Fairfax County Deer Management Survey Results

In June 2010, a Deer Management Survey was released to the public in an effort to obtain information about residents' experiences with, and perception of, white-tailed deer in Fairfax County. As well, the survey was an outreach tool designed to gauge residents' opinion of the Fairfax County Deer Management Program and current use of *available* deer population control tools. The survey closed August 2010 following extensive survey outreach efforts.

The Deer Management Survey was developed in collaboration with the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist, other County officials, and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries staff, over the course of several months.

The response to the Fairfax County Deer Management Survey was outstanding as 6,376 Fairfax County residents elected to complete the survey.

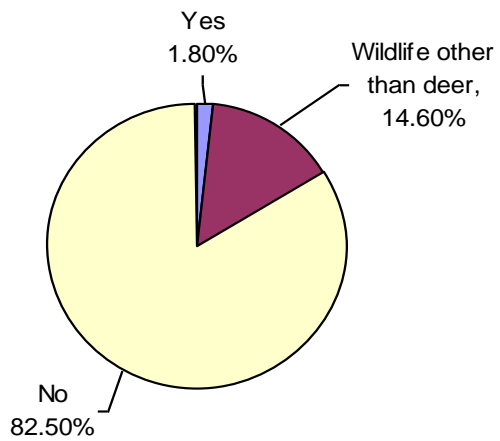Some points of interest from the survey:

- 64.2% of respondents are not at all familiar with the current Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Only 3.0% of respondents are very familiar with the Deer Management Program.

- 66.5% of respondents would prefer the deer population decrease.

- 45.9% of respondents are very concerned they will be in a deer-vehicle collision within 12 months.

- 50.4% of respondents are very concerned they will get Lyme disease within 12 months. 62.7% of respondents believe deer are directly related to the risk of transmitting Lyme disease.

- 62.7% of respondents support public managed hunts (deer population control).

- 66.4% of respondents support the Archery Program (deer population control).

- 57.0% of respondents support police sharpshooting (deer population control).

- 60.3% of respondents support legal hunting on private property (archery or shotgun)

- 59.5% of respondents oppose no deer population control efforts; 12.2% of respondents support no deer population control efforts.

The results of the Fairfax County Deer Management Survey have been graphed to easily view the information provided by survey respondents:
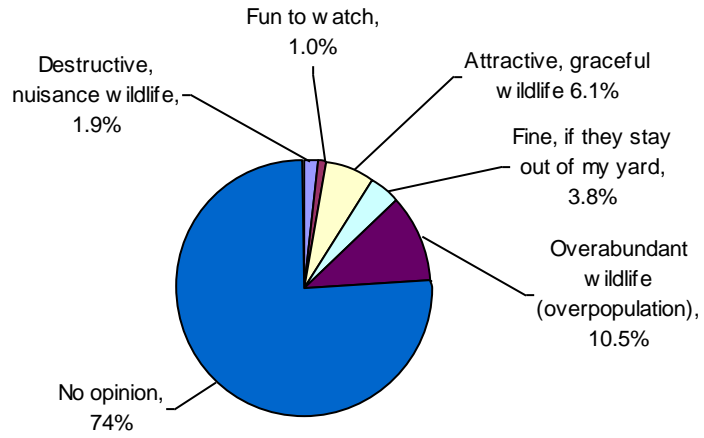
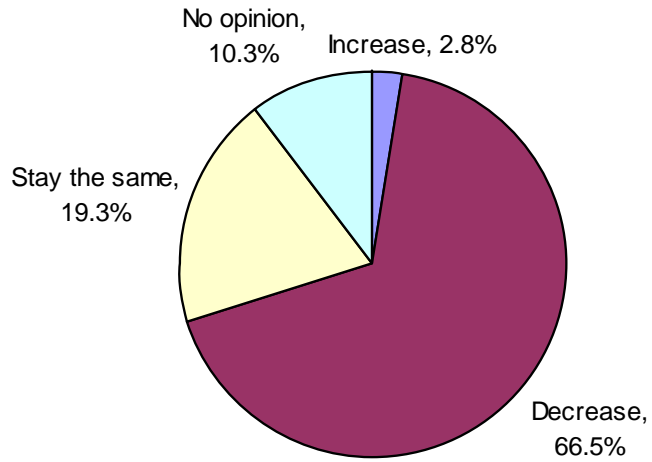## Familiarity With Fairfax County Deer Management Program

