

About CensusAtSchool's 2007 data

In this resource, you'll find details about the [questionnaire design process](#), the [questions](#) and [variables](#) in the CensusAtSchool dataset, information on how the data was [collected](#) and [cleaned](#) and [ways to use the data](#).

Questionnaire Design Process

Questions in the 2007 CensusAtSchool survey were chosen to meet a number of goals:

- To be relevant and interesting to students.
- To have a variety of different types of data for students to use.
- To have questions in common with **past** CensusAtSchool surveys.
This enables students to see how they compare with students in 2005 and 2003.
- To have questions in common with **international** CensusAtSchool surveys.
This enables students to see how they compare with students in other countries such as the UK, Australia, Canada and South Africa.

Questions were developed in consultation with the Department of Statistics at the University of Auckland, Statistics New Zealand, Ministry of Education and teachers nationwide.

The questionnaire design was critiqued and approved by Statistics New Zealand's survey design team.

Questions

See following pages.

Questions about you

1. Are you:

- male
- female

2. How old are you?

years

3. Are you right-handed, left-handed or ambidextrous? (An ambidextrous person is able to use their right and left hands equally well.)

- Right-handed
- Left-handed
- Ambidextrous

4. In how many languages can you hold a conversation about a lot of everyday things?

languages

5. How tall are you without your shoes on? Answer to the nearest centimetre.

cm

6. What is the length of your right foot, without a shoe? Answer to the nearest centimetre.

cm

7. What is your arm span? Answer to the nearest centimetre. (Open arms wide, measure distance from tip of right hand middle finger to tip of left hand middle finger.)

cm

8. What is the length of your hair? Answer to the nearest centimetre. (Pull one hair out from the back of your head and measure it.)

cm

Questions about school

9. How do you usually get to school?

- walk
- car
- bus
- train
- bike
- other

10. How long does it usually take you to get to school?

- 10 minutes or less
- 10 - 20 minutes
- 20 - 30 minutes
- half an hour or longer

11. Where did you get your lunch from today?

- home
- a shop on the way to school
- the school shop
- a friend at school
- provided by my school
- don't have any

12. Do you know what job you want to do after you finish studying?

- Yes, I'm certain
- Maybe, I have some ideas
- No, I have no idea

Questions about activities you do

13. How fast is your reaction time? Click on the green button. When it turns red, click it as fast as you can.



14. In what sport or activity do you **most** enjoy participating in?

15. Which of the following do you have? (You may tick more than one)

- your own cell phone
- a TV in your bedroom
- your own MP3 player e.g. iPod
- access to the internet at home
- your own Bebo page
- your own MySpace page
- a game console at home e.g. PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo
- none of these

16. About how many txt messages did you send yesterday?

17. About how many txt messages did you receive yesterday?

18. About how much do you spend on your cell phone bill each month?

\$

19. Where does the money come from for your cell phone bill?

- my parents or caregivers
- my pocket money
- my part-time job
- other

20. About what time did you go to sleep last night?

21. What did you have for breakfast today? You may tick more than one.

- water
- milk
- hot drink
- fruit juice
- cordial
- fizzy drink
- toast or bread
- cereal or porridge
- fruit
- cooked food e.g. eggs
- dairy food or yoghurt
- rice or noodles
- other
- nothing

Questions about your opinions

22. What is your favourite website?

23. What is your favourite TV show?

24. What do you think is the best thing about living in New Zealand?

25. If you could do one thing to make New Zealand a better place to live, what would it be?

26. How important is **global warming** to you? Mark onto the scale your level of importance.

Not at all Very

27. How important is **reducing pollution** to you? Mark onto the scale your level of importance.

Not at all Very

28. How important is **conserving water** to you? Mark onto the scale your level of importance.

Not at all Very

29. How important is **having a healthy lifestyle** to you? Mark onto the scale your level of importance.

Not at all Very

Variables in the dataset

	Variable	Units	Min	Max	Type
Questions about you					
1. Are you male/female?	gender	boy/girl			Qualitative
2. How old are you?	age	years	8	21	Quantitative
3. Are you right-handed, left-handed or ambidextrous? (An ambidextrous person is able to use their right and left hands equally well.)	handed	left/right/ambidextrous			Qualitative
4. In how many languages can you hold a conversation about a lot of everyday things?	languages				Quantitative
5. How tall are you without your shoes on? Answer to the nearest centimetre.	height	cm	100	220	Quantitative
6. What is the length of your right foot, without a shoe? Answer to the nearest centimetre.	rightfoot	cm	10	30	Quantitative
7. What is your arm span? Answer to the nearest centimetre. (Open arms wide, measure distance from tip of right hand middle finger to tip of left hand middle finger.)	armspan	cm	80	220	Quantitative
8. What is the length of your hair? Answer to the nearest centimetre. (Pull one hair out from the back of your head and measure it.)	hairlength	cm	0	200	Quantitative
Questions about school					
9. How do you usually get to school?	travel				Qualitative
10. How long does it usually take you to get to school?	timetravel	minutes			Qualitative
11. Where did you get your lunch from today?	getlunch				Qualitative
12. Do you know what job you want to do after you finish studying?	futurejob				Qualitative

