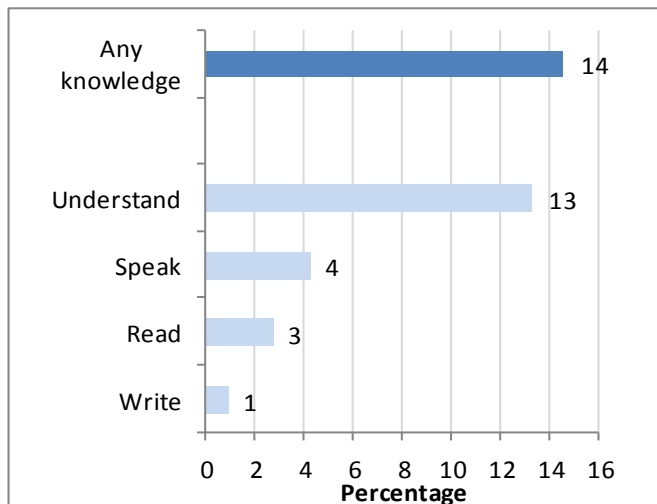


Main stories

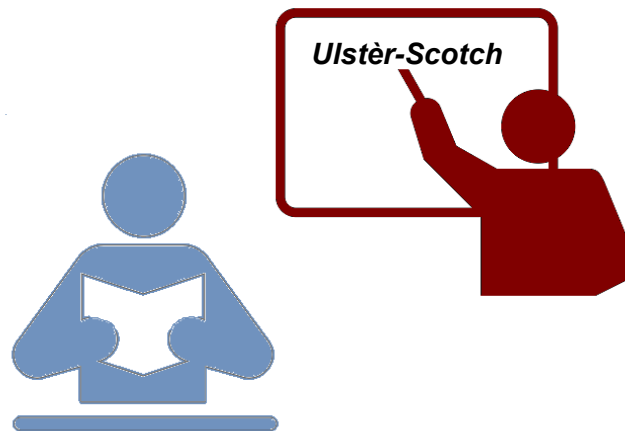
- Overall there was a slight decrease in the proportion of the population who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots in 2015/16 compared with 2013/14 (from 17% to 14%).
- Gender, age, religious background, marital status, having a disability, having dependants and where adults live are all related to whether they have knowledge of Ulster-Scots.
- Seven out of every hundred adults are interested in learning or improving their Ulster-Scots. Of those with no previous knowledge of Ulster-Scots, 5% are interested in learning Ulster-Scots.

Knowledge of Ulster-Scots



In 2015/16, 14% of the population had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots, i.e. can understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots. This is a slight decrease on the 17% who had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots in 2013/14.

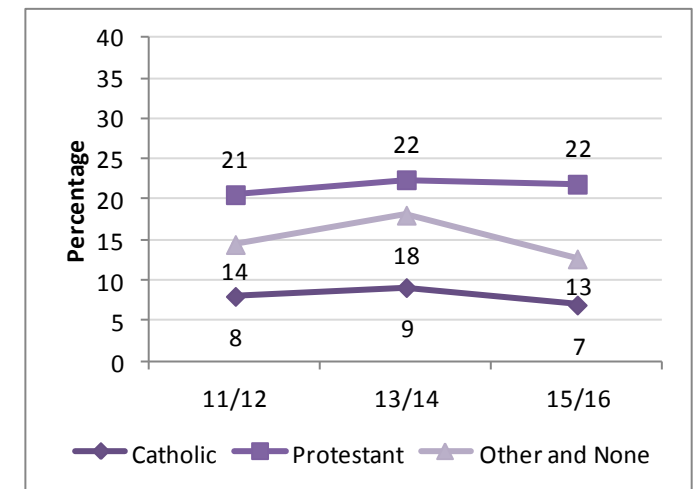
Interested in learning Ulster-Scots



Seven out of every hundred adults (7%) are interested in learning or improving their Ulster-Scots. Of those with no previous knowledge of Ulster-Scots, 5% are interested in learning Ulster-Scots.

Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Religious background



In 2015/16 the proportion of Protestants who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots remains greater than the proportions of Catholics and those who gave their religious background as other or none.

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Introduction

The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement committed the Government to ‘recognise the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic minorities, all of which are part of the cultural wealth of the island or Ireland.’

DfC chairs the Interdepartmental Charter Implementation Group and through this group aims to promote the use of Irish and Ulster-Scots and encourage all departments and their agencies to meet their obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Findings from the Continuous Household Survey

This report presents the findings from the 2015/16 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to the knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots by the adult population in Northern Ireland. The information will be used to help inform policy making. More information relating to the CHS, methodology, definitions and the interpretation of the figures can be found in the definitions and technical notes section. Data tables are available in Excel and ODS format. The questions that were asked in the CHS 2015/16 are available [here](#).

