



HARVEST OF WILDLIFE IN GEORGIA 2010-2011

**Conducted for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
by Responsive Management**

2011

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2011

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) to determine participation in hunting and harvest of deer and bear. The study entailed a telephone survey of Georgia resident licensed hunters from among the following license types: Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing license, Resident Hunting license, Resident Sportsman license, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing license, and Resident Shooting Preserve license. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Georgia hunters (both landlines and cell phones were called). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of natural resources and outdoor recreation. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the GDNR, based partly on past harvest surveys.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted project briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in March and April 2011. Responsive Management obtained a total of 2,515 completed interviews of license holders who had hunted in the 2010-2011 season. Table 1 shows a summary of the calling effort.

| Table 1. Telephone Call Summary for Georgia Resident Licensed Hunter Survey—2011 | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Cooperation Rate* = 94% | | | |
| Total Response Rate** = 35% | | | |
| | Sample Size (n) | Percent of Category | Percent of Total |
| Eligible Telephone Numbers | | | |
| Completed interview | 2,515 | 94.05 | 26.46 |
| Partial interview (Responsive Management discards all partial interviews) | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Refusal and terminated | 159 | 5.95 | 1.67 |
| Eligible Total | 2,674 | 100 | 28.13 |
| Ineligible Telephone Numbers | | | |
| Non-working; disconnected; facsimile; data lines | 1,024 | 46.13 | 10.77 |
| Number changed; no eligible respondent | 845 | 38.06 | 8.89 |
| Business; institutional | 98 | 4.41 | 1.03 |
| Technical problems | 13 | 0.59 | 0.14 |
| Did not hunt any species | 240 | 10.81 | 2.52 |
| Ineligible Total | 2,220 | 100 | 23.36 |
| Unknown Telephone Numbers | 4,611 | 100 | 48.51 |
| Total—All Telephone Numbers | 9,505 | | |

*Total Cooperation Rate is the number of completed interviews divided by total eligible telephone numbers.

**Total Response Rate is the number of completed interviews divided by sum of total eligible telephone numbers and total unknown telephone numbers.

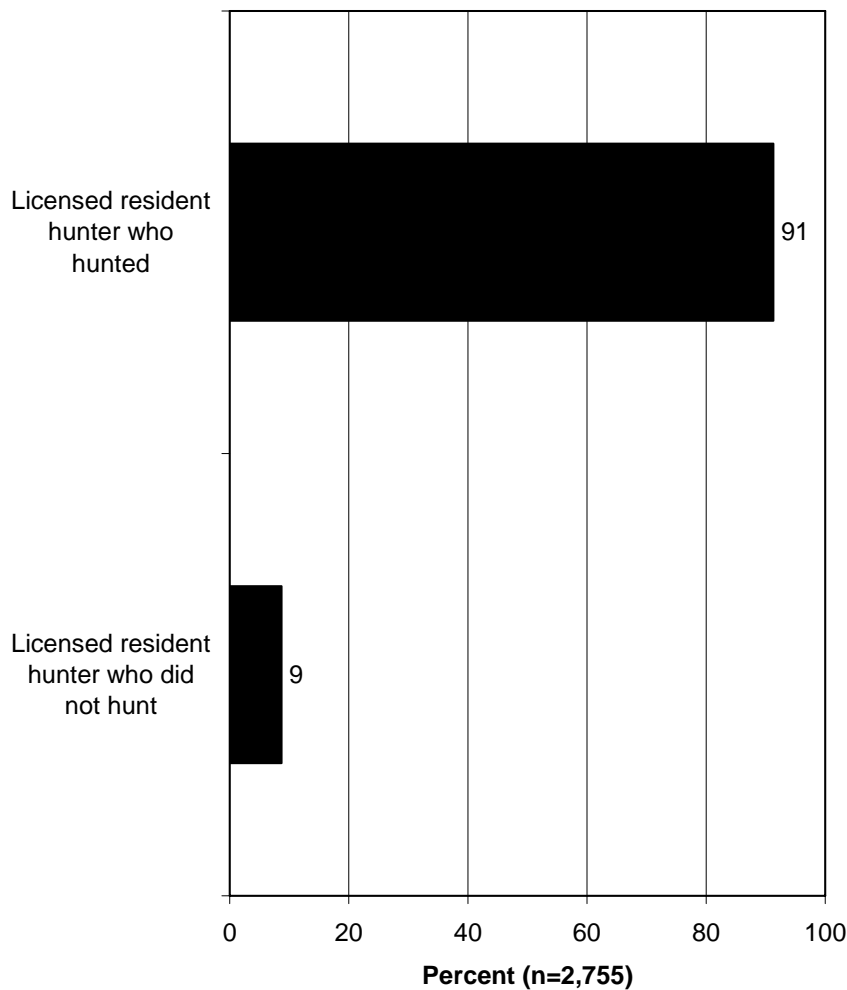
The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

HUNTING PARTICIPATION AND RATING OF HUNTING IN GEORGIA

An overwhelming majority of resident license holders in the sample had hunted in the 2010-2011 season (Figure 1). For the survey, on some questions, only the 2,515 respondents who had hunted were asked, and they are referred to as *active hunters* in the report.

Figure 1. Sample Type

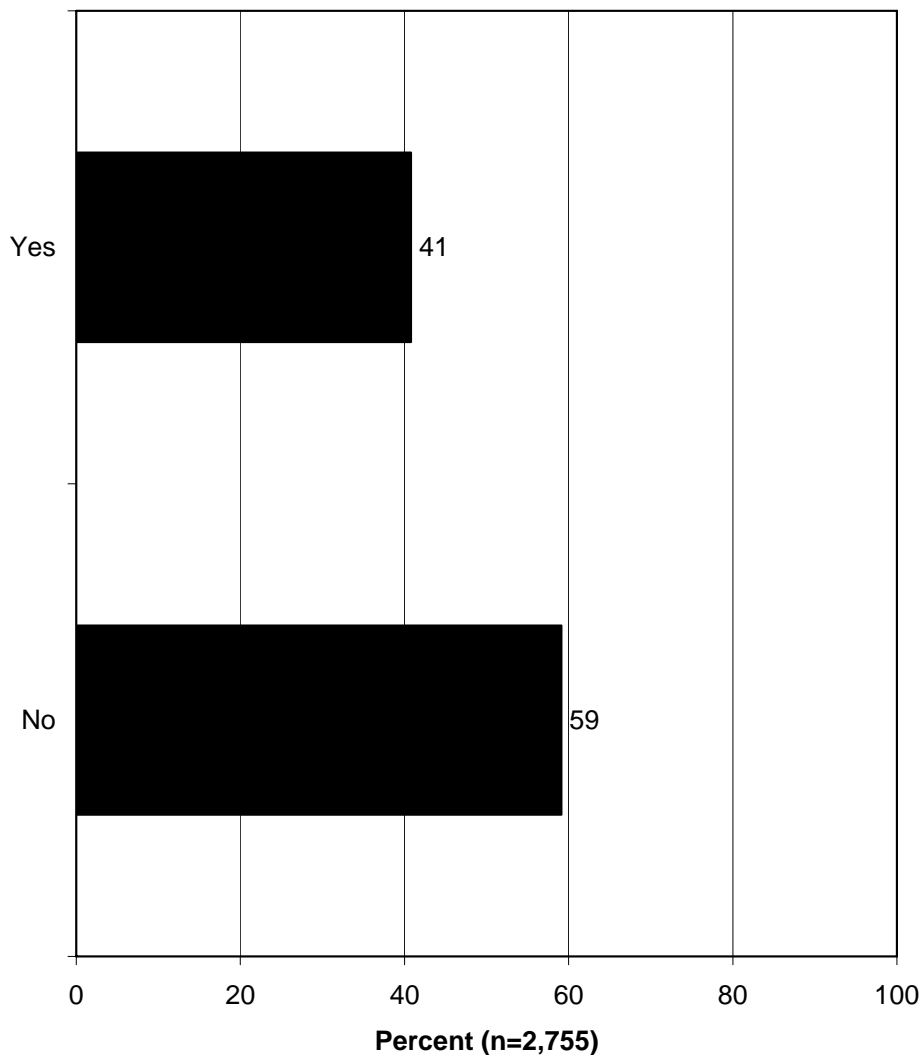
Sample Type
(Note that the sample was drawn from Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, Resident Hunting licenses, Resident Sportsman licenses, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, and Resident Shooting Preserve licenses.)



Although the focus of this survey was big game, it included a question regarding small game. Among Georgia hunting license holders, 41% hunted small game (Figure 2). This graph includes the 2,515 licensed resident hunters who hunted and who may or may not have hunted small game, and the 240 who did not hunt at all.

Figure 2. Small Game Hunting

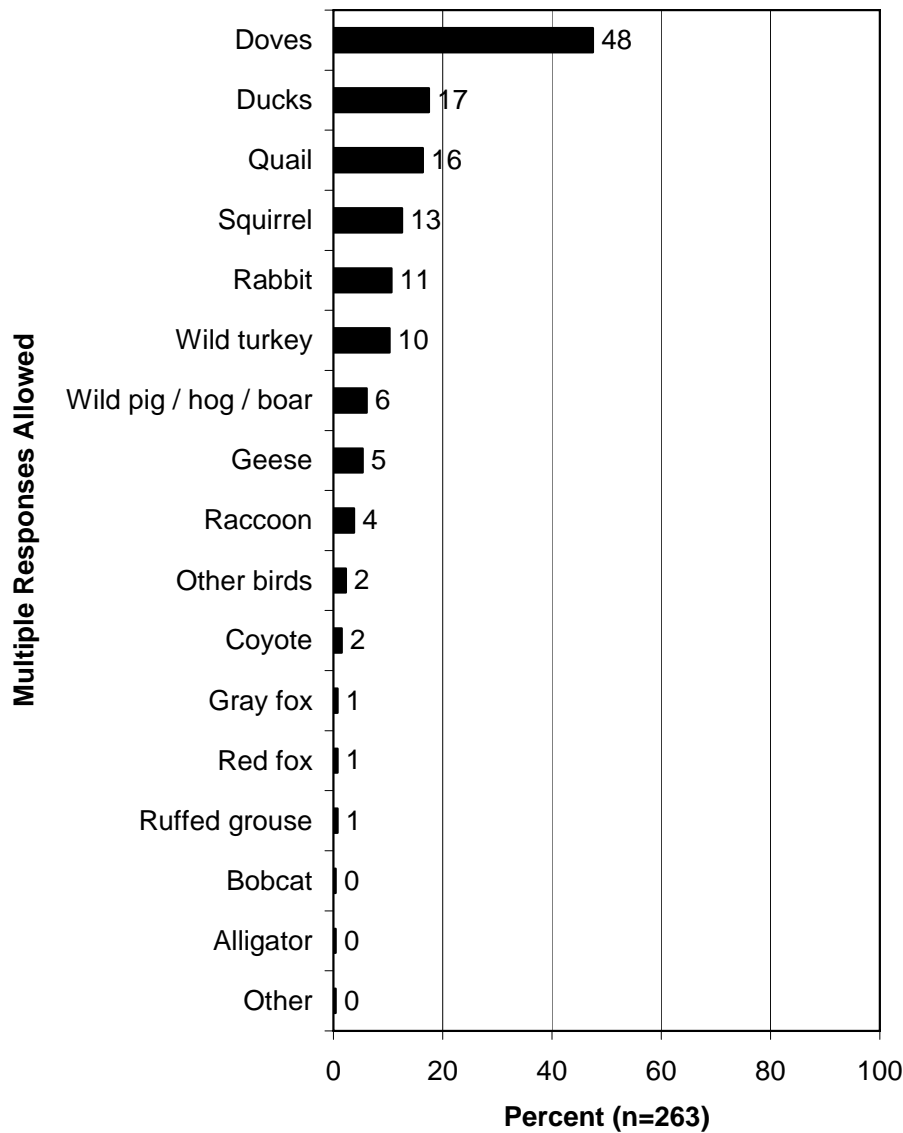
Q274. Did you hunt for small game in Georgia during the 2010-2011 hunting season? (Asked of holders of Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, Resident Hunting licenses, Resident Sportsman licenses, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, and Resident Shooting Preserve licenses.)



Note that this species question in Figure 3 was not asked of deer and bear hunters; therefore, the data do not include the additional species that deer and bear hunters sought.

