

# Preliminary 2023 Firearm Deer Season Results



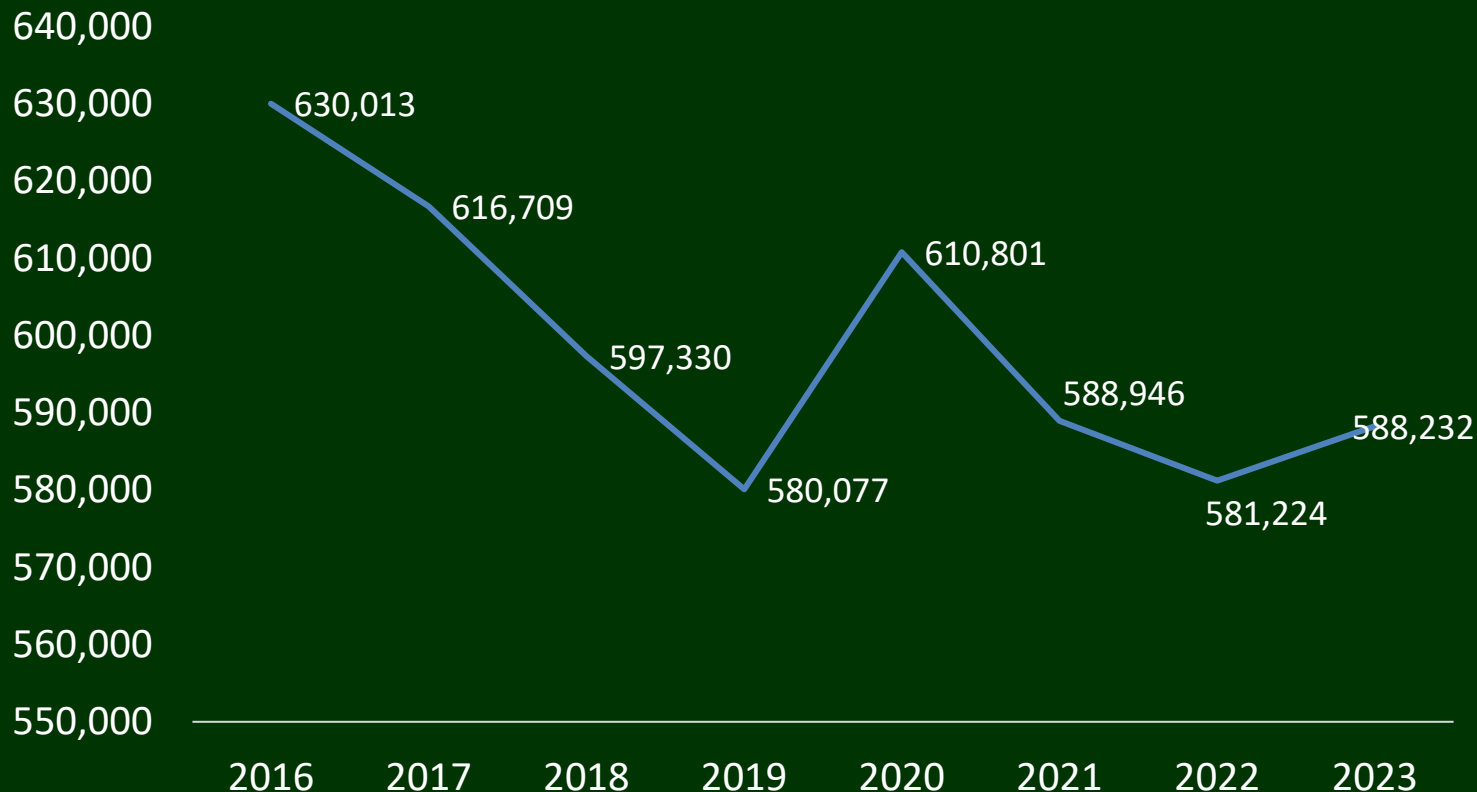
Chad Stewart  
Deer, Elk, and Moose Management Specialist  
December 14, 2023