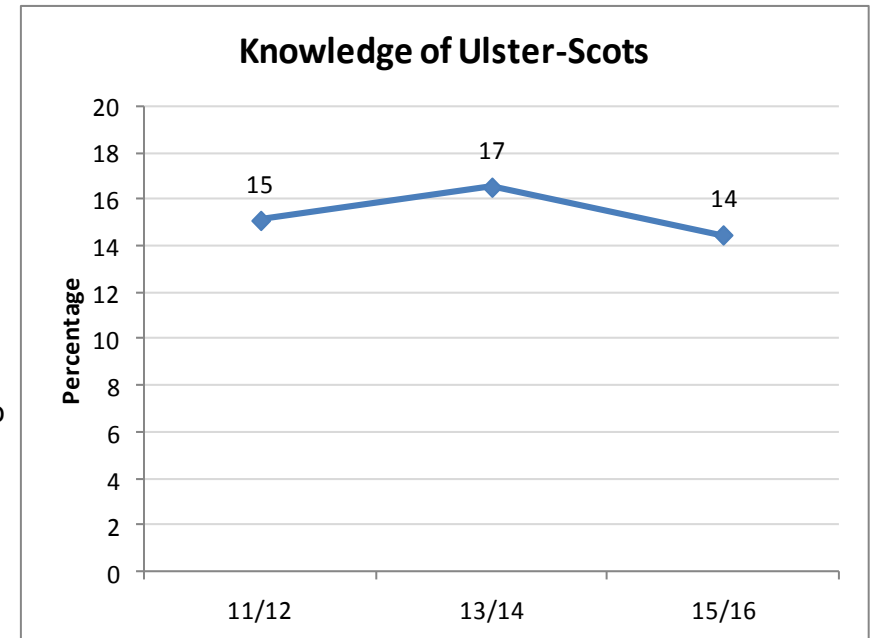
Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Trends

In 2015/16, 14% of the population had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots i.e. can understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots. This is a slight decrease when compared with 2013/14 but is similar to that recorded in 2011/12.

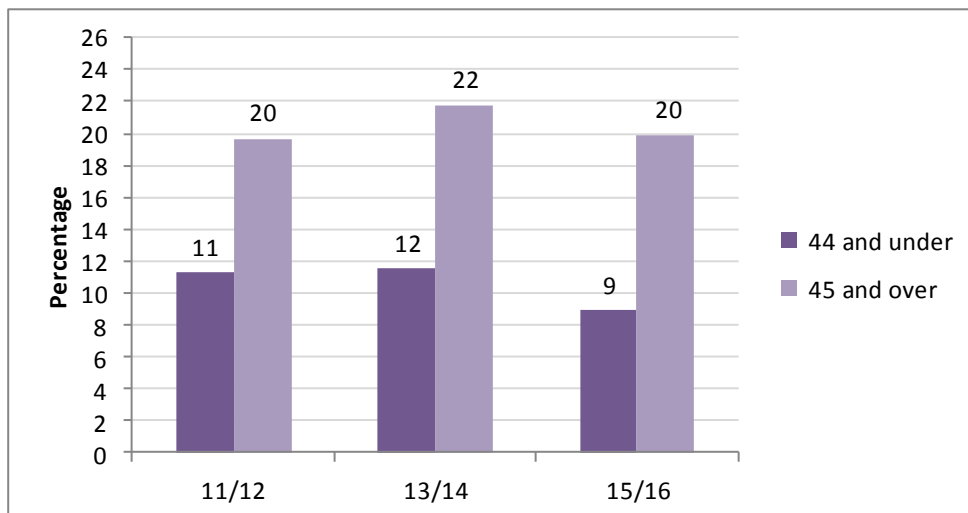
The proportion of Catholics who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots has decreased from 9% in 2013/14 to 7% in 2015/16.

The proportion of adults living in rural areas with some knowledge of Ulster-Scots has also decreased in 2015/16 when compared with 2013/14 (18% and 23% respectively).



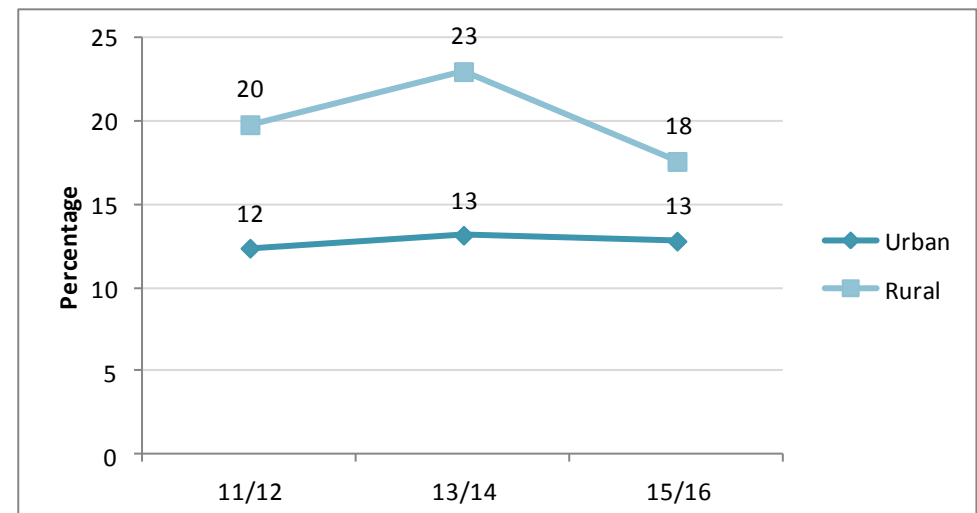
Age

People aged 45 years and over are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those aged 16-44 years (20% and 9% respectively). A similar trend has been seen for the other years that CHS figures are available.



