



# FY25 Crossbow Report

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February 26, 2026

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# Crossbow Report

## Sec. 107 ANALYSIS OF CROSSBOW HUNTING'S EFFECT ON DEER POPULATION.

By October 1, 2025, the commissioner of natural resources must submit to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources an analysis of the effect that allowing persons who are under age 60 to hunt with a crossbow during regular archery seasons has had on the deer population in this state.



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### Impact of Expanded Crossbow Use on Deer and Turkey Populations During Archery Season

As required by Minnesota Law 2023, Chapter 60, Article 4, Section 107

10/01/2025

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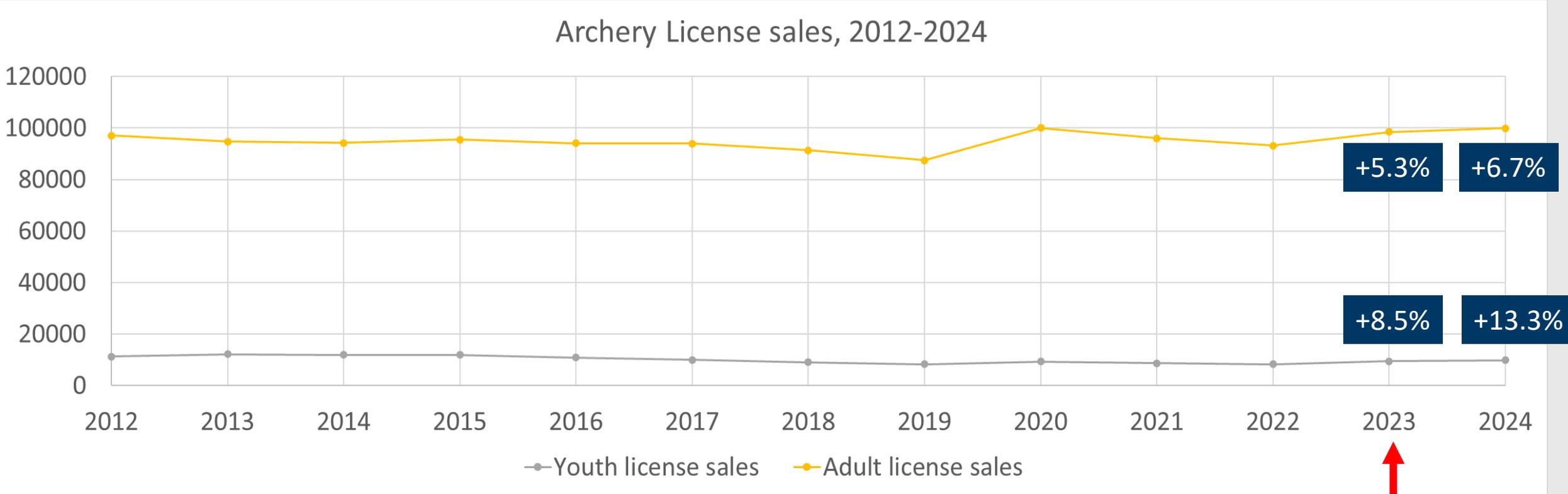
# Crossbow Report – Take home

***“We found no evidence that the statute change expanding crossbow use during archery season impacted deer or turkey populations.”***

***“Expanded crossbow use may have positive benefits to recruitment and retention efforts related to youth, older-aged, and female hunters....”***

