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Qikiqtani Inuit Association

INUUSIUP ASIJJIQPALIANNINGANIQ UJJIQSURNIQ

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS



Inuusiup Asijjiqpalianninganiq Ujjiqsurniq is a community-based socio-economic research project that collected baseline information about community life in three Qikiqtaaluk communities impacted by resource development.

Department of Social Policy | Iqaluit, Nunavut

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BACKGROUND

Inuusiup Asijiqpalianninganiq Ujjiqsurniq (IAU) is a grassroots research project about community life. A team of community researchers designed and conducted a survey in three Qikiqtaaluk communities impacted by the Mary River iron ore mine, which operates in the North Baffin region of Nunavut.

The research team worked together to develop research themes. Researchers hosted a workshop in each community from October 2014 to January 2015 to validate the themes and get more guidance about specific questions. With more direction from communities, the research team developed indicators and finally a survey. The researchers also participated in several workshops from 2014 to 2016 where they learned skills needed to conduct the research.

The questions in this survey are based on concerns and issues raised by the research team and community members when asked about what they thought might change in their community once the mine began operation. In the end, the research team asked questions about hunting and food sharing, family and community relationships, and participation in community life.

OBJECTIVES

QIA and the research team wanted to:

- Administer a face-to-face survey to adults living in Pond Inlet, Igloodik, and Cape Dorset.
- Establish baseline data to enable future research of experiences and perceptions of change in communities newly impacted by resource development projects.
- Represent community concerns in the collection of socio-economic data, specifically in areas of concern identified and validated by community members.

The survey is designed to be repeated at regular intervals (every 3-5 years) so that results could be used by:

- Communities to advocate for resources
- Inuit organizations when negotiating Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements
- Stakeholders to further understanding of the experience of change in communities impacted by resource development

THE RESEARCH TEAM



Left to right: Evie Pootoogook, Tommy Amarualik, Sara Arnatsiaq, Ena Mucktar, Josh Kalluk, Niore Iqalukjuak, Bethany Scott (coordinator), Joe Saila, Michael Milton

ABOUT THE SURVEY

In the spring and summer of 2016, the researchers collected baseline data using iPads and a custom designed survey app. They spoke to 270 randomly selected households in Pond Inlet, Igloolik, and Cape Dorset.

The baseline gives us a starting point, or snapshot, of how things are right now in communities. The research team wants to repeat the survey over regular intervals during the life of the mine, for example every 3 or 5 years.



The results of our survey are *weighted*. This means that we adjusted the results slightly to reflect the actual demographics of the communities that participated.

The 270 surveys are a *sample*. In other words, the group of people who agreed to do the survey. The table below describes our sample:

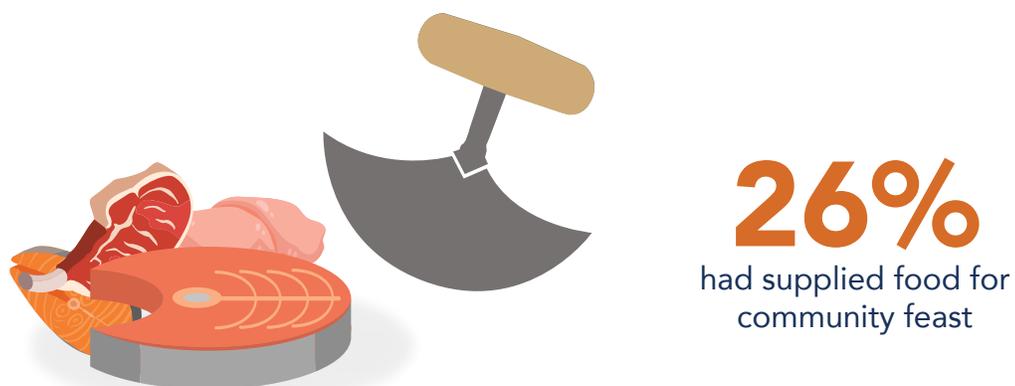
	INDICATOR	CAPE DORSET	IGLOOLIK	POND INLET	AVERAGE
	Gender (male)	51%	55%	60%	55%
	Qikiqtani Inuit	94%	96%	91%	93%
	Average age	43	44	45	44
	Household occupancy	2.9	5.4	5.4	4.6
	Number of dependents	2.1	4.0	2.8	2.9
	Employed	40%	49%	50%	46%
	Percentage of households with at least one household member working at Baffinland	0%	10%	18%	10%
	Percentage of households with at least one family member working at Baffinland	2%	38%	42%	27%

