

Maryland Hunters' Attitudes Toward Hunting and Hunting-Related Issues



Study conducted for the
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2020

Methodology

- **Survey topics developed by WHS working group.**
- **Survey designed and implemented by Responsive Management.**
- **Used 2019-2020 hunting license database.**
- **Hunters randomly selected.**
- **3 modes of contact (email, phone and mail) to ensure maximum opportunity to include each hunter.**

Survey Topics

- **Hunting participation and hunter characteristics.**
- **Use and satisfaction with WMA hunting.**
- **Opinions on Sunday hunting.**
- **Opinions on hunter recruitment.**

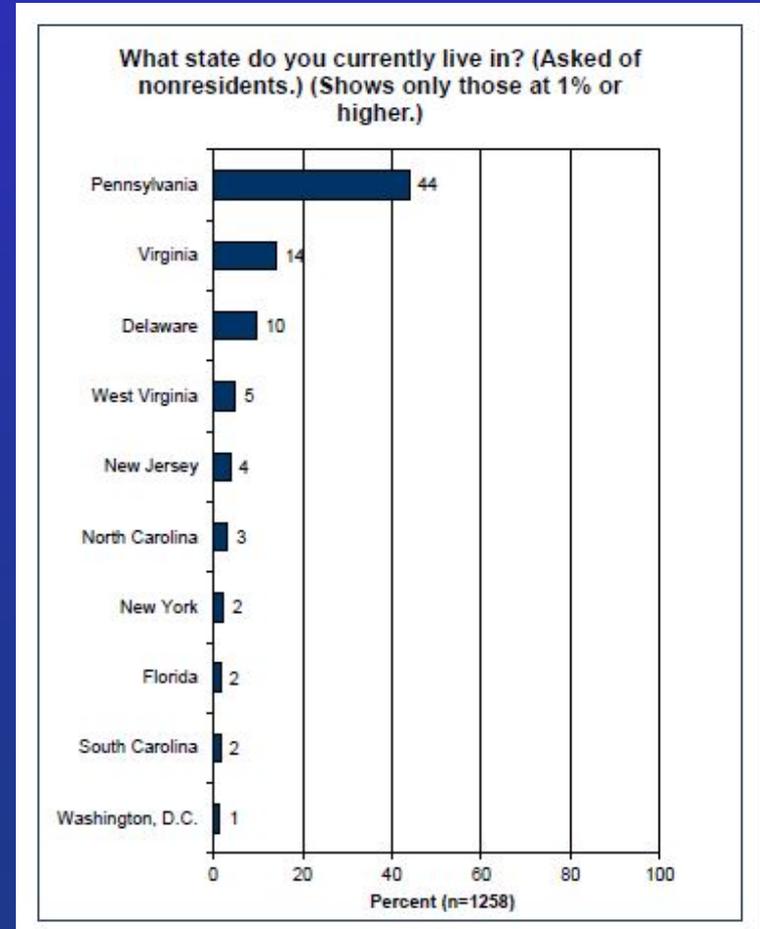
Survey Sample

- 24,011 hunters randomly selected.
- 5,709 completed surveys.
- 24% response rate.
- Sampling error, 1.3% at 95% confidence level for questions involving all hunters.



Hunter Demographics

- **95% male, 5% female**
- **Average age 46.7 years**
- **Urban/suburban 31%**
Small town 21%
Rural 46%
- **75% residents, 25% nonresidents**

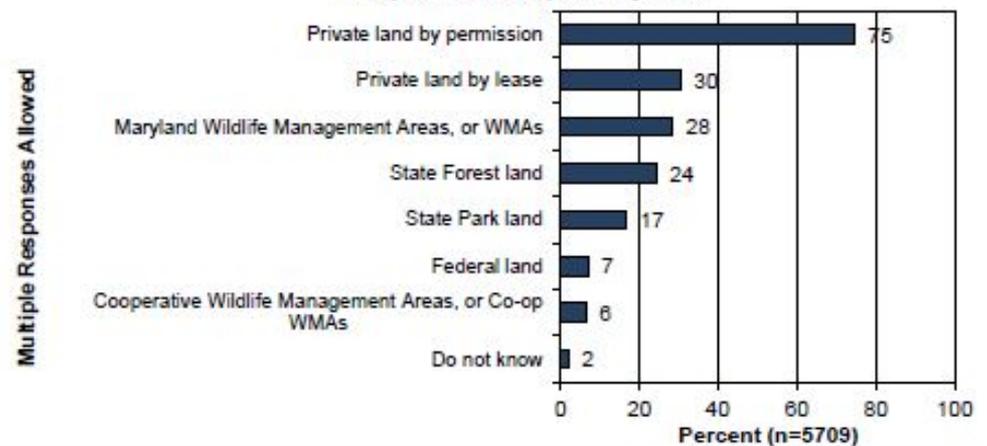


Where do hunters hunt?