# Crossbow Report – Deer Results

Total archery license sales increased 6.5%

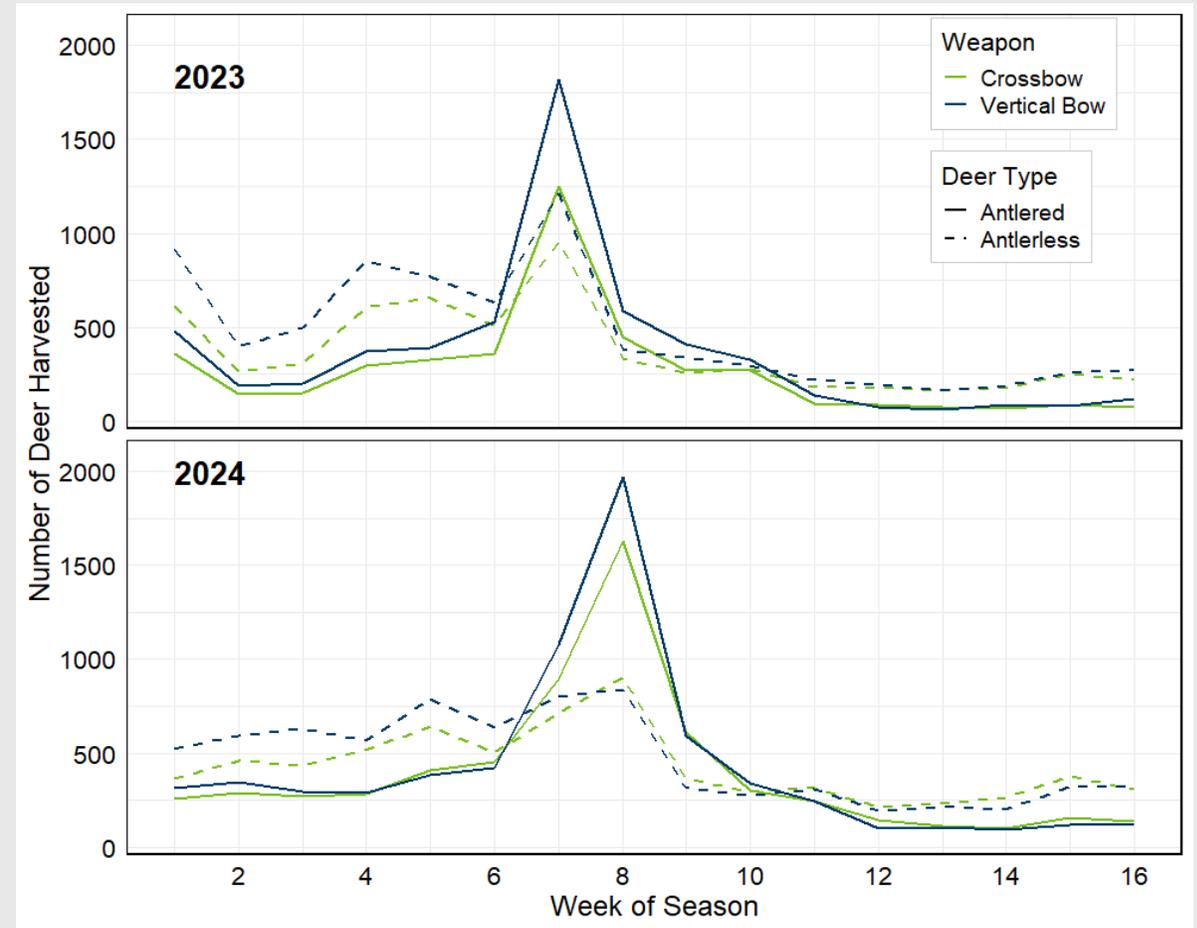


↑  
Crossbow  
Expansion

# Crossbow Report – Deer Results

**Deer harvested by archery increased 2% in 2023 and 32% in 2024 (second-highest recorded archery harvest).**

Increase appears to be attributed to increased harvest of adult bucks by both vertical and crossbow hunters.



# Crossbow Report – Deer Results

No difference in the sex or age class of deer taken with vertical bows versus crossbows.

Proportion of deer harvested by crossbow:

- 2023: 43.8%
- 2024: 48.2%

Year	Archery Equipment	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
2023	Crossbow	42.8%	7.0%	45.0%	5.2%	43.8
	Vertical Bow	44.2%	5.9%	44.9%	5.0%	56.2
2024	Crossbow	48.0%	6.7%	40.1%	5.3%	48.2
	Vertical Bow	48.0%	5.4%	41.6%	5.0%	51.8

