

Iwi affiliation in admin and historical census data





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Purpose and summary

Purpose

This paper provides an evaluation of the current availability and quality of administrative (admin) and historical census data sources within the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) for iwi affiliation.

The evaluation includes looking at the metadata of each data source and assessing their coverage and consistency of the Māori descent population of the [experimental administrative population census \(APC\)](#). This paper updates the previously published assessment of iwi affiliation in admin data: [Identifying Māori populations using administrative data: A comparison with the census](#).

This paper does not propose a methodology for creating an admin-first iwi affiliation variable nor is it an assessment of the feasibility of producing an admin-first iwi affiliation variable.

Summary of key points

Iwi affiliation information from admin and historical census data sources was previously used to help mitigate non-response in the 2023 Census. Iwi affiliation, along with other related variables such as Māori ethnicity and Māori descent, was assessed as part of the Census transformation programme in 2016 (Bycroft et al, 2016). This paper provides a snapshot of admin and historical census data sources for iwi affiliation in the IDI as at 30 June 2023, to build understanding of the current availability and quality of iwi affiliation data.

The evaluation in this paper focuses on metadata analysis, and measures of consistency and coverage. Stats NZ acknowledges that it does not have all the knowledge, capability, and expertise required to fully understand and evaluate iwi affiliation data beyond the metadata analysis and quality measures. In the 2023 Census, Stats NZ worked with Te Kāhui Raraunga Charitable Trust (TKR), the mahi arm of Data Iwi Leaders Group (Data ILG), who brought Māori data capability and expertise to co-develop and co-test the methodology for iwi affiliation. The success of this work and the subsequent quality improvements to the iwi affiliation variable in the census relied on TKR's participation as a member of the 2023 Census Programme Board, the specialised knowledge of iwi Māori data that TKR brings, and appropriate resourcing from TKR.

The data sources evaluated in this paper are admin data from Ministry of Education (MoE) at primary and secondary schooling and tertiary levels, and StudyLink data from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) Student Loans and Allowances. We also include data from the 2013 and 2018 Census responses for iwi affiliation that are linked to the IDI spine. These data will be referred to as 'historical censuses' throughout this paper.

The key findings from this paper include:

- 90.6 percent of the APC Māori descent population have valid iwi responses (including 'Don't know') in at least one of the data sources.
- The combined coverage rate of admin data sources is 69.2 percent, compared with the combined coverage rate for historical censuses of 73.3 percent. In the younger age groups 0–4, 5–9, 10–14, 30–34, and 35–39 years, admin data sources have higher coverage rates than historical censuses.
- The consistency results for all data sources except for MoE Schools are similar, ranging from 73.0 to 77.0 percent. MoE Schools has lower consistency at 67.9 percent.

- Consistency by iwi measurement finds that people who fill in StudyLink forms are more likely to have consistent reporting of their iwi affiliation across the government data ecosystem. This is shown by StudyLink's median consistency by iwi being the highest of all the sources.
- Consistency may be influenced by the context of collection, proxied responses (such as responses provided by respondent's parents), or that the data source uses an older version of the classification.

Stats NZ has announced that the way the census will be conducted is changing, to make greater use of admin data alongside an annual census survey and tailored solutions. We are committed to developing a plan for the iwi affiliation variable. Any potential future design to combine data sources to create an iwi affiliation variable would need to be done alongside iwi Māori in a meaningful and authentic way. There are some possible avenues to explore, including:

- potential improvements to the currently available admin data sources or additional admin data sources (which could increase coverage and consistency)
- the use of parental data (which would increase coverage)
- methods for combining sources (which may increase consistency).

Stats NZ is committed to working with iwi Māori to explore opportunities and solutions for this information need.

Background

This section covers the changing census context, the definition of iwi affiliation used by Stats NZ, the collection of iwi affiliation data by government agencies, the use of iwi affiliation data, and previous work Stats NZ has done with the iwi affiliation variable in admin and historical census data. It also provides background information on the IDI and APC and their use in the context of this paper.

Changing census context

In June 2025, following Cabinet endorsement, details were announced about how New Zealand's census will be conducted in the future. New Zealand's next census will now take place in 2030 (subject to legislative amendments). [Modernising the census](#) provides more information about why the census is changing and the decision-making process. [Proposed data collection approach and content for the census](#) shares Stats NZ's current thinking for the next census as at November 2025.

The discussion document for the public consultation on the proposed data collection approach and content for the census notes that, for iwi affiliation, some data is available in admin data sources, but it is not always accurate or fulsome. This current paper helps to explore the quality and context of the currently available admin and historical census data sources.

We will collect iwi affiliation information through our new annual census survey but, due to sample size limits, only larger iwi will be adequately represented through this survey. Even with improvements in admin and survey data, we anticipate that tailored solutions will also be required to achieve sustainable iwi affiliation data. We are actively working with our iwi Māori partners on solutions to ensure iwi affiliation data meets their needs.

Definition used by Stats NZ

An iwi (a Māori tribe) is one of the largest kinship groupings and is generally made up of several hapū that are all descended from a common ancestor. Hapū are clusters of whānau (families), where the whānau is usually an extended family grouping consisting of children, parents, often grandparents, and other closely related kin.

For statistical purposes, Stats NZ defines iwi as a whakapapa-based kinship grouping that generally has several hapū and one or more active marae, and a recognised structure that represents the interests of the iwi, such as a rūpū whakahaere, committee, or board.

Iwi affiliation as collected by Stats NZ and other government agencies is self-identified, as opposed to data collected by iwi in iwi registers, which require proof of whakapapa.

[Iwi and iwi-related groups](#) as a statistical concept is available in Ariā.

Collecting iwi affiliation information

When providing iwi affiliation information to Stats NZ and other government agencies, people provide a broad range of responses. Some of these responses belong to other concepts, for example confederations or waka. For this reason, the iwi classification has a range of categories representing iwi-related groups to capture an individual's responses. In [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#), these categories are:

- Confederations and waka, iwi not named
- Iwi named, region not known
- Hapū affiliated to more than one iwi
- Region known, iwi not named.

Throughout a person's life, an individual may provide their iwi affiliation information to different government agencies as a part of interactions with them, possibly including multiple occasions for the same agency. Sometimes, a person may provide different iwi affiliation information to different agencies or at different times. In this paper, we consider all responses recorded for each person at **any** time.

The concepts of [Māori descent](#) and [ethnicity](#) are often collected with iwi affiliation. 'Descent' refers to biological ancestry, and 'ethnicity' to cultural affiliation.

For Stats NZ surveys, the subject population for iwi affiliation is the related Māori descent usually resident population. This means when collecting iwi affiliation, we only collect it for those who indicate they are of Māori descent, and in some surveys, for those who do not know if they are of Māori descent. We only produce iwi affiliation counts for people of Māori descent, and in this paper, we only analyse data for people who are of Māori descent in the APC.

Uses of iwi affiliation data

Some uses of iwi affiliation data are to (from [Iwi affiliation – 2023 Census: Information by concept](#)):

- monitor the performance of Treaty of Waitangi obligations by the Crown
- help the allocation of resources and funds to and within iwi

- inform Waitangi Tribunal decisions on, for example, land ownership and fishing rights
- help iwi organisations, local and central government agencies, and non-governmental organisations to evaluate, plan, and provide services to iwi in areas such as housing, health, and education.

Iwi affiliation data from censuses are published by Stats NZ and on [Te Whata](#) – a data platform tailored specifically by iwi for iwi. Te Whata was designed by TKR to support iwi to be designers and users of data.

Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI)

This paper provides an evaluation of the current availability and quality of iwi affiliation in admin and historical census data sources within the IDI.

The IDI is a large research database, which holds de-identified microdata about people and households. Data are gathered from a range of government agencies and non-government organisations and from Stats NZ surveys (including the censuses). [IDI prototype's spine creation and coverage](#) provides more information about how information is linked together, or integrated, to form the IDI.

Source agencies provide data periodically, and the IDI is updated three times a year. This update is known as the IDI refresh. This paper used the June 2025 IDI refresh for data as at 30 June 2023.

Admin population census (APC)

The Māori descent population from the experimental [admin population census](#) (APC) is the subject population for evaluating iwi affiliation in this paper. It consists of records which have 'Yes' as the value for the Māori descent variable in the APC.

The APC is part of Stats NZ's [Census transformation research programme](#). It is based on an admin-derived New Zealand resident population and provides characteristics of individuals and households derived from admin data. The APC target population for individual information is people who usually live in New Zealand at a given date. The APC is updated regularly in the IDI with each refresh. For the analysis in this paper, the reference date is 30 June 2023.

In the APC, coverage of the Māori descent variable peaks at 91 percent in 2013 and decreases gradually both before and after 2013, down to 83.4 percent in 2023. Missing data is partly due to the lack of administrative sources before 1995, when Māori descent was first collected in general birth registrations. Coverage is 92 percent for people born in New Zealand, but markedly lower at 69 percent for those born overseas (Stats NZ, 2024a).

APC data are not official statistics. Rather, they are published as an experimental output from research using a different methodology than what has been used to produce official population statistics.

Previous work

This section provides more detail on previous work carried out by Stats NZ using iwi affiliation from admin and/or historical census data sources.

