2006 Survey of Deer Hunters in North Carolina

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Introduction

We conducted this study to examine the views of North Carolina deer hunters about deer hunting and deer management.

Methods

In order to explore some topics related to deer hunting and management in-depth and to aid in the design of the survey instrument, in June 2006, we conducted focus groups with deer hunters in Marion (Mountains), Greensboro (Piedmont), and Kinston (Coast) North Carolina. Beginning in October 2006, we mailed 9,600 surveys to a random selection of hunters who had a valid Big Game Harvest Report Card during Fiscal Year 2006.

Selected Results

Deer hunting participation

During the three hunting seasons prior to the survey:

- 66% of deer hunters only hunted on private lands,
- 76% of deer hunters only still hunted,
- 66% of deer hunters statewide hunted deer over bait,
- 63% of deer hunters in the Western Season zone hunted deer without the use of bait, while ≤34% of hunters in other season zones hunted deer without the use of bait,
- 34% of hunters in the Western Season zone hunted only on private lands, while ≥69% of hunters in other deer season zones hunted only on private lands, and
- 58% of hunters in the Eastern Season zone only still hunted for deer, while ≥85% of hunters in other deer season zones only still hunted for deer.

During the 2005-06 deer season, the most recent season prior to the survey:

- 59% of hunters statewide harvested no antlered deer and
- 58% of hunters statewide harvested no antlerless deer.

Barriers to deer hunting

The most important barriers to deer hunting and the percentage of deer hunters indicating that these barriers impacted them were:

- not enough older age class or mature deer – 82%,
- too much illegal behavior by others – 79%,
- deer populations are too low – 70%,
- the cost of leasing land for hunting deer is too expensive – 66%,
- not having enough time to hunt deer – 58%, and
- not having access to land for hunting – 53%.

- Eighty-six percent of Western Season zone hunters indicated that deer populations are too low was important as a barrier to deer hunting, while ≤69% of hunters in other season zones indicated that deer populations are too low was important as a barrier.

The percentage of deer hunters who indicated the following were important as barriers to their deer hunting were:

- too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer – 39%,
- hunting regulations being too confusing – 35%,
- too much interference from still hunters hunting deer – 16%,
- and too much interference from hunters hunting species other than deer – 16%.

Satisfaction with WRC deer management
- Sixty-four percent of deer hunters were satisfied with how the WRC manages deer in North Carolina.

Views on numbers of deer hunters and deer population levels
- Forty-five percent of deer hunters statewide wanted the deer population to increase in the region where they spent the most time hunting.
- Seventy-seven percent of deer hunters in the Western Season zone, 44% in the Northwestern Season zone, 38% in the Central Season zone, and 38% in the Eastern Season zone wanted the deer population to increase.
- Seventy-nine percent of deer hunters statewide believed that the current number of mature bucks in the deer population was too low.
- Sixty-six percent of hunters statewide believed that the current season bag limit for bucks was about right.
- If there were no bag limits, 59% of deer hunters indicated they would harvest 1 or 2 bucks.
- Fifty-five percent of deer hunters believed that the current number of does was too many.
- Fifty-three percent of deer hunters thought the current season bag limit for does was about right, but 40% believed the current season bag limit for does was too low.
- If there were no bag limits, 57% of deer hunters reported they would harvest at least 3 does.

Views on deer season timing and length
The percentage of deer hunters who believed the timing of the following weapon seasons was about right were:

- Bow and Arrow season – 55%,
- Muzzleloader season – 61%,
- Gun season – 67%, and
- Gun Either-Sex season – 73%.

The percentage of deer hunters who believed the length of the following weapon seasons was about right were:

- Bow and Arrow season – 52%,
- Muzzleloader season – 41%,
- Gun season – 43%, and
- Gun Either-Sex season – 58%.

- Sixty-five percent of deer hunters in the Central Season zone and Eastern Season zone, 52% in the Northwestern Season zone, and 32% in the Western Season zone believed that the Gun Either-Sex season was about right.

Views on Quality Deer Management (QDM)
- Seventy-six percent of deer hunters voluntarily practiced QDM strategies where they hunted deer.
- Thirty-six percent of deer hunters were neutral or had no opinion about a mandatory QDM program, although 34% indicated support for a mandatory QDM program.

Changing bag limits/season lengths

The percentage of deer hunters who supported the following regulations changes to meet QDM objectives were:

- decreasing the season bag limit for bucks – 52%,
- increasing the season bag limit for does – 62%, and
- shortening the Gun season – 18%.

"Earn-a-Buck" program

The percentage of deer hunters who supported the following regulations changes to meet QDM objectives were:

- requiring a doe harvest before each buck harvest – 38%,
- no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest – 51%,
- no restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest – 34%, and
- no restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before a fourth buck harvest – 23%.

Antler restriction program

The percentage of deer hunters who supported the following regulations changes to meet QDM objectives were:

- requiring a harvested buck to have 3 points on 1 side – 49%,
- requiring a harvested buck to have 4 points on 1 side – 32%,
- requiring a harvested buck to have a 15 inch minimum inside spread – 27%,
- requiring a harvested buck to have at least 4 points on 1 side or a 15 inch minimum spread – 27%, and
- no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring each additional buck harvested to meet an antler restriction – 48%.

Scale of QDM implementation

The percentage of deer hunters who supported the following scales of mandatory QDM implementation were:

- implementation of a statewide, uniform QDM strategy – 41%,
- implementation of varying QDM strategies by deer hunting season – 51%,

- implementation of varying QDM strategies by county – 43%, and
- implementation of QDM on select Game Lands – 41%.

Views on deer harvest reporting
- Seventy-six percent of deer hunters were satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system.
- Forty-nine percent of deer hunters agreed that deer hunters should be required to physically tag deer harvests in the field.

Views on illegal behavior
The percentage of deer hunters who agreed with the following statements about illegal behavior were:

- failure to report deer harvests is common in North Carolina – 67%,
- illegal deer hunting is common in North Carolina – 70%, and
- penalties for wildlife violations should be increased – 55%.

Views on hunting techniques
The percentage of deer hunters who agreed that the following hunting techniques should be legal were:

- hunting over bait – 73%,
- hunting deer with dogs – 36%,
- hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season – 46%,
- hunting deer with crossbows during archery season – 53%,
- hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season – 59%, and
- hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season – 40%.

- Fifty-three percent of deer hunters in the Western Season zone, 76% in the Northwestern Season zone, 77% in the Central Season zone, and 74% in the Eastern Season zone agree that hunting over bait should be legal.
- Fifty percent of deer hunters in the Eastern Season zone, 15% in the Western Season zone, 22% in the Northwestern Season zone, and 32% in the Central Season zone agreed that hunting deer with dogs should be legal.

Management Implications

Deer hunting techniques/areas hunted
Even in the Eastern Season zone, most hunters only still hunted for deer. The use of dogs for hunting deer was controversial among deer hunters, as 39% of hunters indicated that too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer was important as a barrier to their deer hunting, and only 36% of deer hunters agreed that hunting deer with dogs should be legal.

Most Western Season zone hunters hunted deer without the use of bait. However, most Northwester, Central, and Eastern Season zone hunters used bait to hunt deer at least part of the time. Most deer hunters agreed that hunting over bait should be legal, so prohibiting hunting deer with the use of bait would likely be unpopular with deer hunters.

Mountain Season zone hunters were more likely than Northwestern, Central, and Eastern Season zone hunters to have hunted on Game Lands. This may indicate a high importance for public hunting areas in the Mountains. Or, this may point to a lack of opportunity for deer hunting on Game Lands in the other 3 deer season zones.

Regulations to achieve QDM objectives

Most hunters voluntarily practiced QDM strategies where they hunted deer. Also, most hunters indicated that not having enough older age class deer was important barrier to deer hunting. However, only 34% implied they favored a mandatory QDM program. Even though most deer hunters believed that the current bag limit for bucks was about right, most deer hunters supported decreasing the season bag limit for bucks in order to meet QDM objectives. Increasing the season bag limit for does was also popular. However, increasing the season bag limit for does, while increasing opportunity for hunters, may have little effect on the number of does harvested, as most hunters reported harvesting 0 antlerless deer in 2005 and most indicated that if there were no bag limits, they would harvest 4 or fewer does every year, if given the chance.

Shortening the Gun season to achieve QDM objectives was supported by a minority of deer hunters. Also, most Western, Northwestern, and Central Season zone hunters believed the Gun season was too short, while most Eastern Season zone hunters believed the Gun season was about the right length.

The most popular option for an "Earn-a-Buck" program, supported by most deer hunters, was no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest.

The most popular option for an antler restriction program, supported by 49% of deer hunters, was requiring a harvested buck to have at least 3 points on 1 side.

The most popular option for scale of implementation of mandatory QDM strategies, supported by most hunters, was by designated deer hunting season. However, ≥41% of deer hunters also supported implementation of QDM strategies by county or select Game Lands.

Current deer season structures

Most deer hunters believed the timing of the Bow and Arrow, Muzzleloader, Gun, and Gun Either-Sex seasons were about right. Therefore, even though 50% of deer hunters believed the Gun season was too short, lengthening the Gun season would affect the timing and/or length of other weapon seasons, and these changes to other weapon seasons could be controversial.

Because hunters were split on whether or not to allow hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season, implementing this change would likely be controversial.

Deer harvest reporting

Most deer hunters believed that failure to report deer harvests and illegal deer hunting are common in North Carolina. Also, even though most agreed that they were satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system, 49% of deer hunters agreed that all deer hunters should be required to physically tag their deer harvests in the field with a printed tag from the WRC.

Hunting deer with bows/ crossbows

Allowing hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season or hunting deer with crossbows during archery season would likely be popular with deer hunters.

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Introduction

In 2007, 239,366 people hunted deer in North Carolina (Pollock and Wen 2009) and deer hunting in the state generated $193,291,446 in retail sales in 2006 (Southwick Associates 2008). Given the importance of deer hunting in the state, and that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) had never done a statewide survey of the behaviors and opinions of deer hunters, we conducted this study to examine the views of North Carolina deer hunters about deer hunting and deer management.

Methods

Focus groups

In order to explore some topics related to deer hunting and management in-depth, in June 2006, we conducted a series of 3 focus groups. We invited deer hunters who lived near Marion (Mountains), Greensboro (Piedmont), and Kinston (Coast) to participate. With the exception of two women who attended the Kinston group, all participants were men.

Survey instrument design

We designed a survey instrument with input from the WRC Deer Committee. The survey instrument contained items on deer hunting experience and methods, background and demographic information, and views on: current season structures, deer population trends, Quality Deer Management, deer harvest reporting, and hunting techniques (Appendix A).

Survey implementation

We mailed 9,600 surveys to a random selection of hunters who had a valid Big Game Harvest Report Card during Fiscal Year 2006. We used a modified version of The Tailored Design Method (Dillman 2000) and sent participants up to four mailings. All survey respondents were entered into a lottery drawing for a Conquest fixed blade knife, donated by Remington-Stren, valued at approximately $50. The first full survey mailing (survey instrument and Business Reply return envelope) was mailed on October 16, 2006, and a reminder postcard was mailed to all survey recipients on October 23. Any nonrespondents were sent follow up mailings on November 13 and, if necessary, December 18.

Data analysis

We analyzed data using SPSS 15.0 (SPSS Inc. 2006). We used a principal component factor analysis for data reduction of the question 15 items (barriers to deer hunting). To determine the reliability of the factors that emerged, we then computed Cronbach's Alpha for each factor. Finally, we calculated total scores for the scales.

We used crosstabulations and chi-square tests (χ^2) tests to test null hypotheses that there were not differences based on deer season hunted and other variables. We omitted categories when > 20% of cells had expected values < 5 or when any cells had expected values < 1. We calculated standardized residuals to determine which cells in crosstabulations were significantly different from expected values. An adjusted residual with an absolute value ≥ 2.0 was evidence against independence in the cell (Agresti and Finlay 1999). For comparisons with two ordinal variables, we calculated gamma (γ) whenever chi-square tests had $P \leq 0.05$. We used 2006-07 deer season zones for regional comparisons. Due to rounding, not all percentages total 100%.

For the 2 survey items that asked about number of antlered bucks (question 30) and antlerless deer (question 31) harvested, there was no response option for "0". Therefore, we weighted the data to correct for this.

Except for questions 30-31, all statewide survey data were weighted based on the age distribution of the original sample. Following the recommendation of Winship and Radbill (1994), we did not use weighted data for statistical tests which depend on standard errors. All comparisons by deer season zone hunted, except those involving questions 30-31, used unweighted data.

Results

Respondents

The adjusted survey response rate, calculated by omitting incorrect addresses and persons ineligible to respond, was 59% (n=5005). The statewide sampling error was ±1.7%, and the regional sampling error ranged from ±2.6% for the Eastern Deer Season zone to ±5.0% for the Western Deer Season zone (Table 1).

There were no differences between respondents and nonrespondents based on sex (Table 2).

Respondents were more likely to be ≥ 45 years old than nonrespondents (Table 3).

Table 1. Maximum survey sampling error.

Region	Minimum Number of Responses to Survey Items	Maximum Sampling Error[a]
Western Deer Season hunters	392	4.95%
Northwestern Deer Season hunters	477	4.48%
Central Deer Season hunters	941	3.19%
Eastern Deer Season hunters	1457	2.56%
Statewide	3474	1.65%

[a]Based on a dichotomous variable with 50% of the respondents in each category.

Table 2. Sex of survey respondents and nonrespondents.

	Respondents	Nonrespondents
Male	96.2%	96.3%
	(n=3722)	(n=2632)
Female	3.8%	3.7%
	(n=148)	(n=101)

χ^2=0.1, df=1, p=0.787

Table 3. Age of survey respondents and nonrespondents.

Age (years)	Respondents	Nonrespondents
16-24	6.6%[a]	16.6%[b]
	(n=332)	(n=575)
25-34	12.9%[a]	20.0%[b]
	(n=642)	(n=693)
35-44	20.2%[a]	22.5%[b]
	(n=1010)	(n=781)
45-54	23.0%[b]	19.5%[a]
	(n=1151)	(n=678)
55-64	18.9%[b]	11.8%[a]
	(n=943)	(n=410)
≥65	18.4%[b]	9.6%[a]
	(n=918)	(n=334)

χ^2=440.7, df=5, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Data weighting

For questions 30-31 (no response option for "0"), even though many respondents wrote "0" on their questionnaires, there was a much higher than average number of "missing" responses for these items. Also, there was a much higher proportion of respondents who indicated harvesting 1 buck or antlerless deer and a much lower proportion of respondents who indicated harvesting 0 bucks or antlerless deer than did respondents to the 2005-06 Hunter Harvest survey (D. Palmer, NCWRC, unpublished report). We concluded that some hunters who harvested 0 bucks or antlerless deer either did not respond to the question or checked the box for "1." Therefore, we weighted the data (Appendix B) for these items to reflect:

1) All of the respondents who omitted responses for these items (above the average number of respondents who omitted all the items) were assigned a response of "0."

2) The ratios of respondents selecting "0" to "1" (bucks or antlerless deer) were identical to the corresponding ratios on the 2005-06 Hunter Harvest Survey.

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Statewide data (except questions 30-31) were weighted to reflect the age distribution of the original sample (Table 4).

Table 4. Age of survey respondents with and without weighting to reflect age distribution of original sample.

Age (years)	Respondents (Unweighted)	Respondents (Weighted)	Weighting Factor
16-24	6.6% (n=332)	10.8% (n=538)	1.62
25-34	12.9% (n=642)	16.9% (n=846)	1.32
35-44	20.2% (n=1010)	21.7% (n=1084)	1.07
45-54	23.0% (n=1151)	21.1% (n=1054)	0.92
55-64	18.9% (n=943)	15.4% (n=770)	0.82
≥65	18.4% (n=918)	14.1% (n=704)	0.77

Deer hunting experience

Most respondents (95%, n=4,911) had hunted deer in North Carolina (Question 1). Most North Carolina deer hunters (91%, n=4,636) planned to hunt deer (or had already hunted deer) during the 2006 deer hunting season (Question 2).

Most respondents (93%) hunted deer in 2003, 2004, or 2005 and most (71%) hunted all 3 of these years (Figure 1, Figure 2).

Eastern Season zone hunters (75%) were less likely than expected to have hunted all 3 years (Table 5).

Most hunters (60%) typically deer hunted in North Carolina 2-21 days per year (Figure 3).

Western (77%) and Northwestern (65%) Deer Season zone hunters were more likely and Eastern Deer Season zone hunters (56%) were less likely than expected to have hunted 2-21 days per year (Table 6).

Most deer hunters (64%, n=4368) did not own any property in North Carolina on which they hunted deer during the last 3 years (Question 6).

Northwestern Season zone hunters (46%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (34%) less likely than expected to own property on which they hunted deer (Table 7).

Most deer hunters (68%, n=4350) did not lease any land in North Carolina during the last 3 years for the primary purpose of deer hunting (Question 7).

Deer Hunter Survey – June 2009

Central (35%) and Eastern (36%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Western (17%) and Northwestern (26%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to lease land for the primary purpose of deer hunting (Table 8).

Figure 1

Q3. During which of the last 3 deer hunting seasons did you hunt deer in North Carolina? (n=4670)

Multiple Responses Allowed

Figure 2

Q3. Total number of years deer hunted during last 3 years. (n=4670)
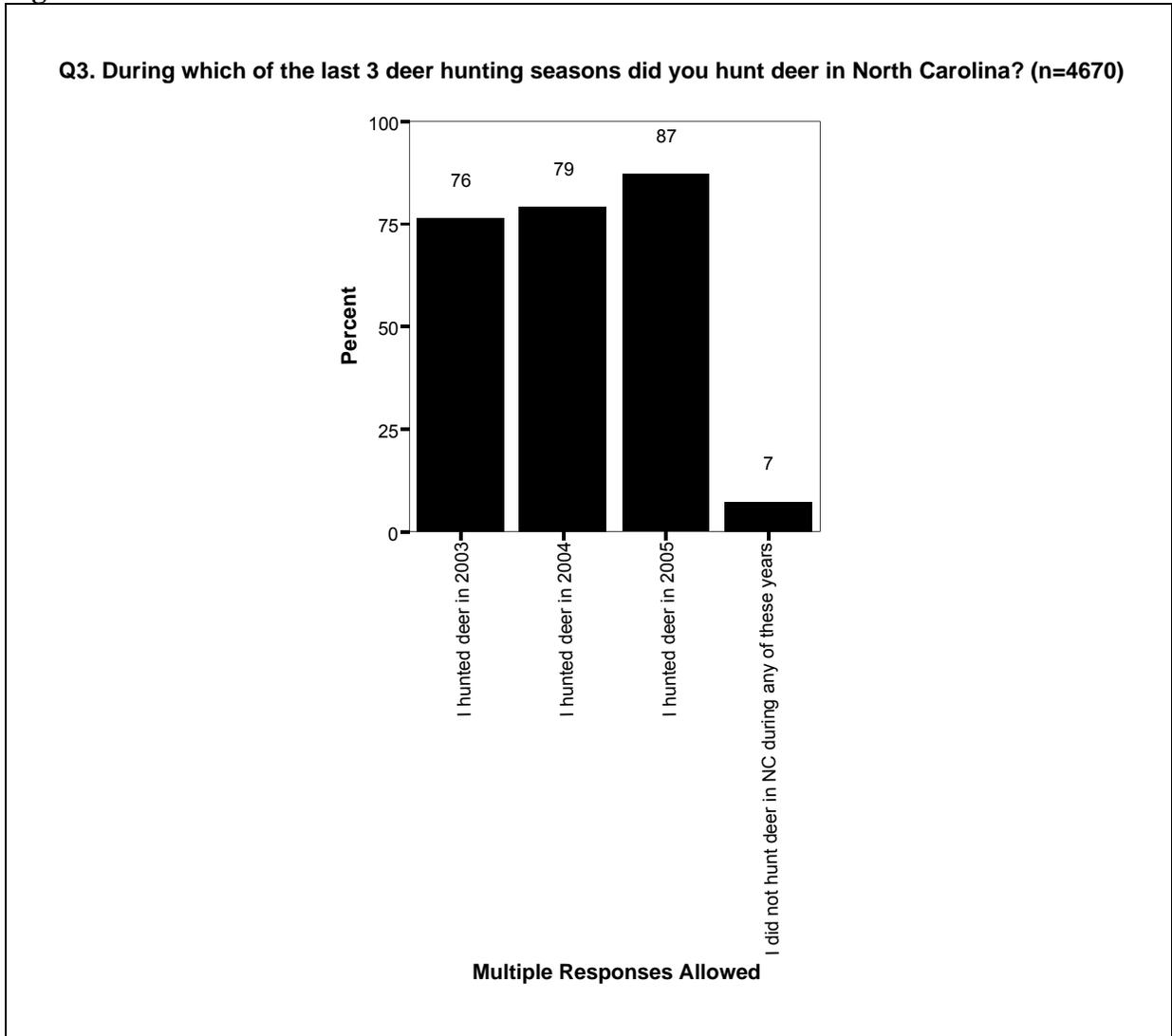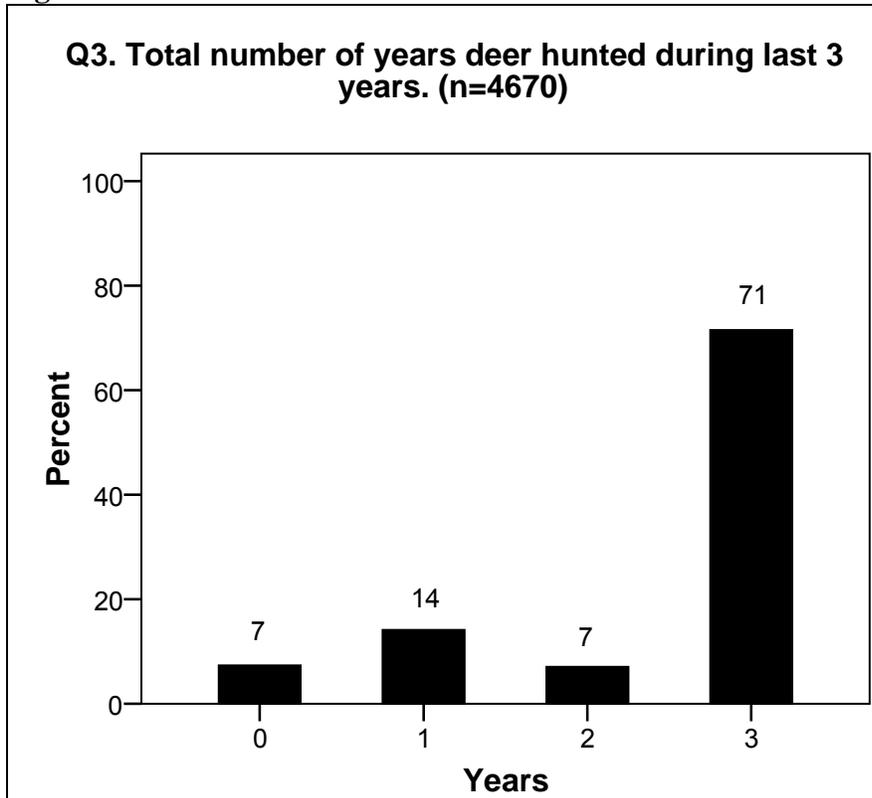
Table 5. Total number of years deer hunted during last 3 years (Q3) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Total years deer hunted in NC during last 3 years	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
1	16.4% (n=90)	12.5%[a] (n=77)	14.4% (n=170)	17.0%[b] (n=312)
2	7.3% (n=40)	8.6% (n=53)	6.8% (n=80)	7.8% (n=144)
3	76.3% (n=419)	78.9% (n=487)	78.9% (n=933)	75.2%[a] (n=1380)

χ^2=11.3, df=6, p=0.080

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 3

Q4. About how many days do you hunt deer in NC in a typical year? (n=4362)
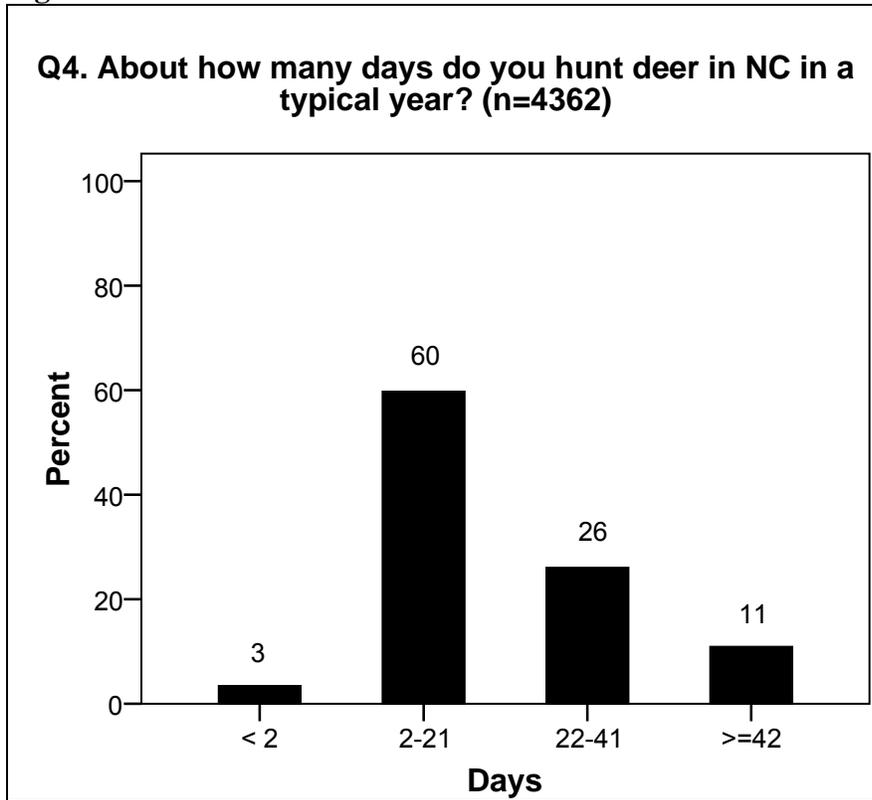
Table 6. Number of days typically deer hunted (Q4) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

About how many days do you hunt deer in NC in a typical year?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
< 2	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%
	(n=21)	(n=24)	(n=44)	(n=66)
2-21	77.0%[a]	65.1%[a]	58.9%	56.2%[b]
	(n=428)	(n=406)	(n=700)	(n=1045)
22-41	14.9%[b]	22.9%	26.0%	27.8%[a]
	(n=83)	(n=143)	(n=309)	(n=518)
≥42	4.3%[b]	8.2%[b]	11.4%	12.4%[a]
	(n=24)	(n=51)	(n=136)	(n=231)

χ^2=94.5, df=9, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 7. Ownership of deer hunting property (Q6) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Do you own any property in NC on which you hunted deer during last 3 years?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Yes	33.1% (n=184)	46.0%[a] (n=287)	37.8% (n=451)	33.6%[b] (n=626)
No	66.9% (n=372)	54.0%[b] (n=337)	62.2% (n=741)	66.4%[a] (n=1238)

χ^2=34.8, df=3, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 8. Leasing of deer hunting land (Q7) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Did you lease any land in NC during the last 3 years for the primary purpose of hunting deer?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Yes	16.9%[a] (n=93)	26.2%[a] (n=163)	34.5%[b] (n=410)	36.0%[b] (n=668)
No	83.1%[b] (n=458)	73.8%[b] (n=459)	65.5%[a] (n=778)	64.0%[a] (n=1190)

χ^2=84.5, df=3, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Deer hunting participation

A plurality of hunters (44%) spent the most time hunting in the Eastern Deer Season zone during the last 3 years (Figure 4).

Most hunters (66%) only hunted on private lands when hunting deer in North Carolina during the last 3 years (Figure 5). A focus group participant said: "I'm not going to hunt the Game Lands. There's no deer there."

Western Season zone hunters (34%) were less likely than hunters in other deer seasons ($\geq$69%) to have only hunted deer on private land (Table 9).

Most (76%) hunters only still hunted for deer in North Carolina during the last 3 years (Figure 6).

Most Eastern Season zone hunters (58%) only still hunted for deer; however, this was less than the percentage of hunters in other regions ($\geq$85%) who only still hunted for deer (Table 10).

Most hunters (66%) used bait, at least to some extent, when hunting deer in North Carolina during the last 3 years (Figure 7).

Western Season zone hunters (63%) were more likely than hunters in other regions (≤29%) to have only hunted deer without the use of bait (Table 11).

Hunters who only still hunted (7%) were more likely than expected to have only hunted deer over bait (Table 12). Hunters who only hunted with dogs (dog only) (0%), most often still hunted (primarily still) (4%), or most often hunted with dogs (primarily dog) (2%) were less likely than expected to have only hunted deer over bait.

Most hunters hunted during the Gun (98%) and Muzzleloader (53%) Seasons when hunting deer in North Carolina during the last 3 years (Figure 8). Forty percent of deer hunters hunted during the Bow and Arrow Season in North Carolina during the last 3 years.

Eastern Season zone hunters were less likely to have hunted during the Bow and Arrow (28%) and Muzzleloader (36%) Seasons than deer hunters in other regions (Bow and Arrow: ≥46%; Muzzleloader: ≥58%) (Table 13).

Most deer hunters (59%) harvested 0 bucks during the 2005 deer season (Figure 9).

Western Season zone hunters (73%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (54%) less likely than expected to have harvested 0 bucks (Table 14).

Most deer hunters (58%) harvested 0 antlerless deer during the 2005 deer season (Figure 10).

Western Season zone hunters (80%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (52%) less likely than expected to have harvested 0 antlerless deer (Table 15).

Figure 4

Q8. Please indicate the region (deer season) in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years (n=4323)

Figure 5

Q5. When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you hunt on private land, Game Lands, or both private land and Game Lands? (n=4346)
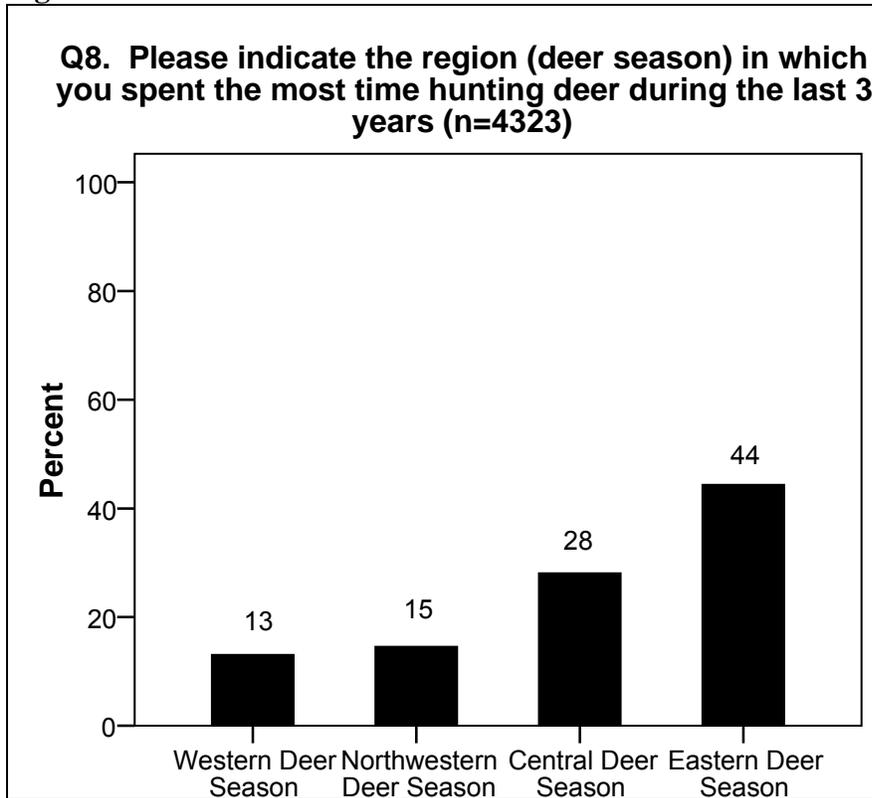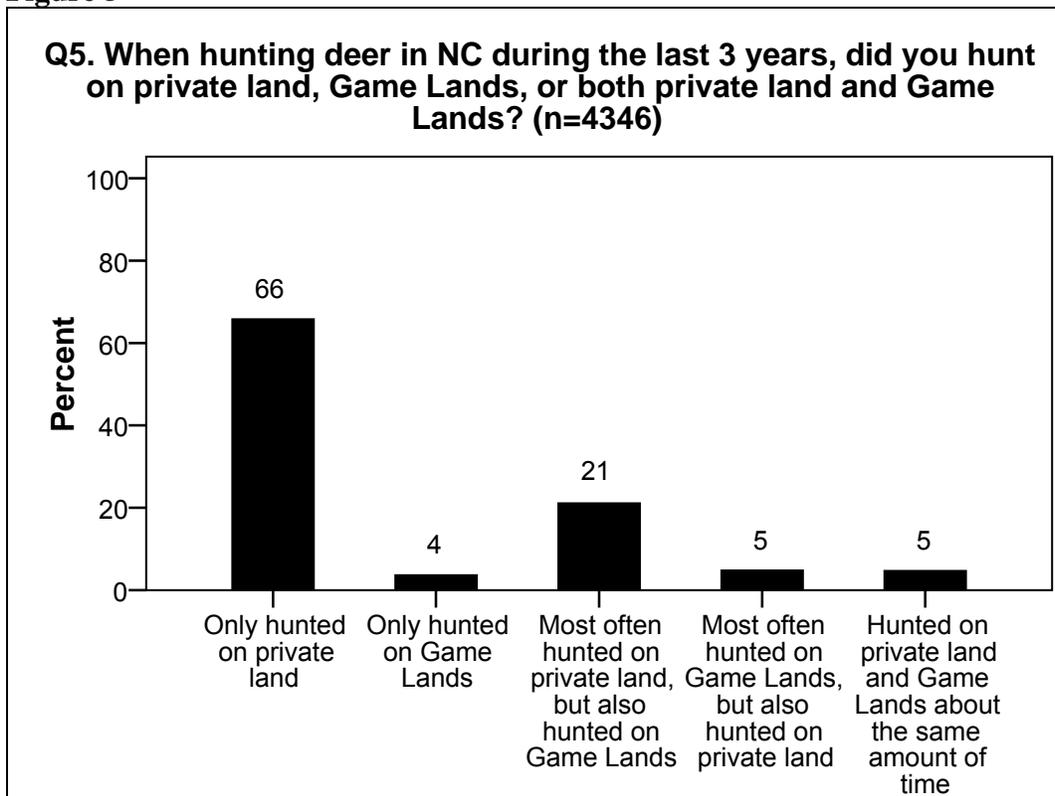
Table 9. Deer hunting done on private land and Game Lands (Q5) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you hunt on private land, Game Lands, or both private land and Game Lands?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Only hunted on private land	33.9%[a] (n=187)	76.2%[b] (n=473)	69.0%[b] (n=821)	70.8%[b] (n=1314)
Only hunted on Game Lands	15.4%[b] (n=85)	1.6%[a] (n=10)	2.8%[a] (n=33)	1.6%[a] (n=30)
Most often hunted on private land, but also hunted on Game Lands	24.7%[b] (n=136)	18.8% (n=117)	21.4% (n=255)	20.1% (n=372)
Most often hunted on Game Lands, but also hunted on private land	15.8%[b] (n=87)	0.8%[a] (n=5)	3.2%[a] (n=38)	3.6%[a] (n=66)
Hunted on private land and Game Lands about the same amount of time	10.2%[b] (n=56)	2.6%[a] (n=16)	3.5% (n=42)	3.9% (n=73)

χ^2=568.5, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 6

Q9. When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you still hunt, hunt with dogs, or both still hunt and hunt with dogs? (n=4362)
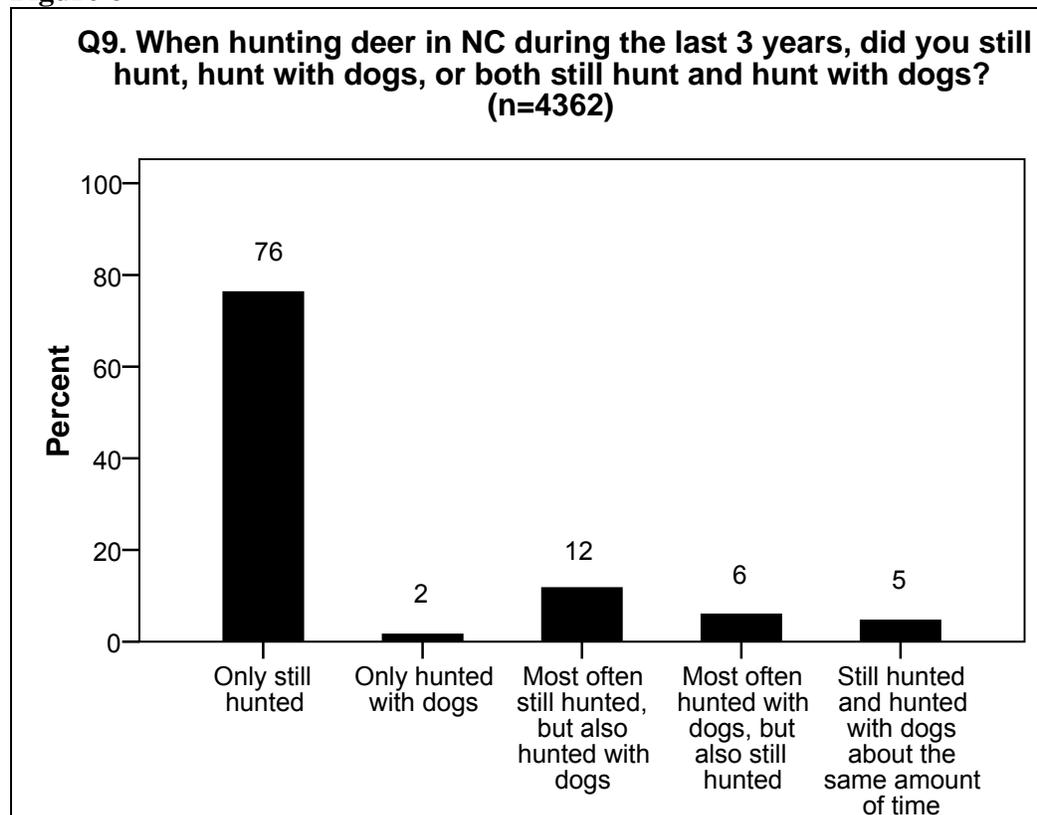
Table 10. Deer hunting done by still hunting and with dogs (Q9) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you still hunt, hunt with dogs, or both still hunt and hunt with dogs?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Only still hunted	97.7%[a] (n=544)	97.7%[a] (n=608)	85.2%[a] (n=1013)	57.5%[b] (n=1071)
Only hunted with dogs	0.2%[b] (n=1)	0.0%[b] (n=0)	0.3%[b] (n=4)	3.5%[a] (n=66)
Most often still hunted, but also hunted with dogs	1.8%[b] (n=10)	1.6%[b] (n=10)	10.1%[b] (n=120)	18.6%[a] (n=346)
Most often hunted with dogs, but also still hunted	0.4%[b] (n=2)	0.3%[b] (n=2)	2.2%[b] (n=26)	11.8%[a] (n=220)
Still hunted and hunted with dogs about the same amount of time	0.0%[b] (n=0)	0.3%[b] (n=2)	2.2%[b] (n=26)	8.5%[a] (n=158)

χ^2=751.7, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 7

Q10. When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you primarily hunt with or without the use of bait? (n=4383)
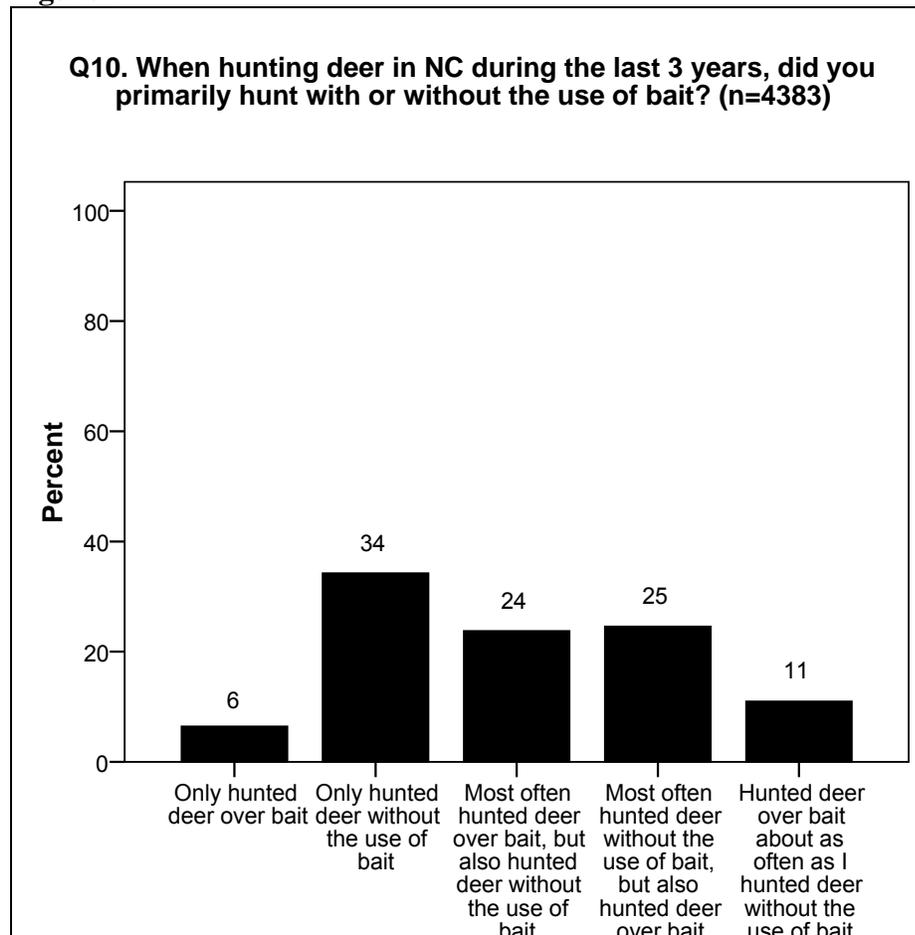
Table 11. Deer hunting done with or without the use of bait (Q10) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you primarily hunt with or without the use of bait?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Only hunted deer over bait	3.1%[a] (n=17)	7.7% (n=48)	6.8% (n=81)	6.1% (n=113)
Only hunted deer without the use of bait	63.3%[b] (n=352)	29.8%[a] (n=185)	28.5%[a] (n=338)	34.0%[a] (n=629)
Most often hunted deer over bait, but also hunted deer without the use of bait	11.2%[a] (n=62)	29.0%[b] (n=180)	29.0%[b] (n=344)	21.9%[a] (n=405)
Most often hunted deer without the use of bait, but also hunted deer over bait	16.9%[a] (n=94)	23.4% (n=145)	23.6% (n=280)	26.9%[b] (n=498)
Hunted deer over bait about as often as I hunted deer without the use of bait	5.6%[a] (n=31)	10.0% (n=62)	12.0%[b] (n=142)	11.1% (n=205)

χ^2=251.7, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 12. Deer hunting done with or without the use of bait (Q10) by NC deer hunting with dogs and still hunting (Q9).

