



Pacific Drinking in New Zealand: Results from the Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey 2003

John Huakau¹, Lanuola Asiasiga¹, Michael Ford¹, Megan Pledger¹, Sally Casswell¹, Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni² and Ieti Lima².

- 1. SHORE, PO Box 6137, Wellesley Street, Auckland, New Zealand.*
- 2. Pacific Research & Development Services Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand*

Background

Between November 2002 and July 2003 the Pacific Drugs & Alcohol Consumption Survey (PDACS) collected data from 1103 Pacific people aged 13-65 years about their patterns of alcohol, tobacco, kava, marijuana and other drugs use, as well as gambling and related harm.

The survey was available in English, Samoan, Cook Islands Maori, Tongan and Niuean.

Methodology

Randomly selected Pacific people living in households throughout Aotearoa New Zealand were surveyed using computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and computer assisted cell-phone interviewing (CACI)

The survey had a composite response rate of approximately 63%.



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Demographics

Gender	Age Group (years)	Sample Numbers Unweighted	Sample % Unweighted	Sample % Weighted	% Census 2001
Male	13-17	77	7	8.7	8
	18-20	57	5.2	5.8	4.2
	21-29	99	9	9.3	11.1
	30-34	53	4.8	5	5.7
	35-44	108	9.8	8.4	9.5
	45-54	74	6.7	6	6.2
	55-65	39	3.5	3.9	3.6
Female	13-17	73	6.6	7	7.8
	18-20	59	5.3	5	4.4
	21-29	150	13.6	13.2	12.1
	30-34	63	5.7	4.4	6.6
	35-44	107	9.7	9.1	10.4
	45-54	81	7.3	7.9	6.3
	55-65	59	5.3	6.1	3.9
Total		1103	100	100	

Demographics & Analysis

Sample consisted of 338 Samoans, 228 Cook Islands Maori, 232 Tongans, 207 Niueans, 66 Fijians and 32 Tokelauans.

The Pan-Pacific sample was analysed separately and then the four main ethnic groups were analysed compared to the Pan-Pacific sample, for those aged 13-29 & 30-65 by gender.

- **How the results will be presented**
- I will present Pacific alcohol consumption results, mentioning any statistically significant differences between the four main Pacific ethnic groups and their Pan-Pacific contemporaries.
- And descriptively compare Pacific results to the national alcohol consumption results from the 2000 National Alcohol Survey (NAS) (Habgood et al., 2001).

Some Limitations

Differences between the two surveys exist - small increase in annual amounts likely.

No CACI sampling in 2000 NAS-likely to underestimate consumption slightly.

2000 NAS is three years older than PDACS- alcohol available for consumption has increased slightly.

Percentage of Alcohol drinkers

In 2003, 57% of Pacific respondents were drinkers;

61% of males and 51% of females.

Pacific males were more likely to be drinkers than Pacific females in those aged 21-29, 30-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-65.

Percentage of Alcohol drinkers

Compared to their Pan-Pacific contemporaries:

Cook Islands Maori more likely to be drinkers.

