



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage by adults in Northern Ireland



Findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2018/19

Biennial publication

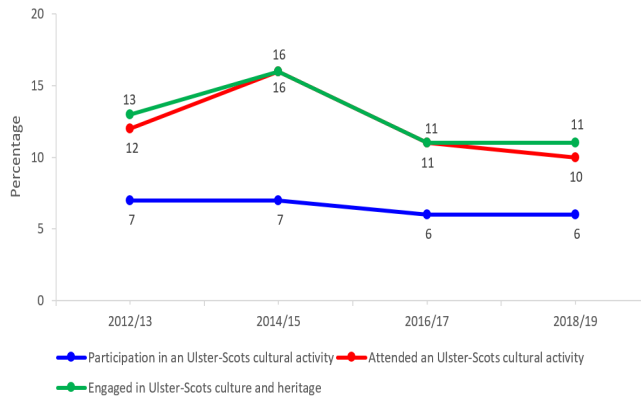
Published: 28 November 2019

Coverage: Northern Ireland

Main stories

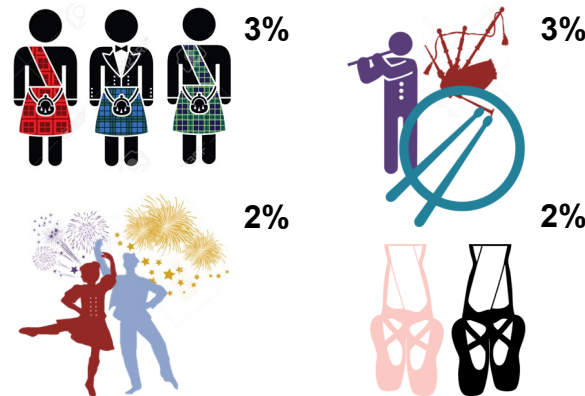
- In 2018/19, 6% of adults participated in Ulster-Scots cultural activities and 10% of adults attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event, resulting in 11% of adults having engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year.
- Protestant adults were more likely to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage (19%) than both Catholic adults (3%) and adults who described their religious background as 'Other/None' (12%).
- Forty-two per cent of adults had some understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, while 29% stated that they had none at all.
- Four-fifths of adults (80%) had some respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions. Those living in the least deprived areas were more likely to have at least a little respect for Irish culture and traditions than those living in the most deprived areas (87% and 72% respectively).

Engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage



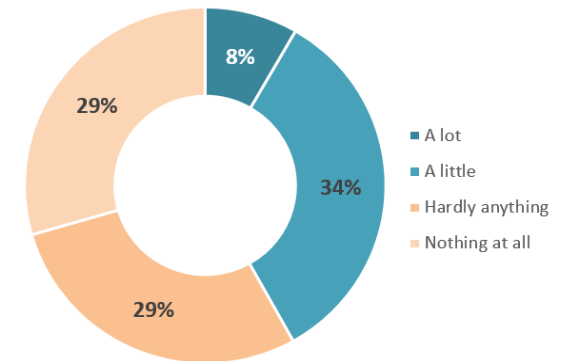
Just over a tenth (11%) of adults engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year, the same proportion as 2016/17.

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' and 'Burns night concert/Burns celebrations' (both 3%). Other Ulster-Scots cultural events attended by adults were a 'festival celebrating Ulster-Scots' and 'Ulster-Scots dancing' (both 2%).

Understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions



Just over four out of every ten (42%) adults had some understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, with 8% 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

Lead Statistician: Rachel Mooney

psu@communities-ni.gov.uk

Published 28 November 2019

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

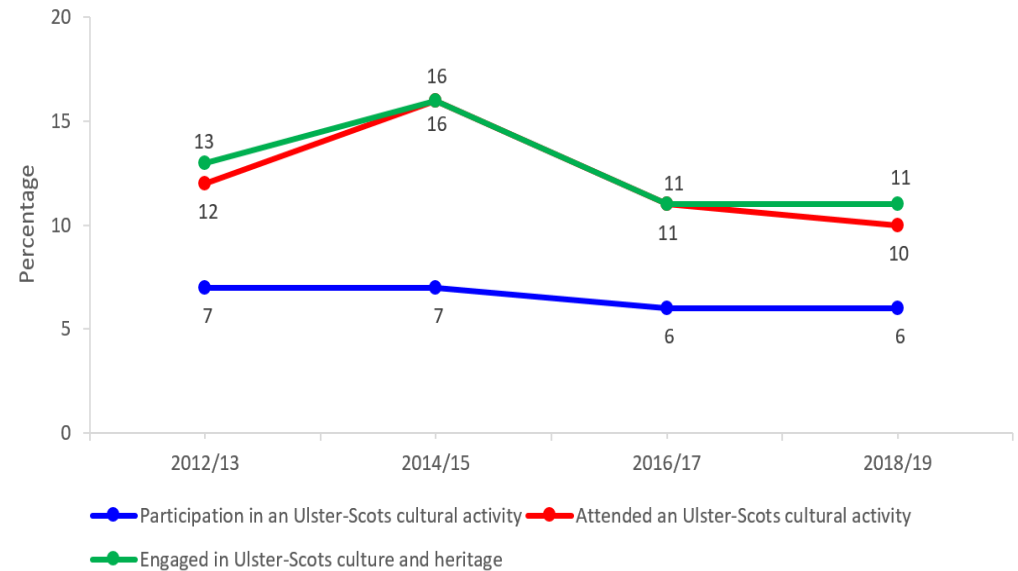
This report presents the findings from the 2018/19 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to the knowledge and use of Ulster-Scots by the adult population in Northern Ireland. The information will be used to help inform policy making. More information relating to the CHS, methodology, definitions 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 2018/19 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. This was the same proportion of adults that had engaged in 2016/17.

One in ten (10%) adults attended an Ulster-Scots event in 2018/19, a similar proportion as the 11% that attended in 2016/17. This followed a decrease in the proportion of adults who attended an Ulster-Scots event in 2016/17 compared with 2014/15 (11% and 16% respectively).

Participation in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity in 2018/19 was unchanged when compared with 2016/17 and has remained consistent throughout the trend period (2012/13 - 2018/19).

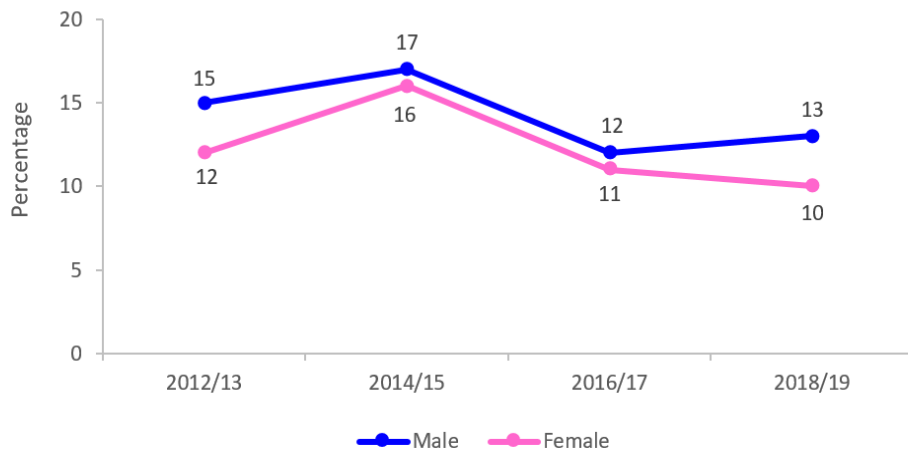


Gender

Engagement rates for women in 2018/19 have returned to a similar level as that in 2012/13, after a peak of 16% in 2014/15. This is largely driven by rates of attendance which were 11% in 2012/13 and 9% in 2018/19 with a peak of 15% in 2014/15. A similar trend was seen among attendance rates for men with 13% attending in 2012/13, 11% attending in 2018/19, with 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, however, in 2016/17 and 2018/19 there was no difference. There was no difference in the engagement rates for men and women from 2012/13 - 2016/17, however in 2018/19 men were more likely than women to have engaged in an Ulster-Scots event.

