

SURVEY OF ALASKANS' OPINIONS ON THE ARCTIC

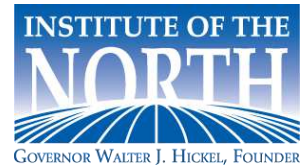
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
Methodology	7
Demographics	8
Most Important Issues Facing the Arctic	13
Arctic Security	16
Priorities in the Arctic	19
Relative Importance of Issues in the American Arctic	22
How well equipped is the American Arctic to meet the following needs	26
Who is best suited to address Arctic issues	30
Who is Trusted for Information on the Arctic	33
Role of Other Countries in the Arctic	36
Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions	41
Appendix B: Next Steps	43
Appendix C: Executive Summary-Munk-Gordon Poll	45
Appendix D: Survey instrument	51
Appendix E: Data Tables	56

Executive Summary

Introduction

For millennia, the Arctic has been home to diverse peoples and rich cultural and natural values. A combination of environmental change, globalization, and the search for new resources is bringing the Arctic increased attention and activity in private and public circles, including those far beyond Alaska. For Alaskans to be effective participants in crafting future policies and practices in the Arctic, it is important to understand current level of knowledge, interest, values and aspirations with regard to the Arctic. Alaska's leaders must also have this understanding in order to strengthen the state's position in national and international settings; to mitigate the risks of increasing development, to leverage new opportunities, and to be responsible stewards in the Arctic. We cannot afford to ignore or misrepresent the Arctic. The decisions that we make now will affect the lives of generations to come.

For this reason, the Institute of the North commissioned a public opinion poll, with support from World Wildlife Fund to assess Alaskans' knowledge of Arctic issues, general views about priority policy topics, and perceptions of effective and trustworthy conveyors of Arctic information. Because the Institute of the North and World Wildlife Fund share the goal of a sustainable future for Alaska, and because multiple task forces, committees, forums, and initiatives, have been formed to address Arctic issues, we found this an opportune moment to learn more about how Alaskans feel about the Arctic.

Both in purpose and method this poll draws on the 2011 report "[Rethinking the Top of the World: Arctic Security Public Opinion Survey](#)" commissioned by the Munk-Gordon Arctic Security Program and carried out by Ekos Research Associates. That report, based upon in-depth polling in Canada and comparative polling of the eight Arctic nations finds, broadly speaking, that respondents have complex and multidimensional views of the Arctic that include deep concern issues like the environment, economy and infrastructure and a concern that governments are not adequately prepared to address these issues in the Arctic. As the following pages reveal, American respondents in this Munk-Gordon poll share similar views but their responses indicate lower levels of Arctic knowledge (see Appendix C for a more detailed summary of the Munk-Gordon Arctic Security Public Opinion Survey).

To what extent are Alaskans prepared to answer key questions related to northern regions? How much is known about the Arctic and how do we prioritize multiple interests? Who can we trust for good information? It is these questions and more that drove the need for a baseline assessment of public opinion in Alaska on the topic. Local, national and international decision-makers require accurate and reliable information about Alaska's needs and concerns in order to make responsible decisions. Inspired by the confluence of need and the lack of comparative data; this survey was designed to consider some of these questions.

Key Findings of the Alaska poll:

1. Alaskans consider that environment (32.9%) and the economy (27.1%) are priority issues in the Arctic.
2. Alaskans believe that the Arctic needs better infrastructure, education, and disaster response capacity, but worry that current status and levels of investment are insufficient. The same is true

for respondents when asked about search and rescue, polices to protect indigenous cultures and environmental protection.

3. In terms of addressing environmental issues, a majority of respondents (56.8%) think that the State of Alaska is best suited to take on these tasks in the Arctic; although it is worth noting that the second most popular response (17%) was that no group is fully capable of addressing these concerns.
4. When respondents were asked about which institutions are most trustworthy for providing information on the Arctic, universities were given the highest rating, 6.4 out of 10. No other group, including various aspects of the state, was rated above 5.5 out of 10. The news media was rated the least trustworthy, with a mean rating of 3.2 (out of possible score of ten).
5. In gauging recognition of the Arctic Council, the poll found that while most respondents (51%) have not heard of that specific body, 81.7% of the respondents reacted favorably to the stated mission of Arctic Council as a forum for international collaboration.

Next Steps

This poll provides valuable data but does not paint the entire picture. Consistent with its mission to inform public policy and cultivate an engaged citizenry, the Institute of the North and partners will build upon the work of this poll by conducting an Arctic Awareness and Outreach Campaign over the next four years. This campaign will seek to increase understanding of Arctic issues by providing public education materials, organizing stakeholder activities, and coordinating activities that support the U.S.

Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. Specifically, as a follow up to this initial poll, the Institute will host focus groups that determine how deeply-held these opinions are and methods to increase knowledge in the state and across the nation.

To get involved, sign up for the Top of the World Telegraph on our website at www.institutenorth.org; attend the Week of the Arctic and other Institute events, or contact Nils Andreassen at (907) 786-6324 or nandreassen@institutenorth.org.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF's) vision for the region is an Arctic shielded from the worst effects of rapid change through effective international stewardship and healthy living systems for the benefit of local peoples and all humanity. WWF seeks to reach this aspiration by partnering with communities, governments, and resource users to develop policies and practices that will allow for resilient people, species, and landscapes. In the face of rapid climate change and in advance of growing industrialization, we have a unique opportunity to shape future development if we engage the public; use the best science available; identify and conserve ecological values that are likely to persist in the face of climate change; and plan development carefully. Understanding Alaskans' values toward the Arctic is an important step in our ability to work effectively to make this vision possible.

For more information, see: www.worldwildlife.org/arctic or www.panda.org/arctic

Methodology

Survey instrument

The questionnaire was adapted from *Rethinking the Top of the World* and to Alaska's particular policy circumstances. Working with staff at the Institute of the North questions were selected that were relevant to Alaskans and of interest to the Institute's work. To allow the data to be comparable to that collected in *Rethinking the Top of the World*, question wording was untouched except to change the words 'Canada' or 'Canadian' to either 'U.S.,' 'American,' and 'Alaskan' as necessary. Two new questions about where respondents get their information about these issues were added. The final survey took between 12 and 15 minutes to conduct.

Survey sample

Four hundred and fourteen surveys were completed from respondents around the state of Alaska. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 estimate, Alaska's population is 731,449. The sample size provided a 95% confidence level and a confidence interval of 4.82. It is worth noting that we were able to break down responses by demographic subsets; however, a larger sample size would allow this to be statistically representative – we cannot extrapolate anything from this data. Where this has been done in this report it was to provide future direction and an interesting perspective; future follow up is needed with a larger sample size.

Given the high number of communities in Alaska and the challenge of obtaining telephone numbers for many of the small communities in the state, every community was not included in the sample. Instead communities were selected from each region of the state and then telephone numbers were randomly selected from within those communities. Communities that were part of the survey included Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, Unalaska, Valdez, and Wasilla.

Conducting the survey

Telephone calls were made to call lists of randomly selected residents of the communities listed above. Telephone numbers were obtained from the Polk Directory (a listing of consumer data and contact information) for the area. Calls took place from January 7-21, 2013 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Calls were made Monday through Thursday evenings during that time period with the exception of January 14th when calling was canceled due to inclement weather. Approximately 4,148 calls were made over eight evenings resulting in 414 completed surveys. Of the 4,148 calls made, there were 716 (17%) invalid numbers or numbers without an eligible participant, 1,741 (42%) numbers where no one answered, 1,045 (25%) individuals who answered but chose not to participate in the survey, 232 (6%) people who asked to be called back at a different time but did not complete the survey, and 414 (10%) completed surveys.

Data entry and analysis

Data entry was completed by one individual who entered the data into SPSS, a statistical software program. Data were then cleaned and checked for any inconsistencies which were resolved by consulting the hard copy of the survey. Analysis was run in SPSS on the cleaned data.

Demographics

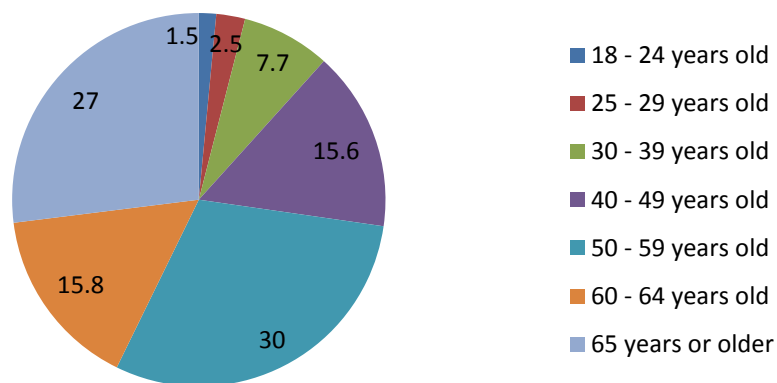
Respondents were asked a number of demographic questions including: gender, age, Alaska Native status, education, annual household income, and employment status. Respondents were also asked two questions about their quality of life. The location respondents were from was tracked to compare the result between rural and urban respondents. Included in the urban sample are: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Palmer and Wasilla. The rest of the communities were part of the rural sample. The sample was 48.3% rural and 51.7% urban.

The sample was slightly more male than female with 52.7% of respondents men and 47.3% women. The ratio of men to women among Alaska Native respondents was slightly tilted towards male respondents (54.4% of the sample). Rural respondents were exactly evenly split between male and female respondents. Urban respondents were 55.2% male and 44.8% female. The percentages of male and female respondents were identical for both education levels.

One-fifth of the sample identified as Alaska Native (22.3%), while just over three-quarters of the sample (77.7%) did not. One-third (34.5%) of rural respondents identified themselves as Alaska Native compared to 19.6% of urban respondents who did so. There was a large difference in the education level of respondents identifying as Alaska Native. Among those with some college or less, 30.5% were Alaska Native while among those with a bachelor’s or higher, only 12.6% were Alaska Native.

As shown in the chart below, 30.0% of respondents were 50 to 59 years old and 27.0% were 65 years old or older. The least represented age group was 18 to 24 year olds comprising just 1.5% of the sample. Just 17.1% of the overall sample was under 40 years old.

Figure 1a. Age of Survey Respondents

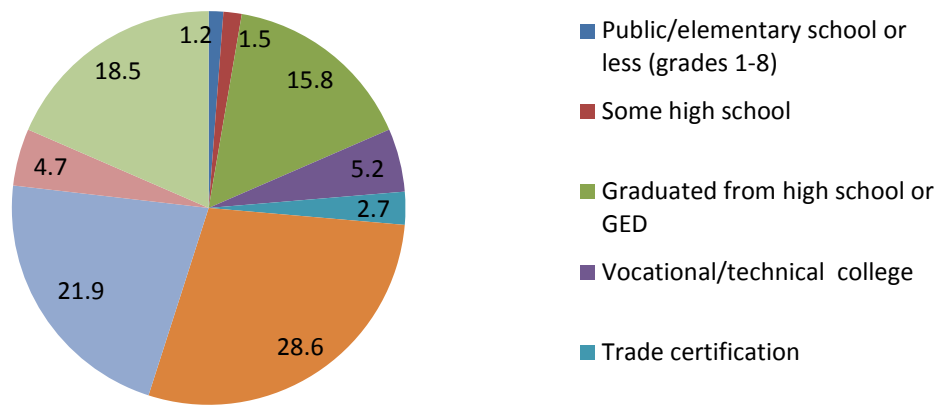


Alaska Native respondents were similarly distributed across the age spectrum. Rural and urban respondents deviated from the overall age distribution. A higher percentage of rural respondents were

50 to 59 years old (33.3%), while 26.7% of urban respondents were in this age range. There was a higher percentage of urban respondents in the 65 years or older range, 36.4% compared to 17.2% among rural respondents. Among respondents with a bachelor's or higher just 8.9% were under 40 years old, while among those with some college or less 13.6% were under 40 years old. Among those with some college or less, one-third were between 50 to 59 years old while just one-quarter of those with a bachelor's or higher were in that age range. In both education levels approximately one-quarter of respondents were 65 years old or older.

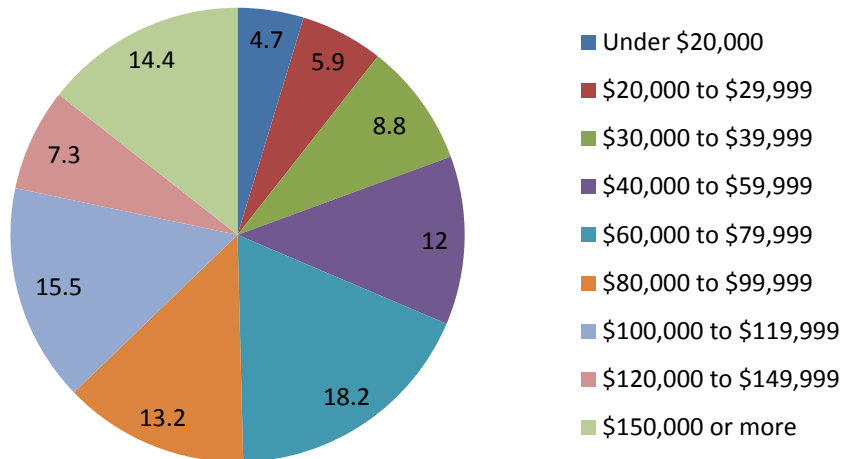
Respondents were a well-educated group. Those with some college accounted for 28.6% of respondents, while those with a bachelor's degree comprised another 21.9%, and 18.5% of respondents reported having a graduate degree. Over two-thirds of respondents had some college or more education. Among Alaska Native respondents over half (50.6%) of respondents had some college, a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree. Among rural respondents, nearly two-thirds (64.8%) had some college or more education. For urban respondents nearly three-quarters of respondents (72.9%) had some college or more education. Other results were analyzed by education level with the sample split into two groups, those with some college or less and those with a bachelor's or higher, 54.9% and 45.1% of the overall sample respectively.

