



# 2023 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

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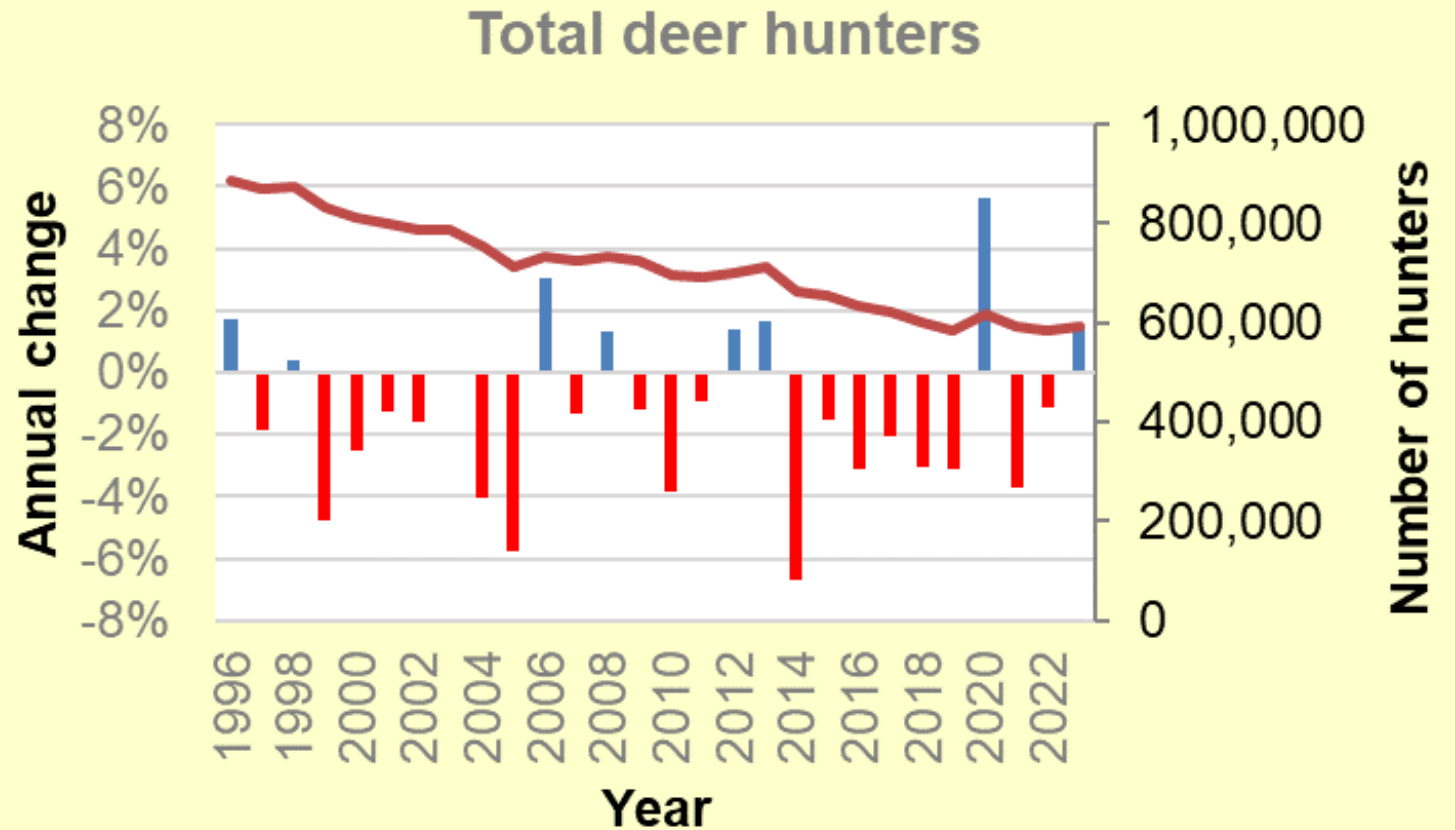
# 2023 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

- 594,348 people purchased a license (1.4% increase)
- 18,562 of 58,400 questionnaires returned (32% response)
- Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years



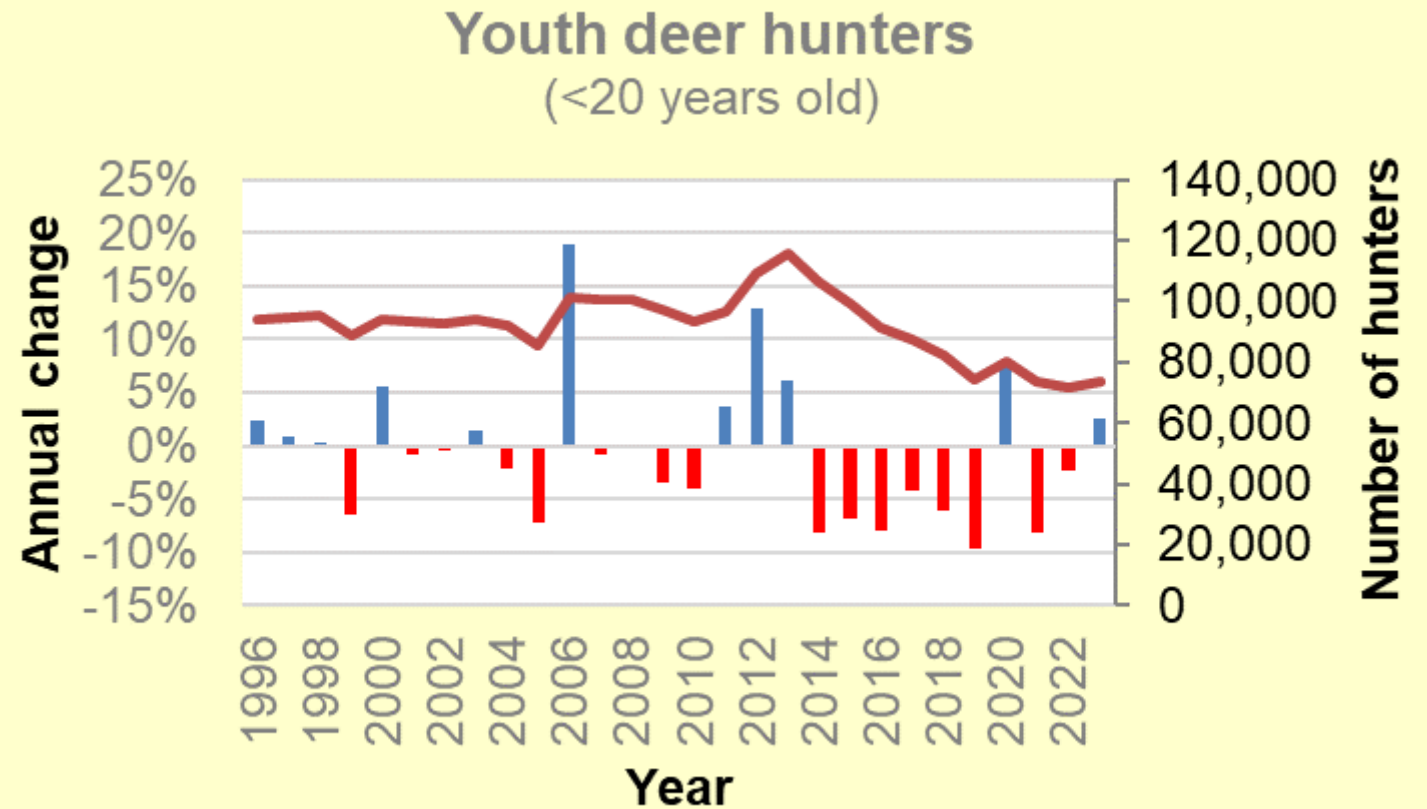
# TOTAL DEER HUNTERS

- 594,348 hunters in 2023.
- 32% decline since 1995.
- 1.4% average annual decline



# YOUTH HUNTERS

- 73,758 youth hunters in 2023.
- 20% decline since 1995.
- 0.8% average annual decline