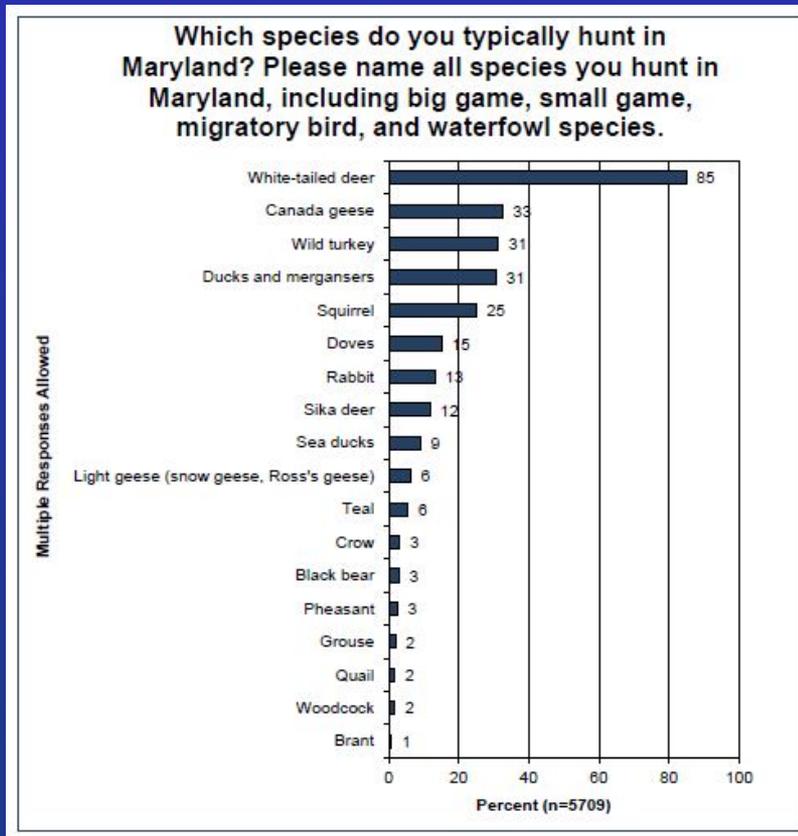
Counties Most Often Hunted



Thinking about your hunting in general, regardless of species, which of the following types of land have you hunted on in Maryland in the past 5 years?

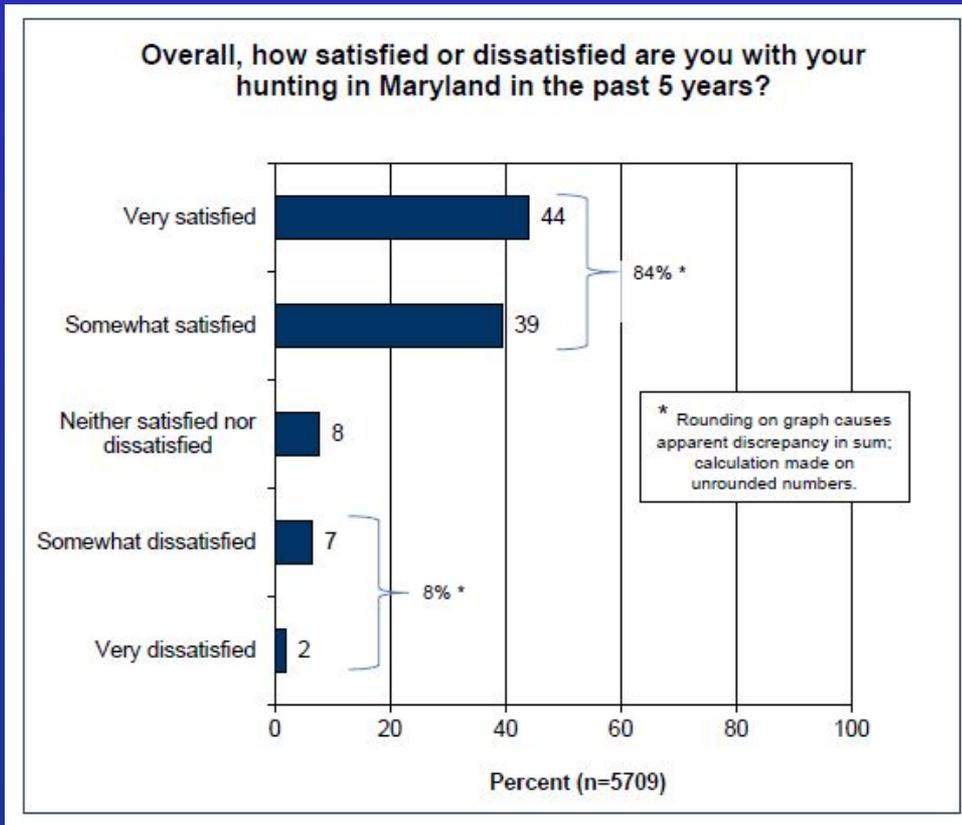


What Species Do Hunters Hunt and How Often?



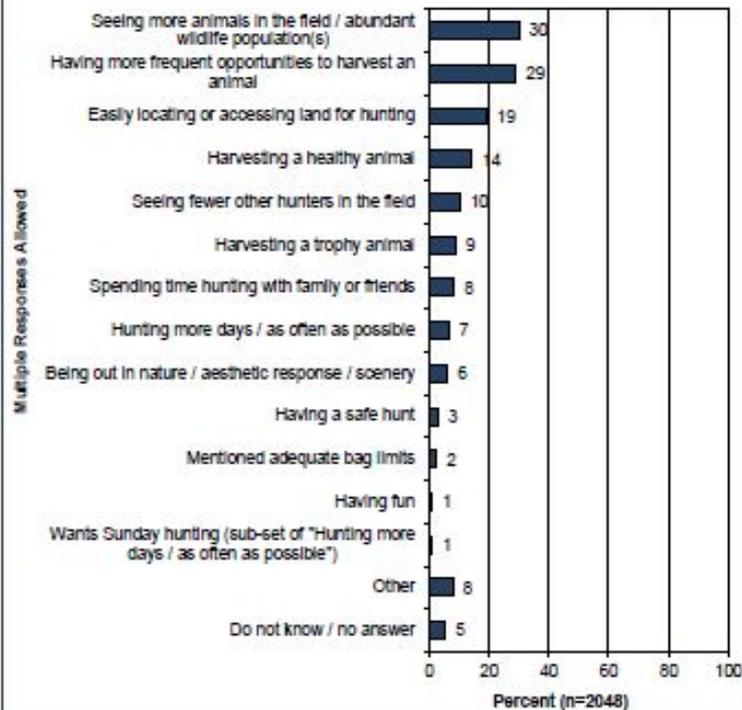
- Average number of days hunted – 29.5 days
- Deer – 19.5 days
- Wild turkey – 6.5 days
- Waterfowl – 9.6 days
- Small game – 8.7 days

