



# Oklahoma Deer Hunter Survey

MARCH 2020

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## Introduction

In late 2019, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) initiated a deer hunter survey to learn about both management and social issues related to deer hunting. This survey obtained scientific representation of opinions on deer hunting regulations in Oklahoma. Specifically, we looked at:

- Support for proposed regulations and season changes
- Support for CWD related regulations being proposed and potential testing stations
- Hunter behavior during and after the hunt
- Demographics and other hunter characteristics

## Methods

We employed internet and mail methodologies. The sample included both resident and non-resident hunters. To survey deer hunters, we first pulled the population of unique hunters who purchased deer tags in the last five years. Lifetime and senior license holders are exempt from purchasing deer tags, so we also sent the survey to a random sample of lifetime and senior license holders.

The random sample was selected to represent the following proportions of license holders seen in Table 1. Based on Game Harvest Survey estimates, senior license holders are less likely to be active deer hunters. Because of this, we significantly reduced the proportion of senior license holders in the sample. Lifetime license holders are typically the most active, followed closely by annual and five-year license holders. We used the Game Harvest Survey to gain representativeness in the sample and we chose to sample a higher proportion of deer tag holders in the sampling scheme because we wanted to include non-resident hunters as well.

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>	<b>Number Sampled</b>
<b>Lifetime license holders</b>	40%	2,400
<b>License holders purchasing deer tags</b>	50%	3000
<b>Senior license holders</b>	10%	600
	=100%	=6,000

Table 1: Sampling scheme for 2019-2020 Deer Hunter Survey

We followed a modified Dillman Design (Dillman 2014) for mail and internet surveys described as follows. An initial postcard invitation was sent on November 18, 2019, directing hunters to access the survey via an online link. A second invitation was sent to non-respondents on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, once again directing them to a URL to access the survey. For those that had not responded online, or did not have access to fill the survey out online, a full paper version of the survey was mailed on December 18. Within the survey, respondents were asked to self-report what type of hunting license they carry.

## Results

- 1,232 hunters responded to the survey (removing those with wrong addresses and deceased license holders gave us an adjusted response rate of 21%).
  - 644 responded via the online link (52%)
  - 588 responded via mail (48%)
- 941 (77%) had hunted deer in the last five years.
- The breakdown of those who hunted deer resulted in:
  - 532 lifetime license holders (57%)
  - 337 deer tag purchasers (36%)
  - 26 senior license holders (3%)
  - 4% unknown license type.
  - Non-residents comprised 17% of the respondents that provided zip codes.

Although the respondent breakdown does not match the sampled population in terms of license types, the participation rates by license category are similar to what we see on annual game harvest surveys, with a greater number of lifetime license and annual license holders being "active" hunters, compared to seniors. For example, on the 2018 Game Harvest Survey, 59% of deer hunters were lifetime license holders, 32% were annual and five year license holders (those who purchase a deer tag) and 10% were senior license holders. Because this closely matches the responses on the deer hunter survey, weighting of data was unnecessary.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBING RESPONDENT POPULATION

All results reported in the remainder of this report describe only the 77% that have hunted in the last five years. Respondents included both residents and non-residents. Figure 1 displays the home zip code of all respondents. Respondents were also predominantly male (Fig. 2) and the majority held lifetime licenses (Fig. 3).

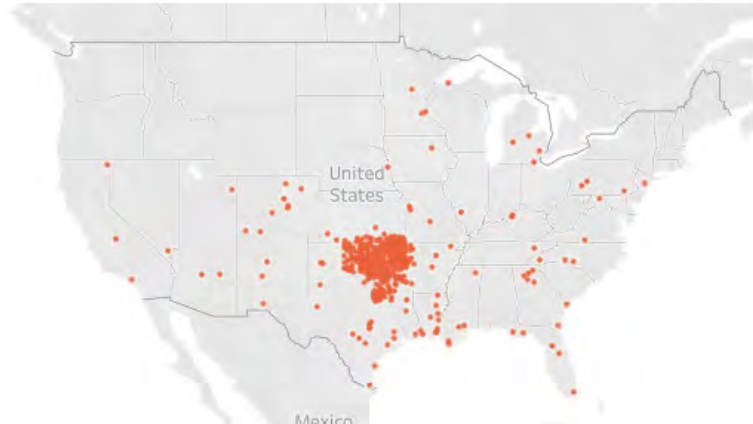


Figure 1: What is your home zip code? (n= 909)

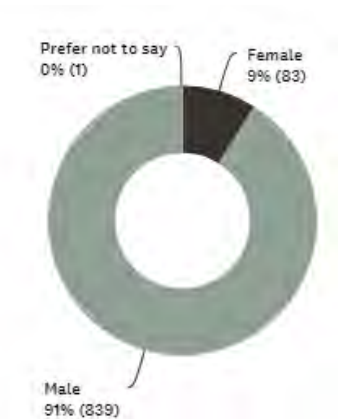


Figure 2: What is your gender? (n=923)

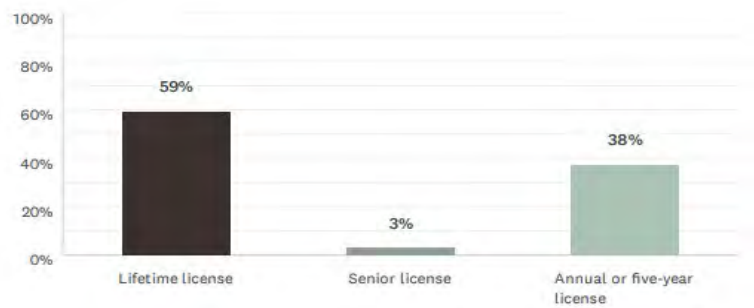


Figure 3: What type of Oklahoma hunting license do you have? (n=895)

If respondents hunted in the last five years we asked which of the last five years they hunted deer (Fig. 4). This was consistent over the years; notable exceptions included non-residents who were more likely to only hunt one or two of the last five years.

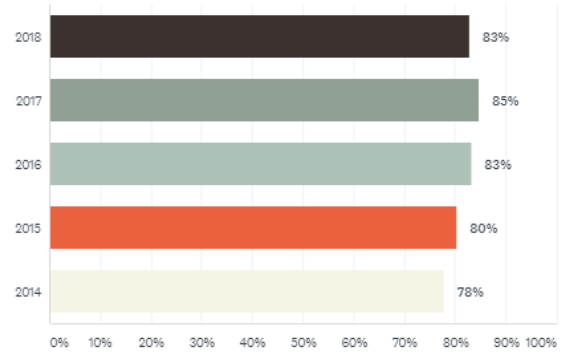


Figure 4: Please select the years that you hunted deer in Oklahoma (n=923)

We also asked respondents what deer seasons they typically participate in. Gun season was most popular followed by archery and primitive firearms (Fig. 5).

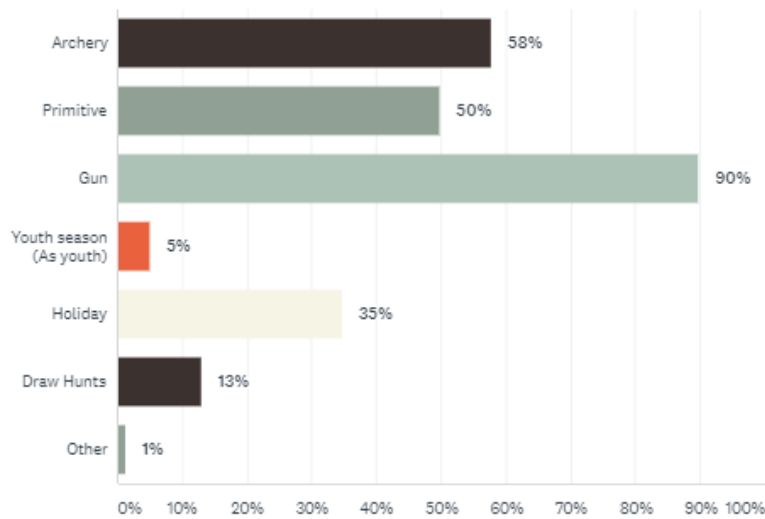


Figure 5: Which of the following seasons do you typically hunt? *Check all that apply.*

The average age of deer hunters was 50 years of age. The average age that respondents first deer hunted was 16.6 years of age. Finally, we asked: when hunters first began hunting, how they would describe the area surrounding their home. The majority started hunting in rural areas (Fig. 6), and the average age they started hunting overall (not just deer) was 15.5 years of age. The average beginning age for small towns, large towns, and large cities was 16.3, 18.6 and 25.0, respectively.

