

## **SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS**

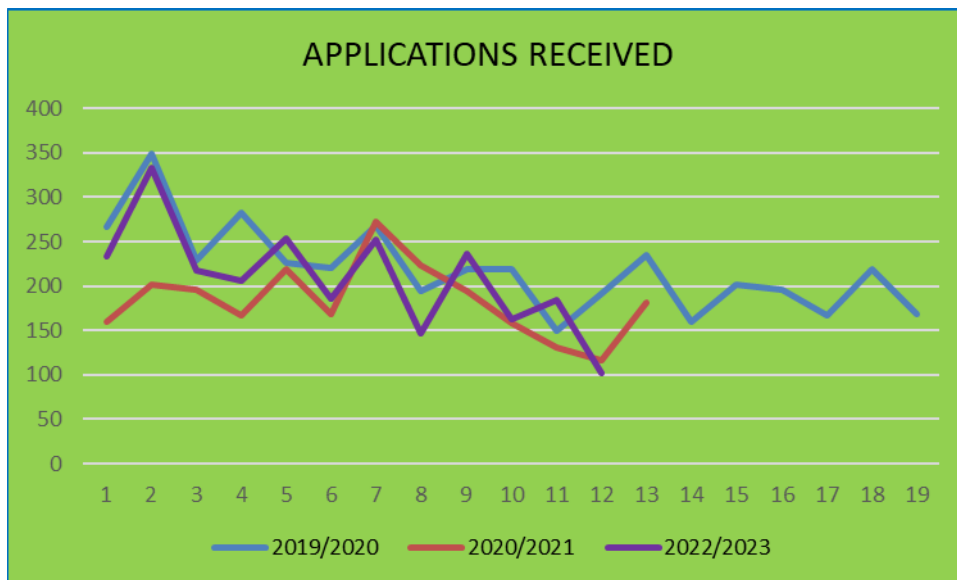
**Semi-Annual Ending: June 30, 2023**

**Social Services Trends** is a semi-annual 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 first half of the year that ended June 30, 2023. 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**

The overall trend for applications has declined during the first six months of 2023. The average number of applications for the second half of 2022 was 238 per month. During the first six months of 2023 the average was 180 per month. It's possible that a return to work after the Covid pandemic may have impacted the number of applications received. During the first half of 2023 CalFresh received the most applications of all programs available.



