

AGENDA ITEM #9

**NM State Game Commission Meeting: Raton, NM
August 25, 2023**

Initial Discussion of the Hunter Education Rule 19.36.3 NMAC

James Pitman, Information and Education Division Chief



The Hunter Training Act

- **17-2-33 to 17-2-36 NMSA 1978** ...*The department of game and fish shall provide course instruction in the safe handling of firearms [and]...shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Hunter Training Act...*



Hunter Education Rule

- **19.36.3 NMAC** *It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of eighteen years to purchase or apply for...hunting license[s] unless that person has first successfully completed the New Mexico hunter training course or a hunter training course of another state...*



Hunter Education Program

- Traditional Hunter Education Courses
 - *10 or younger must have a guardian attend*
- Field Day Courses & HE Camps
 - *10 years of age and older only (10 must have guardian)*
- Online New Mexico HE Courses
 - *Students 10 years of age and older only*
- Mentored Youth Hunting Program
 - First-time hunters ages 8-17
 - Under 10 - may hunt small game only
 - 10 and over - can apply to hunt deer, javelina, pronghorn, & turkey



Jennifer Morgan
Hunter Education Program Coord.



Stephanie Walton
Asst. Hunter Education Coord.

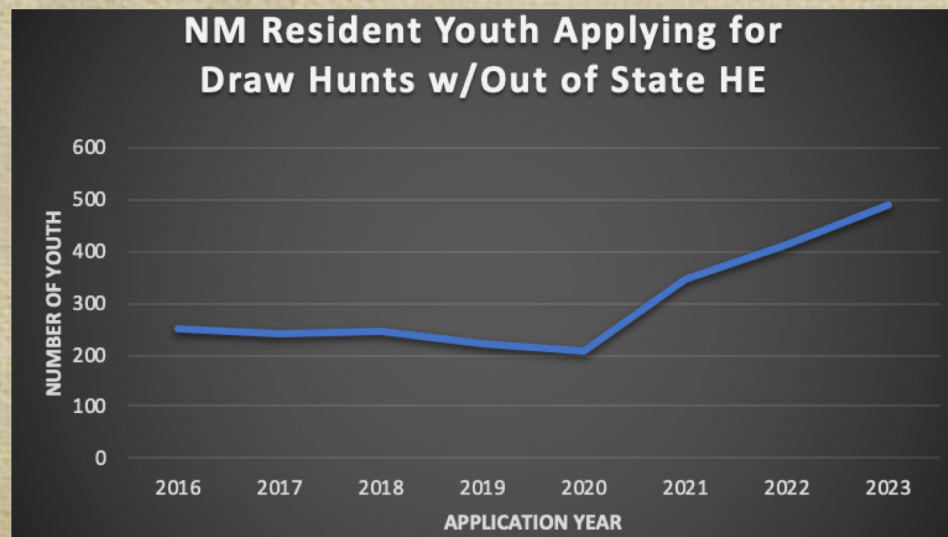
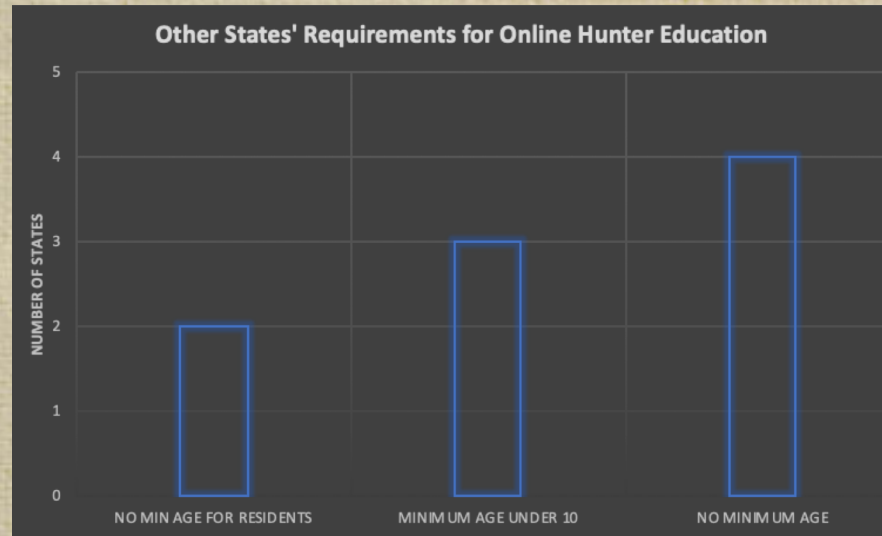


