



# 2019 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

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# 2019 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

584,802 people purchased a license (2.9% decline)

25,070 of 60,065 questionnaires returned (42% response)

5,006 additional hunters completed the survey online

Estimates derived from 30,076 hunters (mail and online respondents)

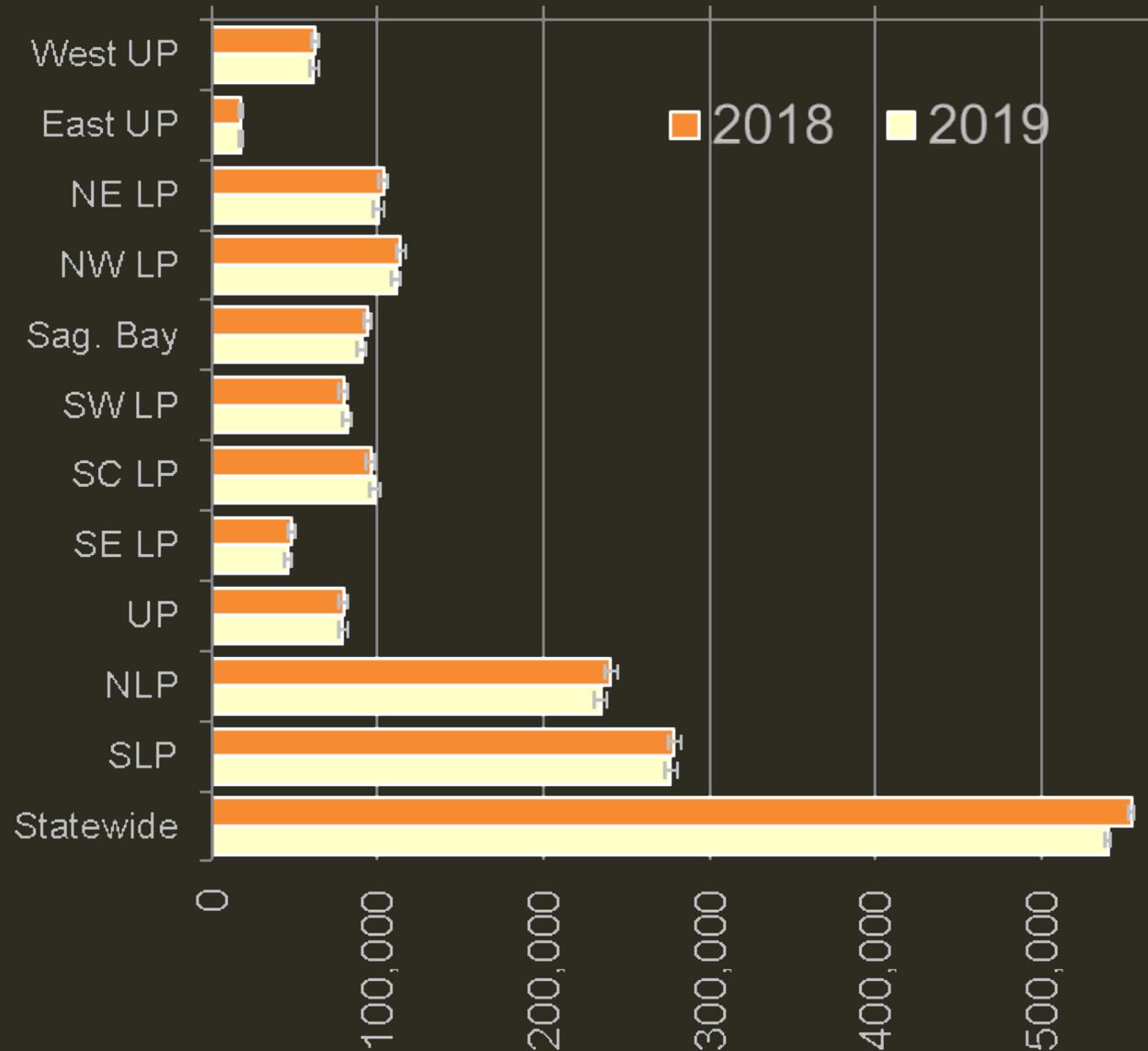
Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years



# 2019 DEER HUNTERS

For all seasons combined, 540,000 people hunted deer, which was about 2.6% fewer than last year.

