

**Estimated Number and Percentage of Adults with
Physician-Diagnosed Arthritis in Minnesota by County
2003 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System**

County	N	%	County	N	%
Aitkin	4,000	32%	Marshal	2,300	30%
Anoka	52,200	24%	Martin	4,900	31%
Becker	6,500	29%	Meeker	4,800	29%
Beltrami	7,400	25%	Mille Lacs	4,900	28%
Benton	6,200	23%	Morrison	6,500	28%
Big Stone	1,400	33%	Mower	8,400	30%
Blue Earth	10,200	24%	Murray	2,200	31%
Brown	5,700	29%	Nicollet	5,500	25%
Carlton	6,700	27%	Nobles	4,400	29%
Carver	12,500	23%	Norman	1,600	32%
Cass	6,300	30%	Olmsted	24,000	25%
Chippewa	3,000	31%	Otter Tail	13,200	30%
Chisago	7,800	24%	Pennington	2,800	28%
Clay	9,500	26%	Pine	5,700	28%
Clearwater	1,800	29%	Pipestone	2,200	31%
Cook	1,300	30%	Polk	6,600	29%
Cottonwood	2,900	32%	Pope	2,700	31%
Crow Wing	12,500	29%	Ramsey	93,700	26%
Dakota	62,100	24%	Red Lake	1,000	30%
Dodge	3,400	26%	Redwood	3,700	31%
Douglas	7,500	29%	Renville	3,700	30%
Faribault	3,800	32%	Rice	10,600	25%
Fillmore	4,700	30%	Rock	2,200	31%
Freeborn	7,300	30%	Roseau	3,000	27%
Goodhue	9,200	28%	St. Louis	42,300	28%
Grant	1,500	32%	Scott	16,000	22%
Hennepin	207,200	25%	Sherburne	11,300	22%
Houston	4,200	29%	Sibley	3,100	29%
Hubbard	4,300	30%	Stearns	24,000	24%
Isanti	6,300	25%	Steele	6,600	27%
Itasca	9,800	30%	Stevens	2,000	28%
Jackson	2,500	30%	Swift	2,600	28%
Kanabec	3,100	27%	Todd	5,000	29%
Kandiyohi	8,400	28%	Traverse	1,000	34%
Kittson	1,200	32%	Wabasha	4,500	28%
Koochiching	3,300	31%	Wadena	3,100	31%
Lac qui Parle	1,900	33%	Waseca	3,800	27%
Lake County	2,600	31%	Washington	37,000	25%
Lake of the Woods	1,000	31%	Watonwan	2,500	30%
Le Sueur	5,300	27%	Wilkin	1,400	29%

Lincoln	1,500	33%	Winona	9,300	26%
Lyon	4,800	27%	Wright	16,600	24%
McLeod	6,900	27%	Yellow Medicine	2,500	31%
Mahnomen	1,100	30%	Minnesota	955,000	26%

Note:

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.