2017 DEER HARVEST SURVEY

Survey is ongoing; thus, results are preliminary
620,933 people purchased a license (2% decline)
24,529 of 61,094 questionnaires returned (40% response)
4,303 additional hunters completed the survey online
Estimates derived from 28,832 hunters (mail and online respondents)
Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years
580,800 people hunted deer (all seasons), which was about 1% fewer than last year.

New January hunts (Urban Archery and Disease Surveillance Hunt).

Hunter numbers unchanged in all seasons except late antlerless (-19%).

Fewer people hunting during the regular firearm and muzzleloader seasons.

The number of archers has been stable.
390,100 deer harvested (all seasons), which was about 14% greater than last year.

New January hunts (Urban Archery and Disease Surveillance Hunt).

Harvest increased significantly in Regular Firearm (19%), Liberty (19%), and Archery (13%) seasons.

Unchanged during Early Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons.

Decreased in Late Firearm season (-16%).

Fewer deer taken during the Regular Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons.

Harvest in Archery season has been stable.
DEER HUNTER SATISFACTION

Hunter satisfaction increased for all measures in 2017

- Experience (54%)
- Deer seen (46%)
- Deer taken (37%)
- Bucks seen (32%)
- Size of antlers (27%)

DEER POPULATION STATUS

Deer population and harvest were the same or lower than 5 years ago

- Deer population compared to 5 years ago:
  - Increased: 6%
  - No change: 44%
  - Decreased: 50%

- Your deer harvest compared to 5 years ago:
  - Increased: 4%
  - No change: 48%
  - Decreased: 48%

- Total deer harvest compared to 5 years ago:
  - Increased: 4%
  - No change: 45%
  - Decreased: 51%
**Desired Deer Population**

Most hunters desire either no change (56%) or an increase (40%) in deer numbers during the next 5 years.

**Knowledge of CWD**

- CWD could spread statewide: 74%
- Reduce deer population in CWD area: 60%
- CWD could wipe out deer: 49%
- CWD threat to people not known: 48%
- DNR taken right steps to control CWD: 44%
KNOWLEDGE OF CWD

Disagree

- CWD is natural; no action needed: 58%
- Will stop hunting if CWD found: 58%
- Move to new area if CWD found: 53%
- Have concerns about eating venison: 53%
- Family concerned about eating venison: 52%

Not sure

- CWD can cause disease in humans: 57%
- DNR taken right steps to control CWD: 45%
- CWD not a risk to humans: 45%
- CWD threat to people not known: 37%
- CWD threat exaggerated: 32%
THANK YOU