



# 2021 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

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# MAJOR CHANGES IN 2021

- Universal antlerless deer licenses were available without application (maximum=10). These licenses could be used to take an antlerless deer on public or private land in any deer management unit open to antlerless deer hunting.
- In the Upper Peninsula, antlerless deer harvest was restricted in new DMUs 351 and 352. To hunt in these DMUs, hunters needed an antlerless deer hunting access permit AND a universal antlerless deer license. Access permits were distributed via a drawing.





# 2021 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

- 593,160 people purchased a license (3.7% decrease)
- 19,776 of 60,332 questionnaires returned (33% response)
- Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years



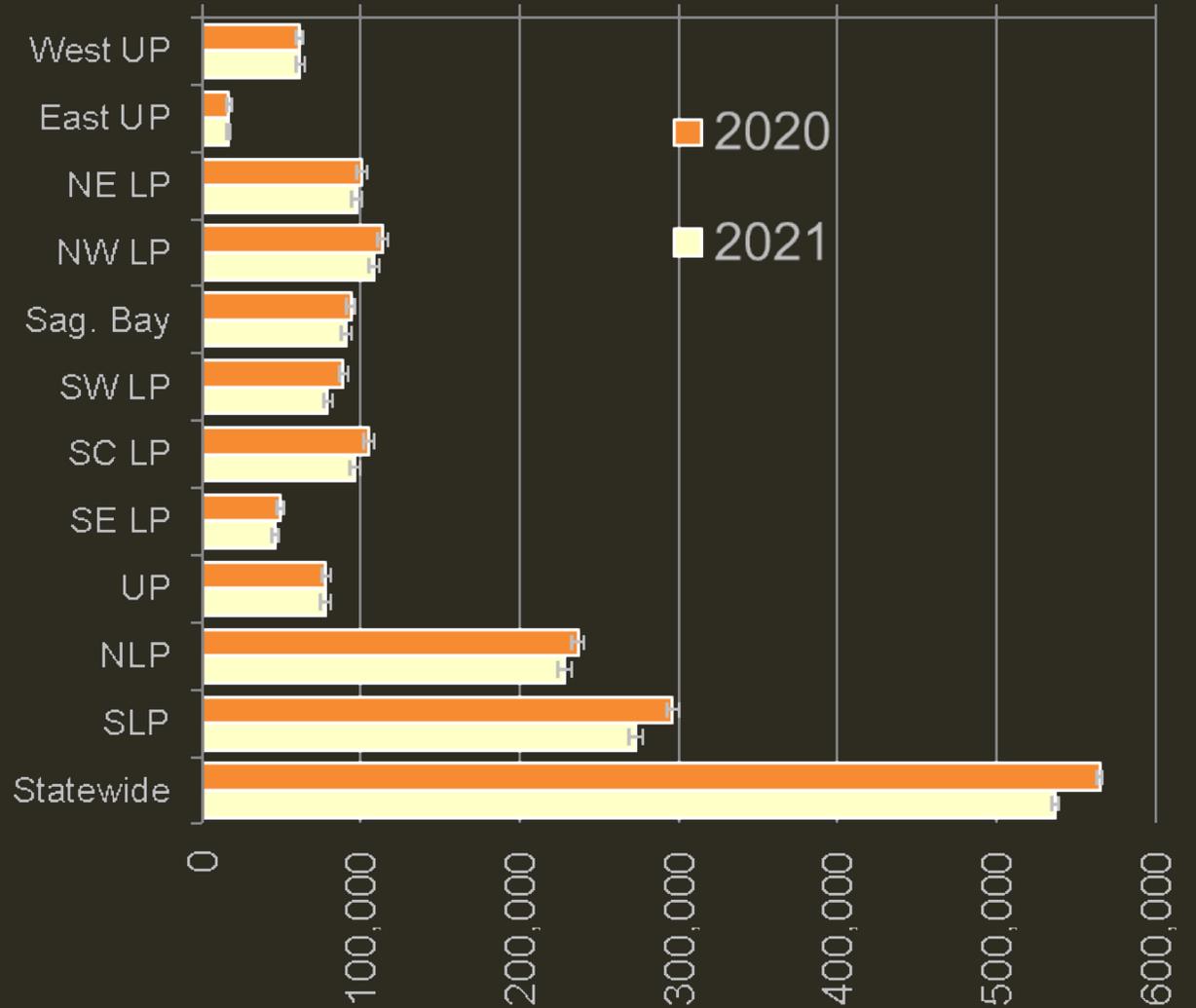
# HARVEST TAGS SOLD, 2019-2021.

