

**MARCH  
2023**

# SANIRAJAK



McMaster University

*Alexis Polidoro, Alison Perrin, Charlotte Buttle,  
Regena Sinclair, Gita Ljubicic*

*Jamal Shirley, Nunavut Research Institute*



$\epsilon d \gamma^{\alpha} q \dot{\Gamma}^{\beta}$      $L^C q$     Quanaqqutit

Thank you

Merçi

We wish to acknowledge everyone who has supported and contributed to the analysis of the Nunavut research licensing database.

# Nunavut Research Institute

Mary Ellen Thomas, Mosha Cote, Jose Atienza, Amy Clark

Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (Carleton University)

Amos Hayes, Peter Pulsifer, Robert Oikle

Adam Stone, Brendan Billingsley

## Students

Shania Mahendran (Carleton University)

Todd Wong (McMaster University)

Saud Haseeb (McMaster University)

Jared Chestnut (McMaster University)

## Supporters

Shari Fox (Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre)

Natalie Carter (McMaster University)

Shirley Tagalik (Aqqiumavvik Society)

Gwen Healey Akearok (Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre)

Jean Allen (Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated)

**We are grateful for generous funding support from:**

SSHRC  CRSH

**CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS  
CHAIRES DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA**

NUNAVUNMI  
INIRNIRIT  
ILIHARVIAT

---

COLLÈGE  
DE L'ARCTIQUE  
DU NUNAVUT



 NUNAVUT  
ARCTIC  
COLLEGE



Cover photo: Sonia Wesche

***For more information visit***

[straightupnorth.ca/research-trends-in-nunavut/](https://straightupnorth.ca/research-trends-in-nunavut/)





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESEARCH
2	ABOUT THIS REPORT
3	RESEARCH IN AND AROUND SANIRAJAK
5	WHO IS DOING RESEARCH IN AND AROUND SANIRAJAK?
6	TYPE OF RESEARCH IN AND AROUND SANIRAJAK
7	TOP 10 RESEARCH TOPICS
8	RESEARCH METHODS
9	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH
10	RESEARCH REPORTING TOOLS
12	RESEARCH LICENSE REVIEW
13	RESEARCH TRENDS ACROSS NUNAVUT
16	UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS
17	RESOURCES

Photo: Nunavut Research Institute  
(Iqaluit, Nunavut) by Jamal Shirley



# 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](mailto:researchlicenses@arcticcollege.com)

(867) 979-7279

**Nunavut Science  
Advisor**

[researchlicenses@  
arcticcollege.com](mailto:researchlicenses@arcticcollege.com)

(867) 979-7290

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

## 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.

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.

# RESEARCH IN AND AROUND SANIRAJAK (2004-2019)

**113** TOTAL LICENSES  
CONNECTED TO  
SANIRAJAK

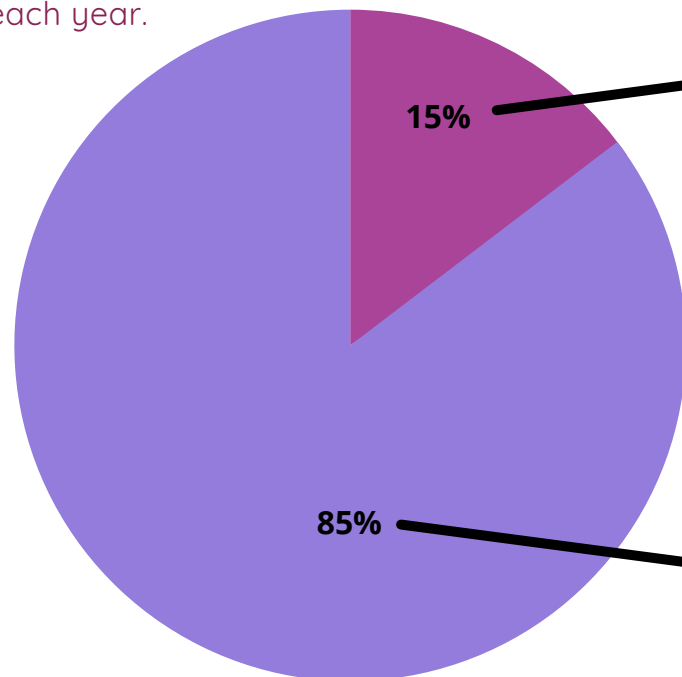
**82** TOTAL PROJECTS  
CONNECTED TO  
SANIRAJAK

## 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.

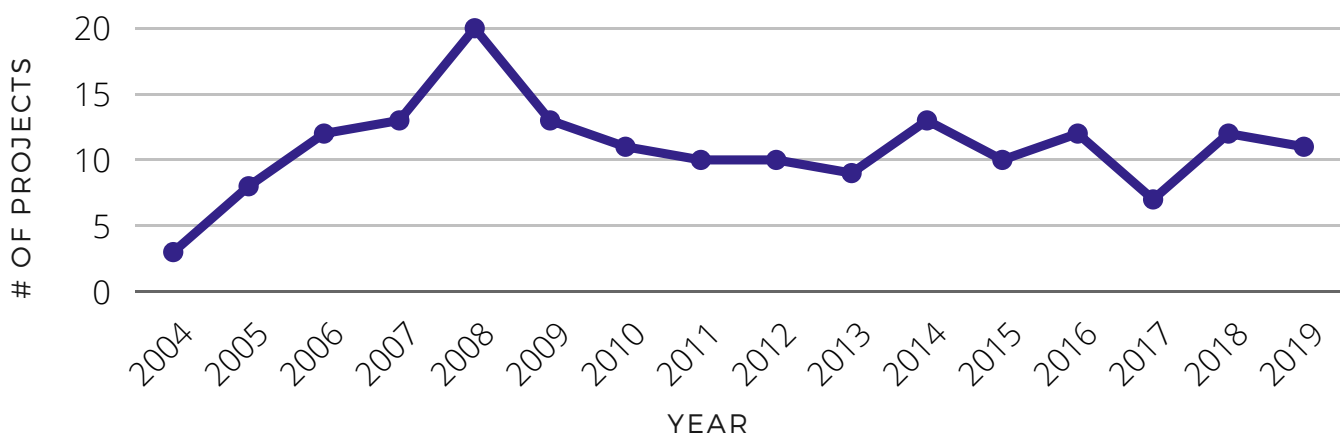
**Research project** numbers represent an individual project (which may hold several licenses over multiple years).



**12**  
total projects occurring  
at field locations outside  
the community  
(but reviewed by  
Sanirajak)

**70**  
total projects in  
the community

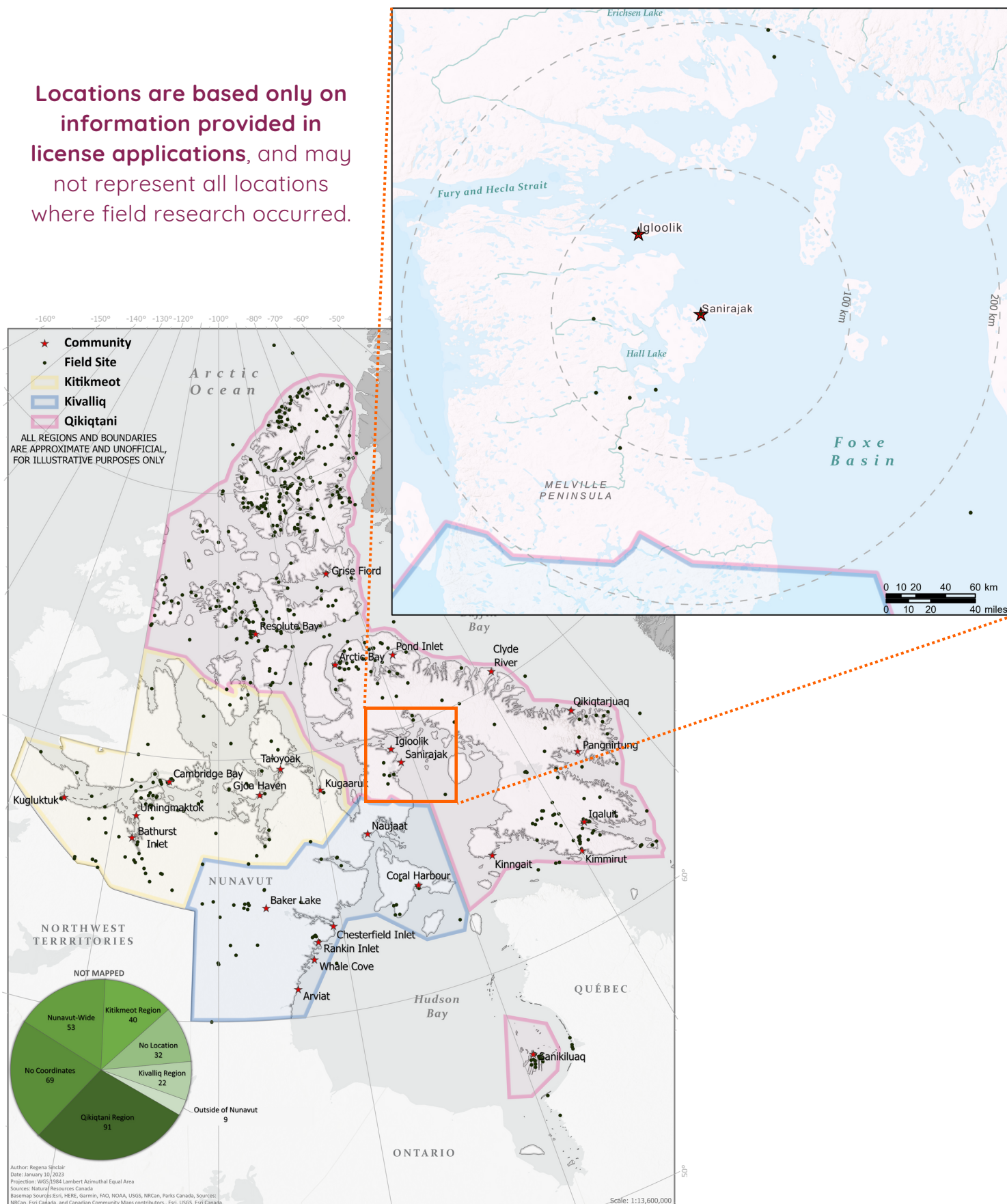
## TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS





# RESEARCH LOCATIONS

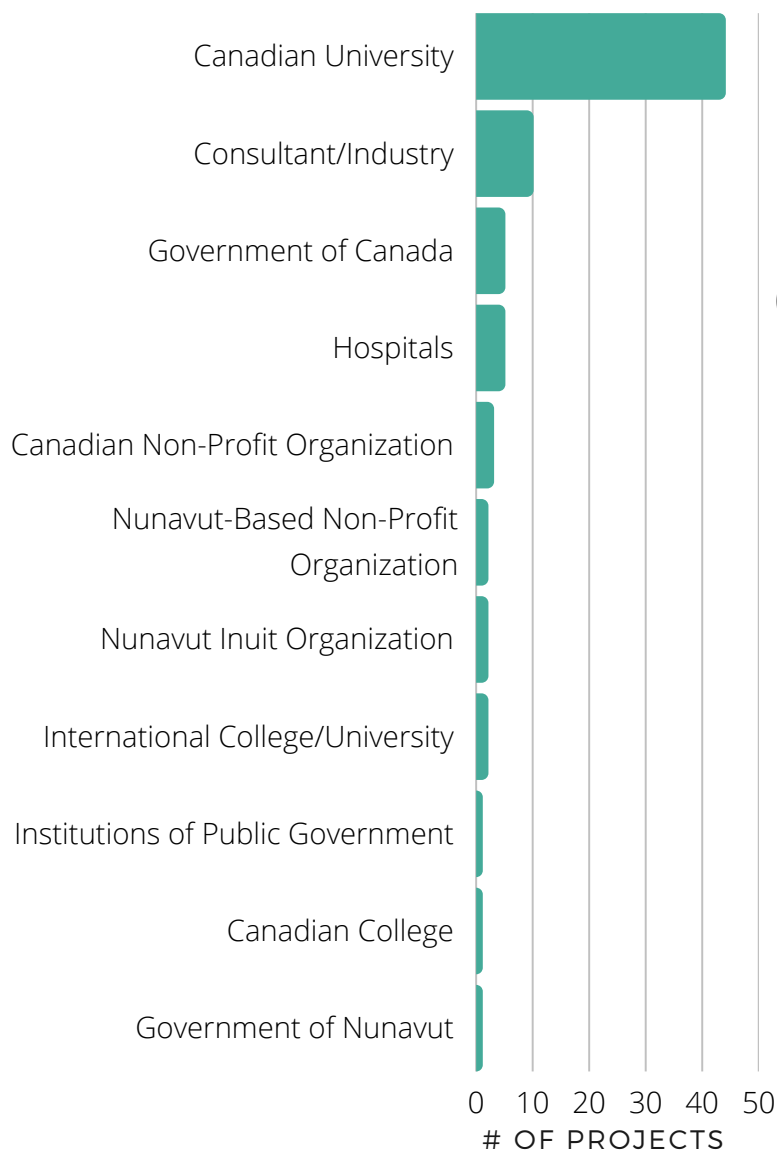
Locations are based only on information provided in license applications, and may not represent all locations where field research occurred.



# WHO IS DOING RESEARCH IN AND AROUND SANIRAJAK?

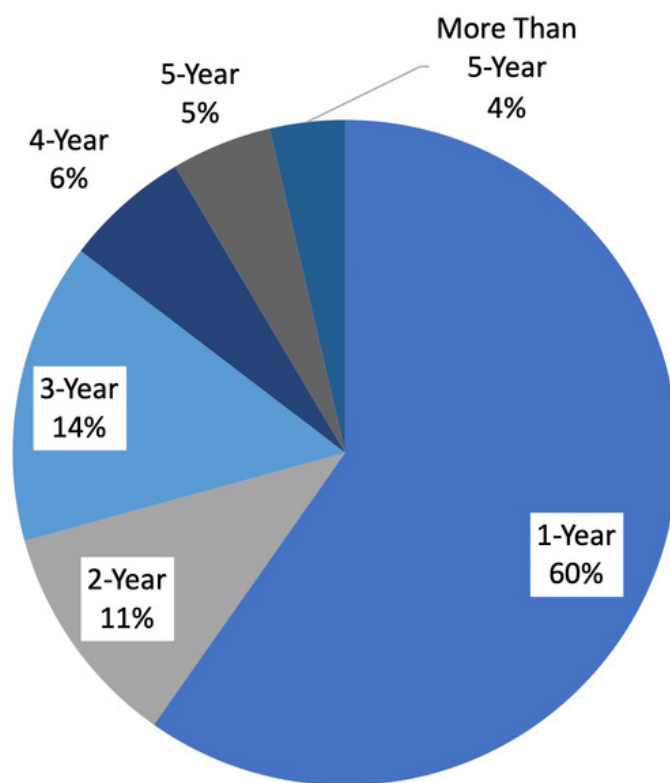
A **Principal Investigator (PI)** is the lead researcher on a project. The PI takes responsibility for submitting the license application, and making sure that the proposal is followed or adjusted as needed. The PI often lists other **research team members** in their application. However, numbers shown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

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR AFFILIATION (FROM A TOTAL OF 82 PROJECTS)



**12** NUNAVUT-BASED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

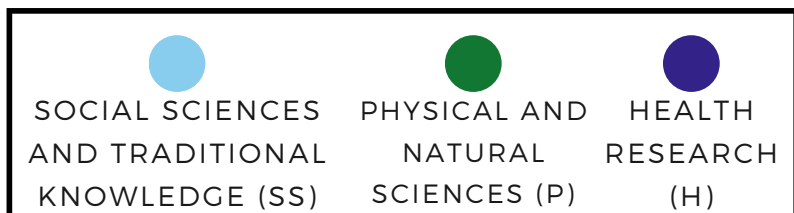
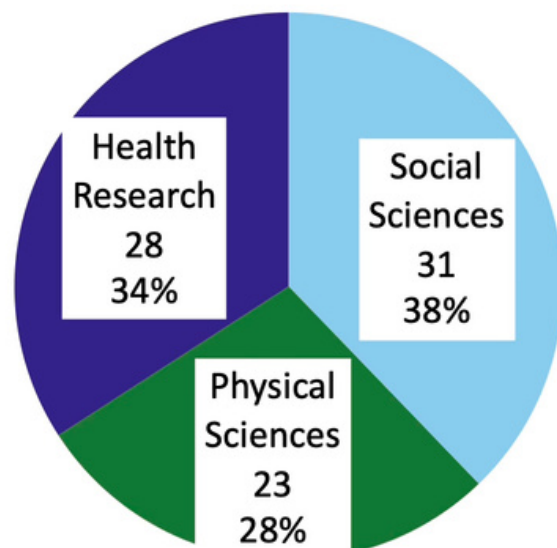
## DURATION OF PROJECTS (FROM A TOTAL OF 82 PROJECTS)