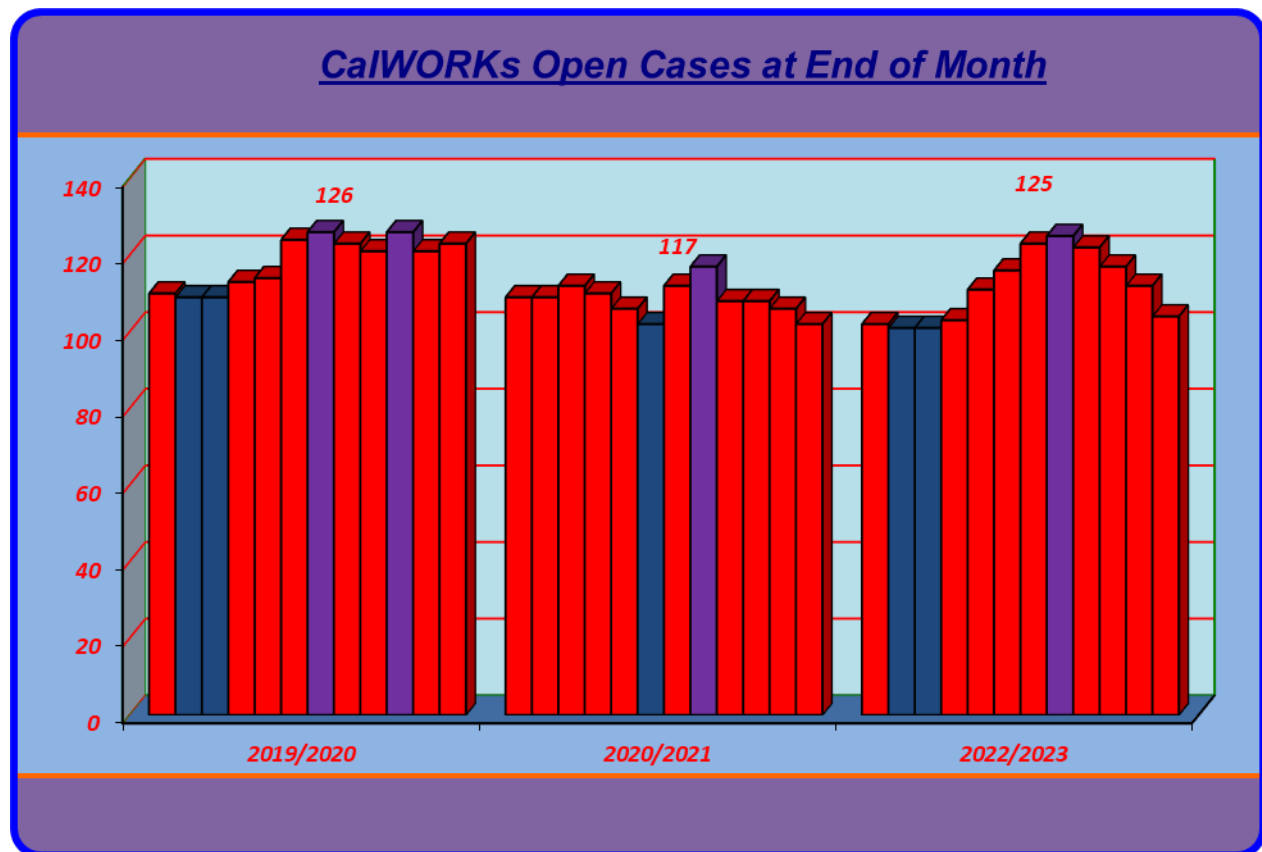
## B. CONTINUING CASES

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

The average number of open CalWORKs cases per month during the first six months of 2023 was 117. The case count has continued to remain relatively steady over time. The average caseload for CalWORKs cases in the system at the end of December 2022 was 116. It is not clear if the continued stability of the case count is due to an increase in employment or from people leaving the county. The Department continues to assist many non-needy relative cases where a close relative is providing care for an eligible child.

#### Average Monthly Caseload

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 2019/2020 | 118 |
| 2020/2021 | 129 |
| 2022/2023 | 111 |