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



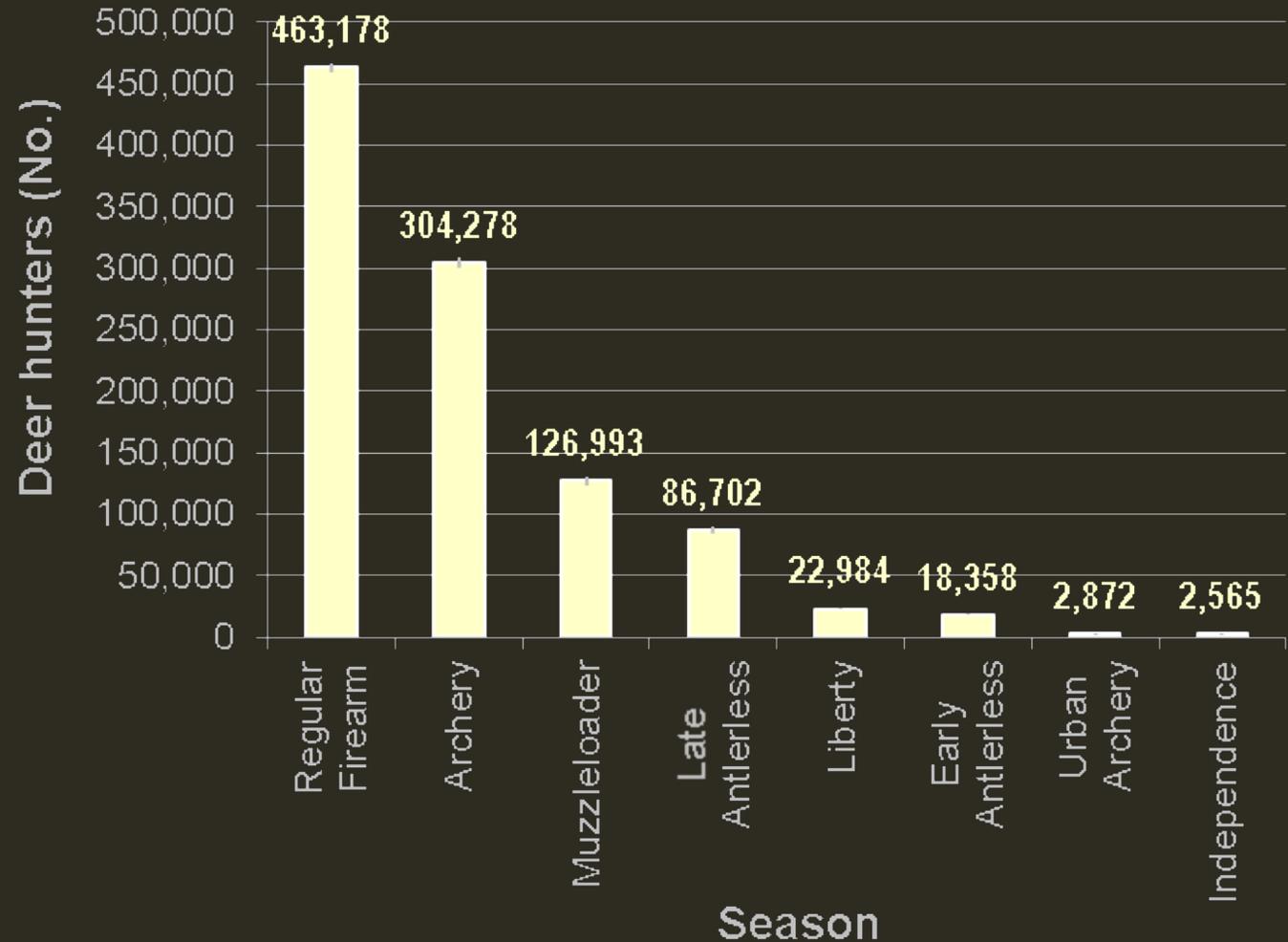
# 2021 DEER HUNTERS

- For all seasons combined, 537,014 people hunted deer, which was nearly 5% fewer than last year.
- Hunter numbers declined significantly in the NLP (-3.5%) and SLP (-7.6%).

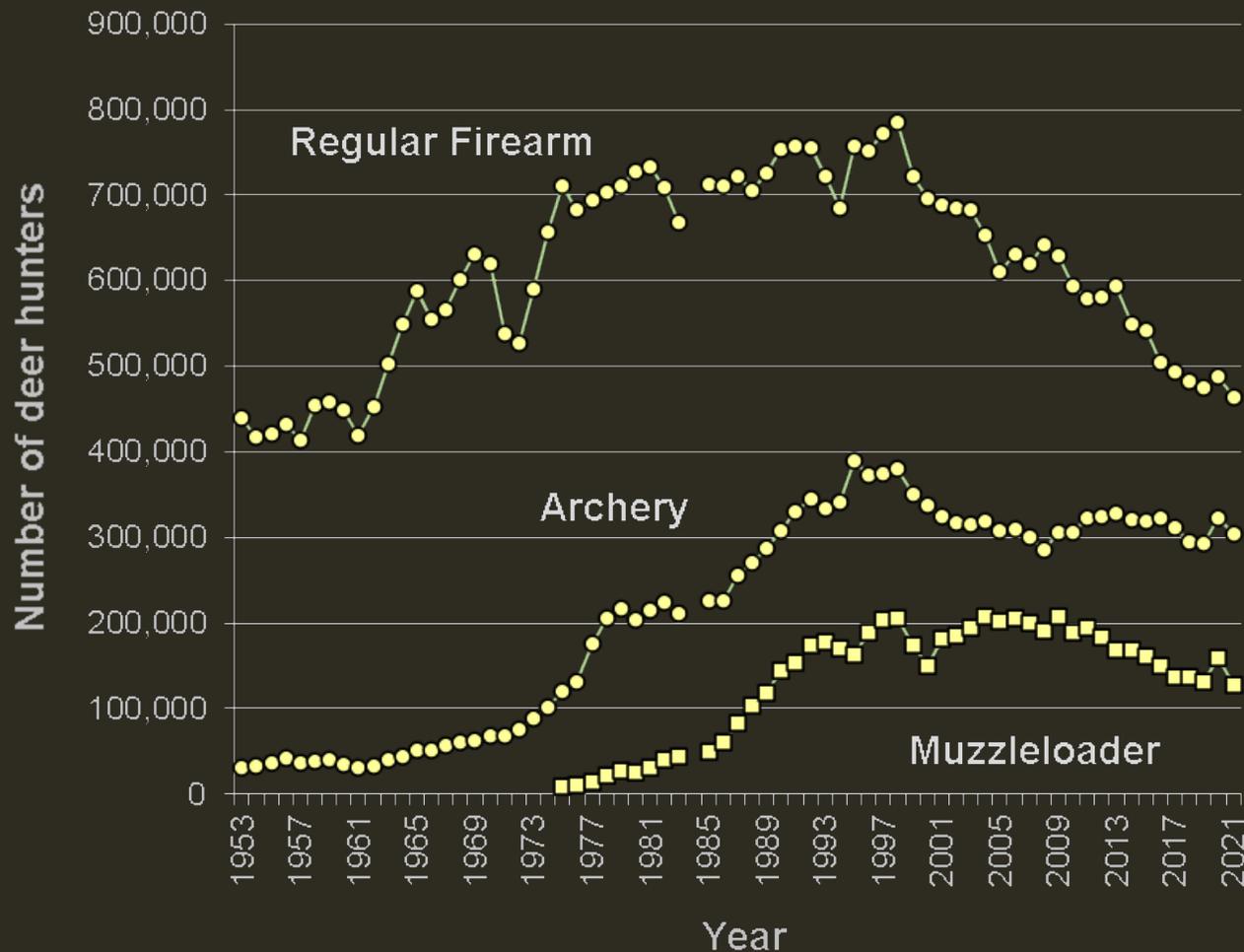


# 2021 DEER HUNTERS

Hunter numbers decreased significantly in all seasons except the late urban archery hunt.



