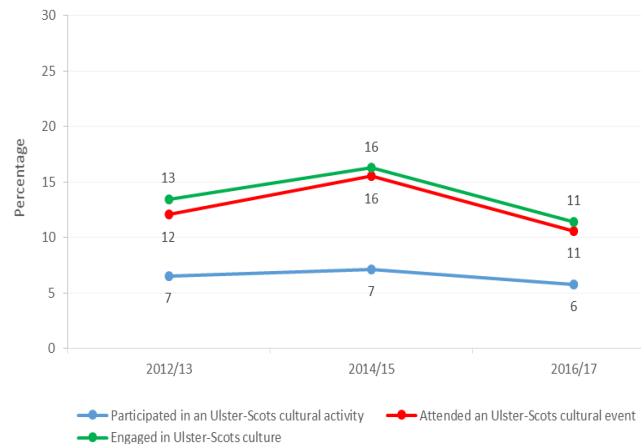




Main stories

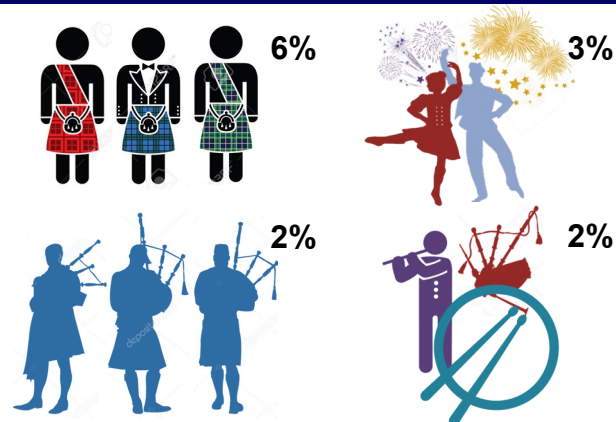
- In 2016/17, 6% of adults participated in Ulster-Scots cultural activities and 11% of adults attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event, resulting in 11% of adults having engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year.
- Protestant adults were much more likely to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage (20%) than both Catholic adults (3%) and adults who described their religious background as 'other/none' (9%).
- Forty-one per cent of adults had some understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, while just under a third (31%) stated that they had none at all.
- Over three quarters of adults (77%) had some respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions. Women were slightly more likely to have some respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (79%) than men (75%).

Engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage



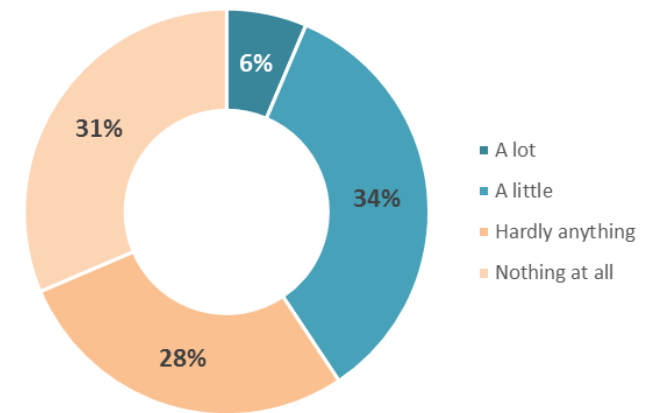
Just over a tenth (11%) of adults engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year, a decrease on the proportion of adults that had engaged in 2014/15 and 2012/13.

Types of Ulster-Scots cultural events



The most frequently cited Ulster-Scots cultural events that adults attended in the previous year were an 'Ulster-Scots parade' (6%); 'a festival celebrating Ulster-Scots' (3%); an 'Ulster-Scots band competition'; and an 'Ulster-Scots concert' (both 2%).

Understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions



Just over four out of every ten (41%) adults had some understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, with 6% of adults stating that they understood Ulster-Scots culture and traditions a lot.

