

# 2003 Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey

## Cook Islands Maori Fact Sheet

### A summary of the Cook Islands Maori findings from the 2003 Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey

#### Background

Between November 2002 and July 2003 a representative sample of 1103 Pacific peoples aged from 13 to 65 were surveyed from households throughout New Zealand. They were asked about their patterns of alcohol and drug use, including tobacco, kava, marijuana and other drugs, gambling and related harm.

#### Methodology

The participants were surveyed using a computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. As some Pacific peoples do not always have connected telephones, a small sample was drawn from households without telephones and interviews were completed by cell phone.

Of the Pacific peoples interviewed 228 identified as Cook Islands Maori and 30 of these were interviewed in the Cook Islands Maori language.

#### Tobacco

##### *Consumption*

- Thirty-nine percent used tobacco in the past year (44% of women and 32% of men) and 36% had smoked tobacco over the past month.

##### *Level of tobacco use*

- Sixty-seven percent of smokers smoked one to ten cigarettes per day and 23% smoked 11 to 20 cigarettes per day.
- Eight percent of smokers who had smoked in the past 12 months reported not smoking any cigarettes in the previous month.

##### *Perception of harm*

- Sixty-six percent of respondents agreed that smokers risked harm even if they had ever smoked one or two cigarettes.
- Eighty-nine percent of respondents agreed that smokers risked harm if they had regularly smoked cigarettes.

1. These results apply only to Cook Island Maori people and not to groups of other Pacific peoples.
2. 15mls of absolute alcohol is equal to one drink.

## Alcohol

### Consumption

- Sixty-six percent drank alcohol in the previous 12 months with men (67%) and women (66%) drinking at similar levels.
- The mean annual frequency of drinking in last 12 months was twice a week (106 occasions) and was similar for men (123 occasions) and for women (93 occasions).

### Level of use

- Men and Women drank similar amounts on typical drinking occasions, both groups drank approximately nine drinks (138 millilitres (mls) of absolute alcohol for men and 141 mls for women).

### Yearly consumption

- The average amount of absolute alcohol consumed annually was similar for women (19 litres) and men (15 litres).
- The population average was 17 litres of absolute alcohol per annum.

### Drinking enough to feel drunk

- Thirty-five percent of female drinkers and 25% of male drinkers reported drinking enough to feel drunk at least once a week.

The population average was 35%.

### Location of drinking

- Seventy-one percent of drinkers drank at their own home (men 73% and women 69%); 72% at other's homes (women 72% and men 71%); 58% at celebrations (women 62% and men 54%) and 41% at pubs/hotels/taverns (men 41% and women 41%).

### Perception of harm

- Eleven percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their health.
- Eight percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their financial position.
- Five percent thought their own drinking was harmful to work or work opportunities and their role in the church.

### Access to alcohol by 13 to 17 year olds

- Fifty-four percent of younger drinkers reported drinking in licensed premises.
- Forty percent of younger drinkers reported being refused entry to, or alcohol at, a licensed venue or event in the last 12 months because of their age.
- Forty-two percent of younger drinkers reported purchasing takeaway alcohol in the past 12 months.

## Kava

### *Consumption*

- Two percent of men and women had drunk kava in the last 12 months.

### *Level of use*

- Kava was drunk around every two months or on average six times per annum.
- Kava was consumed as part of a social occasion such as at a kava club or party.

## Marijuana

### *Marijuana use*

- Similar proportions of men (24%) and women (19%) had used marijuana in the past 12 months.
- The population average was 21%.
- Thirty percent of non-users did not use marijuana because they did not like it and 15% because they did not like the smell of it.

### *Perception of harm*

- Fifteen percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their health.
- Eleven percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their financial position.
- Ten percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their home life.

## Other recreational drug use

Other drug use was limited to only a very small number of men and women who had used stimulants, LSD, mushrooms and ecstasy.

## Pregnancy and tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use

- Forty-eight percent of women and 32% of men believed that no alcohol could be drunk during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 34% of men and 18% of women said they did not know how many alcoholic drinks a pregnant woman could drink before she risked harming her baby.
- Fifty-four percent of women and 36% of men believed that no cigarettes could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 26% of men and 13% of women did not know how many cigarettes a pregnant woman could smoke before she risked harming her baby.
- Sixty-four percent of women and 39% of men believed that no marijuana could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 25% of men and 13% of women did not know how many marijuana joints a pregnant woman could smoke before she risked harming her baby.

## Gambling

### Prevalence

■ Forty-four percent of women and 39% of men reported that they had ever gambled.

### Problems

■ Of those who gambled 19% of women and 6% of men felt worried or sad after gambling, three percent of women and one percent

of men reported either going into debt or borrowing money because of gambling, 14% of women and four percent of men reported that gambling had sometimes caused problems.

■ Of those who gambled 24% of women and 19% of men reported feeling like they wanted or needed to bet more money while gambling; 10% of women and one percent of men reported having lied to family or someone they respected about how much gambled.

## More information

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The complete findings from the 2003 Pacific Drugs and Alcohol Consumption Survey are available at [www.shore.ac.nz/projects/pacificalcohol.htm](http://www.shore.ac.nz/projects/pacificalcohol.htm).

### Funders

This fact sheet and the 2003 Pacific Drugs and Alcohol Consumption Survey were funded by Public Health Intelligence (Ministry of Health) and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

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