Older adults in Ramsey County
Census 2000 fact sheet

One out of 10 people in Ramsey County is age 65 or older.
- The county has 59,502 older adults.
- Older adults make up 11.6% of the county’s total population.

About half the older adults in the county are “young-old.”
- 48% are age 65-74.
- 37% are age 75-84.
- 15% are age 85 or older.

Very few have never married.
- 52% are living with their spouse or partner.
- 33% are widowed.
- 9% are divorced or separated.
- 6% never married.

Racial and ethnic diversity is small but growing.
- 93% of Ramsey County older adults are White.
- African Americans and Asians are each about 3% of older adults.
- All other racial/ethnic groups combined are about 1% of older adults.

Cultural diversity is small compared to the younger population.
- About 6% of older adults in the county were born outside the United States (about 3,600 people).
- About 8% of older adults speak a language other than English at home.
- Most of them also speak English “well” or “very well.”
- Exception: Of those who speak an Asian language at home, more than half speak English “not well” or “not at all.”
- In all, about 3% of older adults in Ramsey County speak English “not well” or “not at all” (about 1,600 people).

Older women have somewhat less education than older men.
- 63% of all older adults have HS education or less (67% of women, 55% of men).
- 19% of all older adults have some college.
- 11% have a 4-year college degree.
- 7% have an advanced degree (12% of men, 4% of women).

One out of four Ramsey County seniors have very limited income
- 25% have income less than 200% of the federal poverty level for their household size (about 13,700 people).
- 15% are under 150% of poverty (about 8,500 people).

Several thousand live in poverty.
- About 7% of all older adults in the county have income under the federal poverty line (about 3,800 people).
- African Americans make up 3% of Ramsey County older adults, and 6% of those in poverty.
- Asian-Americans make up 2.6% of Ramsey County older adults, and 13% of those in poverty.
- Latinos make up 1.3% of Ramsey County older adults, and 3.5% of those in poverty.

See reverse side: Comparing survey groups
In addition to a 2003 survey of 499 older adults in Ramsey County, Wilder Research Center conducted three supplemental surveys of African American, Hmong, and Latino older adults. These smaller surveys used a random sampling method, but only in areas of the county where we could expect to find higher numbers of each cultural group (based on Census 2000).

The low-income subgroup is not a separate survey like the cultural groups, but consists of those older adults in the full survey whose household income was below $15,000 per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full survey</th>
<th>Low-income subgroup</th>
<th>African American survey</th>
<th>Hmong survey</th>
<th>Latino survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of respondents</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>75-76</td>
<td>Older</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
<td>Younger</td>
<td>Younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living alone</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>More live alone</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
<td>More live w/ children</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income &lt;$15,000</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Twice as likely</td>
<td>Almost all</td>
<td>Twice as likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>More</td>
<td>More</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowners</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>Fewer</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
<td>Fewer</td>
<td>Similar to full survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>