	Variable	Units	Min	Max	Type
Questions about activities you do					
15. How fast is your reaction time?	reaction	seconds			Quantitative
14. In what sport or activity do you most enjoy participating in?	sportother tākaro				Qualitative
15. Which of the following do you have? (You may tick more than one)	techphone techtv techmp3 techinternet techbebo techmyspace techconsole	yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no			Qualitative
16. About how many txt messages did you send yesterday?	celltxtsend		0	550	Quantitative
17. About how many txt messages did you receive yesterday?	celltxtrec		0	550	Quantitative
18. About how much do you spend on your cell phone bill each month?	cellcost	dollars	0	200	Quantitative
19. Where does the money come from for your cell phone bill?	cellsource				Qualitative
20. About what time did you go to sleep last night?	bedtime	time	0	12	Quantitative
21. What did you have for breakfast today?	breakfastwater breakfastmilk breakfasthotdrink breakfastjuice breakfastcordial breakfastfizzy breakfasttoast breakfastcereal breakfastfruit breakfastcooked breakfastdairy breakfastrice breakfastother breakfastnone	yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no yes/no			Qualitative

Questions about your opinions					
22. What is your favourite website?	favwebsite				Qualitative
23. What is your favourite TV show?	favtvshow				Qualitative
24. What do you think is the best thing about living in New Zealand?	livingnz nohokiaotearoa				Qualitative
25. If you could do one thing to make New Zealand a better place to live, what would it be?	betternz paiakeaotearoa				Qualitative
26. How important is global warming to you?	importwarm				Quantitative
27. How important is reducing pollution to you?	importpollution				Quantitative
28. How important is conserving water to you?	importwater				Quantitative
29. How important is having a healthy lifestyle to you?	importlifestyle				Quantitative
Administrative Notes					
Which region is your school in? (From Ministry of Education)	region				Qualitative
School year	year		5	13	Quantitative

Data Collection

From August 13 2007, Year 5 – 13 students were able to complete the survey online¹. The officially promoted survey period was from August 13 – September 30 2007, however students are still able to take part until the end of 2008. The survey could only be completed during school hours (Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm).

Teachers first registered on the CensusAtSchool website² and were issued with one code per school to give to their students to access the survey. This code was used to identify which schools had taken part and which region of New Zealand the students came from. School codes were not stored with as part of the student data for privacy reasons.

From August 13 – September 30 2007 there were 25,048 students from 505 schools who took part in the survey. Approximately another 1000 students have filled in the survey as of 16 April 2008.

¹ <http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/take/>

² <http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2007/register/>

Data Cleaning

Before making the data publicly available via the random sampler, table maker and summary tables, the data was cleaned in the following ways:

Removal of duplicates:

Responses that were all identical with an identical start time were removed. This may have happened if a student clicked multiple times on the form submit button.

Responses that had the same height, rightfoot, armspan, favourite website and same start time were removed. This may have happened if a student clicked on the form submit button, then pressed the back button and changed one or more answer.

Categorising of free response questions:

Responses for sport, favourite website, favourite TV show, bedtime, best thing about living in NZ and one improvement to living in NZ were each categorised together by correcting for misspellings and variations and just using the first answer if multiple were given. Responses with inappropriate content were classed as "Other".

Cellphone questions consistency:

Responses for cellphone cost, text messages sent and received were cleared for those students who said they didn't have a cellphone.

Data cleaning as a teaching activity

This is only an initial cleaning of really gross errors. There are still a number of strange values in the data. Finding them and thinking about what to do about them is an important lesson for students about the nature of real world data and subtle practical issues that we have to try to resolve when we analyse data. It is an important part of the PPDAC cycle.

Four ways to access the data

1. Get a random sample of up to 255 responses from the database:

<http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2007/sampler/>

You can also compare the 2007 data with that from 2005 or 2003 by using their random samplers:

<http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2005/sampler/>

<http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2003-data/random-sampler/>

You can also compare the New Zealand data with that from other countries by visiting the international CensusAtSchool website:

<http://www.censusatschool.ntu.ac.uk/>

2. Create a summary table of all responses for one or two questions at a time:

<https://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2007/table-maker/>

You can also compare the 2007 data with that from 2005 by using its table builder:

<https://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2005/table-maker/>

3. Use one of the classroom activities which makes use of the data:

<http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/classroom-activities/>

4. Read our quick overview of the data:

<http://www.censusatschool.org.nz/2007/summary/>

More information

See the CensusAtSchool website:

<http://www.censusatschool.org.nz>

Or, between 9am and 5pm you can ring the CensusAtSchool co-director Rachel Cunliffe on: (Auckland) 373-7599 extension 89622.