

# H&SS INDICATORS

A Bi-Monthly Look at Health & Social Service Trends Shaping Solano County

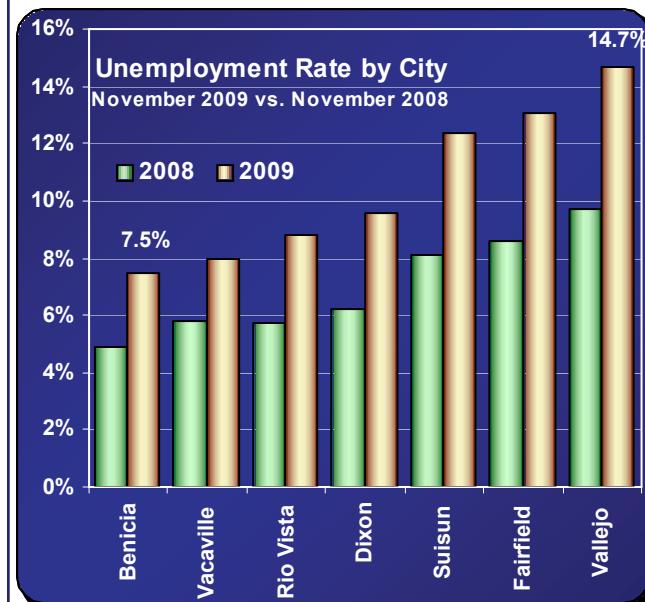
Winter 2010

## ECONOMY

Indicator	Sep	Oct	Nov*
Labor Force	214,200	214,200	213,300
Number Employed	189,400	188,300	187,700
Number Unemployed	24,800	25,900	25,700
Unemployment Rate	11.6%	12.1%	12.0%

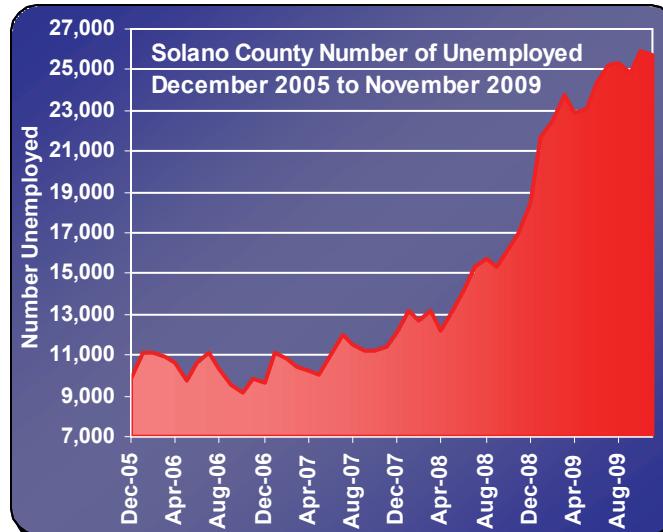
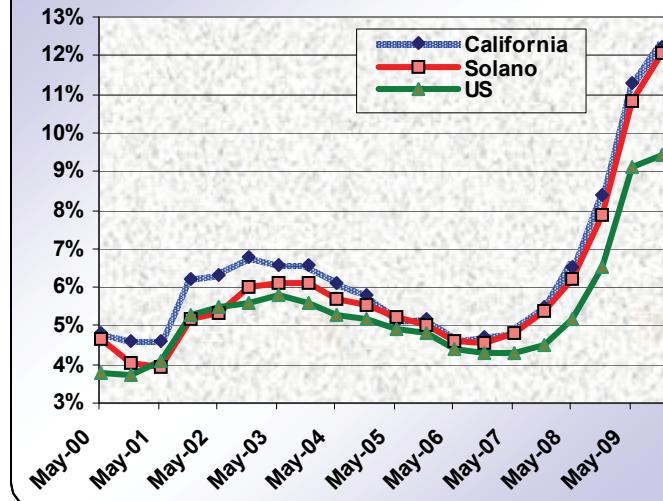
\*Figures for November are Preliminary.

