



Planning research

People in Bolton

2011 Census Factfile no. 4

Language

Communicating research and
sharing knowledge

People in Bolton 2011 Census

Language Factfile - October 2013

People in Bolton factfiles provide key facts and figures about people who live or work in the borough of Bolton. These current factfiles are based on information from the most recent Census in 2011.

Other related publications, including more detailed information on a range of topics can be accessed at: www.bolton.gov.uk/researchandinformation

The latest census was held on Sunday 27 March 2011, with results released from July 2012 onwards. This briefing note outlines the key issues on language.

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1. Summary

- A question on main language and proficiency in speaking English was asked for the first time in the 2011 census for all people aged 3 and over. A main language is defined as a person's *first or preferred language*. There was also a follow-up question on proficiency of English spoken.
- Out of the 265,400 people living in Bolton aged 3 and over at the time of the Census, around **22,500** people did not have English as their first or preferred language, roughly **8.5%** of the population.
- The most common non-English languages in Bolton were **Gujarati** (8,000), **Urdu** (3,000), **Panjabi** (1,600) and **Polish** (1,600). There were also small but significant numbers of **Kurdish, Persian/Farsi, Arabic, Somali** and **Chinese language** speakers.
- Despite the fact that there were around 22,500 people who did not have English as their first language, the overwhelming majority of these people spoke English in some form. Just **995** people in Bolton spoke no English whatsoever, a total of **0.4%** of the population.
- Information on main languages was also published at household level. Only around **5,400** or **4.6%** of all households had absolutely no members with English as a main language.

2. Introduction

The census has collected information about the population every 10 years since 1801 (except in 1941). The latest census in England and Wales took place on **27 March 2011**.

Census statistics describe the characteristics of an area, such as how many men and women there are and their ages. The statistics are used to understand similarities and differences in population characteristics locally, regionally and nationally, and inform policy and planning.

A question on main language and proficiency in speaking English was asked for the first time in the 2011 census for all people aged 3 and over. A **main language** is defined as a person's *first or preferred language*. It does not include other languages spoken fluently (for instance a person's first language could be Urdu but they speak Gujarati fluently – this would not show up in the Census data).

The question captured information through a tick-box on those who reported their main language as English. A write-in option captured languages other than English, including Sign Languages. (The actual questionnaire was available in a total of 57 different languages and provision was made for assistance for non-English speakers to fill in the form). Those that selected the option for another language were asked a follow-up question on **proficiency of English** spoken. Respondents were asked how well they could speak English and could select one of the four tick boxes, 'How well can you speak English?' 'Very well', 'well', 'not well', and 'not at all'. Data was also published at household level.

3. Languages in Bolton

3.1 Main Language

Out of the 265,400 people living in Bolton aged 3 and over at the time of the Census, around **22,500** people did not have English as their first or preferred language, roughly **8.5%** of the population. (This was roughly in line with the national average at 8%). This figure is lower than the proportion of people who were born outside of the UK & Ireland **11%** (see section Country of Birth factfile for more details), indicating that many migrants to Bolton already have or subsequently acquire English as their first language¹.

Detailed information on the number of languages spoken in Bolton is available from the table below. The 2011 Census has only published direct information on 79 different languages other than English. Out of the rest of the languages spoken worldwide these have been grouped geographically. Data that covers categories of languages as opposed to individual ones has been included in this particular table shown below. However it can be misleading to compare data that looks at one single language with information on groups of languages, for the reasons described above. Where data describes a group of countries rather than an individual one this has been highlighted.

By far the largest non-English language spoken in Bolton is **Guajarati**, with almost 8,000 people speaking it as their main or preferred language, a total of 3% of the population. This is unsurprising considering the vast majority of migrants to Bolton come from India (2.8% of the population – see p5 of Country of Birth). There were over 6 times the proportion of Guajarati speakers in Bolton than there were nationwide.

The second most spoken non-English language is **Urdu**, with around 3,000 people (or 1.2% of the population) stating it was their preferred language. Again this corresponds with the information on country of birth, which indicates that the second largest community of migrants comes from Pakistan (1.8%). The third most spoken non-English language was **Panjabi** at 0.6% of the population.

Polish is also a major language spoken in Bolton, with 1,600 people speaking in as their first language. (There were approximately 1,700 people born in Poland at the time of the Census). **Kurdish, Persian/Farsi** and **Arabic** also had high numbers of speakers in Bolton, again this links with increasing numbers of people of Middle Eastern origin (see the 'Ethnicity' and 'Country of Birth' factfiles). There were around 490 **Somali**-speakers and 430 '**Other Chinese Language**' speakers (around 600 Chinese language speakers in total when including Mandarin & Cantonese Chinese). Again this corresponds with information we already have on country of birth, with around 470 people born in Somalia and 490 in China). There were also 94 people in total who used some form of **Sign Language**, the vast majority being users of British Sign Language.

