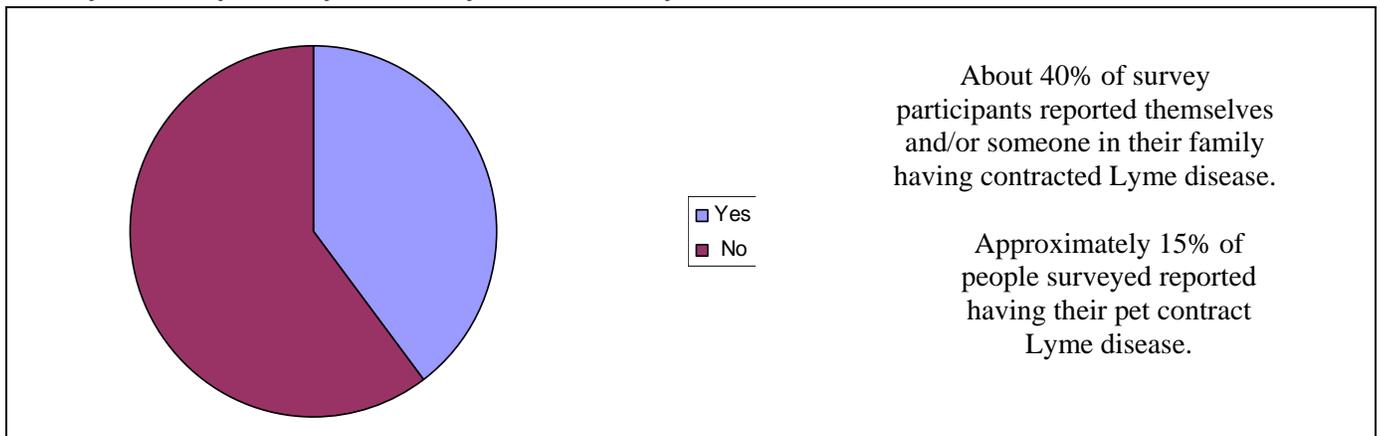


**Town of Weston  
Deer Impact Survey Results  
2012**

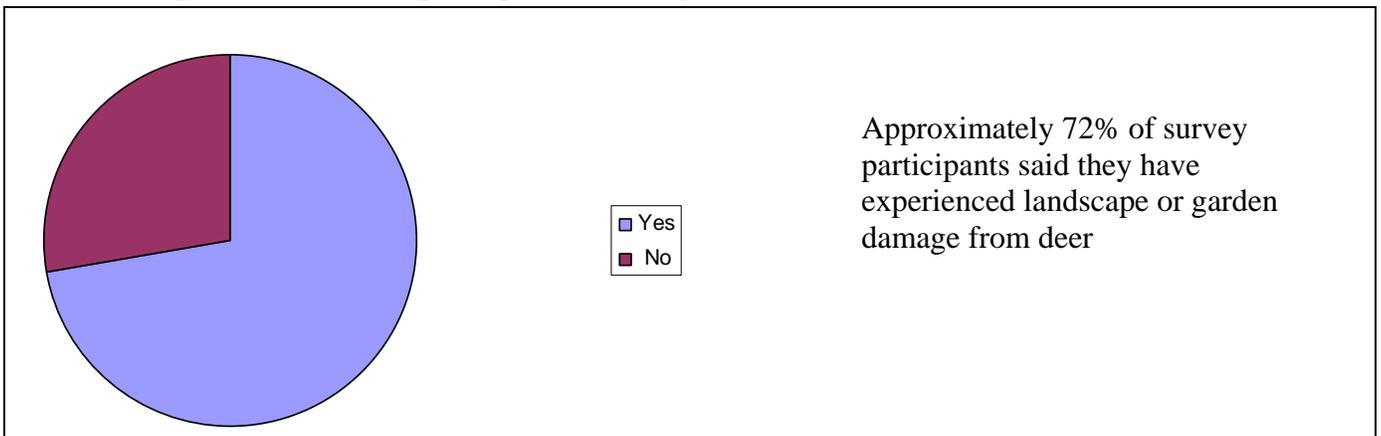
Like many towns in Massachusetts, the Town of Weston has experienced a rising deer density in recent years. Problems associated with a high deer population, such as increased Lyme disease risk, property damage to landscape plants and crops, automobile-deer collisions, and damage to conservation land, are raising concern among some residents. Of special concern to the Weston Conservation Commission is the potential damage to forest ecosystems by heavy deer browse. Through an online survey, the Conservation Commission gathered information on deer impacts in Weston on human health and property, including the spread of Lyme disease, deer-vehicle collisions, and damage to landscape plantings and agricultural crops.

These are the results from 231 survey participants.