## **(2). CalFresh (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Assistance**

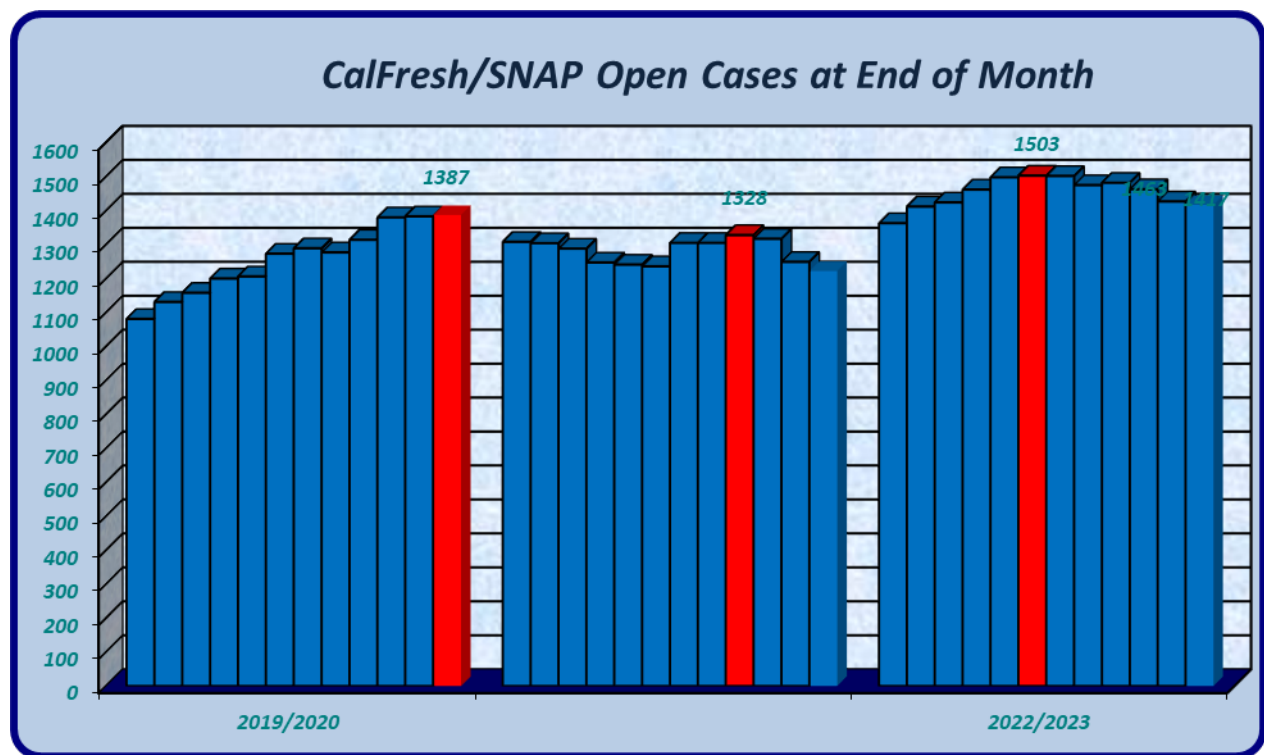
### **A. Case Count**

The Department has seen a slight increase in applications for the CalFresh program. The average monthly caseload for the six-month period ending in December 2022 was 1443. For the first six-month period of 2023, the average caseload was 1461. For working people who are eligible, CalFresh supplements their purchasing power.

The demographic of those who are over 55 continue to have the highest growth in CalFresh applications.

#### **Average Monthly Caseload**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| <b>2019/2020</b> | <b>1254</b> |
| <b>2020/2021</b> | <b>1278</b> |
| <b>2022/2023</b> | <b>1452</b> |



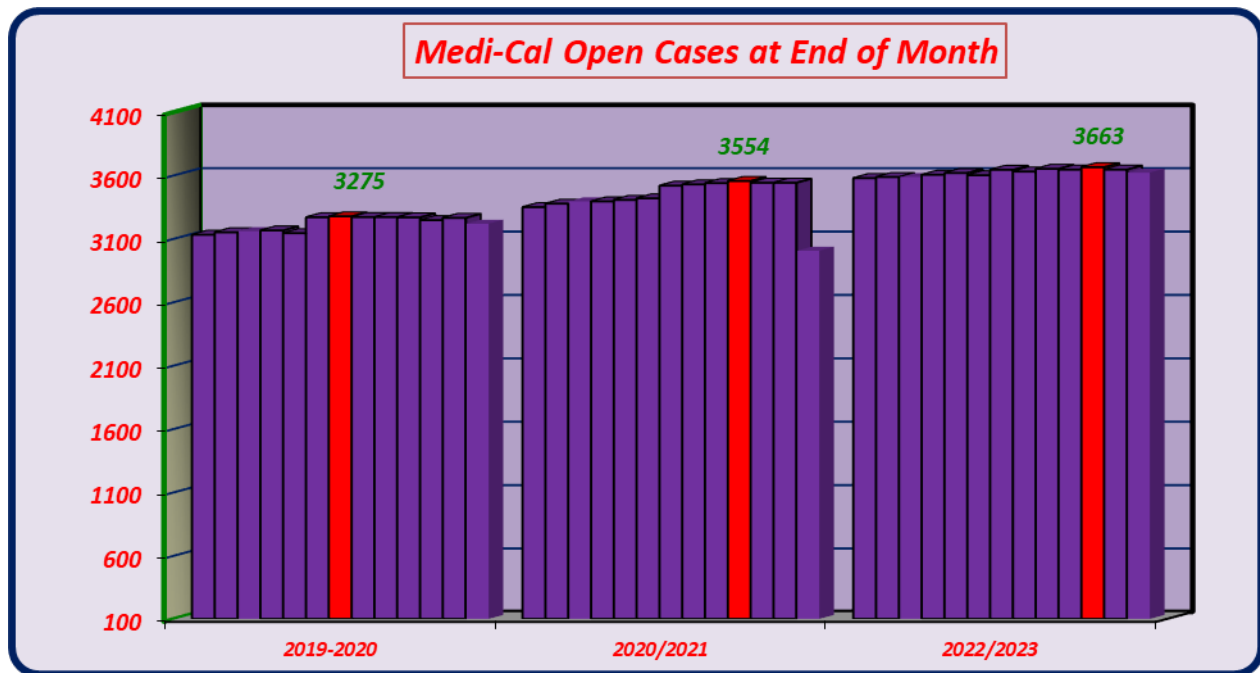
### (3). Medi-Cal

The Medi-Cal case count continues to experience steady growth. The average number of active cases has increased by approximately 51 cases per month during the first six months of 2023 and there are 617 more cases since 2021/2022.

