

REF 2021 case study review

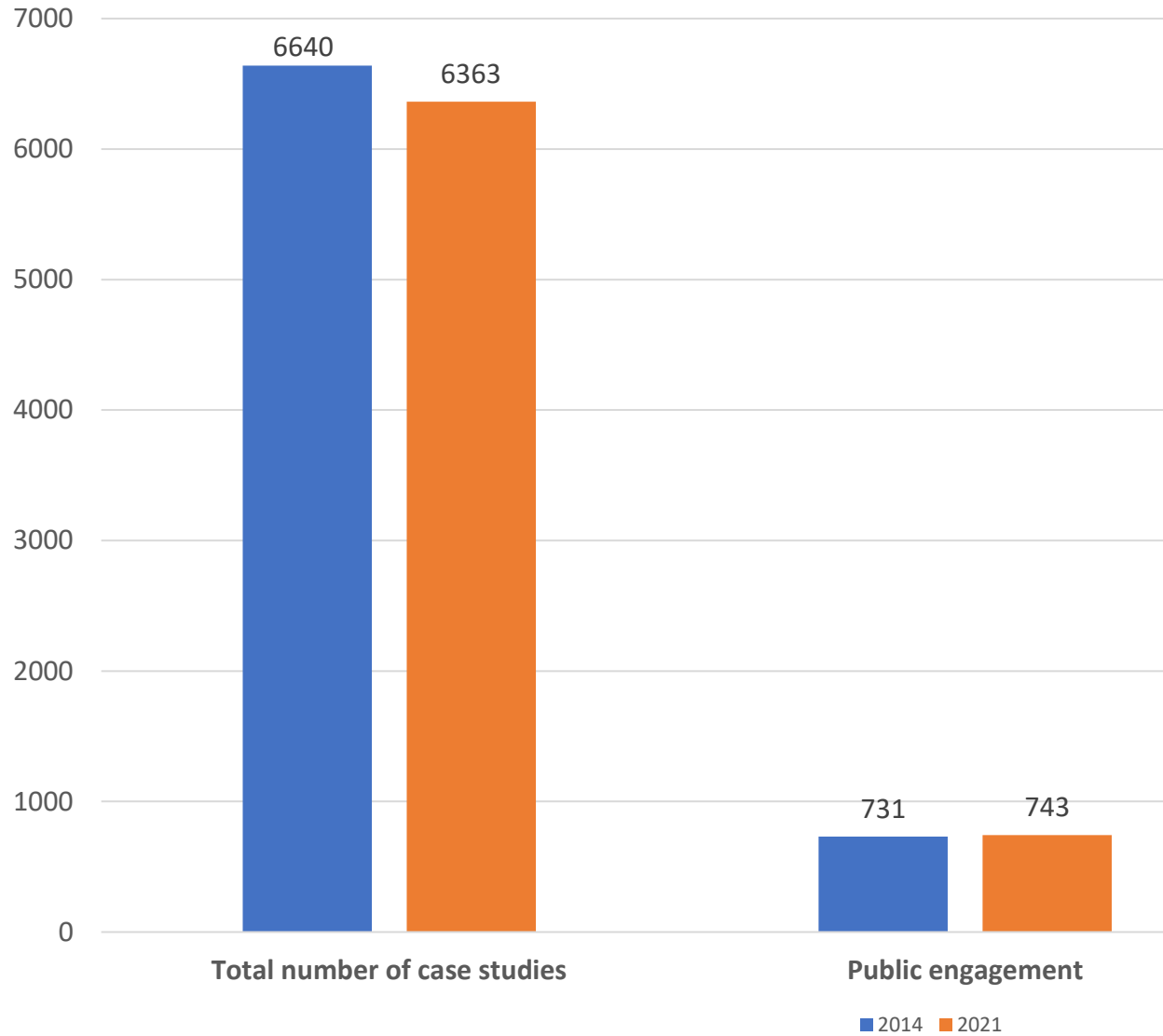
Initial findings from the research, and how the data compares
with REF 2014

November 2022

The numbers of case studies mentioning public engagement

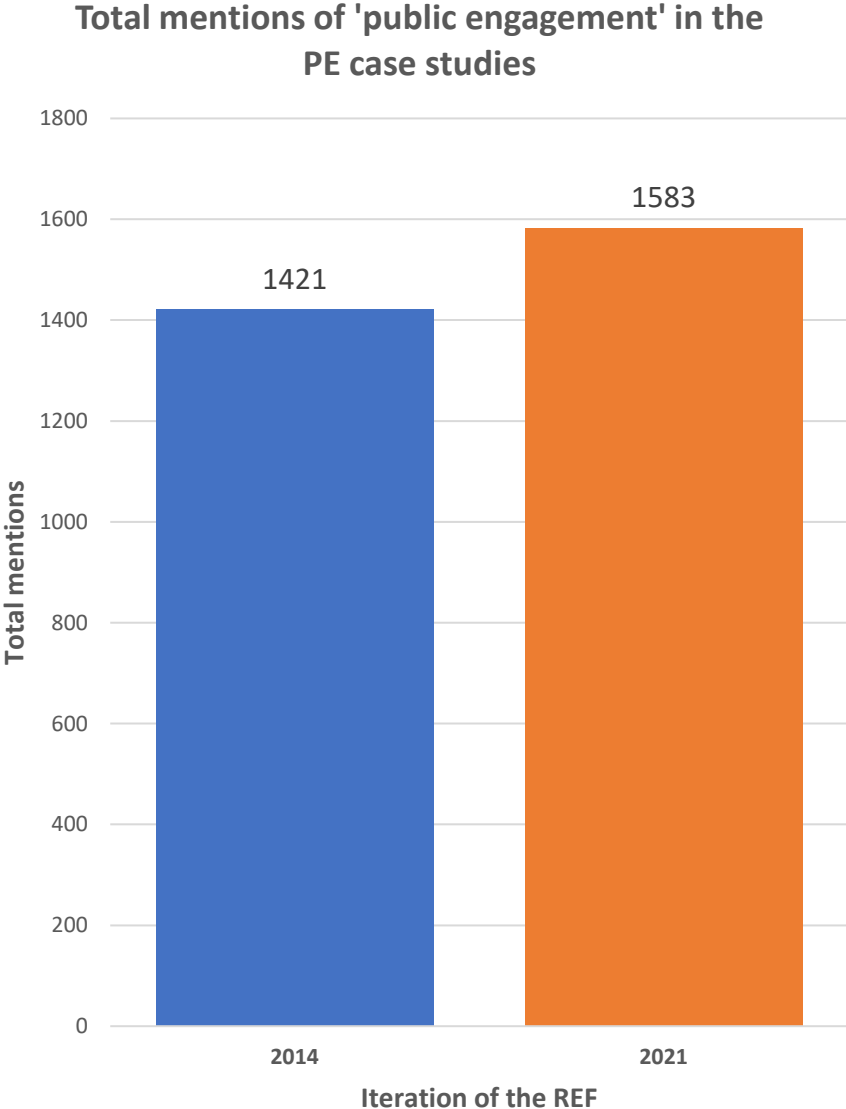
Comparing 2021 with 2014

How many case studies featured the term 'public engagement' in 2014 and 2021?

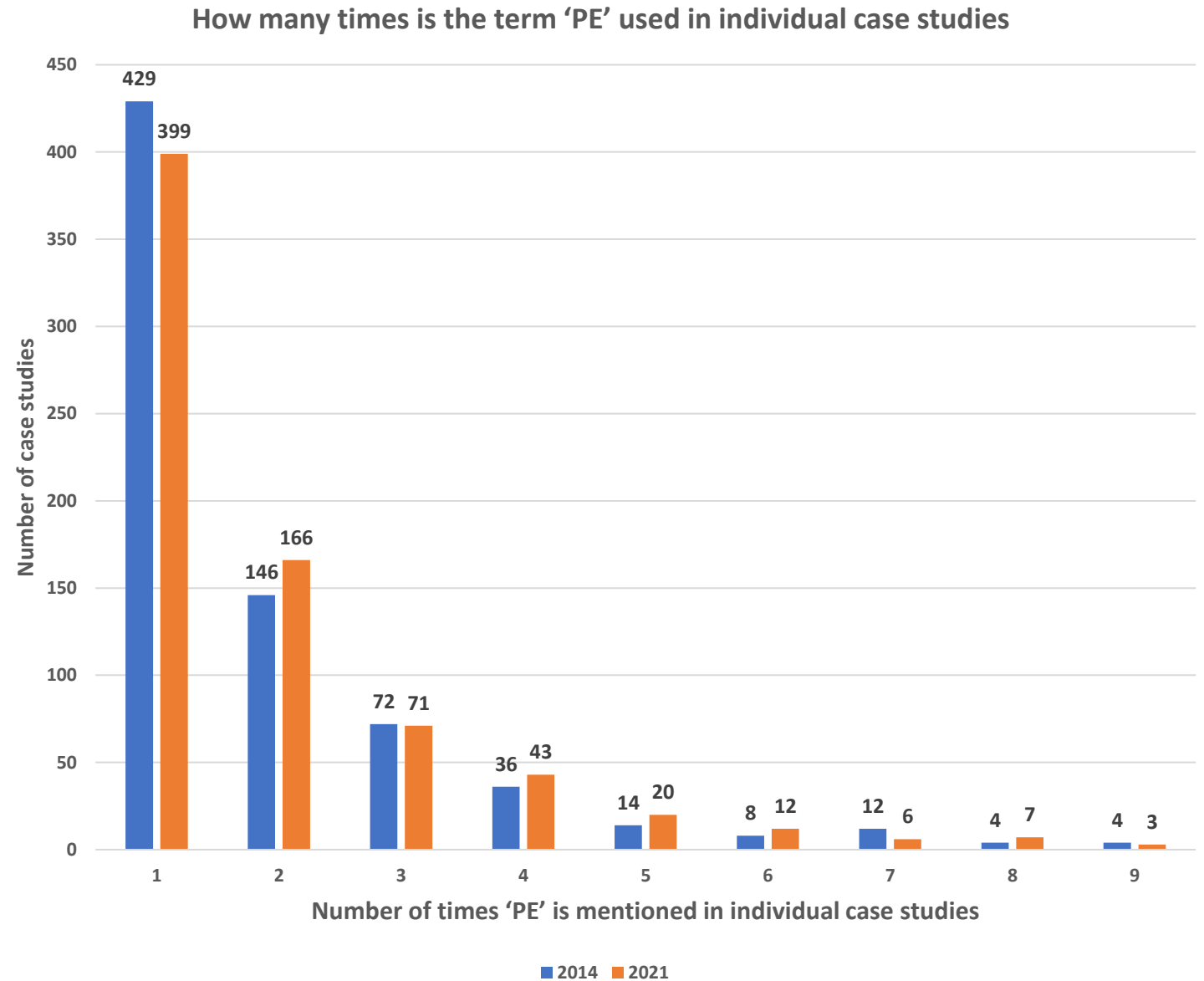
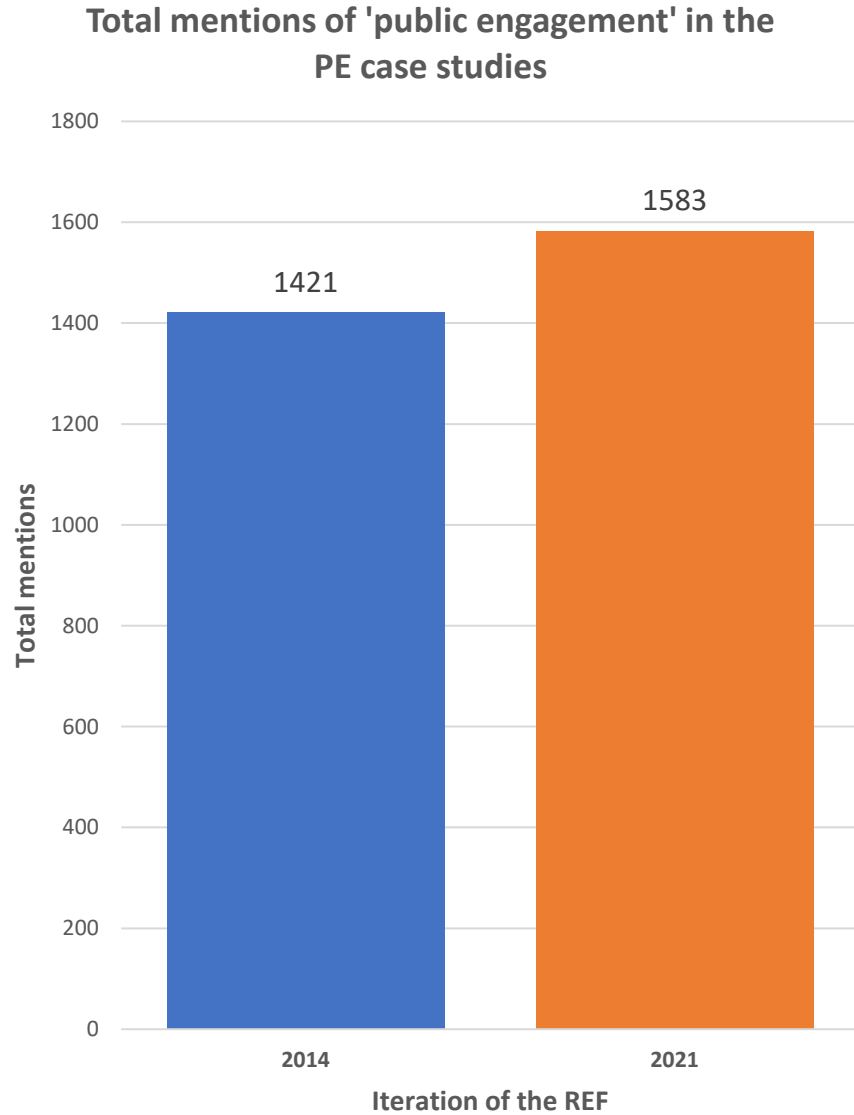


