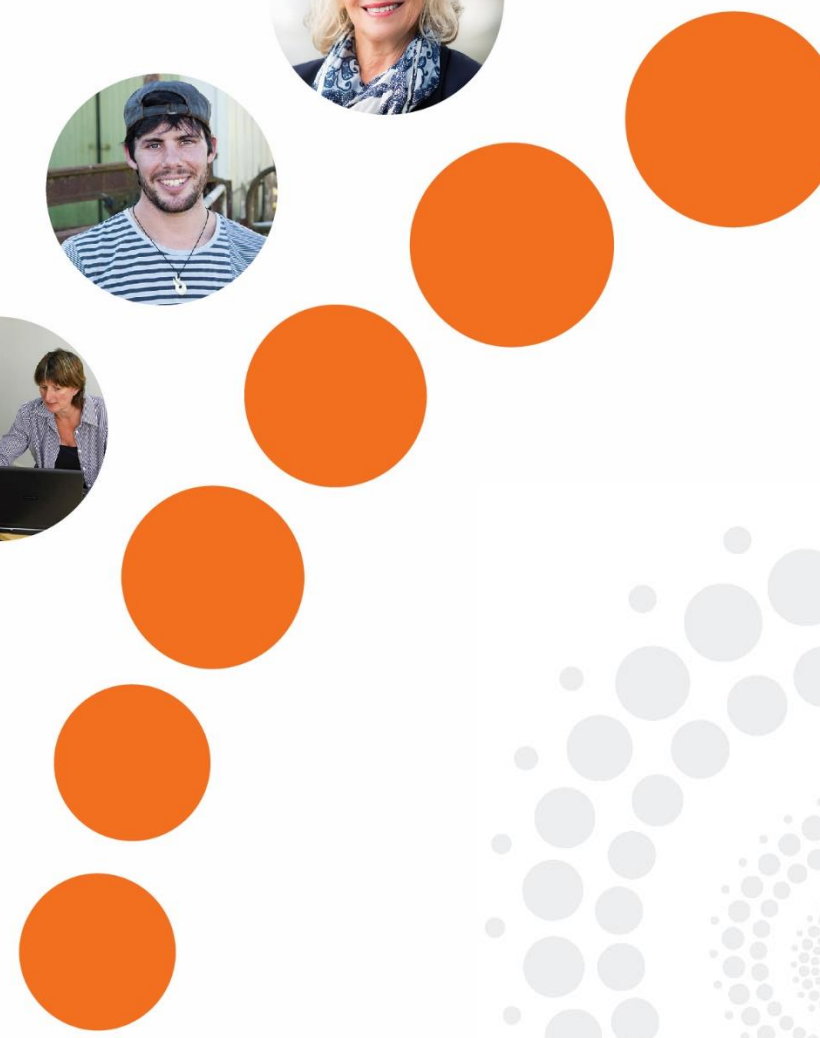


The New Zealand census – current and future

Register-based Censuses
15 November 2021



Stats NZ's 2021 strategy refresh

Four 5 year goals include:

Become an organisation that uses administrative data first.