Figure 1b. Education Level of Respondents



Respondents were asked their annual household income range. Just under one-fifth of respondents (19.4%) reported annual income of less than \$40,000. At the other end of the income scale, 37.2% of respondents reported incomes of \$100,000 or more with the remainder of the sample having incomes between \$40,000 and \$100,000.

Figure 1c. Household Income of Respondents



Relative to the overall sample, a larger percentage of Alaska Native respondents reported household incomes below \$40,000 with just over one-quarter (26.7%) reporting income in this range. While a smaller percentage of Alaska Native respondents reported household incomes of more than \$100,000, it was still a healthy 29.4% of respondents. Rural respondents also had approximately one-quarter (24.9%) reporting household incomes below \$40,000. A much smaller percentage of urban respondents reported household incomes below \$40,000, just 13.7%. More than one-third (36.4%) of rural respondents reported household incomes over \$100,000, a similar percentage (38.2%) of urban respondents reported household incomes over \$100,000.

Just under one-quarter (24.5%) of those with some college or less reported annual household incomes of less than \$40,000. Just under one-fifth (19.4%) of those with a bachelor's or higher reported that income level. Among those with some college or less, 29.8% report annual household income of \$100,000 or more. Slightly under half (46.4%) of respondents with a bachelor's or higher reported annual household income of \$100,000 or more.

Sample Group	Annual Household Income Under \$40,000	Annual Household Income Between \$40,000 and \$100,000	Annual Household Income \$100,000 or More
Overall Sample	19.4%	43.4%	37.2%
Alaska Native	26.7%	43.9%	29.4%
Rural	24.9%	38.7%	36.4%
Urban	13.7%	48.1%	38.2%
Some College or Less	24.5%	45.7%	29.8%
Bachelor's or Higher	19.4%	34.2%	46.4%

Figure 1d. Characteristics of Respondents.

More than half the sample reported being employed with 43.2% reporting full time employment and another 13.3% self-employed. Retired respondents made up more than one-quarter of the sample at 26.4%. The employment status percentages for Alaska Native respondents were very similar overall. However, there were slightly fewer retirees among Alaska Native respondents, 22.0%.

Rural and urban respondents had nearly identical percentages of self-employed workers as the overall sample. However, rural respondents had much higher percentages of full time employees, 52.8% versus 34.0% for urban respondents. A higher percentage of urban respondents reported being retired, 34.0% compared to just 18.6% of rural respondents who reported being retired. Just under one-third (35.6%) of those with some college or less were employed full time while over half (52.5%) of those with a bachelor's or higher were. The percentage of those with some college or less who reported they were retired was slightly higher than the percentage for those with a bachelor's or higher, 28.4% versus 24.0%.

Sample Group	Employed Full Time	Self Employed	Retired
Overall Sample	43.2%	13.3%	26.4%
Alaska Native	42.9%	12.1%	22.0%
Rural	52.8%	13.1%	18.6%
Urban	34.0%	13.6%	34.0%
Some College or Less	35.6%	14.9%	28.4%
Bachelor's or Higher	52.5%	11.5%	24.0%

Figure 1e. Characteristics of Respondents.

Quality of Life

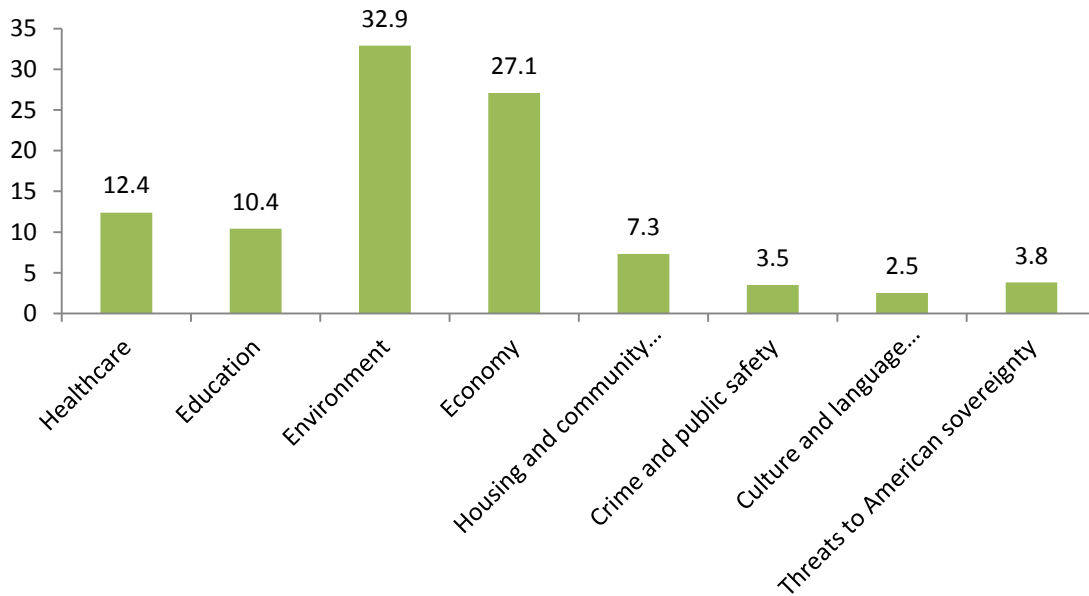
Respondents were asked to rate their overall quality of life on a scale of one to five with five being very good. The mean was 4.41. The mean for Alaska Native respondents was 4.25; for rural respondents it was 4.38; and for urban respondents it was 4.43. The mean for those with some college or less was 4.53. The mean for those with a bachelor's or higher was 4.31.

Respondents were also asked whether they expected their overall quality of life would get better or worse in the next ten years. On a scale of one to five with five being 'get better;' the mean was 3.33. The mean for Alaska Native respondents was 3.27; for rural respondents it was 3.35; and for urban respondents it was 3.32. The mean for those with some college or less was 3.55. The mean for those with a bachelor's or higher was 3.16.

Most Important Issues Facing the Arctic

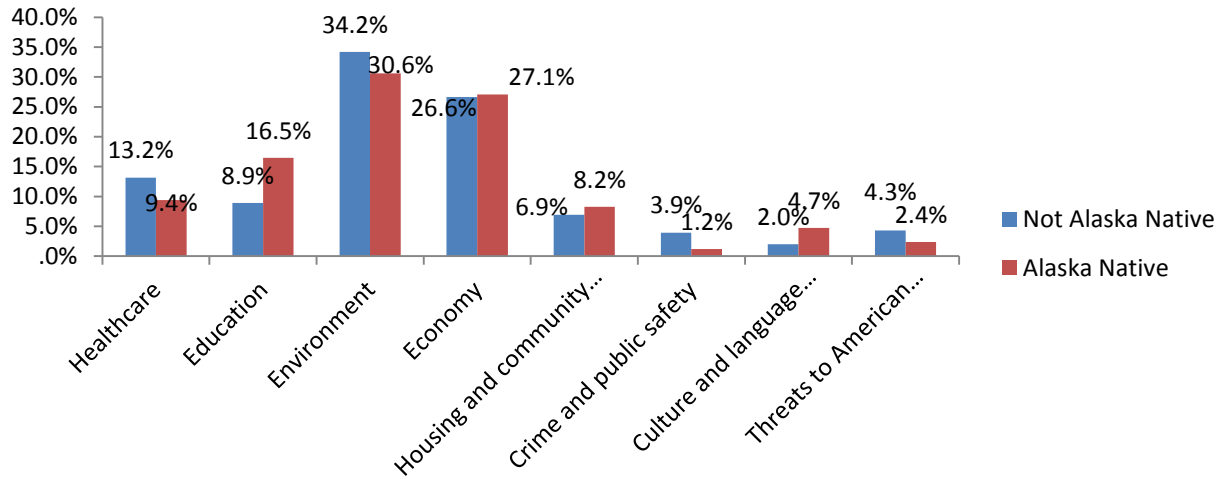
From a list of eight items, respondents were asked to identify which they felt was the most important issue facing the Arctic region of America. Options included: healthcare, education, environment, economy, housing and community infrastructure, crime and public safety, culture and language preservation, and threats to American sovereignty. As shown in the chart below, nearly two-thirds of respondents selected the environment, followed by the economy.

Figure 2a. Most Important Issue Facing American Arctic



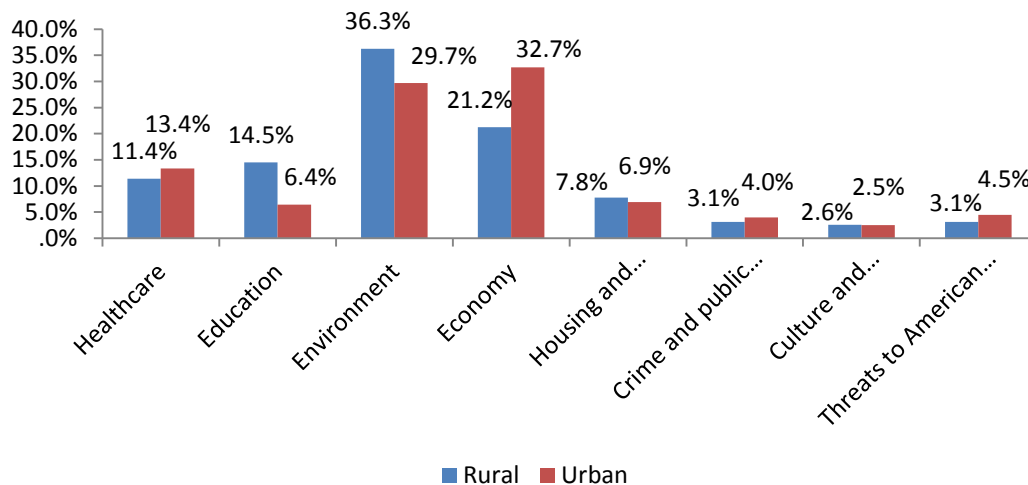
Alaska Native respondents prioritized the same issues, however placed a greater emphasis on culture and language preservation, housing and community infrastructure, and education than the general sample.

Figure 2b. Most Important Issue Facing American Arctic by Alaska Native Status



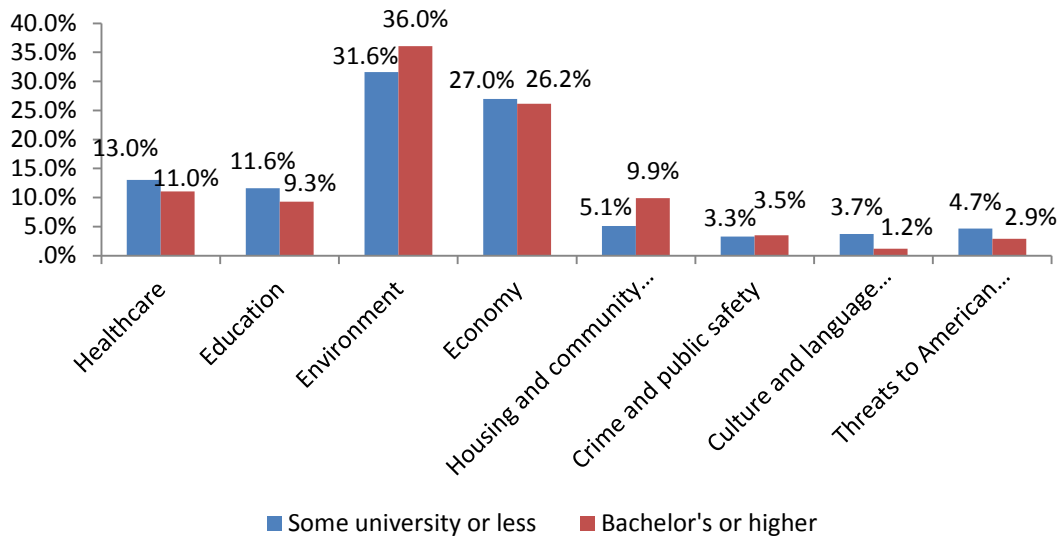
There were noticeable differences between rural and urban respondents as to what are the most important issues facing America's Arctic. Rural respondents more frequently cited the environment as the most important issue, while urban respondents selected the economy most frequently. Attitudes towards education also revealed a difference between the two groups. Fourteen percent of rural respondents selected education as the most important issue, while not even half that percentage did among urban respondents.

Figure 2c. Most Important Issue Facing American Arctic by Rural/Urban Status



When analyzing the data by education level, both those with more than and less than a bachelor's degree selected the same two issues as the top issues facing the American Arctic: first the environment was followed by the economy. A higher percentage of respondents with a bachelor's or higher rated the environment as the most important issue compared to those with less education (31.6% vs. 36.0%). The percentage selecting the economy was nearly identical among the two groups. Both groups of respondents also selected health care as the third most selected issue.