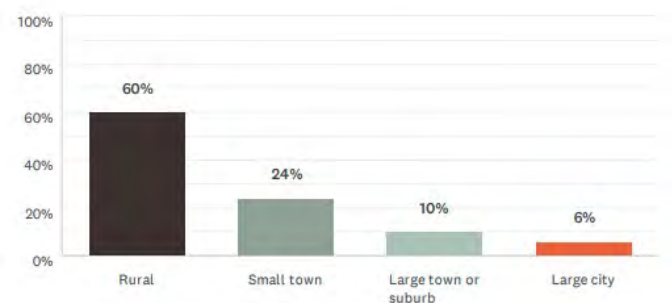


Figure 6: When you first began hunting, the area surrounding your home would have been best described as: (n=917)

## LAND USE

Twenty-one percent of deer hunters in the state use public land. We asked private land only hunters why they do not use public land and the most common response was they have access to private land. Out of the factors that ODWC can control, private land respondents selected crowding concerns and safety concerns as reasons for not hunting public land (Fig. 7).

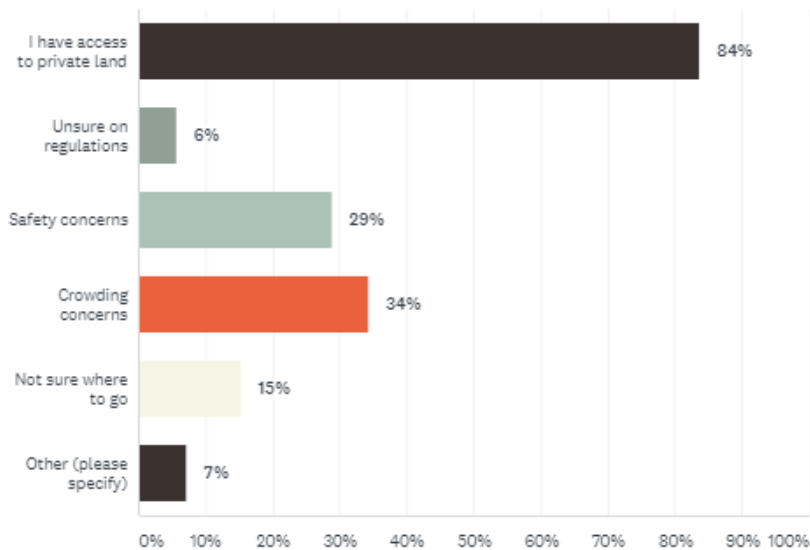


Figure 7: Why do you not hunt on public land? *Check all that apply.* (n=721)

Deer hunters also provided the county that they hunt deer in most often. Osage county had the highest density of deer hunters followed by Le Flore (Fig. 8).

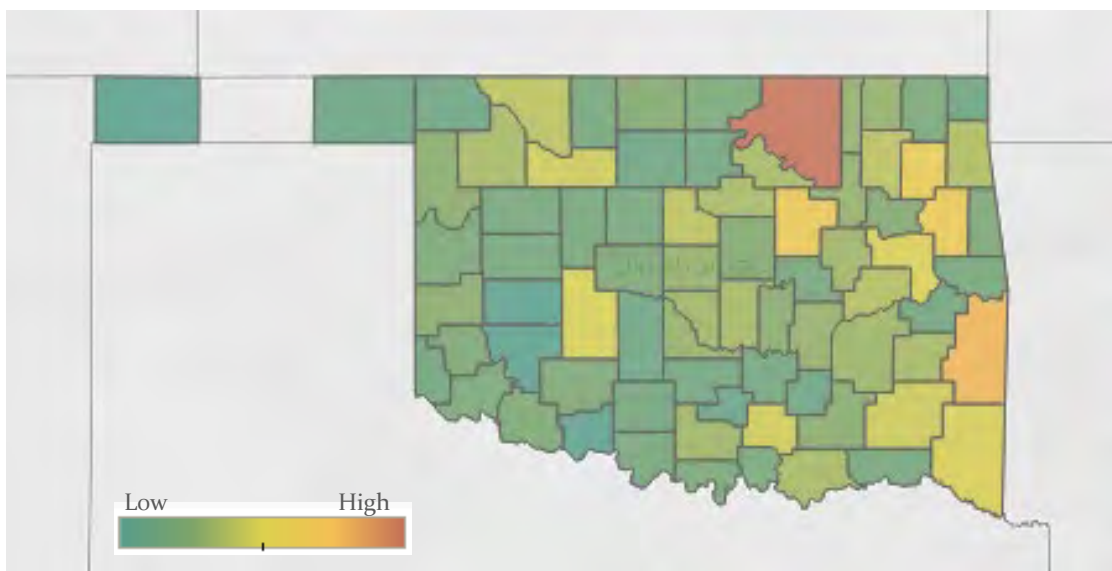


Figure 8: What county do you hunt deer in most often? (n=840)

## PERCEPTIONS OF DEER POPULATION CHANGE

Perceptions of deer population levels can affect the likelihood that a hunter goes out that year. We asked hunters to rate how they perceived antlered and antlerless deer populations to have changed over the last five years in the area that they hunt most often (Fig. 9). The three most significant perceived *increases* for **antlered** populations were in Washita, Seminole and Pottawatomie counties. The three most significant *increases* for **antlerless** populations were in Kingfisher, Seminole and Sequoyah counties. The most significant *decreases* for **antlered** populations were in Ottawa, Cimarron and Marshall counties. The most significant *decreases* for **antlerless** populations were in Cimarron, Harper and Kay counties.

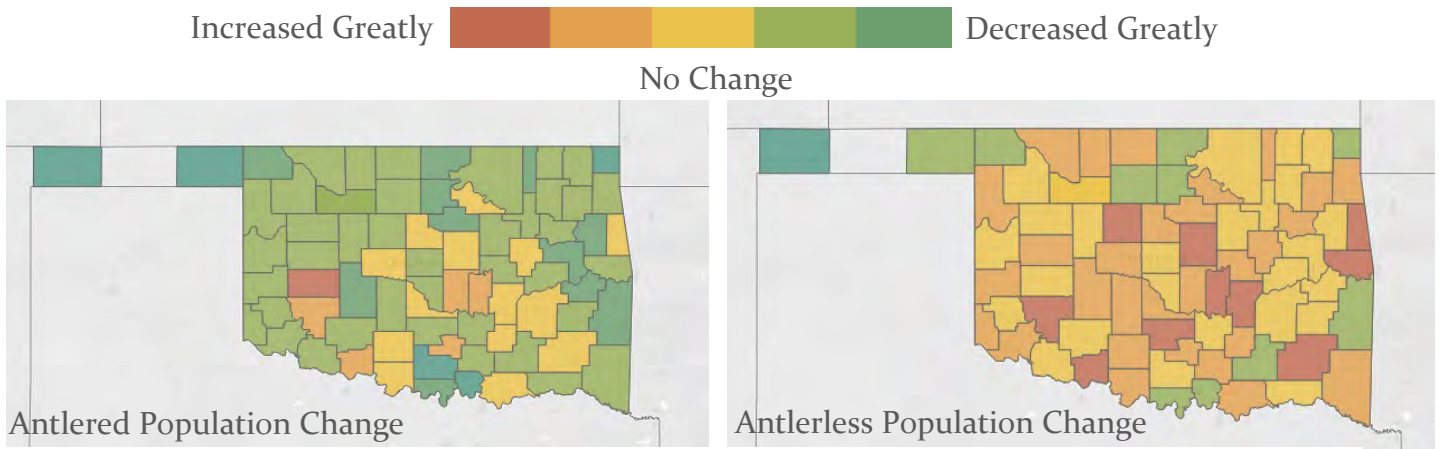


Figure 9: Based on your experience, how has the number of antlered deer (bucks) and antlerless deer (does) in the area where you hunt changed over the last 5 years?