Urban/Rural

In 2015/16, a higher proportion of the adult population living in rural areas have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than among those who live in urban areas, as it has been for each year that figures are available.

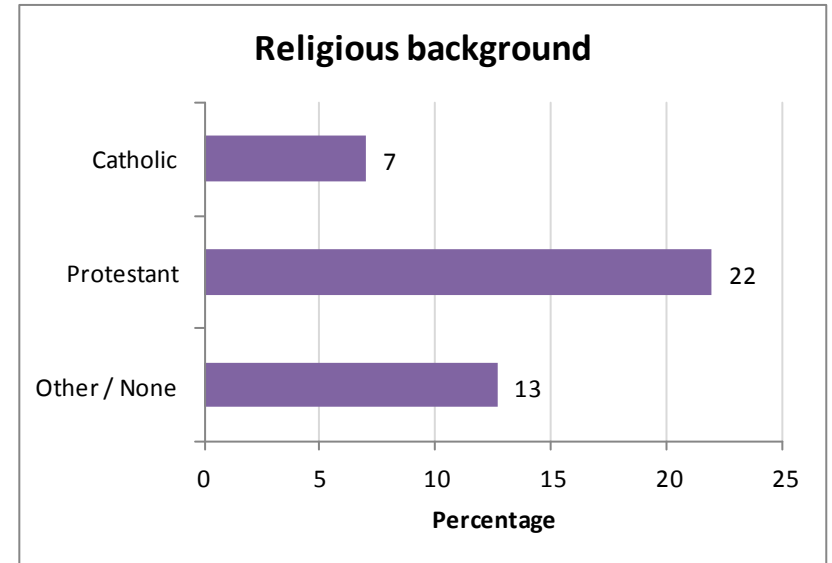


Knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Gender, age, religious background, marital status, having a disability, having dependants and where adults live are all related to whether they have any knowledge of Ulster-Scots.

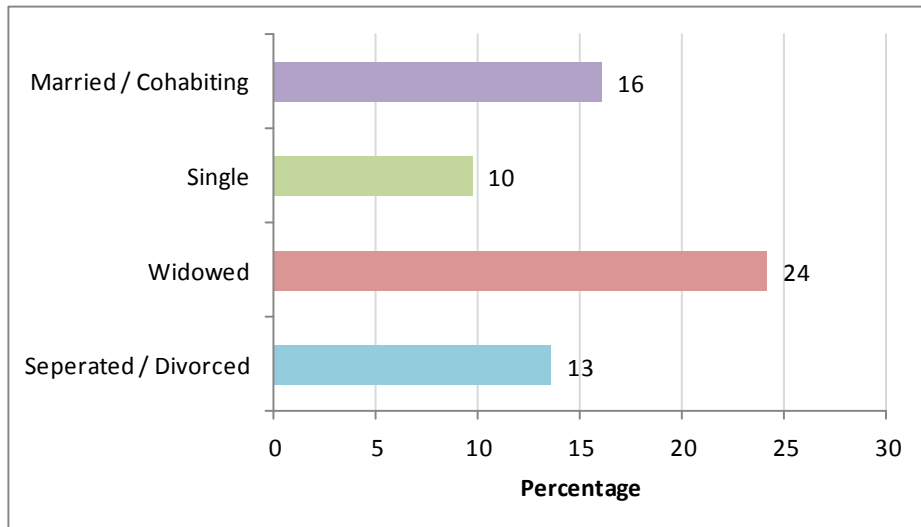
Males (17%) are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than females (12%). Similarly, knowledge of Ulster-Scots increases with age, with those aged 45 years and over being more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those aged 16-44 years (20% and 9% respectively).

A higher proportion of both Protestants (22%) and those with other or no religion (13%) have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than Catholics (7%). A slightly higher proportion of adults who have a disability (17%) have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those who do not have a disability (13%). In addition, a higher proportion of adults who do not have dependants (16%) have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those who have dependants (12%).