Figure 2d. Most Important Issue Facing American Arctic by Education Level



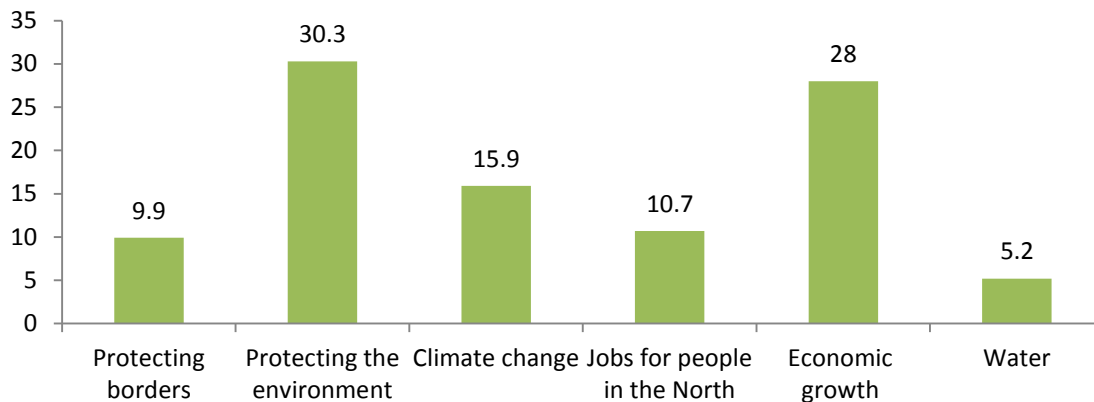
Arctic Security

Respondents were also asked to select their top issue when thinking about security in the American Arctic from a list of choices including:

- Protecting our borders from international threats
- Protecting the environment from accidents and disasters
- Protecting the environment against climate change
- Giving people in the North jobs
- Encouraging growth of the economy, through the exploration and extraction of resources in the North
- Water

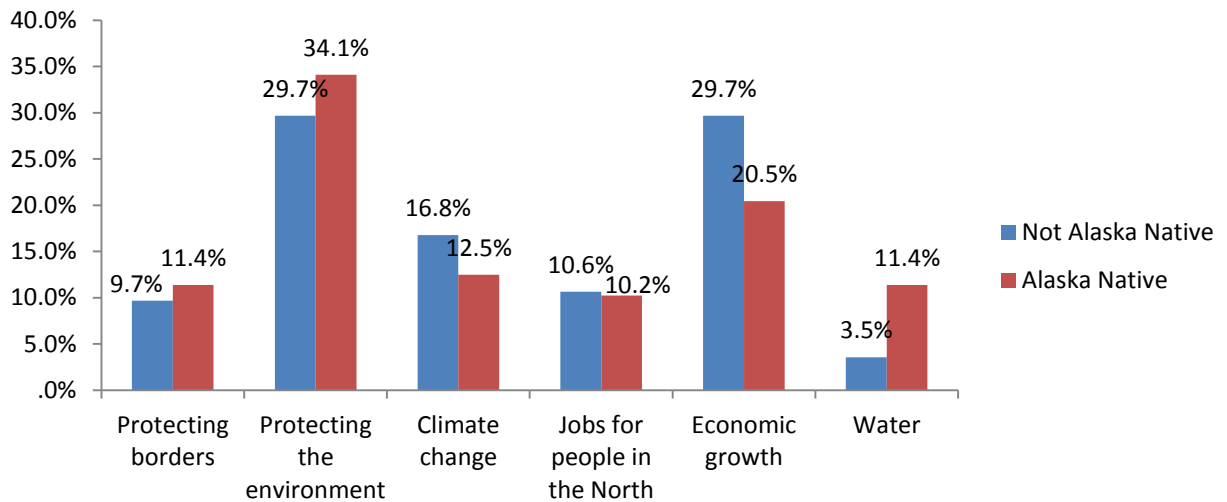
As shown in the chart below, protecting the environment from accidents and disasters was the security issue selected by more respondents than any other followed by encouraging growth of the economy through the exploration and extraction of resources in the North.

Figure 3a. Top Issue Related to Security in American Arctic



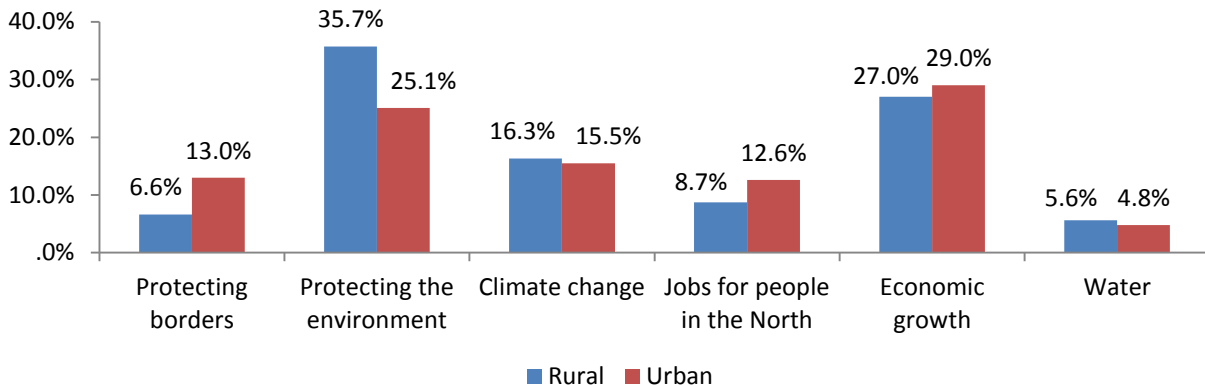
Responses among Alaska Native respondents matched that of the total sample with a focus on the environment and economy. However, water was selected by a much larger percentage of Alaska Native respondents than by non-Native respondents.

Figure 3b. Top Issue Related to Security in American Arctic by Alaska Native Status



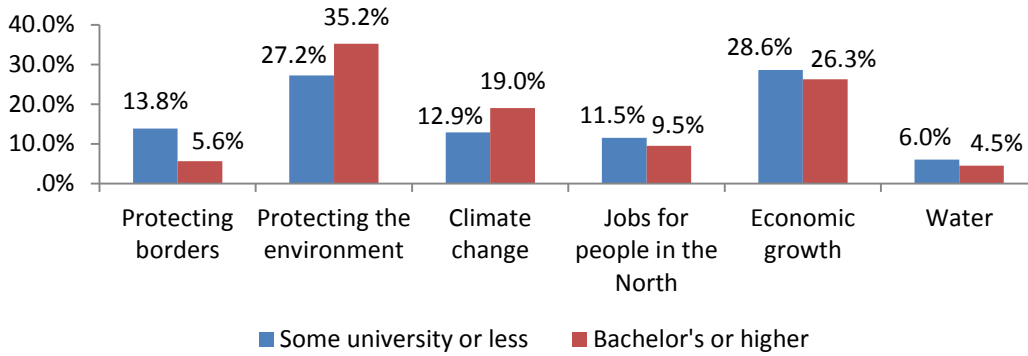
Over one-third of rural respondents reported that protecting the environment was the top issue related to security in the American Arctic. The largest percentage of urban respondents selected economic growth as the top security related issue. Protecting borders and jobs for people in the North were both selected by a larger percentage of urban respondents than rural respondents.

Figure 3c. Top Issue Related to Security in American Arctic by Rural/Urban Status



Among respondents with a bachelor or higher, the top three issues facing the American Arctic were protecting the environment, economic growth and climate change. Respondents with less education than a bachelor's degree selected economic growth, protecting the environment, and protecting borders. Among both groups of respondents, water was the issue selected by the smallest percentage of respondents as the top issue.

Figure 3d. Top Issue Related to Security in American Arctic by Education Level



Priorities in the Arctic

Respondents were read five statements and asked to rate their level of agreement with them on a scale of one to five where five means complete agreement. Given that the sample is comprised of residents of or near America's Arctic, it is not surprising that respondents disagreed with the fifth statement that the American Arctic isn't a key part of America. The strongest agreement was with the statement that a scientific understanding of the Arctic is important.

Statement	Mean rating
1. A scientific understanding of the Arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important.	4.51
2. All Americans should be able to experience the same quality of life, including access to education and health care, no matter where they live in the country	4.16
3. Traditional and contemporary culture and Native knowledge should always be taken into account in making any public decisions affecting the Alaska North.	3.91
4. Strengthening America's climate change policies is a critical step in ensuring the security of Arctic residents	3.23
5. When I think of America I just don't think about the American Arctic as a key part of it	1.93

Figure 4a. Priorities in the Arctic.

Of the five statements, Alaska Native respondents gave a mean rating that was higher (i.e., more important) than the overall sample for four of the items polled. The only statement rated lower by Alaska Natives was related to the importance of science. Not surprisingly, the item with the largest difference in ratings between Native and non-Native respondents was regarding the role traditional culture and Native knowledge should play in decision making.

Statement	Mean Rating Non Alaska Native	Mean Rating Alaska Native
1. A scientific understanding of the Arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important.	4.53	4.43
2. All Americans should be able to experience the same quality of life, including access to education and health care, no matter where they live in the country	4.10	4.45
3. Traditional and contemporary culture and Native knowledge should always be taken into account in making any public decisions affecting the Alaska North.	3.81	4.27
4. Strengthening America's climate change policies is a critical step in ensuring the security of Arctic residents	3.19	3.45
5. When I think of America I just don't think about the American Arctic as a key part of it	1.86	2.14

Figure 4b. Priorities in the Arctic by Alaska Native status.

Rural respondents rated four of the five statements higher (more important) than urban respondents. The only statement rural respondents rated lower than their urban counterparts was the statement about the American Arctic not being a key part of America. The statement with the largest difference in mean rating between the two groups was regarding the role of traditional culture in decision making for the Alaska North; rural respondents rated it higher than their urban counterparts. Both rural and urban respondents ranked the items in the same order of importance, though with some changes in relative scores.

Statement	Mean Rating Rural	Mean Rating Urban
1. A scientific understanding of the Arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important.	4.58	4.44
2. All Americans should be able to experience the same quality of life, including access to education and health care, no matter where they live in the country	4.27	4.06
3. Traditional and contemporary culture and Native knowledge should always be taken into account in making any public decisions affecting the Alaska North.	4.05	3.78
4. Strengthening America's climate change policies is a critical step in ensuring the security of Arctic residents	3.36	3.12
5. When I think of America I just don't think about the American Arctic as a key part of it	1.85	2.01

Figure 4c. Priorities in the Arctic by rural/urban status.

When the ratings of these items were examined by education level the order of the lists remain unchanged. Scores on most of the items were not substantially different. The largest differences in mean ratings are between the two groups related to climate change and whether respondents consider the American Arctic to be a key part of America.

Statement	Mean Rating Bachelor’s or Higher	Mean Rating Some College or Less
1. A scientific understanding of the Arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important.	4.55	4.46
2. All Americans should be able to experience the same quality of life, including access to education and health care, no matter where they live in the country	4.10	4.24
3. Traditional and contemporary culture and Native knowledge should always be taken into account in making any public decisions affecting the Alaska North.	3.96	3.87
4. Strengthening America's climate change policies is a critical step in ensuring the security of Arctic residents	3.38	3.13
5. When I think of America I just don’t think about the American Arctic as a key part of it	1.79	2.04

Figure 4d. Priorities in the Arctic by education status.

Relative Importance of Issues in the American Arctic

Respondents were read seven statements and asked to rate the importance of each in the American Arctic today on a scale of one to five with five meaning extremely important. As shown in the table below, the most important issue was the capacity to respond to disasters, such as oil spills. The issue respondents rated as least important was 'Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters,' which still was rated between moderately important and very important. It remains ambiguous how this datum interacts with the fact that the most common response on the first two questions was protecting the environment.

Statement	Mean Rating
1. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	4.57
2. Capacity to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	4.42
3. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	4.36
4. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	4.18
5. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.91
6. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.89
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	3.79

Figure 5a. Relative importance of Arctic issues.

As with the previous group of statements, Alaska Native respondents rated all but one of these statements as more important than non-Native respondents. Capacity to respond to disasters such as major oil spills was the only statement that had a lower mean rating by Native respondents than in the general sample. The issue with the highest mean rating for importance by Alaska Native respondents was related to health care, education, and drinking water. Policies to preserve traditional culture had the largest difference in rating between the two groups.

Statement	Mean Rating Non Alaska Native	Mean Rating Alaska Native
1. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	4.60	4.49
2. Capacity to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	4.37	4.62
3. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	4.32	4.52
4. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	4.11	4.39
5. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.79	4.33
6. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.87	4.00
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	3.75	3.96

Figure 5b. Relative importance of Arctic issues by Alaska Native status.

As seen below, splitting by urban and rural locale changed the order of priorities. Rural respondents mean rating of importance was higher for emergency response (such as search and rescue) than for access to health care, education, and drinking water. Rural respondents also gave higher importance to policies combating climate change and environmental disaster than strong security against international threats. Likewise urban respondents reordered the list relative to the overall sample when they rated strong security against international threats higher than preserving traditional culture. The greatest difference in mean ratings between rural and urban respondents on a single statement was related to policies to combat climate change and environmental disasters; rural respondents rated it more important.

Statement	Mean Rating	Mean Rating
	Rural	Urban
1. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	4.62	4.54
2. Capacity to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	4.37	4.47
3. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	4.43	4.29
4. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	4.24	4.11
5. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	4.05	3.78
6. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.94	3.83
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	3.98	3.61

Figure 5c. Relative importance of Arctic issues by rural/urban status.

Among respondents with some college or less the order of the prioritization was the same as the overall sample. However, among respondents with a bachelor or higher, security against international threats received the lowest mean rating and policies to combat climate change moved down the list to the sixth highest rated item. The scores for both groups were very close except on security related to international threats where those with some college or less rated the issues one-third of a point higher.

