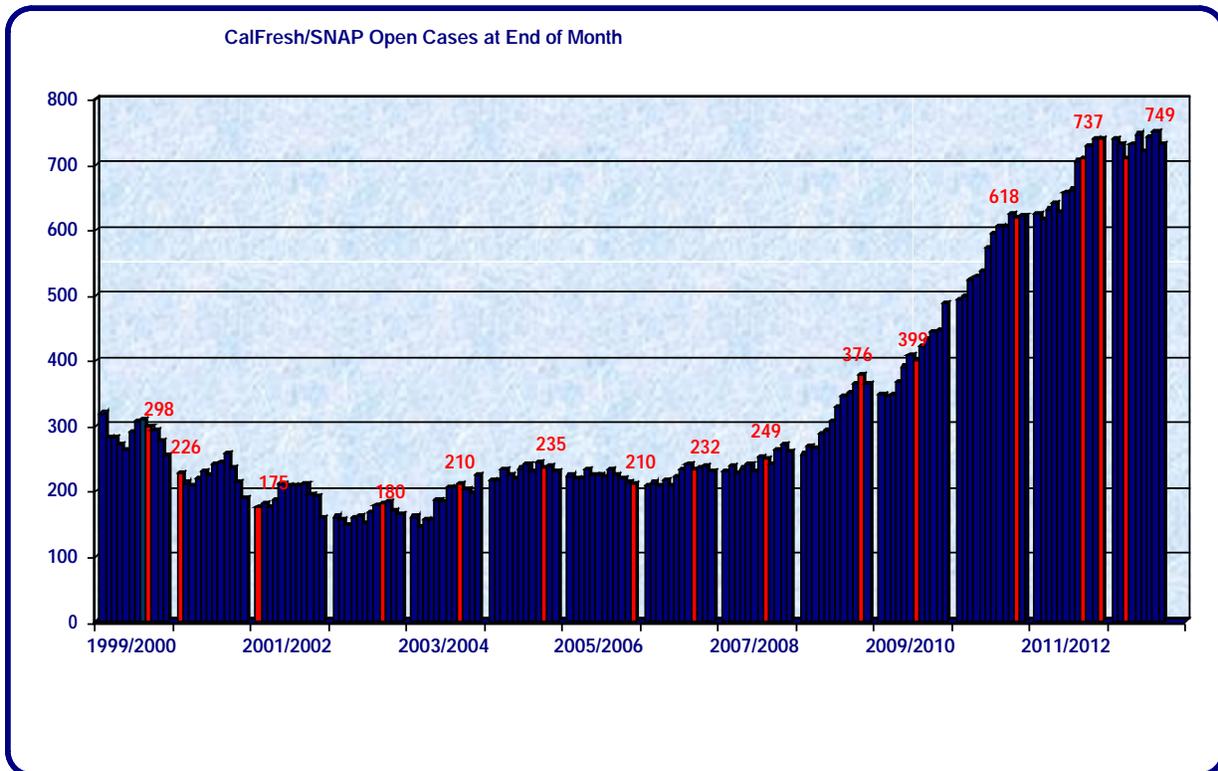
A. Case Count

The case count for CalFresh has tripled in just under five years. As was identified in prior reports, the unprecedented growth rate seems to have leveled during the past twelve months. While the Department would like to believe that this represents a trend, we also believe that data would need to be sustained for another twelve months, before we could make such an assertion.