## HUNT BEHAVIOR

We asked hunters what their primary target was during the last deer season they hunted, with the plurality selecting both antlered and antlerless (Fig. 10). The most common responses for why people go deer hunting was to harvest a mature antlered deer and to harvest a deer for meat (Fig. 11)

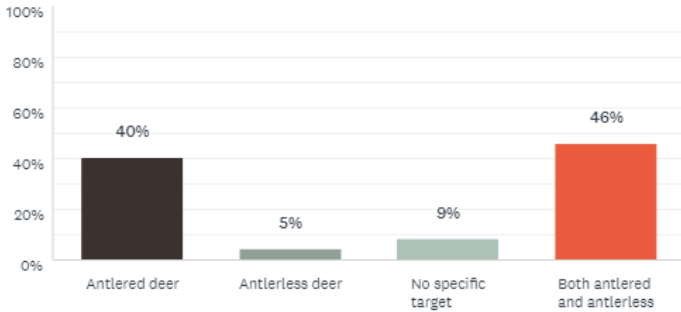


Figure 10: During the last deer season you hunted, what did you primarily target? (n=915)

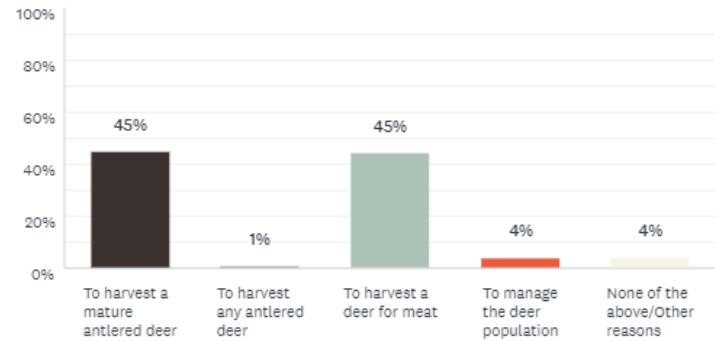


Figure 11: What is your main motivation for a typical deer hunt? (n=899)

Finally, we asked in the last five years if their interest in deer hunting changed. The majority stated their interest has not changed (Fig. 12). Of those stating that their interest has either increased or decreased, the majority said it was due to personal reasons such as age, and life circumstances making them either too busy or freer to hunt. Increasing interest is attributed to higher deer population numbers and ODWC campaigns to shift harvest to mature bucks as well as highlighting the fun of taking new hunters out. Decreasing interest is attributed to leases costing too much money, licenses costing too much money, and too many non-residents hunting in Oklahoma.

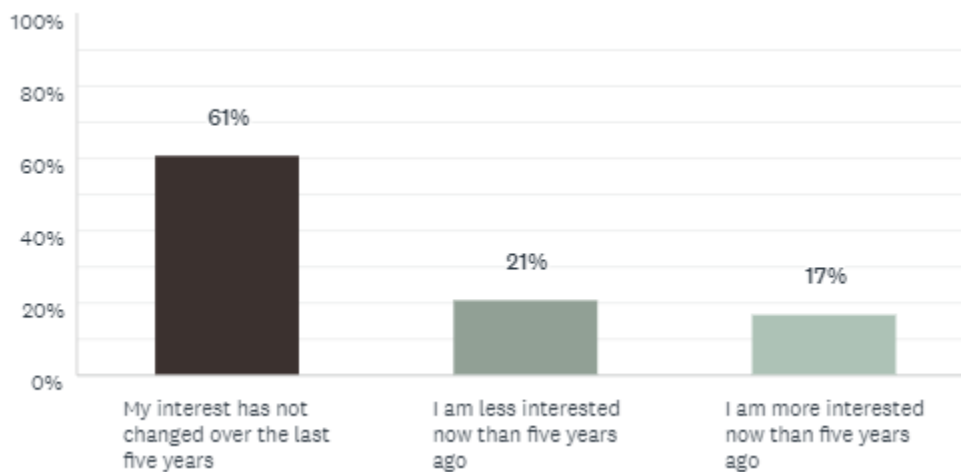


Figure 12: How has your interest in deer hunting changed in the last five years? (n=911)



Antlerless deer harvest is used as a way to manage deer populations. To understand perceptions of antlerless harvest in Oklahoma, we asked hunters why antlerless harvest is not at levels desired by biologists. We used responses to a similar Facebook post to determine response categories. As shown in table 2, the most popular response was that hunters want to harvest a mature antlered deer.

Table 2: In your hunting experiences, which of the following contributes to a lower harvest of antlerless deer? Check all that apply. (n=904)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Desire for mature antlered deer	55%	496
Keep antlerless deer for antlered deer attraction	29%	264
Prefer to keep antlerless deer for population growth	29%	263
Not enough opportunity during my preferred season	21%	186
Price of processing deer	18%	161
Not enough opportunity on public land	15%	134
Availability of processors for deer	10%	94
Not applicable / I harvest as many as I can	9%	83
None of the above	4%	40
Total Respondents: 904		

Hunters against hunger is a program that encourages higher doe harvest. This program allows hunters to donate the venison that they do not need for themselves or their families to those in need, benefitting the hungry and keeping antlerless populations at manageable levels. We asked if hunters use deer processors. Surprisingly, over half of our deer hunters use a processor for the deer that they harvest (Fig. 13).

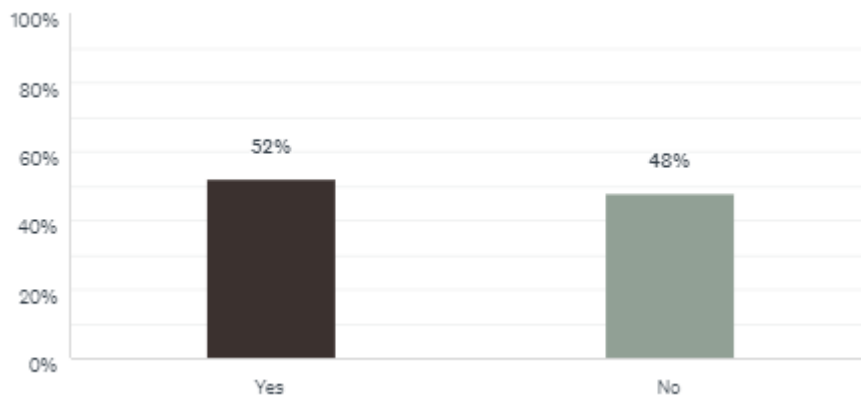


Figure 13: Do you typically pay to have your game processed? (n=930)

We then asked if they have participated in the Hunters Against Hunger program. The results for this question are diminished due to a typo on the paper version of the survey. The question was asked, “have you participated in the hunters against HUNTER program.” Although people could have figured out what we meant, we do not want to assume their responses were to the correct program. Responses from 280 people online indicated that 71% have **not** participated in the program. The most selected answer for not participating was that they want to keep all the deer that they harvest (Fig. 14)

