Society & Natural Resources ›
An International Journal
Volume 21, 2008 - Issue 3

Articles

Hunter Perceptions of Similarity and Trust in Wildlife Agencies and Personal Risk Associated with Chronic Wasting Disease

Mark D. Needham & Jerry J. Vaske

Pages 197-214 | Received 24 Jan 2006, Accepted 19 Mar 2007, Published online: 15 Feb 2008

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920701816336

Abstract

Theory suggests that risk perceptions are influenced by trust in managing agencies. Shared goals and values (i.e., perceived similarity) are foundations of trust. This article examines the extent to which hunters perceive personal health risks associated with chronic wasting disease (CWD) (e.g., become ill from CWD) and the influence of perceive isk. Data were obt d elk hunters trata, hunt n agencies to ma o trusted agencies up to 8% of the varia gencies, but still perceived risks associated with CWD.

Keywords: chronic wasting disease | hunting | perceived risk | salient value similarity | social trust | structural equation modeling | wildlife management

This article is based on a project of the Human Dimensions Committee of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). The authors thank Chris Burkett (Wyoming Game and Fish Department), Dana Dolsen (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources), Jacquie Ermer (North Dakota Game and Fish Department), Larry Gigliotti (South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks), Ty Gray (Arizona Game and Fish Department), Larry Kruckenberg (Wyoming Game and Fish Department), Bruce Morrison (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission), Jordan Petchenik (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), Duane Shroufe (Arizona Game and Fish Department), and Linda Sikorowski (Colorado Division of Wildlife) for their assistance. The four anonymous reviewers are also thanked for comments on this article.

Notes

Note. Range represents lowest to highest means, factor loadings, and Cronbach alpha reliability coefficients among all 22 strata. Average represents the mean across all strata. Individual item statistics for each of the 22 strata are reported in Needham (2006).

[a] Confirmatory factor analyses based on Satorra-Bentler robust estimation for multivariate nonnormality. All loadings are standardized and significant at $p < .001$. Range of measurement model fit indices: NNFI∗ = .89 to .94, CFI∗ = .90 to .95, RMSEA∗ = .06 to .09.

[b] Variabl… isagree, 3 = sligh…, 7 = st…

[c] Varia… oderate risk, 8–9 = ex…

[d] Variable coded on 9-point scale: 1–2 = not concerned, 3–4 = slightly concerned, 5–7 = moderately concerned, 8–9 = extremely concerned.

Note. Based on Satorra–Bentler robust estimation for multivariate nonnormality; β = standardized path coefficients; ∗p < .05, ∗∗∗p < .001.

Most risk perception studies involve technologies or activities that have both benefits and negative consequences (e.g., nuclear power provides electricity, but accidents harm humans). Hazards have no obvious benefits (Slovic 1987; Sjöberg 2000a). Given that CWD is always fatal in animals and is similar to TSE diseases that can cause human death, few hunters would likely contend that CWD has benefits. CWD, therefore, is considered a hazard in this article.

The questionnaire was pretested in each state in 2003 with hunters who purchased a license to hunt in 2002 (n = 659). Details are reported in Needham et al. (2004). Potential overlap of strata (e.g., deer hunters who also hunted elk, hunted in more than one state) was minimized by deleting duplicate cases in samples across strata before questionnaire administration. This study was supported by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). Arizona and North Dakota belong to WAFWA and do not have CWD, but are surrounded by regions with CWD (e.g., New Mexico, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Utah).

Ancillary analyses revealed no substantive differences in results presented in this article between data that were weighted and not weighted based on the nonresponse bias check.

In addition to tests of direct effects, mediation analyses were conducted (Baron and Kenny 1986). Mediation was not present in 21 of the 22 strata, as the predictor (similarity) was not related significantly to the criterion (risk). Social trust fully mediate ent elk hunters, iterion was weak, β erally not present which had a direc

Ancillary nales in each stratum 1 (Table 2).

Related research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by 92