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

Average Monthly Caseload

2010/2011	567
2011/2012	672
2012/2013	732



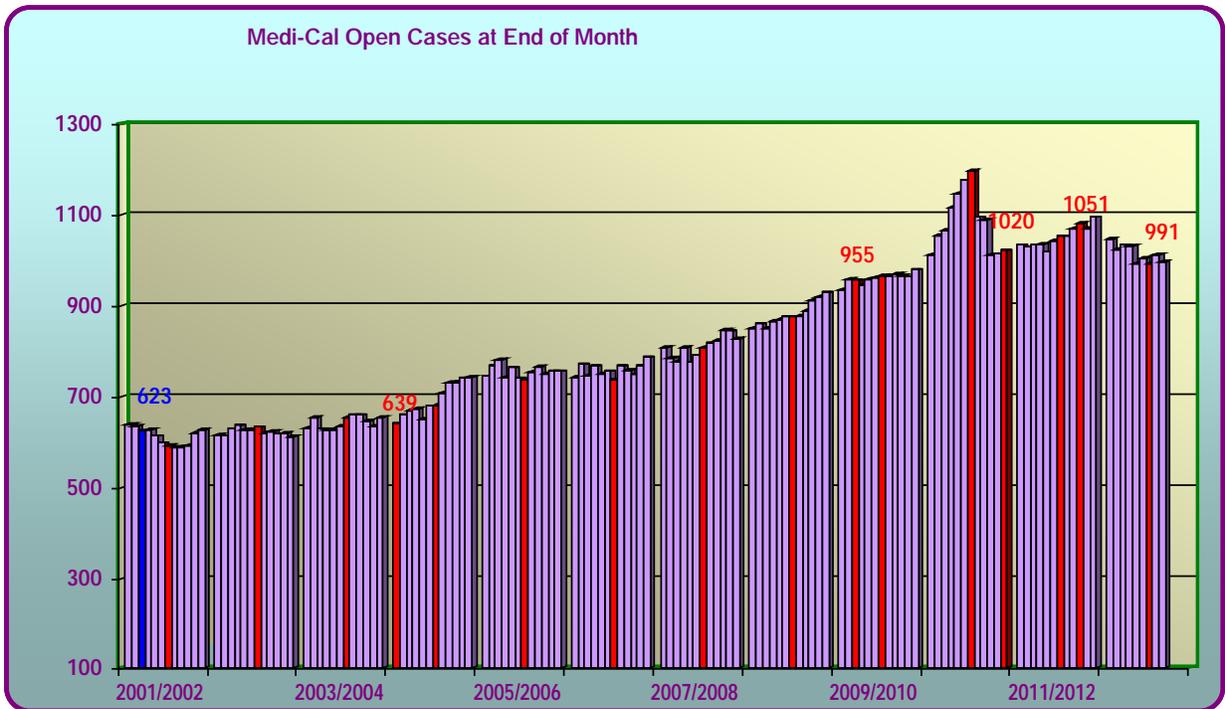
(3). Medi-Cal

The Medi-Cal case count has continued its slow decline. This pattern will likely change in the next few months as the Healthy Families program gets transferred to the Medi-Cal program beginning in July. We expect that as many as 200 families will be added to Medi-Cal as a result of this.