# License Buyers

- License sales (As of 11/30/2023)
  - Unique deer license buyers increased 1.2%

## Individual Deer License Buyers



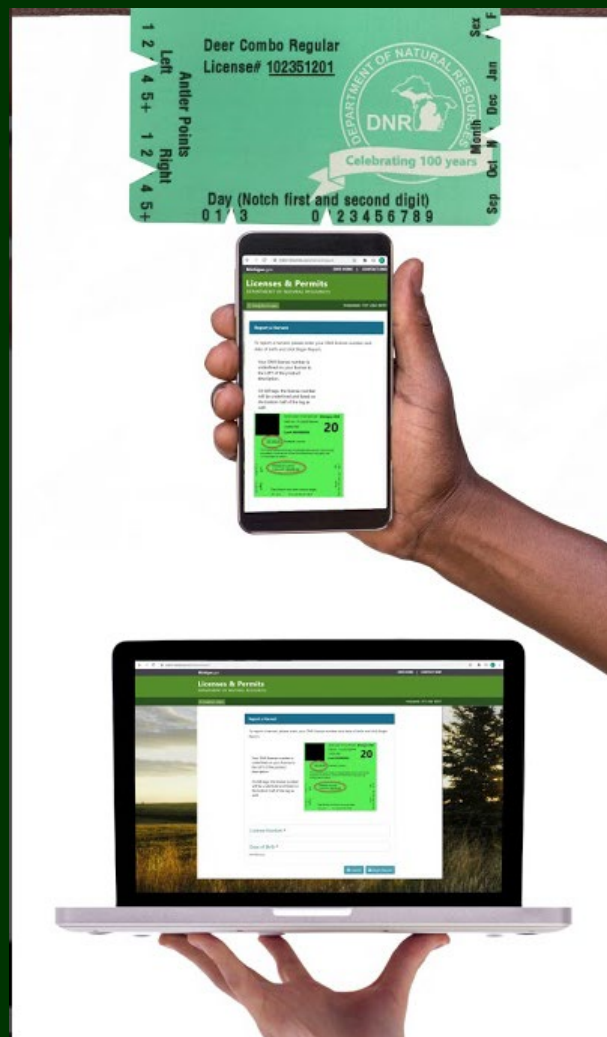
# A Few Disclaimers

- Data presented as “Reported Harvest”
  - Not meant to reflect “Actual Harvest”
  - Reporting rates are unknown, but will be estimated
  - Reporting rates between years may be different
- Data pulled as of 11/30\*
  - Subject to change as reports continue
  - \*Some data are on different timelines
    - Shouldn't affect overall analysis, but will explain some discrepancies



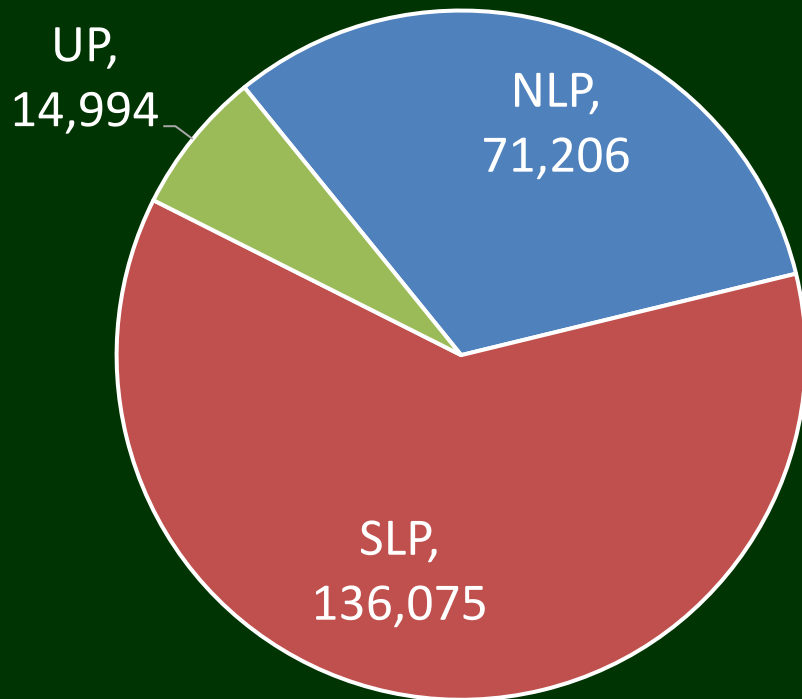
# Harvest Reporting Statistics

- 90.5% of hunters spent <5 minutes reporting their harvest; 2.9 min. avg.
- 90% of reports were submitted within 72 hours
- 72% of reports completed via the internet; mobile app reports are up to 26.6%