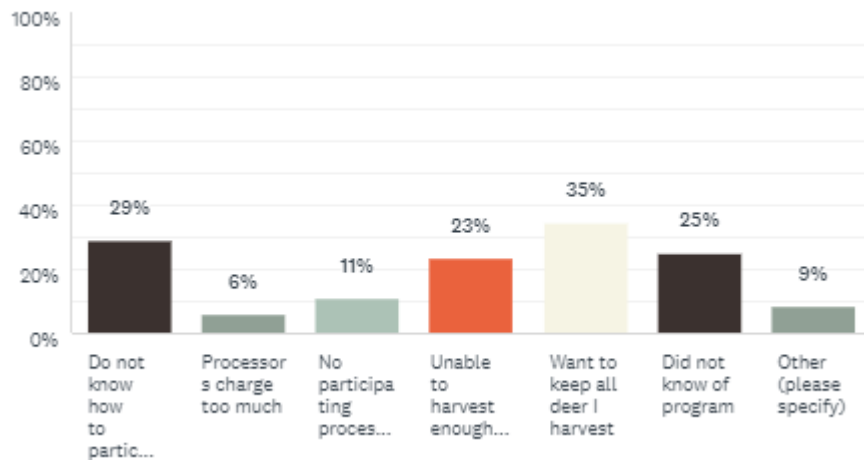


Figure 14: Why have you not participated in the Hunters Against Hunter program? Check all that apply. ? (n=197)

### PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

Although deer hunting regulations are largely determined by biological factors, hunter opinions are often considered to ensure satisfactory hunting experiences. The following regulation proposals were considered in December 2019. The following results are split up into those three categories of proposed changes- season dates, harvest limits and method of take.

#### Proposed changes to season dates

Gun season for deer is currently 16 days. We proposed to deer hunters extending this season to 23 days and asked if they support or oppose this change (Fig. 15). We also asked should this extension occur, how likely they would be to hunt more days during gun season (Fig. 16). The majority moderately or strongly support this change. The majority would also be likely or very likely to hunt more days should this change occur.

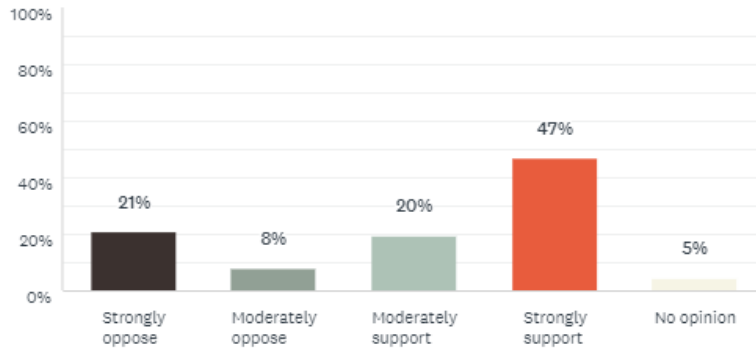


Figure 15: Do you support or oppose extending the (deer gun season) to 23 consecutive days, beginning the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving? (n=922)

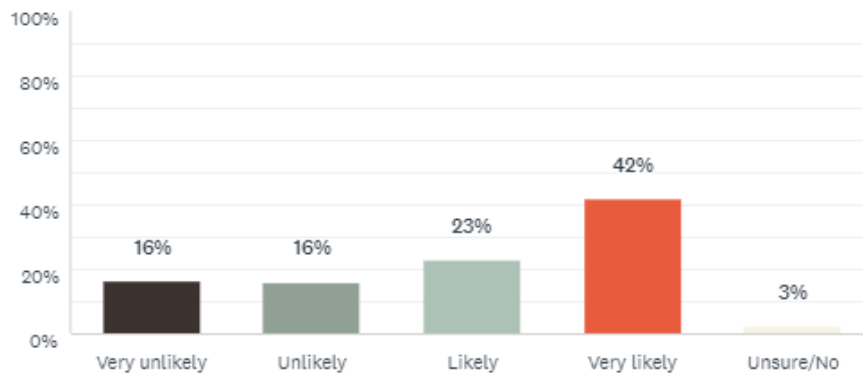


Figure 16: If this extended deer gun season were available, how likely would you be to hunt more days than you currently do? (n=919)

We proposed a change to the holiday antlerless season as well. This season is currently ten days and we asked hunters their opinions about increasing the number of days. The majority either strongly or moderately supported this change (Fig. 17).

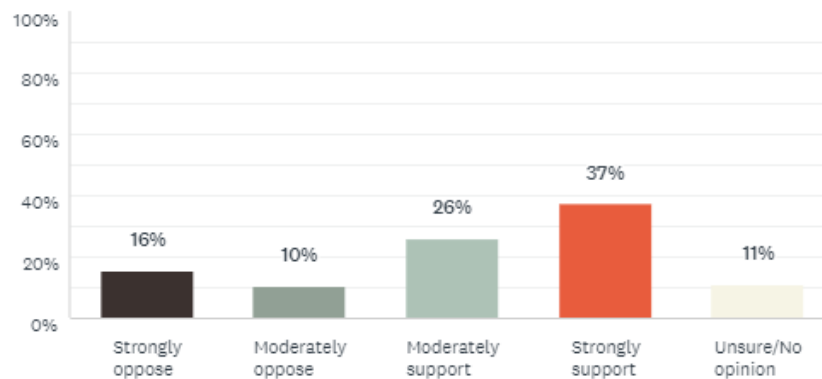


Figure 17: Do you support or oppose increasing the amount of days (in the holiday antlerless season) to allow for more antlerless harvest? (n=919)

## Proposed changes to harvest limits

The next set of questions related to harvest limits. The first question also related to the holiday antlerless season, during which deer hunters can take 1 bonus antlerless deer. We asked whether hunters would like the option to take up to their full season bag limit of 6 antlerless deer during this season. This would in turn add harvest opportunity for many, but remove the “bonus” opportunity if they harvest six in other seasons. There was not strong support or opposition to this proposal (Fig. 18). This could be attributed to the lower participation in the holiday antlerless season, or the fact that most hunters do not currently harvest 6 deer.

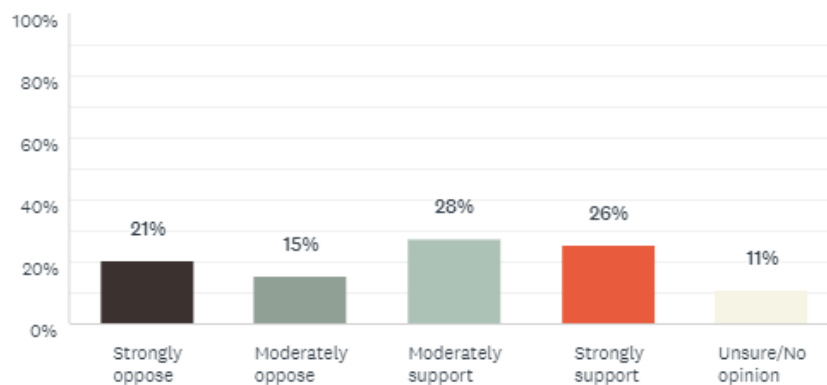


Figure 18: Do you support or oppose allowing hunters to take their full bag limit of 6 deer during the holiday season? (n=916)

Oklahoma has 10 antlerless deer hunting zones across the state designed to better manage antlerless populations (Fig. 19) across multiple habitats. We asked hunters about their support for changes to the limits allowed in these zones. First, we asked about removing zone restrictions in all but zone 1 to allow two antlerless deer to be taken during primitive or gun anywhere in the state. There was strong support for this change (Fig. 20).