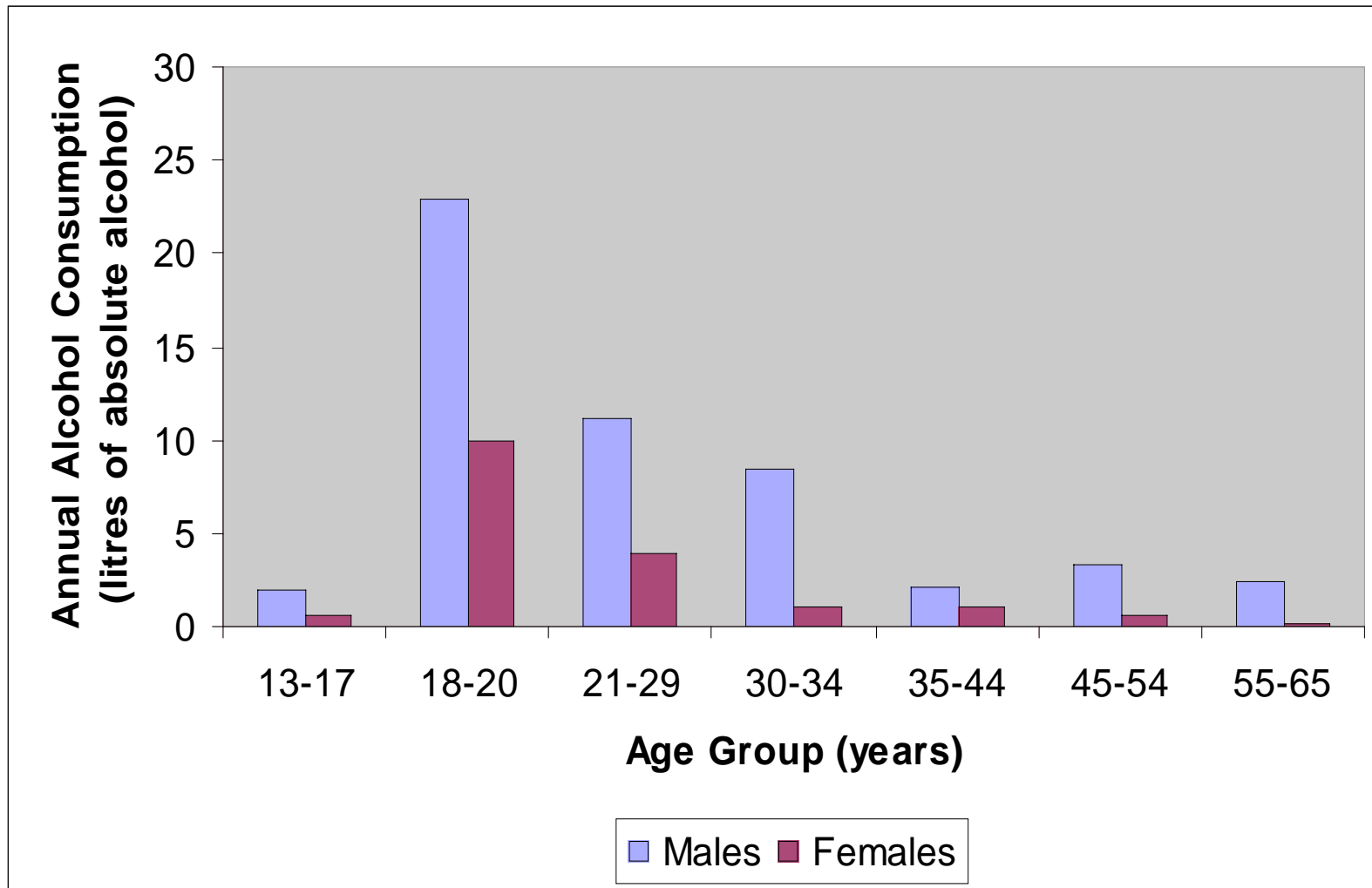
Niuean women were more likely to be drinkers.

In 2000, 85% of National respondents were drinkers;

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88% of males and 83% of females.

- **Frequency of drinking**
- Pacific drinkers drank two to three times per week.
- Pacific men and women drank at a similar frequency in the 13-17, 18-20 and 30-34 age groups.
- National population drinkers drank three times per week.

Pacific Annual Alcohol Consumption



Annual Alcohol Consumption

Pacific male drinkers drank 28 litres of absolute alcohol annually.

Pacific female drinkers drank 14 litres of absolute alcohol annually.

