

SOCIAL SERVICES TRENDS

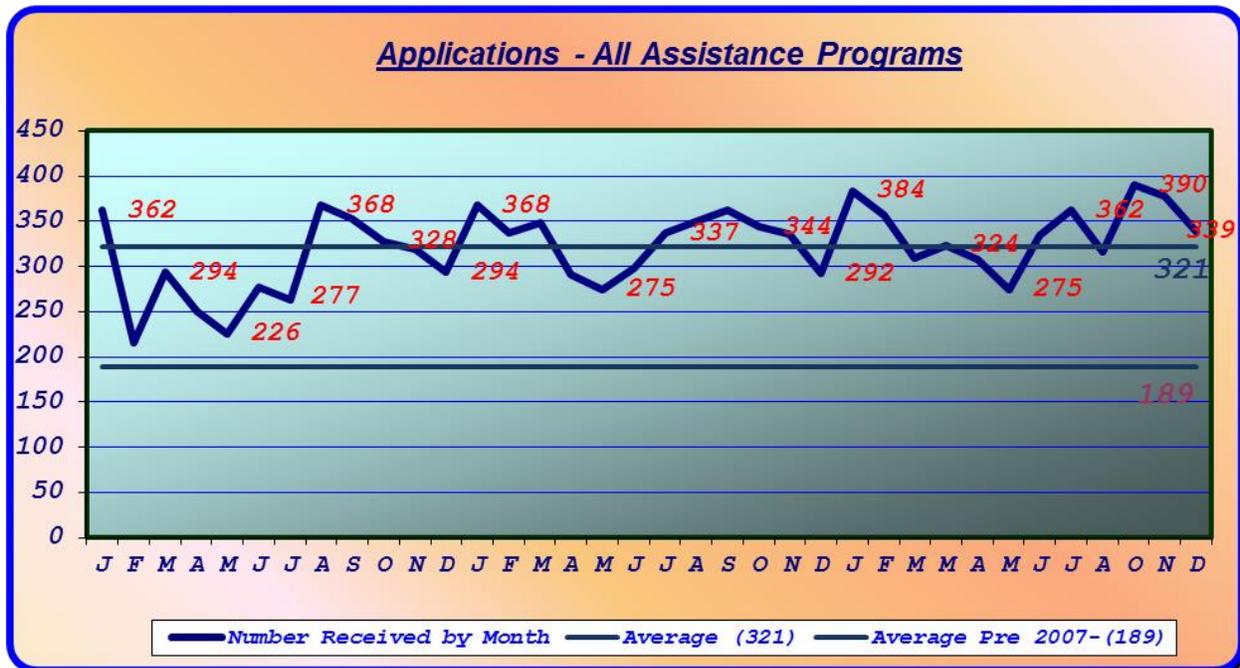
Quarter Ending: December 31, 2013

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 December 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 continued to reach counts that are above 300 per month. This continues a pace that is significantly application counts prior to 2007. From 2000 through 2007, the period prior to the recession, the Department averaged 189 applications per month. For the period following the recession, the average is up to 321 per month. As has been reported in the past, more than half of our applications are for medical assistance programs (Medi-Cal, Path2Health or CMSP).



