

Risks to Māori Data Sovereignty and Governance from Repurposing Administrative Data.

Stats NZ's administrative data has been collected through people's interactions with government services. For example, education, health, and tax records. When providing their data to these services, it's usually assumed it will only be used for service delivery. Repurposing this data without collaboration and consent undermines the principles of Rangatiratanga (Authority) and Manaakitanga (Reciprocity).

Additionally, Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship) involves enabling Māori to protect Māori data through control over how it is stored, shared, and used. Compared to Census survey data, integrating disjointed data from various government agencies complicates guardianship. This is especially important here, as personally identifiable information and sensitive data is being combined, and data breaches could have severe privacy consequences.

Ignoring these principles risks loss of Māori trust and engagement with government services, which would be accompanied by underrepresentation in population statistics. Government funding for Māori communities may then be decreased, worsening inequities such as poorer health and education outcomes.

Stats NZ should work in partnership with iwi and a Māori workforce to ensure these principles are addressed in this new approach. This includes introducing steps to ensure informed consent is obtained before repurposing existing data and for using data collected in the future for population statistics purposes.

Word Count: 199