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For more information visit
straightupnorth.ca/research-trends-in-nunavut/
# Table of Contents

1. Rights and Responsibilities in Research  
2. About This Report  
3. Research in and Around Arviat  
4. Who is Doing Research in and Around Arviat?  
5. Type of Research in and Around Arviat  
6. Top 10 Research Topics  
7. Research Methods  
8. Community Engagement in Research  
9. Research Reporting Tools  
10. Research License Review  
11. Research Trends Across Nunavut  
12. Understanding the Numbers  
13. Resources
Rights and Responsibilities in Research

Obtaining Information on Research Projects
All NRI license holders must provide a plain language summary of research activities completed each year. These summaries are published each year in the NRI compendia for research (see Resources p. 17). These annual summary reports are available in English and Inuktitut, and for some locations in Inuinnaqtun. They are meant to provide a snapshot of research fieldwork including when, how, and by whom, and what information was collected. To obtain summary reports for any research projects conducted in or near your community or region please contact the NRI Manager, Research Liaison (see contact information below).

Researchers’ Ethical Obligations
Nunavummiut must be treated with fairness and respect. Researchers are required to abide by the laws of each community and to follow ethical principles and codes of conduct (see Resources p. 17). Researchers are expected to engage in culturally appropriate behaviour following local protocols. Researchers are responsible for learning what is respectful and responsible in the local context, as each community is different.

Important information for Nunavummiut

Your Rights in Research
Remember, you always have the right to refuse to participate in a research project even if your community has approved the research. Researchers must obtain your informed consent before they ask you any questions, and they must always respect your privacy and confidentiality.

It is against the law to conduct research in Nunavut without a license. Researchers must follow the terms and conditions in their research licenses and ensure their work does not cause harm or disruption to the community or to wildlife and the environment. Research licenses can be suspended or revoked, and a researcher may face fines or other penalties, when there is documented proof that research is causing harm.

If you have concerns that a researcher working in your community has not secured your informed consent, or may be causing harm or disruption, please contact the Nunavut Science Advisor (see contact below).

Manager, Research Liaison
researchlicenses@arcticcollege.com
(867) 979-7279

Nunavut Science Advisor
researchlicenses@arcticcollege.com
(867) 979-7290
Did you know that the NRI only licenses about 60% of research happening in Nunavut?

**Why we created this report**

The goal of this report is to help Nunavummiut learn about who is doing research, what they are studying, and where. This report was developed by analyzing research summaries from NRI license applications. To learn more about the numbers presented in this report, see Understanding the Numbers (p. 16). This work is part of the NRI’s ongoing efforts to:

1. improve Inuit engagement in research;
2. make research results more accessible to Nunavummiut;
3. reduce community research fatigue; and,
4. encourage research that addresses Inuit priorities.

**Other Research Permits**

Even when researchers have a license, they might require other approvals to conduct their project. Other approvals are usually required for fieldwork, depending on the location and type of research activity. Examples of other authorizations a researcher may need include:

- Review by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) - for all land and water based activities;
- Screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) - environmental impact screening;
- Authorization from the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) - to use water or deposit waste in the environment;
- Approval from Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) - to use Federal Crown Lands in Nunavut for research purposes; and,
- Approval from a Regional Inuit Association (RIA) - to access or use Inuit Owned Lands for research purposes.

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**About the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI)**

The NRI has been responsible for developing, facilitating, and promoting scientific research in Nunavut since 1994. The NRI works to ensure that research is a resource for the wellbeing of Nunavummiut (people of Nunavut).

**Scientific Research Licenses**

The NRI administers scientific research licensing under Nunavut’s Scientists Act. The Scientists Act only applies to research in the Physical and Natural Sciences (P), Health Sciences (H), and Social Sciences and Traditional Knowledge (SS), which is about 60% of all research that happens in Nunavut. Research on archaeology, parks, and wildlife (including all terrestrial and aquatic animals, plants, birds, and fish) is licensed under different legislation and is not included in this report.

