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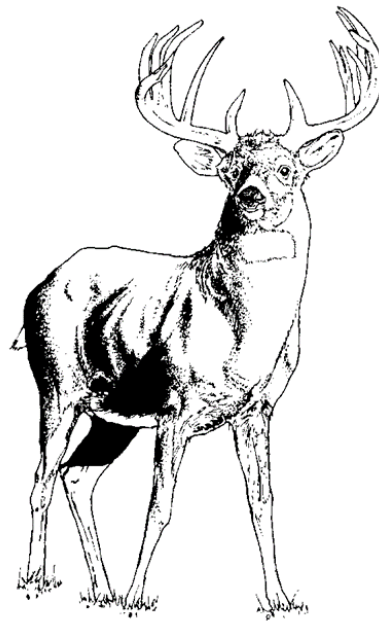
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2020-2021 Illinois Deer Hunter Chronic Wasting Disease Survey



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2020-2021 ILLINOIS DEER HUNTER CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-30

STUDY 102

JOB NO. 102.3

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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ABSTRACT

In 2021, the Human Dimensions Research Program at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) partnered with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to survey deer hunters in Illinois to determine their perceptions and attitudes toward the management of chronic wasting disease (CWD) among the deer population in the state. The 2020-21 Illinois Deer Hunter CWD Survey was mailed to a random sample of 3,000 Illinois residents who purchased a deer hunting permit in Illinois during the 2020-21 hunting season. The 12-page questionnaire was mailed up to four times between September 2021 and January 2022. A total of 1,237 Illinois deer hunters returned the questionnaire resulting in a 43% response rate.

A limited number of participants lived (20%) or hunted (21%) in a county in which CWD has been found in deer, though over 40% were unsure if they lived (49%) or hunted (43%) in a county with CWD. Only 11% of participants have tested at least one deer for CWD that they harvested in Illinois, though testing was higher among participants who hunted in counties with CWD present (43%) than hunters in counties without CWD (5%). Only 2% of participants had a deer that they harvested in Illinois test positive for CWD. Less than half of participants (45%) indicated that they and their family ate meat from a CWD positive deer. Participants were most likely to process a deer that they harvest themselves (43%), use a commercial processor (39%), or use both a commercial processor and their own processing (33%).

Knowledge about CWD in Illinois was greater among participants who hunted in a county with CWD present than other hunters, but many participants had limited knowledge about CWD. Participants who hunted in areas with CWD were more knowledgeable about actions taken by the IDNR in response to CWD in Illinois. Most participants knew that the IDNR tested deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties (71%), banned the feeding of wild deer (66%), and hold special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties (54%). Most participants (56%) felt that the IDNR should use all methods necessary to manage CWD in the deer population in Illinois. Participants felt that holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties has been most effective in reducing CWD in the deer population.

Most participants believe that the IDNR should continue testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties (64%), hold special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties (64%), increase deer

harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties (62%), and test deer harvested from counties with no cases of CWD (60%). Most participants believed that holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties (71%) and increasing deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties (68%) were acceptable management actions. Over half of participants (53%) believed that reducing deer populations in CWD-affected counties would be an acceptable outcome from IDNR management actions, though participants who hunted in areas with CWD (55%) believed this potential outcome was more acceptable than participants who hunted in areas without CWD (40%).

Participants indicated that they trust the IDNR to manage CWD in the deer population in Illinois. Trust in the IDNR was higher among participants who hunted in areas where CWD is not present than participants who hunted in an area with CWD. Participants agreed strongly with statements such as “I trust IDNR to provide truthful information on the number of CWD-positive deer discovered in Illinois” (74%), “I trust IDNR to provide truthful information about how CWD spreads” (74%), and “I trust IDNR to provide the best available information on CWD in Illinois” (73%). Most participants indicated they felt a slight risk (46%) or no risk (40%) of becoming ill from CWD. Participants were most concerned about the impact of CWD on the health of the deer population in Illinois, the potential for CWD to dramatically reduce the deer herd in Illinois, and CWD spreading throughout the entire deer herd in Illinois. Most participants (60%) were not concerned about the impact of CWD on their own personal health. Half of participants (51%) agreed that “CWD may pose a risk to humans, but not enough is known to be sure.”

OBJECTIVE

Illinois is approaching the end of the twentieth year of CWD in the state. First discovered in 2002, the number of counties with CWD cases has expanded to 17. The dynamic nature of CWD in Illinois necessitates periodic surveys of deer hunters to monitor hunter perceptions and attitudes toward management actions.

METHODS

A random sample of 3,000 Illinois residents who purchased a deer hunting permit in Illinois during the 2020-21 hunting season. On 23 September 2021, hunters were mailed a 12-page questionnaire (Appendix A),

cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope. The effective sample was reduced from 3,000 to 2,906 due to 94 being returned as undeliverable. A thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) was sent to hunters on 30 September 2021. Non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 19 October 2021, followed by a second postcard mailed on 29 October 2021. A third questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to non-respondents on 3 November 2021, followed by a third postcard mailed on 2 December 2021. A fourth and final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix F) were mailed on 11 January 2022. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 28.0 (SPSS Inc. 2021). Respondents were grouped based on whether (CWD county) or not (non-CWD county) they hunted in a county in which deer have tested positive for CWD.

RESULTS

Section 1: Chronic Wasting Disease in Illinois

We received 1,237 questionnaires that were considered usable (i.e., respondent completed at least a portion of the questionnaire), for an overall response rate of 43%. In 2021, there were 19 counties where deer tested positive for CWD. Twenty-one percent of participants indicated that they hunt in a county in which CWD has been found in deer (CWD counties: 66%, non-CWD counties: 12%), 37% said they did not hunt in a county with CWD (CWD counties: 10%, non-CWD counties: 42%), and 43% were not sure (CWD counties: 24%, non-CWD counties: 46%; Table 1). Twenty percent of participants indicated that they live in a county in which CWD has been found in deer (CWD counties: 57%, non-CWD counties: 13%), 31% said they did not live in a county with CWD (CWD counties: 9%, non-CWD counties: 35%), and 49% were unsure (CWD counties: 34%, non-CWD counties: 52%; Table 2).

Processing Harvest Deer

Over forty percent of respondents processed deer that they harvested (Total: 43%, CWD counties: 42%, non-CWD counties: 43%), 39% used a commercial processor (CWD counties: 38%, non-CWD counties: 39%), 33% used both a commercial processor and their own processing (CWD counties: 33%, non-CWD counties: 33%), 5% donated the deer they harvested whole (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.; CWD counties: 3%, non-CWD counties: 5%), and 0.2% used a guide service and they processed it (CWD counties: 0.5%, non-CWD

counties: 0.2%; Table 3). Nine percent of respondents took a deer to a taxidermist during 2020-21 (CWD counties: 10%, non-CWD counties: 9%; Table 4). Four percent of respondents donated any processed venison (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.) (CWD counties: 2%, non-CWD counties: 5%; Table 5).

CWD Testing

Most respondents (82%) have not had a deer that they harvested tested for CWD (CWD counties: 51%, non-CWD counties: 89%), and 11% of respondents had some deer (Total: 8%, CWD counties: 30%, non-CWD counties: 4%) or every deer (Total: 3%, CWD counties: 13%, non-CWD counties: 1%) that they harvested tested for CWD (Table 6). Only 2% of respondents had a deer that they harvested in Illinois test positive for CWD (CWD counties: 12%, non-CWD counties: 0%; Table 7). Similarly, only 2% of respondents know a hunter who harvested a deer in Illinois that tested positive for CWD (CWD counties: 10%, non-CWD counties: 0.8%; Table 8). Forty-five percent of respondents who know a hunter whose deer tested positive for CWD indicated that their family or themselves ate meat from a CWD positive deer (CWD counties: 26%, non-CWD counties: 62%), 13% threw out the meat (CWD counties: 11%, non-CWD counties: 14%), 8% had the IDNR pick up and dispose of the meat (CWD counties: 16%, non-CWD counties: 0%), 8% donated the meat to a food pantry (CWD counties: 16%, non-CWD counties: 0%), 3% ate the meat themselves but their family did not (CWD counties: 5%, non-CWD counties: 0%), and 25% did something else with the meat (CWD counties: 26%, non-CWD counties: 24%; Table 9).

Knowledge about CWD

Respondents were presented with ten statements about CWD in Illinois and asked to indicate whether each statement was correct or incorrect (Table 10). Most respondents indicated that the statement “CWD can affect size of deer population” was correct (Total: 74%, CWD counties: 77%, non-CWD counties: 73%), 24% did not know whether the statement was correct or incorrect (CWD counties: 20%, non-CWD counties: 25%), and 2% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 3%, non-CWD counties: 2%; Table 11). Fifty-nine percent of respondents did not know if “there is no known cure for CWD in deer” (CWD counties: 48%, non-CWD counties: 62%), 37% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 49%, non-CWD counties: 35%), and 3% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 3%, non-CWD counties: 3%; Table 12).

Half of respondents did not know if “CWD is a fatal disease to every deer infected” (Total: 51%, CWD counties: 43%, non-CWD counties: 52%), 31% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 35%, non-CWD counties: 30%), and 19% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 22%, non-CWD counties: 18%; Table 13). Sixty-two percent of respondents did not know whether the statement “deer can get CWD from the environment” was correct or incorrect (CWD counties: 56%, non-CWD counties: 63%), 26% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 30%, non-CWD counties: 25%), and 12% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 14%, non-CWD counties: 11%; Table 14). Most respondents did not know whether the statement “CWD is caused by a misshaped protein called a ‘prion’” was correct or incorrect (Total: 75%, CWD counties: 65%, non-CWD counties: 77%), 21% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 34%, non-CWD counties: 19%), and 4% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 1%, non-CWD counties: 4%; Table 15). Most respondents did not know whether the statement “CWD is caused by bacteria” was correct or incorrect (Total: 71%, CWD counties: 67%, non-CWD counties: 71%), 16% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 14%, non-CWD counties: 16%), and 14% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 20%, non-CWD counties: 13%; Table 16). Fifty-seven percent of respondents did not know if “CWD has always been present in the Illinois deer herd” (CWD counties: 49%, non-CWD counties: 58%), 32% believed this statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 33%, non-CWD counties: 32%), and 12% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 17%, non-CWD counties: 10%; Table 17). Most respondents did not know whether the statement “CWD takes 18-24 months before symptoms appear” was correct or incorrect (Total: 84%, CWD counties: 78%, non-CWD counties: 86%), 10% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 19%, non-CWD counties: 8%), and 6% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 3%, non-CWD counties: 7%; Table 18). Sixty-two percent of respondents did not know if “CWD is found in every state” (CWD counties: 52%, non-CWD counties: 64%), 29% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 37%, non-CWD counties: 28%), and 9% believed the statement was correct (CWD counties: 11%, non-CWD counties: 8%; Table 19). Most respondents indicated that the statement “CWD does not exist in Illinois” was incorrect (Total: 75%, CWD counties: 84%, non-CWD counties: 73%), 21% did

not know whether the statement was correct or incorrect (CWD counties: 10%, non-CWD counties: 23%), and 4% believed the statement was incorrect (CWD counties: 6%, non-CWD counties: 4%; Table 20).