The Stats NZ Census transformation programme

The Stats NZ Census transformation programme investigated the quality of iwi affiliation in admin data and published the findings in [Identifying Māori populations using administrative data: A comparison with the census](#) (Bycroft et al, 2016). In that work, the subject population for iwi affiliation was New Zealand residents who answered 'Yes' to the Māori descent question in the 2013 Census.

The analysis included coverage for iwi affiliation (both on aggregate and individual levels) in MoE data sources compared with the 2013 Census resident population of Māori descent. The MoE datasets can contain multiple records for an individual, and iwi affiliation can vary in each record. For each individual, the record containing the most iwi responses was used for the analysis, with no attempt to reconcile or combine responses from different records. The MoE Schools data used in the analysis mainly contains data for those aged 5 to 25 years in 2013; MoE Tertiary tables mainly contain data for people aged 18 years and over, with most individuals being under 40 years.

The results showed that on an aggregate level, the coverage of iwi affiliation in MoE data was low compared with the 2013 Census. At an individual level, of those who reported a specific iwi affiliation in the 2013 Census, 20 to 40 percent reported belonging to the same iwi in MoE Schools data. In comparison, 30 to 60 percent reported belonging to the same iwi in MoE Tertiary data.

2023 Census

In the 2023 Census context, the subject population for iwi affiliation was the 2023 Māori descent census usually resident population. Of that population, 73.2 percent provided a response to the iwi affiliation question. Alternative data sources were used to fill missing information where people had not responded to the census, responded but did not complete the iwi affiliation question, or provided a response that was coded to a residual category (for example, 'Refused to answer'). [Data sources and methodology for iwi affiliation in the 2023 Census](#) provides more information on those alternative data sources and how they were used. The methodology for iwi affiliation in the 2023 Census was co-developed and co-tested by Te Kāhui Raraunga and Stats NZ (Stats NZ, 2024b).

The alternative data sources used in the iwi affiliation methodology were the 2013 Census, 2018 Census, MoE Tertiary, MoE Schools, and StudyLink. As part of the methodology, the 2013 and 2018 Censuses were combined, as were the MoE Tertiary and StudyLink data. The use of alternative data sources increased the percentage of the 2023 Māori descent census usually resident population that have a value for iwi affiliation from 716,208 people (73.2 percent) to 954,042 people (97.5 percent).

Statistical standards and classification

Statistical standards and classifications provide definitions for the key iwi affiliation concepts that are used for evaluation. Statistical standards and classifications are designed for use in official statistics.

This section covers the conditions for inclusion in the iwi affiliation classification, the current iwi affiliation classification, and previous changes to the classification.

Conditions for inclusion – iwi affiliation classification

To be included as a category in the iwi affiliation classification, a group must satisfy all of the following criteria.

- It must be a whakapapa-based kinship group.
- It should be an existing hapū becoming an iwi, a collection of hapū, or an iwi-related group.
- Kinship groups that are not listed as an iwi in recognised iwi lists are encouraged to provide information for a governance panel to consider them for inclusion. This includes information about whether a group has:
 - a shared Māori descent line and its own traditions
 - one or more active marae – these do not need to be physical buildings
 - a recognised structure that represents the interests of the iwi, such as a rōpū whakahaere, committee, or board.

Current iwi affiliation classification

As at the time of this paper's publication, the most recent classification for iwi affiliation is [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#) (2023).

Stats NZ updates the classification regularly to capture the dynamic and changing nature of iwi and iwi-related groups. This allows Stats NZ to provide a standard approach for grouping and reporting iwi and iwi-related groups.

The iwi affiliation uses a two-level hierarchical classification. Level 1 of the classification lists 18 broad categories. These include:

- 12 categories that group iwi into geographical regions for statistical purposes
- a category for confederations and waka, where the iwi is not named
- a category for when iwi are named but the region is not known
- a category for when hapū are affiliated to more than one iwi
- a category for when the region is known but the iwi is not named
- a category for people who 'Don't know' their iwi
- a category for 'Not elsewhere included'.

Level 2 of the classification lists iwi and iwi-related categories:

- Within the 12 geographical regions, there are 139 'Fully coded iwi' categories.
- Within the four level 1 categories for 'Confederations and waka', 'Iwi named, region not known', 'Hapū affiliated to more than one iwi', and 'Region known, iwi not named', there are a total of 45 'Partially coded iwi' categories.
- There is a category for 'Don't know'. Residual categories have their own category: 'Refuse to answer', 'Response unidentifiable', 'Response outside scope', and 'Not stated'.

Data is only published at level 2 of the classification. The geographic regions provide structure to the long list of iwi and are not intended for reporting purposes.

In the context of this paper, a valid response for the iwi affiliation variable is any response except responses that fall into the residual categories. The response 'Don't know' is considered a valid response.

Multiple responses can be provided to a question asking for a person's iwi affiliation. People reporting more than one iwi affiliation are counted in each category they stated. Therefore, the total number of iwi affiliations in a summary table will be greater than the number of respondents.

Updating the iwi affiliation classification

The iwi affiliation classification was first developed in 1991, followed by the statistical standard in 1994. Minor updates to the iwi affiliation classification have generally taken place before each Census of Population and Dwellings, but it was not until 2016 with the [Recommendations from the 2016 review of the statistical standard for iwi](#) that the standard was first reviewed in its entirety.

Stats NZ notes that synonyms are regularly updated and the methodology used should be continually improved. Synonyms are a list of names (sometimes including hapū), or names with different spellings, that correspond to each iwi in the classification category. The list of synonyms for each version of the classification is available on [Ariā](#).

Whenever the classification is updated, some iwi that were classified as a single iwi in the old classification can be classified as multiple separate iwi in the new classification. In this situation, the synonyms identified with the iwi category in the historical classification are reallocated to the appropriate iwi category in the new classification, as well as having new synonyms added.

The oldest classification used in this paper is [Iwi - New Zealand Standard Classification V5.0.0](#) (2005) which is used in StudyLink data. The section Classifications provides more information on the different classifications used in this paper and how it impacts the population. Appendix 1 lists iwi that have been added, had their code changed, or had their description changed since V5 (2005).

Data sources

This section describes the data sources that are used for analysis in this paper: Ministry of Education (MoE) tertiary and school enrolments, StudyLink from Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) Student Loans and Allowances, and linked historical census data from 2013 and 2018.

Ministry of Education

MoE collects information on iwi affiliation from providers of primary, secondary, and tertiary education. This information is generally collected on enrolment forms.

MoE provides guidelines on how iwi affiliation data are to be collected, along with a standard enrolment form as a guide, but does not follow-up with individual institutions. MoE collects up to three iwi affiliations per enrolment, using a classification currently aligned to the most recent classification [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#) (2023). However, previously collected MoE data has not been updated to the more recent classification. For more information, please refer to [Iwi data: collection and use](#).

Schools

The MoE Schools Student Personal Information table contains information from primary and secondary school enrolments since 2006, and early childhood education enrolments since 2014. A

person can have multiple records in MoE Schools data if they enrol more than once. The MoE Schools data does not contain a timestamp variable, so the age of responses cannot be determined.

Tertiary

The MoE Tertiary enrolments table contains information about tertiary enrolments since 2002. Each year, information on enrolments and completions in tertiary education institutions is collected by MoE and the Tertiary Education Commission via an electronic administrative collection called the Single Data Return. All tertiary education providers (public or private) that receive government funding are required to complete the Single Data Return three times a year. This covers over 95 percent of institution-based formal tertiary education in New Zealand. Tertiary education providers are required to provide iwi information for students of Māori ethnicity in the Single Data Return, but only in the first year of enrolment at that provider.

Ministry of Social Development – StudyLink

StudyLink is a service of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) that manages student loans and allowances.

The StudyLink dataset consisted of student allowance data since 1999 and then expanded in 2000 to include student loans. Scholarship data was added subsequently. The dataset in the IDI contains information provided by applicants, education providers, the Tertiary Education Commission (approved study programmes or qualifications), the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (Top Scholar Awards), and MoE (TeachNZ Scholarships).

Each record contains up to five iwi affiliations aligned to the [Iwi – New Zealand Standard Classification V5.0.0](#) (2005). There is also the possibility of multiple records if the student is eligible for more than one monetary support item (for example, allowance, loan, or scholarship).

This data source allows for the student to retrospectively change or update their iwi affiliation information if needed. However, these changes are only provided to the IDI if made within five years of the data originally being provided. This means that if a person changes their iwi affiliation information relating to a date more than five years ago, this change will not be reflected in future IDI refreshes. This data also has a timestamp available for understanding the recency of the data.

Historical censuses

2013 Census

The 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings was held on 5 March 2013. People who responded 'Yes' to the Māori descent question in the 2013 Census were asked if they knew the name(s) of their iwi. However, anyone who responded on paper could provide an iwi irrespective of their response to the Māori descent question. In this paper, all valid responses to the iwi affiliation question are considered, irrespective of the response to the Māori descent question.

The 2013 Census data in the IDI includes the synonyms coded from people's responses. This means that it is possible to re-code this data to other versions of the classification.

[Iwi 2013 Census \(information by variable and its quality\)](#) has more information about the iwi affiliation variable in the 2013 Census.

2018 Census

The 2018 Census of Population and Dwellings took place on 6 March 2018. People who responded ‘Yes’ or ‘Don’t know’ to the Māori descent question in the 2018 Census were asked if they knew the name(s) of their iwi. However, anyone who responded on paper could provide an iwi irrespective of their response to the Māori descent question. In this paper, all valid responses to the iwi affiliation question are considered, irrespective of the response to the Māori descent question.