When hunting deer in NC during the last 3 years, did you primarily hunt with or without the use of bait?	Only still hunted	Only hunted with dogs	Most often still hunted, but also hunted with dogs	Most often hunted with dogs, but also still hunted	Still hunted and hunted with dogs about the same amount of time
Only hunted deer over bait	7.1%[a] (n=232)	0.0%[b] (n=0)	3.5%[b] (n=17)	2.0%[b] (n=5)	5.9% (n=11)
Only hunted deer without the use of bait	37.1%[a] (n=1205)	90.3%[a] (n=65)	22.5%[b] (n=110)	38.2% (n=96)	24.2%[b] (n=45)
Most often hunted deer over bait, but also hunted deer without the use of bait	24.3%[a] (n=789)	1.4%[b] (n=1)	31.4%[a] (n=153)	10.4%[b] (n=26)	14.5%[b] (n=27)
Most often hunted deer without the use of bait, but also hunted deer over bait	21.7%[b] (n=706)	5.6%[b] (n=4)	31.1%[a] (n=152)	40.2%[a] (n=101)	30.1%[a] (n=56)
Hunted deer over bait about as often as I hunted deer without the use of bait	9.8%[b] (n=319)	2.8%[b] (n=2)	11.5% (n=56)	9.2% (n=23)	25.3%[a] (n=47)

χ^2=271.1, df=16, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 8

Q11. During which of the following seapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years? (n=4396)

Multiple Responses Allowed
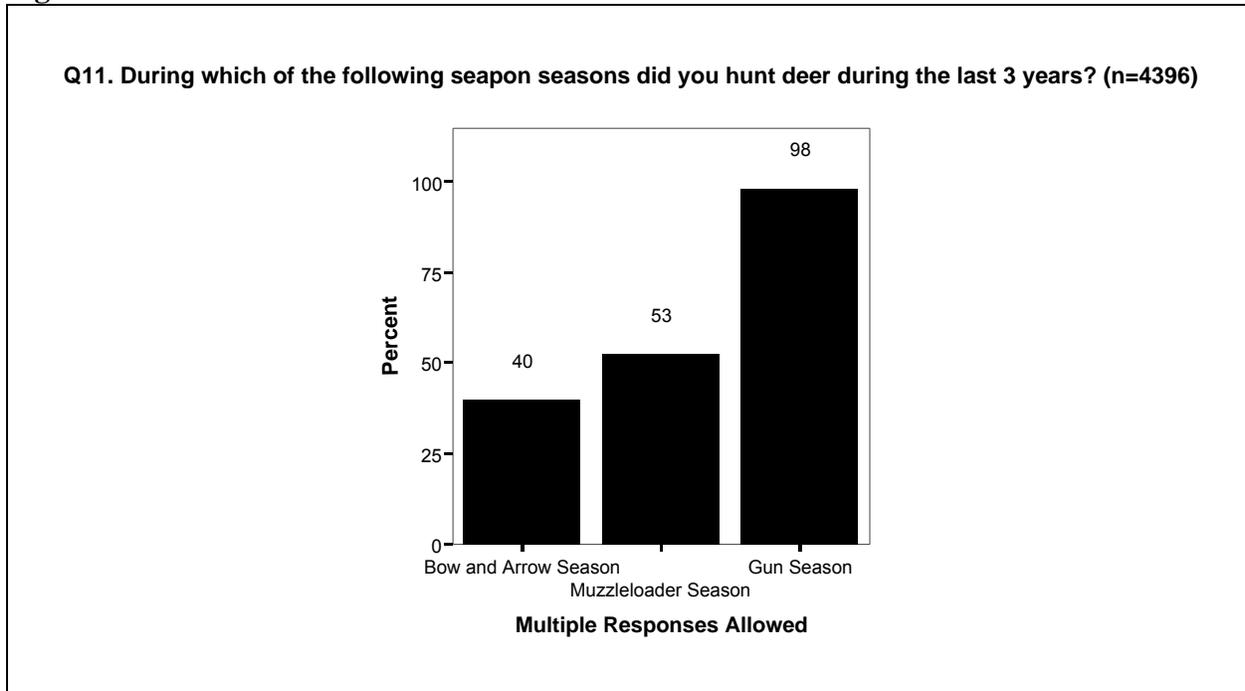
Table 13. Weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8). (Multiple responses allowed)

During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?	Western Season (n=556)	Northwestern Season (n=621)	Central Season (n=1187)	Eastern Season (n=1855)
Bow and Arrow Season[a]	46.4%[b] (n=258)	47.3%[b] (n=294)	45.7%[b] (n=543)	27.5%[c] (n=510)
Muzzleloader Season[a]	58.3%[b] (n=324)	72.9%[b] (n=453)	63.4%[b] (n=752)	36.3%[c] (n=673)
Gun Season[a]	96.4%[c] (n=536)	98.2% (n=610)	98.0% (n=1163)	99.2%[b] (n=1840)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 22.0$, df=3, p=0.001
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 9

Q30. How many antlered bucks did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season? (n=3586)
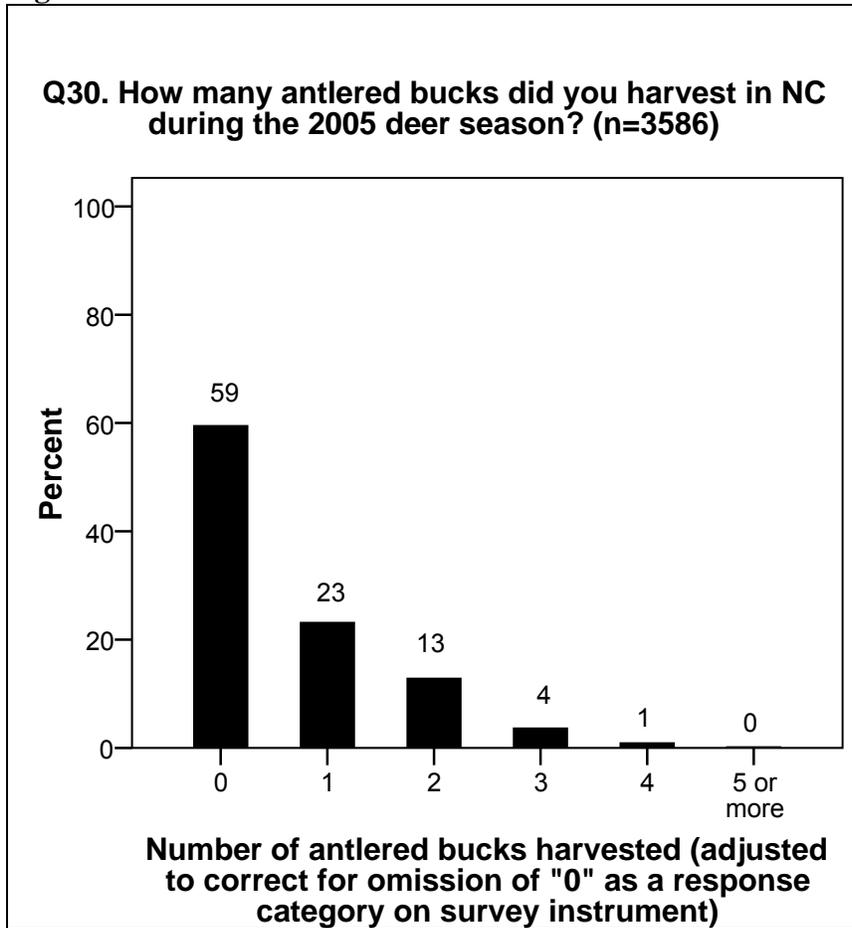
Table 14. Number of antlered bucks harvested in 2005 (Q30) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

How many antlered bucks did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season? (adjusted to correct for omission of "0" as a response category on survey instrument)	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
0	73.4%[a] (n=372)	63.5% (n=320)	60.1% (n=595)	53.5%[b] (n=808)
1	18.5%[b] (n=94)	25.0% (n=126)	23.4% (n=232)	23.6% (n=356)
2	6.9%[b] (n=35)	10.3% (n=52)	12.3% (n=122)	15.6%[a] (n=236)
3 or more	1.2%[b] (n=6)	1.2%[b] (n=6)	4.1% (n=41)	7.3%[a] (n=110)

χ^2=107.7, df=9, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 10

Q31. How many antlerless deer (does and/or button bucks) did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season? (n=3415)
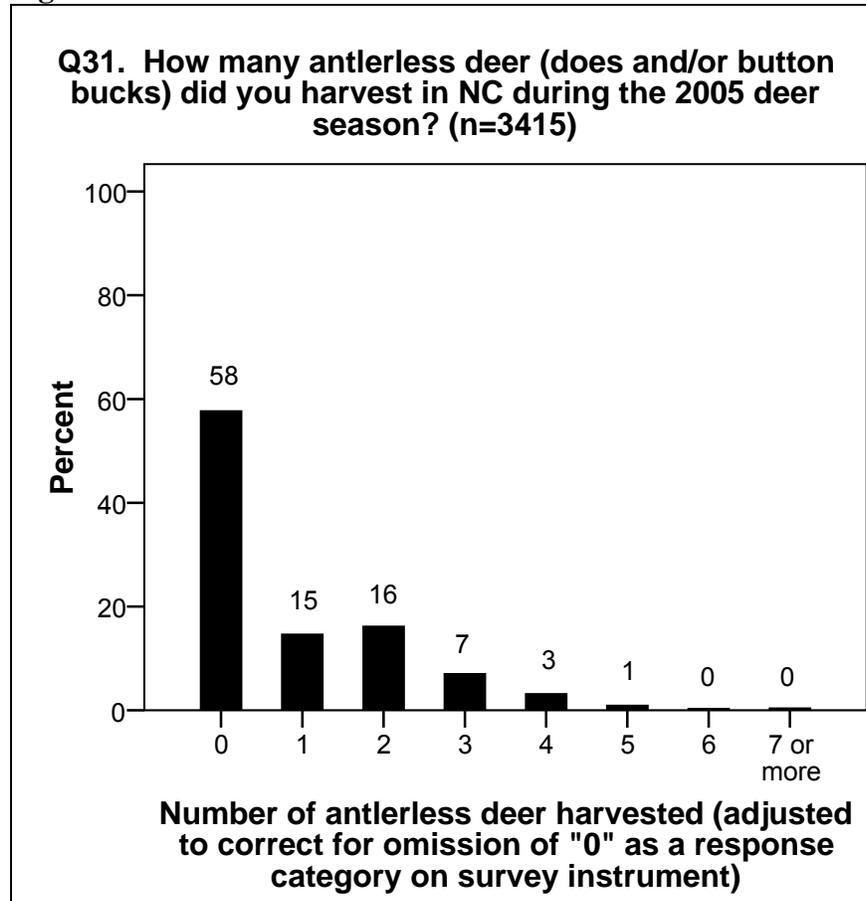
Table 15. Number of antlerless deer harvested in 2005 (Q31) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

How many antlerless deer did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season? (adjusted to correct for omission of "0" as a response category on survey instrument)	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
0	80.0%[a] (n=401)	56.4% (n=260)	55.5% (n=511)	52.1%[b] (n=760)
1	9.4%[b] (n=47)	16.9% (n=78)	15.3% (n=141)	15.0% (n=219)
2	7.6%[b] (n=38)	15.0% (n=69)	16.8% (n=155)	18.8%[a] (n=274)
3	2.4%[b] (n=12)	7.2% (n=33)	7.6% (n=70)	8.2%[a] (n=120)
4 or more	0.6%[b] (n=3)	4.6% (n=21)	4.8% (n=44)	5.8%[a] (n=85)

χ^2=134.6, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

17

Barriers to deer hunting

Most deer hunters (82%) indicated that not enough older age class or mature deer was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 11). A focus group participant said: "To me a quality experience is looking…not only at a lot of deer, but a lot of quality deer."

There were no overall differences in the importance of not enough older age class or mature deer as a barrier to deer hunting based on deer season hunted (Table 16).

Most deer hunters (79%) indicated that too much illegal behavior by others was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 12). A focus group participant said: "Poachers, trespassers, bubbas with bullets. That takes away from my hunting experience tremendously."

Western Season zone hunters (66%) were more likely than expected to have responded that too much illegal behavior was a very important barrier to deer hunting (Table 17).

Most deer hunters (70%) indicated that low deer populations were important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 13).

Western Season zone hunters (65%) were more likely and Central (42%) and Eastern (44%) Season zone hunters were less likely than expected to have responded that low deer populations were very important barriers to deer hunting (Table 18).

Most deer hunters (66%) indicated that the expense of leasing land for hunting deer was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 14).

Most deer hunters (58%) indicated that not having enough time to hunt deer was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 15).

Most deer hunters (53%) indicated that not having access to land for hunting was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 16).

There were no overall differences in the importance of not having enough time to hunt deer as a barrier to deer hunting based on deer season hunted (Table 19).

A plurality of deer hunters (39%) indicated that too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 17).

Not surprisingly, Eastern Season zone hunters (46%) were more likely and Western (27%) and Northwestern (27%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to have responded that too much interference from hunters using dogs was important as a barrier to deer hunting (Table 20).

A plurality of deer hunters (40%) were neutral or had no opinion about hunting regulations being too confusing as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 18).

There were no differences in the importance of hunting regulations being too confusing as a barrier to deer hunting based on deer season hunted (Table 21).

Most deer hunters (51%) indicated that too much interference from still hunters hunting deer was unimportant as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 19).

A plurality of hunters (47%) indicated too much interference from hunters hunting species other than deer was unimportant as a barrier to deer hunting (Figure 20).

A factor analysis of all of the barriers to deer hunting items (question 15) revealed that there were three distinct factors that explained 53% of the variance between the items.   Not having access to land for hunting, the expense of leasing land for hunting deer, and hunting regulations being too confusing loaded together as a component which explained 20% of the common variance. However, because the hunting regulations being too confusing item lowered the Cronbach's Alpha reliability value of the component, it was not included in the *Land Access* variable. The *Land Access* variable had a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.68. Too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer, too much interference from still hunters hunting deer, and too much interference from hunters hunting species other than deer loaded together as a component which explained 17% of the common variance. However, because the interference from hunters using dogs item lowered the Cronbach's Alpha reliability value of the component, it was not included in the *Interference* variable. The *Interference* variable had a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.67. Deer populations are too low, not enough older age class or mature deer, and too much illegal behavior by others loaded together as a component which explained 17% of the common variance. However, because the items in this component were substantively different, they were not combined to form a new variable.

Overall scores for *Land Access* ranged between -4 and 4. When these scores were recoded, 55% of deer hunters had scores of moderately or highly important (Figure 21).

There were no differences in *Land Access* scores based on deer season hunted (Table 22).

Overall scores for *Interference* ranged between -4 and 4. When these scores were recoded, 46% of deer hunters had scores of moderately or highly unimportant (Figure 22).

Eastern Season zone hunters (28%) were more likely and Western (17%), Northwestern (20%), and Central (20%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to have *Interference* scores of very unimportant (Table 23).

Deer Hunter Survey – June 2009

Figure 11

**Q15B. There are NOT enough older age class or mature deer.
(n=4313)**

Bar chart showing Percent on the y-axis (0 to 100) and response categories on the x-axis:
- Very Important: 54
- Somewhat Important: 28
- Neutral or No Opinion: 12
- Somewhat Unimportant: 4
- Very Unimportant: 3
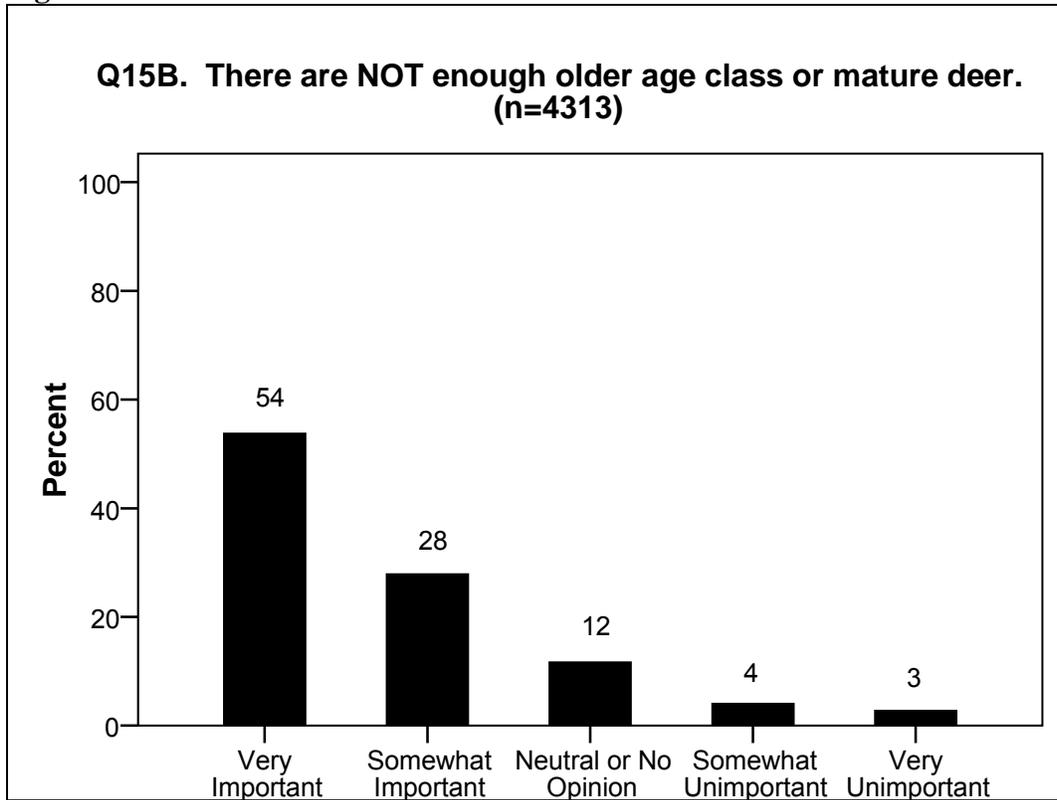
Table 16. Importance or unimportance of not enough older age class or mature deer as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

There are NOT enough older age class or mature deer.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	57.1% (n=315)	57.1% (n=353)	51.6% (n=612)	53.1% (n=989)
Somewhat Important	24.6% (n=136)	26.1% (n=161)	28.4% (n=337)	29.2% (n=545)
Neutral or No Opinion	12.5% (n=69)	11.7% (n=72)	11.8% (n=140)	11.0% (n=205)
Somewhat Unimportant	4.0% (n=22)	3.4% (n=21)	5.1%[a] (n=61)	3.6% (n=67)
Very Unimportant	1.8% (n=10)	1.8% (n=11)	3.1% (n=37)	3.1% (n=58)

χ^2=19.2, df=12, p=0.083

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 12

Q15C. There is too much illegal behavior (e.g., poaching or trespassing) by others. (n=4347)
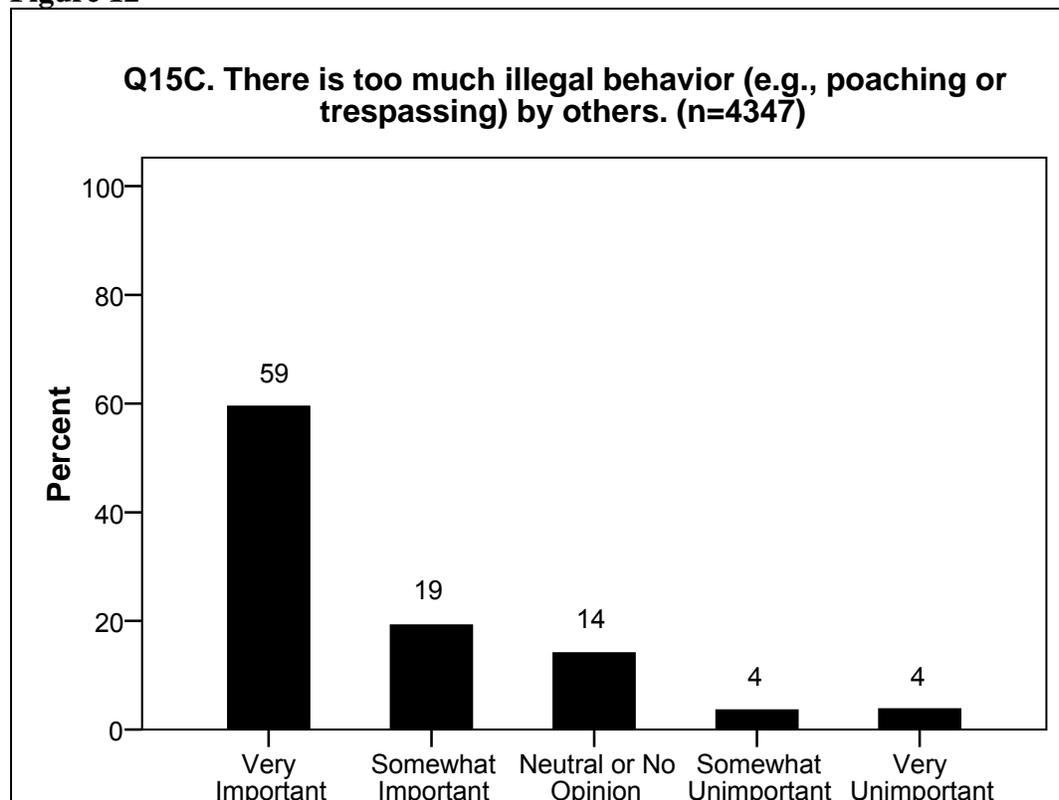
Table 17. Importance or unimportance of too much illegal behavior as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

There is too much illegal behavior (e.g., poaching or trespassing) by others.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	66.2%[a] (n=368)	60.9% (n=375)	57.3% (n=685)	58.1% (n=1095)
Somewhat Important	15.8%[b] (n=88)	20.3% (n=125)	19.9% (n=238)	19.7% (n=371)
Neutral or No Opinion	11.3%[b] (n=63)	12.7% (n=78)	15.6% (n=186)	14.4% (n=272)
Somewhat Unimportant	3.2% (n=18)	2.1%[b] (n=13)	3.7% (n=44)	4.1% (n=78)
Very Unimportant	3.4% (n=19)	4.1% (n=25)	3.6% (n=43)	3.7% (n=70)

χ^2=21.9, df=12, p=0.038

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 13

Q15A. Deer populations are too low. (n=4297)
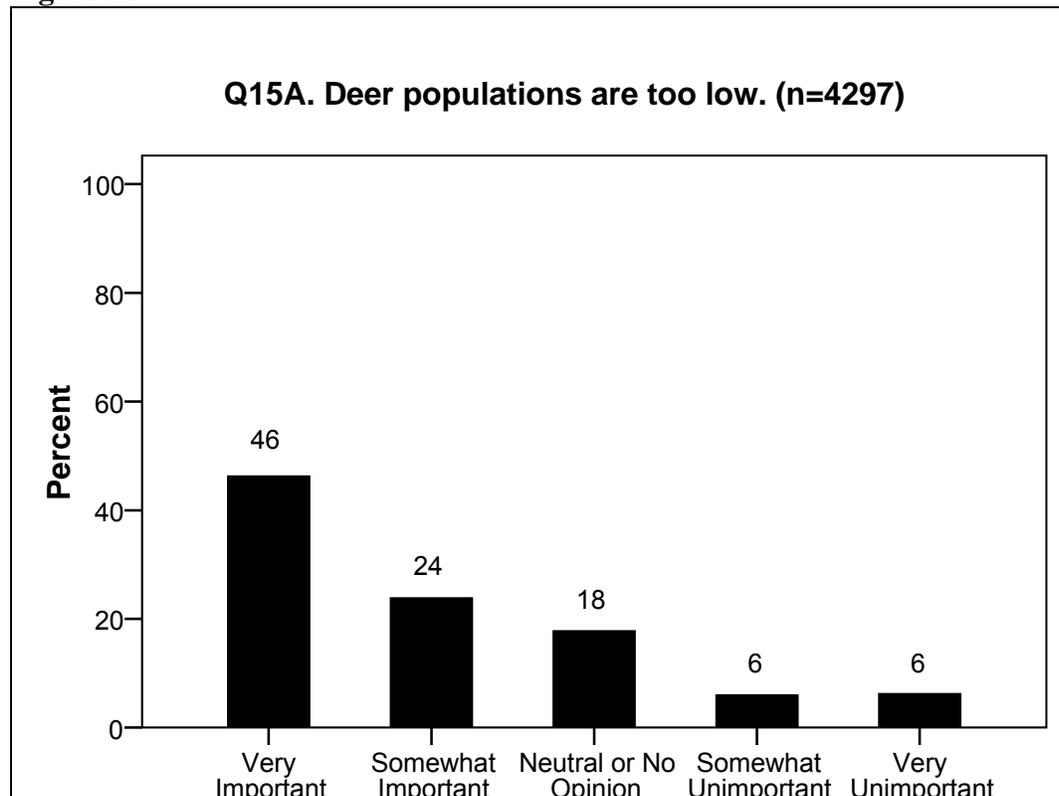
Table 18. Importance or unimportance of low deer populations as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Deer populations are too low.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	64.8%[a] (n=361)	44.6% (n=274)	41.8%[b] (n=494)	43.9%[b] (n=814)
Somewhat Important	21.4% (n=119)	22.4% (n=138)	24.4% (n=288)	24.7% (n=458)
Neutral or No Opinion	9.5%[b] (n=53)	18.7% (n=115)	19.6% (n=232)	19.0% (n=352)
Somewhat Unimportant	2.2%[b] (n=12)	7.8%[a] (n=48)	7.4%[a] (n=87)	5.4% (n=100)
Very Unimportant	2.2%[b] (n=12)	6.5% (n=40)	6.9% (n=81)	7.1% (n=131)

χ^2=117.1, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 14

Q15E. The cost of leasing land for hunting deer is too expensive. (n=4336)

Figure 15
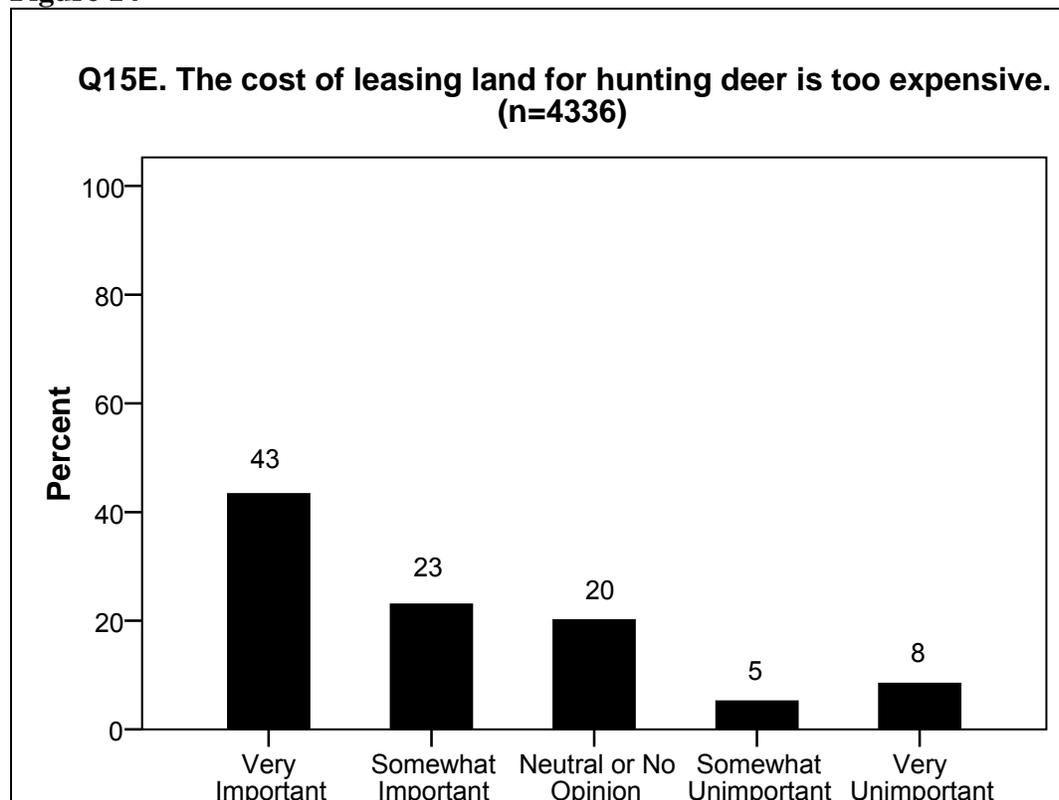
Q15G. I do NOT have enough time to hunt deer. (n=4305)
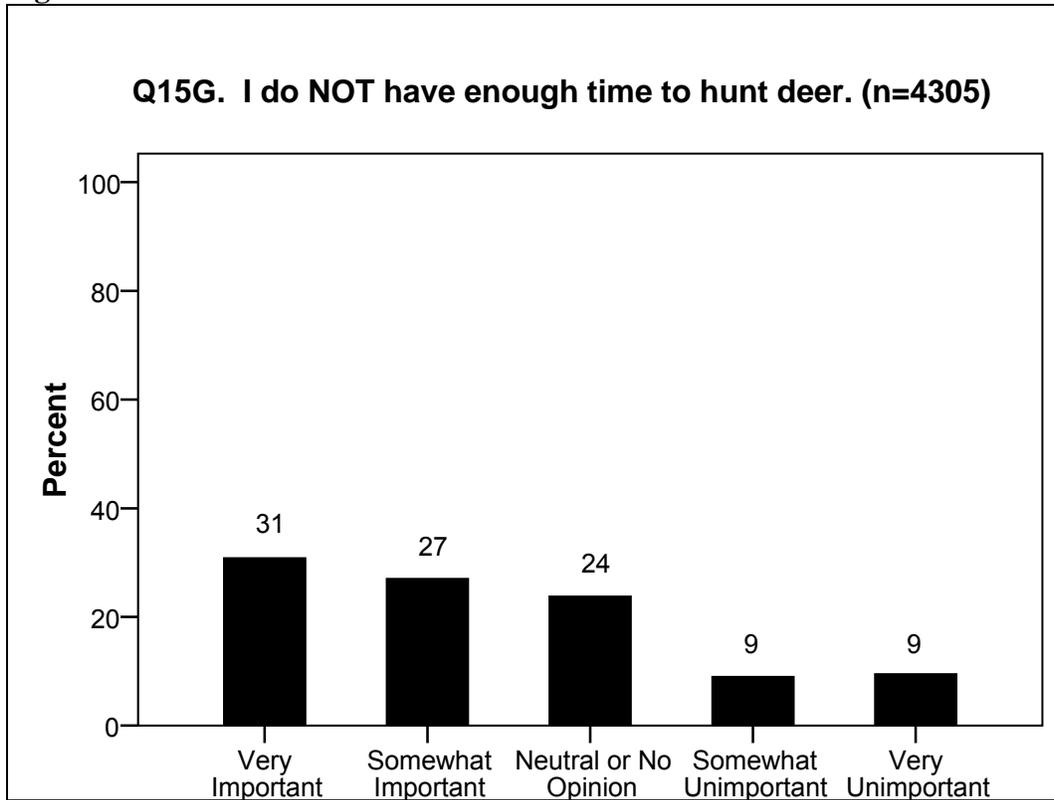
Table 19. Importance or unimportance of NOT having enough time to hunt deer as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15G) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

I do NOT have enough time to hunt deer.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	31.6% (n=173)	30.2% (n=185)	30.4% (n=352)	29.2% (n=528)
Somewhat Important	24.3% (n=133)	26.8% (n=164)	27.1% (n=313)	27.1% (n=491)
Neutral or No Opinion	24.1% (n=132)	25.3% (n=155)	24.1% (n=279)	24.0% (n=434)
Somewhat Unimportant	9.9% (n=54)	8.8% (n=54)	9.3% (n=108)	9.2% (n=167)
Very Unimportant	10.1% (n=55)	9.0% (n=55)	9.1% (n=105)	10.5% (n=191)

χ^2=5.1, df=12, p=0.953

Figure 16

Q15D. I do NOT have access to land for hunting. (n=4295)

Figure 17

Q15H. There is too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer. (n=4326)
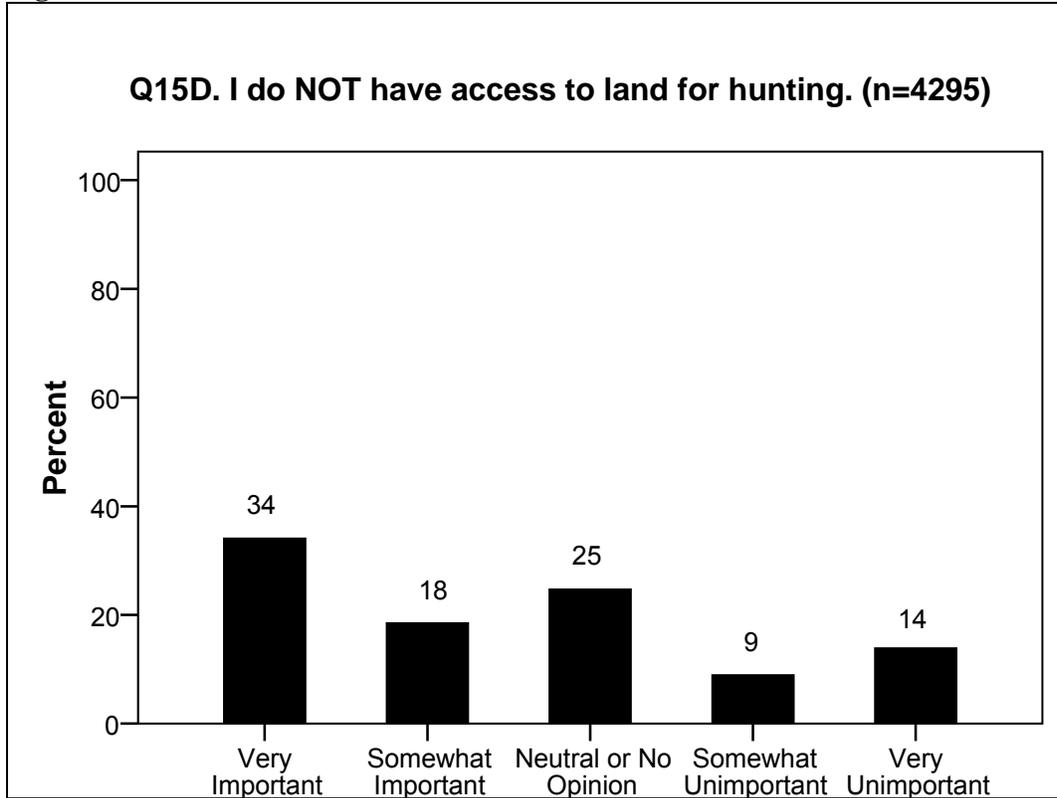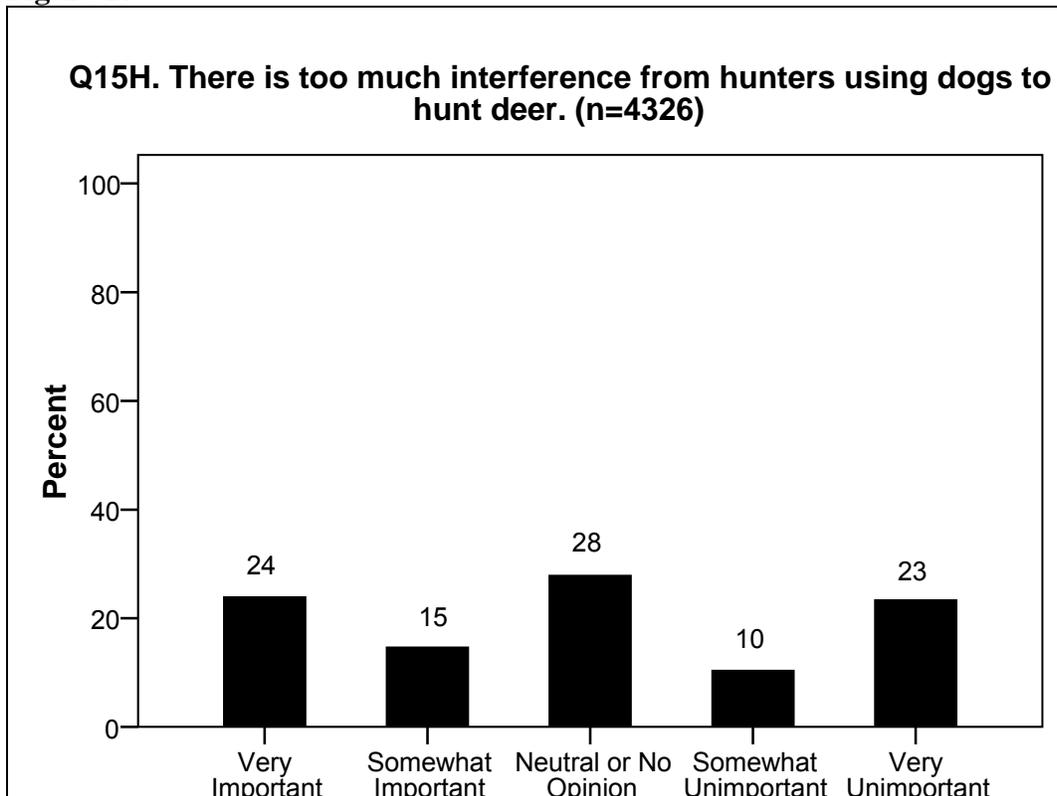
Table 20. Importance or unimportance of too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15H) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

There is too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	17.0%[a]	14.6%[a]	21.9%	28.9%[b]
	(n=93)	(n=89)	(n=255)	(n=528)
Somewhat Important	10.1%[a]	12.2%[a]	15.6%	16.7%[b]
	(n=55)	(n=74)	(n=182)	(n=305)
Neutral or No Opinion	32.8%[b]	36.5%[b]	30.6%[b]	21.8%[a]
	(n=179)	(n=222)	(n=357)	(n=398)
Somewhat Unimportant	11.9%	11.3%	10.1%	10.1%
	(n=65)	(n=69)	(n=118)	(n=184)
Very Unimportant	28.2%[b]	25.5%	21.9%	22.5%
	(n=154)	(n=155)	(n=255)	(n=410)

χ^2=129.1, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 18

Q15F. Hunting regulations are too confusing. (n=4297)
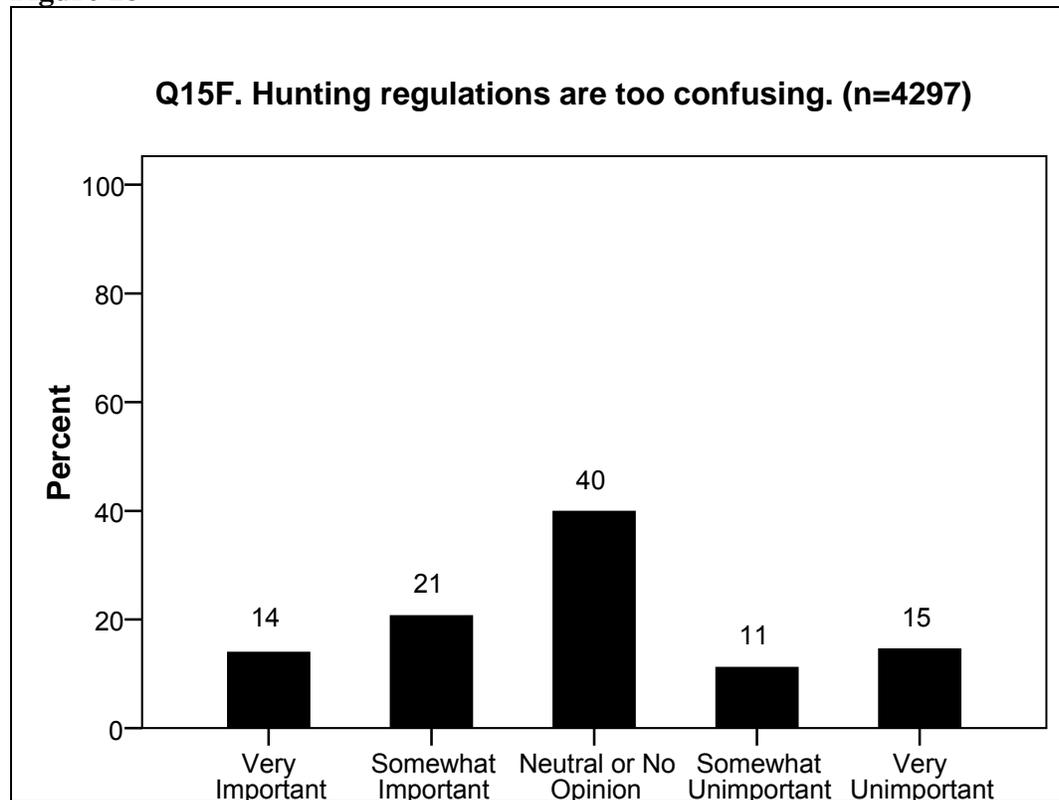
Table 21. Importance or unimportance of hunting regulations being too confusing as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15F) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting regulations are too confusing.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	15.8% (n=85)	13.6% (n=83)	13.8% (n=160)	14.8% (n=267)
Somewhat Important	22.5% (n=121)	19.5% (n=119)	21.7% (n=252)	20.9% (n=379)
Neutral or No Opinion	36.8% (n=198)	41.5% (n=253)	39.4% (n=457)	38.9% (n=704)
Somewhat Unimportant	10.8% (n=58)	11.3% (n=69)	10.1% (n=117)	11.5% (n=209)
Very Unimportant	14.1% (n=76)	14.1% (n=86)	14.9% (n=173)	13.9% (n=251)

χ^2=6.5, df=12, p=0.886

Figure 19

Q15I. There is too much interference from still hunters hunting deer. (n=4337)

Figure 20

Q15J. There is too much interference from hunters hunting species other than deer. (n=4344)

Figure 21

Q15 (D,E). Land access (n=4272)
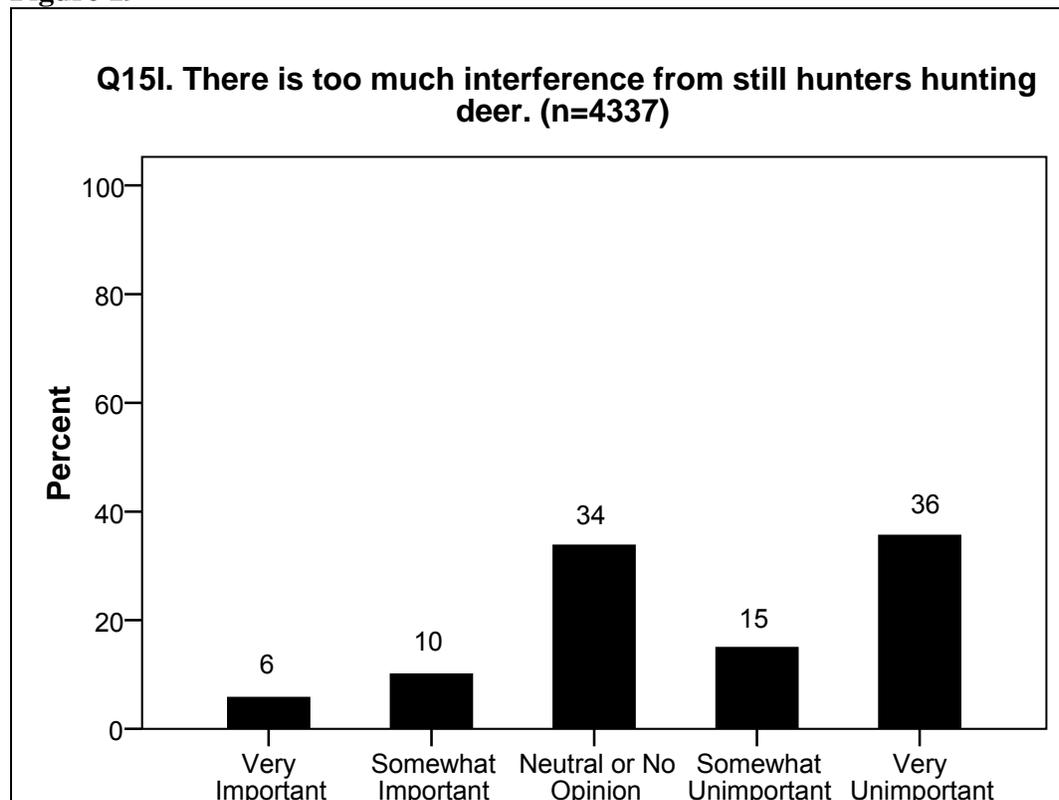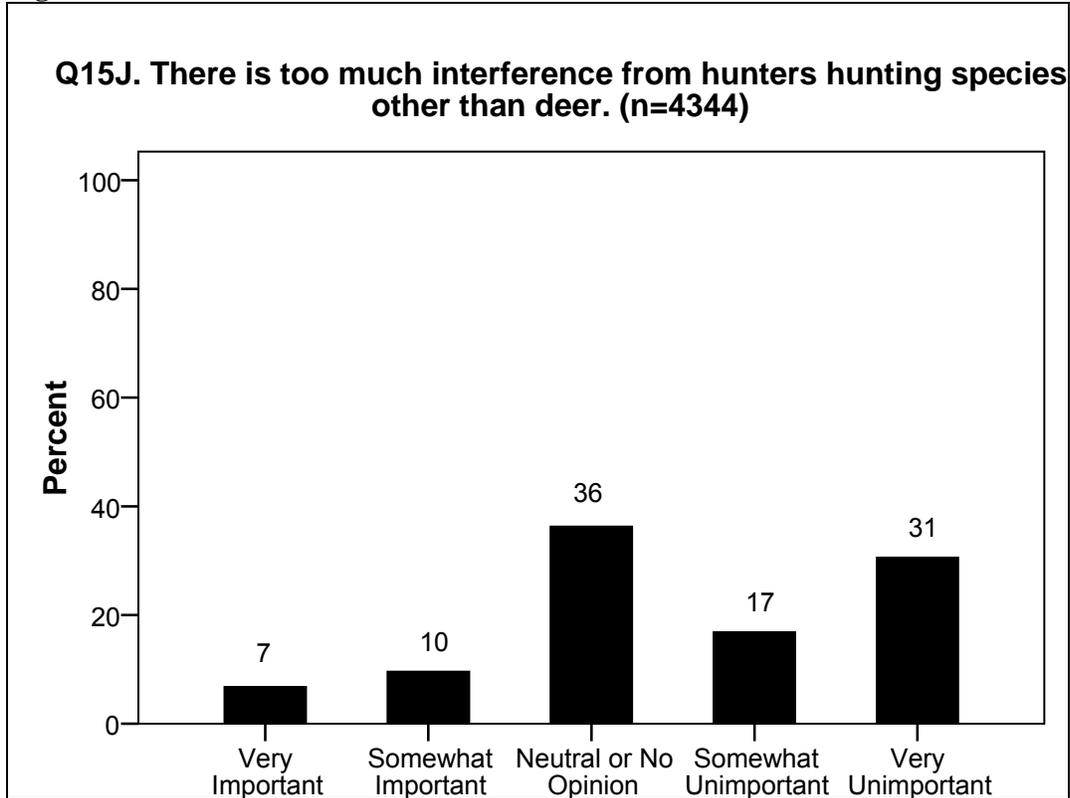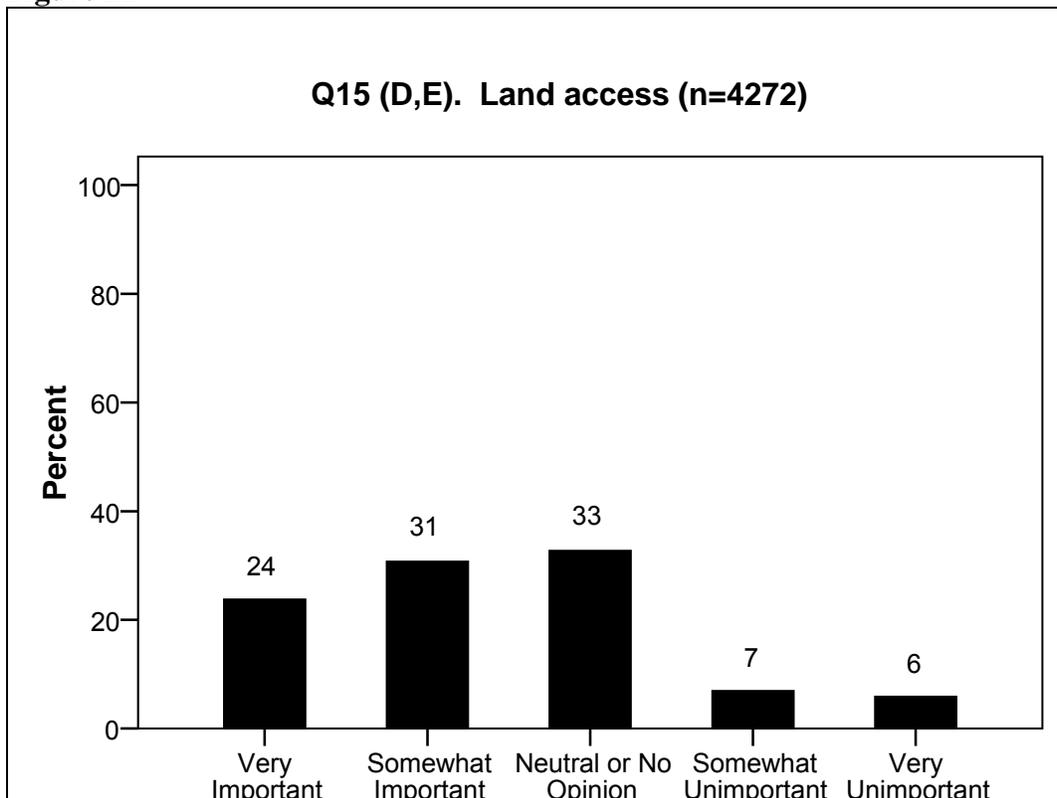
Table 22. Importance or unimportance of land access as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15D, E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Land access	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	22.1% (n=119)	20.9% (n=125)	23.6% (n=273)	25.1% (n=451)
Somewhat Important	30.5% (n=164)	31.9% (n=191)	31.7% (n=367)	29.8% (n=535)
Neutral or No Opinion	35.9% (n=193)	32.4% (n=194)	30.9% (n=357)	32.9% (n=591)
Somewhat Unimportant	6.1% (n=33)	8.5% (n=51)	7.7% (n=89)	6.4% (n=115)
Very Unimportant	5.4% (n=29)	6.3% (n=38)	6.1% (n=71)	5.9% (n=106)

χ^2=12.9, df=12, p=0.377

Figure 22

Q15 (I, J). Interference (n=4330)

29
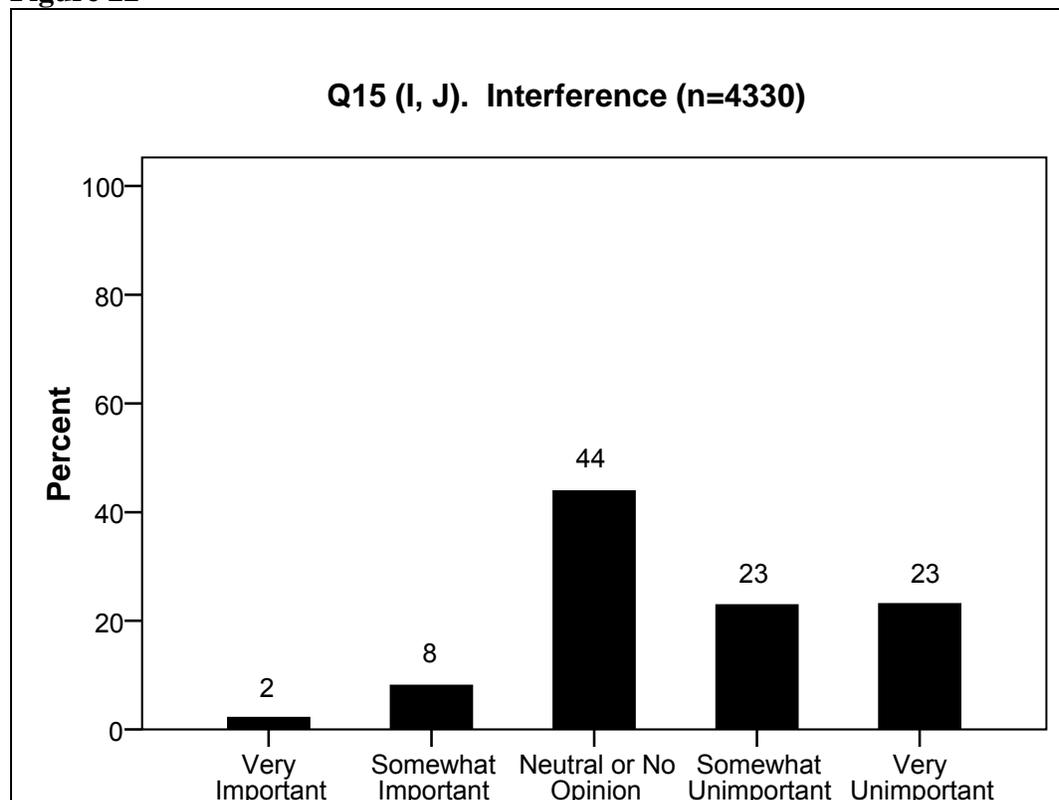
Table 23. Importance or unimportance of interference as a barrier to deer hunting (Q15I, J) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Interference	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Important	3.3% (n=18)	2.3% (n=14)	2.4% (n=28)	1.7% (n=31)
Somewhat Important	13.2%[a] (n=72)	10.6%[a] (n=65)	8.7% (n=101)	5.7%[b] (n=105)
Neutral or No Opinion	48.9%[a] (n=267)	48.8%[a] (n=298)	45.3% (n=528)	39.9%[b] (n=731)
Somewhat Unimportant	17.6%[b] (n=96)	18.8%[b] (n=115)	23.5% (n=274)	24.6%[a] (n=451)
Very Unimportant	17.0%[b] (n=93)	19.5%[b] (n=119)	20.2%[b] (n=235)	28.0%[a] (n=512)

χ^2=102.6, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Satisfaction with WRC deer management

Most deer hunters (64%) were satisfied with how the WRC manages deer in North Carolina (Figure 23).