# LONG-TERM DEER HUNTER TRENDS



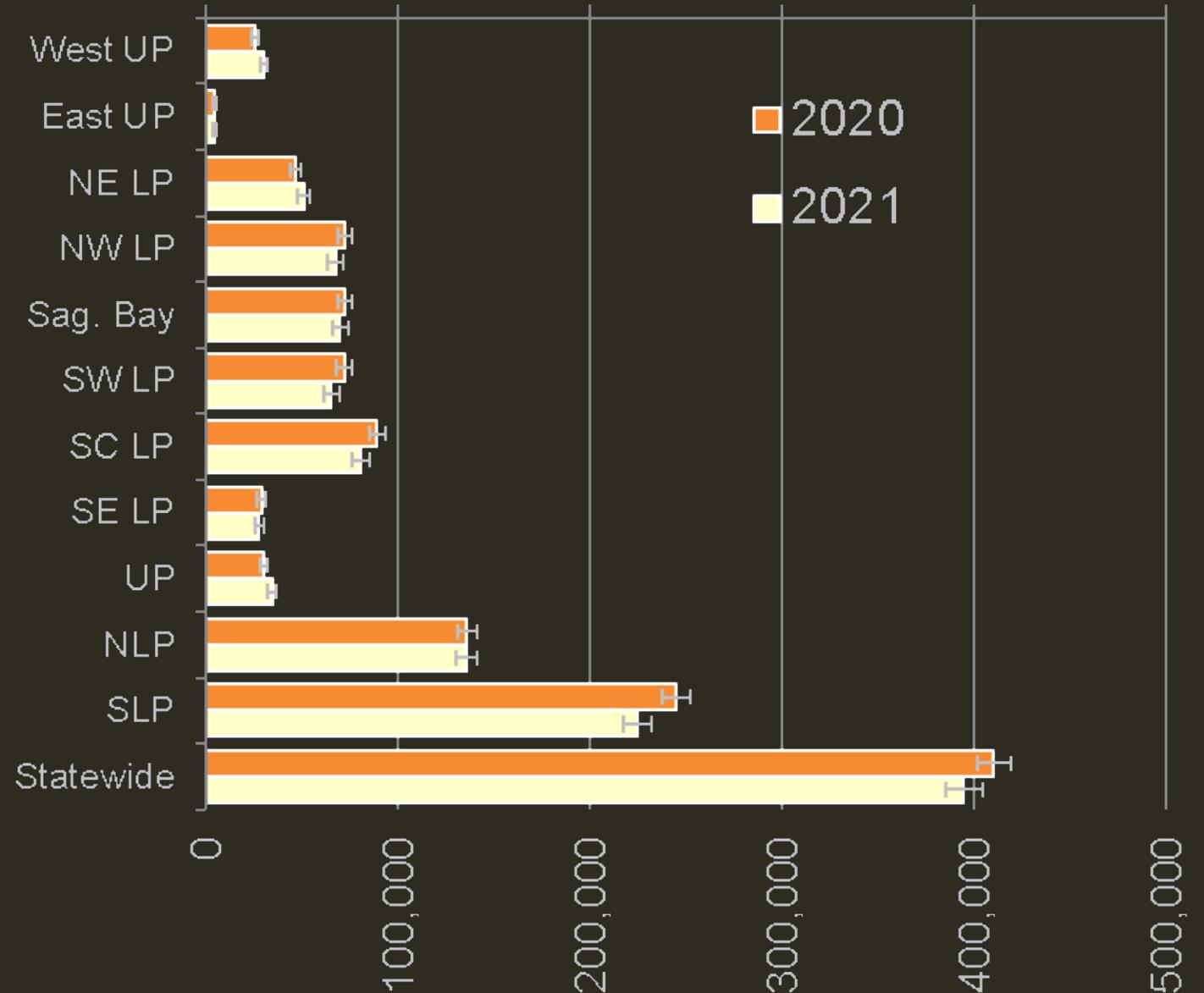
Fewer people hunting during the regular firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

The number of archers has been relatively stable.



# 2021 DEER HARVEST

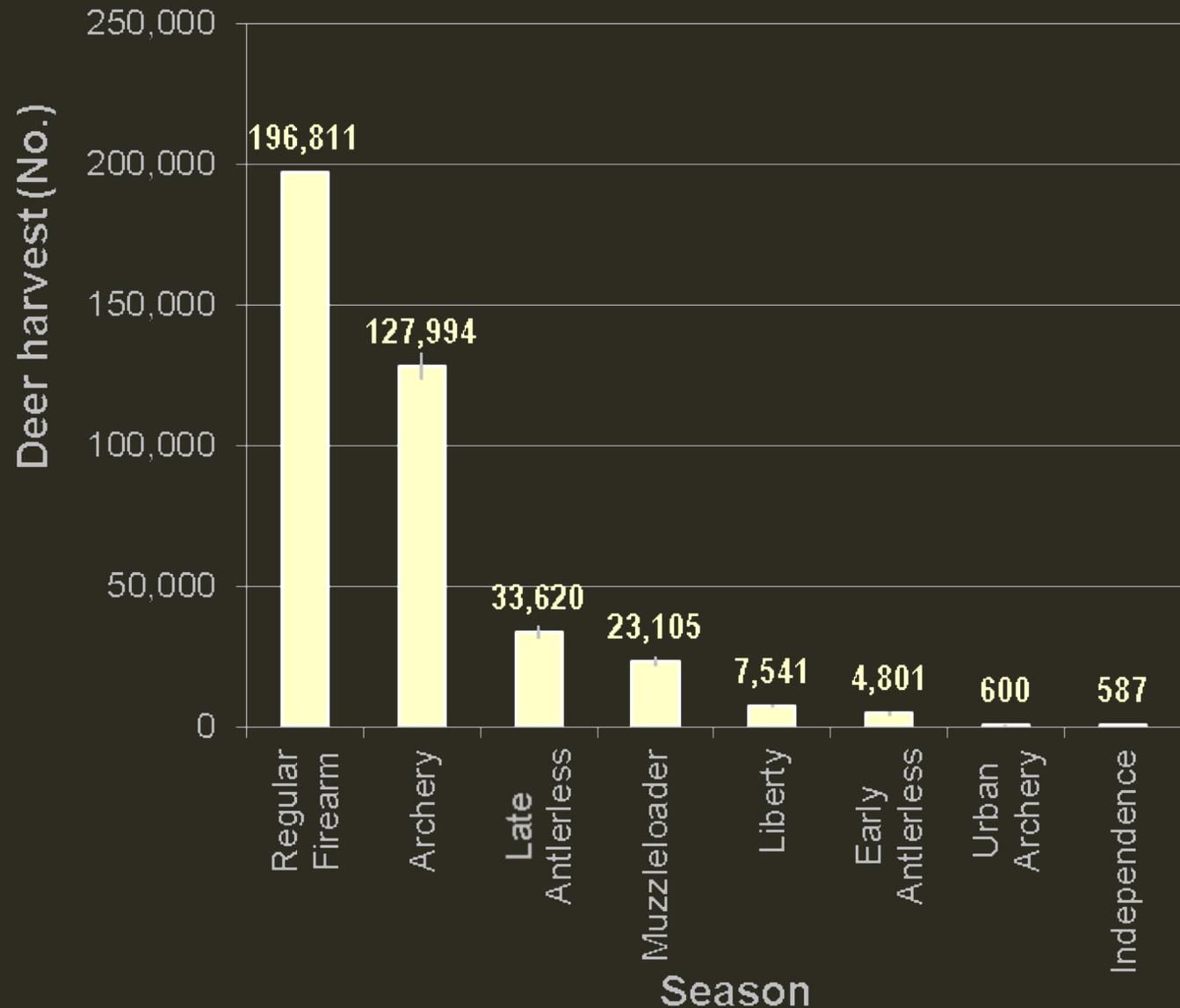
- In all seasons combined, 395,059 deer were harvested, which was not significantly different from last year (410,639).
- Buck harvest was not significantly different from 2020, but antlerless deer harvest decreased by 10%.
- Harvest decreased significantly in the SLP (8%).



