

## “Jamaican Country Sign Language [jcs] (A language of Jamaica)

- **Alternate Names:** Country Sign, Konchri Sain
- **Population:** 40 (L. Parks).
- **Location:** Primarily in Saint Elizabeth parish.
- **Language Status:** 7 (Shifting).
- **Language Use:** Currently, only about 40 deaf adults in the Jamaican parish of St. Elizabeth are native Country Sign users. Younger deaf people not learning it because the local educational institution is using Jamaican Sign Language [jls] instead. Most of the Jamaican deaf community does not understand Country Sign Language. Also use Jamaican Sign Language [jls].
- **Language Development:** English literacy is very low because many adults have had no formal education.
- **Other Comments:** Maranatha School for the Deaf in Ridge (St. Elizabeth parish) uses Jamaican Sign Language [jls] in the classroom. Deaf people in the St. Elizabeth Parish often move to the larger cities for easier access to employment. Country Sign is not being used in the schools and its number of users is gradually declining.”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)  
2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

### **Related Research**

Dolman, David  
1986 Sign Languages in Jamaica. Sign Language Studies 52: 235-242.

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