In April 2019, Stats NZ announced that official statistical counts of iwi from the 2018 Census would not be released due to the level of missing iwi affiliation data and the lack of alternative government data sources to fill gaps in the data. In June 2021, Stats NZ together with Data ILG published the [Iwi affiliation \(estimated counts\): 2018](#) to address the gaps in iwi affiliation data in the 2018 Census. The analysis in this paper only uses responses from 2018 Census forms, not the method used for the estimated counts. This is because the estimated counts are not unit record data with individuals’ actual responses for iwi affiliation in the 2018 Census.

Because iwi affiliation data was not released as official counts from the 2018 Census, the data in the IDI includes iwi information in a separate table to the rest of the individual variables. This table does not include synonyms. Therefore, it is not possible to re-code this data to newer versions of the classification.

Data sources not evaluated

This evaluation only considers data sources currently in the IDI as at the June 2025 refresh. At this time there were five other data sources available in the IDI that include iwi affiliation information and are not included in this evaluation:

- Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) births and deaths
- Auckland City Mission
- Children’s Action Plan
- NZ Police Recorded Crime Offenders
- Department of Corrections.

The Auckland City Mission, Children’s Action Plan, NZ Police, and Department of Corrections data sources were considered out of scope for this investigation due to concerns about the context of collection, and no further investigation into the metadata or data was carried out.

Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) births and deaths

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) births and deaths data includes a separate Māori register for births and deaths from 1913 to 1961. In the Māori register, birth certificates collected ‘tribe’ information for the father (papa) and mother (whaea) but not for the child. In death certificates, ‘tribe’ information was collected for the deceased as well as their parents.

In 1962, this separate Māori register was combined into the General register, and ‘tribe’ information was no longer collected. ‘Tribe’ information was collected in free-text form before an iwi affiliation classification came into use and the data collection practices at the time are not known. For these

reasons, the 'Tribe' information obtained from DIA births and deaths is not included in the analysis for this paper.

Methodology and results

This section describes the methodology of evaluating the quality of data sources. First, the evaluation steps are outlined. In addition, the quality measures of coverage and consistency, and the way to calculate them, are defined. Results for coverage and consistency are presented afterwards.

Evaluating the quality of data sources

These steps were taken to evaluate the quality of iwi affiliation information from data sources:

1. Identify the subject population from the APC that consists of people of Māori descent as at 30 June 2023.
2. Identify records within each data source with valid iwi affiliation. This includes 'Don't know'.
3. Identify the metadata for each data source and how they are collected.
4. Compare the metadata for each data source and note differences.
5. Measure the quality of each data source using coverage and consistency measures, incorporating the subject population in the calculation.

In this paper, analysis is done at level 2 of the iwi affiliation classification. [Classifications](#) provides details of the classification used by each data source.

Metadata analysis

To better understand the data sources, we carried out a metadata analysis that looked at elements of the data source such as the number of iwi affiliations allowed in the responses, the classification used, and elements related to data collection. This analysis considers high-level aspects of data collection, though with the distributed nature of data collection for some of the sources there may be variation within a source. To understand this fully would require more engagement with the data providers.

[Table 1](#) summarises the metadata for each data source, with further commentary following. The corresponding metadata for the 2023 Census is also shown for comparison.

Number of iwi affiliations collected

StudyLink, the 2013 Census, and the 2018 Census allow a maximum of five iwi affiliations per response. MoE Schools and MoE Tertiary allow up to three iwi affiliation responses. Collecting a smaller number of iwi affiliations can result in respondents not being able to provide all their iwi affiliations, resulting in an undercount in population size for iwi.

Respondents

StudyLink, MoE Tertiary, the 2013 Census, and the 2018 Census are assumed to be self-reported. The school enrolment data in the MoE Schools data set is likely filled in by parents or guardians. This may also be true for census forms for younger people. The impacts of having a parent or guardian provide the data instead of a child or adolescent have unknown quality implications, which we do not currently have a good understanding of.

Classifications

The most recent classification is [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#) (2023). Different data sources in this paper are classified against different versions of the classification:

- [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V1.0.0](#) (2017) – used for the 2018 Census.
- [Iwi - New Zealand Standard Classification V6.0.0](#) (2009) – used for the 2013 Census. For this paper, the responses were re-coded to the [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#) (2023) using the synonyms provided.
- [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#) (2023) – used for current MoE data.
- [Iwi - New Zealand Standard Classification V5.0.0](#) (2005) – used for current MSD data.

When new records are added into each of the data sources, older classifications within the data are not updated. In addition, the actual iwi response or synonyms used by the data sources in the IDI are not provided to Stats NZ, and so these responses cannot be coded to the current classification. For iwi affiliation in the 2013 Census, responses are re-coded to V2.1.0 by using the updated synonym list.

Iwi population counts may be impacted by the use of older classifications. This may occur when there is a newer classification with either new iwi added, or an existing iwi with its code changed. However, when there is a descriptor change in the newer iwi classification (that is, the name of the iwi in the classification is changed), the population count for that iwi will not be impacted.

[Appendix 1](#) lists iwi that have been added, had their code changed, or had their description changed since [Iwi – New Zealand Standard Classification V5.0.0](#).

Table 1

Summary of metadata from admin and historical census data						
Feature	MoE Tertiary	StudyLink	MoE Schools	2013 Census	2018 Census	2023 Census
Population	Tertiary enrolments	Eligible recipients of financial support for study	Schooling ages including ECE	Usual resident of New Zealand	Usual resident of New Zealand	Usual resident of New Zealand
Number of iwi affiliations	Up to three iwi affiliations per event	Up to five iwi affiliations per event	Up to three iwi affiliations per event	Up to five iwi affiliations	Up to five iwi affiliations online, up to four iwi affiliations on paper	Up to 16 iwi affiliations online, up to five iwi affiliations on paper
Reported by	Self-reported	Self-reported	Parents/guardian	Self-reported ¹	Self-reported ¹	Self-reported ¹
Classification used in collection	Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0 (2023)²	Iwi – New Zealand Standard Classification V5.0.0 (2005)²	Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0 (2023)²	Iwi – New Zealand Standard Classification V6.0.0 (2009)³	Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V1.0.0 (2017)	Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0 (2023)
Online/paper	Online/paper	Online/paper	Online/paper	Online/paper	Online/paper	Online/paper
Online form filling functionality	Can differ by institution	Drop-down list, displays iwi name that matches as you type	Can differ by institution	Manual entry of iwi and region	Manual entry of iwi and region including the use of as-you-type functionality with an 'add' button to add additional iwi in the online form	Selection from a map, as-you-type list, or manual entry
Timestamps	Study start date, year, study end date	Study start date, year, study end date	Not available	5 March 2013	6 March 2018	7 March 2023
Data available: (in the June 2025 IDI refresh)	From 2002 to December 2024	From 1999 to November 2024	From 2003 to December 2024	Data at 5 March 2013	Data at 6 March 2018	Data at 7 March 2023
1. Census is in principle self-reported, but may be completed by someone else, particularly for children. 2. Most recent classification used, older data is classified according to older versions. 3. The 2013 Census data are re-coded to the 2023 classification using the updated synonym list. Note: ECE – Early Childhood Education; IDI – Integrated Data Infrastructure; MoE – Ministry of Education Source: Stats NZ						

Timestamps

Almost all data sources have a timestamp of collection events that indicates the age of the data. More recent data is better at representing the current population. The MoE Schools dataset has no timestamp and so it is not possible to tell when the data was collected.

Available data

As at June 2025, the MoE data are available from 2002/2003 to December 2024, while StudyLink data covers a slightly wider timespan from 1999 to December 2024. Linked historical census data is available for the 2013 and 2018 Census dates.