Contents

Page

Introduction

Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage trends	3
Participation in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity	4
Types of Ulster-Scots cultural activities	4
Attendance at Ulster-Scots cultural events	5
Types of Ulster-Scots cultural events	5
Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage	6
Barriers to attending more Ulster-Scots cultural events	7
Understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions	8
Respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions	10
Definitions and technical notes	11

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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 of 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

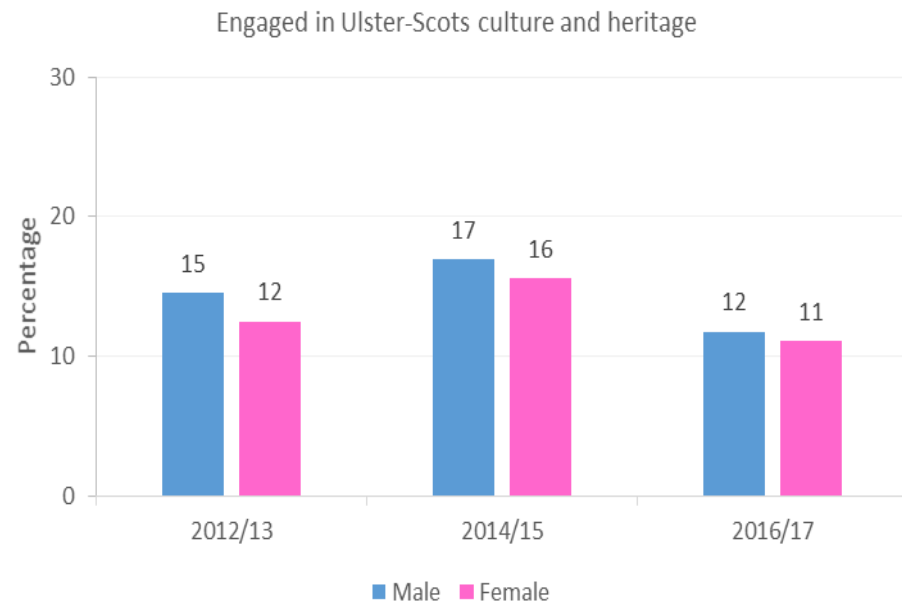
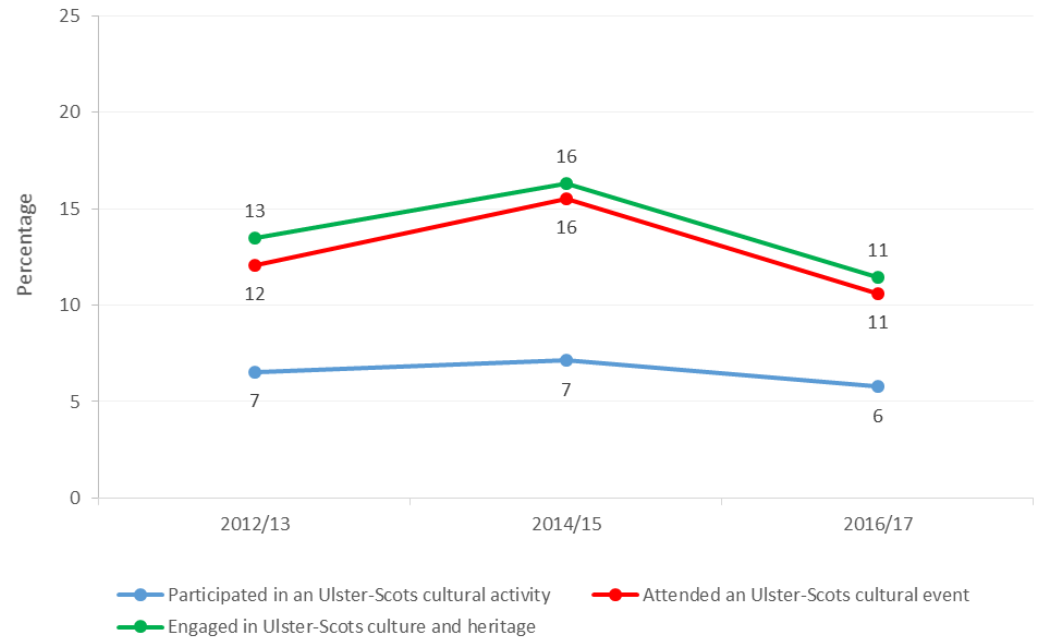
This report presents the findings from the 2016/17 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to the knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots by the adult population in Northern Ireland. The information will be used to help inform policy making. More information relating to the CHS, methodology, definitions 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 2016/17 are available [here](#).

Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage trends

Just over one in every ten (11%) adults had engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year, a decrease on the 16% that had engaged in 2014/15 and the 13% that had engaged in 2012/13.