THEME ONE:

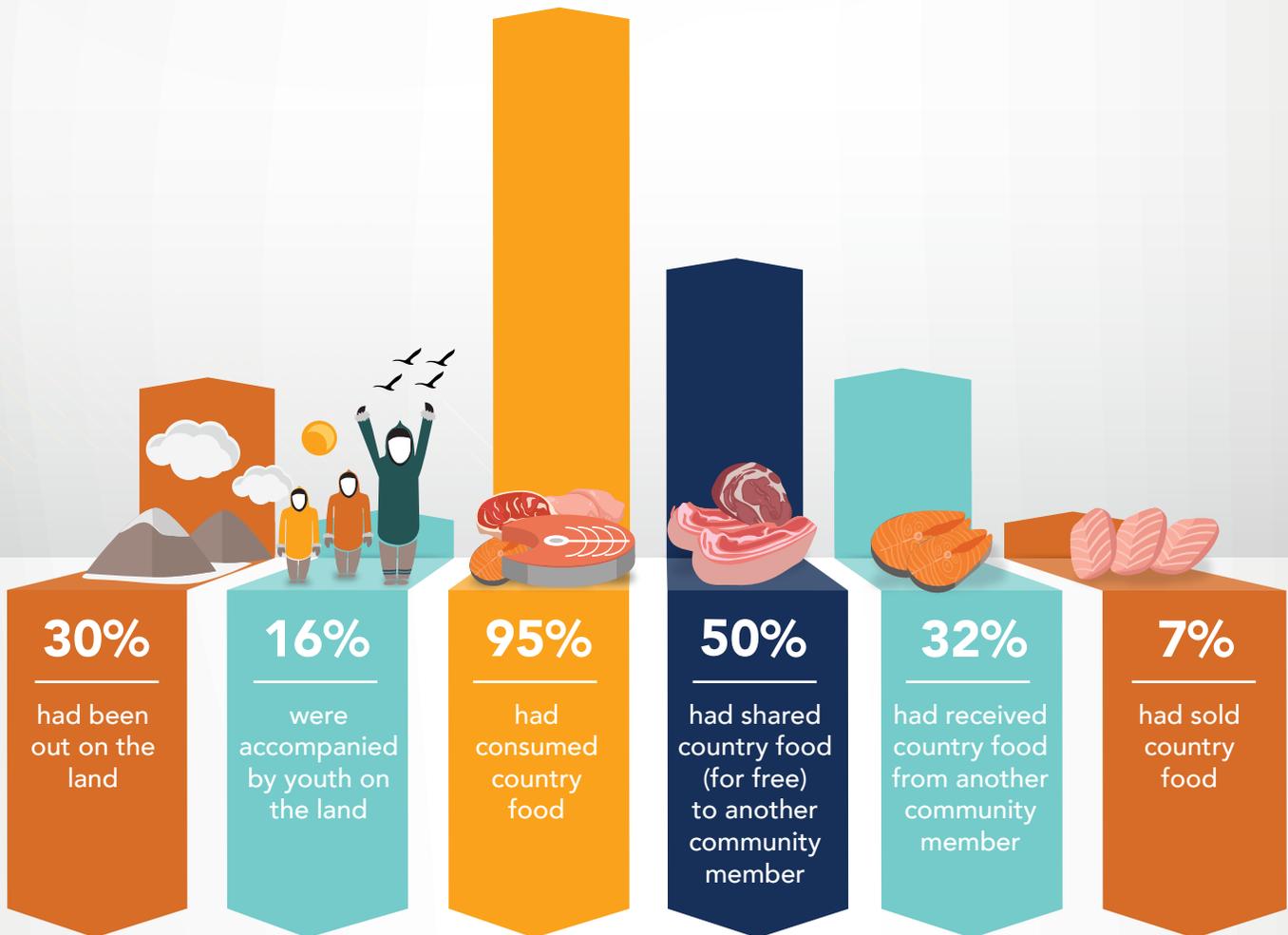
HUNTING AND FOOD SHARING

Country food is important part of life for Inuit. It is a way to connect with culture, be healthy, and interact with friends and family. The research team knows that hunting and food sharing practices have changed over the past few decades, as wage employment becomes a bigger part of how families support themselves. We wanted to learn more about hunting and food sharing practices in our communities now that more Inuit have the opportunity to work at the mine.

We found that on average people who answered the survey reported that in the past year:



In the four weeks preceding the survey:



We also found that lack of snowmobile was most common reason for not going out on the land, reported by 14% of respondents. When asked about challenges in obtaining country food, most respondents reported no snowmobile/boat or no active hunter as the barrier. Only 11% reported not enough money to buy gas or supplies as the barrier.

When asked where they got their country food, most respondents reported getting country food from family or a community member who hunts. Only 8% reported purchasing country food from Facebook or from another community member.

THEME TWO:

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

A big area of concern discussed by the research team and workshop participants was family and community relationships.

Workshop participants and people who attended community meetings shared concerns that family and community dynamics could change after the mine opened. Some people worried about a work schedule that took people out of the home for two weeks at a time, and how new stresses might affect family life. Some people wondered about the impact of new high paying jobs on individuals and families that might not be used to budgeting and saving. Others raised the fear that gambling, crime, and alcohol and substance abuse rates might rise as the number of people with disposable income increased. QIA wanted to know what changes might happen to the feeling of being a 'close-knit' community' as the economy continues to shift away from a sharing economy and toward wage earning.

