

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey



ARIZONA



95.3% of Hunters in Arizona Share their Harvest!

Introduction/Methodology

Recreational hunting is an important source of food for many people in North America. Of course, wild meat is not only consumed by hunters — it is also shared with many other people. However, there has been little effort to characterize how much food is shared, and the number of people with whom food is shared.

As part of the Wild Harvest Initiative®, Conservation Visions and the Arizona Game and Fish Department implemented a survey to assess wild meat consumption and sharing in Arizona. The survey was administered to a random sample of 79,267 hunters that hunted in the 2020–2021 season. We received 1865 responses and scaled the results to represent all hunters in Arizona based on the total number of resident hunters that harvested mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, elk, wild turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, bison, and black bear.

Wild Meat Sharing: Social Aspects

Of the successful hunters in Arizona...

95.3% shared wild meat with someone else

89.9% shared wild meat inside the household

77.1% shared wild meat outside the household

6.8% shared their entire harvest!

On average, each hunter shared with...

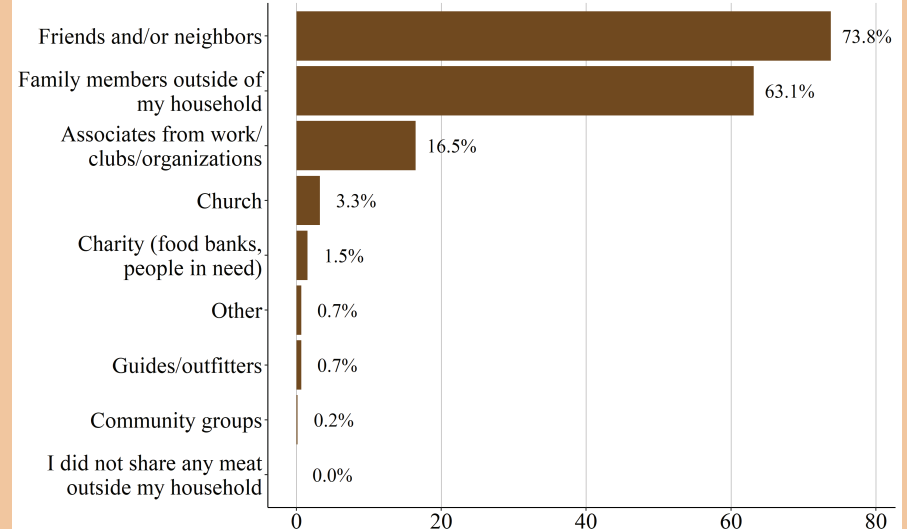
2.2 people inside
the household



4.2 people outside
the household

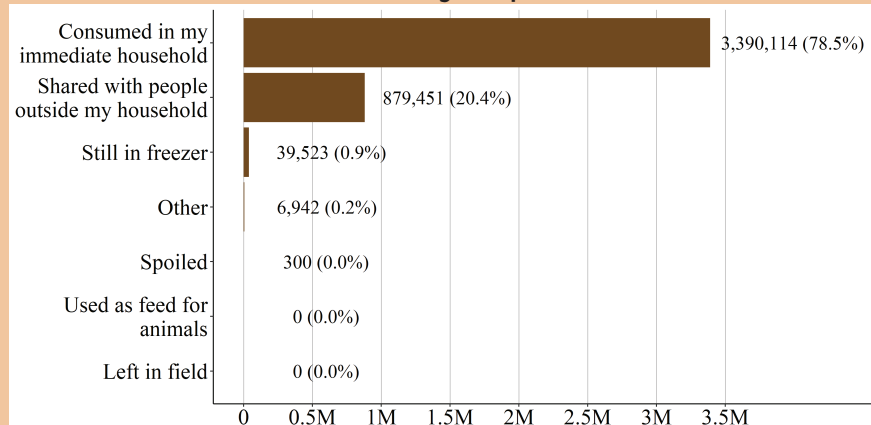


With whom hunters shared wild meat outside of the household (% of hunters)



How Much Wild Meat is Shared?

Meat derived from recreational hunting (lbs, percent of total harvest)



In the 2019–2020 hunting season...

Hunters in Arizona shared wild meat with **82,000 people** inside of their households and **154,000 people** outside of their households.

In total, **20.4%** of all meat derived from hunting, **879,000 pounds**, was shared outside of hunters' households.

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Hunter Profile: Arizona

On average, each hunter in the 2019–2020 hunting season...

Spent just under **2 weeks** hunting

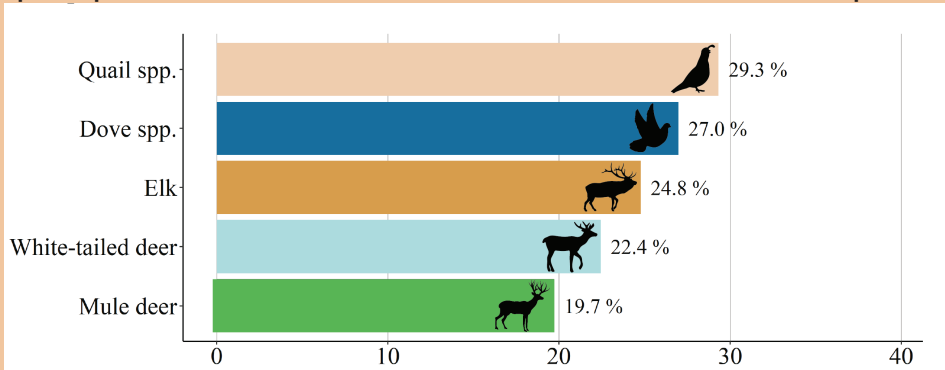
Harvested **9.8 animals**

Obtained **68.2 pounds** of wild meat

Consumed **4.8 meals** that include wild meat per month



Species preference of hunters (% of successful hunters that harvested each species)



Of the successful hunters in Arizona...

71.9% harvested big game

46.6% harvested small game

73.9% harvested animals only on public land

2.7% harvested animals only on private land

Human Dimensions of Hunting In Arizona

Of the hunters in Arizona...

43.9% either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that **wild meat was a crucial part of their household food supply**

88.6% either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that **the freedom to harvest wild meat was very important for their quality of life**

Most common barrier to hunting: a **lack of free time** (reported by 36.6% of hunters)

Most common motivation for hunting: **outdoor recreation** (cited by 86.3% of hunters)



Hunters in rural communities and of lower socioeconomic status were more likely to report that **wild meat is a crucial part of their household food supply**.

Conclusion

These results indicate that hunters share a significant amount of the food generated through recreational hunting with many people, both inside and outside of their households. This demonstrates that recreational hunting is an important food-provisioning strategy that extends well beyond those who participate.

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