

Chronic Wasting Disease

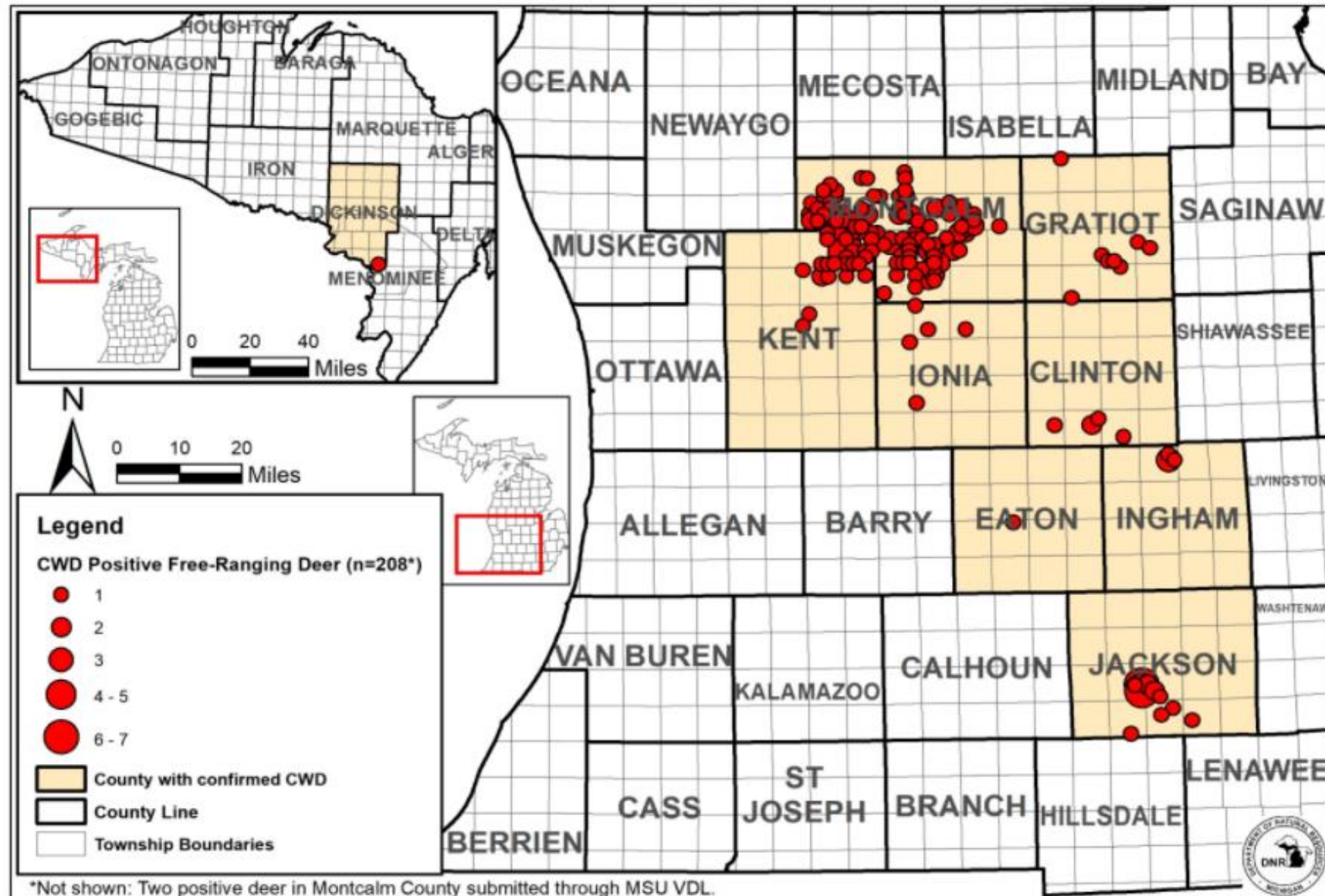
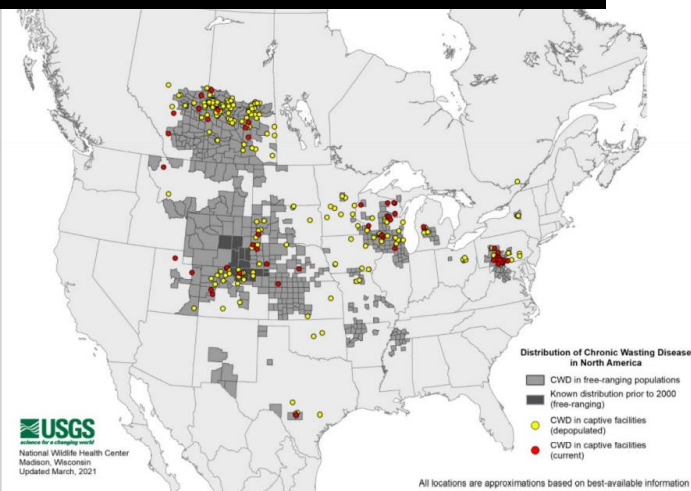
Management, Testing, Research & Partnerships



