

United States Senate

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Schumer Study: Chronic Wasting Disease Hitting Deer Population Could Threaten \$900 Million Upstate Hunting Economy

Big game is big business in Upstate New York. According to a study by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the retail impact of hunting sales in New York State was over \$500 million and the cumulative effect of hunting on the state economy was over \$900 million. This includes all the dollars pumped into the local economy from hunters on gear, food, transportation, lodging, and the 'multiplier' effect of those dollars on the local economy. Because some of the biggest deer hunting counties are in some of the most rural parts of New York State, the economic impact of hunting is greatest in some of the larger and, but more sparsely populated counties. In 2004, the counties reporting the greatest deer take were Steuben, Cattaraugus, Allegany, St. Lawrence and Chautauqua counties.

In 2004 over 208,000 deer were harvested in New York State. This study details the projected economic impact of deer hunting on New York State in a county by county basis. This study also details the projected loss to New York State's deer hunting industry should there be a full blown outbreak of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), similar to that in Wisconsin where hunting licenses fell by 12% in 2002. New York State could lose up to \$107 million if New York hunters respond to CWD by purchasing 12% fewer hunting licenses the year of a CWD outbreak.

The hunting economy in the Capital Region is worth **approximately \$59 million**, and stands to lose an estimated **\$7 million** should a CWD outbreak occur. In 2004, Capital Region hunters took **13,726** deer.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Albany	2,288	\$9.9 million	\$1.2 million
Fulton	855	\$3.7 million	\$440,000
Montgomery	729	\$3.1 million	\$380,000
Rensselaer	2,678	\$11.6 million	\$1.4 million
Saratoga	1,897	\$8.2 million	\$990,000
Schenectady	312	\$1.4 million	\$160,000
Schoharie	2,406	\$10.4 million	\$1.2 million
Washington	2,561	\$11 million	\$1.3 million
Capital Region Total	13,726	\$59.4 million	\$7.1 million

The hunting economy in Central New York is worth **approximately \$57 million** a year and stands to lose an estimated **\$7 million** should a CWD outbreak occur. In 2004, Central New York hunters took **13,130** deer.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Cortland	1,952	\$8.5 million	\$1 million
Madison	2,270	\$9.8 million	\$1.2 million
Oneida	3,078	\$13.3 million	\$1.6 million
Onondaga	3,448	\$14.9 million	\$1.8 million
Oswego	2,383	\$10.3 million	\$1.2 million
Central New York Total	13,130	\$56.8 million	\$6.8 million

The hunting economy in the Rochester/Finger Lakes region is worth **approximately \$169 million** a year and stands to lose an estimated **\$20 million** should a CWD outbreak occur. In 2004, Rochester/Finger Lakes hunters took **38,960 deer**.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Cayuga	4,220	\$18.3 million	\$2.2 million
Livingston	6,093	\$26.4 million	\$3.2 million
Monroe	4,451	\$19.3 million	\$2.3 million
Ontario	6,875	\$29.8 million	\$3.6 million
Schuyler	2,571	\$11.1 million	\$1.3 million
Seneca	1,683	\$7.3 million	\$870,000
Tompkins	4,514	\$19.5 million	\$2.3 million
Wayne	3,630	\$15.7 million	\$1.9 million
Yates	4,923	\$21.3 million	\$2.6 million
Rochester/Finger Lakes Total	38,960	\$168.6 million	\$20.2 million

The hunting economy in Hudson Valley is worth **approximately \$145 million** a year and stands to lose an estimated **\$17 million** should a CWD outbreak occur. In 2004, Hudson Valley hunters took **33,608 deer**.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Columbia	5,824	\$25.2 million	\$3 million
Dutchess	6,146	\$26.6 million	\$3.2 million
Greene	1,949	\$8.4 million	\$1 million
Orange	7,215	\$31.2 million	\$3.7 million
Putnam	1,396	\$6 million	\$700,000
Rockland	176	\$800,000	\$100,000
Sullivan	3,832	\$16.6 million	\$2 million
Ulster	5,380	\$23.3 million	\$2.8 million
Westchester	1,687	\$7.3 million	\$900,000
Hudson Valley Total	33,608	\$145 million	\$17.5 million

The hunting economy in North Country is worth **\$107 million a year** and stands to lose an estimated **\$13 million** should a CWD outbreak occur. In 2004, North Country hunters took **24,610 deer**.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Clinton	690	\$3 million	\$360,000
Essex	1,478	\$6.4 million	\$770,000
Franklin	2,006	\$8.7 million	\$1 million
Hamilton	908	\$4 million	\$470,000
Herkimer	2,257	\$9.8 million	\$1.2 million
Jefferson	6,851	\$29.7 million	\$3.6 million
Lewis	2,122	\$9.2 million	\$1.1 million
St. Lawrence	7,476	\$32.4 million	\$3.9 million
Warren	822	\$3.6 million	\$430,000
North Country Total	24,610	\$106.5 million	12.8 million

The hunting economy in the Southern Tier is worth approximately **\$193 million a year** and stands to lose an estimated **\$23 million** should a CWD outbreak occur outbreak. In 2004, Southern Tier hunters took **44,534 deer**.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Delaware	4,437	\$19.2 million	\$2.3 million
Allegany	10,587	\$45.8 million	\$5.5 million
Broome	3,491	\$15.1 million	\$1.8 million
Chemung	2,238	\$9.7 million	\$1.2 million
Chenango	2,674	\$11.6 million	\$1.4 million
Otsego	4,802	\$20.8 million	\$2.5 million
Steuben	11,571	\$50.1 million	\$6 million
Tioga	4,734	\$20.5 million	\$2.5 million
Southern Tier Total	44,534	\$192.7 million	\$23.1 million

The hunting economy in Western New York is worth approximately **\$164 million** a year and stands to lose an estimated **\$20 million** should a CWD outbreak occur. In 2004, Western New York hunters took **37,828 deer**.

County	Total Deer Take In 2004	Estimated Yearly Economic Impact of Deer Hunting	Potential Loss Due To CWD Scare
Cattaraugus	10,658	\$46.1 million	\$5.5 million
Chautauqua	7,430	\$32.2 million	\$3.9 million
Erie	6,279	\$27.2 million	\$3.3 million
Genesee	4,108	\$17.8 million	\$2.1 million
Niagara	1,882	\$8.1 million	\$980,000
Orleans	2,231	\$9.7 million	\$1.2
Wyoming	5,240	\$22.7	\$2.7
Western New York Total	37,828	\$163.7 million	\$19.6 million

*Economic impact based on study by International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. County by county rates based on 2004 New York State deer take from the Department of Environmental Conservation. Projected loss due to CWD based on hunting license drop off in Wisconsin after CWD outbreak and “*The Economic Impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin*, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 2004, vol. 9, no. 3, by Richard Bishop.”