

Appendix A6: Speaker Typology Survey (STS)

A6.1 Introduction

This appendix provides additional disaggregated data for each of the three Study Districts covered by the Speaker Typology Survey (STS). The aggregated data appeared in Section 6 of the book.

A6.2 Literature review

The literature review for the Speaker Typology Survey (STS) is explained in full in Section 6.2 of the book.

A6.3 Methodology

The methodology for the Speaker Typology Survey (STS) is explained in full in Section 6.3 of the book.

A6.4 Speaker Typology Survey – Aggregated Data

Aggregated data for all three Study Districts was presented in Section 6.4 of the book. Here, we present some of the key figures and tables of data to allow quicker referencing and comparison with the Disaggregated Data Depictions for Scalpay (A6.5), Grimsay (A6.6) and Eriskay (A6.7).

Figure A6.1 depicts Gaelic competency by age group across all areas.

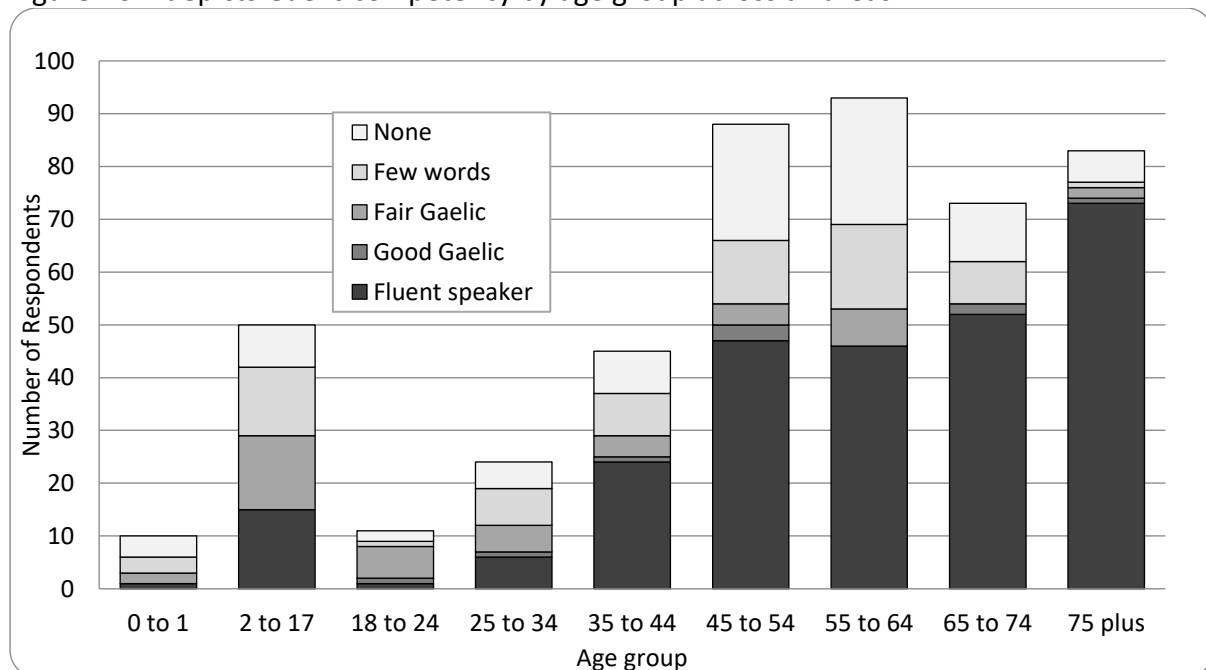


Figure A6.1 Gaelic competency by age group, all areas (N = 477)

Table A6.1 pertains to Gaelic competency by age group across all Study Districts, giving a full breakdown of the columns in Figure A6.1 above.

Competency	0–1	2–17	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75+
Fluent speaker	1	15	1	6	24	47	46	52	73
Good Gaelic	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	2	1
Fair Gaelic	2	14	6	5	4	4	7	0	2
Few words	3	13	1	7	8	12	16	8	1
No Gaelic	4	8	2	5	8	22	24	11	6

Table A6.1 Ability in spoken Gaelic by age group, all districts (N = 477)

As is clear from both Figure A6.1 and the data in Table A6.1, *Fluent speaker* ability is both the dominant trait in the oldest age cohorts and is the majority position in all age cohorts over the age of 35, except, marginally, in the 55–64 age group. Across younger age ranges, we find a more fragmentary situation, but fluency in Gaelic ceases to be a majority consideration.

Figure A6.2 depicts speaker category by age group across all areas.

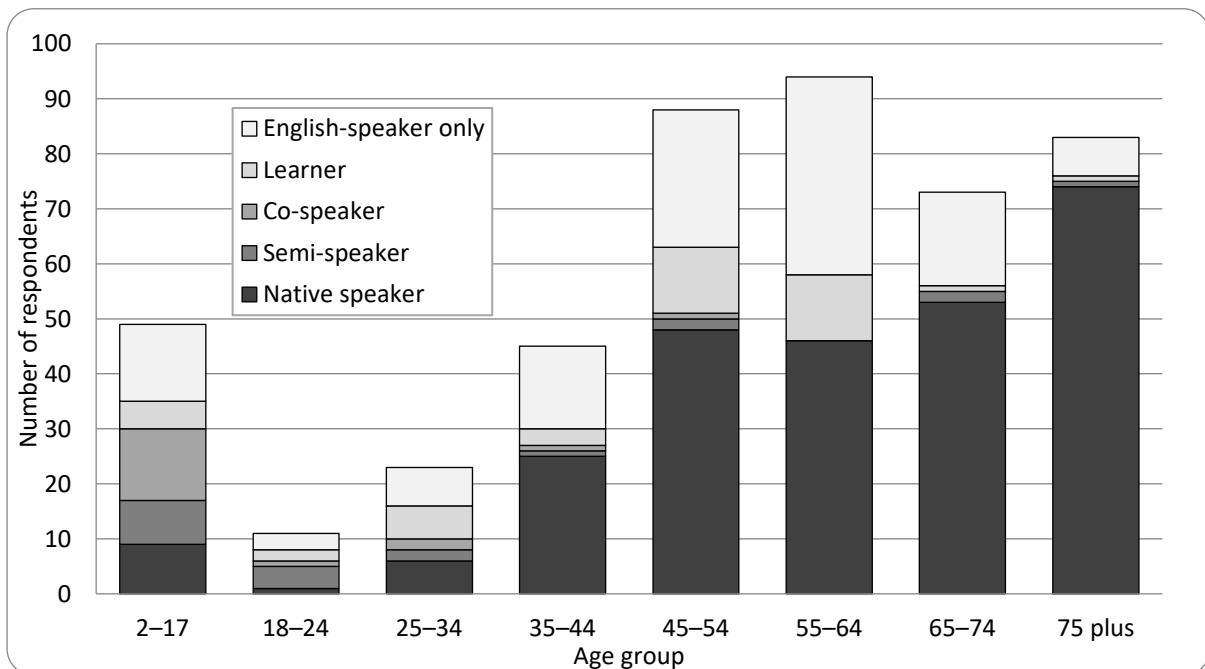


Figure 6.2 Speaker category by age cohort, all areas (N = 466)

Table A6.2 outlines data pertaining to the speaker categories for those aged two years and over across the whole Study District, as displayed in the preceding Figure A6.2.

Speaker category	2–17	18–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65–74	75+
Native speaker	9	1	6	25	48	46	53	74
Semi-speaker	8	4	2	1	2	0	2	1
Co-speaker	13	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Learner	5	2	6	3	12	12	1	1
English-speaker only	14	3	7	15	25	36	17	7
Total	49	11	23	45	88	94	73	83

Table A6.2 Speaker category by age cohort, all areas (N = 466)

We find that the most populous age cohorts in the STS are those aged 45+. Native speakers predominate in the 65–74 (72.6%) and 75+ (89.2%) age cohorts. The picture is much less homogenous as we examine progressively younger age groups; it is notable that the least represented cohorts are those perhaps most likely to be seen as the parental generation i.e. those aged between 18 and 44.

A6.5 Data depiction: Scalpay

In the following sections, we examine the disaggregated data for each individual Study District, beginning with Scalpay.

A6.5.1 Age profile, Scalpay

Figure A6.3 depicts the reported resident population of Scalpay. The age profile is clearly biased towards the older age cohorts.