# HARVEST TAGS SOLD, 2021-2023.

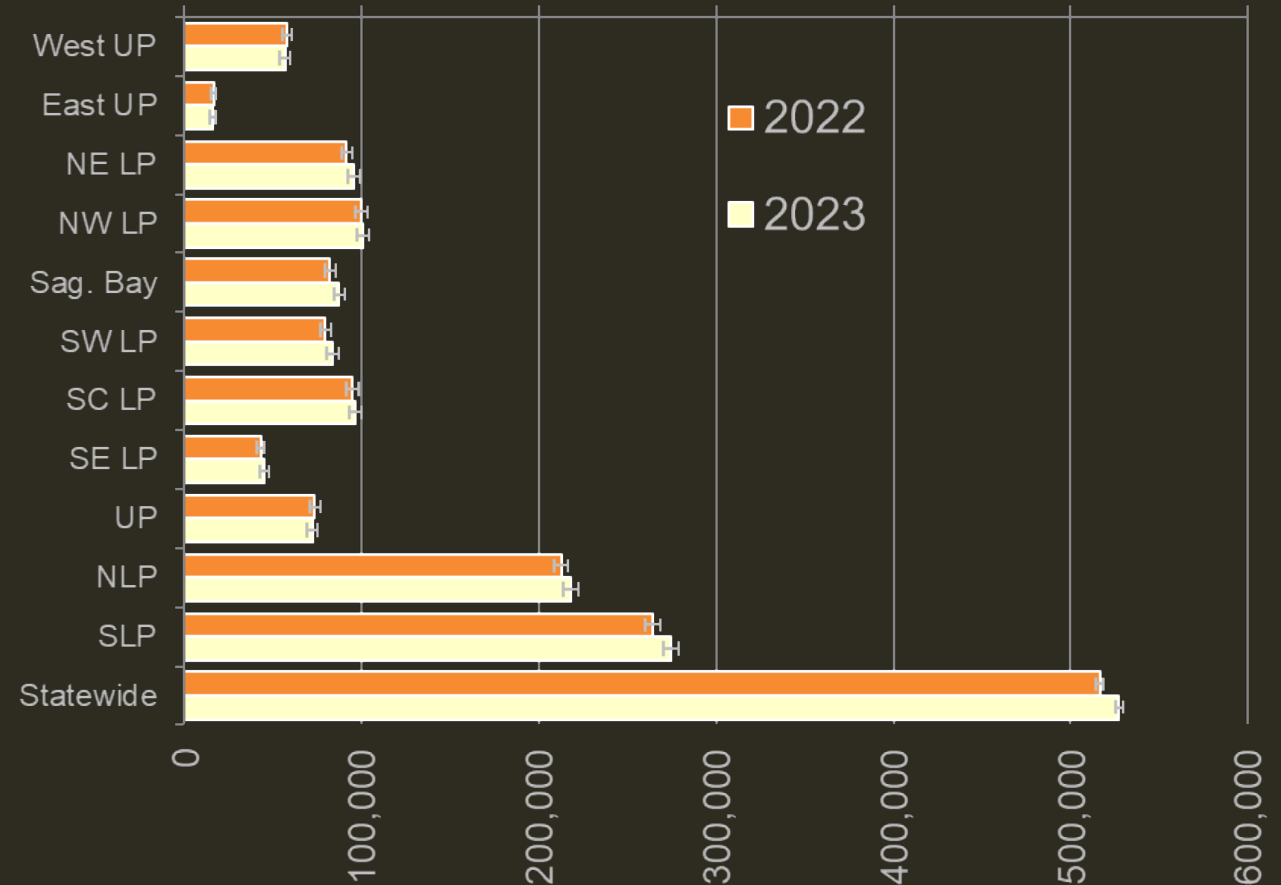
The number of harvest tags sold increased by 2.3%.



Harvest Tags Issued	Number sold in 2021	Number sold in 2022	Number sold in 2023	Change Between 2022 and 2023 (%)
Deer	140,124	133,124	129,646	-2.6%
Combination	861,580	863,890	884,784	2.4%
Antlerless	309,835	305,480	317,853	4.1%
Mentored Youth	11,014	10,824	11,650	7.6%
Total	1,322,553	1,313,318	1,343,933	<b>2.3%</b>

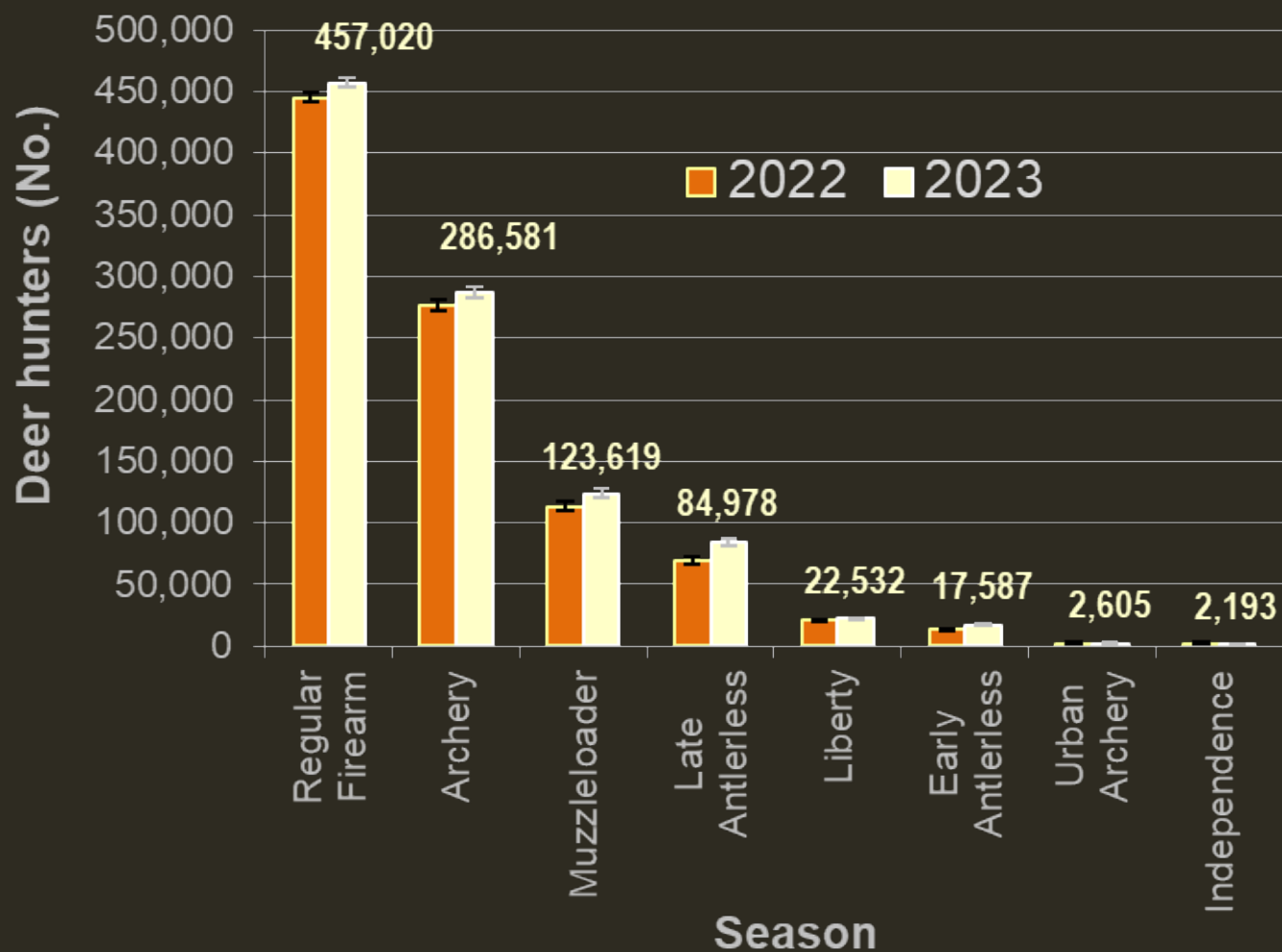
# 2023 DEER HUNTERS

- For all seasons combined, 527,292 people hunted deer, which was 2% greater than last year.
- Hunter numbers increased significantly in SLP (2%).

