

**An Overview of conditions in Inuit Nunangat :
based on data from the combined Survey
of Living Conditions in the Arctic**

Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2006

Ottawa : Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, 2011

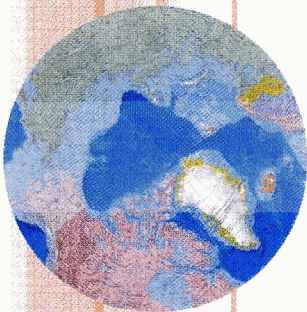
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Aboriginal Affairs and
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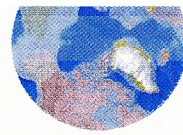
AN OVERVIEW OF CONDITIONS IN INUIT NUNANGAT

Based on data from the combined
Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic/
Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2006

Strategic Research Directorate
November 9, 2011

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OBJECTIVES



Showcase the additional depth that can be derived from the SLiCA/APS combination, using data from 2006

Present an overview of survey findings on:

- Economic activity (both wage employment and subsistence activities)
- Education
- Community characteristics
- Health

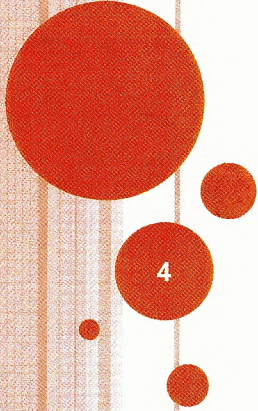
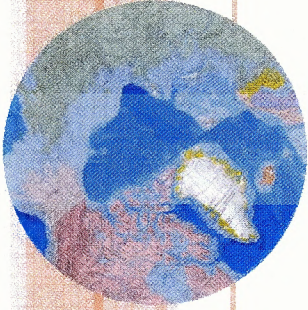
For Inuit living in Inuit Nunangat.

ABOUT THE SURVEYS



Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA):

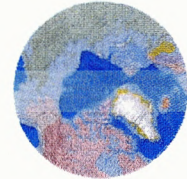
- International effort involving Canada, U.S., Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia
- Aims to measure living conditions in a way relevant to Arctic residents (mainly Inuit), and allow for north-to-north comparisons
- In Canada, SLiCA was combined with the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS). Combining the two added value to both surveys, but reduced international comparability because some SLiCA questions had to be omitted.



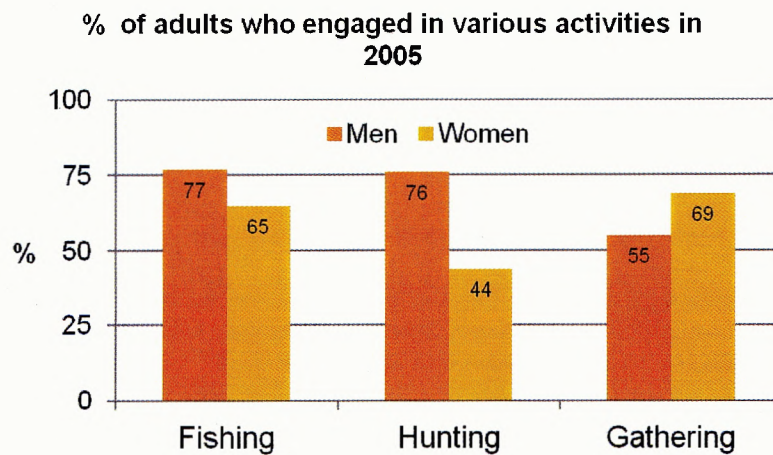
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Harvesting and the wage economy

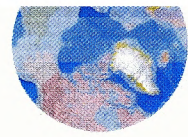
HARVESTING



- Over 70% of adults in Inuit Nunangat had harvested country food in 2005
- 65% say that at least half the meat/fish consumed in their household comes from the land
- 80% say that their household shares country food with others



HARVESTING, CONT.



