# Descriptive Data from the 2009 Wolf Policy Survey

376 Respondents from the
member household list of the
Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

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**What was the goal of this survey?**

The goal of this survey was to understand public opinion of current and future wolf policy and management among Bad River members as well as their tolerance for wolves, as decisions about wolves are being made.

**Survey recipients and study area:**

This 2009 Wolf Policy Survey was sent to 841 randomly selected Bad River members from a confidential database of Bad River Member households. It was random sample stratified by sex: half female and half male. The recipients addresses were all within Wisconsin and within known wolf range. 376 surveys were returned to us with responses. The response rate is 55% ± 6%.

**Methods:**

The initial survey packet included: (1) a copy of the questionnaire, (2) a $2 incentive, (3) a cover letter explaining the survey and stating "This survey has been reviewed and commented on by the Bad River Natural Resources Department,"(4) a postage paid return envelope. Two weeks after the initial mailing a reminder postcard was sent out to initial non-responders. Another two weeks later, a second mailing of the questionnaire was sent out to non-responders. There was no $2 incentive included in the second mailing. Two weeks after that, another reminder postcard was sent out to non-responders. While all the survey parts were written in English, on the cover letters both English and Ojibwe languages were used for the words Hello/Boozhoo, Wolf/Ma'iingan and Thank you/Miigwech.
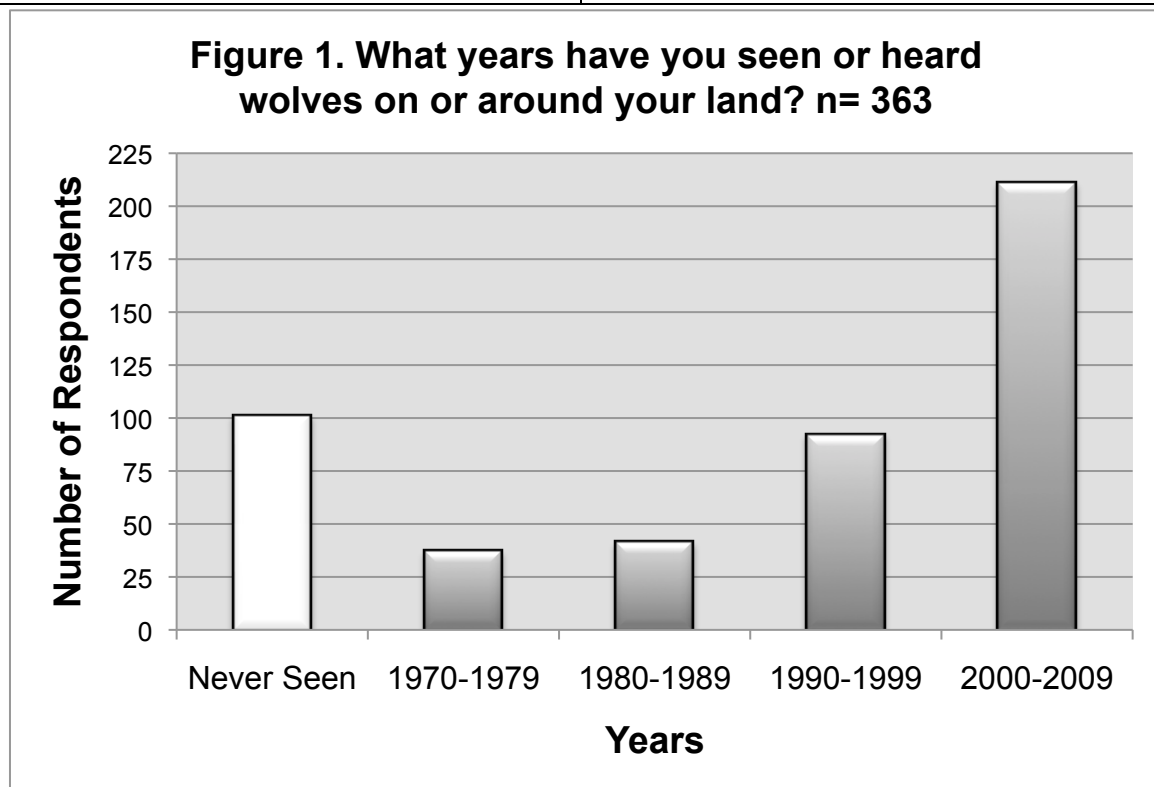
**Explanations of the graphs below:**

The title of each graph is the question asked on the survey. The "n" is the number of respondents who answered the question. The "n" in each graph is different because not every respondent answered every question. Some questions were 'check only one'; others were 'check all that apply'. This means that not all the graphs will add up to the "n" since, for some questions, each respondent could check as many answers as they saw fit.
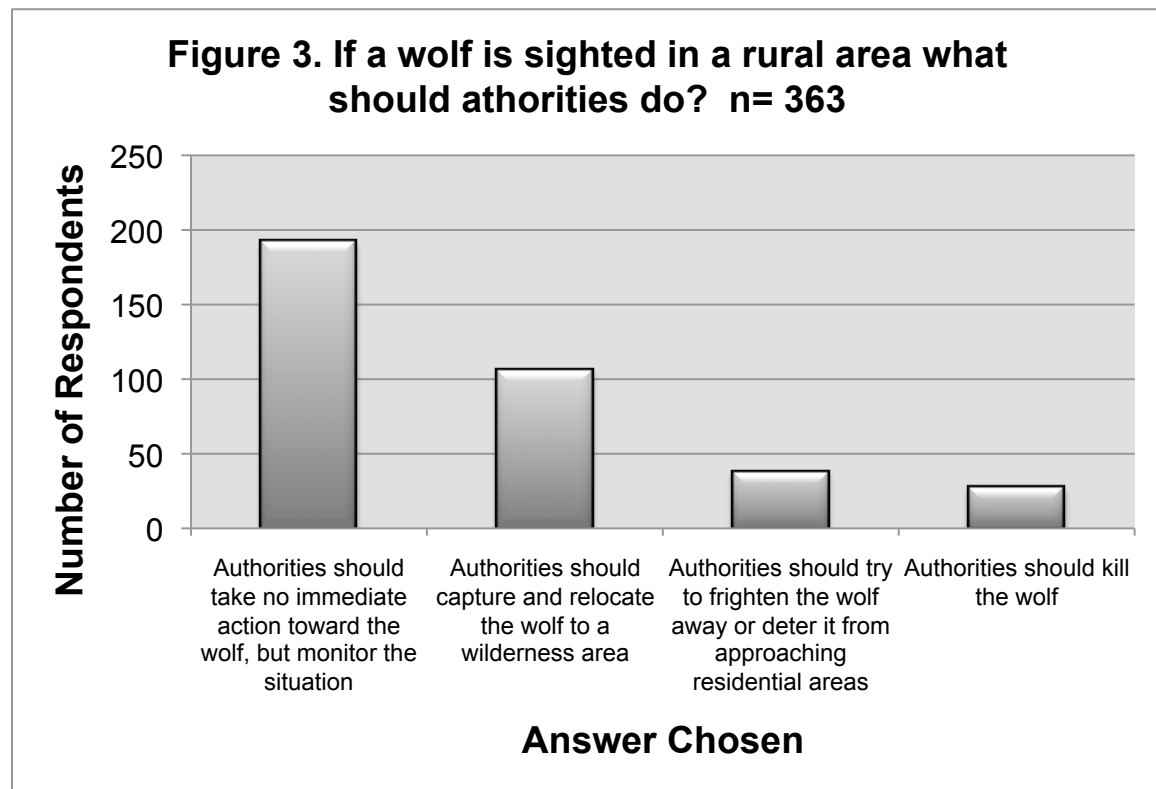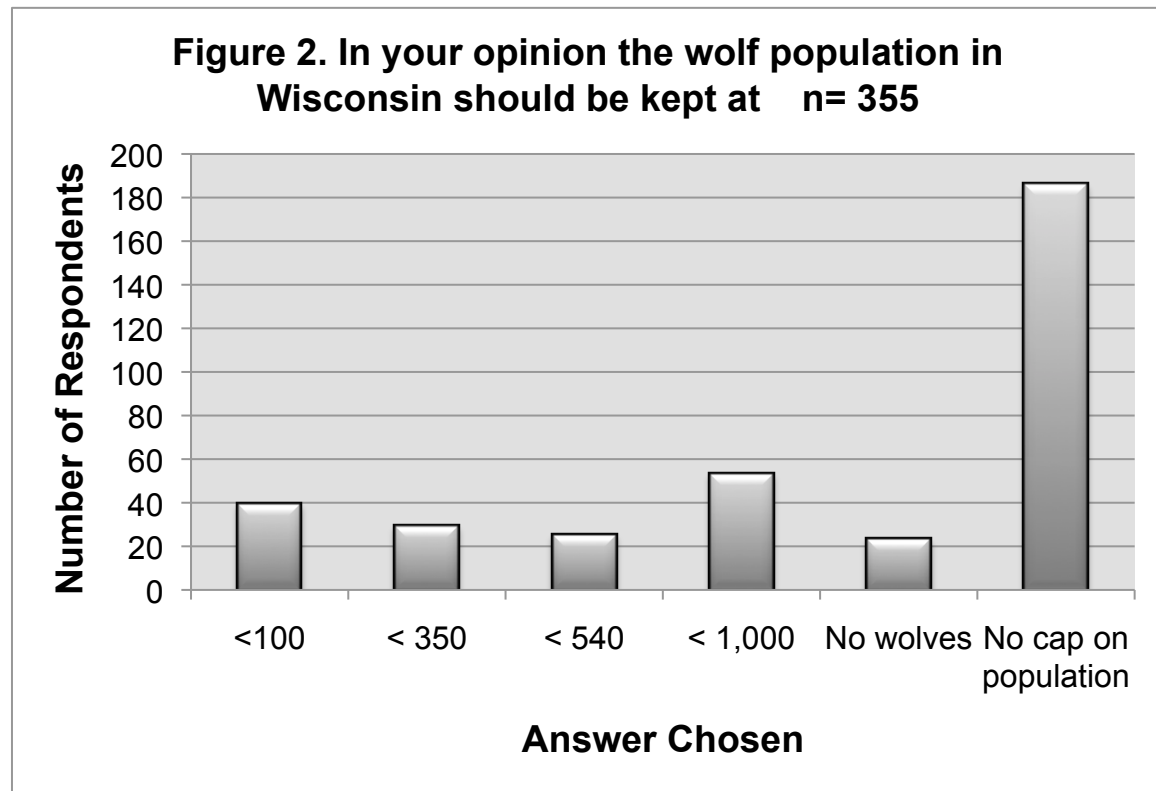
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.
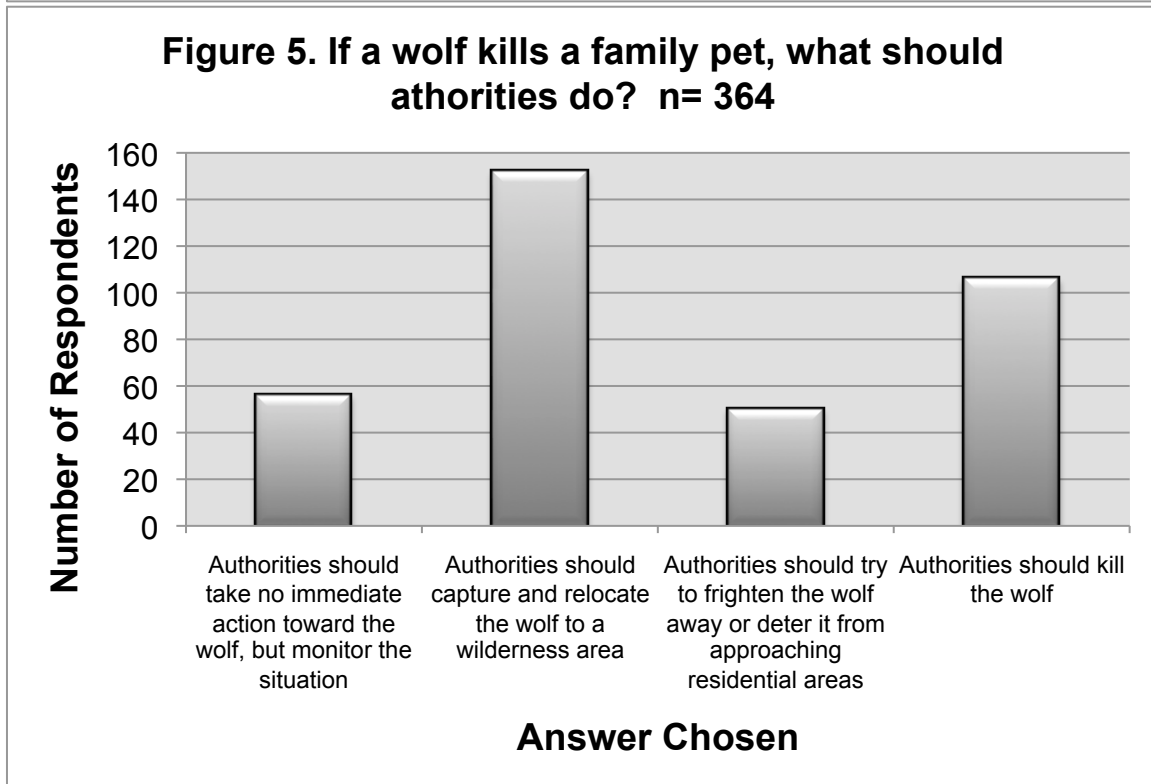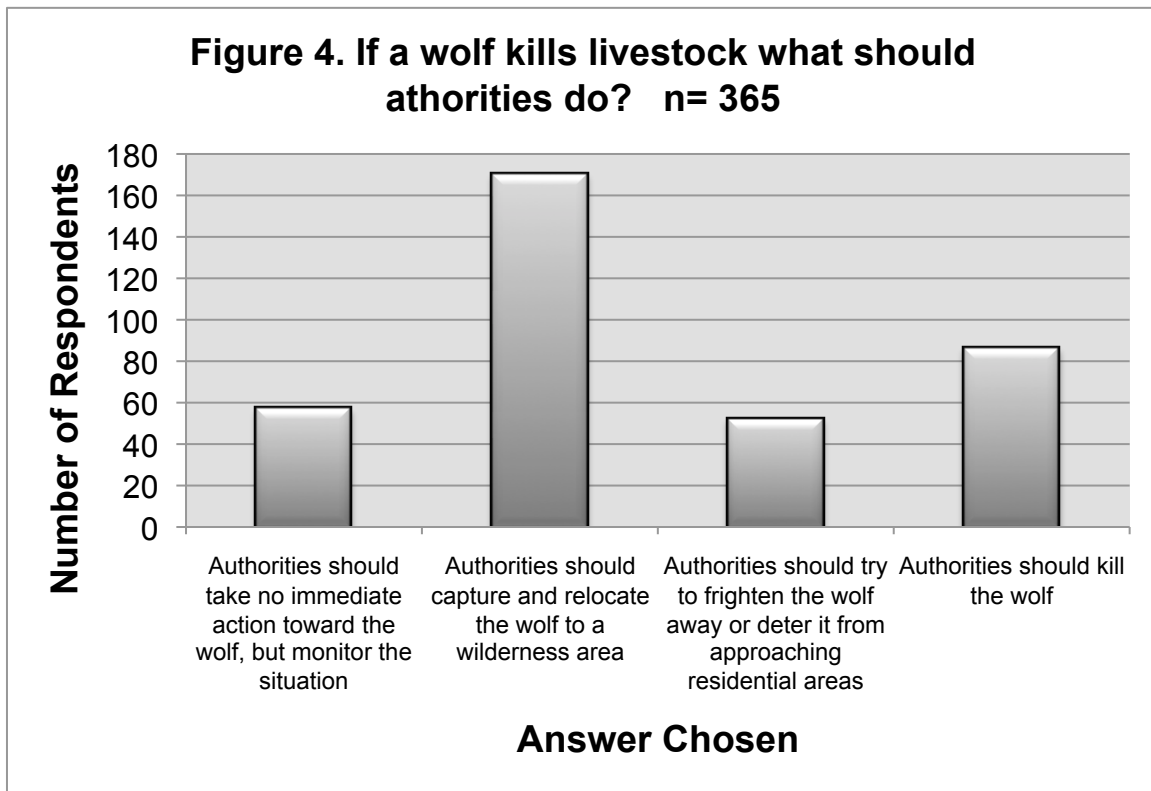
## Demographics of the respondents:

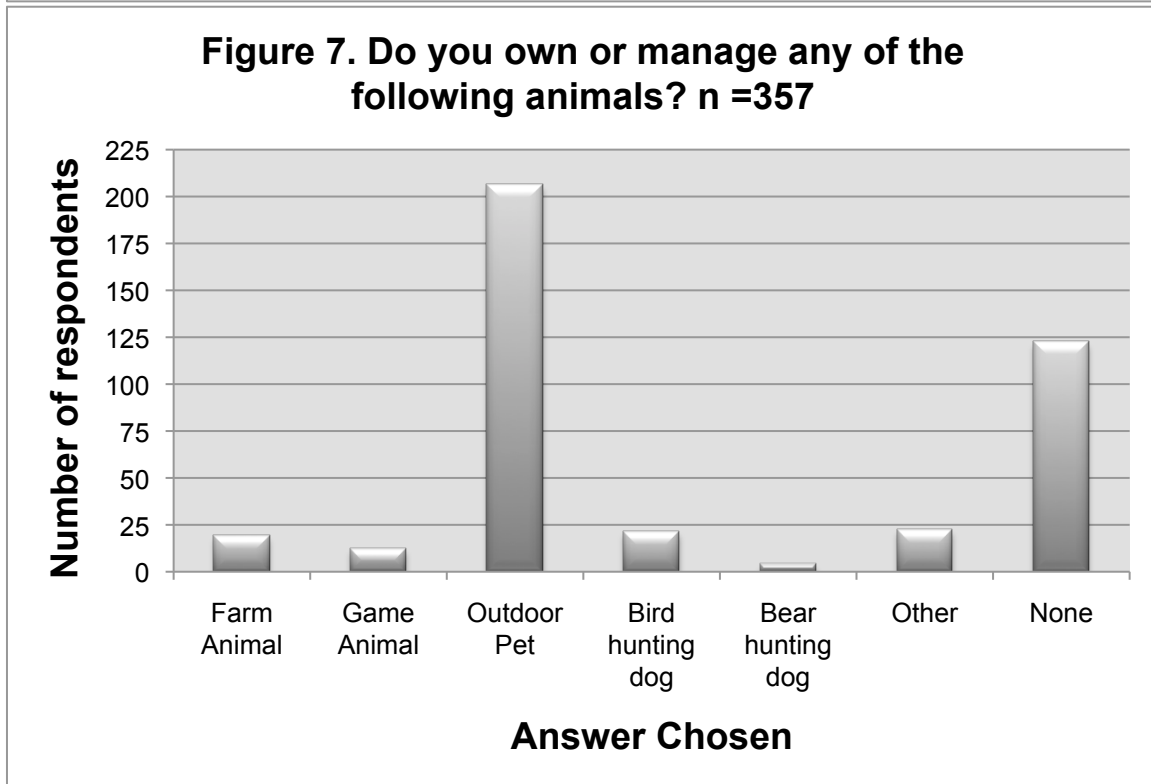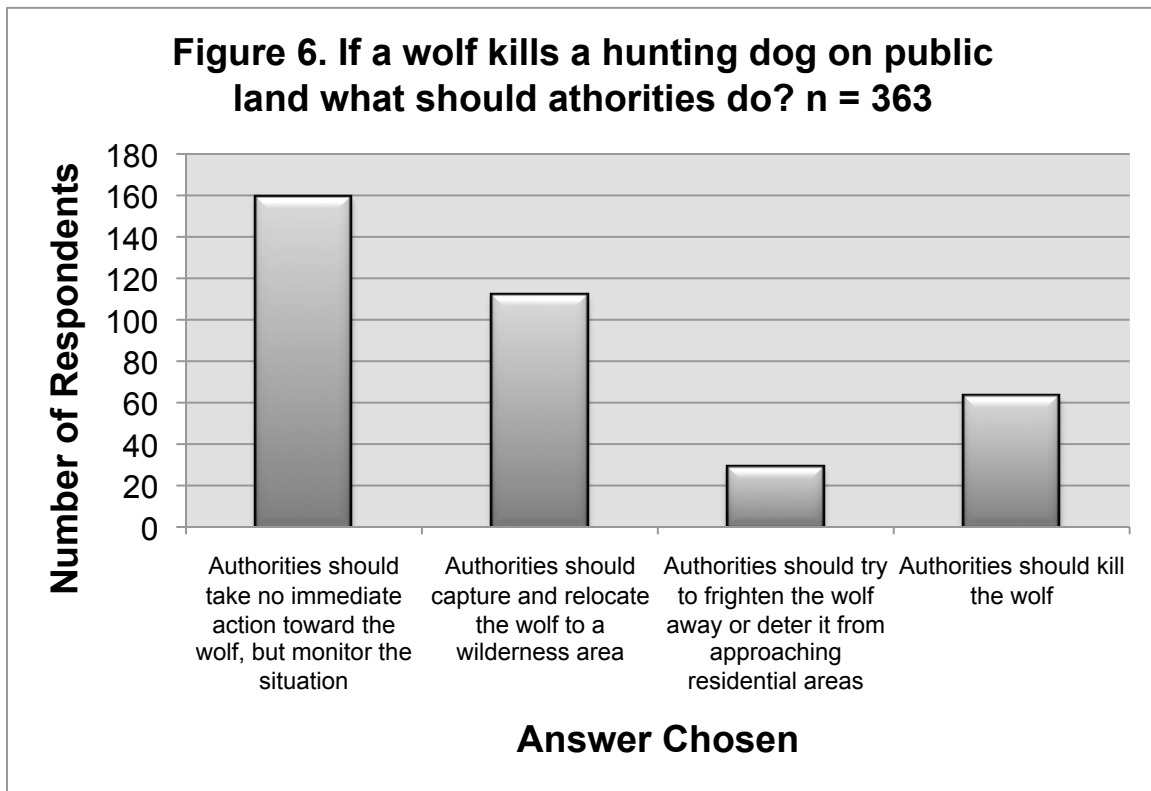| How old are they? | They ranged from 18-91 years old |
|---|---|
| How long they have lived in Wisconsin? | They reported having lived in WI for 5-91 years |
| What sex are they? | 45% female, 55% male |
| What is their level of education? | 42% had completed some college |
| What is their income level? | 66% reported their income is < $40,000 per year |
| Are they Hunters? | 46% reported having hunted in the past 2 years<br>65% reported having hunted regularly in the past |
| Is livestock a major source of income? | 6% reported that livestock is a major source of income |



Figure 1. What years have you seen or heard wolves on or around your land? n= 363

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 2. In your opinion the wolf population in Wisconsin should be kept at   n= 355**

Number of Respondents vs. Answer Chosen

| Answer Chosen | Number of Respondents |
|---|---|
| <100 | ~40 |
| < 350 | ~30 |
| < 540 | ~25 |
| < 1,000 | ~54 |
| No wolves | ~23 |
| No cap on population | ~187 |

**Figure 3. If a wolf is sighted in a rural area what should athorities do?  n= 363**

Number of Respondents vs. Answer Chosen

| Answer Chosen | Number of Respondents |
|---|---|
| Authorities should take no immediate action toward the wolf, but monitor the situation | ~193 |
| Authorities should capture and relocate the wolf to a wilderness area | ~107 |
| Authorities should try to frighten the wolf away or deter it from approaching residential areas | ~39 |
| Authorities should kill the wolf | ~28 |

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.



**Figure 4. If a wolf kills livestock what should athorities do?   n= 365**

Number of Respondents (y-axis): 0 to 180

Answer Chosen (x-axis):
- Authorities should take no immediate action toward the wolf, but monitor the situation
- Authorities should capture and relocate the wolf to a wilderness area
- Authorities should try to frighten the wolf away or deter it from approaching residential areas
- Authorities should kill the wolf



**Figure 5. If a wolf kills a family pet, what should athorities do?  n= 364**

Number of Respondents (y-axis): 0 to 160

Answer Chosen (x-axis):
- Authorities should take no immediate action toward the wolf, but monitor the situation
- Authorities should capture and relocate the wolf to a wilderness area
- Authorities should try to frighten the wolf away or deter it from approaching residential areas
- Authorities should kill the wolf

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 6. If a wolf kills a hunting dog on public land what should athorities do? n = 363**



**Figure 7. Do you own or manage any of the following animals? n =357**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

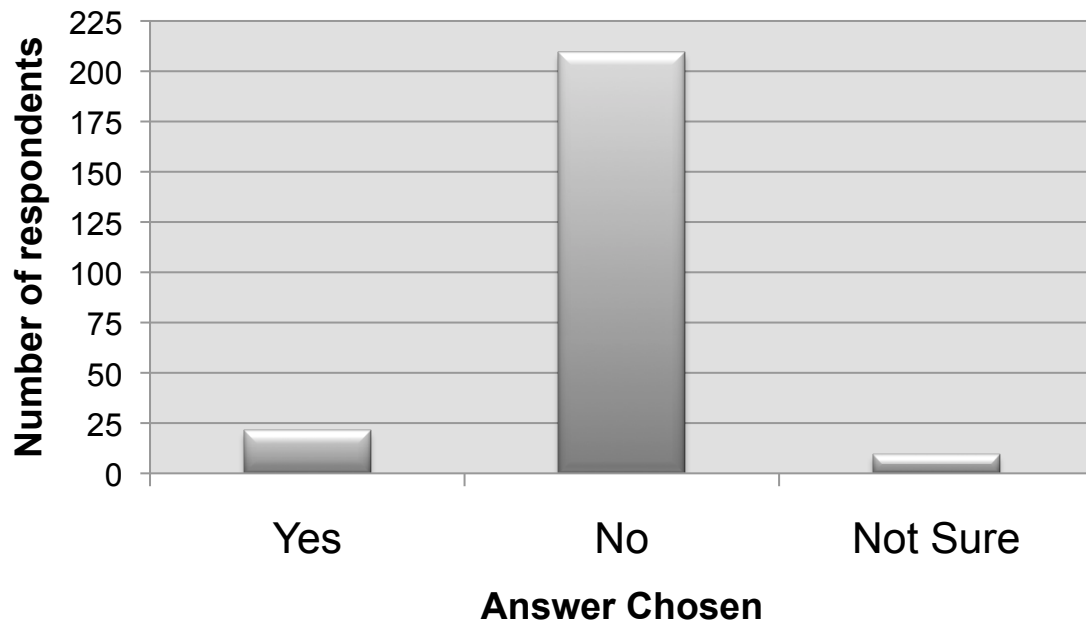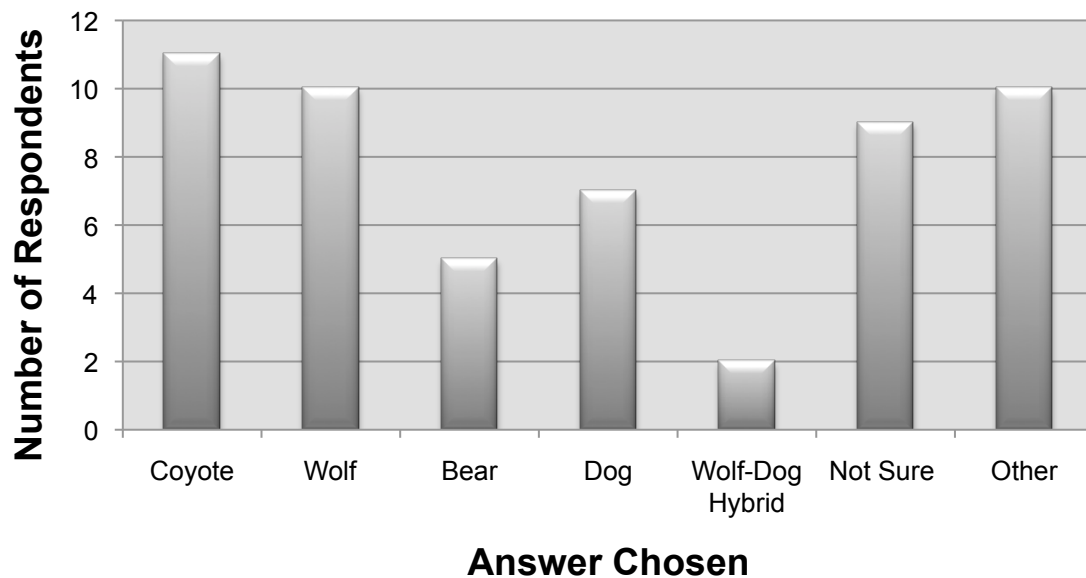**Figure 8. Have any of your animals been injured or killed by wildlife in the last 5 years? n = 239**

Number of respondents vs. Answer Chosen (Yes, No, Not Sure)

**Figure 9. Which wildlife do you think caused those injuries or deaths to your animals in the last 5 years? n = 36**

Number of Respondents vs. Answer Chosen (Coyote, Wolf, Bear, Dog, Wolf-Dog Hybrid, Not Sure, Other)

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

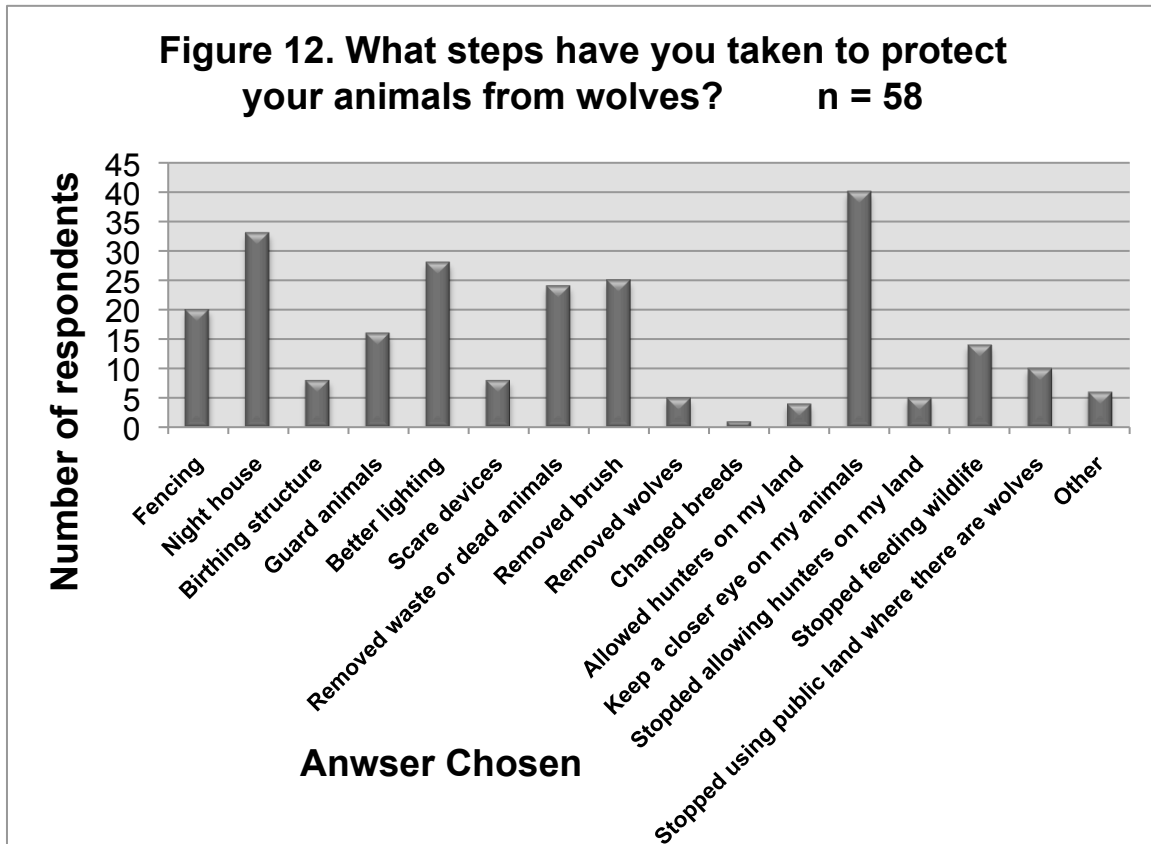**Figure 10. Have you ever taken steps to protect your animals from wolves?    n = 237**
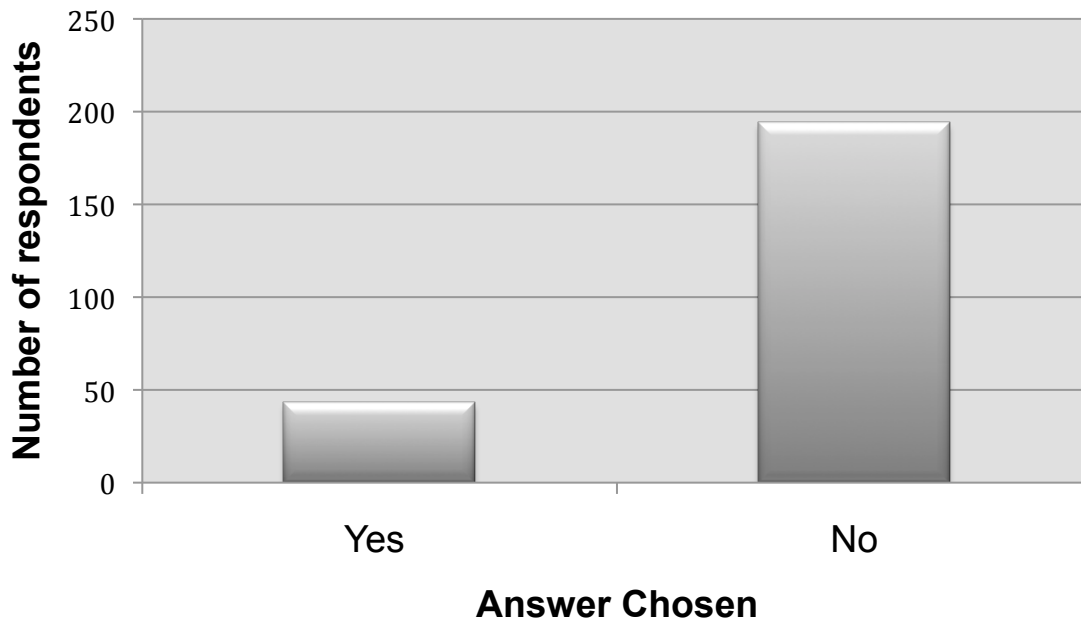


