

# Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin Deer 2014

By Erin Larson

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began monitoring the state's wild white-tailed deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in 1999. Three positive deer were identified from Dane County through random testing of hunter harvested deer in November 2001. Since 2002 over 190,600 deer have been tested in Wisconsin for CWD, with 2,836 testing positive as of April 2015.

Starting with the 2014 season the CWD management zone transitioned to CWD affected counties. A county is included if a wild or captive animal has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD in the county, or portion of the county is within a 10-mile radius of a wild or captive animal that has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD. Currently 35 counties are included.

Since 2002, CWD prevalence within our western monitoring area has shown an overall increasing trend in all sex and age classes. During the past 13 years, the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from 8-10 percent to over 25 percent, and in adult females from about 3-4 percent to more than 10 percent. During that same time, the prevalence trend in yearling males has increased from about 2 percent to about 8 percent and in yearling females from roughly 2 percent to about 7 percent. It is important to keep in mind that annual prevalence estimates are subject to sampling variation, and that trends over time give better information.

**Table 1.** *Wisconsin CWD Surveillance in 2014-2015.*

<b>DNR Zone</b>	<b># Sampled</b>	<b># Analyzed</b>	<b>Positive for CWD</b>
Central Farmland Zone	807	805	0
Central Forest Zone	287	287	2
Unknown Zone	5	5	0
Southern Farmland Zone	3,985	3,979	329
Northern Forest Zone	376	376	0
<b>Total Sampled Statewide</b>	5,460		
<b>Total Analyzed Statewide</b>		5,452	
<b>Total Positive Statewide</b>			331