2014	2021
731	743
11%	12%

How many times was the term 'public engagement' used in 2014 and 2021?



How many times was the term 'public engagement' used in 2014 and 2021?



Looking beyond 'public
engagement' for other terms
linked to PE

Extending the search

We looked for other phrases which describe engagement with publics

For instance, “engage with the public”, “community engagement”, “social engagement”, “cultural engagement”, “citizen science”.



We looked for descriptions of impact in the public sphere

For instance, “public understanding”, “public discourse”, “public awareness”



We looked for the involvement of intermediary organisations

We searched for case studies which featured a type of intermediary (e.g. museum); AND the term ‘engagement’; AND the word ‘public’.



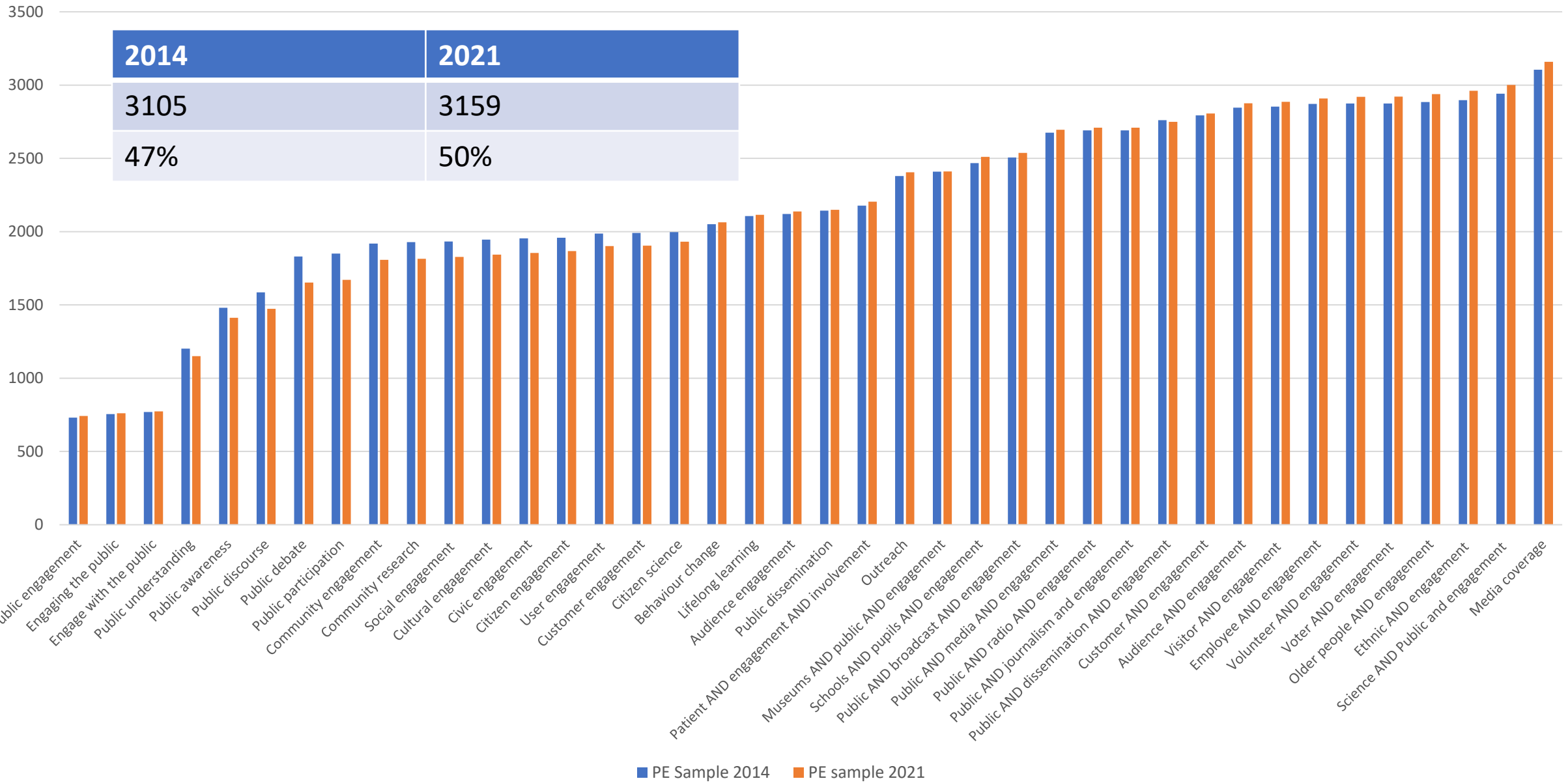
Each search term located new case studies to add to the sample

For instance, “media coverage” identified 164 case studies in which none of the other search terms featured.

Some of the terms we searched for

- Audience engagement
- Behaviour change
- Citizen engagement
- Citizen science
- Civic engagement
- Community engagement
- Community research
- Cultural engagement
- Customer engagement
- Employee and engagement
- Engage with the public
- Engaging the public
- Ethnic and engagement
- Lifelong learning
- Media coverage
- Museums & PE
- Outreach
- Public awareness
- Public debate
- Public discourse
- Public dissemination
- Public engagement
- Public participation
- Public understanding
- Science & public & engagement
- Social engagement
- User engagement
- Visitor and engagement
- Volunteer and engagement
- Voter and engagement

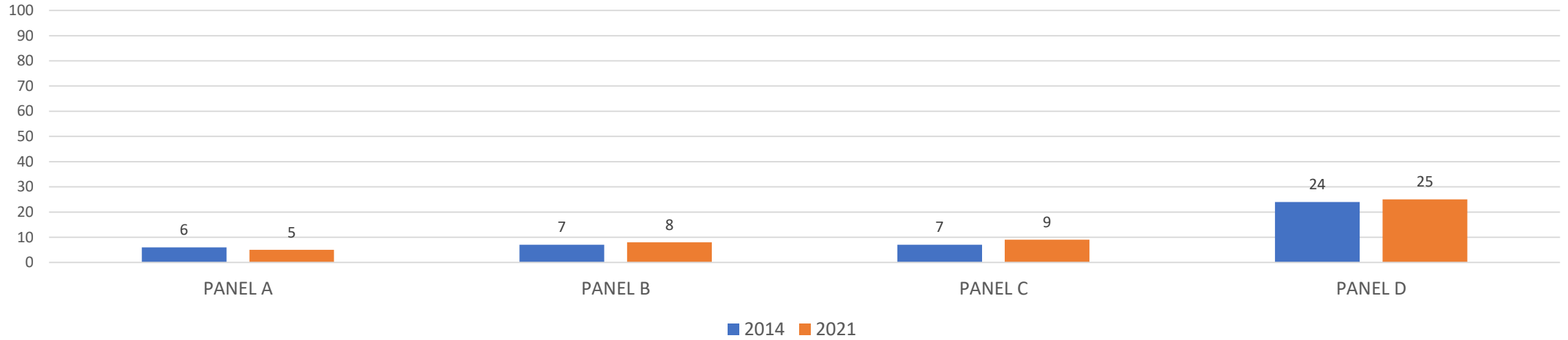
How many case studies referenced other search terms relevant to public engagement?