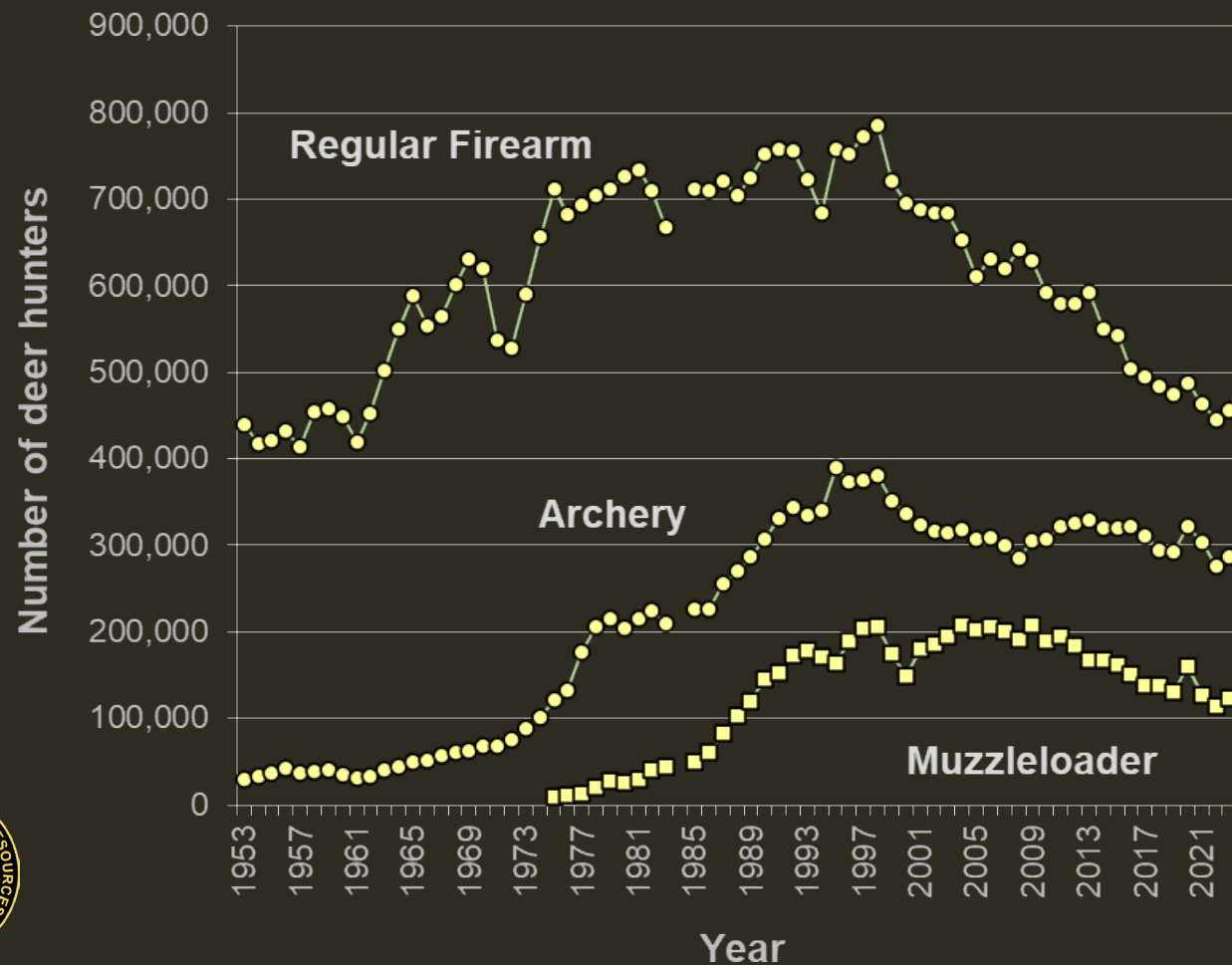


# 2023 DEER HUNTERS

Hunter numbers increased significantly in all seasons except the Liberty, Independence, and late urban archery seasons.



# LONG-TERM DEER HUNTER TRENDS

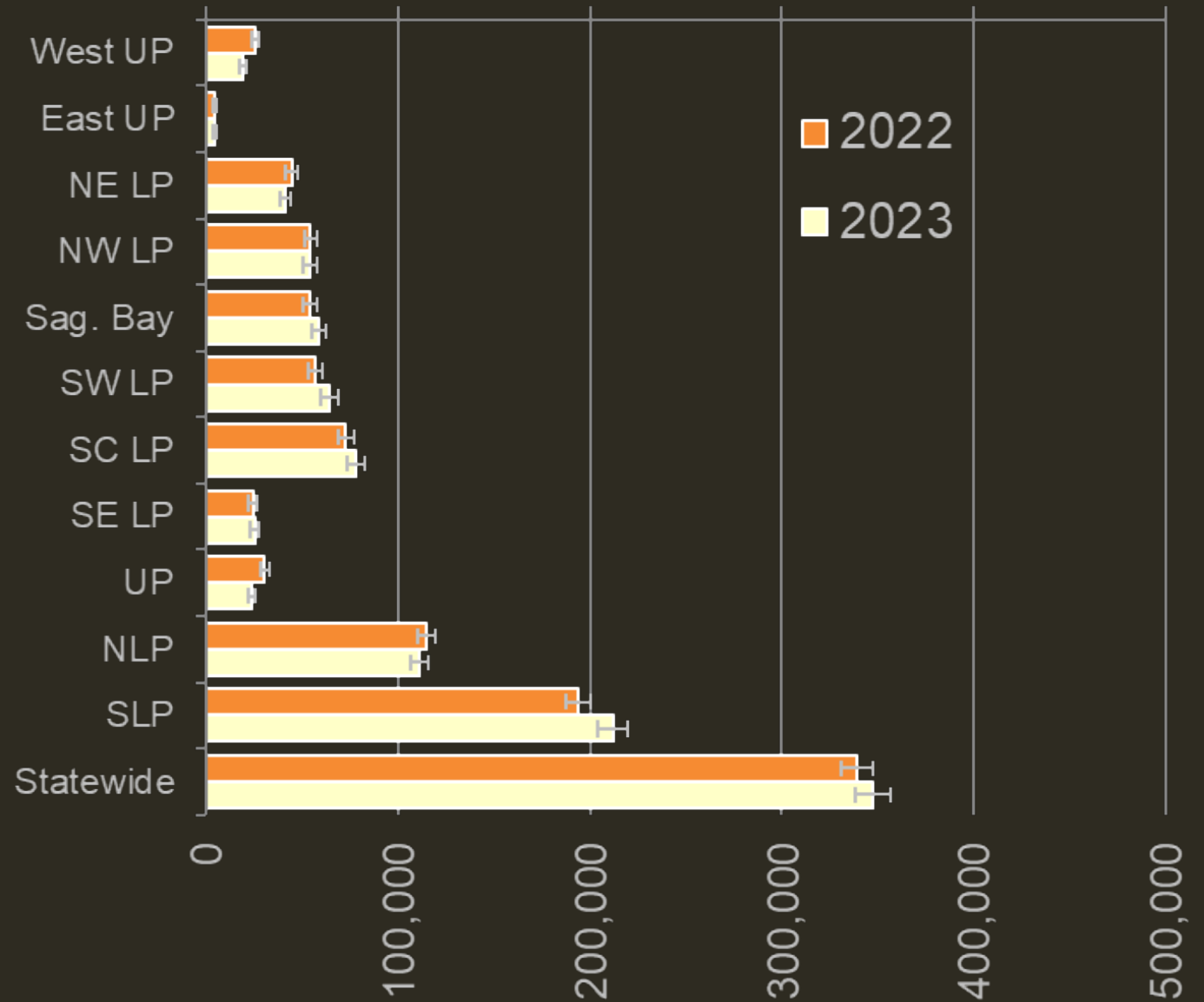


Fewer people hunting during our primary seasons.



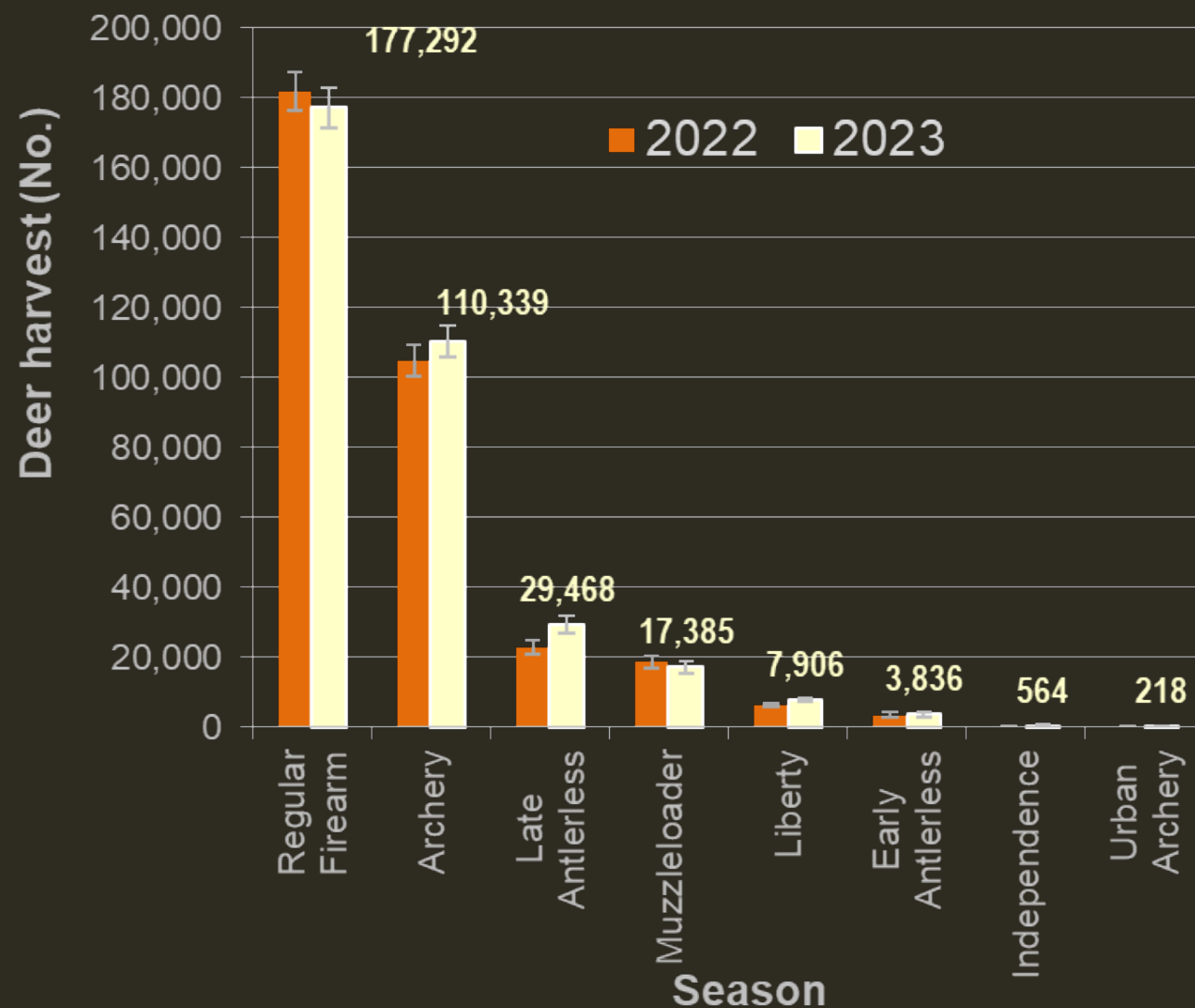
# 2023 DEER HARVEST

- In all seasons combined, 347,008 deer were harvested, which was 2% greater than last year (339,189).
- Buck harvest increased by 2% and antlerless harvest increased by 3%.
- Harvest increased in the SLP (10%) but declined in the UP (-22%).