Very familiar, 3.00%

Somewhat familiar, 25.60%

Not at all familar, 62.40%
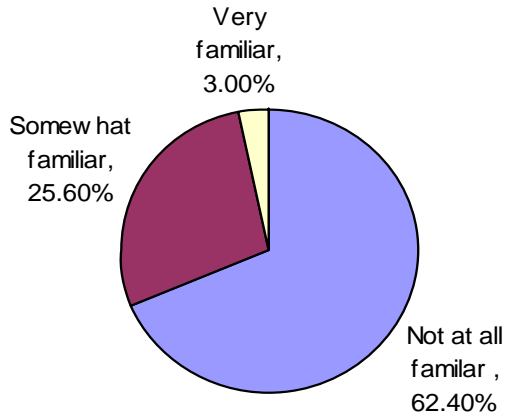
Do you or members of your household actively feed deer or other wildlife?

Yes 1.80%

Wildlife other than deer, 14.60%

No 82.50%

I believe white-tailed deer in Fairfax County are (Check all that apply):

Fun to watch, 1.0%

Destructive, nuisance wildlife, 1.9%

Attractive, graceful wildlife 6.1%

Fine, if they stay out of my yard, 3.8%

Overabundant wildlife (overpopulation), 10.5%

No opinion, 74%

Would you prefer the deer population in Fairfax County:

No opinion, 10.3%

Increase, 2.8%

Stay the same, 19.3%

Decrease, 66.5%

**Which of the following methods have you used to protect the plants on your property and have they been useful (Check All That Apply):**

- No methods used, 44.7%
- Repellents helpful, 24.1%
- Repellents not helpful, 20.2%
- Exclusion fences helpful, 3, 23.4%
- Exclusion fences not helpful, 9.5%
- Hunting helpful, 8.6%
- Hunting not helpful, 3.5%

How concerened are you that you , or someone you know, will be involved ina a deer-vehicle collision in the next 12 months?

- No opinion, 1.7%
- Not Concerned, 14.0%
- A little concerned, 37.2%
- Very Concerned, 45.9%
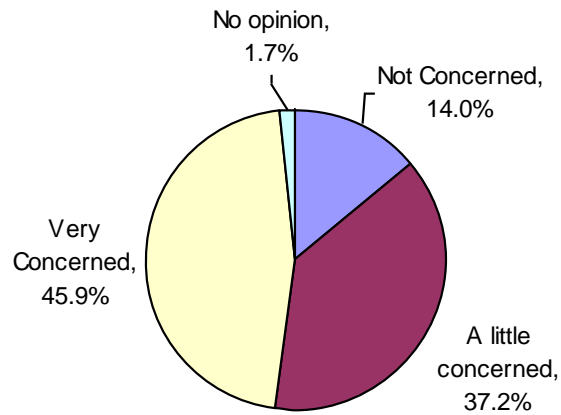
How concerned are you that you, or someone you know, will be infected with Lyme disease in the next 12 months?