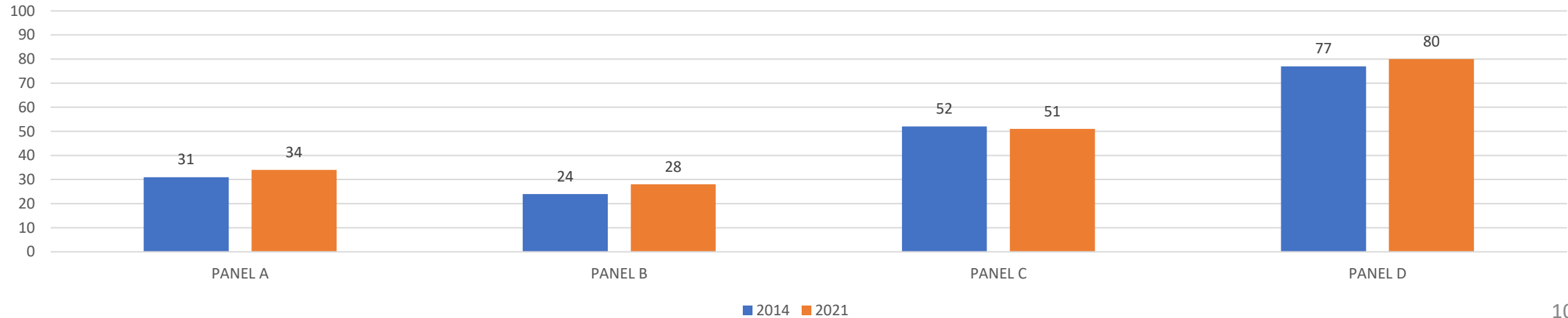
The distribution of PE case studies
across the main panels

Distribution of case studies featuring Public Engagement across the main panels

'PE only' case studies as % of total submission

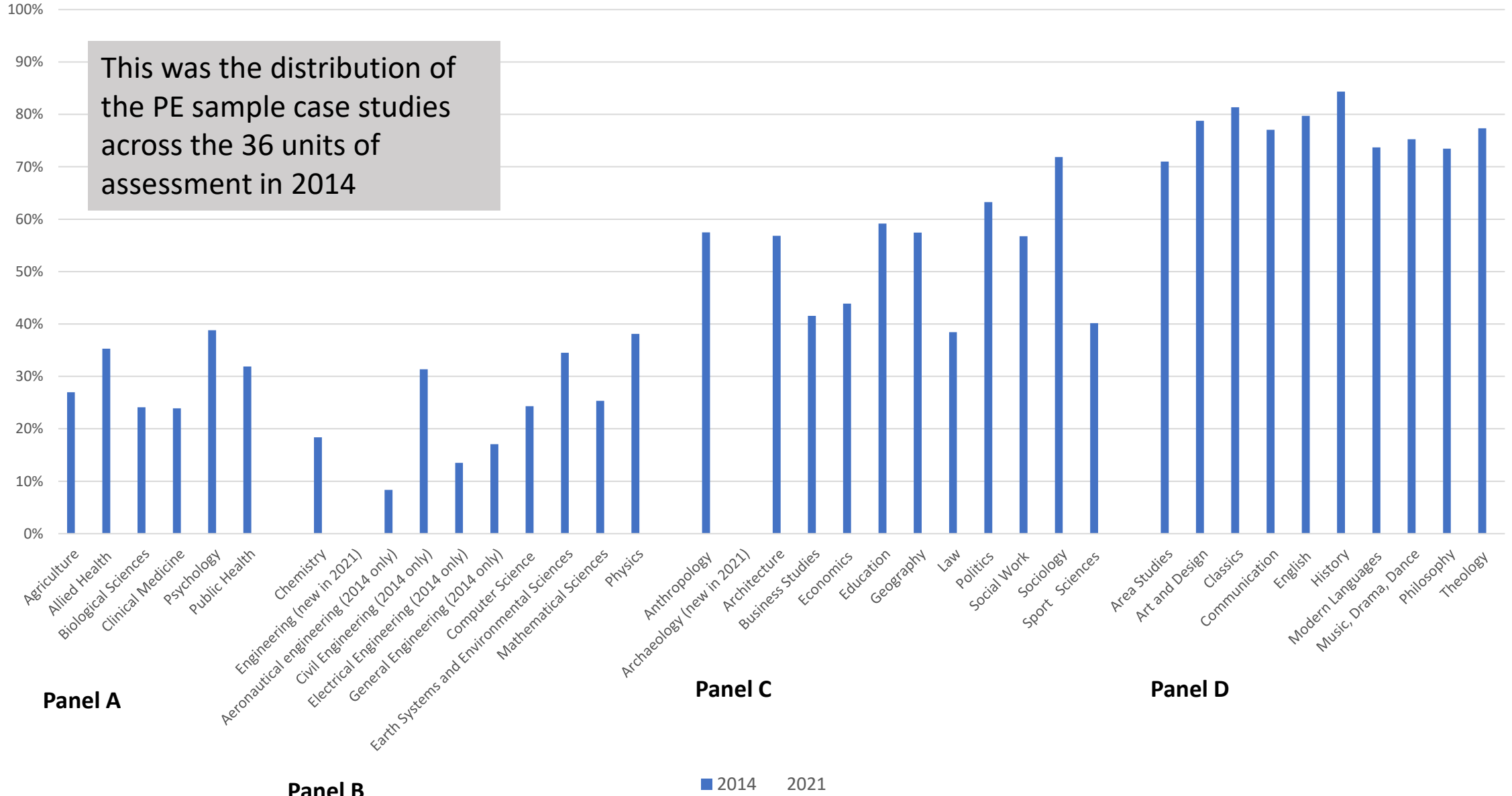


PE sample case studies as % of total

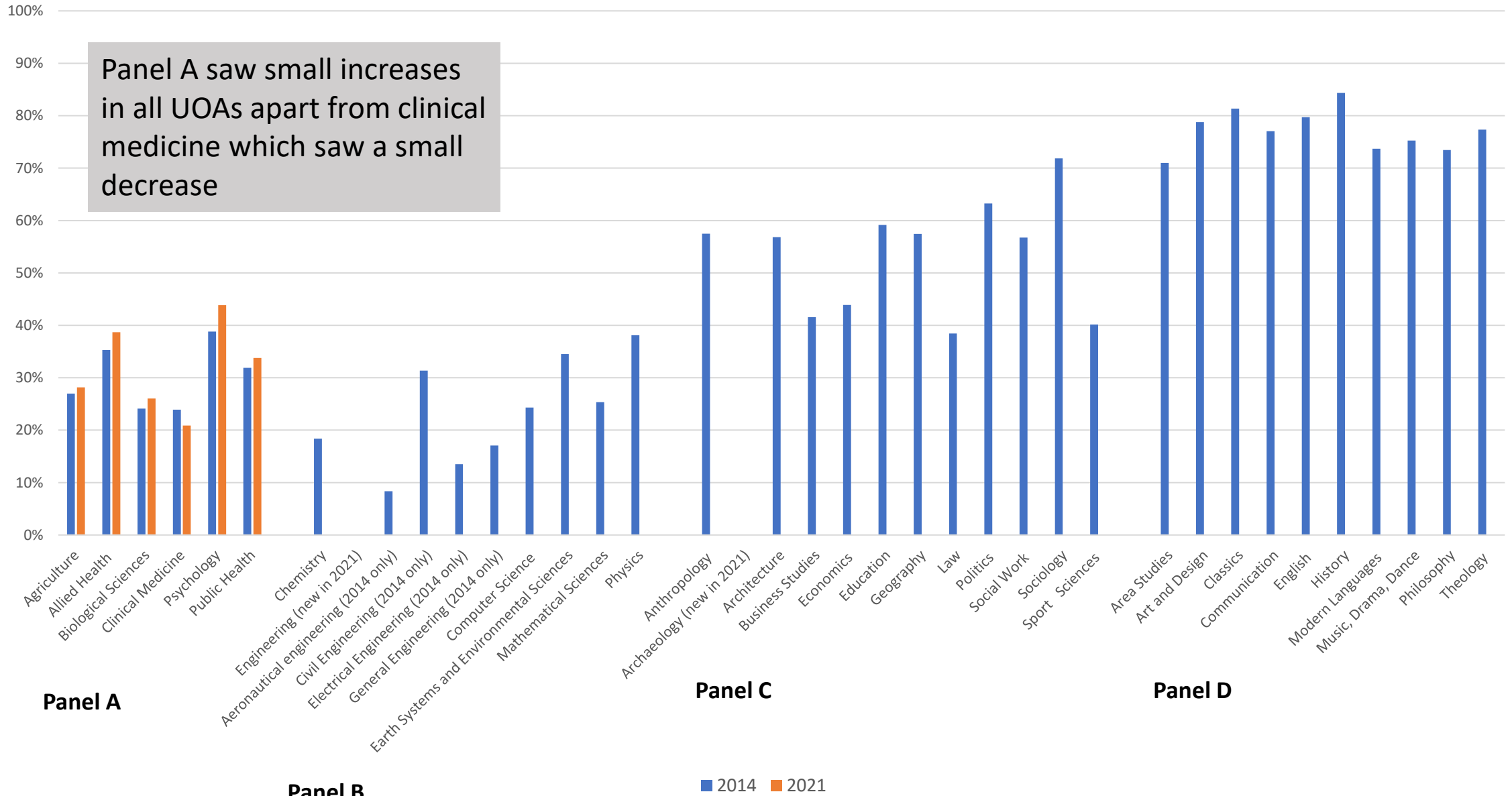


Looking at patterns across the
different Units of Assessment

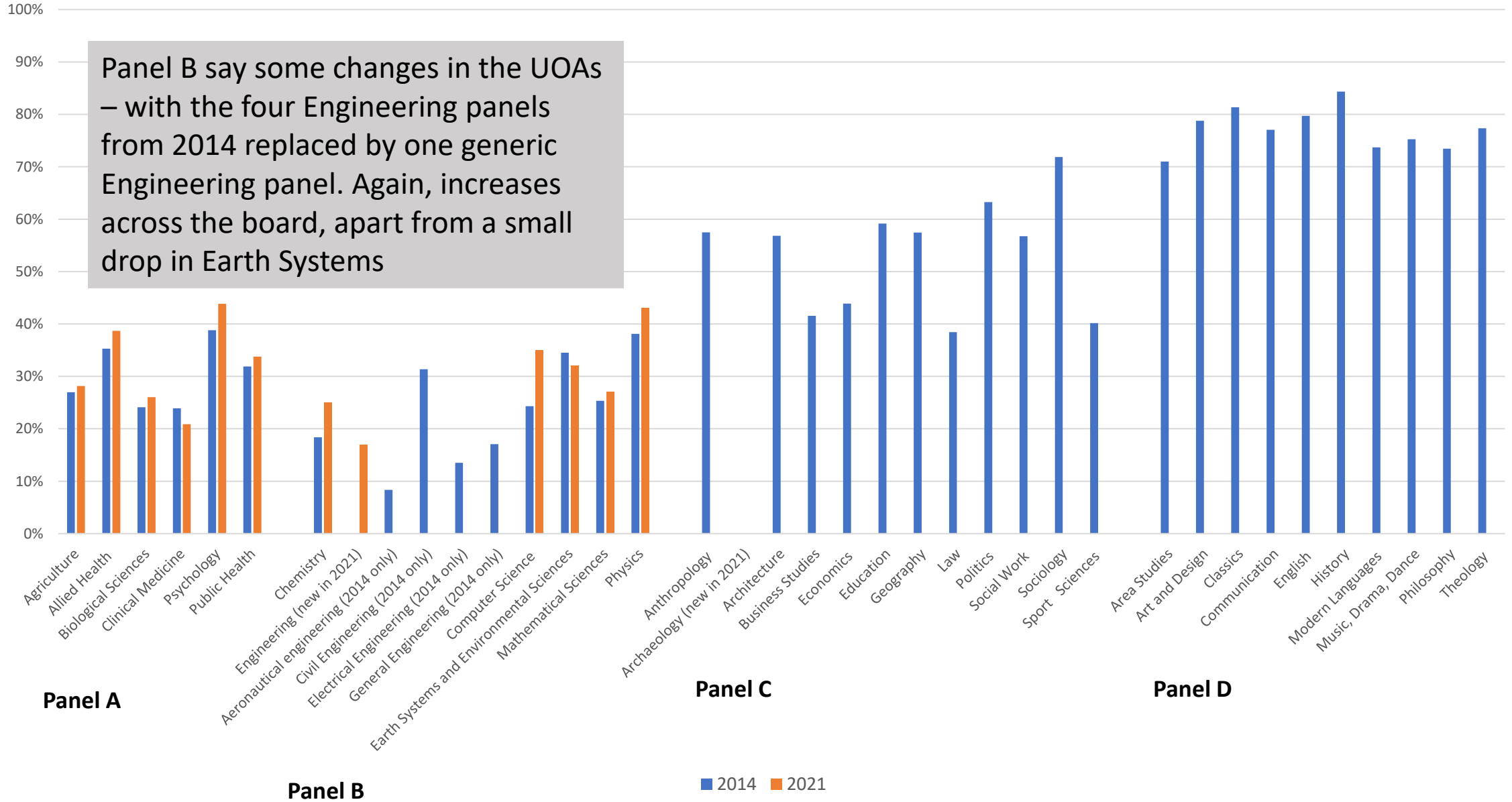
'Engaging the public' case studies as a proportion of total submitted case studies in 2014 and 2021



