

**SB-0417\_WMSC\_kelkye\_FAV\_2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ben Kelkye

Position: FAV



**Ben Kelkye, President**  
**wmsc\_benk@hotmail.com**  
**ben@kelkye.com**  
**301 401-6263**

February 28, 2025

Honorable Members of the  
Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

**Subject: SB-0417 Carroll County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting**

**FAVORABLE**

Honorable Senators:

I represent the Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc. The Coalition is comprised of many hunting clubs and sportsmen's associations and thousands of their individual members living in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll Counties. As President of the Coalition, I work together with the leadership of these Western Maryland Sportsmen's organizations for the recognition and benefit of the sportsmen and sportswomen of the five most western counties of Maryland.

On March 4, 2025, the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee will be hearing the advantages and disadvantages of **SB-0417 Carroll County – Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting**.

I, as a private citizen of this state and as the elected representative of the Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc., strongly urge you to vote favorably on this bill as written.

Respectfully,

*Ben Kelkye*

President  
Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition, Inc.

**Ben Kelkye**  
**Jerry Zembower**  
**Joe Winter**  
**Matt Guilfoyle**

**President, WMSC, President Frederick County Sportsmen's Council**  
**President, Garrett & Allegany Sportsmen's Association**  
**President, Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**  
**President, Carroll County Sportsmen's Association**

**Garrett**

**Allegany**

**Washington**

**Frederick**

**Carroll**

# **Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Huntin**

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5  
CARROLL COUNTY

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Carroll County Senators Letter of Support  
Senate Bill 417 - Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting**

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Carroll County Senate Delegation would like to notify the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee of their support for Senate Bill 417 – Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting.

The above referenced bill was considered by the Carroll County Senate Delegation and was subjected to a bill hearing. The Carroll County Senators and Delegates voted unanimously in favor of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Ready".

Senator Justin Ready  
Chair, Carroll County Senate Delegation

# **SB 417 testimony Sunday Hunting.pdf**

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

**JUSTIN READY**  
*Legislative District 5*  
Carroll County

—  
**MINORITY WHIP**  
—  
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 315  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3683 · 301-858-3683  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683  
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2025

**SB 417**  
**Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and member of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Senate Bill 417 would expand Sunday hunting of game birds and game mammals to include all Sundays in the State's defined deer season. Currently, Carroll County hunters have limited opportunities for Sunday hunting. While deer hunting season spans from early September through January, only 15 of the 22 Sundays in this period permit hunting. SB 417 would expand access to the remaining seven Sundays, aligning Carroll County with other Maryland counties including Alleghany, Cecil, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington.

Hunting plays a vital role in Carroll County's economy, conservation efforts, and wildlife management. Expanding Sunday hunting would increase access for residents who work or attend school during the week, ensuring more individuals can participate in Maryland's hunting traditions.

SB 417 passed the Carroll County Delegation 6-0. I respectfully request a favorable on SB 417.

# **SB 417 Voting Sheet.pdf**

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

**Carroll County Delegation Meeting**

**Thursday, January 31, 2025**

**Voting on Bill**

SB 417 Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting

Sen Ready	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Sen West	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Del Bouchat	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Del Rose	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Del Stonko	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Del Tomlinson	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

# **2025 MD HB 832 & SB 417 - Sunday Hunting - Carroll**

Uploaded by: Kaleigh Leager

Position: FAV



**To:           The Honorable Brian Feldman**  
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**The Honorable Marc Korman**  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee

**Re:           Senate Bill 417 – Carroll County - Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting**  
**House Bill 832 – Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting**

**Position:    Support**

**Date:         March 4, 2025**

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Dear Chairman Feldman and Chairman Korman,

As the Assistant Manager, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF), and as a lifelong Maryland resident and avid hunter, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 417 (SB 417) and House Bill 832 (HB 832). SB 417 and HB 832 will add Carroll County to the Counties who have already opted to repeal the antiquated blue laws that once prohibited Sunday hunting. The passage of SB 417 and HB 832 will expand access and opportunities for sportsmen and women, and assist in their recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3).

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitals advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Access is a major limiting factor hindering participation in hunting, and restrictions on Sunday hunting provide a temporal-access barrier to youth and others that work or attend school throughout the week and are often involved in extra-curricular activities on Saturdays. Individuals and families continue to seek the ability to participate in safe and healthy recreation. Hunting not only provides residents with that chance, but it also offers a chance to harvest fresh and healthy meat for consumption and nourishment. Additionally, hunting is the most cost-effective means of science-based wildlife population management as prescribed by the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. CSF strongly supports measures that increase access and opportunity for sportsmen and women that are in line with science-based wildlife

management.<sup>1</sup>

Sportsmen and women are the primary funders of state-level conservation efforts in the state and are thus an important constituency that provides benefits for all Marylanders. In 2024 alone, Maryland's sportsmen and women generated more than \$15.5 million dollars for conservation funding in Maryland through revenue derived from license sales and excise taxes on sporting-related goods in the unique "user pays – public benefits" structure known as the American System of Conservation Funding. This funding provides the lion's share of funding for the Maryland DNR and supports the agency's land acquisitions, wildlife and habitat management programs, and many other programs that benefit all citizens of the "Old-Line State".

Additionally, increasing opportunities on Sundays will allow private landowners, farmers, and others to diversify their income sources by allowing more time for hunting on their land, thereby helping to provide a capital influx into rural economies that were hardest hit by the recent recession. Creating additional opportunities will also encourage out-of-state hunting-related tourism and further bolster rural economies throughout the state.

In closing, adding Carroll County to the list of counties who allow Sunday hunting will likely increase participation, and license sales by extension, while also having a positive impact on the state's economy, and strengthening the Old-Line State's deep outdoor heritage. In addition, this bill will provide more opportunities for friends and families to spend time afield, resulting in the strengthening of relationships, creating bonds and memories, as well as passing down traditions to the next generations. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 417 and House Bill 832.

Sincerely,



Kaleigh E. Leager  
Assistant Manager, Mid-Atlantic States | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
110 North Carolina Ave, SE | Washington, DC 20003  
[kleager@congressionalsportsmen.org](mailto:kleager@congressionalsportsmen.org) | 202-543-6850 X 20

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<sup>1</sup> [Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation 2023 Issue Brief – Sunday Hunting Restrictions](#)

**SB0417\_FAV\_mgoldstein 2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfU0l1WSdNHoXUz2uYdt4zf-ztmwuTz-rdKJ59WbJstj1Ylw/viewform>

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March 04, 2025

**SB 41 / - FAV**

Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting

Dear Chair Brian J. Feldman, Vice-Chair Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Maryland bans, or otherwise limits, the sale of automobiles and other vehicles (Business Regulation Code Ann. §18–101), and the sale of alcohol (Alcoholic Beverages Code Ann. §11–102), on Sundays. Financial institutions must be closed on Sunday (Financial Institutions Code Ann. §5–704). Maryland is one of eleven states where hunting is still banned or otherwise restricted on Sunday (Natural Resources Code Ann. §10-410). We at Secular Maryland disagree with the state level Sunday activity restriction defaults. Counties (and Baltimore) have requested, and usually obtained, a variety of exemptions from some of these Sunday activity restrictions from the General Assembly. We welcome this bill which continues that positive trend of allowing more Sunday activities and encourage lawmakers to vote yay.

Sunday is a special day of the week for many Christians. For other citizens the day of rest and worship may be Friday or Saturday, and for some citizens there is no god to worship or no fixed day of rest each week. Maryland law can be, and should be, more accommodating to this diversity of belief among its citizens. Legally banning business and leisure activity on Sundays favors a majority religious practice. Favoring a majority religious practice is not a proper goal of the laws. To the fullest extent feasible, our laws should confer equal accommodations to minority religious practices along with non-religious and anti-religion beliefs.

The decisions regarding which day to hunt, to buy or sell alcohol, to buy or sell vehicles, to initiate and process financial transactions, etc., are best left to the citizens. State lawmakers can require one day off every week without specifying a particular day of the

week by delegating that decision to the affected businesses. Hunting restrictions to accommodate horseback riding, hiking, and the like during the hunting season can be defined for particular hours throughout the week or rotated to different days for each week of the month instead of being on every Sunday.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
3838 Early Glow Ln  
Bowie, MD 20716

# **LOS SB417 Sunday Hunting.pdf**

Uploaded by: Pam Meister

Position: FAV

## Board of County Commissioners

Kenneth A. Kiler, President  
Joseph A. Vigliotti, Vice President  
Thomas S. Gordon III  
Michael R. Guerin  
Edward C. Rothstein



## Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978  
fax 410-386-2485  
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

February 28, 2005

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of **SB 417: Carroll County—Natural Resources—Sunday Hunting**, sponsored by the Carroll County Senators on our behalf. This bill would allow hunting on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal seasons in Carroll County.

Currently, Carroll County hunters have limited opportunities for Sunday hunting. While deer hunting season spans from early September through January, only 15 of the 22 Sundays in this period permit hunting. **SB 417 would expand access to the remaining seven Sundays, aligning Carroll County with most other Maryland counties.**

Across the state, all but four counties—Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, and Prince George's County—allow Sunday hunting for much of the season.

Hunting plays a vital role in Carroll County's economy, conservation efforts, and wildlife management. Expanding Sunday hunting would **increase access for residents who work or attend school during the week, ensuring more individuals can participate in Maryland's hunting traditions.**

This bill also supports **local businesses**, as hunters frequently purchase equipment, food, lodging, and other supplies in the community. By expanding Sunday hunting, Carroll County can enhance its appeal as a destination for outdoor sports enthusiasts, providing a direct economic boost.

By adopting this measure, Carroll County would join many other Maryland counties that have successfully implemented expanded Sunday hunting without adverse effects.

This legislation promotes fairness and opportunity for hunters while supporting conservation efforts and the local economy.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE report on SB 417.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

Handwritten signature of Kenneth A. Kiler in blue ink.

Kenneth A. Kiler  
President

Handwritten signature of Joseph A. Vigliotti in blue ink.

Joseph A. Vigliotti  
Vice President

Handwritten signature of Thomas S. Gordon III in blue ink.

Thomas S. Gordon III

Handwritten signature of Michael R. Guerin in blue ink.

Michael R. Guerin

Handwritten signature of Edward C. Rothstein in blue ink.

Edward C. Rothstein (COL, Ret.)

# **MDFB - Support - SB417 Carroll Sunday Hunting.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tyler Hough

Position: FAV



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

March 4, 2025

**To:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** **Support of SB417 - Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting**

On behalf of the member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in favor of SB417 Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting. This proposed legislation would authorize a person to hunt in Carroll County on each Sunday of the 3 game bird and game mammal seasons.

The Department of Natural Resources continues to stress that Sunday hunting is one of the most productive deer management tools they have to offer. Opening more opportunities for hunters to harvest over-populations of deer on private land will assist with curbing the ever-increasing crop loss due to deer damage. Per the 2011 Maryland Ag Statistics survey, deer accounted for \$7.7 million in crop losses in Maryland annually. Maryland Farm Bureau supports uniform Sunday deer hunting laws throughout the state on private land.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB417**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org) with any questions*

**Carroll Co SUnday hunting 2025-02 SB417.pdf**

Uploaded by: Barbara Sollner-Webb

Position: UNF

## **Please vote against SB417, the Carroll Sunday Hunting bill 2025-02**

Good afternoon! I am Barbara Sollner-Webb, owner of a lovely 12 Ac backyard farm in Laurel, MD who over very many years has very often ridden and organized trial rides in Carroll County

Again this year, there is a Carroll County Sunday hunting bill. So again, we average citizens are here testifying that it is completely unfair of the well-funded hunting industry – which already has 6 days a week for shooting lethal weapons outdoors – to try to get the 7<sup>th</sup> day, which traditionally has been reserved as the only day of the week for the other 98% of the population who are not hunters to enjoy our area's lovely green areas without the fear of being shot at.

Back 25 years ago when Sunday Hunting was first being seriously lobbied for, then-Governor Parris Glendening expressed precisely those sentiments in a very well-worded and impassioned plea -- to retain that one safe-outside day. And it is even more true today, when the value of outdoor exercise and communing with nature is even more recognized.

I will not reiterate – but 100% endorse – the data and arguments Jane Siegler Christy Claggett and others will be presenting.

I just want to note that I am one of the many outdoor enthusiasts who has been shot at while recreating – in fact, shot at on three separate occasions, including a lethal hunting arrow zipping less than 2 feet from my ear – and it is not a fun experience. Evidently none of those “great hunters” recognized that my white riding helmet, orange safety vest, and white horse below me do not look exactly like a five-point deer. One of my favorite Delegates here in Annapolis had a similar experience of being shot at while recruiting in an area park.

Let me also point out that if hunters are so unsuccessful in the 6 days/week they already have and endanger non-hunter outdoor enthusiasts, why think the 7<sup>th</sup> day will solve any deer problem?

Maybe the bill advocates live in an area so rural that their proposed increased hunting would not endanger neighbors, but much of Carroll County, private property abuts parkland right near to where the trails are laid out and also abuts other people's private property. And especially Carroll County where the myriad wonderful parks are a destination riding venue for so many residents of the state, it seems most inappropriate and dangerous to take away the one day a week when outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy with outdoors without fear of being shot at.

Please, vote against SB5417, to keep Sunday safe for the vast majority of the population, us non-hunters, who want to be able to recreate outdoors without the fear of being shot at on one day per week, when hunters have already claimed the other six days.

**hunting accident report 2007-2023.pages.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF

# Excerpts from 16 years of DNR's Annual Hunting Accident Reports

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/pages/hunting-incident-reports.aspx>

## 2023

— A 59-year-old Talbot County Deer hunter was shot by another hunter from approximately 105 yards away. The victim was standing in the woods wearing an orange jacket when he heard a gunshot and felt pain in his side. The subject who fired the shot was aiming at a deer and missed causing the bullet to travel beyond his intended target striking the victim. The hunters were both hunting from the ground and could not see each other at the time the shot was fired.

— A 25-year-old Somerset County Deer hunter was shot in the leg by another hunter while walking out of the woods. The victim was walking to his truck at approximately 1745 hours when another hunter thought he was a deer and shot the subject with his bow.

## 2022

— A 48-year-old Worcester County Squirrel Hunter was hunting with his 15-year-old son. They were walking approximately 100 yards apart when the subjects' son shot at a squirrel on the ground. The Rimfire .22 long rifle caliber bullet ricocheted off the ground and struck the victim in his left shoulder. The trees and brush between the father and son made each of them unaware of the others location.

— A 46-year-old Howard County Turkey Hunter was shot in the face and chest by a 75-year-old Howard County Turkey Hunter. The 75-year-old subject saw the other hunter approximately 40 yards away and thought it was a turkey.

## 2021

— A 58-year old Washington County Deer Hunter (Firearms Season) was actively hunting in a wooded area when they were struck in the thigh with a round from another firearm. NRP investigation revealed that the victim was shot in the thigh by a 10-year old relative in their hunting party who had mistaken the victim for game. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. No charges were filed against the shooter.

## 2020

--- A Frederick County resident observed damage to the exterior of their residence, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. While investigating officers located no hunting activity in the area, the incident did occur during the end of spring turkey season. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County resident observed damage to their vehicle's windshield, which was consistent with that of pellet strikes from a shotgun. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in question is known for waterfowl hunting and there were reports of numerous shots leading up to the incident. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A Kent County waterfowl hunter, returning from a hunt, observed damage to their parked vehicle's tailgate, which consisted of a rifle round lodged into the plastic molding of said tailgate. Nearby waterfowl hunters were interviewed and denied any involvement, which was confirmed through an on-scene investigation. The area in

question is known for waterfowl hunting. No further suspect / hunter information was developed throughout the investigation.

— A 17 year-old Wicomico County Waterfowl Hunter was underway in a vessel with other hunters when they were struck with shotgun pellets. Investigation revealed that other members of the victim's hunting party were on shore and approximately 50-60 yards away when a 20 year-old fired a shot towards the victim's vessel in an alleged attempt to scare him and his hunting party. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries. Natural resources / criminal charges were filed against the shooter in this incident.

— A 14 year-old Somerset County Turkey Hunter (Firearms - Junior Hunt Days) was on foot and stalking turkeys with other juvenile hunters and under adult supervision. As the juveniles were walking 50-70 yards apart, under thick tree cover and out of sight from one another, a 14-year old shooter observed a turkey and fired their shotgun twice at said game. As a result, shotgun pellets ultimately struck the victim. The shooter was not aware that the victim was in the background. The victim sustained non-life threatening injuries.

## 2019

---- A 61-year-old Washington County Woodchuck Hunter was shooting from the front of their residence off a picnic table for support when one shot went errant and struck a person fishing at an adjacent pond, grazing their shoulder. The victim was approximately two tenths of a mile away obscured by heavy brush and tree cover. Rimfire .22 long rifle ammunition from a rifle was the implement used.

--- An unknown Washington County Deer Hunter (Archery season) shot a crossbow bolt through a Honda SUV while it was parked in the victims driveway. Apparently the shot took place after sunset the evening before the damage was observed. Deer frequent the lawn of this residence and other residences within the neighborhood most evenings. No suspect(s) were observed at the time of the damage.

---- A Montgomery County residence received a broken window caused by a stray bullet fired from a rifle. The projectile was recovered on scene lodged in between two plates of glass. No suspects at the time of the shooting but several shots were reported just before the window received damage.

## 2018

No relevant reports

## 2017

--- A 26 year old Talbot County deer hunter (firearms season) shot at two deer with 12 gauge shotgun slugs. The first deer was struck and ran 40 yards before collapsing, the second deer was shot at but the first slug went over its back, the second shot dropped the deer in the location where it was standing. Apparently the slug that missed struck an occupied residence just to one side of the front door. Upon a 911 call a sheriff's department deputy had searched and located the lone hunter. After an investigation by NRP the hunter was charged with negligent hunting and discharging a firearm within the safety zone. Property damage only

--- An unknown Carroll County deer hunter (firearms season) sent a 7mm projectile through the side of a residence, through the bedroom wall, through a wooden dresser, then through a closet wall before coming to rest in a pile of towels in the closet. Two people were in the bedroom at the time but neither was injured. A search of nearby farms was unsuccessful in locating any hunter(s). Property damage only

--- A 52 year old Cecil County deer hunter (late firearms season) took two shots at a deer with a 30/30 rifle toward the direction of a neighboring farm. One of the shots (both of which missed the deer) struck a dining room window of the adjacent residence and stopped, being found on the windowsill. During the investigation it was determined that the round that struck the window had ricocheted off of the ground. The distance from the shooter to the house was 398 yards.

