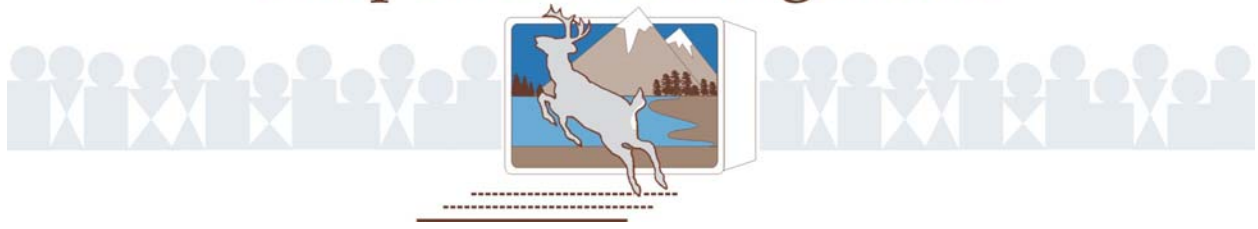


# Responsive Management



## **THE OPINIONS OF RESIDENTS, DEER HUNTERS, AND LANDOWNERS ON DEER MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND**

**Conducted for Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

**by Responsive Management**

**2007**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to determine the opinions of residents, active deer hunters (they had hunted deer within the previous 2 years), and landowners (who own at least 20 acres and who grow commercial agricultural crops) on the deer population in Maryland, deer hunting, and deer management. The study entailed three telephone surveys of the three aforementioned groups. For the surveys, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership.

The telephone survey questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the MDNR, with additional input from the Maryland Deer Management Plan Stakeholder Group and the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission on subject areas about which they wanted information in the survey. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires and revised them, as necessary, based on the pre-tests. Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. The surveys were conducted in June-July 2007. Responsive Management obtained a total of 405 completed interviews of general population in Maryland, 407 completed interviews of active Maryland deer hunters, and 406 completed interviews of large landowners who grow commercial agricultural crops. Note that in the report, the general population are also referred to as Maryland residents, and the latter two groups are referred to simply as “deer hunters” and “large landowners” or “landowners.” The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1. The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

### **OPINIONS ON DEER IN GENERAL**

- All groups surveyed have large majorities who enjoy seeing and having deer around, despite problems that deer cause; low percentages unequivocally regard deer as a nuisance—even large landowners who have crops that can be damaged by deer. All groups surveyed also

agree that deer are important enough that some damage to yards, gardens, and/or crops can be tolerated. Finally, all groups agree that deer are an important part of the balance of nature.

## **OPINIONS ON THE DEER POPULATION**

- The majority of all groups (with a large majority of hunters) agree that Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population.
- More than three-fourths of Maryland residents and nearly all deer hunters and large landowners agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.
  - Even a majority of non-hunters in the general population of Maryland agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.
  - In a question that has bearing on a healthy deer herd, large majorities of all three groups would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where chronic wasting disease is found.
- A large majority of Maryland residents support controlling deer populations on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas.
  - Even a majority of non-hunters in the general population of Maryland support controlling deer populations on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas.
- Maryland residents and deer hunters most commonly say that the deer population where they live is just right; however, they are otherwise more likely to say that the population is too high than to say it is too low. Likewise, they most commonly say they would like to see the population stay the same, but, again, otherwise the percentage wanting a decrease exceeds the percentage wanting an increase.
  - Aesthetic considerations are the top reasons for wanting an increase among residents, and aspects of better hunting are the top reasons among hunters.
  - Residents and hunters wanting a decrease most commonly give as their reasons to reduce vehicle collisions with deer and to reduce deer damage and deer-human conflicts.

- The majority of large landowners say that the deer population where they live is too high. Otherwise, they are much more likely to say that the population is just right than to say it is too low. Likewise, a majority would like to see the population decreased, while a substantial percentage say they want it to stay the same, and very few say that they want the population increased.
- Those landowners who want an increase in the deer population were asked for their reasons: improving hunting opportunities and harvest success, as well as simply wanting to see more deer, are the top reasons for wanting an increase.
  - Those landowners who want a decrease were asked for their reasons: by far, the most popular answer is to reduce losses to crops (and timber) from deer, as well as to reduce vehicle collisions with deer and damage to yards, gardens, and flower beds.
- Interestingly, hunters, who indicated that the deer population is either just right or too high have different feelings about where they hunt. For most of their hunting areas, hunters are more likely to think that the deer population is too low than to think it is too high (although for all areas, there are many hunters who indicate that the deer population is just right). For most hunting areas, a majority of hunters want the deer population increased.
- The tabulations below summarize feelings about deer in the various places among the three groups surveyed.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Too High</b>	<b>Just Right</b>	<b>Too Low</b>
Maryland residents	Where they live	28	50	14
Deer hunters	Where they live	31	44	22
Large landowners	Where they live	59	33	4
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region A	Public lands in Region A	2	32	63
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region A	Private lands in Region A	1	48	47
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region B	Public lands in Region B	12	44	41
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	4	40	54
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region B	Private lands in Region B	23	55	21

<b>Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Wants a Decrease</b>	<b>Wants It to Stay the Same</b>	<b>Wants an Increase</b>
Maryland residents	Where they live	28	59	10
Deer hunters	Where they live	23	48	28
Large landowners	Where they live	55	38	4
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region A	Public lands in Region A	2	25	71
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region A	Private lands in Region A	3	27	69
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region B	Public lands in Region B	6	35	57
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	2	35	63
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region B	Private lands in Region B	15	49	36

## **KNOWLEDGE OF AND OPINIONS ON DEER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND**

- The majority of all three groups agree that Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population, and less than 1 in 5 of any group disagree.
- Regarding knowledge of the MDNR's Deer Management Program: hunters are the most knowledgeable, landowners are next, and the general population are the least knowledgeable.
- A large majority of Maryland residents support controlling deer populations on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas. Follow-up questions asked about various methods to control deer (with landowners being asked about control methods, too). The percentages are tabulated for ease of readability.
  - In an open-ended question—one in which no response set is read and respondents can give any response (given prior to questions about specific methods so as to not bias the answers)—hunting was the most popular method named for controlling the deer population, followed by biological birth control, and trapping and relocation.
  - After the individual questions about specific methods of controlling deer, a final question asked residents to choose from among the three methods (and including a “no control” response) that they would want the MDNR to use, and legal, recreational hunting was the most favored, followed by immunocontraceptives and use of sharpshooters.

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Total support	Strongly oppose	Moderately oppose	Total opposition
Do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Prior to an explanation of potential drawbacks of this method.) (Among Maryland residents.)	31	26	<b>57</b>	22	9	<b>31</b>
Given this information [i.e., the explanation of potential drawbacks], do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (After explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among Maryland residents.)	25	25	<b>50</b>	26	12	<b>38</b>
Do you support or oppose the use of <b>regulated archery hunting</b> to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Among Maryland residents.)	23	25	<b>48</b>	27	13	<b>40</b>
Do you support or oppose <b>using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives</b> to wild deer? [Note that this question specifically tied the program to use of tax revenues.] (Among Maryland residents.)	17	27	<b>44</b>	35	12	<b>47</b>
Do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Prior to explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among deer hunters.)	13	23	<b>36</b>	34	13	<b>47</b>
Do you support or oppose the use of <b>professionals or sharpshooters</b> to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Among Maryland residents.)	14	21	<b>35</b>	39	17	<b>56</b>
Do you support or oppose <b>using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives</b> to wild deer? [Note that this question specifically tied the program to use of tax revenues.] (Among deer hunters.)	10	17	<b>27</b>	53	11	<b>64</b>
Given this information [i.e., the explanation of potential drawbacks], do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (After explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among deer hunters.)	11	15	<b>26</b>	44	17	<b>61</b>

- As noted previously, large majorities of Maryland residents, deer hunters, and landowners would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where chronic wasting disease is found.
- Six questions asked about how important various things should be in making deer management decisions. Maryland residents and landowners rated scientific information and the professional judgement of MDNR biologists as the most important in making deer



management decisions; they rated political concerns as the least important. The percentages are tabulated below for ease of readability, sorted from most important to the least.

Questions asked of Maryland residents.	Very important	Somewhat important	Total important	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Total unimportant
Q72. How important or unimportant should <b>scientific information</b> such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management?	56	28	<b>84</b>	3	5	<b>8</b>
Q73. How important or unimportant should the <b>professional judgement of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	53	29	<b>82</b>	4	5	<b>9</b>
Q75. How important or unimportant should <b>public opinion</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	38	40	<b>78</b>	7	8	<b>15</b>
Q76. How important or unimportant should <b>hunters' concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	31	34	<b>65</b>	14	12	<b>26</b>
Q74. How important or unimportant should the <b>economic impact of hunting in Maryland</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	26	38	<b>64</b>	13	13	<b>26</b>
Q77. How important or unimportant should <b>political concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	9	20	<b>29</b>	47	15	<b>62</b>

Questions asked of large landowners.	Very important	Somewhat important	Total important	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Total unimportant
Q58. How important or unimportant should <b>scientific information</b> such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management?	54	30	<b>84</b>	3	7	<b>10</b>
Q59. How important or unimportant should the <b>professional judgement of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	39	40	<b>79</b>	4	5	<b>9</b>
Q62. How important or unimportant should <b>hunters' concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	42	37	<b>79</b>	6	7	<b>13</b>
Q60. How important or unimportant should the <b>economic impact of hunting in Maryland</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	38	32	<b>70</b>	8	9	<b>17</b>
Q61. How important or unimportant should <b>public opinion</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	20	35	<b>55</b>	16	17	<b>33</b>
Q63. How important or unimportant should <b>political concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	8	18	<b>26</b>	45	16	<b>61</b>

- The state of Maryland is broken down into two hunting regions (Regions A and B). Region A is made up of Allegany and Garrett Counties; Region B is all other counties. Region A deer hunters are split on whether they want deer hunting in Region A managed differently on public versus private lands. Similarly, Region B deer hunters who hunted in Washington and/or Frederick Counties are split on whether they want deer hunting there managed differently on public versus private lands.
- The survey asked deer hunters about their frequency of practicing quality deer management (by harvesting mostly does and refraining from harvesting bucks less than 2½ years old): the overwhelming majority do so always or sometimes. In line with the fact that most deer hunters practice quality deer management, most are in favor of mandatory quality deer management regulations.
  - Prior to the questions above, deer hunters were asked what quality deer management means to them. Most commonly, they say it means bigger bucks and an increased size of deer, an increase in the overall health of the herd, or an increased size of antlers.
- Most large landowners know about deer management or crop damage permits (to allow the reduction of deer on their property), and a substantial percentage use them.

## **DAMAGE FROM DEER**

- About a quarter of Maryland residents and a third of deer hunters have experienced damage to their yard, garden, or crops from deer in the past year. Regarding trends in damage, most commonly Maryland residents and deer hunters say that the incidence of deer damage is about the same as it previously was; otherwise, the percentage thinking that damage is increasing exceeds the percentage thinking it is decreasing by about 2 to 1.
  - When asked if they do anything to prevent damage by deer, the majority of Maryland residents and deer hunters do nothing. Otherwise, hunting (particularly among hunters), fencing, and repellants are the most common preventatives.
- A majority of large landowners in Maryland have experienced damage to their yard, garden, or crops from deer in the past year—this percentage is higher than among the general

population likely because the sample is of large landowners who grow commercial crops, so they have more that can be damaged. When asked specifically about *crop* damage, a large majority of large landowners have had damage from deer. Regarding trends in damage, landowners most commonly say that the incidence of deer damage is about the same as it previously was, but the percentage is nearly the same as the percentage who think that damage is increasing.

- When asked if they do anything to prevent damage by deer, landowners most commonly do nothing, but nearly the same percentage hunt to prevent damage. Obviously, fencing is also a common preventative followed by repellants.
  - When those who had experienced *crop* damage were asked to estimate the dollar amount of damage, the majority had less than \$2,000 in damage from deer.
  - Most large landowners know about deer management or crop damage permits (to allow the reduction of deer on their property). Among those landowners who know of crop damage permits, about a third use them. Most of those landowners who know of crop damage permits are satisfied with the process for obtaining the permits. Finally, there is a regulation that stipulates that all healthy deer harvested for population control and crop damage control be processed and used for food, regardless of the time that they are harvested: the overwhelming majority of large landowners agree with this policy.
- Small, but not insubstantial, percentages of Maryland residents, deer hunters, and landowners—about 1 in 10—have had a vehicular accident with a deer in the past year.
- A majority of Maryland residents support allocating a portion of general state tax revenues to fund the installation of fences and underpasses along highways for animals in an effort to reduce vehicular accidents with deer.
- Public safety is the most common reason for wanting fences and underpasses installed (among those who support doing so), followed by concern for the deer themselves.
- Despite the damage that deer cause, the majority of residents, the overwhelming majority of deer hunters, and the majority of landowners agree that deer are important enough that they (the respondents) are willing to tolerate some damage to yards, gardens, or crops.

## **GENERAL OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING**

- A majority of Maryland residents and landowners are in favor of deer hunting. Indeed, a large majority of large landowners allow deer hunting on their property.
  - Even a majority of non-hunters within the general population of Maryland are in favor of deer hunting, and among non-hunters the percentage in favor exceeds the percentage opposed by slightly more than 2 to 1.
- Large majorities of Maryland residents, deer hunters, and landowners agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.
- When presented with a list of six possible reasons for people to hunt deer in Maryland, residents most commonly select deer population control as the most important reason for hunting deer, distantly followed by hunting for the meat; note that about 1 in 10 indicate that there is no good reason for hunting deer. Deer hunters, on the other hand, who are *personally* involved in hunting, most commonly say that the most important reasons for hunting deer are for the meat or for the sport and recreation. Finally, landowners are like residents in that their top reason is deer population control, distantly followed by for the sport and recreation and for the meat.
- In a question that pertains to the acceptability of hunting, the overwhelming majority of Maryland residents have *not* experienced any problems with hunters in the past 2 years. While large landowners are slightly more likely to have experienced problems with hunters, the large majority of them have *not* experienced any problems.

## **PARTICIPATION IN DEER HUNTING AND HARVEST OF DEER**

- Many questions in the deer hunter and landowner surveys asked about hunting participation. The results are tabulated on the following page.

Group	Location	Type of Game/ Equipment	Timeframe	Percent Who Had Hunted
Deer hunters	Anywhere	Any deer	1 year	97
Deer hunters	Anywhere	Antlerless deer	1 year	72
Deer hunters	Region A	Any deer	2 years	28
Deer hunters	Region B	Any deer	2 years	83
Deer hunters	Public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Any deer	2 years	12
Deer hunters	Private lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Any deer	2 years	23
Deer hunters	Maryland	Any deer/ crossbow	2 years	18
Deer hunters	Maryland	Any deer/over bait	2 years	29
Large landowners	Anywhere	Any deer	Ever	48
Large landowners	Anywhere	Any deer	2 years	26

- Among those who had hunted deer, a majority had harvested a deer. Regarding the number of deer each hunter harvested, they most commonly had harvested only 1 or 2 deer.
- Satisfaction levels of deer hunters for hunting deer has most commonly remained the same over the past 10 years. Otherwise, more say satisfaction has increased than say it has decreased.
- When deer hunters who had harvested at least one deer were asked if they would have harvested *more* deer under certain situations (a list of seven situations were read to the respondents), they most commonly said that they would have harvested more deer if more private landowners allowed deer hunting or if they had been able to take more time off from work. Another common answer was if more public lands were open to hunting.
- Deer hunters who had *not* harvested a deer were asked about nine situations that might have affected their harvest success: they most commonly said that they think that they would have

harvested a deer if more private landowners allowed deer hunting. Other common answers were if they had seen trophy deer, if the deer population was larger, if they had been able to take more time off from work, if there were more public lands open to hunting, and if the season was longer.

- Those deer hunters who did *not* hunt antlerless deer in the previous year most commonly gave as their reasoning that antlerless deer are not trophy deer; other common reasons were that doing so would have a negative effect on the deer population and simple lack of time.
- Landowners who have hunted previously but did not hunt within the previous 2 years were asked for their reasons for not hunting: lack of interest was the top reason, followed by lack of time and health/age. Among landowners who have never hunted, lack of interest and not wanting to kill animals are the top reasons for never hunting.

## **OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS**

- Maryland residents are split on whether additional lands (e.g., parks) should be opened for regulated deer hunting to increase hunting opportunities.
- Residents are about evenly split on the use of archery hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas.
- Opposition far exceeds support for hunting deer over bait among the general population. Among deer hunters, hunting deer over bait is more acceptable, with a slight majority who support being allowed to do so; nonetheless, about a third of deer hunters oppose. When deer hunters were asked specifically about whether regulations should be instituted making it illegal to hunt deer over bait *on private lands*, the large majority oppose such a regulation. Finally, landowners slightly more often oppose than support, although they are fairly evenly split, hunting deer over bait.
  - The most common reasons given by all three groups (among those who support) for supporting hunting deer over bait are to allow hunters to better control the deer population and/or to increase harvest success.

- The most common reasons given by all groups for opposing hunting deer over bait are that it does not give the deer a fair chance and/or that it is unethical to trick deer.
- Opposition exceeds support for deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland among Maryland residents. On the other hand, among deer hunters, a majority support hunting deer on Sundays. Large landowners are like residents in that opposition exceeds support for hunting deer on Sundays.
- The survey asked several questions about bow and crossbow hunting.
  - The survey asked deer hunters about the length of the crossbow season: most commonly they want the number of days for legal crossbow hunting to stay the same; otherwise, slightly more want to see the number of days for crossbow hunting increased than want to see the number of days decreased.
  - The survey also asked deer hunters if they want to have a separate crossbow season (with different dates and bag limits) from the regular bow season: a majority do *not* want a separate season; however, just more than a quarter want to have a separate crossbow season.
  - Deer hunters are split, with slightly more agreement, on whether crossbows should be allowed for the entire bow season (currently they are allowed for only some of the time early in the bow season and then another stretch of time at the end of the bow season).
  - The majority of deer hunters agree that Maryland should expand crossbow seasons in suburban and urban counties.
  - Maryland residents and landowners most commonly say that the allowable distance from a normally occupied structure for legal bowhunting, which is currently set at 150 yards, is acceptable (i.e., it should remain the same); however, a substantial percentage think the allowable distance should be increased.
- The state of Maryland is broken down into two hunting regions (Regions A and B). Region A is made up of Allegany and Garrett Counties; Region B is all other counties. A majority of deer hunters who had hunted in Region A in the past 2 years support reducing the

antlered bag limit in Region A from 3 antlered deer to 2 per year; however, just more than a third oppose such a reduction in the antlered bag limit.

- In a similar question as above regarding Region B, deer hunters who hunted Region B were asked about reducing the total bag limit for antlered deer in Region B from 6 antlered deer to 3 per year or from 6 antlered deer to 2 per year (this sub-sample was divided, each getting either the question about reducing to 3 or reducing to 2). They are fairly evenly split on this question between support and opposition, with neither side being in the majority (because of the small percentage who had no opinion).
- The survey asked about having a single antlered deer bag limit for all seasons rather than three separate bag limits (one for each season—bow, firearms, and muzzleloader): the majority of deer hunters oppose having a single bag limit replace three separate bag limits; nonetheless, more than a third support. Similarly, most deer hunters oppose having a single antlered deer bag limit statewide instead of separate bag limits for Regions A and B; about a third support a single statewide bag limit. Finally, the survey asked about a single antlered deer bag limit for all seasons *and* regions together: a majority oppose, while about a third support.
- Region B deer hunters were also asked about the antlerless bag limit: a large majority support the current bag limit of 10 antlerless deer in Region B for the bow, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons, while just less than a quarter oppose.
- In another regulation pertaining to Region A, deer hunters there are split on whether they want deer hunting in Region A managed differently on public versus private lands.
- In a question pertaining to Washington and Frederick Counties within Region B, deer hunters there are split on whether they want deer hunting in those two counties managed differently on public versus private lands.



- Deer hunters who hunted Region B were asked about their frequency of trying to harvest 2 antlerless deer so that they may harvest a bonus antlered deer (as is required by regulations): while 2 in 5 always or sometimes do so, the majority rarely or never do so. In a follow-up question, the majority of Region B deer hunters who said that they attempt to harvest 2 antlerless deer to be allowed to harvest the bonus antlered deer indicated that they would harvest the same number of antlerless deer even if they would not be allowed to harvest the bonus antlered deer.
- The survey asked deer hunters about their frequency of practicing quality deer management (by harvesting mostly does and refraining from harvesting bucks less than 2½ years old): the majority practice quality deer management always, and the overwhelming majority do so always or sometimes. In line with the fact that most deer hunters practice quality deer management, most are in favor of mandatory quality deer management regulations, while about a quarter oppose such mandatory regulations.
- There is a regulation that stipulates that all healthy deer harvested for population control and crop damage control be processed and used for food, regardless of the time that they are harvested: the overwhelming majority of large landowners agree with this policy.
- Awareness is high among deer hunters of venison donation programs in Maryland for extra harvested deer: more than three-fourths of deer hunters are very aware of venison donation programs.

#### **LANDOWNERS' USES OF LAND AND HUNTING PERMISSION ON LANDS**

- Most of the land of the landowners in the study is used primarily for commercial agricultural crops, but other agricultural uses include livestock production, commercial forestry, orchards, and nurseries.
- An overwhelming majority of large landowners allow deer hunting on their property. However, most of those who allow hunting allow only friends and family. Of those who

allow others besides friends and family to hunt on their property, just more than a quarter charge hunters for that privilege.

- Reasons for allowing only friends and family include not wanting strangers on the property, concern about personal safety, to limit crowding on the land, the poor behavior of hunters, and legal liability.
- In line with their majority opposition to Sunday hunting (as discussed previously in another section of this report), large landowners are less likely to allow Sunday deer hunting on their property than to allow it.

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF AND OPINIONS REGARDING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

- Just less than a third of Maryland residents had heard of chronic wasting disease (CWD) prior to the survey. After being given an explanation of CWD, a majority of Maryland residents said that they are very or somewhat concerned about CWD. Finally, a large majority of Maryland residents would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where CWD is found.
- The overwhelming majority of Maryland deer hunters had heard of CWD prior to the survey, are very or somewhat concerned about CWD, and would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where CWD is found.
- Deer hunters are split on whether they, personally, would decrease their amount of deer hunting in Maryland if CWD were found in the state: while half would not be at all likely to decrease their deer hunting, nearly half would be very or somewhat likely to decrease their deer hunting in Maryland. They were then asked if they would *quit deer hunting entirely* in Maryland if CWD were found in the state: about three-fourths would be not at all likely to quit deer hunting entirely, but a would be very or somewhat likely to do so.
- The majority of large landowners had heard of CWD prior to the survey. After being given an explanation of CWD, the majority of large landowners said that they are very or somewhat concerned about CWD. Also, a large majority of landowners would support a

substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where CWD is found.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT DEER

- The survey asked Maryland residents where they obtain most of their information about deer in Maryland: newspapers were the most common source, followed by television. Among deer hunters, the most common sources of information about deer are the *Maryland Hunting Seasons and Regulations* handbook, magazines, the MDNR Website, newspapers, and brochures/pamphlets. Among landowners, the most popular sources are newspapers, magazines, and word-of-mouth.
- The survey asked Maryland residents about the credibility of five sources of information about deer. Those perceived as the most credible by residents are a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university or a biologist with the MDNR. The percentages are tabulated below. Note that each source had a low percentage perceiving it as “not at all credible”; the low percentages answering very credible or somewhat credible on some of the sources are as a result of a large percentage answering “don’t know.” A second tabulation excludes “don’t know” answers; in this latter tabulation, all sources are perceived as highly credible among residents.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible	Don't know
Q97. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	50	39	<b>89</b>	<b>3</b>	8
Q96. A biologist with the MDNR	60	27	<b>87</b>	<b>2</b>	11
Q95. Humane Society of the United States	40	38	<b>78</b>	<b>12</b>	10
Q98. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	19	44	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>	24
Q94. Fund for Animals	8	23	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	62

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Don't know answers excluded.)	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible
Q96. A biologist with the MDNR	67	30	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>
Q97. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	55	42	<b>97</b>	<b>4</b>
Q95. Humane Society of the United States	44	42	<b>86</b>	<b>13</b>
Q98. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	25	58	<b>83</b>	<b>16</b>
Q94. Fund for Animals	22	60	<b>82</b>	<b>18</b>

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

- The survey also asked large landowners about the credibility of the same five sources of information about deer. Those perceived as the most credible by landowners are a biologist with the MDNR or a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university. The percentages are tabulated below. A second tabulation excludes “don’t know” answers. In this latter tabulation, sources that are perceived as highly credible are a biologist with the MDNR; a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university; and magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible	Don't know
Q115. A biologist with the MDNR	45	36	<b>81</b>	<b>3</b>	16
Q116. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	36	43	<b>79</b>	<b>6</b>	15
Q117. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	23	35	<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	33
Q114. Humane Society of the United States	15	37	<b>52</b>	<b>29</b>	20
Q113. Fund for Animals	3	13	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	67

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Don't know answers excluded.)	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible
Q115. A biologist with the MDNR	53	43	<b>96</b>	<b>4</b>
Q116. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	42	50	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>
Q117. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	35	53	<b>88</b>	<b>11</b>
Q114. Humane Society of the United States	19	46	<b>65</b>	<b>36</b>
Q113. Fund for Animals	8	41	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

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## **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to determine the opinions of residents, active deer hunters (they had hunted deer within the previous 2 years), and landowners (who own at least 20 acres and who grow commercial agricultural crops) on the deer population in Maryland, deer hunting, and deer management. The study entailed three telephone surveys of the three aforementioned groups. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

For the surveys, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. In addition, 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 questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the MDNR, with additional input from the Maryland Deer Management Plan Stakeholder Group and the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission on subject areas about which they wanted information in the survey. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires and revised them, as necessary, based on the pre-tests.

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 instruments, reading of the survey instruments, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instruments. 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 edited each completed survey record to ensure clarity and completeness.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern Standard 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 surveys were conducted in June-July 2007. Responsive Management obtained a total of 405 completed interviews of general population in Maryland, 407 completed interviews of active Maryland deer hunters, and 406 completed interviews of large landowners who grow commercial agricultural crops. Note that in the report, the general population are also referred to as Maryland residents, and the latter two groups are referred to simply as “deer hunters” and “large landowners” or “landowners.”

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1 (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 instruments were 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.

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. Sampling errors are shown in the tabulation on the following page. Sampling errors were calculated using the formula shown on the following page as well.



Sample	Sample Size	Population Size	Sampling Error
Maryland residents 18 years of age and older	405	4,206,179	4.869
Maryland hunting license holders	407	84,538	4.846
Maryland landowners who own at least 20 acres of land and who grow commercial crops	406	22,736	4.820

**Sampling error equation:**

$$B = \left( \sqrt{\frac{N_p(.25)}{N_s} - .25} \right) (1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)  
 N<sub>p</sub> = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)  
 N<sub>s</sub> = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

**Note:** This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

Some of the questions discussed in this report are the same or similar to questions from a previous study produced in 1996 titled, *Deer Tracks: A Survey for the Long Range Planning and Management of White-tail Deer Populations in the State of Maryland*, by C. Mason Ross Associates, Inc. The two reports can be compared for those interested in examining trends from 1996 to 2007.

Some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding. Additionally, rounding on the graphs may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

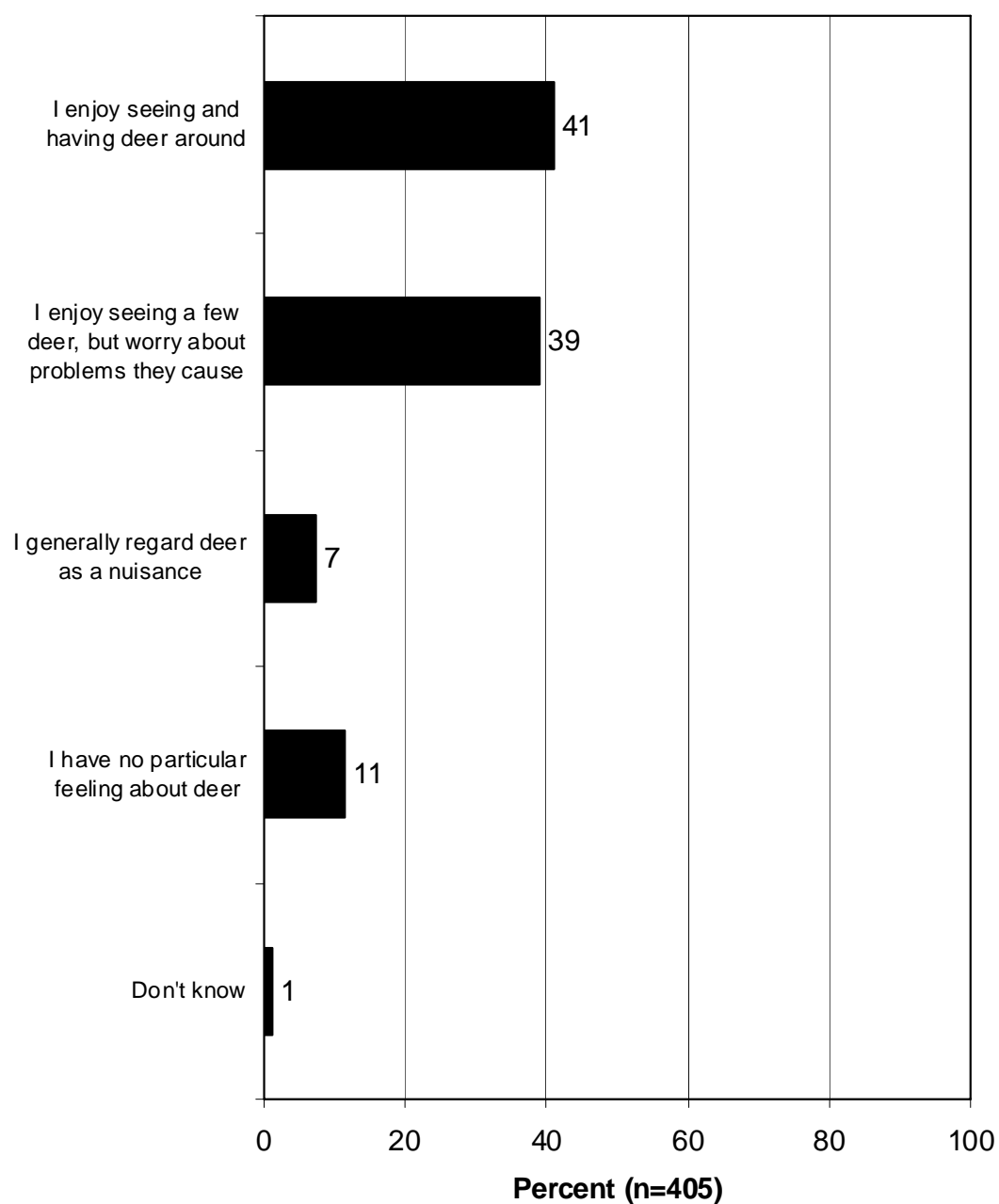
A note about the layout of the report: some graphs pertain to more than one section of the report, so these graphs are shown in more than one section of the report for ease of readability. This ensures that each section of the report is self-contained, and readers interested in only one aspect of the report need only read the section pertaining to that aspect.

## **OPINIONS ON DEER IN GENERAL, THE DEER POPULATION, AND DEER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT**

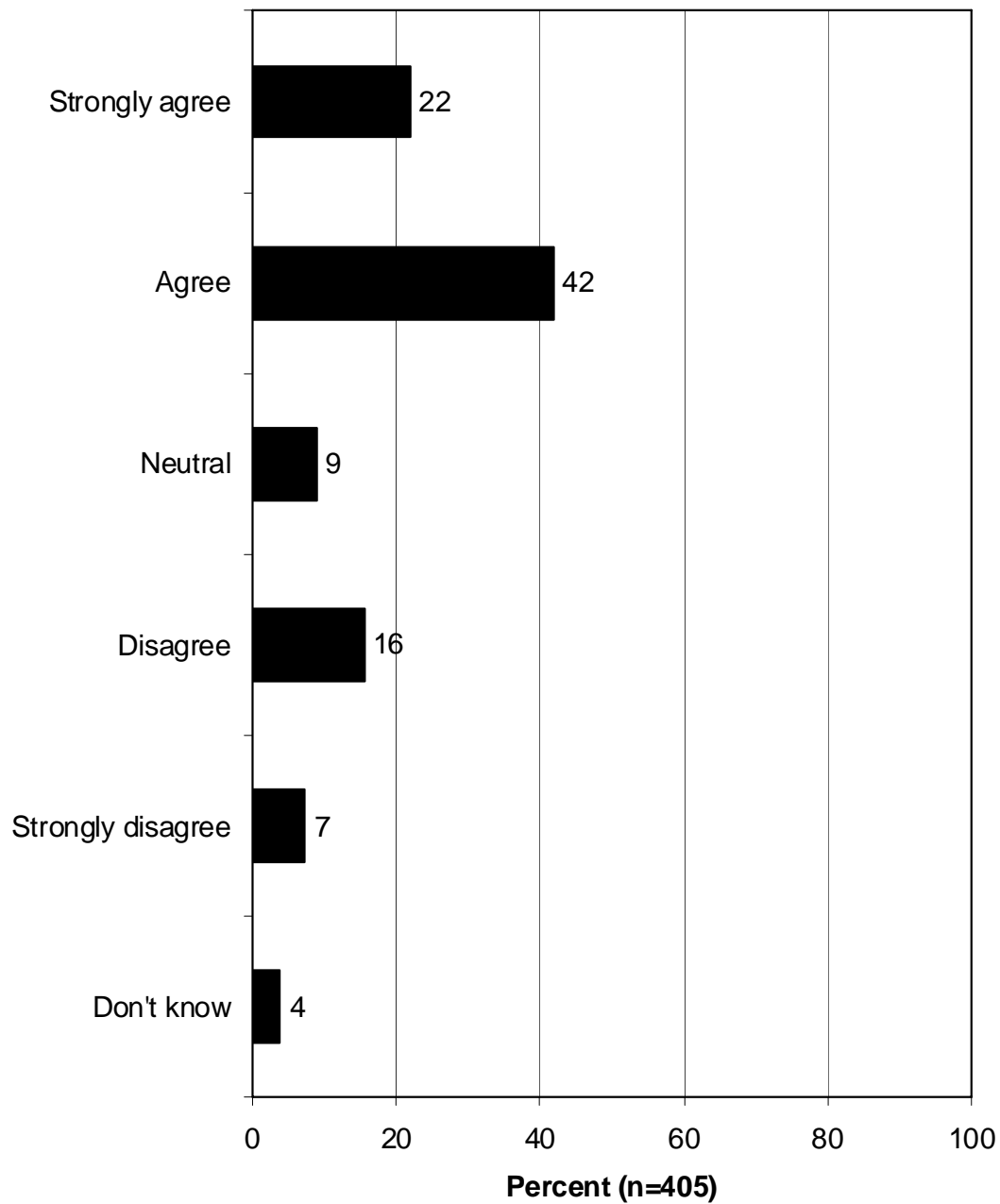
### **OPINIONS ON DEER IN GENERAL**

- Most Maryland residents are split between two answers regarding their feelings about deer in their county: 41% enjoy seeing and having deer around, and 39% enjoy seeing a few deer but worry about the problems they cause; only 7% indicated that they generally regard deer as a nuisance. Additionally, the majority of residents (64%) agree that deer are important enough that they (the respondents) are willing to tolerate some damage to yards, gardens, or crops; 23% disagree.
- Compared to the general population above, Maryland deer hunters are even more amenable to the presence of deer: 66% say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around, and 25% enjoy seeing a few deer but worry about the problems they cause; only 5% generally regard deer as a nuisance. Additionally, the large majority of deer hunters (84%) agree that deer are important enough that they are willing to tolerate some damage to yards, gardens, or crops; 11% disagree.
- Compared to the general population and hunters, large landowners are more likely to regard deer as a nuisance, as 23% gave this answer. Nonetheless, a majority enjoy seeing and having deer around, broken down as follows: 34% say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around, and 39% enjoy seeing a few deer but worry about the problems they cause. Furthermore, a majority of landowners (65%) agree that deer are important enough that they are willing to tolerate some damage to yards, gardens, or crops; 28% disagree.
- Maryland residents overwhelmingly agree (87%) that deer are an important part of the balance of nature. Deer hunters are even more likely to agree that deer are an important part of the balance of nature: 96% agree. Finally, a majority of landowners agree (72%).

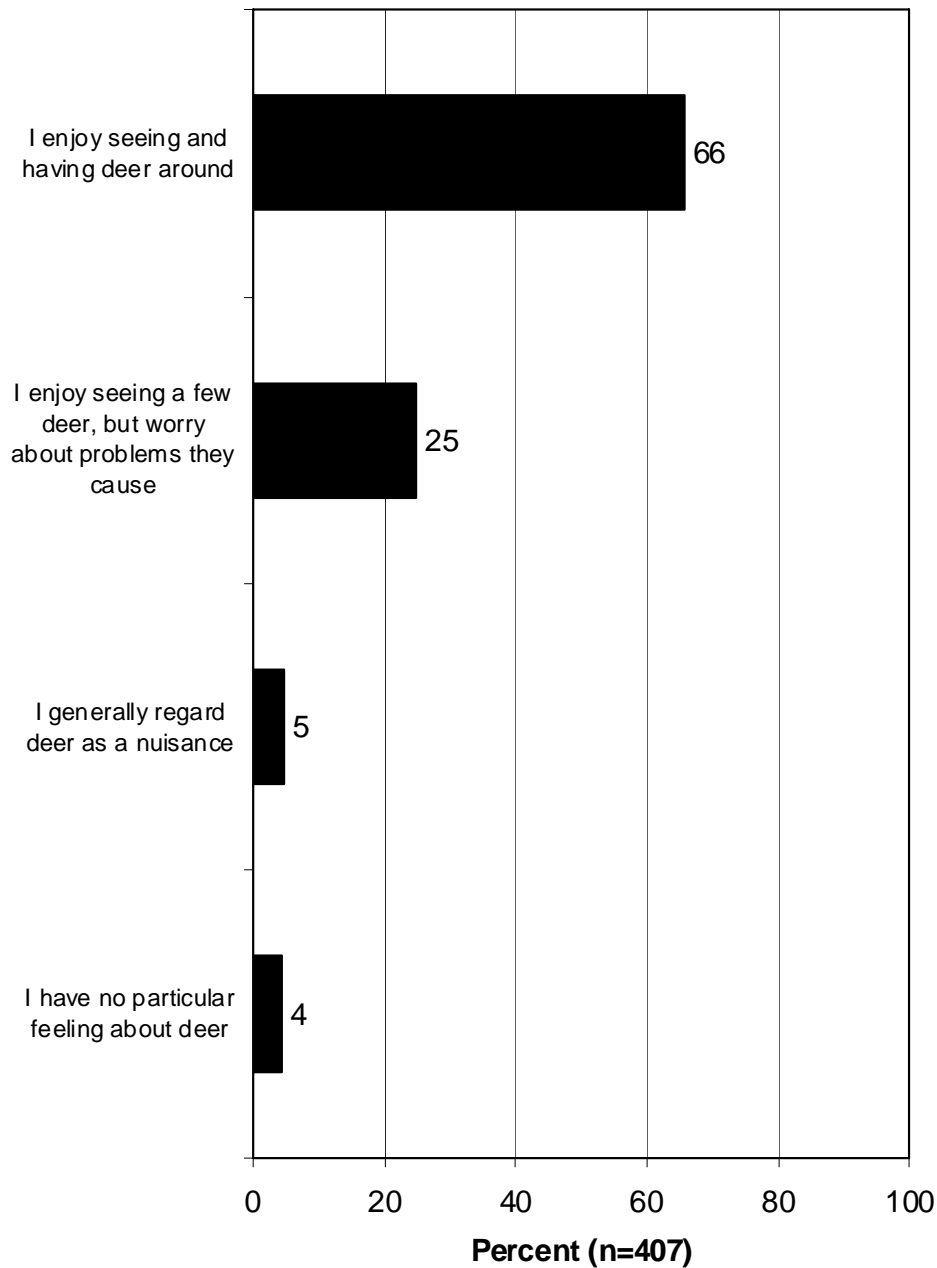
**Q7. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (General population survey.)**



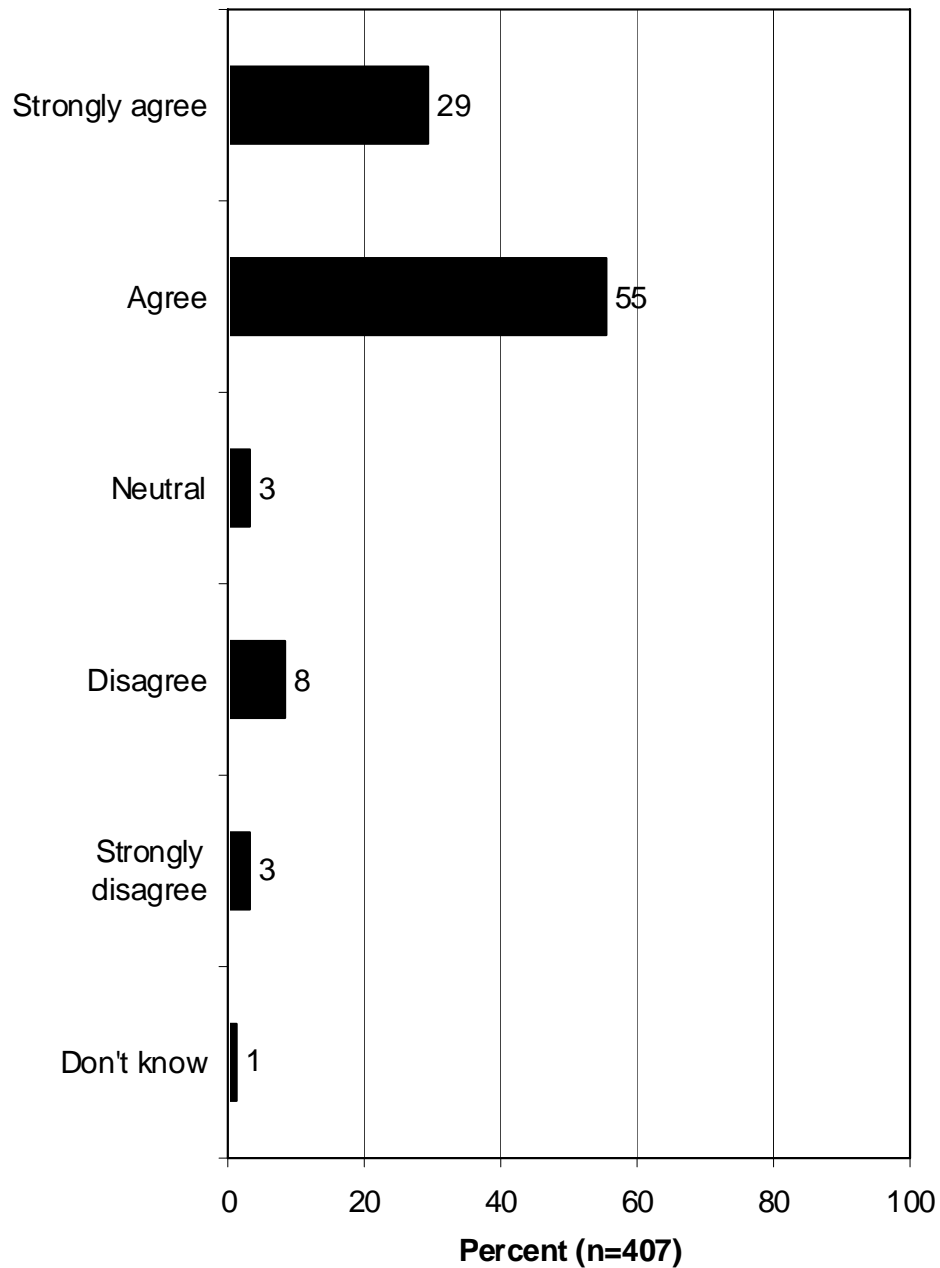
**Q10. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (General population survey.)**



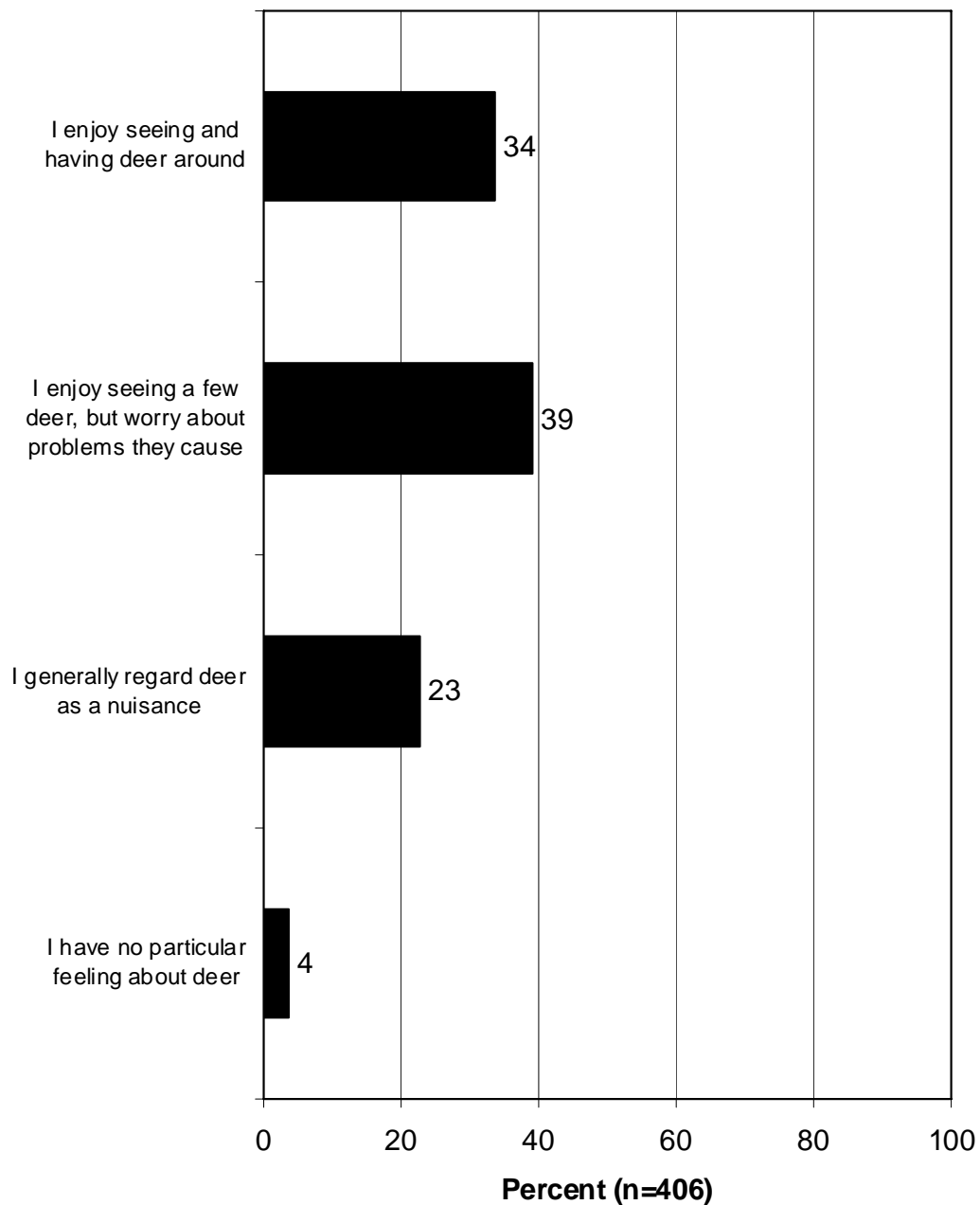
**Q9. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (Hunter survey.)**



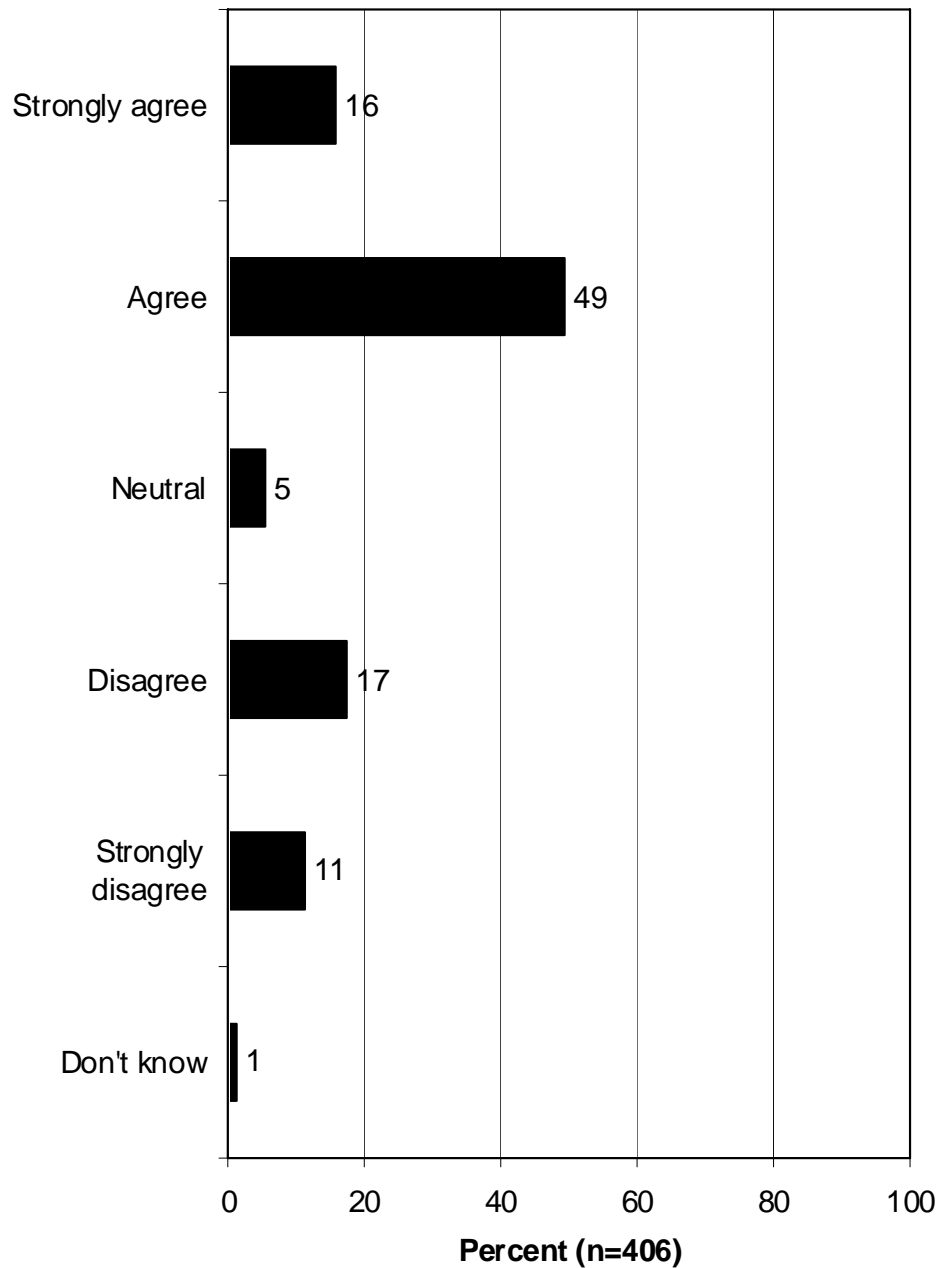
**Q12. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (Hunter survey.)**



**Q11. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (Landowner survey.)**

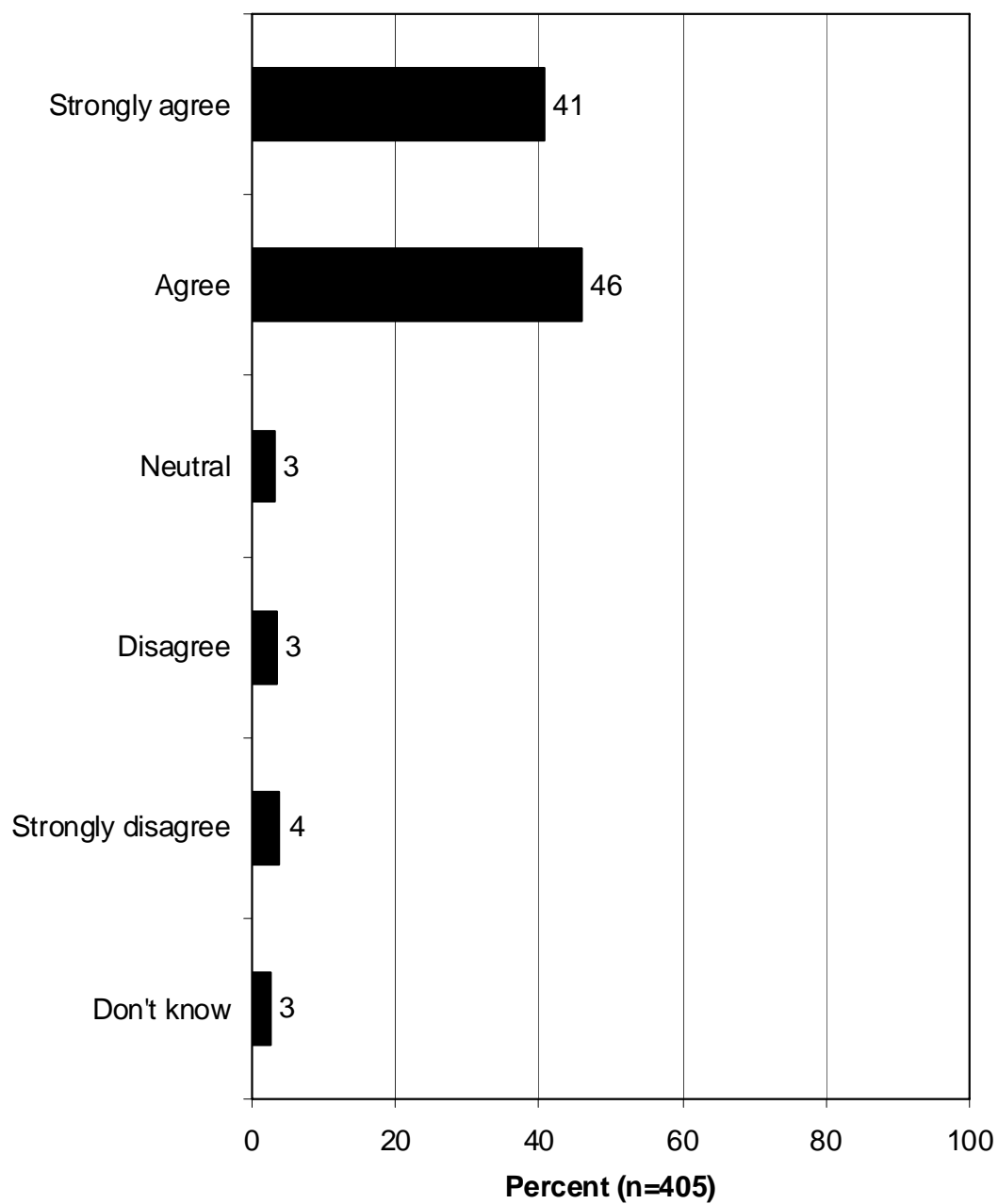


**Q14. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (Landowner survey.)**

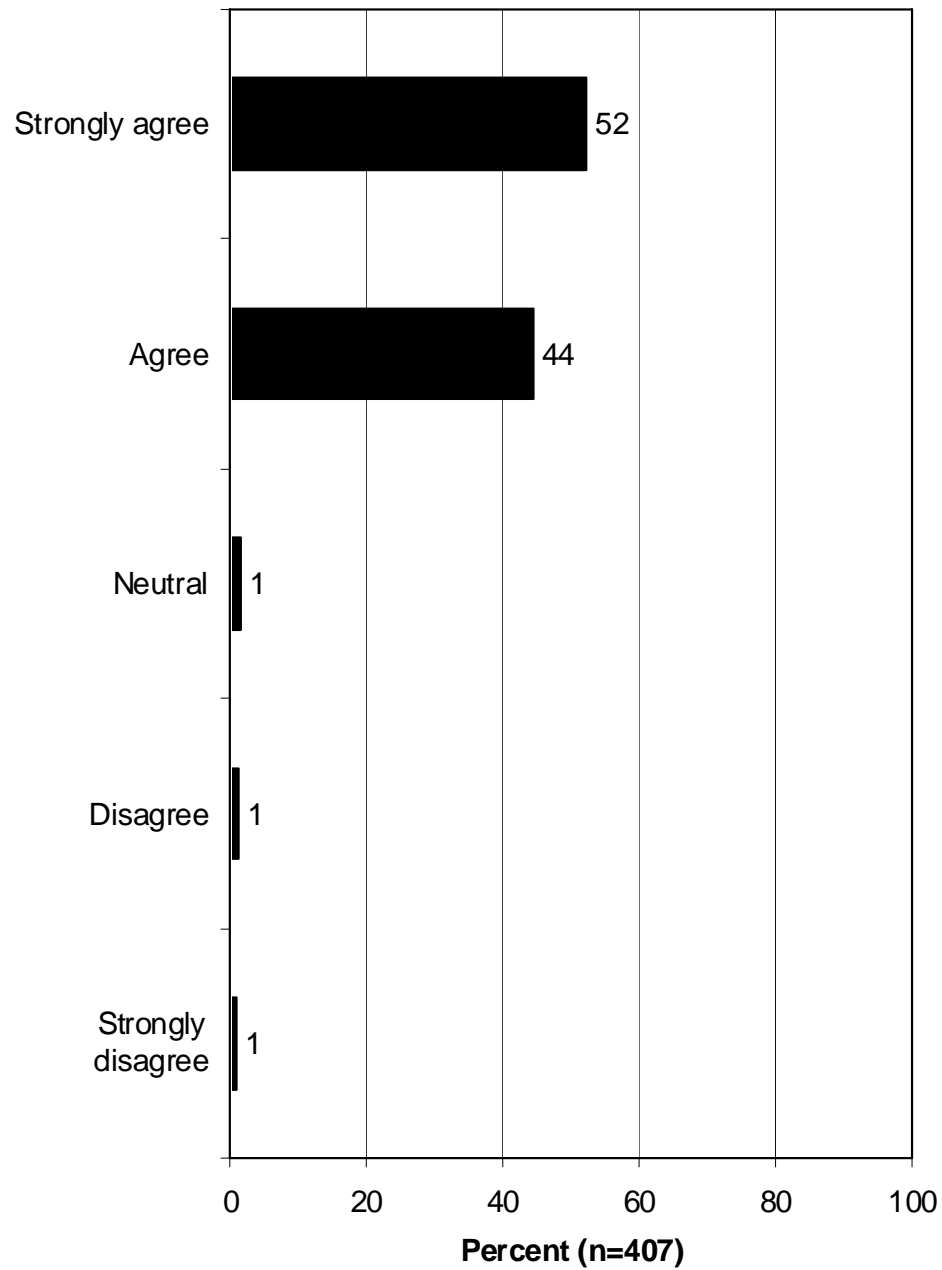




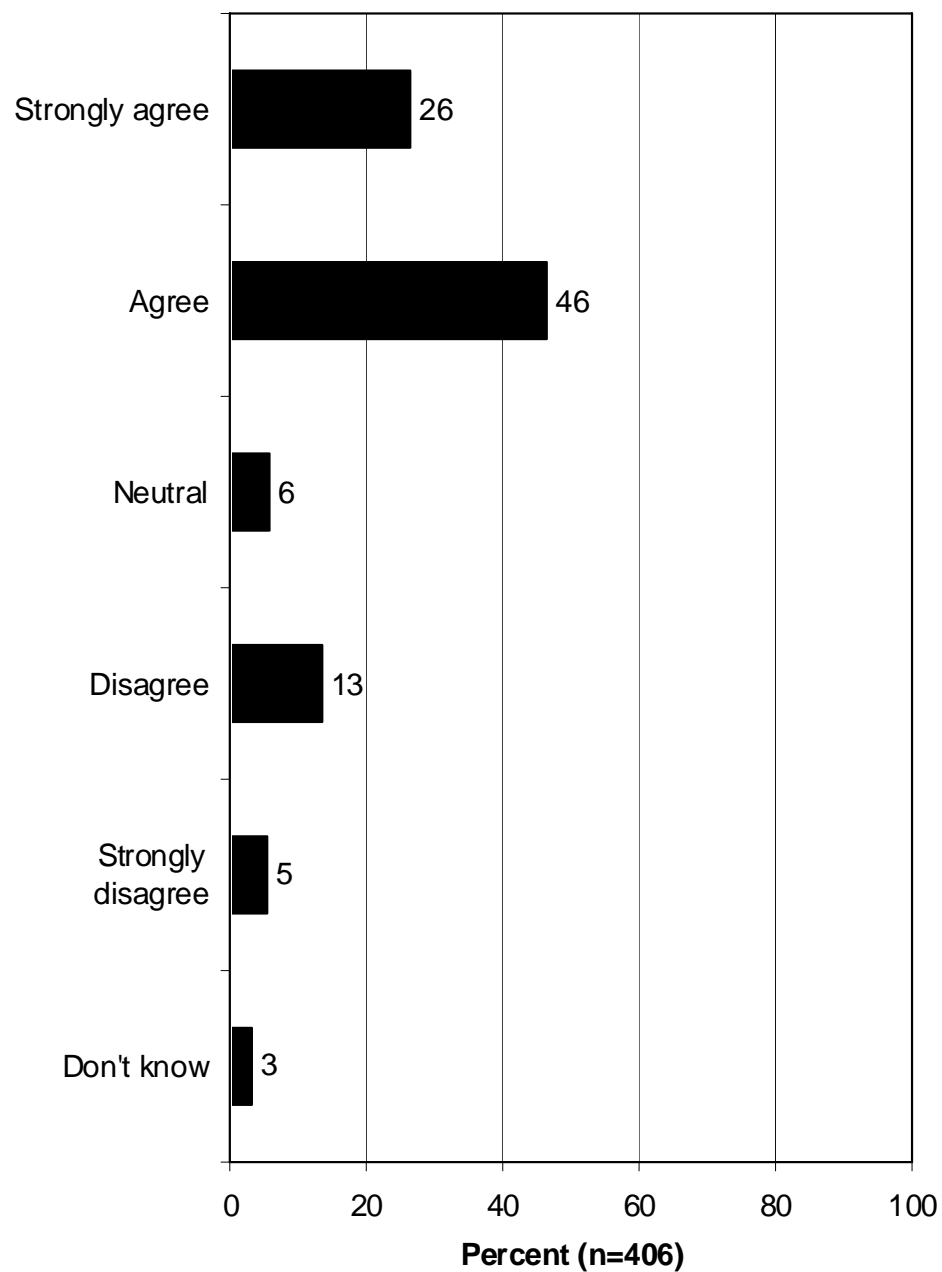
**Q9. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (General population survey.)**



**Q11. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Hunter survey.)**



**Q13. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Landowner survey.)**



## OPINIONS ON THE DEER POPULATION

- The majority of Maryland residents (57%) agree that Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. Because of the relatively high percentage of residents who gave a neutral or “don’t know” answer, only 13% disagree. An even higher percentage of deer hunters (81%) agree that Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population; disagreement is about the same, at 15%. Among large landowners, 54% agree, and 19% disagree.
- More than three-fourths of Maryland residents (76%) agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. Not surprisingly, nearly all deer hunters (99%) and large landowners (94%) agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.
  - Even a majority of non-hunters in the general population of Maryland (70%) agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.
  - In a question that has bearing on a healthy deer herd, a large majority of Maryland residents (72%), Maryland deer hunters (86%), and large landowners (79%) would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where chronic wasting disease (CWD) is found.
- A large majority of Maryland residents (68%) support controlling deer populations on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas; only 18% oppose.
  - Even a majority of non-hunters in the general population of Maryland (66%) support controlling deer populations on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas.
- Half of Maryland residents (50%) say that the deer population where they live is just right; otherwise, they are more likely to say that the population is too high (28%) than to say it is too low (14%). Likewise, a majority of residents (59%) say they would like to see the population stay the same, but otherwise the percentage wanting a decrease (28%) exceeds the percentage wanting an increase (10%).
  - Those residents who want an increase were asked for their reasons: aesthetic considerations are the top reasons for wanting an increase.

- Those residents who want a decrease were asked for their reasons: by far, the most popular answer is to reduce vehicle collisions with deer; other popular answers concern reducing deer damage and reducing deer-human conflicts.
- Just less than half of Maryland deer hunters (44%) say that the deer population where they live is just right; otherwise, they are slightly more likely to say that the population is too high (31%) than to say it is too low (22%). Likewise, just under half (48%) say they would like to see the population stay the same; otherwise, they are about evenly split regarding whether the population should be increased (28%) or decreased (23%).
  - Those deer hunters who want an increase were asked for their reasons: improving hunting opportunities and harvest success are the top reasons for wanting an increase.
  - Those deer hunters who want a decrease were asked for their reasons: by far, the most popular answer is to reduce vehicle collisions with deer; other popular answers concern reducing deer damage and reducing deer-human conflicts.
- The majority of large landowners (59%) say that the deer population where they live is too high. Otherwise, for the most part, they say that the population is just right (33%), and very few (4%) say it is too low. Likewise, a majority (55%) say they would like to see the population decreased, while 38% say they want it to stay the same; very few (4%) say that they want the population increased. When asked about their individual farm, 47% want the deer population to stay the same, but nearly the same amount want it decreased (46%); only 6% want it increased on their farm.
  - Those landowners who want an increase in the deer population were asked for their reasons: improving hunting opportunities (and, to a lesser extent, harvest success), as well as simply wanting to see more deer, are the top reasons for wanting an increase.
  - Those landowners who want a decrease were asked for their reasons: by far, the most popular answer is to reduce losses to crops (and timber) from deer, as well as to reduce vehicle collisions with deer and damage to yards, gardens, and flower beds.
- The state of Maryland is broken down into two hunting regions (Regions A and B). Region A is made up of Allegany and Garrett Counties; Region B is all other counties. The

large majority of deer hunters who had hunted *public* lands in Region A in the previous 2 years indicated that the deer population on public lands there is too low (63%); meanwhile, 32% say the deer population is just right, and almost none (2%) say it is too high. Similarly, 71% of these deer hunters in Region A want the deer population increased there, while 25% say it should stay the same; almost none (2%) want it decreased. Regarding *private* lands in Region A, hunters who hunted private land there are split on the deer population on private lands: 48% said the population is just right, but 47% say it is too low, and almost none (1%) say it is too high. In line with this result, among hunters who hunted private lands in Region A, 69% want the deer population increased, 27% want it the same, and almost none (3%) want it decreased on private lands in Region A.

- Region A deer hunters are split on whether they want deer hunting in Region A managed differently on public versus private lands: 46% agree that management should differ between public and private lands there, but 50% disagree.
- Deer hunters who hunted on *public* lands in Region B were asked about their opinions on the deer population there: they are mostly split between saying the deer population on public lands in Region B is just right (44%) or too low (41%); few say it is too high (12%). In follow-up, the majority of them (57%) want the deer population there increased, while 35% want it to stay the same; very few (6%) want it decreased. Those who hunted on *public* lands in either Washington or Frederick County are split between saying the deer population there is too low (54%) or just right (40%), with few saying the deer population is too high (4%) on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties. In follow-up, the majority of those deer hunters want to see the deer population on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties increased (63%), with most of the rest saying they want the deer population to stay the same (35%). Finally, the majority of deer hunters on *private* lands in Region B say that the deer population there on private lands is just right (55%), with the remaining hunters split between saying too high (23%) or too low (21%). In follow-up, 49% want the deer population on private lands in Region B to stay the same, and 36% want it increased.
- Region B deer hunters who hunted in Washington and/or Frederick Counties are split on whether they want deer hunting there managed differently on public versus private lands:

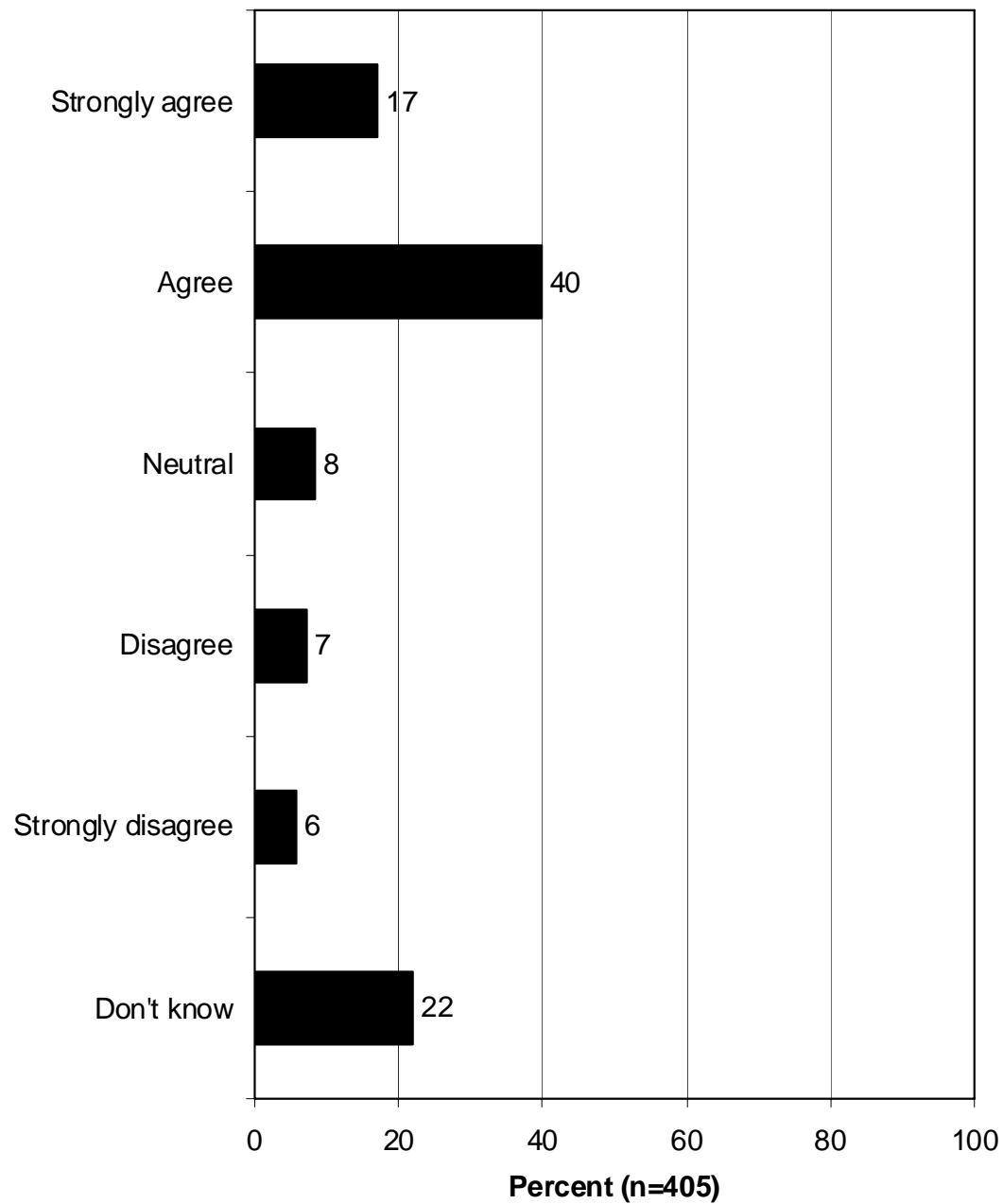
34% agree that management should differ between public and private lands there, and 36% disagree (the rest are neutral or don't know).

- The tabulations that follow summarize feelings about deer in the various places among the three groups surveyed.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Too High</b>	<b>Just Right</b>	<b>Too Low</b>
Maryland residents	Where they live	28	50	14
Deer hunters	Where they live	31	44	22
Large landowners	Where they live	59	33	4
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region A	Public lands in Region A	2	32	63
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region A	Private lands in Region A	1	48	47
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region B	Public lands in Region B	12	44	41
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	4	40	54
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region B	Private lands in Region B	23	55	21

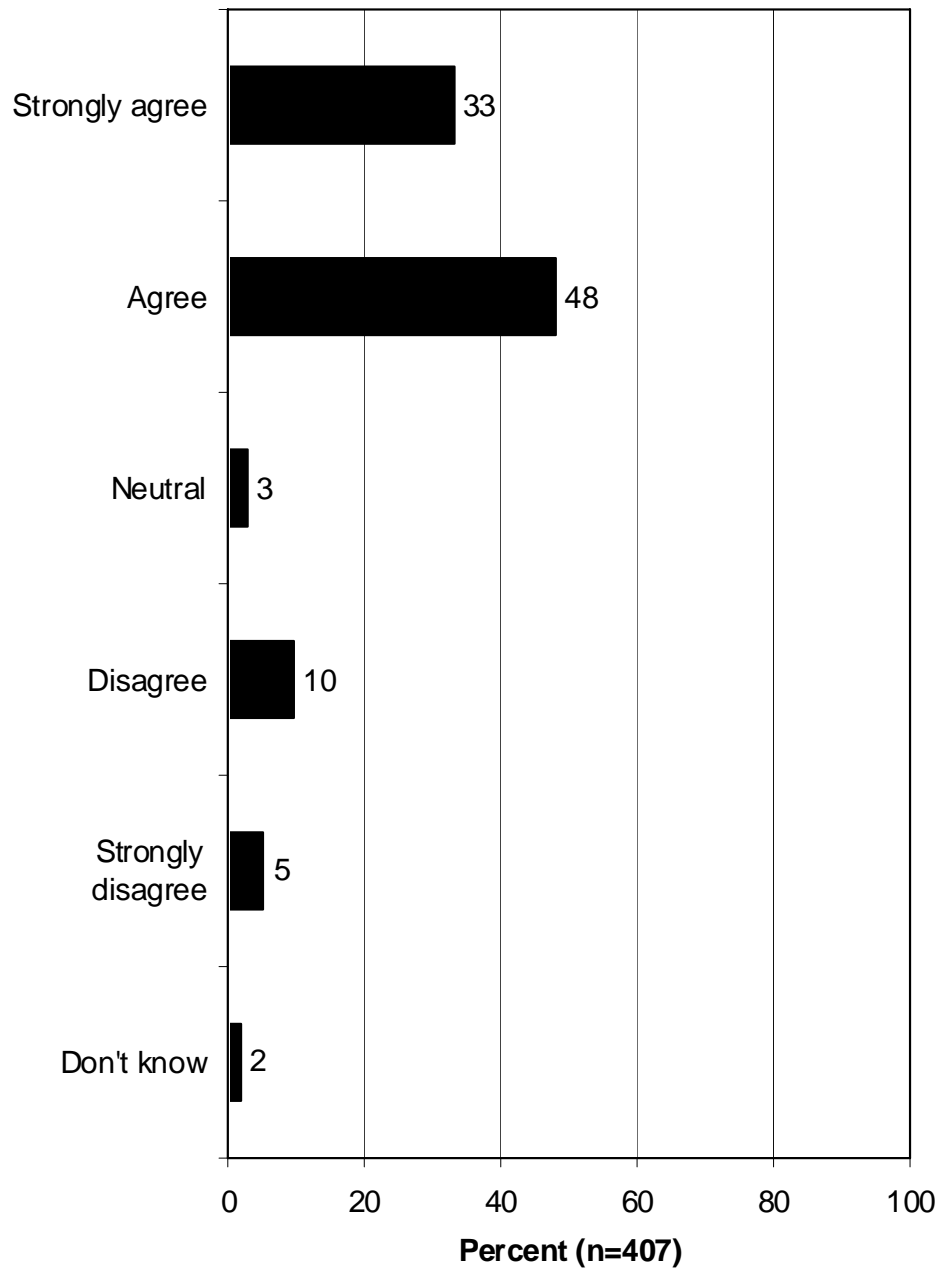
<b>Group</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Wants a Decrease</b>	<b>Wants It to Stay the Same</b>	<b>Wants an Increase</b>
Maryland residents	Where they live	28	59	10
Deer hunters	Where they live	23	48	28
Large landowners	Where they live	55	38	4
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region A	Public lands in Region A	2	25	71
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region A	Private lands in Region A	3	27	69
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Region B	Public lands in Region B	6	35	57
Deer hunters who hunted public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	2	35	63
Deer hunters who hunted private lands in Region B	Private lands in Region B	15	49	36

**Q12. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (General population survey.)**

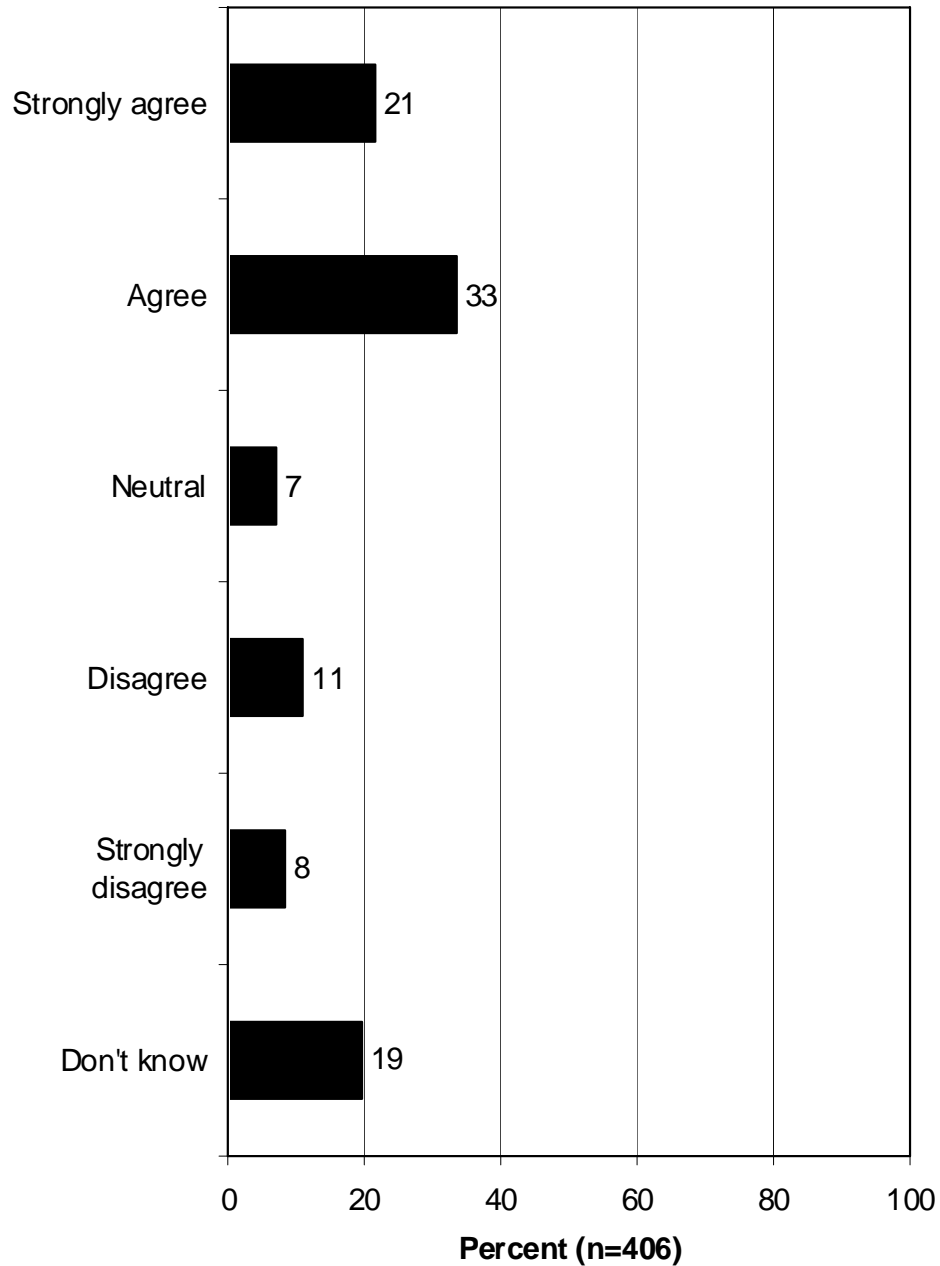




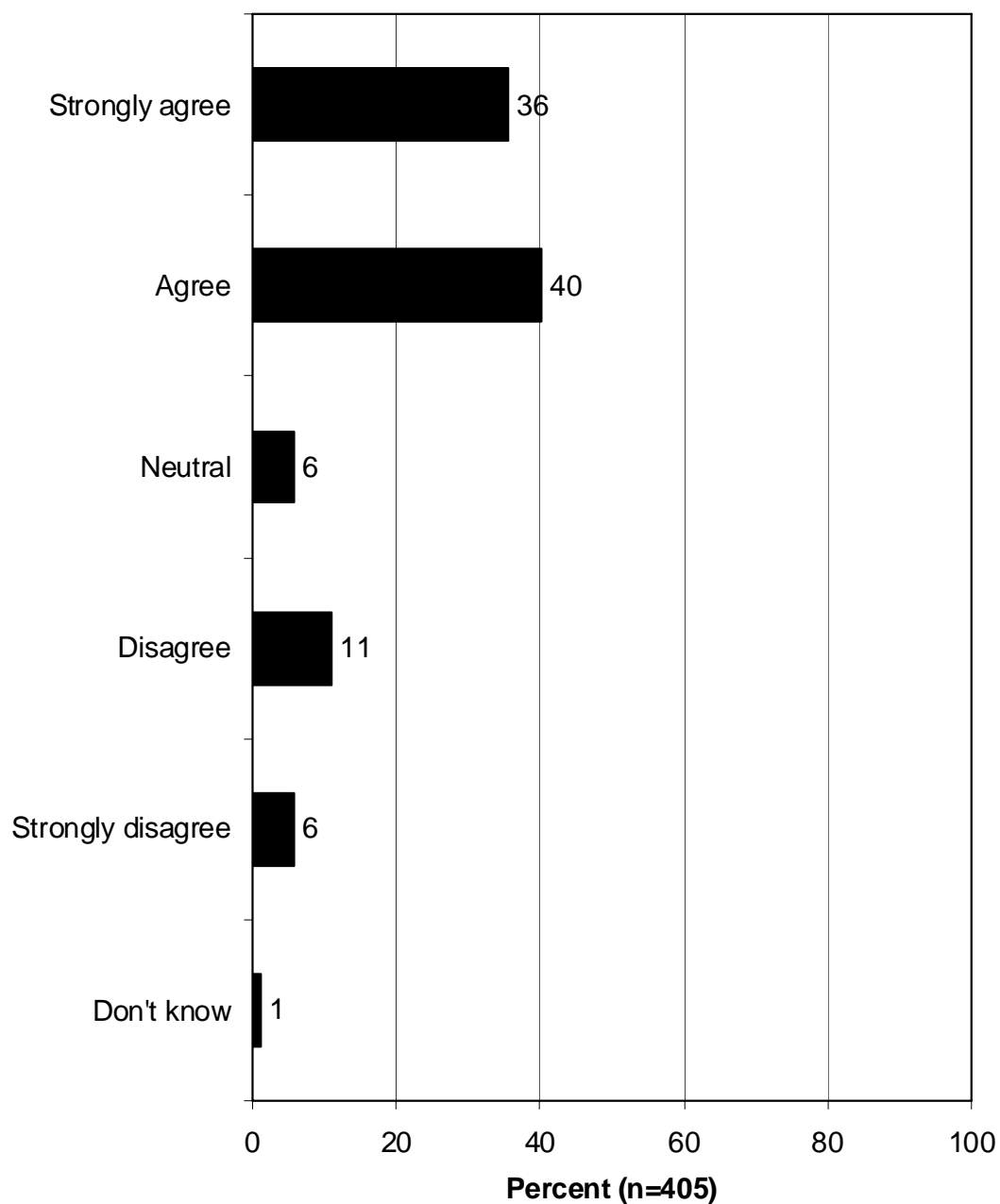
**Q14. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Hunter survey.)**



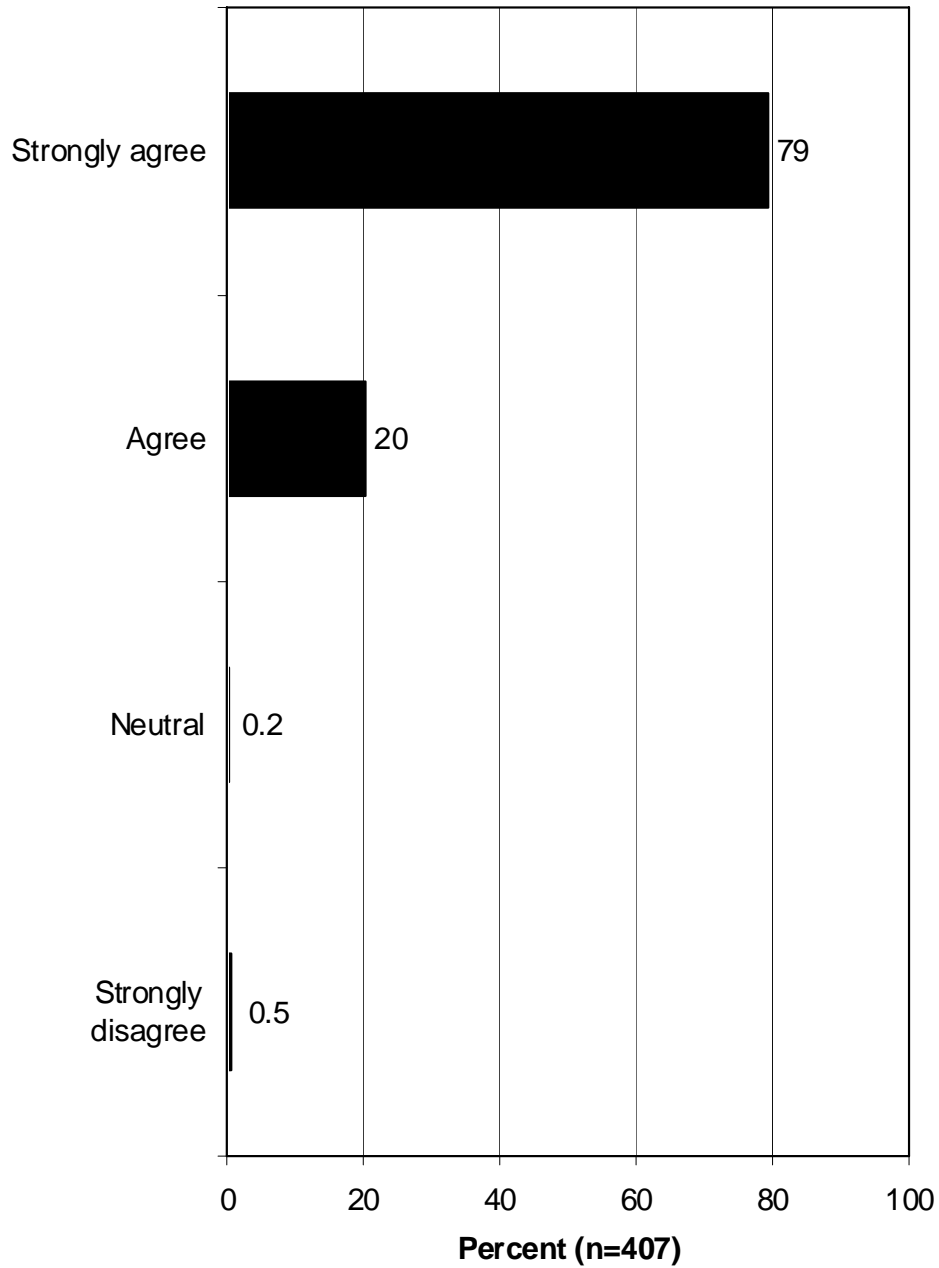
**Q16. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Landowner survey.)**



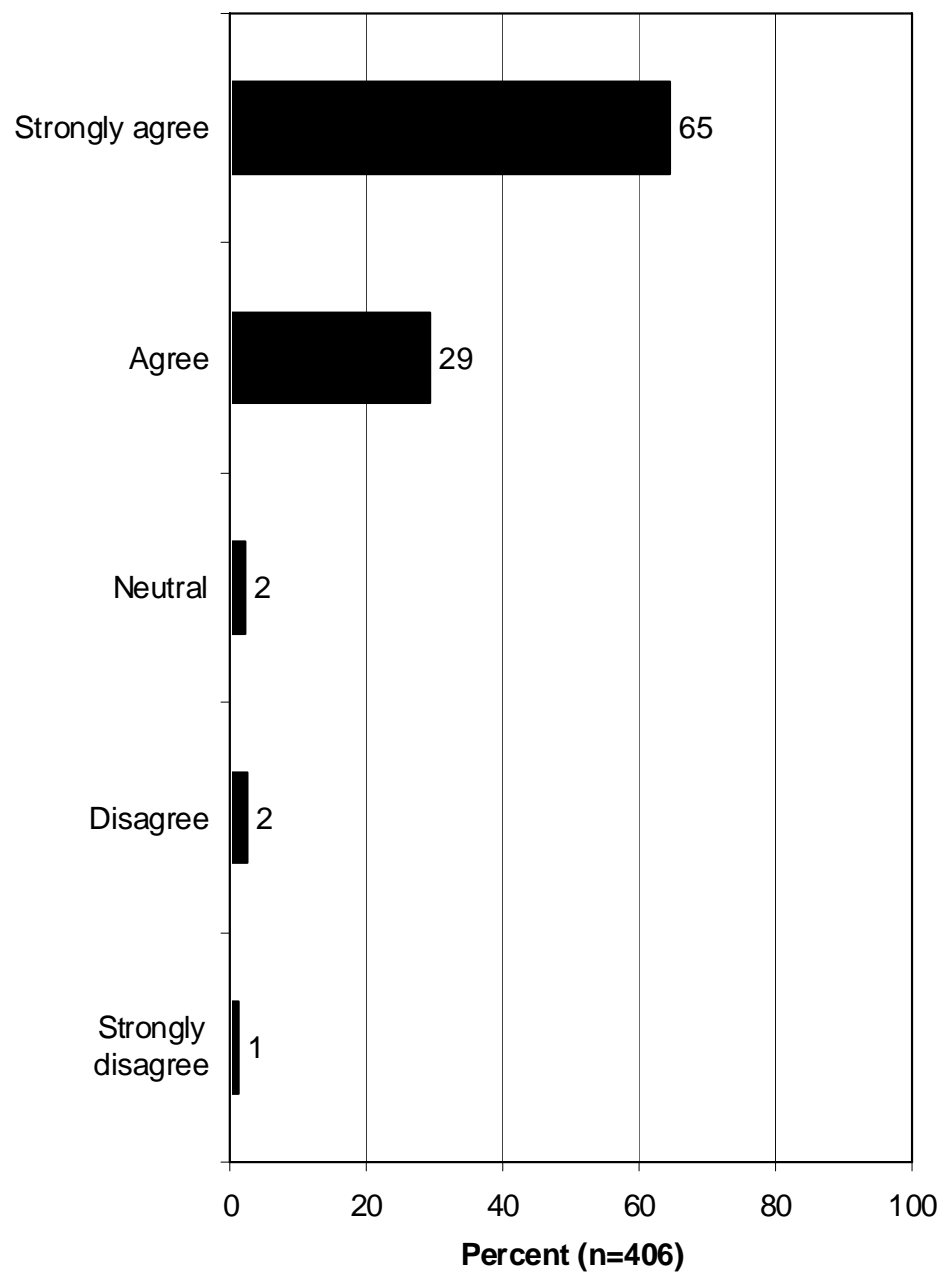
**Q11. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (General population survey.)**



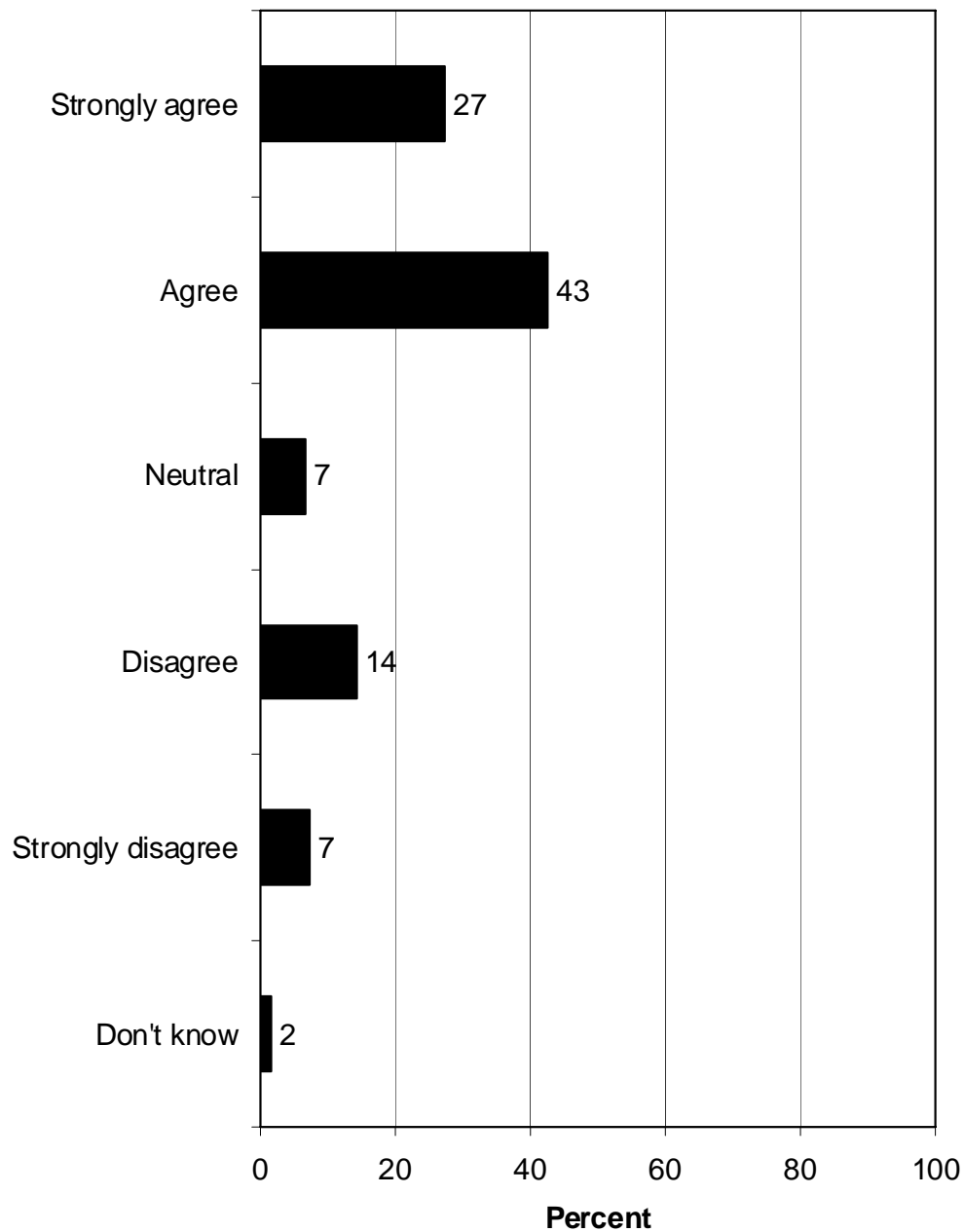
**Q13. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Hunter survey.)**



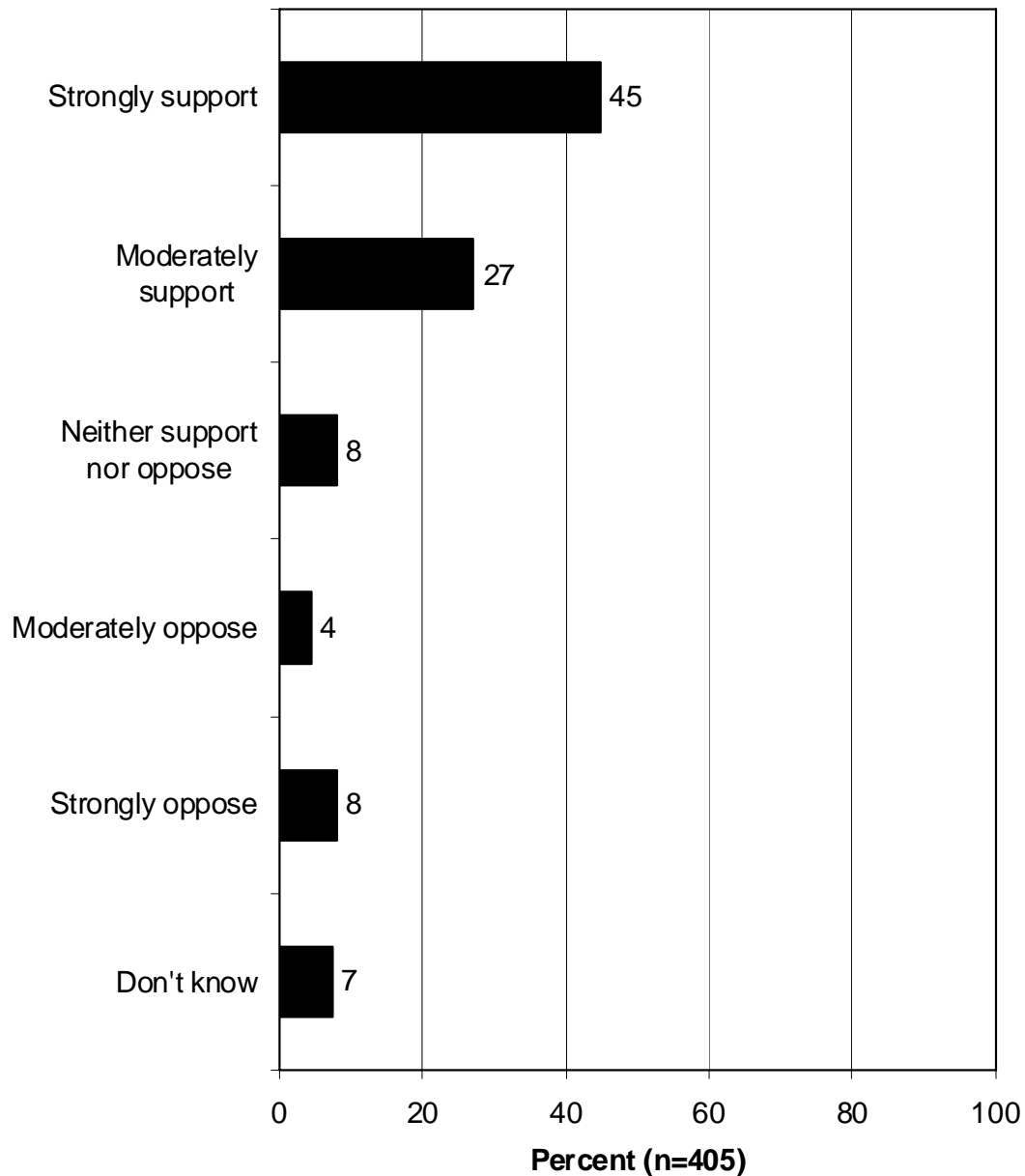
**Q15. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Landowner survey.)**



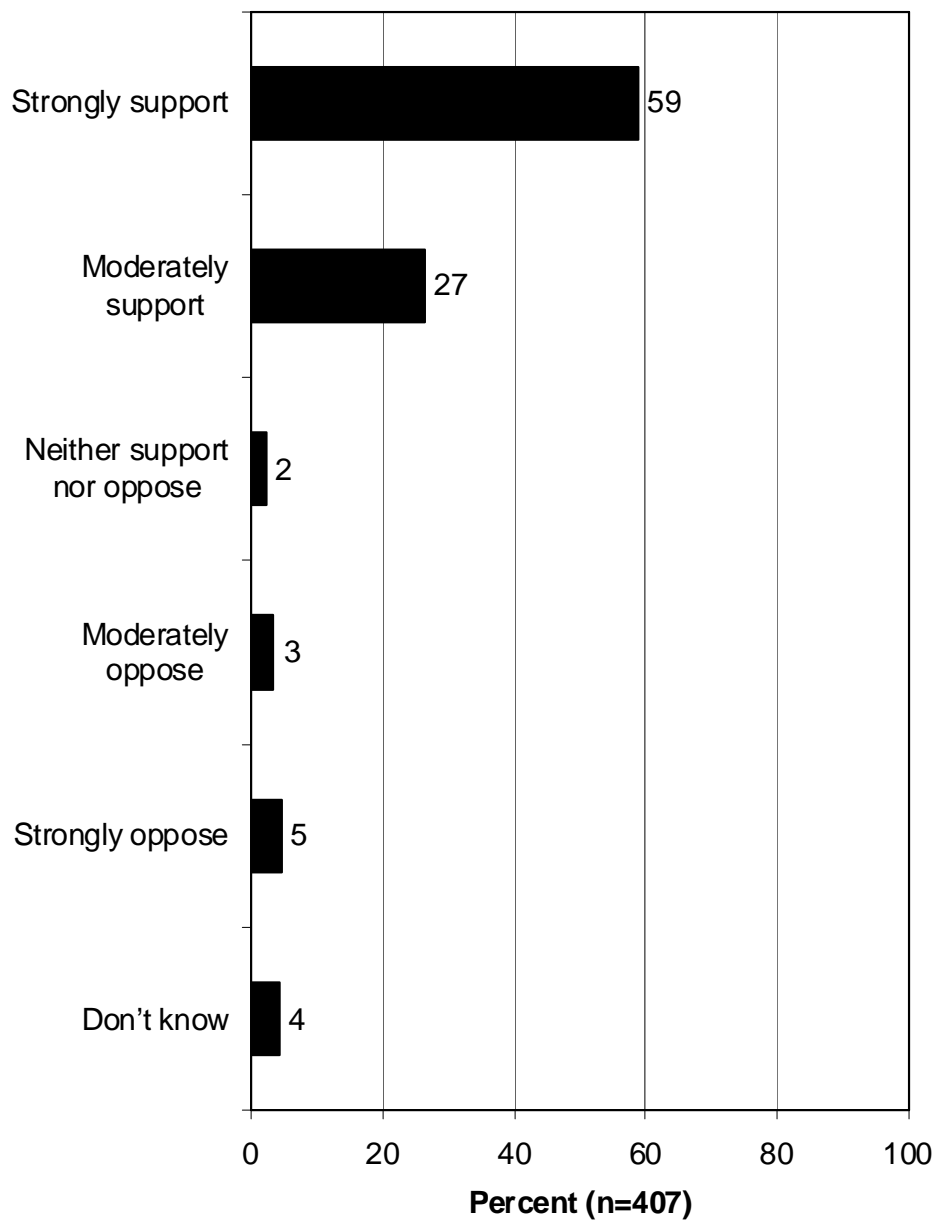
**Q11. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Among those who have *not* hunted deer.) (General population survey.)**



**Q88. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (General population survey.)**

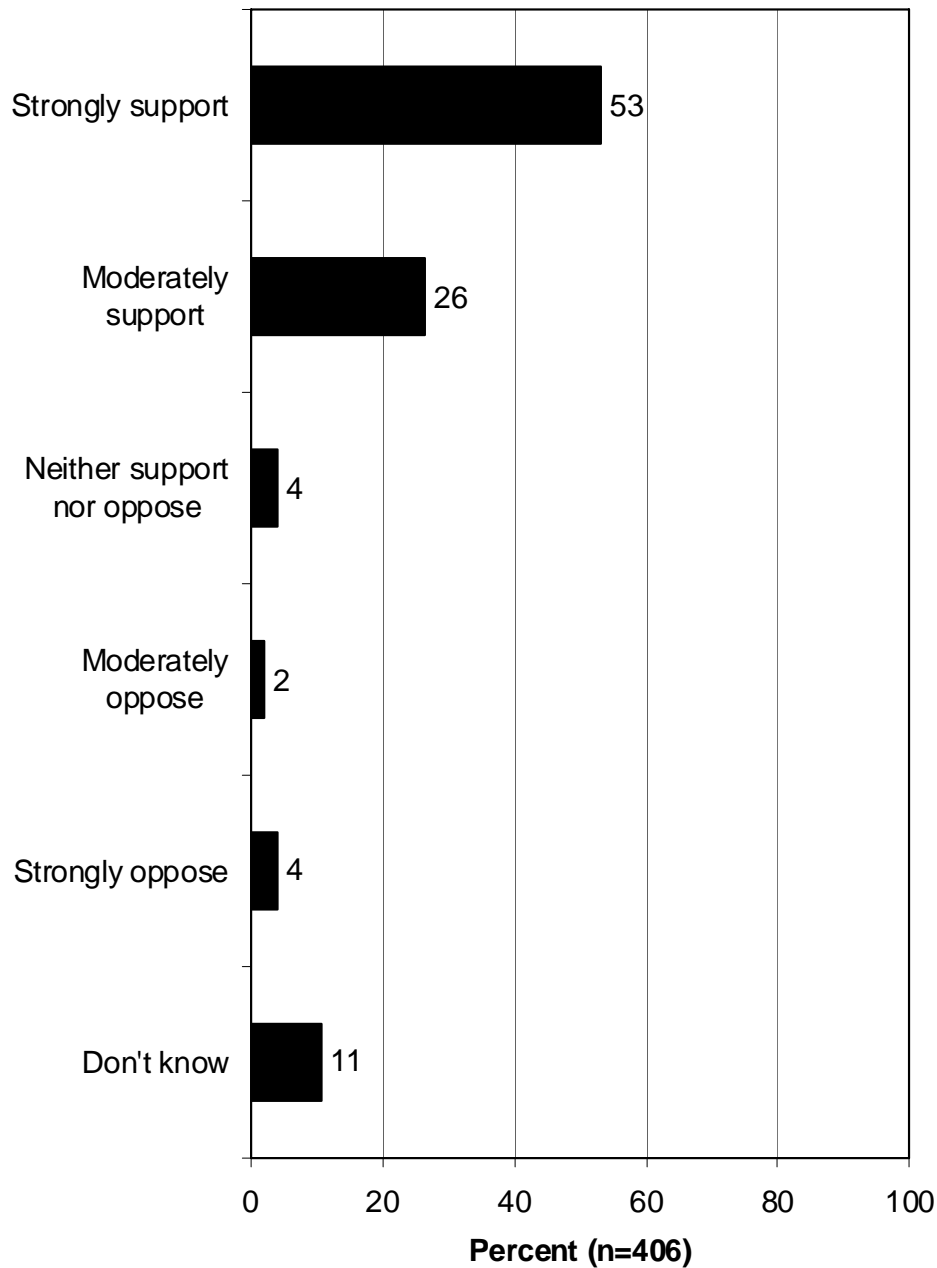


**Q128. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (Hunter survey.)**

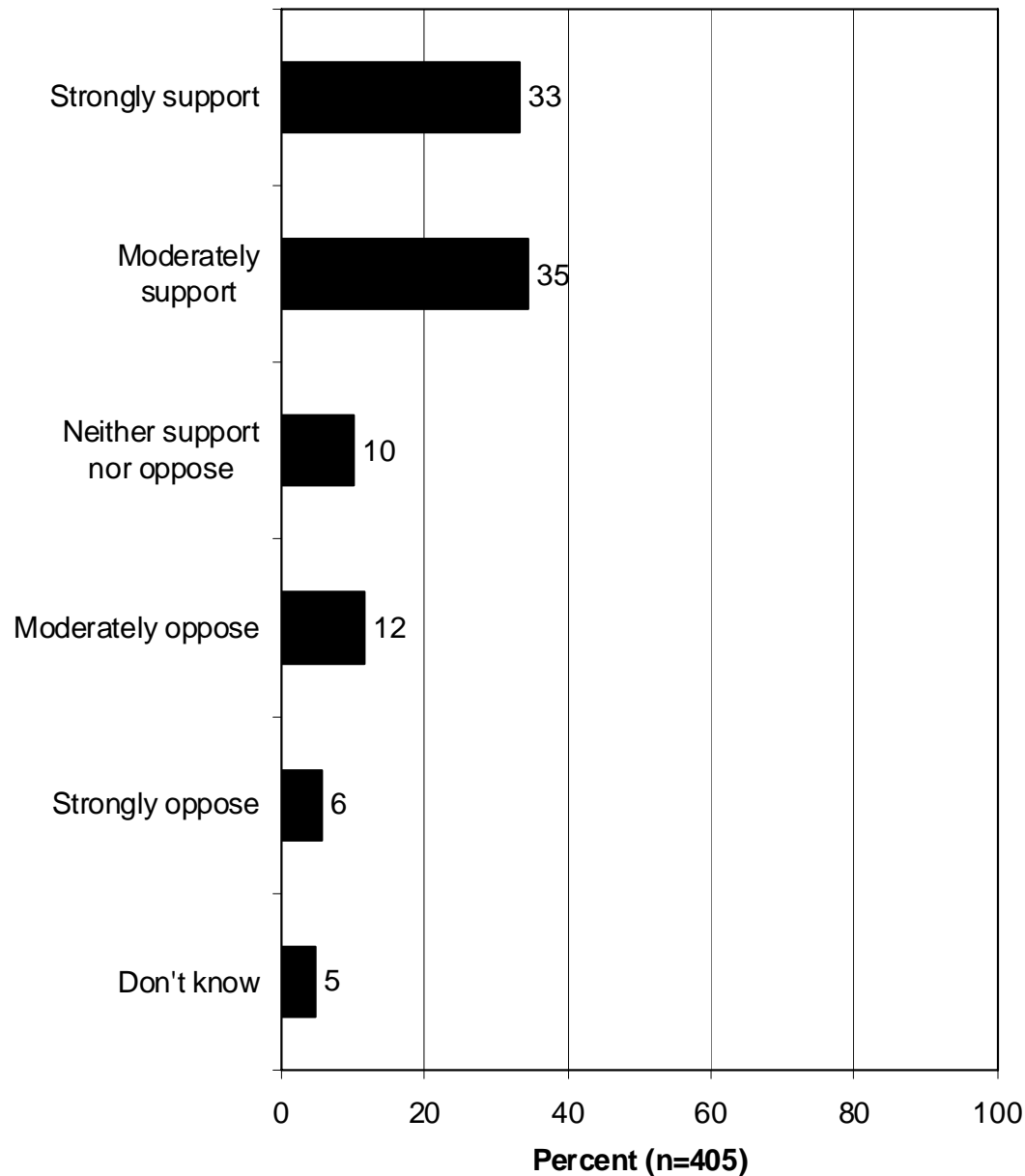




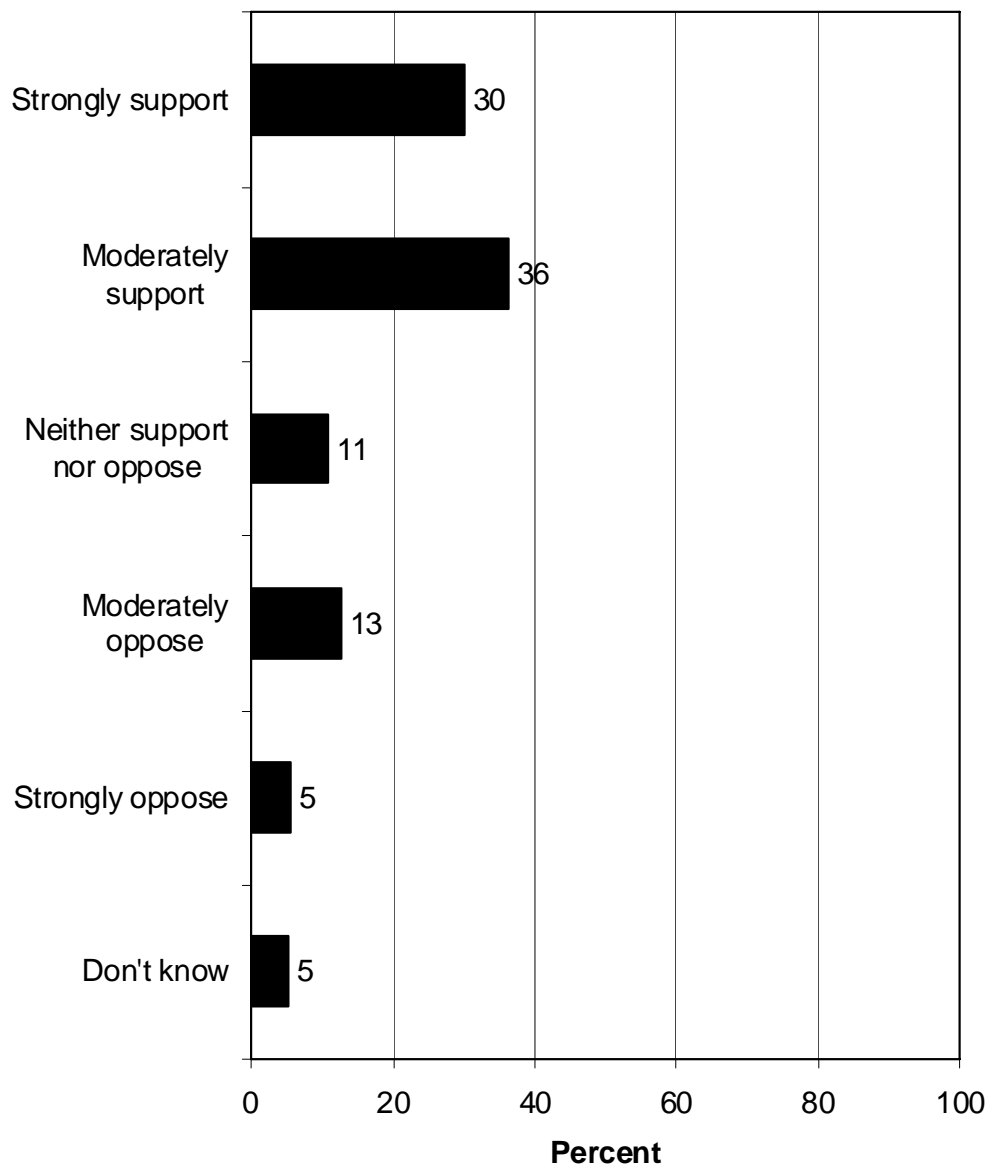
**Q82. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (Landowner survey.)**



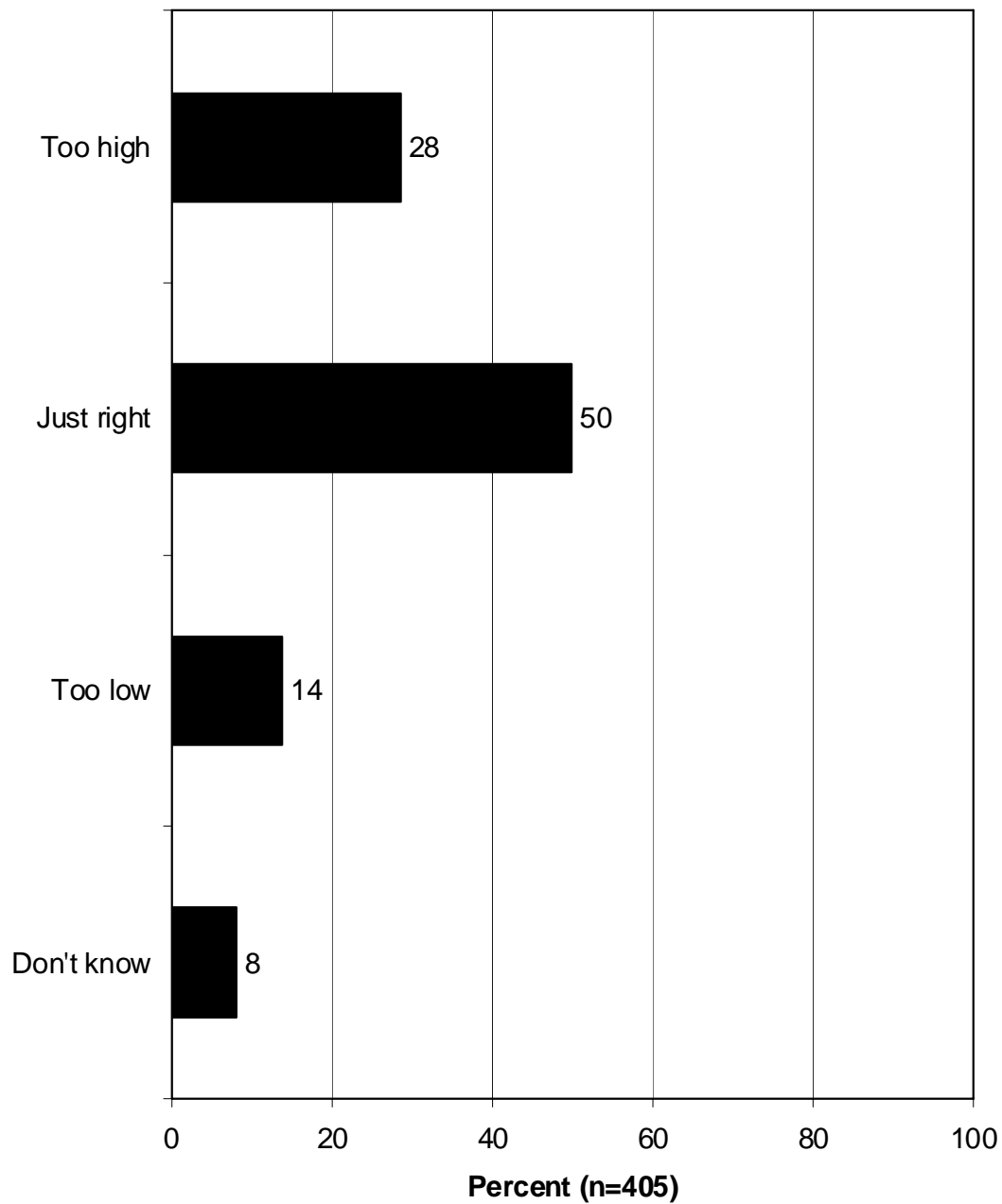
**Q51. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas? (General population survey.)**



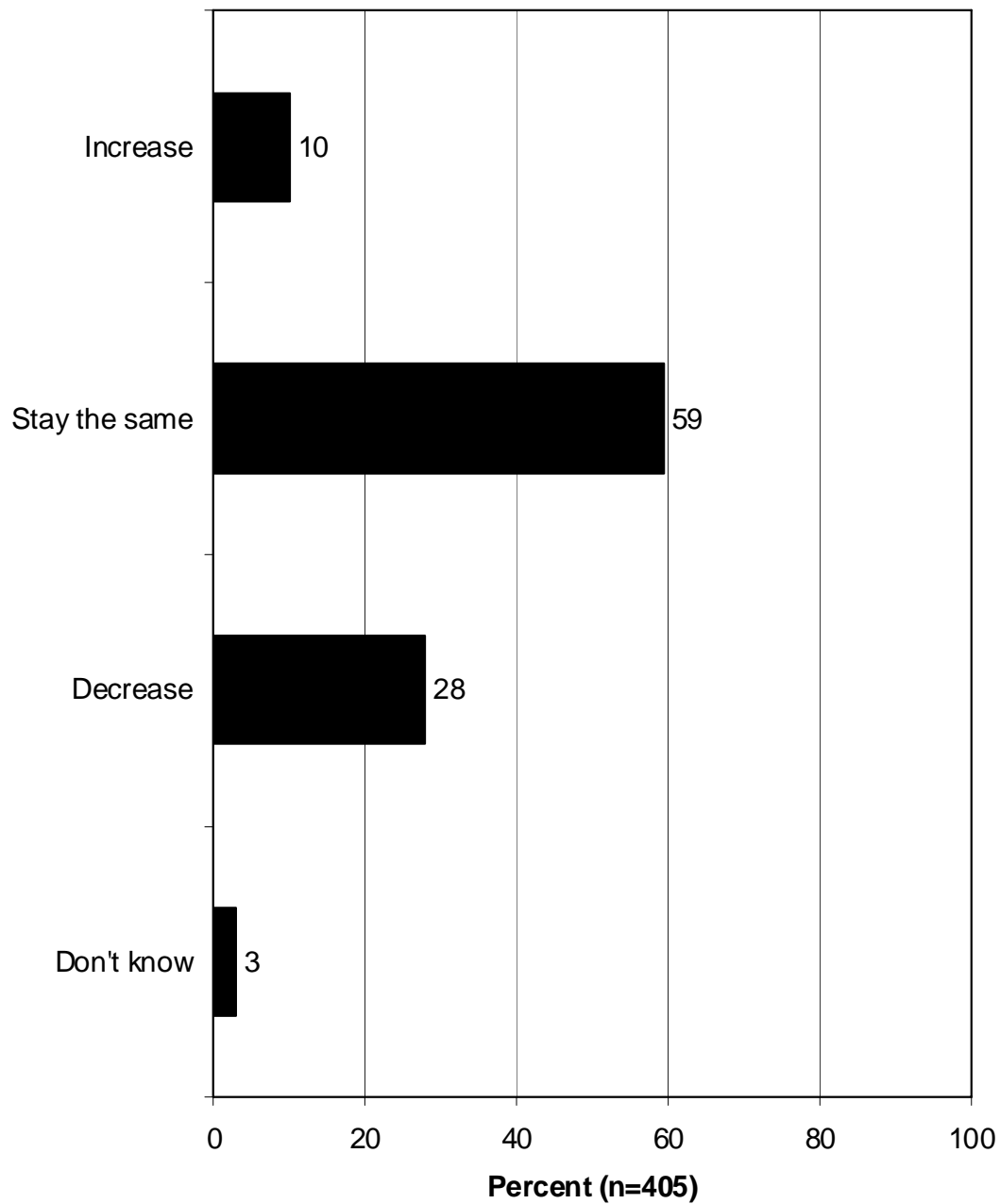
**Q51. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas? (Among those who have not hunted deer.) (General population survey.)**



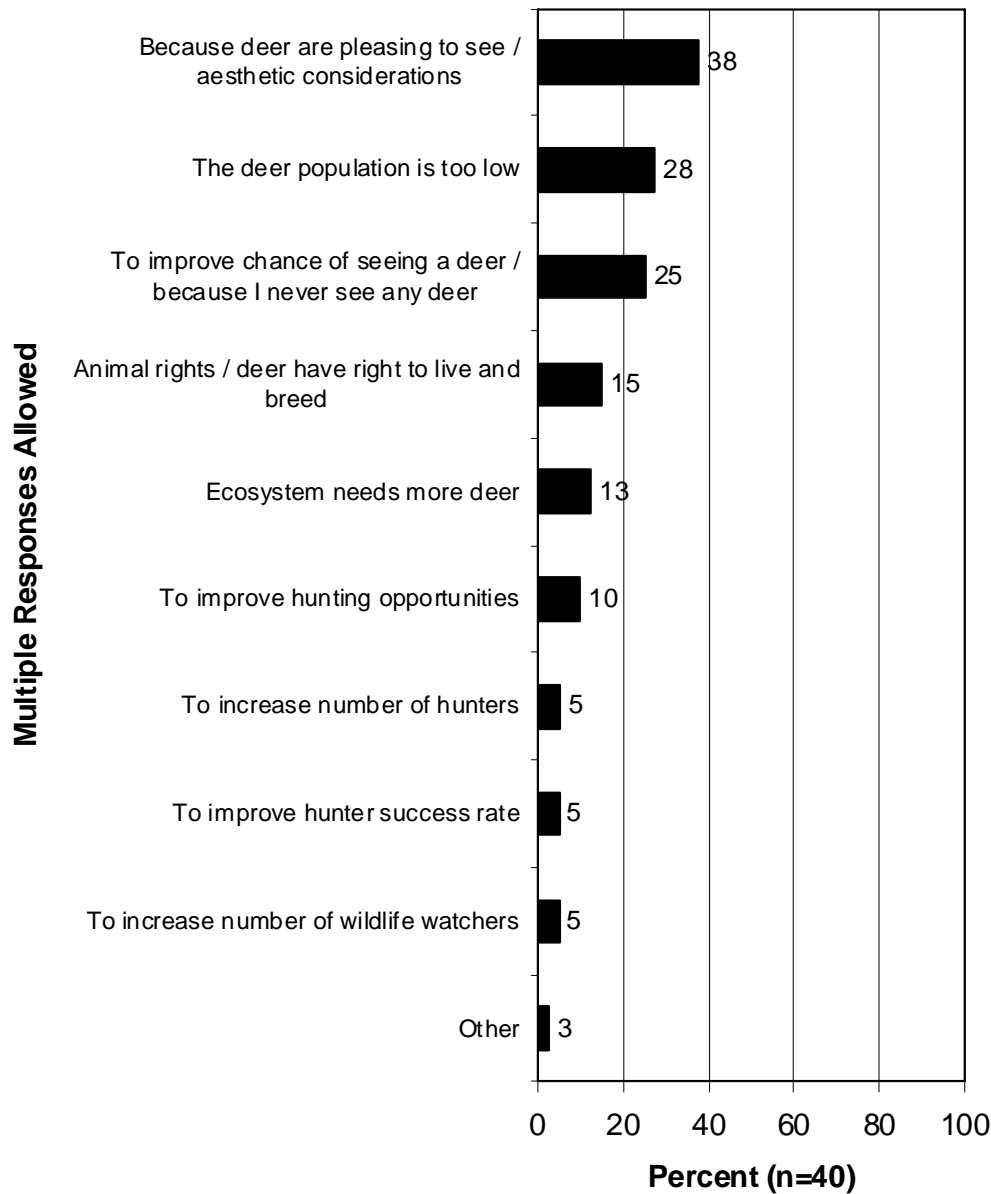
**Q15. In the area where you live, is the deer population too high, just right, or too low? (General population survey.)**



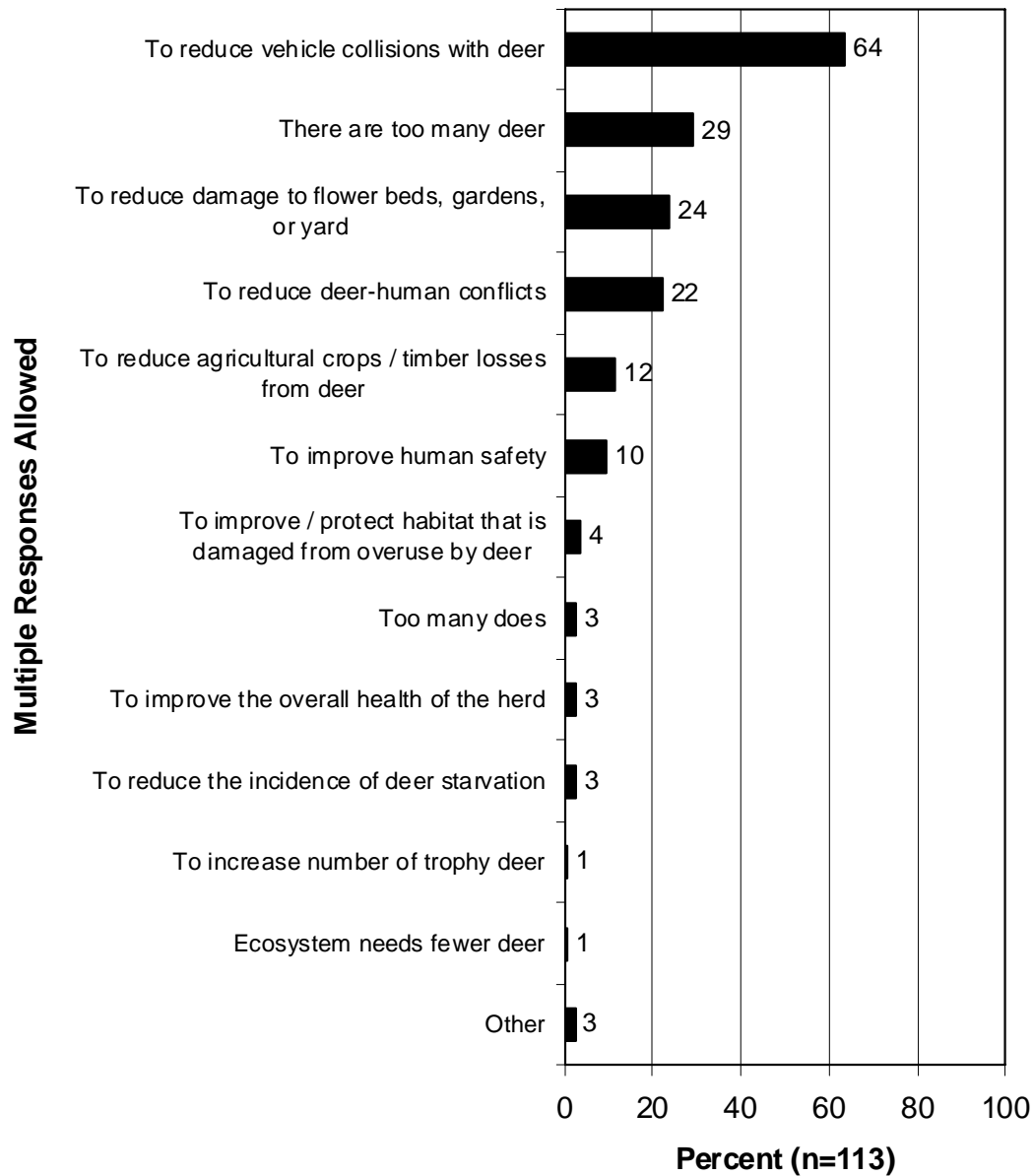
**Q16. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (General population survey.)**



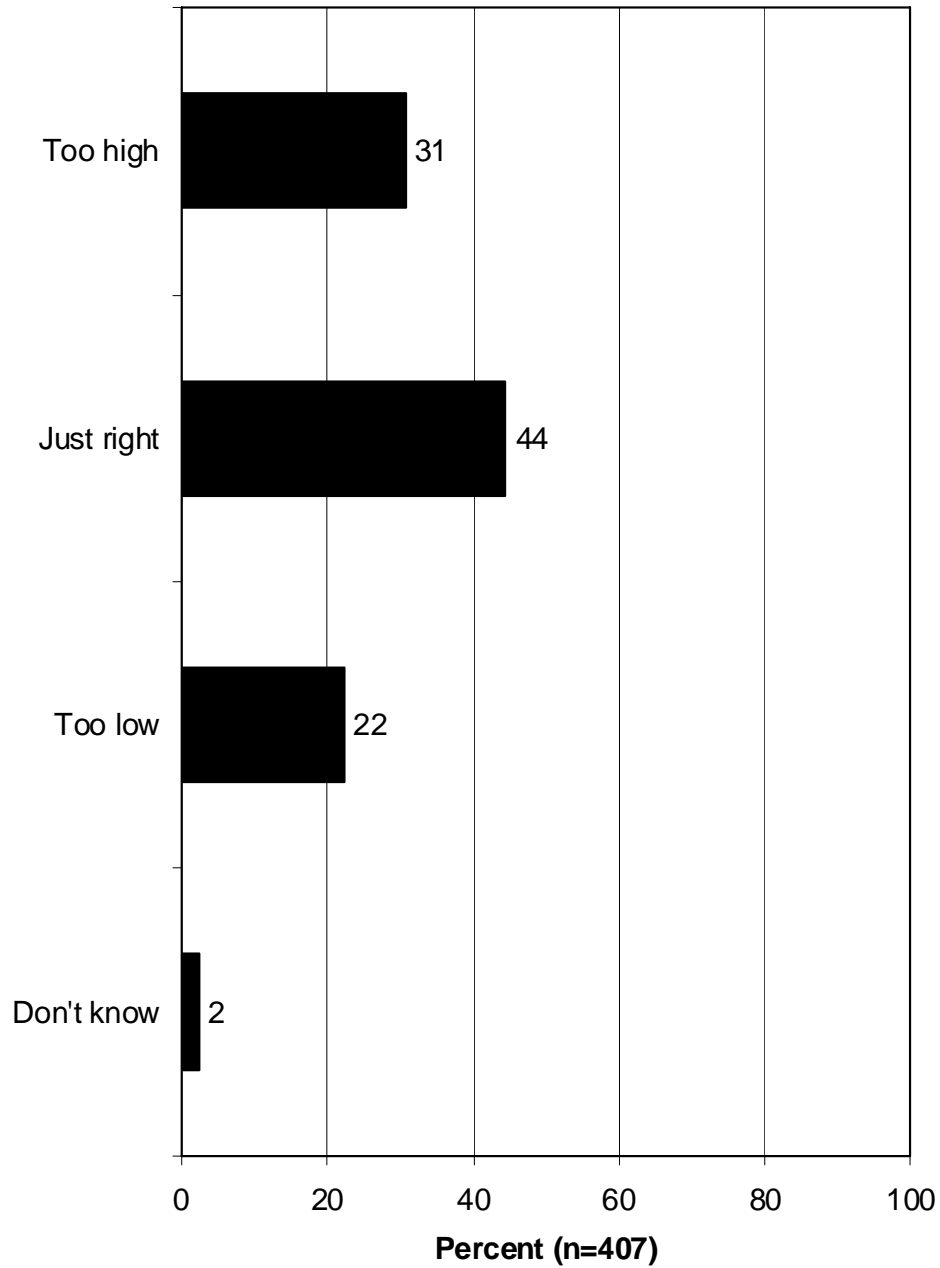
**Q19. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase? (Asked of those who would like to see the deer population where they live increase.) (General population survey.)**



**Q23. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease? (Asked of those who would like to see the deer population where they live decrease.) (General population survey.)**

