

# National Alcohol Workforce Development

June 2005  
Wellington

Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and  
Evaluation (SHORE) and Te Ropu Whariki  
Massey University

A decorative graphic consisting of several sets of concentric circles in shades of blue, resembling ripples in water, located in the bottom right quadrant of the slide.

# Introductions

- Welcome
- Housekeeping
- Introductions
- Workshop programme for Day One
- Burning Questions

What do we know about drinking  
and alcohol-related harm ?

**My body is a temple.**

**Yeah right.**

**Tui**



# Consumption and Harm

- Alcohol is a major factor for the global burden of disease
- Alcohol (9.2%) is the third leading risk factor for disease in developed countries after tobacco (12.2%) and blood pressure (10.9%)
- Some groups experience a disproportionate share of the harms from alcohol use
- In NZ, these groups are young people, Maori and Pacific peoples

# Alcohol-related Harms

## Chronic disease:

**Cancer:** Lip & oropharyngeal cancer, Esophageal cancer, Stomach cancer, Colon cancer, Rectum cancer, Liver cancer, Laryngeal cancer, Lung cancer, Female breast cancer, Ovarian cancer, Prostate cancer

**Neuropsychiatric diseases:** Alcohol use disorders, unipolar major depression, epilepsy

## Diabetes

**Cardiovascular diseases:** Hypertension, coronary heart disease, cardiac arrhythmias, heart failure, stroke

**Gastrointestinal diseases:** Esophageal varices, Gastro-esophageal hemorrhage, Liver cirrhosis, Cholelithiasis, Acute pancreatitis, Chronic pancreatitis

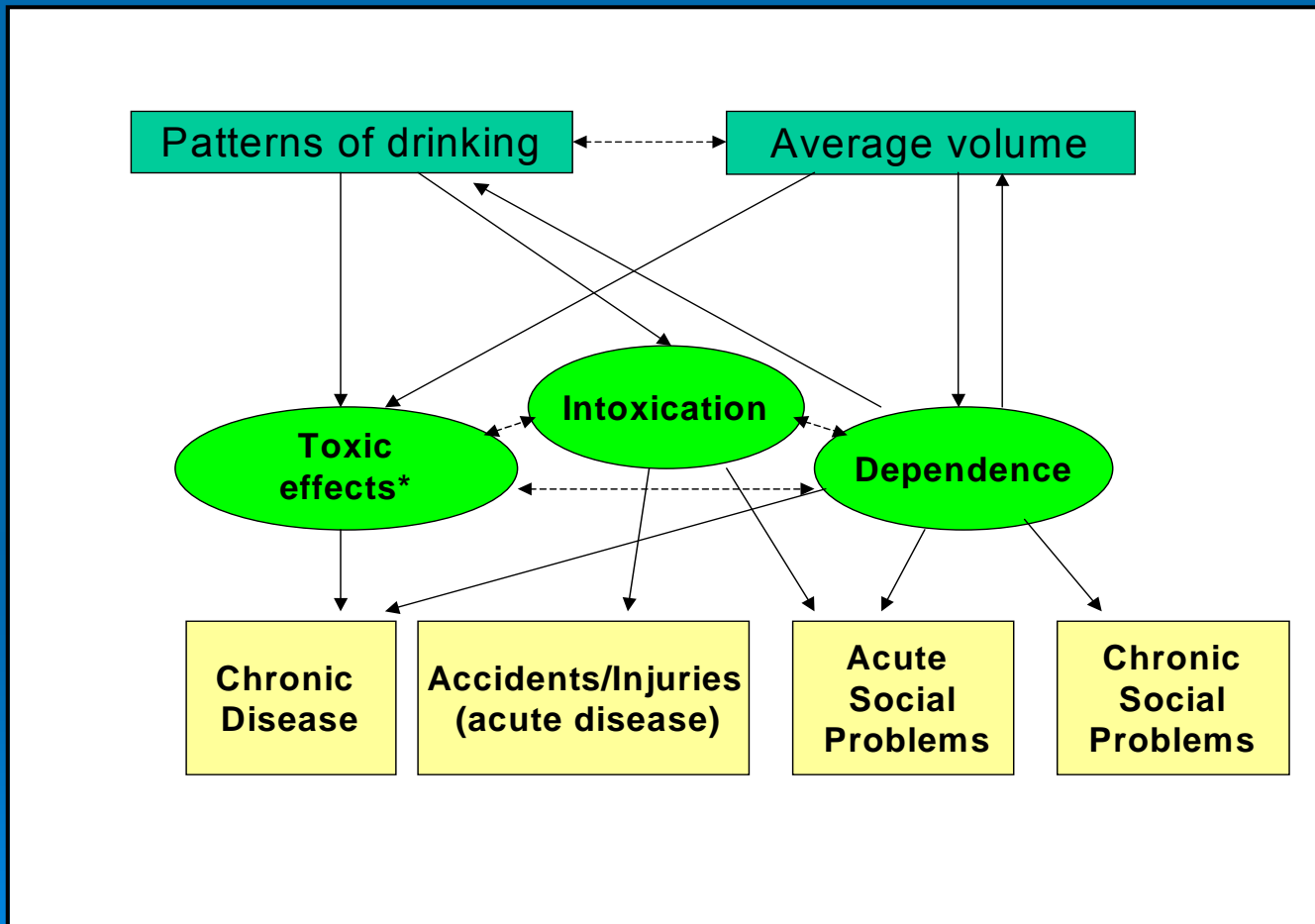
**Conditions arising during perinatal period:** Spontaneous abortion, Low birth weight, Psoriasis, Prematurity, Intrauterine growth-retardation