(DNR's on-line annual report for 2017 is identical to DNR'S 2016's report – the 2016 appears to be missing)

## 2015

--- A 16 year old Allegany County turkey hunter fired two (2) shots from a 12 gauge shotgun at what they believed to be the white head of a spring gobbler. The shot traveled approximately 53 yards and struck a 70 year old camouflaged turkey hunter in the face. This hunter had walked into the woods, sat down and was listening for turkey's completely camouflaged except for the side of his face which is what the shooter was observing and mistook for a turkey. Non-Fatal

## 2014

--- A 50 year old Carroll County Fox Hunter sent a 6mm rifle round through a patio glass door. The round went through a vinyl garden hose and a plastic lawn chair before going through the door and striking a kitchen chair. The homeowner was the only occupant in the residence at the time and they were in bed sleeping.

--- A 52 year old Kent County Turkey Hunter (Spring Season) took two shots at a gobbler out in an open field. The second shot was at the bird while in flight. One pellet struck the storm door of an adjacent house causing the glass to shatter. The homeowner was present in the home at the time.

## 2013

--- A 47 year old Calvert County rabbit hunter received a gunshot (shotgun) wound to his body/thigh/head when he was shot by a 15 year old hunting partner. A party of 4 was hunting with the aid of a dog when a rabbit ran between the men who were approximately 40 yards apart. The shooter stated that he could not see the other hunter when he shot at the rabbit

--- A 52 year old Charles County deer hunter shot his 22 year old son with a rifle across an open field. The shooter and the victim had been hunting together and at dusk the shooter fired out at movement in the field which he mistook for a deer. was walking through the field prior to ending the hunt and returning to the vehicles.

--- A 28 year old Charles County deer hunter while hunting within the safety zone ---discharged his shotgun resulting in the rifled slug passing through a window of the residence striking a chandelier in the dining room and becoming embedded in a wall. Thankfully the residence was vacant at the time of the incident.

--- A rifle round was recovered from a Frederick County home during the second day of the extended fire arms deer season. The round went through the wall of the home and struck a sliding glass door causing it to shatter. The round was recovered at the scene by the sheriff's department. The nearest wooded area was over 400 yards away. Property Damage Only

--- A rifle round was recovered from a "second" Frederick County home during the extended firearms deer season. The round entered through the front wall of the residence blew out the drywall in the living room at which time the bullet came to rest on the floor and was recovered by the homeowner. The bullet was a full metal jacket round (illegal to use on big game)

## 2012

--- A 62 year old Harford County landowner was struck by a random shot on their property. Upon investigation it was determined the landowner had been hearing a volley of shots repeatedly behind her home. As she and her husband went outside to investigate, a piece of shot struck her in the left forearm. Law enforcement responded and never found hunters in the area. The landowners advised no one had permission to be there, therefore trespassers were suspected to be the shooters. No suspects were located nor arrests made. The victim suffered a very minor wound to her forearm. Non Fatal.

--- A home in Dorchester County was struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the homeowner heard shots and found a French door in the back of their home was shattered due a projectile striking the lower left hand pane. The area behind the home is a public hunting area. No suspects were ever located. It was also never determined hunters caused this situation.

## 2011

--- A 41 year old Carroll County woman was struck in the right leg by a stray projectile while she was in her back yard. Upon investigation it was determined two individuals were plinking and shooting at squirrels & birds with a .22 cal. rifle in a wooded area behind her residence. Due to an unsafe backstop, it was determined their projectile traveled approximately .26 miles to the victim's property causing the leg injury. Squirrel season was closed at the time of this incident. Charges pending. Non fatal.

--- A 57 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 57 year old hunting companion who he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter and victim had split up to hunt deer. Both hunters were wearing fluorescent orange when they departed each others company. The shooter had gone approximately 95 yards to his stand, climbed into it and began to hunt deer. The shooter observed a dark movement coming towards his location. The shooter was using a .30-06 scoped rifle. The shooter advised he determined he was shooting at a deer by looking through his scope, and shot at center mass.

--- A 48 year old Caroline County deer hunter shot his 46 year old hunting companion that he had mistaken for a deer: Upon investigation it was determined the shooter heard a disturbance of brush and saw movement, thinking it was a deer. The shooter fired a crossbow bolt at the movement at a distance of 62 yards, striking the victim in his left tibia. The time of the incident was four minutes after legal shooting hours. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 16 year old Dorchester County deer hunter shot his 19 year old hunting companion while shooting at a running deer: Upon investigation 8 hunters had organized a deer drive in a marshy dense wooded area. 5 hunters were pushing deer while 3 were standers. As a deer passed between two standers, the shooter shot at a running deer, striking his hunting companion in both femurs with a .12 ga. shotgun using #4 buckshot at a distance of 60 yards. The shooter advised he never saw the victim. Both hunters were wearing daylight fluorescent orange. Non Fatal.

--- A 56 year old Dorchester County turkey hunter shot his 36 year old hunting companion, mistaking him for game: Upon investigation it was determined the two hunters entered their hunting area and posted three turkey decoys in an open field. They then split up to hunt the area and the shooter advised he did not see which direction the victim went. After a period of time the shooter saw three turkeys to the right of the decoys

40 yards away. The shooter advised he could not see the birds at all times. After an hour he called his companion on a cell phone to ask him if he saw the birds. Immediately after their conversation, the shooter saw a movement then shot. He had shot his hunting companion. The movement he saw was the victim putting his cell phone away. The victim was shot at a distance of 38 yards. The victim received 24 #4 shotgun pellets which were fired from the shooters 12 .ga shotgun. The victim was struck in the right side of his body receiving wounds in his head, neck, shoulder, torso, calf, knee, and ankle. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting. Non Fatal.

--- A 13 year old Dorchester County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter discharged a .45 cal. muzzleloader at a deer 6 minutes after legal shooting hours. The projectile, missing the deer, traveled 242 yards striking a house 48 inches from the ground. As the projectile entered the house, it penetrated exterior and interior walls and lodged in a recliner. A resident in the home was sitting in the chair at the time and received a redmark on their shoulder where the projectile stopped on impact. Non Fatal

## 2010

--- During the 2010 Firearm Deer Season, residents of a home located in the area of Walkersville (Frederick County), reported their house had been struck by a projectile: Upon investigation it was determined the home had been struck by a projectile doing damage to the exterior & interior walls. Interviews were conducted with seven hunters who were in the vicinity of the area the day before hunting deer as regarding their actions that day. It was never determined who may have been the shooter, but one scenario did reveal a hunter had fired a .30.30 rifle at a deer pointed in the direction that the home approximately 3,940 feet away. No evidence was found to support charges. Non Fatal.

--- A 45 year old Frederick County deer hunter, while shooting at a deer, struck a home in the background: Upon investigation the shooter had discharged a .12 gauge shotgun using slugs at a herd of deer. The gun jammed, the shooter cleared the gun, turned and shot at another deer in the direction of the home. The shooter advised he had become disoriented as to the direction he was shooting. The slug entered the home at a distance of 114 yards, traveled through the exterior and two interior walls, through two rooms, and into appliances and home furnishings. No one was in the home at the time of the incident. The shooter was charged with Negligent Hunting and Hunting within 150 yards of a dwelling (Safety Zone). Non Fatal.

--- A 53 year old Howard County deer hunter was shot by his 36 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a standing deer with a .12 gauge slug in an open field at approximately 243 yards. The bullet missed the deer, striking the victim sitting in a wooden ground blind at the opposite end of the field. The victim received injuries to his right arm and hand. Non Fatal. Charges pending an investigation

--- A 46 year old Queen Anne's County deer hunting was shot by his 25 year old hunting companion. With both subjects participating in a deer drive, the shooter shot at a running deer twice with a .20 gauge shotgun slug. A slug traveled 70 yards, striking the victim positioned at the opposite end of the field in the left leg. Non Fatal. Negligent Hunting charges pending.

--- A 55 year old Dorchester County rabbit hunter was shot by his 55 year old hunting companion. The shooter shot at a running rabbit with a .20 gauge shotgun in a thicket. The shot pellets traveled approximately 30 to 40 feet through the thicket striking the victim. The victim received injuries to the right side of his head, neck, eye, arm and left

--- A Frederick County garage window was struck by a bullet from an unknown source. An investigation could not recover the projectile nor related evidence. This incident occurred during the firearm's deer season.

## 2009

--- A 57 year-old goose hunter in Kent County was shot by another hunter while attempting to retrieve a wounded goose. The victim received a minor wound to the face from a shotgun pellet which deflected off the water striking the victim.

--- A window was broken at an occupied daycare facility from a slug fired by a shotgun in Howard County. Several hunters were found in the area and interviewed by several police agencies. Negligent hunting charges were filed, but the States Attorney elected not to prosecute due to insufficient evidence.

--- A window in a house was struck and broken by a sabot round fired by a deer hunter in Talbot County. The investigation found that in this case , the hunter was not negligent and charges were not filed.

--- While checking vacant buildings, several Frederick County Sheriff Deputy vehicles were struck by shot gun pellets causing minor damage. Several individuals who were hunting quail in the area were located and charges were filed by the States Attorney's office for Reckless Endangerment.

--- A 69 year-old deer hunter in Dorchester County found himself in the middle of a deer drive on a wildlife refuge. After hearing several shots the hunter realized that his shotgun had been struck on the barrel and magazine by lead shot. The shooter was never found or located.

## 2008

--- A 47 year-old Allegany County deer hunter, walking into the woods without hunter orange, was shot by a 32 year-old hunter. The shooter heard noise, saw movement through the trees and shot the victim without identifying the target. Fatal.

--- A 40 year-old Talbot County goose hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the shooter, from outside the blind, shot at a wounded goose. The victim in the blind was in the line of fire. One pellet entered his eye and lodged in his brain. Non-fatal.

--- A 64 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the abdomen by another hunter who mistook the victim for a deer. Shooter was charged with negligent hunting. Non-fatal.

## 2007

--- A 51 year-old Caroline County quail hunter shot his hunting partner when a quail flew between them. The victim received 4 pellets to his upper body.

---A 54 year-old Talbot County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them and the shooter shot at the deer. The shooter hit the deer and shrapnel from the slug hit the victim in the hand causing minor injuries.

--- A 59 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter was shot by his hunting partner when a deer ran between them. The victim was below field level, climbing a hill out of site of the shooter. He received neck injuries.

--- A 38 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the shoulder by his 16 year-old hunting partner when the victim was moving through bushes and mistaken for game. Victim was not wearing fluorescent orange.

--- A 64 year-old Charles County Turkey hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the victim started to retrieve a turkey and was mistaken for another turkey by the shooter. Victim received 4 pellet wounds to various parts of the body.

INCIDENTS -- NOT REPORTED IN DNR ACCIDENT REPORTS (2016 to present)– that were recorded in other news sources:

--- **MD: Woman attempting to shoot groundhog accidentally hits man fishing at park**

May 28, 2019

The Maryland Natural Resource Police are investigating an incident of a bullet that grazed a man in the shoulder on Sunday afternoon.

According to police, a 61-year-old woman was shooting a groundhog in her backyard, which borders the Smithsburg Lions Community Park.

The woman missed and the bullet ricocheted across the water and struck a 28-year-old man who was fishing.

Officials said there doesn't seem to be any issues with limitation, however the shooter is responsible for anything in background, like in this case, the park....

--- **Fatality** : Maryland Natural Resources police were investigating a fatal hunting accident in Frederick County on Saturday, the opening day of deer season for firearms.

Police said the rifle of a first-time hunter from Altadena, Calif., was accidentally discharged while he was deer hunting on private property on Eylers Valley Flint Road near Thurmont. Police identified the victim as Vincent Cavallo, 32.

Cavallo and his uncle were hunting in separate areas of the property when the uncle heard a gunshot. He went to check on his nephew and found him dead, DNR police spokeswoman Candy Thomson said. Police were called to the scene at 9:24 a.m.

Police said the victim is believed to have slipped or dropped the gun and it discharged, hitting him in the head. His body was taken to the medical examiner's office. Natural Resources police were assisted by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department in the investigation.

[lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com](mailto:lorraine.mirabella@baltsun.com)

--- Author: Scott Broom

Published: 6:07 PM EDT October 24, 2016

The mystery is still not solved after an 87-year old man was apparently struck (ed. note: in the head) by a shotgun pellet or bullet fragment while walking on his property in rural Montgomery County Saturday. Authorities suspect a hunting accident, but they don't know who fired the shot or from where. Residents and hunters say they are deeply concerned by the incident. The victim's property is on the boundary of the Patuxent River State Park where hunting with firearms is permitted. Hunters may not fire guns within 150 yards of an occupied dwelling without a residents' permission, even if the hunter is on another property or

public land nearby. Maryland averages 2-3 hunting accidents involving firearms annually. The victim is almost always a hunter.

NOTE: see more of this episode at:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/man-87-in-marylands-montgomery-county-struck-by-a-small-metallic-projectile/2016/10/22/bc0e5974-98c8-11e6-bc79-af1cd3d2984b_story.html)

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wusa9.com/amp/article/news/local/mystery-surrounds-shooting-of-elderly-md-man-walking-home/65-340868641>

--- Fatality: Oct 11, 2015 - WASHINGTON — A 75-year-old huntsman was fatally *shot during* a hunting trip Saturday in Queen Anne's County, ... *Marvin Bowen Coppage*, a resident of *Henderson*, was hired to lead a guided *pheasant and chukar* hunt.

--- 2014 A mountain biker was peppered by bird shot while riding his bike in the Tuckahoe State Park on Maryland's Eastern (related by Tuckahoe park staff) knowledge)

Citizen report:

Date: March 15, 2019 at 9:15:38 AM EDT

To: <mwc.dnr@maryland.gov>, <animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov>, <hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Hunting Violation in Western Howard County

Hello,

I want to report a hunting violation that I encountered yesterday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Woodbine parcel of the Patuxent State Park.

I was in the park on horseback and one or two people began shooting firearms near the trail head that is immediately north of the farm at 4505 Jennings Chapel Road.

I hollered several times so that they could hear that I was there and stop shooting long enough for me to get out of the park. They were shooting between me and the closest way out of the park so my way was totally blocked.

They did not stop shooting even as I hollered and eventually my very sane and experienced horse bolted to try to get away from the noise, which was echoing everywhere.

Luckily I am a strong rider and I did not have a mishap but my horse was badly frightened, as was I, frankly. It was mainly luck that we did not run into a tree or barbed wire or worse.

Once I finally got to the trail head – after picking my way along as close to the edge of the park as I possibly could on the theory they would not fire towards residences – I saw their vehicles and got their license plates. They were both Maryland vehicles, one was 5CC8856 and the other was 5C74853.

I have attached photographs of the vehicles. I also have a photograph of my riding attire yesterday, which included a safety orange saddle pad and a reflective yellow jacket, which I can provide if necessary.

I have been riding in this part of the park for over 15 years and every time I have encountered hunters we have been courteous to one another and respectful of each other's sport and mindful of each other's safety. These people were obviously an exception.

I am happy to discuss further by telephone if necessary.



# **MD Econ Impact Report 2023 Spreads HQ.pdf**

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Position: UNF



2023 Economic Impact Study  
*of the* MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY





Photo Credit: Katherine Rizzo

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**When the streets of American cities teemed with horses and horse-drawn carriages, and horse-drawn plows tilled America's farmland, the equine population stood at 25 million (in 1920). By 1960 that number had dropped to just 3 million.**

At least two breeds, however, went in the opposite direction. Thoroughbred breeding began a steady increase in the 1920s that lasted for more than half of a century, from just 2,000 foal registrations per year to more than 50,000 by the late 1980s. Likewise, the American Quarter Horse — a favorite for recreational riding, in 1941, to 2.6 million by 2010.

Entertainment, in the form of horse racing and competition, became a primary way that horses contributed to the economy. This development dovetailed with the emergence of the consumerbased economy, as the assembly line and other Industrial Revolution innovations solved the problem of production.

The decline of utilitarian uses and the rise in aesthetic pursuits — entertainment, sport, and recreation — can be seen in the contrast between the donkey and mule population on the one hand and Thoroughbred breeding on the other.

---



## WHO WE ARE

The American Horse Council is the only national association exclusively representing every segment of the horse industry. We are “The unified voice of the equine industry” on federal legislative and regulatory issues in Washington DC. We serve as the “stewards”, keeping our fingers on the pulse of matters that may affect the equine and equestrian ecosystem.

Our mission is to “protect and strengthen the US Equine Industry”.

The American Horse Council Foundation is a 501C3 non-profit foundation which supports charitable, scientific, and educational projects and research that benefit the US horse industry. This includes:

- The National Economic Impact Study
- The United Horse Coalition, which provides resources to help horse owners and horses at-risk. The Equine Welfare Data Collective which monitors equine rescue and sanctuary capacity.
- The AHC Foundation also supports industry initiatives ranging from the Equine Disease Communication Center, Equine Microchip lookup website, as well as numerous research projects.

We are committed to a thriving equine industry, DEI, Safe Sport, Youth Engagement, Equine Welfare, and Environmental Sustainability.

## The Equine Community

Participants in the industry are as socio and culturally diverse, as are the roles they play!



Rancher | Polo Player | Rescue Founder | Equine Professor | Veterinarian | Show jumper



Photo Credit: US Eventing Association

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## ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

While horses still perform traditional chores on American ranches and farms, and still transport people in Amish communities, people today use horses mostly for sporting, recreational or therapeutic purposes. No other domesticated livestock has bridged the gap from a production-based to a consumer-based role in the economy. This success, due in no small part to how horses tug at the human heart, has made the horse industry an enduring force in the U.S. economy a century after its utilitarian roles became mostly obsolete.

The economic activity involved in caring for Maryland's estimated 94 thousand horses, along with the spending by horse enthusiasts in their pursuit of horse events and recreation, directly contributes over \$1 billion to the state's Gross Domestic Product.

**Direct Contribution to GDP: \$1.05 billion.**  
**Direct Employment Impact: 21,841 Jobs.**

From those direct effects, the horse industry's contribution ripples out into other sectors of the economy. Adding these ripple effects—termed indirect and induced effects in economic jargon—results in an estimate of the total contribution of the horse industry to the Maryland economy of nearly \$1.8 billion.