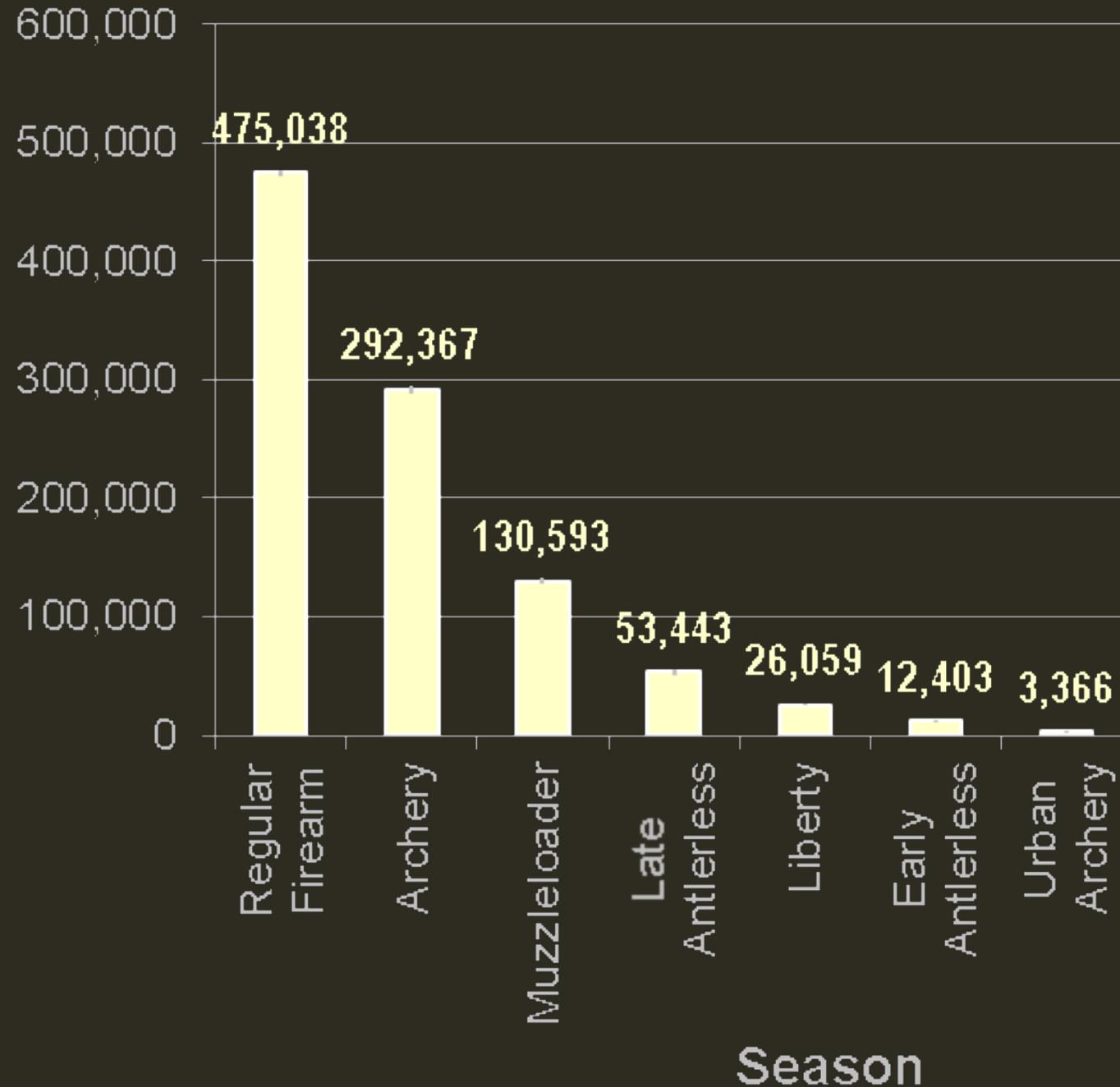
Hunter numbers declined in most of the regions, but the differences were not significant.



# 2019 DEER HUNTERS

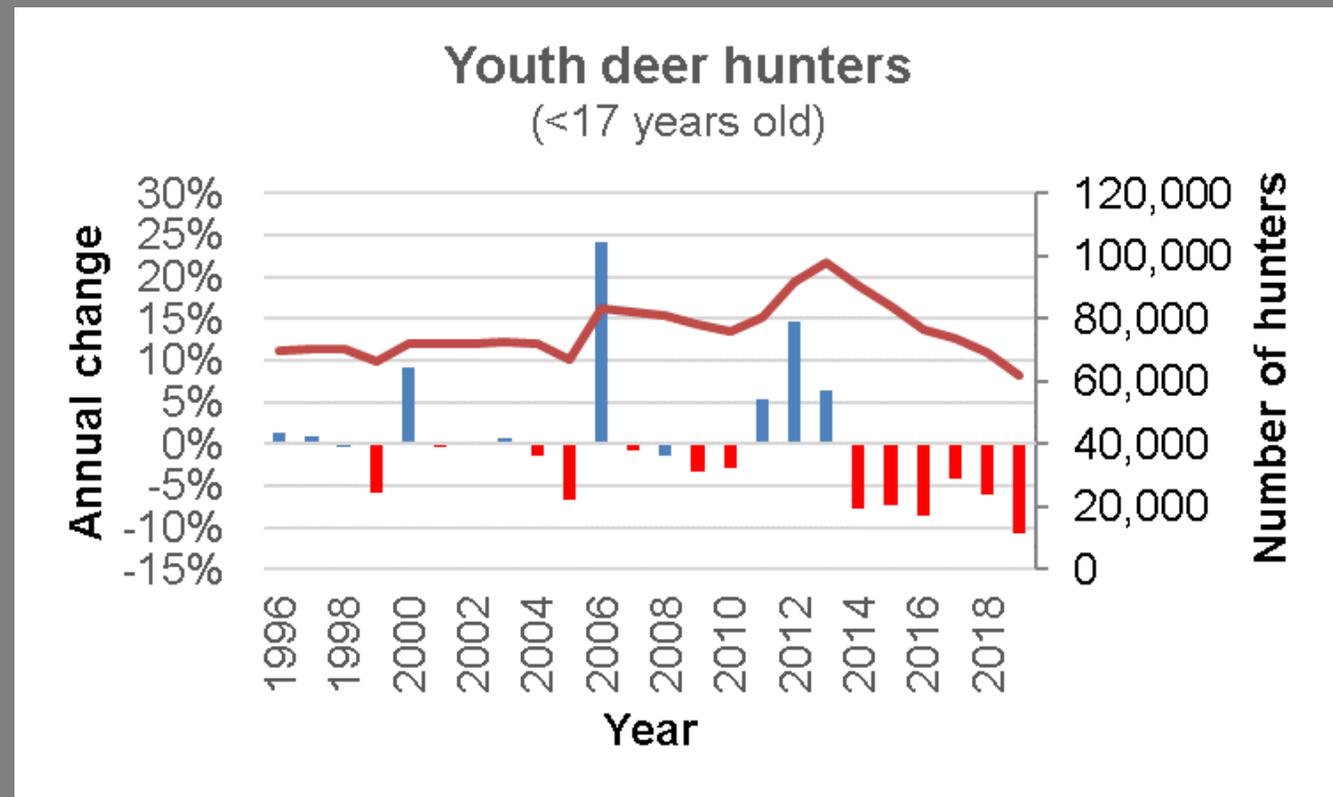
Hunter numbers declined significantly in the Liberty/Youth (-12%), late antlerless (-8%), muzzleloader (-5%), and regular firearm (-2%) seasons.