Overall Hunter Satisfaction

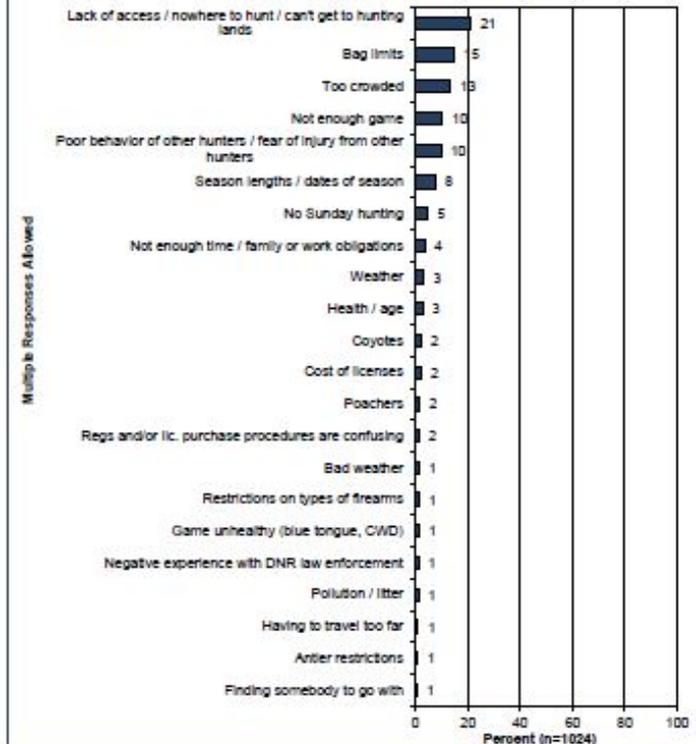


Quality of Hunting

The Department is interested in knowing what hunters think about the quality of hunting in Maryland, but not everyone agrees on what the term "quality" means. In general, what does quality hunting mean to you?

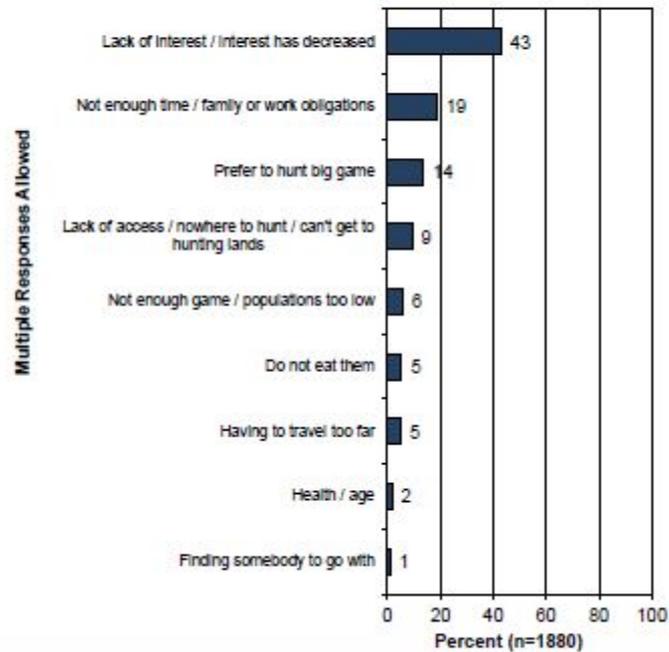


Specifically, are there any things that took away from the quality of your hunting in Maryland in the past 5 years? If yes, what are they? (Results shown of those who indicated that something took away from the quality of their hunting in Maryland.)



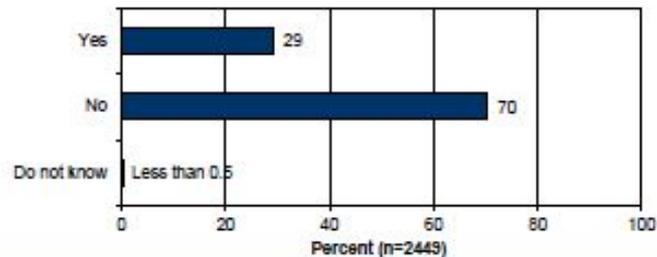
Why Don't You Hunt Small Game?

What are the main reasons you do not typically hunt small game in Maryland? (Asked of those who do not typically hunt small game in Maryland.)

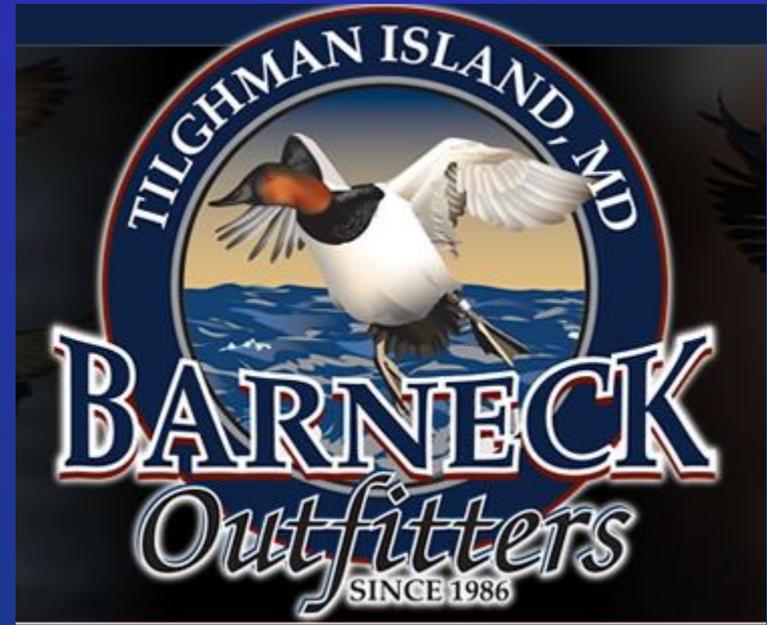
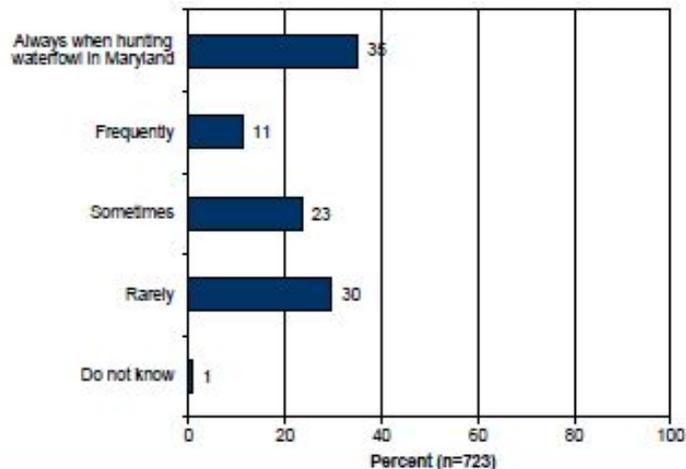


Use of Waterfowl Outfitters

Do you ever use a waterfowl outfitting service or guide for your waterfowl hunting in Maryland? (Asked of those who typically hunt waterfowl in Maryland.)