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

2010/2011	1081
2011/2012	1049
2012/2013	1013

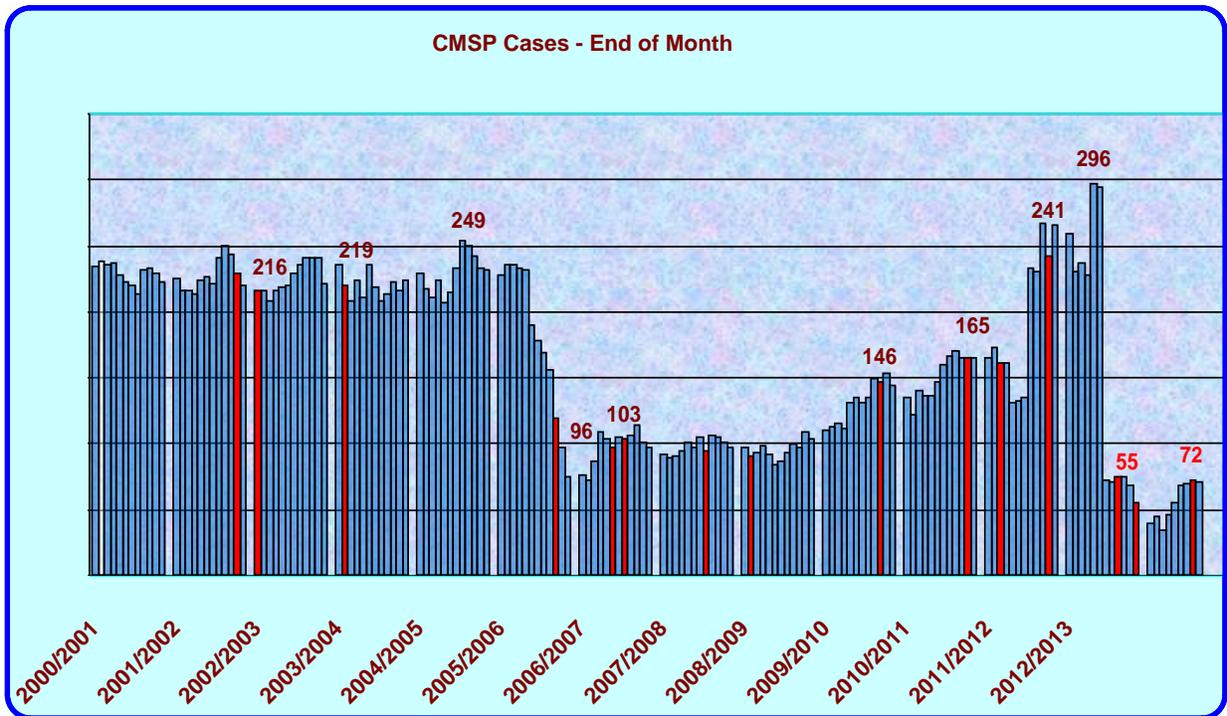


(4). County Medical Services Program (CMSP)