No opinion, 1.4%

Not Concerned, 12.8%

Very concerned, 50.4%

A little concerned, 34.5%
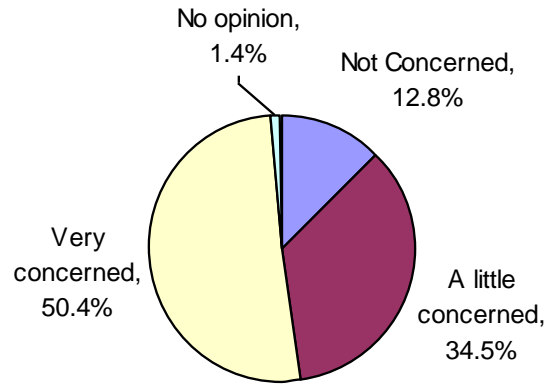
**In Your opinion, is the human risk of contracting Lyme disease related to the deer population in Fairfax County?**

No opinion, 19.9%

No, 15.9%

Yes, 62.7%
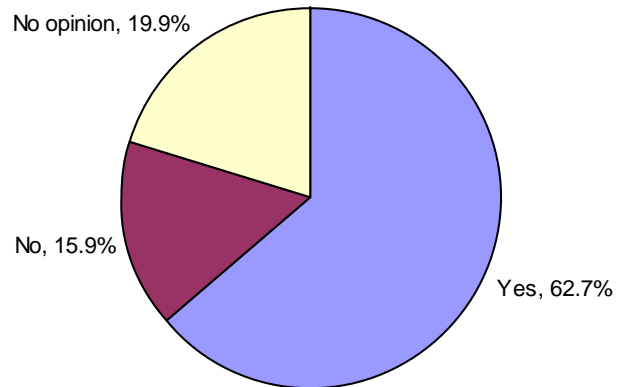
Deer population control to protect native habitats from damage

Oppose, 21.00%

Support, 69.20%
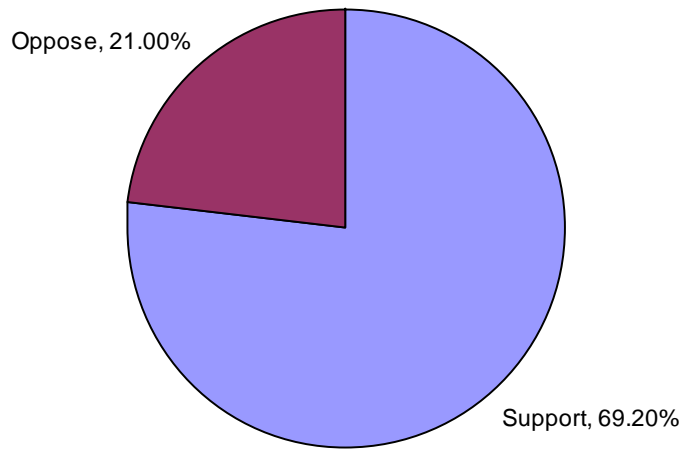
Deer population control to reduce damage to plants on private or public property

Oppose, 24.90%

Support, 67.80%
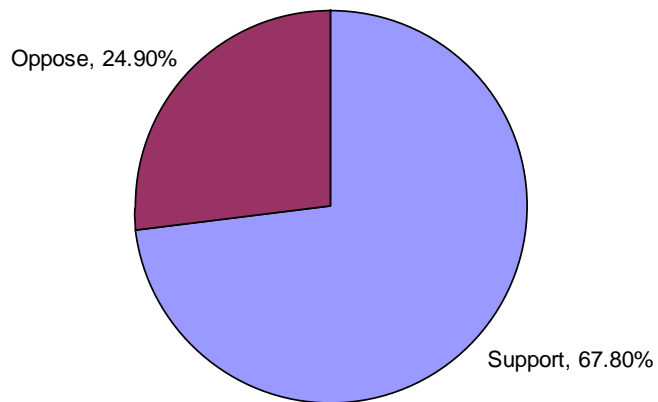
Deer population control to reduce damage to native plants on public parkland