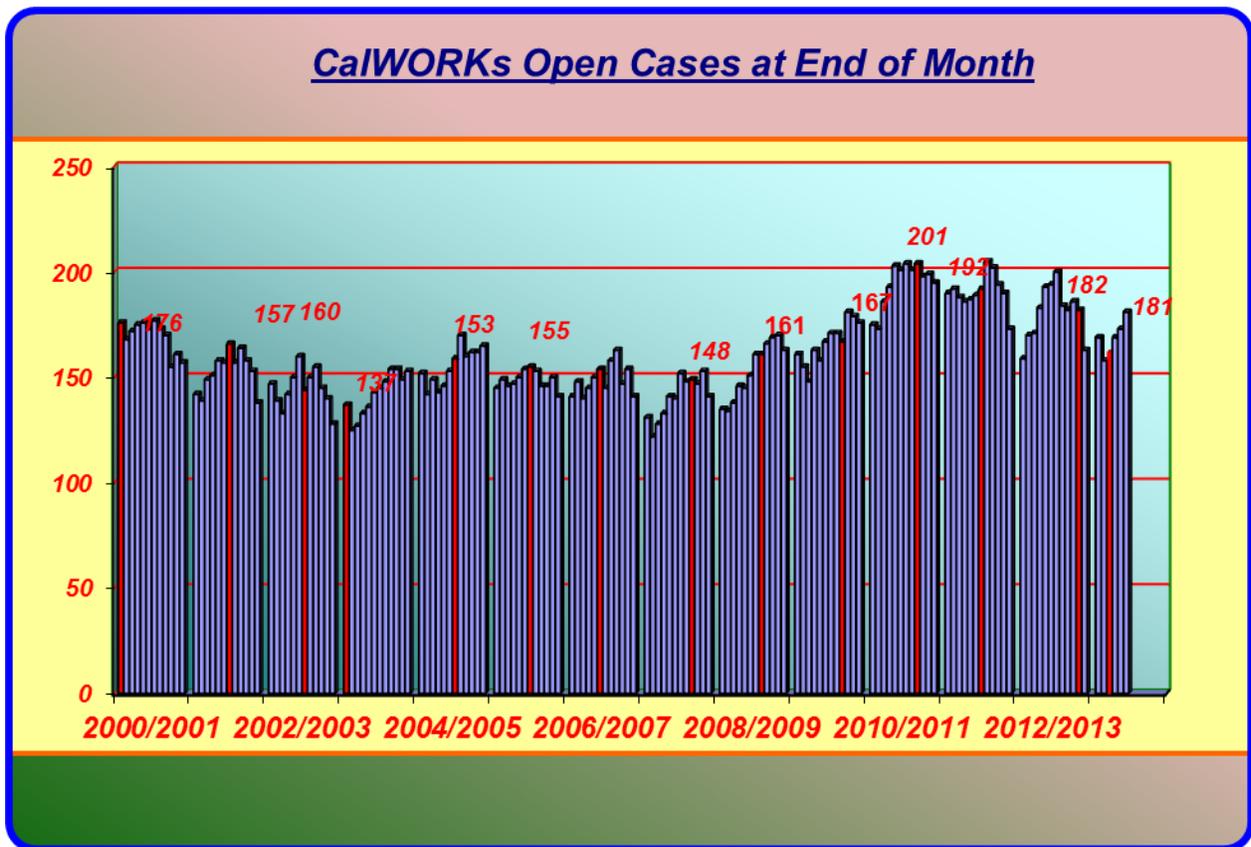
CONTINUING CASES

(1). Cash Assistance (AFDC/CalWORKs)

The case count for CalWORKs assistance has been staying in a range that fluctuates between 150-200 cases. While the trend since 2011 has been generally downward, there was some growth in this past quarter. 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

