

Title: The risks of replacing the census with administrative data for Māori communities

Replacing traditional censuses with administrative datasets poses a significant risk to the data rights of Māori. Traditional censuses can collect information on Māori self-identification, which helps to enhance Māori people's sense of identity. However, the purpose of administrative data collection is to deliver results, which can lead to the underestimation of Māori identity and may result in it not being recognized. So, if the identity of the Māori people is misclassified or becomes less significant, it will affect many national decisions, such as the allocation of funds and other issues.

So to address this risk, Statistics New Zealand must follow the advice of the Māori and reach a consensus to jointly design a brand-new approach. Ensure that data types and collection methods adhere to the Māori definition of identity, give Māori the status they deserve, and ensure that Māori can also be part of national leadership. In this way, the statistics bureau can not only protect the rights and interests of the Māori people but also develop new methods to innovate data statistics.

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