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

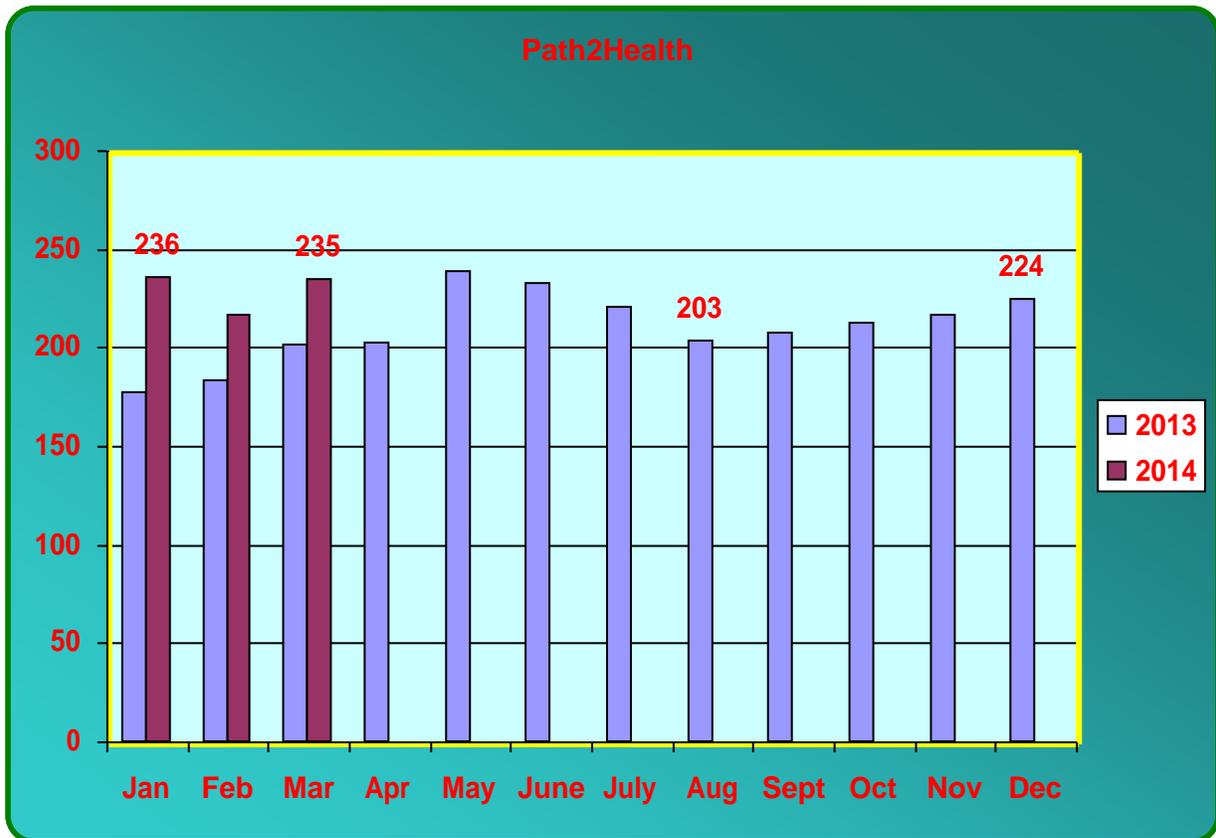
2010/2011	191
2011/2012	69
2012/2013	70



(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. These are also the individuals that will be transferred to Medi-Cal effective January 1, 2014.