Median Price of Existing Homes Sold in Solano County (November of Each Year)



- Solano County's unemployment rate stood at 12.0% in November - up from 7.9% November 2008 and 5.4% in November 2007.
- The number of unemployed in Solano County rose by 8,500 - or 51% - between November 2008 and November 2009. The number of unemployed rose above 20,000 in January 2009 and has remained at that level since, topping 25,000 in four of the last five months.
- Increase in new hires are expected to lag through September 2010, then start picking up slowly. Unemployment rates are likely to remain above 11.5% for the next few months and then settle at or above 10.5% for the rest of the year.
- The Solano County housing market may be bottoming out. The median price of an existing home sold in November 2009 was only 4.7% less than in November 2008. Still, values are now less than half of the 2005 mark.

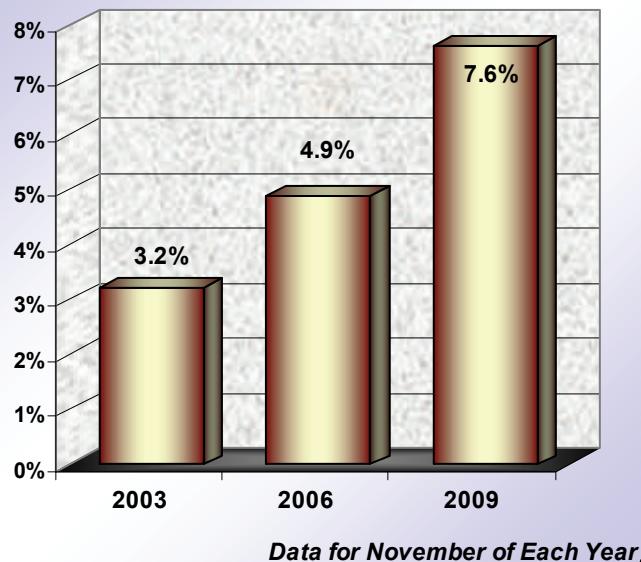
Unemployment Rate Solano County Compared to State & Nation 2000 to 2009



# EMPLOYMENT & ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

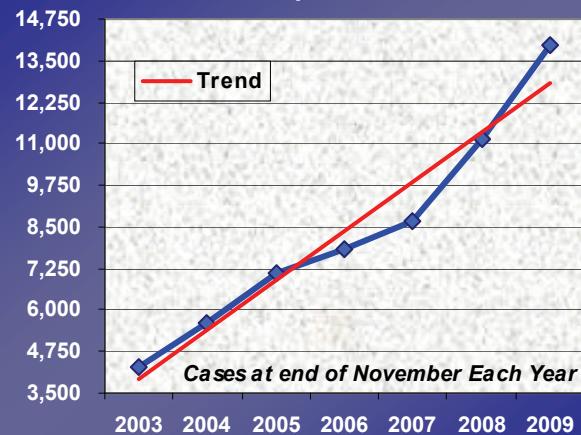
Indicator	Sep	Oct	Nov
CalWORKs Cash Assistance Caseload	5,790	5,887	5,711
New Food Stamp Applications Received During Month	1,580	1,709	1,609
Food Stamp Caseload	13,596	13,851	13,993
General Relief Recipients	627	884	967

Percentage of Solano County Residents Living in Households Receiving Food Stamps



- Food Stamp cases have increased rapidly in recent years. The caseload at the end of November was 25% higher than in November 2008. The number of food stamp applications grew even faster — increasing by 30.8% between November 2008 and November 2009.
- Each food stamp case represents a household or family. On average, each Food Stamp household has 2.3 persons. Over 32,000 Solano County residents now live in households that depend on food stamps — 1 out of every 13 residents.
- The CalWORKs caseload declined slightly in November from October and has fluctuated in recent months. Even so, the overall trend remains upward. The caseload was up 11.7% in November compared to November 2008. CalWORKs applications were up 11.9% in November from the previous year.