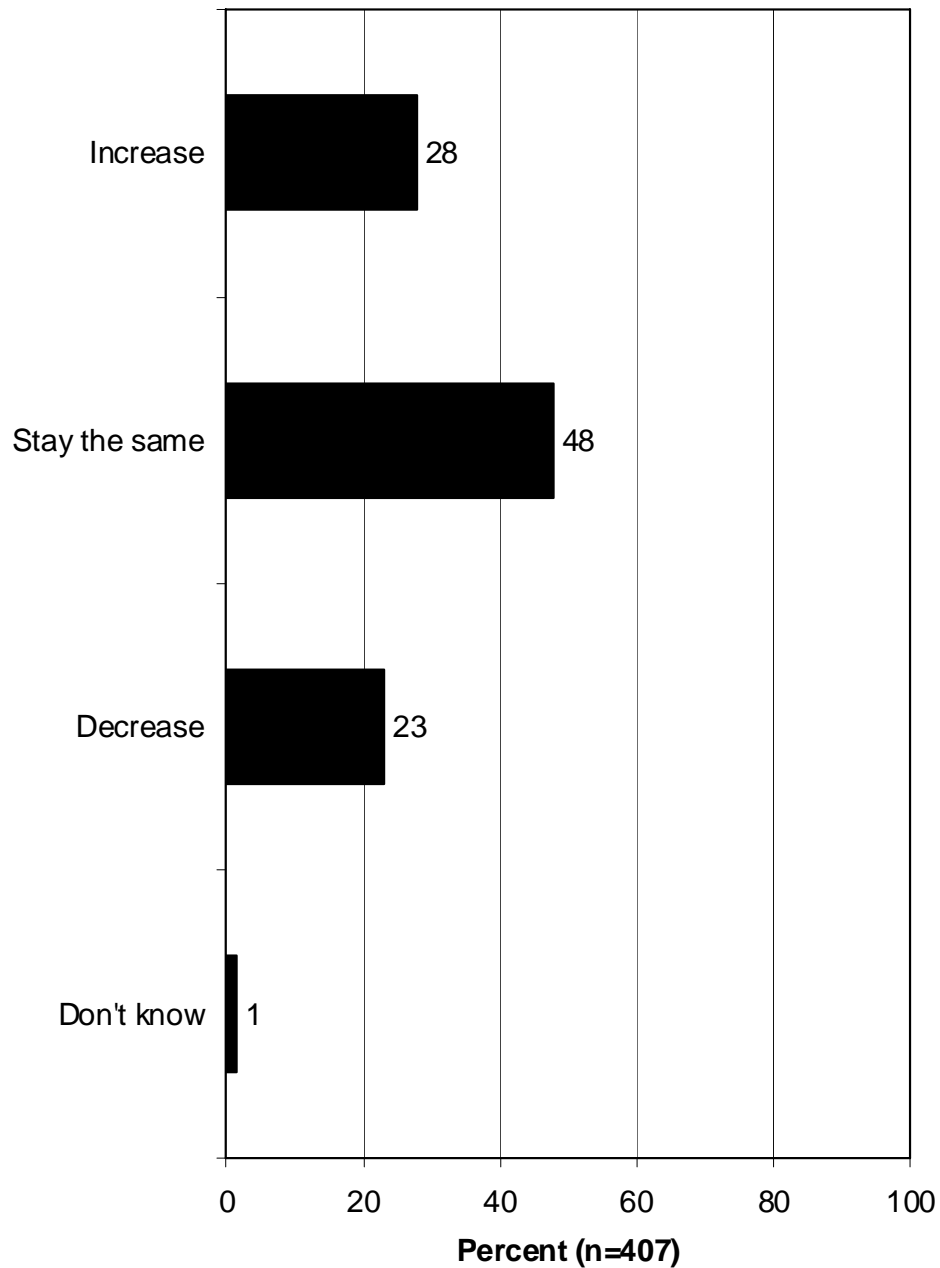


**Q17. In the area where you live, is the deer population too high, just right, or too low? (Hunter survey.)**

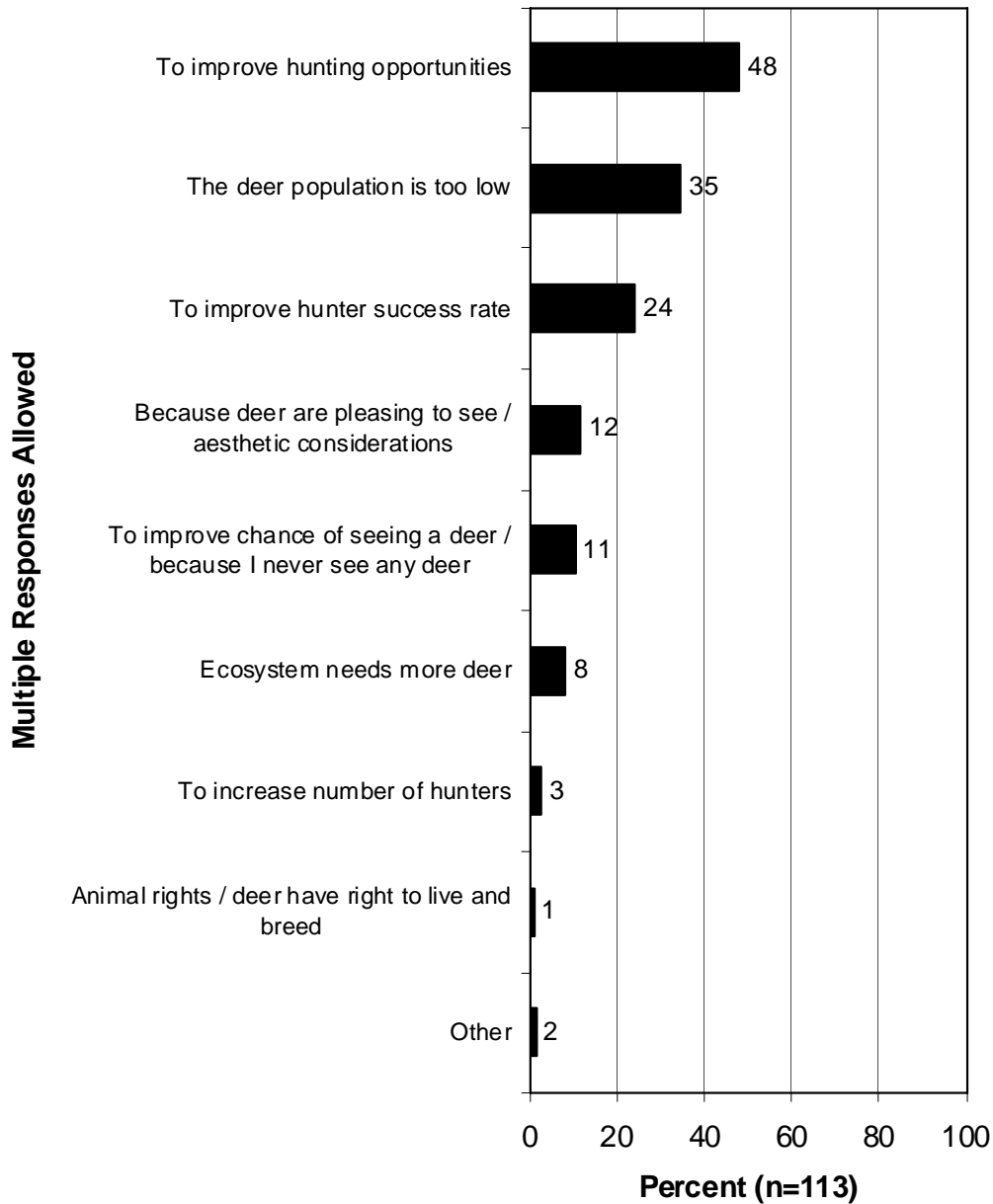




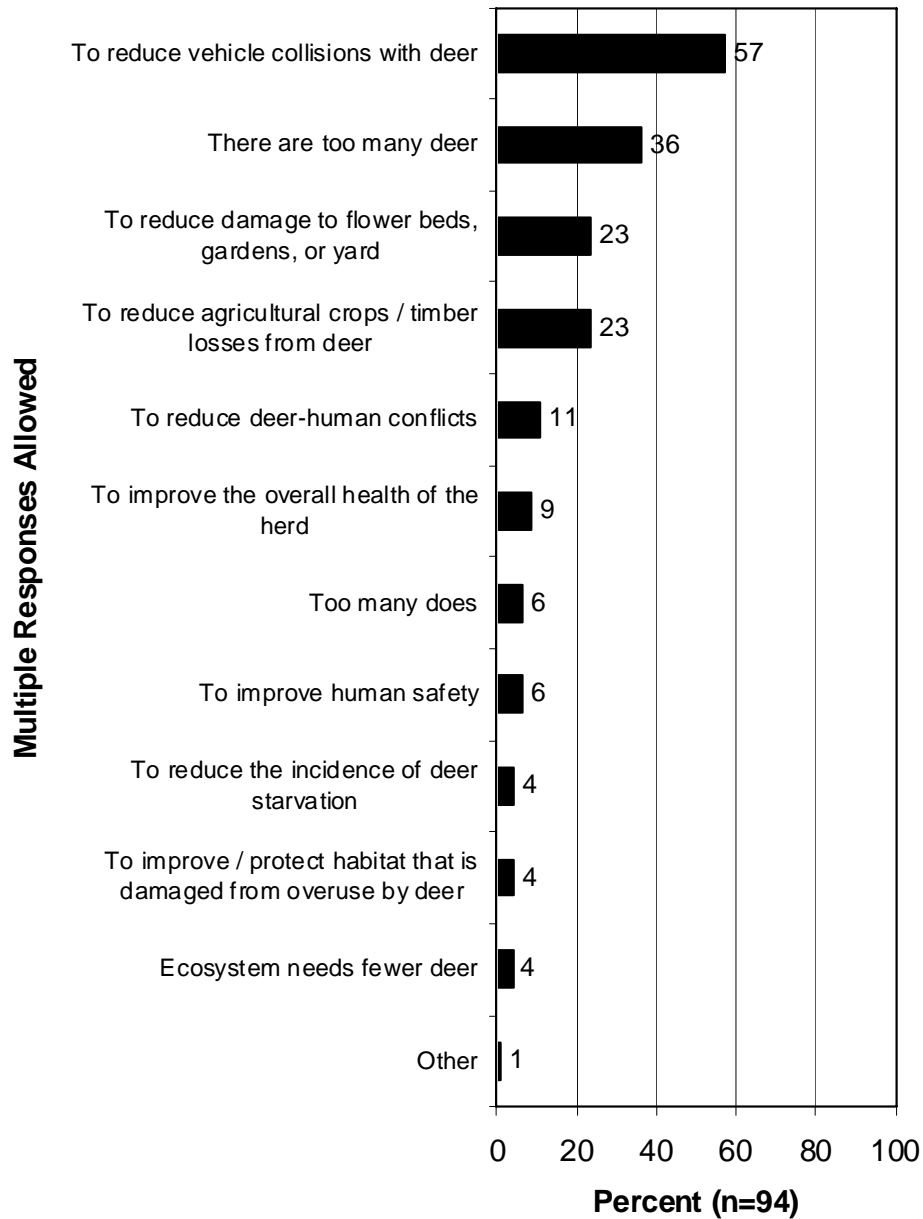
**Q18. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Hunter survey.)**



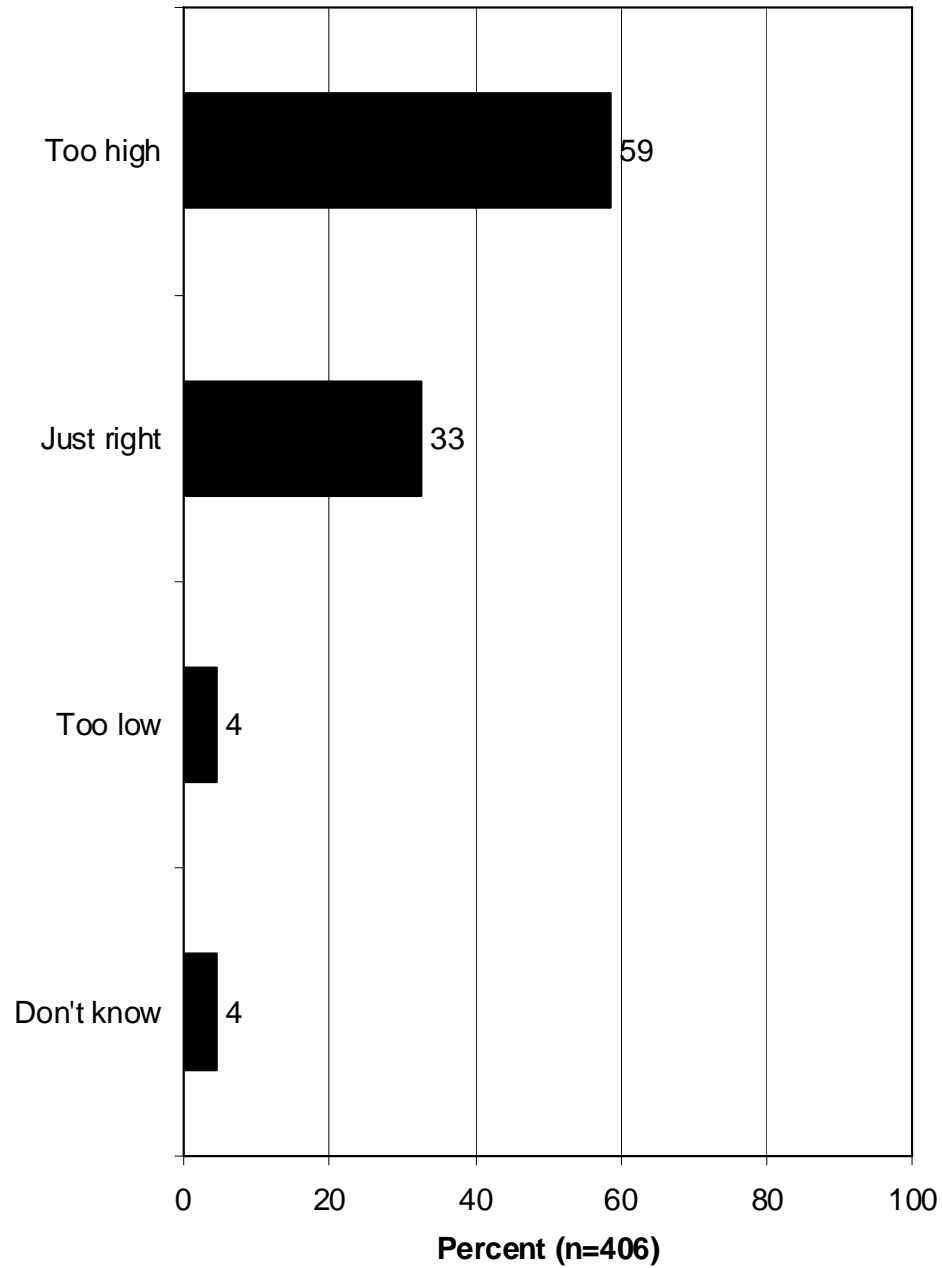
**Q21. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase? (Asked of those who said they want to see the deer population increase.) (Hunter survey.)**



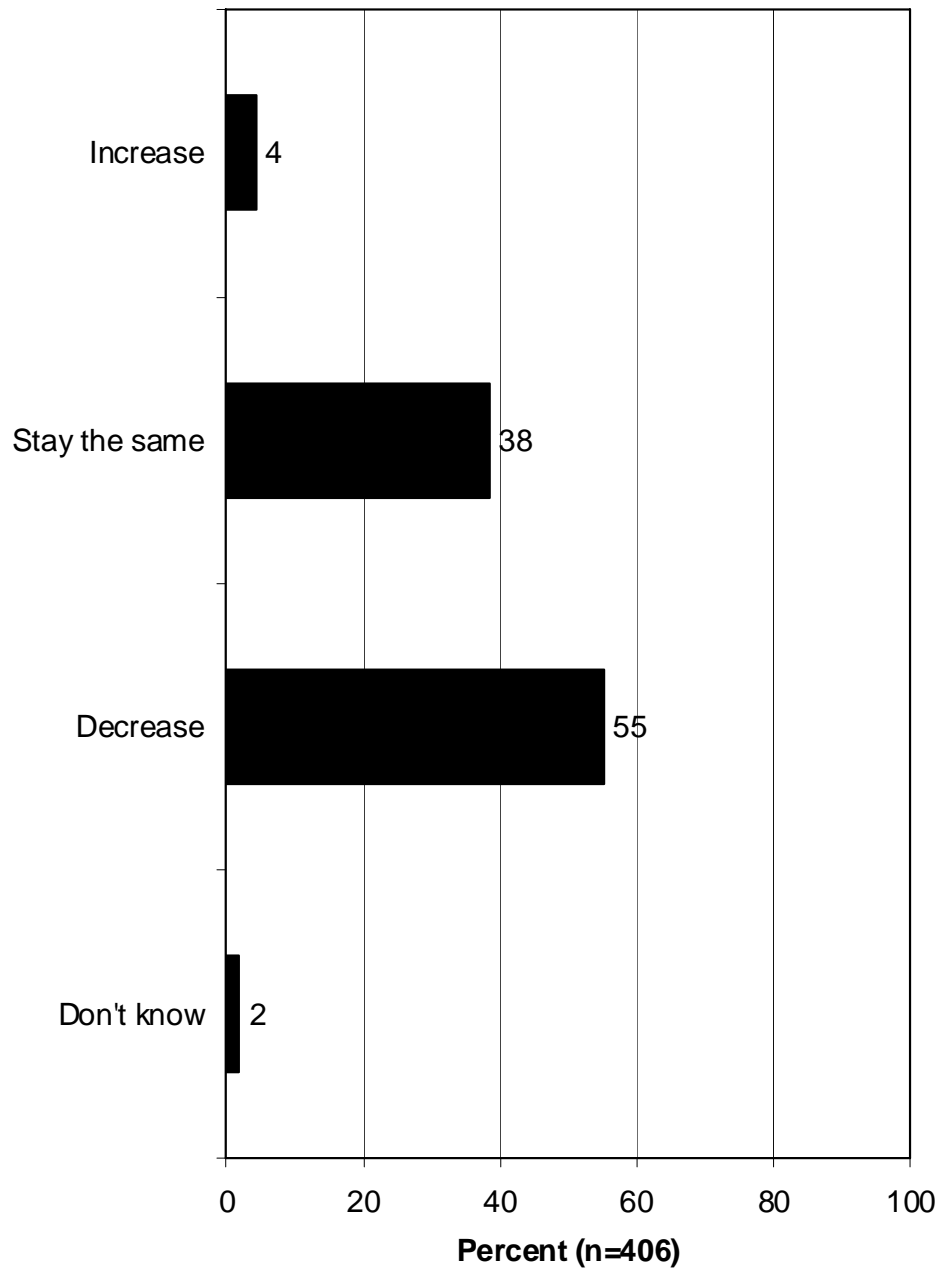
**Q25. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease? (Asked of those who said they want to see the deer population decrease.) (Hunter survey.)**



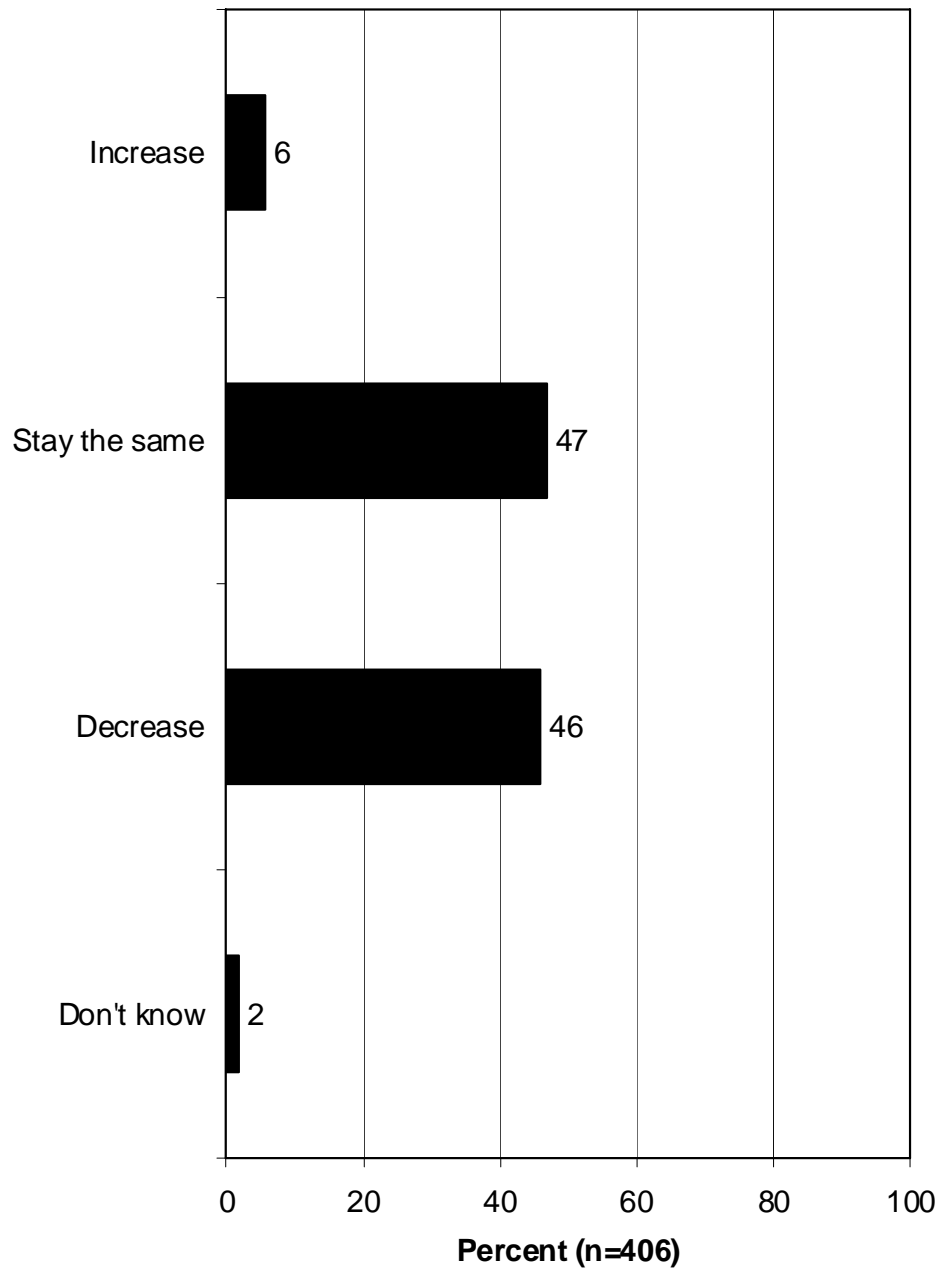
**Q19. In the area where you live, is the deer population too high, just right, or too low?  
(Landowner survey.)**



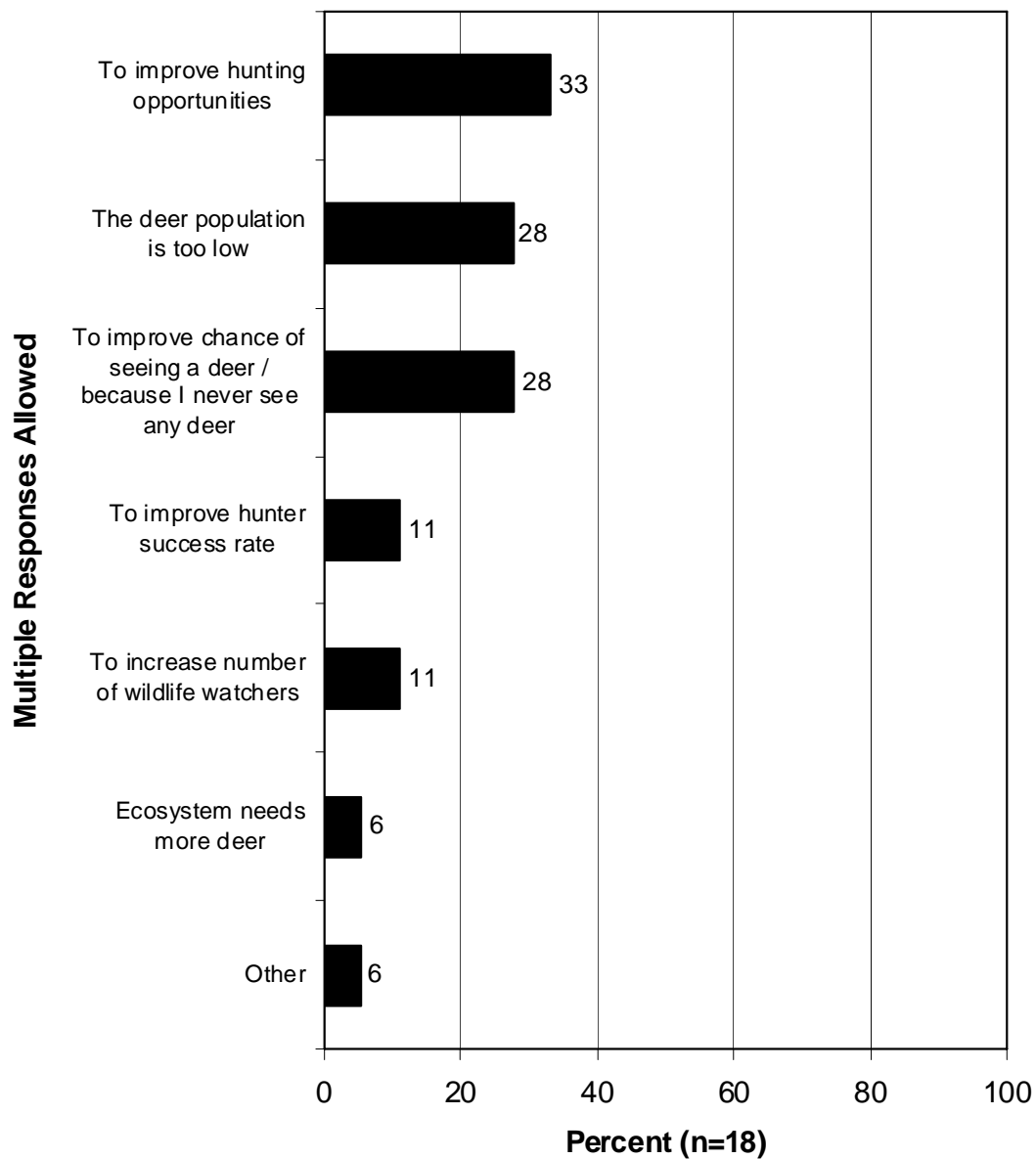
**Q20. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Landowner survey.)**



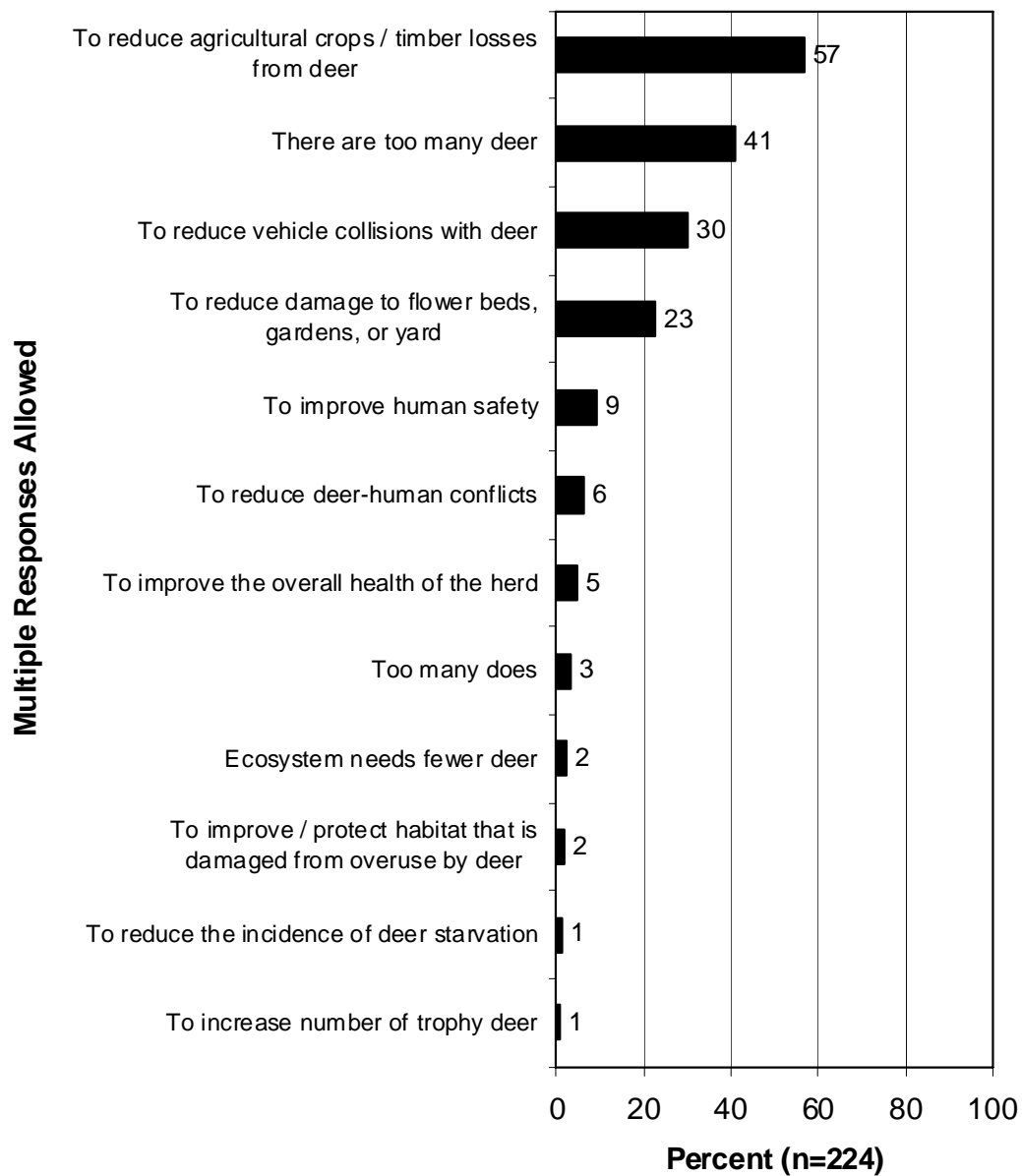
**Q90. Would you like to see the deer population on  
your farm increase, stay the same, or decrease?  
(Landowner survey.)**



**Q23. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase? (Asked of those who would like to see the deer population in their area increase.) (Landowner survey.)**

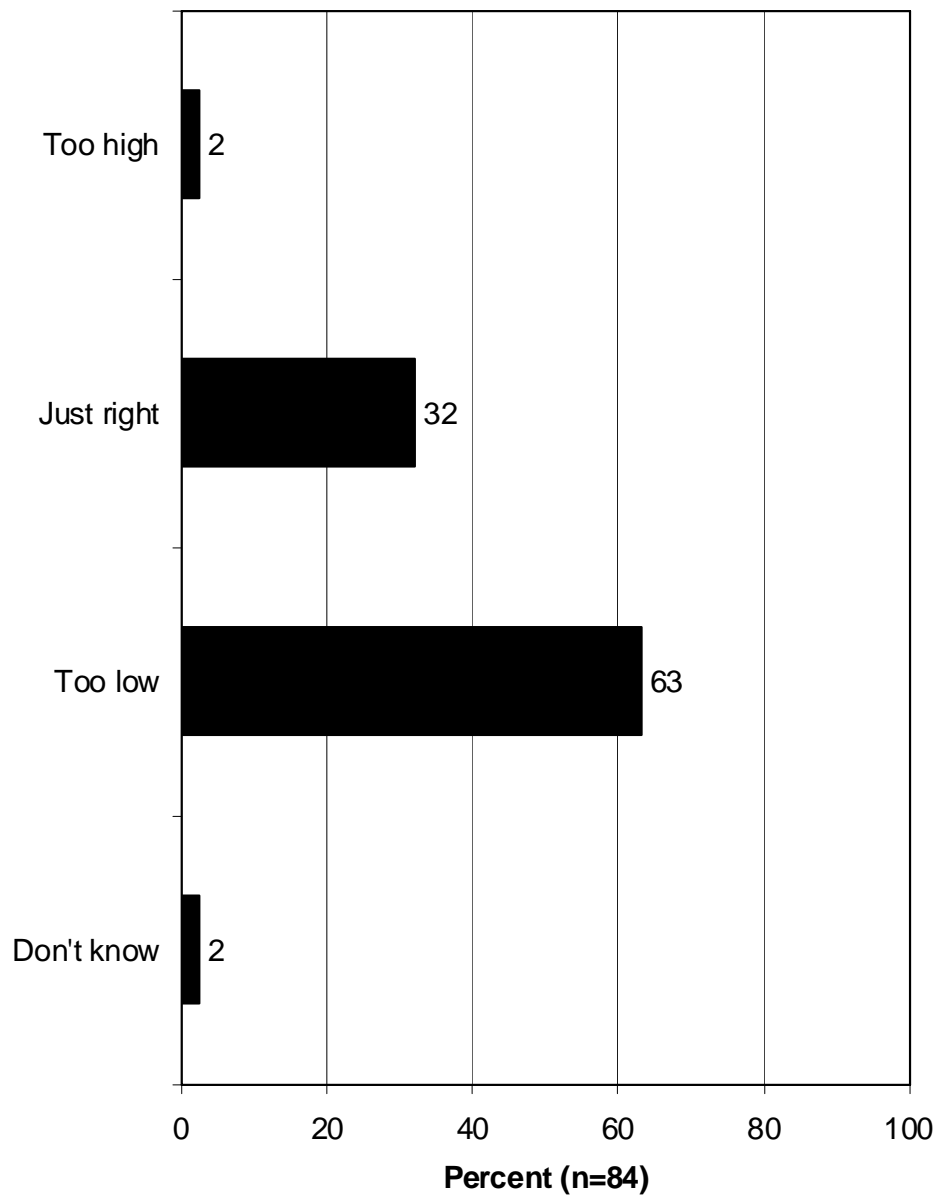


**Q27. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease? (Asked of those who would like to see the deer population in their area decrease.) (Landowner survey.)**

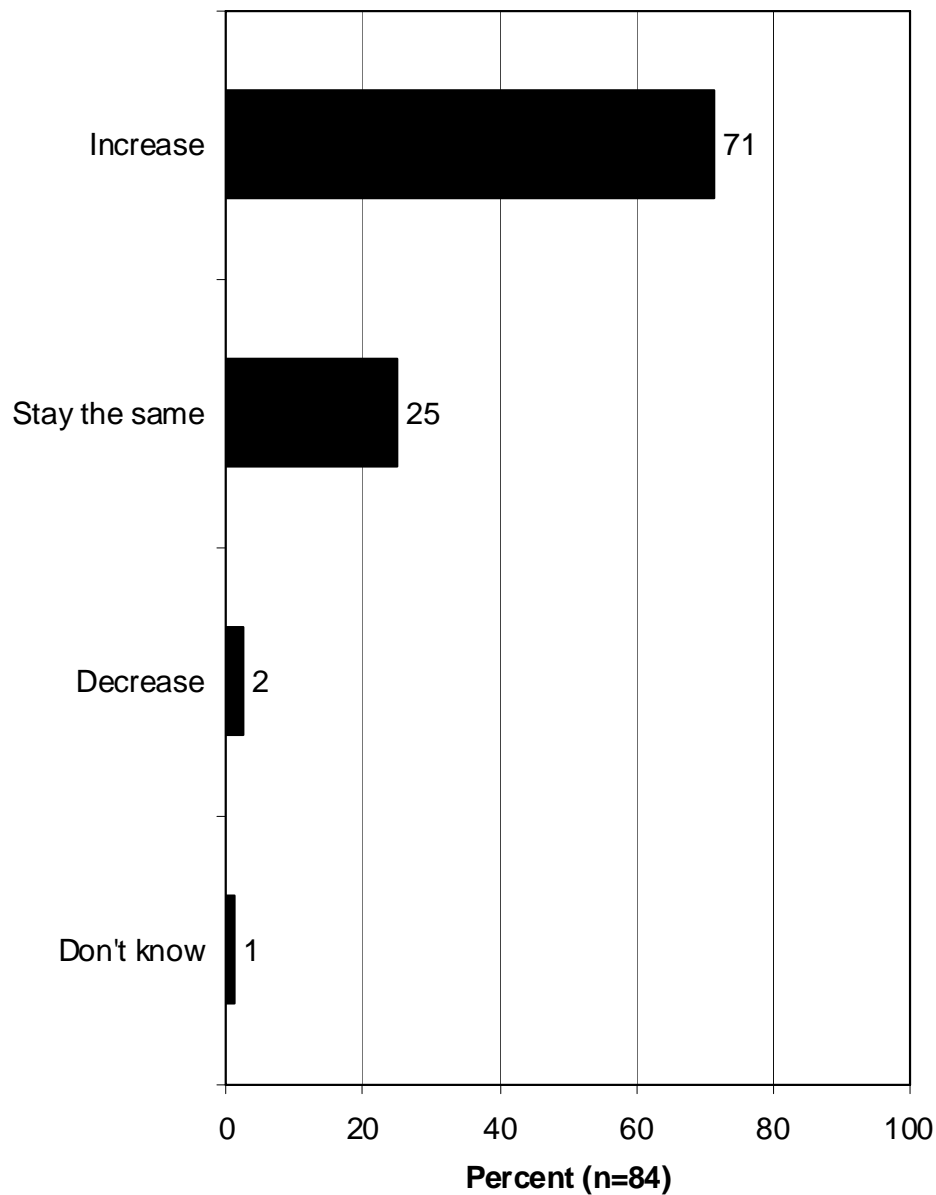




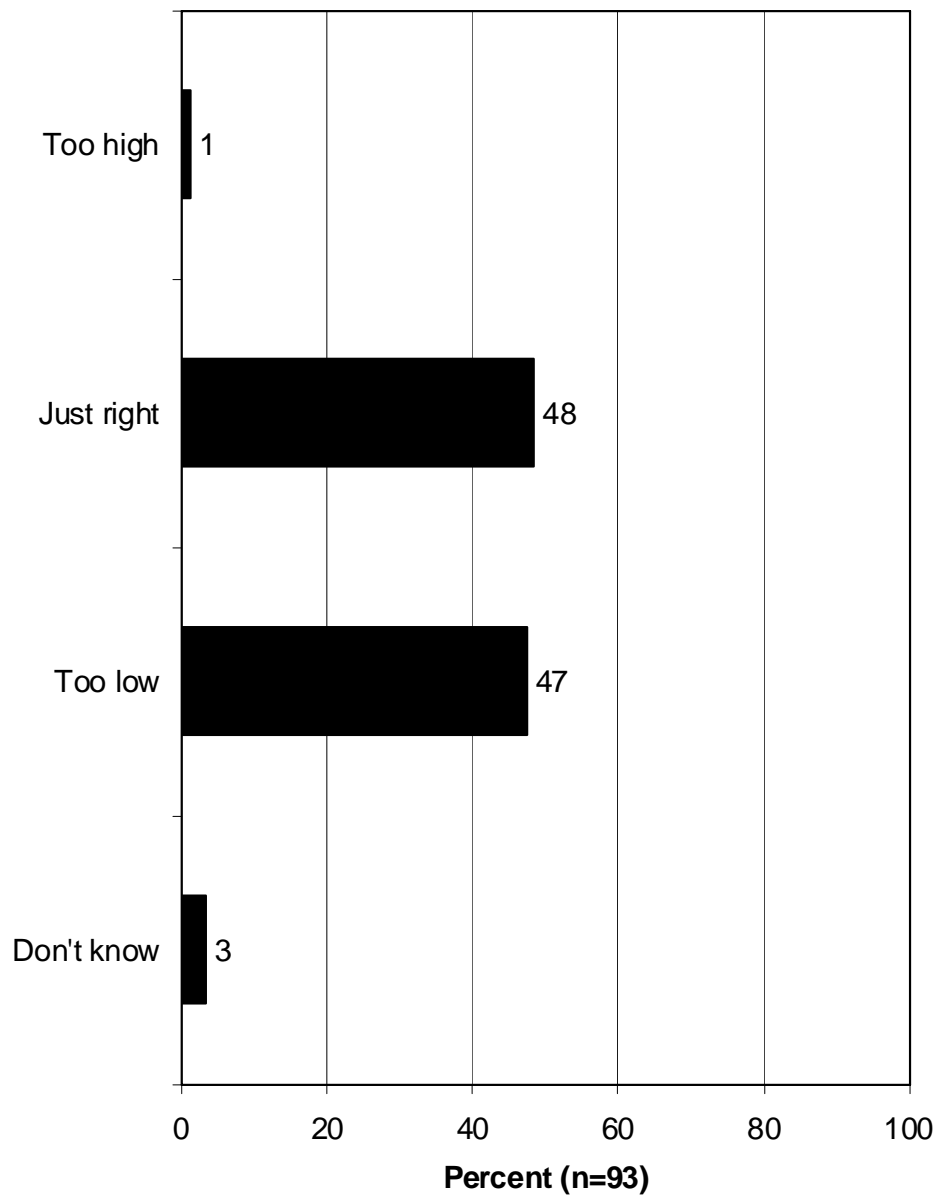
**Q69. Would you say the deer population is too high, just right, or too low on public lands in Region A where you hunted in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



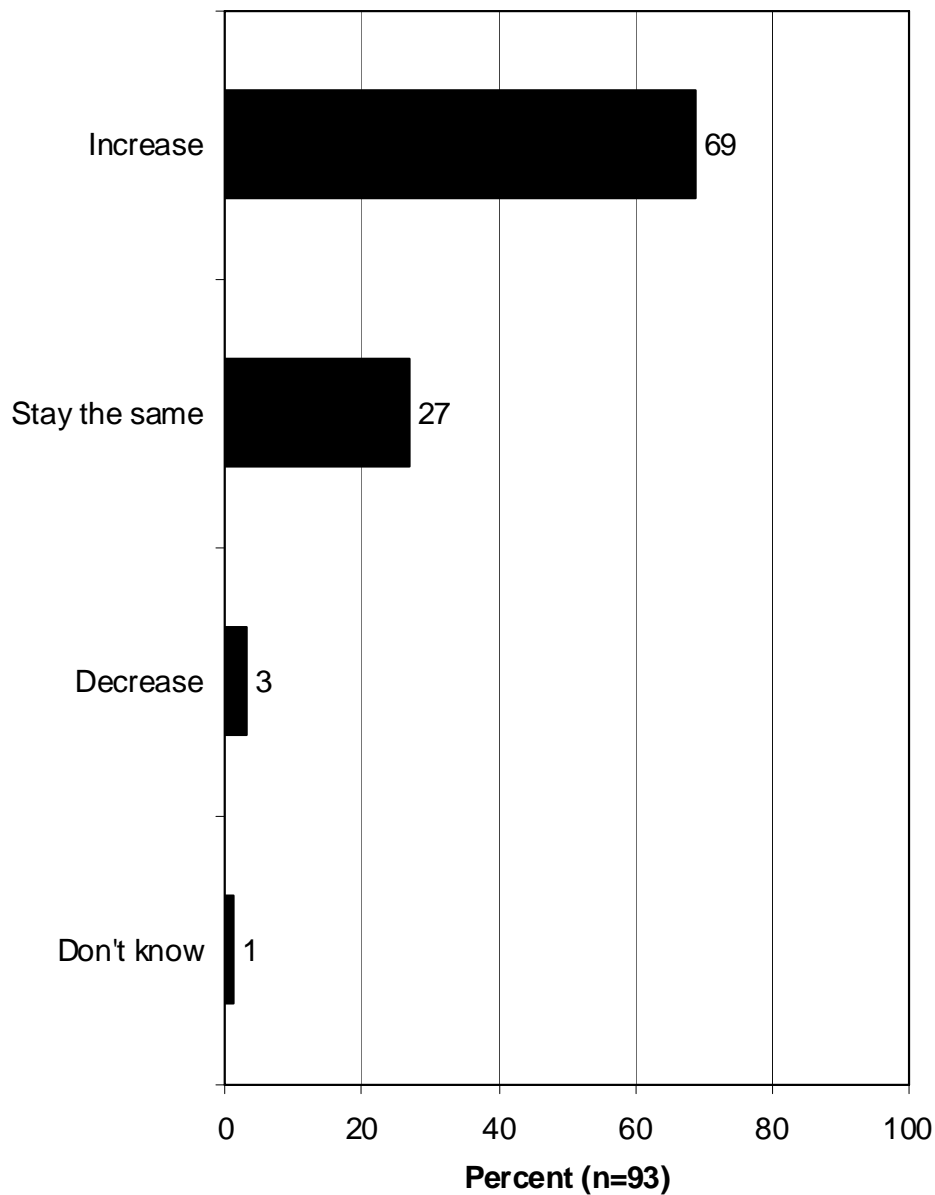
**Q70. Would you like to see the deer population where you hunt on public lands in Region A increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



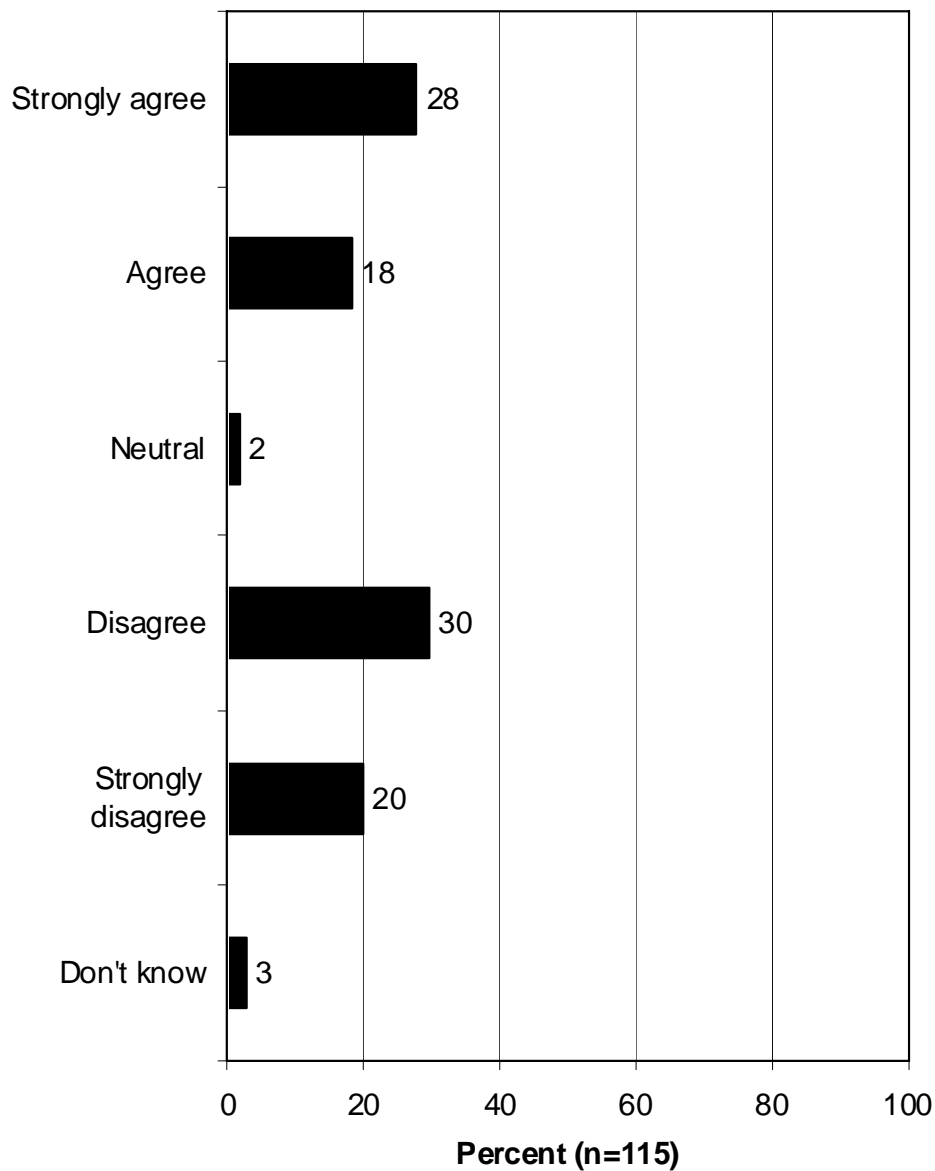
**Q72. Would you say the deer population is too high, just right, or too low on private lands in Region A where you hunted in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



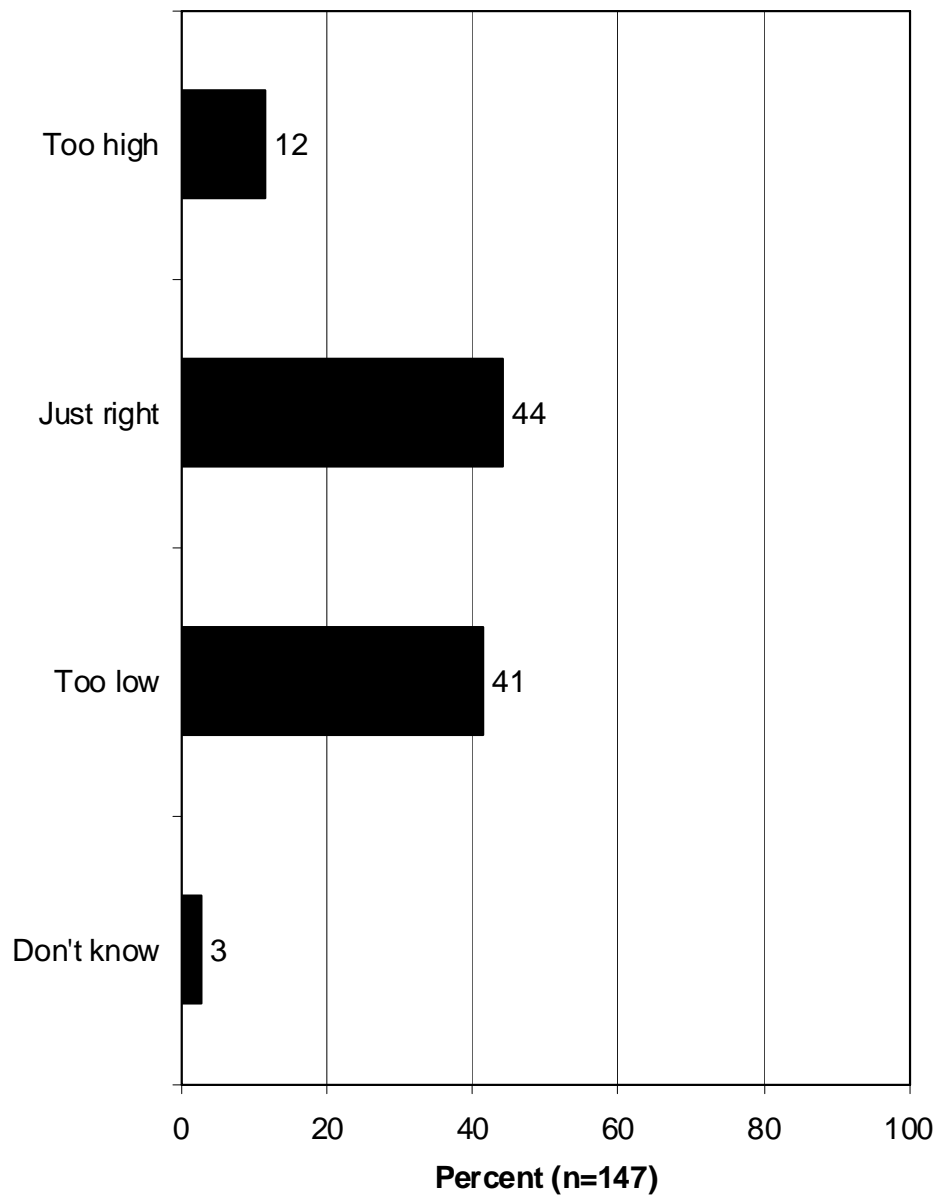
**Q73. Would you like to see the deer population where you hunt on private lands in Region A increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



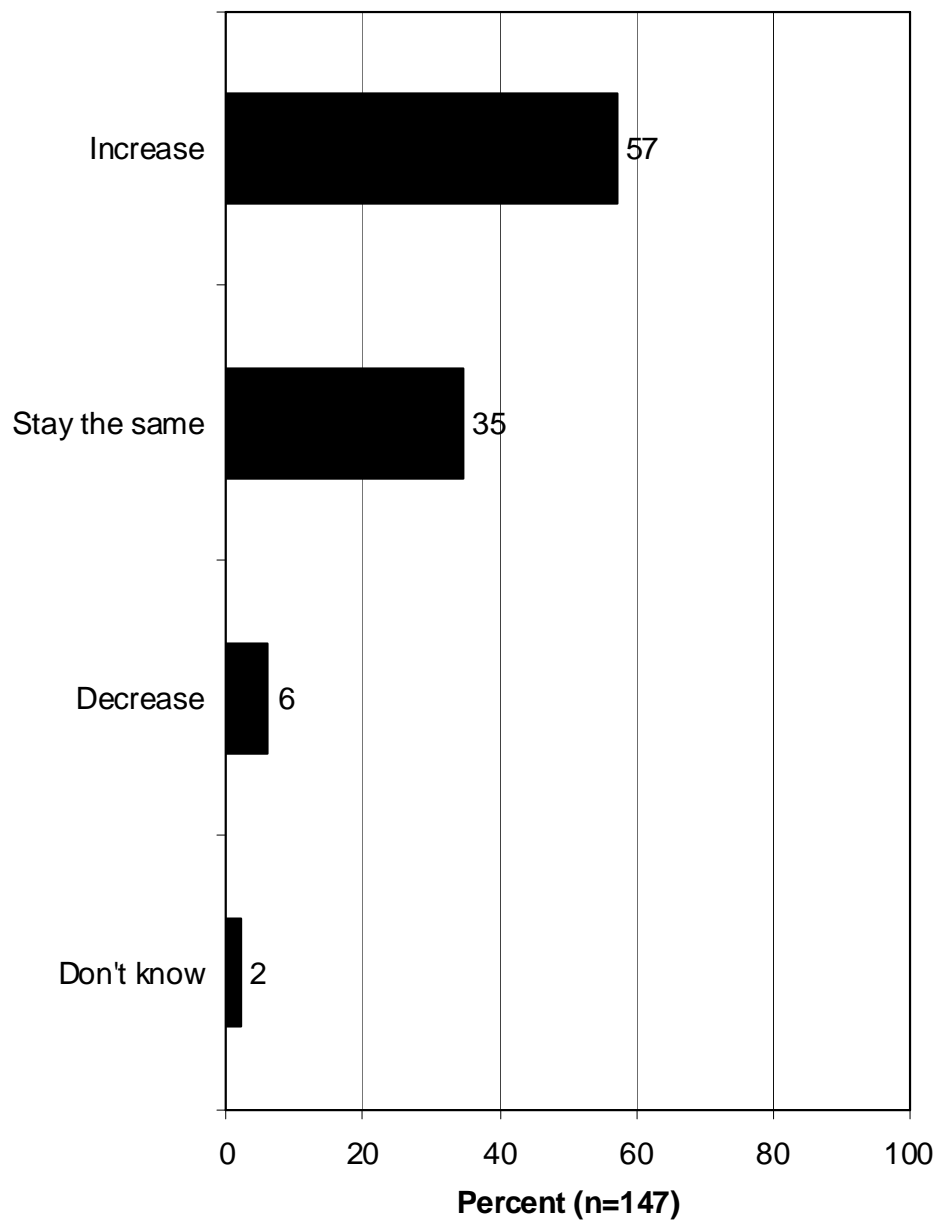
**Q74. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on Region A public lands should be managed separately from deer hunting on Region A private lands? (Asked of those who hunted in Region A in the past two years.) (Hunter survey.)**



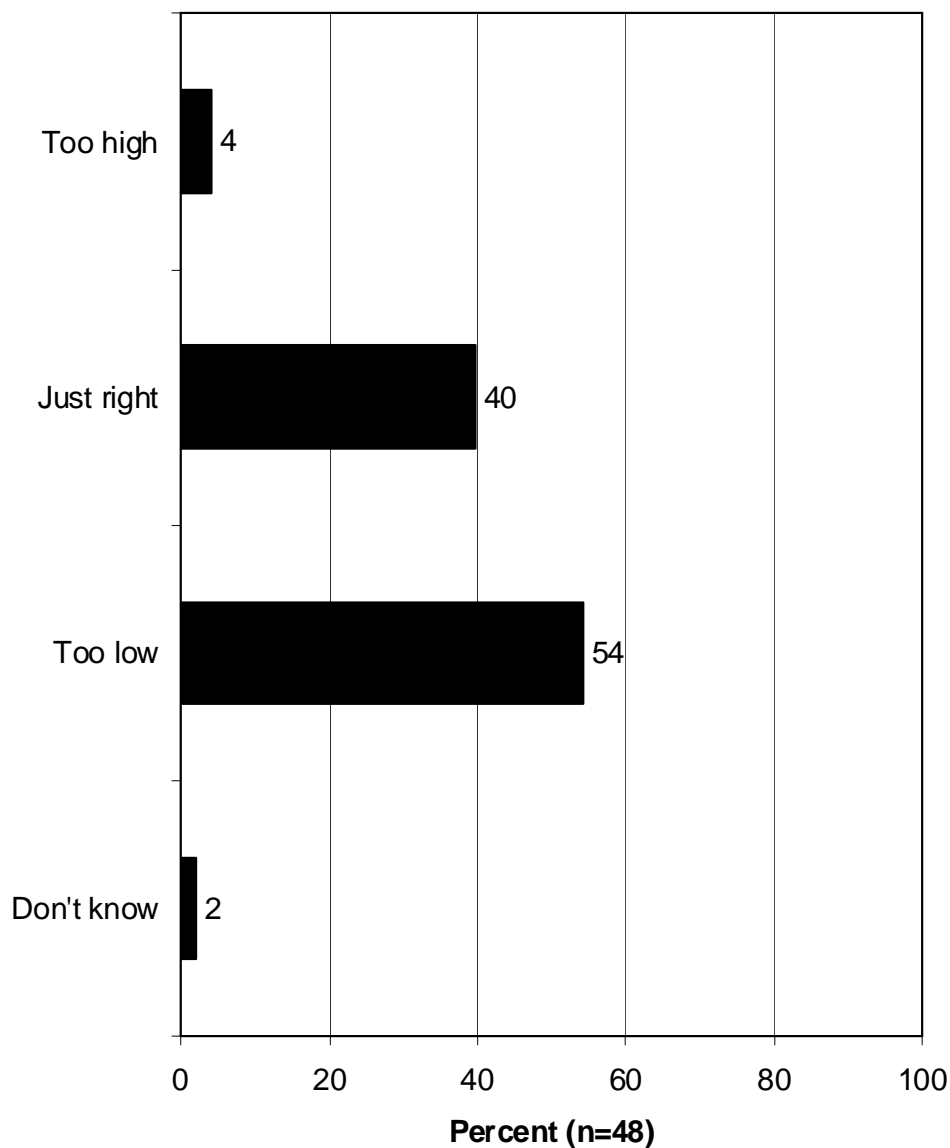
**Q87. Would you say the deer population is too high, just right, or too low on public lands in Region B where you hunted in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



**Q88. Would you like to see the deer population on the public lands in Region B where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**

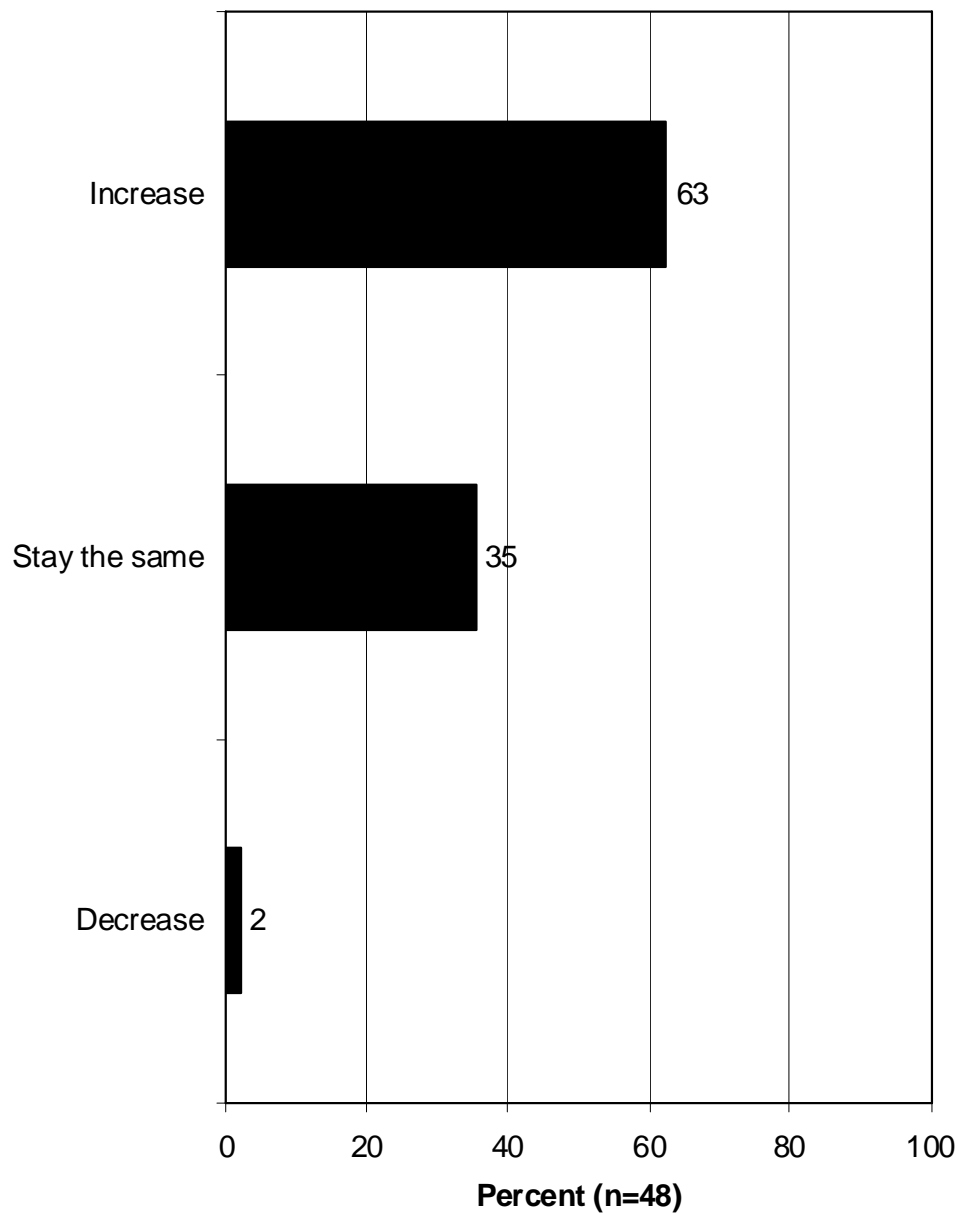


**Q90. Would you say the deer population is too high, just right, or too low on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties where you hunted in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**

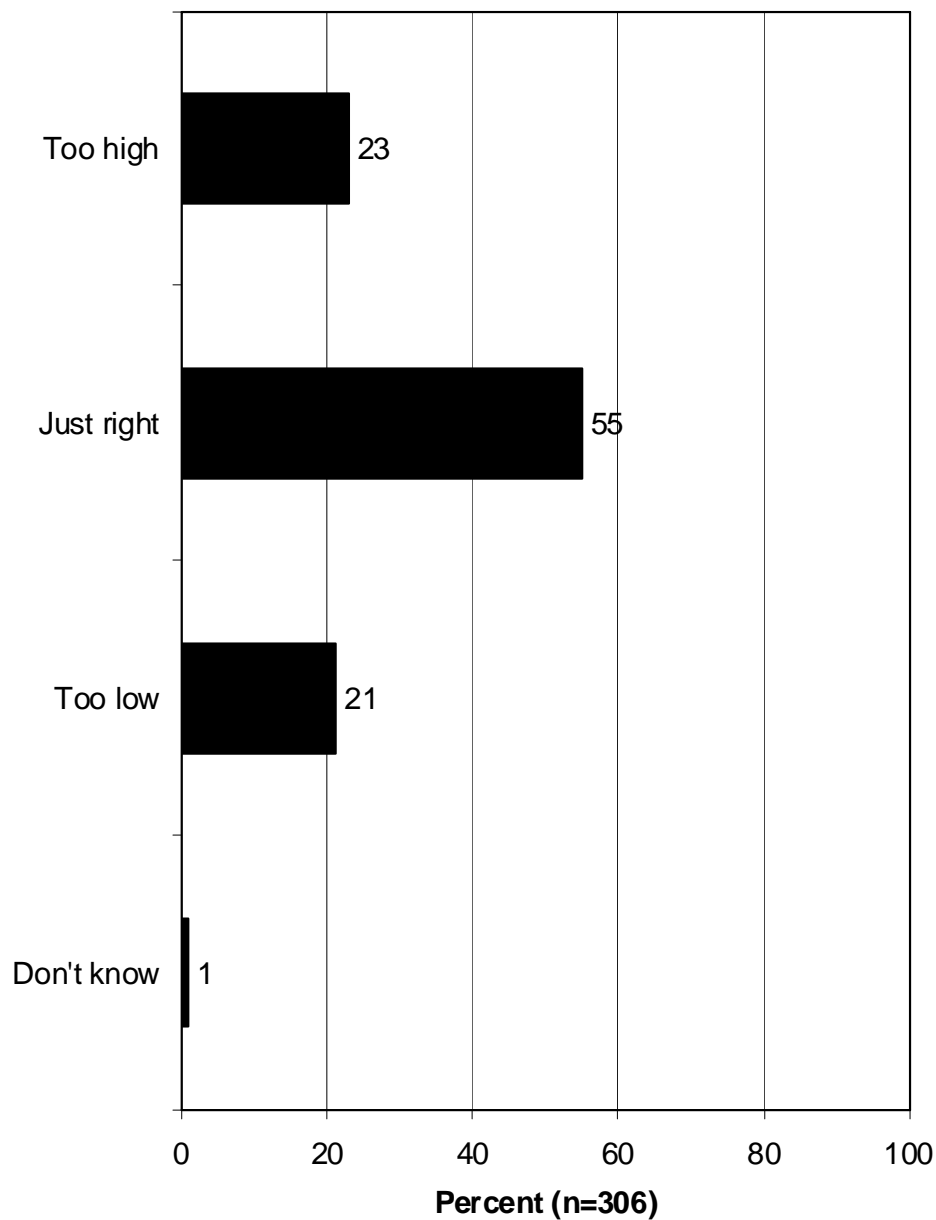




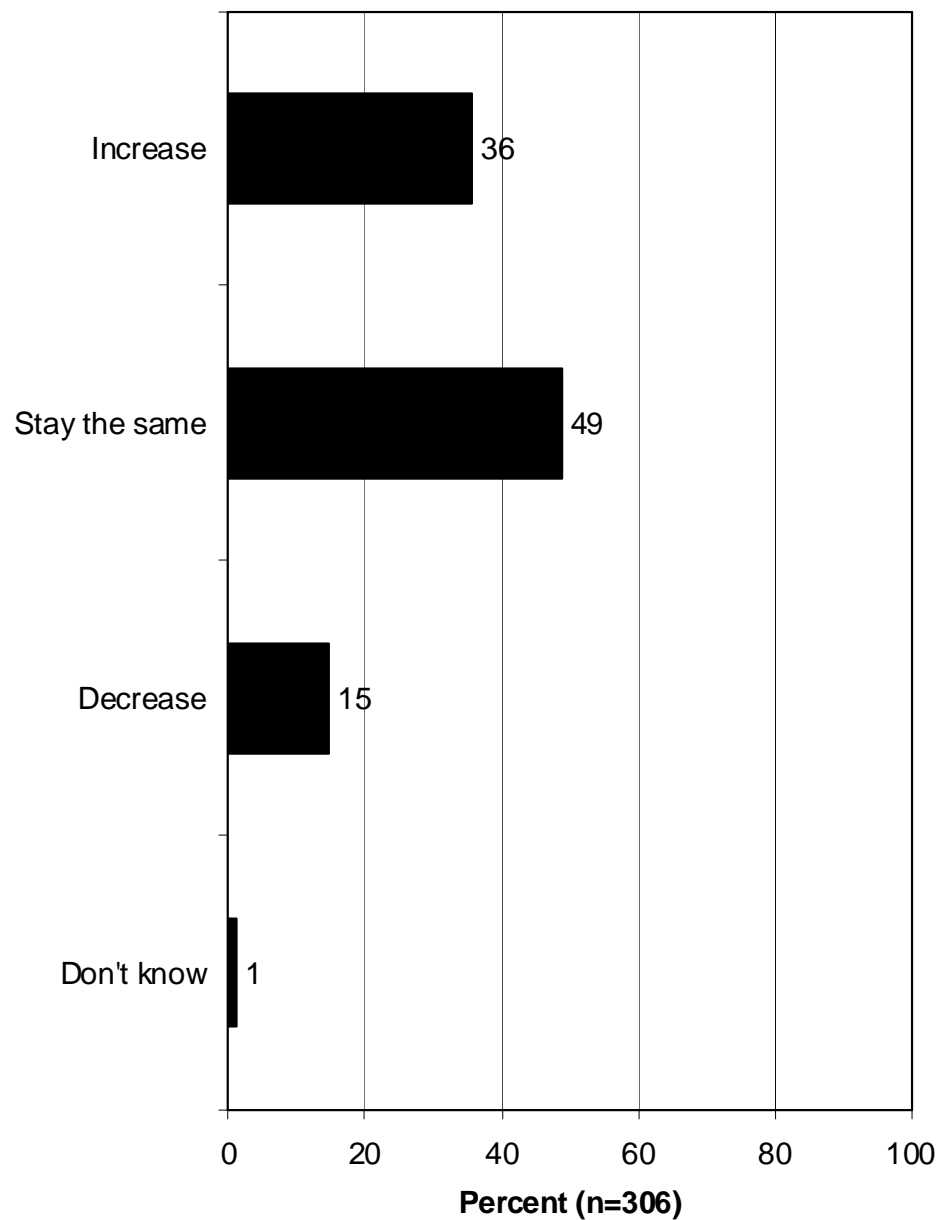
**Q91. Would you like to see the deer population on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



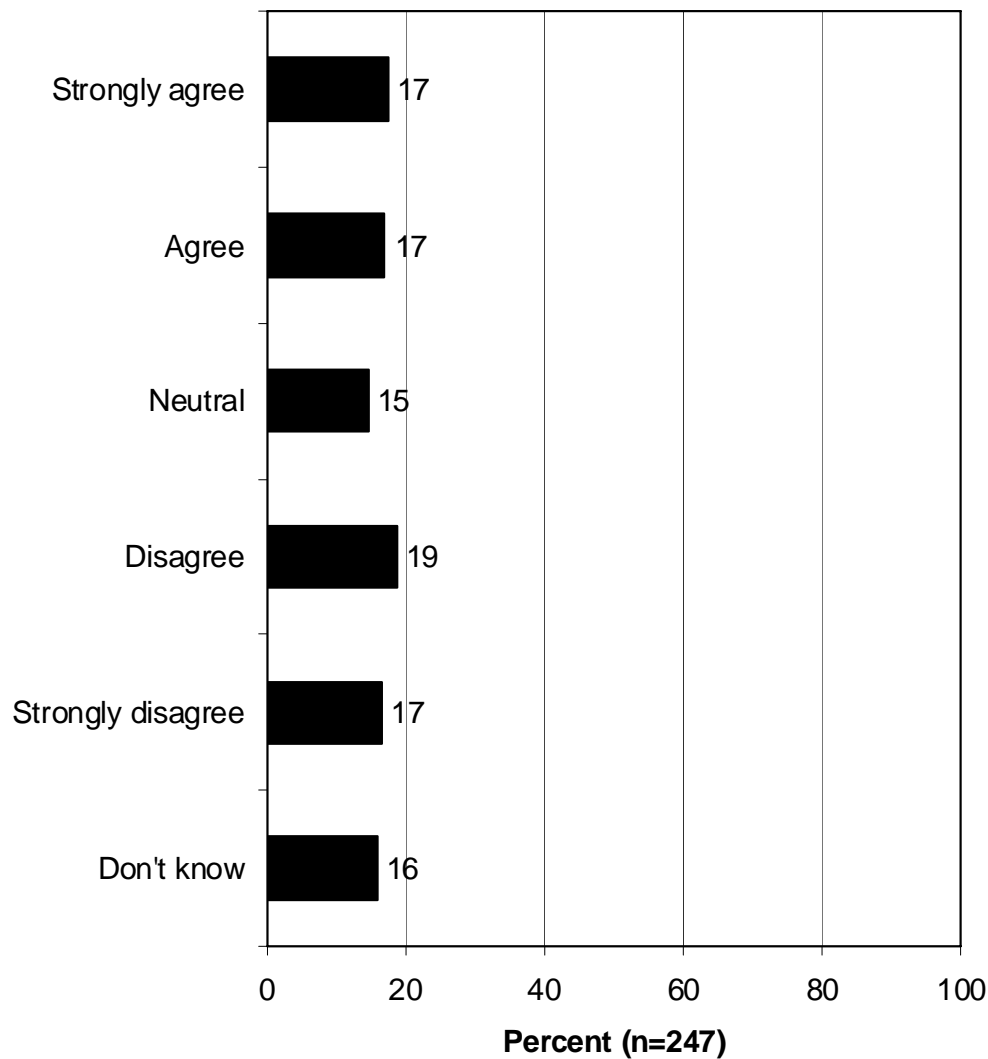
**Q96. Would you say the deer population is too high, just right, or too low on private lands in Region B where you hunted in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



**Q97. Would you like to see the deer population on private lands in Region B where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



**Q93. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands in Washington and Frederick Counties? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public or private lands in Washington or Frederick County at least "rarely" in the past 2 years.)**



## **KNOWLEDGE OF AND OPINIONS ON DEER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND**

- The majority of Maryland residents (57%) agree that Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. Because of the relatively high percentage of residents who gave a neutral or “don’t know” answer, only 13% disagree. An even higher percentage of deer hunters (81%) agree that Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population; disagreement is about the same, at 15%. Among large landowners, 54% agree, and 19% disagree.
- Among the general population of Maryland, knowledge of the MDNR’s Deer Management Program is low: 78% say that they know nothing or just a little about it, while 21% say that they know a moderate amount or a great deal. Among deer hunters, knowledge is greater: 39% know nothing or just a little, while 60% know a moderate amount or a great deal. Landowners fall in the middle between those two groups regarding knowledge: while 60% know a little or nothing, 39% know a great deal or moderate amount.
- A large majority of Maryland residents (68%) support controlling deer populations on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas; only 18% oppose. Follow-up questions asked about various methods to control deer, as discussed below. In addition, landowners were asked some questions about methods to control deer. The results are tabulated for ease of readability.
  - Opposition (56%) exceeds support (35%) among residents for the use of sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas. Among those who support the use of sharpshooters, most have no preference on the type of weapon used.
  - Residents are about evenly split on the use of archery hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas: 48% support, while 40% oppose.
  - Among the general population, support (57%) exceeds opposition (31%) for the use of immunocontraceptives to control the population of wild deer herds. (Although this question did not ask specifically about controlling deer in *urban and suburban areas*, one could assume that support would remain about the same for using this method for deer in urban and suburban areas.) Note that this question was asked after an explanation of

immunocontraceptives was given to respondents. In previous questions, 38% of Maryland residents had heard of immunocontraceptives before the survey, but detailed knowledge was very low among those who had heard of them.

- Among large landowners, opposition (47%) exceeds support (36%) for the use of immunocontraceptives to control the population of wild deer herds. This question was asked after an explanation of immunocontraceptives was given to them. In previous questions, 55% of landowners had heard of immunocontraceptives before the survey, but detailed knowledge was very low among those who had heard of them.
- Following an explanation of possible drawbacks to the use of immunocontraceptives, residents were again asked about their support or opposition to their use: while support still exceeded opposition, support dropped to 50%, while opposition increased to 38%. Large landowners, too, received the explanation of drawbacks, and opposition increased to 61%, while support dropped to 26%. (The statement given to respondents regarding possible drawbacks is as follows: *Currently, deer immunocontraceptives are still in the test and research phase and are not 100% effective, largely due to the need to capture a large percentage of the female deer population and then recapture the same deer to administer a booster shot. Opinions about the use of immunocontraceptives are conflicting. Biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources do not feel that immunocontraceptives are a viable option for controlling wild deer populations while others who are concerned about animal welfare believe that immunocontraceptives may be an effective alternative to lethal methods of population control.*)
- Interestingly, although support for the use of immunocontraceptives was at least 50% among residents, when the stipulation was included that the use of immunocontraceptives would be conducted *using state tax revenue*, support dropped: 44% of residents support, while 47% oppose. Among landowners, among whom opposition already exceeds support for use of immunocontraceptives, a large majority (64%) oppose using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives.
- In an open-ended question—one in which no response set is read and respondents can give any response (given prior to questions about specific methods so as to not bias the answers)—hunting was the most popular method named for controlling the deer

population (26%), followed by biological birth control (18%), and trapping and relocation (17%).

- After the individual questions about specific methods of controlling deer, a final question asked residents to choose from among the three methods (and including a “no control” response) that they would want the MDNR to use, and legal, recreational hunting was the most favored (45% gave that answer), followed by immunocontraceptives (33%) and use of sharpshooters (16%).

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Total support	Strongly oppose	Moderately oppose	Total opposition
Do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Prior to explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among Maryland residents.)	31	26	<b>57</b>	22	9	<b>31</b>
Given this information, do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (After explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among Maryland residents.)	25	25	<b>50</b>	26	12	<b>38</b>
Do you support or oppose the use of <b>regulated archery hunting</b> to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Among Maryland residents.)	23	25	<b>48</b>	27	13	<b>40</b>
Do you support or oppose <b>using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives</b> to wild deer? (Among Maryland residents.)	17	27	<b>44</b>	35	12	<b>47</b>
Do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Prior to explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among deer hunters.)	13	23	<b>36</b>	34	13	<b>47</b>
Do you support or oppose the use of <b>professionals or sharpshooters</b> to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Among Maryland residents.)	14	21	<b>35</b>	39	17	<b>56</b>
Do you support or oppose <b>using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives</b> to wild deer? (Among deer hunters.)	10	17	<b>27</b>	53	11	<b>64</b>
Given this information, do you support or oppose the <b>use of immunocontraceptives</b> in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (After explanation of potential drawbacks.) (Among deer hunters.)	11	15	<b>26</b>	44	17	<b>61</b>

- In a question related to controlling the deer herd, a large majority of Maryland residents (72%), deer hunters (86%), and landowners (79%) would support a substantial reduction in

the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where chronic wasting disease is found.

- Prior to the discussion of drawbacks of immunocontraceptives, Maryland residents were asked whether they agree or disagree that immunocontraceptives are an acceptable alternative to lethal measures for deer population control in wild deer herds: agreement (66%) far exceeds disagreement (25%). Landowners were also asked this question, and they are fairly evenly split: 41% agree, but 44% disagree.
- Six questions asked about how important various things should be in making deer management decisions. Maryland residents rated scientific information and the professional judgement of MDNR biologists as the most important in making deer management decisions; they rated political concerns as the least important—the only thing with less than a majority rating it important. The results are tabulated below for ease of readability, sorted from most important to the least.

Questions asked of Maryland residents.	Very important	Somewhat important	Total important	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Total unimportant
Q72. How important or unimportant should <b>scientific information</b> such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management?	56	28	<b>84</b>	3	5	<b>8</b>
Q73. How important or unimportant should the <b>professional judgement of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	53	29	<b>82</b>	4	5	<b>9</b>
Q75. How important or unimportant should <b>public opinion</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	38	40	<b>78</b>	7	8	<b>15</b>
Q76. How important or unimportant should <b>hunters' concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	31	34	<b>65</b>	14	12	<b>26</b>
Q74. How important or unimportant should the <b>economic impact of hunting in Maryland</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	26	38	<b>64</b>	13	13	<b>26</b>
Q77. How important or unimportant should <b>political concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	9	20	<b>29</b>	47	15	<b>62</b>



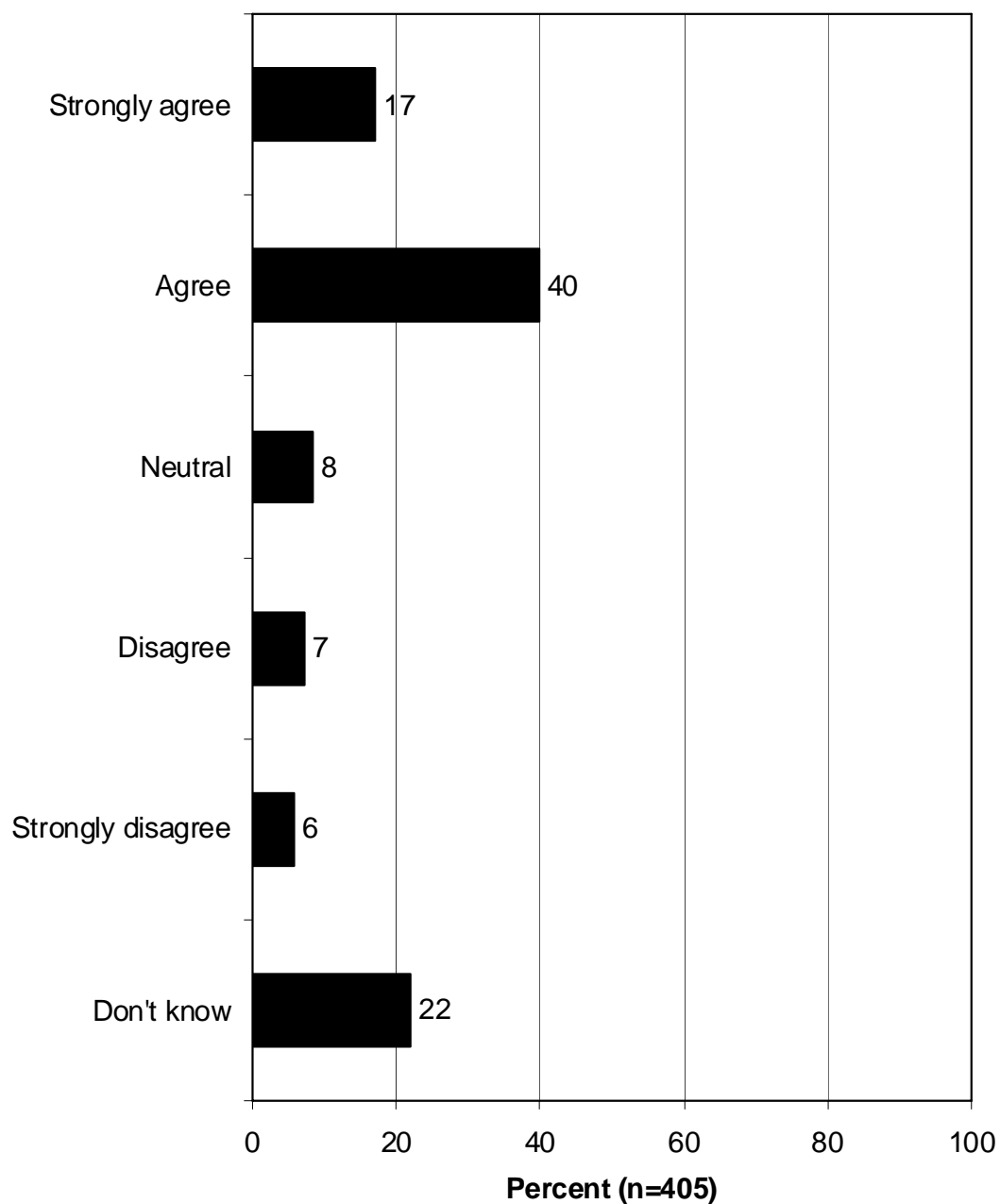
- The six questions discussed above were also asked of landowners. Large landowners rated scientific information and the professional judgement of MDNR biologists as the most important in making deer management decisions; they rated political concerns as the least important—the only thing with less than a majority rating it important. The results are tabulated below for ease of readability, sorted from most important to the least.

Questions asked of large landowners.	Very important	Somewhat important	Total important	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Total unimportant
Q58. How important or unimportant should <b>scientific information</b> such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management?	54	30	<b>84</b>	3	7	<b>10</b>
Q59. How important or unimportant should the <b>professional judgement of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	39	40	<b>79</b>	4	5	<b>9</b>
Q62. How important or unimportant should <b>hunters' concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	42	37	<b>79</b>	6	7	<b>13</b>
Q60. How important or unimportant should the <b>economic impact of hunting in Maryland</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	38	32	<b>70</b>	8	9	<b>17</b>
Q61. How important or unimportant should <b>public opinion</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	20	35	<b>55</b>	16	17	<b>33</b>
Q63. How important or unimportant should <b>political concerns</b> be in making decisions about deer management?	8	18	<b>26</b>	45	16	<b>61</b>

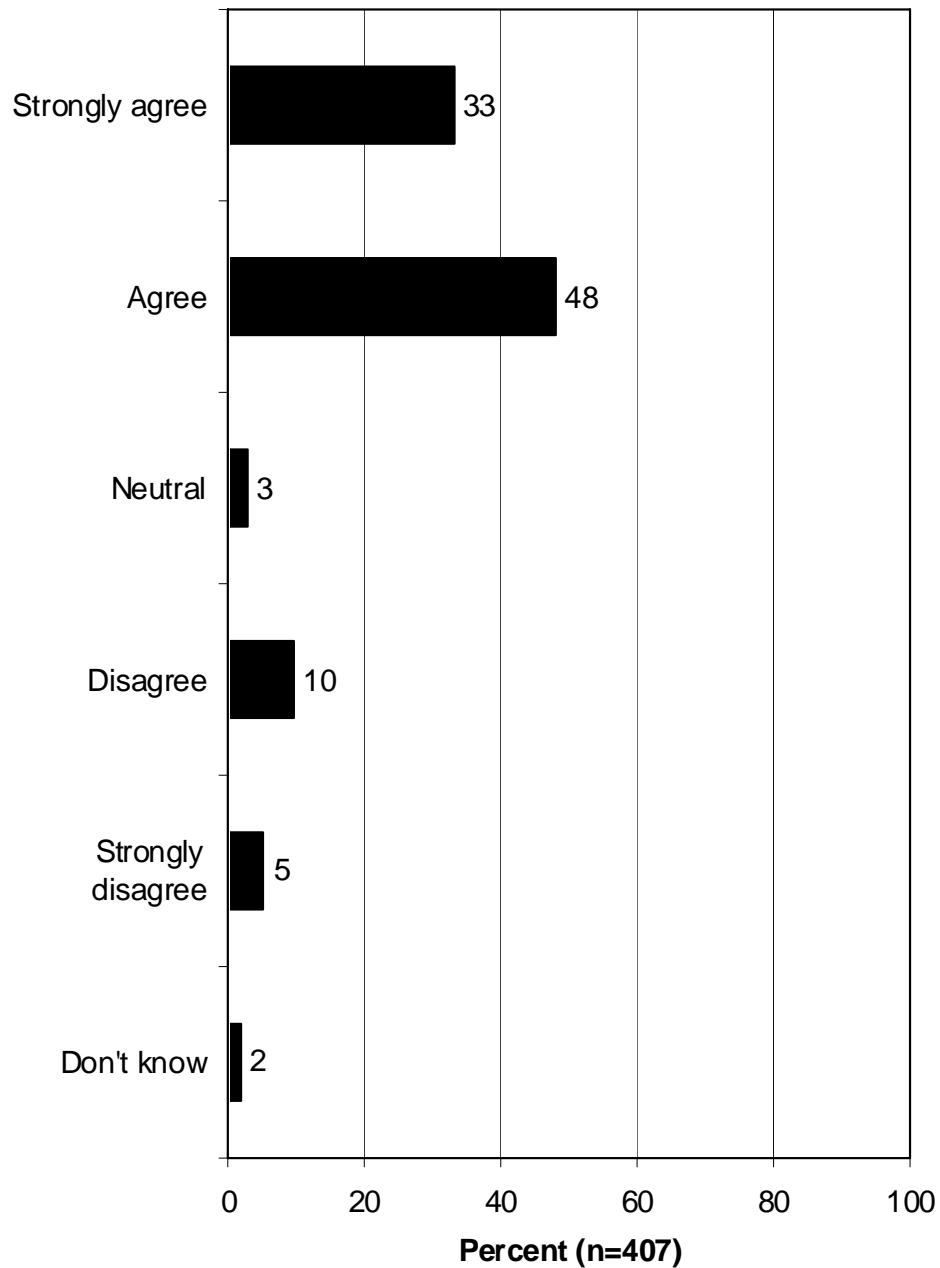
- The state of Maryland is broken down into two hunting regions (Regions A and B). Region A is made up of Allegany and Garrett Counties; Region B is all other counties. Region A deer hunters are split on whether they want deer hunting in Region A managed differently on public versus private lands: 46% agree that management should differ between public and private lands there, but 50% disagree. Region B deer hunters who hunted in Washington and/or Frederick Counties are split on whether they want deer hunting there managed differently on public versus private lands: 34% agree that management should differ between public and private lands there, and 36% disagree.

- The survey asked deer hunters about their frequency of practicing quality deer management (by harvesting mostly does and refraining from harvesting bucks less than 2½ years old): the majority (54%) practice quality deer management always; and the overwhelming majority (85%) do so always or sometimes. In line with the fact that most deer hunters practice quality deer management, most are in favor of mandatory quality deer management regulations (69% support such regulations); however, 26% oppose such mandatory regulations.
  - Prior to the questions above, deer hunters were asked what quality deer management means to them. Most commonly, they say it means bigger bucks and an increased size of deer (34%), an increase in the overall health of the herd (24%), or an increased size of antlers (22%).
- Most large landowners (65%) know about deer management or crop damage permits (to allow the reduction of deer on their property). Among those landowners who know of crop damage permits, 33% use them.

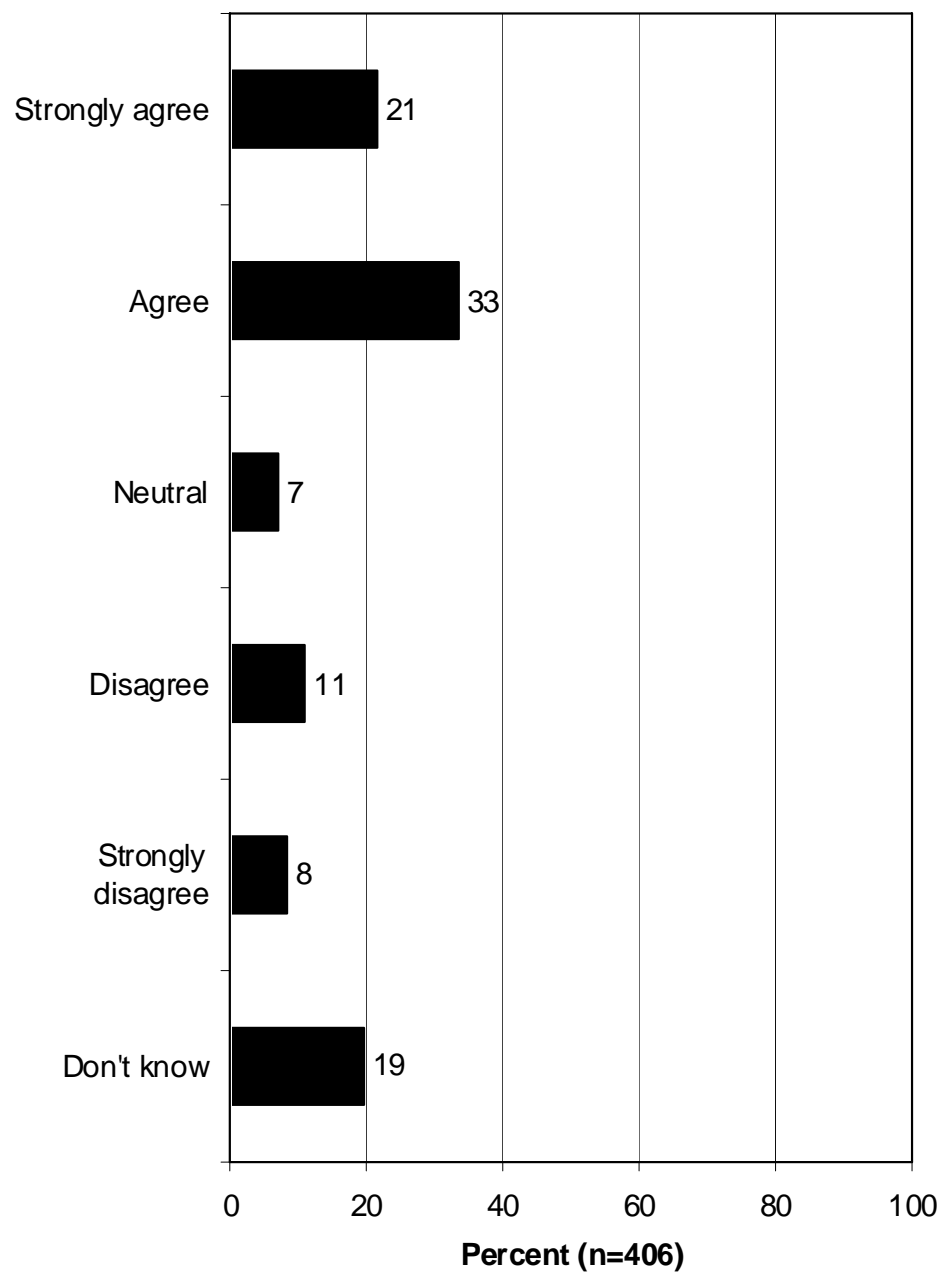
**Q12. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (General population survey.)**



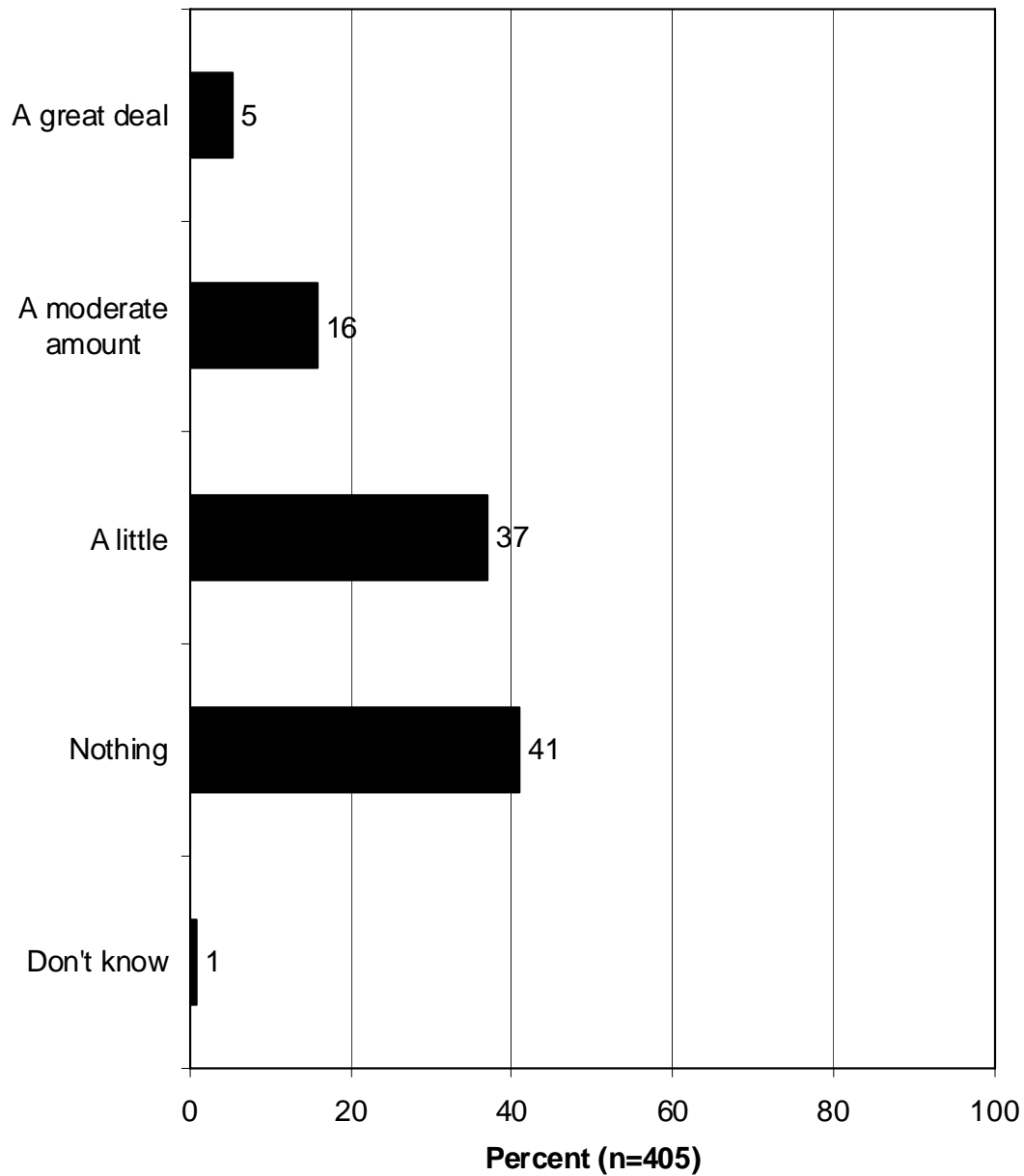
**Q14. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Hunter survey.)**



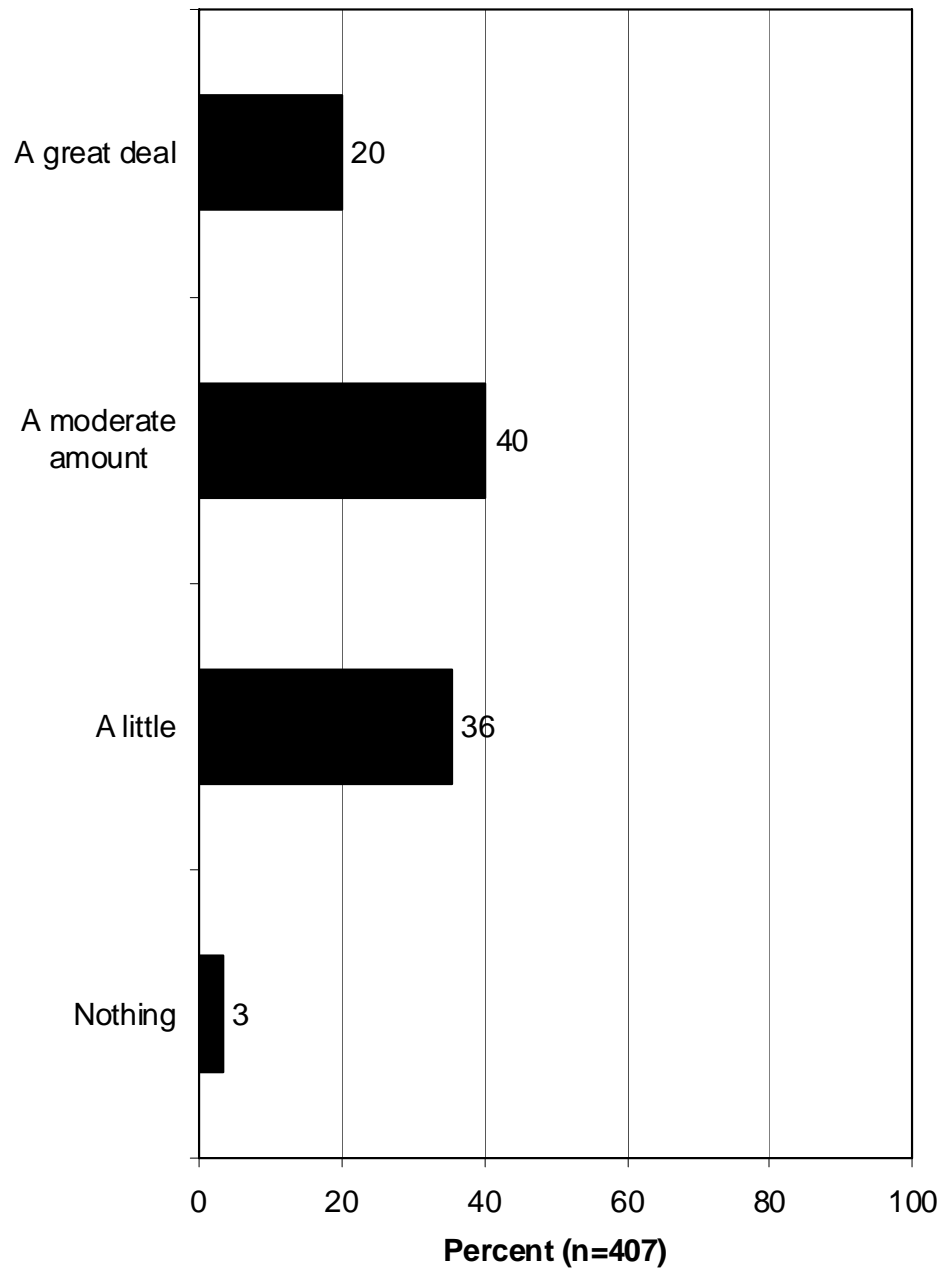
**Q16. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Landowner survey.)**



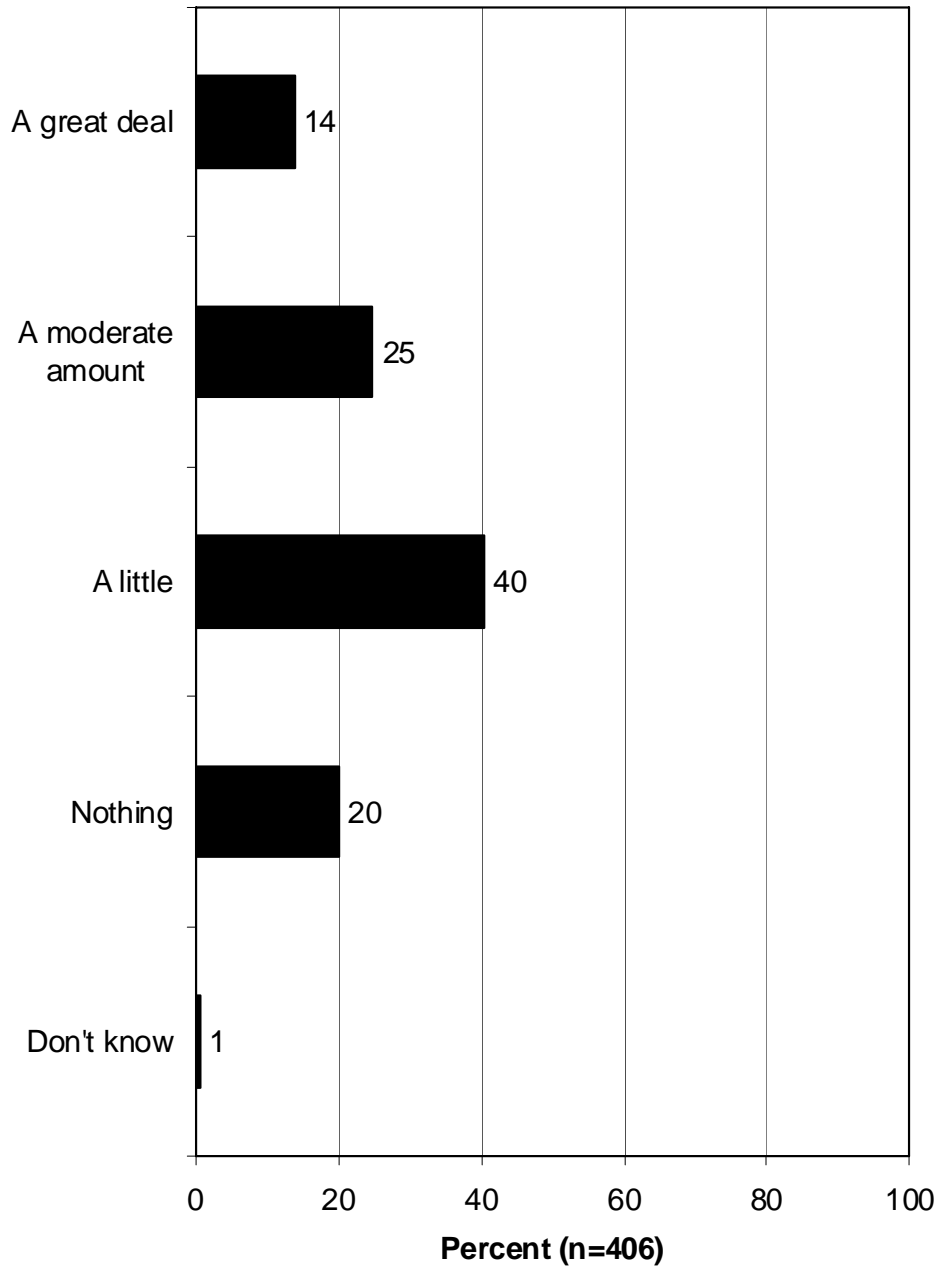
**Q14. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program? (General population survey.)**



**Q16. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' deer management program? (Hunter survey.)**

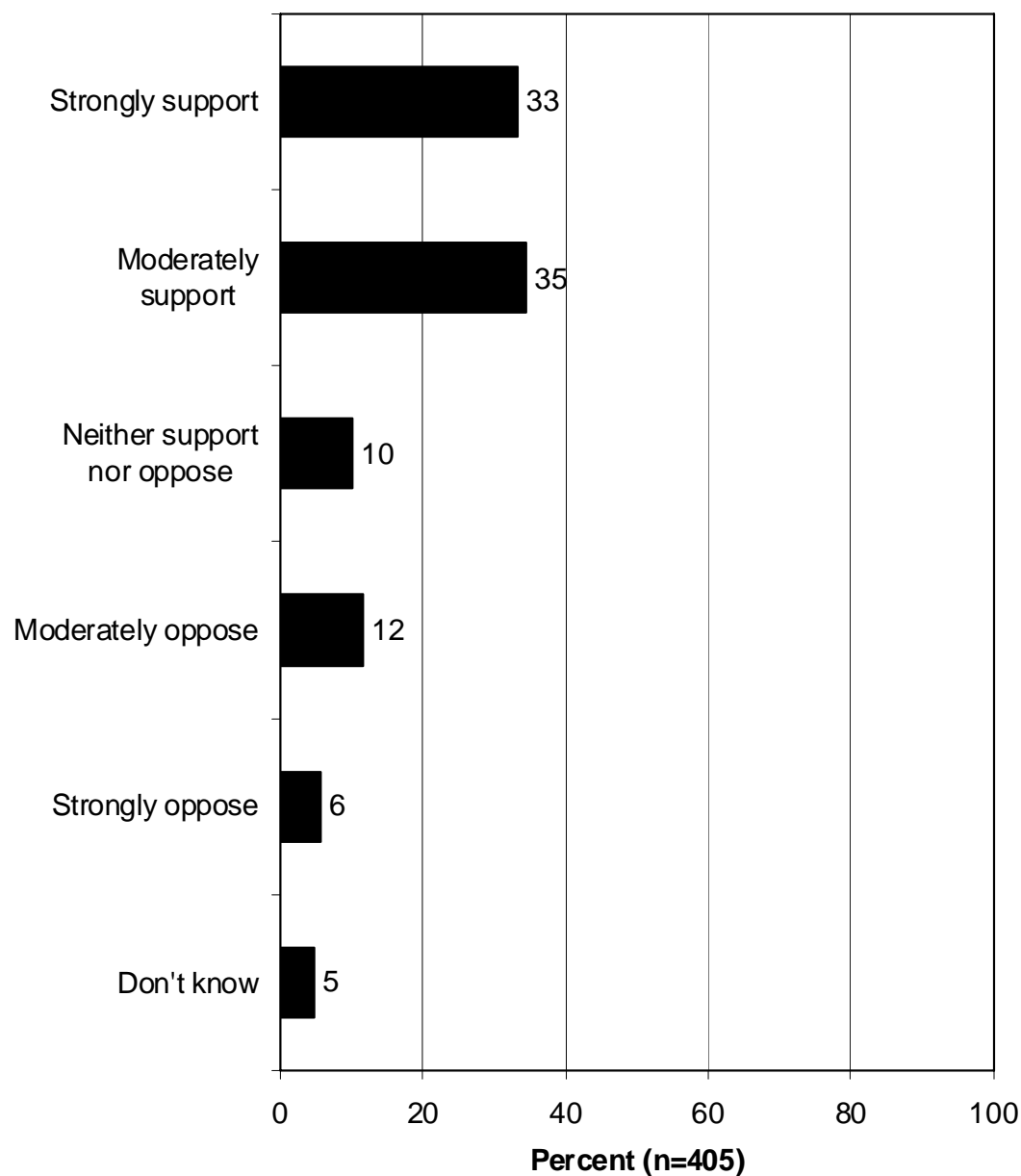


**Q18. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program? (Landowner survey.)**

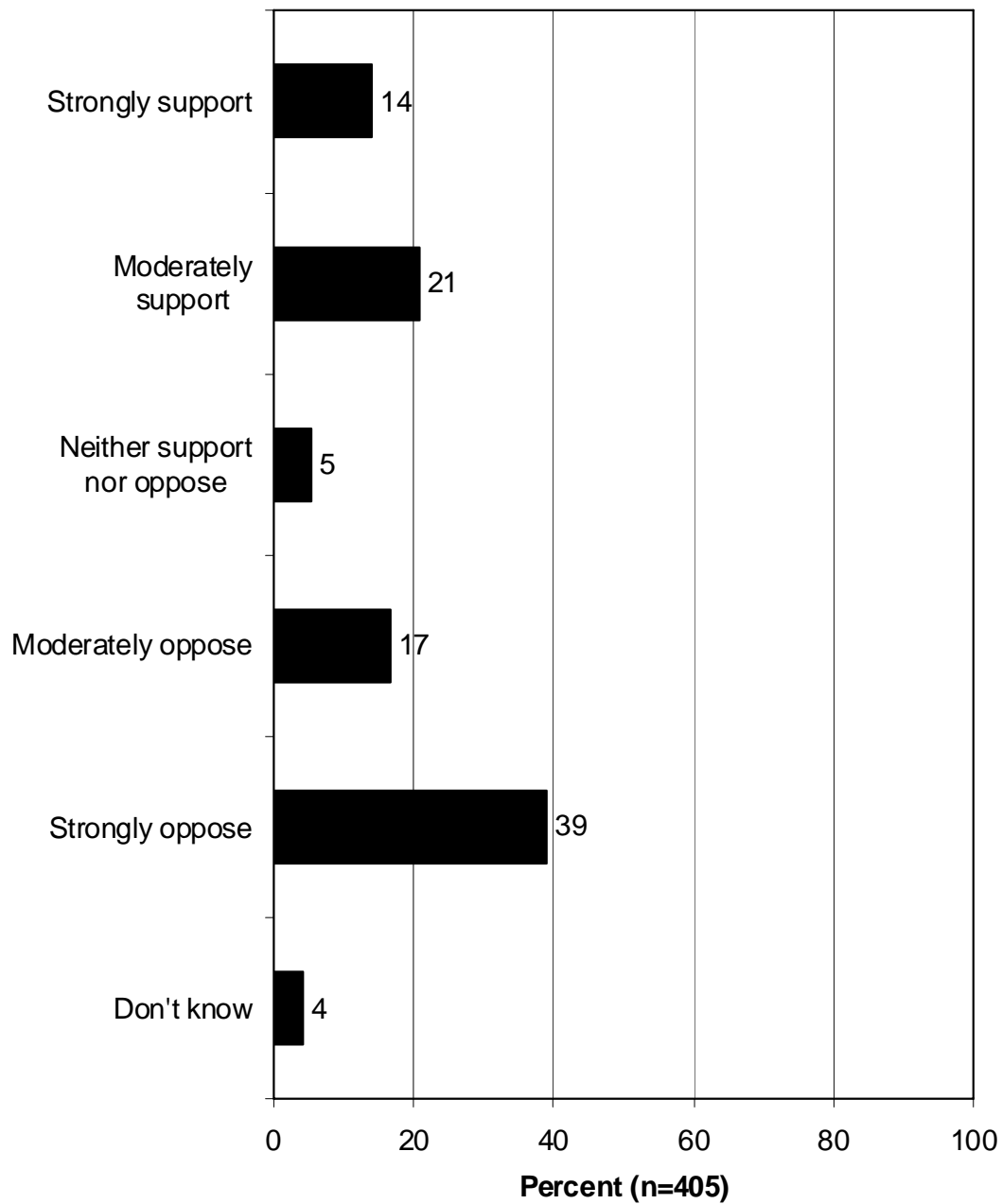




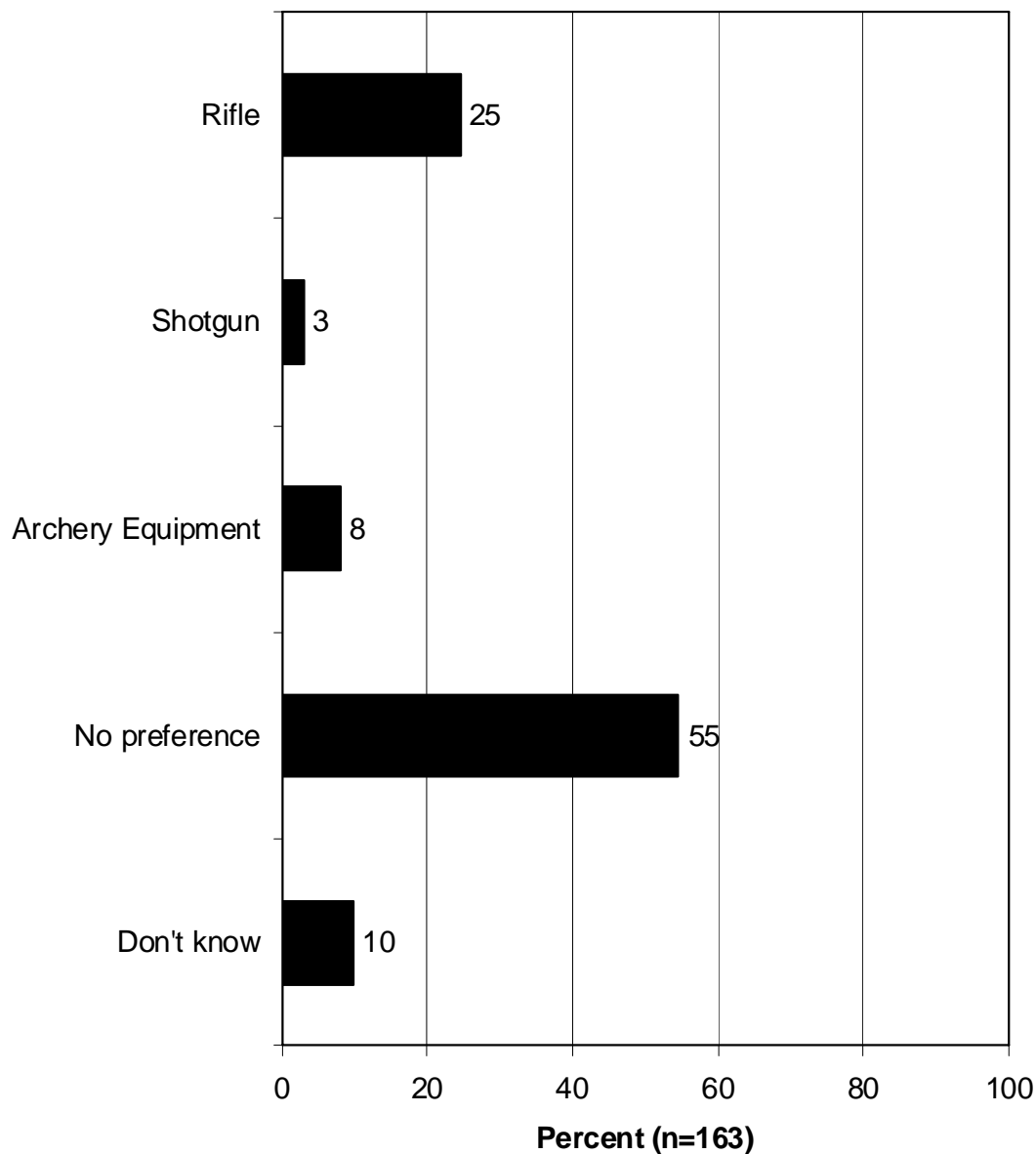
**Q51. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas? (General population survey.)**



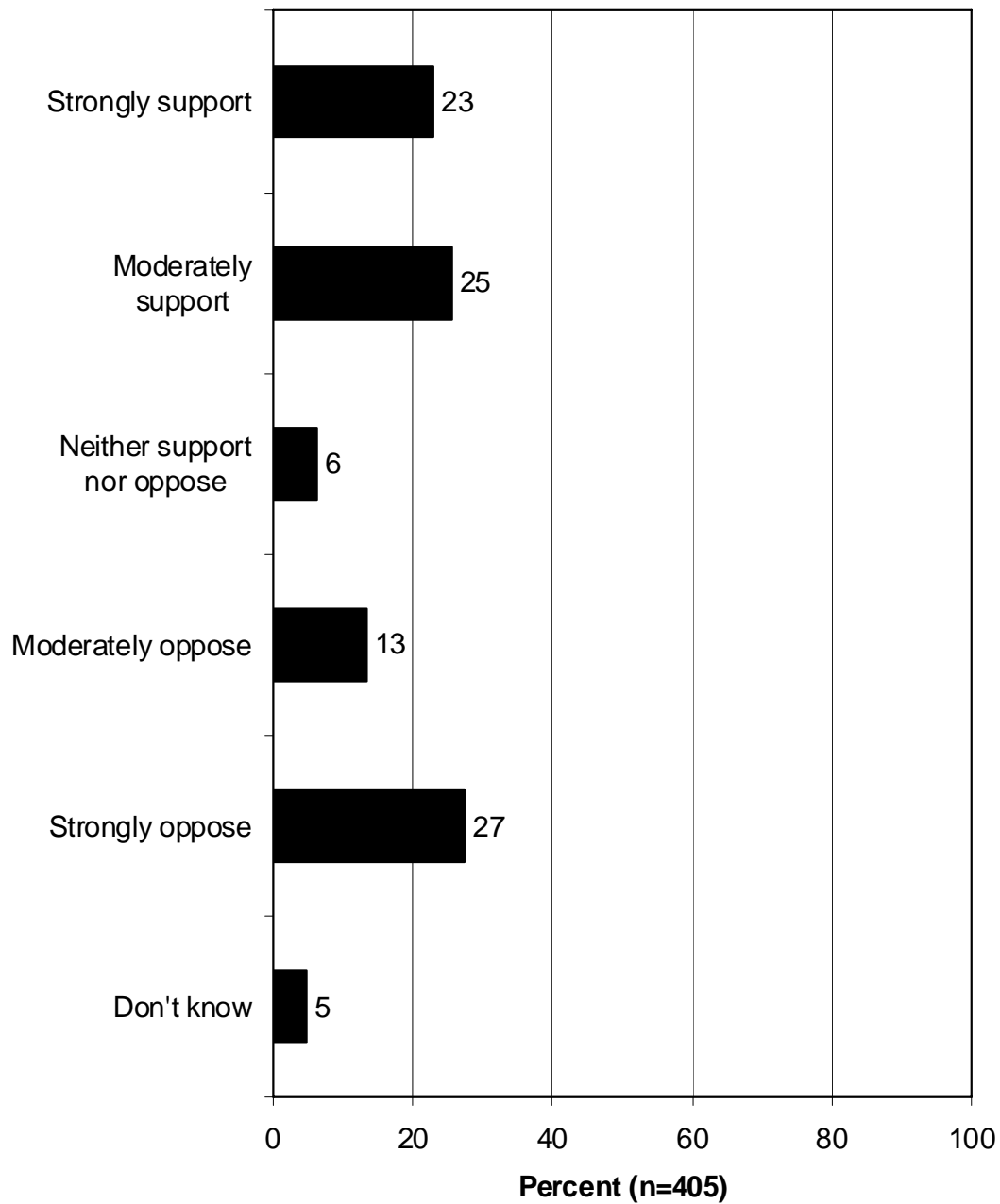
**Q57. Do you support or oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (General population survey.)**



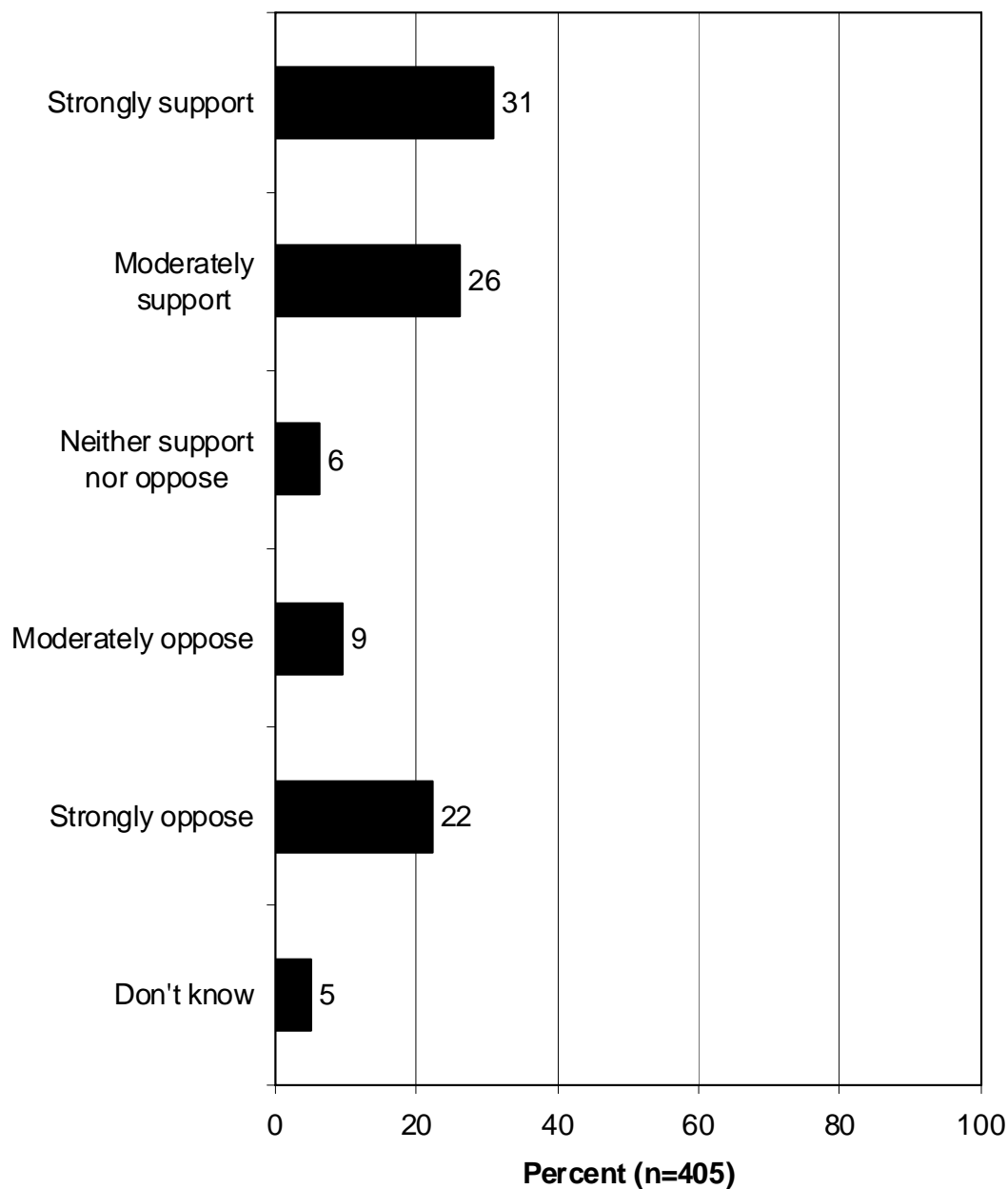
**Q58. Do you have a preference on what type of weapons professionals or sharpshooters should use in urban and suburban areas to control deer? (Asked of those who support and who neither support or oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer.) (General population survey.)**



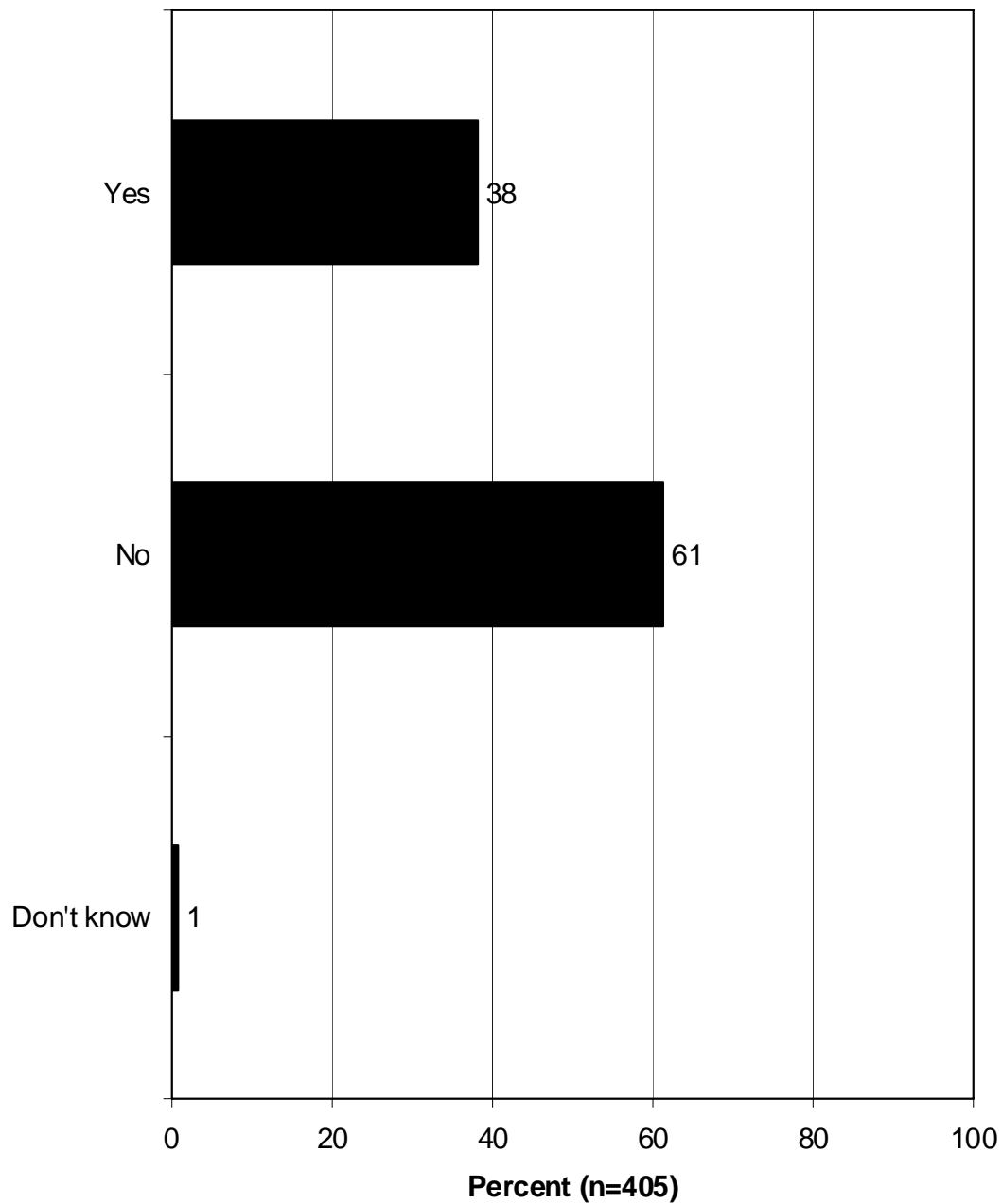
**Q59. Do you support or oppose the use of regulated archery hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (General population survey.)**



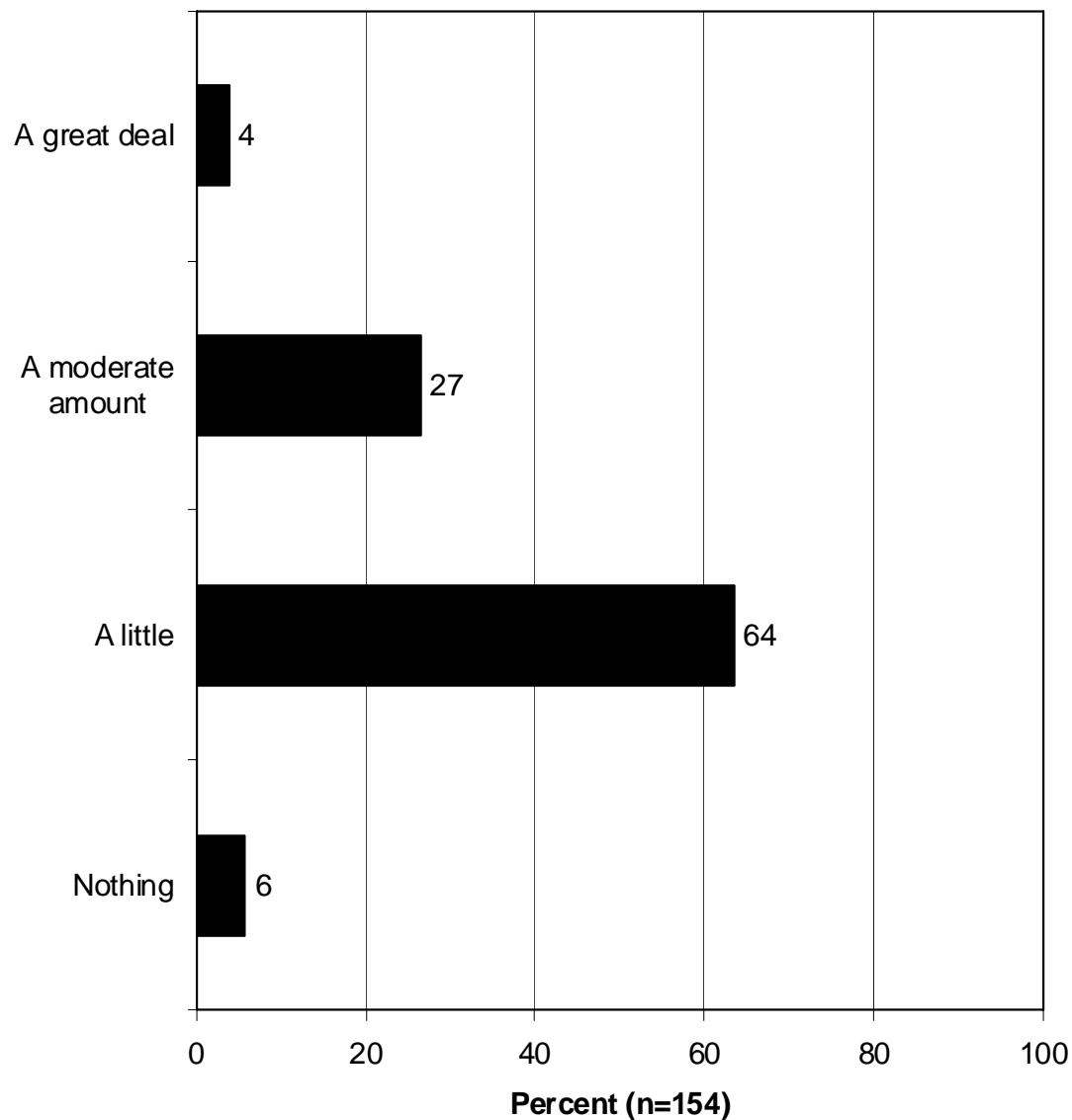
**Q63. Do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (General population survey.)**



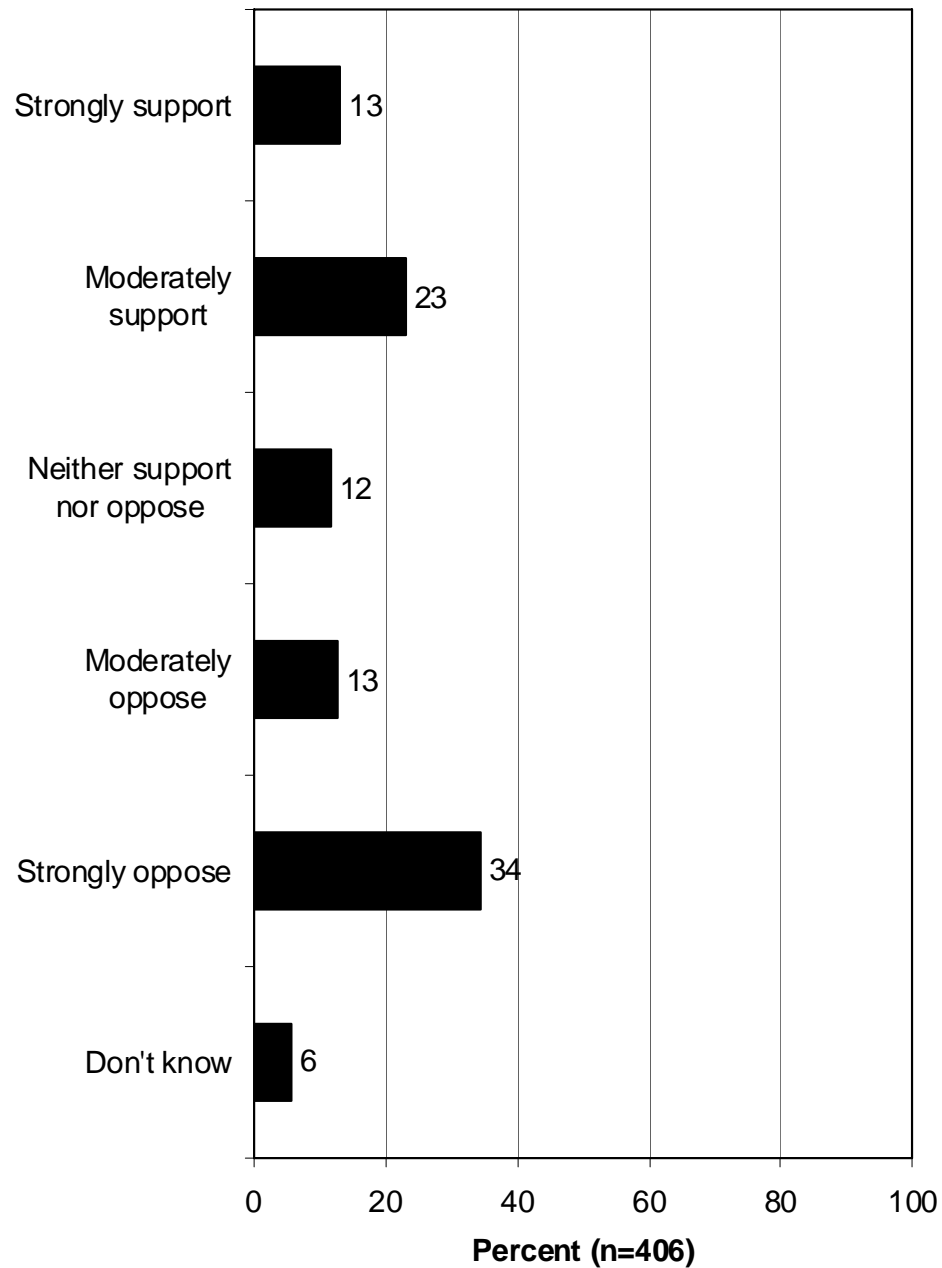
**Q60. Prior to this survey, had you heard of  
immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives?  
(General population survey.)**



**Q61. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives? (Asked of those who had heard of immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives.) (General population survey.)**

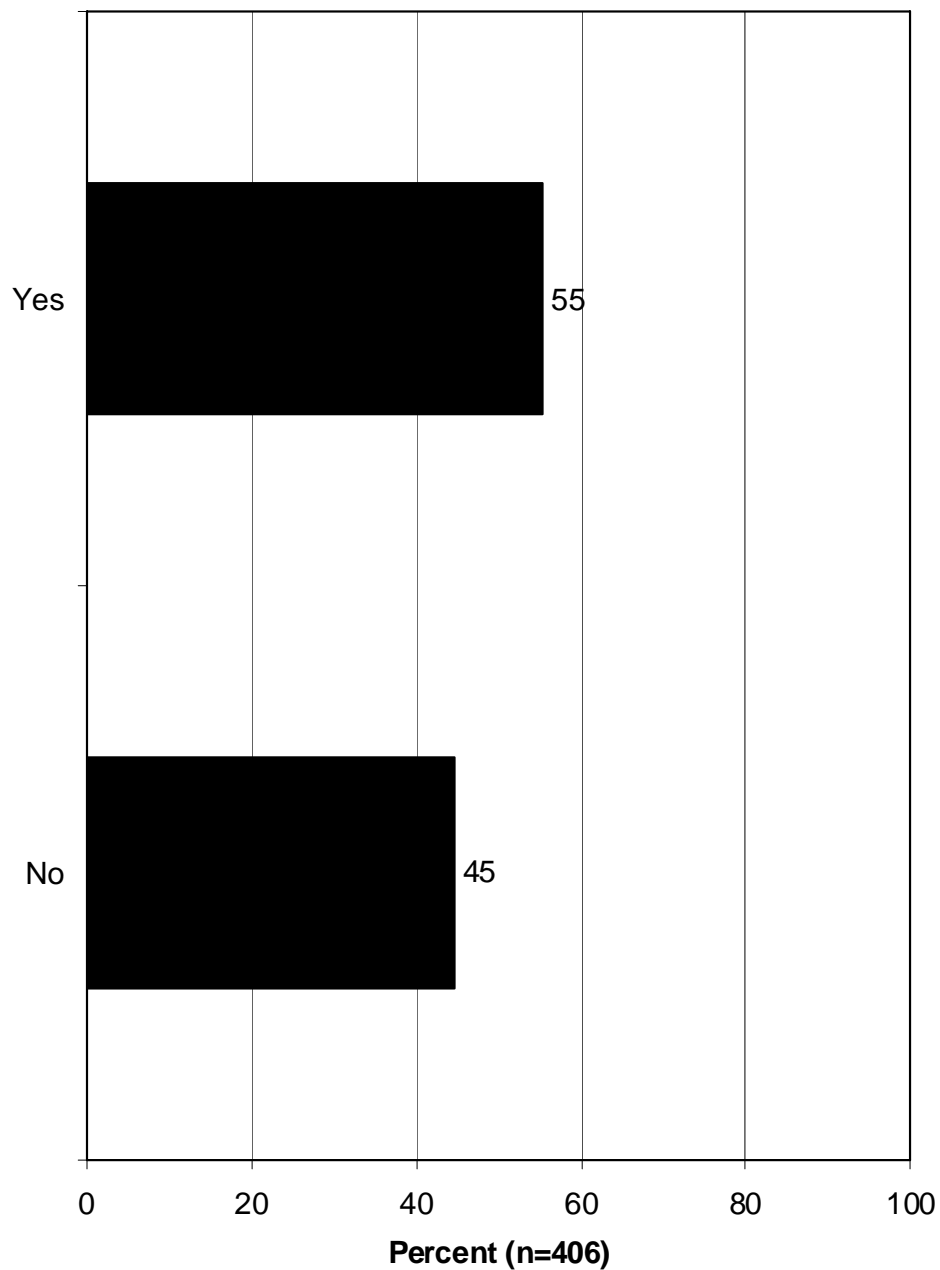


**Q52. Do you support or oppose the use of  
immunocontraceptives in deer population  
management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Landowner survey.)**