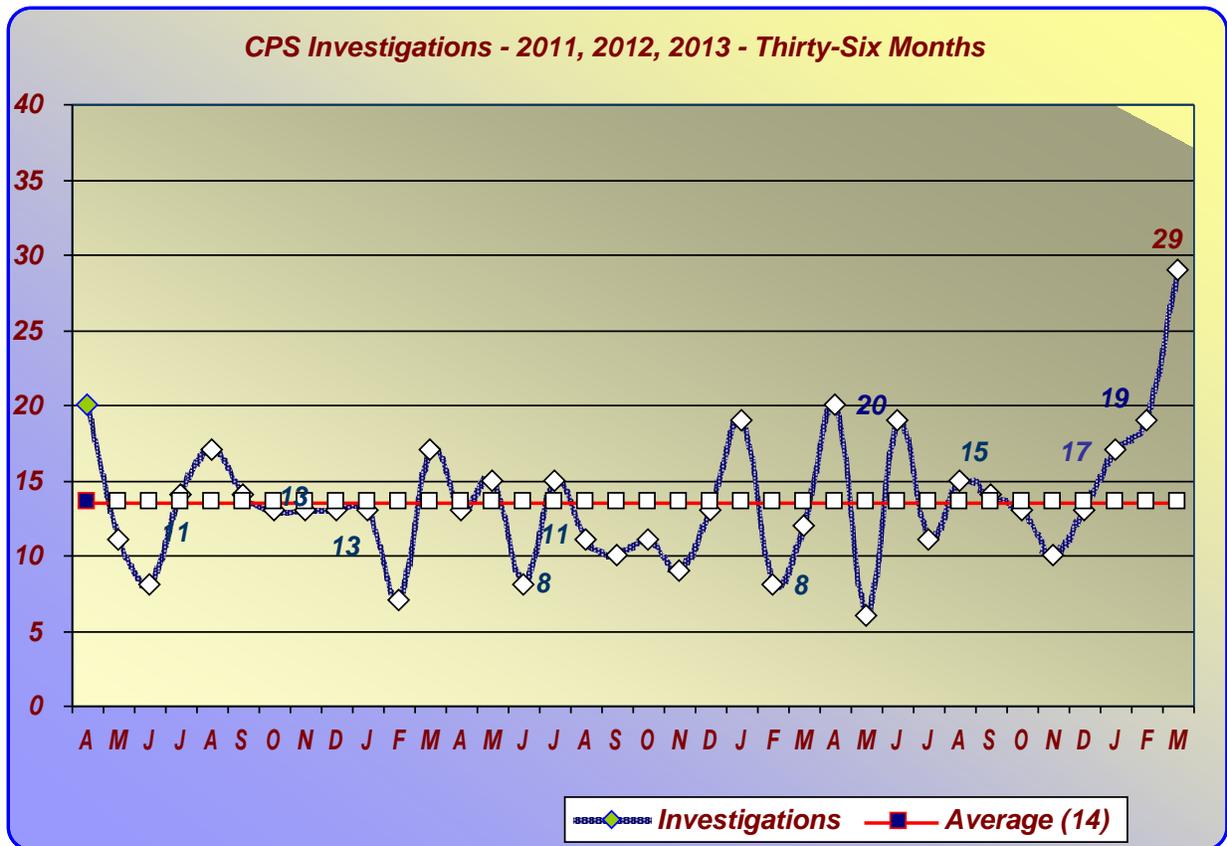


II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Child Welfare Services

The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averages in the range of about 14 child abuse investigations per month. The most recent three month period of January through March included above-average referral counts. The March count of 29 referrals is a thirty-six month high count.

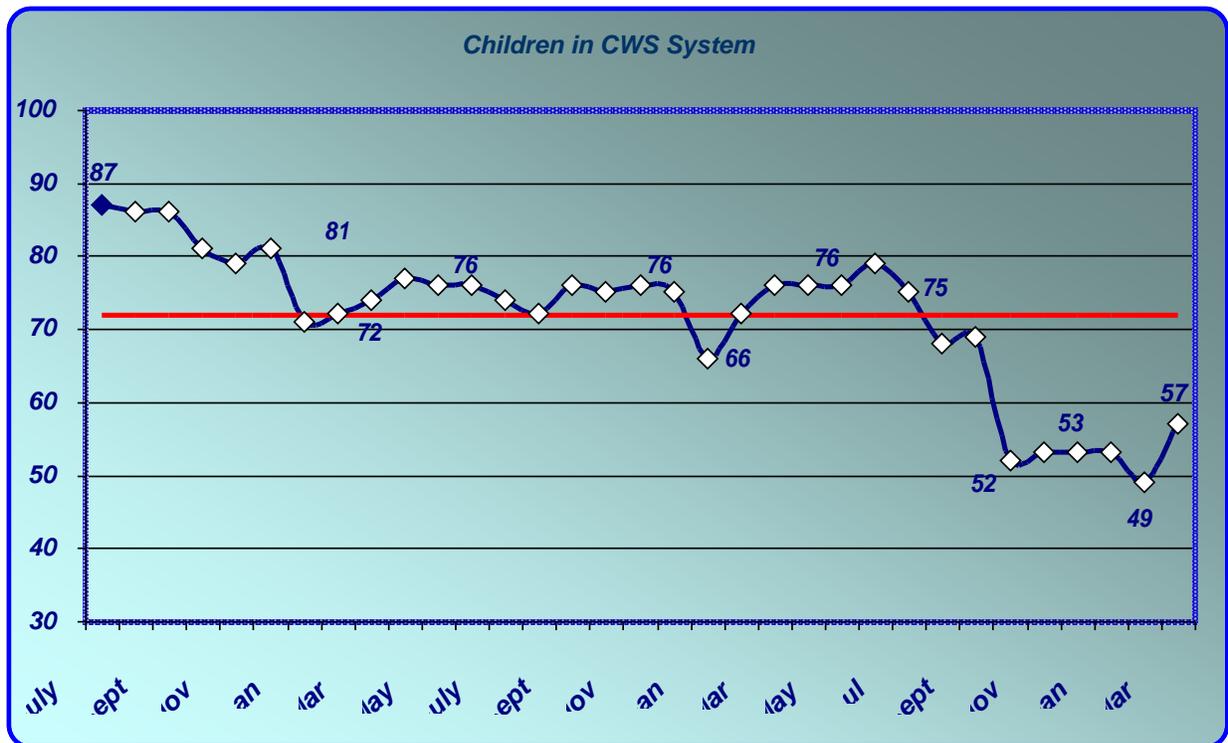
As the Department has noted previously, we have continued to experience significant numbers of cases where the precipitating factors leading to abuse and neglect are associated with substance abuse, in particular methamphetamine but also alcohol and other drugs. With that in mind, we are pleased to see 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. During the three month period from January to March, the Department received much higher than average referrals to the CPS program. This accounts for the increase in the system during March.

