



Progress and challenges of building a base statistical person register in New Zealand.

Christine Bycroft¹; Mathew Page²

- 1 Stats NZ, Christchurch, New Zealand. Christine.bycroft@stats.govt.nz
- 2 Stats NZ, Christchurch, New Zealand. Mathew.page@stats.govt.nz

Abstract:

Administrative data becomes far more powerful if different types of data and data across different domains can be seamlessly integrated. Stats NZ is working towards a register-based statistical system where data from many sources is integrated around three 'base statistical registers' for businesses, location and people. The base register for people is the least developed of these core components. In this presentation I describe the challenges we have in deriving a statistical person register in the New Zealand context where there is no national unique person identifier, and no national administrative register.

We discuss challenges and progress in three broad areas: methodological, technology, and trust and confidence. Methodological challenges arise from the need for probabilistic record linkage of several data sources to achieve high coverage. We face technological issues involved with the evolution from existing data systems that have been built over time without an overall integrated design. Most importantly, it is essential that we retain trust and confidence in Stats NZ as an official statistics agency while developing these new data assets.

Keywords:

<registers>; <record linkage>; <trust>;