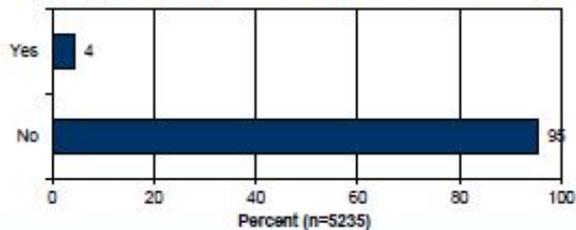


How often do you use a waterfowl outfitting service or guide for your waterfowl hunting in Maryland? Would you say...? (Asked of those who hunt waterfowl in Maryland using a guide.)

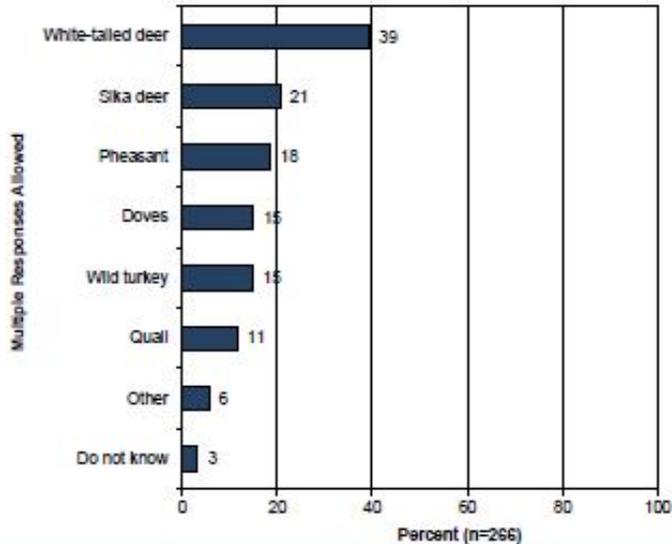


Use of Outfitters for Species Other Than Waterfowl

Not including waterfowl, do you ever use a guide service for any other species you hunt in Maryland? (Asked of those who typically hunt any species other than waterfowl in Maryland.)

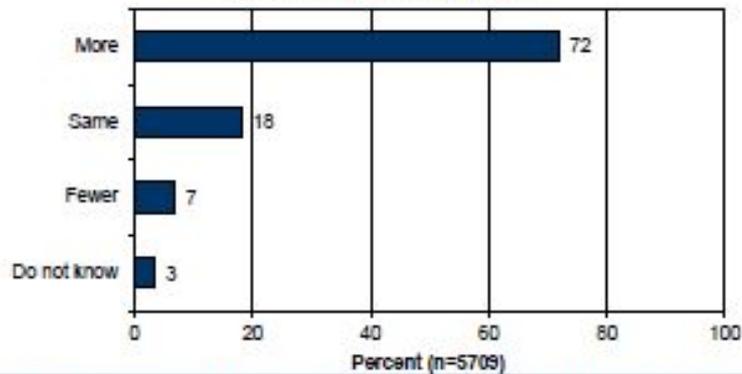


Which other species do you use a guide service for hunting in Maryland? (Asked of those who use a guide service for hunting species other than waterfowl in Maryland.)

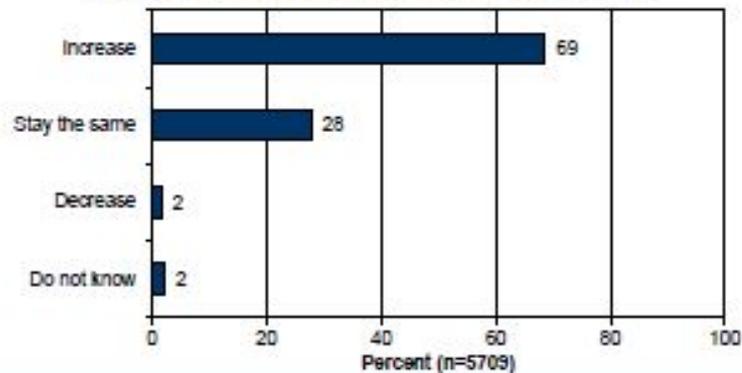


Sunday Hunting

Currently, there is some Sunday hunting allowed in many areas of Maryland. Would you like more, the same, or fewer Sundays open for hunting in Maryland?



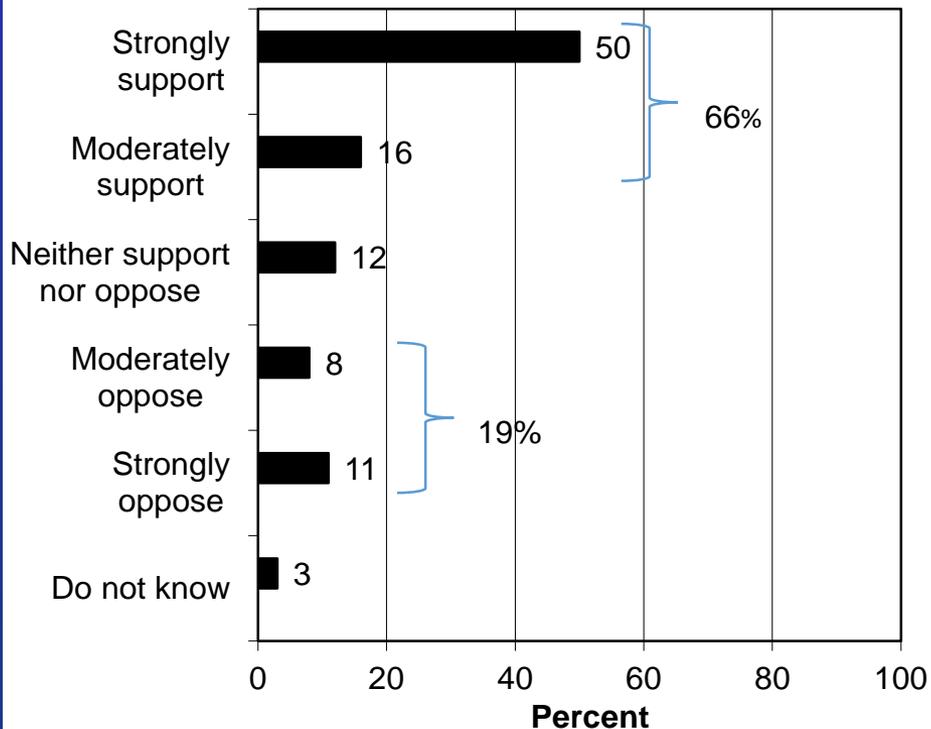
If there were additional Sunday hunting days in Maryland, do you think your participation in hunting in Maryland would be likely to increase, stay about the same, or decrease?