Statement	Mean Rating Bachelor's or Higher	Mean Rating Some College or Less
1. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	4.56	4.59
2. Capacity to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	4.42	4.44
3. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	4.30	4.41
4. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	4.29	4.09
5. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.90	3.91
6. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.70	4.05
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	3.80	3.78

Figure 5d. Relative importance of Arctic issues by education status.

How well equipped is the American Arctic to meet the following needs

Respondents were read seven statements and asked to rate how well-equipped the American Arctic is today to meet the challenges contained in the statements below. Statements were rated on a scale of one to five with five meaning very well equipped. Respondents felt that search and rescue currently had the highest capacity. Even in this category, the rating was just 3.35 with 3.0 meaning neither well equipped nor poorly equipped. Respondents felt that currently the American Arctic is least well equipped relating to policies regarding climate change, pollution, and environmental disasters.

Statement	Mean Rating
1. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	3.35
2. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.23
3. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.23
4. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	2.82
5. Provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	2.81
6. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	2.67
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	2.52

Figure 6a. How well equipped the American Arctic is.

Alaska Native respondents thought that the American Arctic is better prepared in term of capacity concerning emergency response, culture preservation, access to health care, education and drinking water, and basic infrastructure, than non-Native respondents. However, as with the overall response generally speaking respondents felt there is room for increased capacity in all areas polled.

Statement	Mean Rating Non Alaska Native	Mean Rating Alaska Native
1. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	3.33	3.40
2. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America’s interest in the Arctic	3.27	3.15
3. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.21	3.22
4. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	2.84	2.70
5. Provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	2.79	2.86
6. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	2.66	2.70
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	2.56	2.43

Figure 6b. How well equipped the American Arctic is by Native status.

Respondents' perceptions of how well equipped the American Arctic is to handle these issues is influenced strongly by their location in either a rural or urban setting. Rural respondents felt the Arctic was better equipped to provide quality health care, education and drinking water and infrastructure than to handle an oil spill. Urban respondents felt the Arctic was better equipped to respond to international threats than to respond to emergencies (such as search and rescue). Urban respondents' mean rating was highest related to preserving traditional culture. The greatest difference in mean ratings between rural and urban respondents on a single statement was related to disaster response such as oil spills; rural respondents rated the Arctic less well equipped to handle such disasters.

Statement	Mean Rating	Mean Rating
	Rural	Urban
1. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	3.45	3.25
2. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.17	3.29
3. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.13	3.32
4. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	2.67	2.96
5. Provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	2.87	2.76
6. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	2.70	2.65
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	2.51	2.54

Figure 6c. How well equipped the American Arctic is by rural/urban status.

Both education groups change the order of the rating of the items compared to the overall sample. The highest rated item for those with higher educational attainment and those with lower educational attainment was the same—emergency response, including search and rescue. The two groups diverged most on policies to combat climate change and security to respond to international threats with the more highly educated group placing less emphasis on the environment and on security than the less educated.

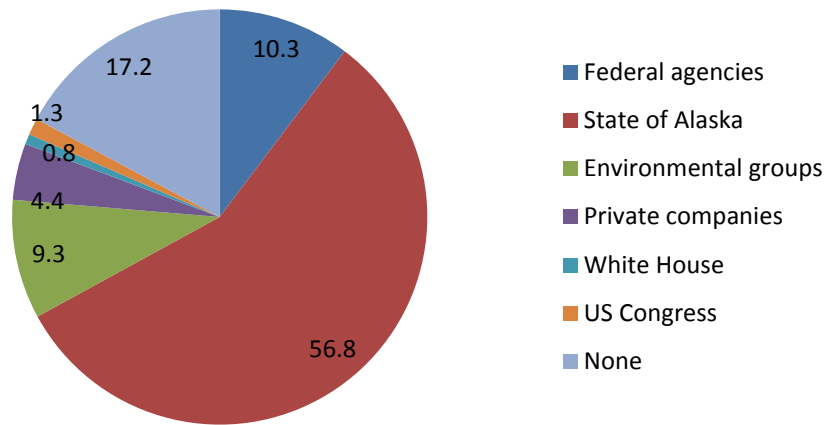
Statement	Mean Rating Bachelor's or Higher	Mean Rating Some College or Less
1. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment	3.33	3.37
2. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic	3.12	3.34
3. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North	3.21	3.22
4. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills	2.76	2.86
5. Provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents	2.80	2.82
6. Its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities	2.72	2.63
7. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters	2.39	2.64

Figure 6d. How well equipped the American Arctic is by education status.

Who is best suited to address Arctic issues

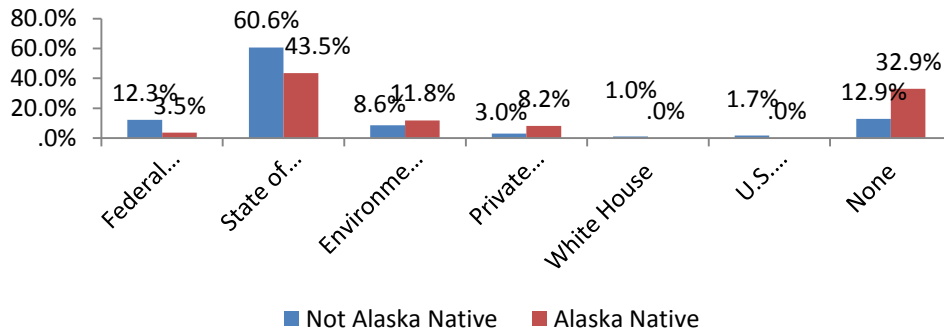
In addition to the questions posed by *Rethinking the Top of the World*, the survey asked respondents out of a list of seven options who is best suited to address environmental issues in the Arctic. As seen in the chart below, a solid majority of respondents (56.8%) felt the State of Alaska is best suited to address these issues. 'None' was the second most selected answer. The U.S. Congress and the White House were collectively only selected by 2.1% of respondents.

Figure 7a. Group Best Suited to Address Environmental Issues in Arctic



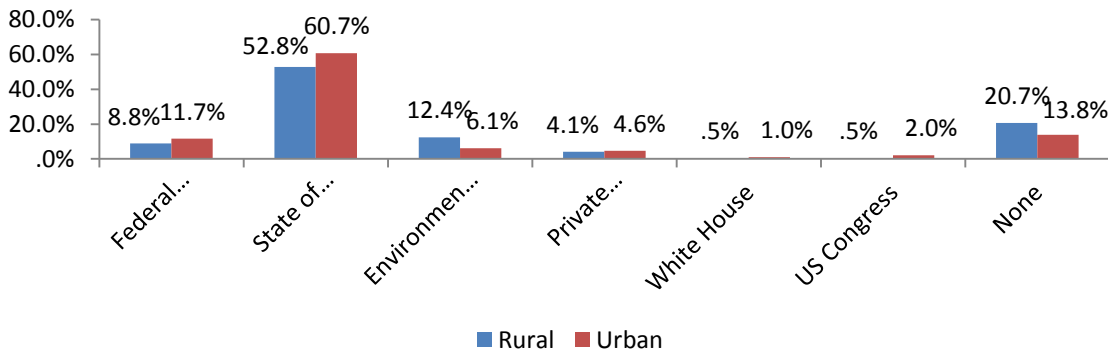
When looking at which group respondents felt was best suited to address environmental issues in the Arctic, Alaska Native respondents were more than twice as likely to select none as non-Native respondents. As with non-Native respondents, more Native respondents selected the State of Alaska as the best choice, though a smaller percentage did so. What is notable is that none of the Alaska Native respondents selected the White House or the U.S. Congress as best suited to address environmental issues. Environmental groups and private companies were selected by a larger percentage of Native respondents than non-Native respondents perhaps due to perceptions of Alaska Native Corporations.

Figure 7b. Group Best Suited to Address Environmental Issues in Arctic by Alaska Native Status



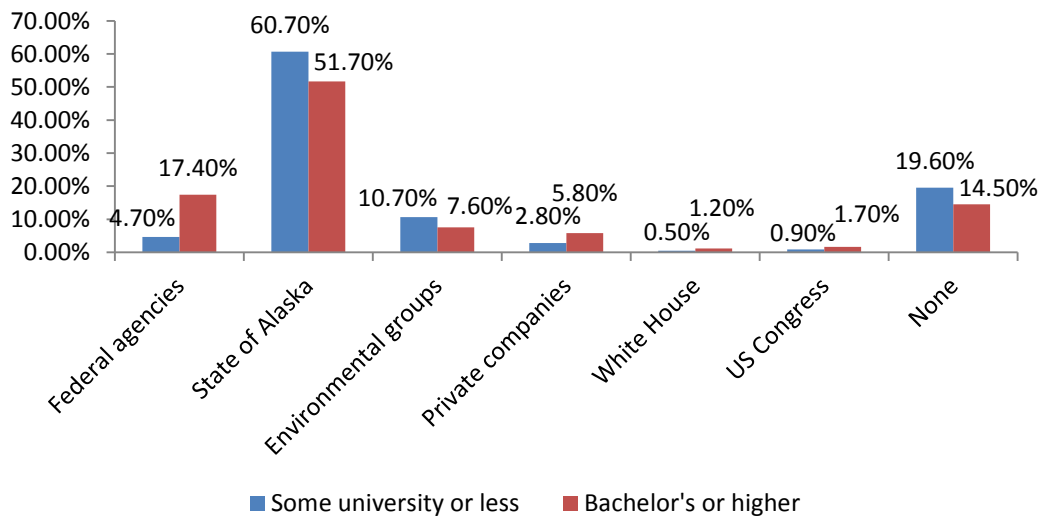
The State of Alaska was overwhelmingly selected as the group best suited to address environmental issues in the Arctic by both rural and urban respondents; and a higher percentage of urban respondents selected the State than rural respondents. Rural respondents had a higher percentage who selected none than urban respondents, but for both groups 'none' was the second most selected answer. Among rural respondents environmental groups were third, while among urban respondents federal agencies was third. Neither group of respondents selected either the White House or the U.S. Congress as well suited to address these issues.

Figure 7c. Group Best Suited to Address Environmental Issues in Arctic by Rural/Urban Status



When analyzing the results for which group respondents thought was best suited to address environmental issues in the Arctic, education level did not change the results from the overall sample. Among both groups, the State of Alaska was selected by the largest percentage of respondents. Among those with some college or less, over 60% selected the State; just over half of those with a bachelor's or higher selected the State as best suited. As with other response groups, none was the next most frequently selected answer. Among those with some college or less, environmental groups were selected by respondents third most frequently while among those with a bachelor's or higher, federal agencies was the third most frequently selected choice. As with all other response groups, there was little to no support for the White House or the U.S. Congress.

Figure 7d. Group Best Suited to Address Environmental Issues in Arctic by Education Level



Who is Trusted for Information on the Arctic

Respondents were asked to rate ten sources of information on the Arctic for reliability on a scale of one to ten with ten reflecting a high level of trust. No source received higher than 6.43, which was the score for university research. All state entities were rated higher than any federal entity. The news media was the least trusted source for reliable information on the Arctic; it received a score of 3.15 out of 10.

Agency	Mean Rating
University research	6.43
State agencies	5.44
Governor's office	5.16
Alaska legislature	5.00
Environmental NGOs	4.33
Federal agencies	4.07
International NGOs	3.95
White House	3.80
Oil/mining companies	3.60
News media	3.15

Figure 8a. Levels of trust for different agencies.

As with non-Native respondents, Native respondents have the greatest trust in university research to provide reliable information. The ordering of trust in agencies did not change from the whole sample. However, the relative values changed some—most notably universities and state agencies were less trusted while news media was trusted more by.

Agency	Mean Rating Non Alaska	Mean Rating Alaska
	Native	Native
University research	6.48	6.19
State agencies	5.52	5.22
Governor's office	5.18	5.13
Alaska legislature	4.98	5.12
Environmental NGOs	4.28	4.47
Federal agencies	4.06	4.09
International NGOs	3.91	4.02
White House	3.78	3.92
Oil/mining companies	3.61	3.58
News media	3.05	3.46

Figure 8b. Levels of trust for different agencies by Alaska Native status.

As with other respondent groups, both rural and urban respondents rated university research as the most trusted source of reliable information. Unlike other groups of respondents, rural respondents trusted the news media for reliable information slightly more than oil/mining companies. In contrast, urban respondents trusted oil-mining companies for reliable information more than the news media, but also more than the White House. This set of ratings produced some of the largest differences between two groups. The rating of trust for oil/mining companies was over a half a point higher in the urban sample. News media and the Alaska Legislature were also rated just less than half a point lower by the urban sample.

Agency	Mean Rating Rural	Mean Rating Urban
University research	6.61	6.26
State agencies	5.52	5.37
Governor's office	5.23	5.09
Alaska legislature	5.23	4.79
Environmental NGOs	4.50	4.17
Federal agencies	4.06	4.08
International NGOs	3.94	3.95
White House	3.86	3.75
Oil/mining companies	3.34	3.85
News media	3.39	2.92

Figure 8c. Levels of trust for different agencies by rural/urban status.

Both education level respondent groups had mean ratings that changed the relative order of the list. While respondents with some college or less rated their trust in university research much lower than those with a bachelor's or higher, the some college group rated all state sources of information—state agencies, the Governor's office, and the Alaska legislature—as more trustworthy than the other education group. Those respondents with a bachelor's or higher again showed their faith in federal agencies and rated them 0.8 higher than the other education group. The only other source of information that was rated more trustworthy for reliable information by the some college or less group was oil and mining companies.

