

Pennsylvania Deer Hunters' Attitudes Regarding Opening Day of the Season



Conducted for the
Pennsylvania Game Commission

2022



 **RESPONSIVE
MANAGEMENT**

PENNSYLVANIA DEER HUNTERS' ATTITUDES REGARDING OPENING DAY OF THE SEASON

2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) to determine resident deer hunters' participation in and attitudes regarding opening day of the regular firearms deer season. The study entailed a probability-based, scientific telephone survey of resident Pennsylvania deer hunters 18 years old and older.

As a condition of taking the survey, hunters had to have hunted deer during the regular firearms season at least once during the 2017 or 2018 seasons (when opening day was the Monday after Thanksgiving) and at least once during the 2019, 2020, or 2021 seasons (when opening day was the Saturday after Thanksgiving). (Note that "2021 season" really means the current 2021-2022 hunting season; however, for simplicity, the survey and this report only refer to the year of the fall season when the regular firearms season occurred when referring to each hunting season.) This ensured that those surveyed had the opportunity to hunt both Monday openers and Saturday openers at some point in the past 5 years, thus providing insight into how the change in opening day may have impacted their hunting participation and attitudes. The Commission provided the license sample to include hunters who met this condition, and a screener question at the beginning of the survey further verified that hunters met this condition before the full survey was administered.

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

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Commission, and as noted above the sample of Pennsylvania resident deer hunters was provided by the Commission. The interviews were conducted using Responsive Management's computer-assisted telephone interviewing system. The survey was conducted in November and December 2021, and Responsive Management obtained a total of 2,009 completed questionnaires.

The analysis of data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The breakdowns of age, gender, and license type in the survey results closely match those in the sample database, so weighting of the results was not necessary. Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the entire sample of Pennsylvania resident hunters 18 years old and older, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.18 percentage points.

DEER HUNTING PARTICIPATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Among those who hunted in the current firearms deer season, the mean amount was just under 5 days of hunting. Crosstabulations indicate that older hunters and those in the Northcentral and Southeast Regions are more likely than their counterparts to hunt the most days. In another measure of hunting avidity, half of hunters (50%) say their deer hunting has remained about the same over the past 5 years, while more say their hunting has decreased (35%) than say it has increased (15%).

OPENING DAY OF THE REGULAR FIREARMS SEASON

Most Pennsylvania deer hunters (91%) typically hunt on opening day of the regular firearms deer season, and most of those who do not typically hunt opening day (89%) have hunted on opening day in the past. Looking at the two questions combined, only 1% of deer hunters have never hunted on opening day.

Among those who typically hunt or have ever hunted on opening day, a majority (55%) hunt near their residence on opening day, compared to 44% who travel to hunt. Nearly half of those who travel to hunt on opening day (48%) go to a hunting camp. Among all hunters, 21% hunt at a hunting camp on opening day.

Most of those who hunted this season (86%) hunted on opening day; of that group, only 11% said that weather conditions influenced their decision to hunt on opening day. Most of those who hunted on opening day (78%) said nothing else impacted their decision.

Meanwhile, of those who did *not* hunt on opening day, only 10% said that weather conditions influenced their decision to not hunt. Apart from weather, 40% of this group said not hunting on opening day was due to lack of time and 10% said it was due to age or health. About a quarter of this group (24%) said nothing impacted their decision to not hunt on opening day.

A majority of those who hunted this season (60%) hunted on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (the second day of firearms hunting season).

Most of those who hunted deer in 2020 (84%) hunted on opening day. Among that group, most (94%) said that having opening day on a Saturday did not influence which Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) they hunted that day. Among those who hunted deer in 2020, there is an even split between those who did and did not hunt on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (47% each), the second day of hunting season.

Looking at those who traveled to hunt at a hunting camp on opening day at least once in the past 5 years, half (50%) said the number of people participating in the camp stayed about the same over that time. However, many more said the number of participants decreased (41%) than increased (8%). The same group was asked about the number of camp participants under the age of 40, and the results were more balanced: 56% said it stayed the same, 21% said it

increased, and 21% said it decreased. This suggests that declines in hunting camp participation are primarily due to the exodus of older hunters.

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CHANGE IN OPENING DAY

A majority of Pennsylvania deer hunters (60%) *strongly* or *moderately* support having opening day of the regular firearms deer season on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, compared to 27% who *strongly* or *moderately* oppose it. Because this is a key question in the survey, these results were crosstabulated by several hunter groups:

- Opposition is higher among hunters 55 and older, compared to their younger counterparts.
- Opposition is higher among those who hunted at a hunting camp on opening day, compared to those who did not. Support is highest among those who traveled to hunt on opening day but not at a hunting camp.
- Support is markedly higher among those who have a child who hunts than those who do not.
- Among the six Commission regions, support is lowest in the Northcentral Region.

Those who support having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving were asked why, in an open-ended question. The top reasons are that they have work obligations on Monday (51% of the group stated this), the Saturday opener provides increased hunting opportunities for themselves and others (48%), and convenience with their child's school schedule (13%).

Among those who oppose the Saturday opener, the most common reasons are that Monday was the tradition (44% of the group stated this), their setup and enjoyment of hunting camp is rushed (30%), and the opener is too rushed after Thanksgiving (24%).

Nearly all of those who oppose having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving (95%) would prefer to have it on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

A majority of hunters (62%) said that the Saturday opening has not had an impact on their deer hunting in Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, more hunters said it has had a positive impact (25%) than a negative impact (11%).

YOUTH DEER HUNTING

Among those who have a child/children who also hunt deer, two thirds (66%) said the child/children hunted on opening day this season. Of that latter group, 47% said the Saturday opening had no impact on whether the child/children would hunt that day, while 50% said it made their participation on opening day more likely.

The vast majority of those who had a child/children hunt on opening day this season (83%) said that their child's/children's school is typically closed on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) to determine resident deer hunters' participation in and attitudes regarding opening day of the regular firearms deer season. The study entailed a probability-based, scientific telephone survey of resident Pennsylvania deer hunters 18 years old and older. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones (both landlines and cell phones were called in their proper proportions). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or online surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, as well as higher response rates. If a potential respondent cannot be reached on the first call, subsequent calls are placed on different days of the week and different times of the day to ensure a probability-based, scientifically valid sample. Another advantage of telephone surveys, relative to mail or online surveys, is that they provide higher quality data because of the clarification that a live interviewer provides for any questions in the survey. Also, telephone surveys provide a much faster turnaround time and lower costs compared to mail surveys.

Furthermore, telephone surveys allow respondents who cannot or will not respond to a mail or online survey to participate. Mail and online surveys systematically exclude those who have difficulty reading. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute of Literacy estimated that up to 43% of the general population of the United States cannot read beyond a "basic level," suggesting that many might be reticent to complete a mail or online survey they must read to themselves. In addition, those with poor or limited internet service or who are intimidated by technology may be reticent to complete a survey online. In a telephone survey, however, a live interviewer reads the survey questions, clarifies them if necessary, and assists the respondent with completing the survey, making it an excellent option to reduce bias and increase response rates for the survey.

Finally, telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of the reduced use of paper, reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires, and reduced quantity of material to be disposed of after the survey.

The telephone survey was coded for integration with Responsive Management's computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) process. An important aspect of this CATI process is that the computer controls which questions are asked, but each telephone survey is administered by a live interviewer.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Commission, based on the research team's familiarity with hunting surveys and outdoor recreation in general. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

SURVEY SAMPLE

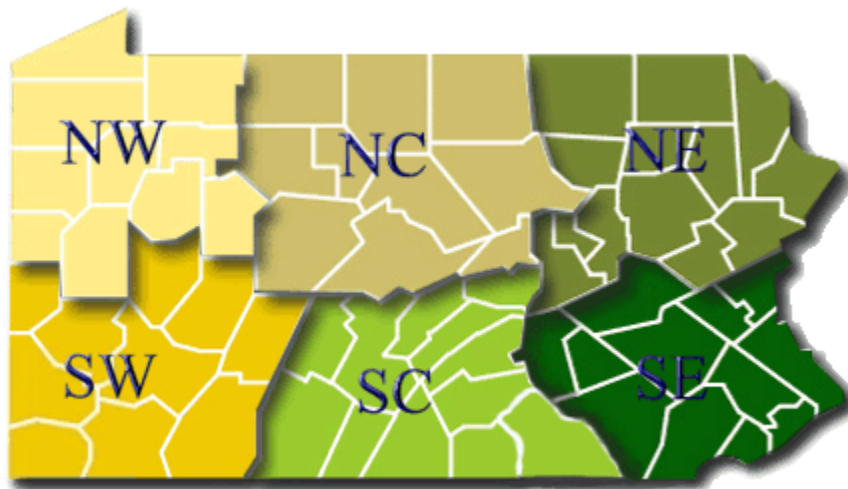
The sample of Pennsylvania deer hunters was provided by the Commission, and it consisted of Resident Adult Hunting License and Resident Senior Hunting License holders. The Commission sent two databases: one covering license sales from June 14 to November 8, 2021, and the second database covering license sales from November 9 to December 9, 2021. The final survey dataset closely matched these sample proportions; therefore, weighting the results to adjust for sample proportions was not necessary. The tabulation below shows the comparison.

Comparison of Database Ratios

	Sample Dataset	Survey Dataset
Percentage in first dataset	91.8	89.9
Percentage in second dataset	8.2	10.1

The survey was not stratified by geographic region, although some results were crosstabulated by the Commission regions shown below.

Pennsylvania Game Commission Regions



As a condition of taking the survey, hunters had to have hunted deer during the regular firearms season at least once during the 2017 or 2018 seasons (when opening day was the Monday after Thanksgiving) and at least once during the 2019, 2020, or 2021 seasons (when opening day was the Saturday after Thanksgiving). (Note that “2021 season” really means the current 2021-2022 hunting season; however, for simplicity, the survey and this report only refer to the year of the fall season when the regular firearms season occurred when referring to each hunting season.) This ensured that those surveyed had the opportunity to hunt both Monday openers and Saturday openers at some point in the past 5 years, thus providing insight into how the change in opening day may have impacted their hunting participation and attitudes. The Commission provided the two license sample databases to include hunters who met this condition, and a screener question at the beginning of the survey further verified that hunters met this condition before the full survey was administered.

TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL

As previously noted, the interviews were conducted using Responsive Management's CATI system, which utilizes software for telephone data collection. The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that the CATI system branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The software also allowed for error checks during the interview to help ensure that the data were accurate and valid.

Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. The Survey Center Managers conducted project briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained a total of 2,009 completed questionnaires.

INTERVIEWING DATES AND TIMES

Telephone surveying times were Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in November and December 2021.

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The breakdowns of age, gender, and license type in the survey results closely match those in the sample database, so weighting of the results was not necessary. The comparisons are shown in the tabulation on the following page.

Comparisons of Sample and Survey Datasets

Age	Percentage in Commission's License Sample	Percentage in Completed Surveys
65 years old or older	25.8	25.2
55 to 64 years old	25.8	21.5
45 to 54 years old	21.7	20.0
35 to 44 years old	18.0	21.9
18 to 34 years old	8.6	9.4
Gender		
Male	96	96
Female	4	4
License Type		
Resident Adult	74.2	74.2
Resident Senior	25.8	25.8

On questions that asked respondents to provide a number (e.g., days hunted), the graph shows ranges of numbers rather than the precise numbers. Nonetheless, in the survey each respondent provided a precise number, and the dataset includes this precise number, even if the graph only shows ranges of numbers. Note that the calculation of means used the precise numbers that the respondents provided.

SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the entire sample of resident Pennsylvania hunters 18 years old and older, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.18 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 2.18 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with a sample size of 2,009 and a population size of 741,586 resident Pennsylvania hunters 18 years old and older.

Sampling Error Equation

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

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
 N_p = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
 N_s = 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).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN THE REPORT

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

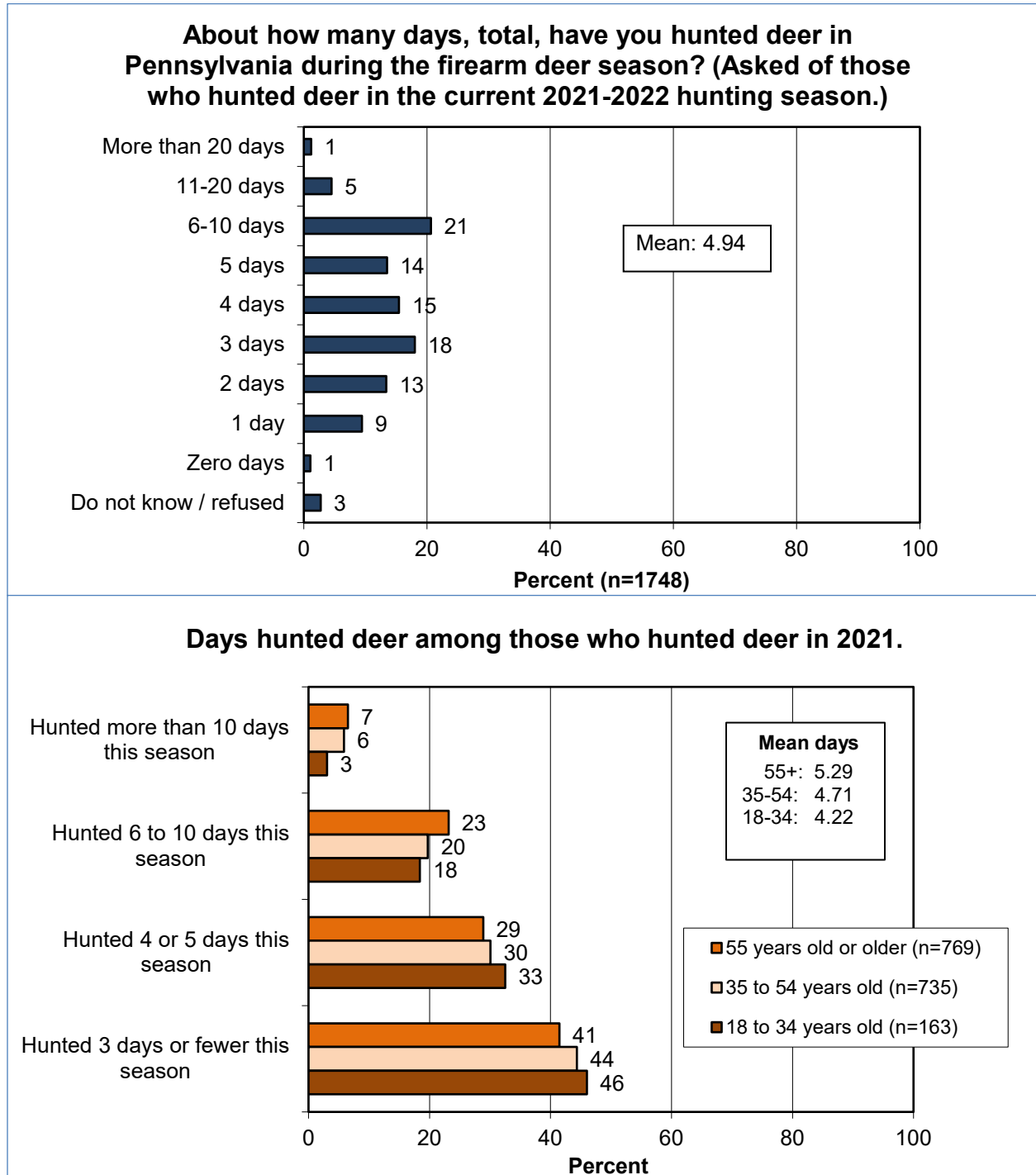
- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, "Multiple Responses Allowed."
- Some closed-ended questions are in a scale, such as a continuum from strongly support to strongly oppose.

Data analysts read through all of the open-ended hunter responses and assigned them into response categories so that the results could be presented in quantitative "Multiple Responses Allowed" graphs. Overall, analysts categorized over 6,300 hunter responses.

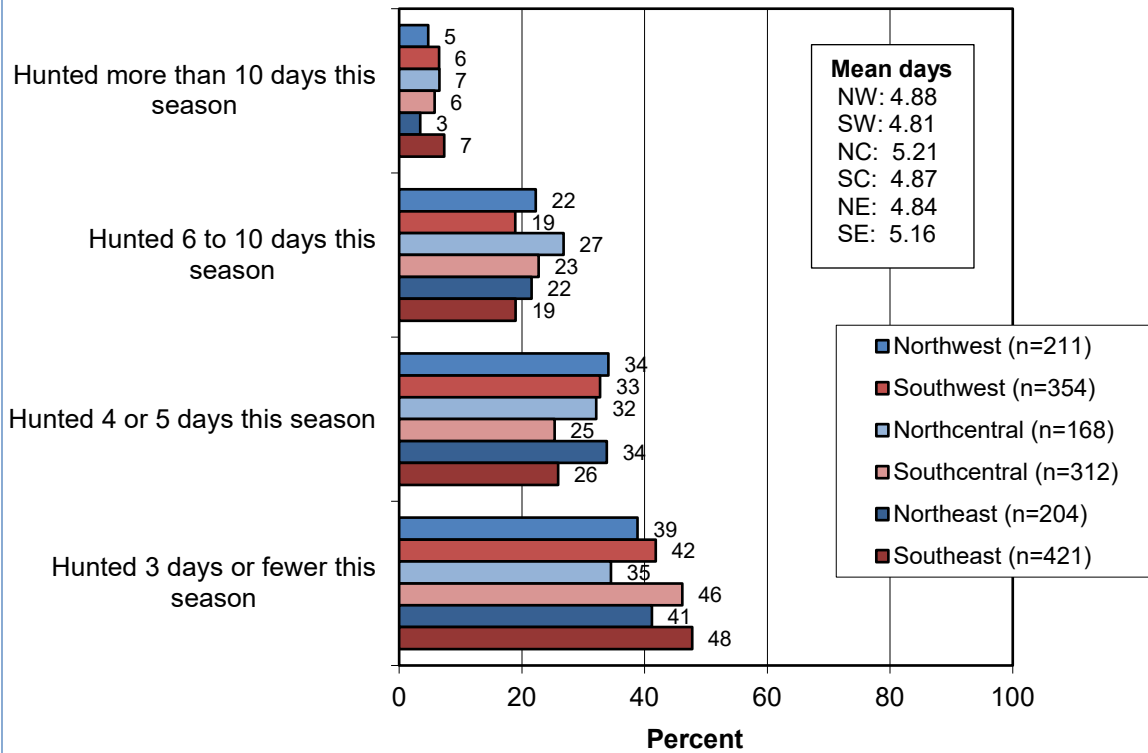
DEER HUNTING PARTICIPATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Among those who hunted in the current firearm deer season, the mean amount was just under 5 days of hunting. Crosstabulations indicate that older hunters and those in the Northcentral and Southeast Regions are more likely than their counterparts to hunt the most days.

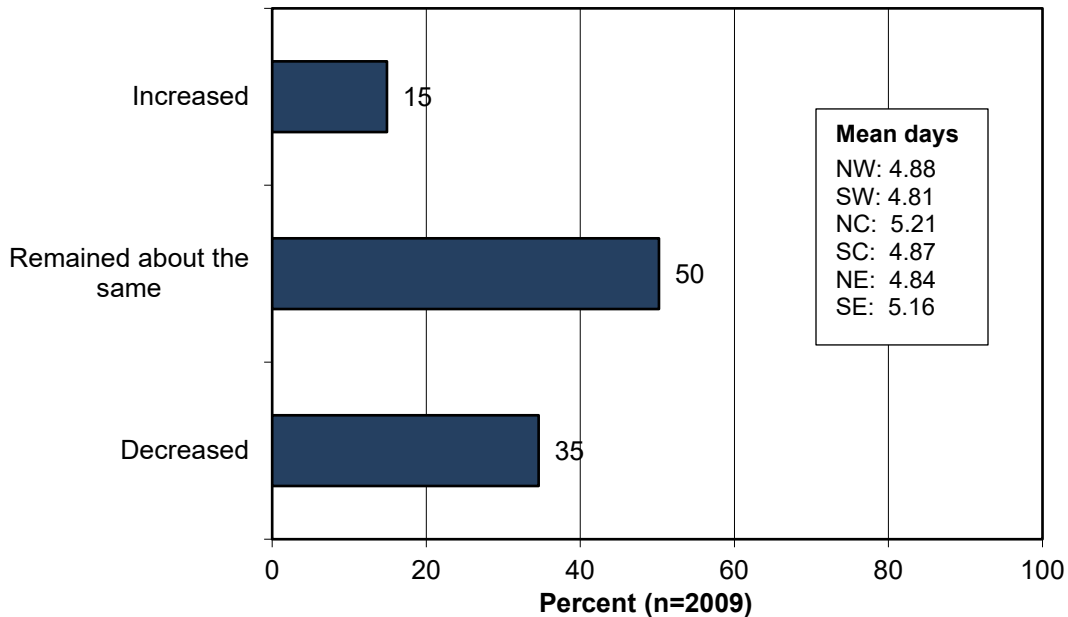
In another measure of hunting avidity, half of hunters (50%) say their deer hunting has remained about the same over the past 5 years, while more say their hunting has decreased (35%) than say it has increased (15%).



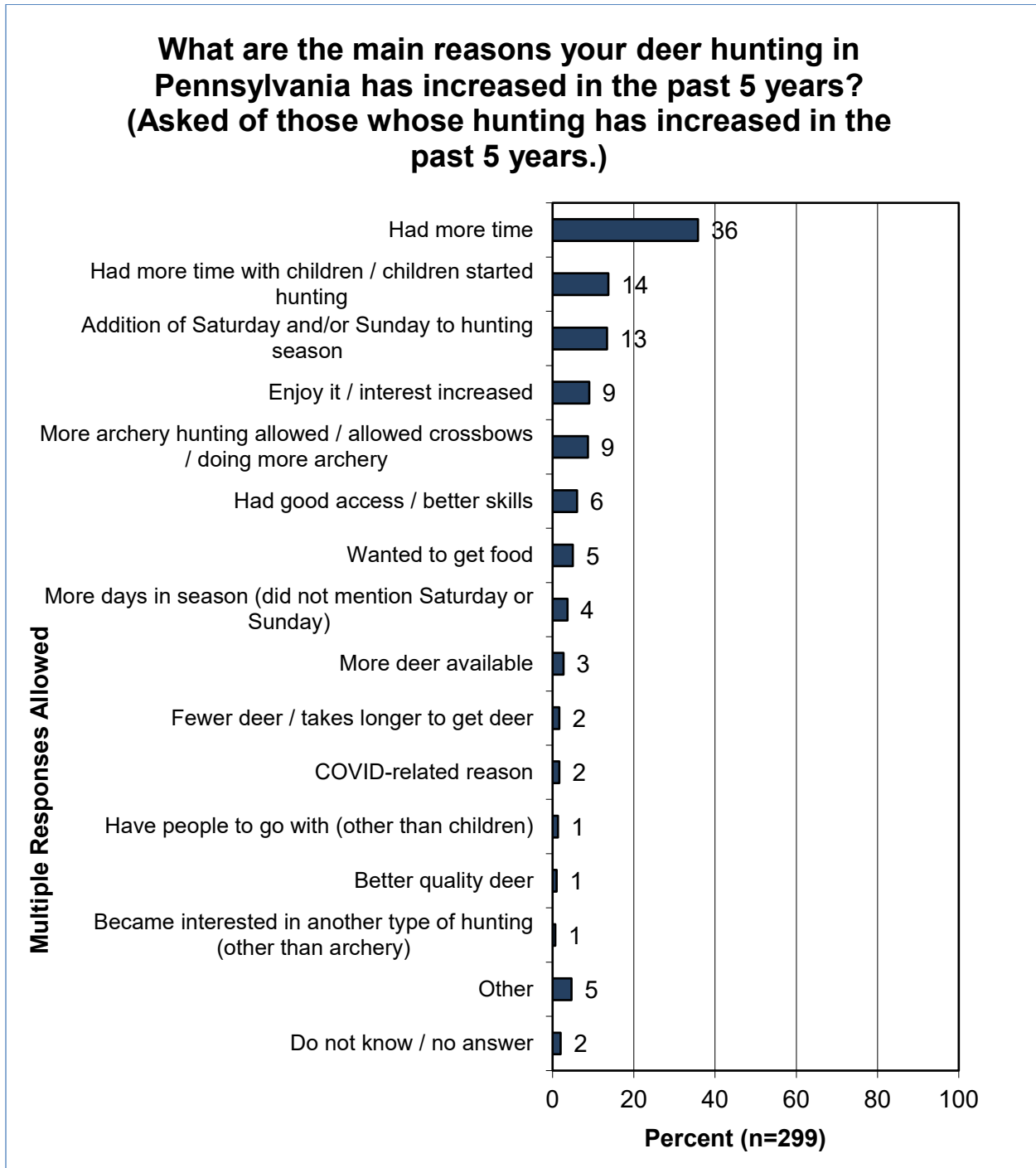
Days hunted deer among those who hunted deer in 2021.