Food Stamp Caseload



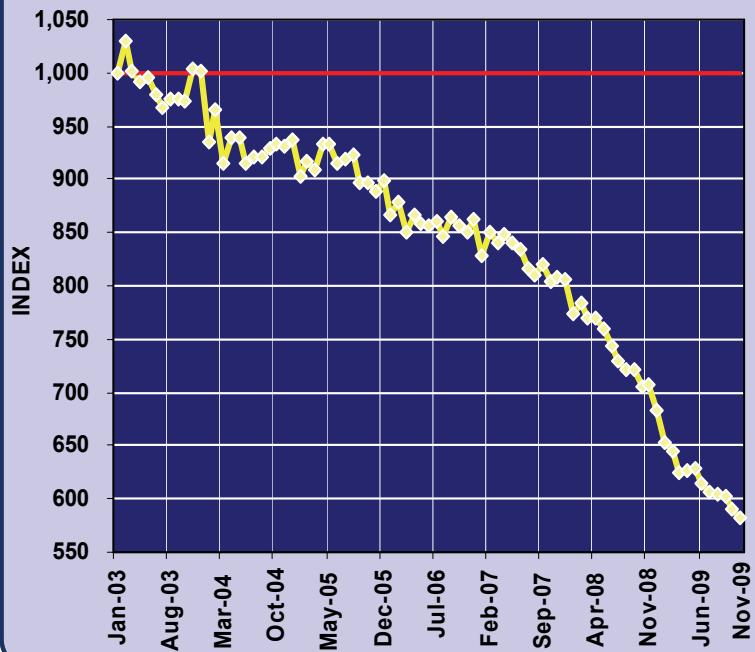
## H&SS INDEX

The Health & Social Services (H&SS) Index has declined steadily over the past several years and has now fallen to its lowest levels. The index combines workload data from 14 key services provided by H&SS, along with data on unemployment in Solano County, to provide a monthly indicator of community demand for health and social services.

All of the monthly numbers are added together and converted into an index score with January 2003 as the index bench line figure of 1,000. Like the Dow Jones, higher scores suggest positive developments — for example, fewer people looking for work or requiring the services that H&SS provides. Falling numbers suggest increasing need for H&SS's services.

**The Index continues to decline.** Much of the decrease is driven by the large increase in the number of unemployed which, in turn, places pressure on many of the programs and services provided by H&SS. The number of Solano County residents receiving services through H&SS has generally continued to grow. Recent months have also seen a large increase in the number of callers to the 2-1-1 Information & Referral line.

Health & Social Services Index

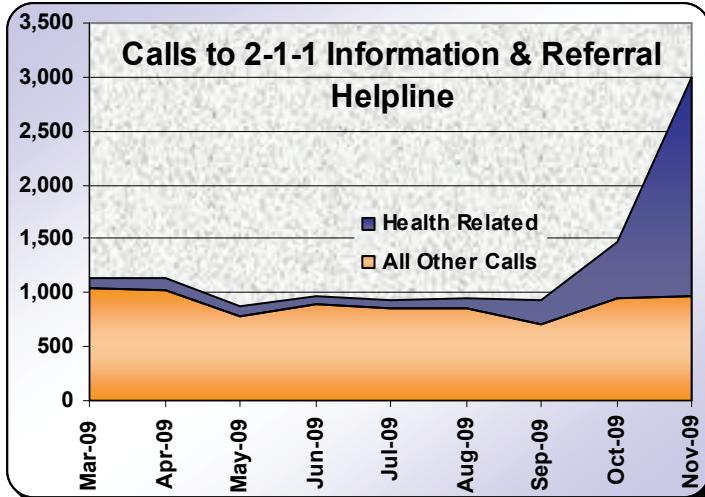
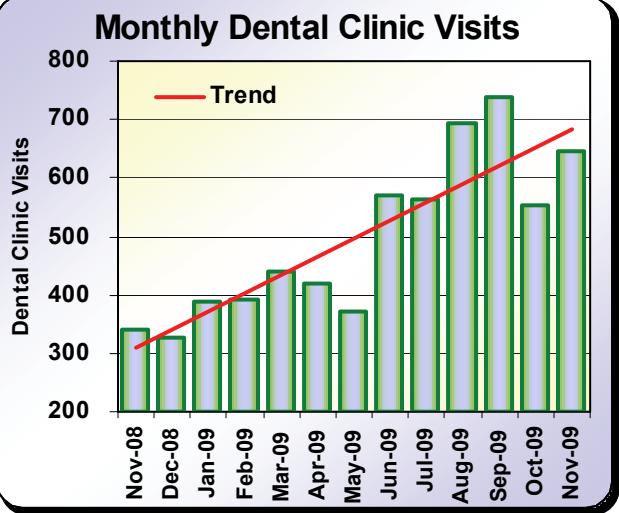