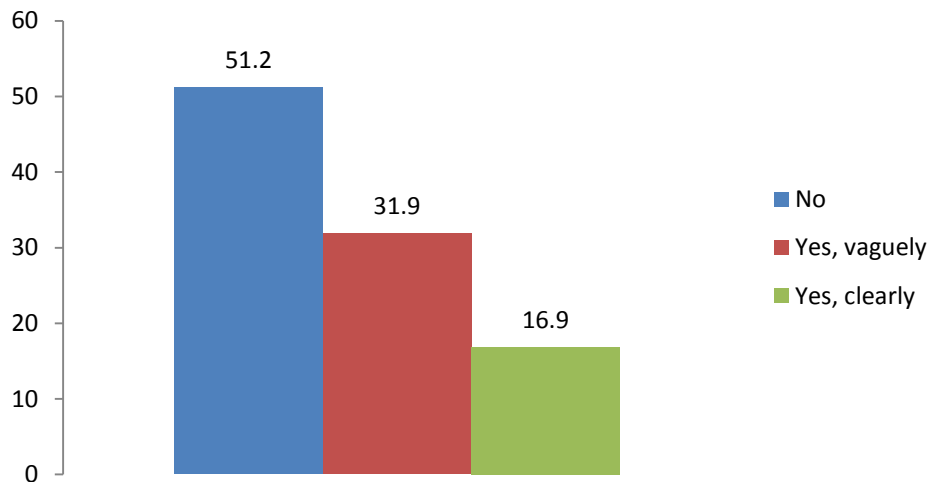
Agency	Mean Rating Bachelor's or Higher	Mean Rating Some College or Less
University research	6.90	6.00
State agencies	5.44	5.45
Governor's office	4.84	5.44
Alaska legislature	4.78	5.20
Environmental NGOs	4.66	4.05
Federal agencies	4.50	3.70
International NGOs	4.37	3.58
White House	4.18	3.50
Oil/mining companies	3.45	3.73
News media	3.46	2.87

Figure 8d. Levels of trust for different agencies by education status.

Role of Other Countries in the Arctic

Respondents were asked a number of questions about the Arctic Council. The Council was designed to promote discussion and cooperation among the eight countries with Arctic regions, as well as indigenous peoples. The eight countries which comprise the membership of the Council include Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and the United States. Respondents were asked if they had ever heard of the Arctic Council. As shown in the chart below, over half of the respondents had not versus 16.9% who clearly had.

Figure 9a. Respondents Awareness of the Arctic Council



The figures for Alaska Native respondents were similar to the overall sample, but a slightly larger percentage had not heard of the Arctic Council (56.2%). Furthermore, a slightly smaller percentage (13.5%) had clearly heard of the Arctic Council relative to the entire sample.

A higher percentage of urban respondents (19.4%) reported having clearly heard of the Council and a smaller percentage of them (47.9%) had never heard of the Council. Rural respondents were more similar to the overall sample and Alaska Native respondents; 54.8% had never heard of the Council and 14.2% had definitely heard of it.

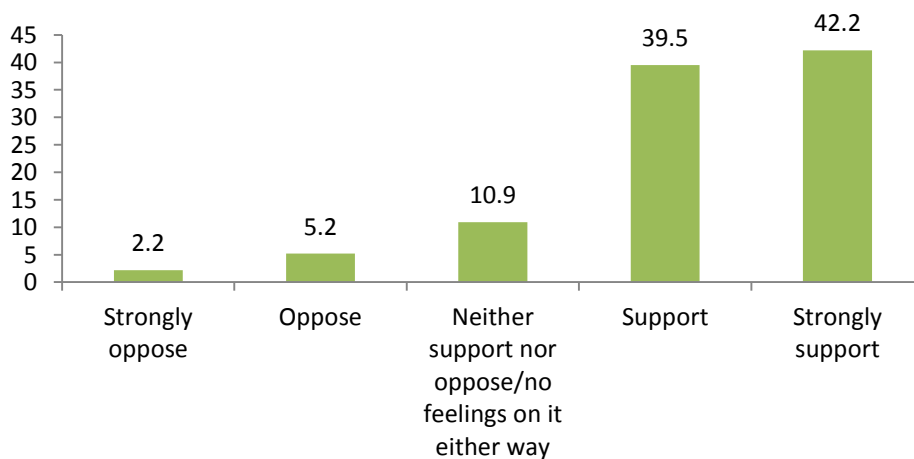
Among respondents with some college or less, 56.6% had never heard of the Council, while among those with a bachelor's or higher, the figure was 44.0%. Among those with a bachelor's or higher, nearly 50% more of that group had clearly heard of the Council (20.9%) compared to 14.0% of those with some college or less.

Sample Group	Never Heard of Arctic Council	Vaguely Heard of Arctic Council	Clearly Heard of Arctic Council
Overall Sample	51.2%	31.9%	16.9%
Alaska Native	56.2%	30.3%	13.5%
Rural	54.8%	31.0%	14.2%
Urban	47.9%	32.7%	19.4%
Some College or Less	56.6%	32.4%	14.0%
Bachelor's or Higher	44.0%	35.1%	20.9%

Figure 9b. Awareness of Arctic Council by characteristic.

Respondents were asked how strongly they supported or opposed “the idea of the Arctic Council so that the eight Arctic nations can work together on common Arctic issues, instead of each one working independently. There was overwhelming support for the Arctic Council with 81.7% of respondents either supporting it or strongly supporting it. Alaska Native status did not impact an individual’s support for the Arctic Council as the figures for Native versus non-Native responses were almost identical. Similarly, there is little difference between responses from rural and urban respondents; 83.8% of rural respondents support or strongly support it while 79.7% of urban respondents do. Respondents with some college or less support or strongly support the Arctic Council, 80.2%. Among those with a bachelor's or higher, 83.0% support or strongly support the idea of the Arctic Council.

Figure 9c. Respondents Support/Opposition to Arctic Council



Respondents were asked if non-Arctic states like China or organizations like the European Union should be invited to join the Arctic Council and have a say in Arctic affairs. Less than one-fifth of respondents (19.8%) agreed. A larger percentage—25.3%-- of Alaska Native respondents were supportive of allowing non-Arctic states to join the Arctic Council. By contrast, only 18.0% of non-Native respondents felt non-Arctic states should be allowed to join. Rural and urban respondents had negligible differences between their answers and matched the overall sample with just under one-fifth of respondents in favor of allowing non-Arctic states to join the Council. There was a difference between the two education level respondent groups on this issue. One-quarter of those with a bachelor's or higher supported allowing non-Arctic states to join the Arctic Council while 15.9% of those with some college or less did.

Respondents were asked which of a list of countries or entities they would be most comfortable and least comfortable with America dealing with on Arctic issues. More than three-quarters of respondents selected Canada as the country they are most comfortable having the U.S. deal with on Arctic issues. Scandinavian countries were selected by 15.6% of respondents. None of the other answer choices were selected by a substantial number of respondents. Two-thirds of respondents selected China as the country they are least comfortable with the U.S. dealing with followed by 19.4% who selected Russia.

Country/Entity	% Most Comfortable	% Least Comfortable
Canada	76.3	1.0
Scandinavian countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark)	15.6	1.0
Russia	2.5	19.4
China	0.5	66.5
Other European countries (e.g. German)	0.2	7.3
Other	0.2	0.5
None—not comfortable with the U.S. dealing with any other country	0.5	1.0
All—doesn't matter	2.7	1.8
Depends on the issue	1.5	1.5

Figure 9d. Level of comfort for America dealing with on Arctic issues.

Examining this question by Alaska Native and non-Native status yielded very similar results to the overall results. Alaska Natives had a slightly lower percentage of respondents who selected Canada and a slightly higher percentage who selected Scandinavian countries as those they were most comfortable with the U.S. working with on Arctic issues. The answers on the country Alaska Native respondents would be least comfortable with the U.S. working with on Arctic issues were nearly identical to the overall sample's response. China was first with nearly two-thirds of respondents, followed by Russia with 19.3% of respondents.

As shown in the table below, there were few differences between rural and urban respondents on the issue of which country or entities they would be most and least comfortable having the U.S. deal with on Arctic issues. Urban respondents favored Canada more and Scandinavian countries less than rural respondents. A higher percentage of rural respondents were least comfortable with the U.S. dealing with other European countries.

Country/Entity	% Most Comfortable		% Least Comfortable	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Canada	74.2	78.3	1.0	1.0
Scandinavian countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark)	17.2	14.0	1.6	0.5
Russia	3.0	1.9	19.3	19.5
China	1.0	0	65.6	67.3
Other European countries (e.g. German)	0.5	0	8.9	5.9
Other	0.5	0	0.5	0.5
None—not comfortable with the U.S. dealing with any other country	0	1.0	1.0	1.0
All—doesn't matter	2.0	3.4	0.5	2.9
Depends on the issue	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5

Figure 9e. Level of comfort for America dealing with on Arctic issues by characteristic.

Data by education level was similar to rural and urban on the issue of the countries the respondents would be most and least comfortable having the U.S. deal with on Arctic issues. Similar to urban respondents, 78.1% of those with some college or less selected Canada as the country they were most comfortable with. Similar to rural respondents, 74.0% of those with a bachelor's or higher selected Canada as the country they were most comfortable with the U.S. working with on Arctic issues. Scandinavian countries were selected by 12.8% of those with some college or less, while 18.8% of those with a bachelor's or higher selected them as the country they were most comfortable with the U.S. working with on Arctic issues. There was little difference between the groups on which state they were least comfortable working with, China was selected by two-thirds of respondents from both groups and just under one-fifth of both groups selected Russia.

Disputed Territory in the Beaufort Sea

The U.S. currently has a border dispute with Canada over a territory in the Beaufort Sea. Respondents were asked if they would rather see the U.S. work to strike a deal with Canada over the disputed territory or try to assert its full sovereignty rights over the area. The strong majority, 80.9%, of respondents selected working to strike a deal with Canada over the disputed territory. Five respondents said “it doesn't really belong to either one.” A smaller percentage (73.8%) of Alaska Native respondents were supportive of trying to work with Canada on a deal over the territory. There was little difference between rural and urban respondents' answers on this issue. Like the overall sample, nearly four-fifth of them felt working to strike a deal with Canada was the right approach (rural = 79.5%, urban = 80.9%). There was little difference between responses among education levels.

The Arctic as a Focus

Respondents were asked if the Arctic should be the most important focus of our foreign policy or if we should concentrate on parts of the world beyond the Arctic in our foreign policy. More than half of respondents (57.3%) reported their view that the focus should be on parts of the world beyond the Arctic, while 42.7% feel the focus of foreign policy should be primarily on the Arctic. A majority of Alaska Native respondents, 55.7%, feel the focus should be on the Arctic compared to 39.2% of non-Native respondents who want primarily an Arctic focus. Rural and urban respondents had a large difference of opinion on this issue. Rural respondents were split almost exactly, with half for an Arctic focus and the other half for a wider focus. In contrast, just one-third of urban respondents feel the focus should be on the Arctic with two-thirds in favor of a wider focus. Among those respondents with some college or less 46.3% felt the focus should be primarily on the Arctic while for those with a bachelor's or higher 39.1% selected that as a primary focus for foreign policy.

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

1. How was Arctic defined in the survey?

The survey, consistent with the Munk-Gordon Canadian poll, did not define what respondents should consider to be Arctic. This was a deliberate action to allow respondents to define the terms in their own way. From the Munk-Gordon poll:

“The term “Arctic” is a contested one. To some, the Arctic is anywhere above the tree-line. For others, it is anything above the Arctic Circle and for a last group, it refers to the average seasonal winter temperature. No definition of “Arctic” was given to survey respondents. They were left to imagine and conceptualize the Arctic in their own way. Therefore, where the term “Arctic” is used in [...this poll,] it should be taken to mean to encompass all of the standard conceptualizations.

2. Why didn't subgroup comparison X, Y, or Z exist? How accurate were the sub group comparisons?

The accuracy of any poll decreases as the pool of respondents gets smaller, which limited the capacity of the poll, in this case, to make substantive distinctions between all sub groups. The poll started with margin of error of plus or minus 4.82 percent. Our first subgroup split was between Alaska Natives and non-Native respondents for which the margin of error is 10.2% and 5.5% respectively. The second split was between urban/nonurban respondents; the margin of error was 6.7% and 6.9% respectively. The third split was between those with some college or less or those with a bachelor's degree or above; the margin of error of is 6.6% and 7.2% respectively. Additionally the raw data will be made public and as such, concerned parties may run their own analysis of other subgroups at will.

3. How common were “I don't know” responses? Does this or other data indicate a lack of knowledge on arctic issues?

The number of “I don't know” responses varied widely. Many questions were worded to include necessary background information, or to ask for respondent opinions. However several questions did receive large numbers of responses indicating lack of knowledge. Most notably 51.2% of respondents had not heard of the Arctic Council. Additionally 15.9% responded “I don't know” when asked whether the United States' foreign policy focus should be on the Arctic or on other parts of the world; and, approximately 10% did not have an opinion on whether the US should strike a deal with Canada on disputed territory in the Beaufort Sea and on whether non-Arctic states should be included in the Arctic Council. The trend is for a higher percentage of “I don't know” responses to occur on more complicated and specific issues and on issues that require greater factual knowledge. For example, when asked to rate the importance of a specific issue, a low number of “I don't know” responses are given. For the 5 questions that asked Alaskans to rate the importance of a specific issue the highest number of “I don't know” responses was 8 of the 414 respondents and the mean number of “I don't know” respondents

was 3. When asked to rate American capacity in the Arctic, a response that requires specific factual information, the highest number of "I don't know" responses was 27 and the mean number of responses was 18.1.