Roselyn Washington
HE Office Manager & Financial Spec.

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“Or a hunter training course of another state”



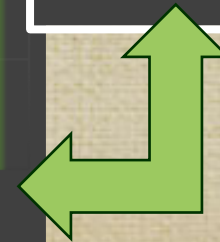
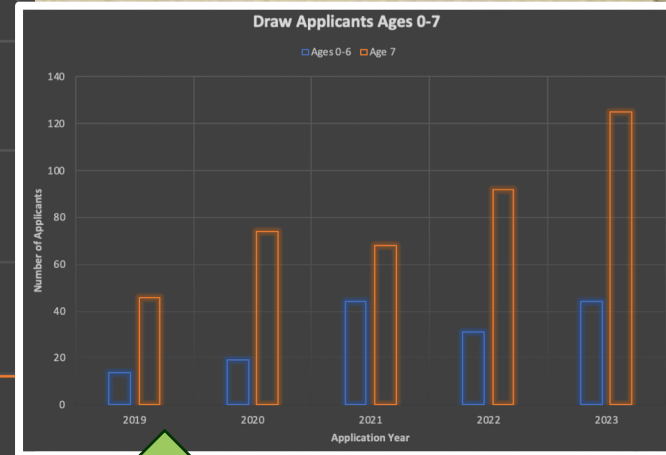