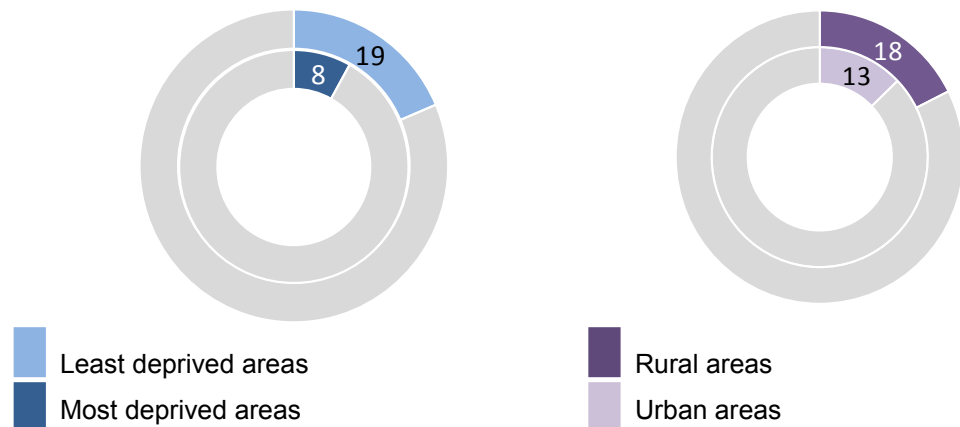
Marital Status

Adults who are widowed are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than any of the other marital status groups. This is likely to be linked to age.



Where people live

In 2015/16 adults living in the least deprived areas are more likely to have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those living in the most deprived areas. Similarly, a higher proportion of adults living in rural areas have knowledge of Ulster-Scots than those living in urban areas.



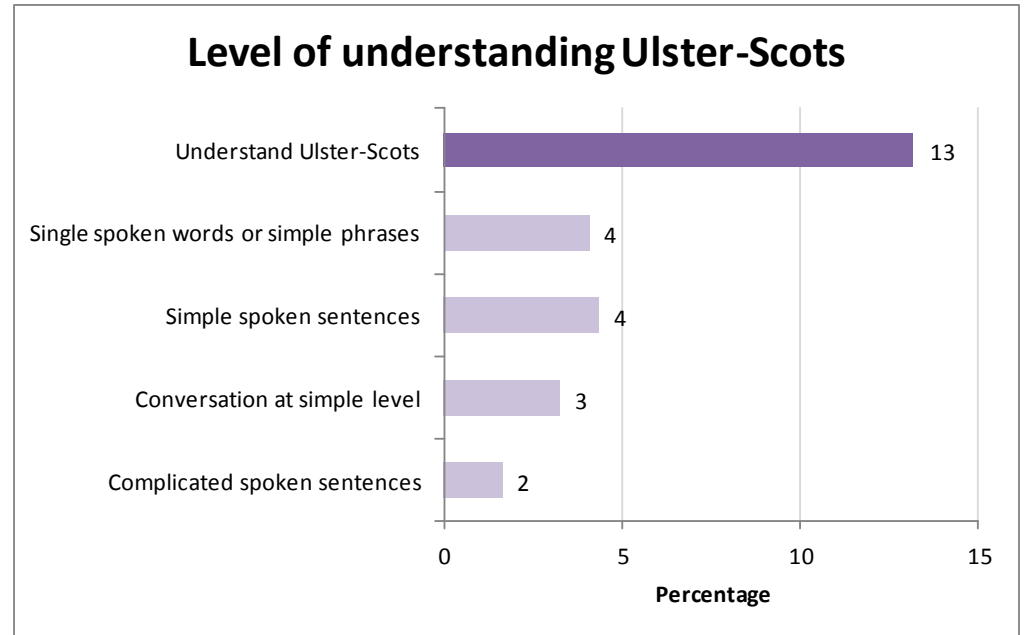
Understanding Ulster-Scots

More than one in every ten (13%) of the population can understand Ulster-Scots.

Two out of every hundred (2%) people in Northern Ireland can understand complicated spoken sentences, so could understand programmes in Ulster-Scots on the radio or television.

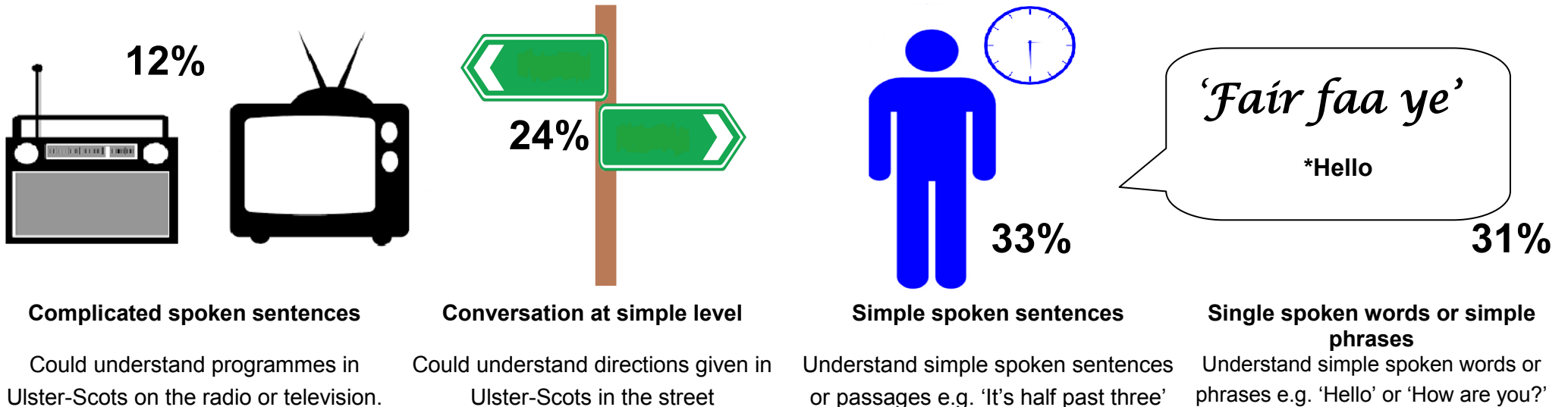
Three out of every hundred (3%) people can understand a conversation in Ulster-Scots conducted at a simple level so, for example, could understand directions given in the street.