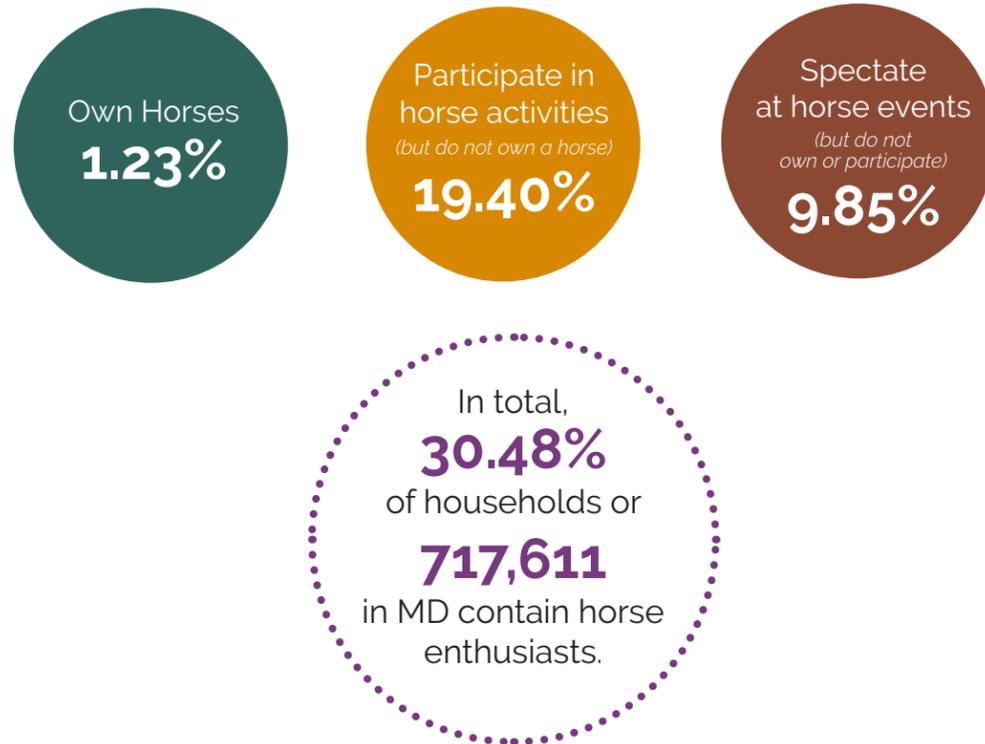
**Total Value Added to the Maryland economy: \$1.77 billion.**  
**Employment impact: 28,434 jobs**  
**Total Economic impact in Maryland: \$2.9 billion**

## HORSE ENTHUSIASTS TODAY

Only a small percentage of Americans own horses. Owning such a large animal that can live 25 years or more requires commitment and resources.

However, based on our balanced start survey, for every horse-owning household there are 24 other households that contain horse enthusiasts: people who participate in horse activities or attend horse events as a spectator.

Percentage of MD households that:



MD Horse Enthusiast Breakdown by Type 2022		
Type	MD Households	Percent
None	1,637,114	69.52%
Owner	28,957	1.23%
Participant	456,769	19.40%
Spectator	231,885	9.85%
<b>Total Horse Enthusiast HH</b>	<b>717,611</b>	<b>30.48%</b>

Source: The Innovation Group; \*ESRI

Good news for the future: 38% of US horse participants are under the age of 18, whereas the under-18 age cohort represents only 22% of the U.S. population.

Horse Enthusiast Age Breakdown by Type 2022				
Age	Owner	Participant	Spectator	U.S. Census*
<18	16%	33%	30%	22%
18 - 24	6%	15%	14%	9%
25 - 34	25%	18%	18%	14%
35 - 44	15%	15%	14%	13%
45 - 59	30%	15%	16%	18%
60 - 74	9%	5%	7%	17%
75 +	0%	0%	1%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>39</b>

Source: The Innovation Group; \*ESRI



Photo Credit: Kim Harmon

Similarly, while horse ownership tends to be concentrated in higher income groups, participation or interest in horse activities is more evenly distributed among income groups, with the largest percentages of horse enthusiasts falling within the \$25,000 to \$149,999 income brackets. Of note is that Maryland has a higher average household income than the national average.

Horse Ownership (AHC) and Enthusiasts (Balanced Start) Distribution by Income Bracket			
Household Income Category	US Census*	AHC Owners	Balanced Start Horse Enthusiasts
\$0 - \$24,999	17%	4%	9%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	18%	11%	18%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%	15%	21%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13%	15%	19%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17%	22%	17%
\$150,000+	19%	33%	15%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: The Innovation Group; \*ESRI



## HORSES BY THE NUMBERS Population Estimates

The American Horse Council commissioned The Innovation Group to conduct a series of surveys to estimate:

- The number of horses in Maryland
- The owner expenses involved in caring for and training horses
- The owner expenses related to using horses for racing, competition, and recreation
- The spending by non-owners on horse activities, such as riding lessons, trail riding, and going to the races

The first three items formed the core inputs into the direct impacts of Maryland horse ownership. First, a “balanced start” survey representative of the demographic composition of the U.S. population was undertaken to derive statistically valid inferences on horse ownership, participation in horse activities, and spending by spectators at horse-related events. Secondly, a survey of horse owners was distributed through equine associations and the American Horse Council asking respondents about expenses related to horse ownership and horse-related activities.

These two surveys—conducted on the Survey Monkey platform—are referred to as Balanced Start Survey and AHC Association Survey, respectively, in this report. The result of the surveys, along with analysis of recent breed registration trends, was an estimate of the horse population for two groups of owners: Association Members and Non-Members. The AHC survey was weighted by the results of the Balanced Start survey and adjusted in line with foal registration trends, resulting in an estimate of 92,749 horses in Maryland as shown in the adjacent table.

Nationally, Quarter Horses dominate the Competition, Recreation, and Traditional Work (such as farming and ranching) sectors, while Thoroughbreds dominate the racing sector.

Not accounted for by the household surveys are horses owned by rescues and sanctuaries, EAS operations, and academic programs. Moreover, horses owned by Amish households are not considered to have been captured in the household surveys, and an estimate for ownership was derived by third-party studies and Amish and Mennonite population estimates.

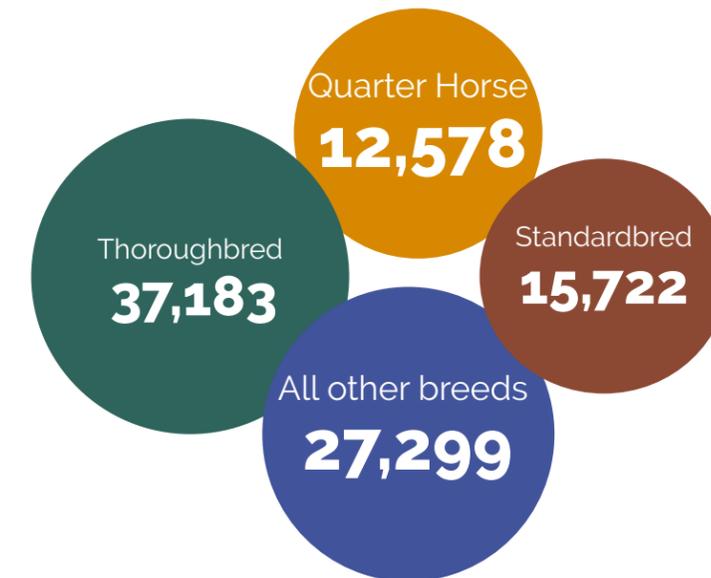
**The total Maryland horse population in 2022 is estimated to be over 94,000.<sup>(1)</sup>**

1. It should be noted this is not a census, but rather a population estimate for the purpose of estimating the economic impact of the industry. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), an agency under USDA, conducts quinquennial equine censuses, with data released 2 years later. The NASS census only counts the U.S. equine population on agricultural operations (working farms) and is not intended to represent the total equine population. The definition of working farms excludes boarding, training, and riding facilities, as well as any other operation that fails to generate a minimum of \$1,000 in sales of equine products, defined as “breeding fees, stud fees, semen or other.”

MD Horse Population Estimates 2022: Household Surveys						
Horses Owned by:	Racing	Competition	Recreation	Traditional Working Horse	Other	Total
Association Members	21,190	8,800	19,476	150	6,016	55,632
Non-Members	2,369	5,557	23,573	2,984	2,635	37,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,559</b>	<b>14,357</b>	<b>43,049</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>8,651</b>	<b>92,749</b>

Source: The Innovation Group

### MD Horse Population Estimate by Breed: Household Surveys:



Total MD Horse Population Estimate, Including Institution Owned	
Horse Ownership Household Surveys	92,749
Institutionally Owned and Amish Owned Horses	1,499
<b>Total Utilized for Economic Impacts</b>	<b>94,248</b>

Source: The Innovation Group

National Breed Registration Trends 2001-2022												
	2001	2006	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2022/16	% Change over 2001
Quarter Horse (US)	125,293	137,045	75,225	63,497	60,893	57,753	57,245	67,653	61,623	74,728	17.7%	-40%
Thoroughbred (US)	34,721	34,905	22,655	21,119	20,671	19,760	19,106	18,454	17,850**	17,300**	-18.1%	-50%
Paint*	56,869	39,357	15,630	10,964	10,225	10,149	9,145	9,706	9,881	9,934	-9.4%	-83%
Standardbred (US)	11,261	12,452	8,059	7,210	6,885	6,970	6,860	8,332	8,628	8,631	19.7%	-23%
Tennessee Walking*	15,245	13,366	4,206	2,462	2,375	2,501	2,461	3,145	3,098	2,918	18.5%	-81%
Arabian*	9,266	7,033	3,936	3,001	3,153	2,917	2,631	2,459	2,189	2,149	-28.4%	-77%
Appaloosa*	9,322	6,749	3,487	2,188	2,193	1,949	1,931	1,825	2,144	2,208	0.9%	-76%
Saddlebred*	3,055	2,859	1,859	1,316	1,561	1,374	1,396	1,232	1,286	1,249	-5.1%	-59%
Morgan Horse*	3,475	3,461	1,481	1,334	1,436	1,797	1,739	1,866	2,110	2,616	96.1%	-25%
Pinto*	4,709	4,262	1,911	1,629	1,597	1,614	1,586	1,567	1,806	1,884	15.7%	-60%
Anglo & Half Arabian*	3,944	3,309	1,162	911	915	763	842	859	731	786	-13.7%	-80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>277,160</b>	<b>264,798</b>	<b>139,611</b>	<b>115,631</b>	<b>111,904</b>	<b>107,547</b>	<b>104,942</b>	<b>117,098</b>	<b>111,346</b>	<b>124,403</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>-55%</b>

Source: Individual Breed Registries. Notes: \*Compiled by Debbie Fuentes at the Arabian Horse Association. \*\*Jockey Club Estimate.

The Great Recession affected the horse industry, with foal registrations reaching a low of 104 thousand in 2019 after averaging 280 thousand in the first half of the 2000s. However, registration trends have improved. Since the previous national AHC study was conducted, which was based on 2016 data, **breed registrations have increased by 7.6%**, as shown in the following table, driven largely by a jump in Quarter Horses, as well as Standardbreds and Morgans. However, compared to 2001, registrations are down by 55%.

Based on historical registration data from the American Quarter Horse Association and the Jockey Club, using consistent 25-year periods, the population of Quarter Horses has declined by 5.7% since 2016 and the Thoroughbred population by 11.1%. For example, from 1992-1997 (the first six years of the 25-year period through 2016), Thoroughbred registrations averaged 32,873 per year, compared to 18,857 during 2017-2022.

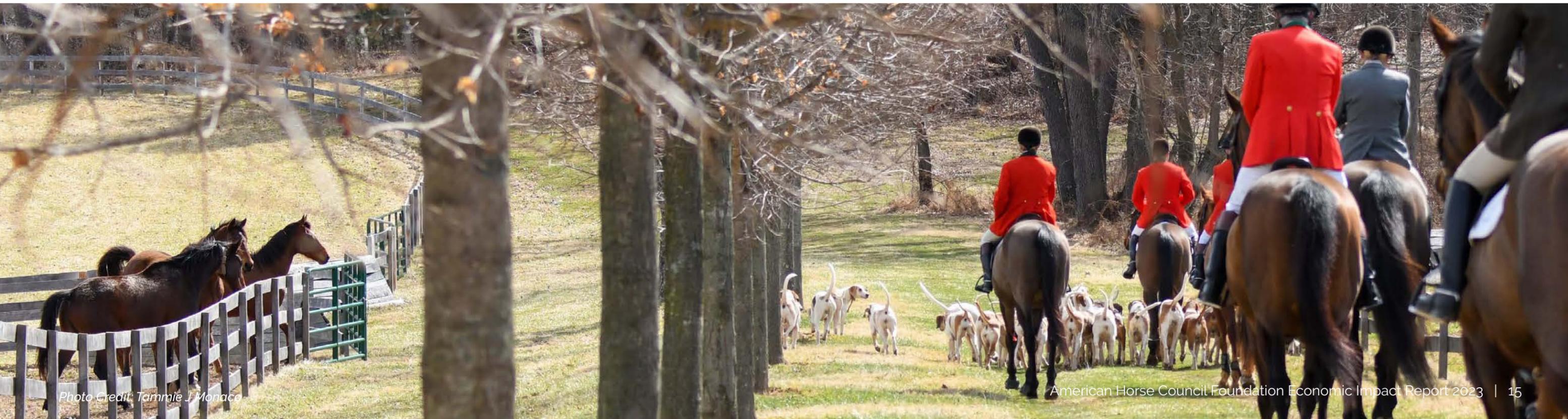
## Spending Estimates

Of the 21,341 responses in the AHC horse owner survey, 10,535 provided detailed data for operating expenses and capital investments. To derive detailed per horse information from the dataset, we calculated sector-specific per-horse expenditures. Using ordinary least squares regression, we estimated a model of total expenditures as a function of each household's count of horses in each of the five sectors. The association survey results showed statistically significant differences in per-horse expenses among the sectors and between association members and non-members. These different average expenses were applied to the horse counts by sector to form the main core of direct effects. These expenses were input into the appropriate economic sector as discussed in the appendix below.

Expenses and Investments 2022 per Horse: Owners with Association Membership						
	Racing TB	Racing Other	Competition	Recreation	Traditional Working Horse	Other
Operating Expenses	\$27,626	\$19,113	\$19,081	\$10,040	\$6,101	\$7,887
Event Travel	\$912	\$1,166	\$1,915	\$265	\$1,229	\$334
Capital Investments	\$11,918	\$3,894	\$11,109	\$8,805	\$5,609	\$3,565
<b>Total per Horse</b>	<b>\$40,456</b>	<b>\$24,173</b>	<b>\$32,105</b>	<b>\$19,110</b>	<b>\$12,939</b>	<b>\$11,786</b>

Expenses and Investments 2022 per Horse: Owners without Association Membership					
	Racing	Competition	Recreation	Working Horse	Other
Operating Expenses	\$2,633	\$3,143	\$1,654	\$2,334	\$5,314
Event Travel	\$161	\$316	\$44	\$470	\$225
Capital Investments	\$536	\$1,830	\$1,451	\$2,146	\$2,402
<b>Total per Horse</b>	<b>\$3,330</b>	<b>\$5,289</b>	<b>\$3,148</b>	<b>\$4,950</b>	<b>\$7,940</b>

Additionally, the non-owner participants and spectators estimated from the national Balanced Start survey are estimated to have spent **\$723 million in Maryland** on travel, dining and lodging while participating in and attending events.



## INDUSTRY SEGMENTS

The operation of major industry segments also contributes to the economy, including racetracks, competition events, rescues and sanctuaries, equine-assisted services (EAS), equine associations, public horse sales, and equine academic programs. Data for these segments were collected through a combination of public reporting (such as state racing commission reports, horse auctions, and IRS forms 990) and customized surveys distributed through equine associations and the American Horse Council. Tourism spending is based on the Balanced Start survey as discussed in the Horse Enthusiasts Today section previously. Major equine events in Maryland include the Capital Challenge, the Washington International Horse Show, the Maryland 5 Star, and the Preakness. The Washington International Horse Show venue runs horse events all year round.

These direct effects were input into the appropriate economic sector as discussed later in the Other Equine Activity section later in the report and in the appendix. For most segments only one data point was available for input.

### MARYLAND INDUSTRY CHANGE DIRECT INPUTS BY SEGMENT

	Revenues (MMs)	Employment	Salaries (MMs)
Competition Organizers	-	-	\$3.1
Racetrack Operators	\$140.7	766	\$29.0
Steeplechase	\$2.2	-	-
Racing Commissions	-	-	\$0.4
EAS	-	-	\$4.2
Academics	-	10	-
Associations	-	-	\$4.2
Rescues & Sanctuaries	-	-	\$0.94
Public Horse Sales	\$50.8	-	-
Tourism Travel	\$271.1	-	-
Tourism Dining	\$208.3	-	-
Tourism Lodging	\$243.6	-	-

## IMPACT DETAILS

### Total Horse Industry

The direct effects identified above were used as inputs in the 2022 IMPLAN modeling software to generate the indirect, induced and total effects of the horse industry on the US economy in 2022. The results of each component detail the impact on employment, labor income, value-added and output.

**Employment** is measured in IMPLAN and by the U.S. Census as headcount, in other words the number of full and part-time workers supported by an economic activity.