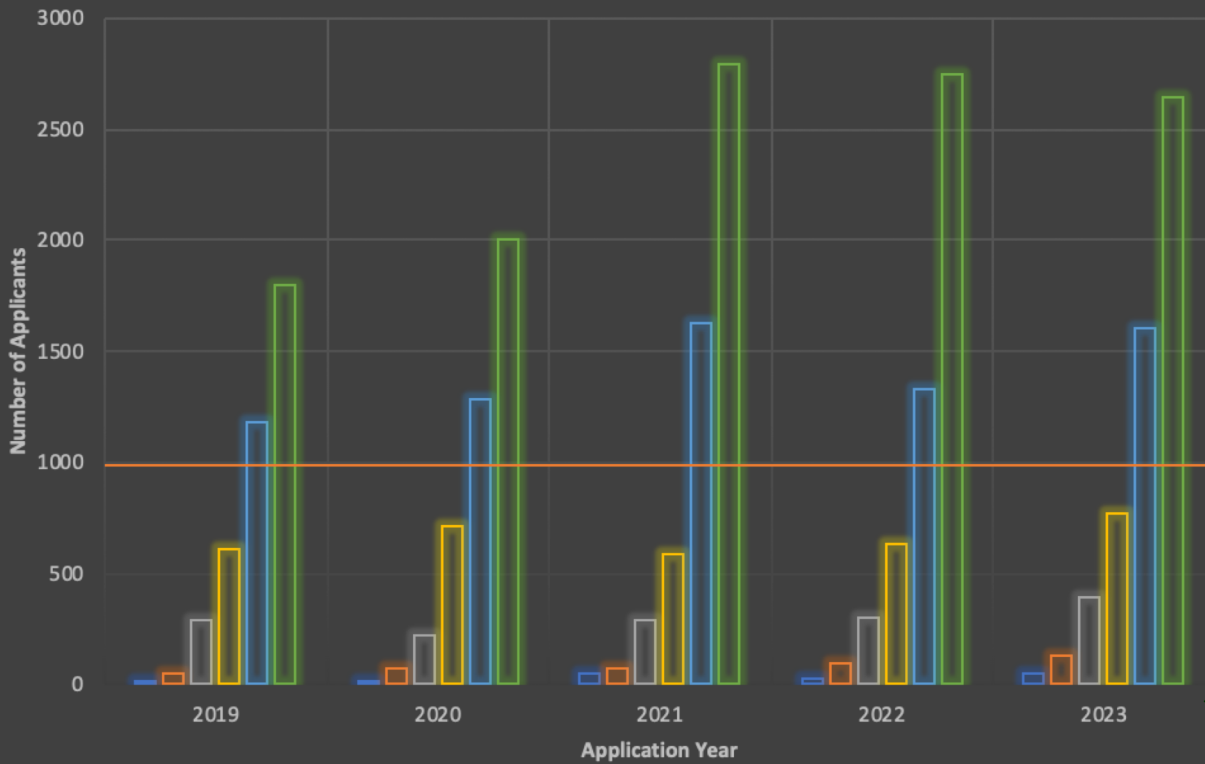
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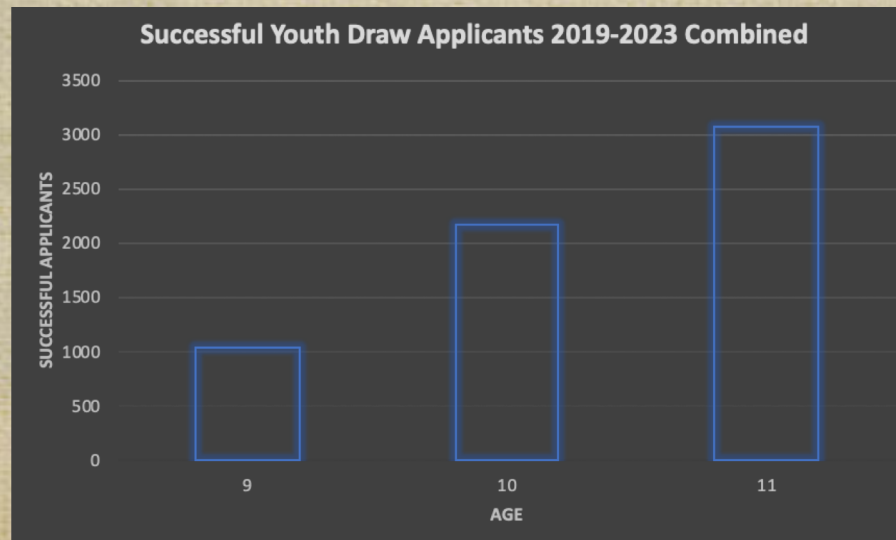
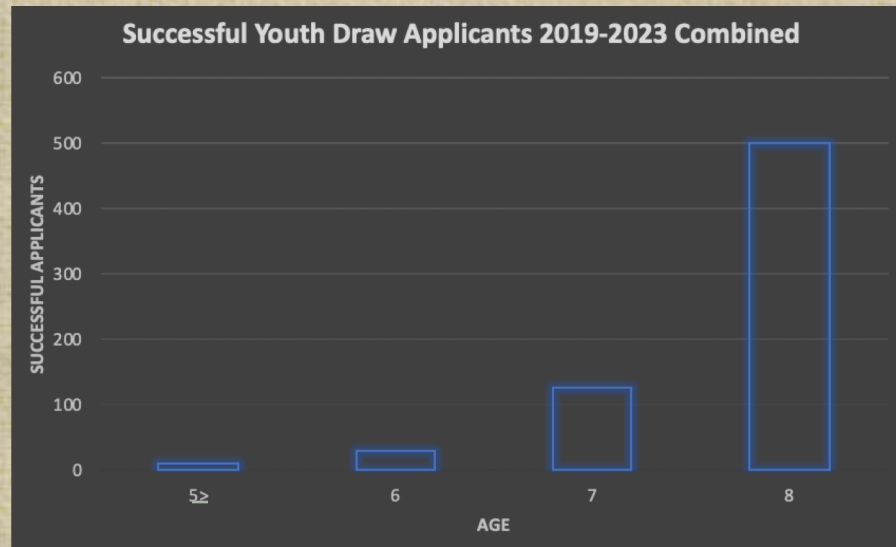
Draw Applicants By Age Category