2010/2011	191
2011/2012	181
2012/2013	169



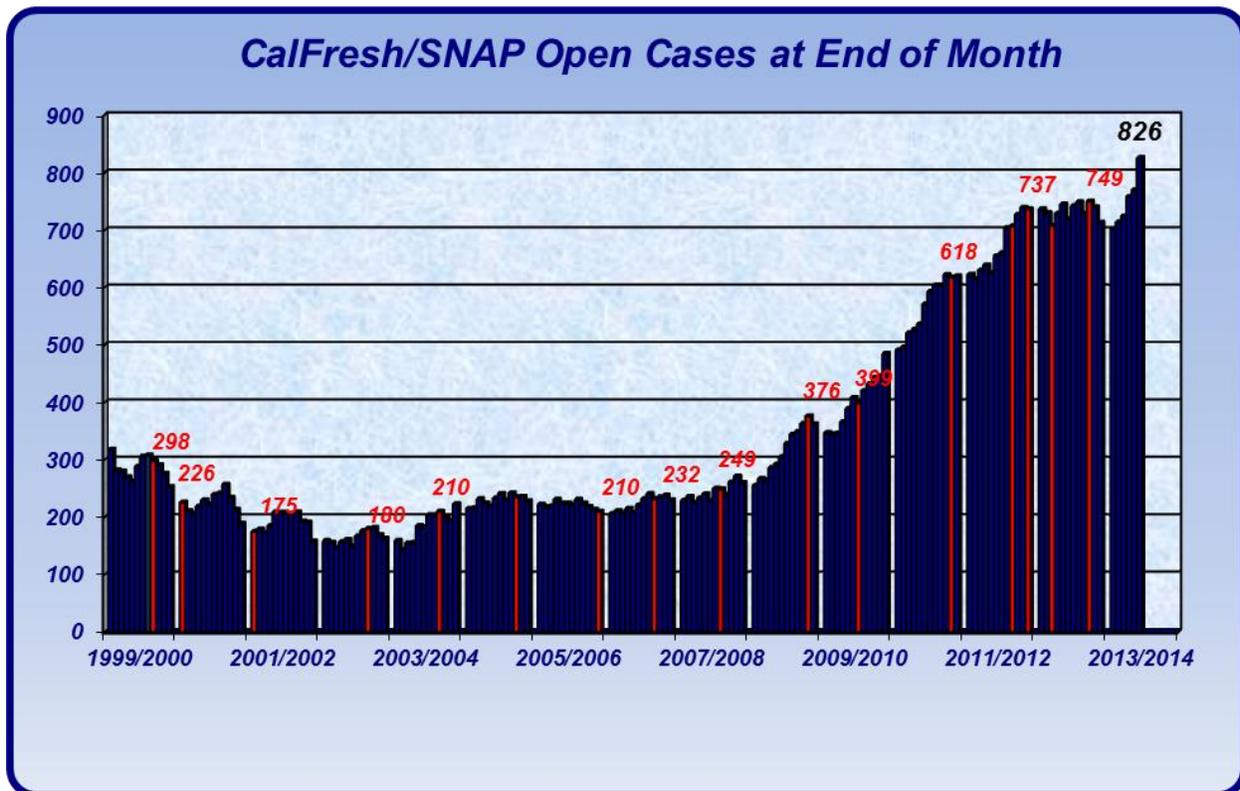
(2). CalFresh (Food Stamps) Assistance

A. Case Count

During the prior two quarters, the Department noted a strong indication that the case count (which had demonstrated such an unrelenting growth pattern since 2007 when the recessionary economy first took hold) looked to be heading downward at long last. We took note of the fact that since mid-2012, the case count had flattened and exhibited every indication that increases would become a thing of the past. Those indications have turned out to be less than accurate predictions of what has occurred as the case count reached another historic high of 826 households.

Average Monthly Caseload

2011/2012	672
2012/2013	733
2013/2014	749



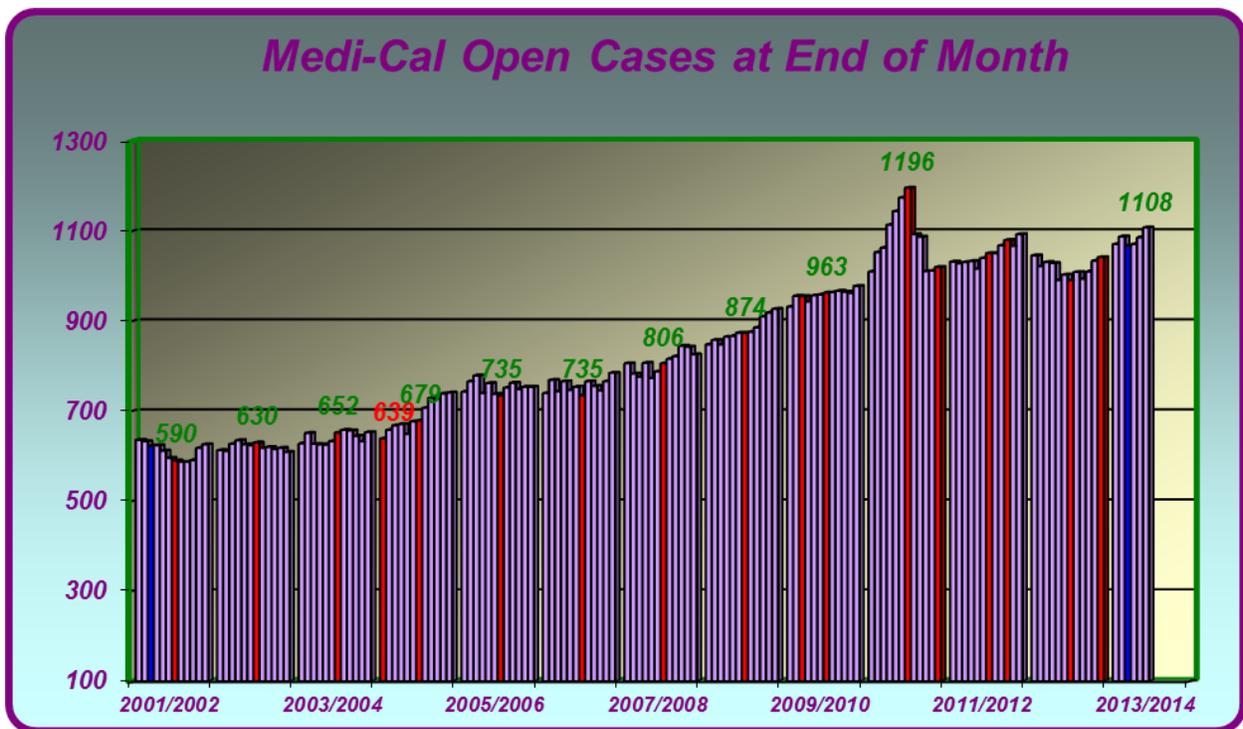
(3). Medi-Cal

Our estimates are that as many as 500 new eligibles will come on the Medi-Cal program between now and the end of March (when the open enrollment period ends for the Affordable Care Act. Some of these will be direct transfers from the Path2Health program which ended December 30th. Others will be people whose low earnings (below 167% of poverty) will qualify them for Medi-Cal.

