

## SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

Quarter Ending: June 30, 2014

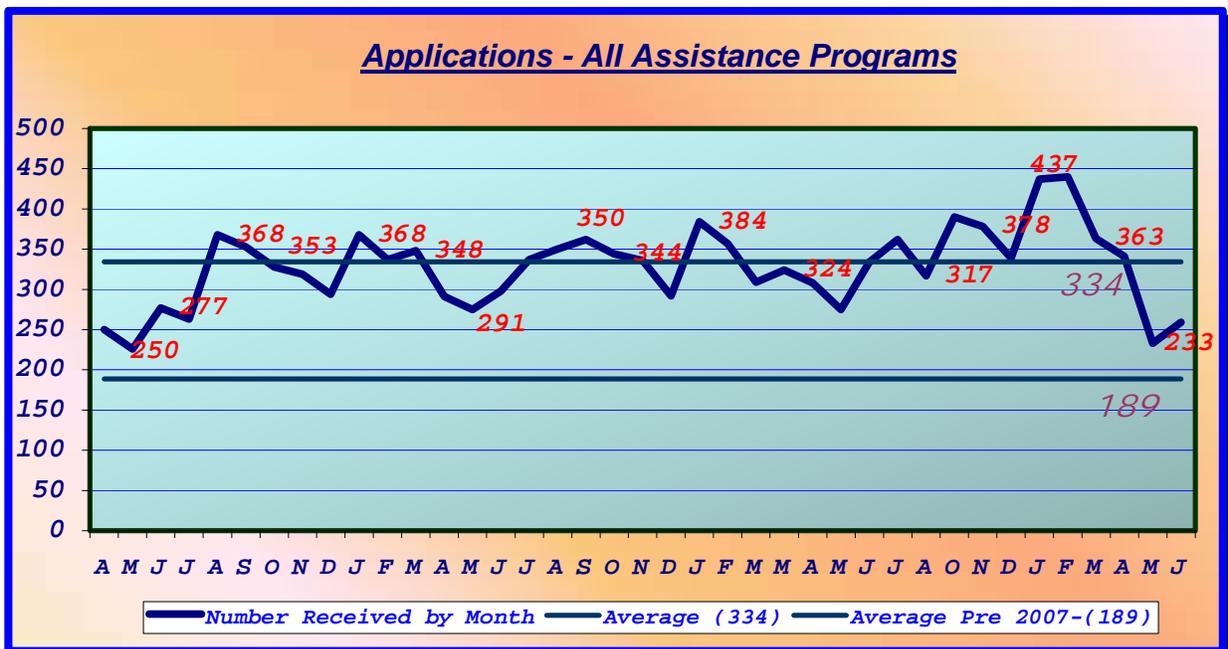
Social Services Trends is a quarterly report to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and members of the public. This report provides case counts, application data, referrals for services and other workload information in the Department of Social Services. This edition of Trends includes case counts and workload data for the three-month quarter that ended June 30, 2014. 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](http://www.countyofplumas.com).

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

#### A. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Following two record breaking months of applications (437 in January and 440 applications in February) application counts have dropped significantly for the first time in nearly three years. A portion of that drop is associated with a decline in CalFresh applications (64 in May compared to 102 in March). There was also a significant drop in the number of Medi-Cal applications.

The average monthly application count for the thirty-six month period shown below has reached 334 per month. Prior to 2007, the average was 189 per month.