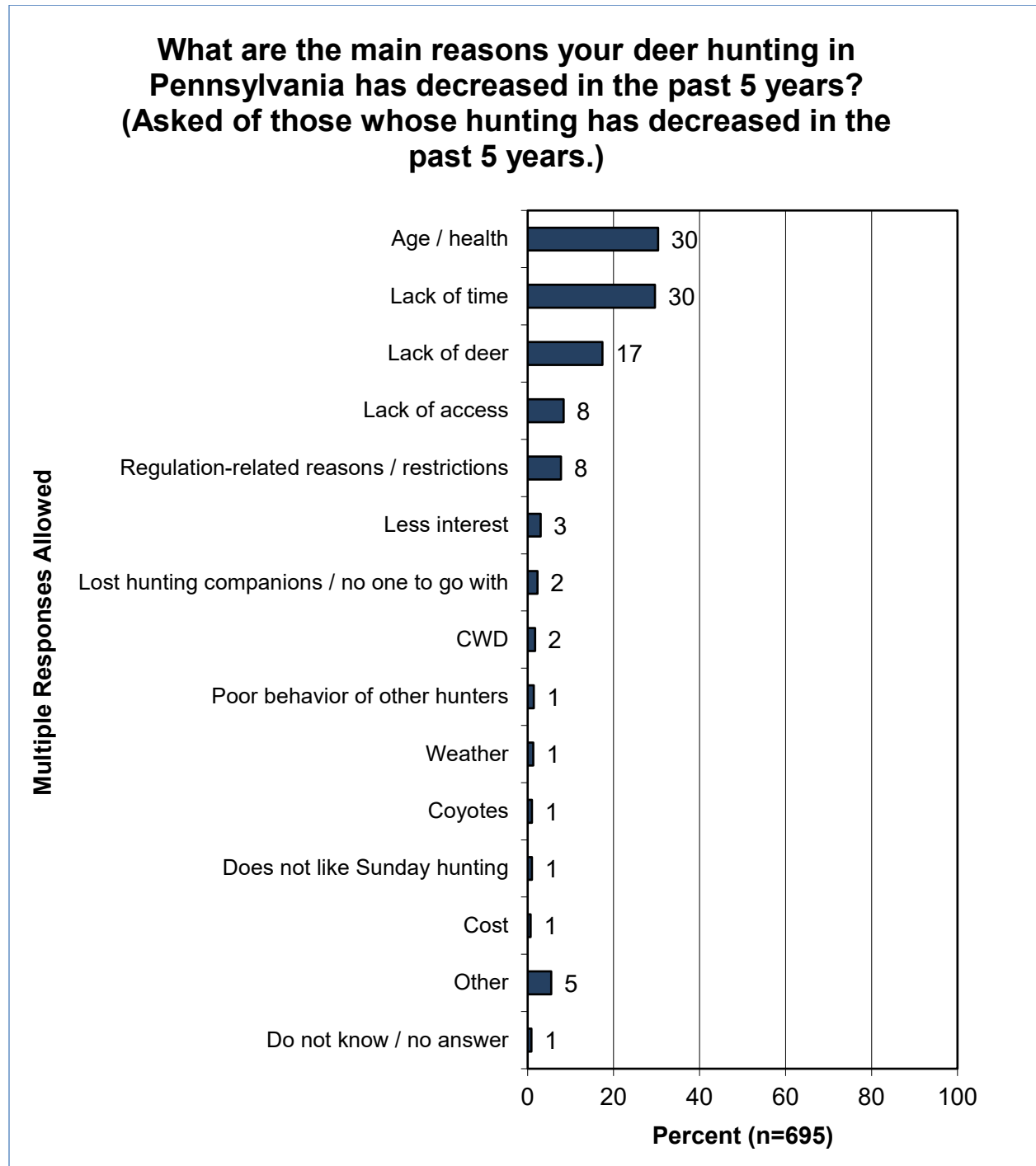
Overall, would you say your participation in deer hunting in Pennsylvania has increased, remained about the same, or decreased in the past 5 years?



In an open-ended question, those whose hunting increased in the past 5 years most commonly said it was because they had more free time in general (36% of the group stated this), they had more time with their children or their children started hunting (14%), and the addition of Saturday and/or Sunday to the hunting season (13%).

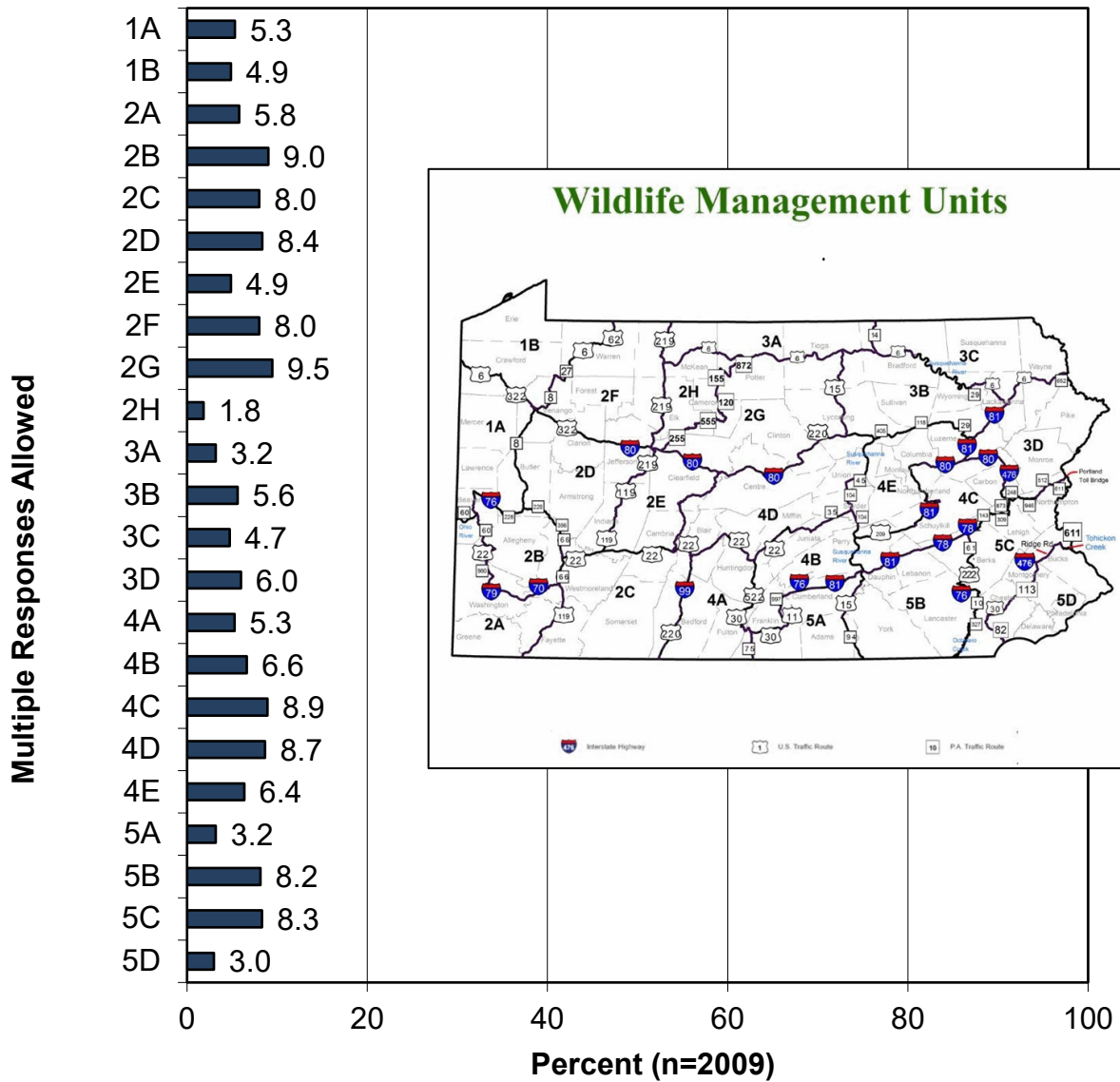


Those whose hunting decreased in the past 5 years most often said it was because of age or health (30% of the group stated this), a lack of free time (also 30%), and a lack of deer (17%).



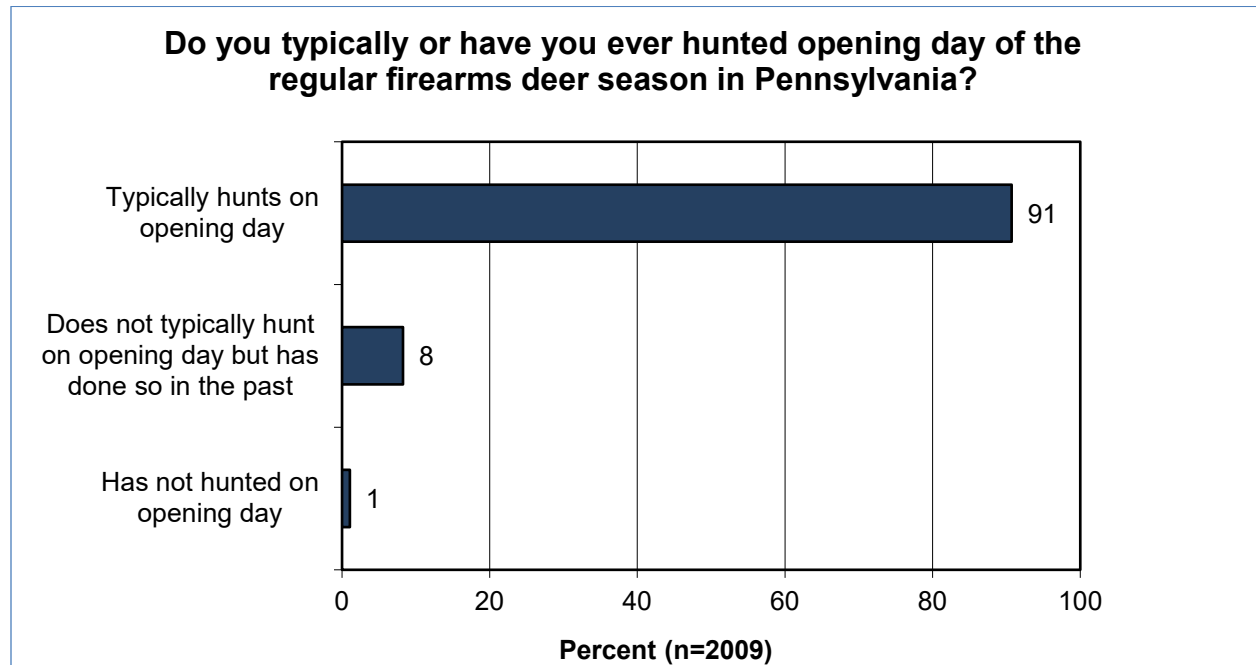
The Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) typically hunted by deer hunters are shown below.

In which WMUs do you typically hunt deer during the regular firearms season in Pennsylvania? (Respondent could select up to 3 WMUs.)

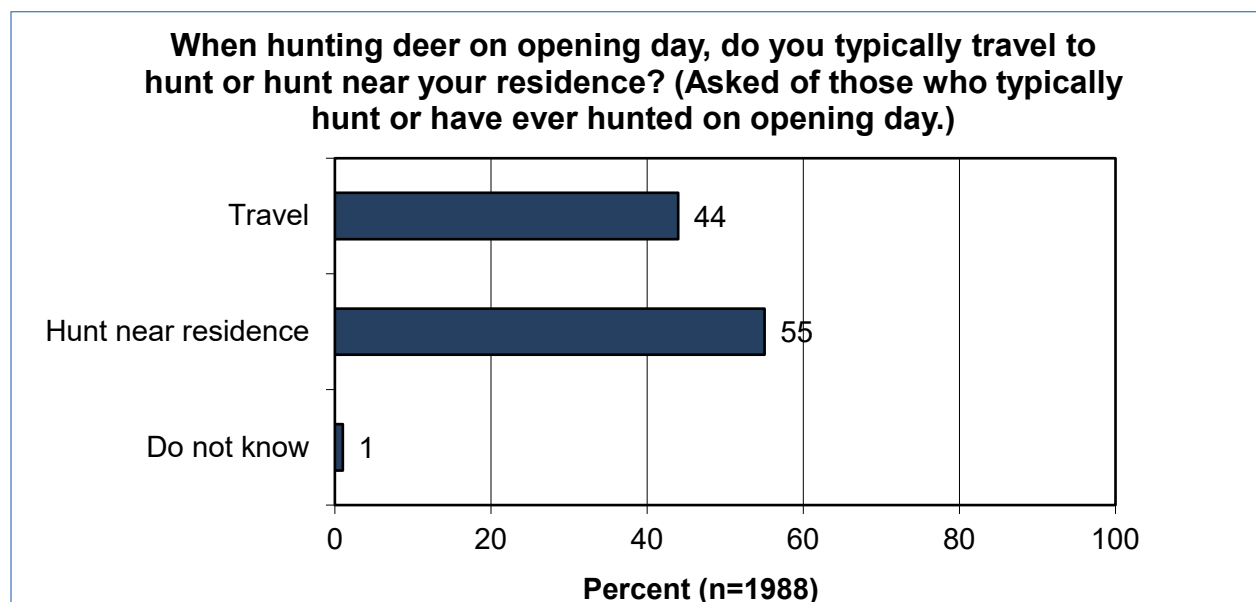


OPENING DAY OF THE REGULAR FIREARMS SEASON

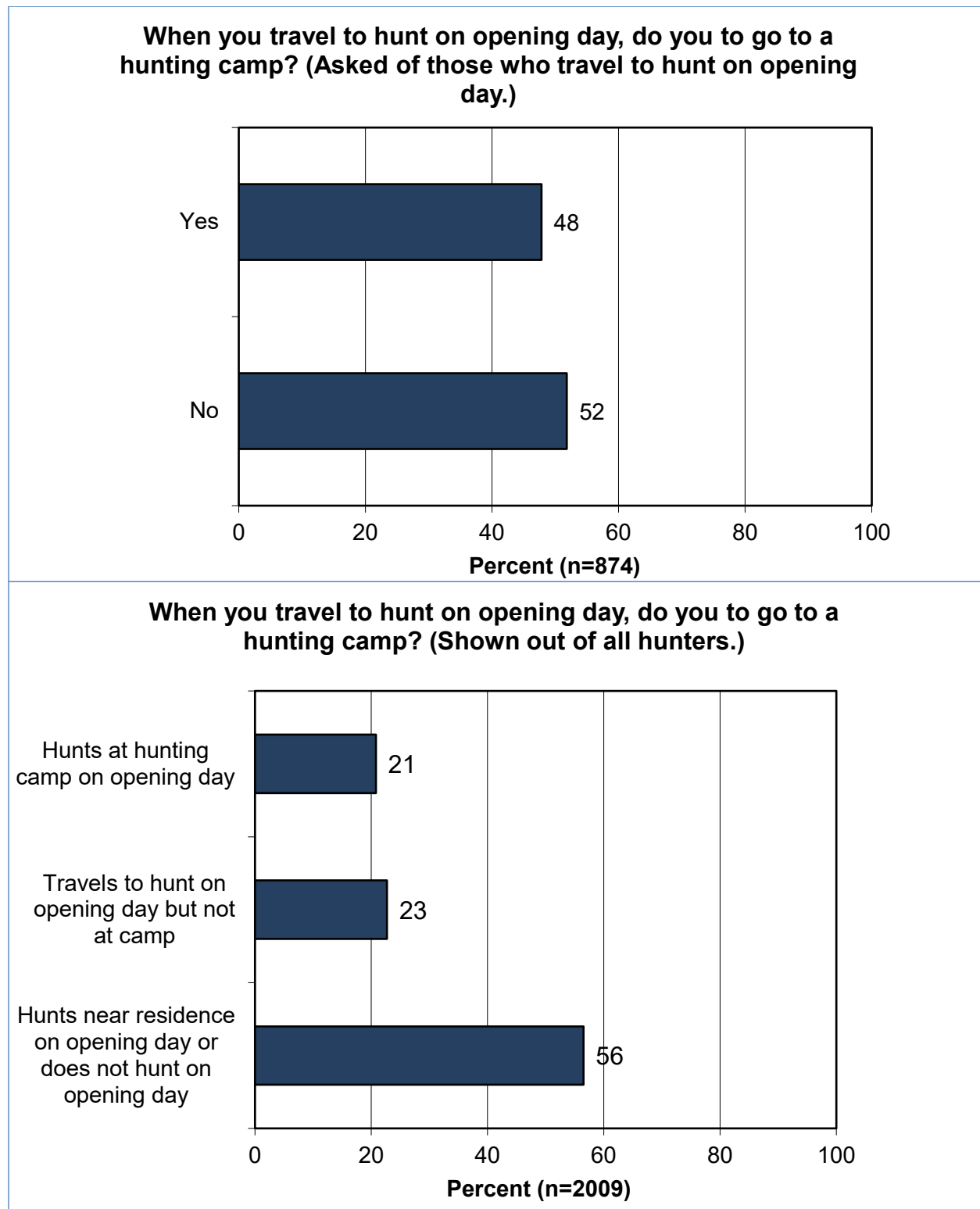
Most Pennsylvania deer hunters (91%) typically hunt on opening day of the regular firearms deer season, and most of those who do not typically hunt opening day (89%) have hunted on opening day in the past. Looking at the two questions combined, only 1% of deer hunters have never hunted on opening day.



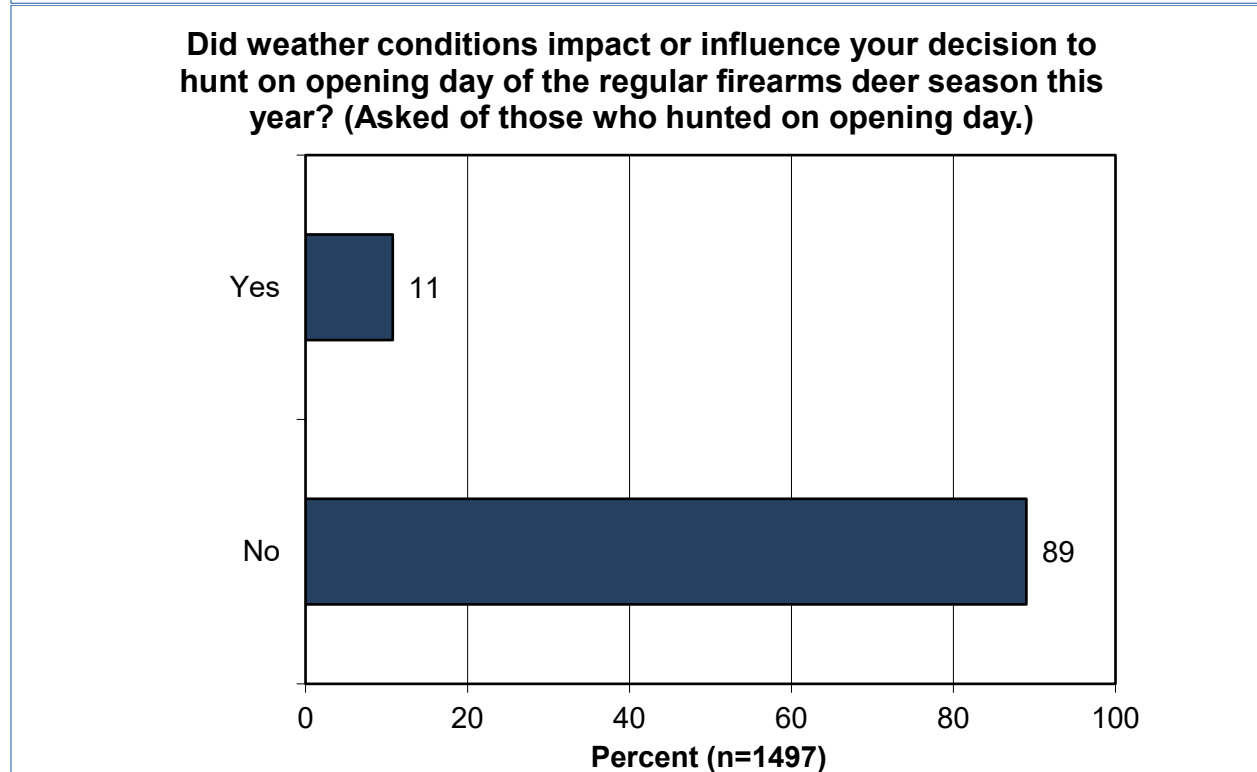
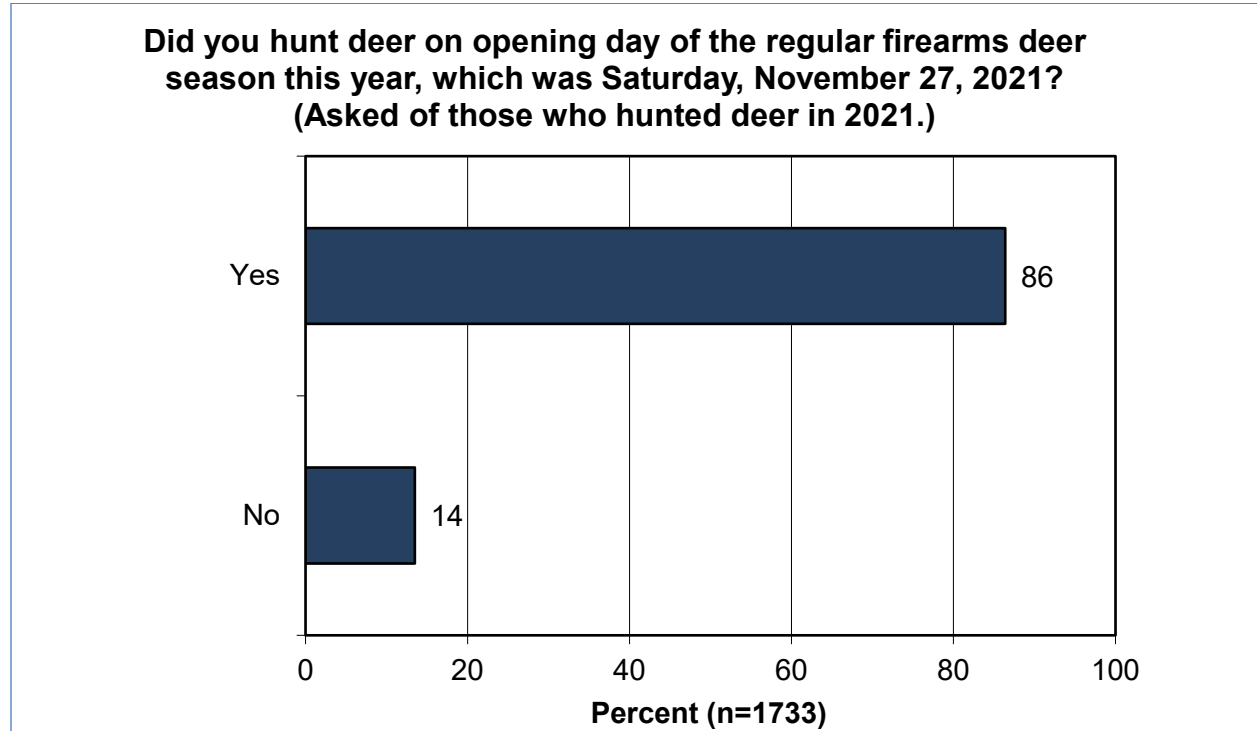
Among those who typically hunt or have ever hunted on opening day, a majority (55%) hunt near their residence on opening day, compared to 44% who travel to hunt.

