



2017 Missouri Firearms Deer Hunting Survey Results



Compiled by: MDC Resource Science Division

The MDC Deer Program uses the Firearms Deer Hunting Survey to gauge public opinion regarding deer numbers, population trends, and management strategies in each county. We greatly appreciate the responses we receive which help make our surveys an effective management tool!

The Firearms Deer Hunting Survey asks questions about perceived deer population size and trends in the county most hunted, and the number of days spent hunting and deer that were killed during each day of the firearms deer season. Data on days hunted and number of deer killed are important for a “trips-per-kill” estimate and to better understand when hunters are spending time afield. The survey also asks questions to gauge hunter opinions on certain hunting regulations, MDC’s approach to CWD management, and other topics.

The sampling pool for this survey is anyone that received a firearms deer hunting permit during the most recent deer season. Following the 2017 deer season, we sent 50,000 surveys to firearms deer permit holders (about 10% of our total deer hunters).

We have summarized the primary results of the 2017 survey and present these data in the figures that follow. For questions about this survey contact Kevyn Wiskirchen, Private Lands Deer Biologist, at 573-815-7901, ext 2899.

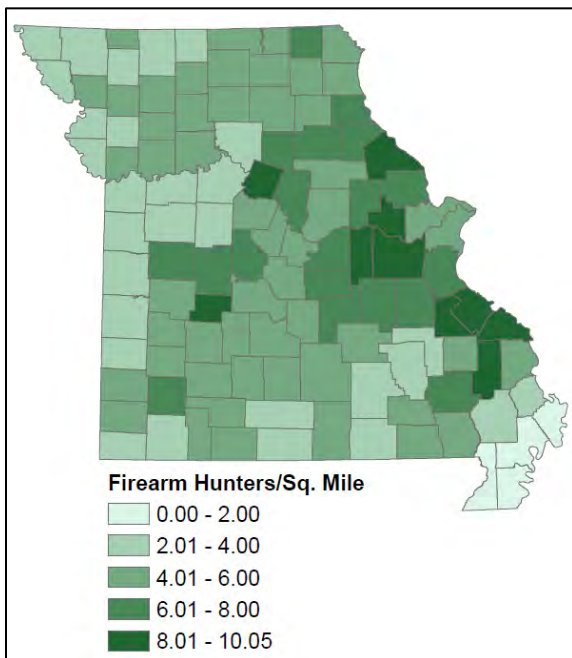


Figure 1. Estimated firearms deer hunter density by county based on 2017 firearms deer survey respondents.

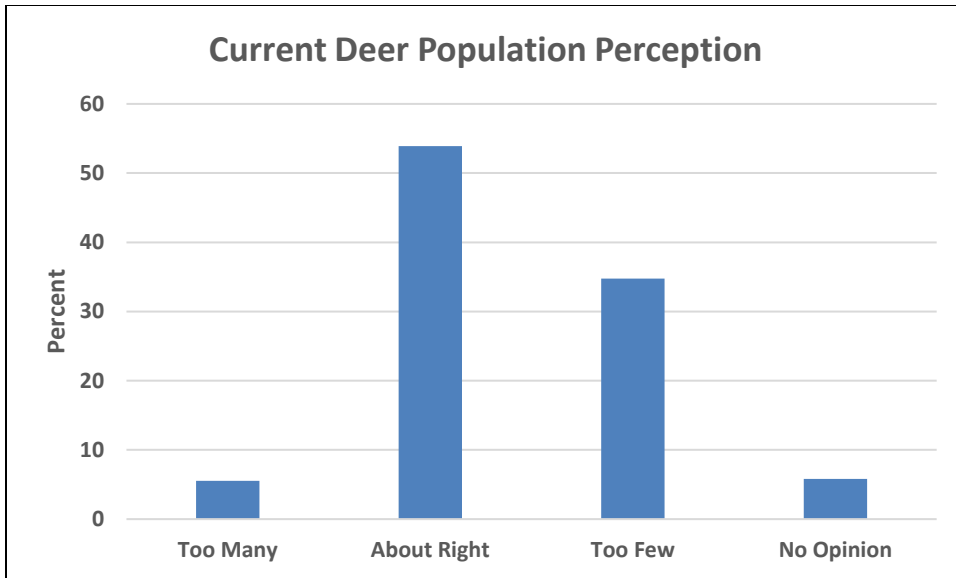


Figure 2. Percentage of 2017 firearms deer hunter survey respondents that said “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most.