**Figure 11. Why have you not taken steps to protect your animals from wolves? n = 190**
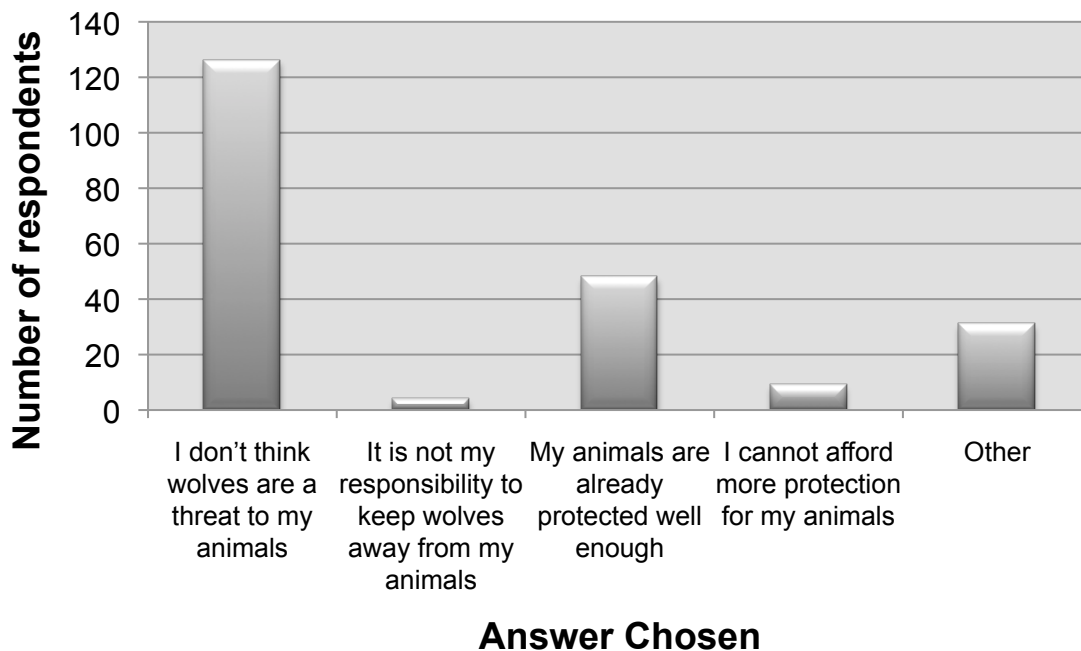
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.



Figure 12. What steps have you taken to protect your animals from wolves? n = 58



Figure 13. Have you hunted in the past two years? n = 369
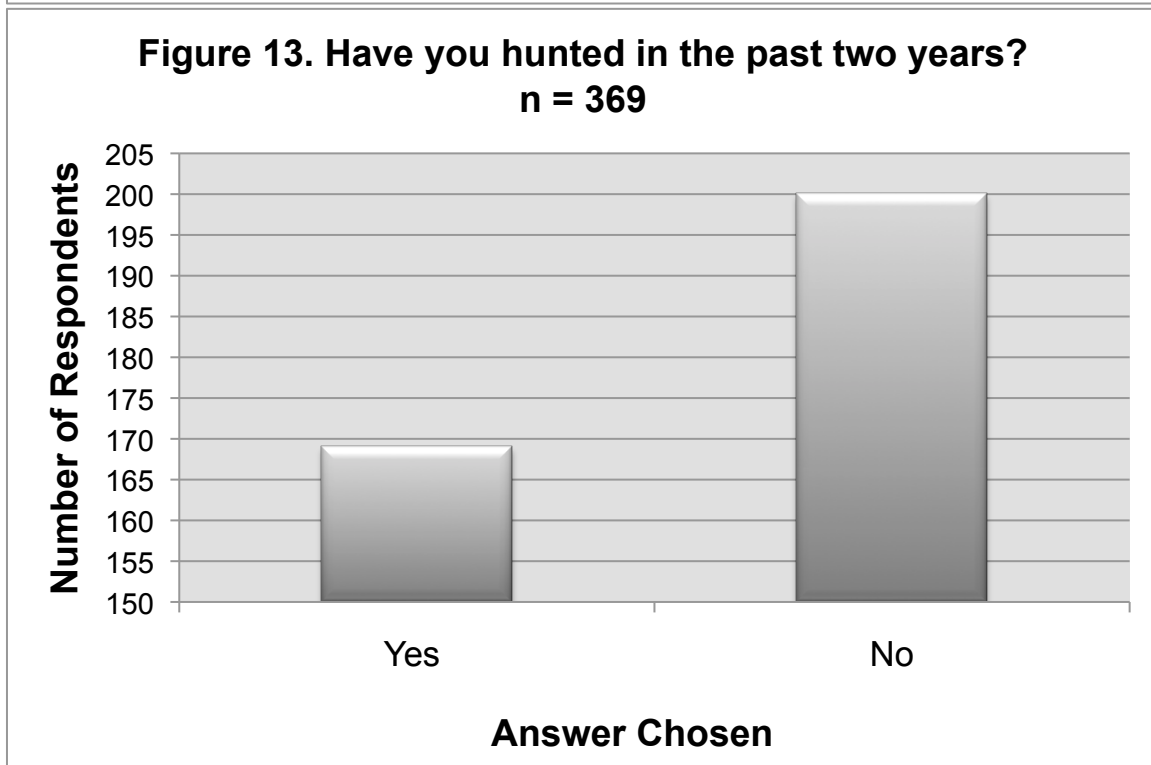
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

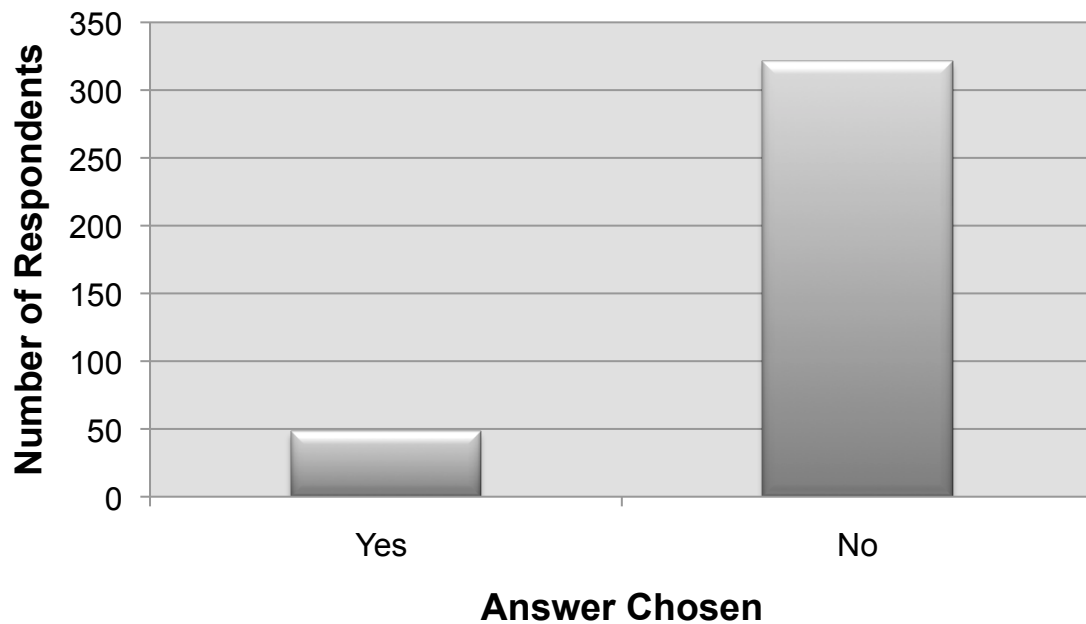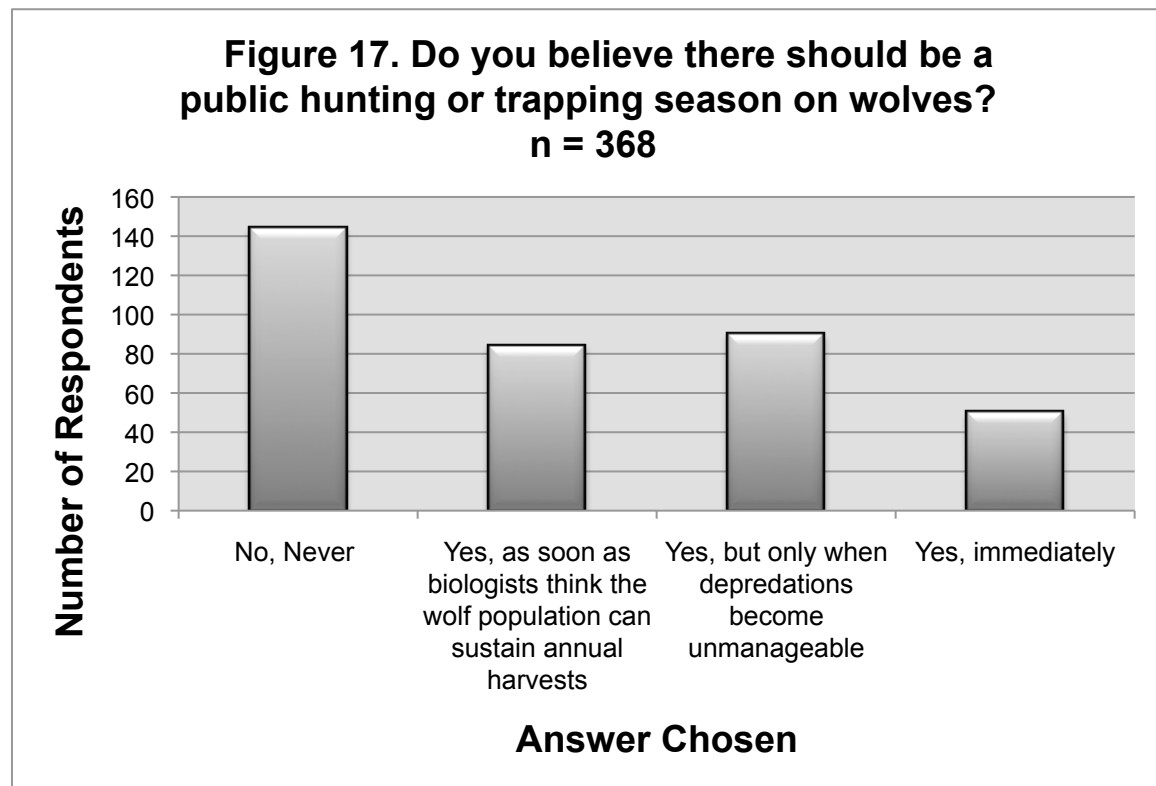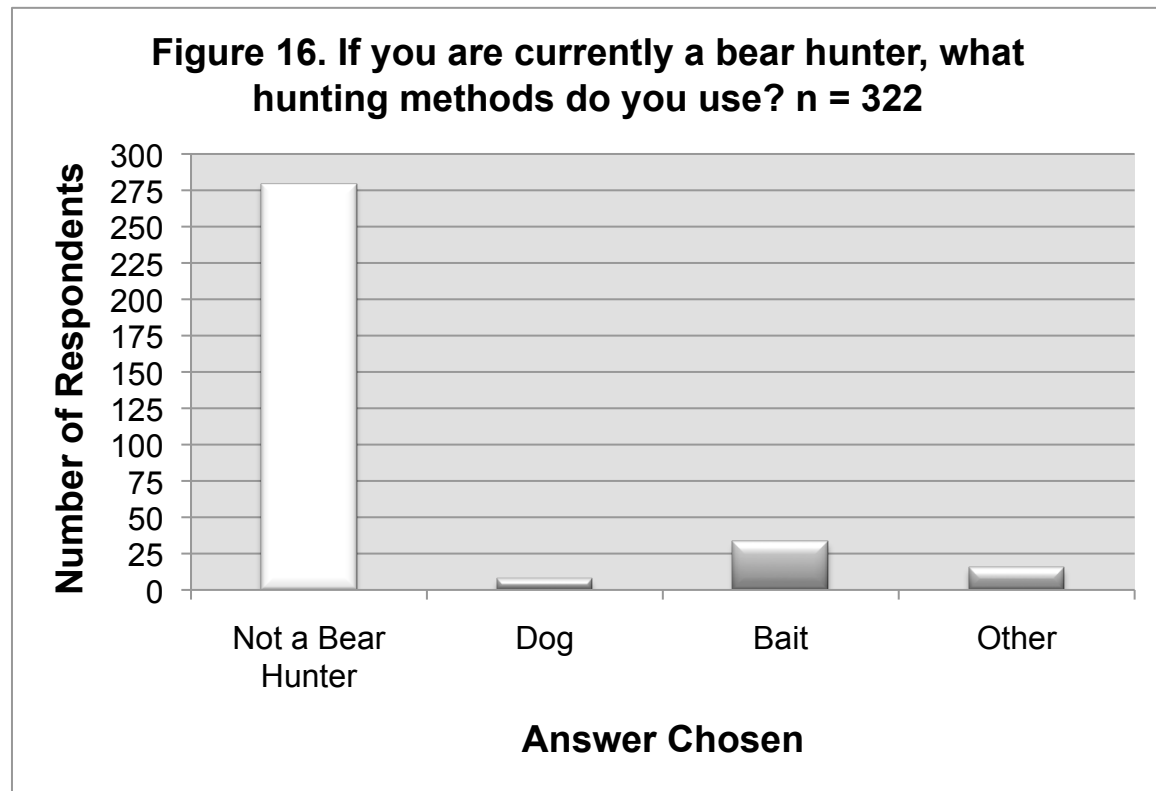**Figure 14. Have you regularly hunted at any other time in your life?      n = 369**
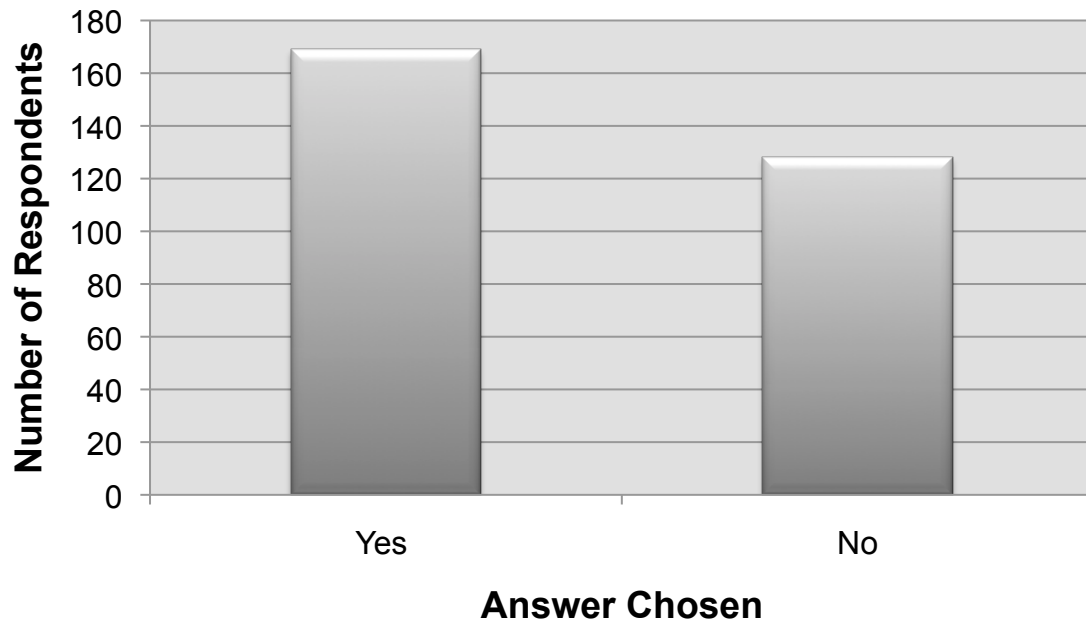


**Figure 15. Have you hunted bears or wolves at some time in the past?   n = 369**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 16. If you are currently a bear hunter, what hunting methods do you use? n = 322**