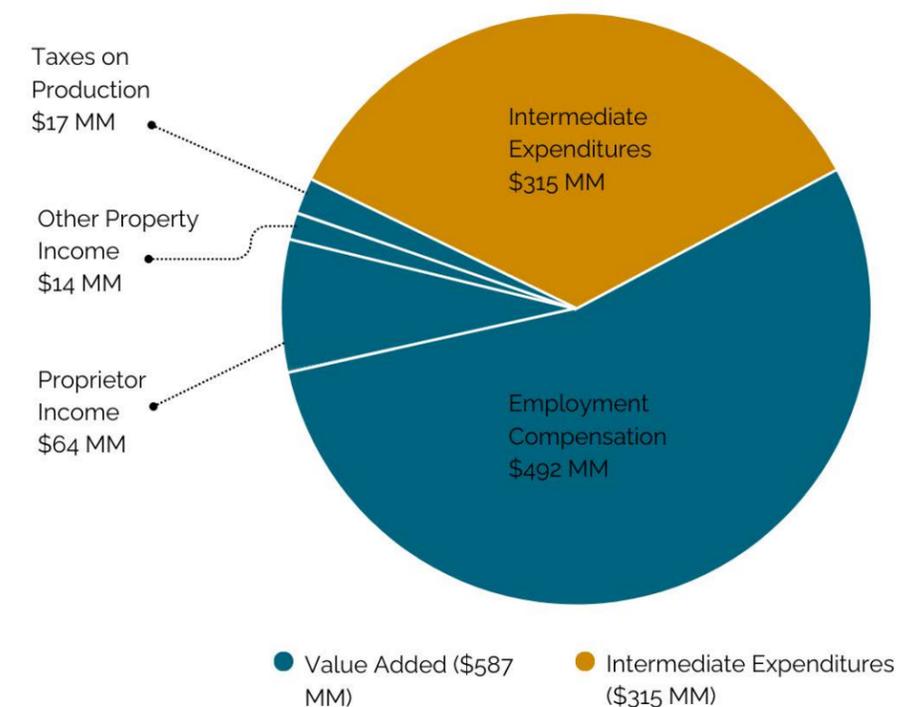
**Labor Income** is compensation to all workers both employees and owners in terms of wages and salaries as well as benefits and payroll taxes. Profits from self-employed businesses can also be included in this category as compensation to the owner. These are known as employment compensation and proprietor income in IMPLAN.

**Value-Added** measures the industry or event's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It consists of labor income (as described above), taxes on production, and other property income (such as corporate profits, rent payments, and royalties). It is the difference between a business or industry's total sales and the cost of all input materials or intermediate expenditures.

**Output** is the total value of industry production; it consists of value-added plus intermediate expenditures. Output is frequently the total price paid by consumers for a good or service.

The following chart shows the distribution of direct effects for the Horse Ownership results; output represents the entire pie.

### Maryland Horse Ownership Total Direct Results



Value-Added is the most appropriate measure of economic impact because it excludes intermediate inputs, which are the goods and services (including energy, raw materials, semi-finished goods, and services purchased from all sources) used in the production process to produce other goods or services rather than for final consumption. For example, the paper stock used in a magazine publication is an intermediate input whereas paper stock sold in an office-supply store is the final product sold to the consumer. The value of producing the magazine's paper stock is accounted for in measures of GDP within the Paper Manufacturing sector, not in the Publishing sector.

As detailed in the following table, the horse industry supports nearly **22,000 direct jobs** and adds **\$1.05 million in direct value** to the state economy. These direct impacts drive a further **\$713 million in added value** to the economy and nearly **6,600 jobs from indirect and induced effects**.

#### Maryland Total Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)

	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	21,841	6,593	28,434
Labor Income	\$841	\$407	\$1,248
Value Added	\$1,055	\$713	\$1,768
Output	\$1,689	\$1,216	\$2,905

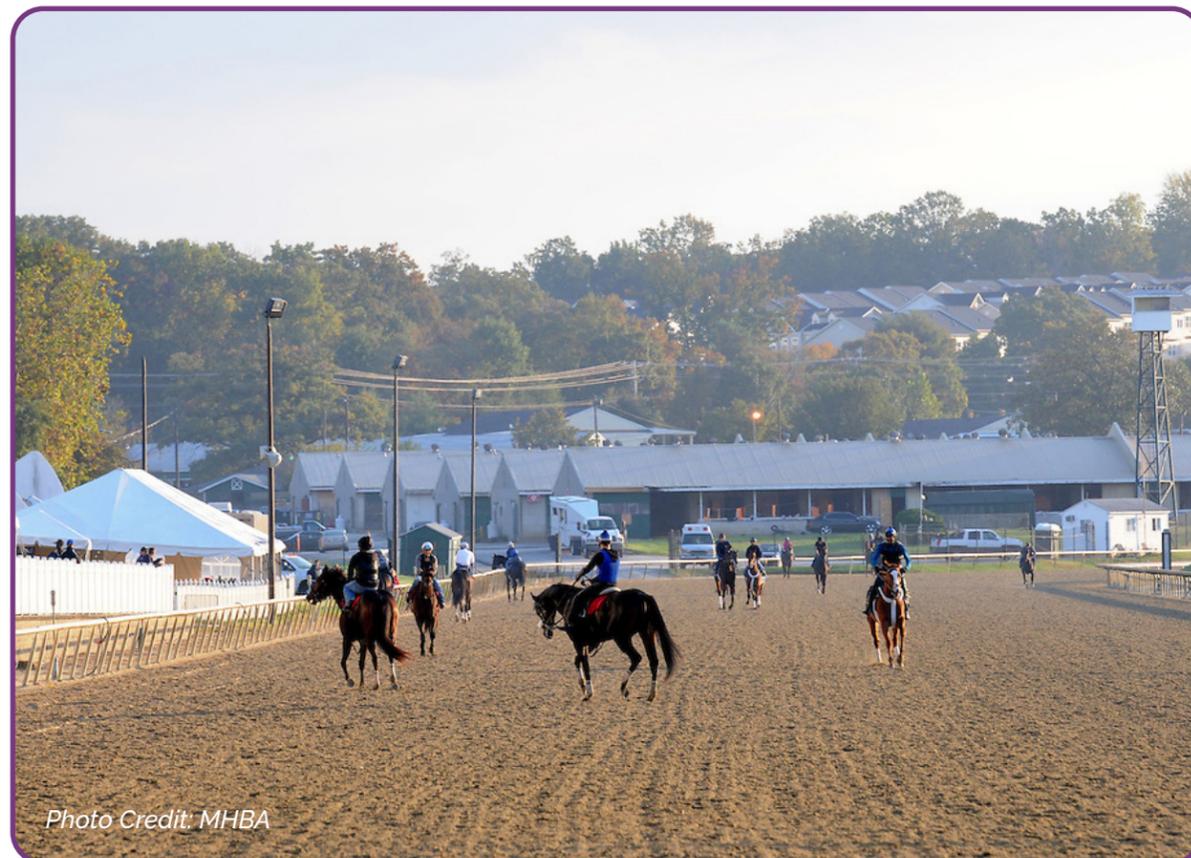


Photo Credit: MHBA

The following tables detail results by segment and IMPLAN component, as well as by breed:

#### MD Employment Impacts (# of Jobs)

Segment	Direct	Indirect & Induced	Total
Horse Ownership	15,841	3,447	19,288
Institutions and Profit-Making Operations	1,325	965	2,291
Tourism Spending by Participants and Spectators	4,675	2,181	6,856
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,841</b>	<b>6,593</b>	<b>28,434</b>

#### MD Labor Income (MMs)

Segment	Direct	Indirect & Induced	Total
Horse Ownership	\$557	\$219	\$776
Institutions and Profit-Making Operations	\$56	\$44	\$100
Tourism Spending by Participants and Spectators	\$229	\$143	\$372
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$841</b>	<b>\$407</b>	<b>\$1,248</b>

#### MD Value Added (GDP) Impacts (MMs)

Segment	Direct	Indirect & Induced	Total
Horse Ownership	\$588	\$387	\$975
Institutions and Profit-Making Operations	\$124	\$85	\$210
Tourism Spending by Participants and Spectators	\$343	\$241	\$584
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,055</b>	<b>\$713</b>	<b>\$1,768</b>

#### MD Total Output (MMs)

Segment	Direct	Indirect & Induced	Total
Horse Ownership	\$903	\$663	\$1,567
Institutions and Profit-Making Operations	\$214	\$142	\$356
Tourism Spending by Participants and Spectators	\$572	\$410	\$982
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,689</b>	<b>\$1,216</b>	<b>\$2,905</b>

MD Employment Direct Effect (# of Jobs)							
	Competition	Racing	Recreation	Working Horse	Other	Non assignable	Total
Quarter Horse	1,079	35	1,128	47	255		2,543
Thoroughbred	297	5,937	261	9	49		6,554
Standardbred	19	2,862	92	0	84		3,057
All Others	1,705	8	2,064	130	537		4,444
Non-assignable	200	17				5,027	5,243
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>8,859</b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>21,841</b>

MD Employment Total Effect (# of Jobs)							
	Competition	Racing	Recreation	Working Horse	Other	Non assignable	Total
Quarter Horse	1,343	43	1,451	57	312		3,207
Thoroughbred	370	7,336	336	11	60		8,113
Standardbred	23	3,536	118	0	103		3,781
All Others	2,122	10	2,655	160	658		5,606
Non-assignable	295	26				7,407	7,728
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>10,951</b>	<b>4,560</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>7,407</b>	<b>28,434</b>

MD Value Added Direct Effect (MMs)							
	Competition	Racing	Recreation	Working Horse	Other	Non assignable	Total
Quarter Horse	\$42.6	\$1.3	\$50.9	\$1.7	\$9.4		\$105.9
Thoroughbred	\$11.7	\$227.9	\$11.8	\$0.3	\$1.8		\$253.6
Standardbred	\$0.7	\$109.9	\$4.1	\$0.003	\$3.1		\$117.8
All Others	\$67.3	\$0.3	\$93.1	\$4.7	\$19.8		\$185.3
Non-assignable	\$6.3	\$1.9				\$384.6	\$392.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$128.7</b>	<b>\$341.3</b>	<b>\$159.8</b>	<b>\$6.8</b>	<b>\$34.1</b>	<b>\$384.6</b>	<b>\$1,055.3</b>



MD Value Added Total Effect (MMs)							
	Competition	Racing	Recreation	Working Horse	Other	Non assignable	Total
Quarter Horse	\$72.4	\$2.2	\$87.1	\$2.9	\$15.8		\$180.4
Thoroughbred	\$19.9	\$371.8	\$20.2	\$0.6	\$3.0		\$415.5
Standardbred	\$1.3	\$179.2	\$7.1	\$0.004	\$5.2		\$192.8
All Others	\$114.4	\$0.5	\$159.4	\$8.1	\$33.4		\$315.7
Non-assignable	\$13.6	\$2.9				\$646.9	\$663.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$221.6</b>	<b>\$556.7</b>	<b>\$273.8</b>	<b>\$11.6</b>	<b>\$57.5</b>	<b>\$646.9</b>	<b>\$1,767.9</b>

MD Output Direct Effect (MMs)							
	Competition	Racing	Recreation	Working Horse	Other	Non assignable	Total
Quarter Horse	\$68.0	\$2.0	\$84.7	\$2.8	\$14.8		\$172.3
Thoroughbred	\$18.7	\$346.7	\$19.6	\$0.6	\$2.9		\$388.4
Standardbred	\$1.2	\$167.1	\$6.9	\$0.004	\$4.9		\$180.1
All Others	\$107.4	\$0.5	\$155.0	\$7.8	\$31.2		\$301.9
Non-assignable	\$14.6	\$2.7				\$629.2	\$1,689.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$209.9</b>	<b>\$519.1</b>	<b>\$266.2</b>	<b>\$11.1</b>	<b>\$53.8</b>	<b>\$629.2</b>	<b>\$1,689.3</b>

MD Output Total Effect (MMs)							
	Competition	Racing	Recreation	Working Horse	Other	Non assignable	Total
Quarter Horse	\$119.5	\$3.5	\$146.7	\$4.8	\$25.8		\$300.3
Thoroughbred	\$32.9	\$591.0	\$34.0	\$1.0	\$5.0		\$663.7
Standardbred	\$2.1	\$284.9	\$11.9	\$0.01	\$8.5		\$307.4
All Others	\$188.8	\$0.8	\$268.5	\$13.5	\$54.4		\$525.9
Non-assignable	\$27.7	\$4.4				\$1,075.3	\$1,107.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$370.9</b>	<b>\$884.6</b>	<b>\$461.1</b>	<b>\$19.3</b>	<b>\$93.6</b>	<b>\$1,075.3</b>	<b>\$2,904.8</b>

MD Quarter Horse Impact Summary (\$MMs)				
	# of Jobs	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct	2,543	\$98	\$106	\$172
Indirect and Induced	664	\$42	\$75	\$128
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,207</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$300</b>

MD Thoroughbred Impact Summary (\$MMs)				
	# of Jobs	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct	6,554	\$216	\$254	\$388
Indirect and Induced	1,559	\$88	\$162	\$275
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,113</b>	<b>\$304</b>	<b>\$416</b>	<b>\$664</b>

MD Standardbred Impact Summary (\$MMs)				
	# of Jobs	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct	3,057	\$100	\$118	\$180
Indirect and Induced	724	\$41	\$75	\$127
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,781</b>	<b>\$141</b>	<b>\$193</b>	<b>\$307</b>



Photo Credit: Patrick Michaels

## THE RECREATION SECTOR

### Background

In number of horses and participants, recreation is the largest sector of the horse industry. With more than 2.9 million horses being used nationally, the economic impact of the recreational equine industry has several components.

As with competition and racing, recreational riding provides income for stables, farriers, veterinarians, trainers and other industry providers. Economic activity from recreational riding can be recognized through participant spending on riding lessons, trail guides, travel expenditures, riding equipment, and more. Lesson and instruction providers and their horses comprise a significant part of the recreation sector, as horseback riding remains a highly popular sport.

Organizations such as the American Riding Instructors Association (ARIA) have provided paths for certification in different equestrian disciplines, including Recreational Riding Instruction.

Trail riding is a main equine recreational activity that allows people to experience public lands and parks on horseback. There are associations across the country dedicated to preserving trails and public lands and often providing environmental conservation work through their members.

- Back Country Horsemen of America members volunteered over 340,000 hours maintaining trails on public lands.
- American Paint Horse Association (APHA) hosts a series of trail rides across the country and teaches members how to plan, map, and register their own horseback trail rides.
- American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) promotes the safe use of endurance horses and advocates for the protection and development of equestrian trails.

### Percentage of MD households in 2022 that participated in:

**Trail riding: 9.8%, or 230,763 households in Maryland.**

**The vast majority of trail riders—87%—utilize public lands.**

**Lessons: 6.0%, or 141,283 households in Maryland.**



### Economic Impact

The recreation sector supports more than **3,500 direct jobs** and adds **\$160 million in direct value** to the Maryland economy. These direct impacts drive a further **\$114 million in added value** to the economy and more than **1,000 jobs** from indirect and induced effects.

Maryland Recreation Sector Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)

	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	3,544	1,016	4,560
Labor Income	\$145	\$65	\$209
Value Added	\$160	\$114	\$274
Output	\$266	\$195	\$461



## THE COMPETITION SECTOR

### Background

Equine competition involves extensive economic activity. The wide variety of disciplines and tiers—from local competitions that take place each weekend throughout the country to high-level national and international competitions—allows for participation by owners and riders at all levels, from beginner to professional. Further, the tiered structure of sanctioned competitions creates incentives for owners and riders to expand their participation and work toward qualifying for higher level competitions.

Higher-level competitions require increasing expenditures. Competition horses require the services of experienced trainers, grooms, veterinarians, and farriers, as well as specialized feed, supplements, care, and conditioning. Moreover, specialized equipment is needed to maintain, train, transport, and travel with equine athletes and competitions require fees for entries, housing, and other services. Riders also require teaching and coaching, specialized equipment and clothing, and support from drivers, grooms and others while competing. Professional competitors also incur advertising costs from promoting their horse in a breed magazine or show program to highlight previous accomplishments for prospective judges.

### Major Sanctioning Bodies

The following eight organizations alone sanction nearly **7,000 U.S. events** annually, generating substantial economic impact and opportunities for show organizers, vendors, host facilities and stables, and surrounding businesses like hotels, restaurants and convenience stores.

- U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF): 11 breeds<sup>2</sup> and 18 broad competitive disciplines, including the three equestrian disciplines held at the Olympic Games.
- The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA): 22 additional disciplines such as barrel racing, cutting, and a variety of roping events.
- National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) involve the execution of precise movements related to cattle ranching, such as 360-degree spins done in place and hallmark sliding stops.
- United Professional Horsemen's Association (UPHA) also hosts competitions focusing predominantly on American Saddlebred, the Morgan Horse, the Hackney Pony and the National Show Horse.
- United States Eventing Association (USEA) involves what is best described as an equestrian triathlon: dressage, cross-country, and show jumping.
- The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) sanctions rodeos in 44 states.
- The Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) offers youth in grades 4-12 the opportunity to compete in three disciplines—hunt seat, western, and dressage—without the financial burden of owning a horse.
- The Arabian Horse Association offers competitions from grassroots schooling shows to national championships and distance rides.

### Competitions Licensed by Major National Organizations

	USEF	AQHA	NRHA	UPHA	USEA	Arabians	IEA
# of Events	2,124	1,927	975	200*	250*	771	103
# of Entries	340,881	853,749	73,000		42,000*	494,700**	21,328
# of Competitors	78,000	17,741	8,660	NA	NA	6,064	

\*Non-USEF events only; UPHA is also involved with USEF shows.

At Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) events, horses are furnished by host colleges, eliminating the expense of horse ownership. More than **400 colleges in 45 states participate**. Events include hunter and Western disciplines.

Other breed registries and equestrian associations have additional types of competitions unique to their breeds or interests, for example, rodeo and associated timed events, trail obstacle courses, mounted shooting competitions, team penning, equine driving, and team roping. There are also several state and regional associations that sponsor competitions, and an untold number of non-sanctioned events throughout the country.

Maryland has **36 sanctioned USEF horse trials** as well as **several international competitions** sanctioned by the International Equestrian Federation, including the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill, the Washington International 5\* Horse Show at PG equestrian, The Maryland International 4/3/2\* at Loch Moy Farm, and the Fair Hill International 3/2/1\* Horse Trials. The AQHA hosted 10 events in Maryland in 2022 with an average of 285 entries.

Other breed registries and equestrian associations have additional types of competitions unique to their breeds or interests, for example, rodeo and associated timed events, trail obstacle courses, mounted shooting competitions, team penning, equine driving, and team roping. There are also several state and regional associations that sponsor competitions, and an untold number of non-sanctioned events throughout the country.

Maryland has several polo teams competing in US Polo, and three polocrosse teams that regularly send competitors to the Polocrosse World Cup. Maryland also has a championship jousting circuit.