Draw Applicants Under 12 Years of Age

Age 0-6 Age 7 Age 8 Age 9 Age 10 Age 11



Successful Youth Draw Applicants



Draft Proposal

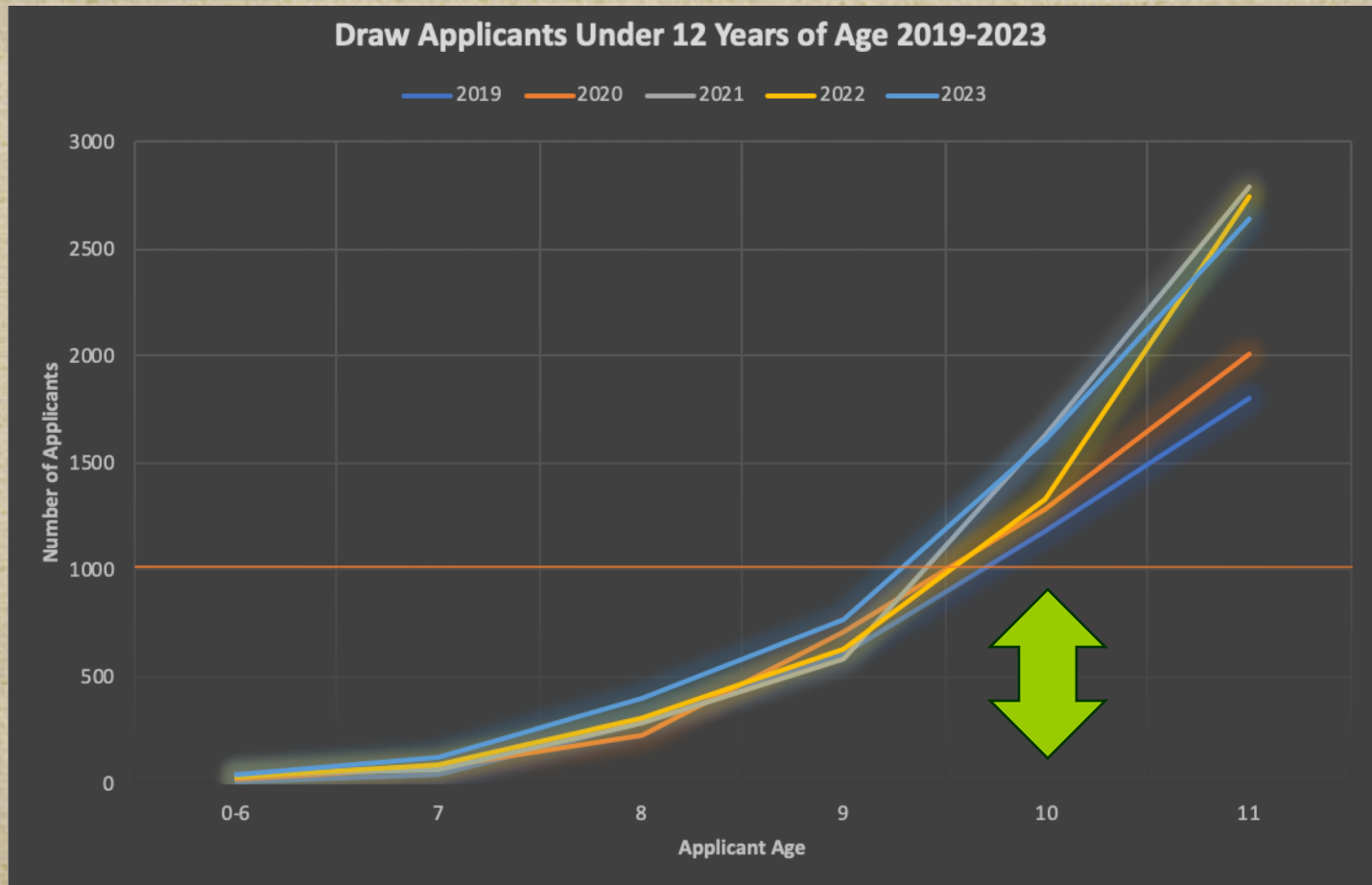
- **Adopt into Rule:**
 - the existing *“10 years of age and older”* guideline for NM online courses, Field Days, and HE Camps
 - the existing *“10 years of age and younger must have a guardian present”* guideline for:
 - NM Traditional Courses
 - Age 10 participants in Field Days and HE Camps
- **Add new language to the Rule:**
 - Age 10 and older restriction also applies to students with Out-of-State HE Certifications