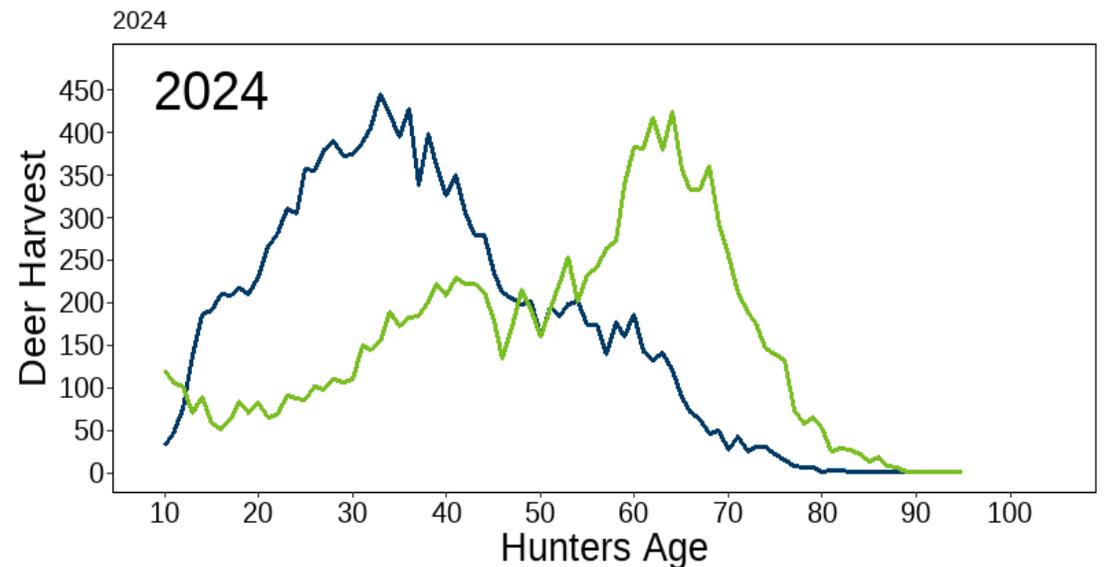
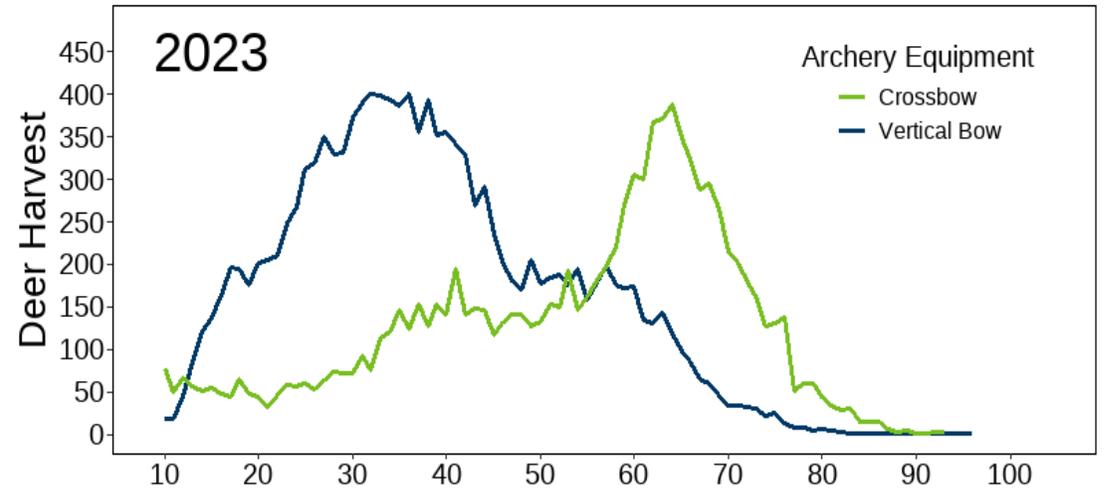
# Crossbow Report – Deer Results

**Crossbow deer harvest was highest among youth and older hunters.**

- 21% of archery hunters said they were already using a crossbow prior to the expansion

