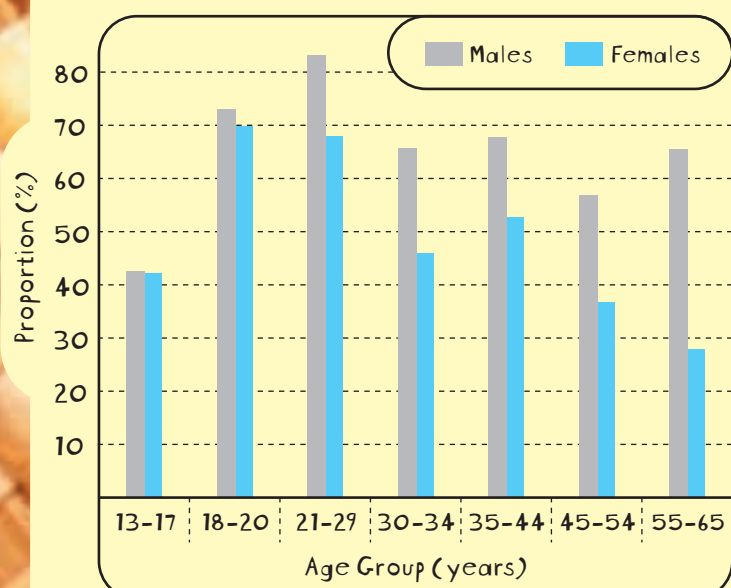


# Pacific Peoples: Alcohol Drinking

## Who drinks?

Sixty-one percent of males and 51% of females were drinkers. This makes an average of 57% of Pacific respondents who drank alcohol.

People drinking alcohol in the last 12 months by age and gender:



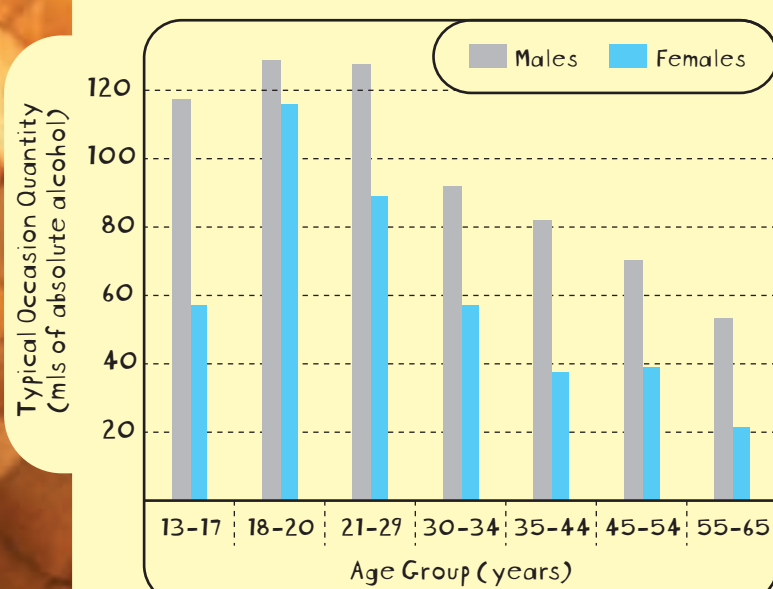
Compared to the Pacific sample, on average:

- Cook Islands Maori women were more likely to be drinkers.
- Niuean respondents aged 30-65 years, and in particular Niuean women, were more likely to be drinkers.
- Tongan women were less likely to be drinkers.

## How much?

The average amount consumed by Pacific drinkers on a typical occasion was six drinks for women and nine for men. Men aged 18 to 34 and 55 to 65 drank more than women of the same age. Women aged 13 to 17 and 35 to 54 drank more than men.

Millilitres of absolute alcohol drunk in a typical occasion



**15mls alcohol**

One drink is equivalent to approximately 15mls of absolute alcohol.

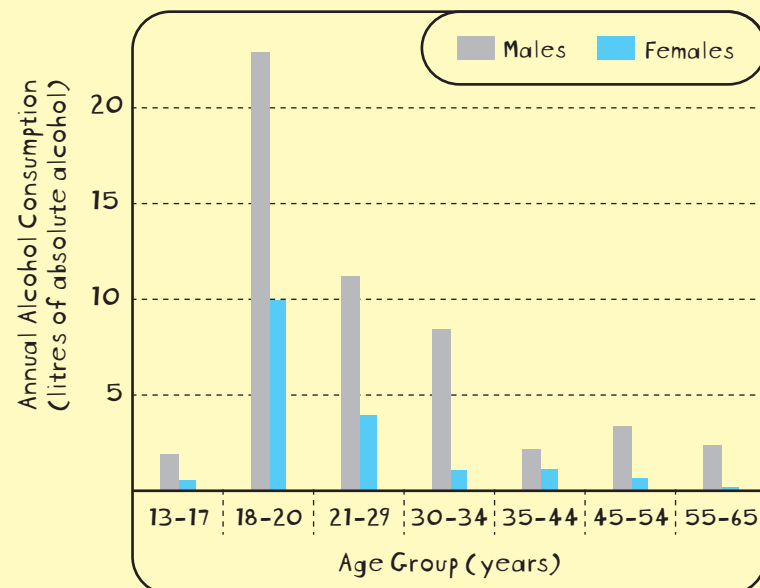
Compared to the Pacific sample, on average:

- Samoan women drinkers drank less.
- Cook Islands Maori drinkers aged 13 to 29 and Cook Islands Maori women drinkers drank more.

## How much in a year?

Pacific people surveyed drank an average of 20 litres of absolute alcohol a year. Men drank 27 litres and women drank 13.