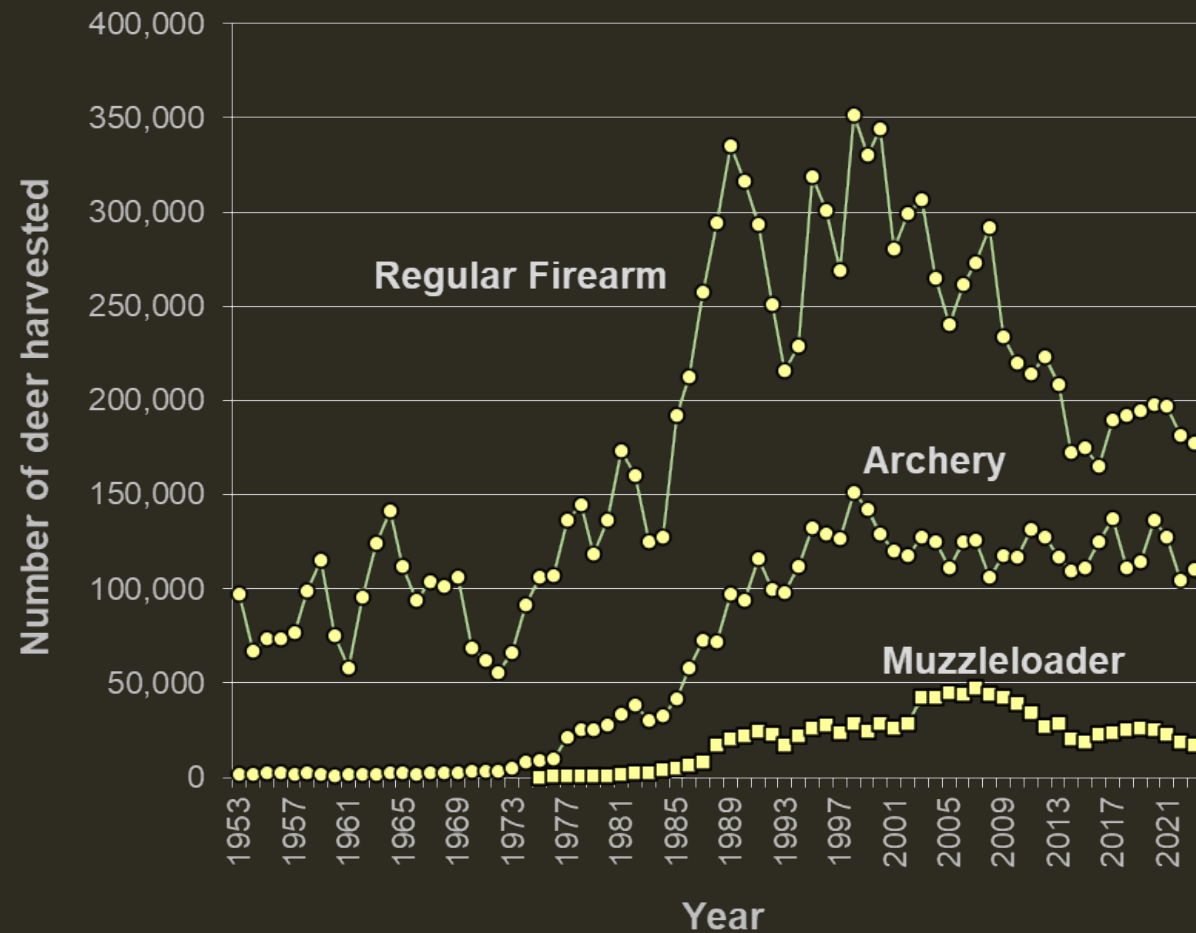
# 2023 DEER HARVEST

Harvest similar in most seasons except in the late antlerless (28%) and Liberty (19%) seasons.



# LONG-TERM DEER HARVEST TRENDS

Fewer deer taken in our primary seasons.





# HARVEST REPORTS VERSUS ESTIMATES

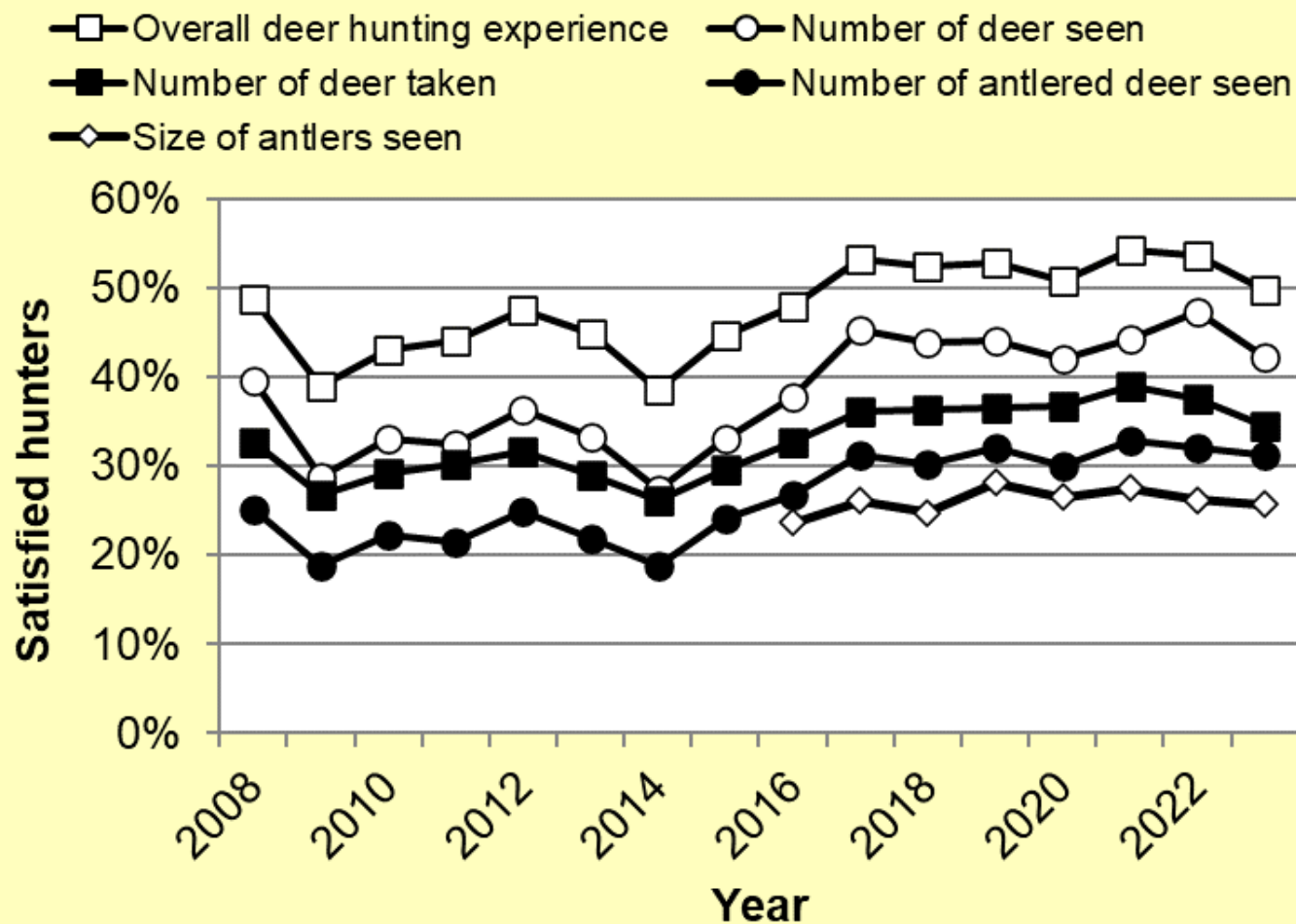
Declines greatest in the northern areas.