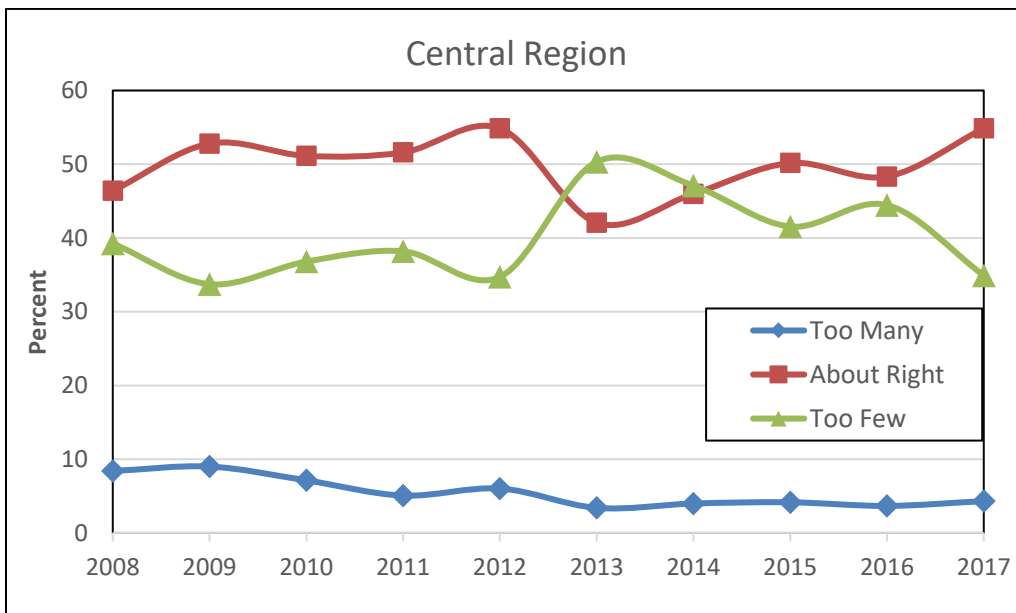


Figure 3. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Central Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

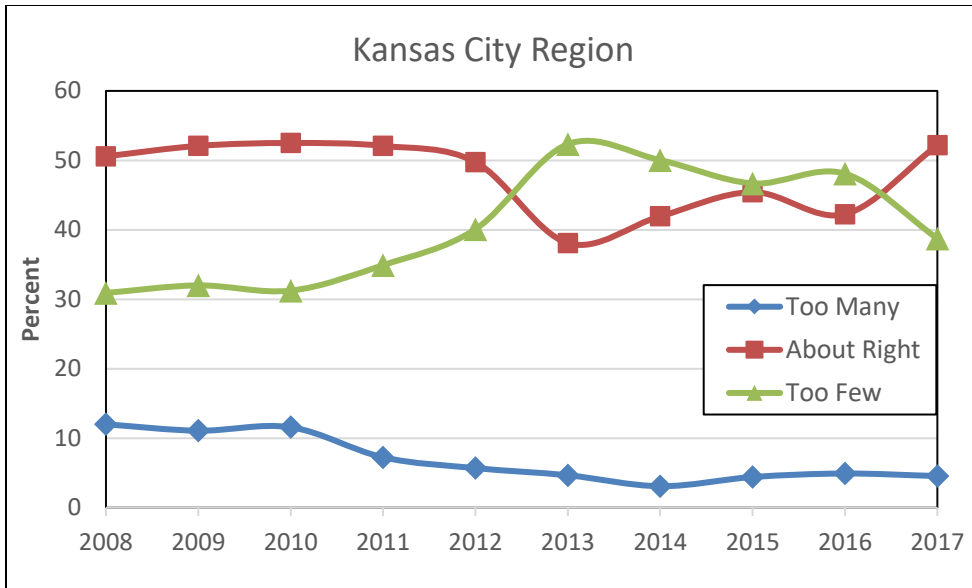


Figure 4. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Kansas City Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