Litres of absolute alcohol drunk in a year by gender and age



Compared to the Pacific sample, on average:

- Samoan women drinkers drank less and particularly those Samoan women aged 30-65 years drank less.
- Cook Islands Maori women drinkers aged 30-65 drank more.

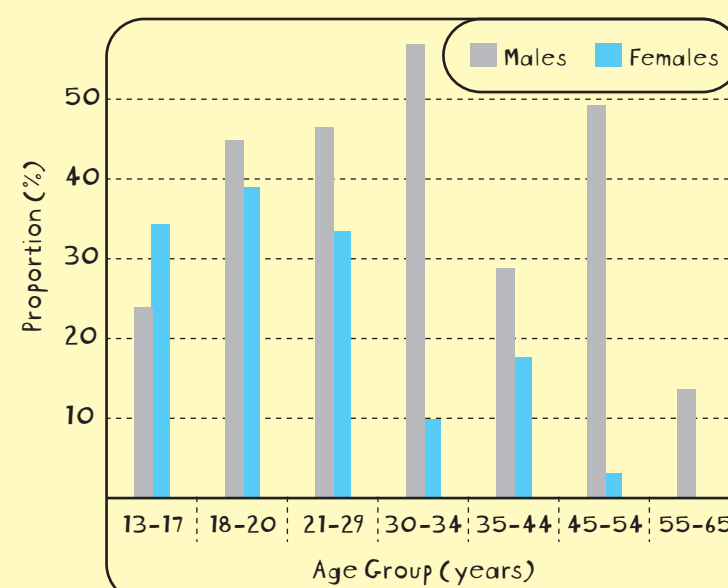
## How often?

Men drank more often than women: just over once every two days while women drank just under once every four days. On average, Pacific drinkers drank less than once every three days. Men aged between 21 and 29 and 35 to 65 drank more frequently than women in these age groups. Women aged 13 to 20 and 30 to 34 drank more often than men.

## Feeling drunk

Forty-one percent of men and a quarter of women reported drinking enough to feel drunk at least once a week in 2003, an average of a third of Pacific drinkers reported doing so.

Drinkers who felt drunk once per week or more in the last 12 months



Compared to the Pacific sample, on average:

- Samoan women drinkers, and in particular, Samoan women drinkers aged 30 to 65 were less likely to drink enough to feel drunk at least once a week.
- Cook Islands Maori drinkers aged 30 to 65, and in particular men of all ages, were less likely to drink enough to feel drunk once per week.
- Cook Islands Maori women drinkers aged 13 to 29 were more likely to drink enough to feel drunk once per week.

## Problems from other people's drinking

Pacific men were more likely to report having been physically assaulted in the last 12 months by someone who had been drinking: 18% compared with 10% of Pacific women.

Pacific women were more likely to report having been sexually harassed by someone who had been drinking: 10% compared with 5% of Pacific men.

Percentage of people experiencing problems from other people's drinking

	All	Male	Female
Physical assaults	13	18	10
Sexual harassment	8	5	10
Motor vehicle accident	5	6	4
Other accidents causing injury or major damage	5	5	4

Compared to the Pacific sample:

- Niuean women were less likely to be involved in an accident causing injury or major damage than their peers in the Pacific sample.

## Problems from your own drinking

Feeling the effects of alcohol the next day was the most common harmful affect from people's own drinking (48%), followed by being unable to remember their actions after drinking.

Percentage of drinkers in the last 12 months reporting potential harmful behaviour from drinking

	All	Male	Female
Felt alcohol effects the next day	48	48	48
Unable to remember actions after drinking	29	30	27
Felt effects of alcohol at work/study/household duties	23	24	22
Felt ashamed of their actions while drinking	21	18	24
Had a serious argument after drinking	20	19	21
Got drunk when there was a reason to stay sober	20	23	16
Had a physical fight because of their drinking	13	15	11
Felt the effects of alcohol on work performance	12	14	9
Stayed intoxicated for several days	10	11	8
Away from work because of your drinking	8	8	9
Told to leave because of their drinking	7	8	6
Had their hands shake a lot in the morning after drinking	7	8	6
Had an alcohol drink first thing in the morning	7	8	7
Hit partner or children after drinking	4	3	5
Drinking/driving and had motor vehicle crash	1	2	1

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF PACIFIC SAMPLE

Sample size: 1103

Age and gender				
Gender	Age Group (years)	Sample Numbers	Sample % Weighted	% Census 2001
Male	13-17	77	8.7	8
	18-20	57	5.8	4.2
	21-29	99	9.3	11.1
	30-34	53	5	5.7
	35-44	108	8.4	9.5
	45-54	74	6	6.2
	55-65	39	3.9	3.6
Female	13-17	73	7	7.8
	18-20	59	5	4.4
	21-29	150	13.2	12.1
	30-34	63	4.4	6.6
	35-44	107	9.1	10.4
	45-54	81	7.9	6.3
	55-65	59	6.1	3.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>1103*</b>	<b>100</b>	

\*Includes four males who refused to give their age

Ethnicity			
Ethnicity	Sample Numbers	Sample % Weighted	% Census 2001
Samoan	338	48.3	49.7
Cook Islands Maori	228	21.2	21.8
Tongan	232	16.1	16.4
Niuean	207	8.7	8.4
Fijian	66	3.2	3.3
Tokelauan	32	2.5	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Survey Summary:**  
The interviews were carried out by phone between November 2002 and July 2003.

**Reference Information:**  
Ministry of Health. (2004). Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey 2003. Final Report Volume I. Prepared for Public Health Intelligence Ministry of Health by Pacific Research & Development Services and SHORE/Whariki, Massey University, June 2004. Ministry of Health, Wellington, New Zealand.



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