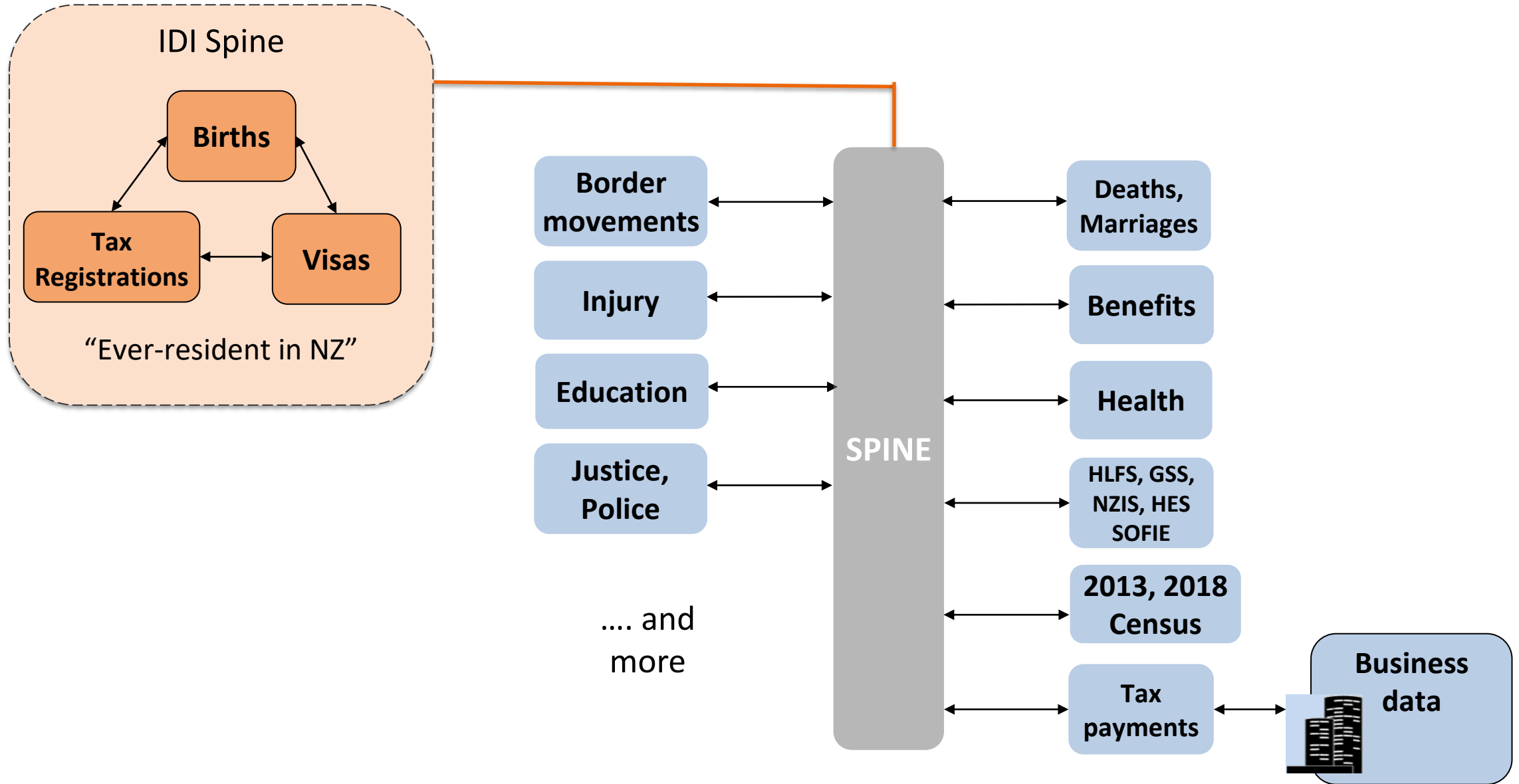
“By 2024, we will have developed a clear roadmap for delivering a successful Census using primarily administrative data and be positioned to confirm whether or not 2028 will be the last full enumeration census.”



Administrative data in New Zealand

- No national ID numbers and no population register
- ~complete information on births and deaths (some minor lag in registration)
- ~complete information on border movements
 - more complicated to determine when a movement is permanent
- Various sources that capture internal movements
 - But with no formal requirement for people to update address
- Linked database containing range of government data sources (primarily for research purposes)

