



Factsheet: drinking in the past year

New Zealand Health Survey 2018/19



80.3%
of New Zealanders had an alcoholic drink in the past year. This equates to 3,162,000 adults aged 15+ years.

Males (84.5%) were more likely to drink than females (76.3%).



MORE* LIKELY TO DRINK

- ↑ Males were 11% more likely than females
- ↑ Māori (total) were 4% more likely than non-Māori
- ↑ Māori females were 7% more likely than non-Māori females

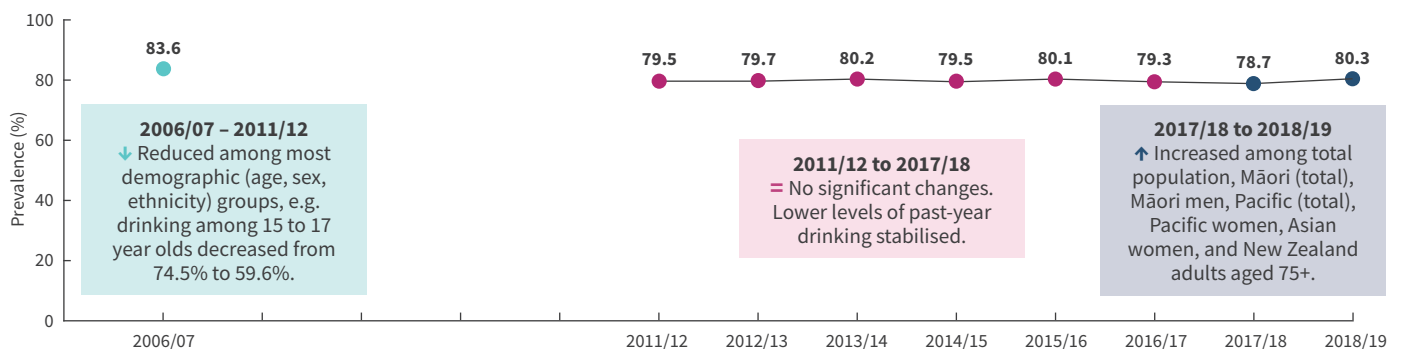
LESS* LIKELY TO DRINK

- ↓ NZers (total) living in the most deprived neighbourhoods were 14% less likely compared to those living in the least deprived (males 10%, females 18% less likely)
- ↓ Pacific people (total) were 25% less likely compared to non-Pacific (Pacific males 21% less likely, Pacific females 29% less likely)
- ↓ Asian people (total) were 31% less likely compared to non-Asian (Asian males 22% less likely, Asian females 42% less likely)

* significant at p<0.05

Trends over time

As shown below, past-year drinking in the total New Zealand adult population significantly **declined** between 2006/07 and 2011/12, **stabilised** until 2017/18, and then significantly **increased** between 2017/18 and 2018/19.



Unadjusted prevalence of drinking in the past 12 months, NZ Health Surveys 2006/07 to 2017/18

Note: Prior to 2011, surveys were conducted every five years.

Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, significant **increases** in past-year drinking were found among:

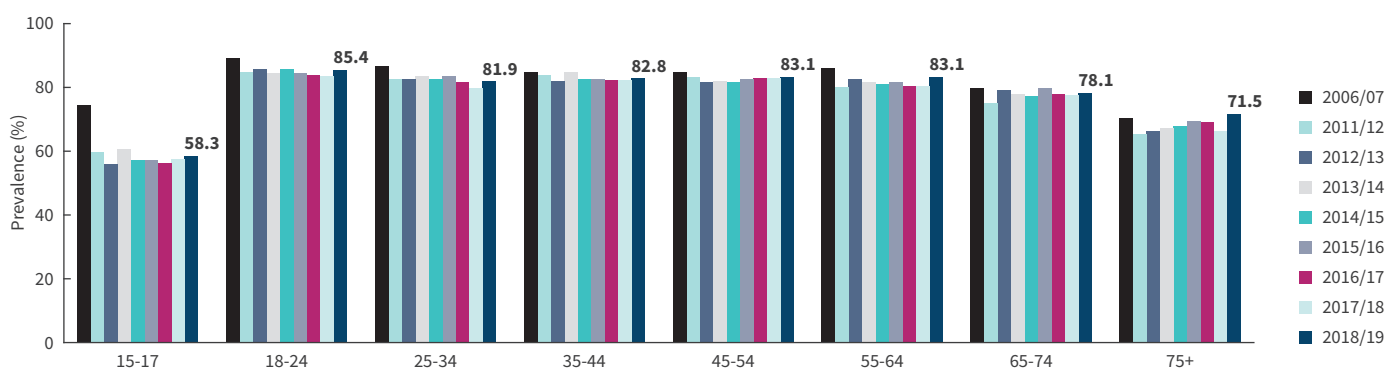
- ↑ The total NZ population (78.7% to 80.3%)
- ↑ Total Māori population (79.7% to 83.4%)
- ↑ Māori men (80.1% to 85.3%)
- ↑ Total Pacific population (54.4% to 61.2%)
- ↑ Pacific women (49.4% to 56.4%)
- ↑ Asian women (44.5% to 49.6%)
- ↑ 75+ year olds (66.2% to 71.5%)

There were also significant increases between the 2011/12 and 2018/19 surveys among the total Māori population, Māori women, Pacific women, and the 55-64 year and 75+ year age groups.