The decrease in engagement rates between 2014/15 and 2016/17 has mostly been driven by a decrease in the rate of attendance at Ulster-Scots cultural events. Just over one in ten (11%) adults attended an Ulster-Scots event in 2016/17 a decrease on the 16% in 2014/15. However this was similar to the proportion who attended in 2012/13 (12%).

Participation in Ulster-Scots cultural activities remained consistent at 7% in 2012/13 and 2014/15 and then decreased in 2016/17 to 6%



Gender

There were no significant differences in the proportions of men and women who had engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage over the entire trend period. Engagement rates for women in 2016/17 have returned to a similar level as that in 2012/13, after a peak of 16% in 2014/15. This is largely driven by attendance rates which were 10% in 2012/13 and 2016/17 with a peak of 15% in 2014/15. A similar trend is seen among attendance rates for men with 11% attending in both 2012/13 and 2016/17 and a peak of 16% in 2014/15.

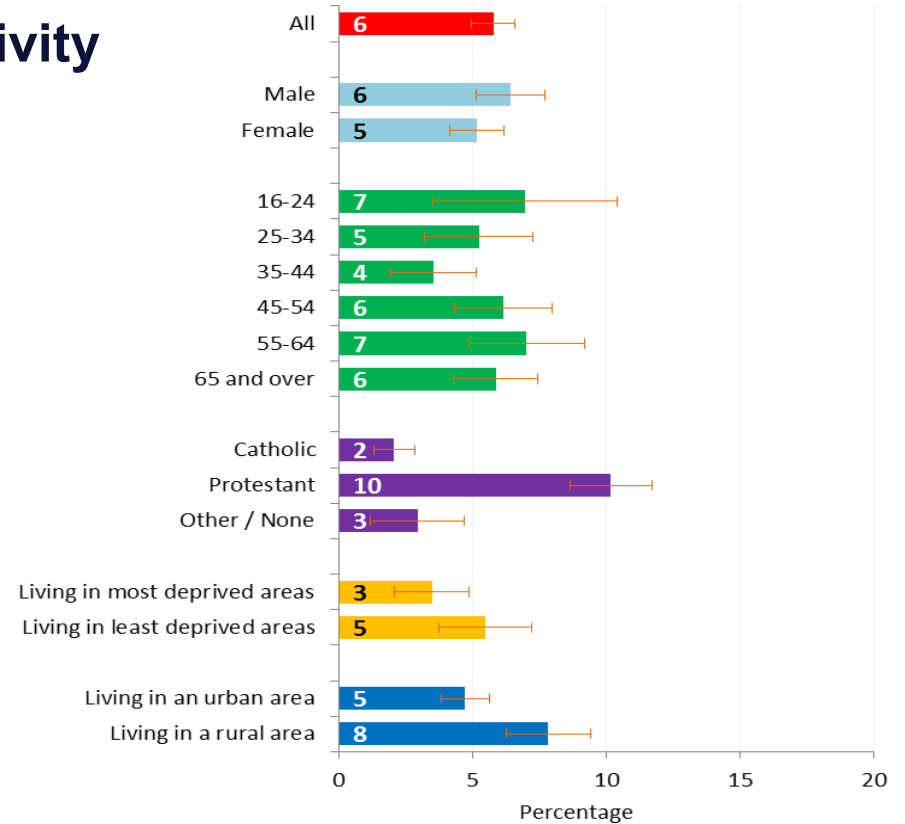
There were some differences between the genders when considering participation in Ulster-Scots cultural activities. In 2012/13 and 2014/15 men were more likely than women to have participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity, although in the most recent survey results there was no difference. This is also reflected in the engagement rates over the trend period.

Participation in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity

Six per cent of adults participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity within the previous year, a slight decrease on the 7% who had participated in 2014/15. Similar proportions of men and women had participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity within the previous year (6% and 5% respectively).

One in every ten Protestant adults (10%) participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity within the previous year, a higher proportion than both Catholic adults (2%) and adults who described their religious background as 'other/none' (3%).

Adults who live in a rural area were more likely to have participated in an Ulster-Scots activity within the last year than those who live in an urban area (8% and 5% respectively).