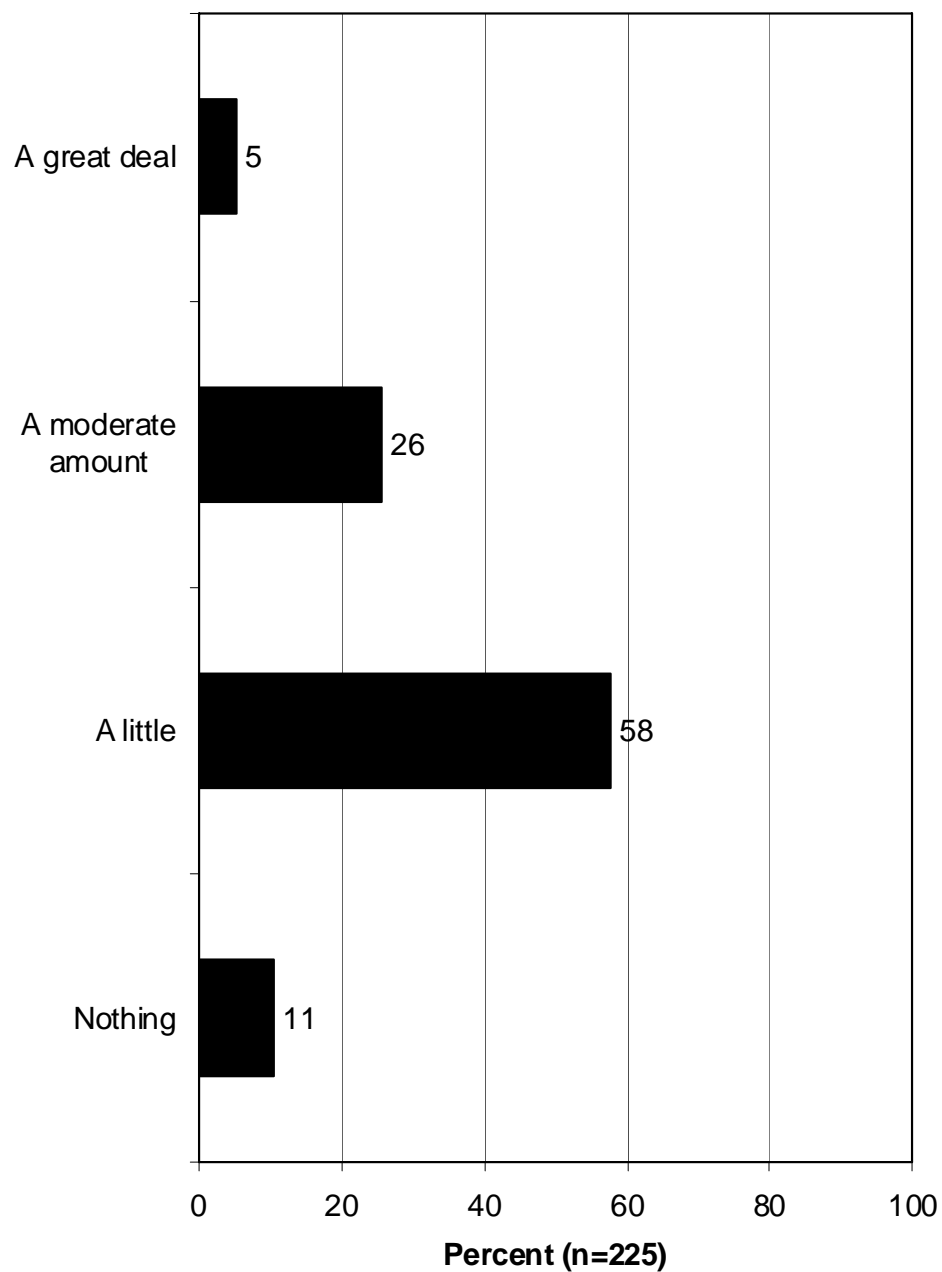




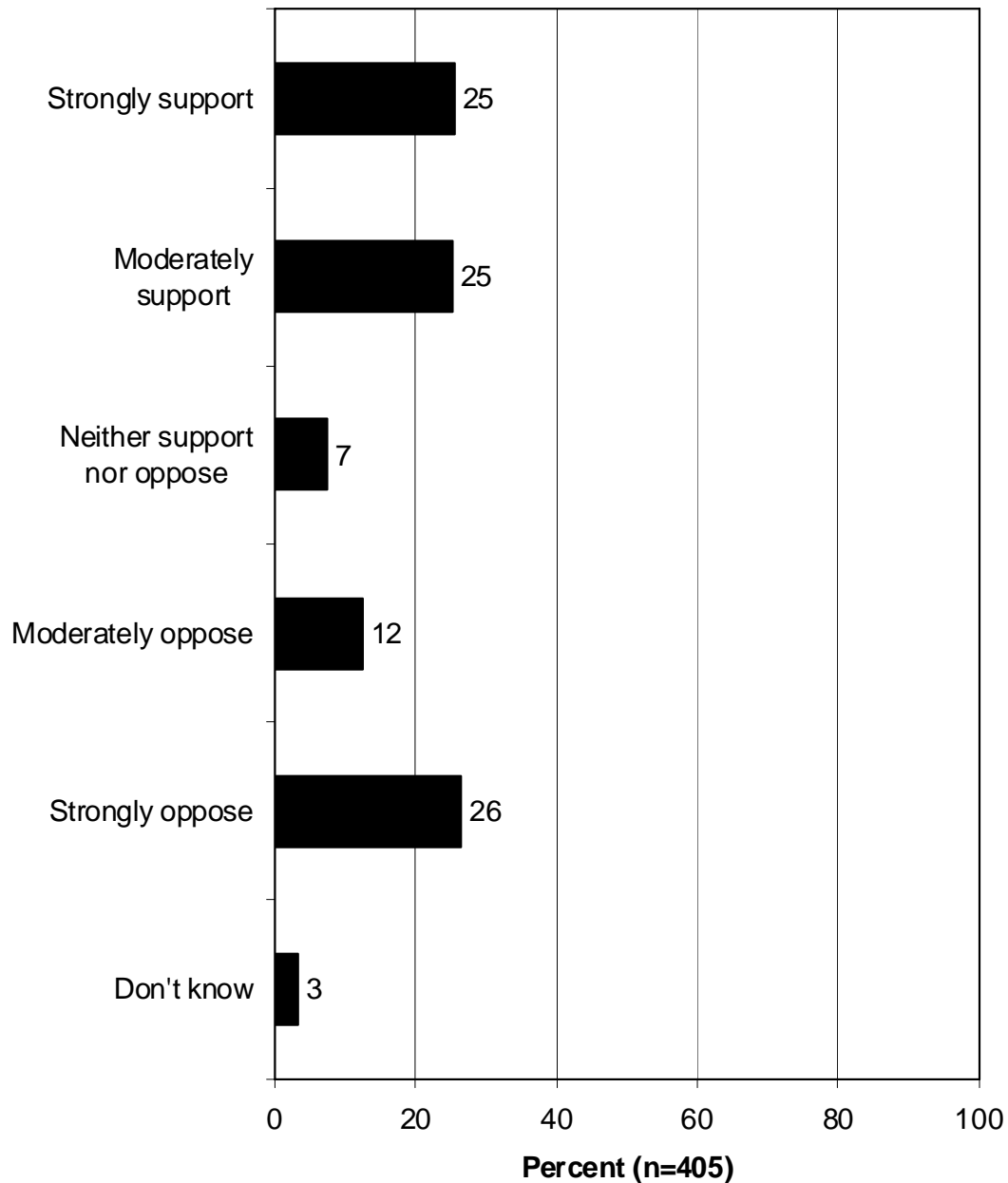
**Q49. Prior to this survey, had you heard of  
immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives?  
(Landowner survey.)**



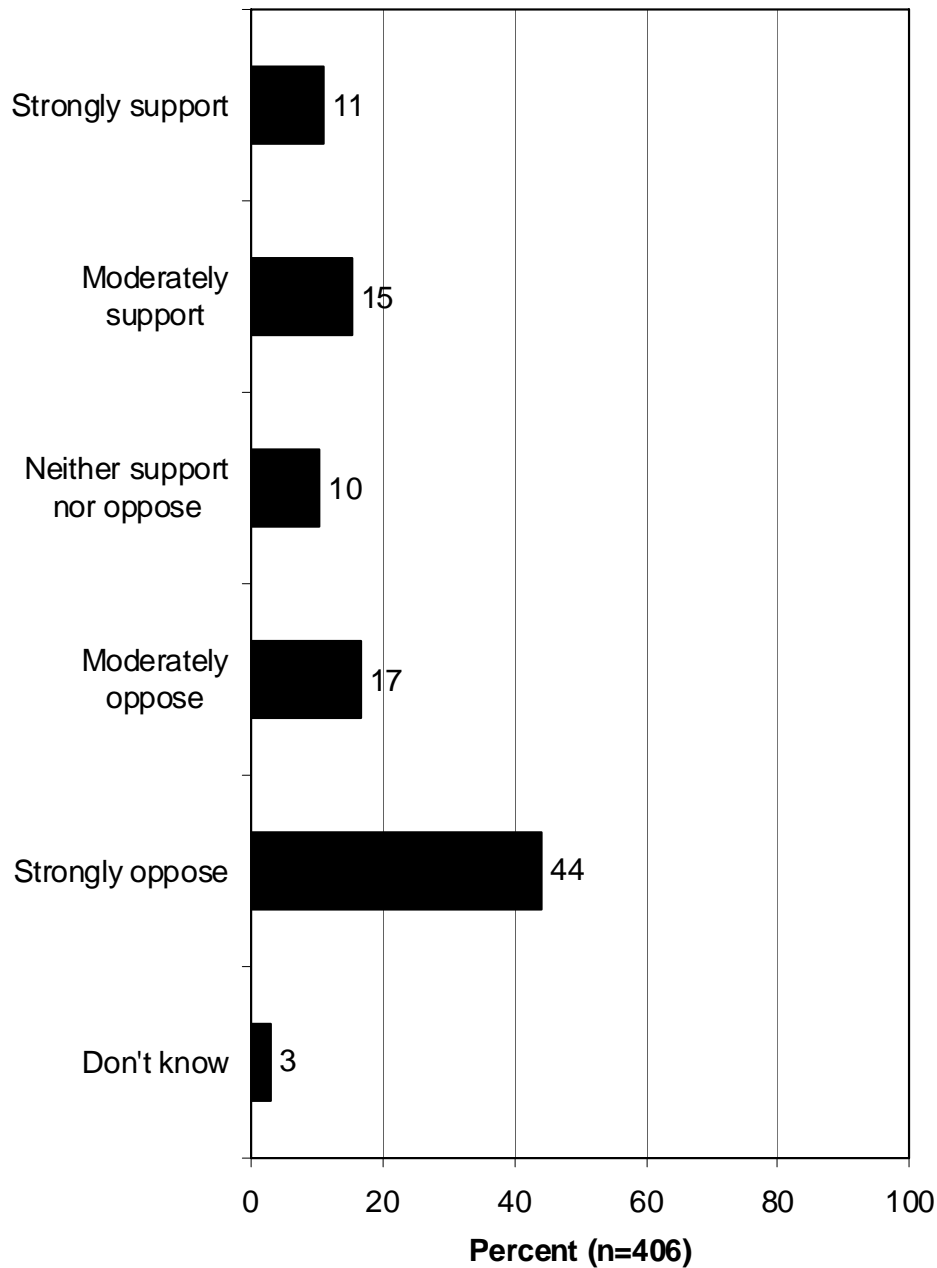
**Q50. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives? (Landowner survey.)**



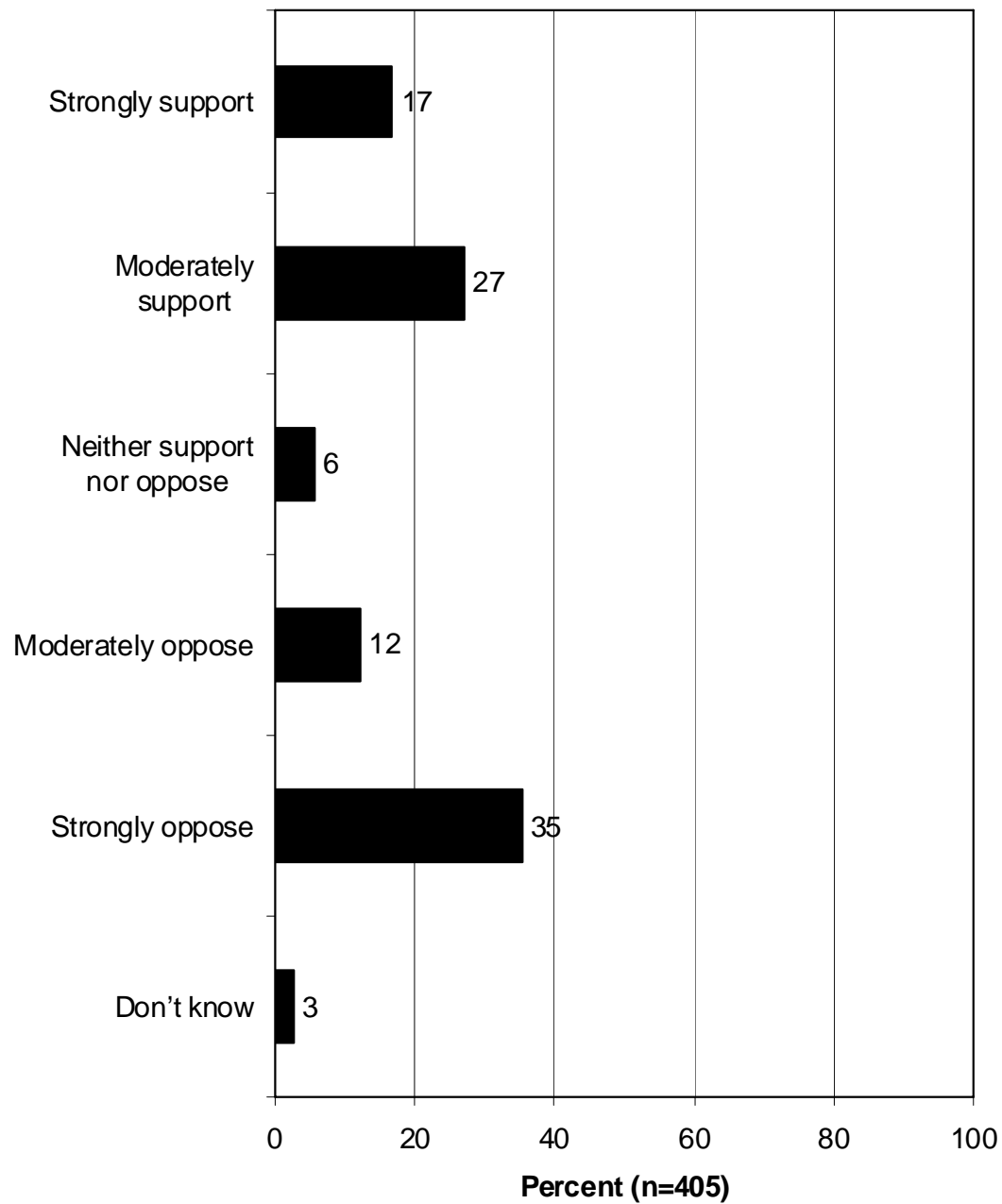
**Q66. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (General population survey.)**



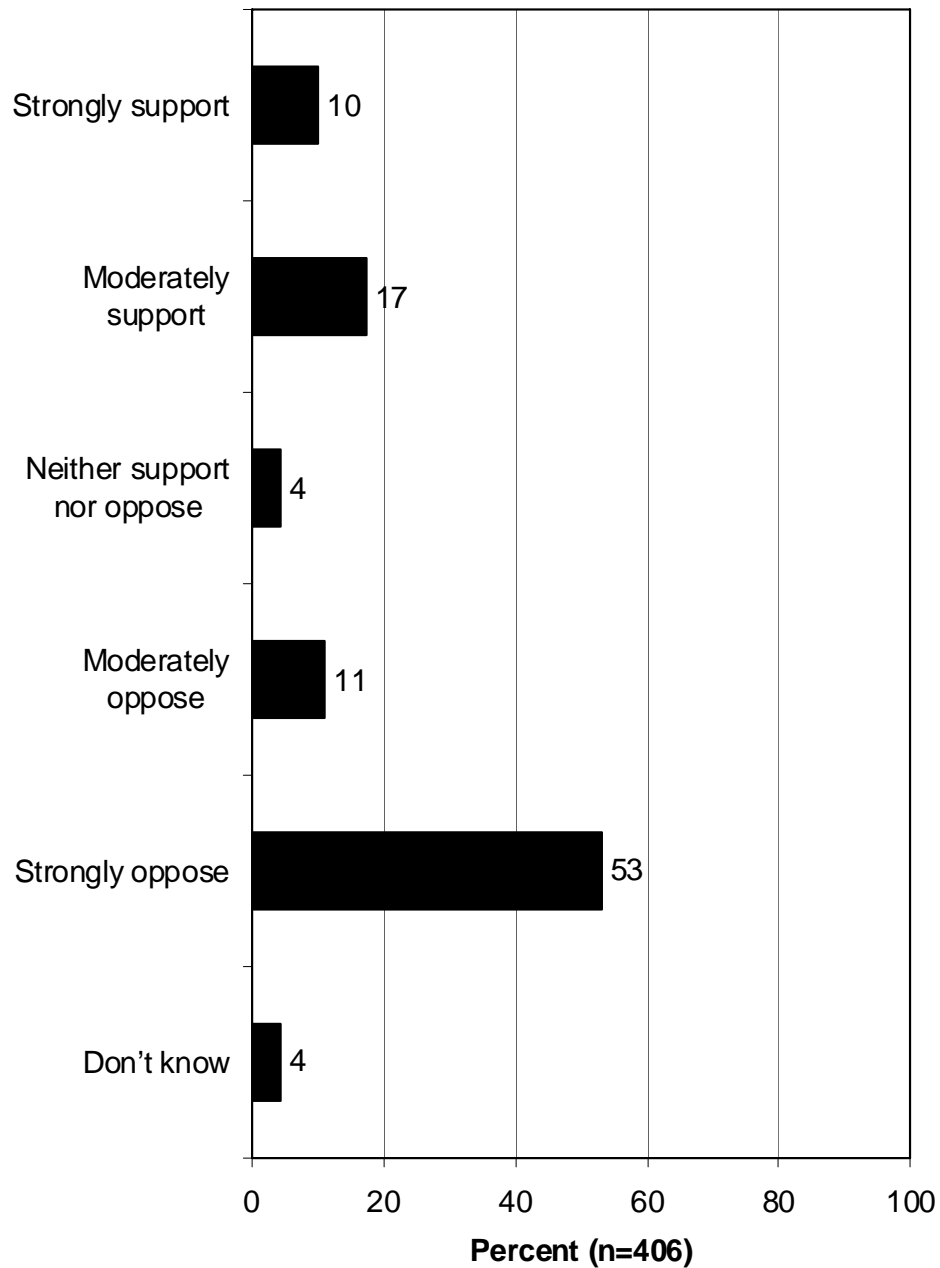
**Q55. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Landowner survey.)**



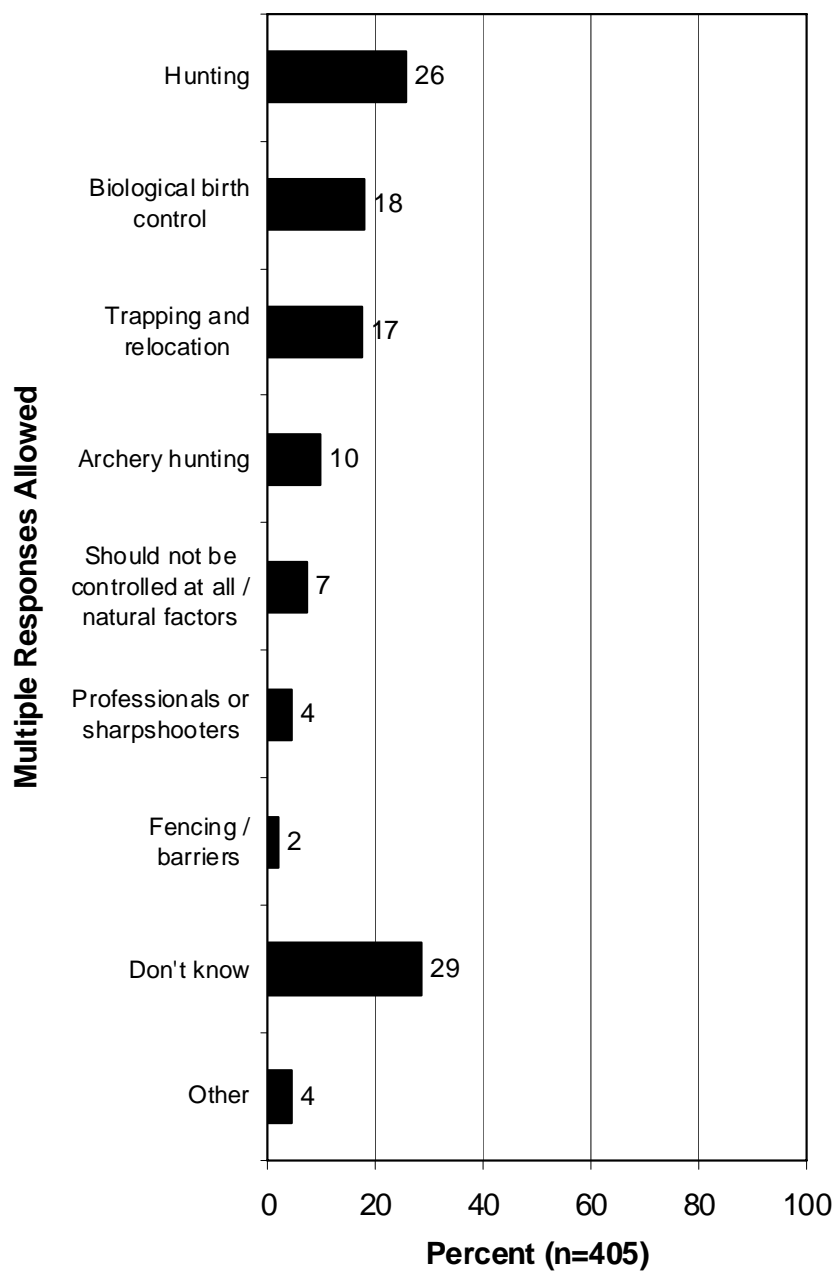
**Q67. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives to wild deer? (General population survey.)**



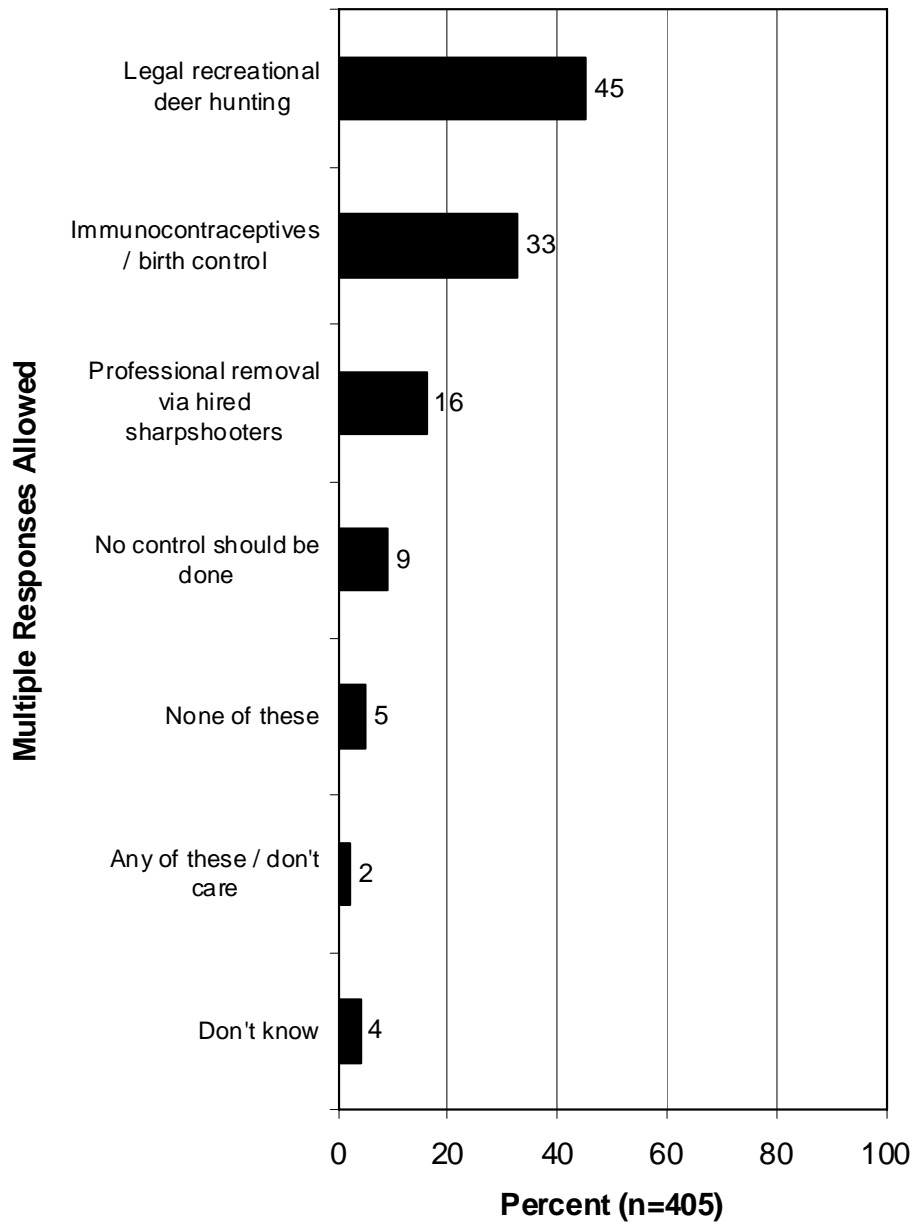
**Q56. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives to wild deer? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q54. How do you think deer should be controlled in urban and suburban areas? (General population survey.)**

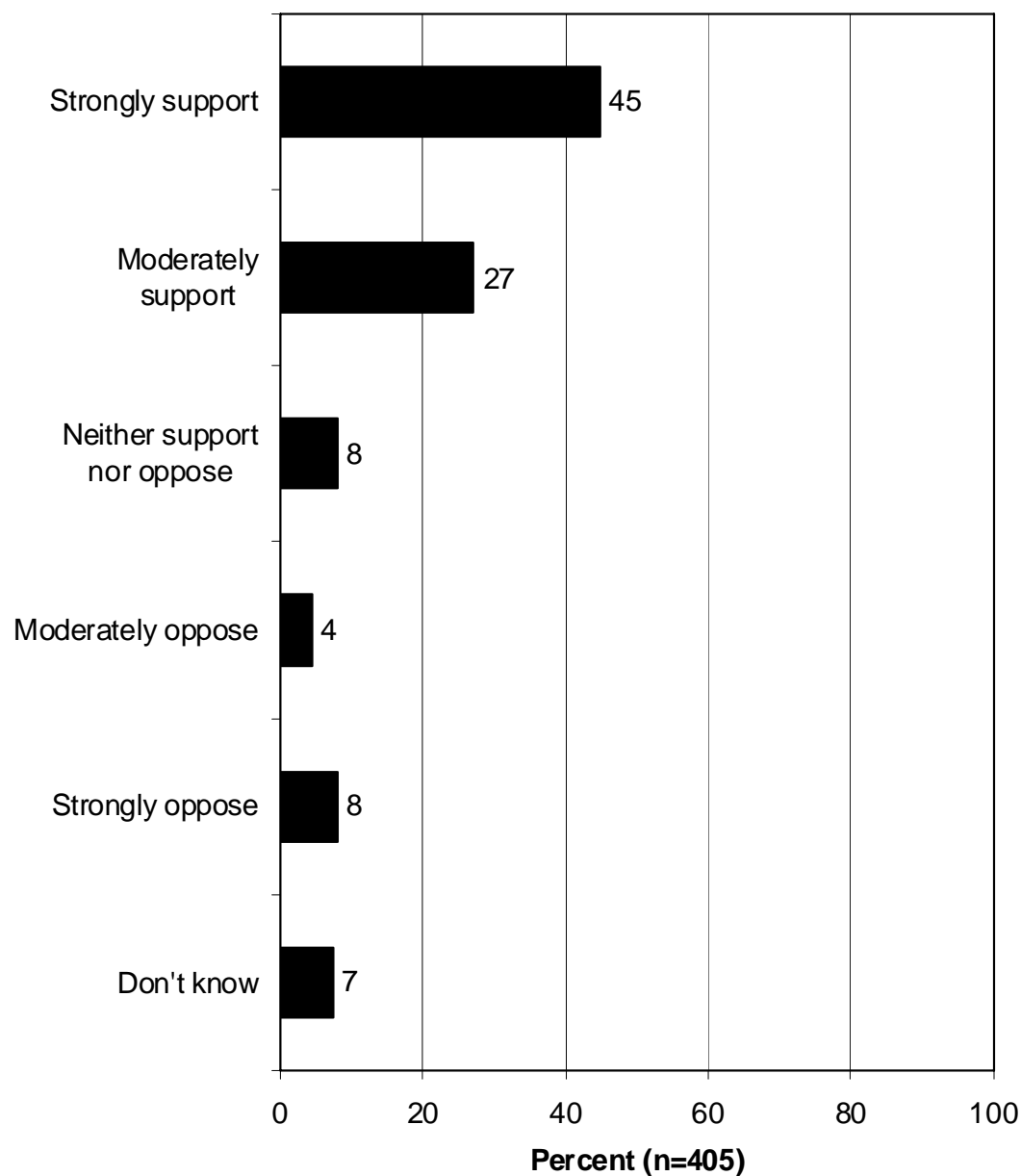


**Q70. Overall, which of the following do you prefer that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources use to control deer in your area? (General population survey.)**

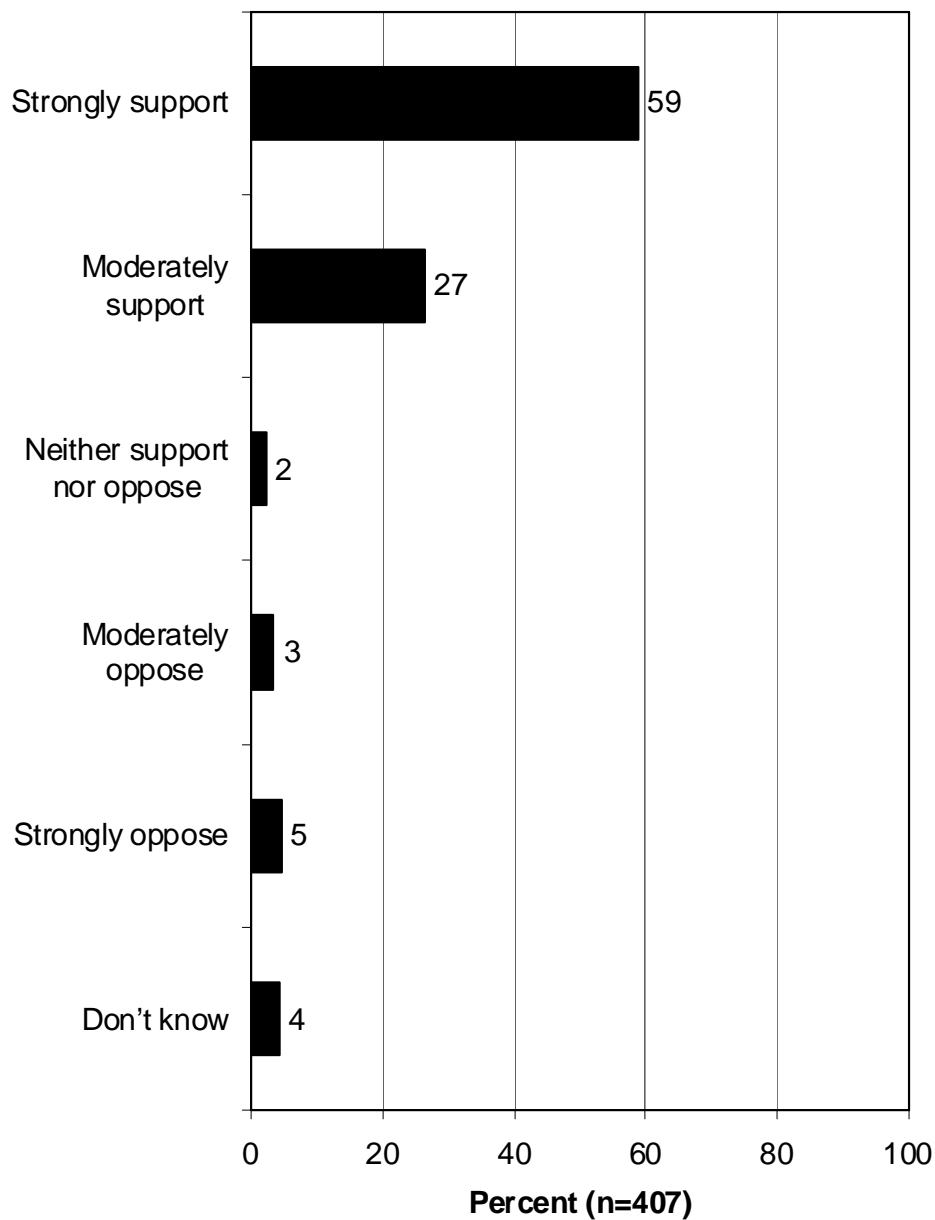




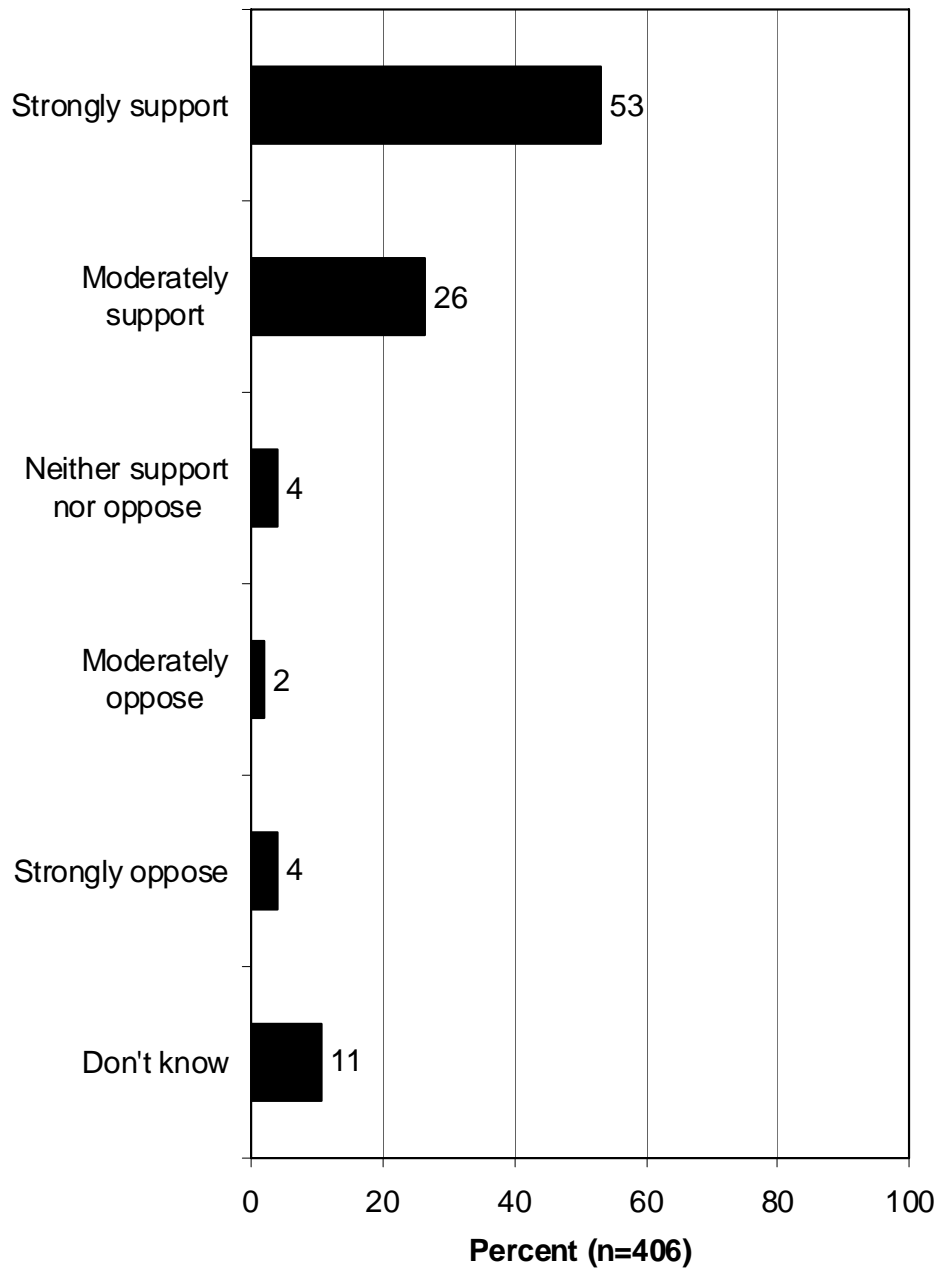
**Q88. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (General population survey.)**



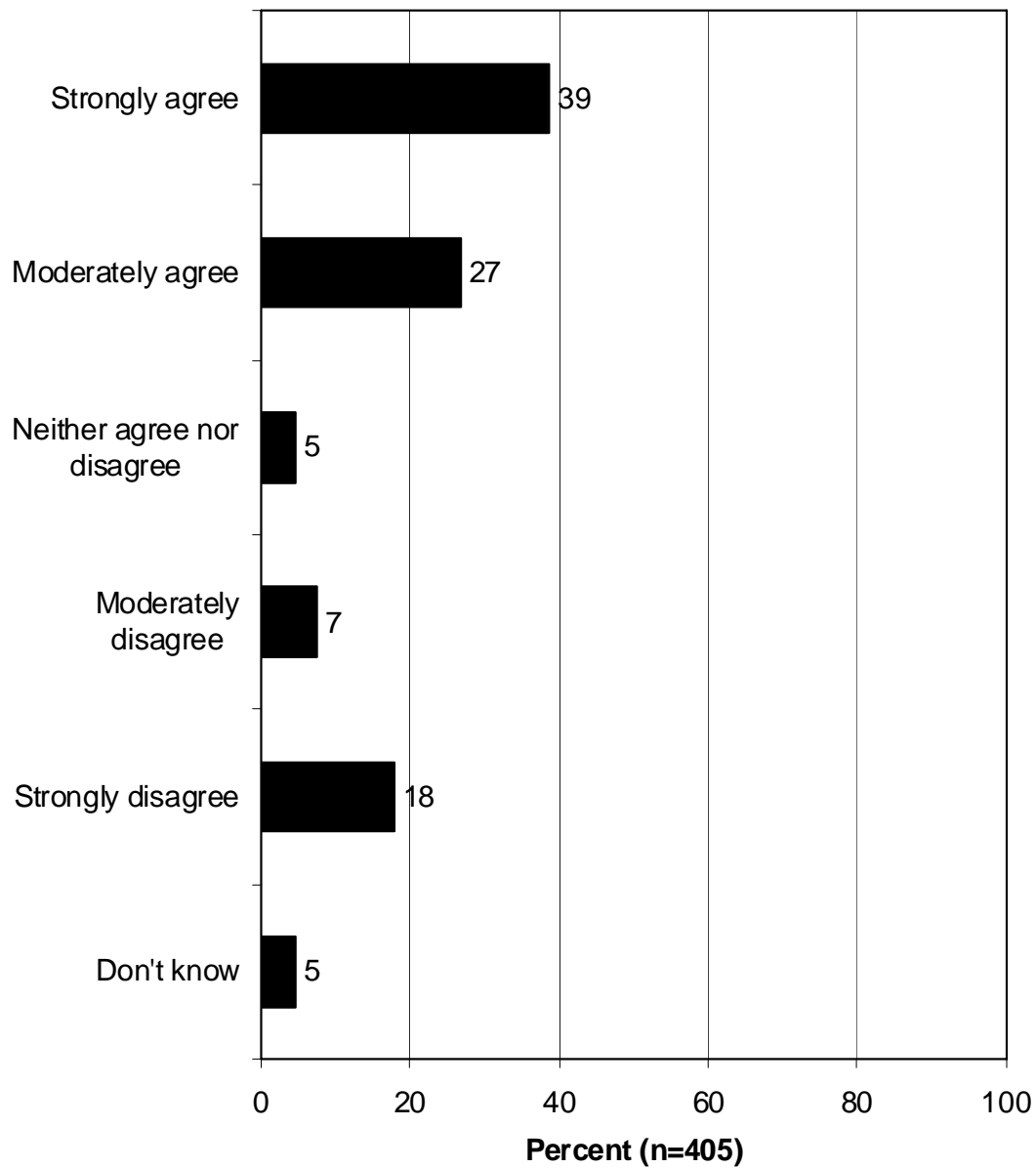
**Q128. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (Hunter survey.)**



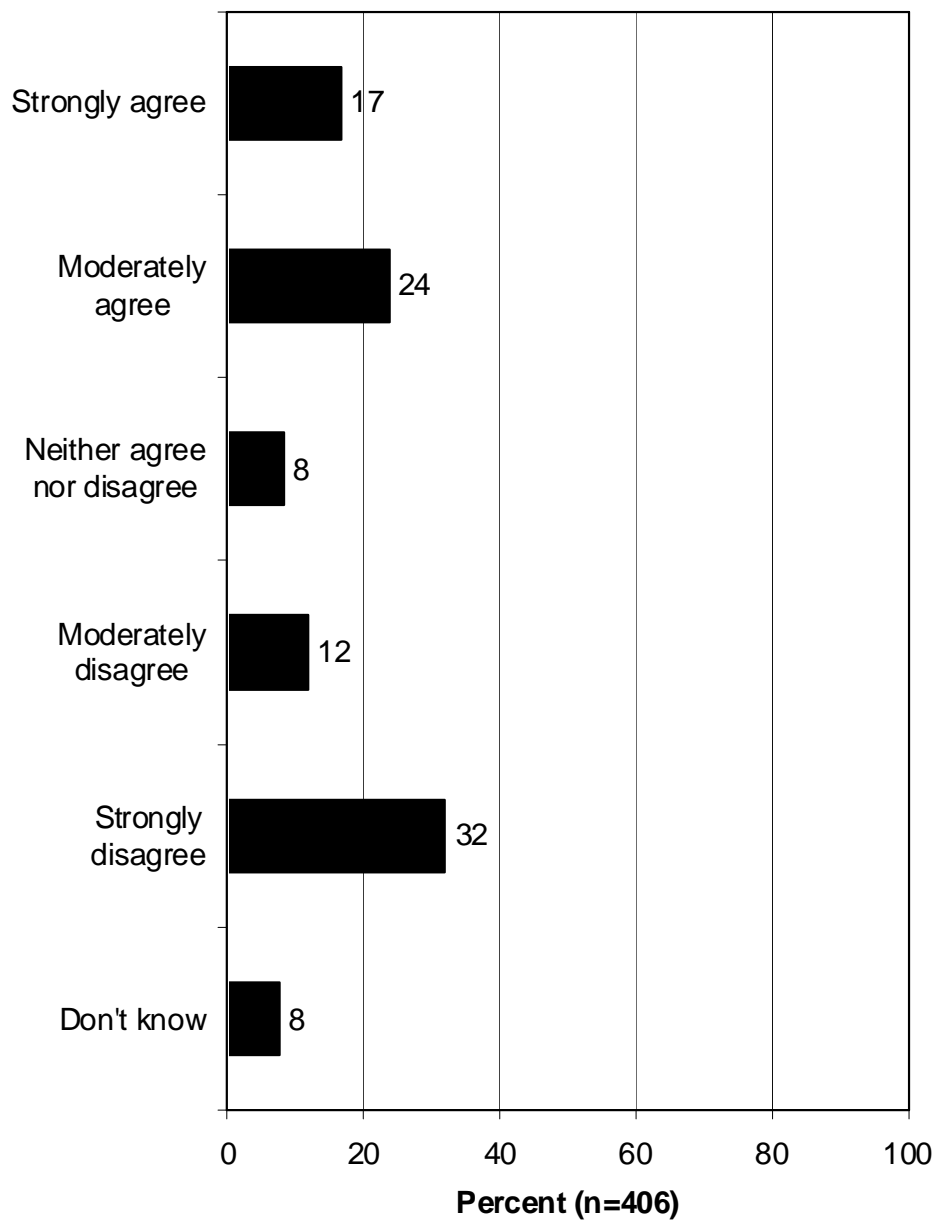
**Q82. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (Landowner survey.)**



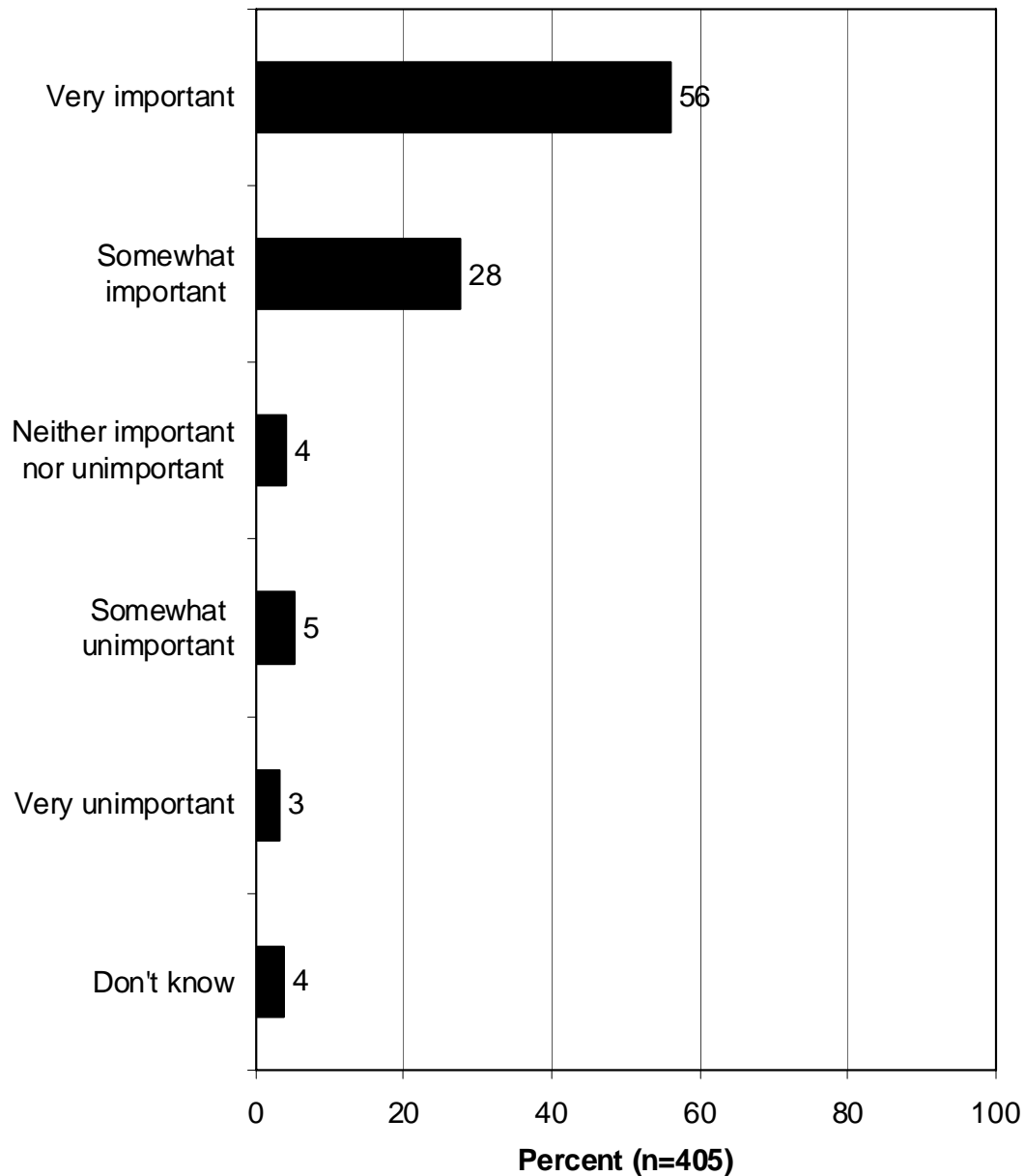
**Q64. Do you agree or disagree that immunocontraceptives are an acceptable alternative to lethal measures for deer population management in wild deer herds? (General population survey.)**



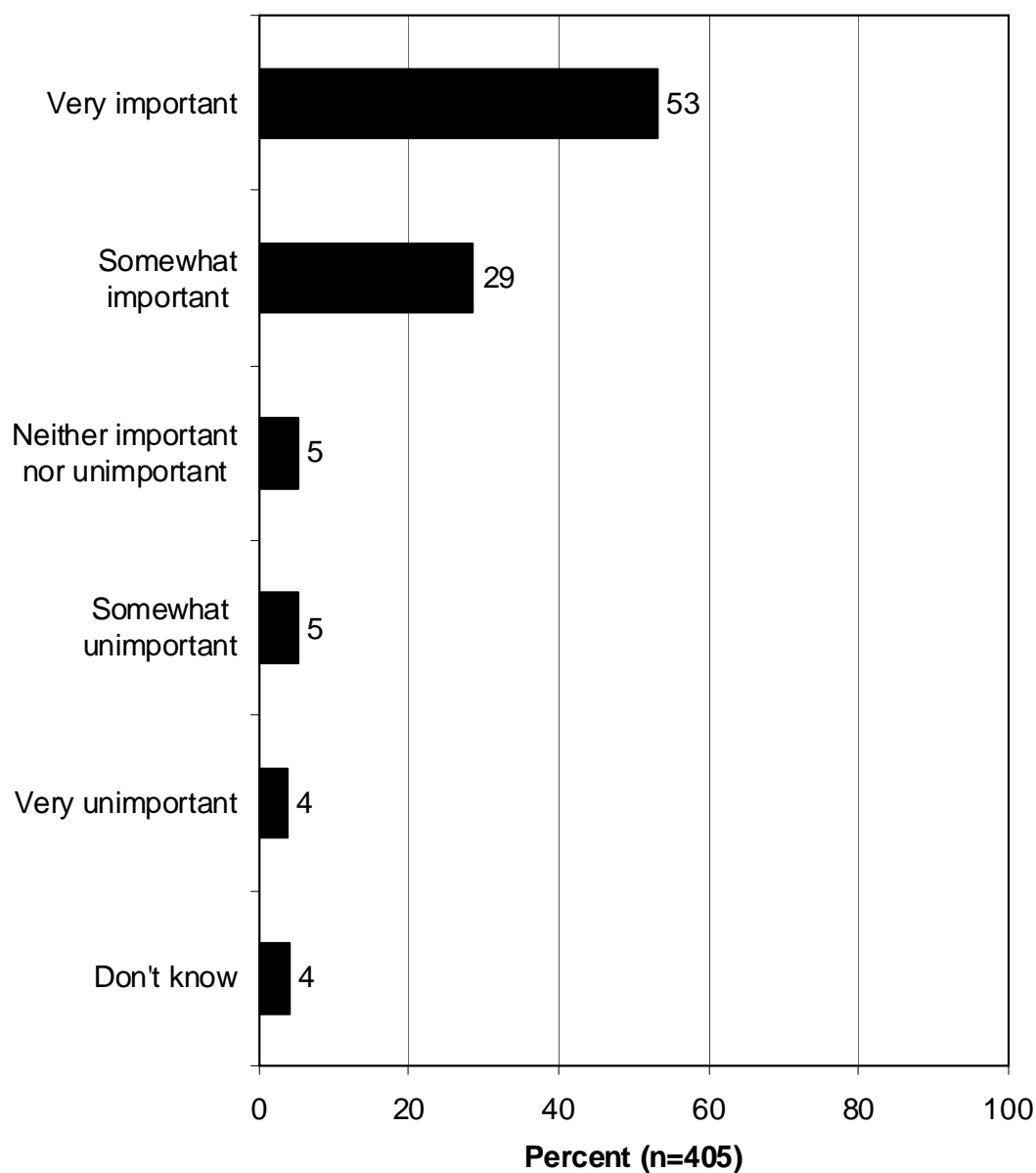
**Q53. Do you agree or disagree that  
immunocontraceptives are an acceptable  
alternative to lethal measures for deer population  
management in wild deer herds? (Landowner  
survey.)**



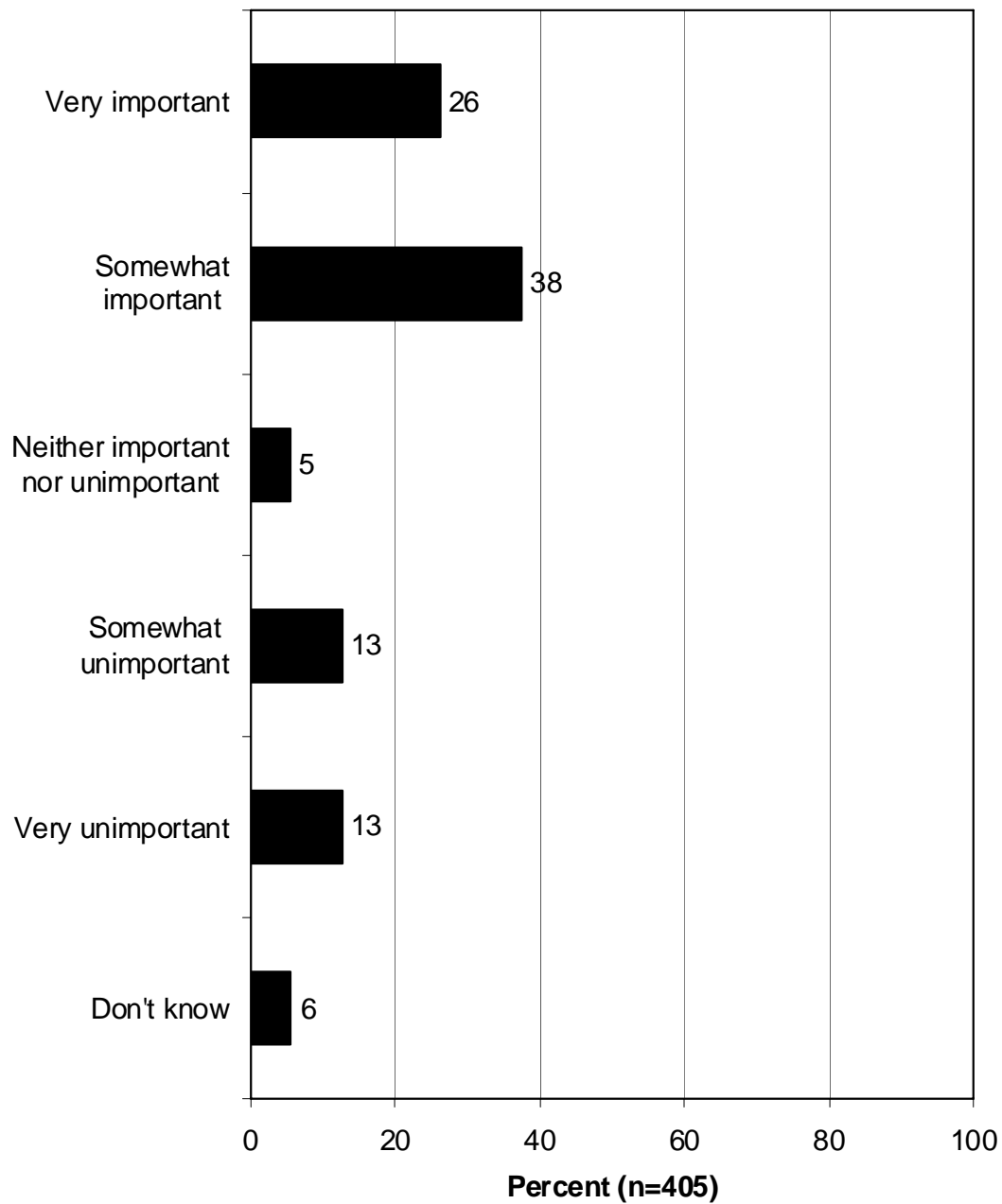
**Q72. How important or unimportant should scientific information such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management? (General population survey.)**



**Q73. How important or unimportant should the professional judgment of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources be in making decisions about deer management? (General population survey.)**

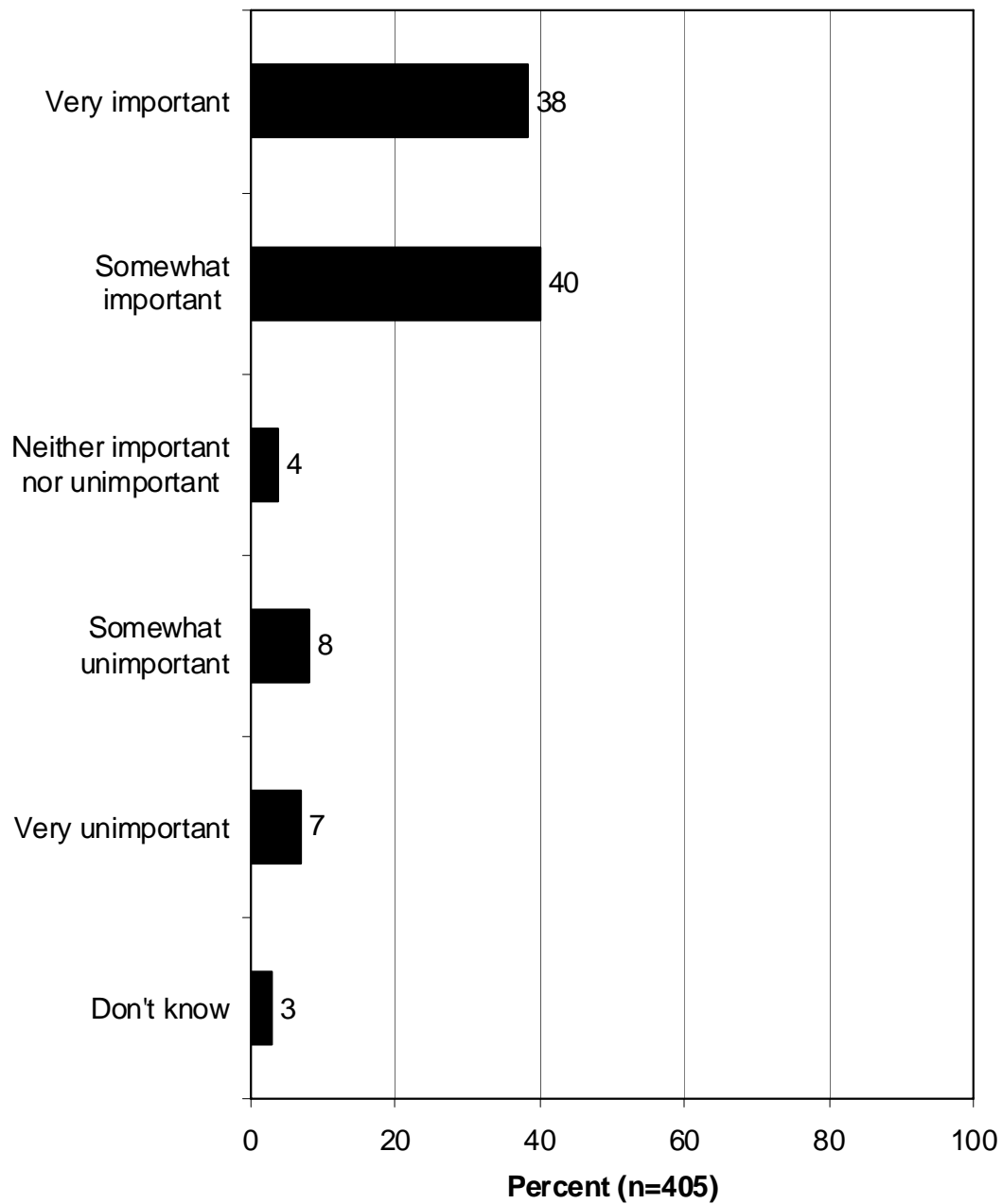


**Q74. How important or unimportant should the economic impact of hunting in Maryland be in making decisions about deer management? (General population survey.)**

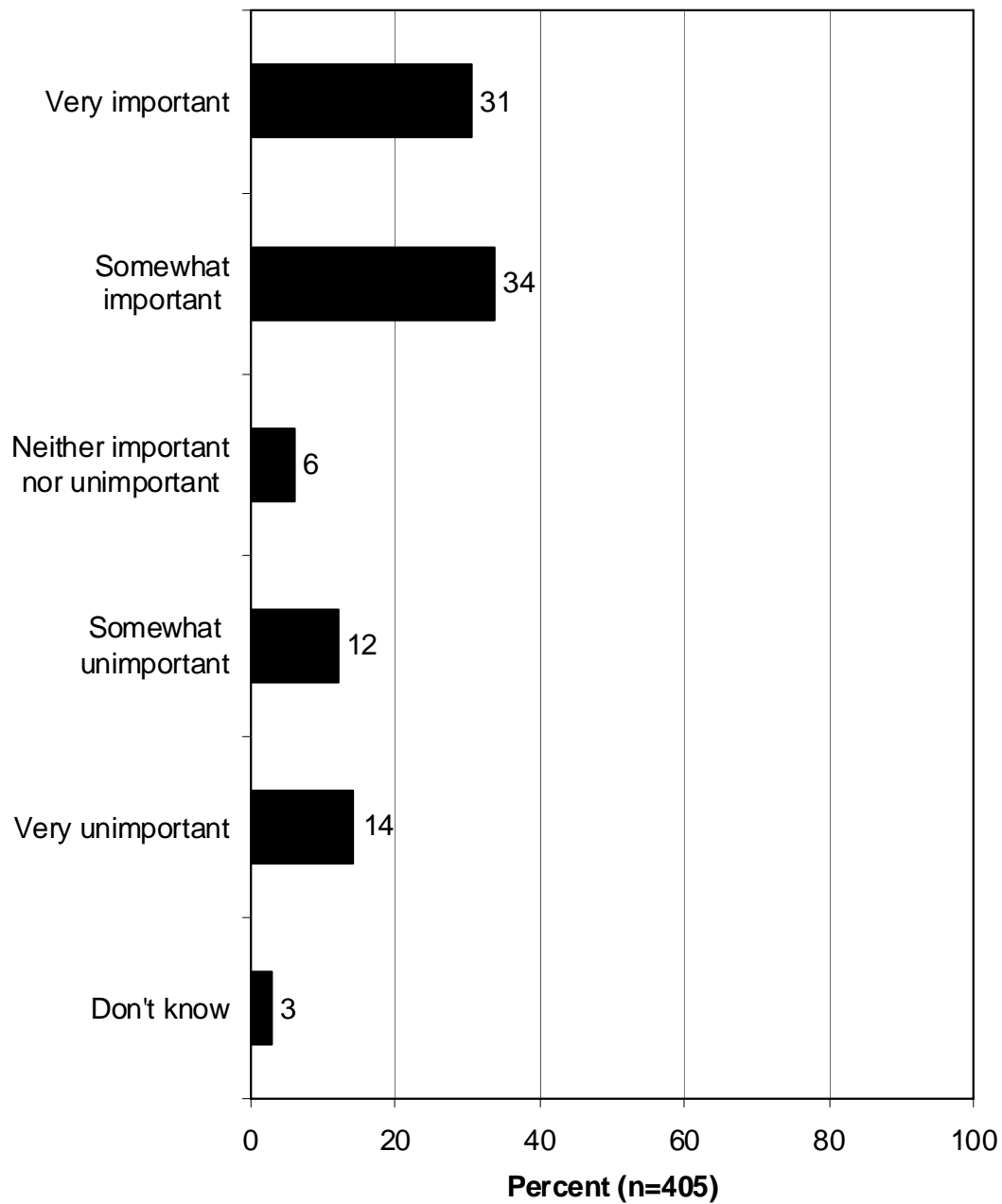




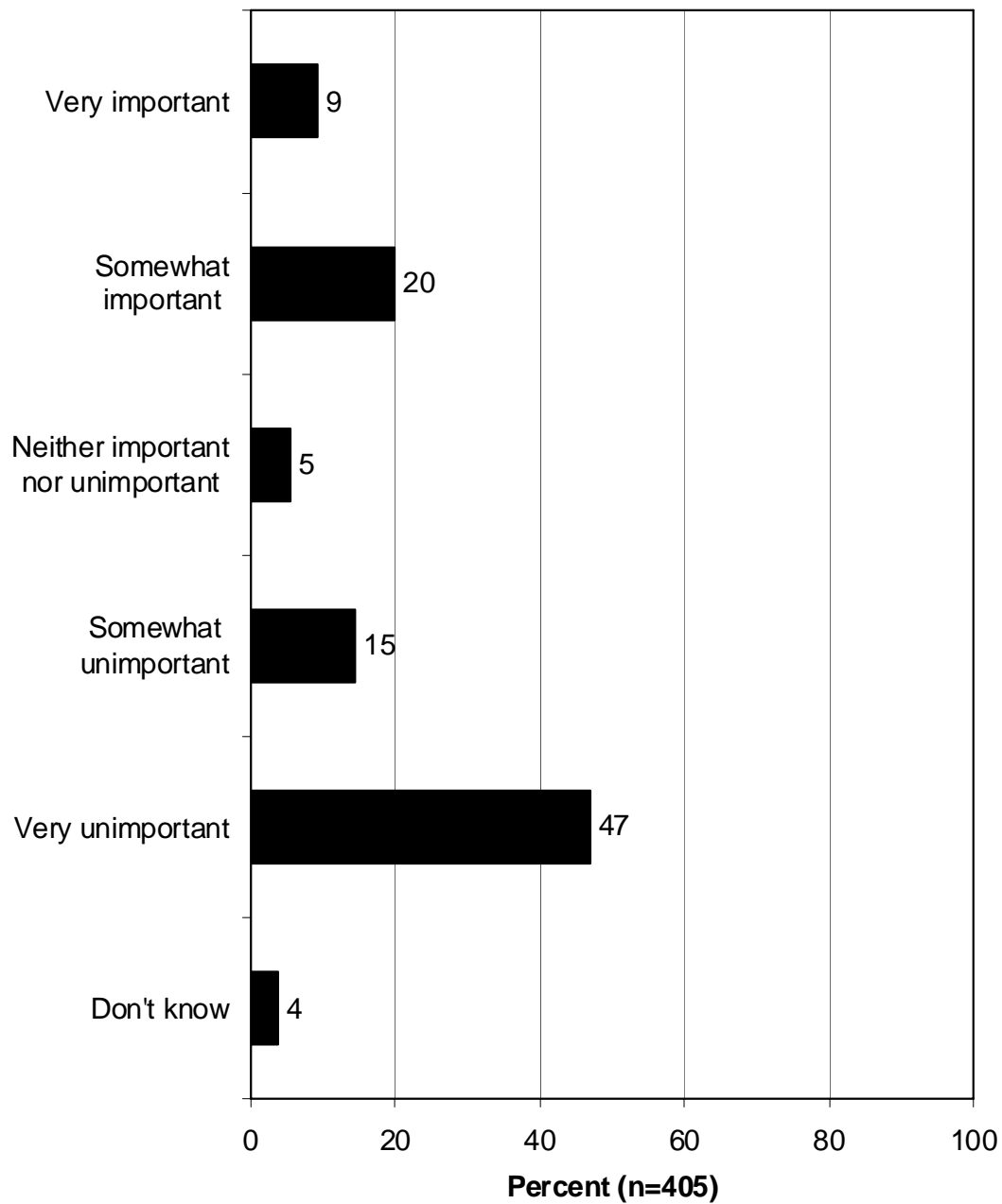
**Q75. How important or unimportant should public opinion be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland? (General population survey.)**



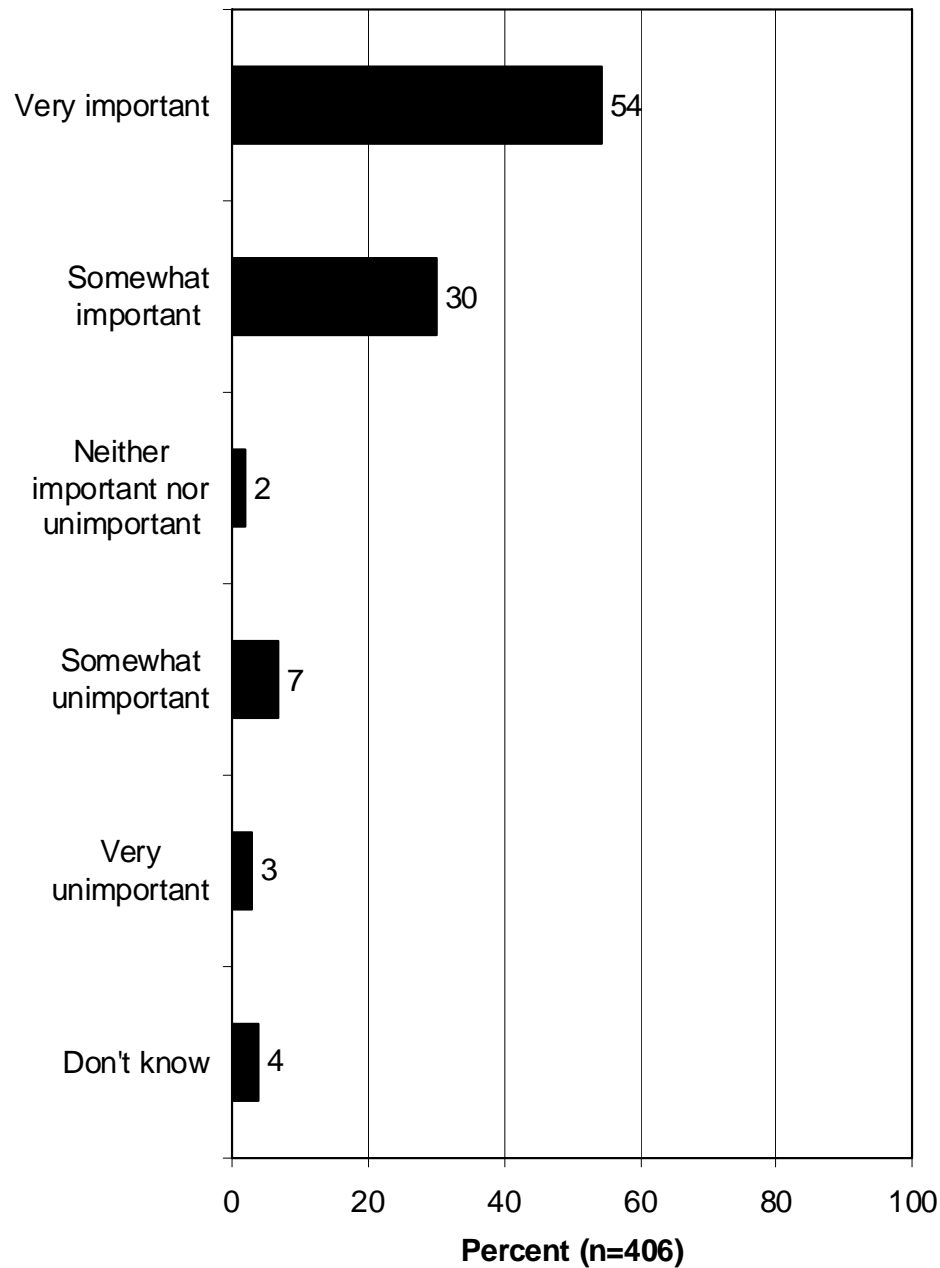
**Q76. How important or unimportant should hunters' concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland? (General population survey.)**



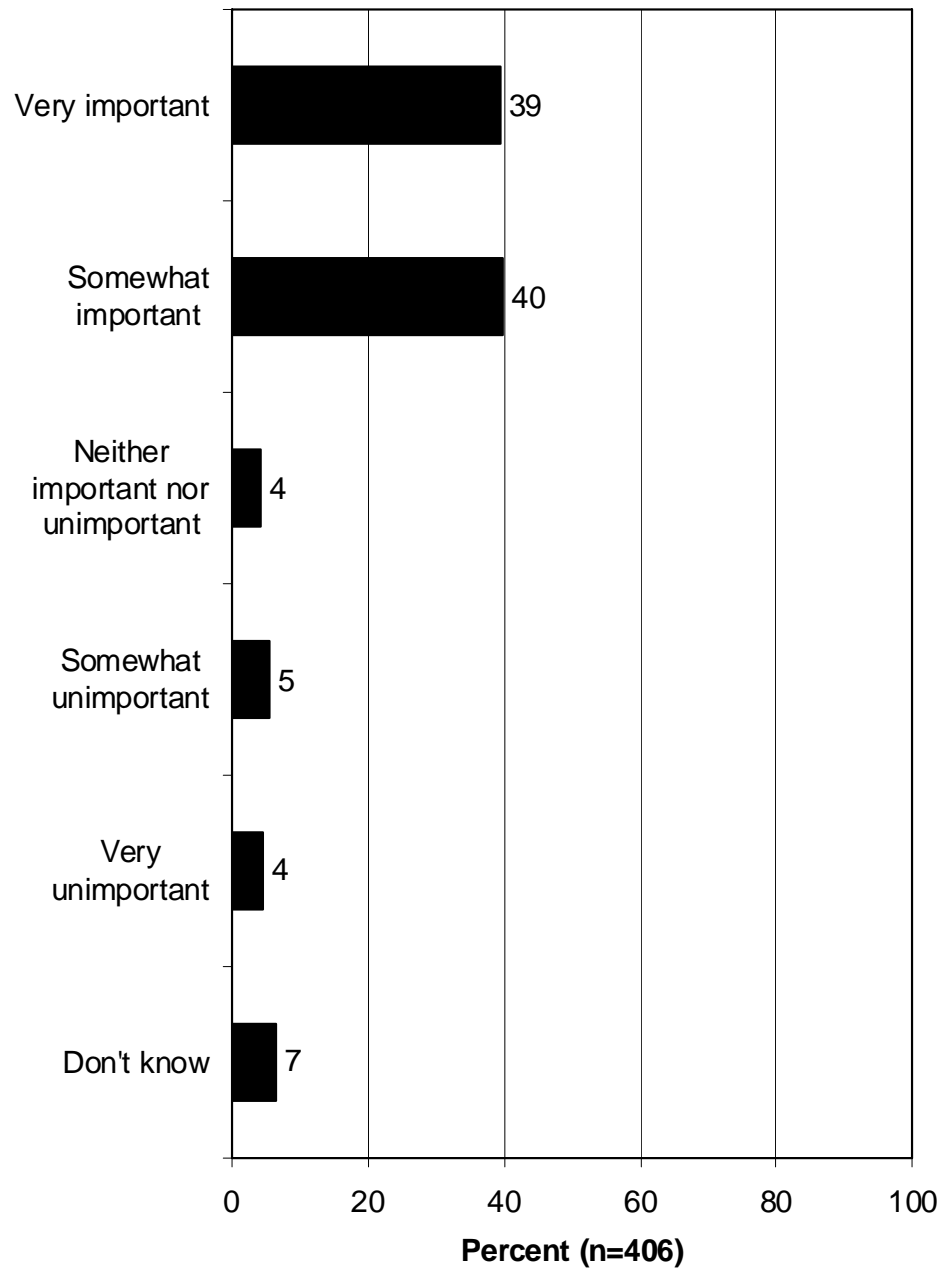
**Q77. How important or unimportant should political concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland? (General population survey.)**



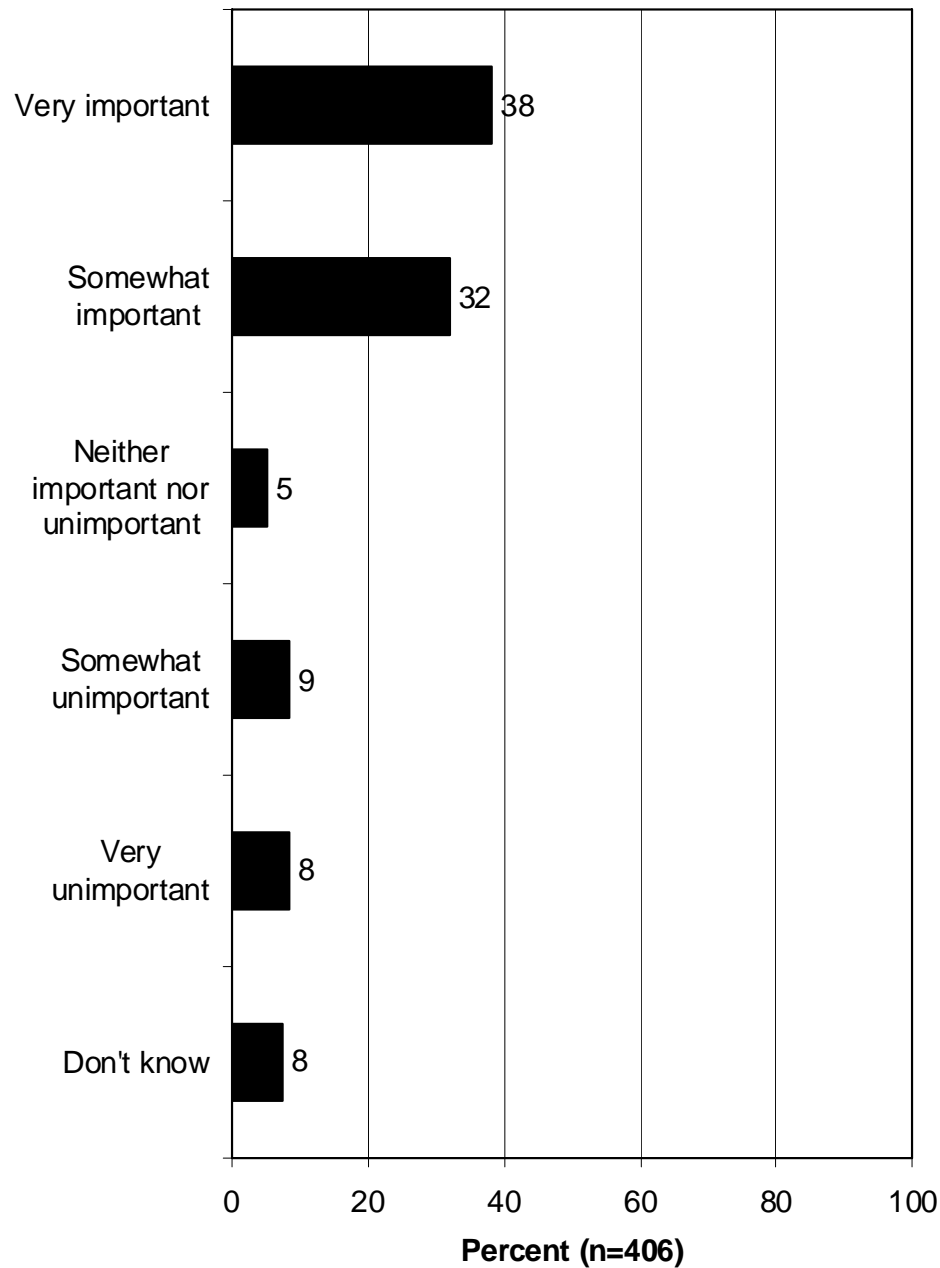
**Q58. How important or unimportant should scientific information such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management? (Landowner survey.)**



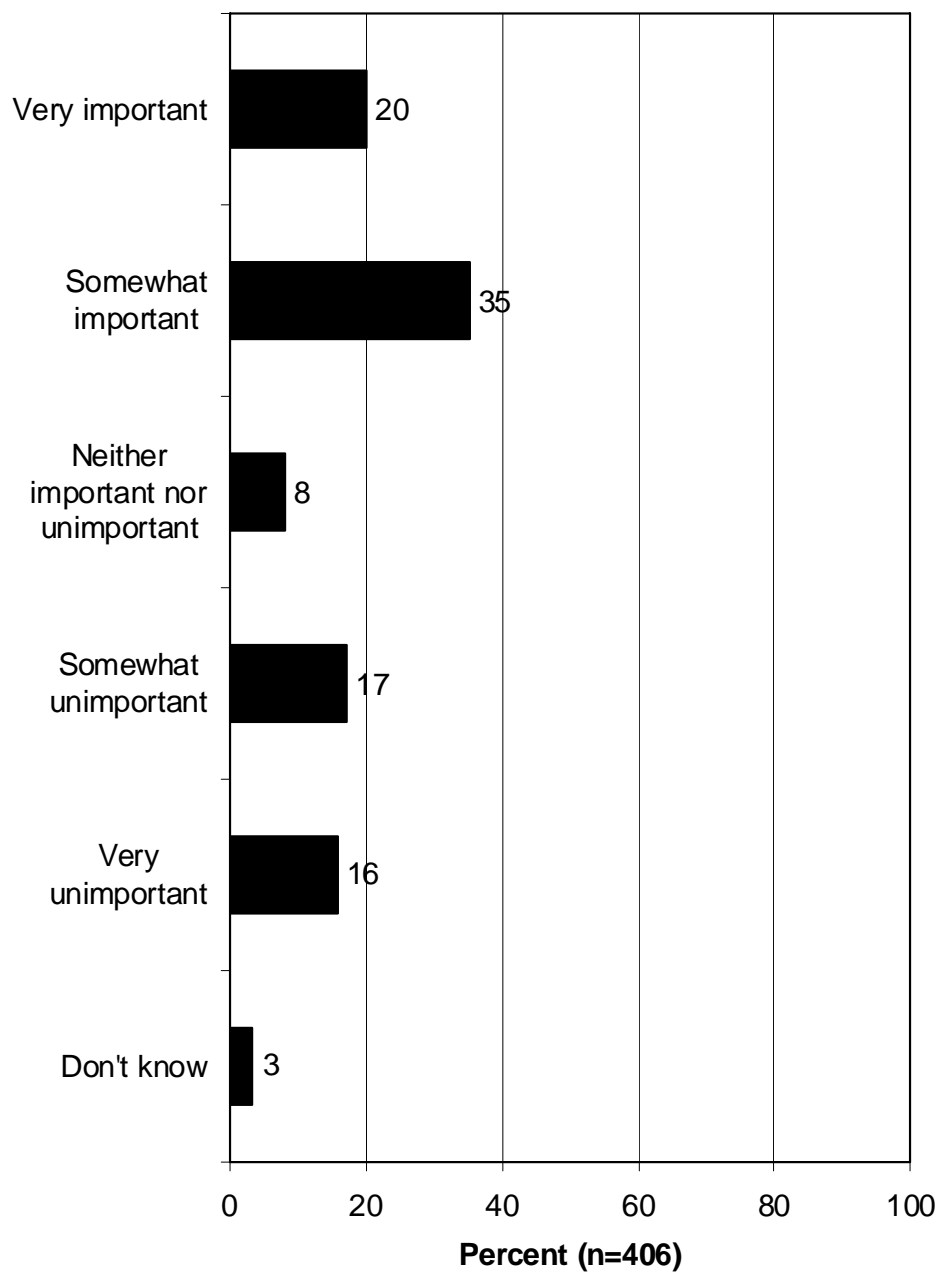
**Q59. How important or unimportant should the professional judgment of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources be in making decisions about deer management? (Landowner survey.)**



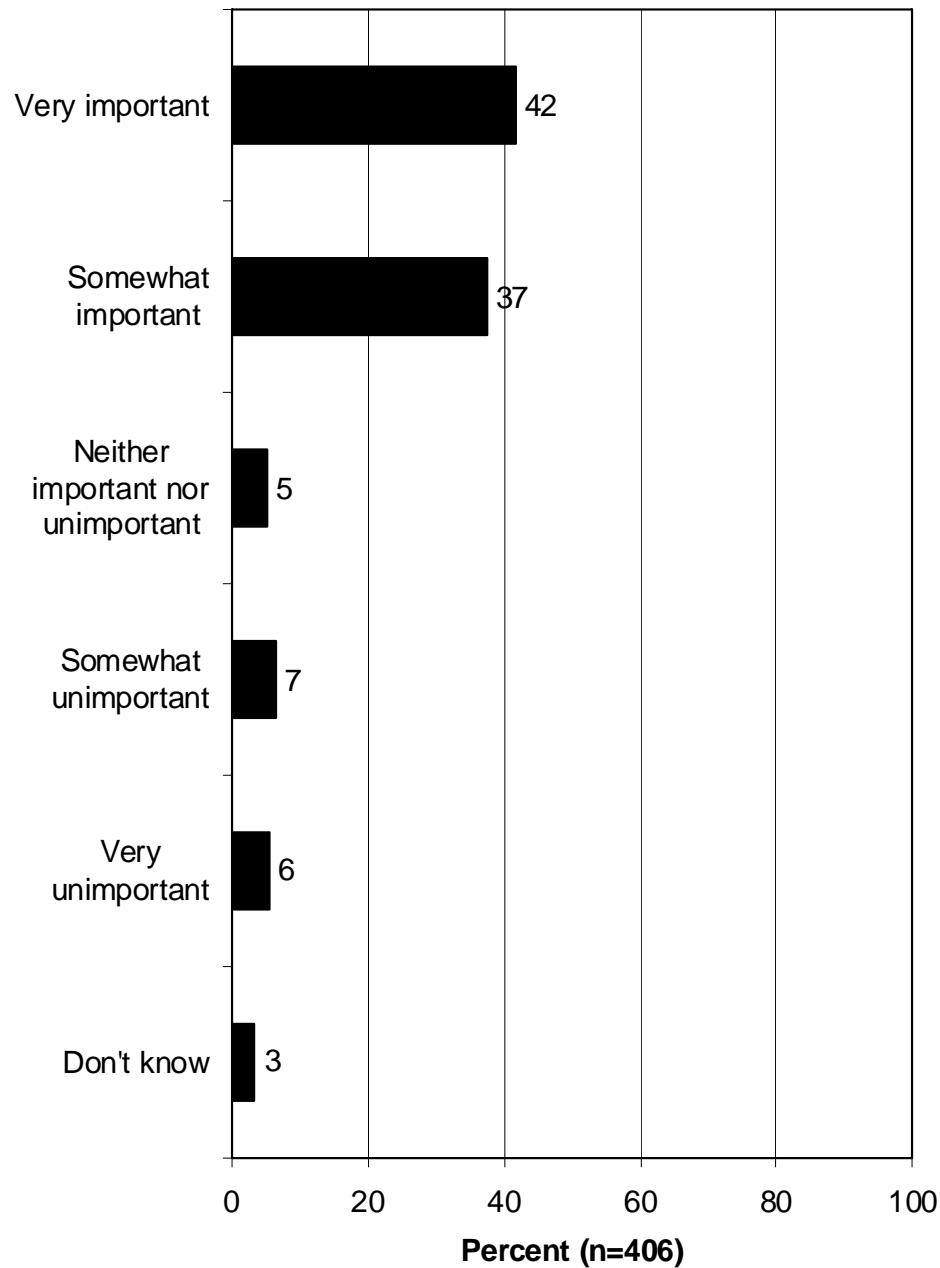
**Q60. How important or unimportant should the economic impact of hunting in Maryland be in making decisions about deer management? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q61. How important or unimportant should public opinion be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**

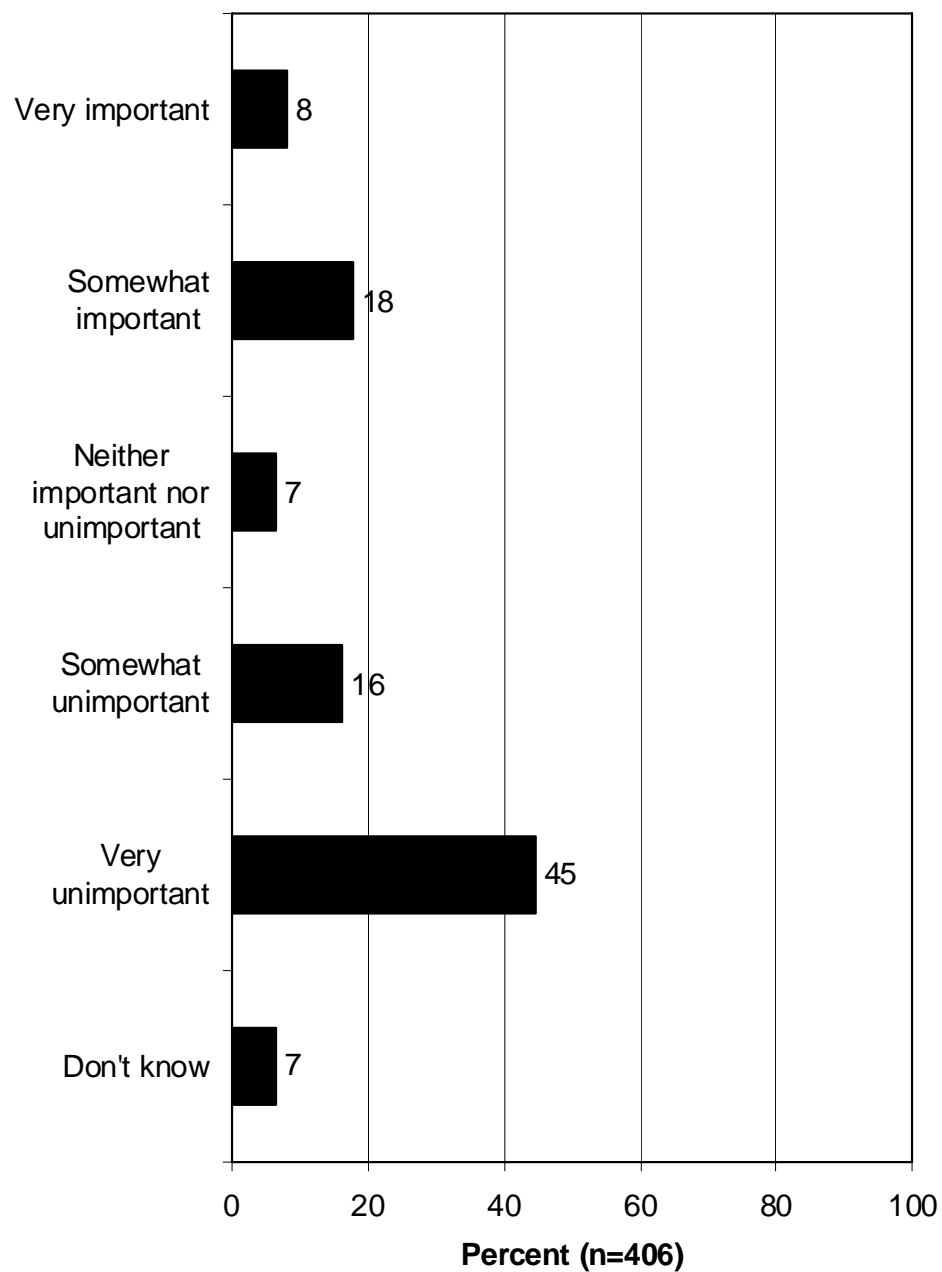


**Q62. How important or unimportant should hunters' concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**

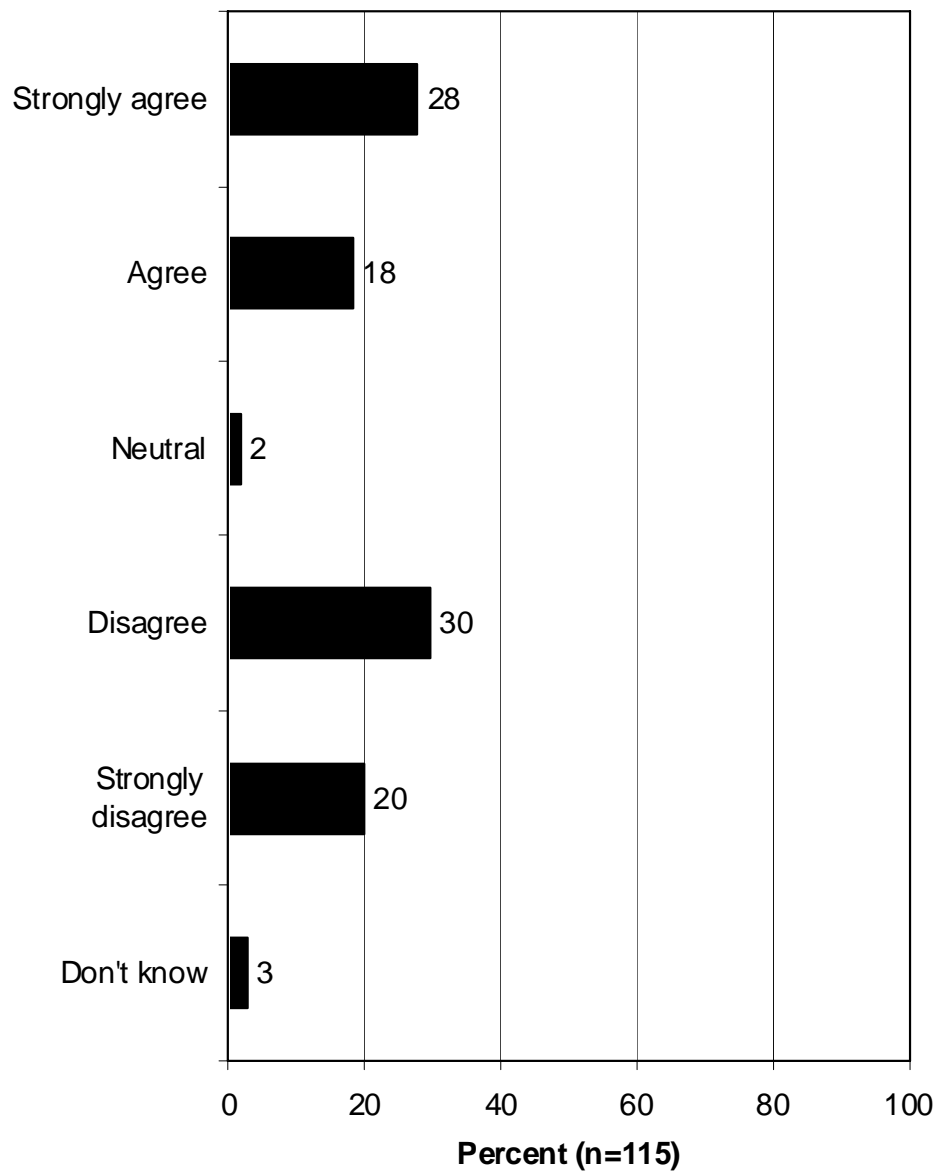




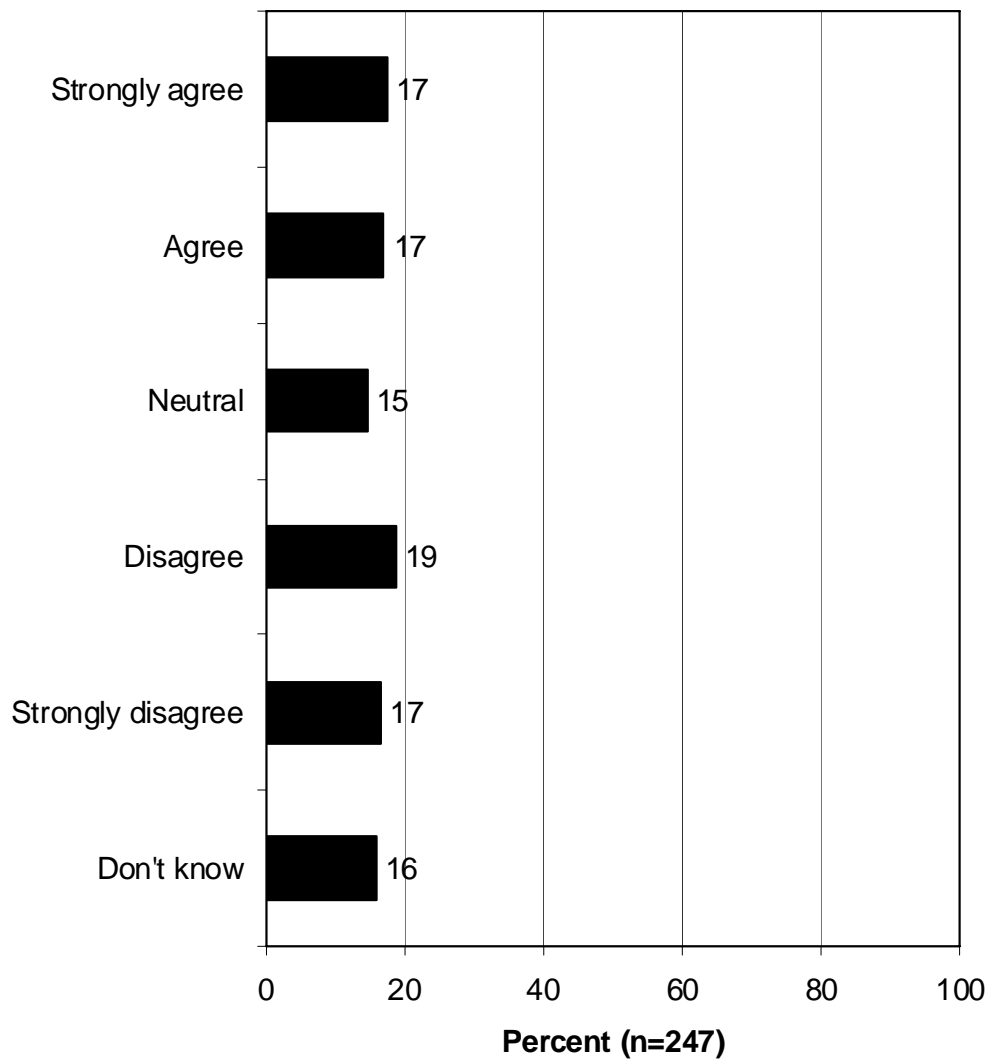
**Q63. How important or unimportant should political concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**



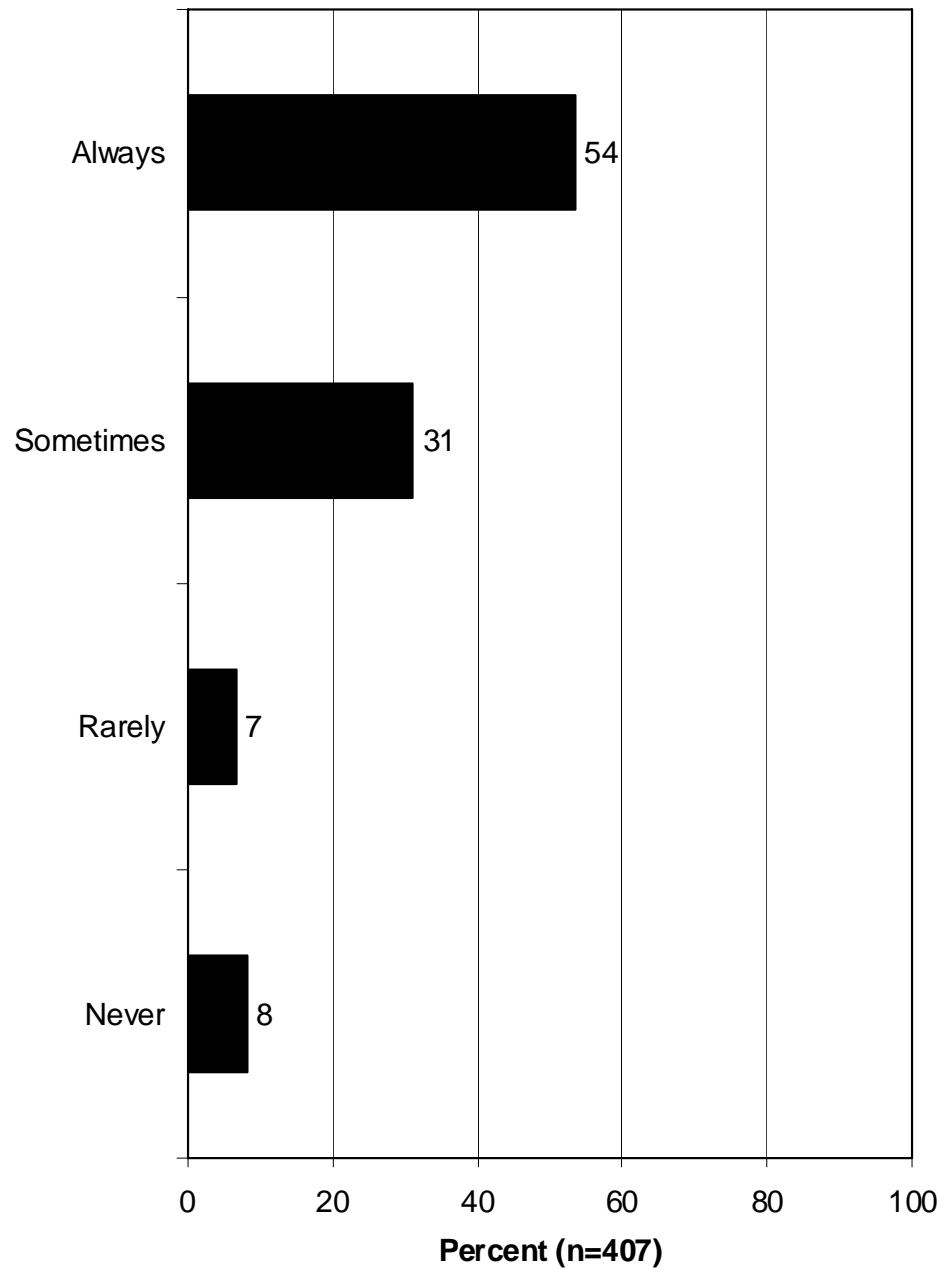
**Q74. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on Region A public lands should be managed separately from deer hunting on Region A private lands? (Asked of those who hunted in Region A in the past two years.) (Hunter survey.)**



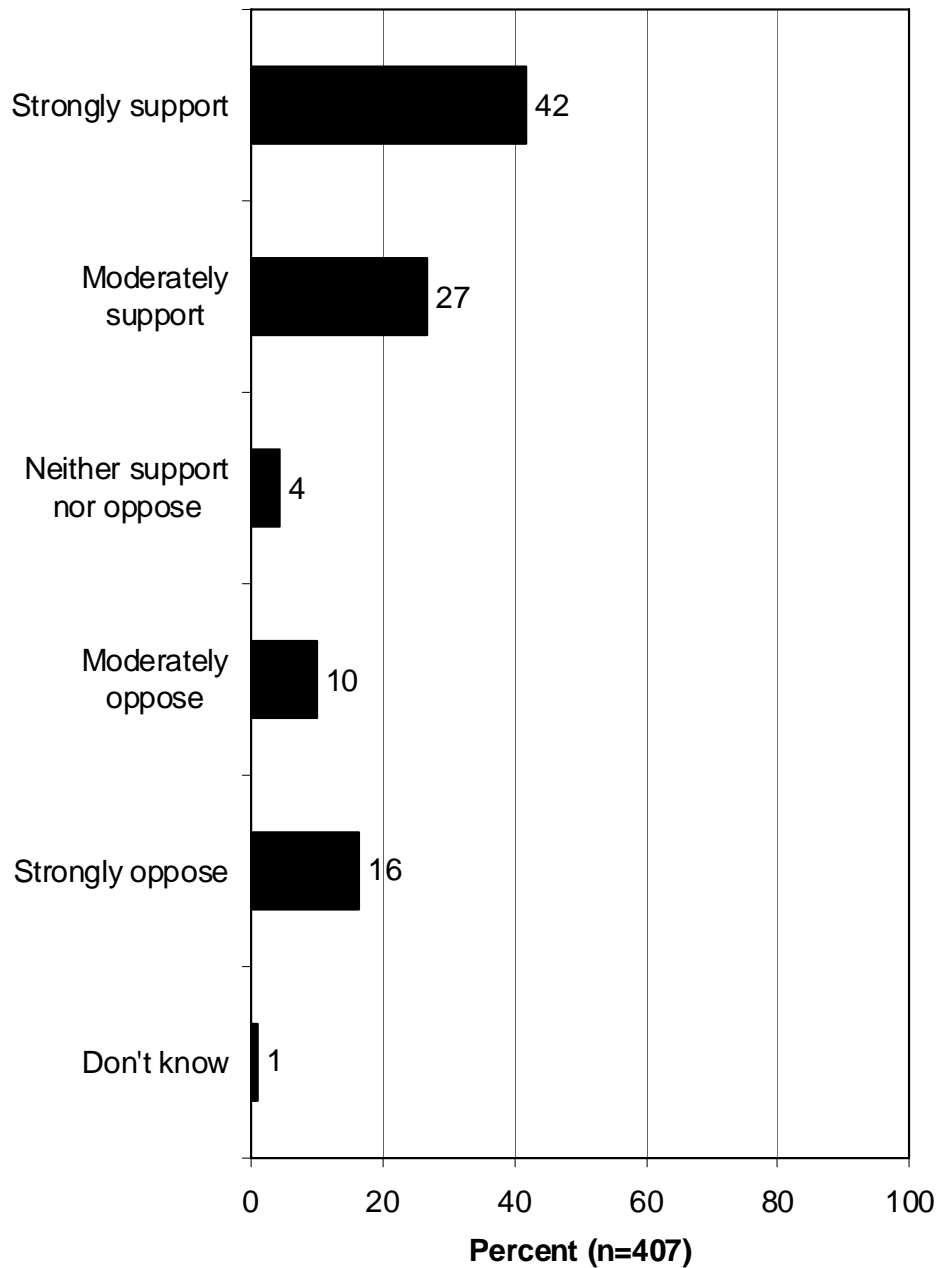
**Q93. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands in Washington and Frederick Counties? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public or private lands in Washington or Frederick County at least "rarely" in the past 2 years.)**



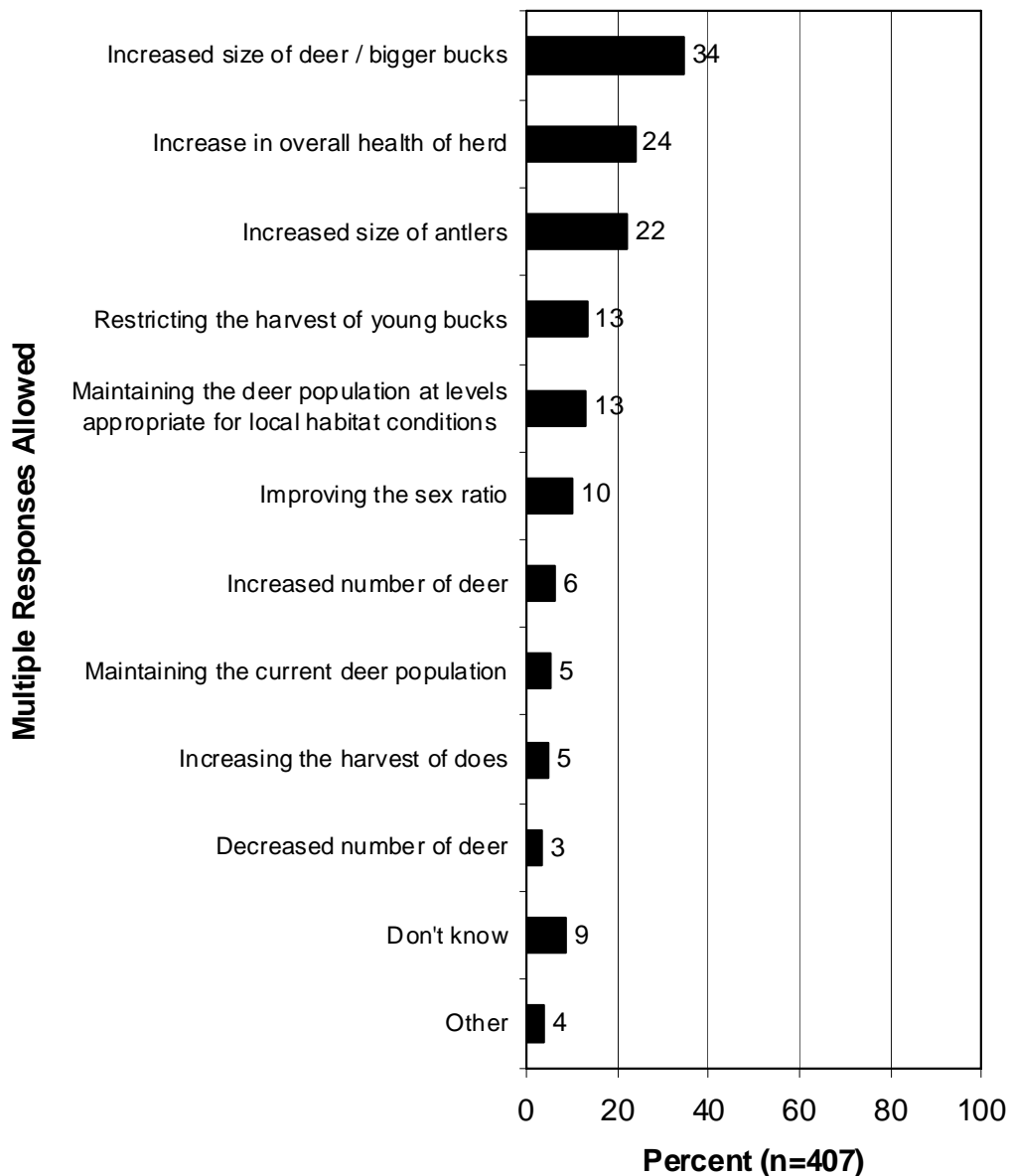
**Q110. How often do you practice quality deer management, that is harvesting mostly does and not harvesting bucks of less than 2 1/2 years old, when deer hunting in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**



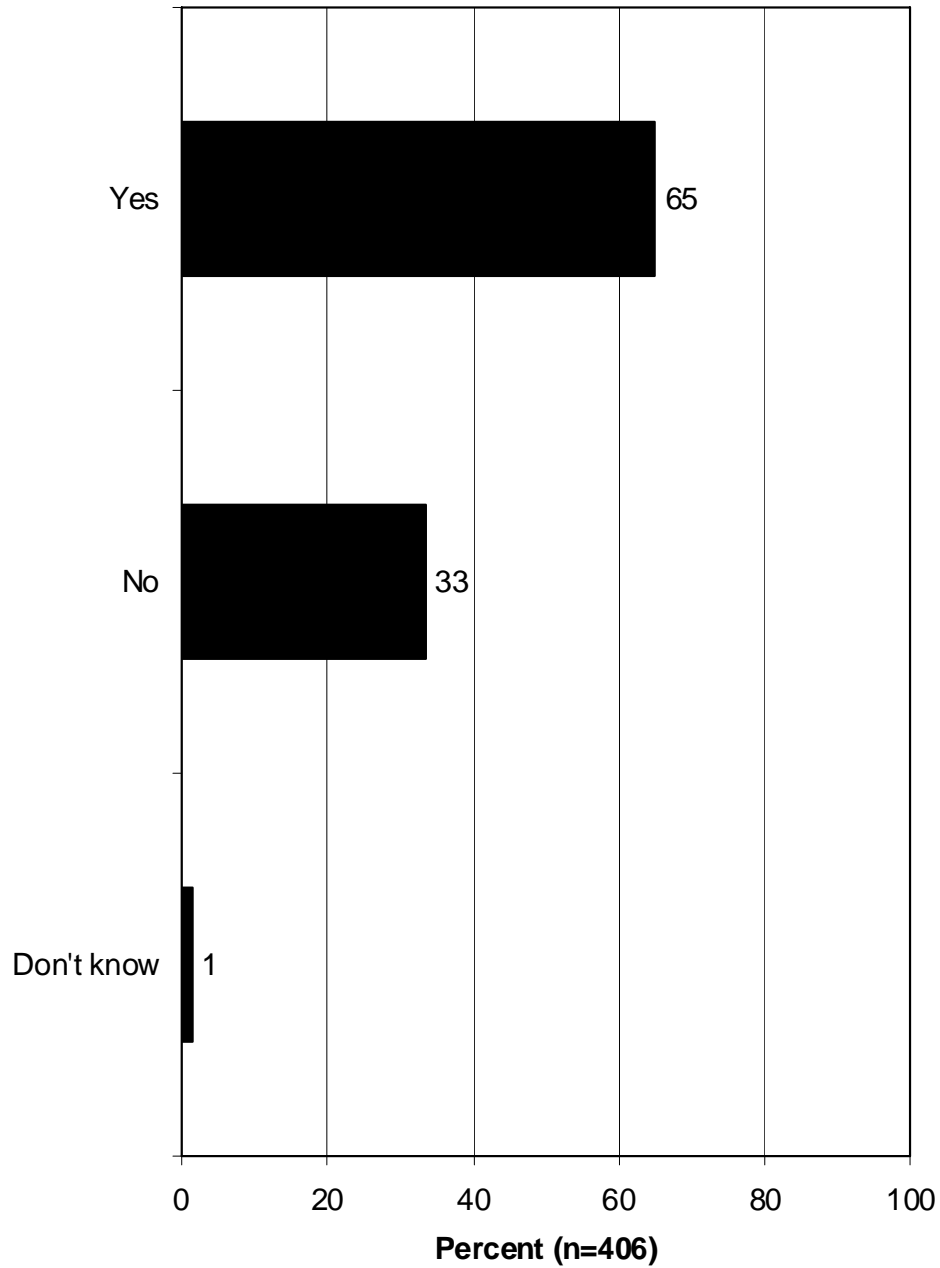
**Q111. In general, would you support or oppose establishing mandatory quality deer management regulations in the area where you hunt in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**



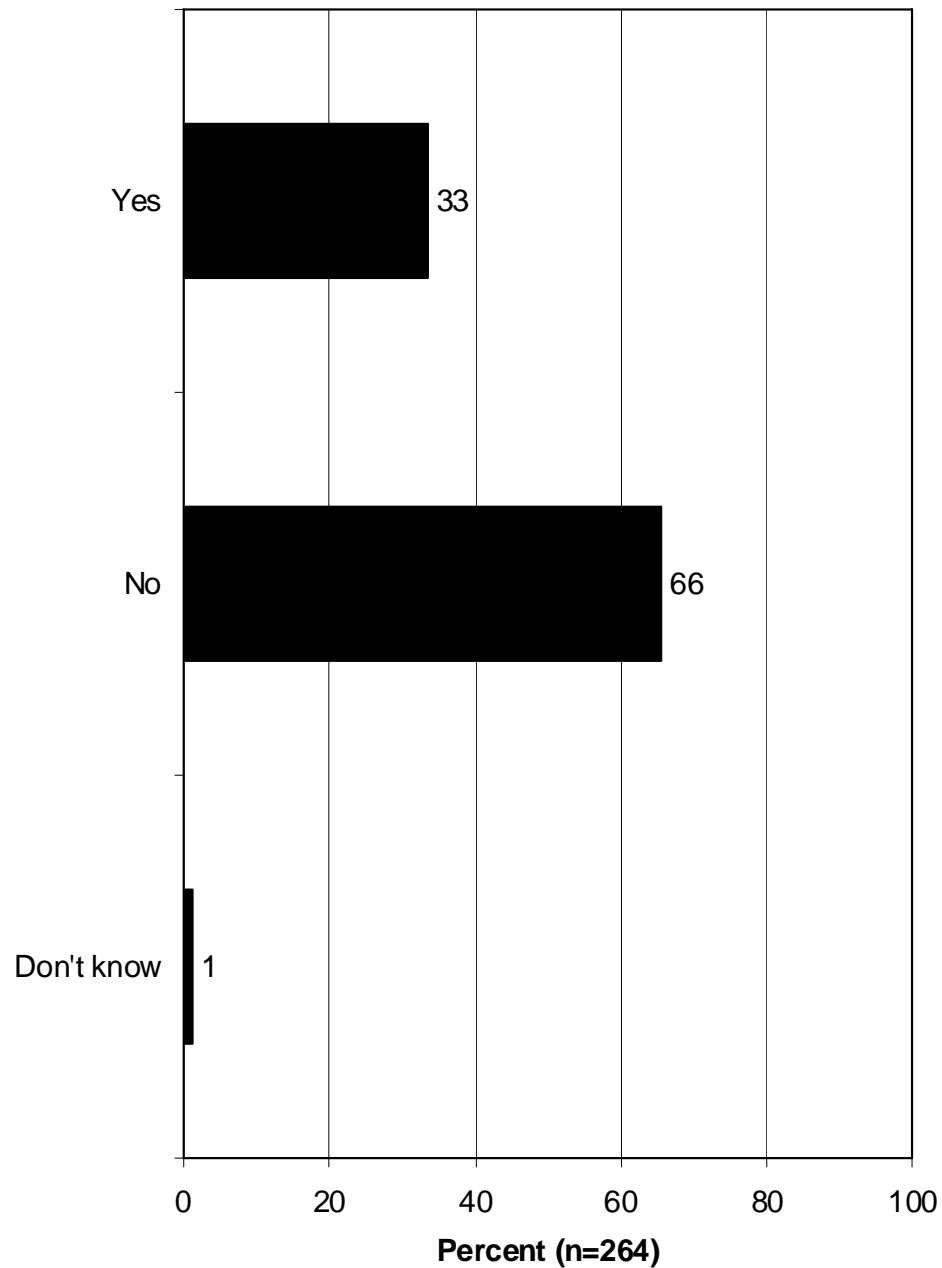
**Q107. Some hunters have asked the Department to do more to manage the deer herd for quality deer, but not everyone agrees on what this means. What does the term quality deer management mean to you? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q102. Do you know about deer management or crop damage permits? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q103. Do you use crop damage permits? (Asked of those who know about deer management or crop damage permits.) (Landowner survey.)**



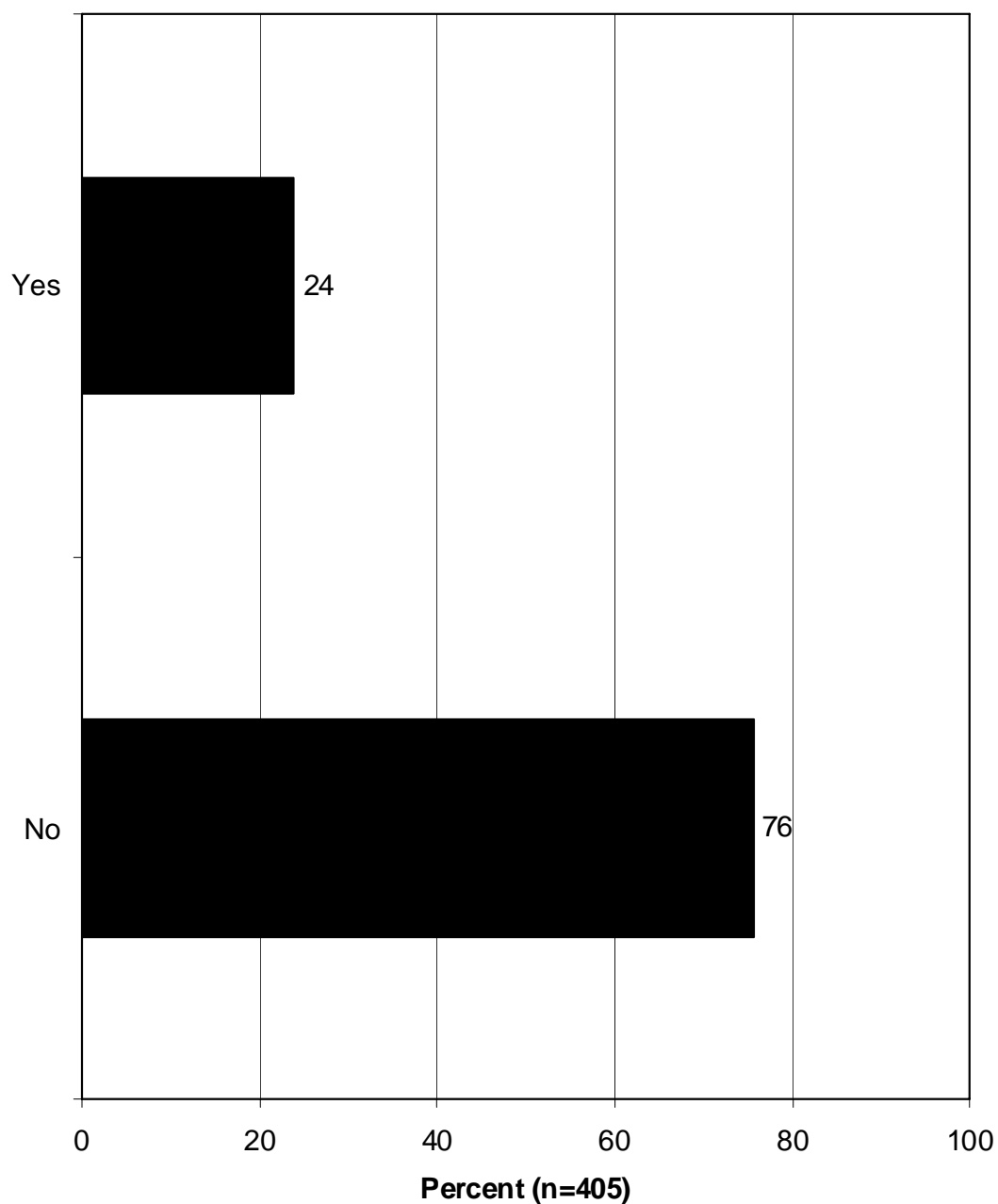


## DAMAGE FROM DEER

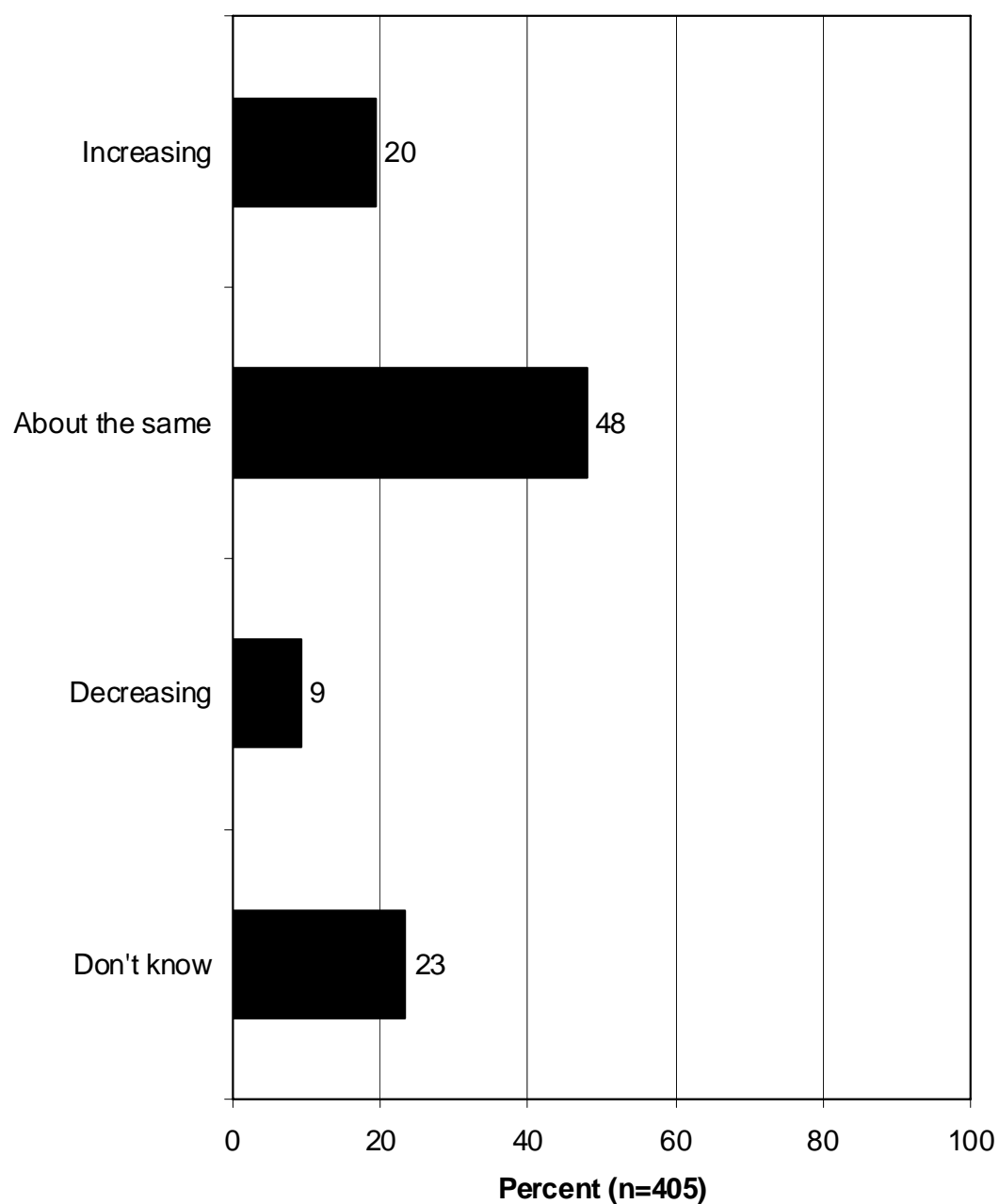
- About a quarter of Maryland residents (24%) have experienced damage to their yard, garden, or crops from deer in the past year. Regarding trends in damage, most commonly Maryland residents say that the incidence of deer damage is about the same as it previously was (48%); otherwise, the percentage thinking that damage is increasing (20%) exceeds the percentage thinking it is decreasing (9%).
  - When asked if they do anything to prevent damage by deer, the large majority of Maryland residents (73%) do nothing. Otherwise, fencing (11%), repellants (7%), and watchdogs (5%) are the most common preventatives.
  
- About a third of Maryland deer hunters (33%) have experienced damage to their yard, garden, or crops from deer in the past year. Regarding trends in damage, a majority of Maryland deer hunters say that the incidence of deer damage is about the same as it previously was (51%); otherwise, the percentage thinking that damage is increasing (27%) exceeds the percentage thinking it is decreasing (12%).
  - When asked if they do anything to prevent damage by deer, the large majority of Maryland deer hunters (63%) do nothing. Otherwise, hunting is the most common preventative (20%), followed by fencing (9%) and repellants (7%).
  
- A majority of large landowners in Maryland (69%) have experienced damage to their yard, garden, or crops from deer in the past year—this percentage is higher than among the general population likely because the sample is of large landowners who grow commercial crops, so they have more that can be damaged. When asked specifically about *crop* damage, 63% of large landowners have had damage from deer. Regarding trends in damage, landowners most commonly say that the incidence of deer damage is about the same as it previously was (44%), but that percentage is nearly the same as the percentage who think that damage is increasing (43%).
  - When asked if they do anything to prevent damage by deer, landowners most commonly do nothing (42%), but nearly the same percentage hunt to prevent damage (41%). Obviously, fencing is also a common preventative (13%), followed by repellants (7%).
  - When those who had experienced *crop* damage were asked to estimate the dollar amount of damage, the majority (57%) had less than \$2,000 in damage from deer; nonetheless, 11% had damage exceeding \$5,000.

- Most large landowners (65%) know about deer management or crop damage permits (to allow the reduction of deer on their property). Among those landowners who know of crop damage permits, 33% use them. Most of those landowners who know of crop damage permits (52%) are satisfied with the process for obtaining the permits. Also, most of those landowners who *use* crop damage permits are satisfied (74%) with the telephone and Internet reporting system for deer harvested under the authority of crop damage permits; only 9% expressed dissatisfaction. Finally, there is a regulation that stipulates that all healthy deer harvested for population control and crop damage control be processed and used for food, regardless of the time that they are harvested: the overwhelming majority of large landowners (81%) agree with this policy; only 10% disagree.
- A small, but not insubstantial, percentage of Maryland residents (8%) have had a vehicular accident with a deer in the past year. On the other hand, a relatively large percentage (40%) have a family member or friend who has experienced a vehicular accident with a deer (no time frame specified in this latter question). About the same percentage of deer hunters (10%), relative to the general population, have had a vehicular accident with a deer in the past year. Relative to the general population, a slightly higher percentage of deer hunters (49%) have a family member or friend who has experienced a vehicular accident with a deer. Similar results are found among landowners: 9% have had an accident with a deer in the past year, and 47% have a friend or family member who has had an accident.
- A majority of Maryland residents (68%) support allocating a portion of general state tax revenues to fund the installation of fences and underpasses along highways for animals in an effort to reduce vehicular accidents with deer; 24% oppose.
  - Public safety is the most common reason for wanting fences and underpasses installed (among those who support doing so), followed by concern for the deer themselves.
- Despite the damage that deer cause, the majority of residents (64%), deer hunters (84%), and landowners (65%) agree that deer are important enough that they (the respondents) are willing to tolerate some damage to yards, gardens, or crops.