## **B. CONTINUING CASES**

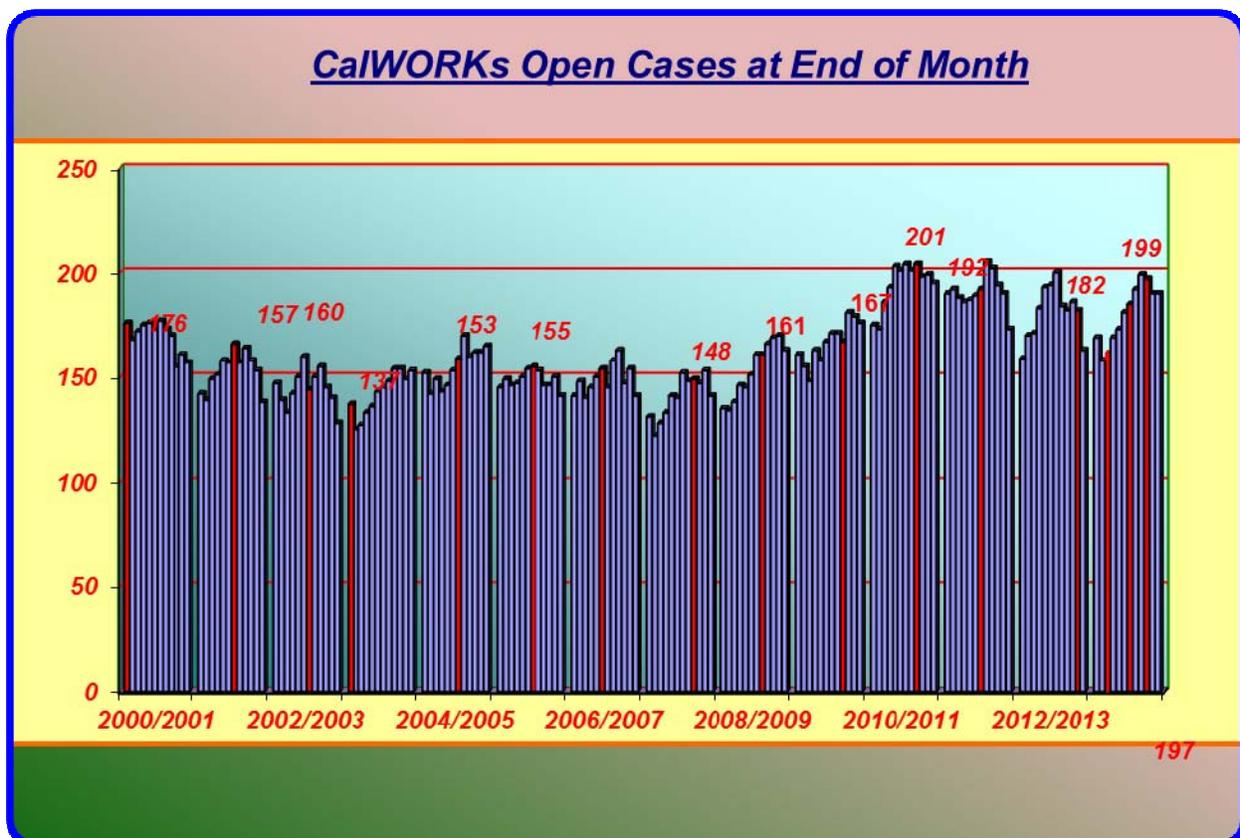
### **(1). Cash Assistance (AFDC/CalWORKs)**

The case count for CalWORKs assistance has been staying in a range that fluctuates between 150-200 cases. The case count dropped slightly during the past three months (190 cases at the end of June). 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.

In June, the Department was notified that it had achieved a work participation rate for CalWORKs that exceed both the Federal and the state rates for work participation (WPR) and placing Plumas sixth best in the state at moving recipients into work activities (see enclosed Tables). Credit is given to Welfare to Work staff for this excellent performance.