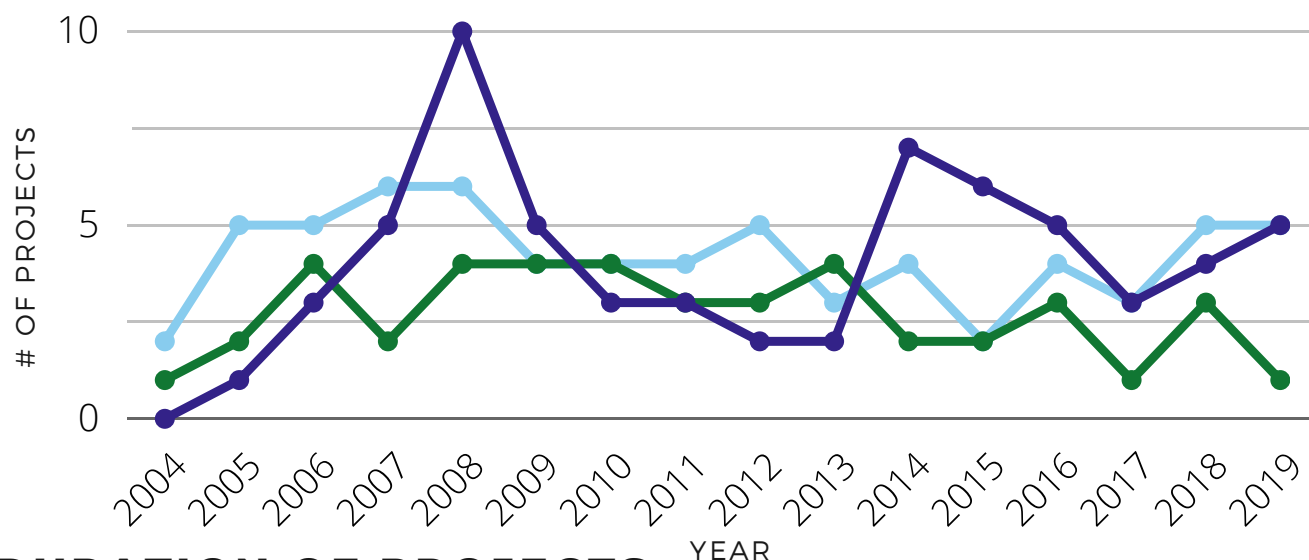


# TYPE OF RESEARCH IN AND AROUND SANIRAJAK

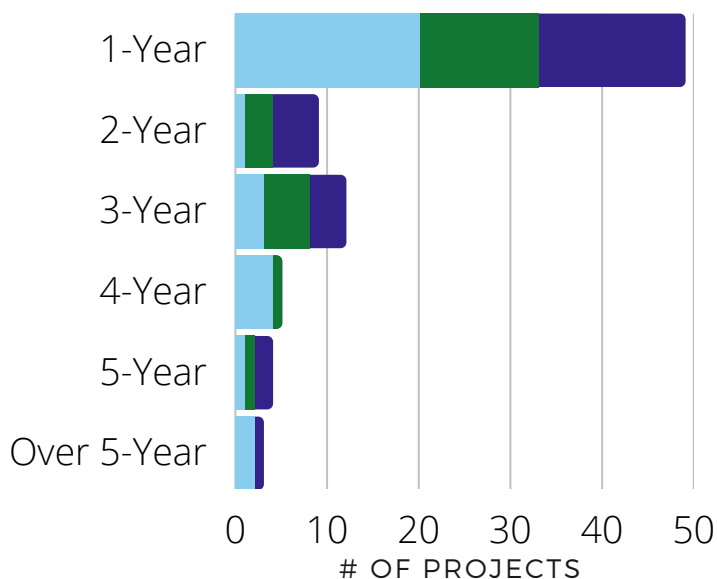
## DISTRIBUTION OF ALL PROJECTS BY DISCIPLINE



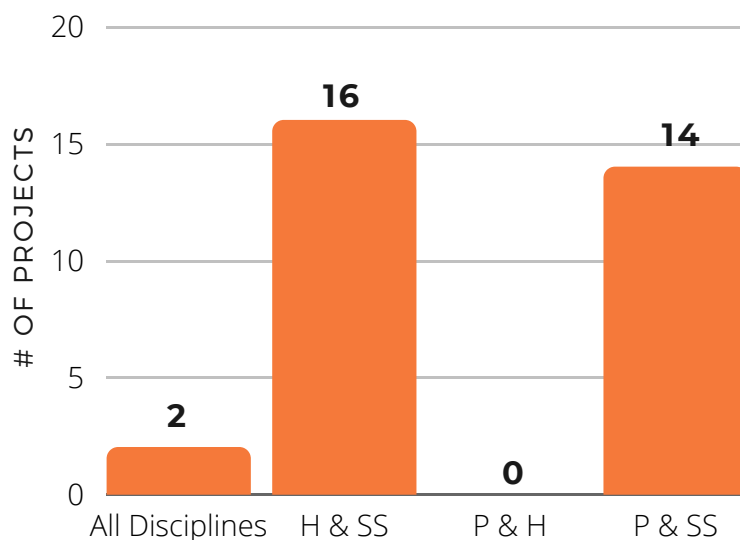
## PROJECTS OVER TIME BY DISCIPLINE



## DURATION OF PROJECTS BY DISCIPLINE



## INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS



# TOP 10 RESEARCH TOPICS



**Research topics** refer to the focus of a research project.

## TOTAL

# of Projects

1. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit	14
2. Education	14
3. Culture and Society	11
4. Climate Change	9
5. Marine (ocean, coastal areas, sea ice)	9
6. Wellbeing	8
7. Wildlife	8
8. Health Practitioners & Workers & Learners	7
9. Resource Development	5

## SOCIAL TOPICS

# of Projects

1. Education	14
2. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit	14
3. Culture and Society	11
4. Land Use and Traditional Activities	4
5. Policy and Governance	4
6. Reconciliation	3
7. Justice and Law	3
8. Economy	3
9. Colonization Impacts	3

## LAND & WATER TOPICS

# of Projects

1. Climate Change	9
2. Marine (ocean, coastal areas, sea ice)	9
3. Wildlife*	8
4. Resource Development	5
5. Fish*	4
6. Infrastructure	3
7. Freshwater (lakes, rivers, streams)	3
8. Ecosystems	3
9. Invertebrates	2
10. Hazards	2

## HEALTH TOPICS

# of Projects

1. Wellbeing	8
2. Health Practitioners & Workers & Learners	7
3. Epidemiology	4
4. Health Systems & Monitoring	4
5. Clinical & Medical Research	4
6. Public Health & Health Promotion	2
7. Health Services	2
8. Population Health	1
9. Community Wellness	1
10. Professional Training & Accountability	1

\*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 RESEARCH METHODS

	# of Projects
1. Interviews	22
2. Surveys	21
3. Water Sampling	10
4. Focus Groups	7
5. Research & Training Workshops	7
6. People & Community Photography	6
7. Sediment Sampling	6
8. Ship-Based Research	5
9. Epidemiological Studies	4