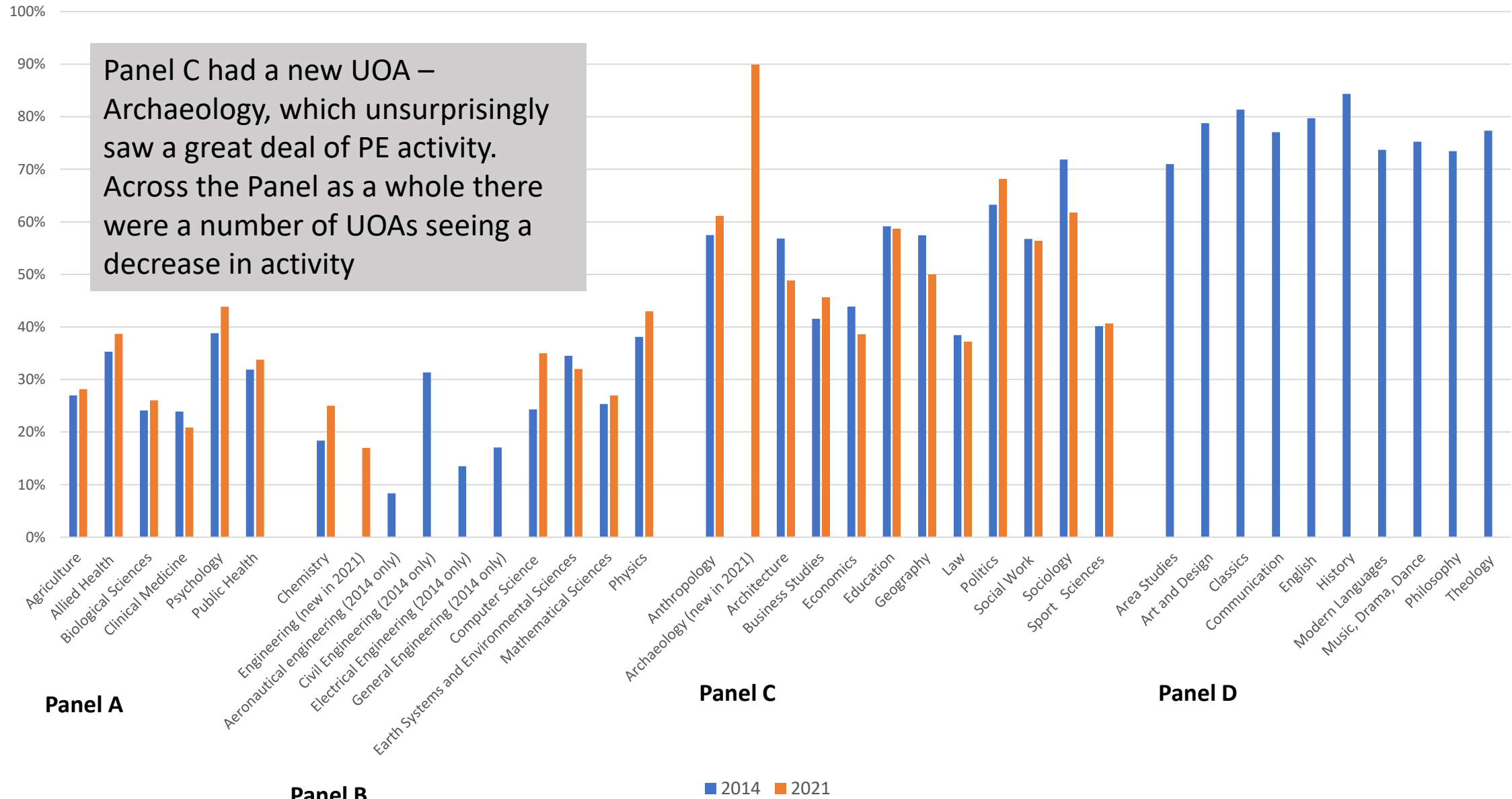
'Engaging the public' case studies as a proportion of total submitted case studies in 2014 and 2021



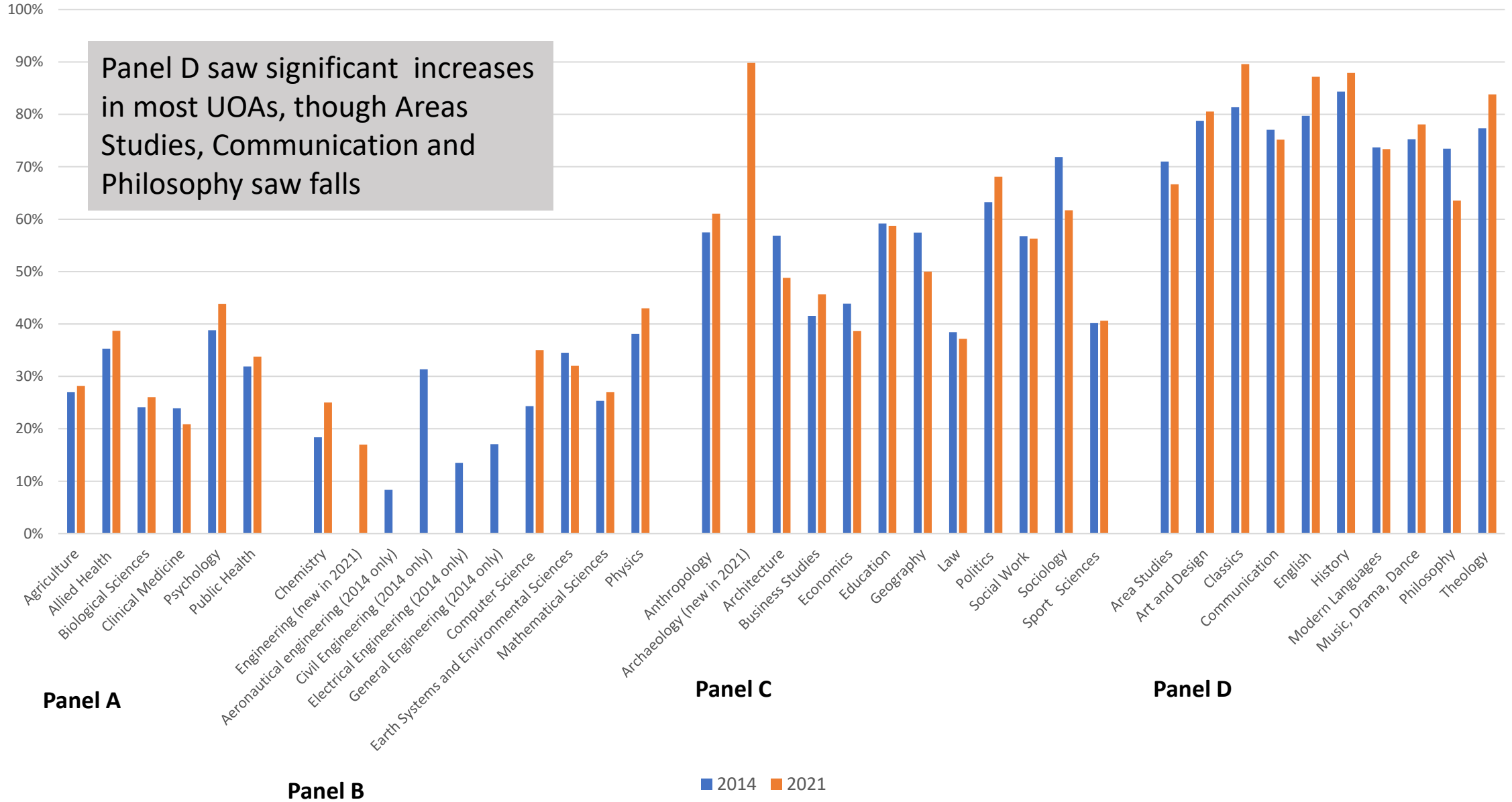
'Engaging the public' case studies as a proportion of total submitted case studies in 2014 and 2021



'Engaging the public' case studies as a proportion of total submitted case studies in 2014 and 2021



'Engaging the public' case studies as a proportion of total submitted case studies in 2014 and 2021



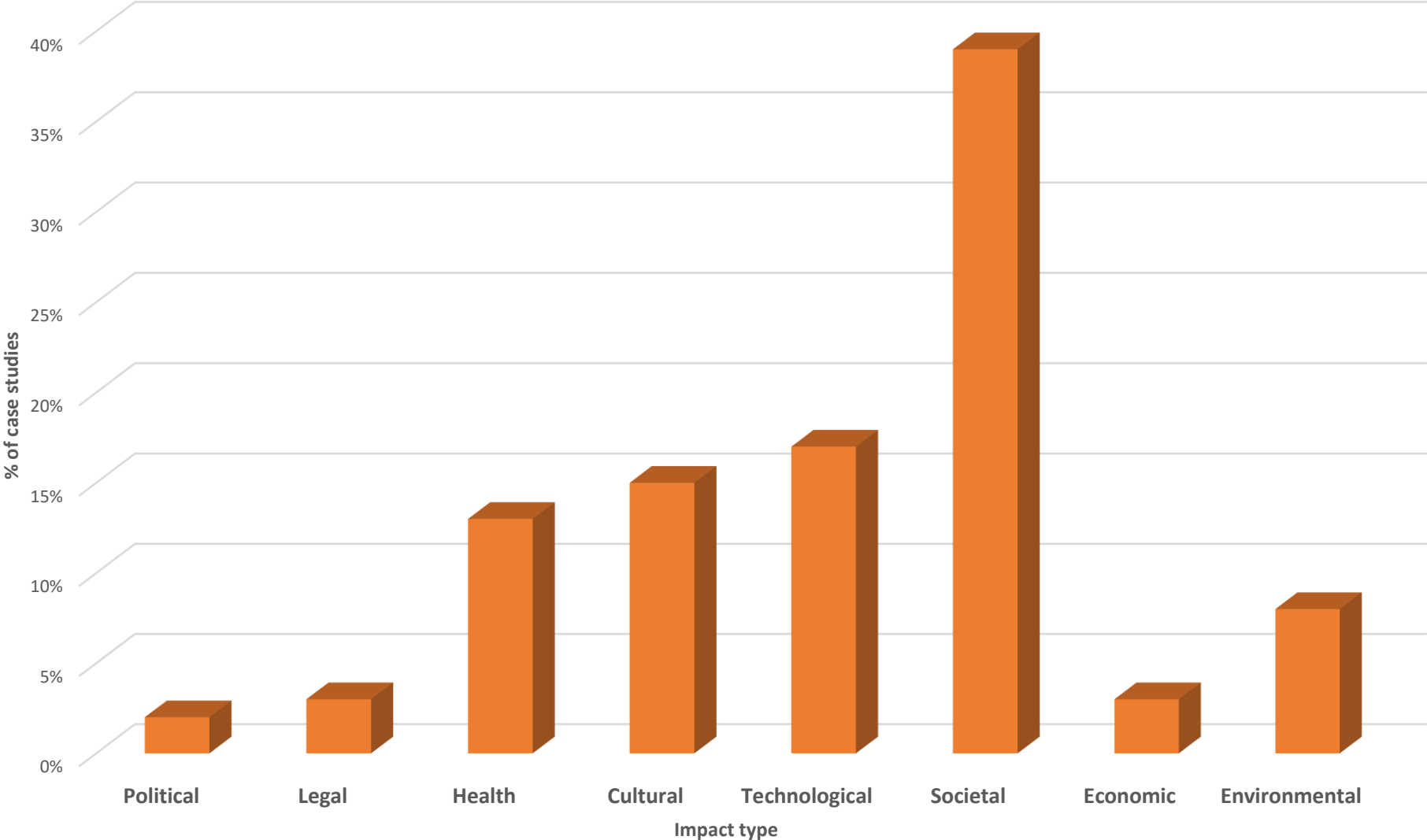
Exploring case studies by impact type

Exploring the case studies by impact type

Impact types

- societal
- cultural
- health
- political
- technological
- environmental
- economic
- legal