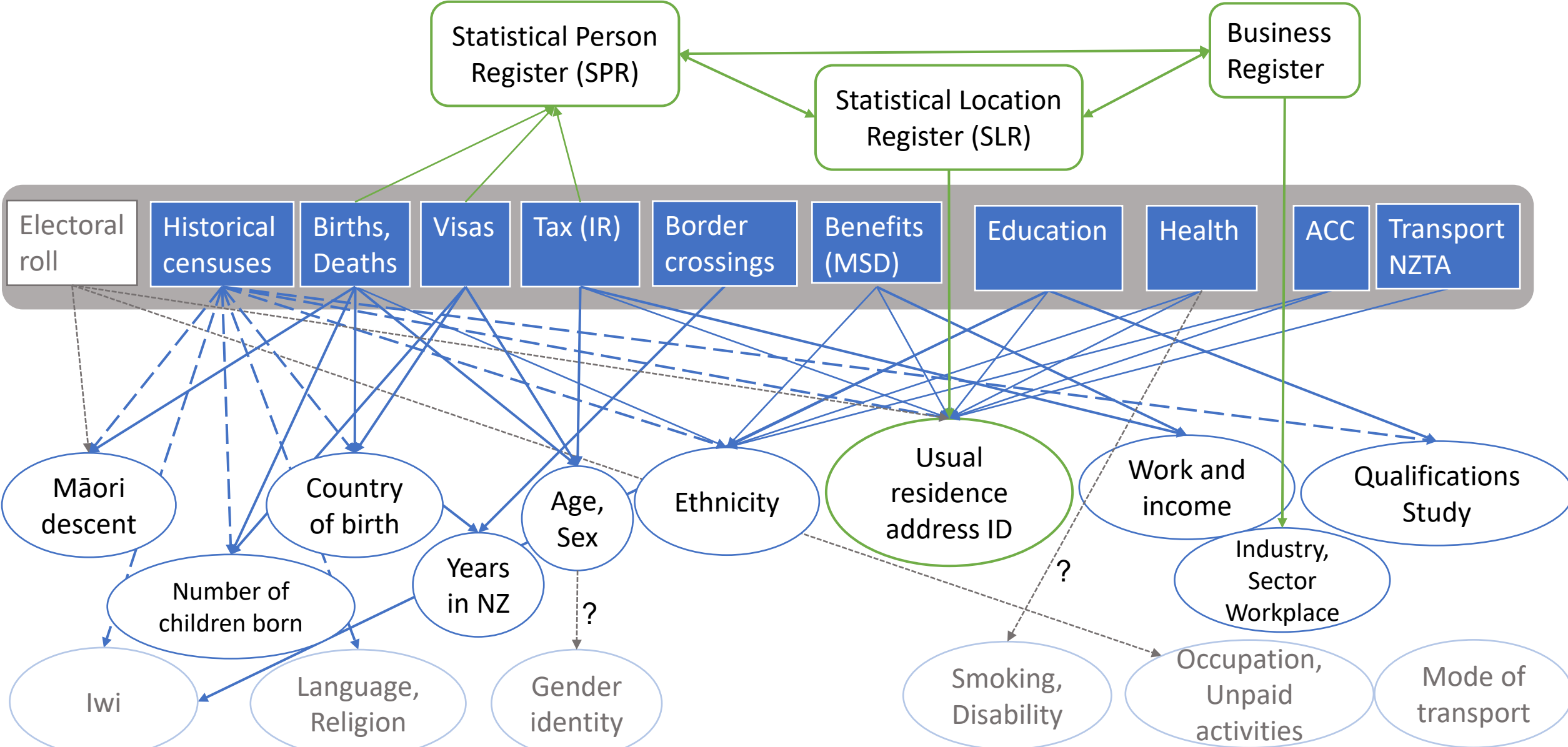
The Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI)