The NRI's Scientific Research Licensing Guidelines (see Resources, p. 17) provide information about the types of permits required for research in Nunavut, and how to apply for an NRI Scientific Research License in each discipline.
RESEARCH IN AND AROUND ARVIAT (2004-2019)

WHERE RESEARCH IS HAPPENING

A research license is required for each year that a research project takes place in Nunavut. Projects that are conducted for longer than one year can receive a multi-year research license, and this must be renewed at the end of each year.

In this report, research license numbers represent the individual license issued each year.

Research project numbers represent an individual project (which may hold several licenses over multiple years).

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS

In this report, research license numbers represent the individual license issued each year.

Research project numbers represent an individual project (which may hold several licenses over multiple years).

WHERE RESEARCH IS HAPPENING

A research license is required for each year that a research project takes place in Nunavut. Projects that are conducted for longer than one year can receive a multi-year research license, and this must be renewed at the end of each year.

In this report, research license numbers represent the individual license issued each year.

Research project numbers represent an individual project (which may hold several licenses over multiple years).
Locations are based only on information provided in license applications, and may not represent all locations where field research occurred.
WHO IS DOING RESEARCH IN AND AROUND ARVIAT?

A Principal Investigator (PI) is the lead researcher on a project. The PI takes responsibility for submitting the license application, and making sure that the proposal is followed or adjusted as needed. The PI often lists other research team members in their application. However, numbers shown here only represent the affiliation of the PI.

**Principal Investigator Affiliation**

(from a total of 152 projects)

- Canadian University
- Consultants/Industry
- International College/University
- Government of Canada
- Nunavut-Based Non-Profit Organization
- Canadian Non-Profit Organization
- Nunavut Inuit Organization
- Nunavut Municipalities
- Hospitals
- Canadian College

**Duration of Projects**

(from a total of 152 projects)

- 1-Year: 69%
- 2-Year: 10%
- 3-Year: 11%
- 4-Year: 5%
- 5-Year: 3%
- More than 5-Year: 2%
DISTRIBUTION OF ALL PROJECTS BY DISCIPLINE

- Social Sciences: 81 (53%)
- Physical Sciences: 21 (14%)
- Health Research: 50 (33%)

PROJECTS OVER TIME BY DISCIPLINE

- Physical and Natural Sciences (P):
  - 2004: 5
  - 2005: 4
  - 2006: 2
  - 2007: 0
  - 2008: 1
  - 2009: 1
  - 2010: 2
  - 2011: 1
  - 2012: 4
  - 2013: 4
  - 2014: 2
  - 2015: 0
  - 2016: 2
  - 2017: 2
  - 2018: 0
  - 2019: 1

- Health Research (H):
  - 2004: 0
  - 2005: 0
  - 2006: 0
  - 2007: 0
  - 2008: 0
  - 2009: 0
  - 2010: 0
  - 2011: 0
  - 2012: 0
  - 2013: 0
  - 2014: 0
  - 2015: 0
  - 2016: 0
  - 2017: 0
  - 2018: 0
  - 2019: 0

- Social Sciences and Traditional Knowledge (SS):
  - 2004: 0
  - 2005: 1
  - 2006: 1
  - 2007: 0
  - 2008: 0
  - 2009: 0
  - 2010: 0
  - 2011: 0
  - 2012: 0
  - 2013: 0
  - 2014: 0
  - 2015: 0
  - 2016: 0
  - 2017: 0
  - 2018: 0
  - 2019: 0

DURATION OF PROJECTS BY DISCIPLINE

- 1-Year:
  - P: 10
  - H: 5
  - SS: 7

- 2-Year:
  - P: 5
  - H: 2
  - SS: 2

- 3-Year:
  - P: 1
  - H: 0
  - SS: 1

- 4-Year:
  - P: 2
  - H: 0
  - SS: 2

- 5-Year:
  - P: 2
  - H: 0
  - SS: 2

- Over 5-Year:
  - P: 3
  - H: 0
  - SS: 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

