

Do Alcohol and Youth Mix?

WaterSafe Auckland, in collaboration with Alcohol Healthwatch, Auckland City Communities Living Injury Free, CAYAD and Youthtown, are researching the context of youth alcohol consumption and aquatic recreation. Three Auckland-based focus groups comprising young people under 18 years of age, explored contexts in which they consumed alcohol in or near aquatic environments (beaches, pools, etc). The aims of this research are:

- To ascertain personal experiences and observations of youth in regard to alcohol consumption and aquatic behaviour
- To examine the contexts, both social and situational in which alcohol consumption occurs
- To identify at risk behaviours and make recommendations to promote safe practice among youth
- To provide youth with the opportunity to develop a community based intervention aimed at reducing alcohol influenced aquatic injury in youth

Analysis of focus group discussions so far has revealed clear gender differences. Findings and recommendations for reducing risky behaviours will be available in the next few months.

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