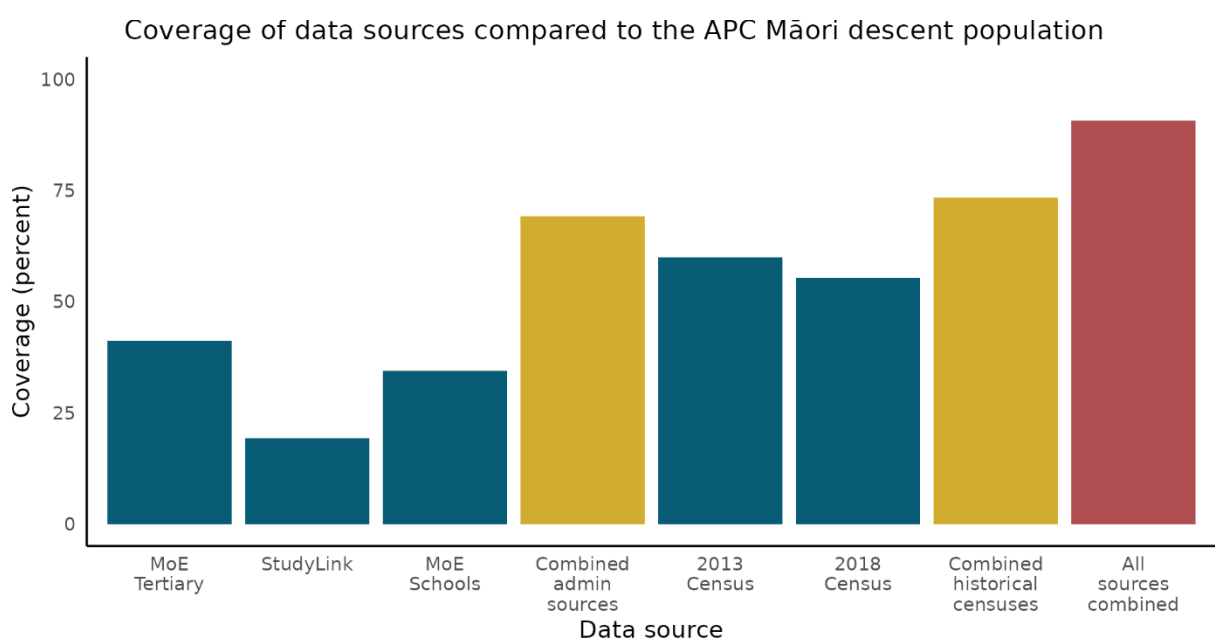
Demographic groups of respondents

The demographic groups that are covered by each of the data sources varies, with linked historical censuses covering all demographic groups, MoE Schools covering ECE, primary, and secondary schooling ages, and MoE Tertiary and StudyLink covering tertiary education age (participation rates are highest for those age 18–24). MoE Tertiary and StudyLink have a more limited availability than MoE Schools. In New Zealand, primary and secondary schooling are compulsory, but tertiary education is not.

Coverage

Coverage describes the relationship between the subject population and the people present in the dataset being evaluated. Coverage of iwi affiliation for a given data source was calculated by dividing the number of people in the data source who have iwi affiliation information and are in the subject population, by the size of the subject population.

The subject population (Māori descent APC population) has a count of 870,087 as at 30 June 2023. Coverage for each data source compared with the subject population is summarised in figure 1 and table 2.

Figure 1**Table 2**

Coverage of iwi affiliation data sources		
Data source	Count ¹	Coverage (percent)
MoE Tertiary	357,786	41.1
StudyLink	167,823	19.3
MoE Schools	299,973	34.5
<i>Combined admin sources</i>	601,749	69.2
2013 Census	521,931	60.0
2018 Census	481,032	55.3
<i>Combined historical censuses</i>	638,193	73.3
All sources combined	788,397	90.6
1. Count reflects the number of records of Māori descent in the APC with iwi affiliation information in each data source.		
Note: APC – administrative population census; MoE – Ministry of Education		
Source: Stats NZ		

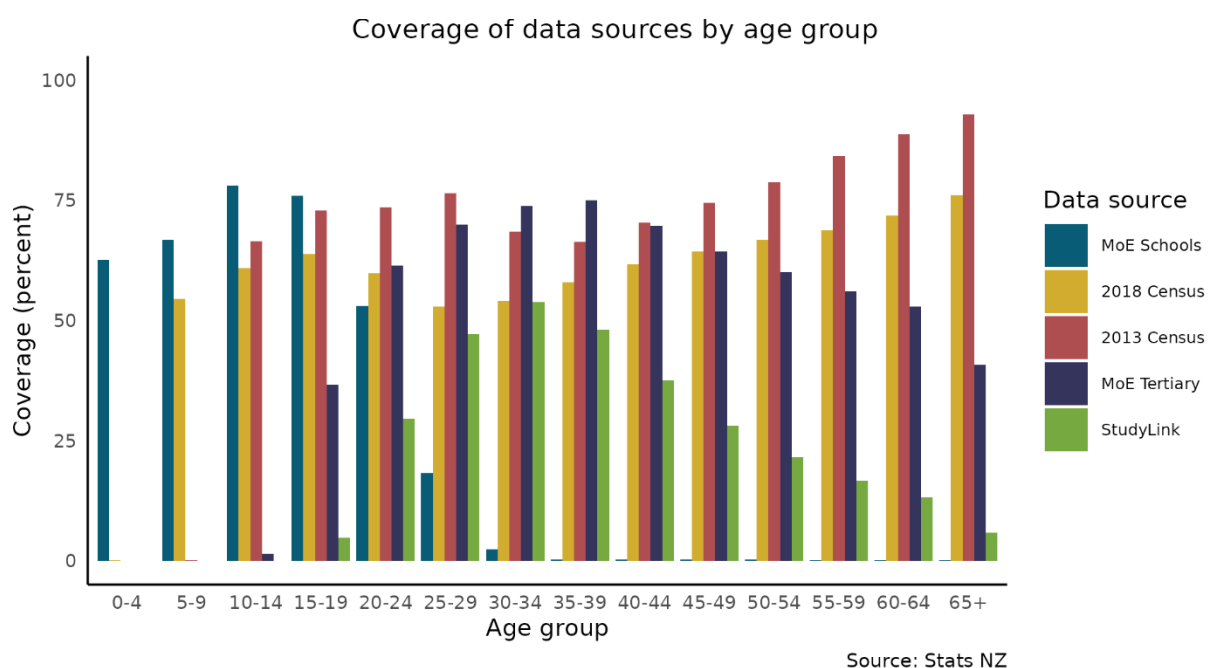
The coverage rate for MoE Tertiary is 41.1 percent. In comparison, MoE Schools and StudyLink's coverage rates are 34.5 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively. The number of records in the Māori

descent APC population that have iwi affiliation information in MoE Tertiary is larger than those who have iwi affiliation information in MoE Schools or StudyLink.

For the historical censuses, the 2013 Census has 60.0 percent coverage and the 2018 Census has 55.3 percent coverage of the APC Māori descent population as at 30 June 2023. Both censuses had missing iwi affiliation data for some of their Māori descent census usually resident populations, and this was more pronounced in the 2018 Census (29 percent) than the 2013 Census (3 percent). Therefore, there are considerably fewer people in the Māori descent APC population who have iwi affiliation in the 2018 Census (481,032) compared with the 2013 Census (521,931).

Figure 2 shows the coverage of the data sources by age groups.

Figure 2



The distribution of coverage rates by age for admin data sources from MoE and StudyLink varies. This reflects the population for whom the data is collected. MoE Schools collects iwi affiliation from the compulsory school-age population, including ECE, and has the highest coverage compared with other data sources for the 5–9 and 10–14 age groups, even compared with both historical censuses.

MoE Tertiary collects iwi affiliation from tertiary enrolments and has the highest coverage rates for the 20–24 age group and all older age groups compared with other admin data sources. For the 30–34 and 35–39 age groups, MoE Tertiary has higher coverage rates than both historical censuses.

The coverage rates of the 2013 Census for age groups 0–4 and 5–9, and the coverage rate of the 2018 Census for the 0–4 age group are zero owing to the time since those collections. Other than those age groups, the coverage rates for the 2013 Census are highest for the 65+ age group (collected when the person was at least 55 years old). For the 2018 Census, the highest coverage is also for the 65+ age group (collected when the person was at least 60 years old). Generally, the 2013 Census has better coverage rates compared with the 2018 Census in any age groups where data is available.

These trends in coverage for the different sources align with the collection contexts, the typical ages engaging in education, and the time passed since the 2013 and 2018 Censuses, which restricts the younger age groups' ability to be included.

Figure 3 shows the coverage of the combined data sources by age groups.

Figure 3

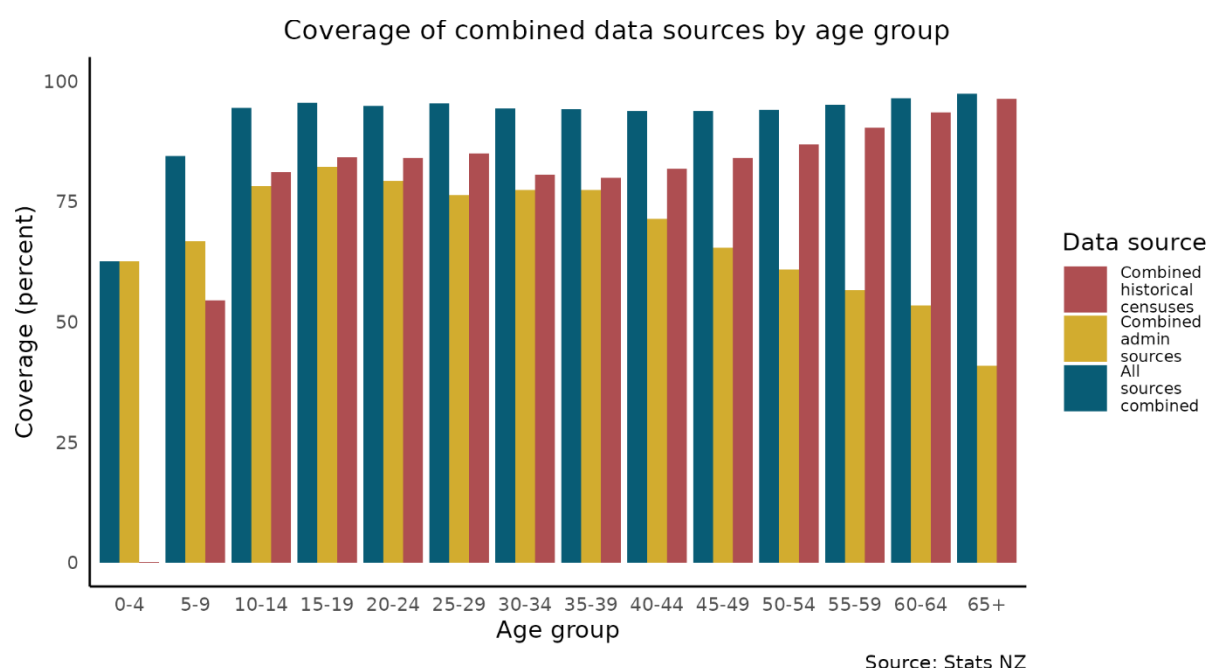


Figure 3 shows that combined historical censuses have higher coverage than admin data sources for people alive at the reference date of 30 June 2023 for all age groups, except when data is not available for people who were not yet born at the time of the historical censuses. As the census data age, there will be less data available for the younger age groups. As time passes and people age, we expect the coverage of the admin sources for the older age groups to increase. As admin data is collected more frequently than the five-yearly census, using it in conjunction with historical census data will improve coverage.

