



Michigan Deer Harvest Survey Report 2021 Seasons

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ABSTRACT

A survey of deer hunters was conducted following the 2021 hunting seasons to estimate hunter participation, harvest, and hunting effort in Michigan. In 2021, an estimated 537,014 hunters spent 7.6 million days afield. Statewide, the number of people hunting deer decreased significantly by about 5% between 2020 and 2021. Hunters harvested about 395,000 deer, which was not significantly different from 2020. The number of antlered deer taken in 2021 was not significantly different from 2020; however, the harvest of antlerless deer decreased significantly by 10%. Statewide, nearly 53% of hunters harvested a deer in 2021. About 24% of hunters took an antlerless deer and 38% took an antlered buck. Approximately 19% of deer hunters harvested two or more deer of any type. About 7% of hunters statewide harvested two antlered bucks. Statewide levels of satisfaction with the number of deer seen, bucks seen, deer harvested, and overall hunting experience in 2021 increased from 2020. Statewide, 54% of hunters were satisfied with their overall hunting experience in 2021, which was significantly greater than reported in 2020 (51%). Nearly 74% of archers used a crossbow during the archery season (223,547 hunters). These archers harvested approximately 89,300 deer with the crossbow. Deer hunters were asked whether they supported a regulation package that included (1) changing the types of deer that could be taken with the combination license, (2) eliminating the deer license that only had a single buck tag, (3) adopting regional antler-point restrictions, and (4) allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag to another hunter. About 38% of hunters supported this regulation package. The most important factors explaining why hunters enjoyed hunting deer were to spend time outdoors, spend time with friends and family, and the excitement of seeing deer. Taking a trophy deer was the lowest ranked factor contributing to hunters' enjoyment. Bringing home meat, getting a trophy, and demonstrating your hunting skills were generally less important among the oldest hunters. About 20% of deer hunters tried to obtain a free deer cooperator patch from the DNR if they harvested a deer. If the DNR sold these patches, 22% of hunters were very likely or somewhat likely to purchase a \$5 patch.



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INTRODUCTION

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have the authority and responsibility to protect and manage the wildlife resources of the state of Michigan. Harvest surveys are one of the management tools used to accomplish this statutory responsibility. Estimating hunter participation, harvest, and hunting effort (hereafter referred to as estimates) are the primary objectives of these surveys. Estimates derived from harvest surveys and information from deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) harvest check stations, trends in deer-vehicle collisions, population modeling, and input received from the public are used to monitor deer populations and establish harvest regulations.

Deer were grouped into either antlered or antlerless deer when developing hunting regulations. Antlered deer included deer with at least one antler three inches or longer, and antlerless deer included deer without antlers and deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length. The type of deer that could be harvested by hunters depended upon the area hunted, hunting season, and license purchased (Tables 1 and 2). In 2021, deer could be harvested primarily during eight hunting seasons: Liberty, archery, regular firearm, muzzleloader, early antlerless, late antlerless, Independence, and urban archery.

To harvest a deer, hunters had to possess a hunting license (deer, combination, antlerless, or mentored youth license) (Table 2). A harvest tag was issued as part of the hunting license. Deer, mentored youth, and antlerless licenses included one harvest tag, while combination licenses had two harvest tags.

Hunters could purchase a maximum of two harvest tags for taking antlered deer. Hunters wanting to harvest only one antlered deer could purchase a single deer license (one harvest tag), while hunters wanting to take two antlered deer could purchase a combination license (two harvest tags). Hunters who purchased a single deer license could not purchase a second deer license or a combination license.

If a hunter took two antlered deer, one deer needed to have at least one antler with four or more points (qualifying points must be at least one inch), except in Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, and Shiawassee counties in the LP and portions of Delta, Dickinson, and Menominee counties in the UP. Also, youth hunters (16 years of age and younger) and apprentice hunters (a person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older) were exempted from APRs during all deer seasons.

The mentored youth hunting (MYH) license allowed youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with an experienced mentor who is at least 21 years of age. A youth with a MYH license could take any deer in most seasons (except the Independence season) and deer management unit, except they were required to take an antlerless deer in the early and late antlerless seasons. Antler point restrictions did not apply to hunters with a MYH license.

A new universal antlerless deer license was available beginning in 2021. These antlerless licenses were available over the counter (maximum purchase limit=10) and could be used to take an antlerless deer on public or private land in any deer management unit (DMU) open to antlerless deer hunting in the LP or parts of the UP. In some parts of the Upper Peninsula (DMUs 351 and 352), antlerless deer harvest was quota limited. To hunt in these two DMUs, hunters needed an antlerless deer hunting access permit and a universal antlerless deer license. The access permits were distributed via a drawing. Hunters buying a combination license could also use the two harvest tags to take antlerless deer in the entire Lower Peninsula during the firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

The Pure Michigan Hunt (PMH) was a unique multi-species hunting opportunity offered for the first time in 2010. Individuals could purchase an unlimited number of applications for the PMH. Three individuals were randomly chosen from all applications, and winners received elk, bear, spring turkey, fall turkey, base hunting, and antlerless deer hunting licenses and could participate in a reserved waterfowl hunt on a managed waterfowl area. The antlerless deer hunting license was valid for all areas open for hunting antlerless deer and during all deer hunting seasons in which they were eligible to participate.

Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permits were special antlerless permits issued to landowners where the number of antlerless licenses was insufficient to meet the objective of specific landowners (e.g., controlling crop damage). These permits allowed hunters to take one antlerless deer per permit during any deer season on the land where issued or adjacent private lands with the landowner's permission. To use these permits, the hunter also must have purchased a valid deer hunting license for the season in which they were hunting and abide by all other hunting regulations.

Managed Deer Hunt permits were permits that could be used during special seasons on some public lands (i.e., Sharonville State Game Area, DMU 273 Shiawassee River State Game Area, DMU 273 Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, and Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge). These permits were issued by special random drawings. To use these permits, the hunter also must have purchased a valid deer hunting license and abide by all other hunting regulations.

The Liberty season was held during September 11-12 on public and private lands statewide. Youth (less than 17 years old) and hunters with certain disabilities could take no more than one deer during the season. Hunters with disabilities that were eligible to participate in this season included hunters issued a permit to use a laser-sighting device or permit to hunt from a standing vehicle, veterans with 100% disability, or rated unemployable as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, people who were legally blind, and people that deaf. Hunters could take one deer of either sex using a deer or combination license, and antler point restrictions did not apply to taking antlered deer. Only an antlerless deer could be taken with an antlerless license or DMA permit.

The archery season occurred statewide on public and private lands. This season was divided into early and late segments (October 1 through November 14 and December 1, 2021, through January 1, 2022). In addition, a January urban archery hunt also was held during

January 2-31, 2022, in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties. Deer licenses, antlerless deer licenses, combination licenses, mentored youth licenses, and DMA permits could be used to take deer during the archery seasons using archery equipment.

Deer could also be taken in the Independence Hunt during October 14-17, 2021. Hunters could take one deer of either sex on private lands or public lands requiring an access permit. Hunters could use a deer or combination license, and antler point restrictions did not apply to taking antlered deer. Only an antlerless deer could be taken with an antlerless license or DMA permit. Only hunters that were issued a permit to use a laser-sighting device or to hunt from a standing vehicle; veterans with 100% disability or rated unemployable as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; people who were legally blind; or people that were deaf were eligible to participate in the Independence Hunt.

The statewide regular firearm season occurred November 15-30, and the statewide muzzleloader season was held December 3-12. Hunters could take deer on both public and private lands with mentored youth, deer, and deer combination hunting licenses during the regular firearm and muzzleloader seasons. Antlerless licenses (including DMA permits) also could be used during the firearm seasons. Hunters with a combination license could also use the two harvest tags to take antlerless deer in the Lower Peninsula during firearm and muzzleloader season.

The early antlerless firearm season occurred on private land from September 18-19. All license types (i.e., deer, combination, antlerless, mentored youth licenses, and DMA permits) could be used to take an antlerless deer. The area open to hunting during the early antlerless season included the entire LP, except for the island DMUs 115, 145, 149, and 245. All the Upper Peninsula was closed to the early antlerless firearm season.

The late antlerless firearm season occurred on private land from December 13, 2021, through January 1, 2022. All license types could be used to take an antlerless deer. All areas open during the early antlerless firearm season were also open for the late antlerless firearm season.

Crossbows were legal to use during all archery and firearm seasons statewide, except in the UP where crossbow use was prohibited after November 30 except in the core CWD surveillance area in the UP (portions of Delta, Dickinson, and Menominee counties) or unless the hunter was disabled.

METHODS

Estimating hunter participation, harvest, and hunting effort (hereafter referred to as estimates) were the primary objectives of the harvest survey. This survey also provided an opportunity to collect information about management issues. Hunters were also asked to report whether they used trail cameras to hunt deer and report whether they had photographed selected carnivores (bear, bobcat, coyote, fisher, fox, marten, and wolf), deer, and wild pig with their trail camera. Hunters were also asked whether they had used a crossbow during the archery season, and whether they had used a commercial processor to butcher their deer. Questions

were added to investigate hunter satisfaction with the 2021 hunting season and deer numbers.

Hunters were also asked whether they supported a regulation package that included (1) changing the combination license to include one statewide buck tag and one statewide doe tag, (2) eliminating the single deer license that only had a single buck tag, (3) maintaining regional antler point restrictions [APRs] that would apply for taking a buck, and (4) allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag to another hunter.

The DNR has traditionally incentivized hunters to bring a deer to a check station so they could collect biological data (e.g., sex, age, and number of antler points) and tissue samples for disease testing from the harvested animal by giving them a free deer cooperators patch. Because the DNR can obtain most of the biological data and samples without using patches, hunters were asked how often they tried to obtain a patch and much they supported or opposed various options for the patch program in the future. The options evaluated included (1) distributing the patches for free only at 13 DNR Customer Service Centers, (2) discontinuing the patch program, and (3) selling the patches for a fee that covers the cost of producing them.

License buyers were presented with several factors that may explain why they enjoyed hunting deer and were asked to indicate the importance of each factor. Responses included “very important,” “important,” “slightly important,” “not important,” and “not sure.” These factors may vary by sex, age, and residence. Thus, estimates were calculated separately for ten different age classes (1-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+ years old) and for each gender. In addition, estimates were calculated separately for rural and urban areas. The U.S. Census Bureau (2010) classified counties as completely rural, mostly rural, and mostly urban. Completely rural counties included counties where 100% of the population in the county lived in areas that have less than 1,000 people per square mile (Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Keweenaw, Lake, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, and Oscoda). Mostly rural counties included counties where 50.1% to 99.9% of the population lived in areas with less than 1,000 people per square mile (Alcona, Alger, Allegan, Alpena, Barry, Branch, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Kalkaska, Lapeer, Leelanau, Lenawee, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Schoolcraft, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Wexford). Mostly urban counties included counties with greater than 50,000 people and greater than 50% of the residents living in areas with more than 1,000 people per square mile (Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Midland, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne).

The Wildlife Division provided all hunters the option to complete the harvest survey voluntarily via the internet (see Appendix A for questionnaire). This option was advertised through the hunting regulation booklet (digest) and on the DNR website. In early December, after the regular firearm season had ended, all deer hunting license buyers that had provided an email address to the MDNR (N=255,784) were sent an email invitation to complete the online questionnaire.

About two weeks after the email invitation had been sent, a random sample of 62,193 license buyers that had not completed the online survey was selected to receive a mail version of the questionnaire. Before the random sample was selected, 5,606 people had completed the online survey (2% of the people having an email address). Hunters receiving the mail questionnaire were asked the same questions as asked via the internet. Hunters were instructed not to report hunting effort and harvest associated with DMA permits because landowners obtaining these permits already were required to report the number of deer harvested to the DNR.

License buyers were assigned to one of four groups (strata) based on their age, type of license they purchased, and when they completed a survey. The first stratum consisted of youth license buyers (less than 17 years old) that were eligible to hunt during the Liberty season (N = 30,281). The second stratum consisted of 9,043 people that were eligible to participate in the special disabled hunts. Beginning in 2013, veterans with disabilities could obtain a free deer hunting license (i.e., Disabled Veteran license type). A unique type of hunting license was not available for non-veteran hunters with disabilities; however, hunters with disabilities younger than 65 years were sold a discounted hunting license (i.e., sold a senior hunting license). The third stratum consisted of 5,606 people that had voluntarily reported information about their hunting activity via the Internet before the random sample was selected. The fourth stratum consisted of the remaining license buyers (N = 548,241). The random sample consisted of 10,336 people from the first stratum; 8,873 from the second stratum; 5,606 from the third stratum; and 42,984 from the fourth stratum. The stratified sampling design accounted for the varying probabilities of being selected from the population so estimates could be reliably extrapolated from the sample to all license buyers.

Estimates were based on information collected from random samples of hunting license buyers. Thus, these estimates were subject to sampling errors (Cochran 1977). Estimates were calculated using a stratified random sampling design (Cochran 1977) and were presented along with their 95% confidence limit (CL). This CL can be added and subtracted from the estimate to calculate the 95% confidence interval. The confidence interval is a measure of the precision associated with the estimate and implies the true value would be within this interval 95 times out of 100. Unfortunately, there are several other possible sources of error in surveys that are probably more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. They include the failure of participants to provide answers (nonresponse bias), question-wording, and question order. It is very difficult to measure these biases.

Estimates were calculated separately by the area where the hunt occurred. For consistency with previous surveys, the state was divided into eight areas that closely matched the DNR's previous wildlife management administrative units (Figure 1). The state was also divided into

three ecological regions (UP, Northern LP, and Southern LP). These regions generally matched major ecoregions (Albert 1995), except in the UP where two ecoregions were combined. Ecoregions are regions having similar soils, vegetation, climate, geology, and physiography. Estimates were also calculated for each DMU (Figure 2, Appendix B). Deer harvested from unknown locations were allocated among areas in proportion to the known harvest.

Statistical tests are used routinely to determine the likelihood that the differences among estimates are larger than expected by chance alone. The overlap of 95% confidence intervals was used to determine whether estimates differed significantly. Non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals were equivalent to stating that the difference between the means was larger than would be expected 95 out of 100 times if the study had been repeated (Payton et al. 2003).

Questionnaires were initially mailed in early January 2022, and one follow-up questionnaire was mailed to nonrespondents in early March. Although 62,193 people were selected to receive a questionnaire, 1,524 surveys were undeliverable resulting in an adjusted sample size of 60,669. Questionnaires were returned by 19,776 people (33% adjusted response rate).

Estimates of harvest, hunting effort, and hunter participation are affected by the willingness of people to complete and return their questionnaires. This problem can confound comparisons of estimates made between years if response rates vary greatly. The percentage of people returning their questionnaire this year was lower than last year. To reduce bias caused by this lower response rate, an adjustment was made on the 2021 estimates to make them comparable to the adjusted 2020 estimates (adjusted to a 74% response rate). Estimates of harvest, hunting effort, and hunter numbers were reduced by 11.3%, 8.4%, and 3.5%, respectively, to make estimates comparable to 2020. These reductions reflected the average decline noted between estimates calculated when 33% and 74% of the responses were used in 2000 and 2001 surveys.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In 2021, 593,171 people purchased a license to hunt deer in Michigan. The number of people buying a license in 2021 decreased by 3.7% from 2020 (615,948 people purchased a license in 2020). Most of the people buying a license in 2021 were males (90%), and the average age of license buyers was 45 years (Figure 3). About 10% (60,635) of the license buyers were younger than 18 years old, and about 3% (19,559) of the license buyers were younger than 12 years old.

In 2021, 891,763 hunting licenses and permits were issued (Table 3), which was a decrease of 4.6% from 2020 (934,942 licenses and permits issued in 2020). All the main license types (deer, combination, antlerless, and mentored youth) declined in 2021. The largest decline was noted for the deer hunting license type (-8.9%) and the smallest decline was for the combination license type (-1.3%).

Beginning in 2020, hunters buying a combination license could use the two harvest tags to take antlerless deer in the entire Lower Peninsula during the firearm and muzzleloader seasons. Consequently, hunters purchased fewer antlerless and deer hunting licenses, while they increased purchases of combination licenses (Figure 4). It appears that many hunters perceived that the combination license had gained in value because it could be used to take either sex of deer. In addition, allowing hunters to take antlerless deer with the two harvest tags sold with the combination license greatly increased the overall number of harvest tags that could be used to take antlerless deer (Table 3).

The number of people buying a license in 2021 was about 14% less than the number of people who purchased a license ten years ago in 2011 (691,218 people purchased a license in 2011). There were fewer license buyers for all age classes between 9 and 58 years of age in 2021, compared to 2011 (Figure 5). However, there were increased hunter numbers among the youngest and oldest age classes in 2021. The increased hunter numbers in the oldest age classes likely represented the rising share of older people in the population as the baby-boom generation aged. Also, the legalization of crossbow use during the archery season probably increased participation among hunters in the oldest age classes. The increased participation among the youngest hunters likely reflected the lowering of the minimum age requirements. In 2012, the minimum age requirement was eliminated to hunt deer with a firearm, while hunters had to be at least 10 years old to participate in 2011.

The number of youth deer hunters (less than 20 years old) has been relatively stable between 1995 and 2005 (Figure 6). In 2006, the minimum age for hunting deer was lowered from 14 to 12, and the number of youth hunters increased by 19%. In 2012, the minimum age limit was removed, and the number of youth hunters increased by 20%. Since 2013, the number of youth hunters has declined 37%. In 2020, youth participation increased by 7.6%. This increased coincided with the start of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; however, the trend has reverted to pre-pandemic conditions in 2021.

The number of 2021 deer harvest tags sold for all license types combined decreased by nearly 4% from 2020 (Table 3). License buyers purchased an average of 2.2 harvest tags. About 92% of the license buyers obtained three or fewer harvest tags, and about 99% had five or fewer harvest tags (Figure 7). Hunters most frequently obtained antlerless and combination harvest tags (Figure 8). About 35% of the license buyers purchased at least one antlerless license (206,335 people), and greater than 98% of antlerless license buyers purchased three or fewer antlerless licenses (Figure 9).

In the Upper Peninsula, antlerless deer harvest was restricted to DMUs 351 and 352. To hunt in these two DMUs, hunters needed an antlerless deer hunting access permit and a universal antlerless deer license. The access permits were distributed via a drawing and any left-over licenses were sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. In 2021, 1,000 permits were available for each of the two UP DMUs. For the DMUs combined, 1,422 hunters obtained 1,454 access permits. For DMU 351, 710 hunters obtained 718 permits, and 712 hunters obtained 736 permits for DMU 352.

About $90.5 \pm 0.3\%$ (537,014 hunters) of the people buying a license in 2021 spent time hunting deer (Table 4). Statewide, the number of people hunting deer during all seasons combined decreased significantly by nearly 5% from 2020. Most hunters (488,422) pursued deer during the regular firearm season (Figure 10).

Significantly fewer people hunted during all seasons except the urban archery season (Table 4 and Figure 11). Participation decreased in the Independence (-24%), Liberty (-24%), early antlerless (-23%), muzzleloader (-20%), late antlerless (-7%), archery (-6%), and regular firearm (-5%) seasons. These decreases may have been partly explained by the waning effects of the restrictions that were enacted in 2020 to limit the spread of COVID-19 (e.g., stay at home requirements, travel restrictions, and keeping physical distance). Relaxing these restrictions allowed people to resume their normal activities and may have reduced the amount of time available to hunt.

About 50% of the days that hunters spent pursuing deer throughout the state occurred in the archery season (Figure 12). About 38% of the hunting effort occurred during the regular firearm season. Nearly 12% of the hunting effort occurred in the muzzleloader and late antlerless seasons combined. Statewide, hunters devoted an average of 14.4 days afield hunting deer during all seasons combined (Table 5). Archers had the greatest number of days available to hunt deer (77 days) and devoted the greatest number of days afield ($\bar{x} = 12.7$ days/hunter) (Figure 13, Table 5). Statewide, the total number of days hunting deer during all seasons combined decreased significantly by about 12% from 2020 (Table 4). Significantly more days were devoted to hunting during the early antlerless (-26%), Liberty (-25%), muzzleloader (-24%), regular firearm (-11%), archery (-10%), and late antlerless (-10%) seasons during 2021 (Table 4). Hunting effort was not significantly different in the Independence and urban archery seasons.

About 403,695 deer were harvested statewide in all seasons combined during 2021, which was not significantly different from 2020 (Figures 14-15, Tables 6-7). The number of deer harvested in 2021 was not significantly different from 2020 for most seasons, except in the early antlerless (-43%) and Liberty (-24%) seasons. Statewide harvests of antlerless deer for all the seasons combined in 2021 decreased significantly by 10% from 2020, while harvest of antlered deer was not significantly different (Table 6). The counties with the greatest harvest densities for antlered and antlerless deer were generally in the central and south-central parts of the state (Figure 16). The decrease in harvest of antlerless deer may have reflected the relaxing of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions which may have reduced the amount of time available to hunt.

About 50% of the deer harvested (sexes combined) in 2021 were taken during the regular firearm season (Figure 17). Nearly 43% of the antlerless deer and 56% of the antlered bucks were harvested in the regular firearm season. Hunters took 32% of the harvested deer (sexes combined) during the archery season. These archers took 25% of the antlerless deer and 38% of the antlered bucks harvested. Few antlered bucks (4%) were taken in the muzzleloader season. The early and late antlerless and muzzleloader seasons combined accounted for about 31% of the antlerless deer harvested.

About 89% of the deer harvested (sexes combined) in 2021 were taken on private lands (Table 8). Statewide, most of the antlerless deer (89%) and antlered bucks (88%) were harvested on private lands.

Statewide, 53% of deer hunters harvested at least one deer (all deer seasons and sexes combined) in 2021 (Figure 18, Table 9), compared to the 51% success in 2020. About 24% of hunters took an antlerless deer, and 38% took an antlered buck in 2020. About 19% of deer hunters harvested two or more deer (sexes combined).

Hunters were most successful in taking a deer during the regular firearm (38%), Liberty (36%), and archery (36%) seasons (Figure 19, Table 10). Hunter success was lowest in the muzzleloader (18%) and urban archery (15%) seasons. Nearly 27% of hunters took an antlered buck and 14% harvested an antlerless deer during the regular firearm season (Table 10).

Deer hunters were asked to report how satisfied they were with (1) number of deer seen, (2) number of antlered deer [bucks] seen, (3) size of antlers seen, (4) number of deer taken, and (5) their overall hunting experience. Statewide, $\leq 54\%$ of hunters were satisfied with the numbers of deer seen, bucks seen, size of antlers seen, deer taken, and their overall hunting experience in 2021 (Tables 11-13). Statewide levels of satisfaction increased significantly between 2020 and 2021 for all measures except for the size of antlers seen. The improvement in most satisfaction measures in 2021 may be partly explained by the improved hunter success in 2021. People hunting deer only on private lands were generally more satisfied than people hunting exclusively on public lands (Tables 14-16).

Most archers (74%) used a crossbow during the archery season (223,547 hunters), and about 36% of these archers took at least one deer with a crossbow (Tables 17-18). They harvested about 89,344 deer with the crossbow (Table 19). The number of archers using a crossbow in 2021 was not significantly different from 2020 (230,720 archers in 2020). Harvest of deer by archers using a crossbow in 2021 also did not change significantly from last year (93,034 deer taken in 2020). About 36% of these archers using a crossbow in 2021 harvested a deer with a crossbow in the archery season, versus 35% success in 2020.

An estimated $140,883 \pm 3,812$ hunters took $169,300 \pm 5,393$ deer to a commercial meat processor in 2021. Thus, about 43% of the deer harvested in all seasons (169,300 of 395,059 deer) were handled by a commercial processor. This proportion is nearly the same as reported in 2020 (Frawley 2021).

In 2021, $27 \pm 1\%$ of active hunters indicated that they found it more difficult to locate a processor to butcher their deer. In contrast, $8 \pm 1\%$ of active hunters in 2020 indicated that they found it more difficult to locate a processor to butcher their deer because of COVID-19 (Frawley 2021). It appears that it was more difficult to locate a commercial processor in 2021 because there were fewer processors accepting deer and processors found it more difficult to hire workers (Bestul 2022).