**Figure 17. Do you believe there should be a public hunting or trapping season on wolves? n = 368**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 18. If the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) opened a hunting or trapping season on wolves in Wisconsin, would this affect you opinion of the WDNR? n = 365**
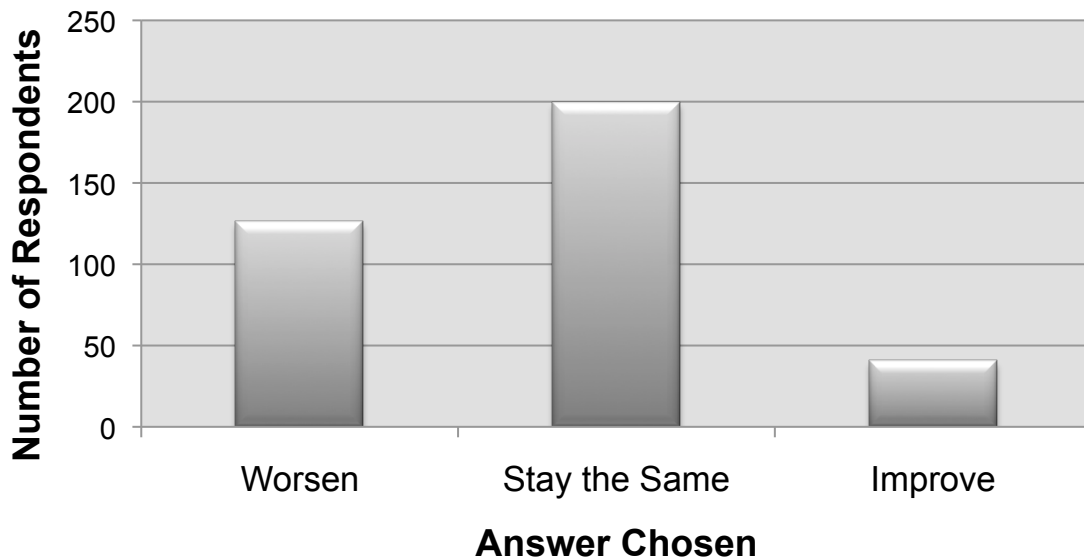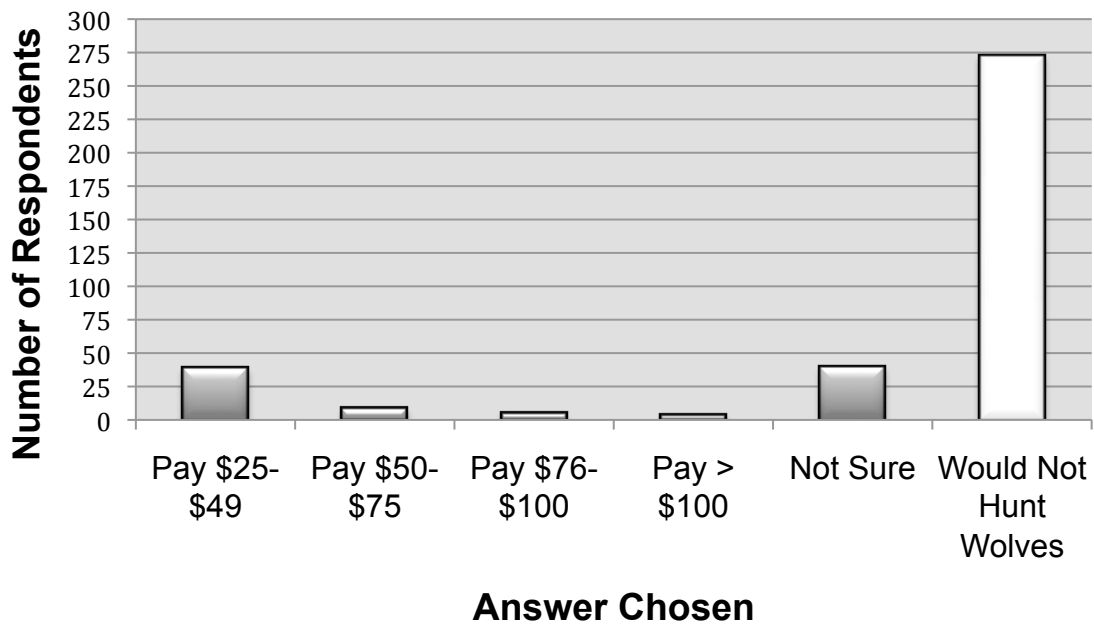
Number of Respondents (y-axis, scale 0 to 250)

- Worsen: ~125
- Stay the Same: ~200
- Improve: ~40

Answer Chosen

**Figure 19. How much would you pay for a permit (tag) to hunt a wolf in Wisconsin? n =366**

Number of Respondents (y-axis, scale 0 to 300)

- Pay $25-$49: ~40
- Pay $50-$75: ~10
- Pay $76-$100: ~5
- Pay > $100: ~5
- Not Sure: ~42
- Would Not Hunt Wolves: ~273
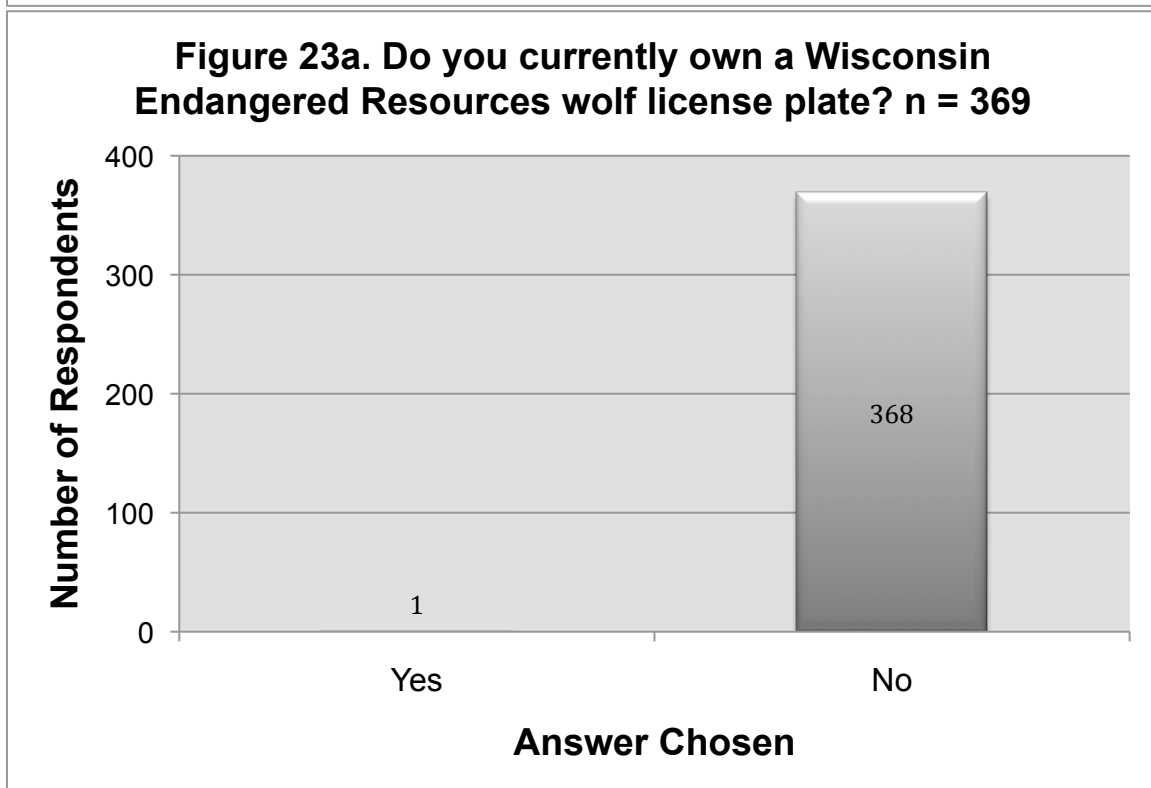
Answer Chosen

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 20. If you received a wolf permit (tag), what hunting methods would you want to use?**
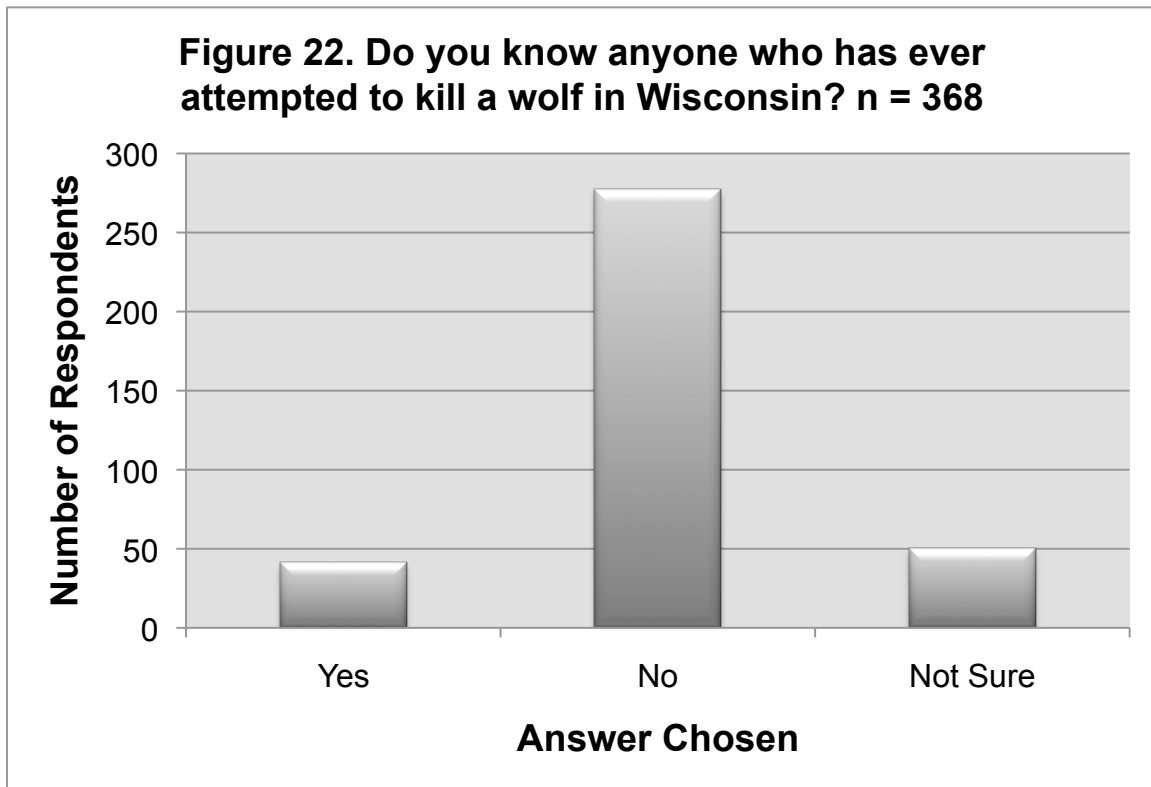**n = 368**
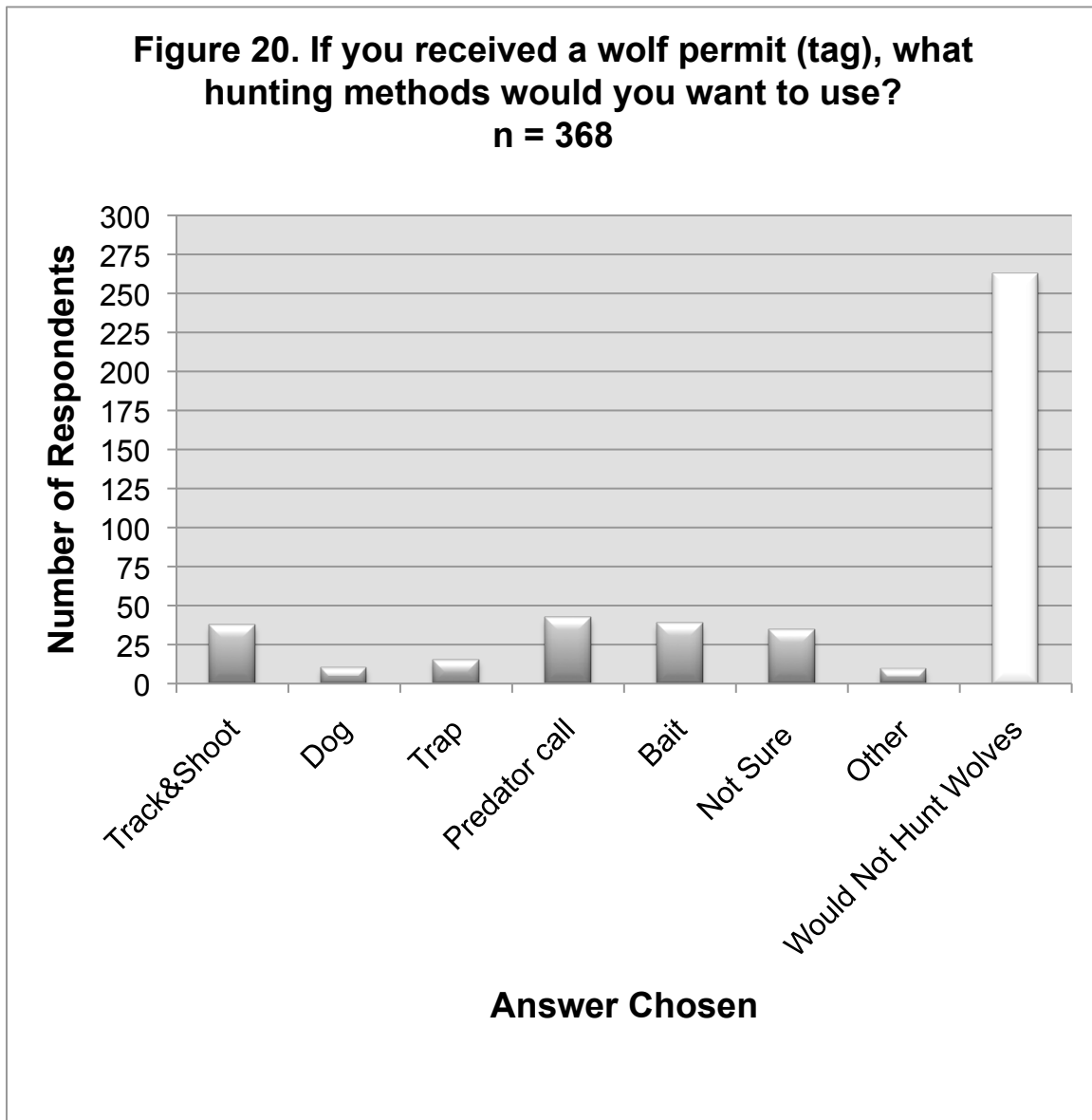
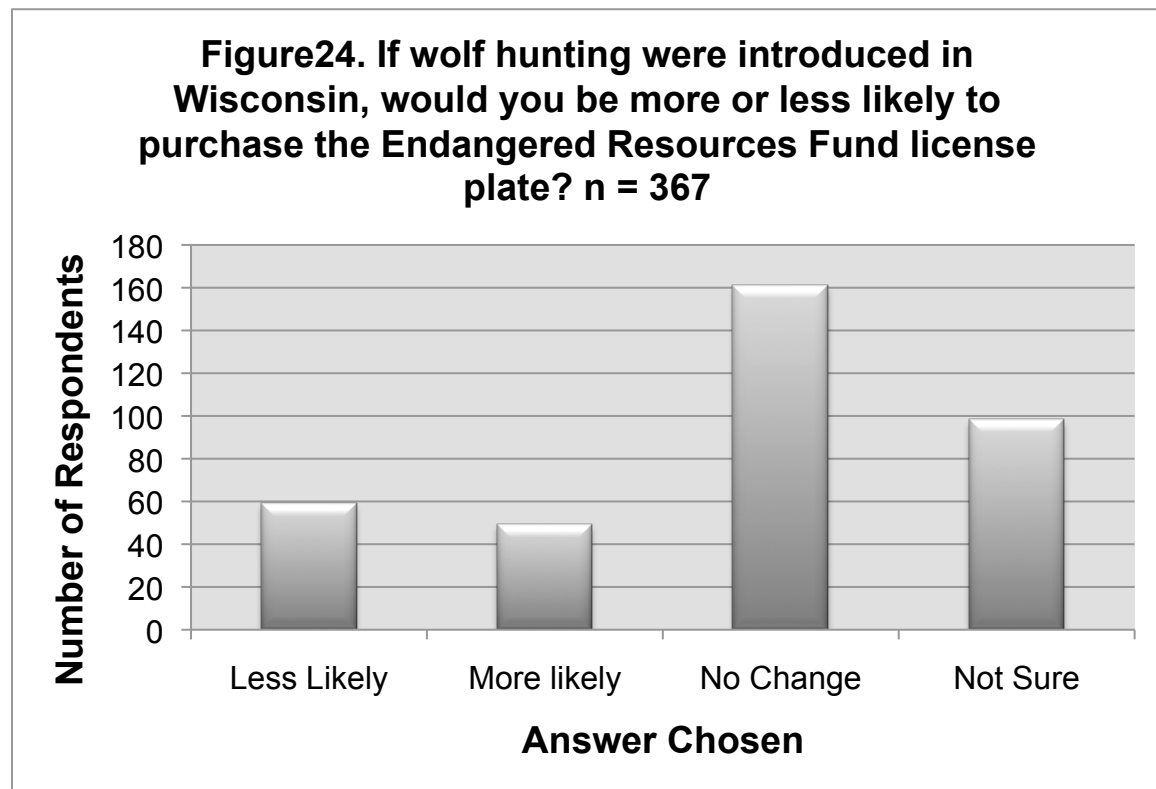**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 21. If a public hunting or trapping season were planned for Wisconsin wolves, which, if any, of the following rules would you support?**
**n = 366**
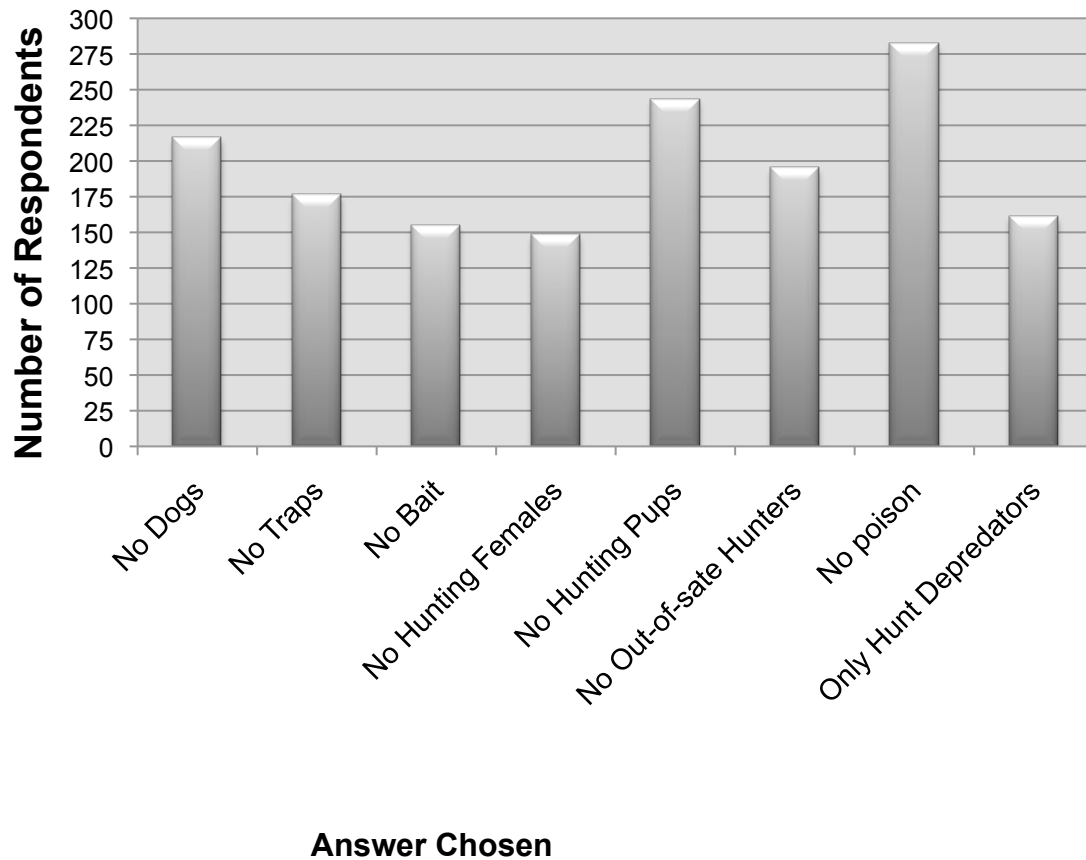
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.
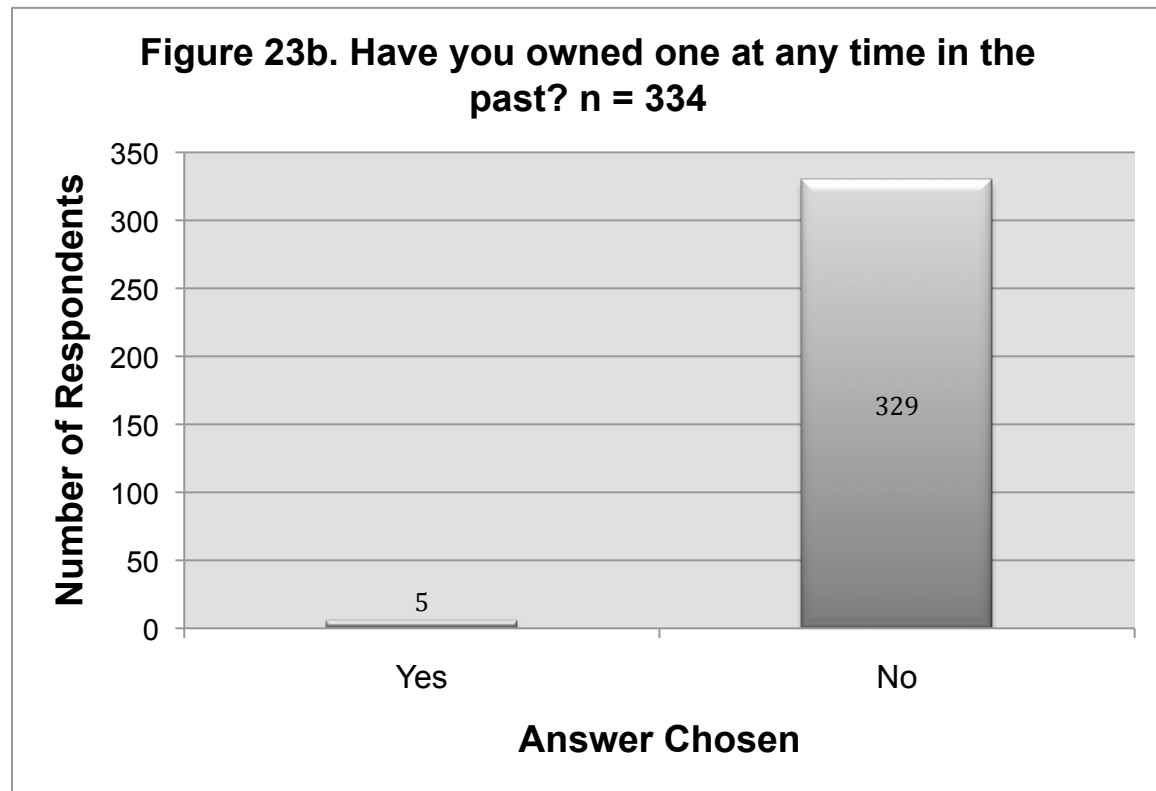
**Figure 22. Do you know anyone who has ever attempted to kill a wolf in Wisconsin? n = 368**



