

# Manaakitanga & Administrative Data

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**Manaakitanga** is a principle in *Māori Data Sovereignty and Governance*, which focuses on reducing any harm that the collection, use, and interpretation of data can have on Māori communities. If Manaakitanga is not adhered to, Māori can end up being blamed for aspects of Māori struggling that really are systemic issues (Māori smoke more than Pakeha, Māori commit more crimes, etc). In **administrative data**, there is **not robust coverage** for key variables in Māori data, such as iwi affiliation, descent, and fluency in Te Reo Māori. Administrative data is primarily collected from the **delivery and access** of government services. Data is not collected if services are not accessed. Communities where government services are difficult to access, many of which are Māori, cannot be accurately represented in the data. Poor quality Māori data means that Manaakitanga **cannot be truly upheld**, as it would be impossible to come to any meaningful and beneficial conclusions for Māori. As such, switching from the traditional census format to an administrative data format will likely **negatively impact** on Māori. However, **consultation and partnership** with iwi can mitigate this impact by **increasing access** to services, improving the quality of collected data, such that Māori **are not disadvantaged**.

Word Count: 200

## Sources:

- RNZ: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/564560/the-traditional-census-has-been-switched-off-what-happens-now>