

# 2003 Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey

## Samoan Fact Sheet

### A summary of the Samoan 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 338 identified as Samoan, and 96 of these were interviewed in the Samoan language.

#### Tobacco

##### *Consumption*

■ Thirty-six percent used tobacco in the past year (44% of men and 29% of women) and 34% had smoked tobacco over the past month.

##### *Level of tobacco use*

■ Sixty-four percent of smokers smoked one to ten cigarettes per day and 15% smoked 11 to 20 cigarettes per day.

■ Five percent of those who had smoked in the past 12 months reported not smoking any cigarettes in the previous month.

##### *Perception of harm*

■ Seventy percent of respondents agreed that smokers risked harm even if they had only ever smoked one or two cigarettes.

■ Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed that smokers risked harm if they had regularly smoked cigarettes.

## Alcohol

### Consumption

- Two-thirds of men (67%) drank alcohol in the previous 12 months; less than half (48%) of women did.
- The population average was 57%.
- Men drank alcohol an average of more than three times a week (189 occasions over a year); women drank more than once a week (95 occasions over a year).
- The population average was less than three times per week (148 occasions).

### Level of use

- Men drank almost twice as much as women on a typical drinking occasion (approximately eight drinks or 146 millilitres (mls) of absolute alcohol compared to five drinks or 75 mls of absolute alcohol for women).
- The population average was seven and half drinks (113 mls of absolute alcohol).

### Yearly Consumption

- Men drank more than three times as much as women on average over a year (34 litres of absolute alcohol compared to 11 litres for women).
- The population average was 24 litres of absolute alcohol per annum.

### Drinking enough to feel drunk

- Forty-one percent of male drinkers and 16% of female

drinkers reported drinking enough to feel drunk at least once a week.

The population average was 30%.

### Location of drinking

- Men were more likely than women to drink at home (men 73%; women 54%) and at pubs or hotels (men 49%; women 32%).
- Women and men drank at similar levels at other people's homes (women 66%; men 63%) and at celebrations (women 63%; men 59%).

### Perception of harm

- Sixteen percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their health.
- Twelve percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their financial position.
- Eight percent thought their own drinking was harmful to work or work opportunities.

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

- Thirty-nine percent of younger drinkers reported drinking in licensed premises.
- Sixty-three 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.
- Thirty-two percent of younger drinkers reported purchasing takeaway alcohol in the last 12 months.

## **Kava**

### **Consumption**

- Nine times more men (9%) than women (less than 1%) had drunk kava in the last 12 months.
- The population average was five percent

### **Level of use**

- Kava was drunk around three times a week, or an average of 167 times a year.
- Kava was consumed at home (41%), at kava clubs (35%), ceremonial festivities (18%) and at parties (8%).

## **Marijuana**

### **Marijuana use**

- More than twice as many men (21%) as women (9%) had used marijuana in the last 12 months.
- The population average was 15%.
- Twenty-seven percent of non-users did not use marijuana because they did not like it and 27% for health-related reasons.

### **Perception of harm**

- Eighteen percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their health.
- Fifteen percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their home life.

- Eleven percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their role in church and their financial position.

## **Other recreational drug use**

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

## **Pregnancy and tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use**

- Fifty-five percent of women and 47% of men believed that no alcohol could be drunk during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 19% of men and 10% of women said they did not know how many alcoholic drinks a pregnant woman could drink before she risked harming her baby.
- Sixty-two percent of women and 49% of men believed that no cigarettes could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 19% of men and 14% of women did not know how many cigarettes a pregnant woman could smoke before she risked harming her baby.
- Sixty-eight percent of women and 60% of men believed that no marijuana could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 16% of men and 14% of women did not know how many marijuana joints a pregnant woman could smoke before she risked harming her baby.

## Gambling

### Prevalence

■ Forty-one percent of men and 37% of women reported that they had ever gambled.

### Problems

■ Of those who gambled 17% of women and 15% of men felt worried or sad after gambling; five percent of men and three percent

of women reported either going into debt or borrowing money because of gambling; eight percent of women and six percent of men reported that gambling had sometimes caused problems.

■ Of those who gambled 31% of women and 17% of men reported feeling like they wanted or needed to bet more money while gambling and 18% of women and 12% 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).

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