Figure 19: Antlerless deer management zones in Oklahoma

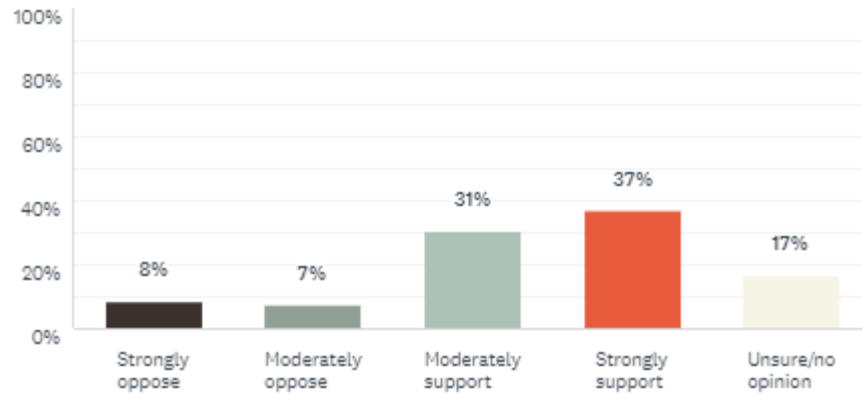


Figure 20: Do you support or opposing changing the bag limit to allow hunters to take up to two antlerless deer during primitive and/or gun season statewide, except in zone 1? (n=926)

We asked another zone question over allowing ODWC to designate harvest limits in zones based on the discretion of the ODWC. There was understandably less support for this due to the lack of specificity of the proposal (Fig. 21).

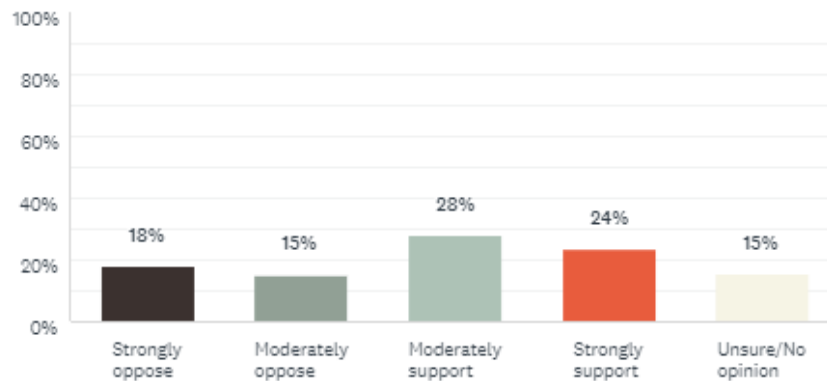


Figure 21: To what extent do you support or oppose allowing up to the full bag limit of 6 antlerless deer to be taken during either muzzleloader or gun in certain zones designated by ODWC? (n=930)

In terms of proposals to change antlered harvest, we asked about changing antlered harvest from two to one over the entire season. We asked respondents about this change applying to ALL hunters as well as this change only applying to non-residents. Overall, there was opposition for reducing the antlered limit for all hunters (Fig. 22) and support for reducing the limit for non-residents (Fig. 23).

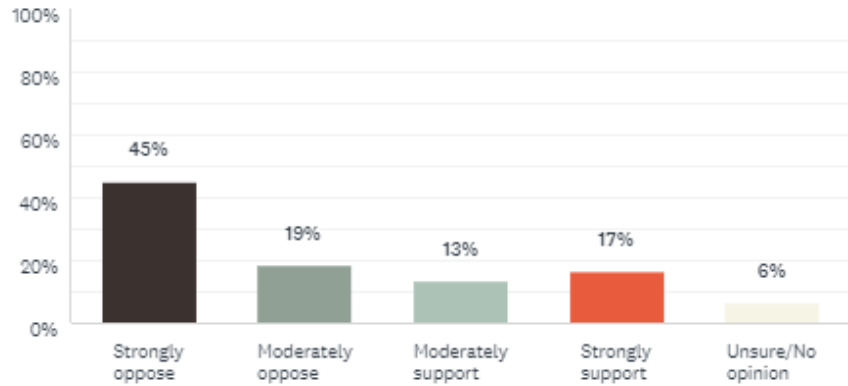


Figure 22: Do you support or oppose reducing the combined season antlered deer limit for all hunters from 2 antlered deer to 1 antlered deer? (n=931)

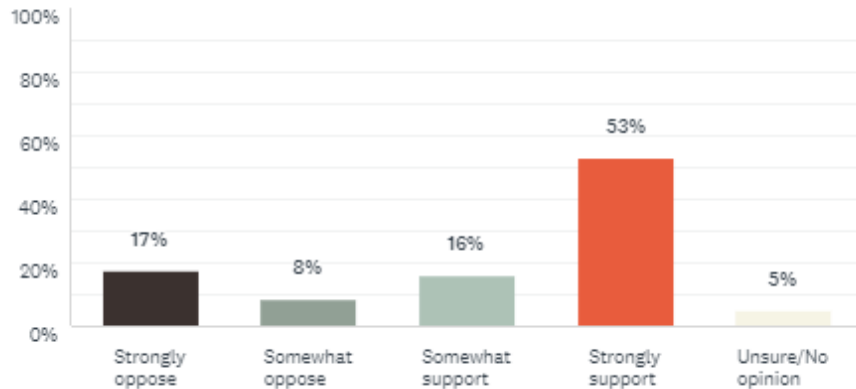


Figure 23: To what extent do you support or oppose changing the limit of antlered deer (bucks) from 2 to 1 only for non-residents? (n=929)

Looking at this question proposed in figure 23 by residency type, we understandably get a different picture of what respondents want. Of the 159 non-resident zip codes provided, 68% either strongly or somewhat oppose applying this 1 antlered deer limit to non-residents.

### Proposed changes to seasons available and method of take

Two proposals would change either the way deer are harvested in Oklahoma (method of take) or the time of year that deer hunting is allowed. The first was a proposal to institute a velvet deer season. This season would occur much earlier in the year (late August). We asked hunters about their support for this season (Fig. 24) as well as their likelihood to participate should the three-day, archery only season, be available (Fig. 25). There was slightly more opposition to this proposal. In terms of likelihood to participate, the majority selected either very unlikely or unlikely.

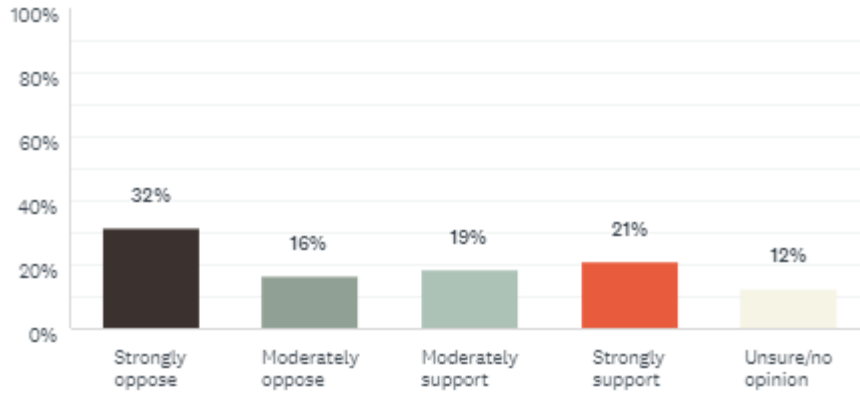


Figure 24: To what extent do you support or oppose the Wildlife Department creating a velvet antlered deer archery season (The annual bag limit for all seasons combined would remain two antlered deer)? (n=919)