- All Disciplines: 44
- Health & SS: 4
- P & H: 0
- P & SS: 20
## Top 10 Research Topics

Research topics refer to the focus of a research project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th># of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Culture and Society</strong></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Land use and traditional activities</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Climate Change</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Wildlife</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Public Health &amp; Health Promotion</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <strong>Health Practitioners &amp; Workers &amp; Learners</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>Community Wellness</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Social Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Culture and Society</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Education</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Land Use and Traditional Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Justice and Law</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Economy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>History</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Gender</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <strong>Policy and Governance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>Arts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Land & Water Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Climate Change</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Wildlife</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Climate &amp; Weather</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Plants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Marine (ocean, coastal areas, sea ice)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Fish</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Lands &amp; Landforms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <strong>Engineering</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>Transportation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. <strong>Invertebrates</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. <strong>Resource Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. <strong>Hazards</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Health Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Wellbeing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Public Health &amp; Health Promotion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Health Practitioners &amp; Workers &amp; Learners</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Community Wellness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Health Systems &amp; Monitoring</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Epidemiology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Clinical &amp; Medical Research</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Health Services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. <strong>Rehabilitation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>Population Health</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. <strong>Professional Training &amp; Accountability</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some of the projects licensed by the NRI address topics related to wildlife, plants and fish. However, research on wildlife, fish, and plants is not directly licensed by NRI (see About this Report, p. 2) and so the full scope of wildlife and fisheries research is not represented in this report.*
**RESEARCH METHODS**

Numbers shown on p. 8-9 only represent the research methods and reporting tools that were described in license applications (not all licenses included this information).

**TOP 10 SOCIAL & HEALTH RESEARCH METHODS**

(OUT OF 120 PROJECTS)

1. Interviews 62
2. Surveys 30
3. Focus Groups 21
4. Research & Training Workshops 15
5. Water Sampling 9
6. People/Community Photography 9
7. Soil Sampling 7
8. Creative & Artistic Methods 7
9. Wildlife Sampling 6
10. Experiential Learning & Observation 6

**TOP 10 LAND & WATER RESEARCH METHODS**

(OUT OF 26 PROJECTS)

1. Water Sampling
2. Soil Sampling
3. Wildlife Sampling
4. Human Specimen Collection
5. Rock Sampling
6. Vegetation Sampling
7. Core Sampling
8. Weather Monitoring
9. Environmental Photography
10. Ground truthing for remote sensing or aerial surveys

**TOP 10 RESEARCH METHODS**

# of Projects

1. Interviews 62
2. Surveys 30
3. Focus Groups 21
4. Research & Training Workshops 15
5. Water Sampling 9
6. People/Community Photography 9
7. Soil Sampling 7
8. Creative & Artistic Methods 7
9. Wildlife Sampling 6
10. Experiential Learning & Observation 6
Community-connected projects are those that involve community members in some capacity, for example, as local guides, translators, or data providers.

Community-partnered projects involve a research partnership between a Principal Investigator and community members or organizations where the community plays an active role in all parts of the research.
# TOP 10 REPORTING TOOLS (OUT OF 78 PROJECTS)

- Report: 30
- Journal Article: 20
- Community Presentation: 10
- Student Thesis: 10
- Results Summary: 6
- Conference Presentation: 4
- Website: 4
- Radio Presentation: 2
- Community Organization Meetings & Updates: 2
- Book: 0

# TOP 5 REPORTING TOOLS OVER TIME (OUT OF 53 SOCIAL SCIENCE PROJECTS)

- Report
- Journal Article
- Community Presentation
- Student Thesis
- Results Summary

YEAR

# OF PROJECTS


# OF PROJECTS
Review numbers only represent local community organizations that received research license applications to review. The Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Regional Inuit Organizations, Institutes of Public Government, the Government of Canada, and Non-Governmental Organizations also review research licenses. These could not be easily associated with communities and so are included in regional numbers (p. 13) and the Nunavut-wide report.