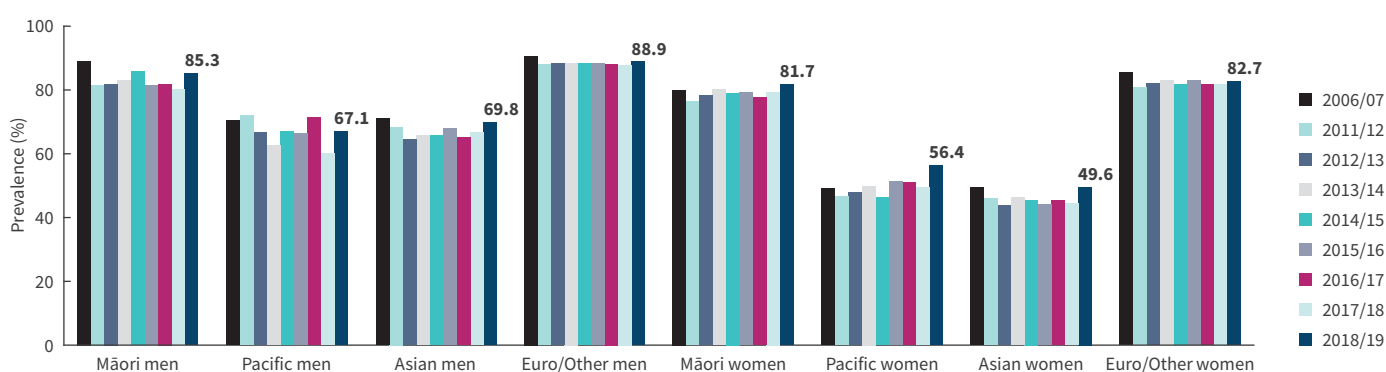
Trends in past-year drinking, by demographic group

Trends in past-year drinking are shown below, by age, ethnicity and level of deprivation. Note that prior to 2011/12, surveys were conducted every five years.

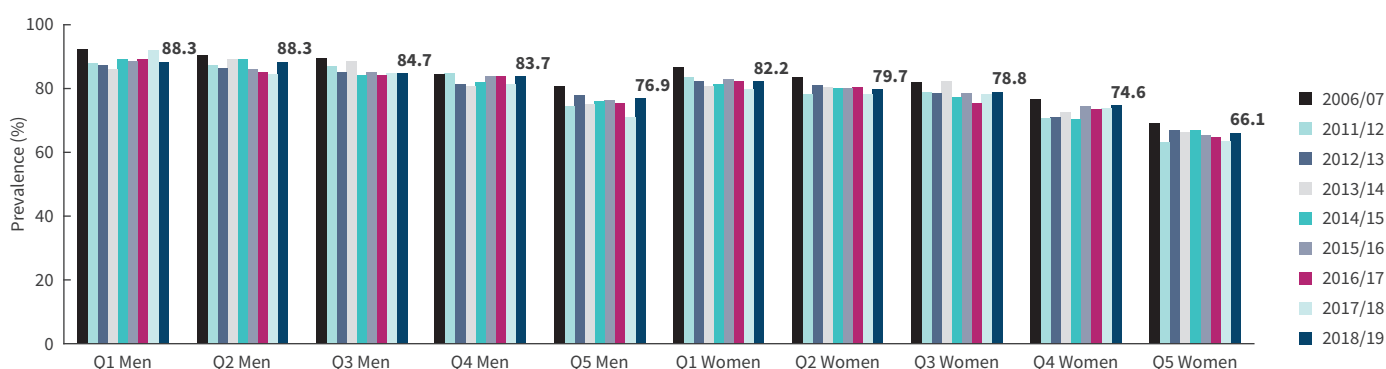
a) By age (years)



b) By ethnicity



c) By level of deprivation (Q1 least deprived, Q5 most deprived)



Note to the reader

This factsheet has been prepared by Alcohol Healthwatch. For brevity, 95% Confidence Intervals are not reported. All prevalence data is unadjusted. Results of subgroup comparisons are adjusted. Before testing for differences between survey years, results are age-standardised to take into account changing age structures in the underlying populations over time. Respondents who reported more than one ethnic group are counted once in each group they reported.

About the New Zealand Health Survey

The annual New Zealand Health Survey is funded by the Ministry of Health and is designed to yield an annual sample size of approximately 14,000 adults aged 15 years and over. The results represent the sample selected for the period July 2018 to end of June 2019.

The survey data is collected in the respondents' homes, with the interviewer entering responses directly into a laptop computer and/or asking the respondent to complete a section of the interview by themselves using the laptop computer. In 2018/19, the response rate was 80%; 13,752 adults took part in the survey. The prevalence of past-year drinking was determined by respondents answering 'yes' to "Have you had a drink containing alcohol in the last year?"

All data is available at minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2018-19-annual-data-explorer/_w_61dc3b7d/_w_5d35bad2/#!/home