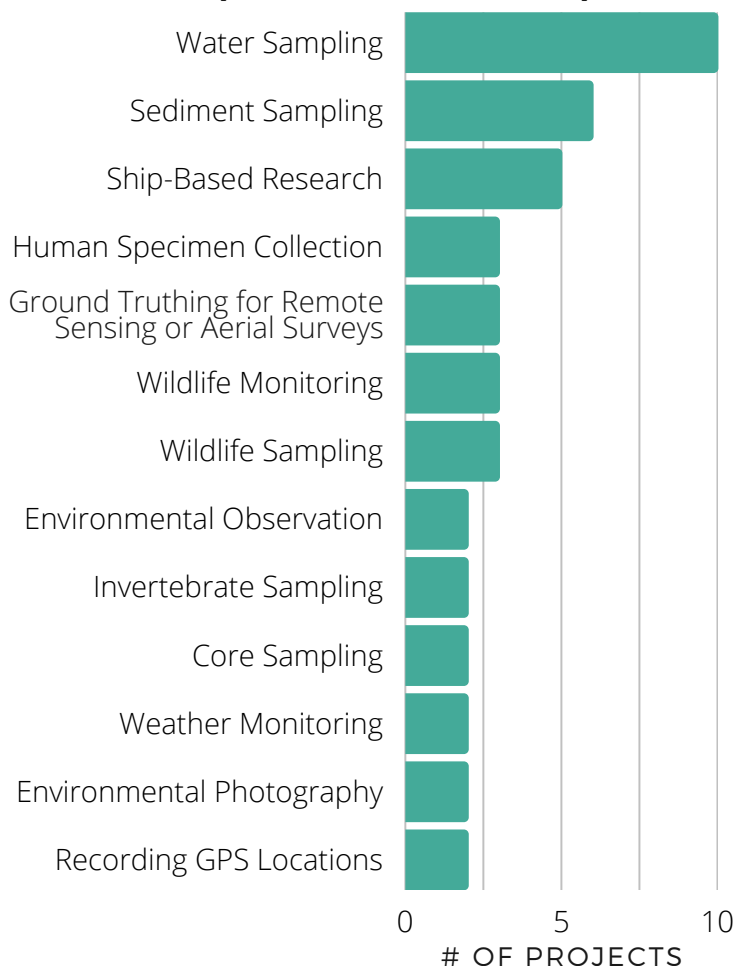
## TOP 10 SOCIAL & HEALTH RESEARCH METHODS

(OUT OF 57 PROJECTS)



## TOP 10 LAND & WATER RESEARCH METHODS

(OUT OF 23 PROJECTS)



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

# 4

PROJECTS WITH  
NUNAVUT ARCTIC  
COLLEGE INVOLVEMENT

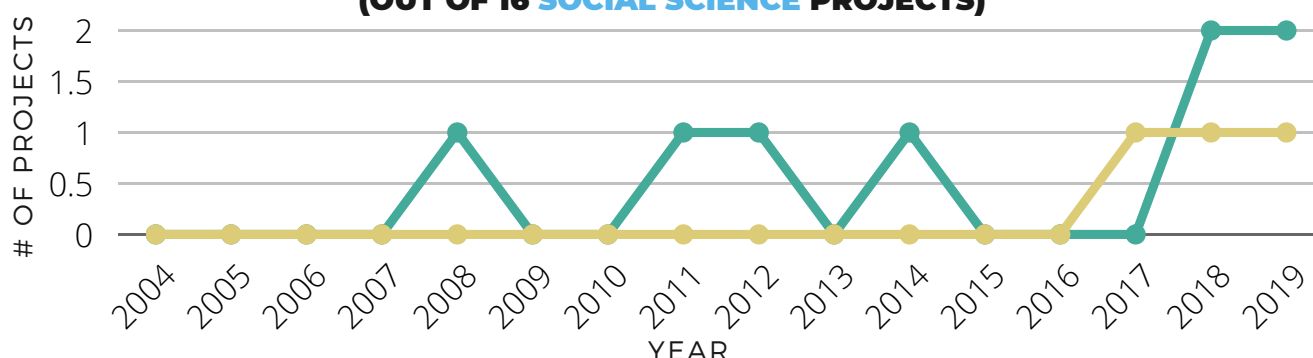
# 14

**Community-connected projects** are those that involve community members in some capacity, for example, as local guides, translators, or data providers.

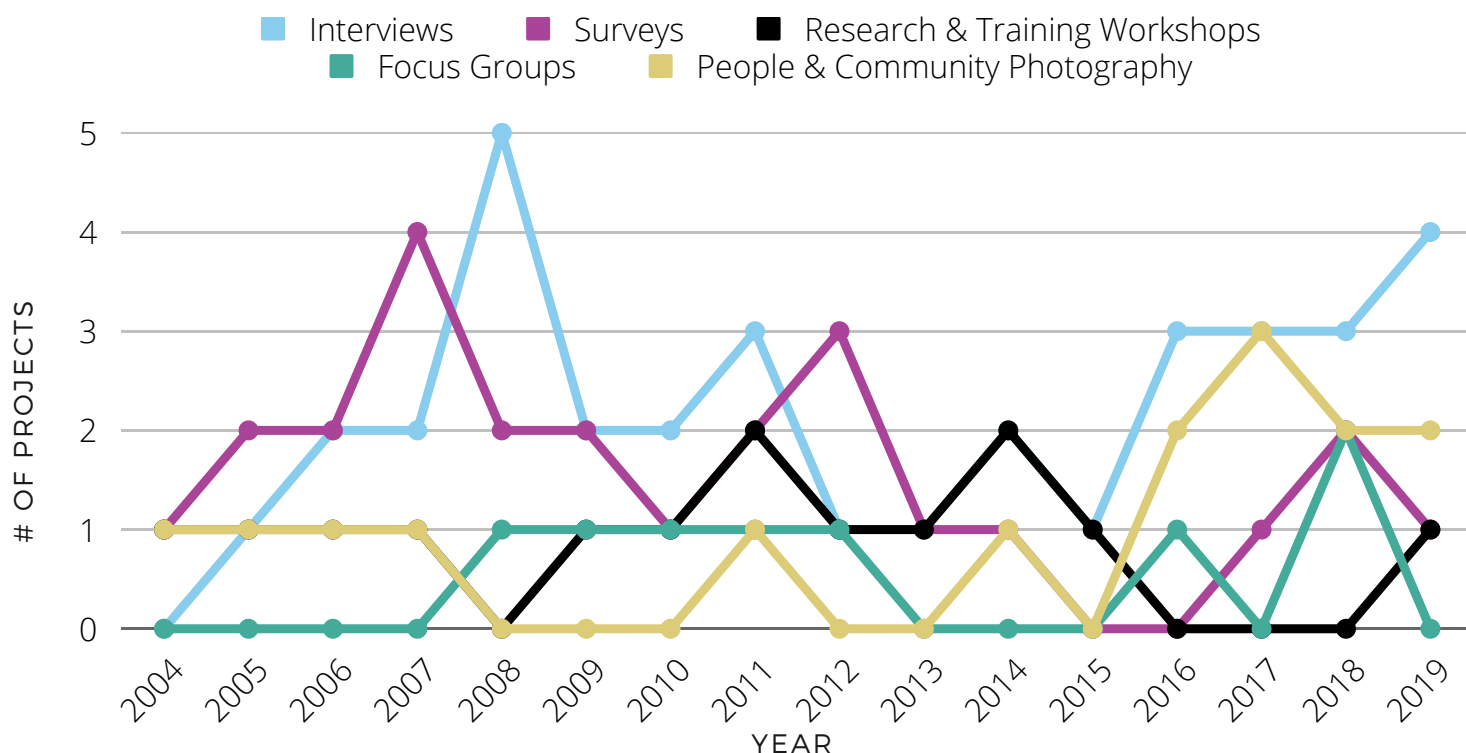
# 3

**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.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (OUT OF 16 SOCIAL SCIENCE PROJECTS)



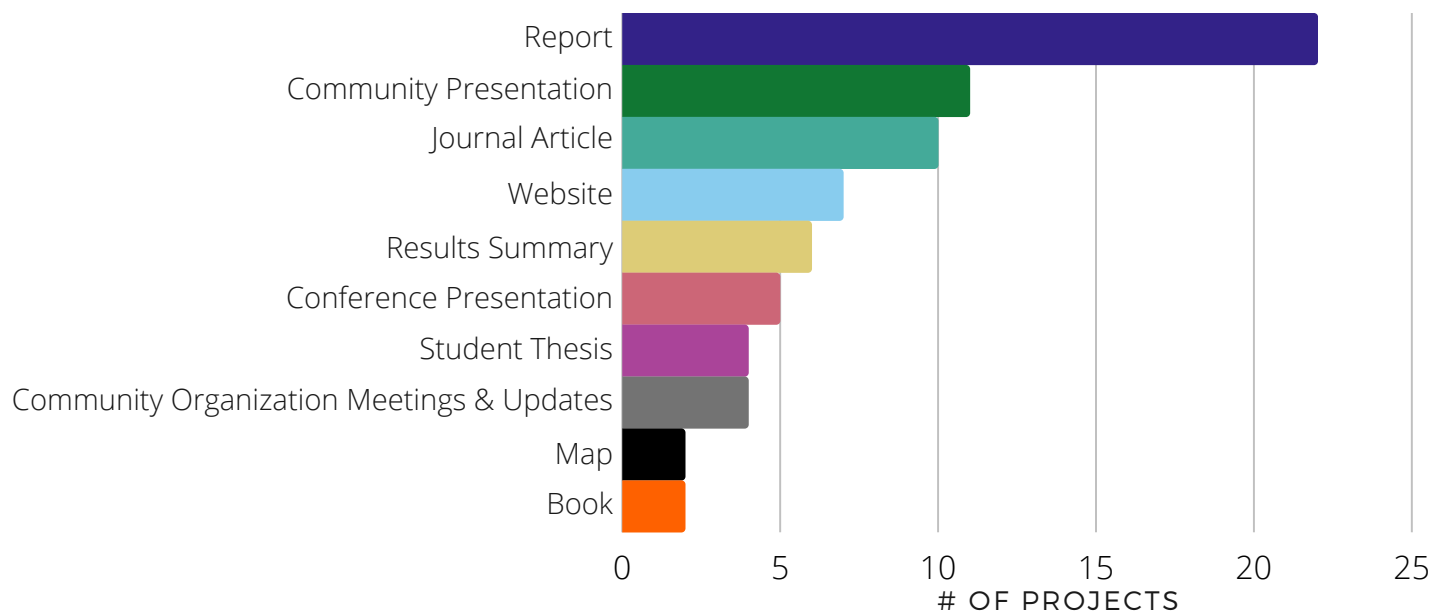
## SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (OUT OF 16 SOCIAL SCIENCE PROJECTS)