Table 1. Hunt in a county in which CWD has been found in deer.

Do you usually hunt in a county in which CWD has been found in deer?	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 210)	65.7	10.0	24.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,021)	11.6	42.3	46.1
Total (<i>n</i> = 1,235)	20.7	36.8	42.5

Table 2. Live in a county in which CWD has been found in deer.

Do you live in a county in which CWD has been found in deer?	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 209)	56.9	8.6	34.4
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,020)	12.8	35.2	51.9
Total (<i>n</i> = 1,233)	20.3	30.7	49.0

Table 3. Method for processing harvested deer.

Which of the following describes how you process the deer you harvested?	CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 246)	Non-CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 1,233)	Total % (<i>n</i> = 1,237)
I do my own processing	42.4	42.9	42.8
I use a commercial processor	38.1	39.0	38.8
I use both a commercial processor and my own processing	32.9	33.1	33.0
I donate it whole (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.)	3.3	5.3	4.9
I use a guide service and they processed it	0.5	0.2	0.2

Table 4. Deer taken to a taxidermist.

Did you take a deer to a taxidermist during 2020-21?		
	Yes	No
	%	%
CWD County (n = 209)	10.5	89.5
Non-CWD County (n = 1,022)	8.5	91.5
Total (n = 1,235)	8.8	91.2

Table 5. Donated processed venison (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.).

Did you donate any processed venison (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.)?		
	Yes	No
	%	%
CWD County (n = 209)	1.9	98.1
Non-CWD County (n = 1,021)	4.9	95.1
Total (n = 1,232)	4.4	95.6

Table 6. Tested deer for CWD.

Have you ever had a deer you harvested in Illinois tested for CWD?			
Statement	CWD County	Non-CWD County	Total
	%	%	%
	(n = 210)	(n = 1,021)	(n = 1,235)
Yes, every deer	12.9	1.0	3.0
Yes, some deer	29.5	3.7	8.1
No, none of my deer	51.4	88.9	82.4
No, because I have not harvested a deer	6.2	6.4	6.5

Table 7. If “Yes,” did any deer test positive for CWD in Illinois.*

If “Yes,” did any deer you harvested in Illinois test positive for CWD?		
	Yes	No
	%	%
CWD County (n = 95)	2.1	97.9
Non-CWD County (n = 61)	-	100.0
Total (n = 156)	1.3	98.7

* Respondents who answered “Yes” to harvesting a deer that was tested for CWD.

Table 8. Know a hunter who has harvested a CWD positive deer in Illinois.

Do you know a hunter who harvested a deer in Illinois that tested positive for CWD?		
	Yes %	No %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 209)	9.6	90.4
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,020)	0.8	99.2
Total (<i>n</i> = 1,233)	2.3	97.4

Table 9. What was done with the CWD positive deer meat?*

If “Yes,” which of the following best describes what you did with the meat?			
Statement	CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 19)	Non-CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 21)	Total % (<i>n</i> = 40)
My family and I ate it	26.3	61.9	45.0
I ate it, but my family did not	5.3	-	2.5
IDNR picked up and disposed of meat	15.8	-	7.5
I threw it out	10.5	14.3	12.5
I donated it to a food pantry	15.8	-	7.5
Other	26.3	23.8	25.0

* Respondents who answered “Yes” to knowing a hunter whose deer tested positive for CWD.

Table 10. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois (*n* = 1,226).

Please indicate if you think the following statements are correct or incorrect by circling a number in the appropriate location.			
Statement	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD can affect size of deer population	73.7	2.0	24.2
There is no known cure for CWD in deer	37.4	3.3	59.3
CWD is a fatal disease to every deer infected	30.5	19.0	50.5
Deer can get CWD from the environment	26.2	11.6	62.2
CWD is caused by a misshaped protein called a “prion”	21.4	3.6	75.0
CWD is caused by bacteria	15.6	13.8	70.6
CWD has always been present in the Illinois deer herd	11.5	31.9	56.5
CWD takes 18-24 months before symptoms appear	9.8	6.0	84.2
CWD is found in every state	8.6	29.3	62.2
CWD does not exist in Illinois	4.4	74.5	21.1

Table 11. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD can affect size of deer population			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 208)	76.9	3.4	19.7
Non-CWD County (n = 1,012)	73.2	1.8	25.0

Table 12. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

There is no known cure for CWD in deer			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 208)	49.0	2.9	48.1
Non-CWD County (n = 1,016)	35.0	3.3	61.6

Table 13. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD is a fatal disease to every deer infected			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 208)	35.1	21.6	43.3
Non-CWD County (n = 1,015)	29.7	18.3	52.0

Table 14. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

Deer can get CWD from the environment			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 207)	30.0	14.0	56.0
Non-CWD County (n = 1,014)	25.4	11.1	63.4

Table 15. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD is caused by a misshaped protein called a "prion"			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 207)	33.8	1.4	64.7
Non-CWD County (n = 1,012)	18.9	4.1	77.1

Table 16. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD is caused by bacteria			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 207)	13.5	19.8	66.7
Non-CWD County (n = 1,008)	16.1	12.6	71.3

Table 17. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD has always been present in the Illinois deer herd			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 209)	17.1	33.3	49.3
Non-CWD County (n = 1,014)	10.4	31.7	58.0

Table 18. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD takes 18-24 months before symptoms appear			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 206)	18.9	3.4	77.7
Non-CWD County (n = 1,011)	7.9	6.5	85.6

Table 19. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD is found in every state			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 208)	11.1	37.0	51.9
Non-CWD County (n = 1,014)	8.1	27.6	64.4

Table 20. Belief statements about CWD in Illinois.

CWD does not exist in Illinois			
	Correct %	Incorrect %	I don't know %
CWD County (n = 207)	6.3	84.1	9.7
Non-CWD County (n = 1,016)	4.0	72.6	23.3

Section 2: CWD and Risk

Disease Risk Perceptions

Participants were asked to rank perceived risk to themselves from several wildlife and food borne illnesses on a scale of 1 to 4 (1 = “No Risk”; 4 = “High Risk”; Table 21). Approximately half of participants responded they felt a “Slight Risk” of “contracting Lyme disease”; 51% of hunters in CWD counties and 49% in non-CWD counties (Table 22). Respondents most frequently felt that “becoming ill from Salmonella food poisoning” was a “Slight Risk” to themselves, including CWD counties (55%) and non-CWD counties (50%; Table 23). “Becoming ill from E. coli food poisoning” received “Slight Risk” as the highest frequency from CWD counties (58%) and non-CWD counties (51%; Table 24). “Contracting West Nile virus” received “Slight Risk” as the highest frequency from CWD counties (51%) and non-CWD counties (51%; Table 25). “Becoming ill from chronic wasting disease” received “Slightly Risk” as the highest frequency from CWD counties (48%) and non-CWD counties (45%; Table 26). Approximately half of participants indicated they felt “No Risk” from “contracting rabies”; 50% of participants in CWD counties and 48% in non-CWD counties (Table 27). Sixty-two percent of respondents indicated they felt “No Risk” from “contracting mad cow (BSE) disease”; 65% of participants in CWD counties and 61% in non-CWD counties (Table 28).

Concern about CWD

Participants used a 4-point scale to rank their concern toward several issues because of CWD (1 = “Not Concerned”; 4 = “Extremely Concerned”; Table 29). Participants were most concerned with “the health of the deer population in Illinois” with over 60% of participants indicating they were “Moderately Concerned” (Total: 35%, CWD counties: 34%, non-CWD counties: 35%) or “Extremely Concerned” (Total: 26%, CWD counties: 25%, non-CWD counties: 26%; Table 30). Fifty-five percent of participants were “Moderately Concerned” (Total: 28%, CWD counties: 30%, non-CWD counties: 28%) or “Extremely Concerned” (Total: 27%, CWD counties: 24%, non-CWD counties: 27%) about “the potential for CWD to dramatically reduce the deer herd in Illinois” (Table 31). Over half of participants were “Moderately Concerned” (Total: 26%, CWD counties: 30%, non-CWD counties: 25%) or “Extremely Concerned” (Total: 26%, CWD counties: 20%, non-CWD counties: 27%) about “CWD spreading throughout the entire deer herd in Illinois” (Table 32). Over half of participants

were “Moderately Concerned” (Total: 26%, CWD counties: 27%, non-CWD counties: 26%) or “Extremely Concerned” (Total: 26%, CWD counties: 28%, non-CWD counties: 26%) about “not having enough healthy deer let to hunt in Illinois” (Table 33). The largest proportion of respondents in CWD (51%) and non-CWD counties (36%) were “Not Concerned” about “the potential for CWD to kill the entire deer population in Illinois” (Table 34). Approximately 60% of participants were “Not Concerned” about the impact of CWD on their “own personal health” in CWD counties (61%) and non-CWD counties (60%; Table 35).

Participants were asked to indicate whether they disagree or agree with six statements using a 7-point scale (1 = “Strongly Disagree”; 7 = “Strongly Agree”; Table 36). Half of participants (51%) agreed with the statement “CWD may pose a risk to humans, but not enough is currently known to be sure” with 50% of participants in CWD counties agreeing and 56% in the non-CWD counties (Table 37). Over one-third of participants disagreed that “CWD poses a risk to deer, but not to humans” with 36% of participants in CWD counties disagreeing and 34% in non-CWD counties (Table 38). The largest proportion of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement “CWD may cause disease in humans if they eat meat from animals infected with CWD” (CWD counties: 32%, non-CWD counties: 40%; Table 39). Respondents most frequently neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement “the threat of CWD has been exaggerated” (CWD counties: 29%, non-CWD counties: 41%; Table 40). Over half of participants (53%) disagreed that “because of CWD, I have concerns about eating deer meat”; 58% of participants in CWD counties and 52% in non-CWD counties (Table 41). Fifty-five percent of participants disagreed that “because of CWD, members of my family have concerns about eating deer meat” including 55% of participants in CWD counties and 55% in non-CWD counties (Table 42).