¹ Country of birth information is for the total population; Language questions refer to only people aged 3 and over as their population base.

| Category | Language | Bolton | Bolton (%) | England (%) |
|------------------------------------|---|---------|------------|-------------|
| English | English | 242,898 | 91.5 | 92.0 |
| South Asian Language | Gujarati | 7,937 | 3.0 | 0.4 |
| South Asian Language | Urdu | 3,068 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| South Asian Language | Panjabi | 1,600 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Polish | 1,596 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| West/Central Asian Language | Kurdish | 634 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| West/Central Asian Language | Persian/Farsi | 620 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Arabic | Arabic | 576 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| African Language | Somali | 492 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East Asian Language | All other Chinese | 433 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Hungarian | 328 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| West/Central Asian Language | Pashto | 282 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| <i>African Language</i> | <i>African language (all others)</i> | 281 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | French | 274 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Lithuanian | 263 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| South Asian Language | Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya) | 250 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Portuguese | 234 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Turkish | 208 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| South Asian Language | Malayalam | 200 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Czech | 193 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| <i>South Asian Language</i> | <i>South Asian Language (all others)</i> | 179 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Slovak | 178 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| East Asian Language | Tagalog/Filipino | 161 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| South Asian Language | Hindi | 147 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Italian | 131 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| East Asian Language | Cantonese Chinese | 131 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| <i>West/Central Asian Language</i> | <i>West/Central Asian Language (all others)</i> | 111 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | German | 104 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| South Asian Language | Tamil | 97 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Russian | 96 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Spanish | 92 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| African Language | Shona | 92 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian | 91 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>East Asian Language</i> | <i>East Asian Language (all others)</i> | 87 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other Languages | All other languages | 74 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Asian Language | Thai | 72 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Dutch | 70 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| African Language | Lingala | 63 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| North/South American Language | North/South American language (any) | 60 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sign Language | British sign language | 58 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Romanian | 56 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| East Asian Language | Mandarin Chinese | 55 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>African Language</i> | <i>West African language (all others)</i> | 53 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Albanian | 51 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| African Language | Igbo | 50 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Greek | 48 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| African Language | Tigrinya | 44 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Ukrainian | 42 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

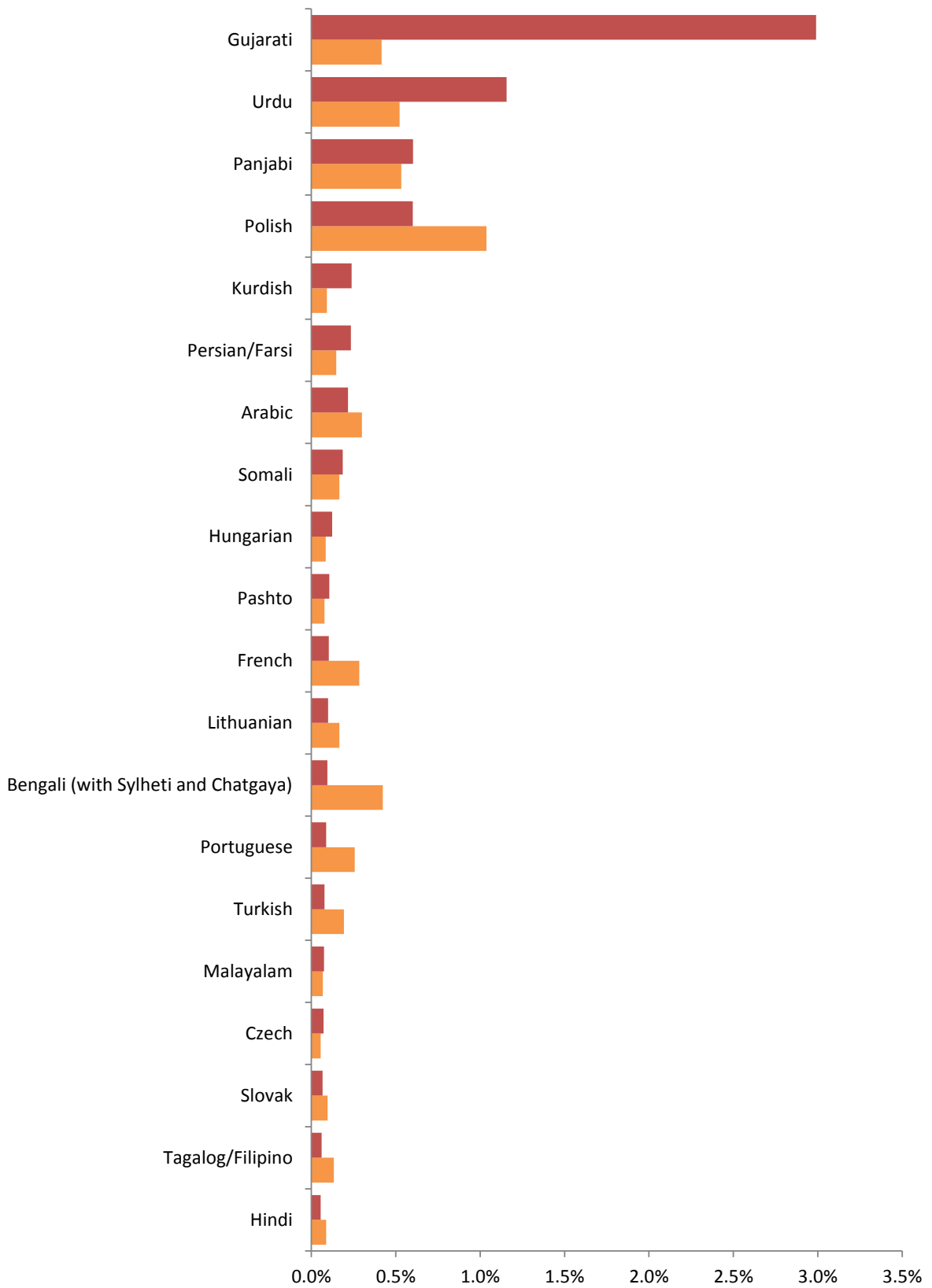
| Category | Language | Bolton | Bolton (%) | England (%) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------|------------|-------------|
| African Language | Yoruba | 40 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South Asian Language | Sinhala | 37 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Danish | 33 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Asian Language | Japanese | 33 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| South Asian Language | Telugu | 32 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Swahili/Kiswahili | 29 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sign Language | Sign Language (all others) | 27 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South Asian Language | Pakistani Pahari (with Mirpuri and Potwari) | 24 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Welsh/Cymraeg | 23 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Amharic | 23 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South Asian Language | Nepalese | 22 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Latvian | 21 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| East Asian Language | Vietnamese | 21 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Bulgarian | 20 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Swedish | 19 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Asian Language | Korean | 19 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Akan | 18 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Any other Nigerian language | 14 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Maltese | 11 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Northern European Language (non EU) | 11 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| East Asian Language | Malay | 10 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sign Language | Any Sign Communication System | 9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Scots | 8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Krio | 8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Afrikaans | 8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Finnish | 7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Gaelic (Irish) | 6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| South Asian Language | Marathi | 6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| African Language | Luganda | 4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Gypsy/Traveller languages | 2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| West/Central Asian Language | Hebrew | 2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Gaelic (Not otherwise specified) | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Estonian | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Any other European Language (EU) | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (Non-EU) | Any other Eastern European Language (non EU) | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Oceanic/Australian Language | Oceanic/Australian language (any) | 1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Gaelic (Scottish) | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Manx Gaelic | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other UK Language | Cornish | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (EU) | Slovenian | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (non-natio) | Romani language (any) | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other European Language (non-natio) | Yiddish | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Caribbean Creole | Caribbean Creole (English-based) | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Caribbean Creole | Caribbean Creole (all other) | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Source: 2011 Census, Quick Statistics Table QS204EW, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.

