



# Sportsmen Against Hunger 2009 Final Report

A program of the North Dakota  
Community Action Partnership



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## Thank You Sponsors!

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Dwight Eckart—Bismarck

## History:

In 2004, the North Dakota Community Action Partnership (NDCAP) initiated a state-wide public education campaign to encourage local community sporting groups to develop a venison donation program. This campaign began after completion of statewide needs assessments. Assessments indicated that hunger, or not enough food to feed themselves and their families, has been demonstrated by low income participants as being the biggest need they have.

## Lead in Venison:

In March of 2008, the decision by the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Game and Fish was to recommend to ND food pantries to not distribute any more venison donated from the 2007 deer harvest to clients because of evidence that some of the meat contained lead fragments. During the last part of May, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in conjunction with the ND Department of Health, conducted a study in ND to try to determine whether blood-lead levels were associated with wild game consumption. More than 700 state citizens, including those who eat venison and those who don't, had their blood tested for lead levels. The study shows people who eat wild game harvested with lead bullets appear to have slightly higher levels of lead in their blood than people who don't, according to preliminary findings in a study conducted by the ND Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The highest risk is for children under six year of age and pregnant women.

In 2008 the Sportsmen Against Hunger program only accepted bow harvested deer, knowing there would be no risk of lead fragments. This decision was made because of the timing of the CDC research findings being completed. We thank the bow hunters for their generosity during this difficult year.

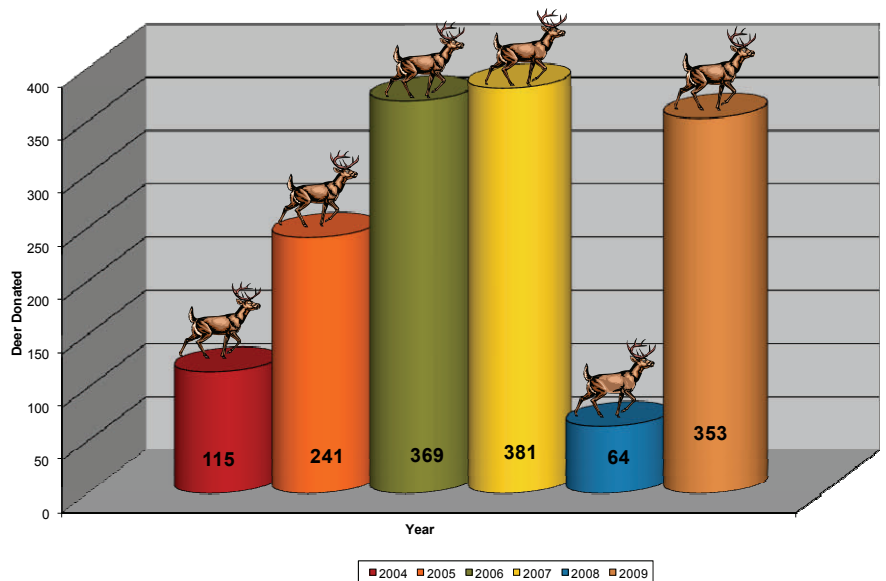
## 2009 Results:

In 2009 the SAH program again accepted rifle harvested deer with some new guidelines implemented. Hunters across the state donated 353 throughout the bow and rifle seasons.

## The future of the Sportsmen Against Hunger program:

Community Action is enthusiastic about the future of the SAH program and is eager to continue to work with clubs and hunters across ND to expand the program and to be able to help provide a very lean quality protein source to individuals across the state that are struggling to meet their daily food needs. Agencies will continue to work with food pantries and other distribution outlets to ensure that pregnant women and young children are encouraged not to consume venison and that clients have a choice whether or not to accept venison.

Sportsmen Against Hunger Results



\*\*A special thank you to:

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