Table 21. Risk factor beliefs associated with diseases ($n = 1,237$).

How much risk do you feel from the following?				
Statement	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
Contracting Lyme disease	16.6	49.4	27.0	7.0
Becoming ill from Salmonella food poisoning	20.9	50.4	20.8	8.0
Becoming ill from E. coli food poisoning	21.9	51.9	18.4	7.7
Contracting West Nile virus	31.1	51.4	14.2	3.4
Becoming ill from chronic wasting disease	40.3	45.7	9.7	4.3
Contracting rabies	48.4	44.7	4.5	2.4
Contracting mad cow (BSE) disease	61.8	32.5	3.9	1.8

Table 22. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Contracting Lyme disease				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County ($n = 206$)	10.7	51.0	28.2	10.2
Non-CWD County ($n = 1,009$)	17.8	49.0	26.9	6.3

Table 23. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Becoming ill from Salmonella food poisoning				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County ($n = 207$)	19.3	54.6	18.8	7.2
Non-CWD County ($n = 1,008$)	21.1	49.5	21.2	8.1

Table 24. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Becoming ill from E. coli food poisoning				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County ($n = 207$)	17.4	58.0	18.4	6.3
Non-CWD County ($n = 1,007$)	22.8	50.6	18.5	8.0

Table 25. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Contracting West Nile virus				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 207)	29.5	51.4	13.5	2.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,010)	31.5	50.7	14.4	3.5

Table 26. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Becoming ill from chronic wasting disease				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 205)	40.5	48.3	7.3	3.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,004)	40.2	45.1	10.3	4.4

Table 27. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Contracting rabies				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 206)	49.5	44.2	3.4	2.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,007)	48.2	44.8	4.8	2.3

Table 28. Risk factor beliefs associated with disease.

Contracting mad cow (BSE) disease				
	No Risk %	Slight Risk %	Moderate Risk %	High Risk %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 206)	64.6	31.1	2.4	1.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,004)	61.4	32.7	4.2	1.8

Table 29. Personal concerns about CWD ($n = 1,224$).

Because of CWD, how concerned are you about each of the following issues?				
Statement	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
... the health of the deer population in Illinois?	12.1	27.2	34.7	26.0
...the potential for CWD to dramatically reduce the deer herd in Illinois?	17.2	27.7	28.4	26.7
...CWD spreading throughout the entire deer herd in Illinois?	18.9	29.3	26.3	25.5
...not having enough healthy deer left to hunt in Illinois?	21.4	26.3	26.0	26.4
... the potential for CWD to kill the entire deer population in Illinois?	38.8	25.9	17.6	17.7
...your own personal health?	59.6	23.5	9.7	7.0

Table 30. Personal concerns about CWD.

...the health of the deer population in Illinois				
	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
CWD County ($n = 207$)	13.5	27.0	34.3	25.1
Non-CWD County ($n = 1,011$)	11.7	27.1	34.9	26.2

Table 31. Personal concerns about CWD.

...the potential for CWD to dramatically reduce the deer herd in Illinois?				
	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
CWD County ($n = 207$)	21.1	25.1	30.0	23.7
Non-CWD County ($n = 1,012$)	16.3	28.2	28.1	27.4

Table 32. Personal concerns about CWD.

...CWD spreading throughout the entire deer herd in Illinois?				
	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
CWD County ($n = 207$)	24.1	25.1	30.4	20.3
Non-CWD County ($n = 1,014$)	17.9	30.1	25.4	26.6

Table 33. Personal concerns about CWD.

...not having enough healthy deer left to hunt in Illinois?				
	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 206)	21.8	23.8	26.7	27.7
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,011)	21.2	26.8	25.9	26.2

Table 34. Personal concerns about CWD.

... the potential for CWD to kill the entire deer population in Illinois?				
	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 207)	51.2	15.9	19.8	13.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,014)	36.2	28.1	17.2	18.6

Table 35. Personal concerns about CWD.

...your own personal health?				
	Not Concerned %	Slightly Concerned %	Moderately Concerned %	Extremely Concerned %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 207)	60.8	20.8	11.5	6.7
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,010)	59.5	23.9	9.5	7.2

Table 36. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD ($n = 1,199$).

How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements? (%)							
Statement	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD may pose a risk to humans, but not enough is currently known to be sure.	3.2	8.2	7.2	30.6	24.1	23.0	3.7
CWD poses a risk to deer, but not to humans.	5.4	14.5	15.8	30.2	14.8	15.9	3.5
CWD may cause disease in humans if they eat meat from animals infected with CWD.	5.8	13.3	9.0	38.3	18.1	13.4	2.0
The threat of CWD has been exaggerated.	6.2	20.4	11.2	39.4	13.9	5.9	3.0
Because of CWD, I have concerns about eating deer meat.	15.6	27.6	9.9	25.4	13.8	6.2	1.5
Because of CWD, members of my family have concerns about eating deer meat.	18.1	28.1	8.8	26.3	11.8	5.4	1.5

Table 37. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD.

CWD may pose a risk to humans, but not enough is currently known to be sure.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County ($n = 201$)	2.5	12.4	5.0	24.4	22.4	25.9	7.5
Non-CWD County ($n = 990$)	3.3	7.4	7.7	31.8	24.3	22.5	2.9

Table 38. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD.

CWD poses a risk to deer, but not to humans.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County ($n = 202$)	4.5	15.3	13.9	22.8	13.4	23.3	6.9
Non-CWD County ($n = 988$)	5.6	14.4	16.2	31.6	15.0	14.5	2.8

Table 39. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD.

CWD may cause disease in humans if they eat meat from animals infected with CWD.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	9.5	21.1	11.0	31.5	15.0	10.5	1.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 980)	5.1	11.7	8.7	39.7	18.6	14.1	2.1

Table 40. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD.

The threat of CWD has been exaggerated.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	5.0	19.4	8.0	28.9	19.9	9.5	9.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 992)	6.5	20.7	11.8	41.4	12.7	5.2	1.7

Table 41. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD.

Because of CWD, I have concerns about eating deer meat.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	21.5	28.5	7.5	16.0	16.5	8.5	1.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 992)	14.5	27.5	10.4	27.1	13.2	5.7	1.5

Table 42. Belief statements about potential risk factors of CWD.

Because of CWD, members of my family have concerns about eating deer meat.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Neither %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	18.0	26.0	11.0	19.5	12.5	10.5	2.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 996)	18.2	28.6	8.3	27.5	11.6	4.4	1.3

Section 3: CWD Management in Illinois

Knowledge about Management Actions

Participants were asked whether they knew about actions taken by the IDNR in response to CWD (Table 43). Most participants knew about the IDNR “testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties” (71%) including 95% of participants in CWD counties and 67% in non-CWD counties (Table 44). Most participants knew that the IDNR “banned the feeding of wild deer” (66%) including 81% of participants in CWD counties and 63% in non-CWD counties (Table 45). Over half of participants knew about the IDNR “holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties” (54%) including 80% of participants in CWD counties and 49% in non-CWD counties (Table 46). Half of participants knew that the IDNR “reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties” in response to CWD, though more participants in CWD counties knew about this action (75%) than participants in non-CWD counties (45%; Table 47). Forty-three percent of participants knew that the IDNR is “testing deer from counties NOT affected by CWD,” though knowledge of this action was greater among participants in CWD counties (56%) than non-CWD counties (41%; Table 48). Forty-one percent of participants knew that the IDNR is “conducting deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting,” though knowledge of this action was greater among participants in CWD counties (78%) than non-CWD counties (33%; Table 49). Forty percent of participants knew that the IDNR “increased the number of deer permits available for hunting in CWD-affected counties,” though knowledge was greater among participants in CWD counties (65%) than non-CWD counties (35%; Table 50).

Management Strategies

Thirty-one percent of respondents indicated the IDNR should commit more resources (time/money/personnel) toward controlling the spread of CWD (CWD counties: 27%, non-CWD counties: 32%), 20% indicated that the IDNR is currently committing the right amount of resources (CWD counties: 23%, non-CWD counties: 19%), 5% indicated the IDNR should commit fewer resources (CWD counties: 14%, non-CWD counties: 3%), and 45% were not sure (CWD counties: 36%, non-CWD counties: 47%; Table 51). Respondents felt that the most important strategy for the IDNR to take in managing CWD in deer in Illinois was to “use all methods necessary to manage CWD” (Total: 56%, CWD counties: 36%, non-CWD counties: 61%),

“use existing hunting seasons alone to manage CWD” was the most important strategy among respondents in CWD counties (42%) and the second most important in non-CWD counties (14%), 5% of respondents felt “take no action and let nature take its course” was the most important strategy (CWD counties: 8%, non-CWD counties: 4%), 3% of respondents felt “monitor CWD distribution and rate of infection, but take no action to manage it” was the most important strategy (CWD counties: 5%, non-CWD counties: 3%), and 17% were not sure which strategy was most important (CWD counties: 10%, non-CWD counties: 18%; Table 52). Thirty-six percent of respondents believed that the current CWD plan used by the IDNR was too aggressive (CWD counties: 32%, non-CWD counties: 37%), 9% believed the plan was about right (CWD counties: 33%, non-CWD counties: 4%), 8% believed the plan was not aggressive enough (CWD counties: 5%, non-CWD counties: 9%), and 47% were not sure (CWD counties: 31%, non-CWD counties: 50%; Table 53). Twenty-eight percent of respondents felt that sharpshooting should be increased if sharpshooting is the most effective method in controlling the spread of CWD in Illinois (CWD counties: 13%, non-CWD counties: 31%), 45% felt that sharpshooting should stay as it is (CWD counties: 28%, non-CWD counties: 49%), 6% felt that sharpshooting should be decreased (CWD counties: 13%, non-CWD counties: 5%), and 20% felt that sharpshooting should be eliminated (CWD counties: 45%, non-CWD counties: 15%; Table 54). About half of participants in non-CWD counties (49%) felt that sharpshooting should stay as it is, while 45% of participants in CWD counties felt that sharpshooting should be eliminated.