About 46% of the deer hunters statewide used a trail camera to monitor deer activity in their hunt area (Table 20), and hunters in the UP more frequently used trail cameras than hunters in the LP. Although UP hunters more frequently used trail cameras, the mean number of days that they used cameras was less than LP hunters (Table 21). These differences probably reflected geographic differences in hunting success (Table 10) and the mean number of days of hunting effort (Table 5). Hunters in the UP had lower hunting success than LP hunters; thus, UP hunters were more likely to use trail cameras to improve their hunting success. Although a lower proportion of hunters in the LP used cameras, the hunters in the LP that used trail cameras had more opportunities to use cameras than hunters in the UP because they had more hunting seasons and longer seasons (Table 1).

Deer were the most observed species by the hunters using a trail camera -- 98% captured an image of a deer (Table 22). Hunters in the UP were more likely to see bears, fishers, martens, and wolves than hunters in the LP. In contrast, hunters in the LP were more likely to see coyotes and foxes than hunters in the UP. Furthermore, bobcats were more frequently seen by hunters in the NLP than either the UP or SLP. The proportions of hunters statewide that captured a photograph of the selected species (bear, bobcat, coyote, deer, fisher, fox, marten, wild pig, and wolf) in 2021 were not significantly different for any of the species in 2020 (Figure 18).

Hunters were also asked whether they supported a regulation package that included (1) changing the combination license to include one statewide buck tag and one statewide doe tag, (2) eliminating the single deer license that only had a single buck tag, (3) maintaining regional antler point restrictions [APRs] that would apply for taking a buck, and (4) allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag to another hunter. About 38% of hunters supported (combined strongly supported and supported responses) the proposed regulation package, while 42% of hunters opposed these changes (Table 23, Figure 19). Support for the regulation package varied significantly by the hunter's age (Figure 20). Support was greatest among hunters 20 to 39 years old (i.e., greater than 50%). Support was not significantly different among hunter groups defined by their sex (males versus females), residence type (rural versus urban), or license buying history (new versus repeat buyers).

In 2020, hunters were asked whether they supported or opposed each of the four regulations separately, rather than as a package (Frawley 2021). In 2020, 48% of hunters supported changing the combination license (1 buck and 1 doe statewide); 26% supported eliminating the single deer license; 51% supported regional APRs on the buck tag; and 29% supported allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag (Figure 19).

Many studies have examined the relative importance of various hunter motives (e.g., Decker and Connelly 1989, Frawley and Rudolph 2008, Woods and Kerr 2010). Decker and Connelly (1989) described three types of hunter motivations: (1) achievement oriented, (2) affiliation oriented, and (3) appreciation oriented. Achievement-oriented hunters were motivated by the attainment of a particular goal [e.g., harvesting an animal for meat, a trophy or to display their skill]. Affiliation-oriented hunters participated in hunting with the primary purpose of fostering personal relationships with friends, family or hunting companions. Appreciation-oriented hunters were motivated by a desire to be outdoors to relax.

License buyers were presented with eight motivational factors that represented each of the three types of motivation and asked to indicate whether these factors were important in explaining why they enjoyed hunting deer (Tables 24-31). Most hunters identified multiple factors as being important. The most important factors were to spend time outdoors (appreciation factor), spend time with friends and family (affiliation factor), and the excitement of seeing deer (achievement factor). Taking a trophy deer (achievement factor) was the lowest ranked factor contributing to hunters' enjoyment.

The rankings of motivations among Michigan hunters generally were consistent with results from other studies (e.g., Woods and Kerr 2010). In addition, the relative importance the motivational factors among Michigan hunters in 2021 was similar to results from 2006 (Frawley and Rudolph 2008), except hunters in 2021 placed more importance on obtaining meat than hunters in 2006 (Figure 21). The importance of the most factors in 2021 varied significantly by the hunter's age (Figure 22). Bringing home meat, getting a trophy, and demonstrating your hunting skills (all achievement factors) were generally less important among the oldest hunters.

The DNR has traditionally incentivized hunters to bring a deer to a check station so they could collect biological data (e.g., sex, age, and number of antler points) and tissue samples for disease testing from the harvested animal by giving them a free deer cooperators patch. About $27 \pm 1\%$ of license buyers indicated that they tried to obtain a free patch if they harvested a deer. Because the DNR can obtain most of the biological data and samples without using patches, the DNR has been evaluating various options for the patch program in the future. The options considered included (1) distributing the patches for free only at 13 DNR Customer Service Centers, (2) discontinuing the patch program, and (3) selling the patches for a fee that covers the cost of producing them. None of these options was supported by most of the hunters (Figure 22). If the DNR sold the patch, $22 \pm 1\%$ of hunters were very likely ($8 \pm 1\%$) or somewhat likely ($14 \pm 1\%$) to purchase a \$5 patch.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank all the deer hunters that provided information. Personnel from Adapt Data Incorporated completed the data entry, and personnel from Decision Analyst Incorporated created the online survey. Theresa Riebow assisted with administering the survey. The figure of DMUs was prepared by Marshall Strong. Mike Donovan and Chad Stewart reviewed a draft version of this report.

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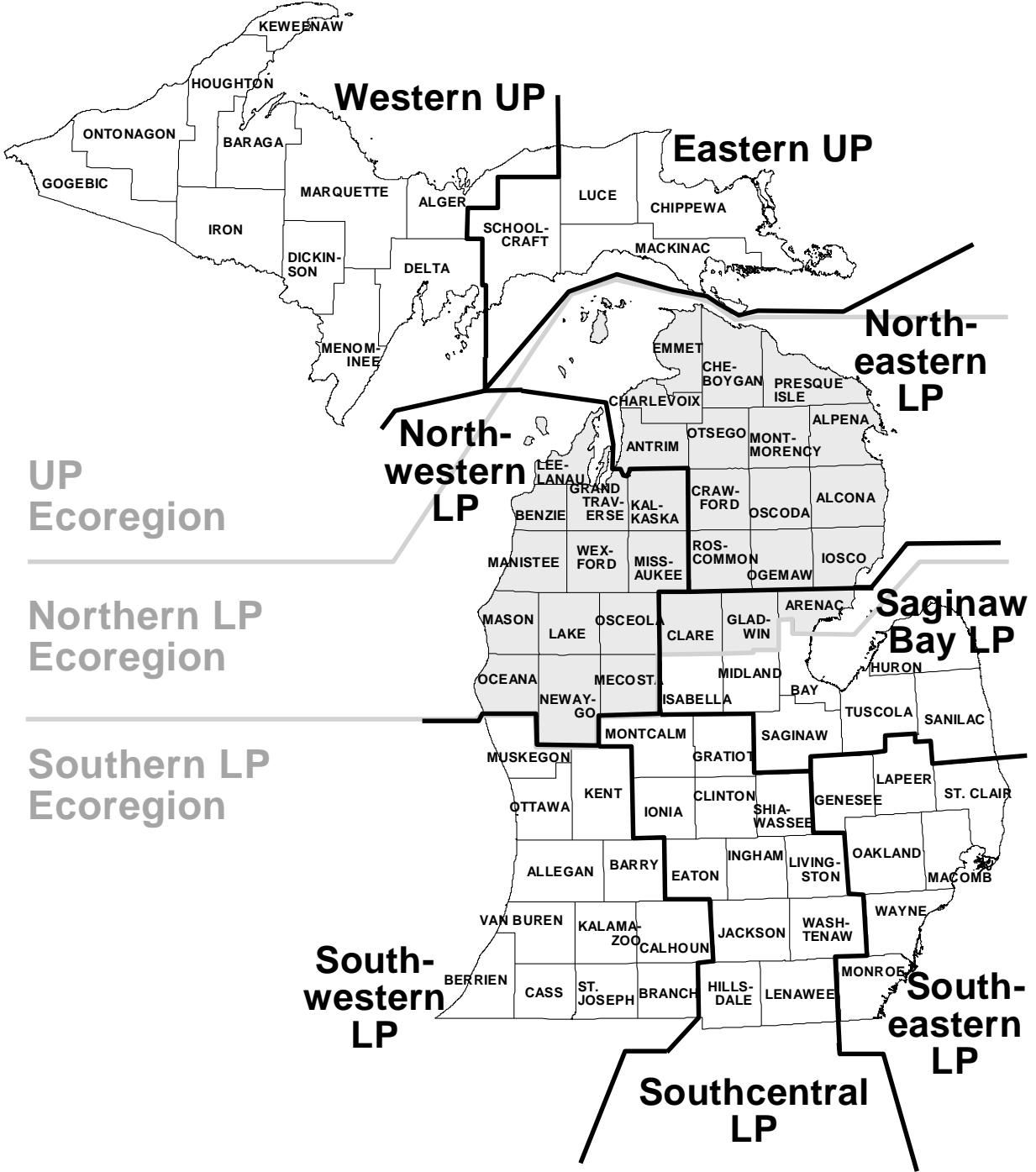


Figure 1. Areas used to summarize deer harvest in Michigan for the 2020 hunting seasons.

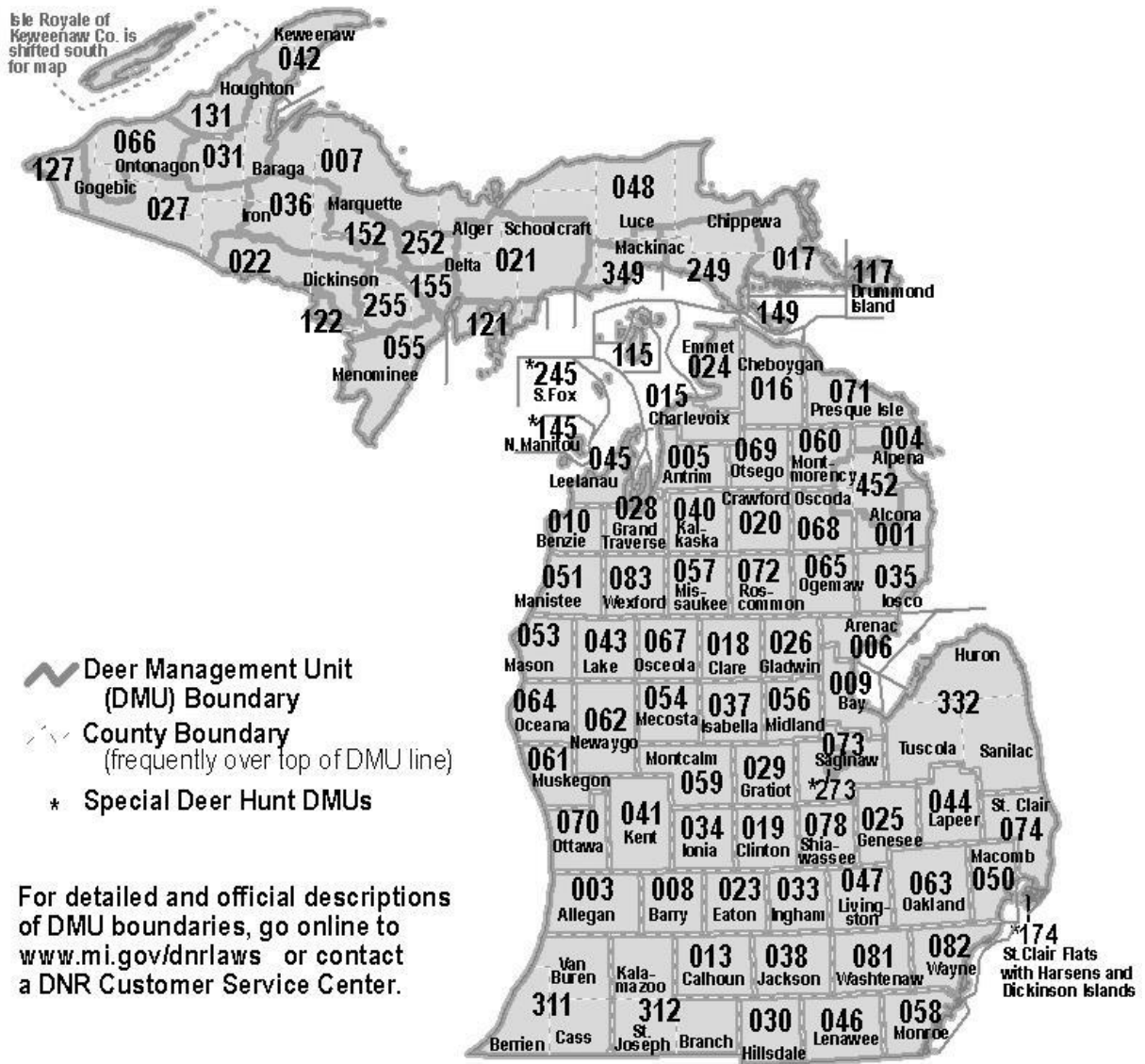


Figure 2. Deer management units in Michigan for the 2020 hunting seasons.

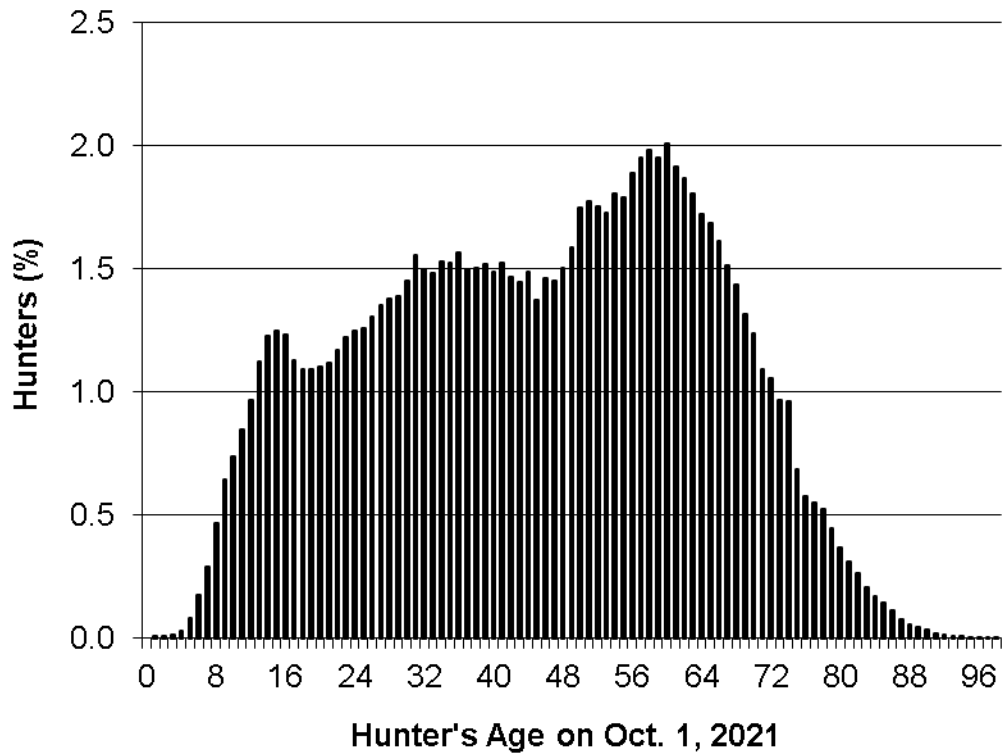


Figure 3. The age of people that purchased a deer hunting license in Michigan for the 2021 hunting seasons (mean = 45 years).

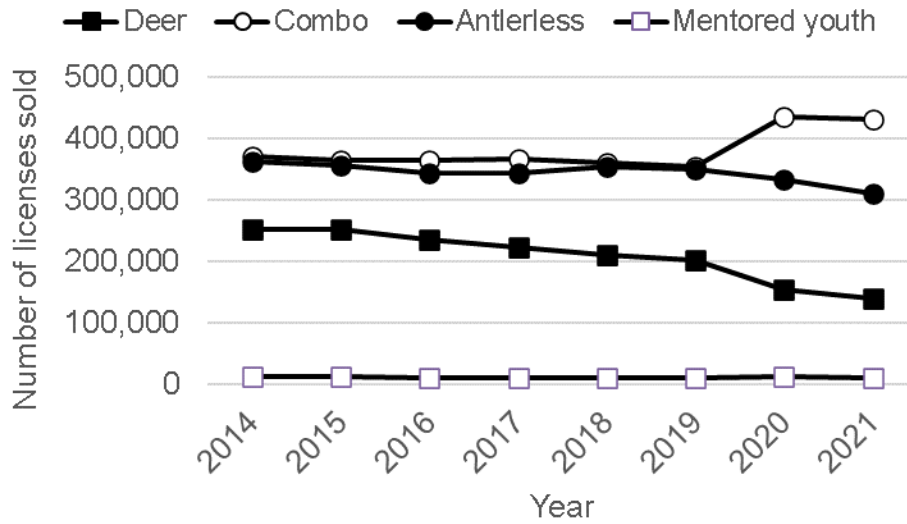


Figure 4. The number of deer hunting licenses sold in Michigan summarized by license types (deer, combination, antlerless, and mentored youth) during 2014-2021. Beginning in 2020, hunters buying a combination license could use the two harvest tags to take antlerless deer in the entire Lower Peninsula during the firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

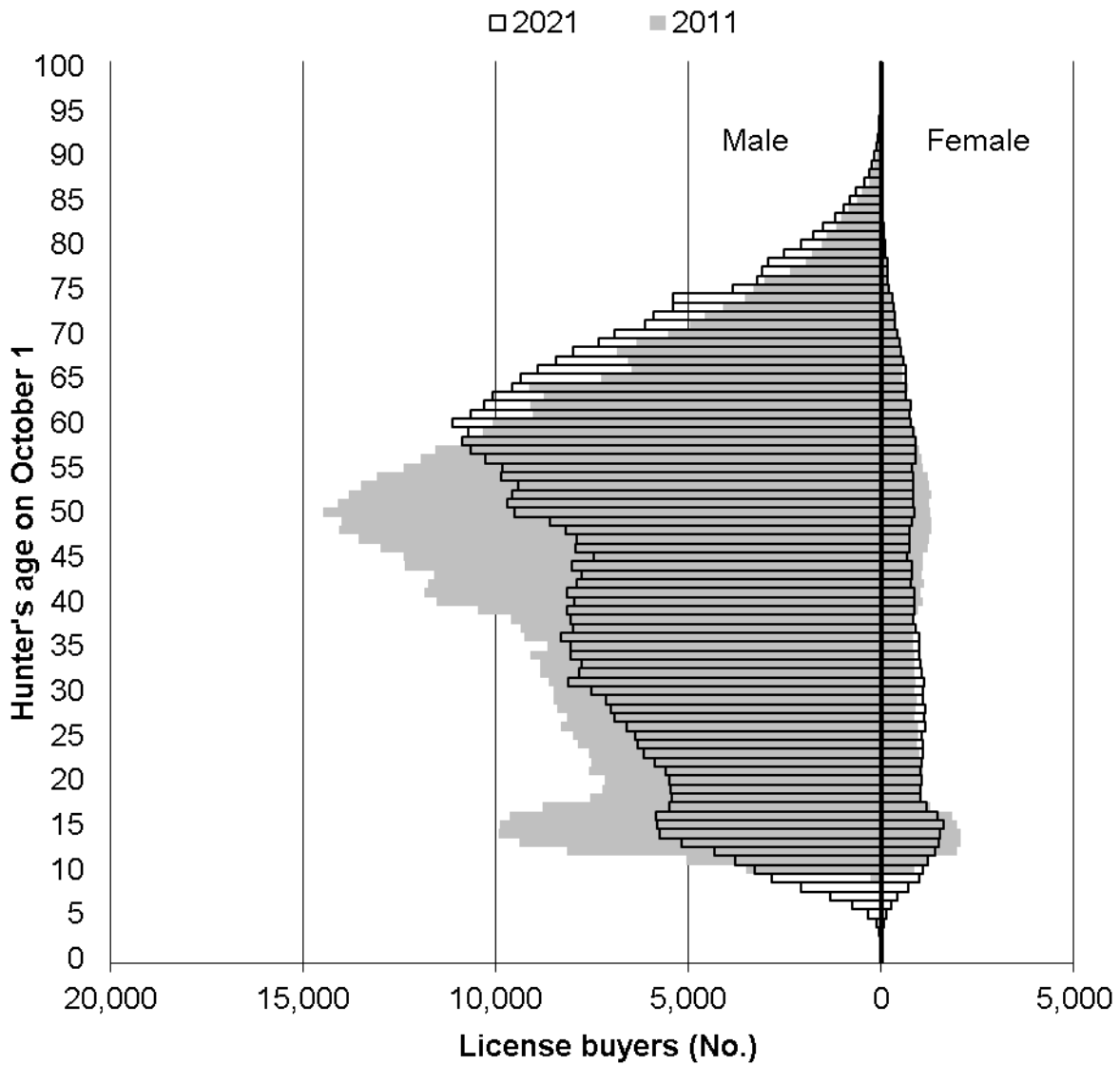


Figure 5. The number of deer hunting license buyers in Michigan by age and sex during the 2011 and 2021 hunting seasons. Deer hunting licenses were purchased by 691,218 people in 2011 and 593,171 people in 2021.

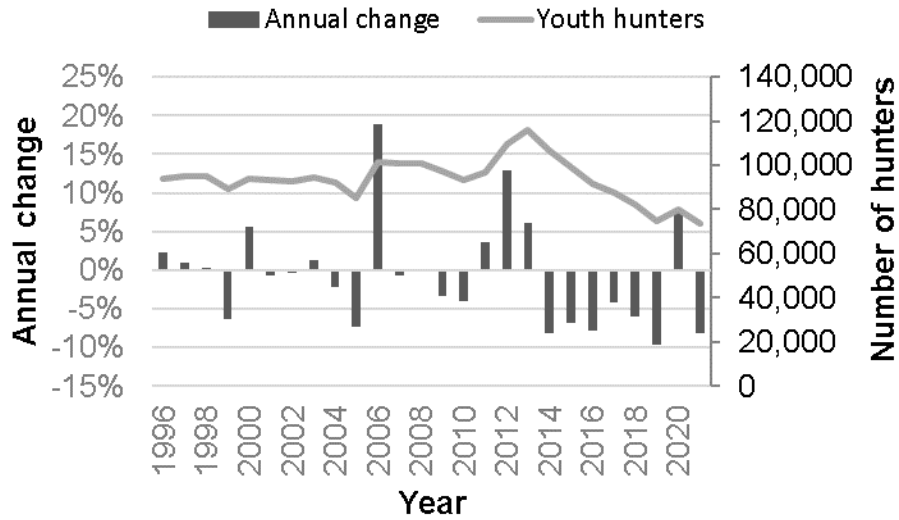


Figure 6. The number of Michigan youth deer hunters (less than 20 years old) and the annual change in participation during 1996-2021. The minimum age for hunting deer was lowered from 14 to 12 in 2006, and the minimum age limit was removed in 2012. In 2020, the increase in youth participation coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

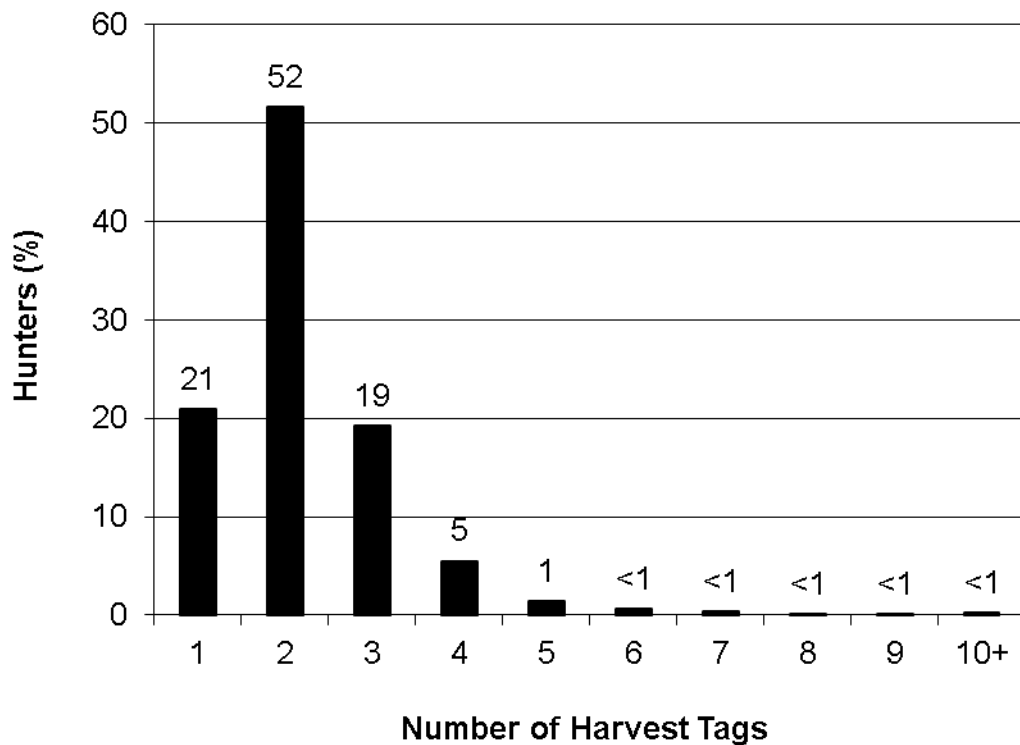


Figure 7. The number of harvest tags (all license and tag types) issued per person for hunting deer in Michigan during the 2021 hunting seasons (mean = 2.2 tags). Licenses were purchased by 593,171 people.