Hunter numbers were unchanged in the remaining seasons.

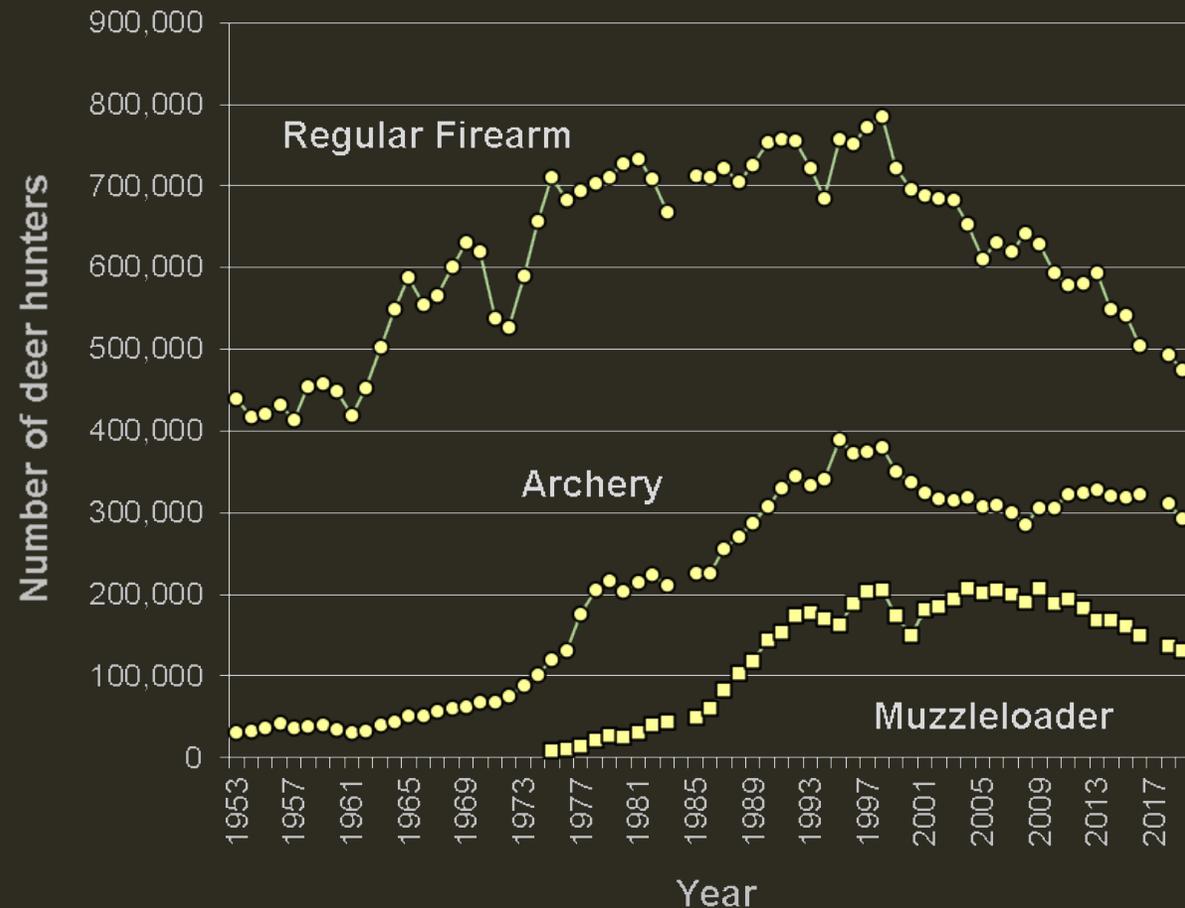


# YOUTH HUNTERS

- Recruitment has declined 37% since 2013 (-7.4% average annual decline).
  - In 2006, the minimum age for hunting deer was lowered from 14 to 12.
  - In 2012, the minimum age limit was removed.



