# Māori Data Sovereignty Risk from Census Changes

Scrapping the traditional Census and just using admin datasets could cause problems for **Collective Benefit** for Māori.

The Census gives a clear picture of how many people there are, their iwi connections, and ethnicity. This information matters because it helps make sure Māori communities get the funding, services, and support they actually need. However, admin data on its own might miss some important details, leave out certain groups, or skip cultural info, which could end up being unfair to Māori communities.

The main risk is that if Māori aren’t involved in planning the new approach, the data might not show their actual needs. This could make it harder to make good decisions about health, education, housing, and other services that rely on correct population information.

To fix this, Stats NZ should involve Māori representatives from the start. Advisory groups or shared decision-making setups can help spot missing information and make sure cultural and social details are included. If needed, small surveys can fill in any gaps.

Collaboration with Māori throughout the process will help build trust, make sure the data really benefits Māori communities, and support Māori Data Sovereignty.

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