There were differences in satisfaction with WRC deer management based on deer season hunted, number of days typically deer hunted, deer hunting done on private land and Game Lands, weapon season deer hunted, and number of antlerless deer harvested in 2005 (Table 24, Table 25, Table 26, Table 27, Table 28). There was no clear pattern of association between satisfaction with WRC deer management and number of days typically deer hunted (γ=-0.05) or antlerless deer harvested in 2005 (γ=0.00). There were no differences in satisfaction with WRC deer management and number of antlered bucks harvested in 2005 (Table 29).

Most deer hunters (66%) agreed that the WRC does a good job of disseminating information to hunters (Figure 24).

Eastern Season zone hunters (23%) were more likely and Western (15%) and Central (17%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to strongly agree that the WRC does a good job of disseminating information to hunters (Table 30).

Figure 23

Q16. In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC? (n=4331)
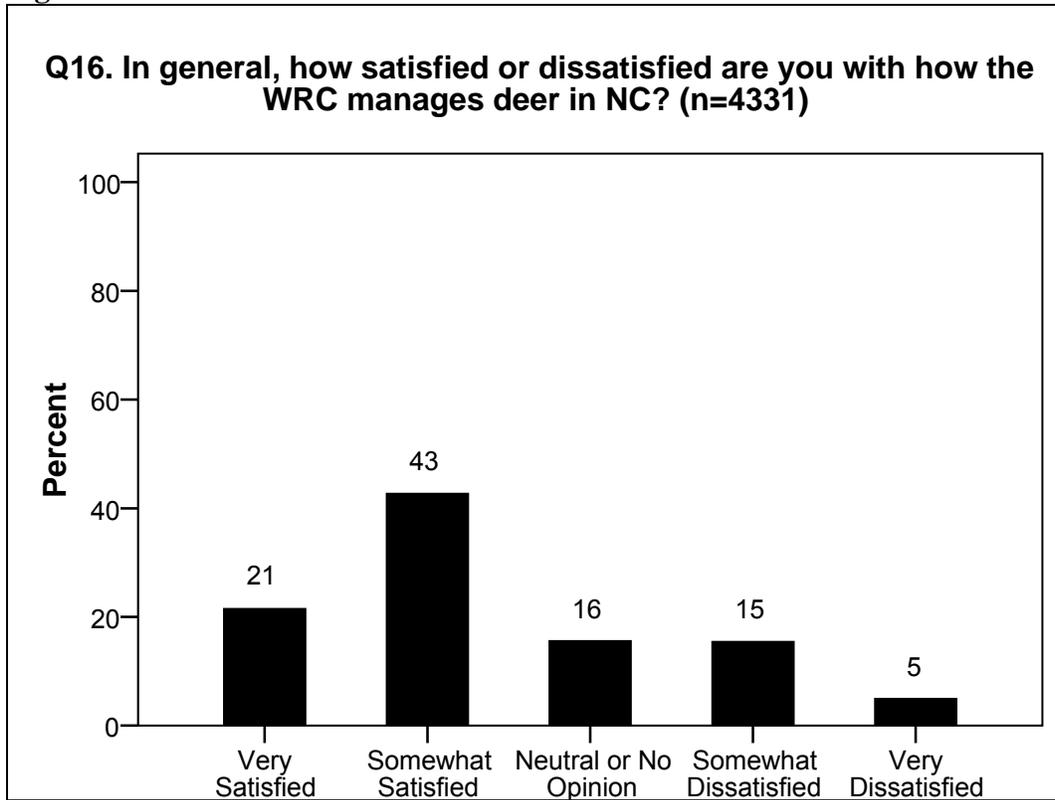
Table 24. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with WRC deer management (Q16) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Satisfied	13.1%[a] (n=71)	20.8% (n=127)	22.8% (n=268)	26.0%[b] (n=478)
Somewhat Satisfied	36.9%[b] (n=200)	41.7% (n=255)	44.8%[a] (n=526)	42.5% (n=779)
Neutral or No Opinion	12.4% (n=67)	14.1% (n=86)	15.3% (n=179)	16.0% (n=294)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	23.4%[b] (n=127)	18.8%[b] (n=115)	13.1%[a] (n=154)	12.8%[a] (n=234)
Very Dissatisfied	14.2%[b] (n=77)	4.7% (n=29)	3.9% (n=46)	2.7%[a] (n=50)

χ^2=198.9, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 25. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with WRC deer management (Q16) by number of days typically deer hunted (Q4).

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC?	About how many days do you hunt deer in NC in a typical year?			
	< 2	2-21	22-41	>=42
Very Satisfied	27.7% (n=41)	22.5% (n=576)	22.1% (n=233)	22.3% (n=99)
Somewhat Satisfied	37.8% (n=56)	42.8% (n=1094)	43.4% (n=458)	37.7%[a] (n=167)
Neutral or No Opinion	25.7%[b] (n=38)	16.4%[b] (n=418)	12.1%[a] (n=128)	11.5%[a] (n=51)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	5.4%[a] (n=8)	13.8%[a] (n=353)	17.5%[b] (n=185)	20.8%[b] (n=92)
Very Dissatisfied	3.4% (n=5)	4.5% (n=115)	4.9% (n=52)	7.7%[b] (n=34)

χ^2=62.7, df=12, p=0.001, γ=-0.05

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 26. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with WRC deer management (Q16) by deer hunting done on private land and Game Lands (Q5).

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC?	Only hunted on private land	Only hunted on Game Lands	Most often hunted on private land, but also hunted on Game Lands	Most often hunted on Game Lands, but also hunted on private land	Hunted on private land and Game Lands about the same amount of time
Very Satisfied	23.9%[a] (n=660)	10.3%[b] (n=16)	22.7% (n=201)	13.8%[b] (n=27)	23.0% (n=43)
Somewhat Satisfied	43.8%[a] (n=1211)	40.0% (n=62)	41.5% (n=367)	36.7% (n=72)	31.6%[b] (n=59)
Neutral or No Opinion	16.1%[a] (n=445)	16.1% (n=25)	12.7%[b] (n=112)	11.2% (n=22)	14.4% (n=27)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	12.8%[b] (n=355)	20.6% (n=32)	18.3%[a] (n=162)	24.5%[a] (n=48)	20.3%[a] (n=38)
Very Dissatisfied	3.4%[b] (n=95)	12.9%[a] (n=20)	4.9% (n=43)	13.8%[a] (n=27)	10.7%[a] (n=20)

χ^2=144.9, df=16, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 27. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with WRC deer management (Q16) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC?	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a]
Very Satisfied	18.0%[b] (n=292)	20.0%[b] (n=445)	22.7% (n=943)
Somewhat Satisfied	42.8% (n=695)	43.5% (n=966)	42.4% (n=1762)
Neutral or No Opinion	13.2%[b] (n=214)	13.1%[b] (n=291)	15.1% (n=629)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	19.3%[c] (n=314)	17.5%[c] (n=389)	15.1% (n=628)
Very Dissatisfied	6.7%[c] (n=108)	5.9%[c] (n=130)	4.8%[b] (n=198)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 13.6$, df=4, $p \leq 0.009$
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[c]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 28. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with WRC deer management (Q16) by number of antlerless deer harvested in 2005 (Q31).

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC?	How many antlerless deer did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season?				
	0 (Not a response category on questionnaire)	1	2	3	$\geq$4
Very Satisfied	22.5% (n=233)	23.7% (n=280)	24.7% (n=162)	19.5% (n=56)	19.8% (n=38)
Somewhat Satisfied	40.6% (n=421)	44.5% (n=526)	42.3% (n=277)	42.9% (n=123)	39.1% (n=75)
Neutral or No Opinion	15.7% (n=163)	13.6% (n=161)	14.7% (n=96)	13.9% (n=40)	13.5% (n=26)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	14.4% (n=149)	14.2% (n=168)	14.8% (n=97)	21.6%[a] (n=62)	20.8%[a] (n=40)
Very Dissatisfied	6.8%[a] (n=71)	4.0% (n=47)	3.5% (n=23)	2.1%[b] (n=6)	6.8% (n=13)

χ^2=39.9, df=16, p=0.001, γ=0.00

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 29. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with WRC deer management (Q16) by number of antlered bucks harvested in 2005 (Q30).

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the WRC manages deer in NC?	How many antlered bucks did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season?			
	0 (Not a response category on questionnaire)	1	2	≥3
Very Satisfied	23.0% (n=249)	22.9% (n=395)	22.7% (n=119)	27.5% (n=53)
Somewhat Satisfied	40.2% (n=435)	42.7% (n=737)	43.9% (n=230)	37.3% (n=72)
Neutral or No Opinion	16.1% (n=174)	14.1% (n=243)	12.8% (n=67)	15.5% (n=30)
Somewhat Dissatisfied	15.2% (n=165)	16.1% (n=278)	16.8% (n=88)	14.0% (n=27)
Very Dissatisfied	5.5% (n=60)	4.2% (n=72)	3.8% (n=20)	5.7% (n=11)

χ^2=12.4, df=12, p=0.416

Figure 24

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the WRC does a good job of disseminating information to hunters? (n=4312)
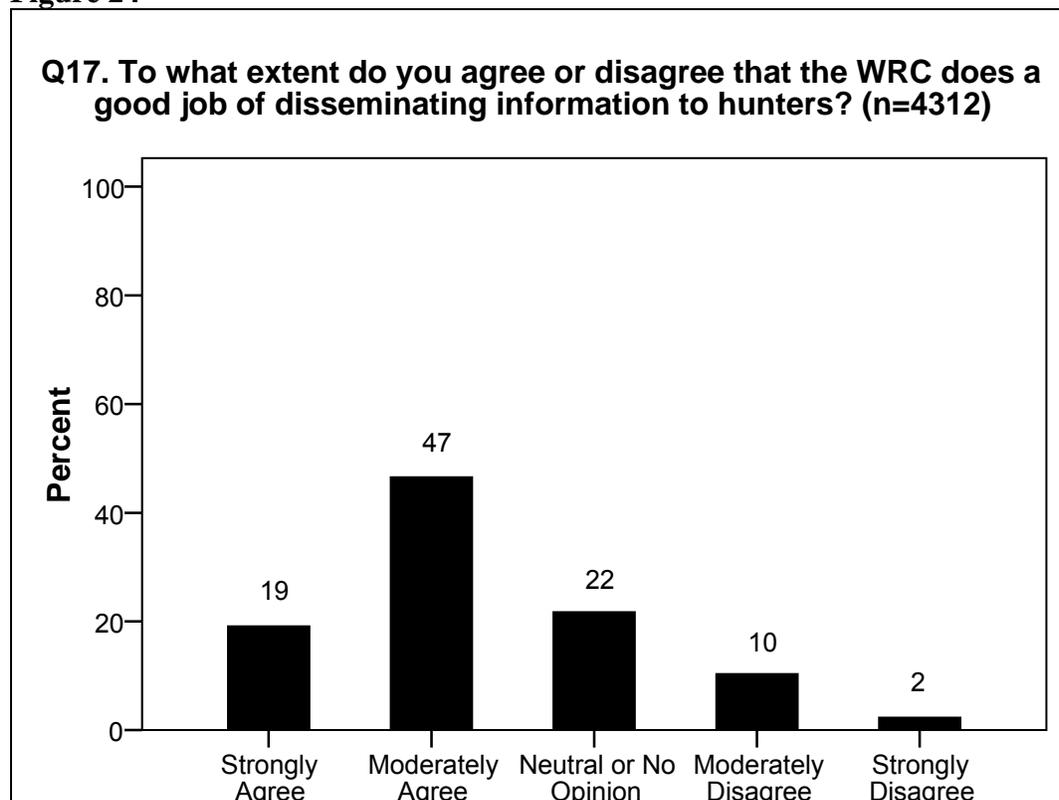
Table 30. Agreement or disagreement that the WRC does a good job of disseminating information to hunters (Q17) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the WRC does a good job of disseminating information to hunters?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	14.8%[a] (n=80)	19.8% (n=121)	17.4%[a] (n=203)	22.9%[b] (n=419)
Moderately Agree	43.4% (n=234)	48.0% (n=293)	48.8% (n=569)	45.6% (n=833)
Neutral or No Opinion	24.5% (n=132)	19.1% (n=117)	22.3% (n=260)	20.5% (n=374)
Moderately Disagree	13.0%[b] (n=70)	11.3% (n=69)	9.4% (n=110)	9.0% (n=164)
Strongly Disagree	4.3%[b] (n=23)	1.8% (n=11)	2.1% (n=25)	2.1% (n=38)

χ^2=45.3, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Views on numbers of deer hunters/deer population levels

Most hunters believed that the number of deer hunters over the past 3 years in the region where they spent the most time hunting deer had remained the same (35%) or increased (36%) (Figure 25).

There were no overall differences in opinions on changes in number of deer hunters based on region hunted (Table 31).

A plurality of hunters (39%) believed that the deer population had increased over the past 3 years in the region where they spent the most time hunting deer (Figure 26). A focus group participant said: "We've got deer where I live in places we've never had deer before...The deer herd is exploding. I mean it's everywhere. They're getting to be everywhere."

Northwestern (44%) and Central (44%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Western (28%) and Eastern (37%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the deer population had increased (Table 32).

A plurality of hunters (45%) wanted the deer population to increase and 38% wanted the deer population to remain at its current level in the region where they spent the most time hunting deer (Figure 27).

Western Season zone hunters (77%) were more likely and Central (38%) and Eastern (38%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to want the deer population to increase (Table 33).

Most deer hunters (77%) believed that the current overall health of the deer herd was healthy (Figure 28).

There were no overall differences in opinions on the health of the deer herd based on region hunted (Table 34).

A plurality of deer hunters (39%) believed that the current number of deer in the deer population was about right, although 38% believed the deer population was too low (Figure 29).

Western Season zone hunters (34%) were more likely and Northwestern (6%), Central (6%), and Eastern (5%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the deer population was much too low (Table 35).

Most deer hunters (79%) believed that the current number of mature bucks was too few (Figure 30). One focus group participant said: "Where we hunt you'll see 4 or 5 cow horns or little 4 pointers to every buck that you see that's a six or better."

Western (50%) and Northwestern (41%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (33%) less likely than expected to believe that the current number of mature bucks was too few (Table 36).

Most hunters (66%) believed that the current season bag limit for bucks was about right (Figure 31).

There were no overall differences in opinions on the current season bag limit for bucks based on region hunted (Table 37).

If there were no bag limits, most hunters (59%) would harvest 1 or 2 bucks (Figure 32).

If there were no bag limits, Western (76%), Northwestern (67%), and Central (64%) Season zone hunters would be more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (51%) less likely than expected to harvest 1 or 2 bucks (Table 38).

Most deer hunters (55%) believed that the current number of does was too many (Figure 33).

Western Season zone hunters (17%) were more likely and Northwestern (2%), Central (2%), and Eastern (3%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the current number of does was much too few (Table 39).

Most hunters deer hunters (53%) thought the current season bag limit for does was about right, but 40% believed the current season bag limit for does was too low (Figure 34).

Western Season zone hunters (8%) were more likely and Central (1%) and Eastern (2%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the current season bag limit for does was much too high (Table 40).

If there were no bag limits, most hunters (57%) would harvest at least 3 does (Figure 35).

There were differences in projected doe harvest based on region hunted (Table 41).

Figure 25

Q13. In your opinion, how have the numbers of other deer hunters changed during the past 3 years in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years? (n=4392)
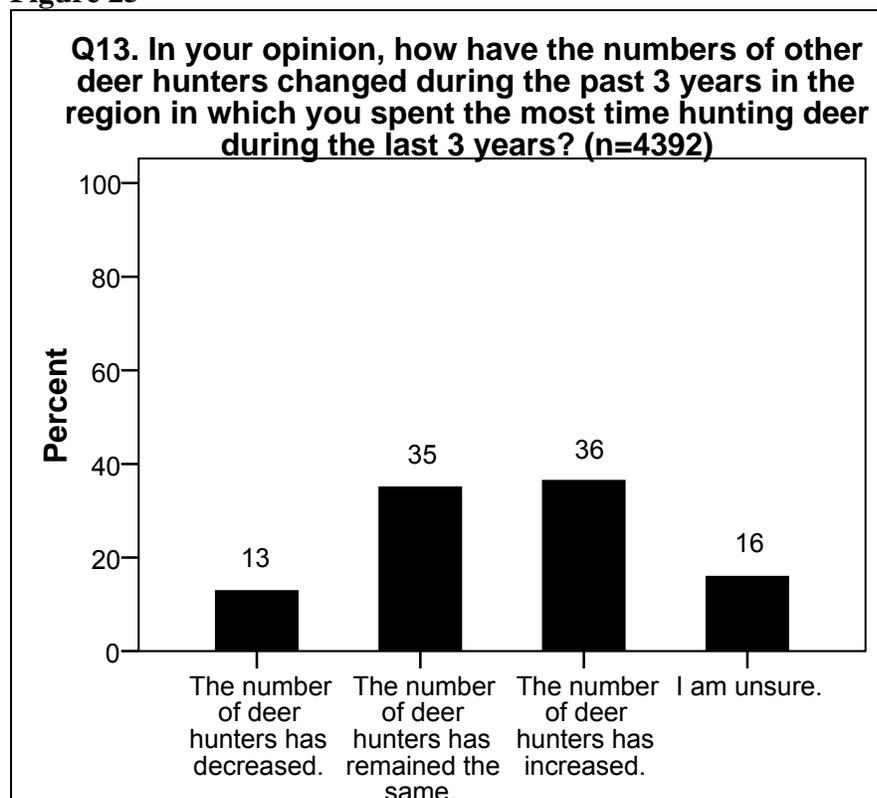
Table 31. Opinions on the changes in number of deer hunters over the past 3 years (Q13) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

In your opinion, how have the numbers of other deer hunters changed during the past 3 years in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
The number of deer hunters has decreased.	15.5%[a] (n=87)	11.9% (n=74)	12.6% (n=152)	12.5% (n=237)
The number of deer hunters has remained the same.	32.2% (n=181)	35.9% (n=224)	34.0% (n=411)	35.6% (n=678)
The number of deer hunters has increased.	36.8% (n=207)	37.7% (n=235)	37.7% (n=456)	35.0% (n=667)
I am unsure.	15.5% (n=87)	14.6% (n=91)	15.6% (n=189)	16.9% (n=321)

χ^2=9.4, df=9, p=0.400

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 26

Q12. In your opinion, how has the deer population changed during the past 3 years in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years? (n=4385)
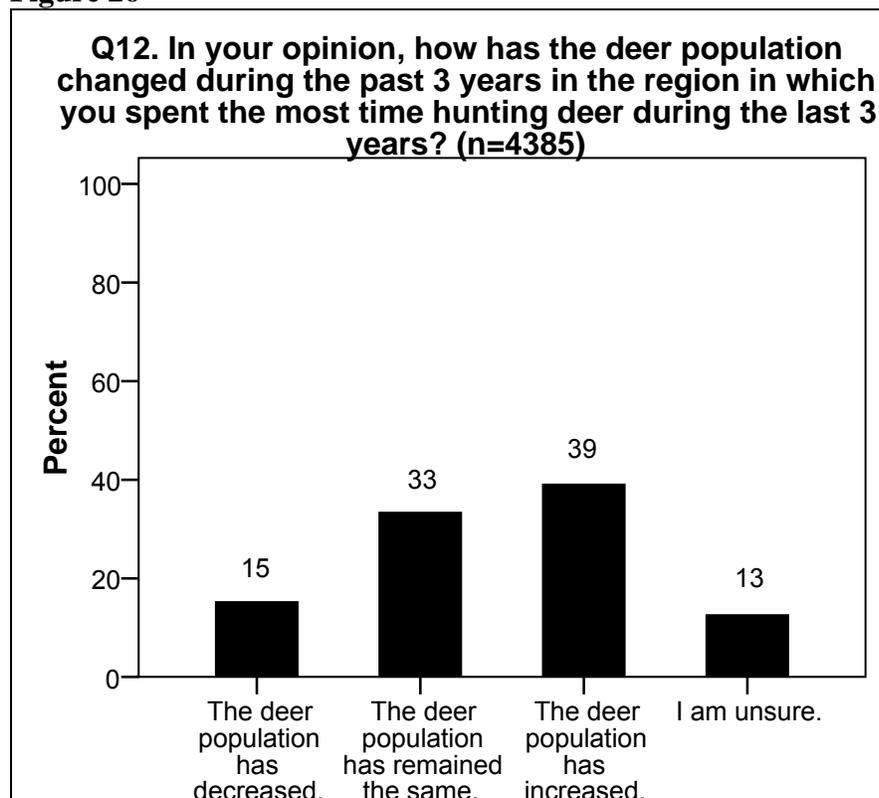
Table 32. Opinions on the changes in number of deer over the past 3 years (Q12) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

In your opinion, how has the deer population changed during the past 3 years in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
The deer population has decreased.	29.6%[a] (n=166)	13.7% (n=86)	11.5%[b] (n=138)	13.5%[b] (n=257)
The deer population has remained the same.	30.5% (n=171)	31.2% (n=195)	33.4% (n=403)	35.0% (n=664)
The deer population has increased.	28.3%[b] (n=159)	43.9%[a] (n=275)	44.0%[a] (n=530)	37.2%[b] (n=706)
I am unsure.	11.6% (n=65)	11.2% (n=70)	11.1% (n=134)	14.3%[a] (n=272)

χ^2=134.0, df=9, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 27

Q14. Do you want the deer population to increase, remain at its current level, or decrease in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years? (n=4376)
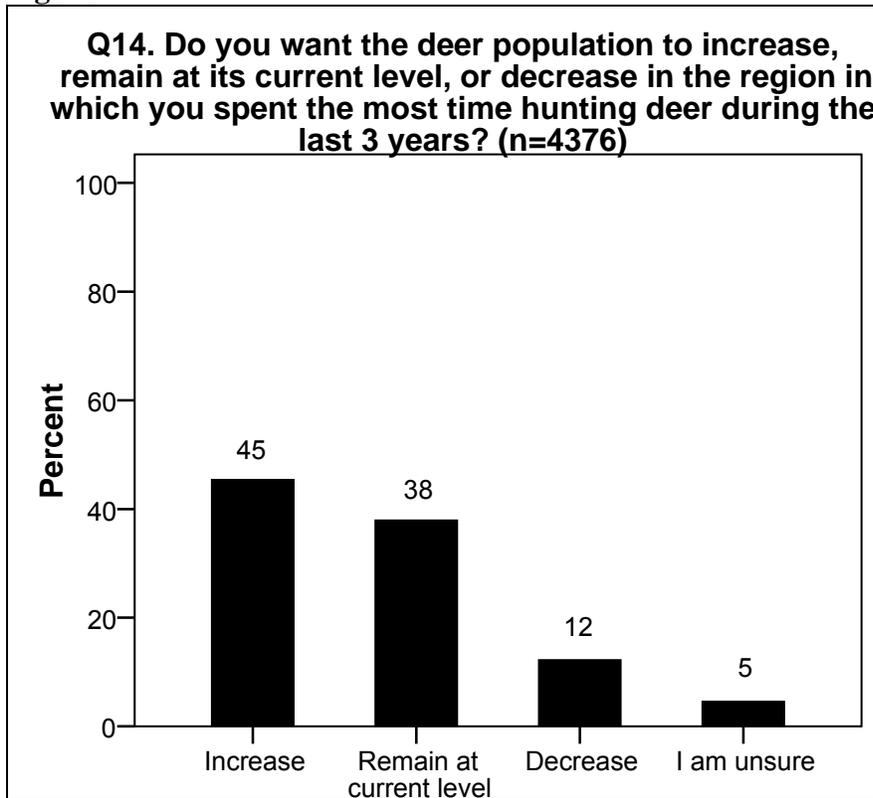
Table 33. Desired changes in number of deer (Q14) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Do you want the deer population to increase, remain at its current level, or decrease in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer during the last 3 years?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Increase	77.2%[a] (n=427)	44.4% (n=272)	37.6%[b] (n=445)	38.1%[b] (n=705)
Remain at current level	15.9%[b] (n=88)	36.4% (n=223)	43.2%[a] (n=512)	43.9%[a] (n=812)
Decrease	4.2%[b] (n=23)	14.4% (n=88)	14.9%[a] (n=176)	12.4% (n=230)
I am unsure	2.7%[b] (n=15)	4.9% (n=30)	4.3% (n=51)	5.6%[a] (n=103)

χ^2=304.1, df=9, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 28

Q19B. The current overall health of the deer herd is... (n=4332)
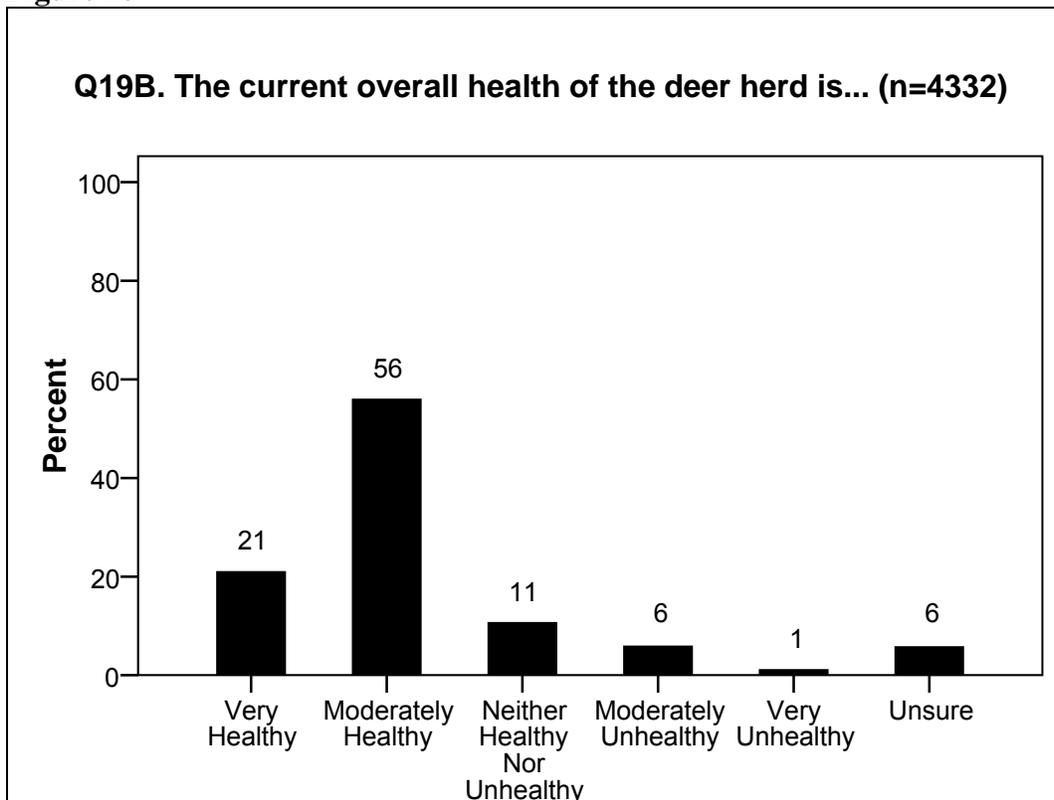
Table 34. Views on the current overall health of the deer herd (Q19B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The current overall health of the deer herd is…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Healthy	21.8% (n=118)	24.8% (n=152)	23.1% (n=271)	20.2%[a] (n=371)
Moderately Healthy	55.9% (n=303)	53.3% (n=326)	54.7% (n=642)	55.7% (n=1023)
Neither Healthy Nor Unhealthy	9.4% (n=51)	10.1% (n=62)	10.6% (n=124)	10.9% (n=200)
Moderately Unhealthy	4.4% (n=24)	5.7% (n=35)	5.3% (n=62)	6.0% (n=110)
Very Unhealthy	1.5% (n=8)	0.5% (n=3)	1.1% (n=13)	0.9% (n=16)
Unsure	7.0% (n=38)	5.6% (n=34)	5.2% (n=61)	6.4% (n=117)

χ^2=15.3, df=15, p=0.428

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 29

Q19A. The current number of deer in the deer population is... (n=4335)
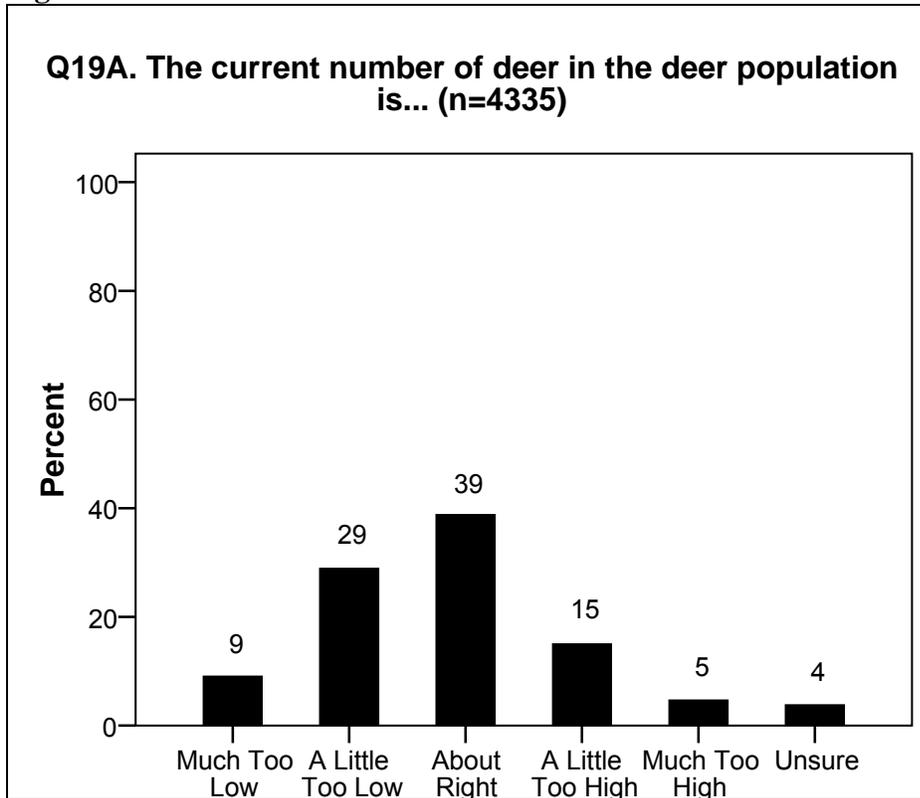
Table 35. Views on the current number of deer (Q19A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The current number of deer in the deer population is…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Low	33.5%[a] (n=182)	6.0%[b] (n=37)	5.5%[b] (n=65)	5.2%[b] (n=95)
A Little Too Low	36.9%[a] (n=201)	29.4% (n=180)	27.3% (n=320)	26.0%[b] (n=478)
About Right	22.1%[b] (n=120)	37.5% (n=230)	40.9% (n=480)	43.7%[a] (n=803)
A Little Too High	3.5%[b] (n=19)	17.5% (n=107)	18.1%[a] (n=212)	15.4% (n=282)
Much Too High	1.3%[b] (n=7)	5.9% (n=36)	4.5% (n=53)	5.4%[a] (n=100)
Unsure	2.8% (n=15)	3.8% (n=23)	3.7% (n=44)	4.2% (n=78)

χ^2=557.2, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 30

Q19C. The current number of mature bucks (older than 2½ years old) is… (n=4340)
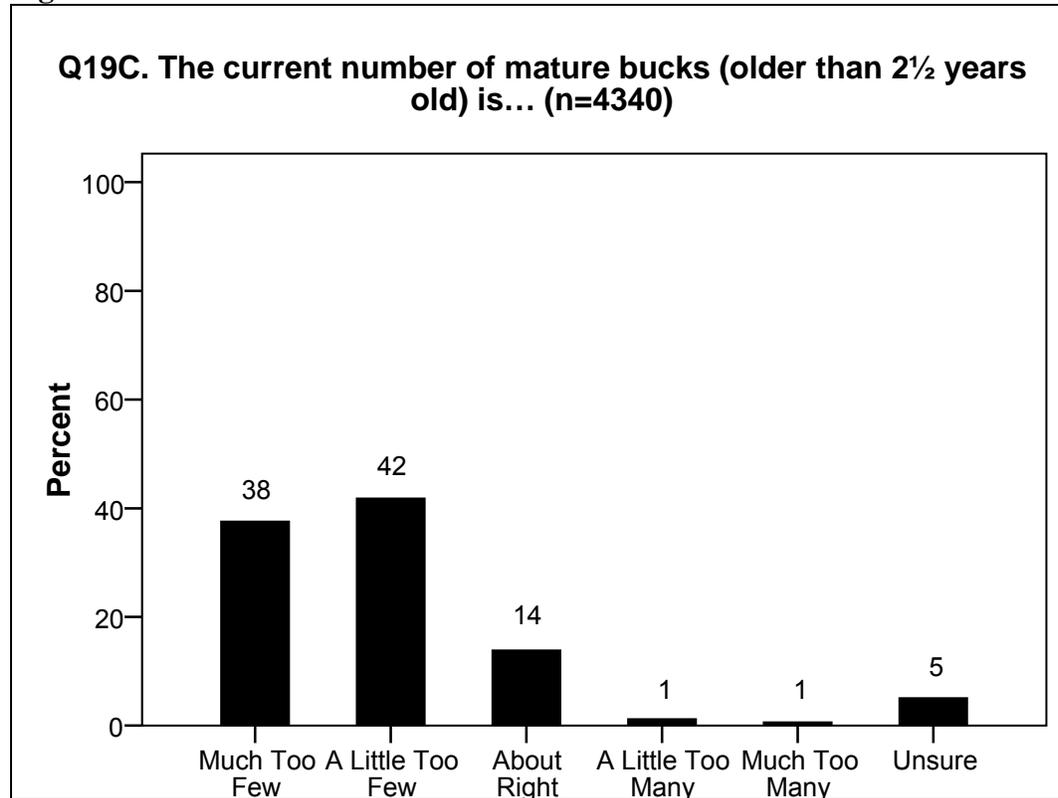
Table 36. Views on the current number of mature bucks (Q19C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The current number of mature bucks (older than 2½ years old) is…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Few	50.3%[a] (n=274)	41.3%[a] (n=254)	34.9% (n=409)	33.1%[b] (n=608)
A Little Too Few	31.7%[b] (n=173)	40.8% (n=251)	44.6%[a] (n=523)	43.0% (n=791)
About Right	10.1%[b] (n=55)	12.4% (n=76)	14.3% (n=168)	15.8%[a] (n=291)
A Little Too Many	0.9% (n=5)	1.5% (n=9)	1.3% (n=15)	1.1% (n=20)
Much Too Many	0.7% (n=4)	0.3% (n=2)	0.7% (n=8)	0.7% (n=12)
Unsure	6.2% (n=34)	3.7% (n=23)	4.2%[b] (n=49)	6.4%[a] (n=117)

χ^2=78.1, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 31

Q20B. The current season bag limit for bucks is...
(n=4338)
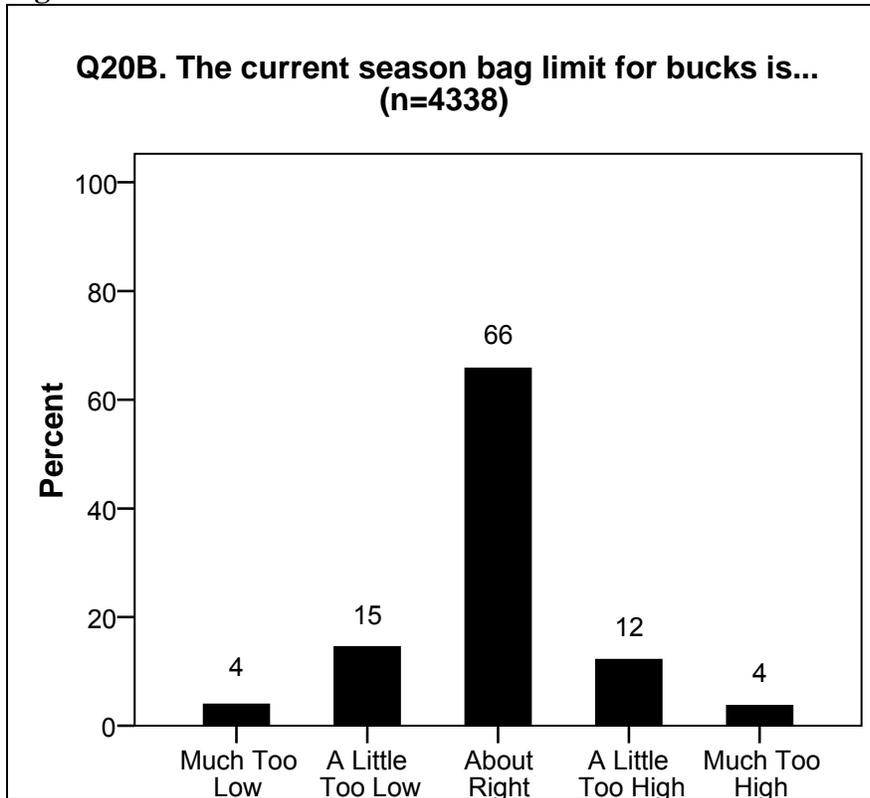
Table 37. Views on the current season bag limit for bucks (Q20B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The current season bag limit for bucks is…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Low	3.7% (n=20)	3.6% (n=22)	4.4% (n=52)	3.2% (n=59)
A Little Too Low	13.1% (n=71)	18.2%[a] (n=112)	14.1% (n=165)	13.1% (n=241)
About Right	70.4%[a] (n=383)	61.4%[b] (n=379)	65.0% (n=760)	68.2% (n=1252)
A Little Too High	9.6% (n=52)	12.6% (n=78)	12.8% (n=150)	12.0% (n=221)
Much Too High	3.3% (n=18)	4.2% (n=26)	3.6% (n=42)	3.5% (n=64)

χ^2=21.0, df=12, p=0.050

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 32

Q22. If there were no bag limits, how many bucks would you harvest every year, if given the chance? (n=4341)
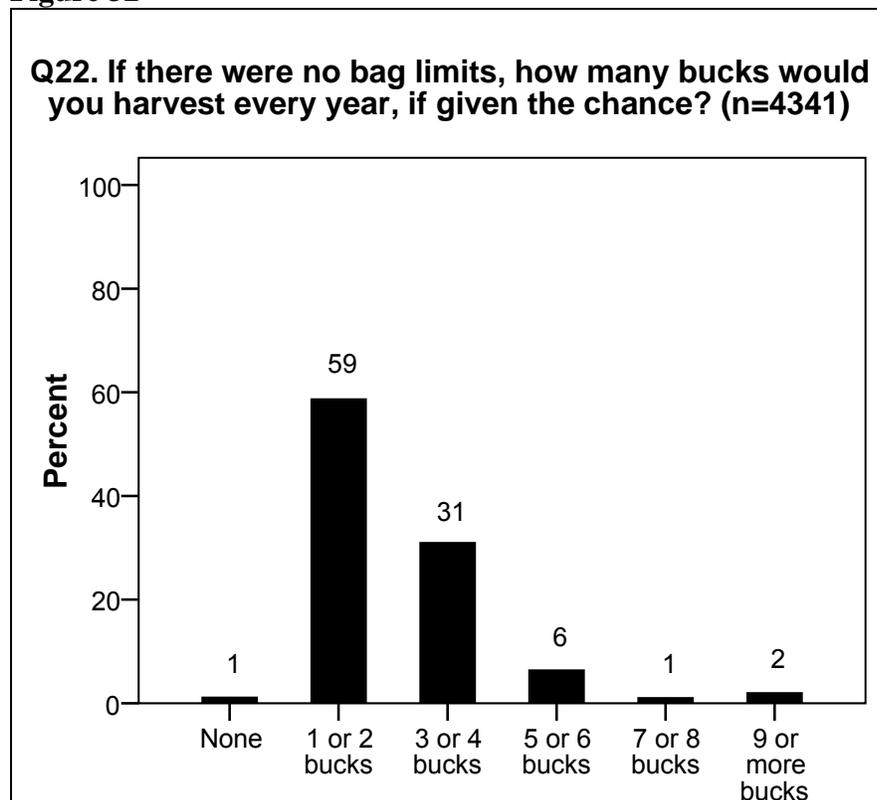
Table 38. Desired buck harvest (Q22) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

If there were no bag limits, how many bucks would you harvest every year, if given the chance?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
None	0.7% (n=4)	1.8% (n=11)	1.7%[a] (n=20)	0.8%[b] (n=14)
1 or 2 bucks	75.8%[a] (n=414)	66.6%[a] (n=412)	63.8%[a] (n=746)	50.6%[b] (n=929)
3 or 4 bucks	20.7%[b] (n=113)	26.8%[b] (n=166)	28.0% (n=328)	35.6%[a] (n=654)
5 or 6 bucks	1.6%[b] (n=9)	3.6%[b] (n=22)	4.4%[b] (n=51)	9.1%[a] (n=167)
7 or 8 bucks	0.4% (n=2)	0.5% (n=3)	0.7% (n=8)	1.5%[a] (n=27)
9 or more bucks	0.7% (n=4)	0.8% (n=5)	1.5% (n=17)	2.5%[a] (n=46)

χ^2=184.5, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 33

Q19D. The current number of does is… (n=4354)
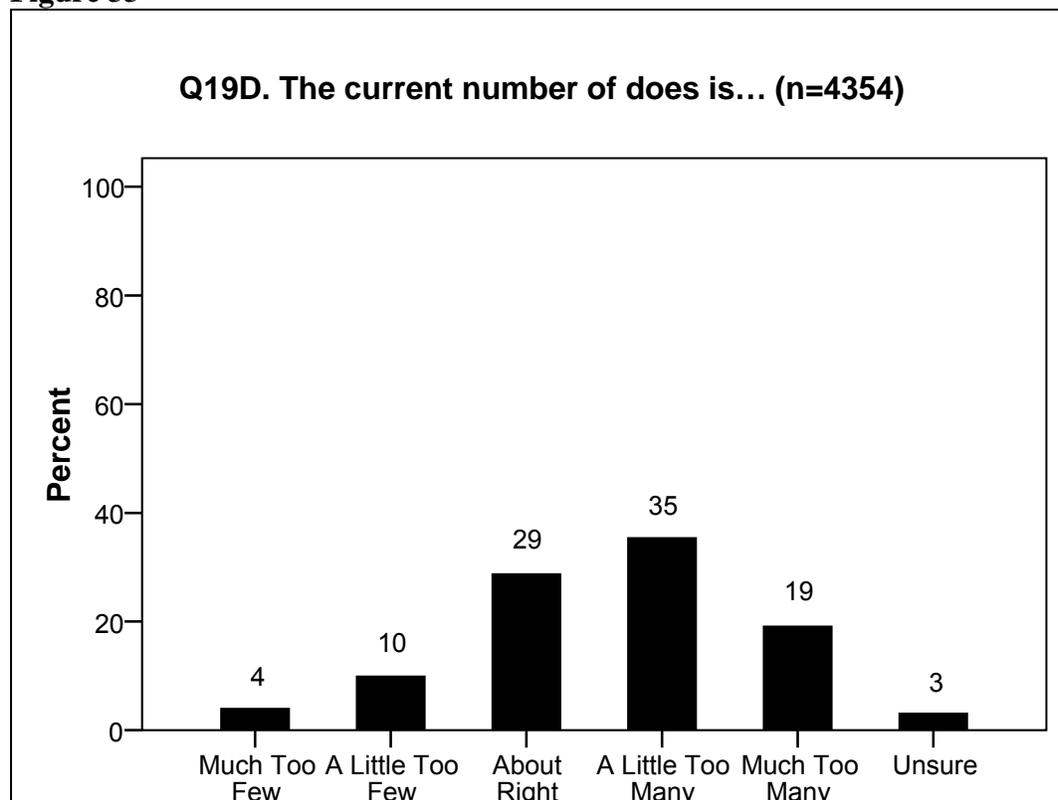
Table 39. Views on the current number of does (Q19D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The current number of does is…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Few	16.5%[a]	1.6%[b]	2.0%[b]	2.6%[b]
	(n=90)	(n=10)	(n=24)	(n=48)
A Little Too Few	19.8%[a]	9.8%	8.6%	7.9%[b]
	(n=108)	(n=61)	(n=101)	(n=146)
About Right	23.4%[b]	30.2%	29.1%	29.9%
	(n=128)	(n=188)	(n=341)	(n=550)
A Little Too Many	25.3%[b]	35.7%	38.0%[a]	36.6%
	(n=138)	(n=222)	(n=446)	(n=675)
Much Too Many	11.7%[b]	19.6%	20.0%	19.2%
	(n=64)	(n=122)	(n=235)	(n=353)
Unsure	3.3%	3.1%	2.2%[b]	3.8%[a]
	(n=18)	(n=19)	(n=26)	(n=70)

χ^2=345.0, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 34

Q20A. The current season bag limit for does is...
(n=4348)
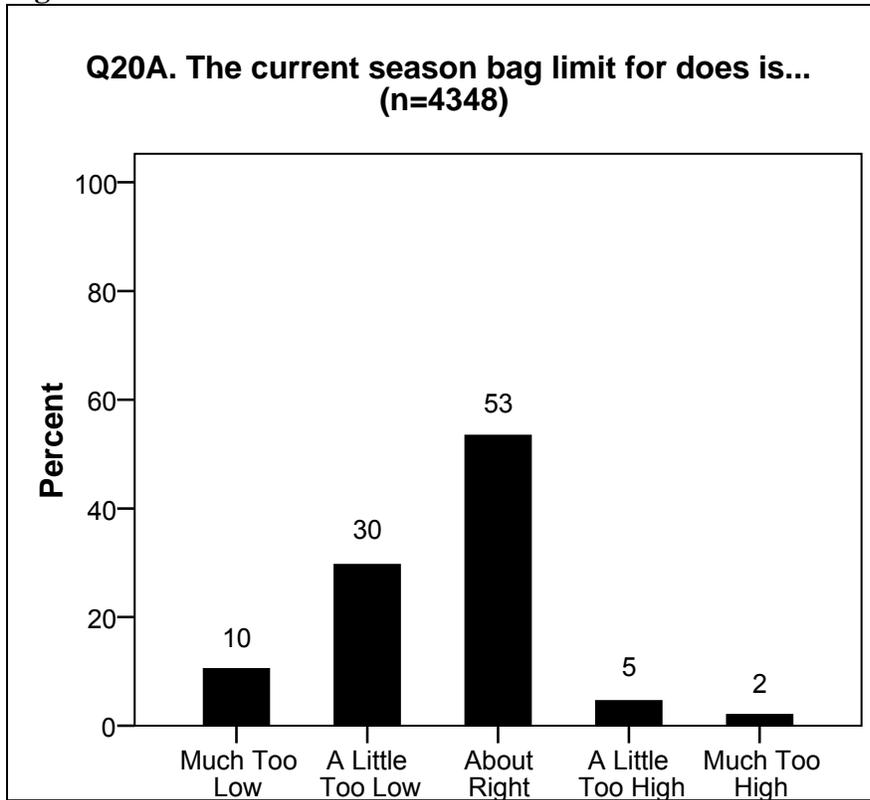
Table 40. Views on the current season bag limit for does (Q20A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The current season bag limit for does is…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Low	11.5%	8.7%	9.9%	10.1%
	(n=62)	(n=54)	(n=116)	(n=186)
A Little Too Low	21.3%[a]	29.1%	31.2%	30.6%
	(n=115)	(n=181)	(n=366)	(n=563)
About Right	52.3%	55.6%	54.0%	53.4%
	(n=283)	(n=346)	(n=633)	(n=981)
A Little Too High	7.2%[b]	5.1%	4.2%	4.4%
	(n=39)	(n=32)	(n=49)	(n=80)
Much Too High	7.8%[b]	1.4%	0.8%[a]	1.5%[a]
	(n=42)	(n=9)	(n=9)	(n=28)

χ^2=122.2, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 35

Q21. If there were no bag limits, how many does would you harvest every year, if given the chance? (n=4346)
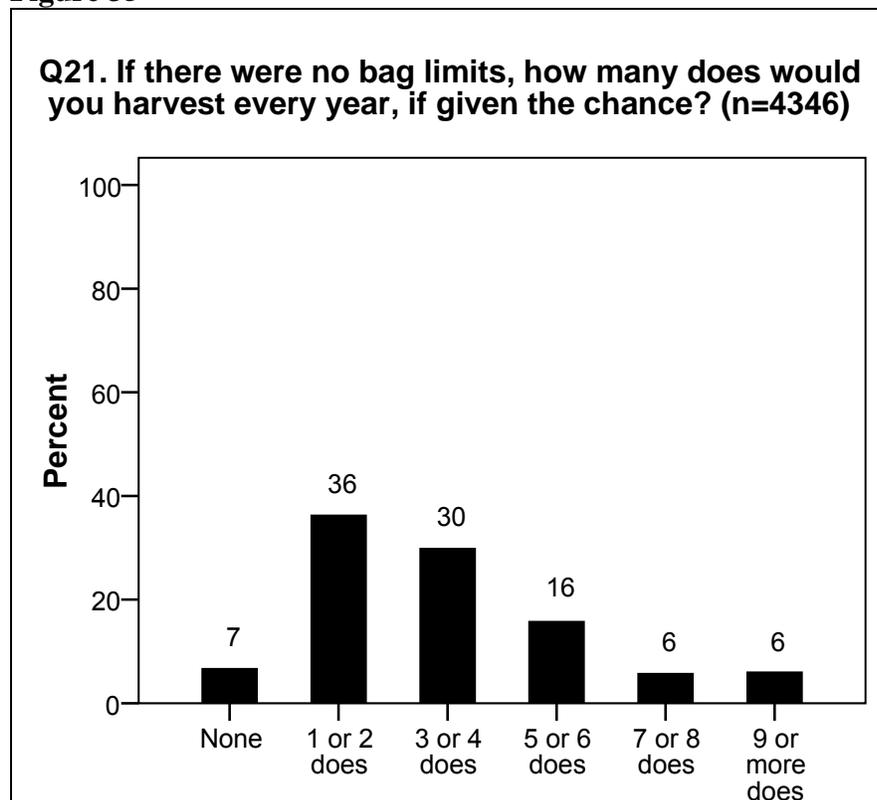
Table 41. Desired doe harvest (Q21) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

If there were no bag limits, how many does would you harvest every year, if given the chance?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
None	15.1%[a] (n=82)	6.8% (n=42)	4.7%[b] (n=55)	6.9% (n=126)
1 or 2 does	52.0%[a] (n=283)	36.2% (n=225)	35.9% (n=421)	35.4%[b] (n=649)
3 or 4 does	25.0%[b] (n=136)	34.1%[a] (n=212)	28.6% (n=336)	29.4% (n=540)
5 or 6 does	6.1%[b] (n=33)	14.6% (n=91)	19.0%[a] (n=223)	14.9% (n=273)
7 or 8 does	0.9%[b] (n=5)	4.5% (n=28)	6.3% (n=74)	6.2%[a] (n=113)
9 or more does	0.9%[b] (n=5)	3.9% (n=24)	5.5% (n=64)	7.3%[a] (n=134)

χ^2=201.0, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Views on deer season timing and length

Bow and Arrow season

Most deer hunters (52%) believed that the Bow and Arrow season was about the right length (Figure 36).