**Figure 23a. Do you currently own a Wisconsin Endangered Resources wolf license plate? n = 369**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 23b. Have you owned one at any time in the past? n = 334**



**Figure24. If wolf hunting were introduced in Wisconsin, would you be more or less likely to purchase the Endangered Resources Fund license plate? n = 367**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure 25. In the past five years, have you donated to the Endangered Resources Fund on your state income tax form? n = 367**
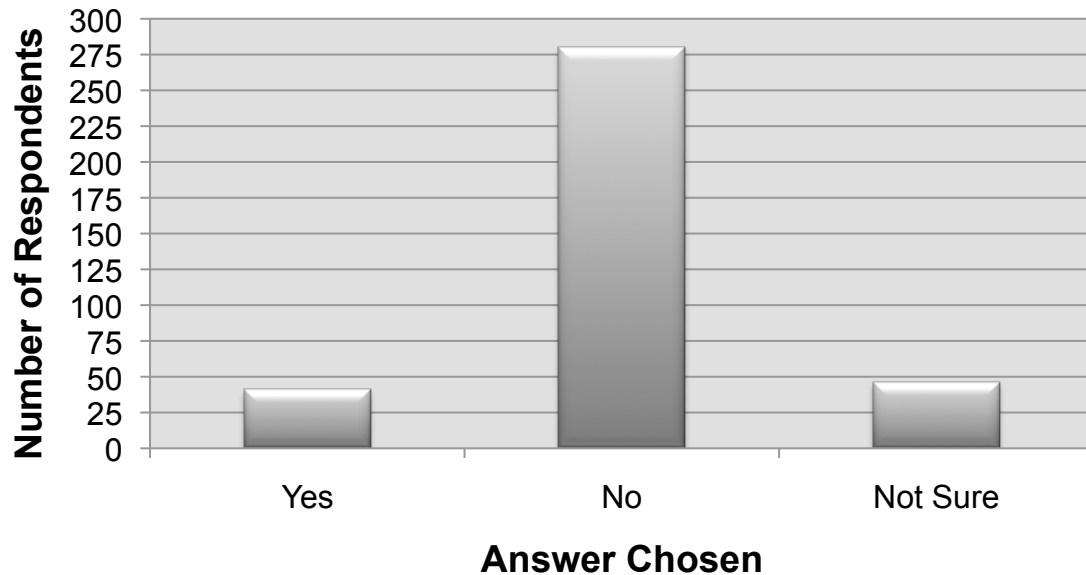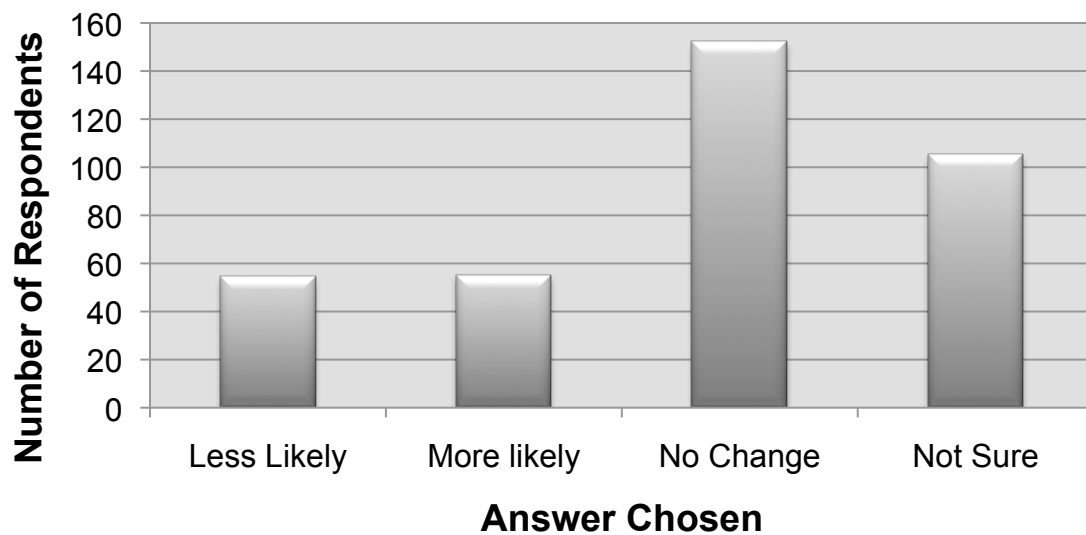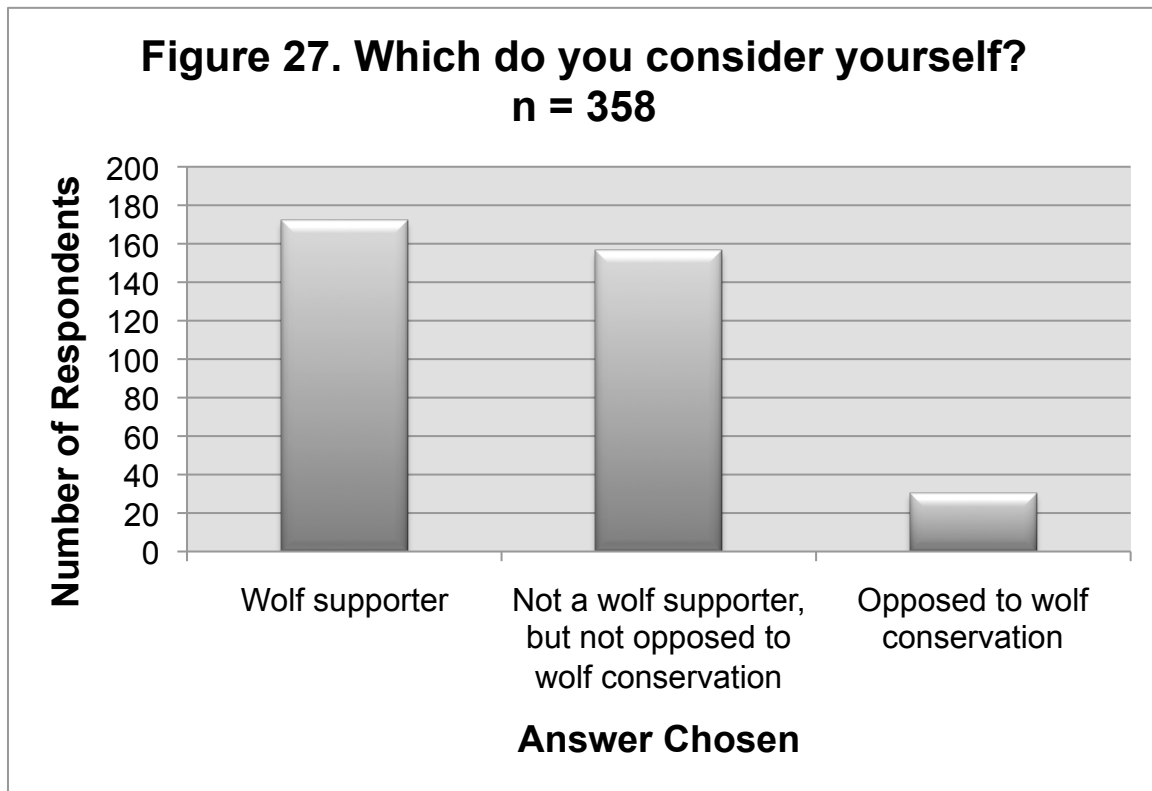


**Figure 26. If wolf hunting were introduced in Wisconsin, would you be more or less likely to donate to the Endangered Resources Fund on your state income tax form? n = 366**
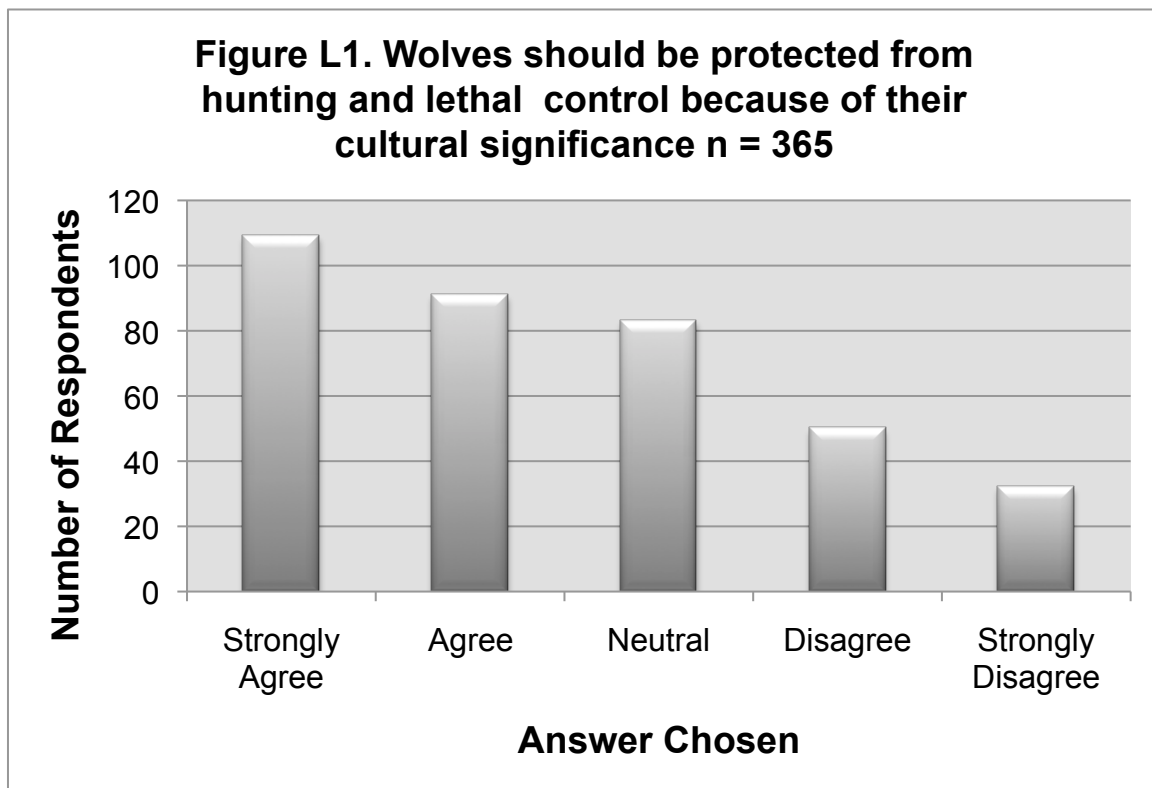
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