Four per cent of the population can understand simple spoken sentences or passages, e.g. 'It's half past three', while a further 4% can understand single spoken words or simple phrases, e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'.



Those who can understand Ulster-Scots

Analysis of those adults in the population who can understand Ulster-Scots shows that over one third (36%) understand a conversation at either a simple or complicated level. The remaining two thirds understand simple spoken sentences or simple spoken words or phrases.



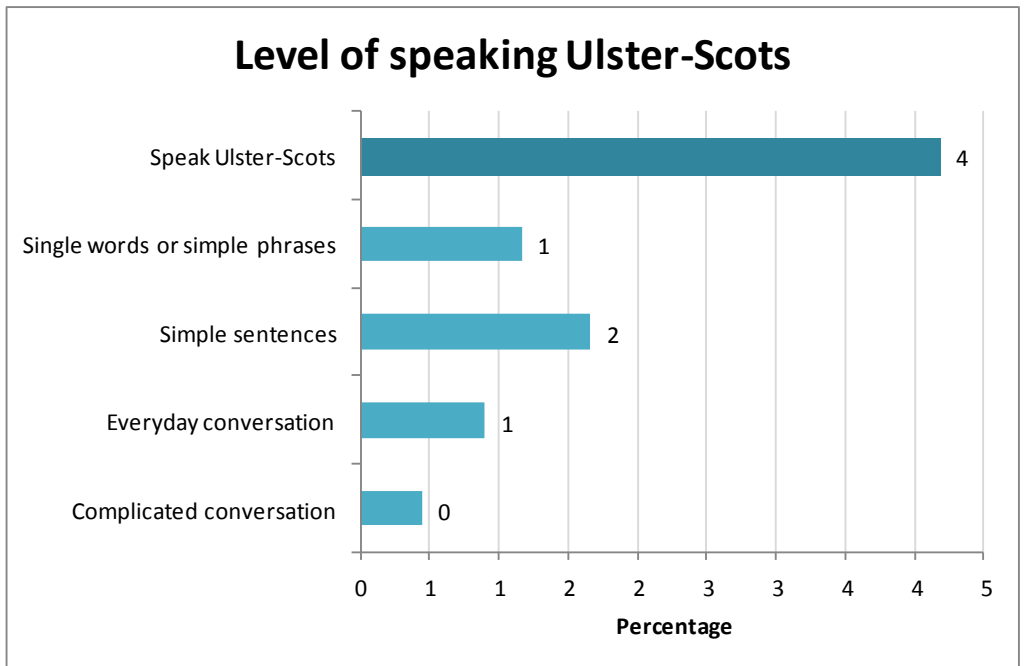
Speaking Ulster-Scots

Four out of every hundred adults (4%) can speak Ulster-Scots.

One out of every hundred people (1%) can carry on a complicated conversation in Ulster-Scots, e.g. talking about any subject, or carry on an everyday conversation, e.g. could describe their day.

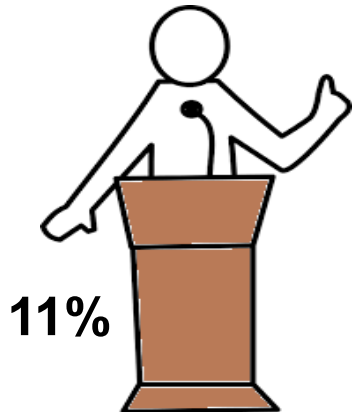
Two out of every hundred (2%) can use simple sentences in Ulster-Scots, e.g. 'Can I have a cup of tea?'

A further 1% can use single words or simple phrases, e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'



Those who can speak Ulster-Scots

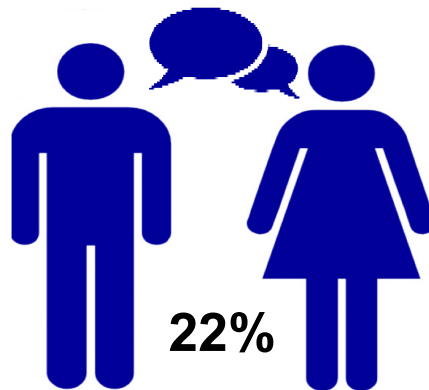
Analysis of those adults in the population who can speak Ulster-Scots shows that about one third (33%) could carry on a conversation at either a simple or complicated level. The remaining two thirds can use simple sentences or single words or simple phrases.