# 2023 Reported Harvest\*

- Reported Harvest:  
– 222,275



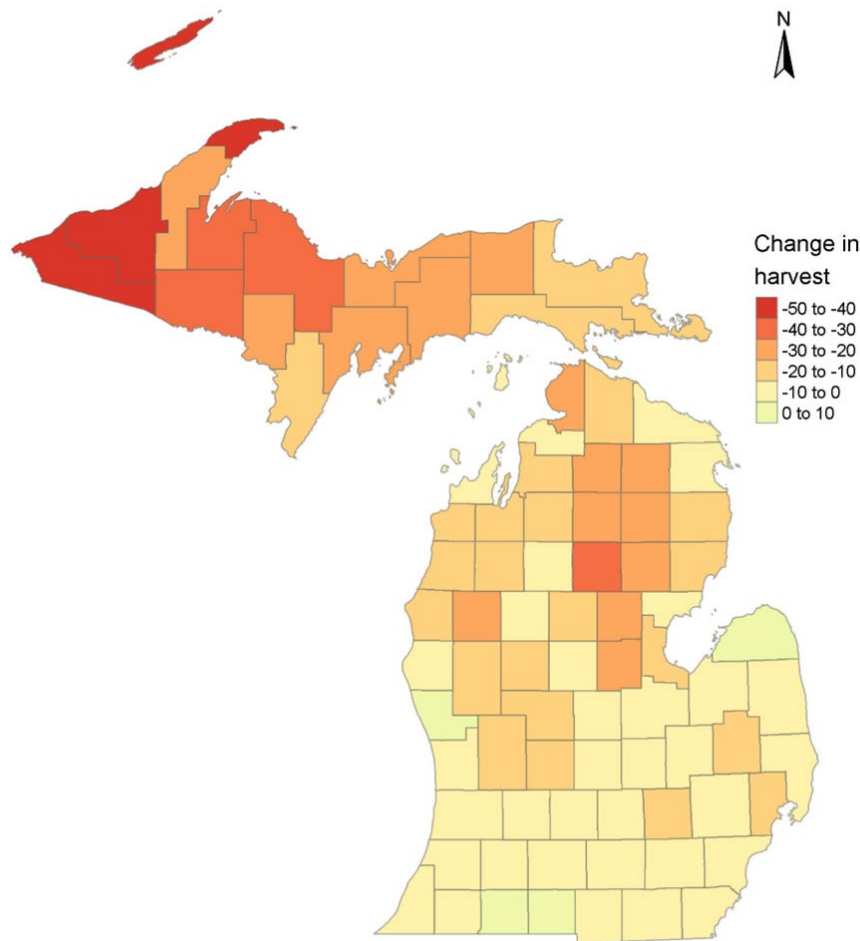
	2022 Reported Harvest Distribution	2023 Reported Harvest Distribution
UP	8.1%	6.7%
NLP	33.8%	32.0%
SLP	58.0%	61.2%



\*Data accessed 12/1

# Change in Harvest, 2023

Change in deer harvest between  
2022 and 2023 thru Dec. 4



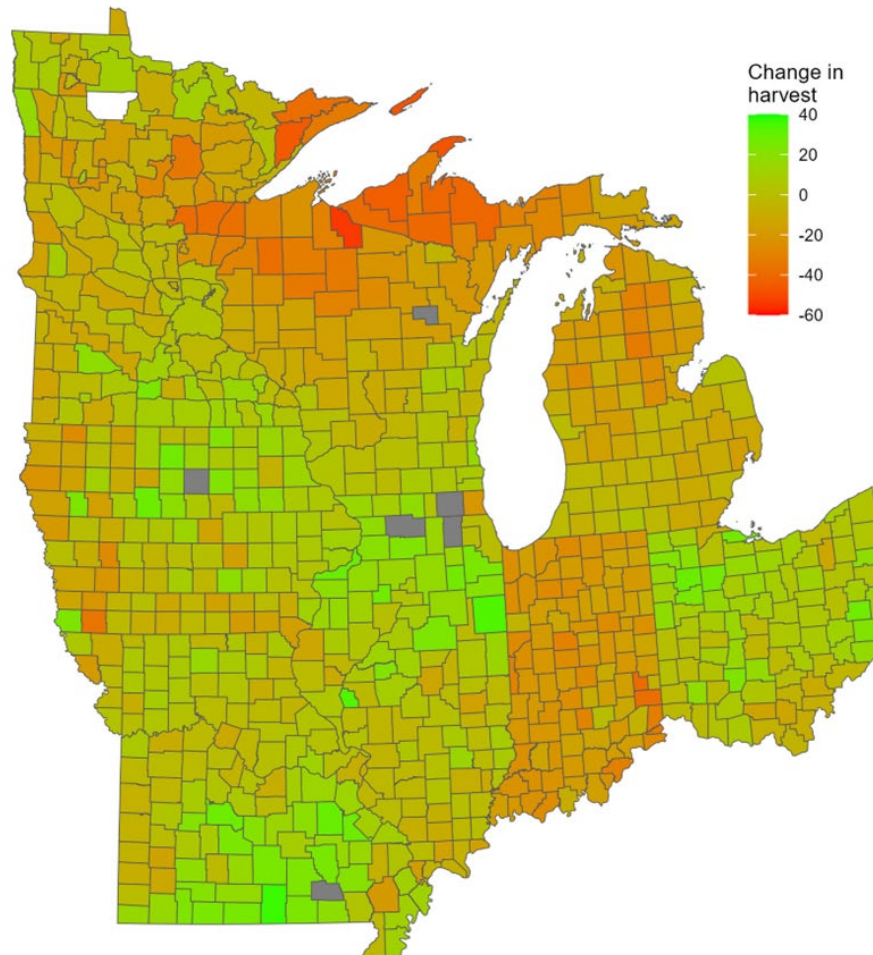
Comparisons to 2022\*:  
UP- down 28.42%  
NLP- down 17.76%  
SLP- down 7.95%  
MI- down 12.96%