Types of Ulster-Scots cultural activity

The most frequently cited Ulster-Scots cultural activity which adults participated in within the previous year was an 'Ulster-Scots parade' (3%) followed by 'a festival celebrating Ulster-Scots' (2%). Other Ulster-Scots activities that adults said that they had participated in were 'playing Ulster-Scots music'; 'Ulster-Scots band competition'; 'Ulster-Scots dancing'; and 'an Ulster-Scots history class' (all 1%).

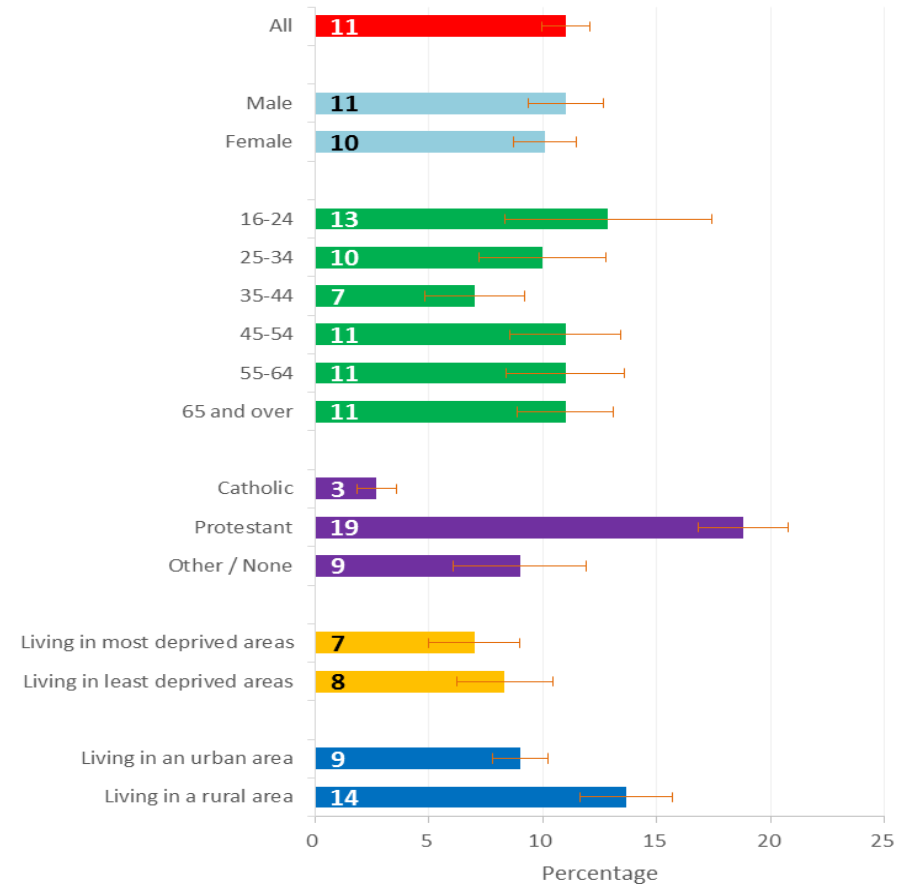


Attendance at Ulster-Scots cultural events

Just over one in every ten adults (11%) attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event within the previous year, a decrease on the 16% reported in 2014/15. Indeed, this decrease is reflected across many of the demographic groups analysed, including men and women, Protestants and Catholic, adults who do not have a disability and those living in urban areas.

In 2016/17, Protestant adults were more likely to have attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event (19%) than both Catholic adults (3%) and adults who described their religious background as 'other/none' (9%).

In addition, adults living in rural areas were more likely to have attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event (14%) than adults living in urban areas (9%).



Types of Ulster-Scots cultural events

The most frequently cited Ulster-Scots cultural event that adults attended in the previous year was an 'Ulster-Scots parade' (6%). Other Ulster-Scots events attended by adults in the previous year were 'a festival celebrating Ulster-Scots' (3%); an 'Ulster-Scots band competition'; and an 'Ulster-Scots concert' (both 2%).