Erik Schnelle

Michigan State Advisory Council President, NDA

Free-ranging White-tailed Deer Positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Michigan as of March 19, 2021



CWD Testing: Essential for Disease Surveillance AND Hunter Participation

- While there are no known human cases, the CDC and World Health Organization do not recommend consuming untested venison from areas of known CWD infection.
- DNR 2019 Harvest Survey: 82% of hunters agreed that the CWD status of harvested deer was important to them; and 45% agreed that knowing the CWD status of harvested deer is critical to their decision to hunt.

2014: 30 tested

2015: CWD DETECTED

2016: >7,000 tested

2017: >17,000 tested

2018: >30,000 tested

2019: >20,000 tested

2020: >2,000 tested








2018 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance in Free-ranging White-tailed Deer, Michigan

Legend

County Lines

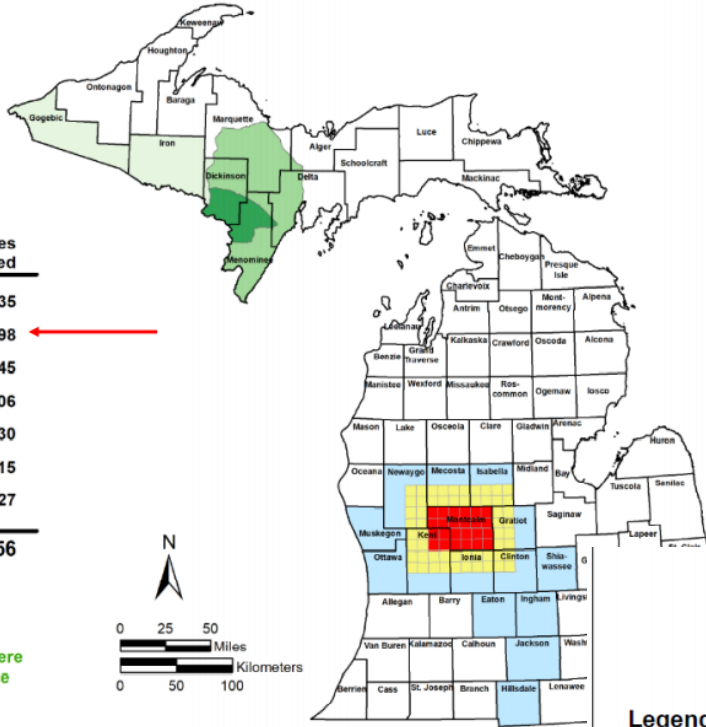
I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

(These samples were also tested for bovine tuberculosis)

Testing Zone	Sample Goals	Samples Tested
	300	4,435
	8,475	5,598
	6,260	14,445
	155	306
	300	830
	600	915
	0	4,227
Total	16,090	30,756

II. TARGETED SURVEILLANCE





Cervids with CWD-like symptoms
229 of the 30,756 deer tested in 2018 were tested as part of targeted surveillance



2019 Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance for Free-ranging White-tailed Deer by Sampling Unit