Sunday Hunting For Migratory Birds

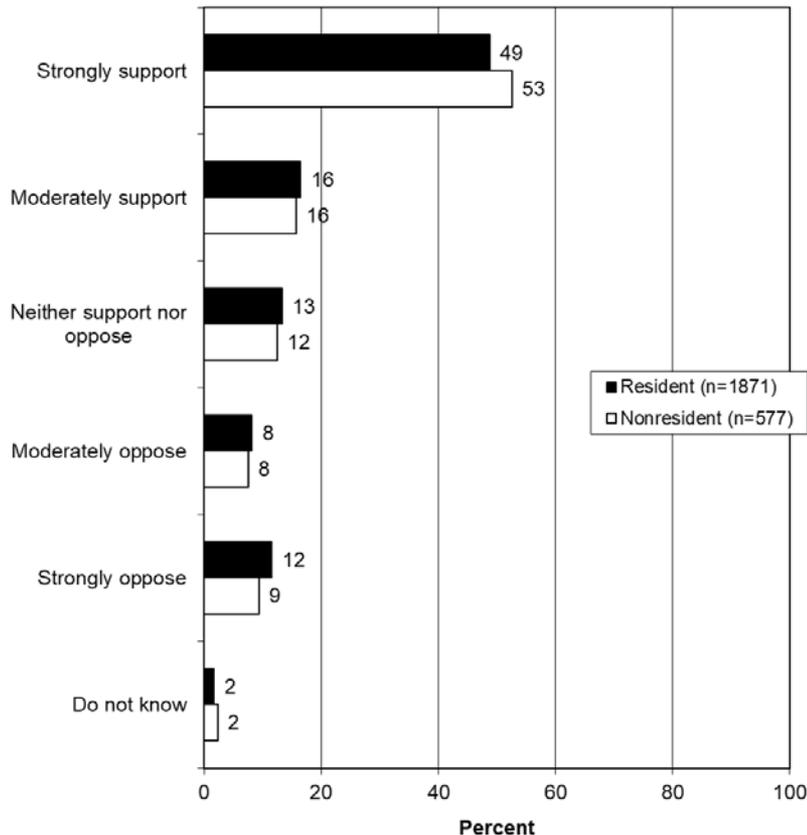
Understanding that the total number of hunting days for migratory game birds would remain the same, do you support or oppose Sunday hunting for migratory birds in Maryland?

(Among those who purchased hunting license and migratory bird stamp)

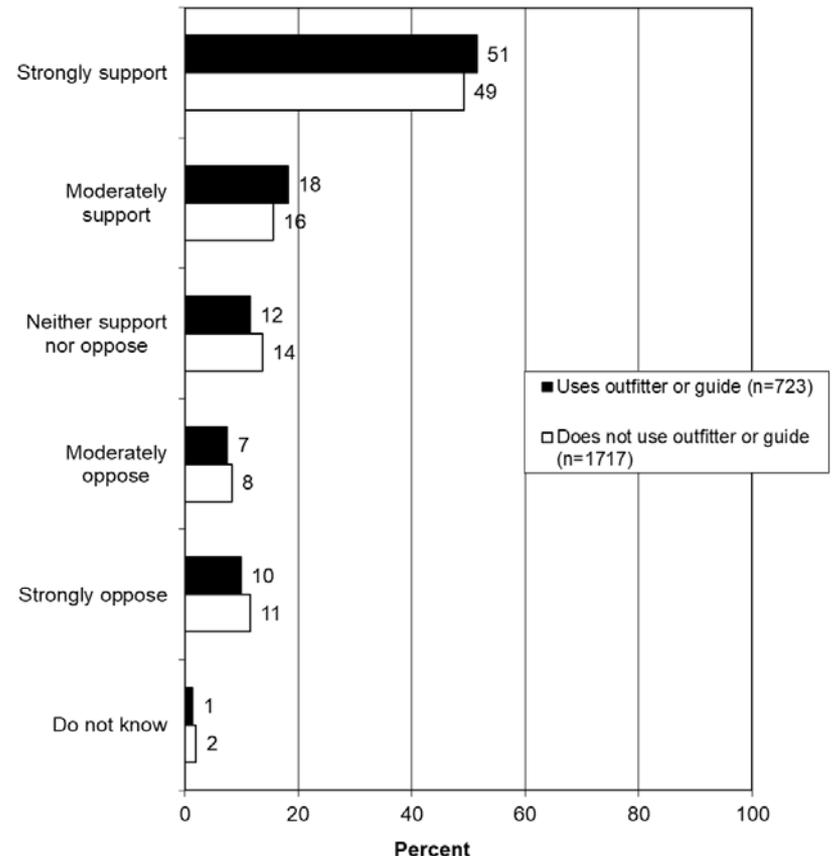


Sunday Hunting For Migratory Birds: Residency and Use of Outfitters

Understanding that the total number of hunting days for migratory game birds would remain the same, do you support or oppose Sunday hunting for migratory birds in Maryland?
(Among waterfowl hunters)

