

## CENSUSATSCHOOL

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*In this workshop Pip shared what is on the New Zealand CensusAtSchool website, including the CensusAtSchool questionnaire, databases and teaching and learning resources.*

### PURPOSE

CensusAtSchool (<https://new.censusatschool.org.nz/>) involves an online survey for Year 3-13 students. Schools take part voluntarily, with students completing the survey during lesson time, then submitting their data to contribute to an international database. Some questions are in common with the other countries, to provide comparisons between countries, while tailoring the remainder of the questionnaire to reflect the interests of New Zealand children. Results and sample data are made available to teachers once the ‘census’ is complete, with classroom resources released over time.

Aims of CensusAtSchool are to: (1) Foster a positive attitude to statistics through using data that is both relevant and real; (2) Improve understanding of a data gathering process, its purposes and benefits to society; (3) Provide access to large and meaningful multivariate datasets; (4) Encourage effective IT teaching and learning; and (5) Enhance the process of statistical enquiry across the curriculum.

### ONLINE SURVEY

The CensusAtSchool questionnaire, updated biennially, is the cornerstone of the website. Teachers register, and students take the survey from the “Take Part” link (<https://new.censusatschool.org.nz/take-part/>). The questionnaire has around 35 questions that related to various aspects of student life, including survey questions *about you, measurements, games, activities and opinions*. The questionnaire requires some information to be collected beforehand and a teacher’s guide supports teachers to help their students to collect this information. Previews of the questionnaire and teacher guides are available on the same link.

### DATA

In the data section (<https://new.censusatschool.org.nz/explore/>) students and teachers can take samples, explore the whole database, or use data cards to explore the data collected using the questionnaire. There are databases for New Zealand students from 2005 – 2023 (at time of writing), remembering a new questionnaire is developed every two years. Samples of up to 1000 can be selected using the random sampler. Databases also include the US CensusAtSchool data, and CensusAtSchool data from the international databases. The data cards (<https://new.censusatschool.org.nz/resource/data-cards/>) are a new feature this year, and there are data cards for years 1-3 (ages 5-7), years 4-6 (ages 8-10) and years 7-8 (ages 11-12).

### RESOURCES

The resources section (<https://new.censusatschool.org.nz/resources/>) has resources for all year levels of schooling in New Zealand and is connected to the New Zealand mathematics and statistics curriculum. Resources include teaching and learning activities developed to use the CensusAtSchool databases, information from teacher workshops e.g., Statistics Teachers Days, datasets, links to international statistics resources and links to statistical software tools.