## Injury:

Unintentional injury (falls)

Intentional injury (suicide)

# Relations among alcohol consumption, mediating variables and consequences



# Location

- Where people drink is also related to levels and types of alcohol-related harm
- Licensed premises are high-risk locations for alcohol-related harms such as injuries and violence
- Research also suggests that there is a link between outlet density and a number of alcohol-related problems

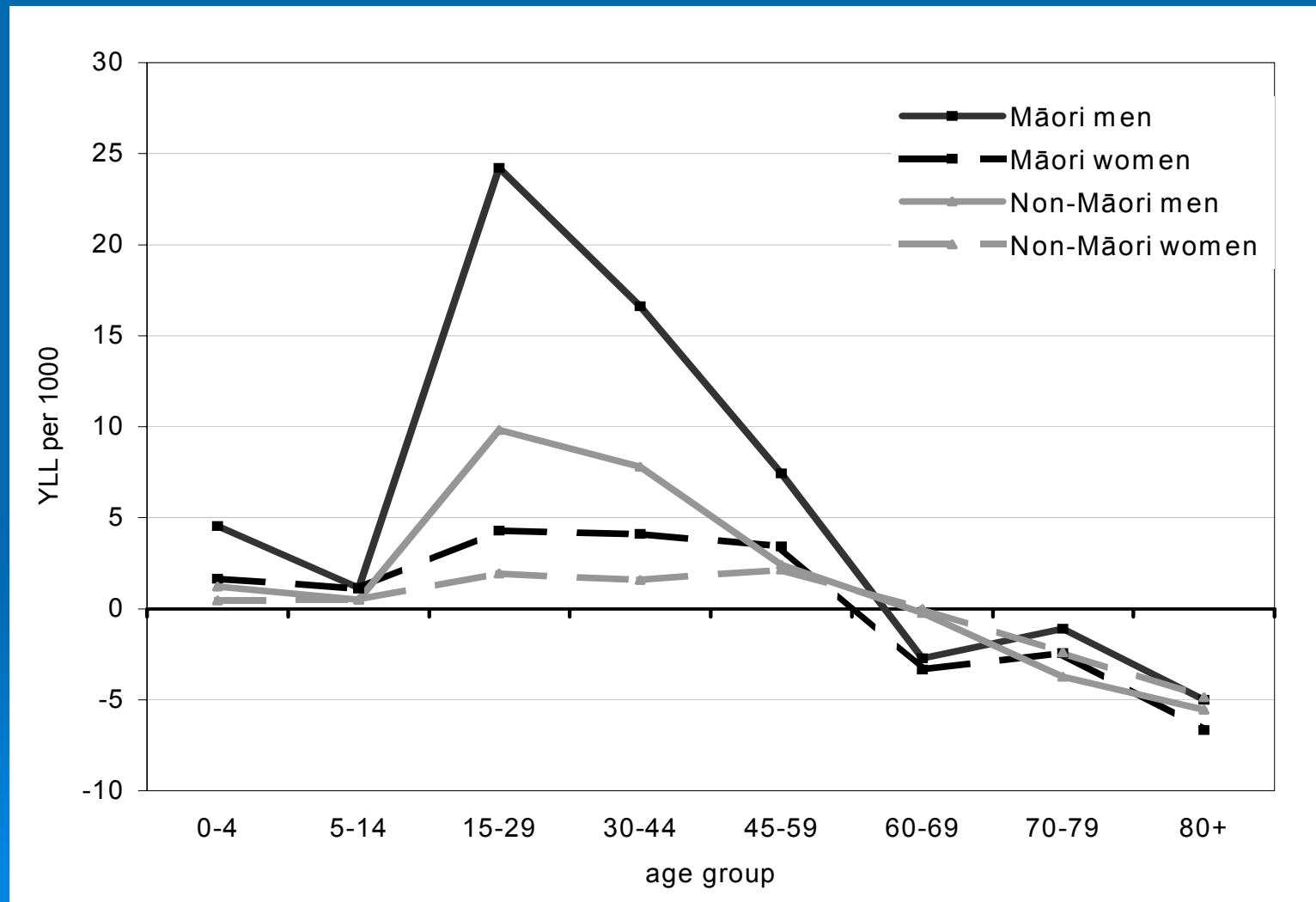
# New Zealand

- Burden of death, disease and disability due to alcohol in New Zealand (Connor et al, 2004)
- Estimates based on 2000 and 2002 data

# Summary: mortality from alcohol

- 4% of all NZ deaths in 2000 (n = 1037)
- 981 deaths prevented, almost all in elderly non-Māori
- 17,200 years of life lost and only 5,300 gained
- Men had 4 times the YLL rate of women
- Non-Māori had half the Māori rate of YLL
- Harmful effects: injury (72%) cancers (14%)
- Beneficial effects: CHD (82%) stroke(13%)  
diabetes

# Net years of life lost due to alcohol: age-specific rates by ethnicity and gender, 2000



# Summary: DALYs

- In 2002, at least 33,500 DALYs lost due to alcohol
- Half of DALYs lost were attributable to alcohol use disorders
- Benefits equal in men and women (7,500 DALYs)
- Net loss of 26,000 DALYs: 76% in men

# Implications

- No health benefits for drinking alcohol before middle age
- Pattern of drinking important for determining the health effects of alcohol consumption
- Alcohol-related injury major contributor to deaths and YLL