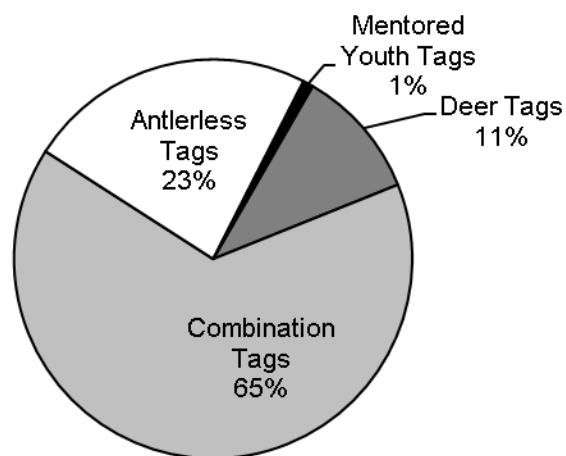


Figure 8. The types of harvest tags issued for deer hunting in Michigan during the 2021 hunting seasons.

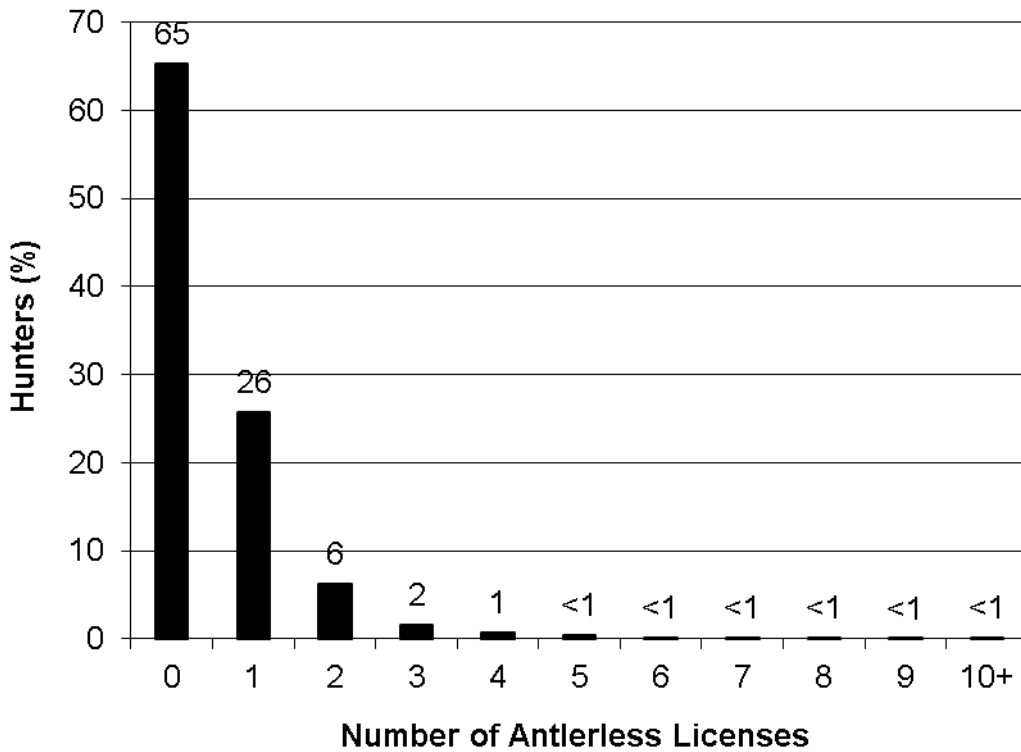


Figure 9. The percentage of deer hunting license buyers (all license types) purchasing an antlerless license in Michigan, 2021 (excluded mentored youth hunting license). Antlerless licenses were purchased by 206,335 of 593,171 people (35%) buying deer hunting license.

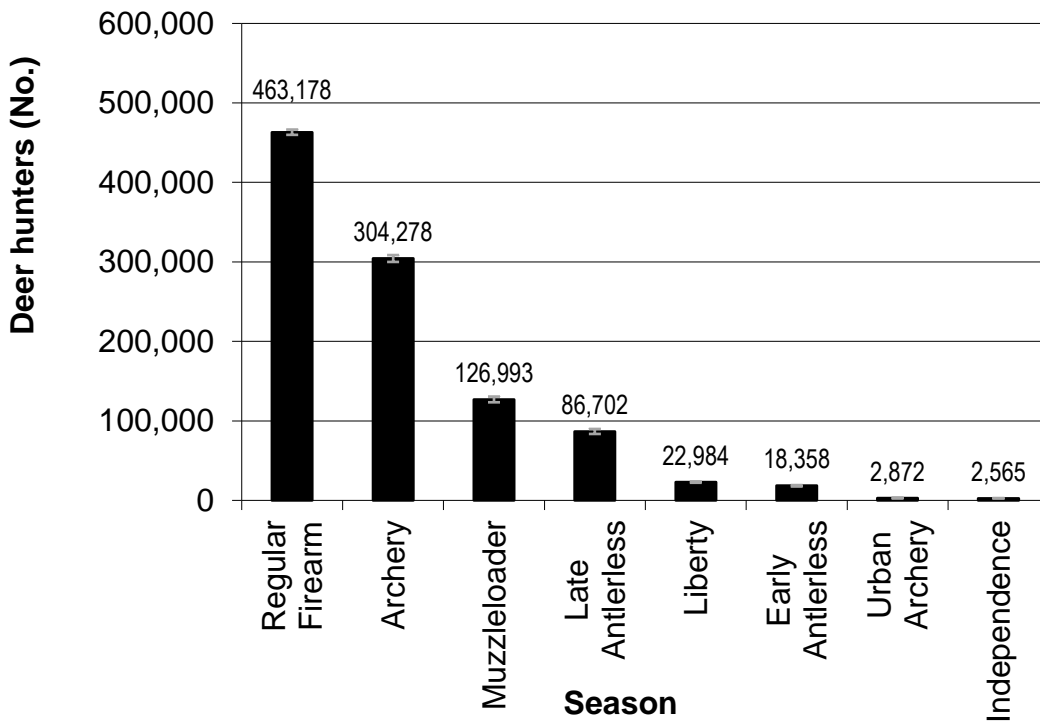


Figure 10. The number of people hunting deer in Michigan during the 2021 hunting seasons. Error bars represent the 95% CLs.

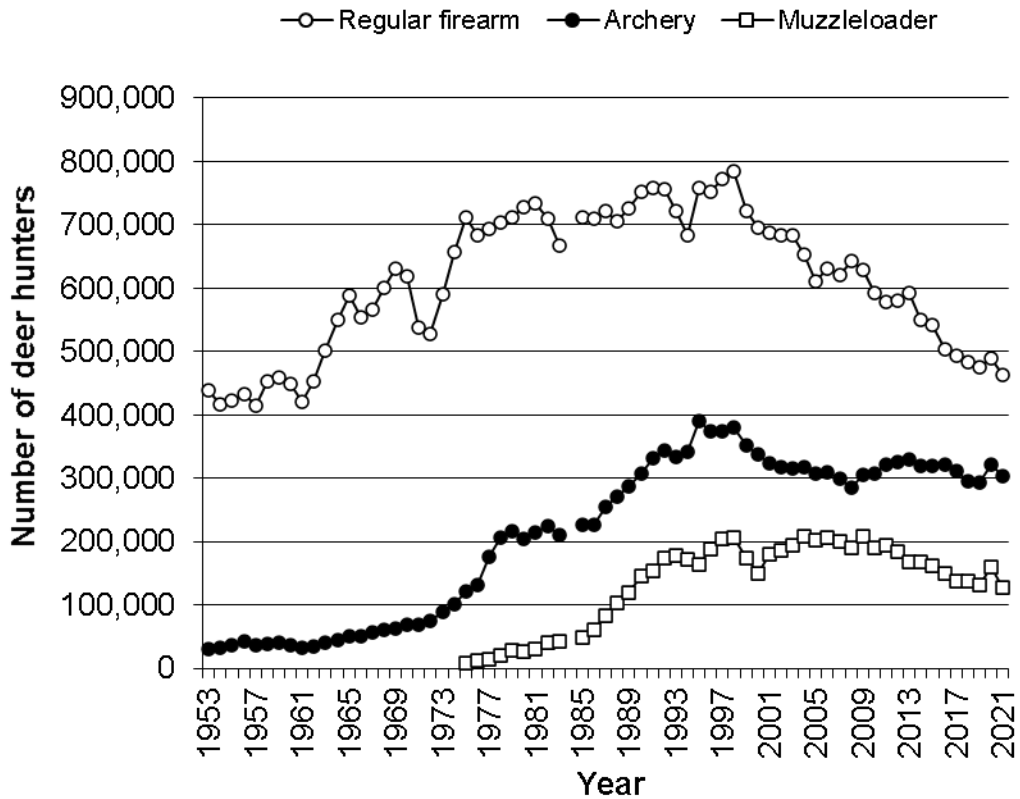


Figure 11. The number of people hunting deer in Michigan during the regular firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons, 1953-2021.

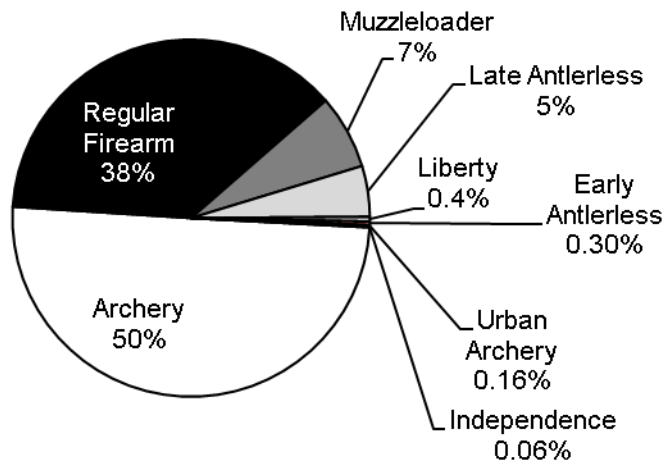


Figure 12. The distribution of hunting effort among deer hunting seasons in Michigan, 2021.

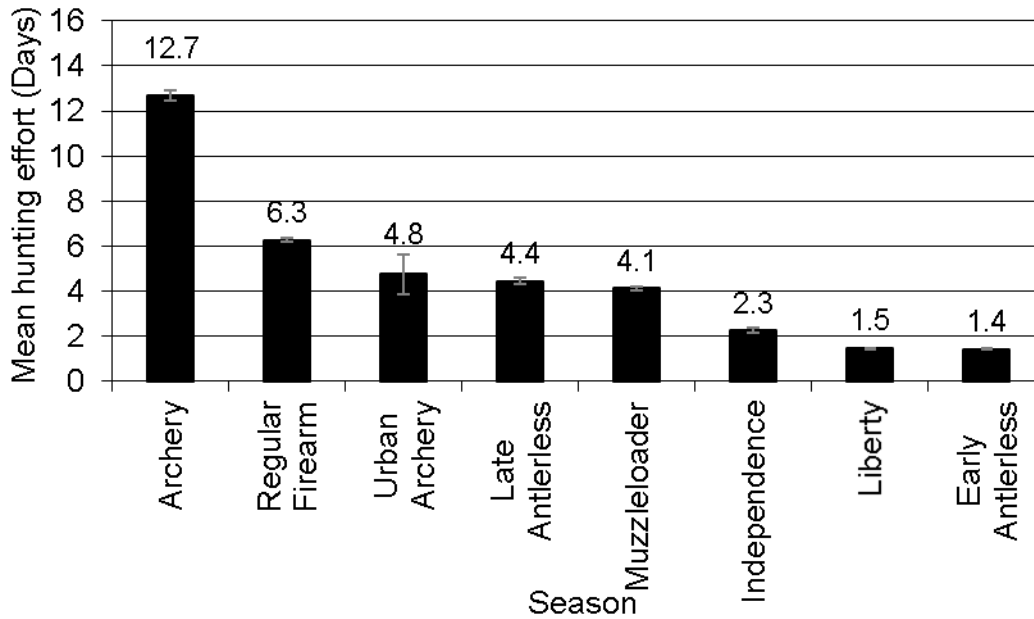


Figure 13. The mean number of days spent hunting deer in Michigan during the 2021 hunting seasons. Error bars represent the 95% CLs.

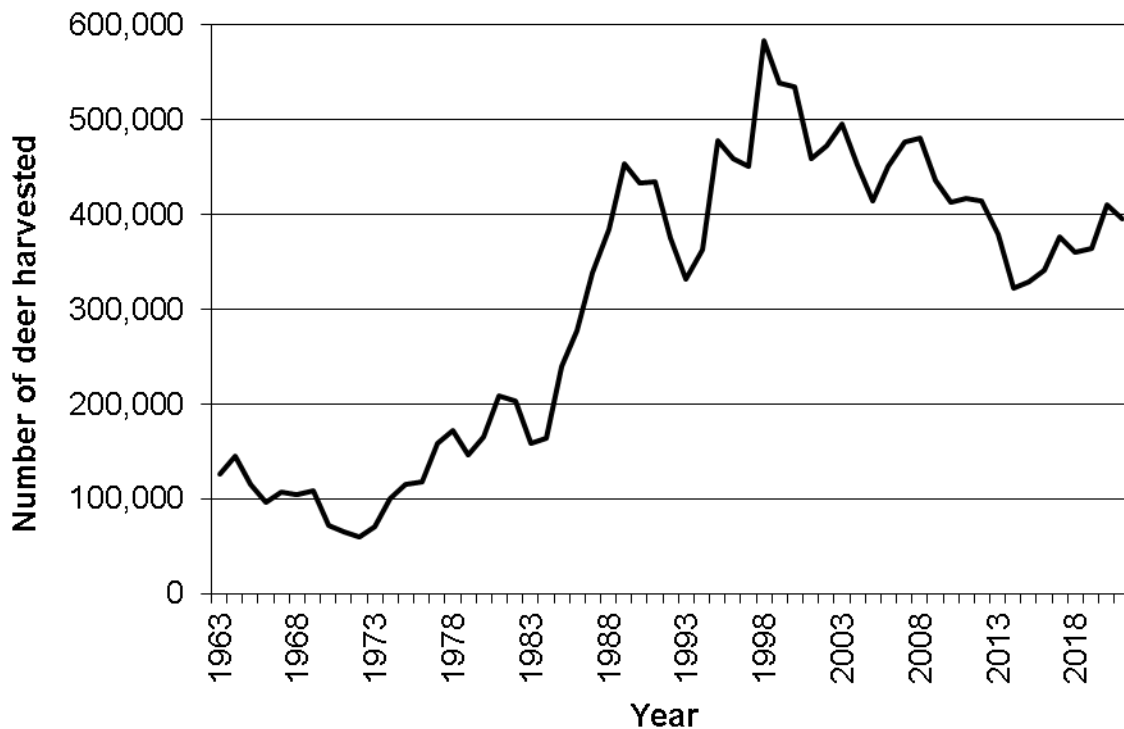


Figure 14. The number of deer harvested in Michigan's hunting seasons, 1963-2021. Harvest from all seasons and for all deer sexes was combined.

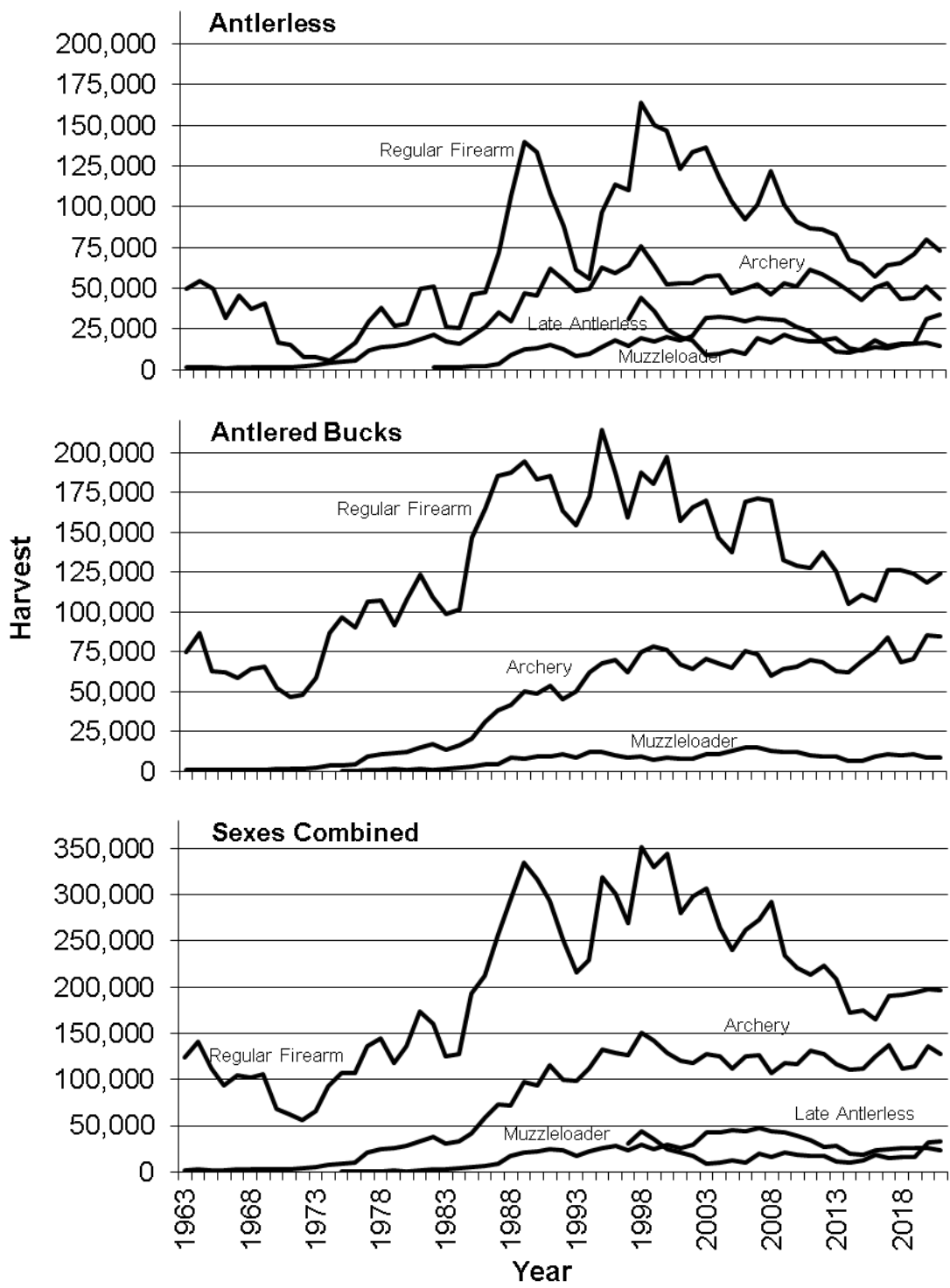


Figure 15. The number of deer harvested in Michigan’s hunting seasons, 1963-2021. Harvests for early antlerless, youth, and hunters-with-disabilities seasons were not shown.

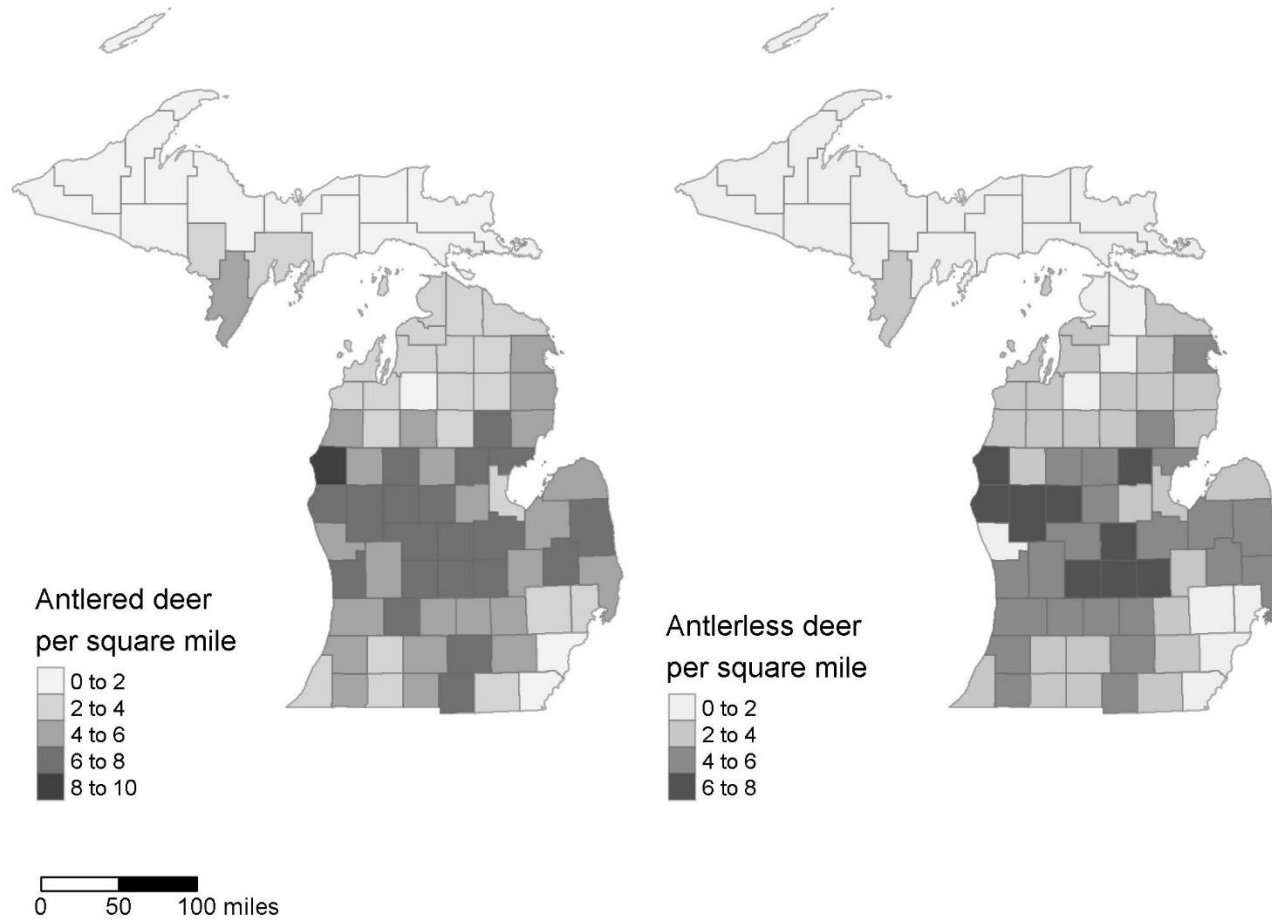


Figure 16. The harvest density of antlered (left) and antlerless (right) deer during all 2021 hunting seasons combined in Michigan.