Region	Change in reports submitted between 2022-2023	Change in harvest estimates between 2022-2023
UP	-26%	-22%
NLP	-15%	-3%
SLP	-5%	10%
Total	-10%	2%



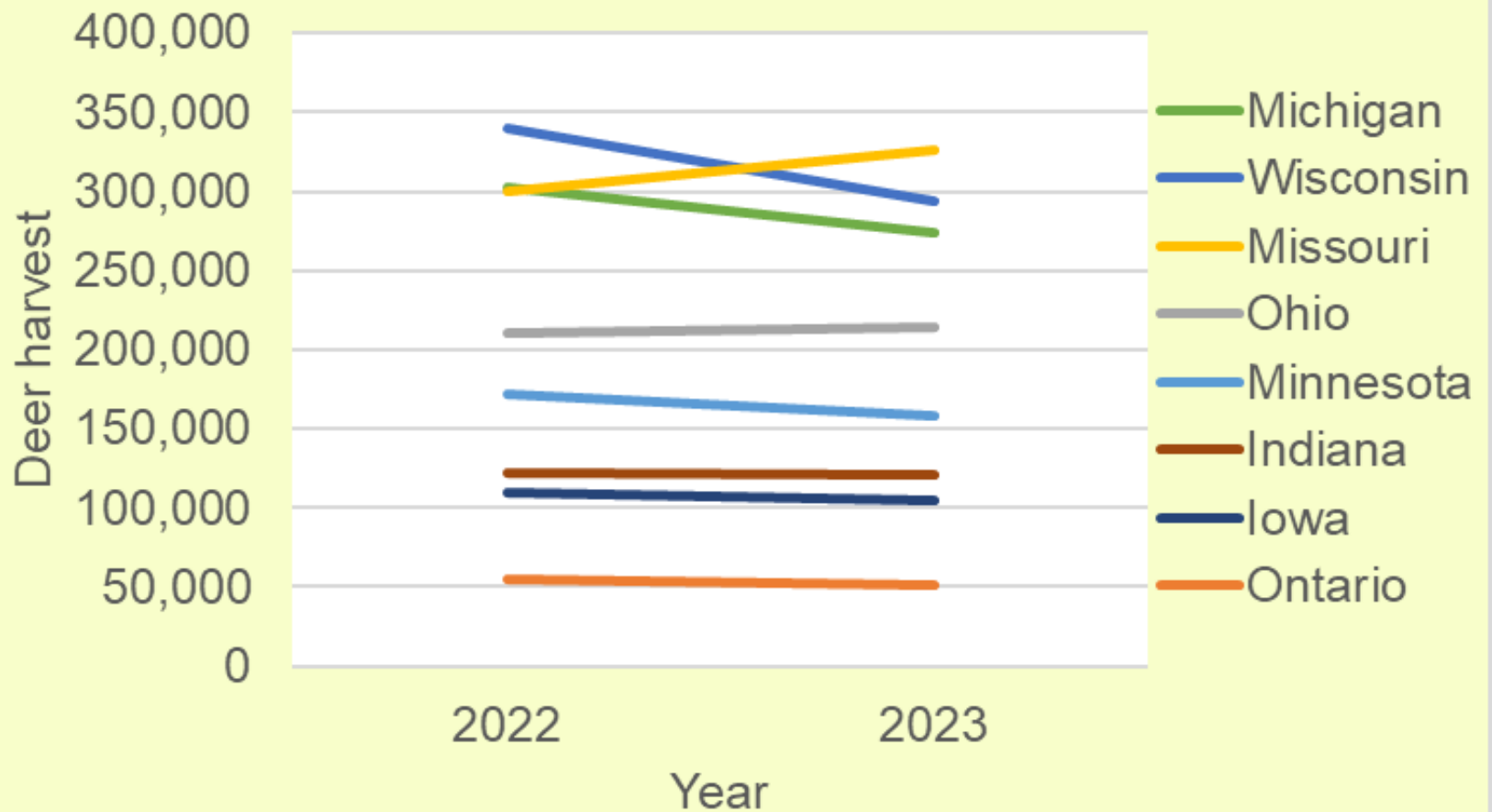
# CHANGES IN HUNTER SATISFACTION

- Changes generally follow changes in harvest.



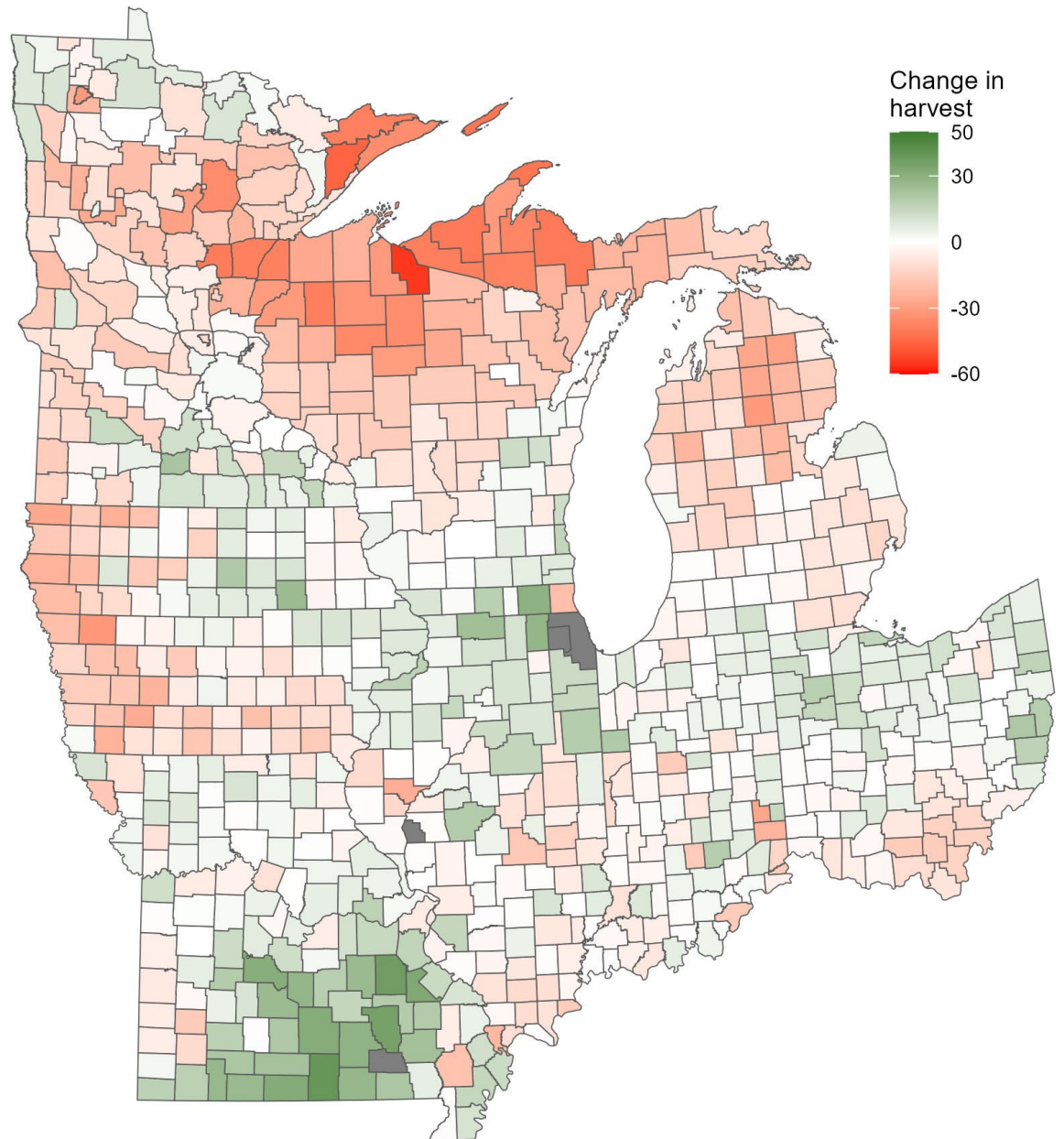
# REGIONAL DEER HARVEST CHANGES

Declines were greatest in the northern states (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota).