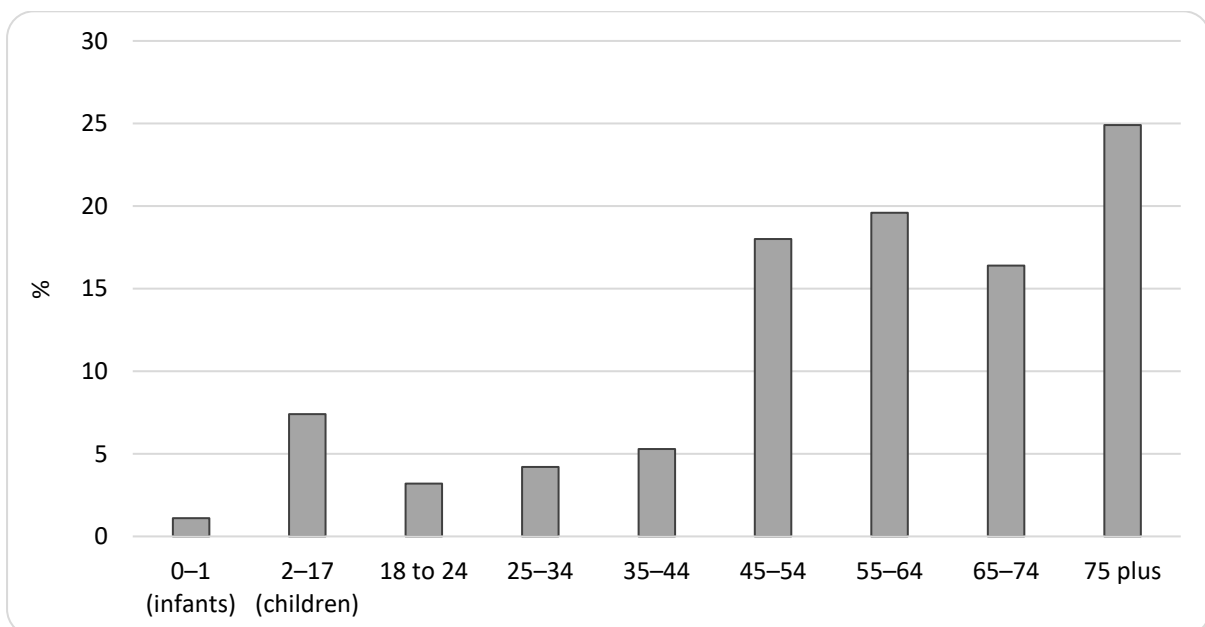


Figure A6.3 Percentage age profile by age cohort among reported residents, Scalpay (N = 189)

While further analysis of the speaker typology survey for Scalpay will suggest that Gaelic is still relatively strong in overall terms on that island, this demographic offers a stark portrayal of a rapidly ageing population with little sign of the natural replacement of the older cohorts with an equally competent younger linguistic generation.

In Scalpay, the age range with the highest percentage of reported residents is the over-75s, comprising 25% of the resident population of the island. Indeed, 61% of Scalpay's reported residents are 55 or over. 21% of reported residents are aged under 44, with 18% aged between 45 and 54. There are fewer reported residents aged 35 or under than there are in any of the individual age cohorts over the age of 45.

A6.5.2 Fluency, locality and household Gaelic use, Scalpay

Gaelic-only household language use is depicted in Figure A6.4, compared against competency in Gaelic and background information, for Scalpay.

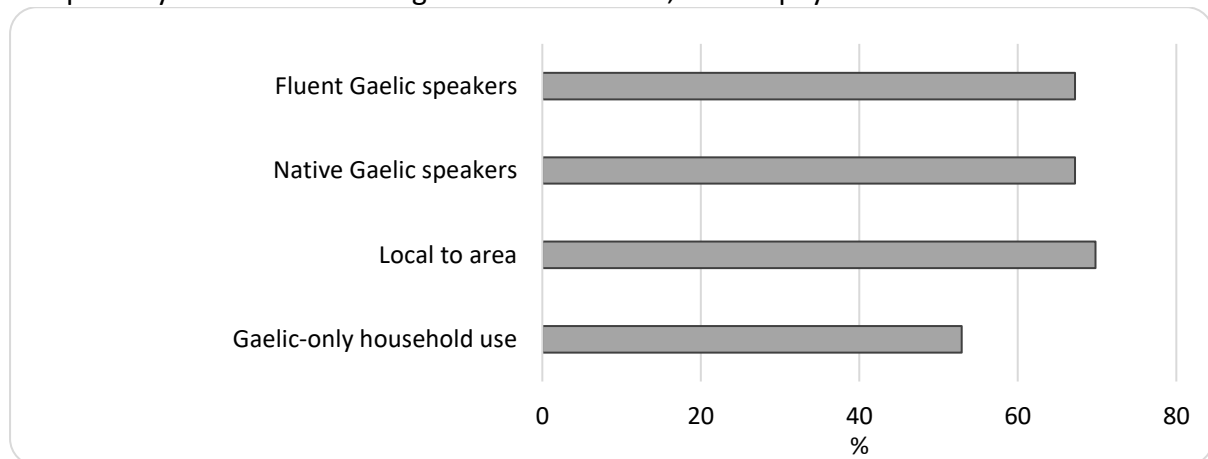


Figure A6.4 Percentage distribution of fluent speakers, native speakers, local origin and Gaelic-only household use among reported residents, Scalpay (N = 189)

When compared to the picture across all Study Districts, Scalpay represents the strongest community from the perspective of the percentages of reported residents who have fluent ability in Gaelic and/or who are native Gaelic speakers (67.2% in both cases), who are local to the area (69.8%) and who evince Gaelic-only household practice.

At 52.9%, the majority of Scalpay households fall into this latter category, suggesting that there is a relative strength to the language in the community, but this statistic has to be considered in the context of the age profile of reported residents on the island.

A6.5.3 Percentage distribution of place of origin, Scalpay

In relation to the percentage distribution of place of origin information for Scalpay residents, one category dominates, as shown in Figure A6.5.

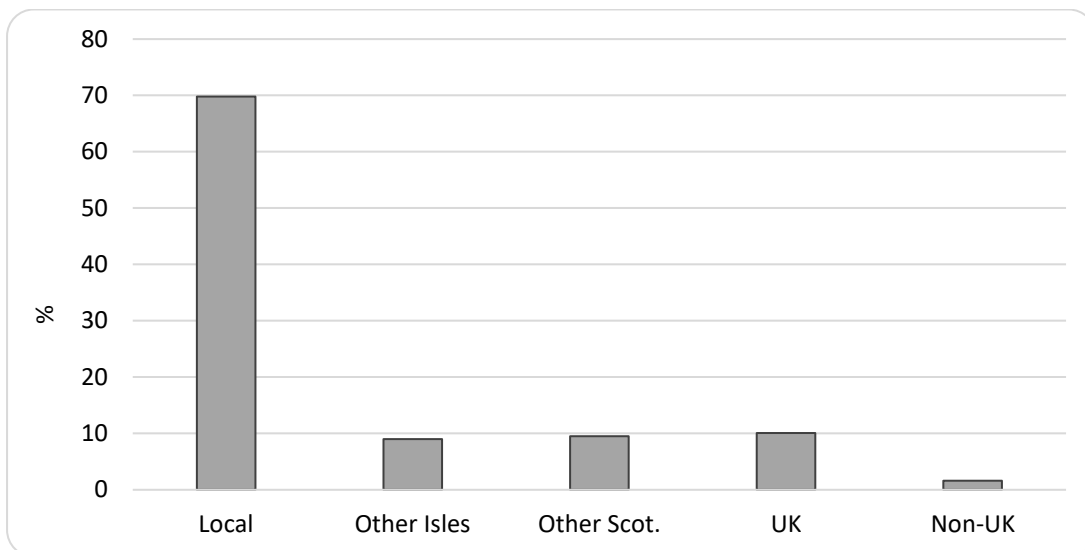


Figure A6.5 Percentage distribution of place of origin, Scalpay (N = 189)

Scalpay's reported resident population is overwhelmingly local in origin, with 69.8% from the island itself and a further 9% from elsewhere in the Western Isles.

A6.5.4 Household language practice, Scalpay

Figure A6.6 depicts the percentage distribution of household language practice in Scalpay.

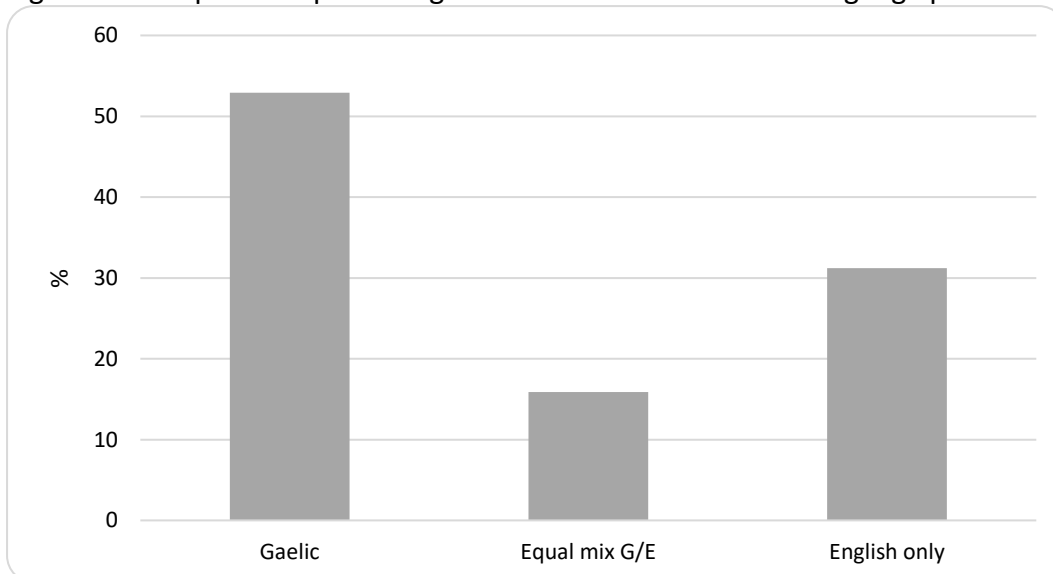


Figure A6.6 Percentage distribution of household language practice, Scalpay (N = 189)

Scalpay is the only one of the three Study Districts with a majority of households practicing Gaelic predominantly, at 52.9%. Just under a third (31.2%) were English-only households, with 15.9% having a mixed Gaelic/English practice.

In Figure A6.7, we compare household composition and language use.