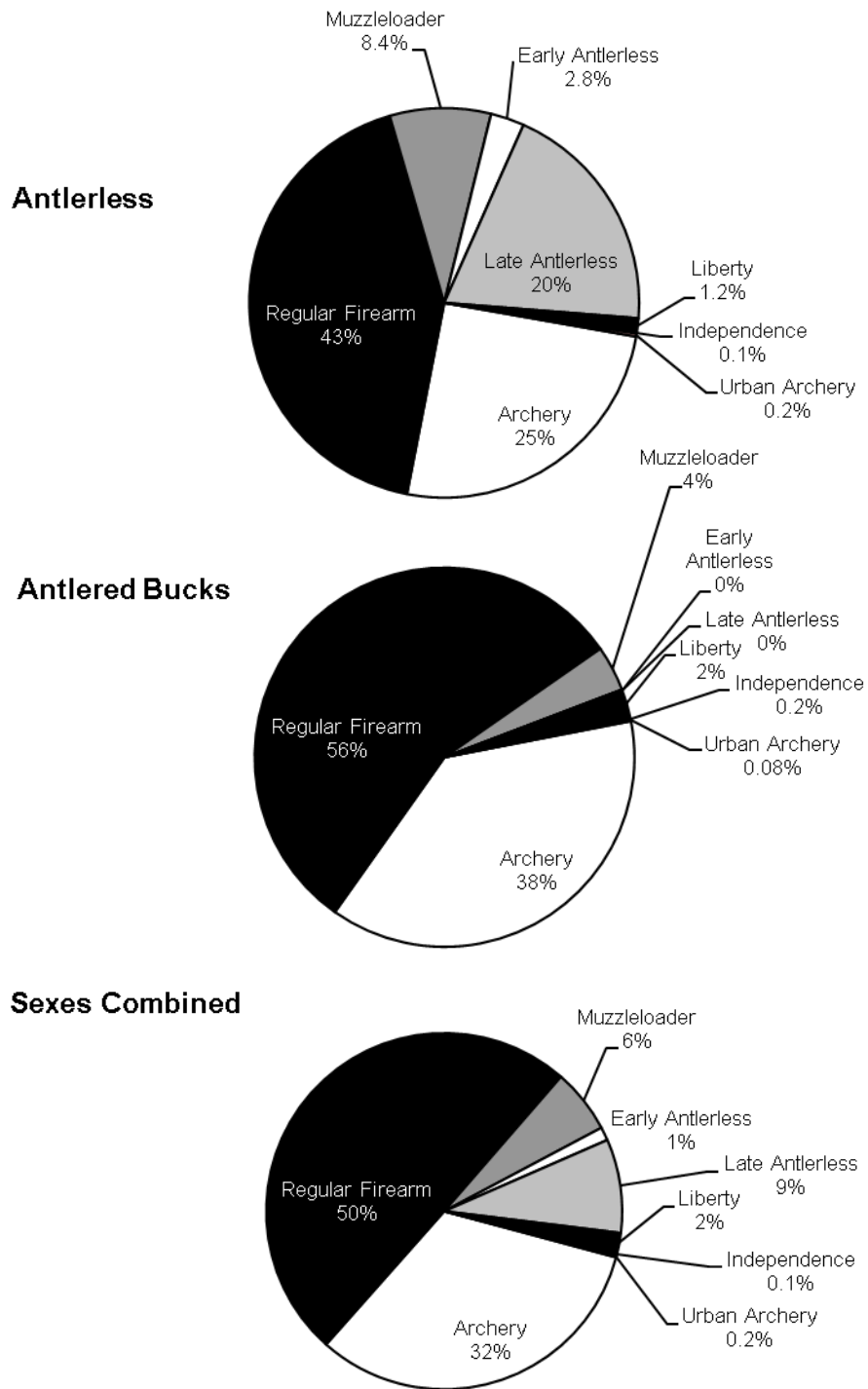


Figure 17. The distribution of harvest among deer hunting seasons in Michigan, 2021. Antlered deer had antlers at least 3 inches in length; antlerless deer included deer without antlers and deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length.

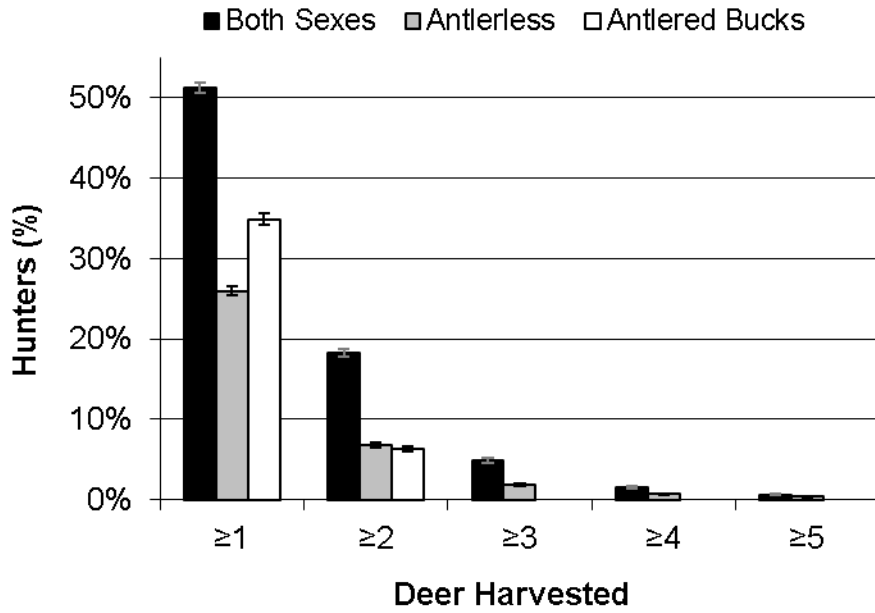


Figure 18. The percentage of hunters harvesting a deer in Michigan, 2021. Error bars represent the 95% CLs.

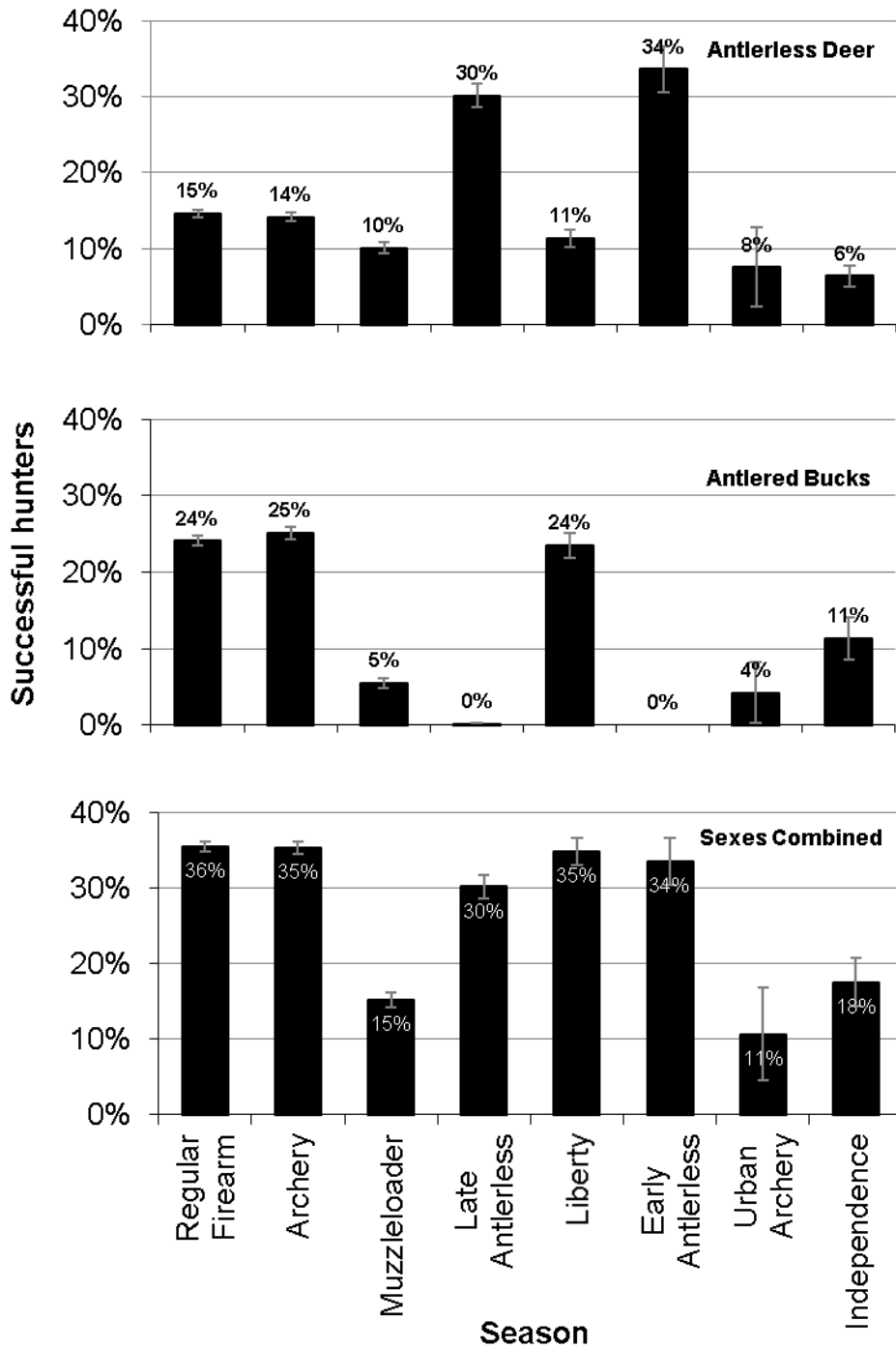


Figure 17. Percentage of hunters harvesting a deer in Michigan's deer hunting seasons, 2021. Error bars represent the 95% CLs. Antlered deer had at least one antler at least 3 inches in length; antlerless deer included deer without antlers and deer with antlers less than 3 inches.

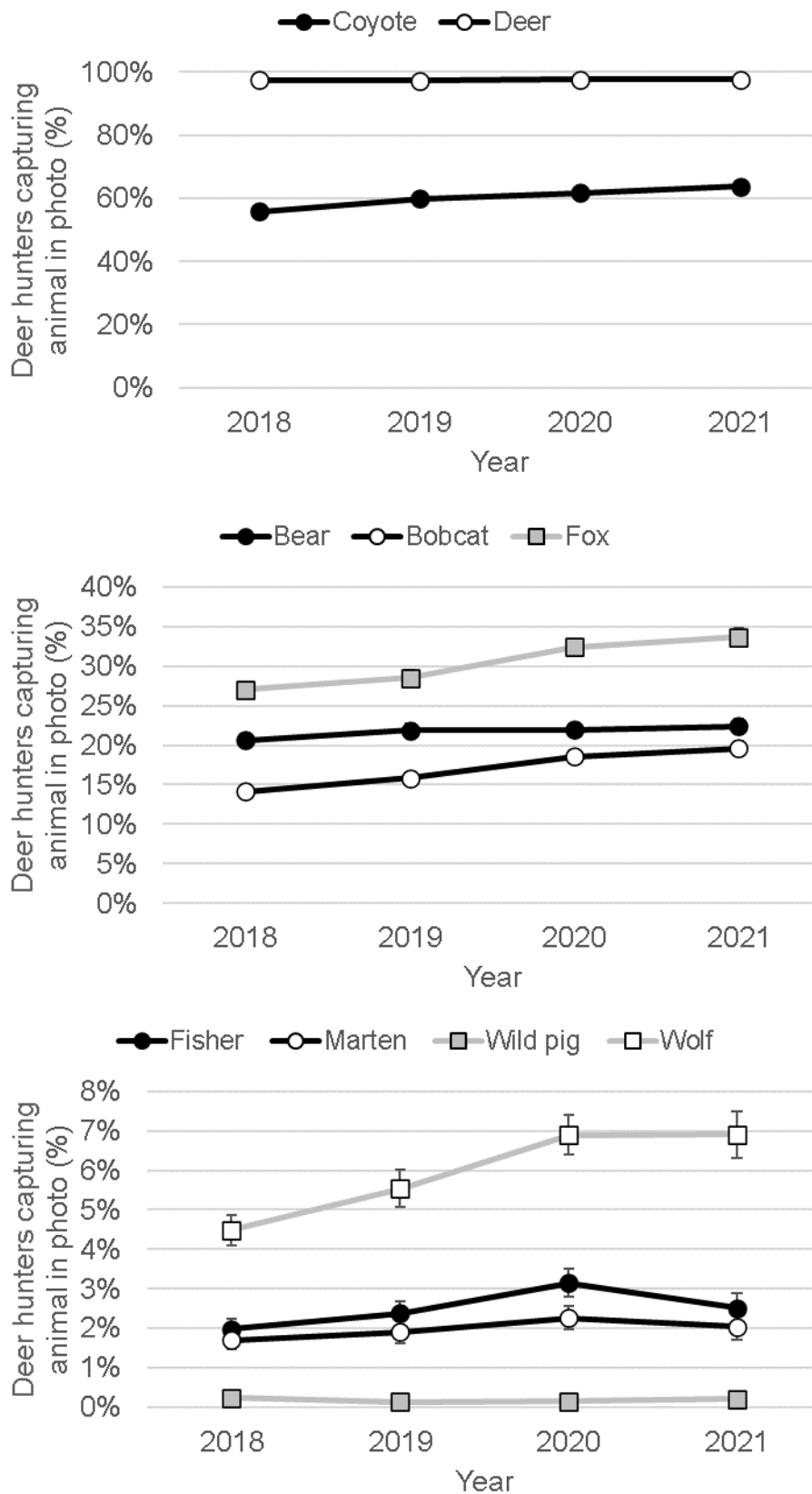


Figure 18. The proportion of deer hunters that used a trail camera and photographed selected carnivores, deer, and wild pigs with their camera in 2018-2021.

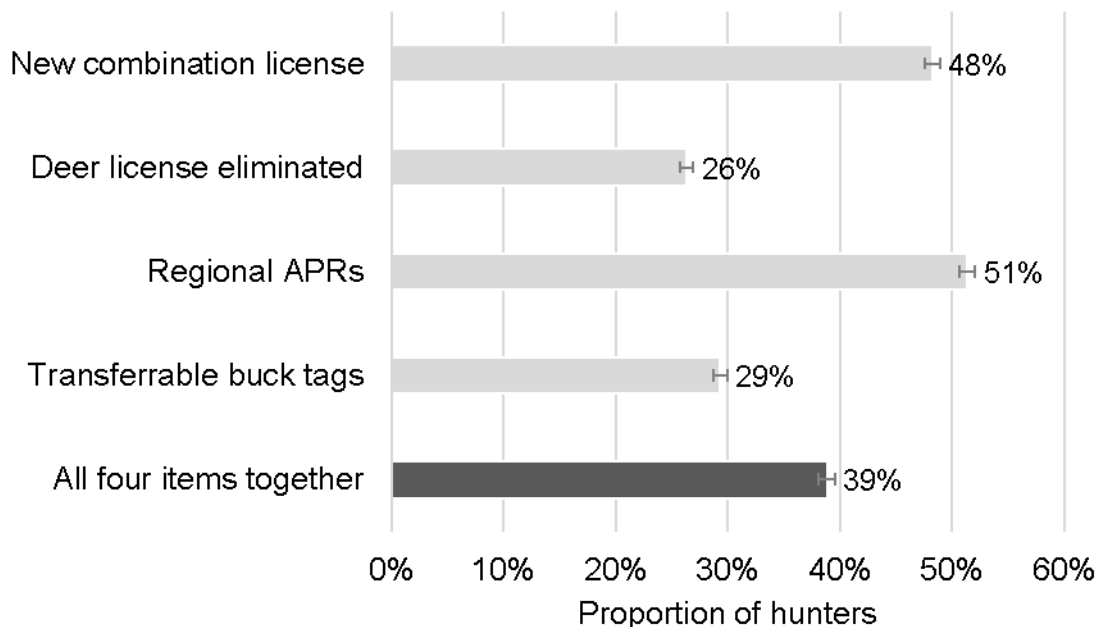


Figure 19. The proportion of hunters that supported (combined strongly supported and supported responses) potential regulation changes. The changes included: (1) changing the combination license to include one statewide buck tag and one statewide doe tag, (2) eliminating the single deer license that only has a single buck tag, (3) maintaining regional antler point restrictions [APRs] that would apply for taking a buck, and (4) allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag to another hunter. Each regulation was evaluated separately in 2020 (gray bars) but only as a combined package in 2021 (black bar).

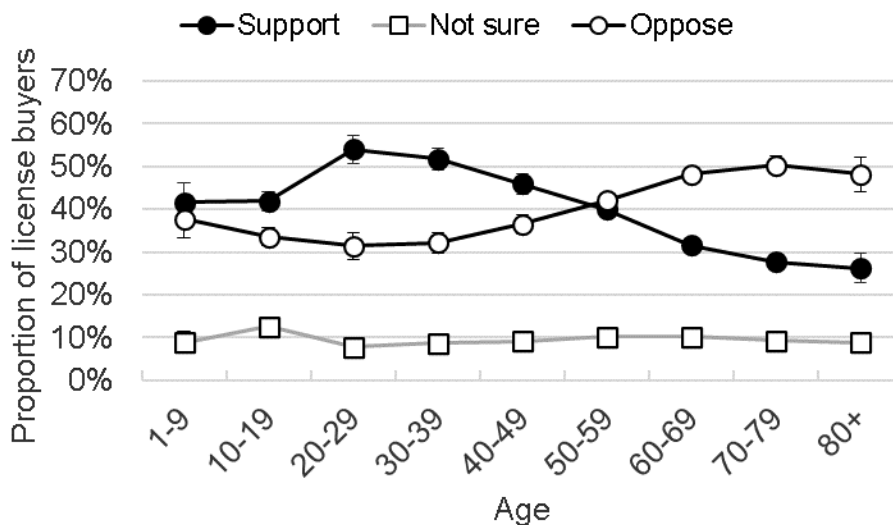


Figure 20. The proportion of hunters that supported (combined strongly supported and supported responses) the proposed regulation package in 2021, summarized by the hunter's age.

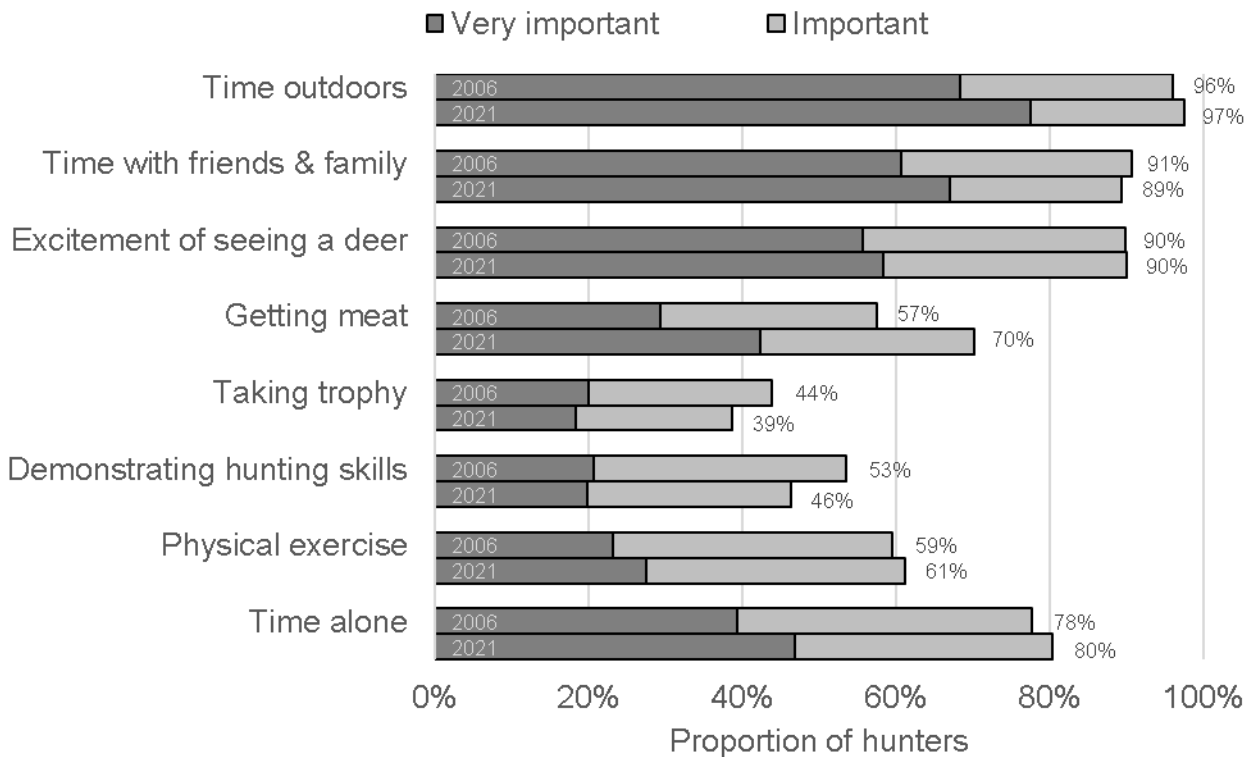


Figure 21. The proportion of hunters that indicated the various motivational factors were an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer in 2006 (Frawley and Rudolph 2008) and 2021. The 95% confidence limits for the importance estimates (very important and important combined) were less than 1%.

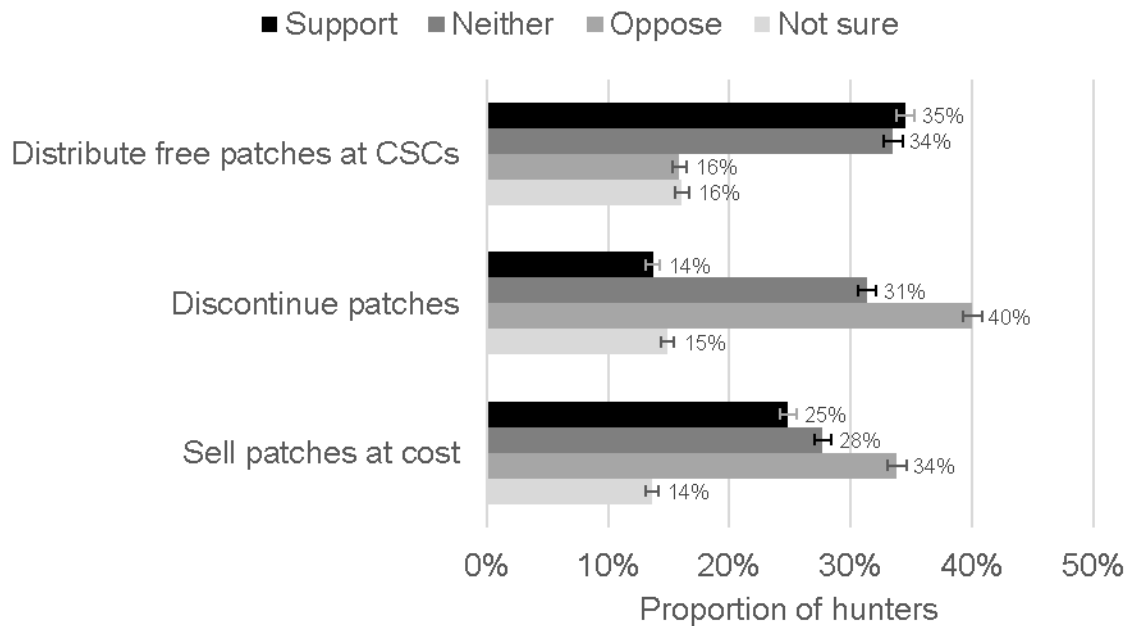


Figure 22. The proportion of deer hunters that selected various options for the future of the deer patch program.