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Youth Draw Applicants By Application Year



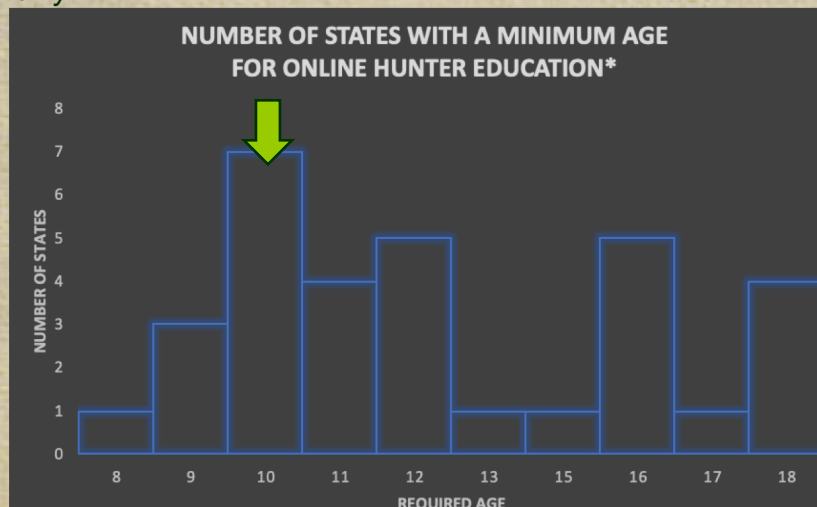
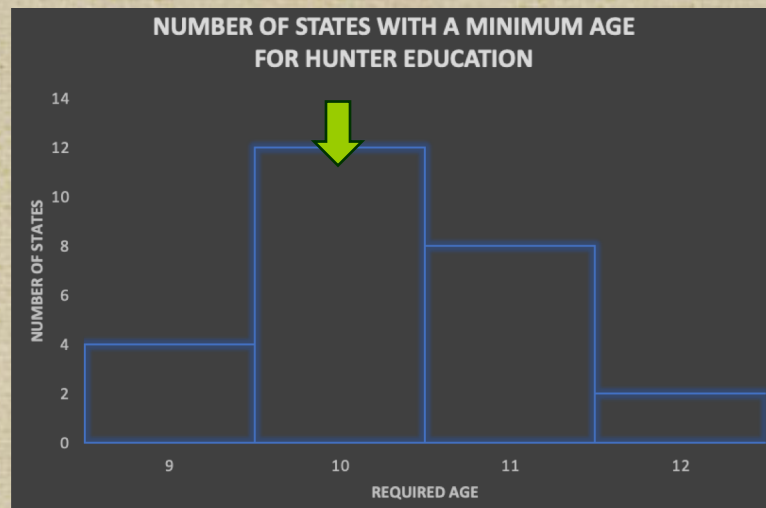
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RESTRICTIONS IN OTHER STATES



