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2005 senior survey results now on Board on Aging Web site

The Minnesota Board on Aging has released the results of its 2005 Survey of Older Minnesotans. Those results are posted on the MBA Web site at:

<http://www.mnaging.org/advisor/survey/dataTables.htm>

The survey was taken of 3,855 Minnesotans age 50 and over. It is conducted every five years in order to monitor the changing needs, assets and expectations of older persons in the state. The information is then used to improve the design and targeting of public programs for older persons. It is also used to help researchers and policymakers better understand Minnesota's older population.

The goals of the survey include:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of state programs and policies directed to the welfare of older persons
- Identifying changes in population characteristics that signal the need for changes in services and/or program design
- Improving the targeting of public funds.

"This is a unique profile of Minnesota's older population," said Jim Varpness, executive director, Minnesota Board on Aging. "It is information that is not available through the U.S. Census and it's an accurate study of middle aged and older Minnesotans."

The survey gathered information in the following areas:

- Economic status – including work, income sources, assets and attitudes about work and retirement
- Health status – including general health, activities of daily living, transportation
- Housing status – whether the respondent owns or rents, accommodations needed, living arrangements, plans to move, housing conditions.
- Family/social status – including children, friends, sources of support, community and personal concerns.

Because this survey includes a random sample of adults age 50 and older, the data provides insights into how older people are faring today and how middle-aged adults are like to fare in the future – 2010 and beyond. The survey information was collected by telephone interviews of a random sample of noninstitutionalized persons between May 13 and June 20, 2005. The margin of error is less than two percent.

In addition to the 2005 survey results, the MBA Web site also contains the results of the 2001 Survey of Older Minnesotans.