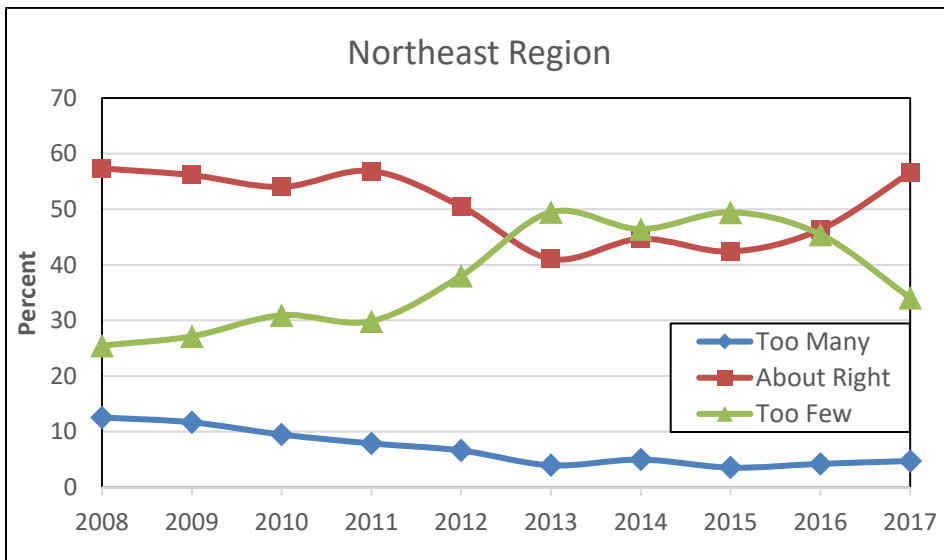


Figure 5. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Northeast Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

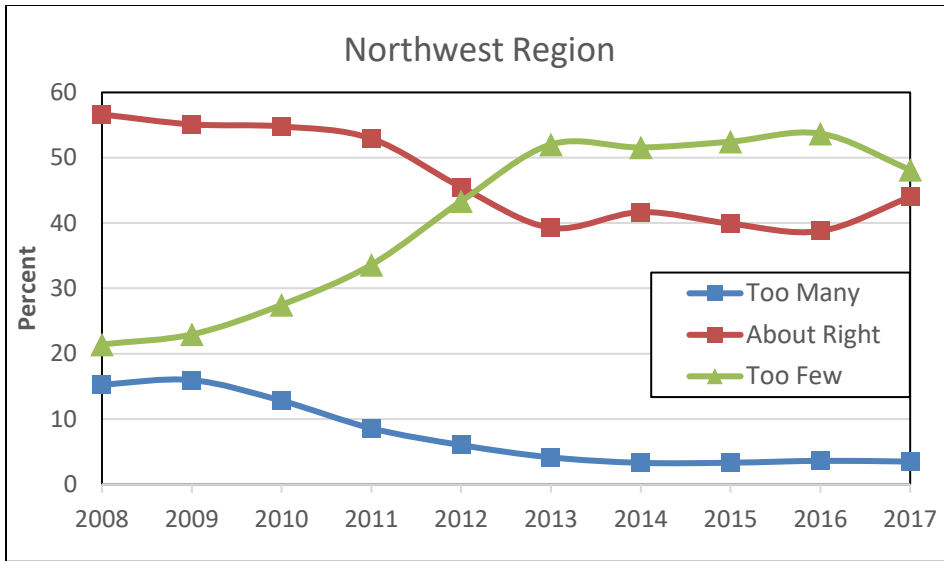


Figure 6. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Northwest Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