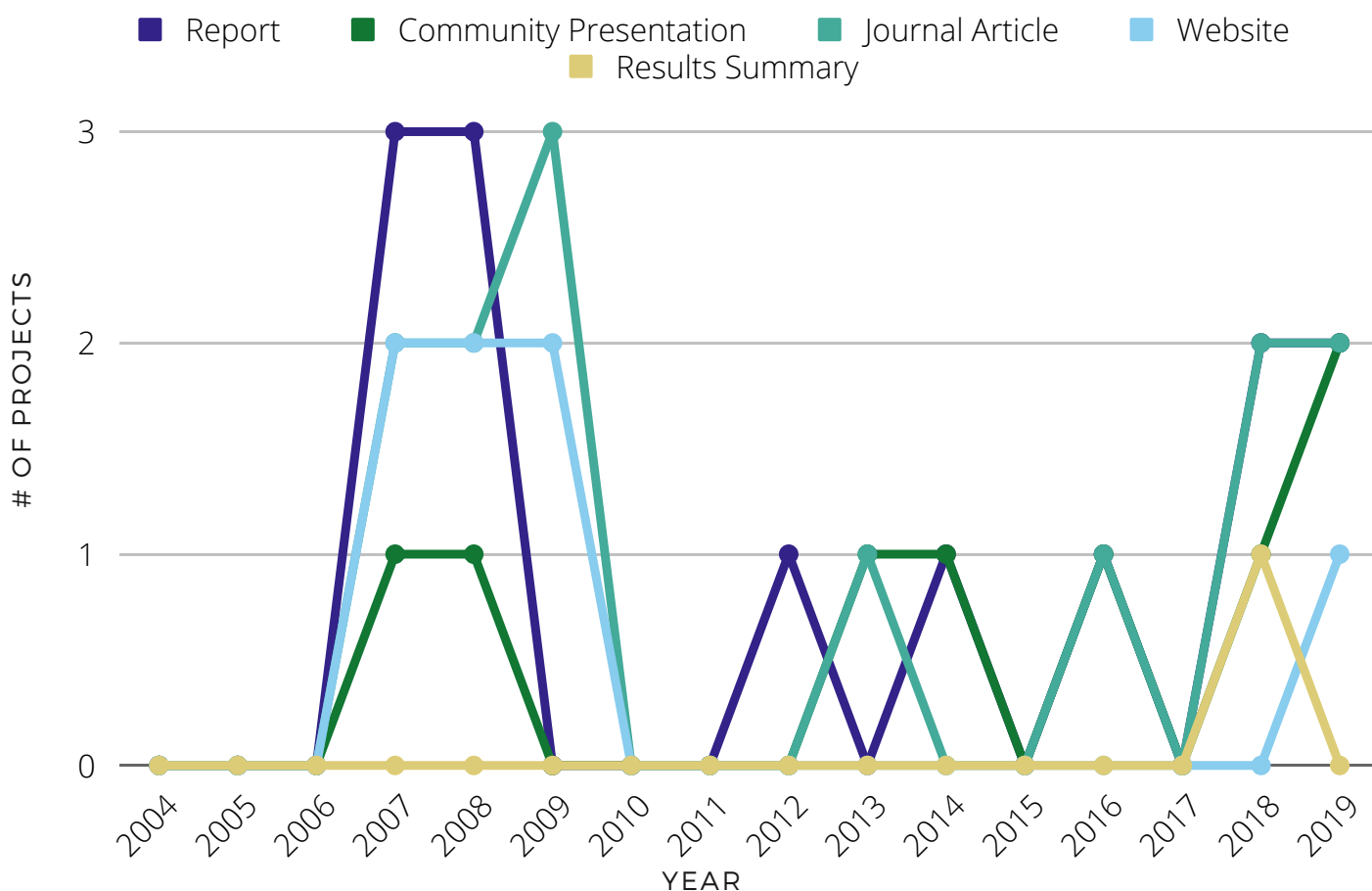


# RESEARCH REPORTING TOOLS

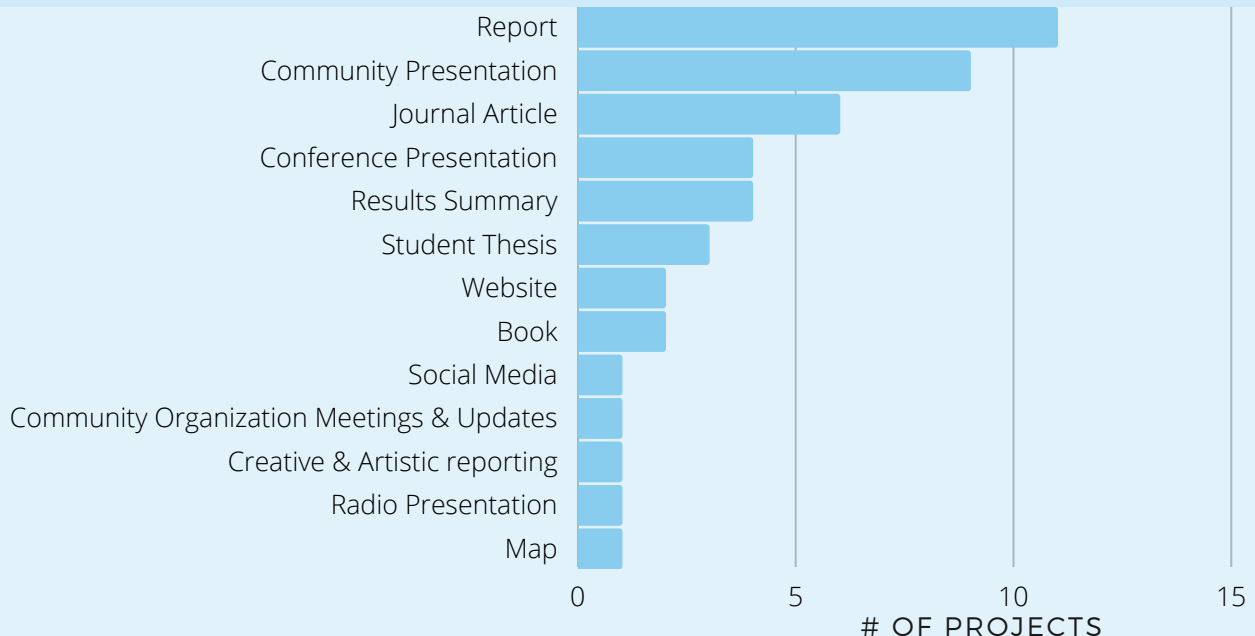
## TOP 10 REPORTING TOOLS (OUT OF 35 PROJECTS)