Management Effectiveness

Participants felt that the IDNR management action that has been most effective (“Effective” or “Very Effective” responses) in reducing CWD in deer was holding “special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties” (Total: 39%, CWD counties: 46%, non-CWD counties: 38%; Table 55 and 56). Thirty-four percent of participants felt that “increased deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties” was an effective management action (CWD counties: 49%, non-CWD counties: 31%; Table 57). Thirty percent of participants felt that “reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties” was an effective management action (CWD counties: 30%, non-CWD counties: 30%; Table 58). Twenty-eight percent of participants felt that

using “deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting” was an effective management action (CWD counties: 22%, non-CWD counties: 30%; Table 59).

Management Preferences

Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) considered “testing of deer in CWD counties to monitor local distribution and the percent of deer with the illness” to be a “Very Important” (42%) or “Extremely Important” (23%) purpose for conducting surveillance of the deer population in Illinois (CWD counties: 61%, non-CWD counties: 65%; Table 60 and 61). Most respondents (59%) considered “testing of deer in non-CWD counties to determine whether CWD has spread to new areas” to be “Very Important” (38%) or “Extremely Important” (21%); respondents in non-CWD counties (60%) considered this purpose more important than respondents in CWD counties (53%; Table 62). Forty-seven percent of respondents stated that it was “Very Important” (29%) or “Extremely Important” (18%) for the IDNR to “increase the number of check stations to test deer” (CWD counties: 45%, non-CWD counties: 48%; Table 63). Forty-one percent of respondents considered “testing of YOUR deer so that you can decide whether you should eat it” to be “Very Important” (25%) or “Extremely Important” (17%); 44% of respondents in CWD counties and 41% in non-CWD counties (Table 64).

Most respondents (Total: 64%, CWD counties: 61%, non-CWD counties: 64%) believed that the IDNR should continue to pursue “testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties” to manage CWD in Illinois and 29% believed that this action should be increased (CWD counties: 27%, non-CWD counties: 30%; Tables 65 and 66). Most respondents (Total: 64%, CWD counties: 62%, non-CWD counties: 65%) believed that the IDNR should continue “holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties” and 22% believed this action should be increased (CWD counties: 19%, non-CWD counties: 23%; Table 67). Most respondents (Total: 62%, CWD counties: 53%, non-CWD counties: 63%) believed that the IDNR should continue to “increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties” and 20% believed this action should be increased (CWD counties: 24%, non-CWD counties: 20%; Table 68). Sixty percent of respondents (CWD counties: 57%, non-CWD counties: 60%) believed that the IDNR should continue “testing deer harvested from counties with **NO** cases of CWD” and 15% believed this action should be increased (CWD counties: 16%, non-CWD counties: 15%; Table 69). Fifty-four percent of respondents (CWD counties: 43%,

non-CWD counties: 57%) believed that the IDNR should continue to “reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties” and 16% believed this action should be increased (CWD counties: 8%, non-CWD counties: 17%; Table 70). Nearly half of CWD county respondents (49%) believed that the IDNR should “go slower with this action” (31%) or “stop this action” (18%). Less than half of respondents (Total: 47%, CWD counties: 24%, non-CWD counties: 52%) believed that the IDNR should continue to “use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting” and 12% believed this action should be increased (CWD counties: 6%, non-CWD counties: 14%; Table 71). Most CWD county respondents (70%) believed that the IDNR should “go slower with this action” (24%) or “stop this action” (46%).

Management Acceptability

Most respondents (71%) believed that “holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties” was an acceptable management action (CWD counties: 72%, non-CWD counties: 71%) and 10% believed this action was unacceptable (CWD counties: 19%, non-CWD counties: 8%; Tables 72 and 73). Most respondents (68%) believed an acceptable management action would be to “increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties” (CWD counties: 74%, non-CWD counties: 67%) and 9% found this management action to be unacceptable (CWD counties: 13%, non-CWD counties: 8%; Table 74). Less than half of respondents (46%) believed that it was acceptable for the IDNR to “use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting”; acceptability was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (50%) than in CWD counties (27%; Table 75). “Slightly decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties” was acceptable to 19% of respondents (CWD counties: 20%, non-CWD counties: 19%) and 46% considered the management action unacceptable (CWD counties: 54%, non-CWD counties: 44%; Table 76). “Significantly decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties” was acceptable to 16% of respondents (CWD counties: 18%, non-CWD counties: 15%) and 53% considered the management action unacceptable (CWD counties: 64%, non-CWD counties: 50%; Table 77). “Take no action to manage CWD” was acceptable to 8% of respondents (CWD counties: 13%, non-CWD counties: 7%) and was unacceptable to 72% of respondents (CWD counties: 74%, non-CWD counties: 72%; Table 78).

Over half of respondents (53%) indicated that “reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties” would be an acceptable potential outcome from IDNR management actions; the acceptability of this potential outcome was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (55%) than in CWD counties (40%; Tables 79 and 80). Thirty-six percent of respondents considered “seeing fewer deer because of CWD management” to be an acceptable potential outcome due to IDNR management actions (CWD counties: 32%, non-CWD counties: 37%), 36% were unsure (CWD counties: 22%, non-CWD counties: 38%), and 29% consider this potential outcome unacceptable (CWD counties: 46%, non-CWD counties: 25%; Table 81). “Decreased hunter harvests of deer in CWD-affected counties” was considered an acceptable potential outcome to 19% of respondents (CWD counties: 16%, non-CWD counties: 19%), 31% were unsure (CWD counties: 21%, non-CWD counties: 33%), and 50% considered this potential outcome unacceptable (CWD counties: 63%, non-CWD counties: 48%; Table 82).

Trust in Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Most respondents (74%) agreed with the statement “I trust IDNR to provide truthful information on the number of CWD-positive deer discovered in Illinois”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (76%) than CWD counties (69%; Tables 83 and 84). Most respondents (74%) agreed with the statement “I trust IDNR to provide truthful information about how CWD spreads”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (76%) than CWD counties (68%; Table 85). Most respondents (73%) agreed with the statement “I trust IDNR to provide the best available information on CWD in Illinois”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (75%) than CWD counties (67%; Table 86). Most respondents (72%) agreed with the statement “I trust IDNR to provide truthful information about human safety issues related to CWD”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (73%) than CWD counties (65%; Table 87). Most respondents (72%) agreed with the statement “I trust IDNR to properly address CWD in Illinois”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (75%) than CWD counties (59%; Table 88). Most respondents (71%) agreed with the statement “I trust IDNR to follow the best available science in managing CWD”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (73%) than CWD counties (61%; Table 89). Most respondents (70%) agreed that “I trust IDNR to provide truthful

information about deer population estimates”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (72%) than CWD counties (62%; Table 90). Most respondents (69%) agreed that “I trust IDNR to provide me with enough information to decide what actions I should take regarding CWD”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (70%) than CWD counties (64%; Table 91). Most respondents (69%) agreed that “I trust IDNR to make good deer management decisions regarding CWD issues”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (71%) than CWD counties (57%; Table 92). Most respondents (67%) agreed that “I trust IDNR to provide timely information regarding CWD issues”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (69%) than CWD Counties (61%; Table 93). Most respondents (66%) agreed that “I trust IDNR to provide adequate opportunities to listen to hunters’ concerns about CWD”; agreement was higher among respondents in non-CWD counties (68%) than CWD counties (57%; Table 94).

Beliefs about CWD

Most respondents (72%) agreed that “if left unchecked, CWD could spread throughout the Illinois deer herd”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (74%) than CWD counties (66%; Tables 95 and 96). Two-thirds of respondents (67%) agreed that “CWD is a serious threat to the deer herd in Illinois”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (69%) than CWD counties (56%; Table 97). Most respondents (63%) agreed that “we should eliminate CWD from the deer population”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (65%) than CWD counties (55%; Table 98). Most respondents (57%) agreed that “CWD must be controlled in northern Illinois even if it means having fewer deer”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (60%) than CWD counties (39%; Table 99). Less than half of respondents (49%) agreed that “we should reduce the deer population in northern Illinois as much as needed to control CWD”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (52%) than CWD counties (32%; Table 100). Less than half of respondents (46%) agreed that “if left unchecked, CWD would wipe out the deer herd across Illinois”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (49%) than CWD counties (30%; Table 101). Less than half of respondents (46%) agreed that “hunting can control CWD more effectively than sharpshooting”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties

(66%) than CWD counties (42%; Table 102). Forty-five percent of respondents agreed that the “IDNR has taken the right steps to control the spread of CWD in Illinois”; agreement was similar between respondents who hunted in CWD counties (43%) and non-CWD counties (46%; Table 103). One-third of respondents (34%) agreed that the “IDNR’s sharpshooting program should continue until CWD is gone from the state”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (38%) than CWD counties (14%; Table 104). Forty-six percent of respondents were unsure whether “hunters are more effective at managing CWD than IDNR has been”; agreement with the statement was higher among respondents who hunted in CWD counties (50%) than in non-CWD counties (30%; Table 105). Forty-seven percent of respondents were unsure that “CWD will spread without sharpshooting operations in northern Illinois”; agreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (33%) than CWD counties (23%; Table 106). Most respondents (53%) disagreed that “CWD is natural and we should let it take its course in deer”; disagreement was higher among respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (55%) than CWD counties (44%; Table 107). Most respondents (54%) were unsure whether the “IDNR is exaggerating the risk CWD-infected venison poses to my health”; respondents who hunted in non-CWD counties (56%) were more unsure whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement than respondents who hunted in CWD counties (46%; Table 108).

Table 43. Knowledge about actions taken by IDNR against CWD in Illinois ($n = 1,203$).

IDNR Action	Yes, I knew this %	No, I did not know this %
Testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties	71.3	28.7
Banned the feeding of wild deer	66.1	33.9
Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	54.4	45.6
Reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	50.4	49.6
Testing deer from counties NOT affected by CWD	43.2	56.8
Conducting deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	40.9	59.1
Increased the number of deer permits available for hunting in CWD-affected counties	40.0	60.0

Table 44. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties		
	Yes, I knew this	No, I did not know this
	%	%
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	94.5	5.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 997)	66.6	33.4

Table 45. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Banned the feeding of wild deer		
	Yes, I knew this	No, I did not know this
	%	%
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	80.7	19.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 996)	63.2	36.8

Table 46. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties		
	Yes, I knew this	No, I did not know this
	%	%
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	79.7	20.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	49.3	50.7

Table 47. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties		
	Yes, I knew this	No, I did not know this
	%	%
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	75.2	21.8
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	44.7	55.3

Table 48. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Testing deer from counties NOT affected by CWD		
	Yes, I knew this	No, I did not know this
	%	%
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	56.2	43.8
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 996)	40.5	59.5

Table 49. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Conducting deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting		
	Yes, I knew this %	No, I did not know this %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	78.2	21.8
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	33.3	66.7

Table 50. Knowledge about actions IDNR take against CWD in Illinois.