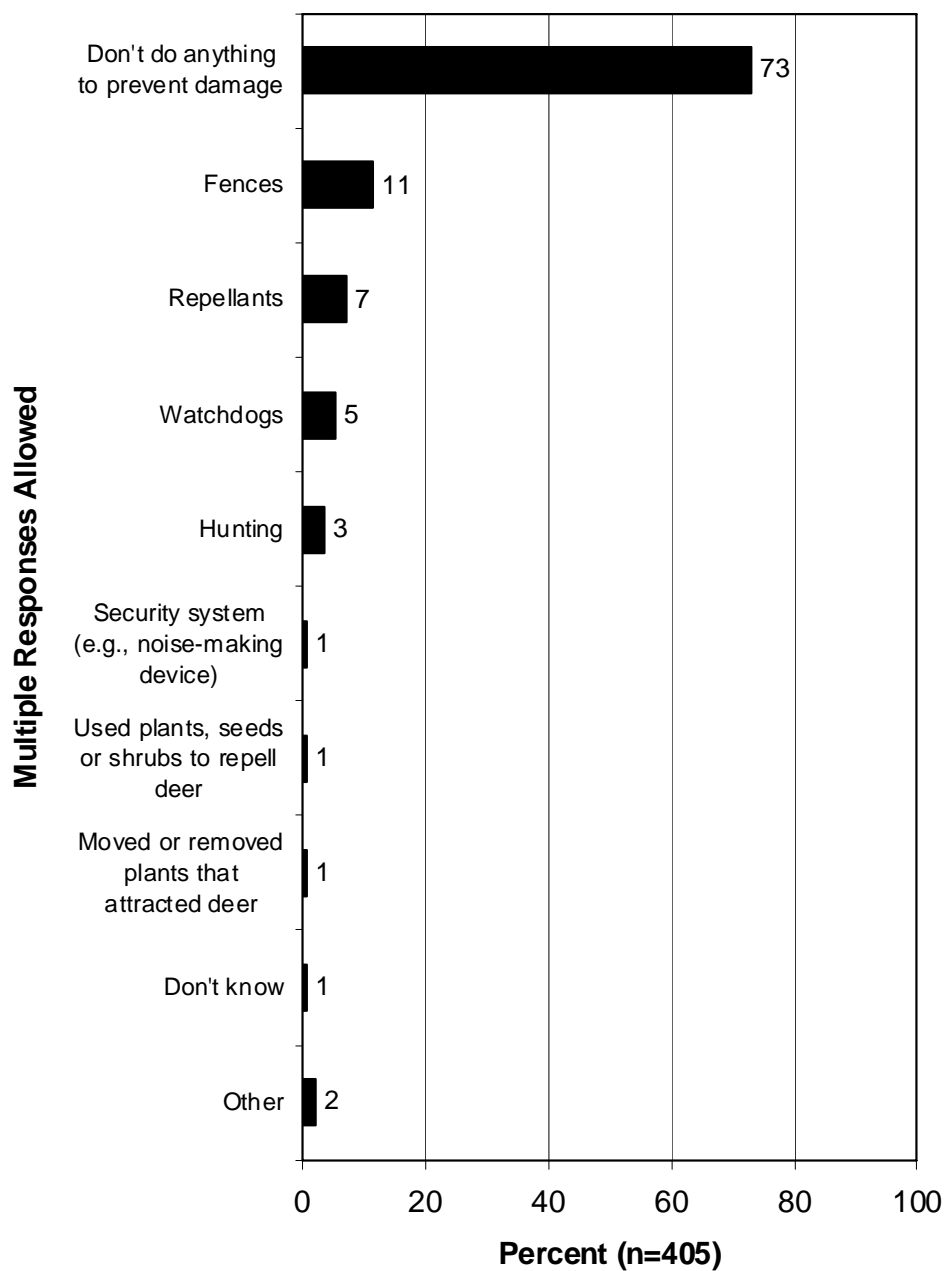
**Q25. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer? (General population survey.)**



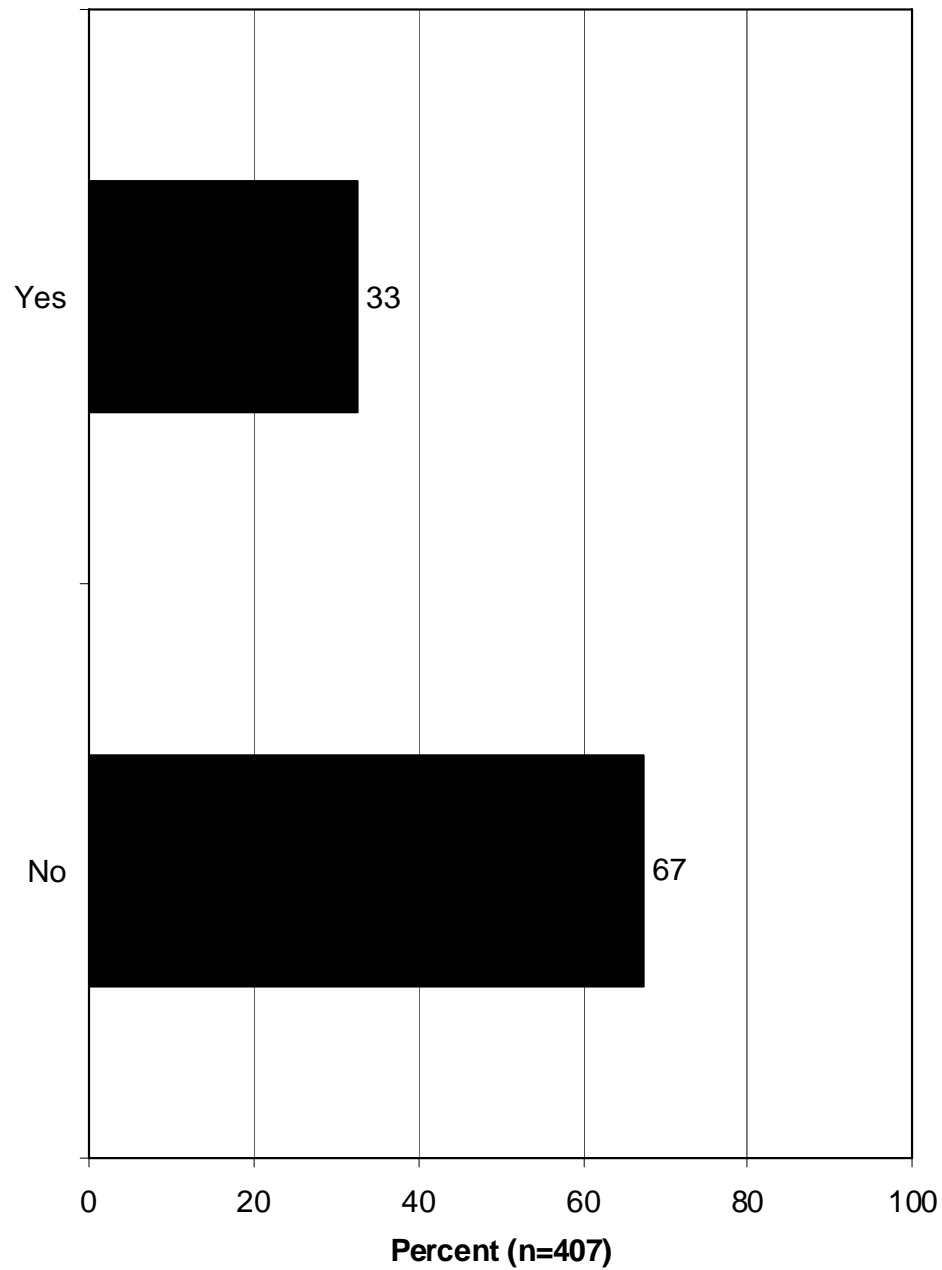
**Q26. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing? (General population survey.)**



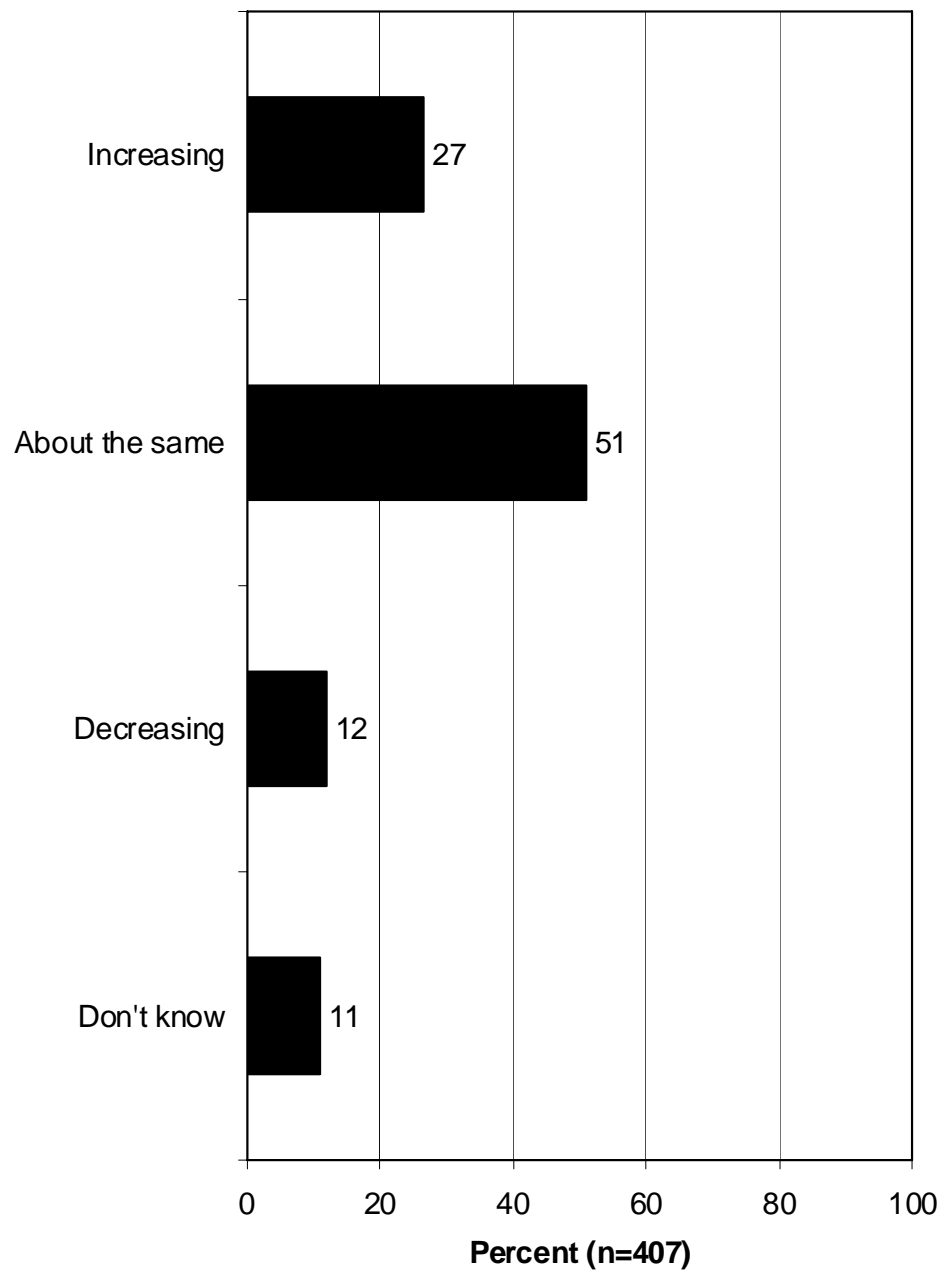
**Q29. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (General population survey.)**



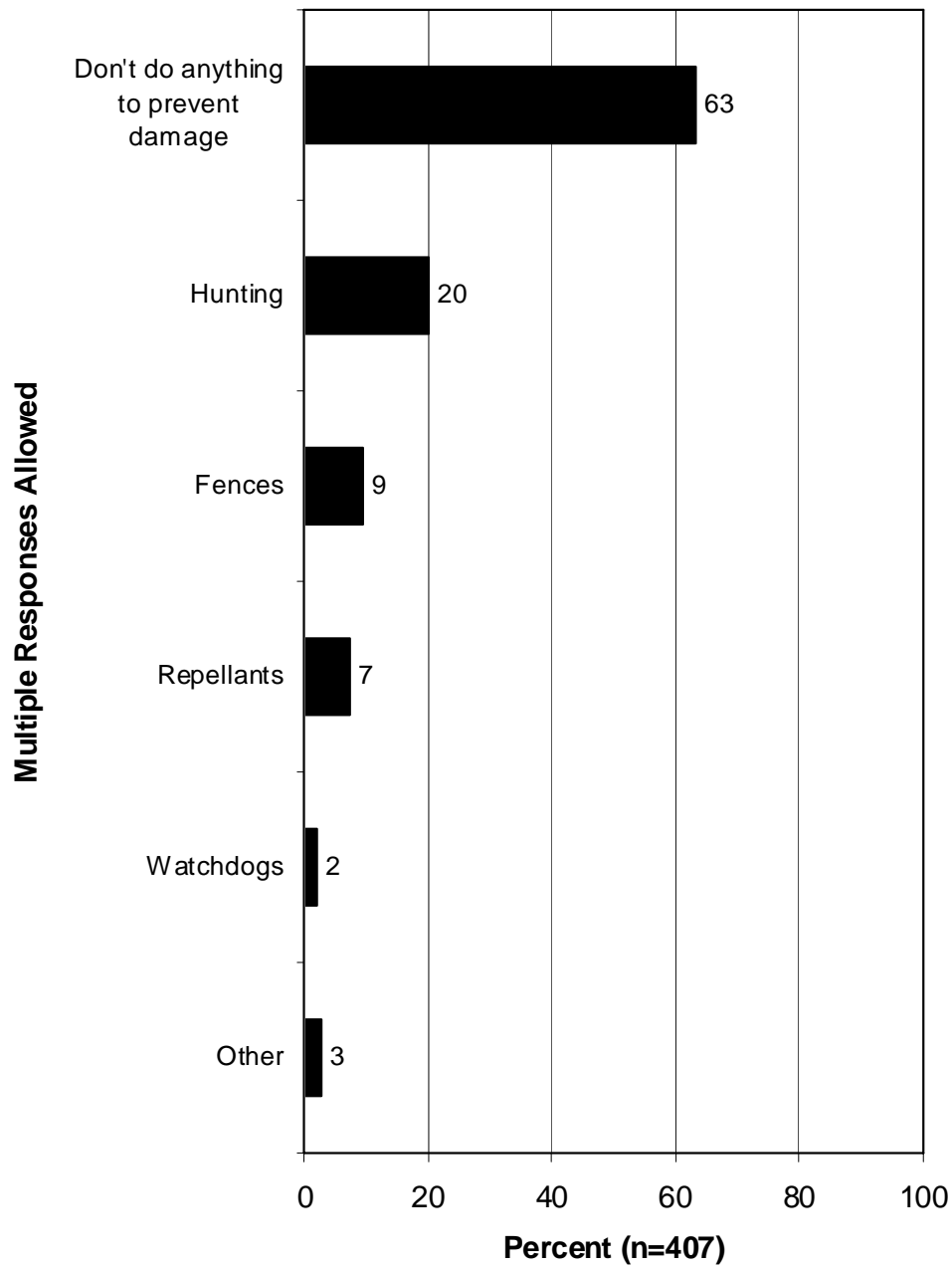
**Q27. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q28. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing? (Hunter survey.)**

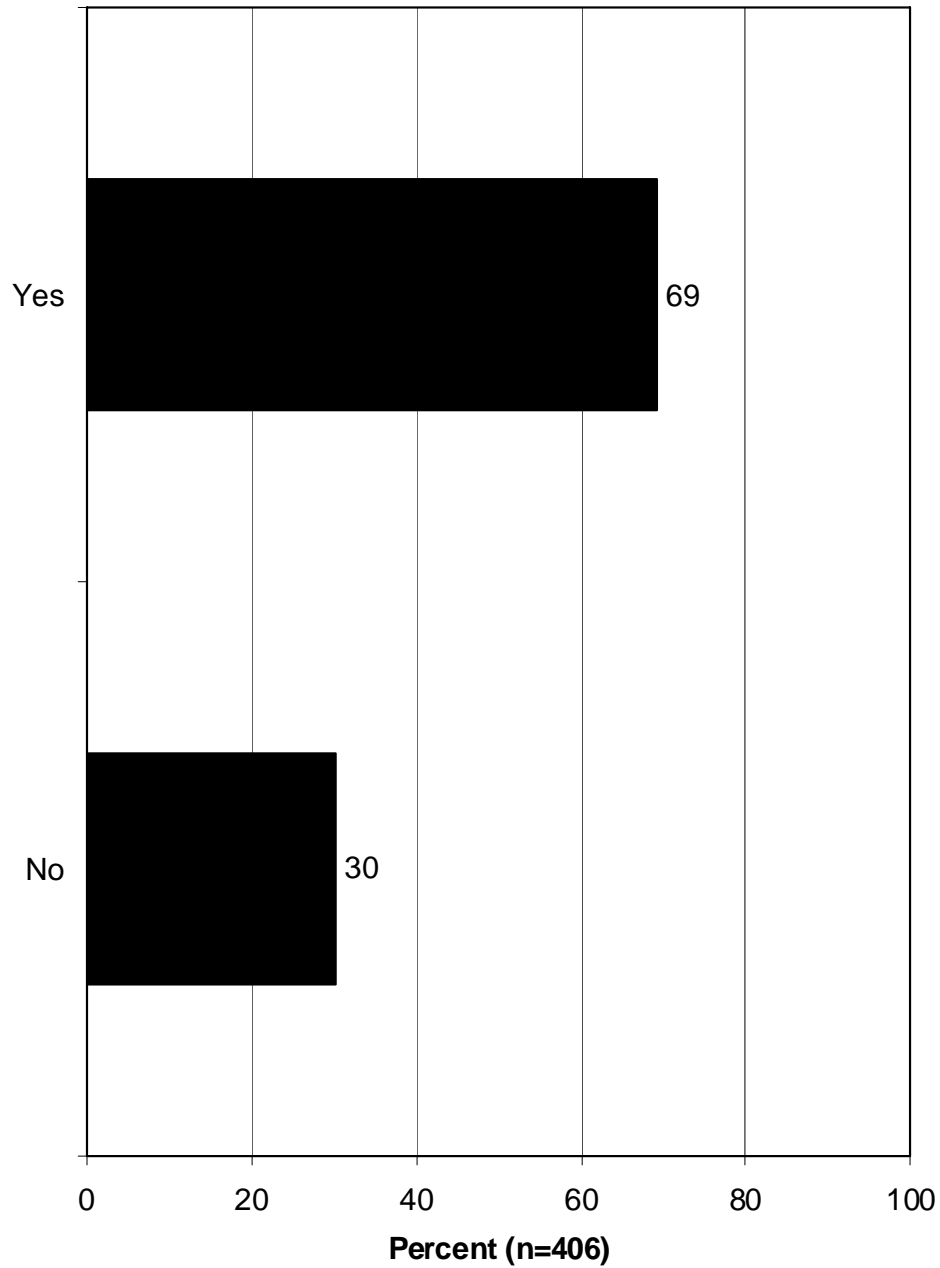


**Q31. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (Hunter survey.)**

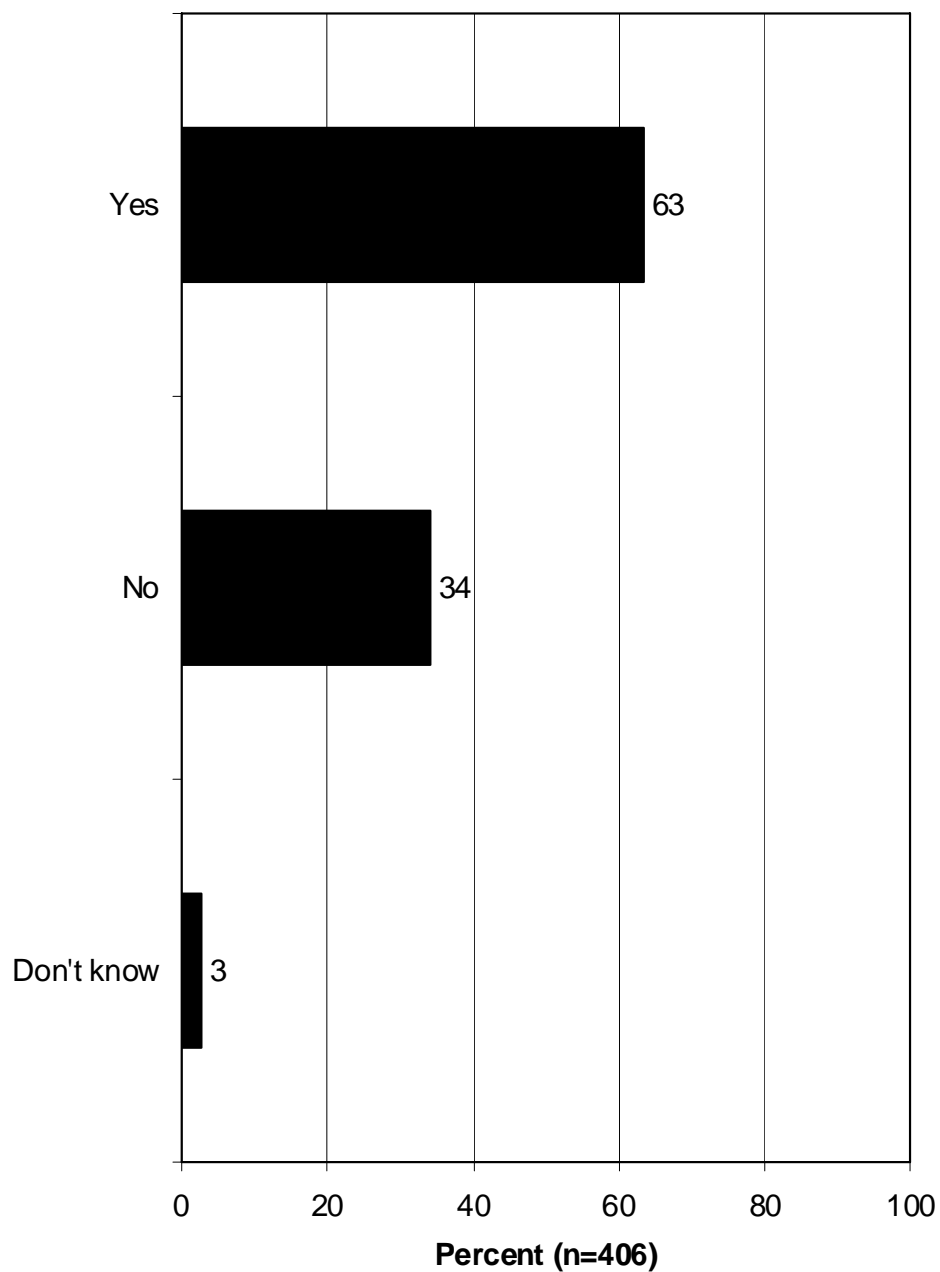




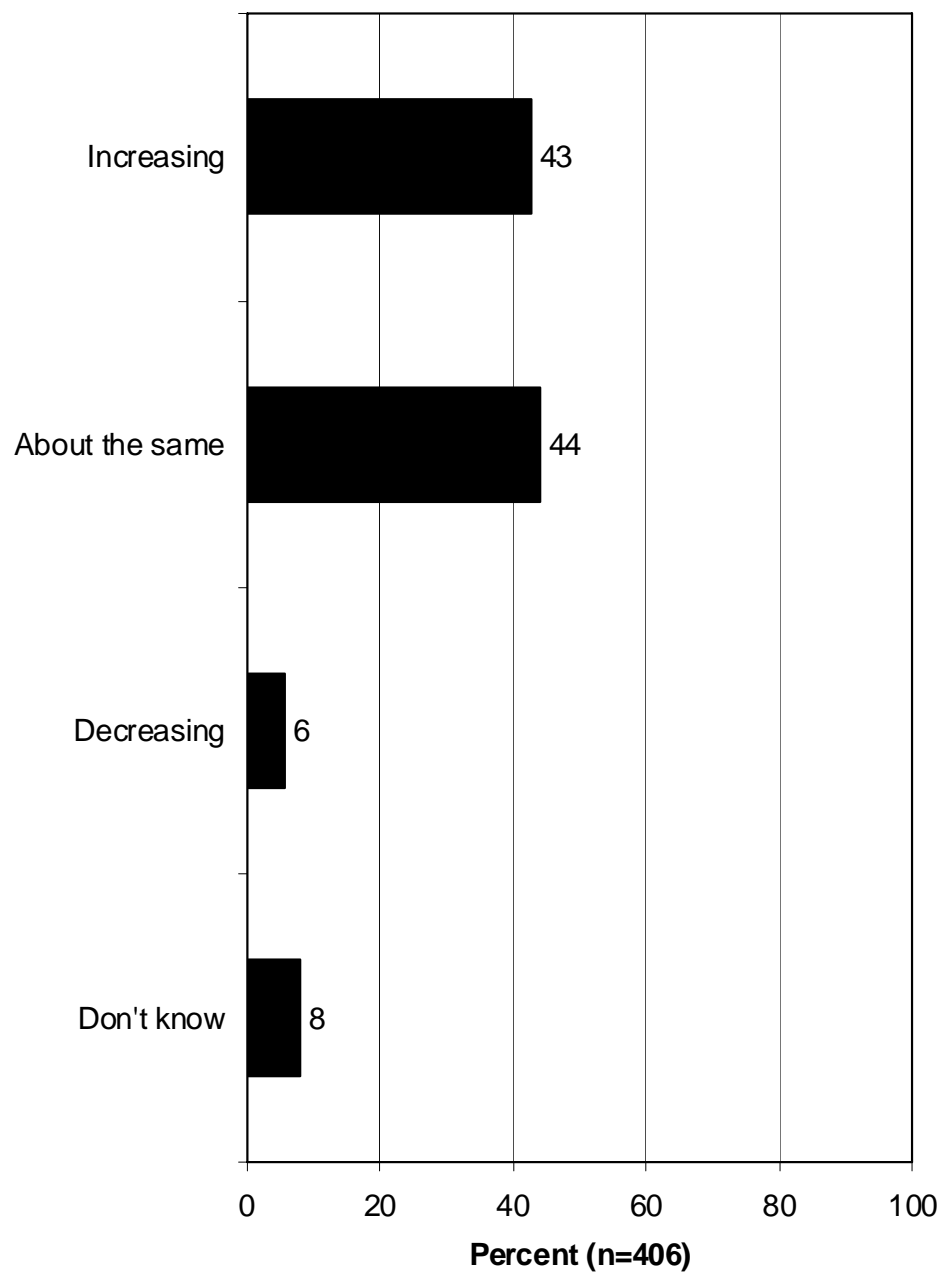
**Q29. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer? (Landowner survey.)**



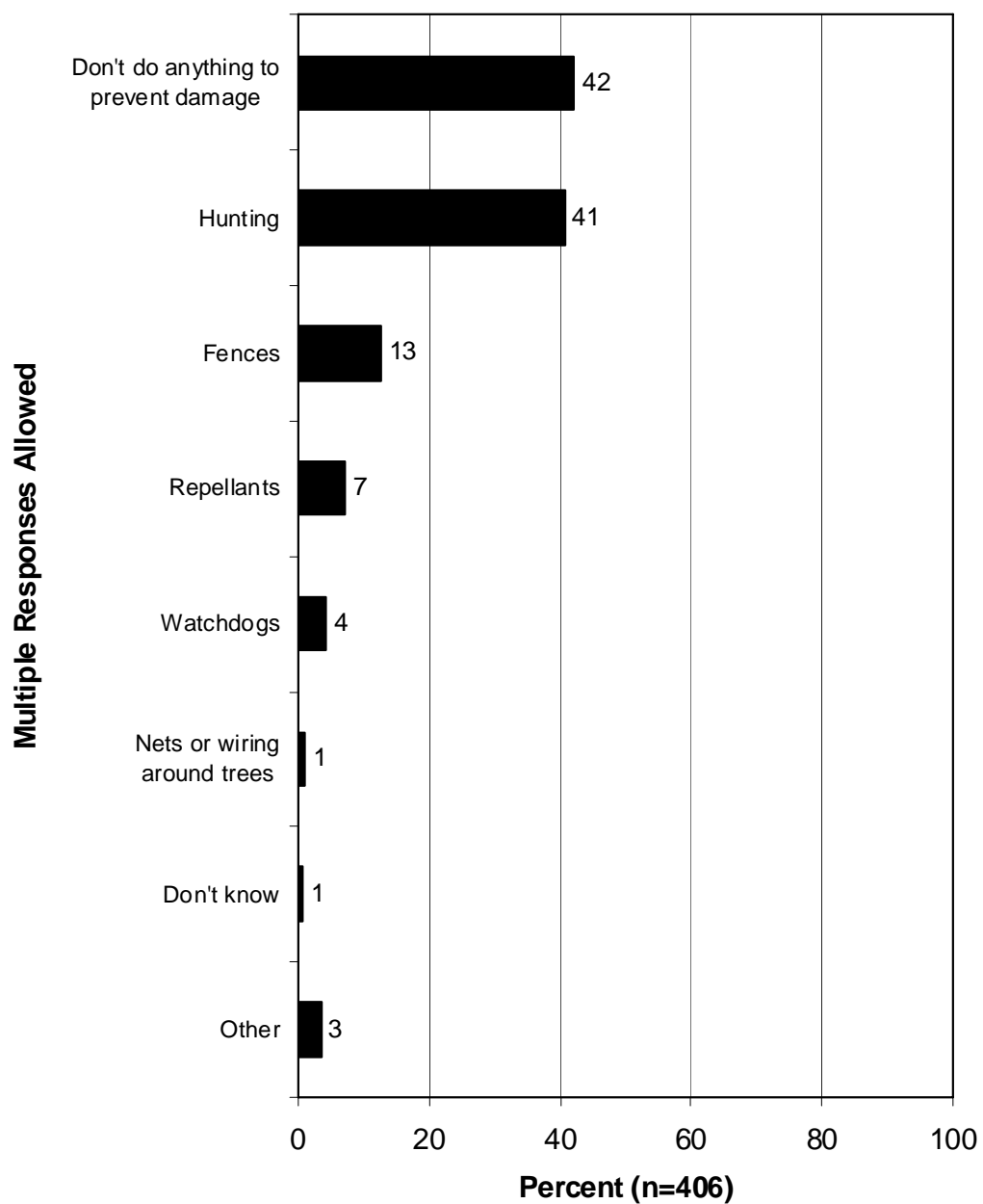
**Q100. Have you, in the past year, experienced agricultural crop damage from deer? (Landowner survey.)**



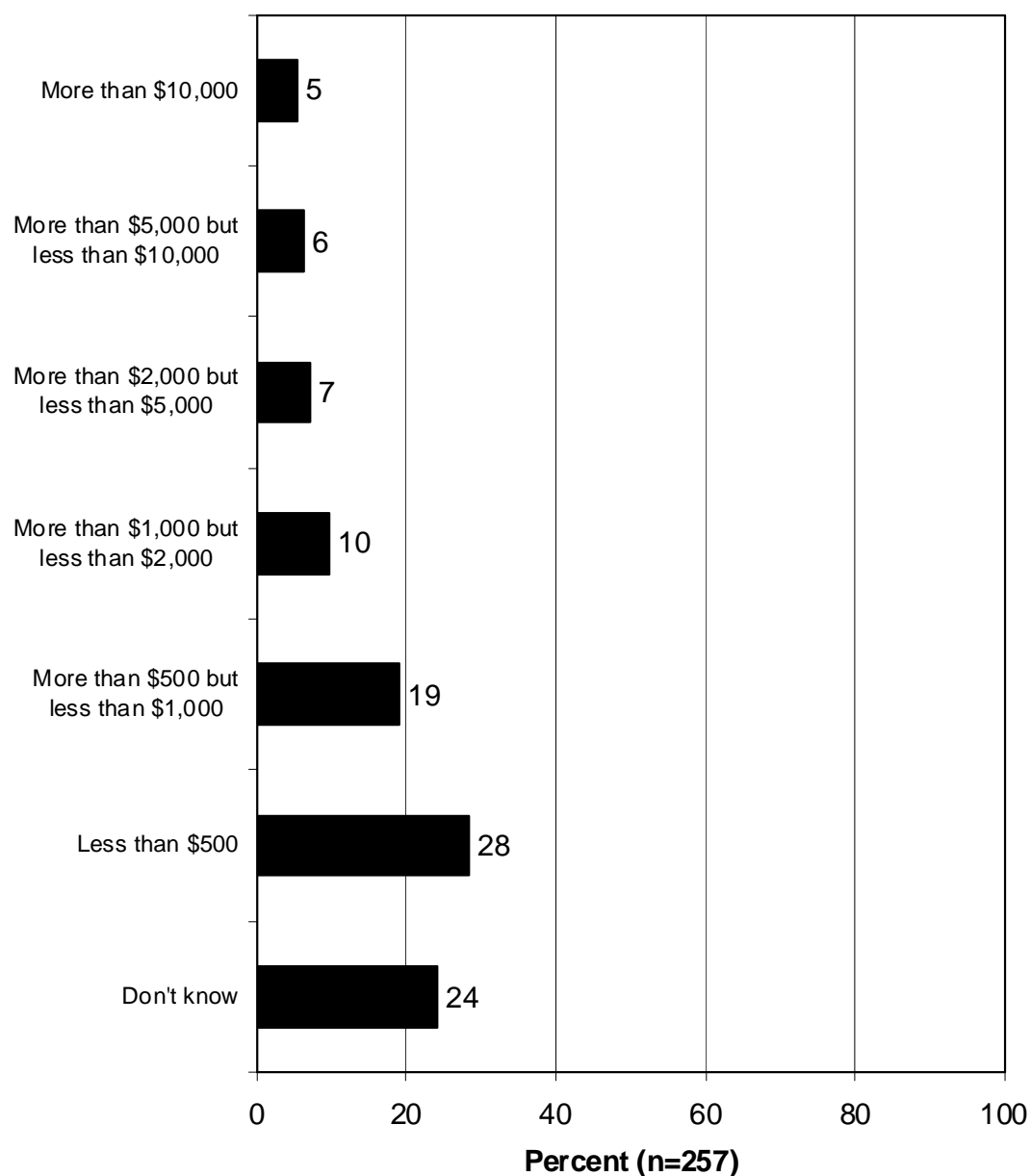
**Q30. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing? (Landowner survey.)**



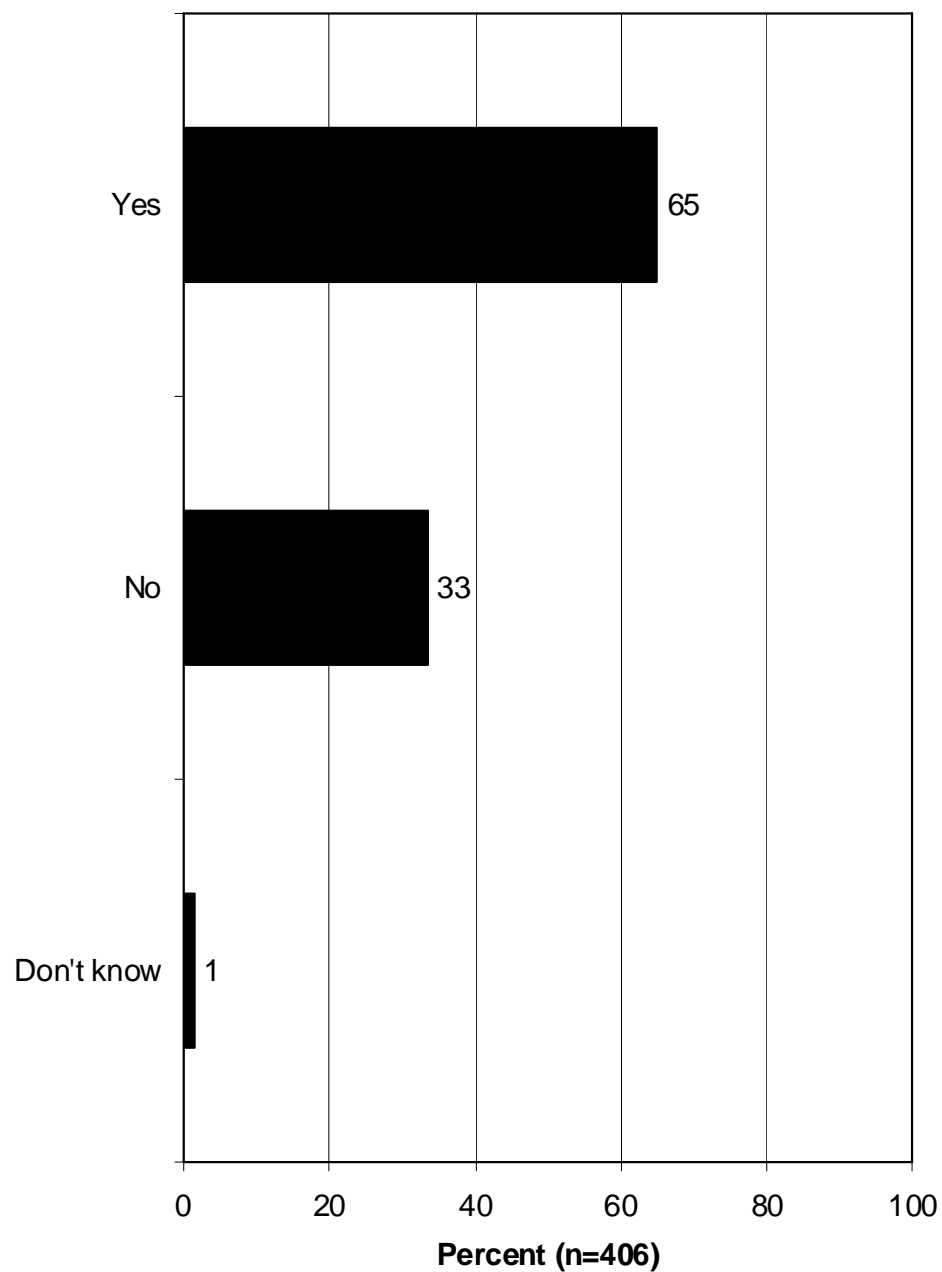
**Q33. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (Landowner survey.)**



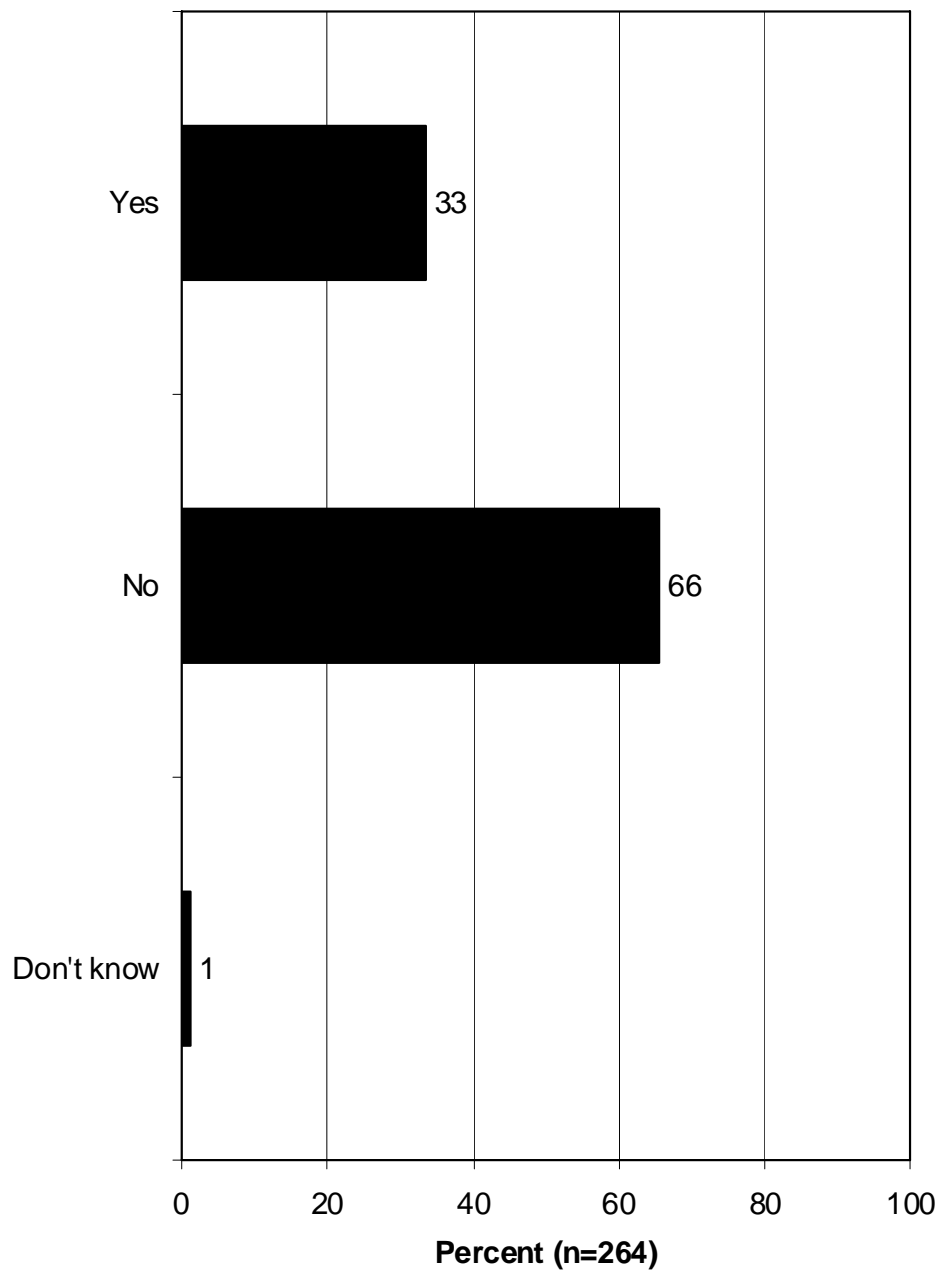
**Q101. Since you said you had crop damage from deer in the past year, please estimate for me how much damage the deer caused. (Asked of those who experienced agricultural crop damage from deer in the past year.) (Landowner survey.)**



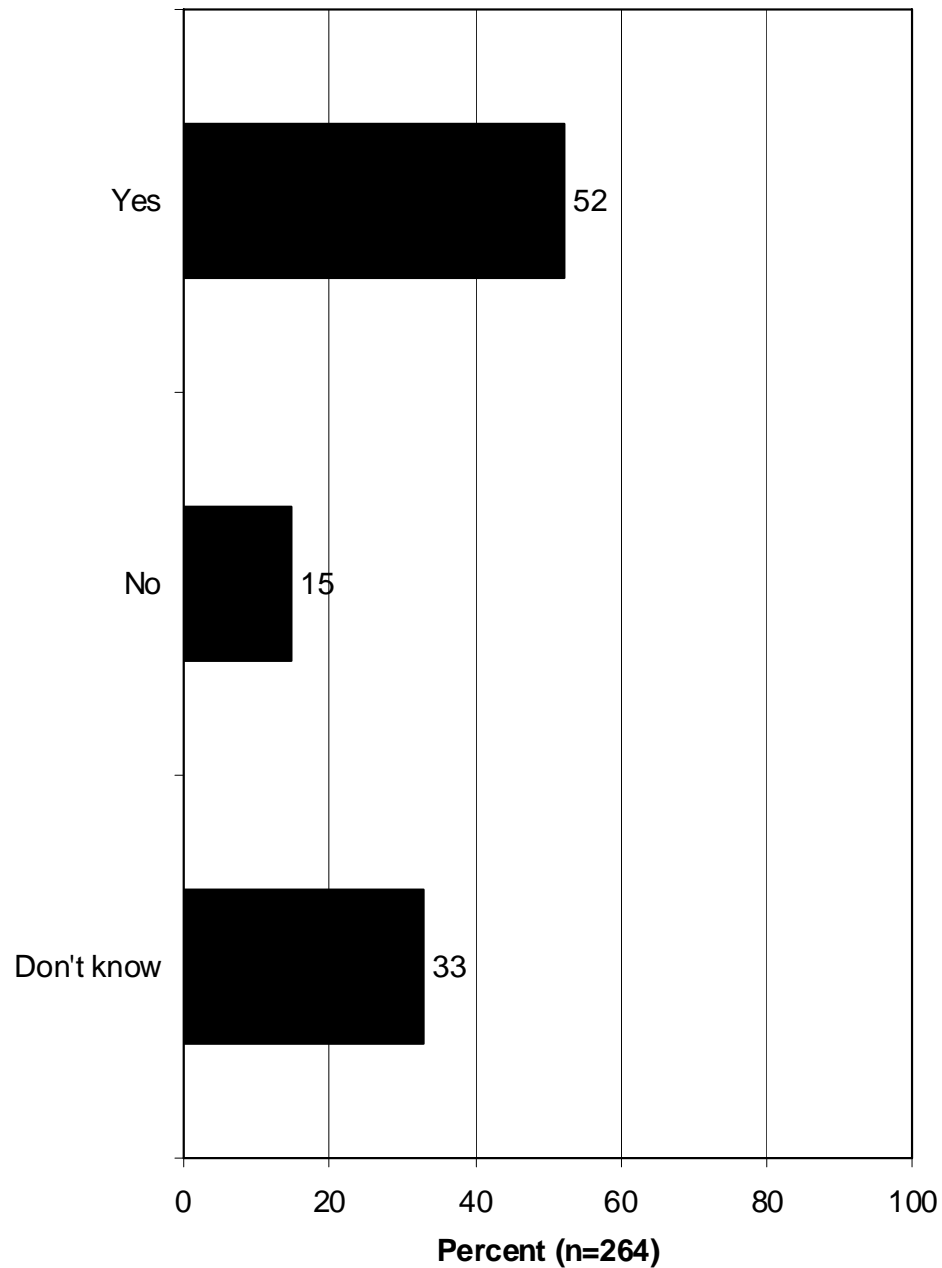
**Q102. Do you know about deer management or crop damage permits? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q103. Do you use crop damage permits? (Asked of those who know about deer management or crop damage permits.) (Landowner survey.)**

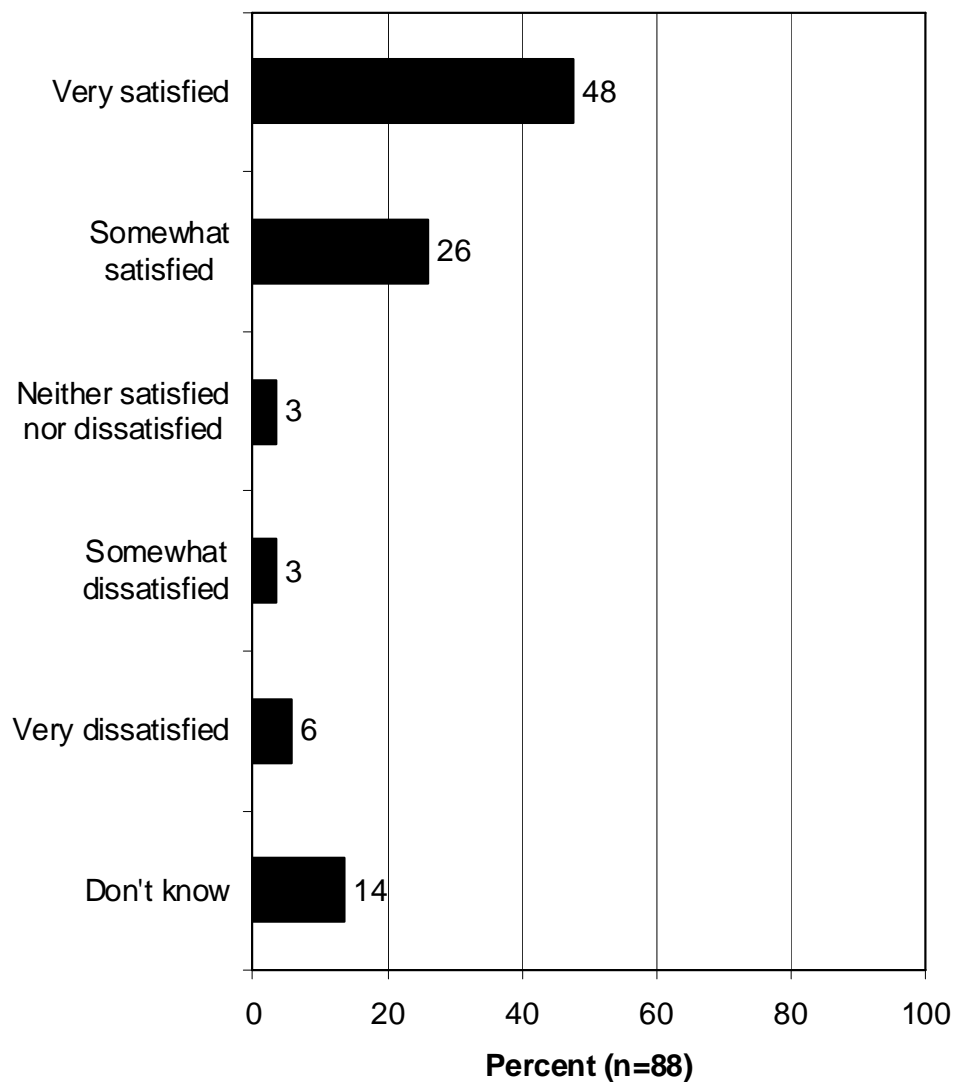


**Q104. Are you satisfied with the process for obtaining crop damage permits? (Asked of those who know about deer management or crop damage permits.) (Landowner survey.)**

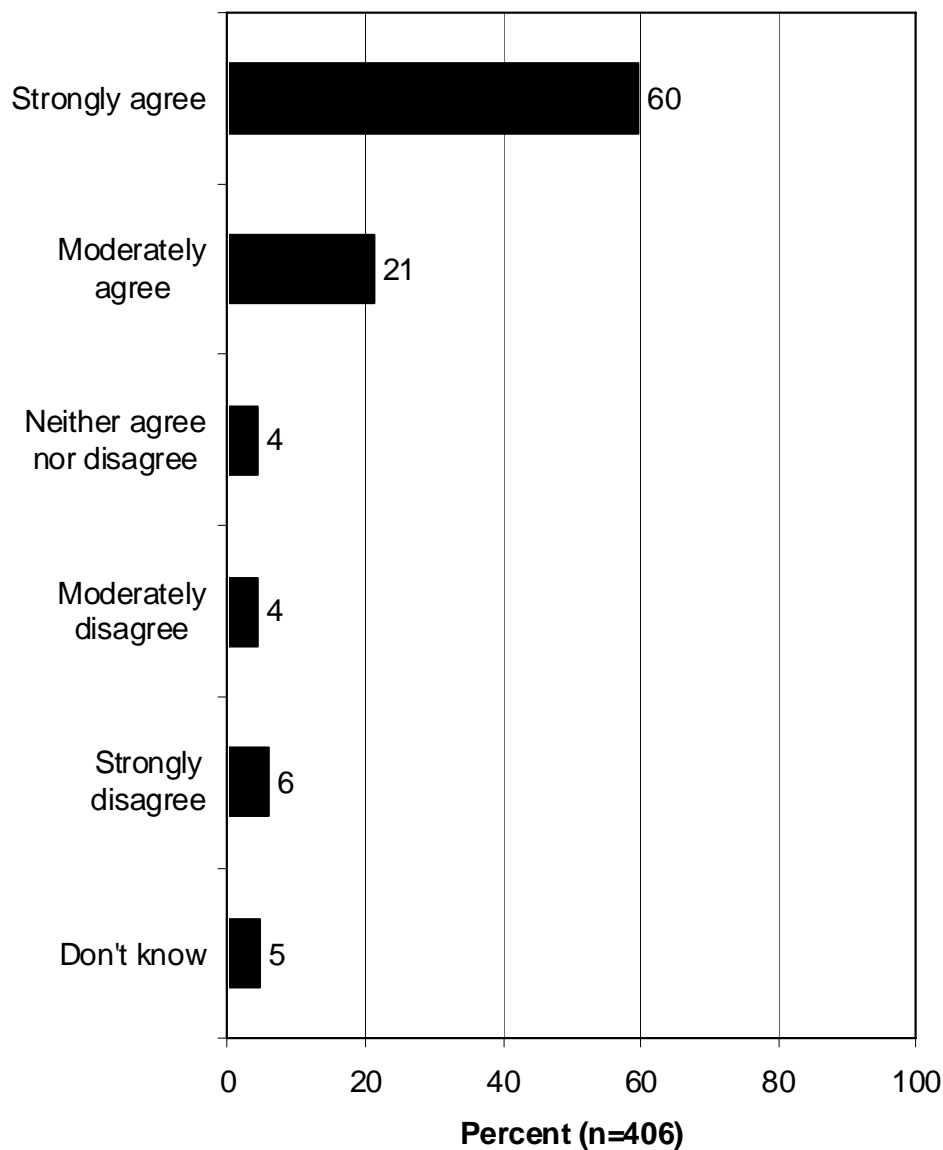




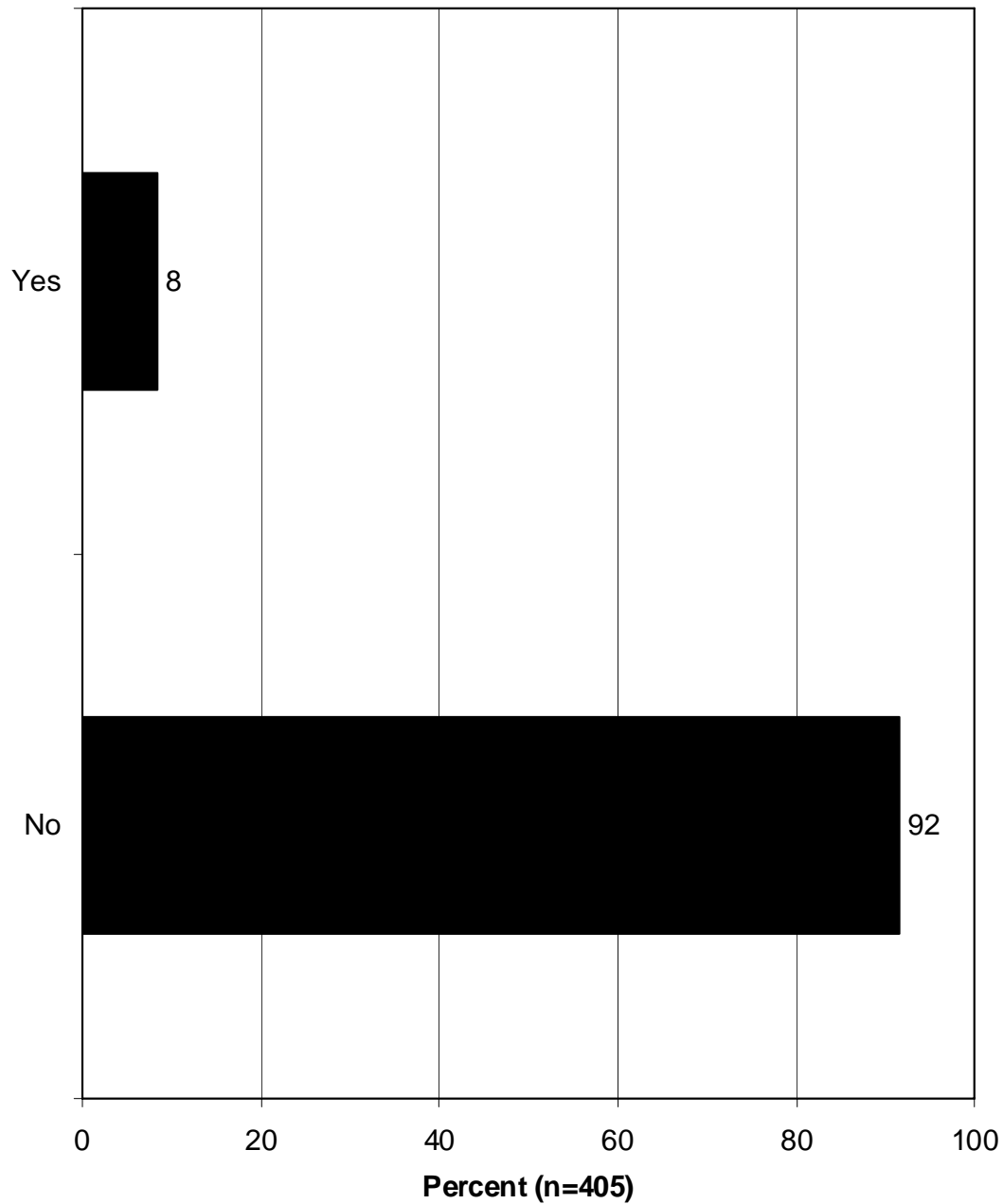
**Q106. Currently, landowners and farmers who harvest deer using crop damage permits can report the harvested deer over the telephone or using the Internet. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the telephone and Internet reporting system for deer harvested under authority of crop damage permits? (Asked of those who both know about and use crop damage permits.) (Landowner survey.)**



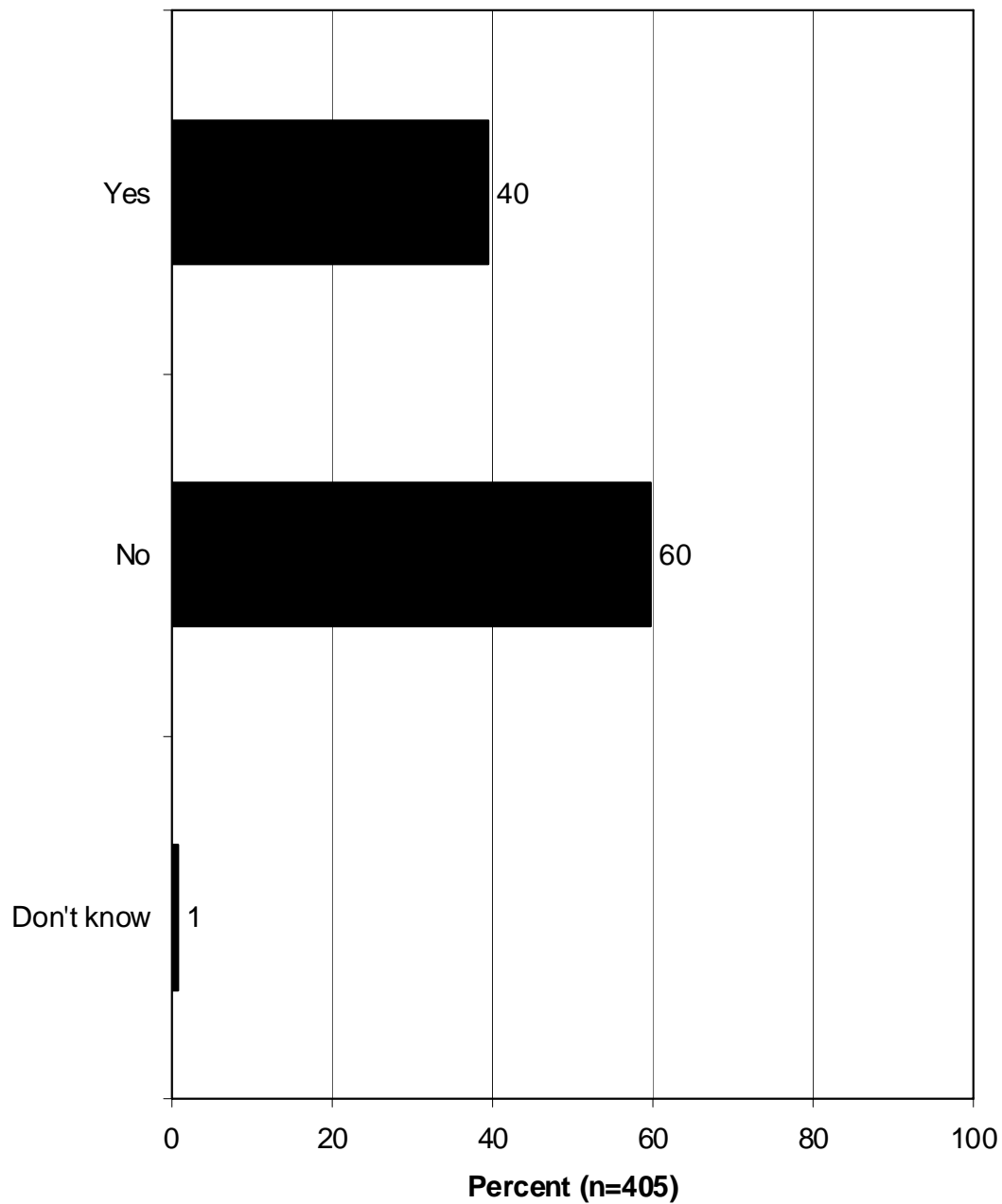
**Q107. Currently, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources requires that all healthy or non-diseased deer harvested for population control and crop damage control be used and processed for food regardless of the time of year at which they harvested. Do you agree or disagree with this policy? (Landowner survey.)**



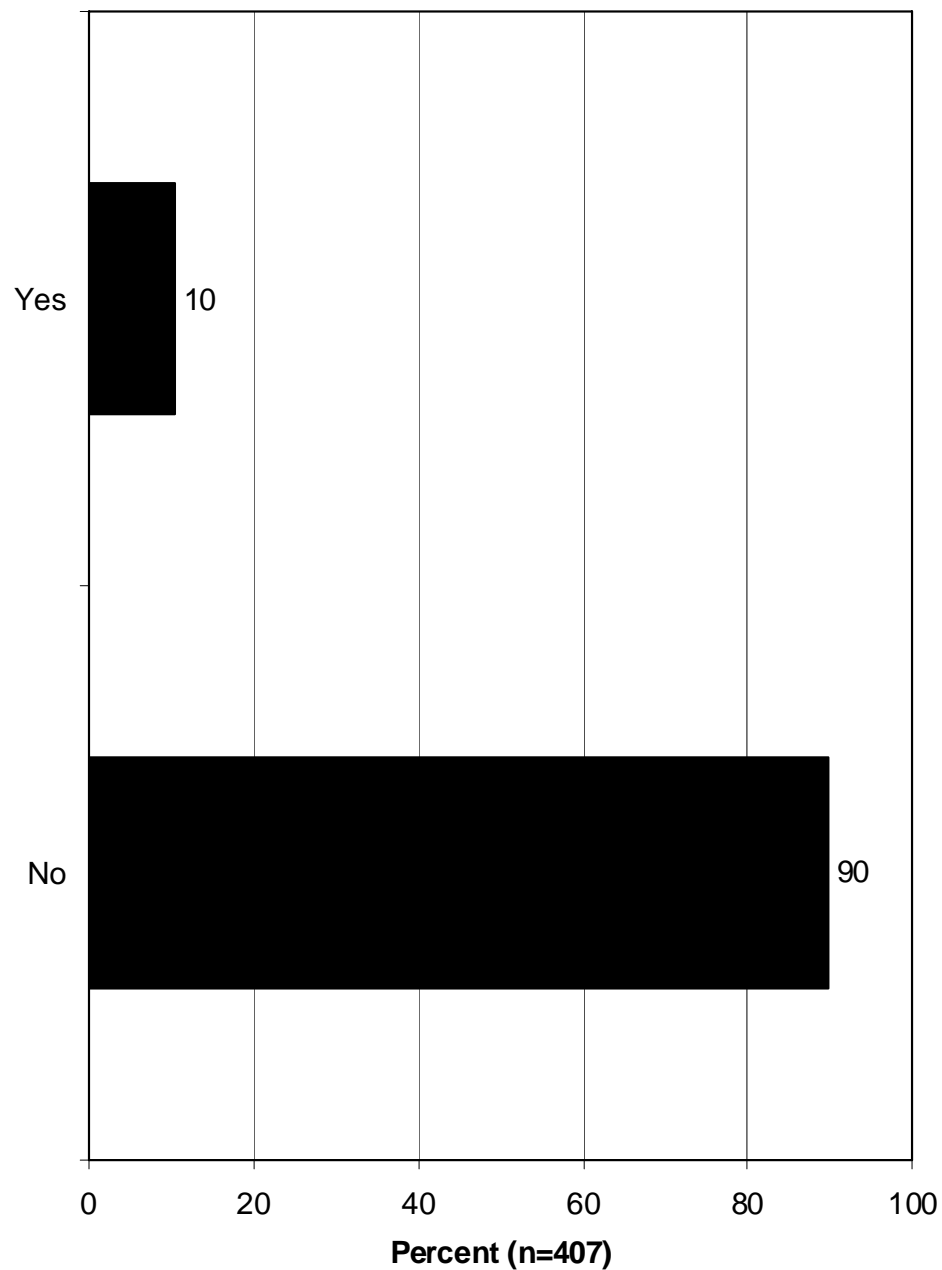
**Q31. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (General population survey.)**



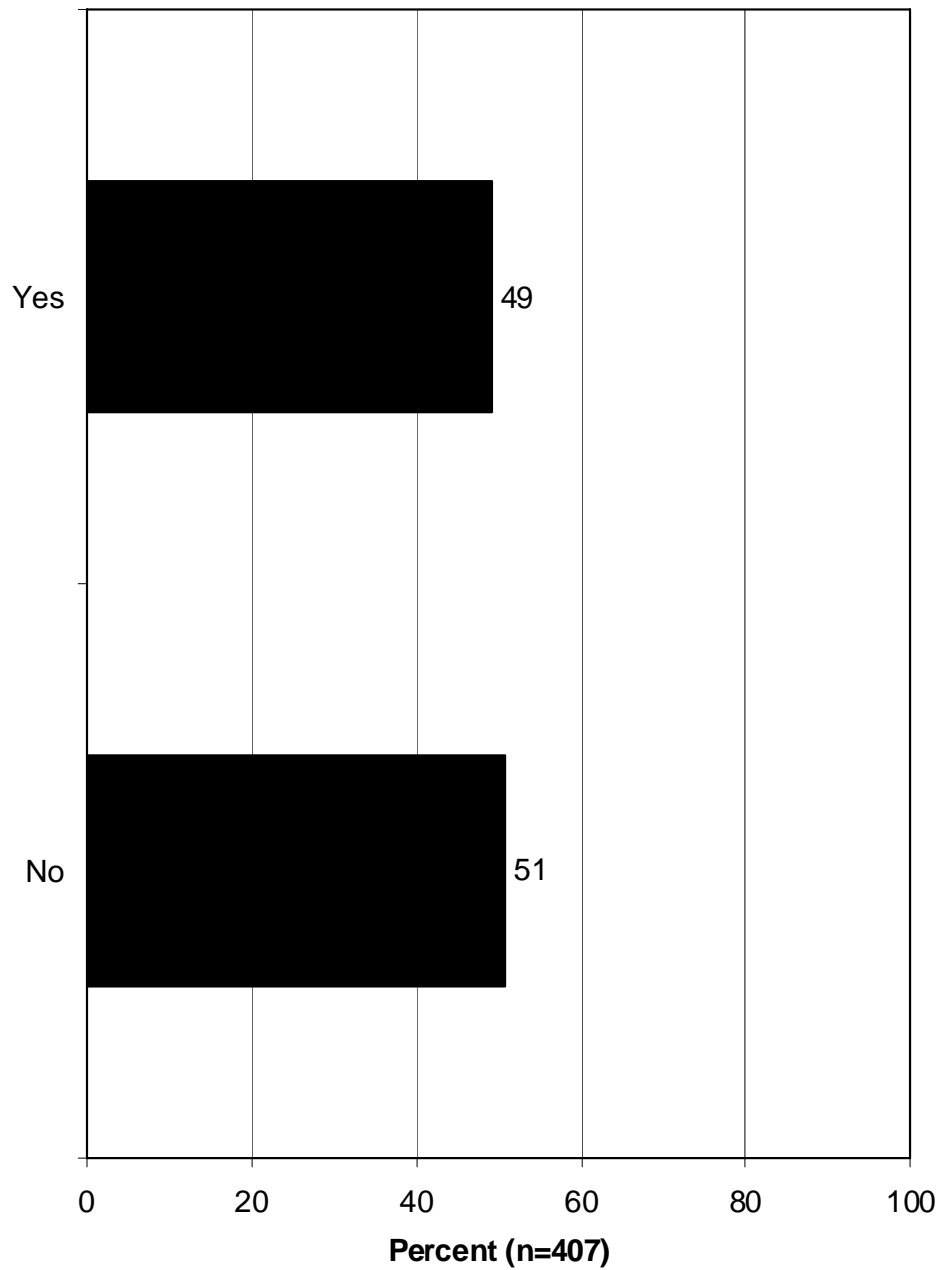
**Q32. Has anyone in your family or a friend had a vehicular accident with a deer? (General population survey.)**



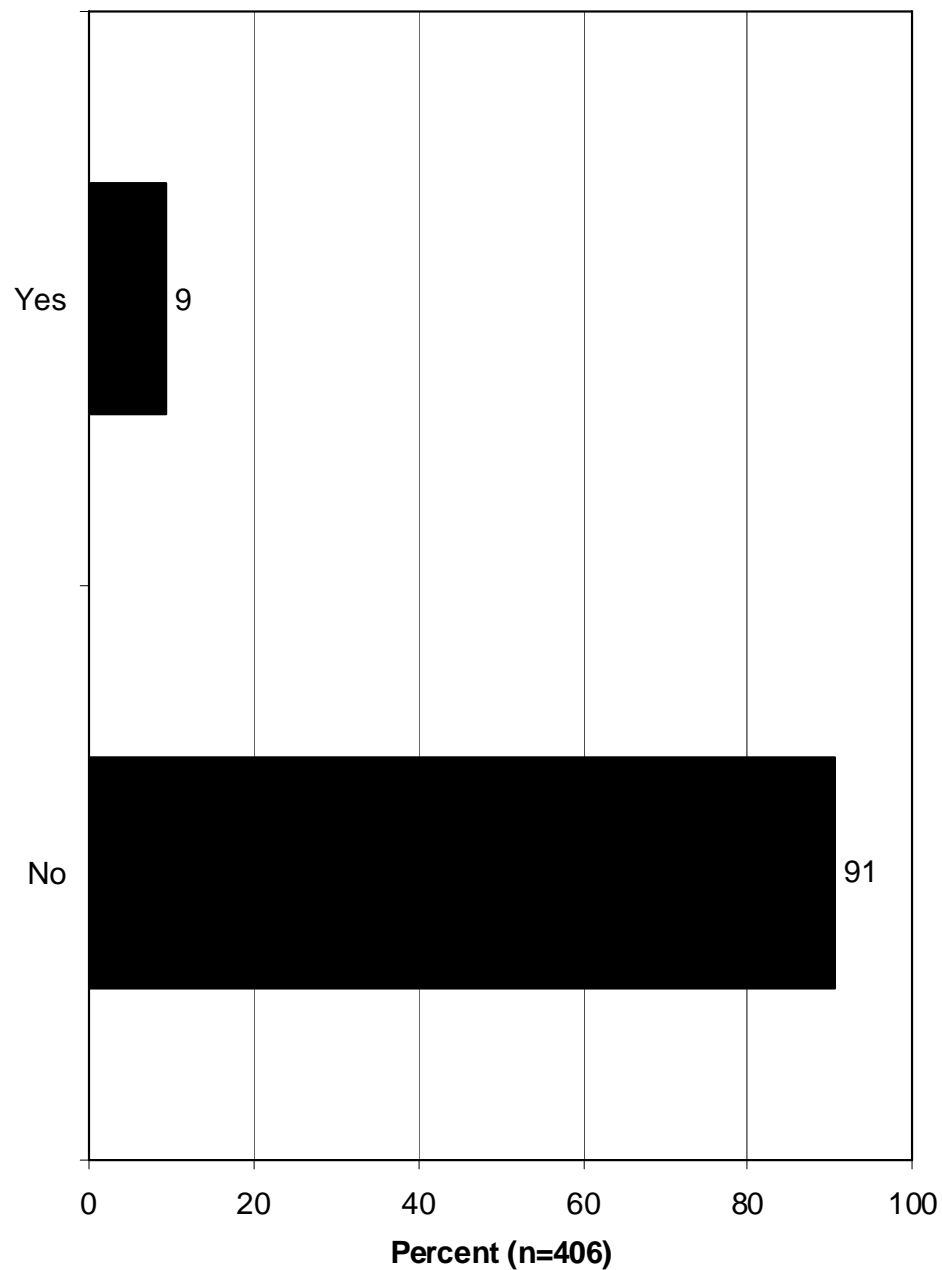
**Q33. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Hunter survey.)**



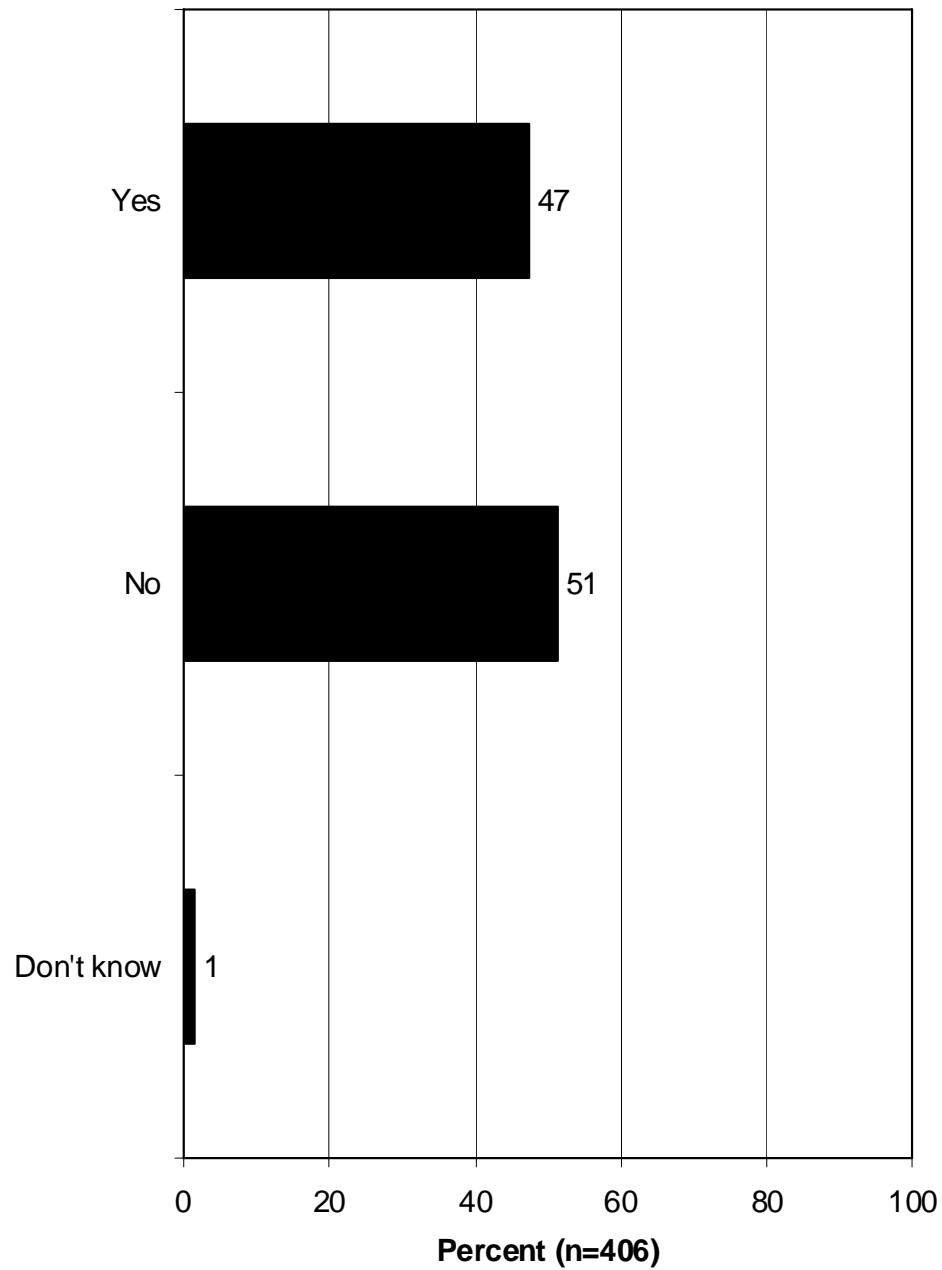
**Q34. Has anyone in your family or a friend had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q35. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Landowner survey.)**

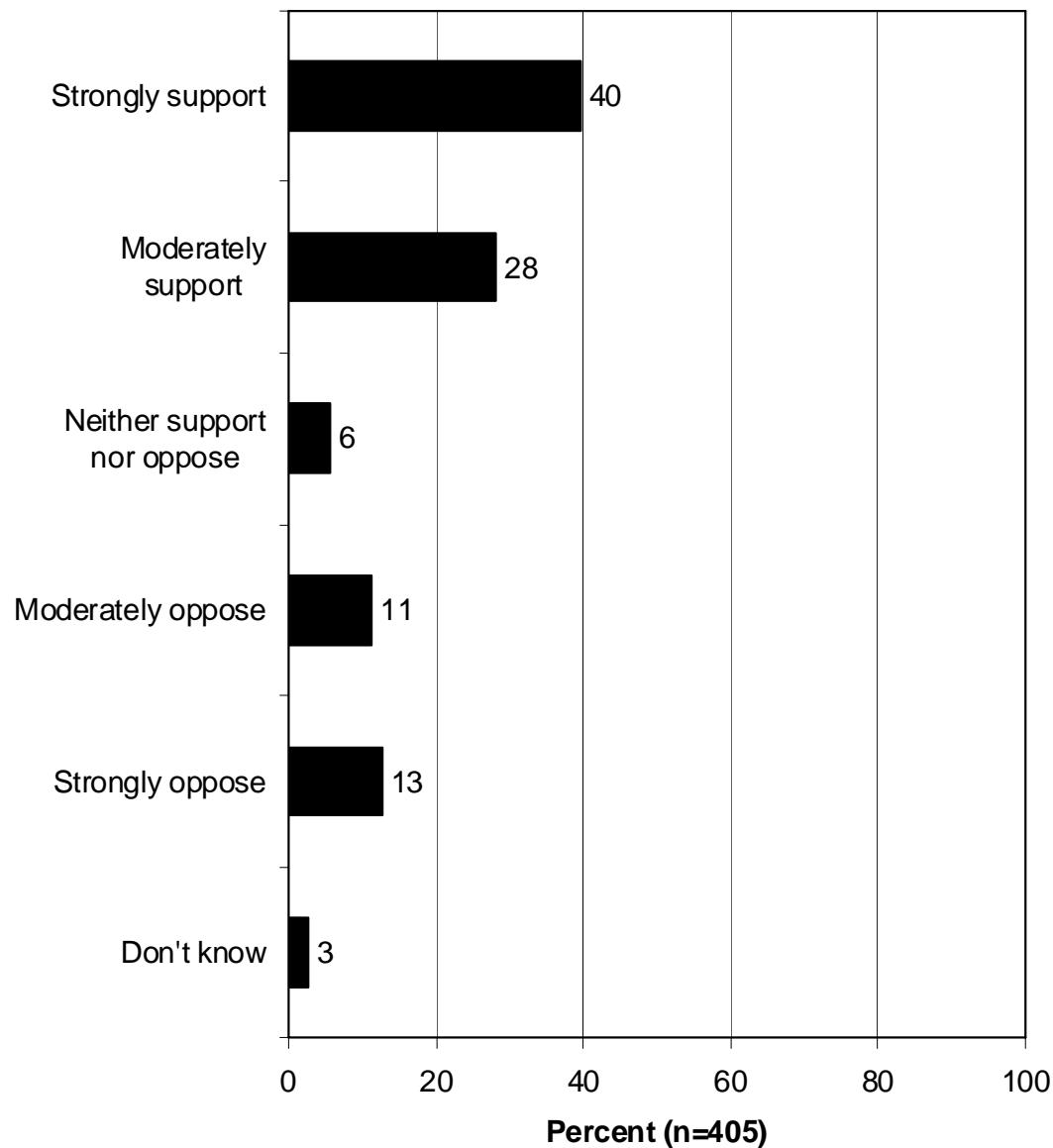


**Q36. Has anyone in your family or a friend had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Landowner survey.)**

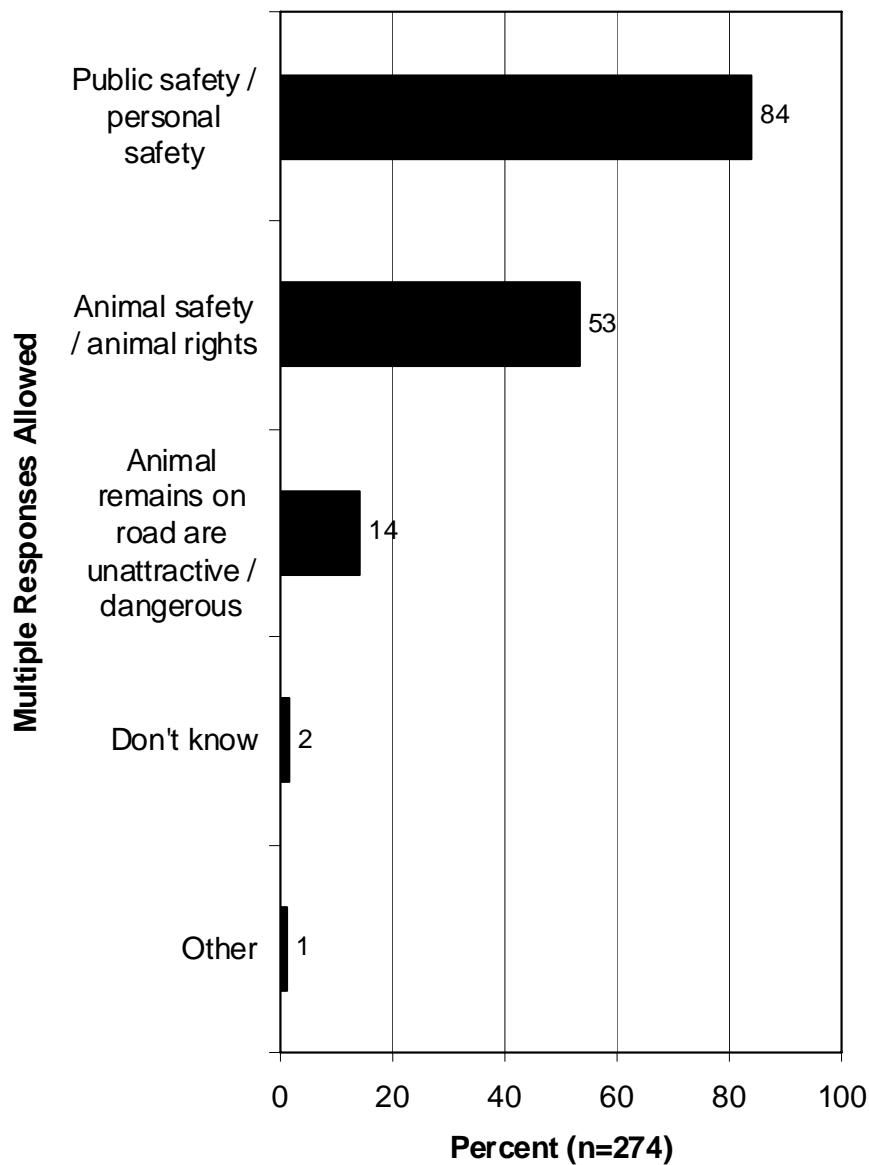




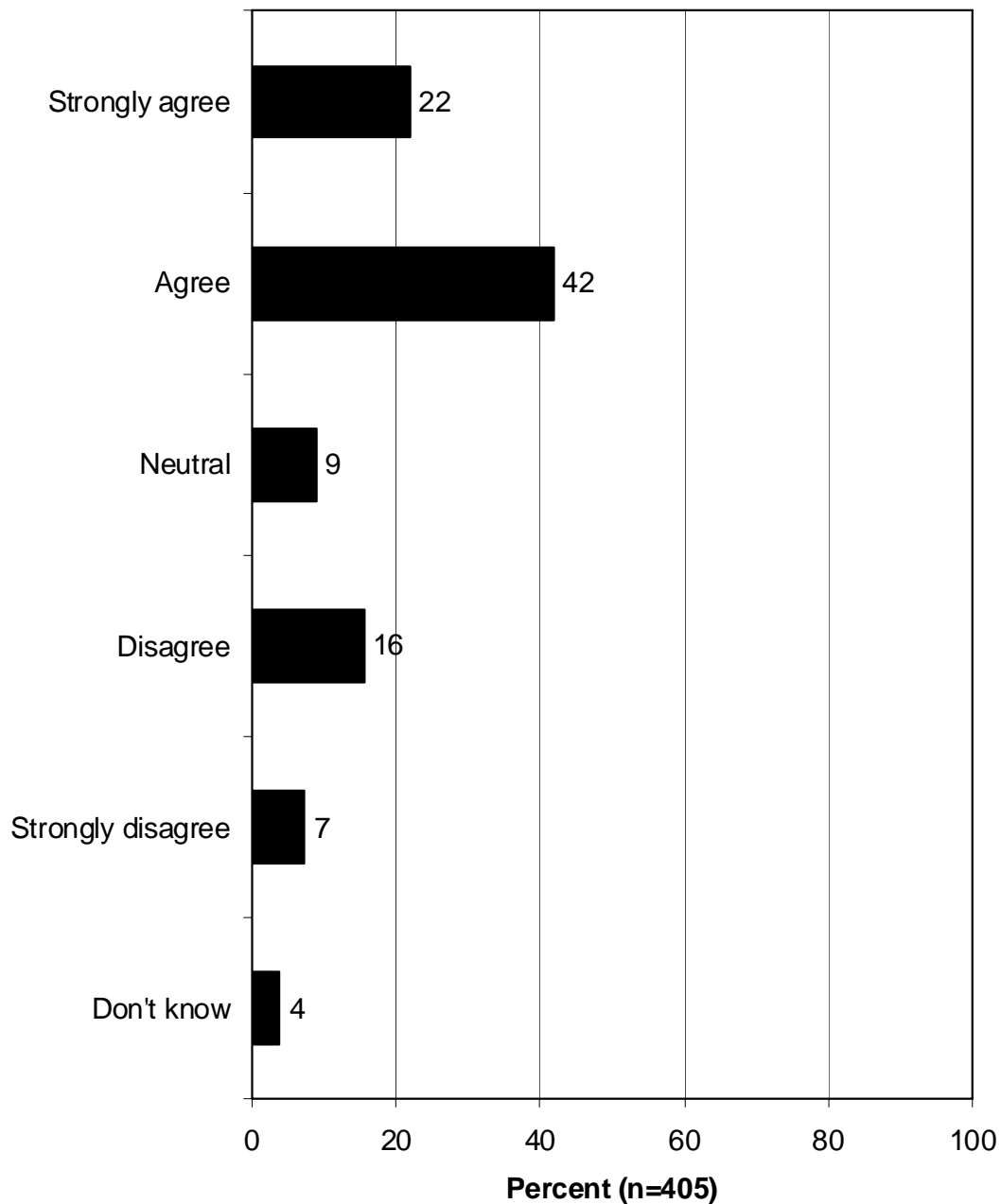
**Q33. Would you support or oppose the allocation of a portion of general state tax revenues to fund the installation of fences and underpasses along highways for animals in an effort to reduce vehicular accidents with deer? (General population survey.)**



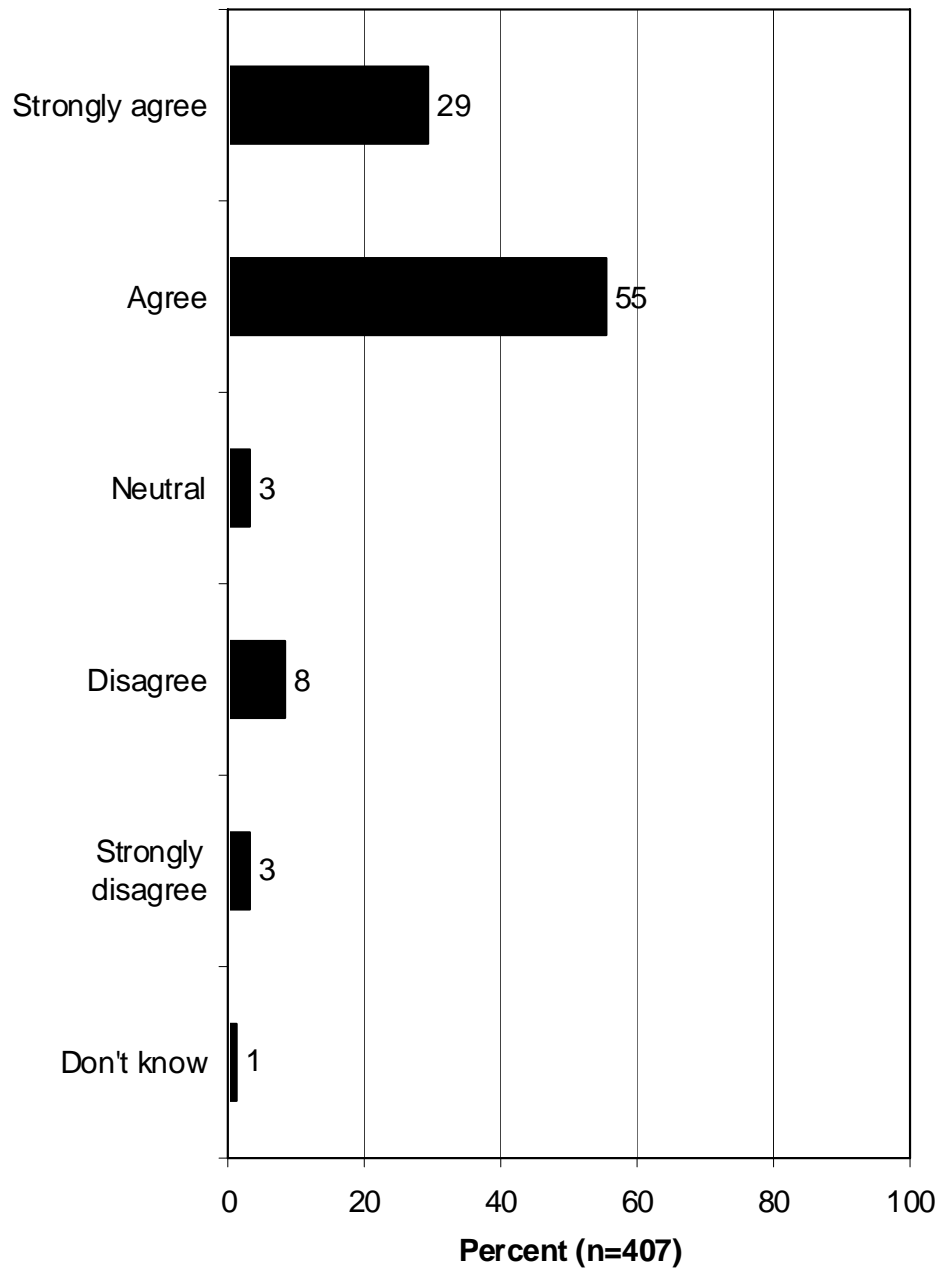
**Q36. Why do you support funding installation of fences and underpasses in an effort to reduce vehicular accidents with deer? (Asked of those who would support funding installation of fences and underpasses in an effort to reduce vehicular accidents with deer.) (General population survey.)**



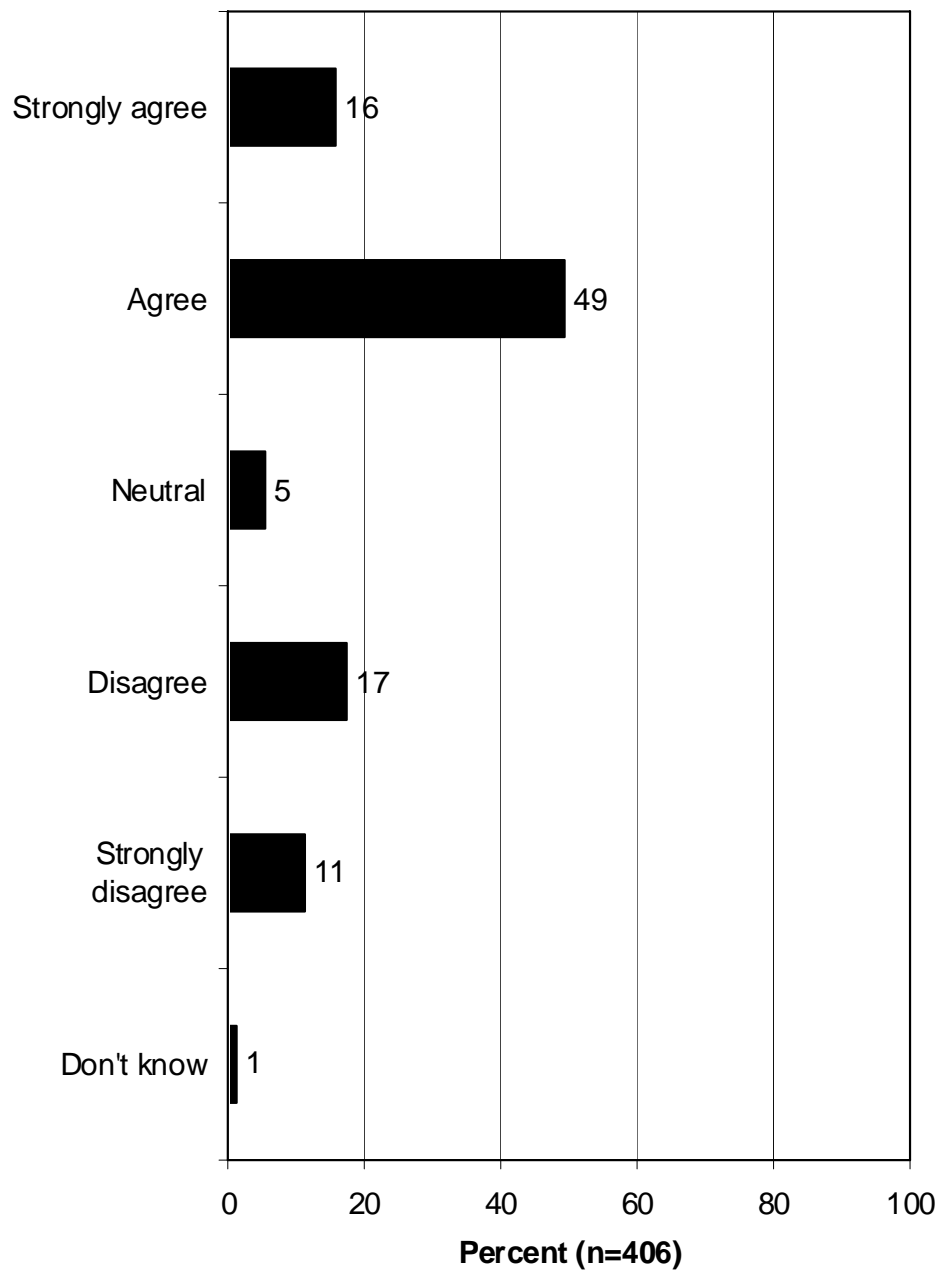
**Q10. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (General population survey.)**



**Q12. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (Hunter survey.)**



**Q14. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (Landowner survey.)**

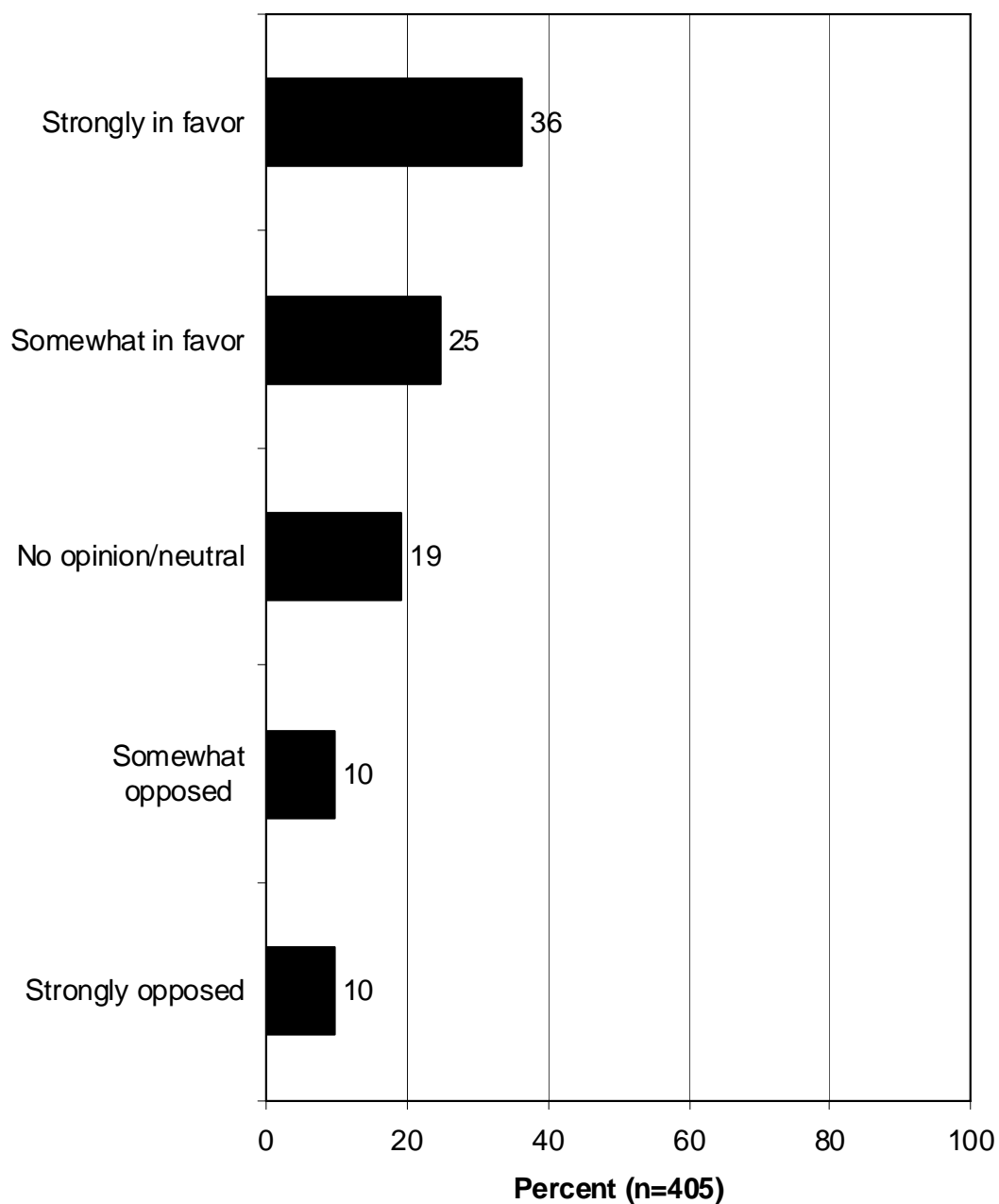


## OPINIONS ON AND PARTICIPATION IN DEER HUNTING, AND OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

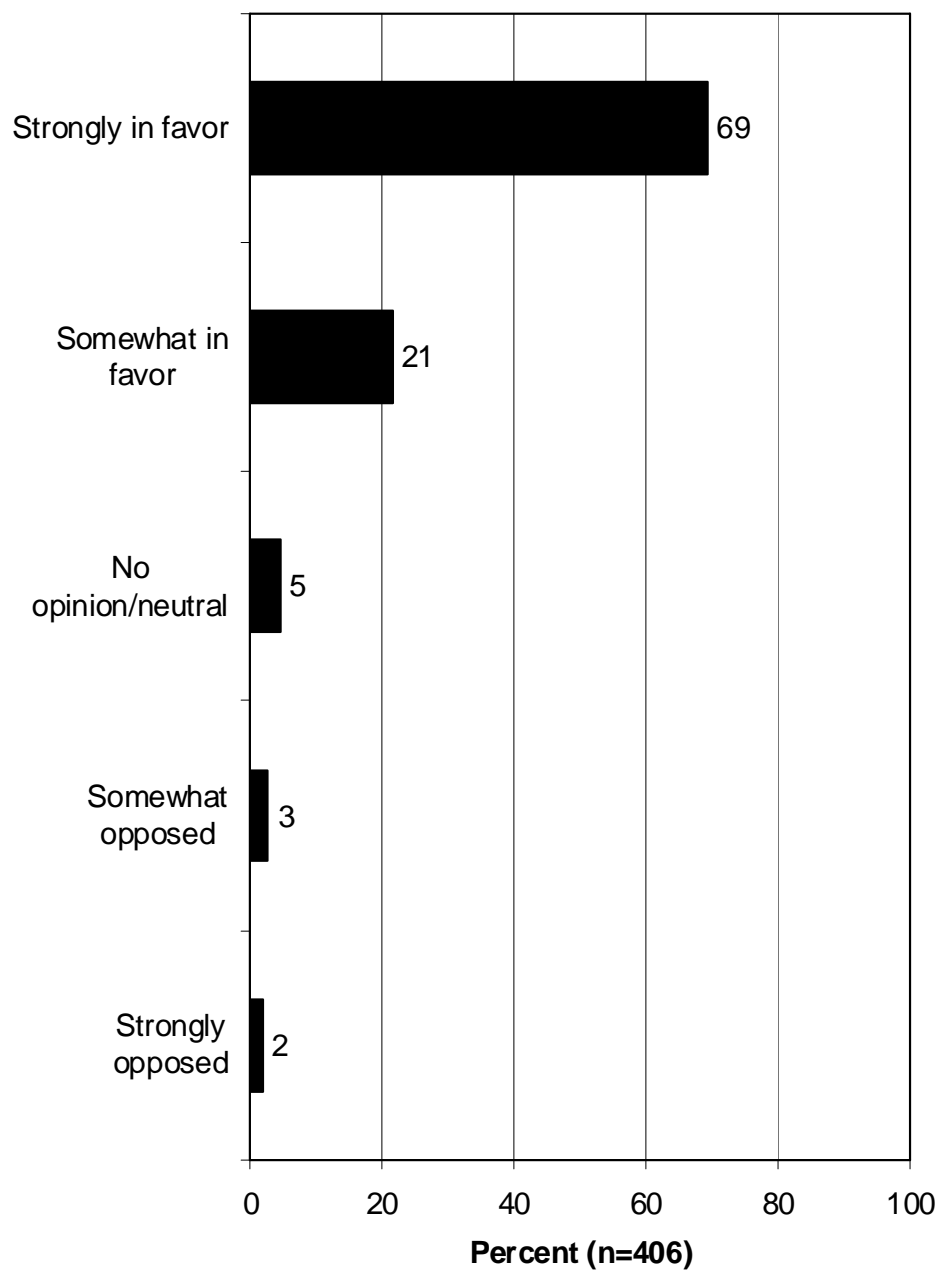
### GENERAL OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING

- A majority of Maryland residents (61%) are in favor of deer hunting; meanwhile, 20% are opposed. Large landowners are even more in favor of deer hunting: 90% are in favor, and only 5% are opposed. Indeed, 82% of large landowners allow deer hunting on their property.
  - Even a majority of non-hunters within the general population of Maryland (52%) are in favor of deer hunting; 25% oppose. In other words, the percentage in favor exceeds the percentage opposed by slightly more than 2 to 1 among non-hunters.
- More than three-fourths of Maryland residents (76%) agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. Not surprisingly, nearly all deer hunters (99%) and large landowners (94%) agree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.
- When presented with a list of six possible reasons for people to hunt deer in Maryland, residents most commonly (44%) select deer population control as the most important reason for hunting deer, distantly followed by hunting for the meat (24%); note that 10% indicate that there is no good reason for hunting deer. Deer hunters, on the other hand, who are *personally* involved in hunting, most commonly say that the most important reasons for hunting deer are for the meat (28%) or for the sport and recreation (also 28%); meanwhile, 15% say the most important reason is for deer population control. Finally, landowners are like residents in that their top reason is deer population control (51%), distantly followed by for the sport and recreation (18%) and for the meat (also 18%).
- In a question that pertains to the acceptability of hunting, the overwhelming majority of Maryland residents (94%) have *not* experienced any problems with hunters in the past 2 years. While large landowners are more likely to have experienced problems with hunters, the large majority of them (82%) have *not* experienced any problems.
  - Of those residents who had a problem, unsafe hunting practices in general and trespassing were the most commonly named problems. Among landowners, trespassing was, by far, the most common problem, distantly followed by violation of game laws.

**Q38. What is your general opinion of deer hunting?  
(General population survey.)**

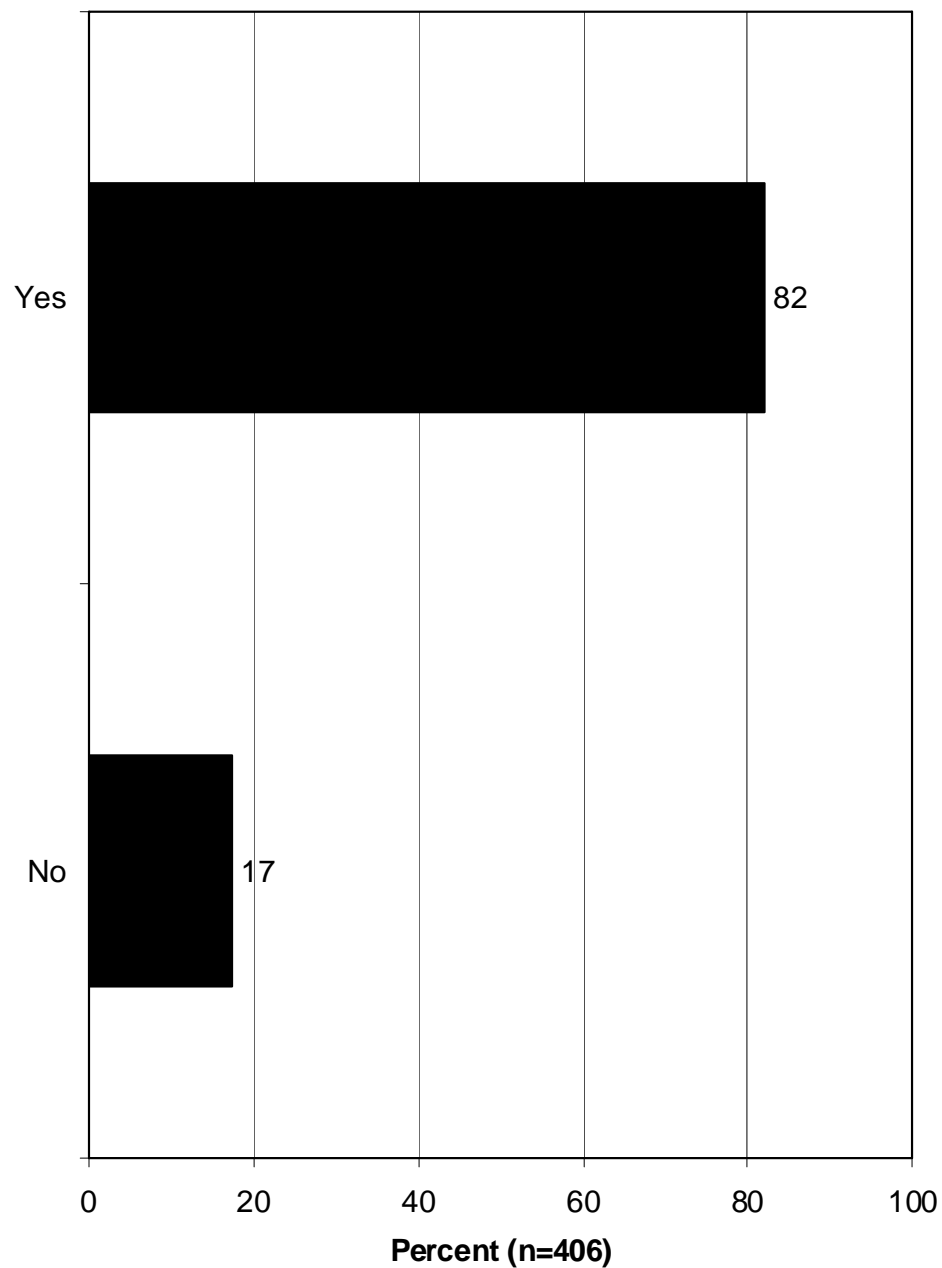


**Q37. What is your general opinion of deer hunting?  
(Landowner survey.)**

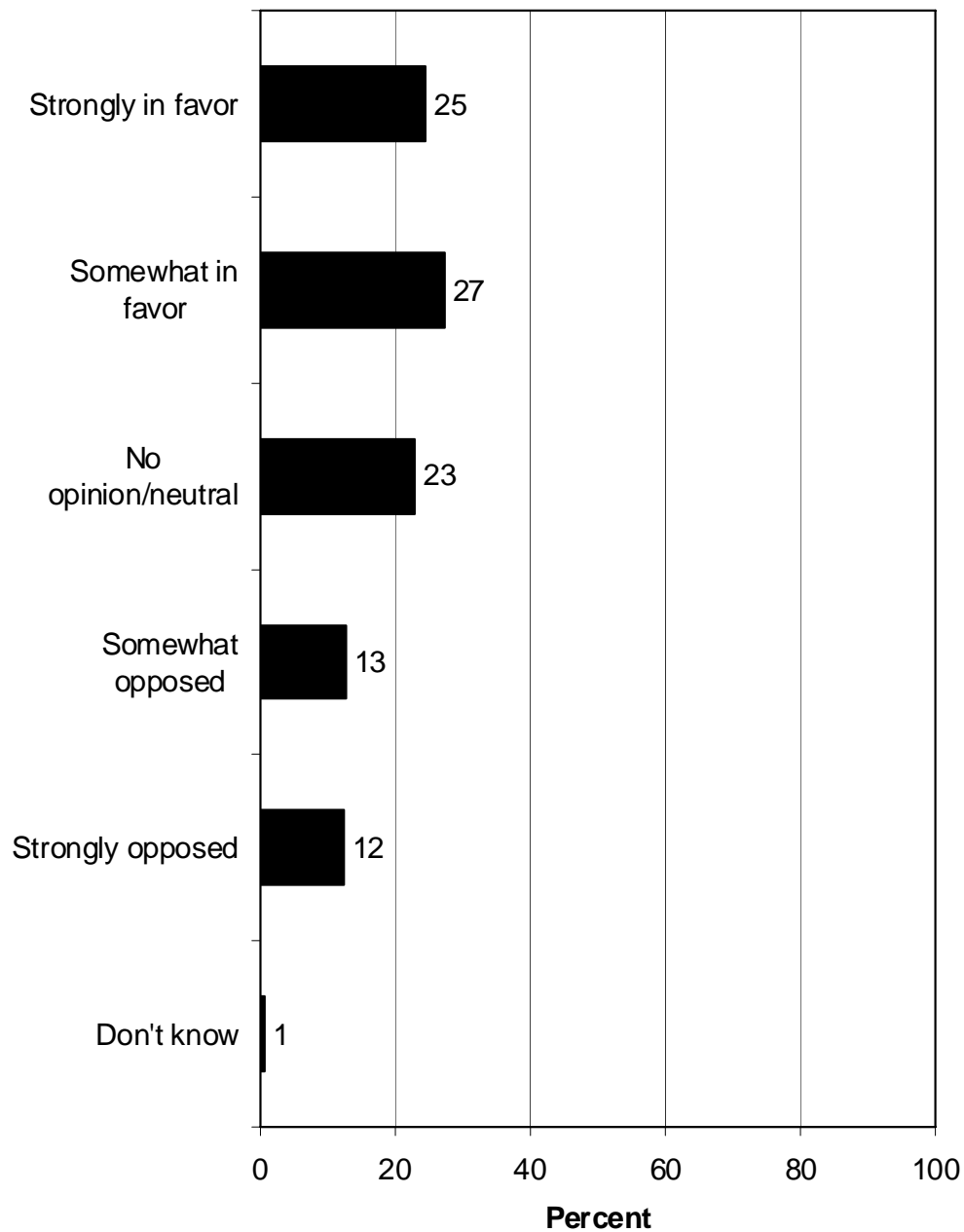




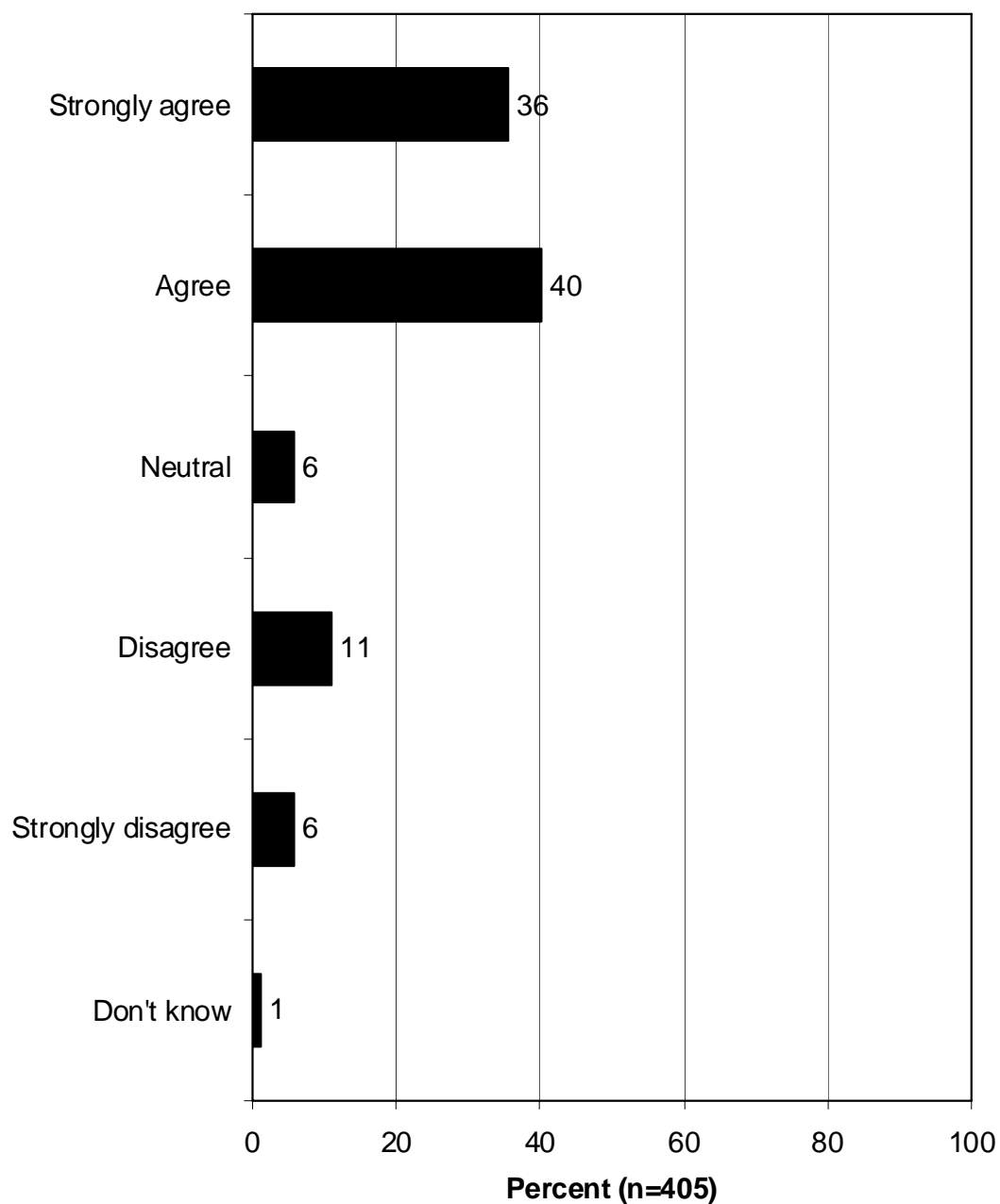
**Q91. Do you allow deer hunting on your property?  
(Landowner survey.)**



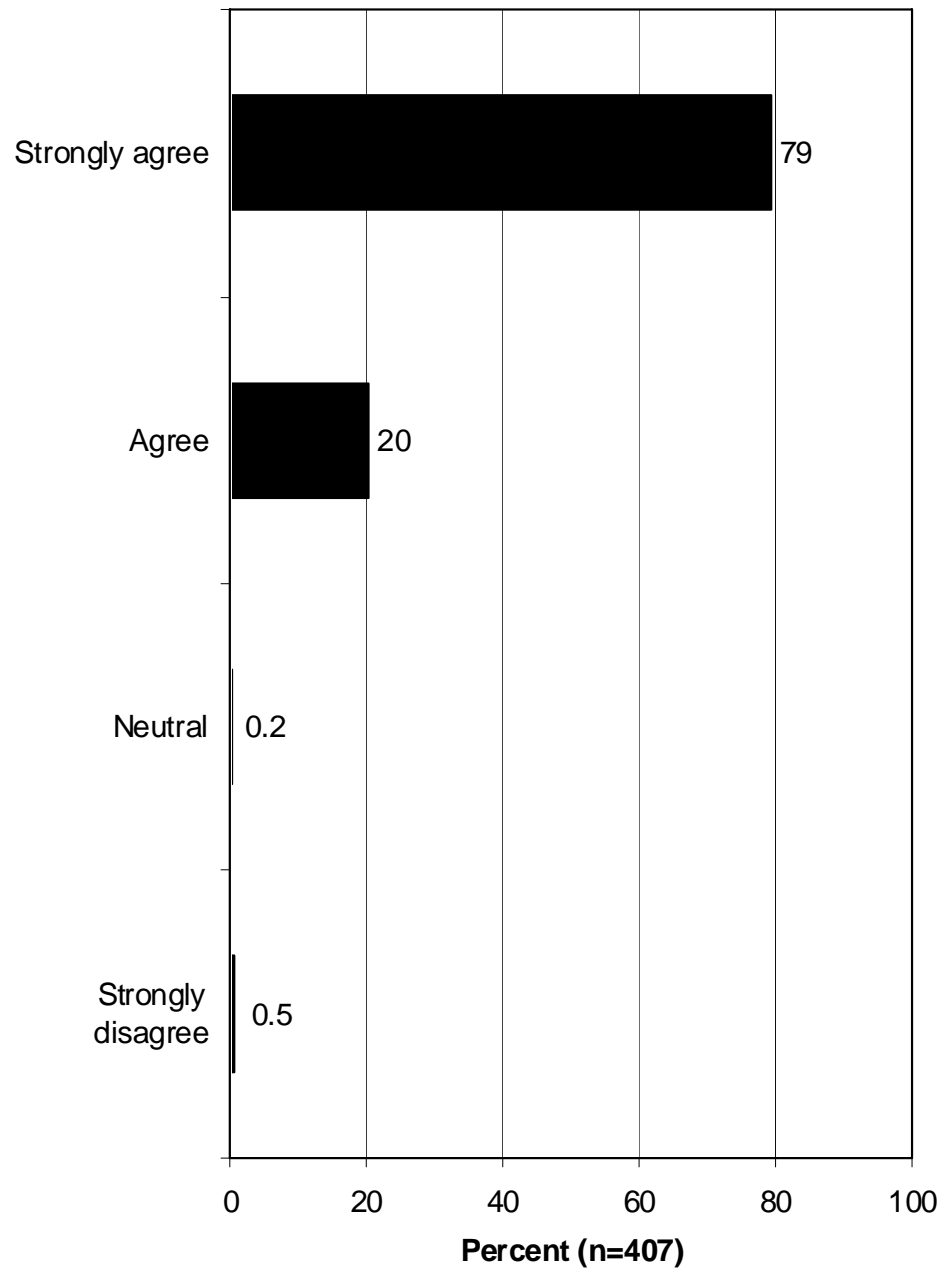
**Q38. What is your general opinion of deer hunting?  
(Among those who have not hunted deer.) (General  
population survey.)**



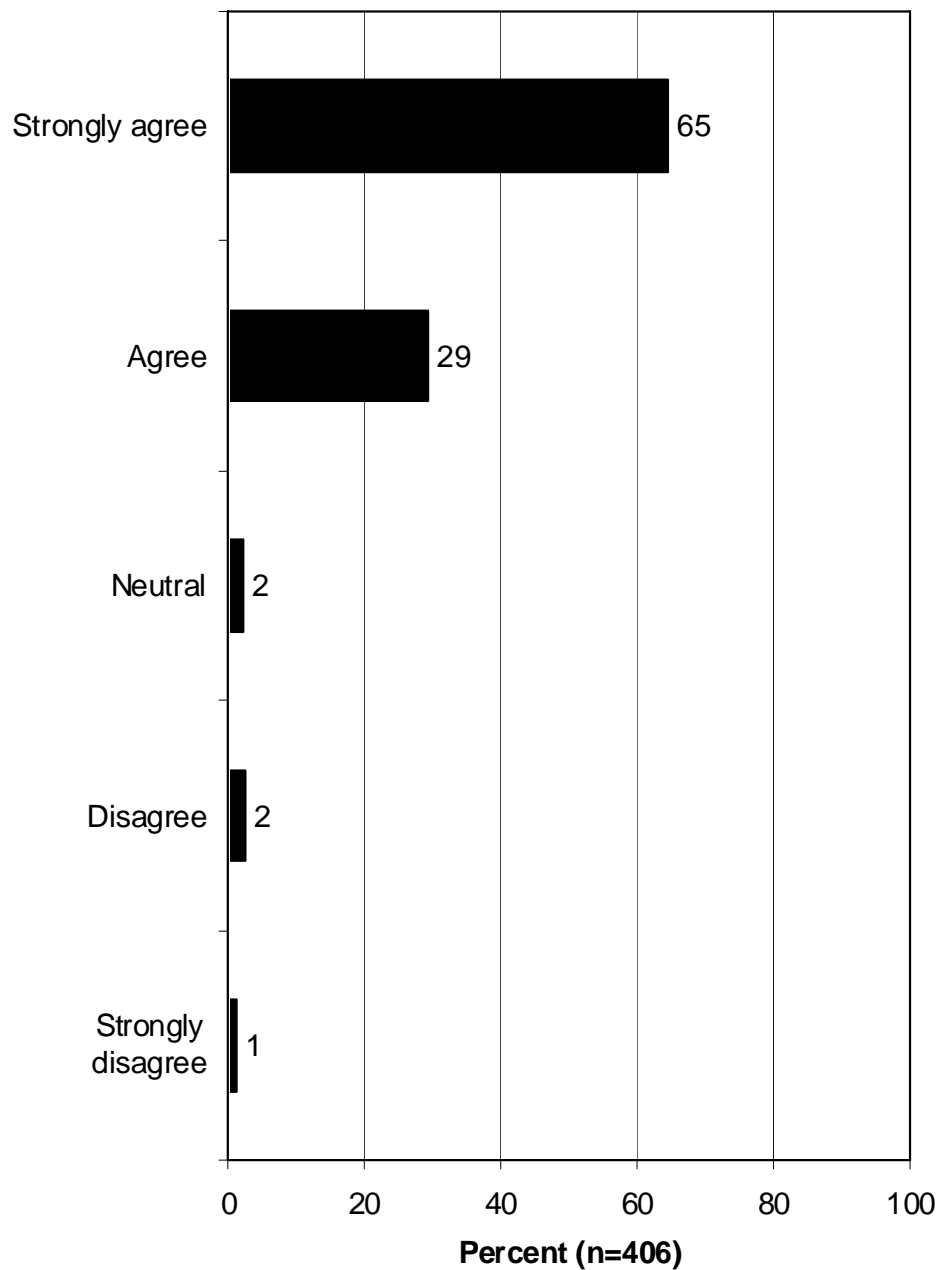
**Q11. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (General population survey.)**



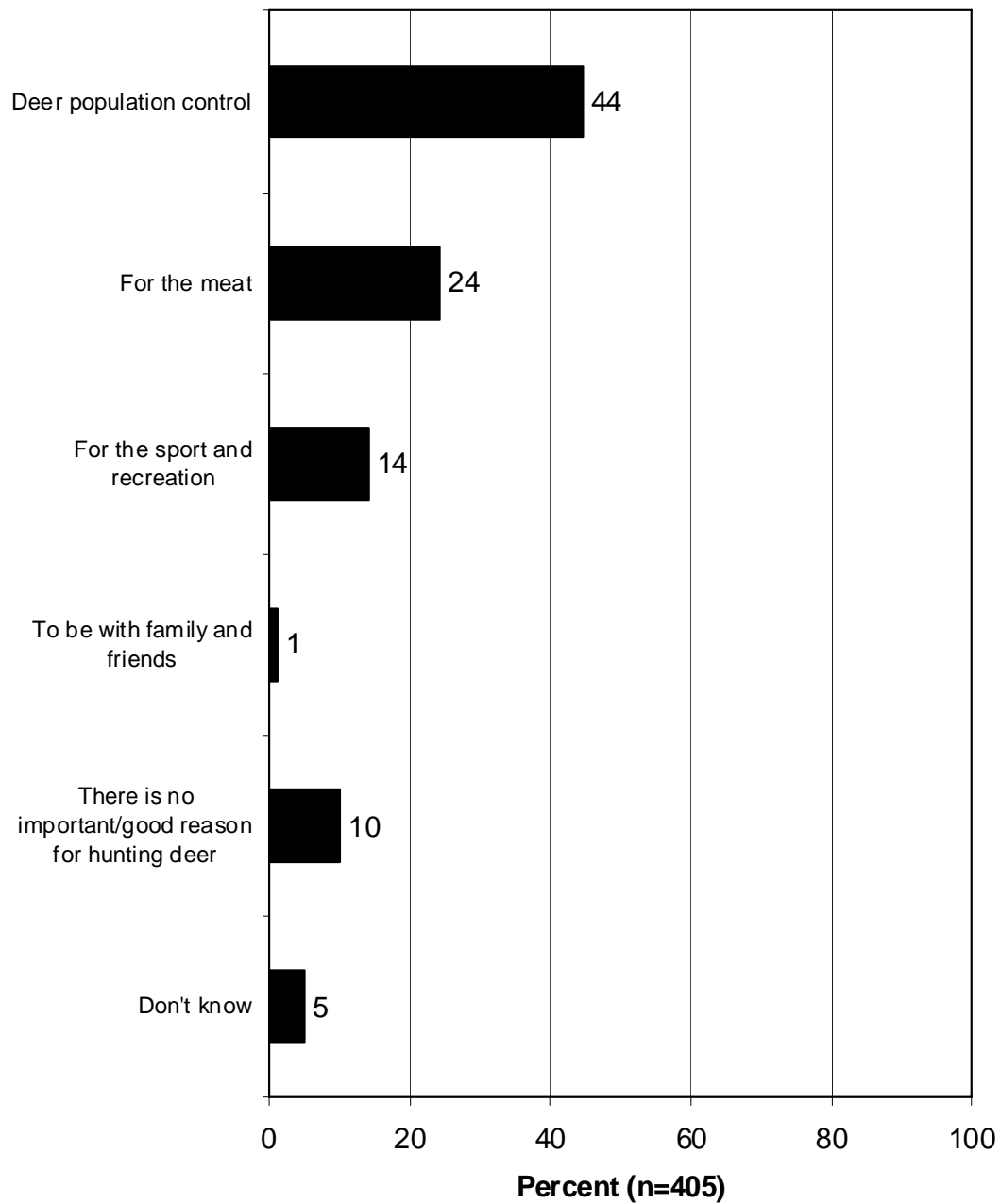
**Q13. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Hunter survey.)**



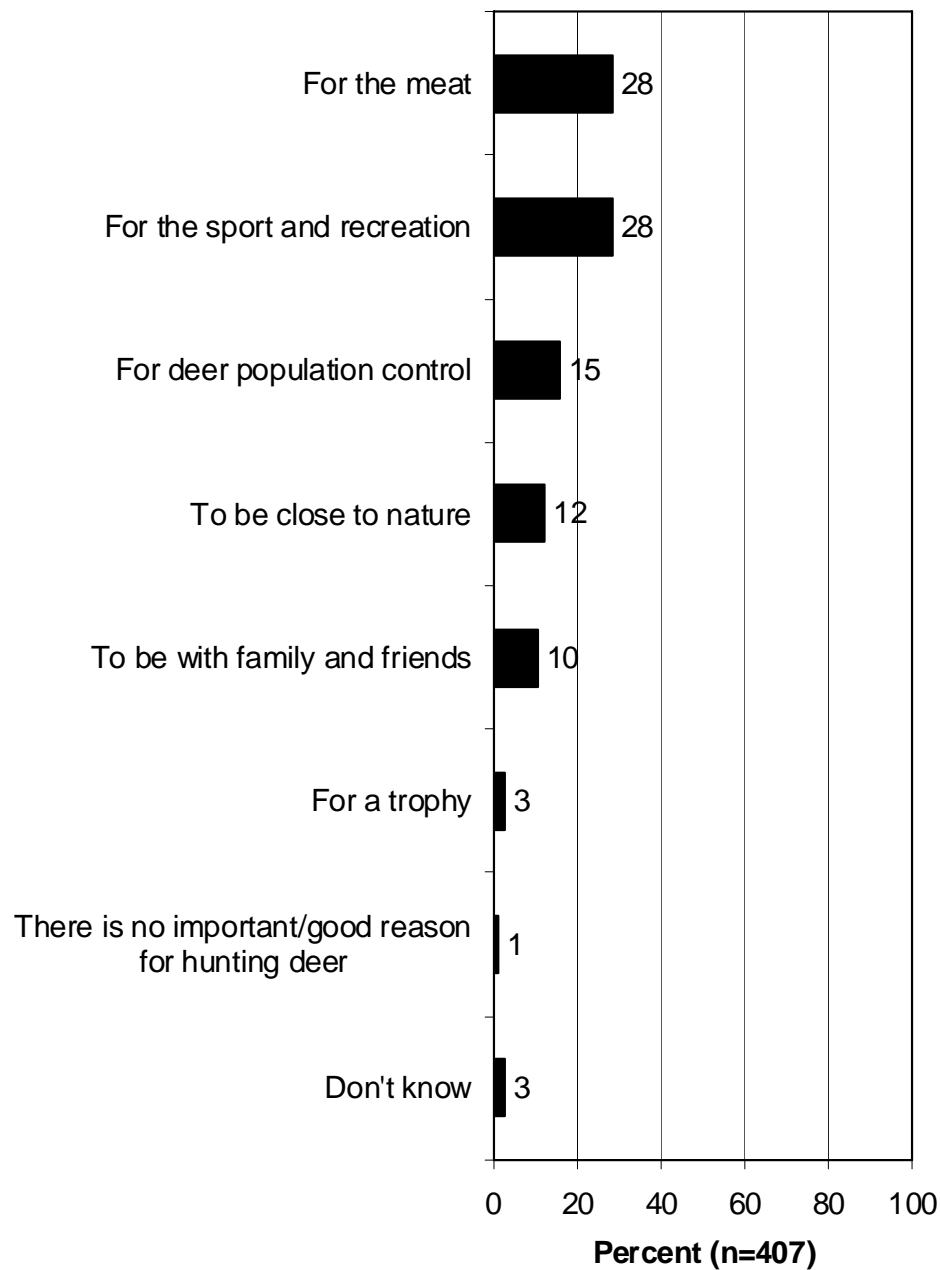
**Q15. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Landowner survey.)**



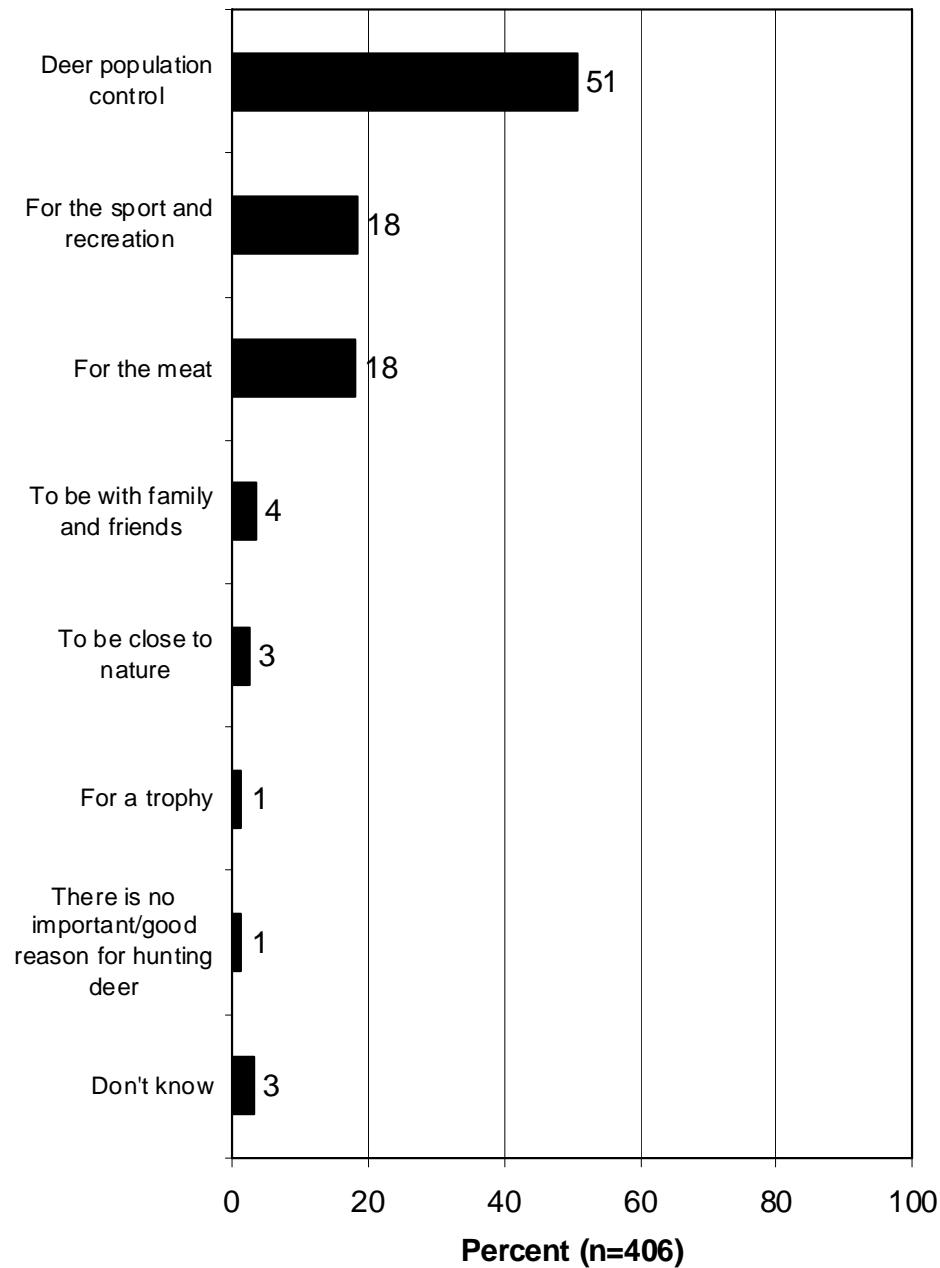
**Q39. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland? (General population survey.)**



**Q55. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**

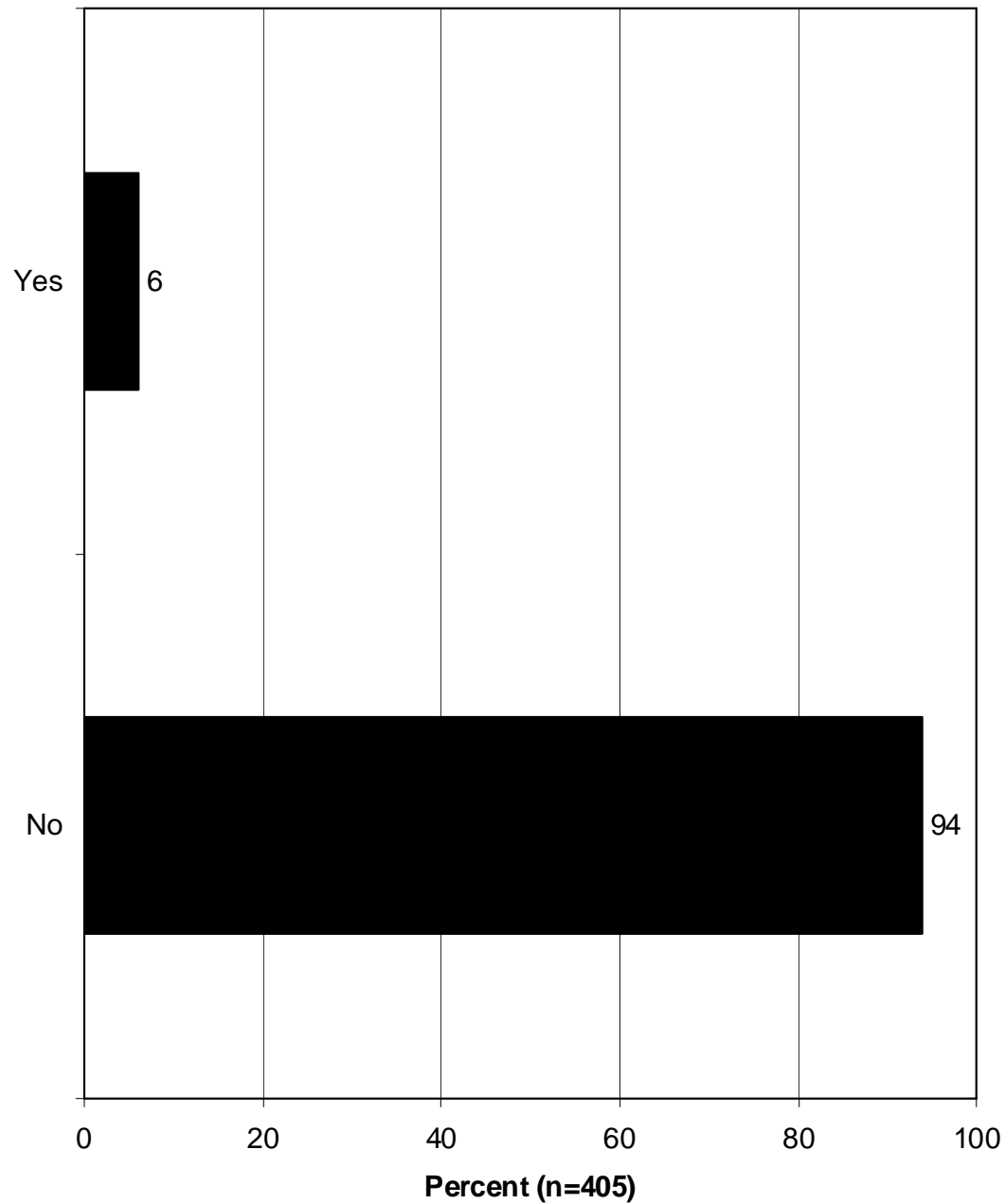


**Q38. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**

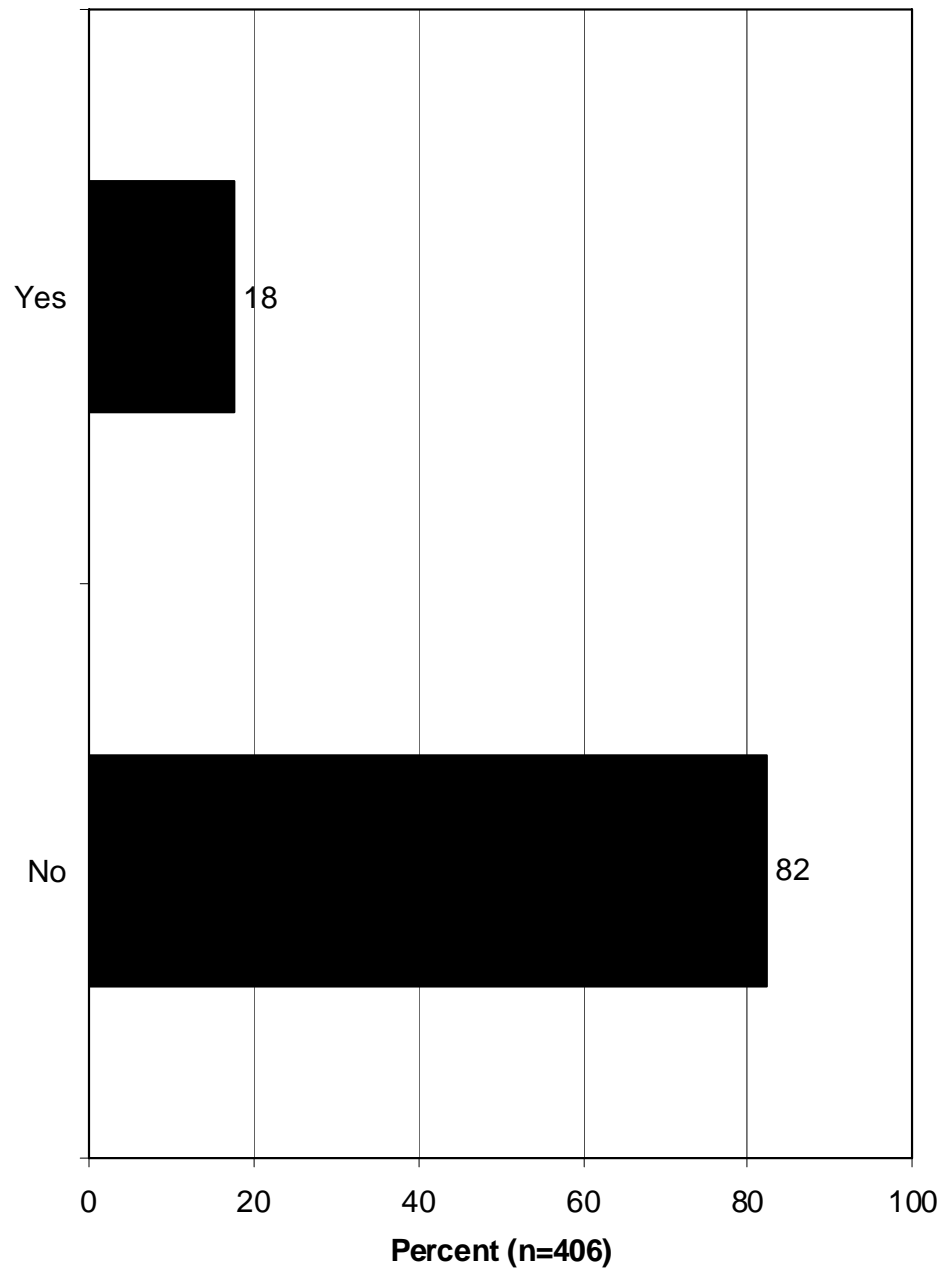




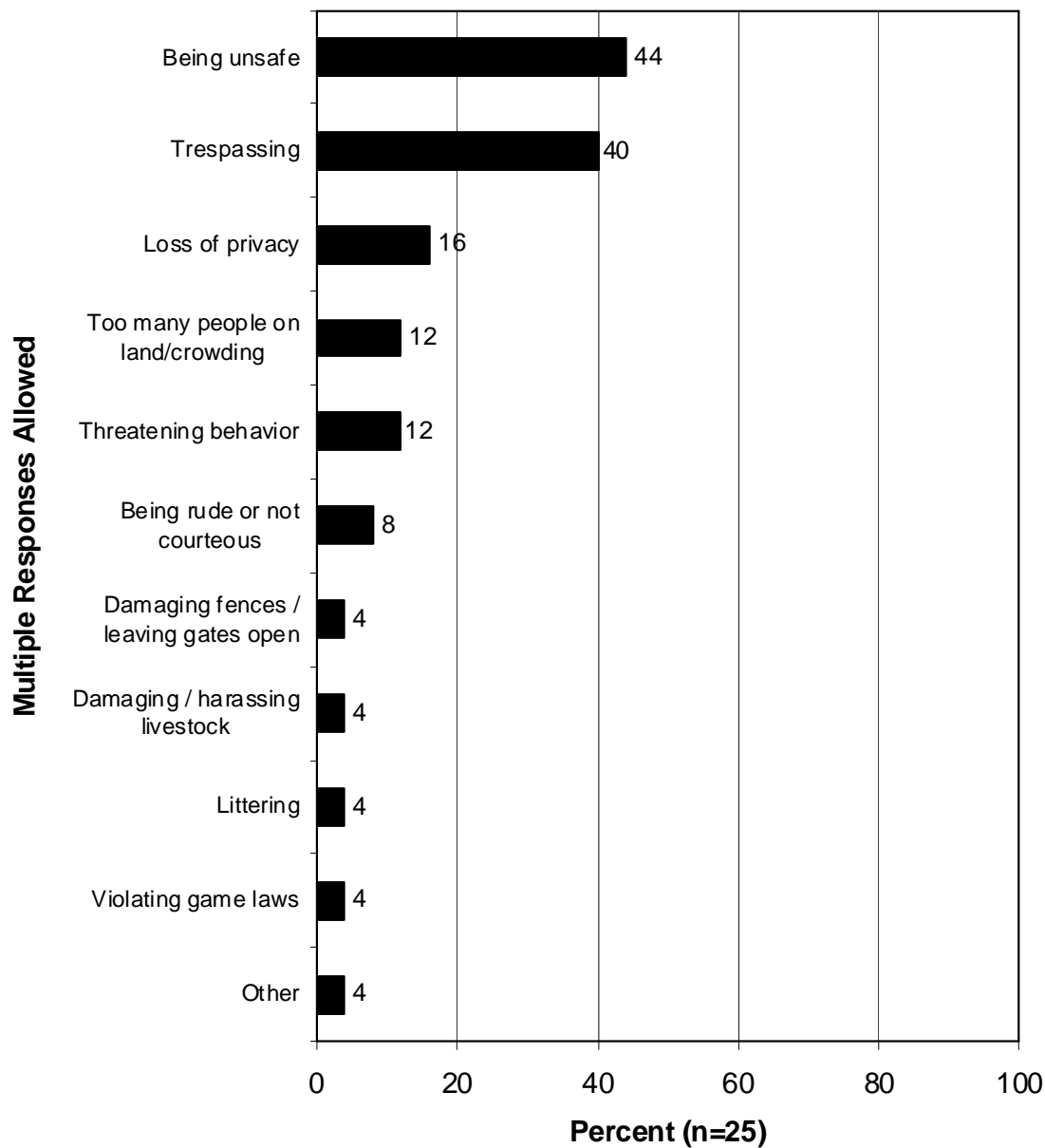
**Q78. Have you experienced any problems with hunters in the past 2 years? (General population survey.)**



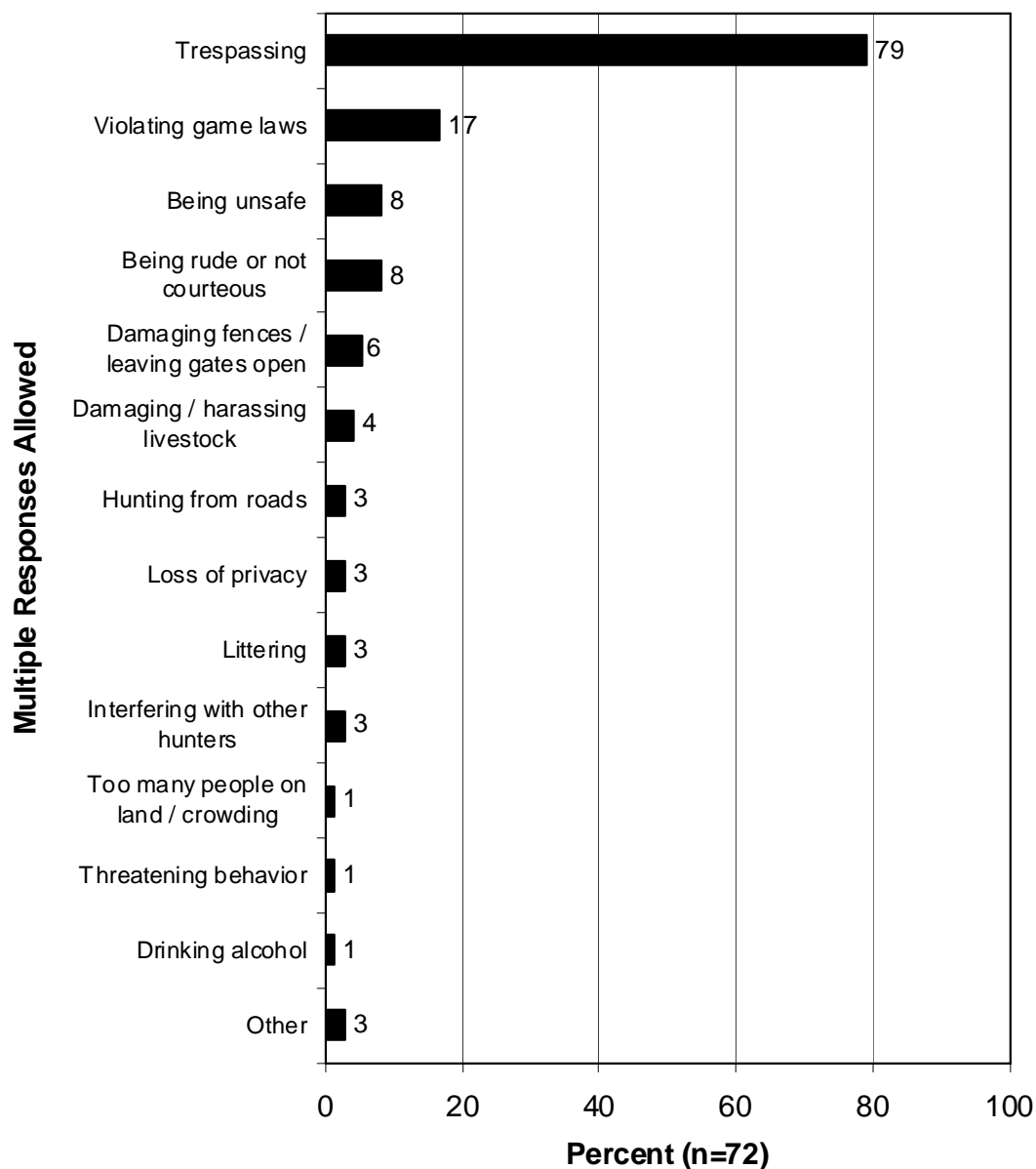
**Q64. Have you experienced any problems with hunters in the past 2 years? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q81. What types of problems did you experience with hunters in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who have experienced problems with hunters in the last 2 years.) (General population survey.)**



**Q67. What types of problems did you experience with hunters in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who have experienced problems with hunters in the past 2 years.) (Landowner survey.)**



## **PARTICIPATION IN DEER HUNTING AND HARVEST OF DEER**

➤ Many questions in the deer hunter and landowner surveys asked about hunting participation. The results are discussed below, and then tabulated at the end of the discussion for ease of readability.