Western (56%) and Eastern (54%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Northwestern Season zone hunters (47%) less likely than expected to believe that the Bow and Arrow season was about the right length (Table 42).

Bow and Arrow season hunters (20%) were more likely than those who did not hunt during the Bow and Arrow season to believe that the Bow and Arrow season was too short, and Gun season hunters (10%) were less likely than those who did not hunt during the Gun season to believe that the Bow and Arrow season was too short (Table 43).

There were differences in views on the length of the Bow and Arrow season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the 4 deer seasons (Table 44, Table 45, Table 46, Table 47).

Most deer hunters (55%) believed the timing of the Bow and Arrow season was about right (Figure 37).

Western (60%) and Central (59%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Northwestern (51%) and Eastern (53%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the timing of the Bow and Arrow season was about right (Table 48).

Bow and Arrow (62%) and Muzzleloader (59%) season hunters were more likely than those who did not hunt during the Bow and Arrow and Muzzleloader seasons to believe that the timing of the Bow and Arrow season was about right (Table 49).

There were differences in views on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the 4 deer seasons (Table 50, Table 51, Table 52, Table 53).

Figure 36

Q18A. The length of the Bow and Arrow season was… (n=4274)
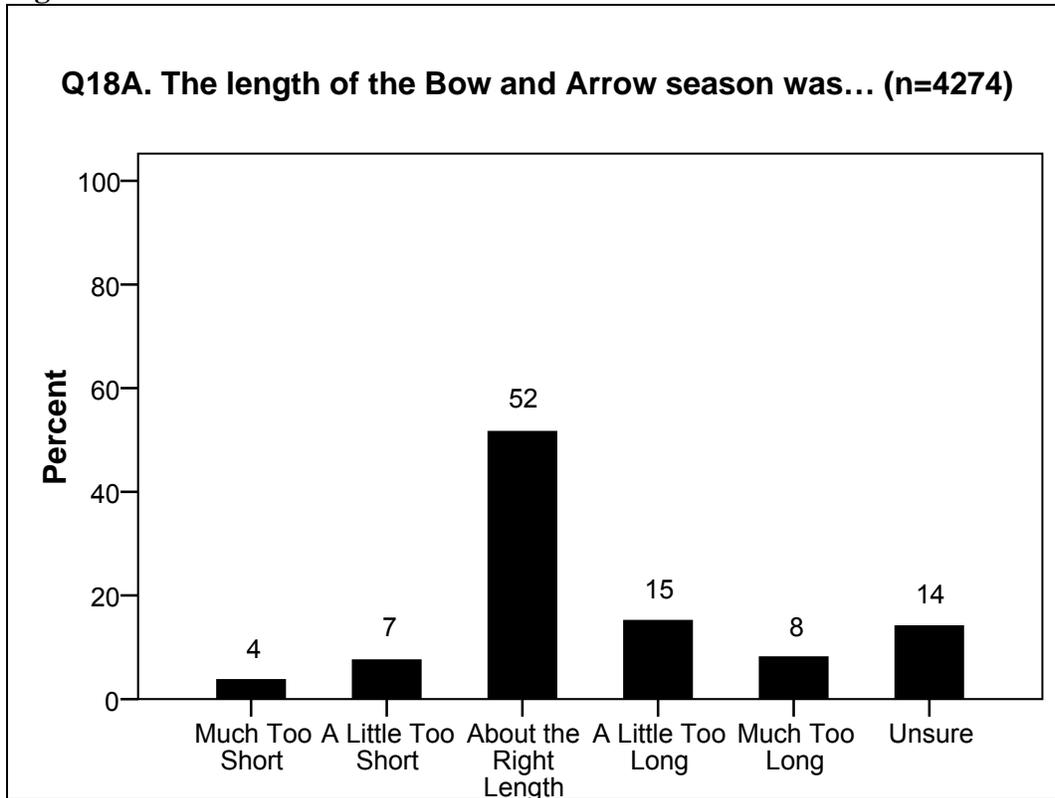
Table 42. Views on the length of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The length of the Bow and Arrow season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Short	4.1% (n=22)	2.6% (n=16)	3.4% (n=40)	3.9% (n=70)
A Little Too Short	7.0% (n=37)	5.1%[a] (n=31)	6.0% (n=70)	8.7%[b] (n=157)
About the Right Length	56.1%[b] (n=298)	46.5%[a] (n=283)	49.3% (n=572)	53.6%[b] (n=967)
A Little Too Long	16.6% (n=88)	23.3%[b] (n=142)	19.3%[b] (n=224)	8.6%[a] (n=155)
Much Too Long	7.2% (n=38)	13.3%[b] (n=81)	12.2%[b] (n=141)	4.5%[a] (n=81)
Unsure	9.0%[a] (n=48)	9.2%[a] (n=56)	9.7%[a] (n=113)	20.7%[b] (n=373)

$\chi^2=276.1, df=15, p=0.001$

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 43. Views on the length of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18A) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a]
Much Too Short	7.0%[b] (n=114)	3.6% (n=79)	3.3%[c] (n=135)
A Little Too Short	12.6%[b] (n=205)	6.8% (n=150)	7.0%[c] (n=288)
About the Right Length	59.6%[b] (n=969)	52.3% (n=1156)	51.5% (n=2111)
A Little Too Long	15.1% (n=246)	20.9%[b] (n=462)	15.2%[b] (n=622)
Much Too Long	5.2%[c] (n=85)	10.7%[b] (n=236)	8.5% (n=348)
Unsure	0.4%[c] (n=6)	5.8%[c] (n=129)	14.5%[b] (n=596)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 84.4$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 44. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18A) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	6.7%[c] (n=17)	4.8% (n=15)
A Little Too Short	11.1%[c] (n=28)	7.0% (n=22)
About the Right Length	66.0%[c] (n=167)	53.8% (n=169)
A Little Too Long	12.6%[d] (n=32)	21.3%[c] (n=67)
Much Too Long	3.2%[d] (n=8)	9.2%[c] (n=29)
Unsure	0.4%[d] (n=1)	3.8%[d] (n=12)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 39.7$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 45. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18A) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	4.1%[c] (n=12)	2.0% (n=9)
A Little Too Short	8.6%[c] (n=25)	4.5% (n=20)
About the Right Length	56.4%[c] (n=164)	47.8% (n=214)
A Little Too Long	24.4% (n=71)	26.3%[c] (n=118)
Much Too Long	6.2%[d] (n=18)	14.3% (n=64)
Unsure	0.3%[d] (n=1)	5.1%[d] (n=23)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 43.3$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 46. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18A) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	5.4%[c] (n=29)	2.1%[d] (n=15)
A Little Too Short	9.5%[c] (n=51)	4.4%[d] (n=32)
About the Right Length	59.5%[c] (n=319)	50.4% (n=368)
A Little Too Long	17.9% (n=96)	25.1%[c] (n=183)
Much Too Long	7.3%[d] (n=39)	13.4% (n=98)
Unsure	0.4%[d] (n=2)	4.7%[d] (n=34)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 108.6$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 47. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18A) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	10.7%[c] (n=54)	5.4%[c] (n=36)
A Little Too Short	19.3%[c] (n=98)	11.0%[c] (n=73)
About the Right Length	58.8%[c] (n=298)	57.6%[c] (n=381)
A Little Too Long	7.9% (n=40)	12.1%[c] (n=80)
Much Too Long	3.0%[d] (n=15)	5.4% (n=36)
Unsure	0.4%[d] (n=2)	8.5%[d] (n=56)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 109.6$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 37

Q18B. The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was… (n=4270)
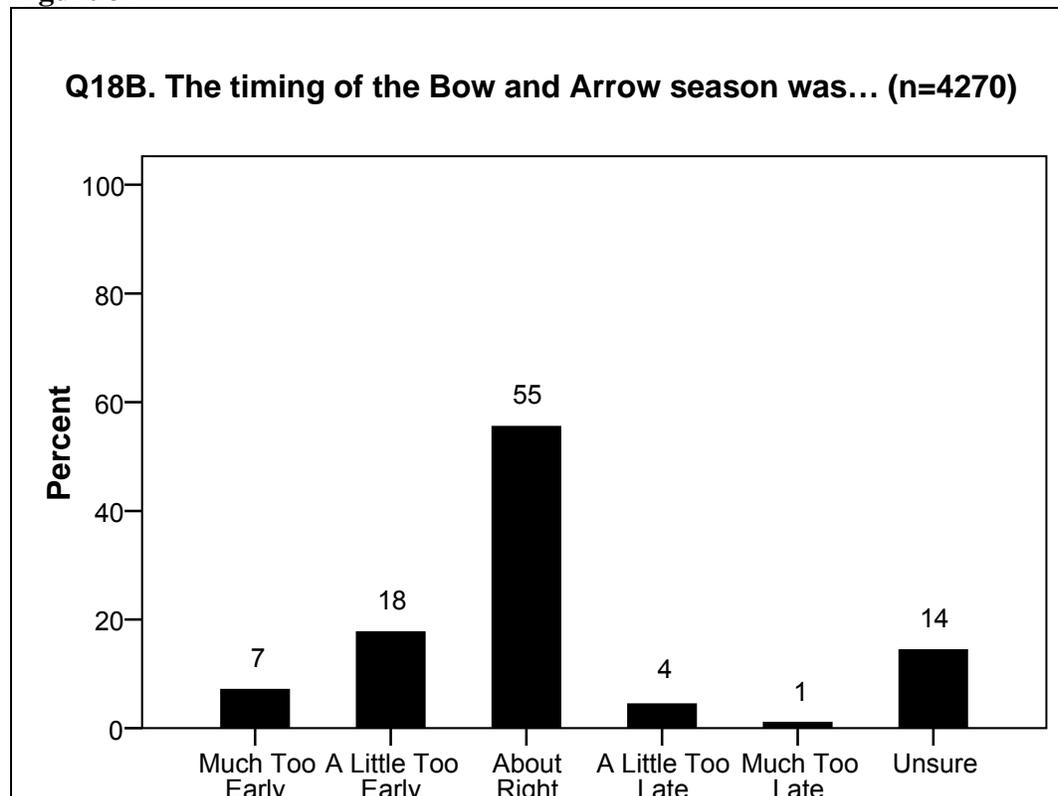
Table 48. Views on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Early	6.2% (n=33)	11.7%[a] (n=71)	7.4% (n=85)	5.9%[b] (n=107)
A Little Too Early	18.9% (n=101)	23.5% (n=143)	18.3% (n=211)	14.9%[b] (n=268)
About Right	60.2%[a] (n=321)	50.9%[b] (n=310)	58.7%[a] (n=678)	53.3%[b] (n=960)
A Little Too Late	2.6% (n=14)	2.8% (n=17)	4.3% (n=50)	4.8%[a] (n=87)
Much Too Late	0.8% (n=4)	0.8% (n=5)	1.2% (n=14)	0.9% (n=16)
Unsure	11.3%[b] (n=60)	10.3%[b] (n=63)	10.1%[b] (n=117)	20.2%[a] (n=363)

χ^2=124.1, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 49. Views on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18B) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a,b]
Much Too Early	6.8% (n=111)	8.7%[c] (n=192)	7.2% (n=292)
A Little Too Early	23.4%[c] (n=380)	20.8%[c] (n=458)	17.7% (n=718)
About Right	61.5%[c] (n=997)	58.5%[c] (n=1289)	55.9% (n=2266)
A Little Too Late	6.4%[c] (n=104)	4.8%[c] (n=105)	4.2% (n=170)
Much Too Late	1.1% (n=18)	1.0% (n=21)	- -
Unsure	0.7%[d] (n=11)	6.3%[d] (n=139)	15.0%[c] (n=608)

[a]$\chi^2\geq$10.6, df$\geq$4, $p\leq$0.03
[b]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[c]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 50. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18B) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	6.3% (n=16)	7.3% (n=23)
A Little Too Early	22.1% (n=56)	21.7%[c] (n=68)
About Right	64.0% (n=162)	60.4% (n=189)
A Little Too Late	4.0% (n=10)	3.8%[c] (n=12)
Much Too Late	1.6%[c] (n=4)	0.6% (n=2)
Unsure	2.0%[d] (n=5)	6.1%[d] (n=19)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 27.7$, df=5, p=0.001
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 51. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18B) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b,c]
Much Too Early	8.2%[d] (n=24)	12.4% (n=55)
A Little Too Early	28.5%[e] (n=83)	26.3%[e] (n=117)
About Right	58.8%[e] (n=171)	53.5% (n=238)
A Little Too Late	3.4% (n=10)	2.7% (n=12)
Much Too Late	0.7% (n=2)	- -
Unsure	0.3%[d] (n=1)	5.2%[d] (n=23)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 53.1$, df≥ 4, p=0.001
[c]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[e]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 52. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18B) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	4.9%[c] (n=26)	8.0% (n=58)
A Little Too Early	22.0%[d] (n=117)	18.9% (n=137)
About Right	66.0%[d] (n=352)	61.7%[d] (n=447)
A Little Too Late	5.8%[d] (n=31)	4.6% (n=33)
Much Too Late	1.1% (n=6)	1.2% (n=9)
Unsure	0.2%[c] (n=1)	5.7%[c] (n=41)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 42.8$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 53. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Bow and Arrow season (Q18B) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Bow and Arrow season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	8.3%[c] (n=42)	7.6%[c] (n=50)
A Little Too Early	23.3%[c] (n=118)	18.8%[c] (n=124)
About Right	56.5%[c] (n=286)	57.8%[c] (n=382)
A Little Too Late	9.9%[c] (n=50)	7.0%[c] (n=46)
Much Too Late	1.2% (n=6)	0.8% (n=5)
Unsure	0.8%[d] (n=4)	8.2%[d] (n=54)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 104.8$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Muzzleloader season

A plurality of deer hunters (44%) believed that the Muzzleloader season was too short, but 41% believed it was about the right length (41%) (Figure 38).

Eastern Season zone hunters (44%) were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (36%) less likely than expected to believe that the Muzzleloader season was about the right length (Table 54).

Bow and Arrow (52%) and Muzzleloader (64%) season hunters were more likely than those who did not hunt during the Bow and Arrow and Muzzleloader seasons to believe that the Muzzleloader season was too short (Table 55).

There were differences in views on the length of the Muzzleloader season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the 4 deer seasons (Table 56, Table 57, Table 58, Table 59).

Most deer hunters (61%) believed the timing of the Muzzleloader season was about right (Figure 39).

Western Season zone hunters (31%) were more likely and Central Season zone hunters (7%) less likely than expected to believe that the timing of the Muzzleloader season was too early (Table 60).

There were differences in views on the timing of the Muzzleloader season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 61).

There were differences in views on the timing of the Muzzleloader season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the 4 deer seasons (Table 62, Table 63, Table 64, Table 65).

Figure 38

Q18C. The length of the Muzzleloader season was… (n=4284)
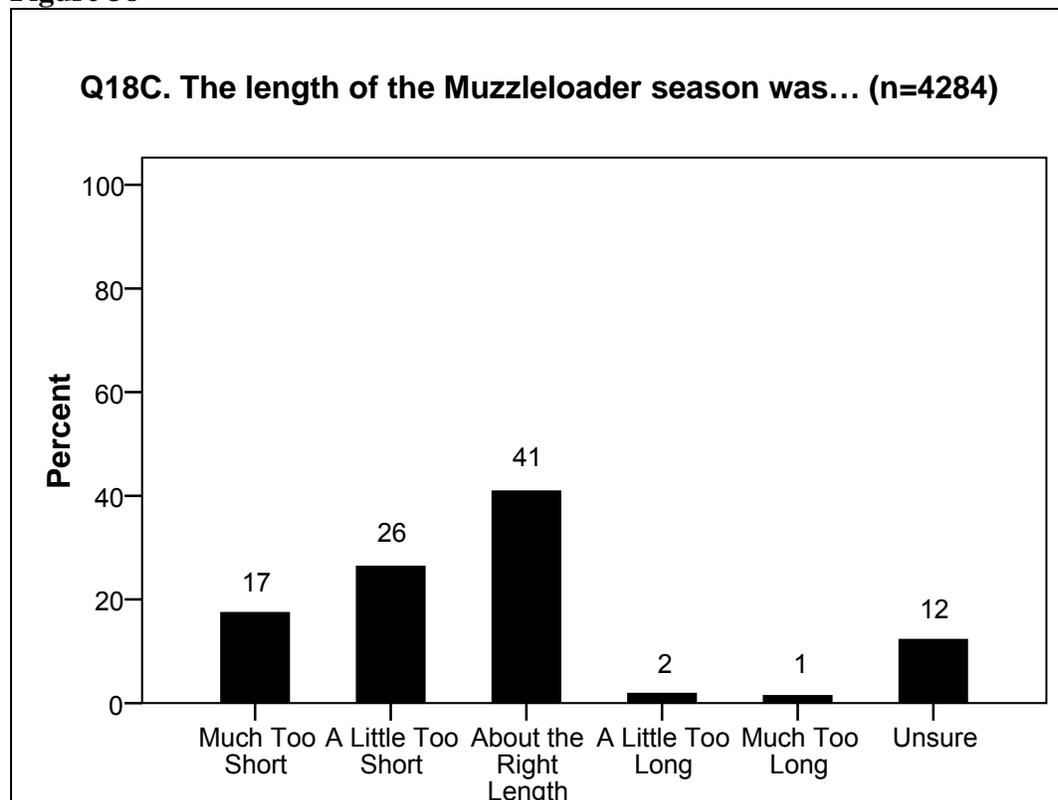
Table 54. Views on the length of the Muzzleloader season (Q18C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The length of the Muzzleloader season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Short	25.5%[a] (n=137)	22.4%[a] (n=137)	19.2% (n=223)	12.4%[b] (n=223)
A Little Too Short	28.1% (n=151)	30.2%[a] (n=185)	27.5% (n=320)	22.5%[b] (n=406)
About the Right Length	35.6%[b] (n=191)	39.2% (n=240)	41.6% (n=484)	43.9%[a] (n=791)
A Little Too Long	2.4% (n=13)	1.1% (n=7)	1.7% (n=20)	1.7% (n=30)
Much Too Long	1.1% (n=6)	1.0% (n=6)	1.3% (n=15)	1.6% (n=29)
Unsure	7.3%[b] (n=39)	6.0%[b] (n=37)	8.8%[b] (n=102)	18.0%[a] (n=324)

χ^2=174.1, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 55. Views on the length of the Muzzleloader season (Q18C) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[b]
Much Too Short	21.5%[c] (n=348)	27.6%[c] (n=614)	17.7% (n=729)
A Little Too Short	30.5%[c] (n=495)	36.0%[c] (n=802)	25.9% (n=1066)
About the Right Length	40.0% (n=649)	34.9%[d] (n=777)	41.3% (n=1700)
A Little Too Long	1.2% (n=20)	0.6%[d] (n=14)	1.7% (n=71)
Much Too Long	1.1% (n=18)	0.4%[d] (n=9)	1.3% (n=55)
Unsure	5.6%[d] (n=91)	0.5%[d] (n=11)	12.0%[d] (n=492)

[a] $\chi^2 \geq 143.2$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[b] $\chi^2 = 8.4$, df=5, $p=0.137$
[c] Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d] Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 56. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Muzzleloader season (Q18C) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[b,c]
Much Too Short	30.0%[d] (n=76)	34.7%[d] (n=110)	26.7% (n=133)
A Little Too Short	28.9% (n=73)	35.6%[d] (n=113)	29.3% (n=146)
About the Right Length	34.8% (n=88)	28.1%[e] (n=89)	36.7% (n=183)
A Little Too Long	1.2% (n=3)	0.6%[e] (n=2)	- -
Much Too Long	0.8% (n=2)	0.6% (n=2)	- -
Unsure	4.3%[e] (n=11)	0.3%[e] (n=1)	7.2% (n=36)

[a] $\chi^2 \geq 13.1$, df=5, $p \leq 0.023$
[b] $\chi^2 = 2.0$, df=3, $p=0.563$
[c] One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[d] Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[e] Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 57. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Muzzleloader season (Q18C) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b,c]	Muzzleloader Season[b,c]
Much Too Short	22.8% (n=66)	27.2%[d] (n=122)
A Little Too Short	35.3%[d] (n=102)	36.1%[d] (n=162)
About the Right Length	39.4% (n=114)	36.5%[e] (n=164)
A Little Too Long	- -	0.2%[e] (n=1)
Much Too Long	0.0%[e] (n=0)	- -
Unsure	2.4%[e] (n=7)	0.0%[e] (n=0)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[c]$\chi^2 \geq 21.1$, df=4, p=0.001
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[e]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 58. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Muzzleloader season (Q18C) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	19.7% (n=105)	26.3%[c] (n=194)
A Little Too Short	30.7%[c] (n=164)	35.1%[c] (n=259)
About the Right Length	41.0% (n=219)	36.9%[d] (n=272)
A Little Too Long	1.5% (n=8)	0.7%[d] (n=5)
Much Too Long	1.5% (n=8)	0.5%[d] (n=4)
Unsure	5.6%[d] (n=30)	0.5%[d] (n=4)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 15.4$, df=5, $p \leq 0.009$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 59. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Muzzleloader season (Q18C) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	18.4%[c] (n=93)	25.5%[c] (n=169)
A Little Too Short	28.3%[c] (n=143)	37.2%[c] (n=247)
About the Right Length	42.2% (n=213)	35.4%[d] (n=235)
A Little Too Long	1.2% (n=6)	0.8%[d] (n=5)
Much Too Long	1.6% (n=8)	0.3%[d] (n=2)
Unsure	8.3%[d] (n=42)	0.9%[d] (n=6)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 70.4$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 39

Q18D. The timing of the Muzzleloader season was… (n=4286)
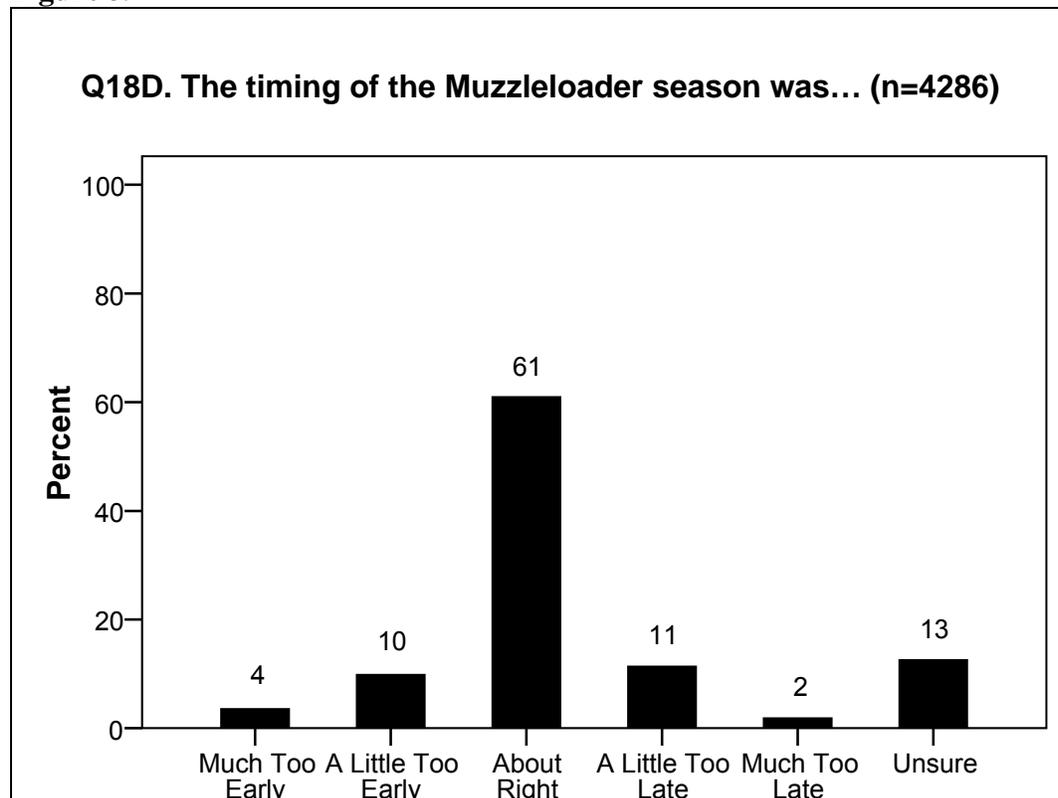
Table 60. Views on the timing of the Muzzleloader season (Q18D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The timing of the Muzzleloader season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Early	9.9%[a]	3.4%	1.6%[b]	3.0%
	(n=53)	(n=21)	(n=19)	(n=55)
A Little Too Early	20.7%[a]	8.0%	5.6%[b]	9.6%
	(n=111)	(n=49)	(n=65)	(n=173)
About Right	57.7%	64.4%	63.4%	60.2%
	(n=310)	(n=395)	(n=738)	(n=1086)
A Little Too Late	3.7%[b]	16.8%[a]	18.0%[a]	6.9%[b]
	(n=20)	(n=103)	(n=210)	(n=125)
Much Too Late	0.4%[b]	1.1%	2.9%[a]	1.7%
	(n=2)	(n=7)	(n=34)	(n=30)
Unsure	7.6%[b]	6.2%[b]	8.4%[b]	18.6%[a]
	(n=41)	(n=38)	(n=98)	(n=335)

χ^2=403.0, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 61. Views on the timing of the Muzzleloader season (Q18D) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a]
Much Too Early	4.6%[b]	4.1%	3.5%
	(n=75)	(n=91)	(n=146)
A Little Too Early	12.5%[b]	12.1%[b]	9.7%
	(n=202)	(n=270)	(n=398)
About Right	63.2%[b]	65.2%[b]	61.4%
	(n=1024)	(n=1453)	(n=2526)
A Little Too Late	12.5%[b]	15.5%[b]	11.3%[b]
	(n=202)	(n=346)	(n=466)
Much Too Late	1.8%	2.3%[b]	1.8%
	(n=29)	(n=51)	(n=76)
Unsure	5.5%[c]	0.7%[c]	12.2%[c]
	(n=89)	(n=16)	(n=503)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq$13.8, df=5, $p \leq$0.017
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[c]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 62. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Muzzleloader season (Q18D) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b,c]	Muzzleloader Season[c,d]
Much Too Early	11.2% (n=28)	14.6%[e] (n=46)
A Little Too Early	21.9% (n=55)	26.7%[e] (n=84)
About Right	59.8% (n=150)	54.9% (n=173)
A Little Too Late	2.4% (n=6)	3.8% (n=12)
Much Too Late	- -	- -
Unsure	4.8%[f] (n=12)	0.0%[f] (n=0)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]χ^2=8.7, df=4, p=0.068
[c]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[d]χ^2=89.9, df=4, p=0.001
[e]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[f]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 63. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Muzzleloader season (Q18D) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	2.7% (n=8)	2.2%[c] (n=10)
A Little Too Early	9.6% (n=28)	8.4% (n=38)
About Right	67.1% (n=196)	68.2%[d] (n=307)
A Little Too Late	17.5% (n=51)	19.8%[d] (n=89)
Much Too Late	1.0% (n=3)	1.3% (n=6)
Unsure	2.1%[c] (n=6)	0.0%[c] (n=0)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 18.1$, df=5, $p \leq 0.003$
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 64. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Muzzleloader season (Q18D) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	2.1% (n=11)	0.9%[c] (n=7)
A Little Too Early	6.7% (n=36)	5.3% (n=39)
About Right	65.7% (n=351)	66.9%[d] (n=494)
A Little Too Late	18.4% (n=98)	23.2%[d] (n=171)
Much Too Late	2.4% (n=13)	2.8% (n=21)
Unsure	4.7%[c] (n=25)	0.8%[c] (n=6)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 20.8$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 65. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Muzzleloader season (Q18D) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Muzzleloader season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	4.9%[c] (n=25)	3.8% (n=25)
A Little Too Early	15.4%[c] (n=78)	14.9%[c] (n=99)
About Right	60.3% (n=305)	67.2%[c] (n=446)
A Little Too Late	8.3% (n=42)	9.9%[c] (n=66)
Much Too Late	2.2% (n=11)	2.7%[c] (n=18)
Unsure	8.9%[d] (n=45)	1.5%[d] (n=10)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 72.9$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Gun season

Most deer hunters (50%) believed that the Gun season was too short (Figure 40).

Western (34%), Northwestern (34%), and Central (31%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (24%) less likely than expected to believe that the Gun season was a little too short (Table 66).

There were differences in views on the length of the Gun season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 67).

There were differences in views on the length of the Gun season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the 4 deer seasons (Table 68, Table 69, Table 70, Table 71).

Most deer hunters (67%) believed the timing of the Gun season was about right (Figure 41).

Western (14%) and Eastern (14%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Northwestern (7%) and Central (7%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the timing of the Gun season was a little too early (Table 72).

There were differences in views on the timing of the Gun season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 73).

There were differences in views on the timing of the Gun season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the 4 deer seasons (Table 74, Table 75, Table 76, Table 77).

Figure 40

Q18E. The length of the Gun season was… (n=4340)
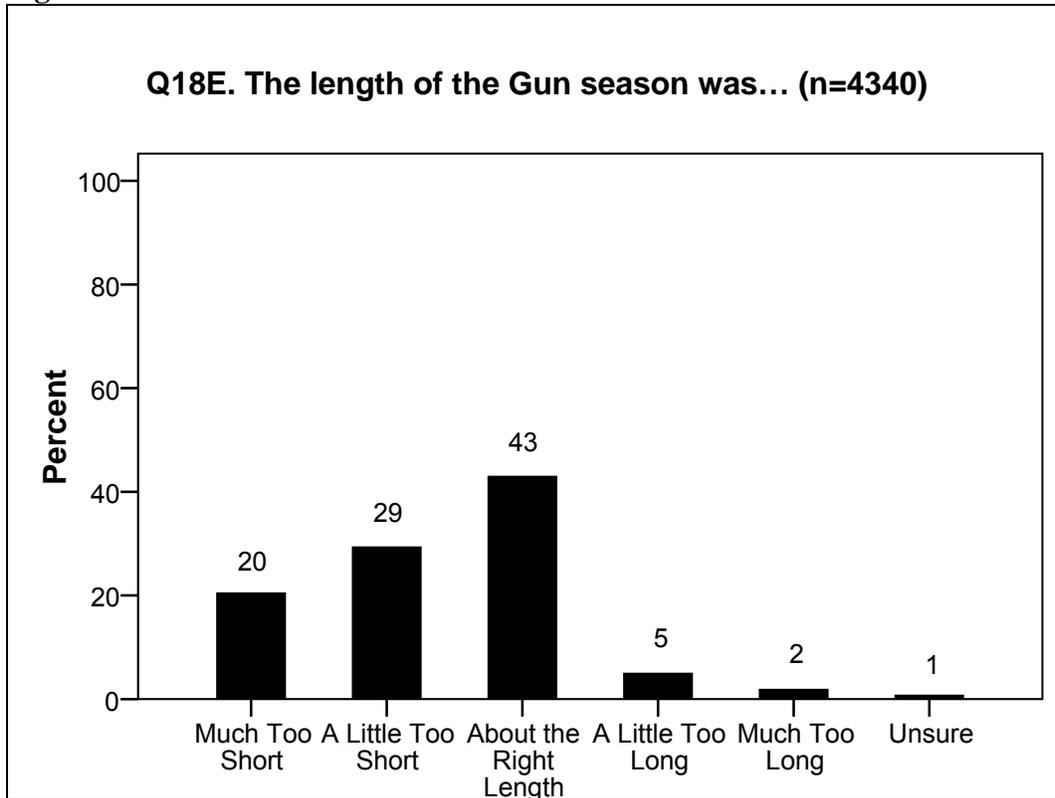
Table 66. Views on the length of the Gun season (Q18E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The length of the Gun season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Short	28.1%[a] (n=153)	28.3%[a] (n=174)	21.1% (n=248)	12.5%[b] (n=229)
A Little Too Short	33.8%[a] (n=184)	33.5%[a] (n=206)	31.3%[a] (n=368)	24.1%[b] (n=443)
About the Right Length	32.7%[b] (n=178)	30.7%[b] (n=189)	41.6%[b] (n=488)	54.6%[a] (n=1003)
A Little Too Long	4.0% (n=22)	5.2% (n=32)	4.3% (n=50)	5.6% (n=103)
Much Too Long	0.9% (n=5)	1.8% (n=11)	1.3% (n=15)	2.2%[a] (n=40)
Unsure	0.4% (n=2)	0.5% (n=3)	0.4% (n=5)	1.0%[b] (n=19)

$\chi^2=222.7$, df=15, $p=0.001$

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 67. Views on the length of the Gun season (Q18E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a,b]
Much Too Short	21.7%[c] (n=352)	21.6%[c] (n=481)	20.2% (n=824)
A Little Too Short	27.8% (n=452)	28.1% (n=625)	29.6% (n=1208)
About the Right Length	40.2%[d] (n=653)	42.1%[d] (n=938)	45.3% (n=1846)
A Little Too Long	6.9%[c] (n=112)	6.0%[c] (n=134)	4.8%[d] (n=197)
Much Too Long	2.9%[c] (n=47)	2.1% (n=46)	- -
Unsure	0.5% (n=8)	0.2%[d] (n=4)	- -

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 8.2$, df$\geq$3, $p \leq 0.041$
[b]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 68. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun season (Q18E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a,b]	Muzzleloader Season[a,c]	Gun Season[a,c]
Much Too Short	31.1% (n=78)	29.7% (n=94)	29.9% (n=149)
A Little Too Short	37.1% (n=93)	31.5% (n=100)	35.3% (n=176)
About the Right Length	23.9%[d] (n=60)	32.8% (n=104)	34.7% (n=173)
A Little Too Long	6.4%[e] (n=16)	5.0% (n=16)	- -
Much Too Long	1.6% (n=4)	0.9% (n=3)	- -
Unsure	- -	- -	- -

[a]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2=22.1$, df=4, $p=0.001$
[c]$\chi^2 \leq 3.7$, df$\geq$2, $p \geq 0.449$
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[e]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 69. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun season (Q18E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b,c]
Much Too Short	27.4% (n=80)	28.1% (n=126)
A Little Too Short	33.9% (n=99)	32.3% (n=145)
About the Right Length	30.8% (n=90)	31.2% (n=140)
A Little Too Long	4.5% (n=13)	6.5%[d] (n=29)
Much Too Long	2.7% (n=8)	2.0% (n=9)
Unsure	0.7% (n=2)	- -

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 6.4$, df$\geq$4, $p \geq 0.173$
[c]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 70. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun season (Q18E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[b]	Gun Season[c,b]
Much Too Short	20.5% (n=110)	20.1% (n=148)	22.4% (n=243)
A Little Too Short	29.3% (n=157)	30.1% (n=222)	33.6% (n=364)
About the Right Length	41.4% (n=222)	43.4% (n=320)	44.0% (n=476)
A Little Too Long	6.3%[d] (n=34)	5.0% (n=37)	- -
Much Too Long	1.9% (n=10)	1.4% (n=10)	- -
Unsure	0.6% (n=3)	0.1%[e] (n=1)	- -

[a]$\chi^2 = 15.5$, df=5, $p=0.008$
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 10.6$, df$\geq$2, $p \geq 0.060$
[c]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[e]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 71. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun season (Q18E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	13.6% (n=69)	13.4% (n=89)
A Little Too Short	18.4%[c] (n=93)	21.7% (n=144)
About the Right Length	53.4% (n=270)	53.8% (n=358)
A Little Too Long	9.5%[d] (n=48)	7.5%[d] (n=50)
Much Too Long	4.7%[d] (n=24)	3.3%[d] (n=22)
Unsure	0.4% (n=2)	0.3%[c] (n=2)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 23.1$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

**Figure 41**

Q18F. The timing of the Gun season was… (n=4334)
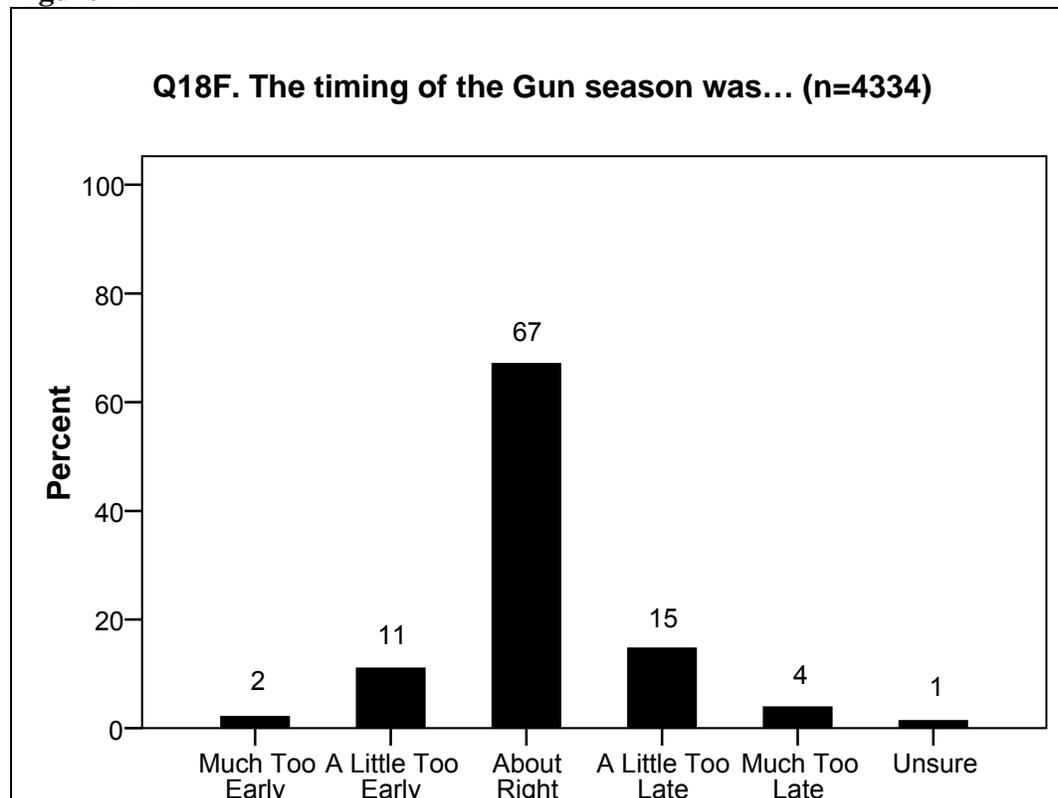
Table 72. Views on the timing of the Gun season (Q18F) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The timing of the Gun season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Early	1.5% (n=8)	1.8% (n=11)	0.8%[a] (n=9)	3.3%[b] (n=60)
A Little Too Early	13.6%[b] (n=74)	6.8%[a] (n=42)	6.6%[a] (n=77)	13.9%[b] (n=255)
About Right	63.9%[a] (n=347)	69.8% (n=429)	64.8%[a] (n=760)	70.3%[b] (n=1289)
A Little Too Late	16.9% (n=92)	16.6% (n=102)	20.3%[b] (n=238)	8.9%[a] (n=163)
Much Too Late	3.1% (n=17)	3.7% (n=23)	6.5%[b] (n=76)	2.1%[a] (n=38)
Unsure	0.9% (n=5)	1.3% (n=8)	1.1% (n=13)	1.6% (n=29)

χ^2=189.0, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 73. Views on the timing of the Gun season (Q18F) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a,b]
Much Too Early	2.7% (n=43)	2.2% (n=48)	2.3% (n=90)
A Little Too Early	14.1%[c] (n=229)	11.0% (n=244)	11.0%[d] (n=435)
About Right	65.9%[d] (n=1068)	68.1% (n=1515)	71.4% (n=2824)
A Little Too Late	12.9%[d] (n=209)	14.7% (n=327)	15.3% (n=605)
Much Too Late	3.5% (n=56)	3.7% (n=82)	- -
Unsure	1.0% (n=16)	0.4%[d] (n=10)	- -

[a]$\chi^2 \geq$13.1, df$\geq$3, $p\leq$0.004
[b]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[c]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 74. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun season (Q18F) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b,c]	Muzzleloader Season[b,d]
Much Too Early	1.6%	1.9%
	(n=4)	(n=6)
A Little Too Early	20.2%[e]	15.5%
	(n=50)	(n=49)
About Right	58.1%[f]	61.1%
	(n=144)	(n=193)
A Little Too Late	16.5%	17.4%
	(n=41)	(n=55)
Much Too Late	3.6%	4.1%
	(n=9)	(n=13)
Unsure	-	-
	-	-

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[c]χ^2=17.0, df=4, p=0.002
[d]χ^2=6.1, df=4, p=0.193
[e]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[f]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 75. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun season (Q18F) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[c]
Much Too Early	1.7%	1.3%
	(n=5)	(n=6)
A Little Too Early	10.3%[d]	7.1%
	(n=30)	(n=32)
About Right	70.2%	71.3%
	(n=205)	(n=321)
A Little Too Late	13.4%[e]	16.4%
	(n=39)	(n=74)
Much Too Late	3.1%	2.9%
	(n=9)	(n=13)
Unsure	1.4%	0.9%
	(n=4)	(n=4)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]χ^2=13.9, df=5, p=0.016
[c]χ^2=8.5, df=5, p=0.131
[d]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[e]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 76. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun season (Q18F) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	1.1% (n=6)	0.4% (n=3)
A Little Too Early	9.3%[c] (n=50)	7.0% (n=52)
About Right	68.1%[c] (n=365)	68.8% (n=508)
A Little Too Late	15.5%[d] (n=83)	18.3%[d] (n=135)
Much Too Late	5.2% (n=28)	5.3% (n=39)
Unsure	0.7% (n=4)	0.1%[d] (n=1)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 28.7$, df=5, $p=0.001$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 77. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun season (Q18F) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	5.6%[c] (n=28)	4.7%[c] (n=31)
A Little Too Early	19.2%[c] (n=97)	16.0%[c] (n=106)
About Right	64.7%[d] (n=326)	69.1% (n=458)
A Little Too Late	8.3% (n=42)	8.1% (n=54)
Much Too Late	1.2% (n=6)	1.5% (n=10)
Unsure	1.0% (n=5)	0.6%[d] (n=4)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 18.0$, df=5, $p \leq 0.003$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Gun Either-Sex season

A majority of deer hunters (58%) believed that the Gun Either-Sex season was about the right length (Figure 42).

Western (53%) and Northwestern (39%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Central (27%) and Eastern (24%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to believe that the Gun Either-Sex season was too short (Table 78).

There were differences in views on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 79).

There were no differences in views on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the Western Deer Season zone (Table 80). There were differences in views on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the Northwestern, Central, and Eastern Deer Season zone (Table 81, Table 82, Table 83).

Most deer hunters (73%) believed the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was about right (Figure 43).

Central (76%) and Eastern (77%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (59%) less likely than expected to believe that the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was about right (Table 84).

There were no overall differences in views on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 85).

There were no differences in views on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted for hunters in the Western and Northwestern Deer Season zones (Table 86, Table 87). There were differences in views on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted for Central Deer Season zone hunters (Table 88). There were no differences in views on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season based on weapon season(s) hunted for Eastern Deer Season zone hunters (Table 89).