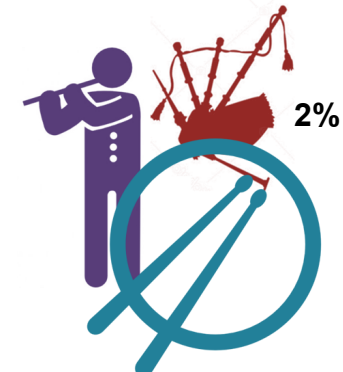
Ulster-Scots parade



Festival celebrating Ulster-Scots



Ulster-Scots band competition



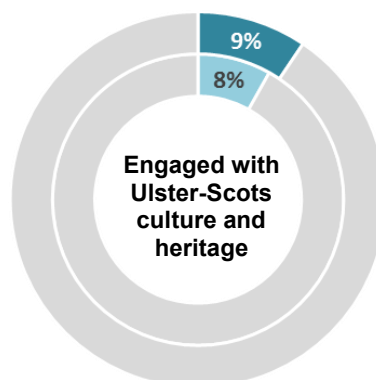
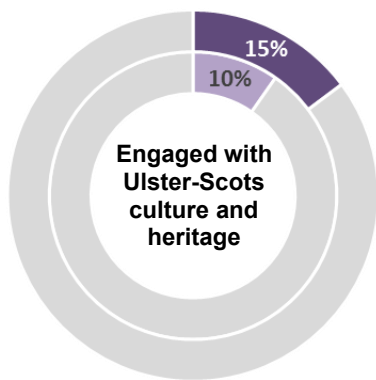
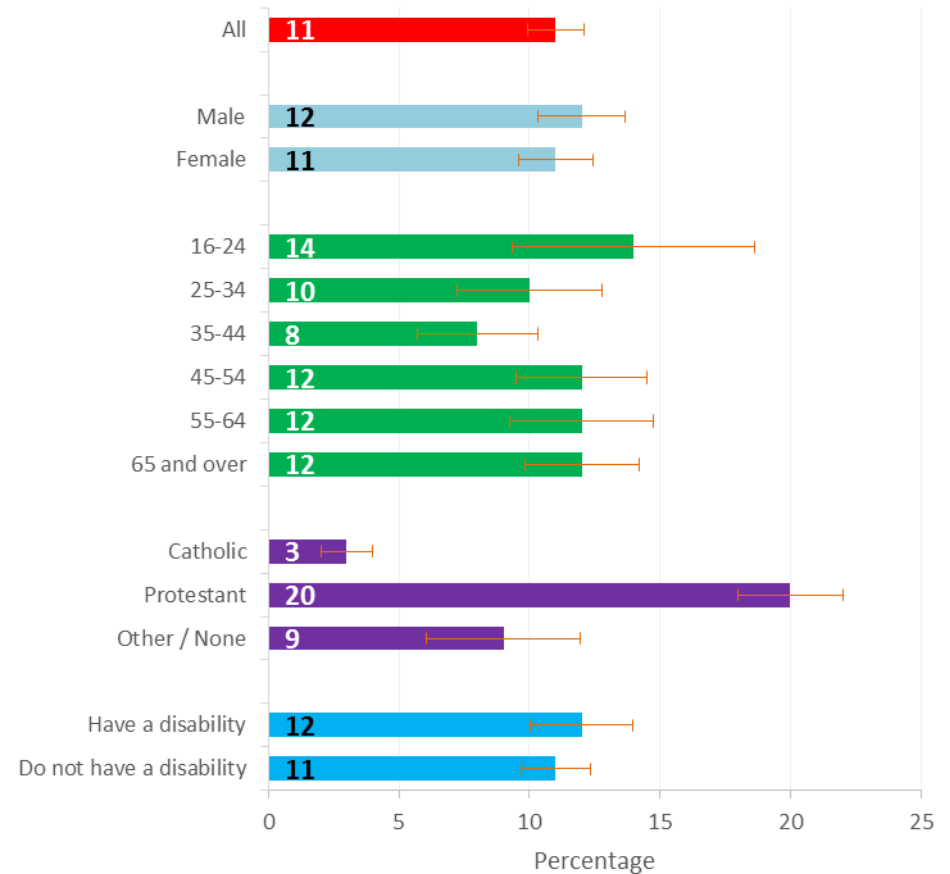
Ulster-Scots concert

Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage

Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage is defined as either participating in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity or attending an Ulster-Scots cultural event.