\*Unknown relationship with  
compliance rates between years



# Harvest Declines Across the Midwest

Change in deer harvest between 2022 and 2023 thru Nov. 27



Map courtesy Brian Frawley





# Harvest Declines Across the Midwest

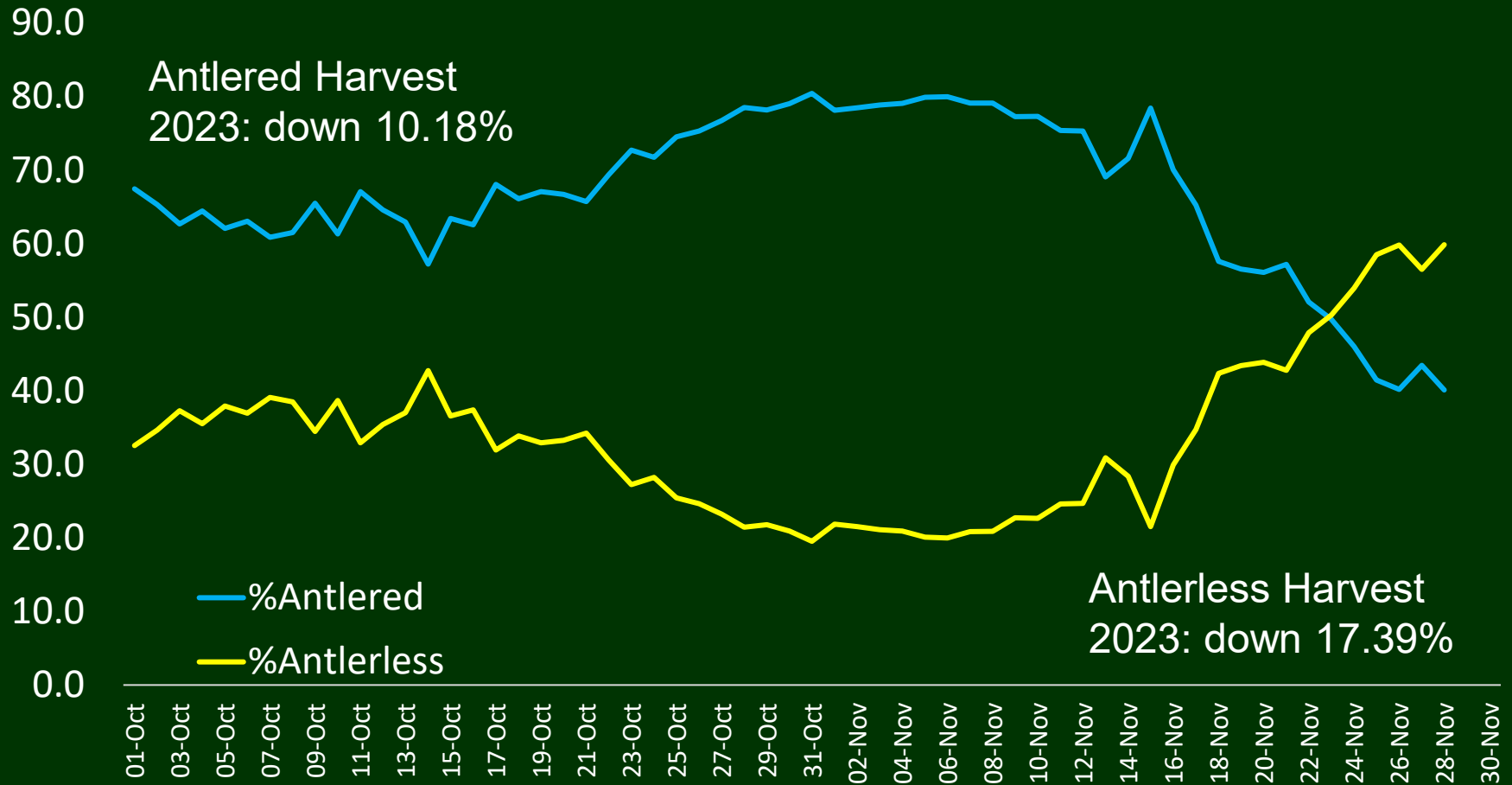
Reported harvest through 11/28

Year	IL*	IN	IA	MI	MN	MO	OH	WI
2022	52,354	109,915	29,113	243,779	156,578	266,447	124,368	301,540
2023	53,348	97,864	29,344	212,747	145,814	284,739	128,991	266,132
change	1.90%	-10.96%	0.79%	-12.73%	-6.87%	6.87%	3.72%	-11.74%
	*Opening weekend only							