# LONG-TERM DEER HUNTER TRENDS

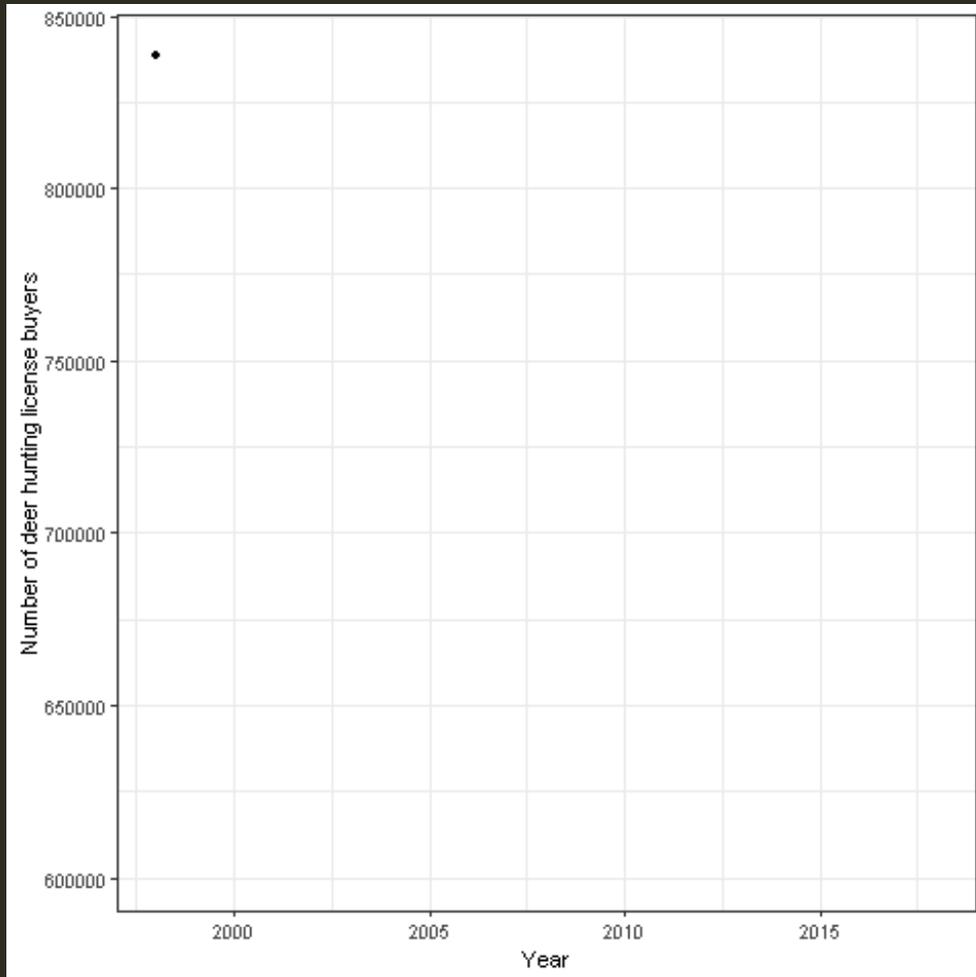


Fewer people hunting during the regular firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

The number of archers has been relatively stable.



