

## Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) is a random telephone survey coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control, which collects information from adults on health behaviors and knowledge related to leading causes of death in each of the states. About half of all deaths occurring annually are now attributed to modifiable behavioral risks. In addition to determining what types of health risks are most prevalent in the population, the BRFS data will be very useful in determining what types of interventions are most needed for other health problems such as excess deaths from a particular chronic disease. A modified version of the standard BRFS was developed specifically for the “Community Diagnosis” process. Approximately 200 Macon County residents were interviewed for the survey. In addition to the questions on the standard BRFS survey, a series of health issues are listed. The respondent is asked if the issue is a “Definite Problem”, “Somewhat of a Problem”, “Not a Problem”, or “Not Sure”. The findings of the survey revealed that the community perceives the following topics to be **high priority health issues: tobacco use, arthritis, alcohol abuse, cancer, and high blood pressure.**

In analyzing the access to care issues, **access to prenatal care, hospitals, and transportation to health care were perceived as definite concerns.** The list of the health issues with frequency of response as a “Definite Problem” is as follows:

<b>Tobacco Use</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>Top Ten Issues Highlighted</b>
<b>Arthritis</b>	<b>42%</b>	
<b>Alcohol Abuse</b>	<b>41%</b>	
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>40%</b>	
<b>High Blood Pressure</b>	<b>38%</b>	
<b>Heart Conditions</b>	<b>34%</b>	
<b>Obesity</b>	<b>29%</b>	
<b>Teen Pregnancy</b>	<b>29%</b>	
<b>Drug Abuse</b>	<b>28%</b>	
<b>Health Problems of the Lungs</b>	<b>15%</b>	
<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>11%</b>	
Environmental Issues	10%	
Diabetes	7%	
Mental Health Problems	7%	
Violence in the Homes	5%	
STD’S	3%	
Suicide	2%	
Other Violence	1%	