Figure 3. Other Species Hunted

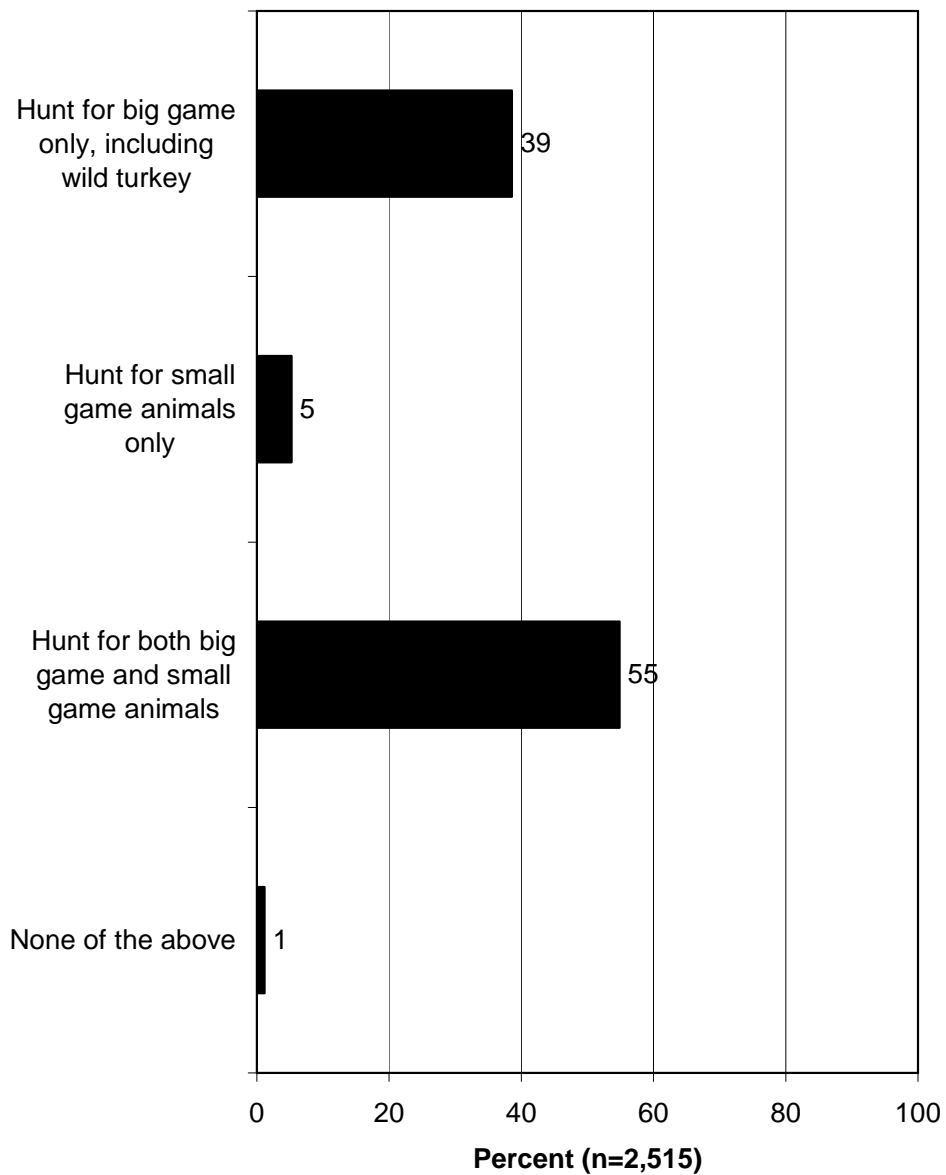
Q265. Which species did you hunt during the 2010-2011 hunting season? (Asked of those who did not hunt deer or bear in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season but hunted at least one other species.)



Slightly more than half of active hunters in the sample (55%) hunt for both big and small game (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Hunting Activities

Q272. Which of the following best describes your hunting activities? (Asked of active hunters.)



Private land predominates in hunting locales for Georgia’s active hunters (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Hunting on Public Versus Private Land in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

**Q275. Did you hunt on public land, on private land, or both in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season?
(Asked of active hunters.)**

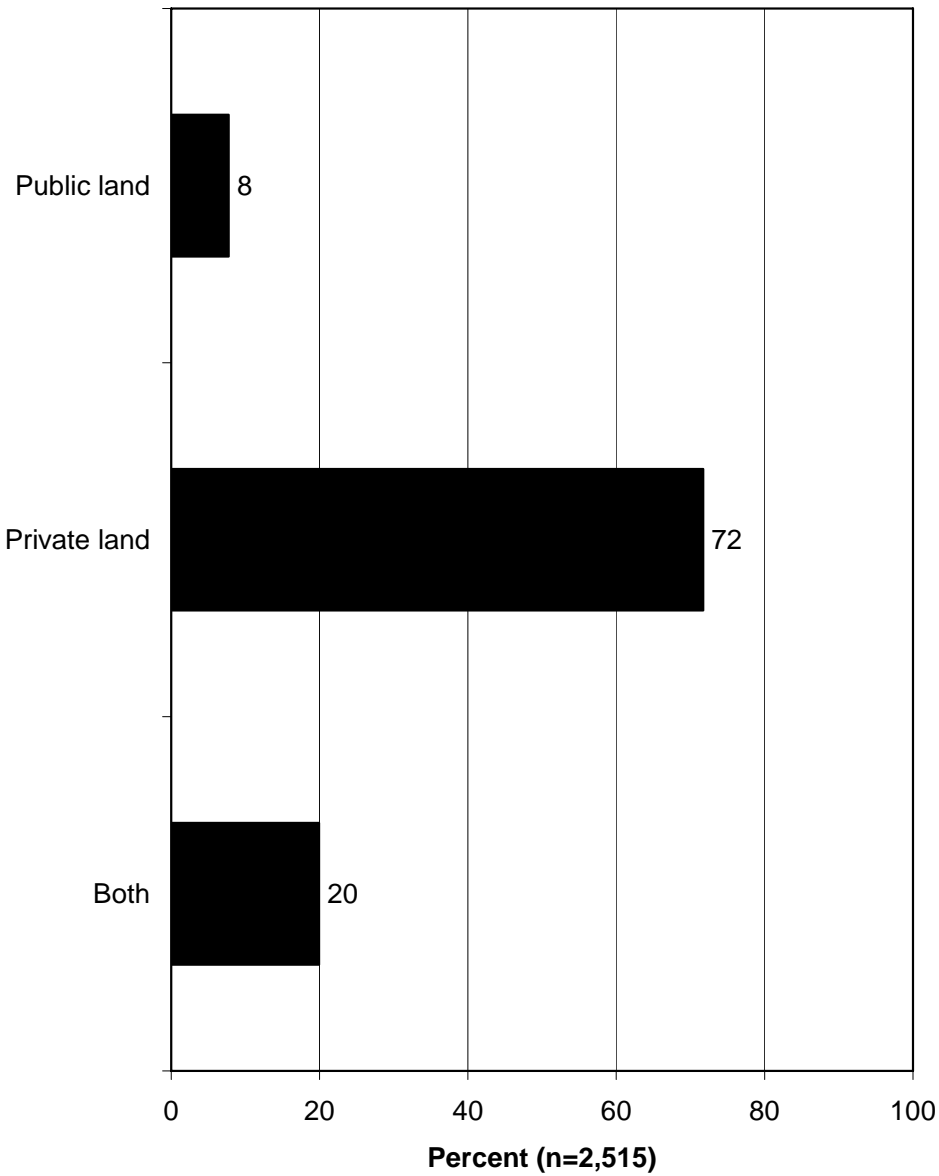
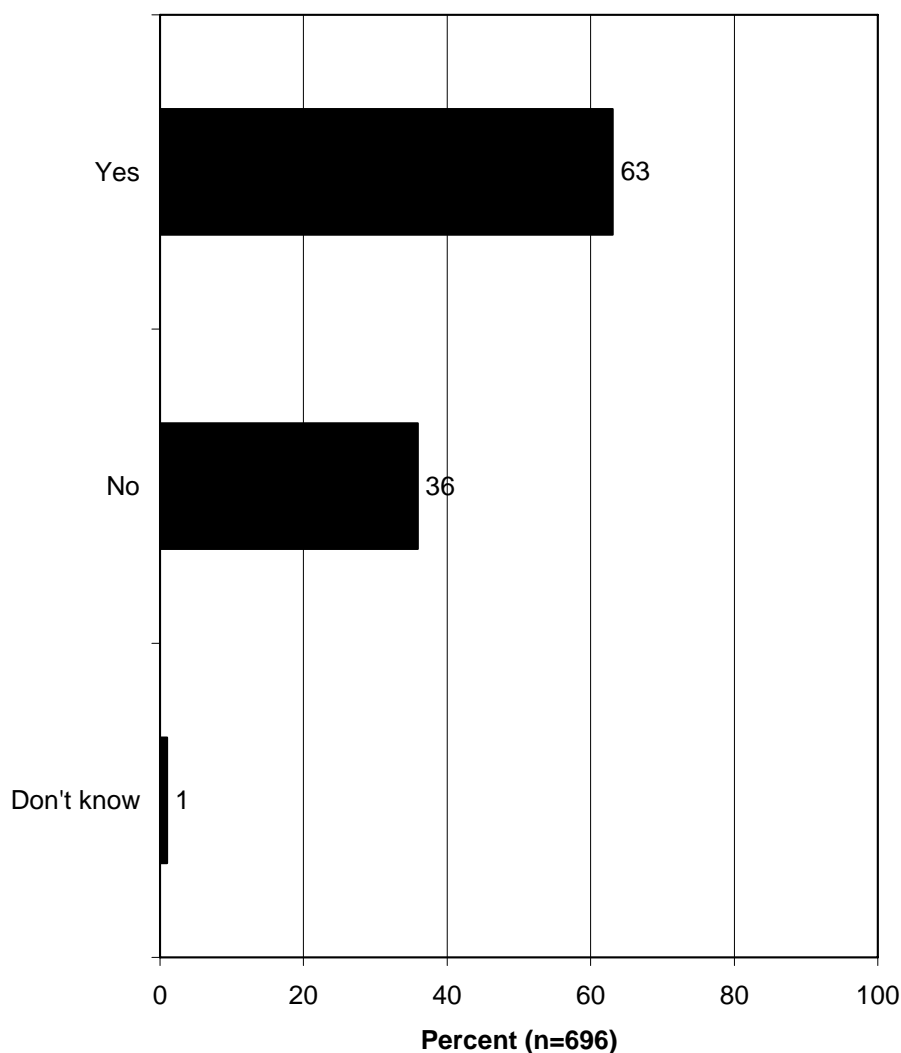


Figure 6 shows that a majority of active hunters who hunted on public land hunted on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the 2010-2011 season in Georgia.

Figure 6. Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

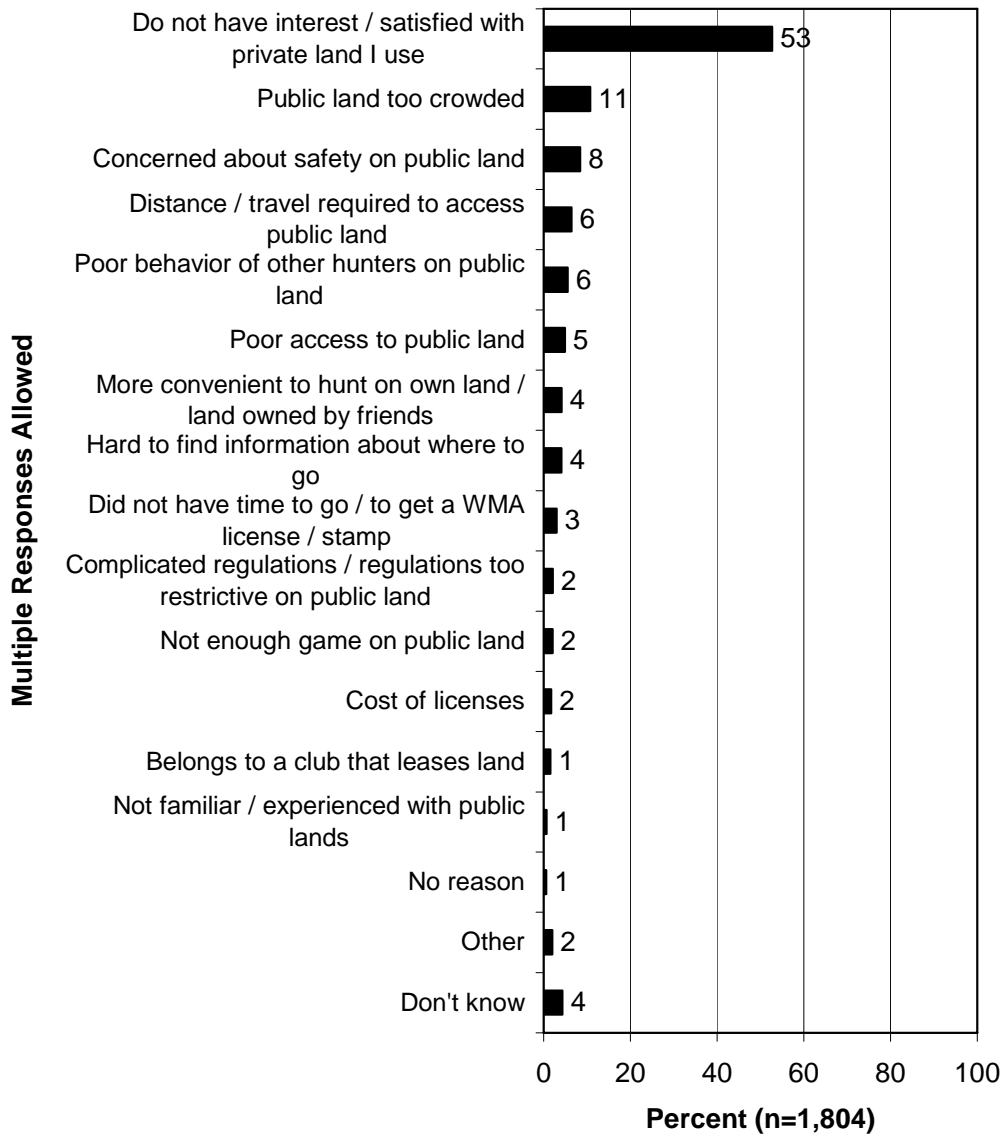
Q280. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources allows hunting on public Wildlife Management Areas in the state. Did you hunt on a Georgia DNR Wildlife Management Area in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season? (Asked of active hunters who hunted on public land in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season.)