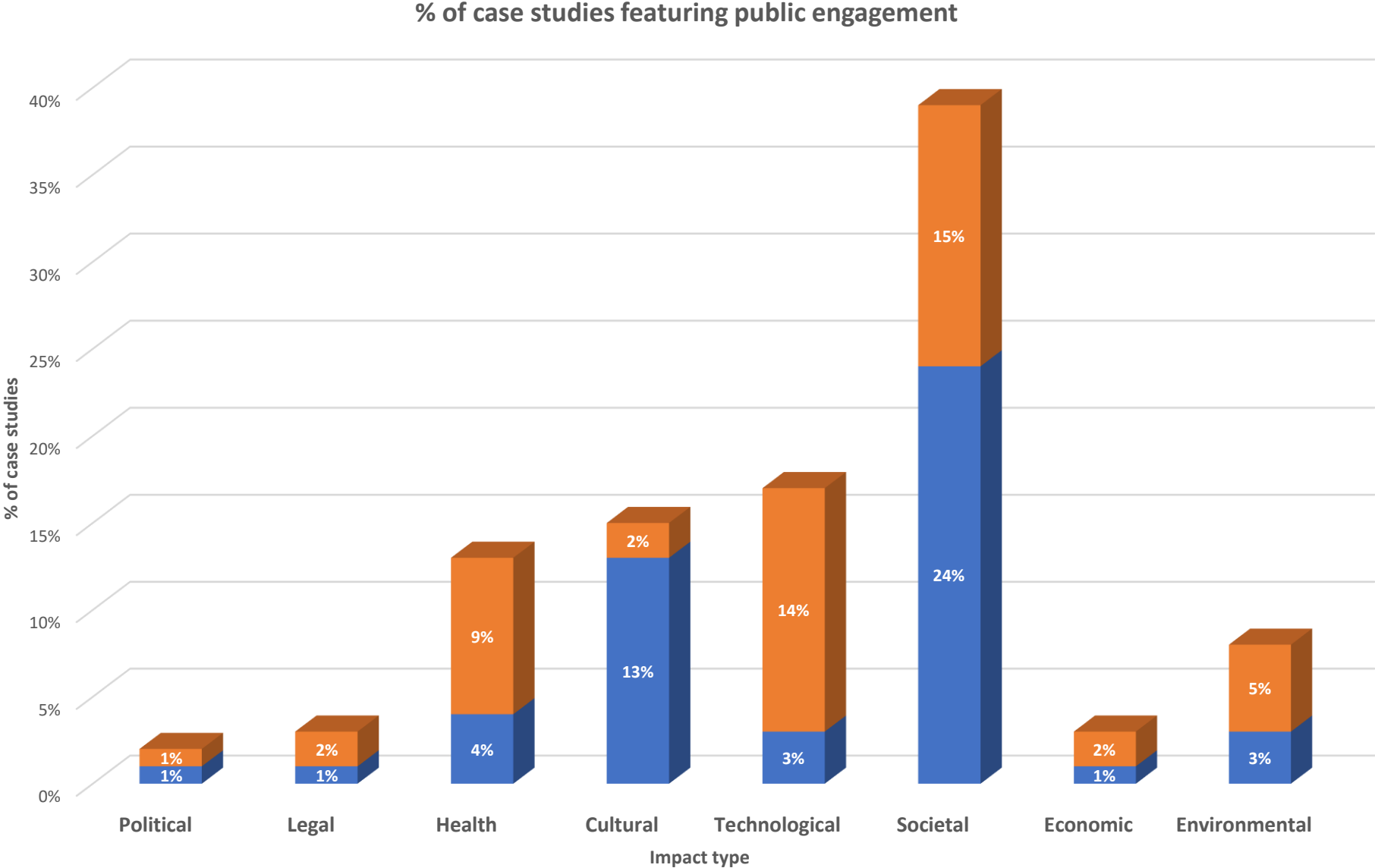
Categorising case studies by impact type



Exploring the case studies by impact type

Impact types

- societal
- cultural
- health
- political
- technological
- environmental
- economic
- legal



3* and 4* performance

Identifying high scoring case studies

Unit of assessment 28: History

[Unit of assessment summary data](#) ?

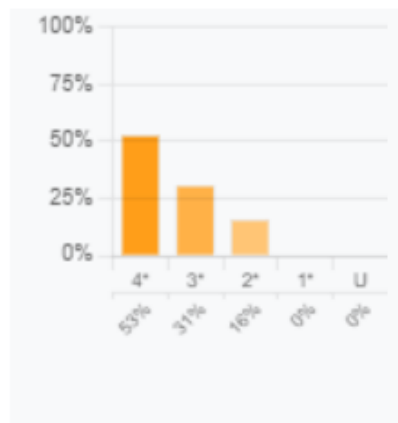
The University of Hull

Total category A submitted staff FTE : 16.00

% of eligible staff submitted : 100%

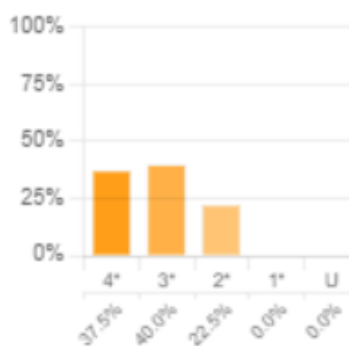
[Learn about staff](#)

Overall profile



Outputs

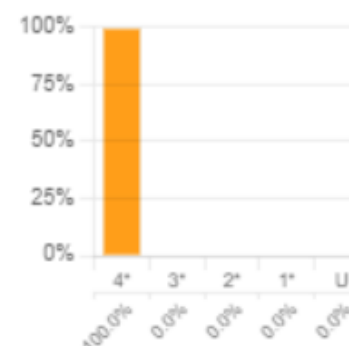
60% of overall



[View output detail](#)

Impact

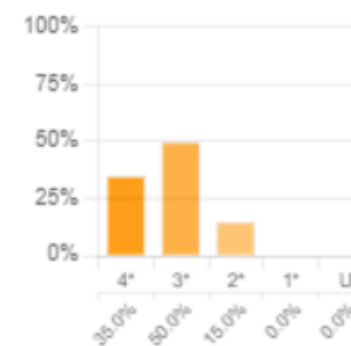
25% of overall



[View impact case studies](#)

Environment

15% of overall



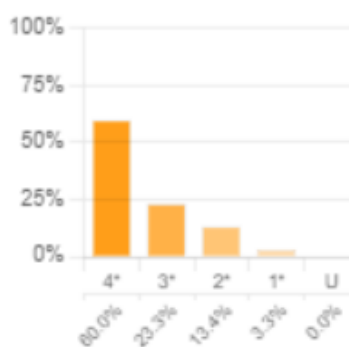
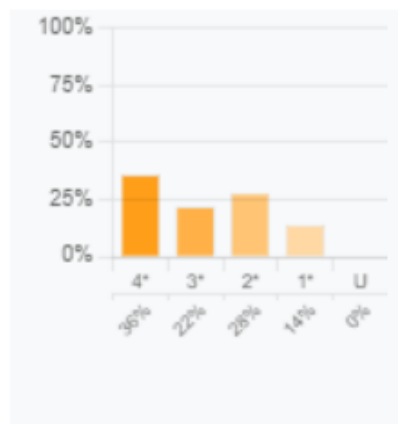
[View Environment detail](#)

University of Keele

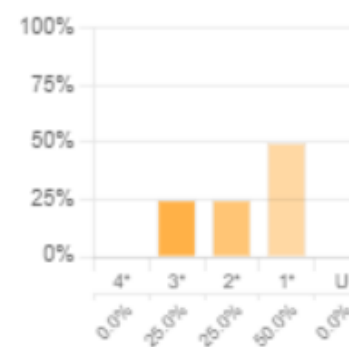
Total category A submitted staff FTE : 14.15

% of eligible staff submitted : 100%

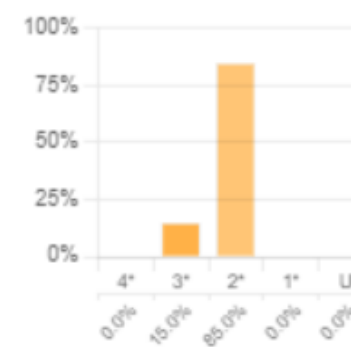
[Learn about staff](#)



[View output detail](#)