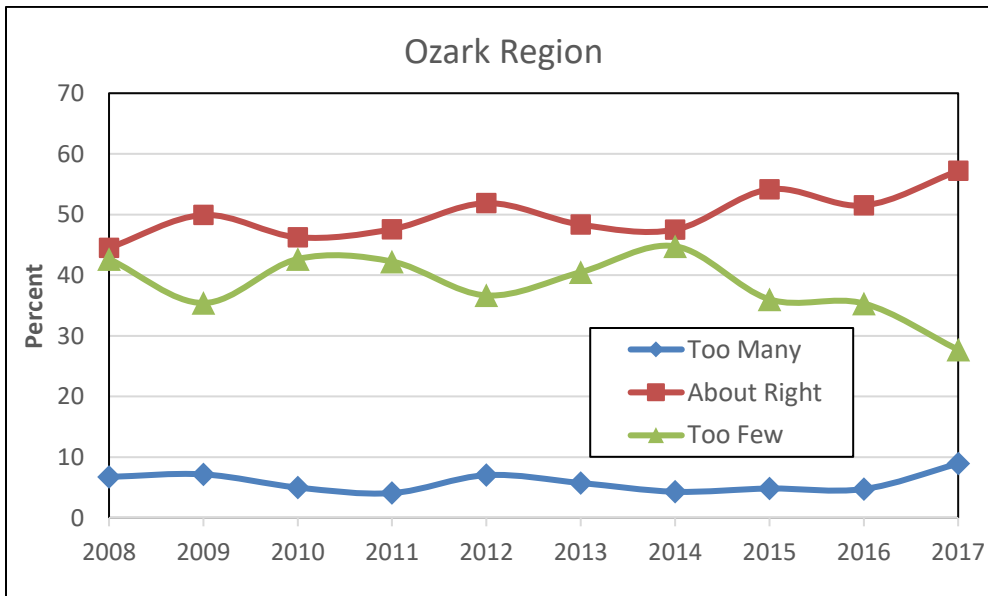


Figure 7. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Ozark Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

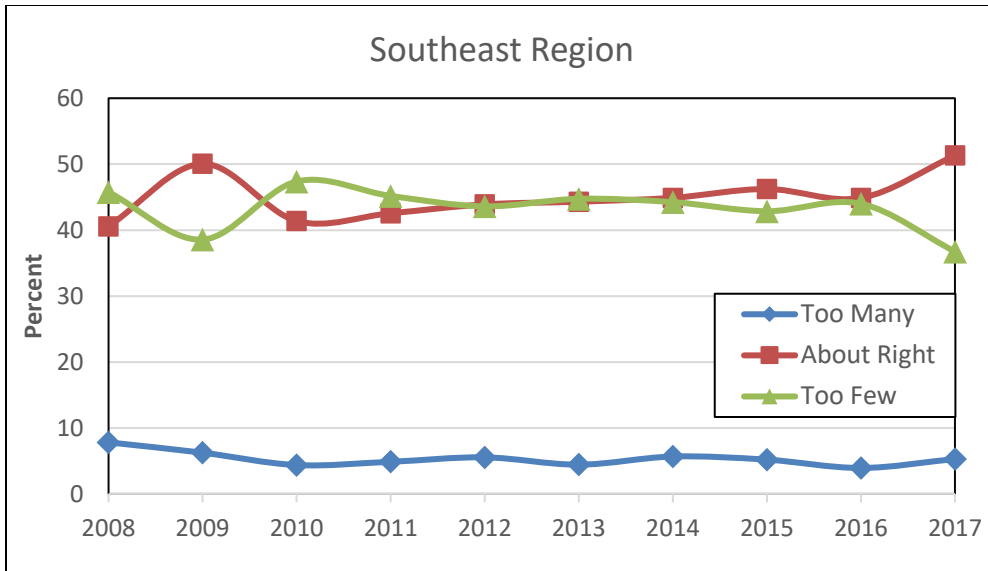


Figure 8. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Southeast Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

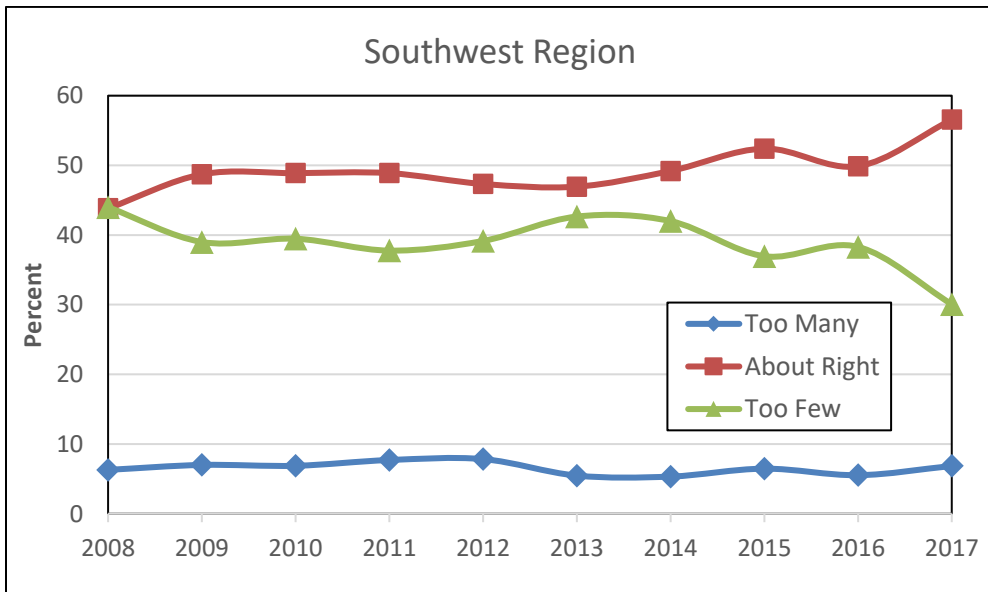


Figure 9. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Southwest Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