Legend

I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

ZONE	DETECTION LEVEL*	SAMPLE SIZE	NUMBER TESTED
	0.1%	7,922	2,834
	0.5%	3,016	5,561
	1.0%	1,521	9,094
	N/A	0	2,582
Total		12,459	20,071







Numbers on map represent the number tested/county goal

*Detection Level is the prevalence

2020 Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Plan for Free-ranging White-tailed Deer

Legend

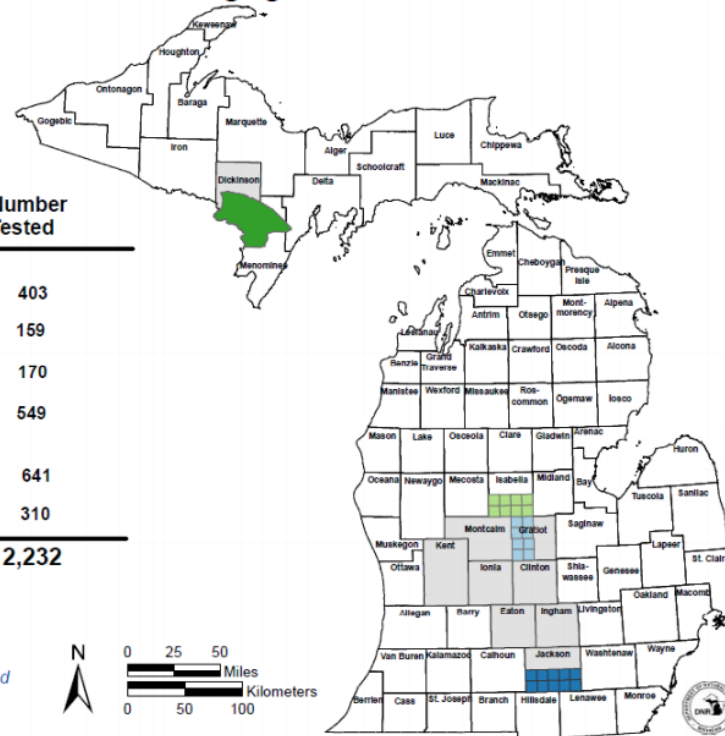
I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

Sampling Region	Sample Goal	Number Tested	
	U.P. CWD Core	1,927	403
	S. Isabella Co.	1,155	159
	W. Gratiot Co.	602	170
	S. Jackson Co.	1,404	549
	Counties with confirmed CWD	0	641
	Remainder of State	0	310
Total		5,088	2,232

II. TARGETED SURVEILLANCE

Cervids with CWD-like symptoms accepted statewide, year-round

All deer tested for CWD are also tested for bovine tuberculosis.



County Name	Total Tested	Number Positive
Clinton	66	0
Dickinson	273	0
Eaton	32	0
Gratiot	258	1
Ingham	52	0
Ionia	100	1
Jackson	587	10
Kent	80	1
Montcalm	160	7
Total to date	1608	20