Increased the number of deer permits available for hunting in CWD-affected counties		
	Yes, I knew this %	No, I did not know this %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	64.9	35.1
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	35.0	65.0

Table 51. Opinion on resources IDNR should commit toward controlling CWD.

Please give your opinion about the amount of resources (time/money/personnel) the IDNR should commit toward controlling the spread of chronic wasting disease?			
	CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 203)	Non-CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 992)	Total % (<i>n</i> = 1,198)
Statement			
They should commit more resources	26.7	31.5	30.7
They currently commit just the right amount of resources	23.2	19.3	19.9
They should commit fewer resources	13.8	2.7	4.6
I am not sure	35.5	46.6	44.8

Table 52. Most important strategies for IDNR to take in managing CWD in Illinois.

Which of the following strategies do you feel is the <u>most important</u> for IDNR to take in managing CWD in deer in Illinois?			
	CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 202)	Non-CWD County % (<i>n</i> = 993)	Total % (<i>n</i> = 1,198)
Statement			
Use all methods necessary to manage CWD	35.6	60.7	56.4
Use existing hunting seasons alone to manage CWD	42.1	14.3	18.9
Take no action and let nature take its course	7.9	4.0	4.7
Monitor CWD distribution and rate of infection, but take no action to manage it	4.5	2.8	3.2
I am not sure	9.9	18.1	16.8

Table 53. Belief about current CWD plan used by IDNR.

Thinking about IDNR's approach to control CWD in the deer herd, do you believe the plan has been...?			
	CWD County % (n = 202)	Non-CWD County % (n = 998)	Total % (n = 1,203)
Too aggressive	31.7	36.5	35.6
About right	32.7	4.3	9.1
Not aggressive enough	5.0	8.8	8.1
I am not sure	30.7	50.4	47.2

Table 54. Opinion on sharpshooting program to control CWD.

If sharpshooting is the most effective method in controlling the spread of CWD in Illinois, please give your opinion of the sharpshooting program by selecting <u>one</u> of the responses below.			
	CWD County % (n = 201)	Non-CWD County % (n = 960)	Total % (n = 1,164)
I feel it should be increased	13.4	30.8	27.8
I feel it should stay as it is	28.4	48.9	45.3
I feel it should be decreased	12.9	5.1	6.4
I feel it should be eliminated	45.3	15.2	20.4

Table 55. Effectiveness of IDNR management actions.

How effective do you feel the following IDNR management actions have been in reducing CWD in deer?						
Management Action	Not at all effective %	Slightly effective %	Somewhat effective %	Effective %	Very Effective %	I am not sure %
Held special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	4.3	7.2	18.3	28.6	10.5	31.2
Increased deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	4.2	6.6	21.4	26.2	8.1	33.4
Reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	6.9	10.2	19.6	22.9	7.0	33.5
Used deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	10.3	9.7	18.0	22.5	5.2	34.3

Table 56. Belief in effectiveness of IDNR management actions.

Held special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties						
	Not at all effective %	Slightly effective %	Somewhat effective %	Effective %	Very Effective %	I am not sure %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	8.5	11.4	16.9	33.3	12.9	16.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 990)	3.4	6.4	18.4	27.8	10.0	34.0

Table 57. Belief in effectiveness of IDNR management actions.

Increased deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties						
	Not at all effective %	Slightly effective %	Somewhat effective %	Effective %	Very Effective %	I am not sure %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	7.0	7.5	17.9	36.8	12.4	18.4
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 986)	3.7	6.5	22.1	24.1	7.2	36.4

Table 58. Belief in effectiveness of IDNR management actions.

Reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties						
	Not at all effective %	Slightly effective %	Somewhat effective %	Effective %	Very Effective %	I am not sure %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	13.0	16.5	20.0	21.5	8.0	21.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 989)	5.7	8.9	19.5	23.2	6.8	36.0

Table 59. Belief in effectiveness of IDNR management actions.

Used deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting						
	Not at all effective %	Slightly effective %	Somewhat effective %	Effective %	Very Effective %	I am not sure %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	26.0	13.5	16.5	15.5	6.0	22.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 985)	7.1	8.9	18.3	23.9	5.1	36.8

Table 60. Opinion on surveillance of testing deer in CWD counties ($n = 1,194$).

In your opinion, how important is surveillance for each of the following purposes?					
	Not Important %	Somewhat Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %
Testing of deer in CWD counties to monitor local distribution and the percent of deer with the illness	3.4	9.4	22.7	41.7	22.8
Testing of deer in non-CWD counties to determine whether CWD has spread to new areas	4.6	11.4	25.2	38.0	20.8
Increase the number of check stations to test deer.	9.6	15.5	27.9	28.8	18.3
Testing of YOUR deer so that you can decide whether you should eat it	13.3	18.1	27.1	24.5	16.9

Table 61. Opinion on surveillance of testing deer in CWD counties.

Testing of deer in CWD counties to monitor local distribution and the percent of deer with the illness					
	Not Important %	Somewhat Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %
CWD County ($n = 202$)	6.4	10.9	21.8	37.1	23.8
Non-CWD County ($n = 990$)	2.8	9.1	22.7	42.7	22.6

Table 62. Opinion on surveillance of testing deer in CWD counties.

Testing of deer in non-CWD counties to determine whether CWD has spread to new areas					
	Not Important %	Somewhat Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %
CWD County ($n = 202$)	7.9	15.3	23.8	32.2	20.8
Non-CWD County ($n = 991$)	3.8	10.6	25.4	39.3	20.9

Table 63. Opinion on surveillance of testing deer in CWD counties.

Increase the number of check stations to test deer					
	Not Important %	Somewhat Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %
CWD County ($n = 201$)	16.4	12.9	25.4	25.4	19.9
Non-CWD County ($n = 990$)	8.2	16.0	28.4	29.5	18.0

Table 64. Opinion on surveillance of testing deer in CWD counties.

Testing of YOUR deer so that you can decide whether you should eat it					
	Not Important %	Somewhat Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	20.8	12.4	23.3	22.3	21.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 990)	11.7	19.3	27.9	25.1	16.1

Table 65. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management (*n* = 1,192).

How much do you think IDNR should pursue the actions listed below?				
Action	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
Testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties	1.9	5.1	63.6	29.3
Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	4.1	9.8	64.2	22.0
Increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	3.9	14.3	61.6	20.2
Testing deer harvested from counties with NO cases of CWD	7.5	17.7	59.8	15.0
Reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	8.2	21.8	54.3	15.8
Use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	20.9	19.4	47.4	12.3

Table 66. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management.

Testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties				
	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	3.5	8.4	60.9	27.2
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 985)	1.6	4.5	64.1	29.8

Table 67. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management.

Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties				
	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	8.4	10.9	61.9	18.8
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 981)	3.2	9.6	64.6	22.6

Table 68. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management.

Increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties				
	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	6.0	17.5	53.0	23.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 982)	3.5	13.6	63.3	19.6

Table 69. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management.

Testing deer harvested from counties with NO cases of CWD				
	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	11.4	15.3	57.4	15.8
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 989)	6.6	18.2	60.4	14.9

Table 70. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management.

Reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties				
	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	17.9	30.8	43.3	8.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 985)	6.2	19.9	56.5	17.4

Table 71. Belief about how IDNR should pursue CWD management.

Use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting				
	Stop this action %	Go slower with this action %	Continue with this action %	Increase this action %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	46.3	23.9	24.4	5.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 986)	15.7	18.4	52.2	13.7

Table 72. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois ($n = 1,191$).

Please rate your level of acceptance for each of the following management actions outcomes.					
Management Action	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	4.4	5.4	19.5	34.4	36.4
Increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	4.5	4.1	23.7	28.6	39.0
Use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	19.0	11.7	23.0	25.3	21.0
<u>Slightly</u> decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	19.5	26.4	35.3	13.1	5.6
<u>Significantly</u> decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	32.9	19.6	32.0	9.5	6.0
Take no action to manage CWD	56.0	16.3	19.8	4.3	3.6

Table 73. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois.

Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County ($n = 201$)	9.0	10.4	9.0	32.8	38.8
Non-CWD County ($n = 984$)	3.5	4.4	21.5	34.7	36.0

Table 74. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois.

Increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County ($n = 202$)	8.9	4.0	13.4	28.7	45.0
Non-CWD County ($n = 987$)	3.6	4.2	25.6	28.7	37.9

Table 75. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois.

Use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County ($n = 202$)	45.5	17.3	10.4	15.8	10.9
Non-CWD County ($n = 986$)	13.6	10.5	25.5	27.3	23.1

Table 76. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois.

<u>Slightly decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties</u>					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	27.7	26.2	25.7	12.4	7.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 985)	17.9	26.4	37.3	13.3	5.2

Table 77. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois.

<u>Significantly decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties</u>					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	42.5	21.0	18.5	11.5	6.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 987)	31.0	19.3	34.8	9.1	5.9

Table 78. Level of acceptance for IDNR management actions with CWD in Illinois.

<u>Take no action to manage CWD</u>					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	54.7	18.9	13.4	6.5	6.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 981)	56.4	15.8	20.9	3.9	3.1

Table 79. Level of acceptance for potential actions by IDNR to control CWD (*n* = 1,198).

<u>Please rate your level of acceptance for each of the following potential actions outcomes.</u>					
Potential Outcome	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
Reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	7.3	12.9	27.3	29.9	22.7
Seeing fewer deer because of CWD management	10.3	18.4	35.7	22.6	13.0
Decreased hunter harvests of deer in CWD-affected counties	25.1	25.2	31.0	11.6	7.1

Table 80. Level of acceptance for potential actions by IDNR to control CWD.

Reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	18.7	18.2	22.7	26.1	14.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 993)	4.9	11.8	28.1	30.7	24.5

Table 81. Level of acceptance for potential actions by IDNR to control CWD.

