

# Census Release III: Languages

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## Data Sources<sup>1</sup>

**2017. Various Geographies.** Census Profile - Age, Sex, Type of Dwelling, Families, Households, Marital Status and Language for Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions. **2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-401-X2016052. Ottawa. Released Aug 2, 2017.** <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?objId=98-401-X2016052&objType=46&lang=en&limit=0> (accessed Aug 2 2017).

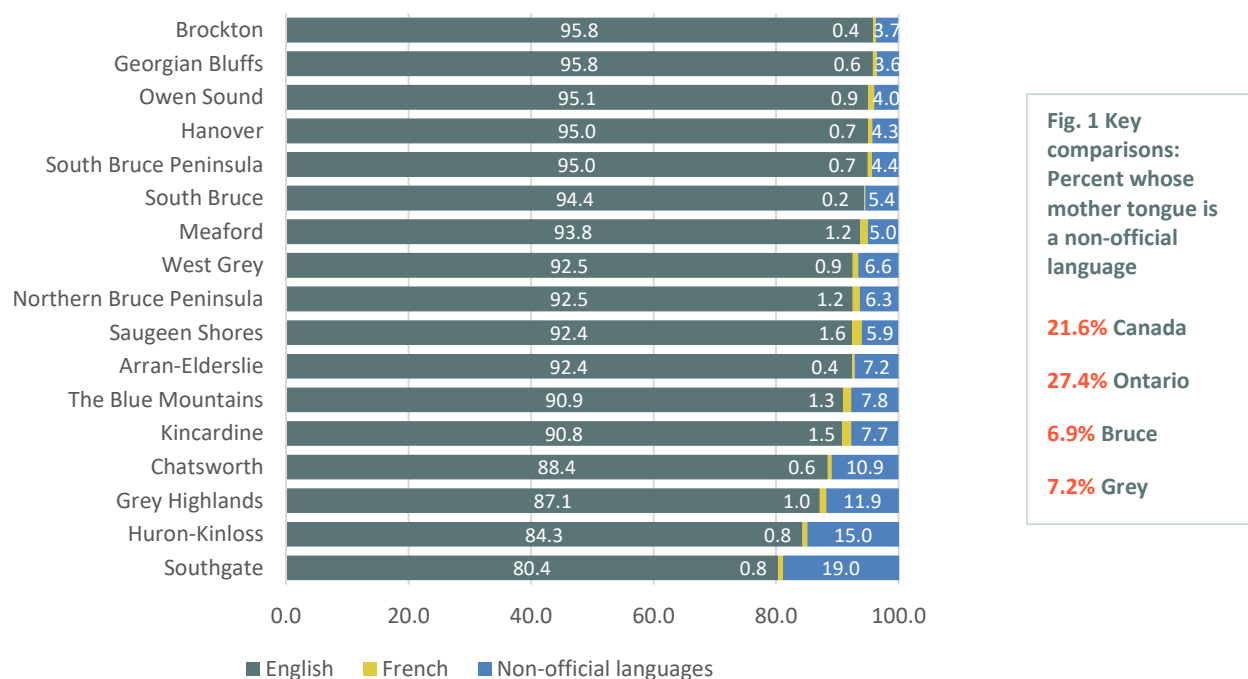
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<sup>1</sup> Data from Neyaashiinigiing and Saugeen First Nations are not included in this report due to high non-response rates (30.5% and 46% respectively)

## Mother Tongue

Mother tongue refers to the language that a person first learned at home in childhood and still understands at the time of the census.<sup>2</sup> Figure 1 presents the proportions of people in municipalities in Grey Bruce whose mother tongues are official vs. non-official<sup>3</sup> languages. The proportion of people whose mother tongue is a language other than English and French is far smaller across Grey and Bruce counties than Ontario. The most commonly reported non-official language mother tongues in Bruce County are German (3.0%), Dutch (0.9%), and Ojibway (0.3%). In Grey County, the most commonly reported non-official language mother tongues are German (3.5%), Dutch (1.0%), and Italian (0.2%). German is the most common mother tongue (after English) in the municipalities with the highest proportion of people whose mother tongue is a non-official language. Almost fourteen percent of people in Southgate (13.9%) report German as their mother tongue, along with 11.5% in Huron-Kinloss, 7.3% in Grey Highlands, and 7.1% in Chatsworth. This represents the prominence of Mennonite and Amish communities in these areas.