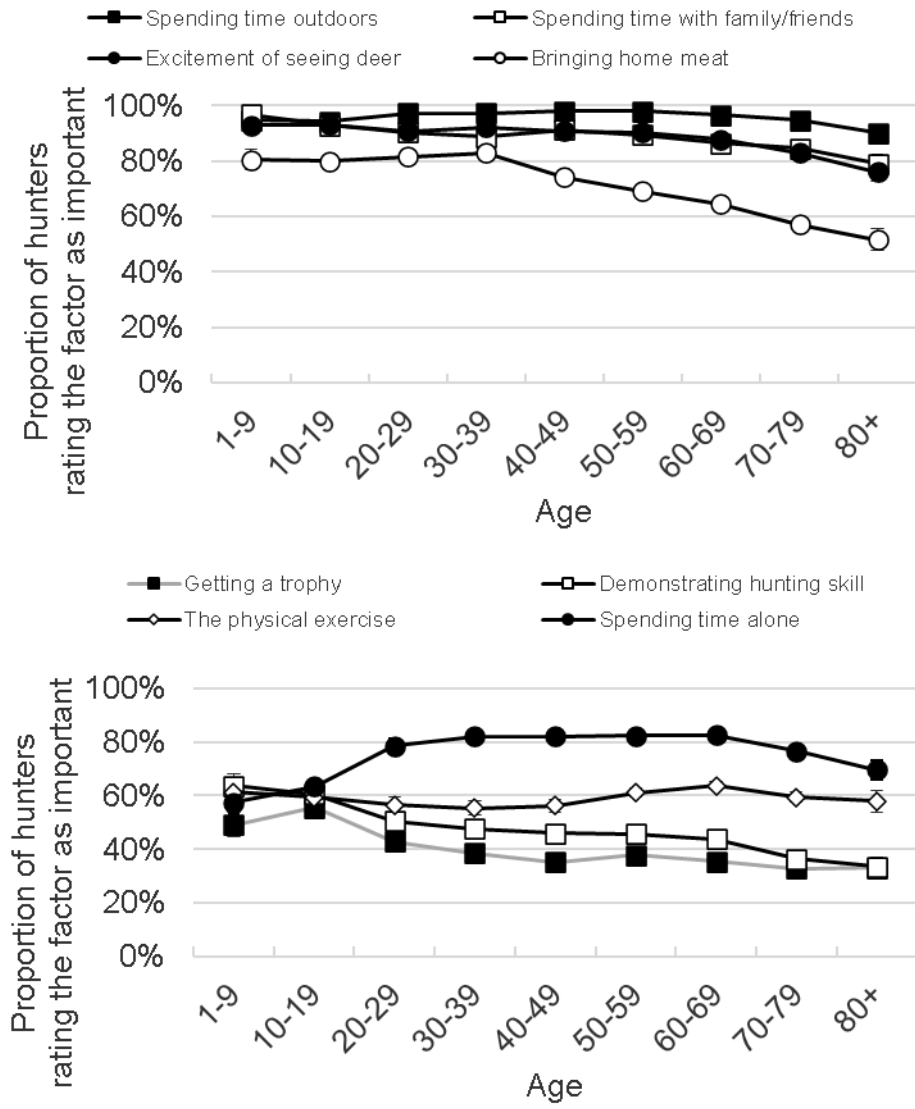


Figure 22. The proportion of hunters that indicated the various motivational factors were an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer in 2021, summarized by the hunter's age.

Table 1. Deer hunting seasons in Michigan, 2021-2021.

Season	Bag limit	Area	Dates
Liberty/Youth Hunt	1	Statewide	September 11-12
Early Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	Lower Peninsula ^a	September 18-19
Independence Hunt	1	Statewide	October 14-17
Archery	1 per kill tag	Statewide	October 1 – November 14 and December 1 – January 1
Regular Firearm	1 per kill tag	Statewide	November 15-30
Muzzleloader	1 per kill tag	Statewide	December 3-12
Late Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	Lower Peninsula ^a	December 13-January 1
Late Urban Archery	1 per kill tag	Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties	January 2-31

^aThe area open to hunting during the early and late antlerless firearm seasons included the entire LP, except for the island DMUs 145, 245, 115, and 149.

Table 2. The types of deer that could be taken during the 2021 Michigan deer hunting seasons for each combination of season and hunting license.

Type of license (harvest tag) or permit	Season	Area	Type of deer that could be harvested ^a and area
Deer license or deer combination regular license	Archery seasons	Upper Peninsula (Zone 1)	Antlered deer (deer with at least 1 antler with 3 or more antler points each 1 or more inches) or antlerless deer. Antlerless deer could not be taken in DMUs 007, 031, 042, 048, 066, 127, and 131. Antler point restrictions did not apply in the Core CWD surveillance area. ^b
Deer license or deer combination regular license	Archery seasons	Lower Peninsula (zones 2 and 3)	Antlerless or antlered deer ^c
Deer license or deer combination regular license	Firearm or Muzzleloader seasons	Upper Peninsula (Zone 1)	Antlered deer. ^c Antler point restrictions did not apply in the core CWD surveillance area. ^b
Deer license or deer combination regular license	Firearm or Muzzleloader seasons	Lower Peninsula (zones 2 and 3)	Antlerless or antlered deer ^c
Deer license or deer combination regular license	Liberty and Independence seasons	statewide	Antlerless or antlered deer ^c
Combination License ^d (Restricted harvest tag)	Archery seasons	Upper Peninsula (Zone 1)	An antlerless deer or a deer that has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points, 1 or more inches in length. Antlerless deer could not be taken in DMUs 007, 031, 042, 048, 066, 127, and 131. Antler point restrictions did not apply in the core CWD surveillance area. ^b
Combination License ^d (Restricted harvest tag)	Archery seasons	Lower Peninsula (zones 2 and 3)	An antlerless deer or a deer that has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points, 1 or more inches in length. Antler point restrictions did not apply in the CWD management zone. ^e

^aAntlered deer had antlers at least 3 inches in length; antlerless deer included deer without antlers and deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length. Hunters could harvest a maximum of 2 antlered deer per year (all seasons combined).

^bThe Core CWD Surveillance Area included portions of Delta, Dickinson, and Menominee counties in the UP, and the Core CWD Area included Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Newaygo counties in the LP.

^cIf a person took 2 antlered deer during all seasons combined (except youth and apprentice hunters), one of the antlered deer must have had at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points, each point being 1 or more inches in length.

^dCombination licenses included two harvest tags (i.e., regular and restricted harvest tags).

^eCWD management zone included Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, and Shiawassee counties.

^fHunters could harvest only 1 deer in the Liberty and Independence seasons.

^gPermits for special hunts on designated public lands (e.g., some state parks, game areas, and federal property). These permits valid only during specific dates, which varied among areas. Permits issued to applicants using a lottery (i.e., random selection). To use these permits, the hunter must also have purchased a valid deer hunting license.

Table 2 (continued). The types of deer that could be taken during the 2021 Michigan deer hunting seasons for each combination of season and hunting license.

Type of license (harvest tag) or permit	Season	Area	Type of deer that could be harvested ^a
Combination License ^d (Restricted harvest tag)	Firearm or Muzzleloader seasons	Upper Peninsula (Zone 1)	A deer that has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points (1 or more inches in length); Antler point restrictions do not apply in the core CWD surveillance area. ^b
Combination License ^d (Restricted harvest tag)	Firearm or Muzzleloader seasons	Lower Peninsula (zones 2 and 3)	An antlerless deer or a deer that has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length. Antler point restrictions do not apply in the CWD management zone. ^e
Combination License ^d (Restricted harvest tag)	Liberty and Independence seasons	Statewide	Antlerless or antlered deer ^c
Mentored youth deer license	Archery, Regular Firearm, Muzzleloader, or Liberty seasons	Statewide	Antlerless or antlered deer. Antler point restrictions do not apply.
Universal antlerless deer license, a mentored youth hunting license, a deer license, or a deer combination license	Antlerless seasons	Statewide	Antlerless deer only
Universal antlerless License ^e	All seasons	Any area open to antlerless deer hunting	Antlerless deer only
Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit ^f	All seasons	Statewide	Antlerless deer only
Managed Deer Hunt permit ^g	Specified season	Limited areas	Specified antlerless or antlered deer ^c

^aAntlered deer had antlers at least 3 inches in length; antlerless deer included deer without antlers and deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length.

Hunters could harvest a maximum of 2 antlered deer per year (all seasons combined).

^bCore CWD area included Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Newaygo counties in the LP and portions of Delta, Dickinson, and Menominee counties in the UP.

^cIf a person took 2 antlered deer during all seasons combined (except youth and apprentice hunters), one of the antlered deer must have had at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points, each point being 1 or more inches in length.

^dCombination licenses included two harvest tags (i.e., regular and restricted harvest tags).

^eCWD management zone included Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, and Shiawassee counties.

^fHunters could harvest only 1 deer in the Liberty and Independence seasons.

^gPermits for special hunts on designated public lands (e.g., some state parks, game areas, and federal property). These permits valid only during specific dates, which varied among areas. Permits issued to applicants using a lottery (i.e., random selection). To use these permits, the hunter must also have purchased a valid deer hunting license.

Table 3. The number of Michigan deer licenses purchased and harvest tags issued, 2019-2021.

Licenses or Harvest Tags	Number Purchased or Issued			Change Between 2020 and 2021 (%)
	2019	2020	2021	
Deer Licenses				
Resident	126,284	89,915	78,753	-12.4
Non-resident	14,593	11,864	12,648	6.6
Junior	25,016	19,949	17,010	-14.7
Senior	34,779	31,272	30,913	-1.1
Lifetime	427	556	532	-4.3
Active Military	361	244	267	9.4
Disabled Veteran	527	2	1	-50.0
Subtotal	201,987	153,802	140,124	-8.9
Combination Licenses^a				
Resident	270,061	333,601	323,747	-3.0
Non-resident	4,579	5,149	5,430	5.5
Junior	18,371	25,810	25,289	-2.0
Senior	49,853	66,391	70,838	6.7
Lifetime	141	1,206	1,216	0.8
Active Military	4,164	4,242	4,261	0.4
Disabled Veteran	7,389	4	9	125.0
Subtotal	354,558	436,403	430,790	-1.3
Antlerless Licenses				
Resident	257,635	246,586	223,607	-9.3
Non-resident	5,750	6,312	8,748	38.6
Junior	15,798	13,639	11,774	-13.7
Senior	45,349	47,548	46,650	-1.9
Lifetime	185	747	643	-13.9
Active Military	4,340	4,230	6,172	45.9
Pure Michigan Hunt	3	3	3	0.0
Disabled Veteran	7,819	15	35	133.3
Deer Management Assistance	13,602	13,637	12,203	-10.5
Subtotal	350,481	332,717	309,835	-6.9
Mentored Youth Licenses	10,142	12,020	11,014	-8.4
Total Licenses Sold	917,168	934,942	891,763	-4.6

^aCombination licenses included two harvest tags. Other license types had one harvest tag.

Table 3 (continued). The number of Michigan deer licenses purchased and harvest tags issued, 2018-2021.

Licenses or Harvest Tags	Number Purchased or Issued			Change Between 2020 and 2021 (%)
	2019	2020	2021	
Harvest Tags Issued				
Deer ^a	201,987	153,802	140,124	-8.9
Combination ^b	709,116	872,806	861,580	-1.3
Antlerless	350,481	332,717	309,835	-6.9
Mentored Youth ^b	10,142	12,020	11,014	-8.4
Total Harvest Tags	1,271,726	1,371,345	1,322,553	-3.6

^aCombination licenses included two harvest tags. Other license types had one harvest tag.

Table 4. Number of deer hunters and hunting effort in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.

Season and Area	Number of hunters ^a				Hunting effort (days)			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Archery								
West UP	22,227	22,027	1,676	-0.9	257,212	267,859	27,516	4.1
East UP	6,327	5,334	840	-15.7	67,721	50,062	10,180	-26.1
NE LP	46,867	46,764	2,397	-0.2	495,914	470,185	34,196	-5.2
NW LP	64,527	60,814	2,679	-5.8	781,907	730,557	44,605	-6.6
Sag. Bay	56,063	53,714	2,531	-4.2	702,243	591,477	38,511	-15.8*
SW LP	55,906	50,110	2,456	-10.4*	713,945	622,214	41,241	-12.8*
SC LP	63,584	58,276	2,631	-8.3*	816,297	709,387	44,127	-13.1*
SE LP	33,750	30,460	1,959	-9.7	388,825	360,867	31,773	-7.2
UP	28,331	27,283	2,850	-3.7	324,932	317,921	29,339	-2.2
NLP	126,158	121,669	4,110	-3.6	1,471,249	1,370,337	59,938	-6.9
SLP	186,048	170,801	4,206	-8.2*	2,427,882	2,114,349	75,545	-12.9*
Statewide ^c	322,312	304,278	4,319	-5.6*	4,224,063	3,802,608	101,531	-10.0*
Regular Firearm								
West UP	54,562	54,571	2,566	0.0	401,410	378,013	21,189	-5.8
East UP	14,721	14,997	1,400	1.9	99,472	98,744	10,619	-0.7
NE LP	87,325	84,050	3,094	-3.7	531,736	487,400	22,711	-8.3
NW LP	95,215	89,532	3,161	-6.0	580,387	512,776	23,195	-11.6*
Sag. Bay	75,989	72,801	2,893	-4.2	461,638	400,188	20,402	-13.3*
SW LP	69,929	62,404	2,712	-10.8*	429,233	372,006	20,235	-13.3*
SC LP	83,204	75,809	2,950	-8.9*	498,937	419,526	21,061	-15.9*
SE LP	33,585	31,470	1,989	-6.3	193,145	176,669	13,738	-8.5
UP	68,938	69,327	1,857	0.6	500,882	476,757	23,701	-4.8
NLP	202,671	193,189	3,561	-4.7*	1,248,740	1,119,399	34,297	-10.4*
SLP	234,135	215,519	3,974	-8.0*	1,446,334	1,249,165	36,545	-13.6*
Statewide ^c	488,422	463,178	3,321	-5.2*	3,195,957	2,845,322	55,884	-11.0*

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

^cNumber of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one area.

Table 4 (continued). Number of deer hunters and hunting effort in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.

Season and Area	Number of hunters ^a				Hunting effort (days)			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Muzzleloader								
West UP	13,635	9,723	1,132	-28.7*	67,029	44,534	5,854	-33.6*
East UP	3,573	2,912	620	-18.5	19,685	14,976	3,488	-23.9
NE LP	17,630	14,117	1,359	-19.9*	74,508	56,440	6,207	-24.2*
NW LP	23,507	17,950	1,520	-23.6*	95,724	68,723	6,707	-28.2*
Sag. Bay	24,298	21,942	1,672	-9.7	98,470	81,759	7,260	-17.0*
SW LP	29,299	23,802	1,741	-18.8*	117,584	98,737	8,410	-16.0*
SC LP	33,611	25,978	1,814	-22.7*	136,193	100,442	8,217	-26.3*
SE LP	14,925	11,017	1,199	-26.2*	59,210	42,689	5,314	-27.9*
UP	17,201	12,486	1,278	-27.4*	86,714	59,510	6,814	-31.4*
NLP	46,762	36,892	2,145	-21.1*	194,643	142,685	9,712	-26.7*
SLP	94,144	76,482	2,962	-18.8*	387,046	306,105	14,436	-20.9*
Statewide ^c	159,240	126,993	3,617	-20.3*	668,403	508,300	18,970	-24.0*
Early Antlerless								
West UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
East UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NE LP	3,131	2,078	499	-33.7	4,521	3,122	784	-30.9
NW LP	4,523	3,260	624	-27.9	6,331	4,394	907	-30.6*
Sag. Bay	4,328	4,099	708	-5.3	5,905	5,835	1,071	-1.2
SW LP	3,402	2,440	538	-28.3	4,156	3,235	752	-22.2
SC LP	4,668	2,893	586	-38.0*	6,332	3,585	786	-43.4*
SE LP	2,557	2,063	500	-19.3	3,566	2,736	696	-23.3
UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NLP	8,671	6,478	882	-25.3*	12,239	9,120	1,328	-25.5*
SLP	13,879	10,341	1,107	-25.5*	18,572	13,785	1,577	-25.8*
Statewide ^c	23,804	18,358	882	-22.9*	30,811	22,906	2,122	-25.7*

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

^cNumber of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one area.

Table 4 (continued). The number of deer hunters and hunting efforts in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.

Season and Area	Number of hunters ^a				Hunting effort (days)			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Late Antlerless								
West UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
East UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NE LP	8,636	8,549	1,061	-1.0	38,403	35,126	5,805	-8.5
NW LP	15,583	13,317	1,310	-14.5	66,001	55,898	7,223	-15.3
Sag. Bay	16,342	15,833	1,420	-3.1	64,999	60,268	7,190	-7.3
SW LP	19,476	17,962	1,526	-7.8	81,874	77,908	8,532	-4.8
SC LP	23,763	21,253	1,651	-10.6	98,952	83,324	8,614	-15.8
SE LP	8,772	8,617	1,061	-1.8	36,612	36,227	5,742	-1.1
UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NLP	27,812	25,122	1,783	-9.7	117,812	103,246	9,745	-12.4
SLP	63,503	59,492	2,660	-6.3	269,030	245,504	14,919	-8.7
Statewide ^c	93,171	86,702	3,123	-6.9*	386,842	348,750	18,266	-9.8*
Liberty/Youth^d								
West UP	1,823	1,576	291	-13.6	2,729	2,419	475	-11.4
East UP	337	241	97	-28.5	542	380	158	-30.0
NE LP	3,132	2,558	360	-18.3	4,760	3,787	588	-20.4
NW LP	6,370	4,758	464	-25.3*	9,503	7,193	772	-24.3*
Sag. Bay	6,068	4,533	436	-25.3*	8,912	6,691	721	-24.9*
SW LP	3,975	3,164	374	-20.4*	5,546	4,467	596	-19.5
SC LP	5,409	3,836	438	-29.1*	7,797	5,112	646	-34.4*
SE LP	2,362	1,701	304	-28.0*	3,391	2,374	436	-30.0*
UP	2,161	1,817	305	-15.9	3,271	2,798	501	-14.5
NLP	11,130	8,511	597	-23.5*	16,701	12,809	1,044	-23.3*
SLP	16,057	11,962	672	-25.5*	23,208	16,815	1,155	-27.5*
Statewide ^c	30,187	22,984	814	-23.9*	43,180	32,422	1,649	-24.9*

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

^cNumber of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one area.

^dEstimates included results of both youth and disabled hunters.

Table 4 (continued). The number of deer hunters and hunting efforts in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.

Season and Area	Number of hunters ^a				Hunting effort (days)			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Independence								
West UP	150	195	79	30.1	408	405	157	-0.8
East UP	59	63	20	6.9	168	146	54	-13.2
NE LP	345	280	42	-18.8	731	663	110	-9.3
NW LP	689	472	99	-31.5	1,349	1,028	181	-23.8
Sag. Bay	500	489	171	-2.3	839	882	367	5.1
SW LP	540	235	86	-56.5*	749	415	96	-44.6
SC LP	468	371	101	-20.6	792	783	195	-1.1
SE LP	290	175	81	-39.7	710	282	72	-60.2*
UP	209	258	81	23.5	576	551	166	-4.4
NLP	1,261	866	112	-31.3*	2,476	1,921	223	-22.4
SLP	1,565	1,149	228	-26.6	2,694	2,132	427	-20.9
Statewide ^c	3,390	2,565	319	-24.3*	5,747	4,604	511	-19.9
Urban Archery								
West UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
East UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NE LP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NW LP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Sag. Bay	0	0	0		0	0	0	
SW LP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
SC LP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
SE LP	2,372	2,609	594	10.0	12,189	11,949	3,578	-2.0
UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NLP	0	0	0		0	0	0	
SLP	2,372	2,609	594	10.0	12,189	11,949	3,578	-2.0
Statewide ^c	2,372	2,609	594	10.0	12,189	11,949	3,578	-2.0

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

^cNumber of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one area.

Table 4 (continued). The number of deer hunters and hunting efforts in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.

Season and Area	Number of hunters ^a				Hunting effort (days)			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)
All Seasons								
West UP	61,452	61,500	2,697	0.1	728,550	693,595	44,313	-4.8
East UP	17,167	16,725	1,472	-2.6	187,509	164,310	19,649	-12.4
NE LP	100,766	97,898	3,283	-2.8	1,150,516	1,056,888	55,068	-8.1
NW LP	114,072	108,403	3,395	-5.0	1,541,579	1,381,000	66,444	-10.4*
Sag. Bay	93,621	90,648	3,152	-3.2	1,343,221	1,146,861	60,026	-14.6*
SW LP	89,235	79,229	2,990	-11.2*	1,353,010	1,178,479	64,726	-12.9*
SC LP	105,159	96,146	3,242	-8.6*	1,565,122	1,321,801	67,758	-15.5*
SE LP	49,032	45,965	2,360	-6.3	697,685	633,928	47,109	-9.1
UP	78,142	77,779	2,985	-0.5	916,059	857,906	48,474	-6.3
NLP	236,906	228,499	4,248	-3.5*	3,064,303	2,760,192	91,813	-9.9*
SLP	296,193	273,632	4,328	-7.6*	4,586,829	3,958,764	116,708	-13.7*
Statewide ^c	565,132	537,014	2,050	-5.0*	8,567,192	7,576,862	157,525	-11.6*

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

^cNumber of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one area.

Table 5. The mean number of days hunters spent hunting deer (\bar{x} hunting effort) in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Area	Season							
	Archery		Regular Firearm		Muzzleloader		Early Antlerless	
	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b
West UP	11.9	0.8	6.9	0.2	4.5	0.3	0.0	0.0
East UP	9.2	1.2	6.4	0.4	5.1	0.6	0.0	0.0
NE LP	10.1	0.5	5.8	0.2	4.0	0.2	1.5	0.1
NW LP	11.9	0.5	5.7	0.1	3.8	0.2	1.5	0.1
Sag. Bay	11.0	0.5	5.5	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.5	0.1
SW LP	12.5	0.5	6.0	0.2	4.1	0.2	1.4	0.1
SC LP	12.3	0.5	5.7	0.2	3.9	0.2	1.3	0.1
SE LP	11.9	0.7	5.7	0.2	3.9	0.2	1.4	0.1
UP	11.4	0.7	6.8	0.2	4.7	0.3	0.0	0.0
NLP	11.2	0.3	5.8	0.1	3.8	0.1	1.5	0.1
SLP	12.4	0.3	5.8	0.1	4.0	0.1	1.4	0.1
Statewide	12.7	0.2	6.3	0.1	4.1	0.1	1.4	0.0

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 5 (continued). The mean number of days hunters spent hunting deer (\bar{x} hunting effort) in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Area	Season							
	Late Antlerless		Liberty (Youth)		Independence		Urban Archery	
	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b
West UP	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.1	2.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
East UP	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
NE LP	4.4	0.5	1.5	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
NW LP	4.4	0.4	1.5	0.0	2.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
Sag. Bay	4.0	0.3	1.4	0.1	2.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
SW LP	4.6	0.3	1.4	0.1	2.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SC LP	4.2	0.3	1.4	0.1	2.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
SE LP	4.5	0.4	1.4	0.1	2.1	0.3	4.8	0.9
UP	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.2	0.0	0.0
NLP	4.4	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.3	0.2	0.0	0.0
SLP	4.3	0.2	1.4	0.0	2.2	0.2	4.8	0.9
Statewide	4.4	0.1	1.5	0.0	2.3	0.1	4.8	0.9

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 5 (continued). The mean number of days hunters spent hunting deer (\bar{x} hunting effort) in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Area	Season	
	\bar{x} days	95% CL ^b
	All Seasons	
West UP	11.2	0.5
East UP	9.6	0.8
NE LP	10.8	0.4
NW LP	12.7	0.5
Sag. Bay	12.6	0.5
SW LP	14.8	0.6
SC LP	13.9	0.5
SE LP	13.9	0.7
UP	10.9	0.5
NLP	12.1	0.3
SLP	14.5	0.3
Statewide	14.4	0.2

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 6. The number of deer harvested in Michigan, 2019-2021.