**Have you or anyone in your family contracted Lyme disease?**



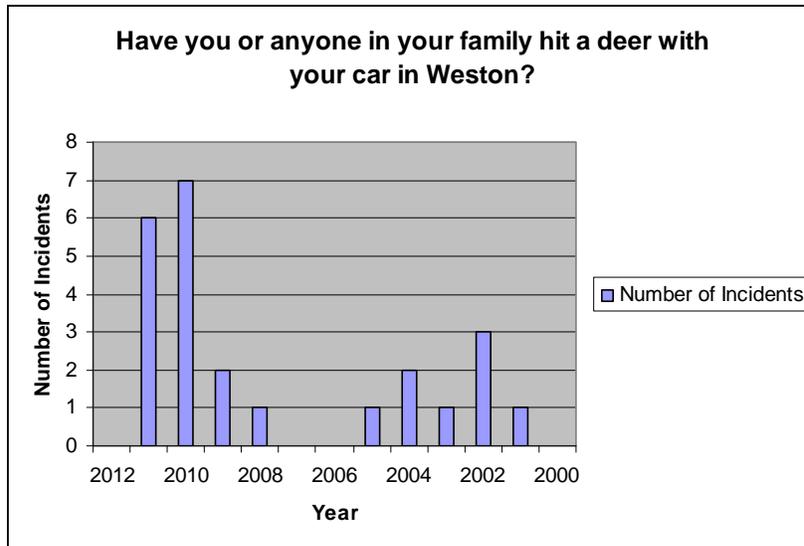
**Have you experienced landscape or garden damage from deer?**



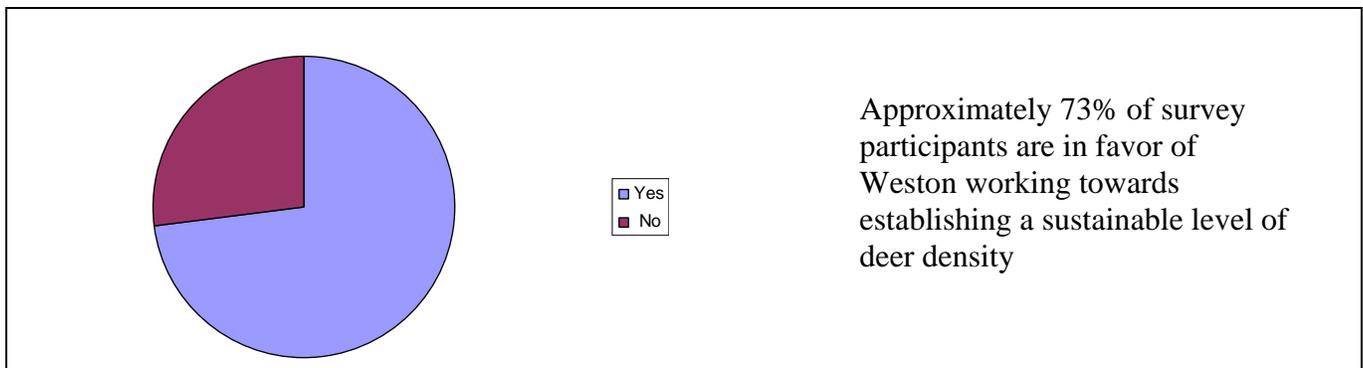
Approximately 52% reported utilizing at least one method to minimize or control deer damage to gardens and/or landscaping. Those include (in order of popularity):

- Spray Products
- Fencing
- Netting
- Planting deer-resistant vegetation
- Scare Away
- Soaps
- Urine or predatory scents
- Removing/avoiding deer attracting plants or habitat

**Deer/Car Collisions - Approximately 10% of survey participants have hit a deer with their car in Weston**



**Would you be in favor of Weston working towards establishing a sustainable level of deer density?**



**Summary of Survey Comments**

- The deer population needs to be regulated and/or reduced
- Noticed deer herds increasing in large quantities over the past few years
- Uncontrolled deer population poses threats to both local ecosystems and the deer themselves, as starvation and disease may occur with booming populations
- Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases are major concerns for residents, pets and children; residents are worried to work/recreate outside, or to allow children to play outside due to the prevalence of deer ticks & possible contraction of tick-borne diseases
- Deer have caused extensive damage to shrubs, trees and gardens
- Have experienced or witnessed car accidents or near-accidents due to deer on roads
- Hunt the deer; some suggest looking into selling the meat locally or to restaurants
- Deer are pleasant to watch and populations should not be regulated or reduced
- Deer populations could be reduced and/or regulated, but only in ways that do not harm the animals; for example, sterilizing or relocating the deer
- Development is encroaching on deer habitat, therefore it is not fair to regulate and/or reduce herds
- Do not favor the idea of hunting (bow or rifle) in town