Main Language (Non-English) Top 20 Languages

2011 Census

■ Bolton ■ England



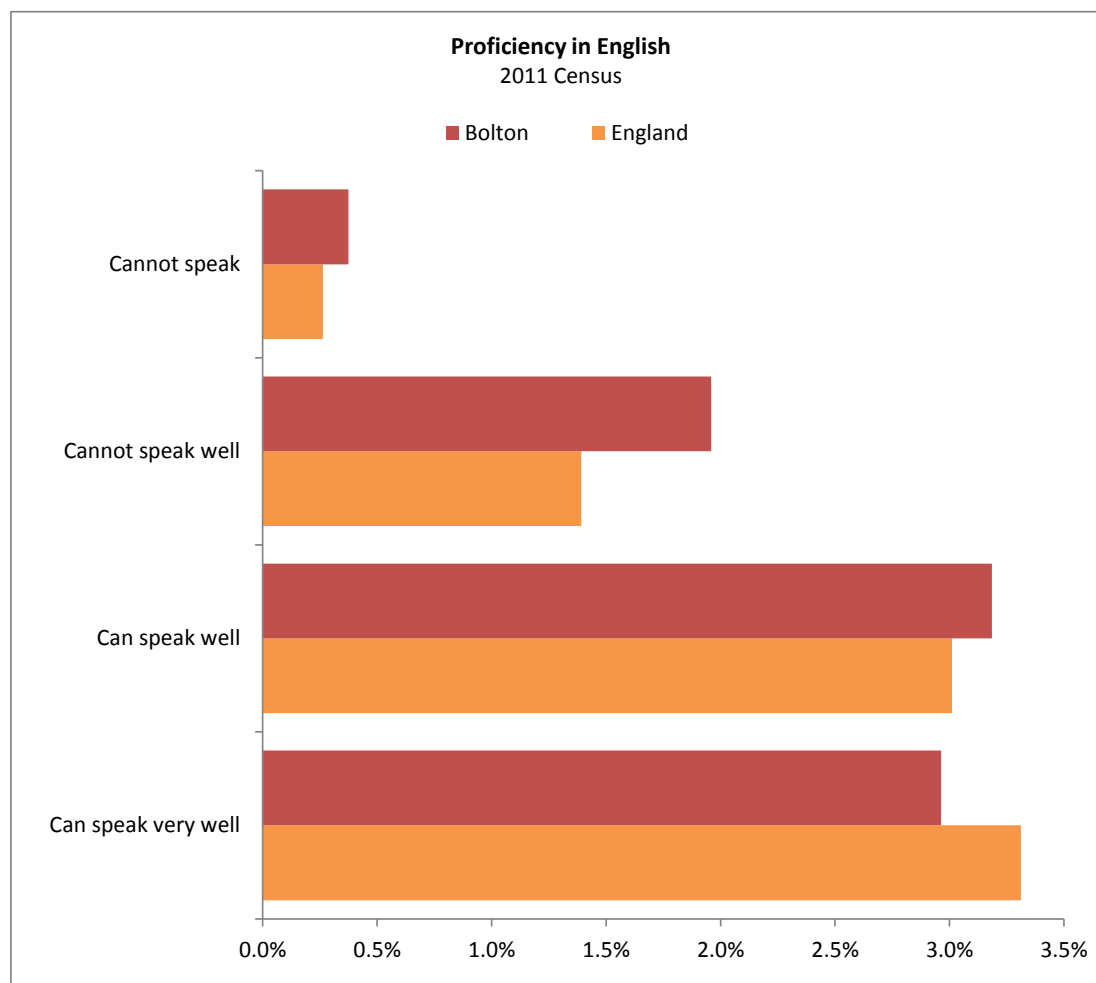
Source: 2011 Census, Quick Statistics Table QS204EW, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.