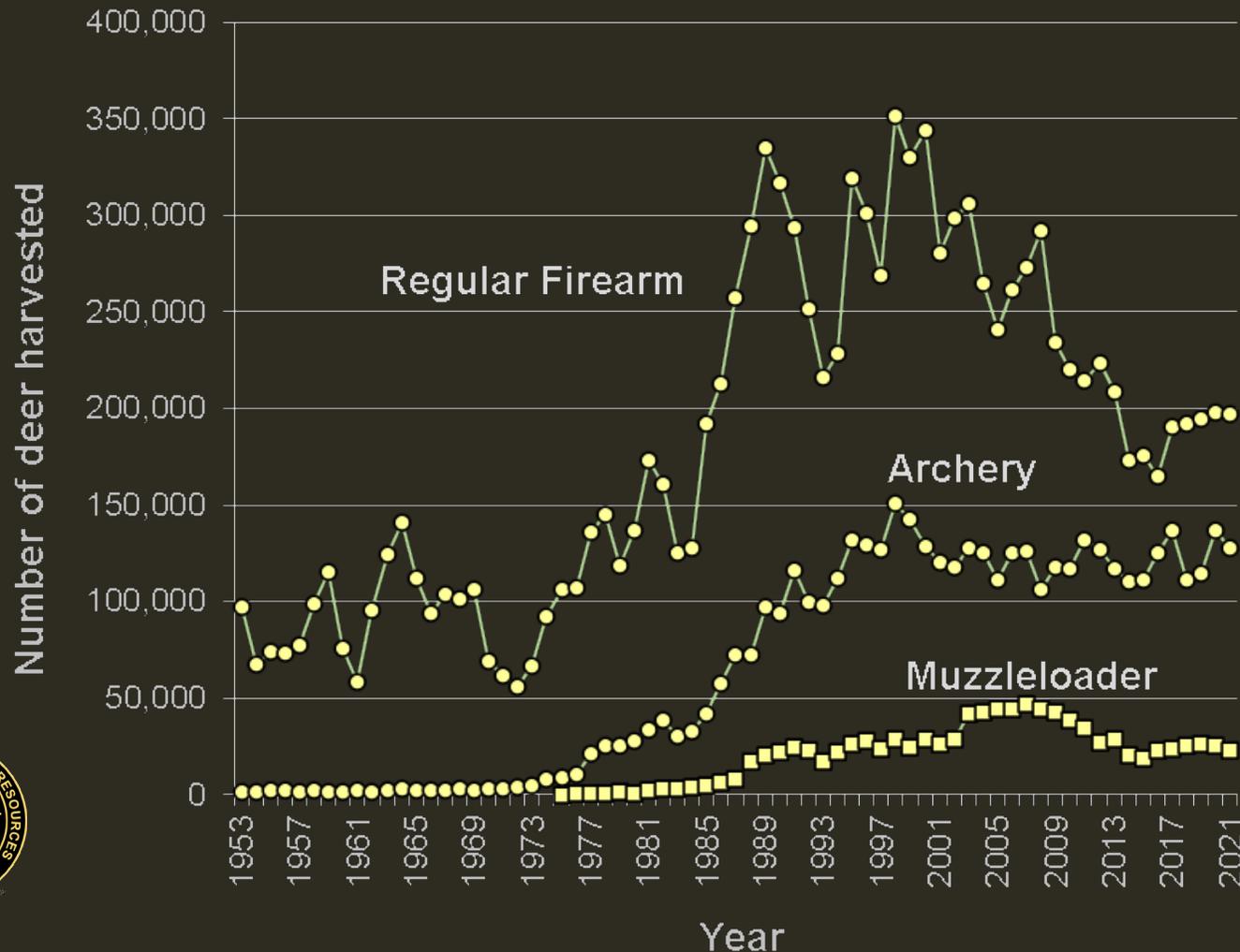
# 2021 DEER HARVEST

Harvest decreased significantly in the early antlerless (-43%) and Liberty (-24%) seasons

Harvest was unchanged in the remaining seasons.