4. How and why did the questions differ from the Munk-Gordon Poll?

The survey instrument (attached in the report) for our poll was directly based upon the Canadian survey. The Institute of the North selected the questions that were deemed most relevant considering both the research interests of the group and the logistical consideration that the survey take less than fifteen minutes to complete (higher response rates are strongly correlated to shorter survey length). Question wording was identical except to change words like Canada and Canadian to Alaska and Alaskan although some answers were worded differently. Upon review, two additional questions about where respondents got their information were added to the poll.

5. How did Alaskan respondents differ compared to other American respondents? Compared to Canadian or global responses?

Alaskan respondents tended to be significantly more informed, or at least more willing to offer an opinion, than their counterparts in the 48 contiguous states and Hawaii. For example Americans as a whole responded with "I don't know" three times more frequently than Alaskans on questions relating to the disputed boundaries in the Beaufort Sea (28% to 10%); and, Alaskans were 8 times as likely to respond that they are clearly aware of the Arctic Council (16.7% to 2%). While direct comparison is slightly problematic due to formatting changes in the answers, US respondents tended to be more focused on traditional security issues than their Alaskan counterparts, and less focused on public service and infrastructure issues.

That northern/southern (used in the Munk-Gordon poll to reflect territories and provinces) distinction is also evident in the Canadian data (although it is again worth noting slight changes in methodology warrant a disclaimer). Northern respondents (residents of the territories) hold infrastructure, and the environment to a lesser degree, as a higher priority than respondents living outside of the territories, who prioritize sovereignty and security. However there are clear differences: all are more concerned with security than their Alaskan counterparts. They are also more likely to view the Northwest Passage as Canadian and are less willing to compromise on sovereignty/security issues.

6. Why is my question not answered?

Because we haven't heard it! Questions may be emailed to nandreassen@institutenorth.org and we will do our best to respond promptly. Additionally the raw data is available at www.institutenorth.org/ArcticPoll.

Appendix B: Next Steps

Press release:

Institute of the North Releases Arctic Public Opinion Poll

Informs work of Alaska Arctic Policy Commission and raises bar for education efforts

The Institute of the North has released a new poll on arctic issues to both the public and the newly formed Arctic Policy Commission. Created by the Alaska State Legislature, the Commission's purpose is to develop policy recommendations for the Arctic and to be Alaska's voice in the process. Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell, presenting to the Commission at its first meeting, emphasized the priority Alaskans put on the Arctic and "the great amount of work still to be done to educate the public here in the state, and in the rest of the nation."

Nils Andreassen, Executive Director of the Institute of the North and member of the Arctic Policy Commission, agrees, noting that "we need to know what citizens prioritize in order to serve their needs and address concerns—this poll provides exactly that kind of information."

The poll (available at www.institutenorth.org/ArcticPoll) is the latest data on Alaskans' opinions of the Arctic and, when combined with sister polls of other Arctic States, is a vital resource for policy makers, academics and community leaders. Among the key findings:

- When Alaskans are asked 'what issues are most important to the American Arctic' respondents are most likely to choose either the environment (32.9%) or the economy (27.1%).
- Alaskans think the Arctic needs greater capacity for infrastructure, education, and disaster response, but worry that current investment and capability are insufficient. The same beliefs exist for search and rescue, polices to protect indigenous cultures, and environmental protection.
- A majority of respondents (56.8%) think the State of Alaska is best suited to address environmental issues in the Arctic, although it is worth noting that 17% believe that no group is capable of addressing environmental issues.
- While most respondents (51%) have not heard of the Arctic Council, when provided with its mission statement (for the eight Arctic nations to work together on common issues...) 81.7% of respondents supported or strongly supported the Council.

When asked about the apparent divide between Alaskans over whether the environment or the economy is more important, Rep. Bob Herron, co-chair of the Commission, is quick to respond, "These are not mutually exclusive goals – Alaskans have always prioritized sustainable development that ensures a healthy environment, economic prosperity, jobs for our people and cultural integrity. Developing an Arctic policy that reflects this is at the heart of what we've been tasked with."

Andreassen writes, "The lessons here are clear—Alaska needs to act to protect our interests and our people in the Arctic. The Institute of the North will help by facilitating public education and outreach activities that inform good policy."

Focus Groups

The Institute of the North is currently considering conducting/commissioning focus groups to expand upon the findings of the poll.

Educational Campaign

This poll functions to outline the need for an educational campaign. Based in part upon these data the Institute will conduct a major campaign focused on Arctic literacy and substantive discussion of vital policy issues. In 2012, in preparation for the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015, the Institute hosted a day-long strategic planning session to identify key themes and areas for Alaska to take a leadership role namely:

- Healthy and Sustainable Communities
- Responsible Energy and Resource Development
- Emergency Response Capacity and Transportation Infrastructure

With these in mind, and considering a robust schedule between now and May 2015 when the U.S. assumes the Arctic Council Chairmanship, the Institute of the North is proposing an **Arctic Awareness and Outreach Campaign**. We believe that there is a huge gap in Alaskans' and Americans' understanding of the additional challenges of an Arctic state and the responsibilities of an Arctic nation. The campaign will:

1. Develop a clear guide to navigating the Arctic Council process for Alaskans, so that more Alaskans are able to participate in the Working Groups and in projects of the Arctic Council.
2. Establish a scholarship fund by leveraging multiple funding sources to support increased Alaskan engagement in Arctic Council activities.
3. Host a Model Arctic Council for young Alaskans in partnership with the University of Alaska and University of the Arctic.
4. Identify and facilitating a host committee that supports logistics efforts prior to the Chairmanship in order to identify likely venues, programs, and Alaskan education opportunities that showcase the state's assets.
5. Coordinate a working group in the state who can help develop key Alaska messages and a program for visiting delegations during the Chairmanship, to include trade opportunities, infrastructure challenges, resource development best practices, etc.
6. Foster communication between multiple stakeholders and U.S. constituencies.
7. Produce an awareness campaign and promotional video/website on why to care about America's Arctic.
8. Host an Alaska Arctic Ambassador program that would deliver key messages to national audiences.

Appendix C: Executive Summary-Munk-Gordon Poll

Introduction

Increasingly, issues of Arctic security are the focus of public attention and debate. Whether it is media attention to Russian bombers, the recent announcement of moving forward on the Mackenzie Pipeline, or scholarly work suggesting nothing less than a radical geopolitical reconfiguration based on the growing clout of the northern rim countries, the Arctic is receiving unprecedented attention from policy makers, media academics, and political leaders. Amidst this new prominence, there is a growing need to understand the preferences and priorities of citizens themselves.

The current study provides a timely empirical perspective on one of the salient emerging issues of the 21st century. How is the issue of Arctic security understood by various publics? What are the most important ingredients of public understanding and what guidance would the public offer decision makers as to the preferences and principles and they would emphasize in moving forward with both public policy and private sector decision making?

The research covers an ambitious range of issues which are examined from the comparative perspective of several overlapping societies and publics. Approximately 9,000 randomly sampled interviews were conducted in nine separate populations. The study begins with an in depth examination of the issues from the perspective of a large representative sample of north of 60 residents. It then looks at some of these same issues from the perspective of the rest of Canada (the South). The study has the unusual advantage of also offering comparative public opinion data from the eight member nations of the Arctic Council. The picture which emerges is both complex and important. It provides clear guidance about the importance of these issues to various publics, and the areas of consensus and contradiction in the various publics examined.

The current analysis provides only a preliminary sense of the implications of this rich data base. The research vividly underlines the enormous salience of this issue in Canada. It also reveals a more multidimensional and human-oriented understanding of Arctic Security while, at the same time, showing why top of mind imagery tends to be dominated by a more "classic" or traditional conception of security rooted in notions of sovereignty, defense, and geo-political tensions. Perhaps the most important finding of the research is just how important the Arctic is to Canadians' conceptions of themselves and their future, and how that prominence is ultimately focused on the human-environmental dimension.

In this overview, we will highlight some of the key themes which emerge from the research. We begin with the overall substantive highlights which focus on the public salience, the impressive level of consensus within Canada on these issues, and the surface and deeper understanding of Arctic security. We also consider attitudes to international cooperation and foreign policy.

Substantive Highlights

a) Arctic Salience

Given that for most Canadians images of the Arctic are almost entirely vicarious, it is remarkable that the Arctic is seen as such a corner stone of national identity and sovereignty. Although the view is somewhat more strongly held in Southern Canada, this salience expresses itself in a surprisingly clear lean to see the Arctic as nothing less than our number one foreign policy priority and one which should be resourced accordingly (most favour shifting military resources here from all other places). The Arctic is seen as a crucial ingredient to our sense of national identity and an under-resourced area of critical importance to our future.

The depth of public commitment to Arctic sovereignty, and its strong connection to national identity and sovereignty, renders this a politically charged issue, rife with opportunity and risk. In addition to complex issues of territorial jurisdiction and international law, the Arctic contains a cornucopia of natural resources precariously positioned in a region of fragile environmental and sociocultural risks. The survey provides direct guidance on these complex issues but one must to scratch beneath the surface of classic security and sovereignty to gain a true picture of public priorities. The combination of complementary methodologies (top of mind versus attitudinal preferences versus hard trade-off analyses) allows us to disentangle this superficial simplicity into a more useful picture of true public preference and the contrasts across key comparative publics.

b) A Common Canadian Mind on the Arctic

The tremendous symbolic and public policy significance of the Arctic is perhaps the most striking feature of Canadian public outlook on the Arctic. What is also notable is the high degree of consensus that exists within Canada. There is far more consensus than division within Canada on the key study issues. Canadians, regardless of where they live, tend to see the Arctic as highly important and feel that it should be our dominant foreign policy priority. Environmental issues consistently rank as the pinnacle concern and there is also broad agreement that the Arctic requires considerably more public resources in the future.

There are, nevertheless, some significant differences in emphasis depending whether one lives in the North or South and depending on which region of the North or South. The more impressive feature, however, is the relative consensus across a broad range of Arctic issues.

This common ground is particularly notable given the vast distances separating North and South and the fact that the large majority of Canadians have never even visited the Arctic. In fact, on virtually all comparative issues, residents living around 100 miles apart on the Canada-US border look dramatically different on all issues compared, whereas Canadians arrayed along the US border share common ground on virtually all key issues with the fellow citizens of the North, despite the geographic and social distances involved. It is rare to find such common ground on issues of such prominence to Canadians.

This relative consensus may be a refreshing and healthy feature of Canadian public opinion, but it also has more ominous implications when contrasted with international public opinion of citizens of other

Northern Rim countries. Canadians may all be on the same page, but there are some huge clashes between Canadian views on the Arctic and those of our northern neighbors.

c) Deconstructing Arctic Security: The Surface and Structural Views

For North Americans, security has taken on enormous significance. The first decade following September 11th was truly the security decade and an aging population and astute political marketplace elevated the “normal” equilibrium of security well beyond its typical balance points with other priorities such as civil liberties and the economy. Thus entrenched security ethic is still largely in place and it definitely permeates public imagery of the Arctic. Recent renewed interest in continental perimeter will heighten attention to the huge Northern stretch of the North American perimeter. Even conservative estimates of climate change point to a much more active and challenging Arctic perimeter.

Without reflection, the top-of-mind imagery of Arctic Security is dominated by “classical” security. Terms like “threats”, border disputes, integrity, and sovereignty are most common cited by respondents. Linked to a more fearful or risk-dominated perception, Canadians unsurprisingly summon up images of military presence and potential conflict. This sort of imagery is somewhat more common in the South than the North and it coexists with images of the environment (both looming threats but also traditional iconic images of Northern beauty as conveyed through the lens of the Group of Seven, for example).

The study challenged Canadians to elaborate these top-of-mind images with a more “reflected” consideration. This was done through more detailed rating exercises, including hard trade-off analyses, which force respondents to make explicit decisions. The reflected view of security, and the policy hierarchy it entails, is quite different than the top-of-mind imagery. Sovereignty and threat are still public priorities, but it is the environment which overwhelmingly dominates reflected concerns of almost equal significance (and more so among Northerners), particularly human capital infrastructure. This dominance of the environment and climate change is a common feature of international outlook on the Arctic.

[The View from the Top: Perceptions of Far Northerners](#)

The study has produced a large random sample of far Northern citizens which is intended to be the foundation of an ongoing “Northern Panel”, which will be a future resource for researchers and policy makers. The survey materials were also administered in Inuktitut and qualitative focus groups were also conducted to bolster our understanding.

The findings are clear and, in some cases, surprising. As noted already, there is a surprising similarity of outlook on Arctic security issues among the far North and the other 99 per cent of the population to the South. There are, however, some significant differences as well, both across North and South and within the North itself. In general, Northerners put a still stronger accent on the salience of the environment and “classical” security, sovereignty, and military presence tend to be relatively less important to the Northern sample.

Perhaps the most striking of Northern public opinion is the relative emphasis on infrastructure, particularly human-economic-environmental infrastructure. Given their relative competence and experience as residents, only Northern respondents were asked to rate the quality of Arctic infrastructure. The picture which emerges here is nothing short of alarming. Infrastructure was rated as absolutely crucial to the future of the North. The adequacy of infrastructure, however – be it housing, schools, roads, or environmental response – was judged woefully inadequate by those living there. In particular, Arctic residents are virtually unanimous in their view that environmental and disaster response capacities are profoundly inadequate. An interesting policy response here might be the extremely strong consensus that a much invigorated Northern Ranger service could help redress some of these glaringly exposed flanks.