Seeing fewer deer because of CWD management					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	25.1	21.2	21.7	19.7	12.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 993)	7.3	17.8	38.4	23.3	13.2

Table 82. Level of acceptance for potential actions by IDNR to control CWD.

Decreased hunter harvests of deer in CWD-affected counties					
	Completely Unacceptable %	Somewhat Unacceptable %	Unsure %	Somewhat Acceptable %	Completely Acceptable %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	35.5	27.1	21.2	9.4	6.9
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 990)	23.0	24.8	32.8	12.1	7.2

Table 83. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR ($n = 1,201$).

To what extent do you disagree or agree with each statement regarding your trust in IDNR.							
I trust IDNR to....	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
... provide truthful information on the number of CWD-positive deer discovered in Illinois	2.8	2.9	4.1	15.8	15.5	37.4	21.5
... provide truthful information about how CWD spreads	2.9	2.6	3.9	16.2	15.0	38.2	21.1
... provide the best available information on CWD in Illinois	2.7	3.6	5.6	14.8	18.9	39.1	15.2
... provide truthful information about human safety issues related to CWD	3.4	3.2	4.3	17.2	14.9	36.8	20.2
... properly address CWD in Illinois	1.5	3.2	4.2	18.6	15.7	34.1	22.5
... follow the best available science in managing CWD	3.7	2.7	4.3	17.6	16.4	36.7	18.8
... provide truthful information about deer population estimates	4.0	3.4	5.6	16.5	16.0	36.2	18.3
... provide me with enough information to decide what actions I should take regarding CWD	3.0	4.9	5.8	17.0	19.3	36.3	13.6
... make good deer management decisions regarding CWD issues	3.7	4.0	5.9	17.6	16.6	36.9	15.3
... provide timely information regarding CWD issues	2.8	4.3	5.8	19.7	17.7	35.6	14.0
... provide adequate opportunities to listen to hunters' concerns about CWD	3.9	4.8	5.2	20.1	16.5	32.6	16.7

Table 84. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide truthful information on the number of CWD-positive deer discovered in Illinois							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County ($n = 203$)	6.9	4.9	4.9	14.3	14.8	35.5	18.7
Non-CWD County ($n = 994$)	1.9	2.4	3.9	16.1	15.7	37.8	22.1

Table 85. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide truthful information about how CWD spreads							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	6.9	5.4	3.4	15.8	15.8	35.5	17.2
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 993)	2.1	1.9	4.0	16.2	14.9	38.9	22.0

Table 86. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide the best available information on CWD in Illinois							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	7.4	5.9	7.4	12.3	20.2	33.5	13.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 996)	1.8	3.0	5.2	15.3	18.7	40.4	15.7

Table 87. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide truthful information about human safety issues related to CWD							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	6.4	6.9	5.4	16.3	14.3	33.0	17.7
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 993)	2.8	2.3	4.1	17.3	15.0	37.7	20.7

Table 88. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... properly address CWD in Illinois							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	8.9	5.9	7.4	18.7	13.8	31.0	14.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	2.6	1.9	3.6	17.3	17.0	37.9	19.7

Table 89. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... follow the best available science in managing CWD							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	9.4	5.4	5.9	18.7	15.8	31.5	13.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	2.4	1.7	3.6	19.0	15.1	37.5	20.7

Table 90. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide truthful information about deer population estimates							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	8.4	7.4	8.4	14.3	13.8	31.5	16.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	3.0	2.6	5.0	16.9	16.5	37.2	18.8

Table 91. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide me with enough information to decide what actions I should take regarding CWD							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	6.4	6.4	6.9	16.3	19.7	32.0	12.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 994)	2.3	4.5	5.6	17.1	19.3	37.2	13.9

Table 92. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... make good deer management decisions regarding CWD issues							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	10.8	9.4	8.4	14.8	14.3	31.0	11.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	2.1	2.9	5.4	18.1	17.1	38.2	6.2

Table 93. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide timely information regarding CWD issues							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	5.9	6.4	8.4	18.2	19.2	28.1	13.8
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 992)	2.2	3.9	5.1	20.0	17.4	37.2	14.1

Table 94. Agree/disagree statements regarding trust in IDNR.

... provide adequate opportunities to listen to hunters' concerns about CWD							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 203)	10.3	6.9	9.4	16.7	19.7	22.7	14.3
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 996)	2.6	4.3	4.4	20.8	15.9	34.7	17.3

Table 95. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois ($n = 1,202$).

Please state how much you disagree or agree with the following statements about CWD in Illinois.							
Statement	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
If left unchecked, CWD could spread throughout the Illinois deer herd.	1.5	3.2	4.2	18.6	15.7	34.1	22.5
CWD is a serious threat to the deer herd in Illinois.	2.6	2.1	6.0	22.5	24.4	28.6	13.8
We should eliminate CWD from the deer population.	2.9	2.9	5.6	25.8	18.3	28.9	15.6
CWD must be controlled in northern Illinois even if it means having fewer deer.	4.0	4.5	7.5	27.4	21.3	24.6	10.7
We should reduce the deer population in northern Illinois as much as needed to control CWD.	5.6	7.9	9.7	28.2	18.2	19.3	11.1
If left unchecked, CWD could wipe out the deer herd across Illinois.	5.2	10.6	10.1	28.1	16.6	17.0	12.3
Hunting can control CWD more effectively than sharpshooting.	1.7	4.9	6.5	41.2	12.5	22.6	10.5
IDNR has taken the right steps to control the spread of CWD in Illinois.	3.1	2.2	5.1	44.3	19.2	22.0	4.2
IDNR's sharpshooting program should continue until CWD is gone from the state.	12.8	7.9	7.3	38.0	14.6	12.7	6.7
Hunters are more effective at managing CWD than IDNR has been.	2.6	10.4	8.3	45.8	13.9	12.6	6.4
CWD will spread without sharpshooting operations in northern Illinois.	7.1	7.2	7.6	46.7	12.4	12.6	6.4
CWD is natural and we should let it take its course in deer.	15.2	22.1	15.8	29.6	9.7	4.4	3.2
IDNR is exaggerating the risk CWD-infected venison poses to my health.	5.6	17.6	10.5	54.0	5.2	5.1	2.0

Table 96. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

If left unchecked, CWD could spread throughout the Illinois deer herd.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	4.5	6.0	7.5	15.9	18.4	33.3	14.4
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	0.9	2.7	3.5	19.1	15.2	34.3	24.2

Table 97. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

CWD is a serious threat to the deer herd in Illinois.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	8.0	5.5	8.5	22.0	26.5	19.0	10.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	1.5	1.4	5.5	22.4	23.9	30.7	14.5

Table 98. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

We should eliminate CWD from the deer population.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	7.0	4.0	11.0	23.5	19.5	20.5	14.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	2.1	2.7	4.5	26.1	18.0	30.7	15.9

Table 99. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

CWD must be controlled in northern Illinois even if it means having fewer deer.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	13.5	8.0	17.0	22.5	16.0	15.5	7.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 995)	2.1	3.8	5.6	28.2	22.3	26.5	11.4

Table 100. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

We should reduce the deer population in northern Illinois as much as needed to control CWD.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	16.0	18.0	16.0	18.0	14.0	13.0	5.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	3.5	5.9	8.3	30.3	19.0	20.6	12.3

Table 101. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

If left unchecked, CWD could wipe out the deer herd across Illinois.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	12.4	16.9	13.9	26.4	11.9	10.0	8.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	3.8	9.4	9.3	28.5	17.4	18.4	13.1

Table 102. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

Hunting can control CWD more effectively than sharpshooting.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	2.0	2.5	4.0	26.0	10.0	28.0	27.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 993)	1.6	5.4	7.0	44.1	13.1	21.6	7.2

Table 103. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

IDNR has taken the right steps to control the spread of CWD in Illinois.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	11.4	5.0	8.0	32.3	22.9	16.4	4.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	1.4	1.7	4.5	46.5	18.5	23.1	4.2

Table 104. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

IDNR's sharpshooting program should continue until CWD is gone from the state.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	35.8	15.4	10.4	23.9	6.5	4.0	4.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	8.2	6.4	6.6	40.9	16.1	14.5	7.2

Table 105. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

Hunters are more effective at managing CWD than IDNR has been.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	3.5	7.5	6.0	33.5	16.0	20.5	13.0
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 997)	2.4	11.0	8.7	48.2	13.4	11.0	5.1

Table 106. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

CWD will spread without sharpshooting operations in northern Illinois.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 199)	19.6	16.6	9.0	32.2	10.1	5.0	7.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 997)	4.6	5.3	7.3	49.5	12.8	14.1	6.2

Table 107. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

CWD is natural and we should let it take its course in deer.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 200)	11.5	16.5	16.0	29.5	12.0	7.0	7.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	15.9	23.3	15.8	29.6	9.1	3.9	2.3

Table 108. Beliefs about CWD in Illinois.

IDNR is exaggerating the risk CWD-infected venison poses to my health.							
	Strongly Disagree %	Disagree %	Slightly Disagree %	Unsure %	Slightly Agree %	Agree %	Strongly Agree %
CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	4.0	17.9	11.4	46.3	8.5	7.5	4.5
Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 997)	5.9	17.5	10.3	55.6	4.6	4.6	1.5

Section 4: Background

Respondents averaged 54.6 years of age (CWD counties: 53.4 years, non-CWD counties: 54.8 years; Table 109) and 90% were male (CWD counties: 94%, non-CWD counties: 89%; Table 110). The most frequent counties of residence among respondents were Madison ($n = 50$), Sangamon ($n = 40$), St. Clair ($n = 38$), Cook ($n = 37$), and Will ($n = 32$). Respondents have hunted deer an average of 29.4 years (CWD counties: 27.8 years, non-CWD counties: 29.8 years; Table 111) including 27.9 years hunting deer in Illinois (CWD counties: 25.6 years, non-CWD counties: 28.4 years; Table 112). Most respondents hunt deer in Illinois every year (Total: 75%, CWD counties: 74%, non-CWD counties: 75%), 19% hunt deer most years (CWD counties: 17%, non-CWD counties: 19%), and 6% hunt deer some but not most years (CWD counties: 9%, non-CWD counties: 6%; Table 113). Among respondents who don't hunt every year, the most common reasons for not hunting were (1) "not enough time" (Total: 14%, CWD counties: 13%, non-CWD counties: 14%), (2) "no access to places I hunt" (Total: 6%, CWD counties: 10%, non-CWD counties: 6%), and (3) "poor health" (Total: 5%, CWD counties: 5%, non-CWD counties: 5%; Table 114). Twenty-seven percent of respondents have hunted any species of deer or elk as a nonresident in a state other than Illinois (CWD counties: 47%, non-CWD counties: 24%; Table 115). Respondents hunted deer or elk as nonresidents most frequently in (1) Colorado (Total: 19%, CWD counties: 18%, non-CWD counties: 19%), (2) Missouri (Total: 17%, CWD counties: 6%, non-CWD counties: 21%), and (3) Wisconsin (Total: 15%, CWD counties: 27%, non-CWD counties: 10%; Table 116). Twenty-four percent of respondents have hunted deer or elk in another state more than 10 seasons (CWD counties: 31%, non-CWD counties: 21%), 16% during more than 5 seasons, but less than 10 seasons (CWD counties: 16%, non-CWD counties: 16%), 37% during two to five seasons (CWD counties: 34%, non-CWD counties: 37%), and 24% during one season (CWD counties: 19%, non-CWD counties: 26%; Table 117).