Engaged in Ulster-Scots culture and heritage

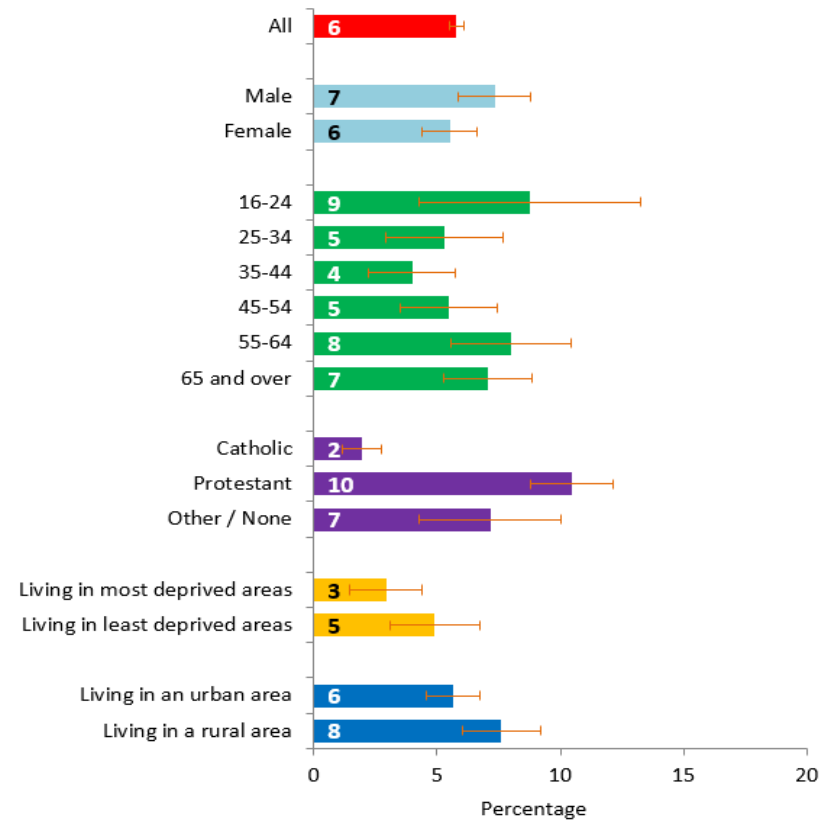


Participation in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity

Six per cent of adults participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity within the previous year with similar proportions of males and females participating in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity within the previous year (7% and 6% respectively).

One in every ten Protestant adults (10%) participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity within the previous year, a higher proportion than Catholic adults (2%). Adults who described their religious background as 'Other/None' (7%) were more likely to participate in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity compared with Catholic adults (2%).

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 6% respectively).



Types of Ulster-Scots cultural activity

The most frequently cited Ulster-Scots cultural activities which adults participated in within the previous year was 'Burns night concert/Burns celebrations', an 'Ulster-Scots parade' and a 'Festival celebrating Ulster-Scots' (all 2%). Other Ulster-Scots activities that adults said that they had participated in were 'Playing Ulster-Scots music', 'Ulster-Scots dancing', an 'Ulster-Scots band competition' and an 'Ulster-Scots history class' (all 1%).



