**Title:** Marriage has Benefits for Physical Health

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**Purpose:** Marital partners are the first-line health support for older adults. This analysis examines the associations among age, marital status, and unhealthy days in a sample of West Virginian adults.

**Methods:** The 2017 BRFSS data were used to examine marital status and health days with a cross tabulations conducted.

**Results:** The 57.8% of adults who reported zero unhealthy days, most (61.6%) were currently

married, 16.4% were divorced/widowed/separated, and 22% were single/never married, χ2 (4 = 52.2), p < .001. This association persisted for adults younger than age 64, χ2 (4 = 43.2), p < .001, but was weakened in the older group, χ2 (4 = 8.61), p < .08.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Results showed married adults reported fewer unhealthy days,

although the relation was weaker at the oldest age range. Our results highlight the importance

of monitoring the health of those adults who may lack the support provided by a marital partner.