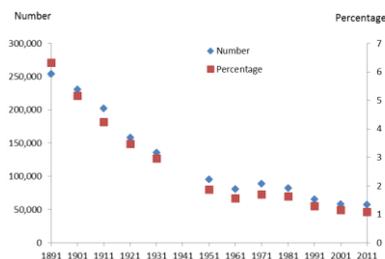


Gaelic and the Census A' Ghàidhlig agus an cunntas-sluaigh

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Scotland Census Conference, 25 June 2014

Gaelic speaker numbers, 1891-2011



Policy aims for Gaelic: national level

- ▶ **Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005**
 - ▶ established Bòrd na Gàidhlig
 - ▶ requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to facilitate an increase in the number of people using and understanding Gaelic.
- ▶ **Target expressed in terms of Census numbers**
 - ▶ 'the proportion of Gaelic speakers in Scotland is restored, by 2021, to the levels recorded in the 2001 census'

(National Gaelic Language Plan, 2012-17)
- ▶ **Scottish Government Gaelic Language Plan, 2009**
 - ▶ enhance the status of Gaelic
 - ▶ promote the acquisition and learning of Gaelic
 - ▶ encourage the increased use of Gaelic.

Policy aims for Gaelic: local level

- 11 of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland have Gaelic Language Plans:

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	East Dunbartonshire
Highland	Falkirk
Argyll and Bute	North Lanarkshire
Glasgow	Perth & Kinross
Edinburgh	South Lanarkshire
East Ayrshire	

A further 14 are in preparation.

- Development of community Gaelic language plans, for example Shawbost on the Isle of Lewis.
- Each of these requires analysis of local Census data for evaluation.

Outline of research project

- ▶ An analysis of the 2011 and 2001 census data which seeks to:
 - give a detailed picture of Gaelic in Scotland (at a national and local level in 2011)
 - explain change in the demographic basis of Gaelic between 2001 and 2011
- ▶ Aim is to provide a statistical basis to inform Gaelic language policy and planning at the national and local levels.

Gaelic in the Census 2011

Competence:

Understand	87,056
Speak	57,375
Speak, Read	38,409
Speak, Read, Write	32,191

Language used at home:

6.6% of those who used a non-English language at home reported using Gaelic at home.
26% of people who can speak Gaelic use it at home.

Research Question 1:

- ▶ What do the 2011 Census results tell us about the geographical and social distribution of Gaelic speakers?

For example:

- What is the distribution of Gaelic speakers across Scotland in 2011?
- What is the distribution of Gaelic speakers in Scotland in relation to occupational groups?
- What proportion of Gaelic speakers are members of minority ethnic groups (as defined by the Census)?
- What are patterns of Gaelic competence in different age groups?
- Does the distribution of Gaelic speakers relate to the availability of Gaelic-medium schools?

What do we know so far about the distribution of Gaelic speakers according to the 2011 Census?

▶ Gaelic speakers in 2011:

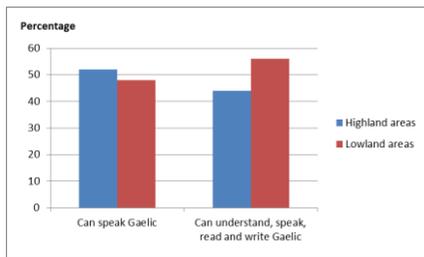
- 1.1% nationally
- 8.8% of the population in the Highlands
- 0.6% of the population in the Lowlands

▶ Distribution of Gaelic speakers in 2011

- 51.5% in the Highlands
- 48.5% in the Lowlands

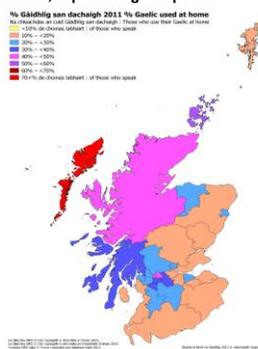
(Source: Taylor 2013)

Census 2011: distribution of Gaelic competence

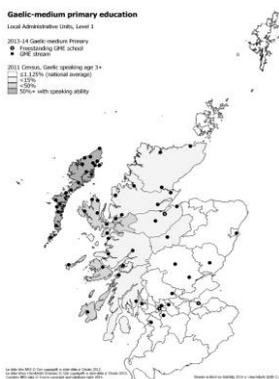


Highland areas: Western Isles, Highland, Argyll and Bute.
 Lowland areas: rest of Scotland.
 Source: Taylor, 2013.

Gaelic use at home, as percentage of speakers



Source: Peadar Morgan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



Source: Peadar Morgan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Research Question 2:

- ▶ What are the patterns of change in Gaelic competence between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses?

For example:

- in different age groups
 - in different occupational groups
 - at different geographical areas
- ▶ If there is change between the 2001 and 2011 figures, what factors are associated with such change?