# LONG-TERM DEER HARVEST TRENDS



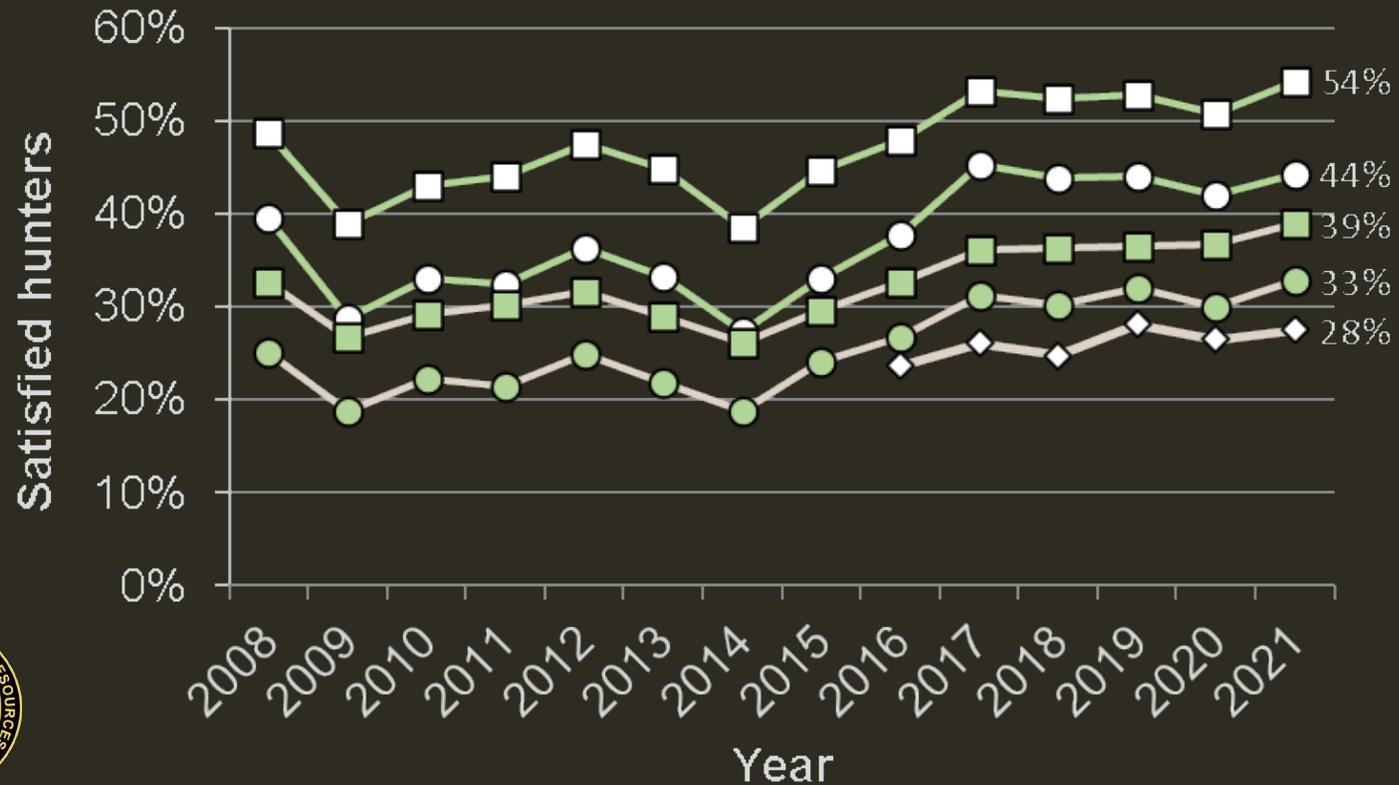
Fewer deer taken during the regular firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

Harvest in archery season has been stable.



# DEER HUNTER SATISFACTION

- Overall deer hunting experience
- Number of deer seen
- Number of deer taken
- Number of antlered deer seen
- Size of antlers seen



All levels of satisfaction increased, except for the size of the antlers

Experience (54%)\*

Deer seen (44%)\*

Deer taken (39%)\*

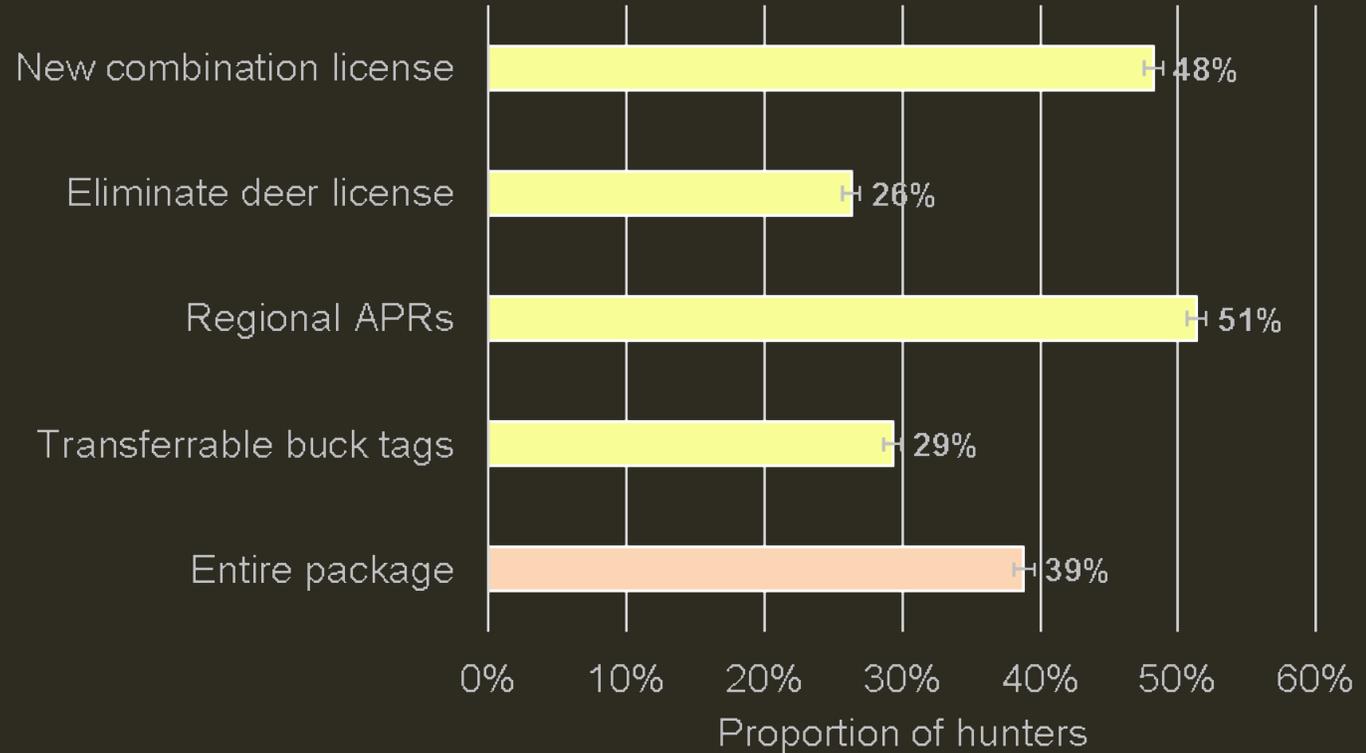
Bucks seen (33%)\*

Size of antlers (28%)



