

Understanding family violence and sexual violence in Pacific Peoples

May 2026

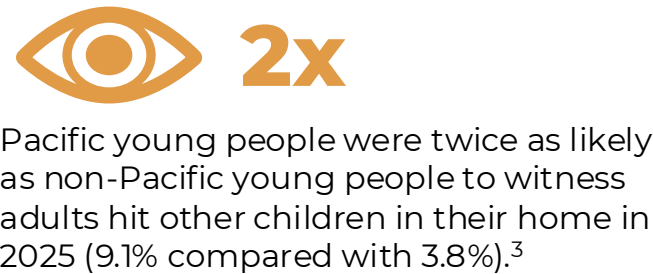
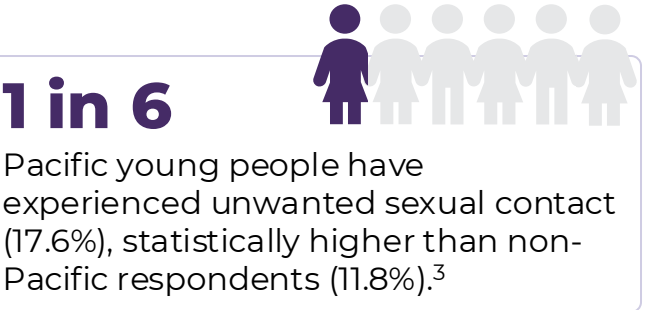
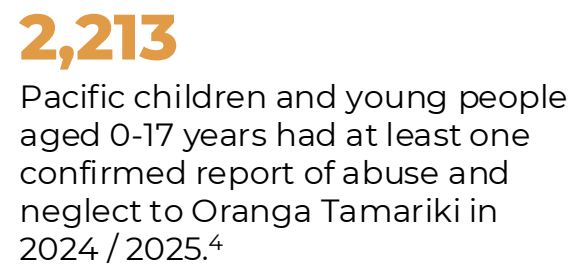
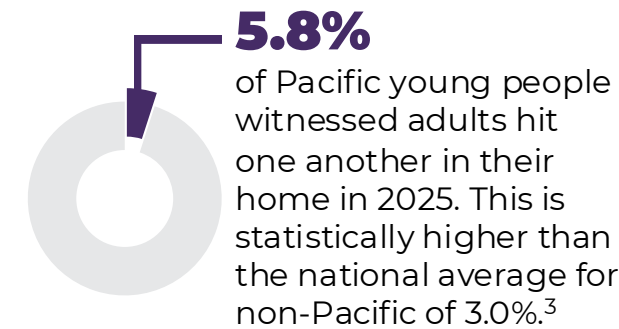
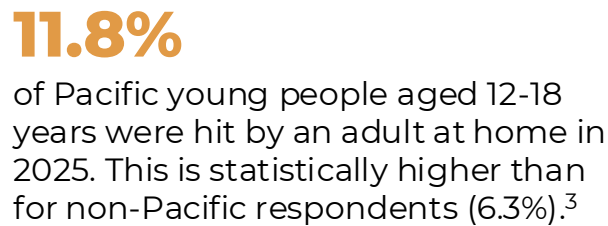
This infographic summarises key data on family and sexual violence among Pacific Peoples. It provides insights into the experiences of Pacific Peoples impacted by violence to help people working in family violence and sexual violence provide better support for Pacific Peoples and their families. Pacific children and young people experience a disproportionate amount of family and sexual violence, while adults experience similar levels to the general population.

Pacific peoples in New Zealand at a glance ^{1,2}



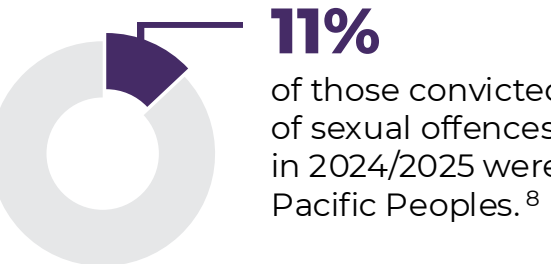
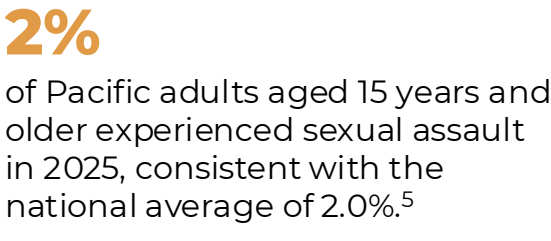
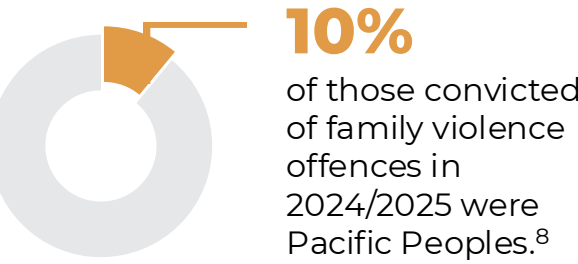
Children and Young Pacific People

Pacific peoples are a youthful population, with a median age of 25 years compared to 38 years for the general public.¹ Pacific children are more likely to self-report witnessing violence at home, being hit by an adult in their home, and experiencing unwanted sexual contact. Pacific children and young people are over-represented in confirmed abuse and neglect reports to Oranga Tamariki.