This theme, more than the other two, struck a deep chord with the research team and with many people who did the survey. The research team feels strongly that we need more qualitative research to better understand how family and community relationships might change over the life of the mine.

Family relationships



51%

have children under 6 years old who live the household



27%

have access to childcare if needed, either daycare, a babysitter or family



11%

have accessed couples counseling in past year



34%

have someone in the household who lived away from home for two weeks in the past year



22%

say life is quite a bit or extremely stressful



7.3/10

On a scale of **0** to **10**, where **0** means "very dissatisfied" and **10** means "very satisfied", the **"average level of reported life satisfaction ^{7.3/10}"**

Social networks

90%

have at least one close friend



38%

think most people can be trusted



37%

have been alone in the past four weeks when they would have preferred to have been with others



90%

have had visitors in their homes in the past four weeks



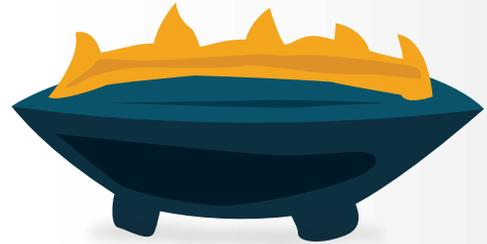
89%

have visited others in their homes in past four weeks



83%

agree that most people in their community would be willing to help if needed



73%

have participated in community celebration, activity, or event in the past year

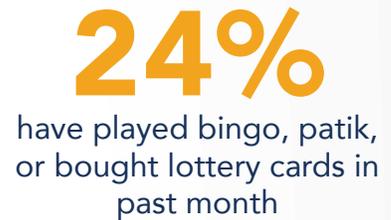


48%

have played sports, games, or other recreational activity



Money relationships



Perception of Safety

84%

feel very safe or moderately safe walking in community at night



85%

feel very safe or moderately safe from crime and violence in their homes

THEME THREE:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

People can contribute to building a vibrant community where citizens help each other in many different ways. Some people volunteer in formal and informal ways. Some people want to share their concerns and opinions with elected decision makers. Some people lead or participate in informal learning programs.

The IAU research team wanted to find out: how people were supporting each other by sharing time and resources; if people felt they had adequate information from leaders and opportunities to share their thoughts; and about participation in healing workshops or cultural programs.