# POTENTIAL DEER REGULATIONS

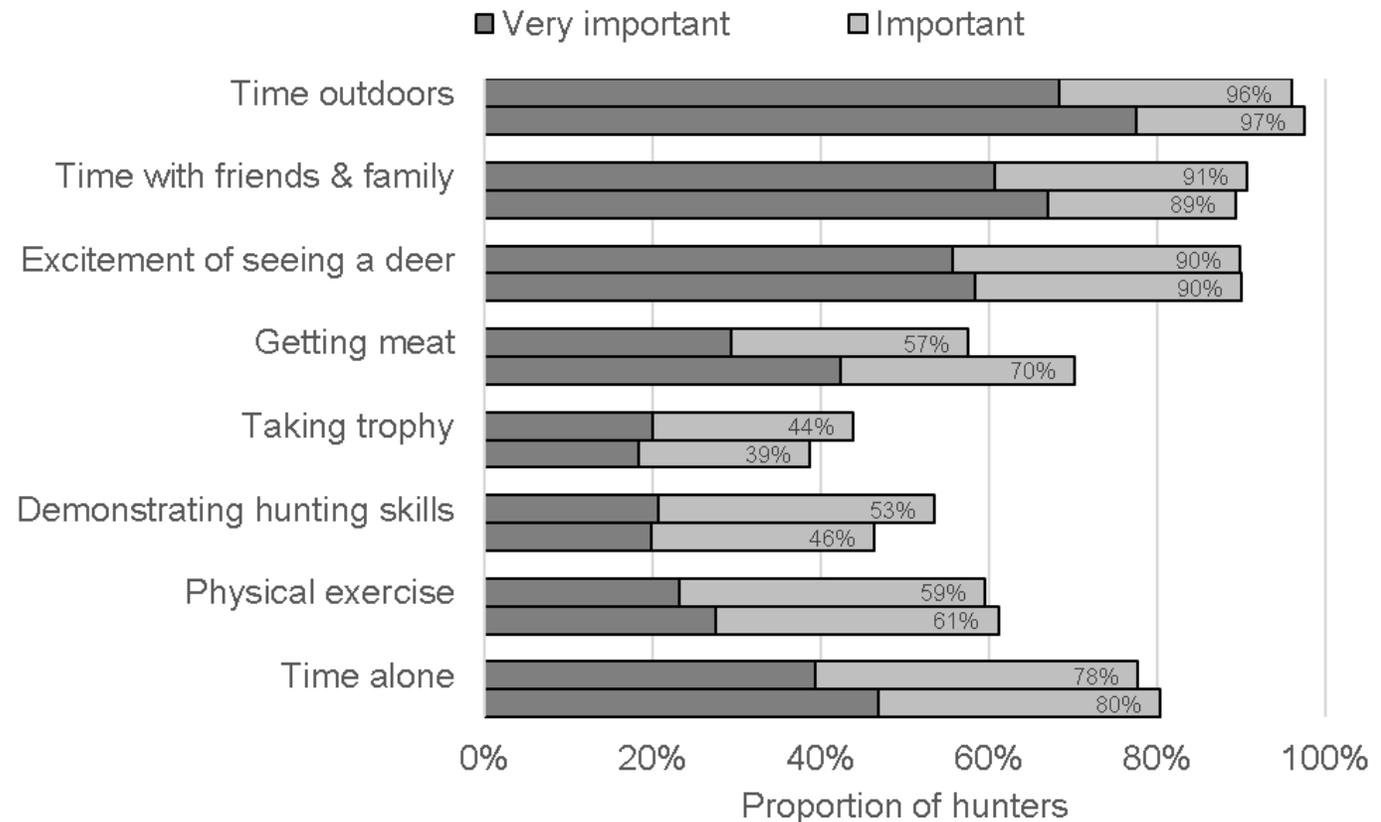
- 48% of hunters supported changing the combination license (1 buck and 1 doe statewide)
- 26% supported eliminating the single deer license
- 51% supported regional APRs on the buck tag
- 29% supported allowing hunters to transfer an unused buck tag
- 39% supported combined package (all 4 items)