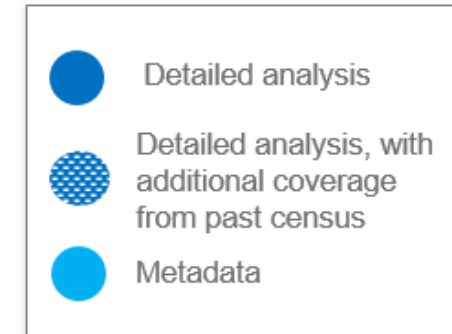
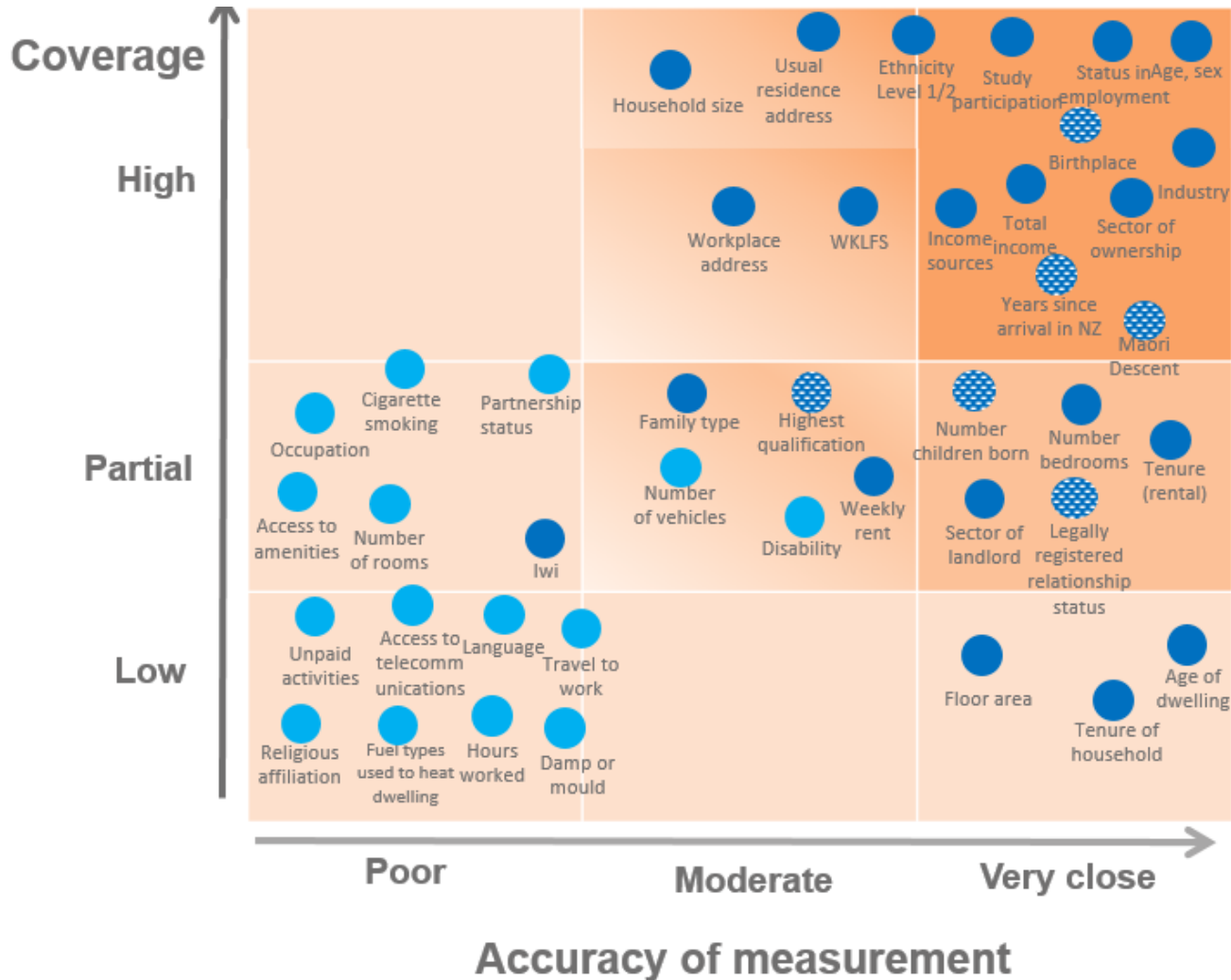
NZ admin resident population

- **Begin** with long IDI spine ('ever-resident')
- **Include** all individuals with **activity** in admin data sources (eg tax and benefits, health, education) within the previous two years
- **Remove** individuals
 - who died before reference date
 - who migrated overseas before reference date
- Released as an experimental output
- High level of consistency with official population estimates
 - By age, gender, location, ethnicity
- Some coverage errors, particularly for small geographic areas