Consistency

In this paper, consistency is calculated in two ways:

- consistency by individual – looks at the iwi affiliations a person has and compares them between two sources
- consistency by iwi – for a given iwi, compares the people who affiliate with that iwi between two sources.

In calculating consistency, all valid iwi responses are considered, including 'Don't know'.

Consistency by individual

When calculating consistency by individual, agreement is when there is at least one value in common between a source and that person's response to the 2023 Census. Iwi affiliation responses to the 2023 Census are used since the APC does not contain iwi affiliation information. Iwi affiliation

values from alternative data sources are not used. For each data source, agreements are observed between records with iwi affiliation against records that satisfy all these criteria:

- are in the APC Māori descent population
- have iwi affiliation information from the data source being assessed
- have iwi affiliation information from the 2023 Census responses.

For the purpose of this paper, the number of agreements serves as a numerator for the consistency rate. The denominator for the rate is the number of records that meet all three criteria listed above.

The 2023 Census is included as the data source for the comparison because it has:

- the latest information about iwi affiliation (as of the publication of this paper)
- the latest classification (V2.1.0)
- an appropriate collection context
- a comprehensive data quality assurance process (see [Data quality assurance in the 2023 Census](#)).

When measuring consistency by individual, a ‘partial agreement’ happens when **at least one** of the iwi affiliations reported by a person in the denominator set is also found in the data sources. Meanwhile, a ‘total agreement’ is when **all** the iwi affiliations reported by a person in the denominator set are also found in the data sources.

The consistency figures also suggest that there are differences in the iwi affiliation information provided by respondents. The disagreement shows that respondents answer differently in different data sources. The differences in their answers might be attributed to the context of collection, proxied responses provided by their parents, new knowledge about their ancestry, the number of responses allowed, or the use of an older version of the classification in an admin data source.

When respondents to the 2023 Census provided more responses than allowed in the other data source (up to 16 responses were allowed online in the 2023 Census), that other data source will not be able to achieve total agreement for those respondents. Of the responses to the 2023 Census that had at least one iwi (excluding ‘Don’t know’), 8.4 percent had four or more iwi, 4.1 percent had five or more iwi, and 2.1 percent had six or more iwi. It is these people who would be unable to have total agreement, as they would have more iwi in the 2023 Census than in the other data sources.

Consistency by individual is shown in table 3.

Table 3

Consistency of iwi affiliation responses by individual		
Data source	Consistency agreement (percent)	
	Total	Partial
MoE Tertiary	27.6	75.4
StudyLink	35.2	76.9
MoE Schools	33.6	67.9
2013 Census	42.6	73.0
2018 Census	47.1	74.9
Note: MoE – Ministry of Education		
Source: Stats NZ		

The partial consistency agreement of the 2013 Census, 2018 Census, MoE Tertiary, and StudyLink are similar, ranging from 73.0 to 76.9 percent. This shows that approximately 3 out of 4 responses have provided at least one iwi affiliation in common between each of those data sources and the 2023 Census. MoE Schools gives a lower consistency of 67.9 percent. Iwi affiliation information in MoE Schools forms is normally filled out by parents, and it may change as the child grows up and provides their own information. Meanwhile, the 2013 Census, 2018 Census, MoE Tertiary, and StudyLink are meant to contain data directly from the respondent (that is, from self-responding forms).

The total consistency agreement shows that 47.1 percent of people in the 2018 Census with iwi affiliation have the exact same iwi affiliation responses as in the 2023 Census. This is the highest total consistency agreement of all the data sources. While this might be expected since the 2018 Census has the same context of collection as the 2023 Census, given the known issues with the 2018 Census online form, and the fact we did not recode synonyms for the 2018 Census data, this result is worth noting.

MoE Tertiary has the lowest total consistency agreement even though it has the second-highest partial consistency agreement. This might be due to the difference in the collection context compared with the 2023 Census and the lower number of iwi affiliation allowed on the form (MoE Tertiary allows up to three iwi affiliations on the form, compared with up to 16 that could be provided online in the 2023 Census, or five on the paper form).

Consistency by iwi

When calculating the consistency-by-iwi score for each data source, the denominator set includes records that satisfy all these criteria:

- are in the APC Māori descent population
- have iwi affiliation information from that data source
- have iwi affiliation information from the 2023 Census response.

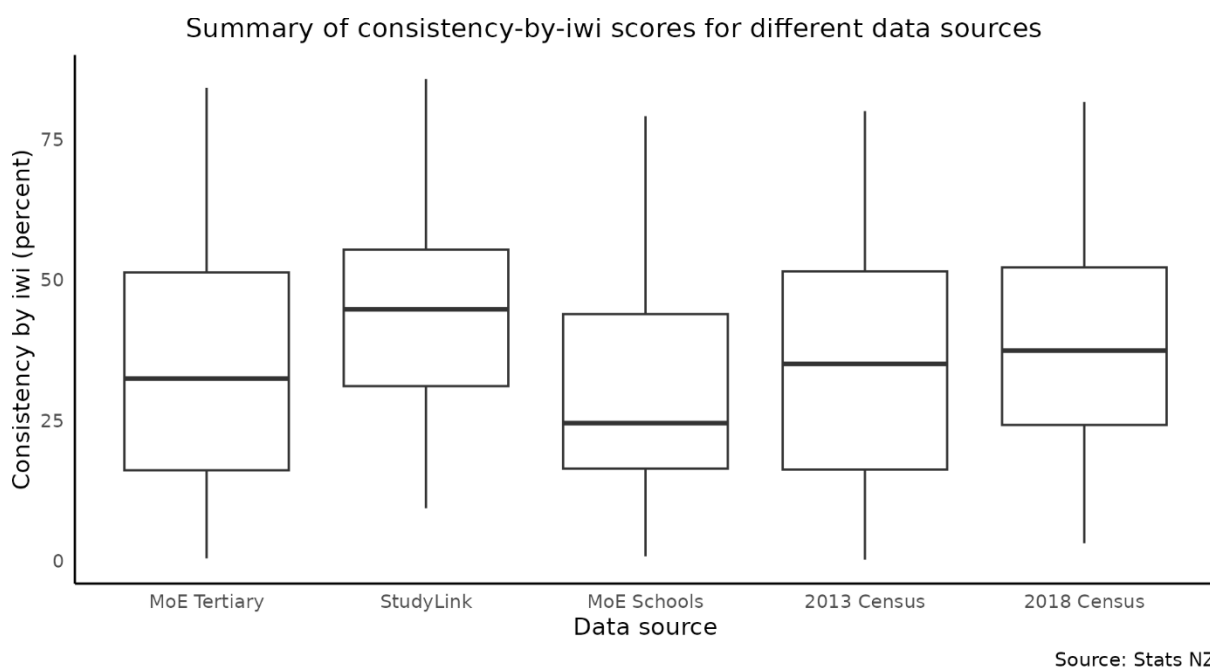
The denominator is calculated for each of the level 2 iwi available in each data source. Each denominator set includes records that satisfy all the above criteria and have a particular iwi in the observed data source. An example of this calculation is shown in table 4.

Table 4

Example of the consistency-by-iwi score calculation			
Iwi	Count of people in the denominator set	Count of people in the numerator set	Consistency-by-iwi score (percent)
A	100	30	30
B	100	0	0
C	200	200	100
Source: Stats NZ			

The consistency-by-iwi score is the proportion of records in each iwi in the denominator set that are also found in each of the data sources.

The results of consistency by iwi measurement are shown in figure 4.

Figure 4

Note: This shows the upper and lower quartiles, the median, and the whiskers extend to the furthest point no more (less) than 1.5 times the inter-quartile range from the upper (lower) quartile.

Figure 4 shows that the distribution of consistency-by-iwi scores has significant overlap across all five data sources, with the distribution being more similar between the 2013 Census, 2018 Census, MoE Tertiary, and StudyLink. StudyLink has the highest median consistency-by-iwi score. This means that people who fill in StudyLink forms are more likely to have consistent reporting of their iwi affiliation across the government data ecosystem. StudyLink collects up to five iwi affiliations from its respondents, similar to the 2013 Census and 2018 Census. This encourages respondents to state more of their iwi, thus increasing the chance of improved consistency.

Table 5 shows the average number of iwi per person by data source.