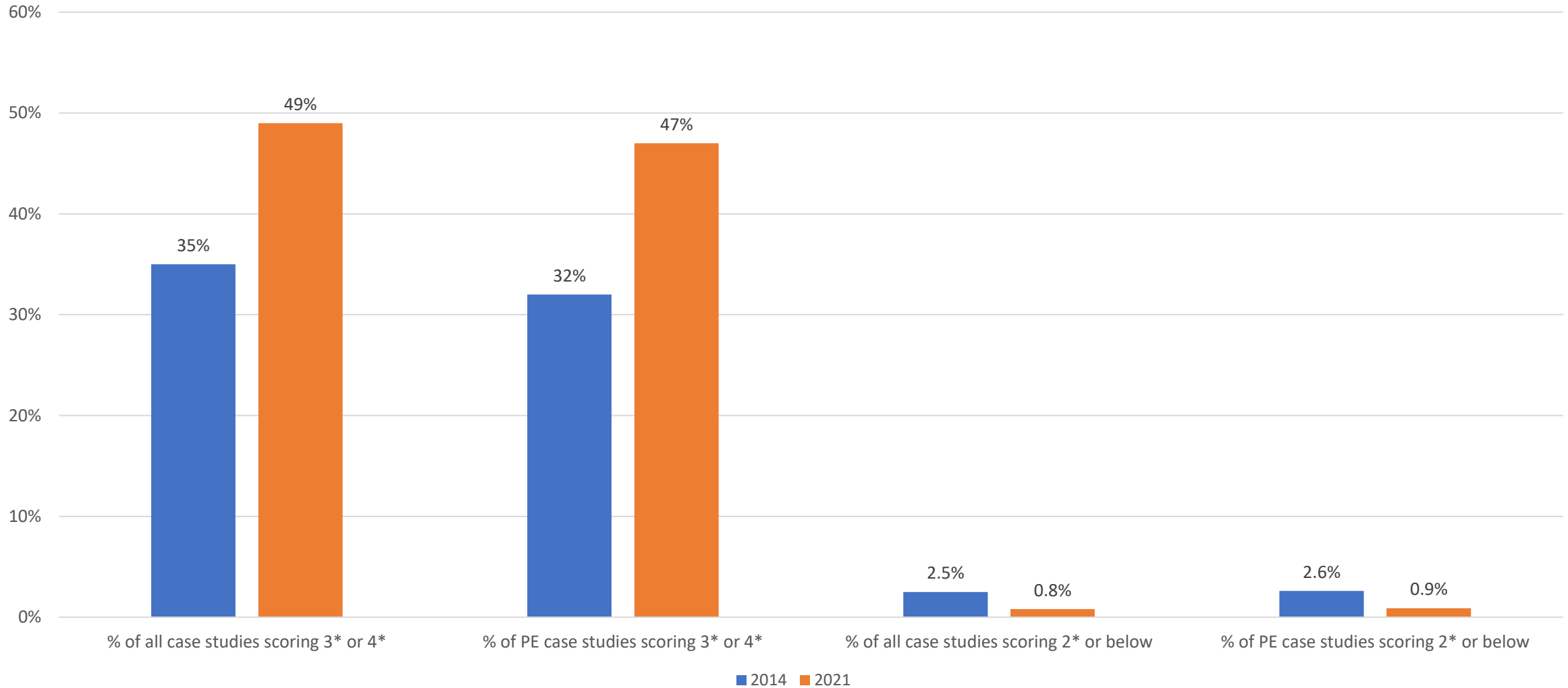
[View impact case studies](#)



[View Environment detail](#)

How did 'engaging the public' case studies score?

How did Public Engagement case studies score?



How did ‘engaging the public’ case studies score?

- The scores for individual case studies were not published. However, Units of Assessment each had their impact profile reported in the published results. From these it is possible to identify UoAs which scored 4* for their impact, and therefore to identify case studies which we can be sure scored 4*.
- We wondered whether there would be any significant difference in the proportion of 3* and 4* case studies which featured public engagement, compared with the sample as a whole. We chose to look only at those case studies which featured at least 3 of the various search terms to exclude those which only made passing reference to engaging with the public.

- When we looked at this in 2014 we found that the proportion was very similar. 35% of the whole case study sample were assessed as 3* and 4*, and 32% of the case studies featuring at least 3 mentions of engaging with the public.
- We also wondered whether case studies featuring public engagement would be more likely to have been awarded 2* status or below. In fact, 2.5% of the whole case study sample can be pinpointed as being 2* or below, compared with 2.6% of the ‘engaging with the public’ case studies.
- The results suggest that there is no significant difference in how case studies mentioning public engagement as a route to impact are scored compared with those that don’t.

We repeated the analysis in 2021 and found similar results

% scoring 3 or 4* in 2021

	PE sample (3 terms or more)	Total sample
No of case studies	1456	6361
Number scoring 3* or above	696	3123
%	47%	49%

% scoring 2* or below in 2021

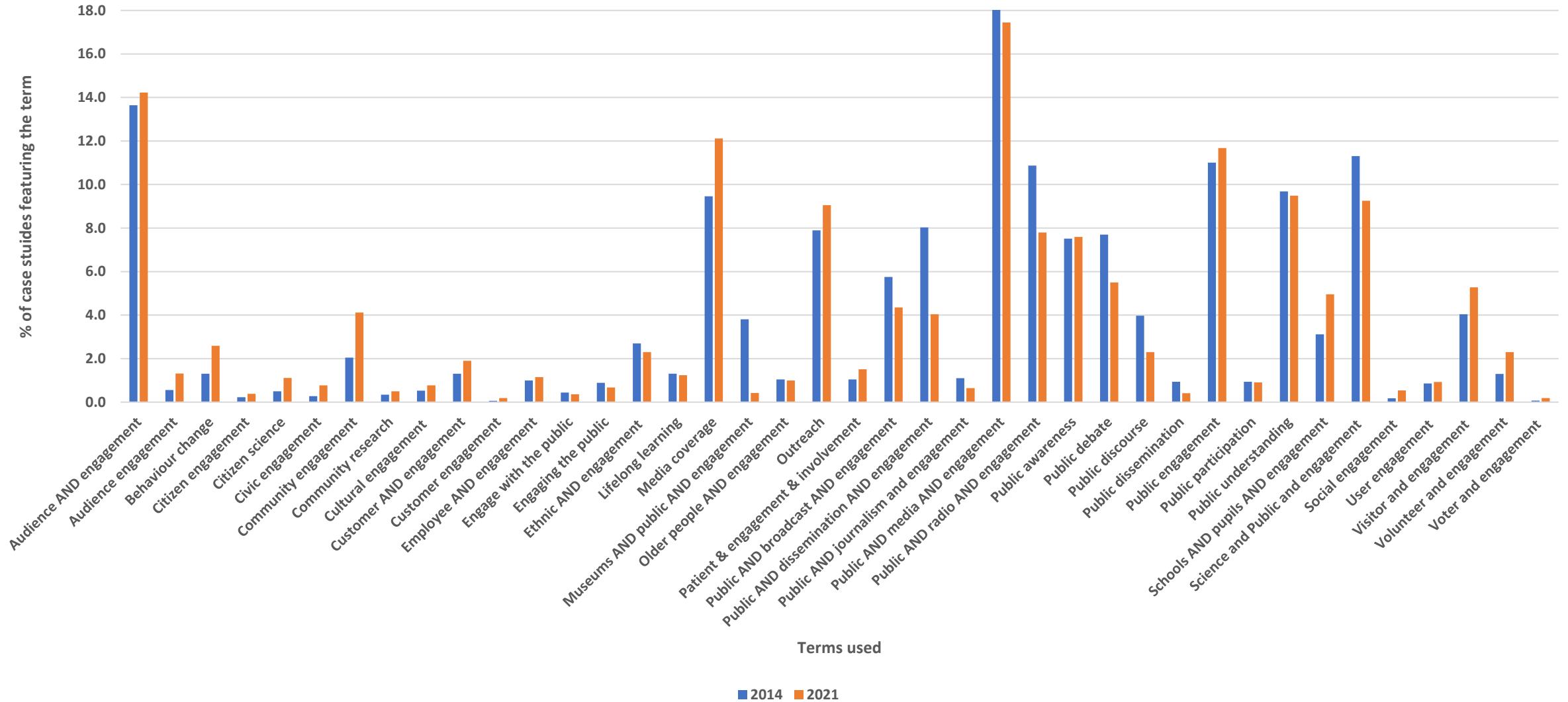
	PE sample (3 terms or more)	Total sample
No of case studies	1456	6361
Number scoring 2* or below	13	52
%	0.9%	0.8%

What happened to the frequency with which the search terms were used in 2014 and 2021?

Comparing the frequency of search terms

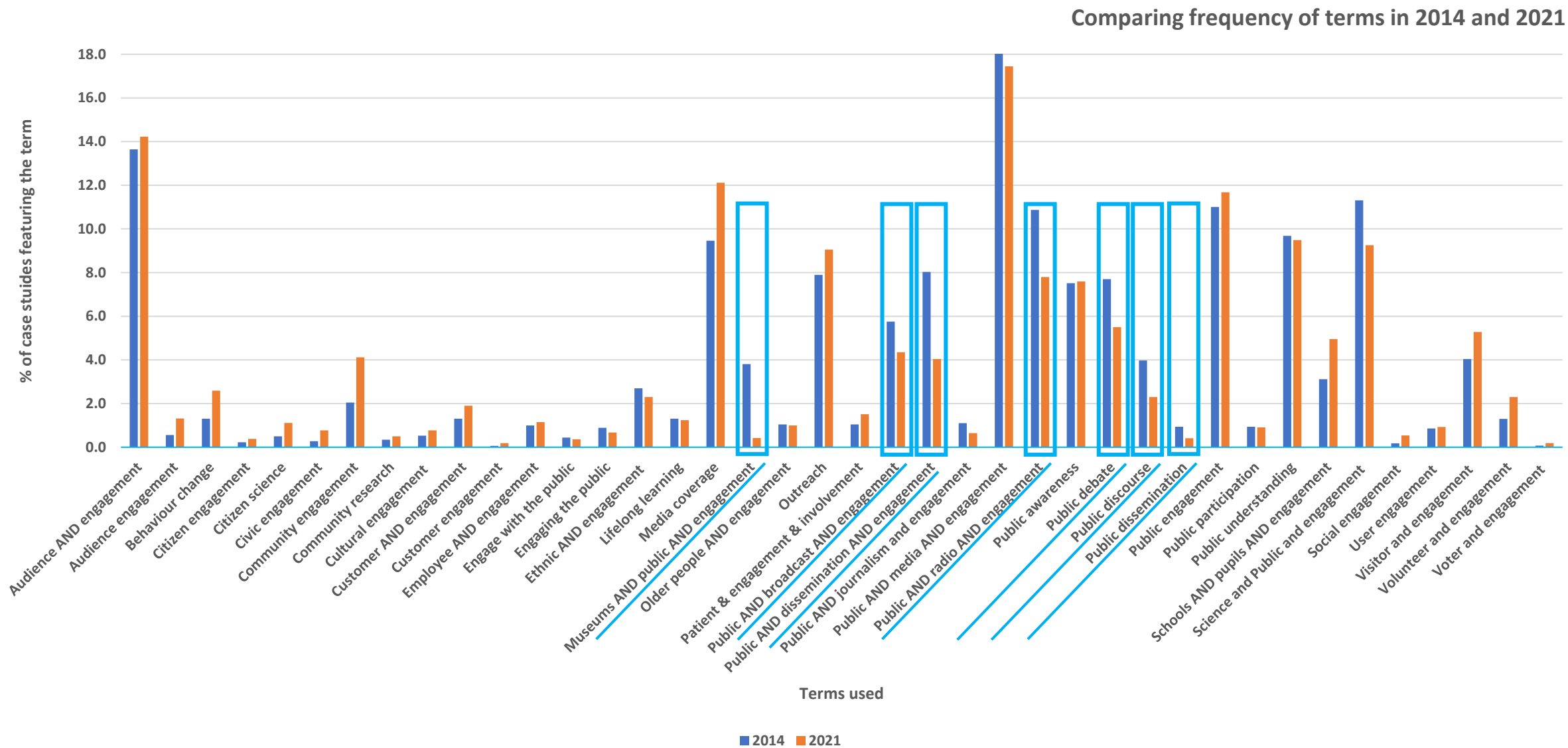
We also stepped back, to look at how many times the different terms were used in the two iterations of the REF, to see if there were any significant differences in the frequency with which they were used