Figure 42

Q18G. The length of the Gun Either-Sex season (the time in which both bucks and does can be harvested) was… (n=4323)
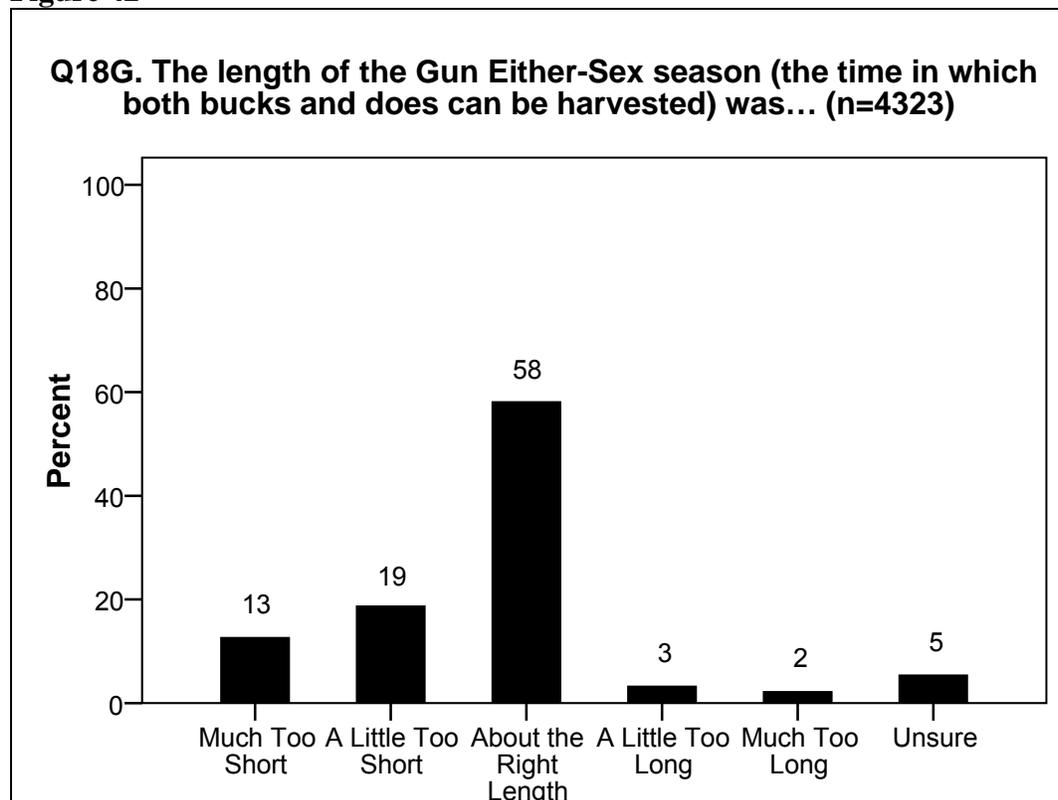
Table 78. Views on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18G) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The length of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Short	25.0%[a] (n=135)	16.8%[a] (n=103)	10.2%[b] (n=119)	8.1%[b] (n=149)
A Little Too Short	27.6%[a] (n=149)	21.9%[a] (n=134)	16.3%[b] (n=191)	15.5%[b] (n=284)
About the Right Length	32.3%[b] (n=174)	51.5%[b] (n=316)	65.4%[a] (n=766)	64.9%[a] (n=1189)
A Little Too Long	3.9% (n=21)	3.9% (n=24)	2.8% (n=33)	3.3% (n=61)
Much Too Long	4.8%[a] (n=26)	2.3% (n=14)	0.9%[b] (n=11)	2.2% (n=40)
Unsure	6.3% (n=34)	3.6% (n=22)	4.4% (n=52)	5.9% (n=108)

χ^2=278.1, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 79. Views on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18G) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[b,c]
Much Too Short	12.3% (n=199)	12.5% (n=277)	13.4% (n=515)
A Little Too Short	16.9%[d] (n=274)	17.1%[d] (n=379)	20.1% (n=775)
About the Right Length	59.9% (n=969)	60.1%[e] (n=1334)	63.0% (n=2431)
A Little Too Long	3.8% (n=62)	3.5% (n=78)	3.5% (n=136)
Much Too Long	2.7% (n=44)	2.7%[e] (n=61)	- -
Unsure	4.3% (n=69)	4.1%[d] (n=92)	- -

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 13.1$, df=5, $p \leq 0.022$
[b]$\chi^2 = 4.2$, df=3, $p \leq 0.241$
[c]One or more cells in category not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[e]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 80. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18G) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	26.3% (n=66)	25.6% (n=81)
A Little Too Short	25.5% (n=64)	28.4% (n=90)
About the Right Length	32.3% (n=81)	31.5% (n=100)
A Little Too Long	3.6% (n=9)	3.8% (n=12)
Much Too Long	6.4% (n=16)	5.7% (n=18)
Unsure	6.0% (n=15)	5.0% (n=16)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 3.6$, df=5, $p \geq 0.606$

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Table 81. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18G) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	15.5% (n=45)	15.4% (n=69)
A Little Too Short	17.2%[c] (n=50)	18.5%[c] (n=83)
About the Right Length	55.3% (n=161)	55.5%[d] (n=249)
A Little Too Long	4.1% (n=12)	4.9%[d] (n=22)
Much Too Long	2.7% (n=8)	2.9% (n=13)
Unsure	5.2%[d] (n=15)	2.9% (n=13)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 12.0$, df=5, $p \leq 0.034$
[c]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 82. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18G) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Short	7.9%[c] (n=42)	8.7%[c] (n=64)
A Little Too Short	14.4% (n=77)	12.9%[c] (n=95)
About the Right Length	71.2%[d] (n=380)	71.1%[d] (n=524)
A Little Too Long	3.0% (n=16)	2.6% (n=19)
Much Too Long	0.4% (n=2)	1.1% (n=8)
Unsure	3.2% (n=17)	3.7% (n=27)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 19.4$, df=5, $p \leq 0.002$
[c]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 83. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the length of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18G) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The length of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[c]
Much Too Short	8.7% (n=44)	8.3% (n=55)
A Little Too Short	13.1% (n=66)	13.6% (n=90)
About the Right Length	66.2% (n=333)	66.4% (n=438)
A Little Too Long	4.8%[d] (n=24)	3.5% (n=23)
Much Too Long	3.0% (n=15)	2.9% (n=19)
Unsure	4.2% (n=21)	5.3% (n=35)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]χ^2=12.9, df=5, p=0.024
[c]χ^2=6.0, df=5, p=0.307
[d]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 43

Q18H. The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (the time in which both bucks and does can be harvested) was… (n=4318)
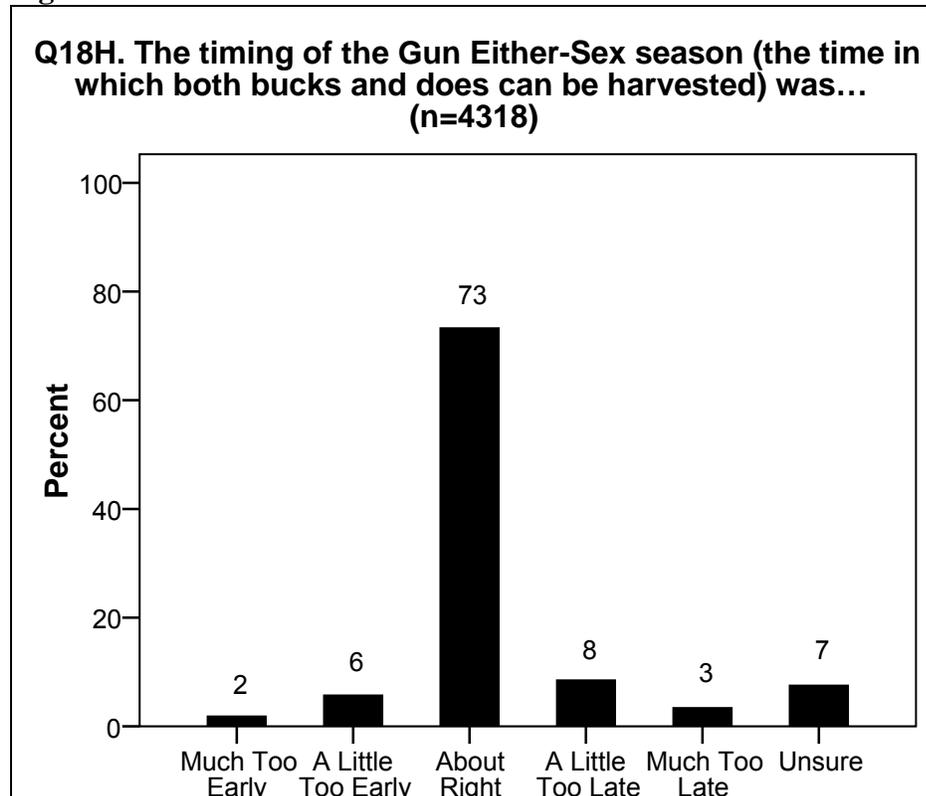
Table 84. Views on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18H) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Much Too Early	1.7% (n=9)	1.6% (n=10)	1.2% (n=14)	2.3%[a] (n=42)
A Little Too Early	9.0%[a] (n=48)	4.7% (n=29)	4.0%[b] (n=47)	5.8% (n=106)
About Right	58.7%[b] (n=314)	74.6% (n=457)	76.4%[a] (n=894)	76.5%[a] (n=1400)
A Little Too Late	11.8%[a] (n=63)	9.8% (n=60)	8.9% (n=104)	6.5%[b] (n=118)
Much Too Late	6.4%[a] (n=34)	3.6% (n=22)	3.2% (n=38)	2.1%[b] (n=38)
Unsure	12.5%[a] (n=67)	5.7% (n=35)	6.2% (n=73)	6.8% (n=125)

$\chi^2=108.0$, df=15, $p=0.001$

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 85. Views on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18H) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	1.7% (n=27)	1.7% (n=38)
A Little Too Early	6.1% (n=98)	5.5% (n=122)
About Right	74.1% (n=1195)	75.4%[c] (n=1672)
A Little Too Late	7.9% (n=127)	7.9% (n=175)
Much Too Late	3.3% (n=54)	3.3% (n=73)
Unsure	6.9% (n=112)	6.2%[d] (n=138)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 8.8$, df=5, $p \geq 0.115$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 86. Views of **Western Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18H) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	2.0% (n=5)	1.6% (n=5)
A Little Too Early	8.5% (n=21)	10.5% (n=33)
About Right	55.1% (n=136)	58.8% (n=184)
A Little Too Late	12.1% (n=30)	11.5% (n=36)
Much Too Late	7.3% (n=18)	7.0% (n=22)
Unsure	15.0% (n=37)	10.5% (n=33)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 5.1$, df=5, $p \geq 0.408$

Table 87. Views of **Northwestern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18H) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	2.4% (n=7)	1.1% (n=5)
A Little Too Early	5.5% (n=16)	5.6% (n=25)
About Right	73.5% (n=214)	76.4% (n=344)
A Little Too Late	7.9% (n=23)	8.4% (n=38)
Much Too Late	4.1% (n=12)	3.1% (n=14)
Unsure	6.5% (n=19)	5.3% (n=24)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 11.0$, df=5, $p \geq 0.051$

Table 88. Views of **Central Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18H) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	0.7% (n=4)	0.8% (n=6)
A Little Too Early	3.7% (n=20)	3.3% (n=24)
About Right	80.7%[c] (n=431)	80.3%[c] (n=592)
A Little Too Late	7.5% (n=40)	7.6%[d] (n=56)
Much Too Late	1.9%[d] (n=10)	2.3%[d] (n=17)
Unsure	5.4% (n=29)	5.7% (n=42)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \geq 12.2$, df=5, $p \leq 0.032$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 89. Views of **Eastern Deer Season zone hunters** on the timing of the Gun Either-Sex season (Q18H) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

The timing of the Gun Either-Sex season was…	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?[a]	
	Bow and Arrow Season[b]	Muzzleloader Season[b]
Much Too Early	2.2% (n=11)	3.0% (n=20)
A Little Too Early	7.4% (n=37)	5.0% (n=33)
About Right	77.1% (n=388)	77.9% (n=514)
A Little Too Late	6.2% (n=31)	6.2% (n=41)
Much Too Late	2.2% (n=11)	2.3% (n=15)
Unsure	5.0% (n=25)	5.6% (n=37)

[a]Gun Season not included in crosstabulation due to small sample sizes.
[b]$\chi^2 \leq 6.3$, df=5, $p \geq 0.275$

Views on Quality Deer Management (QDM)

Most respondents (76%, n=4,149) voluntarily practiced QDM strategies where they hunted deer (Question 29). One focus group participant said: "I'm a doe killer. I let bucks go in hopes that some youth or somebody in my club that hasn't killed a big buck in a long long time would kill it."

Central (79%) and Eastern (78%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (68%) less likely than expected to have voluntarily practiced QDM strategies (Table 90).

Table 90. Voluntary practice of QDM strategies (Q29) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Do you voluntarily practice any QDM strategies where you hunt deer?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Yes	67.8%[a]	74.9%	79.2%[b]	78.3%[b]
	(n=353)	(n=439)	(n=896)	(n=1361)
No	32.2%[b]	25.1%	20.8%[a]	21.7%[a]
	(n=168)	(n=147)	(n=235)	(n=378)

χ^2=30.7, df=3, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Changing bag limits/season lengths

Most deer hunters (52%) supported decreasing the season bag limit for bucks to meet QDM objectives (Figure 44).

There were no overall differences in views on decreasing the season bag limit for bucks based on deer season hunted (Table 91).

Most deer hunters (62%) supported increasing the season bag limit for does (Figure 45). A focus group participant said: "I'd rather shoot a doe…that's better eating to me than a buck. A buck is gamier."

Western Season zone hunters (16%) were more likely and Central (4%) and Eastern (6%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to strongly oppose increasing the season bag limit for does (Table 92).

Most deer hunters (66%) were opposed to shortening the Gun season (Figure 46).

There were no overall differences in views on shortening the Gun season based on deer season hunted (Table 93).

Figure 44

Q23. Decreasing the season bag limit for bucks. (n=4359)
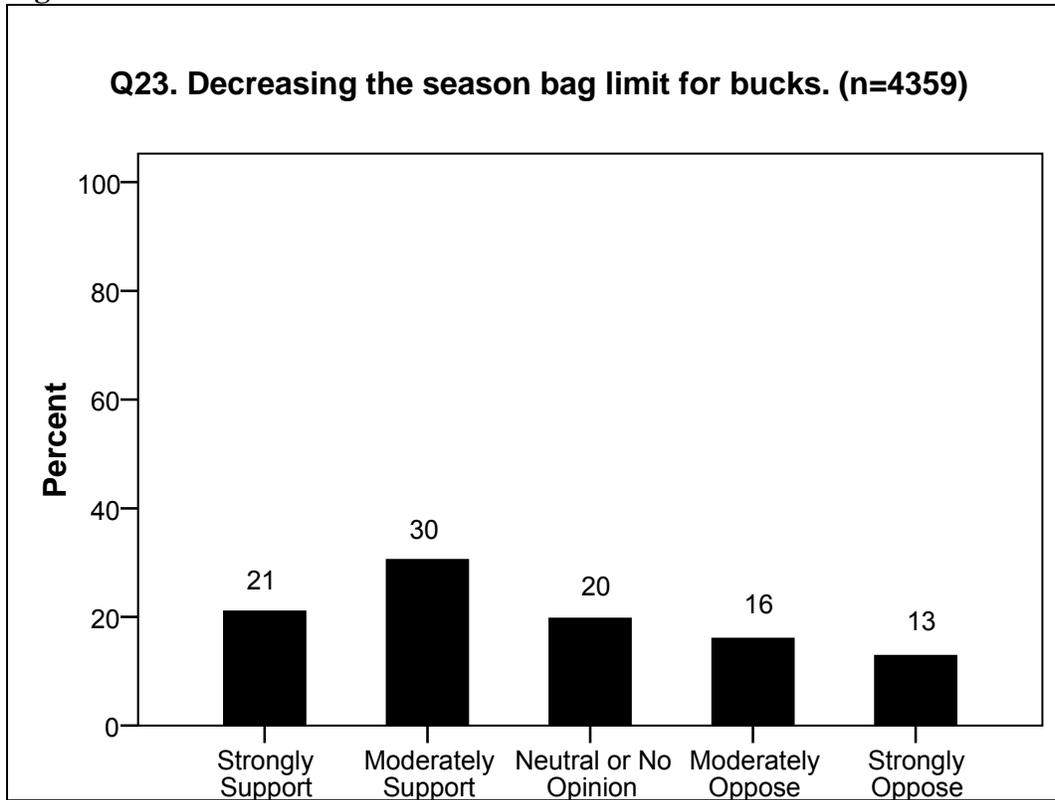
Table 91. Support or opposition to decreasing the season bag limit for bucks (Q23) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Decreasing the season bag limit for bucks.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	18.2% (n=100)	22.8% (n=142)	21.3% (n=250)	21.0% (n=387)
Moderately Support	29.9% (n=164)	31.5% (n=196)	30.8% (n=362)	30.6% (n=563)
Neutral or No Opinion	19.7% (n=108)	17.4% (n=108)	19.3% (n=227)	20.4% (n=376)
Moderately Oppose	16.2% (n=89)	15.8% (n=98)	16.3% (n=192)	15.6% (n=288)
Strongly Oppose	15.9%[a] (n=87)	12.5% (n=78)	12.3% (n=144)	12.4% (n=228)

χ^2=10.4, df=12, p=0.581

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 45

Q24. Increasing the season bag limit for does. (n=4363)
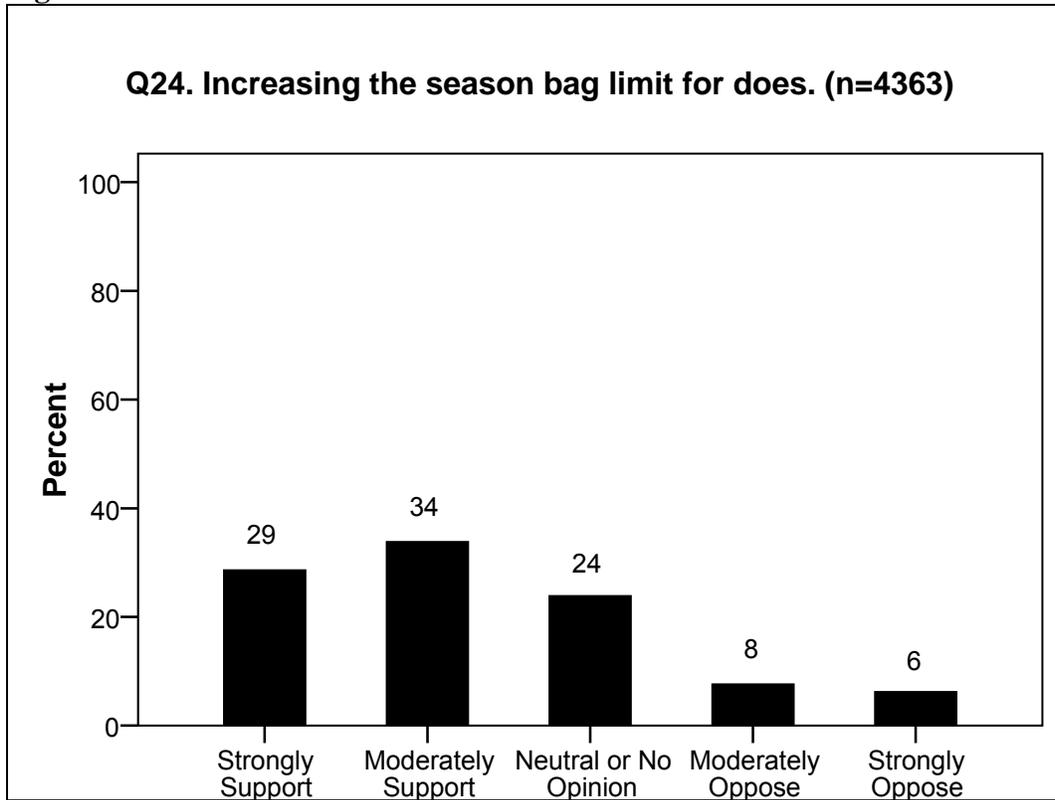
Table 92. Support or opposition to increasing the season bag limit for does (Q24) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Increasing the season bag limit for does.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	22.5%[a] (n=123)	30.7% (n=191)	27.7% (n=326)	29.1% (n=537)
Moderately Support	26.0%[a] (n=142)	32.6% (n=203)	37.8%[b] (n=445)	33.8% (n=624)
Neutral or No Opinion	21.4% (n=117)	24.3% (n=151)	23.8% (n=280)	24.8% (n=457)
Moderately Oppose	14.4%[b] (n=79)	6.8% (n=42)	6.5% (n=77)	6.7%[a] (n=123)
Strongly Oppose	15.7%[b] (n=86)	5.6% (n=35)	4.2%[a] (n=49)	5.6%[a] (n=104)

χ^2=147.9, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 46

Q25. Shortening the Gun season. (n=4276)
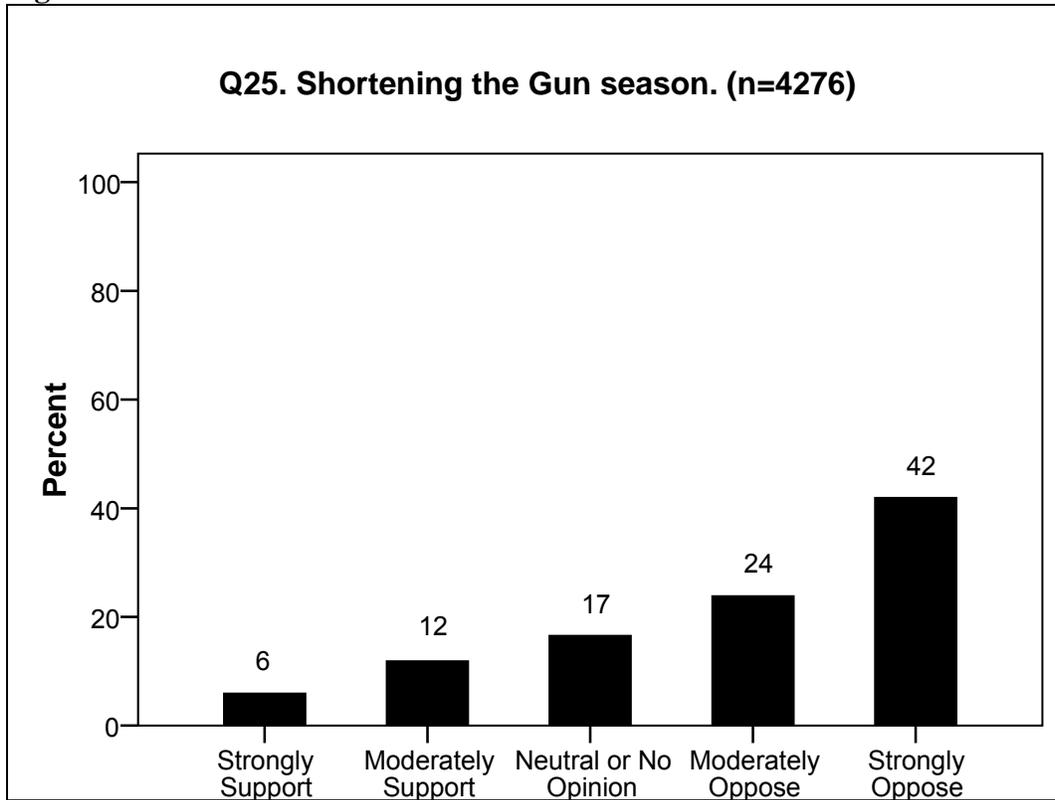
Table 93. Support or opposition to shortening the Gun season (Q25) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Shortening the Gun season.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	6.7% (n=36)	5.6% (n=34)	5.2% (n=60)	6.2% (n=112)
Moderately Support	11.6% (n=62)	12.6% (n=77)	11.7% (n=135)	12.6% (n=226)
Neutral or No Opinion	18.9% (n=101)	19.0% (n=116)	14.4%[a] (n=166)	17.1% (n=308)
Moderately Oppose	24.5% (n=131)	23.0% (n=140)	26.7%[b] (n=308)	22.2%[a] (n=399)
Strongly Oppose	38.3% (n=205)	39.7% (n=242)	42.1% (n=486)	41.9% (n=755)

χ^2=18.2, df=12, *p*=0.111

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

"Earn-a-Buck" program

Nearly equal proportions of deer hunters opposed (36%) or were neutral or had no opinion (35%) about no implementation of an "Earn-a-Buck" program (Figure 47).

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There were no overall differences in views on no implementation of an "Earn-a-Buck program based on deer season hunted (Table 94).

A plurality of deer hunters (46%) opposed requiring a doe harvest before each buck harvest (Figure 48).

There were no overall differences in views on requiring a doe harvest before each buck harvest based on deer season hunted (Table 95).

Most deer hunters (51%) supported no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest (Figure 49).

Central Season zone hunters (25%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (20%) less likely than expected to strongly support no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest (Table 96).

A plurality of deer hunters (38%) opposed no restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest (Figure 50).

Western Season zone hunters (15%) were less likely than expected to moderately support no restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest (Table 97).

A plurality of deer hunters (49%) opposed no restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before a fourth buck harvest (Figure 51).

Western (10%) and Northwestern (10%) Season zone hunters were less likely than expected to moderately support no restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before a fourth buck harvest (Table 98).

Figure 47

Q26E. No implementation of an "Earn-a-Buck" program. (n=4225)
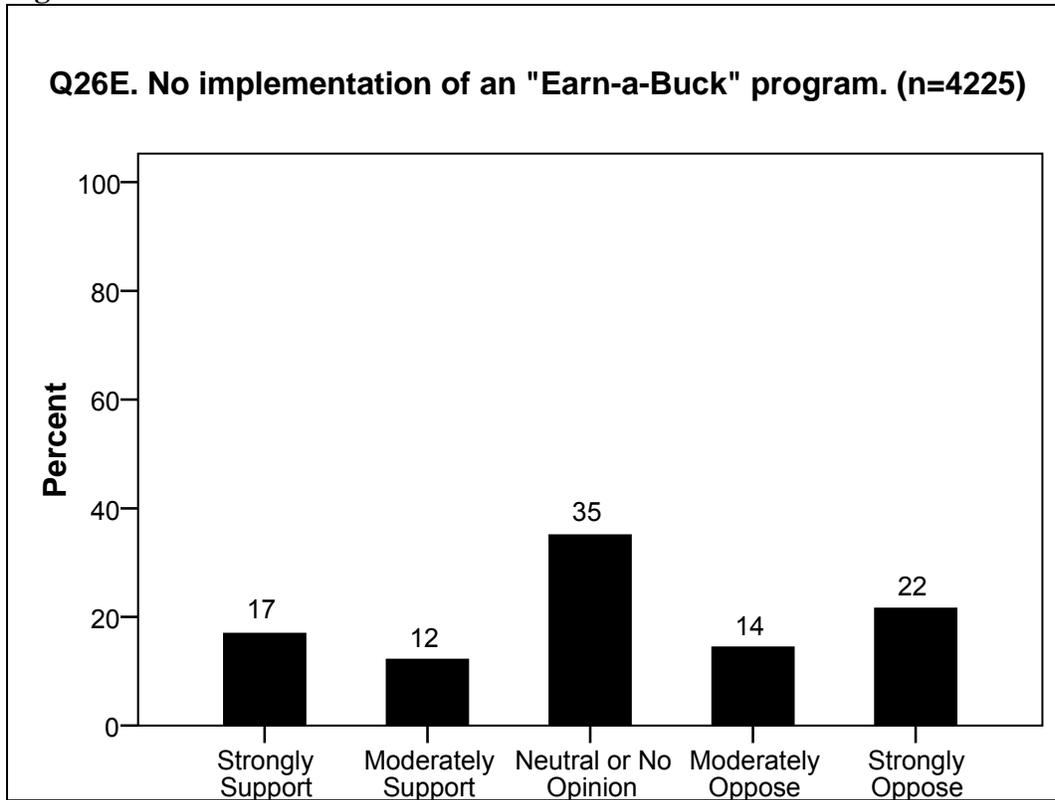
Table 94. Support or opposition to no implementation of an "Earn-a-Buck" program (Q26E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No implementation of an "Earn-a-Buck" program.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	22.5%[a] (n=118)	16.6% (n=99)	15.7% (n=180)	17.6% (n=314)
Moderately Support	12.6% (n=66)	10.7% (n=64)	13.1% (n=150)	12.4% (n=221)
Neutral or No Opinion	33.6% (n=176)	36.7% (n=219)	34.6% (n=396)	34.6% (n=618)
Moderately Oppose	11.5% (n=60)	15.9% (n=95)	14.7% (n=168)	14.2% (n=253)
Strongly Oppose	19.8% (n=104)	20.0% (n=119)	21.9% (n=251)	21.3% (n=380)

χ^2=17.9, df=12, p=0.118

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 48

Q26A. A doe must be harvested before each buck harvest. (n=4255)
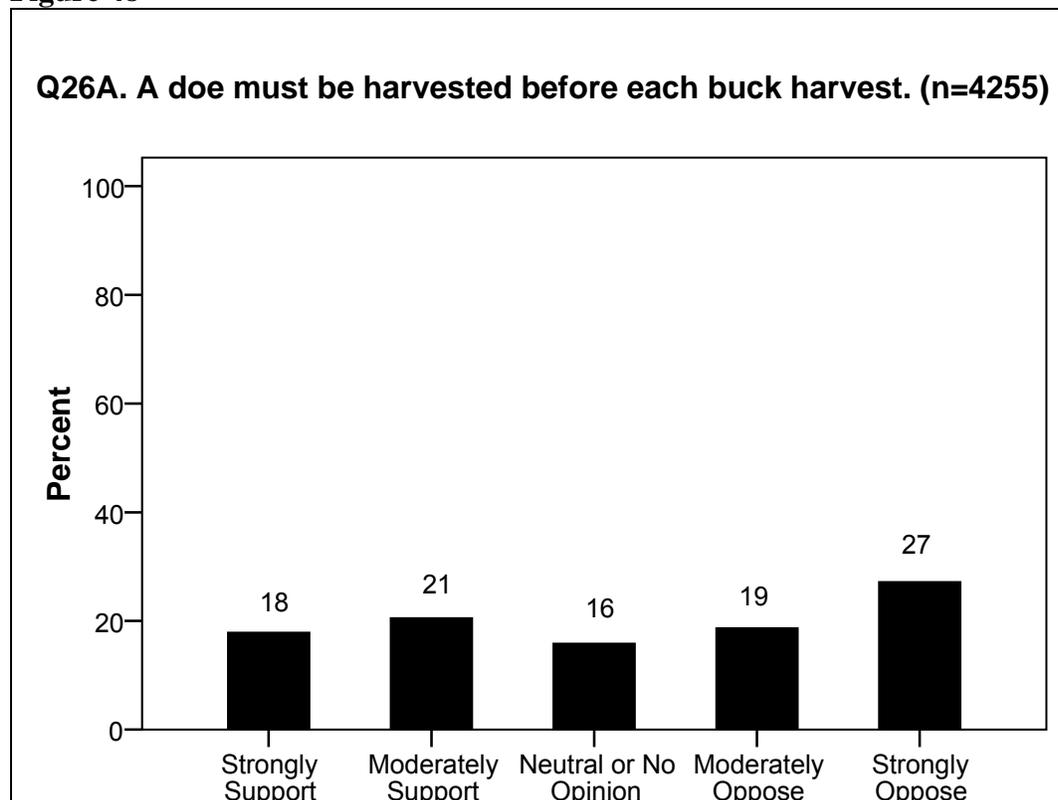
Table 95. Support or opposition to requiring a doe harvest before each buck harvest (Q26A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

A doe must be harvested before each buck harvest.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	15.4% (n=82)	18.6% (n=112)	18.9% (n=218)	17.4% (n=311)
Moderately Support	17.2%[a] (n=92)	17.8% (n=107)	21.6% (n=249)	21.7% (n=388)
Neutral or No Opinion	15.7% (n=84)	15.1% (n=91)	14.3% (n=165)	16.6% (n=297)
Moderately Oppose	19.3% (n=103)	21.1% (n=127)	17.7% (n=205)	18.1% (n=324)
Strongly Oppose	32.4%[b] (n=173)	27.4% (n=165)	27.5% (n=318)	26.1% (n=467)

χ^2=21.0, df=12, p=0.050

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Figure 49

Q26B. No restrictions on the first buck harvested. A doe must be harvested before each additional buck harvest. (n=4255)
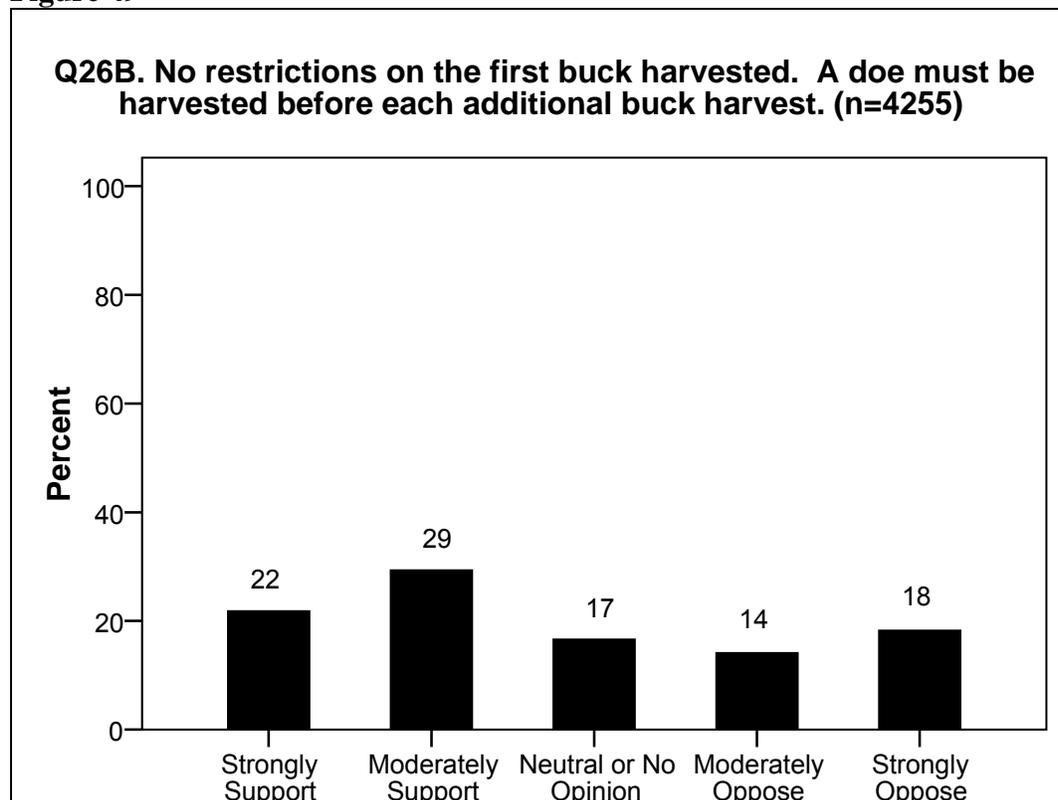
Table 96. Support or opposition to no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest (Q26B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No restrictions on the first buck harvested. A doe must be harvested before each additional buck harvest.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	18.9% (n=101)	22.1% (n=133)	25.3%[a] (n=292)	20.1%[b] (n=359)
Moderately Support	28.0% (n=149)	29.2% (n=176)	30.5% (n=352)	28.3% (n=506)
Neutral or No Opinion	17.4% (n=93)	17.6% (n=106)	14.5%[b] (n=167)	17.5% (n=313)
Moderately Oppose	12.4% (n=66)	14.0% (n=84)	14.0% (n=162)	14.8% (n=264)
Strongly Oppose	23.3%[a] (n=124)	17.1% (n=103)	15.7%[b] (n=181)	19.4% (n=347)

χ^2=31.6, df=12, *p*=0.002

[a] Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b] Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 50

Q26C. No restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested. A doe must be harvested before each additional buck harvest. (n=4238)
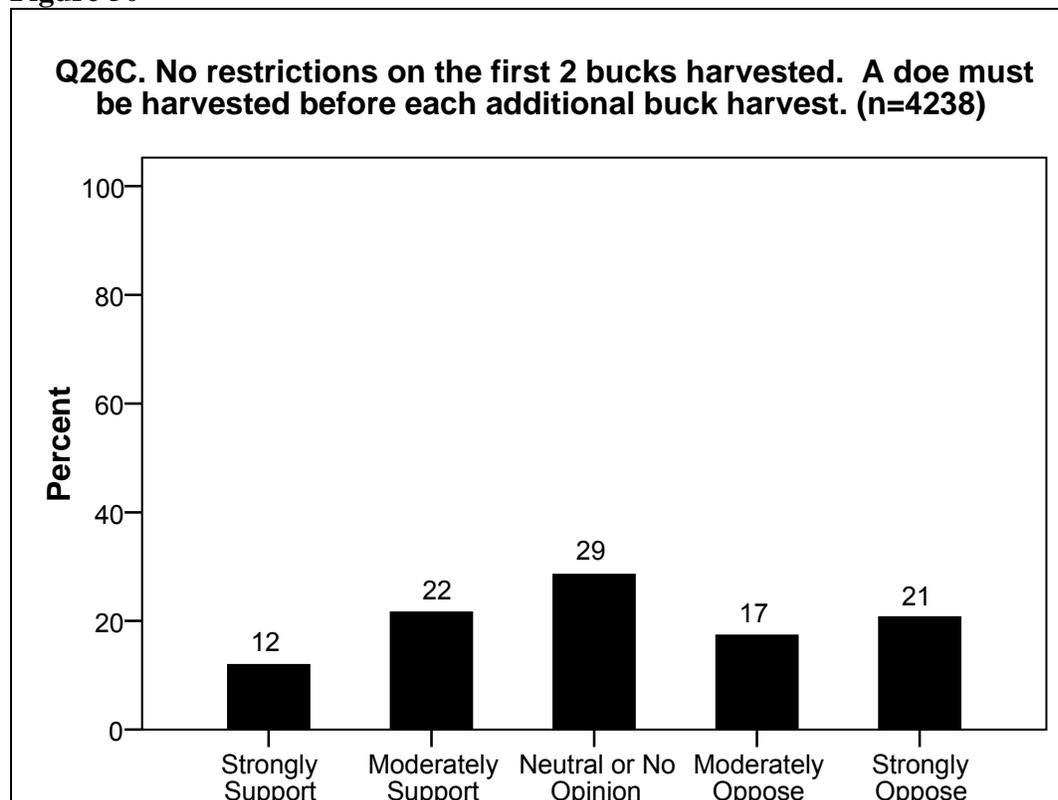
Table 97. Support or opposition to no restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest (Q26C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested. A doe must be harvested before each additional buck harvest.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	11.9% (n=63)	10.2% (n=61)	12.9% (n=148)	11.4% (n=204)
Moderately Support	14.7%[a] (n=78)	23.0% (n=137)	23.3% (n=268)	22.4% (n=400)
Neutral or No Opinion	33.0%[b] (n=175)	31.7%[b] (n=189)	25.9%[a] (n=297)	26.9% (n=481)
Moderately Oppose	18.5% (n=98)	15.1% (n=90)	17.3% (n=199)	17.7% (n=316)
Strongly Oppose	21.9% (n=116)	20.0% (n=119)	20.6% (n=236)	21.6% (n=387)

χ^2=30.2, df=12, p=0.003

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 51

Q26D. No restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested. A doe must be harvested before a 4th buck is harvested. (n=4220)
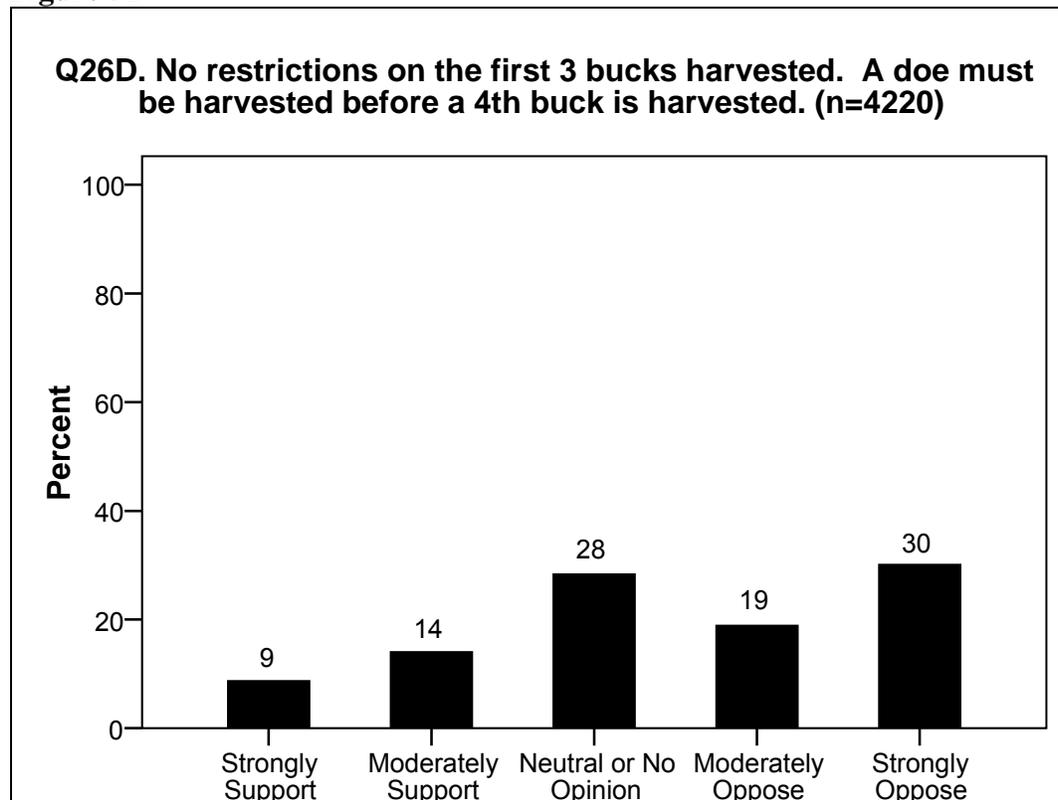
Table 98. Support or opposition to no restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested and requiring a doe harvest before a 4th buck harvest (Q26D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested. A doe must be harvested before a 4th buck harvest.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	8.8% (n=46)	9.4% (n=56)	8.2% (n=94)	8.8% (n=157)
Moderately Support	10.1%[a] (n=53)	9.7%[a] (n=58)	15.1% (n=173)	16.0% (n=284)
Neutral or No Opinion	33.5%[b] (n=176)	31.6%[b] (n=188)	27.3% (n=312)	25.9%[a] (n=460)
Moderately Oppose	17.5% (n=92)	17.5% (n=104)	18.5% (n=212)	19.8% (n=352)
Strongly Oppose	30.1% (n=158)	31.8% (n=189)	30.9% (n=353)	29.5% (n=525)

χ^2=34.4, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Antler restriction program

A plurality of deer hunters (42%) opposed no implementation of an antler restriction program (Figure 52).

There were no overall differences in views on no implementation of an antler restriction program based on deer season hunted (Table 99).

A plurality of deer hunters (49%) supported requiring a harvested buck to have 3 points on 1 side (Figure 53).

There were no overall differences in views on requiring a harvested buck to have 3 points on 1 side based on deer season hunted (Table 100).

A plurality of deer hunters (49%) opposed requiring a harvested buck to have 4 points on 1 side (Figure 53).

Western Season zone hunters (37%) were more likely and Central Season zone hunters (26%) less likely than expected to strongly oppose requiring a harvested buck to have 4 points on 1 side (Table 101).

Most deer hunters (51%) opposed requiring a harvested buck to have a 15 inch minimum inside spread (Figure 55).

Western Season zone hunters (38%) were more likely and Central Season zone hunters (28%) less likely than expected to strongly oppose requiring a harvested buck to have a 15 inch minimum inside spread (Table 102).

Most deer hunters (52%) opposed requiring a harvested buck to have at least 4 points on 1 side or a 15 inch minimum spread (Figure 56).

Western Season zone hunters (37%) were more likely and Central Season zone hunters (29%) less likely than expected to strongly oppose requiring a harvested buck to have at least 4 points on 1 side or a 15 inch minimum spread (Table 103).

A plurality of deer hunters (48%) supported no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring each additional buck harvested to meet an antler restriction (Figure 57).

There were no overall differences in views on no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring each additional buck harvested to meet an antler restriction based on deer season hunted (Table 104).

Figure 52

Q27F. No implementation of an antler restriction program. (n=4238)
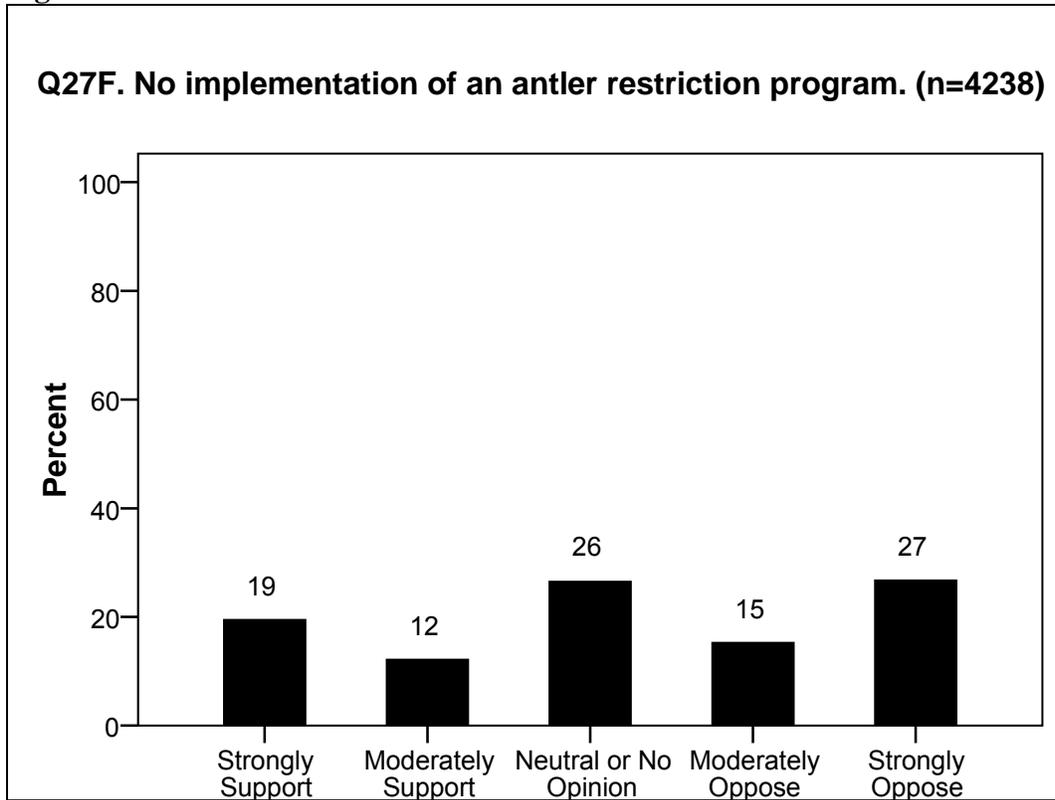
Table 99. Support or opposition to no implementation of an antler restriction program (Q27F) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No implementation of an antler restriction program.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	21.1% (n=112)	18.2% (n=108)	19.3% (n=222)	21.3% (n=379)
Moderately Support	14.3% (n=76)	13.9% (n=83)	12.7% (n=147)	11.1%[a] (n=198)
Neutral or No Opinion	25.9% (n=138)	24.9% (n=148)	26.1% (n=301)	26.3% (n=469)
Moderately Oppose	14.7% (n=78)	16.0% (n=95)	15.5% (n=179)	14.9% (n=266)
Strongly Oppose	24.1% (n=128)	27.1% (n=161)	26.4% (n=304)	26.3% (n=469)

χ^2=10.1, df=12, p=0.607

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 53

Q27A. A buck must have at least 3 points on 1 side. (n=4230)
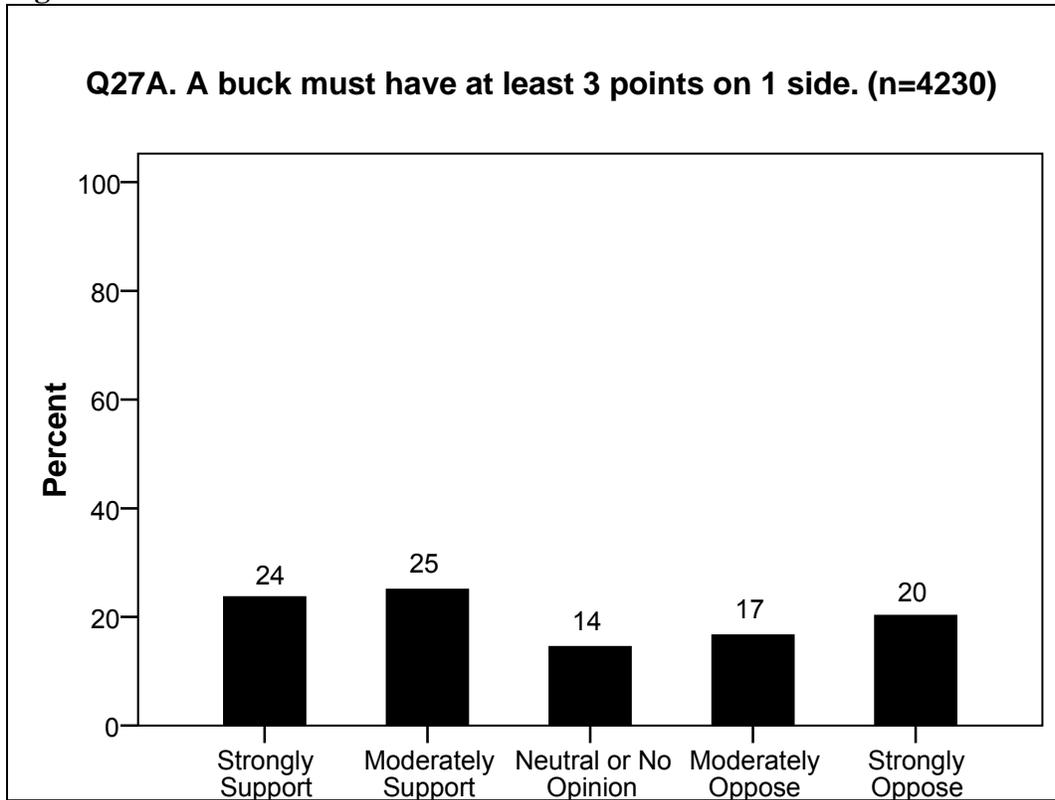
Table 100. Support or opposition to requiring a harvested buck to have at least 3 points on 1 side (Q27A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

A buck must have at least 3 points on 1 side.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	23.2% (n=123)	26.8%[a] (n=160)	22.6% (n=260)	22.5% (n=399)
Moderately Support	23.5% (n=125)	21.8% (n=130)	24.9% (n=286)	26.1% (n=462)
Neutral or No Opinion	13.2% (n=70)	13.9% (n=83)	15.4% (n=177)	14.6% (n=259)
Moderately Oppose	17.7% (n=94)	16.9% (n=101)	18.1% (n=208)	15.8% (n=281)
Strongly Oppose	22.4% (n=119)	20.6% (n=123)	19.0% (n=219)	21.0% (n=372)