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

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

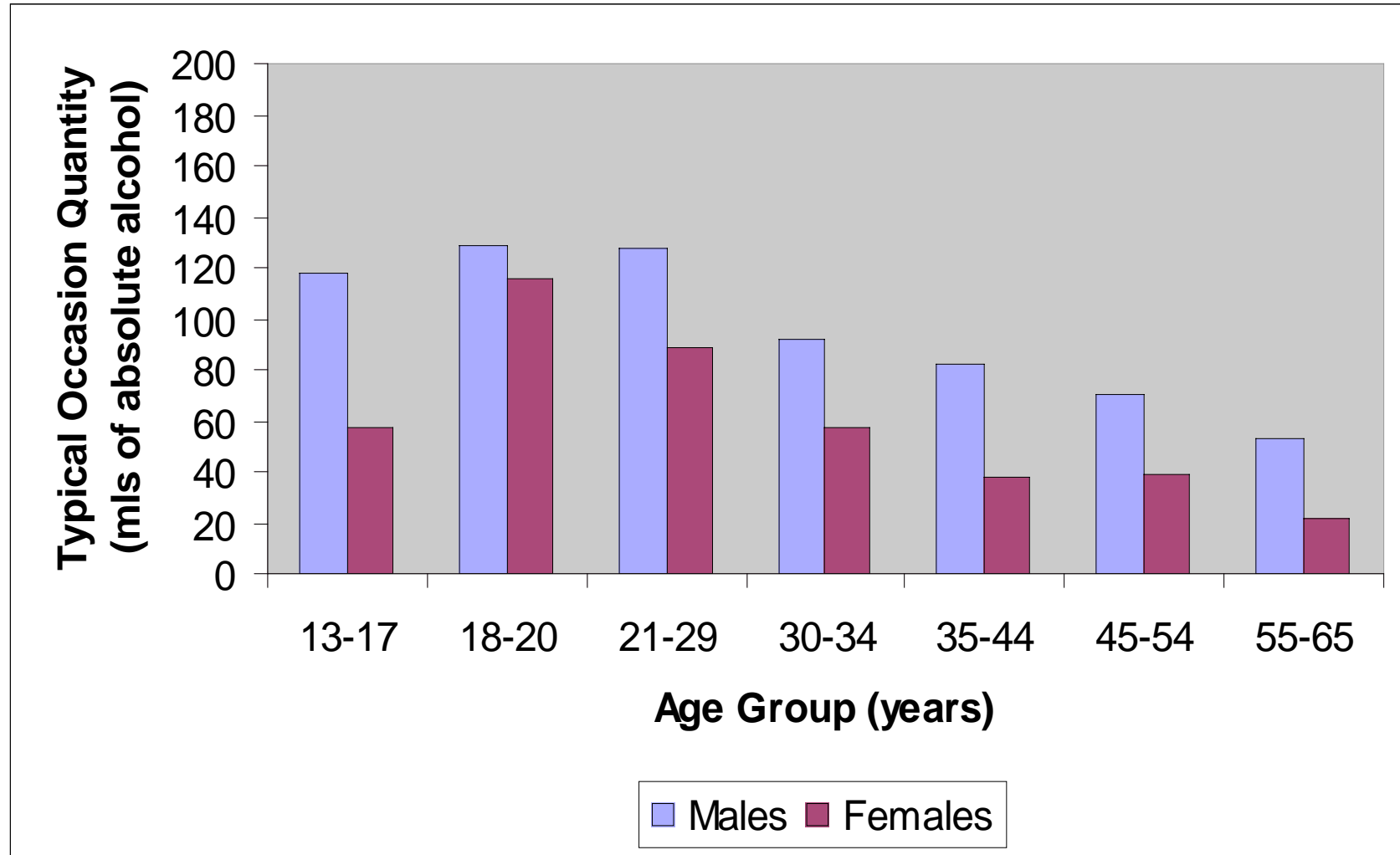
Annual Alcohol Consumption

Compared to their Pan-Pacific contemporaries:

Samoan women aged 30-65 years drank less.

Cook Islands Maori women aged 30-65 drank more.

