



HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE | NRC Meeting
May 9, 2018

HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF CWD

- What are the social consequences of CWD?
 - Attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of hunters and non-hunters in response to CWD and CWD management

CWD KNOWLEDGE & RISK PERCEPTIONS

- Knowledge gap
 - Studies across multiple states suggest hunting public more aware of and familiar with CWD than non-hunting public
 - Illinois example: 49% non-hunters vs. 94% hunters
 - New York example: 81% hunters vs. <50% non-hunters
 - Non-hunting public more likely to feel less well-informed about CWD management
 - Illinois example: 58% hunters vs. 19% non-hunters

CWD KNOWLEDGE & RISK PERCEPTIONS

- Higher risk attributed to new or unknown
 - Examples from WI
 - Multistate survey found WI residents most likely to believe CWD risks exaggerated
 - Hunters within CWD zone more likely to believe CWD risks exaggerated
- Lower knowledge of CWD associated with higher risk perceptions
 - Studies suggest hunters attribute moderate personal health risks from CWD, although those who perceive higher risk tend to know less about CWD

HUNTERS' RESPONSE TO CWD

- Studies conducted post-CWD discovery suggest few hunters would change behavior
 - Little differences found across many states and provinces
- As prevalence increases, studies suggest participation rates may drop
 - Novice hunters more likely to quit, veterans switch states
 - Residents more likely to quit, non-residents more likely to switch states

HUNTERS' RESPONSE TO CWD

- Hunter participation data generally supports these findings
 - WI Example: 11% drop in license sales after 1st year of CWD discovery
 - Half of hunters who did not participate after CWD was discovered reported CWD contributed to decision
 - Real behavior change witnessed, but 90% of hunters still purchased licenses
 - Maryland Example: 1.1% of hunters claimed to stop hunting due to CWD, but 47% of those claimants continued to register deer

RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Studies suggest hunter support for longer hunting seasons & free licenses
- More support for hunting to reduce herd than sharpshooting
 - However, little evidence of hunters meeting harvest goals
 - More experienced hunters tend to show more support for culling
- Studies suggest moderate support for eradication in affected areas
- Monetary incentives for hunting less influential and less preferred
- Support for baiting bans found in WI, IL, Alberta
 - WI caveat: Importance of stakeholder engagement (or lack thereof) for decision making

RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Increased risk perceptions & prevalence influence support for management actions (both lethal and nonlethal)
- Belief in the effectiveness of a management action important for support
- Importance of fair decision making processes for management support
- Awareness of management actions
 - WI ex: Landowners who hunt more likely to be aware of incentives targeting landowners
 - IL ex: Low awareness of management actions (special seasons, banning of baiting and feeding) among hunters and non-hunters

ROLE OF TRUST

- Trust influences acceptance of management actions
- What influences trust?
 - Decision-making process
 - Perceived similarity with goals of the agency
- Studies from IL and WI suggest that hunters in CWD areas are less likely to trust information from management agencies

TAKEAWAYS

- Knowledge about CWD is varied
- Hunter participation is affected by CWD, but studies suggest that changes have not been drastic
 - Sensitivity to prevalence
 - Sensitivity to risk perceptions
- Support for management actions related to risk perceptions, disease prevalence, trust, and belief in effectiveness of those actions
- Decision-making processes (and engagement) matter

THANK YOU

