

**New Zealand
ISSP 2008 – Religion III
Study Description**

ISSP Study Description Form

Study-Title:	Religion: New Zealand	
Fieldwork Dates:	26 August 2008 to 30 November 2008	
Principle Investigator:	Professor Philip Gendall, Department of Communication, Journalism & Marketing, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand	
Sample Type:	Stratified random sample from electoral rolls (sample stratified by age)	
Fieldwork Methods:	Mail survey in three waves	
Context of ISSP questionnaire:	Dedicated survey, with ISSP questions preceding non-ISSP questions and demographics	
Sample Size:	2040	
Response Rates:	2040	A – Total issued (total sample)
	87	B – Ineligible (address vacant, wrong ages,)
	1953	C – (=A-B) Total eligible (in-scope sample)
	1027	D – Total ISSP questionnaires received
	926	E – (=C-D; F+G+H) Total non-response
	74	F – Refusals (refusing to take part)
	-	G – Non-contact (never contacted)
	852	H – Other non-response
Language:	English	
Weighted?	No	
Weighting Procedure:	Original data not weighted but weighting variable provided.	
Known Systematic Properties:		
Deviations from ISSP Questions:	Order of questions 1 to 8 modified in questionnaire. Extended response categories for background current religion variable omitted by mistake.	
Literature:		

SAMPLING INFORMATION

Sampling Procedure

The sample was selected from the 2008 New Zealand electoral roll, which contains the names of all registered voters over the age of 18 years. The population was first stratified by age: under 35, 35 to 54, 55 and over; then equal samples of 680 were randomly selected within each age group. The achieved sample is generally representative of the New Zealand population over 18 years of age, but people under 30 are underrepresented in the sample, while those over 60 are overrepresented, and the proportion of women is higher than in the population whereas the proportion of men is lower. The data have **not** been weighted to correct these biases. Comparisons of unweighted survey results with results obtained from the sample weighted so that its age-sex distribution matched that of the New Zealand population over 18, showed only minor differences between many estimates, but weighting by age and sex is likely to produce more accurate estimates for behavioural variables.

Survey Administration Procedure

The questionnaire together with a covering letter was sent to the 2040 selected participants on 26 August 2008. A reminder letter was mailed to participants whose questionnaires had not been returned by 11 September. A second reminder and another questionnaire were sent to those who had not returned their questionnaires by 11 October. The survey was closed off on 30 November, 14 weeks after the initial mailing.