Season or permit	Type of deer	2019	2020	2021	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Season					
Archery	Antlerless	43,868	51,408	43,395	-15.6*
	Antlered bucks	70,917	85,091	84,599	-0.6
	Sexes combined	114,785	136,498	127,994	-6.2
Regular firearm	Antlerless	70,782	79,827	72,779	-8.8*
	Antlered bucks	123,813	118,472	124,032	4.7
	Sexes combined	194,594	198,299	196,811	-0.8
Muzzleloader	Antlerless	15,674	16,726	14,390	-14.0
	Antlered bucks	10,591	8,534	8,715	2.1
	Sexes combined	26,265	25,261	23,105	-8.5
Early antlerless	Antlerless	2,736	8,382	4,801	-42.7*
Late antlerless	Antlerless	15,667	31,253	33,620	7.6
Liberty/Youth ^{a,b}	Antlerless	2,966	3,244	1,982	-38.9*
	Antlered bucks	5,544	6,682	5,559	-16.8*
	Sexes combined	8,510	9,926	7,541	-24.0*
Independence ^b	Antlerless	286	211	190	-10.0
	Antlered bucks	336	370	397	7.3
	Sexes combined	622	581	587	1.0
Urban Archery	Antlerless	384	201	427	112.7
	Antlered bucks	26	114	172	51.8
	Sexes combined	410	314	600	90.7
Disease Hunt	Antlerless	88	0	0	
	Antlered bucks	0	0	0	
	Sexes combined	88	0	0	
Special permits ^c	Antlerless	7,270	9,557	8,636	-9.6
Grand Total	Antlerless	159,721	200,809	180,219	-10.3*
	Antlered bucks	211,228	219,262	223,476	1.9
	Sexes combined	370,948	420,071	403,695	-3.9

^aEstimates for the Liberty hunt included results of both youth and hunters with disabilities.

^bHunters with disabilities could hunt in both the Liberty and Independence seasons.

^cIncludes deer harvested with DMA permits. These permits could be used during any deer hunting season.

*P<0.05.

Table 7. The number of deer harvested in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.^a

Season and Area	Antlerless				Antlered Bucks				Sexes Combined			
	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021
Archery												
West UP	2,725	2,227	544	-18.3	4,238	4,213	743	-0.6	6,963	6,440	985	-7.5
East UP	808	442	249	-45.3	558	384	224	-31.0	1,366	826	348	-39.6
NE LP	5,933	5,602	1,088	-5.6	6,729	9,035	1,102	34.3*	12,664	14,632	1,671	15.5
NW LP	10,064	7,935	1,249	-21.2	12,292	14,838	1,479	20.7	22,359	22,772	2,113	1.8
Sag. Bay	9,122	7,063	1,038	-22.6	15,951	15,136	1,488	-5.1	25,073	22,201	1,933	-11.5
SW LP	9,871	7,259	1,082	-26.5*	16,855	15,137	1,476	-10.2	26,726	22,399	1,984	-16.2*
SC LP	9,004	9,440	1,330	4.8	20,519	18,492	1,635	-9.9	29,518	27,933	2,305	-5.4
SE LP	3,880	3,427	783	-11.7	7,949	7,364	1,002	-7.4	11,828	10,793	1,374	-8.8
UP	3,533	2,669	599	-24.5	4,795	4,597	776	-4.1	8,329	7,265	1,045	-12.8
NLP	18,384	15,630	1,749	-15.0	22,781	27,687	1,995	21.5*	41,170	43,311	2,875	5.2
SLP	29,491	25,096	2,077	-14.9*	57,515	52,315	2,737	-9.0	86,999	77,418	3,724	-11.0*
Statewide	51,408	43,395	2,800	-15.6*	85,091	84,599	3,492	-0.6	136,498	127,994	4,844	-6.2
Regular Firearm												
West UP	2,476	4,361	821	76.1*	14,393	17,143	1,516	19.1	16,865	21,499	1,815	27.5*
East UP	85	156	133	82.7	2,577	2,818	588	9.4	2,661	2,973	617	11.7
NE LP	11,208	10,916	1,329	-2.6	15,412	18,297	1,592	18.7	26,620	29,213	2,162	9.7
NW LP	18,963	13,389	1,465	-29.4*	17,731	20,335	1,678	14.7	36,699	33,725	2,400	-8.1
Sag. Bay	13,441	13,238	1,502	-1.5	20,062	20,278	1,643	1.1	33,503	33,517	2,407	0.0
SW LP	12,329	12,119	1,485	-1.7	18,337	17,693	1,567	-3.5	30,667	29,813	2,351	-2.8
SC LP	17,178	14,615	1,652	-14.9	23,258	20,548	1,662	-11.7	40,437	35,166	2,540	-13.0*
SE LP	4,146	3,986	785	-3.9	6,702	6,920	967	3.3	10,848	10,905	1,301	0.5
UP	2,561	4,516	832	76.3*	16,970	19,962	1,626	17.6*	19,526	24,472	1,917	25.3*
NLP	33,605	28,176	2,132	-16.2*	37,921	43,767	2,459	15.4*	71,531	71,945	3,457	0.6
SLP	43,661	40,087	2,678	-8.2	63,580	60,304	2,857	-5.2	107,242	100,394	4,236	-6.4
Statewide	79,827	72,779	3,540	-8.8*	118,472	124,032	4,132	4.7	198,299	196,811	5,826	-0.8

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

Table 7 (continued). The number of deer harvested in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.^a

Season and Area	Antlerless				Antlered Bucks				Sexes Combined			
	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021
Muzzleloader												
West UP	370	703	304	90.2	702	670	282	-4.5	1,073	1,373	435	28.0
East UP	33	39	66	17.1	72	284	210	292.0	106	323	220	206.0
NE LP	1,420	1,185	388	-16.5	664	611	273	-8.0	2,084	1,796	474	-13.8
NW LP	2,528	2,375	611	-6.0	643	859	319	33.5	3,169	3,233	690	2.0
Sag. Bay	3,039	2,527	621	-16.9	1,071	1,633	443	52.5	4,109	4,160	774	1.2
SW LP	3,779	2,696	625	-28.7	2,275	1,905	515	-16.3	6,056	4,601	848	-24.0
SC LP	4,164	3,335	726	-19.9	2,121	2,230	537	5.1	6,285	5,565	932	-11.5
SE LP	1,393	1,530	498	9.8	985	524	267	-46.8	2,380	2,053	565	-13.7
UP	403	742	311	84.2	774	954	351	23.2	1,179	1,697	488	43.9
NLP	4,597	3,886	749	-15.5	1,447	1,836	470	26.9	6,042	5,721	889	-5.3
SLP	11,727	9,763	1,231	-16.7	6,313	5,925	881	-6.1	18,040	15,687	1,554	-13.0
Statewide	16,726	14,390	1,491	-14.0	8,534	8,715	1,069	2.1	25,261	23,105	1,879	-8.5
Early Antlerless												
West UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
East UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NE LP	1,200	689	278	-42.6	0	0	0	0	1,200	689	278	-42.6
NW LP	1,943	825	342	-57.5*	0	0	0	0	1,943	825	342	-57.5*
Sag. Bay	1,364	1,284	421	-5.9	0	0	0	0	1,364	1,284	421	-5.9
SW LP	1,163	844	410	-27.5					1,163	844	410	-27.5
SC LP	2,083	754	334	-63.8	0	0	0	0	2,083	754	334	-63.8*
SE LP	630	405	212	-35.7	0	0	0	0	630	405	212	-35.7
UP	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NLP	3,380	1,834	479	-45.7*	0	0	0	0	3,380	1,834	479	-45.7*
SLP	5,002	2,966	683	-40.7*	0	0	0	0	5,002	2,966	683	-40.7*
Statewide	8,382	4,801	855	-42.7*	0	0	0	0	8,382	4,801	855	-42.7*

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

Table 7 (continued). The number of deer harvested in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.^a

Season and Area	Antlerless				Antlered Bucks				Sexes Combined			
	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021
Late Antlerless												
West UP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
East UP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
NE LP	2,655	3,558	726	34.0	28	0	0	-100.0	2,684	3,558	726	32.6
NW LP	5,593	4,940	972	-11.7	0	0	0		5,592	4,940	972	-11.7
Sag. Bay	6,191	6,713	1,051	8.4	9	0	0	-100.0	6,199	6,713	1,051	8.3
SW LP	5,973	6,539	1,089	9.5	31	0	0	-100.0	6,004	6,539	1,089	8.9
SC LP	8,722	9,516	1,269	9.1	28	0	0	-100.0	8,750	9,516	1,269	8.7
SE LP	2,119	2,354	590	11.1	29	0	0	-100.0	2,148	2,354	590	9.6
UP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
NLP	9,708	9,976	1,311	2.8	28	0	0	-100.0	9,736	9,976	1,311	2.5
SLP	21,545	23,643	2,001	9.7	96	0	0	-100.0	21,642	23,643	2,001	9.2
Statewide	31,253	33,620	2,418	7.6	124	0	0	-100.0*	31,378	33,620	2,418	7.1
Liberty (Youth)^c												
West UP	273	184	83	-32.5	397	391	122	-1.5	670	575	147	-14.2
East UP	20	14	22	-28.1	39	74	53	88.6	59	88	57	49.8
NE LP	327	235	109	-28.2	551	508	148	-7.7	877	742	184	-15.4
NW LP	861	537	141	-37.6*	1,412	1,131	215	-19.9	2,273	1,667	257	-26.7*
Sag. Bay	577	368	118	-36.1	1,551	1,387	244	-10.6	2,128	1,756	271	-17.5
SW LP	462	284	105	-38.5	812	655	160	-19.4	1,274	939	192	-26.3
SC LP	607	259	101	-57.3*	1,396	1,025	206	-26.6	2,003	1,285	229	-35.9*
SE LP	118	100	58	-15.3	523	389	133	-25.6	641	489	145	-23.7
UP	293	199	86	-32.2	437	465	133	6.6	729	664	158	-9.0
NLP	1,368	979	199	-28.4	2,396	1,933	287	-19.3	3,764	2,910	349	-22.7*
SLP	1,583	804	175	-49.2*	3,849	3,161	363	-17.9	5,432	3,967	403	-27.0*
Statewide	3,244	1,982	281	-38.9*	6,682	5,559	484	-16.8*	9,926	7,541	559	-24.0*

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

^cEstimates included results of both youth and hunters with disabilities.

Table 7 (continued). The number of deer harvested in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.^a

Season and Area	Antlerless				Antlered Bucks				Sexes Combined			
	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021
Independence												
West UP	24	22	12	-6.2	19	28	13	47.3	43	50	18	16.4
East UP	2	7	7	275.1	0	10	8		2	18	10	755.4*
NE LP	42	33	14	-20.2	38	44	16	16.5	80	77	21	-3.5
NW LP	54	47	26	-13.3	91	75	22	-17.9	146	122	34	-16.2
Sag. Bay	28	30	14	7.2	80	78	29	-2.8	107	108	32	0.2
SW LP	6	17	10	191.7	29	53	27	80.6	35	70	29	101.2
SC LP	35	20	11	-42.5	58	90	69	54.0	93	110	70	17.9
SE LP	21	12	9	-39.8	55	20	11	-63.1	75	33	14	-56.5
UP	26	30	14	15.4	19	38	15	100.8	45	68	21	50.0
NLP	104	88	30	-15.5	141	144	30	1.7	246	232	42	-5.8
SLP	81	72	21	-11.1	210	216	79	2.8	290	287	82	-0.8
Statewide	211	190	39	-10.0	370	397	86	7.3	581	587	95	1.0
Urban Archery												
West UP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
East UP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
NE LP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
NW LP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
Sag. Bay	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
SW LP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
SC LP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
SE LP	201	427	296	112.7	114	172	148	51.8	314	600	381	90.7
UP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
NLP	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
SLP	201	427	296	112.7	114	172	148	51.8	314	600	381	90.7
Statewide	201	427	296	112.7%	114	172	148	51.8%	314	600	381	90.7%

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

Table 7 (continued). The number of deer harvested in Michigan by hunting season, 2020-2021.^a

Season and Area	Antlerless				Antlered Bucks				Sexes Combined			
	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021
All Seasons												
West UP	5,899	7,516	1,096	27.4	19,742	22,430	1,768	13.6	25,665	29,972	2,237	16.8*
East UP	955	659	291	-31.0	3,245	3,567	673	9.9	4,204	4,231	756	0.6
NE LP	22,817	22,232	2,143	-2.6	23,419	28,490	2,050	21.7*	46,232	50,721	3,222	9.7
NW LP	40,040	30,057	2,599	-24.9*	32,178	37,244	2,406	15.7*	72,192	67,298	3,959	-6.8
Sag. Bay	33,744	31,209	2,567	-7.5	38,735	38,512	2,416	-0.6	72,479	69,717	3,955	-3.8
SW LP	33,563	29,752	2,677	-11.4	38,344	35,444	2,345	-7.6	71,907	65,190	4,035	-9.3
SC LP	41,728	37,931	2,969	-9.1	47,392	42,390	2,573	-10.6	89,119	80,306	4,457	-9.9*
SE LP	12,506	12,227	1,630	-2.2	16,331	15,398	1,514	-5.7	28,841	27,623	2,479	-4.2
UP	6,854	8,175	1,134	19.3	22,987	25,997	1,892	13.1	29,869	34,203	2,361	14.5*
NLP	71,213	60,595	3,607	-14.9*	64,725	75,371	3,382	16.4*	135,906	135,959	5,458	0.0
SLP	113,185	102,813	4,854	-9.2*	131,674	122,108	4,336	-7.3*	244,863	224,897	7,362	-8.2*
Statewide	191,252	171,583	6,196	-10.3*	219,387	223,476	5,849	3.9	410,639	395,059	9,519	-3.8

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

Table 8. The number of deer harvested on public and private lands during all seasons combined in Michigan by management region, 2020-2021.^a

Season and Area	Antlerless				Antlered Bucks				Sexes Combined			
	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021	2020 Harvest	2021 Harvest	95% CL ^b	Change from 2020 to 2021
Public Lands												
West UP	1,315	1,401	481	6.5	5,166	5,811	910	12.5	6,488	7,213	1,075	11.2
East UP	207	155	133	-25.3	871	908	341	4.3	1,079	1,064	366	-1.4
NE LP	5,147	4,512	889	-12.3	4,517	6,748	989	49.4*	9,663	11,260	1,425	16.5
NW LP	6,819	4,414	829	-35.3*	4,968	6,061	949	22.0	11,783	10,475	1,395	-11.1
Sag. Bay	3,178	2,641	662	-16.9	2,630	2,567	613	-2.4	5,807	5,207	959	-10.3
SW LP	2,160	2,336	757	8.1	1,669	1,737	490	4.1	3,828	4,072	1,025	6.4
SC LP	2,576	2,218	621	-13.9	2,679	2,086	554	-22.2	5,255	4,303	903	-18.1
SE LP	1,171	608	289	-48.1	1,061	1,139	419	7.3	2,232	1,747	543	-21.7
UP	1,523	1,556	499	2.2	6,037	6,719	971	11.3	7,567	8,277	1,135	9.4
NLP	12,879	10,297	1,308	-20.0	10,584	13,874	1,426	31.1*	23,458	24,171	2,105	3.0
SLP	8,171	6,431	1,116	-21.3	6,941	6,463	972	-6.9	15,110	12,893	1,622	-14.7
Statewide	22,573	18,284	1,798	-19.0*	23,562	27,057	1,995	14.8	46,135	45,341	2,906	-1.7
Private Lands												
West UP	4,580	6,112	976	33.5	14,560	16,619	1,506	14.1	19,158	22,751	1,927	18.8*
East UP	747	504	259	-32.6	2,372	2,658	573	12.1	3,121	3,166	649	1.4
NE LP	17,656	17,711	1,940	0.3	18,892	21,741	1,789	15.1	36,544	39,450	2,858	8.0
NW LP	33,208	25,638	2,408	-22.8*	27,202	31,183	2,194	14.6	60,388	56,817	3,647	-5.9
Sag. Bay	30,570	28,572	2,468	-6.5	36,113	35,946	2,334	-0.5	66,685	64,516	3,817	-3.3
SW LP	31,414	27,420	2,540	-12.7	36,688	33,708	2,286	-8.1	68,103	61,125	3,854	-10.2
SC LP	39,167	35,721	2,891	-8.8	44,725	40,304	2,510	-9.9	83,890	76,013	4,346	-9.4
SE LP	11,337	11,621	1,591	2.5	15,273	14,259	1,456	-6.6	26,614	25,879	2,409	-2.8
UP	5,327	6,616	1,010	24.2	16,932	19,277	1,611	13.9	22,279	25,918	2,033	16.3
NLP	58,306	50,281	3,309	-13.8*	54,122	61,496	3,050	13.6*	112,402	111,770	4,969	-0.6
SLP	105,046	96,403	4,696	-8.2	124,771	115,646	4,220	-7.3*	229,822	212,030	7,134	-7.7*
Statewide	168,679	153,299	5,874	-9.1%*	195,825	196,419	5,481	0.3%	364,504	349,718	8,981	-4.1%

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^b95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate. *P<0.05.

Table 9. The percentage of deer hunters harvesting deer in Michigan during all seasons, 2021.^a

Sex and Area	Number of deer harvested									
	≥1 deer		≥2 deer		≥3 deer		≥4 deer		≥5 deer	
	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b
Antlerless										
West UP	10.9	1.4	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
East UP	4.0	1.7	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NE LP	18.3	1.4	4.2	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
NW LP	21.0	1.4	5.6	0.8	1.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2
Sag. Bay	26.1	1.7	7.7	1.0	2.1	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
SW LP	27.8	1.8	7.6	1.1	2.5	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.3
SC LP	28.2	1.7	9.1	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.3
SE LP	20.7	2.2	5.2	1.2	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
UP	9.4	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
NLP	20.5	1.0	5.3	0.5	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
SLP	27.5	1.0	8.3	0.6	2.7	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.1
Statewide ^d	24.1	0.7	7.1	0.4	2.1	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.1
Antlered bucks^c										
West UP	35.6	2.2	3.6	0.9						
East UP	21.9	3.7	1.0	0.9						
NE LP	27.5	1.6	3.7	0.7						
NW LP	30.6	1.6	6.3	0.8						
Sag. Bay	38.6	1.8	7.0	1.0						
SW LP	40.3	2.0	7.7	1.1						
SC LP	39.1	1.8	8.2	1.0						
SE LP	31.0	2.5	5.0	1.2						
UP	32.8	1.9	3.1	0.7						
NLP	30.1	1.1	5.3	0.5						
SLP	39.9	1.1	8.0	0.6						
Statewide ^d	38.1	0.8	7.2	0.4						

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season and deer taken with DMA permits.

^b95 confidence limit.

^cThe season bag limit for antlered deer was two.

^dThe statewide estimate was derived from all hunters, including hunters that had failed to report where they hunted. In contrast, regional estimates were derived from only hunters that had reported hunting in the area.

Table 9 (continued). The percentage of deer hunters harvesting deer in Michigan during all seasons, 2021.^a

Sex and Area	Number of deer harvested									
	≥1 deer		≥2 deer		≥3 deer		≥4 deer		≥5 deer	
	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b
Sexes Combined										
West UP	42.5	2.3	8.0	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
East UP	24.9	3.8	2.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
NE LP	40.8	1.8	10.9	1.1	2.4	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
NW LP	44.2	1.7	15.4	1.3	4.2	0.7	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Sag. Bay	54.8	1.9	19.4	1.5	5.8	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
SW LP	56.4	2.0	21.1	1.7	6.2	1.0	2.2	0.6	0.4	0.4
SC LP	55.8	1.8	22.3	1.5	7.1	1.0	2.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
SE LP	45.0	2.7	14.0	1.9	3.4	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.0
UP	39.0	2.0	6.8	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
NLP	44.1	1.2	14.0	0.8	3.5	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
SLP	56.0	1.1	21.5	0.9	6.6	0.5	2.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
Statewide ^d	52.5	0.8	18.8	0.6	5.4	0.4	1.8	0.2	0.7	0.1

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season and deer taken with DMA permits.

^b95 confidence limit.

^cThe season bag limit for antlered deer was two.

^dThe statewide estimate was derived from all hunters, including hunters that had failed to report where they hunted. In contrast, regional estimates were derived from only hunters that had reported hunting in the area.

Table 10. The percentage of deer hunters harvesting at least one deer in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Sex and Area	Season											
	Archery		Regular Firearm		Muzzleloader		Early Antlerless		Late Antlerless		Liberty (Youth)	
	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b
Antlerless												
West UP	9.9	2.3	7.4	1.3	7.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	5.5
East UP	8.2	4.3	1.1	1.0	1.4	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	9.5
NE LP	10.4	1.6	11.9	1.3	8.6	2.7	34.4	11.6	38.3	6.1	9.8	4.4
NW LP	11.1	1.5	13.6	1.3	12.5	2.9	23.8	8.3	31.2	4.6	12.0	3.1
Sag. Bay	12.2	1.6	16.3	1.6	10.6	2.4	29.5	7.9	37.1	4.4	8.7	2.7
SW LP	13.2	1.7	17.0	1.7	10.9	2.3	26.6	10.1	30.9	4.0	9.6	3.5
SC LP	13.7	1.6	16.8	1.6	11.4	2.3	23.2	8.8	39.1	3.9	7.2	2.8
SE LP	10.1	2.0	12.3	2.1	12.3	3.6	20.4	9.9	25.5	5.4	6.3	3.6
UP	9.6	2.1	6.1	1.0	6.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	4.9
NLP	11.2	1.0	13.3	0.9	10.2	1.8	28.1	6.2	34.8	3.5	12.3	2.4
SLP	13.0	0.9	16.4	0.9	11.6	1.3	25.3	4.8	34.6	2.3	7.2	1.5
Statewide	12.8	0.7	14.2	0.6	10.8	1.0	25.2	3.6	34.4	1.9	9.4	1.3
Antlered Bucks												
West UP	19.2	3.0	31.9	2.3	7.3	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.7	7.6
East UP	7.0	3.8	19.9	3.8	9.1	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.0	19.2
NE LP	19.7	2.1	21.6	1.6	4.6	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	5.7
NW LP	23.3	2.0	22.4	1.6	5.1	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.6	4.3
Sag. Bay	27.0	2.2	28.2	1.9	7.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.9	4.8
SW LP	29.1	2.3	28.2	2.1	7.9	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	4.9
SC LP	30.3	2.2	27.1	1.9	8.9	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.7	5.1
SE LP	24.0	2.8	22.0	2.7	4.7	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.6	7.5
UP	16.9	2.6	29.4	2.0	7.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.6	7.1
NLP	22.1	1.4	22.4	1.1	5.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.4	3.2
SLP	29.4	1.3	28.0	1.1	7.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.4	2.9
Statewide	27.0	0.9	27.1	0.8	7.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.3	2.0

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season and deer taken with DMA permits.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 10 (continued). The percentage of deer hunters harvesting at least one deer in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Sex and Area	Season											
	Archery		Regular Firearm		Muzzleloader		Early Antlerless		Late Antlerless		Liberty (Youth)	
	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b
Sexes combined												
West UP	27.1	3.4	37.3	2.4	13.8	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.2	8.7
East UP	14.4	5.4	20.5	3.8	10.5	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.3	19.8
NE LP	27.5	2.4	31.6	1.9	13.2	3.3	34.4	11.6	38.3	6.1	31.1	6.6
NW LP	31.2	2.2	33.0	1.8	17.5	3.3	23.8	8.3	31.2	4.6	37.6	4.9
Sag. Bay	35.9	2.4	40.4	2.1	18.2	3.0	29.5	7.9	37.1	4.4	41.6	5.0
SW LP	38.1	2.5	40.9	2.3	17.8	2.9	26.6	10.1	30.9	4.0	31.9	5.6
SC LP	39.7	2.3	39.8	2.0	19.7	2.8	23.2	8.8	39.1	3.9	35.9	5.5
SE LP	31.4	3.1	32.2	3.0	17.0	4.1	20.4	9.9	25.5	5.4	30.9	8.0
UP	24.7	3.0	33.8	2.1	13.2	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.2	8.0
NLP	30.3	1.5	33.2	1.2	15.4	2.2	28.1	6.2	34.8	3.5	36.7	3.7
SLP	38.4	1.4	40.2	1.2	19.0	1.6	25.3	4.8	34.6	2.3	35.6	3.0
Statewide	36.0	1.0	37.9	0.8	17.6	1.2	25.2	3.6	34.4	1.9	35.7	2.2

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season and deer taken with DMA permits.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 10 (continued). The percentage of deer hunters harvesting at least one deer in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Sex and Area	Season					
	Independence		Urban Archery		All Seasons	
	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b
Antlerless						
West UP	12.5	7.6	0.0	0.0	10.9	1.4
East UP	12.8	10.9	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.7
NE LP	12.9	5.1	0.0	0.0	18.3	1.4
NW LP	10.8	5.8	0.0	0.0	21.0	1.4
Sag. Bay	6.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	26.1	1.7
SW LP	8.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	27.8	1.8
SC LP	5.8	3.4	0.0	0.0	28.2	1.7
SE LP	7.7	6.1	13.1	7.7	20.7	2.2
UP	12.6	6.3	0.0	0.0	9.4	1.2
NLP	11.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	20.5	1.0
SLP	6.8	2.3	13.1	7.7	27.5	1.0
Statewide	8.0	1.8	12.3	7.1	24.1	0.7
Antlered Bucks						
West UP	15.2	8.6	0.0	0.0	35.6	2.2
East UP	17.1	12.2	0.0	0.0	21.9	3.7
NE LP	16.8	5.7	0.0	0.0	27.5	1.6
NW LP	16.4	5.2	0.0	0.0	30.6	1.6
Sag. Bay	17.1	8.0	0.0	0.0	38.6	1.8
SW LP	24.1	12.5	0.0	0.0	40.3	2.0
SC LP	26.1	15.6	0.0	0.0	39.1	1.8
SE LP	12.4	8.3	7.2	6.0	31.0	2.5
UP	15.7	7.2	0.0	0.0	32.8	1.9
NLP	17.5	3.7	0.0	0.0	30.1	1.1
SLP	20.2	7.0	7.2	6.0	39.9	1.1
Statewide	16.7	3.6	6.5	5.4	38.1	0.8

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season and deer taken with DMA permits.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 10 (continued). The percentage of deer hunters harvesting at least one deer in Michigan by hunting season, 2021.^a

Sex and Area	Season					
	Independence		Urban Archery		All Seasons	
	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b	Success	95% CL ^b
Sexes combined						
West UP	26.3	12.5	0.0	0.0	42.5	2.3
East UP	30.0	14.9	0.0	0.0	24.9	3.8
NE LP	29.7	7.0	0.0	0.0	40.8	1.8
NW LP	27.1	7.7	0.0	0.0	44.2	1.7
Sag. Bay	23.8	9.8	0.0	0.0	54.8	1.9
SW LP	31.0	13.9	0.0	0.0	56.4	2.0
SC LP	31.9	15.0	0.0	0.0	55.8	1.8
SE LP	20.1	11.5	16.0	8.4	45.0	2.7
UP	27.2	10.3	0.0	0.0	39.0	2.0
NLP	28.4	5.1	0.0	0.0	44.1	1.2
SLP	26.7	7.5	16.0	8.4	56.0	1.1
Statewide	24.5	4.2	14.9	7.7	52.5	0.8

^aExcluded people that did not hunt during the season and deer taken with DMA permits.