Those who are eligible for the expanded Medi-Cal program have earned income that is 138% of the federal poverty level or less. For a single individual that roughly translates into about \$1,525 per month. For a single working person that amounts to \$18,755 annually. For a family of three, annual income at 138% of poverty is \$31,782 or less.

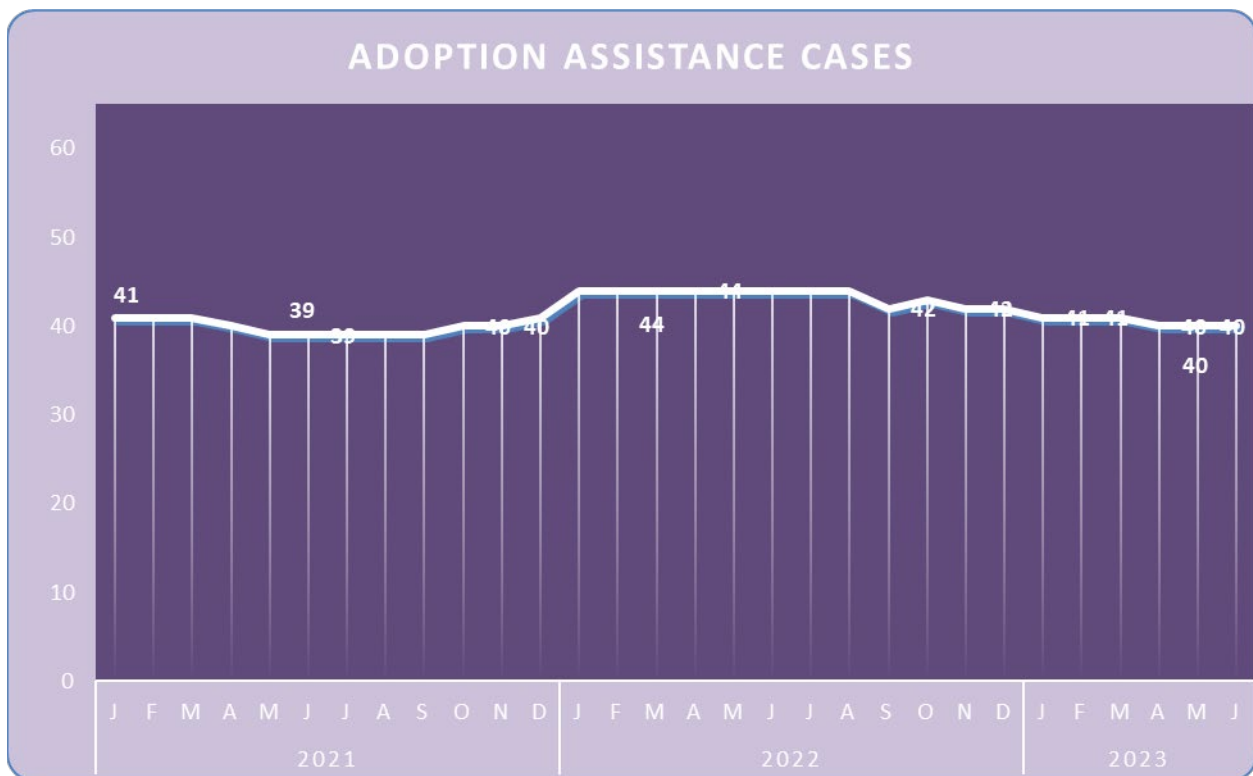
#### Average Monthly Caseload

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| 2019/2020 | 3217 |
| 2020/2021 | 3003 |
| 2022/2023 | 3620 |



#### (4). Aid to Adoptions

In 2012 the Department of Social Services began operating the Adoptions program. The services provided and benefits issued are mandated by Welfare and Institutions Code under Chapter 2.1 beginning at Section 16115. Services provided include home studies, training for adoptive parents and case management of adoptive placements. Adoptive families also qualify for cash assistance under the Aid to Adoptions program. The caseload for the Adoptions Program is currently at 40 children receiving assistance. There have been as many as 70 children receiving assistance in the past. Most of this decline is the result of children who have aged out of the system.