# LONG-TERM DEER HUNTER TRENDS



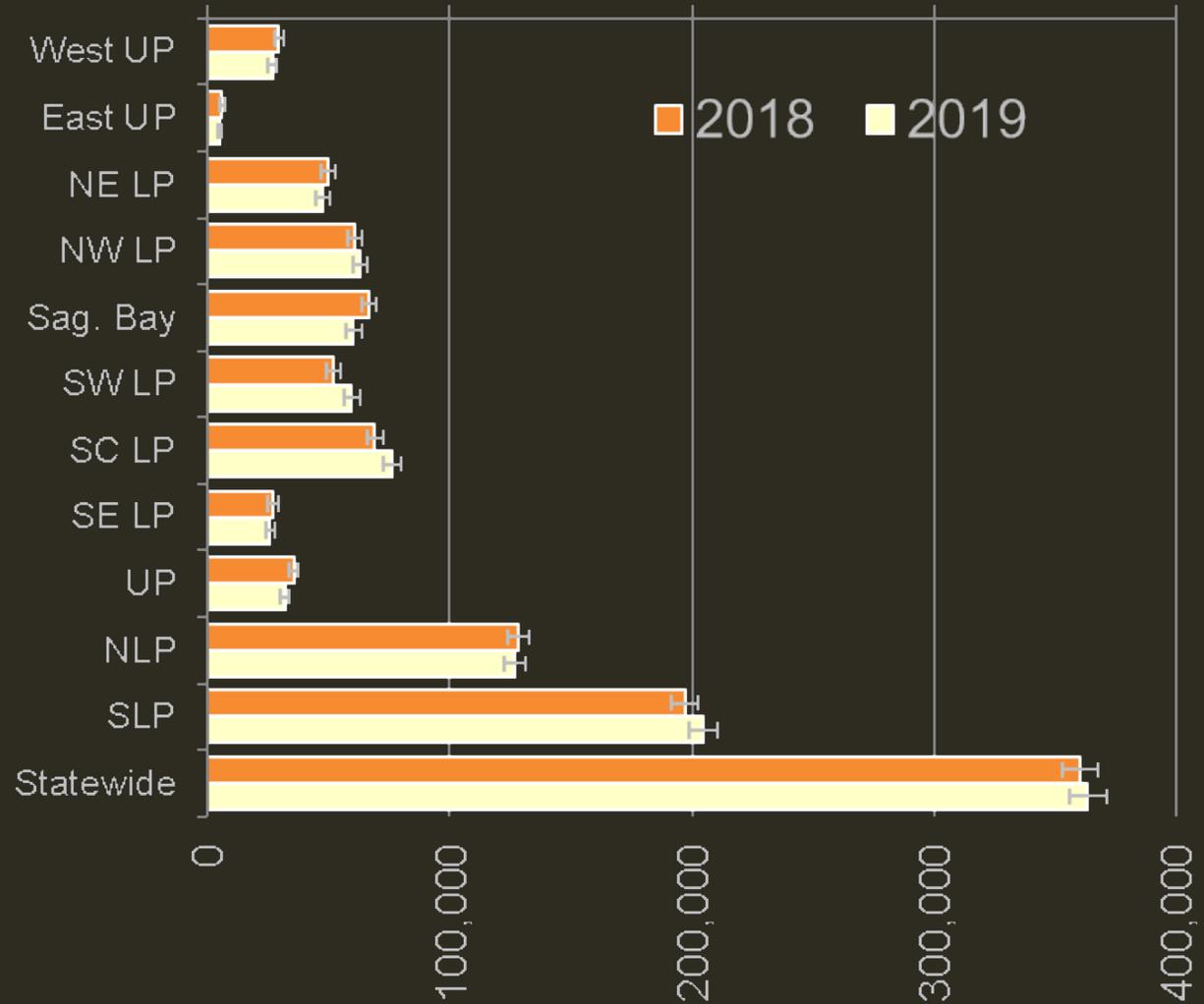
Fewer people buying a deer hunting license. Overall number of hunters declining about 2-3% per year.



# 2019 DEER HARVEST

In all season combined, 364,000 deer were harvested, which was about the same as last year (361,000).

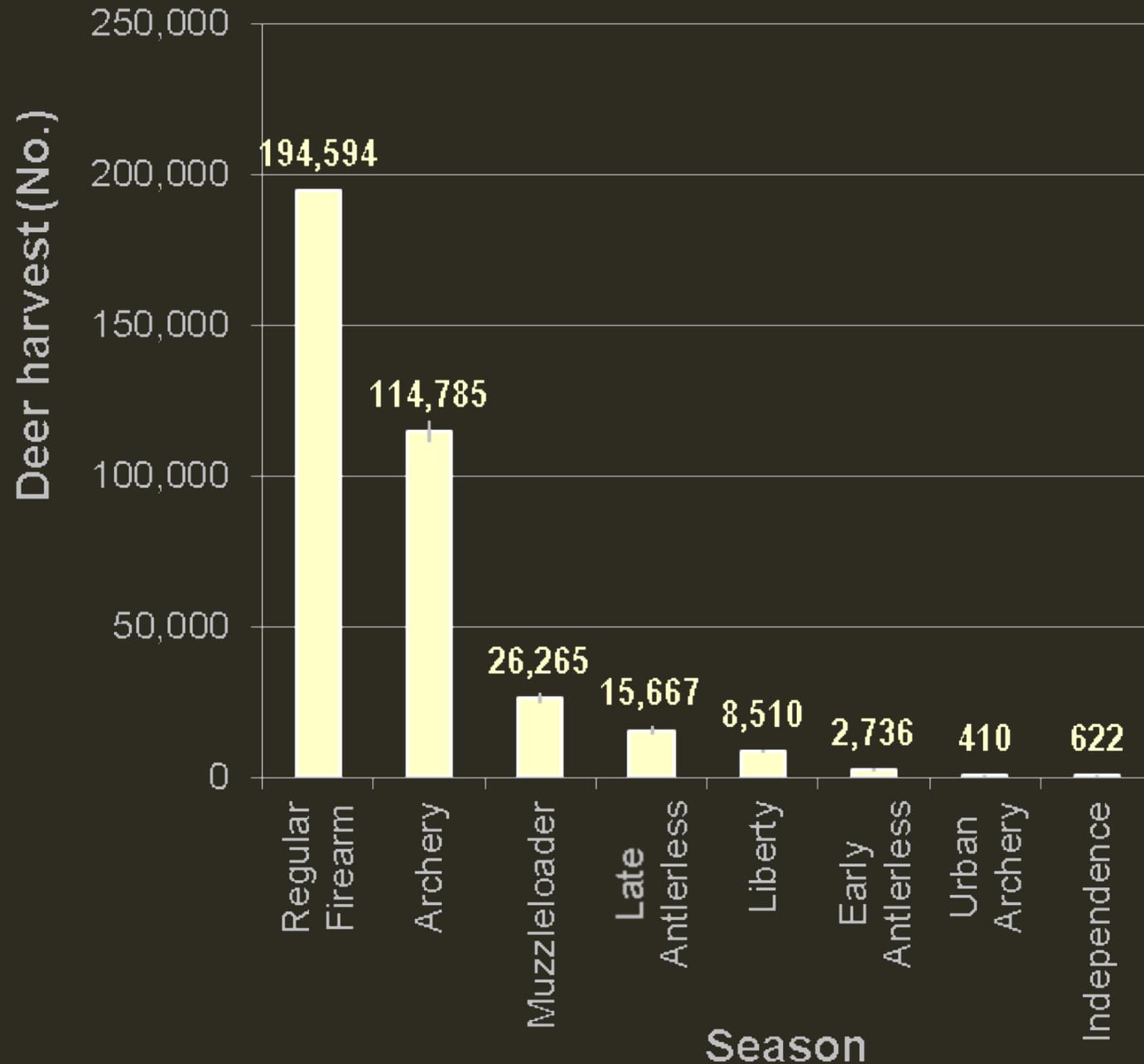
Harvest increased significantly in the SWLP (14%).