2%

Burns night concert/Burns celebrations



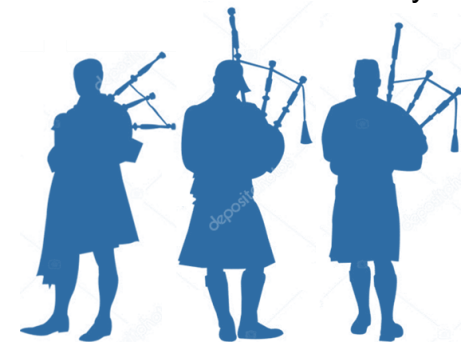
2%

Ulster-Scots parade



2%

Festival celebrating Ulster-Scots



1%

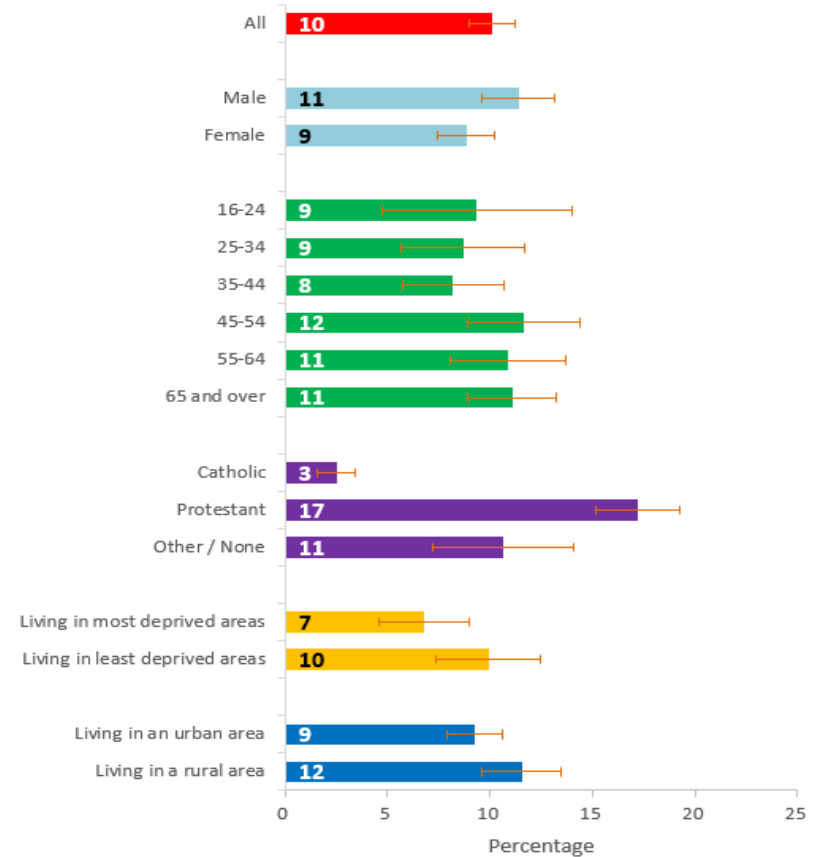
Playing Ulster-Scots music

Attendance at Ulster-Scots cultural activity

One in every ten adults (10%) attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event within the previous year, a similar proportion to 2016/17 (11%). Similar proportions of males and females attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event within the previous year (11% and 9% respectively).

In 2018/19, Protestant adults were more likely to have attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event (17%) than both Catholic adults (3%) and adults who described their religious background as 'Other/None' (11%).

Adults living in rural areas were more likely to attend an Ulster-Scots cultural event compared with those living in urban areas (12% and 9% respectively). Similar proportions of adults living in the most and least deprived areas attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event within the last year (7% and 10% respectively).



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', 'Burns night concert/Burns celebrations' (both 3%). Other Ulster-Scots events attended by adults in the previous year were 'a festival celebrating Ulster-Scots', 'Ulster-Scots dancing'; and an 'Ulster-Scots band competition' (all 2%).