Many researchers are interested in not only objective wellbeing and standard of living, but also subjective wellbeing and quality of life. The research examined both rated health and quality of life (which were highly interdependent). There is near universal agreement in Canada that quality of life (and health) should be equal regardless of where one lives. Yet the consensus about the desired parity of Northern and Southern quality of life and health may well be based on a belief that there are indeed disparities. These undoubtedly do exist at the level of basic infrastructure and dissatisfaction with the human and environmental infrastructure is one of the key findings of the Northern survey. It is therefore surprising to find that, in terms of how they rate their lives and their health, residents of the North are modestly more likely to see themselves as healthy. Even more impressively, denizens of the North are significantly more likely to rate their quality of life as excellent than those of the South, and are more optimistic about future wellbeing. This resilience and happiness premium was one of the more iconoclastic study findings.

There are, of course, differences in these ratings according to one's socioeconomic status (SES). As in the South, there is a strong, straight-line relationship between SES and wellbeing (and health). One important regional finding was that citizens of Nunavut were less likely to feel the overall sense of health and happiness that permeated Northern residence. There was evidence of other problems in Nunavut (on infrastructure and housing ratings) and Nunavut citizens showed a lower sense of identification with Canada than citizens of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

A few final points on the North-specific features of the survey: Sociocultural identity and preservation of traditional ways of life (language and culture) was a special priority for the North. The overall more tepid support for military presence and sovereignty-related issues was also evident in near universal support for the Arctic as a nuclear-free zone. As already mentioned, there was extremely strong support for a "professional" and more muscular Northern Ranger cadre to (partially) deal with what are seen as shocking holes in infrastructure – particularly for environmental and disaster response.

[The View from Below: Southern Perspectives](#)

As noted, Southern public opinion is largely consistent with Northern public opinion. The main area of difference with the North is that sovereignty and security issues are relatively more prominent for the South and that infrastructure (and environment to a lesser degree) is relatively more important to the North. There are some regional and demographic variations. Quebeckers are less supportive of stronger

military presence and are more pro-environment. Fluency and engagement levels with the Arctic are less pronounced in the Maritime Provinces (most likely for reasons of geography and lower vested interests). Albertans tend to be more concerned with issues around sovereignty, security, and military presence. Anecdotally, it is interesting to note that Alberta is the epicenter of happiness in Canada (most likely linked to higher economic wellbeing).

The trade-off analysis shows that when making hard choices infrastructure and human capital investment are the clear winning choices. Despite agreement that military resources should be shifted to the Arctic, in the trade-off analysis, increased military presence was a very low priority for the South and the lowest priority for the North. A similarly low trade-off ranking for mining and exploration suggests that current Canadian outlook is more in line with “don’t drill baby don’t.”

As noted, the international outlook of Canadians, despite subscription to the bromide of cooperation, is decidedly intransigent. Americans tell us they are extremely comfortable dealing with Canada and strongly favor cooperative solutions. Canadians are much more guarded towards Americans and are much less receptive to compromise and negotiation on Arctic issues.

[The View Outside our Borders: International Public Perspectives on the Arctic](#)

Typically, Canadians see themselves as champions of consensus and cooperation. Indeed, Canadians line up with other Arctic countries on the side of cooperation and strong support for the Arctic Council. Yet there are many tensions underlying this somewhat superficial international commitment to cooperation. Given the clash of huge vested national interests, these differing national outlooks are not surprising. What is surprising is that it is Canadian public opinion which seems to have the hardest edge and which is least protean. Whether it is our unique view of the sovereign sanctity of the Northwest Passage, our overall allergy to Antarctic-like governance, treatment for the Arctic, or our world-lagging support for negotiation and compromise on these issues, the Canadian public is clearly the least flexible and accommodating when it comes to the Arctic. This blend of strong internal consensus and a stark offside position with other council country publics may pose significant challenges for the future.

We may well ask who is the American now? Despite extremely low levels of interest or fluency in the Arctic, the American public is enormously friendly and accommodating in their outlook on solving disputes with Canada. Canadians are, on the other hand, rather churlish in their views of US-Canada disputes and rate Americans on the same level as Russians in terms of comfort levels. We know from past research that this antipathy is fairly weakly rooted and narcissistic in nature.

The comparative international perspectives of public in other Arctic Council countries provide valuable and interesting comparative perspectives. It shows a broad, if somewhat superficial commitment to cooperation and to the Arctic Council. Notably, outside of Canada (and to a lesser degree, Scandinavia, and in particular, Iceland and Norway), these views are loosely connected to low levels of literacy on the basic issues. There may be an incipient northern rim geopolitical reorganization in progress, but it is largely unselfconscious to citizens of this new northern rim.

Perhaps the most noteworthy and troubling conclusion of this research is that Canada stands relatively alone on many issues. We are overwhelmingly convinced that the Northwest Passage is a sovereign,

Canadian waterway; no one else shares this view. In terms of preferred negotiation and international governance, we are, by far, the least committed to cooperation, let alone on an Antarctic-like international model. We want the Arctic Council to remain a pretty closed club, whereas other Council member countries are more open on this front.

There is broad international public support for making the Arctic a nuclear-free zone. In this case, Americans (in particular) and Russians are less committed to this; undoubtedly, as these countries are the ones whose nuclear missiles would be removed. Americans are most opposed to missile removal (although still lean supportive). It is the Russians, however, who overall are the most militaristic. They are far more likely to support military security as part of an expanded Arctic security mandate (Finland and Iceland are least supportive). After Canada, Russia is the most assertive on border and resource sharing disputes.

The survey also shows how Arctic rim countries view each other (and China as a potential new member). First of all, there is broad agreement that China is the least attractive partner to all current Council countries (save Russia, who put the United States at the bottom of the list). In general, the United States and Russia are tied as the second least attractive partners. In the reverse popularity sweepstakes, Scandinavia is the clear gold medal winner, followed by Canada in silver.

Appendix D: Survey instrument

Institute of the North Arctic Knowledge Survey

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm not selling anything. I'm conducting a survey about Alaskans' views of the arctic. This survey was also conducted in Canada and Alaskans' opinions will be compared with Canadians. I'd like to get your opinion on these issues. The survey takes about 15 minutes; we really need Alaskans' views on these issues. All of your responses will be kept strictly confidential. May I begin? Great, thank you. Are you at least 18 years old? (*Stop if not.*)

1. What would you say is the most important issue facing the Arctic region of America?

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Education
- 3 Environment
- 4 Economy—jobs, employment
- 5 Housing & community infrastructure (road, public bldgs)
- 6 Crime & public safety
- 7 Culture & language preservation
- 8 Threats to American sovereignty
- 98 Don't know

2. When you think about security and the American arctic, what one issue or element comes to mind?

- 1 Protecting our borders from international threats
- 2 Protecting the environment from accidents & disasters
- 3 Protecting the environment against climate change
- 4 Giving people in the North jobs
- 5 Encouraging growth of the economy, through the exploration & extraction of resources in the North
- 6 Water
- 98 Don't know

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use a scale where 1 is completely disagree, 5 is completely agree and the midpoint 3 is neither.

3. Traditional and contemporary culture and Native knowledge should always be taken into account in making any public decisions affecting

the Alaska North. How strongly do you agree or disagree? (5 is completely agree)

_____ 98
Don't know

4. Again, agree or disagree with the following statement...All Americans should be able to experience the same quality of life, including access to education and health care, no matter where they live in the country

_____ 98
Don't know

5. When I think of America I just don't think about the American Arctic as a key part of it

_____ 98 Don't know

6. Strengthening America's climate change policies is a critical step in ensuring the security of Arctic residents

_____ 98 Don't know

How important are each of the following in the American Arctic today? Please rate your answer on a scale where 1 is not at all important, 5 is extremely important and the midpoint 3 is moderately important.

7. In the American Arctic, how important is its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities (5 is extremely important)

_____ 98 Don't know

8. How important is capacity to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents

_____ 98 Don't know

9. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment

_____ 98 Don't know

10. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills

_____ 98 Don't know

11. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters

_____ 98 Don't know

12. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic

_____ 98 Don't know

13. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North

_____ 98 Don't know

How well equipped do you think the American Arctic is today to be able meet current needs in each of the following areas? Please rate your answer on a scale where 1 means very poorly equipped and 5 means very well equipped. The midpoint 3 means neither well equipped nor poorly equipped.

14. How well equipped is the American Arctic to meet current needs for its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities (5 is very well equipped)

_____ 98 Don't know

15. And how well equipped is America's Arctic to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents

_____ 98 Don't know

16. Capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment

_____ 98 Don't know

17. Capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills

_____ 98 Don't know

18. Strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters

_____ 98 Don't know

19. Strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the Arctic

_____ 98 Don't know

20. Strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North

_____ 98 Don't know

21. What group is best suited to address environmental issues in the Arctic?

- 1 Federal agencies
- 2 State of Alaska
- 3 Environmental groups
- 4 Private companies
- 5 White House
- 6 US Congress
- 7 None
- 98 Don't know

22. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being strongly agree, how strongly do you agree with the following statement: 'A scientific understanding of the Arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important.'

98 Don't know

23. There are many problems in the world requiring America's attention.

Some people argue that the Arctic should be the most important focus of our foreign policy.

Others say that we should concentrate on parts of the world beyond the Arctic in our foreign policy.

Which is closer to your view?

- 1 Focus should be on the Arctic
2 Focus should be on parts of the world beyond the Arctic
98 Don't know / Refuse

24. Have you ever heard of an intergovernmental forum or group called the Arctic Council that is made up of eight countries with Arctic regions?

(If asked: These 8 countries are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the United States.)

- 1 Yes, clearly
2 Yes, vaguely
0 No
98 Don't know / Refuse

25. The Arctic Council is designed to promote discussion and cooperation among the eight countries with Arctic regions, as well as Indigenous Peoples. Do you strongly support, support, oppose or strongly oppose the idea of an Arctic Council so the 8 Arctic nations can work together on common Arctic issues, instead of each one working independently?

(If asked: These 8 countries are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the United States.)

- 1 Strongly oppose
2 Oppose
3 Neither support nor oppose/no feelings on it either way
4 Support
5 Strongly support
98 Don't know / Refuse

26. Do you think non-arctic states, like China or organizations like the European Union, should be invited to join the Arctic Council and have a say in Arctic affairs?

- 1 Yes
0 No
98 Don't know / Refuse

27. The U.S. currently has a border dispute with Canada over a territory in the Beaufort Sea. Would you rather see the U.S. work to strike a deal with Canada over the disputed territory, or try to assert its full sovereignty rights over the area?

- 1 Work to strike a deal with Canada over the disputed territory
2 Try to assert its full sovereignty rights over the area
3 (DO NOT READ) It doesn't really belong to either one
98 Don't know / Refuse

28. Which of the following countries would you be most comfortable with America dealing with on Arctic issues? *(Please read list)*

- 1 Canada
- 2 Russia
- 3 Scandinavian countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark)
- 4 China
- 5 Other European countries (e.g., Germany)
- 6 (DO NOT READ) Other (specify)
- 7 (DO NOT READ) None – not comfortable with the U.S. dealing with any other country
- 8 (DO NOT READ) All – doesn't matter
- 9 (DO NOT READ) Depends on the issue
- 98 Don't know / Refuse

29. Which of the following countries would you be least comfortable with the U.S. dealing with on Arctic issues? *(Please read list)*

- 1 Canada
- 2 Russia
- 3 Scandinavian countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark)
- 4 China
- 5 Other European countries (e.g., Germany)
- 6 (DO NOT READ) Other (specify)
- 7 (DO NOT READ) None – not comfortable with the U.S. dealing with any other country
- 8 (DO NOT READ) All – doesn't matter
- 9 (DO NOT READ) Depends on the issue
- 98 Don't know / Refuse

30. On a scale of one to ten, to what extent do you "trust" the following for reliable information about the Arctic with 1 being a very low level of trust and 10 a high level of trust? (write number in blank)

- a. White House _____
- b. Federal agencies _____
- c. News media _____
- d. State agencies _____
- e. Governor's office _____
- f. Alaska legislature _____
- g. Oil/mining companies _____
- h. Environmental NGOs _____
- i. International NGO _____
- j. University research _____

Now I would like to ask you a few last questions for statistical purposes only.

31. How would you rate your overall quality of life? On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being very poor and 5 being very good.

98 Don't know

32. Do you expect that your overall quality of life will get better or worse in the next 10 years? On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being worse and 5 being better.

98 Don't know

33. What is your gender?

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

34. What is your age?

- 1 18-24 years
- 2 25-29 years
- 3 30-39 years
- 4 40-49 years
- 5 50-59 years
- 6 60-64 years
- 7 65 years or older
- 98 Refuse

35. What is your education?
- 1 Public/elementary school or less (grade 1-8)
 - 2 Some high school
 - 3 Graduated from high school or GED
 - 4 Vocational/technical college
 - 5 Trade certification
 - 6 Some university
 - 7 Bachelor's degree
 - 8 Professional certification
 - 9 Graduate degree
 - 98 Refuse

This is the end of the interview. Thank you for taking part in our survey.

