

Data from CT DEP aerial surveys 2009 and 2011. Source: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Franklin Wildlife

"The transect that included Newtown and other towns in 2009 indicated a deer density of approximately 70 deer per square mile. In 2011 approximately 105 deer per square mile were observed on this same transect. Based on a statistical analysis of deer counted on all transects in 2009 compared to 2011, deer densities in Fairfield County did not change. A third survey planned for 2013 should provide more insight to trends (increasing, decreasing, stable) in the Fairfield County deer population.

"Winter conditions were more severe in 2011 compared to 2009, which appeared to cause deer to group into larger herds. With only 2 data points (2009 and 2011) it is difficult to conclude if the increased deer count in 2011 was due to an increase in the deer population or due to the 'grouping effect' caused by deep snow conditions." (Dr. Kilpatrick, DEP, personal communication)