

The 2011 Census collected information for the first time on main language and English language skills.

In 2011, all usual residents in 91 per cent (21.3 million) of households spoke English as a main language. In a further four per cent (868,000) of households at least one adult spoke English as a main language and in one per cent (182,000) of households no adults but at least one child spoke English as a main language. In the remaining four per cent (1.0 million) of households there were no residents who had English as a main language.

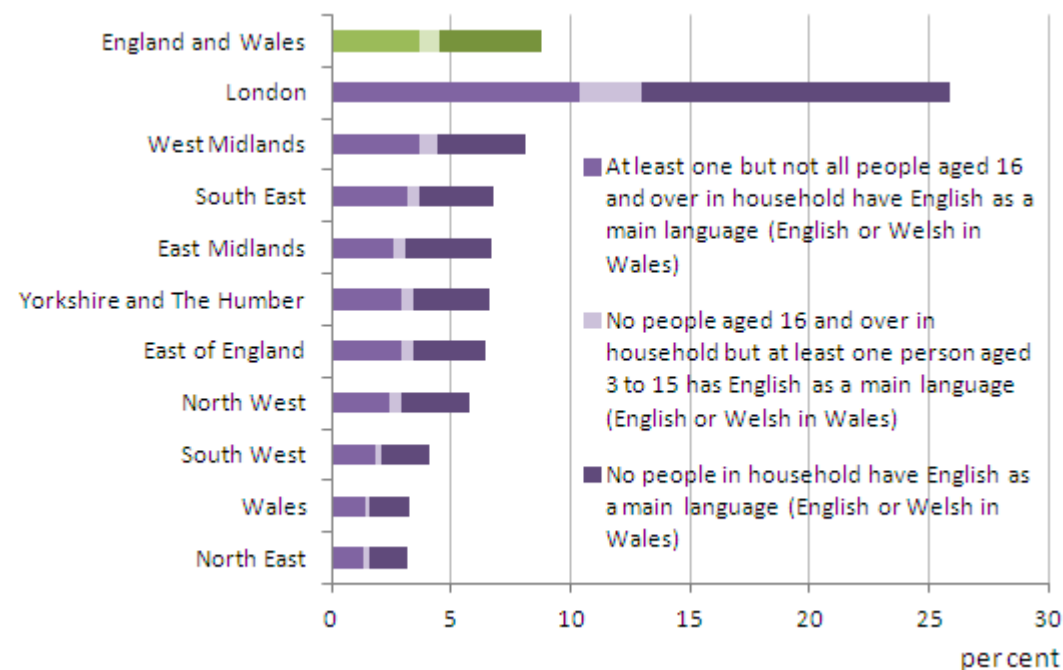
People who did not report English as a main language may be fluent English speakers and were able to report their English language proficiency as 'good' or 'very good'.

Subsequent releases from 2011 Census will include cross tabulations of main language by proficiency in English.

Households where one or more usual residents do not speak English as a main language are not evenly distributed across the regions, as shown in Figure 9. London had the highest percentage; 26 per cent (848,000) of households contained a usual resident whose main language was not English. The North East had the lowest percentage; three per cent (36,000) of households containing a usual resident whose main language was not English. This distribution is similar to that seen for foreign born usual residents.

Figure 9: Households where not all usual residents have English (or Welsh in Wales) as a main language

England regions, Wales, 2011, All households



Source: Census - Office for National Statistics