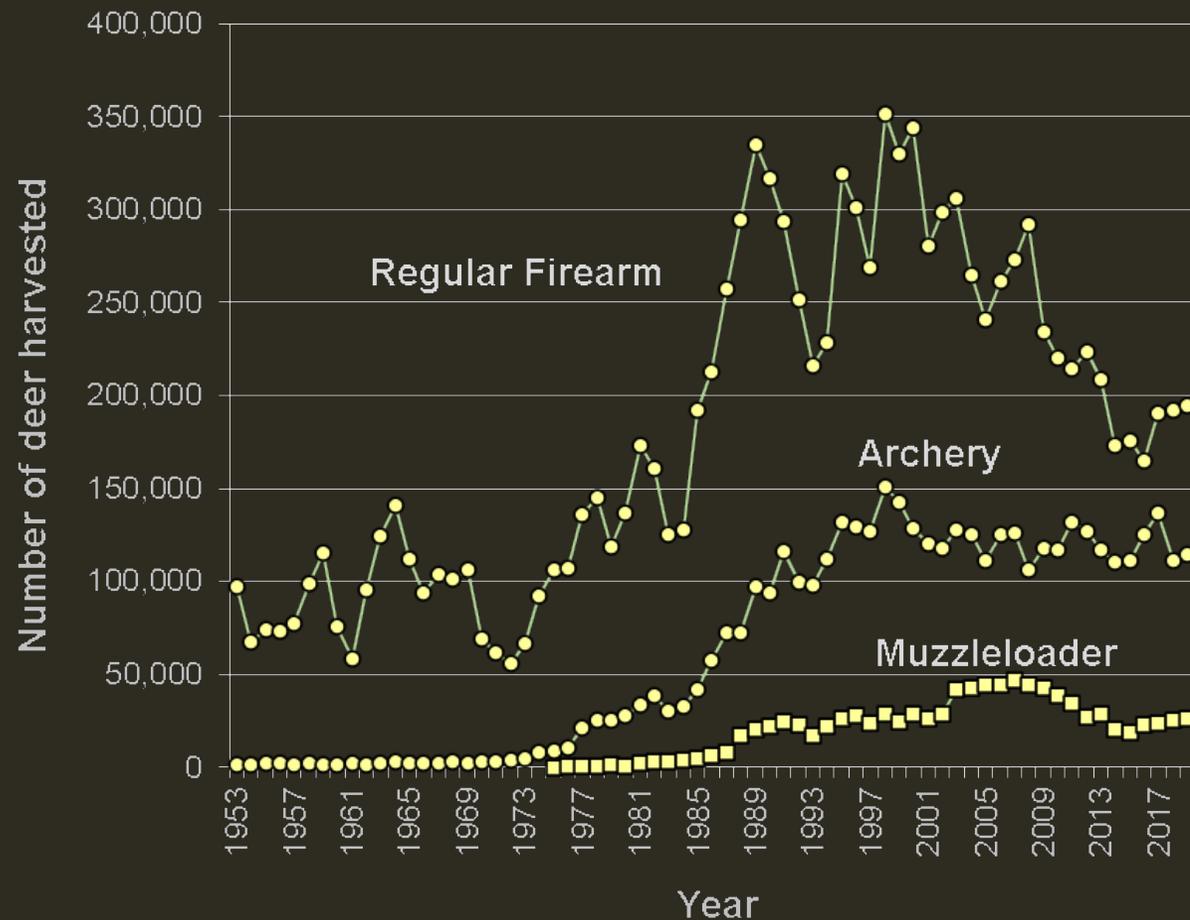
# 2019 DEER HARVEST

Harvest declined significantly in the early firearm (-39%) and Liberty/Youth (-15%) seasons.

