

# Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) – A bit of context

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# PICTs have among the highest NCD prevalence in the world

Ranking	Country	Prevalence (%)
1	American Samoa	94
2	FSM	92
3	Cook Is	92
4	Tonga	92
5	Tokelau	87
6	Samoa	85
7	Niue	84
8	Tuvalu	83
9	Nauru	82
10	Palau	77
	New Zealand	66
	Australia	63

Ranking	Country	Prevalence (%)
1	American Samoa (2007)	47
2	Niue (2011)	38
3	Marshall Islands (2011)	37
4	Tokelau (2005)	34
5	FSM (2002)	32
6	Cook Islands (2004)	24
7	Samoa (2012)	24
8	Vanuatu (2011)	21
9	Tonga (2012)	19
10	Fiji (2011)	16
	NZ (2010)	6
	Australia (2011)	5

# (Not) treating NCDs

- Cardiovascular Diseases – CABG (not available)
- Cancers
  - Chemotherapy (mostly not available)
  - Radiotherapy (not available)
- Diabetes
  - Kidney complications: dialysis (mostly not available / not affordable)
  - Diabetes eye disease complications: treatment limited to laser; surgery not available

# Pacific in crisis due to NCDs



**Ministers of Health Meeting  
Solomon Is; Jun 2011**



All attentive...New Zealand Prime Minister John Key at the Pacific Leaders Summit in Auckland last month. Photo: Brendan O'Hagan

## Pacific in NCD crisis

Leaders declare war on NCDs

"The war needs the vision of leaders, the commitment of governments, the support of partners, and the assistance of regional and international bodies. Pacific leaders have declared a crisis, now we must take up the challenge."

Shin Young-soo acknowledged the value of the declaration, saying, "It's great to see the urgency that leaders have placed on NCDs, which are one of the biggest health burdens in Pacific Islands countries, impacting on all spheres of development and hindering economic growth."

**Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting  
Auckland; Sep 2011**

# Micronesia leadership declarations on NCDs

- Resolution of the 20<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Chief Executives Summit (June 2014)
  - ‘...relevant stakeholders, ..., work together to develop a representative and working Pacific NCD Partnership to strengthen and foster collaboration and improved efficiency to make regional coordination of NCD efforts between the North and the South more effective and impactful,...’
- 18<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Presidents Summit Communique (Feb 2018)
  - Presidents Declaration on NCDs
  - Presidents recognised the importance of health of the region and the challenges facing their respective people in the area of NCDs which is claiming more lives prematurely every year...



# Multi-sectoral collaboration to address NCDs



**Joint Forum Economic and Pacific Health Ministers Meeting  
Solomon Is; Jul 2014**

# Pacific NCD Roadmap

## NCD ROADMAP REPORT

Noncommunicable diseases impose large – but often preventable – health, social and economic costs in the Pacific Islands. This report provides a suggested Roadmap for a multi-sectoral approach for a country and regional response to the NCD Crisis in the Pacific.

*A background document on preventing and controlling NCDs in the Pacific, circulated June 2014 for consideration by the Joint Forum Economic and Pacific Health Ministers' Meeting, July 2014.*

# Key Recommendations

- Four key actions all countries in the Pacific can take based on need, and ‘best buys’:
  1. Strengthen tobacco control;
  2. Reduce unhealthy food and drink;
  3. Improve efficiency of existing health dollar;
  4. Strengthen evidence base to ensure resources are used well
- Menu of over 30 other multi-sectoral interventions each country can then also choose.



# Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA)

- The Pacific MANA Dashboard is a monitoring tool for PICTs to [track progress on NCD-related policies and legislation](#).
- Indicators cover four areas:
  - leadership and governance;
  - prevention;
  - health system response programmes;
  - routine monitoring processes
- Indicators scored by a “traffic light” colour scheme:

	No policy
	Policy under development
	Policy present

Strength of action/implementation:	
☆	Low
☆☆	Medium
☆☆☆	High

# Pacific MANA Dashboard

Description	Pacific Island Countries and Territories (N=14)													
	American Samoa	CNMI	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	French Polynesia	Guam	Nauru	Niue	Palau	Marshall Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Vanuatu	Wallis and Futuna
L1. Multi-sectoral NCD taskforce						☆☆☆			☆☆☆			☆☆☆		
L2. National strategy addressing NCDs and risk factors			☆☆☆			☆☆☆						☆☆☆	☆☆☆	
L3. Explicit NCD indicators and targets	☆☆		☆☆☆	☆☆☆		☆☆☆			☆☆☆		☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	
T1. Tobacco excise taxes	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆	☆☆☆	☆	☆	☆	☆☆☆	☆		☆☆☆	☆	☆☆☆
T2. Smoke-free environments	☆☆☆	☆☆	☆☆		☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆☆		☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆☆	
T3. Tobacco health warnings			☆☆		☆☆☆	☆						☆☆	☆☆☆	
T4. Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship					☆☆☆		☆☆☆		☆☆☆	☆☆		☆☆	☆☆	☆☆☆
T5. Tobacco sales and licencing	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆	N/A		☆☆	☆☆		☆☆☆			☆	☆☆☆	
T6. Tobacco industry interference														
A1. Alcohol licencing to restrict sales	☆☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆	N/A	☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆☆	☆☆	☆☆
A2. Alcohol advertising				N/A										
A3. Alcohol taxation							☆☆☆							
A4. Drink driving	☆	☆		N/A	☆☆	☆☆	☆☆	☆	☆☆	☆		☆☆		☆☆☆

# Next Steps...

- Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) Network
- ?Regional Legislative Framework for NCDs

# Positive changes are possible – Samoa results

<b>Results for adults aged 25-64 years</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2013</b>
Percentage who currently smoke tobacco	40%	27%
Percentage who drank in the past 12 months	29%	17%
Percentage with low levels of activity (defined as < 600 MET-minutes per week)*	49%	20%
Median time spent in physical activity on average per day (minutes) (presented with inter-quartile range)	35	120
Percentage not engaging in vigorous activity	64%	45%