

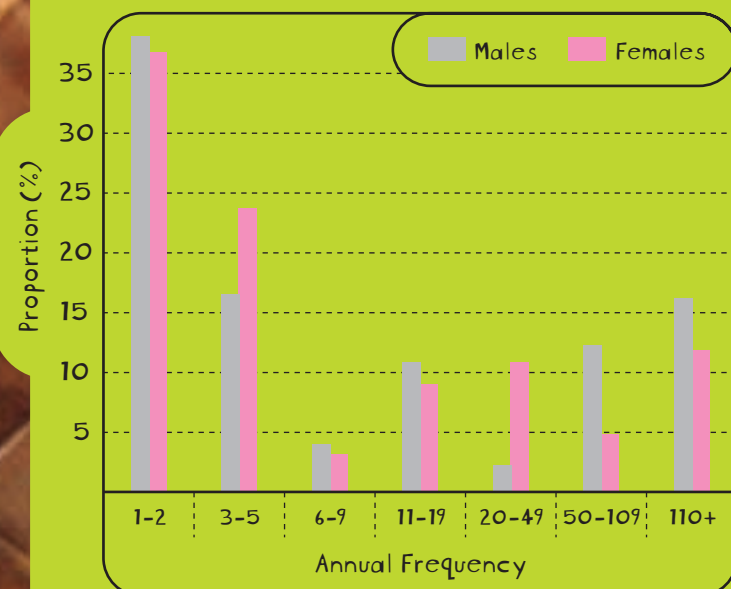
# Pacific Peoples: Marijuana and Other Drug Use

## Marijuana

### Who uses marijuana?

One third of the Pacific sample had ever used marijuana but only 17% used it in the last 12 months. Pacific men were more likely to have used marijuana in the last 12 months (21%) compared to women (13%).

Use of marijuana in the last 12 months by age and gender



Compared to the Pacific sample, on average:

- Samoan women aged 30 to 65 were less likely to have ever tried marijuana.
- Fewer Tongan men and women had ever tried marijuana.
- Tongan women aged 30 to 65 were less likely to have used marijuana in the last 12 months.

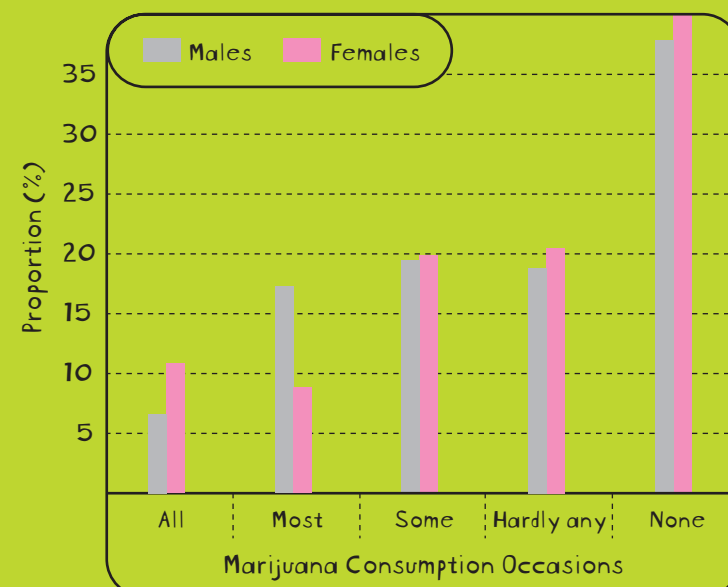
### Reasons for not using marijuana

The main reasons for not using marijuana were not liking or needing it (30%), followed by health-related reasons (21%).

### How often?

On average Pacific marijuana users had used marijuana 45 times per year.

Marijuana use in the last 12 months among users



### When they started

The mean age at which marijuana was first used was 17 years old.

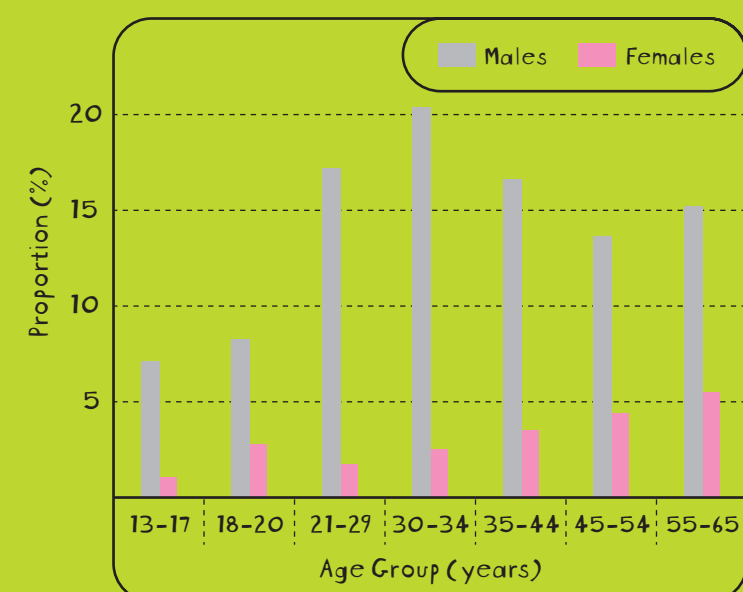
### Driving and marijuana

Sixty-four percent of Pacific people (59% of men and 72% of women) said they never drove while under the influence of marijuana.

### Marijuana and alcohol

Thirty-eight percent of Pacific men and 40% of Pacific women did not use marijuana with alcohol.

Marijuana occasions when alcohol is also drunk



### Other drugs

Respondents were asked about their use of recreational drugs such as amphetamines, hallucinogens, opiates, solvents and tranquillisers in the last 12 months. The majority (87%) of the 4.7% (43 in total) of Pacific people who reported using other recreational drugs were male. The most commonly used other recreational drugs were stimulants (1.5%), LSD (0.9%), ecstasy (0.6%), mushrooms (0.5%) and morphine (0.5%).

#### 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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