

2003 Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey

Tongan Fact Sheet

A summary of the Tongan 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 232 identified as Tongan and 97 of these were interviewed in the Tongan language.

Tobacco

Consumption

- Thirty-one percent used tobacco in the past year (39% of men and 24% of women) and 26% had smoked tobacco over the past month.

Level of tobacco use

- Sixty-nine percent of smokers smoked one to ten cigarettes per day and 19% smoked 11 to 20 cigarettes per day.
- Sixteen percent of smokers who had smoked in the past 12 months reported not smoking any cigarettes in the previous month.

Perception of harm

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

Alcohol

Consumption

- More men (56%) than women (29%) drank alcohol in the previous 12 months.
- The population average was 41%.
- Men drank alcohol an average of more than three times a week (104 occasions over a year); women drank more than twice per week (135 occasions over a year).
- The population average was 172 occasions per year or over three times a week.

Level of use

- Men drank nine drinks (135 millilitres (mls) of absolute alcohol) and women seven and half drinks (113 mls of absolute alcohol) on a typical drinking occasion.
- The population average was approximately eight drinks (126 mls of absolute alcohol).

Yearly Consumption

- The average amount of absolute alcohol consumed annually was similar for men (22 litres) and women (19 litres).
- The population average was 21 litres of absolute alcohol per annum.

Drinking enough to feel drunk

- Forty-three percent of drinkers reported drinking enough to feel drunk at least once a week (48% of

male drinkers and 35% of female drinkers).

Location of drinking

- Fifty-six percent of drinkers drank at their own home (men 65% and women 43%); 66% at other's homes (men 63% and women 71%); 60% at celebrations (men 62% and women 71%) and 43% at nightclubs (men 43% and women 42%).

Perception of harm

- Fourteen percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their financial position.
- Thirteen percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their home life.
- Eight percent thought their own drinking was harmful to their friendships and social life.

Access to alcohol by 13 to 17 year olds

- Sixty-seven percent of younger drinkers reported drinking in licensed premises.
- Sixty-seven 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.
- Twenty-four percent of younger drinkers reported purchasing takeaway alcohol in the last 12 months.

Kava

Consumption

- More men (41%) than women (4%) had drunk kava in the last 12 months.
- The population average was 21%.

Level of use

- Kava was drunk around twice a week, or an average of 126 times a year.
- Kava was consumed at a kava clubs (67%), ceremonial festivities (38%) and at home (17%).

Perception of harm

- Thirty percent of drinkers thought their own drinking was harmful to their health.
- Twenty-two percent of drinkers thought their own drinking was harmful to their home life.
- Seventeen percent of drinkers thought their own drinking was harmful to their work or work opportunities.

Marijuana

Marijuana use

More men (23%) than women (8%) had used marijuana in the last 12 months.

The population average was 15%.

Thirty-six percent of non-users did not use marijuana because they did not like it and 20% for health related reasons.

Perception of harm

- Eight percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their role in church.
- Seven percent of users thought their marijuana use harmed their health.
- Five 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 mushrooms, ecstasy and morphine

Pregnancy and tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use

- Fifty-one percent of women and 30% of men believed that no alcohol could be drunk during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 31% of men and 17% of women thought one or less drinks would not be harmful.
- Fifty-seven 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 12% of women thought that one or less cigarettes would not be harmful.
- Fifty-nine percent of women and 43% of men believed that no marijuana could be smoked during pregnancy without risking harm to the baby; 27% of men and 20% of women thought that smoking one or less marijuana joints would not be harmful.

Gambling

Prevalence

■ Thirty-three percent of men and 27% of women reported that they had ever gambled.

Problems

■ Of those who gambled nine percent of women and six percent of men felt worried or sad after gambling; three percent of men and less than one percent of females reported either going into debt or

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

■ Of those who gambled 29% of men and 25% of women reported feeling like they wanted or needed to bet more money while gambling; 17% of women and 16% of men reported having lied to family or someone they respected about how much they 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.

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