# REASONS TO DEER HUNT

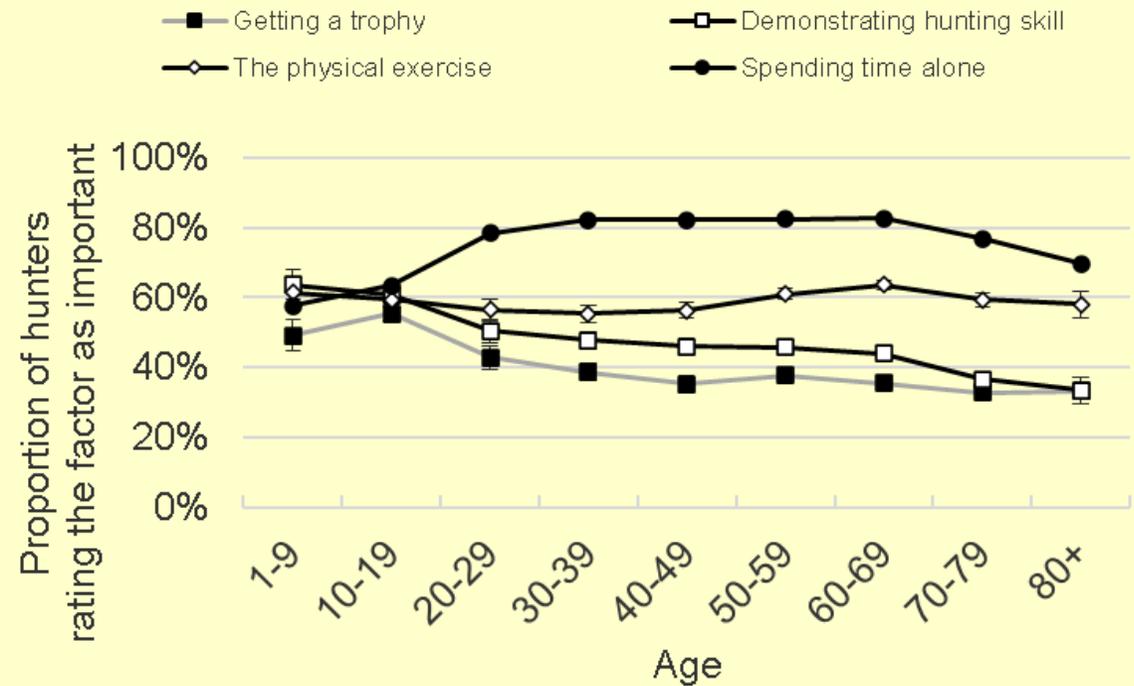
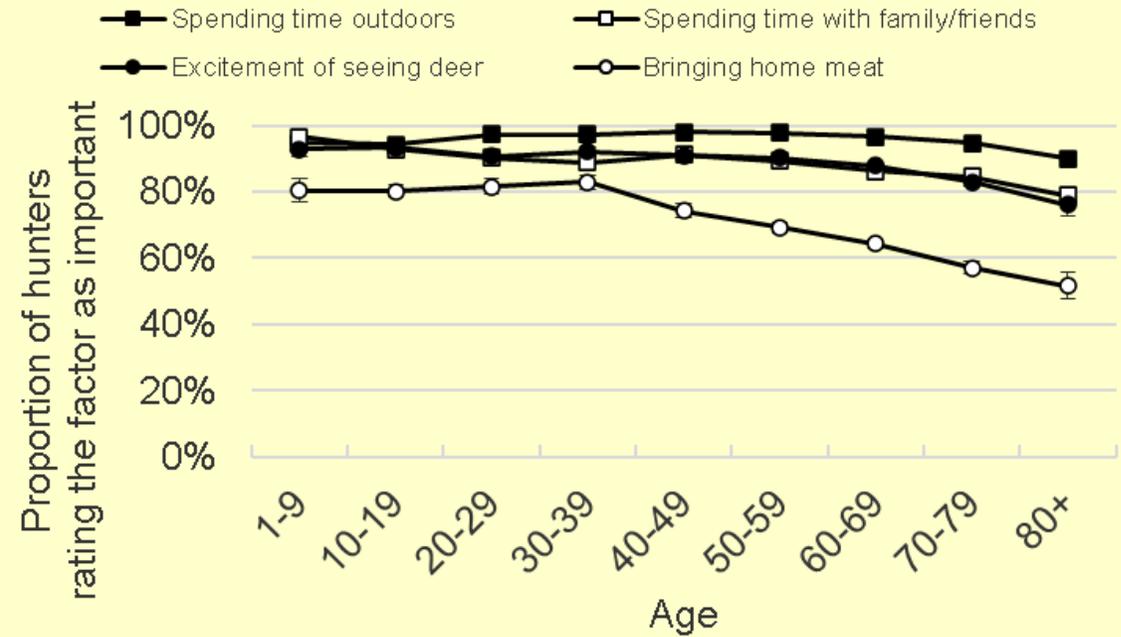
➤ The most important reasons why hunters enjoy hunting deer were (1) spending time outdoors, (2) spending time with friends and family, (3) experiencing excitement from seeing a deer, and (4) spending time alone in the field.

➤ Hunters placed more importance on bringing home meat for food in 2021 than hunters in 2006.



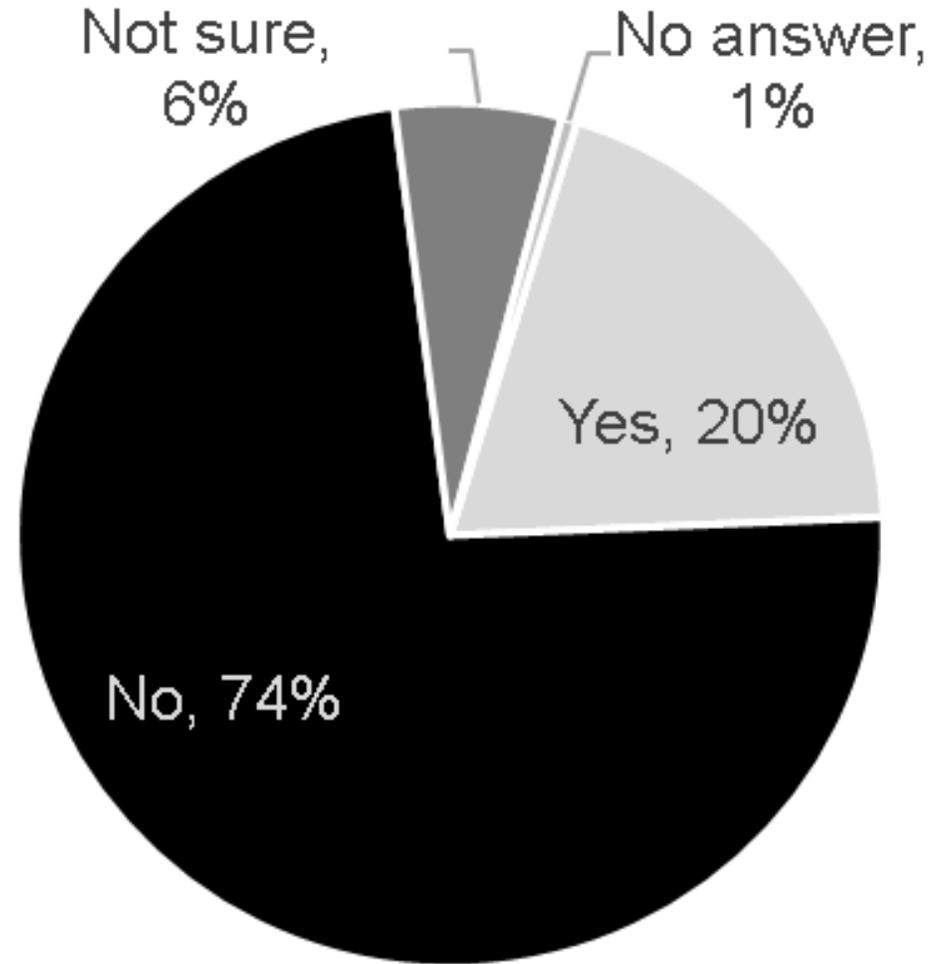
# REASONS TO DEER HUNT

➤ Bringing home meat, getting a trophy, and demonstrating your hunting skills are generally less important as hunters get older.