3.2 Proficiency in English

Despite the fact that there were around 22,500 people in Bolton who did not have English as their first language, the overwhelming majority of these people spoke English in some form. **16,300** of these people used English well or very well (around three-quarters of the non-English speakers, or 6.2% of the population). Around 5,200 people spoke English but ‘not well’, and just **995** people spoke no English whatsoever, a total of **0.4%** of the population. Out of the population whose main language was not English, Bolton people were marginally less likely to speak English ‘very well’ (and vice versa) than the England average.

| | Bolton (No) | Bolton (%) | England (%) |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Main Language English | 242,898 | 91.5 | 92.0 |
| Main Language not English | 22,514 | 8.5 | 8.0 |
| Can speak English very well | 7,865 | 3.0 | 3.3 |
| Can speak English well | 8,455 | 3.2 | 3.0 |
| Cannot speak English well | 5,199 | 2.0 | 1.4 |
| Cannot speak English | 995 | 0.4 | 0.3 |

Source: 2011 Census, Quick Statistics Table QS205EW, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.



Source: 2011 Census, Quick Statistics Table QS204EW, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.

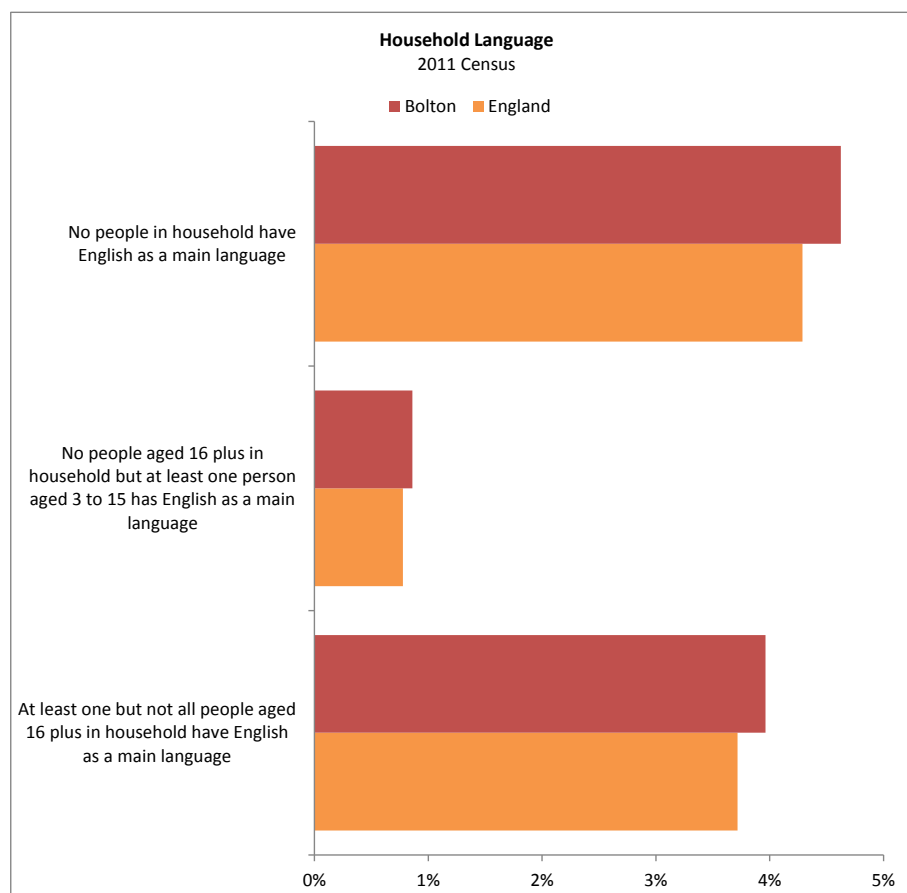
3.3 Household Language

Information on English language speakers was also published at household level. Out of the 116,400 households in Bolton, **91%** had all members aged 16 and over with English as their main language. A further **4%** had at least one adult member who spoke English as a main language, and around **1%** had no adults but at least one child who spoke English as their main language.

Only around **5,400**, or **4.6%** of all households had absolutely no members with English as a main language (NB this does not mean no-one in these households spoke any English at all, just that English was not their preferred language). This was only slightly more than the England average at 4.3%.

| | Bolton (No) | Bolton (%) | England (%) |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|
| All people aged 16 plus in household have English as a main language | 105,375 | 90.6 | 91.2 |
| At least one but not all people aged 16 plus in household have English as a main language | 4,612 | 4.0 | 3.7 |
| No people aged 16 plus in household but at least one person aged 3 to 15 has English as a main language | 1,001 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| No people in household have English as a main language | 5,383 | 4.6 | 4.3 |

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics Table KS206EW, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.