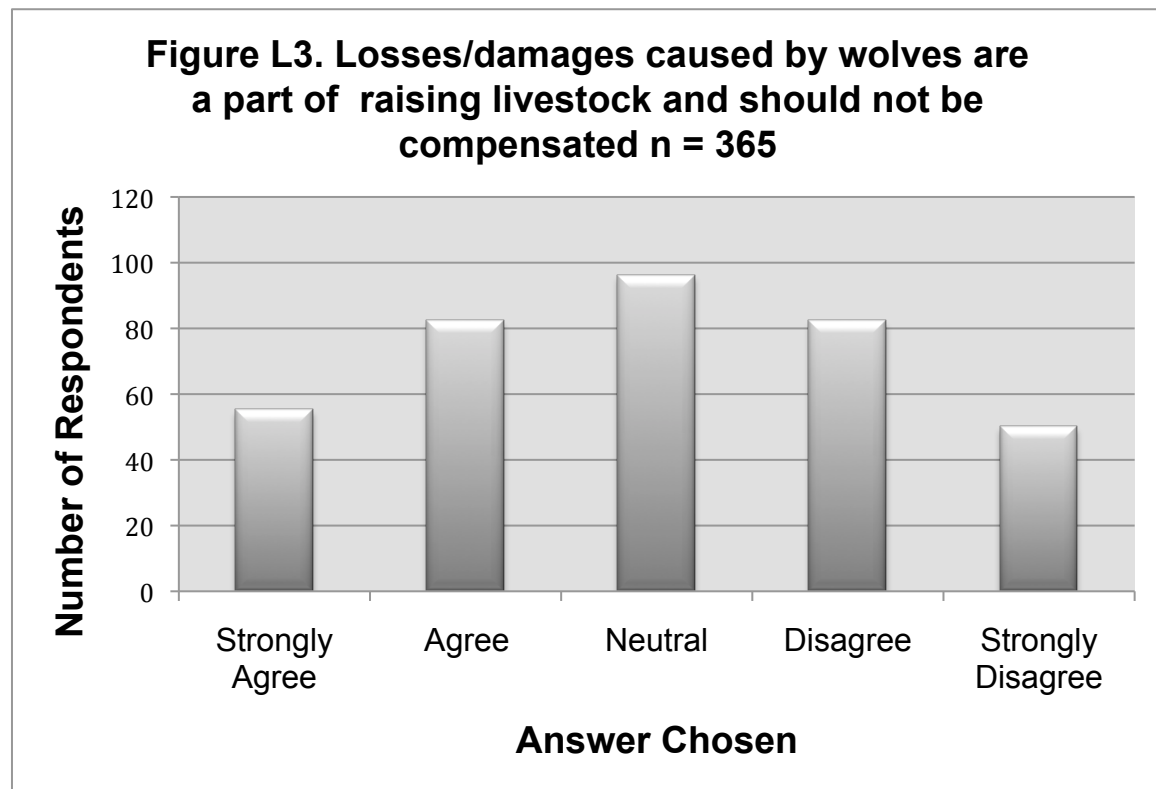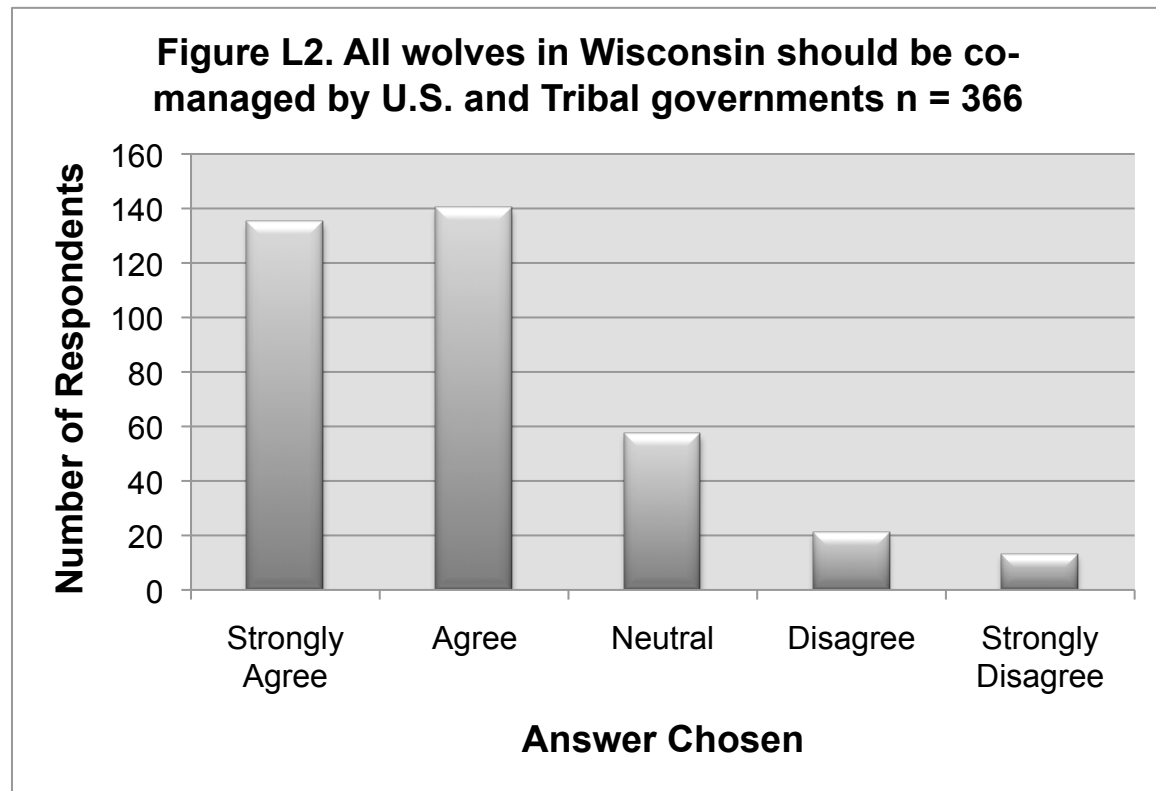## Figure 27. Which do you consider yourself?
### n = 358

**About the following graphs:**

The following graphs represent survey questions where the respondent was asked how much they agree or disagree with a certain statement. The statement posed in the survey is the title of the graph.

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.



Figure L1. Wolves should be protected from hunting and lethal control because of their cultural significance n = 365

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure L2. All wolves in Wisconsin should be co-managed by U.S. and Tribal governments n = 366**



**Figure L3. Losses/damages caused by wolves are a part of raising livestock and should not be compensated n = 365**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure L4. My tolerance for wolves would decrease if compensation programs were no longer available n = 364**
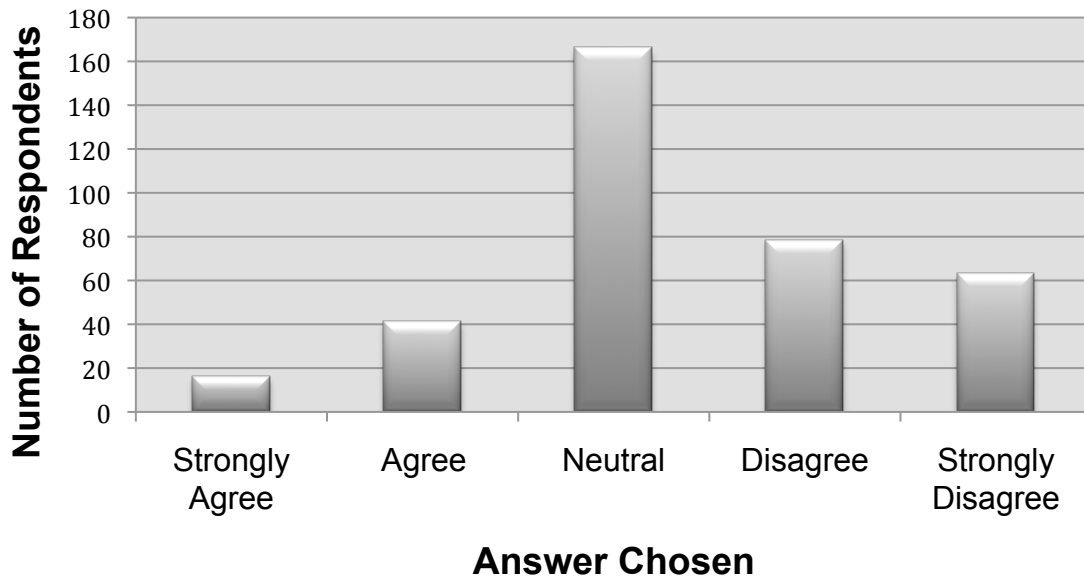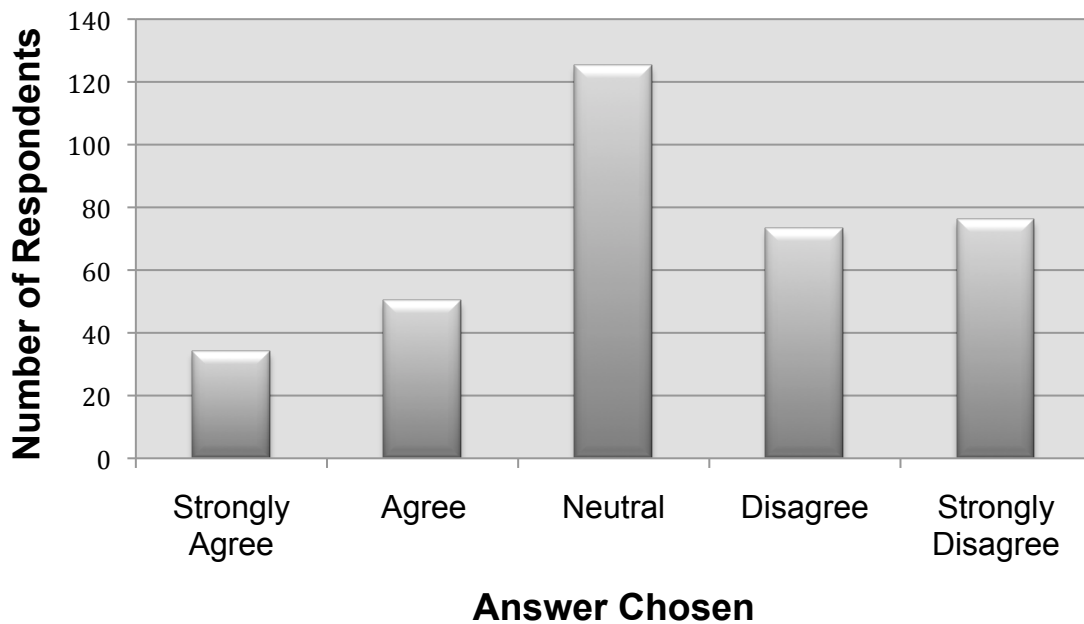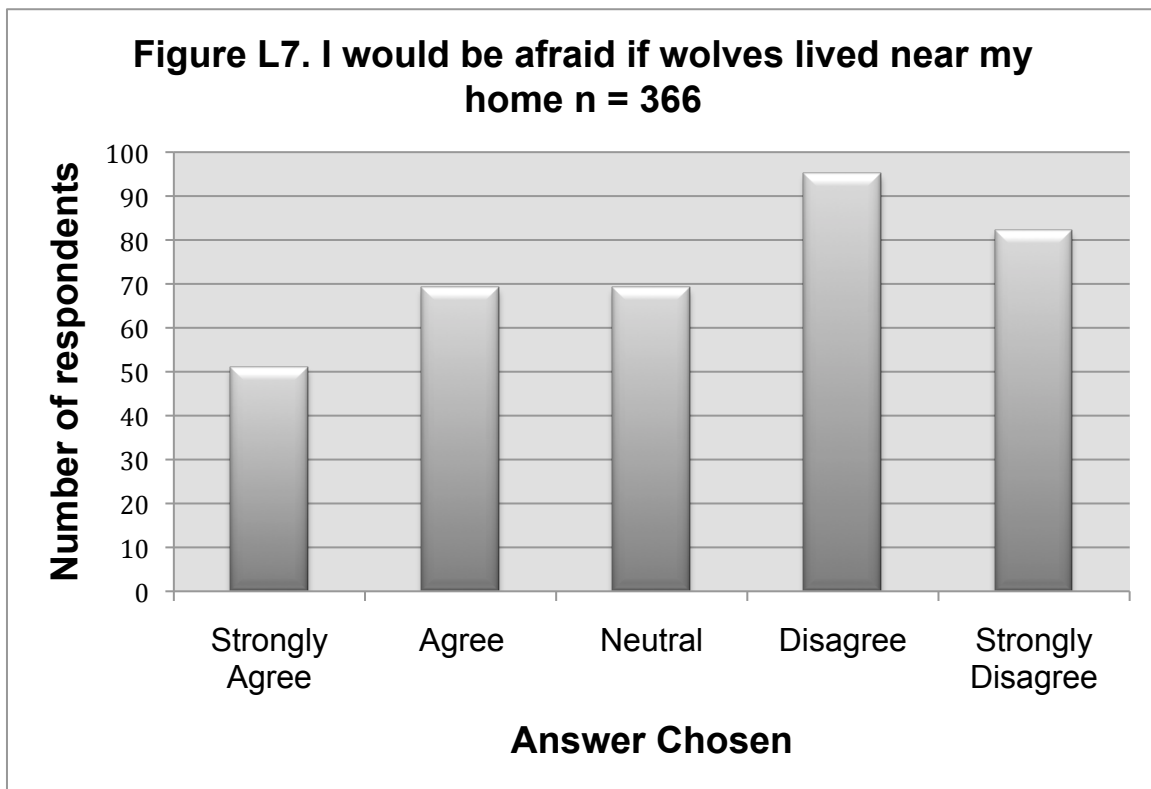
Number of Respondents vs. Answer Chosen (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)
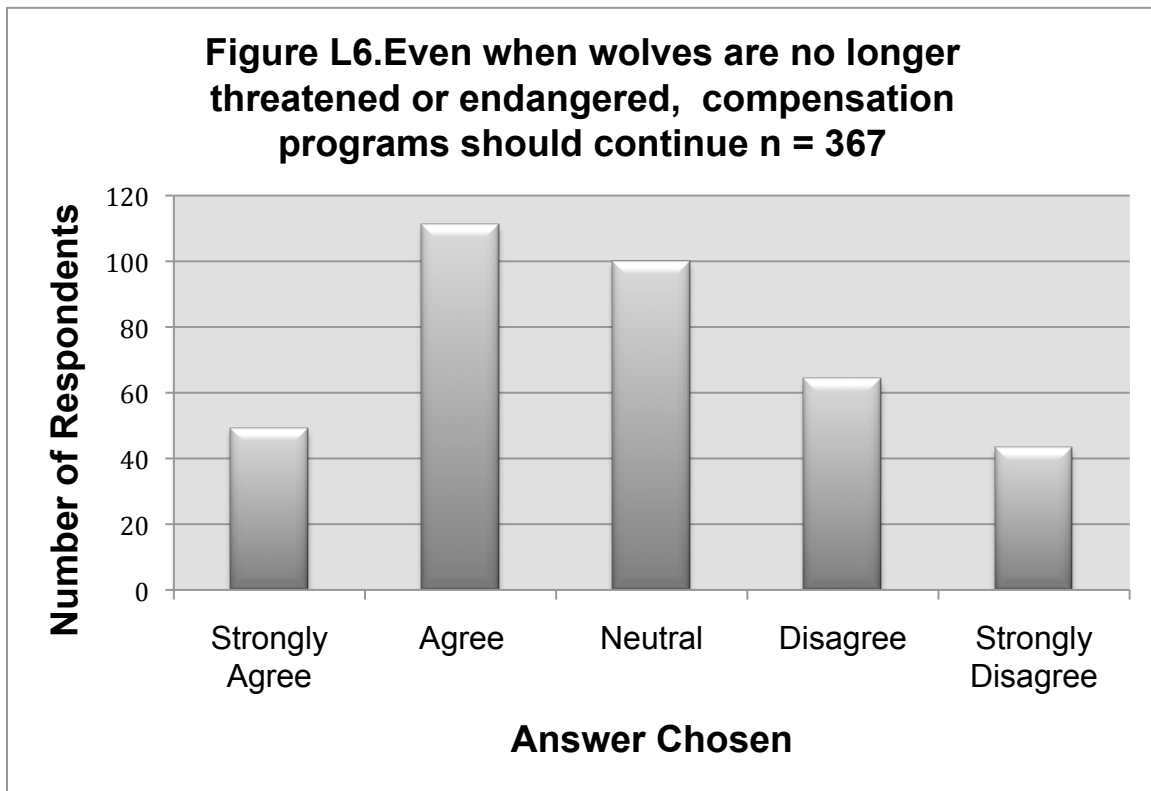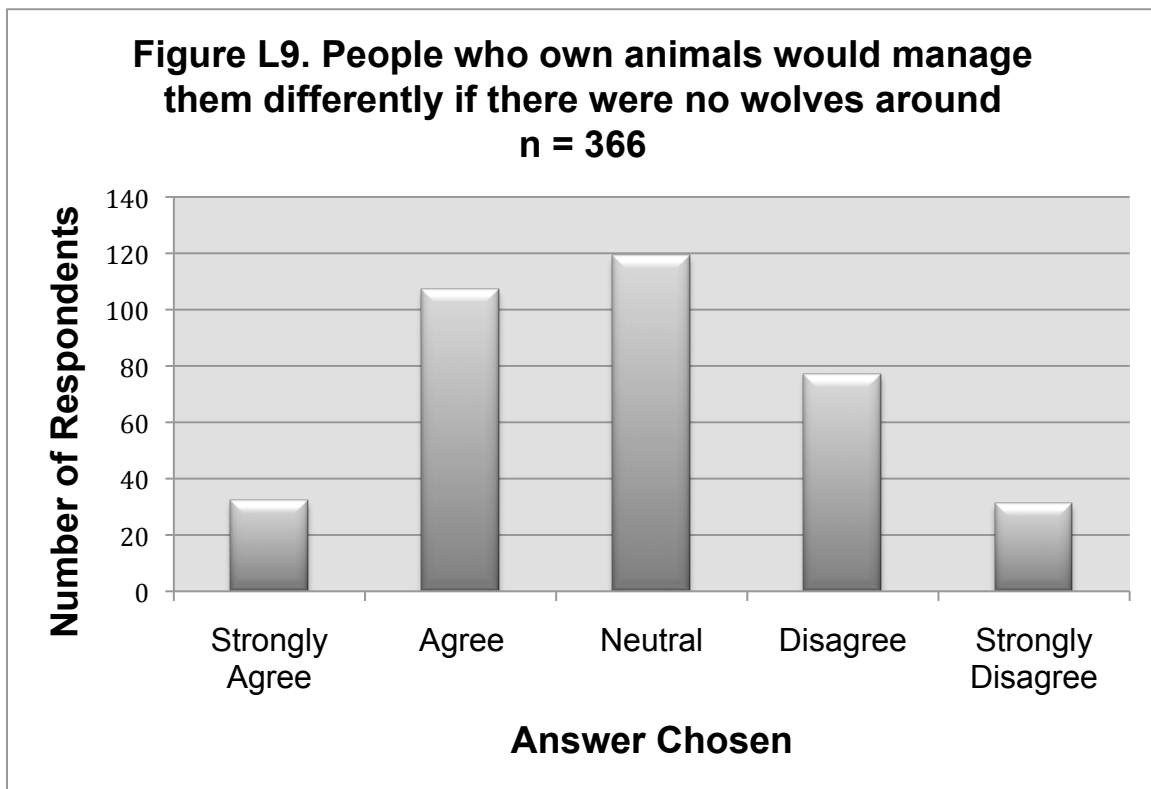
**Figure L5. My tolerance for Wisconsin wolves would increase if people could hunt them n = 358**