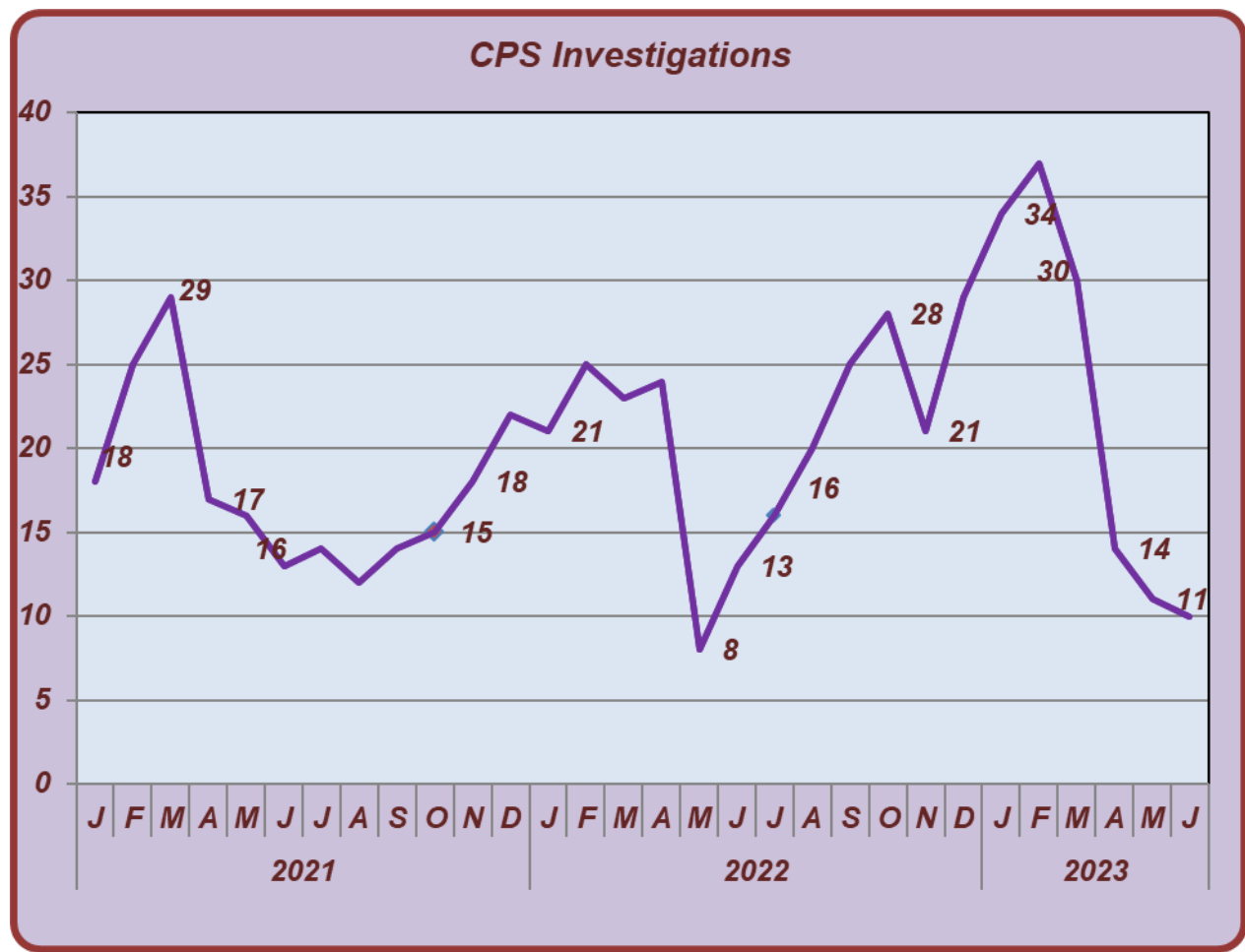


## II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

### A. Child Welfare Services

The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averaged about 23 child abuse investigations per month during the first six months of 2023. Which is the same average, 23 per month for the last six months of 2022. We have experienced an increase in referrals since schools opened up to in person learning after the Covid-19 pandemic.