Some of the current working poor families may also shift to employer provided health insurance when the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented. Shortly after the data was collected for this report period (ending December 30th) there were reports of significant numbers of new Medi-Cal applications coming in from the Covered California web portal. We will know more about that in March, 2014

Average Monthly Caseload

2011/2012	1049
2012/2013	1017
2013/2014	1082

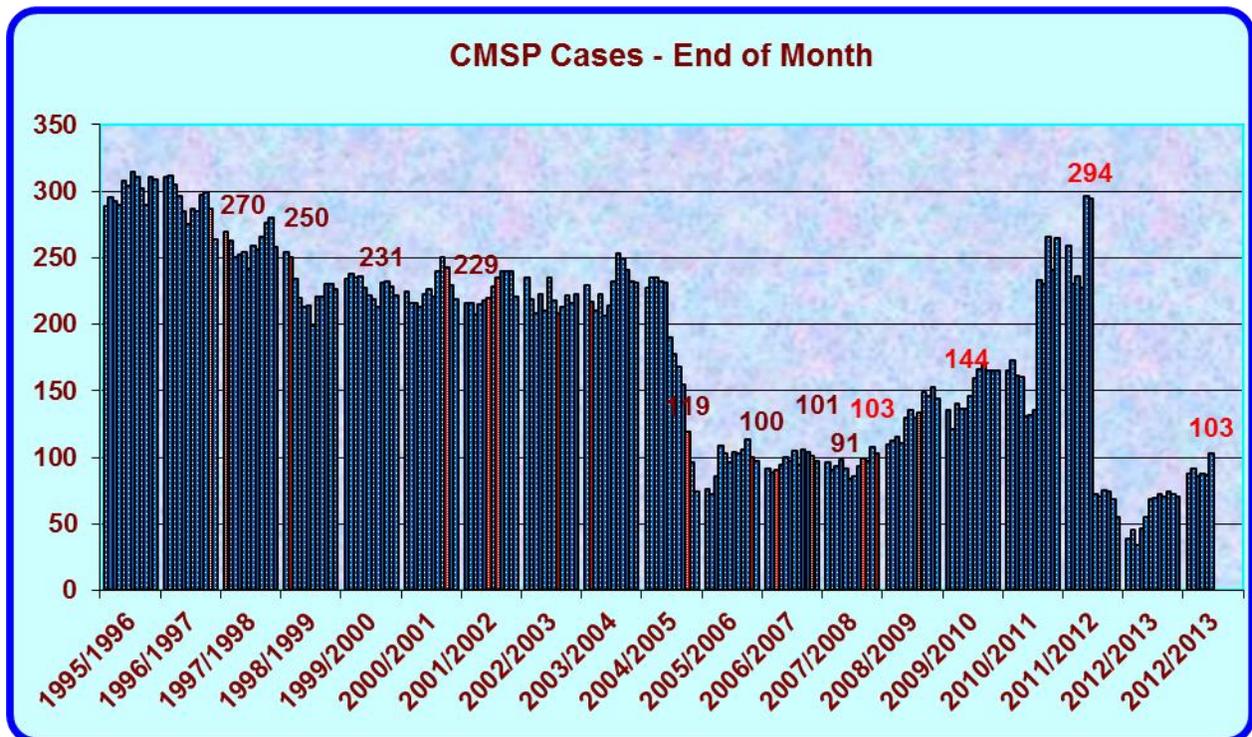


(4). County Medical Services Program (CMSP)

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. Shortly after the two programs were split we began to experience some growth in the CMSP program. That is not unexpected as the nation has moved toward full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. We expect that some of these residual CMSP members will move to ACA coverage after January 1, 2014.