χ^2=13.6, df=12, p=0.326

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 54

Q27B. A buck must have at least 4 points on 1 side. (n=4215)
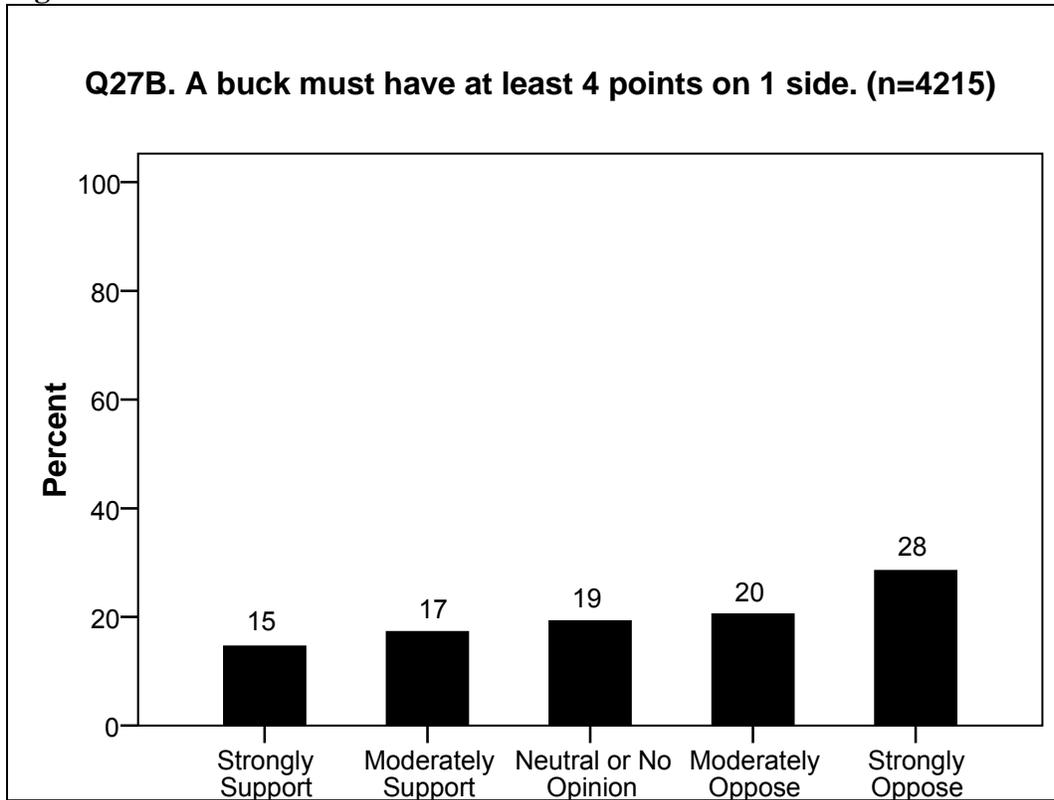
Table 101. Support or opposition to requiring a harvested buck to have at least 4 points on 1 side (Q27B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

A buck must have at least 4 points on 1 side.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	12.7% (n=66)	15.2% (n=91)	15.3% (n=175)	13.8% (n=245)
Moderately Support	15.7% (n=82)	16.4% (n=98)	18.3% (n=209)	16.7% (n=296)
Neutral or No Opinion	16.9% (n=88)	17.1% (n=102)	19.7% (n=225)	20.4% (n=361)
Moderately Oppose	18.2% (n=95)	21.6% (n=129)	20.5% (n=234)	21.2% (n=376)
Strongly Oppose	36.5%[a] (n=190)	29.6% (n=177)	26.2%[b] (n=300)	27.9% (n=494)

χ^2=24.4, df=12, p=0.018

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 55

Q27C. A buck must have a minimum inside spread of 15 inches.
(n=4224)
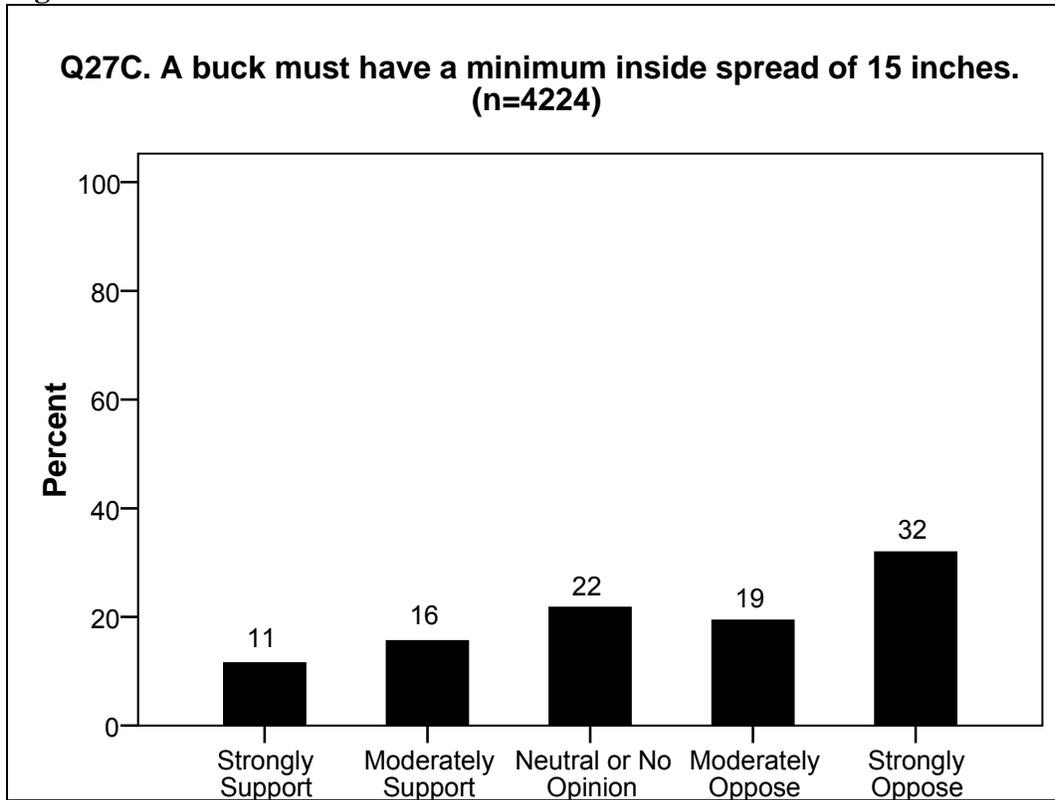
Table 102. Support or opposition to requiring a harvested buck to have a 15 inch minimum inside spread (Q27C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

A buck must have a minimum inside spread of 15 inches.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	10.2% (n=54)	10.2% (n=61)	14.0%[a] (n=161)	10.0%[b] (n=177)
Moderately Support	11.0%[b] (n=58)	14.1% (n=84)	15.9% (n=183)	16.3% (n=289)
Neutral or No Opinion	22.2% (n=117)	20.6% (n=123)	22.3% (n=257)	21.5% (n=381)
Moderately Oppose	18.2% (n=96)	22.5%[a] (n=134)	19.5% (n=225)	18.7% (n=332)
Strongly Oppose	38.3%[a] (n=202)	32.6% (n=194)	28.3%[b] (n=326)	33.5% (n=594)

χ^2=36.2, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 56

Q27D. A buck must have at least 4 points on 1 side OR a minimum inside spread of 15 inches. (n=4224)
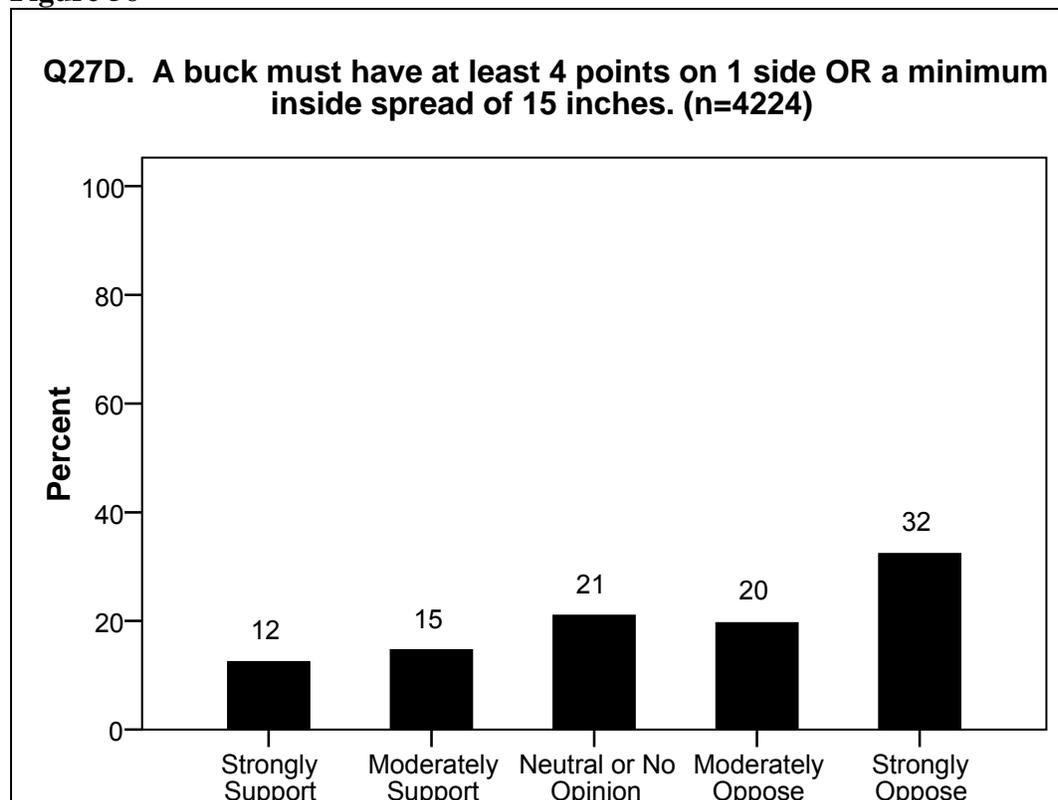
Table 103. Support or opposition to requiring a harvested buck to have at least 4 points on 1 side or a 15 inch minimum inside spread (Q27D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

A buck must have at least 4 points on 1 side OR a minimum inside spread of 15 inches.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	11.0% (n=58)	12.2% (n=73)	14.6%[a] (n=168)	11.0%[b] (n=195)
Moderately Support	10.8%[b] (n=57)	15.6% (n=93)	14.9% (n=171)	13.9% (n=247)
Neutral or No Opinion	20.8% (n=110)	17.3%[b] (n=103)	21.5% (n=247)	21.8% (n=386)
Moderately Oppose	20.0% (n=106)	21.5% (n=128)	19.8% (n=227)	19.3% (n=342)
Strongly Oppose	37.4%[a] (n=198)	33.4% (n=199)	29.2%[b] (n=336)	34.0% (n=603)

χ^2=28.2, df=12, p=0.005

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 57

**Q27E. No restrictions on the first buck harvested. Each additional buck must meet some type of antler restriction. (n=4254)**
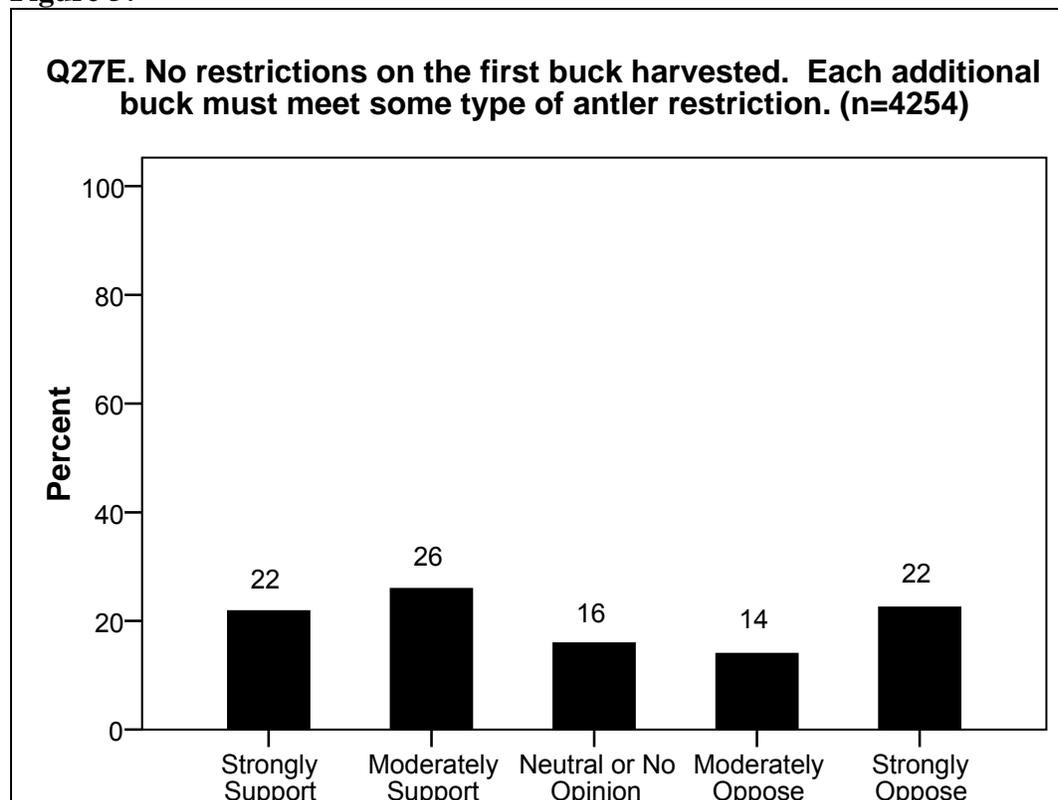
Table 104. Support or opposition to no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring each additional buck harvested to meet an antler restriction (Q27E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No restrictions on the first buck harvested. Each additional buck must meet some type of antler restriction.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	27.0%[a] (n=143)	21.2% (n=127)	21.7% (n=252)	20.2%[b] (n=361)
Moderately Support	25.1% (n=133)	25.0% (n=150)	24.8% (n=288)	26.5% (n=474)
Neutral or No Opinion	17.0% (n=90)	15.0% (n=90)	16.7% (n=194)	15.0% (n=269)
Moderately Oppose	11.0%[b] (n=58)	15.0% (n=90)	14.4% (n=167)	14.4% (n=258)
Strongly Oppose	19.8% (n=105)	23.7% (n=142)	22.3% (n=259)	23.9% (n=428)

χ^2=19.4, df=12, p=0.078

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Scale of QDM implementation

A plurality of deer hunters (36%) were neutral or had no opinion about no implementation of a mandatory QDM program, although 34% were opposed to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Figure 58).

There were no overall differences in views on no implementation of a mandatory QDM program based on deer season hunted (Table 105).

There was no clear pattern of association between views on no implementation of a mandatory QDM program and number of days typically deer hunted (γ=-0.01) (Table 106).

There were no overall differences in views on no implementation of a mandatory QDM program based on deer hunting done on private land or Game Lands (Table 107).

There were differences in views on no implementation of a mandatory QDM program based on weapon season(s) hunted, views on the current overall health of the deer herd, views on the current number of deer, views on current number of mature bucks, views on the current number of does, and voluntary practice of QDM strategies (Table 108, Table 109, Table 110, Table 111, Table 112, Table 113).

A plurality of deer hunters (41%) supported implementation of a statewide, uniform QDM strategy (Figure 59).

Eastern Season zone hunters (25%) were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (18%) less likely than expected to moderately support implementation of a statewide, uniform QDM strategy (Table 114).

Most deer hunters (51%) supported implementation of varying QDM strategies by deer hunting season (Figure 60). One focus group participant said: "Please don't manage the state of North Carolina as a whole under one set of guidelines because…even though we've got less deer, we've got excellent genetics in the mountains. And the quality is there if we'll manage it right."

Western Season zone hunters (24%) were more likely than expected to strongly support implementation of varying QDM strategies by deer hunting season (Table 115).

A plurality of deer hunters (43%) supported implementation of varying QDM strategies by county (Figure 62).

Western Season zone hunters (22%) were more likely and Central Season zone hunters (14%) less likely than expected to strongly support implementation of varying QDM strategies by county (Table 116).

A plurality of deer hunters (41%) supported implementation of QDM on select Game Lands (Figure 62).

Western Season zone hunters (17%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (12%) less likely than expected to strongly oppose implementation of QDM on select Game Lands (Table 117).

Figure 58

Q28E. No implementation of a mandatory QDM program. (QDM could still be applied voluntarily on private properties.) (n=4149)
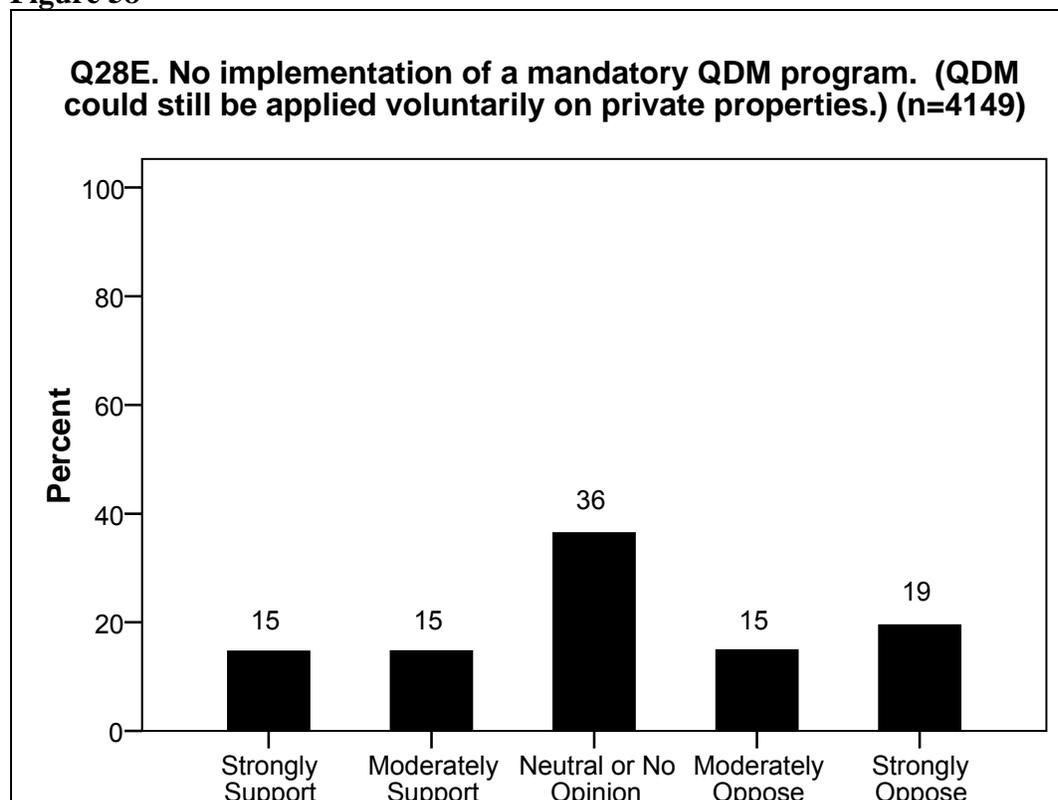
Table 105. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	14.4% (n=75)	14.7% (n=86)	15.3% (n=173)	15.7% (n=272)
Moderately Support	15.3% (n=80)	14.3% (n=84)	15.9% (n=180)	14.3% (n=248)
Neutral or No Opinion	37.7% (n=197)	35.2% (n=206)	34.8% (n=394)	35.5% (n=616)
Moderately Oppose	12.3%[a] (n=64)	16.4% (n=96)	16.2% (n=183)	15.0% (n=260)
Strongly Oppose	20.3% (n=106)	19.5% (n=114)	17.8% (n=201)	19.6% (n=340)

χ^2=8.9, df=12, p=0.714

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 106. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by number of days typically deer hunted (Q4).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	About how many days do you hunt deer in NC in a typical year?			
	< 2	2-21	22-41	>=42
Strongly Support	7.2%[a] (n=10)	14.6% (n=356)	16.3% (n=165)	18.8%[b] (n=78)
Moderately Support	13.0% (n=18)	14.8% (n=362)	15.9% (n=161)	13.7% (n=57)
Neutral or No Opinion	46.4%[b] (n=64)	37.9%[b] (n=924)	31.8%[a] (n=322)	28.4%[a] (n=118)
Moderately Oppose	16.7% (n=23)	15.5% (n=378)	15.0% (n=152)	12.7% (n=53)
Strongly Oppose	16.7% (n=23)	17.2%[a] (n=420)	21.0% (n=213)	26.4%[b] (n=110)

χ^2=50.9, df=12, p=0.001, γ=-0.01

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 107. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by deer hunting done on private land and Game Lands (Q5).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	Only hunted on private land	Only hunted on Game Lands	Most often hunted on private land, but also hunted on Game Lands	Most often hunted on Game Lands, but also hunted on private land	Hunted on private land and Game Lands about the same amount of time
Strongly Support	15.2% (n=402)	15.6% (n=24)	16.2% (n=137)	11.8% (n=22)	14.6% (n=25)
Moderately Support	14.6% (n=387)	18.2% (n=28)	15.2% (n=129)	11.8% (n=22)	17.0% (n=29)
Neutral or No Opinion	36.4% (n=963)	36.4% (n=56)	31.8%[a] (n=269)	38.2% (n=71)	36.3% (n=62)
Moderately Oppose	15.1% (n=399)	14.3% (n=22)	15.2% (n=129)	17.2% (n=32)	14.0% (n=24)
Strongly Oppose	18.6% (n=491)	15.6% (n=24)	21.5% (n=182)	21.0% (n=39)	18.1% (n=31)

χ^2=14.4, df=16, p=0.570

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 108. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[b]
Strongly Support	14.3% (n=224)	16.4%[c] (n=349)	15.4% (n=612)
Moderately Support	13.9% (n=217)	15.2% (n=323)	14.9% (n=592)
Neutral or No Opinion	32.1%[d] (n=501)	32.2%[d] (n=684)	35.6% (n=1412)
Moderately Oppose	14.8% (n=231)	14.1% (n=299)	15.0% (n=595)
Strongly Oppose	24.9%[c] (n=389)	22.2%[c] (n=471)	19.1% (n=759)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 41.4$, df=4, $p=0.001$
[b]$\chi^2 = 2.5$, df=4, $p=0.650$
[c]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 109. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by views on the current overall health of the deer herd (Q19B).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	The current overall health of the deer herd is...					
	Very Healthy	Moderately Healthy	Neither Healthy Nor Unhealthy	Moderately Unhealthy	Very Unhealthy	Unsure
Strongly Support	22.7%[a] (n=198)	14.1%[b] (n=311)	9.8%[b] (n=41)	8.3%[b] (n=19)	13.2% (n=5)	15.9% (n=38)
Moderately Support	13.1% (n=114)	17.0%[a] (n=374)	11.9% (n=50)	12.2% (n=28)	10.5% (n=4)	10.0%[b] (n=24)
Neutral or No Opinion	29.9%[b] (n=261)	35.9% (n=789)	42.1%[a] (n=177)	32.6% (n=75)	31.6% (n=12)	45.2%[a] (n=108)
Moderately Oppose	11.6%[b] (n=101)	15.5% (n=341)	15.7% (n=66)	20.4%[a] (n=47)	18.4% (n=7)	18.0% (n=43)
Strongly Oppose	22.7%[a] (n=198)	17.5%[b] (n=385)	20.5% (n=86)	26.5%[a] (n=61)	26.3% (n=10)	10.9%[b] (n=26)

$\chi^2 = 124.3$, df=20, $p=0.001$

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Table 110. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by views on the current number of deer (Q19A).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	The current number of deer in the deer population is...					
	Much Too Low	A Little Too Low	About Right	A Little Too High	Much Too High	Unsure
Strongly Support	17.9% (n=65)	15.1% (n=175)	17.2%[a] (n=267)	10.9%[b] (n=65)	13.6% (n=25)	11.5% (n=17)
Moderately Support	12.6% (n=46)	16.6% (n=192)	15.3% (n=237)	14.6% (n=87)	13.0% (n=24)	6.1%[b] (n=9)
Neutral or No Opinion	31.9% (n=116)	35.1% (n=407)	36.4% (n=564)	33.8% (n=201)	31.5% (n=58)	53.4%[a] (n=79)
Moderately Oppose	12.4% (n=45)	15.6% (n=181)	13.1%[b] (n=203)	21.7%[a] (n=129)	11.4% (n=21)	16.2% (n=24)
Strongly Oppose	25.3%[a] (n=92)	17.6% (n=204)	18.1% (n=280)	19.0% (n=113)	30.4%[a] (n=56)	12.8%[b] (n=19)

χ^2=92.5, df=20, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 111. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by views on the current number of mature bucks (Q19C).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	The current number of mature bucks (older than 2½ years old) is…					
	Much Too Few	A Little Too Few	About Right	A Little Too Many	Much Too Many	Unsure
Strongly Support	12.2%[a] (n=183)	14.4% (n=241)	23.6%[b] (n=132)	14.9% (n=7)	24.0% (n=6)	22.0%[a] (n=45)
Moderately Support	11.7%[a] (n=175)	17.5%[b] (n=293)	15.0% (n=84)	23.4% (n=11)	20.0% (n=5)	12.7% (n=26)
Neutral or No Opinion	28.2%[a] (n=422)	39.3%[b] (n=657)	41.4%[b] (n=232)	36.2% (n=17)	28.0% (n=7)	44.4%[b] (n=91)
Moderately Oppose	17.0%[b] (n=254)	16.2% (n=271)	8.4%[a] (n=47)	8.5% (n=4)	8.0% (n=2)	12.7% (n=26)
Strongly Oppose	30.8%[b] (n=461)	12.6%[a] (n=211)	11.6%[a] (n=65)	17.0% (n=8)	20.0% (n=5)	8.3%[a] (n=17)

χ^2=300.8, df=20, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 112. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by views on the current number of does (Q19D).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	The current number of does is…					
	Much Too Few	A Little Too Few	About Right	A Little Too Many	Much Too Many	Unsure
Strongly Support	21.3%[a] (n=36)	14.4% (n=59)	17.8%[a] (n=204)	14.3% (n=203)	12.5%[b] (n=93)	17.3% (n=22)
Moderately Support	12.4% (n=21)	18.0% (n=74)	16.6% (n=190)	13.8% (n=197)	13.3% (n=99)	12.6% (n=16)
Neutral or No Opinion	30.2% (n=51)	34.6% (n=142)	39.8%[a] (n=456)	35.9% (n=511)	28.0%[b] (n=208)	47.2% (n=60)
Moderately Oppose	13.0% (n=22)	14.9% (n=61)	11.2%[b] (n=128)	18.6%[a] (n=265)	15.5% (n=115)	13.4% (n=17)
Strongly Oppose	23.1% (n=39)	18.0% (n=74)	14.7%[b] (n=168)	17.4%[b] (n=248)	30.8%[a] (n=229)	9.4%[b] (n=12)

χ^2=145.5, df=20, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 113. Support or opposition to no implementation of a mandatory QDM program (Q28E) by voluntary practice of QDM strategies (Q29).

No implementation of a mandatory QDM program.	Do you voluntarily practice any QDM strategies where you hunt deer?	
	Yes	No
Strongly Support	14.6%[a] (n=443)	18.4%[b] (n=170)
Moderately Support	15.1% (n=461)	14.6% (n=135)
Neutral or No Opinion	31.2%[a] (n=950)	47.7%[b] (n=442)
Moderately Oppose	16.9%[b] (n=514)	9.5%[a] (n=88)
Strongly Oppose	22.2%[b] (n=675)	9.8%[a] (n=91)

χ^2=143.7, df=4, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 59

Q28A. Implement a statewide, uniform QDM strategy. (n=4157)
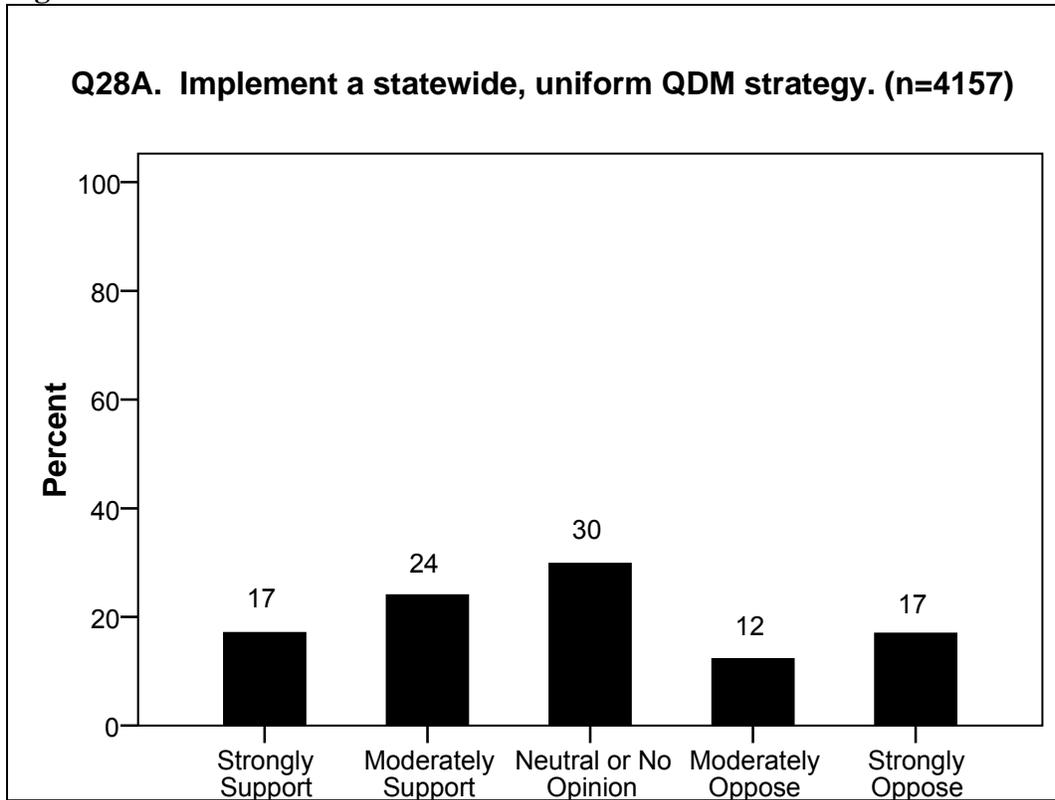
Table 114. Support or opposition to implementation of a statewide, uniform QDM strategy (Q28A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Implement a statewide, uniform QDM strategy.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	16.7% (n=88)	15.1% (n=89)	17.9% (n=203)	16.9% (n=294)
Moderately Support	18.1%[a] (n=95)	23.6% (n=139)	24.2% (n=274)	25.3%[b] (n=439)
Neutral or No Opinion	30.4% (n=160)	31.5% (n=186)	29.4% (n=333)	27.8% (n=482)
Moderately Oppose	13.7% (n=72)	11.2% (n=66)	12.8% (n=145)	12.4% (n=215)
Strongly Oppose	21.1%[b] (n=111)	18.6% (n=110)	15.7%[a] (n=178)	17.6% (n=305)

$\chi^2=21.2$, df=12, $p=0.047$

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 60

Q28B. Implement varying QDM strategies by designated hunting season. (n=4156)
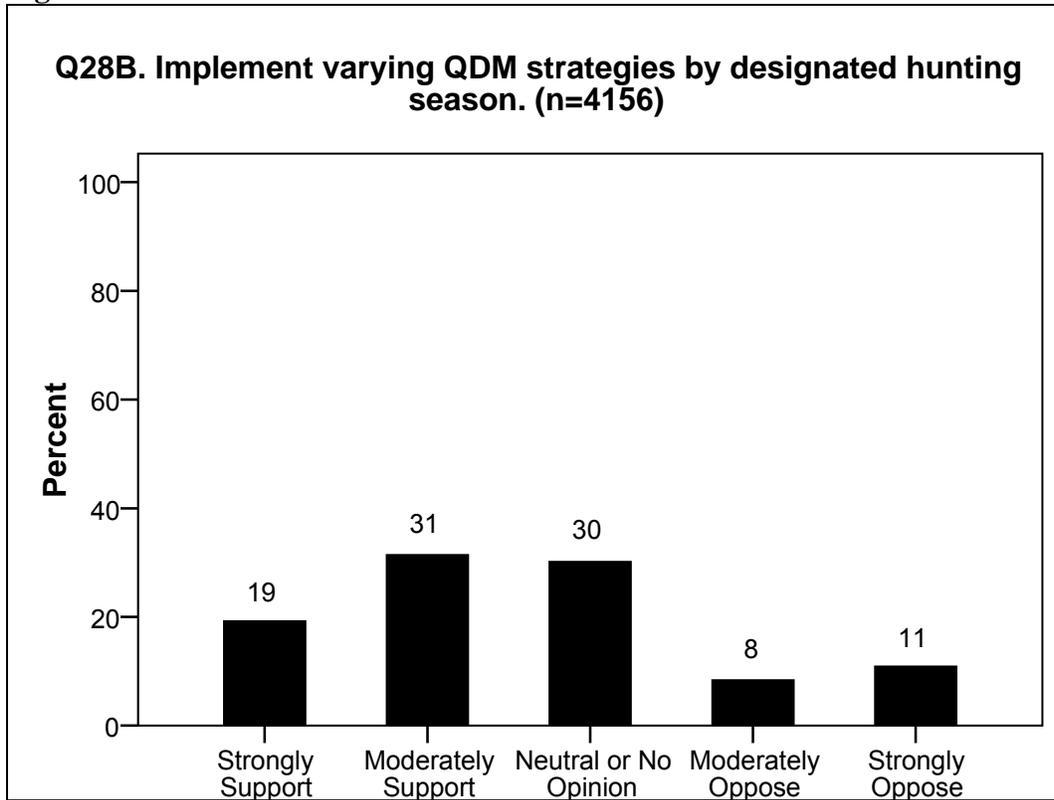
Table 115. Support or opposition to implementation of varying QDM strategies by deer hunting season (Q28B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Implement varying QDM strategies by designated hunting season.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	23.7%[a] (n=124)	20.2% (n=119)	17.7% (n=200)	18.6% (n=323)
Moderately Support	31.7% (n=166)	33.0% (n=194)	30.4% (n=344)	31.1% (n=540)
Neutral or No Opinion	27.9% (n=146)	26.5% (n=156)	30.3% (n=343)	30.8% (n=535)
Moderately Oppose	5.2%[b] (n=27)	7.8% (n=46)	10.8%[a] (n=122)	8.4% (n=145)
Strongly Oppose	11.5% (n=60)	12.4% (n=73)	10.9% (n=123)	11.1% (n=193)

χ^2=26.8, df=12, p=0.008

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 61

Q28C. Implement varying QDM strategies by county. (n=4137)
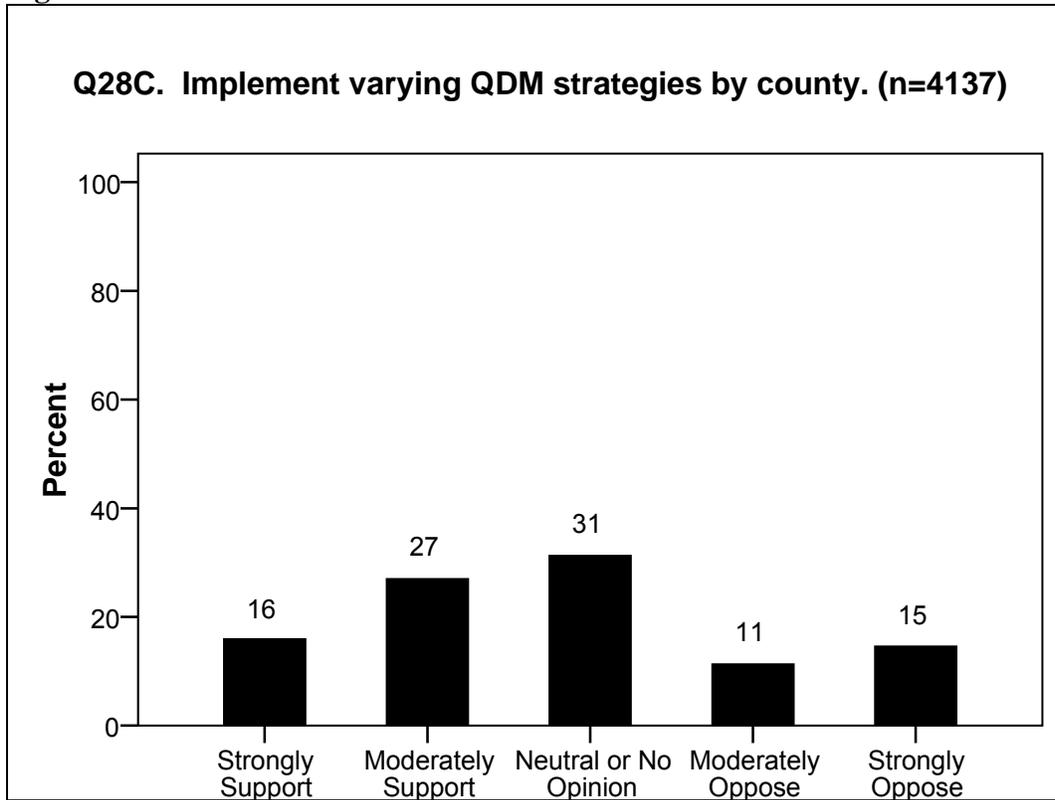
Table 116. Support or opposition to implementation of varying QDM strategies by county (Q28C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Implement varying QDM strategies by county.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	22.4%[a] (n=116)	15.8% (n=93)	14.1%[b] (n=158)	15.1% (n=262)
Moderately Support	26.5% (n=137)	28.7% (n=169)	26.2% (n=295)	26.8% (n=463)
Neutral or No Opinion	29.6% (n=153)	29.2% (n=172)	31.1% (n=350)	31.0% (n=536)
Moderately Oppose	9.3% (n=48)	11.2% (n=66)	13.1% (n=147)	11.3% (n=196)
Strongly Oppose	12.2%[a] (n=63)	15.1% (n=89)	15.5% (n=174)	15.8% (n=273)

χ^2=26.8, df=12, p=0.008

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 62

Q28D. Implement QDM on select Game Lands. Hunting on some Game Lands may require a permit. (n=4125)
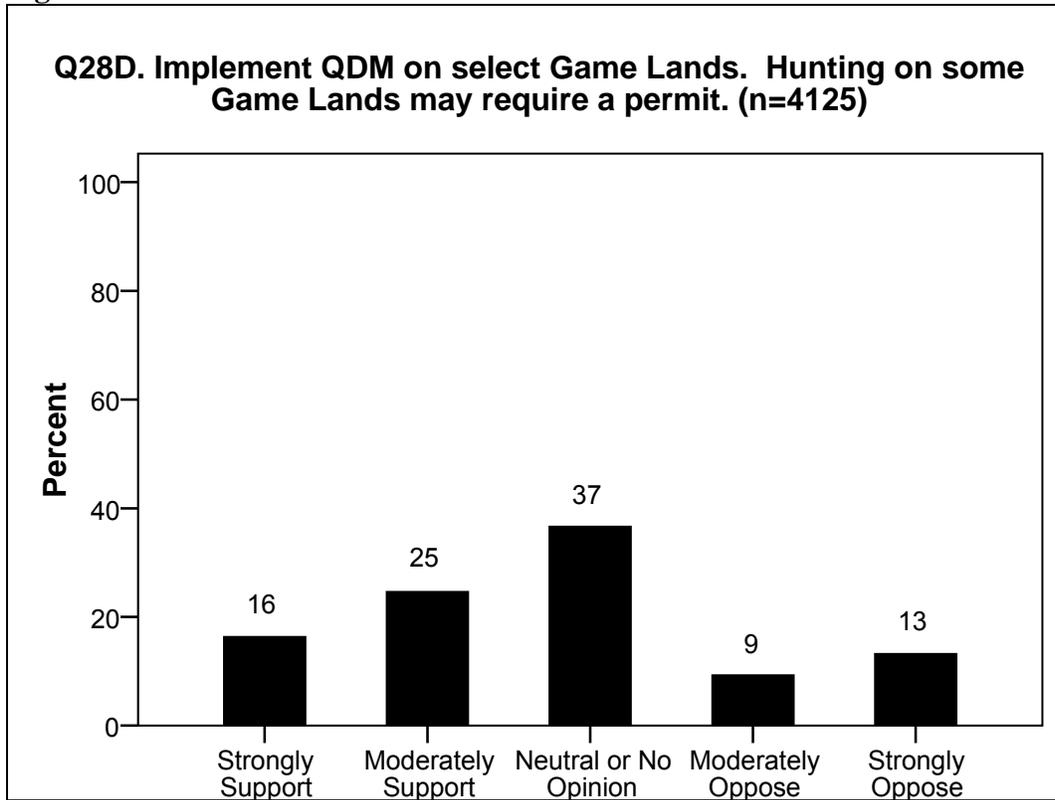
Table 117. Support or opposition to implementation of QDM on select Game Lands (Q28D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Implement QDM on select Game Lands. Hunting on some Game Lands may require a permit.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Support	16.6% (n=86)	15.5% (n=91)	15.8% (n=178)	17.6% (n=303)
Moderately Support	24.4% (n=126)	22.7% (n=133)	25.6% (n=289)	25.1% (n=431)
Neutral or No Opinion	29.8%[a] (n=154)	38.1% (n=223)	35.8% (n=404)	36.8% (n=633)
Moderately Oppose	12.0%[b] (n=62)	9.6% (n=56)	9.3% (n=105)	8.2% (n=141)
Strongly Oppose	17.2%[b] (n=89)	14.2% (n=83)	13.4% (n=151)	12.3%[a] (n=212)

χ^2=23.5, df=12, p=0.024

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Views on deer harvest reporting

Most deer hunters (71%) preferred to report deer harvests by telephone (Figure 63).

Western Season zone hunters (66%) were less likely than expected to prefer reporting deer harvests by telephone (Table 118).

Most deer hunters (76%) agreed that they were satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system (Figure 64).

Central Season zone hunters (42%) were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (34%) less likely than expected to strongly agree that they were satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system (Table 119).

A plurality of deer hunters (49%) agreed that deer hunters should be required to physically tag deer harvests in the field (Figure 65). A focus group participant said: "Our tagging system is a joke. It's a damn joke."

Western Season zone hunters (36%) were more likely and Central Season zone hunters (24%) less likely than expected to strongly agree that deer hunters should be required to physically tag deer harvests in the field (Table 120).

A plurality of deer hunters (38%) agreed that deer hunters should be required to report deer harvests using only telephone or internet reporting (Figure 66).

There were no overall differences in views on requiring telephone or internet reporting for deer harvests based on deer season hunted (Table 121).

Most deer hunters (82%) disagreed that hunters should not be required to report deer harvests (Figure 67).

There were no overall differences in views on not requiring reporting for deer harvests based on deer season hunted (Table 122).