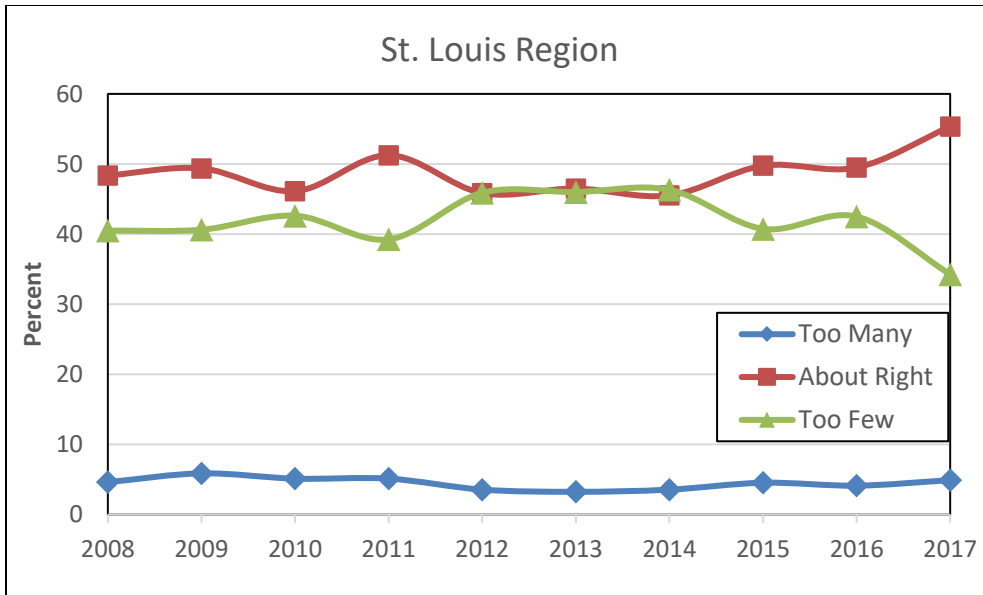


Figure 10. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the St. Louis Region that said “too many”, “about right”, or “too few” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2008–2017.

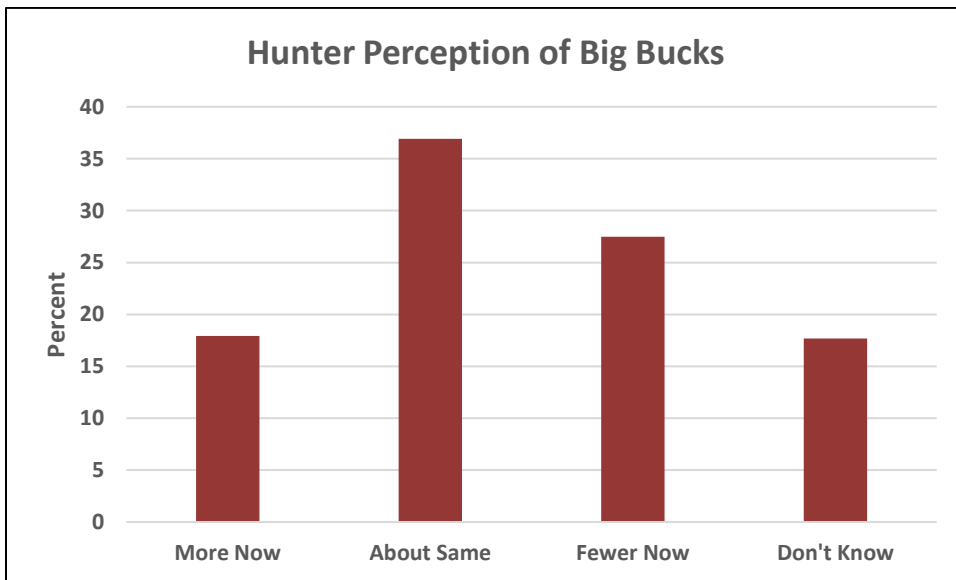


Figure 11. Perceptions of 2017 firearms deer hunter survey respondents on the number of big bucks in the county they hunt most compared to 5 years ago.