# PUBLIC HEALTH

- The number of visits to the County's two medical clinics fell in October and November due to moving into the new clinic facilities. Even so, the number of visits in November was 2.3% higher than November 2008.
- Dental clinic visits were up 90% in November 2009 from November 2008 due to increased efficiencies that meet growing demand for dental services.
- Wait times for a routine adult medical appointment rose slightly in November in both Vallejo and Fairfield.
- Also shown here is the number of calls to the 2-1-1 Information & Referral Help Line which saw a surge in calls in October and November. Nearly all of the increase appears due to questions about the H1N1 swine flu and vaccine availability. "2-1-1" collaborated with the H&SS Department Operations Center to promote the H1N1 flue clinics held throughout the County.

Indicator	Sep	Oct	Nov
Average Wait Time for Routine Appointment Fairfield Clinic (Adults)	1.5 weeks	1.5 weeks	2 weeks
Average Wait Time for Routine Appointment Vallejo Clinic (Adults)	4 weeks	4 weeks	4.5 weeks
Medical Clinic Visits	3,348	3,047	2,831 <sup>1</sup>
Dental Clinic Visits	737	553	646 <sup>1</sup>
Calls to 2-1-1 Helpline	931	1,466	3,003
WIC <sup>2</sup> Clients	10,140	9,661	na

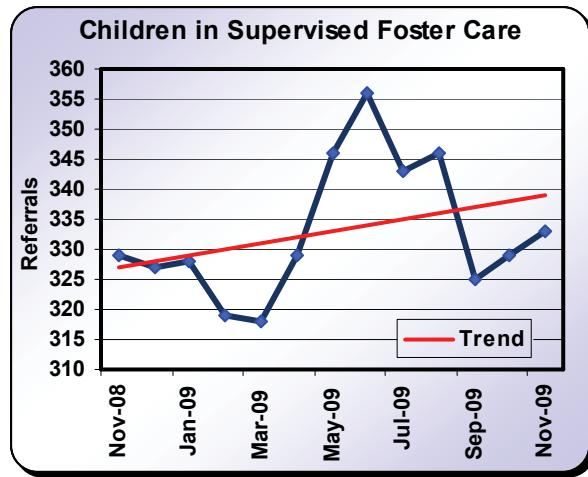
1. Preliminary.  
2. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children.