Pacific Typical Occasion Amount



Typical Occasion Amount

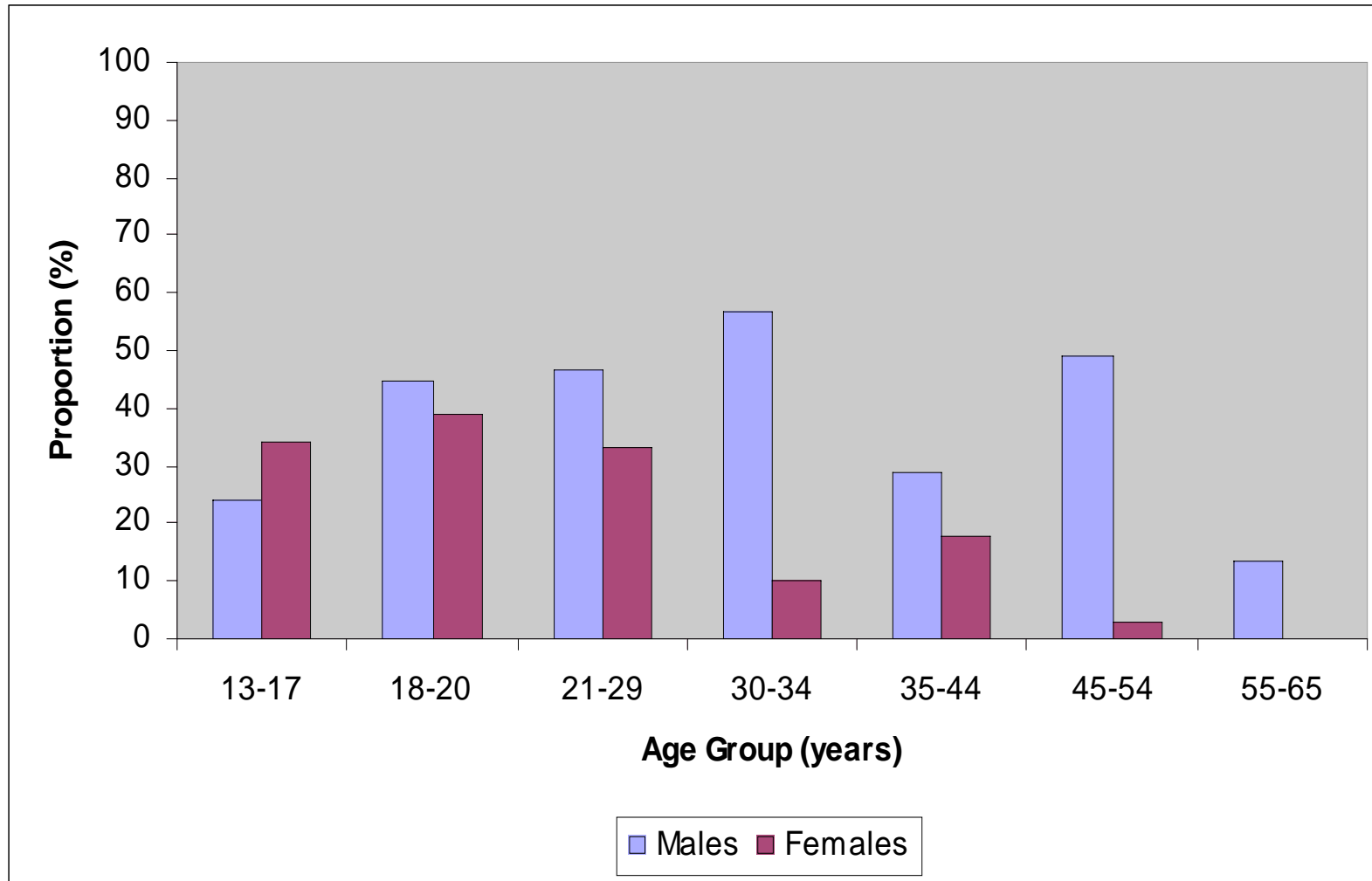
On a typical drinking occasion:

Pacific drinkers drank 8 drinks compared to 4 drinks for national population drinkers.

Pacific male drinkers drank 9 drinks compared to 5 drinks for male national population drinkers.

Pacific female drinkers drank 6 drinks compared with 3.5 drinks for female national population drinkers.

Pacific Drinking enough to feel drunk



Drinking enough to feel drunk

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

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.

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

Drinking enough to feel drunk

Compared to their Pan-Pacific contemporaries:

Samoan women aged 30-65 years were less likely to.

Cook Islands Maori men were less likely to.

Cook Islands Maori women aged 13-29 were more likely to.

Reported harms

Problems experienced from other people's drinking in the last 12 months.

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

Reported harms

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

30% of male and 27% of female drinkers were unable to remember their actions after drinking.

18% of male and 24% of female drinkers were ashamed of their actions while drinking.

19% of male and 21% of female drinkers had a serious argument after drinking.

Conclusions

Proportionally less Pacific alcohol drinkers compared to the national population.

Pacific drinkers drank larger annual amounts of alcohol compared to drinkers in the national population.

Similar frequency of drinking.

Conclusions

Pacific drinkers drank more alcohol per session than national population drinkers.

Pacific drinkers reported much higher levels of drinking enough to feel drunk at least once per week than national population drinkers.

Differences in alcohol consumption exist between Pan-Pacific and Pacific ethnic groups.

Conclusion

With such large differences in levels of drinking enough to feel drunk at least once per week and measures of reported harm, compared with the national population;

these conclusions and findings are supported regardless of differences between the surveys and the change in the alcohol environment.

Acknowledgements

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References

Habgood, R., Casswell, S., Pledger, M. and Bhatta, K. (2001). Drinking in New Zealand: National Surveys Comparison 1995 & 2000. Alcohol & Public Health Research Unit, University of Auckland.