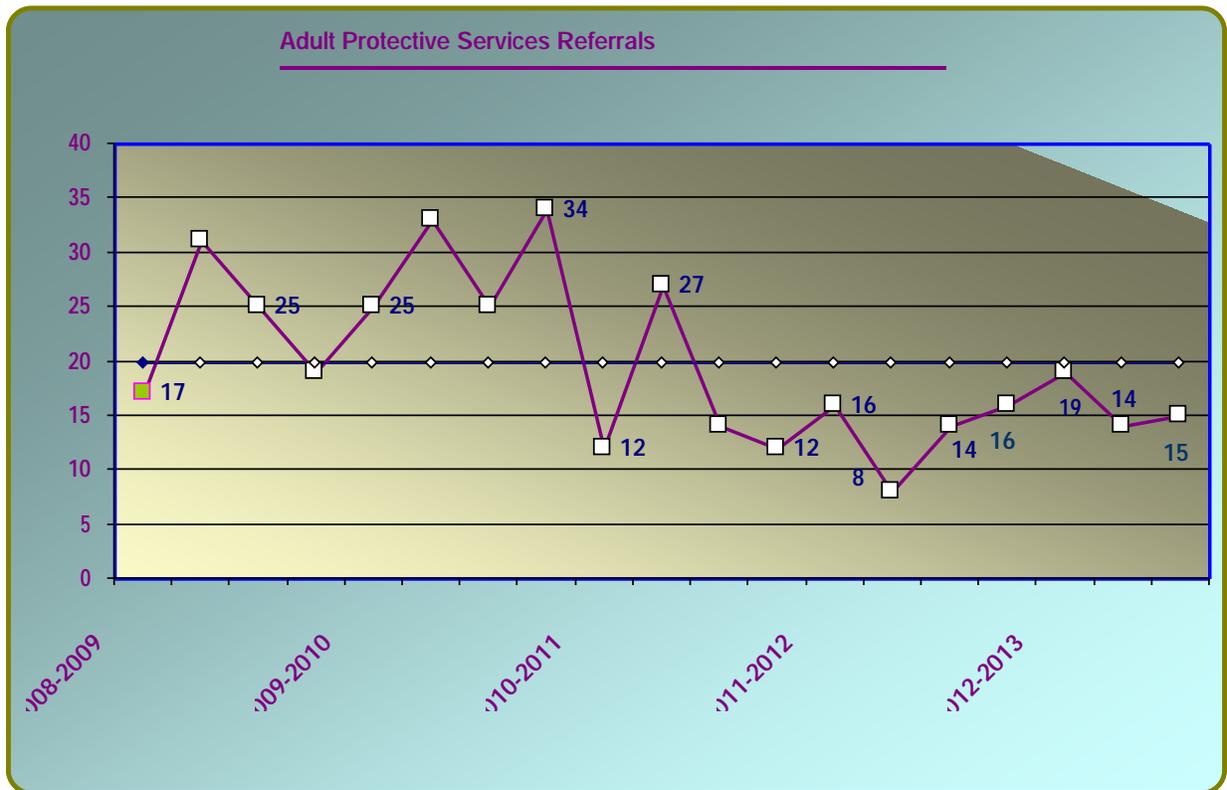
A continuing emphasis in the program now is to make efforts to achieve less restrictive placements and to place children with non-relative extended family members. In some instances the emphasis on placing with non-relative extended family members has resulted in lowered utilization of Foster Family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



C. Adult Protective Services

The average number of referrals for this program has, in the past, tended to be in the range of about 20 referrals per quarter. More recently, referrals for investigation of abused or neglected adults have been running lower and the average has dropped to about 15 referrals per quarter.

