

# Highlights from the Vermont Youth Hunting Study

Vermont offers three special youth hunting weekends—spring turkey, waterfowl and deer—to ensure that young hunters get the quality training and experiences they need for lifelong participation. A first-in-the-nation study now confirms that these hunts are recruiting and retaining young hunters. The research, conducted in 2007, surveyed over 1,600 Vermont youth hunters, past youth hunters and adult hunters. Highlights include:



Almost all of the hunters (87%) surveyed supported Vermont's youth hunts.



Youth hunters and their mentors are having a lot of fun, and, as a result, they want to hunt more.



The majority of youth hunters (77%) who participate in the youth weekends keep hunting into adulthood.



For the majority (69%) of youth hunters, a youth weekend was their first time hunting.



Most youth hunters are being mentored by family. Research suggests hunters who are initiated through their family hunt more frequently and more avidly than those who learn to hunt on their own or through friends.



The majority (61%) of kids hunt only one or two youth deer weekends, and most (75%) fail to get a deer.



Mentors are rarely shooting the game. Only a handful (2%) of those surveyed actually had first-hand knowledge of this violation. Common or not, the Department takes these incidents seriously.



This study was conducted by Responsive Management, an internationally-recognized natural resource survey firm, on behalf of the Department. It was funded, in part, by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.



The complete report can be viewed at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/fish-wildlife-library/library-planning-and-public-surveys](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/fish-wildlife-library/library-planning-and-public-surveys)

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