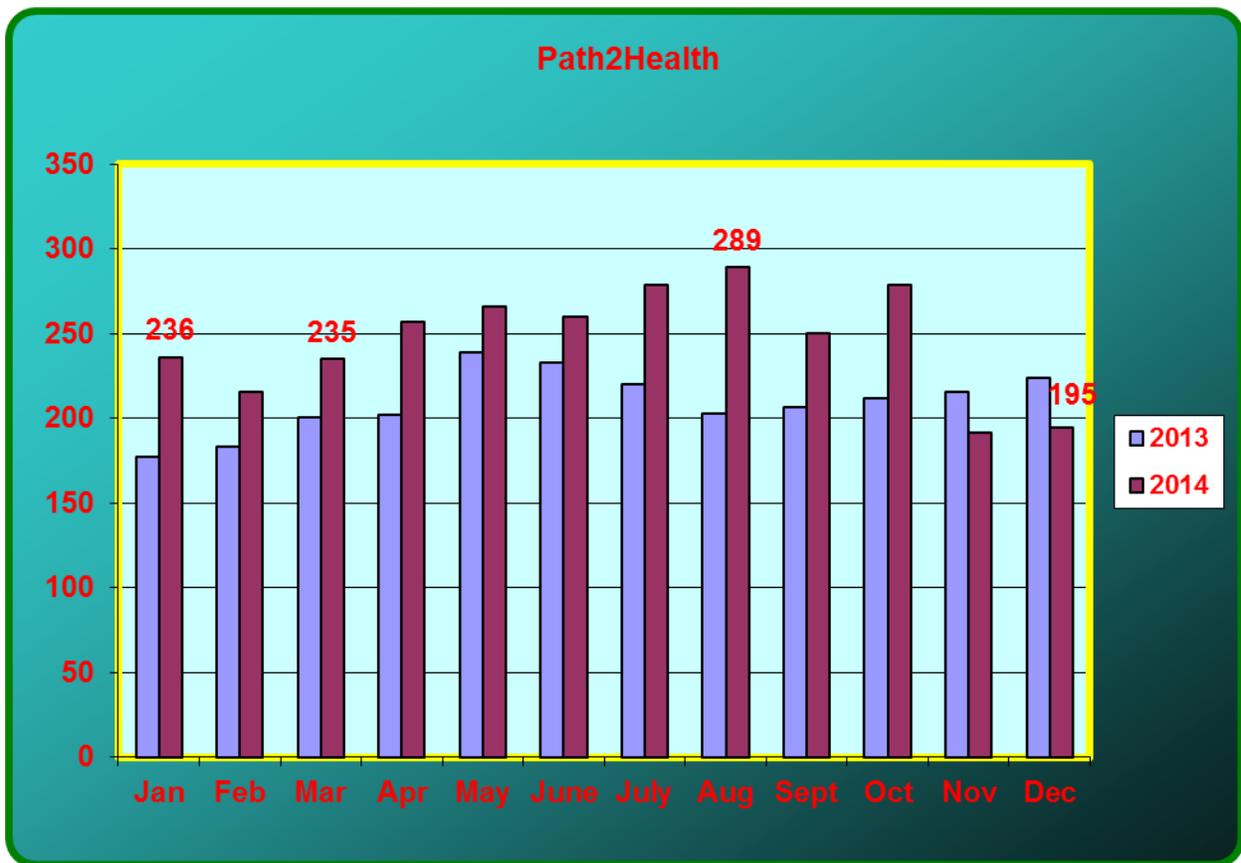
Average Monthly Caseload

2011/2012	69
2012/2013	70
2013/2014	91



(5). Path2Health

This will be the last report where case counts for the Path2Health members will be shown. Path2Health members were fully transitioned to Medi-Cal effective January 1, 2014. Our highest level case count occurred last August. We closed out the program at the end of December with 195 cases.