11%

Complicated conversation

Could carry on a complicated conversation in Ulster-Scots e.g. Talking about any subject



22%

Everyday conversation

Could carry on an everyday conversation in Ulster-Scots e.g. Could describe their day



40%

Simple Sentences

Can use simple sentences in Ulster-Scots e.g. 'Can I have a cup of tea?'



28%

Single words or simple phrases

Can use single words or simple phrases e.g. 'Hello' or 'How are you?'

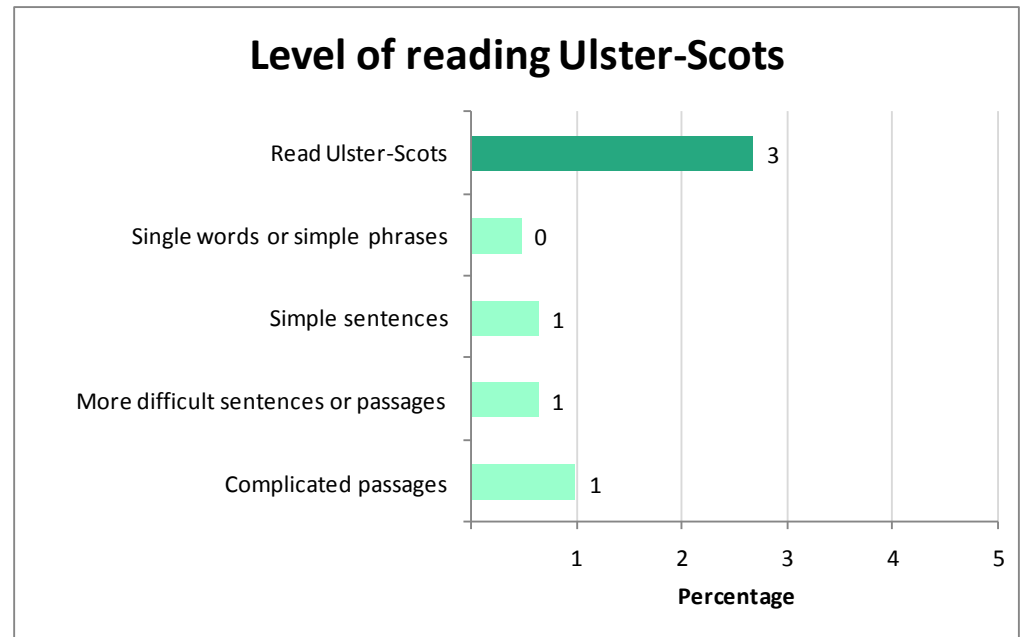
Reading and writing Ulster-Scots

Three out of every hundred adults (3%) can read Ulster-Scots, while 1% can write Ulster-Scots.

One out of every hundred adults (1%) can read and understand complicated passages, so could read a book or a newspaper written in Ulster-Scots.

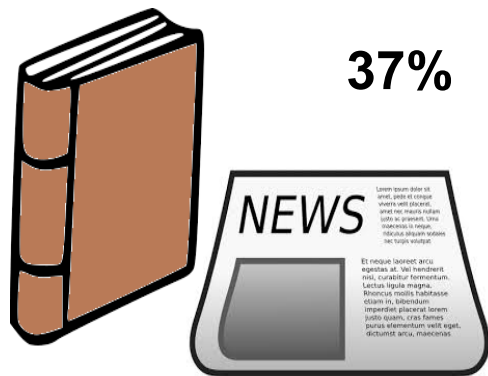
One out of every hundred adults (1%) can read and understand difficult sentences and less complicated passages, so could read a letter or email written in Ulster-Scots.

One out of every hundred (1%) of the adult population can read and understand simple sentences or passages, so could read a postcard written in Ulster-Scots or can read and understand single word or simple phrases.



Those who that can read Ulster-Scots

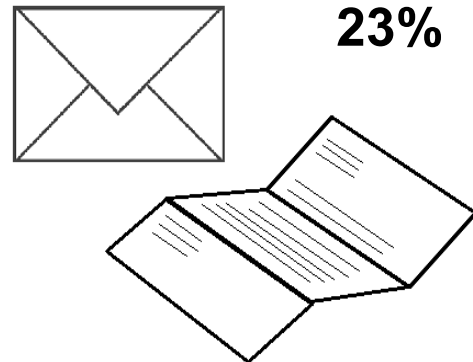
Analysis of those adults in the population who can read Ulster-Scots shows that about three out of five (60%) can read and understand moderately difficult or complicated passages. The remaining two out of five can read and understand simple sentences or single words or simple phrases.