Figure 63

Q35. How do you most prefer to report deer harvests to the WRC? (n=4185)

Percent

By telephone: 71
Using the Internet: 11
In person with a Wildlife Cooperator Agent with a harvest registration book: 18
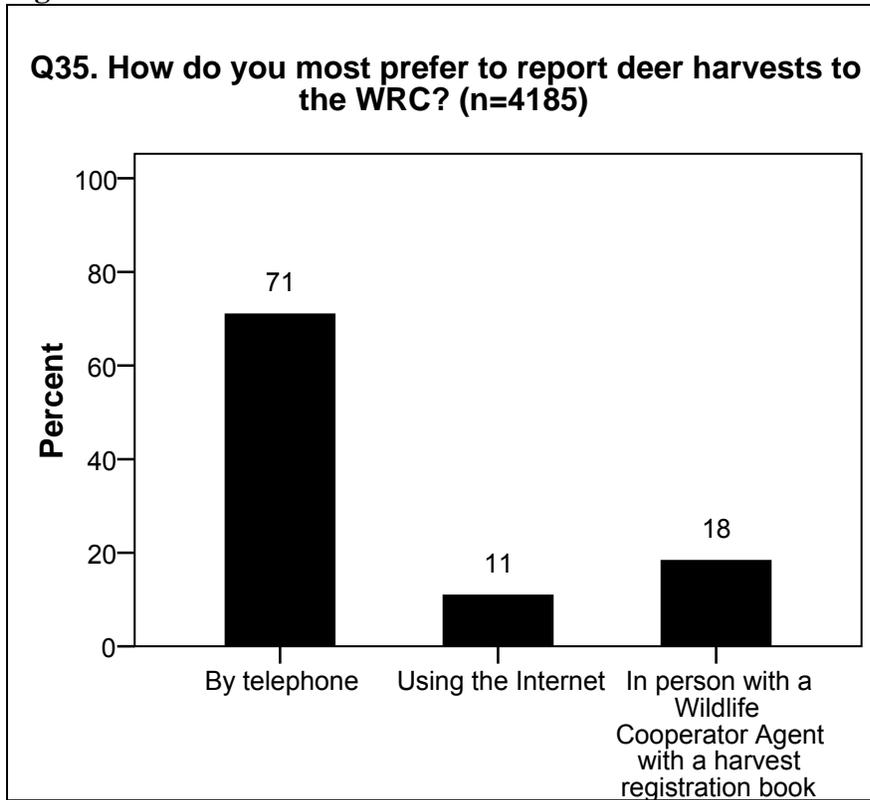
Table 118. Preference for reporting deer harvests (Q35) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

How do you most prefer to report deer harvests to the Wildlife Resources Commission?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
By telephone	66.2%[a] (n=348)	70.6% (n=422)	71.8% (n=818)	70.0% (n=1227)
Using the Internet	8.4% (n=44)	10.9% (n=65)	11.9% (n=135)	10.7% (n=188)
In person with a Wildlife Cooperator Agent with a harvest registration book	25.5%[b] (n=134)	18.6% (n=111)	16.3%[a] (n=186)	19.3% (n=339)

χ^2=21.6, df=6, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Figure 64

Q36A. I am satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system. (n=4120)
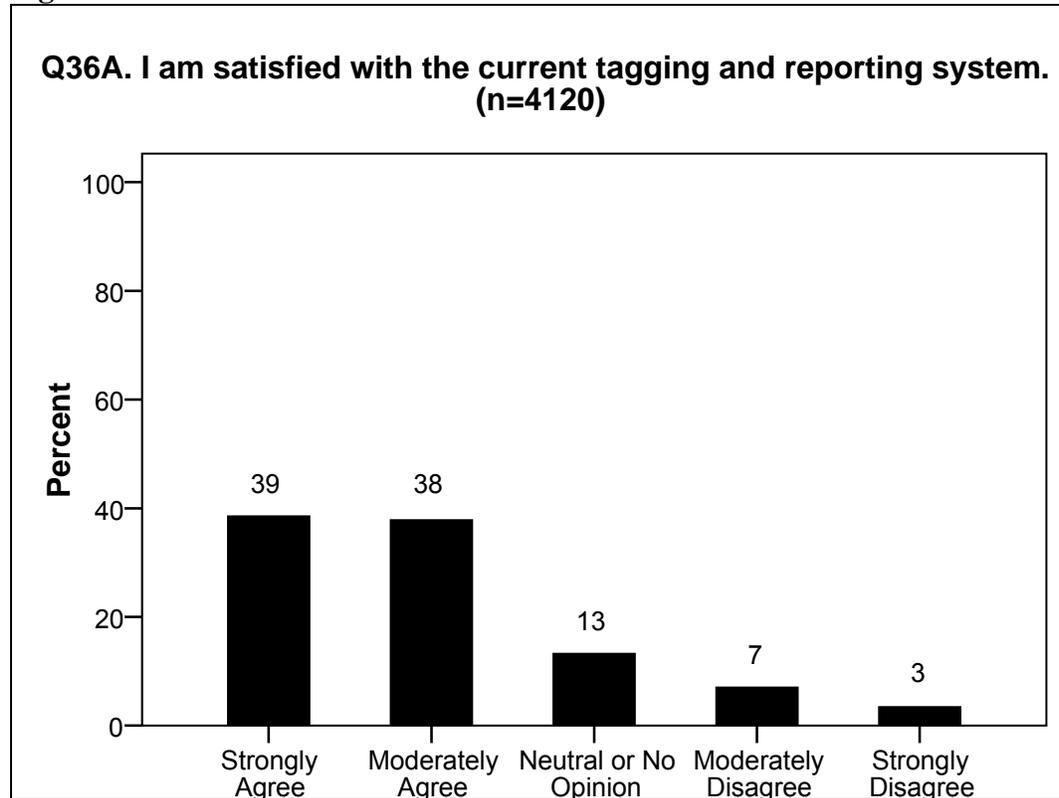
Table 119. Views on current reporting system (Q36A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

I am satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	33.6%[a] (n=171)	39.0% (n=224)	41.6%[b] (n=462)	39.1% (n=686)
Moderately Agree	38.5% (n=196)	36.2% (n=208)	36.0% (n=400)	38.6% (n=677)
Neutral or No Opinion	13.8% (n=70)	12.7% (n=73)	13.3% (n=148)	12.7% (n=222)
Moderately Disagree	7.7% (n=39)	8.2% (n=47)	5.9% (n=66)	6.9% (n=121)
Strongly Disagree	6.5%[b] (n=33)	4.0% (n=23)	3.2% (n=35)	2.7%[a] (n=48)

χ^2=27.7, df=12, *p*=0.006

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Figure 65

Q36B. All deer hunters should be required to physically tag their deer harvests in the field with a printed tag from the WRC. (n=4107)
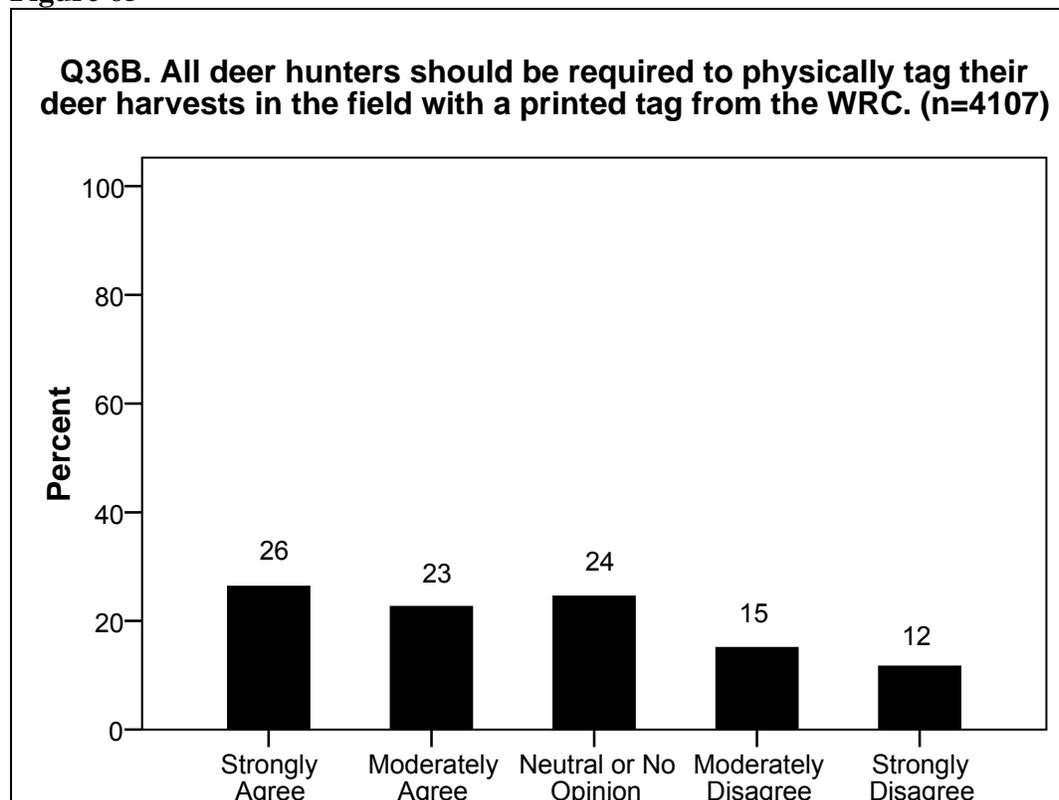
Table 120. Views on requiring deer hunters to physically tag deer harvests in the field (Q36B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

All deer hunters should be required to physically tag their deer harvests in the field with a printed tag from the WRC.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	36.1%[a] (n=184)	26.4% (n=152)	24.2%[b] (n=268)	25.8% (n=450)
Moderately Agree	23.4% (n=119)	24.7% (n=142)	20.7% (n=229)	23.2% (n=405)
Neutral or No Opinion	21.6% (n=110)	24.0% (n=138)	27.2%[a] (n=301)	23.1% (n=403)
Moderately Disagree	10.8%[b] (n=55)	13.9% (n=80)	15.9% (n=176)	15.2% (n=265)
Strongly Disagree	8.1%[b] (n=41)	11.1% (n=64)	11.9% (n=132)	12.7% (n=221)

χ^2=44.0, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 66

Q36C. All deer hunters should be required to report deer harvests using only telephone or internet reporting. (n=4116)
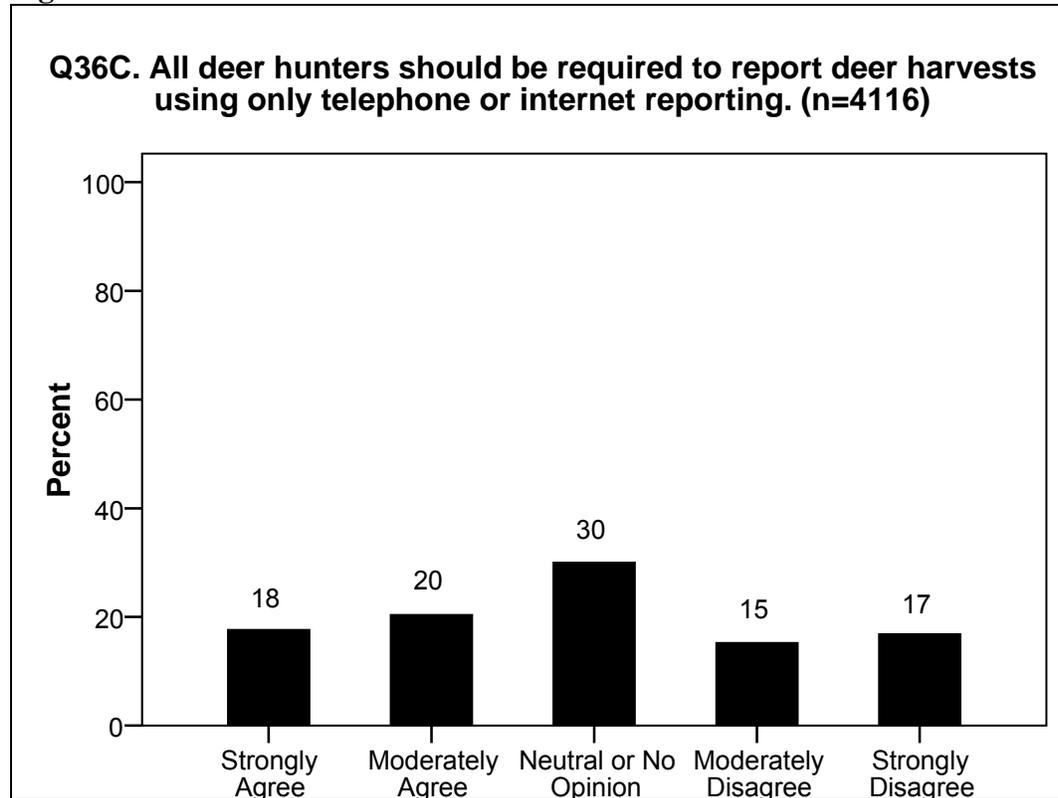
Table 121. Views on requiring telephone or internet reporting for deer harvests (Q36C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

All deer hunters should be required to report deer harvests using only telephone or internet reporting.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	16.4% (n=84)	15.5% (n=90)	18.1% (n=201)	19.2% (n=336)
Moderately Agree	20.4% (n=104)	18.8% (n=109)	21.4% (n=238)	20.7% (n=362)
Neutral or No Opinion	26.2% (n=134)	31.8% (n=184)	30.1% (n=334)	29.1% (n=508)
Moderately Disagree	17.8%[a] (n=91)	14.5% (n=84)	15.5% (n=172)	13.7% (n=239)
Strongly Disagree	19.2% (n=98)	19.3% (n=112)	14.9%[b] (n=165)	17.3% (n=303)

χ^2=19.8, df=12, *p*=0.072

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 67

Q36D. Hunters should NOT be required to report deer harvests.
(n=4114)
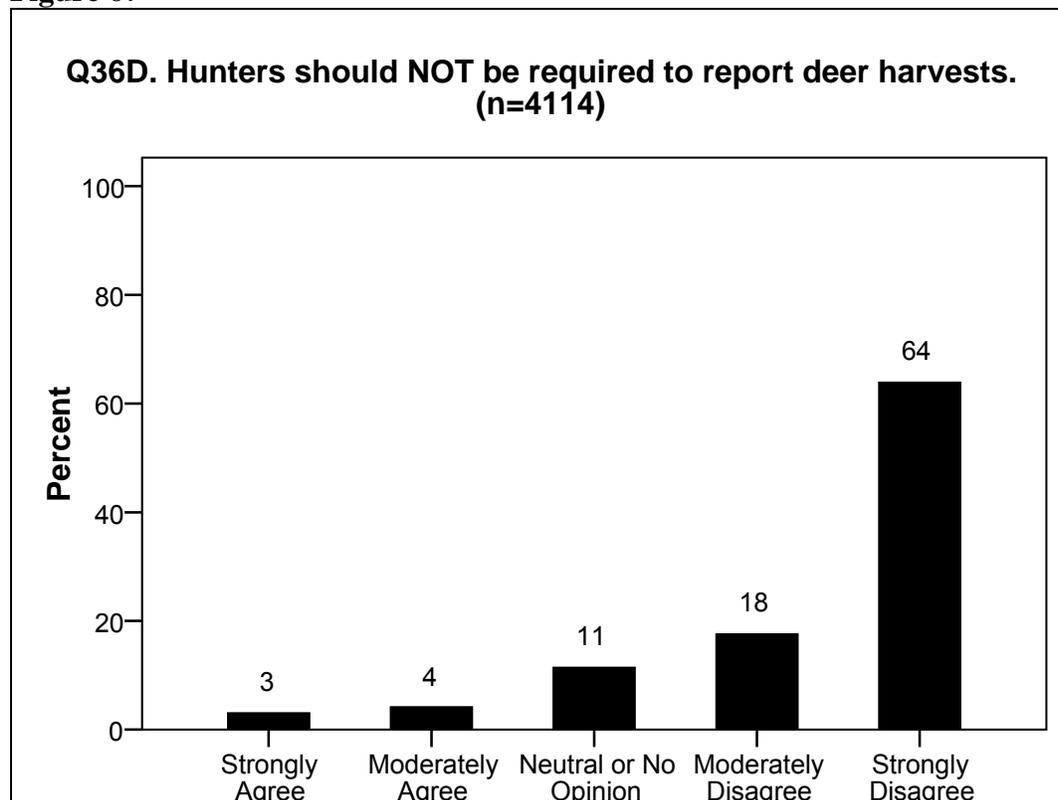
Table 122. Views on not requiring reporting for deer harvests (Q36D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunters should NOT be required to report deer harvests.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	3.3% (n=17)	4.0% (n=23)	3.1% (n=35)	2.9% (n=50)
Moderately Agree	2.8% (n=14)	5.0% (n=29)	3.6% (n=40)	4.4% (n=77)
Neutral or No Opinion	10.2% (n=52)	9.0% (n=52)	12.1% (n=134)	11.9% (n=208)
Moderately Disagree	13.8%[a] (n=70)	18.5% (n=107)	19.4% (n=216)	17.8% (n=311)
Strongly Disagree	69.9%[b] (n=355)	63.5% (n=367)	61.8% (n=687)	63.1% (n=1103)

χ^2=20.9, df=12, *p*=0.053

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Views on illegal behavior

Most deer hunters (67%) agreed that failure to report deer harvests is common in North Carolina (Figure 68).

Western Season zone hunters (41%) were more likely than expected to strongly agree that failure to report deer harvests is common in North Carolina (Table 123).

Most deer hunters (70%) agreed that illegal deer hunting is common in North Carolina (Figure 69). A focus group participant said: "When you're trying to manage and then you've got other people who are killin' four, five, and six bucks. That's discouraging."

Western (50%) and Northwestern (47%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Central (35%) and Eastern (38%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to strongly agree that illegal deer hunting is common in North Carolina (Table 124).

Most deer hunters (55%) agreed that penalties for wildlife violations should be increased (Figure 70).

Western Season zone hunters (43%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (29%) less likely than expected to strongly agree that penalties for wildlife violations should be increased (Table 125).

Figure 68

Q36E. Failure to report deer harvests is common in NC. (n=4086)
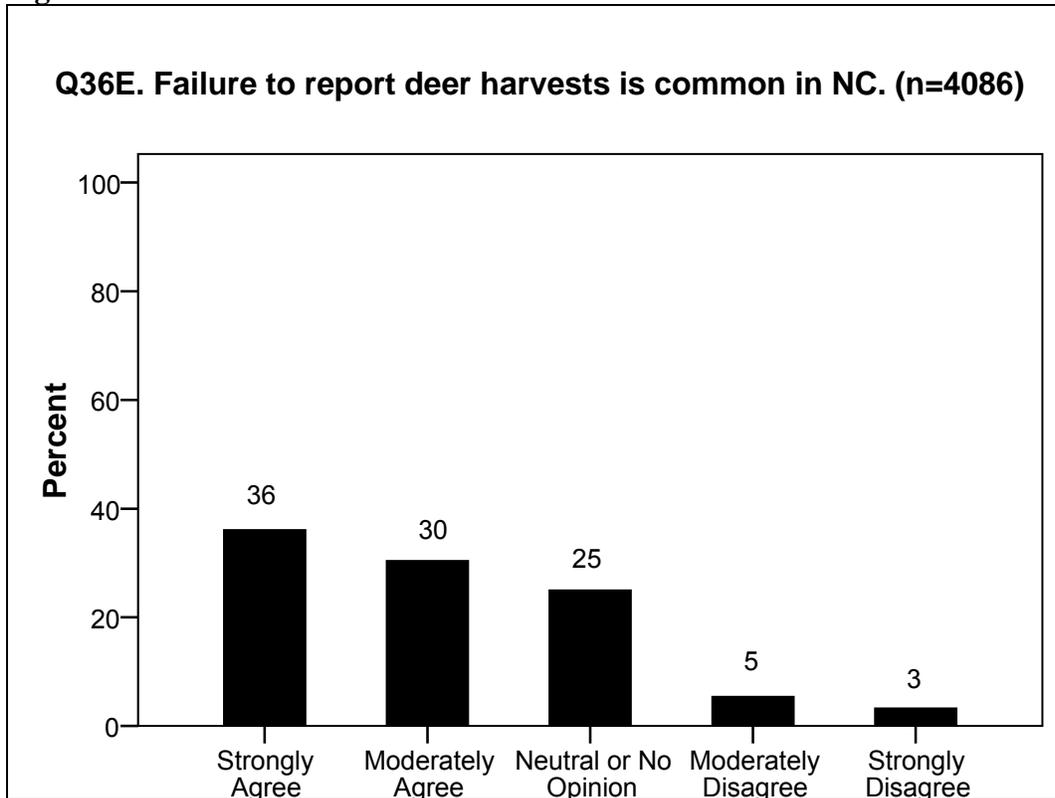
Table 123. Views on failure to report deer harvests (Q36E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Failure to report deer harvests is common in North Carolina.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	41.1%[a] (n=208)	37.2% (n=214)	34.0% (n=374)	34.0% (n=590)
Moderately Agree	28.9% (n=146)	32.9% (n=189)	31.3% (n=345)	29.8% (n=517)
Neutral or No Opinion	21.9% (n=111)	23.8% (n=137)	27.1% (n=298)	25.8% (n=447)
Moderately Disagree	5.9% (n=30)	2.6%[b] (n=15)	4.6% (n=51)	6.6%[a] (n=114)
Strongly Disagree	2.2% (n=11)	3.5% (n=20)	3.0% (n=33)	3.8% (n=66)

χ^2=30.9, df=12, p=0.002

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 69

Q38B. Illegal deer hunting (poaching of deer) is common in NC. (n=4120)
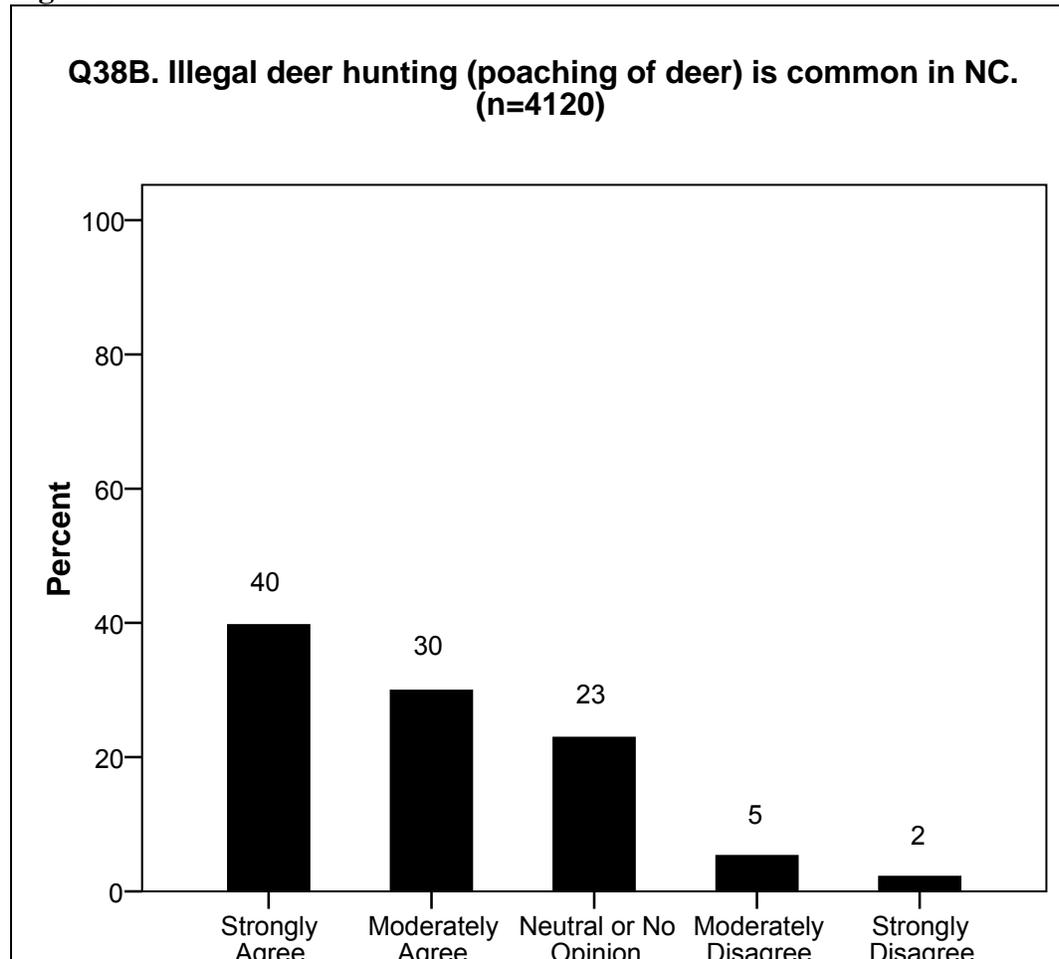
Table 124. Views on illegal deer hunting (Q38B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Illegal deer hunting (poaching of deer) is common in North Carolina.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	50.0%[a]	46.6%[a]	35.0%[b]	37.8%[b]
	(n=255)	(n=270)	(n=389)	(n=660)
Moderately Agree	27.5%	30.9%	32.0%	29.0%
	(n=140)	(n=179)	(n=355)	(n=506)
Neutral or No Opinion	16.3%[b]	16.6%[b]	26.0%[a]	24.5%[a]
	(n=83)	(n=96)	(n=289)	(n=428)
Moderately Disagree	3.7%	4.0%	5.2%	6.1%[a]
	(n=19)	(n=23)	(n=58)	(n=107)
Strongly Disagree	2.5%	1.9%	1.8%	2.6%
	(n=13)	(n=11)	(n=20)	(n=45)

χ^2=67.2, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 70

Q38A. Penalties for wildlife violations should be increased. (n=4124)
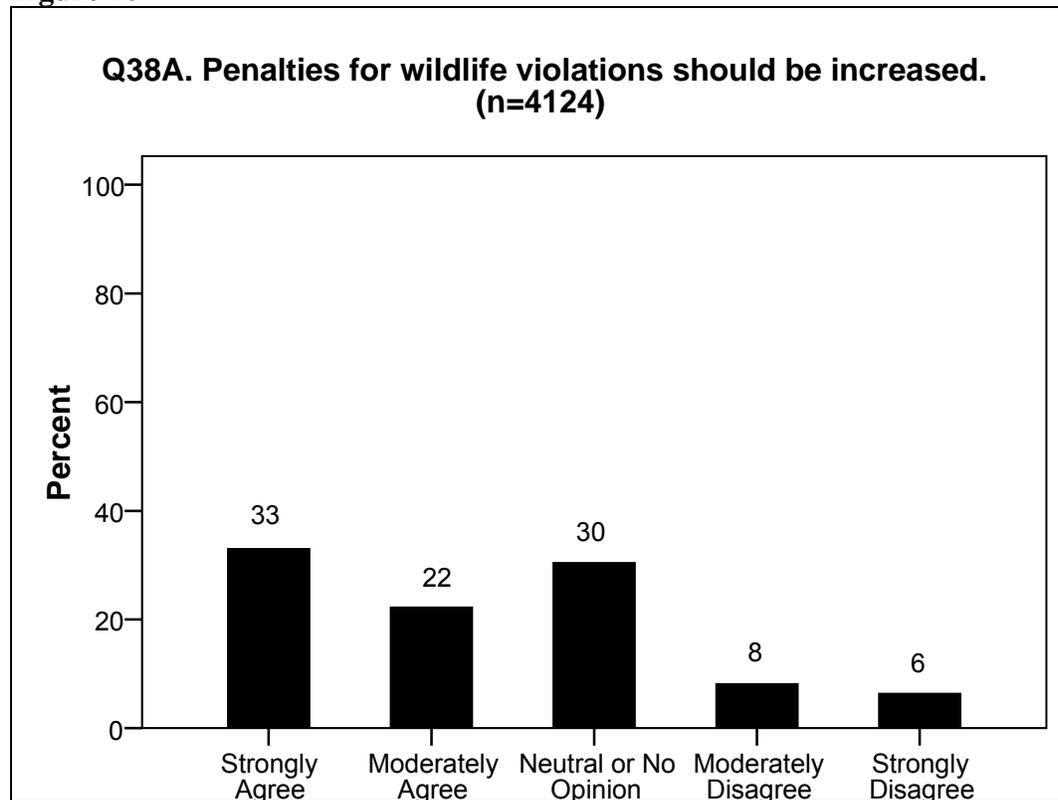
Table 125. Views on increasing penalties for wildlife violations (Q38A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Penalties for wildlife violations should be increased.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	42.8%[a] (n=217)	36.4% (n=211)	32.7% (n=365)	29.4%[b] (n=514)
Moderately Agree	20.7% (n=105)	23.0% (n=133)	23.9% (n=267)	21.8% (n=381)
Neutral or No Opinion	26.4%[b] (n=134)	27.8% (n=161)	30.6% (n=341)	31.8%[a] (n=557)
Moderately Disagree	5.3%[b] (n=27)	7.4% (n=43)	7.8% (n=87)	9.3%[a] (n=162)
Strongly Disagree	4.7% (n=24)	5.4% (n=31)	4.9%[b] (n=55)	7.8%[a] (n=136)

χ^2=51.5, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Views on hunting techniques

Most deer hunters (73%) agreed that hunting over bait should be legal (Figure 71).

Central (50%) and Eastern (49%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (27%) less likely than expected to strongly agree that hunting over bait should be legal (Table 126).

Not surprisingly, there were differences about hunting deer over bait based on deer hunting done with or without the use of bait (Table 127).

A plurality of deer hunters (46%) disagreed that hunting deer with dogs should be legal (Figure 72).

Eastern Season zone hunters (33%) were more likely and Western (6%), Northwestern (9%), and Central (16%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to strongly agree that hunting deer with dogs should be legal (Table 128).

Those that hunted, at least part of the time, with dogs ($\geq$40%) were more likely and still only hunters (9%) less likely than expected to strongly agree that hunting deer with dogs should be legal (Table 129).

A plurality of deer hunters (46%) agreed that hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season should be legal (Figure 73).

Western Season zone hunters (26%) were more likely than expected to strongly disagree that hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season should be legal (Table 130).

Bow and Arrow (29%) and Muzzleloader (28%) season hunters were more likely than those who did not hunt during Bow and Arrow and Muzzleloader season(s) to strongly agree that hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season should be legal (Table 131).

Most deer hunters (53%) agreed that hunting deer with crossbows during archery season should be legal (Figure 74).

Central Season zone hunters (33%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (28%) less likely than expected to strongly agree that hunting deer with crossbows during archery season should be legal (Table 132).

There were differences in views on hunting deer with crossbows during archery season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 133).

Most deer hunters (59%) agreed that hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season should be legal (Figure 75).

Western Season zone hunters (30%) were less likely than expected to strongly agree that hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season should be legal (Table 134).

There were differences in views on hunting deer with a bow during the muzzleloader season based on weapon season(s) hunted (Table 135).

Forty-one percent of deer hunters disagreed and 40% agreed that hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season should be legal (Figure 76).

There were differences in views on hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season based on deer season hunted and weapon season(s) hunted (Table 136, Table 137).

Figure 71

Q37A. Hunting deer over bait. (n=4113)
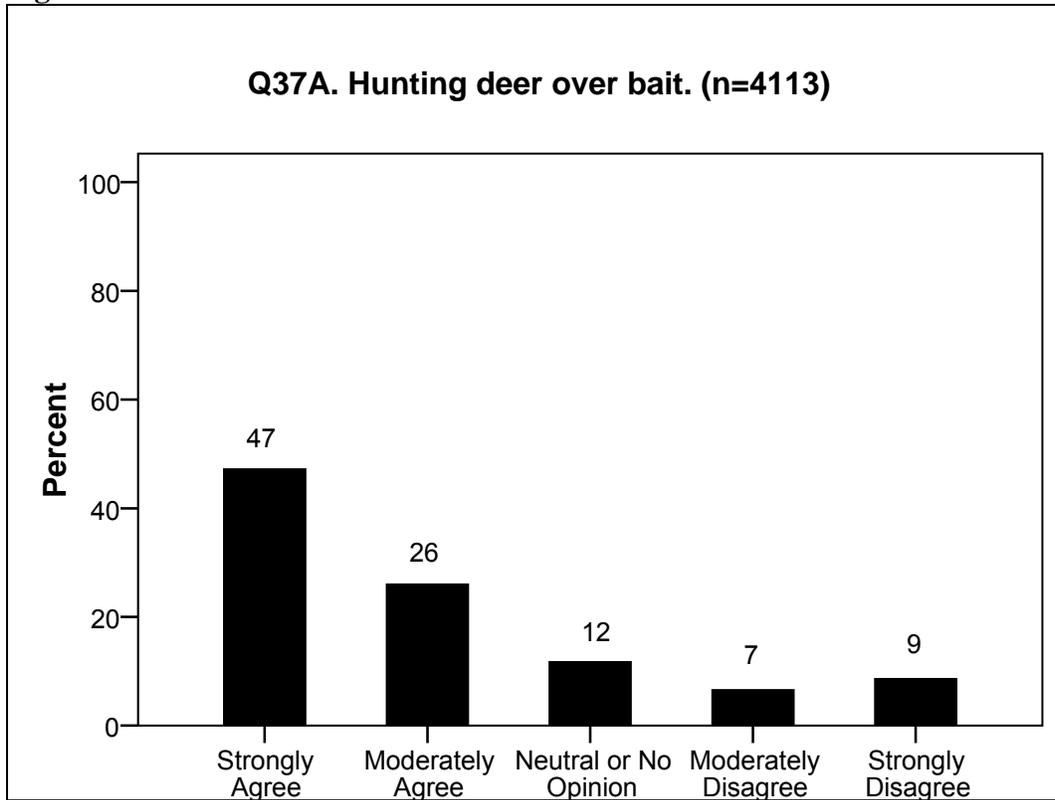
Table 126. Views on hunting deer over bait (Q37A) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting deer over bait.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	27.2%[a] (n=138)	48.8% (n=282)	49.5%[b] (n=550)	48.7%[b] (n=850)
Moderately Agree	25.6% (n=130)	27.0% (n=156)	27.7% (n=307)	24.9% (n=434)
Neutral or No Opinion	13.6% (n=69)	11.4% (n=66)	10.8% (n=120)	11.9% (n=207)
Moderately Disagree	11.2%[b] (n=57)	6.7% (n=39)	5.0%[a] (n=56)	6.7% (n=117)
Strongly Disagree	22.3%[b] (n=113)	6.1%[a] (n=35)	6.9%[a] (n=77)	7.9%[a] (n=137)

χ^2=180.2, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 127. Views on hunting deer over bait (Q37A) by deer hunting done with or without the use of bait (Q10).

Hunting deer over bait.	Only hunted deer over bait	Only hunted deer without the use of bait	Most often hunted deer over bait, but also hunted deer without the use of bait	Most often hunted deer without the use of bait, but also hunted deer over bait	Hunted deer over bait about as often as I hunted deer without the use of bait
Strongly Agree	83.7%[a] (n=205)	16.1%[b] (n=228)	74.4%[a] (n=705)	44.8% (n=434)	64.4%[a] (n=270)
Moderately Agree	11.0%[b] (n=27)	25.5%[a] (n=361)	19.4%[b] (n=184)	37.7%[a] (n=365)	24.1% (n=101)
Neutral or No Opinion	2.4%[b] (n=6)	21.2%[a] (n=300)	3.4%[b] (n=32)	10.5% (n=102)	6.9%[b] (n=29)
Moderately Disagree	0.0%[b] (n=0)	15.2%[a] (n=215)	1.0%[b] (n=9)	4.3%[b] (n=42)	1.9%[b] (n=8)
Strongly Disagree	2.9%[b] (n=7)	21.9%[a] (n=310)	1.8%[b] (n=17)	2.6%[b] (n=25)	2.6%[b] (n=11)

χ^2=1438.2, df=16, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 72

Q37B. Hunting deer with dogs. (n=4107)
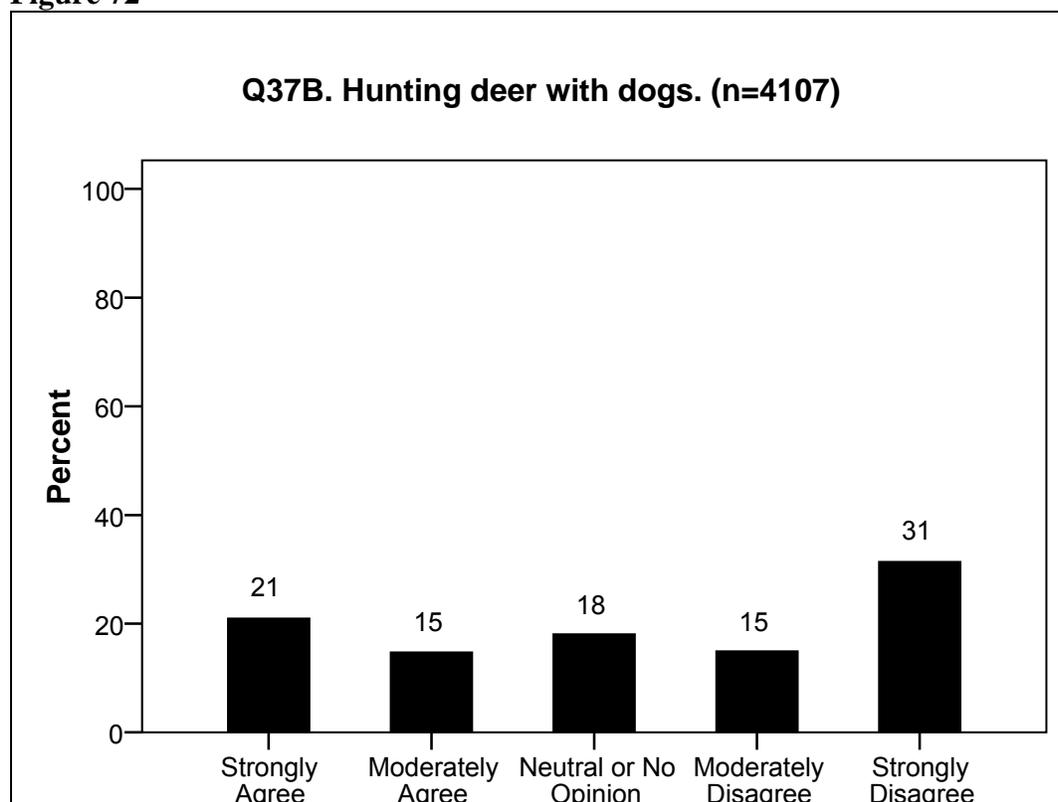
Table 128. Views on hunting deer with dogs (Q37B) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting deer with dogs.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	6.3%[a] (n=32)	8.7%[a] (n=50)	16.3%[a] (n=181)	32.8%[b] (n=572)
Moderately Agree	8.9%[a] (n=45)	12.9% (n=74)	15.3% (n=169)	17.1%[b] (n=298)
Neutral or No Opinion	19.6% (n=99)	23.0%[b] (n=132)	22.1%[b] (n=245)	13.6%[a] (n=238)
Moderately Disagree	16.6% (n=84)	18.8%[b] (n=108)	16.4% (n=182)	12.4%[a] (n=217)
Strongly Disagree	48.6%[b] (n=246)	36.6%[b] (n=210)	29.9% (n=331)	24.1%[a] (n=421)

χ^2=373.8, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Table 129. Views on hunting deer with dogs (Q37B) by deer hunting with dogs and still hunting (Q9).

Hunting deer with dogs.	Only still hunted	Only hunted with dogs	Most often still hunted, but also hunted with dogs	Most often hunted with dogs, but also still hunted	Still hunted and hunted with dogs about the same amount of time
Strongly Agree	8.8%[a] (n=267)	86.7%[b] (n=52)	39.8%[b] (n=184)	85.4%[b] (n=205)	74.0%[b] (n=134)
Moderately Agree	13.6%[a] (n=411)	8.3% (n=5)	27.1%[b] (n=125)	7.1%[a] (n=17)	16.0% (n=29)
Neutral or No Opinion	20.9%[b] (n=633)	1.7%[a] (n=1)	14.1%[a] (n=65)	4.6%[a] (n=11)	5.0%[a] (n=9)
Moderately Disagree	18.2%[b] (n=552)	3.3%[a] (n=2)	8.7%[a] (n=40)	0.4%[a] (n=1)	0.6%[a] (n=1)
Strongly Disagree	38.4%[b] (n=1162)	0.0%[a] (n=0)	10.4%[a] (n=48)	2.5%[a] (n=6)	4.4%[a] (n=8)

χ^2=1587.8, df=16, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Figure 73

Q37C. Hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season. (n=4115)
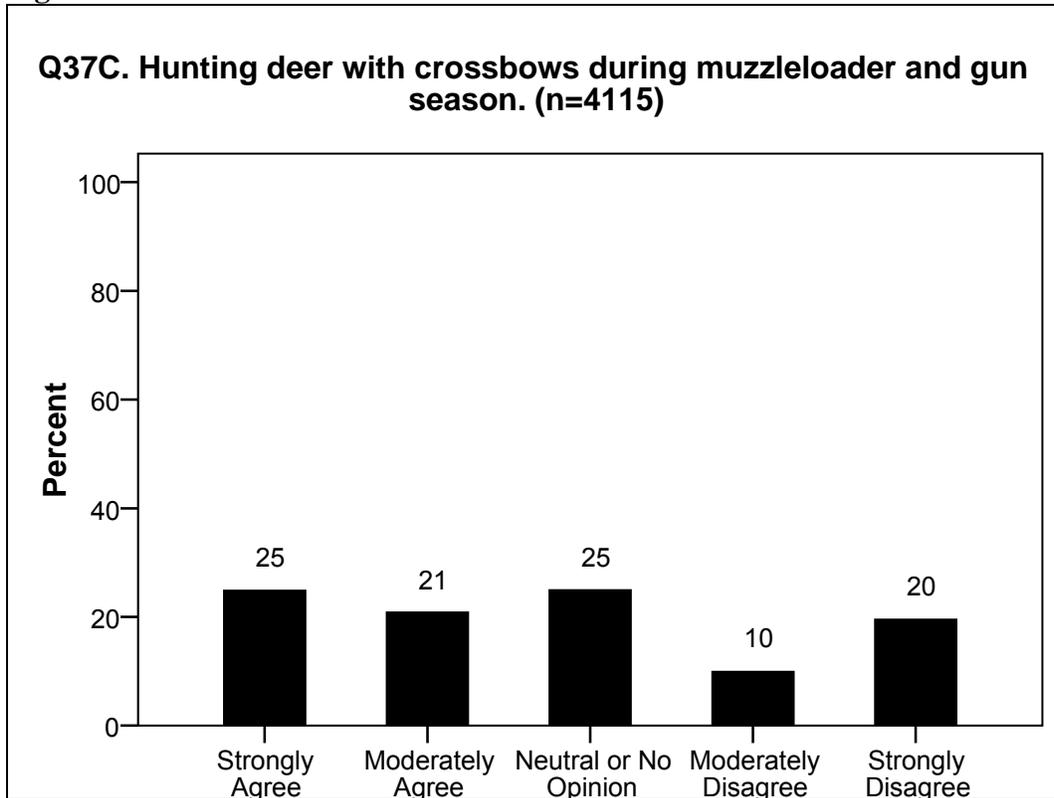
Table 130. Views on hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season (Q37C) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	19.6%[a] (n=100)	24.0% (n=139)	26.9% (n=299)	25.6% (n=447)
Moderately Agree	19.0% (n=97)	20.7% (n=120)	21.0% (n=233)	21.0% (n=366)
Neutral or No Opinion	24.1% (n=123)	24.4% (n=141)	23.0% (n=256)	25.8% (n=451)
Moderately Disagree	11.8% (n=60)	9.7% (n=56)	10.8% (n=120)	8.9% (n=155)
Strongly Disagree	25.5%[b] (n=130)	21.2% (n=123)	18.3% (n=203)	18.7% (n=327)

χ^2=26.9, df=12, p=0.008

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 131. Views on hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season (Q37C) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

Hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season.	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[b]
Strongly Agree	29.2%[c] (n=448)	27.9%[c] (n=581)	24.9% (n=979)
Moderately Agree	21.3% (n=327)	19.2%[d] (n=401)	20.6% (n=809)
Neutral or No Opinion	22.0%[d] (n=337)	22.2%[d] (n=464)	24.6% (n=968)
Moderately Disagree	8.0%[d] (n=122)	9.3% (n=194)	9.8% (n=385)
Strongly Disagree	19.5% (n=299)	21.4% (n=446)	20.2% (n=794)

[a] $\chi^2 \geq 32.8$, df=4, $p=0.001$
[b] $\chi^2 = 2.8$, df=4, $p=0.595$
[c] Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[d] Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 74

Q37D. Hunting deer with crossbows during archery season. (n=4109)
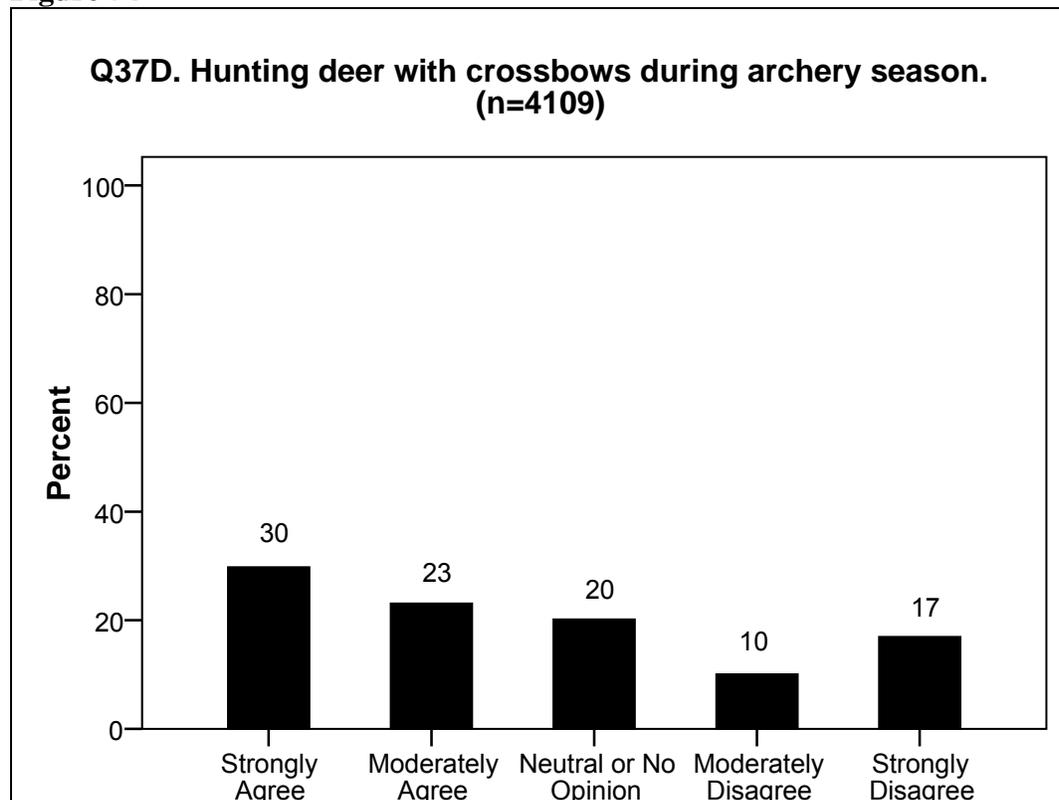
Table 132. Views on hunting deer with crossbows during archery season (Q37D) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting deer with crossbows during archery season.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	26.3% (n=133)	32.4% (n=187)	33.0%[a] (n=366)	27.9%[b] (n=486)
Moderately Agree	21.1% (n=107)	23.1% (n=133)	22.1% (n=245)	24.1% (n=420)
Neutral or No Opinion	17.0% (n=86)	17.5% (n=101)	19.0% (n=211)	22.5%[a] (n=392)
Moderately Disagree	13.2%[a] (n=67)	8.8% (n=51)	9.7% (n=108)	9.6% (n=167)
Strongly Disagree	22.3%[a] (n=113)	18.2% (n=105)	16.1% (n=179)	16.0% (n=280)

χ^2=38.0, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 133. Views on hunting deer with crossbows during archery season (Q37D) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

Hunting deer with crossbows during archery season.	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season	Gun Season[b]
Strongly Agree	35.2%[c] (n=539)	36.2%[c] (n=755)	30.0% (n=1178)
Moderately Agree	20.5%[d] (n=315)	21.9% (n=457)	23.1% (n=908)
Neutral or No Opinion	14.2%[d] (n=217)	15.9%[d] (n=332)	19.9% (n=783)
Moderately Disagree	9.7% (n=149)	8.5%[d] (n=177)	9.9%[d] (n=388)
Strongly Disagree	20.4%[c] (n=313)	17.5% (n=366)	17.1% (n=670)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq$84.2, df=4, p=0.001
[b]χ^2=9.2, df=4, p=0.057
[c]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[d]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 75

Q37E. Hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season.
(n=4102)
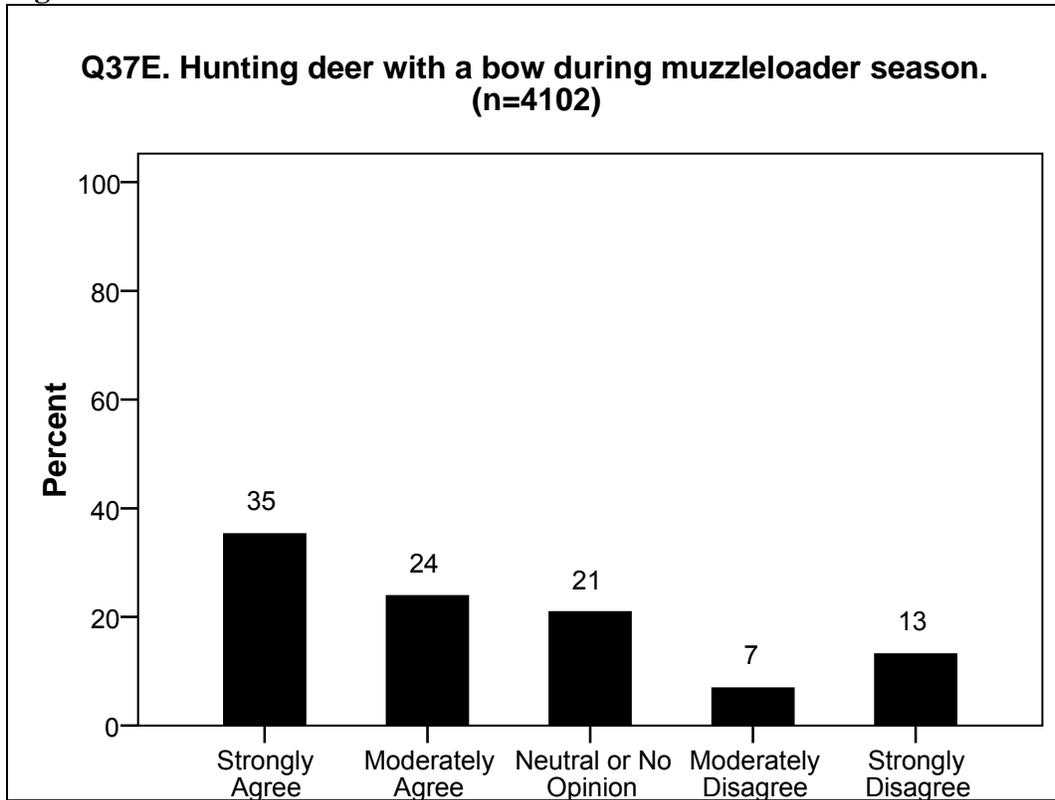
Table 134. Views on hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season (Q37E) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	30.4%[a] (n=154)	32.1% (n=184)	36.0% (n=399)	35.3% (n=615)
Moderately Agree	22.9% (n=116)	24.4% (n=140)	23.3% (n=258)	24.4% (n=426)
Neutral or No Opinion	19.9% (n=101)	21.1% (n=121)	21.0% (n=232)	21.0% (n=367)
Moderately Disagree	6.9% (n=35)	7.8% (n=45)	6.9% (n=76)	7.1% (n=124)
Strongly Disagree	19.9%[b] (n=101)	14.6% (n=84)	12.8% (n=142)	12.2%[a] (n=212)

χ^2=24.3, df=12, p=0.018

[a]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 135. Views on hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season (Q37E) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

Hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season.	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a]
Strongly Agree	49.8%[b] (n=762)	37.3%[b] (n=776)	33.8%[c] (n=1324)
Moderately Agree	21.2%[c] (n=325)	21.9%[c] (n=457)	23.8% (n=933)
Neutral or No Opinion	13.5%[c] (n=207)	17.3%[c] (n=361)	21.1%[b] (n=829)
Moderately Disagree	4.3%[c] (n=66)	7.5% (n=157)	7.2% (n=281)
Strongly Disagree	11.2%[c] (n=171)	15.9%[b] (n=332)	14.1% (n=553)

[a]$\chi^2 \geq 16.0$, df=4, $p \leq 0.003$
[b]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[c]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 76

Q37F. Hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season. (n=4117)
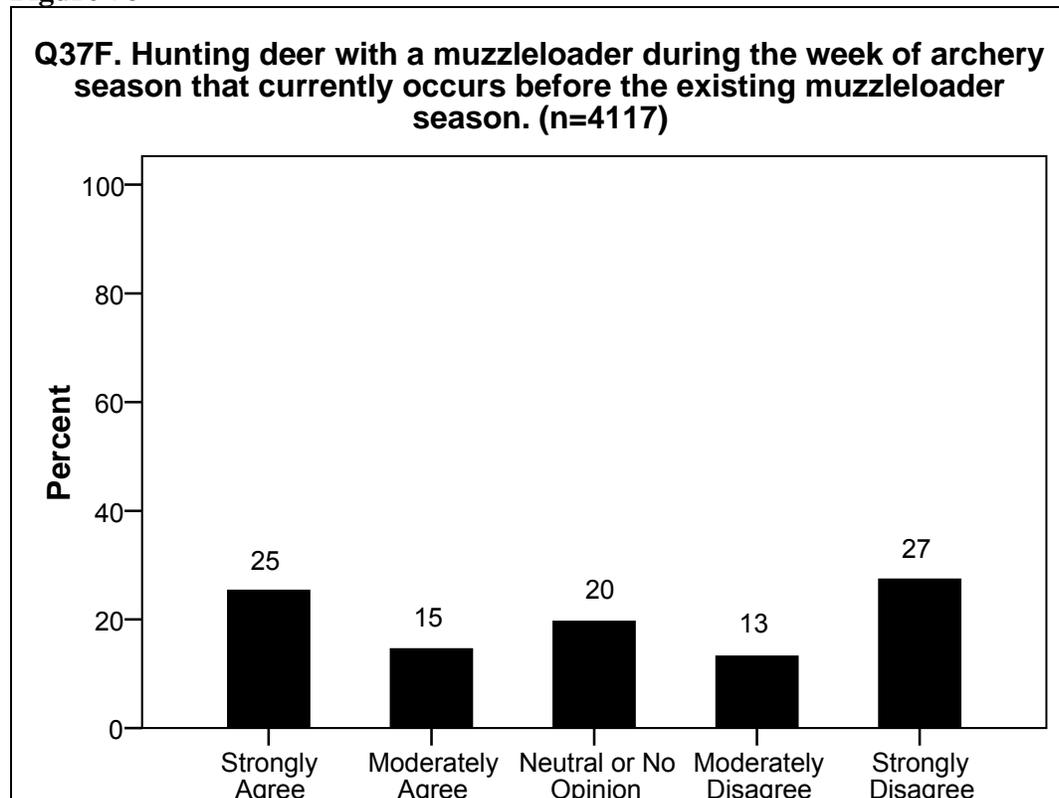
Table 136. Views on hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season (Q37F) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season.	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Strongly Agree	23.9% (n=122)	30.0%[a] (n=173)	30.3%[a] (n=336)	20.9%[b] (n=366)
Moderately Agree	14.7% (n=75)	16.3% (n=94)	15.2% (n=169)	14.3% (n=250)
Neutral or No Opinion	16.7% (n=85)	14.7%[b] (n=85)	18.8% (n=209)	21.9%[a] (n=383)
Moderately Disagree	12.9% (n=66)	10.1%[b] (n=58)	11.5% (n=128)	15.0%[a] (n=262)
Strongly Disagree	31.8%[a] (n=162)	28.9% (n=167)	24.1%[b] (n=268)	28.0% (n=490)

χ^2=64.5, df=12, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 137. Views on hunting deer with a bow during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season (Q37F) by weapon season(s) hunted deer during last 3 years (Q11).

Hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season.	During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer during the last 3 years?		
	Bow and Arrow Season[a]	Muzzleloader Season[a]	Gun Season[a]
Strongly Agree	29.6%[b] (n=455)	37.0%[b] (n=773)	25.4% (n=1001)
Moderately Agree	13.3%[c] (n=204)	16.5%[b] (n=344)	14.9% (n=585)
Neutral or No Opinion	10.9%[c] (n=168)	11.6%[c] (n=243)	19.4%[b] (n=765)
Moderately Disagree	10.7%[c] (n=164)	9.3%[c] (n=194)	13.0% (n=511)
Strongly Disagree	35.4%[b] (n=544)	25.6%[c] (n=536)	27.3%[c] (n=1074)

[a]$\chi^2$$\geq$14.4, df=4, $p\leq$0.006
[b]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[c]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Views on deer meat donation program

Most deer hunters (85%) most often use the meat from deer they harvest for themselves or their immediate family (Figure 77).

Western Deer Season zone hunters (92%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (81%) less likely than expected to most often use the meat from deer they harvest for themselves or their immediate family (Table 138).

Most deer hunters (75%) would be likely to donate meat from deer harvest in the next 3 years, if available and convenient, to an organization that will give it to people in need (Figure 78).

Eastern Season zone hunters (45%) were more likely and Western Season zone hunters (33%) less likely than expected to be very likely to donate meat from deer harvest to an organization that will give it to people in need (Table 139).

Around half of deer hunters (51%, n=4212) would be willing to pay a small fee to help fund a deer meat donation program for charitable food organizations in North Carolina (Question 34).

Western Season zone hunters (45%) were less likely than expected to be willing to pay a small fee to help fund a deer meat donation program for charitable food organizations in North Carolina (Table 140).

Figure 77

Q32. What do you most often do with the meat from deer that you harvest? (n=4051)
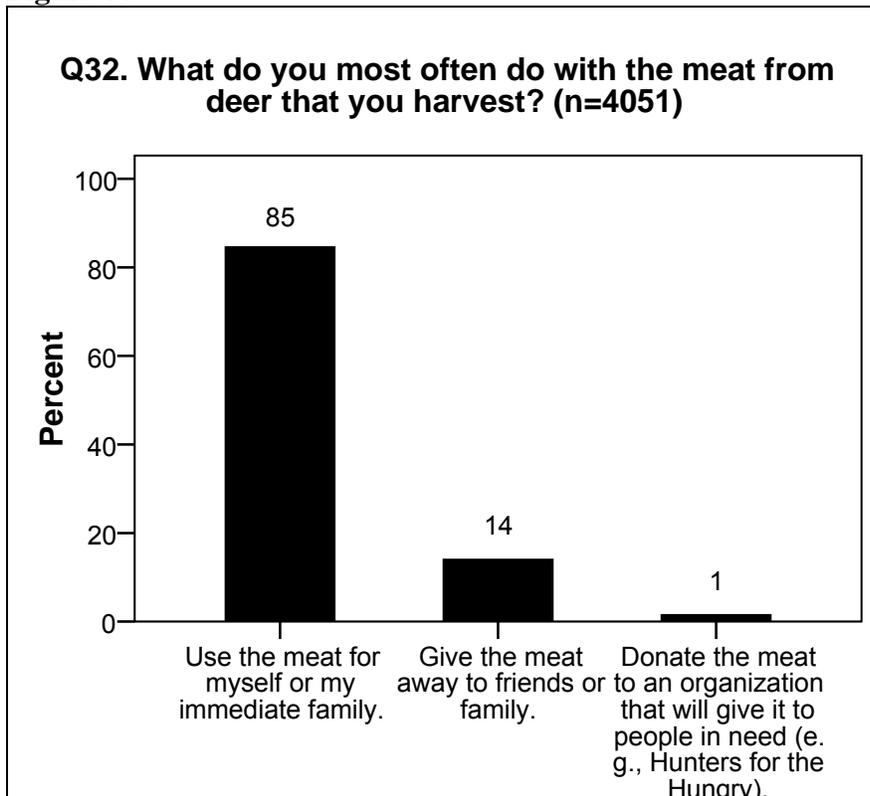
Table 138. Use of meat from deer harvest (Q32) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

What do you most often do with the meat from deer that you harvest?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Use the meat for myself or my immediate family.	92.4%[a] (n=489)	81.8% (n=471)	85.0% (n=929)	80.6%[b] (n=1359)
Give the meat away to friends or family.	6.8%[b] (n=36)	17.0% (n=98)	13.2% (n=144)	17.7%[a] (n=298)
Donate the meat to an organization that will give it to people in need (e.g., Hunters for the Hungry).	0.8% (n=4)	1.2% (n=7)	1.8% (n=20)	1.8% (n=30)

χ^2=46.9, df=6, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 78

Q33. In the next 3 years, if available and convenient, how likely or unlikely would you be to donate meat from deer that you harvest to an organization that will give it to people in need? (n=4280)
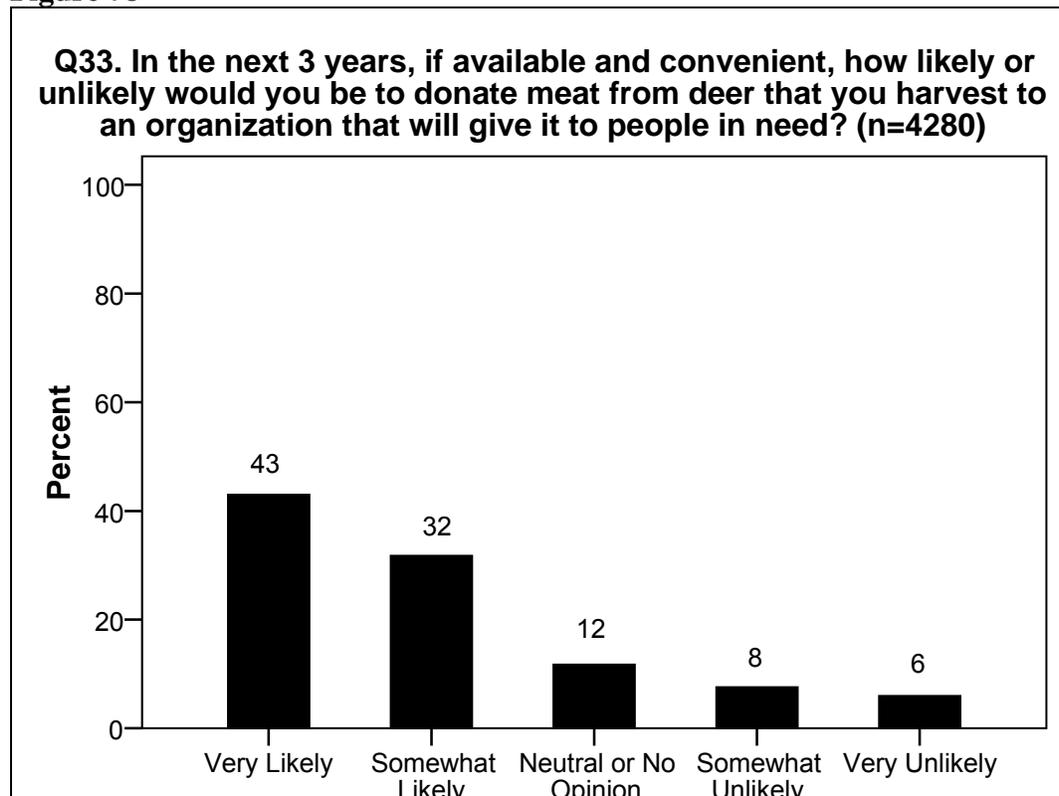
Table 139. Likelihood of donating deer meat (Q33) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

In the next 3 years, if available and convenient, how likely or unlikely would you be to donate meat from deer that you harvest to an organization that will give it to people in need?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Very Likely	32.8%^{a} (n=177)	43.1% (n=260)	44.1% (n=513)	44.7%^{b} (n=805)
Somewhat Likely	33.6% (n=181)	31.5% (n=190)	30.3% (n=352)	31.7% (n=570)
Neutral or No Opinion	15.8%^{b} (n=85)	12.8% (n=77)	10.7% (n=124)	11.1% (n=199)
Somewhat Unlikely	8.9% (n=48)	6.8% (n=41)	8.3% (n=97)	7.1% (n=127)
Very Unlikely	8.9%^{b} (n=48)	5.8% (n=35)	6.5% (n=76)	5.4% (n=98)

χ^2=37.2, df=12, p=0.001

^{a}Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
^{b}Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Table 140. Willingness to pay a small fee for a deer meat donation program (Q34) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Would you be willing to pay a small fee to help fund a deer meat donation program for charitable food organizations in NC?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Yes	45.0%^{a} (n=238)	51.3% (n=306)	50.6% (n=579)	52.3% (n=926)
No	55.0%^{b} (n=291)	48.7% (n=290)	49.4% (n=566)	47.7% (n=844)

χ^2=8.9, df=3, p=0.031

^{a}Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.
^{b}Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.

Background information

Most deer hunters (96%, n=4141) lived in North Carolina (Question 39).

Central Season zone hunters (98%) were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (94%) less likely than expected to live in North Carolina (Table 141).

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Most deer hunters (89%) were at least a high school graduate (Figure 79).

Western (34%) and Northwestern (32%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Eastern Season zone hunters (25%) less likely than expected to have a high school diploma or GED as their highest completed education level (Table 142).

Most deer hunters (97%, n=4128) were male (Question 42).

Western Season zone hunters (98%) were more likely than expected to be male, and Eastern Season zone hunters (4%) were more likely than expected to be female (Table 143).

A quarter (25%) of deer hunters were ≥ 55 years old (Figure 80).

There were no overall differences in age based on deer season hunted (Table 144).

Most deer hunters (57%) had gross household incomes of < $60,000 in 2005 (Figure 81).

Western (31%) and Northwestern (28%) Season zone hunters were more likely and Central (21%) and Eastern (20%) Season zone hunters less likely than expected to have gross household incomes of $20,000-$39,999 (Table 145).

Table 141. State of residence (Q39) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

In what state do you live?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
NC	97.5% (n=500)	97.6% (n=567)	98.2%[a] (n=1096)	94.3%[b] (n=1658)
Other	2.5% (n=13)	2.4% (n=14)	1.8%[b] (n=20)	5.7%[a] (n=101)

χ^2=36.4, df=3, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual ≤ -2.0.

Figure 79

Q41. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (n=4024)
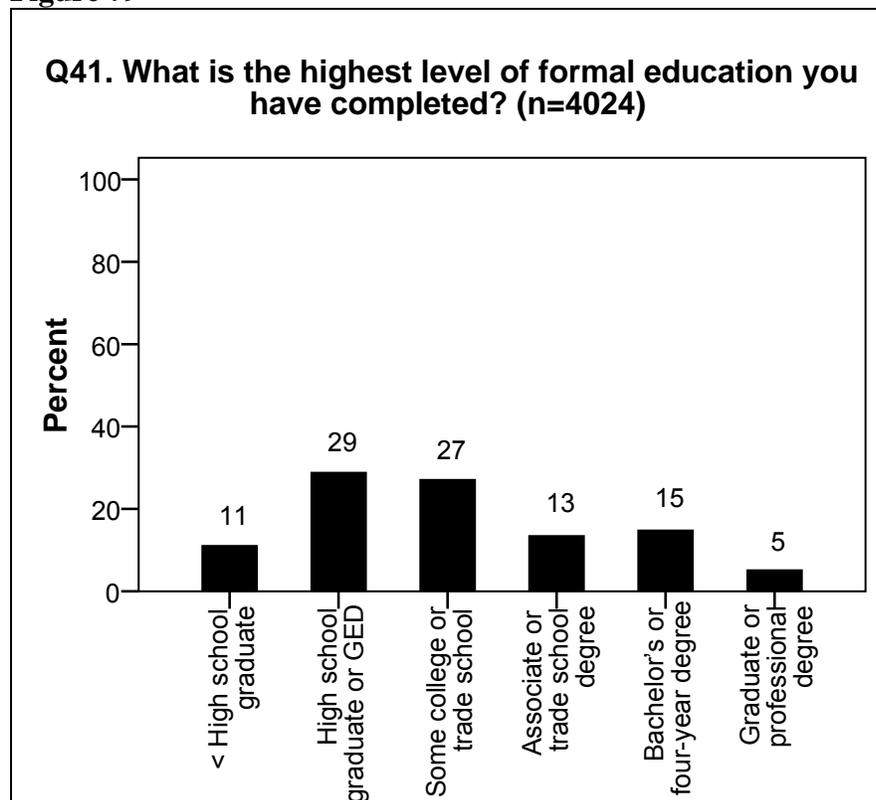
Table 142. Education level (Q41) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
< High school graduate	13.8%[a] (n=68)	14.0%[a] (n=80)	8.3%[b] (n=91)	10.9% (n=186)
High school graduate or GED	34.3%[a] (n=169)	32.3%[a] (n=184)	29.4% (n=323)	25.1%[b] (n=426)
Some college or trade school	22.6%[b] (n=111)	23.2%[b] (n=132)	27.9% (n=306)	29.0%[a] (n=492)
Associate or trade school degree	14.2% (n=70)	12.3% (n=70)	13.6% (n=149)	13.2% (n=225)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	10.8%[b] (n=53)	13.2% (n=75)	15.1% (n=166)	16.1%[a] (n=273)
Graduate or professional degree	4.3% (n=21)	5.1% (n=29)	5.7% (n=62)	5.7% (n=97)

χ^2=52.0, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Table 143. Sex (Q42) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Are you male or female?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
Male	98.2%[a]	97.2%	97.6%	95.8%[b]
	(n=502)	(n=561)	(n=1088)	(n=1679)
Female	1.8%[b]	2.8%	2.4%	4.2%[a]
	(n=9)	(n=16)	(n=27)	(n=74)

χ^2=11.9, df=3, p=0.008

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Figure 80

Q43. Age in 2007 (n=3474)
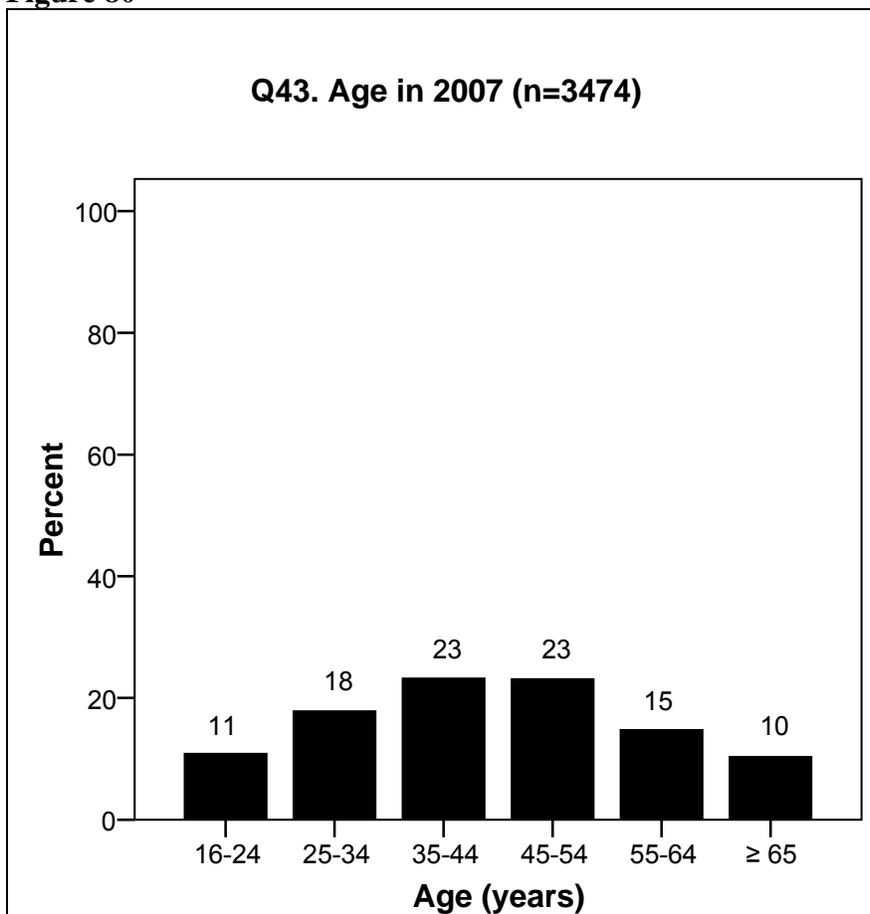
Table 144. Age in 2007 (Q43) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Age (years)	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
16-24	7.9%	6.6%	6.7%	7.3%
	(n=35)	(n=32)	(n=63)	(n=106)
25-34	14.2%	15.2%	12.6%	14.4%
	(n=63)	(n=74)	(n=119)	(n=210)
35-44	19.6%	23.4%	24.6%[a]	20.8%
	(n=87)	(n=114)	(n=232)	(n=303)
45-54	24.3%	26.4%	27.5%	23.8%
	(n=108)	(n=129)	(n=259)	(n=347)
55-64	20.7%	16.0%	16.1%	19.5%
	(n=92)	(n=78)	(n=152)	(n=284)
≥ 65	13.5%	12.5%	12.4%	14.2%
	(n=60)	(n=61)	(n=117)	(n=207)

χ^2=19.8, df=15, p=0.179

[a]Adjusted residual ≥ 2.0.

Figure 81

Q44. Which of the following best represents your gross household income (before taxes) last year? (n=4094)
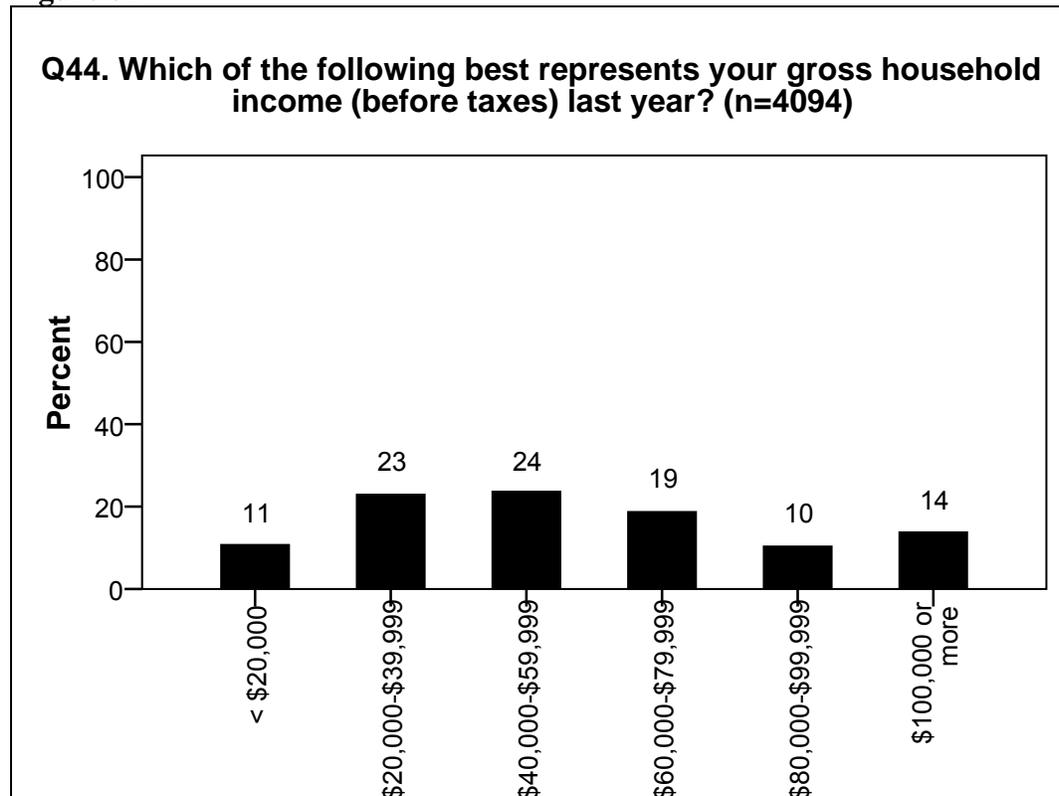
Table 145. Gross household income (Q44) by deer season zone most often hunted during last 3 years (Q8).

Which of the following best represents your gross household income last year?	Western Season	Northwestern Season	Central Season	Eastern Season
< $20,000	15.3%[a] (n=80)	12.4%[a] (n=72)	8.9% (n=98)	8.5%[b] (n=146)
$20,000-$39,999	31.4%[a] (n=164)	28.2%[a] (n=164)	20.5%[b] (n=225)	20.0%[b] (n=343)
$40,000-$59,999	25.2% (n=132)	24.1% (n=140)	24.2% (n=266)	23.1% (n=397)
$60,000-$79,999	12.8%[b] (n=67)	15.5%[b] (n=90)	20.5% (n=225)	20.3%[a] (n=349)
$80,000-$99,999	8.0%[b] (n=42)	9.6% (n=56)	11.0% (n=121)	11.3% (n=194)
$100,000 or more	7.3%[b] (n=38)	10.3%[b] (n=60)	14.8% (n=163)	16.8%[a] (n=288)

χ^2=111.0, df=15, p=0.001

[a]Adjusted residual $\geq$ 2.0.
[b]Adjusted residual $\leq$ -2.0.

Management Implications

Deer hunting techniques/areas hunted
Even in the Eastern Season zone, most hunters only still hunted for deer. The use of dogs for hunting deer was controversial among deer hunters, as 39% of hunters indicated that too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer was important as a barrier to their deer hunting, and only 36% of deer hunters agreed that hunting deer with dogs should be legal.

Most Western Season zone hunters hunted deer without the use of bait. However, most Northwester, Central, and Eastern Season zone hunters used bait to hunt deer at least part of the time. Most deer hunters agreed that hunting over bait should be legal, so prohibiting hunting deer with the use of bait would likely be unpopular with deer hunters.

Mountain Season zone hunters were more likely than Northwestern, Central, and Eastern Season zone hunters to have hunted on Game Lands. This may indicate a high importance for public hunting areas in the Mountains. Or, this may point to a lack of opportunity for deer hunting on Game Lands in the other 3 deer season zones.

Regulations to achieve QDM objectives
Most hunters voluntarily practiced QDM strategies where they hunted deer. Also, most hunters indicated that not having enough older age class deer was important barrier to deer hunting. However, only 34% implied they favored a mandatory QDM program. Even though most deer hunters believed that the current bag limit for bucks was about right, most deer hunters supported decreasing the season bag limit for bucks in order to meet QDM objectives. Increasing the season bag limit for does was also popular. However, increasing the season bag limit for does, while increasing opportunity for hunters, may have little effect on the number of does harvested,

as most hunters reported harvesting 0 antlerless deer in 2005 and most indicated that if there were no bag limits, they would harvest 4 or fewer does every year, if given the chance.

Shortening the Gun season to achieve QDM objectives was supported by a minority of deer hunters. Also, most Western, Northwestern, and Central Season zone hunters believed the Gun season was too short, while most Eastern Season zone hunters believed the Gun season was about the right length.

The most popular option for an "Earn-a-Buck" program, supported by most deer hunters, was no restrictions on the first buck harvested and requiring a doe harvest before each additional buck harvest.

The most popular option for an antler restriction program, supported by 49% of deer hunters, was requiring a harvested buck to have at least 3 points on 1 side.

The most popular option for scale of implementation of mandatory QDM strategies, supported by most hunters, was by designated deer hunting season. However, ≥41% of deer hunters also supported implementation of QDM strategies by county or select Game Lands.

Current deer season structures
Most deer hunters believed the timing of the Bow and Arrow, Muzzleloader, Gun, and Gun Either-Sex seasons were about right. Therefore, even though 50% of deer hunters believed the Gun season was too short, lengthening the Gun season would affect the timing and/or length of other weapon seasons, and these changes to other weapon seasons could be controversial.

Because hunters were split on whether or not to allow hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season, implementing this change would likely be controversial.

Deer harvest reporting
Most deer hunters believed that failure to report deer harvests and illegal deer hunting are common in North Carolina. Also, even though most agreed that they were satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system, 49% of deer hunters agreed that all deer hunters should be required to physically tag their deer harvests in the field with a printed tag from the WRC.

Hunting deer with bows/ crossbows
Allowing hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season or hunting deer with crossbows during archery season would likely be popular with deer hunters.

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Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Survey of North Carolina Deer Hunters
2006
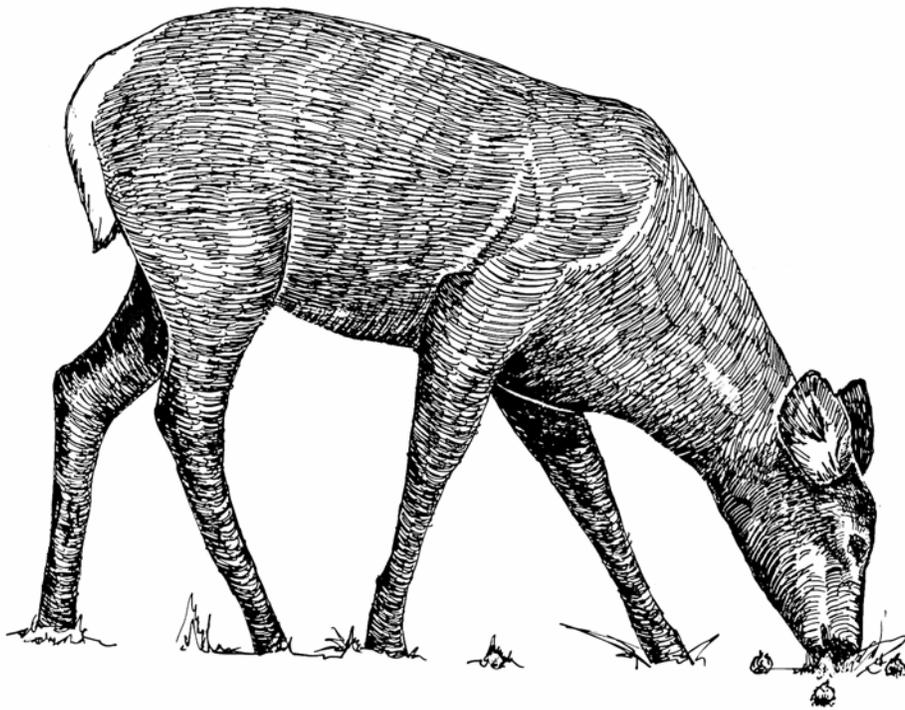
This survey provides an opportunity for you to let us know about your experiences while hunting deer in North Carolina and to tell us your views on how deer are managed in North Carolina.

Deer Hunting Experience

1. Have you ever hunted deer in North Carolina?

    ☐ 1. Yes ➞ **Continue to question 2.**

    ☐ 2. No ➞ **Please stop here and return the survey.**

2. Do you plan to hunt deer (or have you already hunted deer) during the 2006 deer hunting season?

    ☐ 1. Yes

    ☐ 2. No

3. During which of the last three deer hunting seasons did you hunt deer in North Carolina? **Check all that apply**.

    ☐ 1. I hunted deer in 2005 ➞ **Continue to question 4.**

    ☐ 2. I hunted deer in 2004 ➞ **Continue to question 4.**

    ☐ 3. I hunted deer in 2003 ➞ **Continue to question 4.**

    ☐ 4. I did not hunt deer in North Carolina during any of these years ➞ **Please stop here and return the survey.**

4. About how many days do you hunt deer in North Carolina in a typical year? **Check one**.

    ☐ Less than 2 days per year

    ☐ 2-21 days per year

    ☐ 22-41 days per year

    ☐ 42 or more days per year

5. When hunting deer in North Carolina <u>during the last three years</u>, did you hunt on private land, Game Lands, or both private land and Game Lands? **Check one**.

    ☐ 1. Only hunted on private land

    ☐ 2. Only hunted on Game Lands

    ☐ 3. Most often hunted on private land, but also hunted on Game Lands

    ☐ 4. Most often hunted on Game Lands, but also hunted on private land

    ☐ 5. Hunted on private land and Game Lands about the same amount of time

6. Do you own any property in North Carolina on which you hunted deer <u>during the last three years</u>?

        ☐ 1. Yes

        ☐ 2. No

7. Did you lease any land in North Carolina <u>during the last three years</u> for the primary purpose of hunting deer?

        ☐ 1. Yes

        ☐ 2. No

Hunting Participation

8. Using the map below, please indicate the region (deer season) in which you spent the most time hunting deer <u>during the last three years</u>. **Check one**.

        ☐ 1. Spent the most time hunting in the Western Deer Season

        ☐ 2. Spent the most time hunting in the Northwestern Deer Season

        ☐ 3. Spent the most time hunting in the Central Deer Season

        ☐ 4. Spent the most time hunting in the Eastern Deer Season

NORTH CAROLINA DEER SEASONS
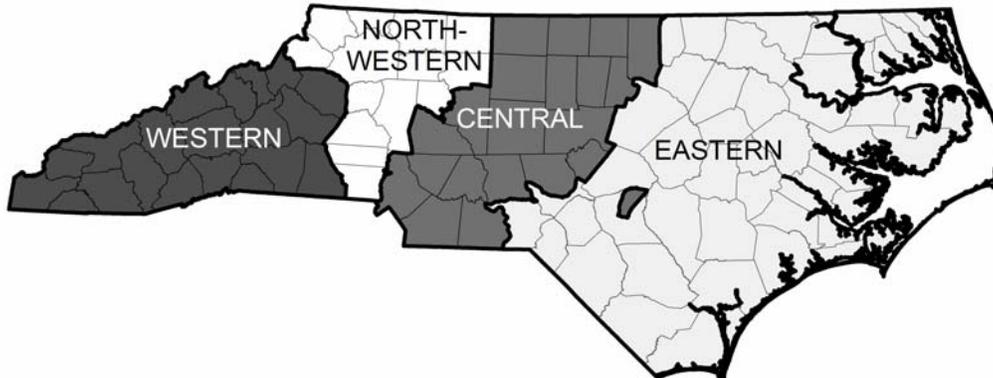
9. When hunting deer in North Carolina <u>during the last three years</u>, did you still hunt, hunt with dogs, or both still hunt and hunt with dogs? **Check one**.

        ☐ 1. Only still hunted

        ☐ 2. Only hunted with dogs

        ☐ 3. Most often still hunted, but also hunted with dogs

        ☐ 4. Most often hunted with dogs, but also still hunted

        ☐ 5. Still hunted and hunted with dogs about the same amount of time

10. When hunting deer in North Carolina <u>during the last three years</u>, did you primarily hunt with or without the use of bait? (For this question, bait refers to any supplemental feed.) **Check one**.

☐ 1. Only hunted deer over bait

☐ 2. Only hunted deer without the use of bait

☐ 3. Most often hunted deer over bait, but also hunted deer without the use of bait

☐ 4. Most often hunted deer without the use of bait, but also hunted deer over bait

☐ 5. Hunted deer over bait about as often as I hunted deer without the use of bait

11. During which of the following weapon seasons did you hunt deer <u>during the last three years</u>? **Check all that apply**.

☐ 1. Bow and Arrow Season

☐ 2. Muzzleloader Season

☐ 3. Gun Season

Deer Population Levels

12. In your opinion, how has the deer population changed *during the past three years* <u>in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years</u>? **Check one**.

☐ 1. The deer population has decreased.

☐ 2. The deer population has remained the same.

☐ 3. The deer population has increased.

☐ 4. I am unsure.

13. In your opinion, how have the numbers of other deer hunters changed *during the past three years* <u>in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years</u>? **Check one**.

☐ 1. The number of deer hunters has decreased.

☐ 2. The number of deer hunters has remained the same.

☐ 3. The number of deer hunters has increased.

☐ 4. I am unsure.

14. Do you want the deer population to increase, remain at its current level, or decrease in the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years? **Check one**.

    □ 1. Increase

    □ 2. Remain at current level

    □ 3. Decrease

    □ 4. I am unsure

Barriers to Deer Hunting

15. Some things may take away from your deer hunting experiences. How important or unimportant are the following factors as **barriers to your deer hunting**? **Circle one for each item**.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral or No Opinion	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. Deer populations are too low.	1	2	3	4	5
b. There are **NOT** enough older age class or mature deer.	1	2	3	4	5
c. There is too much illegal behavior (e.g., poaching or trespassing) by others.	1	2	3	4	5
d. I do **NOT** have access to land for hunting.	1	2	3	4	5
e. The cost of leasing land for hunting deer is too expensive.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Hunting regulations are too confusing.	1	2	3	4	5
g. I do **NOT** have enough time to hunt deer.	1	2	3	4	5
h. There is too much interference from hunters using dogs to hunt deer.	1	2	3	4	5
i. There is too much interference from still hunters hunting deer.	1	2	3	4	5
j. There is too much interference from hunters hunting species other than deer.	1	2	3	4	5

Views on Deer Management

16. In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how the Wildlife Resources Commission manages deer in North Carolina? **Circle one**.

Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral or No Opinion	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
1	2	3	4	5

17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Wildlife Resources Commission does a good job of disseminating information to hunters? **Circle one**.

Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	2	3	4	5

18. Please respond to the following about deer hunting regulations <u>for the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years</u>.

    a. The *length* of the <u>Bow and Arrow</u> season was… **Circle one**.

Much Too Short	A Little Too Short	About the Right Length	A Little Too Long	Much Too Long	Unsure
1	2	3	4	5	6

    b. The *timing* of the <u>Bow and Arrow</u> season was… **Circle one**.

Much Too Early	A Little Too Early	About Right	A Little Too Late	Much Too Late	Unsure
1	2	3	4	5	6

    c. The *length* of the <u>Muzzleloader</u> season was… **Circle one**.

Much Too Short	A Little Too Short	About the Right Length	A Little Too Long	Much Too Long	Unsure
1	2	3	4	5	6

    d. The *timing* of the <u>Muzzleloader</u> season was… **Circle one**.

Much Too Early	A Little Too Early	About Right	A Little Too Late	Much Too Late	Unsure
1	2	3	4	5	6

e. The *length* of the <u>Gun</u> season was… **Circle one**.

Much Too <u>Short</u>	A Little <u>Too Short</u>	About the <u>Right Length</u>	A Little <u>Too Long</u>	Much Too <u>Long</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

f. The *timing* of the <u>Gun</u> season was… **Circle one**.

Much Too <u>Early</u>	A Little <u>Too Early</u>	<u>About Right</u>	A Little <u>Too Late</u>	Much Too <u>Late</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

g. The *length* of the <u>Gun Either-Sex</u> season (the time in which **both** bucks and does can be harvested) was… **Circle one**.

Much Too <u>Short</u>	A Little <u>Too Short</u>	About the <u>Right Length</u>	A Little <u>Too Long</u>	Much Too <u>Long</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

h. The *timing* of the <u>Gun Either-Sex</u> season (the time in which **both** bucks and does can be harvested) was… **Circle one**.

Much Too <u>Early</u>	A Little <u>Too Early</u>	<u>About Right</u>	A Little <u>Too Late</u>	Much Too <u>Late</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

19. Please respond to the following <u>for the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years</u>.

a. The current number of deer in the deer population is... **Circle one**.

Much Too <u>Low</u>	A Little Too <u>Low</u>	<u>About Right</u>	A Little Too <u>High</u>	Much Too <u>High</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

b. The current overall health of the deer herd is... **Circle one**.

Very <u>Healthy</u>	Moderately <u>Healthy</u>	Neither Healthy Nor <u>Unhealthy</u>	Moderately <u>Unhealthy</u>	Very <u>Unhealthy</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

c. The current number of mature bucks (older than 2½ years old) is… **Circle one**.

Much Too <u>Few</u>	A Little <u>Too Few</u>	<u>About Right</u>	A Little <u>Too Many</u>	Much Too <u>Many</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

d. The current number of does is… **Circle one**.

Much Too Few	A Little Too Few	About Right	A Little Too Many	Much Too Many	Unsure
1	2	3	4	5	6

20. Please respond to the following <u>for the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years</u>. **Circle one for each item**.

a. The current season bag limit for does is... **Circle one**.

Much Too Low	A Little Too Low	About Right	A Little Too High	Much Too High
1	2	3	4	5

b. The current season bag limit for bucks is... **Circle one**.

Much Too Low	A Little Too Low	About Right	A Little Too High	Much Too High
1	2	3	4	5

21. If there were no bag limits, how many **does** would you harvest every year, if given the chance? **Check one**.
   ☐ None
   ☐ 1 or 2 does
   ☐ 3 or 4 does
   ☐ 5 or 6 does
   ☐ 7 or 8 does
   ☐ 9 or more does

22. If there were no bag limits, how many **bucks** would you harvest every year, if given the chance? **Check one**.
   ☐ None
   ☐ 1 or 2 bucks
   ☐ 3 or 4 bucks
   ☐ 5 or 6 bucks
   ☐ 7 or 8 bucks
   ☐ 9 or more bucks

Preferences for Quality Deer Management

Managing deer means making tradeoffs. Some hunters may support managing the deer herd to have more older bucks (improved age structure), to have fewer does for every buck (improved sex ratio), and to have a healthier deer herd. This is also known as Quality Deer Management (QDM). QDM often involves harvesting fewer young bucks and harvesting more does. QDM also often results in reduced numbers of deer. Currently some hunters in the state are voluntarily practicing one or more QDM strategies where they hunt deer. QDM could also be implemented by changing deer hunting regulations.

The following options are possible changes to deer hunting regulations designed to help achieve some QDM objectives. Please indicate the extent to which you support or oppose the following for the region in which you spent the most time hunting deer (as indicated in question 8) during the last three years.

23. Decreasing the season bag limit for bucks. **Circle one**.

> *Considerations:* *Could result in reduced opportunity to harvest bucks and an increase in the doe harvest in some areas. The percentage and quality of bucks in the population may increase, but deer numbers could decline in some areas.*

Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1	2	3	4	5

24. Increasing the season bag limit for does. **Circle one**.

> *Considerations:* *Could result in an increase in the doe harvest for some hunters. However, most hunters do not reach the current bag limit for does and will not be affected by this option.*

Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1	2	3	4	5

25. Shortening the Gun season. **Circle one**.

   Considerations: *Results in fewer days to hunt deer. May cause decreased harvest pressure on antlered bucks. Considering the current liberal season lengths in North Carolina, and that most hunters frequently pass up opportunity to harvest does, this management option may not necessarily decrease the doe harvest.*

Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1	2	3	4	5

26. "Earn-a-Buck" program that would require the harvest of a doe before harvesting a buck.

   Considerations: *Could result in reduced opportunity to harvest bucks and an increase in the doe harvest in some areas. The percentage and quality of bucks in the population may increase, but deer numbers could decline in some areas.*

There are various ways of implementing an "Earn-a-Buck" program. Please indicate the extent to which you support or oppose the following "Earn-a-Buck" management options. **Circle one for each item**.

	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
a. A doe must be harvested before each buck harvest.	1	2	3	4	5
b. No restrictions on the first buck harvested. A doe must be harvested before each additional buck harvest.	1	2	3	4	5
c. No restrictions on the first 2 bucks harvested. A doe must be harvested before each additional buck harvest. (This option would only be implemented in areas with a 4-buck bag limit.)	1	2	3	4	5
d. No restrictions on the first 3 bucks harvested. A doe must be harvested before a 4th buck is harvested. (This option would only be implemented in areas with a 4-buck bag limit.)	1	2	3	4	5
e. No implementation of an "Earn-a-Buck" program.	1	2	3	4	5

27. Antler restriction program that would require the harvest of bucks meeting certain antler criteria.

> ***Considerations:*** *Will result in reduced opportunity to harvest bucks that do not meet the selected antler criteria. The percentage of bucks in the population may increase. However, recent research has shown that some antler restrictions can decrease the overall quality of mature bucks when applied for a long period of time. This long-term decrease in quality can occur because bucks meeting the selected antler criteria are continually harvested. At the same time, lower quality bucks that cannot be legally harvested are allowed to mature and breed.*

There are various ways of implementing an antler restriction program. Please indicate the extent to which you support or oppose the following antler restriction management options. **Circle one for each item**.

	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
a. A buck must have at least 3 points on 1 side.	1	2	3	4	5
b. A buck must have at least 4 points on 1 side.	1	2	3	4	5
c. A buck must have a minimum inside spread of 15 inches (the approximate tip-to-tip distance of an adult buck's ears in the alert position).	1	2	3	4	5
d. A buck must have at least 4 points on 1 side **OR** a minimum inside spread of 15 inches.	1	2	3	4	5
e. No restrictions on the first buck harvested. Each additional buck must meet some type of antler restriction.	1	2	3	4	5
f. No implementation of an antler restriction program.	1	2	3	4	5

28. QDM, while currently being implemented voluntarily by some individuals on private lands, could be mandated by the Wildlife Resources Commission. One option is the implementation of a statewide, uniform QDM strategy. QDM strategies could also vary by region (deer season) or county. Please indicate the extent to which you support or oppose the implementation of QDM at following the scales. **Circle one for each item**.

	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
a. Implement a statewide, uniform QDM strategy.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Implement varying QDM strategies by designated hunting season (Western, Northwestern, Central, Eastern deer seasons).	1	2	3	4	5
c. Implement varying QDM strategies by county.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Implement QDM on select Game Lands. Hunting on some Game Lands may require a permit.	1	2	3	4	5
e. No implementation of a mandatory QDM program. (QDM could still be applied voluntarily on private properties.)	1	2	3	4	5

29. Do you voluntarily practice any QDM strategies where you hunt deer?
    - ☐ 1. Yes
    - ☐ 2. No

Deer Harvest and Reporting

30. How many antlered bucks did you harvest in North Carolina during the **2005** deer season? **Check one.**
    - ☐ 1
    - ☐ 2
    - ☐ 3
    - ☐ 4
    - ☐ 5 or more

31. How many antlerless deer (does and/or button bucks) did you harvest in North Carolina during the **2005** deer season? **Check one.**

    ☐ 1

    ☐ 2

    ☐ 3

    ☐ 4

    ☐ 5

    ☐ 6

    ☐ 7 or more

32. What do you **most often** do with the meat from deer that you harvest? **Check one.**

    ☐ 1. Use the meat for myself or my immediate family.

    ☐ 2. Give the meat away to friends or family.

    ☐ 3. Donate the meat to an organization that will give it to people in need (e.g., Hunters for the Hungry).

33. In the next three years, if available and convenient, how likely or unlikely would you be to donate meat from deer that you harvest to an organization that will give it to people in need? **Circle one**.

Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Neutral or No Opinion	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely
1	2	3	4	5

34. Would you be willing to pay a small fee to help fund a deer meat donation program for charitable food organizations in North Carolina?

    ☐ 1. Yes

    ☐ 2. No

35. How do you most prefer to report deer harvests to the Wildlife Resources Commission? **Check one**.

    ☐ 1. By telephone

    ☐ 2. Using the Internet

    ☐ 3. In person with a Wildlife Cooperator Agent with a harvest registration book

36. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following? **Circle one for each item.**

	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I am satisfied with the current tagging and reporting system.	1	2	3	4	5
b. All deer hunters should be required to physically tag their deer harvests in the field with a printed tag from the Wildlife Resources Commission.	1	2	3	4	5
c. All deer hunters should be required to report deer harvests using only telephone or internet reporting. (This would eliminate reporting with Wildlife Cooperator Agents.)	1	2	3	4	5
d. Hunters should **NOT** be required to report deer harvests.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Failure to report deer harvests is common in North Carolina.	1	2	3	4	5

Views on Hunting Techniques

37. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following deer hunting techniques should be legal? **Circle one for each item.**

	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Hunting deer over bait.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Hunting deer with dogs.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Hunting deer with crossbows during muzzleloader and gun season.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Hunting deer with crossbows during archery season.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Hunting deer with a bow during muzzleloader season.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the week of archery season that currently occurs before the existing muzzleloader season.	1	2	3	4	5

38. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following? **Circle one for each item.**

	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Penalties for wildlife violations should be increased.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Illegal deer hunting (poaching of deer) is common in North Carolina.	1	2	3	4	5

Background Information

For us to understand people's responses to the previous questions more fully, we need to know a few things about your background. Remember that your responses are completely confidential.

39. In what state do you live? **Check one**.
   - ☐ 1. North Carolina
   - ☐ 2. Other _____

40. In what county do you live?

   _____ County

41. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? **Check one**.
   - ☐ 1. Less than a high school graduate
   - ☐ 2. High school graduate or GED
   - ☐ 3. Some college or trade school
   - ☐ 4. Associate or trade school degree
   - ☐ 5. Bachelor's or four-year degree
   - ☐ 6. Graduate or professional degree

42. Are you male or female?
   - ☐ 1. Male
   - ☐ 2. Female

43. In what year were you born? _____

44. Which of the following best represents your gross household income (before taxes) last year? **Check one**.
- ☐ 1. Less than $20,000
- ☐ 2. $20,000 to $39,999
- ☐ 3. $40,000 to $59,999
- ☐ 4. $60,000 to $79,999
- ☐ 5. $80,000 to $99,999
- ☐ 6. $100,000 or more

Thank you for helping us with this project!

If you have any other comments you would like to share with us, please use the space below.

Please use the enclosed addressed and postage-paid envelope, or mail this survey to:

Deer Hunter Surveys
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
1722 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1722

Appendix B: Data Weighting for Questions 30-31

Weighting was necessary for Q30-31 because there was no option for "0" on the survey instrument. Even though many respondents wrote "0" on their questionnaires, there was a much higher than average number "missing" for Q30-31. Also, there was a much higher proportion of respondents who indicated harvesting 1 buck or antlerless deer and a much lower proportion of respondents who indicated harvesting 0 bucks or antlerless deer than did respondents to the 2005-06 Hunter Harvest survey. We concluded that some hunters who harvested 0 bucks or antlerless deer either did not respond to the question or checked the box for "1."

In weighting, we made the following assumptions:

1. All of the missing values, above the average number of missing values, intended to respond with "0."

2. The proportion of respondents who reported harvesting "0" bucks or antlerless deer to "1" buck or antlerless deer should be identical to those of the 2005-06 Hunter Harvest survey.

We did the following to correct the data (DATA WERE **NOT** WEIGHTED FOR AGE).

1. Calculated the mean number missing for all survey items that could be answered by deer hunters.

2. Determined the percentages of respondents in each category if the number missing for Q30-31 minus the mean number missing for all survey items was added to the number who responded "0" to Q30-31.

3. Determined the percentage (based on calculation 2) for "0" and "1" for Q30-31 that would make the ratios of respondents harvesting 0 bucks or antlerless deer to 1 buck or antlerless deer for Q30-31 identical to the corresponding ratios of Hunter Harvest survey respondents.

4. Weighted data for Q30-31 to reflect the percentages based on calculations 1-3.

Q30. How many antlered bucks did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season? Check one.

		Final Adjusted Frequencies	Final Adjusted percentages	Frequency (Actual)	Percent (Actual)	Weighting Factor
Valid	0 (Not a response category on questionnaire)	2470	59.4%	1,100	30.7%	1.9379434162
	1	960	23.1%	1,761	49.1%	0.4704659041
	2	532	12.8%	532	14.8%	0.8631334968
	3	150	3.6%	150	4.2%	0.8631334968
	4	37	0.9%	37	1.0%	0.8631334968
	5 or more	6	0.1%	6	0.2%	0.8631334968
	Total	4155	100.0%	3,586	100.0%	1.0000000000

Q31. How many antlerless deer (does and/or button bucks) did you harvest in NC during the 2005 deer season?

Valid	0 (Not a response category on questionnaire)	2395	57.7%	1,052	30.8%	1.8715854232
	1	606	14.6%	1,210	35.4%	0.4118639907
	2	670	16.1%	670	19.6%	0.8219745933
	3	290	7.0%	290	8.5%	0.8219745933
	4	130	3.1%	130	3.8%	0.8219745933
	5	36	0.9%	36	1.1%	0.8219745933
	6	11	0.3%	11	0.3%	0.8219745933
	7 or more	16	0.4%	16	0.5%	0.8219745933
	Total	4155	100.0%	3,415	100.0%	1.0000000000