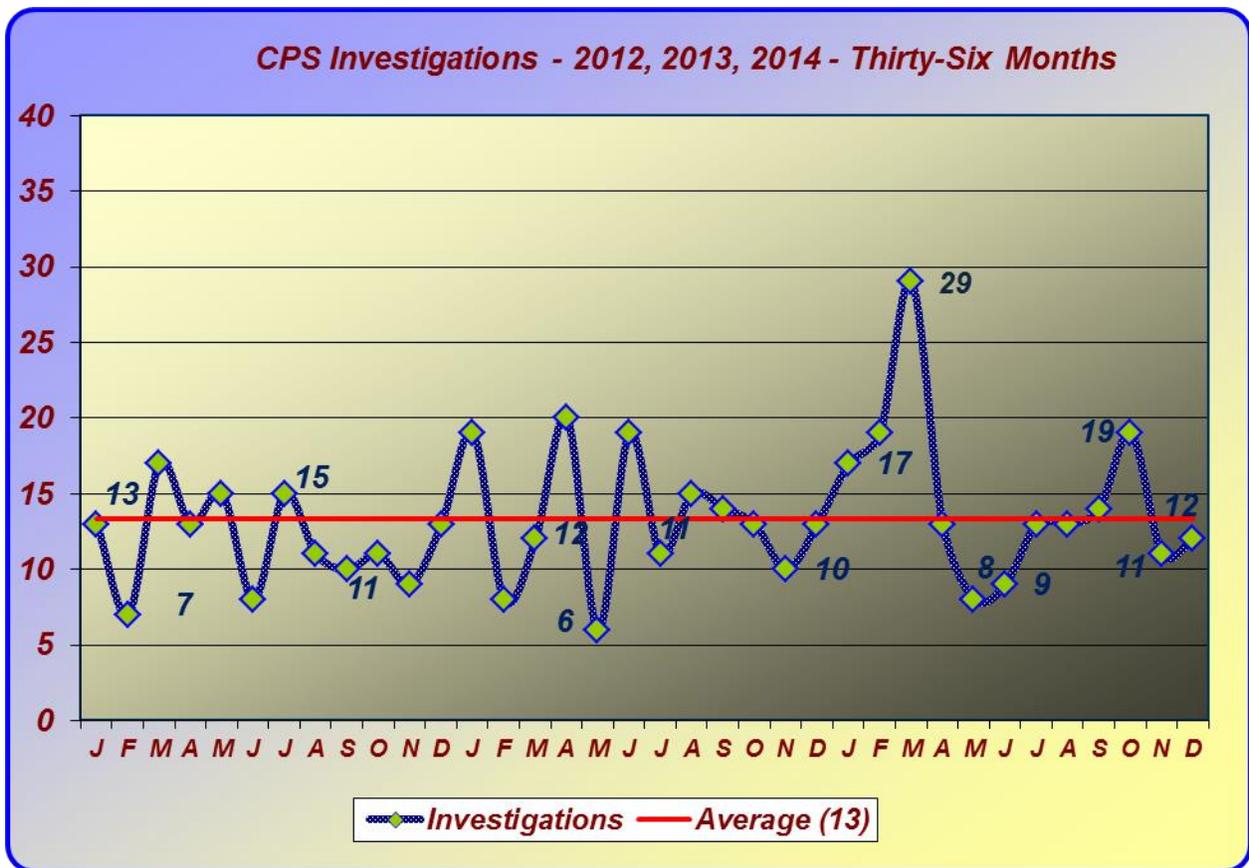


II. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Child Welfare Services

The Emergency Response component of Child Protective Services averages in the range of about 13 child abuse investigations per month. While referrals generally hover around that average, there are occasional periods where they become inordinately high such as March of 2013 (29 referrals) and October of 2013 (19 referrals).

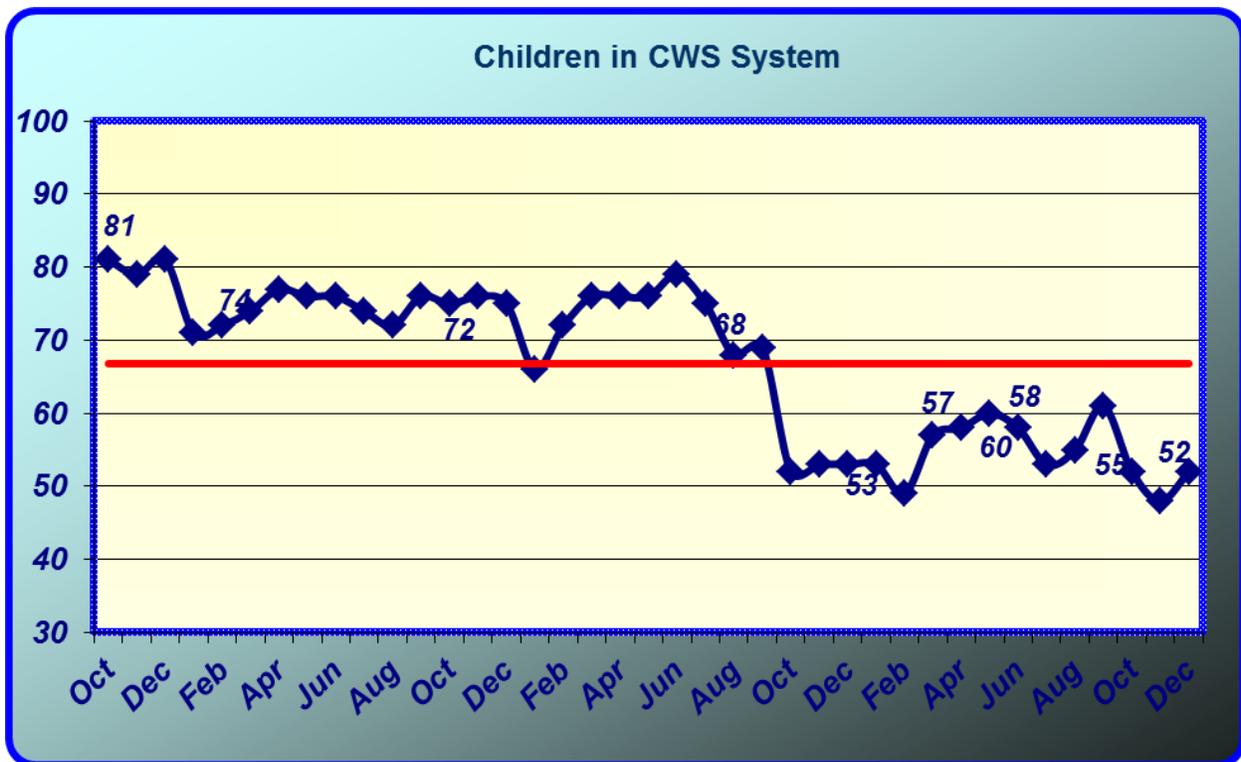
As the Department has noted previously, we have continued to experience significant numbers of cases where the precipitating factors leading to abuse and neglect are associated with substance abuse, in particular methamphetamine but also alcohol and other drugs.