Just over one in every ten adults (11%) had engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year, a decrease on the 16% reported in 2014/15. This decrease is reflected across many of the demographic groups including men and women, from 17% and 16% respectively in 2014/15 to 12% and 11% in 2016/17. Similarly there was a decrease in the engagement rates across all the religious groups, adults who lived in the most and least deprived areas and also across adults who lived in urban and rural areas.

Looking within the 2016/17 figures, Protestant adults were more likely to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture (20%) than both Catholic adults (3%) and adults who described their religious background as 'other/none' (9%).



■ Living in a rural area
 ■ Living in an urban area
 ■ Living in the least deprived areas
 ■ Living in the most deprived areas

Adults living in rural areas (15%) were more likely to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage than those living in urban areas (10%). However, there was no significant difference in the proportion of adults who live in the most deprived areas and those living in the least deprived areas who had engaged in Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the last year (8% and 9% respectively).

Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage

Six per cent of adults had attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event only, while just 1% had only participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural event. However, 5% of adults had both participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity and attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event within the previous year.

Nearly nine out of every ten adults (89%) had not engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage at all within the previous year.



Participated only (1%)



Attended only (6%)



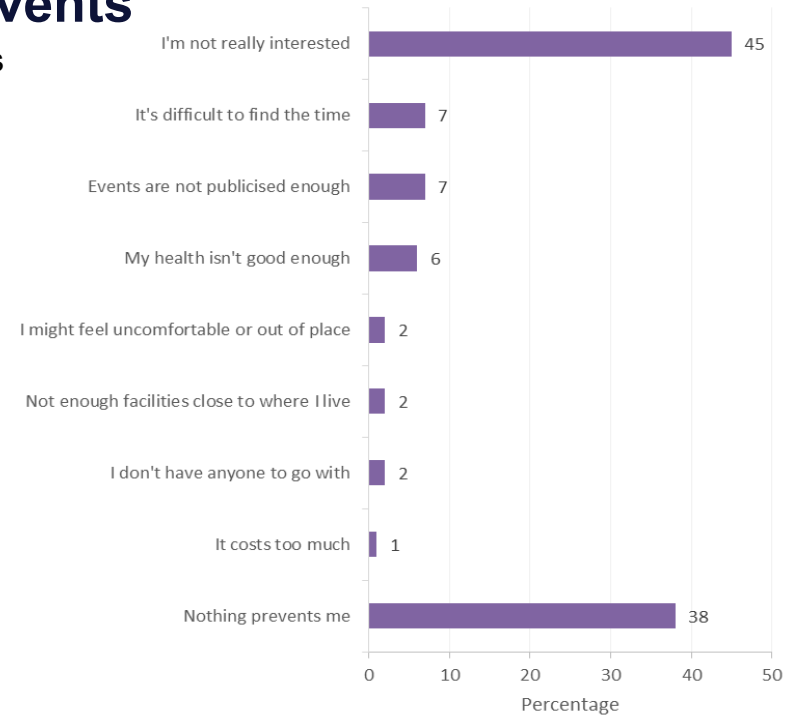
Participated and attended (5%)



Neither participated nor attended (89%)

Barriers to attending more Ulster-Scots cultural events

The most frequently given reason for not attending more Ulster-Scots cultural events was 'I'm not really interested' (45%). Other reasons cited by respondents included, 'it's difficult to find the time' and 'events are not publicised enough' (both 7%) followed by 'my health is not good enough' (6%). However, nearly four out of every ten adults (38%), when asked what prevents them from attending more Ulster-Scots events stated that 'nothing prevents them'.