Ulster-Scots parade

3%



Burns night concert/Burns celebrations

3%



Festival celebrating Ulster-Scots

2%



Ulster-Scots dancing

2%

Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage

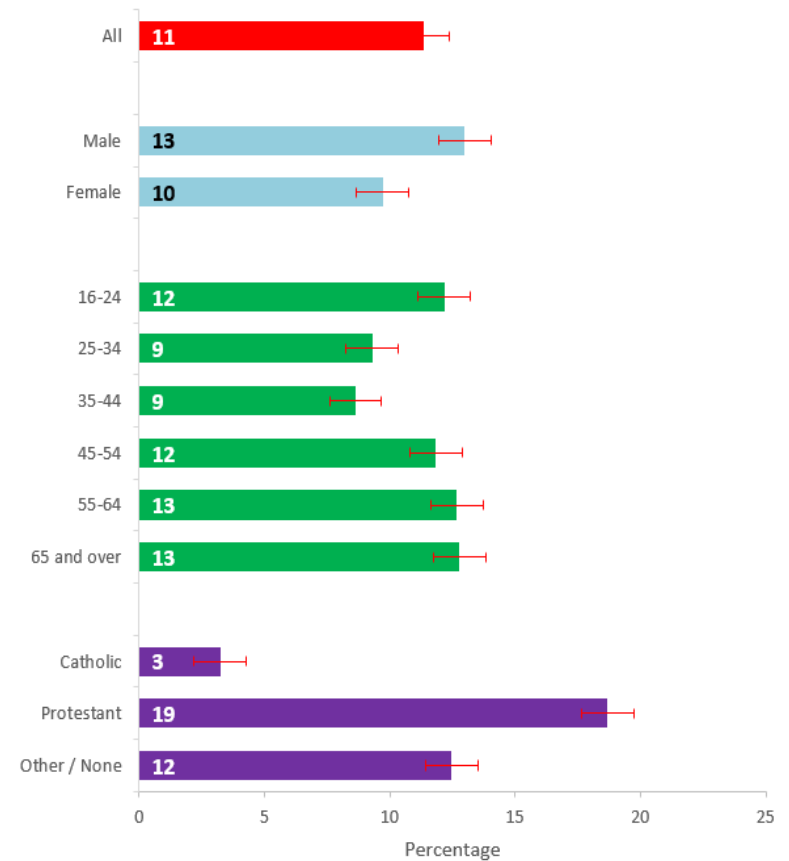
Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage is defined as either participating in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity or attending an Ulster-Scots cultural event.

Just over one in every ten adults (11%) had engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the previous year, the same as the proportion reported in 2016/17.

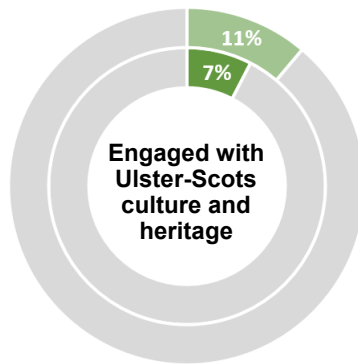
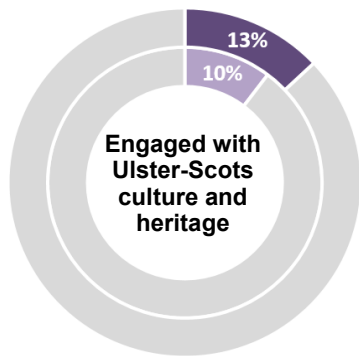
Looking within the 2018/19 figures, men were more likely than women to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture (13% and 10% respectively). Protestant adults (19%) were more likely than both Catholic adults (3%) and adults who described their religious background as 'Other/None' (12%) to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture.

Adults living in the least deprived areas were more likely to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture (11%) compared with those living in the most deprived areas (7%).

Similarly, those living in rural areas were more likely to have engaged with Ulster-Scots culture (13%) compared to those living in urban areas (10%).



There was no significant difference in the proportion of adults who have a disability and those who do not have a disability who had engaged in Ulster-Scots culture and heritage within the last year (both 11%). Similar proportions of adults who have dependents and those who do not have dependents engaged with Ulster-Scots culture within the last year (both 11%).