2. Andalusian/Lusitano, Arabian, Connemara, Friesian, Hackney, Morgan, National Show Horse, Paso Fino, American Saddlebred, Shetland, and Welsh Pony/Cob.

### Economic Impact

The competition sector supports **3,300 direct jobs** and adds **\$129 million in direct value** to the Maryland economy. These direct impacts drive a further **\$93 million in added value** to the economy and more than **850 jobs from indirect and induced effects**.

#### Maryland Competition Sector Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)

	Direct	Indirect and In-duced	Total
Employment	3,300	854	4,154
Labor Income	\$119	\$53	\$172
Value Added	\$129	\$93	\$222
Output	\$210	\$161	\$371

Not included in the economic impact is volunteer labor, which the Maryland competition scene is heavily and in some disciplines almost entirely dependent upon.



Photo Credit: Katherine Rizzo



## THE RACING SECTOR

### Background

Racehorses require substantial expenditures on breeding, maintenance and training. Training fees for racehorses are substantial and usually comprise a day-rate plus a percentage of prize money won. Additional fees while a horse is in training include the costs of insurance, veterinarians, farriers and jockey fees. Jockeys are independent contractors who earn a fixed mount fee plus a percentage of the prize money won. There are transportation fees between racetracks and farms and boarding fees when the horse is not in training. Horses competing at the top level in stakes races also have additional entry fees. Racehorses also require specialized feed and supplies.

The horseracing sector also involves large indirect expenditures to specialized service providers. Totalizator companies provide wagering technology, machines and infrastructure. Broadcasting and television companies provide satellite services, broadcasting infrastructure, photo finish and timing equipment. Other vendors provide food and beverage concessions, track maintenance (turf and rail), and security technologies.

Besides commercial racetracks, racing occurs at state and county fairs and steeplechase events. Fair racing occurs primarily in the eastern US, including in Maryland at the Frederick Fairgrounds and at the Great Pocomoke Fair where there were four race days and 20 races at fairs in 2022. Steeplechase events occur primarily in Atlantic coast states and are typically organized by non-profit associations or charitable trusts. The National Steeplechase Association reports that four locations in Maryland hosted a total of four race days in 2022 including at the Fair Hill Steeplechase.

The major racing breeds are Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse and Standardbred (harness racing). Arabians and Appaloosas also participate in a small number of races typically at

### The Maryland racing numbers for 2022:

**Number of commercial racetracks: 5 tracks—3 Thoroughbred and 2 harness tracks. Also 1 track hosting Arabian races.**

**Number of race days: 276 live race days.**

**Purses: of \$82 million.**

**Handle: \$632 million.**

Thoroughbred or Quarter Horse tracks. Standardbred or harness racing is predominantly limited to the Northeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic states, while Quarter Horse racing is predominantly a Great Plains and Western sport.

The prospect of purse earnings underlies the value of racehorses and allows for the specialized care, training and breeding they receive. Traditionally, the size of purses was determined by the level of wagering on races. Today, purses benefit from casino-style gaming at many racetracks, including Maryland.

**Maryland is a significant horse racing hub of the United States** and hosts the Preakness Stakes, the second race of the Triple Crown. There are three commercial Thoroughbred tracks: Laurel Park, Timonium, and Pimlico Race Course, home of the Preakness. Pimlico also hosts an occasional Arabian race. There are two commercial harness tracks: Ocean Downs and Rosecroft Raceway.

### Economic Impact

The racing sector supports nearly **8,900 direct jobs** and adds **\$341 million in direct value** to the Maryland economy. These direct impacts drive a further **\$215 million in added value** to the economy and nearly **2,100 jobs from indirect and induced effects**.

MD Racing Sector Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)			
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	8,859	2,092	10,951
Labor Income	\$288	\$171	\$459
Value Added	\$341	\$215	\$557
Output	\$519	\$366	\$885

The Innovation Group also performed an economic study of harness racing on behalf of the United States Trotting Association (USTA). The following table summarizes the results for Maryland. Harness racing supports nearly **2,950 direct jobs** and adds **\$107 million in direct value** to the Maryland economy. These direct impacts drive a further **\$70 million in added value** to the economy and nearly **700 jobs from indirect and induced effects**.

MD Harness Racing Sector Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)			
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	2,948	668	3,616
Labor Income	\$98	\$39	\$136
Value Added	\$107	\$70	\$177
Output	\$160	\$119	\$278

Source: IMPLAN Group, LLC, IMPLAN System (data and software); The Innovation Group.



Photo Credit: MHBA



Photo Credit: Jeff Gagliano

## OTHER EQUINE ACTIVITY

### Traditional Working Horses

Traditional working horses remain an important part of the industry and account for approximately 8% of the US horse population. Quarter Horses and UPHA breeds make up the vast majority of working horses. The Maryland Draft Horse and Mule Association promotes interest in Draft Horse breeds and governs draft horse competitions.

The working horse sector supports nearly **186 direct jobs** and adds **\$7 million in direct value** to the Maryland economy. These direct impacts drive a further **\$5 million in added value** to the economy and **43 jobs from indirect and induced effects**.

#### MD Traditional Working Horse Sector Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)

	Direct	Indirect and In-duced	Total
Employment	186	43	229
Labor Income	\$7	\$3	\$9
Value Added	\$7	\$5	\$12
Output	\$11	\$8	\$19

## Equine-Assisted Services (EAS)

Equine-Assisted Services (EAS)<sup>3</sup> provides opportunities for individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional special needs to have rewarding interaction with horses. There are many benefits for individuals who participate in EAS depending on their personal needs. Horses can learn and respond to their environment, making them more than just an animal, but rather a partner to assist in overcoming challenges.

Organizations involved in EAS include:

- The American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) provides educational resources and continuing education courses for occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language pathology professionals who incorporate equines, equine movement and the equine environment in treatment.
- Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) is an international association for professionals providing equine assisted psychotherapy and personal development.
- Federation of Horses in Education and Therapy International (HETI) facilitates the worldwide collaboration between organizations and individuals whose EAS objectives are philanthropic, scientific and educational.
- Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) is a research organization that also provides educational and instructional materials.
- The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) promotes safety and optimal outcomes in EAS. In addition to certifying professionals and accrediting facilities, the organization helps to set rules and guidelines, provide resources, and advocate for EAS programs. PATH helps ensure safe practices are maintained for both clients and horses alike.

PATH Intl. is a large organization and as of 2020 had certified over 5,424 instructors in 813 certified facilities. In turn these instructors and an extensive volunteer core served 53,400 children and adults in 2020, including 5,900 veterans<sup>4</sup>.

Maryland stables are required to be licensed; **67 of Maryland's 793 licensed stables report offering EAS** as one part of their operation. Total employment compensation nationally for service-related employees at 813 certified operations and approximately 780 non-certified facilities is estimated at \$185.7 million. The portion attributable to Maryland based on horse population estimates is **\$4.2 million in employment compensation**. Additionally, expenses for **332 horses owned or leased** by EAS operations were estimated using the Association Other expense category.

3. Previously called Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapy (EAAT)

4. 2020 PATH Intl. Factsheet.

## MD EAS Economic Impact Summary

	Direct	Indirect and In-duced	Total
Employment	187	76	263
Labor Income	\$11,411,426	\$4,762,357	\$16,173,783
Value Added	\$19,221,033	\$8,475,064	\$27,696,097
Output	\$22,745,374	\$14,093,672	\$36,839,046



### Rescues and Sanctuaries

There are an estimated 1,100 organizations involved in animal welfare in the United States that include horses. Equine Rescues are shelters where horses go for safekeeping, potentially rehabilitated, and eventually put up for adoption to a new home. An Equine Sanctuary is a place where equines go to live out the remainder of their lives. The AHC has estimated that on average over the last 5 years, 80% of horses leaving shelters are adopted, meaning approximately 25,000 horses are adopted from shelters each year.

Financial data from IRS tax form 990 was available for over 700 organizations, including income, expenses, employment and employee compensation, and horse capacity. Our analysis of that data resulted in an estimate of 27,202 horses being sheltered nationally in 2022, resulting in horse-related operating expenses of \$92 million and capital expenses of \$78 million in addition to employment compensation of \$65.8 million. The portion attributable to Maryland's **29 animal welfare organizations** that are represented in the list of 1,100 non-profit organizations includes horse-related operating **expenses of \$1.6 million** and **employment compensation of \$945 thousand**. Not included are all licensed Maryland stables that report offering rescue or sanctuary services as one part of their operation; boarding expenses are included in the horse ownership surveys. There are **58 licensed Maryland stables** that report offering rescue or sanctuary services.

#### MD Rescues and Sanctuaries Economic Impact Summary

	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	45	7	52
Labor Income	\$1,365,844	\$435,079	\$1,800,922
Value Added	\$1,280,156	\$777,949	\$2,058,106
Output	\$1,861,739	\$1,304,168	\$3,165,907



## Equine Associations

The American Horse Council directory lists approximately 260 equine-related associations active in the U.S., including State Horse Councils, breed registries, non-academic educational organizations, activity-based associations, libraries and museums. These non-profit organizations submit detailed financial information to the IRS on tax form 990, some of which are publicly available documents. In total, we collected employment and salary data from 105 organizations. After removing extreme outliers from the dataset, averages were used to estimate the unknown population. In Maryland there are approximately 200 organizations such as pony clubs, 4-H clubs, and various breed and sector associations. Not included in the economic impact calculations are for-profit enterprises (which are accounted for elsewhere in the analysis) or small associations without employees or public reporting. The major associations include the National Steeplechase Foundation, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, the Maryland Horse Council, and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. The direct effect input from **12 equine-related associations** in Maryland includes **57 employees** earning **\$4.2 million in compensation**.

MD Equine Associations Economic Impact Summary			
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	57	51	108
Labor Income	\$4,218,893	\$3,430,155	\$7,649,048
Value Added	\$11,174,955	\$5,340,040	\$16,514,995
Output	\$15,839,464	\$9,055,669	\$24,895,134

## Equine Academic Institutions

There are 179 colleges and universities in the United States and **3 in Maryland** that are recognized as having equine-related programs and degrees. These programs vary in size and scope depending on their location and level of education. Students can obtain various degrees and/or certificates depending on their interests. Most commonly, equine related degrees stem from the schools of business, animal sciences, or agricultural sciences. After receiving valid responses from 66 institutions, we were able to estimate a total of 1,253 employees nationally and **10 in Maryland within the Equine Academic Industry**. Additionally, expenses for **55 horses owned or leased** by academic programs in Maryland were estimated using the Association Other category.

MD Equine Academics Economic Impact Summary			
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	13	4	18
Labor Income	\$750,965	\$271,150	\$1,022,115
Value Added	\$931,272	\$485,512	\$1,416,784
Output	\$1,235,109	\$836,628	\$2,071,737

Results are combined academic program operations and horse care. MM = millions

## Public Horse Sales

Sales data was collected through archival records of major horse public sales throughout the U.S. (including Maryland) from sale company's websites or online databases such as Blood Horse and Harness Racing. In addition to the major companies and sales, such as Fasig-Tipton, Keeneland and Harrisburg, we collected data from smaller state and local sales throughout the country. In total, **949 horses sold** in Maryland during 2022 resulted in annual sales of **\$51 million**. Not included are private sales or livestock auctions that occur in nearly every state. Equine data for public livestock auctions is not consistently available.

For this segment, only the marginal effect is considered. The sales margin as estimated by IMPLAN under sector 395 (Wholesale trade) reflects the staffing and expenses required to host the sales events and the commissions accruing to the hosting enterprises.

MD Public Horse Sales Economic Impact Summary			
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	41	55	96
Labor Income	\$4,082,289	\$3,707,317	\$7,789,606
Value Added	\$8,345,595	\$5,992,692	\$14,338,288
Output	\$14,070,963	\$10,062,326	\$24,133,289



Photo Credit: MHBA

## OTHER INDUSTRY ACTIVITY

### Land Preservation

The Horse industry plays a significant role in preserving agricultural land. We estimate that the reported acreage in the AHC association survey represents approximately 12.5 million acres nationally of land owned or leased for horse-related uses, or approximately one acre for every two horses nationally.

Of the Maryland horse-owning respondents in the AHC association survey, approximately **62% reported owning or leasing a farm**, barn, or stable. In Maryland, the land owned or leased for horse-related uses is estimated at **220,000 acres**, or approximately 2.3 horses per acre.

### Volunteerism

Horse owning respondents to the AHC survey reported a high incidence of volunteerism. Approximately 13.1% of households in the AHC association survey reported using volunteers as part of their horse care, management, or activities. On average, these households reported using 10 volunteers in the past year. This implies nearly **38,000 volunteers** in Maryland. Competition organizers in Maryland report using **900 volunteers in 2022** (only from those Maryland organizers who reported, not scaled up).



## APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

A note on comparing the results in this 2022 report with our 2016 results: there is natural variation in estimates using a sample, and one should expect a different outcome given different people responding to the survey. With that said, the Innovation Group employed the same methodology in this study as in our analysis for 2016, with the following exceptions:

- In the Racing sector, expenses for Thoroughbreds were calculated separate from other racing breeds.
- For EAS and academic programs, horse-related expenses were added to reflect the impacts from taking care of the horses utilized in these segments.

Per-horse expenses were generally consistent with our estimates for 2016 except for Recreation. We believe this to be a result of variation in recreation respondents, not an actual increase in expenses since the other sectors tend to be consistent with inflation. The value of the dollar rose by 18% between 2016 and 2022 (\$1 dollar in 2022 is 82 cents in 2016 real value). We also note that the new Recreation estimates are generally consistent with the other sectors—although lower than Racing and Competition, which would be expected.

One other major difference in results compared to the 2016 results involves lower estimates for land preservation. We believe this to be a result of variation in recreation respondents, not an actual decrease in land attributable to horse ownership. We believe the results in this report are more credible relative to the entire acreage of the state.

Employment related to the horse owner survey is an output from IMPLAN resulting from horse-related expenses input into the sectors as discussed below. We are not certain why Direct employment has increased despite a reduction in horse population, but it could be a re-categorization from Indirect and Induced employment, which has declined in some case, combined with larger estimates for per-horse expenses in the Recreation sector.

### Economic Impact Modeling

Economic impact analyses are commonly used tools to quantify the benefits that result from the opening or closure of a business or industry to an area. The Innovation Group performed the horse industry analysis utilizing IMPLAN data and software. The economic impact of an industry consists of three layers of impacts:

1. Direct effects
2. Indirect effects
3. Induced effects

The direct effect is the economic activity that occurs within the industry itself: for example, the people employed on horse farms and at racetracks and the spending by horse owners on feed and veterinarians and farriers. For the horse industry, direct effects are defined as employees of or direct expenditures by front-line industry entities or customers of front-line entities. Direct expenditures include operating expenses and average annual capital expenditures.

Indirect impacts are the effects of the direct expenditures on other business sectors: for example, the farmer who grows the alfalfa and grain as well as the mill that processes the grain. Indirect effects reflect the economic spin-off that is made possible by the direct

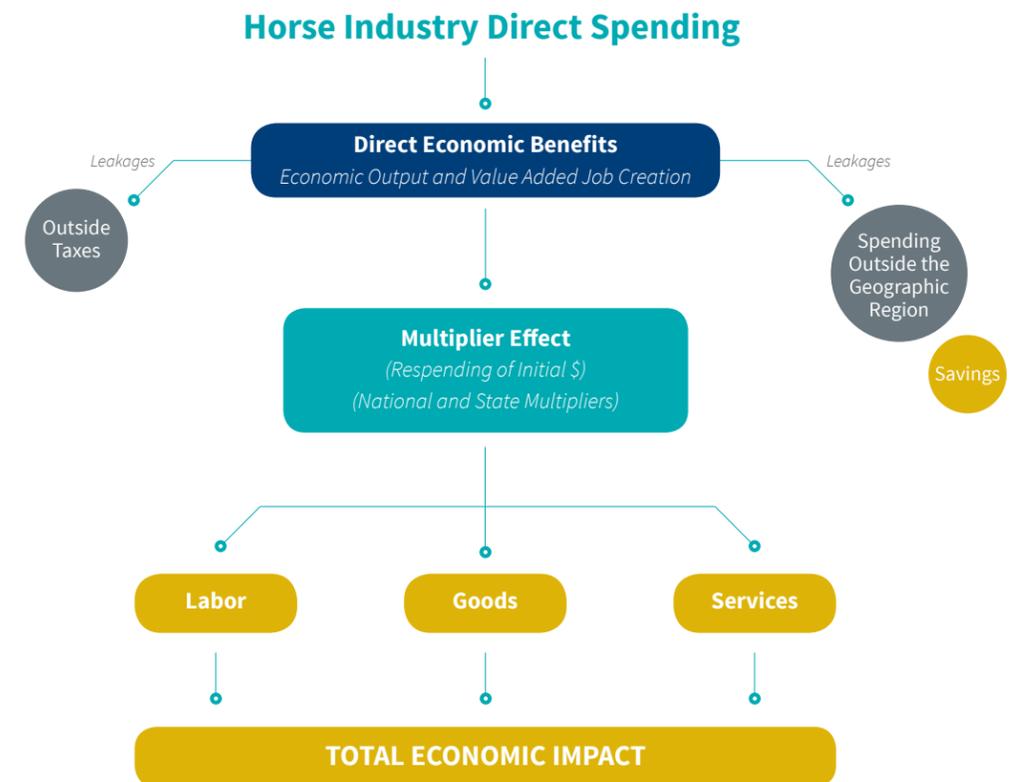
purchases of the facility. Firms providing goods and services to equine operations have incomes partially attributable to the horse industry.

Examples of suppliers include Equine Divisions at corporations like Purina Animal Nutrition (175 employees), Zoetis Animal Health (41 employees), and W.F. Young (40 employees), which supplies supplements and OTC topical horse care products for fly control, grooming, hoof care, first aid, muscle & joint, and leather care, and companies like Equine Network Publishing (142 employees).

Finally, the induced impacts result from the spending of labor income: for example, racetrack employees or feed mill employees using their income to purchase consumer goods locally. As household incomes are affected by direct employment and spending, this money is recirculated through the household spending patterns causing further local economic activity.

Indirect and induced effects are calculated using multipliers derived from an input-output<sup>6</sup> model of the economy. The IMPLAN input-output model identifies the relationships between various industries—for example, which industries are involved in producing \$1,000 worth of feed and by how much is each industry affected? The model is then used to estimate the effects of expenditures by one industry on other industries so that the total impact can be determined. Industry multipliers are developed based on U.S. Census data. IMPLAN accounts closely follow the accounting conventions used in the "Input-Output Study of the U.S. Economy" by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The following flow-chart shows how the economic impact model operates.