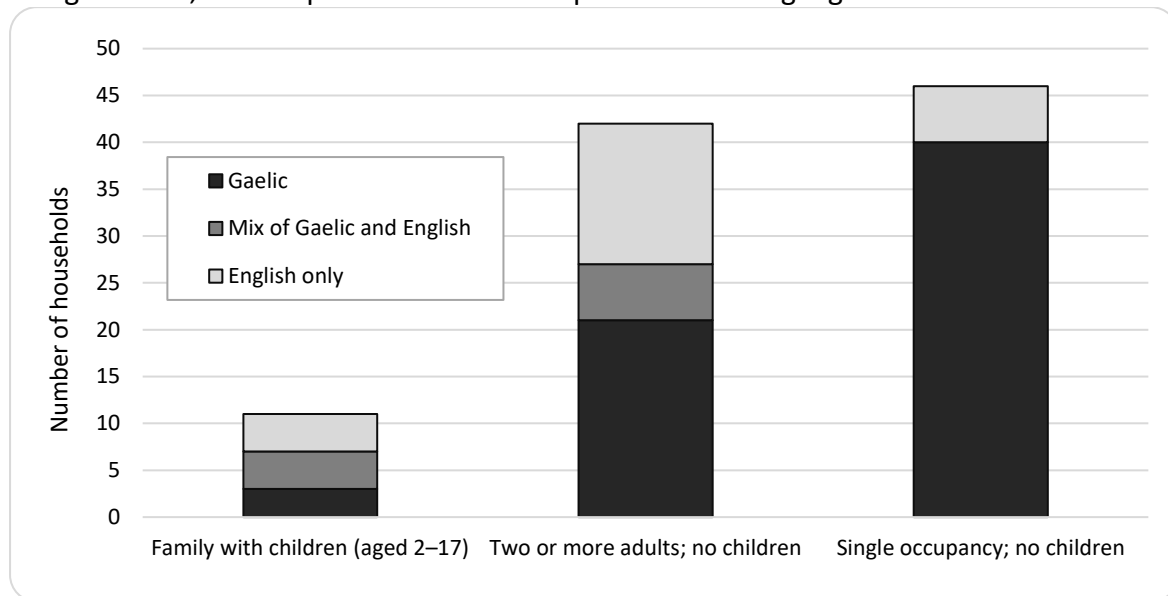


Figure A6.7 Household composition and language use, Scalpay (N = 99 households)

Of the three islands surveyed, Scalpay presents the strongest picture in terms of *Gaelic only* language use and household composition. Not only is Gaelic identified as the language likely to predominate in single occupancy situations (87%), but *Gaelic only* is held to be the likely scenario (50%) for households with two or more adults, and only slightly lower (27.2%) than *Mix of Gaelic and English* (36.4%), and *English only* (36.4%) in households which contain children.

A6.5.5 Distribution of Gaelic competence, Scalpay

Figure A6.8 depicts the percentages of Scalpay's reported residents displaying a range of Gaelic competence, from fluency to no Gaelic.

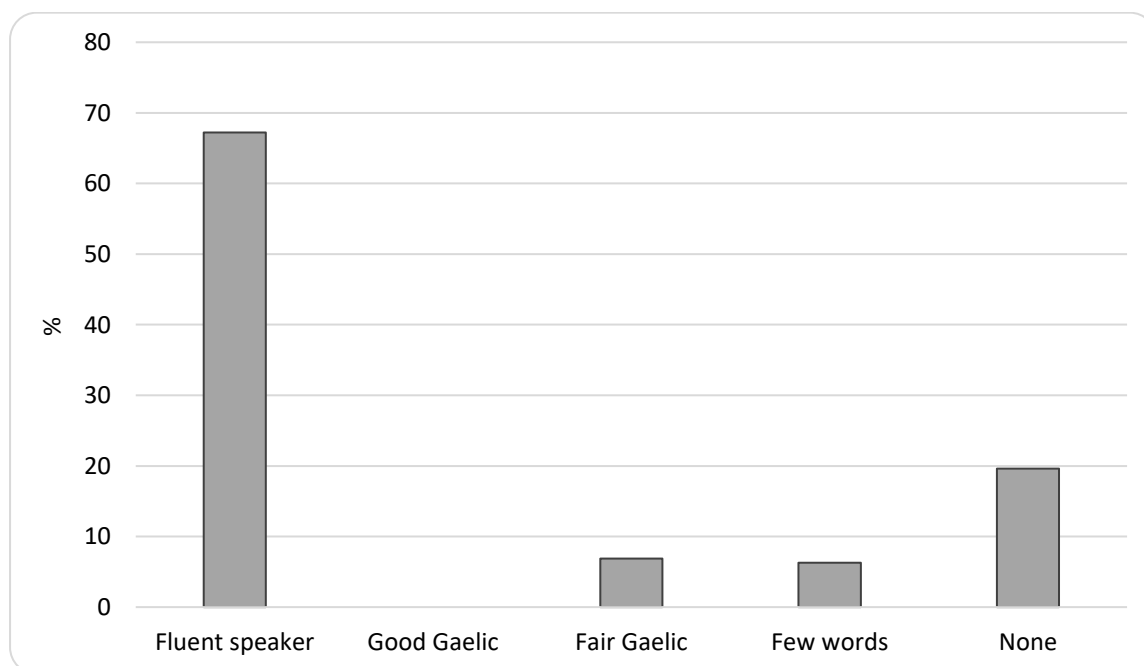


Figure A6.8 Percentage distribution of Gaelic competence, Scalpay (N = 189)

Two-thirds (67%) of Scalpay's population is identified as possessing *Fluent speaker* competency in Gaelic. Just under a fifth of the island's residents had *No Gaelic*, with 6.3% having *A few words* of Gaelic, and 6.9% having *Fair Gaelic*.

A6.5.6 Distribution of speaker types, Scalpay

The distribution of speaker types among reported residents in Scalpay is depicted in Figure A6.9.

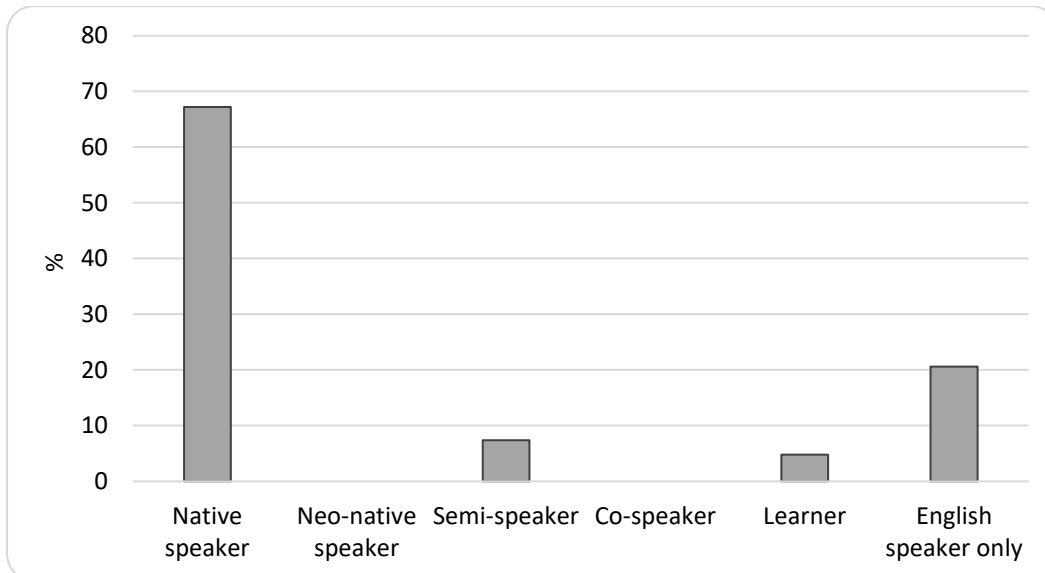


Figure A6.9 Percentage distribution of speaker types, Scalpay (N = 189)

This speaker typology indicates that the *Native speaker* in Scalpay is significantly more prominent than the other categories, with two-thirds of reported residents being so identified. 20.6% were identified as *English speakers*. The distribution of these categories indicates that the bilingual social context in Scalpay comprises a minority of English-speaking monolinguals interacting with Gaelic native speakers.

7.4% of the individuals are identified as a *Semi-speaker* and 4.8% are assessed as a *Learner*. No individuals corresponding with the *Neo-native speaker* or *Co-speaker* categorisation are identified in Scalpay.

Figure A6.10 shows linguistic categorisation by age group among reported residents in Scalpay.

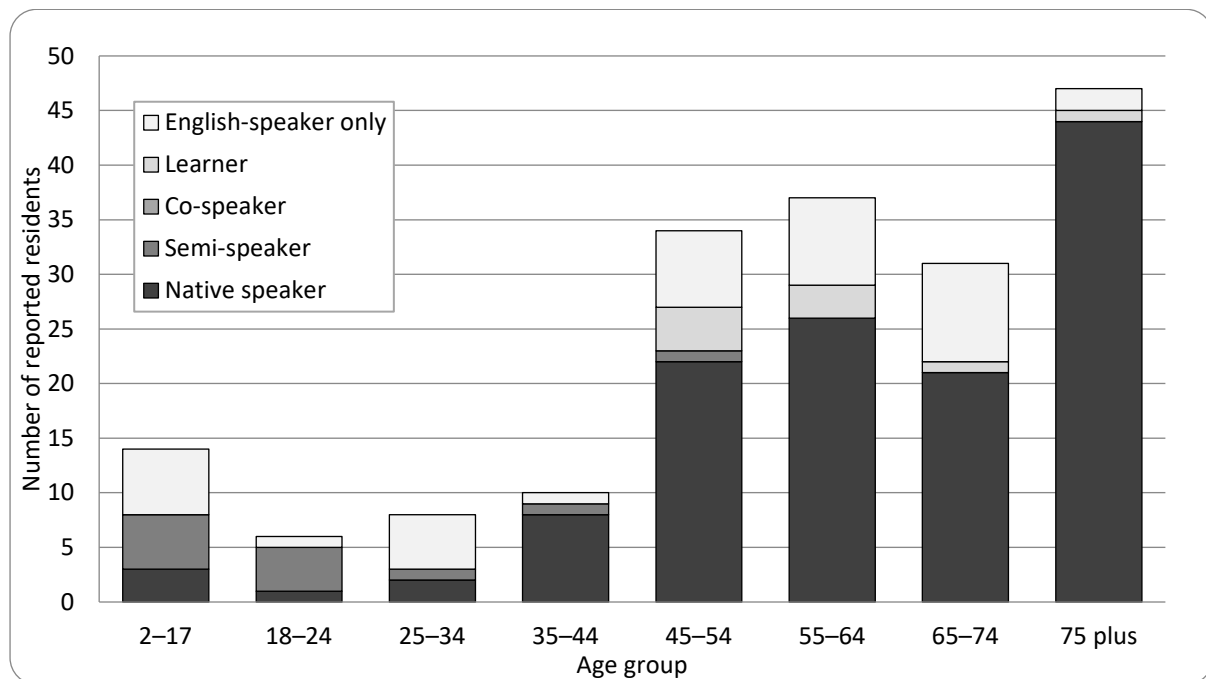


Figure A6.10 Linguistic category by age group, Scalpay (N = 187)

Table A6.3 displays data pertaining to the speaker categories depicted in Figure A6.10 above, for those aged two years and over in Scalpay.