■ Living in a rural area
 ■ Living in an urban area
 ■ Least deprived areas
 ■ Most deprived areas

Engagement with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage

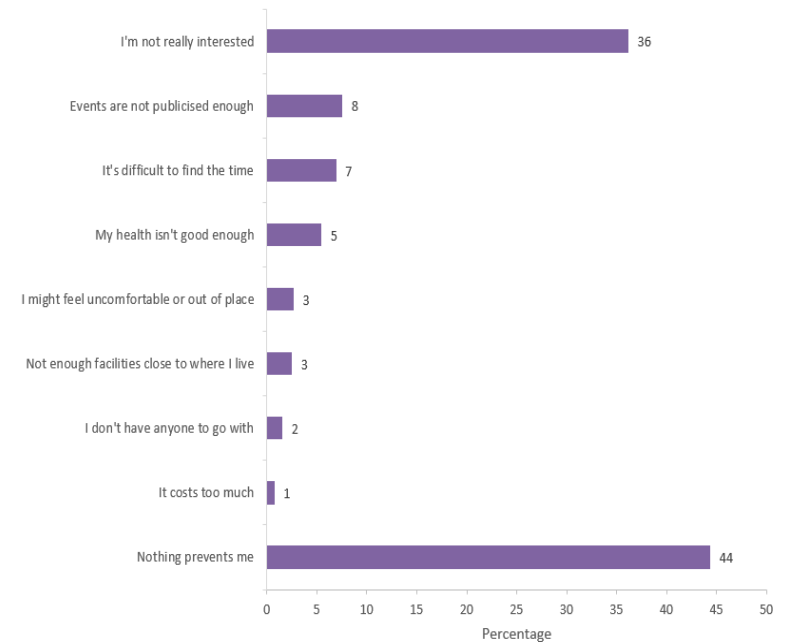
Five per cent of adults had attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event only, while just 1% had only participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural event. However, 5% of adults had both participated in an Ulster-Scots cultural activity and attended an Ulster-Scots cultural event within the previous year.

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



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' (36%). Other reasons cited by respondents included, 'events are not publicised enough' (8%) and 'it's difficult to find the time' (7%) followed by 'my health is not good enough' (5%). However, over four out of every ten adults (44%), when asked what prevents them from attending more Ulster-Scots events stated that 'nothing prevents them'.