I'm not really interested

45%



It's difficult to find the time

7%



Events are not publicised enough

7%



My health isn't good enough

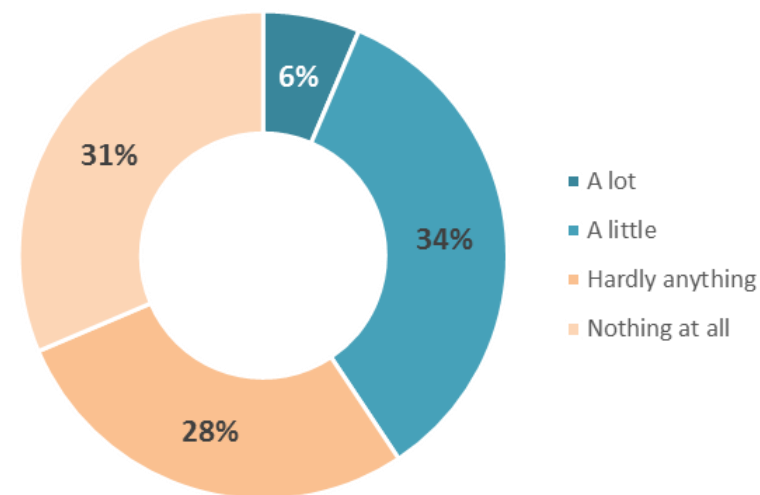
6%

Understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

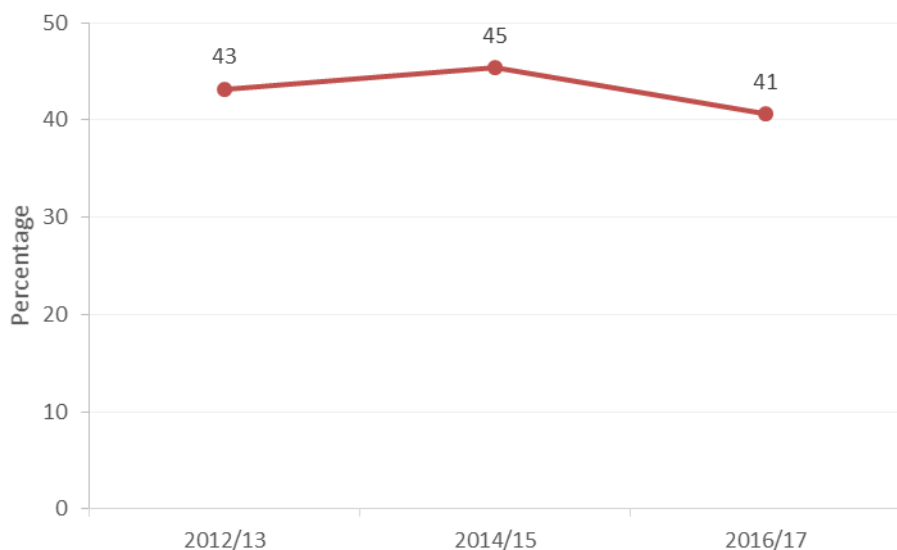
Just over four out of every ten (41%) adults indicated that they had at least a little understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, with 6% of adults stating that they understood Ulster-Scots culture and traditions a lot. Nearly three out of every ten (28%) adults had hardly any understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions while nearly a third (31%) stated that they understood nothing at all about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions.

A higher proportion of Protestant adults (56%) than Catholic adults (27%) or adults who described their religious background as 'other/none' (34%) understood at least a little about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions.

Adults living in the least deprived areas (50%) and those living in rural areas (45%) were more likely to have at least a little understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions than those living in the most deprived areas and urban areas (26% and 39% respectively).



At least a little understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions



Trends in understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

Compared with 2012/13 and 2014/15 there has been a slight reduction in the proportion of adults who understood at least a little about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions.