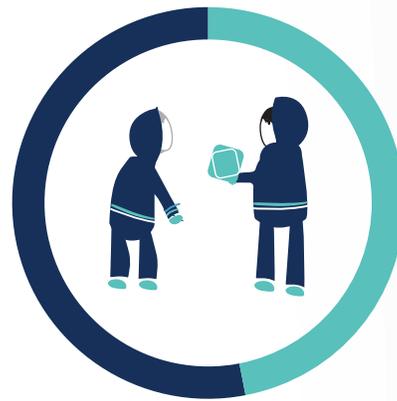
This part of the survey focused on civic participation or volunteering, rather than purely social interactions.

The survey showed us that *on average*:



53%

donated equipment, food, or time to another community member in the last month

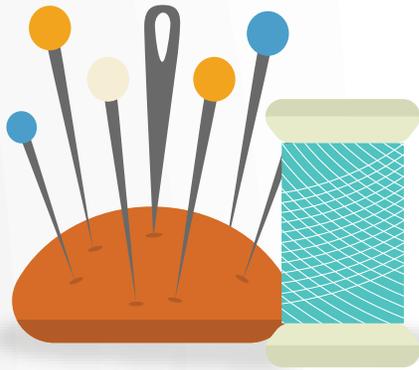
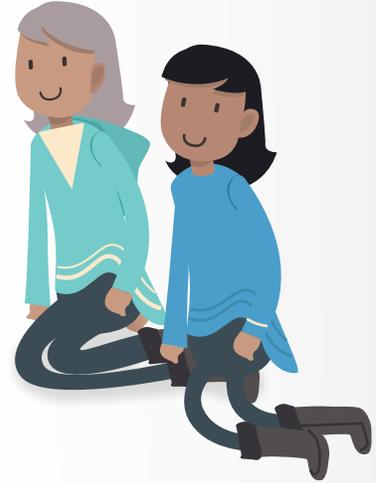


47%

donated equipment, food, or time to an Elder in the last month

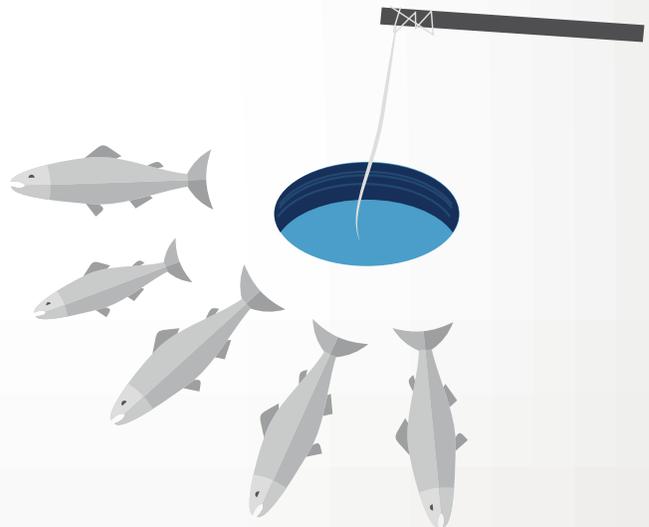


35%
reported being
part of a group or
organization



23%
took part in a cultural class
or program in the past year

17%
taught a cultural class or
program in the past year



21%

spoke at a community meeting in the past year



59%

think there are not enough announcements from elected officials

26%

attended a community consultation



69%

think there is not enough community consultation



50%

agree that in general, the community has control over programs and initiatives



56%

support decisions on mineral development in their community

89%

are willing to give time or money with no direct personal benefit



70%

have given time or money to common community goal



WHAT'S NEXT?

QIA is proud of this survey and of the dedicated work of the community researchers. QIA is pleased to contribute to community-led baseline data collection, and to the skills development of community researchers.

We hope to repeat the survey regularly every three years so we can start to track changes in the communities.

If you have any questions about this project, or to access the full report, please contact QIA directly.”

This survey would not have been possible without the financial support of the Government of Canada’s Nunavut General Monitoring Plan.