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. Over the period displayed below, the average number of children in the Child Welfare System has been just below 70 per month. More recently, we have dropped down to the range of about 54 per month. That is a good indicator.

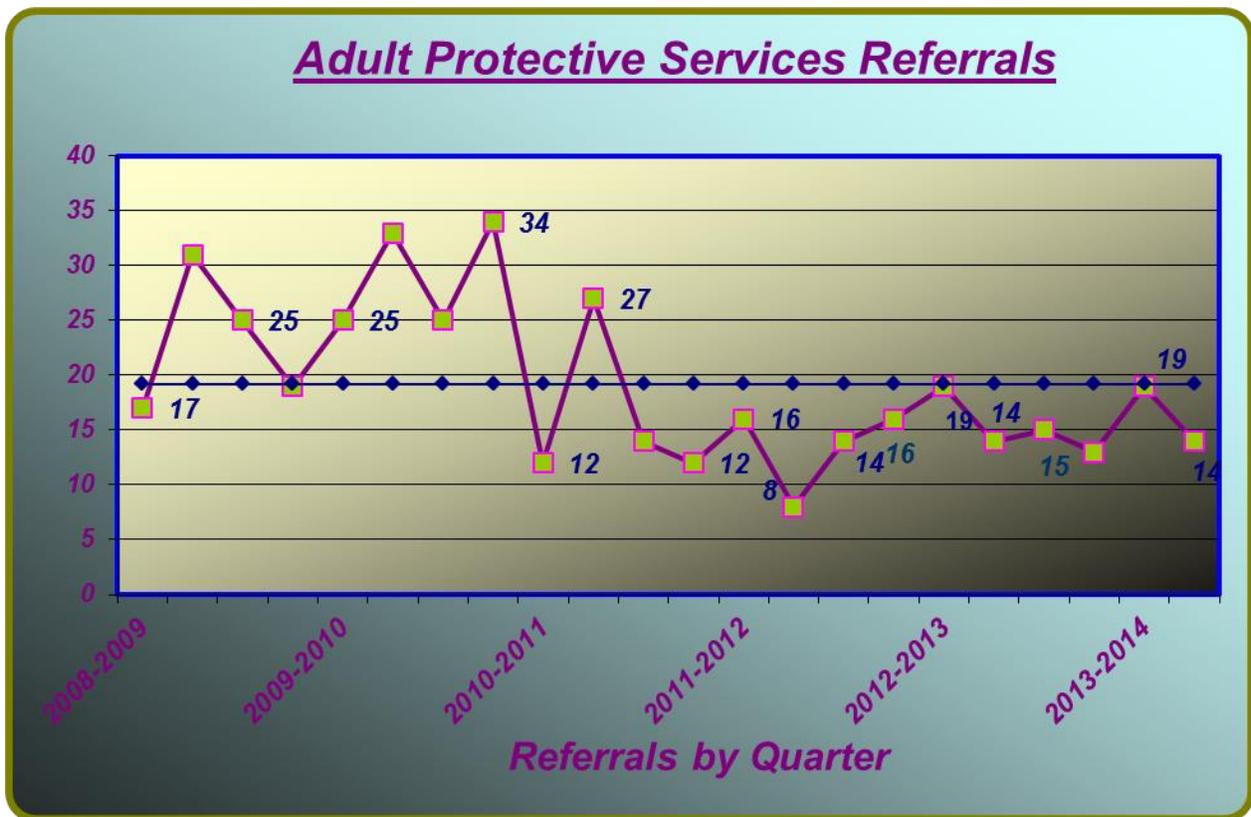
A continuing emphasis in the program now is to make efforts to achieve less restrictive placements and to place children with non-relative extended family members. In some instances the emphasis on placing with non-relative extended family members has resulted in lowered utilization of Foster Family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