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.

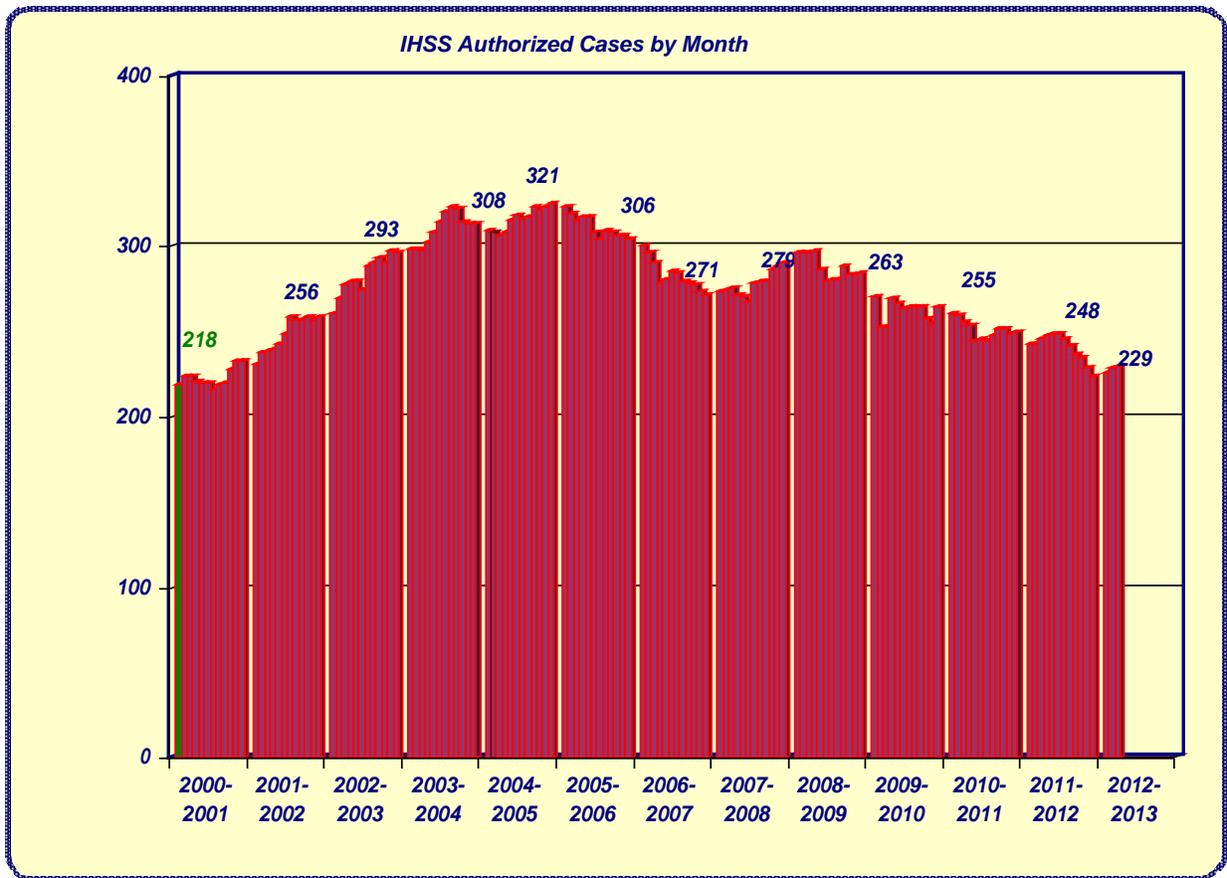


D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

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	229



III. PUBLIC GUARDIAN

The Public Guardian currently provides guardianship and conservator services to a total of 12 LPS and Probate conservatees. The Public Guardian also serves as representative payee for 10 SSI recipients.