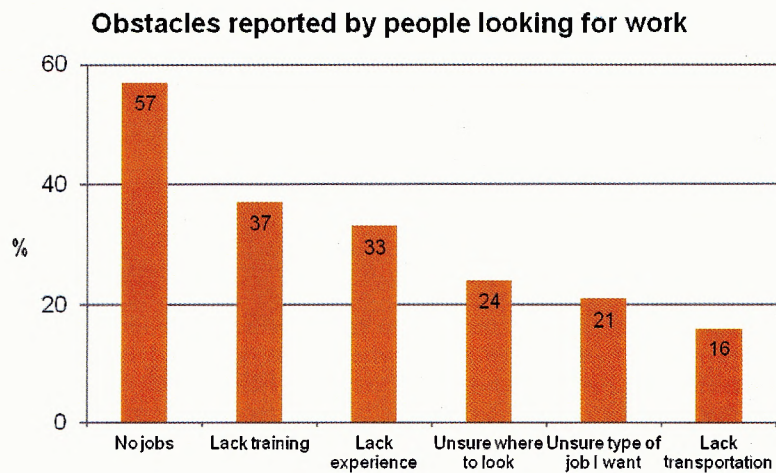
How many people are making most or all of their living from harvesting?

- Most people say they engage in land activities (hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping)...
 - for food (98%) or
 - for fun (78%).
 - Only 14% do so for commercial reasons.
- 15% of adults derived some income from the sale of meat, fish, or carvings in 2005.
- 10% had spent a month or more away from the community to hunt, fish, or spend time on the land.

WAGE LABOUR



- 50% of adults worked for pay in 2005, and another 11% were looking for work. The rest were retired, stay-at-home parents, students, or people who had given up looking
- 77% of adults say that unemployment is a problem in their community
- Those looking for work report a shortage of jobs and also say they lack the training/experience needed for the jobs available

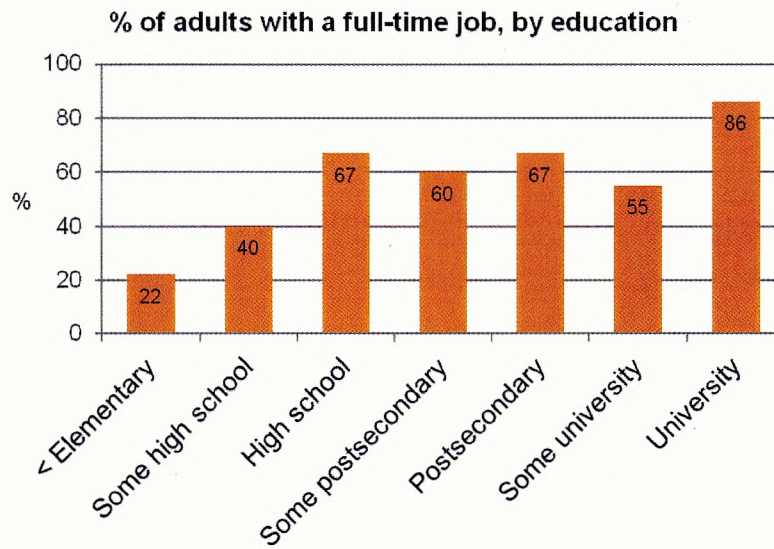


WAGE LABOUR, CONT

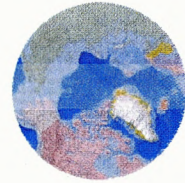


Employment rates are far higher...