About half of active hunters who did not hunt on public land during the 2010-2011 season (53%) indicated that they do not have interest in hunting on public land or are satisfied with the private land on which they hunt (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Reasons for Not Hunting on Public Land in Georgia

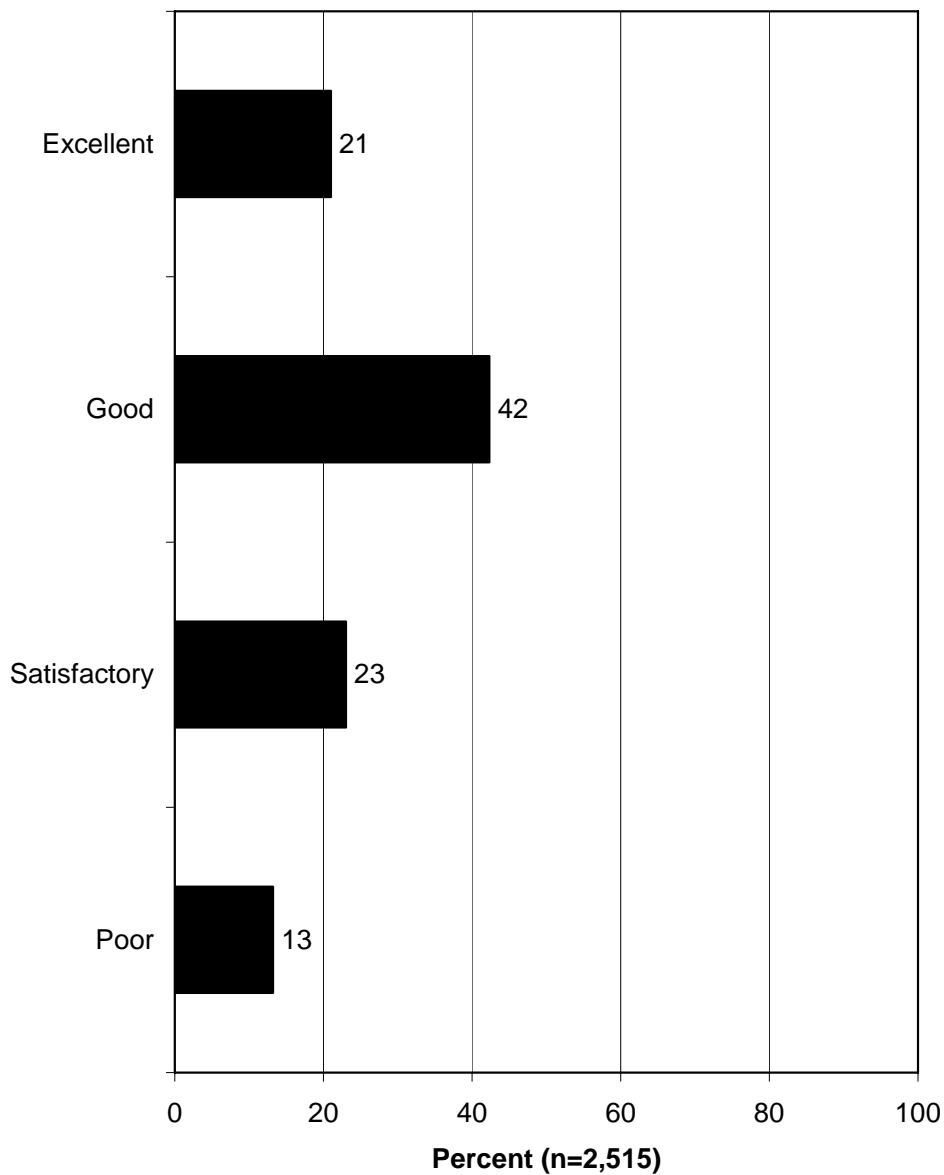
**Q278. What are the main reasons you did not hunt on public land in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season?
(Asked of active hunters who did not hunt on public land in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season.)**



A large majority of active hunters (86%) gave a rating of their hunting experiences in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season as satisfactory or better (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Rating of Hunting Experiences

**Q273. In general, how would you rate your hunting experience in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season?
(Asked of active hunters.)**

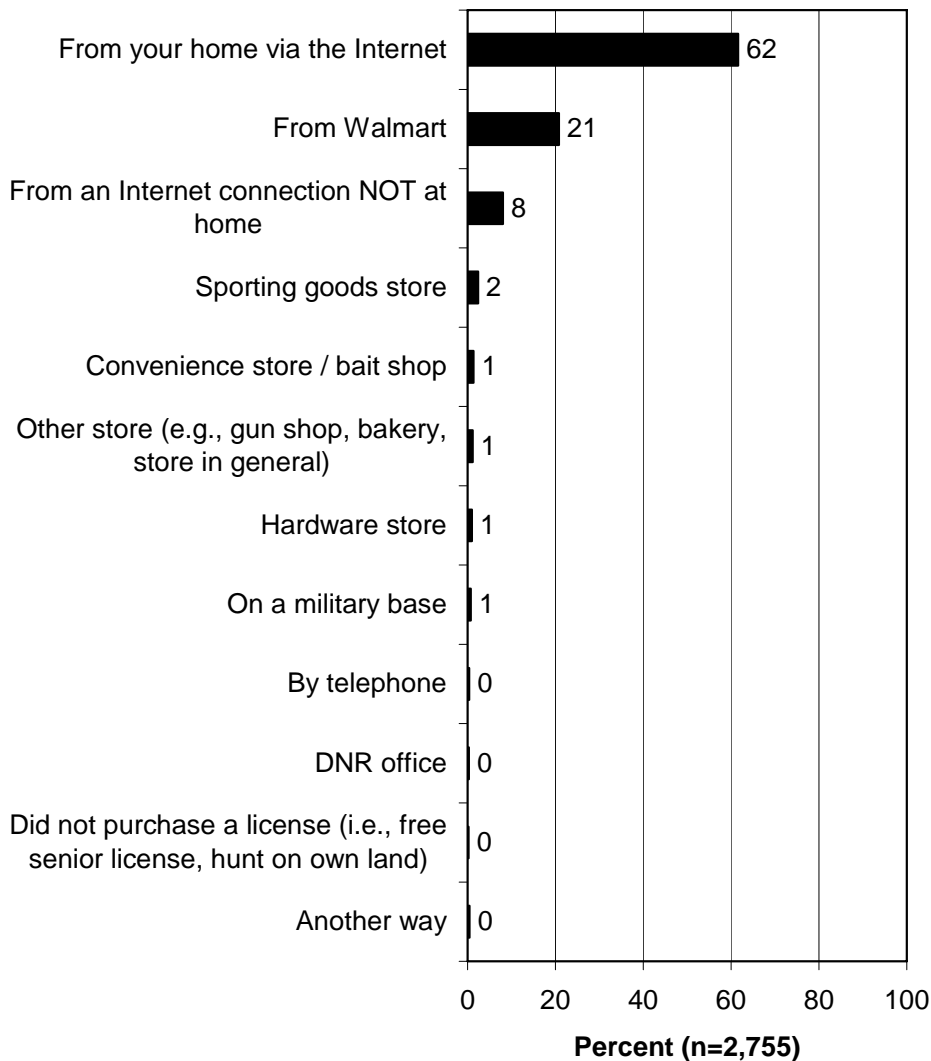


HUNTING LICENSE PURCHASING

Most current hunting licenses were purchased on the Internet (70%), predominantly via an Internet connection from home, or at Walmart (21%) (Figure 9).

Figure 9. How or Where License Holders Purchased or Obtained Current Hunting License

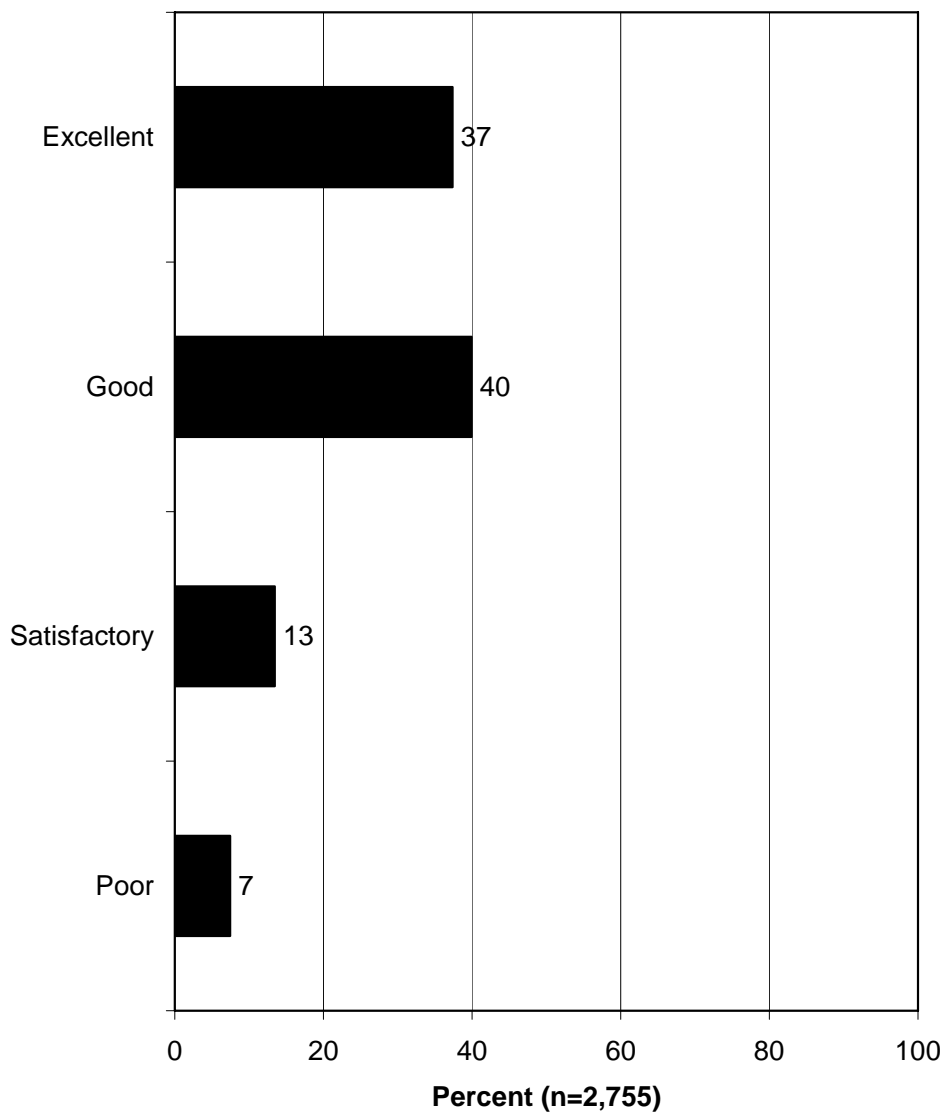
Q7. Which of the following methods best describes how you purchased or obtained your most current hunting license? (Asked of holders of Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, Resident Hunting licenses, Resident Sportsman licenses, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, and Resident Shooting Preserve licenses.)



An overwhelming majority of license holders (91%) gave a rating of their most recent license purchasing experiences as satisfactory or better (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Ratings of Most Recent License Purchasing Experience

Q10. How would you rate your most recent license purchasing experience? (Asked of holders of Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, Resident Hunting licenses, Resident Sportsman licenses, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, and Resident Shooting Preserve licenses.)



DEER HUNTING

A large majority of license holders (82%) hunted deer in the 2010-2011 season in Georgia (Figure 11). This graph shows the amount out of all license holders in the survey (2,515 who hunted and who may or may not have hunted deer, and the 240 who did not hunt at all).