#### **Average Monthly Caseload**

<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>180</b>



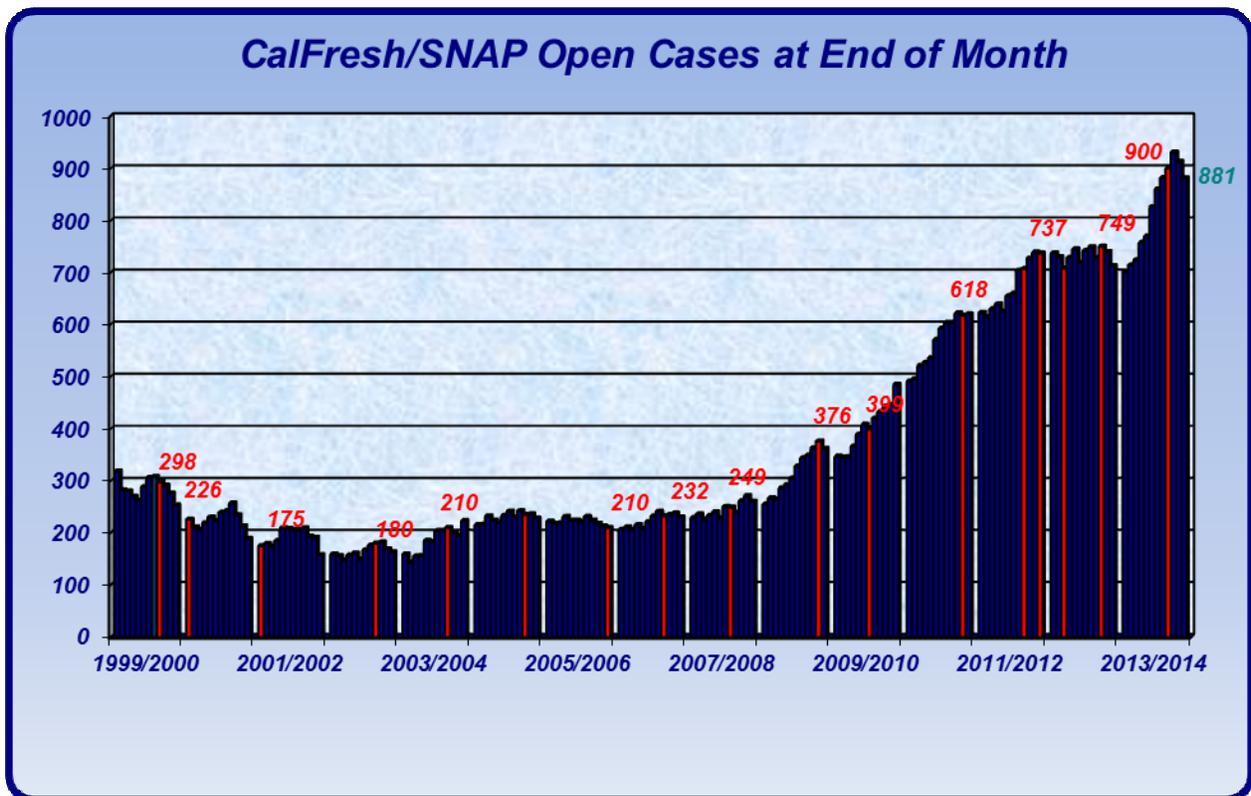
## **(2). CalFresh (Food Stamps) Assistance**

### **A. Case Count**

The case count totaled 931 at the end of April. As was reported previously, two things have contributed to the growth in this program. First, a weak economy has continued to plague job availability. Second, many of the people who've applied for Medi-Cal in order to comply with the ACA have also applied for CalFresh benefits and are eligible for them. The Department believes that the growth in this program is ending. Jobs are beginning to appear again and the application count for this program has finally begun to drop.

#### **Average Monthly Caseload**

<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>672</b>
<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>733</b>
<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>822</b>