Speaker category	2-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Native speaker	3	1	2	8	22	26	21	44
Semi-speaker	5	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
Co-speaker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Learner	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	1
English-speaker only	6	1	5	1	7	8	9	2
Total	14	6	8	10	34	37	31	47

Table A6.3 Speaker category by age cohort, Scalpay (N = 187)

For Scalpay, the *Native speaker* categorisation predominates (76.1%) across all age groups over the age of 35. Very little diffusion of categorisation is evident, although the *Semi-speaker* appears more in younger age ranges, while the *Learner* appears in older groups. No *Co-speaker* is identified for Scalpay. 79% of those in the STS for Scalpay are aged 45 or over, clearly indicating the demographic challenges facing the island.

A6.6 Data depiction: Grimsay

The following section examines the disaggregated data for Grimsay.

A6.6.1 Age profile, Grimsay

Figure A6.11 shows that although Grimsay's age profile is less weighted towards the older age cohorts than in Scalpay, the younger age cohorts form a significantly smaller proportion of the community's population than adult and older age groups.

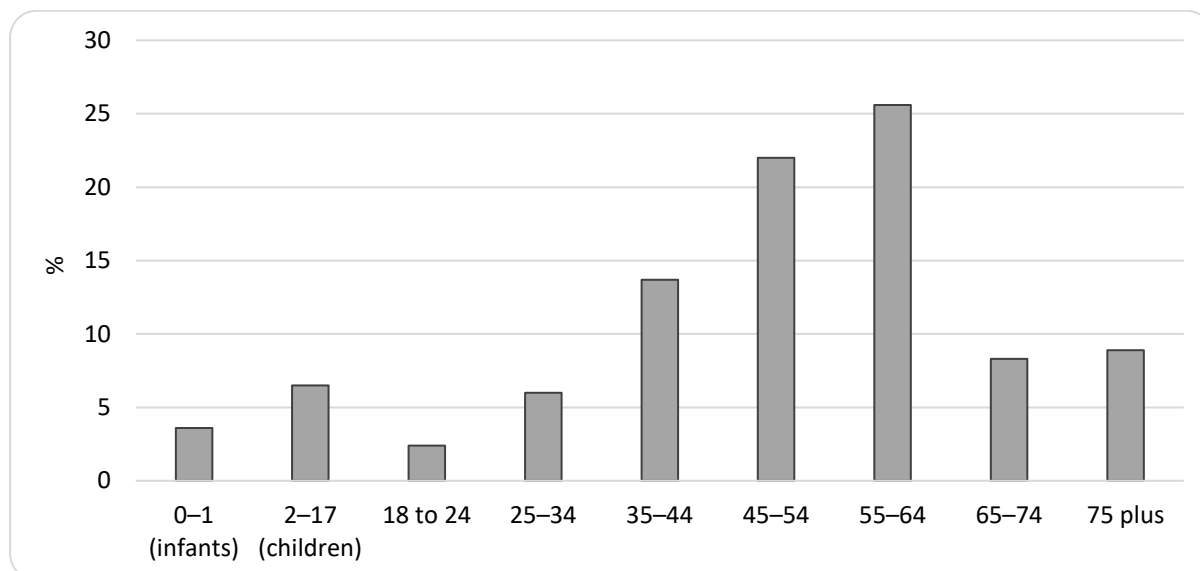


Figure A6.11 Percentage age profile by age cohort among reported residents, Grimsay (N = 168)

Grimsay's demographic picture differs from that of Scalpay (and Eriskay) in that the over-65 age ranges are proportionally smaller, and adults approaching or in the middle-aged ranges are proportionally more prevalent. The childhood (0-1; 2-17) and young adult cohorts (18-24; 25-34) comprise 18.5%.

A6.6.2 Fluency, locality and household Gaelic use, Grimsay

Gaelic-only household language use is depicted in Figure A6.12, compared with competency in Gaelic and background information, for Grimsay.

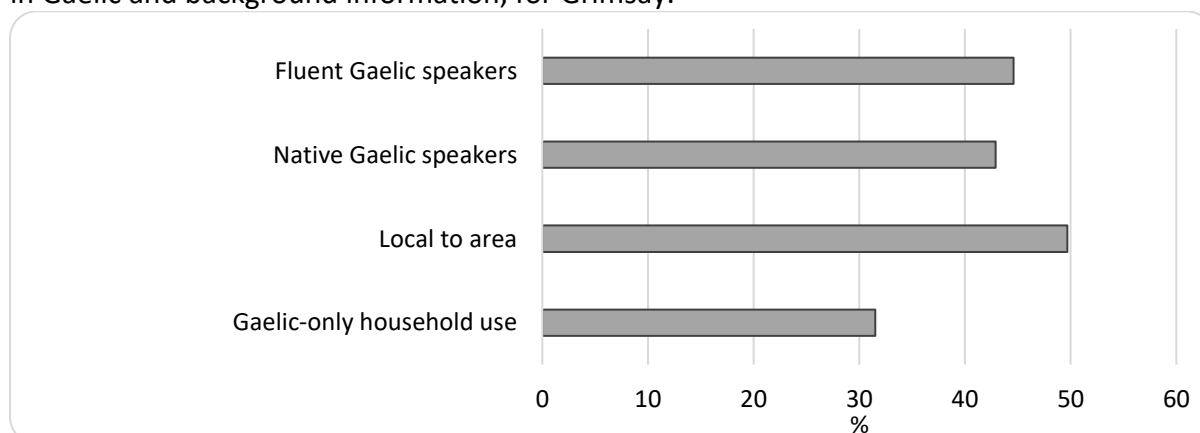


Figure A6.12 Percentage distribution of fluent speakers, native speakers, local origin and Gaelic-only household use among reported residents, Grimsay (N = 168)

No category reaches 50% in this calculation, with *Local to area* coming closest at 49.5%. The percentage difference between the fluent/native speaker categories and those who only use Gaelic in the household is actually smaller than in Scalpay. This is indicative of the lower percentages of fluent, native Gaelic speakers identified in the Grimsay STS, although it is also suggestive that more of those categorised as such use Gaelic in their home situations.

A6.6.3 Percentage distribution of place of origin, Grimsay

The distribution of place of origin data among Grimsay's reported residents depicts a situation where those with a local origin are most prevalent, but with a more mixed population than in the other study districts, as shown in Figure A6.13.

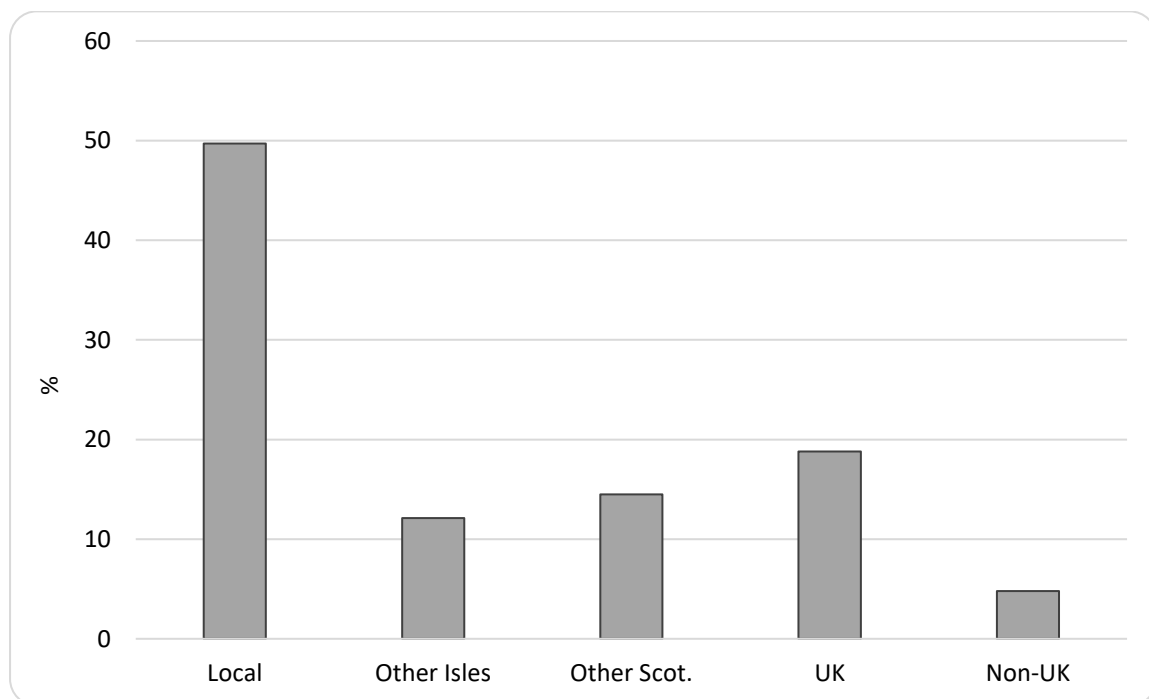


Figure A6.13 Percentage distribution of place of origin, Grimsay (N = 165)

Although 61.8% of Grimsay's reported residents were either *Local* or from another part of the Western Isles, much lower than in Scalpay, Grimsay's population largely remains one with a local background. Almost a quarter of residents (23.6%) are from outside Scotland, considerably higher than in either Eriskay (11%) or Scalpay (11.7%).