I'm not really interested
36%



Events are not publicised enough
8%



It's difficult to find the time
7%



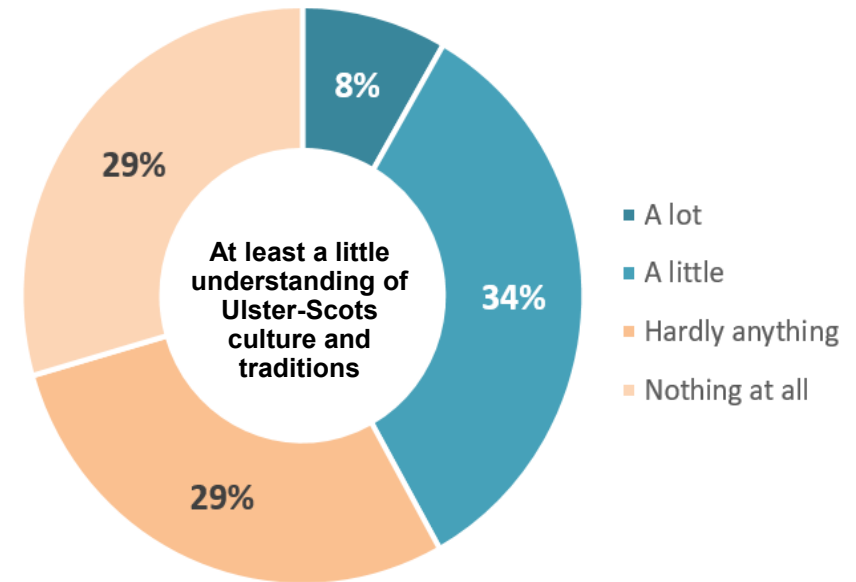
My health is not good enough
5%

Understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

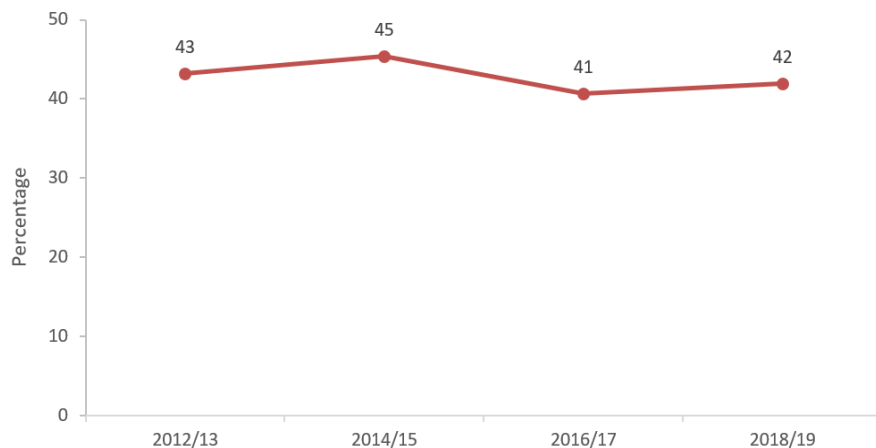
Just over four out of every ten (42%) adults indicated that they had at least a little understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions, with 8% of adults stating that they understood Ulster-Scots culture and traditions a lot. Almost three out of every ten adults had hardly any understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions or stated that they understood nothing at all about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (both 29%).

A higher proportion of Protestant adults (53%) than both Catholic adults (29%) and adults who described their religious background as 'Other/None' (43%) understood at least a little about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions.

Adults living in the least deprived areas (51%) and those living in rural areas (46%) 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 (30% and 40% respectively).



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



Trends in understanding of Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

The longer term trend shows a reduction in the proportion of adults who understood at least a little about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions between 2014/15 and 2016/17. However, there was no difference in the proportion of adults who understood at least a little about Ulster-Scots culture and traditions between 2016/17 and 2018/19 (41% and 42% respectively).