- Large burden of disability due to alcohol use disorders
- Health burden of alcohol falls inequitably on Maori

# Pacific Peoples

- Survey undertaken in 2002-2003
- Available in English, Samoan , Cook Islands Maori, Tongan and Niuean
- Funded by the Ministry of Health

## Percentage of Alcohol drinkers

In 2003, 57% of Pacific respondents were drinkers;

61% of males and 51% of females.

In 2000, 85% of National respondents were drinkers;

88% of males and 83% of females.



# Annual Alcohol Consumption

Pacific male drinkers drank 28 litres of absolute alcohol annually.

National population male drinkers drank 16 litres of absolute alcohol annually.

Pacific female drinkers drank 14 litres of absolute alcohol annually.

National population female drinker drank 7 litres of absolute alcohol annually.

## Drinking enough to feel drunk

Of Pacific drinkers 41% of males and 25% of females reported drinking enough to feel drunk at least once per week.

Of National population drinkers 13% of males and 6% of females reported doing the same.

Pacific male and female drinkers aged 13-17, 18-20, 21-29 reported similar levels of drinking enough to feel drunk at least once per week.

## **Reported harms**

Problems experienced from their own drinking in the last 12 months.

30% and 27% of Pacific male and female drinkers were unable to remember their actions after drinking compared to 21% and 15% of national males and females.

19% and 21% of Pacific male and female drinkers had a serious argument after drinking compared to 12% and 8% of national males and females.