Figure 11. Percent of License Holders Who Hunted Deer in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

**Q11. Did you hunt deer in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season?
(Asked of holders of Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, Resident Hunting licenses, Resident Sportsman licenses, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, and Resident Shooting Preserve licenses.)**

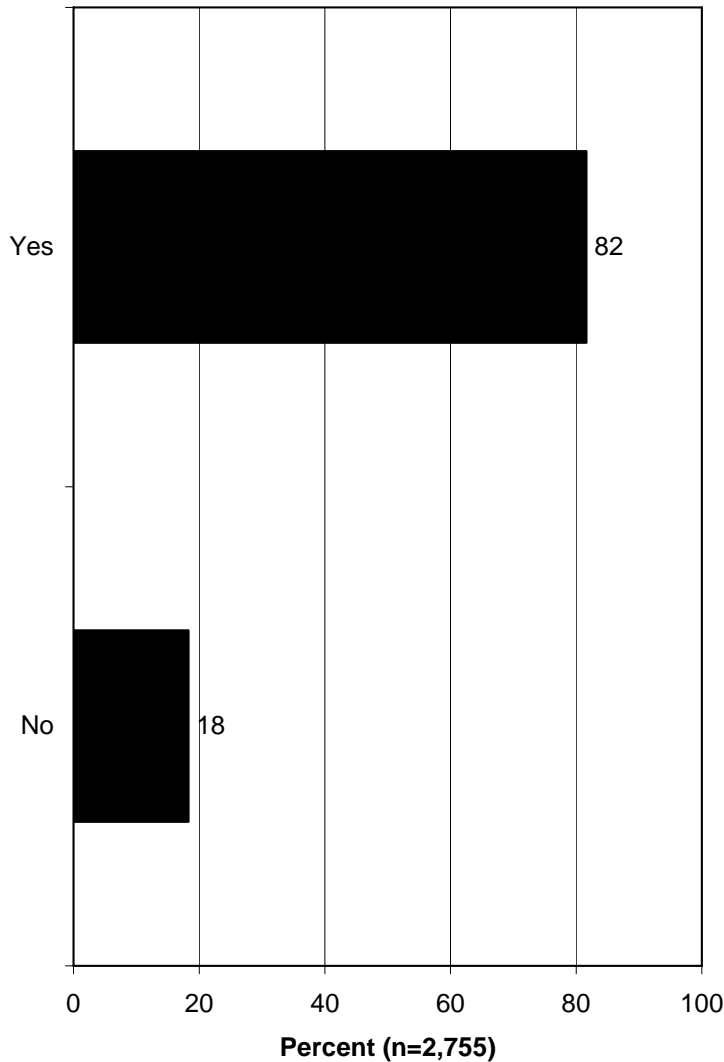


Table 2 shows the number of deer hunters as well as harvest and days hunted. In total, the more than 232,000 Georgia licensed deer hunters harvested approximately 334,000 deer (67% does), spending approximately 5.1 million days hunting for deer.

| Table 2. Statewide Effort and Success for Georgia Licensed Resident Deer Hunters, 2010-2011 (all equipment types combined) | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| | Estimate | Standard Error |
| Number of Deer Hunters | 232,484 Licensed Residents (81.67% of 284,664) | 2,098 |
| Deer Harvest | 333,847 | 187 |
| Days Deer Hunted | 5,106,697 | 2,081 |
| Days per Hunter | 21.97 | |
| Days per Deer | 15.30 | |
| Deer per Hunter | 1.44 | |
| Percent Does | 66.54 | |
| Proportions based on 2010-2011 Hunter Harvest Survey results; counts based on current license sales. | | |

Table 3 shows statistics for modern firearms deer hunters.

| Table 3. Statewide Effort and Success for Georgia Licensed Resident Modern Firearms Deer Hunters, 2010-2011 (93.07% of deer hunters hunted with modern firearms in the 2010-2011 season) | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| | Estimate | Standard Error |
| Number of Deer Hunters (with modern firearms) | 216,365 | 2,316 |
| Deer Harvest (with modern firearms) (82.9% of total harvest) | 276,811 | 888 |
| Days Hunted (with modern firearms) | 3,764,591 | 1,837 |
| Days per Hunter (with modern firearms) | 17.40 | |
| Days per Deer (with modern firearms) | 13.60 | |
| Deer per Hunter (with modern firearms) | 1.28 | |
| Percent Does (with modern firearms) | 64.99 | |

A majority of deer hunters who hunted deer with a modern firearm or muzzleloader (65%) harvested deer in November, followed by slightly more than a third who harvested deer in the months of December (37%) and October (35%) (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Months Hunters Harvested Deer with Muzzleloader or Modern Firearm in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

Q33. Georgia's firearms deer season begins in October and ends in January. In what month of Georgia's firearm deer season did you harvest your deer? (Asked of those who hunted deer with a modern firearm or muzzleloader in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season.)

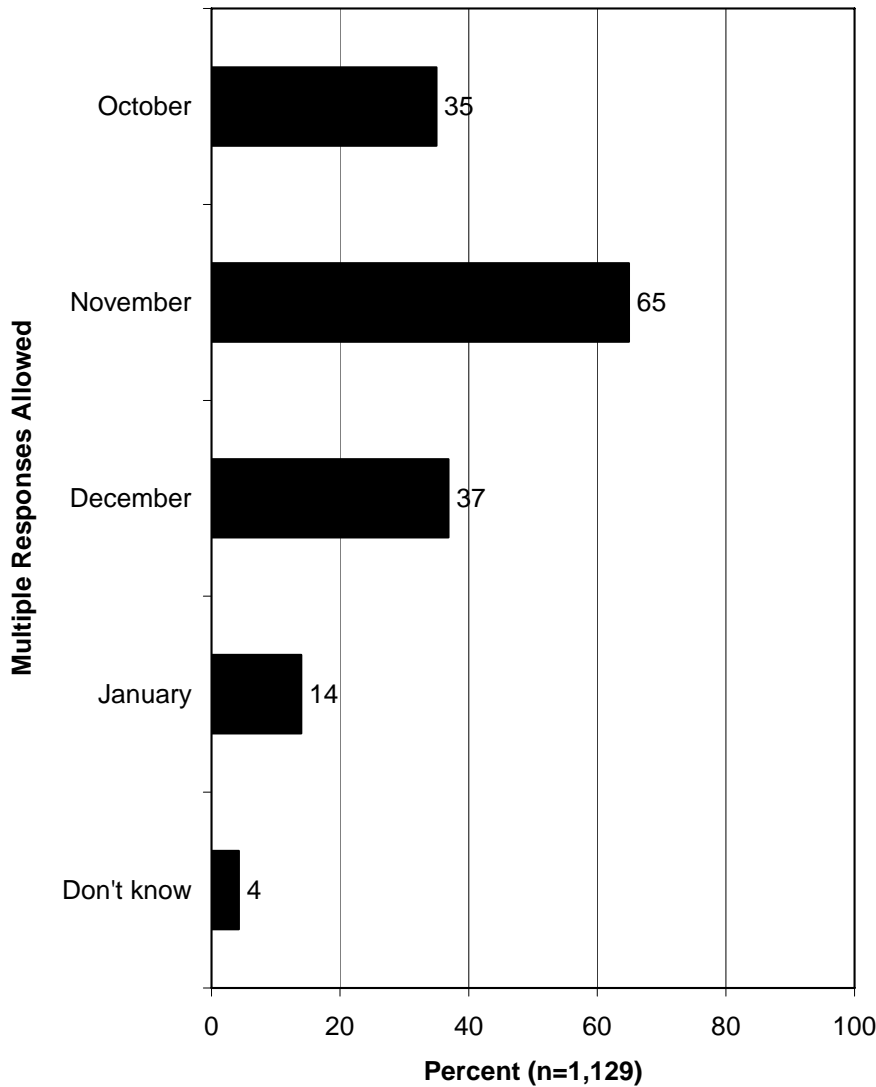


Table 4 shows statistics for archery deer hunters. The more than 88,000 archery deer hunters harvested approximately 47,200 deer.

| Table 4. Statewide Effort and Success for Georgia Licensed Resident Archery Deer Hunters, 2010-2011 (37.96% of deer hunters hunted with archery) | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| | Estimate | Standard Error |
| Number of Deer Hunters (with archery) | 88,241 | 2,508 |
| Deer Harvest (with archery) (14.1% of total harvest) | 47,220 | 2,017 |
| Days Hunted (with archery) | 1,165,934 | 1,075 |
| Days per Hunter (with archery) | 13.21 | |
| Days per Deer (with archery) | 24.69 | |
| Deer per Hunter (with archery) | 0.54 | |
| Percent Does (with archery) | 75.27 | |

Table 5 shows statistics for muzzleloader deer hunters. The more than 39,000 muzzleloader hunters harvested approximately 9,800 deer.

| Table 5. Statewide Effort and Success for Georgia Licensed Resident Muzzleloader Deer Hunters, 2010-2011 (16.93% of deer hunters hunted with a muzzleloader) | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| | Estimate | Standard Error |
| Number of Deer Hunters (with muzzleloader) | 39,367 | 1,872 |
| Deer Harvest (with muzzleloader) (2.9% of total harvest) | 9,816 | 990 |
| Days Hunted (with muzzleloader) | 176,171 | 425 |
| Days per Hunter (with muzzleloader) | 4.48 | |
| Days per Deer (with muzzleloader) | 17.95 | |
| Deer per Hunter (with muzzleloader) | 0.25 | |
| Percent Does (with muzzleloader) | 68.42 | |

Tables 6 and 7 show a breakdown of buck harvest by number of antler points.

| Table 6. Bucks with at Least 4 Points on One Side Harvested by Georgia Deer Hunters Who Harvested Bucks in 2010-2011 | | |
|---|------------------|---------|
| Number of bucks harvested with four or more points | Number in sample | Percent |
| None (those answering no, only harvested bucks of less than 4 points) | 159 | 20.08 |
| 1 buck | 480 | 60.61 |
| 2 bucks | 142 | 17.93 |
| 3 bucks | 8 | 1.01 |
| 4 bucks | 1 | 0.13 |
| 5 bucks | 1 | 0.13 |
| 6 bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7 bucks | 1 | 0.13 |
| 8 bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9 bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | 792 | 100.00 |

| Table 7. Bucks with at Least 4 Points on One Side Harvested by Georgia Deer Hunters in 2010-2011 | |
|---|---------|
| | Percent |
| Hunters harvesting at least one buck | 35.33 |
| Hunters harvesting a buck with 4 points or more | 28.13 |
| Successful buck hunters harvesting at least one buck with 4 points or more | 79.62 |
| Percentage of total buck harvest consisting of bucks with 4 points or more | 74.38 |

Tables 8 and 9 show a breakdown of button buck harvest.

| Number of button bucks harvested | Number in sample | Percent |
|---|------------------|---------|
| None (those answering no, did not harvest any button bucks) | 728 | 91.57 |
| 1 button buck | 65 | 8.18 |
| 2 button bucks | 2 | 0.25 |
| 3 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 4 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 6 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9 button bucks | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | 795 | 100.00 |

| | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Hunters harvesting at least one buck | 35.33 |
| Hunters harvesting a button buck | 2.98 |
| Successful buck hunters harvesting at least one button buck | 8.43 |
| Percentage of total buck harvest consisting of button bucks | 6.38 |

Table 10 shows a breakdown of deer harvest by Deer Management Unit (DMU). DMUs 4 and 5 have the highest harvests.

| Deer Management Unit | Deer Harvest | Percent of Total Harvest | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Percent Does | Total Hunters | Number of Deer per Hunter |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| DMU 1 | 11,573 | 3.47 | 4,030 | 7,543 | 65.18 | 18,392 | 0.63 |
| DMU 2 | 48,047 | 14.39 | 17,359 | 30,688 | 63.87 | 40,607 | 1.18 |
| DMU 3 | 11,469 | 3.44 | 3,823 | 7,646 | 66.67 | 12,606 | 0.91 |
| DMU 4 | 53,730 | 16.09 | 16,326 | 37,404 | 69.62 | 46,807 | 1.15 |
| DMU 5 | 52,386 | 15.69 | 16,842 | 35,544 | 67.85 | 49,493 | 1.06 |
| DMU 6 | 46,290 | 13.87 | 13,742 | 32,548 | 70.31 | 34,821 | 1.33 |
| DMU 7 | 34,408 | 10.31 | 11,986 | 22,422 | 65.17 | 27,898 | 1.23 |
| DMU 8 | 47,737 | 14.30 | 16,636 | 31,101 | 65.15 | 32,961 | 1.45 |
| DMU 9 | 28,208 | 8.45 | 10,953 | 17,255 | 61.17 | 22,009 | 1.28 |
| Total | 333,847 | 100.00 | 111,696 | 222,152 | 66.54 | *NA | 1.44 |

*Sum of the DMUs would be greater than the total number of hunters because some hunters hunted in more than one DMU.