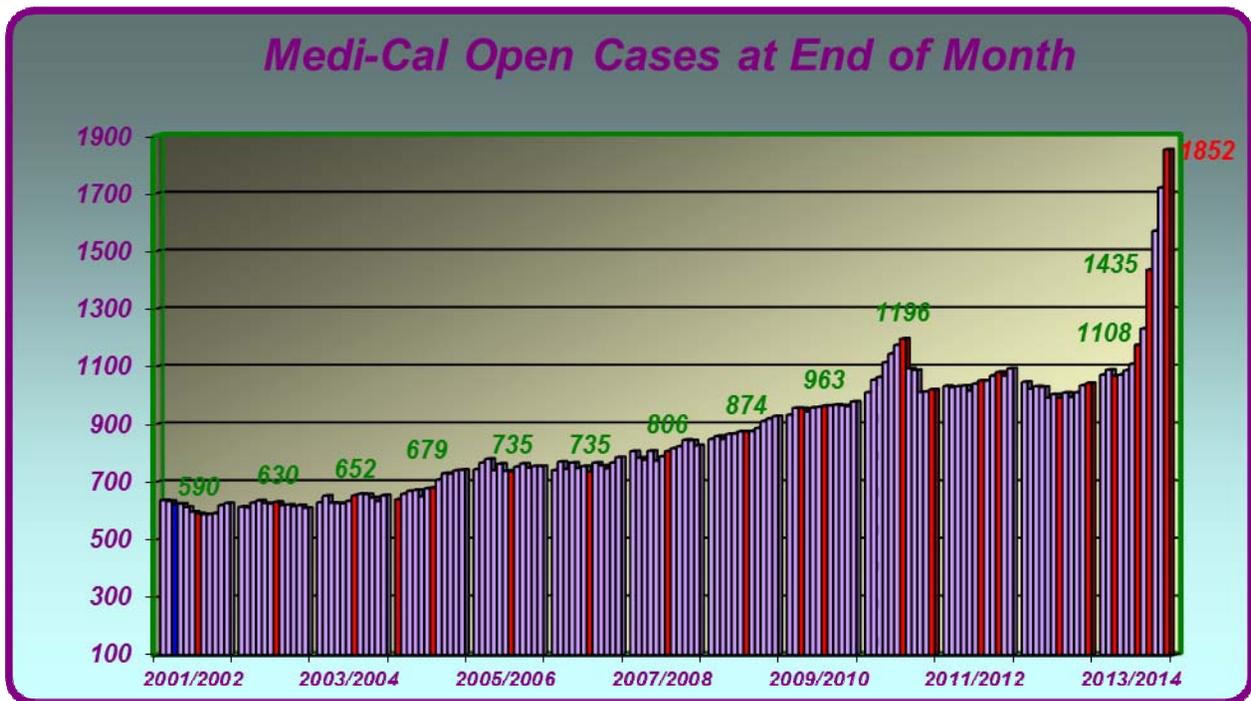
**(3). Medi-Cal**

In our December Trends report, the Department estimated that as many as 500 new individuals would become eligible for the Medi-Cal program by the end of March (when the open enrollment period ended for the Affordable Care Act). This new group of eligible recipients would be the result from new eligibles (people whose income is below 167% of poverty) and those who transfer from the prior County indigent population (those who were previously on Path2Health).

At the end of December, 2013, the Medi-Cal case count was 1108 cases. At the end of June, our count was 1852 or an increase of 744. It appears that the Department's estimate of new cases to be added was low.

**Average Monthly Caseload**

<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>1049</b>
<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>1017</b>
<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>1459</b>