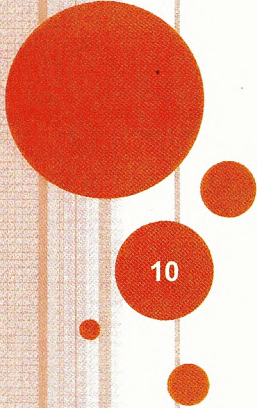
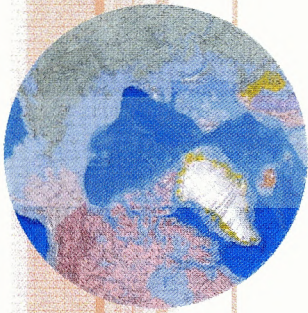
- Among people who completed high school vs those who did not
- Among people who completed university vs those with other forms of postsecondary education



SUMMARY: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



- Co-existence of wage labour and traditional “harvesting” activities
- Harvesting provides a substantial proportion of the food in Inuit Nunangat
- For most people, harvesting appears to supplement other sources of income, rather than replace them
- Shortages of salaried jobs exacerbated by lack of requisite training or experience



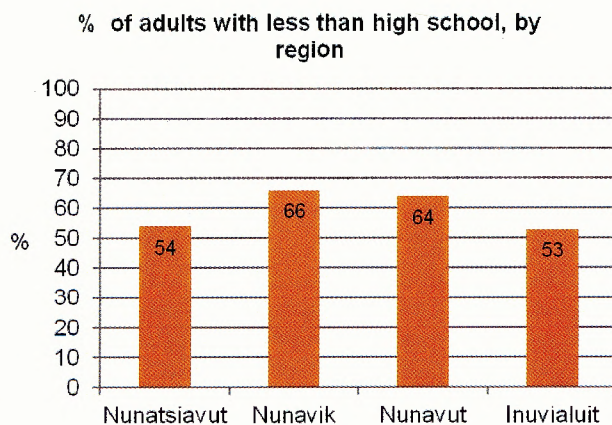
EDUCATION



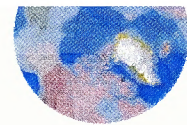
EDUCATION



- A majority of adults in Inuit Nunangat did not complete high school
- Proportions that have not completed high school greatest in Nunavik and Nunavut
- Progress over time: 52% of those now age 25-44 have high school, vs 35% of older adults
- Women now more likely than men both to complete high school and to graduate from university



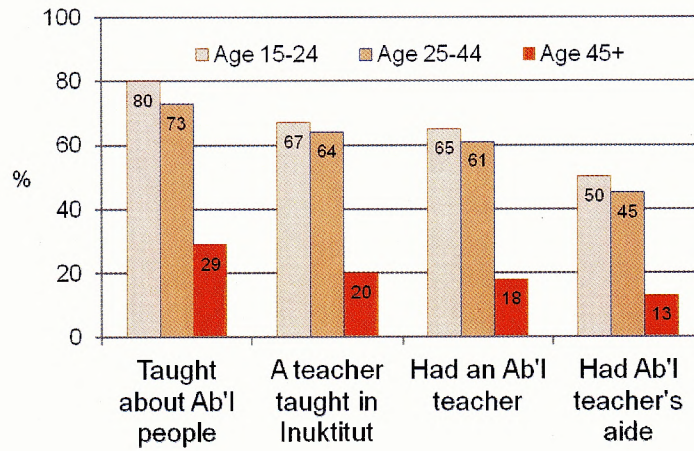
EDUCATION, CONT.

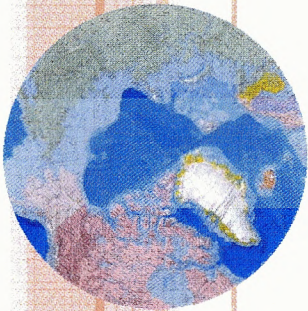


Progress over time in bilingual/bicultural education:

- Younger cohorts more likely than older generations to have had Inuit teaching staff and been taught about Inuit
- Of the children who speak Inuktitut at all, 46% now speak it “most” or “all” of the time in school

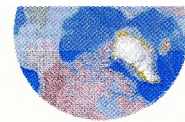
Experience in last year of schooling, by age group