**Figure 1: Mother tongue (%), by Municipality**



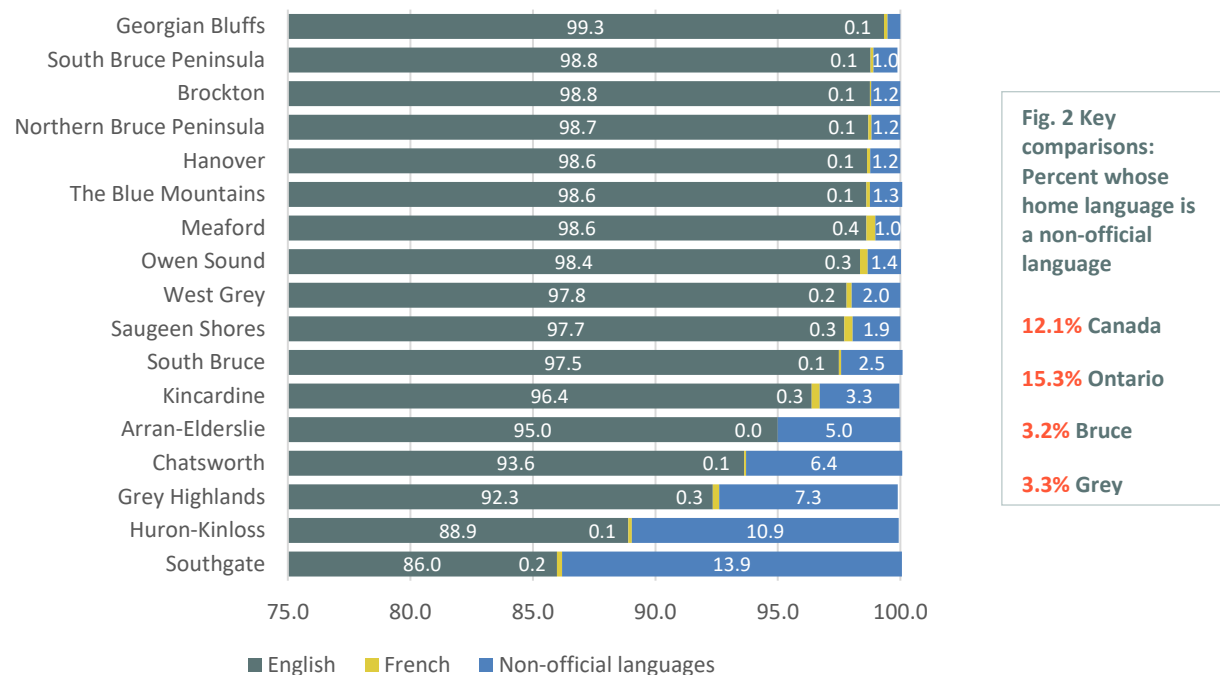
<sup>2</sup> Respondents can choose to report more than one mother tongue, but less than 1% did so in Grey Bruce. These results are restricted to those who reported a single mother tongue.

<sup>3</sup> Non-official languages: languages other than English and French

## Home Language

This section refers to the language a person reports speaking most often or on a regular basis at home<sup>4</sup> (Figure 2). Again, the proportion of people in Grey Bruce whose home language is not an official language is much lower than Ontario. Exceptions include Southgate (at 13.9%), and Huron-Kinloss (at 10.9%). The most common non-official home languages in Bruce County are German (1.9%), Dutch, (0.2%), and Urdu (0.1%). The most common non-official home languages in Grey County are German (2.17%), Dutch, (0.2%), and Korean (0.08%). The proportion of people who speak French at home is less than one percent across Grey and Bruce counties, with Meaford having the highest proportion at 0.4%.

**Figure 2. Home language (%), by Municipality**

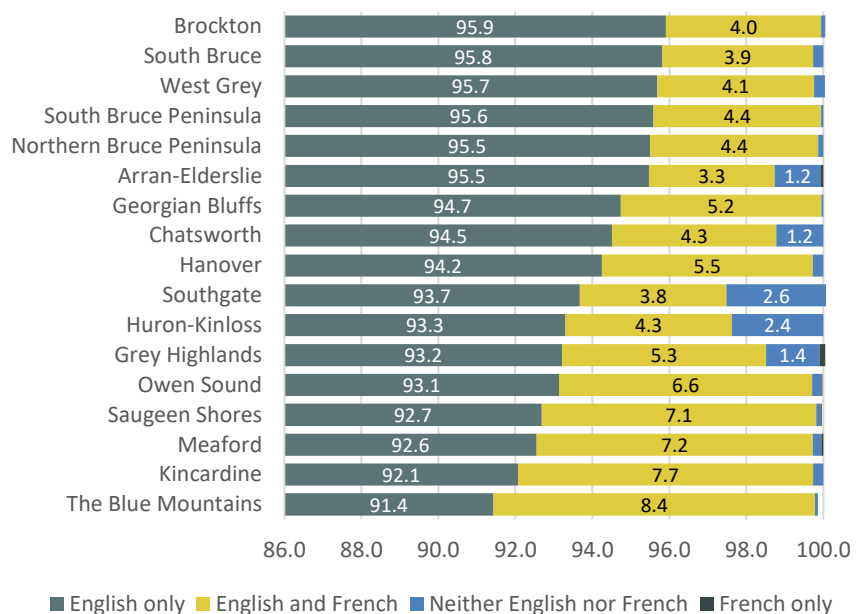


<sup>4</sup> Respondents can choose to report more than one home language, but less than 1% did so in Grey Bruce. These results are restricted to those who reported a single mother tongue.