Harvest was unchanged in the remaining seasons.



# LONG-TERM DEER HARVEST TRENDS



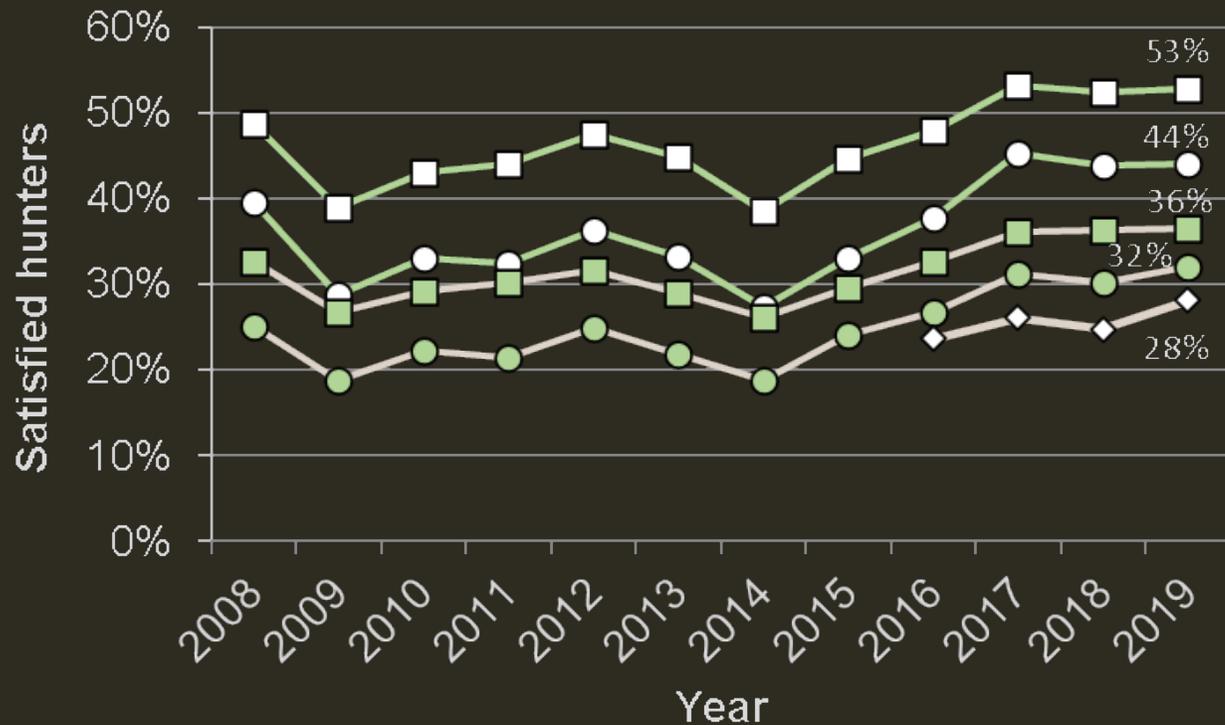
Fewer deer taken during the Regular Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons.

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



Hunter satisfaction with bucks seen and size of antlers improved

Experience (53%)

Deer seen (44%)

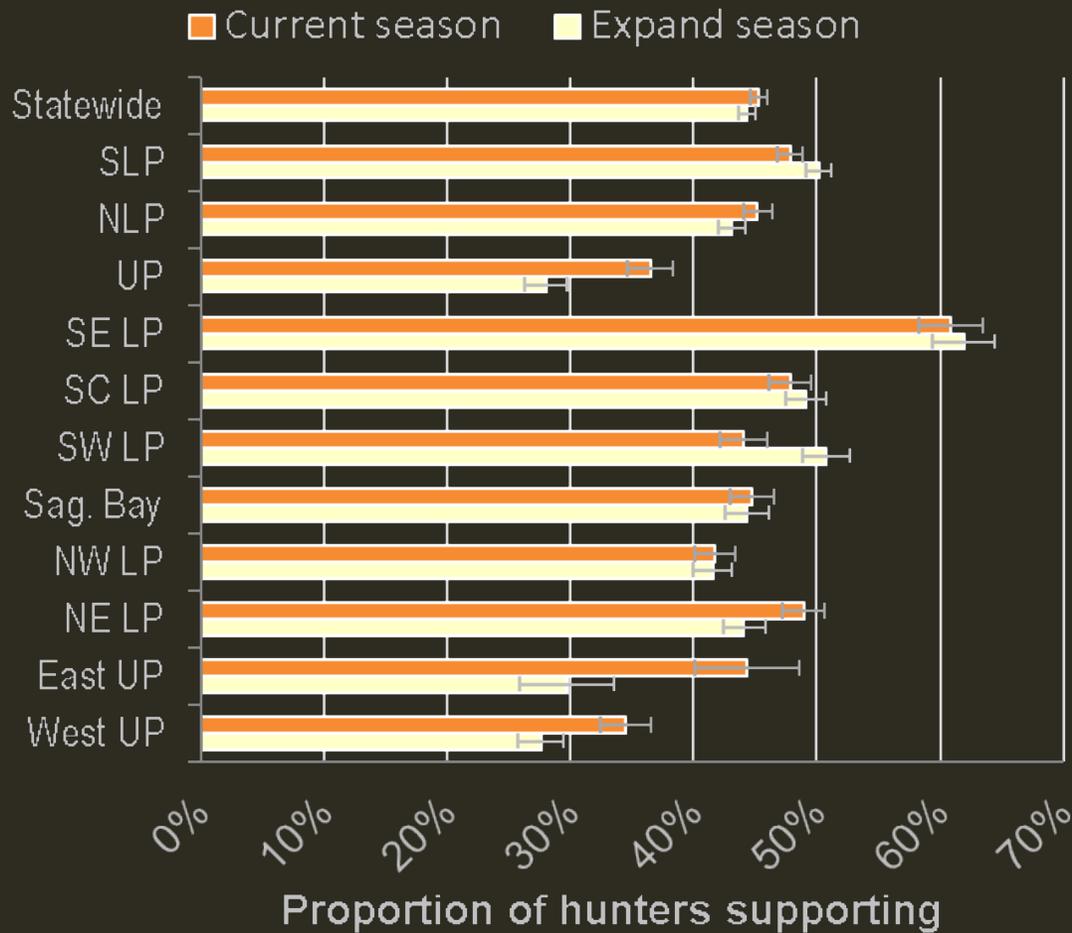
Deer taken (36%)