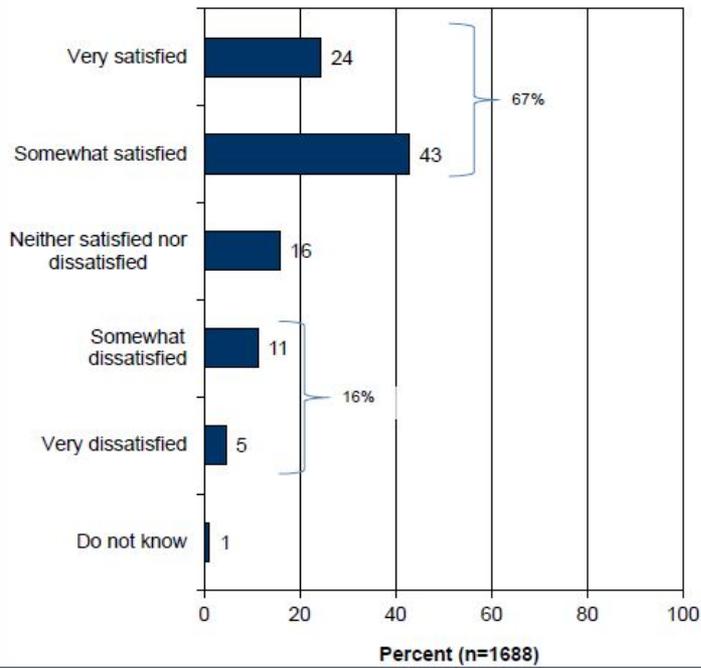


Understanding that the total number of hunting days for migratory game birds would remain the same, do you support or oppose Sunday hunting for migratory birds in Maryland?
(Among waterfowl hunters)

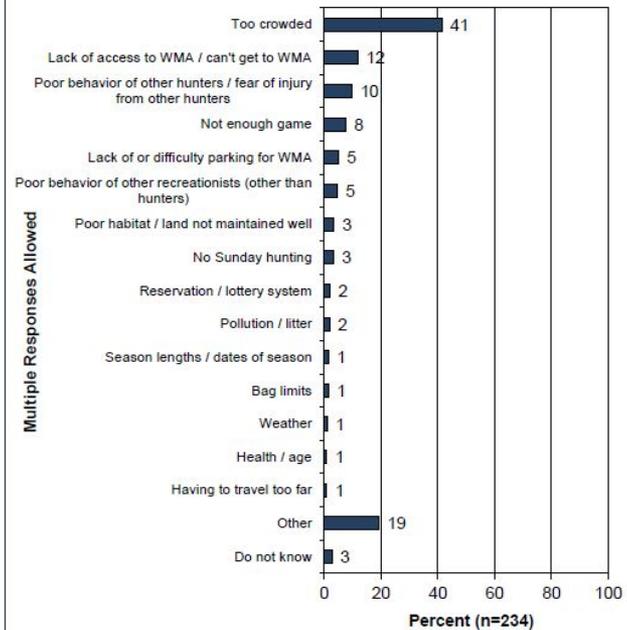


Satisfaction With Hunting On WMAs

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your hunting on WMAs in Maryland in the past 5 years? (Asked of those who hunted on WMAs in Maryland in the past 5 years.)

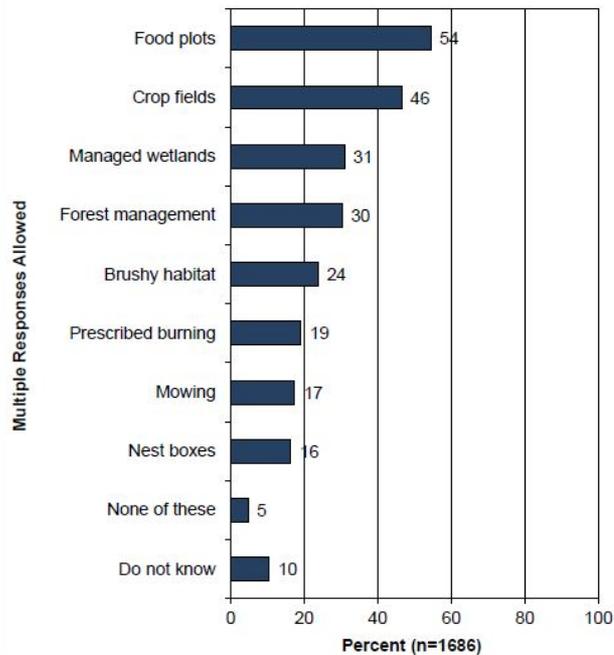


Are there any things that have taken away from your enjoyment of or satisfaction with hunting on Maryland WMAs in the past 5 years, even if they didn't prevent you from actually going hunting? (Asked of those who hunted on WMAs in Maryland in the past 5 years.)