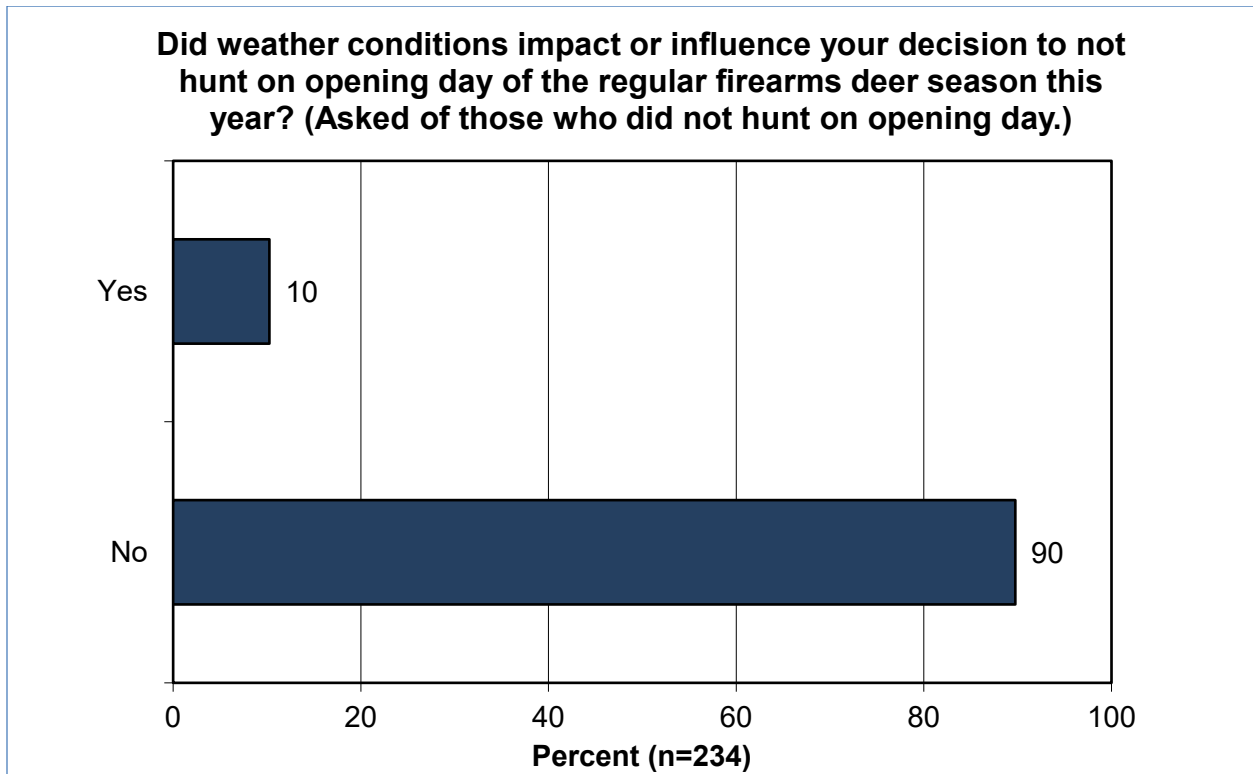


Nearly half of those who travel to hunt on opening day (48%) go to a hunting camp. Among all hunters, 21% hunt at a hunting camp on opening day.

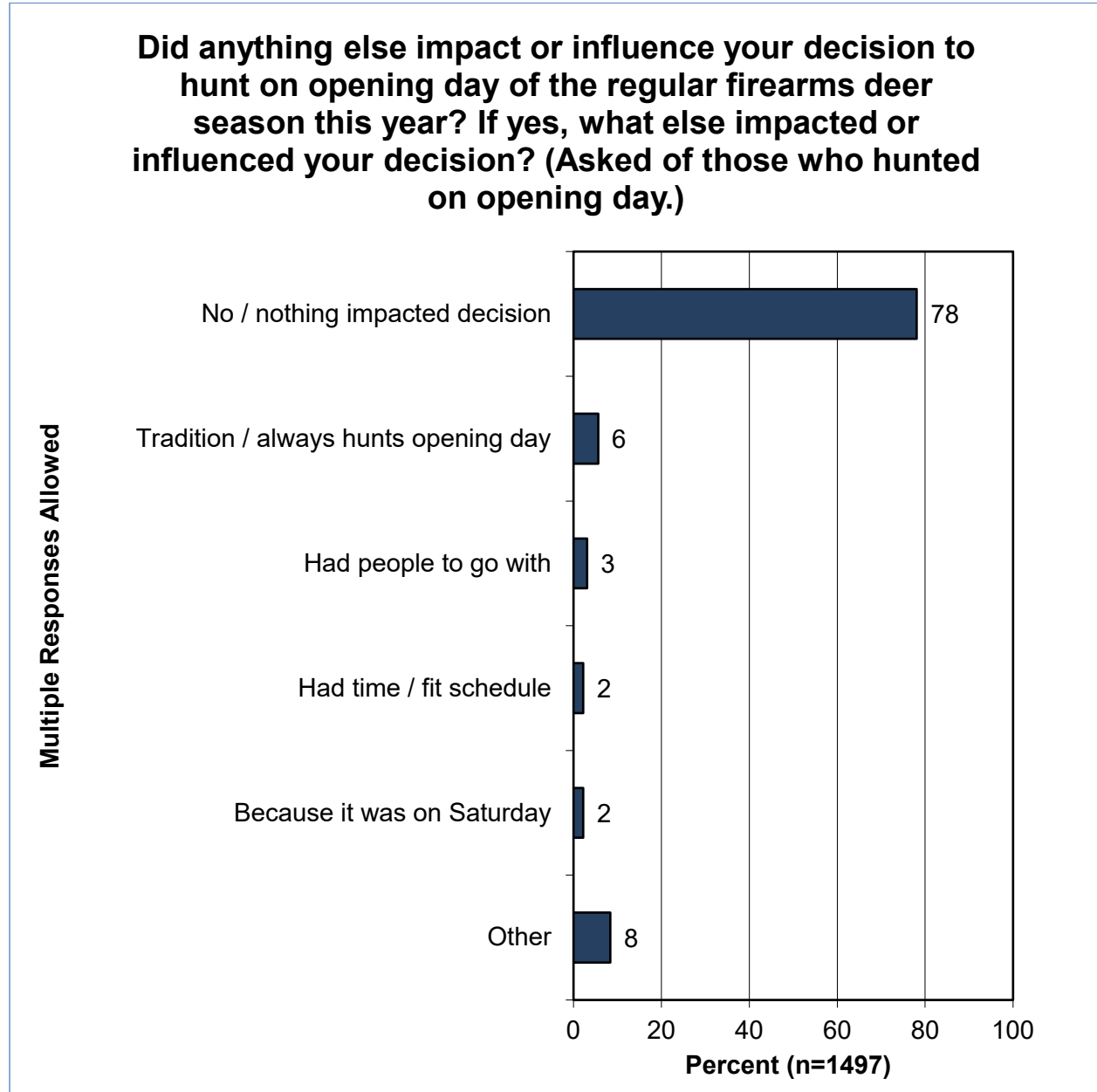


Most of those who hunted this season (86%) hunted on opening day; of that group, only 11% said that weather conditions influenced their decision to hunt on opening day. Meanwhile, of those who did *not* hunt on opening day, only 10% said that weather conditions influenced their decision to not hunt.

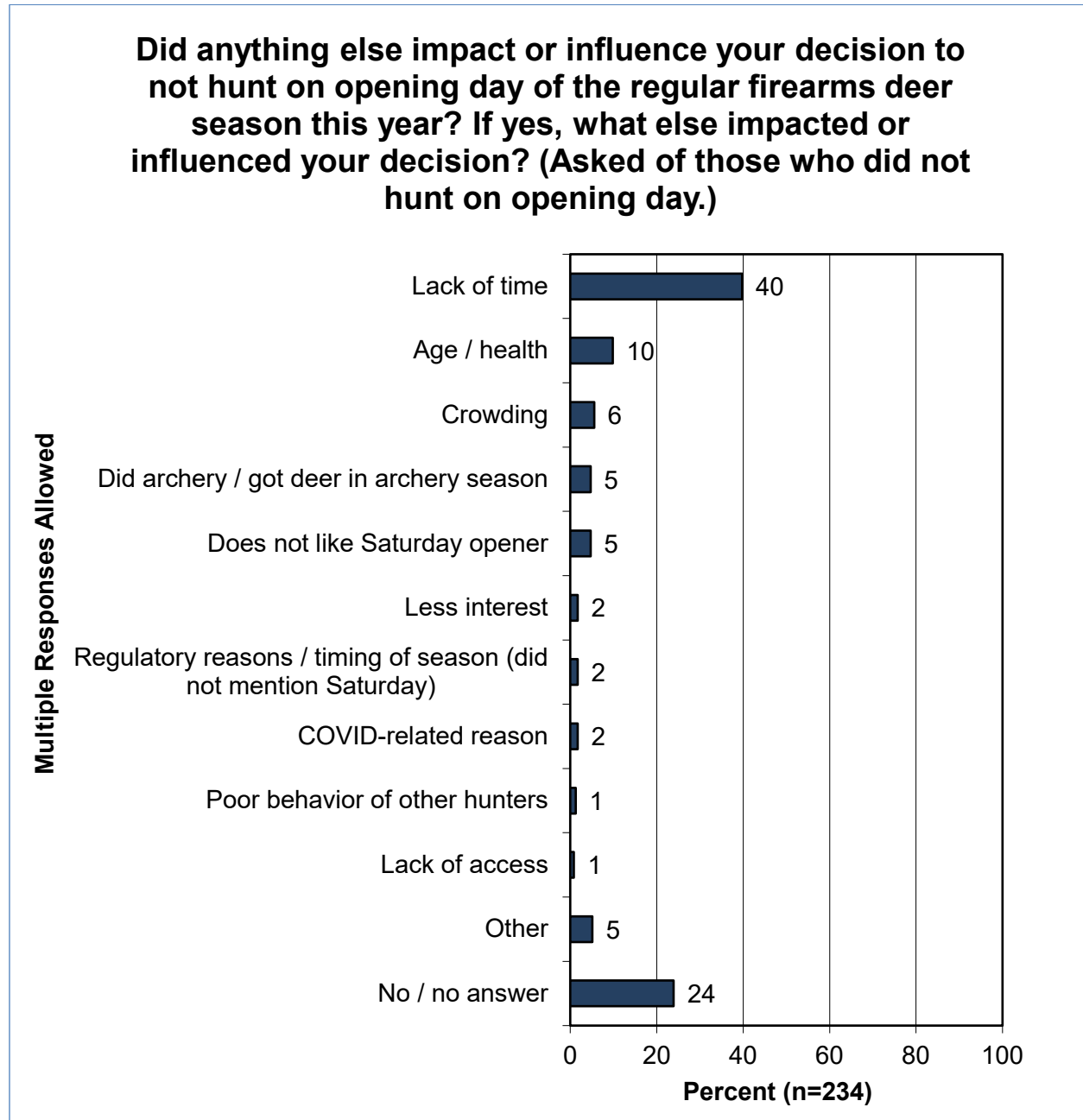




Most of those who hunted on opening day this season (78%) said that nothing apart from weather impacted their decision to hunt on opening day. (Note that this result is somewhat in contrast to later survey questioning, in which most of those who support or oppose the Saturday opener gave specific reasons for their support or opposition.)

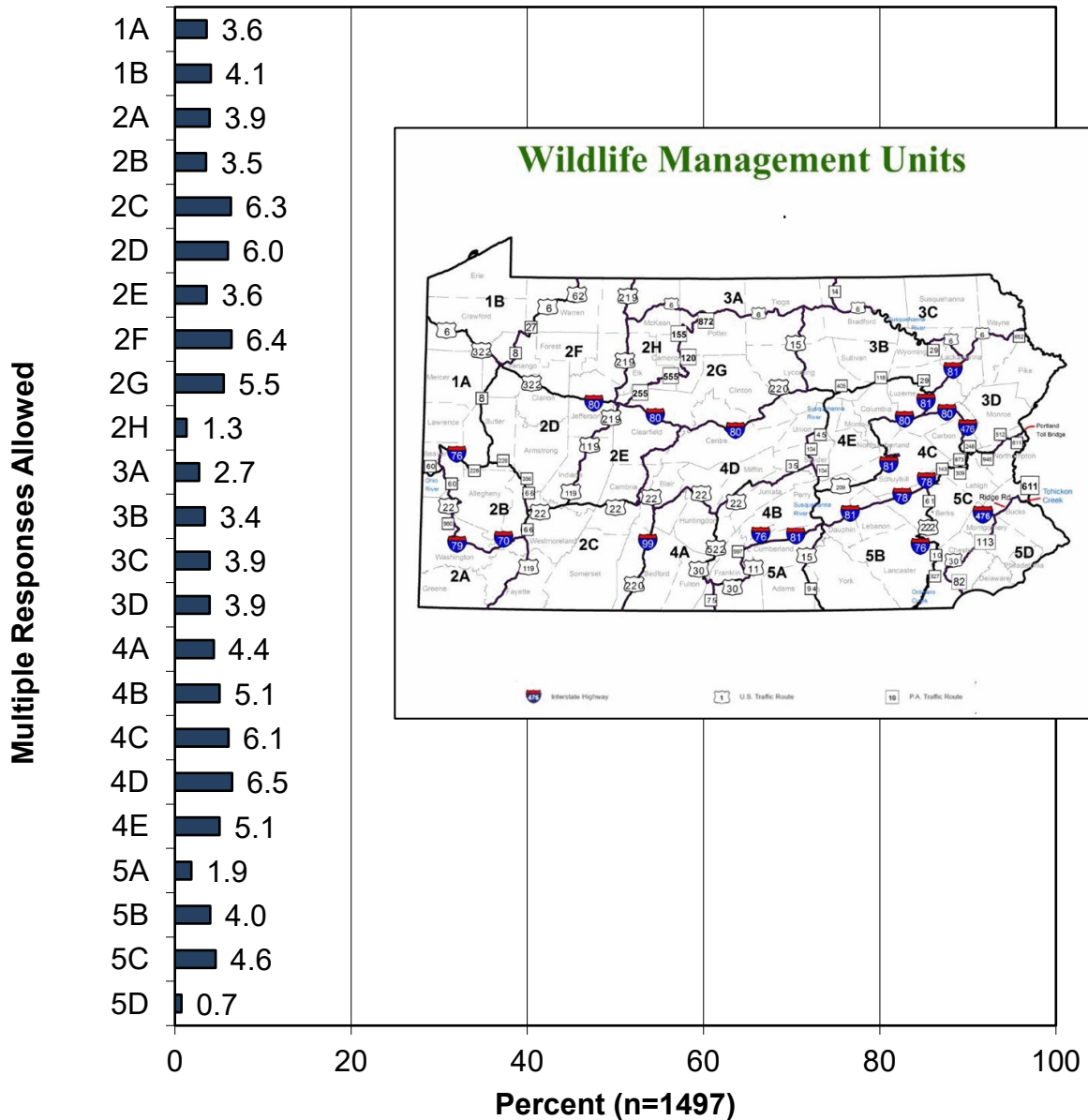


Among those who did not hunt on opening day, 40% said it was due to lack of time and 10% said it was due to age or health (these reasons are independent from weather considerations). About a quarter of this group (24%) said nothing impacted their decision to not hunt on opening day.



The WMUs hunted on opening day are shown below, among those who did so.

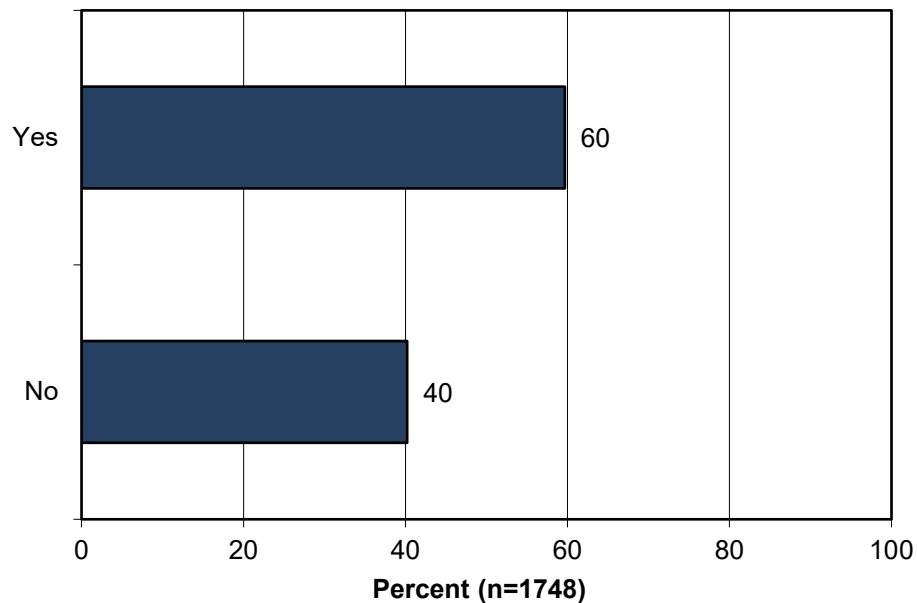
**In which WMU did you hunt deer on opening day of the regular firearms deer season this year?
(Asked of those who hunted on opening day.)
(Respondent could select up to 3 WMUs.)**



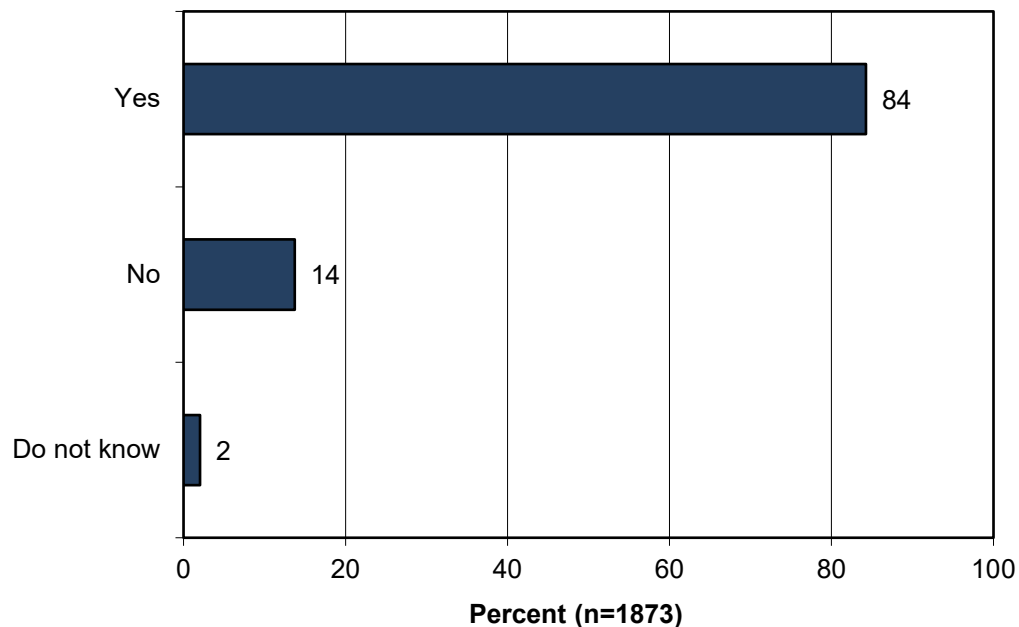
A majority of those who hunted this season (60%) hunted on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (the second day of firearms hunting season).

Most of those who hunted deer in 2020 (84%) hunted on opening day.

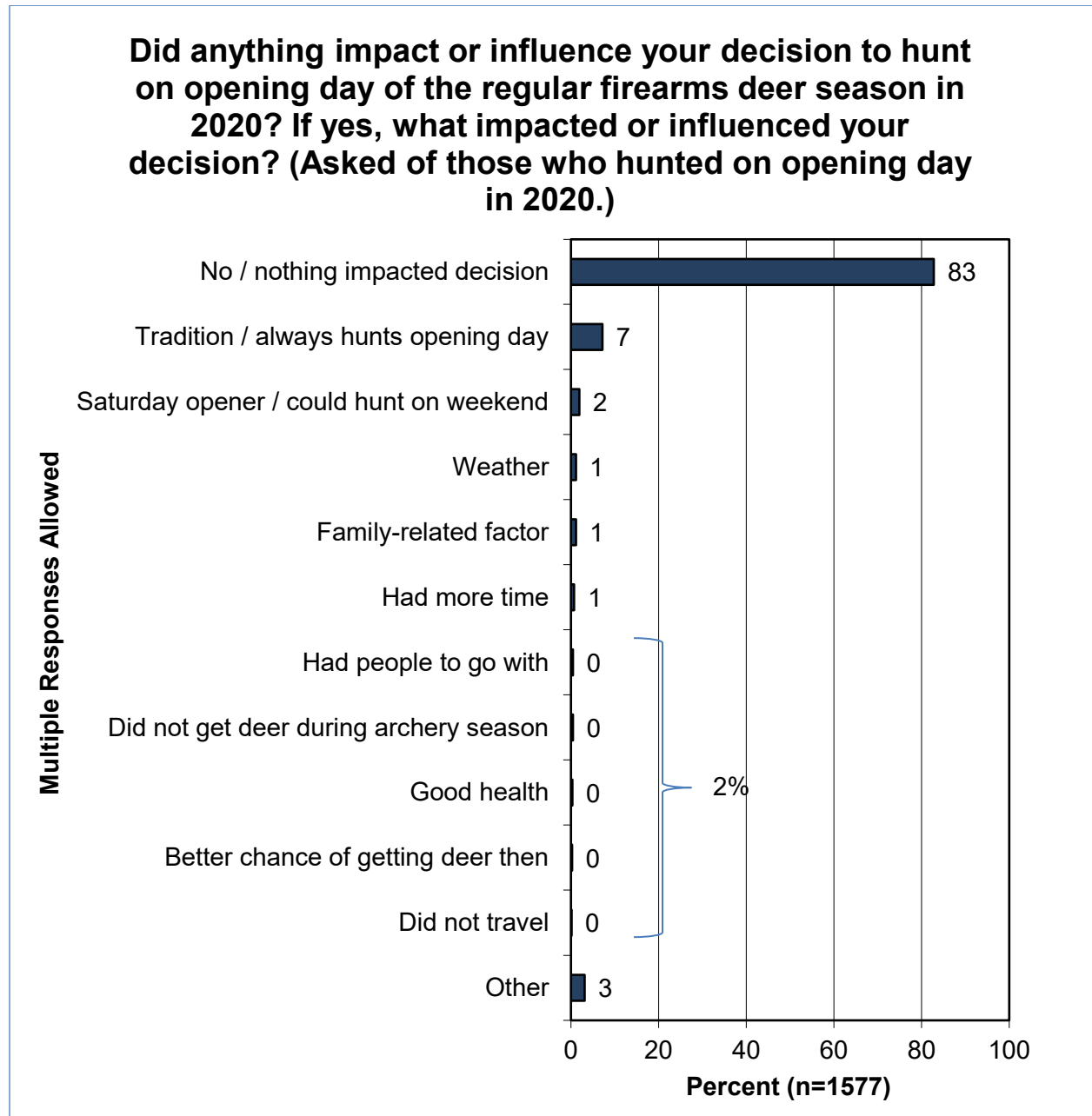
**Did you hunt deer on Sunday, November 28, 2021?
(Asked of those who hunted deer in 2021.)**