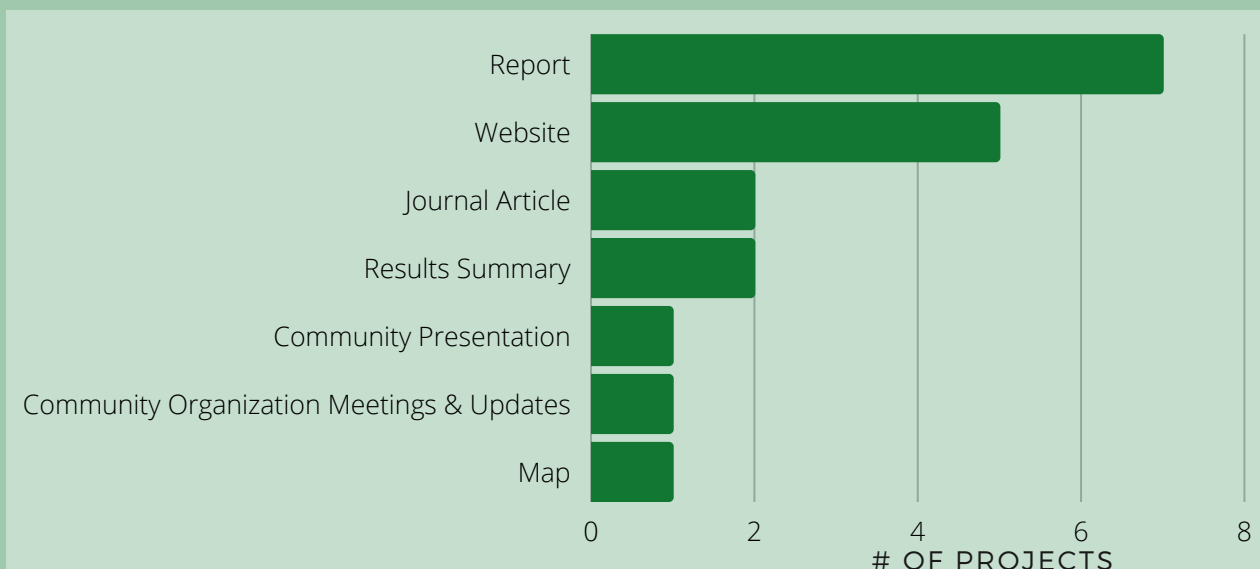
## TOP 5 REPORTING TOOLS OVER TIME (OUT OF 16 SOCIAL SCIENCE PROJECTS)



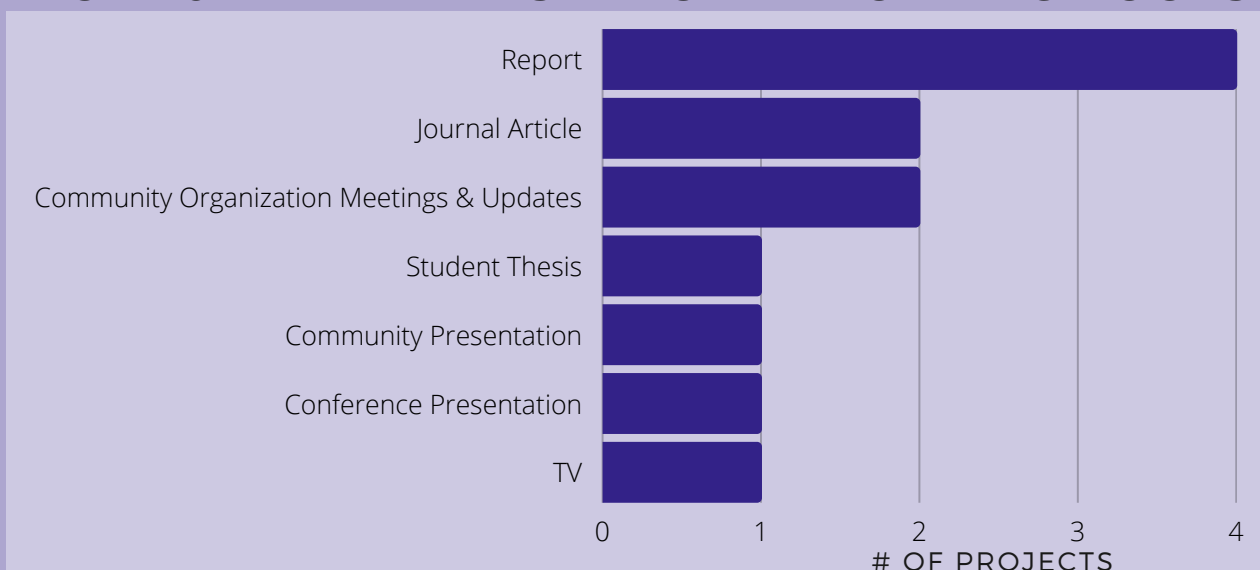
## TOP 10 SOCIAL SCIENCES REPORTING TOOLS



## TOP 10 PHYSICAL SCIENCES REPORTING TOOLS



## TOP 10 HEALTH RESEARCH REPORTING TOOLS



# RESEARCH LICENSE REVIEW

TOTAL  
NUMBER OF  
PROJECTS:

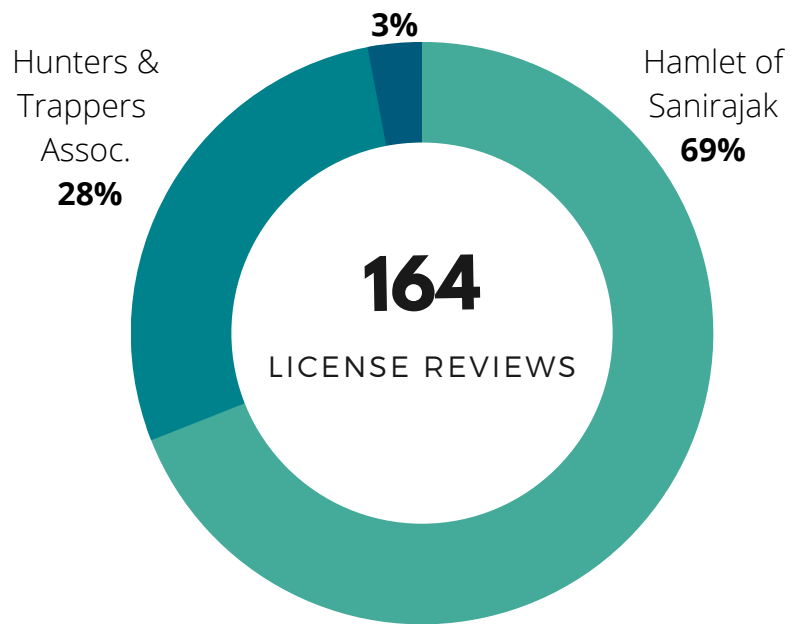
**82**

TOTAL  
NUMBER OF  
LICENSES:

**113**

## LICENSE REVIEW BY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Sanirajak District Education Authority\*

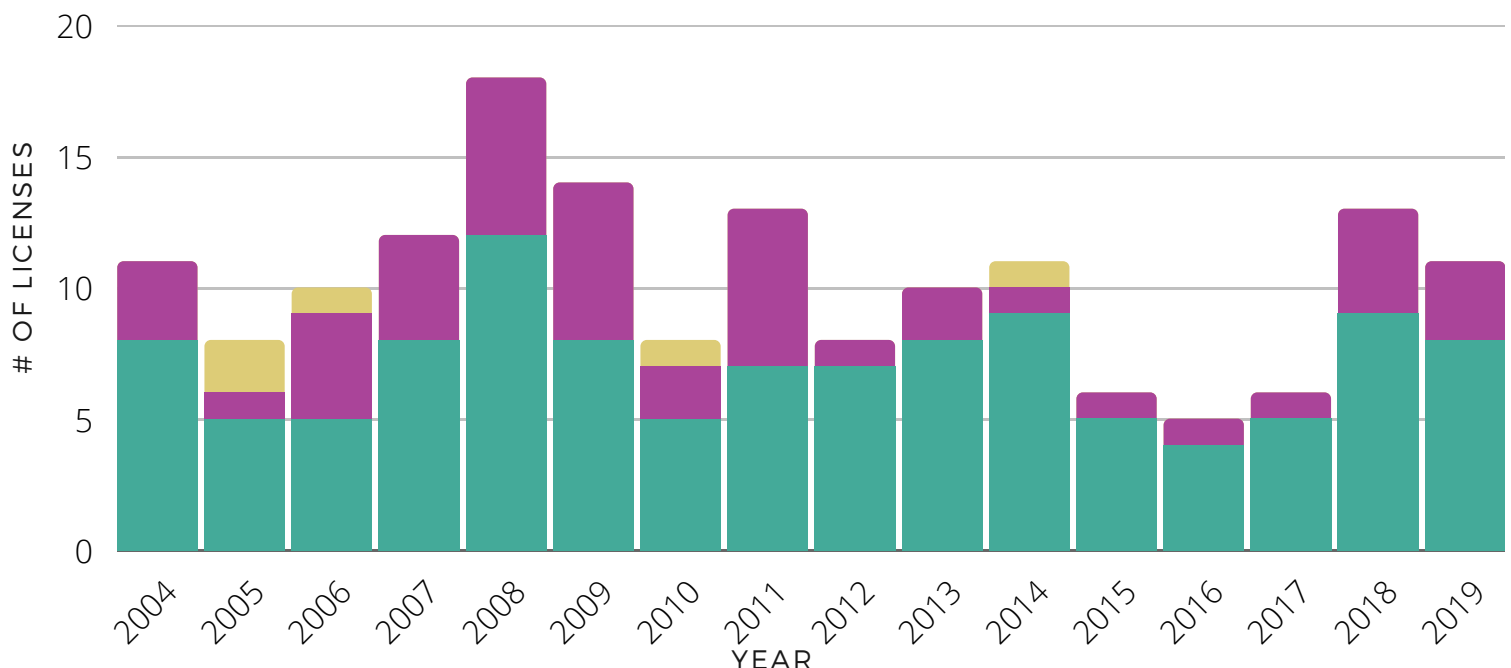


Review numbers only represent local community organizations that received research license applications to review.

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

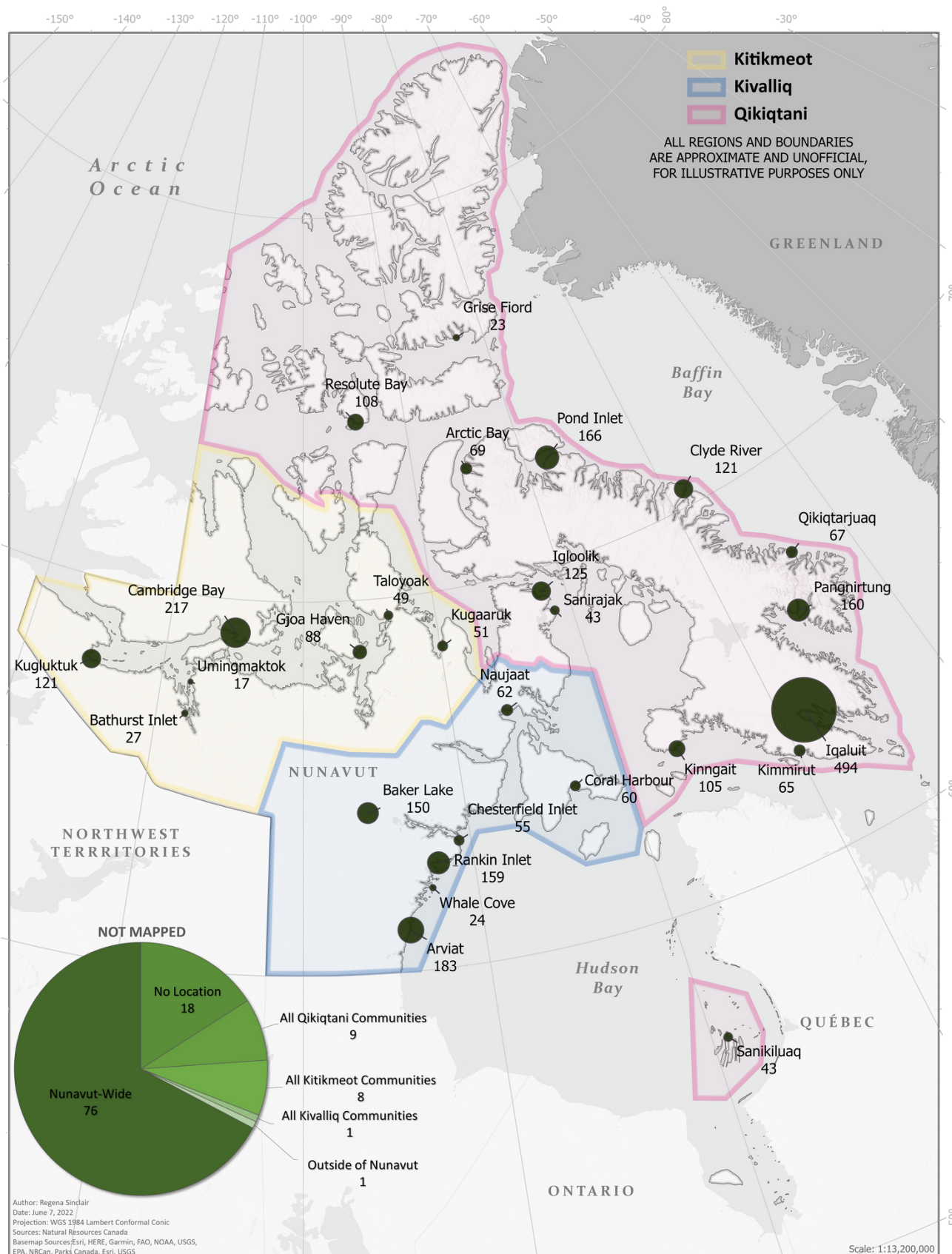
■ Hamlet of Hall Beach (Sanirajak) ■ Sanirajak Hunters and Trappers Association  
■ Sanirajak District Education Authority\*



\*District Education Authority feedback is received by the Government of Nunavut Department of Education, not directly by the Nunavut Research Institute.