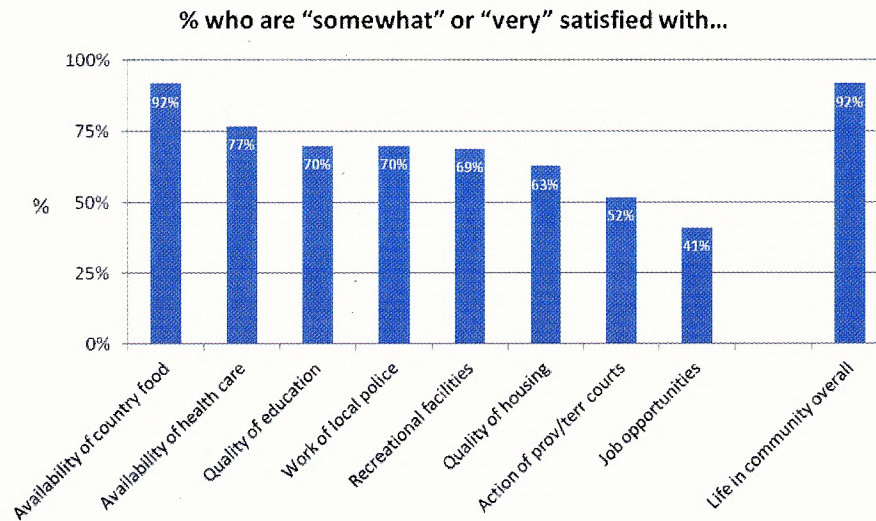


COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

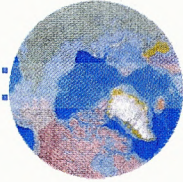
COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS



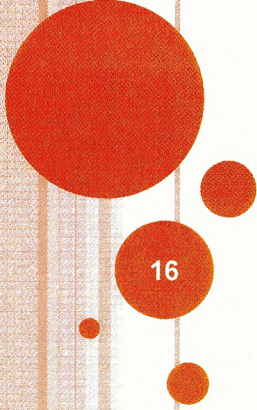
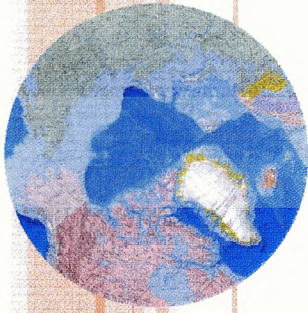
- Despite social problems, 92% of adults in Inuit Nunangat are “somewhat” or “very” satisfied with life in the community
- Housing, the court system, and job opportunities are the aspects with which people are least satisfied



COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS: SOCIAL TIES



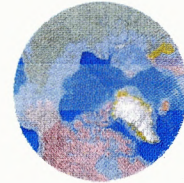
- Main reason for staying in the community is “to be close to family,” followed by friends/hometown/job
- 68% of adults report strong ties with other family members living in the community
- 90% have some form of social support
- 92% are satisfied with the availability of country food through hunting/sharing, and the sharing aspect seems to be important
- 68% of adults had participated in some type of community activity in the previous year
- 38% had volunteered for a community group (church, youth group, Search and Rescue team...)



HEALTH

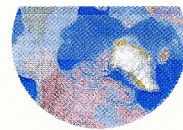


HEALTH



- Just 47% of adults in Inuit Nunangat rate their health as “very good” or “excellent”
- Inuit men significantly more likely than women to rate their health positively (50% vs 44%)
- Prevalence of chronic diseases comparable to southern Canada (using age-standardized figures)
- The most commonly reported chronic conditions are arthritis/rheumatism and hypertension. Rates of reported diabetes are still quite low.
- Access to doctors is limited, and 5% of adults had to spend a month or more away from home in 2005 due to illness

HEALTH, CONT.



- Smoking rates continue to be almost four times the Canadian average: 66% of adults in Inuit Nunangat are daily smokers
- ~One adult in five “binge” drinks at least twice a month, and community residents rate alcohol abuse second only to unemployment as a problem in the communities

But

- A diet high in “country” foods, and strong social networks, may both be exerting some protective effects on health