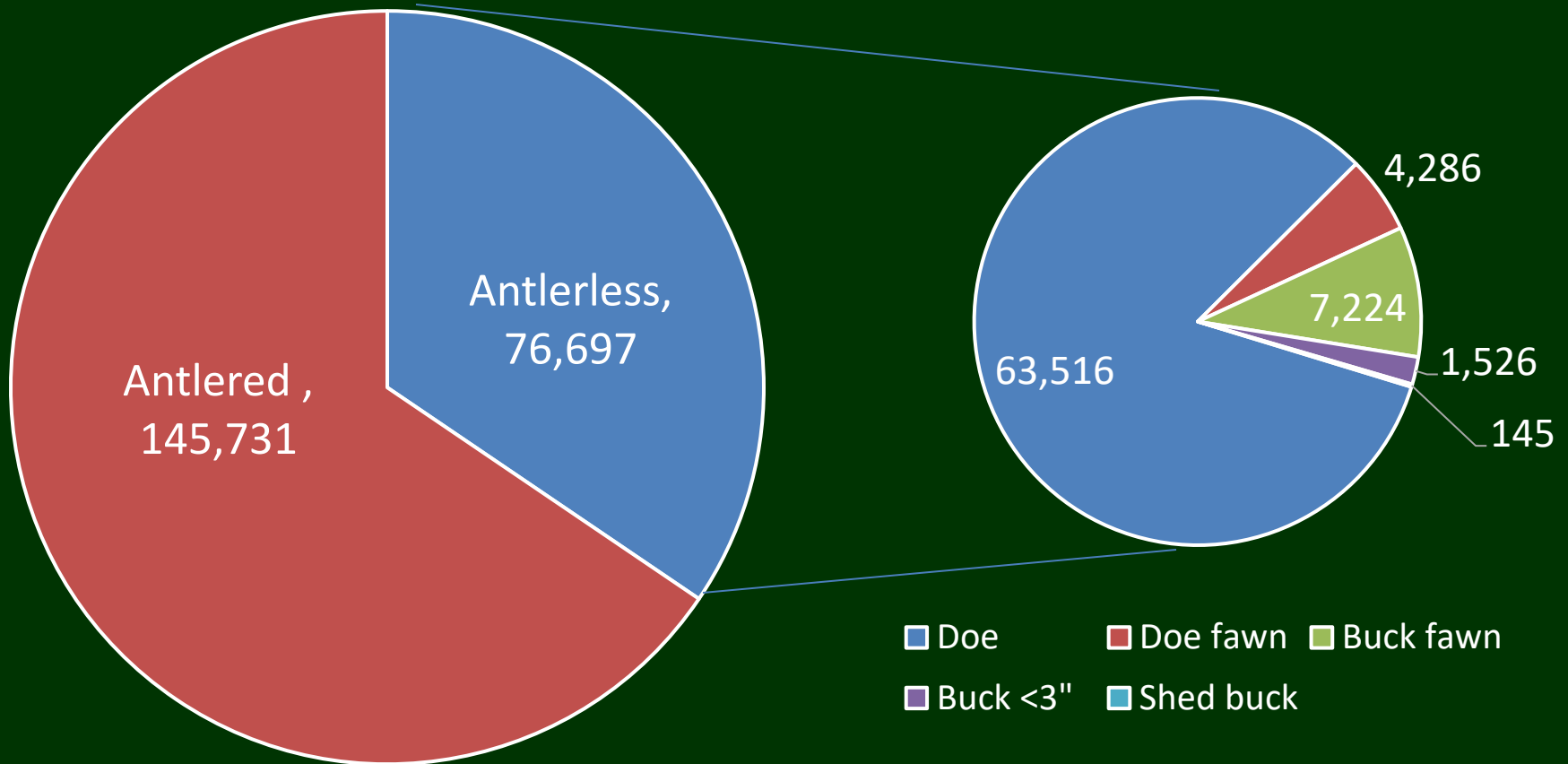




# Daily Antler/Antlerless Harvest



# Antlered/Antlerless Harvest

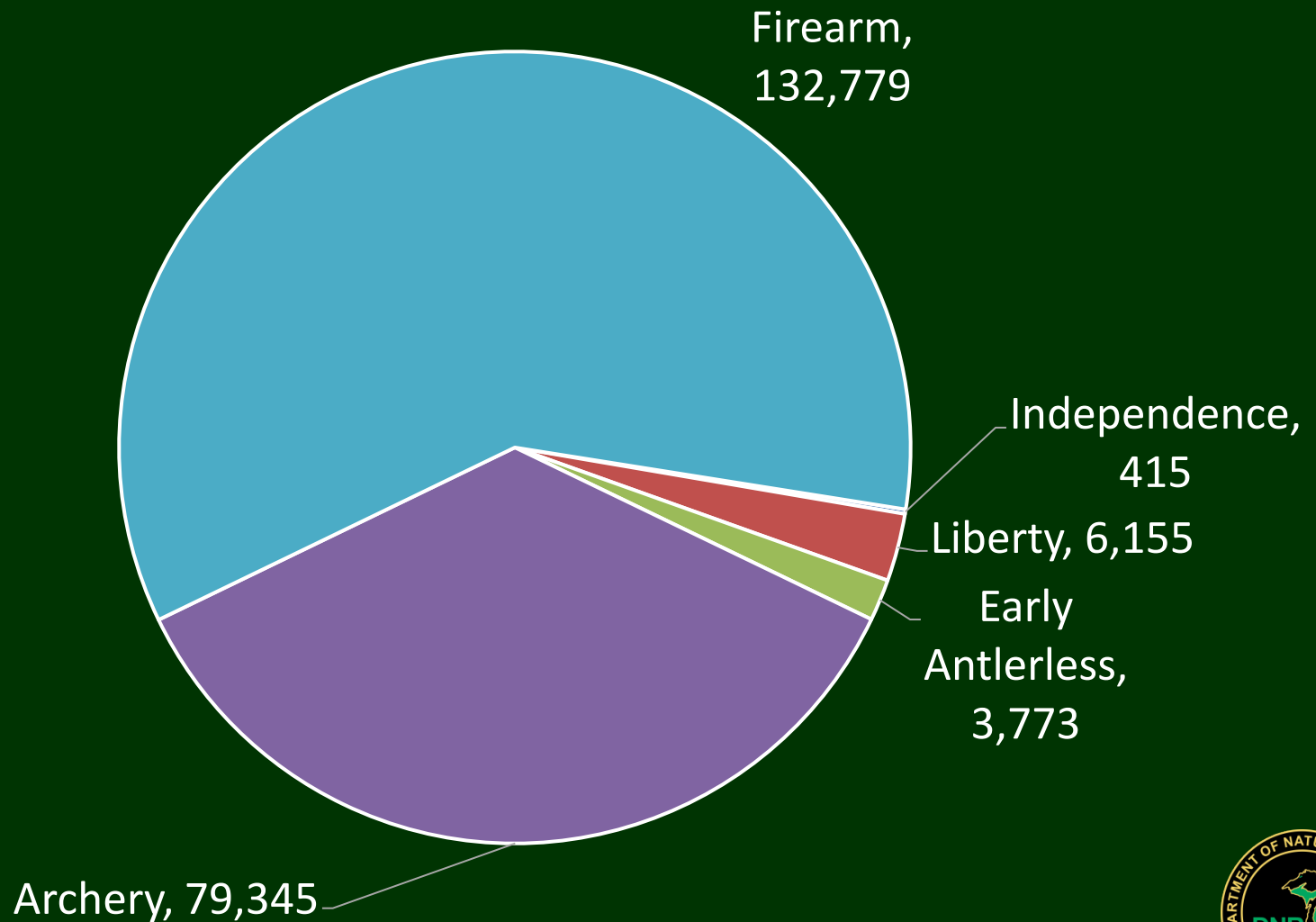


# Factors Potentially Influencing Harvest

- Delayed Corn Harvest