Table 11 shows harvest breakdown by sex of deer, sporting equipment of the hunter, and number of deer harvested by individual hunter.

| Number Harvested | All deer | | | | Bucks | | | | Does | | | |
|------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Modern Firearm | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Archery Equipment | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Muzzleloader | Percent of All Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Modern Firearm | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Archery Equipment | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Muzzleloader | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Modern Firearm | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Archery Equipment | Percent of Deer Hunters Who Harvested the Given Number with Muzzleloader |
| 0 | 44.71 | 50.18 | 89.69 | 0.00 | 71.14 | 68.40 | 96.04 | 98.76 | 57.21 | 63.01 | 91.71 | 97.50 |
| 1 | 19.87 | 19.29 | 5.51 | 58.95 | 19.89 | 22.80 | 3.02 | 1.16 | 19.72 | 18.12 | 4.79 | 1.80 |
| 2 | 15.02 | 14.44 | 2.40 | 37.89 | 8.09 | 7.96 | 0.80 | 0.09 | 11.48 | 10.48 | 2.05 | 0.60 |
| 3 | 8.04 | 6.44 | 1.33 | 3.16 | 0.54 | 0.67 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 5.29 | 3.99 | 0.75 | 0.10 |
| 4 | 5.24 | 4.18 | 0.49 | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.60 | 1.55 | 0.25 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 2.53 | 2.27 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.30 | 1.20 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 1.07 | 1.16 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.65 | 0.60 | 0.25 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 1.33 | 0.98 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.65 | 0.35 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| 8 | 0.80 | 0.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.45 | 0.35 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| 9 | 0.67 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 10+ | 0.71 | 0.44 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.45 | 0.20 | 0.05 | 0.00 |

Table 12 shows harvest by region; the Piedmont Region had the most deer harvested, although the Upper Coastal Plain Region had a substantial harvest as well.

| Deer Management Unit | Deer Harvest | Percent of Total Harvest | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Percent Does | Total Hunters | Number of Deer per Hunter |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Blue Ridge Region | 3,306 | 0.99 | 1,343 | 1,963 | 59.38 | 6,406 | 0.52 |
| Lower Coastal Plain Region | 66,749 | 19.99 | 23,765 | 42,984 | 64.40 | 42,157 | 1.58 |
| Piedmont Region | 138,871 | 41.60 | 44,327 | 94,544 | 68.08 | 117,482 | 1.18 |
| Ridge and Valley Region | 27,588 | 8.26 | 9,919 | 17,669 | 64.04 | 20,665 | 1.34 |
| Upper Coastal Plain Region | 97,333 | 29.16 | 32,341 | 64,992 | 66.77 | 74,085 | 1.31 |
| Total | 333,847 | 100.00 | 111,696 | 222,152 | 66.54 | *NA | 1.44 |

*Sum of the DMUs would be greater than the total number of hunters because some hunters hunted in more than one DMU.

Table 13 shows trends in hunting since 2002; note that the table is broken into two parts, 13a showing all deer, and 13b showing bucks and does.

| Region | Deer per Hunter | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008* | 2008-2009* | 2009-2010* | 2010-2011* |
| Blue Ridge | 0.46 | NA | 0.82 | 0.51 | 0.52 | 0.32 | 0.52 | 0.80 | 0.52 |
| Lower Coastal Plain | 1.50 | NA | 1.16 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.23 | 1.07 | 1.20 | 1.58 |
| Piedmont | 1.24 | NA | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.15 | 1.10 | 1.16 | 1.11 | 1.18 |
| Ridge and Valley | 1.23 | NA | 1.15 | 1.07 | 1.39 | 1.20 | 1.12 | 1.04 | 1.34 |
| Upper Coastal Plain | 1.36 | NA | 1.19 | 1.17 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.38 | 1.31 |
| State | 1.47 | NA | 1.29 | 1.31 | 1.32 | 1.23 | 1.26 | 1.31 | 1.44 |

Note: Table 13b shows results for bucks and does.

*Does not include Non-Resident Licenses and Honoraries.

| Region | Bucks per Hunter | | | | | | | | | Does per Hunter | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008* | 2008-2009* | 2009-2010* | 2010-2011* | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008* | 2008-2009* | 2009-2010* | 2010-2011* |
| Blue Ridge | 0.21 | NA | 0.36 | 0.28 | 0.31 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.21 | 0.25 | NA | 0.46 | 0.24 | 0.21 | 0.08 | 0.28 | 0.53 | 0.31 |
| Lower Coastal Plain | 0.64 | NA | 0.63 | 0.64 | 0.68 | 0.62 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.56 | 0.85 | NA | 0.53 | 0.82 | 0.78 | 0.61 | 0.56 | 0.68 | 1.02 |
| Piedmont | 0.48 | NA | 0.44 | 0.48 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.77 | NA | 0.77 | 0.73 | 0.72 | 0.67 | 0.74 | 0.73 | 0.80 |
| Ridge and Valley | 0.54 | NA | 0.43 | 0.44 | 0.49 | 0.46 | 0.42 | 0.34 | 0.48 | 0.69 | NA | 0.72 | 0.63 | 0.91 | 0.74 | 0.70 | 0.70 | 0.86 |
| Upper Coastal Plain | 0.47 | NA | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.48 | 0.47 | 0.51 | 0.46 | 0.44 | 0.89 | NA | 0.74 | 0.70 | 0.74 | 0.75 | 0.71 | 0.92 | 0.88 |
| State | 0.54 | NA | 0.51 | 0.53 | 0.52 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.46 | 0.48 | 0.93 | NA | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.80 | 0.73 | 0.76 | 0.85 | 0.96 |

Note: Table 13a shows results for all deer.

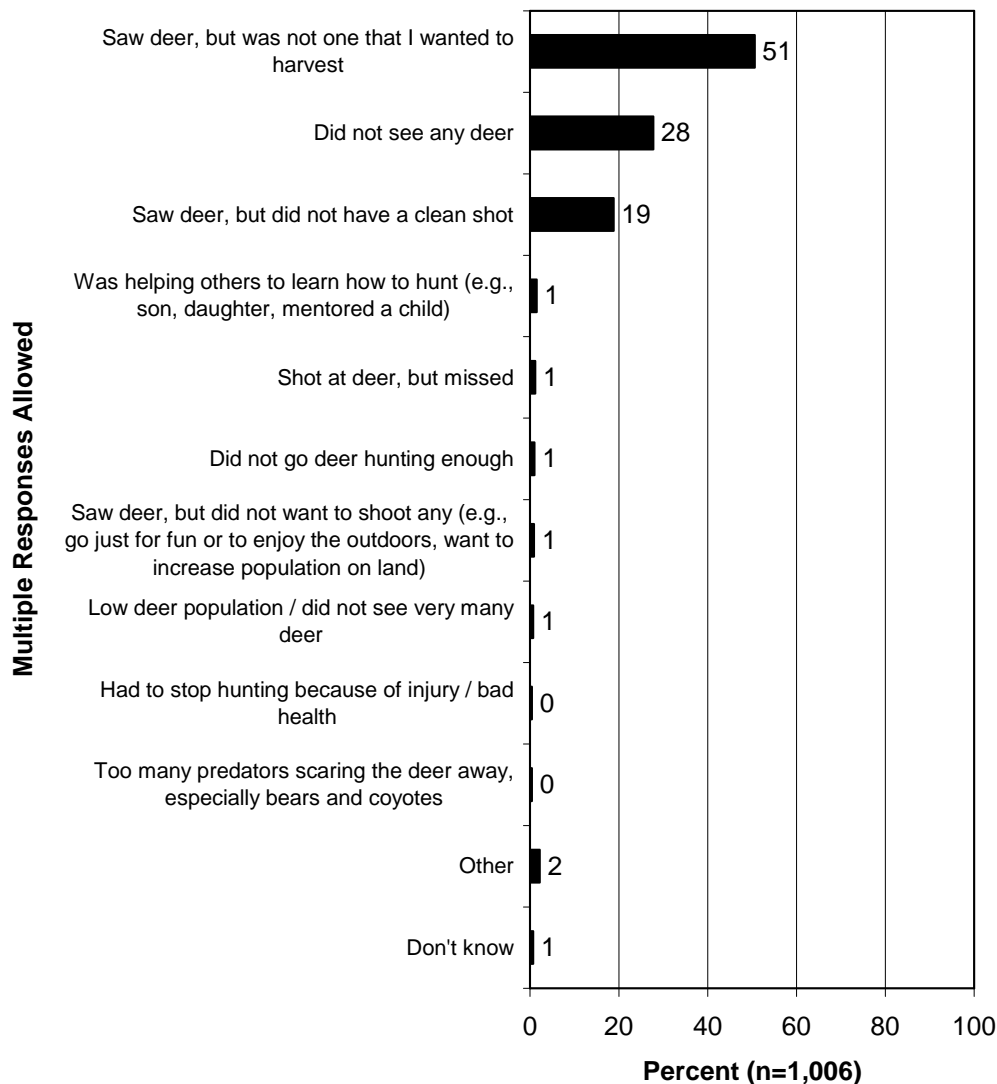
*Does not include Non-Resident Licenses and Honoraries.

REASONS FOR NOT HARVESTING A DEER

About half of deer hunters not harvesting a deer during the 2010-2011 season (51%) indicated that they saw deer while hunting but did not see a particular deer (or multiple deer) that they *wanted* to harvest (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Reasons for Not Harvesting a Deer

Q252. You indicated that you went deer hunting but you did not kill a deer. What are the reasons you did not kill a deer? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season but did not kill any deer.)



COYOTES OBSERVED AND KILLED

Figure 14 shows coyote sightings, and Figure 15 shows number of coyote killed by deer hunters while primarily deer hunting. About half of deer hunters saw a coyote while deer hunting; the large majority of those who saw a coyote did not kill any coyotes while deer hunting. Table 14 shows the calculation of coyotes seen per hunter day, which is 0.14 coyotes per hunter-day (or for approximately every 7.1 hunting days, a coyote was seen).

Figure 14. Percent of Deer Hunters Who Observed Coyote in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

Q13. How many coyotes did you see while deer hunting? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season.)

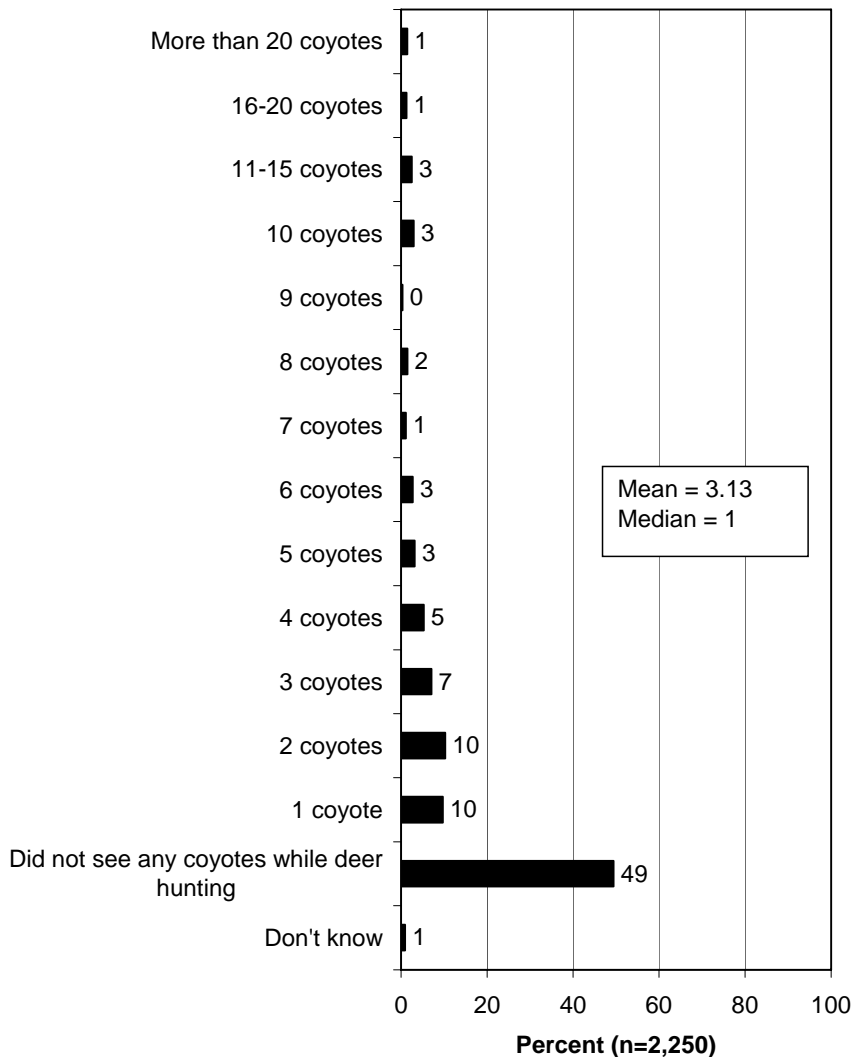
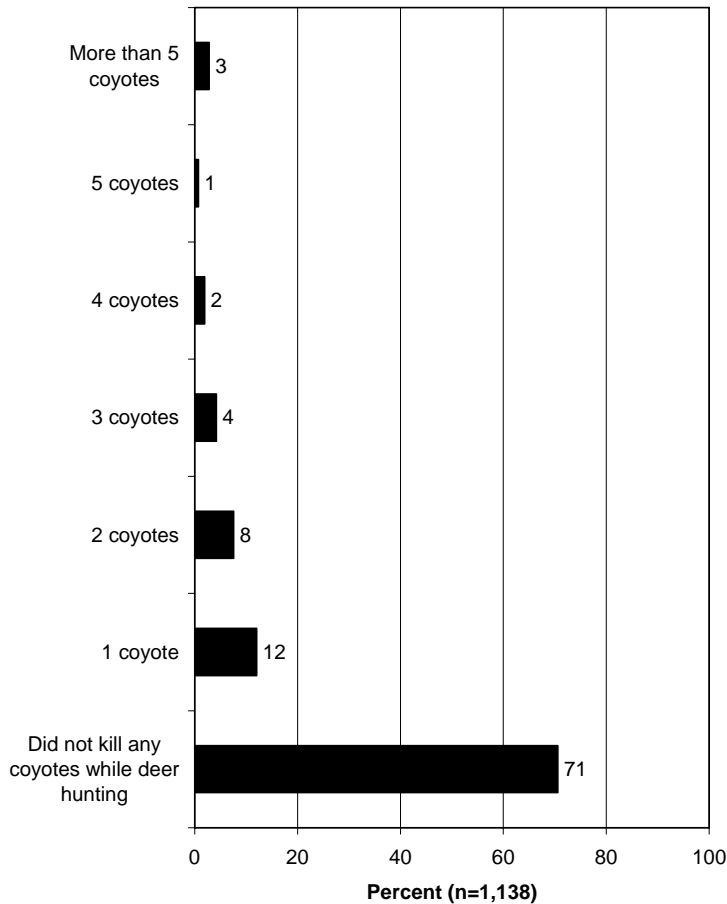