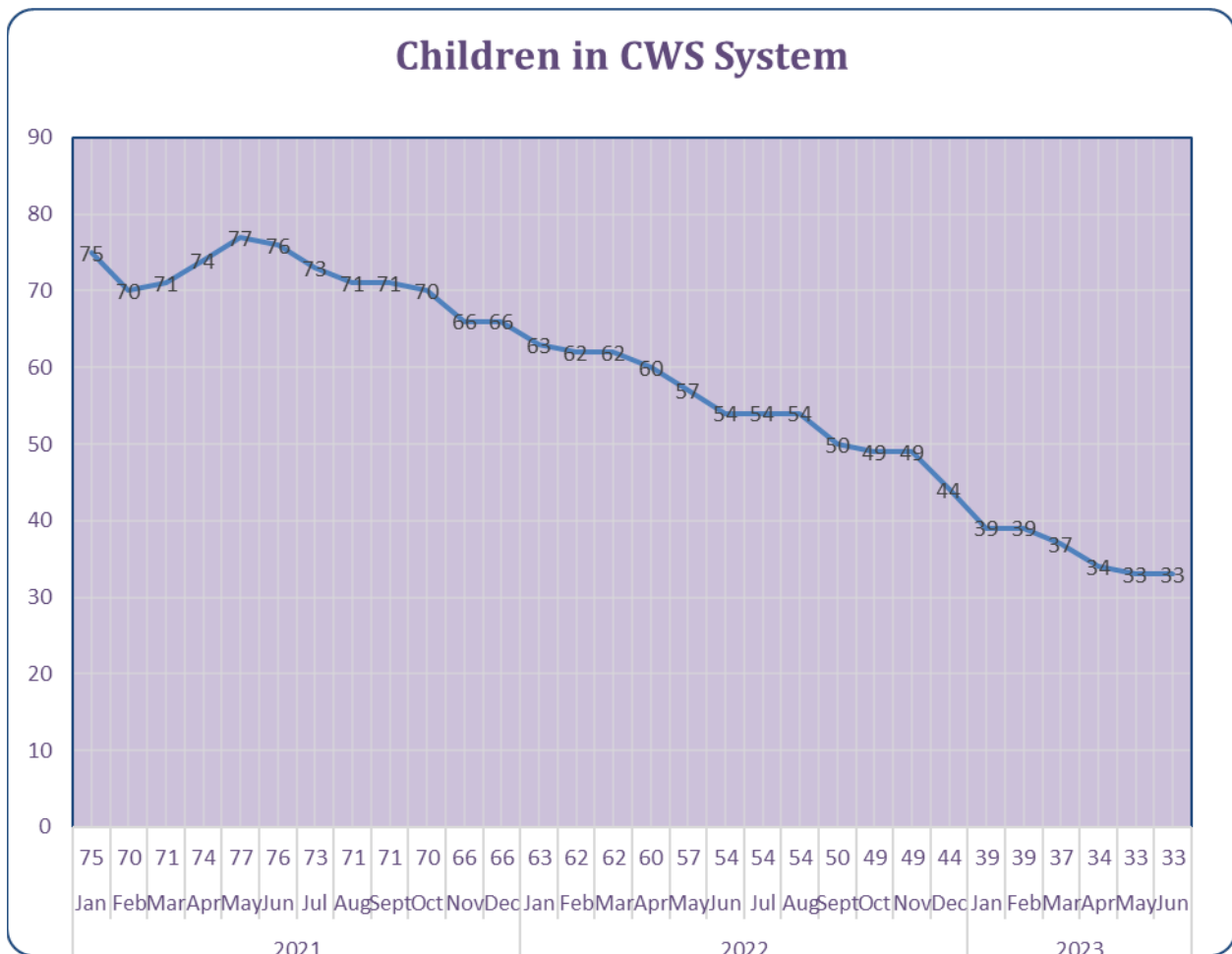
As the Department has noted previously, we have continued to experience significant numbers of cases where the precipitating factors leading to abuse and neglect are associated with substance abuse, in particular methamphetamine but also alcohol and other drugs. Substance abuse and the resultant failure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



## B. Children in the Child Welfare Services System

As has been reported previously, under changes in the law associated with Assembly Bill 12 of 2012, some children will stay in the Child Welfare System (CWS) longer so that they can complete their education or secure independent housing. Currently the Department has 8 children who are completing an educational plan or living independently. In addition to decreasing the amount of children who are detained, the Department has been focusing on increasing the amount of cases that engage families voluntarily. We currently have 33 children in CWS.