Number of Respondents vs. Answer Chosen (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure L6. Even when wolves are no longer threatened or endangered, compensation programs should continue n = 367**

Number of Respondents (y-axis, 0 to 120)

Answer Chosen (x-axis): Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

**Figure L7. I would be afraid if wolves lived near my home n = 366**

Number of respondents (y-axis, 0 to 100)

Answer Chosen (x-axis): Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree
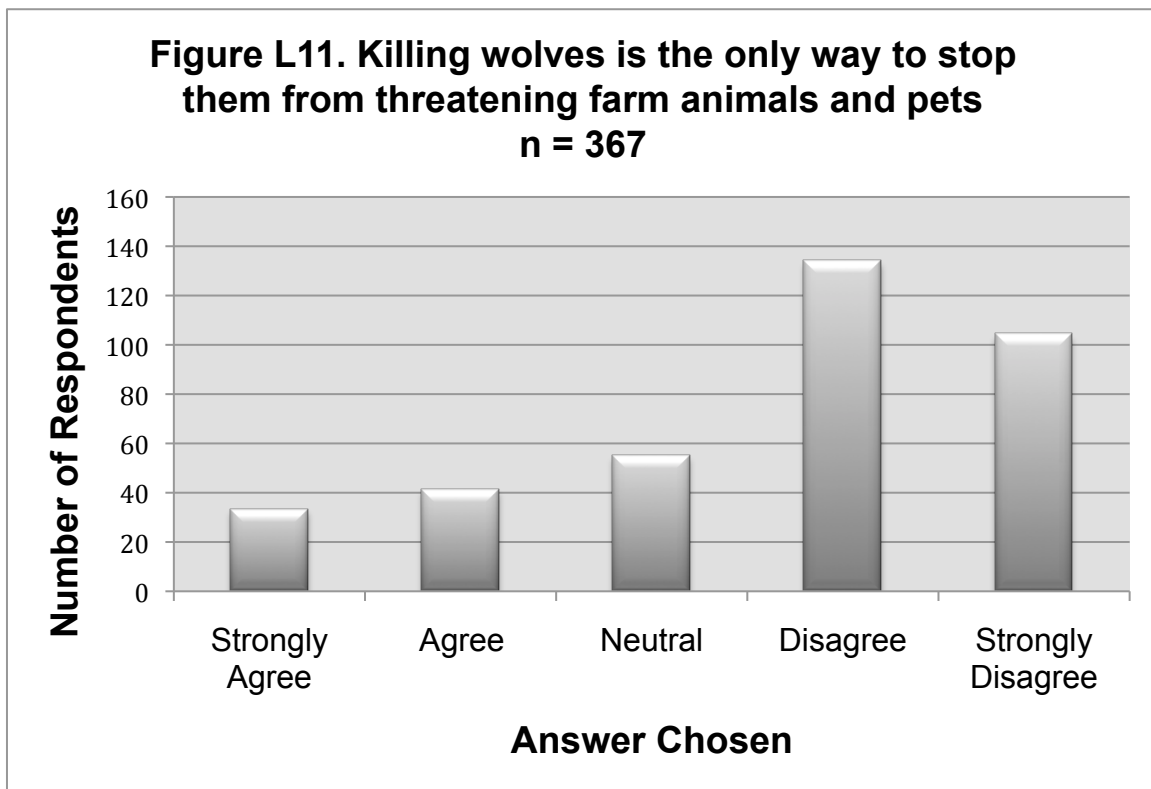
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure L8. Wolves keep deer herds healthy by killing the sick and weak animals n = 366**

Number of Respondents (Y-axis): 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160

Answer Chosen (X-axis): Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

**Figure L9. People who own animals would manage them differently if there were no wolves around n = 366**

Number of Respondents (Y-axis): 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140

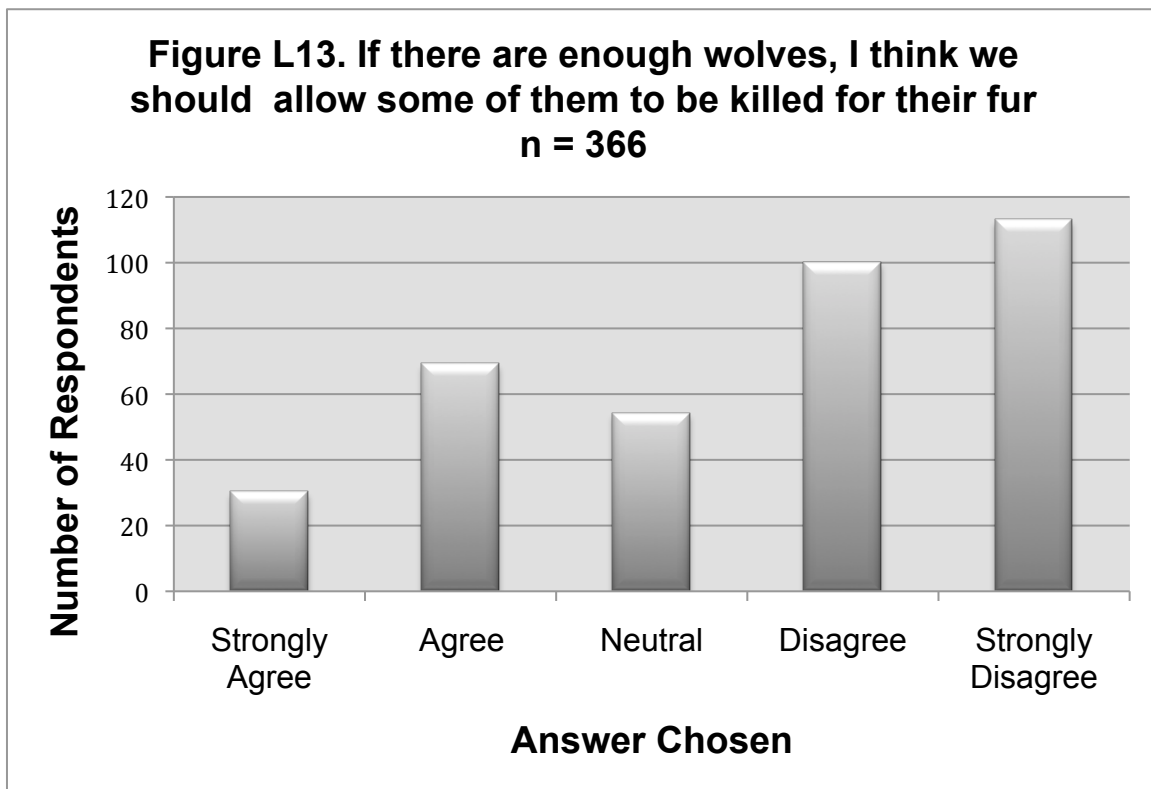Answer Chosen (X-axis): Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

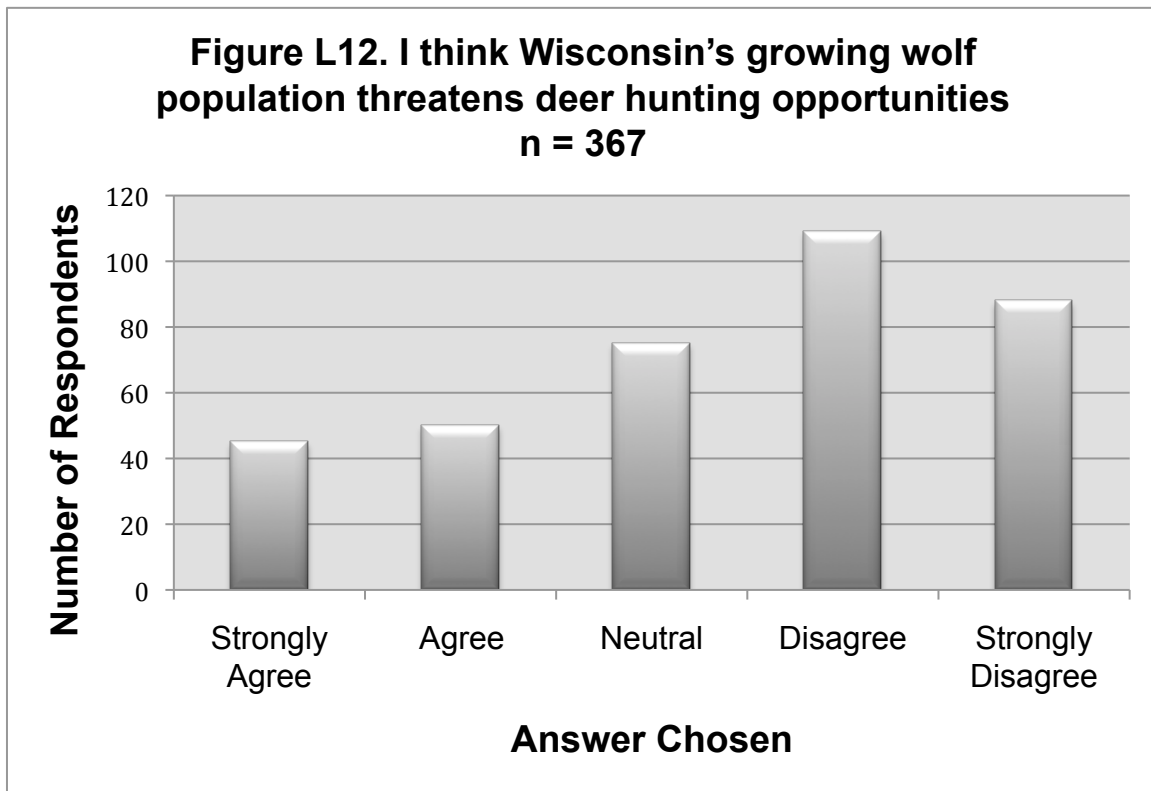**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure L10. I think the authorities should keep wolves away from farm animals and pets n = 367**



**Figure L11. Killing wolves is the only way to stop them from threatening farm animals and pets n = 367**
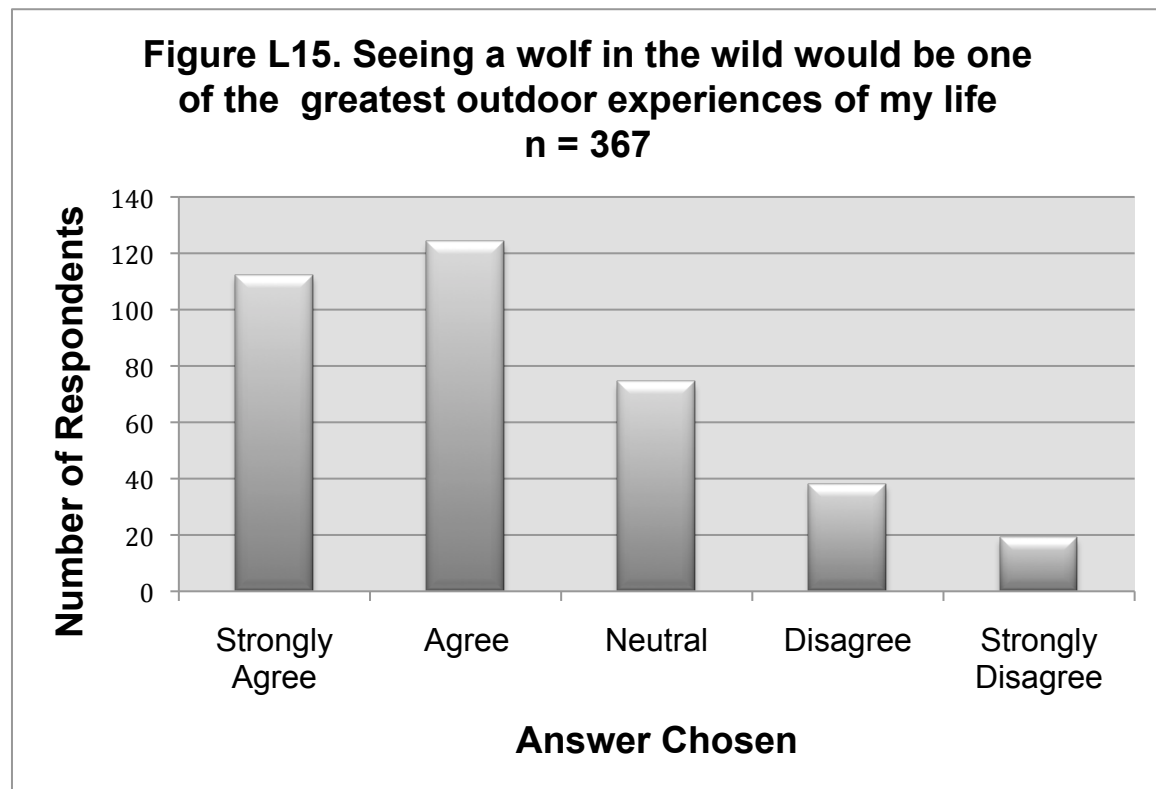
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.
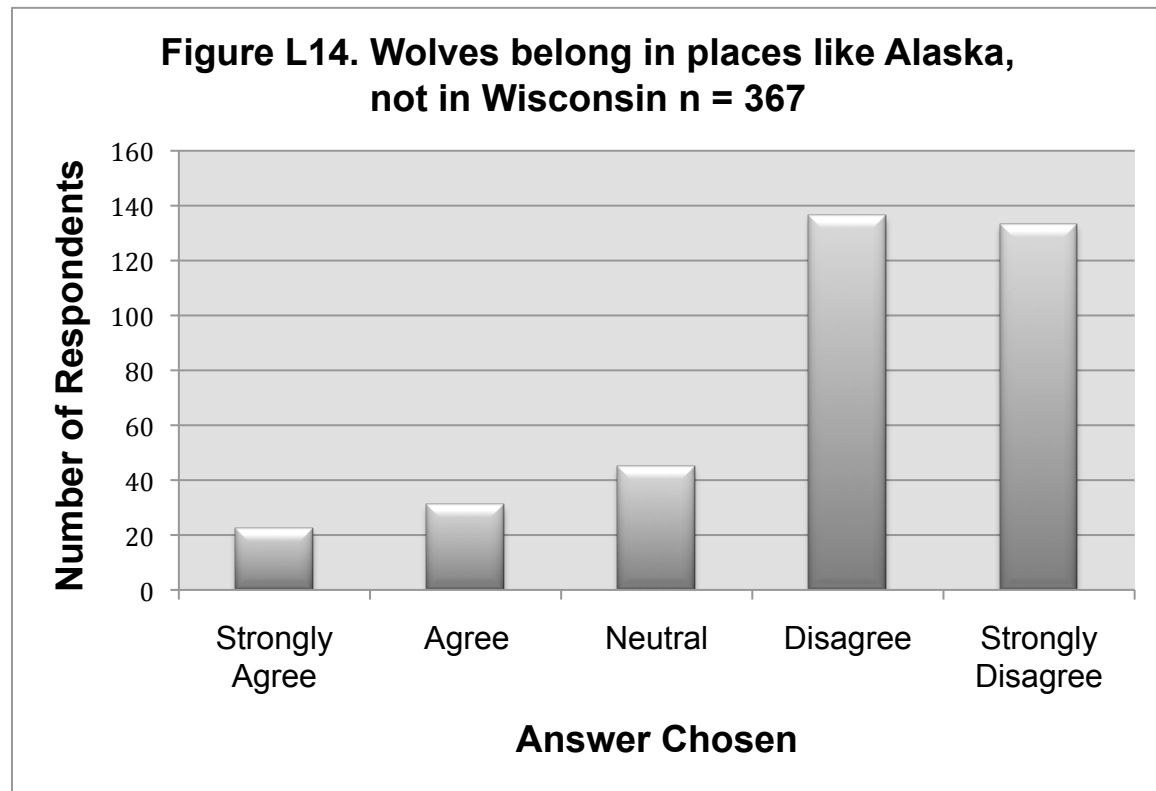
**Figure L12. I think Wisconsin's growing wolf population threatens deer hunting opportunities**
**n = 367**