Comparing frequency of terms in 2014 and 2021



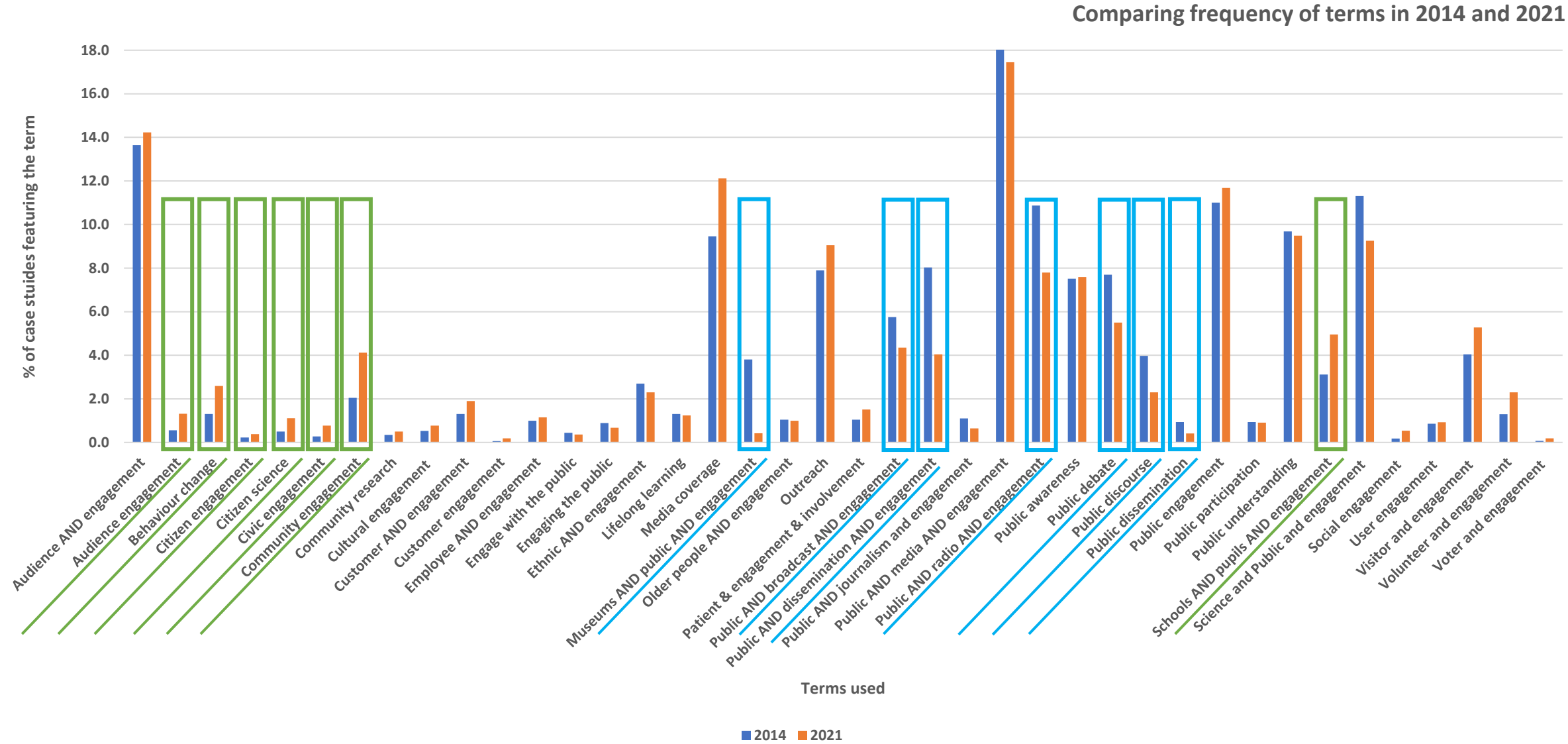
Comparing the frequency of search terms

There were some significant decreases in the frequency of certain terms, highlighted in light blue



Comparing the frequency of search terms

And some significant increases in the frequency of some other terms, highlighted in green



Comparing the frequency of search terms

A summary of the key changes in the frequency with which the terms were used in 2014 and 2021

Going Up

Search term	2014	2021
Media coverage	628	771
Visitor and engagement	268	336
Schools AND pupils AND engagement	207	315
Museums AND public AND engagement	253	298
Community engagement	136	262
Behaviour change	87	165
Customer AND engagement	87	121
Volunteer and engagement	86	146
Patient & engagement & involvement	69	96
Civic engagement	18	49

Staying similar

Search term	2014	2021
Public AND media AND engagement	1199	1110
Audience AND engagement	906	905
Public engagement	731	743
Public understanding	643	604
Outreach	524	576
Public awareness	499	483
Lifelong learning	87	79
Older people AND engagement	69	63

Going Down

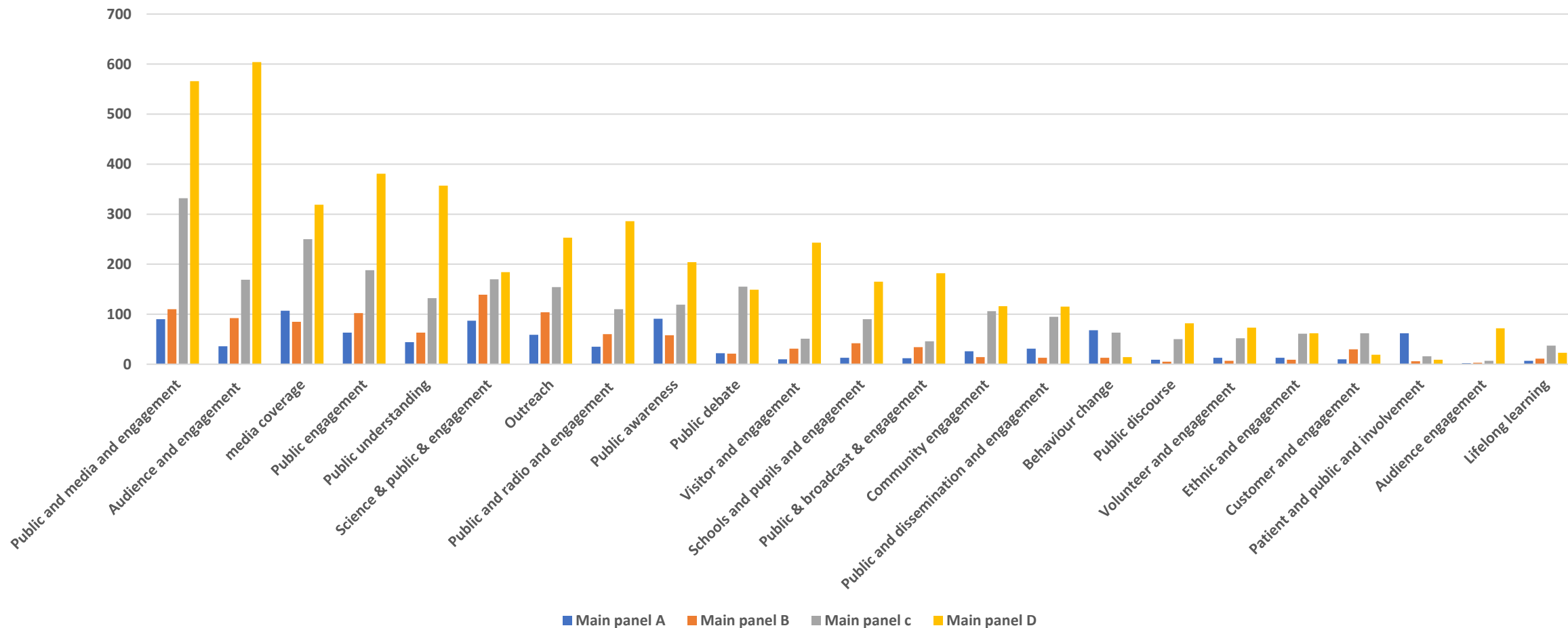
Search term	2014	2021
Science and Public and engagement	751	589
Public AND radio AND engagement	722	496
Public AND dissemination AND engagement	533	257
Public debate	511	350
Public AND broadcast AND engagement	382	277
Public discourse	264	146
Ethnic AND engagement	179	146
Public AND journalism and engagement	73	41

Are there significant differences in the terms used in the four main panels?

The most frequently used search terms, by main panel

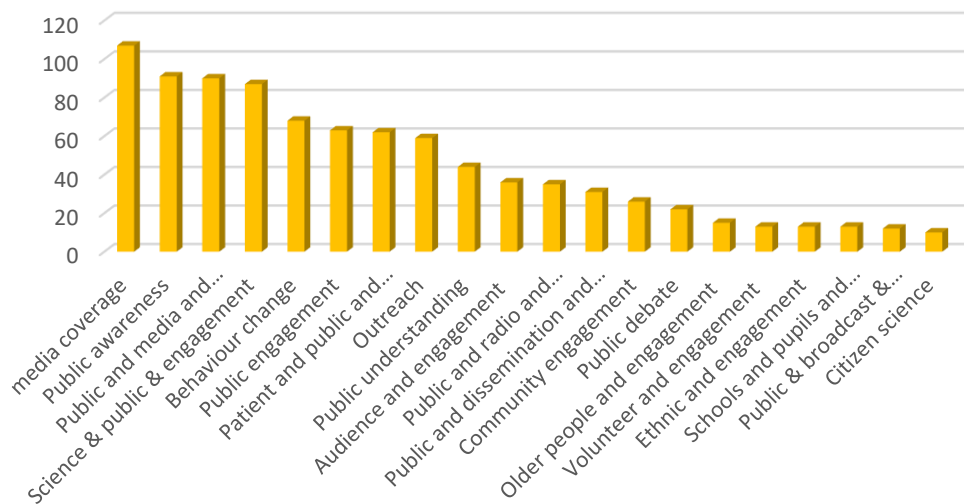
We were interested in differences in how the four main panels used the different search terms. These are the most frequently used terms, mapped against the four main panels