Figure 15. Numbers of Coyote Harvested by Individual Deer Hunters, 2010-2011

Q16. How many coyotes did you kill while deer hunting? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season and saw at least one coyote while deer hunting.)



| | |
|--|---------------|
| Total number of coyotes seen while deer hunting in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season | 6,972 |
| Days of deer hunting in Georgia with a modern firearm this season | 36,434 |
| Days of deer hunting in Georgia with a muzzleloader this season | 1,705 |
| Days of deer hunting in Georgia with archery equipment this season | 11,284 |
| TOTAL DAYS DEER HUNTING* | 49,423 |
| Estimated coyotes seen per hunter-day (number of coyotes seen divided by sum of days hunted) | 0.1411 |
| Estimated days hunting per coyote seen (number of days hunted divided by number of coyotes seen) | 7.09 |

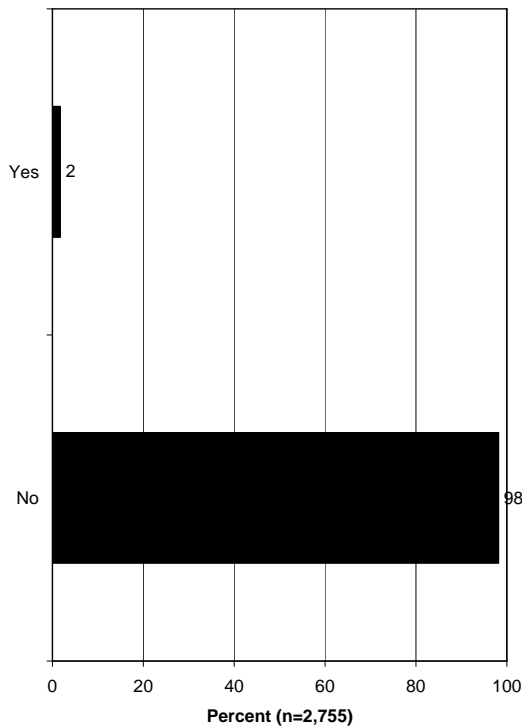
*A necessary assumption made for this calculation is that all days with different equipment types sum to the total of days hunting among hunters in the sample (i.e., no hunters hunted the same day with different types of equipment). Note that the coyote question was asked only of deer hunters.

BEAR HUNTING

Among all license holders, 1.74% had hunted bear. Figure 16 shows the amount out of all license holders in the survey (2,515 who hunted and who may or may not have hunted bear, and the 240 who did not hunt at all). The approximately 5,000 bear hunters are estimated to have harvested 413 bear in Georgia (Table 15).

Figure 16. Percent of License Holders Who Hunted Bear in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

Q254. Did you hunt bear in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season?
 (Asked of holders of Resident Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, Resident Hunting licenses, Resident Sportsman licenses, Resident Apprentice Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses, and Resident Shooting Preserve licenses.)

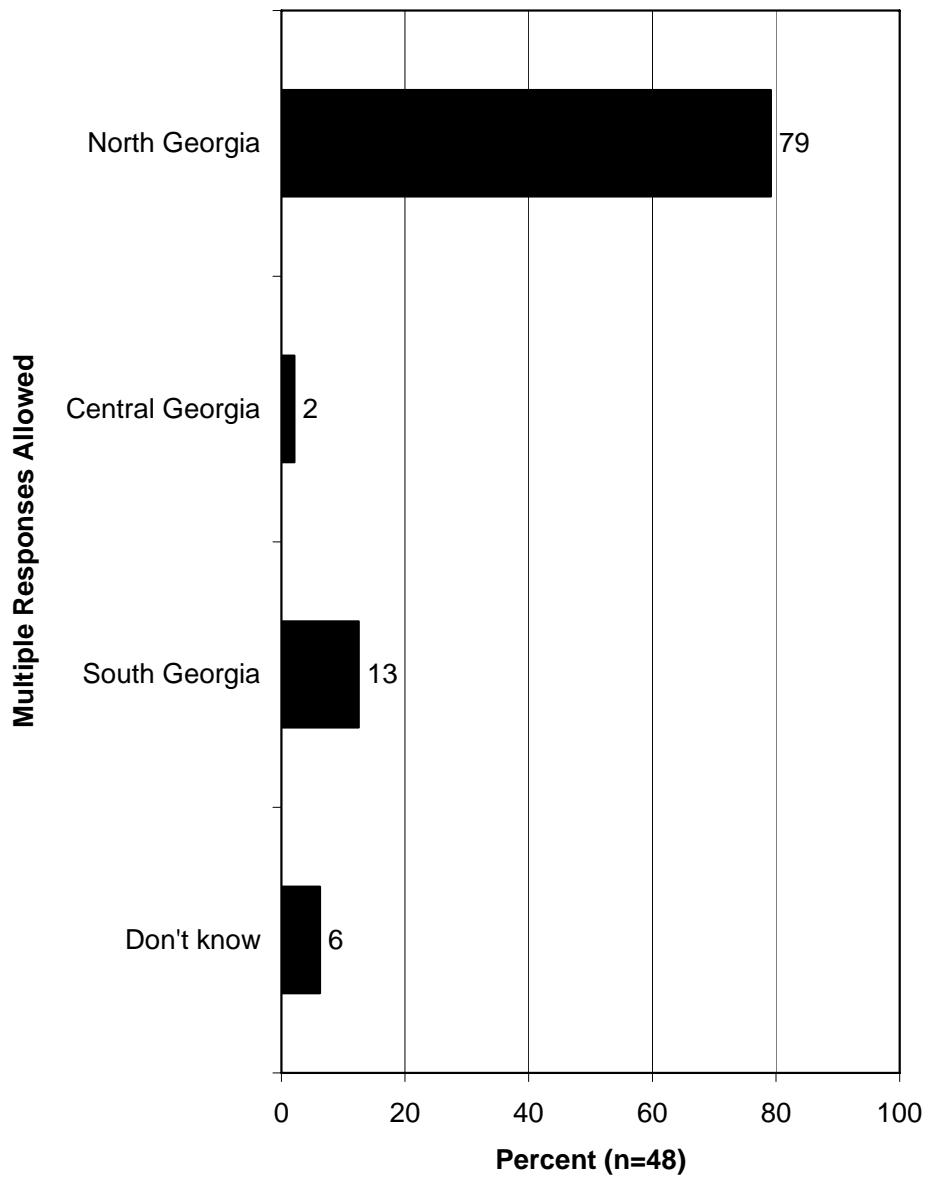


| | Estimate | Standard Error |
|------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Number of Bear Hunters | 4,960 | 710 |
| Bear Harvest | 413 | 207 |
| Days Hunted Bear | 41,537 | 207 |
| Days per Bear Hunter | 8.38 | |
| Days per Bear | 100.50 | |
| Bear per Bear Hunter | 0.08 | |

Most bear hunters hunted bear in North Georgia during the 2010-2011 season (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Bear Hunting in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia by Region

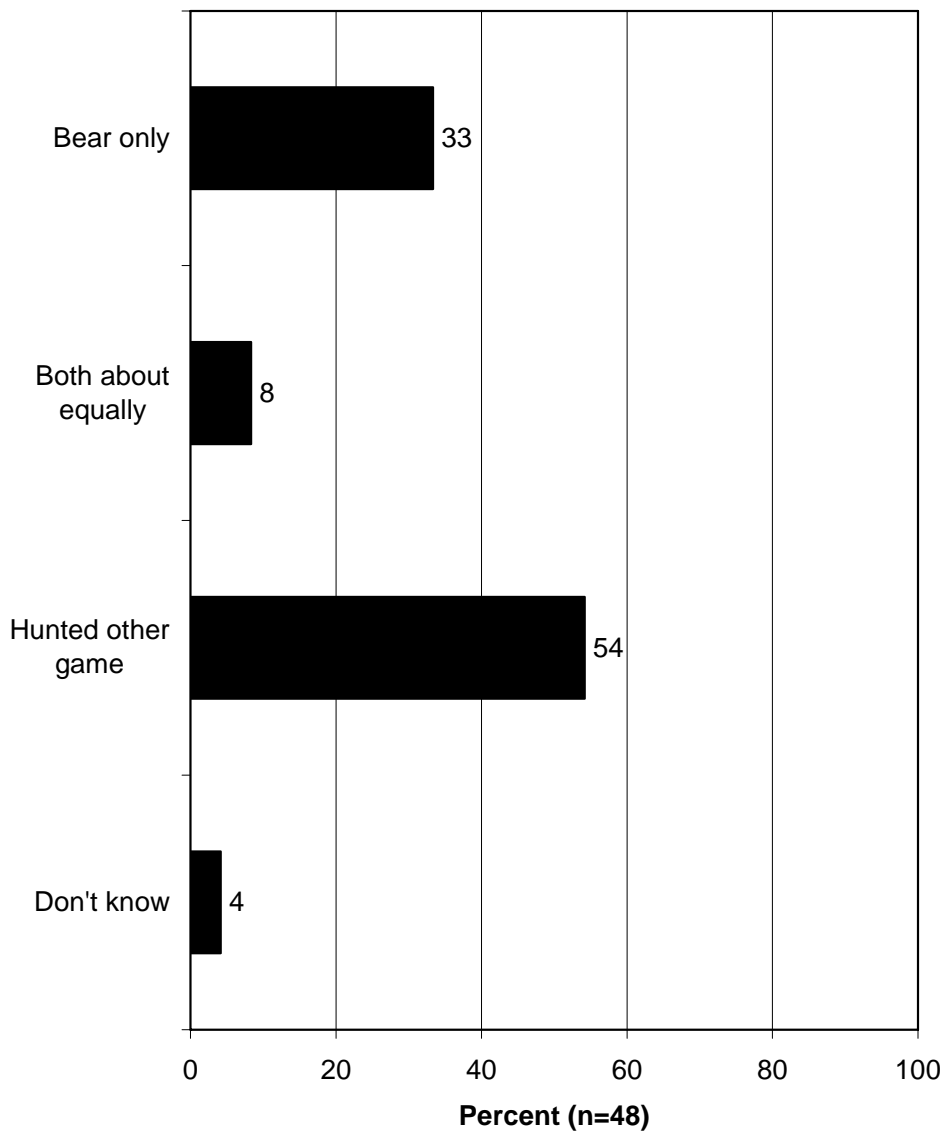
Q260. In the 2010-2011 season, which region(s) did you hunt bear in? (Asked of those who hunted bear in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season.)



Over half of bear hunters do *not* hunt bear exclusively on a typical bear hunting excursion (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Bear Hunters' Hunting of Other Game in the 2010-2011 Season in Georgia

Q261. When you went bear hunting in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season, did you typically hunt bear only or did you hunt other game while hunting bear? (Asked of those who hunted bear in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season.)