  - Only 52% of corn was harvested going into November 15, typically between 66-75%
- Wet Fall
  - October yielded 22 days of precipitation according to the NWS-Grand Rapids
- Variety of UP challenges
  - Low deer densities
  - Weather/predators



# Harvest by Season



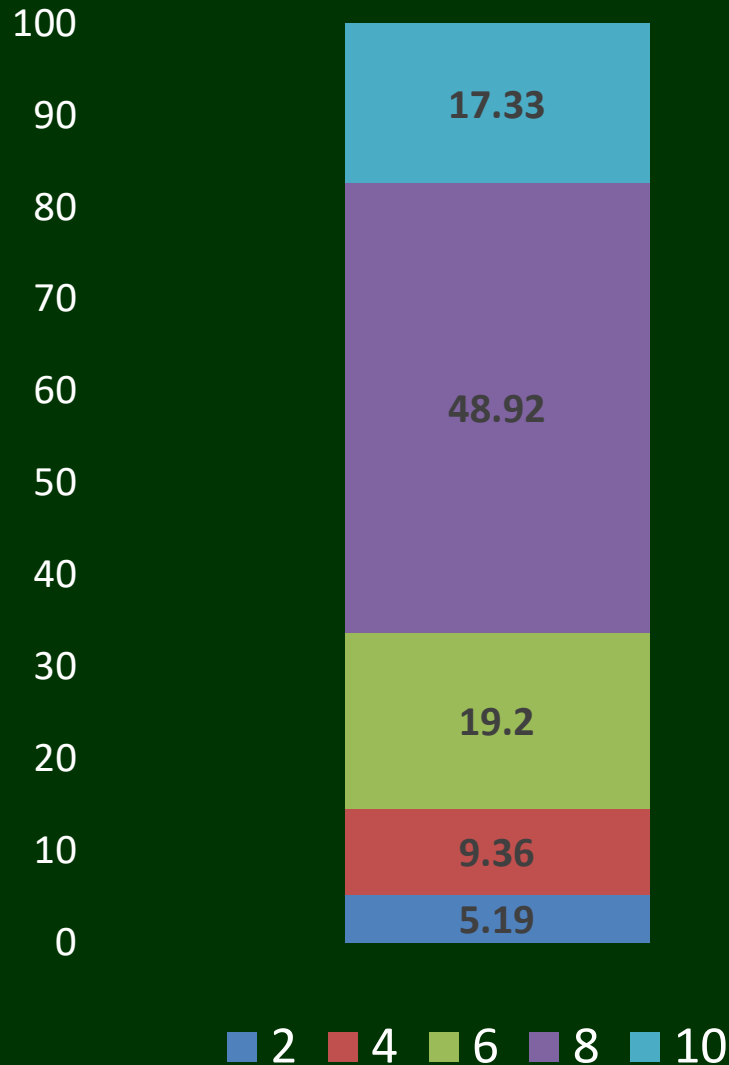
# Opening Day Harvest

- 40,117 deer reported harvested on opening day
  - 31,480 antlered deer
  - 8,637 antlerless deer