Oppose, 24.40%

Support, 65.80%
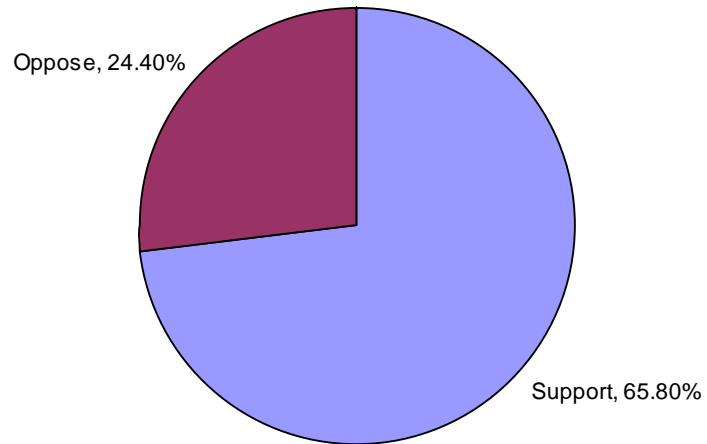
Deer population control to reduce deer-vehicle collisions

Oppose, 11.60%

Support, 84.60%
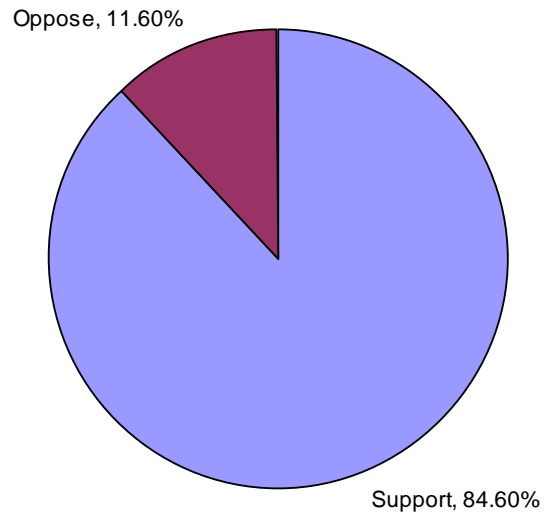
Deer population control to reduce the risk of wildlife disease transmission

Oppose, 13.00%

Support, 81.60%
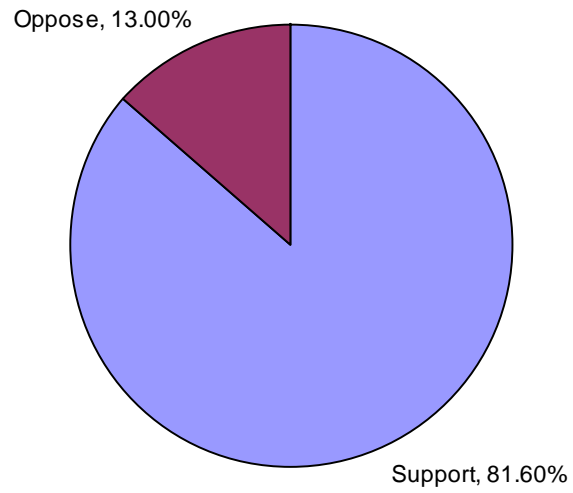
Managed shotgun hunts on public parkland (qualified hunters)

Oppose, 30.50%

Support, 62.70%
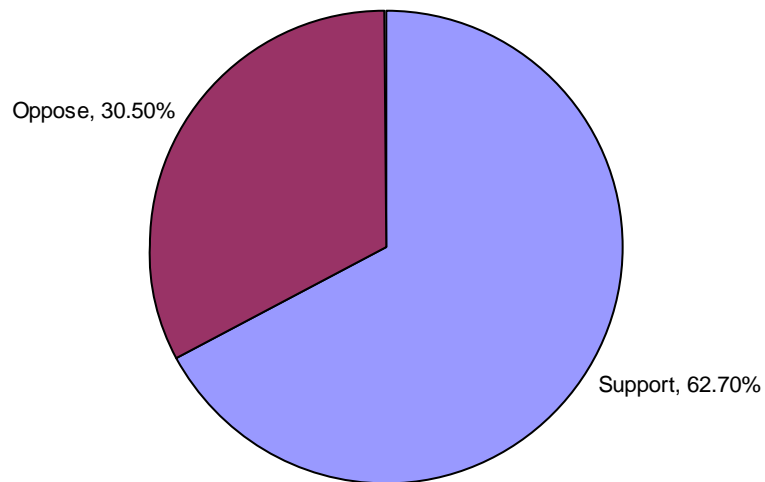
**Managed archery program on public parkland
(qualified bowhunters)**