## **Reported harms**

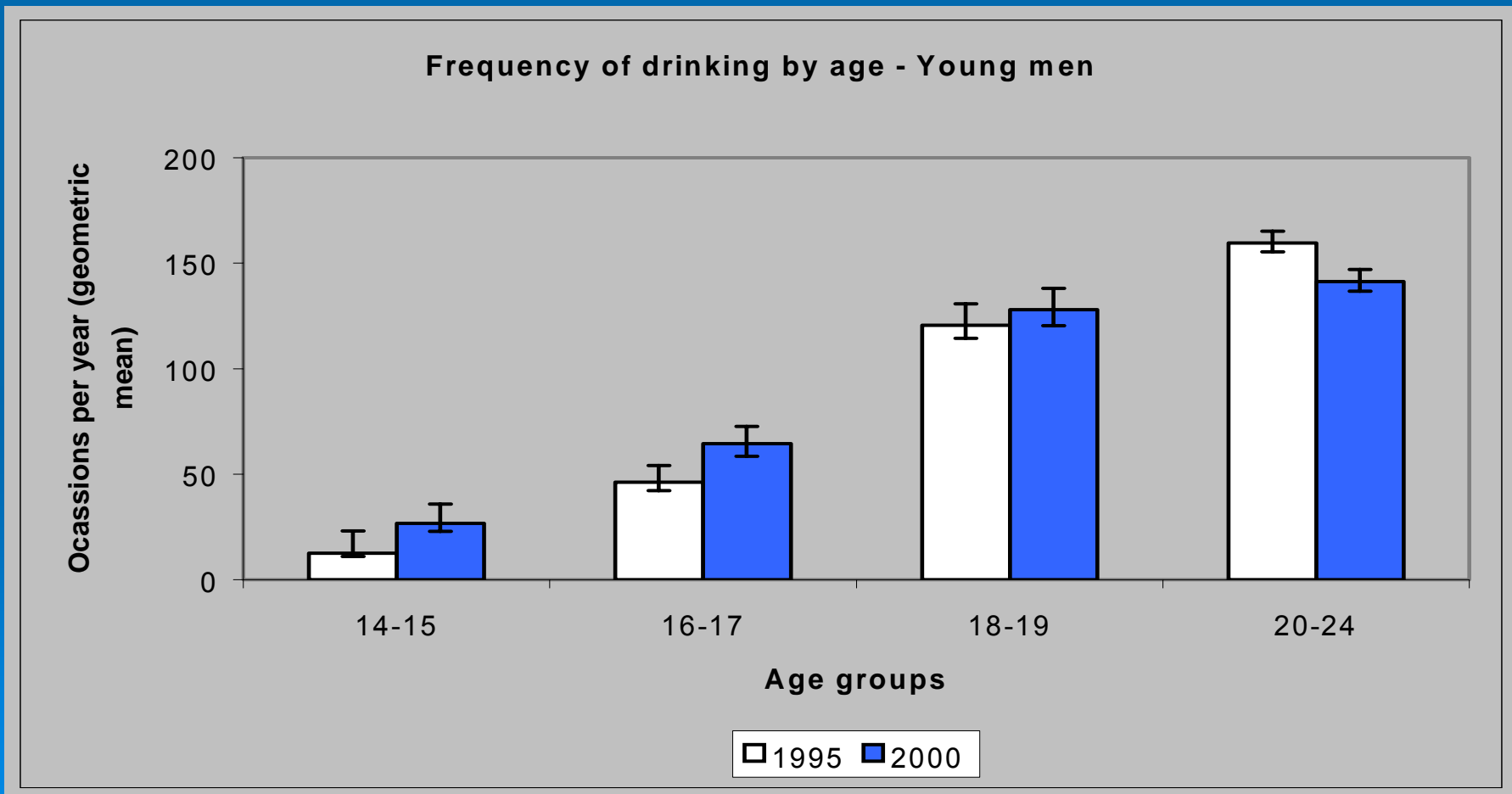
Problems experienced from their own drinking in the last 12 months.

18% and 24% of Pacific male and female drinkers were ashamed of their actions while drinking compared to 15% and 14% of national males and females.