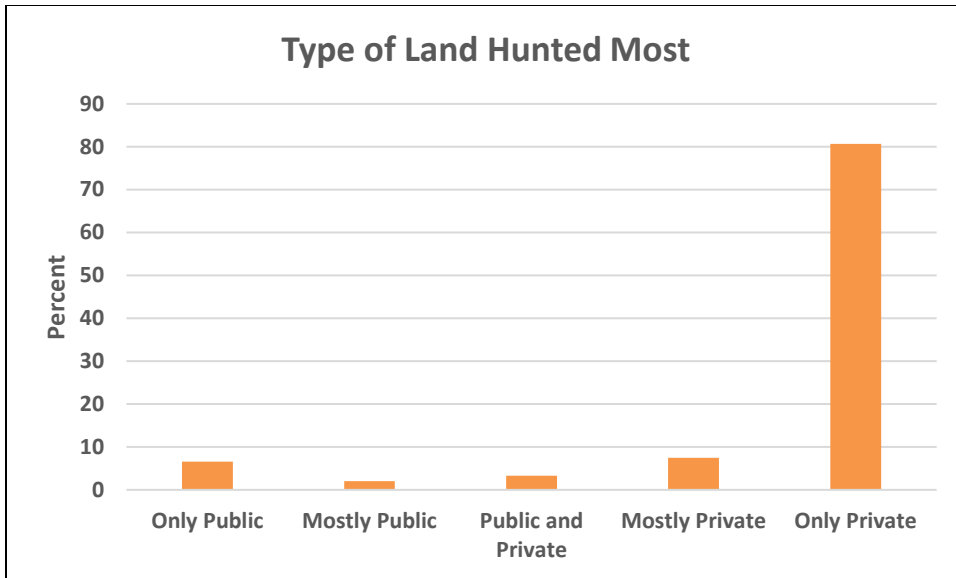


Figure 12. Type of land hunted most by 2017 firearms deer hunter survey respondents.

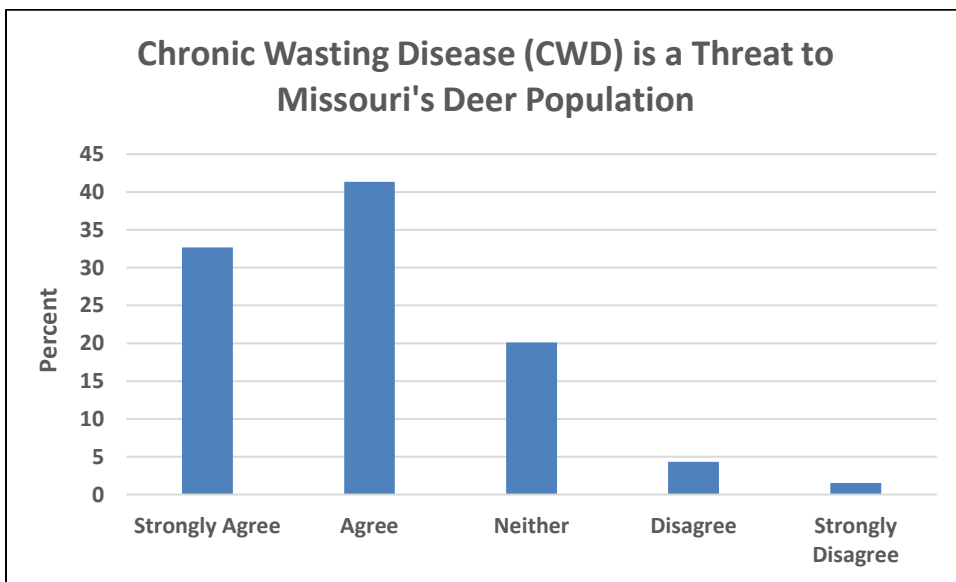


Figure 13. Opinions of 2017 firearms deer hunter survey respondents about the threat of CWD to Missouri's deer population.

