

## Pacific smoking

### Adult smoking rates

Based on the 2013/14 census, the adult regular smoking prevalence for Pacific people living in New Zealand is 23.2 percent<sup>i</sup>.

Regular smoking is more common among Pacific men than women (26.2% vs. 20.5%)<sup>i</sup>.

Among Pacific women of childbearing age (aged 20-44 years), regular smoking prevalence is 26.4 percent compared to 40 percent among Maori women and 17.3 percent and 3.57 percent among European and Asian women respectively<sup>i</sup>.

**Table 1. Smoking rates New Zealand resident Pacific population by sub-ethnicity 2013/14<sup>i</sup>.**

	Regular Smoker (%)	Ex Smoker (%)	Never Smoker (%)
Samoan	22	12	66
Cook Island	30	16	54
Tongan	23	12	65
Niuean	26	15	59
Fijian	13	13	74
Tokelauan	32	19	49
All Pacific people	23	13	64

### Youth smoking rates

As of 2013/14, regular smoking among Pacific girls (aged 15-19 years) has dropped to 10.3 percent (from 21.4 percent in 2006/07). Regular smoking among Pacific boys (aged 15-19 years) has seen a similar decline to 13.6 percent (from 20.1 percent in 2006/07)<sup>i</sup>.

Furthermore, 86.7 percent of young Pacific girls and 84 percent of young Pacific boys have never smoked<sup>i</sup>.

Regular smoking prevalence is highest for girls of Cook Island ethnicity (16.8%), followed by Niuean (14.5%) and Tokelauan

(15.5%). Young Fijian girls have the lowest rates of smoking (6.5%)<sup>i</sup>.

Both Cook Island and Tokelauan boys have very high rates of regular smoking (18.3%). Young Fijian boys have the lowest regular smoking rate at 8.6 percent<sup>i</sup>.

### Quitting

- A high percentage of Pacific smokers (59.9%) have made quit attempts between 2001 – 2006<sup>ii</sup>.
- Sixty-three point nine percent of Pacific smokers have ever quit for more than one week<sup>ii</sup>.
- Between July 2007 and June 2008, Pacific callers made up six percent of the quit line registrations. This accounted for 2,556 calls<sup>iii</sup>.
- Samoan made up the largest group of Pacific clients (46%), followed by Cook Island Māori (20%) and Tongan (13%)<sup>iii</sup>.

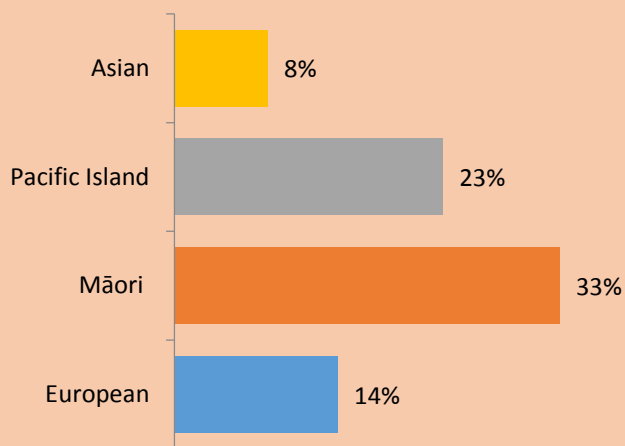
### Second Hand Smoke

- In 2009, among 15-64 year old non-smokers, 9.9 percent of Pacific people were exposed to second hand smoke in their home (compared to 5.6% European and 7.1% Asian people)<sup>iv</sup>.
- In households with at least one child (aged 0-14 years), 14.1 percent of Pacific people had at least one resident who smoked inside the house (compared to 8.9% European and 3.1% Asian people)<sup>iv</sup>.
- Similarly, 12.4 percent Pacific non-smokers aged between 15-64 years were exposed to second hand smoke in the car they usually travelled in (compared to 5.5% European and 4.9% Asian people)<sup>iv</sup>.

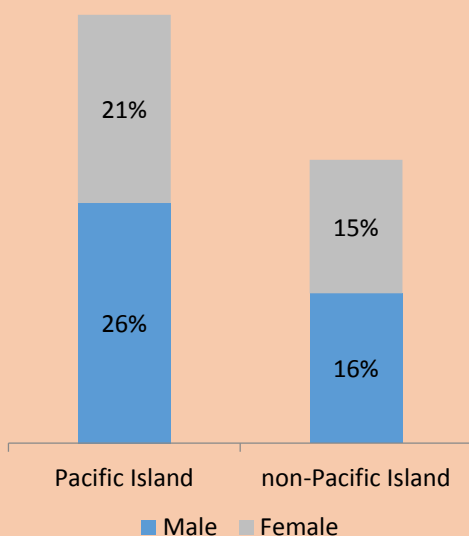
# factsheet



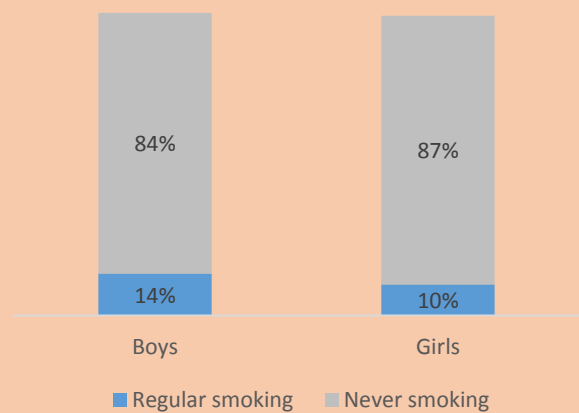
**Figure 1. Regular smoking prevalence by ethnicity 2013/14**



**Figure 2. Regular smoking by gender Pacific Island vs. non-Pacific Island 2013/14**

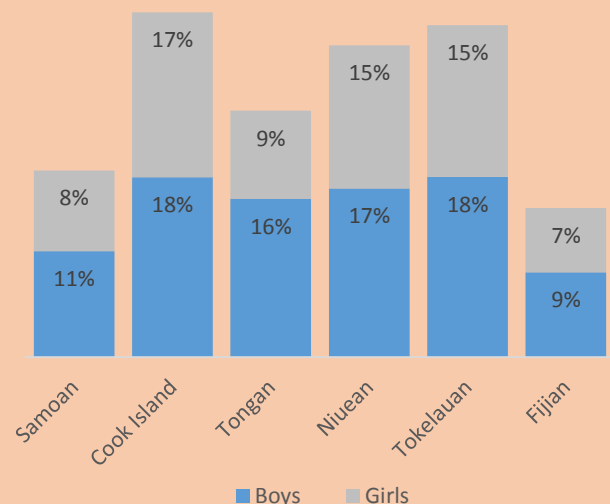


**Figure 3. Smoking prevalence Pacific Island population boys vs. girls (aged 15-19 years) 2013/14\***



\*Ex-smokers: PI Boys (2.4%); PI Girls (3.00 %)

**Figure 4. Regular smoking prevalence in New Zealand Pacific Island population boys vs. girls (aged 15-19 years) 2013/14**



<sup>i</sup> Statistics New Zealand. (2014). Smoking in New Zealand: 2013/14 New Zealand Census. Auckland: Action on Smoking and Health  
<sup>ii</sup> Ministry of Health. (2007). New Zealand Tobacco Use Survey 2006. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

<sup>iii</sup> Quit Group. (2008). Quitline client analysis report: 2007-2008. Wellington: Quit Group.  
<sup>iv</sup> Ministry of Health. (2010). Tobacco Use in New Zealand: Key findings from the 2009 New Zealand Tobacco Use Survey. Wellington: Ministry of Health.