The most frequently used terms, by main panel

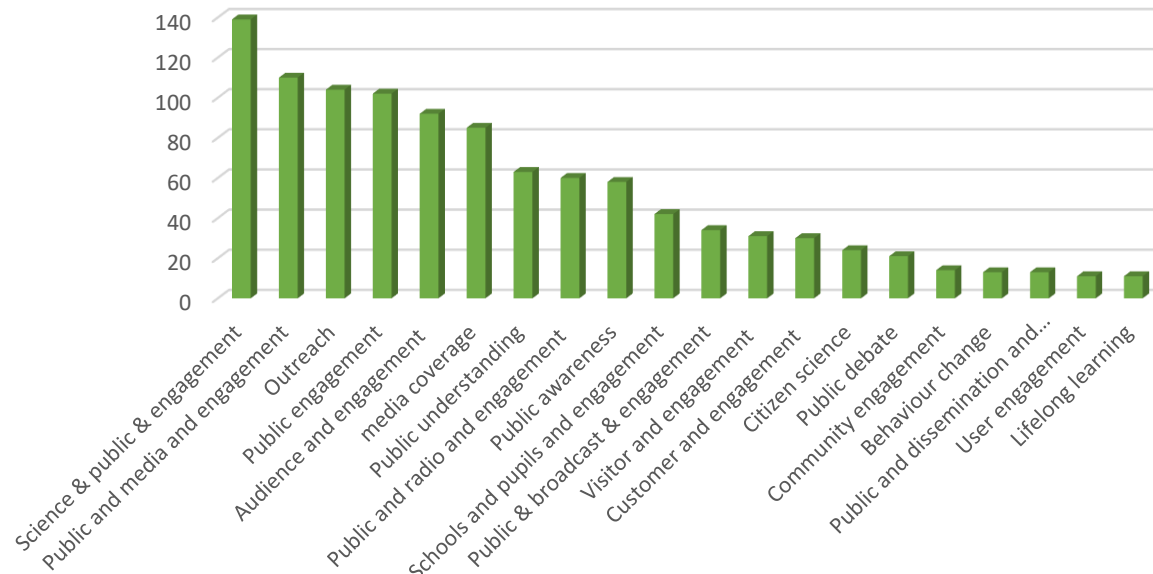


The most frequently used search terms, by main panel

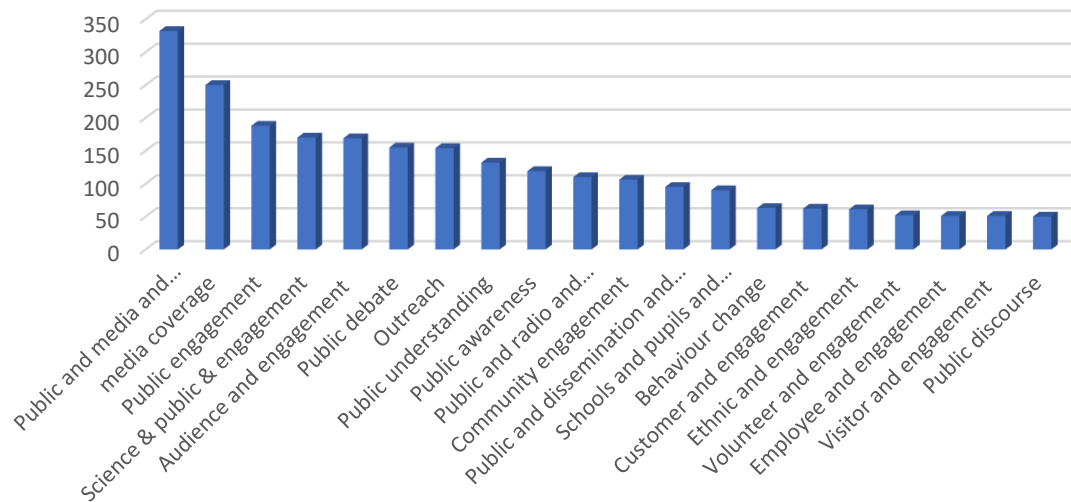
Main panel A



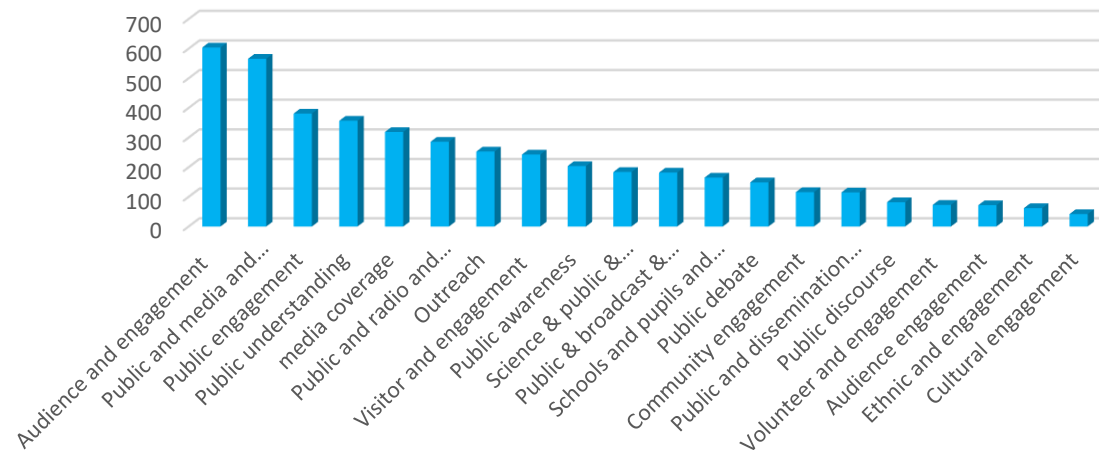
Main panel B



Main panel C



Main panel D



Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL A

TITLE: LifeGuide – Developing Internet-based Support for Healthcare

UOA: Psychology (4)

HEI: University of Southampton

Summary of the impact

The LifeGuide platform, developed at the University of Southampton, is a unique set of opensource internet-based software tools that allow researchers to flexibly create, modify and evaluate internet-based behavioural change interventions. Such interventions cost-effectively provide 24/7 personalised support for health management. Since August 2013, the impact of the LifeGuide research programme has been at three levels:

- 1) The programme has enabled a large international community of behavioural researchers to flexibly and efficiently create, modify and evaluate digital health interventions in ground-breaking large-scale clinical trials, not previously possible without LifeGuide software.
- 2) Dissemination of effective, evidence-based interventions to over 200,000 patients and members of the public through NHS, public, and private sector partnerships has supported timely and sustained self-management of health, including to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This demonstrates positive engagement with outputs enabled by the programme.
- 3) NHS care pathways have changed to improve patient management and efficiently provide more effective care.

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- Behaviour change
- Dissemination

Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL B

TITLE: Blended Spaces - Creating Commercial and Social Benefit by Transforming Human Computer Interaction

UOA: Computer Science (11)

HEI: Edinburgh Napier University

Summary of the impact

Research at Edinburgh Napier University has developed new methods and principles for designing 'blended spaces' – those that combine elements of the physical and digital worlds. The work has led to three patents, the establishment of two new companies, and enabled new products to be developed by organisations and businesses worldwide, in sectors including tourism, building energy management, architecture and healthcare. Physical spaces have also been created in educational and healthcare settings.

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- User engagement
- Public AND media AND engagement
- Science AND public AND engagement

Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL B

TITLE: The Bela open-source hardware platform for music makers and artists

UOA: Computer Science (11)

HEI: Queen Mary University of London

Summary of the impact

Bela is an open-source hardware platform for creating digital music, developed by Dr Andrew McPherson and his team at Queen Mary. It has ultra-low latency (input-output delay) processing of audio and sensor signals. Compared to existing tools, Bela offers superior technical performance and easy learnability. The technology enables a wide variety of users (over 2,500 artists, designers, students, researchers, the disabled) to develop new ways of producing music and sound. This may be through the modification of existing instruments, such as Strummi, a simplified guitar-like instrument, which can be adapted for single handed playing, or the creation of art installations involving sensors, sound and visual feedback. Bela launched on Kickstarter in 2016, raising GBP54,000 (1100% of its goal), and thereafter spun out into the company Augmented Instruments Ltd in September 2016. Bela is being used for teaching in over 20 universities spanning Europe, North America and Australia and is a founding part of the core curriculum of a new cross-university Master's in "Music, Communication and Technology" (University of Oslo, NTNU Trondheim).

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- Public AND media AND engagement
- Audience AND engagement
- Volunteer AND engagement

Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL C

TITLE: Safeguarding and revitalising local authority-led governance of public parks

UOA: Law (18)

HEI: University of Leeds

Summary of the impact

Research into the history, management, funding and use of public parks by a multidisciplinary team at Leeds contributed to safeguarding and revitalising local authority-led park governance in the face of sustained funding cuts and absence of statutory protection. The research influenced policy and professional practice in Leeds park services and informed Leeds City Council's tenyear parks strategy, particularly regarding the accessibility and quality of parks. Through public engagement, the research cultivated civic involvement in park governance and shaped the Love Leeds Parks charitable initiative. Nationally, government policy-makers, parks charities and civil society organisations used the research to inform their thinking and strategies, including as evidence for a UK local authority parks toolkit, a national business case for parks, and for fundraising initiatives.

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- Public engagement
- Public understanding
- Community engagement
- Civic engagement
- Public AND media AND engagement
- Visitor AND engagement
- Volunteer AND engagement
- Science AND public AND engagement

Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL C

TITLE: The Dyslexia Debate and its relevance for policy and practice

UOA: Education (23)

HEI: Durham University

Summary of the impact

Elliott's research has impacted on policy, practice, perceptions, and understanding relating to reading difficulties.

- 1. Influencing public discourse and impacting on public awareness, attitudes and understanding:** Extensive United Kingdom (UK) and international coverage on television, radio, printed and social media has engaged the general public and a diverse range of professional groups with the complexities surrounding dyslexia diagnosis and the wider needs of struggling readers.
- 2. Changing Local Authority policy, guidance, and professional practice:** Rather than identifying and resourcing a small proportion of diagnosed dyslexics on the basis of cognitive testing, Local Authority Services across the UK are increasingly tailoring their policies and practices to meet the needs of all struggling readers.

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- Public engagement
- Public awareness
- Public discourse
- Schools AND pupils AND engagement
- Public AND radio AND engagement
- Audience AND engagement

Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL D

TITLE: Ceramics in the Expanded Field: Ceramics Research Centre UK

UOA: Art and Design

HEI: University of Westminster

Summary of the impact

Since the late 1990s, the work of the Ceramics Research Centre-UK (CRC-UK) at CREAM has been central to the re-evaluation of the position of ceramics in contemporary art and museum culture. The members' practice-based and theoretical investigations of ceramic installation and the associated dialogues around museum intervention, curatorial practice and audience engagement have had an impact on gallery and museum policy, generated new ways of thinking, created new forms of artistic expression that have had influence beyond the academy and increased public engagement with contemporary ceramics. Specific recent impacts include:

- Changing the Tate Exchange's approach to public participation, to the benefit of the institution and its associates.
- Transforming the curatorial strategies of major art institutions to the benefit of visitors and emerging ceramics artists.
- Diversifying the audiences for craft-based arts, through raising the mainstream media profile of such arts and through direct engagement with underserved communities.

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- Public engagement
- Engage with the public
- Public understanding
- Public participation
- Cultural engagement
- Audience engagement
- Public & broadcast & engagement
- Public and media and engagement
- Public and radio and engagement
- Audience and engagement

Some sample 'high performing' public engagement case studies

MAIN PANEL D

TITLE: The First World War Centenary: increasing knowledge, enhancing experiences, and providing multiple opportunities to engage, contribute, reflect and learn.

UOA: History (28)

HEI: University of Kent

Summary of the impact

Connelly's research on the First World War (FWW) and his commitment to engaging the public with his research, made a demonstrable contribution to the UK's nationwide FWW Centenary commemorations. Collaborations with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Church of England, and the UK's national battlefield schools programme promoted greater understanding, awareness and interest in the significance and relevance of the conflict. Connelly's work throughout the centenary increased participation and engagement in community and voluntary activities; improved knowledge sharing and educational opportunities for young people; promoted public reflection on the causes and consequences of the FWW and enhanced the visitor experience and contributed to the preservation of FWW cultural, archival and architectural heritage in Ypres.

RATING: 4*

TERMS USED:

- Public engagement
- Engaging the public
- Public participation
- Outreach
- Schools and pupils and engagement
- Public & broadcast & engagement
- Public and media and engagement
- Audience and engagement
- Visitor and engagement
- Volunteer and engagement