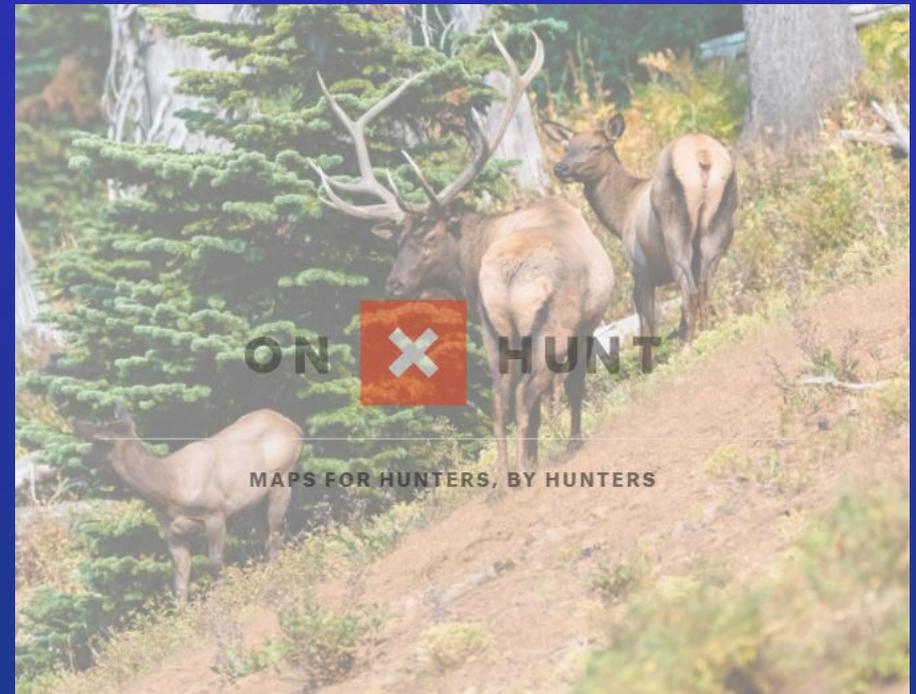
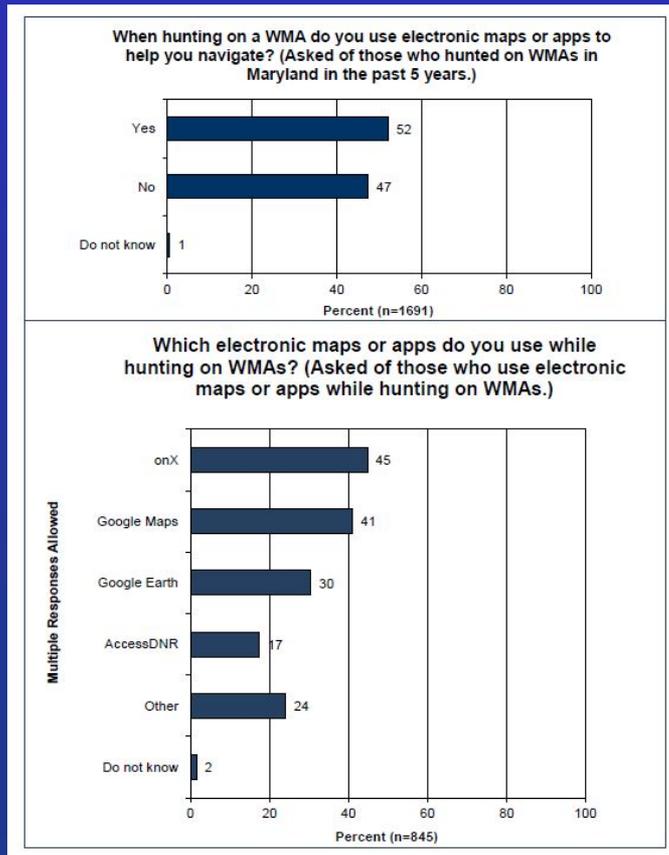


WMA Management

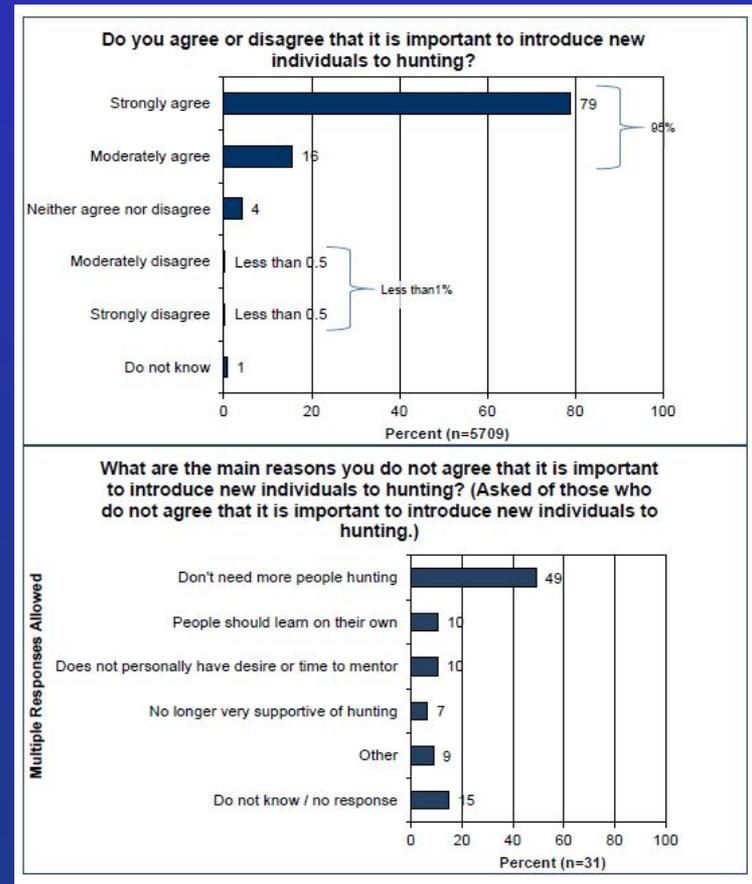
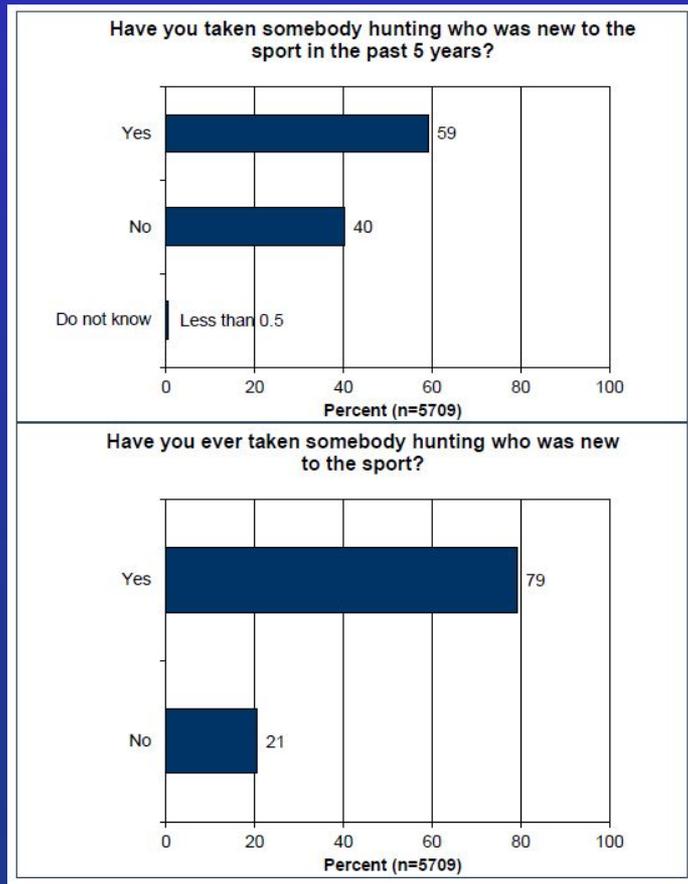
Which of the following types of management would you like to see more of on WMAs in Maryland? (Asked of those who hunted on WMAs in Maryland in the past 5 years.)