- The hunter survey screened out hunters who had *not* hunted deer in the previous 2 years; therefore, nearly all deer hunters in the survey (97%) had hunted deer in the past 1 year.
- Nearly half of large landowners (48%) had hunted deer at some time (no time limit was specified). Within the previous 2 years, 26% of landowners had hunted deer.
- A large majority of deer hunters (72%) had hunted for *antlerless* deer (not to the exclusion of hunting for antlered deer) in the past 1 year.
- A substantial percentage of deer hunters (18%) had hunted deer with a crossbow in Maryland within the previous 2 years.
- A substantial percentage of deer hunters (29%) had hunted deer over bait in Maryland in the previous 2 years.
- The state of Maryland is broken down into two hunting regions: Regions A and B. Region A is made up of Allegany and Garrett Counties; Region B is all other counties. More than a quarter of deer hunters (28%) had hunted deer in Region A in the past 2 years. Those who had hunted Region A were asked about their frequency of hunting on public lands: 52% had done so frequently or sometimes, while 48% had done so rarely or never. (Overall, 15% of *all* hunters had hunted public lands in Region A frequently or sometimes, while 85% had done so rarely or never.) Regarding private lands in Region A, 67% had hunted them frequently or sometimes, while 33% had done so rarely or never. (Overall, 19% of *all* hunters had hunted private lands in Region A frequently or sometimes, while 81% had done so rarely or never.)
- Because Region B encompasses so much of the state, it is not surprising that an overwhelming majority of deer hunters (83%) had hunted deer in Region B in the previous 2 years. Deer hunting on public land in Region B is not widespread, particularly considering the large percentage who had hunted in Region B: only 29% of Region B deer hunters frequently or sometimes had hunted on public lands in Region B, while 70% rarely or never had done so (indeed, 56% said they had never done so). (Overall, 24% of *all* deer hunters had hunted public lands in Region B frequently or sometimes, while 76%

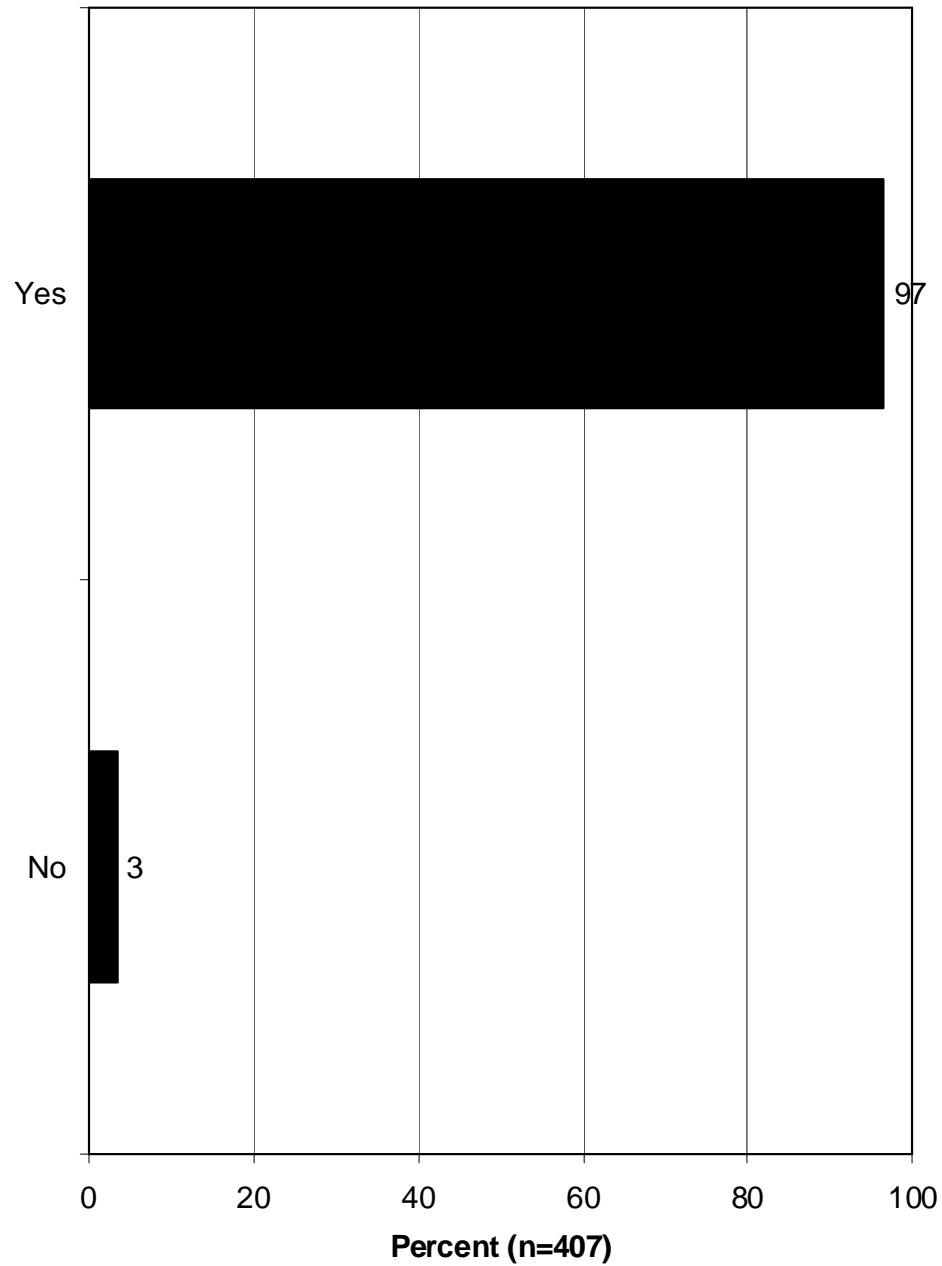
had done so rarely or never.) On the other hand, private lands in Region B are commonly hunted: 85% of Region B deer hunters had hunted *private* lands there frequently or sometimes, while 15% had done so rarely or never. (Overall, 70% of *all* deer hunters had hunted private lands in Region B frequently or sometimes, while 30% had done so rarely or never.)

- Concerning Washington and Frederick Counties specifically within Region B, the overwhelming majority of deer hunters had *not* hunted on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties: 88% had never hunted public lands in either of those two counties, while 8% had done so frequently or sometimes. Regarding private lands in Washington and Frederick Counties, 77% had never hunted private lands in either of those two counties, while 19% had done so frequently or sometimes.
- When asked which season they would *prefer* to hunt in (whether or not they actually did), deer hunters most commonly say firearms season (38%), but close behind is bow season (34%), distantly followed by muzzleloader season (20%). In total, 57% named a specialty season (bow, muzzleloader, or crossbow).

Group	Location	Type of Game/ Equipment	Timeframe	Percent Who Had Hunted
Deer hunters	Anywhere	Any deer	1 year	97
Deer hunters	Anywhere	Antlerless deer	1 year	72
Deer hunters	Region A	Any deer	2 years	28
Deer hunters	Region B	Any deer	2 years	83
Deer hunters	Public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Any deer	2 years	12
Deer hunters	Private lands in Washington or Frederick Counties	Any deer	2 years	23
Deer hunters	Maryland	Any deer/ crossbow	2 years	18
Deer hunters	Maryland	Any deer/over bait	2 years	29
Large landowners	Anywhere	Any deer	Ever	48
Large landowners	Anywhere	Any deer	2 years	26

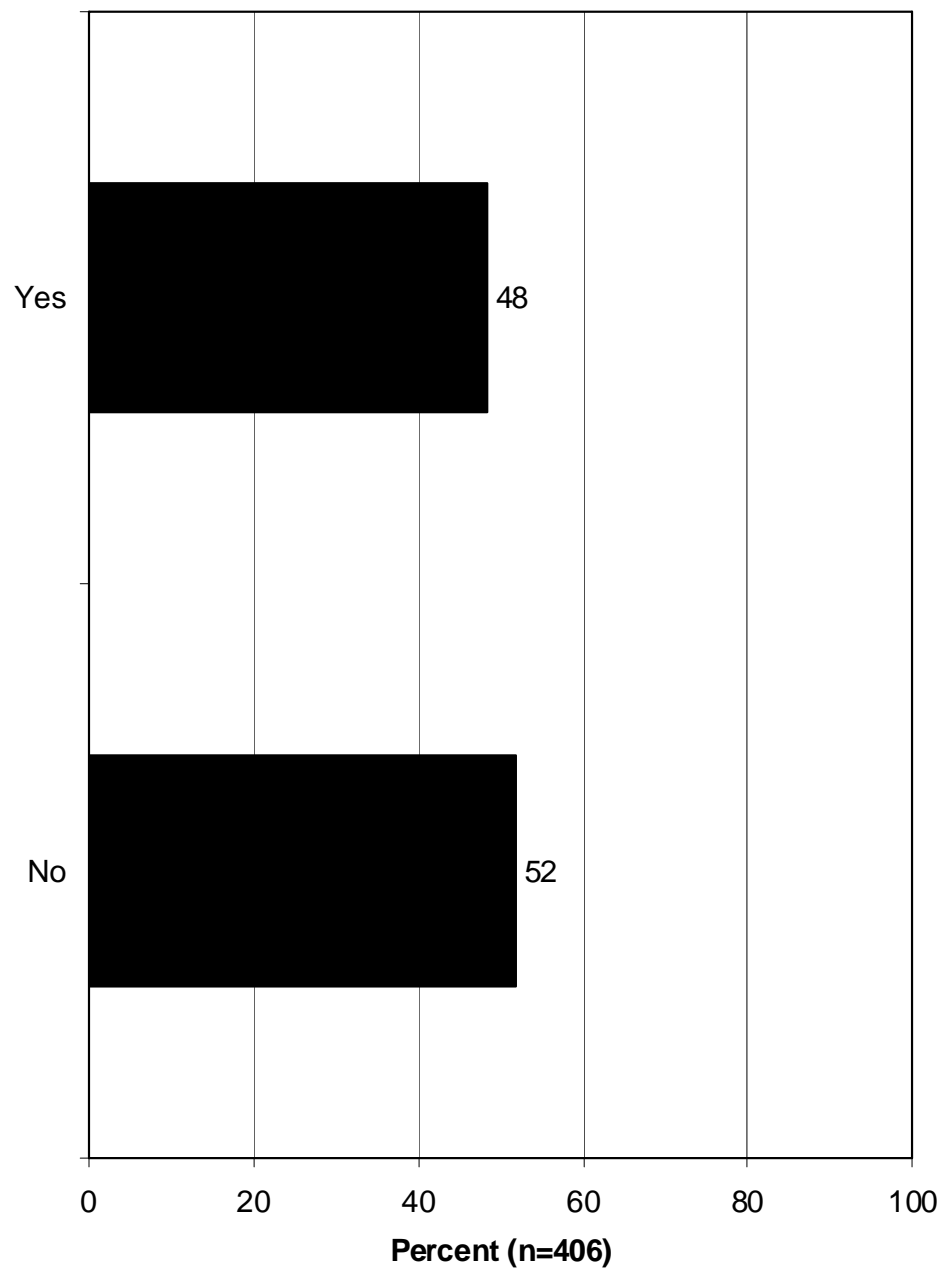
- Among those who had hunted deer, 59% had harvested a deer. The numbers of deer that they had harvested are shown, with the majority of those who had harvested having harvested only 1 or 2 deer. Also shown are the numbers of antlered deer harvested and the numbers of antlerless deer harvested.
- Satisfaction levels of deer hunters for hunting deer has most commonly remained the same over the past 10 years (41% gave this answer). Otherwise, more say satisfaction has increased (35%) than say it has decreased (23%).
- When deer hunters who had harvested at least one deer were asked if they would have harvested *more* deer under certain situations (a list of seven situations were read to the respondents), they most commonly said that they would have harvested more deer if more private landowners allowed deer hunting (36%) or if they had been able to take more time off from work (36%). Another common answer was if more public lands were open to hunting (29%). The length of the season limited 24% of them from harvesting more, but bag limits did not appear to be a barrier to more harvest, as only 10% said they would have harvested more if the bag limit was greater.
- Deer hunters who had *not* harvested a deer were asked about nine situations that might have affected their harvest success: they most commonly said that they think that they would have harvested a deer if more private landowners allowed deer hunting (42%). Other common answers were if they had seen trophy deer (37%), if the deer population was larger (36%), if they had been able to take more time off from work (36%), if there were more public lands open to hunting (29%), and if the season was longer (27%).
- Those deer hunters who did *not* hunt antlerless deer in the previous year most commonly gave as their reasoning that antlerless deer are not trophy deer (33%); other common reasons were that doing so would have a negative effect on the deer population (18%) and simple lack of time (15%).
- Landowners who have hunted previously but did not hunt within the previous 2 years were asked for their reasons for not hunting: lack of interest was the top reason, followed by lack of time and health/age. Among landowners who have never hunted, lack of interest and not wanting to kill animals are the top reasons for never hunting.

**Q35. Did you hunt deer in the past year? (Hunter survey.)**

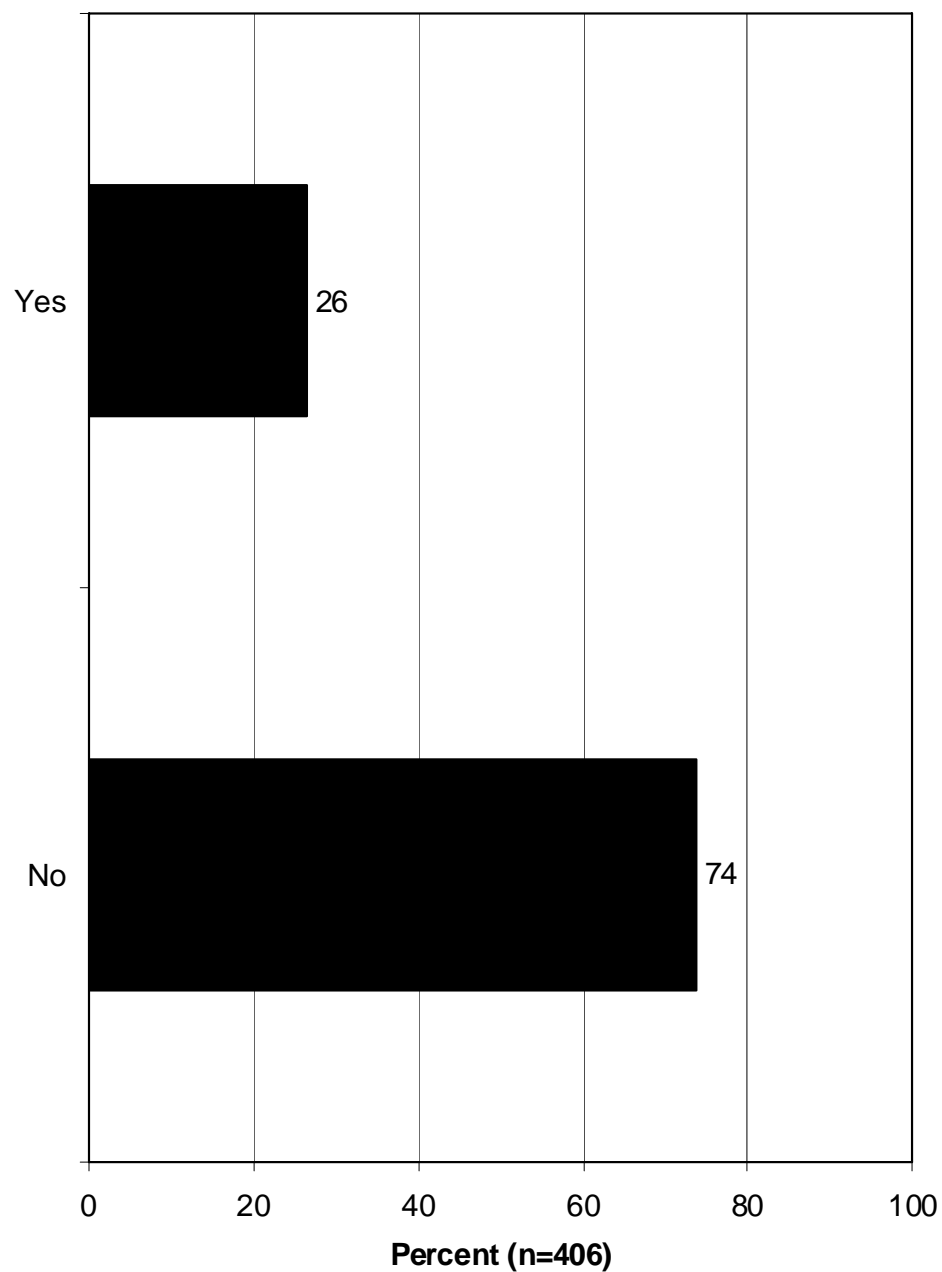




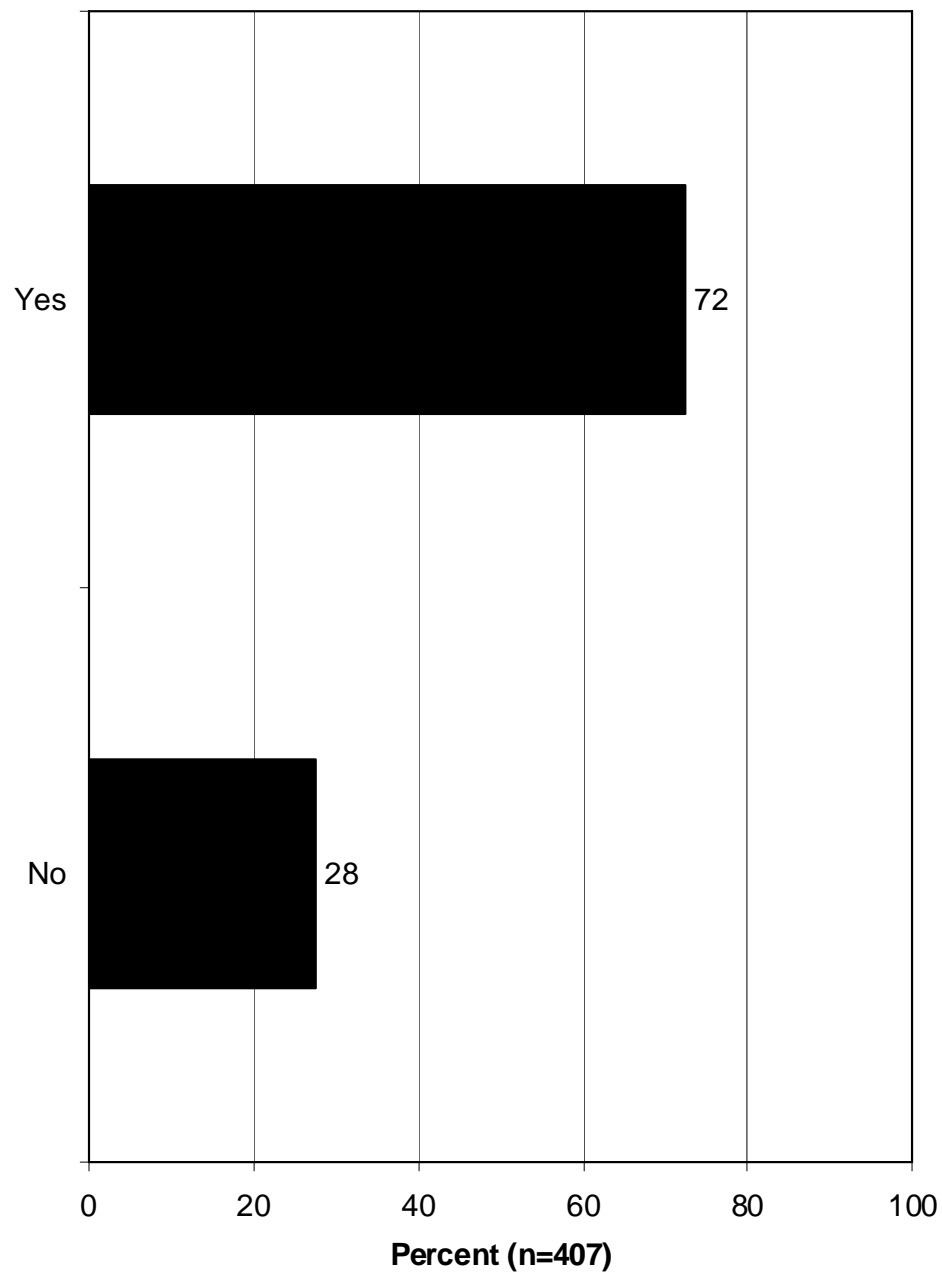
**Q69. Have you ever hunted deer? (Landowner survey.)**



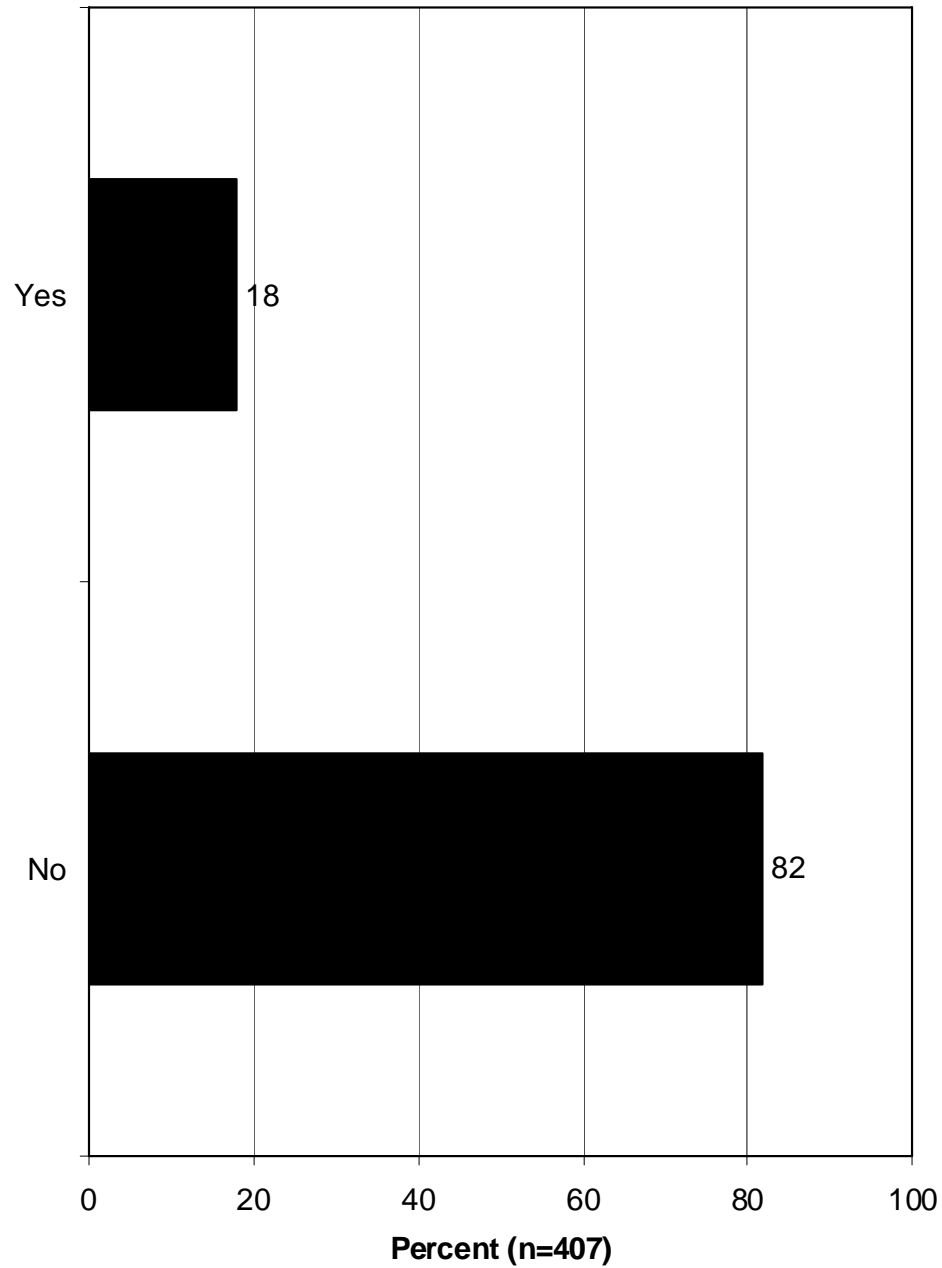
**Q70. Did you hunt deer in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Landowner survey.)**



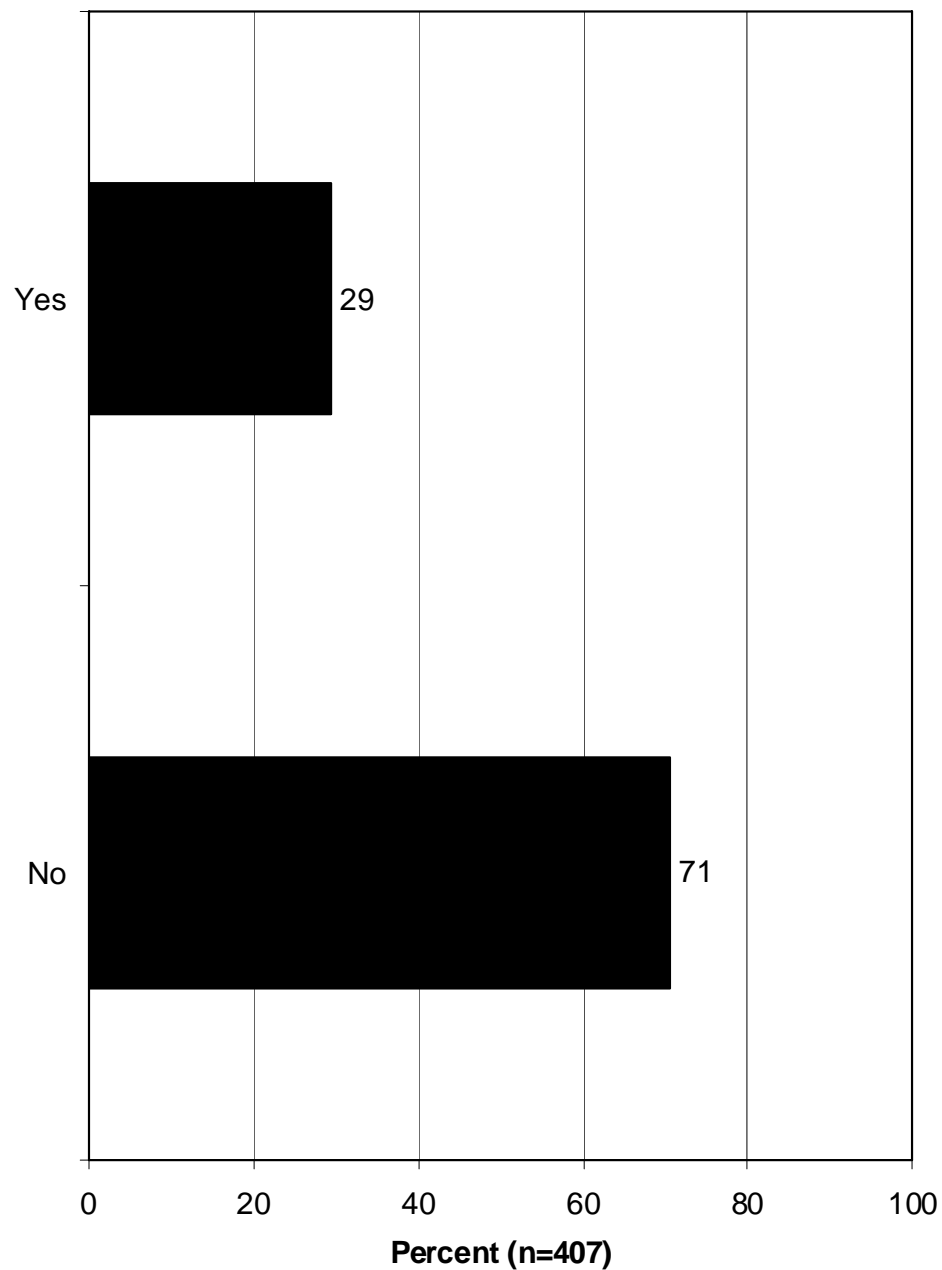
**Q48. Did you hunt for antlerless deer in Maryland in the past year? (Hunter survey.)**



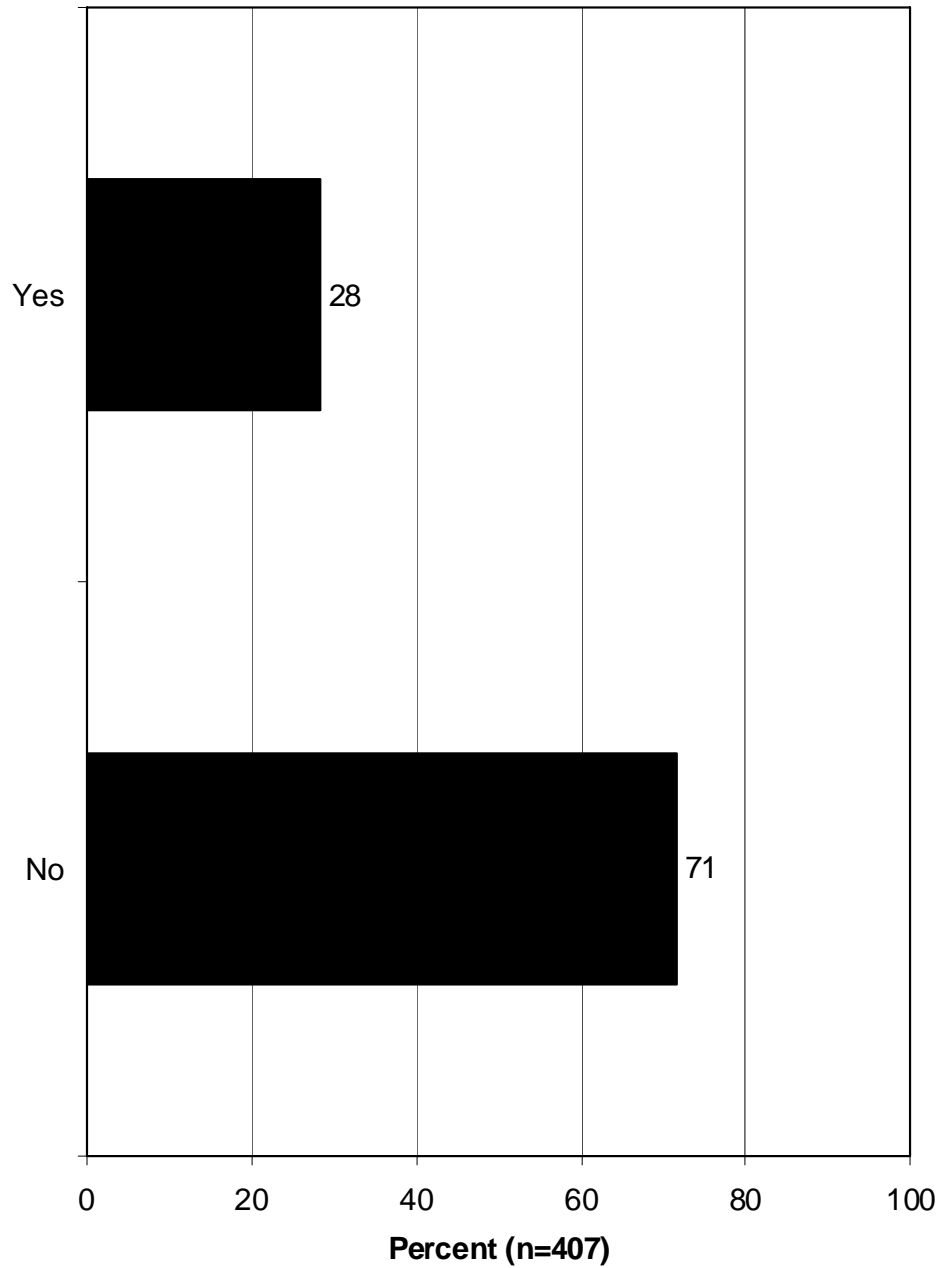
**Q58. Did you hunt deer with a crossbow in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



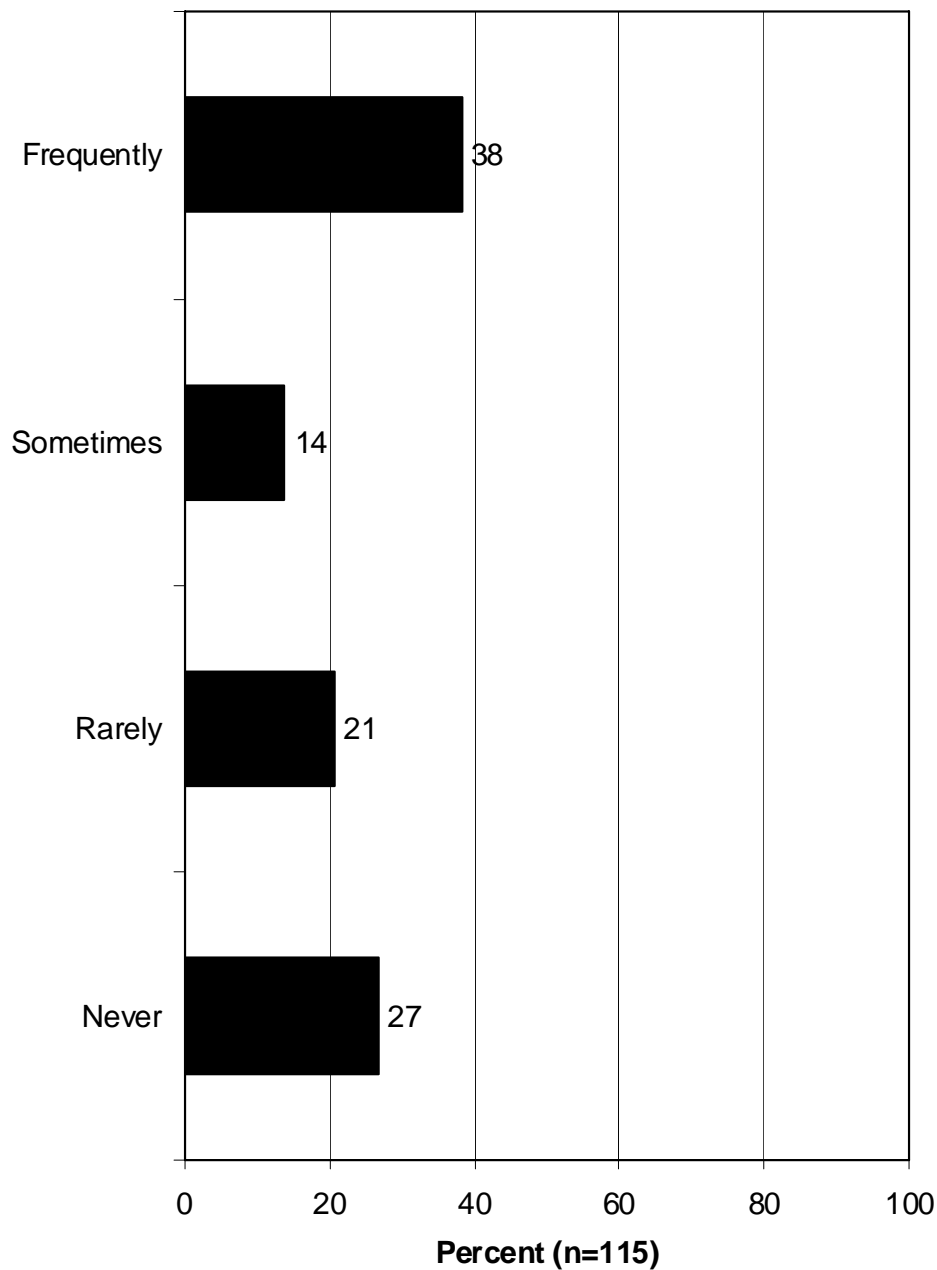
**Q112. Did you hunt deer using bait in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



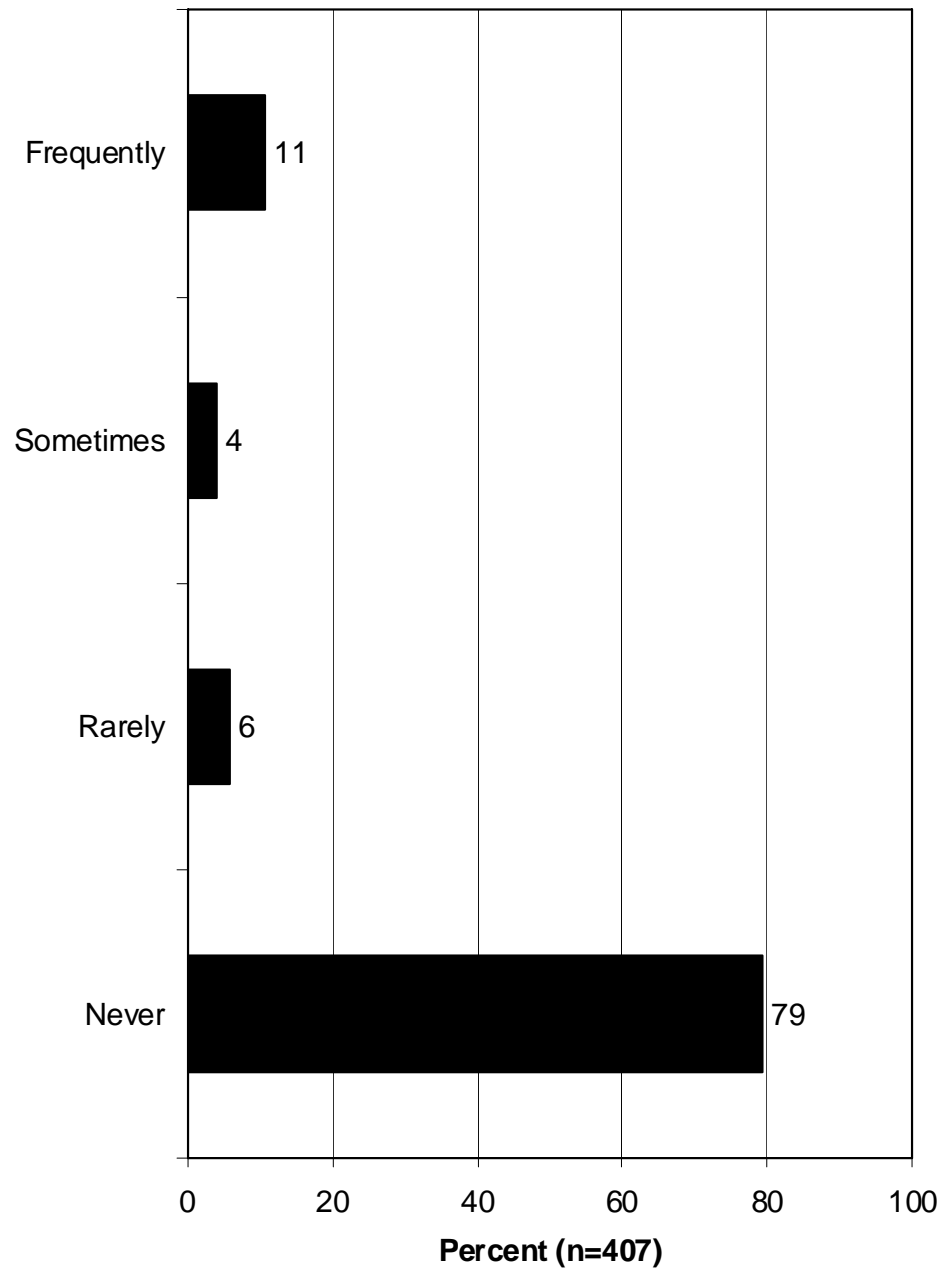
**Q66. Did you hunt deer in Region A in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q68. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in the past 2 years in Region A? (Asked of those who hunted in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**

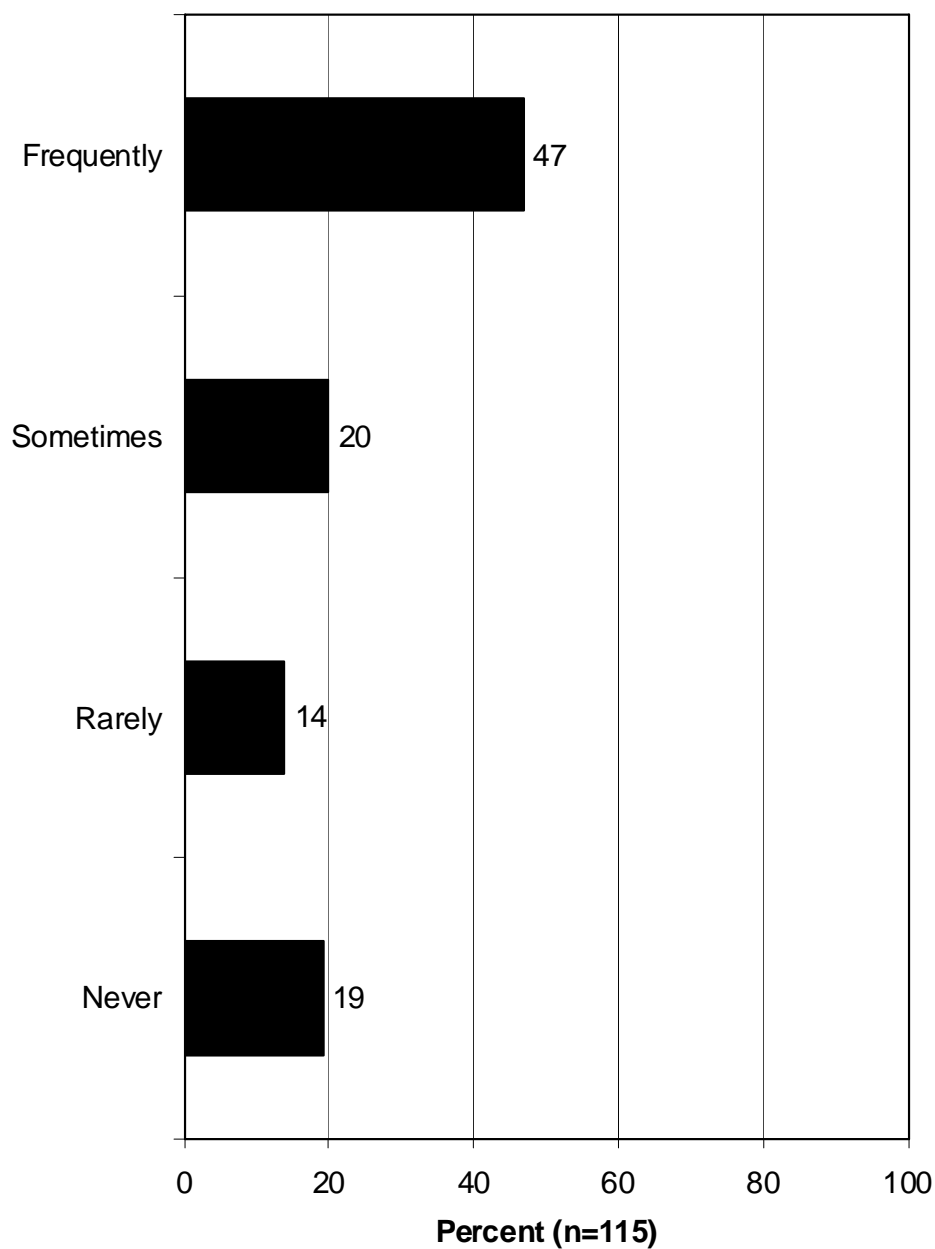


**Q68. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in the past 2 years in Region A? (Hunter survey.)**

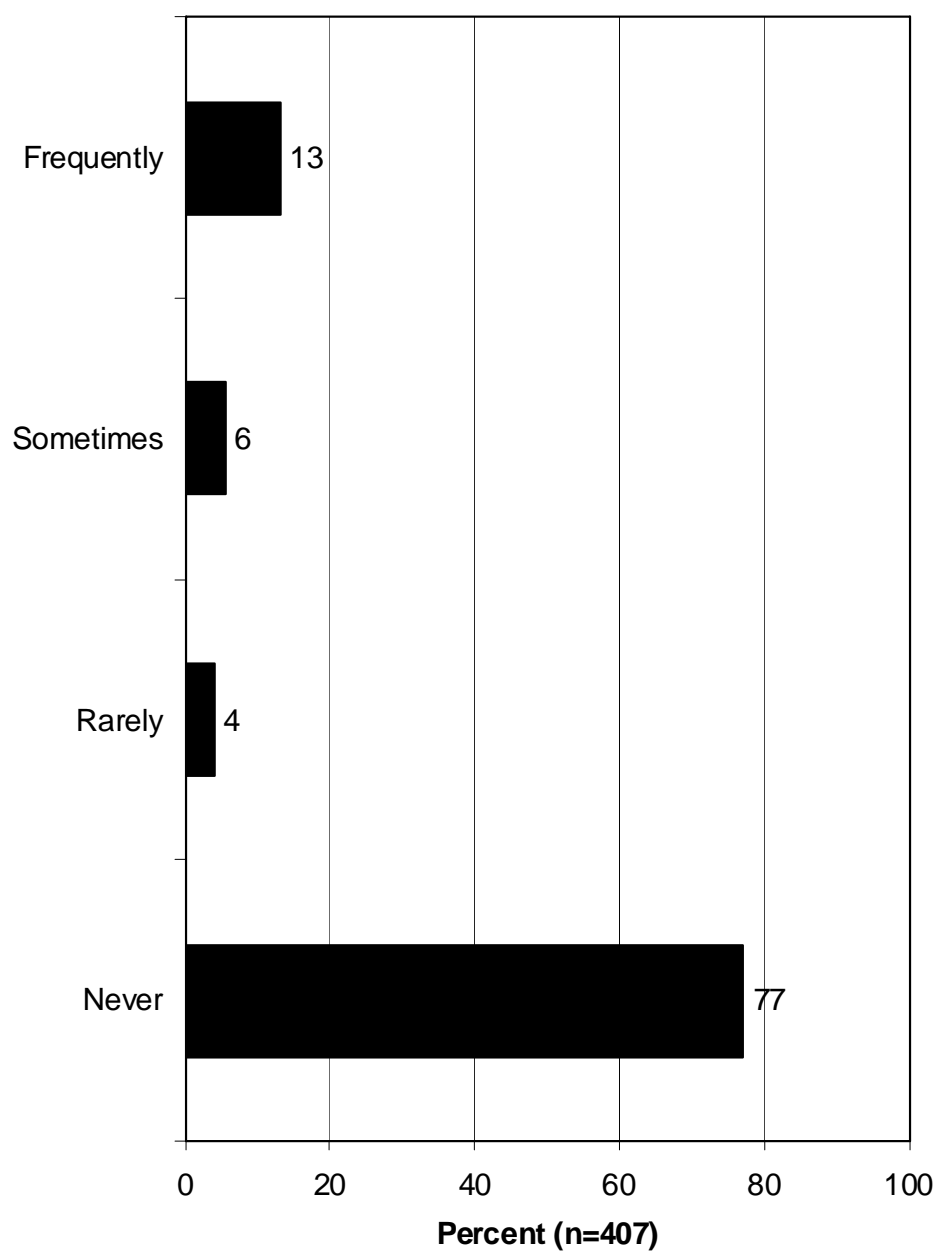




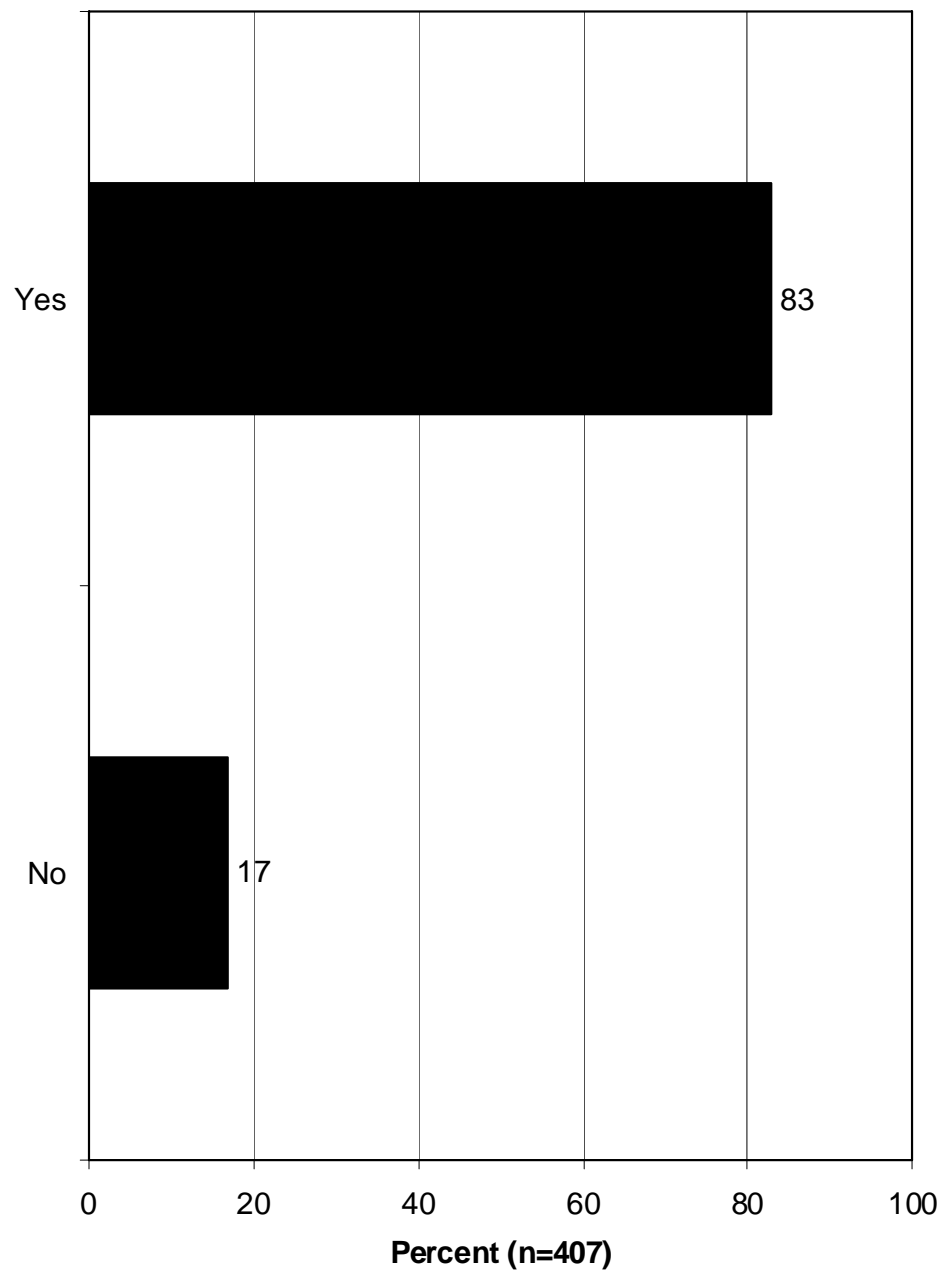
**Q71. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted in Region A in the past 2 years.)  
(Hunter survey.)**



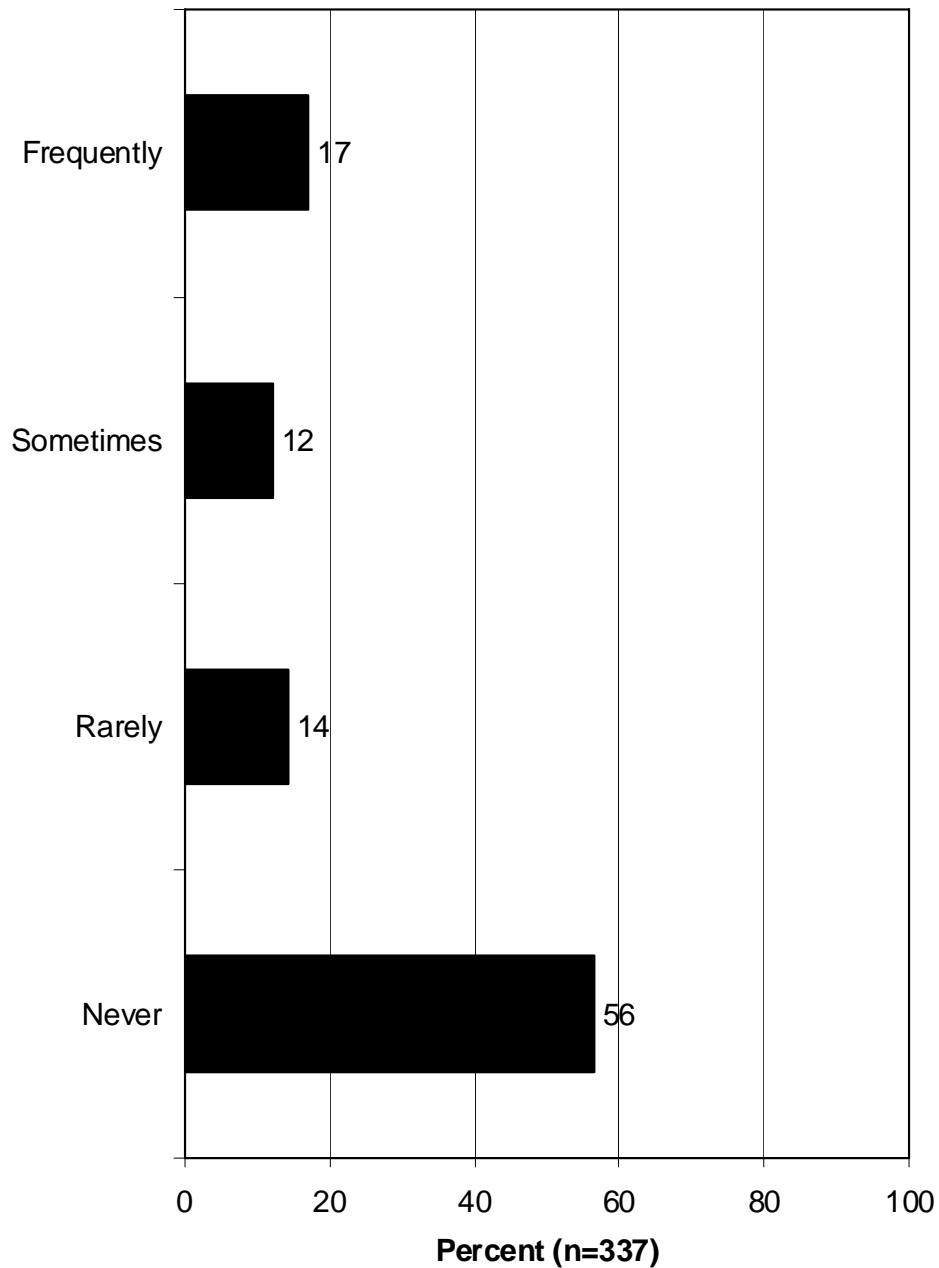
**Q71. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



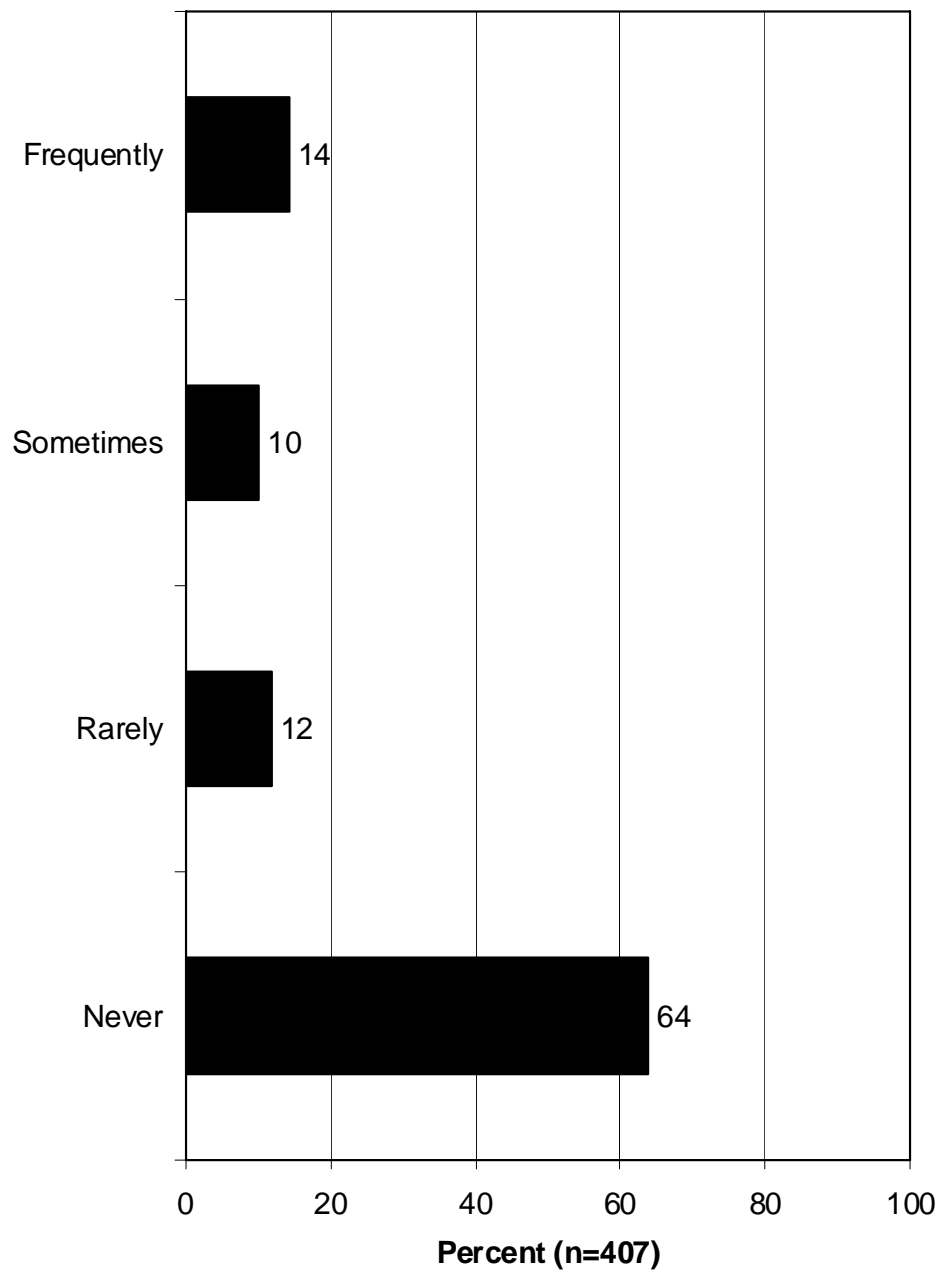
**Q76. Did you hunt deer in Region B in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



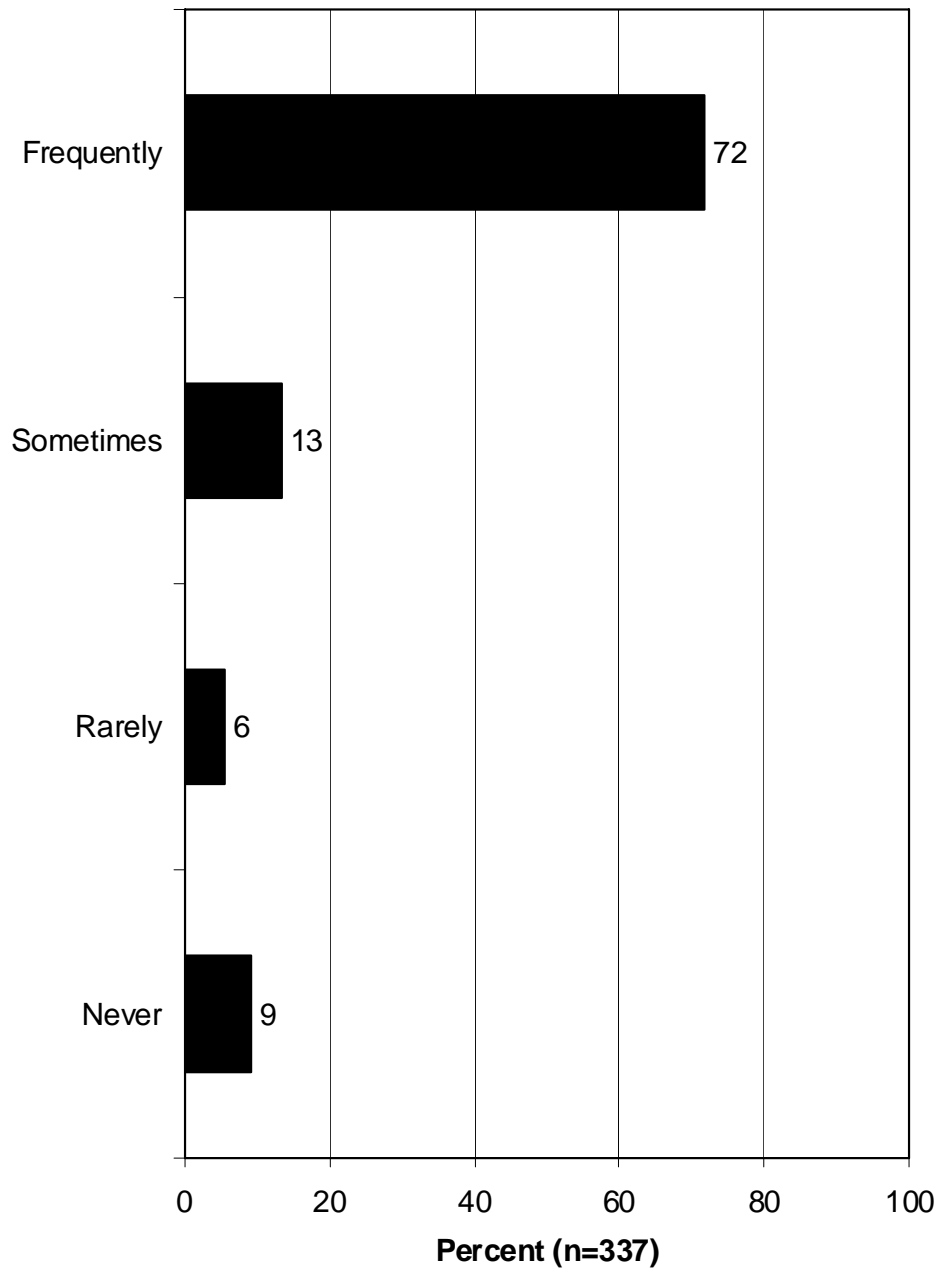
**Q86. How often did you hunt on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



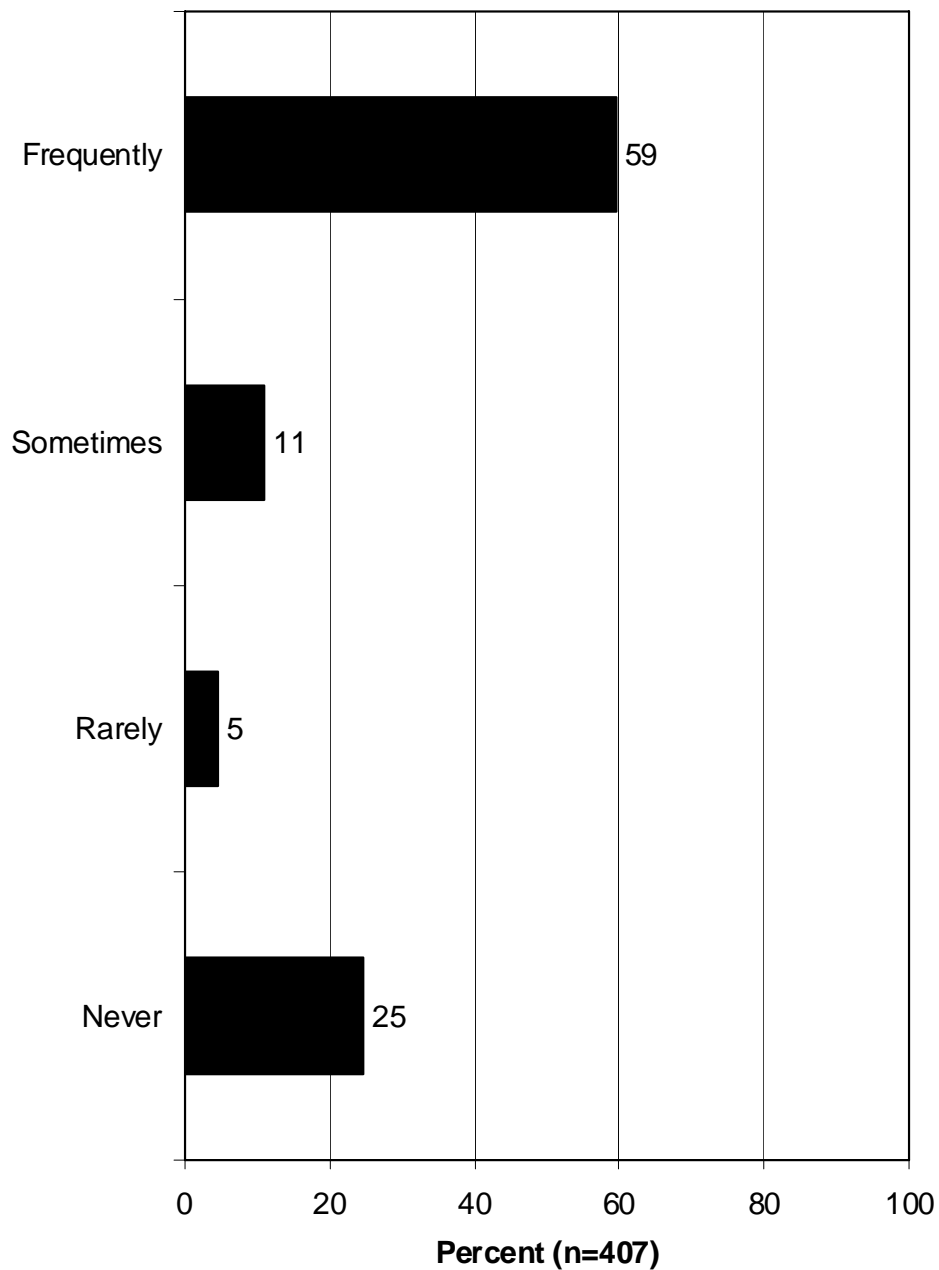
**Q86. How often did you hunt on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



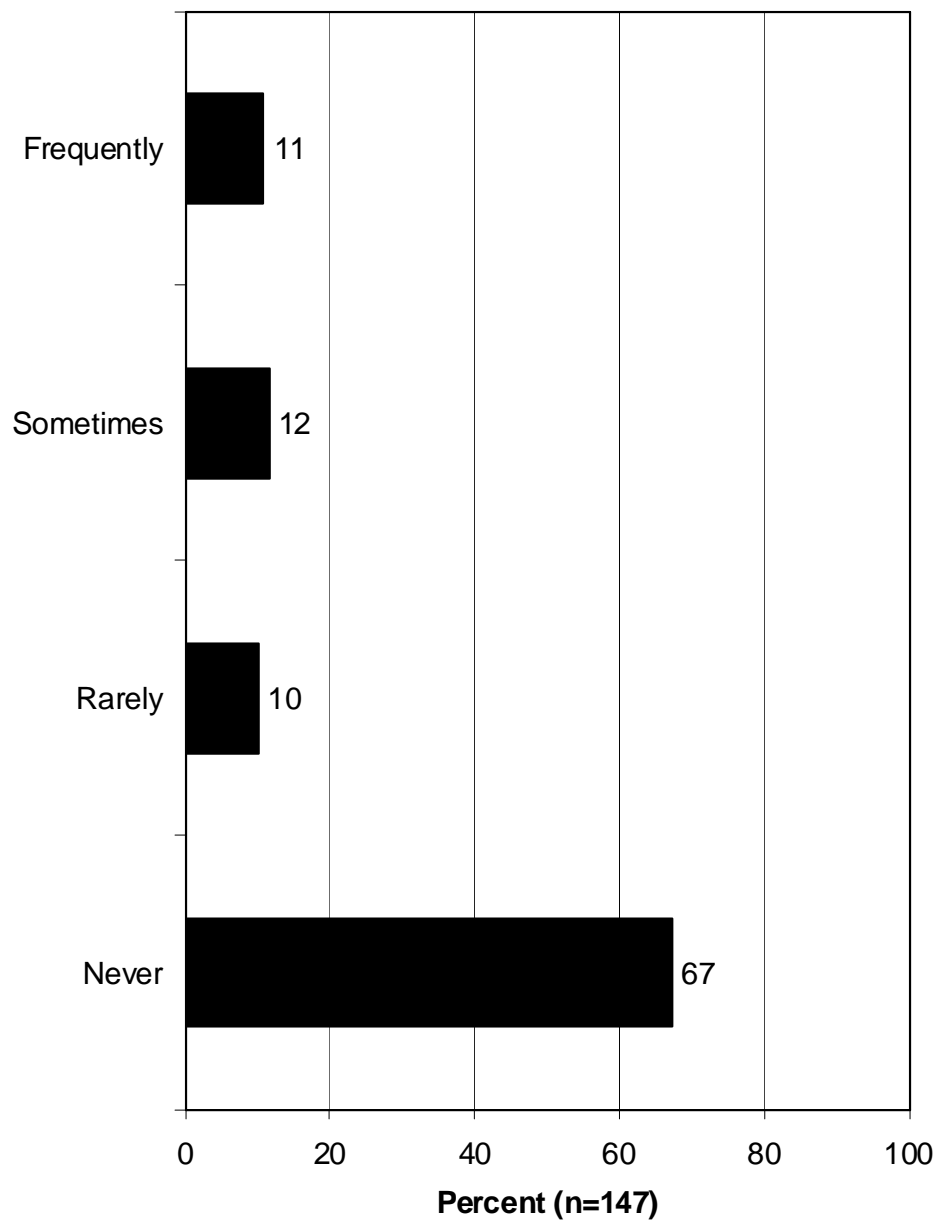
**Q95. How often did you hunt on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



**Q95. How often did you hunt on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**

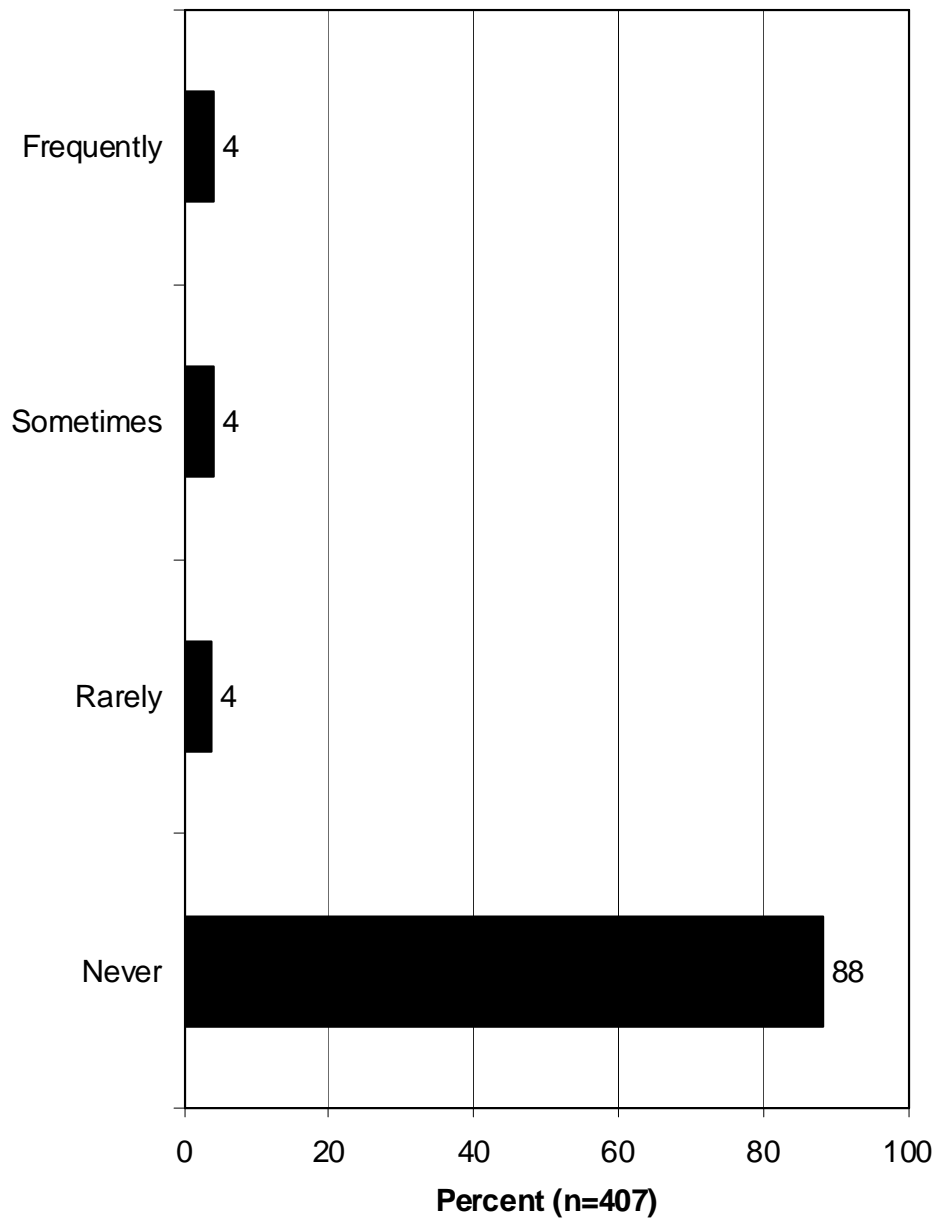


**Q89. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in Washington or Frederick county in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**

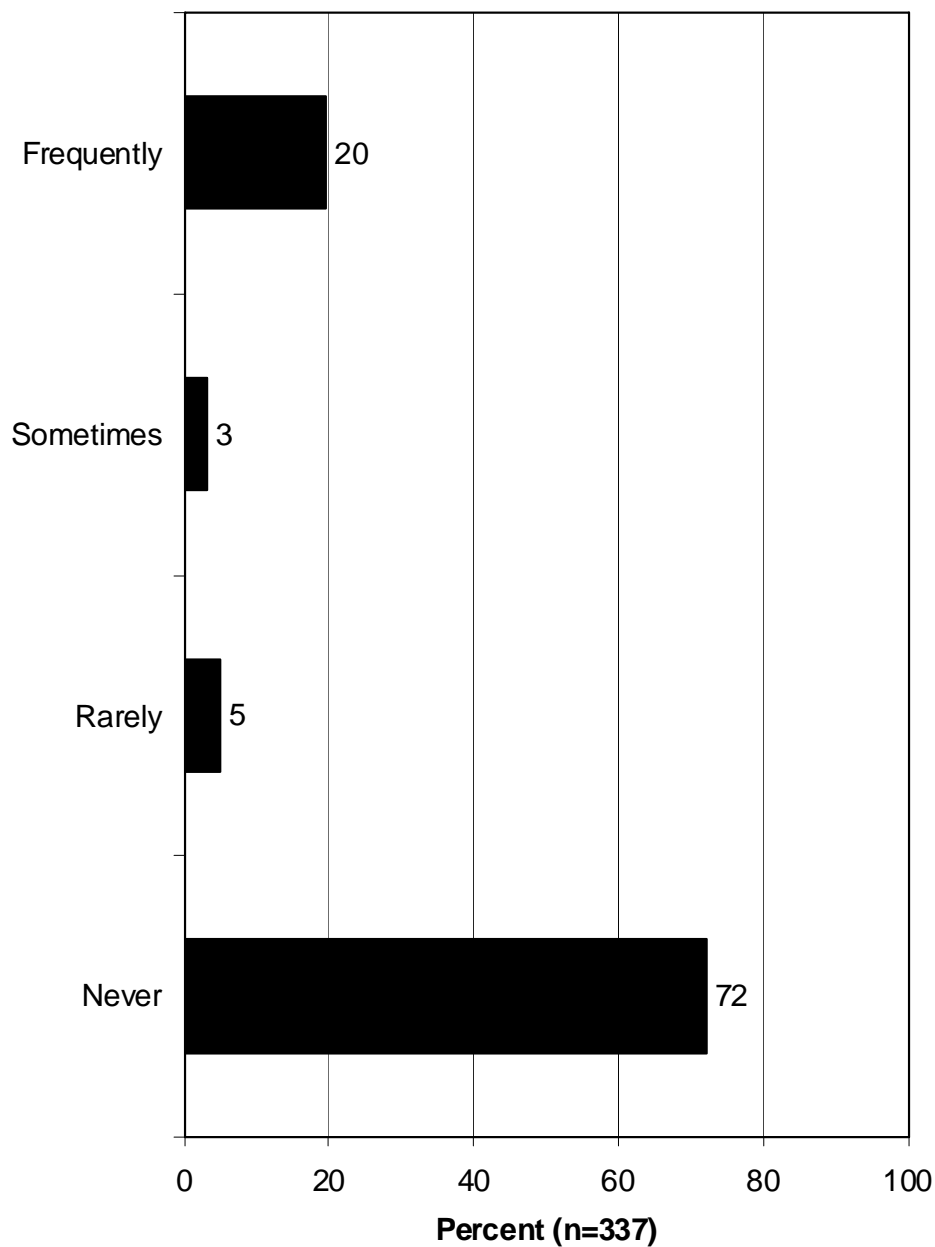




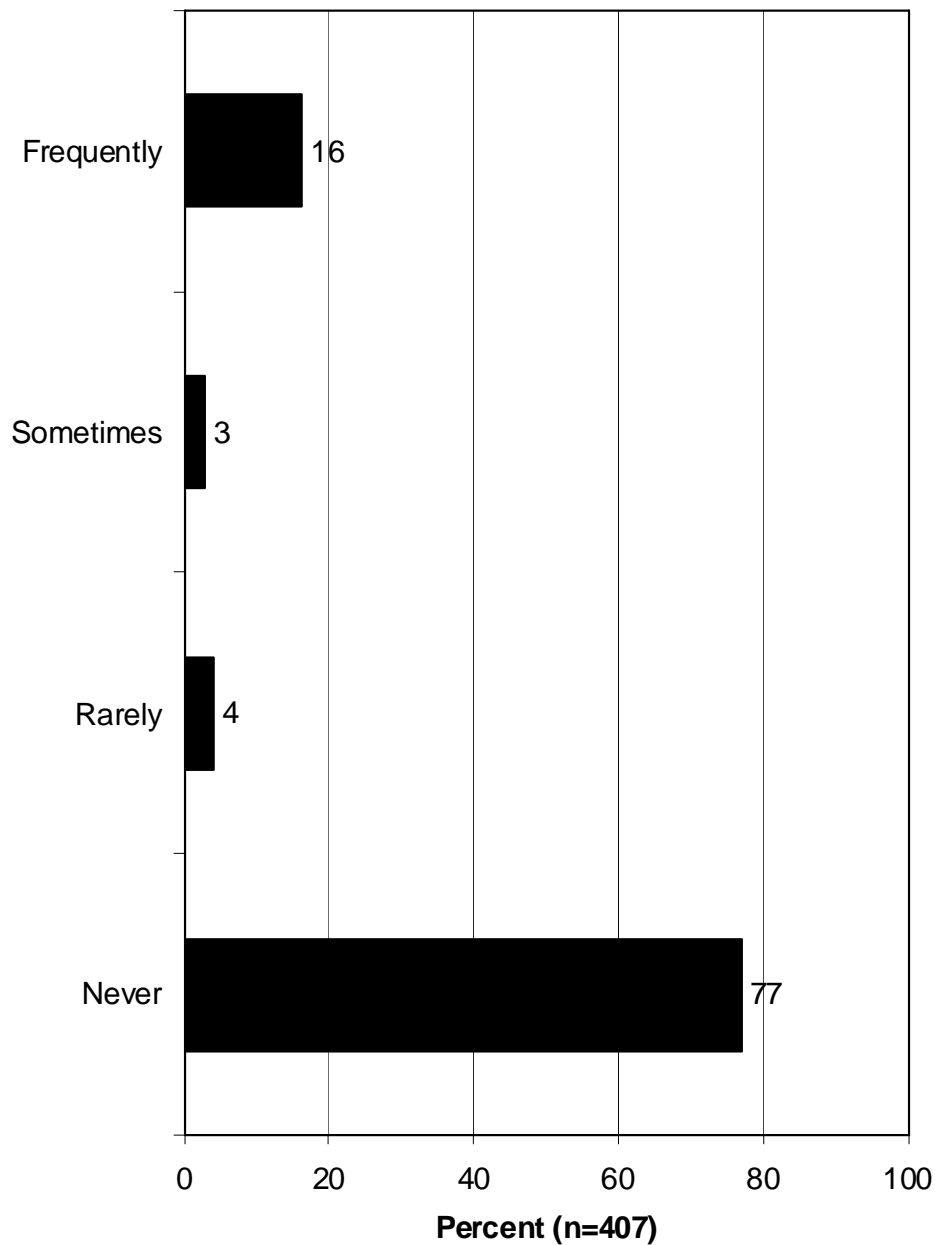
**Q89. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in Washington or Frederick county in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



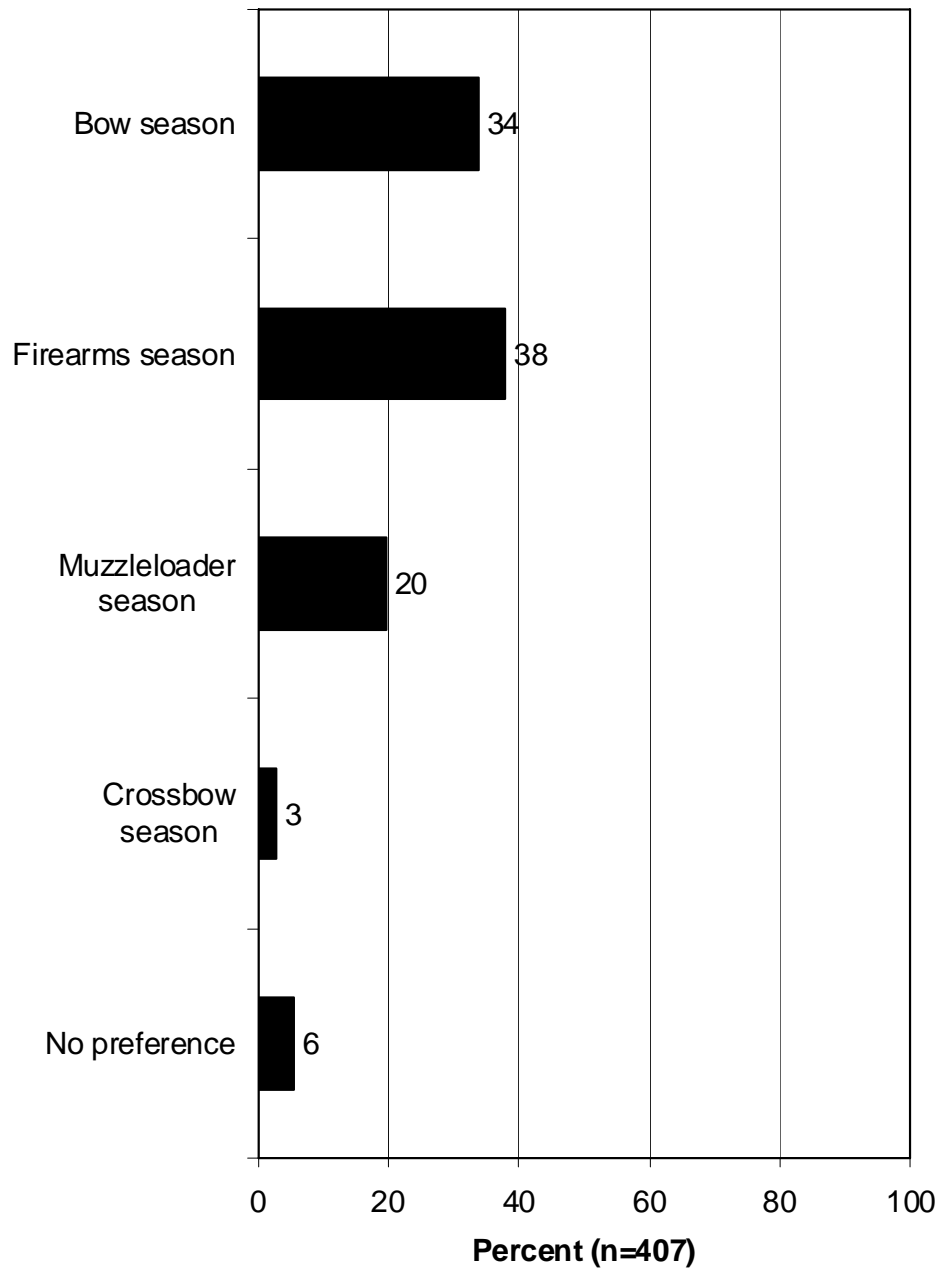
**Q92. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Washington or Frederick county in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



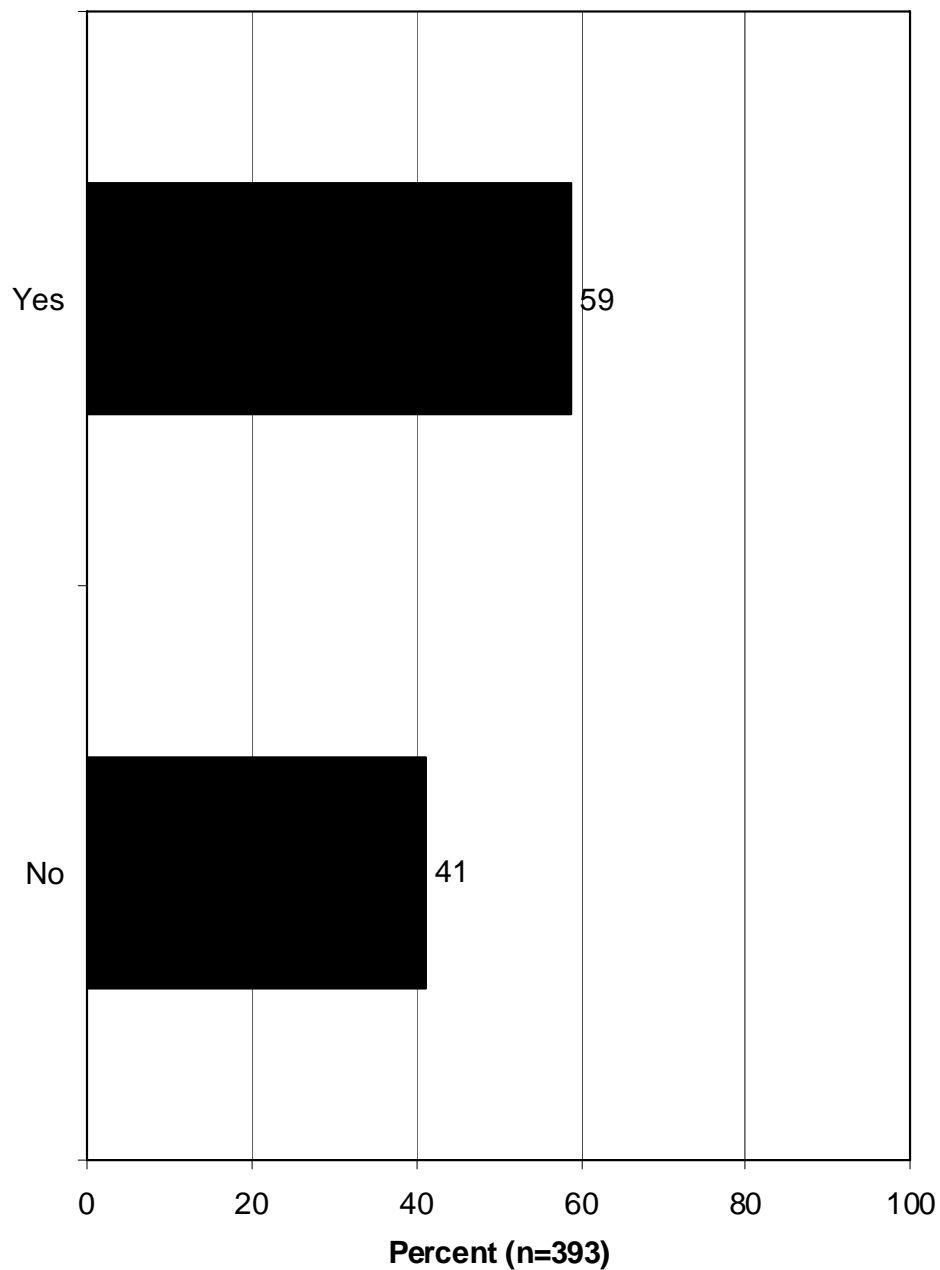
**Q92. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Washington or Frederick county in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey.)**



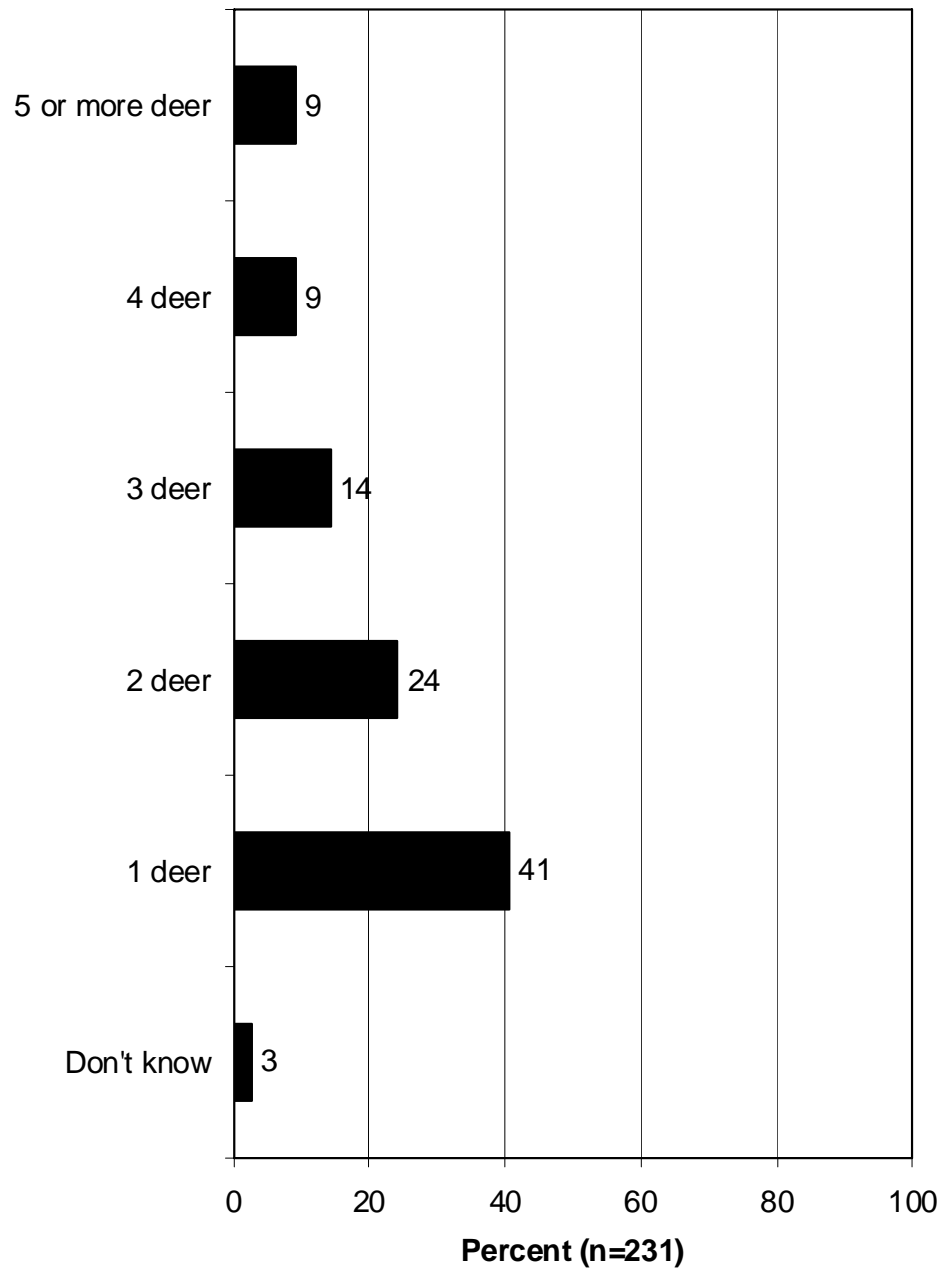
**Q57. Please tell me which one of the following deer hunting seasons you most prefer to participate in?  
(Hunter survey.)**



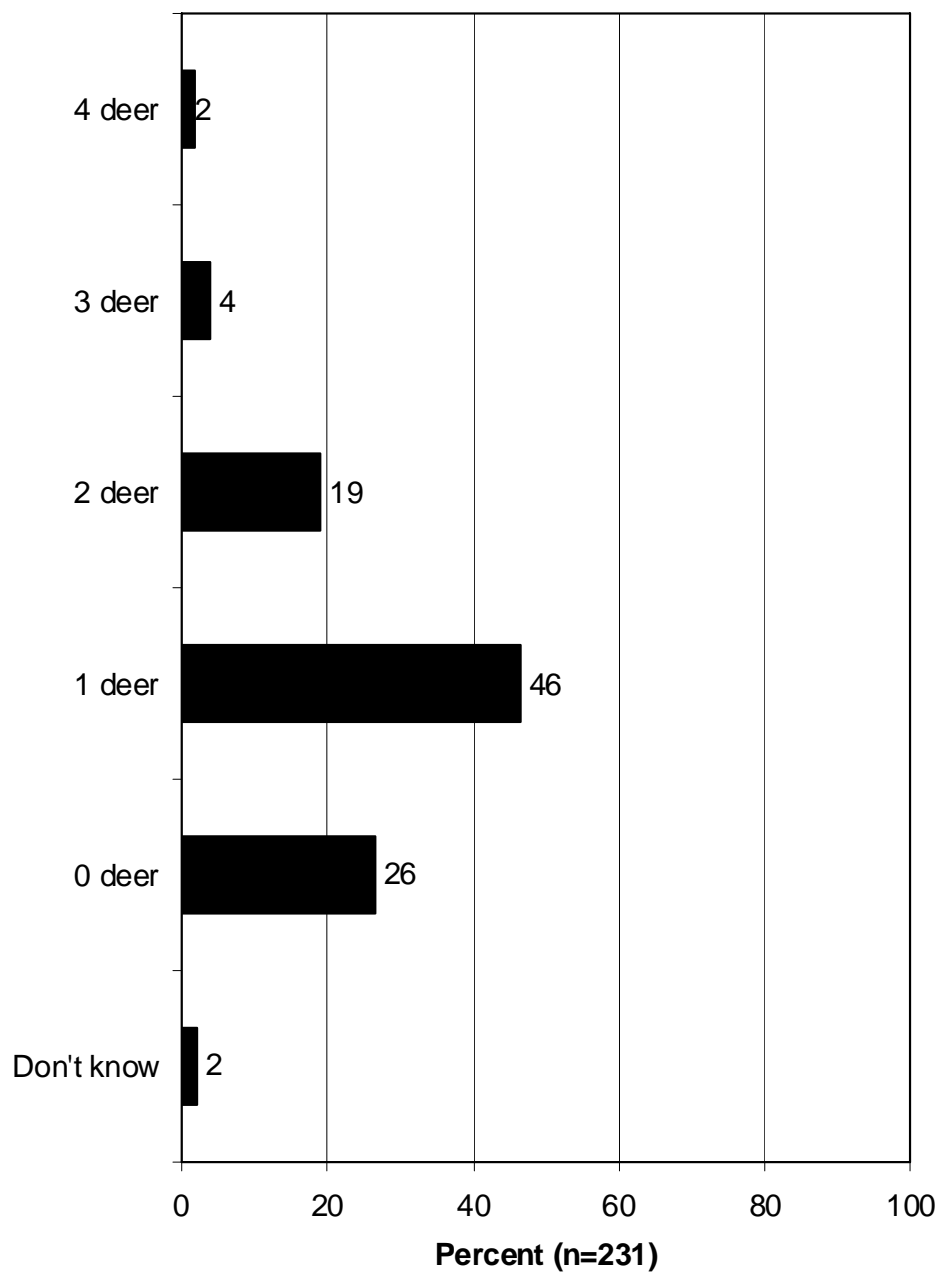
**Q36. Did you harvest a deer in the past year?  
(Asked of those who hunted deer in the past year.)  
(Hunter survey.)**



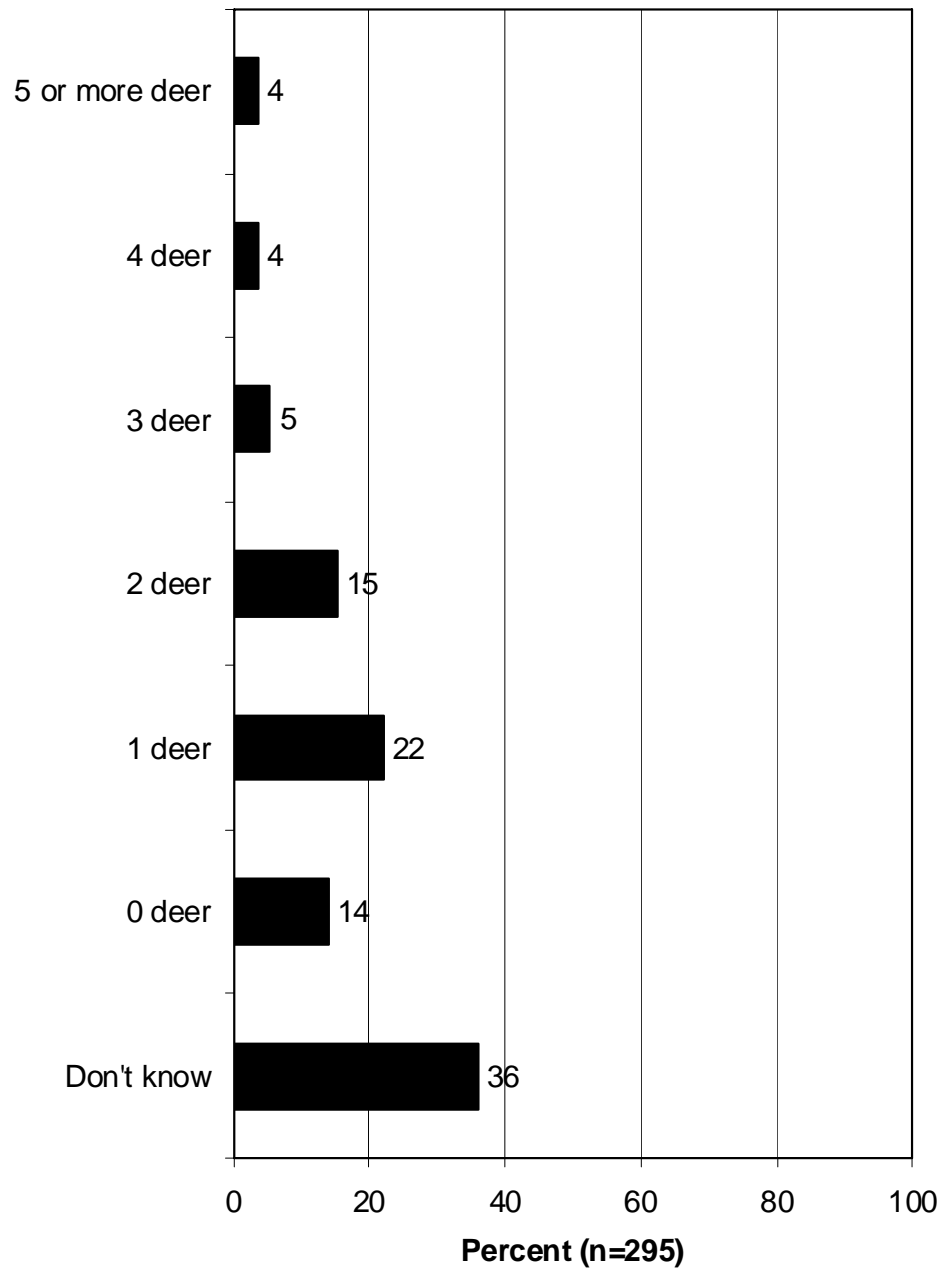
**Q37. How many deer did you harvest in the past year? (Asked of those who hunted deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey.)**



**Q43. How many antlered deer did you harvest in the past year? (Asked of those who hunted and harvested deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey.)**

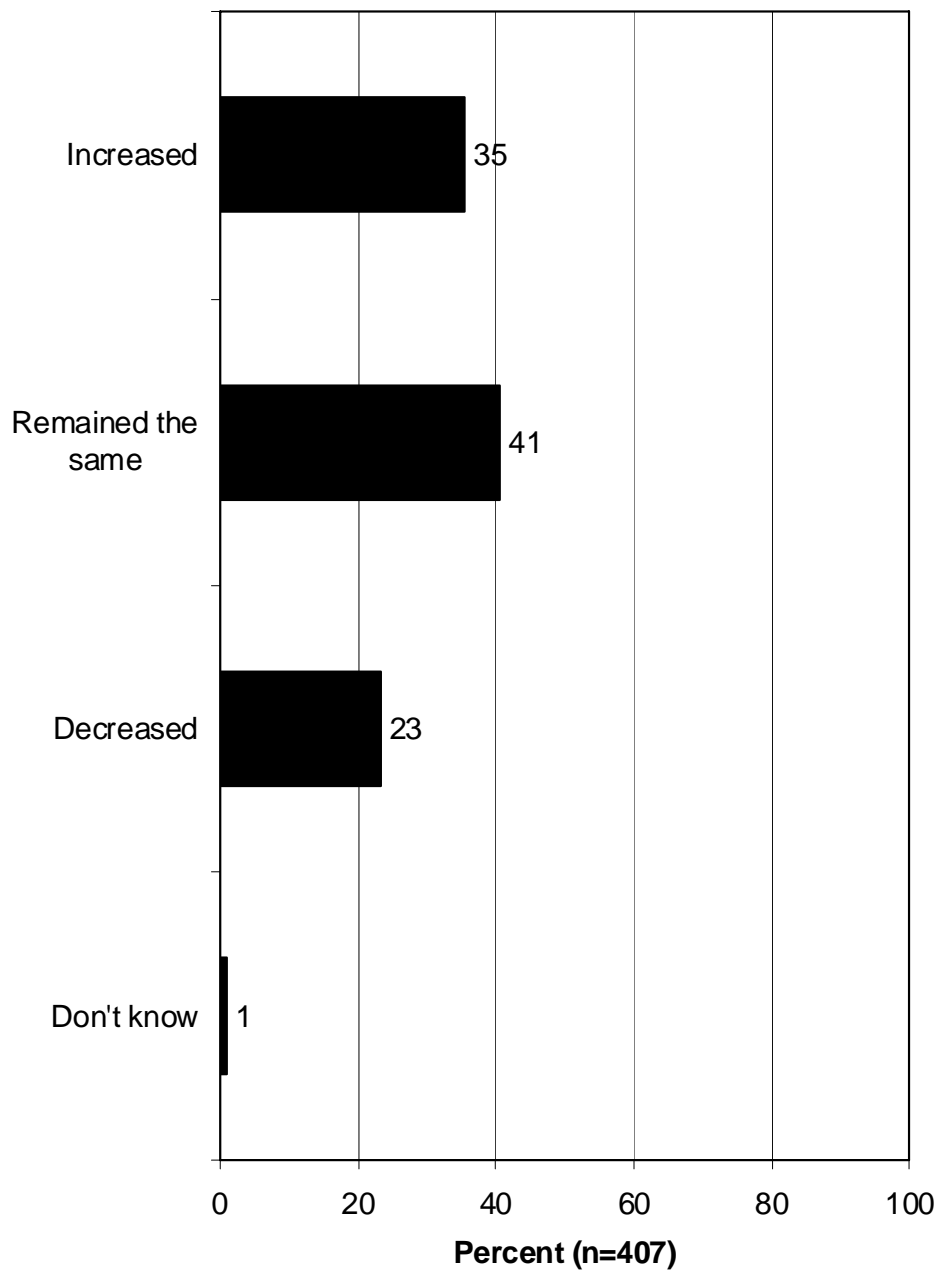


**Q49. How many antlerless deer did you harvest in the past year? (Asked of those who hunted antlerless deer and harvested deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey.)**

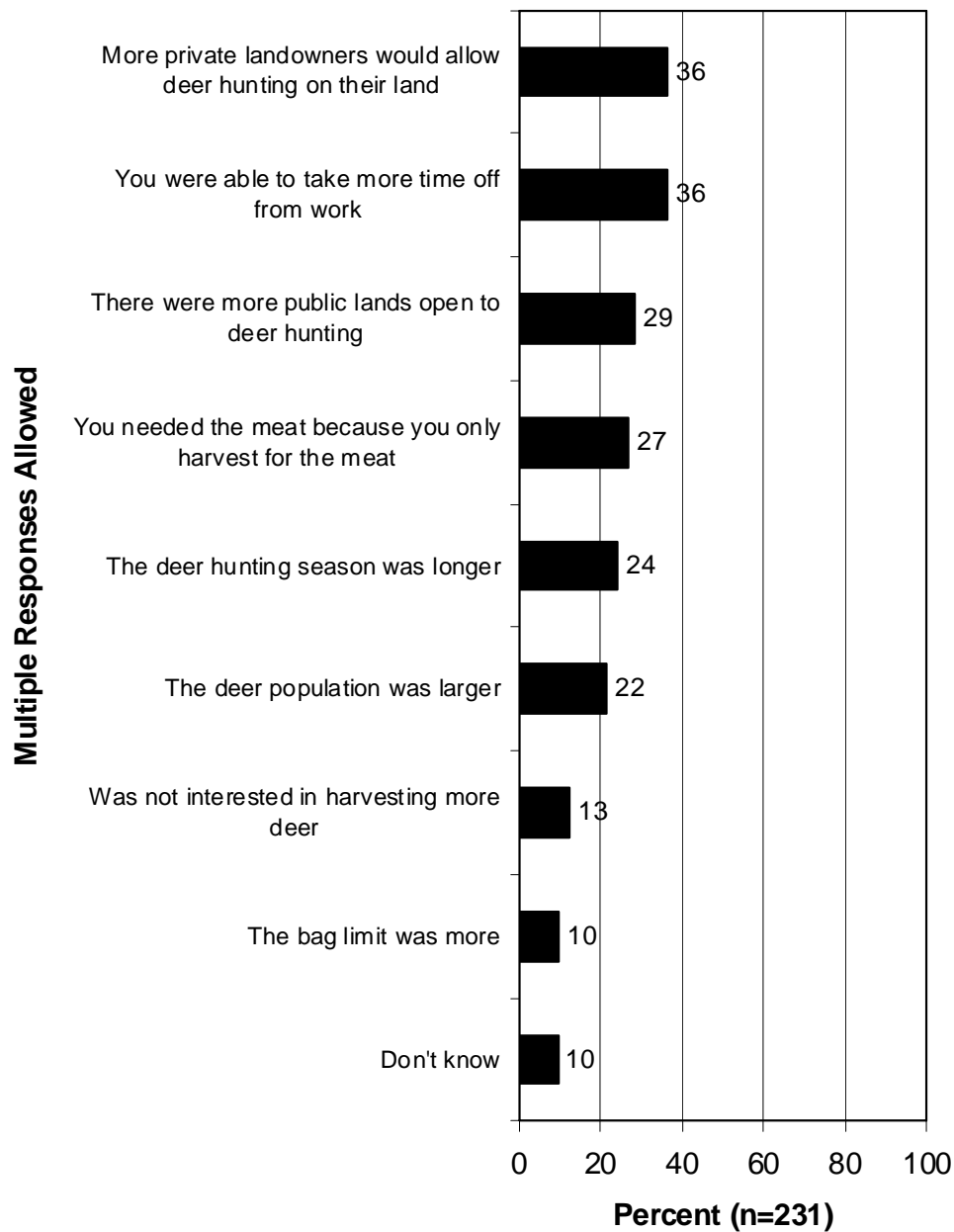




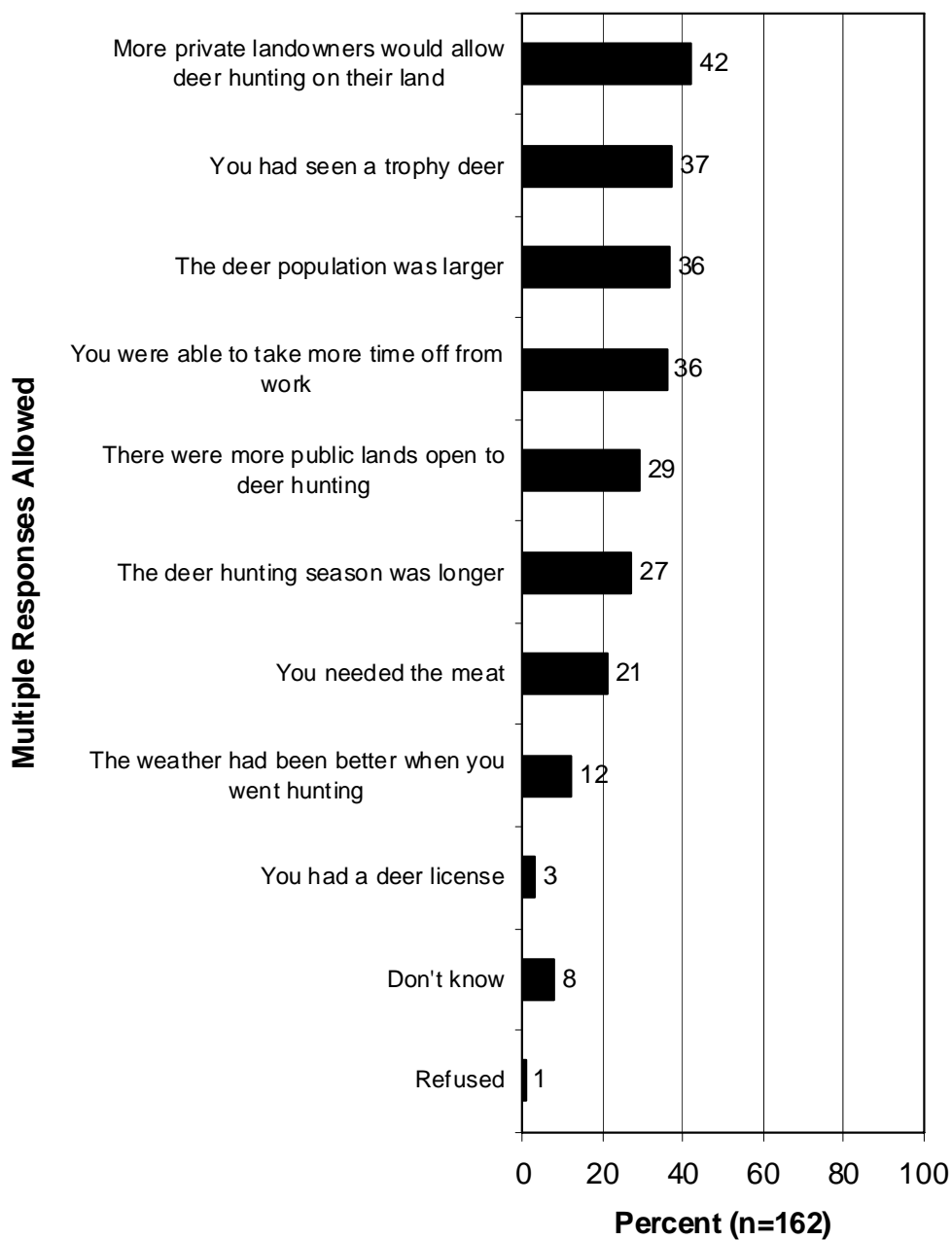
**Q56. Would you say your satisfaction with your deer hunting experiences in Maryland has increased, remained the same, or decreased over the past 10 years? (Hunter survey.)**



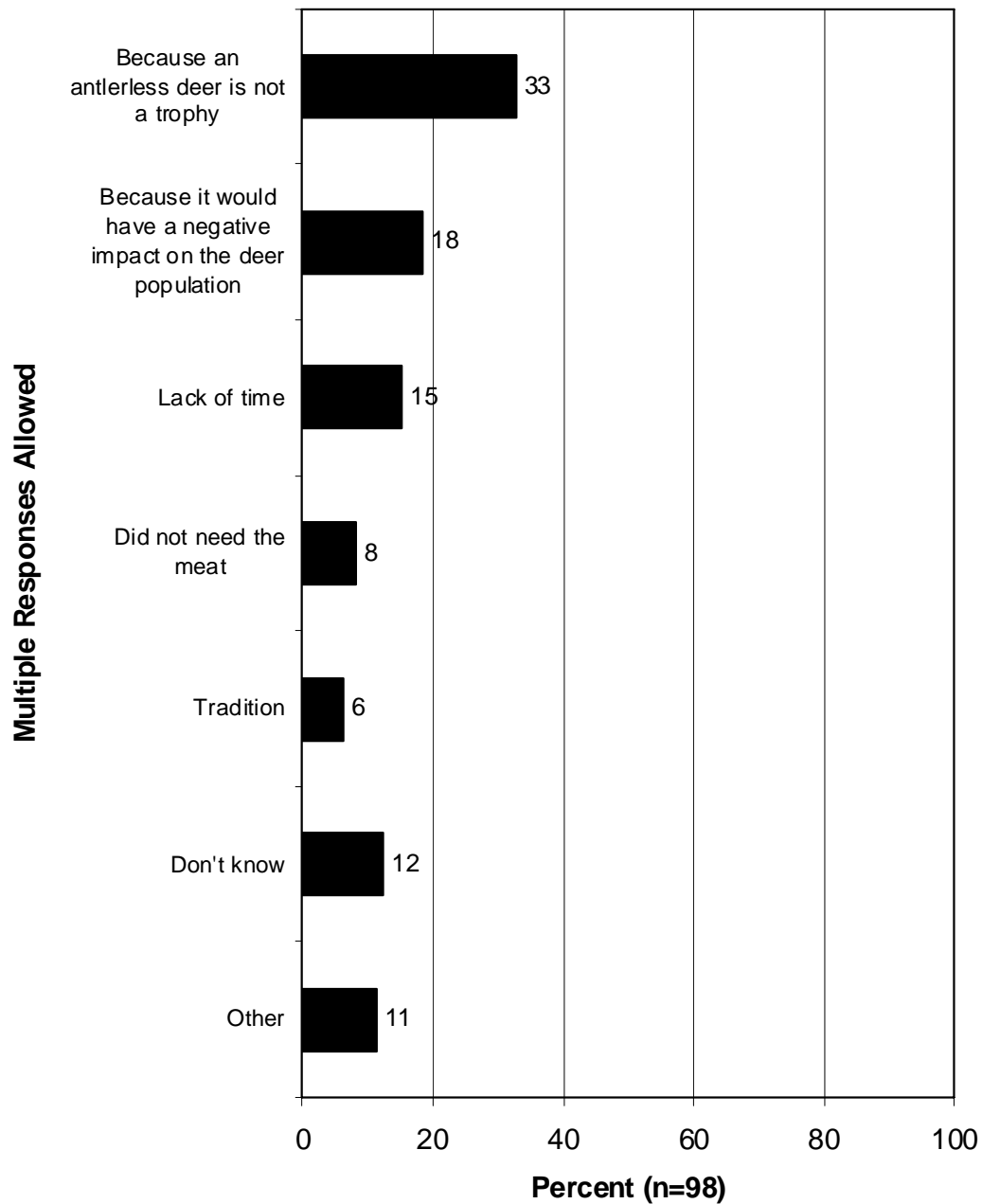
**Q42. Do you think you would have harvested more deer if...? (Asked of those who hunted and harvested deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey.)**



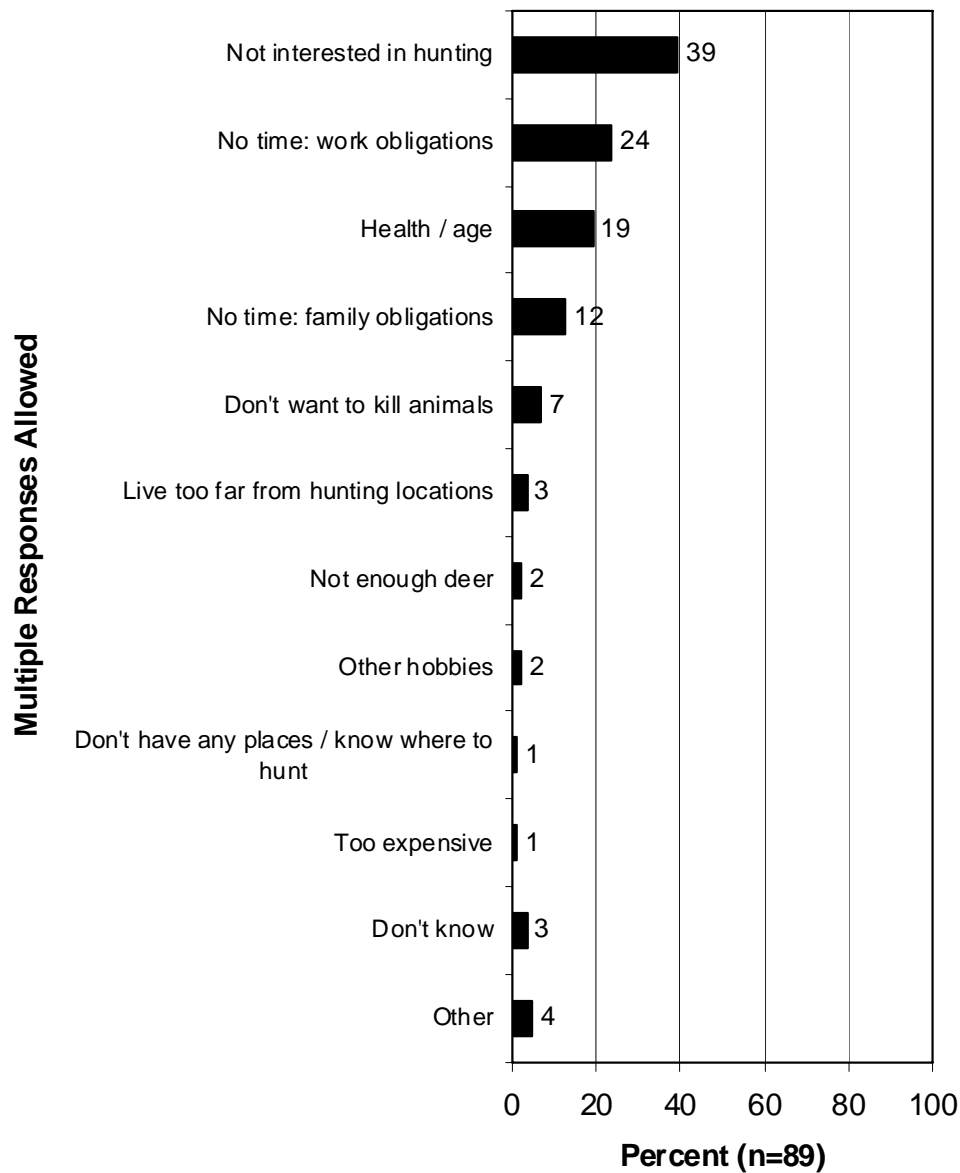
**Q47. Do you think you would have harvested a deer if...? (Asked of those who hunted but did not harvest deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey.)**



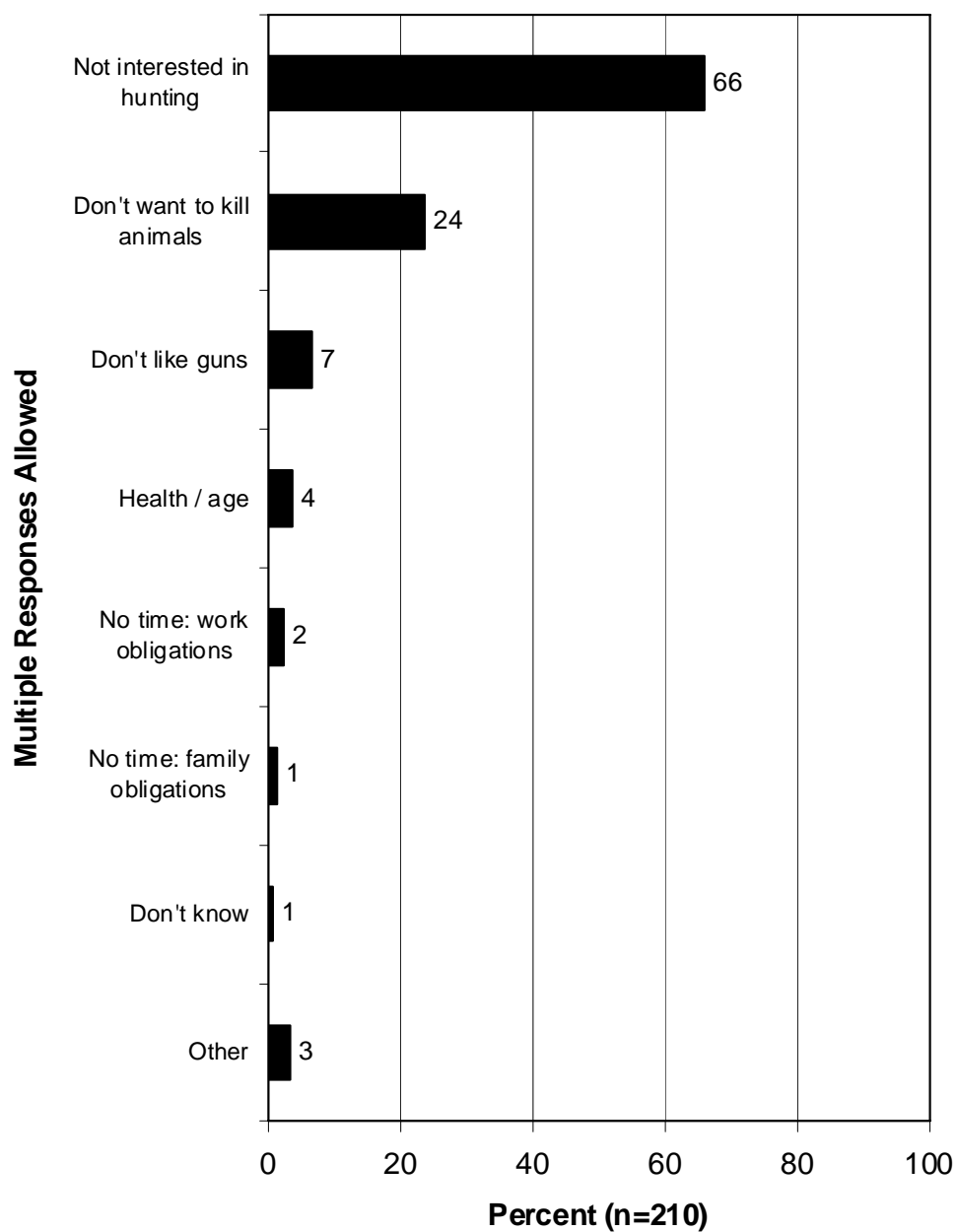
**Q53. Why didn't you hunt antlerless deer in Maryland in the past year? (Asked of those who did not hunt antlerless deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey.)**



**Q73. What are the main reasons you did not hunt deer in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who have ever hunted deer, but have not hunted deer in Maryland in the last 2 years.)  
(Landowner survey.)**



**Q77. What are the main reasons you do not hunt deer in Maryland? (Asked of those who have never hunted deer.) (Landowner survey.)**



## OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

- Maryland residents are split on whether additional lands (e.g., parks) should be opened for regulated deer hunting to increase hunting opportunities: 47% support, and 44% oppose.
- Residents are about evenly split on the use of archery hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas: 48% support, while 40% oppose.
- Opposition (63%) far exceeds support (24%) for hunting deer over bait among the general population. Furthermore, most opposition within the general population is *strong* opposition, while support is about even between *strong* and *moderate*. Among deer hunters, hunting deer over bait is more acceptable, with 54% supporting being allowed to do so; nonetheless, 36% of deer hunters oppose. When deer hunters were asked specifically about whether regulations should be instituted making it illegal to hunt deer over bait *on private lands*, the large majority (68%) oppose such a regulation; 25% support. Finally, landowners more often oppose (50%) than support (41%) hunting deer over bait.
  - The most common reasons given by Maryland residents for supporting hunting deer over bait are to allow hunters to better control the deer population and/or to increase harvest success. A substantial percentage also indicated that doing so helps with *quality deer management*. Among hunters, the most common reason for supporting hunting deer using bait is to increase harvest success—the leading answer by far. Other answers with substantial percentages are to allow hunters to better control the population and that feeding deer is beneficial to the deer herd's health. Among landowners, the most common reasons given for supporting hunting over bait are to increase hunters' harvest success and that it allows hunters to better control the deer population.
  - The most common reasons given by Maryland residents, deer hunters, and landowners for opposing hunting deer over bait are that it does not give the deer a fair chance and/or that it is unethical to trick deer.
- Opposition (50%) exceeds support (34%) for deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland among Maryland residents. On the other hand, among deer hunters, support (67%) exceeds

opposition (30%) for hunting deer on Sundays. Large landowners are like residents in that opposition (51%) exceeds support (37%) for hunting deer on Sundays.

- In line with their majority opposition to Sunday hunting, large landowners are less likely to allow Sunday deer hunting on their property than to allow it: 39% allow it, but 49% do not.

➤ The survey asked several questions about bow and crossbow hunting.

- The survey asked deer hunters about the length of the crossbow season: most commonly they want the number of days for legal crossbow hunting to stay the same (41%); otherwise, slightly more want to see the number of days for crossbow hunting increased (30%) than want to see the number of days decreased (21%).
- The survey also asked deer hunters if they want to have a separate crossbow season (with different dates and bag limits) from the regular bow season: a majority do *not* want a separate season (62%); however, just more than a quarter (27%) want to have a separate crossbow season.
- Deer hunters are split, with slightly more agreement, on whether crossbows should be allowed for the entire bow season (currently they are allowed for only some of the time early in the bow season and then another stretch of time at the end of the bow season): 53% agree that crossbows should be allowed during all of the bow season, but 39% disagree.
- The majority of deer hunters (63%) agree that Maryland should expand crossbow seasons in suburban and urban counties; 27% disagree.
- Maryland residents most commonly say that the allowable distance from a normally occupied structure for legal bowhunting, which is currently set at 150 yards, is acceptable (i.e., it should remain the same); however, a substantial percentage (38%) think the allowable distance should be increased. Among large landowners, the majority think the distance should remain the same; otherwise, they more often want it increased (21%) than decreased (9%).

➤ The state of Maryland is broken down into two hunting regions (Regions A and B).

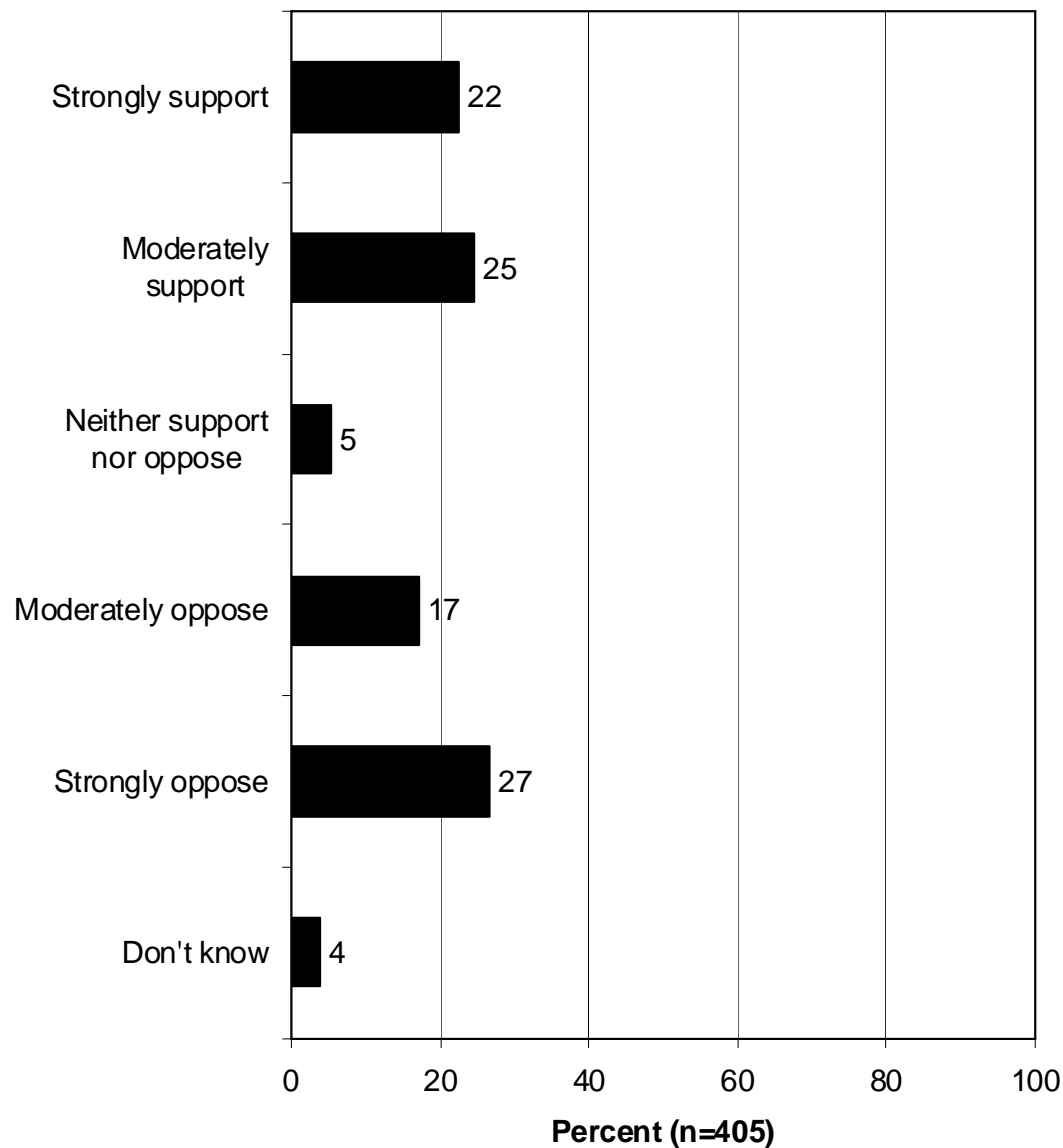
Region A is made up of Allegany and Garrett Counties; Region B is all other counties. A majority of deer hunters who had hunted in Region A in the past 2 years support (59%) reducing the antlered bag limit in Region A from 3 antlered deer to 2 per year; however, 37% oppose such a reduction in the antlered bag limit.



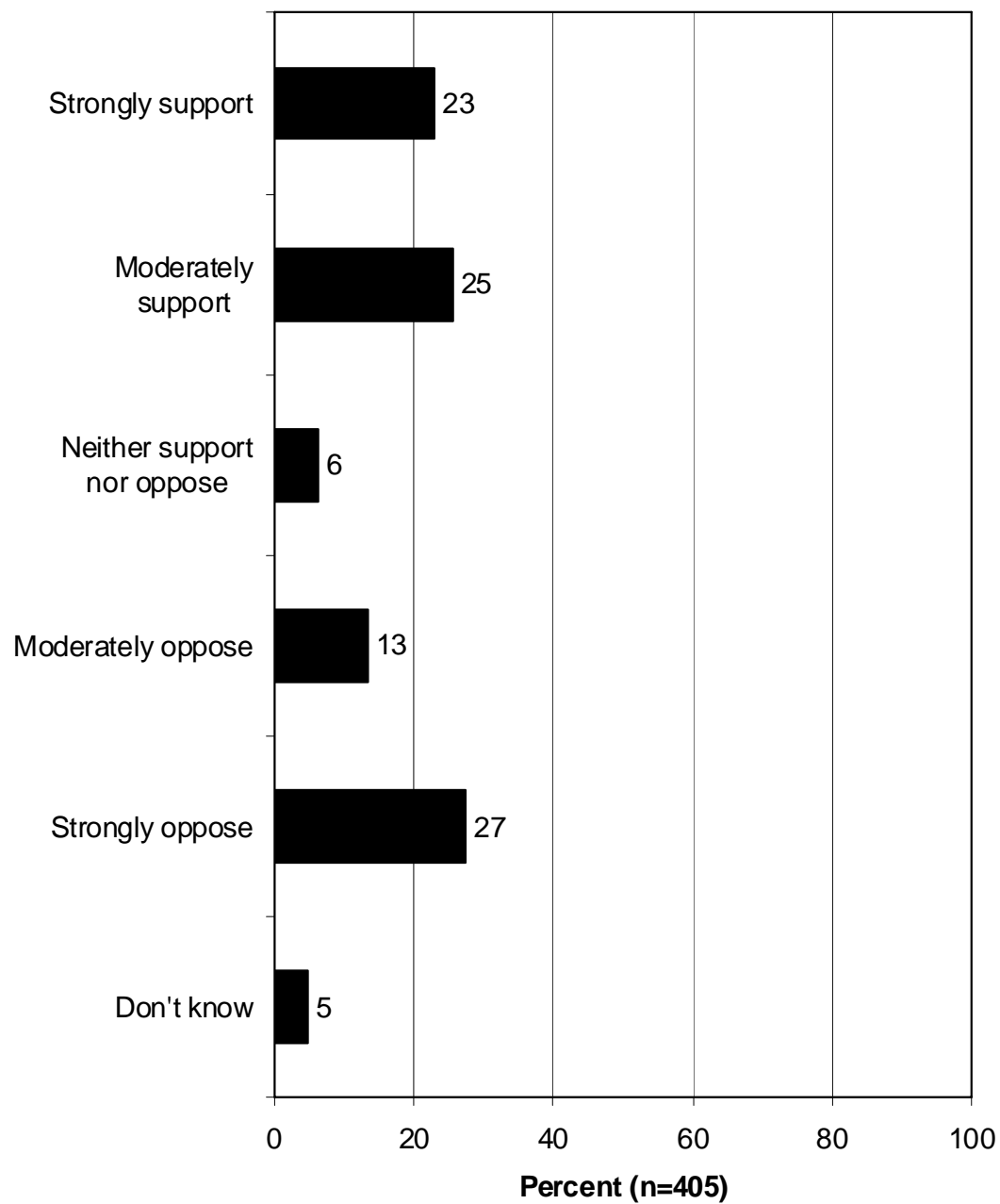
- In a similar question as above regarding Region B, deer hunters who hunted Region B were asked about reducing the total bag limit for antlered deer in Region B from 6 antlered deer to 3 per year or from 6 antlered deer to 2 per year (this sub-sample was divided, each getting either the question about reducing to 3 or reducing to 2). They are split on this question:
  - 47% support reducing the bag limit from 6 to 3, while 43% oppose.
  - 48% support reducing the bag limit from 6 to 2, while 49% oppose.
- The survey asked about having a single antlered deer bag limit for all seasons rather than three separate bag limits (one for each season—bow, firearms, and muzzleloader): most deer hunters (55%) oppose having a single bag limit replace three separate bag limits, while 39% support. Similarly, most deer hunters (56%) oppose having a single antlered deer bag limit statewide instead of separate bag limits for Regions A and B; 33% support a single statewide bag limit. Finally, the survey asked about a single antlered deer bag limit for all seasons *and* regions together: 56% oppose, while 36% support.
  - Regardless of whether they support or oppose a single yearly antlered deer bag limit for all seasons and regions, all hunters were asked what a single yearly statewide antlered deer bag limit should be. Most commonly, they think 2 deer should be the antlered deer bag limit (26% gave this answer), closely followed by those thinking it should be 3 antlered deer (20%).
- Region B deer hunters were also asked about the antlerless bag limit: a large majority (72%) support the current bag limit of 10 antlerless deer in Region B for the bow, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons, while 23% oppose.
  - In another question about the antlerless deer bag limit, Region B deer hunters were asked what they thought the limit should be. The majority (53%) want the same bag limit, 14% want a bag limit exceeding 10 antlerless deer—including some who said “unlimited,” and 27% want a bag limit of less than 10.
- In another regulation pertaining to Region A, deer hunters there are split on whether they want deer hunting in Region A managed differently on public versus private lands: 46% agree that management should differ between public and private lands there, but 50% disagree.

- In a question pertaining to Washington and Frederick Counties within Region B, deer hunters there are split on whether they want deer hunting in those two counties managed differently on public versus private lands: 34% agree that management should differ between public and private lands there, and 36% disagree.
- Deer hunters who hunted Region B were asked about their frequency of trying to harvest 2 antlerless deer so that they may harvest a bonus antlered deer (as is required by regulations): 40% always or sometimes do so, but the majority (57%) rarely or never do so. In a follow-up question, the majority of Region B deer hunters who said that they attempt to harvest 2 antlerless deer to be allowed to harvest the bonus antlered deer indicated that they would harvest the same number of antlerless deer even if they would not be allowed to harvest the bonus antlered deer.
- The survey asked deer hunters about their frequency of practicing quality deer management (by harvesting mostly does and refraining from harvesting bucks less than 2½ years old): the majority (54%) practice quality deer management always, and the overwhelming majority (85%) do so always or sometimes. In line with the fact that most deer hunters practice quality deer management, most are in favor of mandatory quality deer management regulations (69% support such regulations); however, 26% oppose such mandatory regulations.
- There is a regulation that stipulates that all healthy deer harvested for population control and crop damage control be processed and used for food, regardless of the time that they are harvested: the overwhelming majority of large landowners (81%) agree with this policy; only 10% disagree.
- Awareness is high among deer hunters of venison donation programs in Maryland for extra harvested deer: 76% of deer hunters are very aware, and another 17% are somewhat aware of venison donation programs.