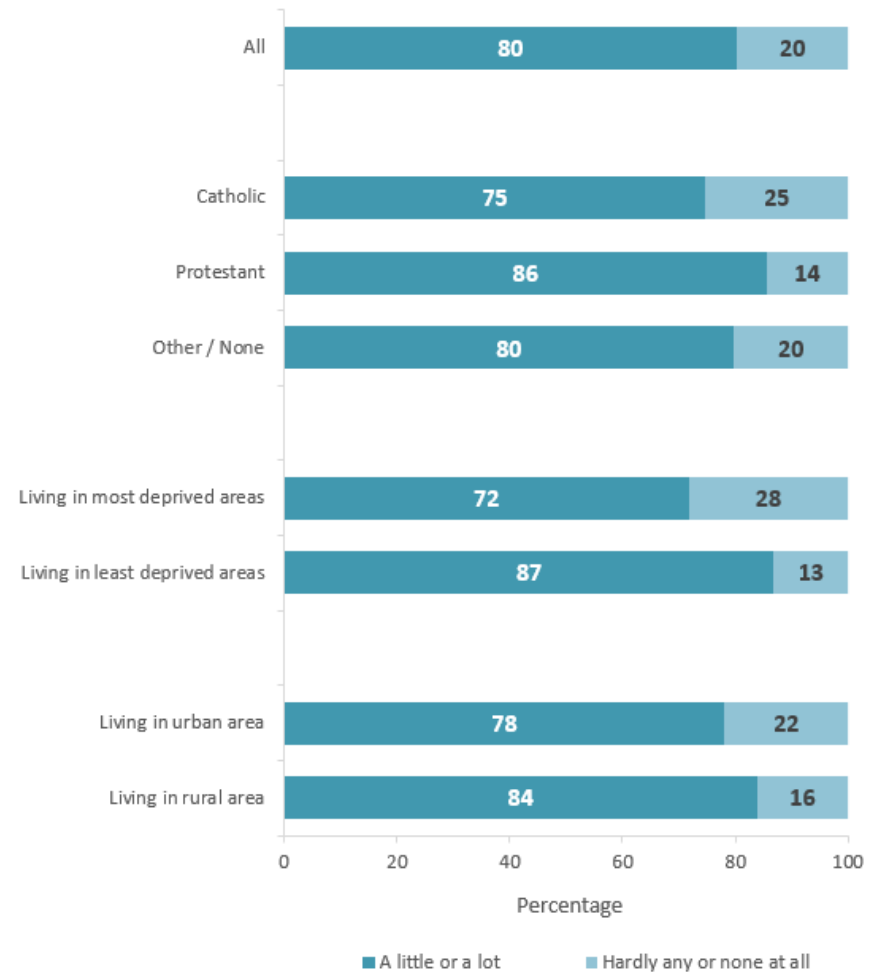
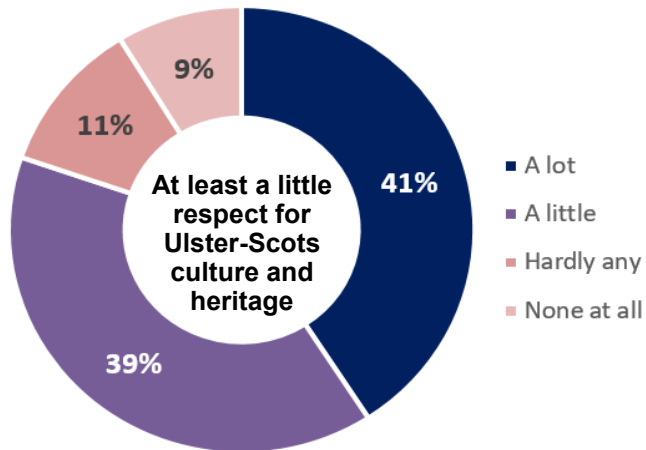
When comparing 2016/17 with 2018/19, the only notable differences, by demographic group, were seen in adults who were male (43% to 47%) and those who gave their religious background as 'Other/None' (34% to 43%).

Respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

Four-fifths of adults (80%) had at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions. The same proportions of men and women had at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (both 80%).

Protestant adults were more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (86%) than Catholic adults (75%) and adults who described their religion as 'Other/None' (80%).

Adults living in rural areas were more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (84%) than those living in urban areas (78%). Also adults living in the least deprived areas were more likely to have at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions (87%) than adults living in the most deprived areas (72%).



Trends in respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions

Compared with 2016/17 there was a slight increase in the proportion of the adult population having at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions in 2018/19 from 77% to 80%. This increase was reflected across some of the demographic groups analysed. For example, having at least a little respect for Ulster-Scots culture and traditions has increased among Catholic adults (71% to 75%), adults who do not have a disability (76% to 80%), adults who live in the least deprived areas (81% to 87%) and those living in urban areas (75% to 78%).

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 2018/19 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.

Participated in an Ulster-Scots culture and heritage activity - Participated in any of the following Irish culture or heritage activities:

- Ulster-Scots dancing
- Playing Ulster-Scots music
- An Ulster-Scots language class
- An Ulster-Scots history class
- An Ulster-Scots literature class
- Ulster-Scots drama activity
- Ulster-Scots parade
- Ulster-Scots band competition
- A festival celebrating Ulster-Scots
- Burns night concert/Burns celebrations
- Other

Attended an Ulster-Scots culture and heritage event - Attended any of the following Irish culture or heritage events:

- Ulster-Scots dancing
- Ulster-Scots parade
- Ulster-Scots concert
- Ulster-Scots lecture
- Ulster-Scots play
- Ulster-Scots band competition
- A festival celebrating Ulster-Scots
- Burns night concert/Burns celebrations
- Other

Engaged with Ulster-Scots culture and heritage - Either attended or participated in an Irish culture and heritage event within the previous year.

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 2017¹ 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.

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?

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 2017](#)

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