

Risks to Accurate Māori Data and Governance

Māori Data Sovereignty and Governance's main issue is the accurate measurement of the Māori population, which could be compromised by doing away with the traditional Census and depending instead on administrative information. One of the principles discussed in Chris' lecture is that Māori have the right to define and manage data about themselves. Administrative datasets were not initially created to record Māori-specific details, such as iwi affiliation, ancestry or self-identified ethnicity and may therefore underrepresent or misclassify Māori individuals. Such inadequacies could hinder Māori communities' ability to exercise rangatiratanga (power) over their own information and lead to crucial decisions about health, education, and resource allocation being based on erroneous or incomplete data. In order to mitigate this risk, Stats NZ should work with iwi authorities and Māori communities to develop the new Census, making sure that important identification characteristics are appropriately recorded and that Māori have decision-making control over the gathering, handling, and application of their data. The data would be guaranteed to be accurate, culturally standard standards would be upheld, Māori governance would be strengthened, and communities would be empowered to make their own decisions.

Word Count: 186