Table 5

Average number of iwi per person by data source		
Data source	Average number of iwi per person	Maximum number of iwi affiliations allowed in the collection
MoE Tertiary	2.1	3
StudyLink	1.7	5
MoE Schools	1.5	3
2013 Census	1.6	5
2018 Census	1.5	Up to five iwi affiliations online, up to four iwi affiliations on paper
Source: Stats NZ		

From table 5, it is shown that admin data sources have more iwi per person on average than the historical censuses. The 2018 Census has fewer iwi per person on average due to an online form design issue that led to the underreporting of iwi. [Design of forms for the 2023 Census](#) provides further discussion on this.

Conclusion

Iwi affiliation information in the IDI is available from different data sources. When multiple sources exist for the iwi affiliation of the same person, caveats around preferring one data source over the others need to be considered. The results shown in this paper suggest that different data sources each have their own benefits. Metadata analysis shows that aspects in the collection and measurement of iwi affiliation are not consistent between data sources. Coverage and consistency analysis suggest that there is no single data source that is preferred to the others.

The iwi affiliation variable in MoE Tertiary, MoE Schools, StudyLink, 2018 Census, and 2013 Census data aligns with Stats NZ in terms of concepts and definition. However, the non-census sources do not align with Stats NZ in terms of subject population and data is collected under a range of versions of the classification. MoE Tertiary and StudyLink collect iwi information from respondents who say that they are of Māori ethnicity, which may lead to some people of Māori descent not answering the question. MoE Schools collect iwi information from respondents regardless of their ethnicity or descent.

The admin data sources provided by other agencies use a range of versions of the classification and are provided to Stats NZ already coded to a version of the iwi classification by the agency that collected the data. The actual responses or synonyms used are not provided to Stats NZ, and so we are not able to code these to the current classification. For the 2018 Census, it is not possible to re-code using the data in the IDI, as the synonyms are not available. The ability to re-code the 2013 Census data highlights the value that recording synonyms can provide.

The subject population used for the analysis in this paper is the APC Māori descent population as at 30 June 2023. Coverage analysis shows that 90.6 percent of the APC Māori descent population have valid iwi responses (including 'Don't know') in a least one of the data sources. The data source with the most coverage of the subject population is the 2013 Census with 60.0 percent, followed by the 2018 Census with 55.3 percent. The coverage rates for admin data sources are 41.1 percent for MoE Tertiary, 34.5 percent for MoE Schools, and 19.3 percent for StudyLink. The limited coverage rates for these three sources are attributed to the younger age groups these sources mostly consist of.

The consistency results for all data sources except for MoE Schools are similar to each other, ranging from around 73.0 to 76.9 percent while measured against 2023 Census responses. MoE Schools has a lower consistency at 67.9 percent. The difference between MoE Schools' consistency and the other data sources is due to multiple factors, which might include MoE Schools iwi affiliation responses being filled out by parents.

Consistency-by-iwi scores find that people who fill in StudyLink forms are more likely to have consistent reporting of their iwi affiliation with the 2023 Census. This is shown by StudyLink's median consistency-by-iwi score being the highest compared with other sources. StudyLink data collection, like the 2013 and 2018 Censuses, allows respondents to report up to five iwi affiliations. By supporting more iwi affiliation responses in the form, the consistency measure for StudyLink data is likely to increase, as the consistency measure used in this paper is that at least one iwi affiliation matches between sources.

Stats NZ understands that it does not have all the knowledge, capability, and expertise required to fully understand and evaluate iwi affiliation data beyond the metadata analysis and quality measures. By engaging with iwi and Māori early and meaningfully in the data collection process and design, government agencies can contribute to building a better Māori admin data ecosystem.

Points to note

It is important to consider that:

- This paper does not propose a methodology for combining data sources to create an iwi affiliation variable.
- Stats NZ continues to build a deeper understanding of iwi affiliation data, and work with iwi and Māori to increase data capability.
- We are committed to developing a plan for the iwi affiliation variable and this mahi needs to be done alongside iwi Māori in a meaningful and authentic way. This will be done in the context of the changes to the census model which has an increased reliance on admin data, alongside the new annual census survey and tailored solutions.
- Exploring improvements to admin data for iwi affiliation is a high priority for Stats NZ.
- There are some possible avenues to explore, including potential improvements to the currently available admin data sources or additional admin data sources (which could increase coverage and consistency), the use of parental data (which would increase coverage), or methods for combining sources (which may increase consistency).

Appendix 1

Changes to the iwi classification

In this appendix, we highlight the differences between the previous classification versions used by the data sources and [Iwi and iwi-related groups statistical classification V2.1.0](#).

Iwi added to the classification

Table 6 shows the categories that have been added to the classification since the [Iwi – New Zealand Standard Classification V5.0.0](#) (2005). This section outlines the changes since that version, as it is the oldest version used in the analysis in this paper.

Therefore, we cover the classifications used in all the data sources discussed in this paper. This table indicates which version of the classification each category first appeared in, for categories not present in V5 (2005). This is shown with the current (V2.1.0, 2023) code and descriptor.

Table 6

Iwi that have been added to the classification since V5 (2005)		
Code in V2.1.0 (2023)	Descriptor in V2.1.0 (2023)	Present since version
0113	Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara	V1.0.0 (2017)
0114	Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei	V1.0.0 (2017)
0116	Ngāti Hine (Te Tai Tokerau)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0117	Te Paatu	V1.0.0 (2017)
0118	Ngāti Manuhiri	V1.0.0 (2017)
0119	Ngāti Rehua	V1.0.0 (2017)
0120	Ngāti Torehina ki Mata-ure ō Hau	V2.1.0 (2023)
0121	Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa	V2.1.0 (2023)
0213	Ngāti Huarere	V2.1.0 (2023)
0305	Ngāti Te Ata	V1.0.0 (2017)
0306	Ngāti Hikairo	V1.0.0 (2017)
0307	Rereahu	V1.0.0 (2017)
0308	Ngāti Tiipa	V1.0.0 (2017)
0309	Ngāti Korokī Kahukura	V1.0.0 (2017)
0310	Ngāti Tamaoho	V1.0.0 (2017)
0311	Te Ākitai-Waiohū	V1.0.0 (2017)

0312	Tainui Awhiro	V2.1.0 (2023)
0313	Ngāti Hinerangi	V2.1.0 (2023)
0413	Ngāti Mākino	V1.0.0 (2017)
0414	Ngāti Kearoa / Ngāti Tuarā	V1.0.0 (2017)
0415	Ngāti Rongomai (Te Arawa)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0511	Ngā Pōtiki ā Tamapahore	V1.0.0 (2017)
0512	Te Upokorehe	V1.0.0 (2017)
0513	Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau	V1.0.0 (2017)
0605	Te Aitanga ā Hauiti	V1.0.0 (2017)
0712	Ngāti Hineuru	V1.0.0 (2017)
0713	Maungaharuru Tangitū	V1.0.0 (2017)
0714	Rangitāne o Tamaki nui ā Rua	V1.0.0 (2017)
0715	Ngāti Ruapani ki Waikaremoana	V1.0.0 (2017)
0716	Te Hika o Pāpāuma	V1.0.0 (2017)
0717	Ngāti Hinemanu (Heretaunga)	V2.1.0 (2023)
0905	Ngāti Whitikaupeka (Rangitīkei)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0906	Ngāi Te Ohuake (Rangitīkei)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0907	Ngāti Tamakōpiri (Rangitīkei)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0908	Ngāti Rangi (Ruapehu, Whanganui)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0909	Uenuku (Ruapehu, Waimarino)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0910	Tamahaki (Ruapehu, Waimarino)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0911	Tamakana (Ruapehu, Waimarino)	V1.0.0 (2017)
0912	Ngāti Hinemanu (Rangitīkei)	V2.1.0 (2023)
1008	Ngāti Kauwhata	V6 (2009)
1009	Ngāti Tukorehe	V1.0.0 (2017)
2018	Mōkai Pātea, iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2111	Ngāi Tai, region not known	V1.0.0 (2017)
2113	Ngāti Tūwharetoa, region not known	V1.0.0 (2017)
2114	Ngāti Hinemanu, region not known	V2.1.0 (2023)
2201	Hapū affiliated to more than one iwi	V1.0.0 (2017)

2301	Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau Region, Iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2303	Waikato/Te Rohe Pōtae Region, Iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2304	Te Arawa/Taupō Region, Iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2305	Tauranga Moana/Mātaatua Region, Iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2307	Te Matau-a-Māui/Wairarapa Region, Iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2308	Taranaki Region, Iwi not named	V1.0.0 (2017)
2312	Rēkohu/Wharekauri Region, Iwi not named	V2.1.0 (2023)
Source: Stats NZ		

Iwi with code changes

Some categories have had their codes changed but are otherwise unchanged. These are shown in table 7. There were no code changes between V5 (2005) and V6 (2009).