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. While we expect that trend to continue, there remains a need for foster homes for children who come into our system. This is particularly evident when the Department detains children with special needs as there are fewer foster homes or group homes that provide the specialized care needed by these children.

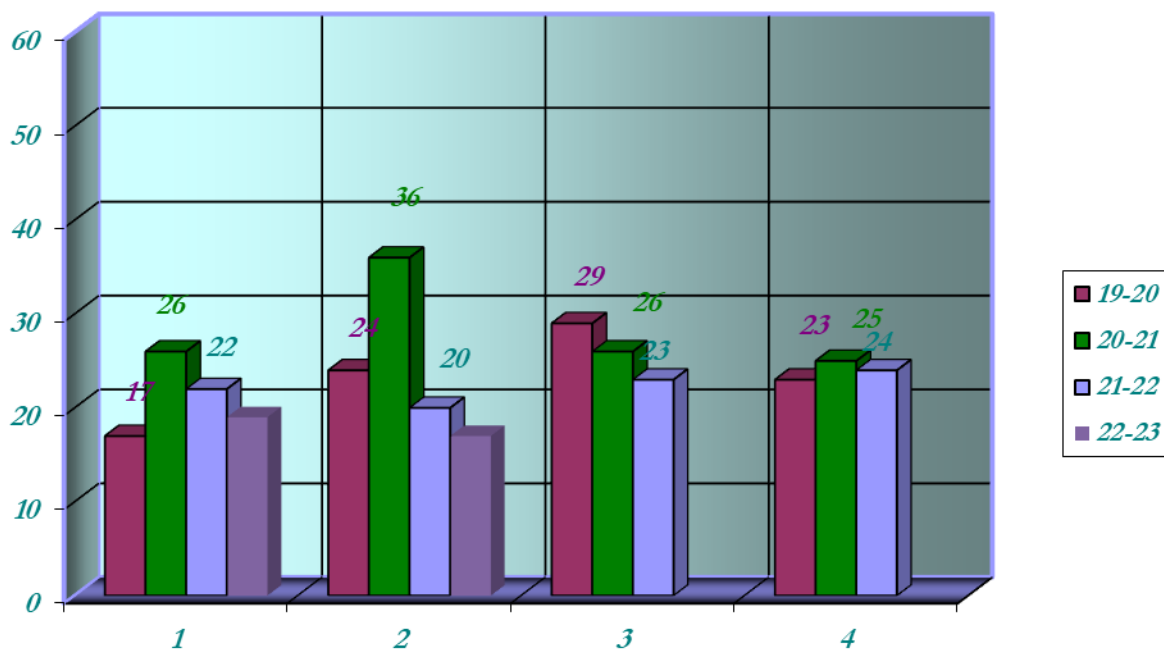


### C. Adult Protective Services

Generally, the Department receives about 6 referrals per month for situations involving abuse or neglect of elderly and disabled people. During the six-month period that concluded June 30, 2023, the Department received 36 requests for investigation. APS referrals have continued to be above the average. The Department believes the reason that referrals are continue is due to the higher elderly population in Plumas County and good public awareness of potential threats to the safety and well-being of elderly and/or disabled persons.

The Department continues to receive referrals from financial institutions regarding suspicious circumstances connected with an elderly or disabled person's financial resources. The Department also receives referrals that are for self-neglect. In some of these situations it is not always possible to intercede because the individual being referred may still have a right to self-determination if a cognitive disability isn't the cause for their self-neglect.