6. IMPLAN software and data were utilized for this study.

Determining the direct economic impact is a critical first step in conducting a valid economic impact analysis. The horse industry is unique because of its multiple segments and the dispersed nature of industry participants and activities. The racing industry alone involves a complex web of participants and activity, with scattered registries that do not capture all participants.

The IMPLAN tools utilized to model the direct effects varied according to the type of data collected for each input segment. There are five types of economic activity changes that IMPLAN is designed to model for: industry, commodity, labor income, household income, and institution (government) spending. The most commonly used activity is an industry change, as the business generating a change in revenue, labor, or employment is often known and attributable to a specific industry sector.

The commodity change function was most appropriate for modeling the horse ownership expense data and tourism spending by horse participants and spectators. Goods and services can be produced by more than one industry, and the survey instruments did not specify where or from whom the good was purchased. A commodity change distributes the total demand or sales for the good or service across all producing industries or institutions based on their regional market share distribution of that commodity, distribution of that commodity. For example, 97% of the entire U.S. supply of grain is produced by the Grain Farming Sector while the other 3% is produced by the Federal Government.

All horse ownership expenses other than employment compensation were entered into the IMPLAN commodity sector that corresponds to the most appropriate NAICS code<sup>7</sup> for each individual expense line item. Employment compensation was modeled as an industry change through IMPLAN sector 19 (Support activities for agriculture and forestry). The following table shows the expense line items collected in the ownership survey as classified in the IMPLAN sector scheme:

<sup>7</sup> The IMPLAN sectoring scheme is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), developed under the auspices of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which classifies business establishments based on the activities they are primarily engaged in or the commodities they create.



### Direct Effects, IMPLAN Categories

IMPLAN Code	Commodity Sector Description	Direct Effect Input (Expense & Capital Investments)
3002	Grains	Feed & Bedding
3010	All other crops	Hay
3019	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	Boarding, Training, Stud Fees, Blacksmith/Farrier, Other Medical & Wellness Services, All Other Horse-Related Goods & Services
3047	Electricity transmission and distribution	Facilities Maintenance
3049	Water, sewage and other systems	Facilities Maintenance
3055	Newly constructed commercial structures, including farm structures	Farm/ Barn Structures
3056	Newly constructed nonresidential structures	Farm Land/ Land Improvements
3060	Maintenance and repair construction of nonresidential structures	Facilities Maintenance
3064	Other animal food	Feed & Bedding, Supplements & Medications
3172	Pharmaceuticals	Supplements & Medications
3260	Farm machinery and equipment	Farm Equipment
3395	Wholesale services - Machinery, equipment, and supplies	Other capital expense
3402	Retail services- Motor vehicle and parts dealers	Horse Trailers
3408	Retail services- Gasoline stores	Owner Travel
3410	Retail services- Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book stores	Tack & Grooming Supplies, Rider Gear, All Other Horse-Related Goods/Services
3414	Air transportation services	Owner Travel
3417	Truck transportation services	Horse Transportation & Lodging
3445	Insurance carriers	Horse & Other Insurance
3447	Other real estate services	Farm Land/ Land Improvements
3457	Advertising, public relations, and related services	Advertising
3467	Veterinary services	Veterinary Services
3473	Business support services	All Other Business Expenses
3482	Other educational services	Lesson/Instruction
3489	Commercial Sports Except Racing	Boarding, Training, Stud Fees, Blacksmith/Farrier, Other Medical & Wellness Services, All Other Horse-Related Goods & Services
3500	Promotional services for performing arts and sports and public figures	Entry & Stall Fees
3493	Museums, historical sites, zoos, and parks	Permits
3504	Other amusement and recreation services	Guides/Outfitters
3507	Hotels and motel services, including casino hotels	Owner Lodging
3508	Other accommodations services	Horse Transportation & Lodging
3509	Full-service restaurants services	Dining

This tool was also used to model expenses for horses owned by Sanctuary & Rescue operations, EAS operations, Academic programs, and Amish households.

For other data, the Industry Change function under IMPLAN is the more appropriate tool. For racetrack operations, for example, estimates of racetrack revenue are entered into IMPLAN under sector 498 (Racing and Track Operation), and IMPLAN calculates the spin-off effects resulting from that direct revenue. For public horse sales, only the marginal effect is considered. The sales margin as estimated by IMPLAN under sector 395 (Wholesale trade) reflects the staffing and expenses required to host the sales events and the commissions accruing to the hosting enterprises.

For some of our data segments, only employment or employment compensation data was available. In these cases, the IMPLAN software estimated other aspects of an operation based on how many people are employed in a given business sector using its employment multiplier.

The following table shows the sectors and inputs utilized for Industry Change activities:

Industry Change Direct Inputs by Segment	
Horse Industry Segment	IMPLAN Sector
Competition Organizers	500 Promoters of sports and agents for public figures
Racetrack Operators	498 Racing and Track Operation
ADW/OTBs	498 Racing and Track Operation
Fair Races	498 Racing and Track Operation
Steeplechase	523 Business and professional associations
Racing Commissions	541 Employment and payroll of state govt, non-education
EAS	485 Offices of other health practitioners
Academics	481 Junior colleges, colleges, universities, and professional schools
Associations	522 Grantmaking, giving, and social advocacy organizations
Rescues & Sanctuaries	19 Support activities for agriculture and forestry
Public Horse Sales	395 Wholesale trade
Tourism Travel	408 Retail - Gasoline stores & 414 Air transportation
Tourism Dining	509 Full-service restaurants
Tourism Lodging	507 Hotels and motels, including casino hotels

## Horse Owner Survey Methodology

A balanced-start methodology starts with a sample representative of the demographic breakdown of the overall U.S. population and records the demographics of everyone who responded to the screener question to understand the demographic profile of the people in the target population. Balancing the sample on those people who start the survey rather than those who complete it effectively allows use of the population of people who completed the screener to identify a true incidence and profile.

The difference between a balanced-start methodology and the more commonly used method of balancing on completed interviews can be illustrated as follows. Imagine we are conducting a survey on a skincare item:

- Using a balanced-start methodology, we would send 50% male and 50% females into the study.
- The screener question may reveal that 20% of males use the product, and 80% of females use it. Therefore, the gender profile of completed interviews will be 20% male and 80% female.
- Compare this with a balanced-completes methodology where we may require 50% of the completes from males, 50% from females, or where we might “guess” people’s usage and ask for 60% of the completed interviews from females and 40% from males.

The balanced-start survey was designed to determine incidence rates for horse ownership, participation in horse activities, and spectating at horse events. Using SurveyMonkey’s targeting platform, we received 2,691 responses yielding 837 observations that had at least one spectator, participant, or owner in the household. These three categories combined represent what could be termed “horse enthusiasts.”

The AHC Association Survey yielded 21,341 started responses of which 10,086 were completed. A completion is defined as someone who answered all required questions and clicked “Done” at the end of the survey. However, incomplete responses were utilized for questions that were answered. This survey was intended to characterize the population of association members and horse ownership in greater detail. The sample frame consisted of the membership lists of the participating associations with notification of eligibility largely by email for an internet-based survey. The membership lists were not sampled, but rather the full membership was invited to respond to the survey.

The constituent associations were responsible for notifying their members of the survey and promoting response. We expected and observed different response rates due to the heterogeneous dissemination methods of the survey instrument amongst the numerous organizations. For this reason, and because email lists were not available to remove duplicates and identify simultaneous membership among multiple associations, we asked respondents to self-identify their membership in the relevant organizations as part of the survey. We used this data point in tandem with the associations’ membership tallies to correct for nonresponse among and between the various associations.

Of the completed surveys, 8,782 confirmed their membership in at least one equine association. While we could use the incomplete and non-member responses to inform our inquiries during analysis, without knowledge of the population that they described from

association membership tallies, we could not use them for the purposes of extrapolating to the population of equine association members. Further we would not be able to calculate appropriate nonresponse weights to produce estimates and make inferences with these observations.

Customized surveys were also distributed to competition organizers and other industry suppliers, equine-assisted services operations (EAS), and equine academic programs. The AHC survey distributed to event organizers yielded responses representing 2,551 events, which were scaled up to the known and estimated universe of events totaling 7,920, resulting in a salary and compensation estimate of \$68.4 million dollars. The EAS survey included usable observations from 146 or nearly 10% of U.S. operations reporting \$19.5 million in employee compensation, 769 employees, and 1,524 horses. Total employment compensation at 813 certified operations and approximately 780 non-certified facilities is estimated at \$185.7 million, supporting a workforce of 7,355 service-related employees. We received valid responses from 66 of 179 academic institutions, resulting in an estimate of 1,253 total employees (not including horse care).



Photo Credit: Destini Benson

## THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Economic Impact Study was commissioned by the American Horse Council Foundation with major support from:

- American Quarter Horse Association
- The Jockey Club
- National Thoroughbred Racing Association
- US Trotting Association
- United States Equestrian Federation
- National Reining Horse Association
- Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/ KY Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders
- US Polo Association
- National Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association
- Thoroughbred Owners Breeders Association
- USA Equestrian Trust
- American Paint Horse Association
- US Hunter Jumper Association
- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- Pinto Horse Association
- NA Equine Ranching Information Council
- Thoroughbred Racing Association
- Certified Horsemanship Association
- Back Country Horsemen of America
- PATH International
- Equine Land Conservation Resource

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MARYLAND  
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**RMC**  
Rural Maryland Council

# **Sunday Hunting Gonzales Survey - June 2018.pdf**

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June 2018  
updated  
February 2019

# Gonzales Maryland Survey



Gonzales Research  
& Media Services

Gonzales Poll

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## Background and Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales graduated magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore with a degree in political science.

His career began in the mid 1980s as an analyst with Mason-Dixon Opinion Research. Mr. Gonzales helped develop, craft and implement election surveys and exit polls for Baltimore's WMAR-TV Channel 2.

Patrick Gonzales has polled and analyzed well over a thousand elections in Maryland and across the country since that time. His polling in the 2014 Maryland gubernatorial election foreshadowed Larry Hogan's victory on Election Day.

During an interview at WBAL 1090 AM radio in Baltimore, Maryland on October 27, 2016, Mr. Gonzales was one of the very few pollsters in the nation to state publicly that Donald Trump would win the 2016 presidential election.

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services*** from June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A total of 800 registered voters in Maryland, who indicated that they are likely to vote in the November 2018 general election, were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landline and cell phone numbers. A cross-section of interviews was conducted throughout the state, reflecting general election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), per accepted statistical standards, is a range of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. If the entire population was surveyed, there is a 95% probability that the true numbers would fall within this range.

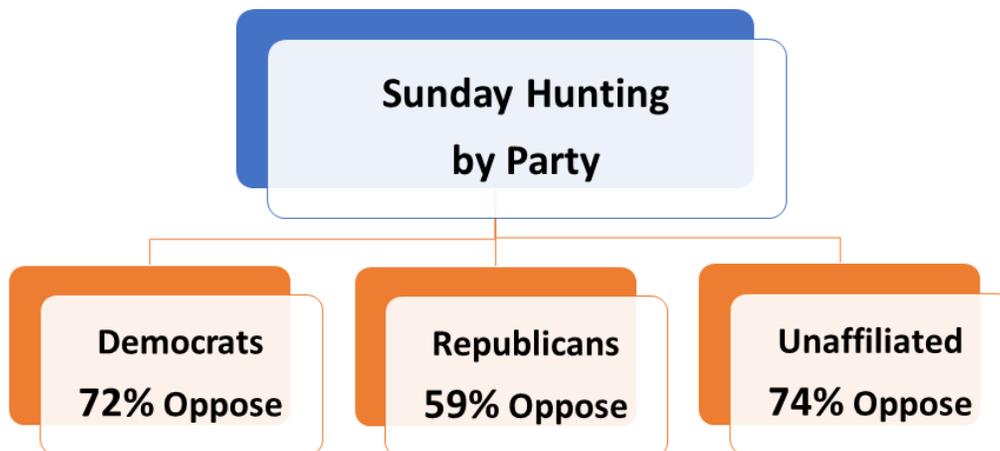
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## Results Overview

Among Maryland voters, 79% favor requiring hunters to pass a basic skill test to prove they can safely shoot a bullet or arrow before being given a hunting license in Maryland (59% “strongly favor” and 20% “somewhat favor”), while 13% oppose a basic skill test (5% “strongly oppose” and 8% “somewhat oppose”), and 8% offer no opinion. Strong support for a basic skill test spans all demographic groups.

All hunters in Maryland can currently hunt six days a week, from September through January. Some want to change the law to add Sunday hunting, while others say six days a week is enough. When we asked voters statewide, 22% favor legislation that would add Sunday hunting (14% “strongly favor” and 8% “somewhat favor”), while 69% oppose adding Sunday hunting (54% “strongly oppose” and 15% “somewhat oppose”), with 9% not responding.

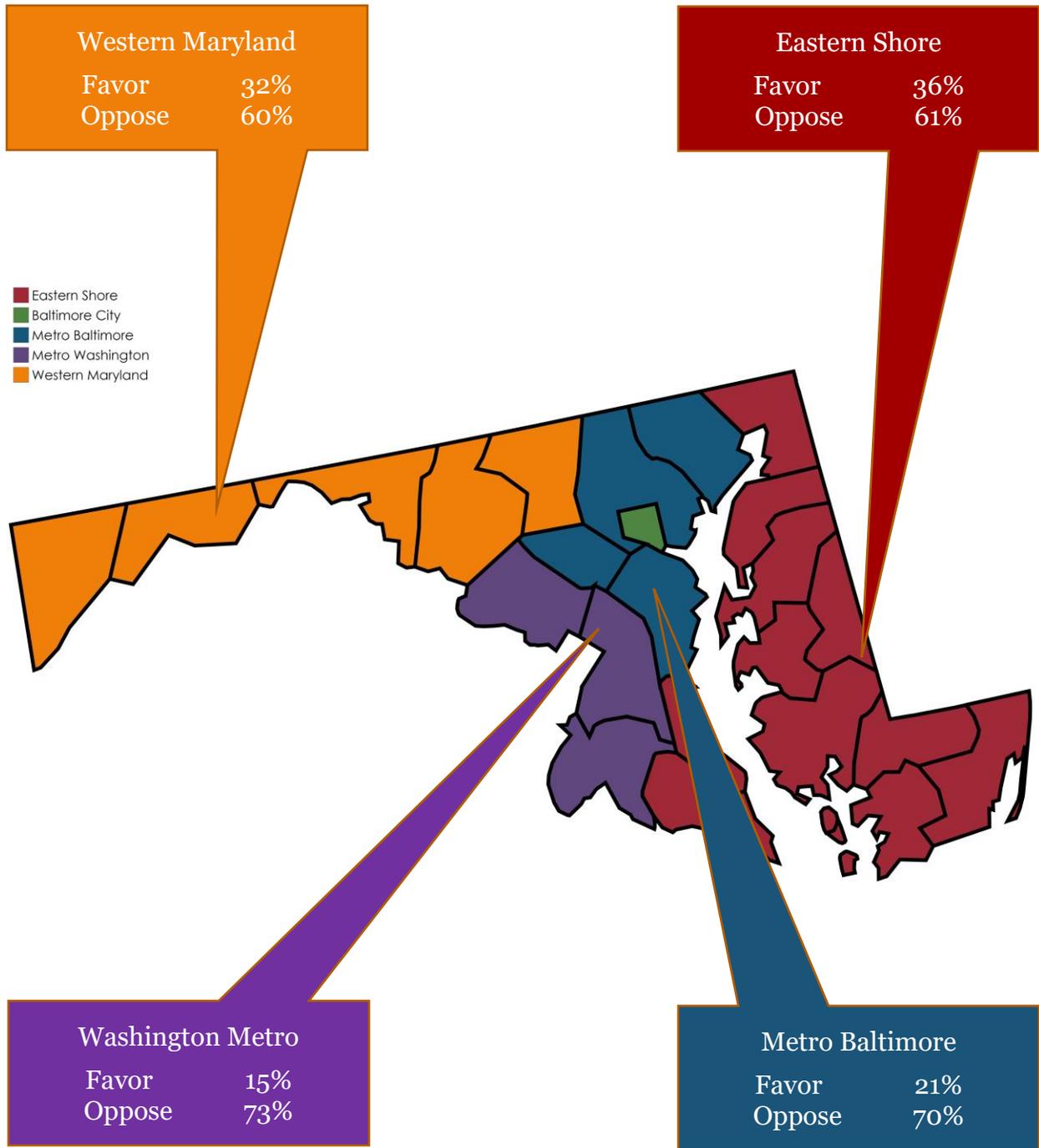
Men and women, young and old, Democrats, Republicans, and independents, all oppose vigorously adding Sunday hunting.



Eleven percent of Marylanders are aware that in counties where Sunday hunting was added, the Department of Natural Resources’ own data failed to prove the addition of Sunday Hunting significantly increased the total amount of deer killed, 72% are not aware of the DNR data, and 17% gave no response.

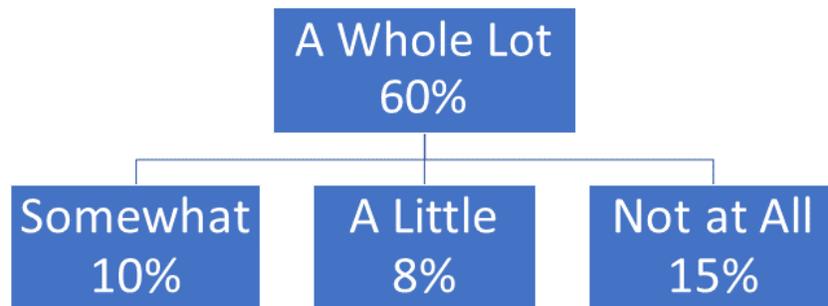
Maps

**Sunday Hunting**



Adding a seventh day of hunting would cause Marylanders across the state to alter their Sunday recreational plans considerably: 60% say Sunday hunting would make them change their plans to participate in recreational activities on that day “a whole lot,” 10% say it would change their plans “somewhat,” 8% “a little,” and 15% “not at all.”