Table 7

Iwi with code changes					
Code in V2.1.0 (2023)	Descriptor in V2.1.0 (2023)	Code in V1.0.0 (2017)	Descriptor in V1.0.0 (2017)	Code in V6 (2009)	Descriptor in V6 (2009)
0115	Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki	0115	Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki	0209	Ngāi Tai (Hauraki)
1201	Moriori	1105	Moriori	1105	Moriori
	Ngāti		Ngāti		Ngāti
1202	Mutunga (Wharekauri/Chatham Islands)	1106	Mutunga (Wharekauri/Chatham Islands)	1106	Mutunga (Wharekauri/Chatham Islands)
2112	Ngāti Kahungunu, region not known	2112	Ngāti Kahungunu, region not known	0705	Ngāti Kahungunu, region unspecified
2201	Hapū affiliated to more than one iwi	2201	Hapū affiliated to more than one iwi	2200	Hapū Affiliated to More Than One Iwi
2301	Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau Region, Iwi not named	2301	Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau Region, Iwi not named	0100	Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region, not further defined
2302	Hauraki Region, Iwi not named	2302	Hauraki Region, Iwi not named	0200	Hauraki (Coromandel) Region, not further defined
2303	Waikato/Te Rohe Pōtae Region, Iwi not named	2303	Waikato/Te Rohe Pōtae Region, Iwi not named	0300	Waikato/Te Rohe Pōtae (Waikato/King Country) Region, not further defined

2304	Te Arawa/Taupō Region, Iwi not named	2304	Te Arawa/Taupō Region, Iwi not named	0400	Te Arawa/Taupō (Rotorua/Taupō) Region, not further defined
2305	Tauranga Moana/Mātaatua Region, Iwi not named	2305	Tauranga Moana/Mātaatua Region, Iwi not named	0500	Tauranga Moana/Mātaatua (Bay of Plenty) Region, not further defined
2306	Te Tai Rāwhiti Region, Iwi not named	2306	Te Tai Rāwhiti Region, Iwi not named	0600	Te Tai Rāwhiti (East Coast) Region, not further defined
2307	Te Matau-a-Māui/Wairarapa Region, Iwi not named	2307	Te Matau-a-Māui/Wairarapa Region, Iwi not named	0700	Te Matau-a-Māui/Wairarapa (Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa) Region, not further defined
2308	Taranaki Region, Iwi not named	2308	Taranaki Region, Iwi not named	0800	Taranaki (Taranaki) Region, not further defined
2309	Whanganui/Rangitikei Region, Iwi not named	2309	Whanganui/Rangitikei Region, Iwi not named	0900	Whanganui/Rangitikei (Wanganui/Rangitikei) Region, not further defined
2310	Manawatū/Horowhenua/Te Whanganui-a-Tara Region, Iwi not named	2310	Manawatū/Horowhenua/Te Whanganui-a-Tara Region, Iwi not named	1000	Manawatū/Horowhenua/Te Whanganui-a-Tara(Manawatū/Horowhenua/Wellington) Region not further defined
2311	Te Waipounamu Region, Iwi not named	2311	Te Waipounamu/Wharekauri Region, Iwi not named	1100	Te Waipounamu/Wharekauri (South Island/Chatham Islands) Region not further defined
Source: Stats NZ					

Iwi with descriptor changes

Some categories' descriptors have changed. Often the changes are to correct misspellings or to describe the iwi as a partially coded iwi. Table 8 shows iwi whose descriptor has changed.

Table 8

Iwi with descriptor changes				
Code in V2.1.0 (2023)	Descriptor in V2.1.0 (2023)	Descriptor in V1.0.0 (2017)	Descriptor in V6 (2009)	Descriptor in V5 (2005)
0109	Ngāti Whātua (not Ōrākei or Kaipara)	Ngāti Whātua (not Ōrākei or Kaipara)	Ngāti Whātua	Ngāti Whātua
0110	Te Kawerau ā Maki	Te Kawerau ā Maki	Te Kawerau	Te Kawerau
0119	Ngāti Rehua	Ngati Rehua	...	...
0203	Ngāti Maru (Hauraki)	Ngāti Maru (Hauraki)	Ngāti Maru (Hauraki)	Ngāti Maru (Marutuahu)
0303	Raukawa (Waikato)	Raukawa (Waikato)	Ngāti Raukawa (Waikato)	Ngāti Raukawa (Waikato)

0306	Ngāti Hikairo	Ngāti Hikairo	...	...
0406	Ngāti Tarāwhai (Te Arawa)	Ngāti Tarāwhai (Te Arawa)	Tarāwhai (Te Arawa)	Tarāwhai (Te Arawa)
0411	Ngāti Tūwharetoa (ki Taupō)	Ngāti Tūwharetoa (ki Taupō)	Ngāti Tūwharetoa	Ngāti Tūwharetoa
0502	Ngāi Te Rangi	Ngāi Te Rangi	Ngaiterangi	Ngaiterangi
0509	Te Whānau-ā-Apanui	Te Whānau-ā-Apanui	Te Whānau-a-Apanui	Te Whānau-a-Apanui
0805	Ngāruahine	Ngā Ruahine	Ngā Ruahine	Ngā Ruahine
0901	Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa	Ngāti Apa (Rangitikei)	Ngāti Apa (Rangitikei)	Ngāti Apa (Rangitikei)
0904	Ngāti Hauiti (Rangitikei)	Ngāti Hauiti (Rangitikei)	Ngāti Hauiti	Ngāti Hauiti
1110	Ngāti Tama ki Te Taihu	Ngāti Tama (Te Waipounamu/South Island)	Ngāti Tama (Te Waipounamu/South Island)	Ngāti Tama (Te Waipounamu/South Island)
2001	Tainui, iwi not named	Tainui, iwi not named	Tainui	Tainui
2002	Te Arawa, iwi not named	Te Arawa, iwi not named	Te Arawa	Te Arawa
2003	Tākitimu, iwi not named	Tākitimu, iwi not named	Tākitimu	Tākitimu
2004	Aotea, iwi not named	Aotea, iwi not named	Aotea	Aotea
2005	Mātaatua, iwi not named	Mātaatua, iwi not named	Mātaatua	Mātaatua
2006	Mahuru, iwi not named	Mahuru, iwi not named	Mahuru	Mahuru
2007	Māmari, iwi not named	Māmari, iwi not named	Māmari	Māmari
2008	Ngātokimatawhaorua, iwi not named	Ngātokimatawhaorua, iwi not named	Ngātokimatawhaorua	Ngātokimatawhaorua
2009	Nukutere, iwi not named	Nukutere, iwi not named	Nukutere	Nukutere
2010	Tokomaru, iwi not named	Tokomaru, iwi not named	Tokomaru	Tokomaru
2011	Kurahaupō, iwi not named	Kurahaupō, iwi not named	Kurahaupō	Kurahaupō
2012	Muriwhenua, iwi not named	Muriwhenua, iwi not named	Muriwhenua	Muriwhenua
2013	Hauraki / Pare Hauraki, iwi not named	Hauraki / Pare Hauraki, iwi not named	Hauraki / Pare Hauraki	Hauraki / Pare Hauraki
2014	Tūranganui a Kiwa, iwi not named	Tūranganui a Kiwa, iwi not named	Tūranganui a Kiwa	Tūranganui a Kiwa
2015	Te Taihu o Te Waka a Māui, iwi not named	Te Taihu o Te Waka a Māui, iwi not named	Te Taihu o Te Waka a Māui	Te Taihu o Te Waka a Māui
2016	Tauranga Moana, iwi not named	Tauranga Moana, iwi not named	Tauranga Moana	Tauranga Moana

2017	Horouta, iwi not named	Horouta, iwi not named	Horouta	Horouta
2101	Te Atiawa, region not known	Te Atiawa, region not known	Te Atiawa, region unspecified	Te Atiawa, region unspecified
2102	Ngāti Haua, region not known	Ngāti Haua, region not known	Ngāti Haua, region unspecified	Ngāti Haua, region unspecified
2103	Ngāti Maru, region not known	Ngāti Maru, region not known	Ngāti Maru, region unspecified	Ngāti Maru, region unspecified
2104	Ngāti Mutunga, region not known	Ngāti Mutunga, region not known	Ngāti Mutunga, region unspecified	Ngāti Mutunga, region unspecified
2105	Rangitāne, region not known	Rangitāne, region not known	Rangitāne, region unspecified	Rangitāne, region unspecified
2106	Ngāti Raukawa, region not known	Ngāti Raukawa, region not known	Ngāti Raukawa, region unspecified	Ngāti Raukawa, region unspecified
2107	Ngāti Tama, region not known	Ngāti Tama, region not known	Ngāti Tama, region unspecified	Ngāti Tama, region unspecified
2108	Ngāti Toa, region not known	Ngāti Toa, region not known	Ngāti Toa, region unspecified	Ngāti Toa, region unspecified
2109	Waitaha, region not known	Waitaha, region not known	Waitaha, region unspecified	Waitaha, region unspecified
2110	Ngāti Apa, region not known	Ngāti Apa, region not known	Ngāti Apa, region unspecified	Ngāti Apa, area unspecified
2311	Te Waipounamu Region, Iwi not named	Te Waipounamu/Wharekauri Region, Iwi not named	...	...
Symbol: ... not applicable Source: Stats NZ				

Appendix 2

This section provides the forms (online and/or paper) used to collect iwi affiliation information by MoE, MSD, and Stats NZ. The question asked for iwi affiliation differs widely across data sources and can differ within an admin data source. MoE Schools, MoE Tertiary, and StudyLink do not use whether a person is of Māori descent to route them to the iwi affiliation question.

Ministry of Education

The MoE collection of iwi affiliation is a well-established system with guidelines available and it uses a Stats NZ classification. However, there is variation in the actual practice of data collection, especially when it comes to the updates of the iwi classification, how the question is asked, and how responses are processed.

MoE Schools

Figure 5 shows an example of the iwi affiliation question in a school enrolment form. MoE provides guidelines on how iwi affiliation data are to be collected, along with a standard enrolment form as a guideline, but does not follow-up with individual institutions, so forms vary between schools.