Research & Adaptive Management Are Essential To Managing CWD

Association Fish & Wildlife Agency Technical Report on Chronic Wasting Disease

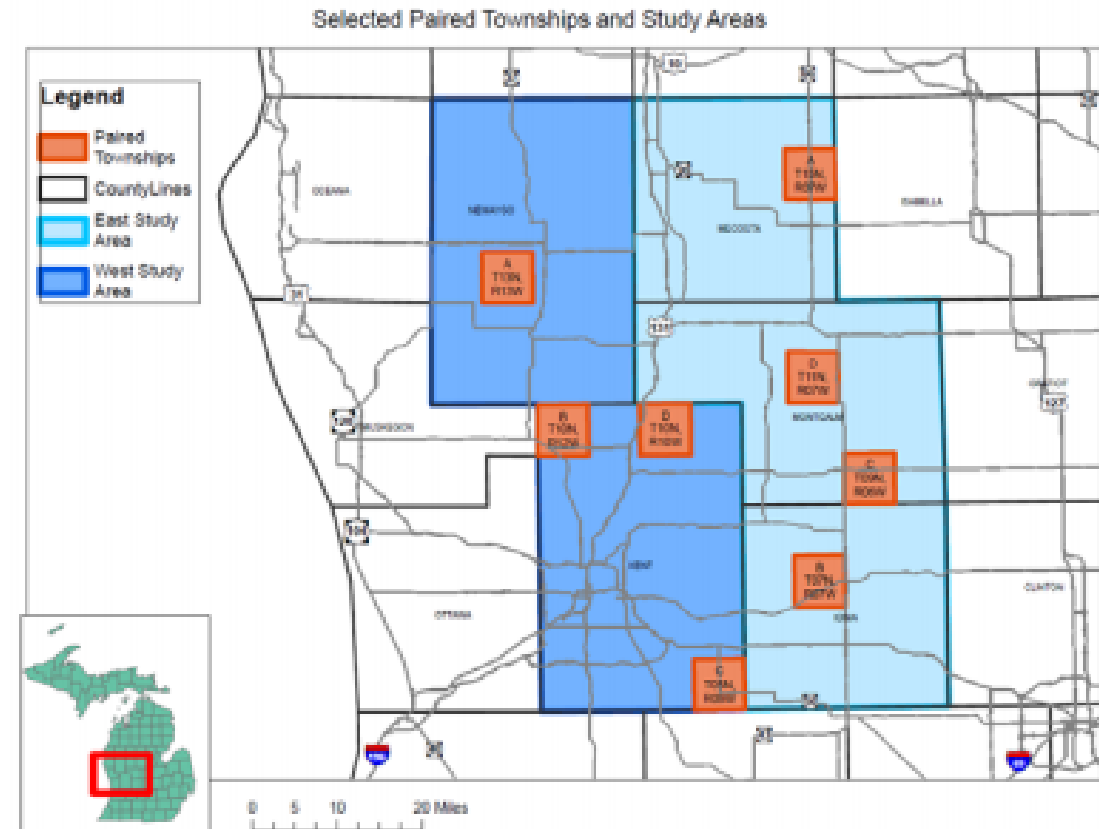
Recommended Best Practices Include:

- Utilize harvest or other removal mechanisms to manage prevalence by: 1) targeting the portion of the population most likely to have CWD, 2) targeting animals in known CWD hotspots, 3) targeting timing of removal to most effectively remove infected animals, and 4) reduce cervid density in CWD positive areas with high density populations.
- Utilize a coordinated, adaptive management approach to provide for strategic application and evaluation of experimental CWD suppression strategies whereby the data gathered from these efforts would then be used to develop improved strategies.

Research & Adaptive Management Are Essential To Managing CWD

Summary of the APR Field Study in the CWD Core Area May 2019

In consultation with deer hunting stakeholder groups, the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) established a resolution requesting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop and conduct a research project to evaluate if mandatory antler point restriction (APR) regulations can be a useful tool in responding to the emergence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Michigan deer. The current CWD management core area consisting of the five counties of Kent, Newaygo, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Ionia (hereafter referred to as 5-County) offers an opportunity to evaluate if APR regulations can influence deer population abundance and sex/age composition; factors that may contribute to the prevalence and spread of CWD.



Key Research & Adaptive Management Elements

- Hunter Support: 68% & 63%
- Antlerless Harvest Goal: 1.1
Antlerless per Antlered Achieved
1.18 - Early Success!
- In Season Harvest Goal Achievement
Feedback
- Antler Point Restrictions focus effort
on animals most likely to be infected.



Recommendations

- Legislature, DNR and Stakeholder groups partner to ensure that there is adequate surveillance testing, and any hunter in a known CWD area can get their deer tested in a convenient, low or no cost manner.
- That the House Natural Resources Committee reject Senate Resolution 17.
- Draft and support a resolution supporting ongoing CWD management research including the use antler point restrictions and hunter harvest goals through at least the 2022 hunting season.
- Funding be provided for CWD coordinators & habitat grants in the CWD Management area to:
 - Partner with hunters and wildlife cooperatives on achieving antlerless harvest goals, CWD testing and management
 - Improve habitat to reduce concentrations of deer