Admin data sources for individuals



Quality assessment of admin sources

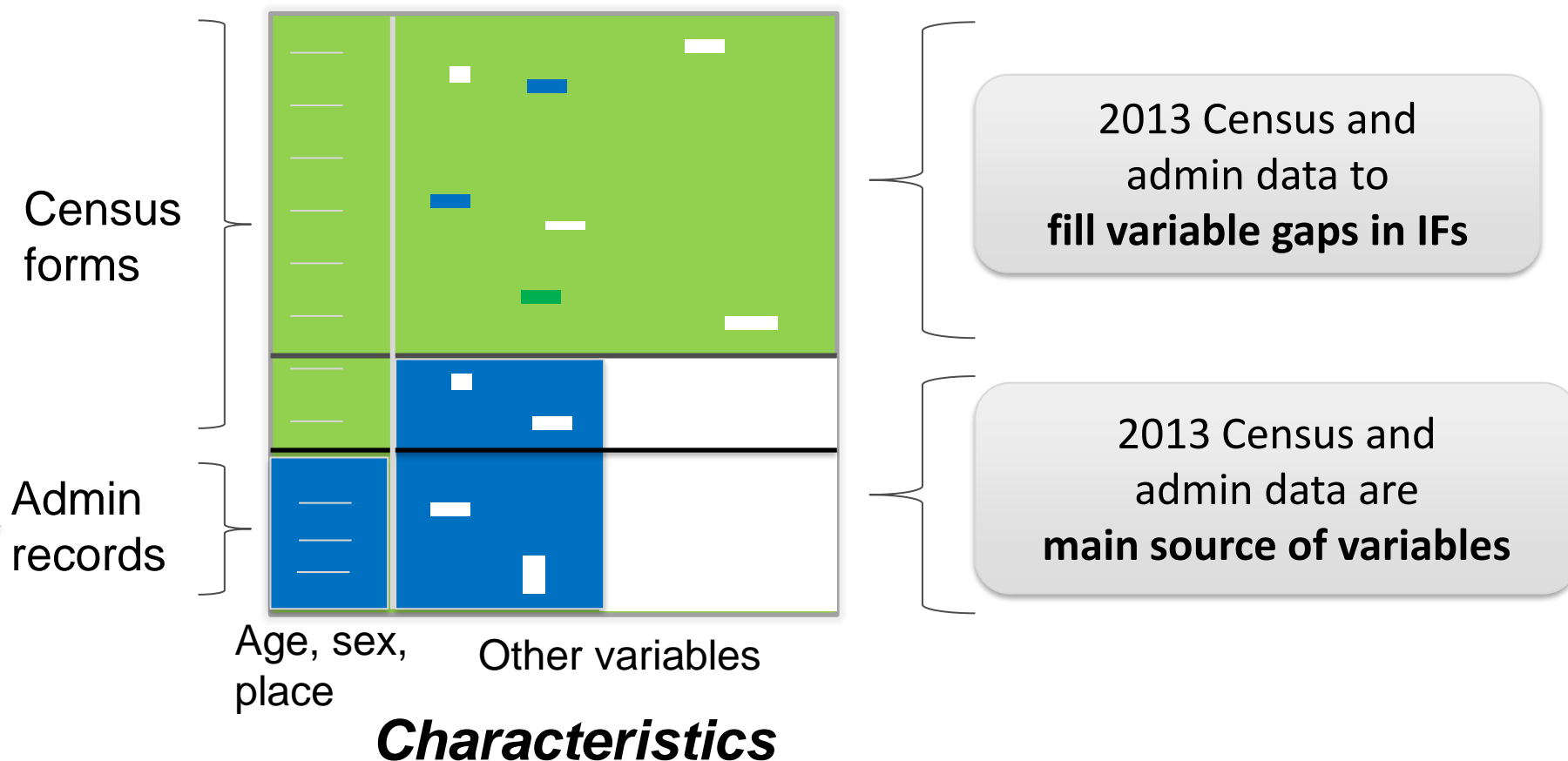


As at Nov 2020. Subject to change

[Quality of administrative data for census variables](#)