Oppose, 27.70%

Support, 66.40%
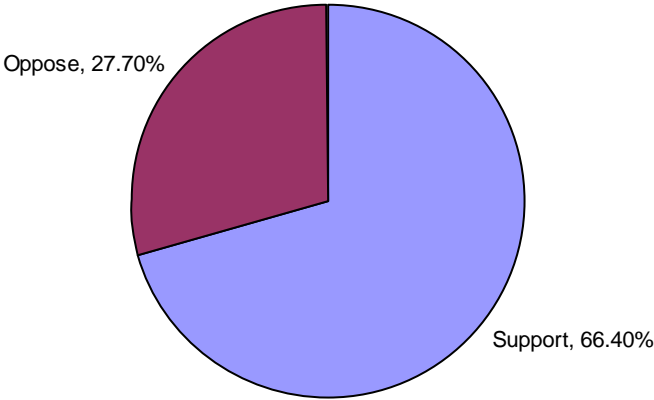
Police sharpshooting on public parkland

Oppose, 35.20%

Support, 57.00%
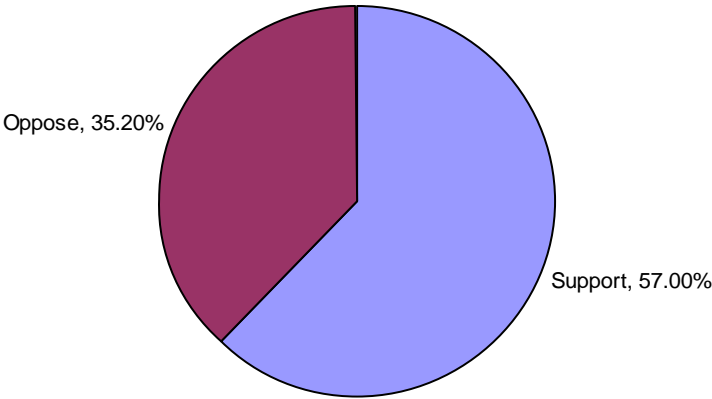
If fertility control became available for deer, please indicate which of the following statements you agree (Check All that Apply):

Fertility control would be useful for controlling free-ranging deer populations, 8.50%

I would support the use of fertility control in experimental settings (closed-access facilities), 10.60%

Fertility control would not be useful for controlling free-ranging deer populations, 9.40%

No opinion, 71.50%
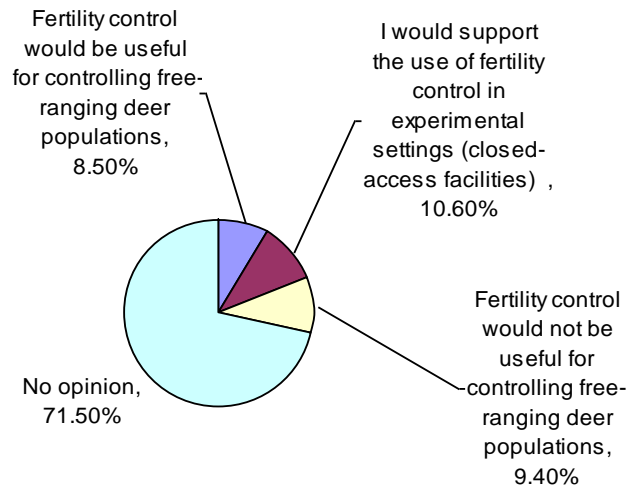
Survey Respondent Demographics (By gender, age, BOS District):

