

**Estimated Number and Percent of Adults With Activity Limitations due to Arthritis  
in Minnesota by County, 2003**

County	N	Percent Among All Adults	Percent Among Adults With Arthritis	County	N	Percent Among All Adults	Percent Among Adults With Arthritis
Aitkin	1,700	13%	41%	Marshal	900	13%	42%
Anoka	21,000	10%	40%	Martin	2,100	13%	42%
Becker	2,700	12%	41%	Meeker	2,000	12%	41%
Beltrami	3,000	10%	41%	Mille Lacs	2,000	11%	41%
Benton	2,500	9%	40%	Morrison	2,700	12%	41%
Big Stone	600	14%	42%	Mower	3,500	12%	42%
Blue Earth	4,200	10%	41%	Murray	900	13%	42%
Brown	2,400	12%	42%	Nicollet	2,200	10%	41%
Carlton	2,800	11%	42%	Nobles	1,800	12%	42%
Carver	5,000	9%	40%	Norman	700	13%	42%
Cass	2,600	12%	41%	Olmsted	9,800	10%	41%
Chippewa	1,200	13%	42%	Otter Tail	5,500	12%	41%
Chisago	3,100	10%	40%	Pennington	1,200	12%	41%
Clay	3,900	11%	41%	Pine	2,300	11%	41%
Clearwater	6,100	12%	41%	Pipestone	900	13%	42%
Cook	500	13%	41%	Polk	2,800	12%	42%
Cottonwood	1,200	14%	42%	Pope	8,500	13%	42%
Crow Wing	5,100	12%	41%	Ramsey	38,500	11%	41%
Dakota	25,100	10%	40%	Red Lake	400	12%	41%
Dodge	1,400	10%	41%	Redwood	11,800	13%	42%
Douglas	3,100	12%	41%	Renville	1,500	13%	42%
Faribault	1,600	13%	42%	Rice	4,300	10%	41%
Fillmore	2,000	13%	42%	Rock	900	13%	42%
Freeborn	3,000	13%	42%	Roseau	1,200	11%	41%
Goodhue	3,800	12%	41%	St. Louis	17,500	12%	41%
Grant	4,800	13%	42%	Scott	6,400	9%	40%
Hennepin	84,700	10%	41%	Sherburne	4,500	9%	40%
Houston	1,700	12%	41%	Sibley	1,300	12%	41%
Hubbard	1,800	13%	41%	Stearns	9,800	10%	41%
Isanti	2,600	10%	41%	Steele	2,700	11%	41%
Itasca	4,100	12%	41%	Stevens	800	11%	42%
Jackson	1,100	13%	42%	Swift	1,100	11%	42%
Kanabec	1,300	11%	41%	Todd	2,100	12%	41%
Kandiyohi	3,500	12%	41%	Traverse	400	14%	42%
Kittson	500	14%	42%	Wabasha	1,900	12%	41%
Koochiching	1,300	13%	41%	Wadena	1,300	13%	42%
Lac qui Parle	800	14%	42%	Waseca	1,600	11%	41%

Lake County	1,100	13	41%	Washington	14,900	10%	41%
Lake of the Woods	3,300	13	41%	Watonwan	8,300	13%	42%
Le Sueur	2,200	11	41%	Wilkin	600	12%	41%
Lincoln	600	14	42%	Winona	3,800	11%	41%
Lyon	2,000	11	41%	Wright	6,700	10%	41%
McLeod	2,900	11	41%	Yellow Medicine	7,900	13%	42%
Mahnomen	400	13	42%	Minnesota	397,000	11%	42%

Note:

Activity limitations in this table refer to those individuals with physician-diagnosed arthritis who answered yes to the question “Are you now limited in any way in any of your usual activities because of arthritis or joint symptoms?” Synthetic estimates number and percentage of people with activity limitations for each county are listed. In addition, the percentage of activity limitations among people with arthritis for each county is also listed.

The term “arthritis” covers more than 150 diseases and conditions affecting joints, the surrounding tissues, and other connective tissues. Arthritis includes osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, systemic lupus erythematosus, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, bursitis, Lyme arthritis, carpal tunnel disease and other disorders. Physician-diagnosed arthritis is defined as having “ever been told by a doctor or other health care professional that they have arthritis arthritis.”

These estimates are derived from Minnesota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey data, a yearly statewide survey conducted by the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics at the Minnesota Department of Health. The BRFSS uses a large sample of Minnesota residents. Even so, there are not enough respondents in the sample from any one county to allow estimates to be made based just on the data from those respondents. For this reason, *synthetic estimates* are created for many health behavior measures from the BRFSS for the assessment of behavioral risk at the county level.

To create synthetic estimates for county level use, statewide estimates of behavioral risk from the BRFSS are statistically adjusted using the age and sex distributions for each county. Synthetic estimates thus indicate the proportion of adults *at risk* for particular health behavioral risk factors in a county given that county’s age and sex composition, rather than the proportion of persons who actually engage in the risk behavior in that county. As a result, differences between statewide estimates and the synthetic estimates for a county reflect the differences between the state population and the population of that county. Likewise, comparisons of synthetic estimates between counties reflect differences in the demographic composition of the counties.