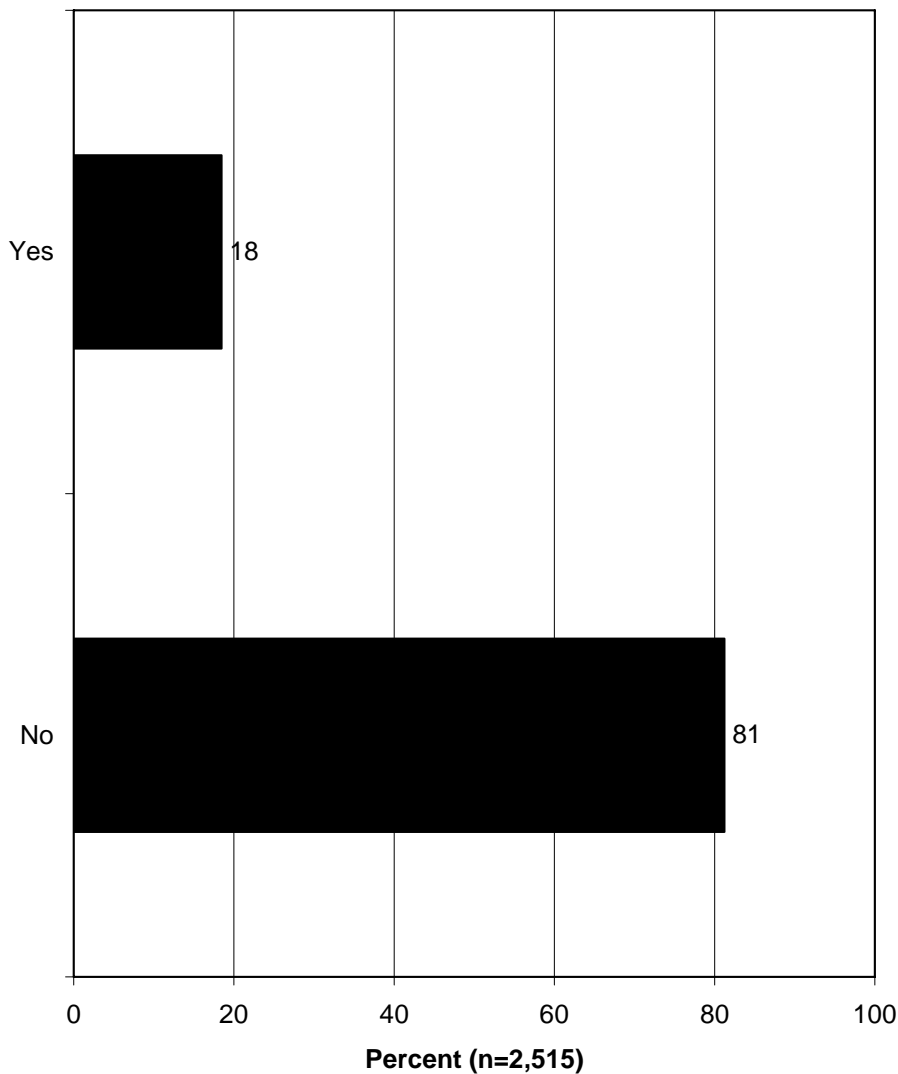


KNOWLEDGE OF AND OPINIONS ON LICENSE FEES

An overwhelming majority of active hunters (81%) did not know prior to this survey that they receive a discount of \$2.75 for renewing their hunting or fishing license before it expires (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Knowledge of Discount for Renewing Hunting and Fishing Licenses

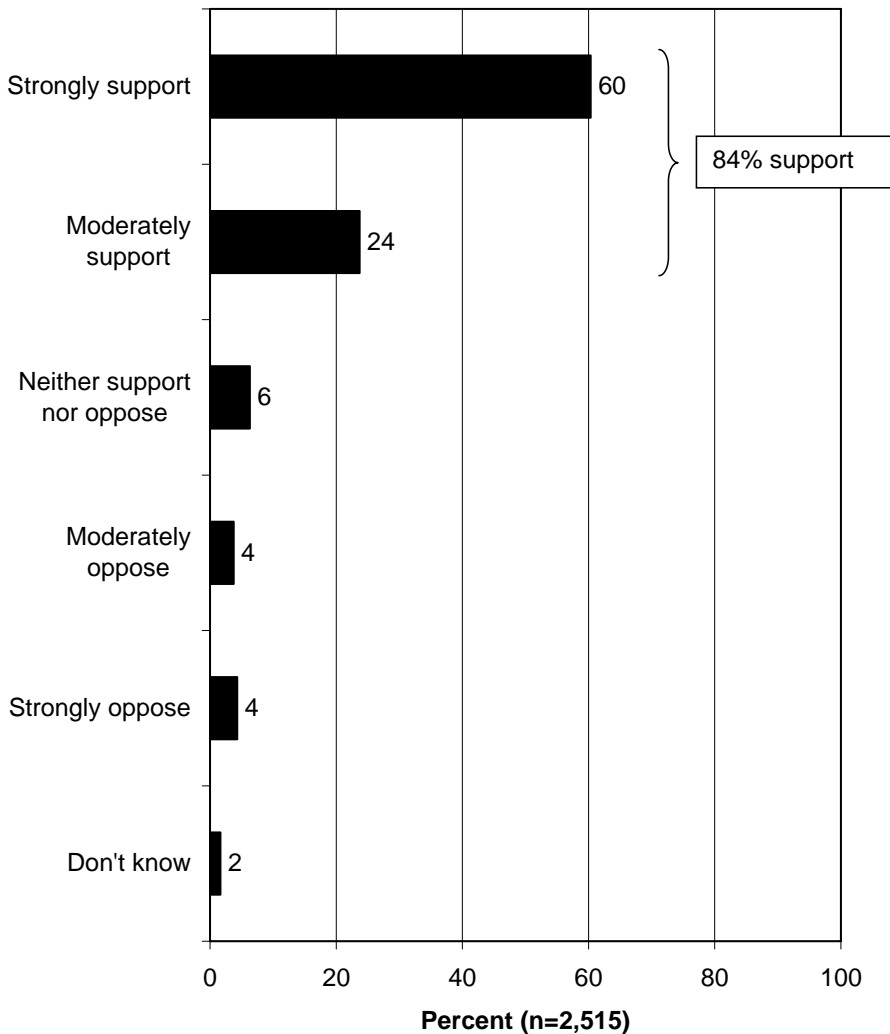
Q281. Prior to this survey, did you know that you receive a discount of \$2.75 on your hunting or fishing license fee if you renew your current annual or two-year license before it expires? (Asked of active hunters.)



After being informed that the convenience fee charged for purchasing and renewing a hunting license is used to pay for the costs charged by the out-of-state vendor who sells the licenses and does not help fund the Department, an overwhelming majority of active licensed resident hunters (84%) support an increase in license fees that is equivalent to the cost of the online convenience fee of \$2.75 if the convenience fee were eliminated so that the Department would receive more of the total license cost to fund its fish and wildlife management activities (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Opinion on Increasing Hunting License Fee If Convenience Fee Were Eliminated

Q283. If the convenience fee were eliminated by using an in-state vendor or Department-run license system, would you support or oppose an increase in hunting license fees that is equivalent to the cost of the online convenience fee of \$2.75? (Asked of active hunters.)



Half of active licensed resident hunters (50%) support requiring a special senior hunting license at a reduced cost rather than the current free hunting license for persons age 65 and older so that these hunters can be counted when the state receives federal funding for paid license holders (Figure 21). However, a substantial percentage (44%) oppose requiring a special senior license at a reduced cost. Figure 22 shows that those less than 50 years old and those 50 years old and older are similar regarding their opinions on this question; however, those 50 years old and older are slightly more likely to *strongly* oppose.

Figure 21. Opinion on Charging a Reduced Fee for Senior Hunting Licenses

Q284. Currently, persons 65 and older are provided a free hunting license in Georgia. As a result, Georgia is unable to count these people as paid license holders and therefore loses out on federal dollars that could come to Georgia to support wildlife management. Would you support or oppose requiring a special senior hunting license at a reduced cost so that these hunters can be counted? (Asked of active hunters.)

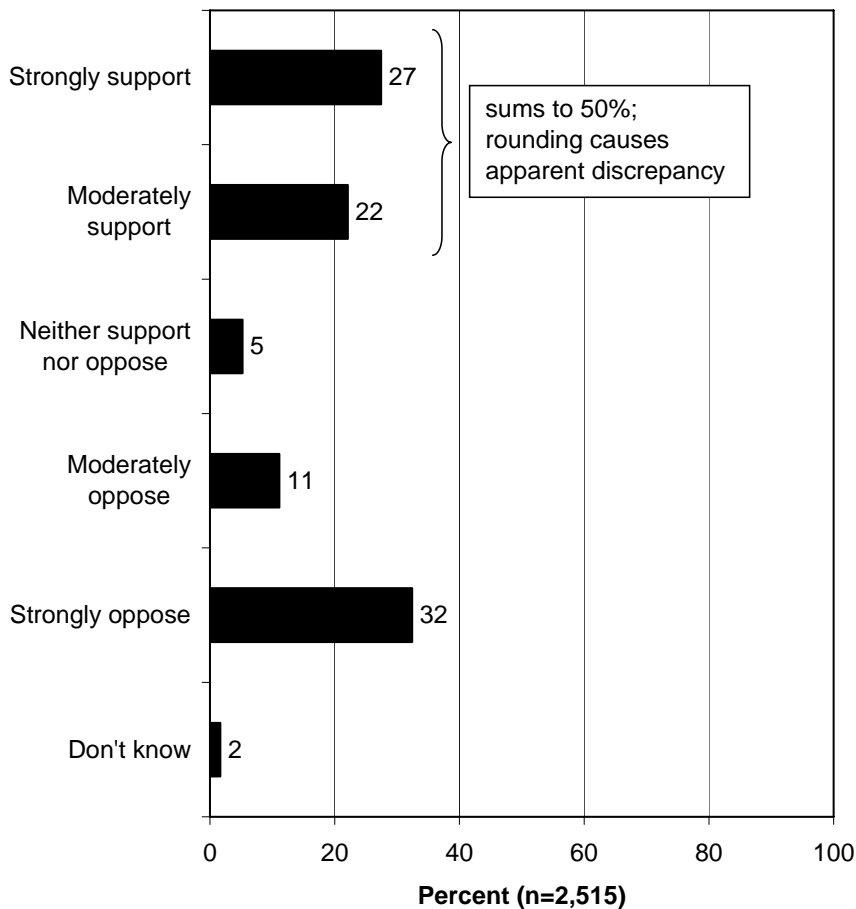
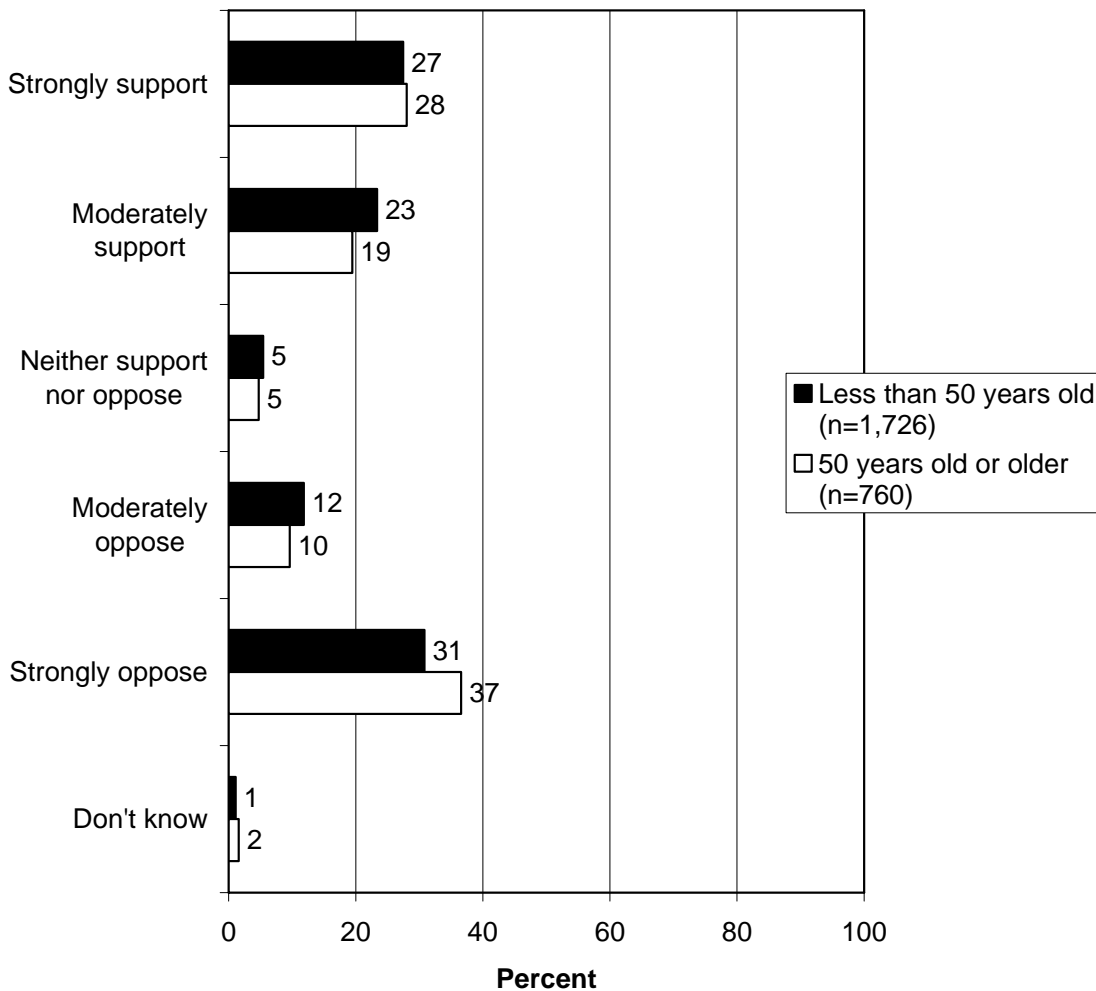


Figure 22. Opinion on Charging a Reduced Fee for Senior Hunting Licenses Crosstabulated by Age

Q284. Currently, persons 65 and older are provided a free hunting license in Georgia. As a result, Georgia is unable to count these people as paid license holders and therefore loses out on federal dollars that could come to Georgia to support wildlife management. Would you support or oppose requiring a special senior hunting license at a reduced cost so that these hunters can be counted? (Asked of active hunters.)