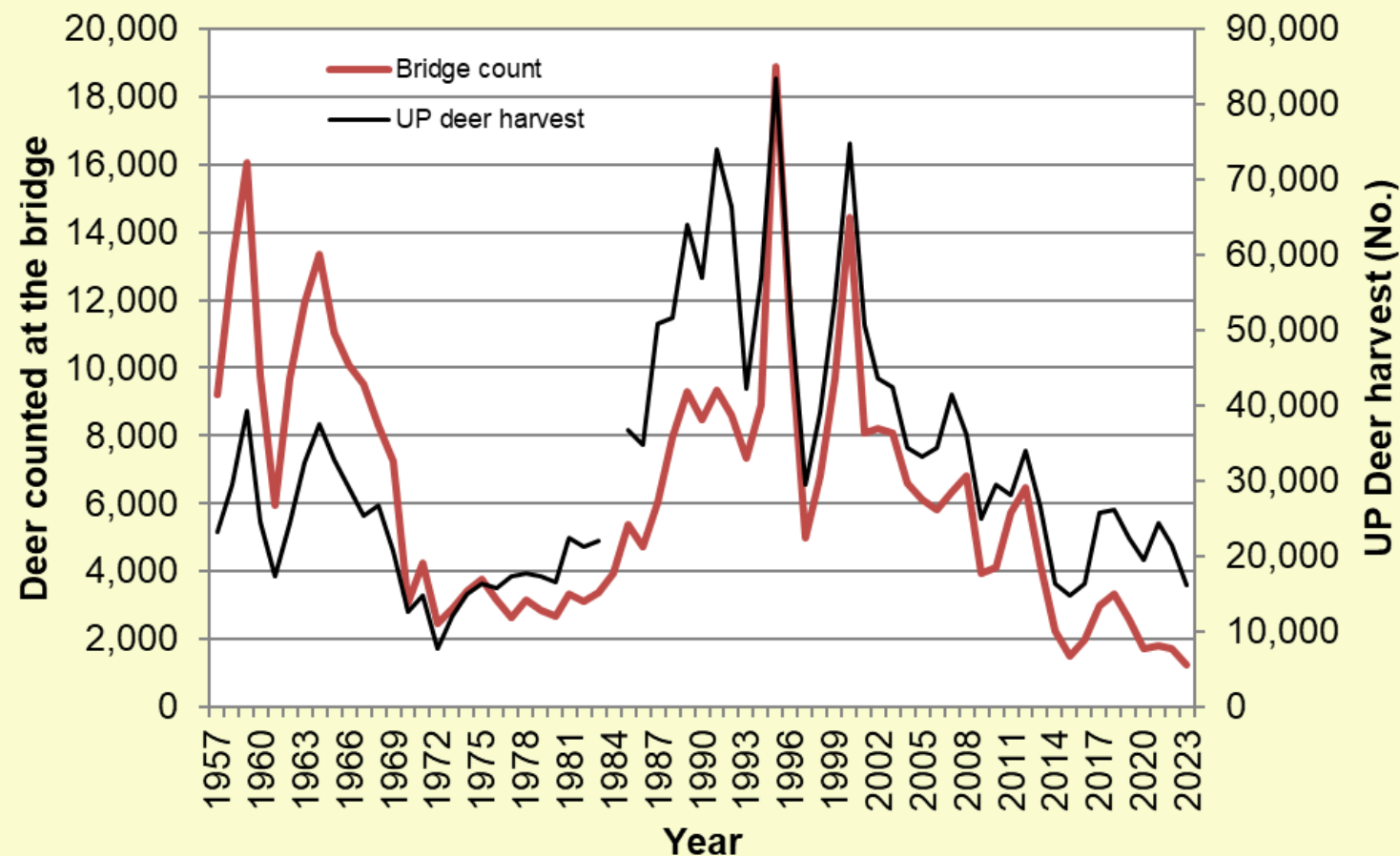
# REGIONAL DEER HARVEST CHANGES

Declines were greatest  
in the northern areas.



# CHANGES IN 2023 DEER HARVEST IN THE UP

Mackinac Bridge deer count declined by 27% in 2023. In contrast, we estimated total UP harvest in the regular firearm season declined by 25%.



# HARVEST REPORTS VERSUS ESTIMATES

The number of harvest reports submitted was 23% less than our harvest estimate.

Season	2023 Reports Submitted	2023 Harvest Estimate	Difference Between Reports and Estimate
Archery	82,881	110,339	-25%
Early Antlerless Firearm	3,597	3,836	-6%
Independence Hunt	416	564	-26%
Late Antlerless Firearm	23,579	29,468	-20%
Late Urban Archery	261	218	20%
Liberty/Youth Hunt	6,145	7,906	-22%
Muzzleloader	16,126	17,385	-7%
Regular Firearm	134,388	177,292	-24%
Total	267,393	347,008	-23%



# HARVEST REPORTS VERSUS ESTIMATES

In Michigan, our estimate was 30% greater than the number of harvest reports submitted (two-year average = 22%). Our difference was smaller than observed in most states.

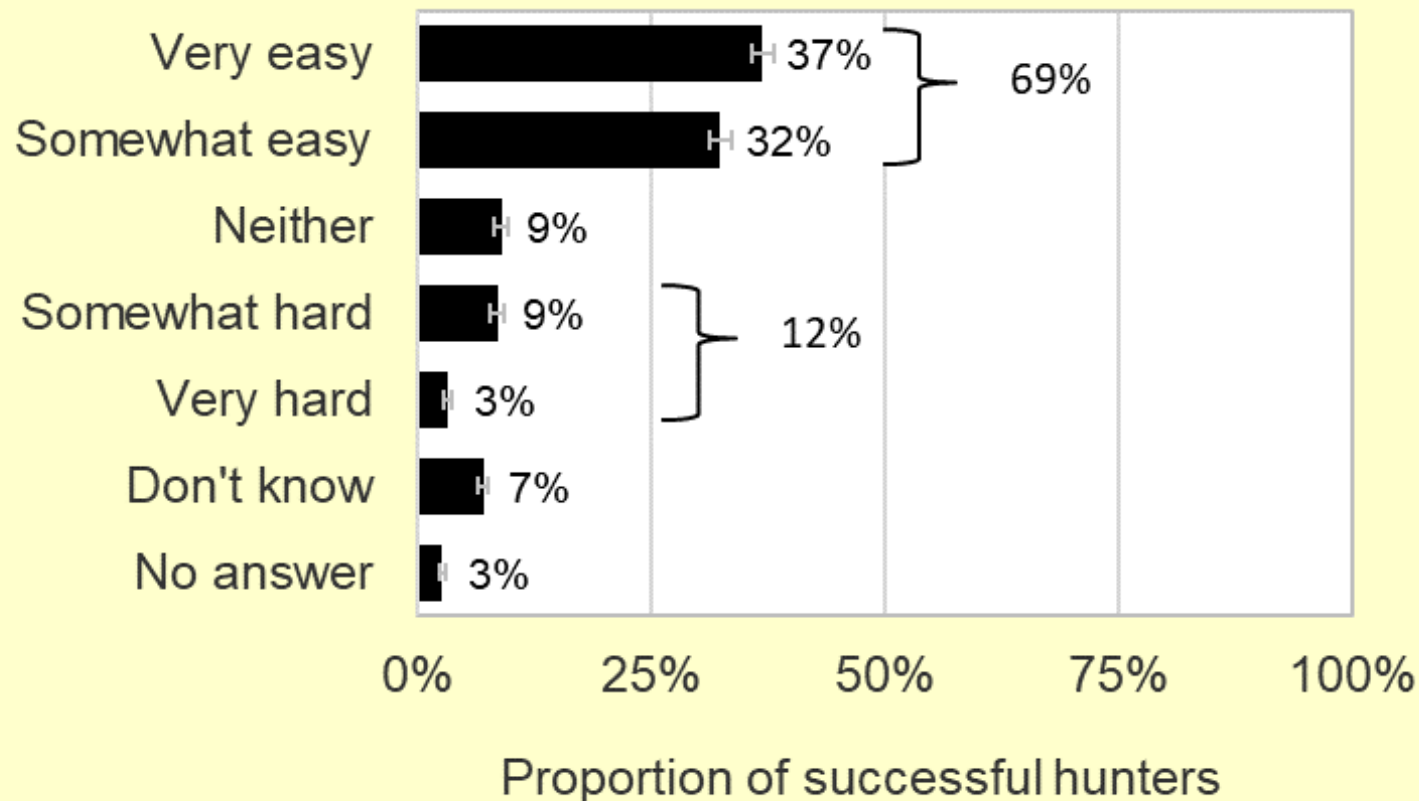


State	Period	Years	Average Difference
Alabama	2020-2021	3	52%
Florida	2019-2020	2	72%
Illinois	2001-2011	11	22%
Indiana	2010	1	16%
Louisiana	2008-2011	4	48%
Louisiana	2012-2021	10	132%
North Carolina	2010-2021	13	27%
Oklahoma	2001-2014	14	46%
Average			51%

# HARVEST REPORTING

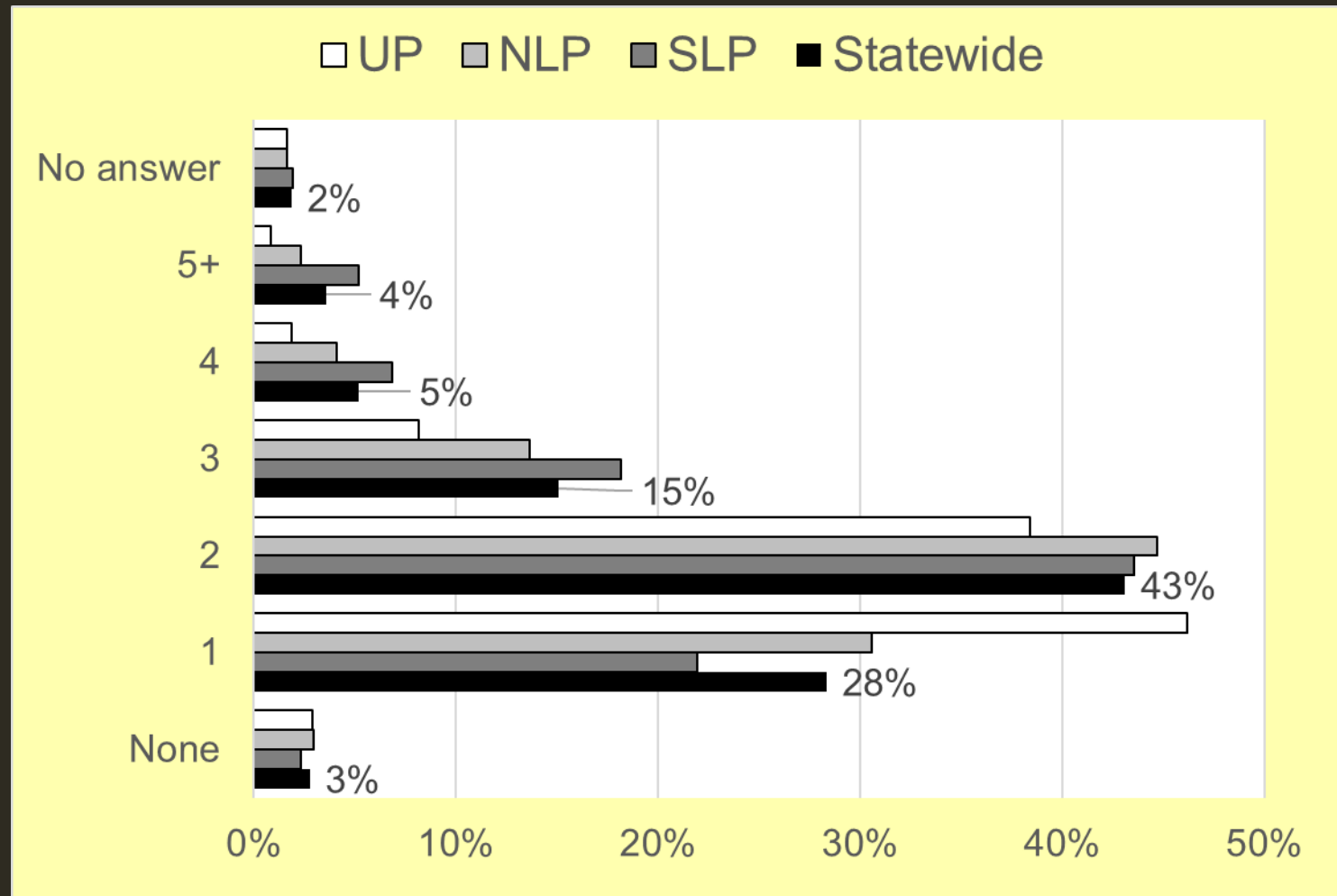
69% of successful hunters reported that the harvest reporting app was easy to use (65% last year).