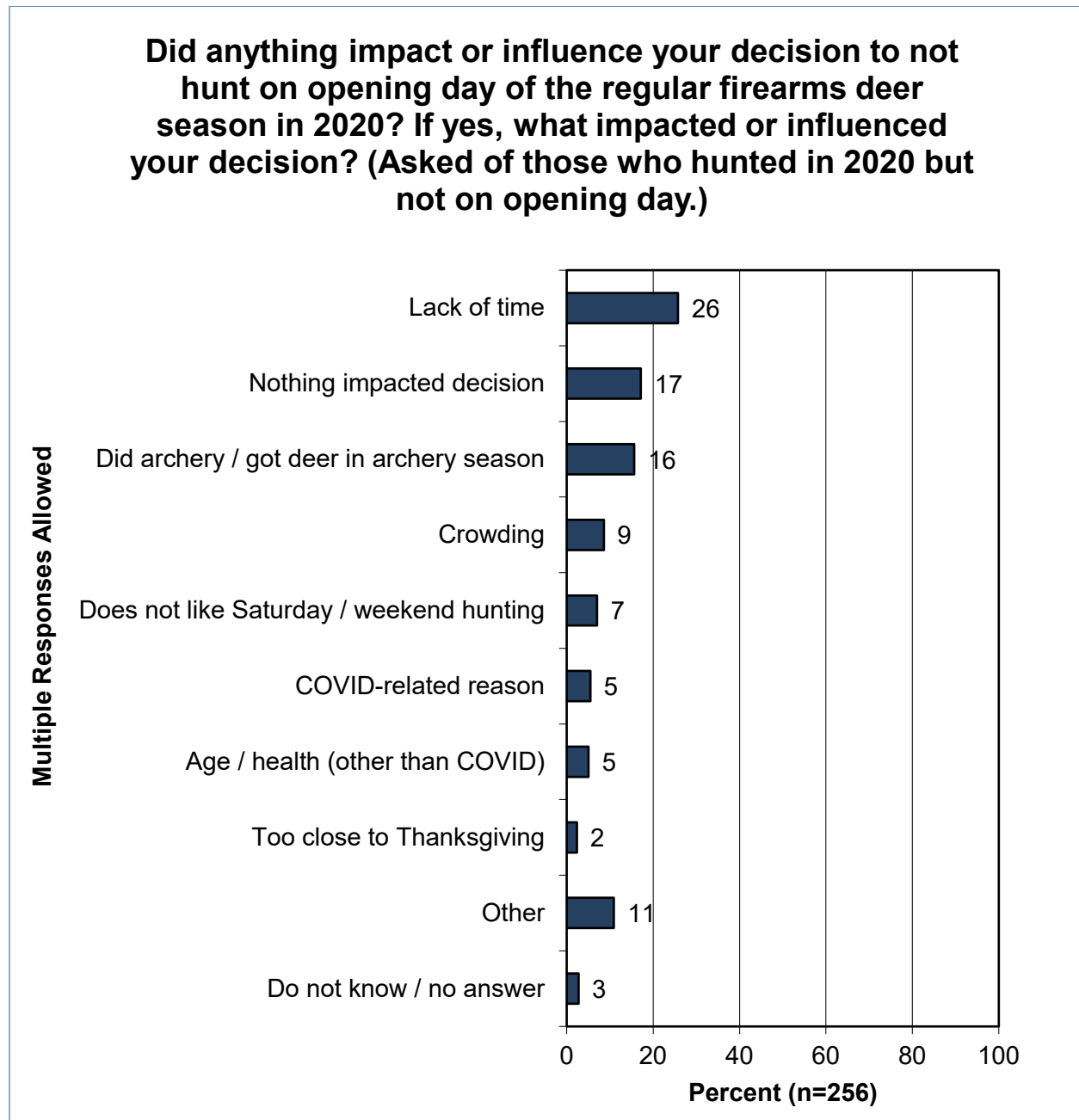
**In 2020, did you hunt deer on opening day of the regular
firearms deer season, which was Saturday, November 28, 2020?
(Asked of those who hunted deer in 2020.)**



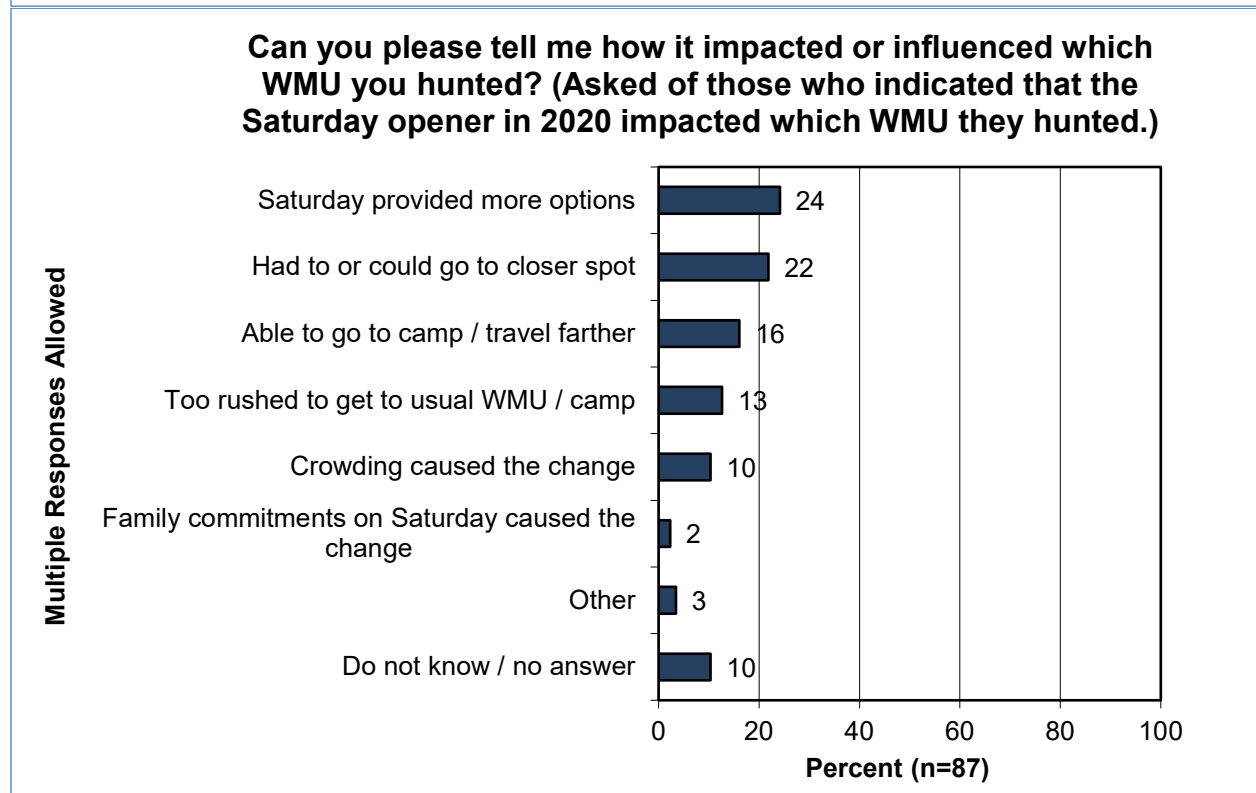
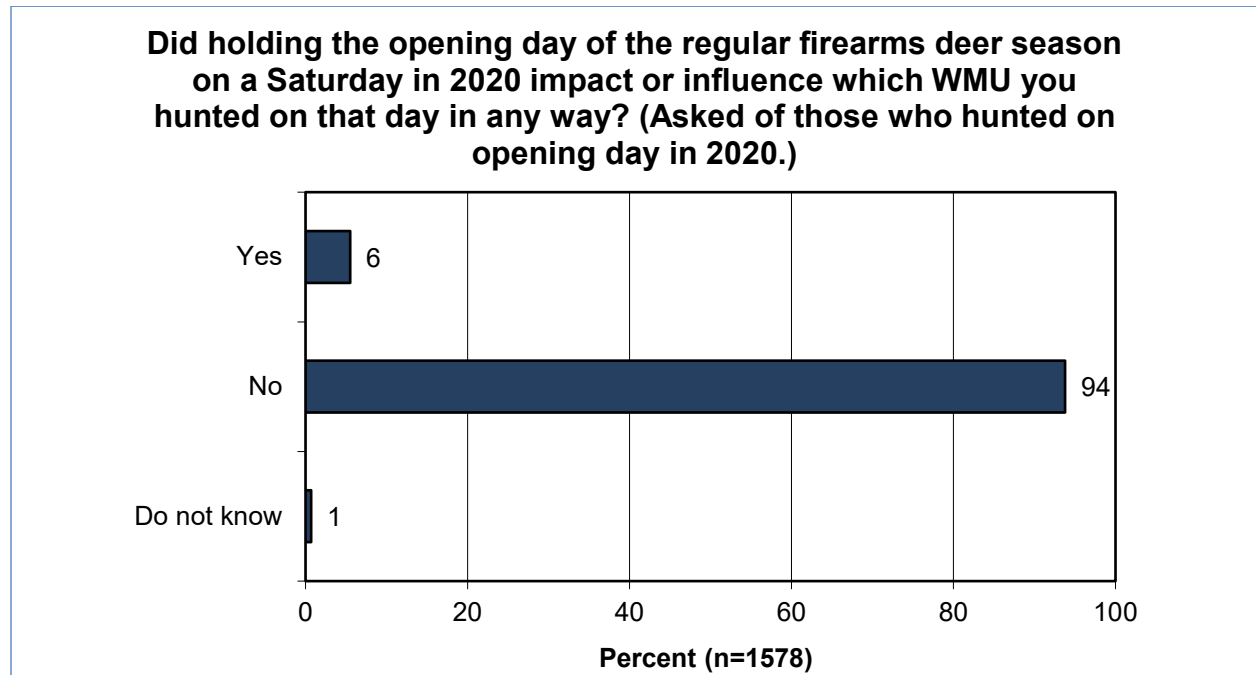
Most of those who hunted on opening day in 2020 (83%) said that nothing impacted their decision to do so.



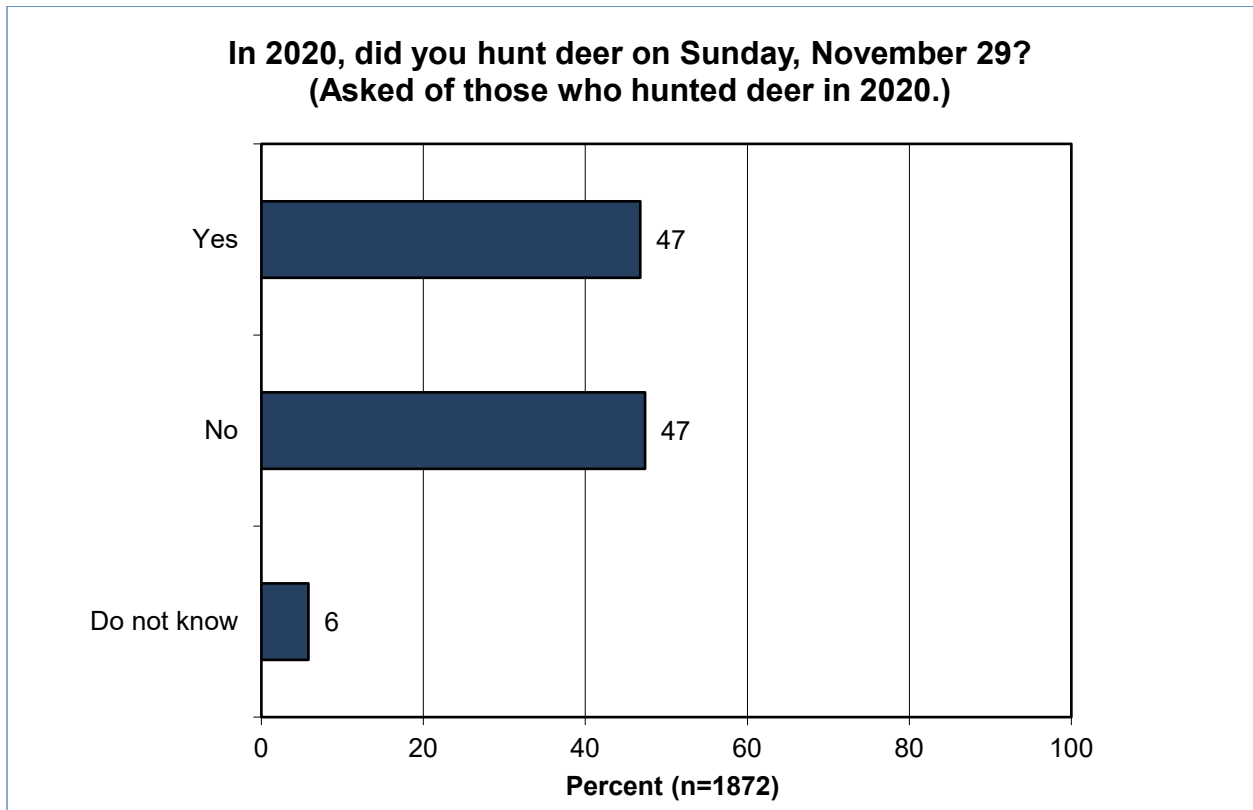
Among those who hunted in 2020 but not on opening day, the most common reasons for not hunting that day are a lack of time (26%) or having hunted or getting a deer during archery season (16%); 17% said that nothing impacted the decision.



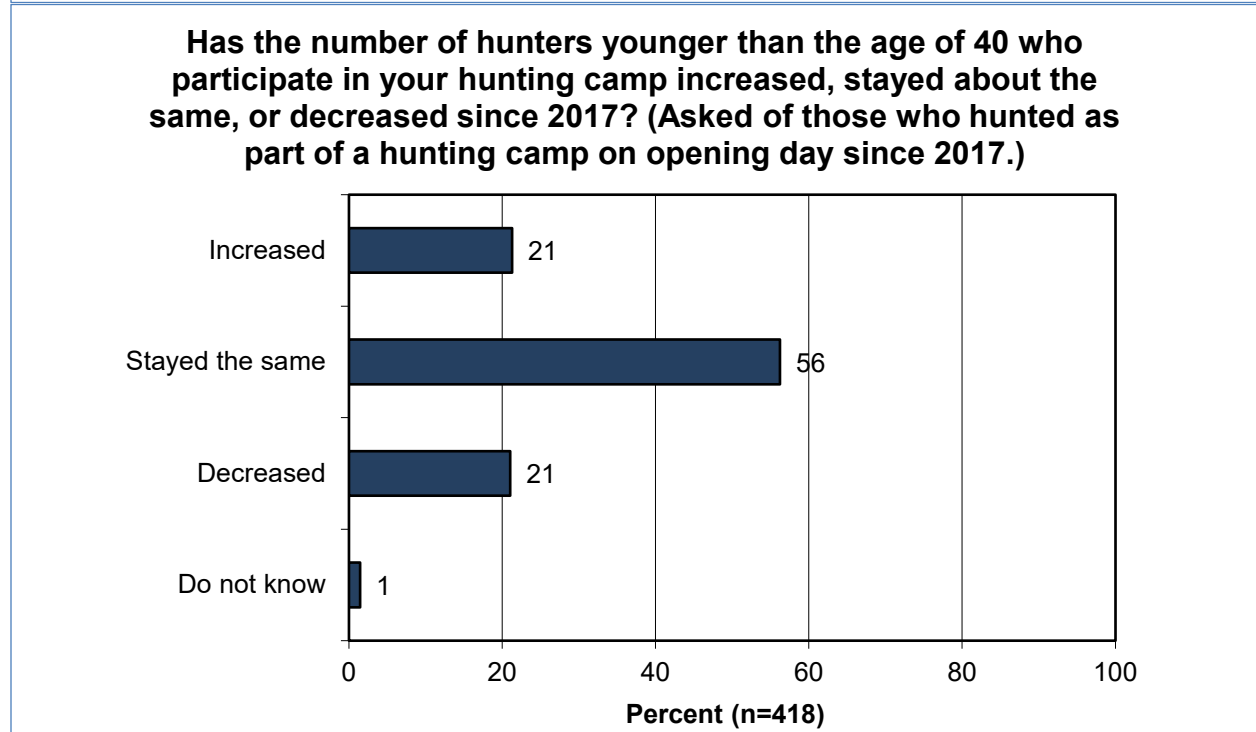
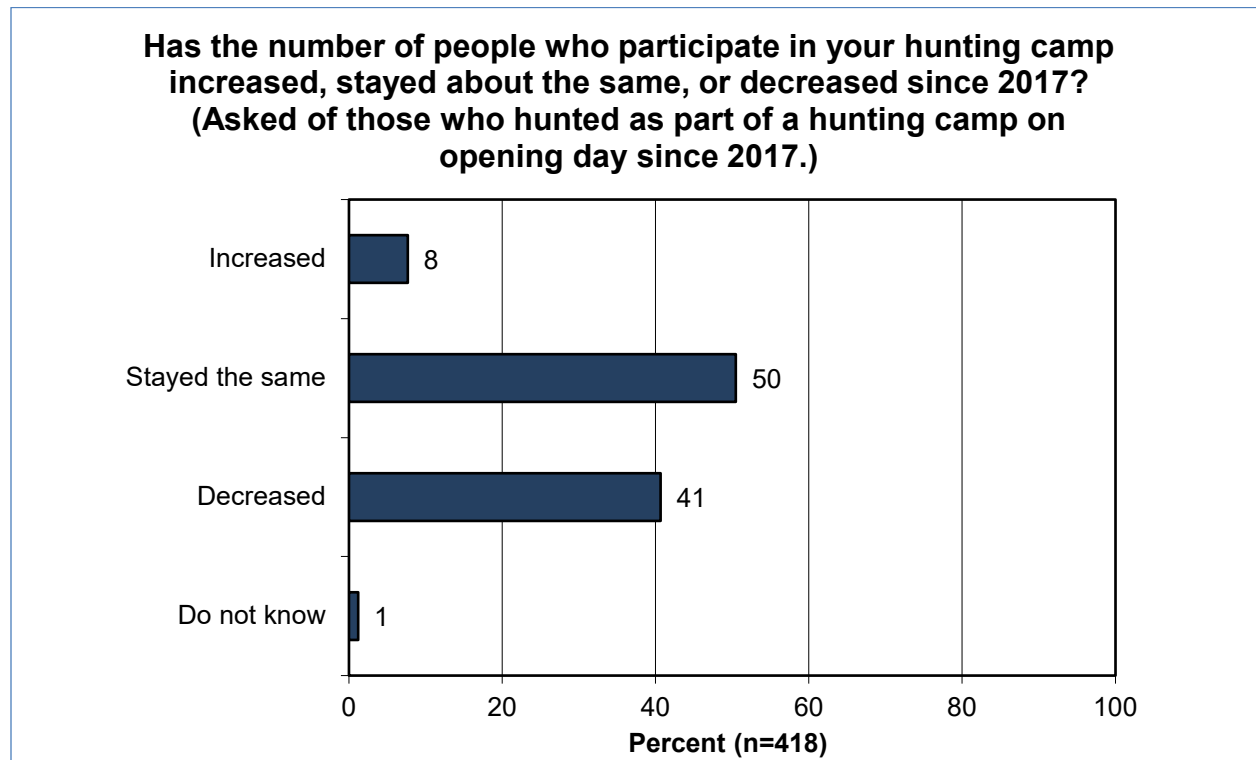
Among those who hunted on opening day in 2020, most (94%) said that having opening day on a Saturday did not influence which WMU they hunted that day.



Among those who hunted deer in 2020, there is an even split between those who did and did not hunt on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (47% each), the second day of hunting season.



Looking at those who traveled to hunt at a hunting camp on opening day at least once in the past 5 years, half (50%) said the number of people participating in the camp stayed about the same over that time. However, many more said the number of participants decreased (41%) than increased (8%). The same group was asked about the number of camp participants under the age of 40, and the results were more balanced: 56% said it stayed the same, 21% said it increased, and 21% said it decreased. This suggests that declines in hunting camp participation are primarily due to the exodus of older hunters.