37%

Complicated passages

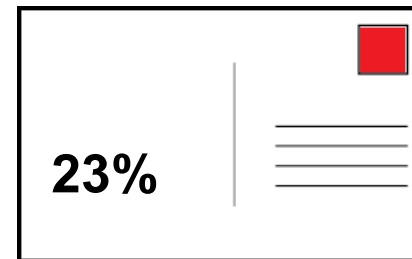
Can read and understand complicated passages, so could read a book or newspaper written in Ulster-Scots



23%

Moderately difficult sentences or passages

Could read a letter or email written in Ulster-Scots



23%

Simple Sentences

Can read and understand simple sentences, so could read a postcard written in Ulster-Scots



17%

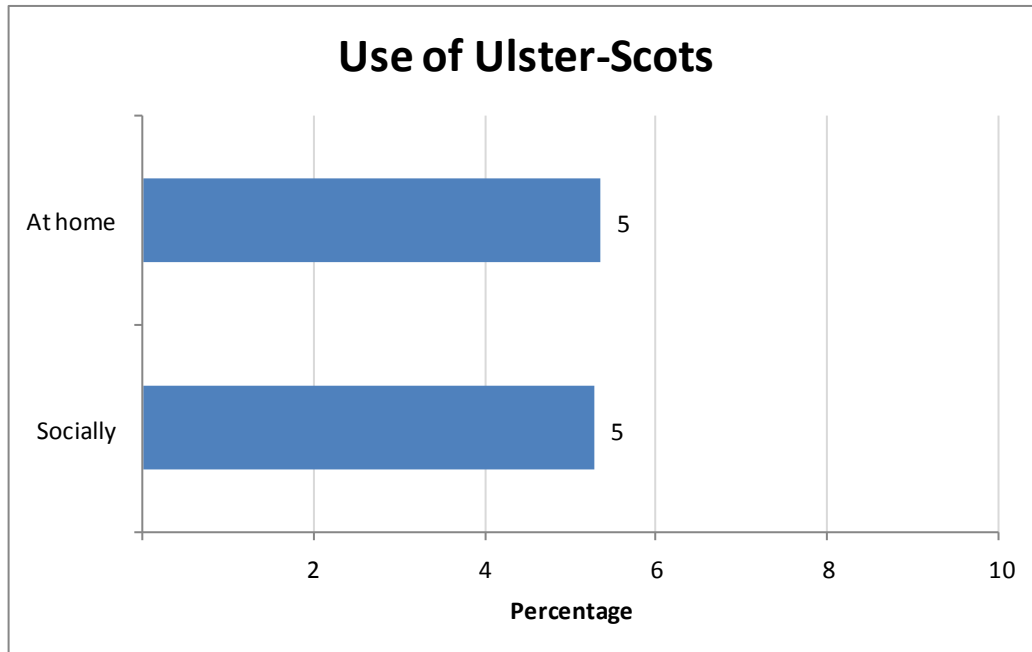
Single words or simple phrases

Can read and understand singles words or simple phrases e.g. Hello

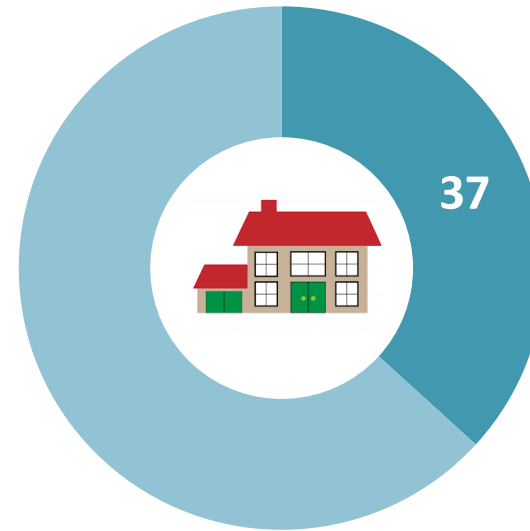
Use of Ulster-Scots

Five out of every hundred adults (5%) use Ulster-Scots at home, conversing with family or housemates, either on a daily basis or least very occasionally (less often than once a week).

A similar proportion (5%) use Ulster-Scots socially, either on a daily basis or at least very occasionally, conversing with friends or acquaintances.



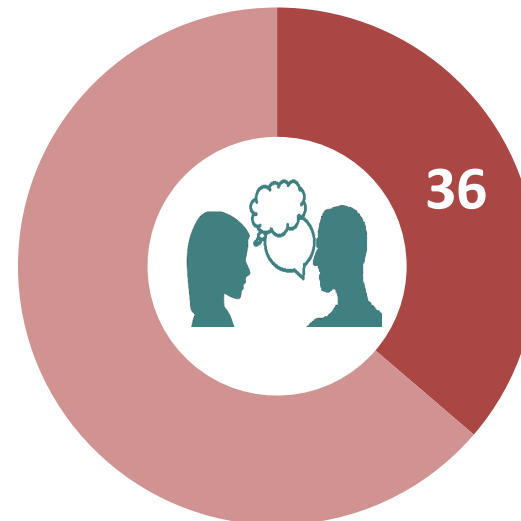
Using Ulster-Scots at home



Those with some knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Over one third (37%) of those who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots *use* Ulster-Scots at home at least very occasionally

