

2025-26 Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program Results

The Government of Saskatchewan received 2,900 submissions to the chronic wasting disease (CWD) hunter surveillance program during the 2025-26 hunting season, up from 2248 submissions in 2024-25. Increases were largely due to the implementation of mandatory CWD testing in WMZs 43, 47, 50 and 55. Mandatory testing for bovine tuberculosis (TB) was also conducted in WMZ 37 and 39.

Overall, white-tailed deer and elk submissions increased by 74 per cent and 88 per cent, respectively, while mule deer submissions decreased by 62 per cent and moose submissions decreased by 14 per cent since 2024-25.

A total of 362 positive cases were detected this season, including the following:

- 195 white-tailed deer
- 125 mule deer
- 33 elk
- 9 moose

All nine of the positive moose cases and 32 of the 33 positive elk cases were found in areas of the province where CWD is established in deer populations.

One elk tested positive in WMZ 64, where no cases had been found previously. As WMZ 64 borders WMZ 50, where CWD is commonly detected in elk and white-tailed deer, the lack of previous detections was likely due to small sample sizes rather than absence of the disease.

CWD was detected in three new wildlife management zones (WMZ) during this season. In addition to the above-mentioned elk in WMZ 64, one CWD-positive white-tailed deer was harvested in each of WMZ's 34 and 35. There are now 66 WMZ out of 83 testing positive for CWD in the province.

Hunter submissions are necessary to estimate accurate CWD prevalence (infection) rates in wildlife across the province. Understanding the spread and prevalence of the disease is critical for making informed management decisions. Hunters play an important role in informing wildlife management by submitting their animals for testing.

For more information about CWD, including how to submit your animal for testing, visit saskatchewan.ca/cwd.

Thank you to all hunters who participated in the CWD surveillance program.

The Ministry of Environment has been monitoring CWD in the province since 1997, when the disease was first detected in a captive elk farm. CWD prevalence rates (the proportion of animals affected) in mule and white-tailed deer populations have increased since the initial detection of the disease in the wild over 20 years ago.

2025-26 CWD Surveillance Program

Positive Test Results