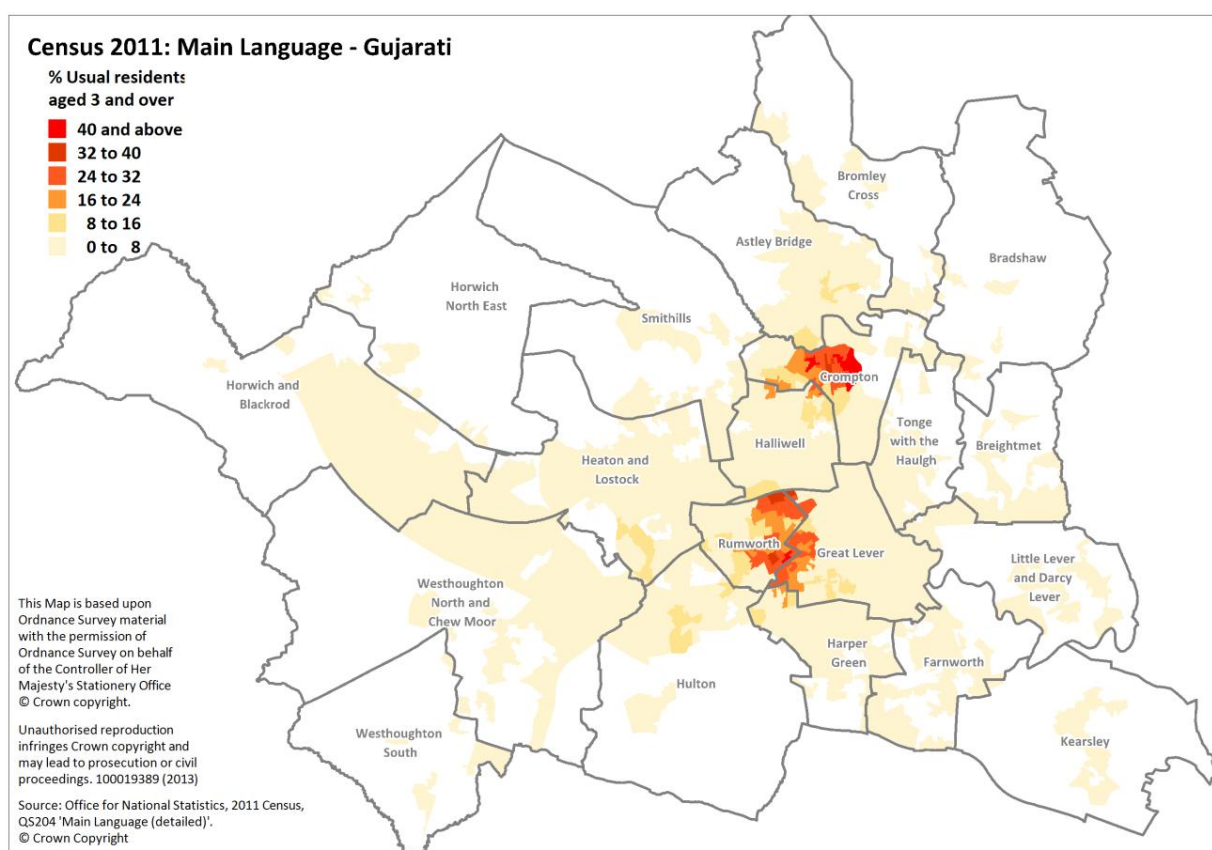


Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics Table KS206EW, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.