*APS Emergency Response Referrals by Quarter*



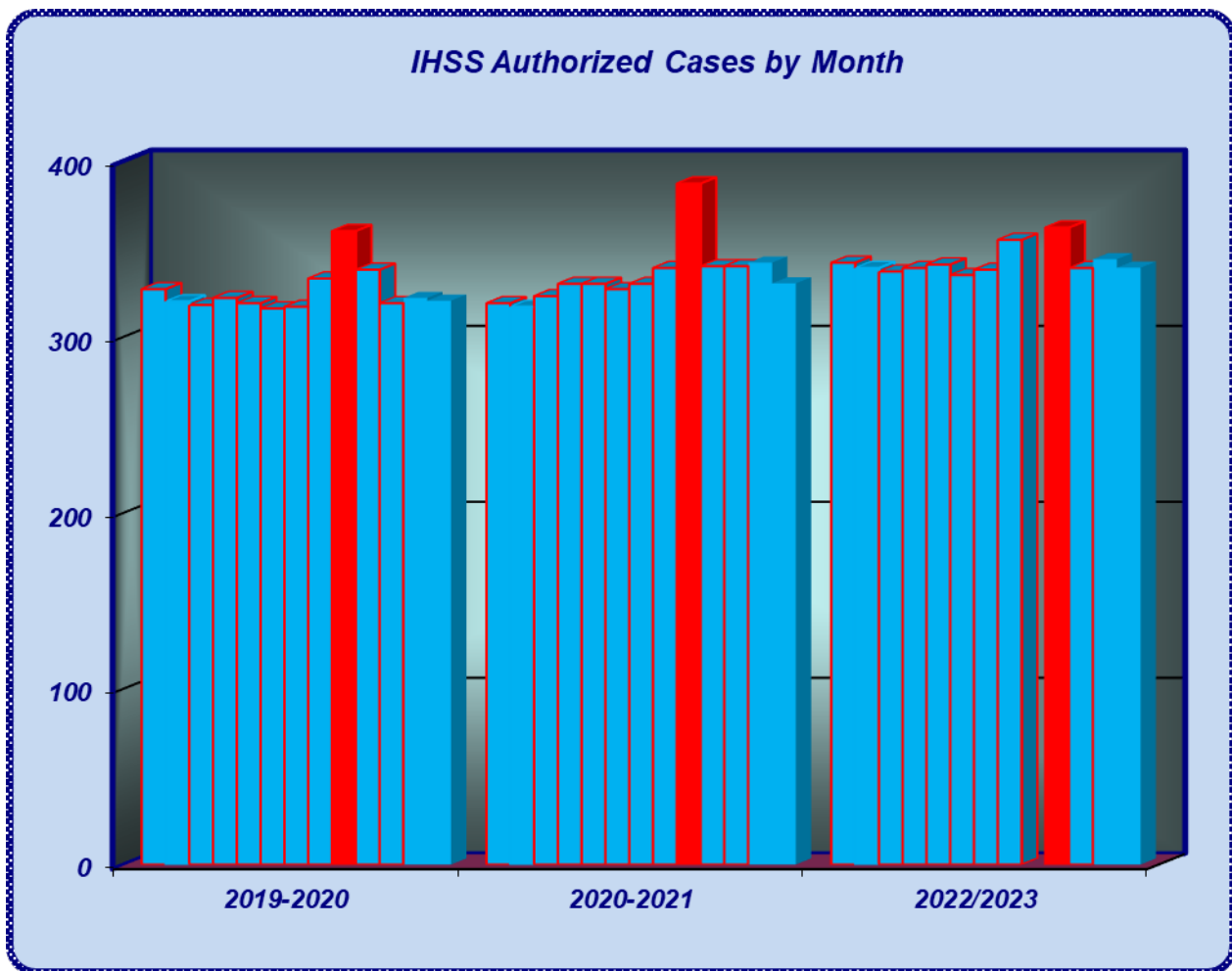


#### D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

The In-Home Supportive Services caseload has increased during the first six months of 2021 with the average case count increasing from 375 to 384 per month.

##### Average Monthly Case Count

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 2019/2020 | 356 |
| 2020/2021 | 379 |
| 2022/2023 | 359 |



### **III. Public Guardian/Conservator**

The Public Guardian is currently servicing 8 L.P.S. Conservatorship cases, 5 Probate Conservatorship cases and serves as the Representative Payee for 13 additional recipients. Public Guardian is also managing the estates of 6 deceased conservatees.