A major military facility sited on nearby Benbecula had a large workforce until the late 1990s, and this may contribute to the higher percentage representation of non-Scots found in this STS.

A6.6.4 Household language practice, Grimsay

Figure A6.14 portrays a situation of English-dominant household language practice in Grimsay.

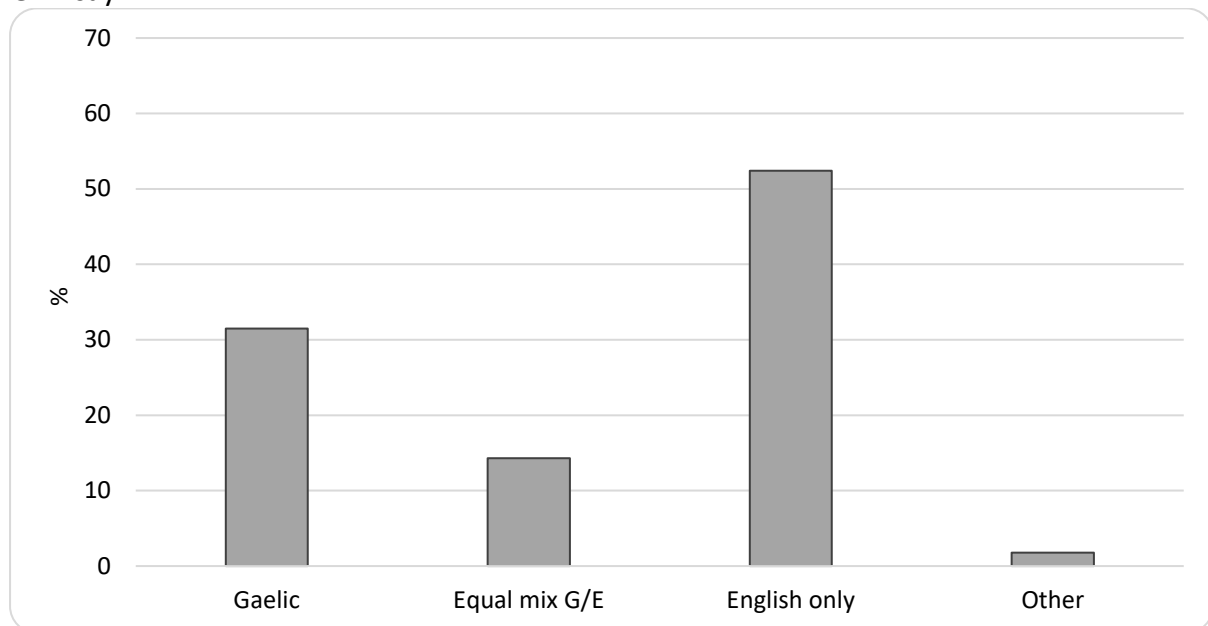


Figure A6.14 Percentage distribution of household language practice, Grimsay (N = 168)

Grimsay's household language practice situation is almost entirely reversed in comparison with Scalpay: at 52.4%, the majority of households are *English-only* with 31.5% being *Gaelic-only*. 14.3% are an *Equal mix of Gaelic and English*, with 1.8% assessed in the category of *Other* household practice.

In Figure A6.15, we compare household composition and language use for Grimsay.

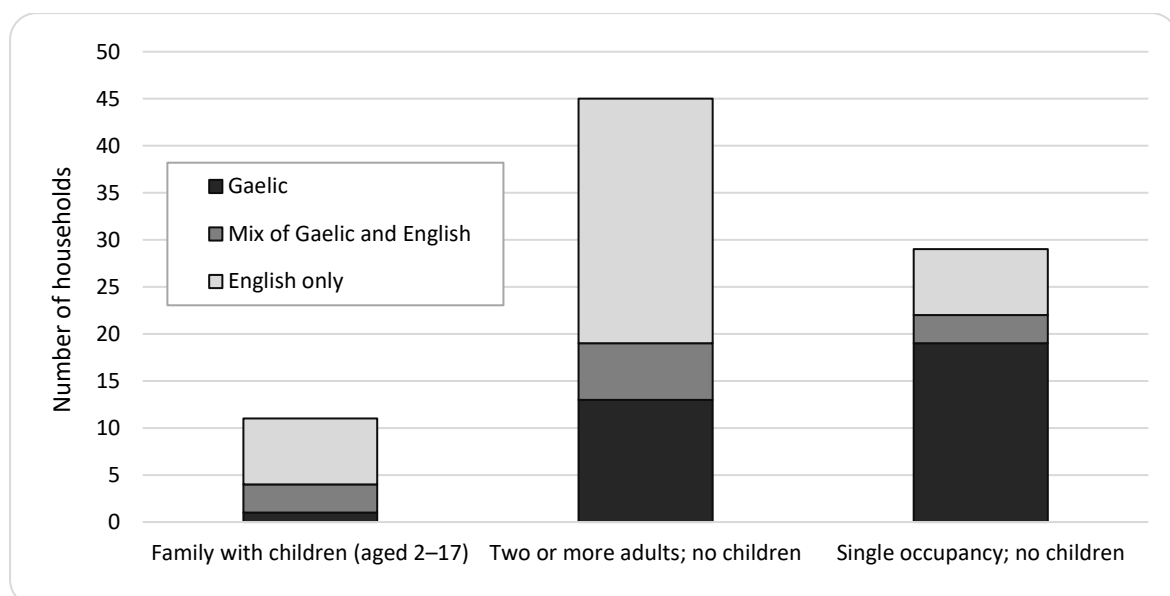


Figure A6.15 Household composition and language use, Grimsay (N = 85 households)

The data for Grimsay evince a picture where *Gaelic only* is more prevalent (65.5%) for single occupancy situations, however it is held to be in a minority position for households with two or more adults and no children (28.9%), and especially for households containing children (9.1%).

A6.6.5 Distribution of Gaelic competence, Grimsay

The depiction of Gaelic competence categories in Grimsay in Figure A6.16 indicates that Gaelic fluent speaker ability is the single most prominent ability category among the reported residents, though to a lesser degree than in Scalpay. Those with little or no competence in Gaelic amount to 40% of the population.

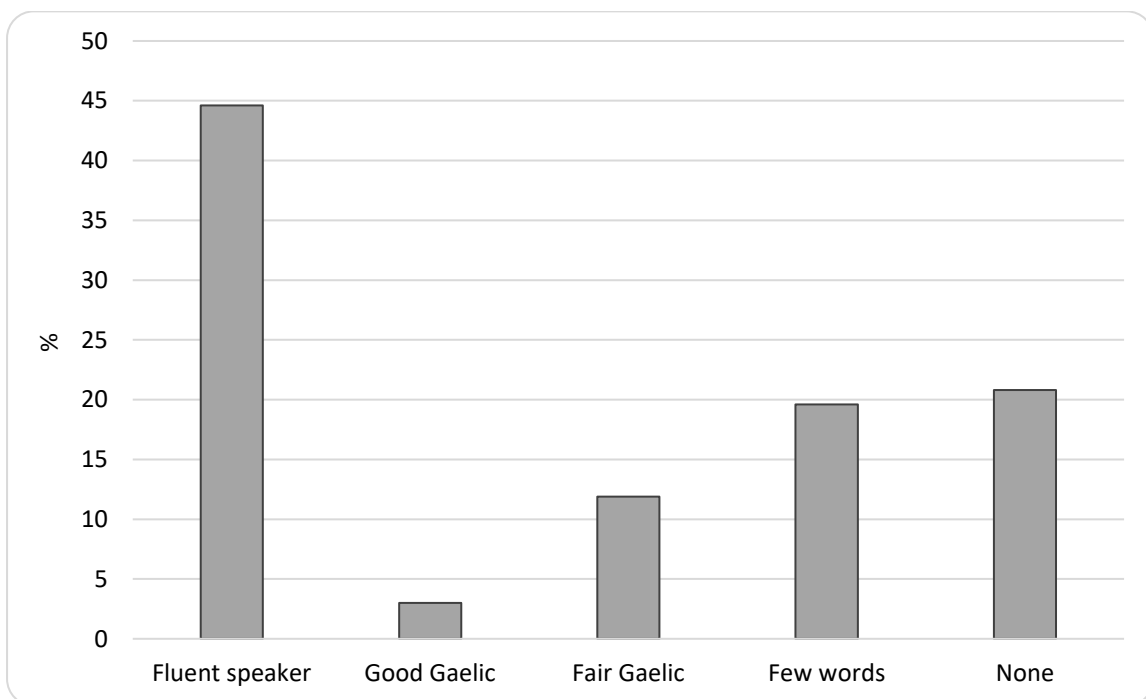


Figure A6.16 Percentage distribution of Gaelic competence, Grimsay (N = 168)

In Grimsay, almost half of reported residents are *Fluent speakers* with 44.6% in this category. However, the incidences of the following four categorisations are: *Good Gaelic*: 3%; *Fair Gaelic*: 11.9%, *A few words*: 19.6%; *No Gaelic*: 20.8%.