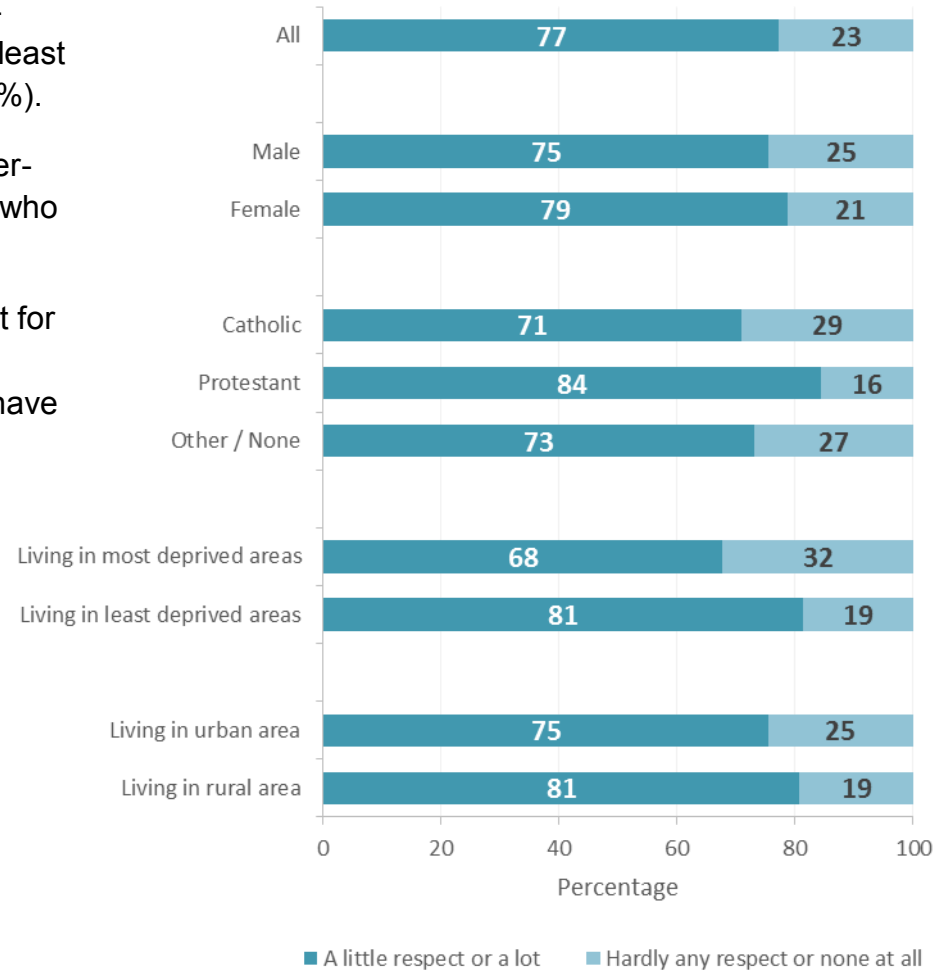
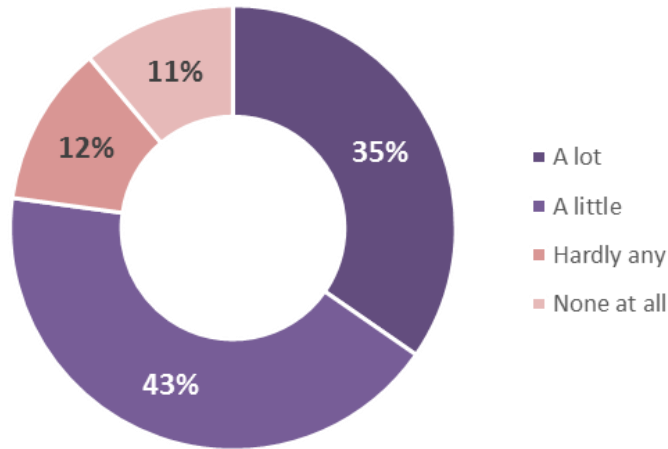
This decrease was also seen across some demographic groups' including among Catholic adults (27% from 35%), married/cohabiting adults (44% from 49%), single people (32% from 39%) and adults who do not have a disability (39% from 46%).

Respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

Over three quarters of adults (77%) had at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions. Women were slightly more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (79%) than men (75%).

Protestant adults were more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (84%) than Catholic adults (71%) and adults who described their religion as 'other/none' (73%).

Adults living in rural areas were more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (81%) than those living in urban areas (75%). Also adults living in the least deprived areas were more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (81%) than adults living in the most deprived areas (68%).



Trends in respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

Compared with 2014/15 there was a slight decrease in the proportion of the adult population having at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions in 2016/17 from 80% to 77%. This decrease was reflected across some of the demographic groups analysed. For example, having at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions has decreased among Catholic adults (75% to 71%), adults who do not have a disability (80% to 76%) and adults who live in the most deprived areas (76% to 68%).

Definitions and technical notes

The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is a Northern Ireland wide household survey administered by Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The sample for this survey consists of a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses selected from the Land and Property Service's list of private addresses. The findings reported for 2016/17 are based on 3,262 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the culture, arts and leisure modules of the survey.

Weighting the Continuous Household Survey

Analysis of the culture, arts and leisure modules of the CHS have been weighted for non-response. A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2015 (NISRA). As a result, three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the culture, arts and leisure modules of CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the assumption that, by aligning the survey to the population along a small number of dimensions such as age and gender, many of these complex biases will reduce. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

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](#)