^b95 confidence limit.

Table 11. Level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the number of deer seen and the number of antlered deer (bucks) seen among Michigan deer hunters, 2020-2021.

Criteria and area	Satisfied hunters (%) ^a				Dissatisfied hunters (%) ^b			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^c	Difference from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^c	Difference from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Number of deer seen								
West UP	31	37	2	6*	55	47	2	-9*
East UP	23	27	4	4	65	60	5	-5
NE LP	27	33	2	5*	58	53	2	-5*
NW LP	35	36	2	0	49	49	2	0
Sag. Bay	48	51	2	4	36	33	2	-3
SW LP	53	53	2	0	30	31	2	1
SC LP	58	59	2	1	26	27	2	0
SE LP	48	49	3	1	34	32	3	-3
UP	29	35	2	6*	57	49	2	-8*
NLP	32	35	1	3*	53	50	1	-3*
SLP	54	55	1	1	29	29	1	0
Statewide	42	44	1	2*	42	40	1	-2*
Number of antlered deer (bucks) seen								
West UP	21	25	2	5*	64	59	2	-5*
East UP	11	17	4	5	76	70	5	-6
NE LP	20	23	2	3*	64	61	2	-3
NW LP	26	28	2	2	58	55	2	-2
Sag. Bay	33	37	2	3	47	45	2	-2
SW LP	38	40	2	3	43	42	2	-1
SC LP	43	45	2	2	37	37	2	-1
SE LP	33	34	3	1	47	44	3	-3
UP	19	24	2	5*	66	61	2	-5*
NLP	23	26	1	3*	60	57	1	-3*
SLP	39	41	1	2*	42	40	1	-1
Statewide	30	33	1	3*	52	50	1	-2*

^aIncluded hunters who were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied."

^bIncluded hunters who were "somewhat dissatisfied" or "strongly dissatisfied."

^c95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate.

*P<0.05.

Table 12. Level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the size of the antlers on antlered deer (bucks) and overall deer hunting experience among Michigan deer hunters, 2020-2021.

Criteria and area	Satisfied hunters (%) ^a				Dissatisfied hunters (%) ^b			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^c	Difference from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^c	Difference from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Size of antlers								
West UP	18	20	2	2	55	55	2	0
East UP	12	14	3	2	60	62	5	2
NE LP	18	21	2	3*	53	49	2	-4
NW LP	26	27	2	2	46	45	2	-1
Sag. Bay	28	28	2	1	44	45	2	1
SW LP	33	33	2	0	39	40	2	1
SC LP	36	37	2	1	37	39	2	1
SE LP	28	27	3	-1	42	43	3	1
UP	17	19	2	2	56	57	2	0
NLP	22	24	1	2*	50	47	1	-2
SLP	33	33	1	0	39	41	1	1
Statewide	27	28	1	1	45	45	1	0
Overall deer hunting experience								
West UP	41	48	2	7*	39	31	2	-8*
East UP	33	42	5	9*	49	36	5	-13*
NE LP	41	48	2	7*	39	31	2	-7*
NW LP	47	48	2	2	31	30	2	-1
Sag. Bay	54	58	2	4*	25	22	2	-2
SW LP	58	62	2	4*	20	20	2	0
SC LP	64	62	2	-2	18	19	2	1
SE LP	53	57	3	5	25	20	2	-5*
UP	39	47	2	8*	41	32	2	-9*
NLP	44	49	1	4*	34	31	1	-4*
SLP	59	61	1	2	20	20	1	-1
Statewide	51	54	1	3*	28	26	1	-3*

^aIncluded hunters who were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied."

^bIncluded hunters who were "somewhat dissatisfied" or "strongly dissatisfied."

^c95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate.

*P<0.05.

Table 13. Level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with overall deer hunting experience and the number of deer harvested among Michigan deer hunters, 2020-2021.

Criteria and area	Satisfied hunters (%) ^a				Dissatisfied hunters (%) ^b			
	2020	2021	95% CL ^c	Difference from 2020 to 2021 (%)	2020	2021	95% CL ^c	Difference from 2020 to 2021 (%)
Number of deer harvested								
West UP	29	36	2	6*	36	29	2	-6*
East UP	21	24	4	3	41	34	5	-6
NE LP	27	33	2	6*	38	32	2	-6*
NW LP	34	37	2	2	32	32	2	0
Sag. Bay	41	41	2	0	26	25	2	-1
SW LP	43	45	2	3	25	24	2	-1
SC LP	47	45	2	-2	21	23	2	2
SE LP	37	39	3	1	29	26	3	-3
UP	28	33	2	6*	37	30	2	-6*
NLP	31	35	1	4*	34	32	1	-3*
SLP	44	44	1	0	24	24	1	0
Statewide	37	39	1	2*	30	28	1	-2*

^aIncluded hunters who were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied.”

^bIncluded hunters who were “somewhat dissatisfied” or “strongly dissatisfied.”

^c95 confidence limit for the 2021 estimate.

*P<0.05.

Table 14. Level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the number of deer seen and the number of antlered deer (bucks) seen among Michigan deer hunters in 2021. Estimates are provided separately for hunters hunting on private land only and public land only within the hunter's preferred hunt area.

Criteria and preferred hunt area	Satisfied hunters (%) ^a					Dissatisfied hunters (%) ^b				
	Private only	95% CL	Public only	95% CL	Difference between land types (%)	Private only	95% CL	Public only	95% CL	Difference between land types (%)
Number of deer seen										
West UP	42	3	32	5	-11*	41	3	49	6	8
East UP	32	6	24	9	-8	54	6	64	10	10
NE LP	38	2	23	3	-15*	48	2	63	4	15*
NW LP	41	2	25	4	-16*	43	2	60	4	17*
Sag. Bay	54	2	35	7	-19*	31	2	47	7	16*
SW LP	55	2	26	7	-29*	29	2	55	9	26*
SC LP	61	2	39	7	-22*	25	2	45	8	21*
SE LP	51	3	29	11	-22*	30	3	44	12	13
UP	40	3	30	5	-10*	44	3	52	5	9*
NLP	40	2	25	2	-16*	45	2	61	3	16*
SLP	57	1	34	4	-23*	27	1	47	5	20*
Statewide	49	1	28	2	-22*	35	1	56	2	21*
Number of antlered deer (bucks) seen										
West UP	27	3	24	5	-2	58	3	58	5	0
East UP	17	5	16	8	-1	68	6	69	10	1
NE LP	27	2	16	3	-11*	57	2	67	4	10*
NW LP	32	2	21	4	-11*	51	2	62	4	11*
Sag. Bay	40	2	19	5	-21*	43	2	60	7	17*
SW LP	42	2	19	7	-23*	40	2	63	8	23*
SC LP	46	2	29	7	-17*	35	2	51	8	16*
SE LP	35	3	18	9	-18*	44	3	50	12	7
UP	25	2	23	4	-2	60	3	61	5	1
NLP	30	1	18	2	-12*	54	2	65	3	11*
SLP	43	1	24	4	-19*	39	1	55	5	16*
Statewide	36	1	20	2	-17*	46	1	62	2	16*

^aIncluded hunters who were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied."

^bIncluded hunters who were "somewhat dissatisfied" or "strongly dissatisfied."

*P<0.05.

Table 15. Level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the size of antlers on antlered deer (bucks) and overall deer hunting experience among Michigan deer hunters in 2021. Estimates are provided separately for hunters hunting on private land only and public land only within the hunter's preferred hunt area.

Criteria and preferred hunt area	Satisfied hunters (%) ^a					Dissatisfied hunters (%) ^b				
	Private only	95% CL	Public only	95% CL	Difference between land types (%)	Private only	95% CL	Public only	95% CL	Difference between land types (%)
Size of antlers										
West UP	21	3	22	5	1	54	3	53	6	-1
East UP	16	5	12	7	-4	61	6	62	11	1
NE LP	23	2	17	3	-6*	48	3	50	4	1
NW LP	29	2	24	4	-5	44	2	47	4	3
Sag. Bay	29	2	17	5	-12*	44	2	47	7	3
SW LP	35	2	15	6	-20*	38	2	50	9	11*
SC LP	38	2	20	6	-18*	38	2	46	8	8
SE LP	28	3	19	10	-9	42	3	42	12	1
UP	20	2	20	4	0	55	3	55	5	-1
NLP	26	1	19	2	-7*	46	2	49	3	3
SLP	34	1	19	4	-15*	40	1	44	5	5
Statewide	30	1	19	2	-11*	44	1	49	2	6*
Overall deer hunting experience										
West UP	54	3	47	6	-7	26	3	31	5	5
East UP	46	6	39	11	-7	31	6	38	11	7
NE LP	51	2	41	4	-11*	28	2	38	4	10*
NW LP	52	2	40	4	-11*	27	2	40	4	13*
Sag. Bay	60	2	45	7	-14*	21	2	30	6	9*
SW LP	64	2	40	8	-24*	18	2	39	8	21*
SC LP	64	2	52	8	-12*	18	2	27	7	9*
SE LP	59	3	48	12	-11	19	3	28	11	10
UP	52	3	45	5	-7	27	3	32	5	5
NLP	52	2	41	3	-11*	27	1	38	3	11*
SLP	63	1	47	5	-16*	18	1	31	4	12*
Statewide	58	1	43	2	-15*	22	1	35	2	13*

^aIncluded hunters who were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied."

^bIncluded hunters who were "somewhat dissatisfied" or "strongly dissatisfied."

*P<0.05.

Table 16. Level of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the number of deer harvested among Michigan deer hunters in 2021. Estimates are provided separately for hunters hunting on private land only and public land only within the hunter's preferred hunt area.

Criteria and preferred hunt area	Satisfied hunters (%) ^a					Dissatisfied hunters (%) ^b				
	Private only	95% CL	Public only	95% CL	Difference between land types (%)	Private only	95% CL	Public only	95% CL	Difference between land types (%)
Number of deer harvested										
West UP	40	3	34	5	-6	26	3	29	5	3
East UP	26	6	24	10	-2	30	6	39	11	9
NE LP	37	2	23	4	-14*	29	2	36	4	6
NW LP	41	2	24	4	-17*	28	2	43	5	15*
Sag. Bay	44	2	27	6	-16*	24	2	36	7	12*
SW LP	47	2	21	7	-26*	23	2	39	9	16*
SC LP	47	2	25	7	-22*	21	2	34	7	13*
SE LP	40	3	25	11	-16*	24	3	36	12	12
UP	37	3	32	5	-5	27	3	31	5	4
NLP	39	2	24	3	-15*	28	1	39	3	10*
SLP	46	1	25	4	-21*	22	1	36	5	14*
Statewide	43	1	25	2	-17*	25	1	37	2	12*

^aIncluded hunters who were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied."

^bIncluded hunters who were "somewhat dissatisfied" or "strongly dissatisfied."

*P<0.05.

Table 17. The estimated proportion and number of archers that used a crossbow during 2021 archery season in Michigan, summarized by region.

Region	Archers using a crossbow during archery season			
	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL
UP	73.6	3.3	17,925	1,516
NLP	77.0	1.5	78,828	3,001
SLP	71.9	1.3	108,434	3,402
Unknown ^a	69.0	3.3	18,359	1,539
Statewide	73.5	0.9	223,547	4,234

^aRegion could not be determined when hunters did not report where they hunted or when hunters reported hunting in more than one region.

Table 18. The estimated hunter success of archers hunting with a crossbow during 2021 archery season in Michigan, summarized by type of deer and region.

Region	Antlerless		Antlered Bucks		Sexes Combined	
	% ^a	95% CL	% ^a	95% CL	% ^a	95% CL
UP	9.0	2.4	18.4	3.3	26.3	3.8
NLP	12.3	1.3	23.6	1.7	33.1	1.9
SLP	12.9	1.2	30.7	1.6	39.8	1.7
Unknown ^b	12.0	2.8	21.6	3.5	29.6	3.9
Statewide	12.3	0.8	26.4	1.1	35.5	1.2

^aPercentage of crossbow hunters harvesting at least one deer.

^bRegion could not be determined when hunters did not report where they hunted or when hunters reported hunting in more than one region.

Table 19. The estimated number of deer harvested by archers with a crossbow during 2021 archery season in Michigan, summarized by type of deer and region.

Region	Antlerless		Antlered Bucks		Sexes Combined	
	No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL
UP	1,552	438	3,149	635	4,701	803
NLP	10,825	1,490	18,772	1,629	29,597	2,355
SLP	14,767	1,536	34,033	2,179	48,801	2,859
Unknown ^a	2,392	629	3,853	723	6,245	1,065
Statewide	29,536	2,246	59,808	2,800	89,344	3,795

^aRegion could not be determined when hunters did not report where they hunted or when hunters reported hunting in more than one region.

Table 20. The estimated proportion and number of deer hunters that used a trail camera to hunt deer in Michigan, summarized by area.

Area	Deer hunters using a trail camera ^a			
	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL
West UP	56	2	33,981	2,089
East UP	58	5	8,355	1,063
NE LP	45	2	39,845	2,255
NW LP	45	2	44,095	2,341
Sag. Bay	45	2	38,105	2,176
SW LP	46	2	34,085	2,080
SC LP	42	2	38,127	2,192
SE LP	48	3	17,577	1,518
UP	57	2	42,335	2,315
NLP	45	1	95,638	3,296
SLP	45	1	116,196	3,544
Statewide	46	1	257,688	4,447

^aExcluded license buyers that did not hunt.

Table 21. The estimated number of trail cameras used by deer hunters and the number of days these cameras were operated in Michigan during 2021, summarized by area.

Area	Number of trail cameras used				Number of days that trail cameras operated			
	Mean	95%		95%	Mean	95%		95% CL
		CL	Total			CL	CL	
West UP	2.5	0.1	88,381	6,374	52.3	3.2	1,776,657	145,267
East UP	2.4	0.2	22,064	2,949	54.9	7.7	481,675	85,830
NE LP	2.8	0.1	112,243	7,467	69.7	4.2	2,604,180	206,225
NW LP	2.9	0.1	136,355	7,868	71.6	3.7	3,150,380	221,113
Sag. Bay	2.9	0.1	108,522	7,229	79.4	4.3	2,775,271	210,466
SW LP	2.9	0.1	103,129	7,265	82.6	4.7	2,669,305	213,241
SC LP	3.0	0.1	122,374	7,891	85.7	4.5	3,153,521	232,010
SE LP	2.5	0.1	46,577	4,425	84.3	7.0	1,439,554	164,256
UP	2.5	0.1	110,446	6,957	52.9	3.0	2,258,332	167,517
NLP	2.9	0.1	281,830	11,287	72.5	2.7	6,646,118	322,929
SLP	2.9	0.1	347,370	12,388	82.5	2.5	9,146,093	376,939
Statewide	2.8	<0.1	751,147	16,653	73.2	1.6	18,230,787	493,669

^aExcluded license buyers that did not hunt and hunters that failed to report the number of cameras used and days of observation.

Table 22. The proportion of deer hunters using a trail camera that photographed the following selected carnivores, deer, and wild pig with their trail camera in 2021, summarized by area.^a

Area	Species									
	Bear		Bobcat		Coyote		Deer		Fisher	
	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL
West UP	55	3	18	2	49	3	97	1	15	2
East UP	44	6	22	5	50	6	95	3	11	4
NE LP	40	3	32	3	63	3	97	1	0.3	0.3
NW LP	33	3	40	3	68	3	98	1	0	0
Sag. Bay	8	2	17	2	61	3	98	1	0.3	0.3
SW LP	1	1	5	1	71	3	98	1	0.3	0.3
SC LP	1	0.5	8	2	70	3	98	1	0.1	0.2
SE LP	0.4	1	1	1	69	4	99	1	1	1
UP	53	3	19	2	49	3	97	1	14	2
NLP	35	2	36	2	65	2	98	1	0.2	0.2
SLP	1	0.3	6	1	68	2	98	0.4	0.3	0.2
Statewide	22	1	20	1	64	1	98	0.3	3	0.4

^aExcluded hunters that did not use a trail camera.

Table 22 (continued). The proportion of deer hunters using a trail camera that photographed the following selected carnivores, deer, and wild pig with their trail camera in 2021, summarized by area.^a

Area	Species							
	Fox		Marten		Wild pig		Wolf	
	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL
West UP	19	2	10	2	0.0	0.0	39	3
East UP	17	5	10	4	0.5	1	40	6
NE LP	29	3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	1	1
NW LP	33	3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Sag. Bay	40	3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
SW LP	42	3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
SC LP	41	3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
SE LP	38	4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4
UP	19	2	10	2	0.1	0.2	40	3
NLP	31	2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3
SLP	42	2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Statewide	34	1	2	0.3	0.2	0.1	7	1

^aExcluded hunters that did not use a trail camera.

Table 23. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that supported or opposed (1) changing the current combination license to include one statewide buck tag and one statewide doe tag, (2) eliminating the single deer license that only has a single buck tag, (3) maintaining regional antler point restrictions [APRs] that would apply for taking a buck, and (4) allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag to another hunter.^a

Group	Support %	Support 95% CL	Neither %	Neither 95% CL	Oppose %	Oppose 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	38	1	10	0	42	1	7	0	3	0
Males buyers	38	1	10	0	42	1	6	0	3	0
Female buyers	37	2	9	1	42	2	9	1	3	1
Completely rural buyers	37	3	8	2	45	3	7	2	3	1
Mostly rural buyers	37	1	9	1	43	1	7	1	4	0
Mostly urban buyers	39	1	10	1	42	1	6	0	3	0
New buyers ^b	42	3	13	2	27	3	13	2	4	1
Repeat buyers	38	1	10	0	43	1	6	0	3	0
Ages 1-9	42	4	9	3	38	4	9	3	3	1
Ages 10-19	42	2	13	1	34	2	10	1	2	1
Ages 20-29	54	3	8	2	31	3	5	1	2	1
Ages 30-39	52	3	9	1	32	2	5	1	2	1
Ages 40-49	46	2	9	1	36	2	7	1	2	1
Ages 50-59	40	2	10	1	42	2	5	1	2	1
Ages 60-69	32	1	10	1	48	1	7	1	3	1
Ages 70-79	28	2	9	1	50	2	8	1	5	1
Ages 80+	26	4	9	2	48	4	7	2	10	2