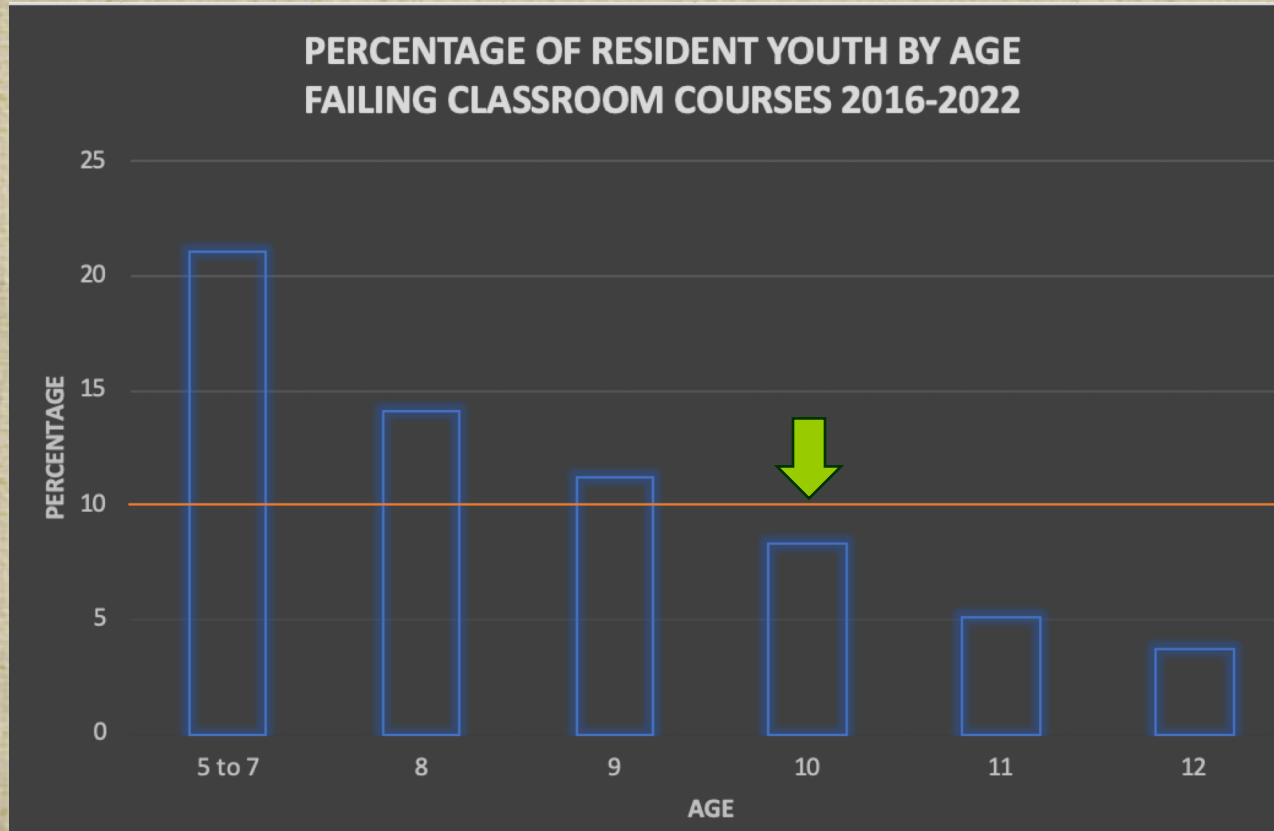
**may be able to hunt younger with a mentor, on family property, and/or for birds/small game only*



**not including hybrid options with an in-person component*



Percentages of Resident Youth Failing Classroom Courses



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Proposed Next Steps

- Hybrid public meeting in Albuquerque tentatively Sept. 28 to gather input on the proposal
- Hearing – Oct. 20, 2023 Commission Meeting
- Changes would go into effect Jan. 1, 2024
- Implement for the 2024-25 License Year



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Questions?