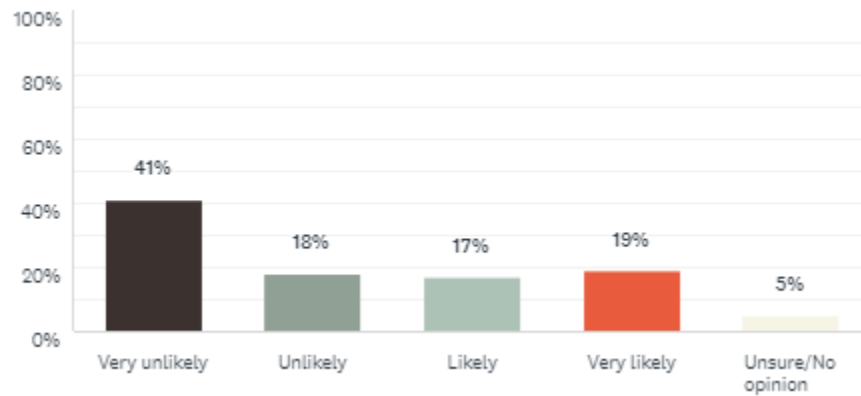


Figure 25: If this velvet antlered deer archery season were available, how likely would you be to participate? (n=921)

The final question we asked related to method of take was about using dogs to hunt deer in Oklahoma. The last time we asked this question was in 1994 and 74% of respondents strongly opposed this proposal in that year. This concept again was vastly opposed (Fig. 26).

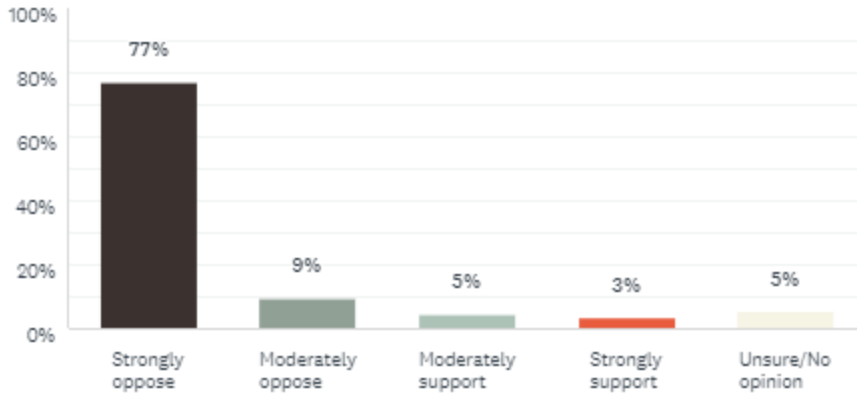


Figure 26: Do you support or oppose the practice of hunting deer with dogs? (n=930)

QUESTIONS RELATED TO CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a wildlife disease that is spreading across the United States affecting deer populations and is always fatal to the infected deer. CWD is not yet found in wild herds in Oklahoma. To prepare for the possibility of infection spreading through deer populations in Oklahoma, we asked deer hunters about topics related hunt location and carcass transport/processing. CWD can be spread by moving carcasses to new areas. As such, we asked hunters if they have hunted outside the state of Oklahoma in the last five years. Twenty-four percent of respondents said they had. The location of where those 218 hunters went was far-reaching, but the two most popular states were Colorado and Texas (Fig 27), both of which have identified CWD in their wild cervid populations.

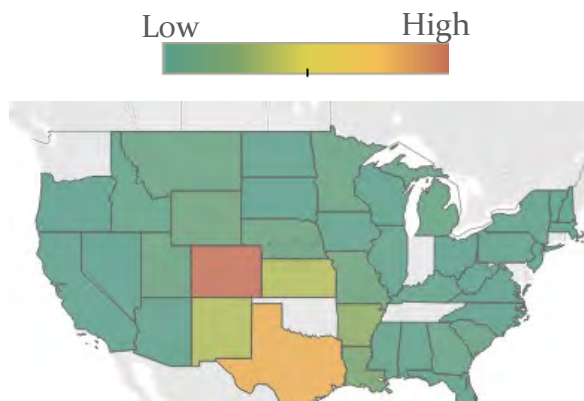


Figure 27: Where did you hunt for deer, elk, or moose in another state in the last five years? (n=206)

With a quarter of Oklahoma hunters also hunting elsewhere, the possibility of harvest and carcass transport to Oklahoma are significant. A proposal to restrict carcass import would hopefully help stave off infection. We asked hunters if they would support or oppose carcass import restrictions into Oklahoma. Almost 50% of respondents strongly support this (Fig. 28).



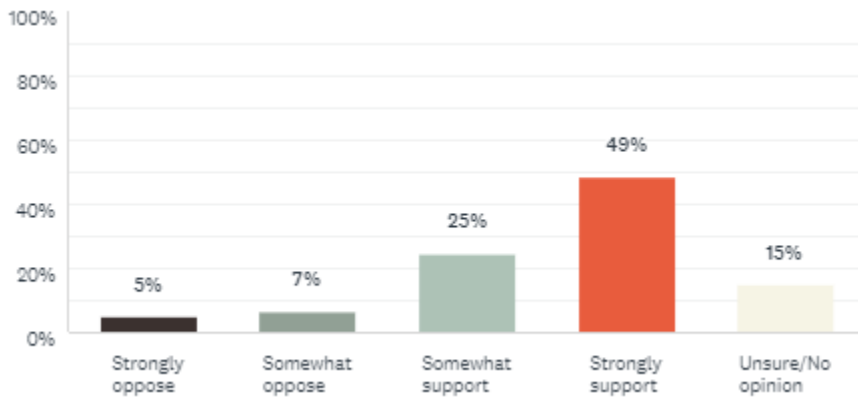


Figure 28: Do you support or oppose the Wildlife Department imposing carcass import restrictions to help prevent the spread of CWD from coming into Oklahoma from out of state? (n=927)

If we look at only those that said they did hunt in other states (those that this restriction would likely affect), there is still strong support for the proposal (Fig. 29).

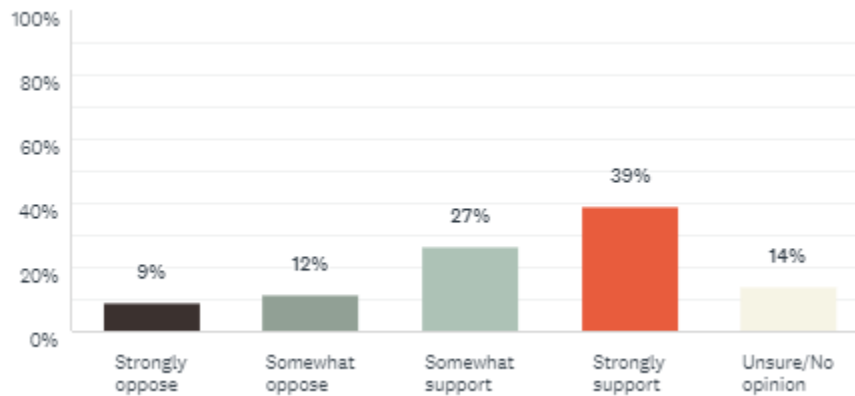


Figure 29: Do you support or oppose the Wildlife Department imposing carcass import restrictions to help prevent the spread of CWD from coming into Oklahoma from out of state? (n=217, only those that said they hunted in other states)

Finally, we asked hunters their willingness to drive to have their harvested deer tested for CWD. We posed how far they would drive for a free test and how far for a \$25 test. The average for the free test was 27.4 miles while the average for the \$25 test was 13.7 miles. Forty one percent of respondents to this question expressed they were willing to drive the same distance for the free and the \$25 test, suggesting that the price of the test is insignificant to their decision.

RESPONDENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Finally, we asked respondents their opinions of the Wildlife Department deer management program overall as well as specific aspects of the program. The vast majority ranked our deer management program overall as good or very good (Fig. 30). Respondents also agreed or strongly agreed that ODWC shares the same goals for management, takes management actions similar to what they would do, is capable of effectively managing populations and takes their concerns on deer management into consideration (Fig. 31).