Bucks seen (32%)\*

Size of antlers (28%)\*



# LATE URBAN ARCHERY SEASON



Highest levels of support in SE LP

Generally, less than 50% of hunters supported expanding the season in other areas



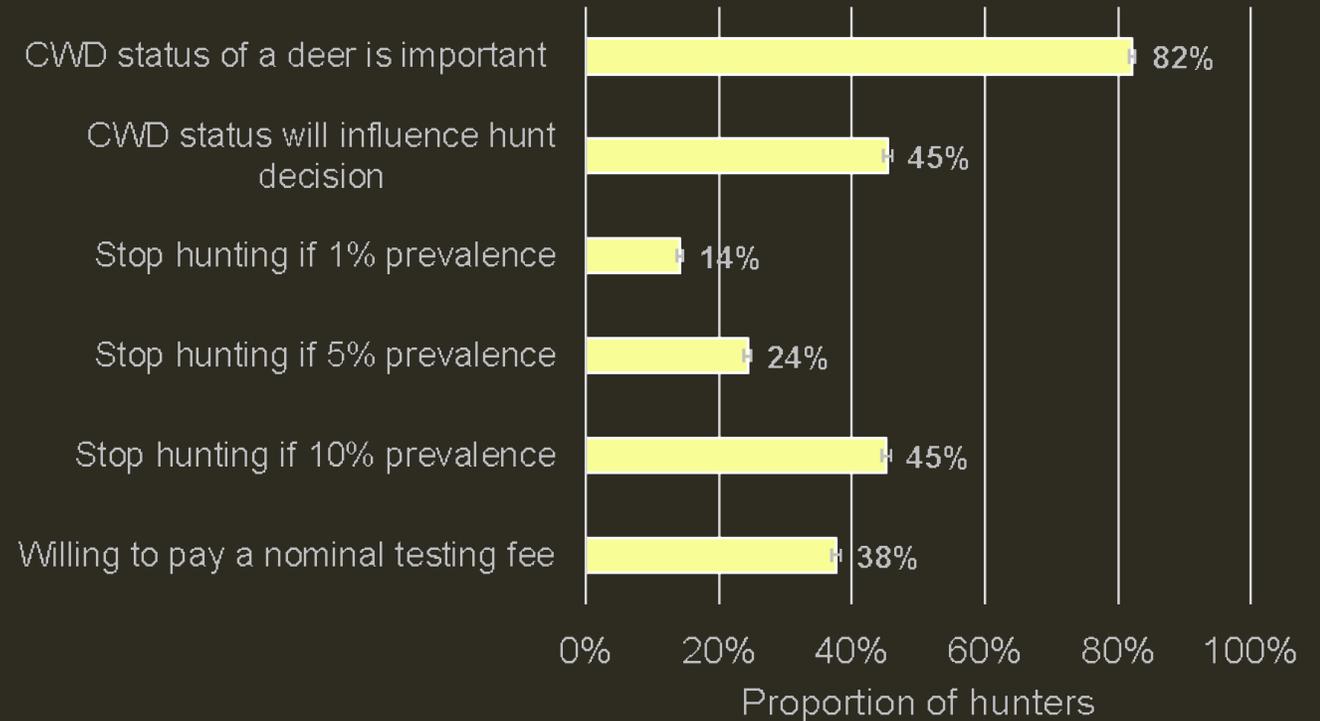
# CWD TESTING

Most hunters (82%) agreed that it was important to know CWD status

14% of hunters would stop hunting in an area where prevalence was low (<1%)

45% of hunters would stop hunting in an area where prevalence was high (>10%)

38% of hunters would pay a nominal CWD testing fee



THANK YOU