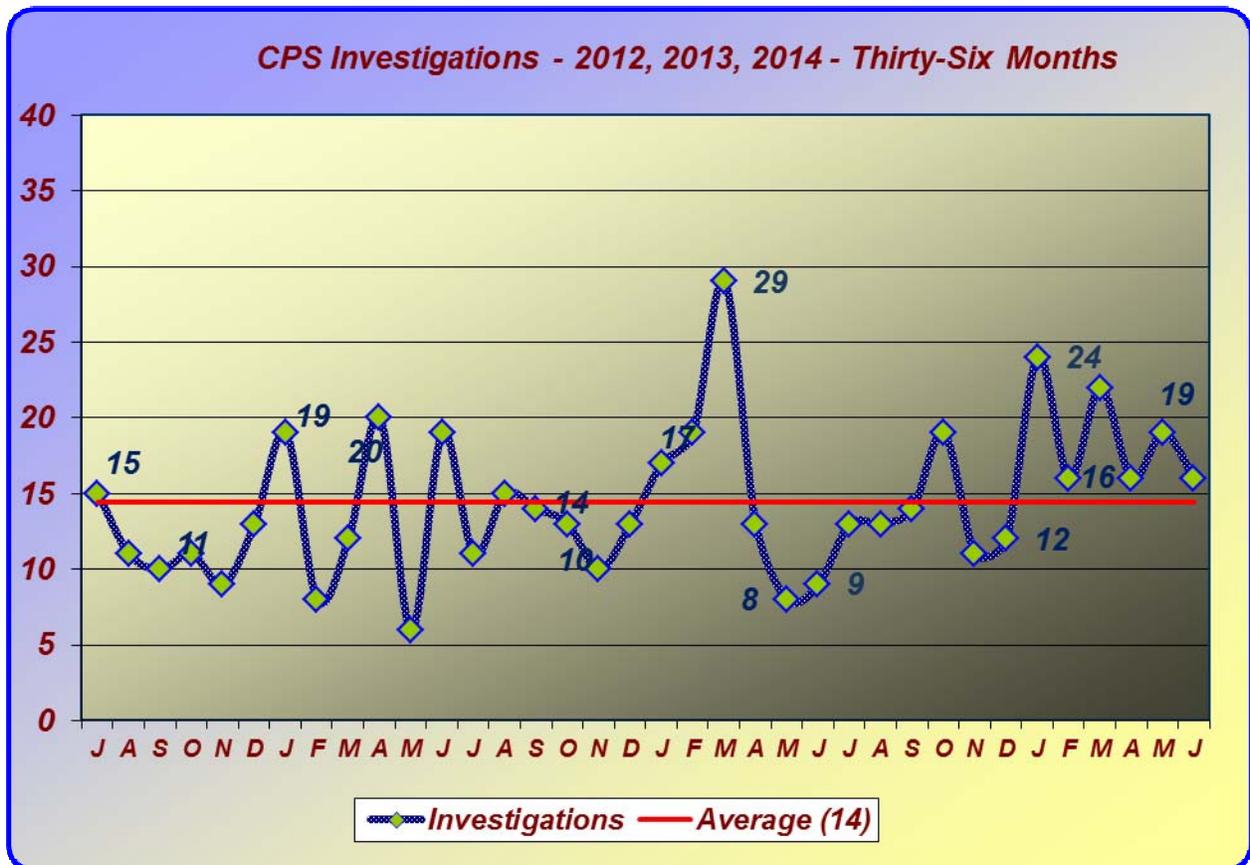


## II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

### A. Child Welfare Services

The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averages in the range of about 14 child abuse investigations per month. During the three month period from April through June the Department investigated a total of 51 allegations of child abuse or an average of about 17 per month.

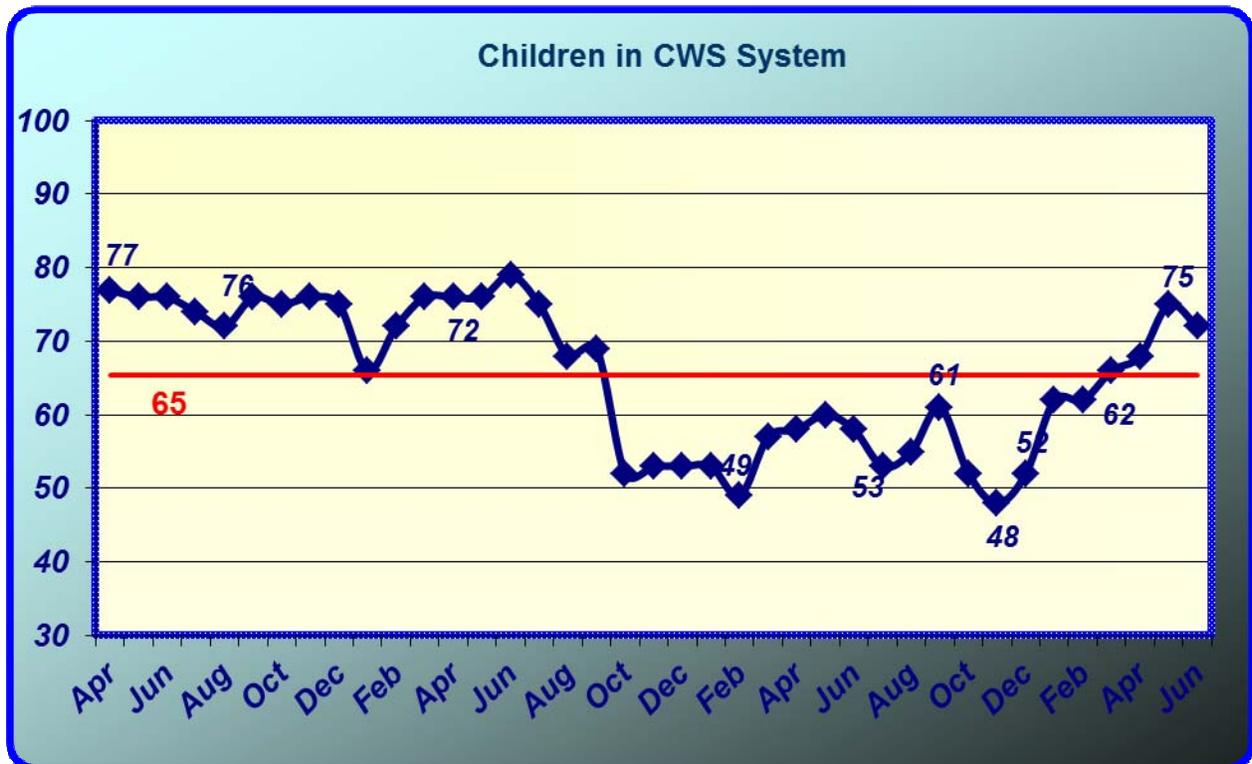
As the Department has noted previously, we have continued to experience significant numbers of cases where the precipitating factors leading to abuse and neglect are associated with substance abuse, in particular methamphetamine but also alcohol and other drugs. Substance abuse is the foremost reason that children are removed from unsafe environments.