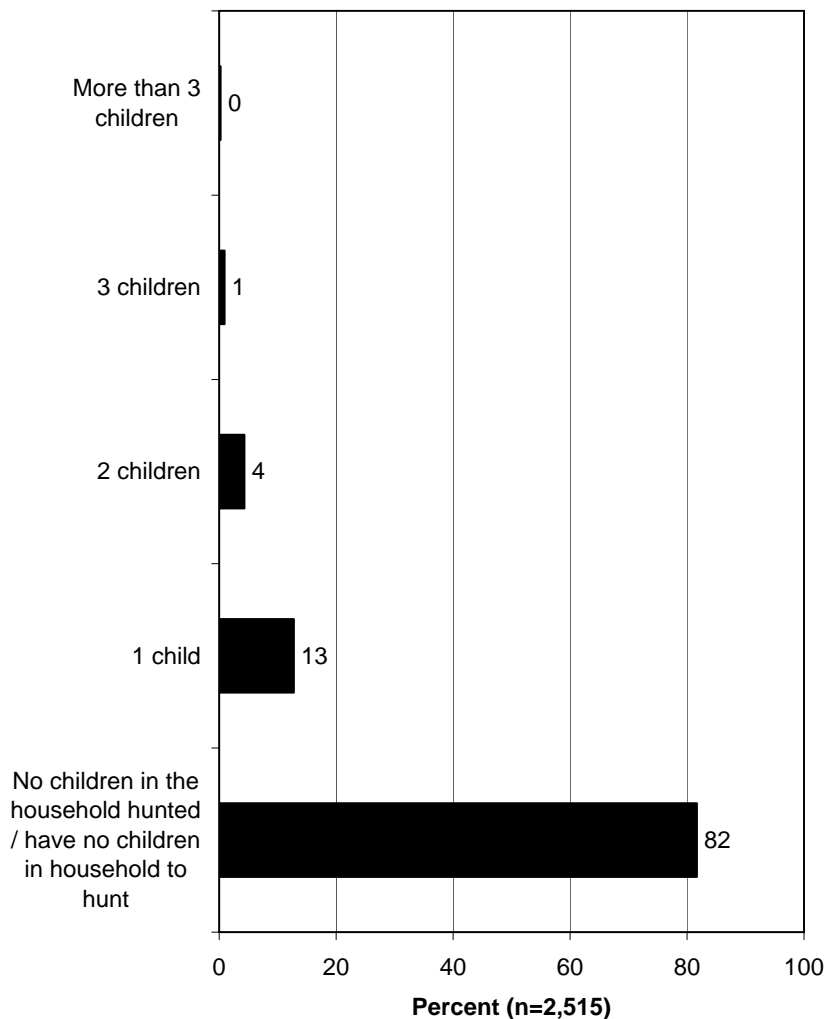


DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Less than a fifth of Georgia's active hunters (18%) have a child living in the household who hunted deer in Georgia during the 2010-2011 season (Figure 23). This graph includes licensed resident hunters who hunted (any species) in the 2010-2011 season and who have children living in the household that may or may not have hunted deer, and licensed resident hunters who hunted but do not have any children living in the household.

Figure 23. Percent of Active Licensed Hunters Who Have at Least One Child Living in the Household Who Hunted Deer in Georgia in the 2010-2011 Season

Q290. How many children ages 6 to 15 living in your household hunted deer in Georgia in the 2010-2011 season? (Asked of active hunters.)



Georgia’s active hunters are overwhelmingly male (Figure 24). The ages follow a bell curve with the peak in the 45-54 and 35-44 years old categories (Figure 25).

Figure 24. Respondent’s Gender

Q298. Respondent's gender (observed, not asked, by interviewer). (Asked of active hunters.)

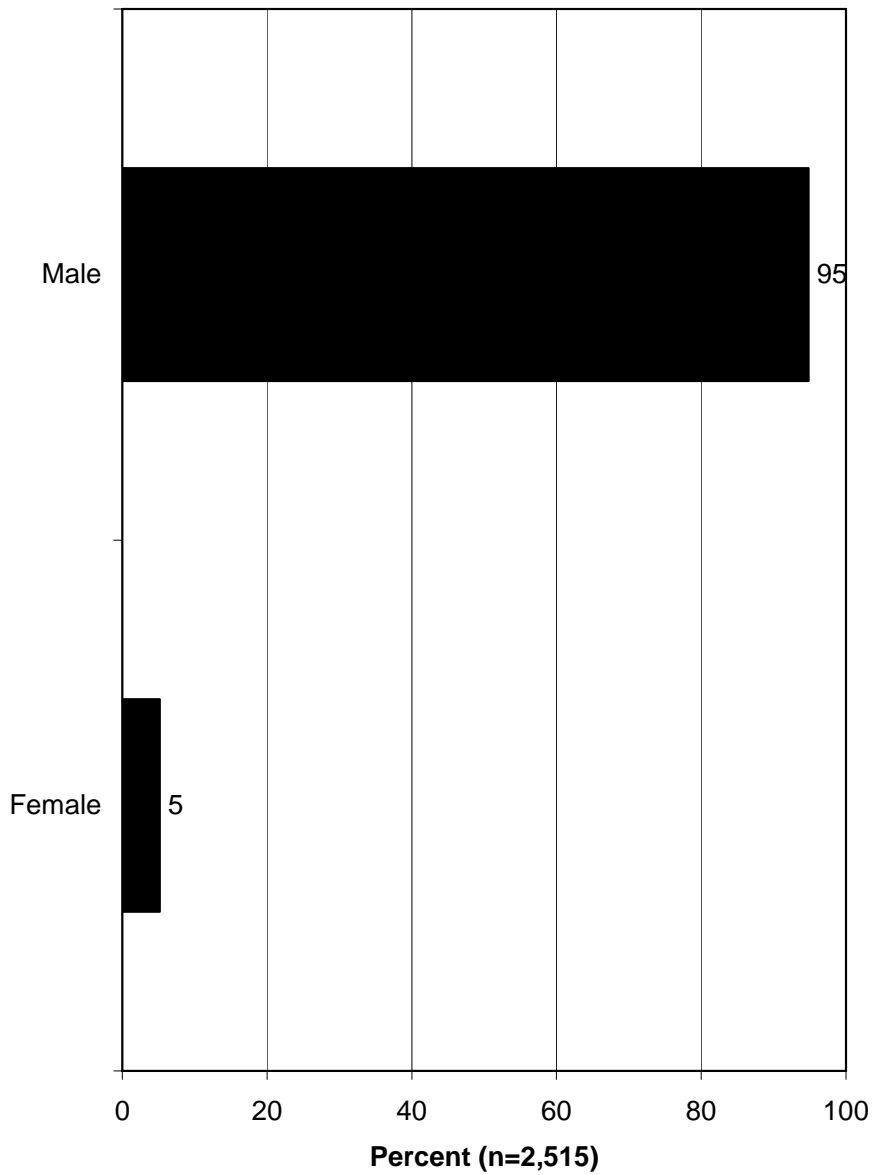
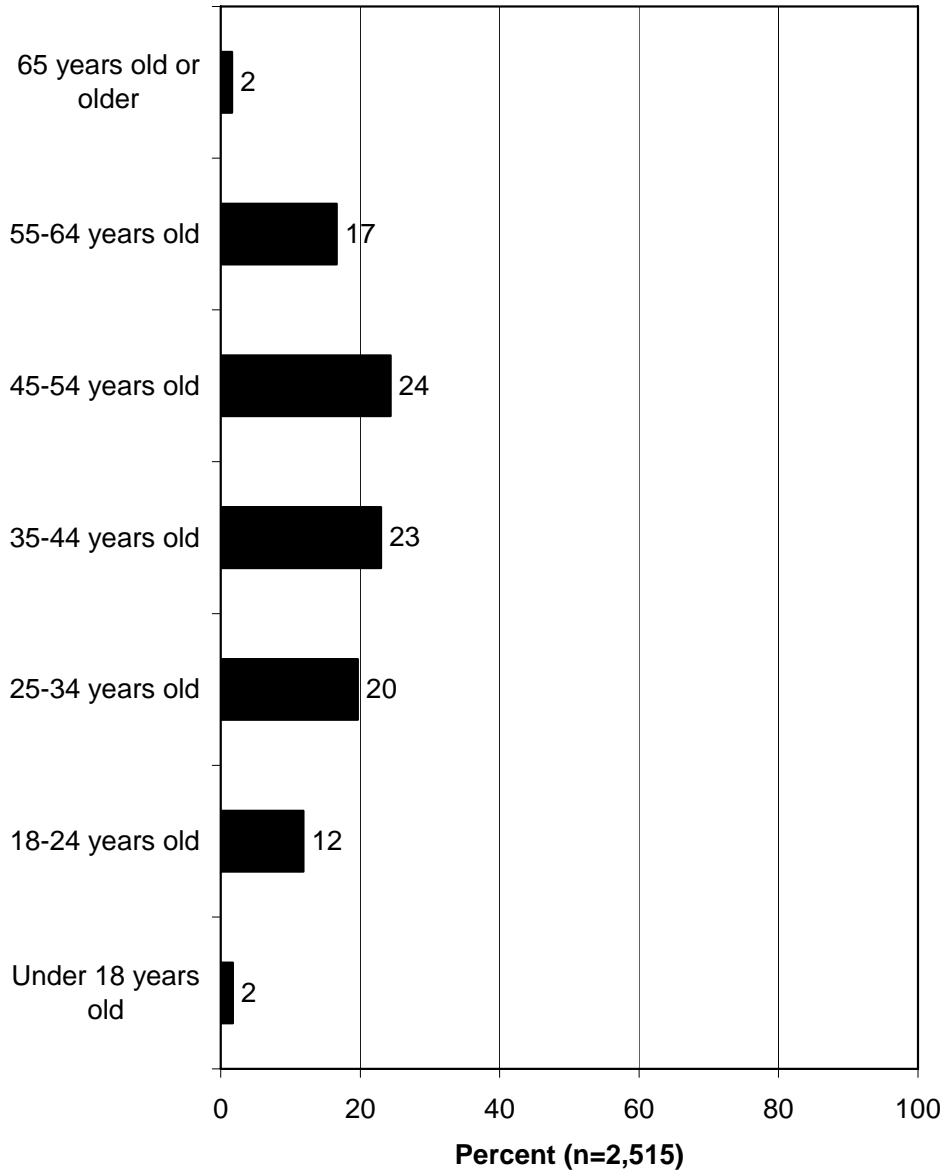


Figure 25. Respondent's Age**Q292. Respondent's age. (Asked of active hunters.)**

ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is a nationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Its mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing its in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center with 45 professional interviewers, Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communications plans, need assessments, and program evaluations on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Clients include most of the federal and state natural resource, outdoor recreation, and environmental agencies, and most of the top conservation organizations. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities, including the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Auburn, Texas Tech, the University of California—Davis, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Penn State, West Virginia University, and others.

Among the wide range of work Responsive Management has completed during the past 20 years are studies on how the general population values natural resources and outdoor recreation, and their opinions on and attitudes toward an array of natural resource-related issues. Responsive Management has conducted dozens of studies of selected groups of outdoor recreationists, including anglers, boaters, hunters, wildlife watchers, birdwatchers, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, and campers, as well as selected groups within the general population, such as landowners, farmers, urban and rural residents, women, senior citizens, children, Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans. Responsive Management has conducted studies on environmental education, endangered species, waterfowl, wetlands, water quality, and the reintroduction of numerous species such as wolves, grizzly bears, the California condor, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has conducted research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their memberships and donations. Responsive Management has conducted major agency and organizational program needs assessments and helped develop more effective programs based upon a solid foundation of fact. Responsive Management has developed websites for natural resource organizations, conducted training workshops on the human dimensions of natural resources, and presented numerous studies each year in presentations and as keynote speakers at major natural resource, outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental conferences and meetings.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management routinely conducts

surveys in Spanish and has also conducted surveys and focus groups in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

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