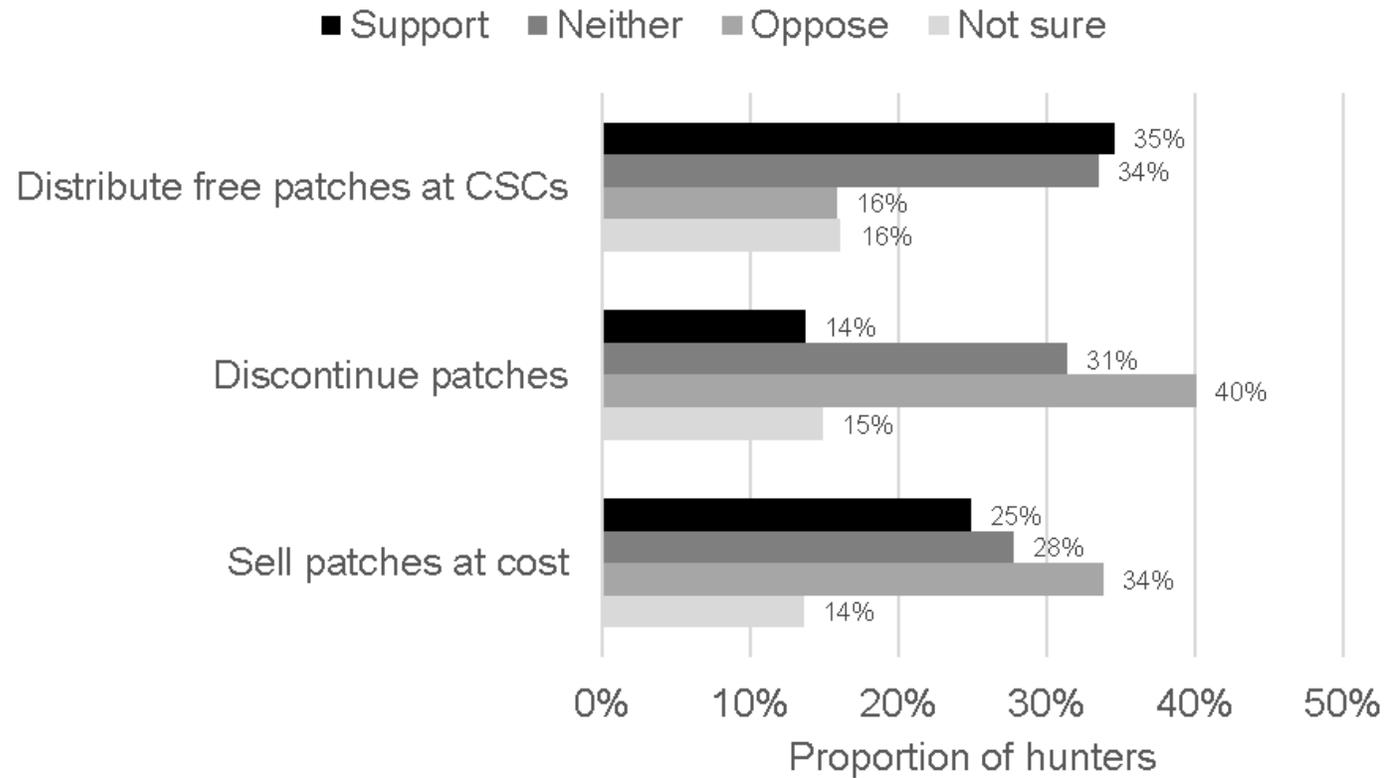
# THE DEER PATCH PROGRAM

- About 20% of deer hunters tried to obtain a free patch if they harvested a deer.



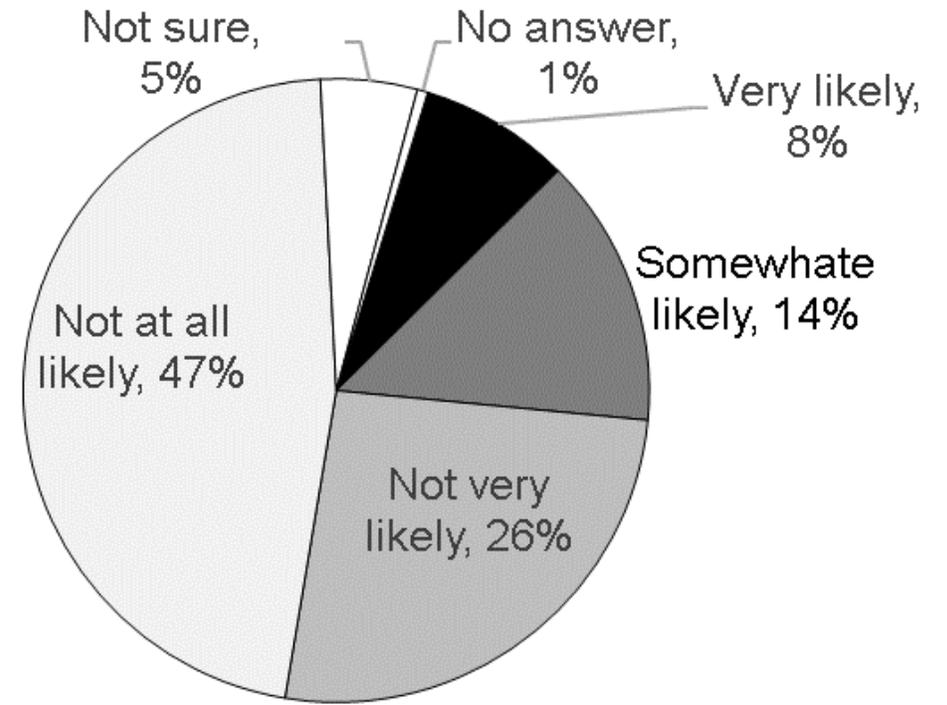
# OPINIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DEER PATCH PROGRAM

- None of the options were selected by most of the hunters.



## HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT HUNTERS WOULD PURCHASE A PATCH IF IT COST \$5?

- 8% very likely to buy a patch
- 14% somewhat likely to buy a patch
- 78% unlikely to purchase a patch or not sure



# SUMMARY

- Nearly a 4% decrease in the number of license buyers.
- Nearly a 5% decrease in the number of people that went afield.
- Overall harvest was not significantly different from last year (buck harvest was unchanged but antlerless harvest decreased by 10%).
- Most levels of satisfaction (except antler size) improved.



# SUMMARY

- 39% of hunters supported the regulation package that was evaluated.
- 20% of hunters currently tried to obtain a free patch if they harvested a deer.
- 22% of hunters were very likely or somewhat likely to purchase a \$5 patch.



THANK YOU