## Sunday Hunting – Impact on Recreational Plans



Currently, most counties in Maryland have a one hundred and fifty yards safety zone, which prohibits hunting within one hundred and fifty yards of an occupied structure, such as your home.

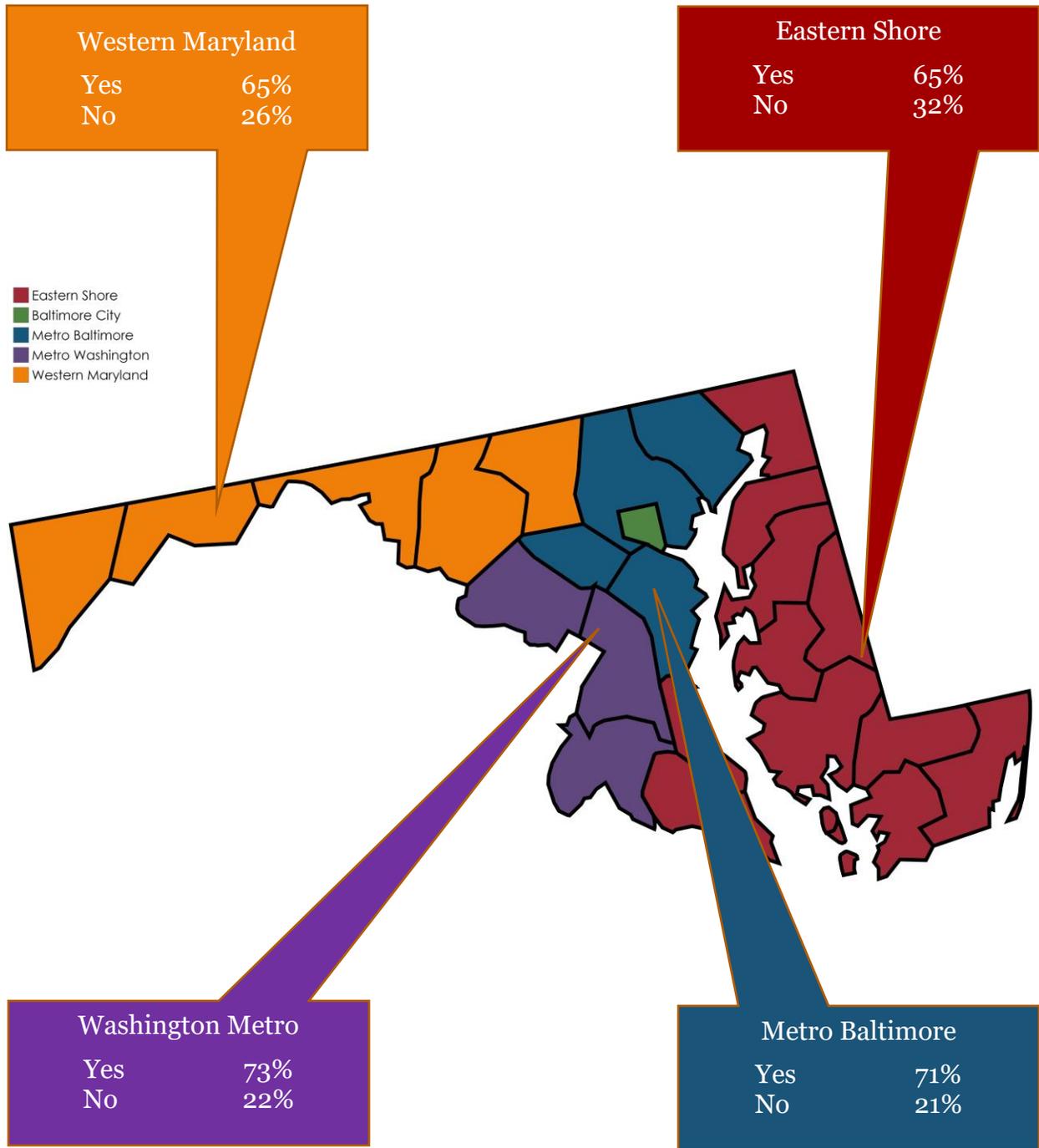
Twelve percent of voters favor legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure (6% “strongly favor” and 6% “somewhat favor”), while 84% oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance (74% “strongly oppose” and 10% “somewhat oppose”), with only 3% not sure.

Eighty-four percent of men and 85% of women oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to fifty yards of an occupied structure.

Eighty-five percent of Democrats, 83% of Republicans, and 85% of voters unaffiliated with either party oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to fifty yards of an occupied structure.

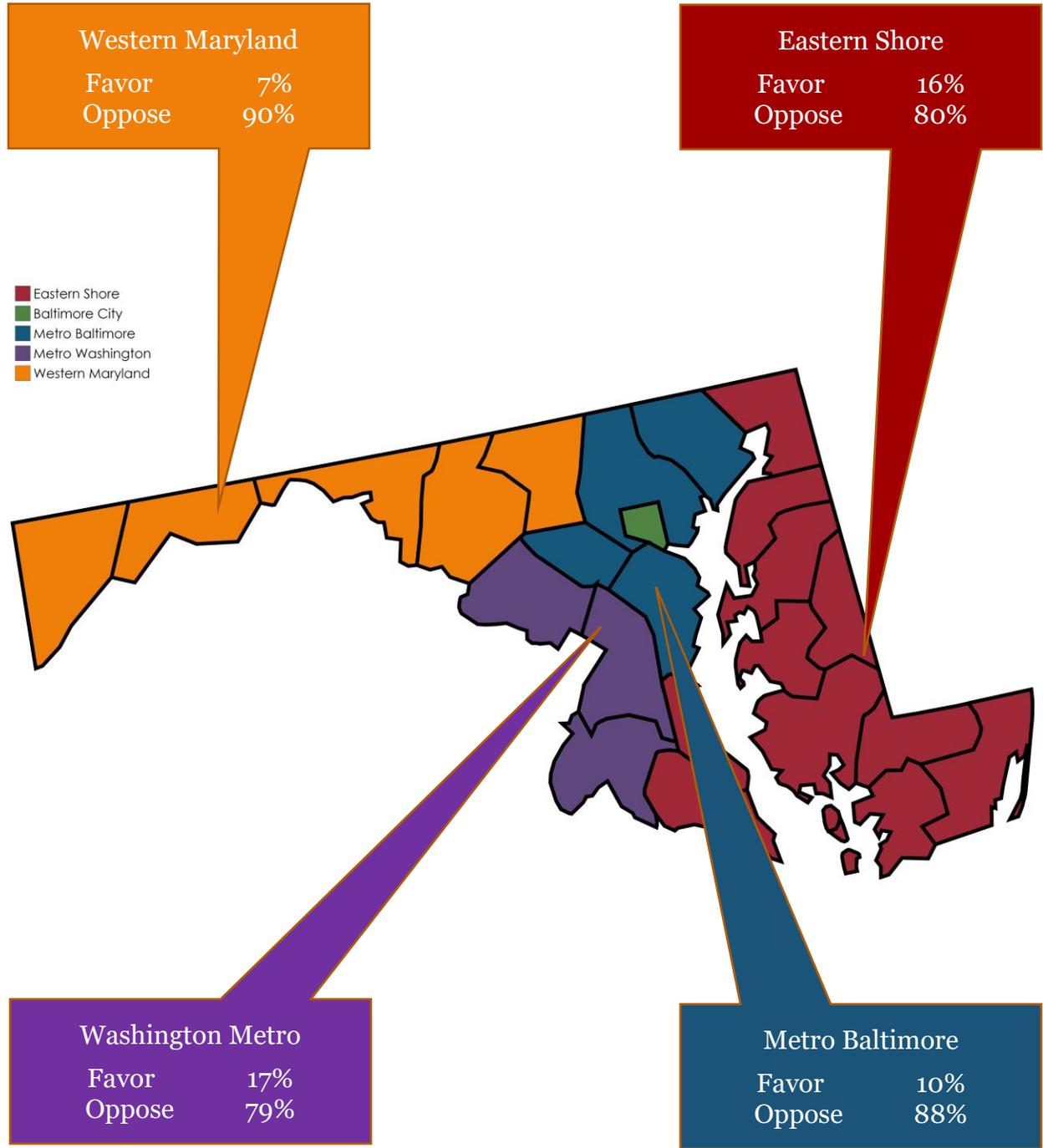
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**Sunday Hunting – Alter Recreational Plans**

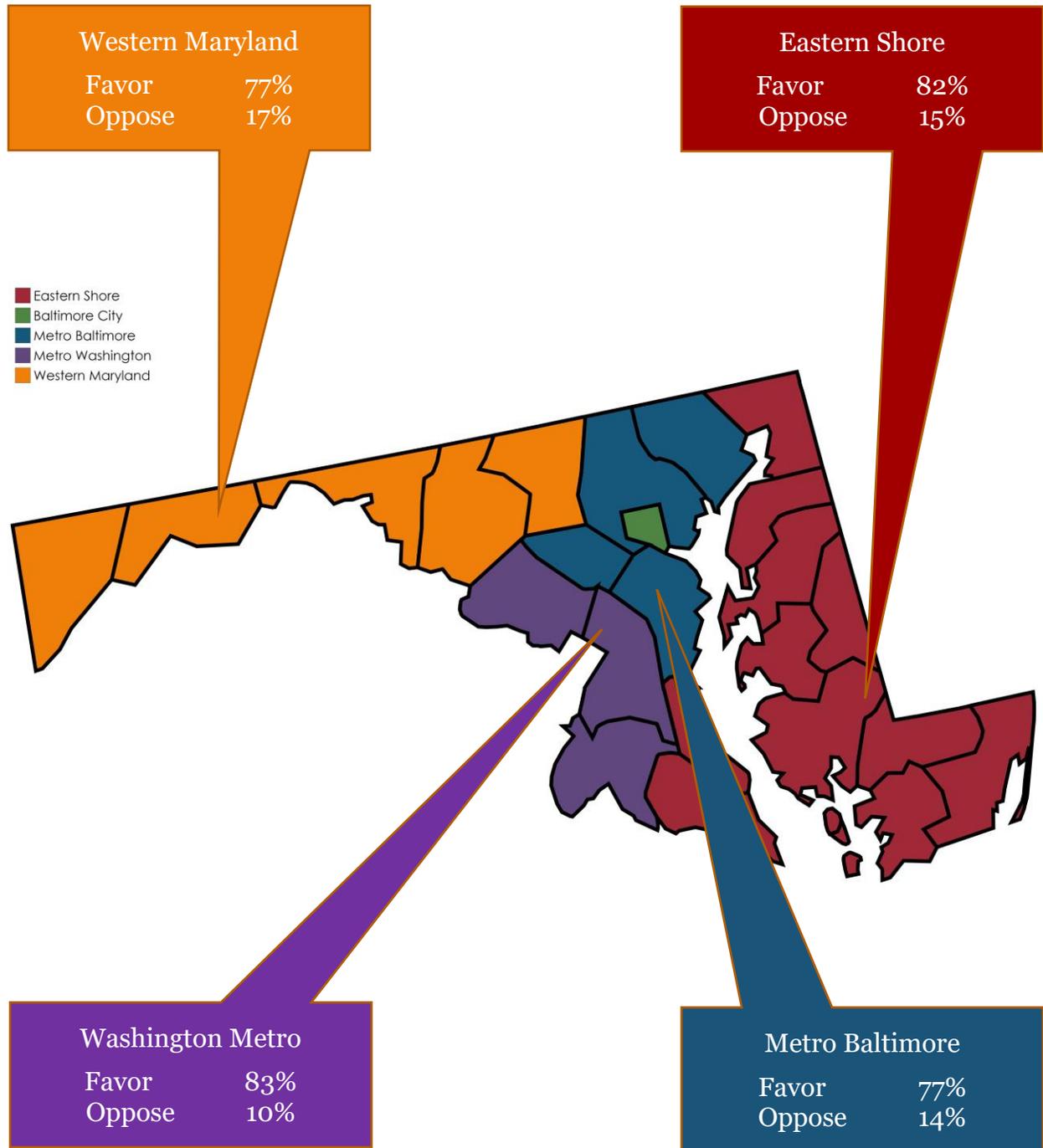


Maps

**Legislation to Reduce Safety Zone Distance**



**Requiring Basic Skill Test**



## Appendix A: Data Tables

**QUESTION #1 Test To Get Hunting License** *Do you favor or oppose requiring hunters to pass a basic skill test to prove they can safely shoot a bullet or arrow before being given a hunting license in Maryland?*

<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	635	79.4 %
Oppose	104	13.0 %
No answer	61	7.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose requiring hunters to pass a basic skill test to prove they can safely shoot a bullet or arrow before being given a hunting license in Maryland?***

<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Favor	471	58.9 %
Somewhat Favor	164	20.5 %
Somewhat Oppose	61	7.6 %
Strongly Oppose	43	5.4 %
No answer	61	7.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

	<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>				
	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>

PARTY

Democrat	264 58.8%	95 21.2%	24 5.3%	19 4.2%	47 10.5%
Republican	137 60.6%	48 21.2%	14 6.2%	18 8.0%	9 4.0%
Unaffiliated	70 56.0%	21 16.8%	23 18.4%	6 4.8%	5 4.0%

N=800

	<u>BASIC SKILL TEST</u>				
	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	213 57.0%	81 21.7%	30 8.0%	27 7.2%	23 6.1%
Female	258 60.6%	83 19.5%	31 7.3%	16 3.8%	38 8.9%

N=800

## BASIC SKILL TEST

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

RACE

White	316 59.3%	112 21.0%	41 7.7%	31 5.8%	33 6.2%
African-American	128 58.7%	42 19.3%	17 7.8%	10 4.6%	21 9.6%
Other	27 55.1%	10 20.4%	3 6.1%	2 4.1%	7 14.3%

N=800

## BASIC SKILL TEST

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

AGE GROUP

Millennial	102 62.6%	31 19.0%	14 8.6%	8 4.9%	8 4.9%
Xennial	65 53.3%	27 22.1%	11 9.0%	5 4.1%	14 11.5%
Gen X	88 56.1%	38 24.2%	9 5.7%	12 7.6%	10 6.4%
Gen Jones	104 59.8%	34 19.5%	12 6.9%	9 5.2%	15 8.6%
Boomer	112 60.9%	34 18.5%	15 8.2%	9 4.9%	14 7.6%

N=800

## BASIC SKILL TEST

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
--	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

REGION

Baltimore Metro	197 57.1%	68 19.7%	30 8.7%	19 5.5%	31 9.0%
Washington Metro	169 62.6%	54 20.0%	11 4.1%	15 5.6%	21 7.8%
Rural Maryland	105 56.8%	42 22.7%	20 10.8%	9 4.9%	9 4.9%

**QUESTION #2 Sunday Hunting – Favor/Oppose** *All hunters in Maryland can currently hunt 6 days a week, from September through January. Some want to change the law to add Sunday hunting STATEWIDE, while others say 6 days a week is enough and they just want one day without weapons in their neighborhoods and parks. Do you favor or oppose legislation that would add Sunday hunting, giving hunters 7 days a week?*

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Favor	175	21.9 %
Oppose	551	68.9 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?***

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	108	13.5 %
Somewhat Favor	67	8.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	123	15.4 %
Strongly Oppose	428	53.5 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

**PARTY**

Democrat	41 9.1%	38 8.5%	68 15.1%	257 57.2%	45 10.0%
Republican	58 25.7%	19 8.4%	27 11.9%	107 47.3%	15 6.6%
Unaffiliated	9 7.2%	10 8.0%	28 22.4%	64 51.2%	14 11.2%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

**GENDER**

Male	78 20.9%	30 8.0%	53 14.2%	184 49.2%	29 7.8%
Female	30 7.0%	37 8.7%	70 16.4%	244 57.3%	45 10.6%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>RACE</u>					
White	86 16.1%	47 8.8%	77 14.4%	277 52.0%	46 8.6%
African-American	17 7.8%	17 7.8%	37 17.0%	122 56.0%	25 11.5%
Other	5 10.2%	3 6.1%	9 18.4%	29 59.2%	3 6.1%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Millennial	20 12.3%	7 4.3%	29 17.8%	93 57.1%	14 8.6%
Xennial	11 9.0%	11 9.0%	22 18.0%	68 55.7%	10 8.2%
Gen X	23 14.6%	10 6.4%	24 15.3%	80 51.0%	20 12.7%
Gen Jones	37 21.3%	19 10.9%	25 14.4%	77 44.3%	16 9.2%
Boomer	17 9.2%	20 10.9%	23 12.5%	110 59.8%	14 7.6%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>REGION</u>					
Baltimore Metro	39 11.3%	32 9.3%	57 16.5%	186 53.9%	31 9.0%
Washington Metro	25 9.3%	16 5.9%	41 15.2%	155 57.4%	33 12.2%
Rural Maryland	44 23.8%	19 10.3%	25 13.5%	87 47.0%	10 5.4%

**QUESTION #3 Sunday Hunting - Awareness** *Are you aware, or not aware, that in counties where Sunday Hunting was added, the Department of Natural Resources' own data failed to prove the addition of Sunday Hunting significantly increased the total amount of deer killed?*

<u>DNR DATA</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Aware	87	10.9 %
Not Aware	580	72.5 %
No answer	133	16.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800	<u>DNR DATA</u>		
	<u>Aware</u>	<u>Not Aware</u>	<u>No answer</u>

PARTY

Democrat	41 9.1%	334 74.4%	74 16.5%
Republican	37 16.4%	153 67.7%	36 15.9%
Unaffiliated	9 7.2%	93 74.4%	23 18.4%

N=800	<u>DNR DATA</u>		
	<u>Aware</u>	<u>Not Aware</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	48 12.8%	262 70.1%	64 17.1%
Female	39 9.2%	318 74.6%	69 16.2%

N=800

	DNR DATA		
	Aware	Not Aware	No answer
<u>RACE</u>			
White	58 10.9%	382 71.7%	93 17.4%
African-American	25 11.5%	162 74.3%	31 14.2%
Other	4 8.2%	36 73.5%	9 18.4%

N=800

	DNR DATA		
	Aware	Not Aware	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>			
Millennial	17 10.4%	116 71.2%	30 18.4%
Xennial	12 9.8%	92 75.4%	18 14.8%
Gen X	18 11.5%	115 73.2%	24 15.3%
Gen Jones	24 13.8%	128 73.6%	22 12.6%
Boomer	16 8.7%	129 70.1%	39 21.2%