Pacific Adults

Pacific adults experience similar rates of family and sexual violence as others in New Zealand, but Pacific women are less likely to report partner violence. Pacific peoples made up about 1 in 10 convictions for family violence or sexual offences in 2024, indicating they are not overrepresented as FV and SV offenders.



Sources: 1. Statistics New Zealand (2026). Place and Ethnic group summaries: Pacific Peoples. Accessed from: tools.summaries.stats.govt.nz/ethnic-group/pacific-peoples; 2. Statistics New Zealand (2026). Disability Statistics:2023. Accessed from: [Disability statistics: 2023 | Stats NZ](https://disabilitystatistics.govt.nz/); 3. Ministry of Social Development (2026) Youth and Wellbeing Survey Data Tables, accessed from: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/consultations/youth-health-and-wellbeing-survey-results/index.html>; 4. Ministry of Social Development (2026). 2024/25 Annual Report on the Child and Youth Strategy and the Child Poverty Related Indicators, accessed from: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/child-youth-wellbeing/reports/annual-report-on-the-child-and-youth-strategy-and-the-child-poverty-related-indicators-2024-25.pdf>; 5. Ministry of Justice (2026). New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey 2025 (Cycle 8) Long-Format files (tb01_crimerate). Available from: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/nzcvs-data-hub/>; 6. Ministry of Justice (2024). New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey Cycle 8 (2025), provided; 7. Fanslow, Mellor, Gulliver, & McIntosh (2023). Ethnic-specific prevalence rates of intimate partner violence against women in New Zealand. Australian and New Zealand journal of public health, 47 (6), 100105; 8. Ministry of Justice (2026). Family violence offences and sexual offences data tables accessed from <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/justice-statistics/data-tables/>

Factors that influence Pacific Peoples' experience of family violence and sexual violence

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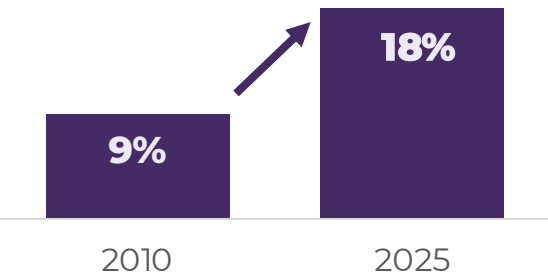
Strong Pacific community connections likely play a critical role for strengthening protective factors and enabling early support. Continuing to work alongside Pacific communities to expand support and education on FV and SV remains important for helping families navigate socio-economic pressures that increase vulnerability to violence. Sustaining and deepening this work will require sufficient capacity and resourcing to match the level of need.

Protective factors⁹

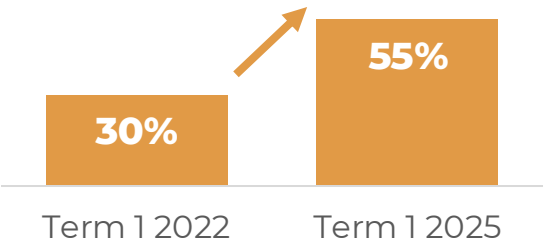
Improved education

Higher education is linked to less FV and SV perpetration.

The proportion of Pacific people who hold a bachelor's degree doubled between 2010 and 2025.¹⁰



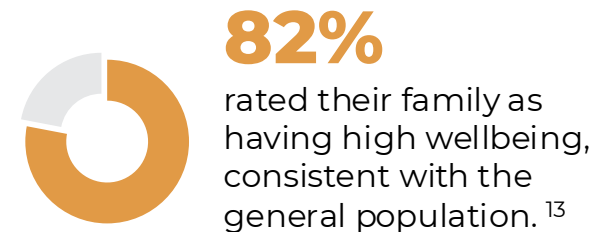
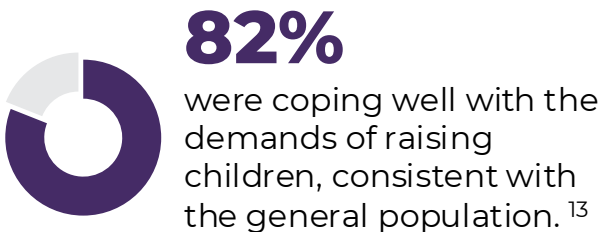
The proportion of Pacific students who attended school more than 90% of the time is increasing.¹¹