Figure 5

Example of an iwi affiliation question in a school enrolment form

IWI AFFILIATION

Does the student have an affiliation with an(y) Iwi?	If 'YES' please complete details below
Please enter the name(s) of the student's Iwi where the student identifies belonging to one or more Iwi. Up to three Iwi affiliations may be entered for the student. If the student has an Iwi affiliation, but does not know the name of their Iwi, please enter 'Don't Know'.	Iwi: Rohe (Iwi home area): Iwi: Rohe (Iwi home area): Iwi: Rohe (Iwi home area):

MoE Tertiary

Figure 6 shows an example of the iwi affiliation question in a tertiary enrolment form. MoE provides guidelines on how iwi affiliation data are to be collected, but does not follow-up with individual institutions, so forms vary between institutions.

Question 13 referred to in figure 6 asked about the ethnicity of the respondents, so is using ethnicity to determine whether or not a respondent should answer the iwi affiliation question, not Māori descent.

Figure 6**Example of an iwi affiliation question in a tertiary enrolment form**

Iwi:

If you identified as Māori in question 13, what is the name of your Iwi?

You may enter more than one Iwi. If you do not know your Iwi, please enter 'Don't Know'.

Note: please use the iwi codes published in SDR Manual appendices.

Iwi:

Rohe (Iwi home area):

Iwi:

Rohe (Iwi home area):

Iwi:

Rohe (Iwi home area):

StudyLink

Figure 7 shows the iwi affiliation question in the StudyLink form that is collected by the Ministry of Social Development as part of the student loans and allowances application process. The recorded data, along with some additional data from Top Scholar Awards and TeachNZ Scholarships, is stored in the StudyLink data in the IDI.

Figure 7**Iwi affiliation question on the StudyLink form**

15. The following information is only needed for statistical purposes. It's up to you whether you answer this question. We'd appreciate it if you would tick the ethnic group(s) you most identify with.

☐ NZ European	☐ Other European	☐ NZ Māori	☐ Samoan	☐ Cook Island Māori
☐ Tongan	☐ Niuean	☐ Tokelauan	☐ Fijian	☐ Pacific Island – Other
☐ Southeast Asian	☐ Chinese	☐ Indian	☐ Asian – other	☐ Middle Eastern
☐ Latin American	☐ African	☐ Other (please provide details)		

If you are NZ Māori, which iwi do you belong to?

2013 Census

The 2013 Census used paper and online forms. The majority of responses were received on paper. Figure 8 illustrates how the questions were asked on both the paper and online forms.

Figure 8**Māori descent and iwi affiliation questions in the 2013 Census paper and online forms****2013 Census paper forms**

14 Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?

☐ yes → **go to 15**

☐ no → **go to 16**

☐ don't know → **go to 16**

Mark your answer like this: ☐

14 He tūpuna Māori ōu?

☐ āe → **haere ki 15**

☐ kāore → **haere ki 16**

☐ aua → **haere ki 16**

Me pēnei te tohu i tō whakautu: ☐

15 Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

A list of iwi can be found on the back of this form.

☐ yes. Mark your answer and print the name and home area, rohe or region of your iwi below: ↓

☐ no → **go to 16**

Iwi:	
Rohe (iwi area):	
Iwi:	
Rohe (iwi area):	
Iwi:	
Rohe (iwi area):	
Iwi:	
Rohe (iwi area):	
Iwi:	
Rohe (iwi area):	

15 Kei te mōhio koe ko wai tō iwi, ō iwi rānei?

He rārangi o ngā ingoa me ngā rohe pōtae o ngā iwi kei te whārangi whakamutunga.

☐ āe. Tohua tō whakautu, ā, tuhia mai (t)ō iwi, me te rohe o (t)aua iwi ki raro iho nei: ↓

☐ kāore → **haere ki 16**

Iwi:	
Rohe:	
Iwi:	
Rohe:	
Iwi:	
Rohe:	
Iwi:	
Rohe:	
Iwi:	
Rohe:	

2013 Census online form

14 Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?

☒ yes

☐ no

☐ don't know

15 Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

To see a list of iwi, click on help.

☒ yes ☐ no

Enter the name and home area, rohe or region of your iwi below:

Iwi:	Rohe (iwi area):
Iwi:	Rohe (iwi area):
Iwi:	Rohe (iwi area):
Iwi:	Rohe (iwi area):
Iwi:	Rohe (iwi area):

People who responded 'Yes' to the Māori descent question (question 14) in the 2013 Census were asked if they knew the name(s) of their iwi. However, anyone who responded on paper could provide iwi affiliations irrespective of their response to the Māori descent question. In this paper, we

include all iwi affiliation responses in our analysis, as our subject population is the Māori descent APC population.

On the paper form, respondents could write up to five iwi, and the list of iwi names was provided in the Guide Notes. The 2013 Census online form displayed five sets of boxes for respondents to list their iwi.

[Iwi 2013 Census \(information by variable and its quality\)](#) has more information about the iwi affiliation variable in the 2013 Census.

2018 Census

The 2018 Census used paper and online forms. The majority of responses were received online. Figure 9 illustrates how the questions were asked on both the paper and online forms.

Figure 9

Māori descent and iwi affiliation questions in the 2018 Census paper and online forms

Paper form

11 Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?

☐ yes → go to **12**

☐ don't know → go to **14**

☐ no → go to **14**

12 Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

See the Guide Notes for a list of iwi.

☐ yes → go to **13**

☐ no → go to **14**

13 Give the name(s) and region(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes):

iwi:	
region:	
iwi:	
region:	
iwi:	
region:	
iwi:	
region:	
iwi:	
region:	

Online form

Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)? [Show Help](#)

☒ yes

☐ no

☐ don't know

Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

A list of iwi can be found [here](#).

☐ yes

☐ no

Enter the name(s) and region(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes):

A list of iwi can be found [here](#).

iwi

Region

[Remove](#)

[Add](#)

People who reported ‘Yes’ or ‘Don’t know’ to the Māori descent question in the 2018 Census were asked if they knew the name(s) of their iwi. However, anyone who responded on paper could provide an iwi irrespective of their response to the Māori descent question. In this paper we use only responses to the iwi affiliation question from the census form, and not the results of the iwi estimates.

In the 2018 Census online form, respondents could enter up to five iwi. Respondents were presented with a single iwi field with an ‘add’ button for adding more iwi. When part of an iwi name was typed in the ‘iwi’ field, an as-you-type list appeared that an iwi could be selected from; alternatively, respondents could type their iwi in full. The as-you-type list in the 2018 Census online form included 299 entries. These included common synonyms and alternative spellings for both fully and partially coded iwi in addition to the official descriptors.

Following this, a region name could be typed in the ‘Region’ field. A list of iwi was provided if the respondent clicked on a link at the top of the fields.

With the paper form, respondents could write in up to four iwi and were provided with the list of iwi names in the Guide Notes.

The average number of iwi affiliations per person for the 2018 Census was lower for online responses compared with the 2018 Census paper forms and the 2013 Census, which is attributed to the form design. [Design of forms for the 2023 Census](#) provides further discussion on this.

Figure 10 shows the online iwi affiliation question from the 2023 Census, as well as the paper Māori descent and iwi affiliation question.

Figure 10**Māori descent and iwi affiliation questions in the 2023 Census**

Iwi affiliation question in the 2023 Census online form – map view

Select the name(s) and region(s) / rohe of your iwi (tribe or tribes):



You can:

- use the map or list view below to select your iwi by region, and / or
- type in your iwi name(s).

Please add **all** of your iwi, even if they do not appear in the list.

 Map view

 List view

A map of New Zealand with the landmasses colored light green and the surrounding water light blue. The map is divided into numerous irregular green regions representing iwi boundaries. In the bottom right corner of the map area, there is a small inset box containing a simplified map of New Zealand with a red rectangle highlighting the location of the main map.

Iwi affiliation question in the 2023 Census online form – list view

Select the name(s) and region(s) / rohe of your iwi (tribe or tribes):



You can:

- use the map or list view below to select your iwi by region, and / or
- type in your iwi name(s).

Please add **all** of your iwi, even if they do not appear in the list.



Map view



List view

Select region

Please choose a region



Search for your iwi

Type to filter list...

Select your iwi from the list below

☐

Te Aupōuri

Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region

☐

Ngāti Kahu

Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region

☐

Ngāti Kurī

Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region

Māori descent and iwi affiliation questions in the 2023 Census paper form

12 Are you descended from Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?

☐ yes go to 13

☐ don't know

☐ no go to 14

13 Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

See the Guide Notes for a list of iwi.

☐ yes ☐ no go to 14

↓ give the name(s) and region(s) / rohe of your iwi:

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

12 He tūpuna Māori ōu?

haere ki **13** ← āe
aue

haere ki **14** ← kāore

13 Kei te mōhio koe ko wai tō iwi, ō iwi rānei?

Tirohia ki ngā Kupu Whakamārama mō tētahi rārangi ingoa o ngā iwi.

whakamōhio mai te / ngā ingoa o tō / ō iwi ← āe
me ngā rohe o tō / ō iwi:
haere ki **14** ← kāore

iwi:

rohe:

iwi:

rohe:

iwi:

rohe:

iwi:

rohe:

iwi:

rohe:

iwi:

rohe:

References

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