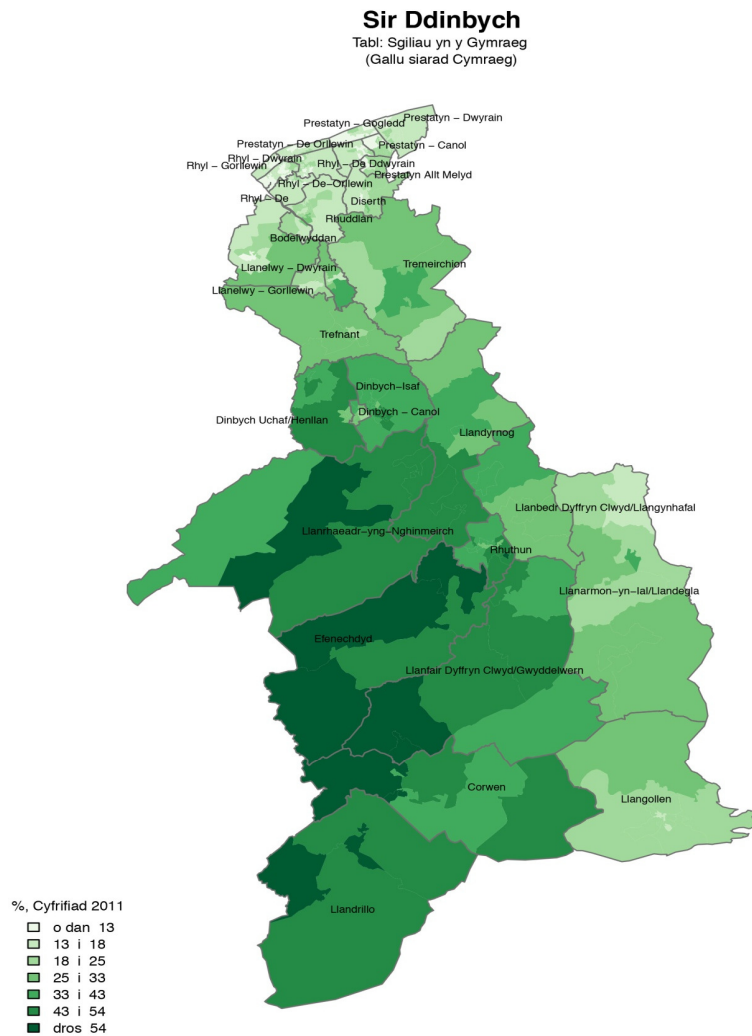


The Welsh Language in Denbighshire

1. The results of the 2011 Census show that 22,236 people in Denbighshire can speak Welsh, which equates to 24.6% of the population. The total number of Welsh speakers in 2011 was 23,760, which is 26.4% of the population. Over a ten year period there has been a drop of 1,524 in the number and 1.8% in the percentage of Welsh speakers in the county.
2. The geographical distribution of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire is slightly more even than in Conwy County. The 2011 Census data shows that the highest percentages of Welsh speakers are found in the south-west of the county, in the electoral wards of Llandrillo (59.2%), Efenechtyd (53.7%), Llanrhaeadr yng Nghynmeirch (50.0%) and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd (48.3%).
3. As can be seen from the map below, the electoral wards with the lowest percentages of Welsh speakers are Prestatyn North (12.6%), Rhyl West (12.7%) and Rhyl East (13.0%), which are coastal areas.



Source: Office of the Welsh Commissioner

4. The table below shows the electoral districts with the highest and lowest percentages of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire:

Electoral District	% Welsh Speakers 2011
Llandrillo	59.2
Efenechtyd	53.7
Llanrhaeadr yng Nghynmeirch	50.0
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern	48.3
Corwen	47.9
Ruthin	41.7
Denbigh Lower	40.2
Rhyl South West	13.7
Prestatyn South West	13.7
Rhyl East	13.0
Rhyl West	12.7
Prestatyn North	12.6

5. Unlike the electoral departments with high percentages – which are mainly rural – the table below shows that the majority of electoral wards with the highest numbers are to be found in the market towns such as Corwen, Ruthin and Denbigh. It therefore appears that these towns are very significant in terms of planning for the future of the language since they have relatively high numbers and percentages of Welsh speakers living in them; similarly wards such as Llanfair DC/Gwyddelwern and Efenechtyd that have fairly high percentages and numbers. Interestingly, there are 1,000 Welsh speakers living in the Rhyl South East ward although the percentage is relatively low (15.5%):-

Electoral District	Number of Welsh Speakers
Ruthin	2,195
Denbigh Lower	1,777
Rhyl South East	1,132
Llanfair DC/Gwyddelwern	1,044
Corwen	1,084
Denbigh Upper	998

6. Between 2001 and 2011, 5 electoral districts in the county saw an increase in terms of the number and percentage of Welsh speakers.