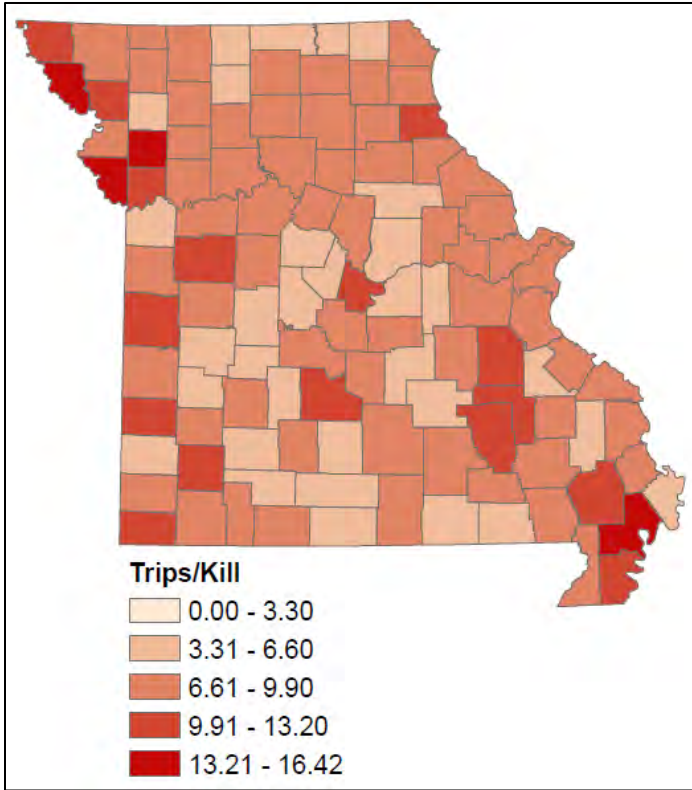


Figure 14. Average number of trips per deer harvested by county, based on 2017 firearms deer hunter survey respondents.

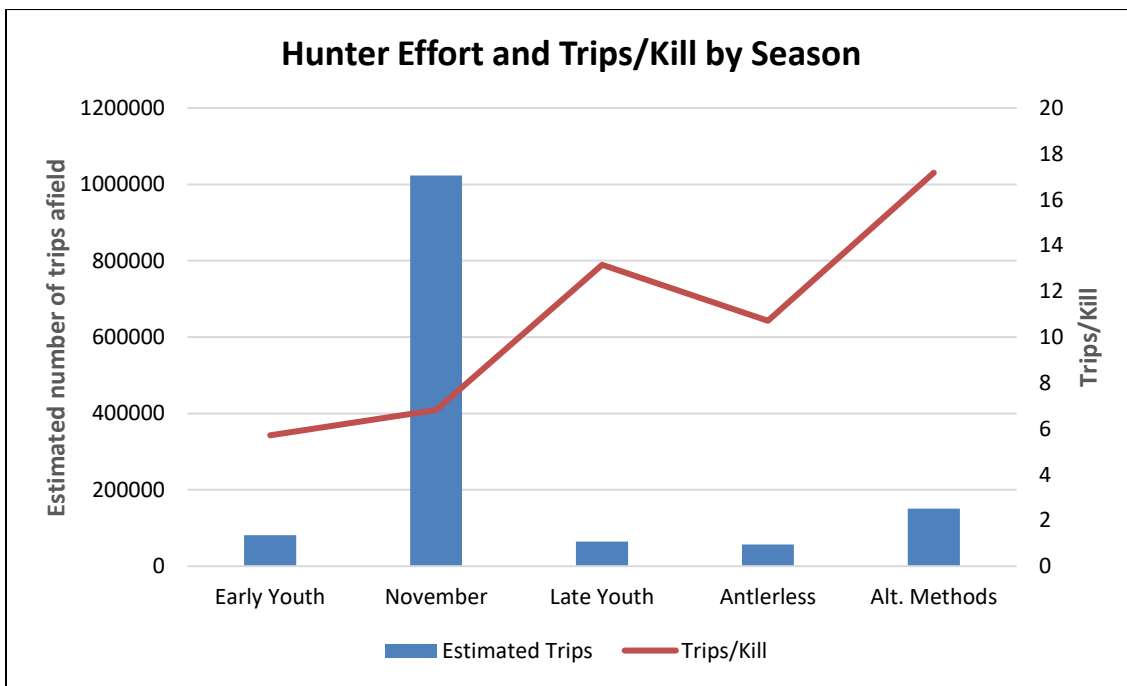


Figure 15. Estimated number of trips and trips per harvested deer statewide by season based on 2017 firearm deer hunter survey respondents.