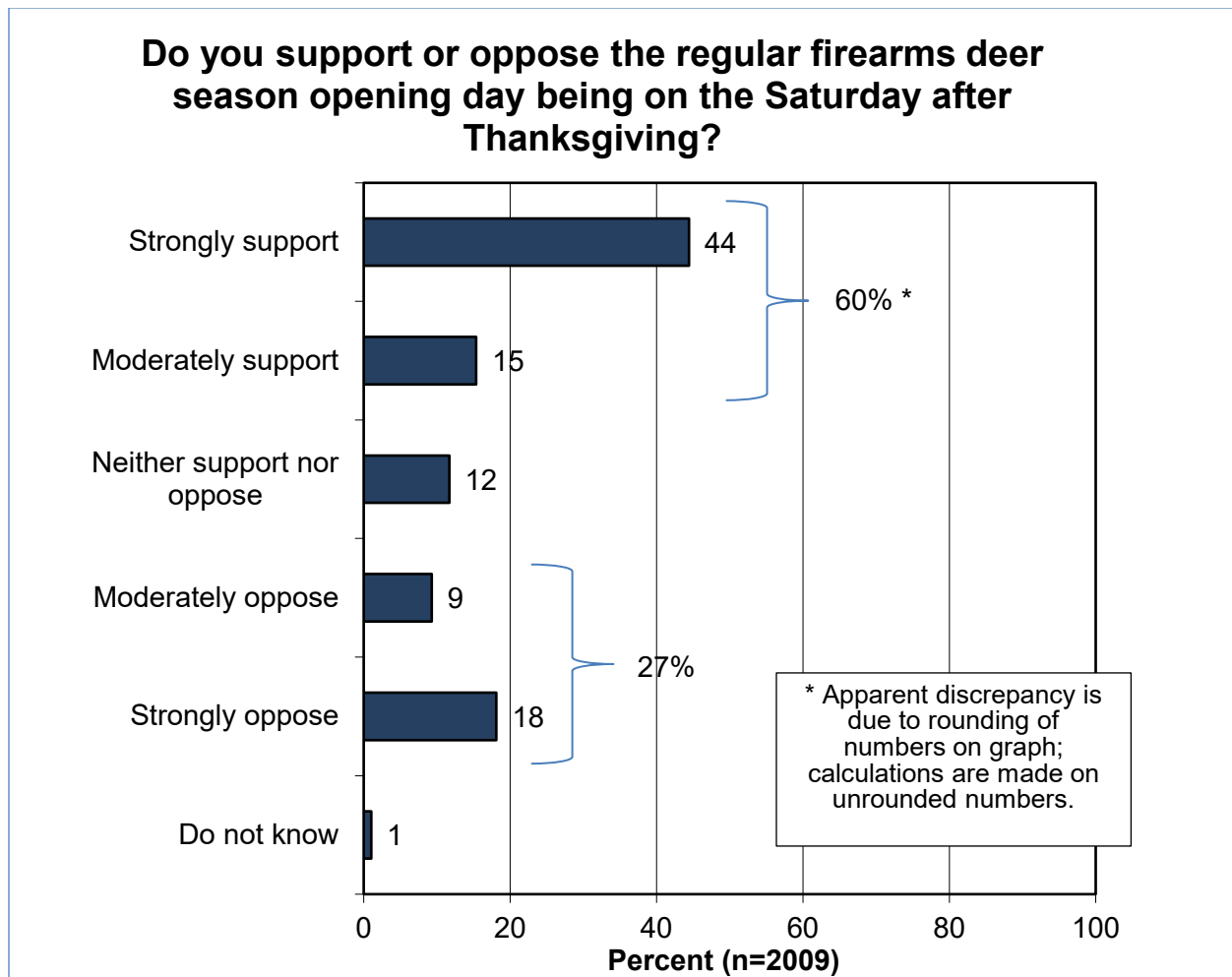


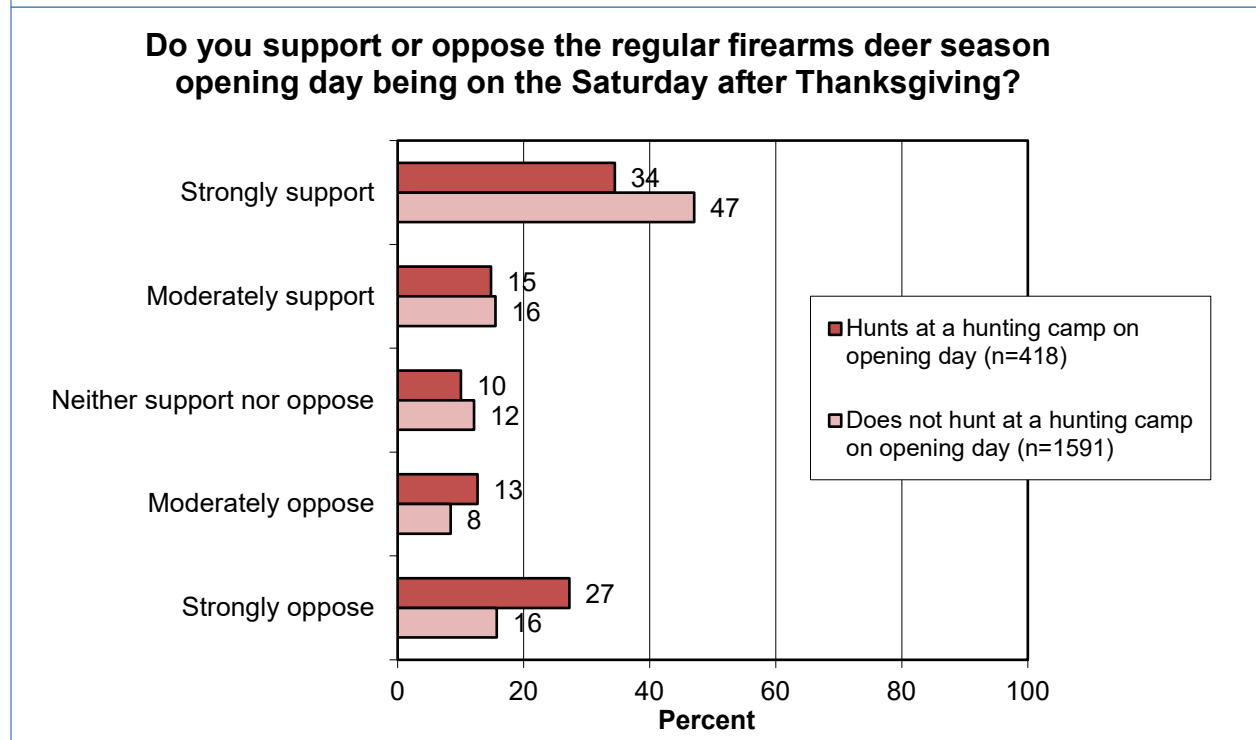
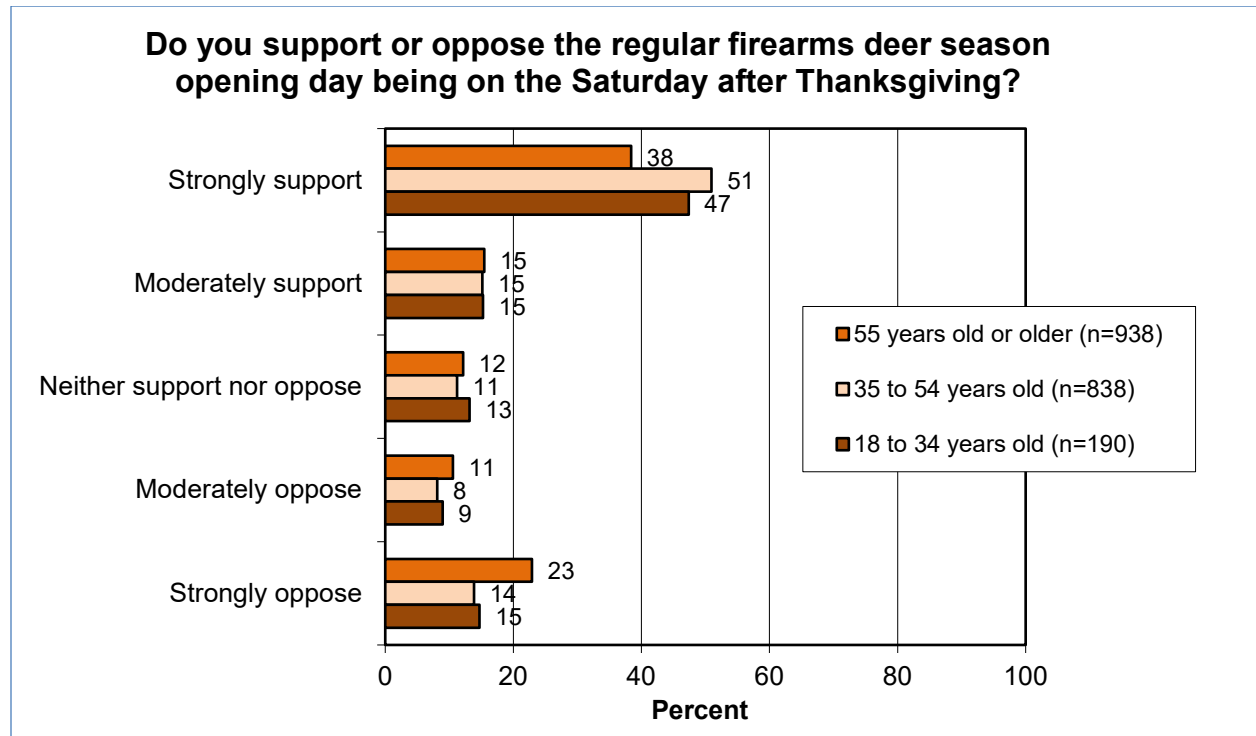
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CHANGE IN OPENING DAY

A majority of Pennsylvania deer hunters (60%) *strongly* or *moderately* support having opening day of the regular firearms deer season on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, compared to 27% who *strongly* or *moderately* oppose it. Because this is a key question in the survey, these results were crosstabulated by several hunter groups:

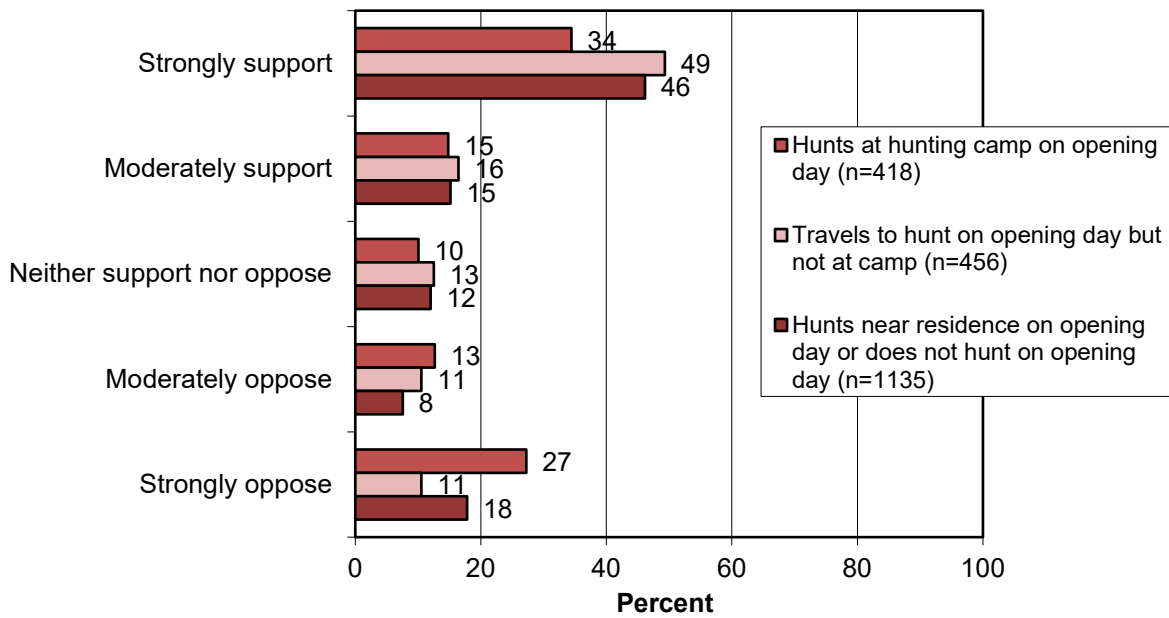
- Opposition is higher among hunters 55 and older, compared to their younger counterparts.
- Opposition is higher among those who hunted at a hunting camp on opening day, compared to those who did not. Support is highest among those who traveled to hunt on opening day but not at a hunting camp.
- Support is markedly higher among those who have a child who hunts than those who do not.
- Among the six Commission regions, support is lowest in the Northcentral Region.

Also, support/opposition was crosstabulated by the month of license purchase in 2021 and the number of years the hunter bought a license in the past 5 years (note that most hunters bought a license all 5 years). These last two crosstabulations are based on the Commission's sample database, not survey results, and are shown following the other crosstabulations.

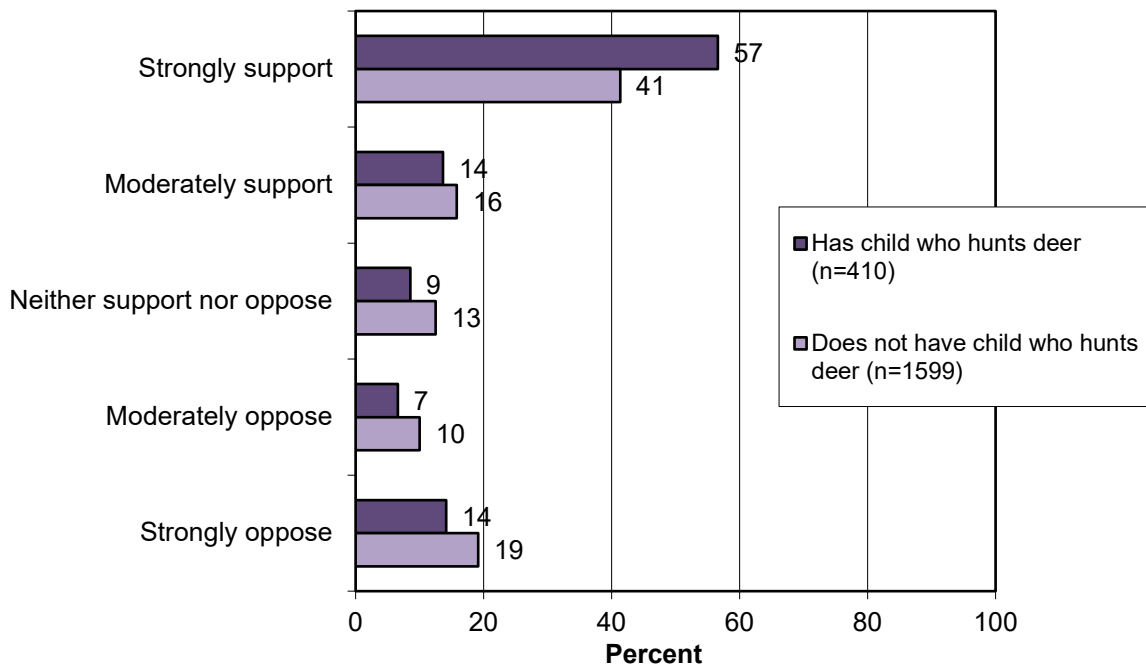


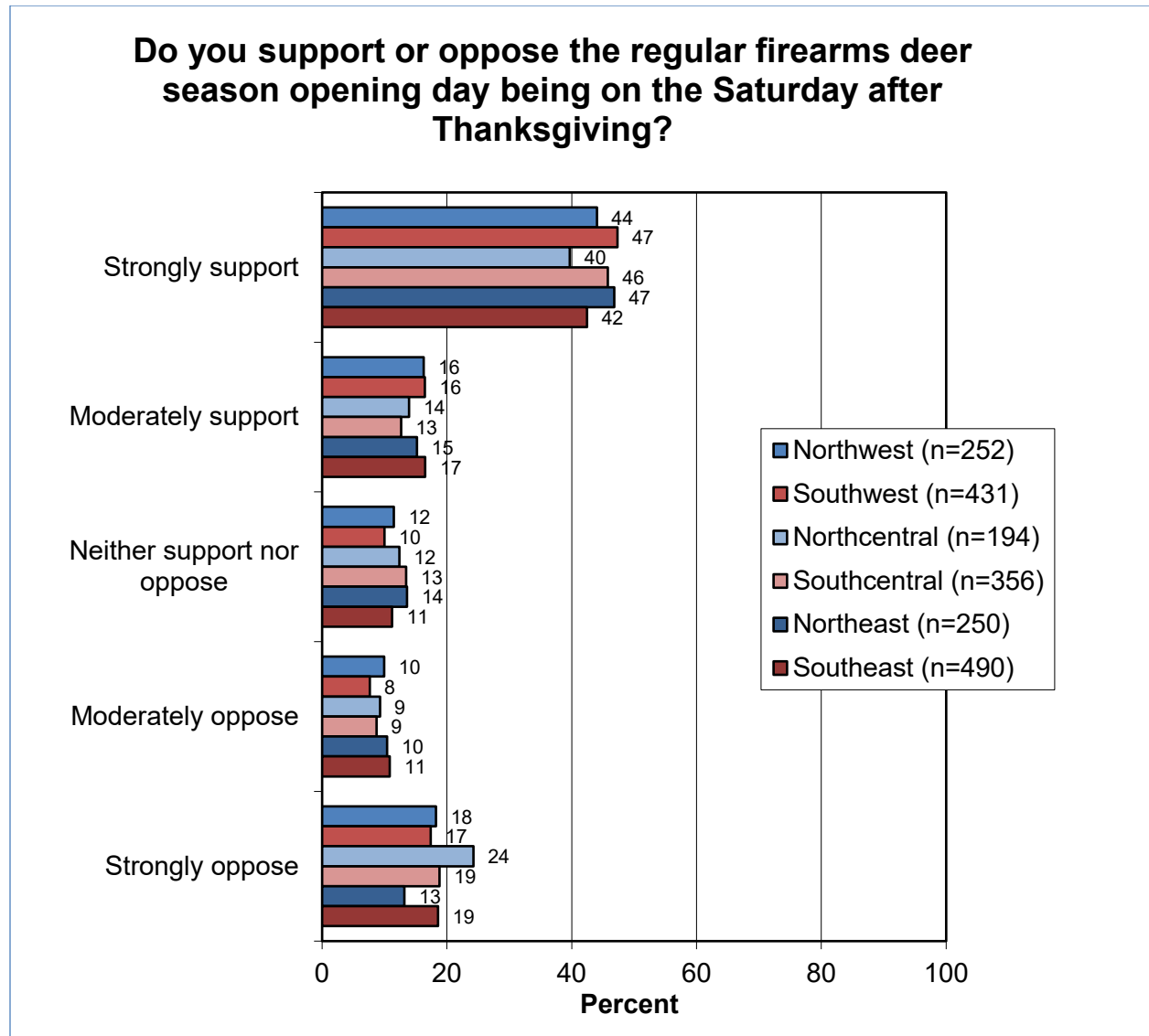


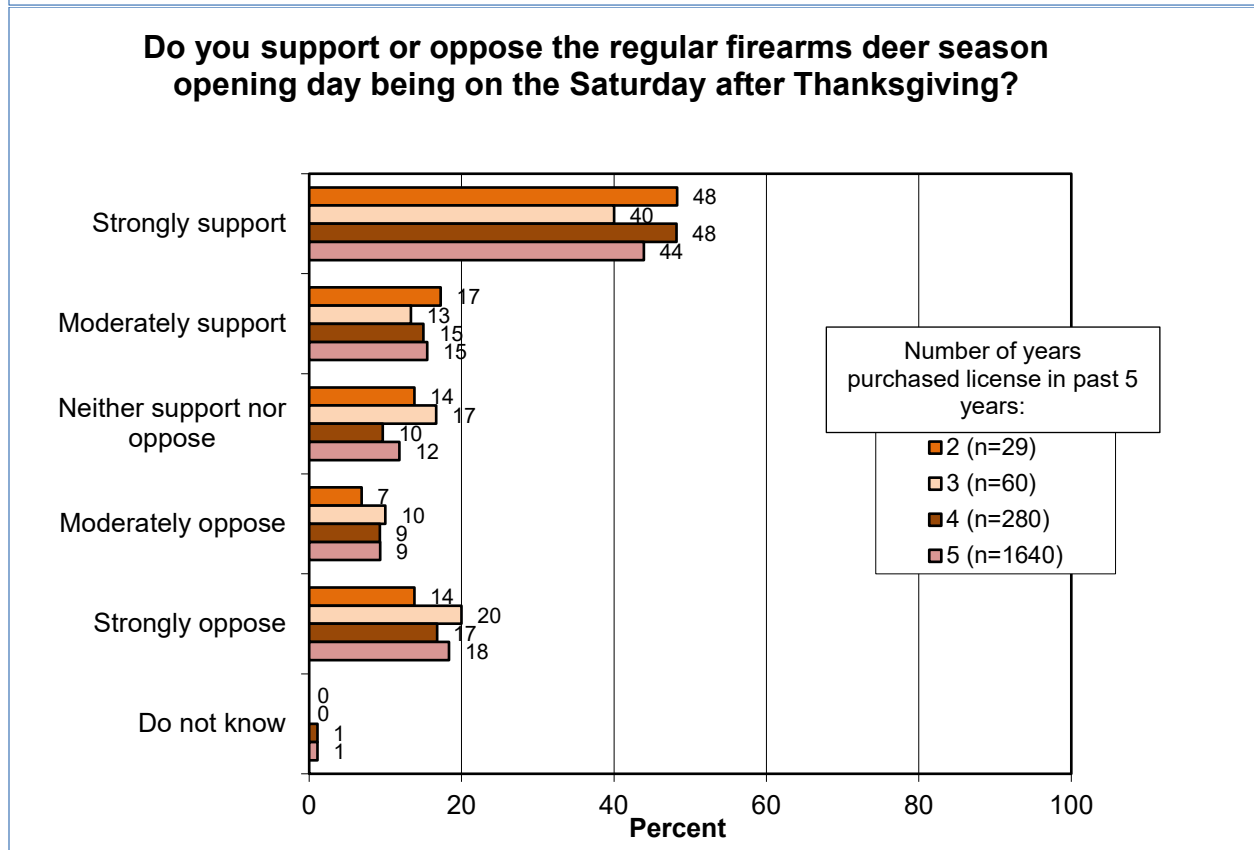
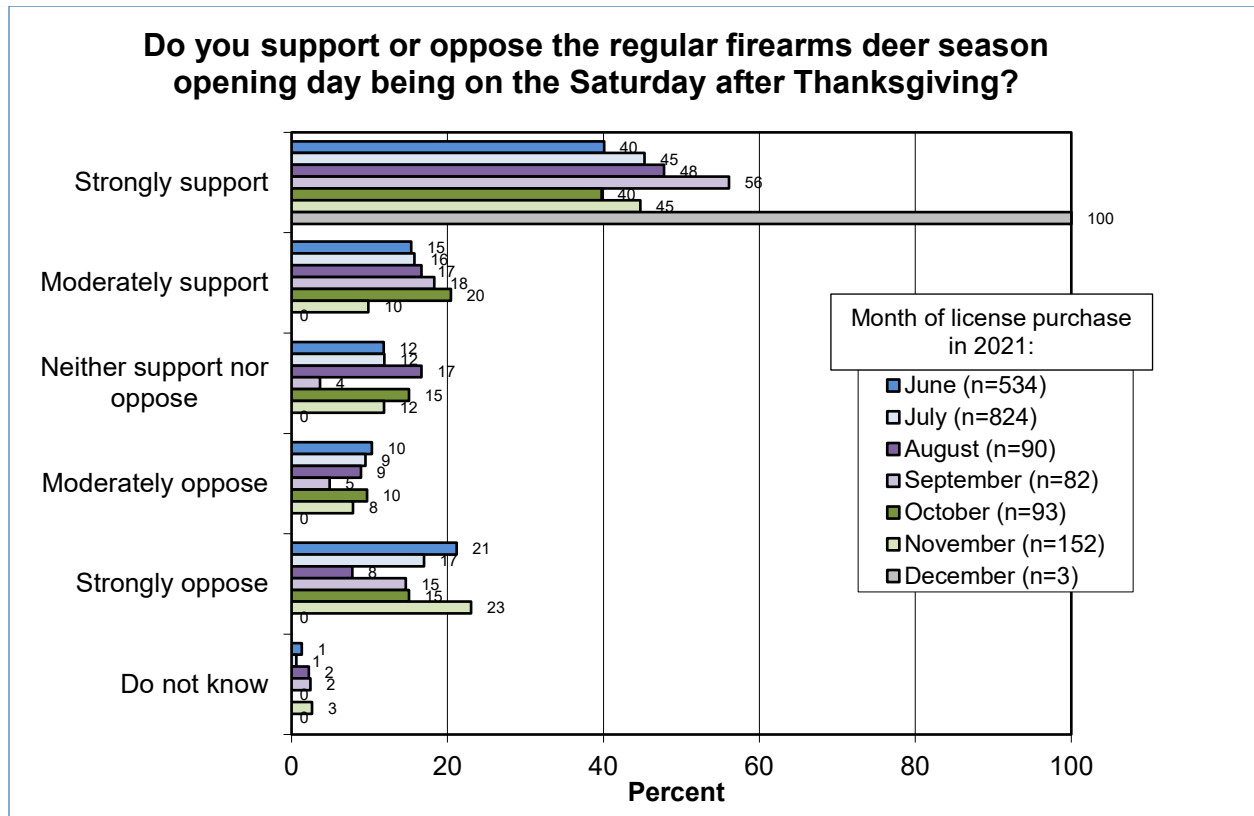
Do you support or oppose the regular firearms deer season opening day being on the Saturday after Thanksgiving?



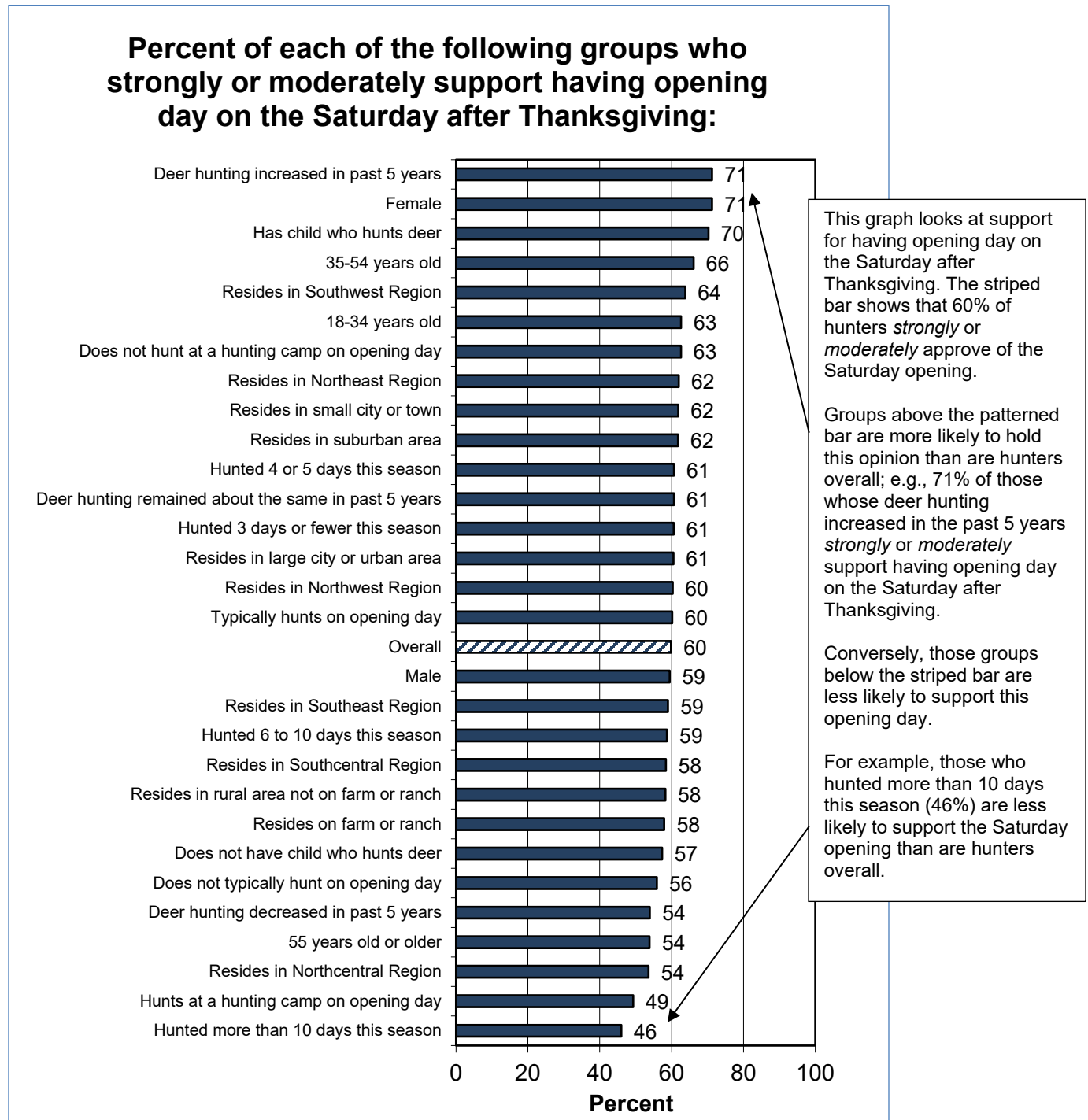
Do you support or oppose the regular firearms deer season opening day being on the Saturday after Thanksgiving?