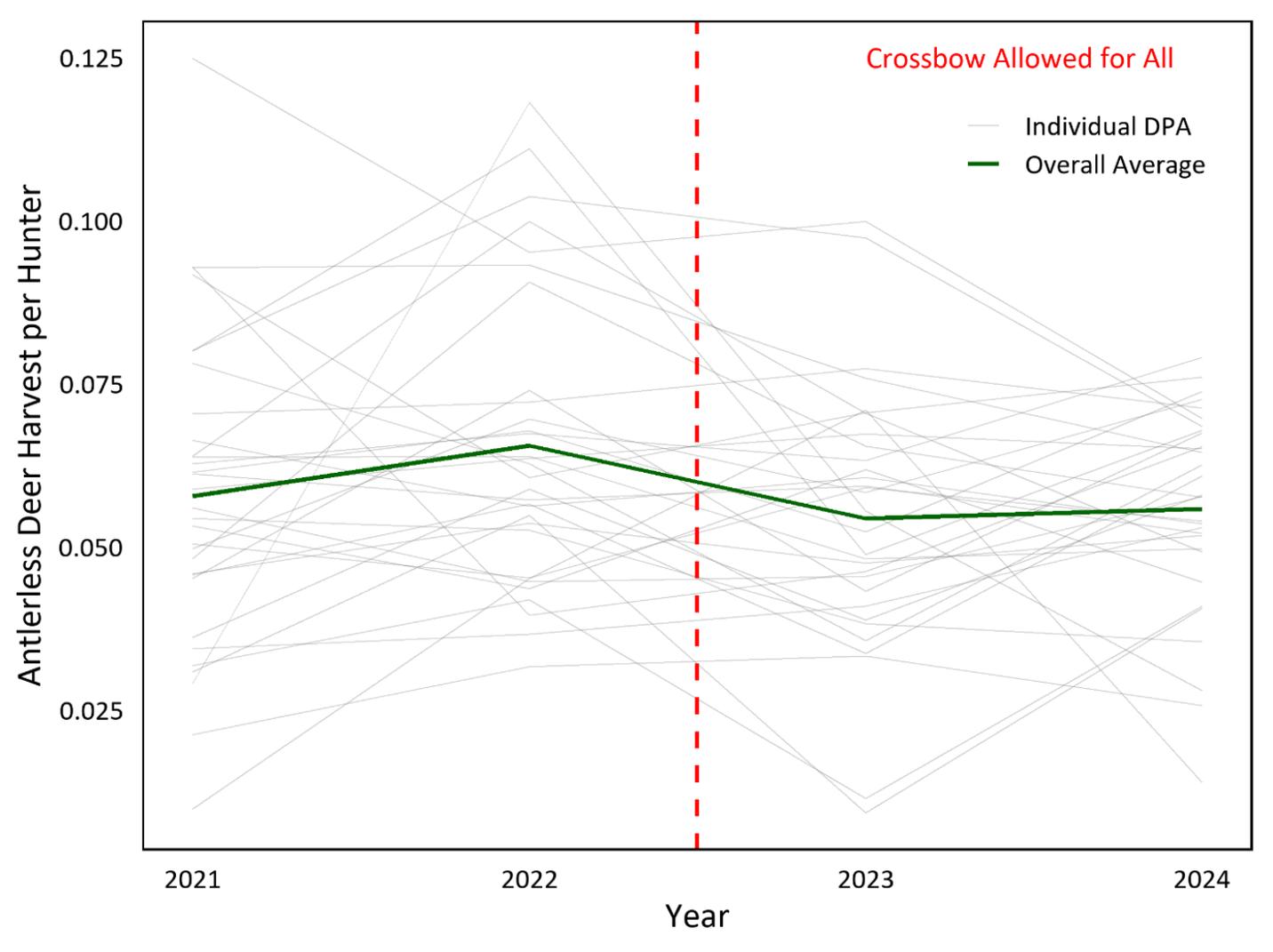
Crossbow harvest:

- 64% of deer harvested by female archery hunters
- 46% by male archery hunters



# Crossbow Report – Deer Results

**Antlerless deer harvest in lottery areas did not increase after crossbow use expanded.**



# Crossbow Report – Deer Results

- **Success rates, wounding rates, and hunter effort were similar between crossbow and vertical bow users.**
- **11% of crossbow users began archery hunting because of the crossbow expansion.**
- **62% of crossbow users are more likely to continue deer hunting because crossbows have been made legal for all.**

# Crossbow Report – Turkey Results

- **All turkey license sales increased after 2023**
- **Success rates, wounding rates, and accuracy similar.**
- **No evidence of hunters shifting from firearms to archery season.**
- **Proportion harvested with crossbow higher for youth and older hunters**
- **26% of crossbow users reported that crossbow availability was their reason for hunting.**
- **Among turkey hunters, attitudes toward crossbows were most favorable among crossbow users and least favorable among vertical bow hunters.**

# Thank you

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