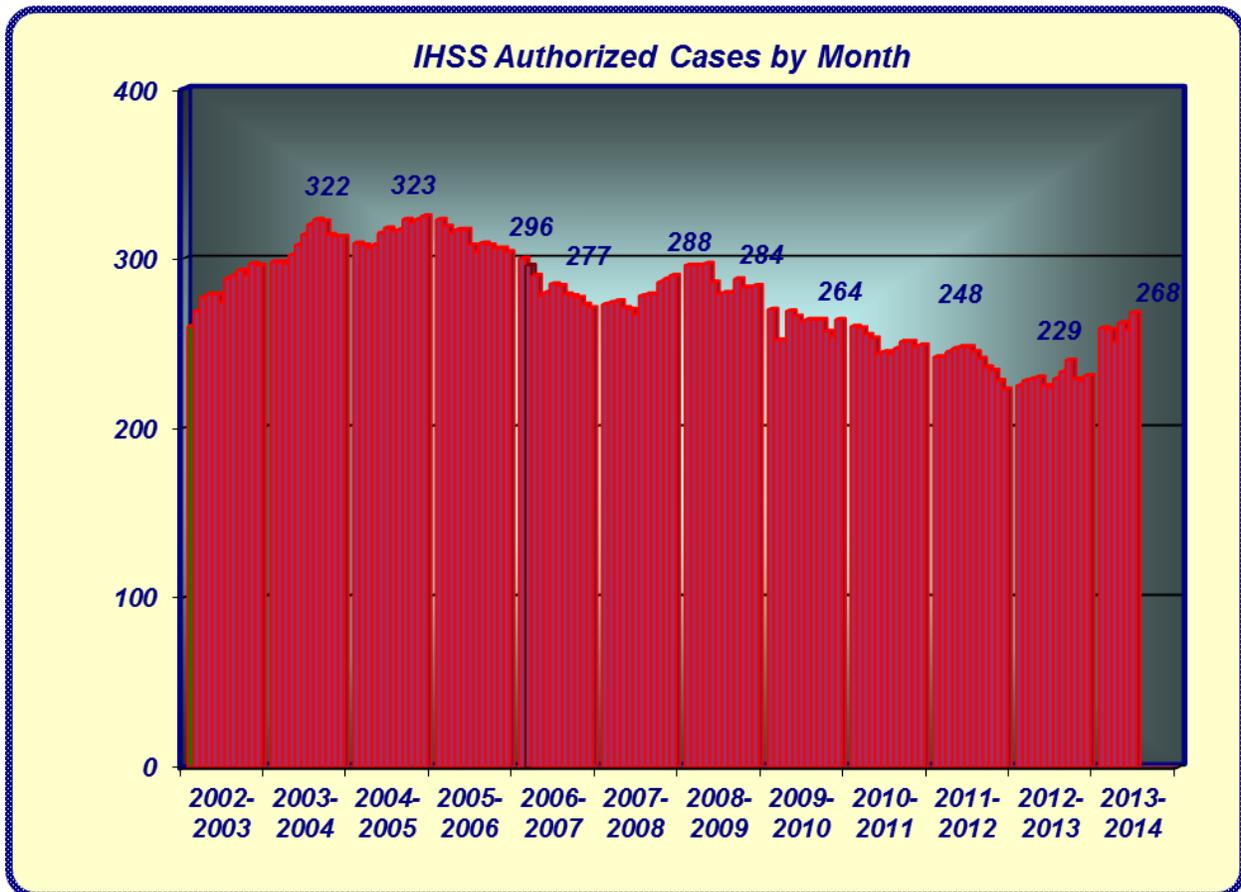


D. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Since 2005 the case count for IHSS has generally been on a downward trend due to continued reductions in hours and services that are the product of state budget cuts. More recently the case count has begun to increase, however the Department does not anticipate that this sort of growth will continue and certainly not to the levels experienced during 2003-2005.

Average Monthly Case Count

2011/2012	240
2012/2013	229
2013/2014	259



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.