A6.6.6 Distribution of speaker types, Grimsay

The distribution of speaker types among reported residents in Grimsay is depicted in Figure A6.17.

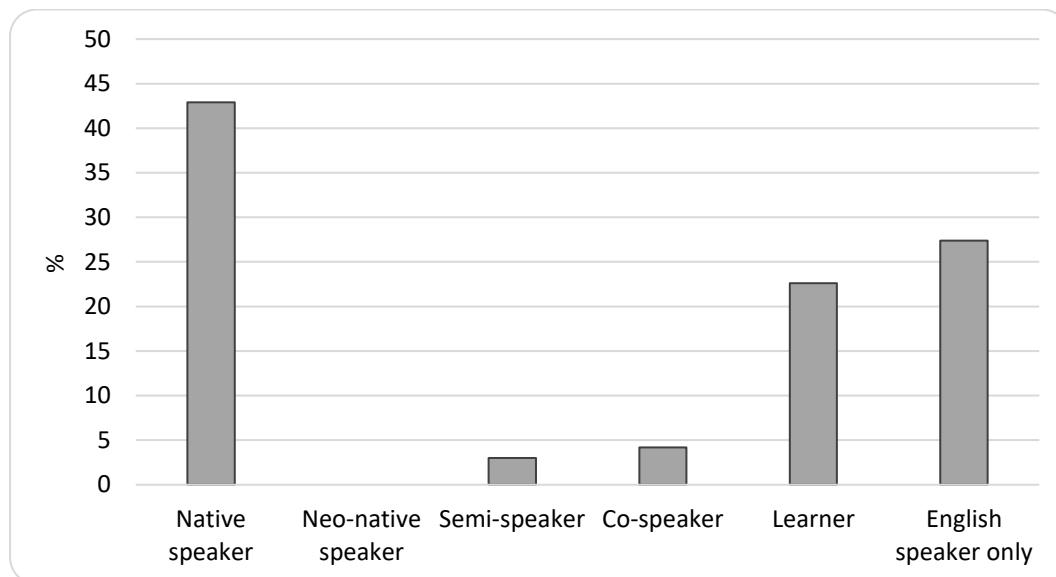


Figure A6.17 Percentage distribution of speaker types, Grimsay (N = 168)

The speaker-type distribution in Grimsay was markedly different from that in Scalpay; fewer than half of Grimsay's reported residents were assessed as being *Native speakers* (42.9%). With 27.4% of those who were assessed in Grimsay as being *English speakers*, the gap between the percentages of Gaelic bilinguals and English monolingual speakers is not as considerable in Grimsay as it is in Scalpay.

Similar to Scalpay, there are relatively few *Semi-speakers* (3%) or *Co-speakers* (4.2%). However, there were a lot more people assessed as being a *Learner* (22.6%); this may suggest a culture of relatively strong active support for the language, albeit juxtaposed with the fact that the numbers in the *Native speaker* of Gaelic category are in the minority in that community.

Figure A6.18 depicts linguistic category by age group for the Grimsay Study District.

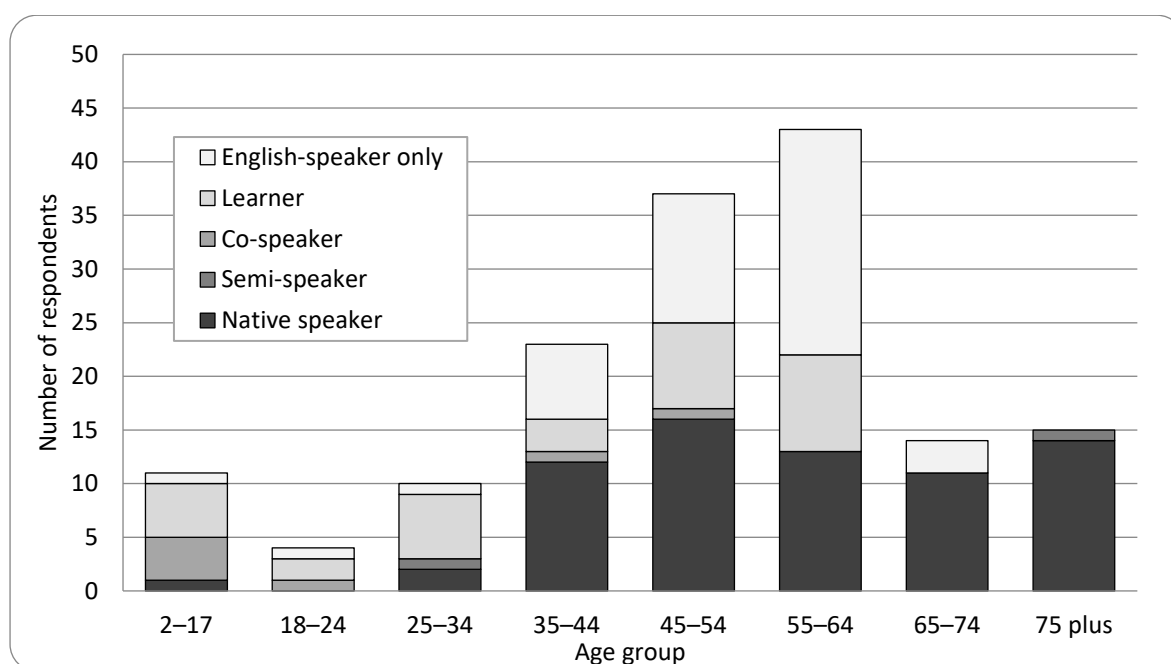


Figure A6.18 Linguistic category by age group, Grimsay (N = 157)

Table A6.4 below depicts data pertaining to the speaker categories for those aged two years and over in Grimsay, as depicted in Figure A6.18 above.

Speaker category	2-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Native speaker	1	0	2	12	16	13	11	14
Semi-speaker	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Co-speaker	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Learner	5	2	6	3	8	9	0	0
English-speaker only	1	1	1	7	12	21	3	0
Total	11	4	10	23	37	43	14	15

Table A6.4 Speaker category by age cohort, Grimsay (N = 157)

The speaker typology for Grimsay is indicative of a more fragmentary situation than that of Scalpay or Eriskay. Fewer than 6% of reported residents are identified as either a *Semi-speaker* or a *Co-speaker*. A much higher percentage (21%) of reported residents in Grimsay are identified as a *Learner* compared to Scalpay (4.8%) or Eriskay where no *Learner* is identified.

It is unclear, and beyond the scope of the current study, why *Learner* appears relatively well-represented in the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups. Those seen as being a *Fluent speaker* are in the majority in only the 35-44 cohort or those aged 65 and over.

No reported residents are categorised as *English-speaker only* in the over-75 age group, and while this categorisation is more prevalent between the ages of 45 and 64, *Native speaker* of Gaelic is in the majority for the 35-44 age group. In younger age groups, categorisation becomes more diffuse and the *Native speaker* of Gaelic appears less prevalent. No *Native speaker* is recorded for the 18-24 age group.

A6.7 Data depiction: Eriskay

The following section examines the disaggregated data for Eriskay.

A6.7.1 Age profile, Eriskay

Figure A6.19 depicts a stronger school-aged cohort in comparison to the older age cohorts, and in contrast to the profiles in the other Study Districts.

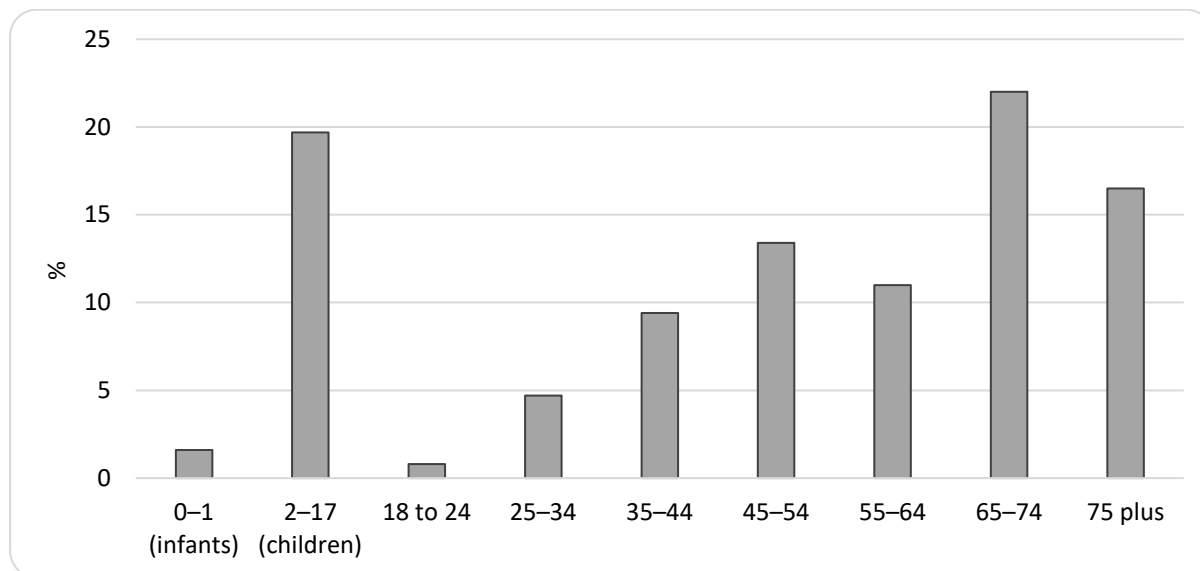


Figure A6.19 Age profile by age cohort, Eriskay (N = 127)

One of the most salient features of the figure is that while there is a relatively high percentage of children aged 2 to 17 (19.7%), the next two highest percentages are in the 65–74 (22%) and over-75 age cohorts (16.5%), with a very small percentage aged between 18 and 34 resident full-time in Eriskay (5.5%). The drop-off between children of school age and those in the young adult categories suggests that there is a current trend of out-migration of younger community members. Almost half (49.5%) of the reported residents are over 55.