Table 109. Mean age of respondents.

Please give your age.			
	CWD County (<i>n</i> = 210)	Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,023)	Total (<i>n</i> = 1,237)
Age	53.44	54.79	54.59

Table 110. Gender.

What is your gender?			
Gender	CWD County (<i>n</i> = 210) %	Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,023) %	Total (<i>n</i> = 1,237) %
Male	94.3	89.2	90.1
Female	5.7	10.8	9.9

Table 111. Mean years hunting deer.

About how many years total have you hunted deer?			
	CWD County (<i>n</i> = 201)	Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 998)	Total (<i>n</i> = 1,201)
Years	27.82	29.79	29.43

Table 112. Mean years hunting deer in Illinois.

About how many years have you hunted deer in Illinois?			
	CWD County (<i>n</i> = 202)	Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 996)	Total (<i>n</i> = 1,200)
Years	25.62	28.39	27.90

Table 113. Hunting effort in Illinois.

Which of the following describes how often you hunt deer in Illinois?			
	CWD County (<i>n</i> = 210) %	Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 1,009) %	Total (<i>n</i> = 1,237) %
Every year	73.8	75.2	74.9
Most years	17.3	19.1	18.8
Some but not most years	8.9	5.6	6.3

Table 114. Reasons for not hunting every year.

If you don't hunt every year, please choose the statements below that describes your reason(s) for not hunting.			
	CWD County (n = 104)	Non-CWD County (n = 453)	Total (n = 509)
Statement	%	%	%
Not enough time	13.3	13.8	13.7
No access to places I hunt	9.5	5.6	6.3
Poor health	4.8	5.2	5.1
Fewer deer where I hunt	6.2	2.9	3.5
Didn't draw a permit	3.8	3.3	3.4
Lost interest	1.0	3.5	3.2
Too expensive	0.5	1.4	1.2
Deer hunting takes too much effort	0.0	0.8	0.6
CWD	1.0	0.0	0.2
Other	4.8	3.9	4.0

Table 115. Nonresident deer or elk hunting in other states.

Have you (as an Illinois resident) hunted deer (<u>any</u> species) or elk as a nonresident in a state other than Illinois?			
	CWD County (n = 202)	Non-CWD County (n = 1,006)	Total (n = 1,212)
	%	%	%
Yes	46.5	23.5	27.4
No	53.5	76.5	72.6

Table 116. Top 10 states hunted as a nonresident.*

In which state(s) have you hunted?			
	CWD County (n = 95)	Non-CWD County (n = 237)	Total (n = 334)
State	%	%	%
Colorado	17.9	19.4	18.9
Missouri	6.3	21.1	16.8
Wisconsin	27.4	10.1	15.3
Wyoming	2.4	7.6	6.9
Michigan	9.5	3.4	5.1
Indiana	2.1	4.6	3.9
Kentucky	3.2	3.8	3.6
Montana	4.2	2.5	3.0
Iowa	3.2	2.5	2.7
Texas	0.5	3.0	2.4

* Includes respondents who only answered "Yes" to question about hunting in another state as a nonresident.

Table 117. Hunting effort as a nonresident in another state.*

How often did you hunt deer or elk in another state?			
	CWD County (<i>n</i> = 94) %	Non-CWD County (<i>n</i> = 233) %	Total (<i>n</i> = 329) %
More than 10 seasons	30.9	21.0	23.7
More than 5 seasons, but less than 10	16.0	15.5	15.8
2-5 seasons	34.0	37.3	36.5
One season	19.0	26.2	24.0

* Includes respondents who only answered “Yes” to question about hunting in another state as a nonresident.

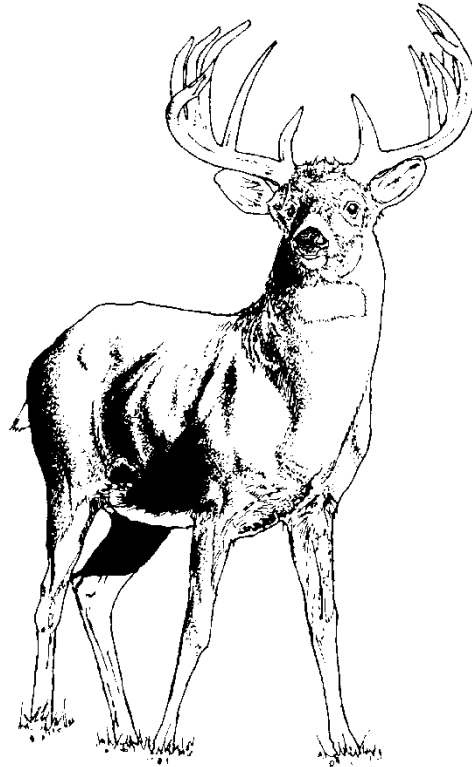
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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Illinois Deer Hunter Chronic Wasting Disease Survey



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
and
Illinois Natural History Survey



The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided

Section 1. Chronic Wasting Disease in Illinois. Please complete the following questions related to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in ILLINOIS and management actions by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

1. Do you live in a county in which CWD has been found in deer? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

2. Do you usually hunt in a county in which CWD has been found in deer?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

3. In what county do you hunt deer during...

Firearm season _____ County

Archery season _____ County

Muzzleloader season _____ County

4. Which of the following describes how you process the deer you harvested? Please check **all** that apply.

☐ I use a commercial processor

☐ I do my own processing

☐ I use both a commercial processor and my own processing

☐ I use a guide service and they processed it

☐ I donate it whole (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.)

5. Did you take a deer to a taxidermist during 2020-21? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Did you donate any processed venison (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Have you ever had a deer you harvested tested for CWD?

☐ Yes, every deer

☐ No, none of my deer

☐ Yes, some deer

☐ No, because I have not harvested a deer

8. If "Yes," did any deer you harvested **in Illinois** test positive for CWD? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Do you know a hunter who harvested a deer **in Illinois** that tested positive for CWD? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If "Yes," which of the following **best** describes what you did with the meat?

☐ My family and I ate it

☐ I threw it out

☐ I ate it, but my family did not

☐ I donated it to a food pantry

☐ IDNR picked up and disposed of meat

☐ Other (Please identify): _____

11. Please indicate if you think the following statements are correct or incorrect by circling a number in the appropriate location.

Statement	Correct	Incorrect	I don't know
CWD has always been present in the Illinois deer herd	1	2	3
CWD is found in every state	1	2	3
CWD is a fatal disease to every deer infected	1	2	3
There is no known cure for CWD in deer	1	2	3
CWD does not exist in Illinois	1	2	3
CWD is caused by a misshaped protein called a "prion".	1	2	3
CWD is caused by bacteria	1	2	3
CWD can affect size of deer population	1	2	3
CWD takes 18-24 months before symptoms appear	1	2	3
Deer can get CWD from the environment	1	2	3

Section 2. CWD and Risk – Please answer the following question about how you perceive CWD as risk to yourself, your family, and the deer population of Illinois.

1. How much risk do you feel from the following? Please circle the number that matches your response.

	No Risk	Slight Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Contracting Lyme Disease	1	2	3	4
Becoming ill from Chronic Wasting Disease	1	2	3	4
Becoming ill from Salmonella food poisoning	1	2	3	4
Becoming ill from E. coli food poisoning	1	2	3	4
Contracting Rabies	1	2	3	4
Contracting West Nile Virus	1	2	3	4
Contracting Mad Cow (BSE) Disease	1	2	3	4

2. Because of CWD, how concerned are you about each of the following issues? Please circle the number that matches your response.

<i>Because of CWD</i> , how concerned are you about...	Not Concerned		Slightly Concerned		Moderately Concerned		Extremely Concerned	
...your own personal health?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
... the health of the deer population in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
...not having enough healthy deer left to hunt in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
...CWD spreading throughout the entire deer herd in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
...the potential for CWD to dramatically reduce the deer herd in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
... the potential for CWD to kill the entire deer population in Illinois?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

3. How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements? Please circle the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The threat of CWD has been exaggerated.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Because of CWD, members of my family have concerns about eating deer meat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD poses a risk to deer, but not to humans.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD may pose a risk to humans, but not enough is currently known to be sure.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD may cause disease in humans if they eat meat from animals infected with CWD.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Because of CWD, I have concerns about eating deer meat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 3. CWD Management in Illinois – Please answer the following question about your perceptions of efforts to manage CWD in Illinois.

1. Please tell us if you knew (before receiving this questionnaire) about each action below that was taken by IDNR in response to CWD by circling the number that matches your response.

IDNR Action	Yes, I knew this	No, I did not know this
Increased the number of deer permits available for hunting in CWD-affected counties	1	2
Conducting deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	1	2
Testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties	1	2
Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	1	2
Testing deer from counties NOT affected by CWD	1	2
Reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	1	2
Banned the feeding of wild deer	1	2

2. Please give your opinion about the amount of resources (time/money/personnel) the IDNR should commit toward controlling the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease? Please check **one** response.

- ☐ They should commit more resources
☐ They should commit fewer resources
☐ They currently commit just the right amount of resources
☐ I am not sure

3. Which of the following strategies do you feel is the **most important** for IDNR to take in managing CWD in deer in Illinois? Please check **one** response.