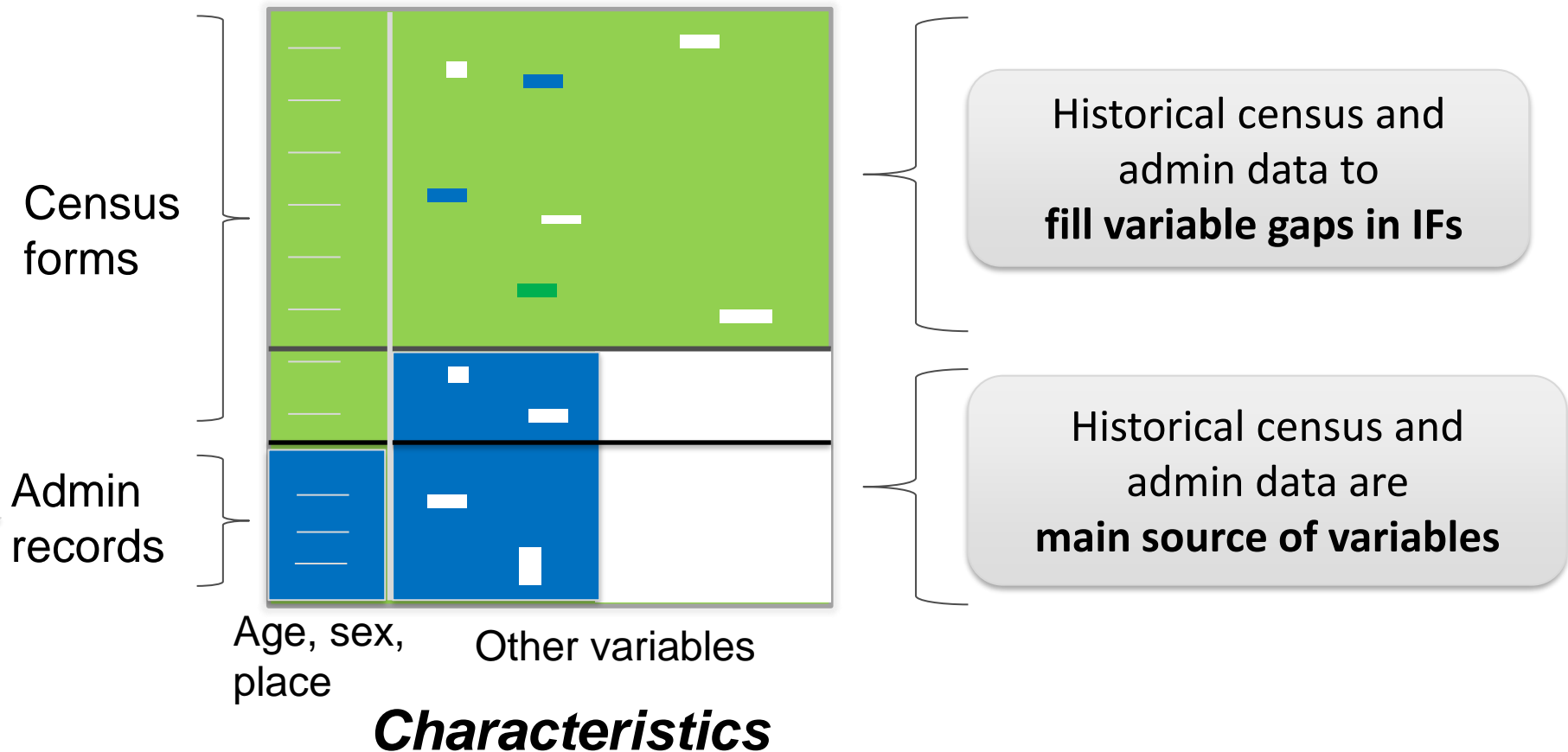
2018 Census dataset: Combined model

People

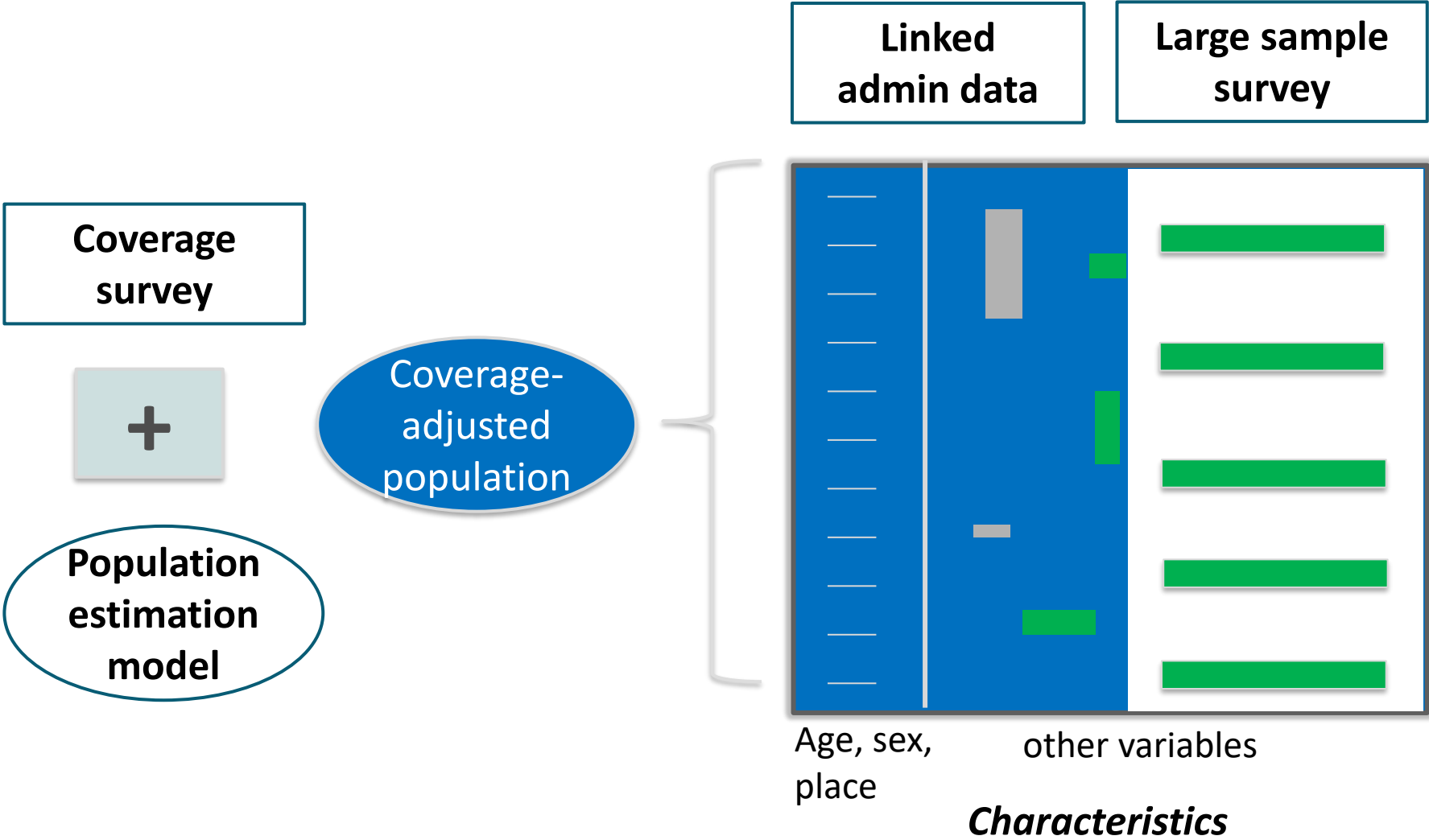


2023 Census dataset: combined model 'by design'

People



Future census: admin-based + sample surveys



Future of census and administrative data

- **Short-medium term:** Use of administrative data in 2023 “Combined model by design” to fill gaps in field enumeration
- **Longer-term** roadmap due by 2024
- Strong, active engagement with customers
- 2007 UNECE paper - necessary conditions for an admin-based census supported by sample surveys
 - Legislation: new Data and Statistics Bill: on track, planned 2022
 - Legislation: Electoral Act amendments: under discussion
 - Public acceptance: trust and confidence work underway
 - Suitable admin data sources: most core variables; gaps for iwi, household membership
 - Population estimation models and coverage survey : likely, but not tested in practice
 - Large scale attribute survey: major development needed