Electoral District	Increase in the number of Welsh speakers	Change in the percentage of Welsh speakers
Efenechtyd	58	+2.10%
Llangollen	41	+0.15%
Prestatyn North	84	+0.28%
Prestatyn South West	67	+1.13%
Rhyl West	19	+0.32%

7. There were 9 electoral divisions that saw an increase in numbers since 2001. In addition to those named above the electoral divisions of Bodelwyddan (+3), Llanarmon yn Iâl/Llandegla (+20), Rhyl South East (+5) and Ruthin (+23) saw increases within the space of a decade. Prestatyn North and South West saw the biggest increase, as outlined above.

Distribution of Welsh Speakers by Age

8. The ability to speak Welsh varies significantly according to age. As shown in the table below, according to the 2011 Census over 40% of 3-15 year-olds can speak Welsh in Denbighshire. Unfortunately this figure drops to 26% for the 15-30 age group and drops even further for the 30-50 age group (21.3%). The 50-70 age group contains the lowest percentage of Welsh speakers of all age groups at 18.3%. The 70+ age group is slightly higher with 22.4% who can speak Welsh. As can be seen, the highest percentages are in the 4-15 age group. This probably reflects the influence of the education system on the linguistic skills of school-aged children.
9. The numbers in the 20-70 age groups are fairly constant and vary from 1,032 to 1,340. The average for all age groups is 1,174 Welsh speakers.

Age Group	% Welsh speakers 2001	% Welsh speakers 2011	Number of Welsh speakers 2001	Number of Welsh speakers 2011
All those aged over 3 years	26.4	24.6	23,760	22,236
3-4 years	19.6	27.6	417	584
5-9 years	39.4	45.3	2,273	2,248
10-14 years	46.3	47.2	2,865	2,581
15-19 years	36.6	32.5	1,990	1,950
20-24 years	24.8	23.0	1,115	1,198
25-29 years	24.2	22.8	1,174	1,032
30-34 years	22.0	23.1	1,295	1,039
35-39 years	21.5	22.7	1,425	1,215
40-44 years	21.6	20.6	1,271	1,320
45-49 years	20.5	19.1	1,202	1,326
50-54 years	21.0	18.6	1,471	1,158
55-59 years	22.1	17.3	1,283	1,034
60-64 years	22.8	18.7	1,212	1,340
65-69 years	25.0	18.6	1,175	1,079
70-74 years	24.4	20.3	1,109	972
75-79 years	24.6	22.4	1,011	832
80+ years	26.9	24.6	1,472	1,328

10. What is encouraging about the data is the significant increase in the percentage and numbers of Welsh speakers in the 3-4 age group, from 19.6% (417 in number) in 2001 to 27.6% (584) in 2011, an increase of +8% and 167 in number. This reflects the fact either that there are more parents or members of the extended family who speak Welsh at home with their children or that there are more children attending Ti a Fi groups or Welsh-medium nursery groups.
11. It is also worth noting that there is an increase in the proportion of 5-15 year-olds who can speak Welsh since 2001, from 42.8% to 46.25%. In terms of numbers there is a reduction in this group of 309, which reflects the fact that there are fewer children in those year groups compared with a decade earlier.

12. Unfortunately, as is the case in many other counties in the traditional Welsh speaking areas, this linguistic increase is not being sustained from one decade to the next. We see in the graph below, for instance, that 46.3% of 10-14 year-olds spoke Welsh in 2001, but a decade later only 23% of the same cohort, who are now 20-24 years old, continue to speak Welsh. This is less than half.

13. If we look at the numbers in the same age groups we see that there was a reduction of 1,667 Welsh speakers in a decade, between those who were fluent at 14 years (2,865) and those who reported that they were fluent at 24 years (1,198). As noted in point 16 below, the outward migration of young people is one reason for a drop in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers in this age group each decade.