# CHILD WELFARE

Indicator	Sep	Oct	Nov
Child Abuse or Neglect Referrals	396	340	304
Children in Supervised Foster Care	325	329	333

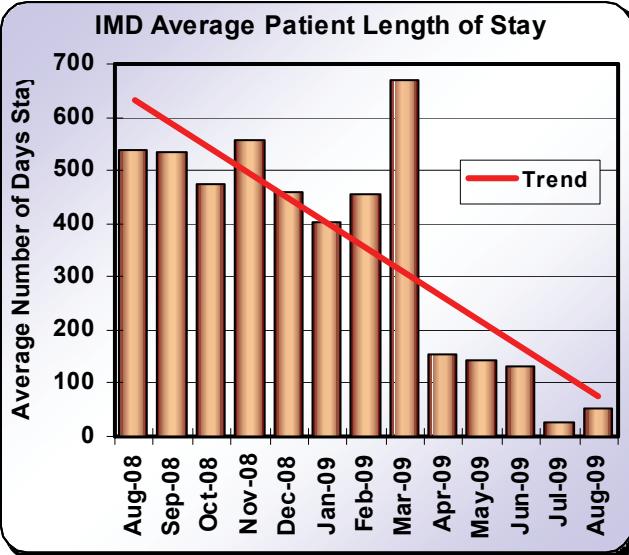
- Although fluctuating from season-to-season, the number of referrals for child abuse was up 2.5% for the period from January through November 2009 compared to the same period in 2008.
- The number of children in foster care trended slowly upward from September through November after falling during the summer. The number of children in supervised foster care varies but, in general, has trended upward slightly over the past year. The economic downturn may be making it more difficult for some families or relatives to properly care for children. The Child Welfare Division aims to keep children with their families whenever possible. CWS provides support services to that end. Whenever possible, families are provided voluntary services to keep the child safe and enhance family functioning.



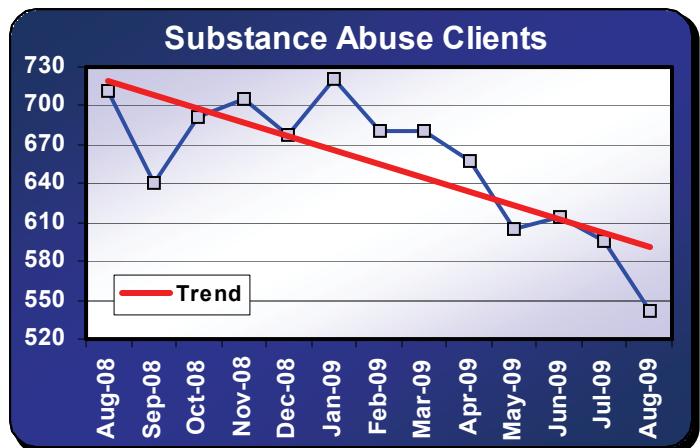
H&SS INDICATORS is produced periodically by the Planning, Research and Quality Management Division of the Solano County Health & Social Services Department, 275 Beck Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Indicator	Sep	Oct	Nov
Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Average Length of Stay	na	na	na
Substance Abuse Clients	574	531	510



- The number of Substance Abuse clients has steadily declined over the past year. At the same time, the number of substance abuse clients on the waiting list and receiving brief intervention services has increased. The waitlist for outpatient services increased 98% from January 2009 to December 2009.
- Between August 2008 and August 2009, the average length of stay for a client at an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) fell from 538 days to 51 days. The average length of stay began its dramatic fall beginning in April as a result of new policies instituted by the Mental Health Division. Data is not yet available for the period after August.



# OLDER & DISABLED ADULTS

Indicator	Sep	Oct	Nov
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Reports	111	99	100
Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse Confirmed	33	42	26
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Authorized Cases	3,003	3,018	2,998

- The number of reports of elder or dependent adult abuse was up through the first eight months of the year but has since trended downward. Overall, reports of abuse or neglect are up for the year. There was an average of 114 reports each month between January and November 2009 — up from 111 for the same period in 2008.
- The number of authorized IHSS cases in November 2009 declined slightly from the previous month for the first time since February 2008. The decrease may be the result of potential applicants who decided against applying for services after the State published proposed program cutbacks. In addition, increased administrative burdens for IHSS providers may have slowed down the number of visits as well.