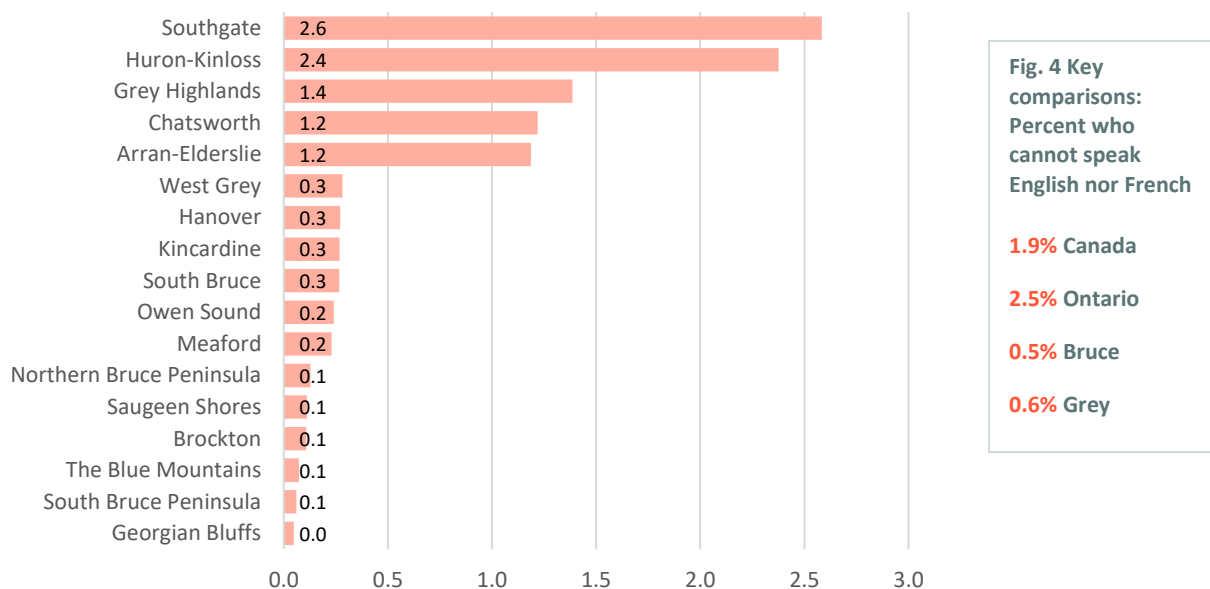
## Knowledge of Official Languages

Limited language proficiency could influence health by: 1) impairing access to health services; 2) creating economic difficulties; and 3) reducing social participation.<sup>4</sup> Most communities in Grey Bruce have very low proportions (i.e. less than 3%) of people who cannot speak English nor French. (Figures 3 & 4). Exceptions include Southgate, Huron-Kinloss, Grey Highlands, Chatsworth, and Arran-Elderslie (Figure 4). Unlike in Ontario and Canada, people who cannot speak English or French are not mainly comprised of immigrants, but the Mennonite and Amish residents in these municipalities.

**Figure 3: Knowledge of official languages (%), by Municipality**



**Figure 4. Percent who cannot speak English nor French, by Municipality**



<sup>5</sup> Chiswick BR, Lee YL, Miller PW. Immigrant Selection Systems and Immigrant Health [Internet]. Bonn, Germany: Institute for the Study of Labor; 2006. Available from: <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ea1/a65223e096f279b7ab981aef12695ab7c3bf.pdf>

## Glossary<sup>6</sup>

### Mother tongue

Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data was collected. If the person no longer understands the first language learned, the mother tongue is the second language learned. For a person who learned two languages at the same time in early childhood, the mother tongue is the language this person spoke most often at home before starting school. The person has two mother tongues only if the two languages were used equally often and are still understood by the person. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, the mother tongue is the language spoken most often to this child at home. The child has two mother tongues only if both languages are spoken equally often so that the child learns both languages at the same time.

### Language spoken most often at home

Refers to the language the person speaks most often at home at the time of data collection. A person can report more than one language as "spoken most often at home" if the languages are spoken equally often.

For a person who lives alone, the language spoken most often at home is the language in which he or she feels most comfortable. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this is the language spoken most often to the child at home. Where two languages are spoken to the child, the language spoken most often at home is the language spoken most often. If both languages are used equally often, then both languages are included here.

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<sup>6</sup> All definitions taken directly from Statistics Canada (2016). Census Dictionary, Census year, 2016. Ottawa: Minister of Industry.