

| Information topic | Details |
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| Indicator name | Prevalence of self-reported heavy episodic drinking |
| Domain and topic | Alcohol-related harm – Harmful alcohol use |
| Indicator definition and units | Percentage of adults (aged 15 years and over) who self-report having six or more standard drinks on one occasion, with a frequency of ‘monthly’ and ‘weekly’. |
| Data source | New Zealand Health Survey, conducted by the Ministry of Health https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/regional-results-2014-2017-new-zealand-health-survey |
| Survey question(s) | How often do you have six or more standard drinks on one occasion? Never / Less than monthly / Monthly / Weekly / Daily or almost daily Asked of adults who report having had a drink containing alcohol in the last year. |
| Numerator | Adults aged 15 years and over who report having six or more standard drinks on one occasion, monthly. Adults aged 15 years and over who report having six or more standard drinks on one occasion, weekly. |
| Denominator | All adults aged 15 years and over (total population). |
| Methodology | We have presented published data from the New Zealand Health Survey. The following points can be noted about the Ministry of Health methodology: Weighted prevalence estimates are based on survey participant’s probability of selection and Census population benchmarks. |

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| | <p>Question non-response (where respondents did not answer the question, or answered “don’t know”) was adjusted for in analysis, so that the results still represent the whole population.</p> <p>Age-standardisation has been performed using the direct method and the WHO World Standard Population.</p> <p>For more details, see the NZHS Methodology report (Ministry of Health 2017a).</p> |
| Time period and time scale | <p>Since 2011, the NZHS has been a continuous survey with annual updates of national level results. DHB-level results are from the 2016/17 survey only, due to the break in the time series for the measurement of hazardous drinking.</p> <p>Data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2011/12 data onwards: Survey data was collected for the 12-month period from 1 July to 30 June the following year. |
| Population coverage | <p>Since 2011, the New Zealand Health Survey results refer to the usually resident population of all ages, who are living in permanent dwellings, aged-care facilities and student accommodation. The following people were not included in the survey: people living in institutions, such as for long-term hospital care, hospital- and dementia-level care in aged-care facilities, and in prisons; the homeless; short-term visitors; and tourists.</p> |
| Spatial Coverage | District Health Board |
| Measures of frequency | <p>Weekly and monthly heavy episodic drinking.</p> <p>Results are presented by total population and sex using crude and age-standardised results.</p> |
| Confidence interval methodology | <p>95% confidence intervals were calculated by the Ministry of Health using jack-knife weights (Ministry of Health 2017a). Confidence intervals are presented as error bars on graphs.</p> |

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| <p>Limitations of indicator</p> | <p>The earlier administration of the AUDIT in the NZHS differed from the methodology specified by the WHO, as the quantity of alcohol consumed reported in Q2 of the AUDIT, and frequency of 6 or more drinks in Q3, were not defined and measured in standard (10 gm) drinks. From 2016/17, the NZHS used the standard drinks show-card version of AUDIT, aligning to the WHO method but creating a break in the time series (Ministry of Health 2017b).</p> <p>There is some uncertainty in the estimates due to taking a sample, reflected in the 95% confidence intervals. For smaller DHBs, the results may not be available or have wide confidence intervals.</p> |
| <p>Limitations of data source</p> | <p>The survey results may under- or over-estimate indicators due to the nature of self-reported information. In the case of alcohol use, there may be recall errors in alcohol consumption and under-reporting due to a reluctance to disclose drinking behaviours.</p> |
| <p>Created by</p> | <p>Ministry of Health, New Zealand</p> |
| <p>Related indicators</p> | <p>Prevalence of hazardous drinking</p> <p>Alcohol outlet licence density</p> <p>Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes</p> <p>Injury outcomes of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes</p> <p>Hospitalisations wholly attributable to alcohol</p> |
| <p>For more information</p> | <p>For more information on the New Zealand Health Survey, visit the New Zealand Health Survey website: https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/surveys/new-zealand-health-survey</p> |
| <p>References</p> | <p>Ministry of Health. 2017a. <i>Methodology Report 2016/17: New Zealand Health Survey</i>. Wellington: Ministry of Health</p> <p>Ministry of Health. 2017b. <i>Content Guide 2016/17: New Zealand Health Survey</i>. Wellington: Ministry of Health</p> |