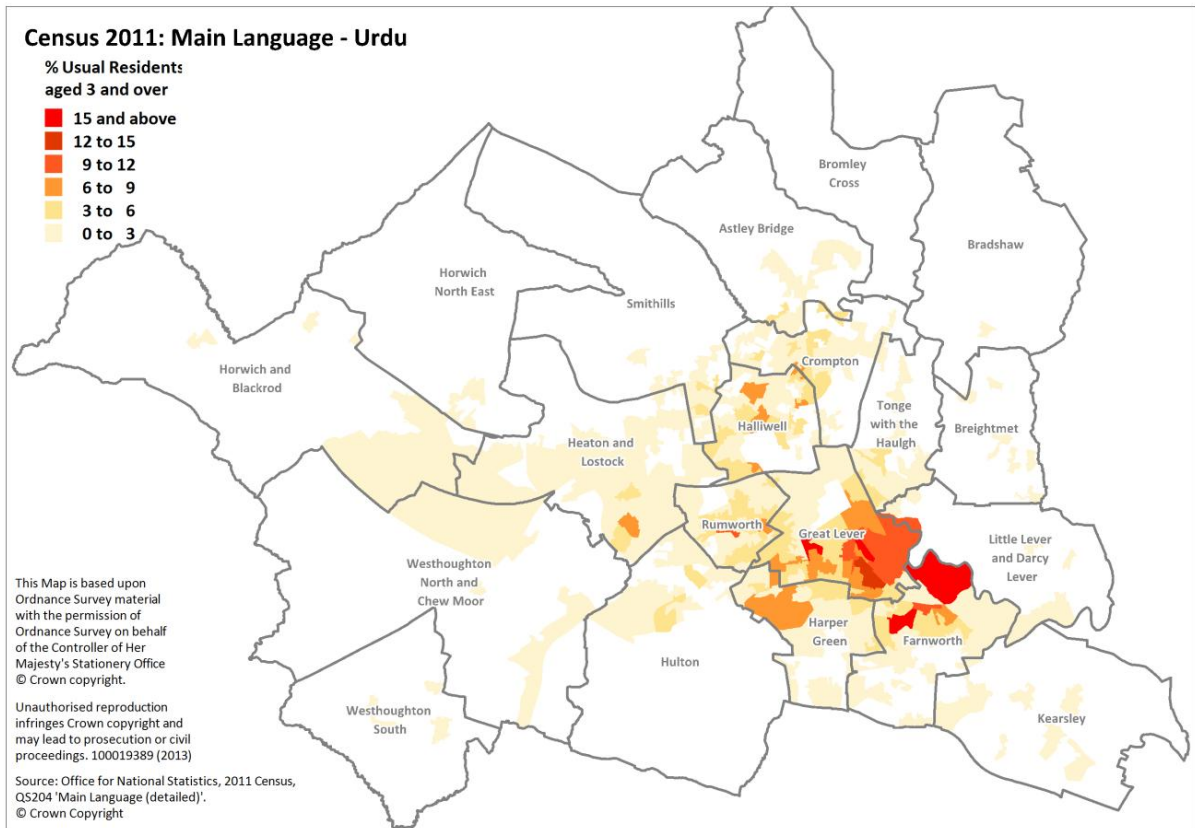
4. Distribution of Languages in Bolton

4.1 Main Language

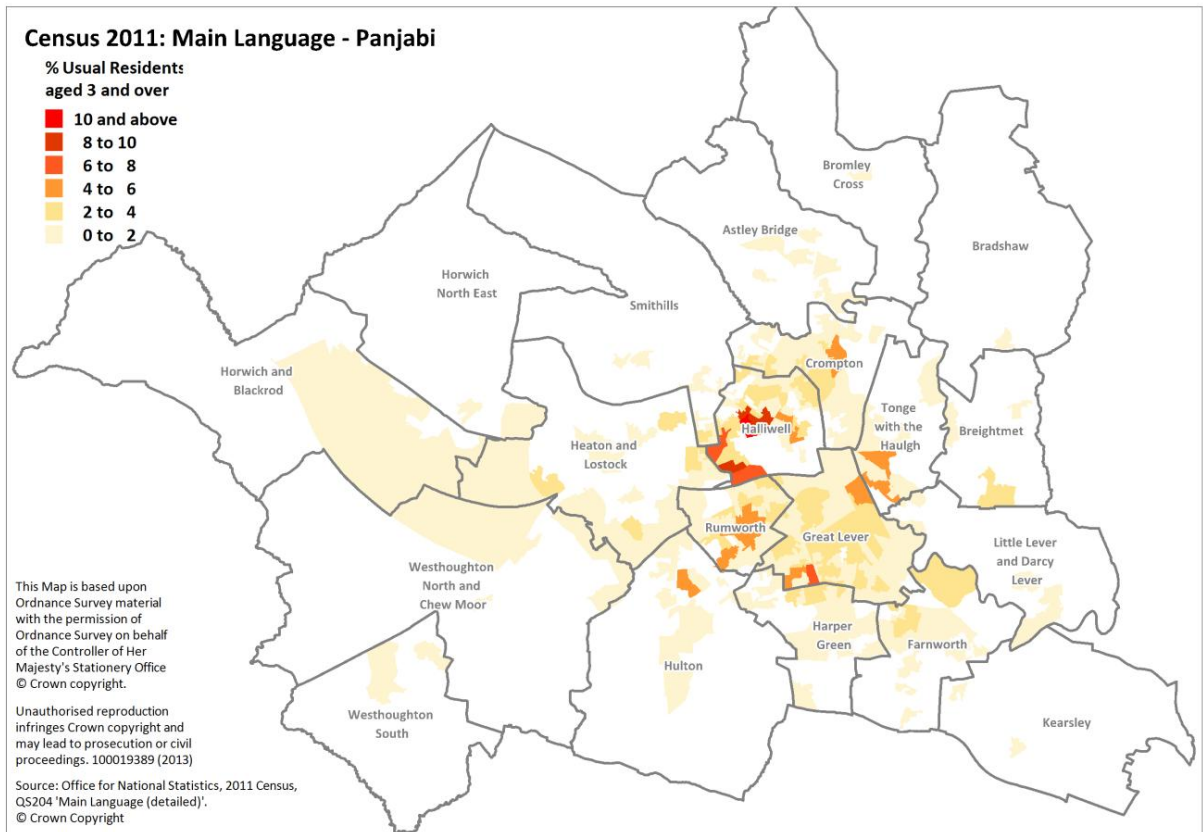
As stated previously, India is Bolton's largest migrant community, and **Gujarati** is Bolton's most prominent non-English main language. The geographical distribution of Gujarati speakers in Bolton almost exactly mirrors the location of first-generation Indian migrants, (as shown on p9 in the Country of Birth factfile), in that Gujarati speakers are highly concentrated in two main areas, **Crompton** and the **Rumworth/Great Lever border**. In the small area of Crompton shown below between 30-40% of the population have Gujarati as their main language, and approximately 25% of those in the small area of Rumworth/Great Lever. There are small numbers of Gujarati speakers in most wards; however Horwich North East, Westhoughton South, Bradshaw and Kearsley have particularly low numbers.



Similar to the Gujarati speakers, the geographical distribution of **Urdu** speakers follows closely the distribution of people who were born in Pakistan, in this instance the **Great Lever/Farnworth border** and parts of **Halliwell** and **Harper Green**. Around 15% of the population stated their main language was Urdu in the small area of Farnworth/Great Lever shown below, in contrast much of the outer areas of the borough have no Urdu speakers as their main language at all.