Parents are supported and families have high wellbeing

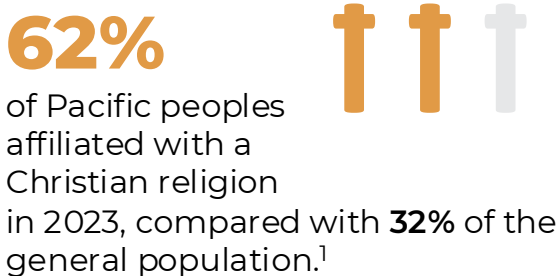
Supporting parents and caregivers is crucial for creating nurturing environments for children. Strong social supports and healthy family relationships can protect from FV and SV.

In 2024/25:



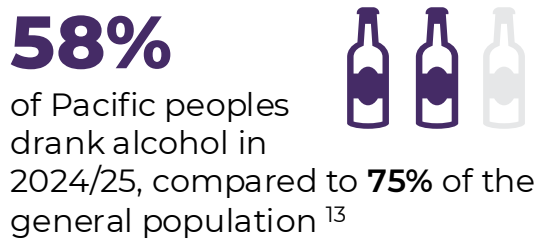
Strong and active faith

Expressed through church and community life, faith can offer protection against FV and SV.¹²



Lower alcohol use

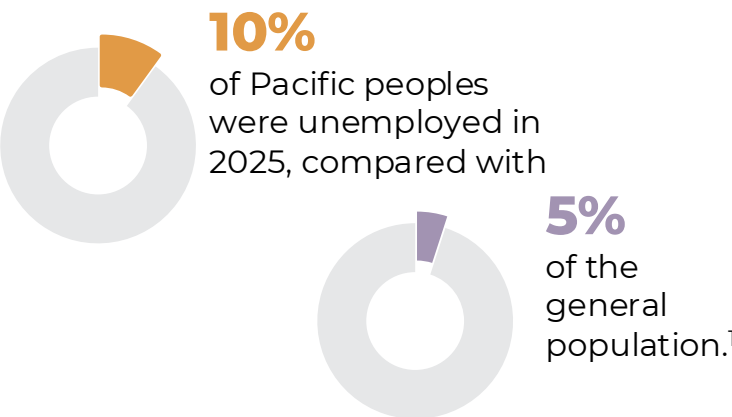
Alcohol use can make people more likely to use violence, and can make violence more severe.



Risk factors⁹

Lower employment levels and income

Economic stress, lack of employment opportunities, and communities with high unemployment rates can increase the risk of FV and SV happening.

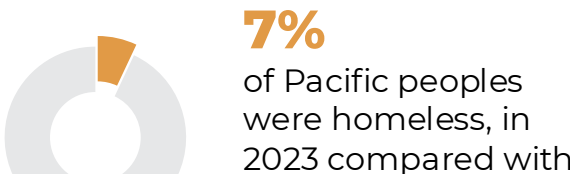


\$35,200 was the median annual income for Pacific people in 2023, compared with **\$41,500** for the general population.¹

Increased poverty

Poverty and a lack of safe stable housing increase the risk of FV and SV.

31% of Pacific children experienced material hardship in 2024/25, compared with **14%** of all children.⁴



Unmet health need

Health issues, including mental distress, can increase the risk of FV and SV happening.

In 2024/25 Pacific people were:

1.5x more likely to experience an unmet need for the GP due to cost than non-Pacific people.¹³

1.5x more likely to experience high levels of psychological distress than non-Pacific people, but 0.6 times less likely to have consulted with a mental health worker at their usual medical centre.¹³

⁹ Risk and protective factors have been aggregated by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Access from: cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/risk-factors/index.html and cdc.gov/sexual-violence/risk-factors/index.html ¹⁰ Ministry of Education (2025). Tertiary achievement and attainment. Accessed from educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/achievement-and-attainment; ¹¹ Ministry of Education (2025). Attendance. Accessed from educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/attendance; ¹² Crichton-Hill, Y. & Ioane, J. (2023). Pasifika protective factors for family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. Wellington. Ministry of Social Development.; ¹³ Ministry of Health (2025). New Zealand Health Survey 2024 / 25 Annual Data Explorer. Accessed from: minhealthnzshinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/ ¹⁴ Statistics New Zealand (2024). 2023 Census severe housing deprivation (homelessness) estimates. Accessed from: stats.govt.nz/information-releases/2023-census-severe-housing-deprivation-homelessness-estimates/