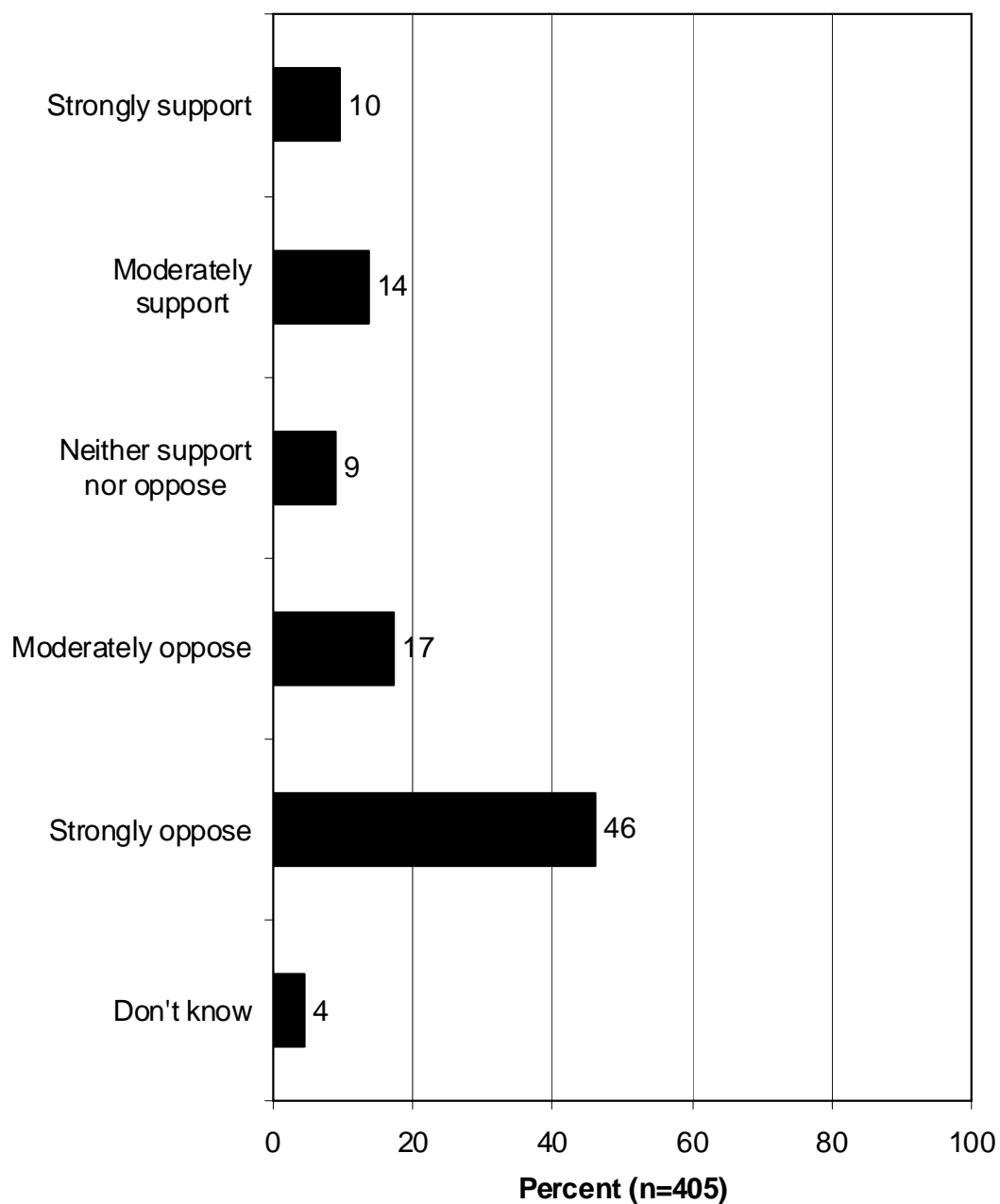
**Q40. Do you support or oppose opening additional lands to regulated deer hunting, such as parks, natural resource management areas, or other recreation lands that traditionally have been closed to hunting, for the purpose of increasing deer hunting opportunities? (General population survey.)**



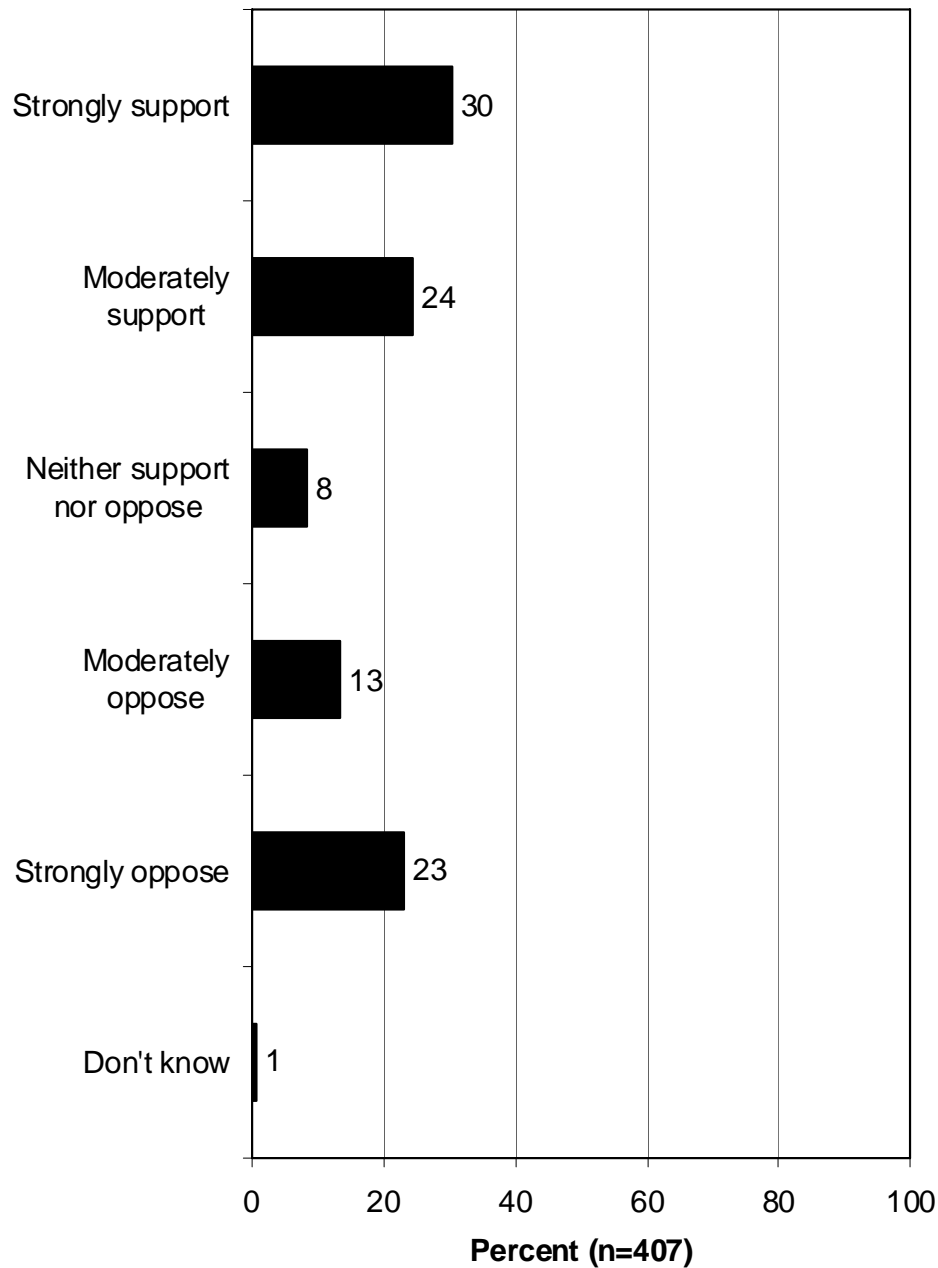
**Q59. Do you support or oppose the use of regulated archery hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (General population survey.)**



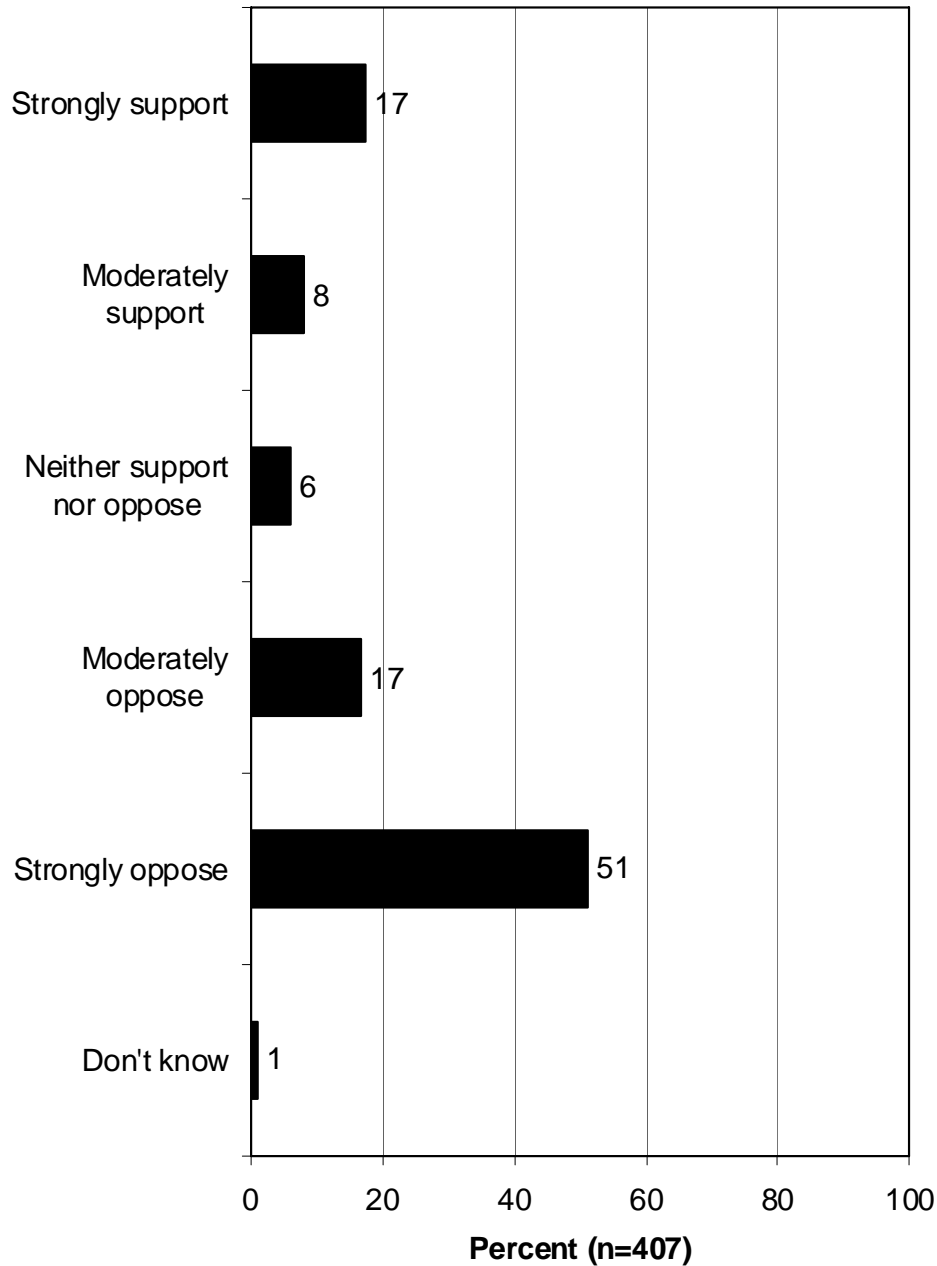
**Q42. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant (but not a planted food plot)?  
(General population survey.)**



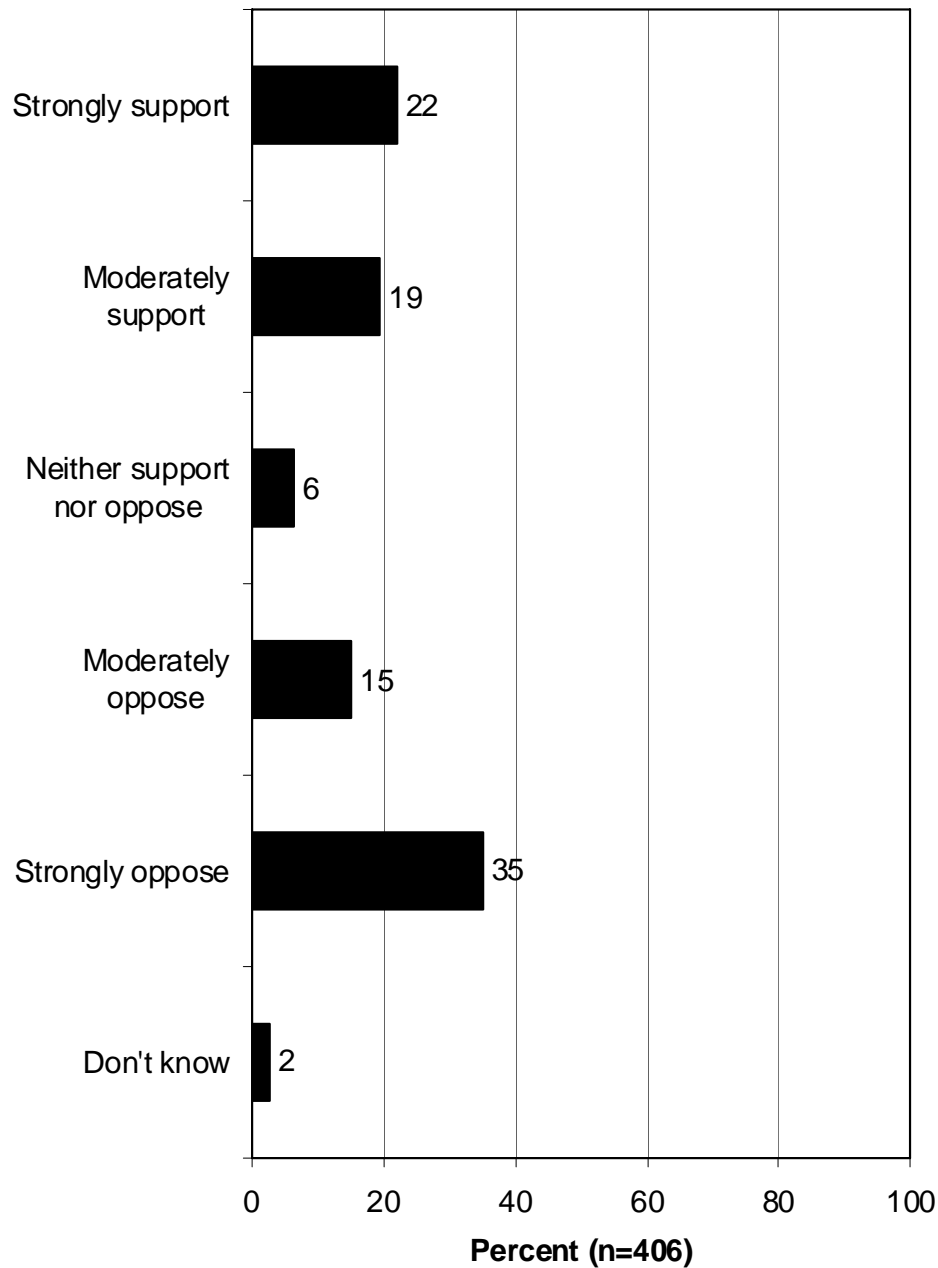
**Q113. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant (but not a planted food plot)?  
(Hunter survey.)**



**Q122. Would you support or oppose regulations making it illegal to hunt deer using bait on private lands? (Hunter survey.)**

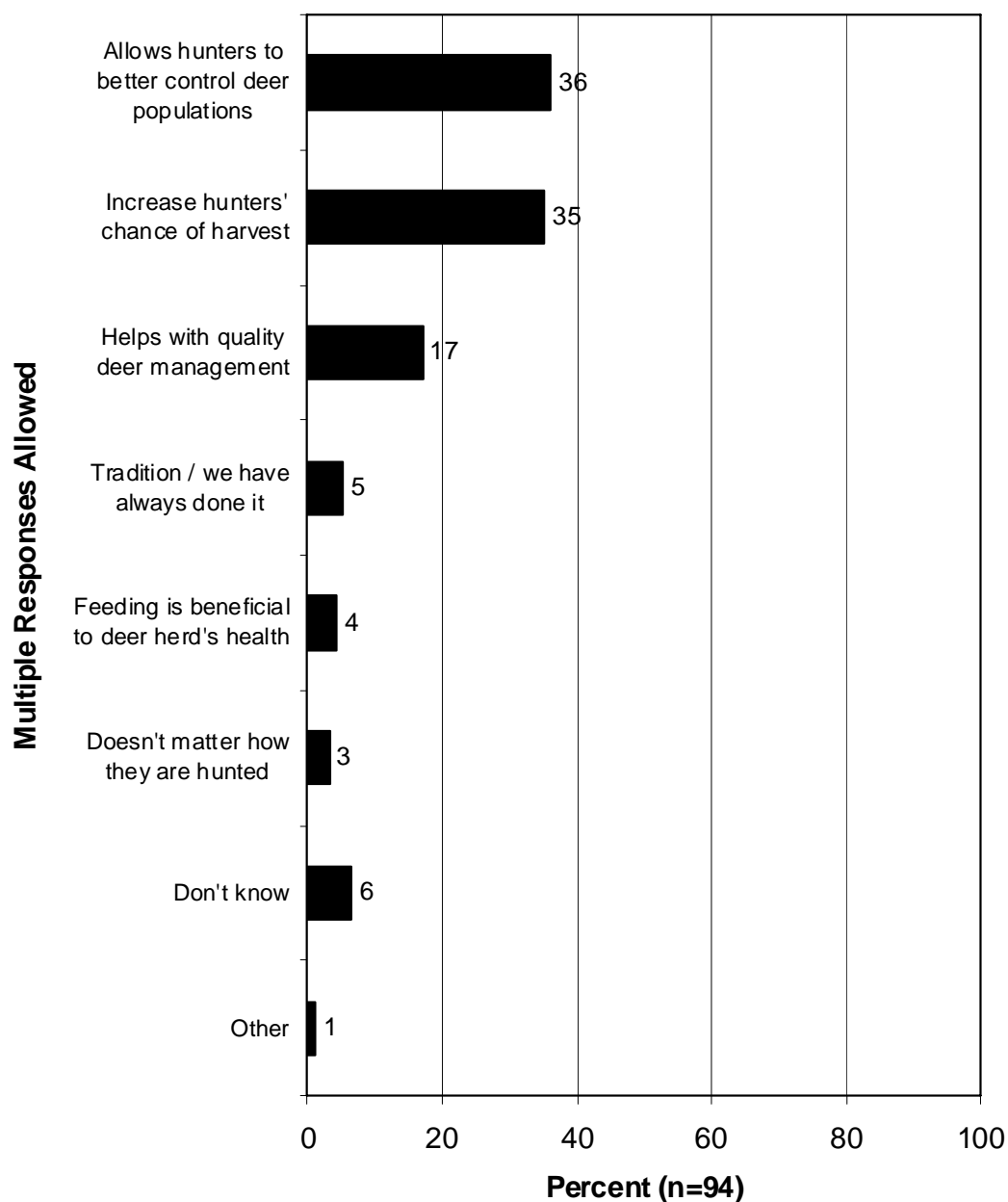


**Q40. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant (but not a planted food plot)?  
(Landowner survey.)**

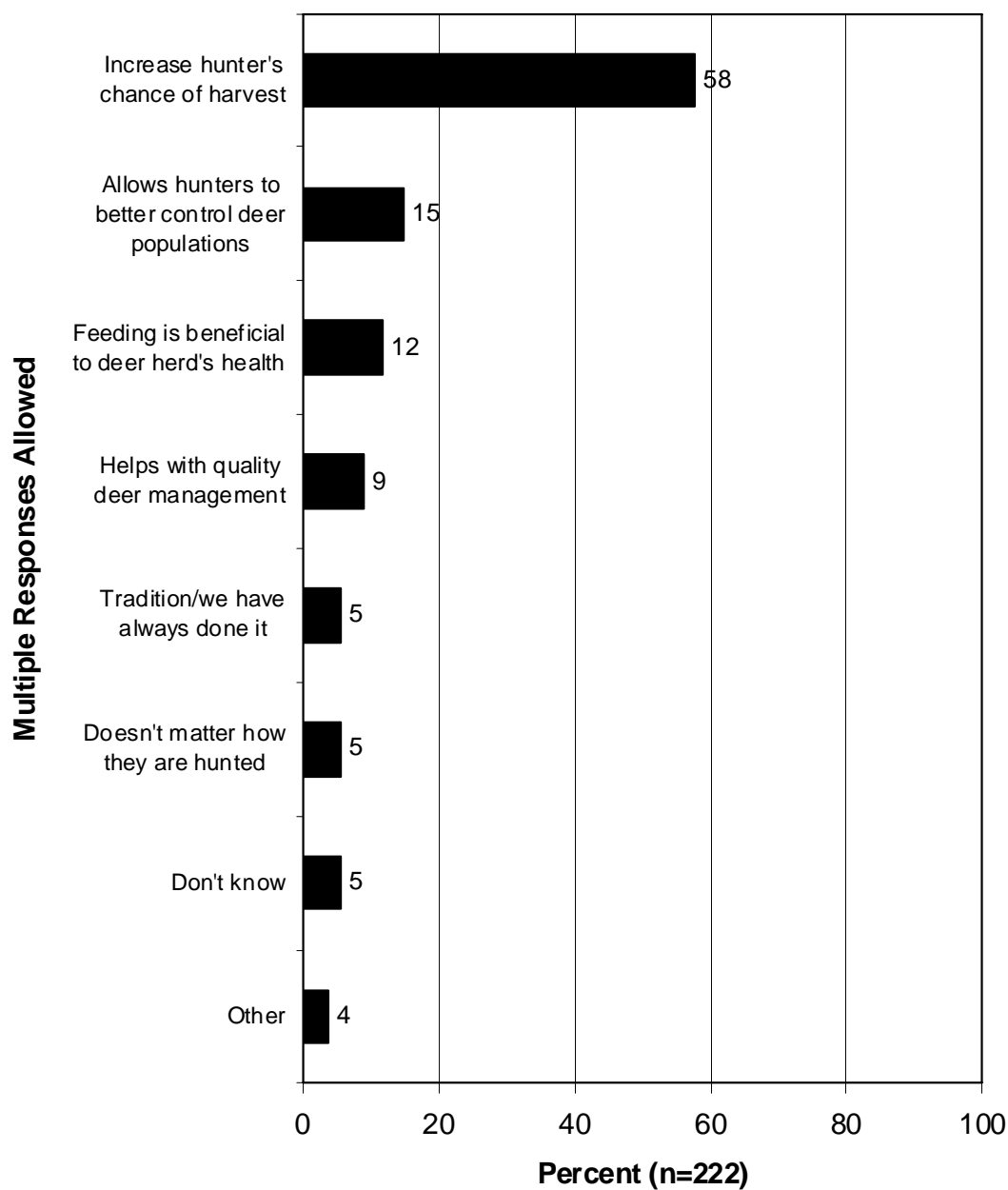




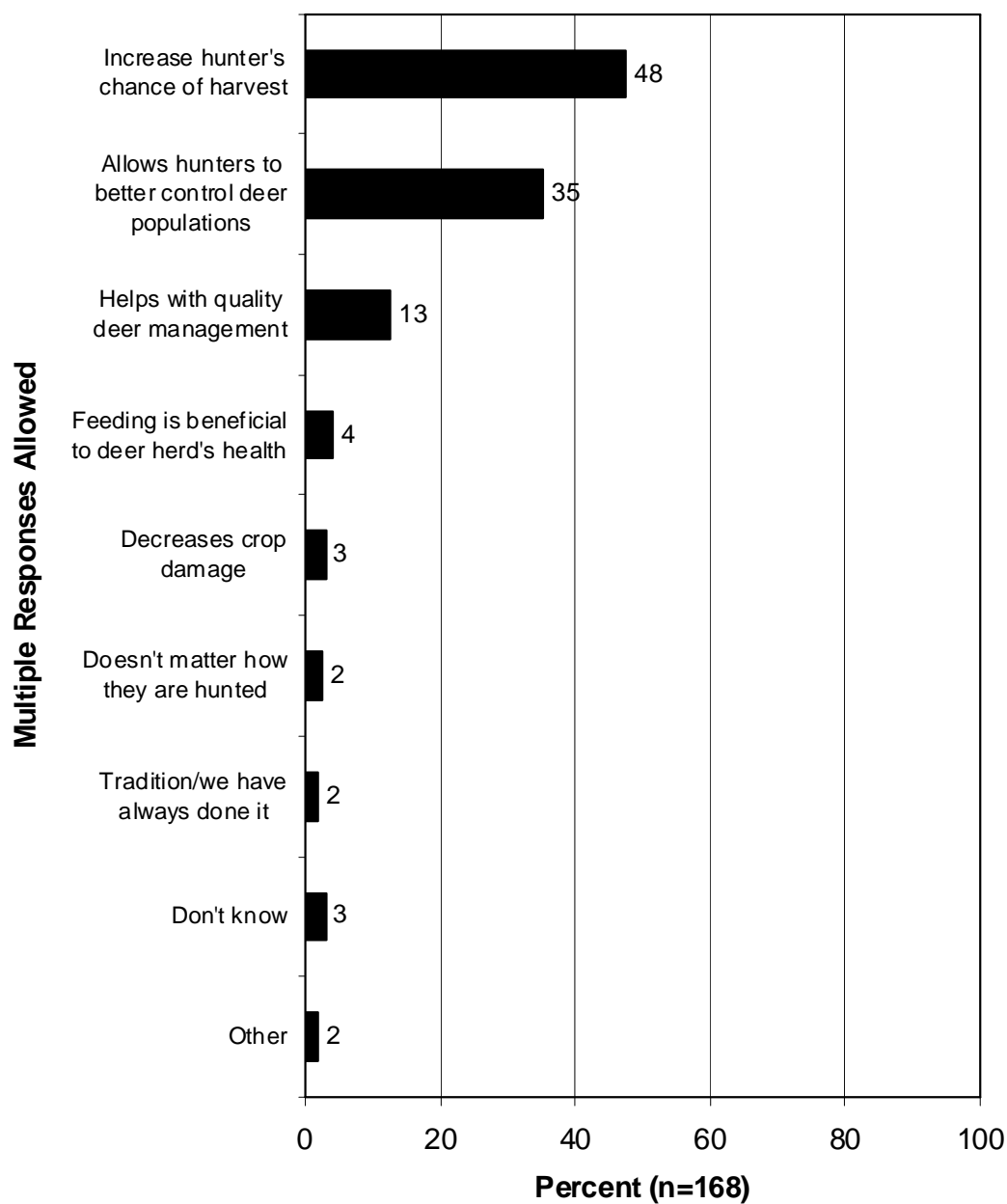
**Q45. What is your main reason for supporting hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who support hunting deer using bait.) (General population survey.)**



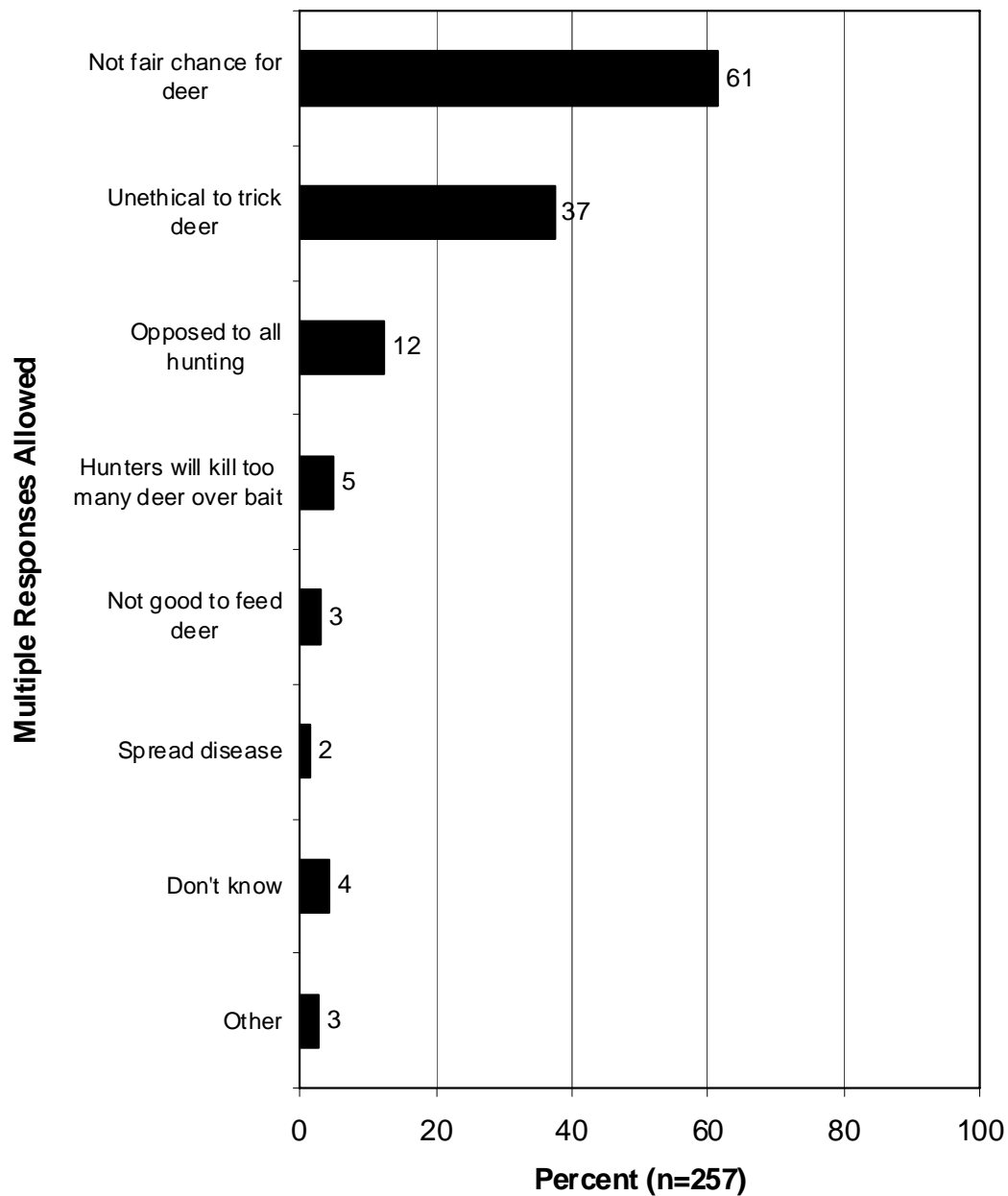
**Q116. What is your main reason for supporting hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who support hunting deer using bait.) (Hunter survey.)**



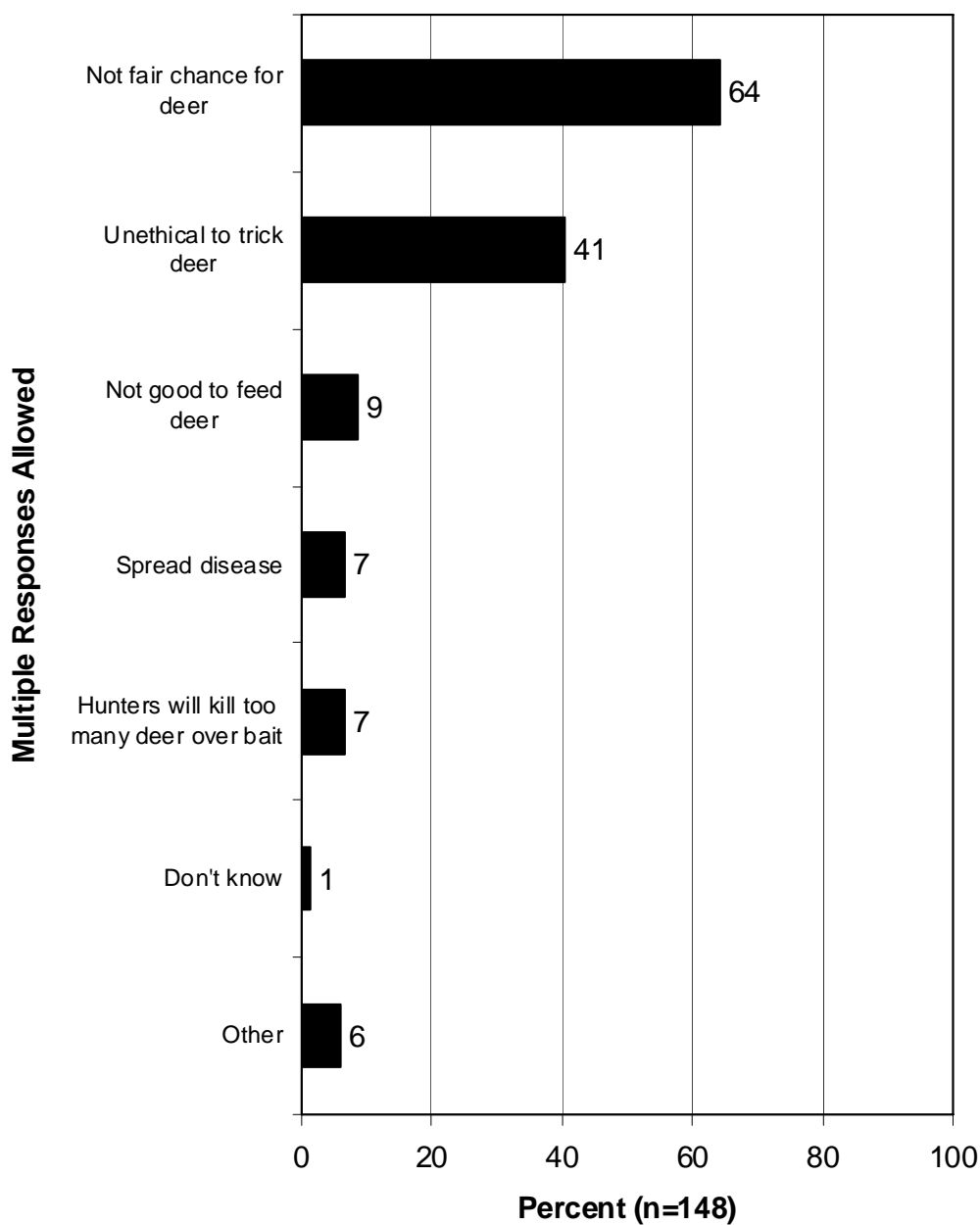
**Q43. What is your main reason for supporting hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who support hunting deer using bait.) (Landowner survey.)**



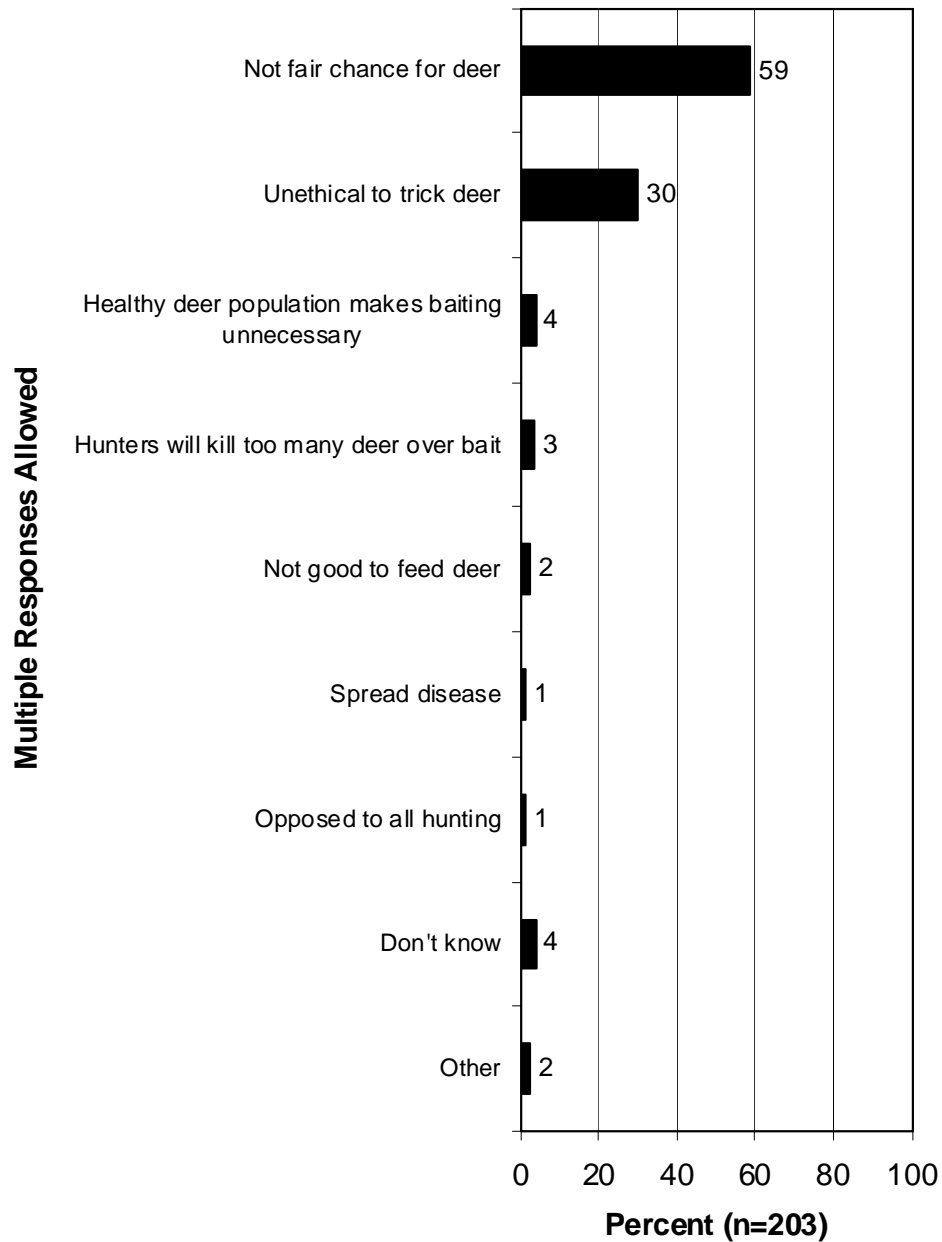
**Q49. What is your main reason for opposing hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who oppose hunting deer using bait.) (General population survey.)**



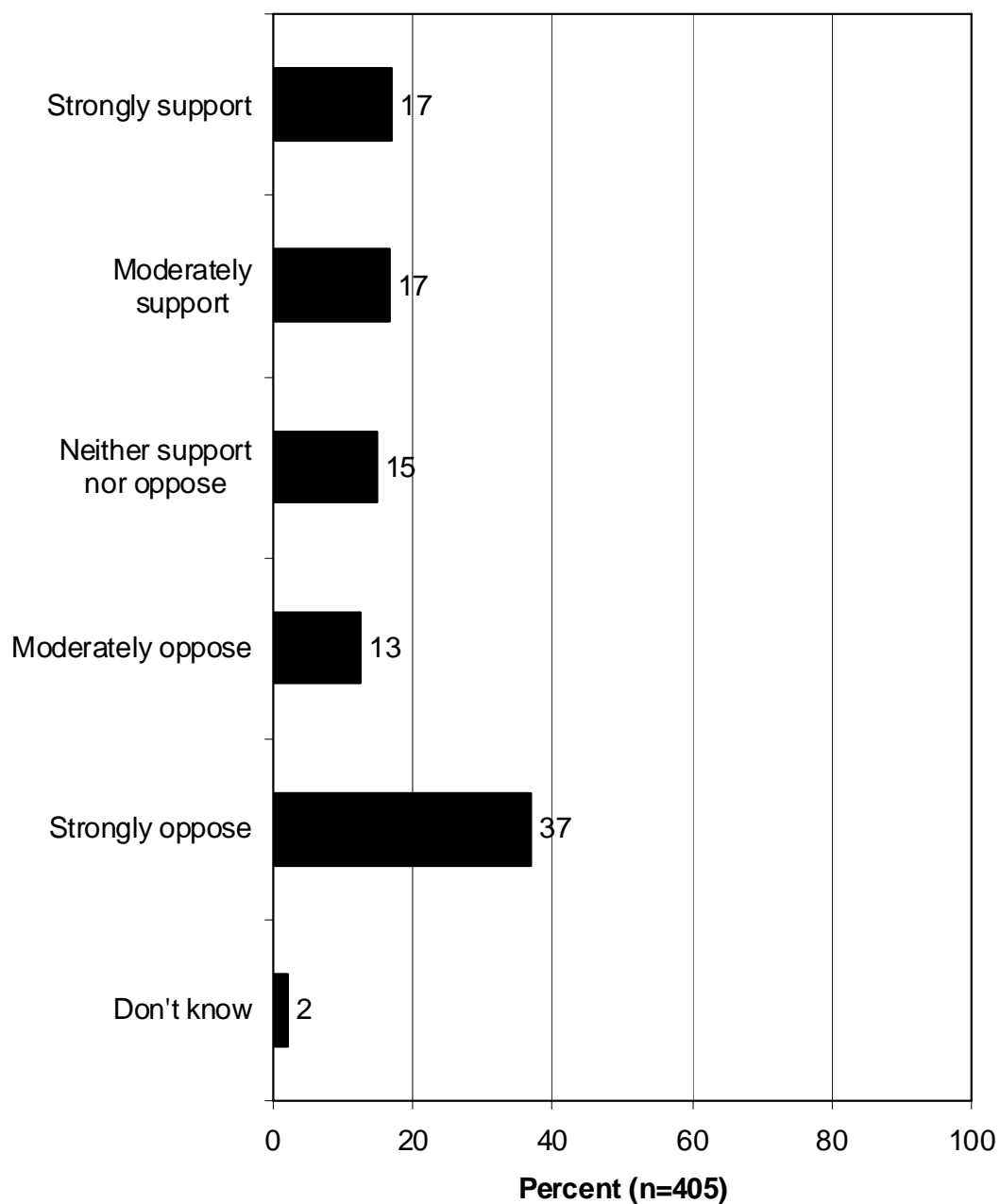
**Q120. What is your main reason for opposing hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who oppose hunting deer using bait.) (Hunter survey.)**



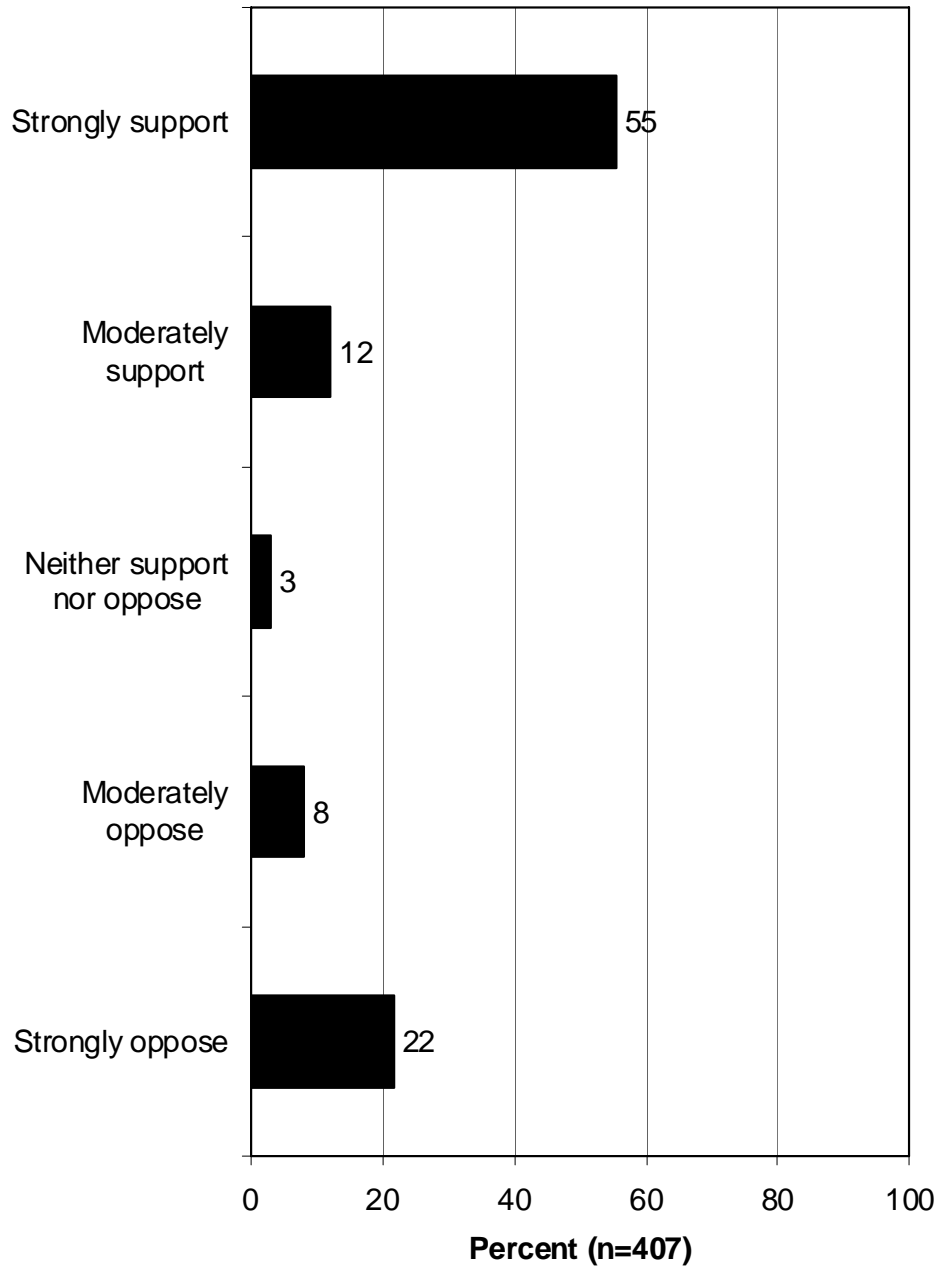
**Q47. What is your main reason for opposing hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who oppose hunting deer using bait.) (Landowner survey.)**



**Q41. In general, do you support or oppose deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland? (General population survey.)**

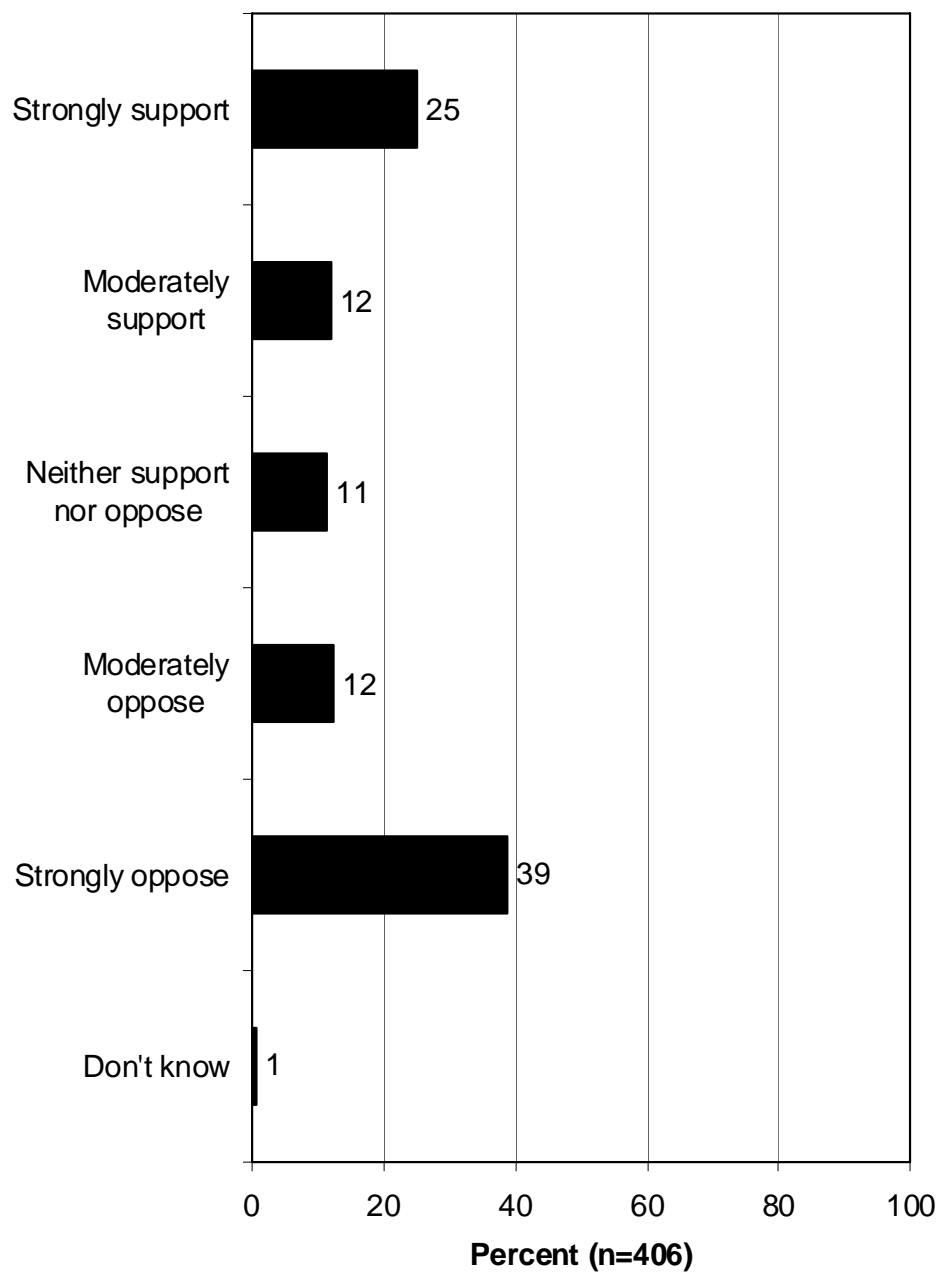


**Q123. In general, do you support or oppose deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**

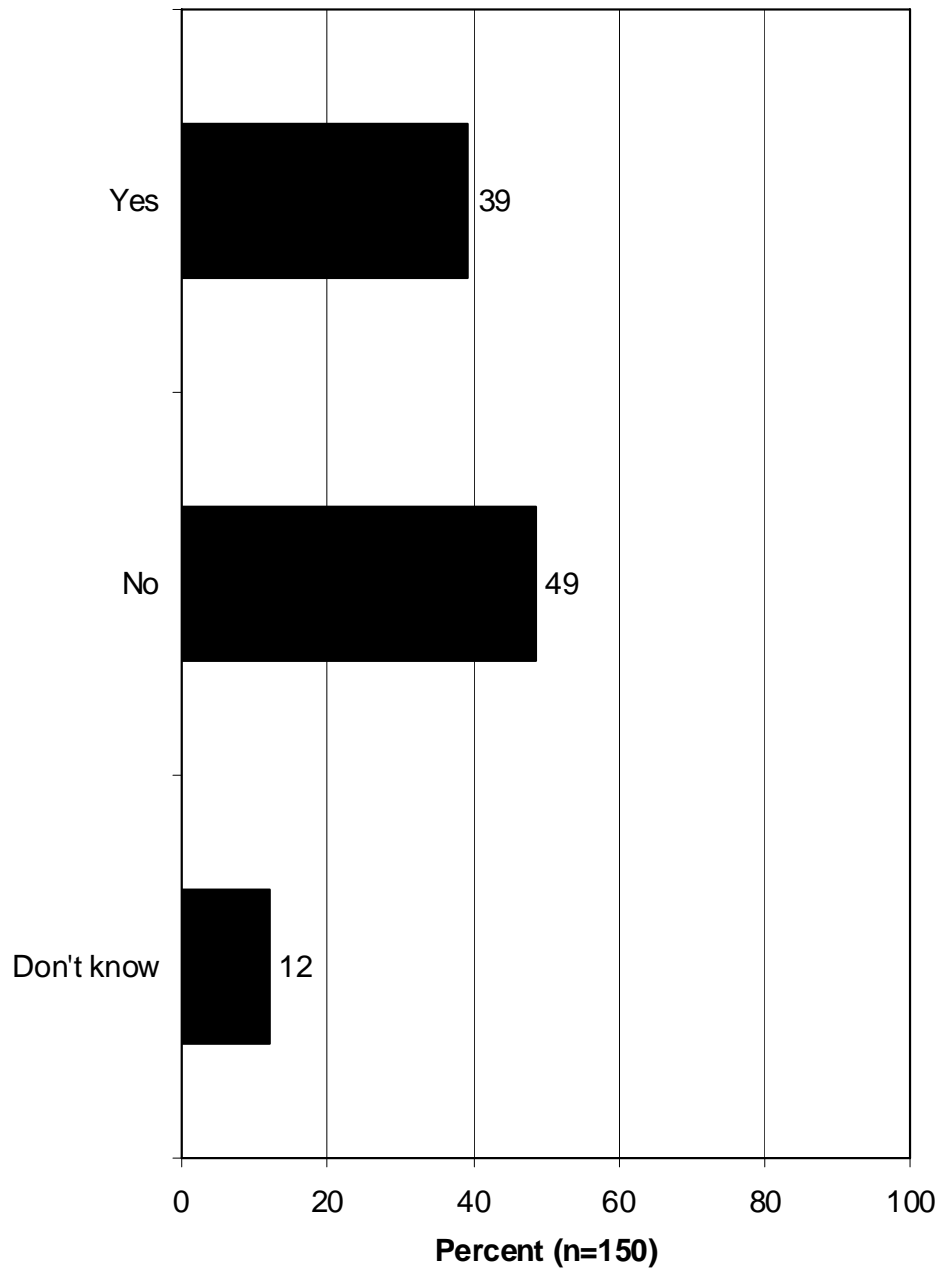




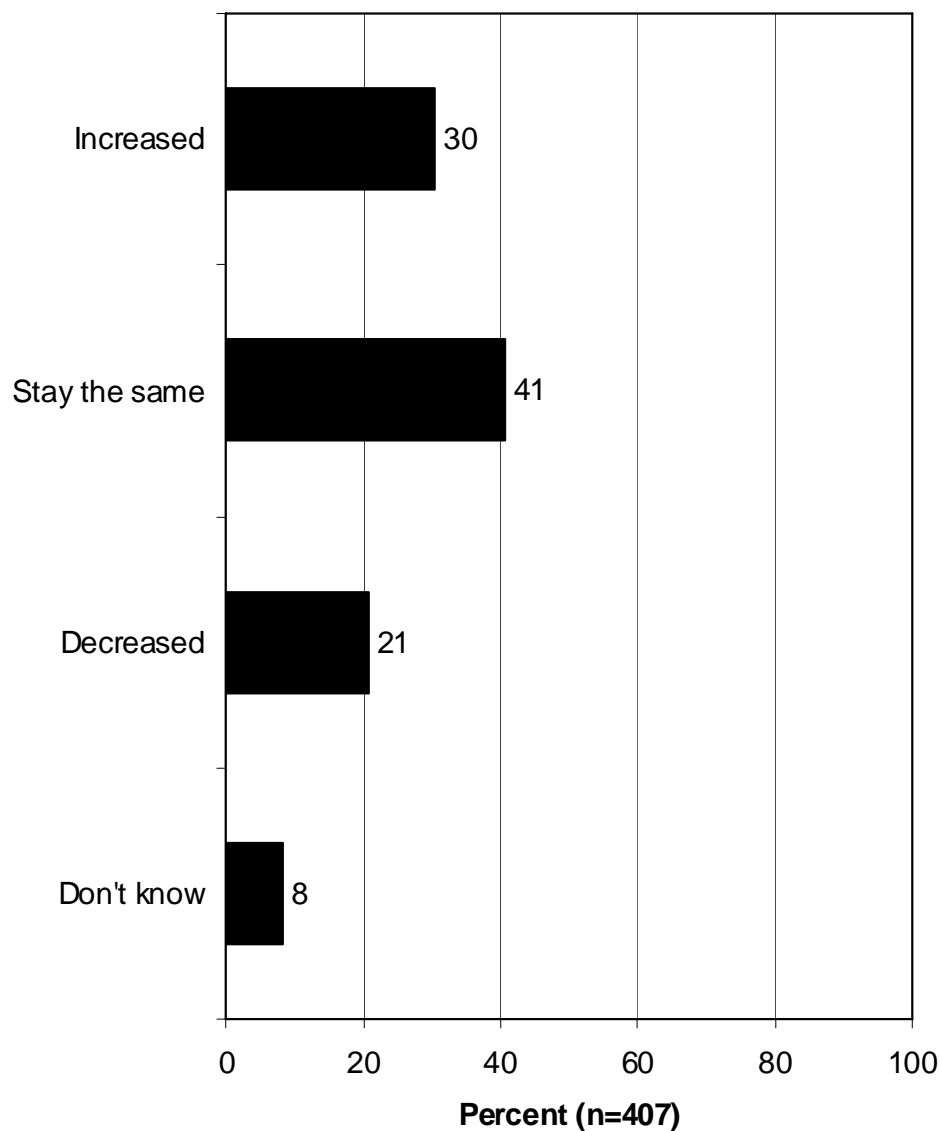
**Q39. In general, do you support or oppose deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**



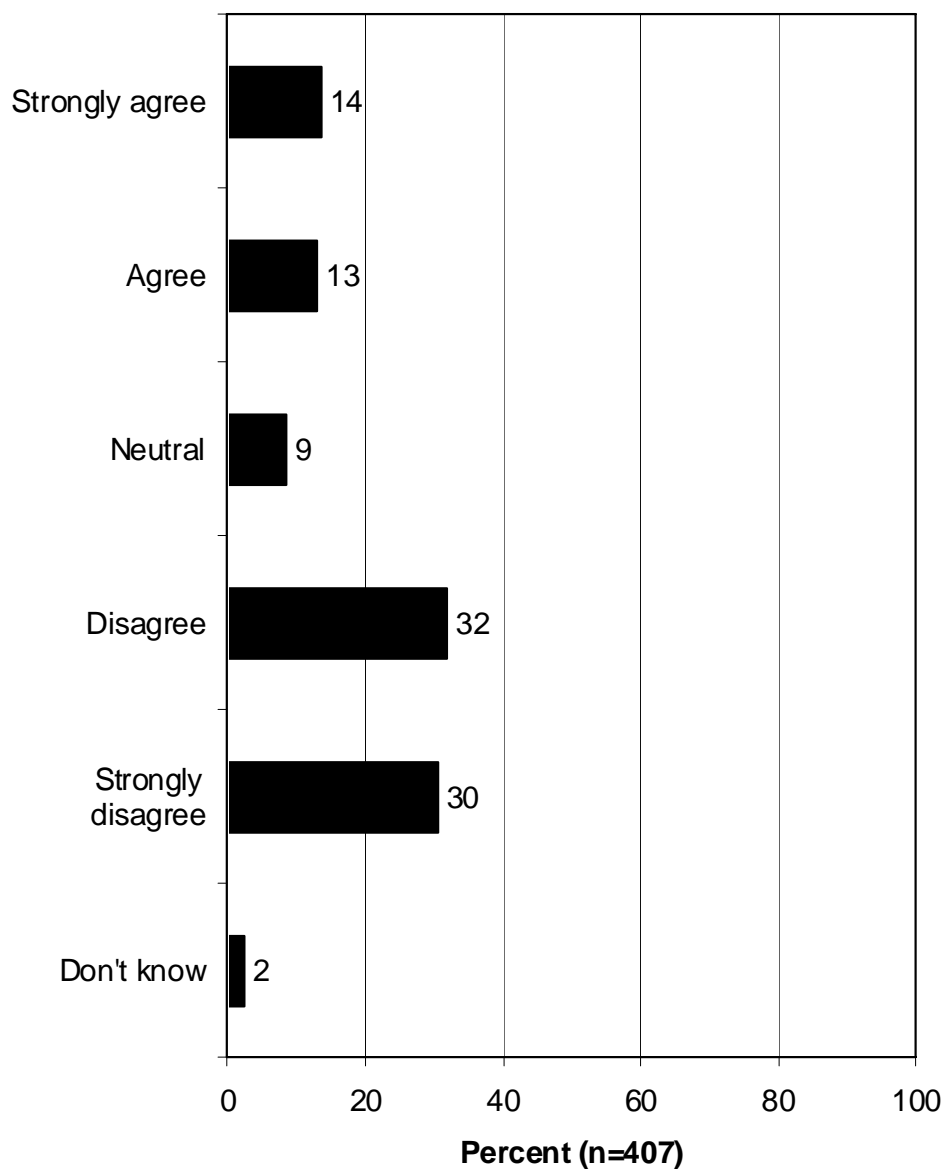
**Q93. Did you allow any legal Sunday deer hunting on your land in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property and whose counties have Sunday hunts.) (Landowner survey.)**



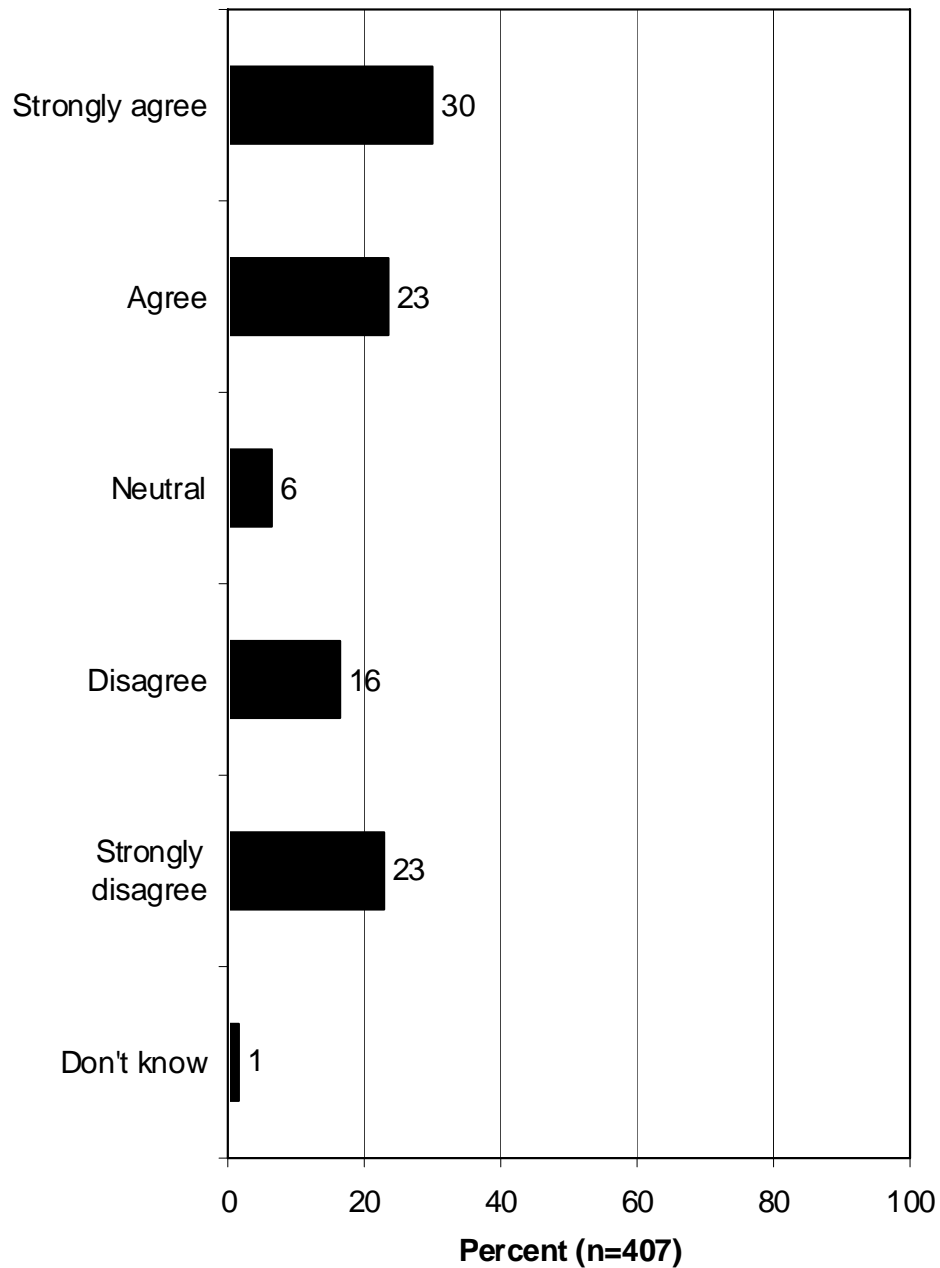
**Q60. Currently, it is legal to use crossbows to hunt deer during the bow season for 16 days early in the season and 17 days later in the season for a total of 33 days. Do you think the number of days it is legal to use crossbows to hunt deer in Maryland should be increased, stay the same, or be decreased? (Hunter survey.)**



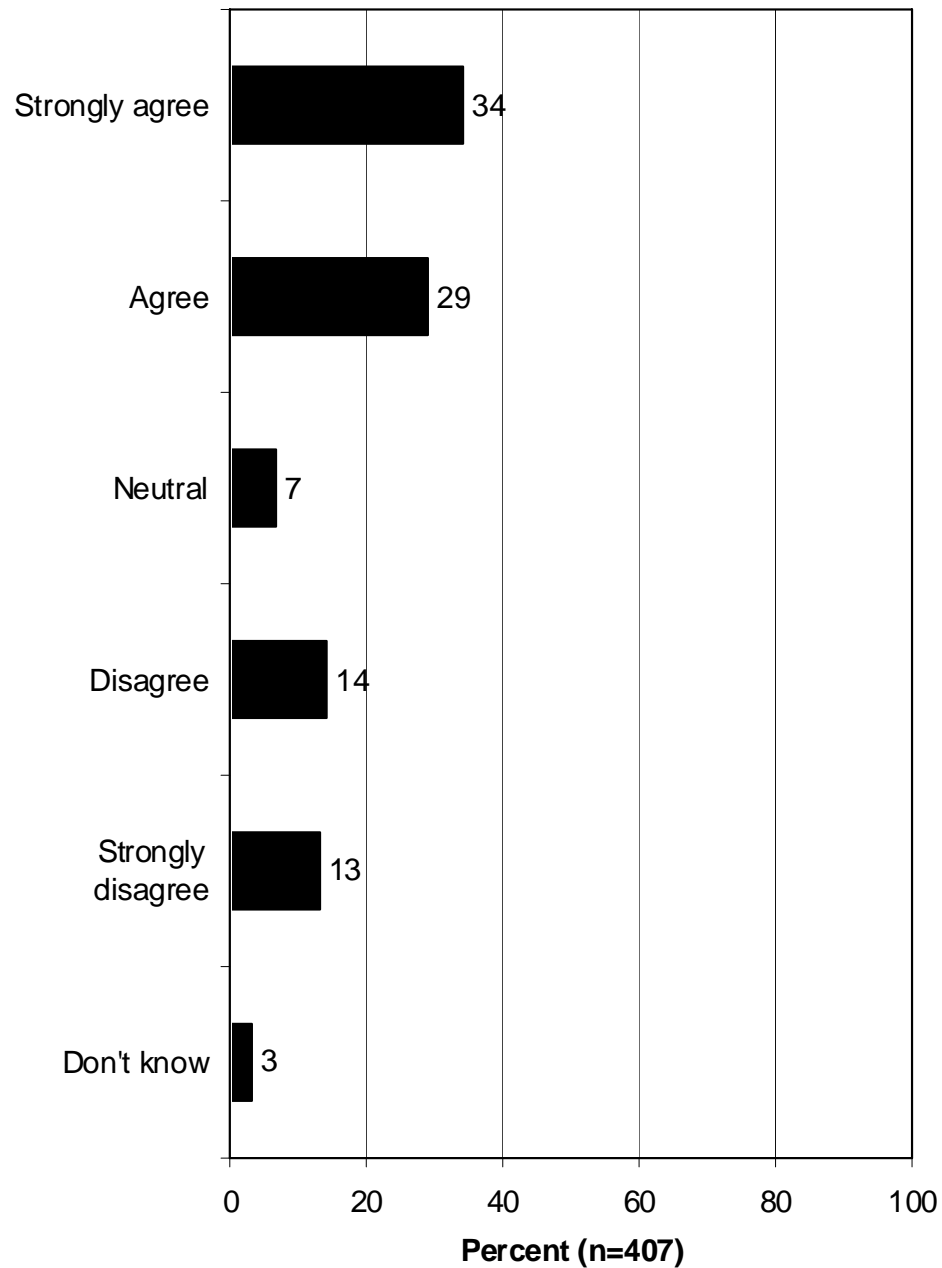
**Q61. Do you agree or disagree that Maryland should establish a separate crossbow deer hunting season so that there are different dates and different bag limits for hunting deer with crossbows than there are for all other types of bows during the bow season? (Hunter survey.)**



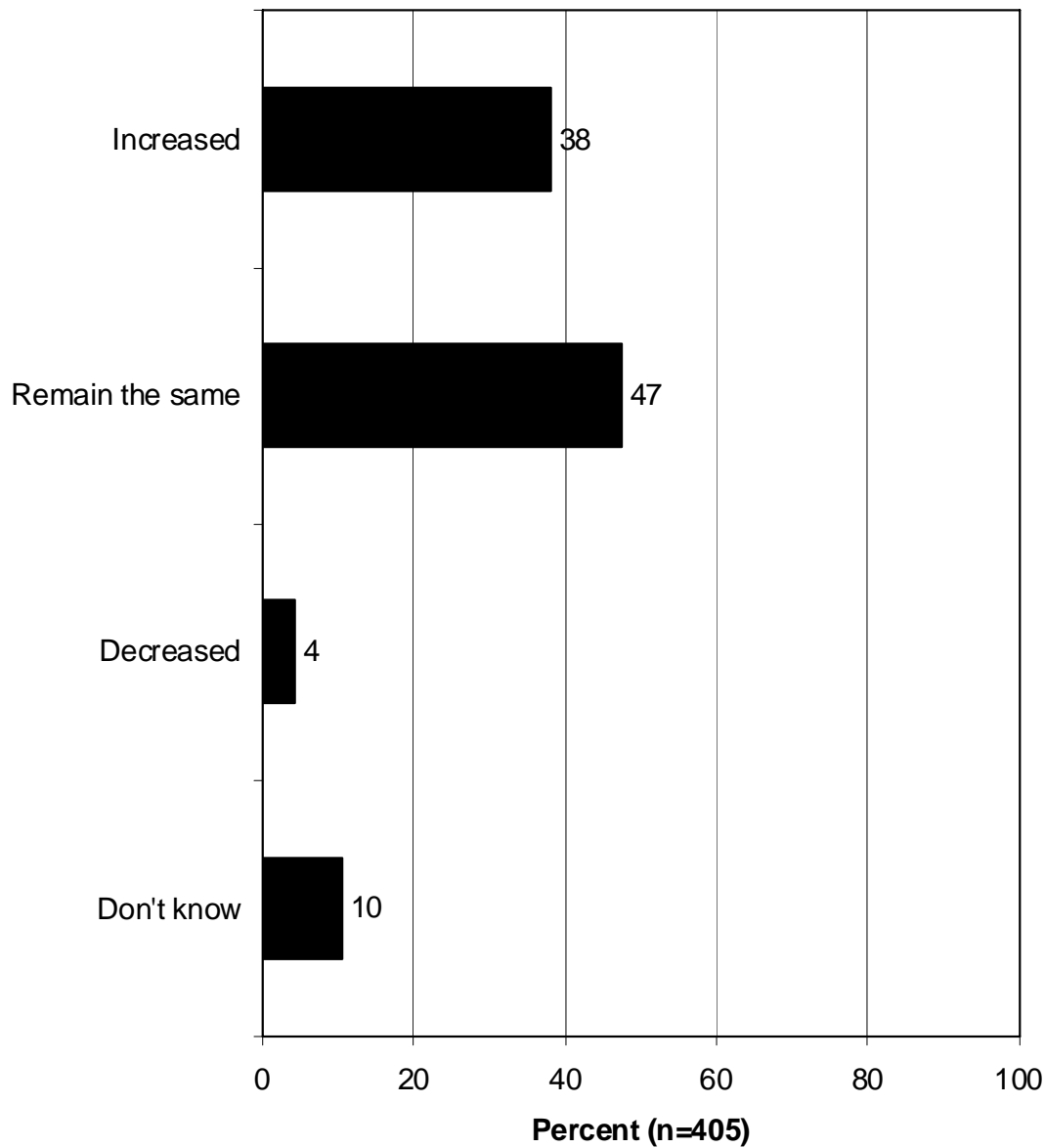
**Q63. Do you agree or disagree that Maryland should allow crossbows to be used during all of the archery season? (Hunter survey.)**



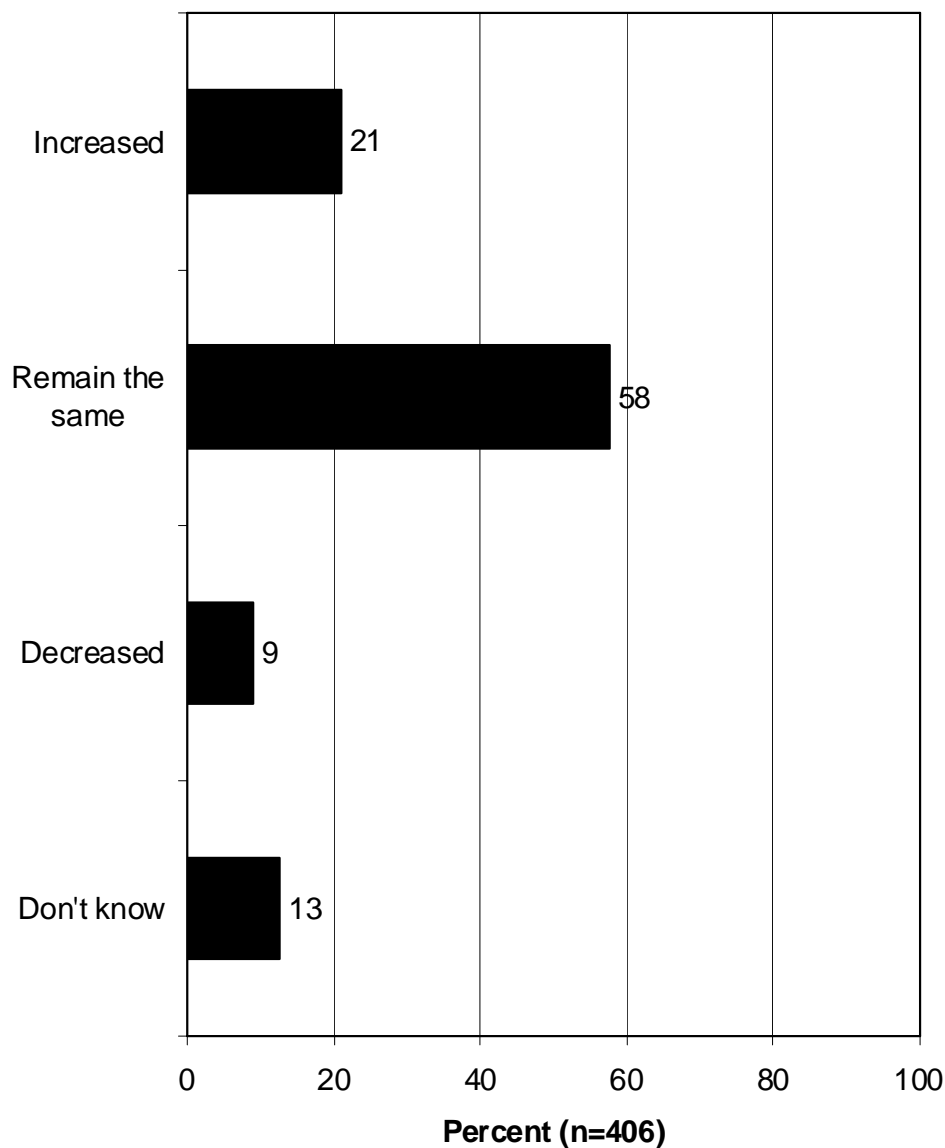
**Q62. Do you agree or disagree that Maryland should expand crossbow seasons in suburban and urban counties? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q85. Current hunting regulations specify that hunters cannot bowhunt within 150 yards of a normally occupied structure unless they have permission from the owner or occupant. Do you think this distance should be increased, remain the same, or be decreased? (General population survey.)**

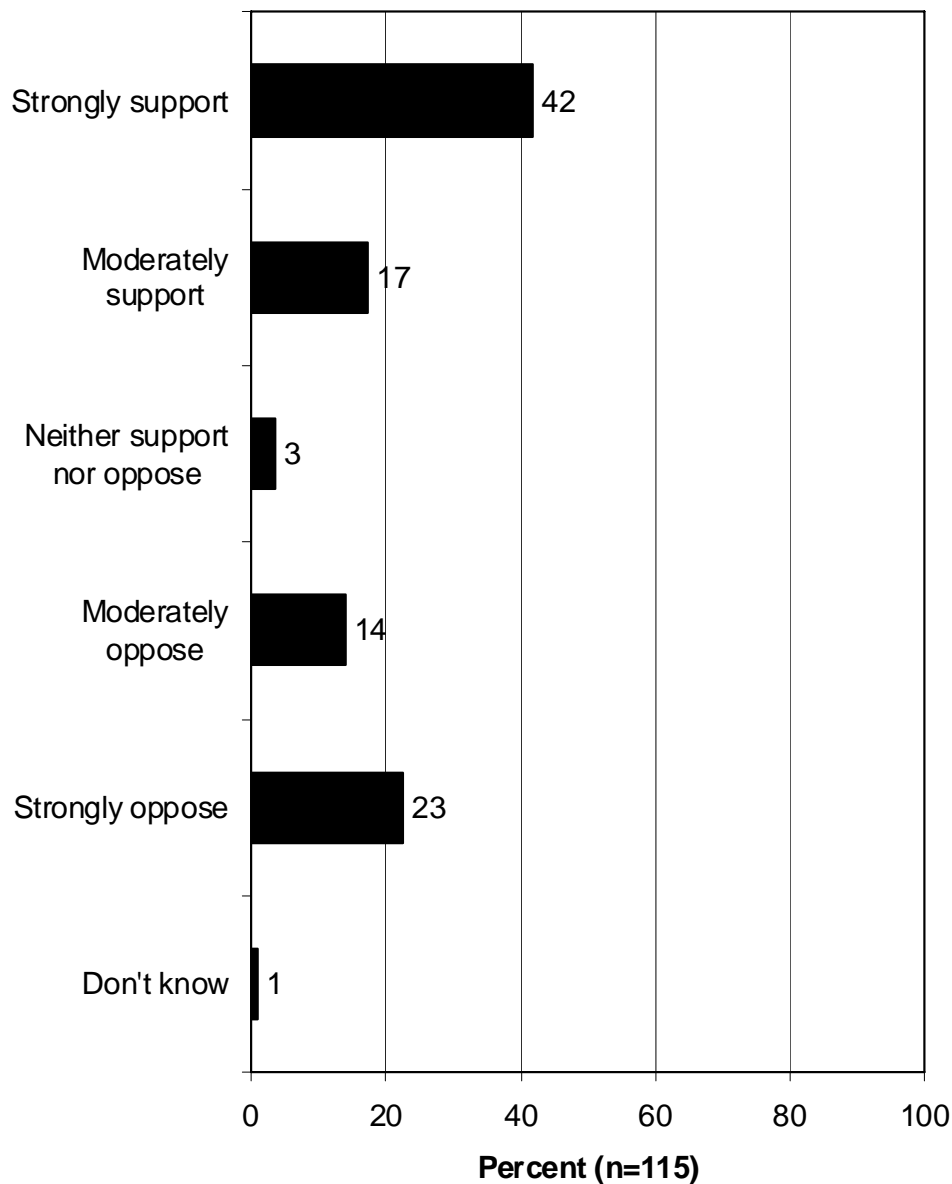


**Q79. Current hunting regulations specify that hunters cannot bowhunt within 150 yards of a normally occupied structure unless they have permission from the owner or occupant. Do you think this distance should be increased, remain the same, or be decreased? (Landowner survey.)**

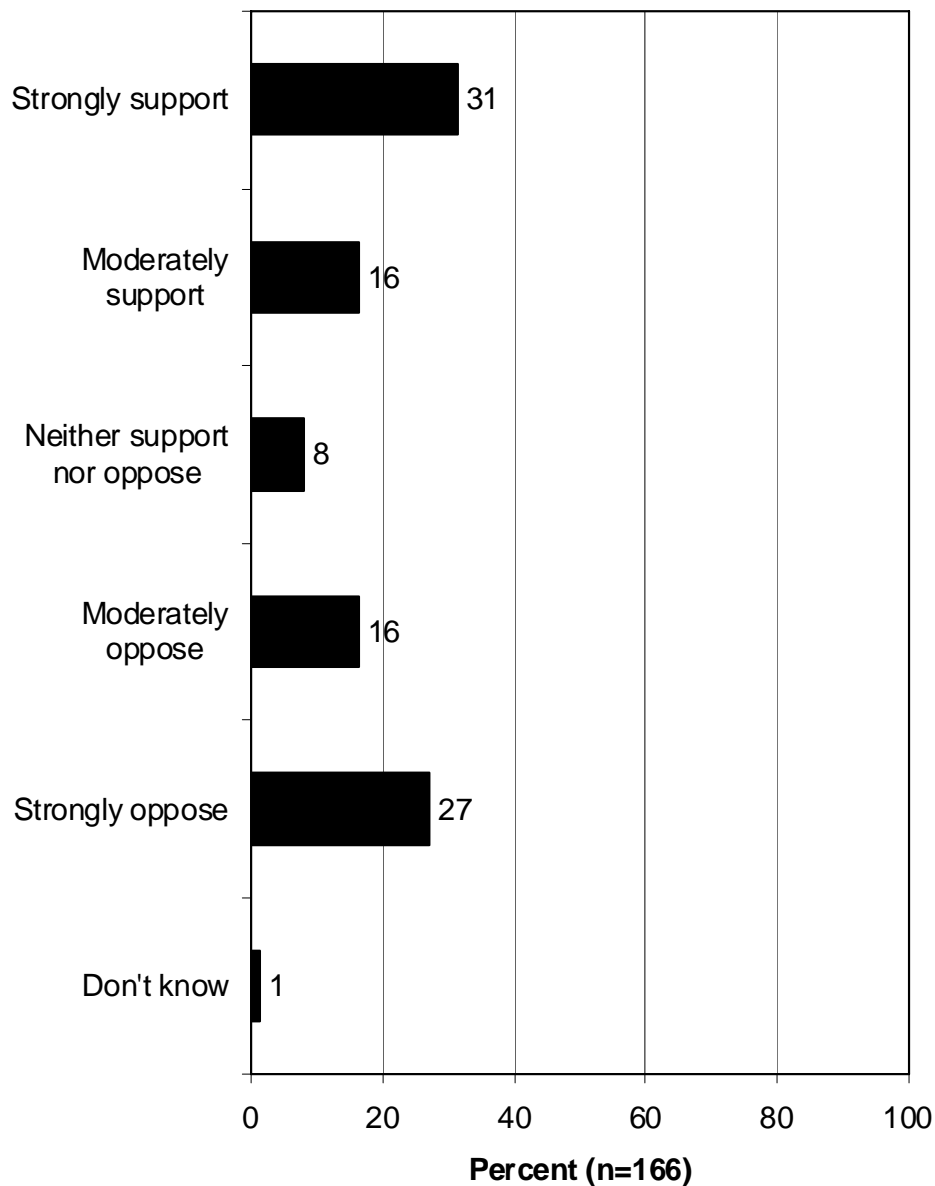




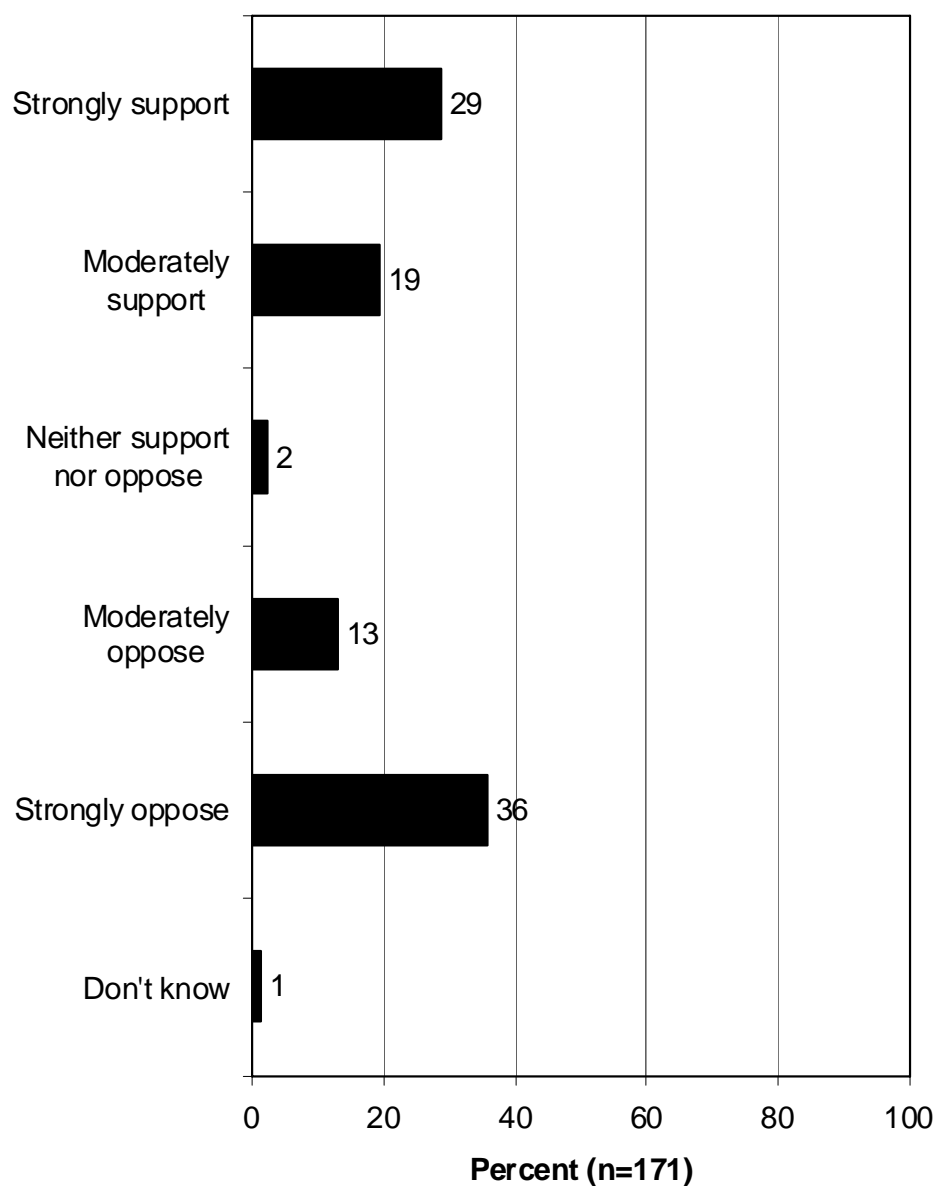
**Q67. Currently, the antlered deer bag limit in Region A is a total of 3 antlered deer per year. Would you support or oppose reducing the total antlered bag limit for Region A to 2 antlered deer per year? (Asked of those who hunted in Region A in the past two years.) (Hunter survey.)**



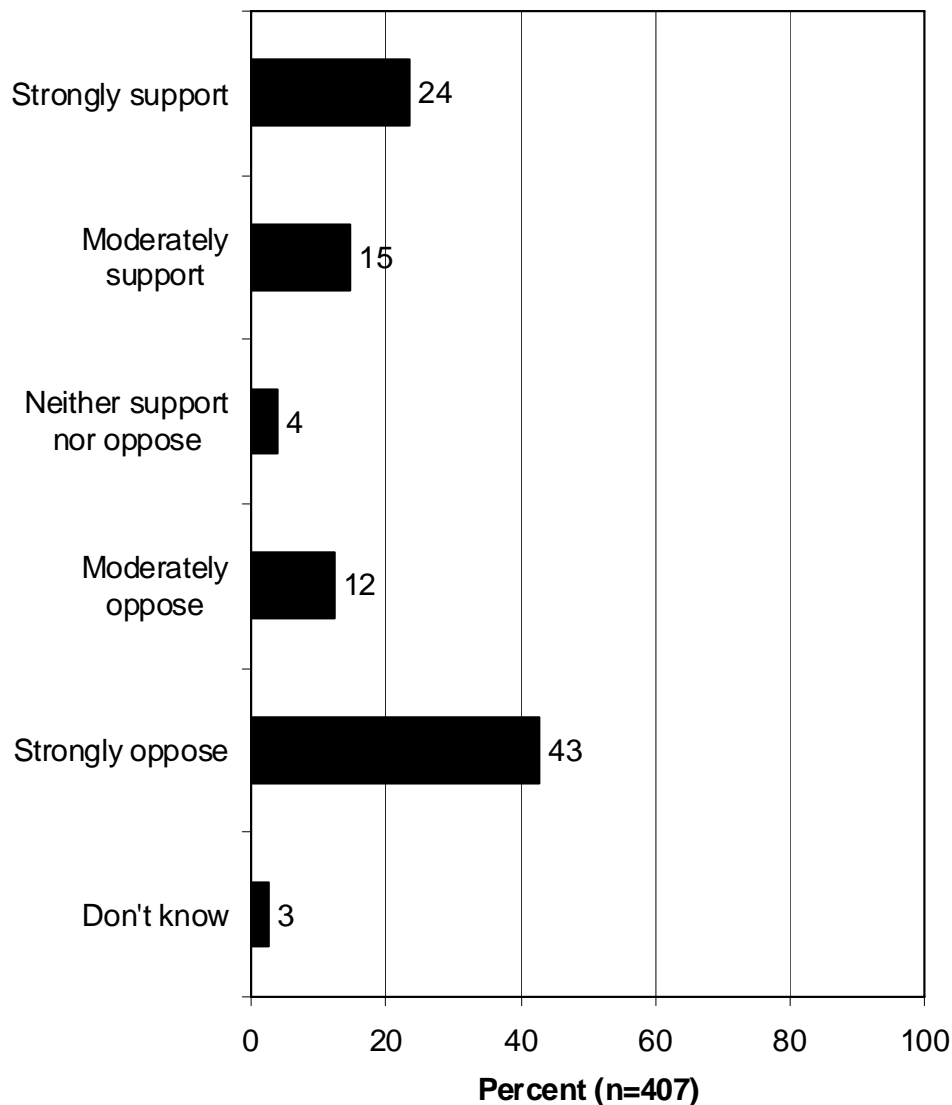
**Q78. Currently, the antlered deer bag limit is a total of 6 antlered deer per year in Region B. Would you support or oppose reducing the total bag limit for Region B to 3 antlered deer per year? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



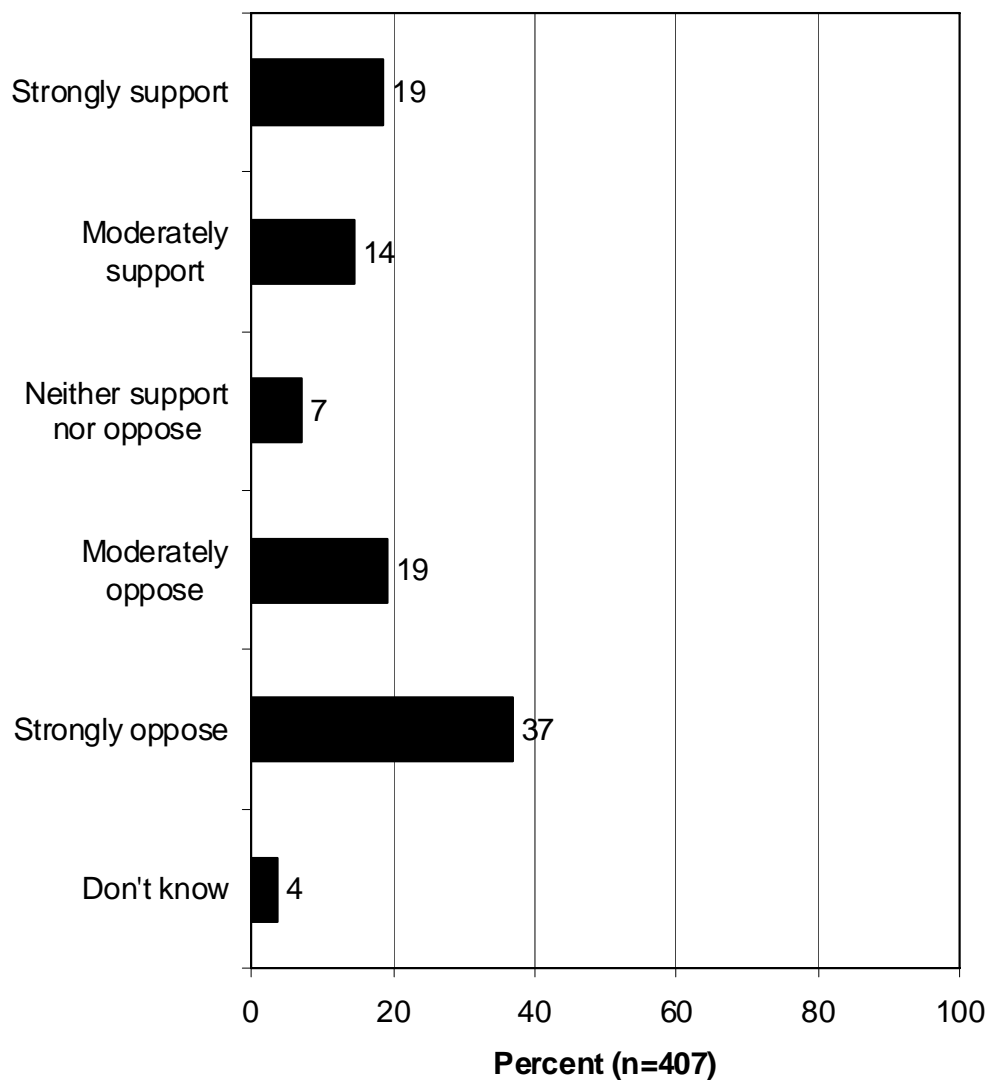
**Q79. Currently, the antlered deer bag limit is a total of 6 antlered deer per year in Region B. Would you support or oppose reducing the total bag limit for Region B to 2 antlered deer per year? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



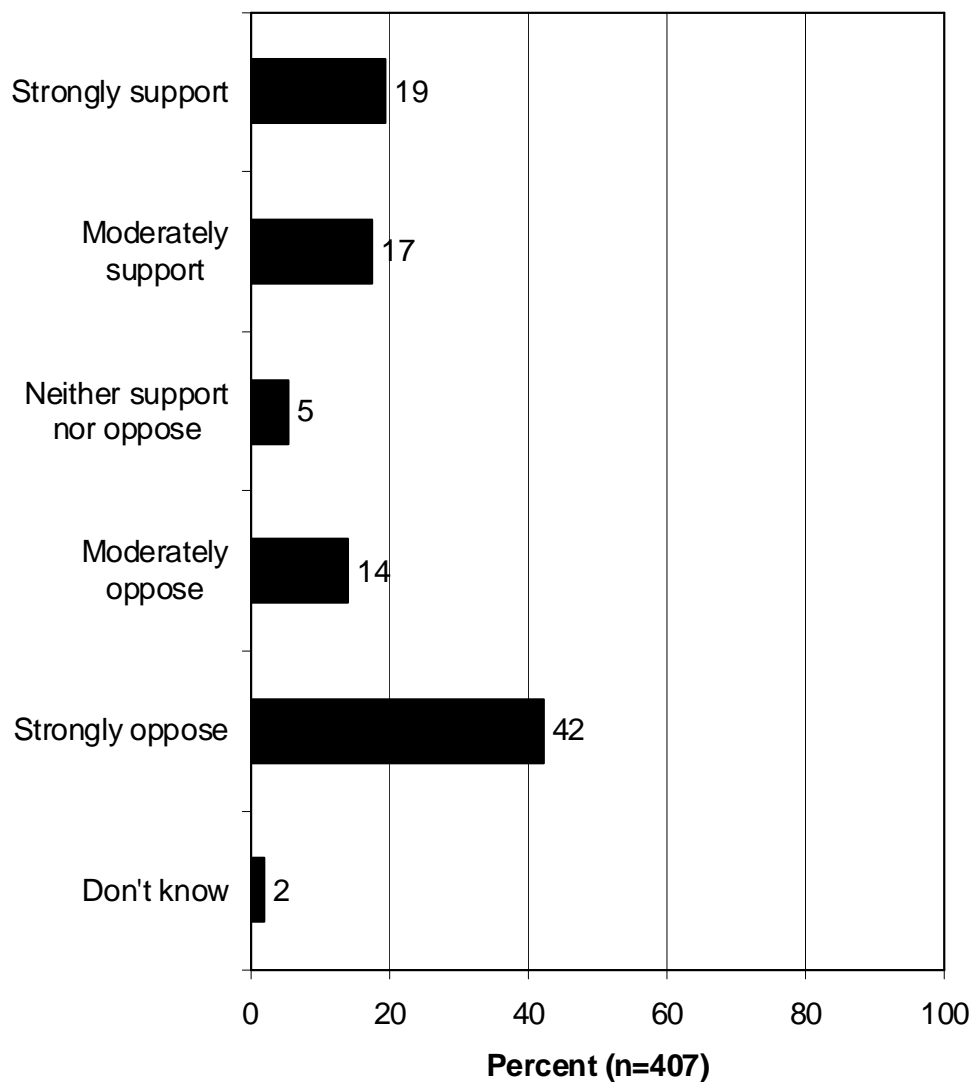
**Q100. Would you support or oppose one yearly antlered bag limit instead of separate bag limits for each season for the bow, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons, meaning that any antlered deer you harvest will count toward this one yearly bag limit regardless of during which weapons season it was harvested? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q101. Currently, Region A and Region B have separate deer bag limits. Would you support or oppose establishing one statewide antlered deer bag limit instead of separate antlered bag limits for each region, meaning that any antlered deer you harvest will count toward this one statewide bag limit regardless of whether it was harvested in Region A or Region B? (Hunter survey.)**



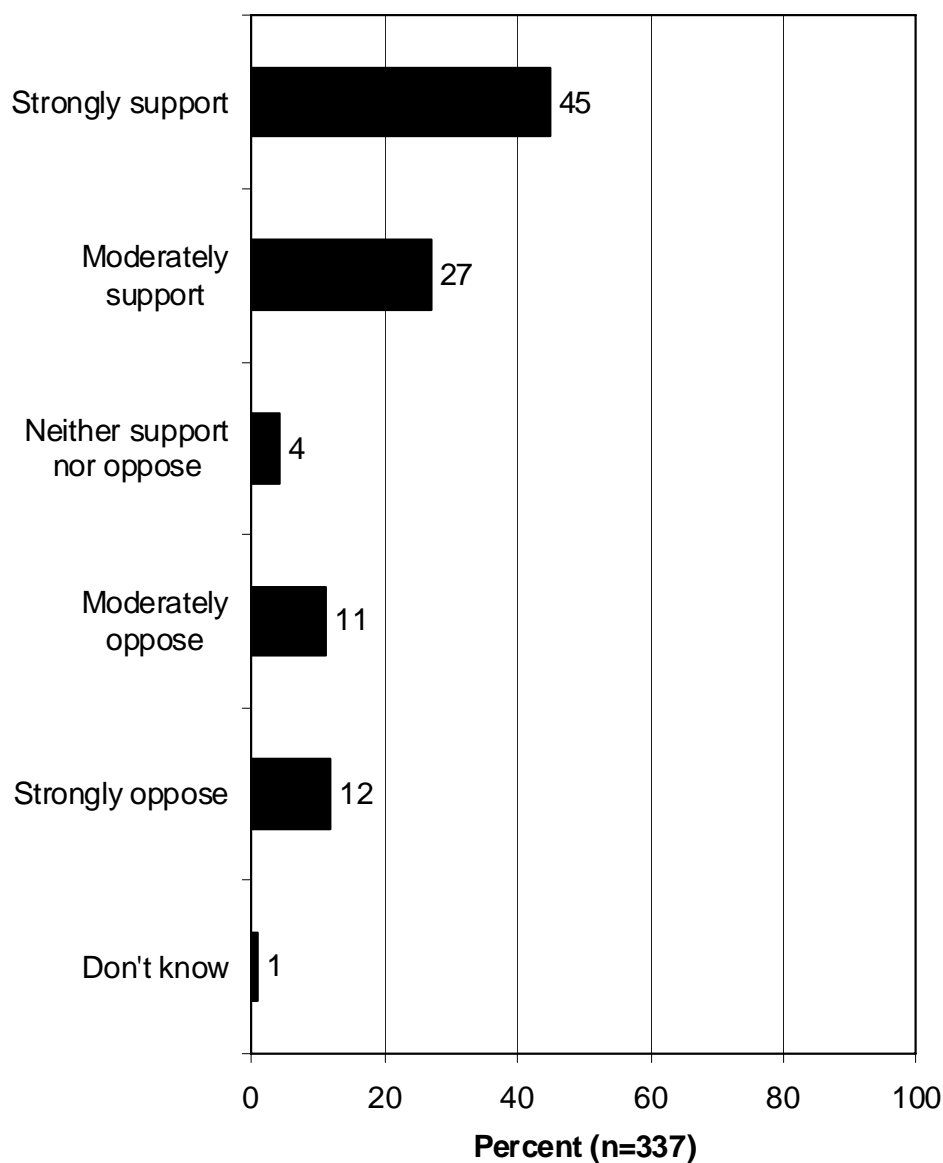
**Q102. Would you support or oppose a single yearly statewide antlered deer bag limit, that is one overall bag limit in Maryland each year instead of separate bag limits for each season in each region? This means that any antlered deer you harvest will count toward this single bag limit regardless of during which weapons season and in which region it was harvested. (Hunter survey.)**



**Q104. In your opinion, what do you think the single yearly statewide antlered deer bag limit should be?  
(Hunter survey.)**

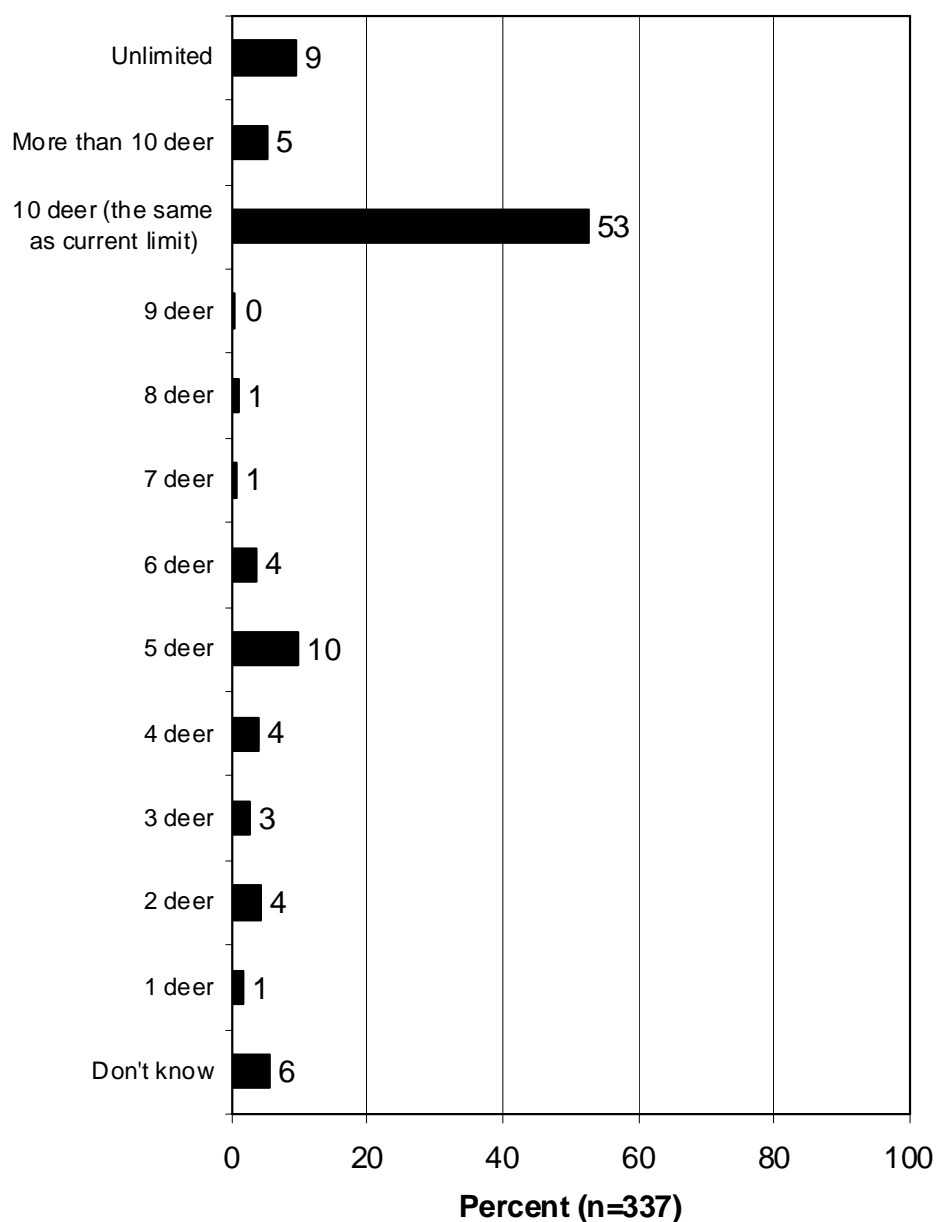


**Q80. Currently, the antlerless deer bag limit for Region B is 10 antlerless deer per season for the bow season, firearms season, and muzzleloader season. Do you support or oppose the 10 antlerless deer per season bag limit for Region B? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**

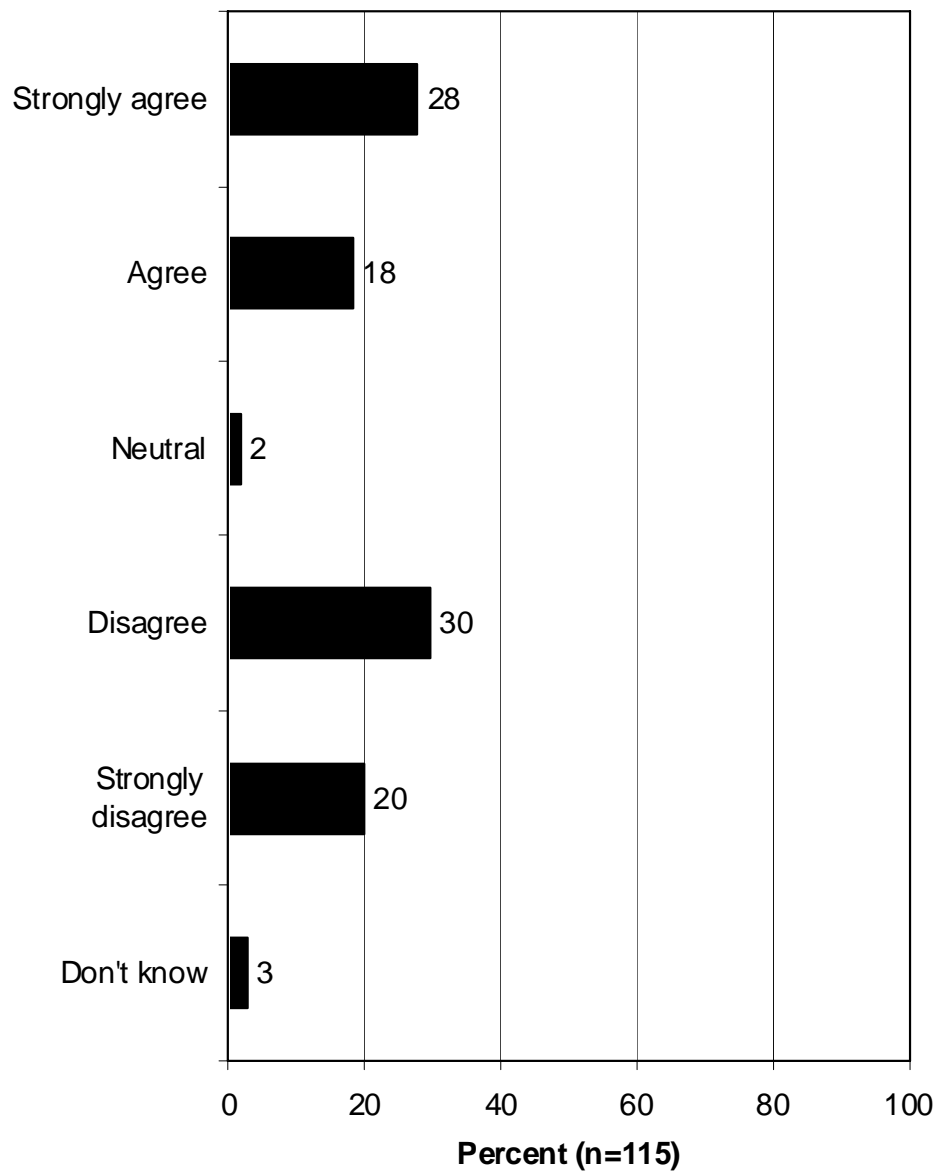




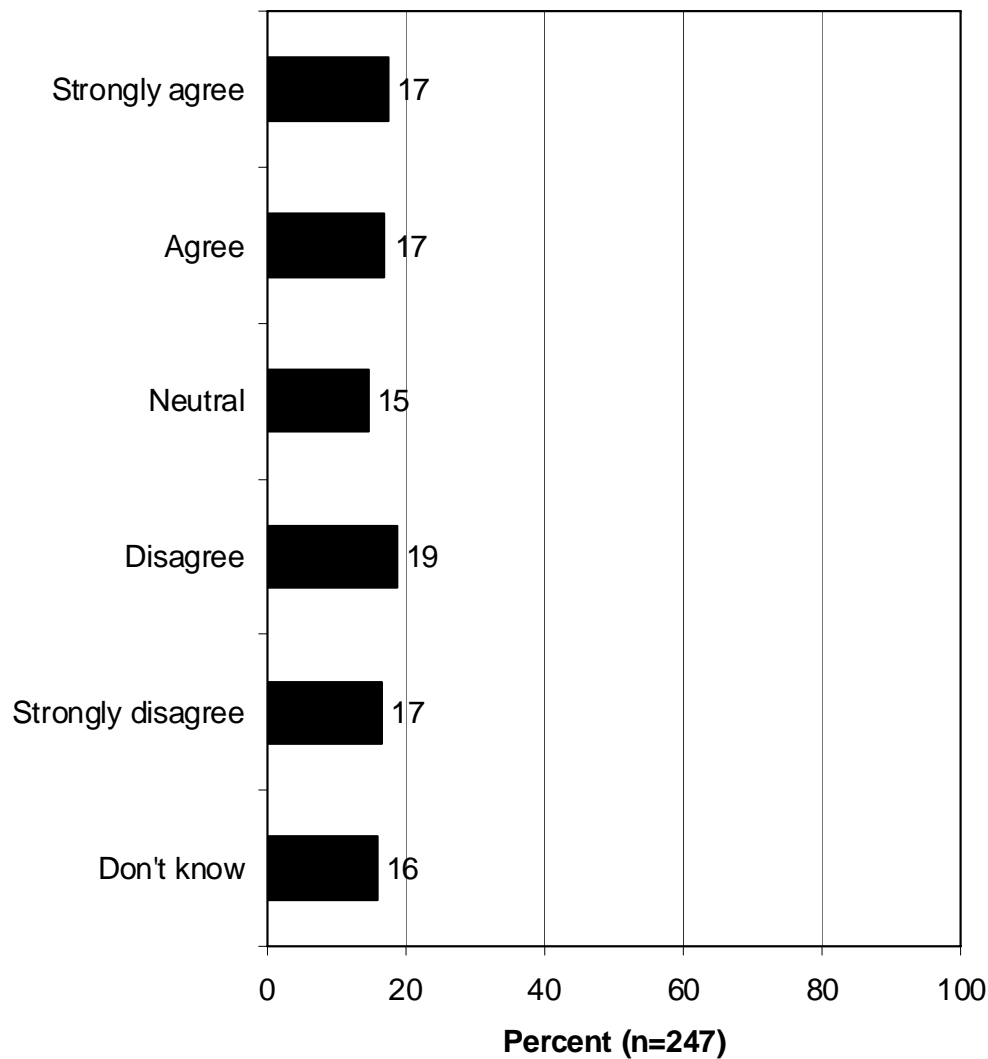
**Q81 and Q82 combined. In your opinion, what should the antlerless bag limit per season be for Region B? (Asked of those who hunted in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



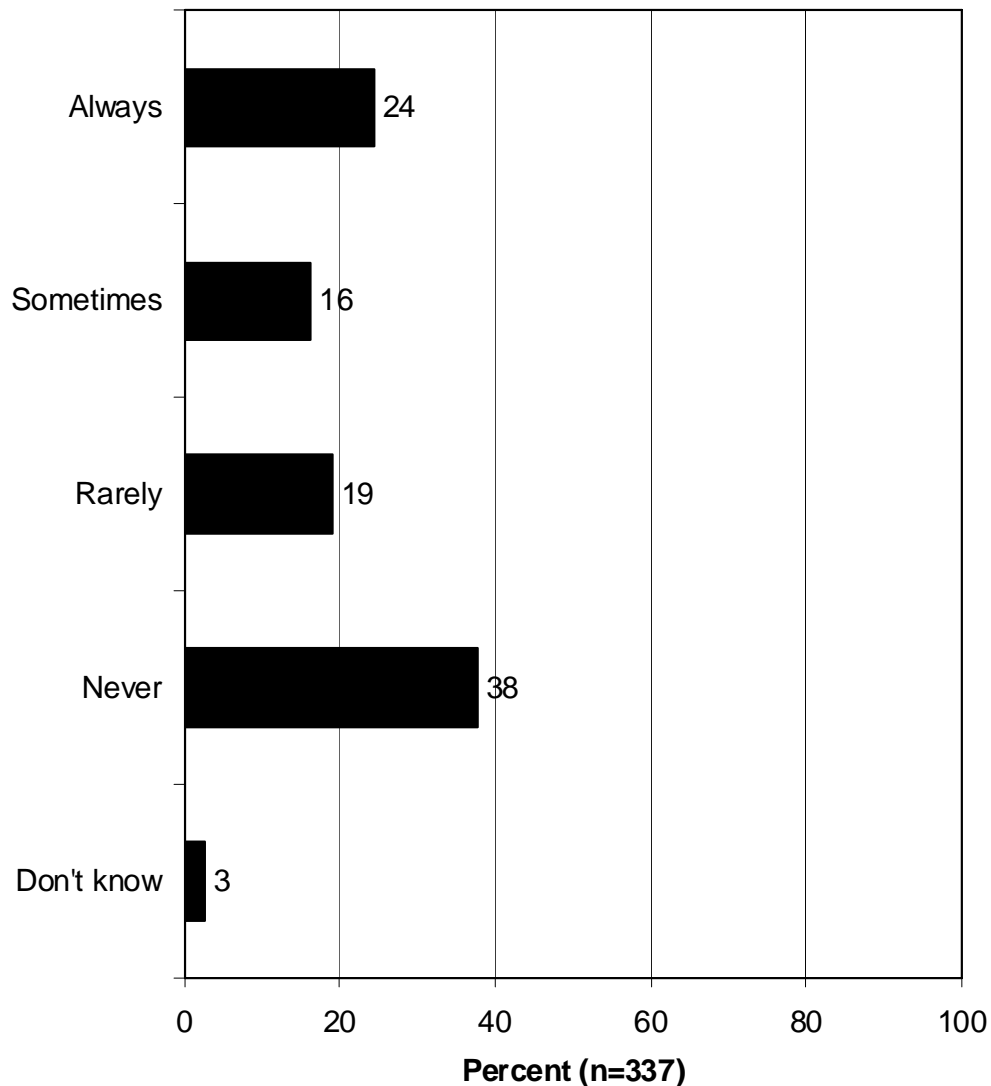
**Q74. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on Region A public lands should be managed separately from deer hunting on Region A private lands? (Asked of those who hunted in Region A in the past two years.) (Hunter survey.)**



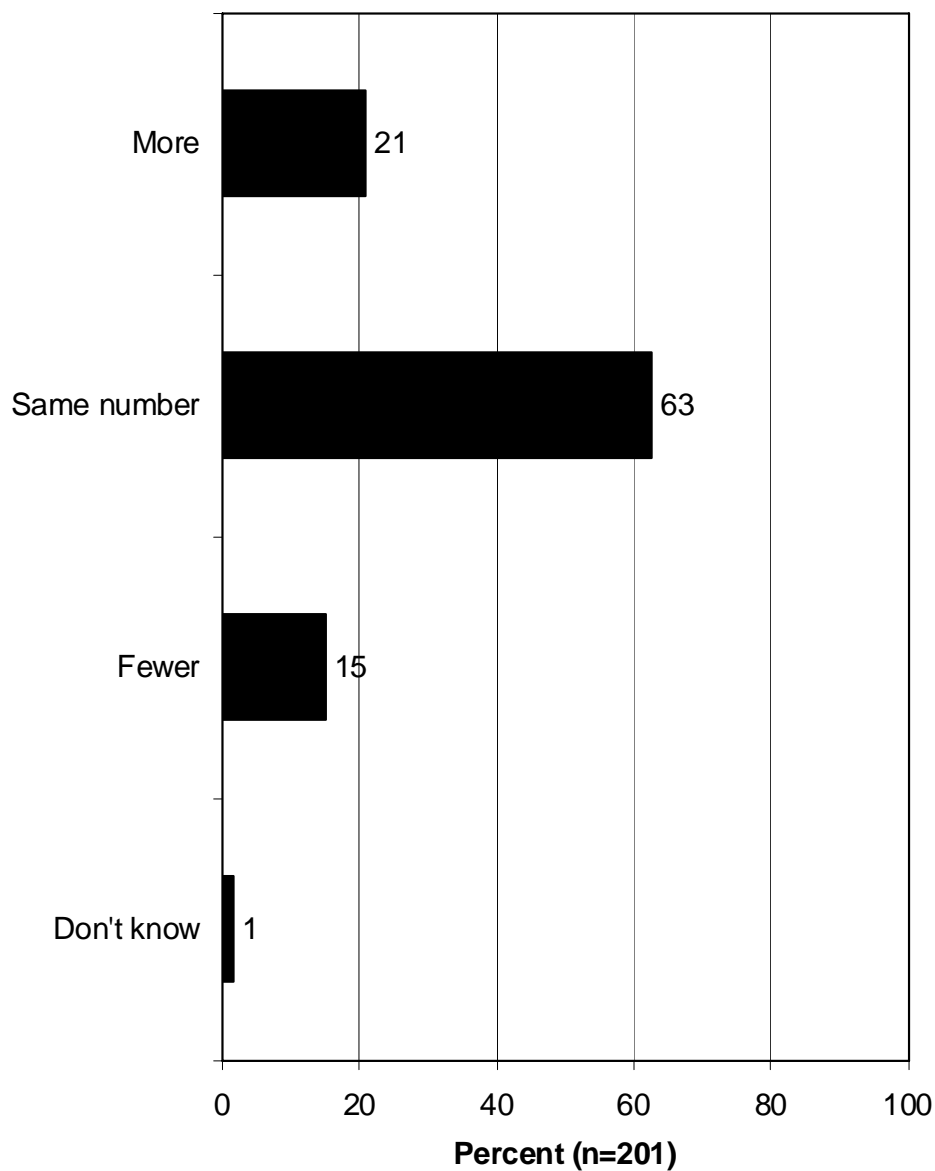
**Q93. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands in Washington and Frederick Counties? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public or private lands in Washington or Frederick County at least "rarely" in the past 2 years.)**



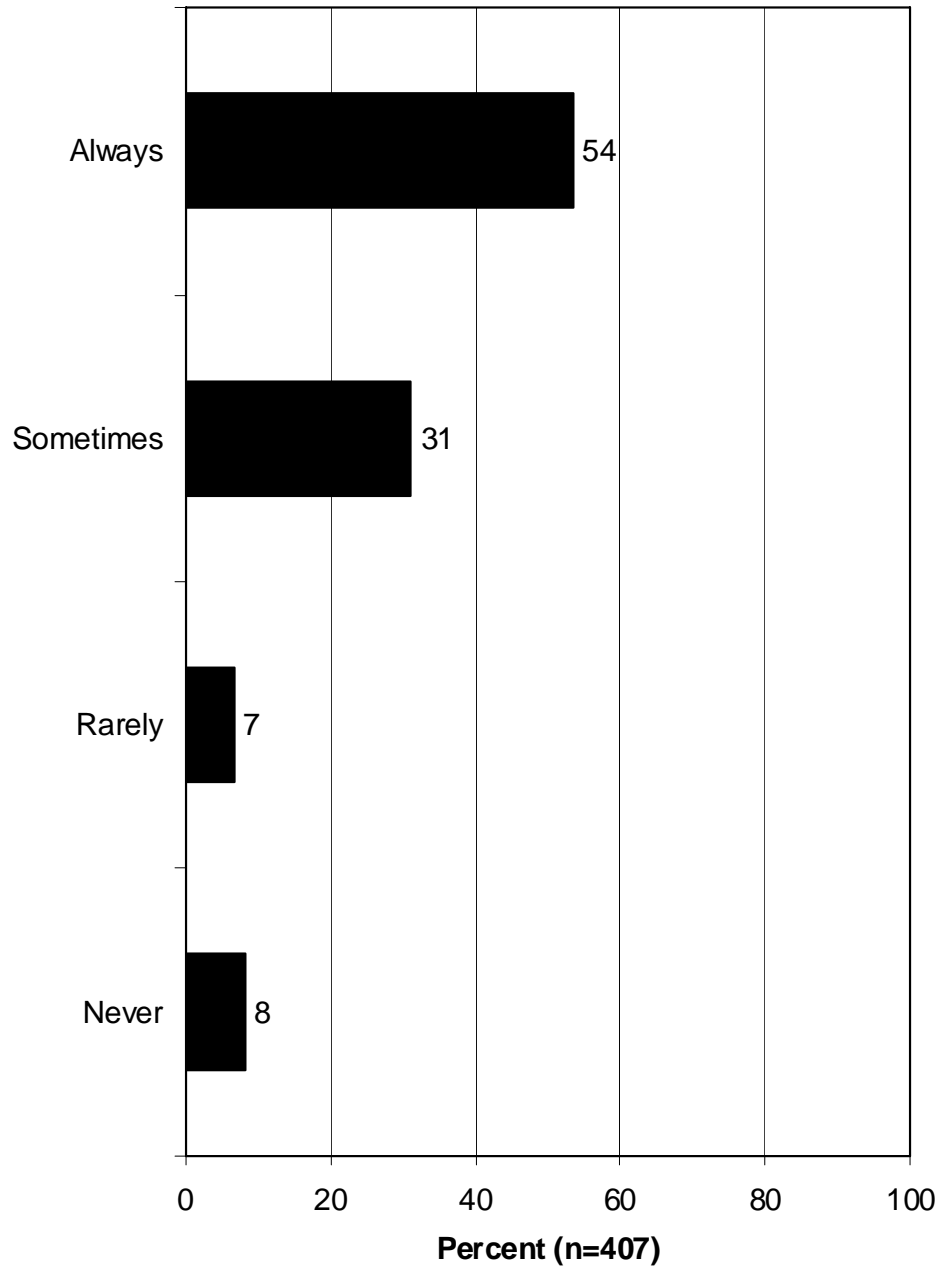
**Q84. Currently, hunters are required to harvest 2 antlerless deer before they can take a bonus antlered deer during each season in Region B. Do you always, sometimes, rarely, or never try to harvest 2 antlerless deer in a season so that you may harvest a bonus antlered deer? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey.)**



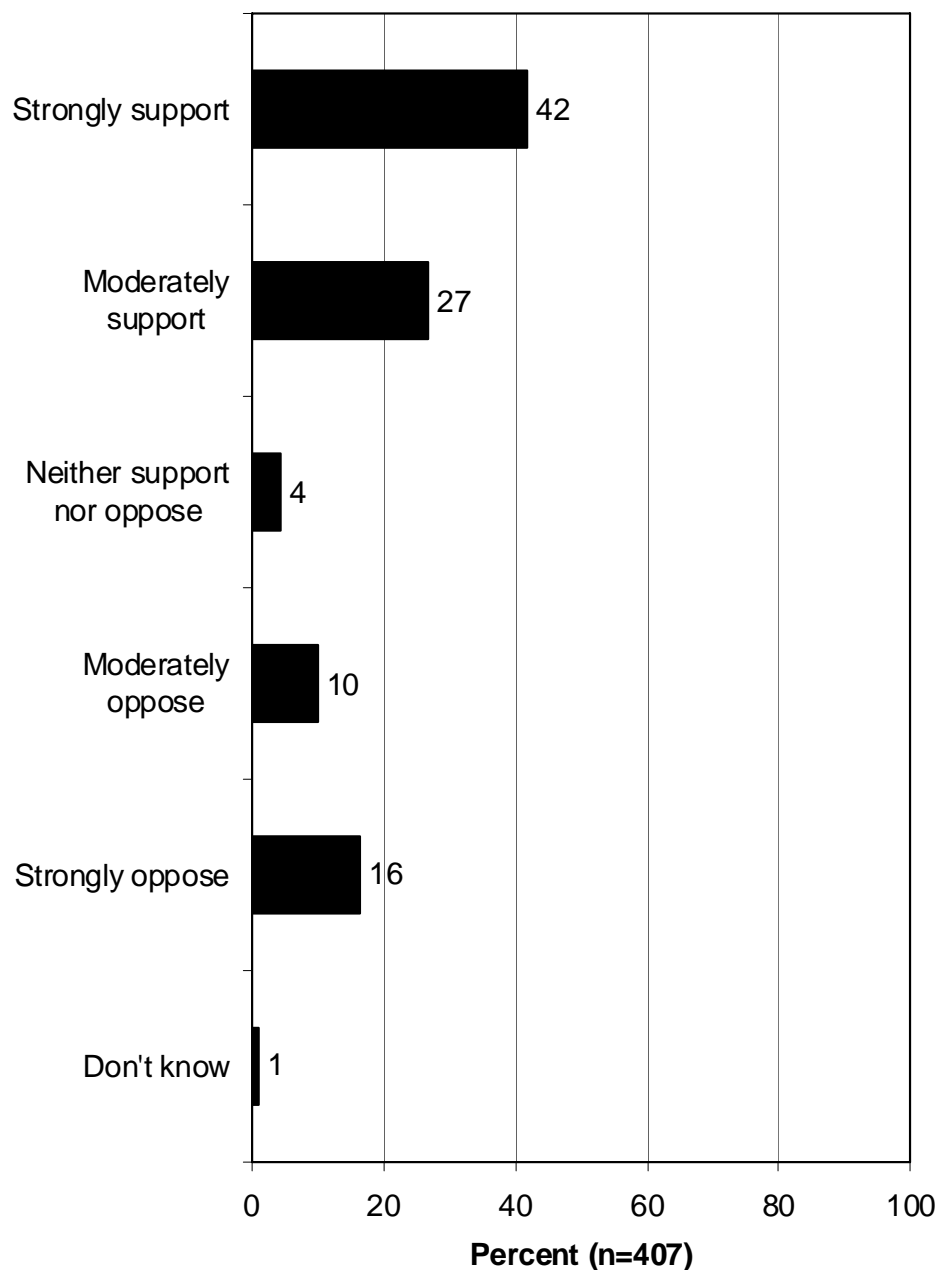
**Q85. Would you harvest more, the same number, or fewer antlerless deer if you could no longer harvest a bonus antlered deer? (Asked of those who try to harvest 2 antlerless deer in a season so that they may harvest a bonus antlered deer.) (Hunter survey.)**



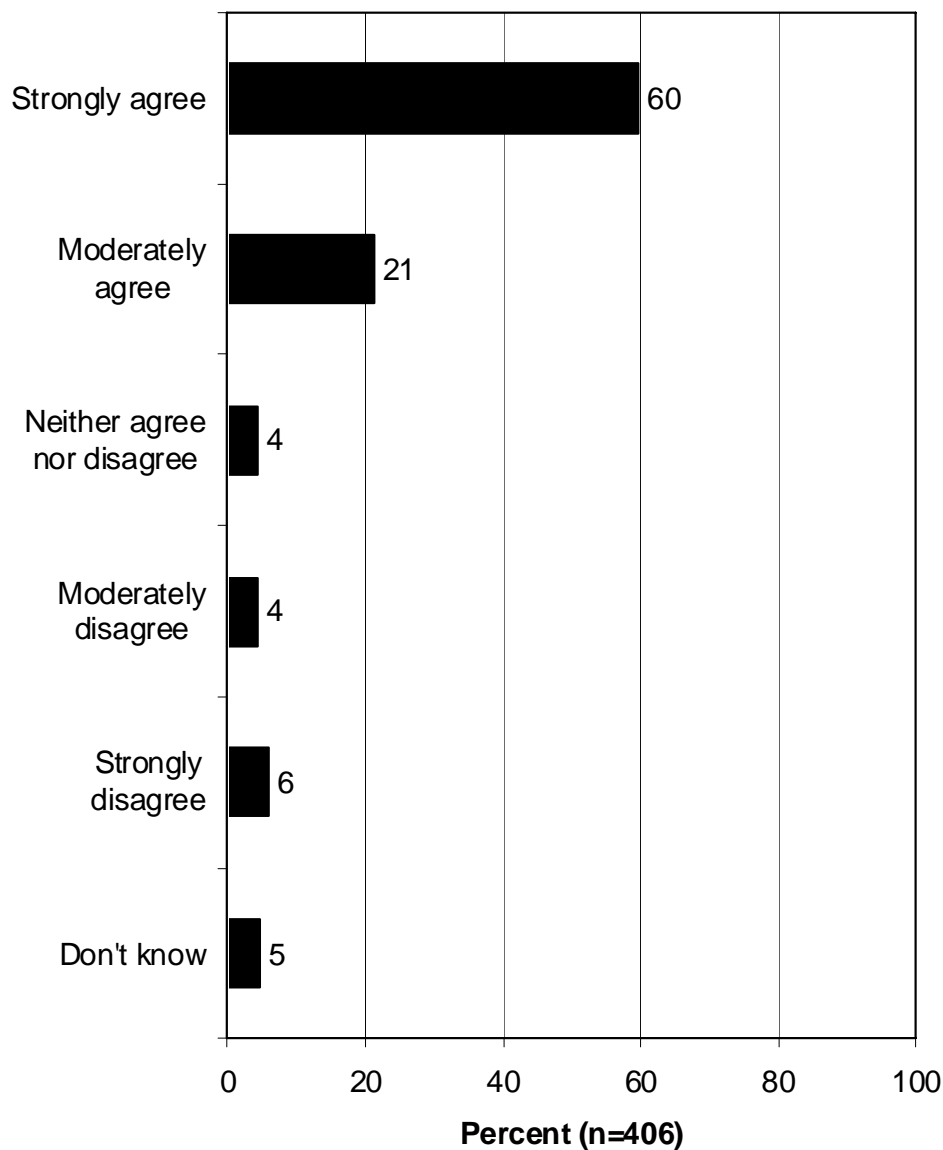
**Q110. How often do you practice quality deer management, that is harvesting mostly does and not harvesting bucks of less than 2 1/2 years old, when deer hunting in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q111. In general, would you support or oppose establishing mandatory quality deer management regulations in the area where you hunt in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**

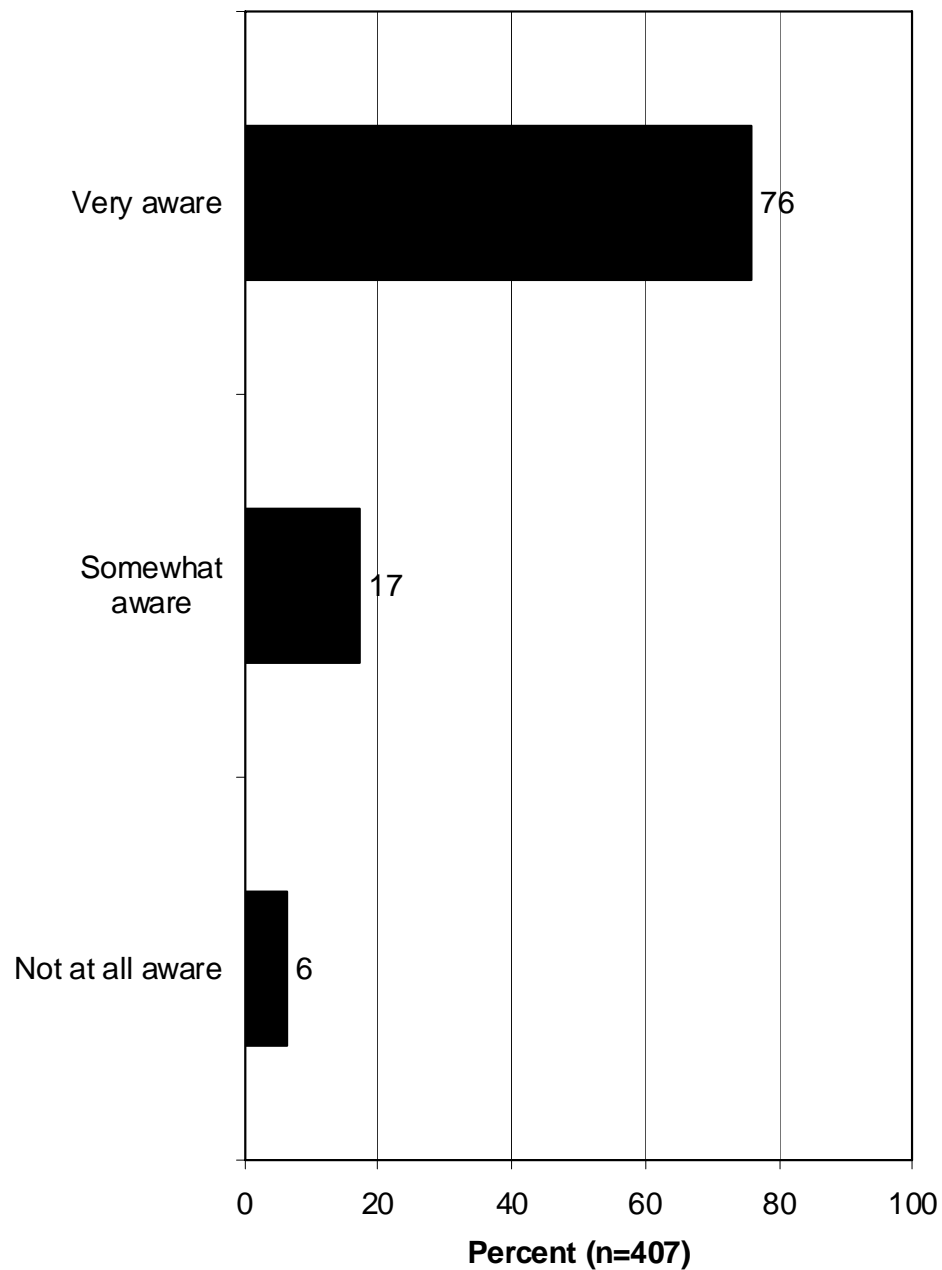


**Q107. Currently, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources requires that all healthy or non-diseased deer harvested for population control and crop damage control be used and processed for food regardless of the time of year at which they harvested. Do you agree or disagree with this policy? (Landowner survey.)**





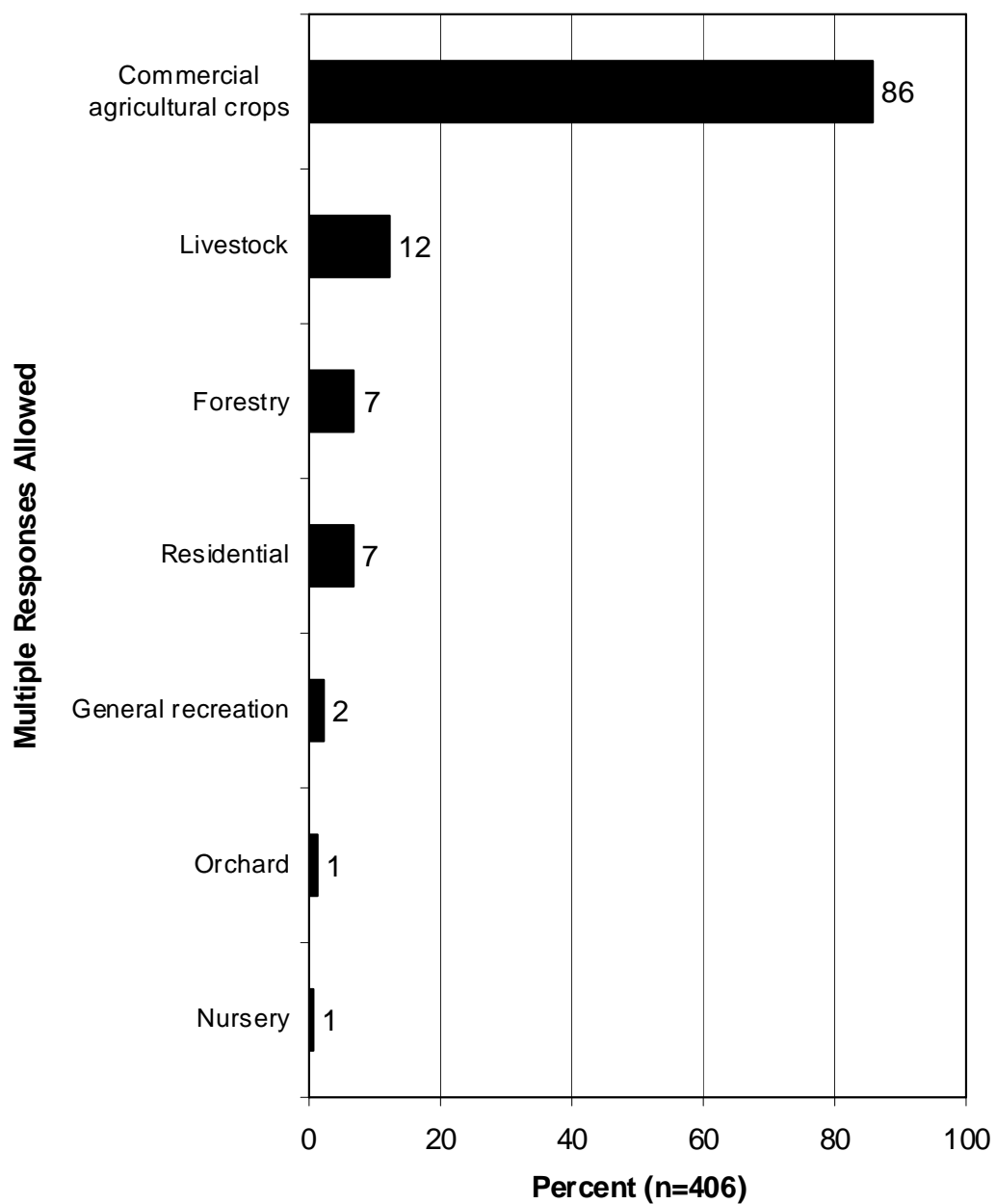
**Q129. How aware are you that venison donation programs are available in Maryland for you to donate your extra harvested deer? (Hunter survey.)**



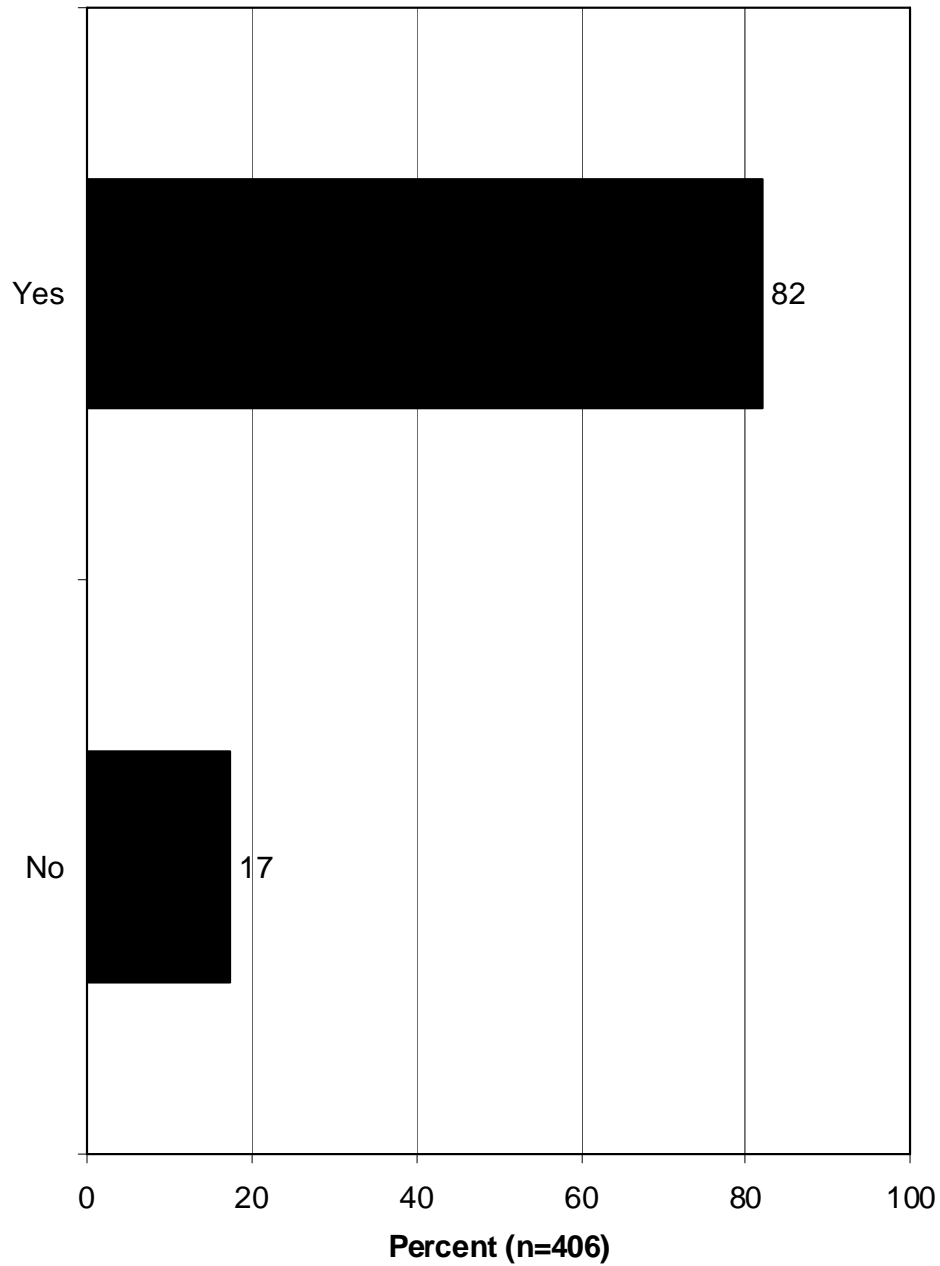
## LANDOWNERS' USES OF LAND AND HUNTING PERMISSION ON LANDS

- Most of the land of the landowners in the study is used primarily for commercial agricultural crops, but other agricultural uses include livestock production, commercial forestry, orchards, and nurseries.
- An overwhelming majority of large landowners (82%) allow deer hunting on their property. However, most of those who allow hunting allow only friends and family; nonetheless, 23% do *not* restrict it to friends and family. Of those who allow others besides friends and family to hunt on their property, 29% charge hunters for that privilege.
  - Reasons for allowing only friends and family include not wanting strangers on the property, concern about personal safety, to limit crowding on the land, the poor behavior of hunters, and legal liability.
- In line with their majority opposition to Sunday hunting (as discussed previously in another section of this report), large landowners are less likely to allow Sunday deer hunting on their property than to allow it: 39% allowed it in the past 2 years, but 49% did not.