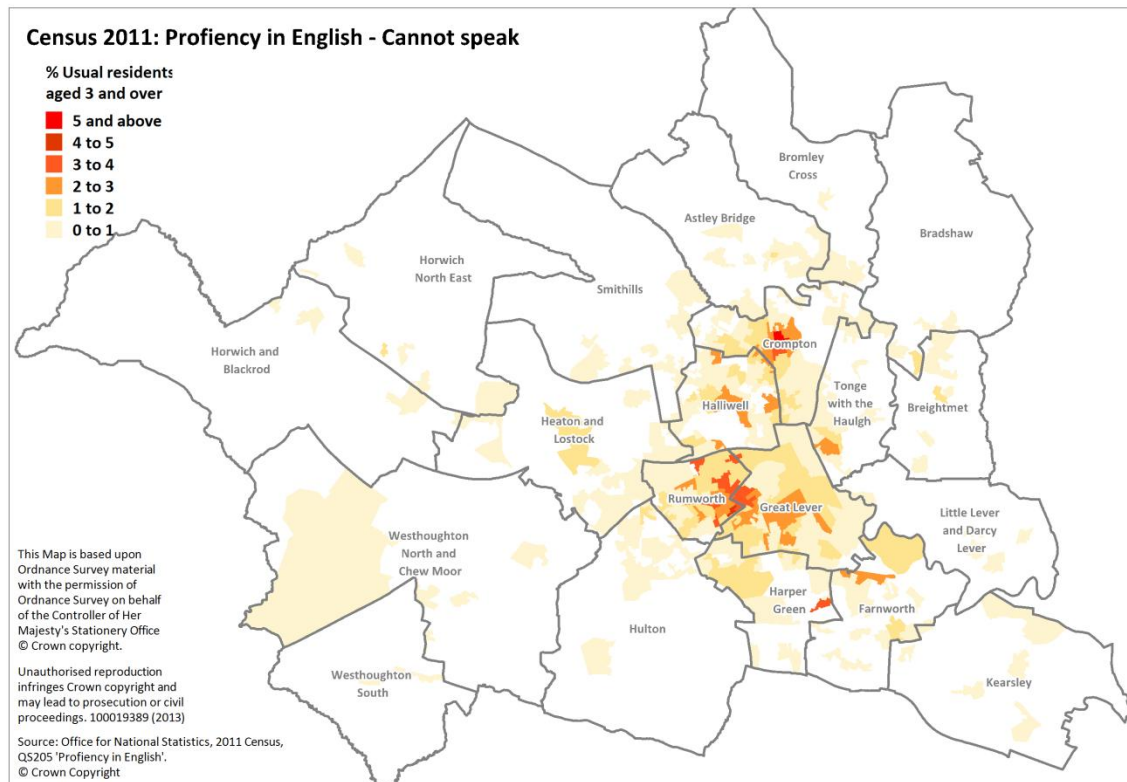
Panjabi is the third most common non-English language spoken in Bolton. Panjabi speakers are mainly concentrated in parts of **Halliwell & Great Lever**, with a small number in **Rumworth**, **Crompton** and **Tonge with the Haulgh**. The pattern of Panjabi speakers also roughly corresponds to parts of the pattern of Pakistani-born migrants, who appear to be evenly split into different areas for Panjabi and Urdu speakers as seen in the maps below.



4.2 Proficiency in English

Out of the 995 people of who did not speak English at all, these were mainly found in parts of **Crompton, Rumworth/Great Lever border**, and small parts of **Halliwell, Tonge, Farnworth and Harper Green**.

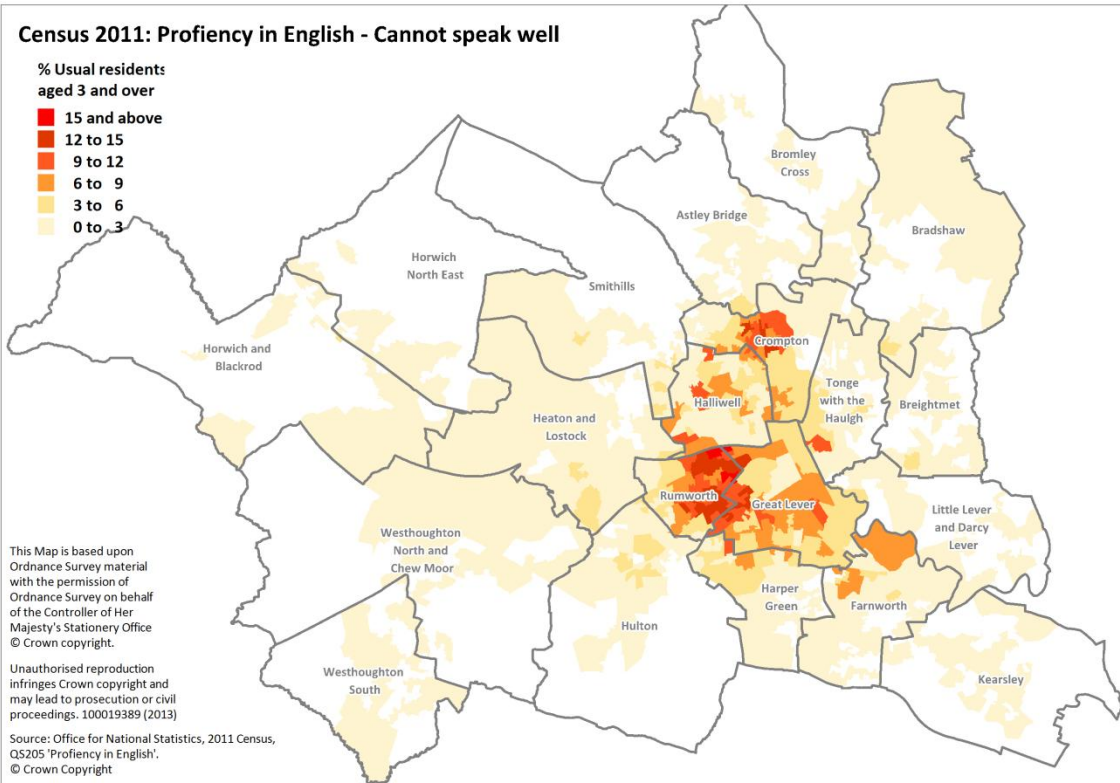
The second map below shows the distribution of the 5,200 people who did not speak English *well*. This group was slightly more dispersed, but again was still concentrated in the **Crompton, Halliwell** and **Great Lever** areas.