12% indicated that it was hard to use (17% last year).



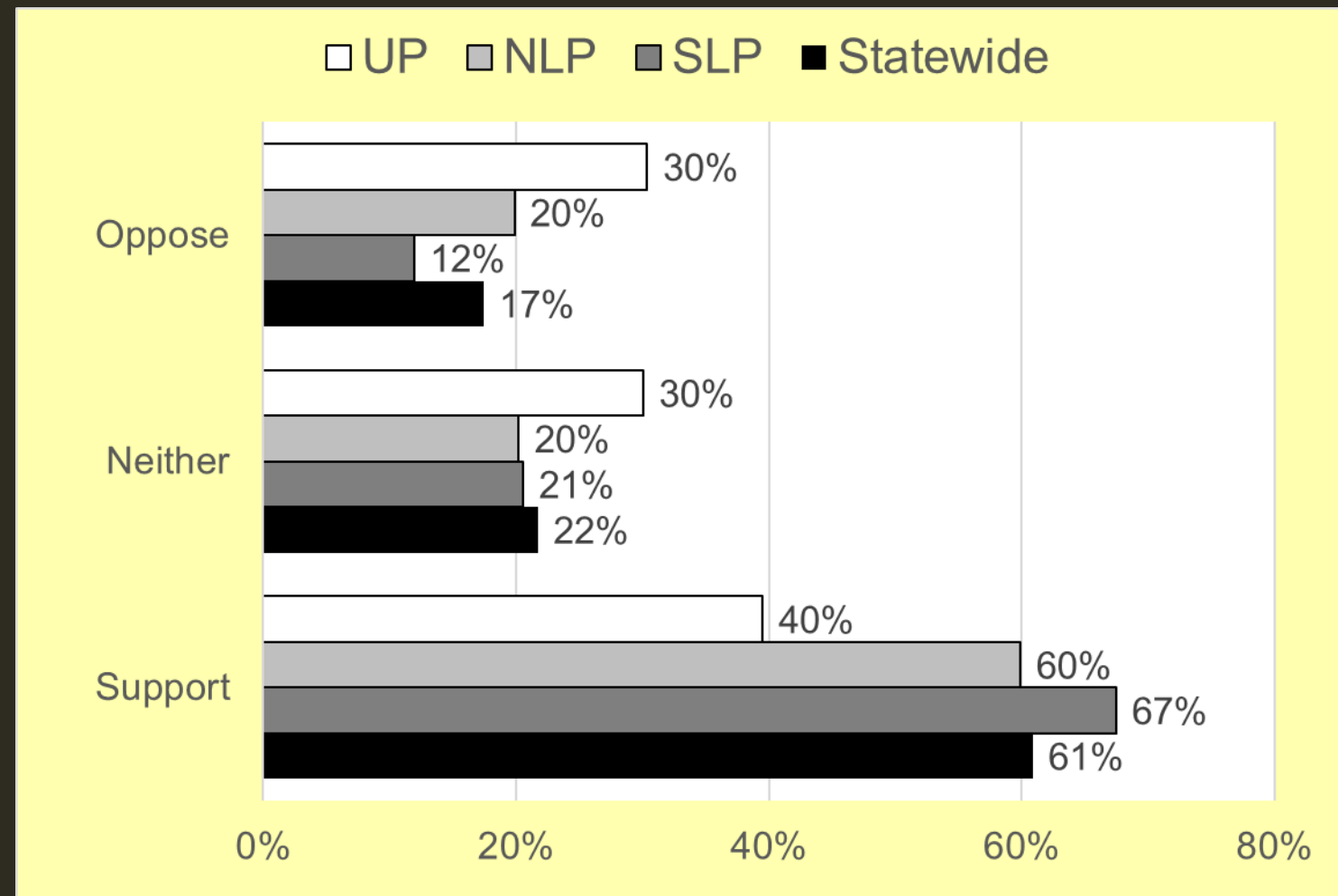
# MAXIMUM HARVEST

- 28% of hunters statewide wanted to take one deer.
- 24% of hunters statewide would take 3 or more deer.
- 46% of UP hunters wanted one deer.



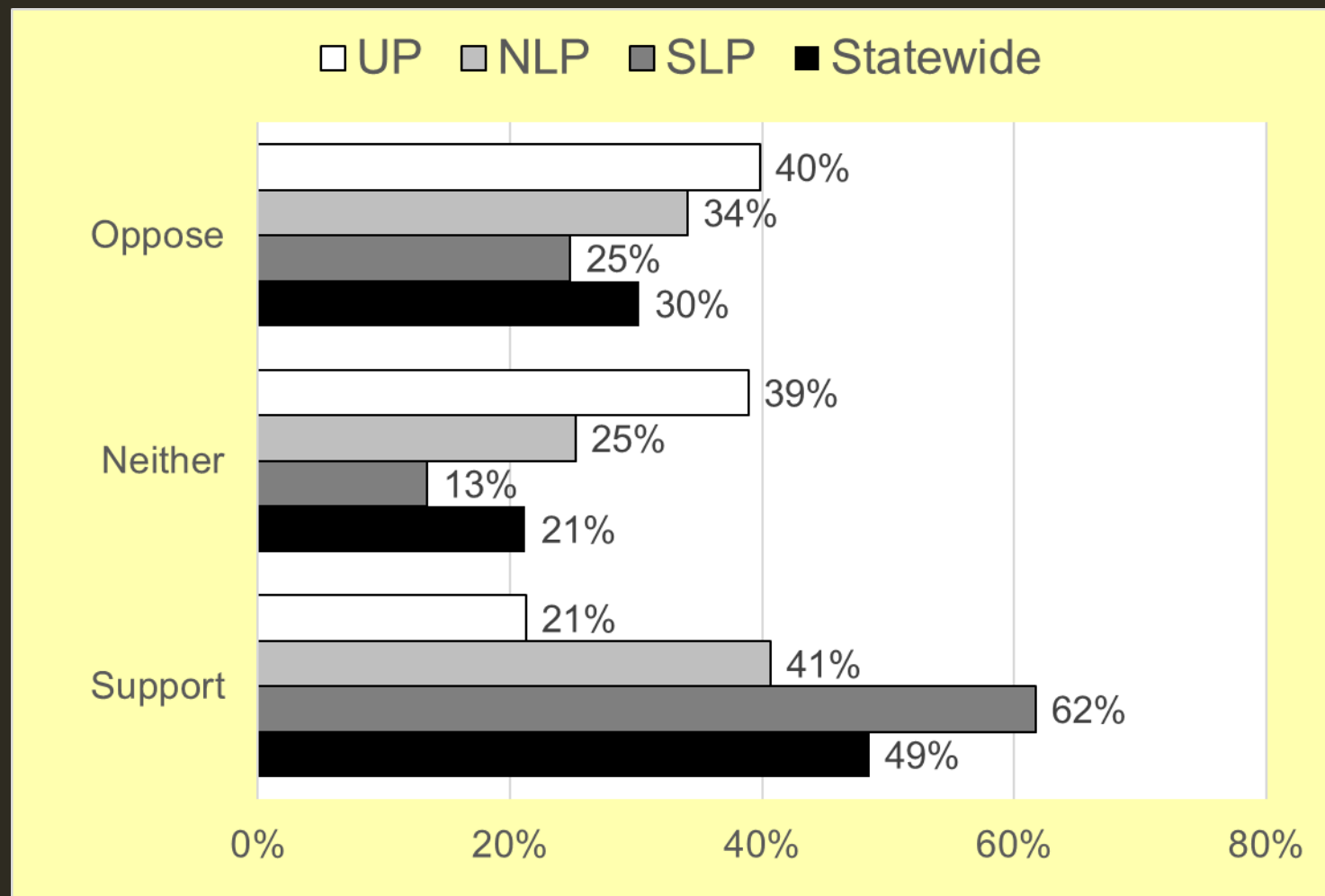
# UNIVERSAL ANTLERLESS LICENSES THE LP

- 61% of hunters statewide support the universal license.
- 17% oppose.
- Support lowest in the UP (40%).