## B. Children in the Child Welfare Services System

As was reported in prior quarter Trends, we are continuing to see growth in the number of children in the child welfare system. The Department has noted that two elements continue to contribute to this growth. First, the number of investigations performed during this period has continued to be higher than average. Second, under Assembly Bill 12 children can remain in foster care until they are 20. Under prior law the age limit was 18. The Department has 6 foster youth who are AB 12 youth.

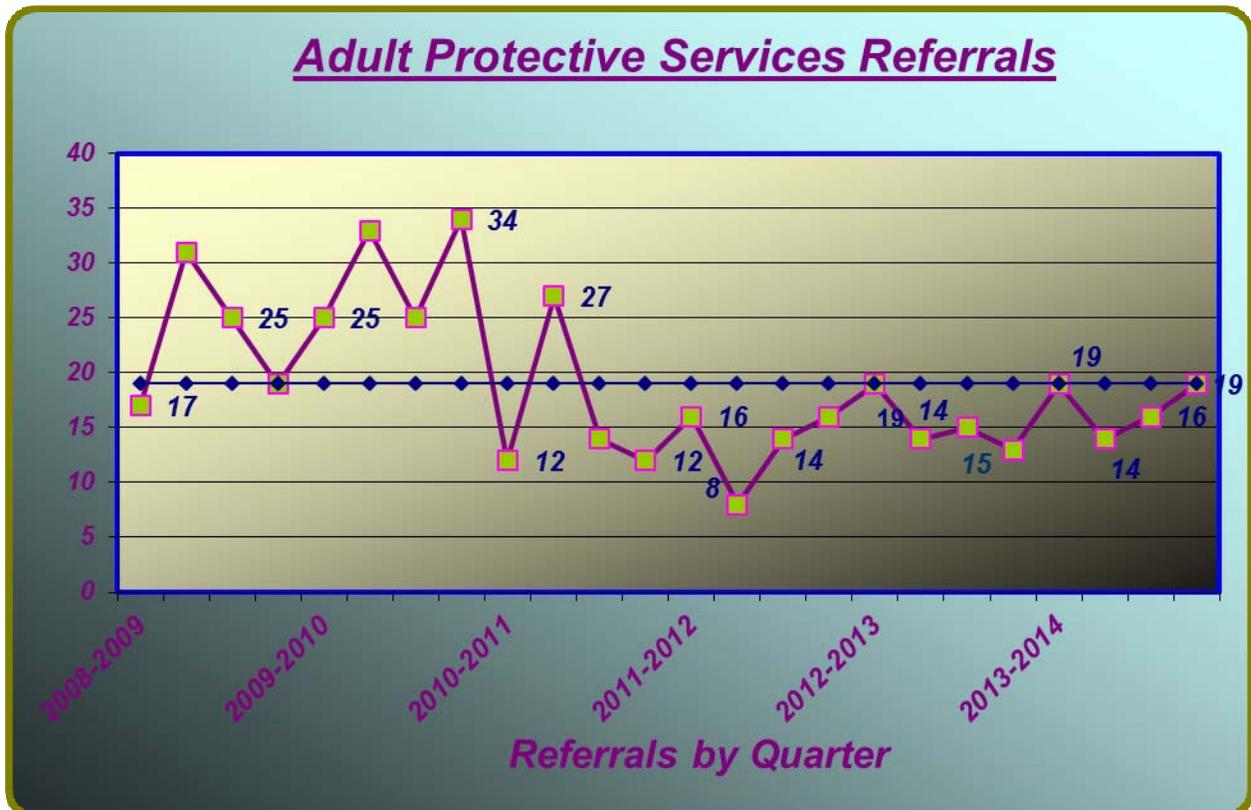
The Department has continued its trend toward placing foster children with relatives and with non-related extended family members. This has placed us in a position where we are less reliant on foster family agencies and foster homes for placement resources. We expect that trend to continue.



### C. Adult Protective Services

The average number of referrals for investigation of elderly and disabled persons has run in the range of about 19 referrals per quarter. For the past three and a half years, the number of referrals has been at or below average. There are instances where adults may live in situations that don't meet a community standard for what would otherwise be considered healthy or safe. However in many of these situations the Department can't assist the individual unless they voluntarily agree to it.