☐ Monitor CWD distribution and rate of infection, but take no action to manage it
☐ Use existing hunting seasons alone to manage CWD
☐ Use all methods necessary to manage CWD
☐ Take no action and let nature take its course
☐ I am not sure

4. Thinking about IDNR's approach to control CWD in the deer herd, do you believe the plan has been...? Please check **one** response.

☐ Not aggressive enough ☐ Too aggressive
☐ About right ☐ I am not sure

5. If sharpshooting is the most effective method in controlling the spread of CWD in Illinois, please give your opinion of the sharpshooting program by selecting **one** of the responses below.

☐ I feel it should be increased
☐ I feel it should stay as it is
☐ I feel it should be decreased
☐ I feel it should be eliminated

6. How effective do you feel the following IDNR management actions have been in reducing CWD in deer? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Management Action	Not at all effective	Slightly effective	Somewhat effective	Effective	Very Effective	I am not sure
Increased deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5	6
Used deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5	6
Held special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5	6

7. IDNR annually tests thousands of deer from throughout the state to monitor where CWD is in Illinois. In your opinion, how important is this surveillance for each of the following purposes? Please circle the number that matches your response.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Testing of deer in CWD counties to monitor local distribution and the percent of deer with the illness	1	2	3	4	5
Testing of deer in non-CWD counties to determine whether CWD has spread to new areas	1	2	3	4	5
Testing of YOUR deer so that you can decide whether you should eat it	1	2	3	4	5
Increase the number of check stations to test deer.	1	2	3	4	5

8. How much do you think IDNR should pursue the actions listed below? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Action	Stop this action	Go slower with this action	Continue with this action	Increase this action
Increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4
Use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	1	2	3	4
Testing deer harvested by hunters in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4
Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4
Reduce populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4
Testing deer harvested from counties with NO cases of CWD	1	2	3	4

9. Please rate your level of acceptance for each of the following management actions outcomes by circling the number that matches your response.

Management Action	Completely Unacceptable	Somewhat Unacceptable	Unsure	Somewhat Acceptable	Completely Acceptable
Increase deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Slightly</u> decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Significantly</u> decrease deer harvest through hunting in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5
Use deer sharpshooting in known CWD areas to supplement hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Holding special CWD management hunts in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5
Take no action to manage CWD	1	2	3	4	5

10. Please rate your level of acceptance for each of the following potential actions outcomes by circling the number that matches your response.

Potential Outcome	Completely Unacceptable	Somewhat Unacceptable	Unsure	Somewhat Acceptable	Completely Acceptable
Reduced populations of deer in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5
Seeing fewer deer because of CWD management	1	2	3	4	5
Decreased hunter harvests of deer in CWD-affected counties	1	2	3	4	5

11. To what extent do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements regarding your **trust** in IDNR.

Please circle the number that best matches your response.

I trust IDNR to....	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
... provide me with enough information to decide what actions I should take regarding CWD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide the best available information on CWD in Illinois	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... make good deer management decisions regarding CWD issues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide adequate opportunities to listen to hunters' concerns about CWD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide timely information regarding CWD issues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide truthful information about human safety issues related to CWD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide truthful information about deer population estimates	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide truthful information about how CWD spreads	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... provide truthful information on the number of CWD-positive deer discovered in Illinois	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... follow the best available science in managing CWD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
... properly address CWD in Illinois	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

12. Please state how much you disagree or agree with the following statements about CWD in Illinois by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
If left unchecked, CWD could spread throughout the Illinois deer herd.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
If left unchecked, CWD could wipe out the deer herd across Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We should reduce the deer population in northern Illinois as much as needed to control CWD.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunters are more effective at managing CWD than IDNR has been.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD is natural and we should let it take its course in deer.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IDNR is exaggerating the risk CWD-infected venison poses to my health.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We should eliminate CWD from the deer population.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IDNR has taken the right steps to control the spread of CWD in Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunting can control CWD more effectively than sharpshooting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD must be controlled in northern Illinois even if it means having fewer deer.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD is a serious threat to the deer herd in Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CWD will spread without sharpshooting operations in northern Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IDNR's sharpshooting program should continue until CWD is gone from the state.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 4. Background. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in deer hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

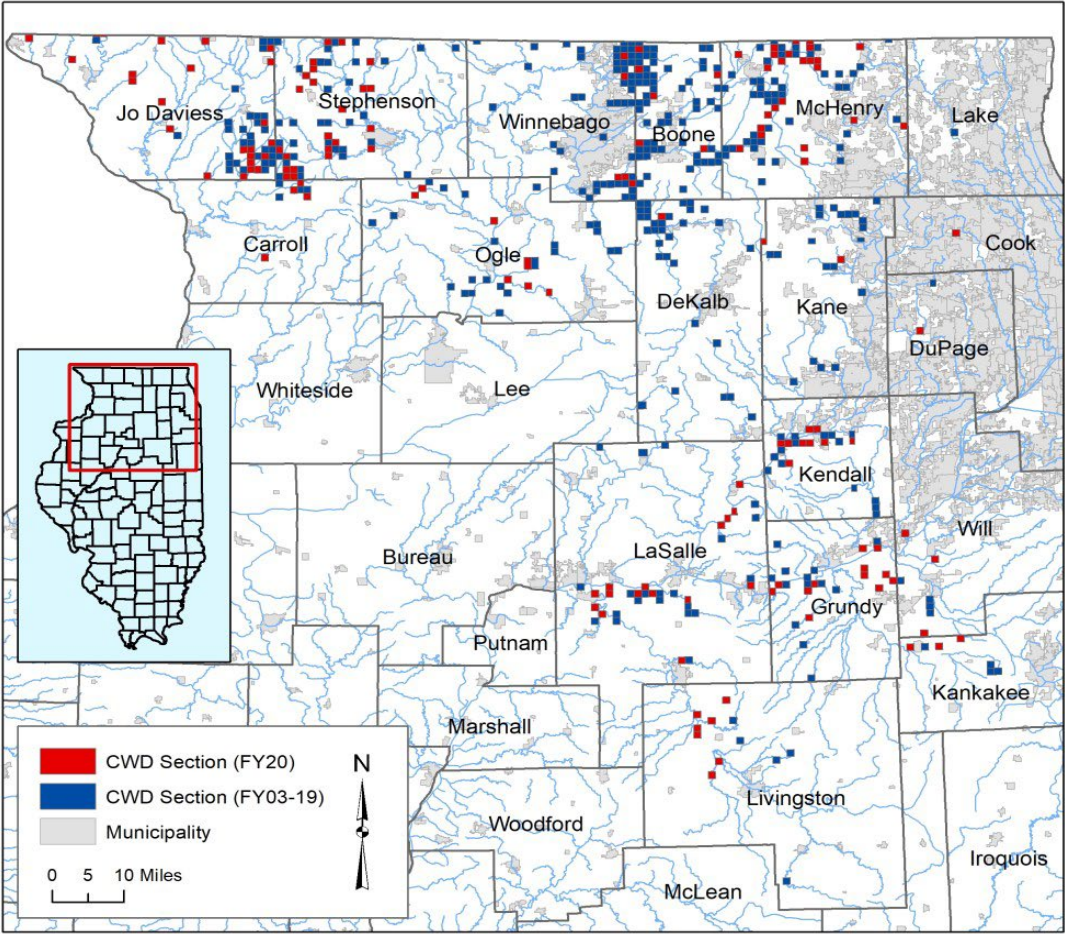
1. What is your county of residence? _____ County
2. Please give your age. _____ years
3. What is your gender? _____ Male _____ Female
4. About how many years total have you hunted deer? _____ years
5. About how many years have you hunted deer in Illinois? _____ years
6. Which of the following describes how often you hunt deer in Illinois? Please check **one** response.
_____ every year _____ most years _____ some but not most years
- 6a. If you don't hunt every year, please choose the statements below that describes your reason(s) for not hunting. Please check **all** that apply.

_____ Fewer deer where I hunt	_____ Didn't draw a permit
_____ Too expensive	_____ Lost interest
_____ No access to places to hunt	_____ Not enough time
_____ Deer hunting takes too much effort	_____ Poor health
_____ CWD	
_____ Other (Please identify): _____	
7. Have you (as an Illinois resident) **hunted deer (any species) or elk** as a nonresident in a state other than Illinois?
_____ Yes _____ No
- 7a. In which state(s) have you hunted?: _____
- 7b. How often did you hunt deer or elk in another state? Please check **one** response.

_____ more than 10 seasons	_____ 2 - 5 seasons
_____ more than 5 seasons, but less than 10	_____ one season

Comments

Cases and Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in Illinois 2020





THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix B



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

September 7, 2021

Dear Illinois Deer Hunter,

You are one of a select group of Illinois hunters asked to provide information about your thoughts on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management and your hunting activities during the 2020-2021 hunting season. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** The information you and other selected hunters furnish Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) biologists is vital for proper wildlife management and allows IDNR to safeguard deer populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful or have not heard about CWD.** A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <https://publish.illinois.edu/human-dimensions/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/wildlife/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121 or email us at laurenjs@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Appendix C



IL Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
1816 South Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Illinois Deer Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your deer hunting activities and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. If you have questions, or need another form, contact us at 217-244-5121 or laurenjs@illinois.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

September 18, 2021

Dear Illinois Deer Hunter,

You are one of a select group of Illinois hunters asked to provide information about your thoughts on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management and your hunting activities during the 2020-2021 hunting season. We recently mailed you a questionnaire about your assessment of CWD management in Illinois. Perhaps it was misplaced, so we have enclosed another copy for you to complete and return to us. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** The information you and other selected hunters furnish Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) biologists is vital for proper wildlife management and allows IDNR to safeguard deer populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful or have not heard about CWD.** A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <https://publish.illinois.edu/human-dimensions/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/wildlife/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121 or email us at laurenjs@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,


Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Appendix E



ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY Prairie Research Institute University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

September 29, 2021

Dear Illinois Deer Hunter,

You are one of a select group of Illinois hunters asked to provide information about your thoughts on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management and your hunting activities during the 2020-2021 hunting season. We recently mailed you a questionnaire about your assessment of CWD management in Illinois. Perhaps it was misplaced, so we have enclosed another copy for you to complete and return to us. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** The information you and other selected hunters furnish Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) biologists is vital for proper wildlife management and allows IDNR to safeguard deer populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful or have not heard about CWD.** A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <https://publish.illinois.edu/human-dimensions/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/wildlife/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121 or email us at laurenjs@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program