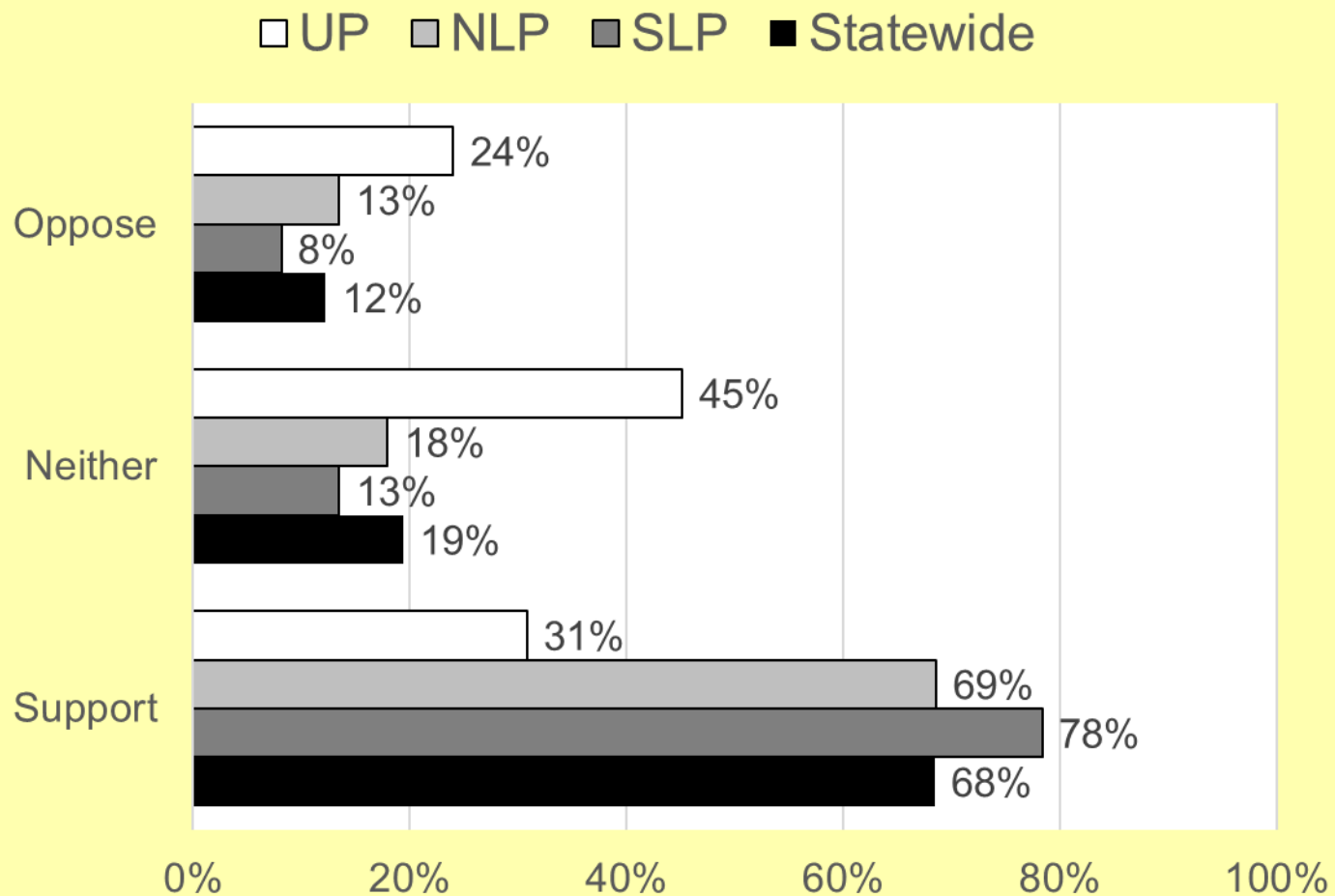
# HUNTING DEVICES IN THE SLP MUZZLELOADER

- 49% of hunters support the use of any legal firearm in the muzzleloader season.
- 30% oppose.
- Support lowest in the UP (21%).



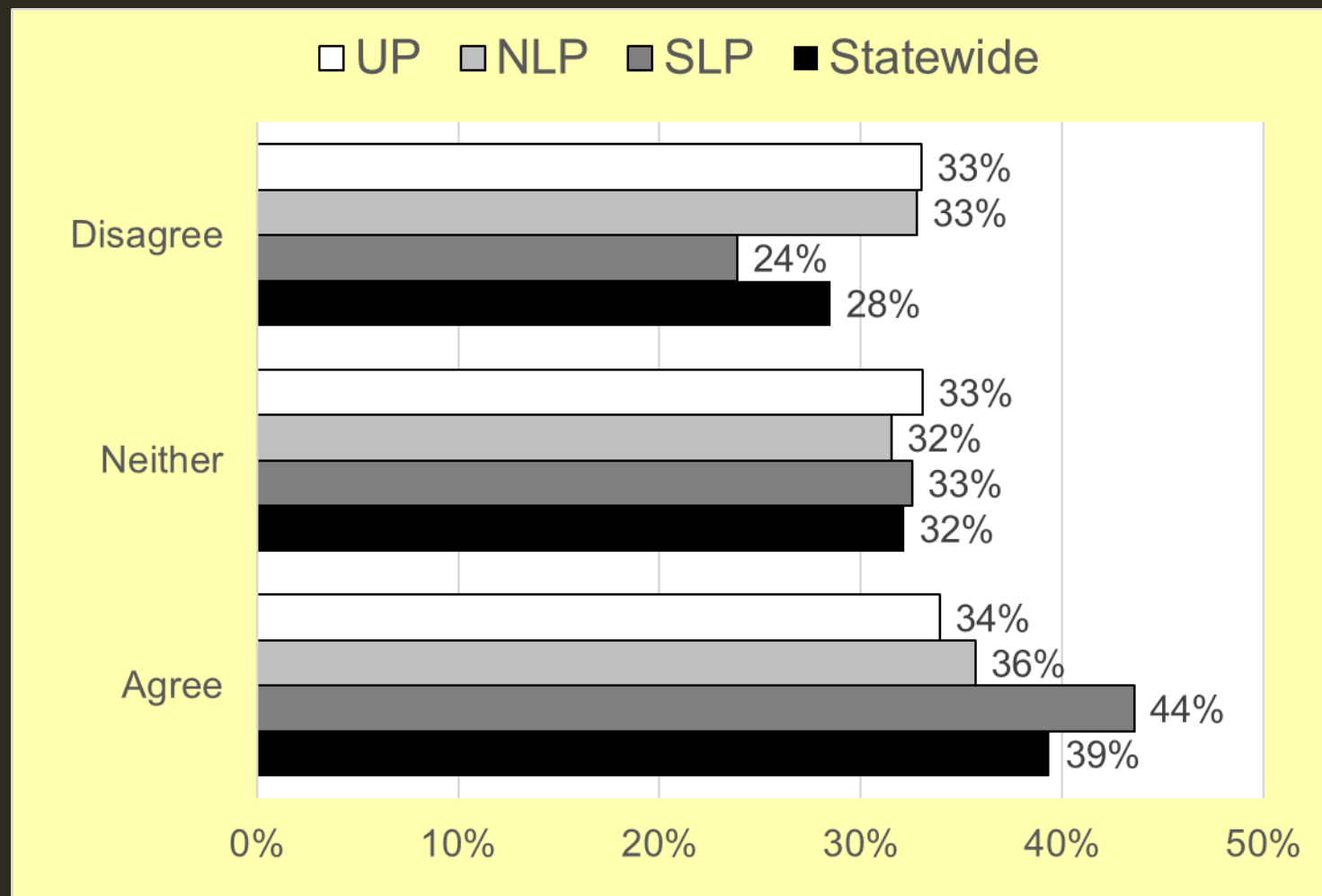
# TAKING ANY DEER WITH COMBO AND DEER LICENSES IN THE LP FIREARM SEASONS

- 68% of hunters support.
- 12% oppose.
- Support lowest in the UP (31%).



# 2023 YOUTH HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS

- Youth could harvest multiple antlerless deer (one per kill tag) and only ONE antlered deer.
- 39% of hunters agreed.
- 25% disagreed.



# 2023 YOUTH HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS

- Extend youth season length:
  - 26% agreed.
  - 50% disagreed.
- Restrict take to antlerless deer:
  - 43% agreed
  - 33% disagreed





# SUMMARY

- 1.4% increase in the number of license buyers.
- 2% increase in the number of people that went afield.
- 2% increase in the total number of deer harvested (buck harvest increased by 2% and antlerless harvest increased by 3%).
- 69% of successful hunters reported that the harvest reporting app was easy to use.





# SUMMARY

- 28% of hunters wanted to take one deer, while 24% of hunters would take 3 or more deer.
- 61% of hunters supported the universal antlerless license.
- 49% of hunters supported the use of any legal firearm in the SLP muzzleloader season.
- 68% of hunters supported taking any deer with combo and deer licenses in the LP in the firearm seasons.
- 39% of hunters agreed with the 2023 youth hunting season regulations.



# THANK YOU

