



Research Brief

* THE COMMONWEALTH'S OFFICIAL SOURCE OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS *

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Hunting Is Big Business In Pennsylvania

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—Hunters age 16 and older spent more than \$691.546 million in Pennsylvania in 1996. Of this \$505,527 million or 73 percent of these monies were spent on equipment and \$186,019 on trip-related expenses..

The Pennsylvania State Data Center, located at Penn State Harrisburg, reports that there were 879,000 hunters in Pennsylvania in 1996, 85 percent of them were Pennsylvania residents. The 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is the source of these data. The average hunter in Pennsylvania spent \$754 on hunting-related activities and 15 days hunting.

Of the 879,000 hunters, 93 percent were hunting for big game (deer, bear, wild turkey), 42 percent hunt small game (rabbit, grouse, squirrel and pheasant), 9 percent hunt migratory birds, and 19 percent hunt other animals (such as racoon or fox). Note that due to multiple responses, these figures do not add up to 100 percent.

The majority of hunting activities take place on private property (40 percent) or a mixture of both private property and public lands (36 percent).

The highest concentration of hunters are in the age bracket 35 to 44 years (38 percent), followed by ages 45 to 54 (22 percent) and ages 25 to 34 (13 percent). While 55 percent of hunters were high school



graduates, 14 percent had four or more years of college.

While antlered deer harvests have increased over the past year, antlerless deer and bear harvests have decreased. The Pennsylvania Game Commission reports the following game harvests in 1999:

White-Tailed Deer and Black Bear Harvest Report: Pennsylvania 1998 and 1999

	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>Percent Change 1998 to 1999</i>
<i>Antlered Deer</i>	194,368	181,449	7.0%
<i>Antlerless Deer</i>	184,224	196,040	-6.0%
<i>Bear Harvest</i>	1,740	2,598	-33.0%

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth’s official source of population and economic statistics and services. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg’s Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau’s national State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Data Center’s State Capital Office at (717) 772-2710, or for faculty comment on this topic contact Penn State Harrisburg’s Public Information Office, (717) 948-6029.

Sources of Information: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation: Pennsylvania* (February 8, 1999)
 <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html>> (November 20, 2000).

Pennsylvania Game Commission, *1915-1999 Pennsylvania White-Tailed Deer and Black Bear Harvest Report* (March 15, 2000)
 <http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/PGC/harvest.html> (November 20, 2000).