A6.7.2 Fluency, locality and household Gaelic use, Eriskay

Gaelic-only household language use is depicted in Figure A6.20, compared with competency in Gaelic and background information, for Eriskay.

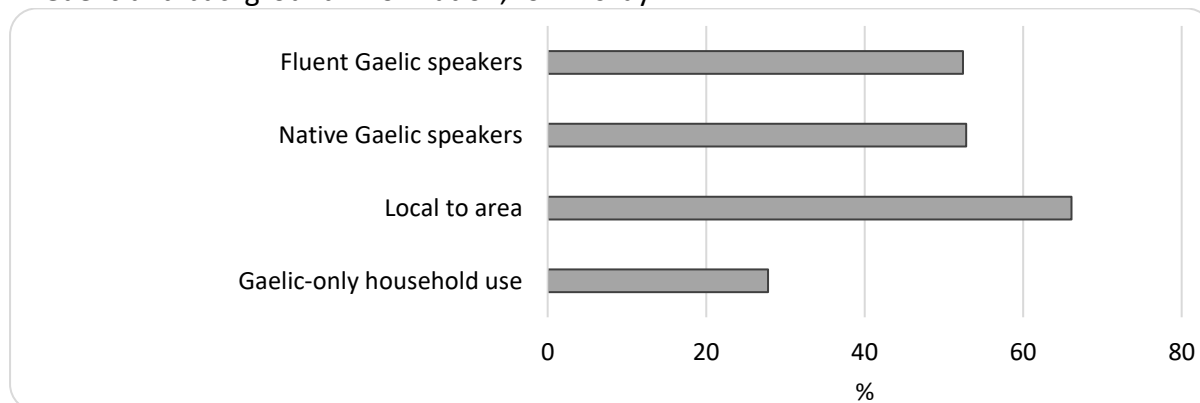


Figure A6.20 Percentage distribution of fluent speakers, native speakers, local origin and Gaelic-only household use among reported residents, Eriskay (N = 127)

Gaelic-only household use (27.8%) appears to be in a weaker position in Eriskay than in the other Study Districts, especially when measured against the fact that the *Fluent speaker, Native speaker* and *Local origin* categories are all over 50%.

A6.7.3 Percentage distribution of place of origin, Eriskay

The distribution of place of origin data for Eriskay in Figure A6.21 indicates that a high proportion of reported residents are local to the area.

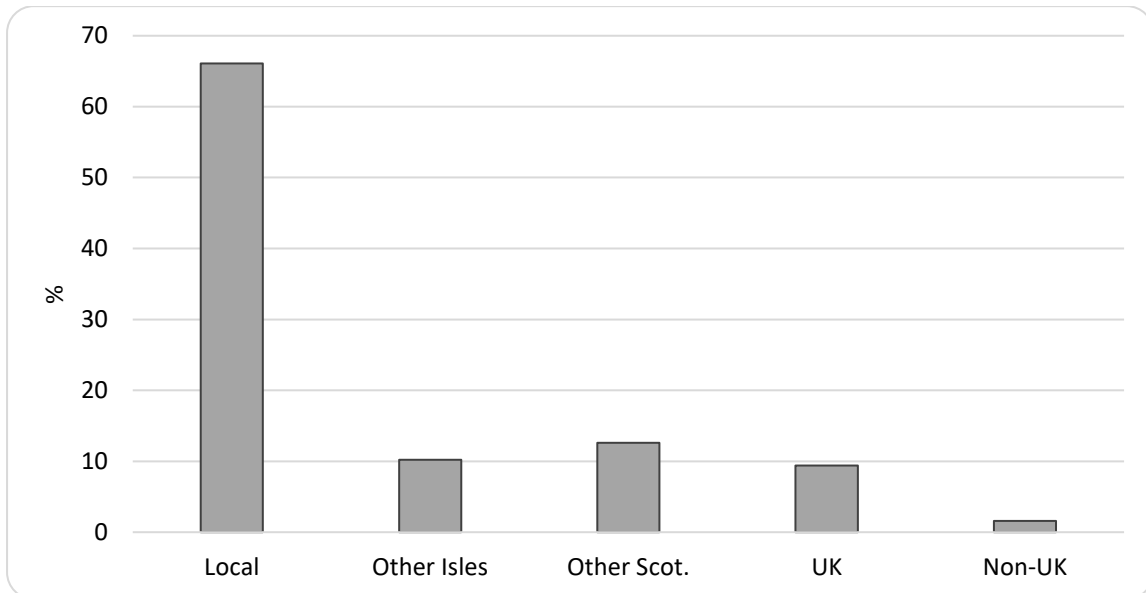


Figure A6.21 Percentage distribution of place of origin, Eriskay (N = 127)

Reported residents with a *Local* origin comprised two-thirds of Eriskay's reported residents. In total, 76.3% were from the Western Isles.

A6.7.4 Household language practice, Eriskay

Figure A6.22 indicates the dominance of English in household language practice in Eriskay.

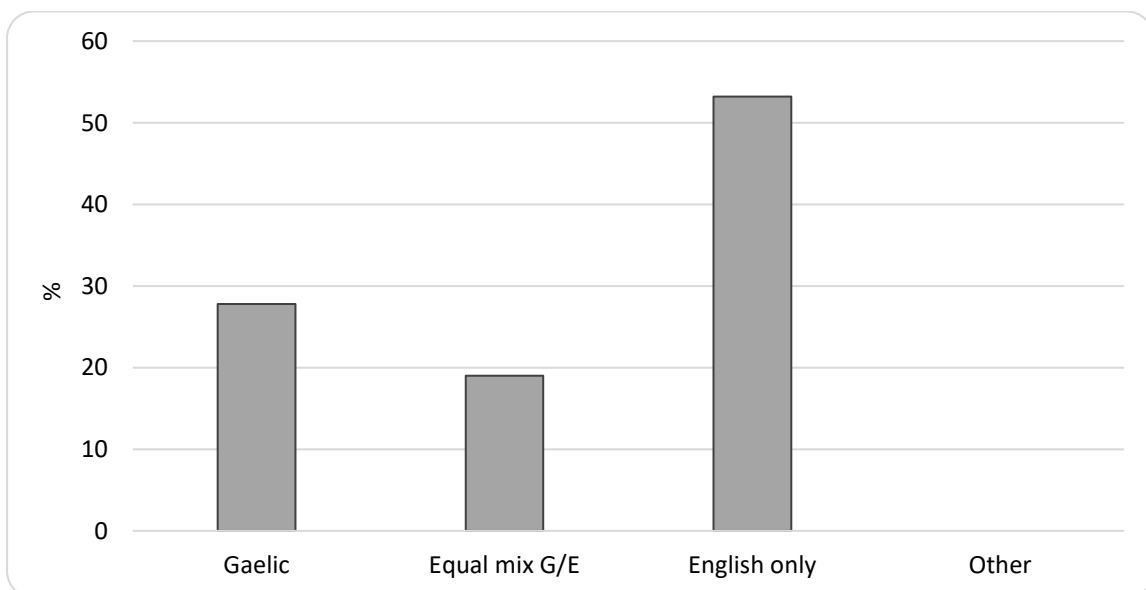


Figure A6.22 Percentage distribution of household language practice, Eriskay (N = 126)

Eriskay, the most-southerly community that we surveyed, also contrasts strongly, similar to Grimsay, with the current situation found in Scalpay: 27.8% of households are Gaelic dominant in Eriskay, with an *Equal mix of Gaelic and English* spoken in 19% of households. A majority of households (53.2%) are identified as being *English only* demonstrating that Gaelic is in a subordinate position in relation to household language practice on the island.

Figure A6.23 examines household composition and language use in Eriskay.

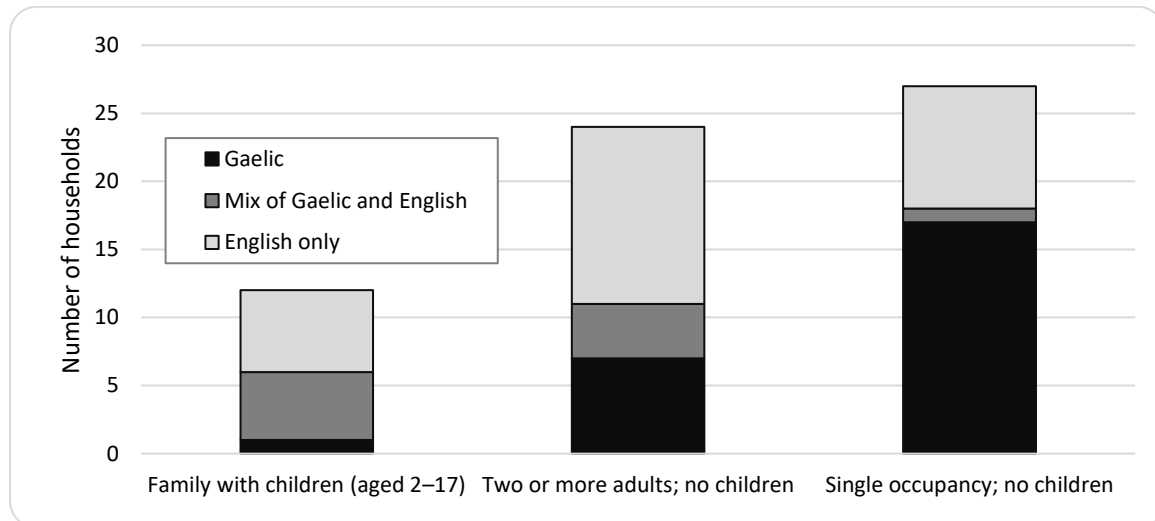


Figure A6.23 Household composition and language use, Eriskay (N = 63 households)

As with the other two islands, the data for Eriskay depict a situation of Gaelic dominance for *Single occupancy; no children* scenarios, but *Gaelic only* becomes much less prevalent in *Family with children* (8.3%) or multiple occupancy (29.2%) situations.