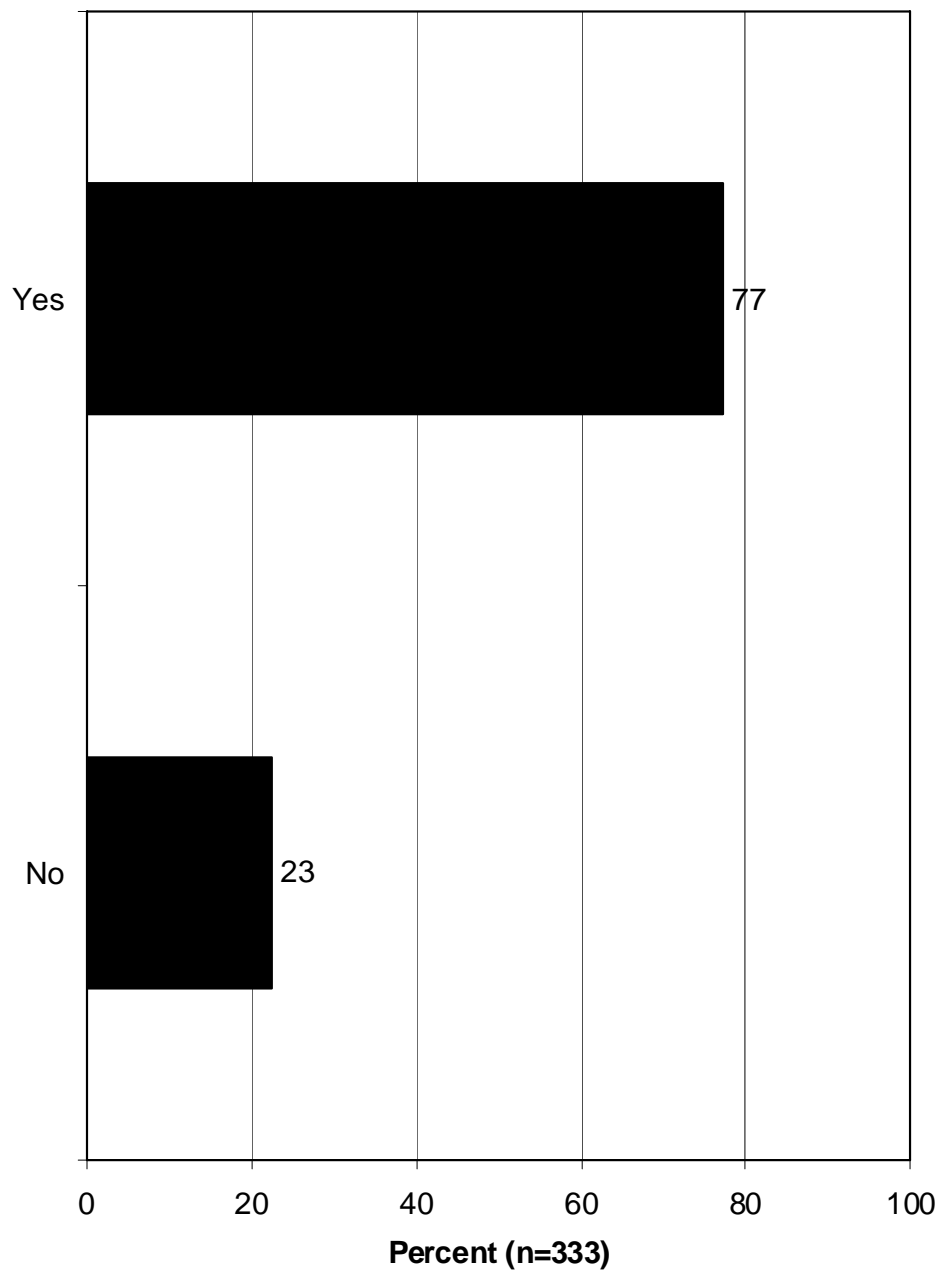
**Q88. What is the primary use of this land?  
(Landowner survey.)**



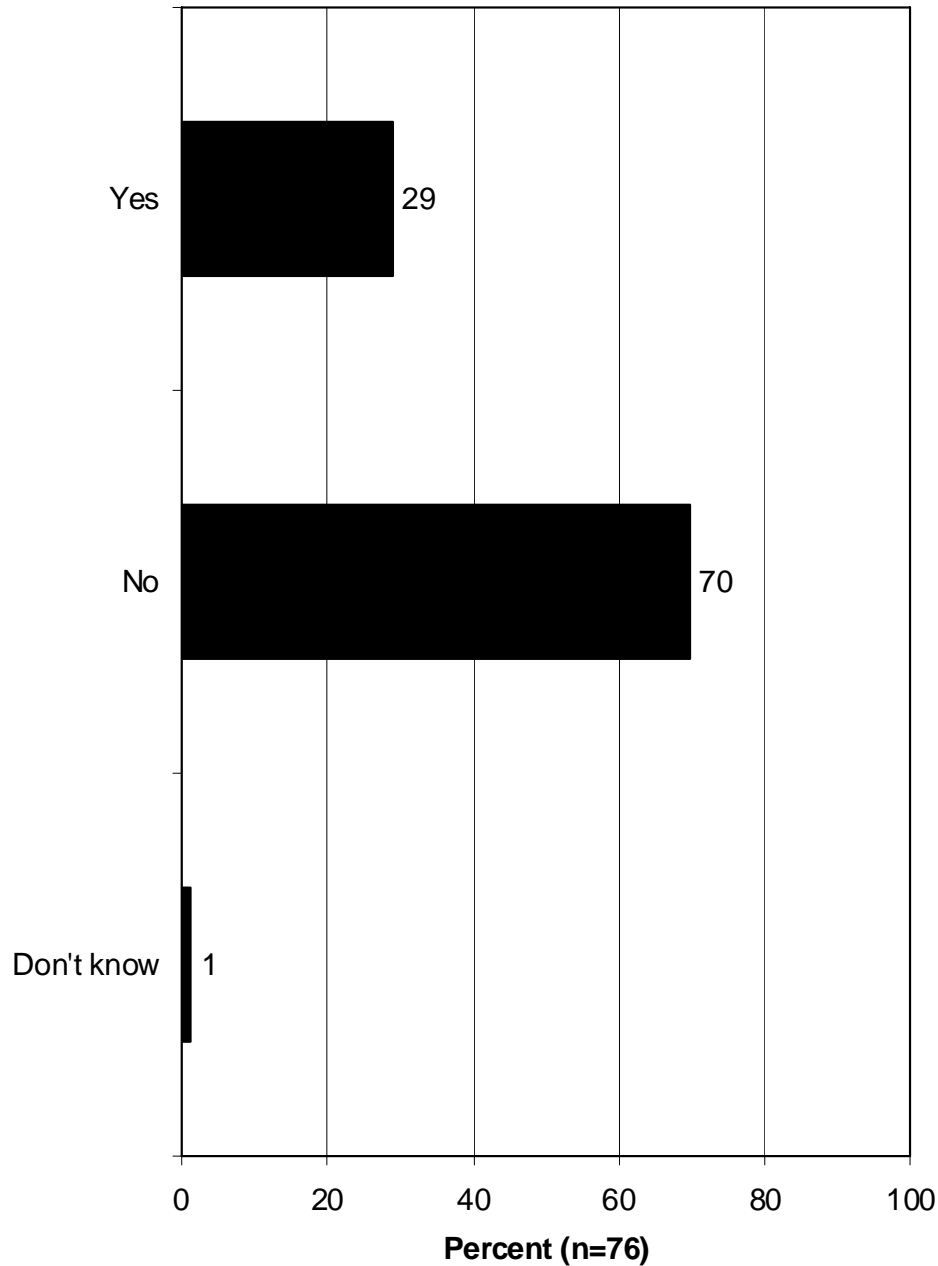
**Q91. Do you allow deer hunting on your property?  
(Landowner survey.)**



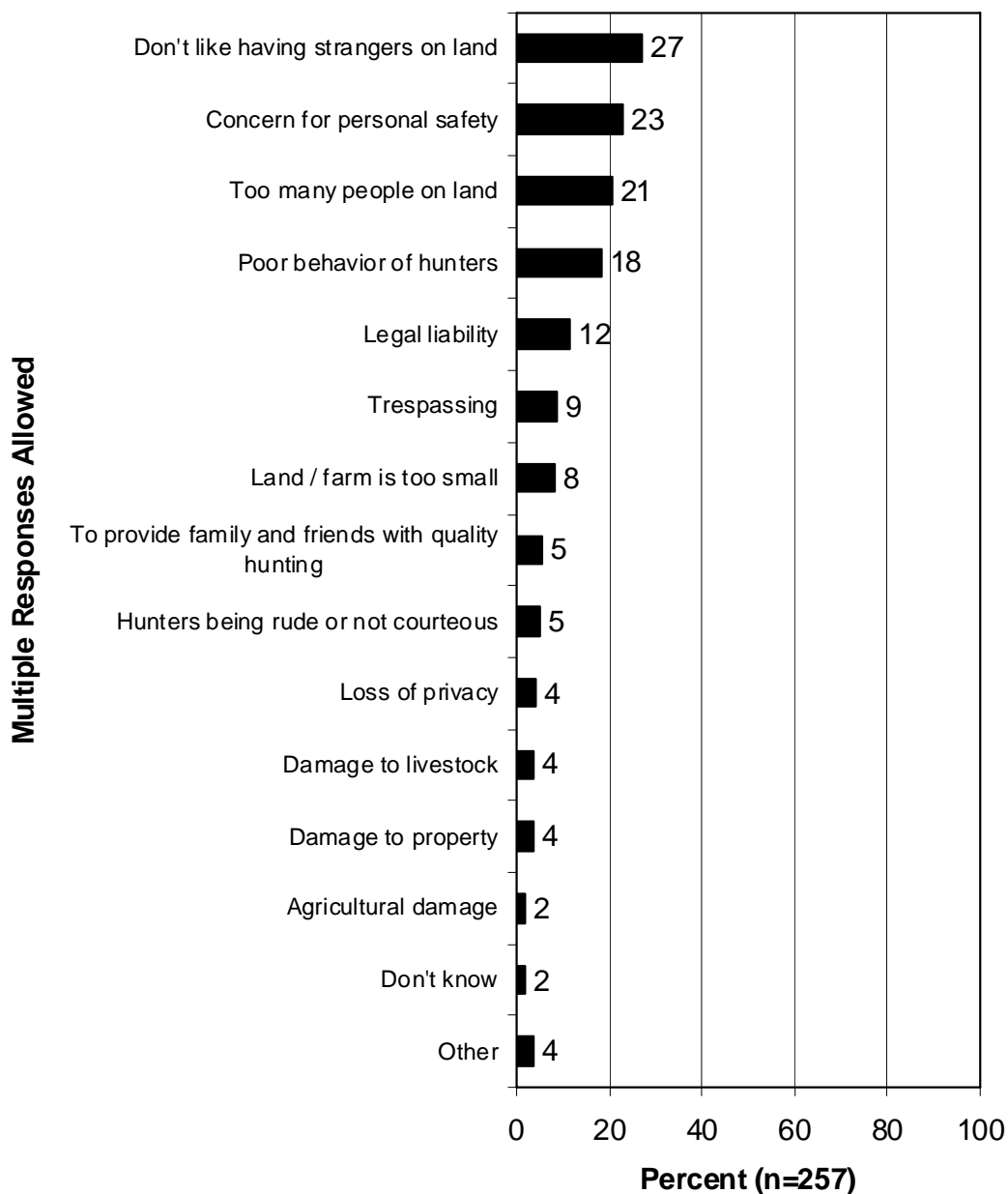
**Q94. Do you limit deer hunting to friends and family only on your land? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property.) (Landowner survey.)**



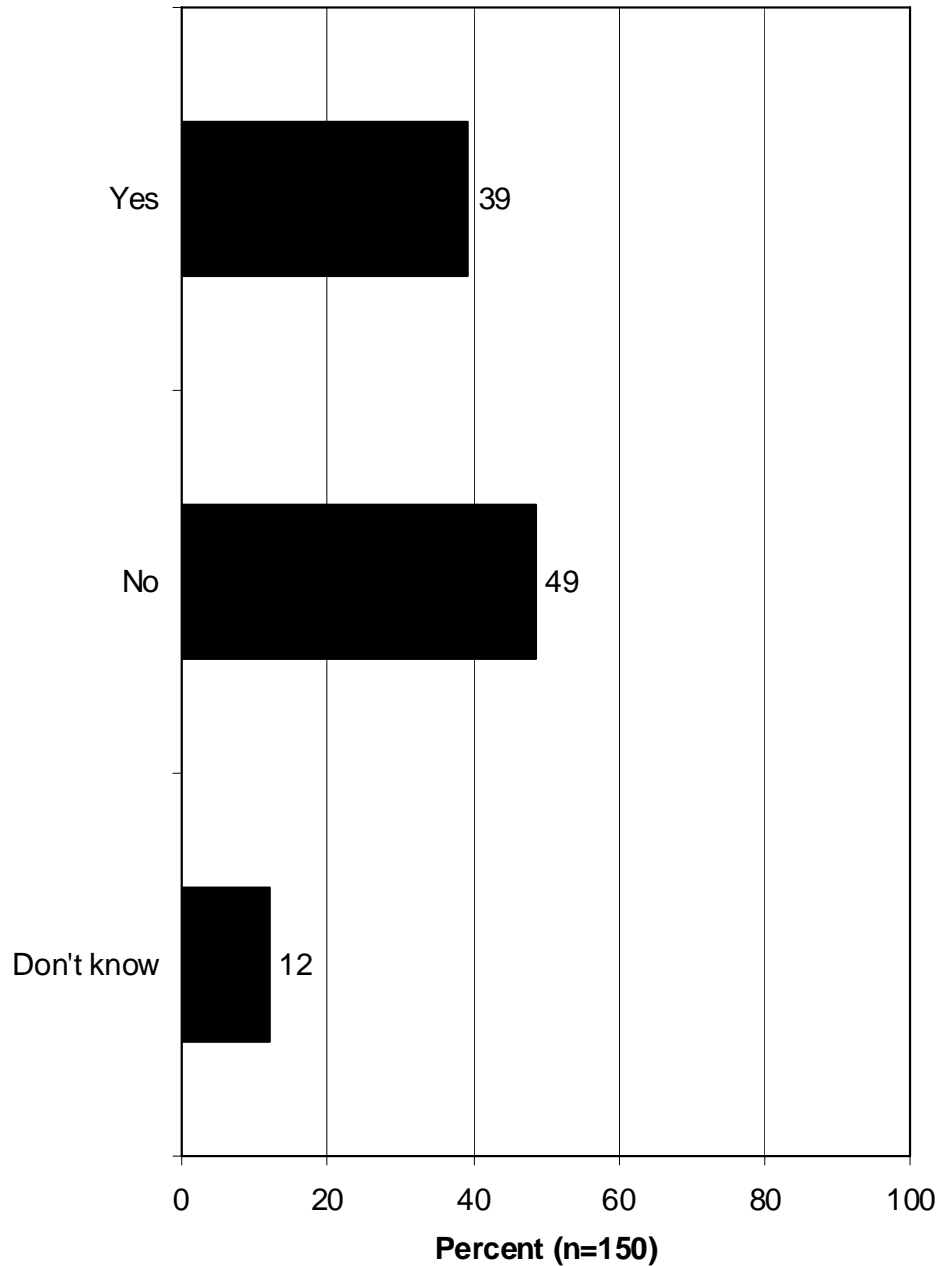
**Q95. Do you charge hunters to hunt deer on your land? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property, but don't limit it to friends and family.) (Landowner survey.)**



**Q98. Why do you limit deer hunting to friends and family on your land? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property and limit it to friends and family.) (Landowner survey.)**



**Q93. Did you allow any legal Sunday deer hunting on your land in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property and whose counties have Sunday hunts.) (Landowner survey.)**

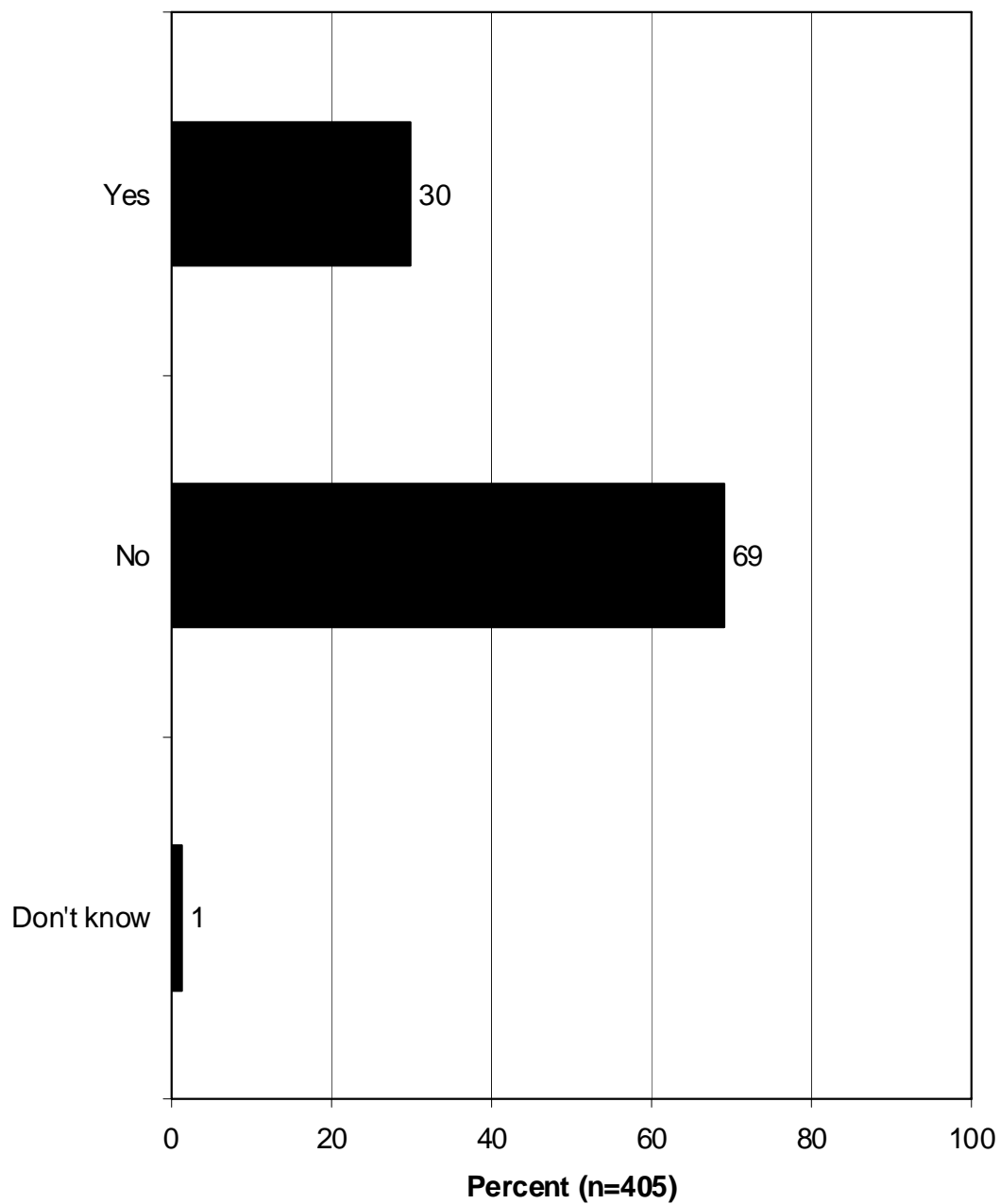




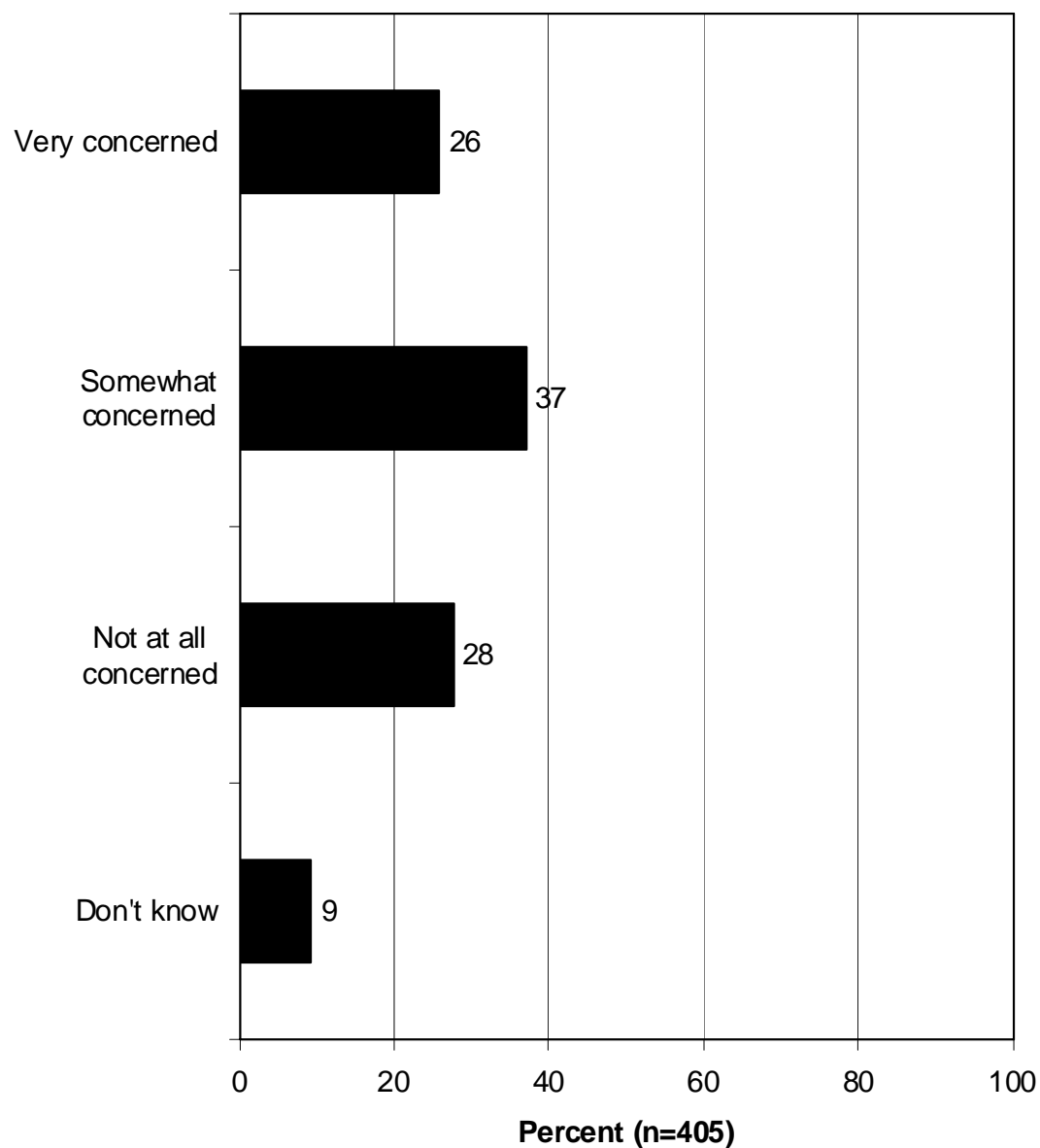
## **KNOWLEDGE OF AND OPINIONS REGARDING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

- Just less than a third of Maryland residents (30%) had heard of chronic wasting disease (CWD) prior to the survey. After being given an explanation of CWD, a majority of Maryland residents (63%) said that they are very or somewhat concerned about CWD. Finally, a large majority of Maryland residents (72%) would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where CWD is found.
- Most Maryland deer hunters (83%) had heard of CWD prior to the survey. After being given an explanation of CWD, the large majority of Maryland deer hunters (83%) said that they are very or somewhat concerned about CWD. Also, a large majority of Maryland deer hunters (86%) would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where CWD is found.
  - Deer hunters are split on whether they, personally, would decrease their amount of deer hunting in Maryland if CWD were found in the state: while 50% would not be at all likely to decrease their deer hunting, 46% would be very or somewhat likely to decrease their deer hunting in Maryland. They were then asked if they would *quit deer hunting entirely* in Maryland if CWD were found in the state: 72% would be not at all likely to quit deer hunting entirely, but 25% would be very or somewhat likely to do so.
- The majority of large landowners (54%) had heard of CWD prior to the survey. After being given an explanation of CWD, the majority of large landowners (73%) said that they are very or somewhat concerned about CWD. Also, a large majority of landowners (79%) would support a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in areas where CWD is found.

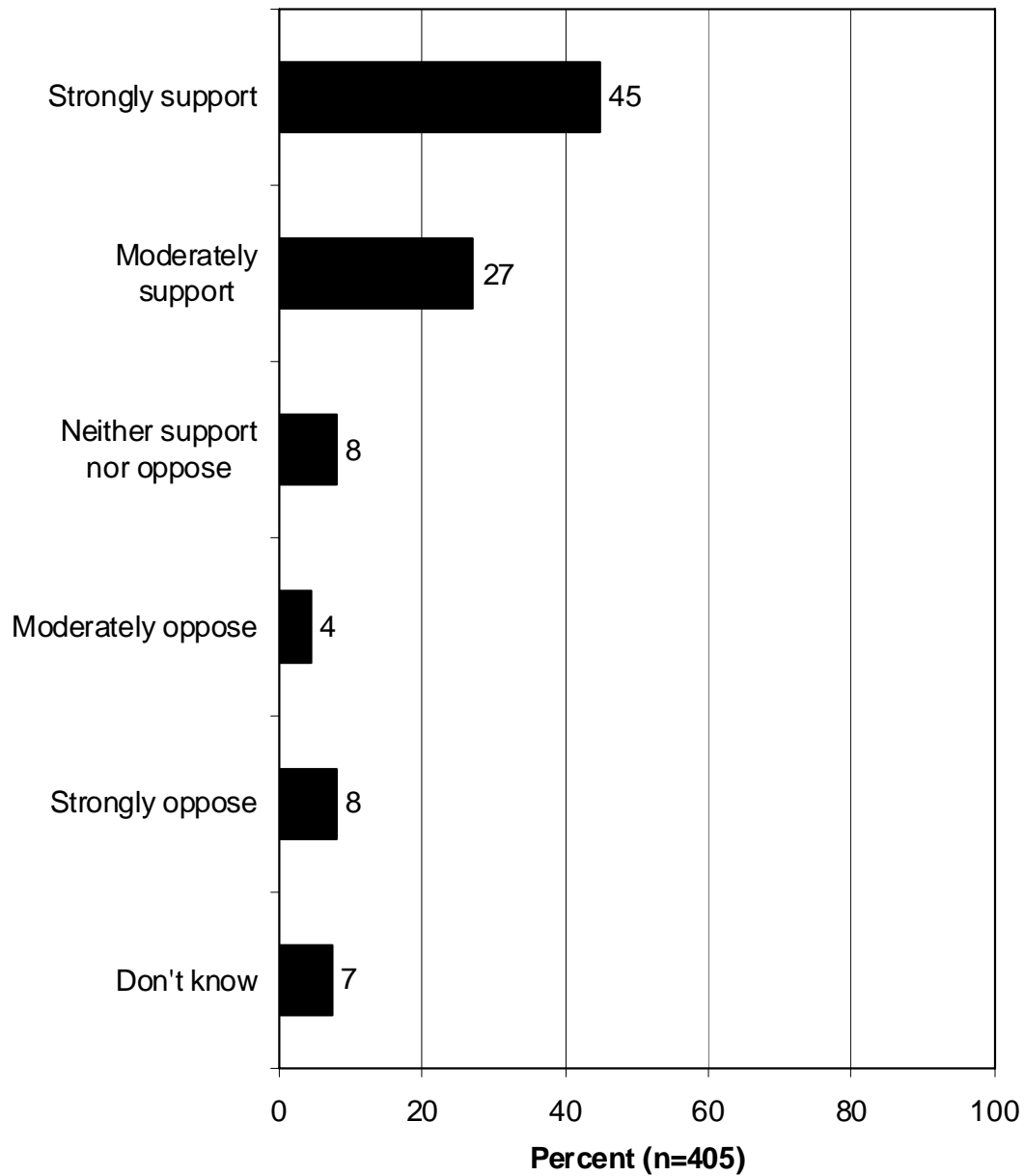
**Q86. Prior to this survey, had you heard of chronic wasting disease or CWD? (General population survey.)**



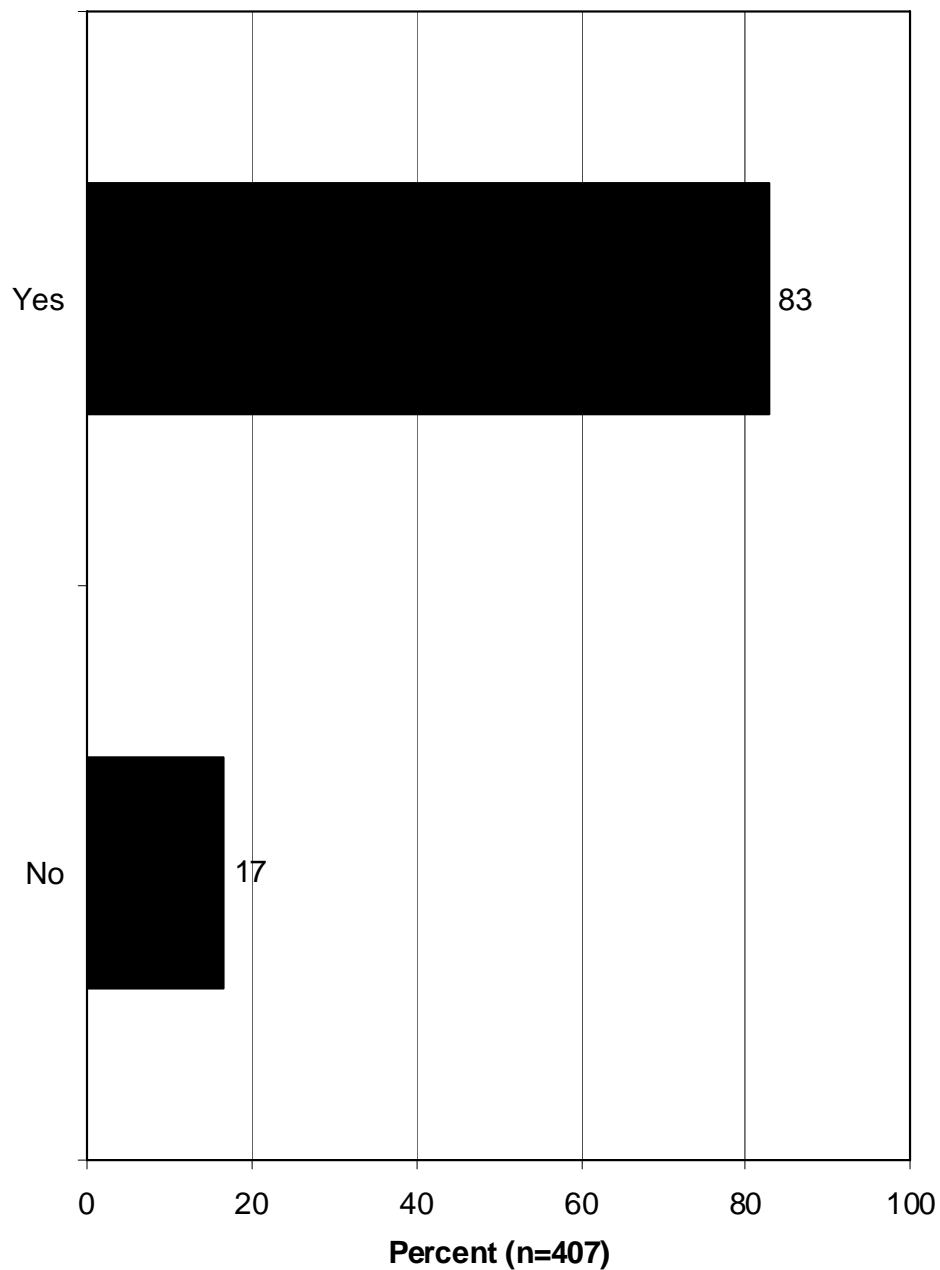
**Q87. Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD is a disease of the nervous system in deer and elk that results in a distinctive brain lesions and is fatal to the animal. In general, how concerned are you about Chronic Wasting Disease? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned? (General population survey.)**



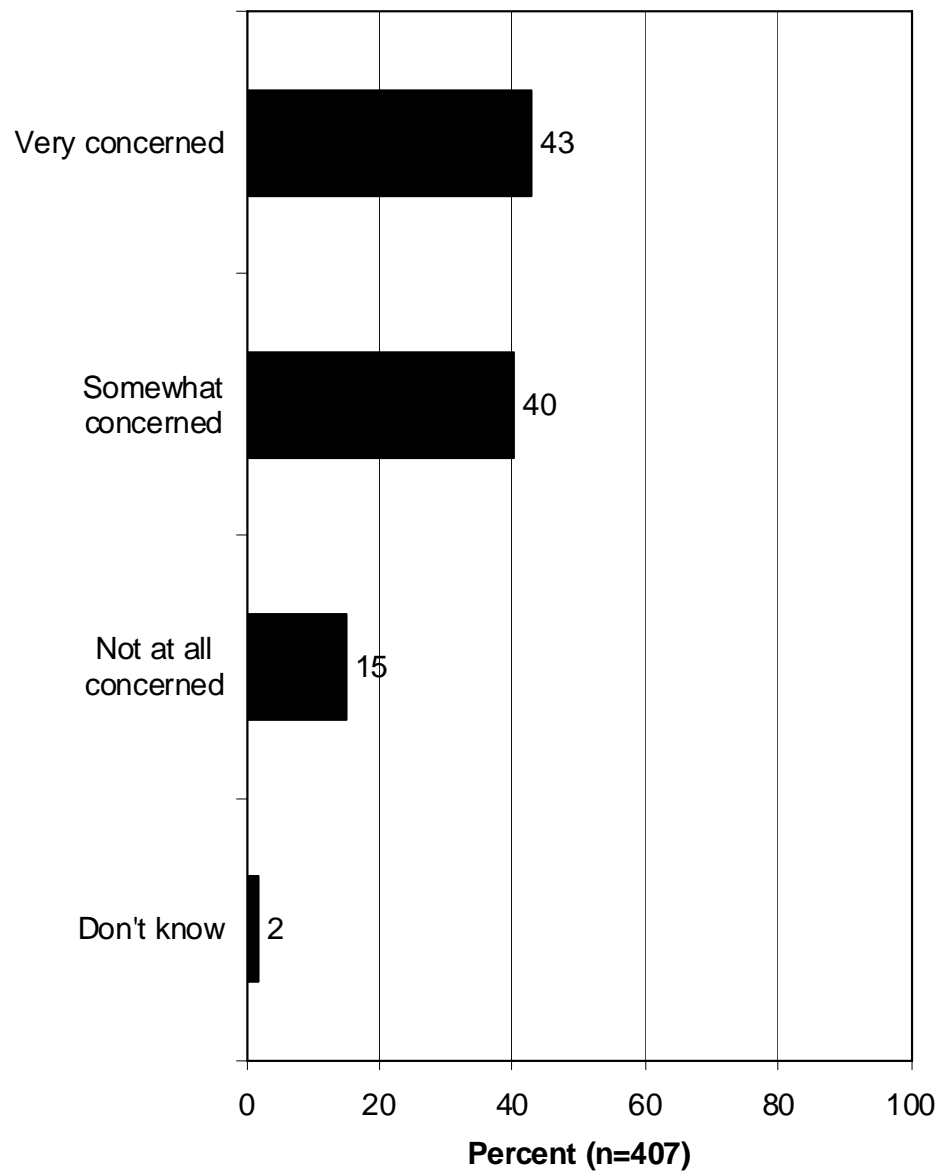
**Q88. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (General population survey.)**



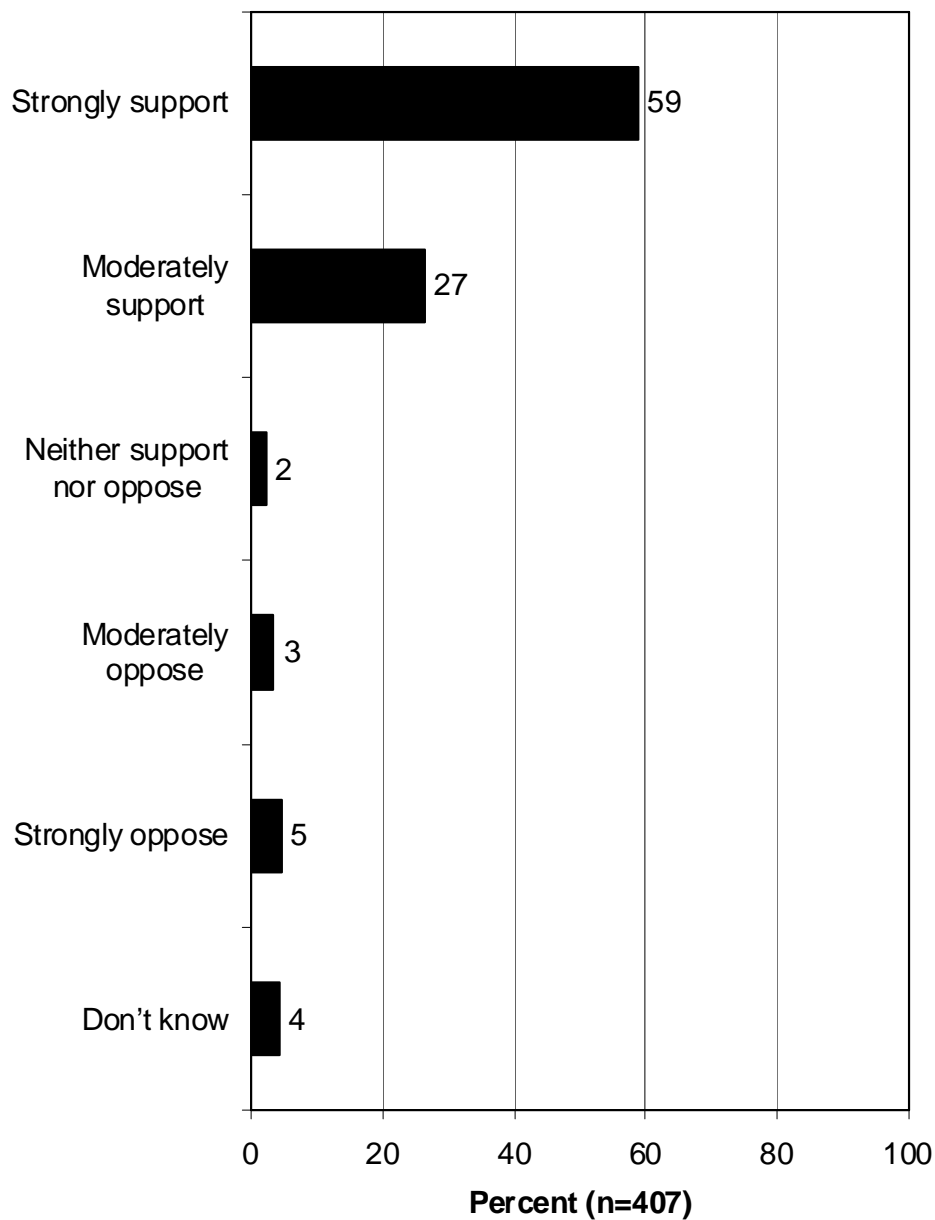
**Q124. Prior to this survey, had you heard of Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD? (Hunter survey.)**



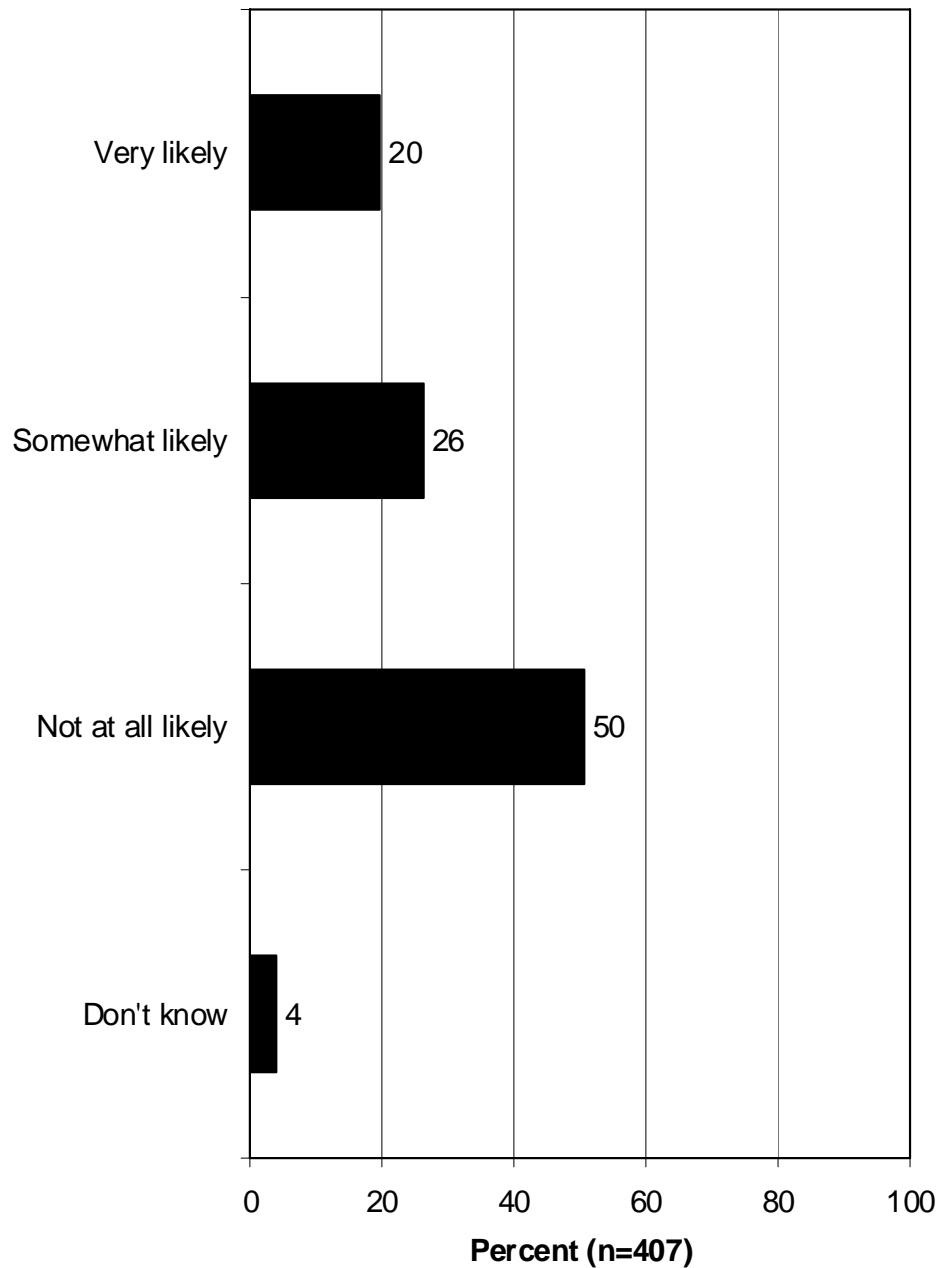
**Q125. Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a disease of the nervous system in deer and elk that results in distinctive brain lesions and is fatal to the animal. In general, how concerned are you about Chronic Wasting Disease? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q128. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (Hunter survey.)**

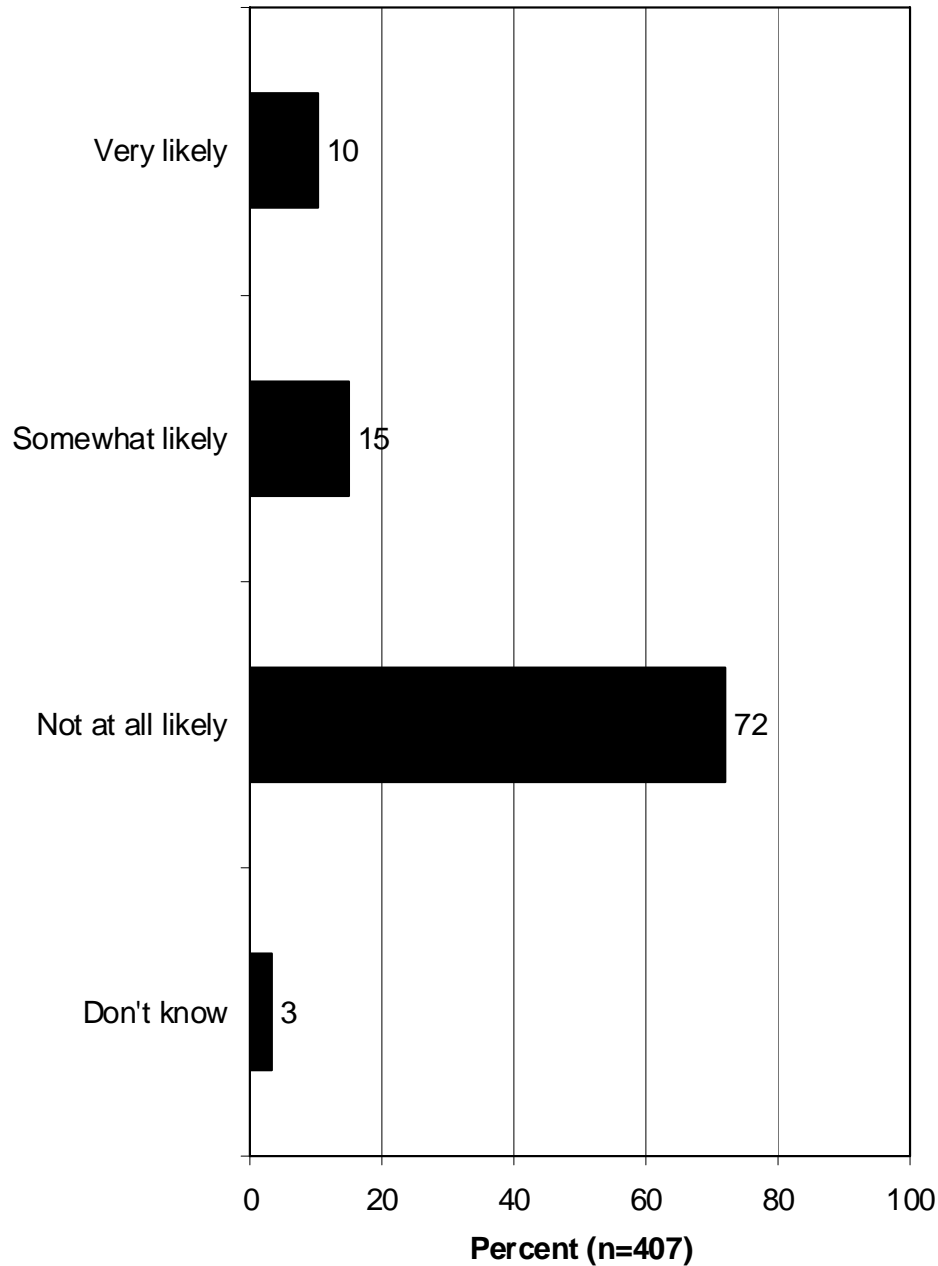


**Q126. If Chronic Wasting Disease was found in Maryland, how likely would you be to deer hunt in Maryland less often? (Hunter survey.)**

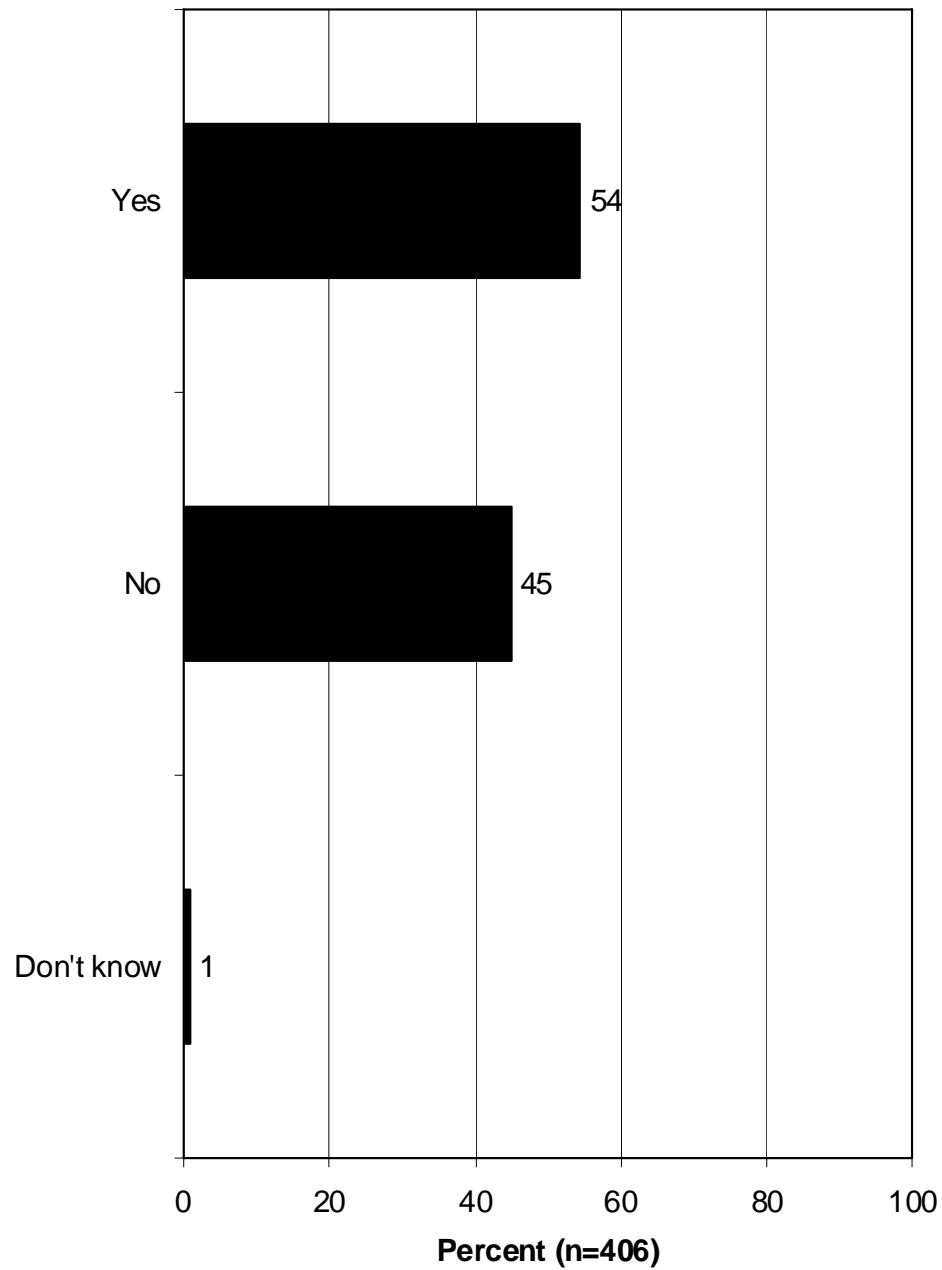




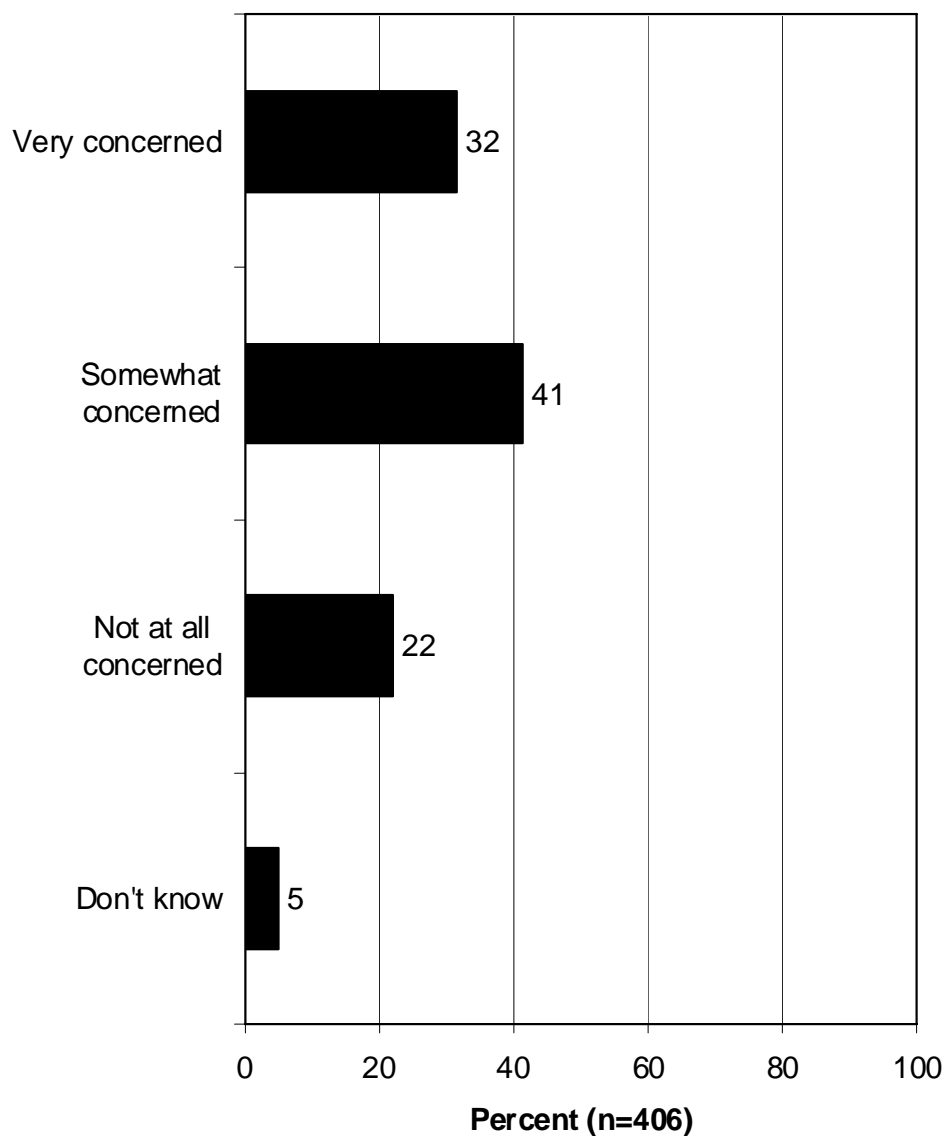
**Q127. If Chronic Wasting Disease was found in Maryland, how likely would you be to quit deer hunting in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**



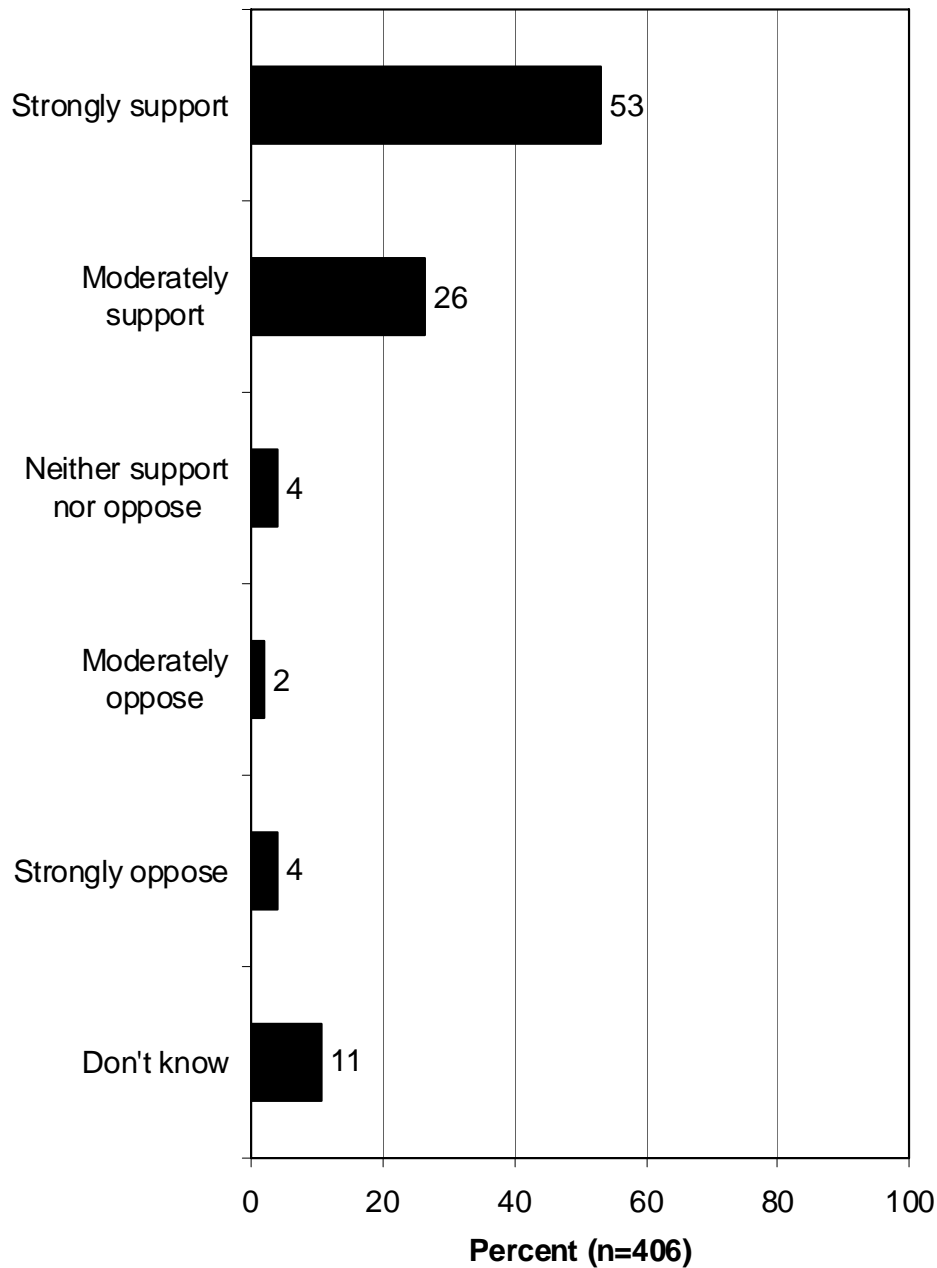
**Q80. Prior to this survey, had you heard of chronic wasting disease or CWD? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q81. Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a disease of the nervous system in deer and elk that results in distinctive brain lesions and is fatal to the animal. In general, how concerned are you about Chronic Wasting Disease? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q82. Would you support or oppose a substantial reduction in the deer population by legal, recreational hunting in an area where Chronic Wasting Disease was discovered? (Landowner survey.)**



## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT DEER

- The survey asked Maryland residents where they obtain most of their information about deer in Maryland: newspapers (37%) were the most common source, followed by television (22%). Among deer hunters, the most common sources of information about deer are the *Maryland Hunting Seasons and Regulations* handbook (30%), magazines (26%), the MDNR Website (18%), newspapers (14%), and brochures/pamphlets (12%). Among landowners, the most popular sources are newspapers (35%), magazines (16%), and word-of-mouth (14%).
  
- The survey asked Maryland residents about the credibility of five sources of information about deer. Those perceived as the most credible by residents are a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university or a biologist with the MDNR. The results are tabulated below. Note that each source had a low percentage perceiving it as “not at all credible”; the low percentages answering very credible or somewhat credible on some of the sources are as a result of a large percentage answering “don’t know.” A second tabulation excludes “don’t know” answers; in this latter tabulation, all sources are perceived as highly credible among residents.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible	Don't know
Q97. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	50	39	<b>89</b>	<b>3</b>	8
Q96. A biologist with the MDNR	60	27	<b>87</b>	<b>2</b>	11
Q95. Humane Society of the United States	40	38	<b>78</b>	<b>12</b>	10
Q98. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	19	44	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>	24
Q94. Fund for Animals	8	23	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	62

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Don't know answers excluded.)	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible
Q96. A biologist with the MDNR	67	30	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>
Q97. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	55	42	<b>97</b>	<b>4</b>
Q95. Humane Society of the United States	44	42	<b>86</b>	<b>13</b>
Q98. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	25	58	<b>83</b>	<b>16</b>
Q94. Fund for Animals	22	60	<b>82</b>	<b>18</b>

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

- The survey also asked large landowners about the credibility of the same five sources of information about deer. Those perceived as the most credible by landowners are a biologist with the MDNR or a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university. The results are tabulated below. A second tabulation excludes “don't know” answers. In this latter tabulation, sources that are perceived as highly credible are a biologist with the MDNR; a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university; and magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail.

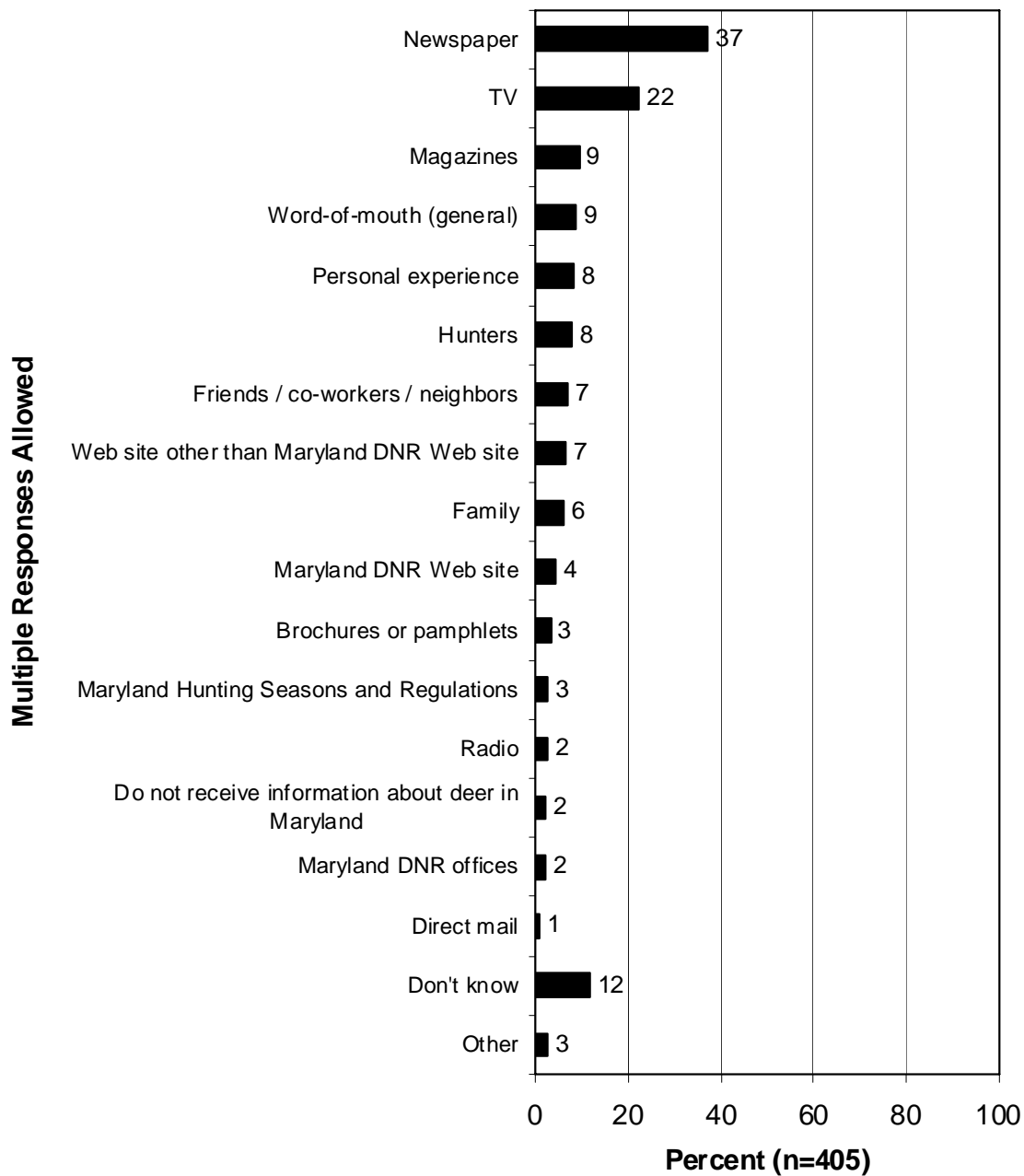
Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible	Don't know
Q115. A biologist with the MDNR	45	36	<b>81</b>	<b>3</b>	16
Q116. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	36	43	<b>79</b>	<b>6</b>	15
Q117. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	23	35	<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	33
Q114. Humane Society of the United States	15	37	<b>52</b>	<b>29</b>	20
Q113. Fund for Animals	3	13	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	67

Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

Do you think each of the following is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Don't know answers excluded.)	Very credible	Somewhat credible	Total credible	Not at all credible
Q115. A biologist with the MDNR	53	43	<b>96</b>	<b>4</b>
Q116. A professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university	42	50	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>
Q117. Magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail	35	53	<b>88</b>	<b>11</b>
Q114. Humane Society of the United States	19	46	<b>65</b>	<b>36</b>
Q113. Fund for Animals	8	41	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>

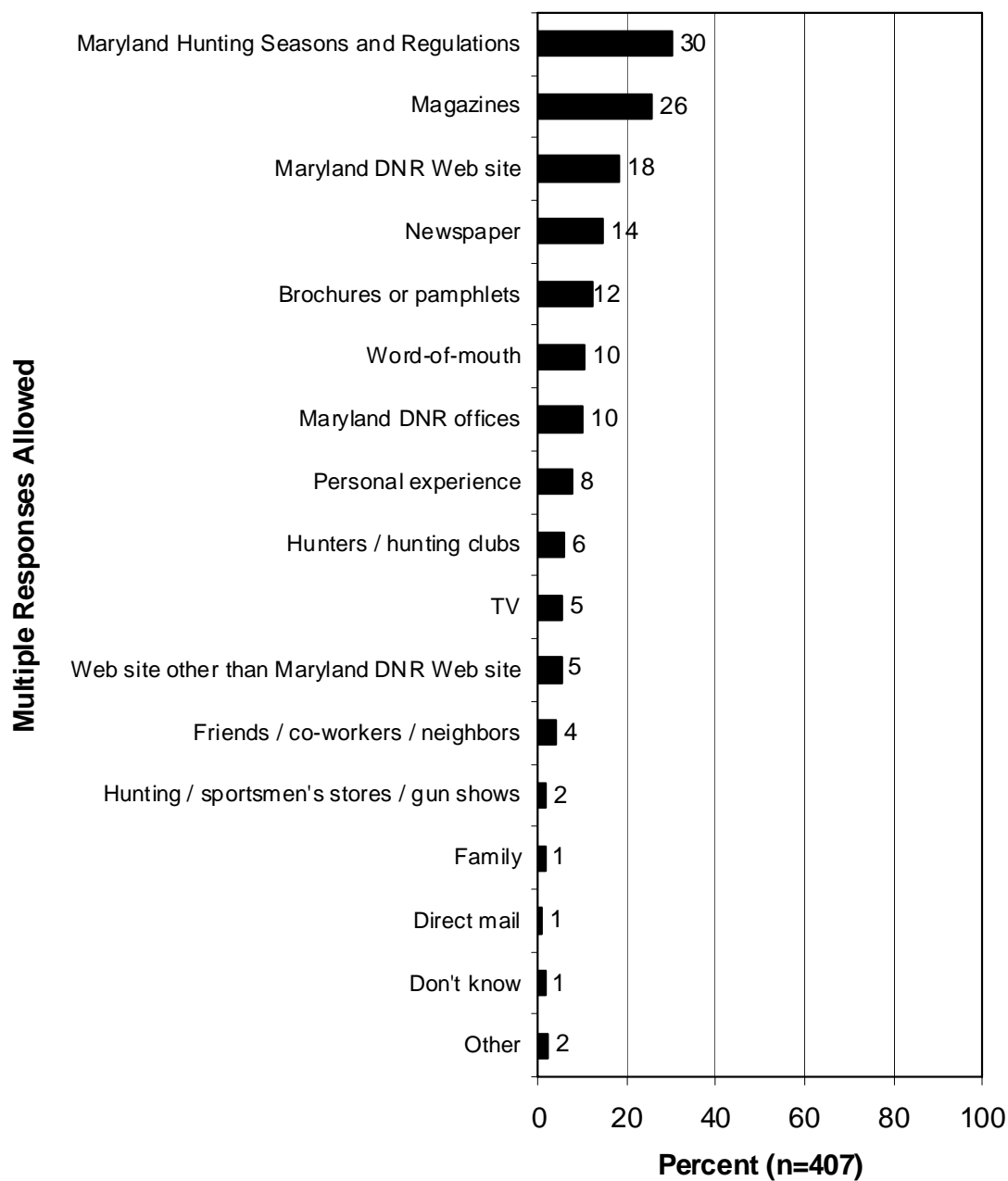
Note that rounding causes apparent discrepancies.

**Q91. Where do you get most of your information about deer in Maryland? (General population survey.)**

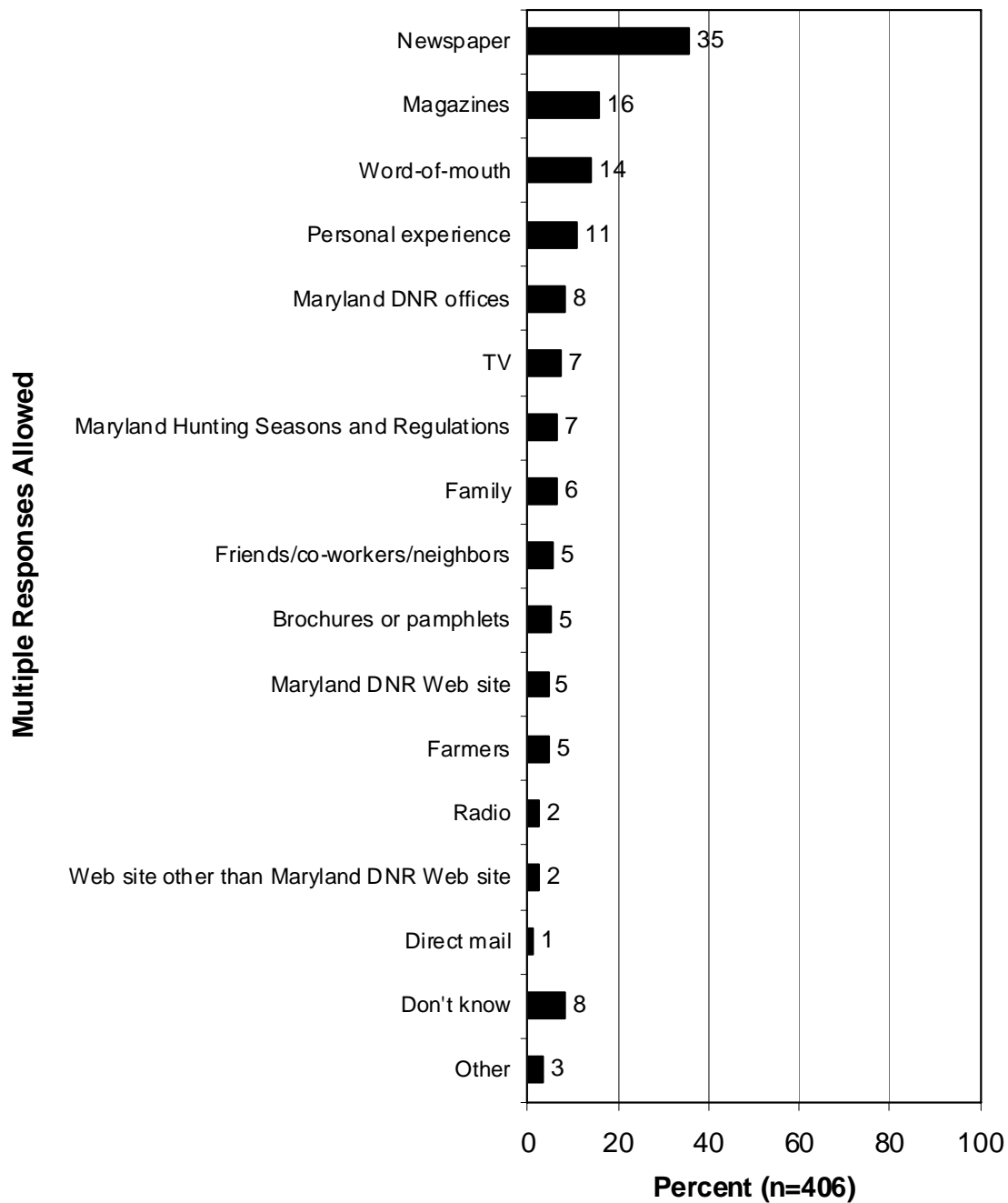




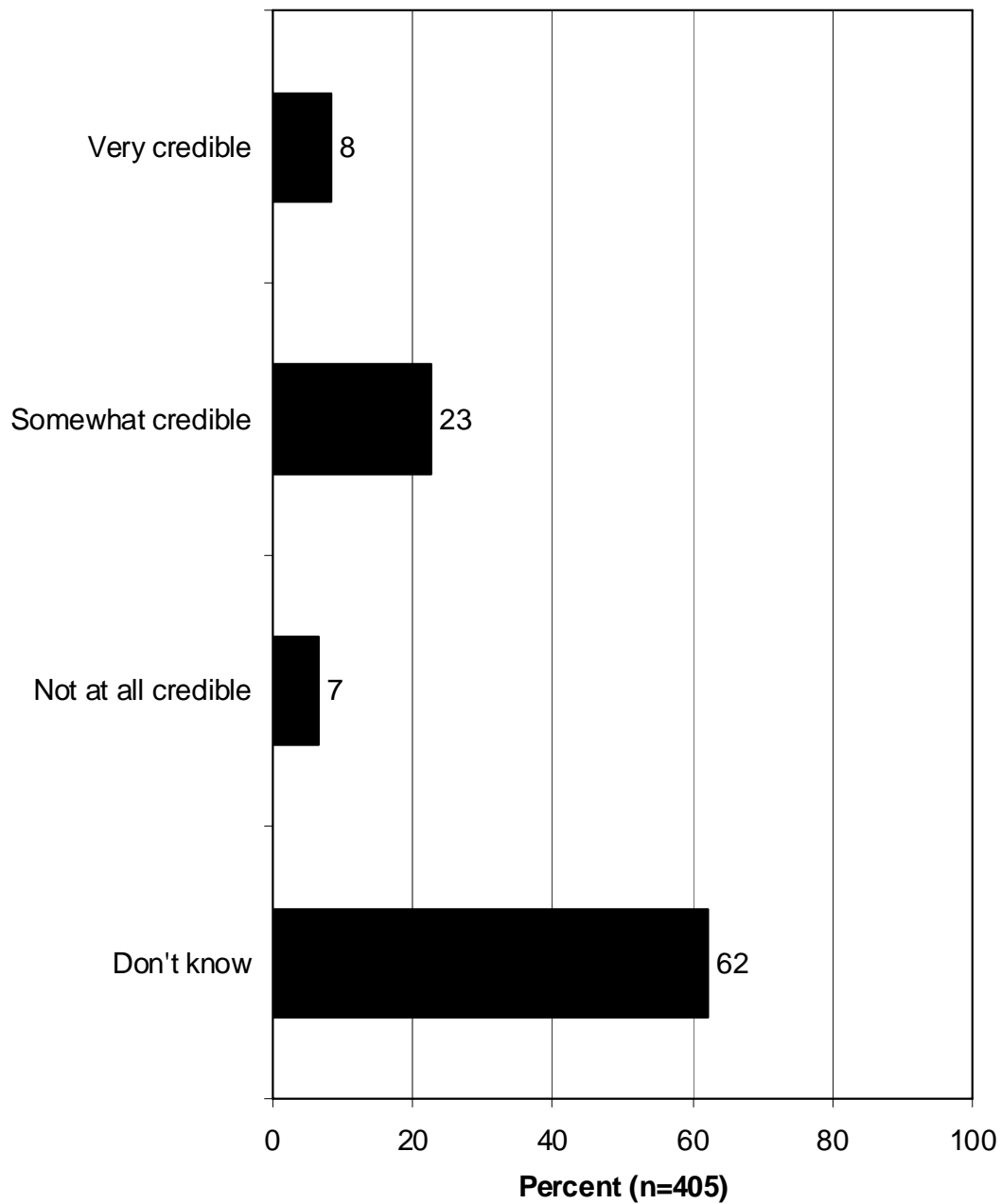
**Q132. Where do you get most of your information about deer in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)**



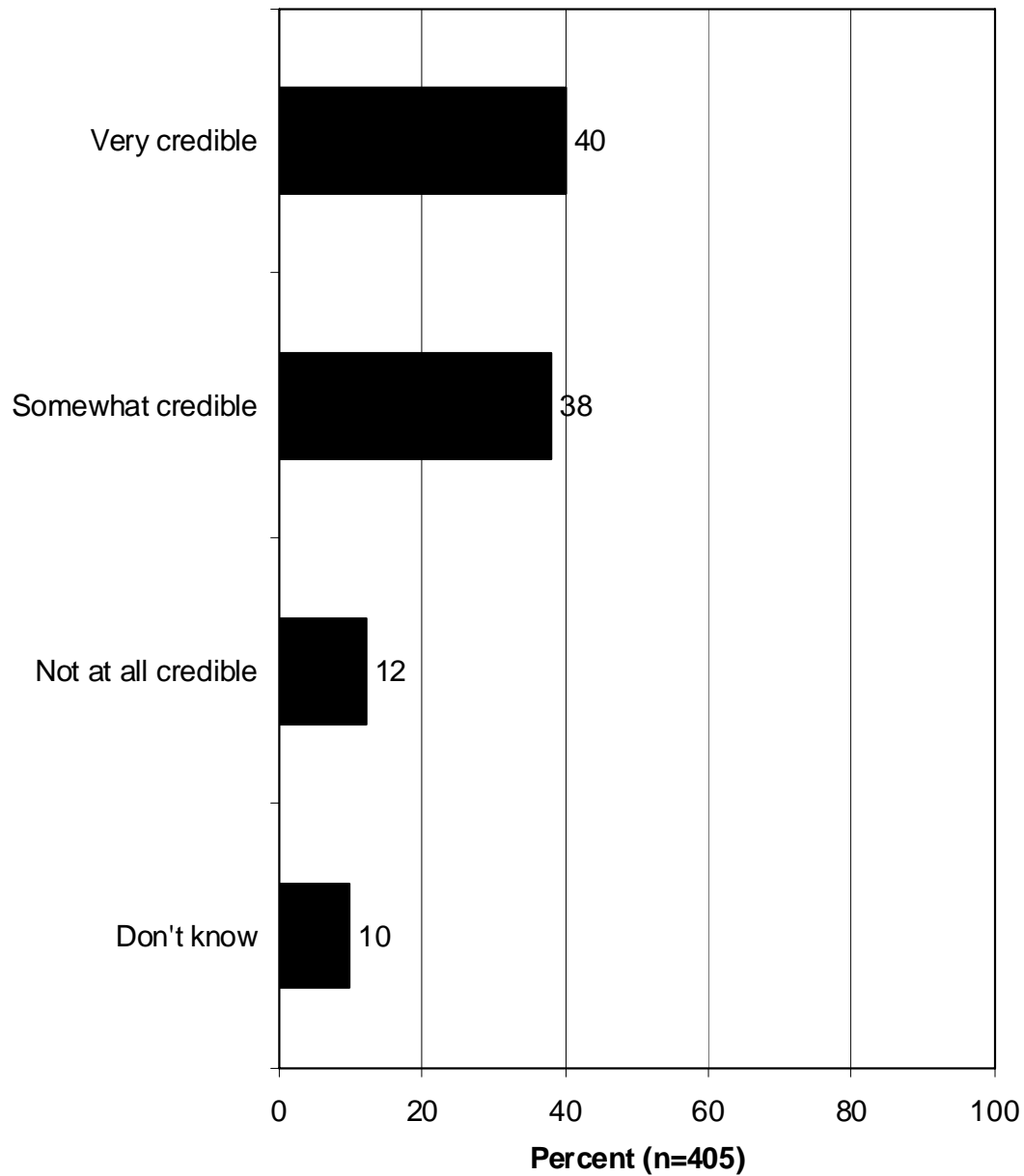
**Q110. Where do you get most of your information about deer in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**



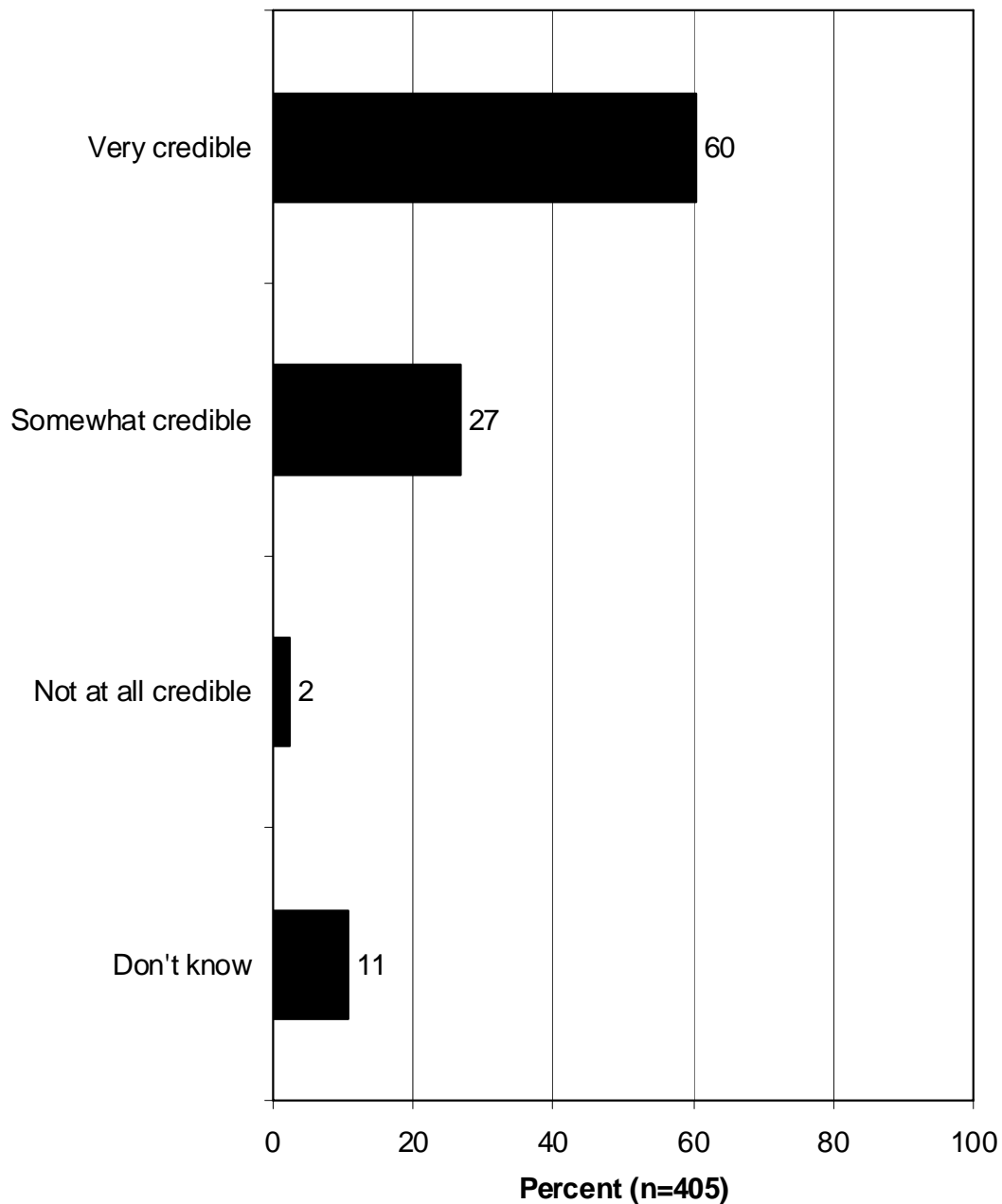
**Q94. Do you think the organization Fund For Animals is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?  
(General population survey.)**



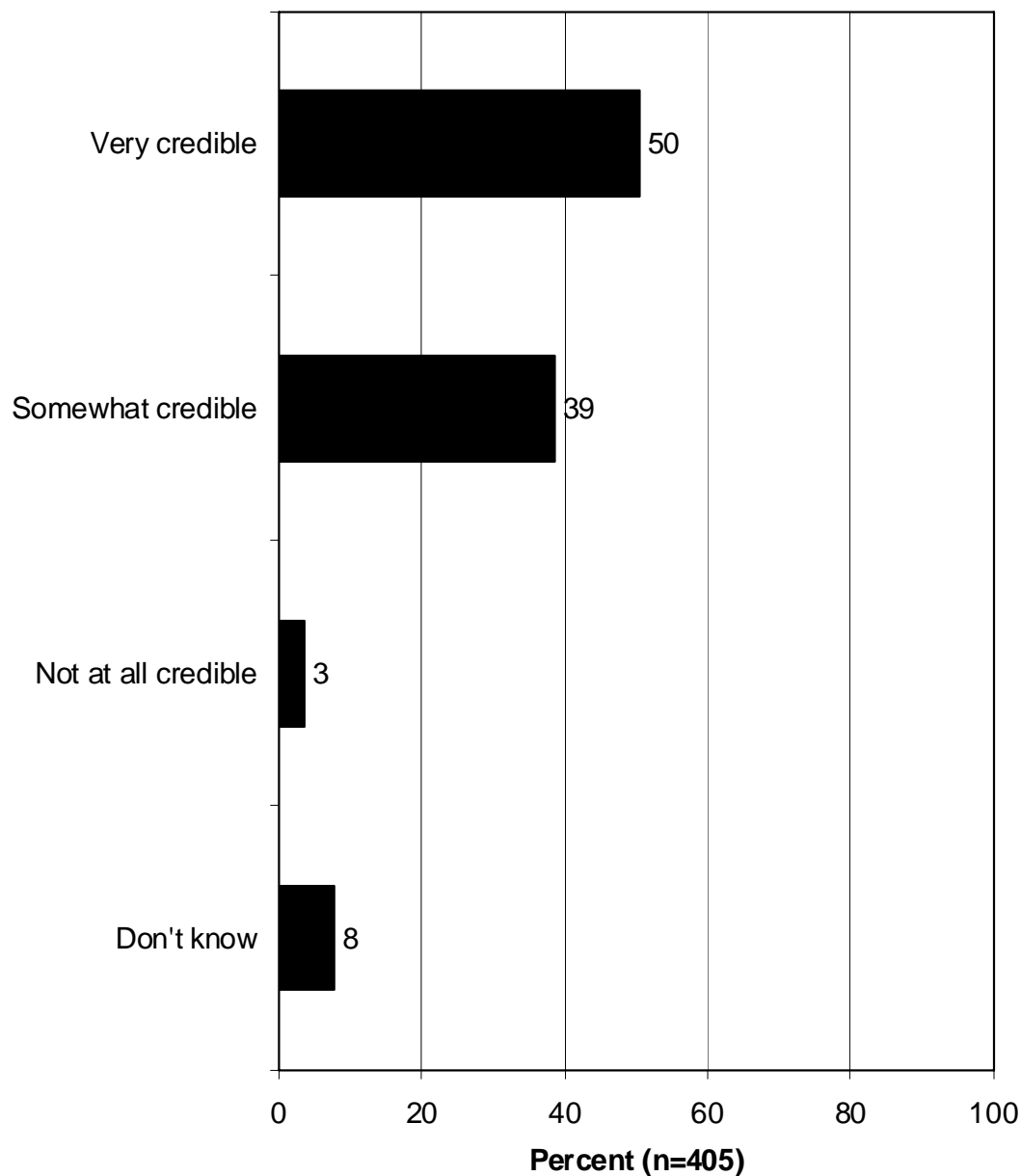
**Q95. Do you think the Humane Society of the United States is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (General population survey.)**



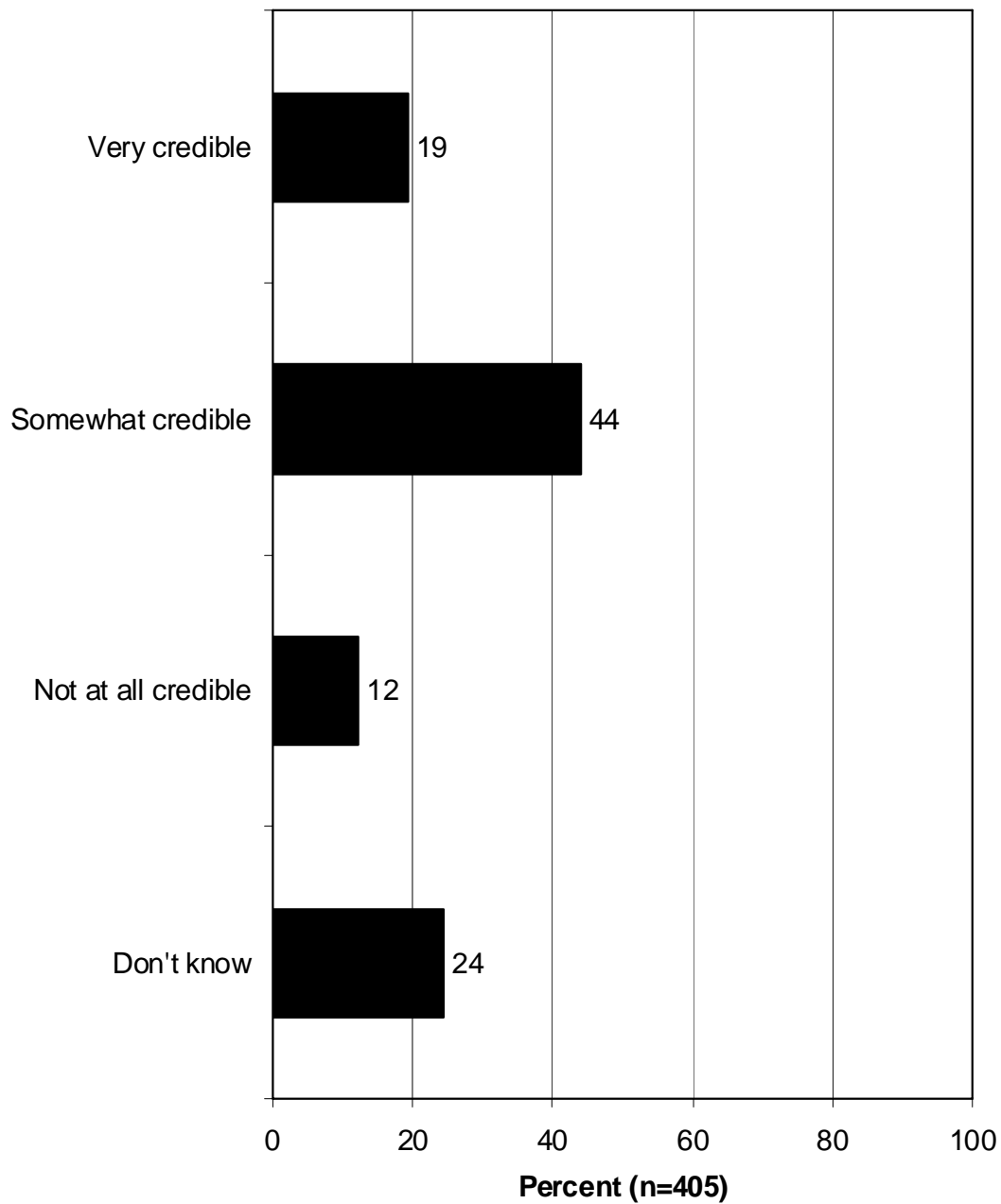
**Q96. Do you think a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (General population survey.)**



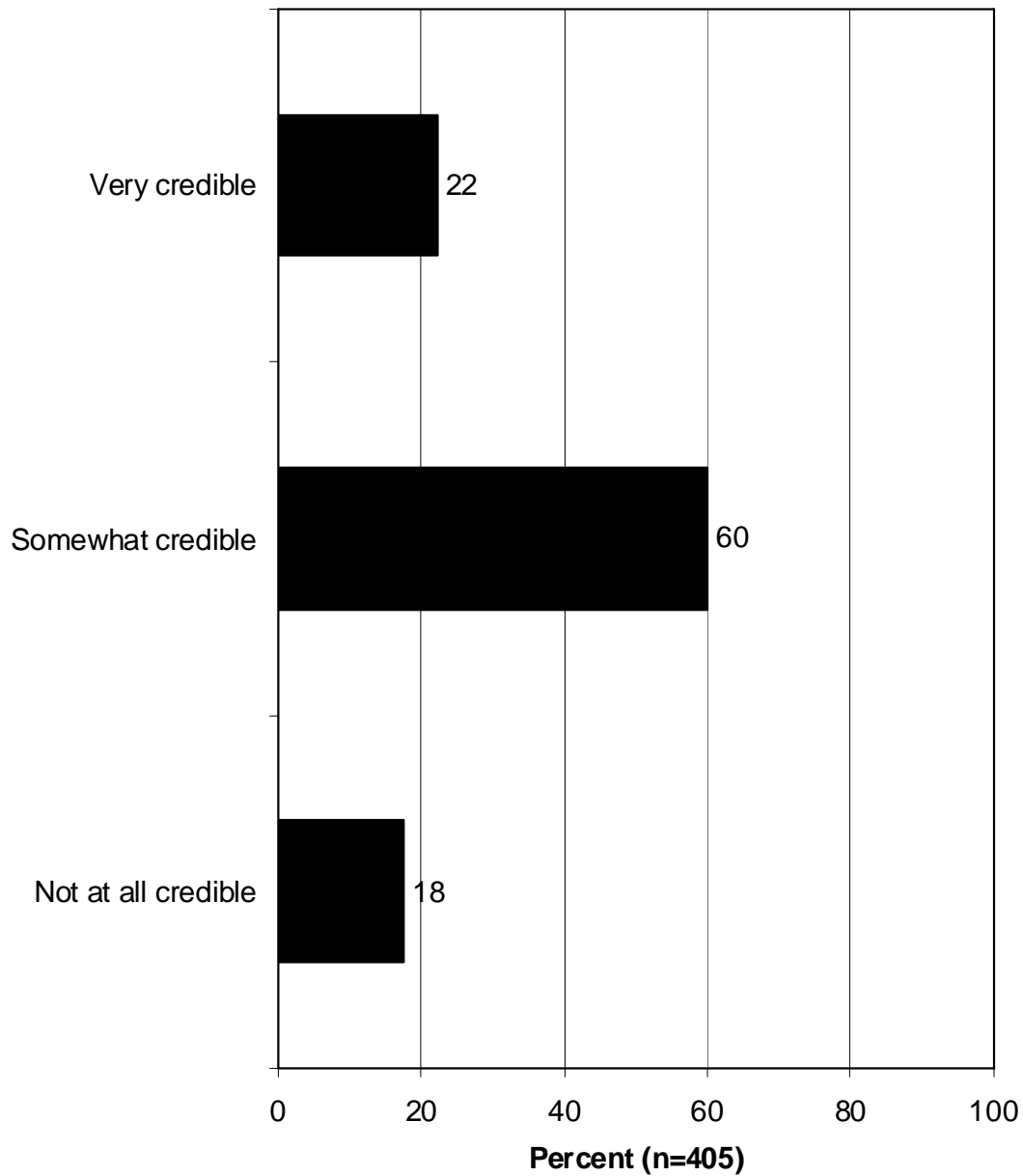
**Q97. Do you think a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university, is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (General population survey.)**



**Q98. Do you think magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail are very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (General population survey.)**

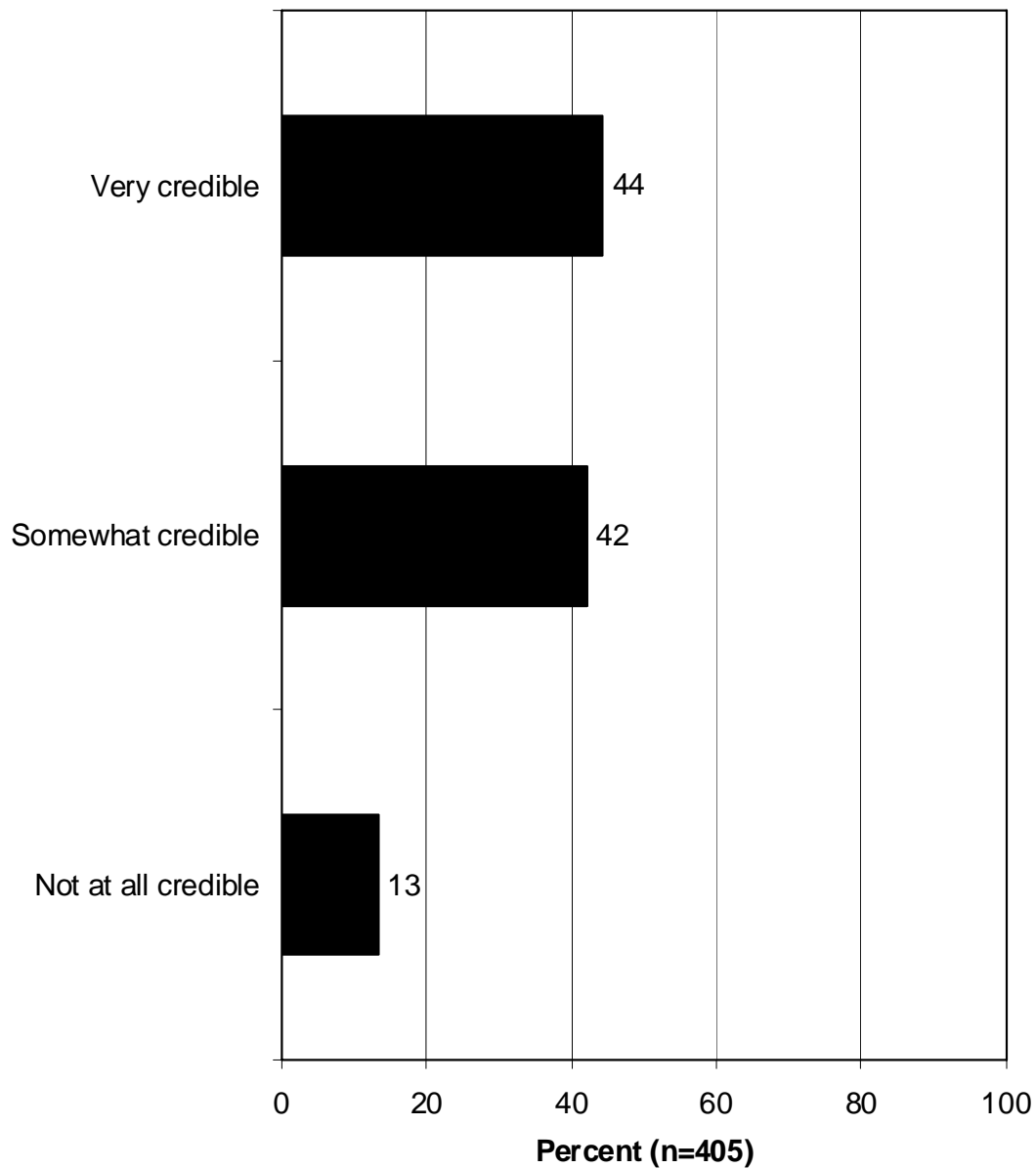


**Q94. Do you think the organization Fund For Animals is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Excludes "don't know" answers.) (General population survey.)**

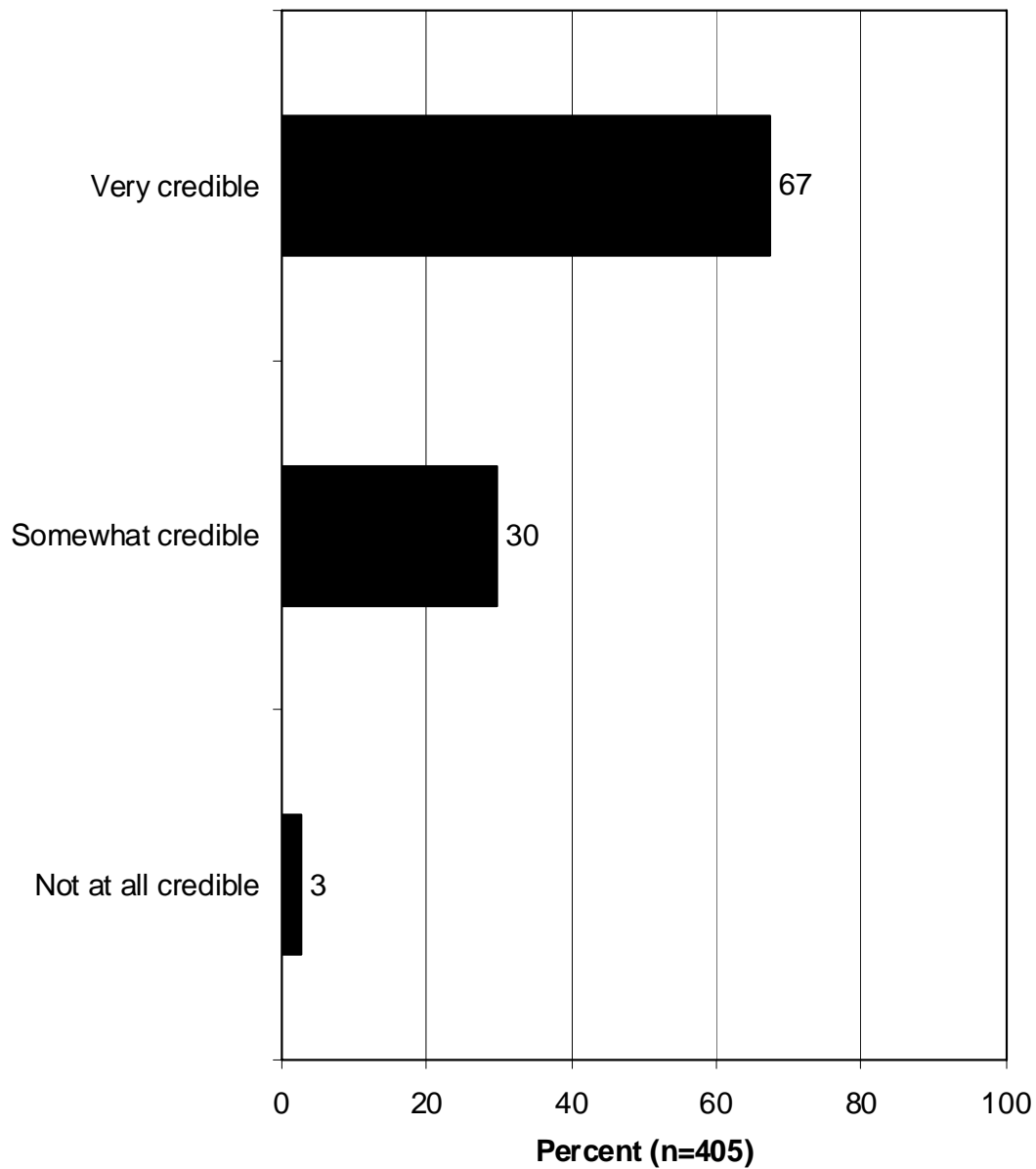




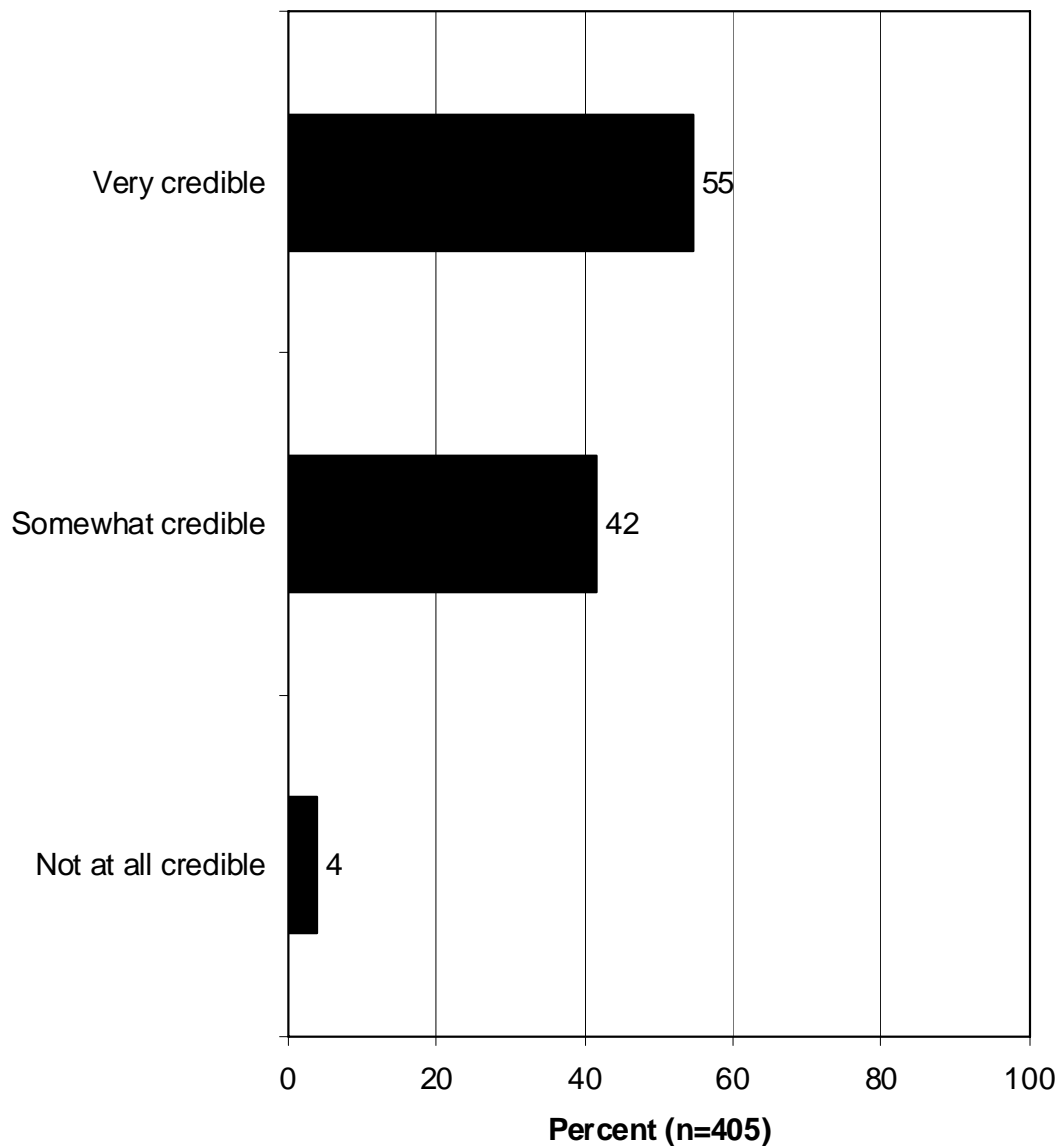
**Q95. Do you think the Humane Society of the United States is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Excludes "don't know" answers.) (General population survey.)**



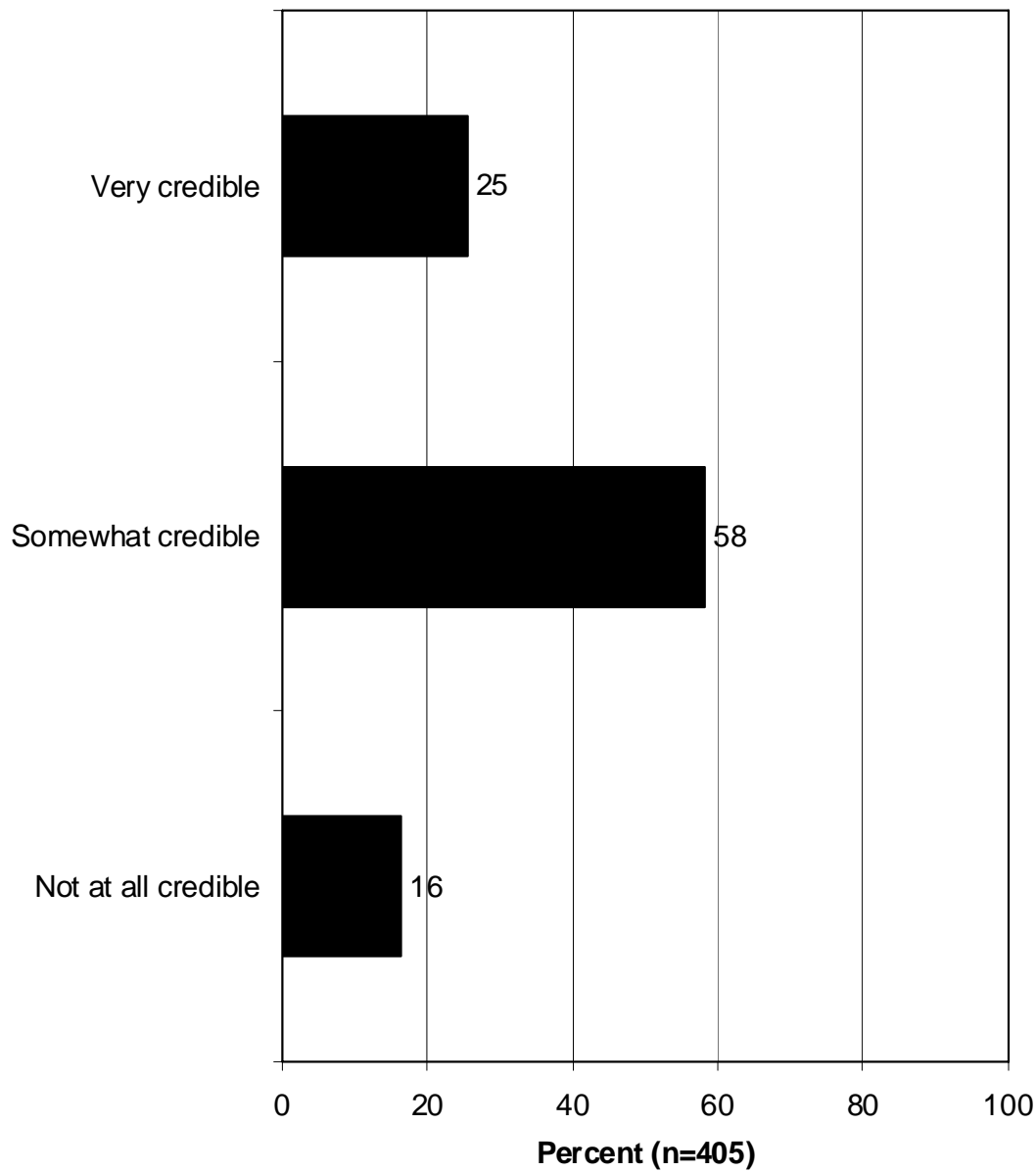
**Q96. Do you think a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Excludes "don't know" answers.) (General population survey.)**



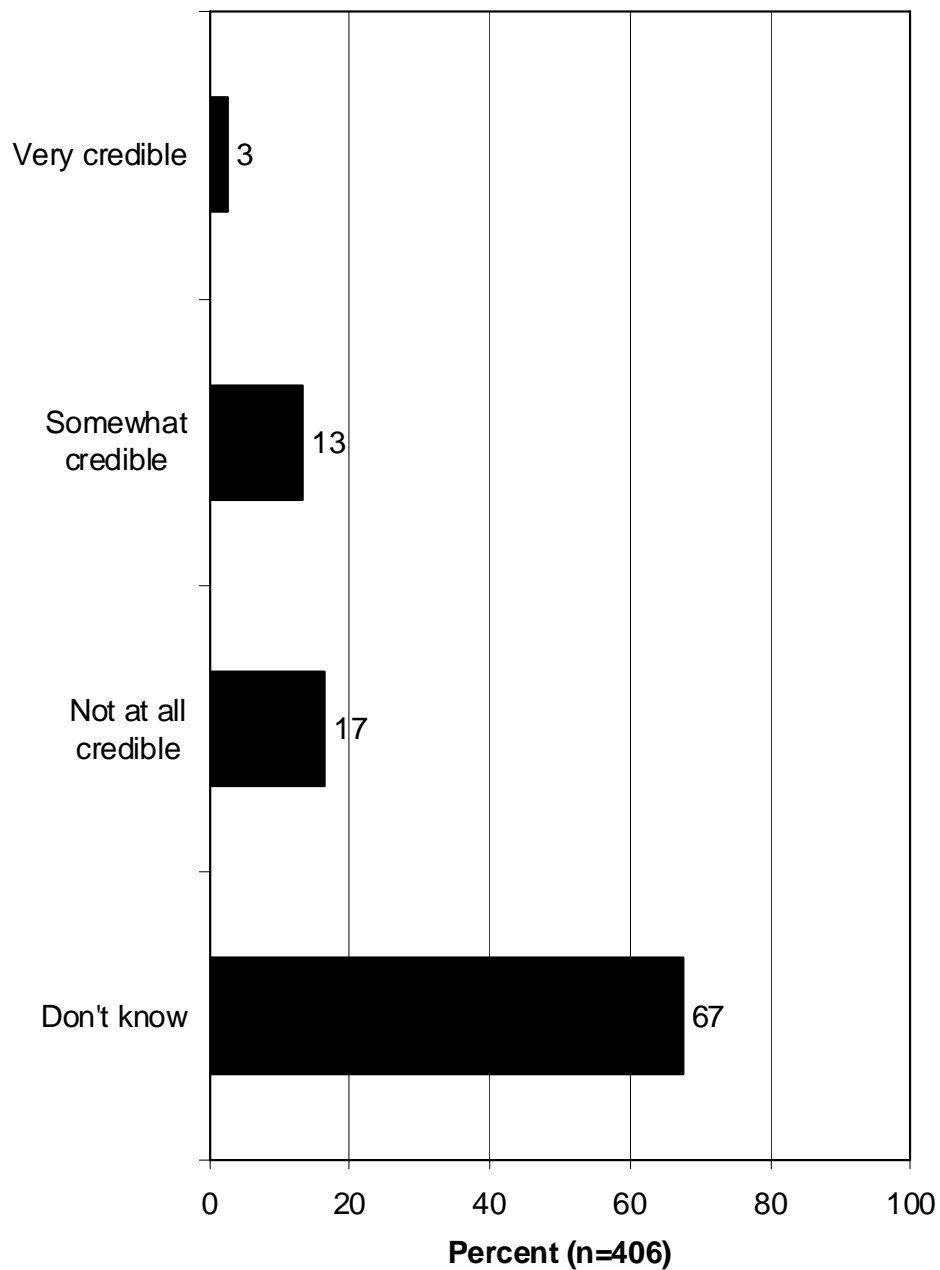
**Q97. Do you think a professor of natural resources, biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university, is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Excludes "don't know" answers.) (General population survey.)**



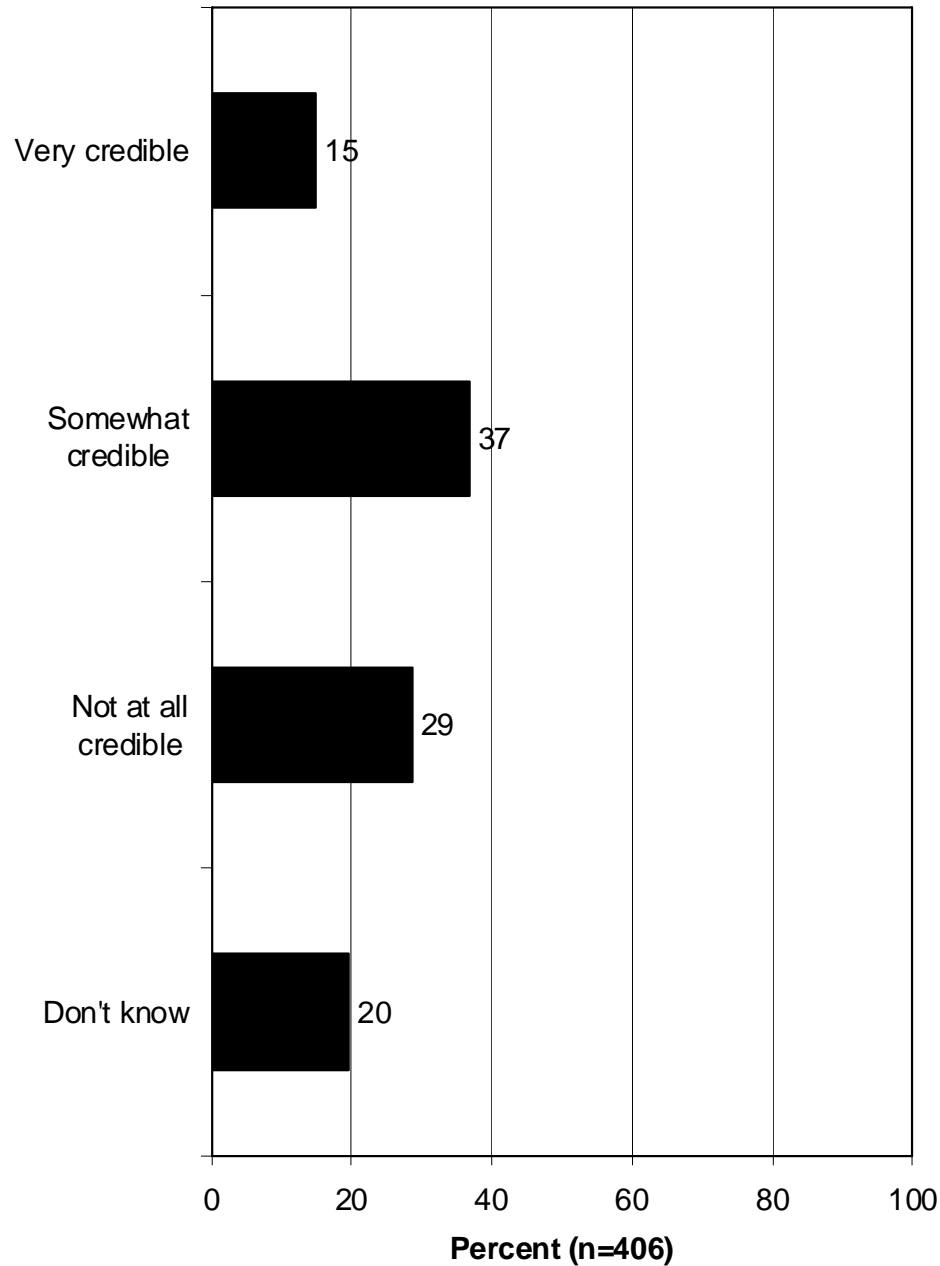
**Q98. Do you think magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail are very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Excludes "don't know" answers.) (General population survey.)**



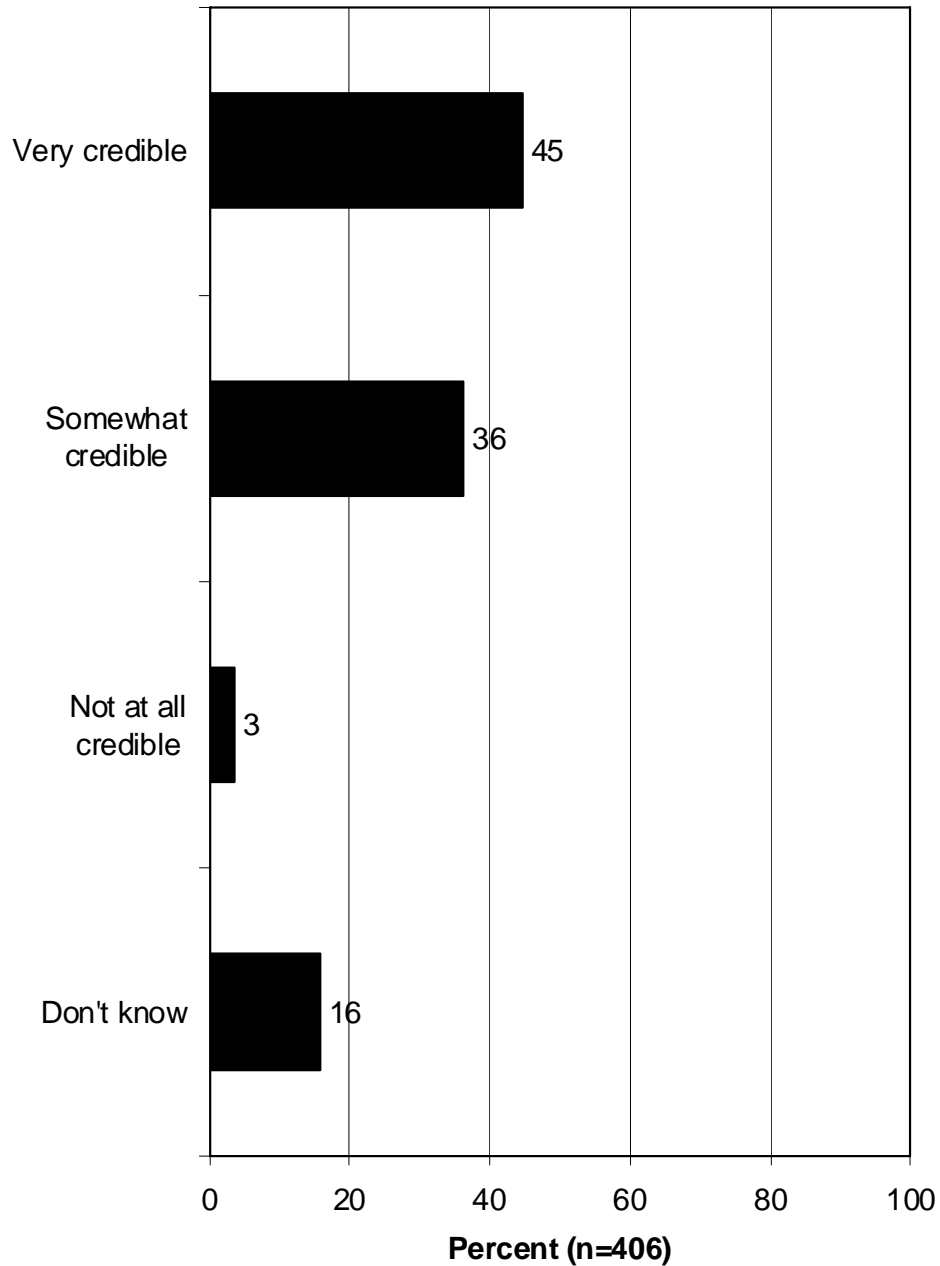
**Q113. Do you think the organization Fund For Animals is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?  
(Landowner survey.)**



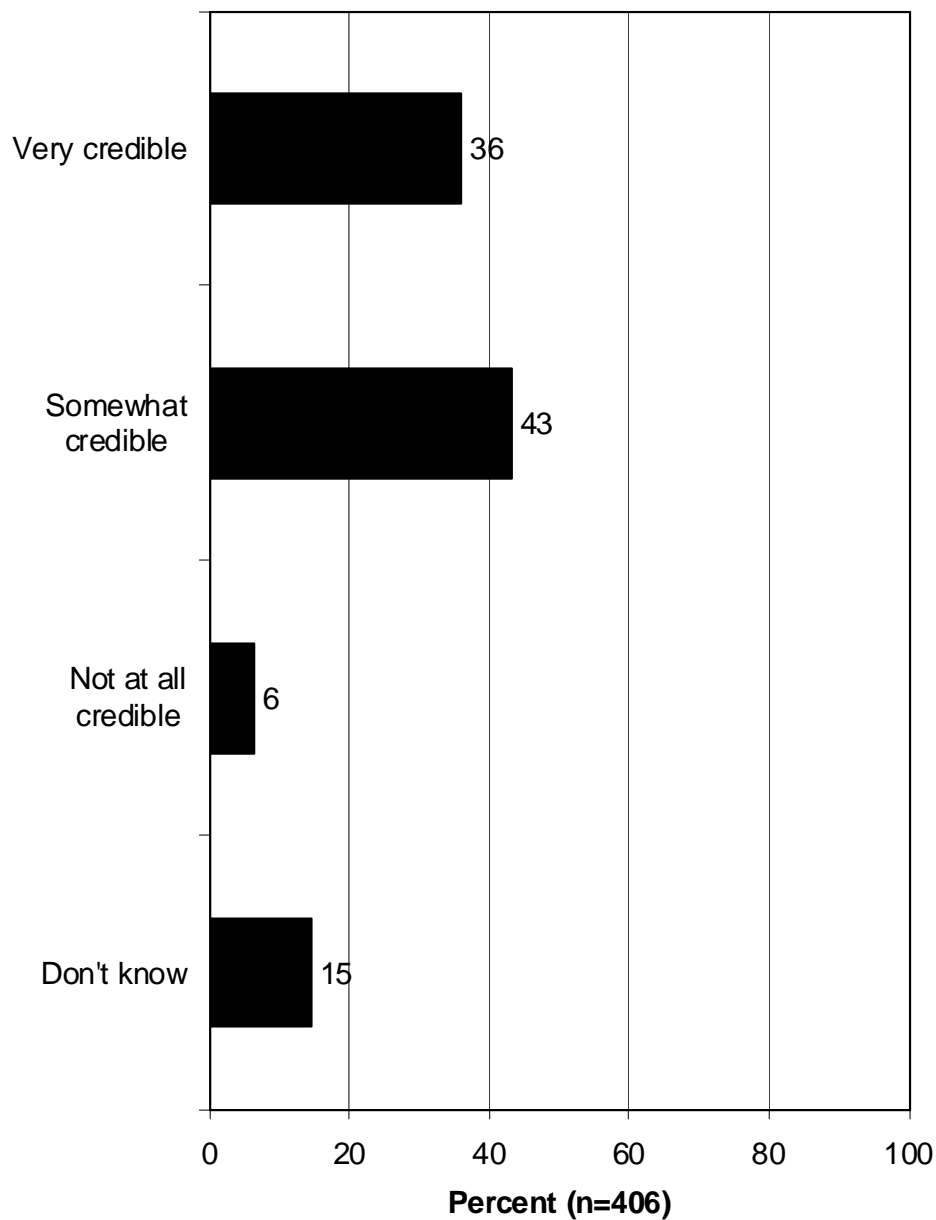
**Q114. Do you think the Humane Society of the United States is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q115. Do you think a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible?  
(Landowner survey.)**

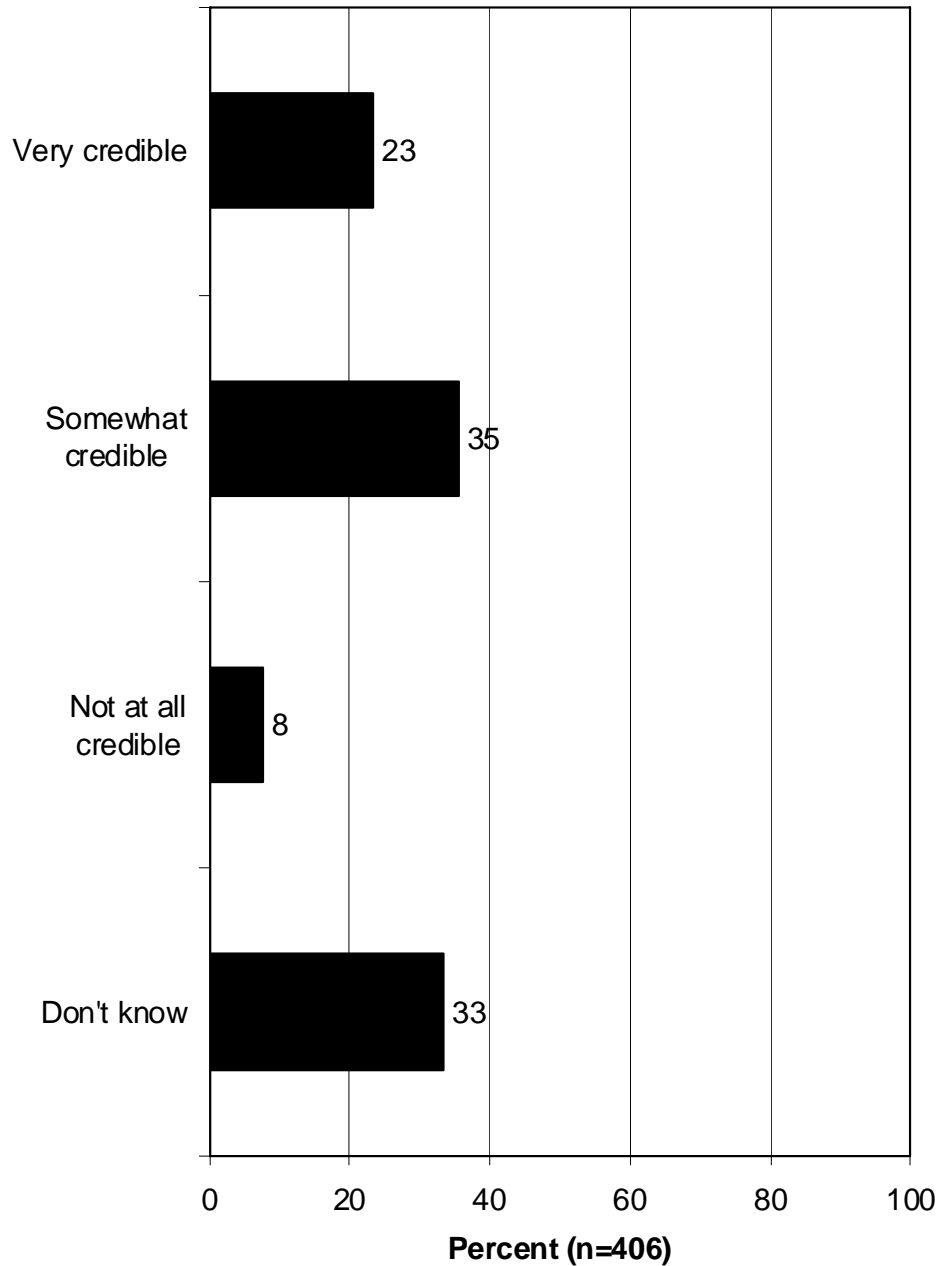


**Q116. Do you think a professor of natural resources biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university, is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible?  
(Landowner survey.)**

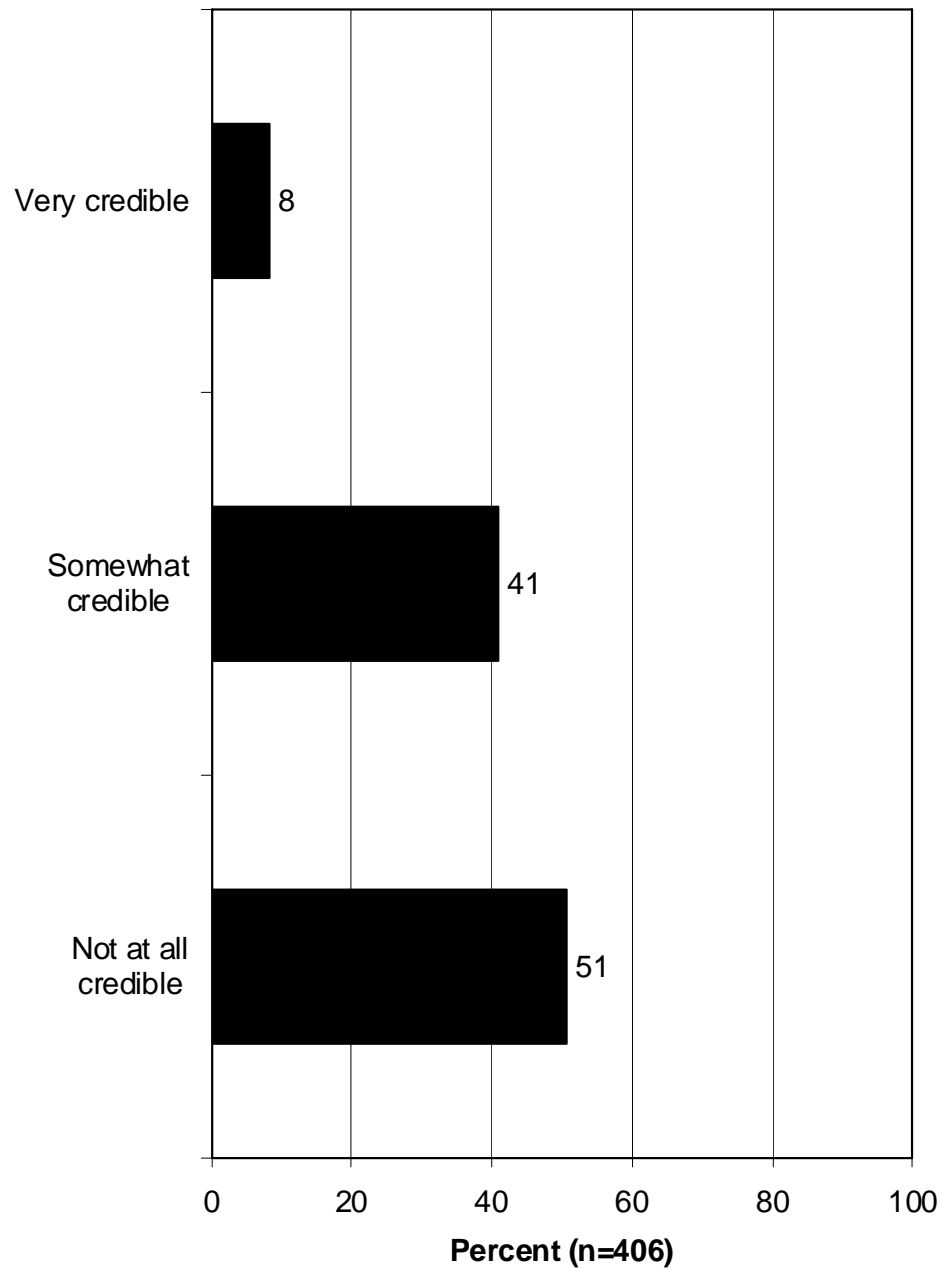




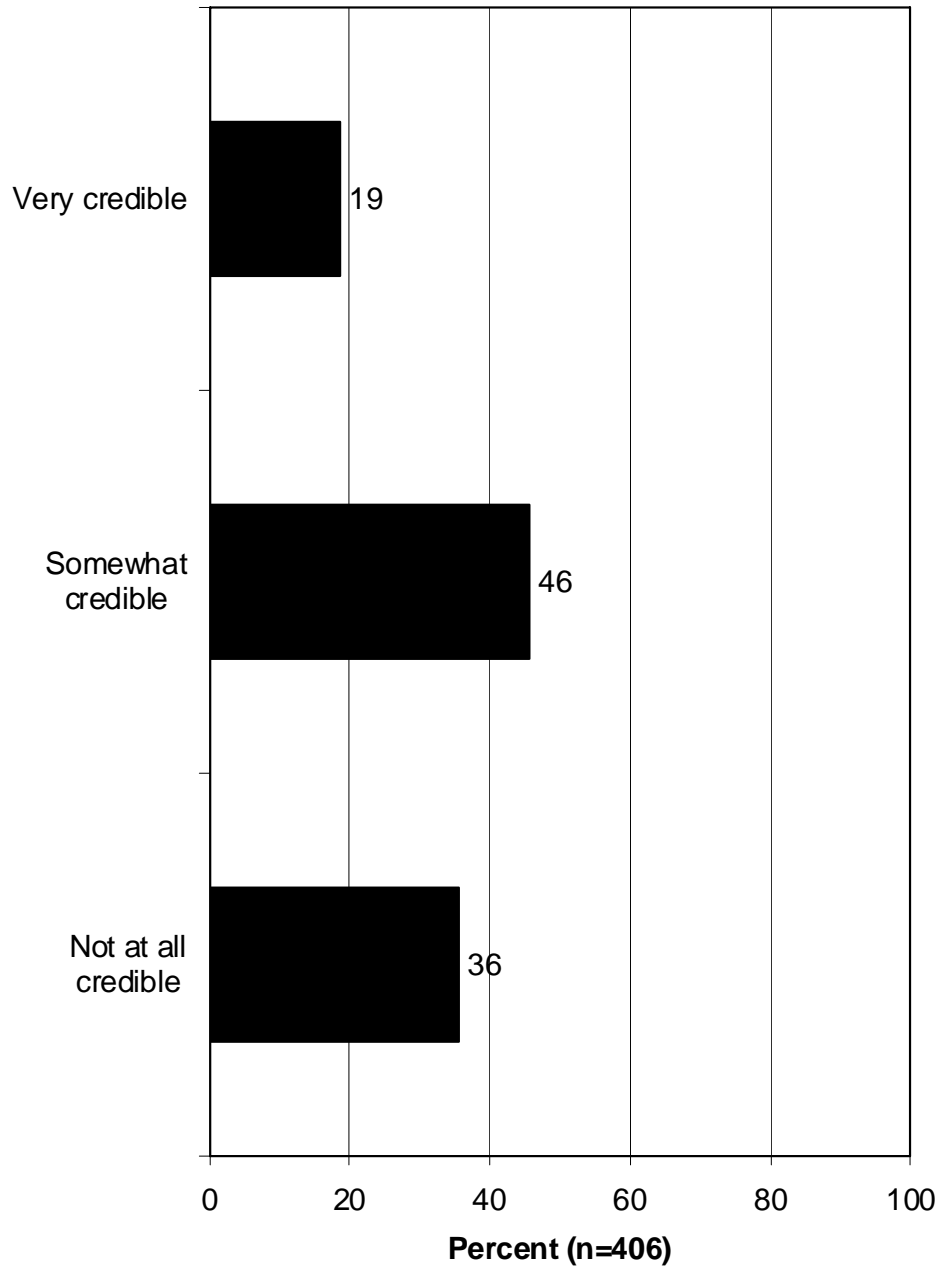
**Q117. Do you think magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail are very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Landowner survey.)**



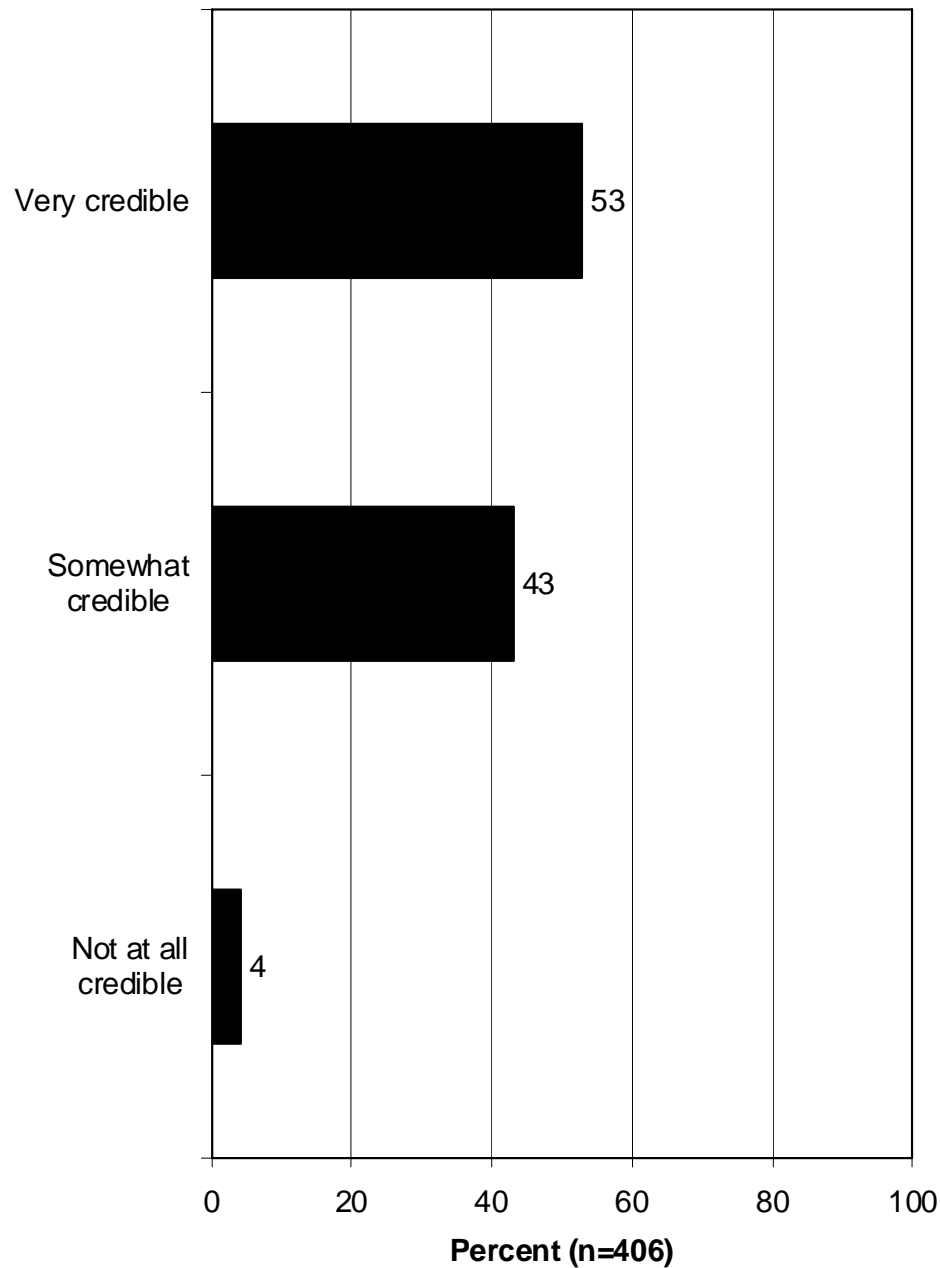
**Q113. Do you think the organization Fund For Animals is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Don't know answers excluded.) (Landowner survey.)**



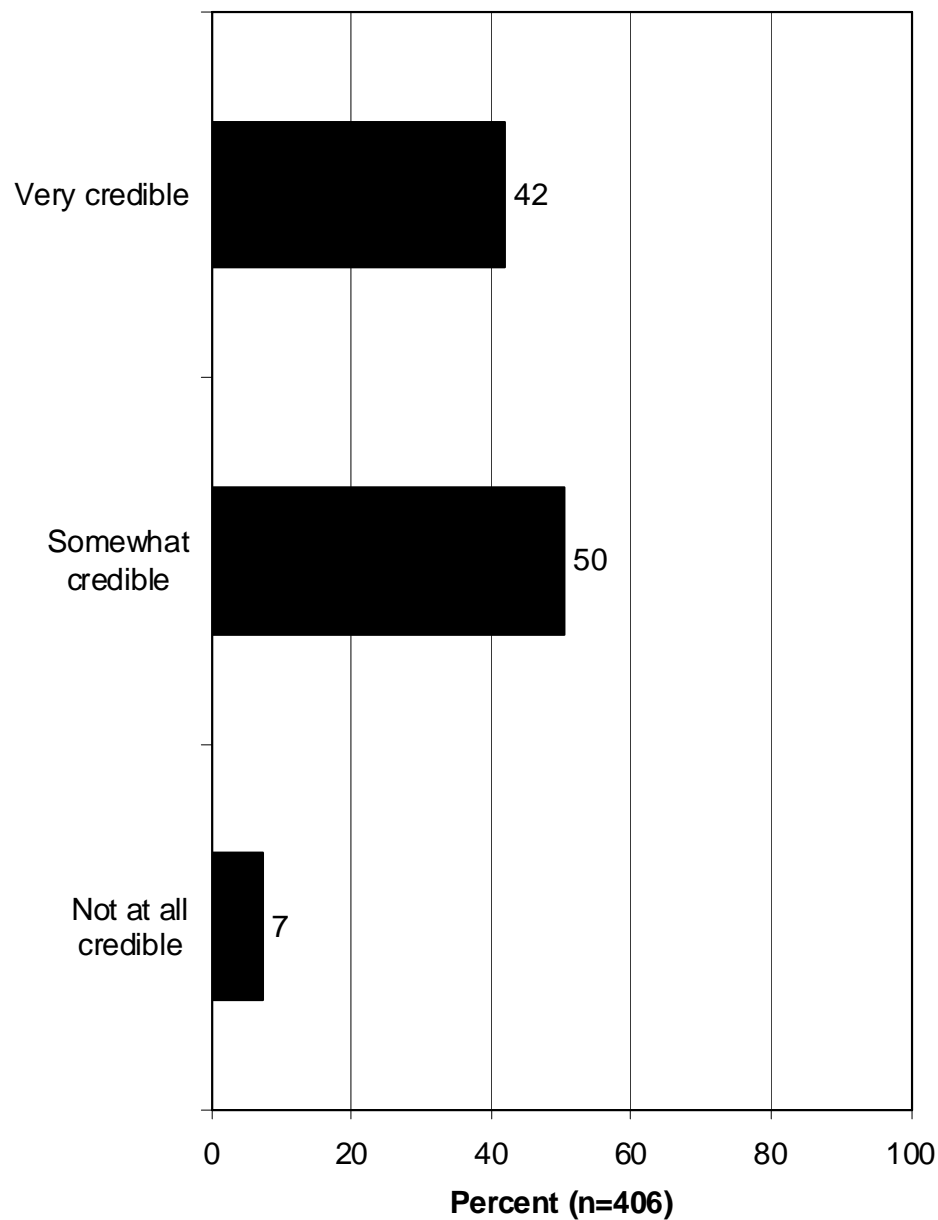
**Q114. Do you think the Humane Society of the United States is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Don't know answers excluded.) (Landowner survey.)**



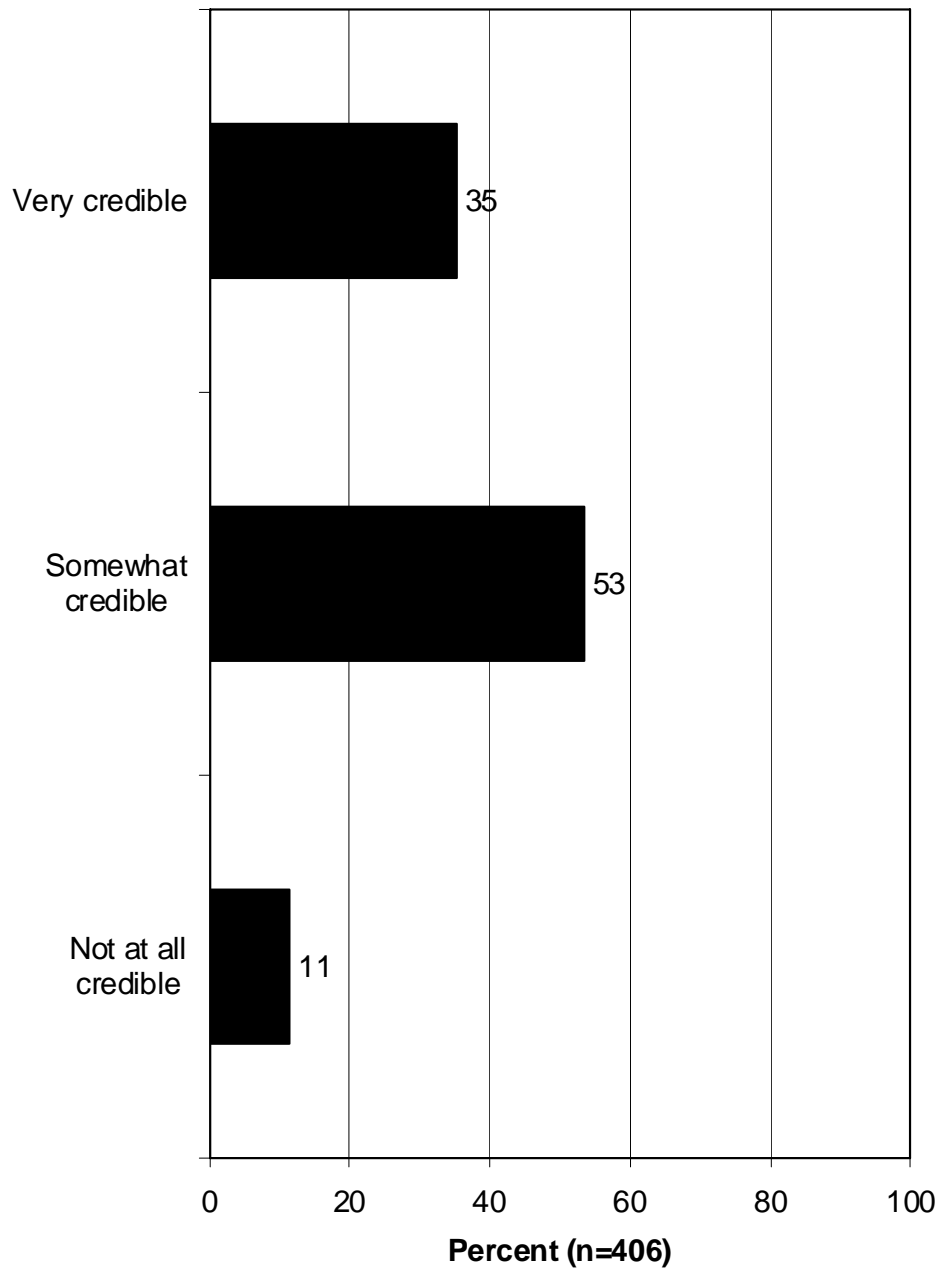
**Q115. Do you think a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Don't know answers excluded.) (Landowner survey.)**



**Q116. Do you think a professor of natural resources biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university, is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Don't know answers excluded.) (Landowner survey.)**



**Q117. Do you think magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail are very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Don't know answers excluded.) (Landowner survey.)**



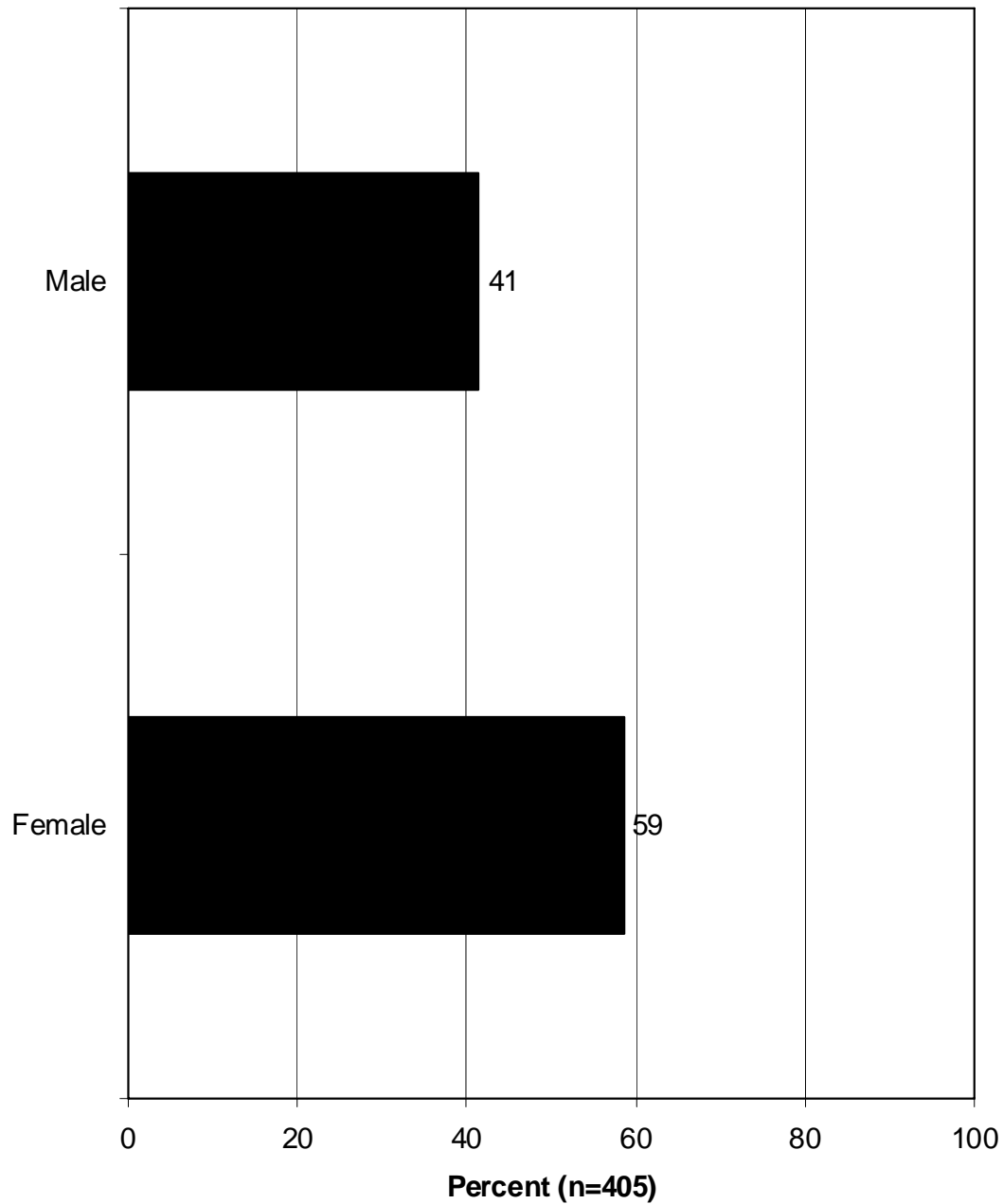
## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- The general population survey was 41% male, 59% female. Deer hunters, on the other hand, are mostly male (97%). Landowners are mostly male (65%).
- Ages of Maryland residents, hunters, and landowners are shown. The majority of hunters (51%) are between 45 and 64 years old. The landowners tend to be in the older age brackets.
- Maryland residents in the survey are mostly white/Caucasian (77%) or black/African-American (13%). The overwhelming majority of hunters (95%) and large landowners (94%) are white/Caucasian.
  - In a direct question about Hispanic or Latino origin, 4% of Maryland residents answered that they are of Hispanic or Latino origin. Meanwhile, 2% of deer hunters indicated Hispanic or Latino origin. Finally, 2% of large landowners are of Hispanic or Latino origin.
- Educational levels of Maryland residents are shown: 68% have at least some college or trade school experience; 49% have at least an Associate's or trade school degree; 40% have at least a Bachelor's degree. Among deer hunters, 47% have at least some college or trade school experience, 30% have at least an Associate's or trade school degree, and 19% have at least a Bachelor's degree. The education levels of landowners are shown, as well.
- Household incomes of the general population and deer hunters are shown, fairly evenly distributed among categories. Household incomes of large landowners are shown; however, a large percentage refused to respond.
- Counties of residence of the general population and hunters are shown. In addition, the counties in which large landowners own land is shown.
- Most of the large landowners (95%) live in Maryland, but 4% do not. The counties of residence of those who live in Maryland are shown. Their states of residence are shown, as well.

