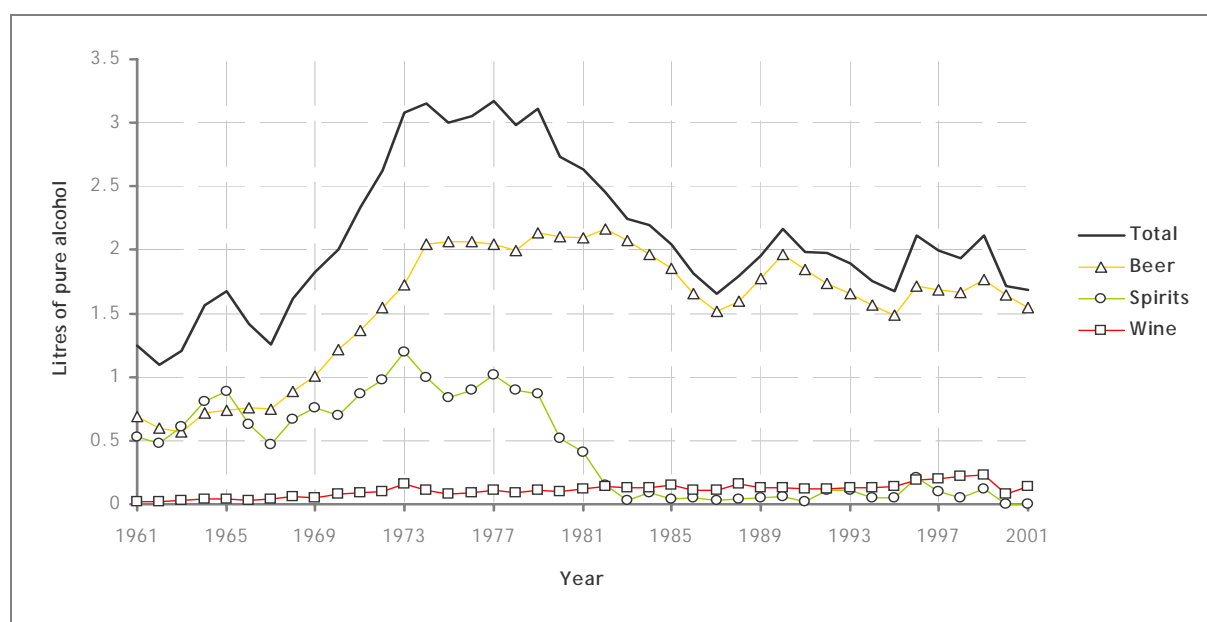


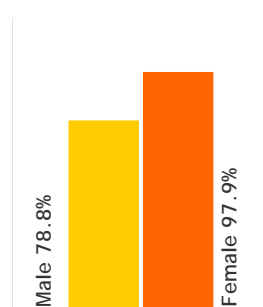
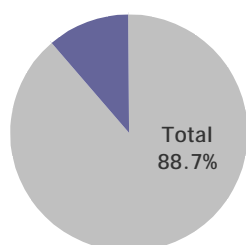
# FIJI

## Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



Sources: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003

### Abstainers

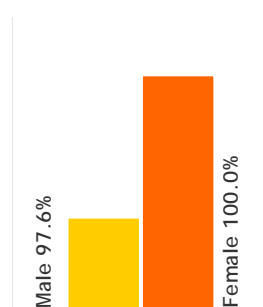
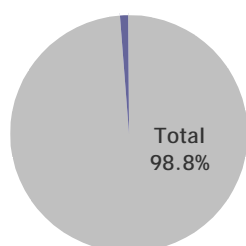


Data from the 1993 national nutrition survey. Males  $n = 1541$  and females  $n = 1649$ ; aged 12 years and over<sup>1</sup>

The same survey also found the rate of daily drinkers to be 1.4% among males and 0.8% among females aged 12 years and over.<sup>1</sup>

Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 74% (males) and 98% (females). Data is for after 1995.<sup>2</sup>

### Youth drinking (abstainers)



Data from the 1993 national nutrition survey. Males  $n = 292$  and females  $n = 314$ ; aged between 12 and 17 years.<sup>1</sup>

### Traditional alcoholic beverages

In Fiji, as in the other Pacific nations, consumption of alcoholic home brews is widespread. These beverages usually contain up to three times the alcohol content of commercially produced beer and are mostly drunk by younger men.<sup>3</sup>

### Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Fiji is estimated to be 1.0 litre pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).<sup>2</sup>

### Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In Fiji, in 1991, one third of admissions and 74% of injury presentations were alcohol-related.<sup>4</sup>

Alcohol abuse was a factor in roughly 58% of all homicides that occurred between 1982 to 1992. Over half of the crimes committed over a two-year period from 1974 through 1976 were, according to the offenders, committed while under the influence of alcohol. A recent survey shows escalation in the figures indicating that 80% of all crimes in Fiji are alcohol-related. It is also reported that almost all the offenders blame alcohol as the reason for the committing of their crime.<sup>5</sup>

Research shows that single drinking sessions with a heavy rate of alcohol intake (a common practice among Fijian youth) can cause symptoms of abrupt mood swings resulting in violence, accidents and fights, exaggerated emotions, uncharacteristic behaviour, memory loss, impaired judgement, communication problems, sleepiness, coma, stupor and death (at very high intakes) and suicide attempts. Binge drinking can also trigger schizophrenic and other psychiatric episodes.<sup>5</sup>

### Country background information

<b>Total population 2003</b>	839 000	<b>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</b>	Male	64.6
Adult (15+)	570 520		Female	70.3
% under 15	32	<b>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</b>	Male	30
<b>Population distribution 2001 (%)</b>			Female	27
Urban	50	<b>Gross National Income per capita 2002</b>	US\$	2160
Rural	50			

Sources: Population and Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, World Bank World Development Indicators database, The World Health Report 2004

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4. Han ST. Current problems of alcohol abuse in the Western Pacific Region and future prospects. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 1998, 22(3):177S–180S.
5. *Recommendations for policy to support health promotion. A report to the Minister of Health*. National Centre for Health Promotion, March 1998.