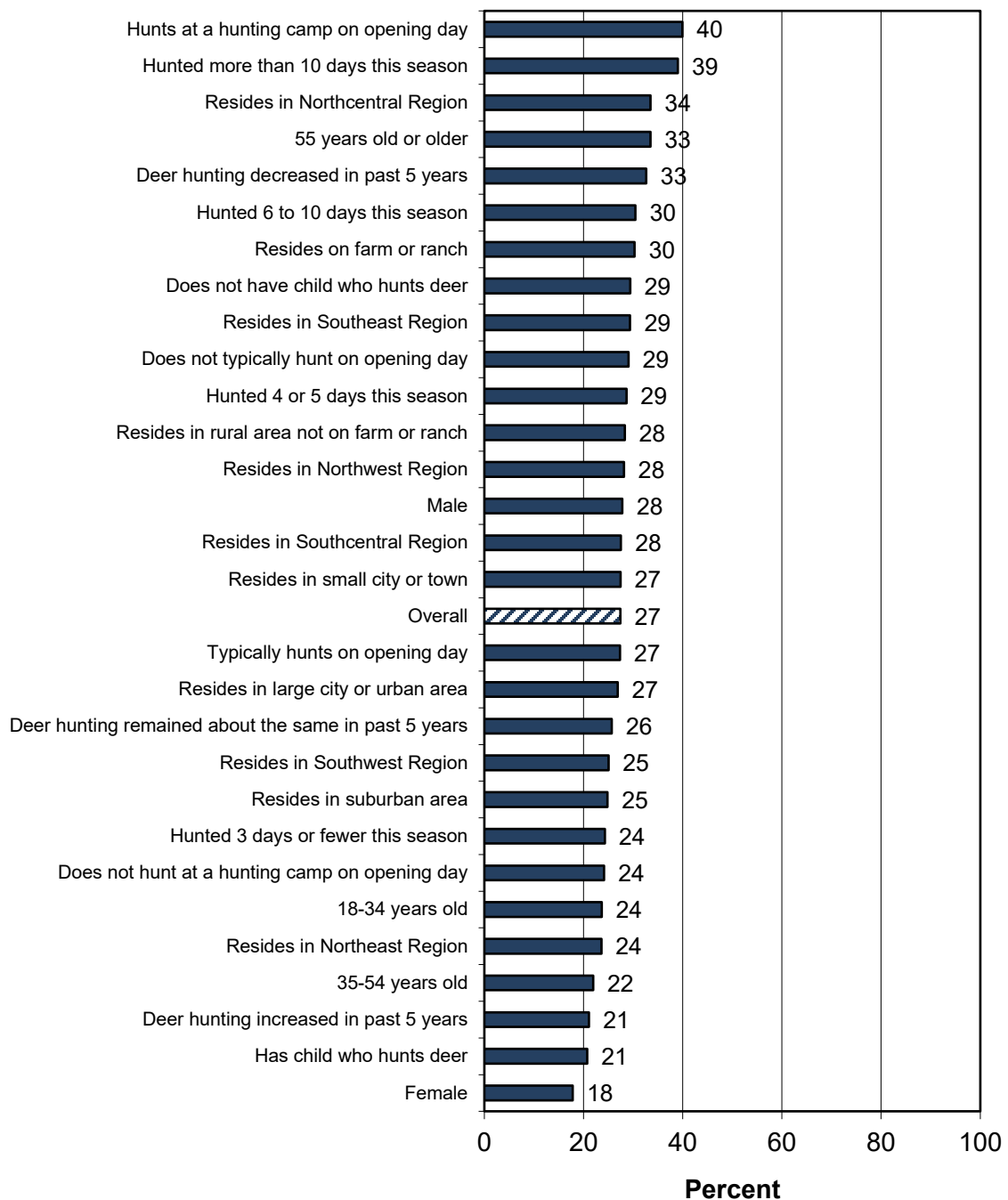


In addition, the graphs on this page and the next show several demographic characteristics combined on one graph (the text box below describes how to interpret these demographic analyses graphs). As shown below, the hunter groups most likely to *strongly* or *moderately* support having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving include those whose deer hunting increased in the past 5 years, female hunters, those with a child who also hunts deer, and those in the middle age category (35 to 54 years old).

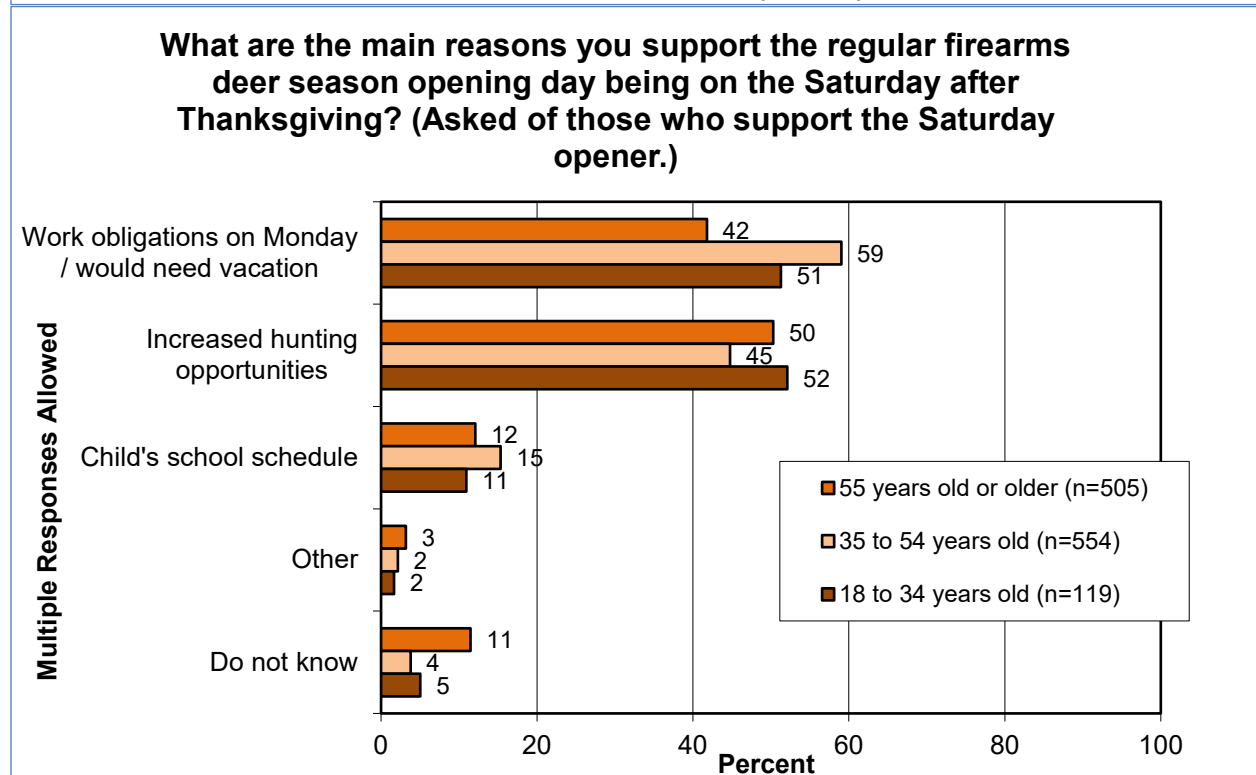
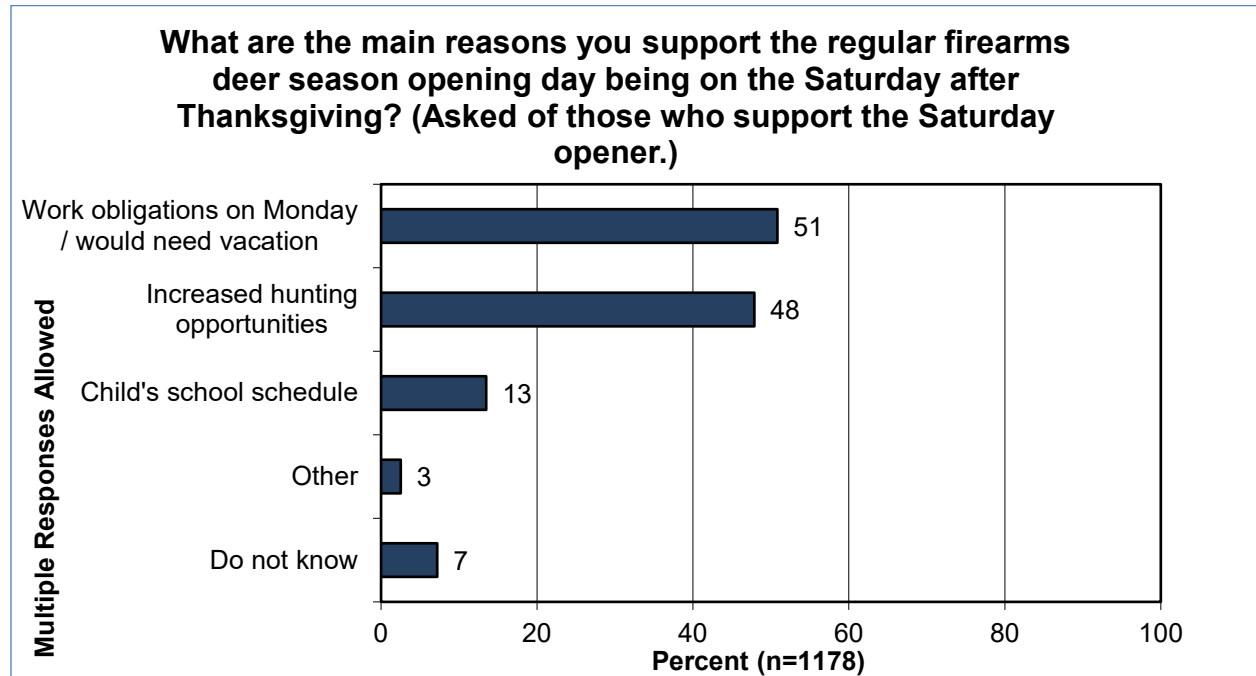


Conversely, hunter groups most likely to *strongly* or *moderately* oppose having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving include those who hunt at a hunting camp on opening day, those who hunted more than 10 days this season, Northcentral Region residents, those 55 or older, and those whose deer hunting decreased in the past 5 years.

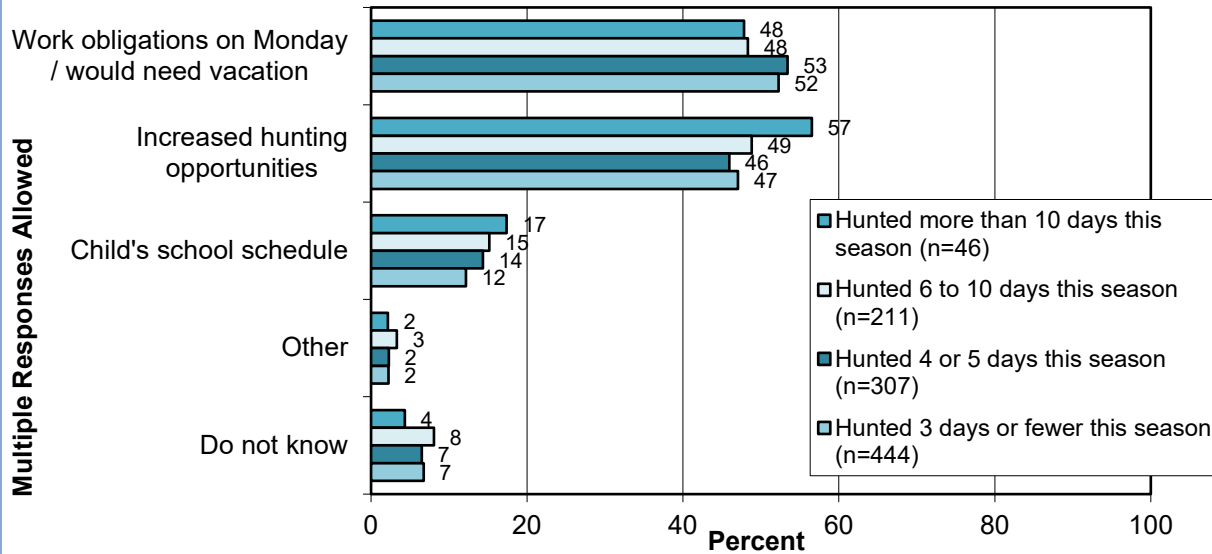
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving:



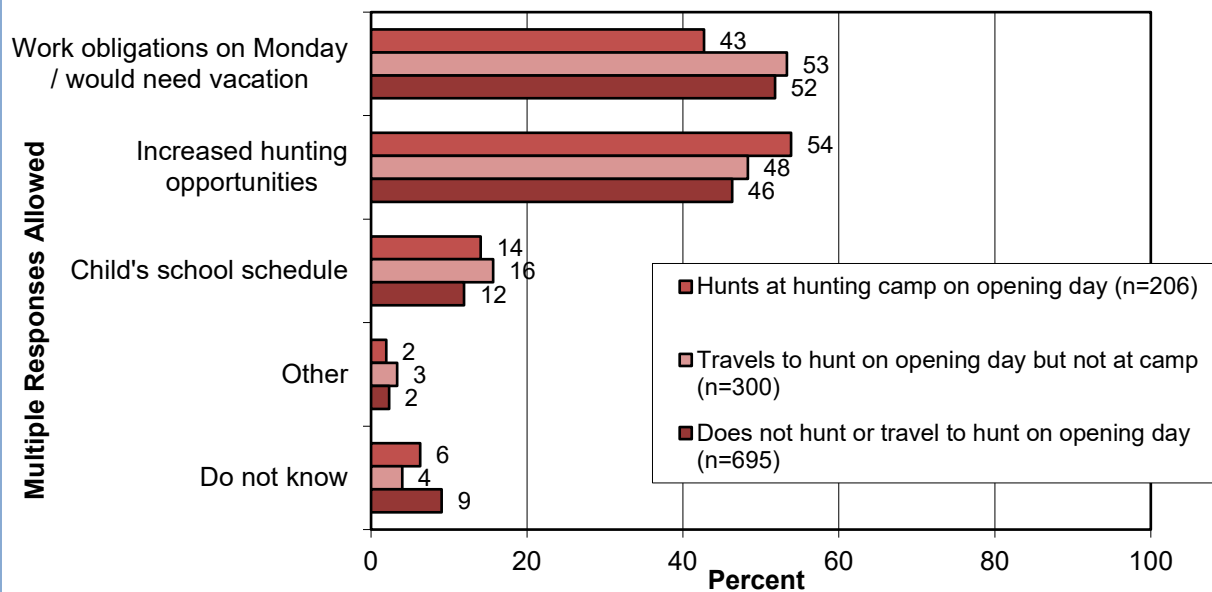
Those who support having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving were asked why, in an open-ended question. The top reasons are that they have work obligations on Monday (51% of the group stated this), the Saturday opener provides increased hunting opportunities for themselves and others (48%), and convenience with their child's school schedule (13%). Those in the middle age bracket (35 to 54 years old) were more likely than their counterparts to cite work obligations on Monday. Additional crosstabulations by the number of days hunted, participation in a hunting camp, and having children who hunt are shown on the following pages.

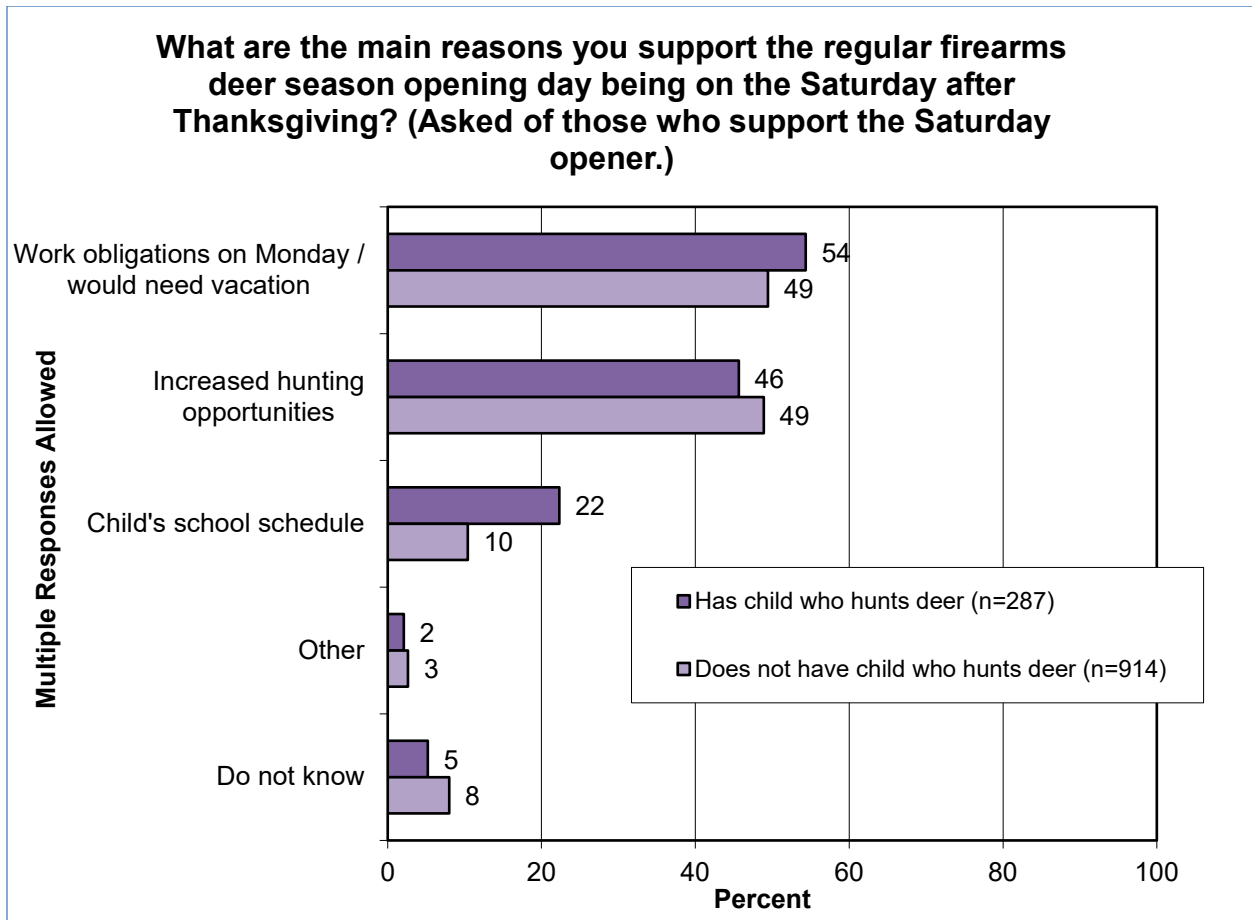


What are the main reasons you support the regular firearms deer season opening day being on the Saturday after Thanksgiving? (Asked of those who support the Saturday opener.)

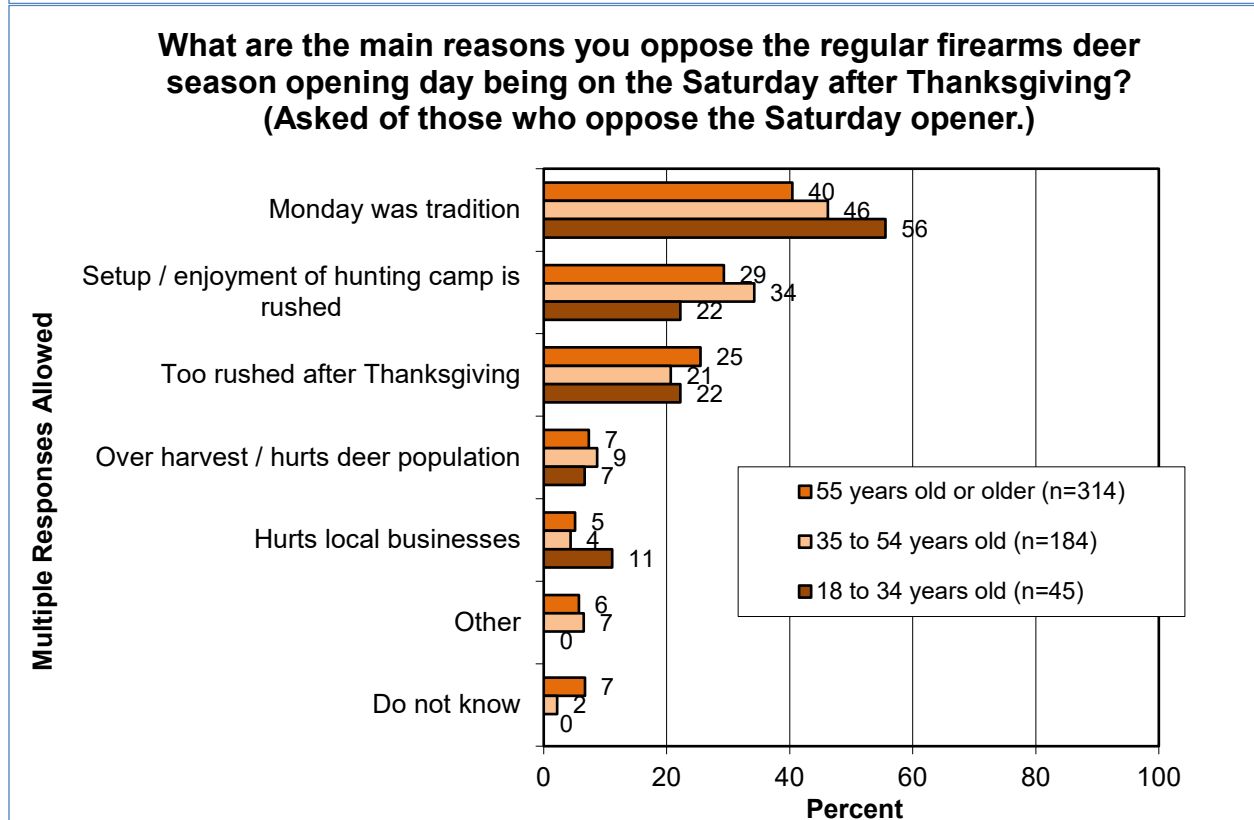
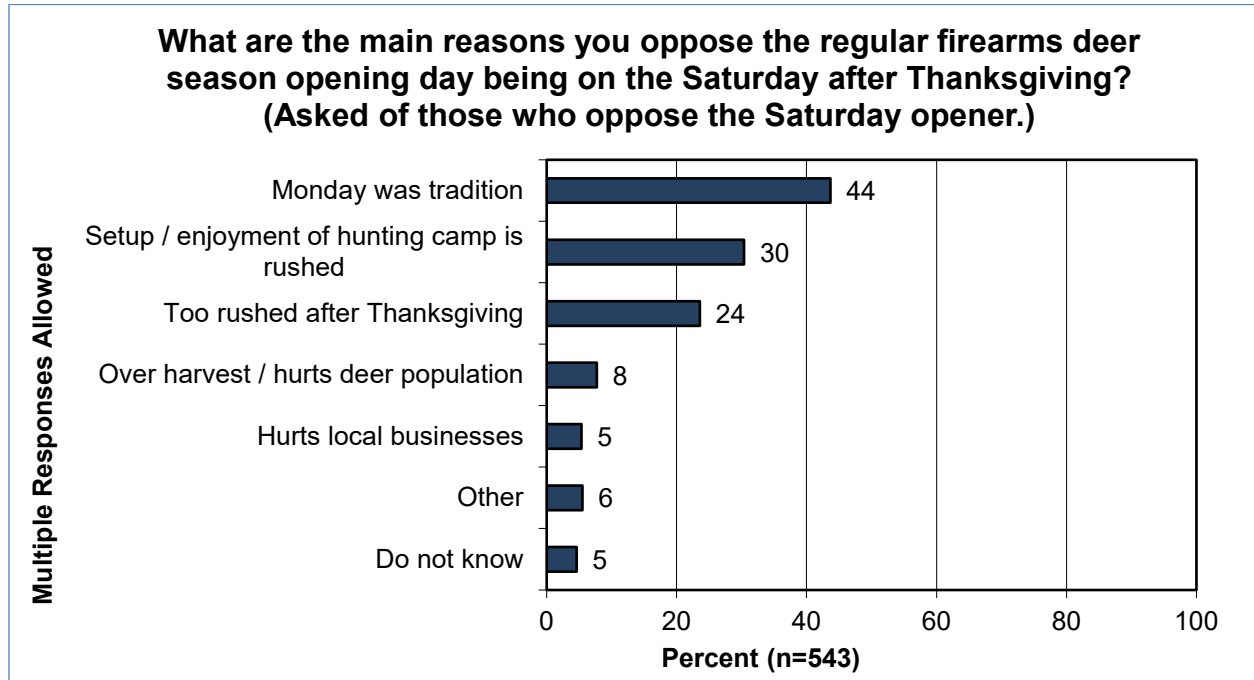


