

2003 Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey

Niuean Fact Sheet

A summary of the Niuean 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 207 identified as Niuean and three of these were interviewed in the Niuean language.

Tobacco

Consumption

- Thirty-eight percent used tobacco in the past year (42% of men and 34% of women) and 31% had smoked tobacco over the past month.

Level of tobacco use

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

Perception of harm

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

Alcohol

Consumption

- Sixty-six percent drank alcohol in the previous 12 months with men (64%) and women (67%) drinking at similar rates.
- Men drank alcohol an average of more than twice a week (144 occasions over a year); women drank an average of more than once a week (88 occasions over a year).
- The population average was 137 occasions per year or over twice per week.

Level of use

- Men drank more than twice as much as women on a typical drinking occasion (approximately 11 drinks or 169 millilitres (mls) of absolute alcohol compared to five drinks or 76 mls of absolute alcohol for women).
- The population average was eight drinks (119 mls of absolute alcohol).

Yearly consumption

- Men drank more than three times as much as women on average over a year (27 litres of absolute alcohol compared to 7 litres for women).
- The population average was 17 litres of absolute alcohol per annum.

Drinking enough to feel drunk

- Thirty percent of drinkers reported drinking enough to feel

drunk at least once a week (50% of male drinkers and 24% of female drinkers).

Location of drinking

- Sixty-five percent of drinkers drank at their own home (men 81% and women 49%); 66% at other's homes (men 77% and women 56%); 57% at celebrations (men 60% and women 55%) and 51% at pubs/hotels/taverns (men 55% and women 48%).

Perception of harm

- Fourteen percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their financial position.
- Nine percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their health.
- Three 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

- Forty-eight percent of younger drinkers reported drinking in licensed premises.
- Thirty-nine 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-eight percent of younger drinkers reported purchasing takeaway alcohol in the past 12 months.

Kava

Consumption

- Three percent of men and women had drunk kava in the past 12 months.

Level of use

- Median yearly frequency of kava consumption was 11 times per annum or around once a month.
- Kava was consumed at home or as part of a social occasion such as at a kava club or party.

Marijuana

Marijuana use

- Similar proportions of men (20%) and women (16%) had used marijuana in the past 12 months.
- The population average was 18%.
- Thirty-three percent of non-users did not use marijuana because they did not like it and 18% because of health related reasons.

Perceptions of harm

- Seven percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their health.
- Five percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their financial position.
- Four 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 using stimulants, LSD, mushrooms, ecstasy, morphine and other opiates.

Pregnancy and tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use

- Fifty-one percent of men and 46% of women believed that no alcohol could be drunk during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 25% of men and 20% of women thought one to two drinks would not be harmful.

- Fifty-four percent of women and 45% of men believed that no cigarettes could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 19% of men and 11% of women thought that three or more cigarettes would not be harmful.

- Sixty-six percent of women and 57% of men believed that no marijuana could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 20% of men and 10% of women thought that smoking one to two marijuana joints would not be harmful.

Gambling

Prevalence

■ Forty-two percent of men and 41% of women reported that they had ever gambled.

Problems

■ Of those who gambled 16% of men and 13% of women felt worried or sad after gambling; two percent of women and one percent of men reported either going into

debt or borrowing money because of gambling; 10% of women and nine percent of men reported that gambling had sometimes caused problems.

■ Of those who gambled 32% of women and 23% of men reported feeling like they wanted or needed to bet more money while gambling; 10% of women and four percent of men reported having lied to family or someone they respected about how much gambled.

More information

This fact sheet was prepared by
Dr. John Huakau and Lanuola Asiasiga
from the Centre for Social Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation
(SHORE), Massey University.

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

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Contact details

Dr. John Huakau and Lanuola Asiasiga
Centre for Social Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE)
Massey University, PO BOX 6137 Wellesley Street, Auckland
New Zealand.

Phone: (09) 3666136

Email: j.t.huakau@massey.ac.nz or l.asiasiga@massey.ac.nz.

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