Using Ulster-Scots socially

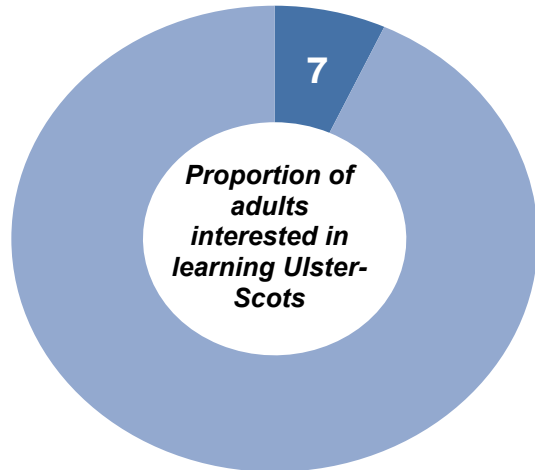


Those with some knowledge of Ulster-Scots

Over one third (36%) of those who have some knowledge of Ulster-Scots *use* Ulster-Scots socially

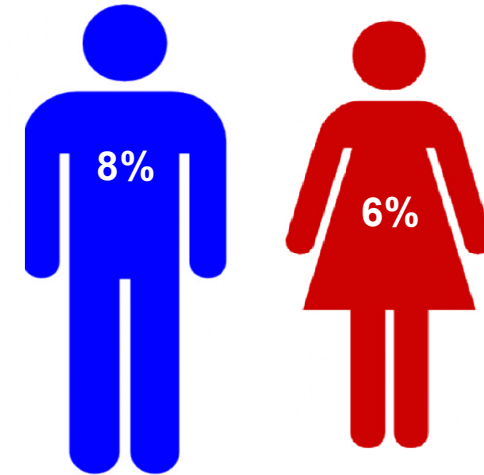
Interested in learning Ulster-Scots

Seven out of every hundred adults (7%) are interested in learning or improving their Ulster-Scots. Of those with no previous knowledge of Ulster-Scots, 5% are interested in learning Ulster-Scots.

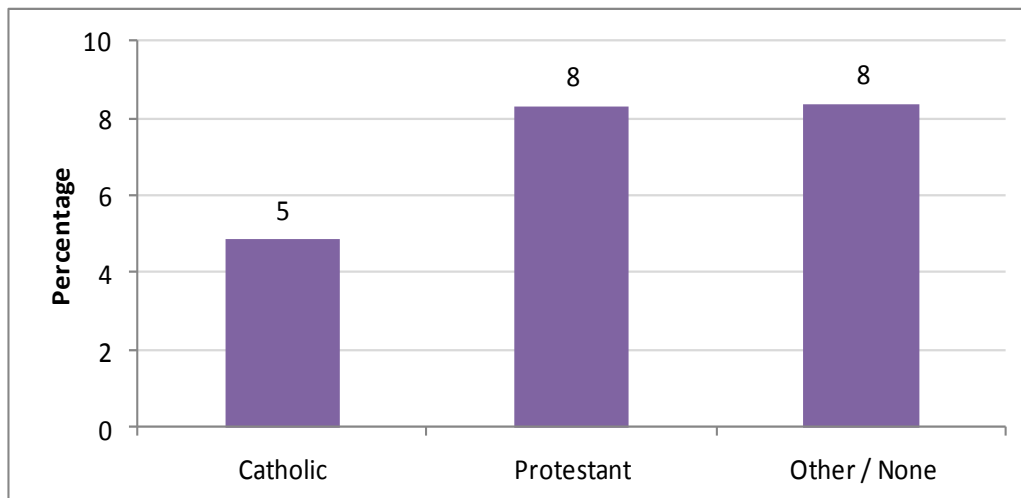


Gender

A higher proportion of males than females are interested in learning or improving their Ulster-Scots (8% and 6% respectively).



Religion



Similar proportions of Protestants and those who gave their religious background as other or no religion (both 8%) are interested in learning or improving Ulster-Scots. However, a lower proportion of Catholics (5%) are interested in learning Ulster-Scots.

Definitions and technical notes

Knowledge of Ulster-Scots— Can understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots or any combination of these skills

Disability—The questions used to ascertain whether or not a person has a disability are harmonised with the definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010. This states that a disabled population is classified on the basis of having a long-lasting physical or mental health condition or illness which restricts day-to-day activities. The disabled population in this report are those who have answered yes to both the questions below:

- Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?
- Does your condition or illness / do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?

Dependants— A person is defined as having dependants if they have responsibility for either the care of a child, a person with a disability or an elderly person.

Deprivation— The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Area (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived SOAs. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010¹ which is a weighted combination of seven domains of deprivation. Rank 1 indicates the most deprived SOA, while rank 890 denotes the least deprived SOA.

Urban / rural— The data have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in SOAs than have been categorised as either urban or rural as set out in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements report (2015)². This report classified each settlement in Northern Ireland into one of eight bands (A-H) and recommended that Government and other users should consider defining 'urban' and 'rural' areas in ways which are appropriate for different programmes and projects. In the absence of a programme-specific definition, Bands A-E can be defined as urban and Bands F-H as rural. This definition was applied in the analysis in this bulletin.

Statistical significance in this report— Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups such as males and females, different age groups, religion etc., are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the size of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other

groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Percentages may not add up to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.

Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.

The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.

¹ [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2010](#)

² [Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015 Report](#)