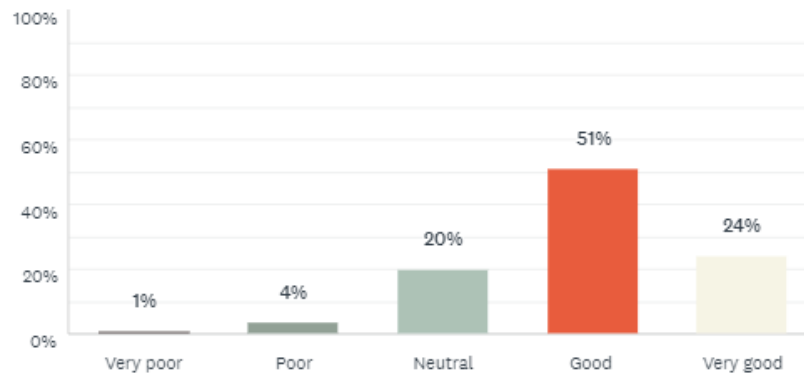


Figure 30: How do you rate the Wildlife Department’s deer management program overall? (n=912)

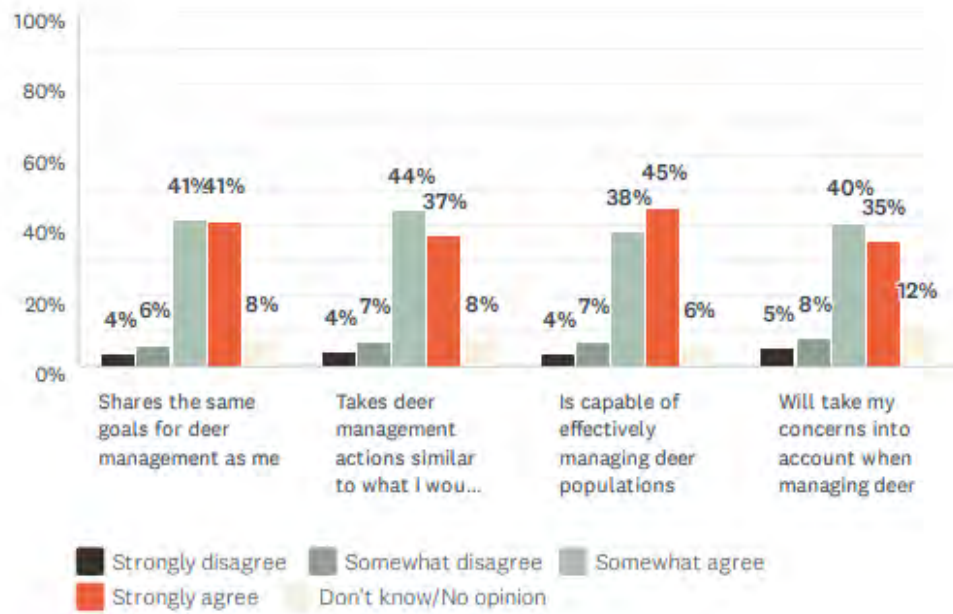


Figure 31: Please rank your agreement or disagreement with the following statements related to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (n=909)

### KEY OUTCOMES

- Deer hunters in Oklahoma are predominantly male, middle age, and from rural areas.
- Gun season is the most popular season, followed by archery and primitive
- Increasing public land use will require ODWC to communicate or address to the most stated concerns: crowding concerns and safety concerns. Not sure where to go was also selected by 15% of participants.
- There is a perceived change in deer populations in southern Oklahoma. Antlered populations are perceived to be increasing in the south and southwest, while antlerless populations are perceived to be increasing statewide.
- There is overall support and likelihood of participation in an extended deer gun season. Hunters also support more opportunity during the holiday antlerless season.
- There is opposition to decreasing the antlered deer limit of two because this is usually what hunters are targeting and why they go out.
- Although support was mixed for a velvet antlered season, hunters would be unlikely to participate, and hunting with dogs is still very unpopular.
- Oklahoma hunters are also hunting in other states, but are supportive of imposing carcass transport restrictions.
- Deer hunters are not harvesting more does because of their desire for mature antlered deer and also a desire to maintain populations through reproduction possibilities.
- A slight majority of deer hunters use processors, but do not participate in Hunters against Hunger because they want to keep all the deer that they harvest.
- Overall, Oklahoma deer hunters are happy with what the department is doing in terms of deer management.


### Literature Cited

Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J. D., & Christian, L. M. (2014). Internet, phone, mail, and mixed mode surveys: The tailored design method (4th ed.). John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Appendix A- Mailings:  
(Invitation Postcard, Reminder Postcard and Survey Instrument)

Invitation Postcard:


Dear Oklahoma Hunter,




You have been selected to take part in a survey being conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. We want your feedback on deer hunting and deer management in Oklahoma. Our survey is online and only takes a few minutes to complete.

Find your ID number on the front of this card above your name and address. Visit the weblink below and enter your ID number to begin the survey:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/okdeersurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/okdeersurvey)



Thank you,




J.D. Strong, Director

Questions?  
Contact: Betsey York  
ODWC Human Dimensions Specialist  
405-401-7532  
betsey.york@odwc.ok.gov

Reminder Postcard:


Dear Oklahoma Hunter,




A few weeks ago, we sent a postcard inviting you to complete a survey on deer hunting and deer management in Oklahoma. We are counting on your response to help us improve deer management for the benefit of the herd as well as the sportsmen and women who recreate in Oklahoma.

Find your ID number on the front of this card above your name and address. Visit the weblink below and enter your ID number to begin the survey:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/okdeersurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/okdeersurvey)



Thank you,



J.D. Strong, Director

Questions?  
Contact: Betsey York  
ODWC Human Dimensions Specialist  
405-401-7532  
betsey.york@odwc.ok.gov

Survey Instrument:


**Oklahoma Deer Hunter Survey**

A few weeks ago the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) sent you an invitation to complete a survey on deer hunting and deer management in Oklahoma. We would appreciate your input so that we can best manage deer for the health of the herd while also providing the best opportunity to the sportsmen and women who recreate in Oklahoma. There are two ways you can complete this survey:

1. Enter the following weblink and complete the survey online  
**[www.surveymonkey.com/r/okdeersurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/okdeersurvey)**  
You will be asked to enter your respondent ID number which is shown here
- OR**
2. Complete this paper form of the survey and mail back to the Wildlife Department in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Either way you choose to respond, we appreciate your input. ↓

Questions? Thank you,  
Contact: Betsy York  
ODWC Human Dimensions Specialist  
405-401-7532  
[betsy.york@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:betsy.york@odwc.ok.gov)

  
J.D. Strong, ODWC Director

1. Have you hunted deer *in Oklahoma* in the last five years?
  - Yes → please begin the survey with question #2.
  - No → If you have not hunted deer in the last 5 years in Oklahoma, do you have any thoughts on deer hunting regulations or deer management in Oklahoma?

**Thank you, your survey is complete.**

**Deer hunting in Oklahoma**

2. Please select the years that you hunted deer in Oklahoma:  
 2018     2017     2016     2015     2014

3. Which of the following seasons do you typically hunt? *Check all that apply.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday antlerless gun        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive (muzzleloader)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled or draw hunts      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gun                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth season (as a youth hunter) |  |

4. What county do you hunt deer in most often (if not sure, what is the nearest city)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Based on your experience, how has the number of antlered deer (bucks) and antlerless deer (does) in the area where you hunt changed over the last 5 years?