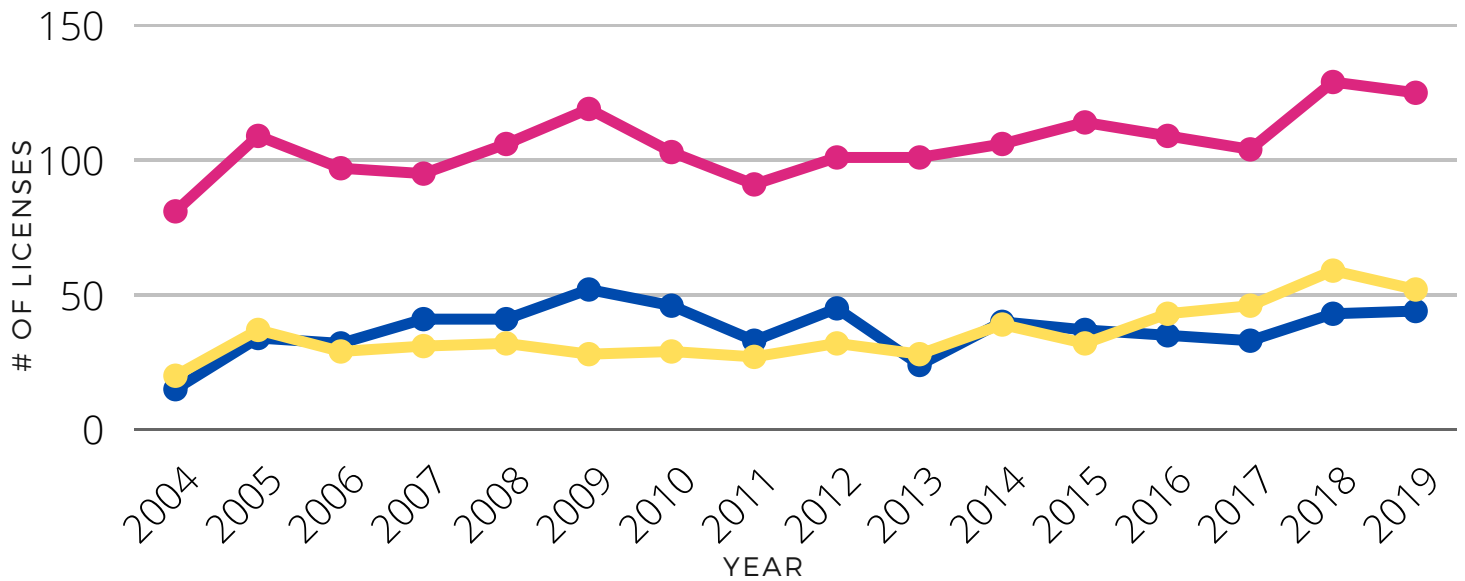
# RESEARCH TRENDS ACROSS NUNAVUT

## Intensity of research in Nunavut communities (2004-2019)

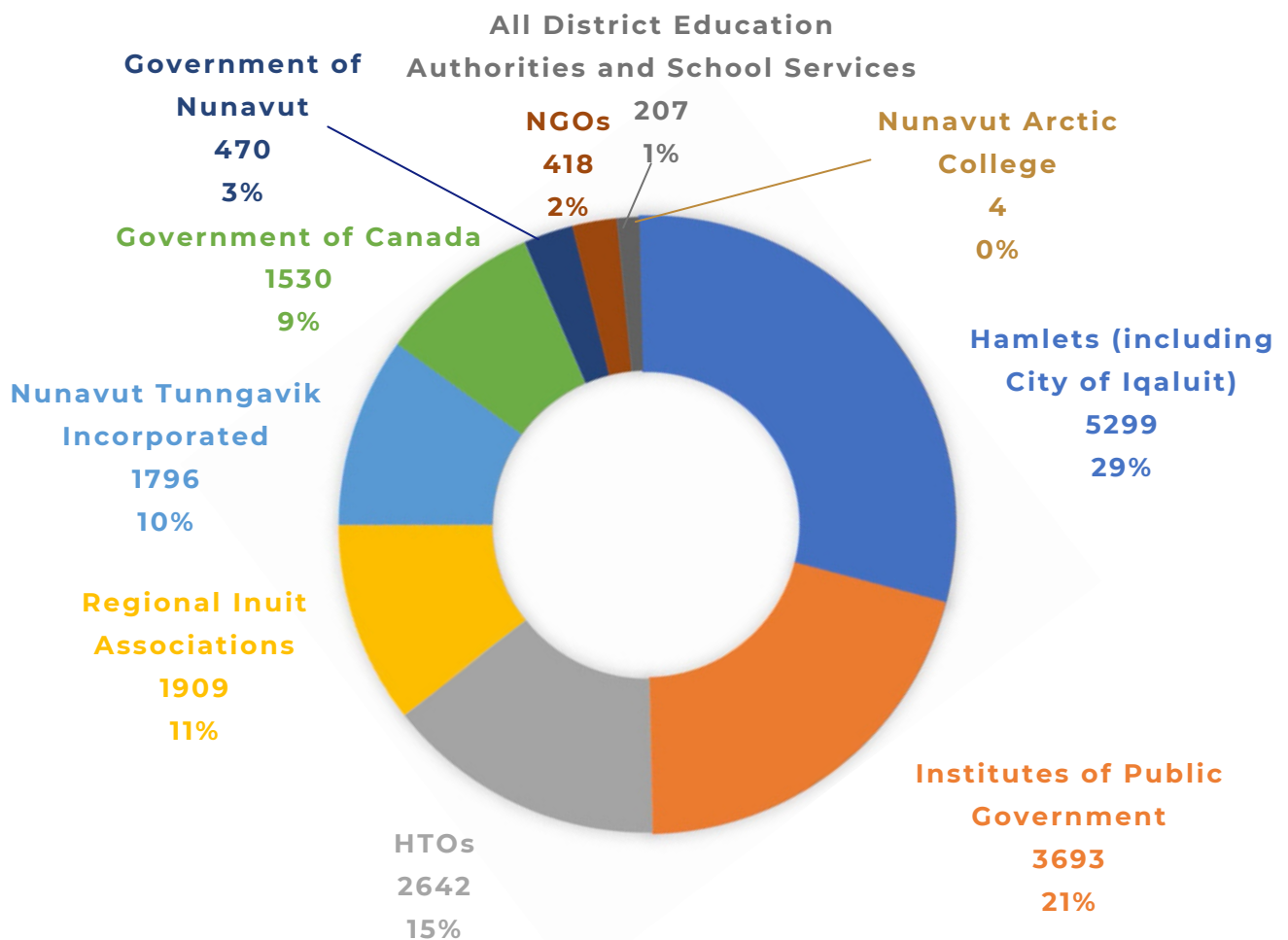




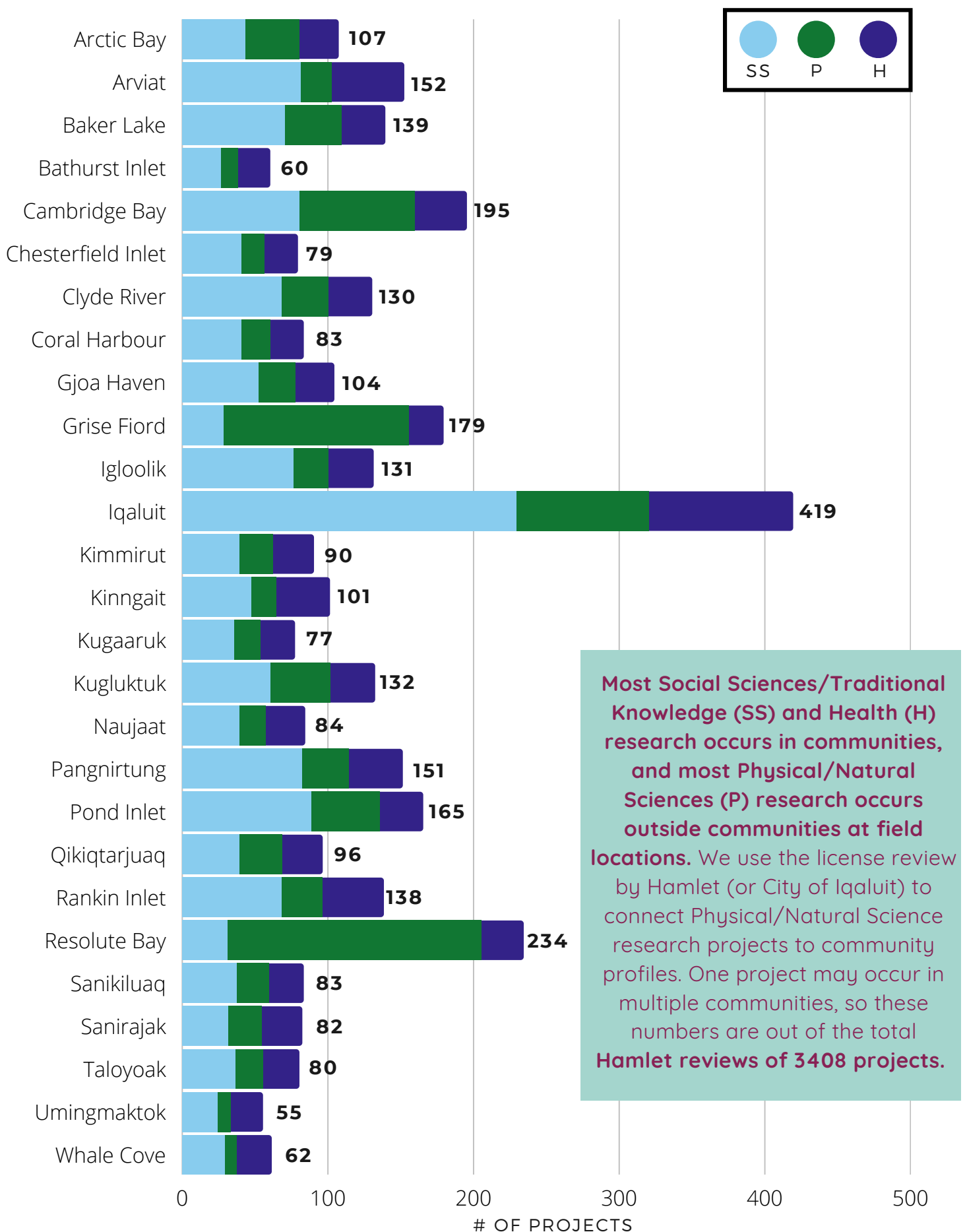
## TOTAL LICENSES BY REGION



## LICENSE REVIEW BY ORGANIZATION TYPE (OUT OF 17,037 REVIEWS)



## TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY COMMUNITY AND DISCIPLINE



# UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

The information we used to create this report is explained here, to help understand some of the limitations.

## 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.

## 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).

## 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.

### Jamal Shirley

Nunavut Research  
Institute

[Jamal.Shirley@  
arcticcollege.ca](mailto:Jamal.Shirley@arcticcollege.ca)

(867) 979-7290

### Gita Ljubicic

McMaster University

[gita.ljubicic@  
mcmaster.ca](mailto:gita.ljubicic@mcmaster.ca)

(289) 659-2074

# RESOURCES

## Interested in learning more?

### 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

- [Aqquimavik Society](#) (Arviat)
- [Arctic Eider Society](#) (Sanikiluaq)
- [ArcticConnexion](#) (multiple communities)
- [Ikaarvik](#) (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](#)