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Mentored Youth Hunting Program

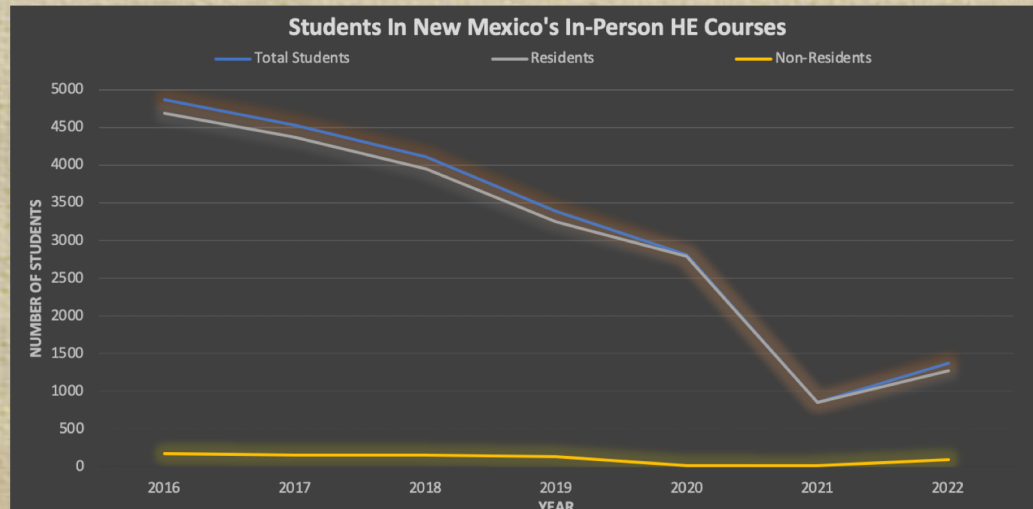
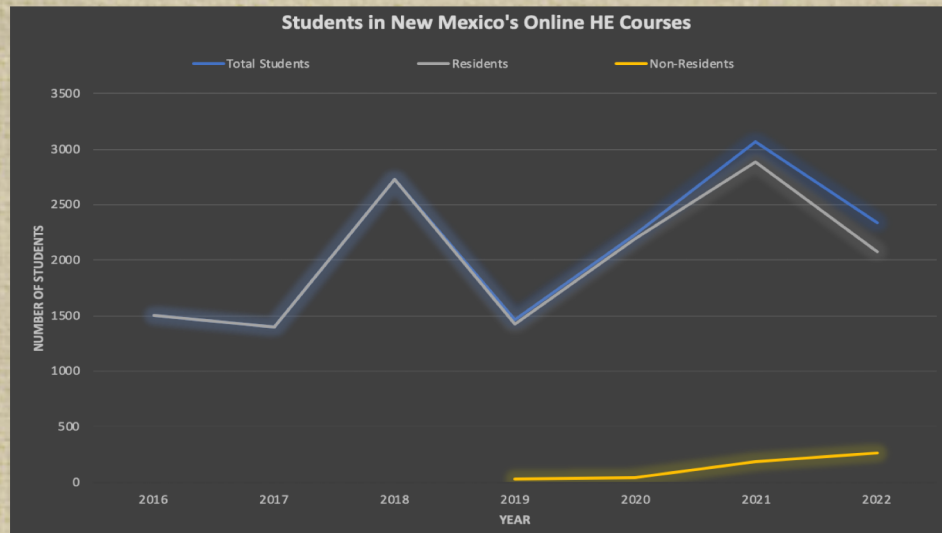
- Available to first-time hunters ages 8-17
 - Under 10 - may hunt small game only
 - 10 and over - may hunt small game & can apply to hunt deer, javelina, pronghorn, and turkey
- Each youth and mentor must pass an online quiz
- Two consecutive year program MY participation limit