1 deer harvested every 0.97 seconds of daylight



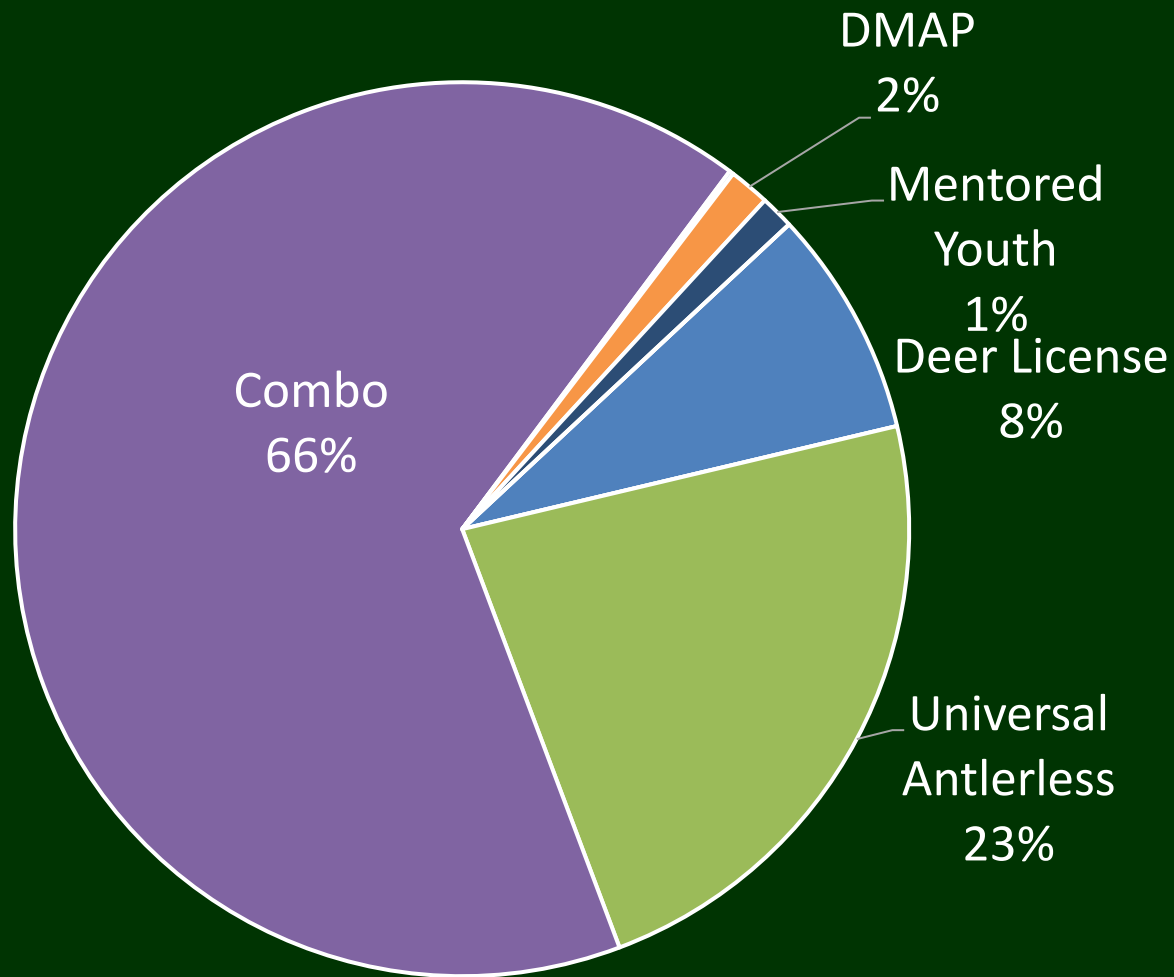
# Antler Points



Reported  
Average  
Antler Points:  
**7.01**



# Harvest by License



	Antlerless Harvest by License Type
Antlerless	67.5%
Combo	24.4%
DMAP	4.8%
Deer	2.7%
Mentored Youth	0.7%





# Reported County Harvests

Top 5	Antlered Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Total Harvest
Sanilac	4,032	2,308	6,340
Montcalm	3,708	1,710	5,418
Jackson	3,540	1,849	5,389
Newaygo	3,211	2,171	5,382
Lapeer	3,237	1,594	4,941

Bottom 5	Antlered Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Total Harvest
Keweenaw	79	3	82
Luce	200	8	208
Gogebic	251	35	286
Wayne	318	108	426
Baraga	394	33	427



# CWD Update

- As of December 1, 2023
  - Completed tests on 2,959 deer statewide
    - 1,382 deer from priority surveillance area (14 counties in the NW LP)
  - CWD detected in Midland and Ogemaw counties prior to the deer season
    - No positives in new locations since deer season began
  - Nine total positive animals for the year
    - 5 in Gratiot, 1 in Jackson, 1 in Midland, 1 in Ogemaw
  - Total of 251 confirmed cases to date



# TB Update

- As of December 1, 2023
  - Completed tests on 5,707 deer statewide
    - 3,366 deer from priority surveillance areas, including 4-county area and 7 surrounding counties
  - Five confirmed cases thus far in Alpena, but testing for TB takes longer; more suspects awaiting confirmation.
  - Overall, 1,000 deer overall have tested positive for TB



# Final Season Estimates

- Mail survey sample of licensed hunters
- Submit after all 2023 hunting is complete



# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)