TOTAL LICENSES REVIEWED BY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Hamlet of Arviat: 325 (73%)
- Arviat Hunters & Trappers Assoc.: 32 (21%)
- NGO/Community Organization: 10 (3%)
- Arviat District Education Authority*: 7 (3%)

License review numbers only represent local community organizations that received research license applications to review. The Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Regional Inuit Organizations, Institutes of Public Government, the Government of Canada, and Non-Governmental Organizations also review research licenses. These could not be easily associated with communities and so are included in regional numbers (p. 13) and the Nunavut-wide report.

*District Education Authority feedback is received by the Government of Nunavut Department of Education, not directly by the Nunavut Research Institute.
RESEARCH TRENDS ACROSS NUNAVUT

Intensity of research in Nunavut communities (2004-2019)
TOTAL LICENSES BY REGION

LICENSE REVIEW BY ORGANIZATION TYPE
(OUT OF 17,037 REVIEWS)
Most Social Sciences/Traditional Knowledge (SS) and Health (H) research occurs in communities, and most Physical/Natural Sciences (P) research occurs outside communities at field locations. We use the license review by Hamlet (or City of Iqaluit) to connect Physical/Natural Science research projects to community profiles. One project may occur in multiple communities, so these numbers are out of the total Hamlet reviews of 3408 projects.
Analysis of License Applications
The research numbers and trends shown in this report are based on the analysis of Scientific Research License Applications. If a full application was not available, the research summary from the NRI annual compendium was used. This means that the analysis only reflects what a researcher proposed when first applying for their license. The numbers do not reflect any final changes or adjustments that a researcher made when actually carrying out the project.

Nunavut-led Research
Some scientific activities led by government agencies, Inuit organizations, and by individual Nunavummiut do not require licensing under the Scientists Act. For this reason, the number of Nunavut-led research activities is likely under-represented in the report. Refer to the NRI’s Scientific Research Licensing Guidelines for a list of research activities that are currently exempt from licensing (see Resources p. 17).

Research Topics
For each project we reviewed the summary available in the license application, or annual compendium, to identify all topics relevant to the research (p. 7). This helped to identify the range of research topics covered in Nunavut, as well as to develop keywords that can be used to search research projects in the future.

Types of Research
The research numbers and trends shown in this report only represent about 60% of the research that happens in Nunavut. This includes research in the Physical and Natural Sciences (P), Health Sciences (H), and Social Sciences and Traditional Knowledge (SS). Other kinds of research have a separate permitting process, and are not included in this report (see About this Report, p. 2).

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**RESOURCES**

**NRI Licensing Information**
(https://www.nri.nu.ca/)
- Scientific Research Licensing Guidelines
- Compendiums of Research Licensed under the Scientists Act (since 1997)
- Health Research in Nunavut: Special Considerations for Remote Data Collection
- Scientific Research Licensing: Frequently Asked Questions

**Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Resources** (https://www.itk.ca/)
- National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR)
- NISR Implementation Plan
- Negotiating Research Relationships: A Guide for Communities
- Negotiating Research Relationships with Inuit Communities: A Guide for Researchers

**Nunavut Research Organizations**
- Aggiumavvik Society (Arviat)
- Arctic Eider Society (Sanikiluaq)
- ArcticConnexion (multiple communities)
- Ikaavik (multiple communities)
- Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre (Clyde River)
- Kitikmeot Heritage Society (Cambridge Bay)
- Nattilik Heritage Society (Gjoa Haven)
- Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre (Iqaluit)
- Researchers are also encouraged to reach out to the Regional Inuit Association, Hamlet Office, Hunters and Trappers Association, Visitor's Centre, and other organizations in each community you work in, to get recommendations on important local research groups and initiatives.

**Research Ethics and Guidelines**
- Examples of Inuit-centred research frameworks.
- Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North
- Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

Interested in learning more?

Photo: Gita Ljubicic