Census 2011: Proficiency in English - Cannot speak well

% Usual residents aged 3 and over

- 15 and above
- 12 to 15
- 9 to 12
- 6 to 9
- 3 to 6
- 0 to 3



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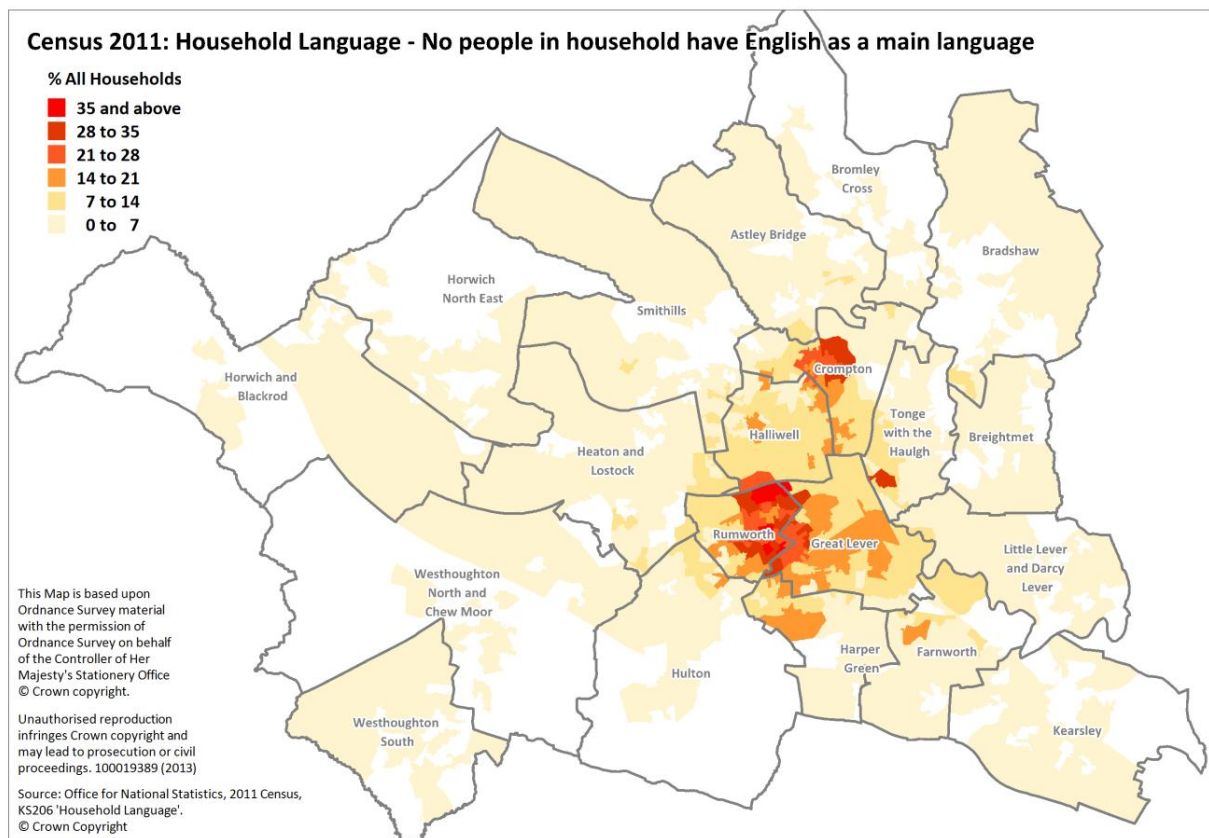
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, QS205 'Proficiency in English'. © Crown Copyright

4.3 Household Language

Around 5,400, or 4.6% of households in Bolton had no members whose first language was English, and a further 1,000 (or 0.9%) had no adults but at least one child whose main language was English. (As stated previously this does not mean that no members of the household spoke English, but that English was not necessarily their first language).

Households where no members had English as a main language were primarily found in parts of **Crompton** and **Rumworth**, with smaller numbers in **Great Lever, Farnworth, Harper Green** and **Halliwell**. Most wards in the borough had at least some households where non-one had English as their first language, however the smallest numbers were found in **Horwich, Westhoughton, Harper Green** and **Bromley Cross**.

There were smaller numbers of households with no adults but at least one child whose first language was English. These were mainly found in **Rumworth** and the **Great Lever/Harper Green border**, with smaller numbers in **Crompton**.



Census 2011: Household Language - No people aged 16 plus but at least one person aged 3 to 15 has English as a main language

- % All Households**
- 10 and above
 - 8 to 10
 - 6 to 8
 - 4 to 6
 - 2 to 4
 - 0 to 2