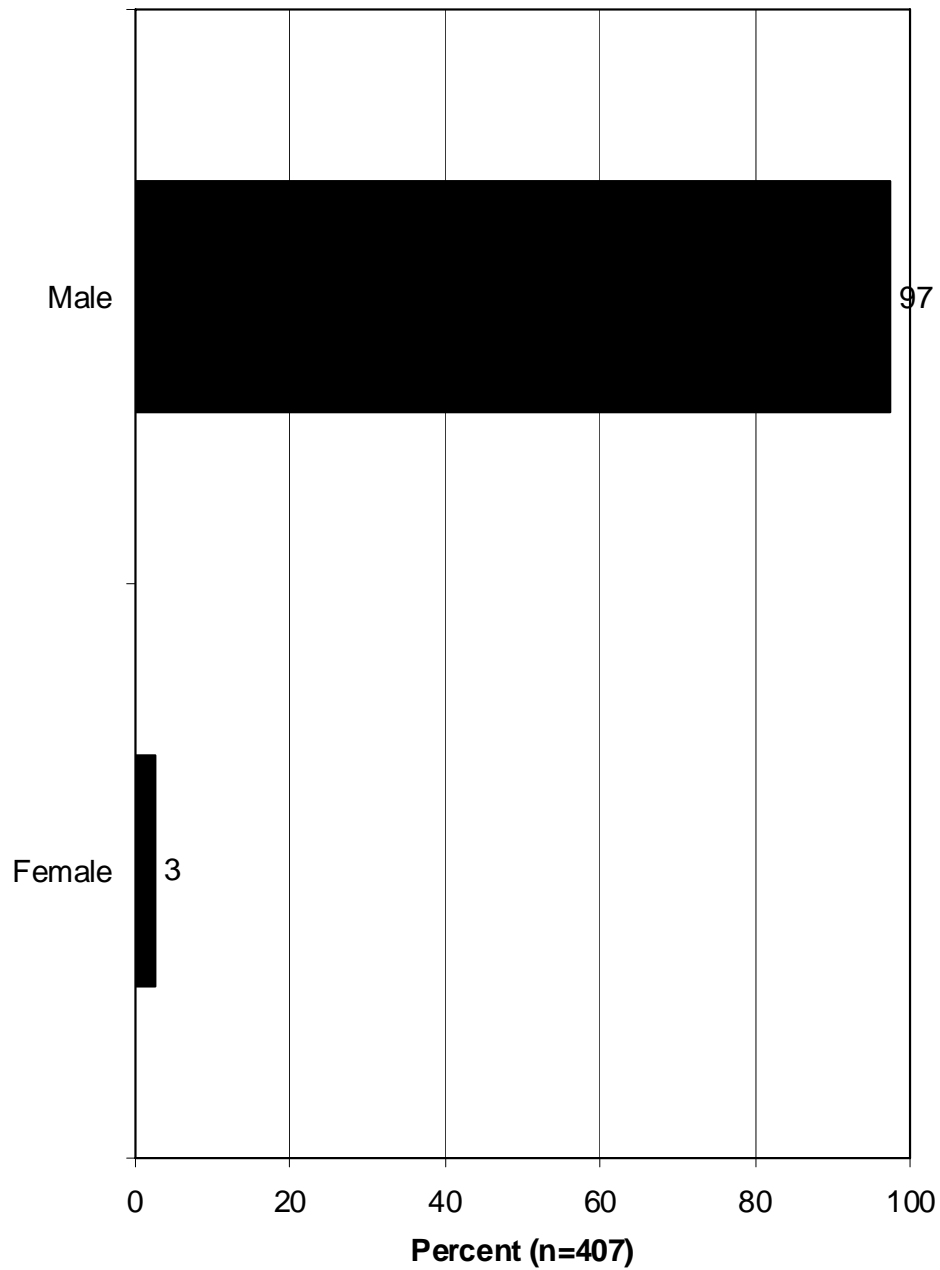
- More than half of Maryland residents (57%) consider their place of residence to be in an urban or suburban area; a quarter (25%) consider their residence to be in a rural area. Deer hunters are more rural: only 36% consider their place of residence to be in an urban or suburban area, while 41% consider their residence to be in a rural area.
  
- Just more than half of Maryland residents (55%) have lived at their present address for more than 10 years. The results of the question regarding length of residence in the Maryland, however, suggests that movement is typically within the state, as 85% have resided in Maryland for more than 10 years. Deer hunters are less transient than the general population: 64% have lived at their present address for more than 10 years. As with the general population, 85% of deer hunters have lived in Maryland for more than 10 years. In general, the landowners are quite stable, with 80% having lived at their current address for more than 10 years, and 91% having lived in Maryland for more than 10 years.



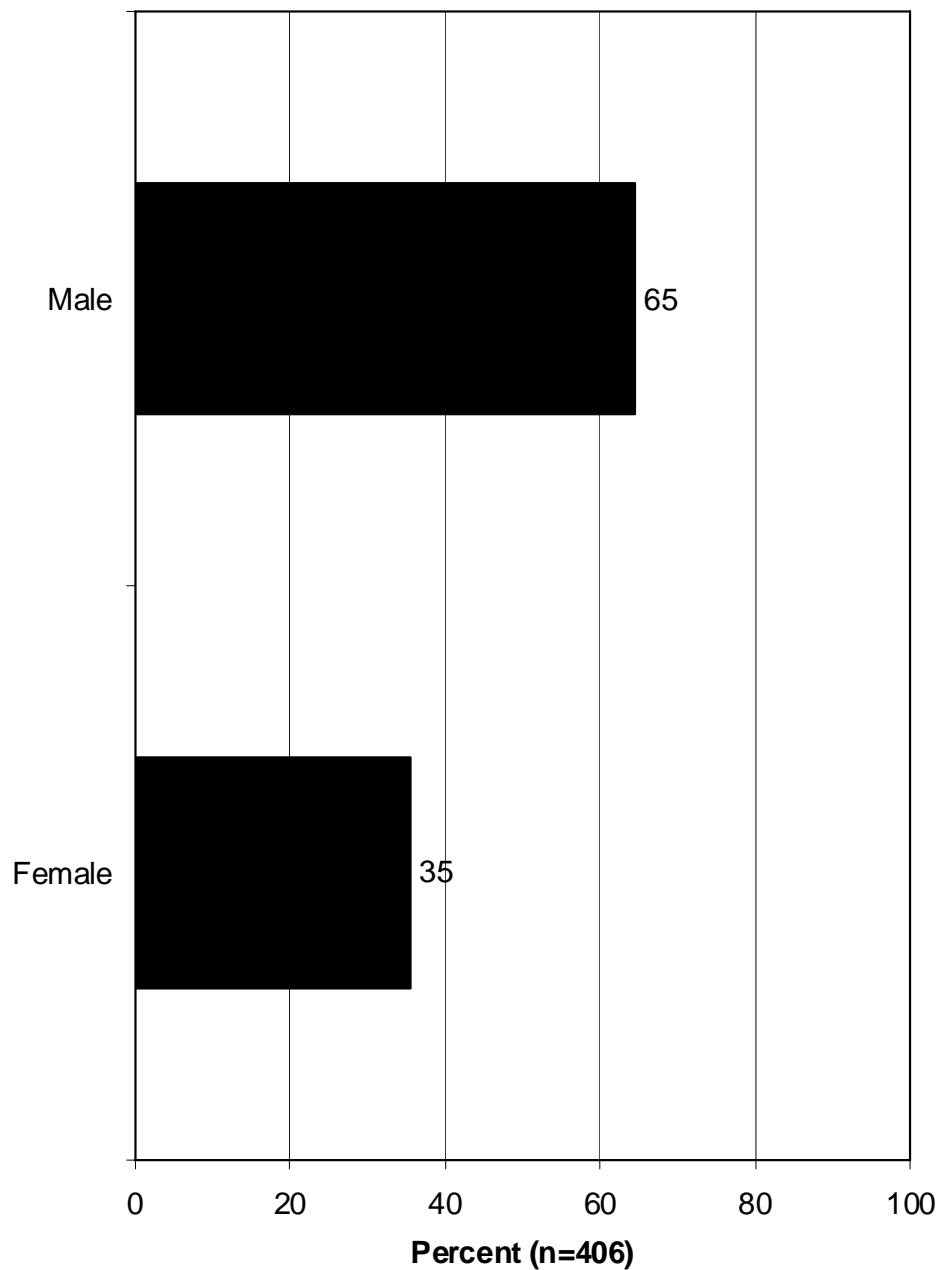
**Q118. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer). (General population survey.)**



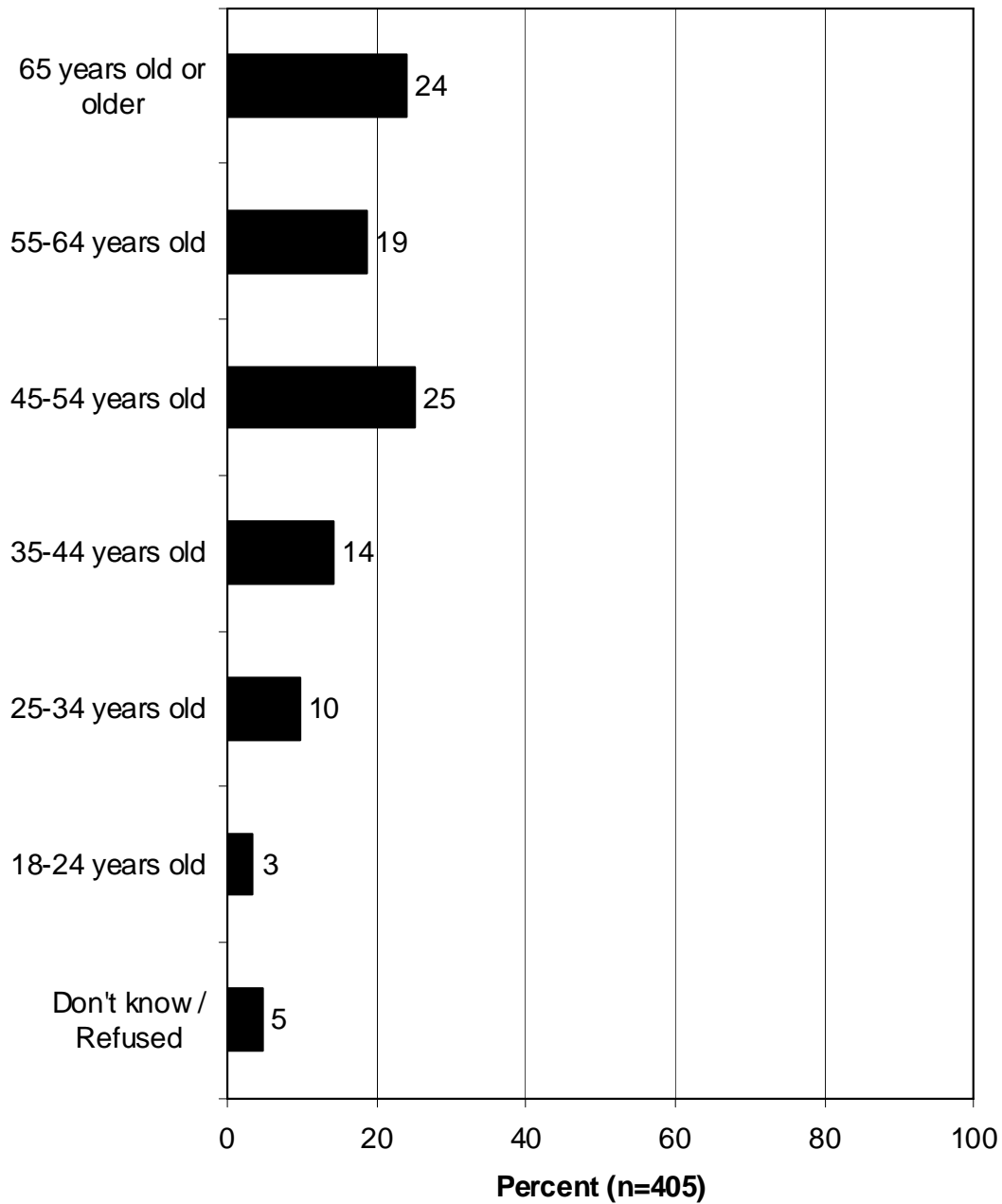
**Q152. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer). (Hunter survey.)**



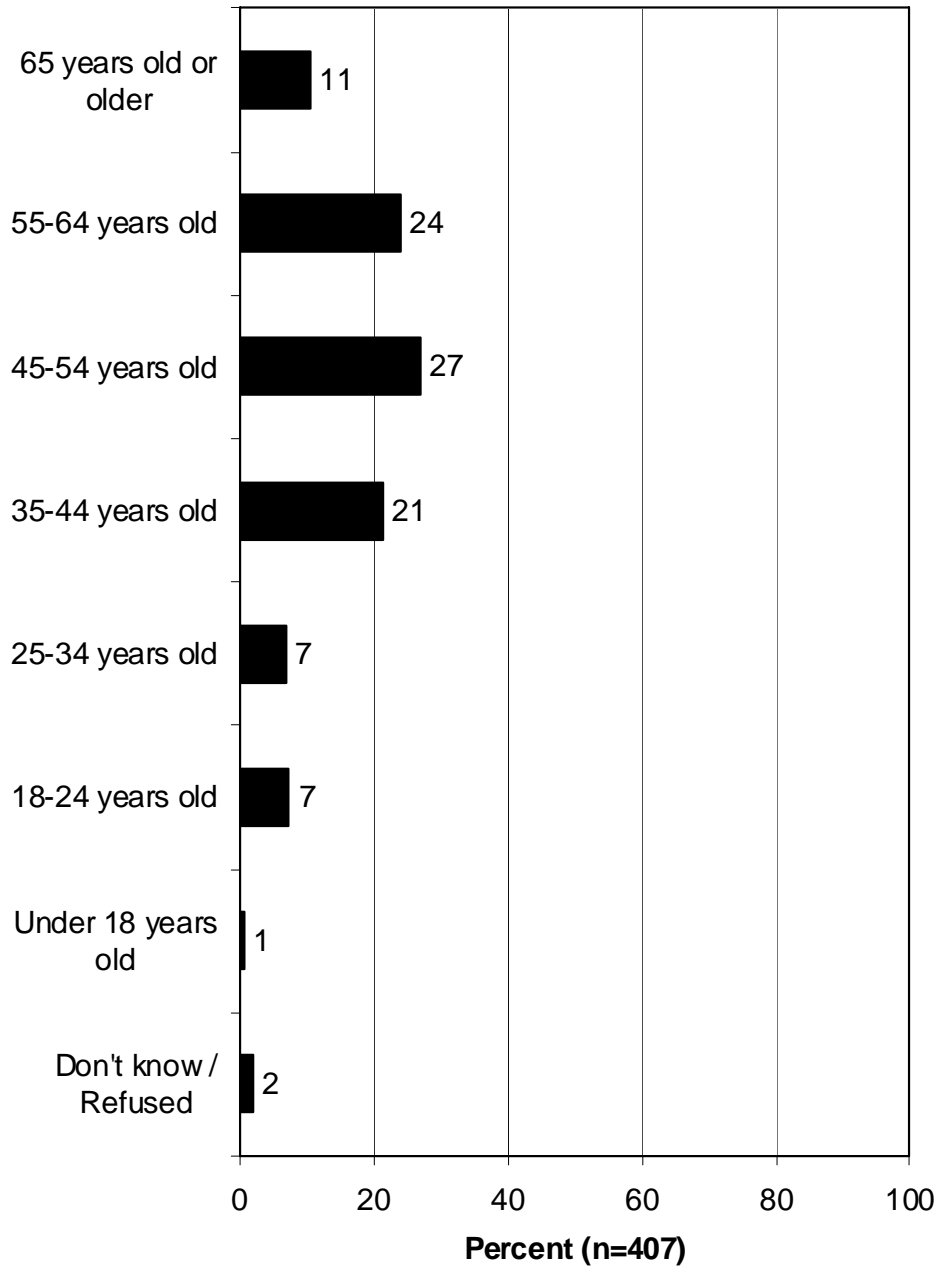
**Q139. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer). (Landowner survey.)**

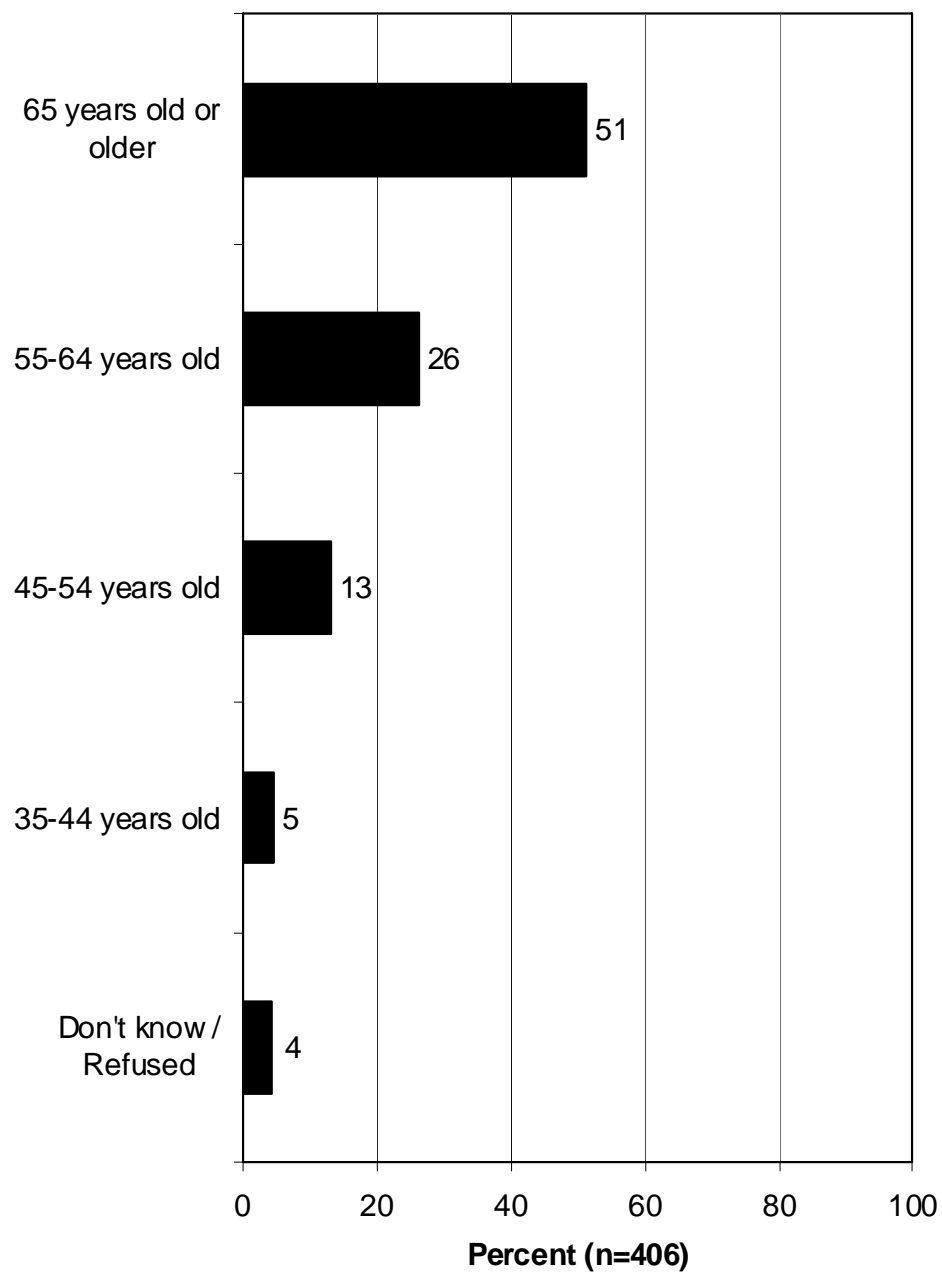


**Q112. Respondent's age. (General population survey.)**

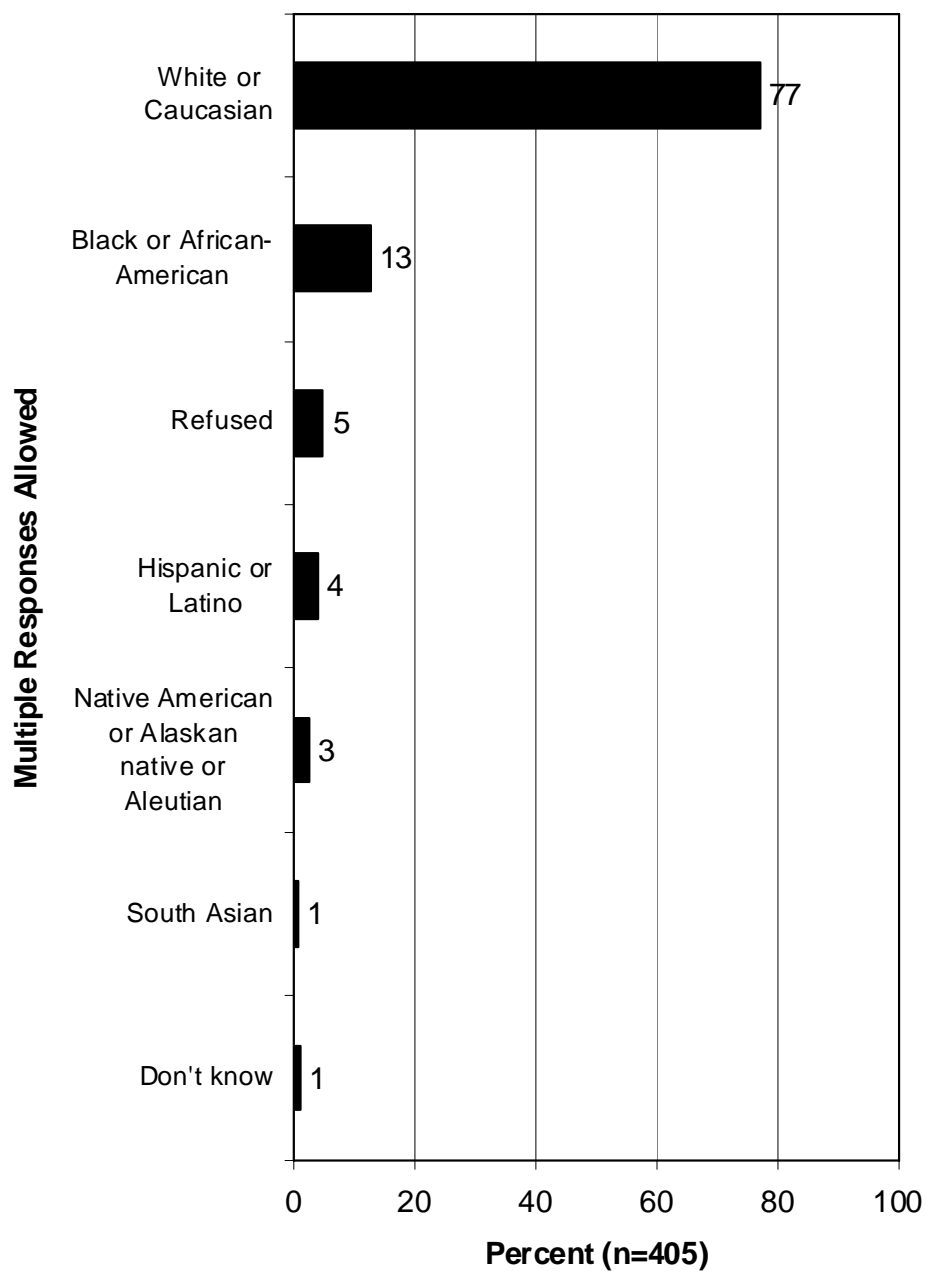


**Q146. May I ask your age? (Hunter survey.)**

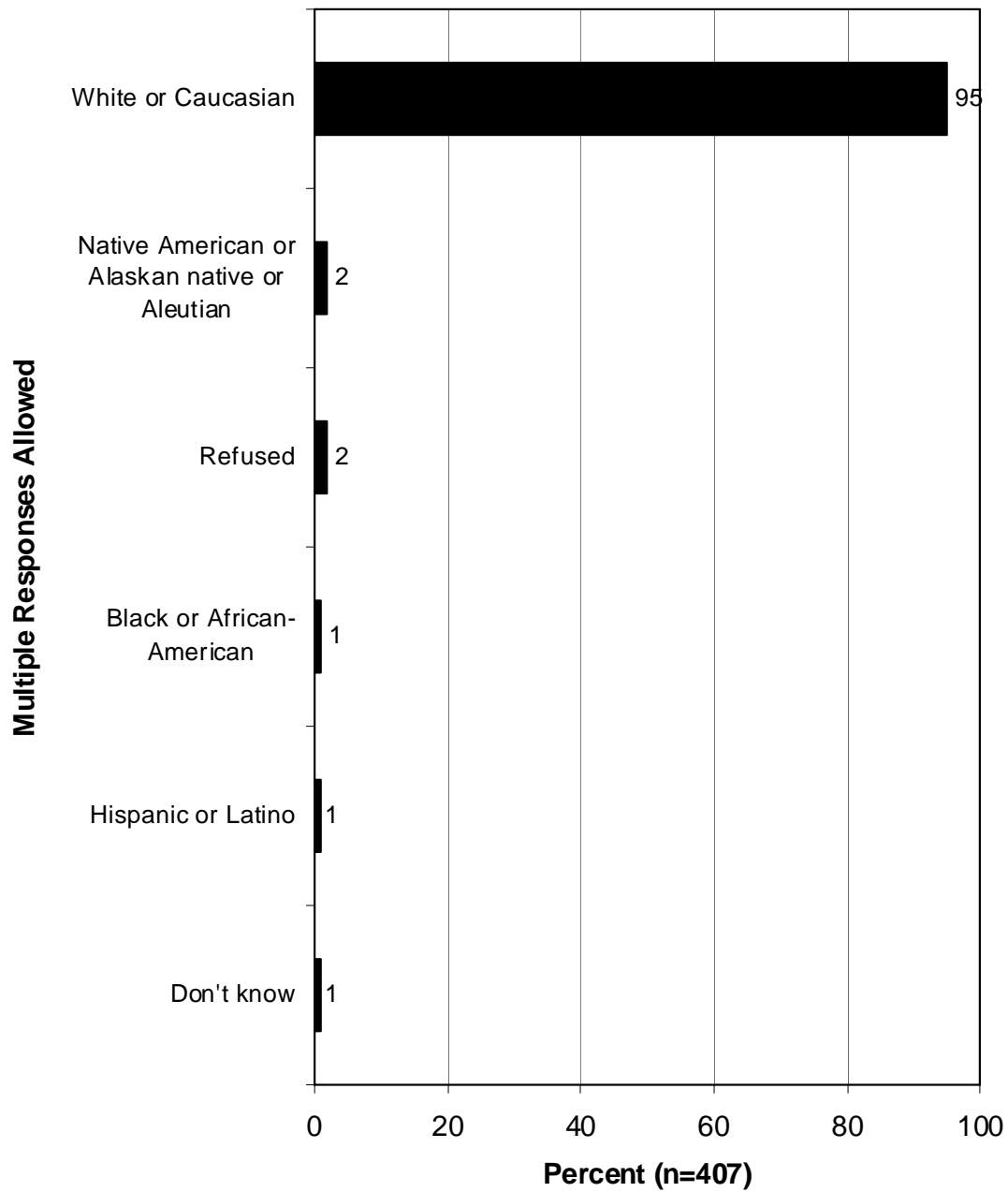


**Q133. Respondent's age. (Landowner survey.)**

**Q110. What races or ethnic background do you consider yourself? (General population survey.)**

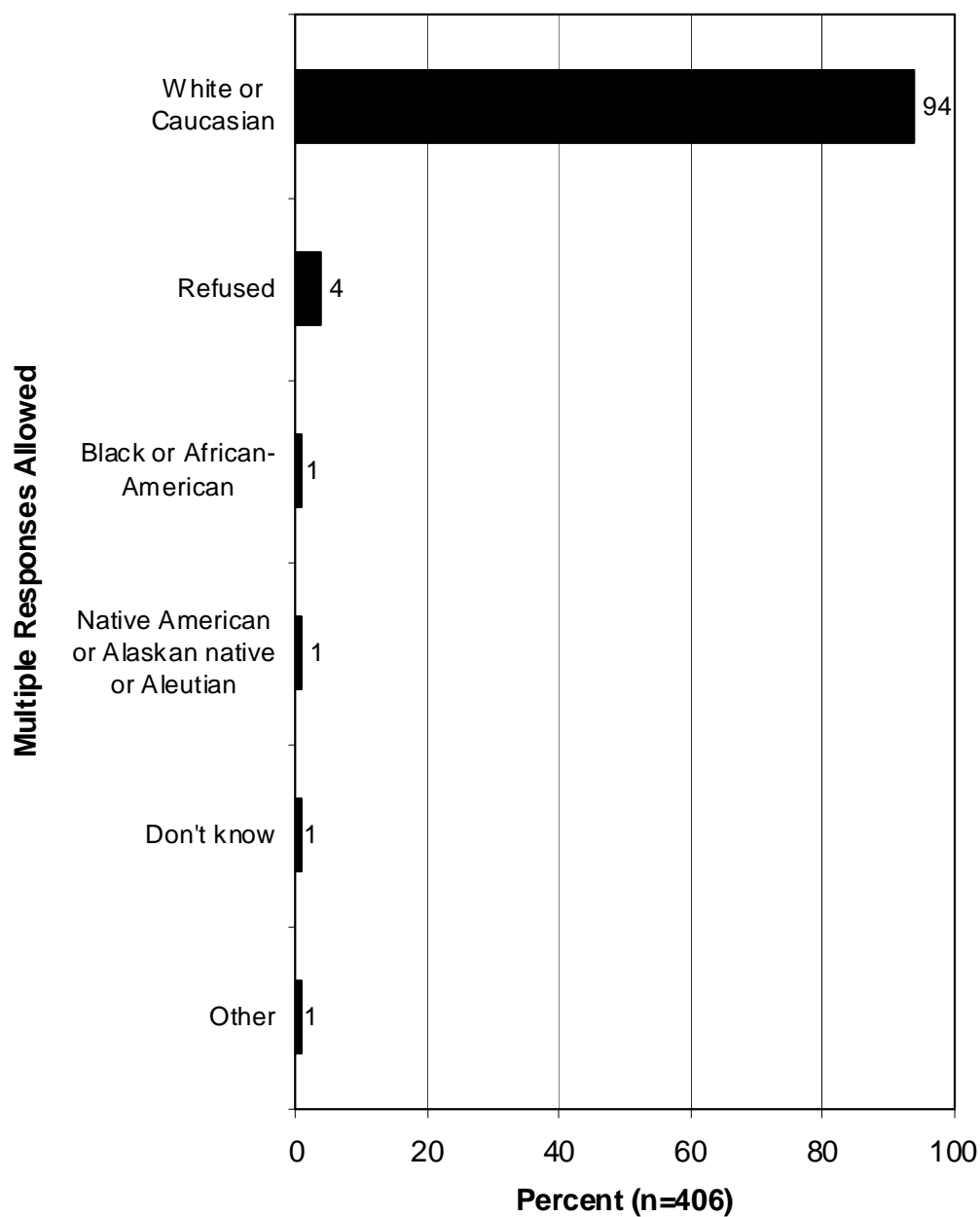


**Q144. What races or ethnic background do you consider yourself? (Hunter survey.)**

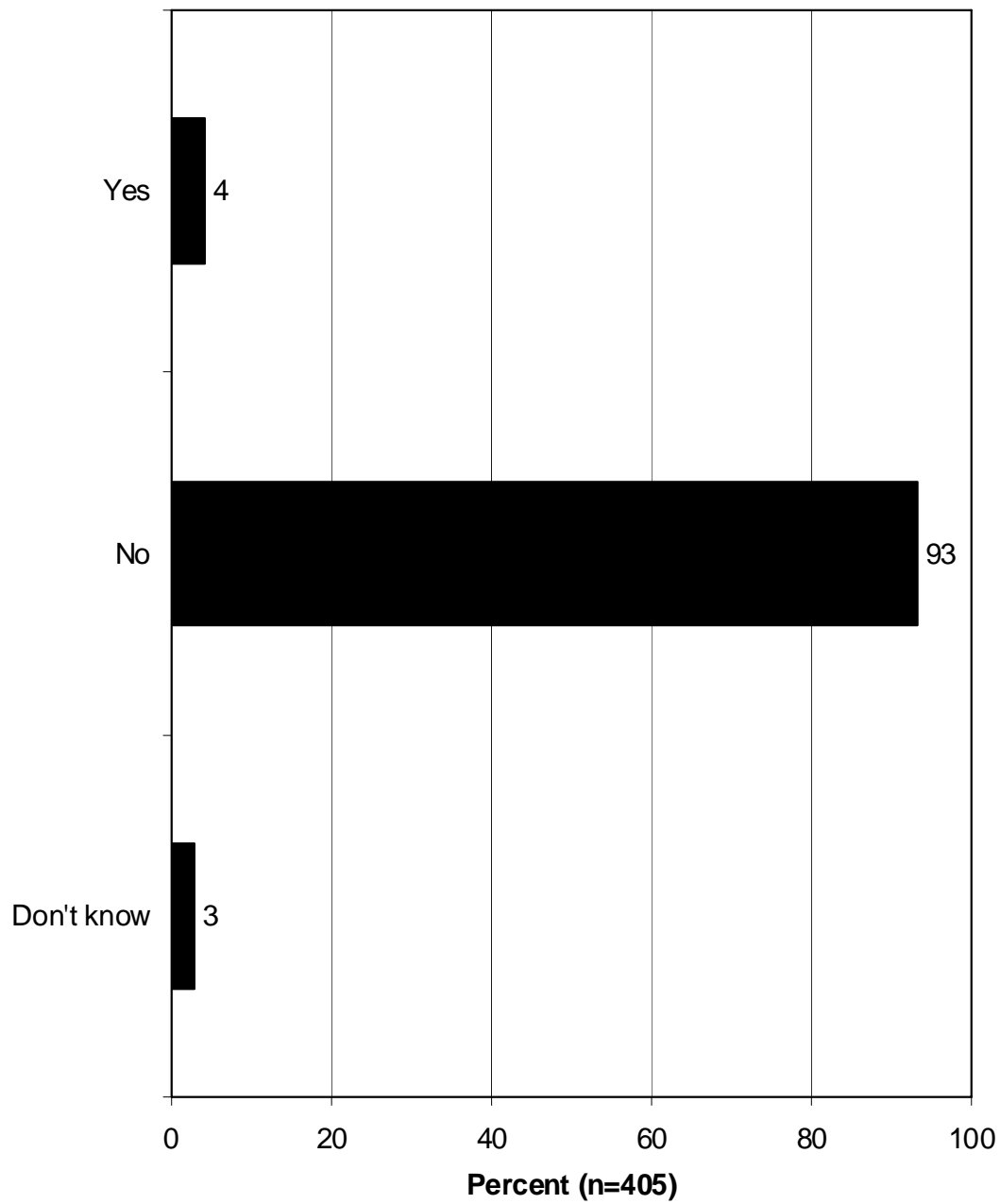




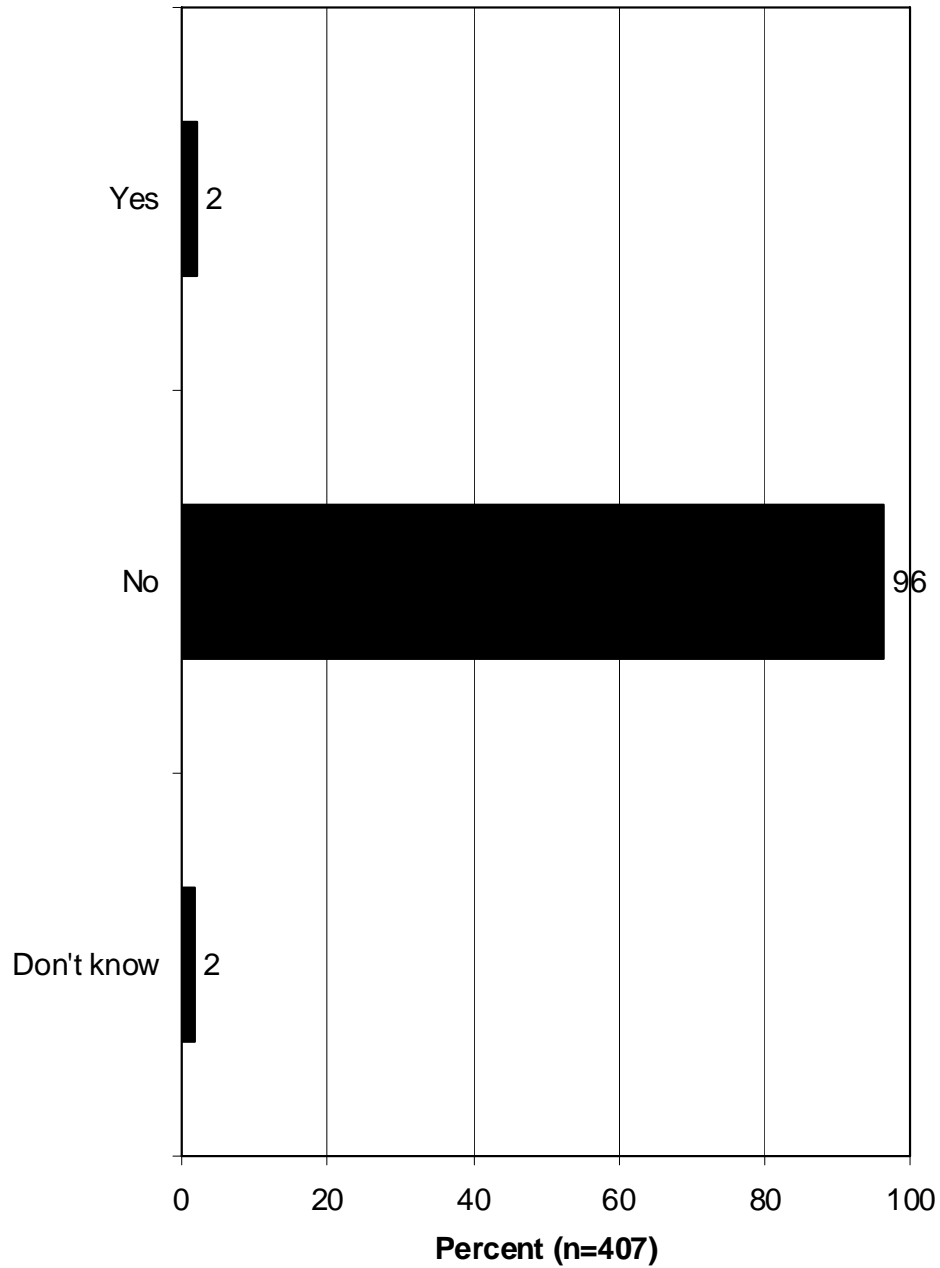
**Q131. What races or ethnic background do you consider yourself? (Landowner survey.)**



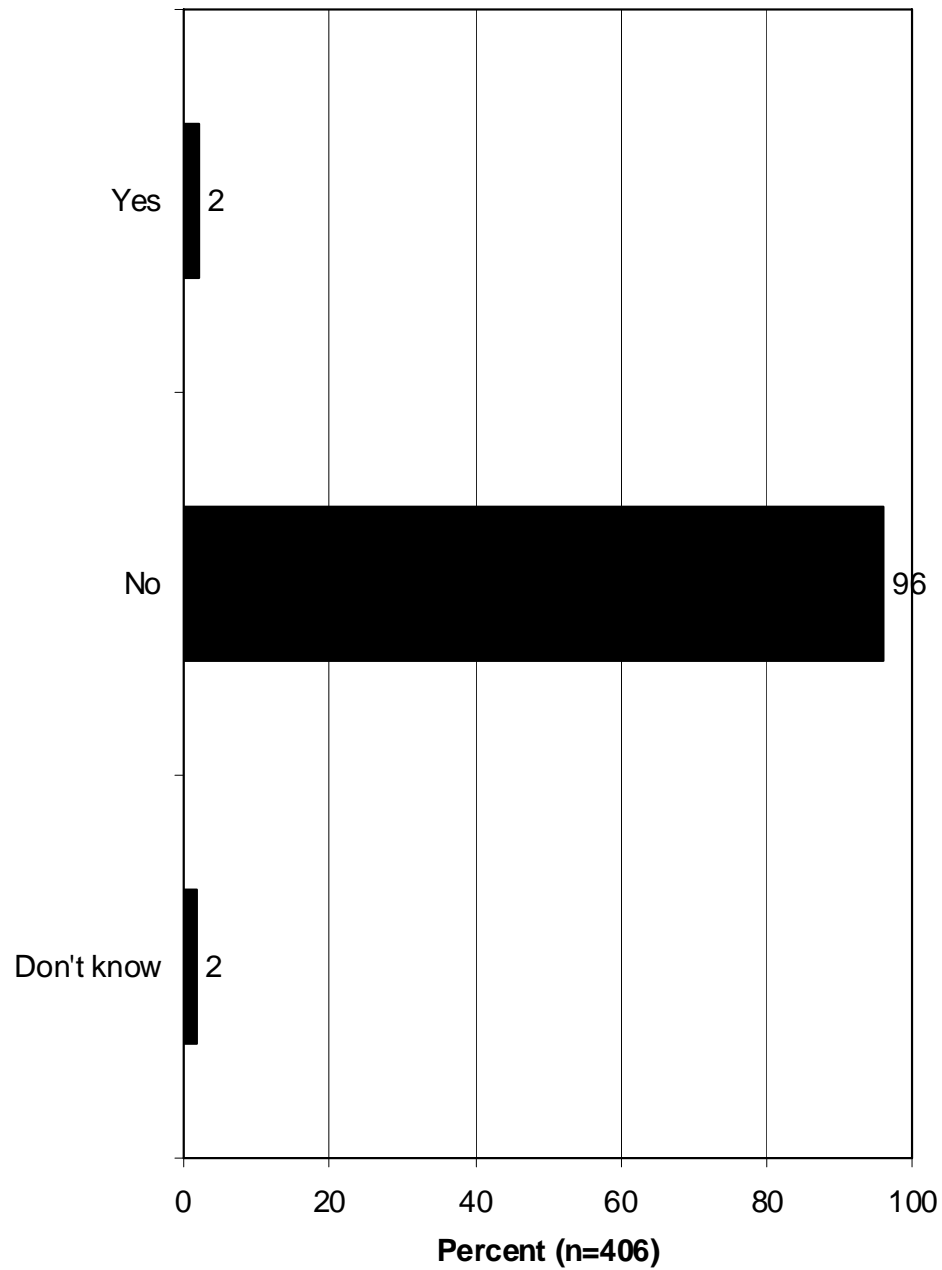
**Q107. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino origin? (General population survey.)**



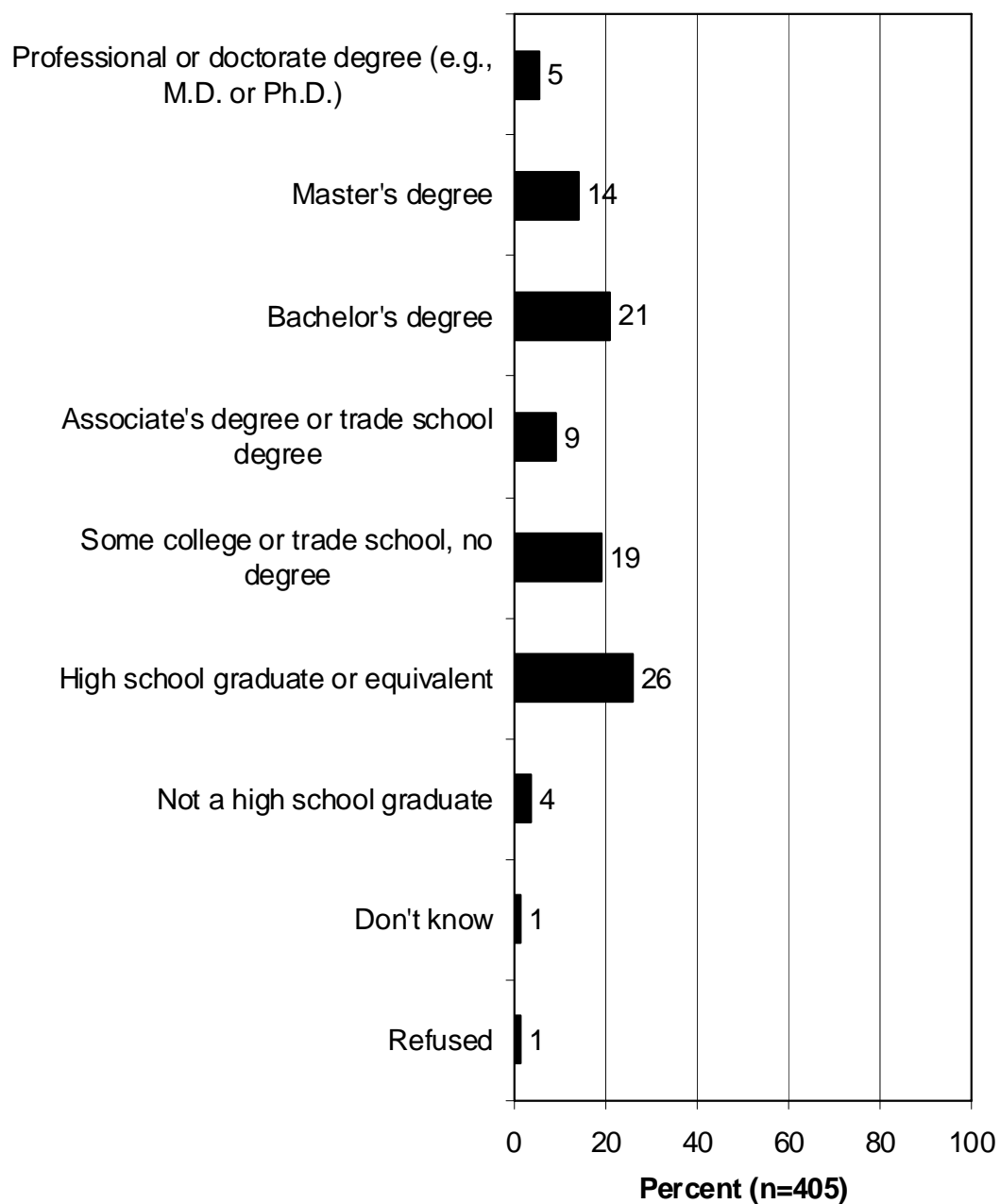
**Q141. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino origin? (Hunter survey.)**



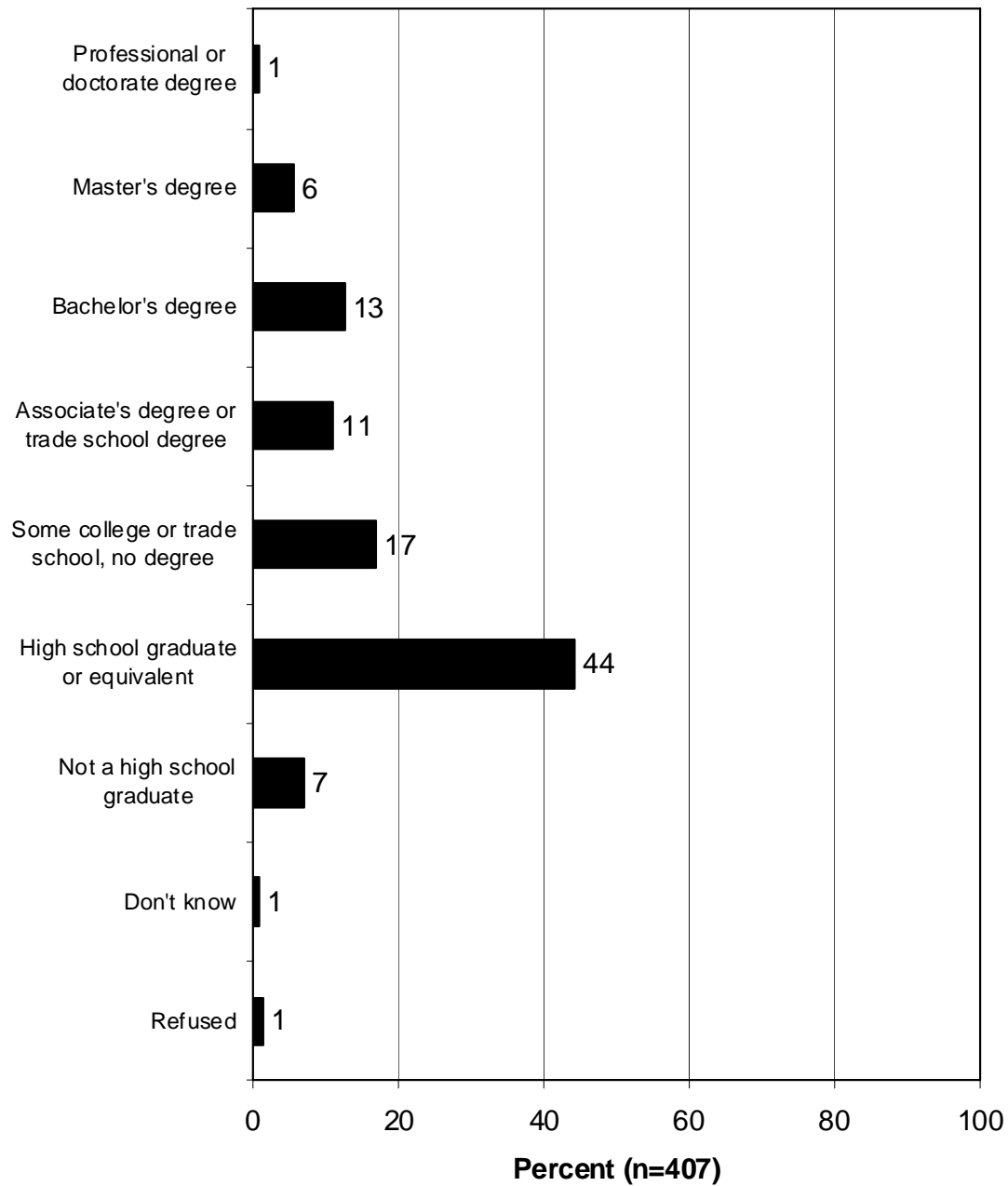
**Q128. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino origin? (Landowner survey.)**



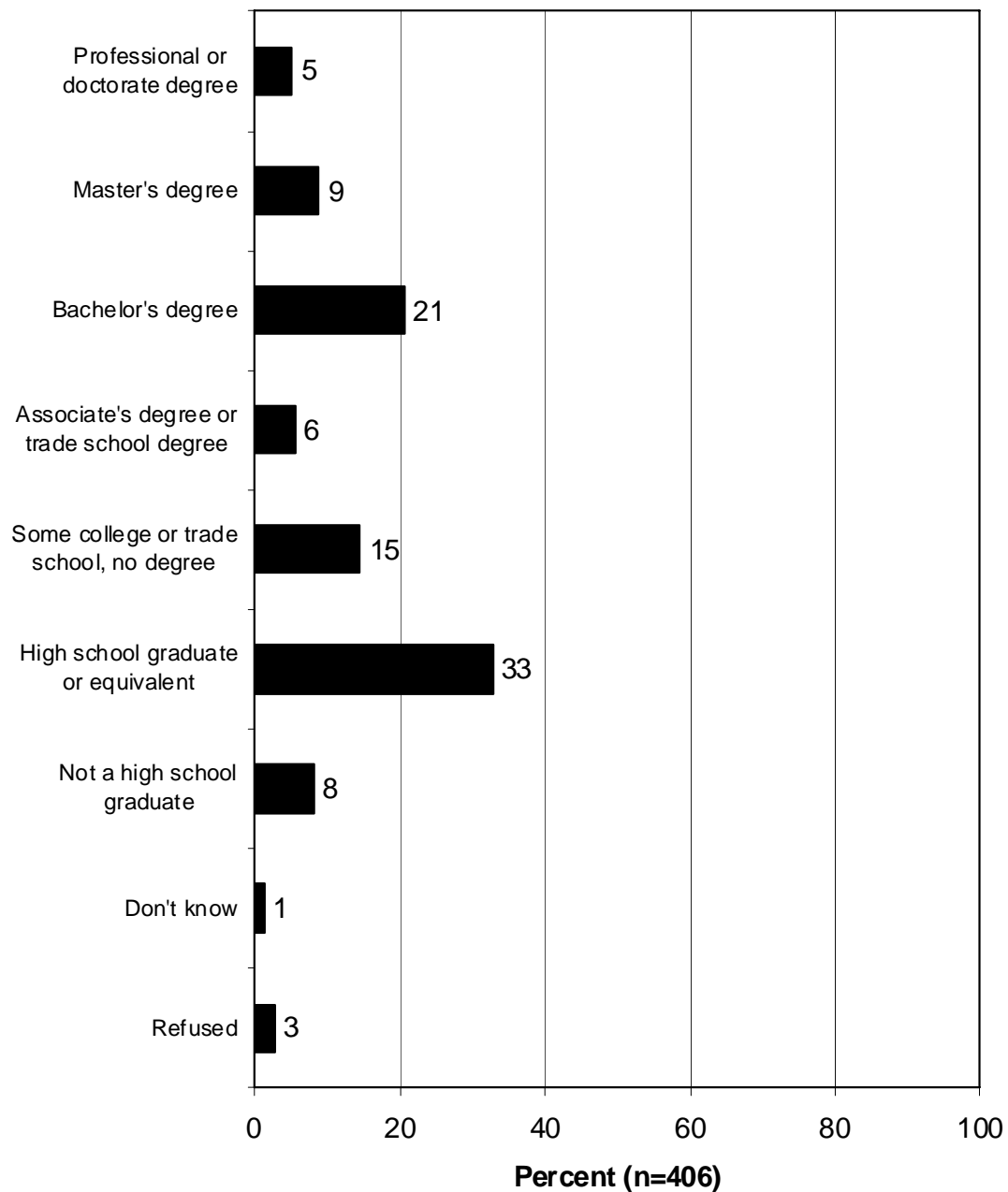
**Q105. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (General population survey.)**



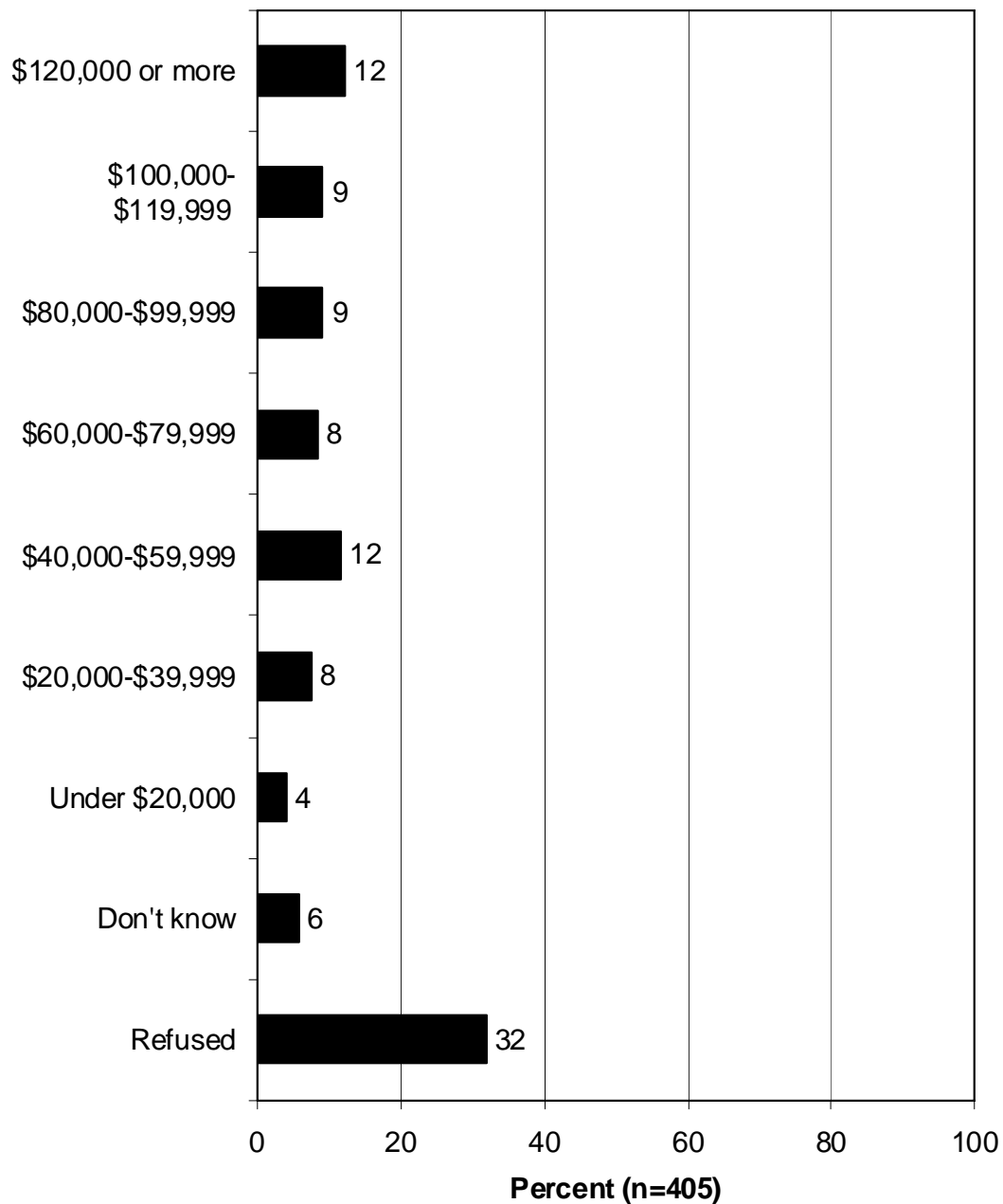
**Q139. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Hunter survey.)**



**Q126. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Landowner survey.)**

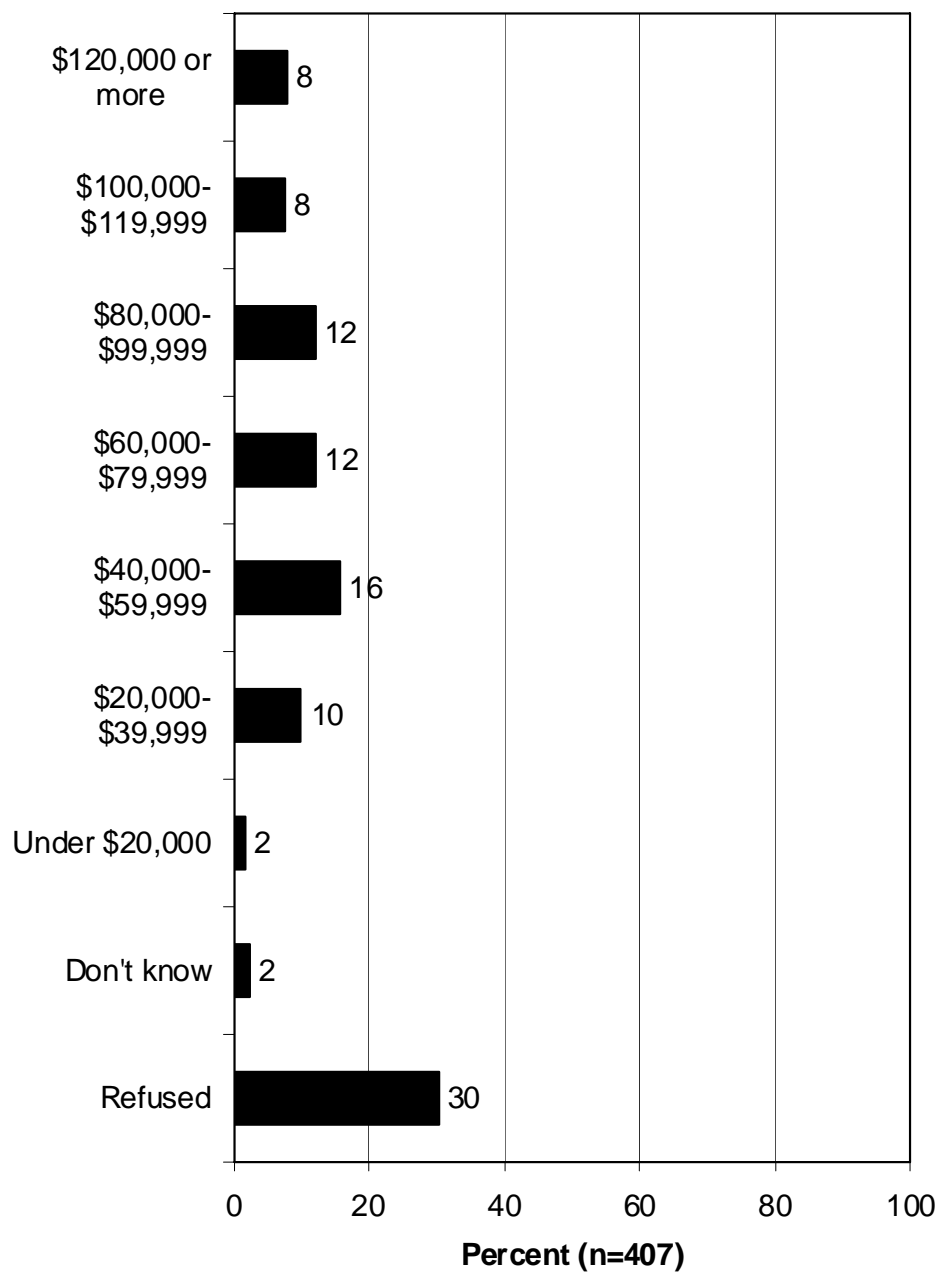


**Q106. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (General population survey.)**

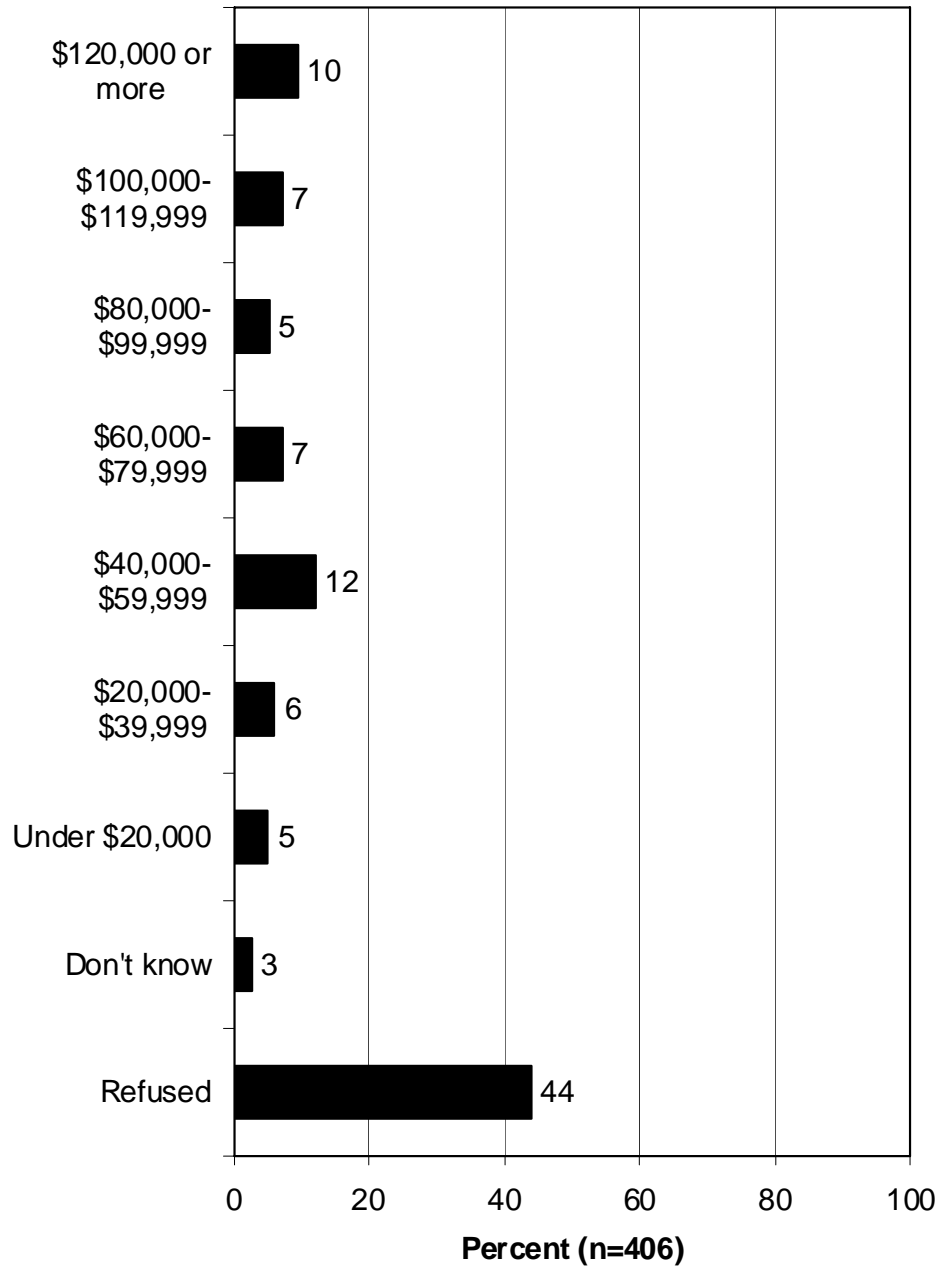




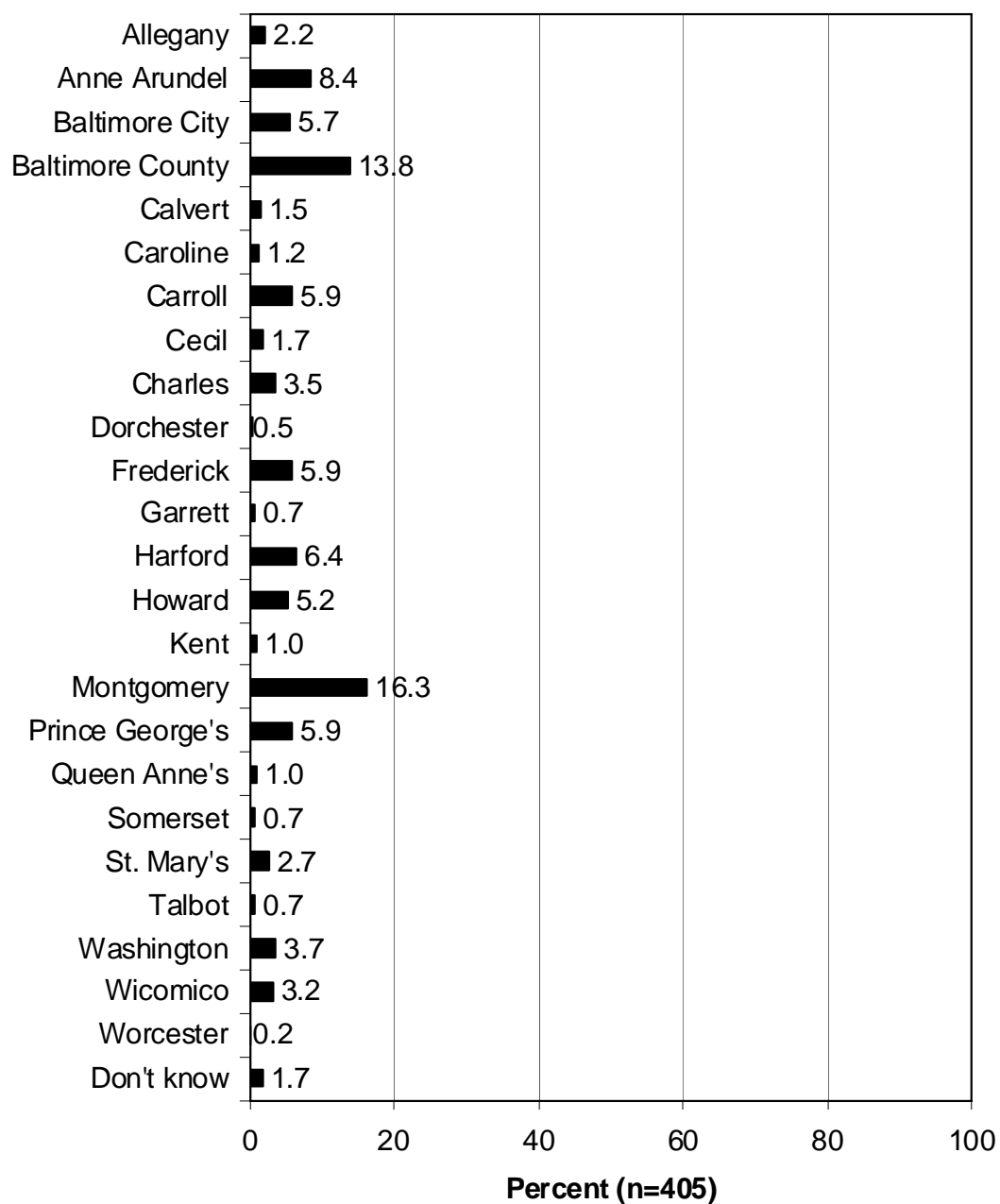
**Q140. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (Hunter survey.)**

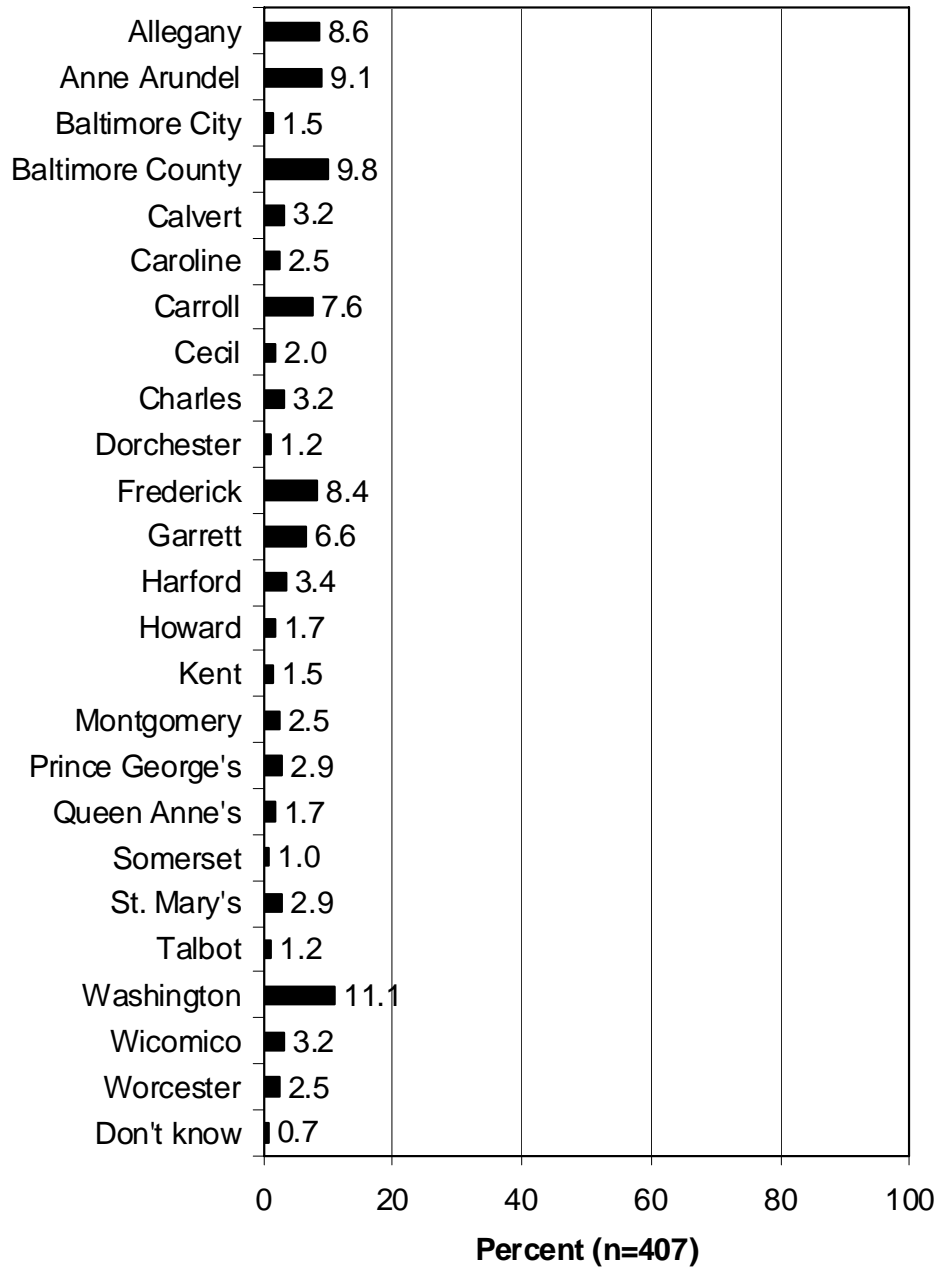


**Q127. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (Landowner survey.)**

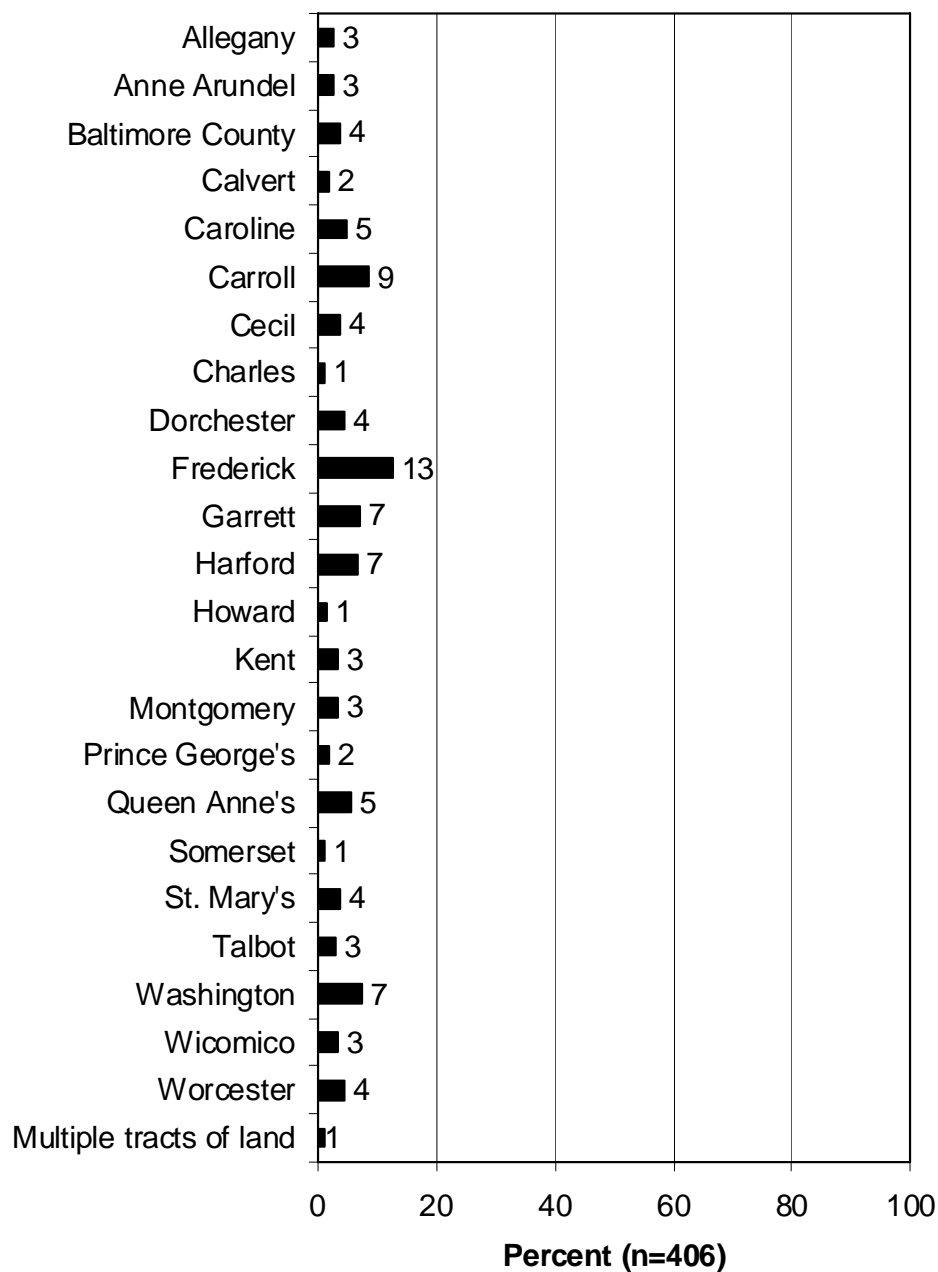


**Q100. In what county do you live? (General population survey.)**

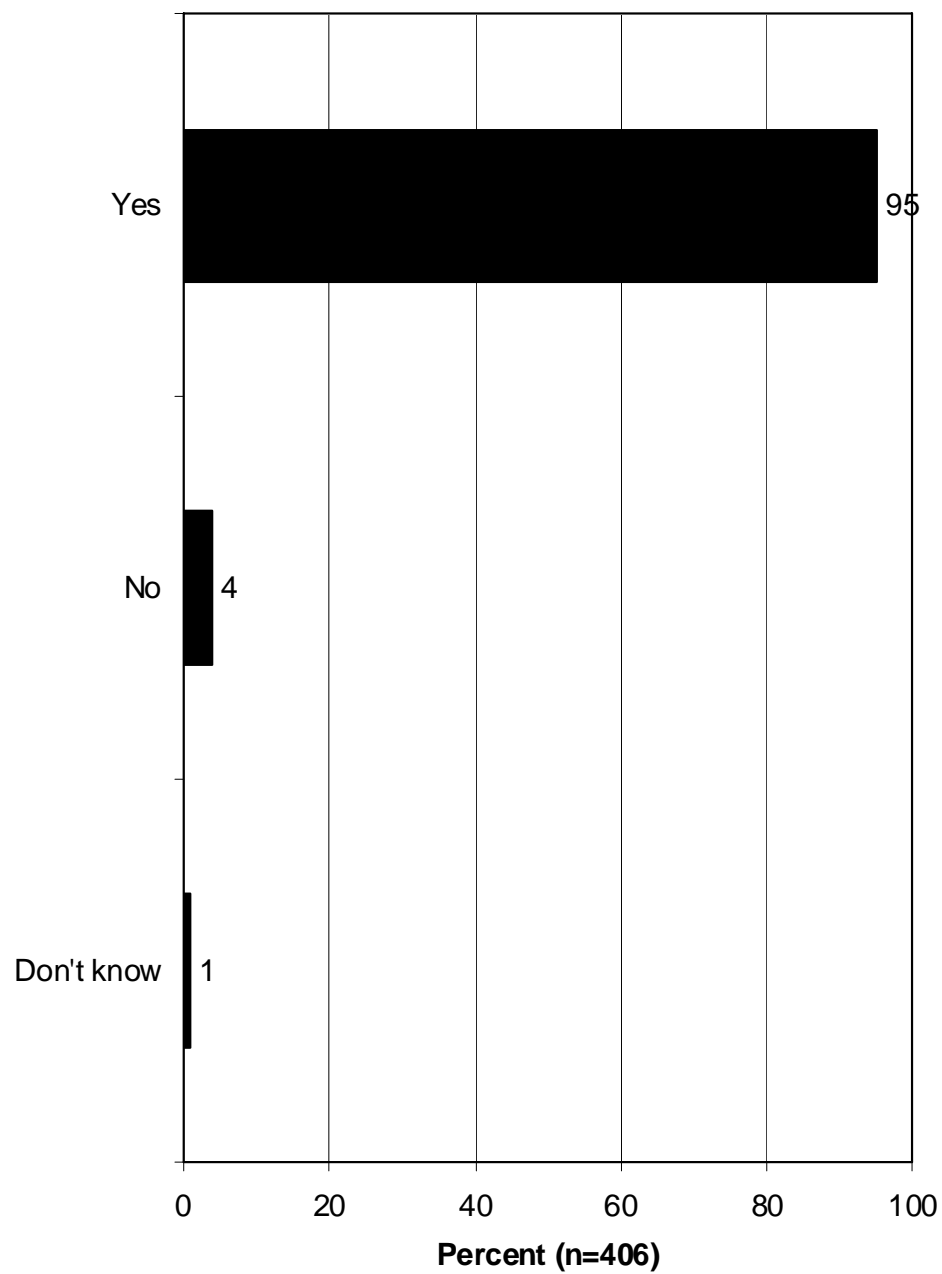


**Q135. In what county do you live? (Hunter survey.)**

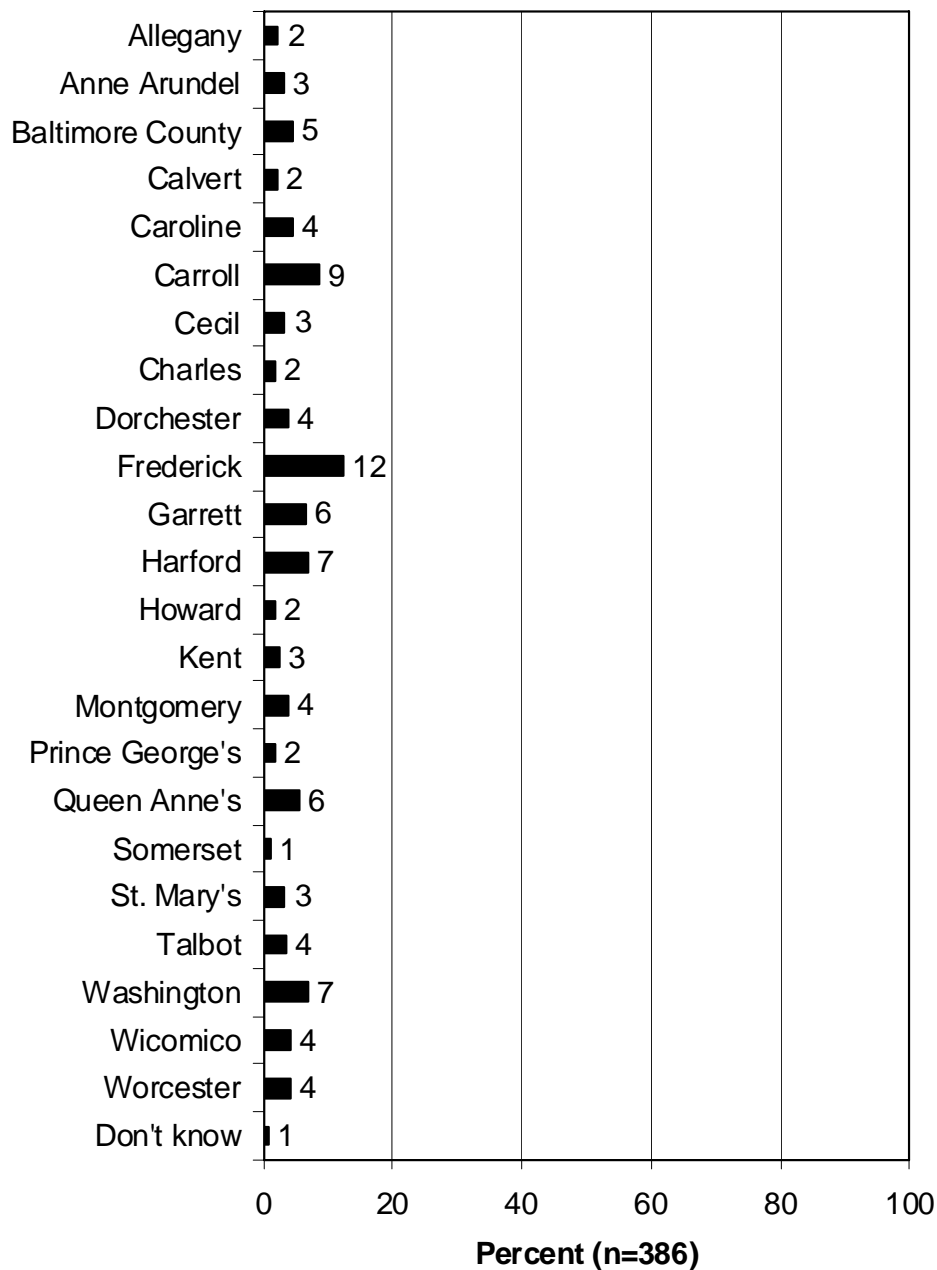
**Q84. In what county is the land that you own located? (Landowner survey.)**



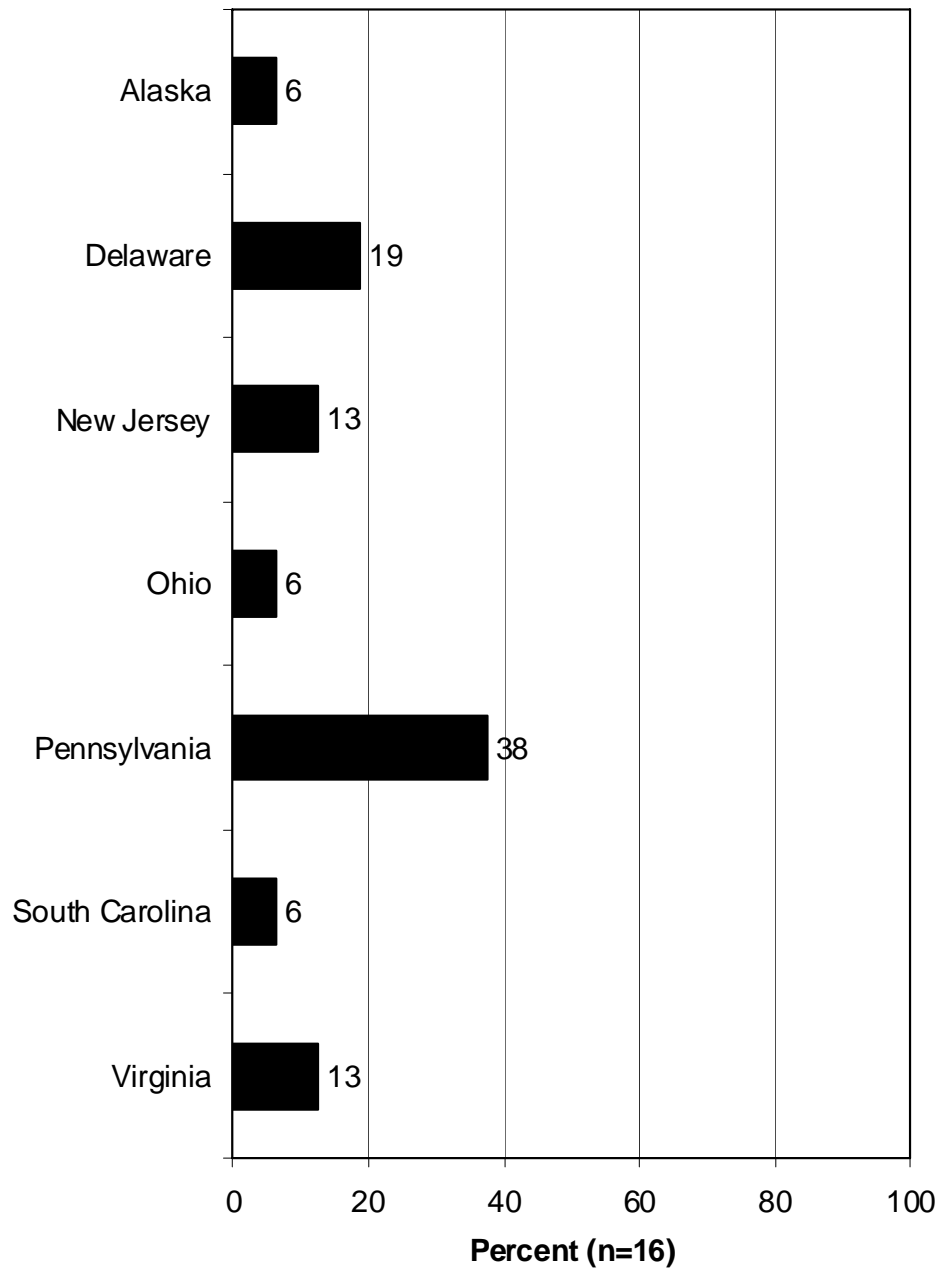
**Q119. Do you live in Maryland? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q121. In what county do you live? (Asked of those who do live in Maryland.) (Landowner survey.)**

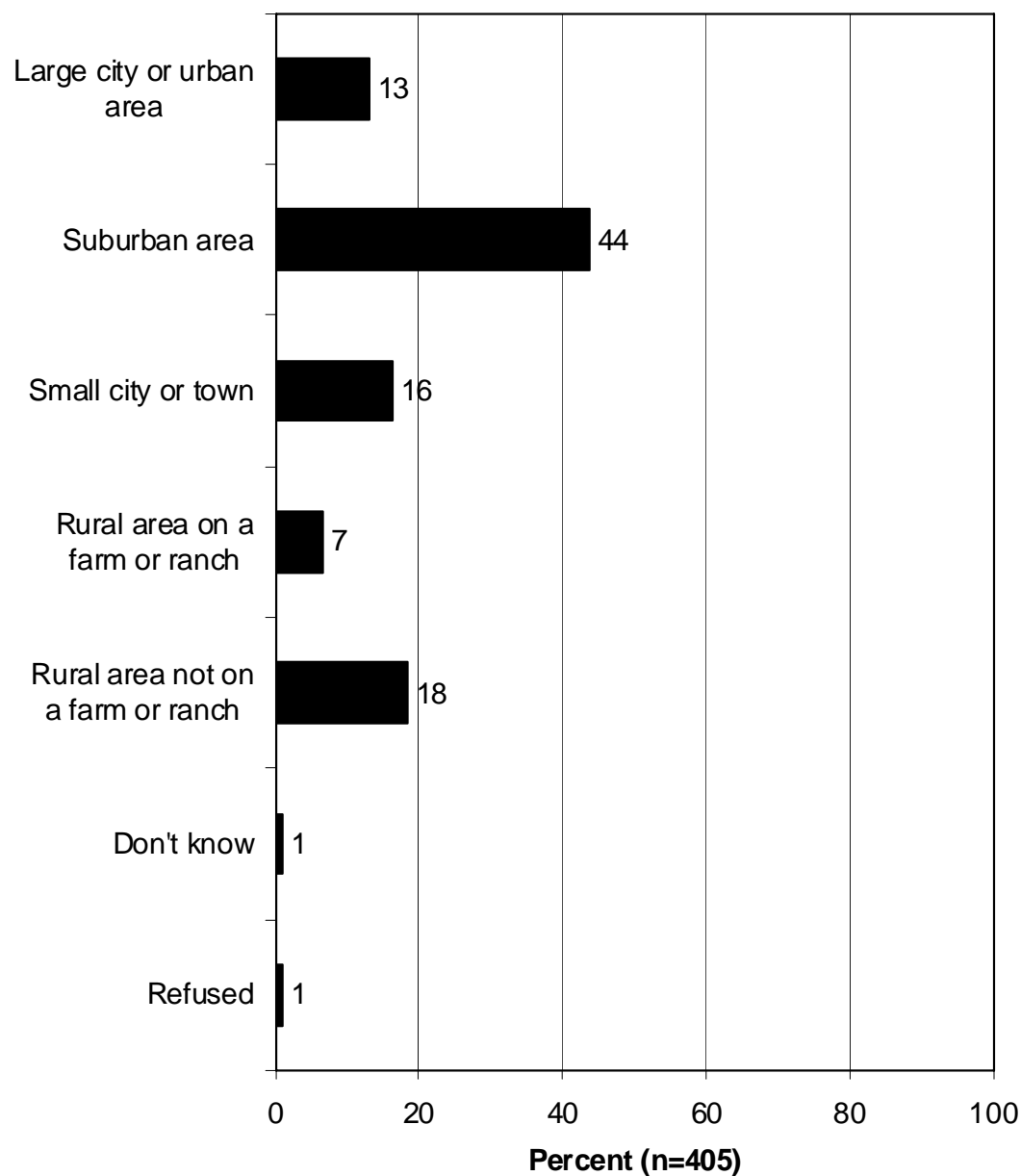


**Q120. In what state do you live? (Asked of those who do not live in Maryland). (Landowner survey.)**

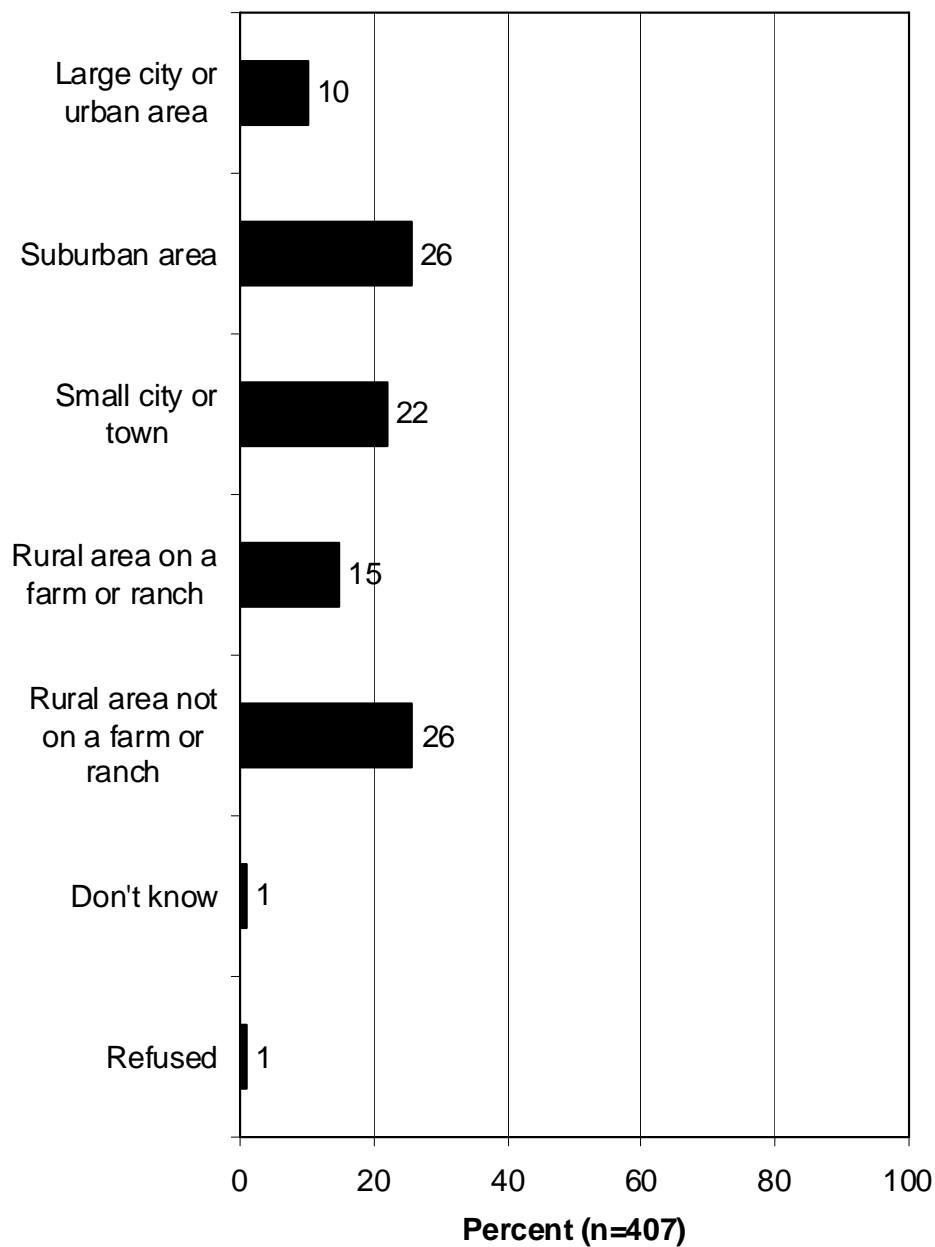




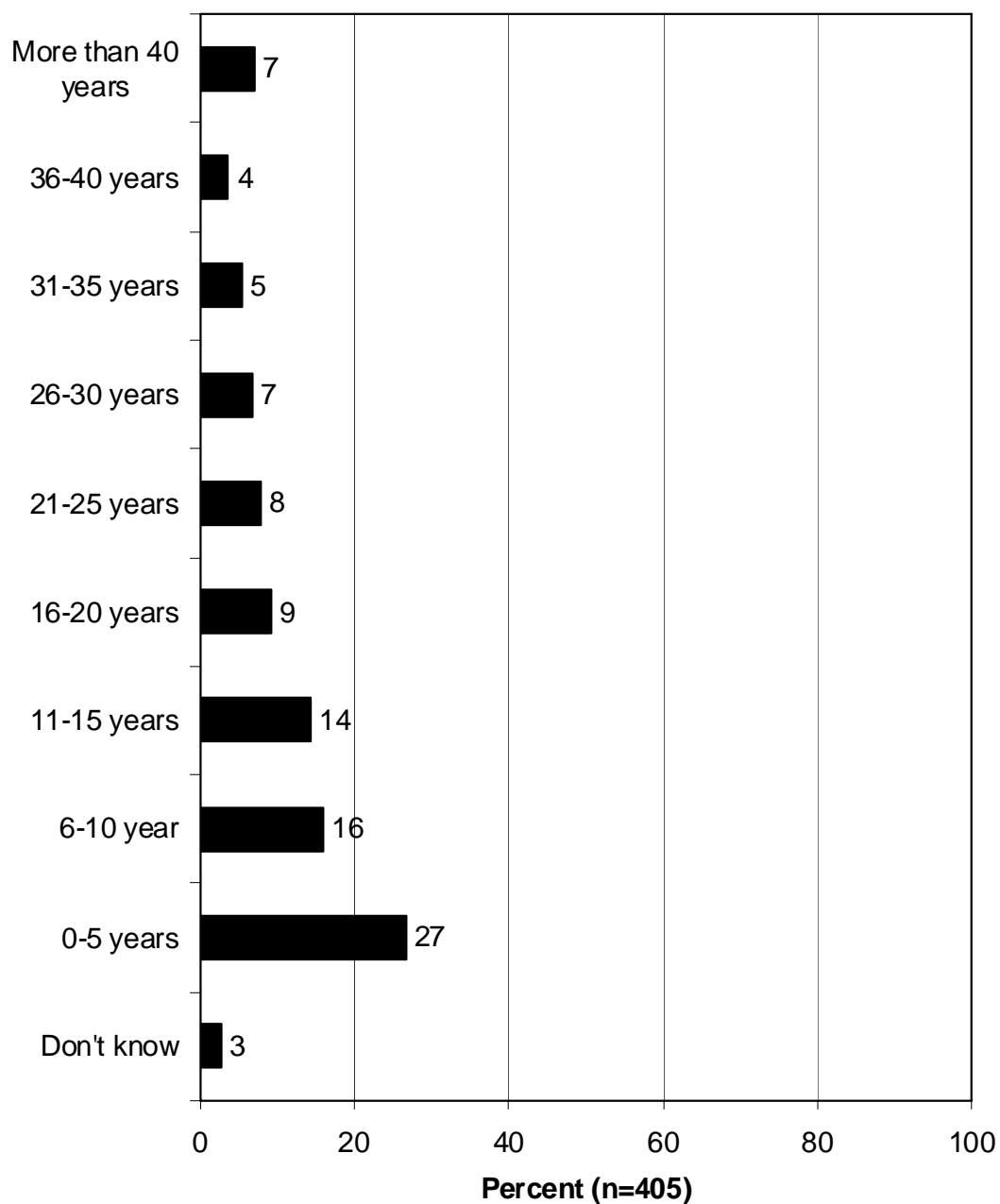
**Q104. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch? (General population survey.)**



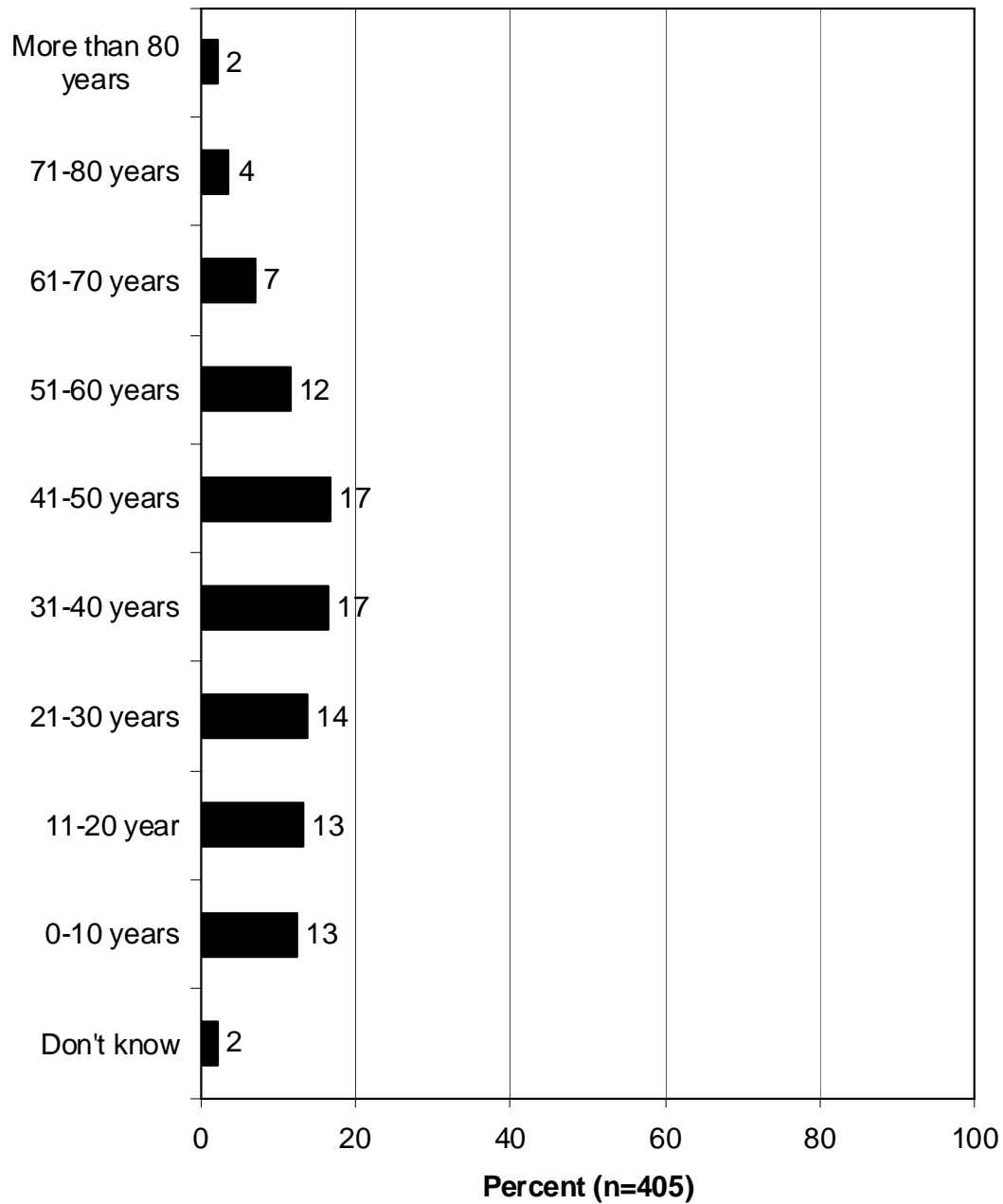
**Q138. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch? (Hunter survey.)**



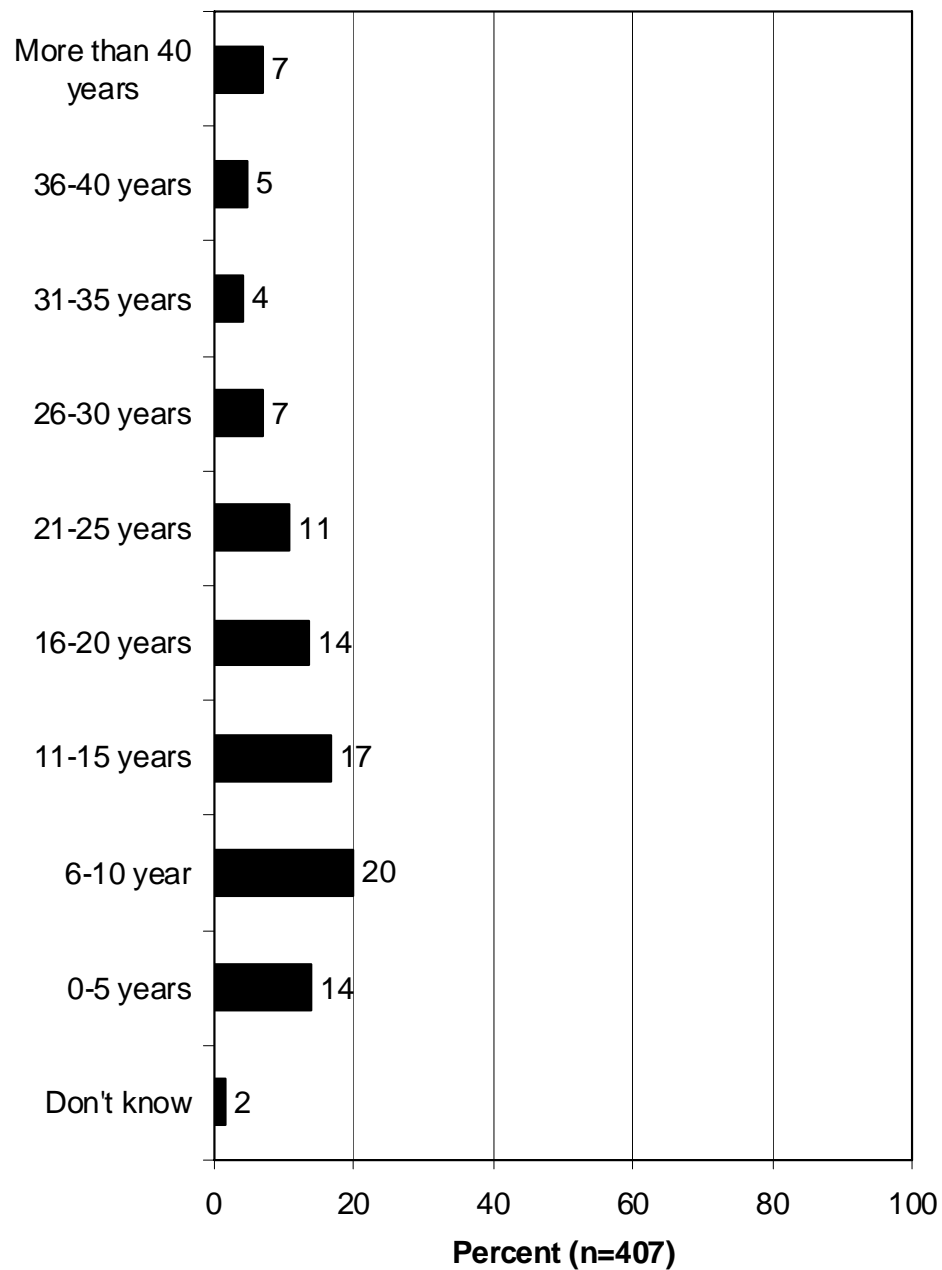
**Q101. How many years have you lived at your current address? (General population survey.)**



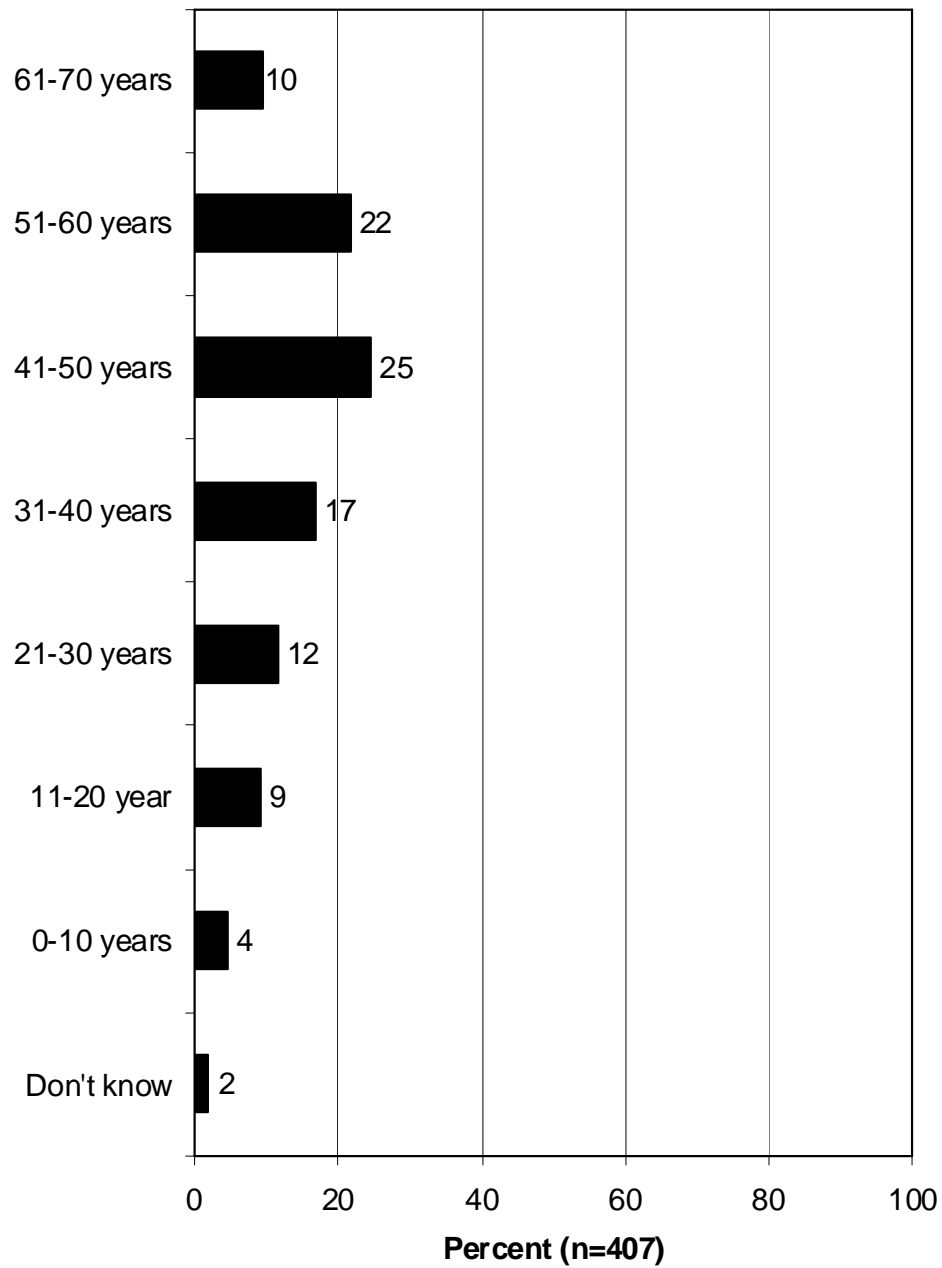
**Q102.How many years have you lived in Maryland?  
(General population survey.)**



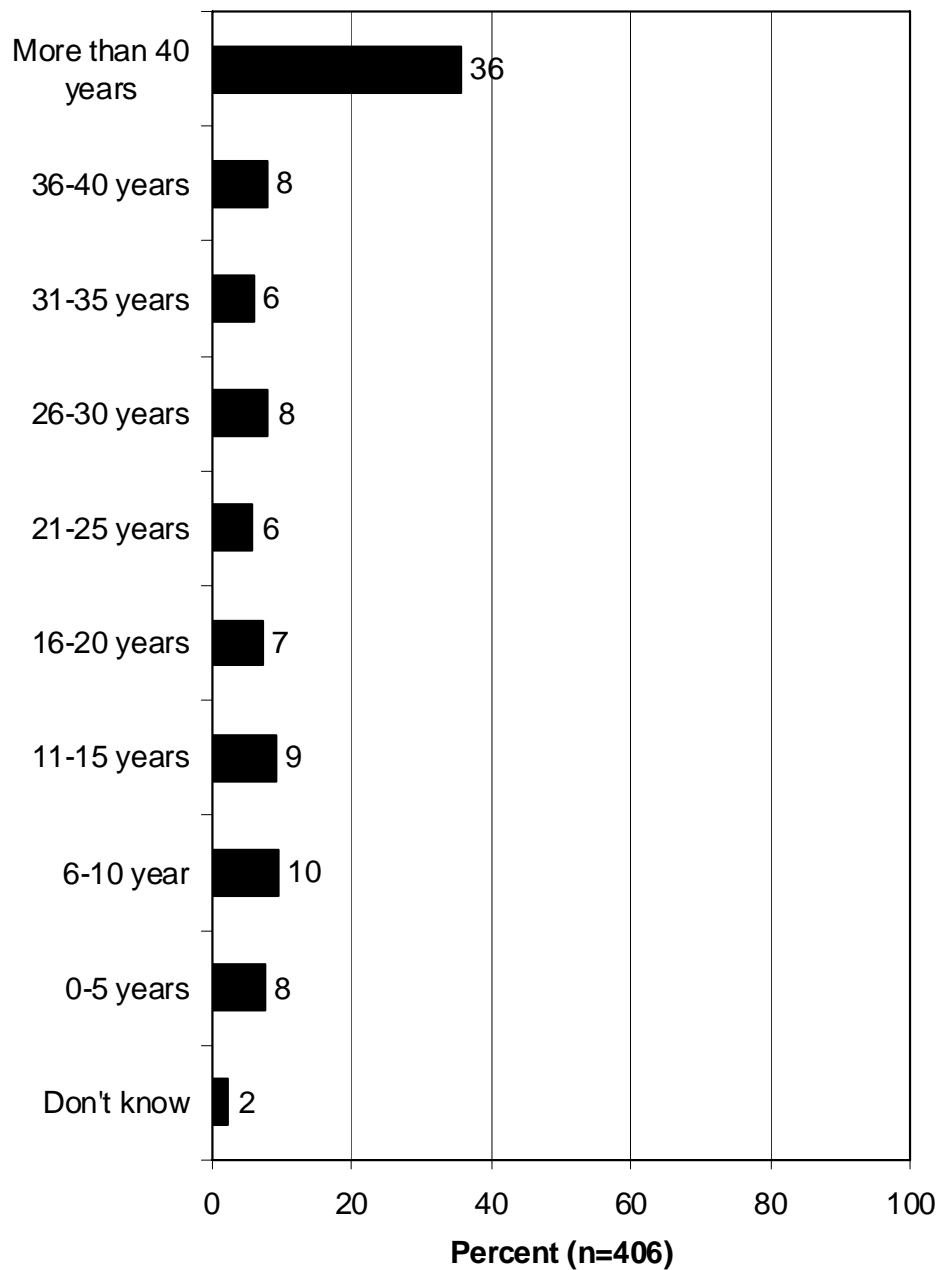
**Q136. How many years have you lived at your current address? (Hunter survey.)**



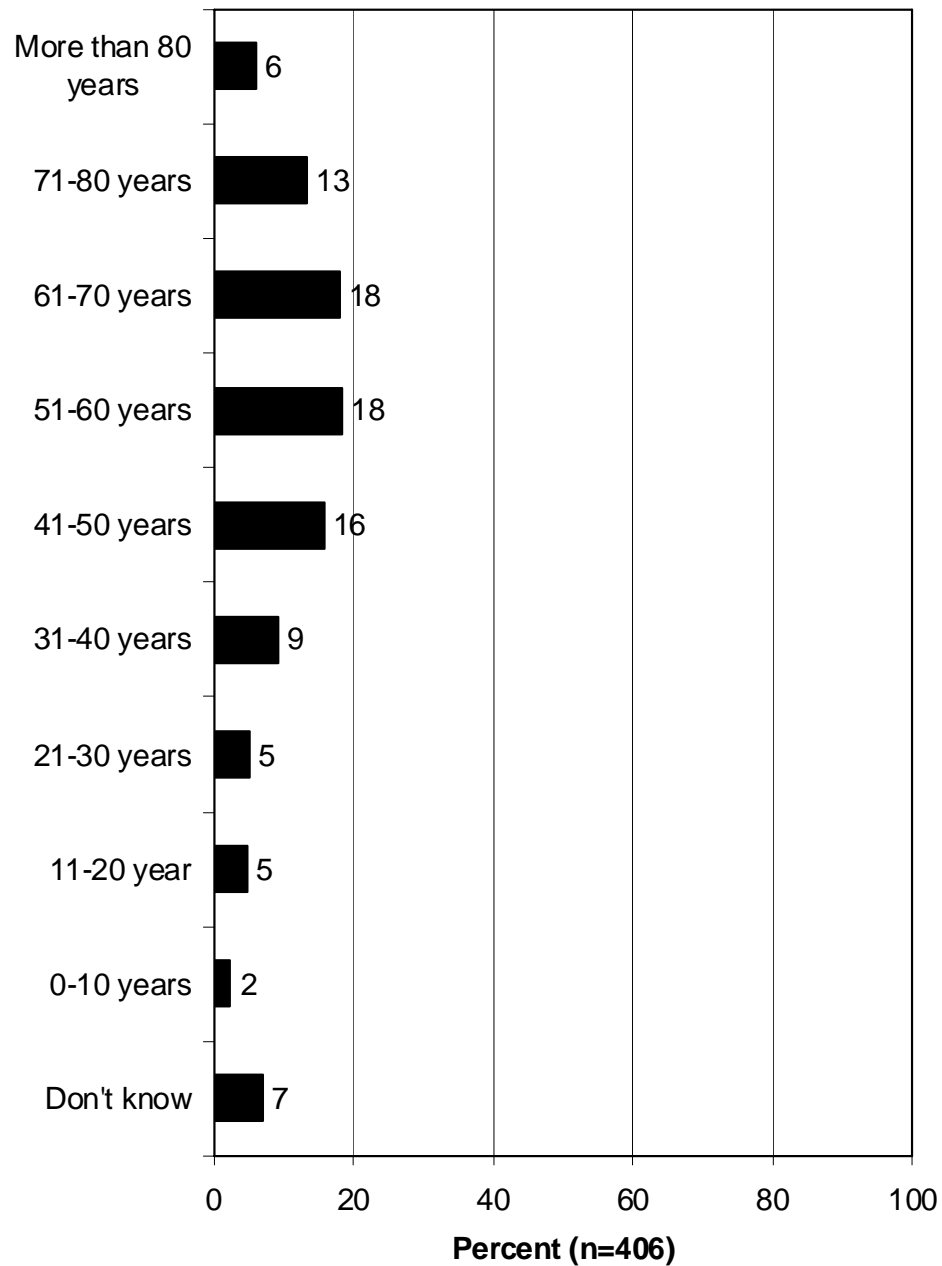
**Q137. How many years have you lived in Maryland?  
(Hunter survey.)**



**Q122. How many years have you lived at your current address? (Landowner survey.)**



**Q124. How many years have you lived in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey.)**





## **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 Web sites 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.

Responsive Management's research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, ESPN, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

Visit the Responsive Management Website at:

**[www.responsivemanagement.com](http://www.responsivemanagement.com)**