N=800

	DNR DATA		
	Aware	Not Aware	No answer
<u>REGION</u>			
Baltimore Metro	32 9.3%	258 74.8%	55 15.9%
Washington Metro	25 9.3%	204 75.6%	41 15.2%
Rural Maryland	30 16.2%	118 63.8%	37 20.0%

**QUESTION #4 Sunday Hunting – Alter Plans** *If you were aware that a hunter with a crossbow or firearm could be in an area where you want to participate in recreational activities on a Sunday, would this cause you to alter your plans: a whole lot, somewhat, a little, or not at all?*

<u>ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A Whole Lot	482	60.3 %
Somewhat	78	9.8 %
A Little	63	7.9 %
Not At All	122	15.3 %
No answer	55	6.9 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	<u>A Whole Lot</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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PARTY

Democrat	286 63.7%	38 8.5%	29 6.5%	65 14.5%	31 6.9%
Republican	124 54.9%	26 11.5%	23 10.2%	38 16.8%	15 6.6%
Unaffiliated	72 57.6%	14 11.2%	11 8.8%	19 15.2%	9 7.2%

N=800

ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	<u>A Whole Lot</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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GENDER

Male	211 56.4%	40 10.7%	37 9.9%	62 16.6%	24 6.4%
Female	271 63.6%	38 8.9%	26 6.1%	60 14.1%	31 7.3%

N=800

## ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	A Whole Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Not At All	No answer
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RACE

White	315 59.1%	51 9.6%	53 9.9%	79 14.8%	35 6.6%
African-American	135 61.9%	21 9.6%	9 4.1%	35 16.1%	18 8.3%
Other	32 65.3%	6 12.2%	1 2.0%	8 16.3%	2 4.1%

N=800

## ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	A Whole Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Not At All	No answer
--	-------------	----------	----------	------------	-----------

AGE GROUP

Millennial	99 60.7%	14 8.6%	14 8.6%	25 15.3%	11 6.7%
Xennial	72 59.0%	11 9.0%	8 6.6%	26 21.3%	5 4.1%
Gen X	103 65.6%	12 7.6%	12 7.6%	17 10.8%	13 8.3%
Gen Jones	96 55.2%	19 10.9%	17 9.8%	27 15.5%	15 8.6%
Boomer	112 60.9%	22 12.0%	12 6.5%	27 14.7%	11 6.0%

N=800

## ALTER RECREATIONAL PLANS

	A Whole Lot	Somewhat	A Little	Not At All	No answer
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REGION

Baltimore Metro	211 61.2%	32 9.3%	30 8.7%	43 12.5%	29 8.4%
Washington Metro	176 65.2%	21 7.8%	13 4.8%	46 17.0%	14 5.2%
Rural Maryland	95 51.4%	25 13.5%	20 10.8%	33 17.8%	12 6.5%

**QUESTION #5 Safety Zone Reduction** *Currently, most counties in Maryland have a 150 yard safety zone, which prohibits hunting within 150 yards of an occupied structure, such as your home. Now that archery crossbows can shoot an arrow almost 150 yards in just one second, do you favor or oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?*

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Favor	100	12.5 %
Oppose	673	84.1 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

***Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?***

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	49	6.1 %
Somewhat Favor	51	6.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	77	9.6 %
Strongly Oppose	596	74.5 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	28 6.2%	25 5.6%	43 9.6%	337 75.1%	16 3.6%
Republican	14 6.2%	18 8.0%	22 9.7%	165 73.0%	7 3.1%
Unaffiliated	7 5.6%	8 6.4%	12 9.6%	94 75.2%	4 3.2%

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	20 5.3%	27 7.2%	35 9.4%	279 74.6%	13 3.5%
Female	29 6.8%	24 5.6%	42 9.9%	317 74.4%	14 3.3%

N=800

	REDUCE SAFETY ZONE				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>RACE</u>					
White	27 5.1%	33 6.2%	47 8.8%	409 76.7%	17 3.2%
African-American	18 8.3%	17 7.8%	23 10.6%	152 69.7%	8 3.7%
Other	4 8.2%	1 2.0%	7 14.3%	35 71.4%	2 4.1%

N=800

	REDUCE SAFETY ZONE				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Millennial	6 3.7%	6 3.7%	15 9.2%	129 79.1%	7 4.3%
Xennial	7 5.7%	9 7.4%	7 5.7%	98 80.3%	1 0.8%
Gen X	11 7.0%	11 7.0%	13 8.3%	114 72.6%	8 5.1%
Gen Jones	14 8.0%	10 5.7%	18 10.3%	129 74.1%	3 1.7%
Boomer	11 6.0%	15 8.2%	24 13.0%	126 68.5%	8 4.3%

N=800

	REDUCE SAFETY ZONE				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>REGION</u>					
Baltimore Metro	12 3.5%	21 6.1%	33 9.6%	269 78.0%	10 2.9%
Washington Metro	28 10.4%	18 6.7%	23 8.5%	191 70.7%	10 3.7%
Rural Maryland	9 4.9%	12 6.5%	21 11.4%	136 73.5%	7 3.8%

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 Maryland General Election Poll Sample Demographics

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Democrat	449	56.1 %
Republican	226	28.3 %
Unaffiliated	125	15.6 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	374	46.8 %
Female	426	53.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Millennial (18 to 34 years old)	163	20.4 %
Xennial (35 to 44 years old)	122	15.3 %
Gen X (45 to 54 years old)	157	19.6 %
Gen Jones (55 to 64 years old)	174	21.8 %
Boomer (65 and older)	184	23.0 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	533	66.6 %
African-American	218	27.3 %
Other	49	6.1 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baltimore Metro	345	43.1 %
Washington Metro	270	33.8 %
Rural Maryland	185	23.1 %
Total	800	100.0 %

<u>RURAL MARYLAND</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Eastern Shore	89	48.1 %
Western Maryland	96	51.9 %
Total	185	100.0 %

**testimony - Sunday hunting Carroll.pages.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jane Seigler

Position: UNF



MARYLAND  
**HORSE**  
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 606 | Lisbon, Maryland 21797  
[www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)

*One Common Bond: The Horse*  
*One Common Voice: The Horse Council*

In the Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee, March 4, 2025  
Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 417  
Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - UNFAVORABLE

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The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 700,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own or love them.

- **A majority of Marylanders oppose Sunday hunting.** An independent statewide poll conducted by **Gonzales Research and Media Services in 2018 found that 68.9% of respondents oppose Sunday hunting, and over 53% strongly oppose.** A copy of that poll has been filed with this testimony. Even the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) own 2018 commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded.<sup>1</sup>
- **This bill would allow all day Sunday hunting on every Sunday of the year in Carroll County, because there is open season on at least one species throughout the year.**
- **This bill would infringe on the rights of the general public to enjoy outdoor recreation, the importance of which has been acknowledged by the establishment of the Office of Outdoor Recreation within DNR, and the passage of the Great Maryland Outdoors Act in 2022. 78% of the Gonzales poll respondents said they would alter their recreational plans to avoid hunters. In a Maryland Horse Council 2016 poll, 85% of respondents said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters.**
- **Since the advent of the pandemic, widespread use of outdoor recreation and natural resources by the general public has increased.** For example, attendance at Maryland State Parks in 2020 increased 45% over 2019, which was also a record year.<sup>2</sup> Demand has remained

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<sup>1</sup> [https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018\\_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2018_DeerPublicOpinionSurvey.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/02/04/lt-governor-boyd-k-rutherford-maryland-department-of-natural-resources-announce-45-percent-increase-in-maryland-state-parks-attendance-in-2020/>

strong. **Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, including the distinctions between private and public lands. Now is not the time to increase general public exposure to possible hunting risks, or to further deter the public from outdoor recreation. We have separately submitted with this testimony a report of hunting incidents from 2007 - 2023, compiled from DNR's own data, which shows that sharing the outdoors with hunters has real risks..**

- **The Maryland horse industry represents \$2.9 billion in economic impact; 28,000 jobs; \$1.1 billion in total wages; \$1.7 billion in total contribution to GDP. There are almost 100,000 horses in Maryland (more per square mile than any state in the Union), and over 700,000 horse enthusiasts. (See MD Econ Impact Report attached.) There are horses in every county in the state. The majority of Maryland riders do at least some trail riding.<sup>3</sup>**

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes breed, interest and discipline associations, plus horse farms and stables, horse-related businesses, and horse owners representing all facets of the Maryland equestrian community, from the owners of race horses and race tracks, to the owners of international level competition horses, local sport horses, trail horses or just beloved retired companion horses. Our membership also includes vets, tack stores, and other farms, businesses and enthusiasts throughout the state. As such, we stand for over 700,000 Marylanders. Every Maryland county, without exception, is home to hundreds to thousands of horses. There are more horse per square mile in Maryland than in any state in the Union.

The horse industry in Maryland is a large, engaged and thriving constituency, and a strong economic engine: 28,000 direct equine related jobs; 16,000 properties occupying over 705,000 acres (almost 10% of Maryland's total land area, and over 25% of Maryland's agricultural land). The industry represents \$2.9 billion in annual economic impact. Horse industry participants spend \$1 billion dollars annually (compare that to the \$264 million annual figure for hunters often cited in Fiscal & Policy Notes). Thus, legislative actions that affect the equine industry have a broad economic effect.

#### POSITION

The Horse Council opposes SB 417.

#### BACKGROUND

For over 20 years, the Maryland Horse Council has worked to ensure fair use of shared natural resources during hunting seasons, by seeking to preserve Sundays as the one day of the week when children and adults who are hikers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, trail riders, cross-country skiers, and other outdoor enthusiasts could enjoy the outdoors without concern for adverse interactions with hunters. Almost 20 years ago, we helped defeat a number of statewide Sunday hunting bills. Proponents of Sunday hunting then changed tactics, seeking to introduce Sunday

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<sup>3</sup> <http://equiery.com/trail-riding-tops-reader-survey/>

hunting on a county-by-county basis, which we also opposed vigorously. Sometimes they were successful; sometimes not. When they were successful, they succeeded in making an already complicated situation more complicated, making it more difficult for others to plan their outings, and for Natural Resources Police to effectively crack down on poachers and irresponsible hunters, which has caused even more negative encounters between irresponsible hunters and other users.<sup>4</sup>

The Maryland Horse Council has proposed reasonable compromises that would still allow fair use of shared natural resources, by cutting off Sunday hunting, where allowed, at 10:30 am. This compromise still gives hunters, trail riders and others plenty of Sunday access to opportunities. This compromise has been embraced by legislators, who have praised the Horse Council for this reasonable approach, and it has been adopted in some form by Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Montgomery, Kent, Talbot, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties. Now we are facing a bill that would allow all day Sunday hunting in Carroll County, for all species and all seasons - essentially year round. According to the Maryland hunting season calendar, <https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/Maryland-Hunting-Seasons-Calendar-2024-2025.pdf>, there is an open season for at least one species from mid-August through late May. Coyote and groundhog are literally year-round. This bill does nothing to improve the situation for Natural Resources Police and continues to infringe on the rights of other users of our shared natural resources in Maryland.

The issue of recreational Sunday hunting is certainly a fraught one. In the November 2018 independent Gonzales statewide poll, the vast majority of respondents opposed Sunday hunting:

SUNDAY HUNTING Oppose 68.9%; Favor 21.9%

Breakdown:

Strongly Favor 13.5%

Somewhat Favor 8.4%

Somewhat Oppose 15.4%

Strongly Oppose 53.5%

These majorities opposed to Sunday hunting are true in Baltimore Metro, Washington Metro AND Rural areas. Rural Maryland opposed Sunday hunting 60.5% vs 34.1% in favor. Even DNR's own commissioned survey found that a majority of the general population does not favor Sunday hunting and does not want to see it expanded. (See footnote 1.) This bill directly contravenes that clear public opinion.

**It is important to make clear that the Horse Council is not opposed to hunting.** Many of our members are hunters of deer, other game mammals and game birds. We just want to ensure that everyone has a safe option for enjoyment of the outdoors. **The COVID pandemic**

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<sup>4</sup> **In a 2016 Maryland Horse Council survey, 35% of respondents reported "adverse incidents" with hunters while trail riding, ranging from rudeness to deliberate attempts to spook horses, threatening with firearms, and firing of "warning" shots. Significant percentages of DNR's survey respondents also reported problems when encountering hunters.**

**dramatically increased the level of outdoor activity and use of natural resources. Many of these new users are unfamiliar with the rules of hunting and hunting seasons, are unaware that they may encounter hunters in the woods, and may not be aware of the boundaries between public and private lands, which are often not well marked.** Now is not the time to roll the dice and increase the chances of potential adverse interactions between hunters and members of the public who are relatively new to the outdoors. We have separately submitted with this testimony a nine page report, culled from DNR's own data, of hunting accidents (excluding falls from tree stands and hunter self-inflicted wounds).

It is also sometimes argued that recreational hunters need Sundays because they have other things to do on Saturdays - a situation that plainly applies to most of Maryland's families who use outdoor resources, be they hunters, birdwatchers, dog walkers, mountain bikers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and trail riders. So why should one group get special consideration? Where is the balancing of the public good, the equitable access? In the Horse Council's statewide survey on Sunday hunting, 68% of respondents ride on trails on public or private land one or more days a week. And, perhaps most significantly, 85% said they changed their schedules or riding locations to avoid encountering hunters. **The number of licensed hunters in Maryland (resident and non-resident) is less than 2% of the state's population.** Compare that with the 24% who reported making frequent or occasional trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes. (See footnote 1.)

Another important factor to consider in the balancing of the public good is the fact that, unlike many other states, Maryland's hunting seasons are very long. Part of the basis for these long seasons is that Maryland lacked Sunday hunting for most of its history. When Sunday hunting was introduced, there was not a corresponding shortening of the hunting seasons, so now there are both long seasons and increasing Sunday hunting opportunities.

This bill would authorize Sunday hunting on private land. We of course recognize that private land owners have some right to decide what uses they want to allow on their land. But such rights have never been absolute, as any review of zoning and land use rules can plainly establish. And, as a practical matter the public/private land distinction affords little relief since public and private tracts are often relatively small, non-contiguous, intertwined and rarely well-marked. In our survey, referenced above, 56% of respondents said they ride on trails that cross both public and private land.

#### CONCLUSION

We urge the Committee to give SB 417 an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,  
**THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL**  
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)  
[info@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:info@mdhorsecouncil.org)

# **SB 417 Carroll County.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joyce Bell

Position: UNF

**SB 417 Sunday Hunting in Carroll County**  
**Position: OPPOSED**

Good afternoon Senator Feldman and Members of the Energy, Education, and Environment Committee:

I am a member of Trail Riders of Today (TROT) a 40 year old non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open spaces for equestrians and the general public. Our members come from across the state, but we particularly enjoy riding in Carroll County (Patapsco Valley, Piney Run, and Morgan Run are top destinations).

I oppose any further expansion of hunting on Sunday since this would diminish the ability or desirability of the general public to recreate in public open space. These areas are supported by taxes -- and in some cases, hard labor by trail users. It is unfair that the 1.9% of Marylanders who hunt deter others from access to the outdoors.

My husband is an avid birdwatcher and a member of one of the 15 local chapters of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Weekly bird walks are scheduled for almost every Sunday. Scouts go camping on weekends. Dogwalkers, bikers, hikers,

photographers – labelled “wildlife watchers” by the US Fish and Wildlife census in their latest 2022 report, comprise 73% of the population. The census notes that this group also spends 5-6 times more money enjoying their preferred pastimes than do hunters.

Doctors across the country are praising the health benefits of getting outside in nature. People of all ages benefit from being outside– in their backyards or in public spaces – but hunting discourages outdoor activities at a time when we need to get outside and away from our handheld devices the most.

Since a statewide poll in 2018 showed that nearly 76% of all Marylanders opposed Sunday hunting while barely 22% were in favor, it is clear that this bill should be defeated. The majority should rule!

Thank you very much for your kind time and attention.

Joyce C. Bell  
Talbot County  
wbell2@washcoll.edu

# **Sundayhunting.1.pdf**

Uploaded by: Judith Thacher

Position: UNF

Please vote against SB417, the Carroll Sunday Hunting bill 2025-02

Good afternoon! I am Judy Thacher and my husband Art, own a lovely 6 acre horse farmette in Westminster, MD. For many years we have ridden organized trail rides in Carroll County as members of Carroll County Equestrian Council. We have been members of TROT for years.

Once again, there is a Carroll County Sunday hunting bill being presented. Once again, we average citizens are here testifying that it is completely unfair of the well-funded hunting industry – which already has 6 days a week for shooting lethal weapons outdoors – to try to get the 7th day, which traditionally has been reserved as the only day of the week for the other 98% of the population who are not hunters to enjoy our area's lovely green areas without the fear of being shot at.

Back 25 years ago when Sunday Hunting was first being seriously lobbied for, then-Governor Parris Glendening expressed precisely those sentiments in a very well-worded and impassioned plea -- to retain that one safe-outside day. And it is even more true today, when the value of outdoor exercise and communing with nature is even more recognized.

I will not reiterate – but 100% endorse – the data and arguments Jane Siegler Christy Claggett and others will be presenting.

I just want to note that I am one of the many outdoor enthusiasts who has been shot at while recreating on our horses – in fact, shot at on two separate occasions. That was not a nice experience. Evidently none of those “great hunters” recognized that my white riding helmet, orange safety vest, and white horse below me do not look exactly like a five point deer. One of my favorite Delegates here in Annapolis had a similar experience of being shot at while recruiting in an area park.

Let me also point out that if hunters are so unsuccessful in the 6 days/week they already have and endanger non-hunter outdoor enthusiasts, why think the 7th day will solve any deer problem?

Maybe the bill advocates live in an area so rural that their proposed increased hunting would not endanger neighbors, but in much of Carroll County, private property abuts parkland right near to where the trails are laid out and also abuts other people's private property. And especially Carroll County where the myriad wonderful parks are a destination riding venue for so many residents of the state, it seems most inappropriate and dangerous to take away the one day a week when outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the outdoors without fear of being shot at.

Please, vote against SB5417, to keep Sunday safe for the vast majority of the population, us non-hunters, who want to be able to recreate outdoors without the fear of being shot at on one day per week, when hunters have already claimed the other six days. Thank you.

Judy & Art Thacher