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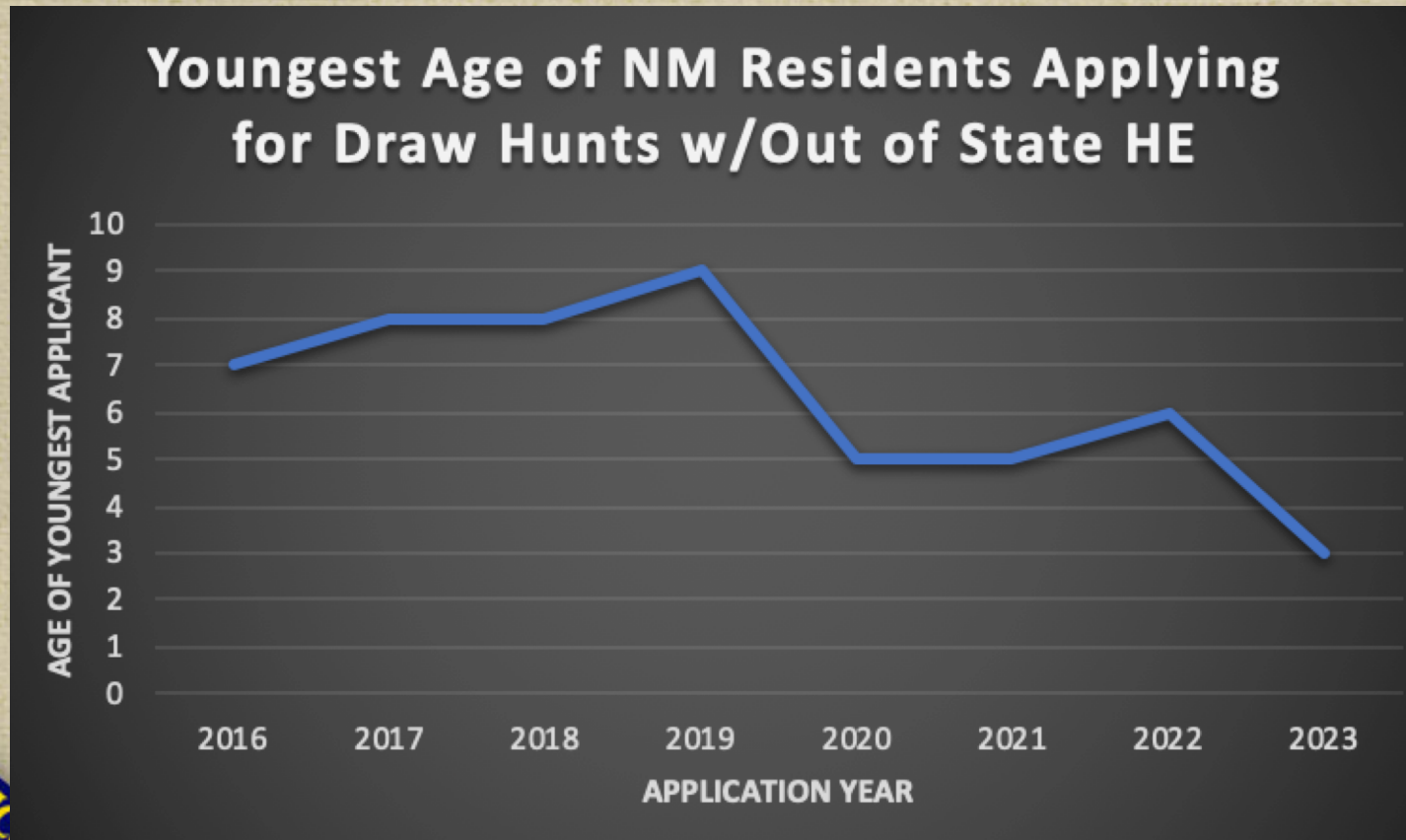
New Mexico's Hunter Education Courses



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Youngest Residents Applying for Hunts with Out-of-State Hunter Education



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