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.

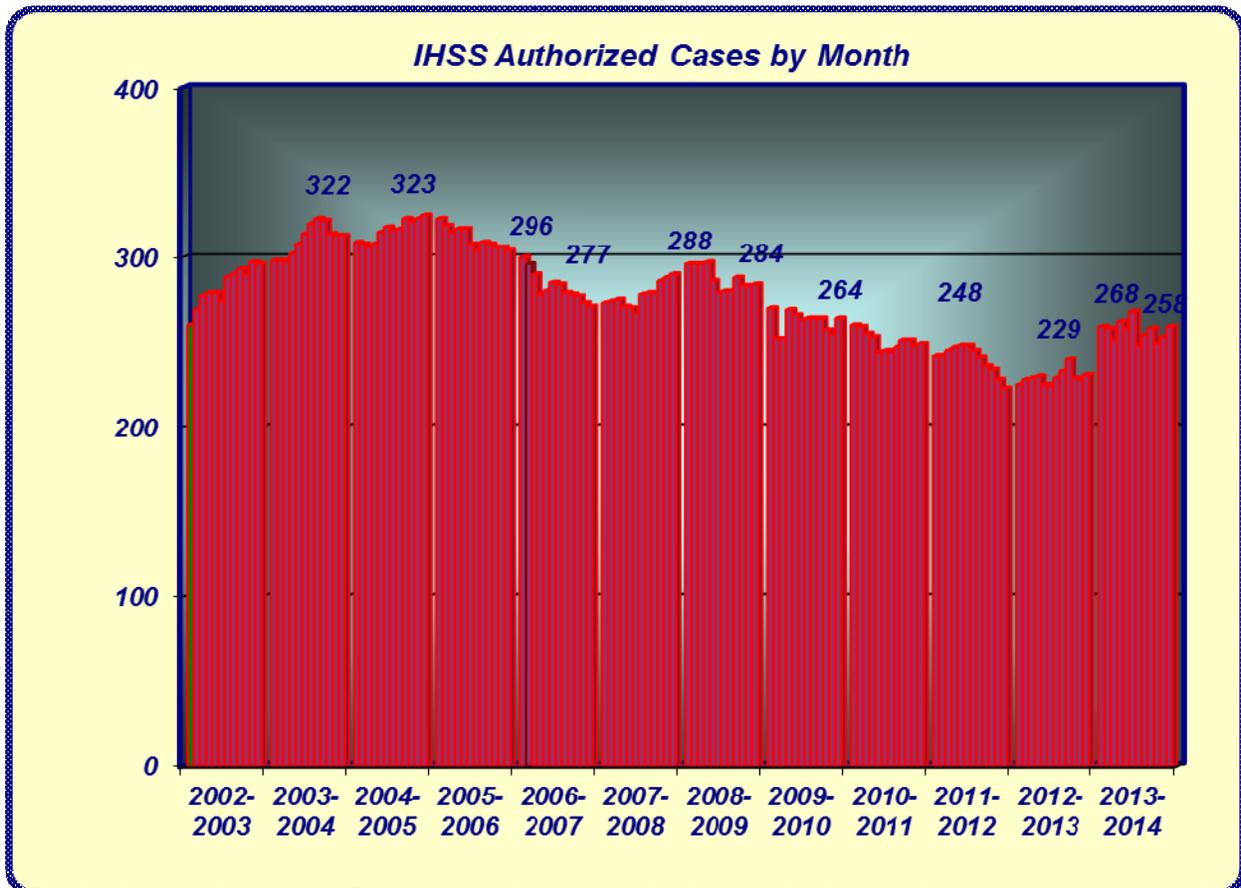


#### D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

During this past year the Department noted that there had been some modest growth in the IHSS case count. This growth followed a lengthy period where there had been a pattern of slow and steady case count reduction. The Department had attributed the decline to cuts in the state budget that both changed eligibility rules for the program and reduced service levels to some consumers. The Department believes that there remains potential for growth in the case count as a product of the Affordable Care Act. Whether that growth actually appears, remains to be seen.

#### Average Monthly Case Count

<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>256</b>



### **III. PUBLIC GUARDIAN**

The Public Guardian currently provides guardianship and conservator services to a total of 10 LPS and Probate conservatees. The Public Guardian also serves as representative payee for 7 SSI recipients.