Census 2001-2011: Gaelic speaking by region

Nationally:

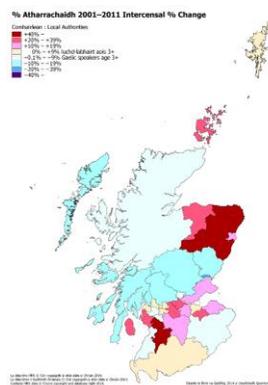
- ▶ 2001: 1.2%
- ▶ 2011: 1.1% (0.1 percentage point decrease)

Highlands:

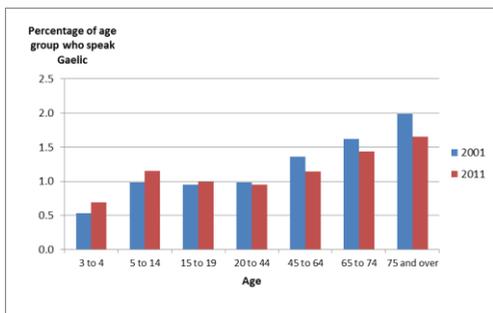
- ▶ 2001: 10.3%
- ▶ 2011: 8.8% (1.5 percentage point decrease)
- 8.9 p.p. decrease in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- 0.9 p.p. decrease in Highland
- 0.7 p.p. decrease in Argyll & Bute

Lowlands:

- ▶ 2001: 0.6%
 - ▶ 2011: 0.6%
- Speaker numbers in the Lowlands **increased** from 26,092 to 27,819 between 2001 and 2011.



Census 2001-2011: Gaelic speakers by age

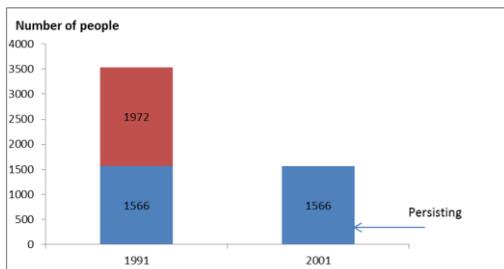


Research Question 3: Individual change in Gaelic competence over time

- ▶ What kinds of individuals report a strengthening of competence between Censuses, and what kinds show a weakening?
- ▶ Are these patterns related to age, occupation, education level, the kind of community where the individual lives, or the migration which the individual has undertaken?
- ▶ What kinds of social mobility in early adulthood are experienced by people who speak Gaelic as children?

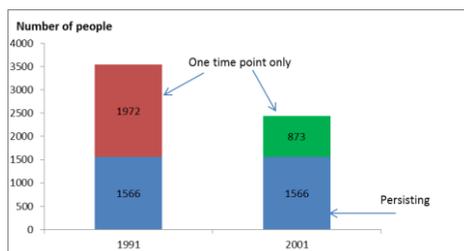
Use Scottish Longitudinal Study

Stability of Gaelic competence between censuses: people who could speak Gaelic in 1991



Source: Gillian Raab, from Scottish Longitudinal Study

Stability of Gaelic competence between censuses, 'Speak', 1991-2001



Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Conclusions

- Analysis of individual records required for understanding characteristics of a relatively small group.
- Analysis of change over time required to contribute to policy.
- Individual change has to be set within aggregate change.

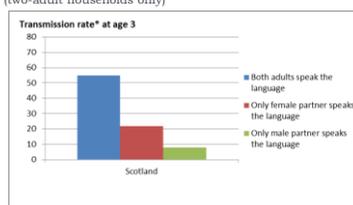
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Supplementary slides based on analysis of inter-generational transmission by Hwyl Jones.

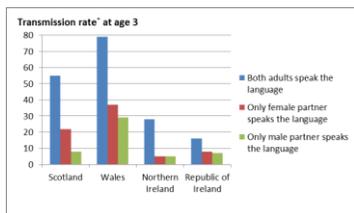
Census 2001: transmission rates at age 3 within the family (two-adult households only)



*Transmission rate = Gaelic speakers at age 3 as percentage of all children aged 3 in family type. Source: Jones, 2008.

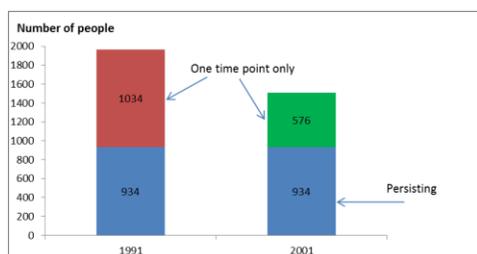
Supplementary slide on SLS analysis.

Census 2001: transmission rates at age 3 within the family (two-adult households only) Scotland compared to Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland



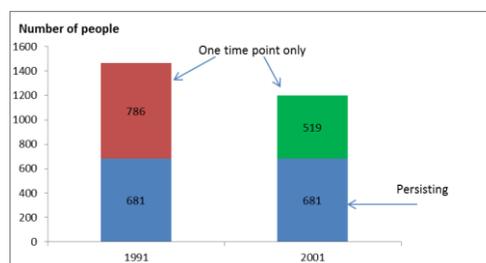
*Transmission rate = Gaelic speakers at age 3 as percentage of all children aged 3 in family type. Source: Jones, 2008.

Stability of Gaelic competence between censuses,
'Speak and read', 1991-2001



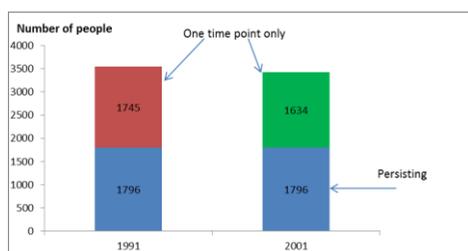
Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Stability of Gaelic competence between censuses,
'Speak, read and write', 1991-2001



Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

Stability of Gaelic competence between censuses,
any competence, 1991-2001



Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study