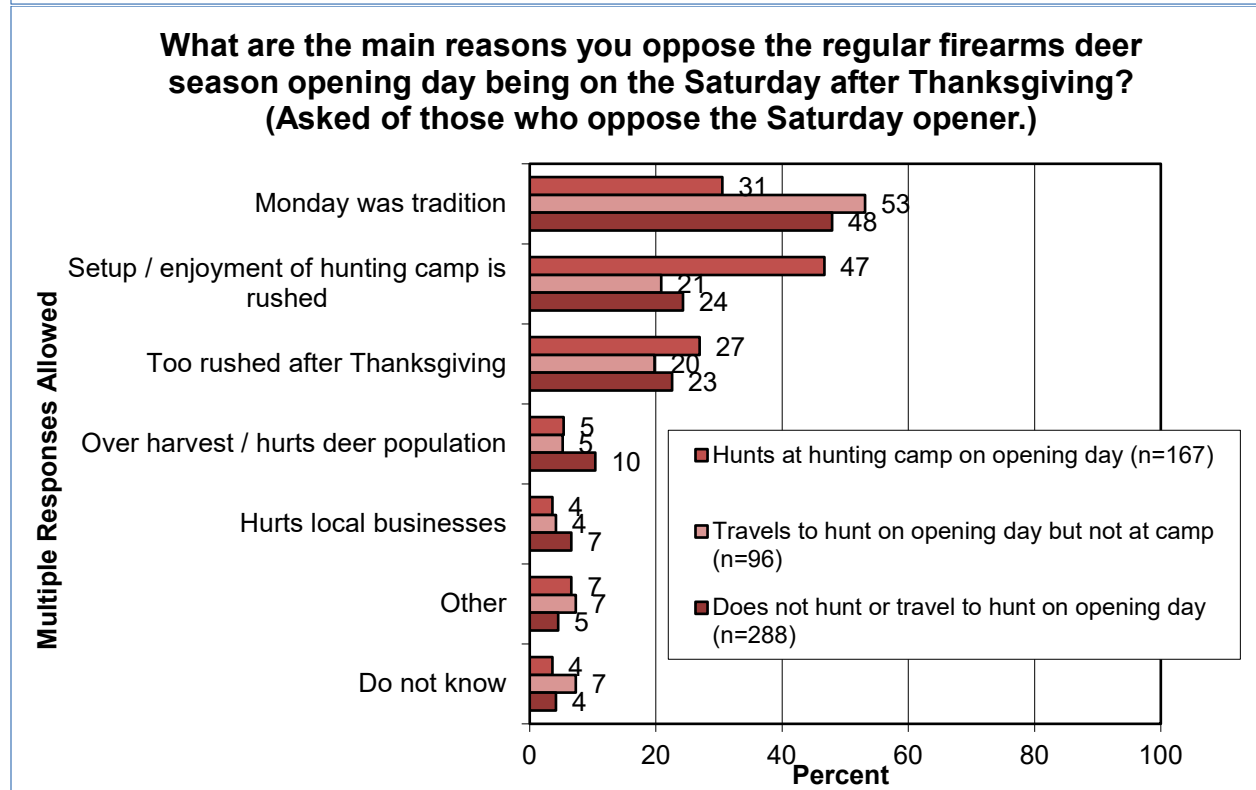
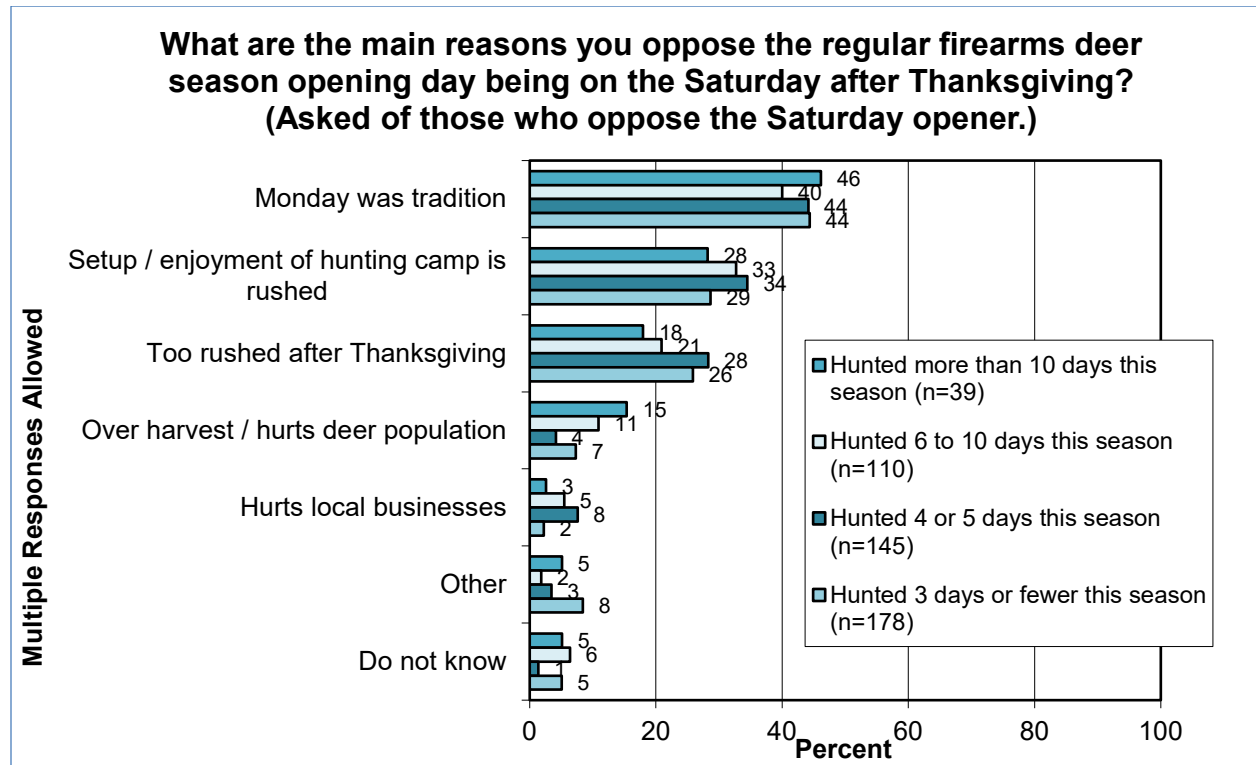
What are the main reasons you support the regular firearms deer season opening day being on the Saturday after Thanksgiving? (Asked of those who support the Saturday opener.)



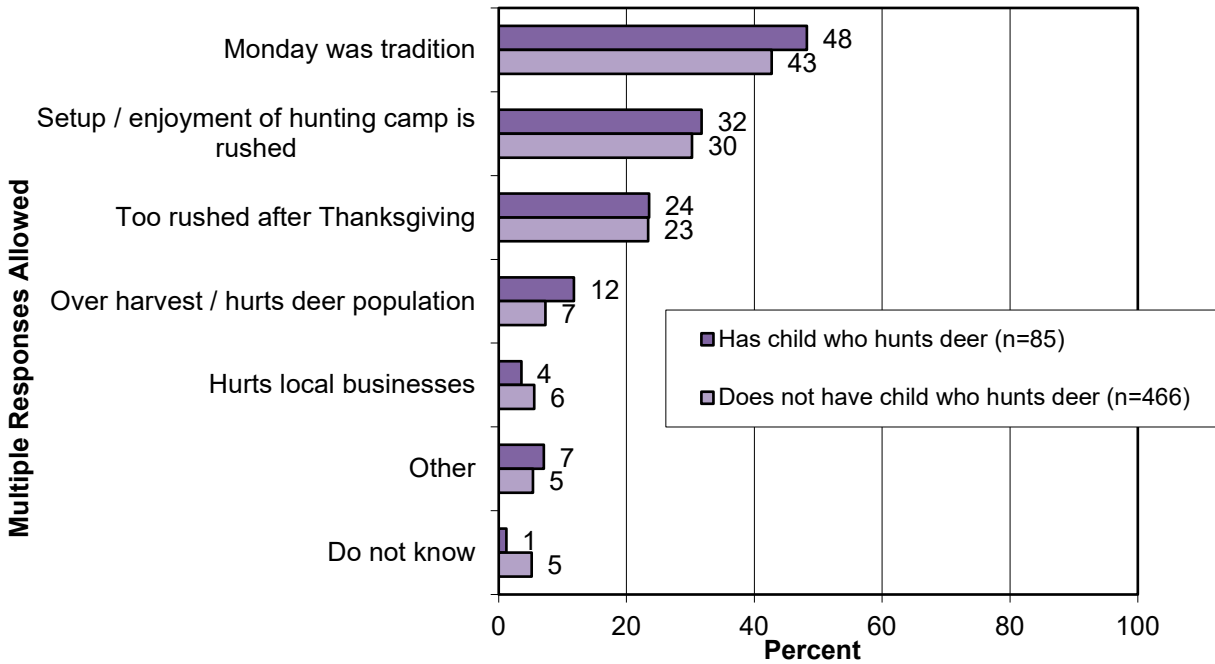


Among those who oppose the Saturday opener, the most common reasons are that Monday was the tradition (44% of the group stated this), their setup and enjoyment of hunting camp is rushed (30%), and the opener is too rushed after Thanksgiving (24%). Interestingly, the youngest hunters are most likely to state that Monday was the tradition. Additional crosstabulations are shown by the number of days hunted, participation in a hunting camp, and having children who hunt.



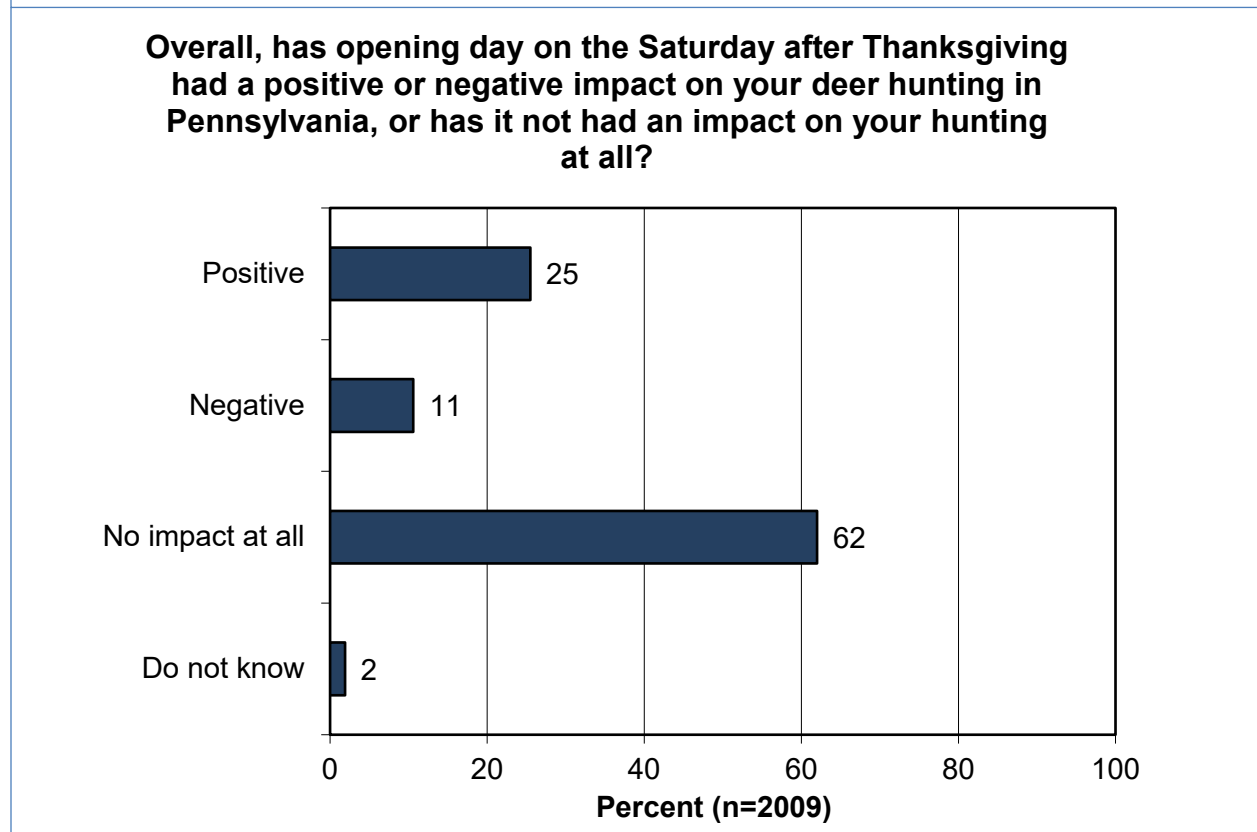
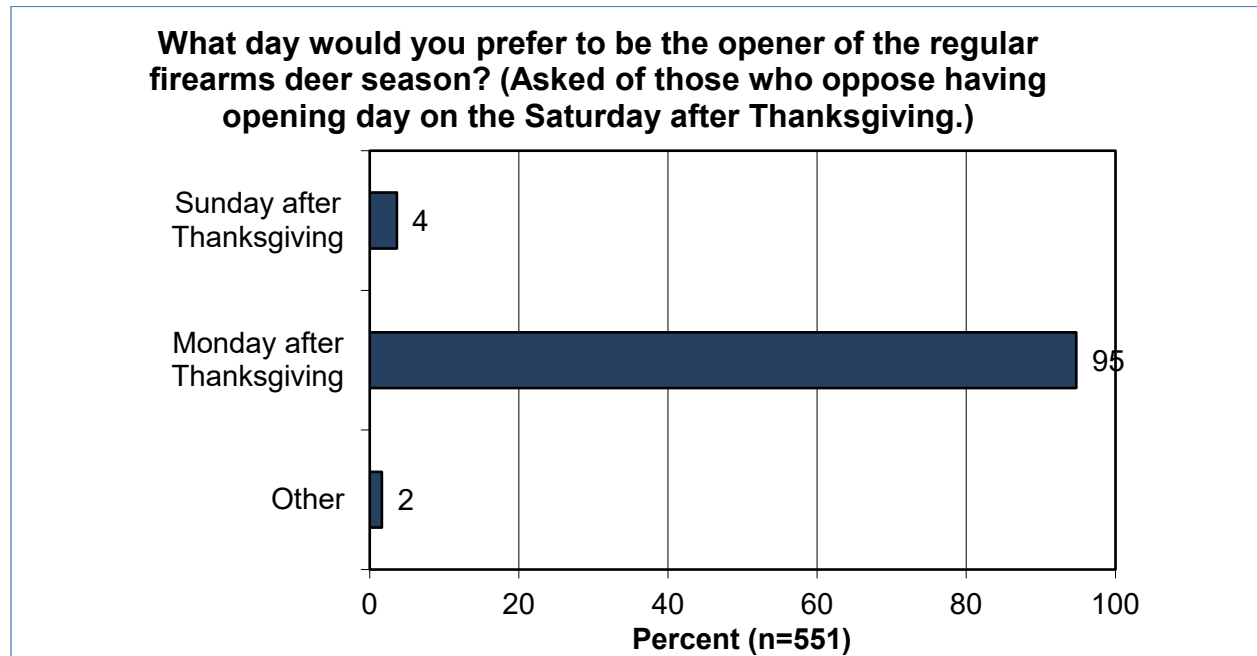


**What are the main reasons you oppose the regular firearms deer season opening day being on the Saturday after Thanksgiving?
(Asked of those who oppose the Saturday opener.)**



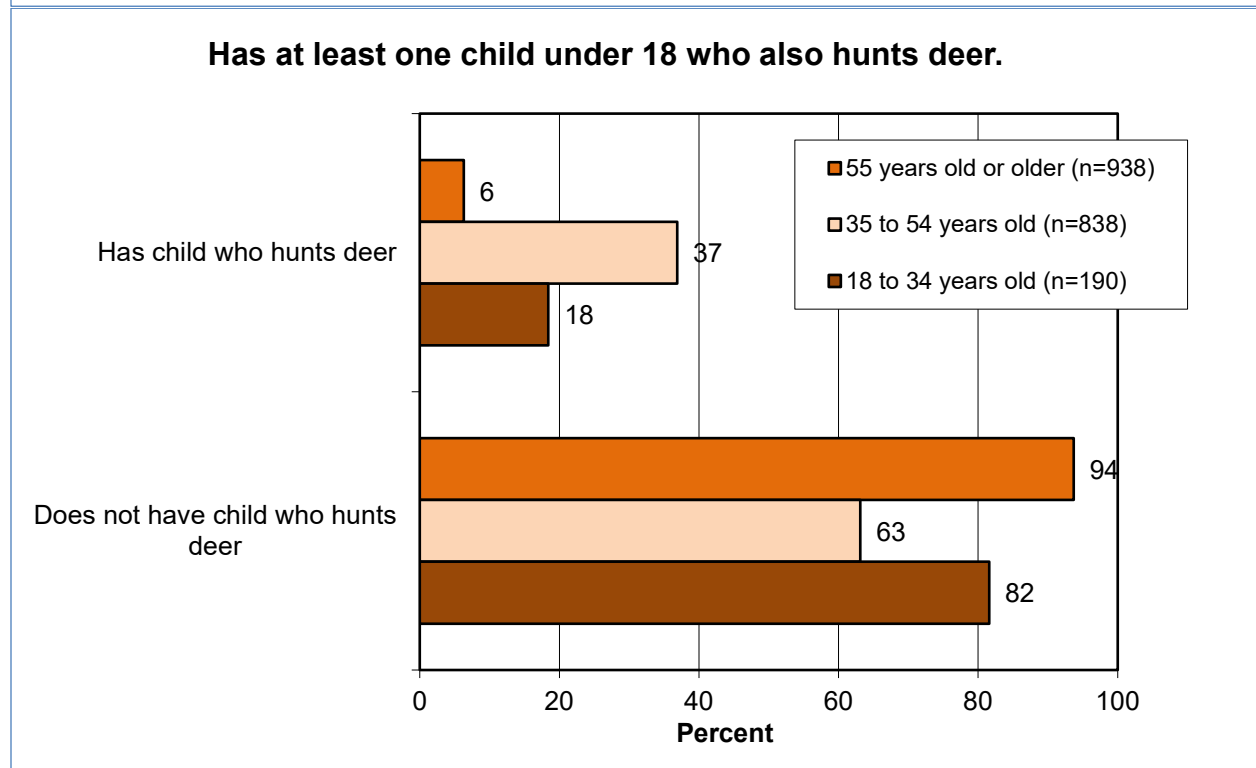
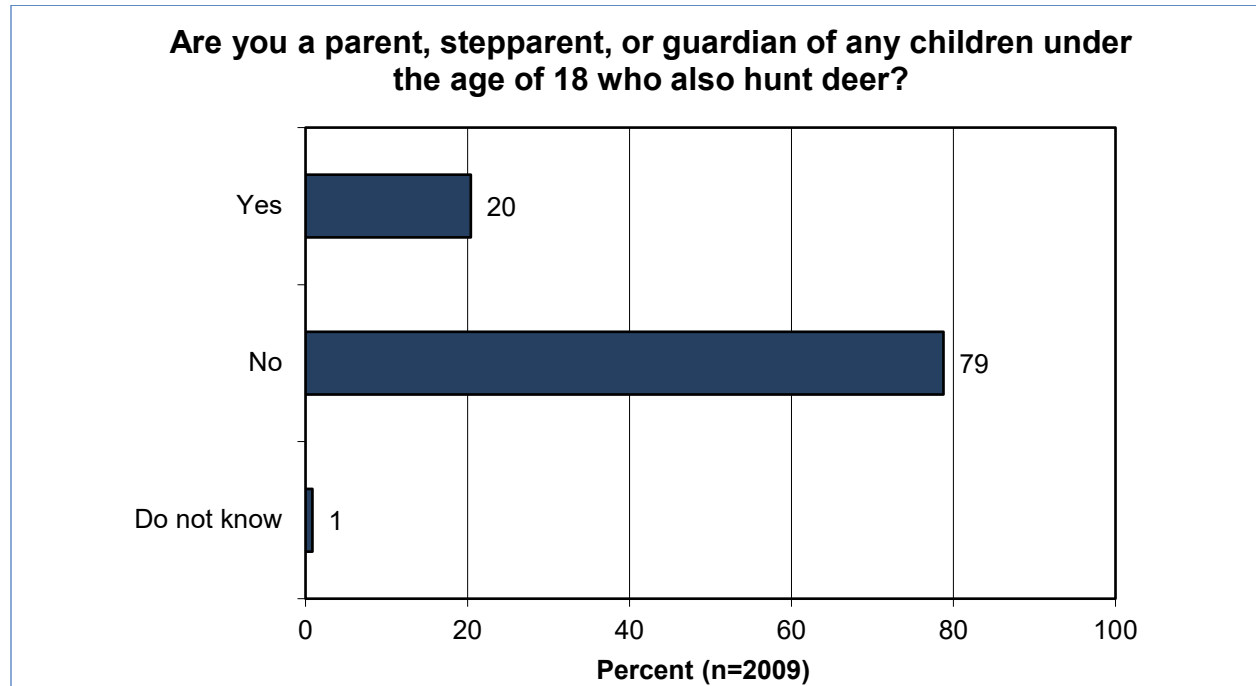
Nearly all of those who oppose having opening day on the Saturday after Thanksgiving (95%) would prefer to have it on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

A majority of hunters (62%) said that the Saturday opening has not had an impact on their deer hunting in Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, more hunters said it has had a positive impact (25%) than a negative impact (11%).



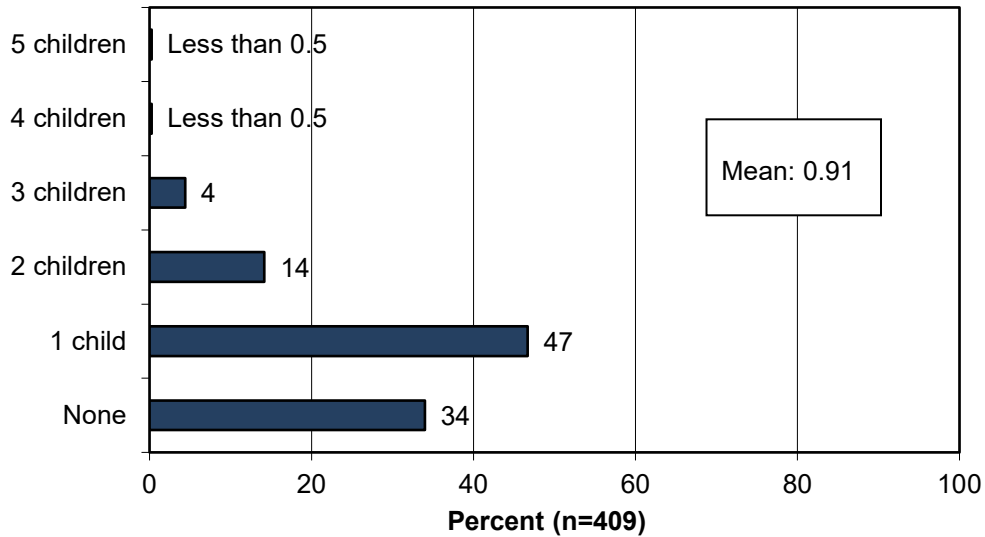
YOUTH DEER HUNTING

One fifth of hunters (20%) have a child under 18 who also hunts deer; this is most common among hunters in the 35- to 54-year-old age range.