^aThe support category combined respondents that indicated that they support or strongly support. The oppose category included respondents that reported that they oppose or strongly oppose.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 24. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that spending time outdoors was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	96	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Males buyers	96	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Female buyers	96	1	0	0	3	1	1	1
Completely rural buyers	95	1	0	0	3	1	1	1
Mostly rural buyers	96	1	0	0	3	0	1	0
Mostly urban buyers	97	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
New buyers ^b	94	1	1	1	4	1	2	1
Repeat buyers	97	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Ages 1-9	95	2	1	1	3	1	1	1
Ages 10-19	94	1	0	0	5	1	1	0
Ages 20-29	97	1	0	0	2	1	1	1
Ages 30-39	97	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Ages 40-49	98	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Ages 50-59	98	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ages 60-69	97	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Ages 70-79	95	1	0	0	3	1	2	1
Ages 80+	90	2	1	1	5	2	4	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 25. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that spending time with friends and family was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	88	0	1	0	10	0	1	0
Males buyers	88	1	1	0	10	0	1	0
Female buyers	89	2	1	0	9	2	1	1
Completely rural buyers	86	2	0	0	12	2	1	1
Mostly rural buyers	85	1	1	0	12	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	89	1	0	0	9	1	1	0
New buyers ^b	88	2	1	1	9	2	1	1
Repeat buyers	88	1	1	0	10	0	1	0
Ages 1-9	97	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ages 10-19	93	1	1	0	6	1	1	0
Ages 20-29	90	2	1	1	8	2	1	1
Ages 30-39	89	2	1	0	10	2	1	0
Ages 40-49	91	1	1	0	8	1	0	0
Ages 50-59	89	1	0	0	9	1	1	0
Ages 60-69	86	1	1	0	12	1	1	0
Ages 70-79	85	1	1	0	12	1	2	1
Ages 80+	79	3	1	1	12	3	7	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 26. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that the excitement of seeing deer was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	89	0	0	0	9	0	2	0
Males buyers	88	1	0	0	10	0	2	0
Female buyers	92	1	0	0	7	1	1	1
Completely rural buyers	87	2	0	0	11	2	2	1
Mostly rural buyers	87	1	0	0	10	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	89	1	0	0	9	1	1	0
New buyers ^b	86	2	1	1	12	2	2	1
Repeat buyers	89	0	0	0	9	0	2	0
Ages 1-9	93	2	2	1	4	2	2	1
Ages 10-19	93	1	0	0	5	1	1	0
Ages 20-29	91	2	0	0	8	2	1	1
Ages 30-39	92	1	0	0	7	1	1	1
Ages 40-49	91	1	0	0	8	1	1	0
Ages 50-59	90	1	0	0	9	1	1	0
Ages 60-69	88	1	0	0	10	1	2	0
Ages 70-79	83	1	0	0	14	1	3	1
Ages 80+	76	3	1	1	16	3	7	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 27. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that bringing home meat for food was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	69	1	0	0	29	1	2	0
Males buyers	67	1	0	0	30	1	2	0
Female buyers	84	2	1	0	14	2	2	1
Completely rural buyers	73	3	1	0	25	3	2	1
Mostly rural buyers	70	1	1	0	27	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	68	1	0	0	30	1	2	0
New buyers ^b	74	3	2	1	22	3	1	1
Repeat buyers	69	1	0	0	29	1	2	0
Ages 1-9	80	4	3	2	15	3	2	1
Ages 10-19	80	2	1	0	17	2	2	1
Ages 20-29	82	3	0	0	17	2	1	1
Ages 30-39	83	2	0	0	16	2	1	0
Ages 40-49	74	2	0	0	25	2	1	0
Ages 50-59	69	2	0	0	30	2	1	0
Ages 60-69	64	1	0	0	33	1	2	0
Ages 70-79	57	2	0	0	40	2	3	1
Ages 80+	52	4	1	1	40	4	7	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 28. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that bringing home a nice trophy was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	38	1	1	0	59	1	2	0
Males buyers	38	1	1	0	59	1	2	0
Female buyers	38	2	1	0	59	2	2	1
Completely rural buyers	39	3	1	1	58	3	2	1
Mostly rural buyers	39	1	1	0	57	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	37	1	1	0	60	1	2	0
New buyers ^b	39	3	2	1	56	3	2	1
Repeat buyers	38	1	1	0	60	1	2	0
Ages 1-9	49	4	3	2	45	4	2	1
Ages 10-19	55	2	1	1	42	2	1	0
Ages 20-29	43	3	1	1	55	3	1	1
Ages 30-39	39	2	1	0	60	3	1	0
Ages 40-49	35	2	1	0	64	2	1	0
Ages 50-59	38	2	1	0	60	2	1	0
Ages 60-69	35	1	1	0	62	1	2	0
Ages 70-79	33	2	1	0	63	2	3	1
Ages 80+	33	4	1	1	56	4	10	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 29. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that demonstrating their hunting skills was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	45	1	1	0	51	1	2	0
Males buyers	44	1	1	0	52	1	2	0
Female buyers	53	3	2	1	44	3	2	1
Completely rural buyers	47	3	1	1	50	3	2	1
Mostly rural buyers	46	1	2	0	50	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	45	1	1	0	52	1	2	0
New buyers ^b	49	3	3	1	46	3	2	1
Repeat buyers	45	1	1	0	52	1	2	0
Ages 1-9	64	4	4	2	31	4	2	1
Ages 10-19	61	2	2	1	36	2	1	0
Ages 20-29	50	3	2	1	47	3	1	1
Ages 30-39	48	3	1	1	51	3	0	0
Ages 40-49	46	2	1	0	53	2	1	0
Ages 50-59	46	2	1	0	52	2	1	0
Ages 60-69	44	1	1	0	53	1	2	0
Ages 70-79	37	2	2	0	58	2	4	1
Ages 80+	33	4	3	1	54	4	10	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 30. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that the physical exercise from hunting was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	60	1	1	0	37	1	2	0
Males buyers	60	1	1	0	37	1	2	0
Female buyers	59	2	1	0	37	2	2	1
Completely rural buyers	58	3	1	1	39	3	3	1
Mostly rural buyers	59	1	1	0	38	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	61	1	1	0	37	1	2	0
New buyers ^b	58	3	3	1	38	3	2	1
Repeat buyers	60	1	1	0	37	1	2	0
Ages 1-9	61	4	3	2	34	4	2	1
Ages 10-19	59	2	2	1	38	2	1	0
Ages 20-29	56	3	1	1	42	3	1	1
Ages 30-39	55	3	1	1	43	3	1	0
Ages 40-49	56	2	1	0	42	2	1	0
Ages 50-59	61	2	1	0	37	2	1	0
Ages 60-69	64	1	1	0	34	1	2	0
Ages 70-79	59	2	1	0	36	2	3	1
Ages 80+	58	4	1	1	32	4	9	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Table 31. The proportion of deer hunting license buyers that indicated that the time spent alone in the field was an important reason why they enjoyed hunting deer.^a

Group	Important %	Important 95% CL	Not sure %	Not sure 95% CL	Not important %	Not important 95% CL	No answer %	No answer 95% CL
All license buyers	79	1	1	0	18	1	2	0
Males buyers	80	1	1	0	18	1	2	0
Female buyers	72	2	3	1	23	2	2	1
Completely rural buyers	79	3	1	0	19	3	1	1
Mostly rural buyers	78	1	2	0	19	1	2	0
Mostly urban buyers	80	1	1	0	18	1	1	0
New buyers ^b	66	3	5	1	27	3	2	1
Repeat buyers	80	1	1	0	18	1	2	0
Ages 1-9	58	4	13	3	27	4	2	1
Ages 10-19	63	2	8	1	27	2	1	1
Ages 20-29	78	3	1	1	19	3	1	1
Ages 30-39	82	2	0	0	17	2	1	0
Ages 40-49	82	2	0	0	17	2	1	0
Ages 50-59	82	1	0	0	16	1	1	0
Ages 60-69	83	1	0	0	16	1	1	0
Ages 70-79	77	2	1	0	20	2	3	1
Ages 80+	70	4	1	1	21	3	8	2

^aThe important category combined respondents that indicated that the factor was important or very important. The not important category included respondents that reported that the factor was slightly important or not important.

^bNew license buyers were defined as people that had not purchased a license during the previous 11 years (2010-2020).

Appendix A. The questionnaire that was used to collect data for the 2021 Michigan deer harvest survey.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division
 PO Box 30030 Lansing MI 48909-7530

2021 MICHIGAN DEER HARVEST STUDY

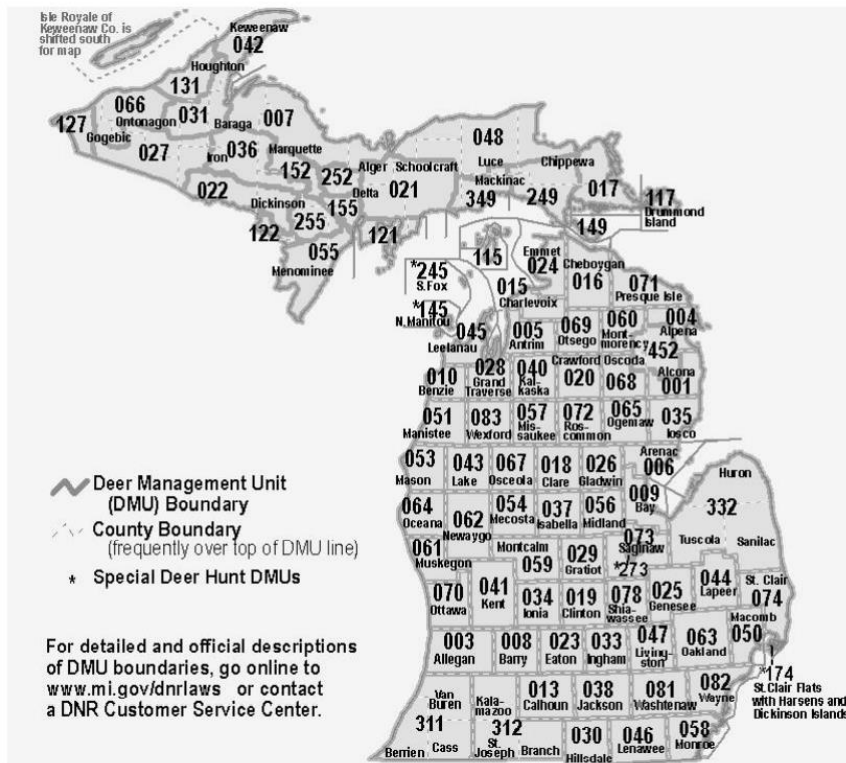
This information is requested under the authority of Part 435, 1994 PA 451, M.C.L. 324.43539.



It is important that you return this questionnaire even if you did not hunt or harvest a deer. Please report only your hunting activities, and only report taking a deer if your kill tag was attached to it.

1. Did you hunt deer in Michigan during the 2021 seasons?

- 1 Yes. 2 No. Skip to Question #12.



Appendix A (continued). The questionnaire that was used to collect data for the 2021 Michigan deer harvest survey.

2. In the following table, please report only your hunting activities and the deer tagged with your deer license. Report harvest and days hunted in different counties on separate rows. For each deer harvested, indicate the type of deer tagged (antlered buck or antlerless), and whether it was taken on public or private land. Antlered bucks have antlers at least 3 inches in length; antlerless deer include deer without antlers and deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length. Do not report hunting effort and harvest taken with Deer Management Assistance Permits.

SEASON HUNTED (Check box if you hunted during the season.)	LOCATION HUNTED (For each season hunted, list the management unit and county hunted on separate lines. See map on first page.)		NUMBER OF DAYS HUNTED	NUMBER OF DEER HARVESTED (Record by type of deer and land ownership type where each deer was taken.)			
	Deer Management Unit	County		Antlered Bucks		Antlerless	
				Public Land	Private Land	Public Land	Private Land
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Example	1 041	Kent	12	0	1	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery Oct 1-Nov 14 and Dec 1-Jan 1 (Statewide)	1						
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Firearm Nov 15-30 (Statewide)	1						
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Muzzleloader Dec 3-12 (Statewide)	1						
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Firearm Sept 18-19 (Lower Peninsula)	1			Only antlerless deer could be taken on private land during the early firearm season			
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Firearm Dec 13-Jan 1 (Lower Peninsula)	1			Only antlerless deer could be taken on private land during the late firearm season			
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Liberty/Youth Hunt Sept 11-12 (Statewide)	1						
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Independence Hunt Oct 14-17 (Statewide)	1						
	2						
	3						
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Urban Archery Hunt Jan 2-31 (Macomb, Oakland, & Wayne counties only)	1						
	2						
	3						

Appendix A (continued). The questionnaire that was used to collect data for the 2021 Michigan deer harvest survey.

3. Did you use a crossbow to hunt deer during the archery season (Oct. 1- Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1)?

¹ Yes ² No. Skip to Question #5.

4. If you used a crossbow to hunt deer during the archery season, how many deer did you take using the crossbow in 2021?

_____ Report the number of antlerless deer you took with a crossbow.

_____ Report the number of antlered deer (bucks) you took with a crossbow.

5. If you harvested a deer in 2021, how many of your deer were taken to a commercial meat processor for processing?

_____ Report the number of deer taken to a commercial meat processor.

5a. To what extent do you agree or disagree that it more difficult than usual to locate a meat processor to butcher a deer in 2021?

¹ Strongly Agree ² Agree ³ Neither ⁴ Disagree ⁵ Strongly disagree ⁶ Not sure

6. What is your preferred county to hunt deer in Michigan? Please select one county from the counties you reported hunting during the 2021 seasons in Question #2.

Please write county name

7. On what type of land did you hunt deer in your preferred county in 2021?

¹ Public ² Private ³ Both private and public lands

8. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following for the 2021 deer hunting seasons in your preferred county:

(Select one choice per item.)

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
a. Number of deer you saw.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Number of antlered deer (bucks) you saw.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>
c. The size of the antlers on the bucks you saw.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Your overall deer hunting experience.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>
e. Number of deer you harvested.	¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	² <input type="checkbox"/>	³ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>	⁶ <input type="checkbox"/>

9. Did you use a trail camera to monitor deer activity in the county where you preferred to deer hunt in 2021?

¹ Yes ² No (If no, please skip to question 12.)

10. If you used a trail camera in 2021, how many cameras did you use and how many days did you use a camera to monitor deer activity in your preferred county?

_____ Report the number of trail cameras you used in your preferred county.

_____ Report the average number of days you used each trail camera in your preferred county.

11. If you used a trail camera, which of the following animals did you photograph in the county where you preferred to deer hunt in 2021? (Select all that apply.)

⁰ None ¹ Bear ² Bobcat ³ Coyote ⁴ Deer
⁵ Fisher ⁶ Fox ⁷ Marten ⁸ Wild pig ⁹ Wolf

Appendix A (continued). The questionnaire that was used to collect data for the 2021 Michigan deer harvest survey.

12. Currently, resident deer hunters that want to take a buck can purchase either a single deer license (\$20) that has 1 buck kill tag or purchase a combination license (\$40) that has 2 buck kill tags. In the Lower Peninsula, these tags can also be used for antlerless deer. The DNR is requesting feedback on the types of deer that can be taken with these deer licenses. These changes include:

1. Changing the current combination license to include one statewide buck tag and one statewide doe tag (still \$40). Hunters would no longer be able to harvest two bucks.
2. Eliminating the single deer license that only has a single buck tag. Thus, a buck could only be taken with the new combination license.
3. Maintaining regional antler point restrictions (APRs) that would apply for taking a buck. APRs would continue to protect over 50% of yearling bucks to promote their growth to older age classes. Areas with APRs previously established through the Department's APR process would continue.
4. Allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag to another hunter so that they could use it to harvest a buck.

If all four changes were implemented together, how much would you support these changes?

- 1 Strongly support 2 Support 3 Neither 4 Oppose 5 Strongly oppose 6 Unsure

13. How important are each of the following factors in describing why you enjoy deer hunting?

(Select one choice per item.)

	Very Important	Important	Slightly Important	Not Important	Not Sure
a. Spending time outdoors (enjoying nature, viewing wildlife).	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Enjoying time spent with friends and family.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. The feeling of excitement when seeing deer.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Bringing home meat for food.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
e. Bringing home a nice trophy.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
f. Demonstrating my hunting skill.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
g. The physical exercise that hunting provides.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
h. Enjoying time spent alone in the field.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

14. The DNR has incentivized hunters to bring a deer to a check station by giving them a free deer cooperators patch. It's possible that the DNR can obtain biological data and samples without using patches. Thus, we would like to know how much you support or oppose the following options for the patch program? (Select one choice per item.)

	Strongly support	Support	Neither	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Not Sure
a. Distribute patches for free <u>only</u> at 13 Customer Service Centers during normal business hours.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Discontinue producing and distributing patches.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Sell these patches for a fee that covers the cost of producing them.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>

15. Do you usually try to obtain a free patch from the DNR if you harvest a deer?

- 1 Yes 2 No 3 Not sure

16. How likely is it that you would purchase a patch if it cost \$5?

- 1 Very likely 2 Somewhat likely 3 Not very likely 4 Not at all likely 5 Not sure

Please return questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thanks for your help!

Appendix B. The estimated number of deer hunters, hunting effort, and deer harvested in Michigan during 2021, summarized by Deer Management Unit.

DMU ^d	Hunters ^{b,c}		Hunting effort (days) ^b		Deer harvested (all seasons combined) ^a					
	No.	95% CL ^e	No.	95% CL	Antlerless		Antlered bucks		Sexes combined	
					No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL
001	6,851	954	67,062	13,812	1,038	407	1,716	514	2,754	669
003	10,312	1,150	133,435	20,638	3,755	1,016	4,145	800	7,900	1,482
004	4,051	735	42,081	10,895	1,778	626	1,354	455	3,132	889
005	5,773	866	56,675	12,165	1,254	523	1,474	435	2,728	730
006	6,238	897	71,700	15,879	1,679	578	2,542	619	4,221	909
007	6,895	952	68,440	13,305	40	66	2,453	583	2,493	587
008	8,711	1,059	113,555	18,697	3,190	933	3,526	749	6,716	1,368
009	3,619	677	40,144	11,449	1,065	483	1,177	423	2,242	708
010	4,159	740	42,839	12,252	785	346	913	377	1,698	576
013	8,492	1,046	117,343	19,810	2,754	772	4,213	813	6,967	1,275
015	3,804	703	36,501	9,447	1,370	695	927	354	2,297	823
016	6,505	921	71,189	14,455	1,278	540	1,992	558	3,270	821
017	3,328	665	33,389	8,704	44	66	823	308	867	315
018	10,679	1,170	117,057	18,873	2,980	779	3,323	714	6,303	1,181
019	8,876	1,070	112,272	19,002	3,574	838	4,100	752	7,674	1,297
020	6,333	915	56,150	12,606	1,240	496	1,311	425	2,551	679
021	5,993	884	67,841	14,043	320	181	1,537	459	1,857	513
022	6,179	895	71,033	14,940	1,517	468	1,757	489	3,274	751
023	7,547	989	94,684	17,645	3,058	778	3,439	752	6,497	1,267
024	3,418	665	37,742	10,772	813	392	981	388	1,794	633
025	7,882	1,013	109,789	19,979	1,860	529	2,869	659	4,729	928
026	11,725	1,229	135,794	19,337	3,676	851	3,860	744	7,536	1,229
027	3,384	672	33,113	9,019	64	73	1,136	381	1,200	399
028	5,831	869	70,583	15,228	1,158	439	1,658	522	2,816	807
029	7,606	986	90,792	16,787	3,875	1,073	3,505	720	7,380	1,411
030	8,171	1,031	109,705	20,099	3,560	856	3,777	783	7,337	1,387
031	3,513	679	28,518	6,837	63	73	1,209	393	1,272	399
033	6,471	920	84,010	17,997	2,360	721	2,612	644	4,972	1,110
034	9,454	1,101	128,934	22,249	4,166	973	3,520	735	7,686	1,341
035	7,780	1,008	94,758	17,256	1,951	575	2,723	641	4,674	938
036	4,086	738	43,583	10,969	503	281	918	345	1,421	491
037	9,008	1,077	106,506	17,109	2,627	701	4,604	874	7,231	1,227
038	11,343	1,211	161,112	24,409	3,864	906	5,242	938	9,106	1,506

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^bColumn totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal regional and statewide totals because of rounding errors.

^cThe number of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one DMU.

^dSee Figure 2 for the locations of DMUs.

^e95 confidence limit.

Appendix B (continued). The estimated number of deer hunters, hunting effort, and deer harvested in Michigan during 2021, summarized by Deer Management Unit.

DMU ^d	Hunters ^{b,c}		Hunting effort (days) ^b		Deer harvested (all seasons combined) ^a					
	No.	95% CL ^e	No.	95% CL	Antlerless		Antlered bucks		Sexes combined	
					No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL
040	6,176	896	67,094	14,758	780	350	1,018	367	1,798	573
041	12,656	1,277	165,829	23,361	3,589	823	4,930	848	8,519	1,297
042	1,624	459	13,092	4,301	2	4	429	240	431	240
043	13,275	1,308	159,178	21,994	2,124	545	3,063	673	5,187	954
044	11,922	1,238	168,551	24,855	3,771	927	4,090	778	7,861	1,351
045	3,559	683	42,719	12,134	703	388	994	373	1,697	562
046	7,040	960	104,317	20,691	2,008	618	2,878	641	4,886	988
047	8,895	1,078	114,477	19,415	2,204	700	2,703	644	4,907	1,030
048	3,097	641	30,147	8,324	14	22	861	333	875	333
050	4,256	747	50,207	12,501	711	306	1,653	490	2,364	656
051	8,863	1,066	91,847	15,709	2,092	610	2,529	629	4,621	1,024
053	10,326	1,156	135,145	22,061	3,873	936	4,504	829	8,377	1,410
054	11,323	1,203	159,277	23,847	4,320	996	4,078	788	8,398	1,449
055	11,750	1,236	135,199	20,137	2,441	633	5,063	821	7,504	1,141
056	7,814	999	100,103	18,450	2,032	600	2,880	634	4,912	1,004
057	8,522	1,058	79,206	14,073	1,743	852	2,637	638	4,380	1,189
058	4,261	744	50,170	12,278	978	411	941	368	1,919	612
059	11,896	1,226	139,842	19,867	3,834	895	4,400	809	8,234	1,343
060	7,347	981	76,105	15,215	1,523	485	1,419	451	2,942	744
061	5,935	875	74,141	16,037	991	450	2,241	595	3,232	834
062	15,915	1,418	193,363	23,646	5,216	1,221	5,702	961	10,918	1,677
063	7,214	975	87,386	17,750	1,529	608	2,209	599	3,738	945
064	9,557	1,104	133,386	21,156	3,240	833	4,117	780	7,357	1,351
065	10,728	1,184	116,161	18,719	2,589	674	4,248	819	6,837	1,193
066	3,403	673	30,765	7,284	38	37	1,076	370	1,114	373
067	10,960	1,185	121,236	17,806	2,453	660	4,077	818	6,530	1,111
068	7,024	967	63,339	12,414	1,125	445	1,474	437	2,599	664
069	5,764	869	53,782	11,195	665	293	1,505	479	2,170	562
070	8,700	1,049	128,744	21,322	2,801	947	3,474	735	6,275	1,337
071	7,809	1,017	81,065	13,954	1,753	554	2,349	569	4,102	841
072	8,206	1,041	97,390	17,103	1,100	426	1,936	507	3,036	766
073	9,831	1,118	140,108	21,734	3,929	926	4,683	851	8,612	1,430
074	10,422	1,160	148,966	22,566	2,803	728	3,110	645	5,913	1,065
078	7,425	979	99,752	18,340	3,398	1,078	3,616	752	7,014	1,501
081	7,813	1,012	91,112	16,795	2,168	706	2,978	692	5,146	1,129
082	1,233	404	15,289	7,269	536	589	356	265	892	758
083	7,848	1,010	92,234	18,908	1,497	489	2,184	566	3,681	804

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^bColumn totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal regional and statewide totals because of rounding errors.

^cThe number of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one DMU.

^dSee Figure 2 for the locations of DMUs.

^e95 confidence limit.

Appendix B (continued). The estimated number of deer hunters, hunting effort, and deer harvested in Michigan during 2021, summarized by Deer Management Unit.

DMU ^d	Hunters ^{b,c}		Hunting effort (days) ^b		Deer harvested (all seasons combined) ^a					
	No.	95% CL ^e	No.	95% CL	Antlerless		Antlered bucks		Sexes combined	
					No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL	No.	95% CL
115	376	228	3,865	3,051	36	66	143	162	179	199
117	1,352	427	9,936	4,207	140	133	198	150	338	200
121	2,523	572	27,447	8,414	451	266	1,187	416	1,638	537
122	1,677	465	19,073	7,453	418	241	695	299	1,113	438
127	1,082	381	12,605	6,513	0	0	297	188	297	188
131	2,504	572	28,988	10,337	15	22	1,030	381	1,045	381
145	227	177	1,646	1,347	176	220	70	94	246	257
149	846	339	7,443	3,518	35	66	122	150	157	164
152	2,645	592	34,662	10,844	214	281	665	311	879	469
155	4,080	734	44,945	10,348	682	339	1,320	445	2,002	597
174	213	161	1,302	1,056	5	0	49	66	54	66
245	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
249	2,122	531	21,262	7,006	78	94	387	211	465	249
252	1,700	475	16,609	5,873	115	101	594	312	709	353
255	2,872	611	34,890	10,104	625	339	960	359	1,585	561
273	1,420	425	11,460	4,901	371	281	445	242	816	416
311	15,381	1,410	249,342	32,376	7,216	1,306	7,022	1,050	14,238	1,945
312	14,339	1,350	209,186	27,631	5,856	1,114	6,561	987	12,417	1,678
332	34,419	2,048	433,774	36,920	13,051	1,715	15,170	1,489	28,221	2,585
349	2,224	549	22,101	7,492	71	133	364	210	435	248
452	8,282	1,044	87,273	17,283	2,187	849	2,437	579	4,624	1,109

^aHarvest estimates do not include deer taken with DMA permits. An additional 8,636 deer were taken with these permits.

^bColumn totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal regional and statewide totals because of rounding errors.

^cThe number of hunters does not add up to the statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one DMU.

^dSee Figure 2 for the locations of DMUs.

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