36. What is your annual household income?
- 1 Under 20,000
 - 2 20-29,999
 - 3 30-39,999
 - 4 40-59,999
 - 5 60,000-79,999
 - 6 80,000-99,999
 - 7 100,000-119,999
 - 8 120,000–149,999
 - 9 150,000 or more
 - 98 Refuse

37. What is your employment status?
- 1 Self-employed
 - 2 Employed full-time
 - 3 Employed part-time
 - 4 Seasonal employment
 - 5 Term employment
 - 6 Unemployed
 - 7 Student/Attending school full-time
 - 8 Retired
 - 9 Not in work force/Full-time Homemaker
 - 10 Disability/sick leave
 - 11 Other (please specify)
 - 98 Refuse

38. Do you consider yourself to be an Alaska Native person?
- 1 Yes
 - 0 No
 - 98 Refuse

Appendix E: Data Tables

Community

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Anchorage	114	27.5	27.5	27.5
	Barrow	19	4.6	4.6	32.1
	Bethel	27	6.5	6.5	38.6
	Delta	7	1.7	1.7	40.3
	Dillingham	11	2.7	2.7	43.0
	Fairbanks	60	14.5	14.5	57.5
	Glennallen	7	1.7	1.7	59.2
	Juneau	17	4.1	4.1	63.3
	Kenai	34	8.2	8.2	71.5
	Kodiak	28	6.8	6.8	78.3
	Kotzebue	14	3.4	3.4	81.6
	Nome	16	3.9	3.9	85.5
	Palmer	11	2.7	2.7	88.2
	Unalaska	17	4.1	4.1	92.3
	Valdez	20	4.8	4.8	97.1
	Wasilla	12	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	414	100.0	100.0	

Q1. What would you say is the most important issue facing the arctic region of America?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Healthcare	49	11.8	12.4	12.4
	Education	41	9.9	10.4	22.8
	Environment	130	31.4	32.9	55.7
	Economy	107	25.8	27.1	82.8
	Housing and community infrastructure	29	7.0	7.3	90.1
	Crime and public safety	14	3.4	3.5	93.7
	Culture and language preservation	10	2.4	2.5	96.2
	Threats to American sovereignty	15	3.6	3.8	100.0
	Total	395	95.4	100.0	
Missing	-99	2	.5		
	Don't know	17	4.1		
	Total	19	4.6		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q2. When you think about security and the American arctic, what one issue or element comes to mind?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Protecting our borders from international threats	40	9.7	9.9	9.9
	Protecting the environment from accidents and disasters	122	29.5	30.3	40.2
	Protecting the environment against climate change	64	15.5	15.9	56.1
	Giving people in the North jobs	43	10.4	10.7	66.7
	Encouraging growth of the economy, through the exploration and extraction of resources in the north	113	27.3	28.0	94.8
	Water	21	5.1	5.2	100.0
	Total	403	97.3	100.0	
Missing	Don't know	11	2.7		
	Total	414	100.0		

Statistics

		Q3. Traditional and contemporary culture and Native knowledge should always be taken into account in making any public decisions affecting the Alaska North.	Q4. All Americans should be able to experience the same quality of life, including access to education and health care, no matter where they live in the country.	Q5. When I think about America I just don't think about the American arctic as a key part of it.	Q6. Strengthening America's climate change policies is a critical step in ensuring the security of arctic residents.
N	Valid	414	412	409	405
	Missing	0	2	5	9
	Mean	3.91	4.16	1.93	3.23

Statistics

		Q7. How important is the arctic's basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities?	Q8. How important is capacity to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents?	Q9. How important is capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment?	Q10. How important is capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills?	Q11. How important are strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters?
N	Valid	410	413	411	414	411
	Missing	4	1	3	0	3
	Mean	4.18	4.42	4.36	4.57	3.79

Statistics

		Q12. How important are strong security services to respond to international threats and assert America's interest in the arctic?	Q13. How important are strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the north?
N	Valid	406	412
	Missing	8	2
	Mean	3.89	3.91

Statistics

		Q14. How well equipped is the American arctic to meet current needs for its basic public infrastructure, like roads, hospitals, libraries, schools and water treatment facilities?	Q15. How well equipped is America's arctic to provide good access and high quality health care, education, and drinking water to residents?	Q16. How well equipped with capacity to respond to emergencies, including search and rescue teams and equipment?	Q17. How well equipped with capacity to respond to disasters, such as major oil spills?	Q18. How well equipped with strong policies to combat climate change and prevent pollution and environmental disasters?
N	Valid	399	400	400	397	388
	Missing	15	14	14	17	26
	Mean	2.67	2.81	3.35	2.82	2.52

Statistics

		Q19. How well equipped with strong security services to respond to international threats and assert American's interest in the arctic?	Q20. How well equipped with strong policies to preserve traditional culture and ways of life in the North?
N	Valid	387	400
	Missing	27	14
	Mean	3.23	3.23

Statistics

		Q21. What group is best suited to address environmental issues in the arctic?	Q22. How strongly do you agree with the following statement 'A scientific understanding of the arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important'?	Q23. Which is closer to your view?	Q24. Have you ever heard of an intergovernmental forum called the Arctic Council that is made up of 8 countries with arctic regions?	Q25. How much do you support the idea of an Arctic Council so the 8 arctic nations can work together on common arctic issues, instead of each one working independently?
N	Valid	389	411	344	408	405
	Missing	25	3	70	6	9
	Mean	3.01	4.51	1.57	.81	4.14

Q21. What group is best suited to address environmental issues in the arctic?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Federal agencies	40	9.7	10.3	10.3
	State of Alaska	221	53.4	56.8	67.1
	Environmental groups	36	8.7	9.3	76.3
	Private companies	17	4.1	4.4	80.7
	White House	3	.7	.8	81.5
	US Congress	5	1.2	1.3	82.8
	None	67	16.2	17.2	100.0
	Total	389	94.0	100.0	
Missing	-99	4	1.0		
	Don't know	21	5.1		
	Total	25	6.0		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q22. How strongly do you agree with the following statement 'A scientific understanding of the arctic and its human and animal inhabitants is important'?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	4	1.0	1.0	1.0
	2	11	2.7	2.7	3.6
	3	46	11.1	11.2	14.8
	4	62	15.0	15.1	29.9
	5	288	69.6	70.1	100.0
	Total	411	99.3	100.0	
Missing	-99	3	.7		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q23. Which is closer to your view?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Focus should be on the arctic	147	35.5	42.7	42.7
	Focus should be on parts of the world beyond the arctic	197	47.6	57.3	100.0
	Total	344	83.1	100.0	
Missing	-99	4	1.0		
	Don't know	66	15.9		
	Total	70	16.9		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q24. Have you ever heard of an intergovernmental forum called the Arctic Council that is made up of 8 countries with arctic regions?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	209	50.5	51.2	51.2
	Yes, clearly	69	16.7	16.9	68.1
	Yes, vaguely	130	31.4	31.9	100.0
	Total	408	98.6	100.0	
Missing	-99	5	1.2		
	Don't know	1	.2		
	Total	6	1.4		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q25. How much do you support the idea of an Arctic Council so the 8 arctic nations can work together on common arctic issues, instead of each one working independently?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly oppose	9	2.2	2.2	2.2
	Oppose	21	5.1	5.2	7.4
	Neither support nor oppose/no feelings on it either way	44	10.6	10.9	18.3
	Support	160	38.6	39.5	57.8
	Strongly support	171	41.3	42.2	100.0
	Total	405	97.8	100.0	
Missing	-99	3	.7		
	Don't know	6	1.4		
	Total	9	2.2		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q26. Do you think non-arctic states should be invited to join the Arctic Council and have a say in arctic affairs?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	299	72.2	80.2	80.2
	Yes	74	17.9	19.8	100.0
	Total	373	90.1	100.0	
Missing	-99	3	.7		
	Don't know	38	9.2		
	Total	41	9.9		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q27. Would you rather see the U.S. work to strike a deal with Canada over the disputed territory, or try to assert its full sovereignty rights over the area?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Work to strike a deal with Canada over the disputed territory	297	71.7	80.9	80.9
	Try to assert its full sovereignty rights over the area	65	15.7	17.7	98.6
	It doesn't really belong to either one	5	1.2	1.4	100.0
	Total	367	88.6	100.0	
Missing	-99	4	1.0		
	Don't know	43	10.4		
	Total	47	11.4		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q28. Which of the following countries would you be most comfortable with America dealing with on arctic issues?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Canada	309	74.6	76.3	76.3
	Russia	10	2.4	2.5	78.8
	Scandinavian countries	63	15.2	15.6	94.3
	China	2	.5	.5	94.8
	Other European countries	1	.2	.2	95.1
	Other	1	.2	.2	95.3
	None--not comfortable with the U.S. dealing with any other country	2	.5	.5	95.8
	All--doesn't matter	11	2.7	2.7	98.5
	Depends on the issues	6	1.4	1.5	100.0
	Total	405	97.8	100.0	
	Missing	-99	3	.7	
Don't know		6	1.4		
Total		9	2.2		
Total		414	100.0		

Q29. Which of the following countries would you be least comfortable with the U.S. dealing with on arctic issues?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Canada	4	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Russia	77	18.6	19.4	20.4
	Scandinavian countries	4	1.0	1.0	21.4
	China	264	63.8	66.5	87.9
	Other European countries	29	7.0	7.3	95.2
	Other	2	.5	.5	95.7
	None--not comfortable with the U.S. dealing with any other country	4	1.0	1.0	96.7
	All--doesn't matter	7	1.7	1.8	98.5
	Depends on the issues	6	1.4	1.5	100.0
	Total	397	95.9	100.0	
	Missing	-99	5	1.2	
Don't know		12	2.9		
Total		17	4.1		
Total		414	100.0		

Statistics

		Q30a. How much do you trust the White House for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30b. How much do you trust federal agencies for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30c. How much do you trust the news media for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30d. How much do you trust state agencies for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30e. How much do you trust governor's office for reliable information about the arctic?
N	Valid	410	409	404	407	407
	Missing	4	5	10	7	7
	Mean	3.80	4.07	3.15	5.44	5.16

Statistics

		Q30f. How much do you trust the Alaska legislature for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30g. How much do you trust oil and mining companies for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30h. How much do you trust environmental NGOs for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30i. How much do you trust international NGOs for reliable information about the arctic?	Q30j. How much do you trust university research for reliable information about the arctic?
N	Valid	405	409	406	400	407
	Missing	9	5	8	14	7
	Mean	5.00	3.60	4.33	3.95	6.43

Statistics

		Q31. How would you rate your overall quality of life?	Q32. Do you expect that your overall quality of life will get better or worse in the next 10 years?
N	Valid	407	396
	Missing	7	18
	Mean	4.41	3.33

Q33. What is your gender?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	215	51.9	52.7	52.7
	Female	193	46.6	47.3	100.0
	Total	408	98.6	100.0	
Missing	-.99	6	1.4		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q34. What is your age?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 - 24 years old	6	1.4	1.5	1.5
	25 - 29 years old	10	2.4	2.5	4.0
	30 - 39 years old	31	7.5	7.7	11.6
	40 - 49 years old	63	15.2	15.6	27.2
	50 - 59 years old	121	29.2	30.0	57.2
	60 - 64 years old	64	15.5	15.8	73.0
	65 years or older	109	26.3	27.0	100.0
	Total	404	97.6	100.0	
Missing	-.99	5	1.2		
	Refuse	5	1.2		
	Total	10	2.4		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q35. What is your education?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Public/elementary school or less (grades 1-8)	5	1.2	1.2	1.2
	Some high school	6	1.4	1.5	2.7
	Graduated from high school or GED	64	15.5	15.8	18.5
	Vocational/technical college	21	5.1	5.2	23.6
	Trade certification	11	2.7	2.7	26.4
	Some university	116	28.0	28.6	54.9
	Bachelor's degree	89	21.5	21.9	76.8
	Professional certification	19	4.6	4.7	81.5
	Graduate degree	75	18.1	18.5	100.0
	Total	406	98.1	100.0	
Missing	-99	6	1.4		
	Refuse	2	.5		
	Total	8	1.9		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q36. What is your annual household income?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Under \$20,000	16	3.9	4.7	4.7
	\$20,000 to \$29,999	20	4.8	5.9	10.6
	\$30,000 to \$39,999	30	7.2	8.8	19.4
	\$40,000 to \$59,999	41	9.9	12.0	31.4
	\$60,000 to \$79,999	62	15.0	18.2	49.6
	\$80,000 to \$99,999	45	10.9	13.2	62.8
	\$100,000 to \$119,999	53	12.8	15.5	78.3
	\$120,000 to \$149,999	25	6.0	7.3	85.6
	\$150,000 or more	49	11.8	14.4	100.0
	Total	341	82.4	100.0	
Missing	-99	6	1.4		
	Refuse	67	16.2		
	Total	73	17.6		
	Total	414	100.0		

Q37. What is your employment status?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Self-employed	54	13.0	13.3	13.3
	Employed full-time	175	42.3	43.2	56.5
	Employed part-time	24	5.8	5.9	62.5
	Seasonal employment	9	2.2	2.2	64.7
	Term employment	1	.2	.2	64.9
	Unemployed	18	4.3	4.4	69.4
	Student/attending school full time	5	1.2	1.2	70.6
	Retired	107	25.8	26.4	97.0
	Not in work force/full-time homemaker	8	1.9	2.0	99.0
	Disability/sick leave	2	.5	.5	99.5
	Other	2	.5	.5	100.0
	Total	405	97.8	100.0	
	Missing	-99	6	1.4	
Refuse		3	.7		
Total		9	2.2		
Total		414	100.0		

Q38. Do you consider yourself to be an Alaska Native person?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	317	76.6	77.7	77.7
	Yes	91	22.0	22.3	100.0
	Total	408	98.6	100.0	
Missing	-99	6	1.4		
	Total	414	100.0		