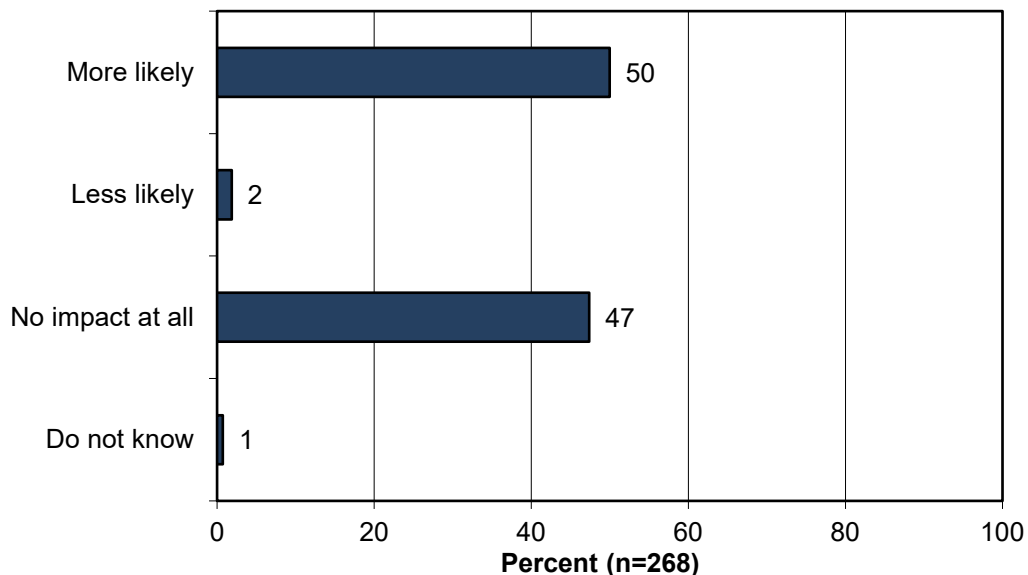


Among those who have a child/children who also hunt deer, two thirds (66%) said the child/children hunted on opening day this season. Of that latter group, 47% said the Saturday opening had no impact on whether the child/children would hunt that day, while 50% said it made their participation on opening day more likely.

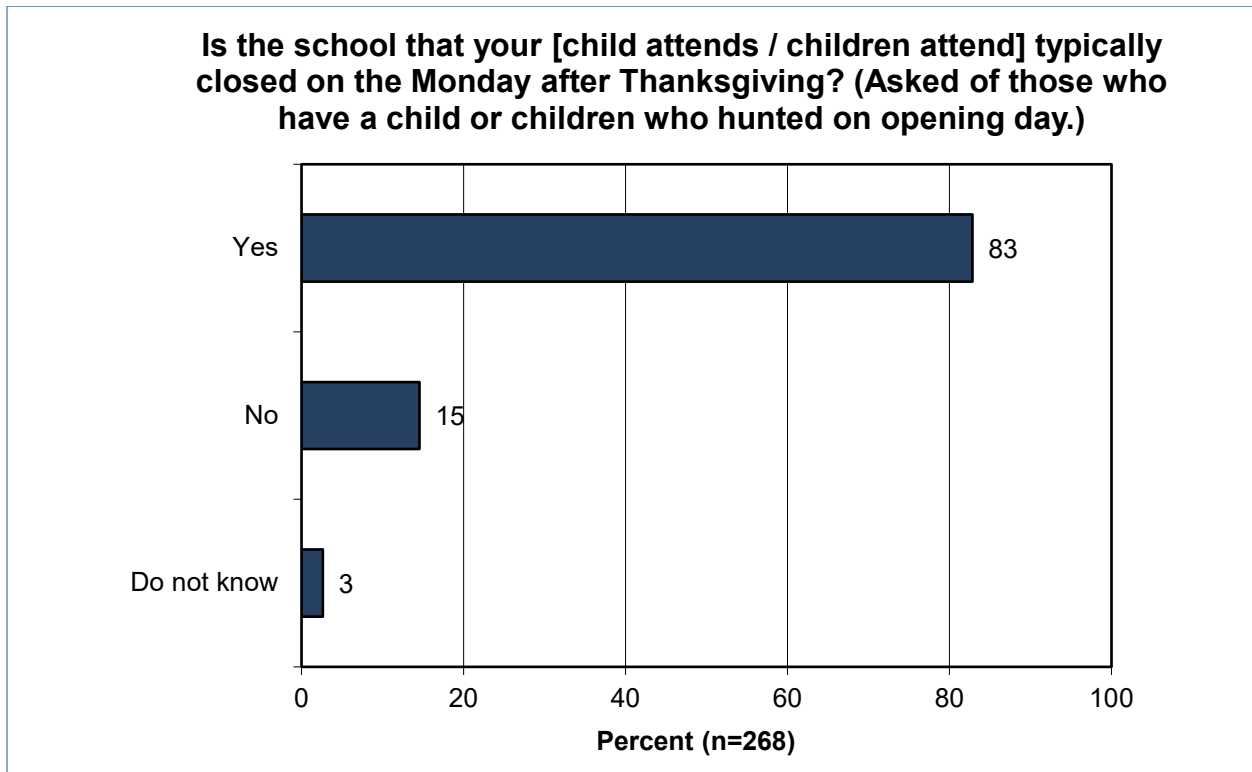
How many of your children hunted deer on opening day of the regular firearms deer season this year, which was Saturday, November 27, 2021? (Asked of those who have a child or children who also hunt deer.)



Does the Saturday opener make it more likely or less likely that your [child / children] will hunt opening day of the regular firearms deer season, or would it have no impact at all on how likely the [child is / children are] to hunt opening day? (Asked of those who have a child or children who hunted on opening day.)

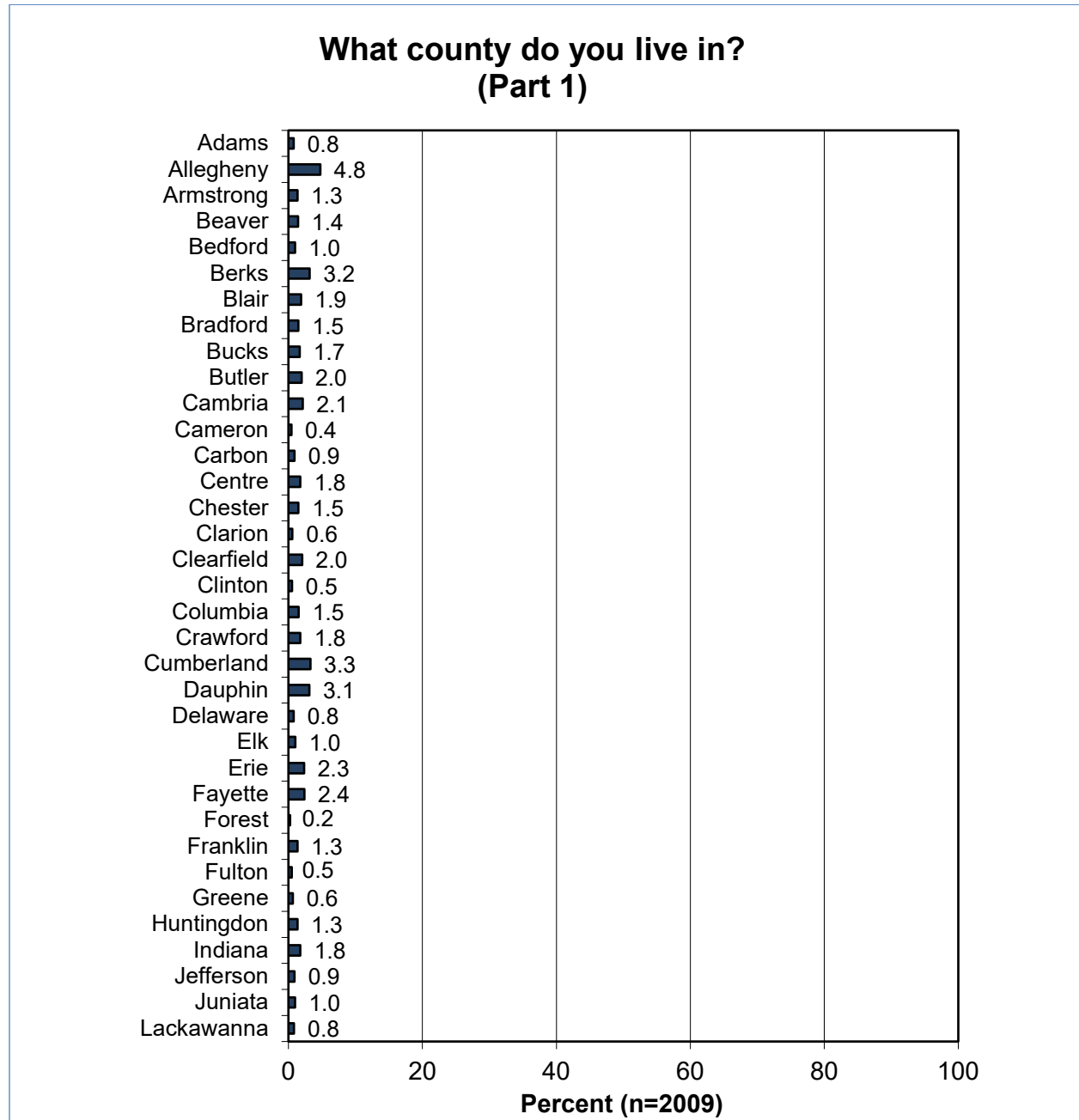


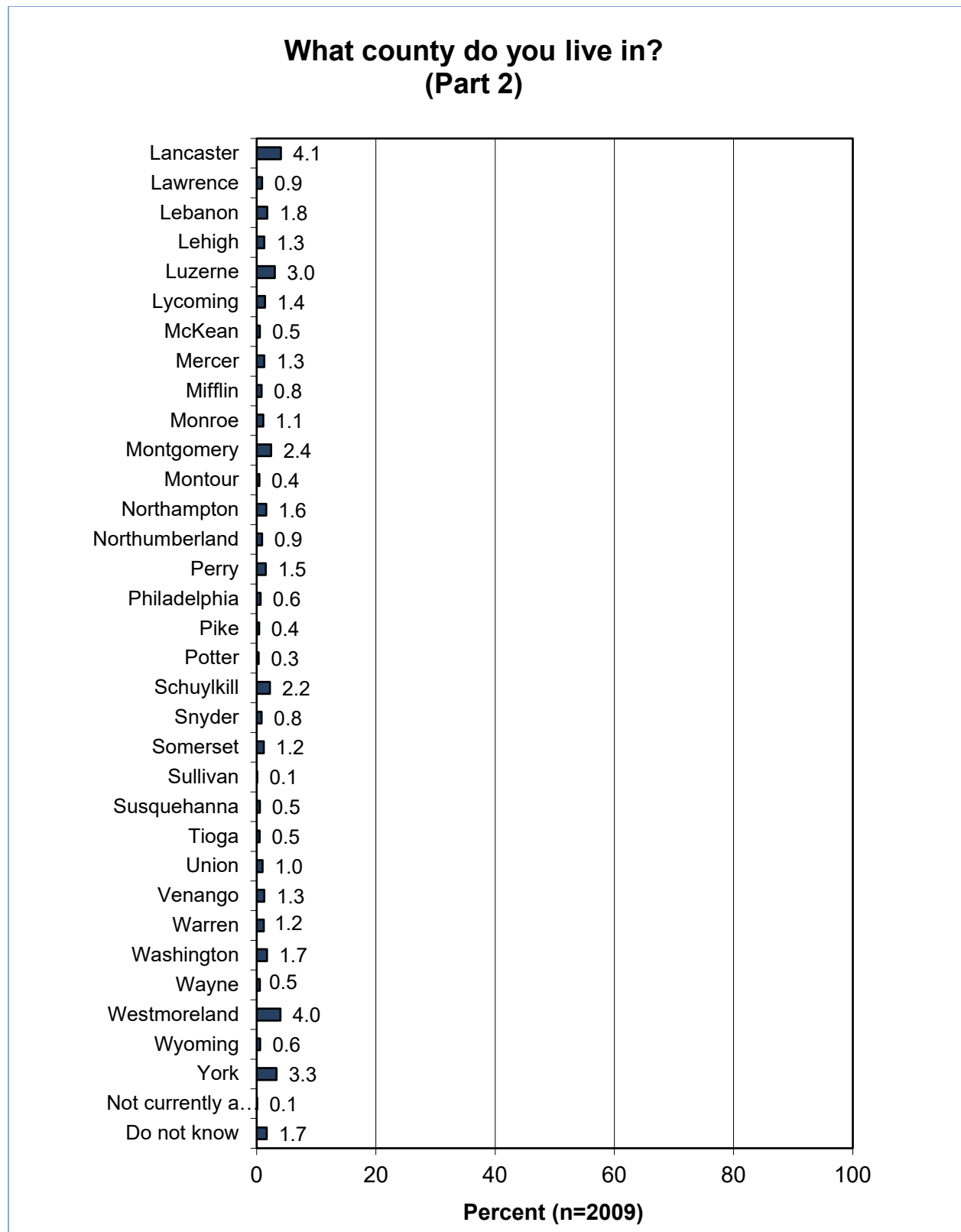
The vast majority of those who had a child/children hunt on opening day this season (83%) said that their child's/children's school is typically closed on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

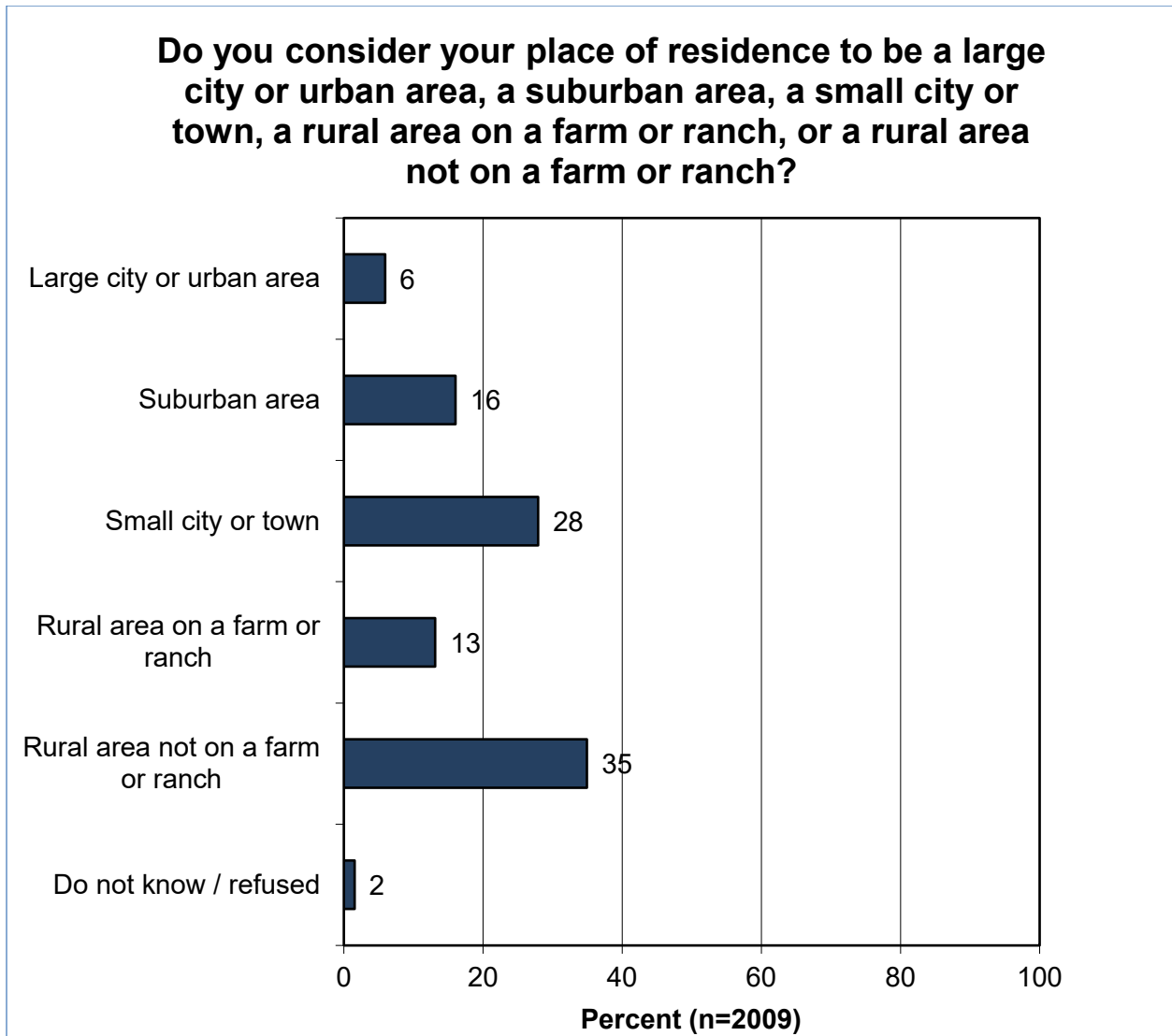


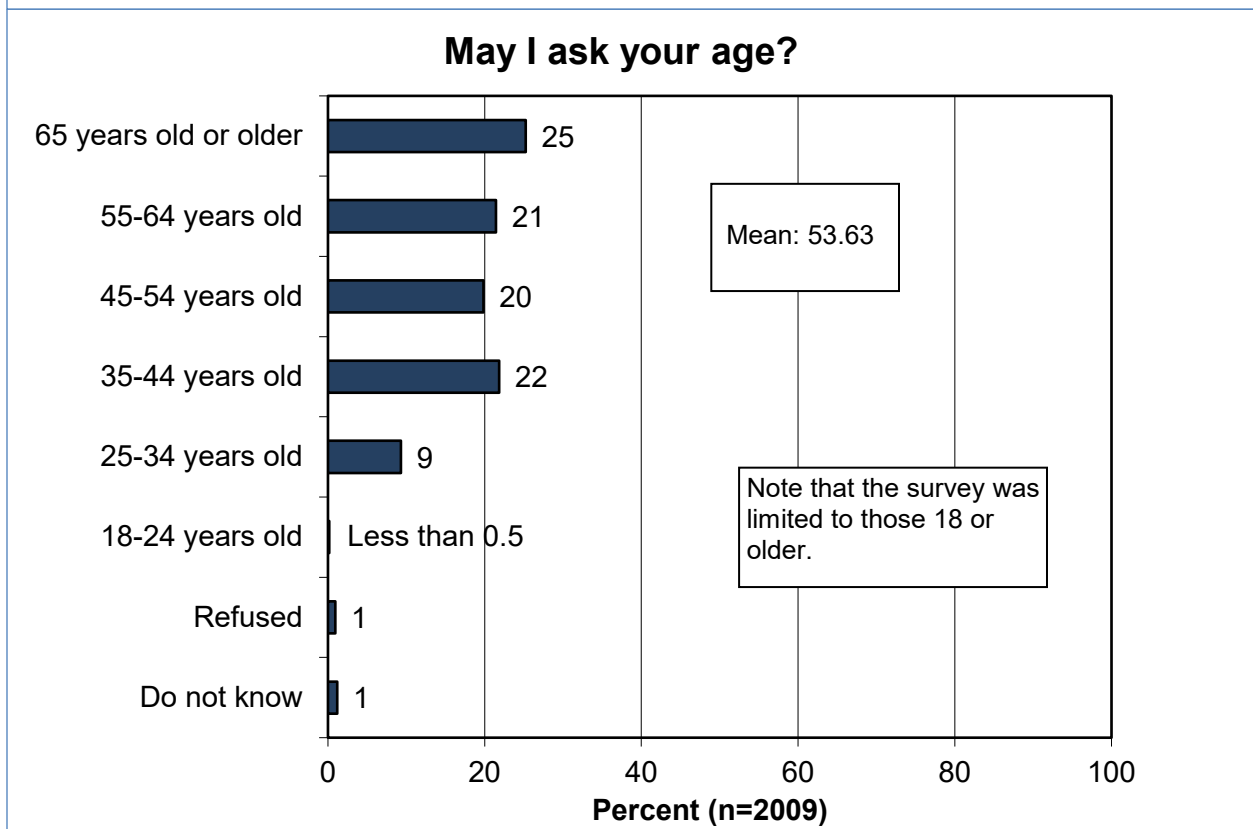
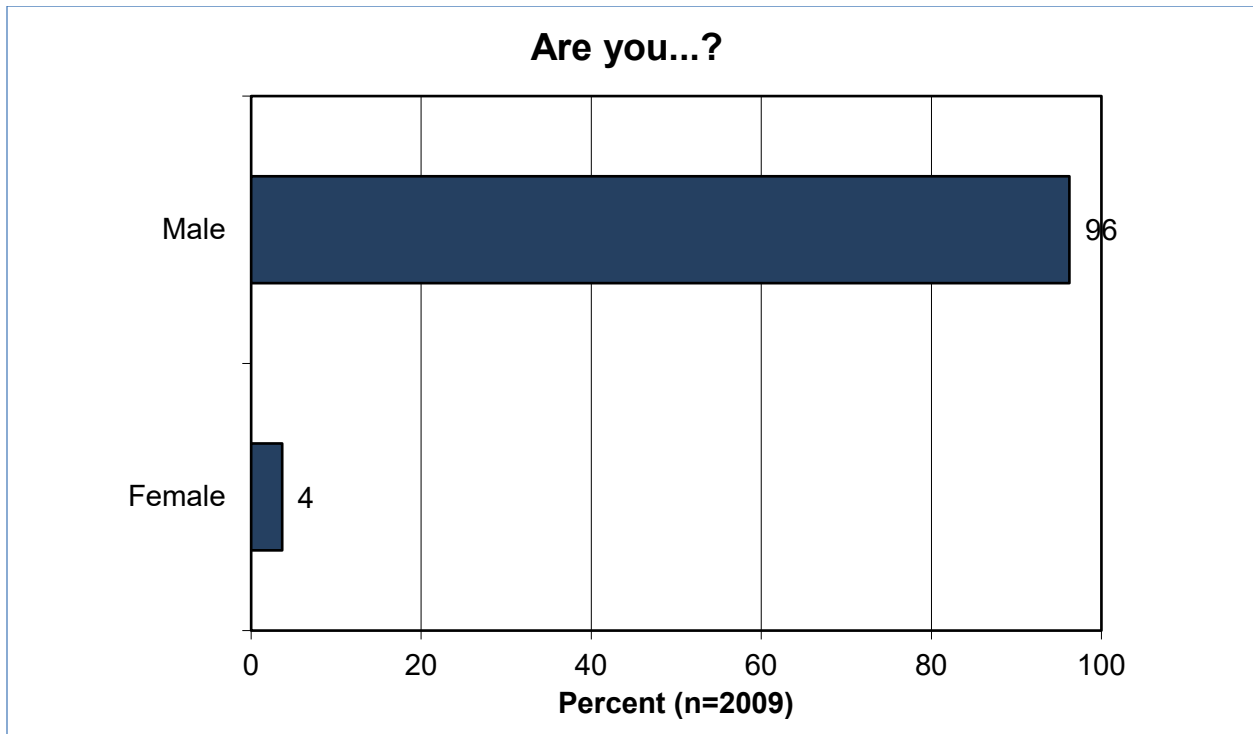
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The following demographic data were collected by the survey: county of residence, type of residential area (urban-rural continuum), gender, and age.









ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies, businesses, and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public. Focusing only on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has conducted telephone, mail, and online surveys, as well as multi-modal surveys, on-site intercepts, focus groups, public meetings, personal interviews, needs assessments, program evaluations, marketing and communication plans, and other forms of human dimensions research measuring how people relate to the natural world for more than 30 years. Utilizing our in-house, full-service survey facilities with 75 professional interviewers, we have conducted studies in all 50 states and 15 countries worldwide, totaling more than 1,000 human dimensions projects *only* on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Responsive Management has conducted research for every state fish and wildlife agency and every federal natural resource agency, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Additionally, we have also provided research for all the major conservation NGOs including the Archery Trade Association, the American Sportfishing Association, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Dallas Safari Club, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

Other nonprofit and NGO clients include the American Museum of Natural History, the BoatUS Foundation, the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the Ocean Conservancy. As well, Responsive Management conducts market research and product testing for numerous outdoor recreation manufacturers and industry leaders, such as Winchester Ammunition, Vista Outdoor (whose brands include Federal Premium, CamelBak, Bushnell, Primos, and more), Trijicon, Yamaha, and others. Responsive Management also provides data collection for the nation's top universities, including Auburn University, Clemson University, Colorado State University, Duke University, George Mason University, Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Rutgers University, Stanford University, Texas Tech, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, University of Montana, University of New Hampshire, University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Yale University, and many more.

Our research has been upheld in U.S. Courts, used in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at major wildlife and natural resource conferences around the world. Responsive Management's research has also been featured in many of the nation's top media, including *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, CNN, National Public Radio, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.