Gender of Survey Respondents

Female, 44.8%

Male, 52.5%
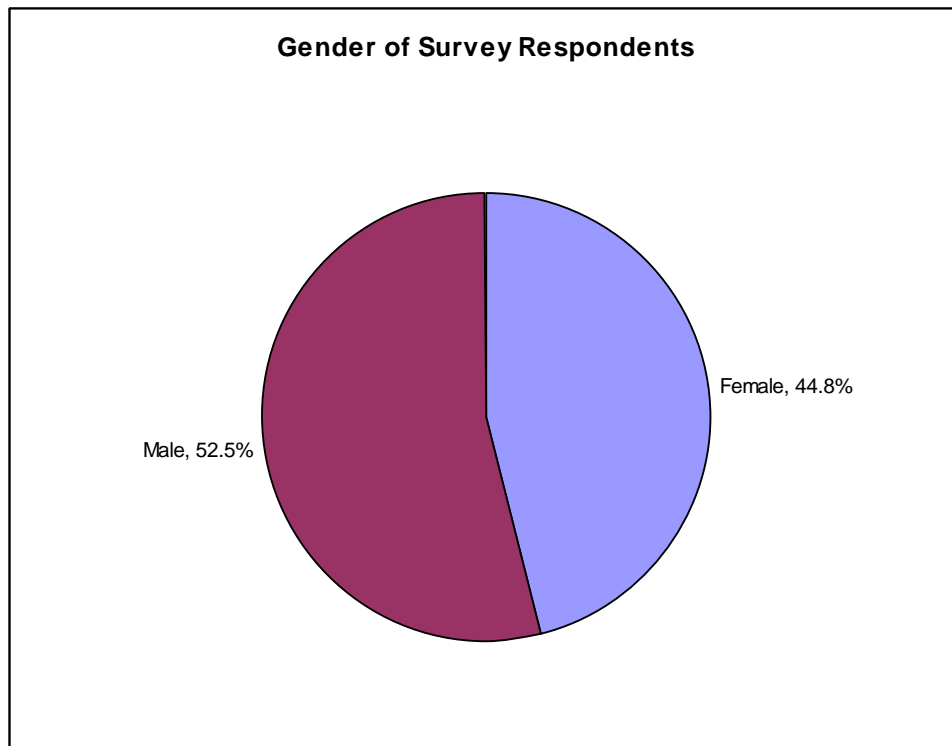
**2.7% of survey respondents did not specify gender.

Age of Survey Respondents

18-29 years, 3.2%

30-45 years, 20.8%

60+ years, 35.8%

45-59 years, 39.3%
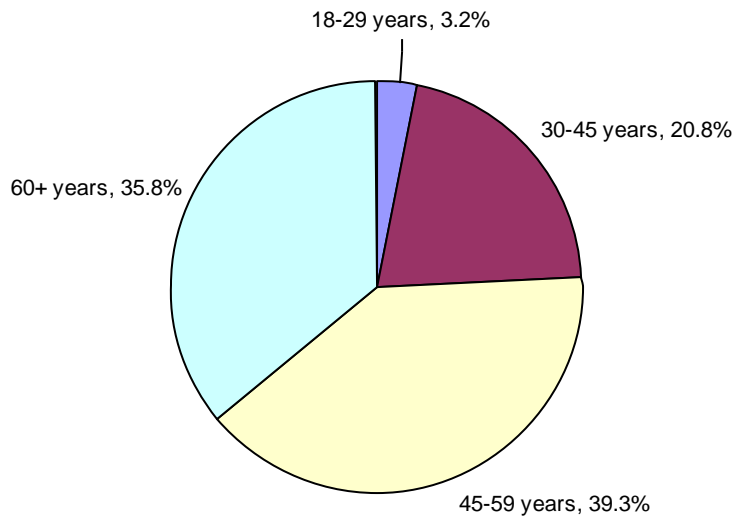
**0.9% of survey respondents did not specify age.

Survey Response by District

Don't Know
5.30%

Lee District
7.00%

Springfield District
15.80%

Providence District
7.40%

Dranesville District
14.70%

Mason District
7.50%

Mount Vernon
District
8.60%

Hunter Mill District
12.90%

Braddock District
9.50%

Sully District
9.90%