A6.7.5 Distribution of Gaelic competence, Eriskay

Figure A6.24 indicates that over half those identified in the STS for Eriskay are in the fluent Gaelic speaker category.

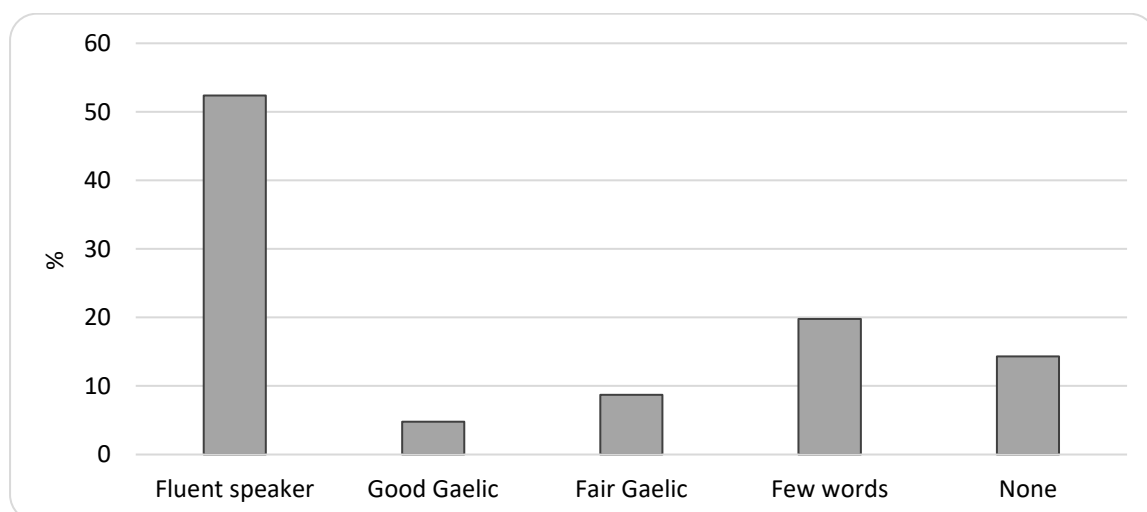


Figure A6.24 Percentage distribution of Gaelic competence, Eriskay (N = 126)

Over half of the local population are reported as *Fluent speaker* of Gaelic (52.4%). More than a third of individuals in Eriskay are categorised as having either *No Gaelic* (14.3%) or only *A few words* (19.8%), with 8.7% having *Fair Gaelic* and 4.8% having *Good Gaelic*.

A6.7.6 Distribution of speaker types, Eriskay

Figure A6.25 illustrates the distribution of speaker types among reported residents in Eriskay.

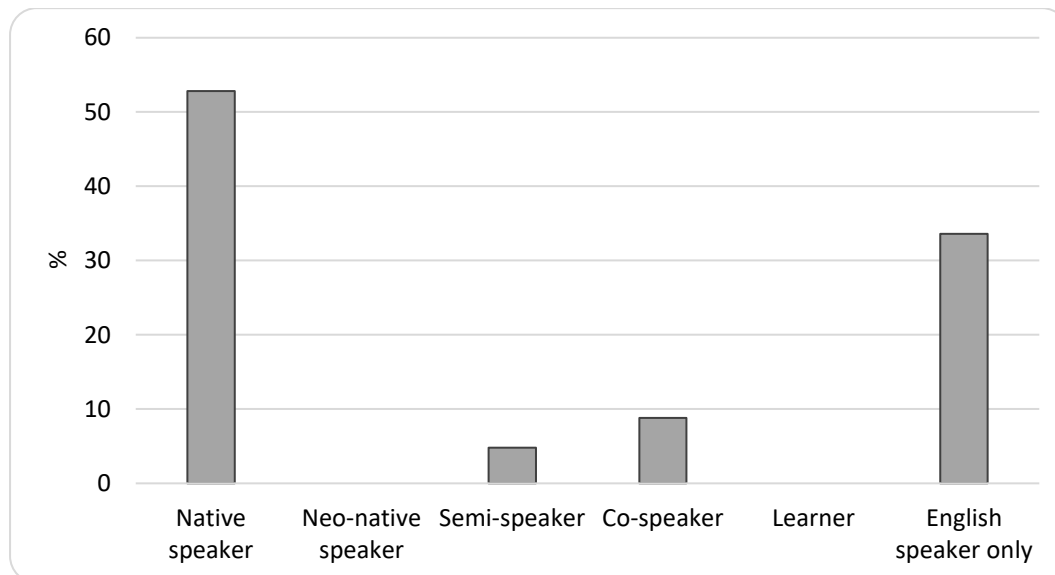


Figure A6.25 Percentage distribution of speaker types, Eriskay (N = 125)

This comparison of speaker types reveals that there is a marginal majority of individuals in the Eriskay Study District who are assessed as being *Native speakers* of Gaelic (52.8%), with a third (33.6%) assessed as *English speakers*. The combined proportions for these two contrasting categories account for over 86% of Eriskay's reported residents.

There are more *Co-speakers* (8.8%) compared with the other island communities surveyed, possibly due to children attending Gaelic-medium education and thus learning Gaelic in an institutional setting rather than in the community. No individuals are described as being learners of Gaelic. The local advisor indicated that there are a number of *Semi-speakers* (4.8%).

However, there appears to be a strong *Native speaker* cohort on Eriskay, as in the Scalpay and Grimsay Study Districts, which could prove to be a valuable local asset for the development of communal learning opportunities in the near future, in the event of such a course of action being agreed.

Linguistic category by age group among reported residents in Eriskay is shown in Figure A6.26.

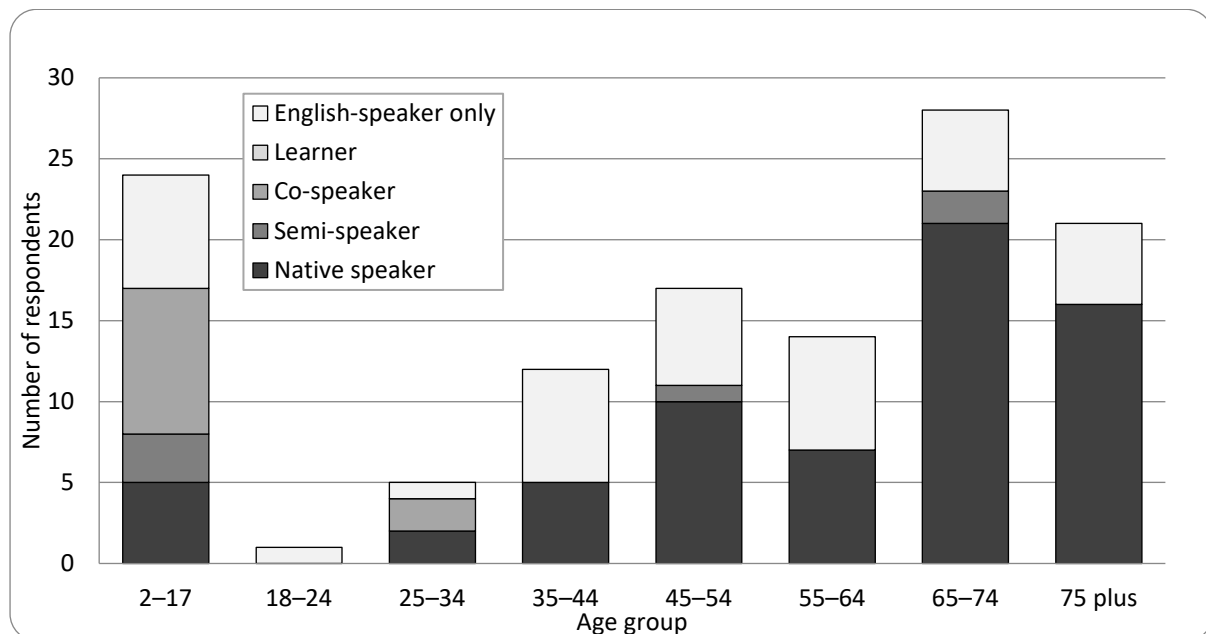


Figure A6.26 Linguistic category by age group, Eriskay (N = 122)

Table A6.5 below depicts data pertaining to the speaker categories for those aged two years and over in Eriskay as depicted in Figure A6.26 above.

Speaker category	2-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Native speaker	5	0	2	5	10	7	21	16
Semi-speaker	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Co-speaker	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Learner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English-speaker only	7	1	1	7	6	7	5	5
Total	24	1	5	12	17	14	28	21

Table A6.5 Speaker category by age cohort, Eriskay (N = 122)

As in Scalpay, *Native speaker* is clearly the most common categorisation among those aged 45 and over (67.5%) in Eriskay, while for those under 45 the *Native speaker* categorisation represents 28.6% of reported residents. The most fragmentary situation is noted in the childhood cohort (2-17), with *Co-speaker* (37.5%) the most commonly identified category, outnumbering *English speaker* and *Native speaker*.

No reported resident is identified as a *Learner* for the Eriskay STS, which can be regarded as surprising at first glance. The scope of the research does not extend to assessing why this might be the case, however, possible explanations may include the 'either/or' scenario in older age cohorts between *Native speaker* of Gaelic and *English-speaker only*, in combination with a relatively small younger age cohort and a decline in the use of Gaelic between older and younger generations (See A5.7.4 and A6.7.4 for Eriskay language use).