**Figure L13. If there are enough wolves, I think we should allow some of them to be killed for their fur**
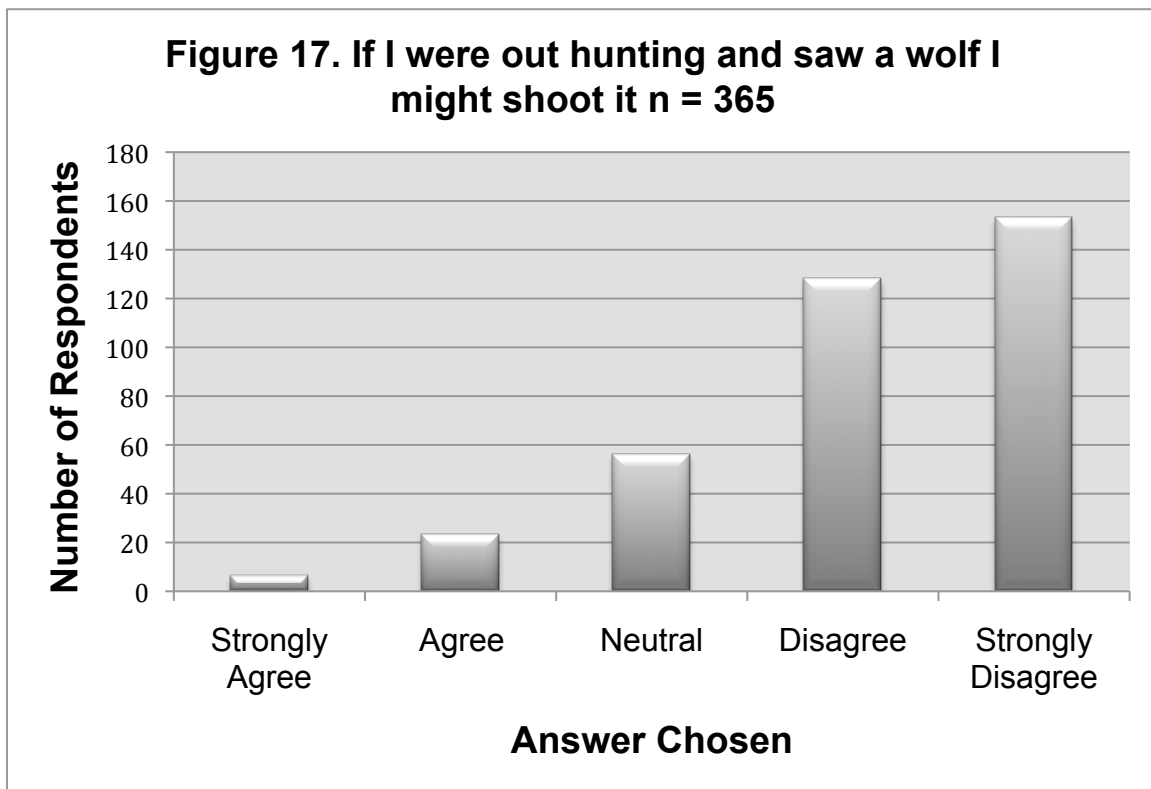**n = 366**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.
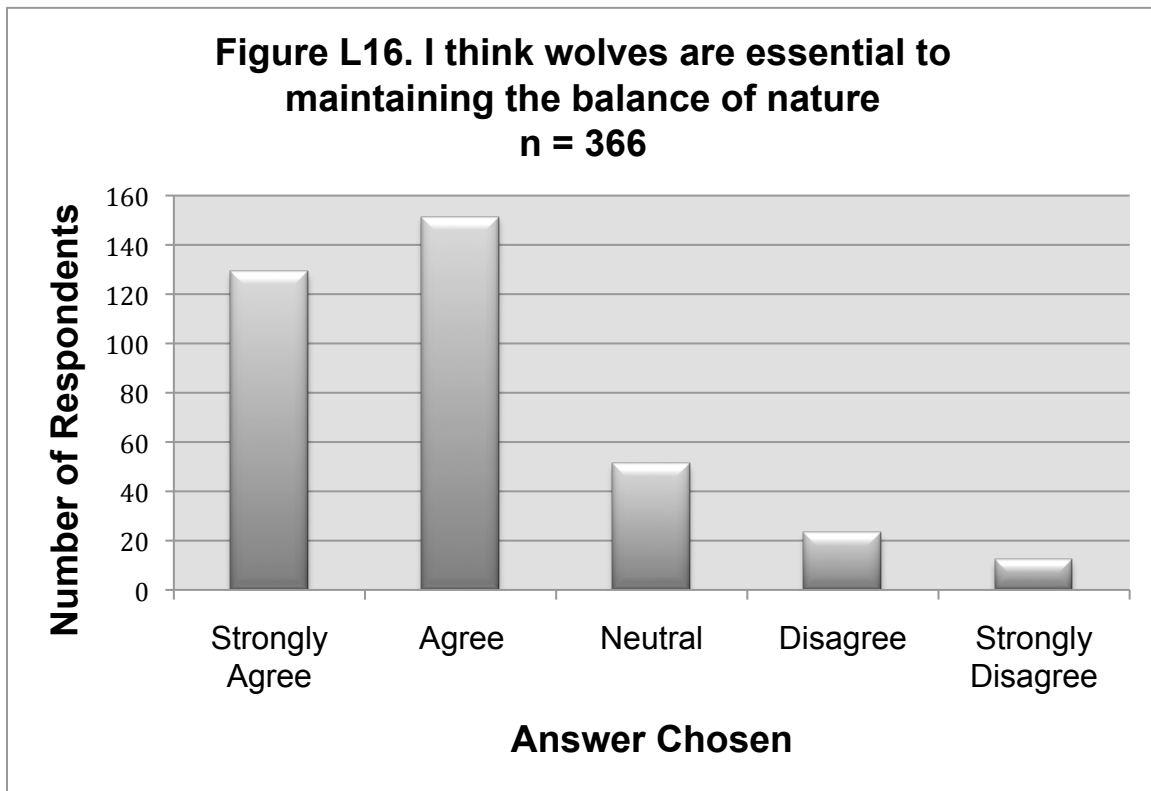
**Figure L14. Wolves belong in places like Alaska, not in Wisconsin n = 367**



**Figure L15. Seeing a wolf in the wild would be one of the greatest outdoor experiences of my life n = 367**
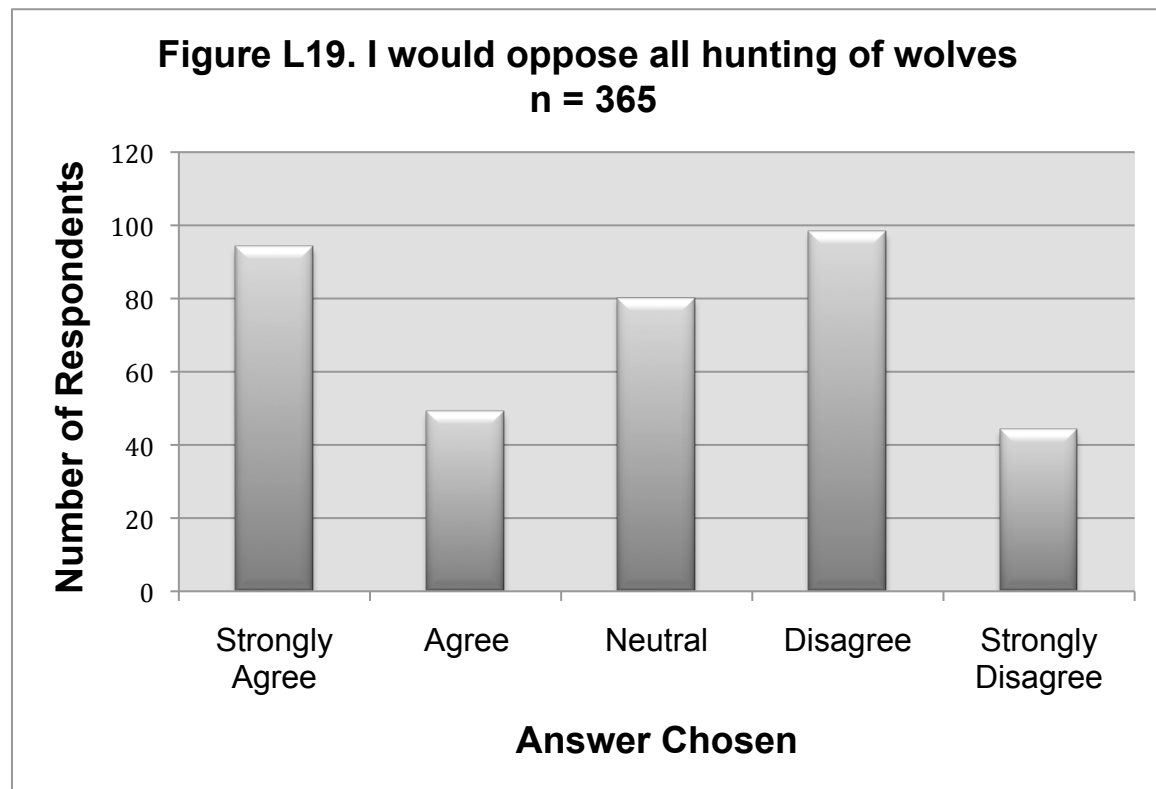
**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.

**Figure L16. I think wolves are essential to maintaining the balance of nature n = 366**



**Figure 17. If I were out hunting and saw a wolf I might shoot it n = 365**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.
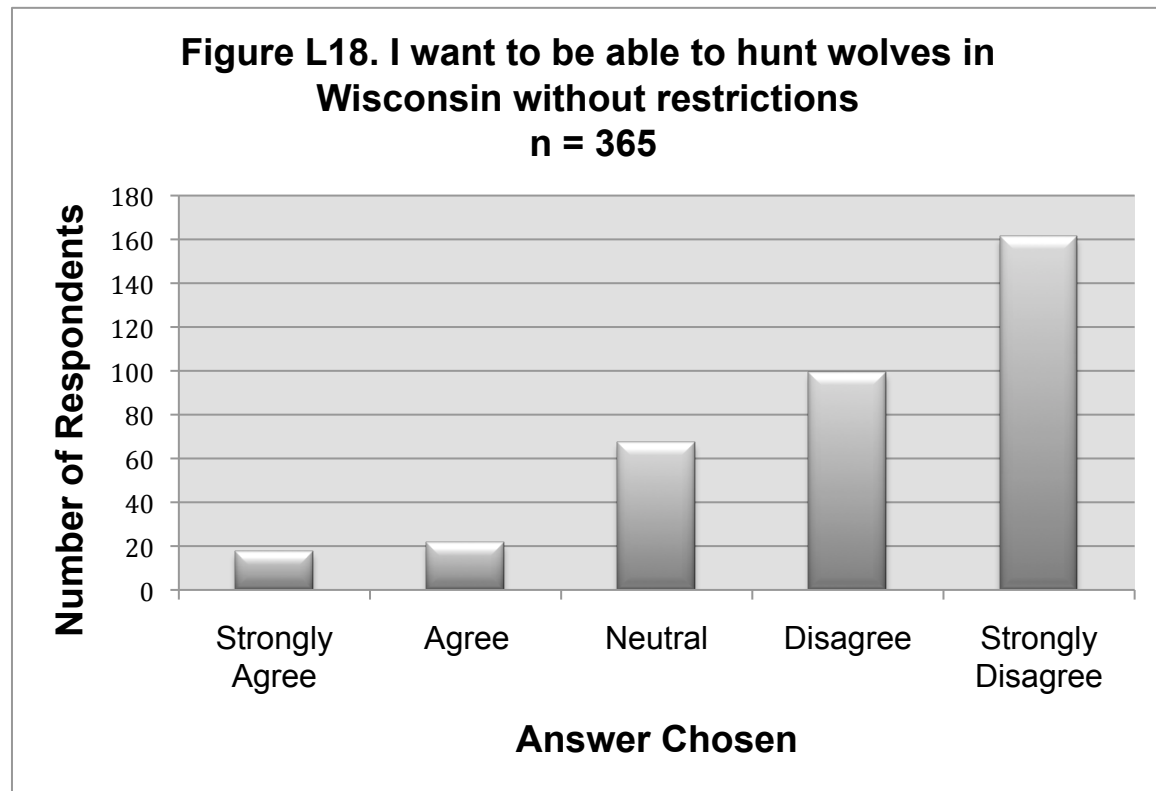
**Figure L18. I want to be able to hunt wolves in Wisconsin without restrictions**

n = 365



**Figure L19. I would oppose all hunting of wolves**

n = 365

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.
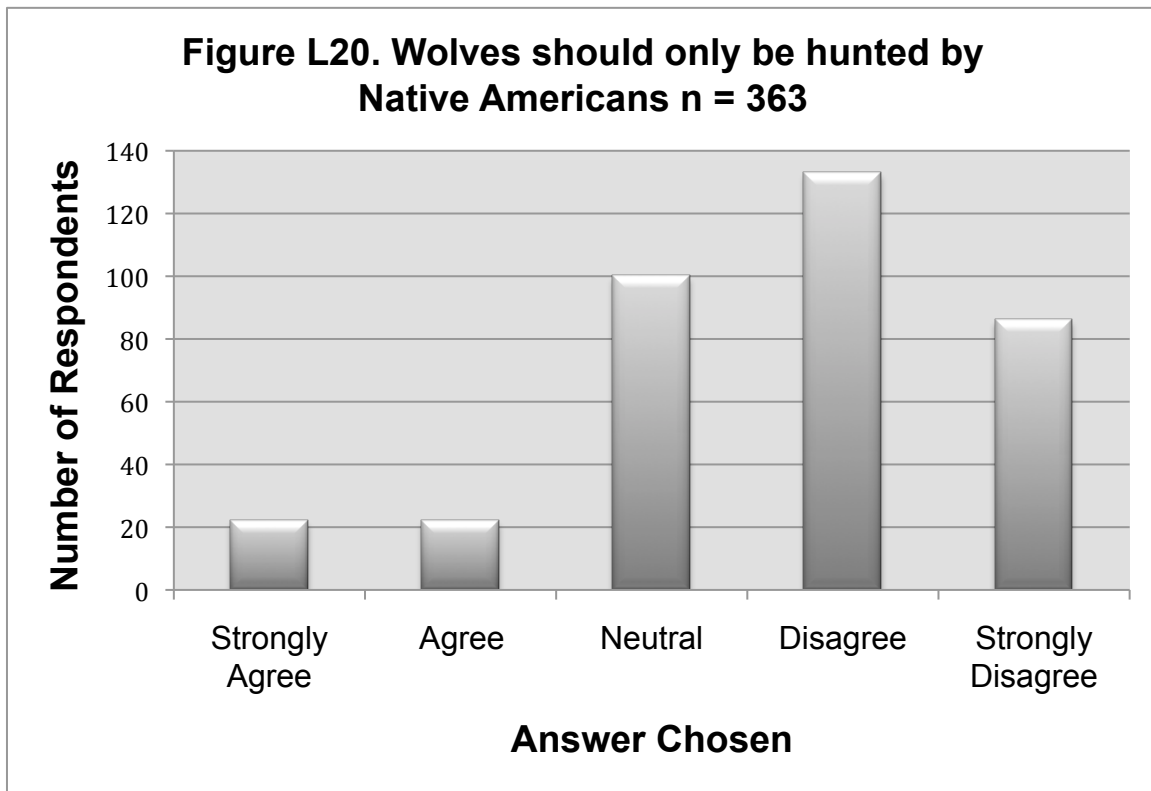
**Figure L20. Wolves should only be hunted by Native Americans n = 363**



**Figure L21. Wolves have lost their fear of people n = 363**

**Who are the respondents?** Randomly selected adult members from the Bad River Member household list.



Figure L22. We should let nature determine the number of wolves in Wisconsin n = 367