	Increased greatly	Increased slightly	Stayed the same	Decreased slightly	Decreased greatly	Don't know/No opinion
Antlered deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Antlerless deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Do you hunt any portion of any deer seasons on public land?

- Yes  
 No → Why do you not hunt on public land? *Check all that apply.*
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to private land | <input type="checkbox"/> Crowding concerns             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure on regulations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure where to go          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety concerns        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

**Deer hunting regulation preferences**

The ODWC is reviewing a number of deer hunting proposals. Please note that these are only considerations at this time, and no official changes have been made. Current deer regulations can be found on the Wildlife Department's website.

7. Oklahoma's deer gun season is currently 16 days. Do you support or oppose extending the season to 23 consecutive days, beginning the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving?

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly oppose          | Moderately oppose        | Moderately support       | Strongly support         | Don't know/No opinion    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. If this extended deer gun season were available, how likely would you be to hunt more days than you currently do?

Very  
unlikely

Unlikely

Likely

Very  
likely

Don't know/  
No opinion

9. The holiday antlerless season is currently ten days. Do you support or oppose increasing the amount of days in the season to allow for more antlerless harvest?

Strongly  
oppose

Moderately  
oppose

Moderately  
support

Strongly  
support

Don't know/  
No opinion

10. Hunters can currently take 1 bonus antlerless deer during the Holiday Antlerless Season. Do you support or oppose allowing hunters to take their full bag limit of 6 deer during the holiday season? Hunters would still only be able to take antlerless deer during this season, and the full season bag limit would remain 6.

Strongly  
oppose

Moderately  
oppose

Moderately  
support

Strongly  
support

Don't know/  
No opinion

11. The Wildlife Department has been asked to consider a velvet antlered deer season. The archery only season would run for three days (Fri, Sat, & Sun) in late August. The annual bag limit for all seasons combined would remain 2 antlered deer. An additional velvet antlered license would be required, unless exempt. To what extent do you support or oppose the Wildlife Department creating a velvet antlered deer archery season?

Strongly  
oppose

Moderately  
oppose

Moderately  
support

Strongly  
support

Don't know/  
No opinion

12. If this velvet antlered deer archery season were available, how likely would you be to participate?

Very  
unlikely

Unlikely

Likely

Very  
likely

Don't know/  
No opinion



For the next two questions please reference the below map of ODWC's antlerless deer management zones:



13. Deer hunters can currently take two antlerless deer (does) during primitive (muzzleloader) and/or gun season, as long as one of the two is harvested in Zones 2, 7 or 8. Do you support or oppose changing the bag limit to allow hunters to take up to two antlerless deer during primitive (muzzleloader) and/or gun season statewide, except in zone 1?

Strongly oppose	Moderately oppose	Moderately support	Strongly support	Don't know/ No opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Deer hunters can currently take two antlerless deer (does) during primitive (muzzleloader) and/or gun season, as long as one of the two is harvested in Zones 2, 7 or 8. To what extent do you support or oppose allowing up to the full bag limit of 6 antlerless deer to be taken during either muzzleloader or gun in certain zones designated by ODWC?

Strongly oppose	Moderately oppose	Moderately support	Strongly support	Don't know/ No opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Deer hunters can currently take 2 antlered deer (bucks) as part of their combined season deer bag limit. Do you support or oppose reducing the combined season antlered deer limit for all hunters from 2 antlered deer to 1 antlered deer?

Strongly oppose	Moderately oppose	Moderately support	Strongly support	Don't know/ No opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. To what extent do you support or oppose changing the limit of antlered deer (bucks) from 2 to 1 only for non-residents?

Strongly  
oppose

Moderately  
oppose

Moderately  
support

Strongly  
support

Don't know/  
No opinion

17. Do you support or oppose the practice of hunting deer with dogs? (This is the practice of using dogs to chase deer to the hunter, not the practice of using dogs as blood trackers).

Strongly  
oppose

Moderately  
oppose

Moderately  
support

Strongly  
support

Don't know/  
No opinion

**Chronic Wasting Disease Questions**

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a wildlife disease found in surrounding states which affects deer and elk herds. ODWC has been testing for CWD in deer and elk for twenty years and so far has not detected the disease in free-ranging (wild) herds. ODWC is continually updating its response to CWD should it be detected in Oklahoma's wild herds in the future. The following questions will help us better understand our hunters' preferences if the Wildlife Department needs to modify regulations.

18. Did you hunt for deer, elk, or moose in another state (other than Oklahoma) or Canadian province in the last five years?

Yes -> where? \_\_\_\_\_

No

19. Do you support or oppose the Wildlife Department imposing carcass import restrictions to help prevent the spread of CWD from coming into Oklahoma from out of state?

Strongly  
oppose

Moderately  
oppose

Moderately  
support

Strongly  
support

Don't know/  
No opinion

20. If an option were available to have your harvested deer tested for CWD at no cost, how many miles would you be willing to drive to have your deer tested? \_\_\_\_\_ miles

21. If an option were available to have your harvested deer tested for CWD at a cost of \$25, how many miles would you be willing to drive to have your deer tested? \_\_\_\_\_ miles

**General Questions Related to your feelings about deer hunting and deer management:**

22. Please rank your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation...	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/ no opinion
Shares the same goals for deer management as me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Takes deer management actions similar to what I would do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is capable of effectively managing deer populations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will take my concerns into account when managing deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23. How do you rate the Wildlife Department's deer management program overall?

Very poor       Poor       Neutral       Good       Very good

24. During the last deer season you hunted, did you primarily target:

- Antlered deer
- Antlerless deer
- No specific target
- Both antlered and antlerless

25. Antlerless harvest in recent years has been lower than the target rate of 40 percent to 45 percent of total harvest. In your hunting experiences, which of the following contribute to a lower harvest of antlerless deer? *Check all that apply.*

- Not enough opportunity on public land
- Price of processing deer
- Availability of processors for deer
- Desire mature antlered deer
- Prefer to keep antlerless deer for population growth
- Keep antlerless deer for antlered deer attraction
- Not enough opportunity during my preferred season
- None of the above
- Not applicable/ I harvest as many as I can

Other (please explain):

---

26. What is your main motivation for a typical deer hunt? *Please choose only one.*

- To harvest a mature antlered deer
- To harvest any antlered deer
- To harvest a deer for meat
- To manage the deer population
- None of the above/Other reasons.....please explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_

27. Do you typically pay to have your game processed?

Yes

No



27a. How many miles do you typically drive to have your deer processed? \_\_\_\_\_

27b. What is the main reason you use a processor for your deer?

27c. How many miles do you typically drive before processing your deer? \_\_\_\_\_

27d. What is the main reason you process the deer yourself?

28. Have you participated in the Hunters Against Hunter program?

Yes

Why have you not participated in the Hunters Against Hunger program?

No → *Check all that apply.*

Do not know how to participate

Processors charge too much

No participating processors nearby

Unable to harvest enough deer

Want to keep all deer I harvest

Did not know of program

Other (please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. How has your interest in deer hunting changed in the last five years?

- My interest has not changed over the last five years
- I am less interested now than five years ago
- I am more interested now than five years ago

If interest has changed, why? \_\_\_\_\_

30. At what age did you begin deer hunting? \_\_\_\_\_
31. When you first began hunting, the area surrounding your home would have been best described as:
- |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rural                    | Small town               | Large town or suburb     | Large city               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
32. What type of Oklahoma hunting license do you have?
- Lifetime license
  - Senior license
  - Annual or five-year license
33. What is your current home zip code? \_\_\_\_\_
34. What is your current age?  
\_\_\_\_\_
35. What is your gender?
- Female
  - Male
  - Prefer not to say
36. Please share any additional comments you may have about deer management or deer hunting in Oklahoma:

**We appreciate your input!**  
**Please return your completed survey today in the pre-paid envelope provided.**