2011 Census: Main Languages of Residents in the West Midlands who Cannot Speak English or Cannot Speak English Well

Notes on the Following Analysis

The following information has been analysed from the 2011 Census Detailed Characteristics table DC2210EWr – Main language by proficiency in English (regional). The two variables in this table, main language and proficiency in English, can only be cross-referenced in this table. The smallest geography that this table is available at is at regional level.

Interpretation of Data

The cross-referenced data has been analysed in two ways. Firstly, a percentage has been calculated for the number of residents aged 3 and over in each main language category who either could not speak English or could not speak English well.

Secondly, a percentage has been calculated for the contribution that each main language made to the total number of usual residents aged 3 and over who either could not speak English or could not speak English well.

Both interpretations are of use in identifying residents who may need translated or interpreted materials. The numbers of residents have also been included in the tables for information; some of the percentages only represent a very small number of residents. Main languages spoken by less than 100 people in the West Midlands are not included in this analysis.

Table 1: The Greatest Percentages of All Usual Residents Aged 3 and Over in the West Midlands, by each Main Language that is not English, who could not Speak English or could not Speak English Well

Main Language (including Region)	Number of Residents	No. Cannot Speak English or Cannot Speak English Well	% Cannot Speak English or Cannot Speak English Well
Sign language: Any Sign communication system	422	390	92.4
Sign language: Sign language (all other)	323	278	86.1
Sign language: British Sign Language	1,702	1,103	64.8
South Asian language: Pakistani Pahari (with Mirpuri and Potwari)	13,767	6,365	46.2
East Asian language: Vietnamese	1,446	627	43.4
East Asian language: Cantonese Chinese	3,851	1,527	39.7
East Asian language: Mandarin Chinese	1,906	743	39.0
South Asian language: Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya)	23,384	8,416	36.0
South Asian language: Panjabi	67,008	24,104	36.0
South Asian language: Urdu	48,414	16,199	33.5
Other European language (EU): Latvian	3,471	1,095	31.5

Other European language (EU): Polish	49,965	15,434	30.9
Other European language (EU): Lithuanian	3,998	1,202	30.1
West/Central Asian language: Pashto	7,674	2,299	30.0
African language: Lingala	357	106	29.7
Other European language (EU): Slovak	4,835	1,414	29.2
African language: Tigrinya	1,470	416	28.3
Other language	1,254	343	27.4
South Asian language: South Asian language (all other)	2,966	780	26.3
Other European language (EU): Czech	2,096	547	26.1

Source: Table DC2210EWr, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2014

Table 2: Percentage Breakdown of All Usual Residents Aged 3 and Over in the West Midlands who could not Speak English or could not Speak English Well – Main Languages with more than 5% of Total

Main Language (including Region)	Number of Residents	No. Cannot Speak English or Cannot Speak English Well	% who Cannot speak English or cannot speak English well
All Usual Residents Aged 3 and Over	**5,388,014**	**107,032**	**2.0**
The following percentages are of the 107,032 Usual Residents who Cannot Speak English or Cannot Speak English Well			
South Asian language: Panjabi	67,008	24,104	22.5
South Asian language: Urdu	48,414	16,199	15.1
Other European language (EU): Polish	49,965	15,434	14.4
South Asian language: Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya)	23,384	8,416	7.9
South Asian language: Pakistani Pahari (with Mirpuri and Potwari)	13,767	6,365	5.9

Source: Table DC2210EWr, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2014