15% and 11% of Pacific male and female drinkers had a physical fight while drinking compared to 5% and 3% of national males and females.

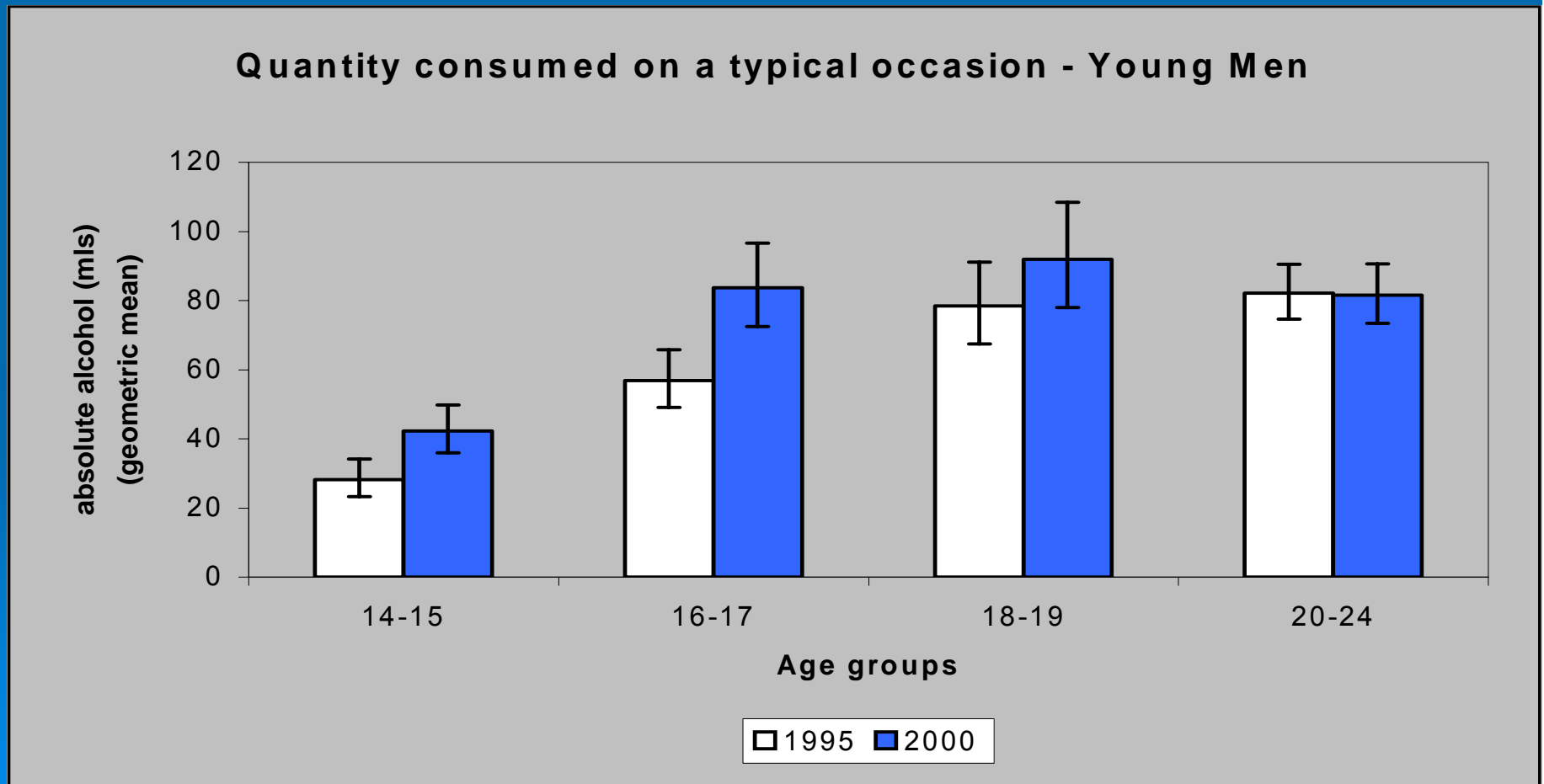
# Young Males - Frequency

- Males aged 14-15 years significant increases



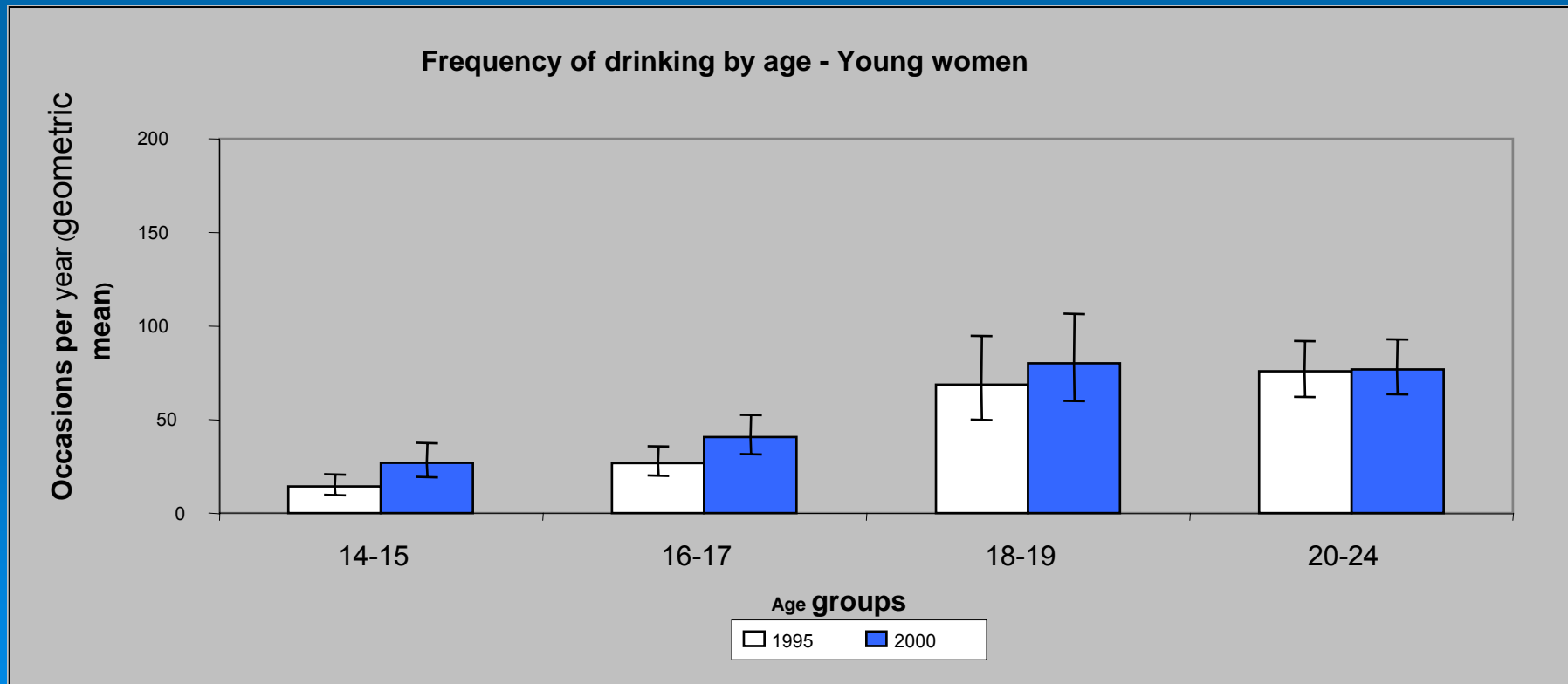
# Young Males - Quantity

- Males aged 14-15 and 16-17 years significant increases



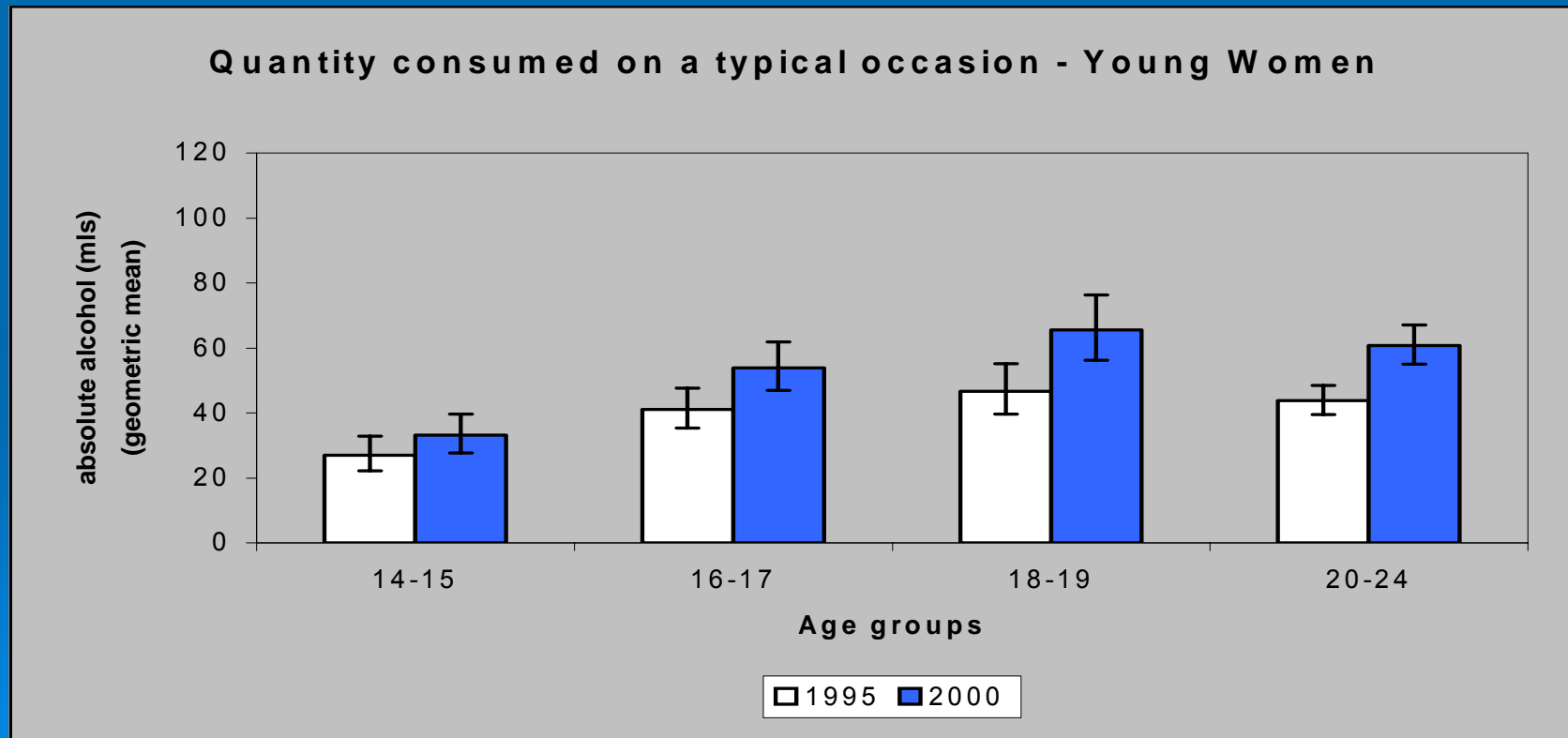
# Young females - frequency

- Females aged 16-17, 18-19 and 20-24 significant increases



# Young females -Quantity

- Females aged 16-17, 18-19 and 20-24 years significant increases



# Maori

- Similar consumption to general population
- More of the total alcohol drunk in heavy drinking occasions
- More abstainers
- Around half of all alcohol consumed in private homes

# Other Information

- Everitt and Jones (2002) studied the number of ethanol intoxicated patients presenting at a central emergency department over a 2 year period
- Found that the number of 18 and 19 years olds increased (66 to 107) and 15-17 year olds (72 to 95)
- Guria et al (2003) significant increase in the proportion of alcohol-related fatal crashes for 15-17 year olds
- Lash reports

# Key Points

- Total consumption + pattern + location important
- Some groups in NZ experience more alcohol-related harm than others
- Evidence that consumption increasing for young people and harm also increasing

# Discussion

- What are the implications?