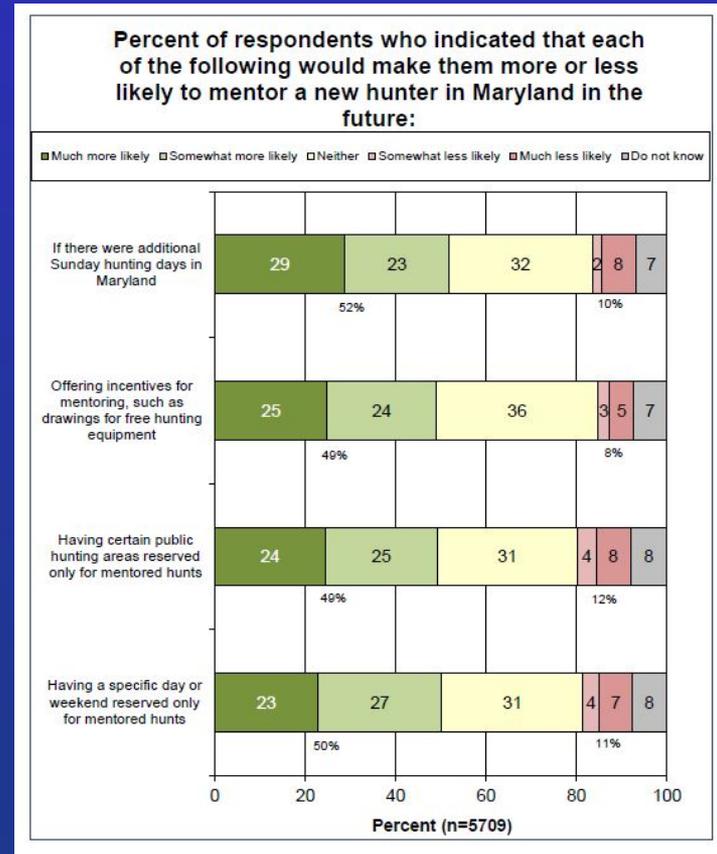
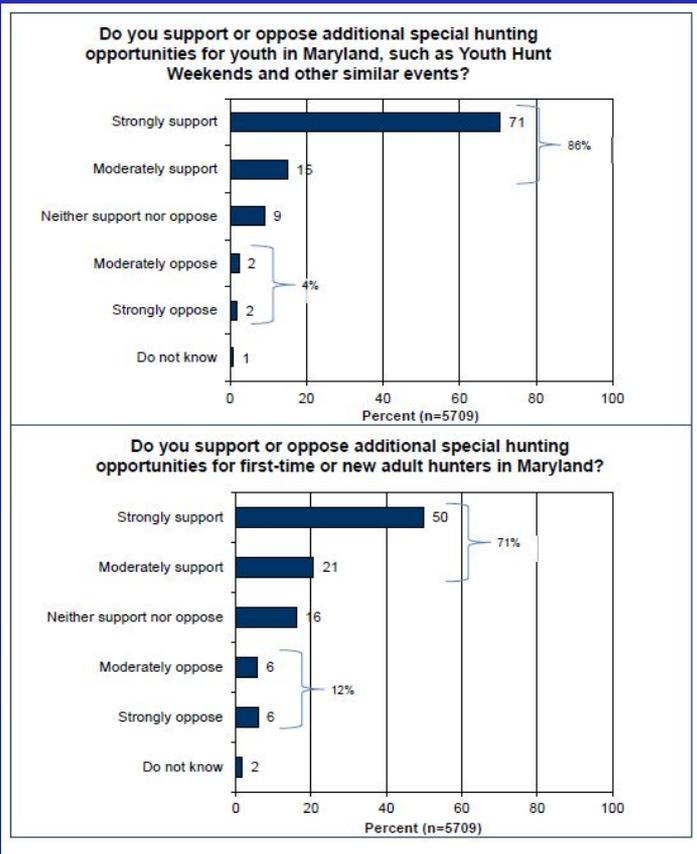
Use of Electronic Maps On WMAs



Hunter Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

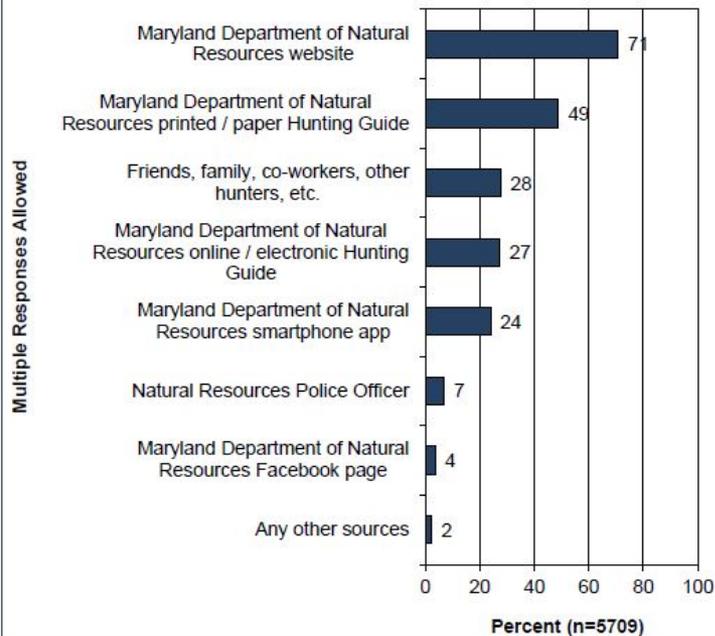


Special R3 Hunting Opportunities



Where Do Hunters Get Hunting Information?

What sources do you use to get information about hunting requirements and regulations, such as season dates and bag limits, in Maryland? What about...? (The list was presented to the respondent.)



Questions?

