

**“OBESITY, FOOD and POLICY”,
Workshop 16th Nov, 2006**

Pacific Response to Current Government Strategies

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Overview

- Session 1: What's causing the obesity epidemic?
- Session 2: What's currently happening to stem the epidemic?
New Zealand response
- Session 3: Are there any solution?

Pacific Response

- We need to learn the lessons from tobacco:
 - taxation and legislation played a pivotal role
- We need to learn from Geoffrey Rose's 'population approach' but we must also focus on *high risk* groups e.g. Pacific populations, South East Asians
- Rationale: Pacific populations have the highest obesity rates in New Zealand

How can we engaged these communities/families?

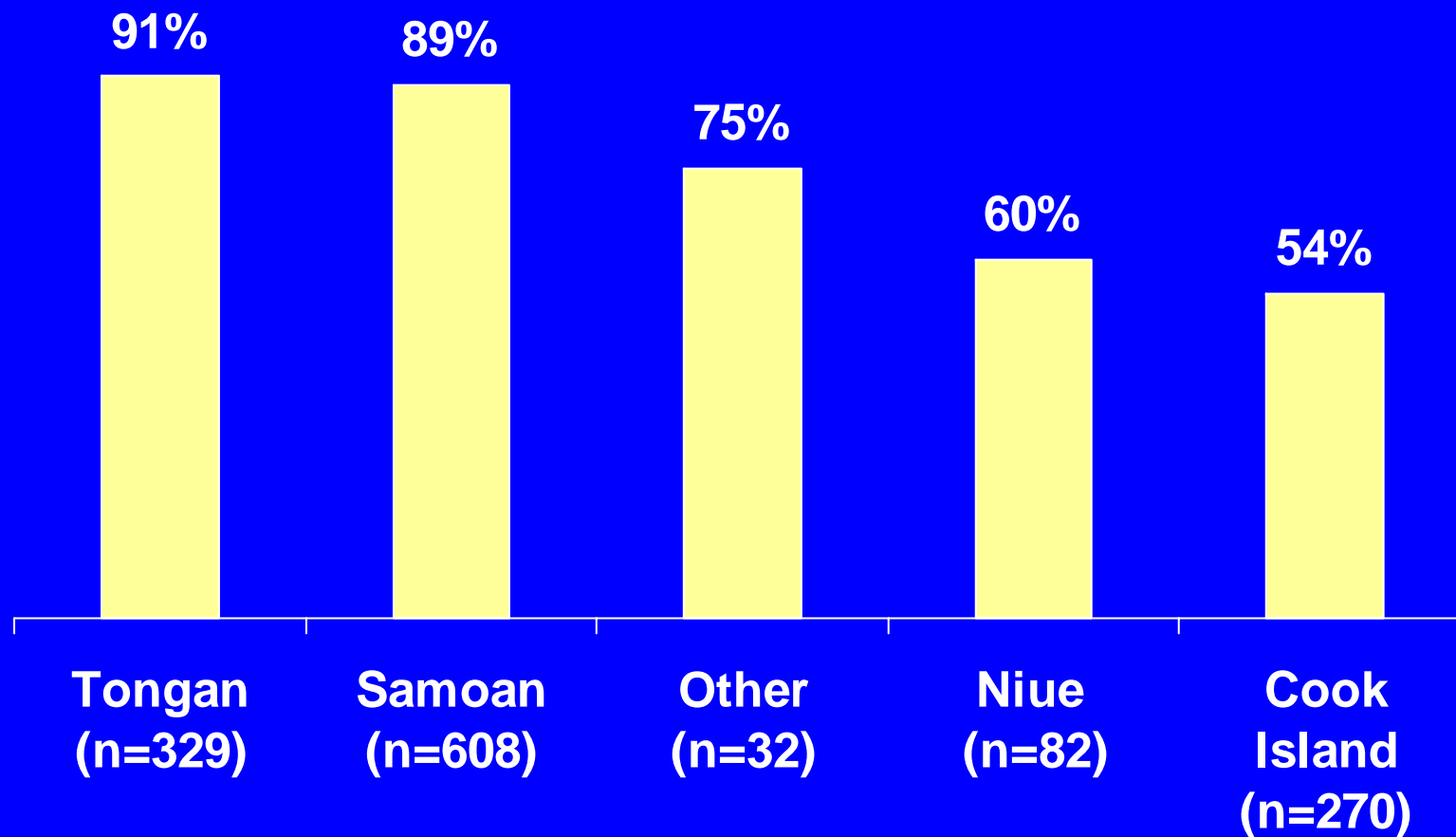
- Schools
- PHOs
- Pacific Churches

Church Attendance in the OPIC project

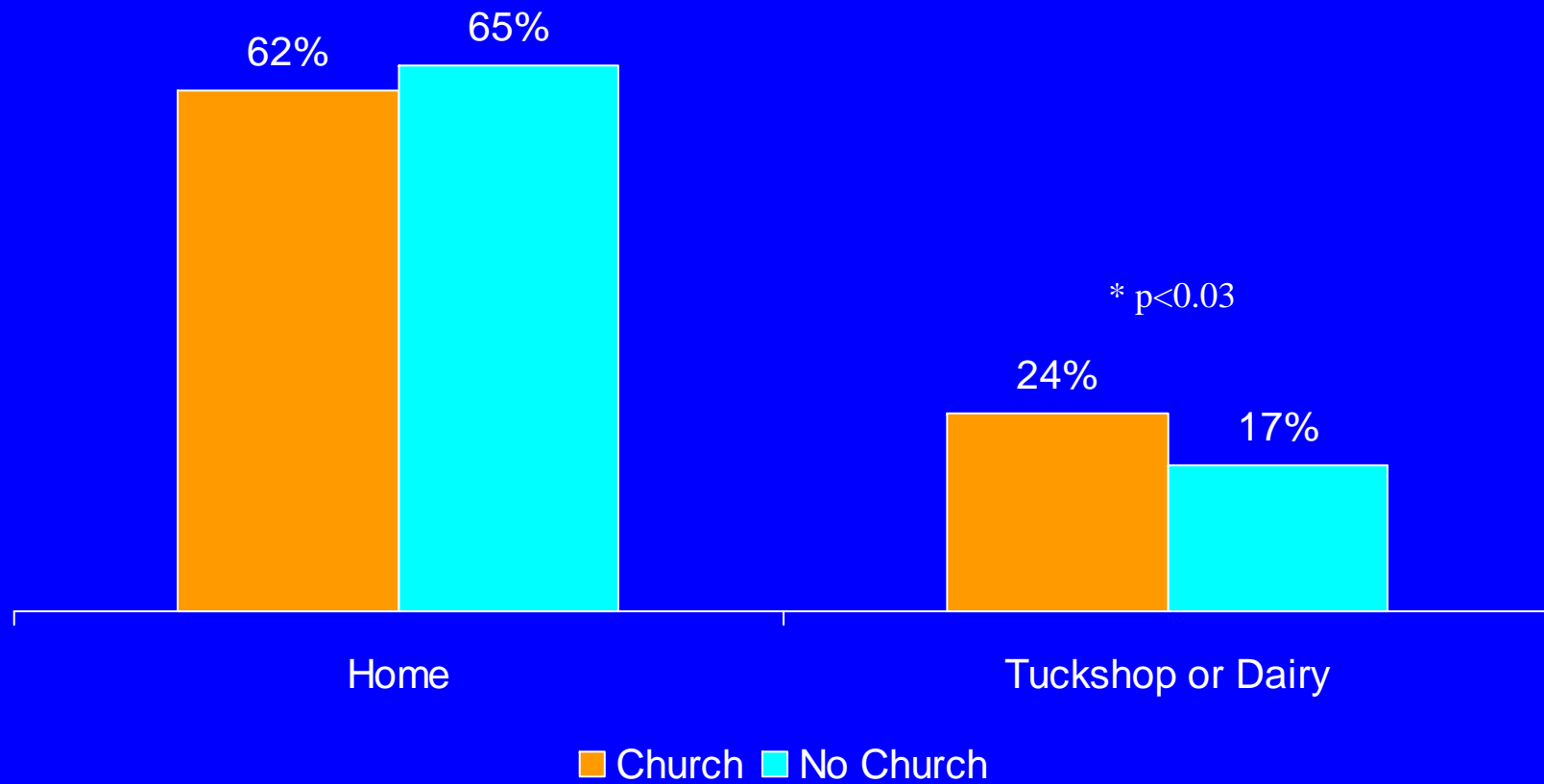
Fa'asisila Savila

Do Pacific youth attending church have higher or lower levels of obesity risk factors?

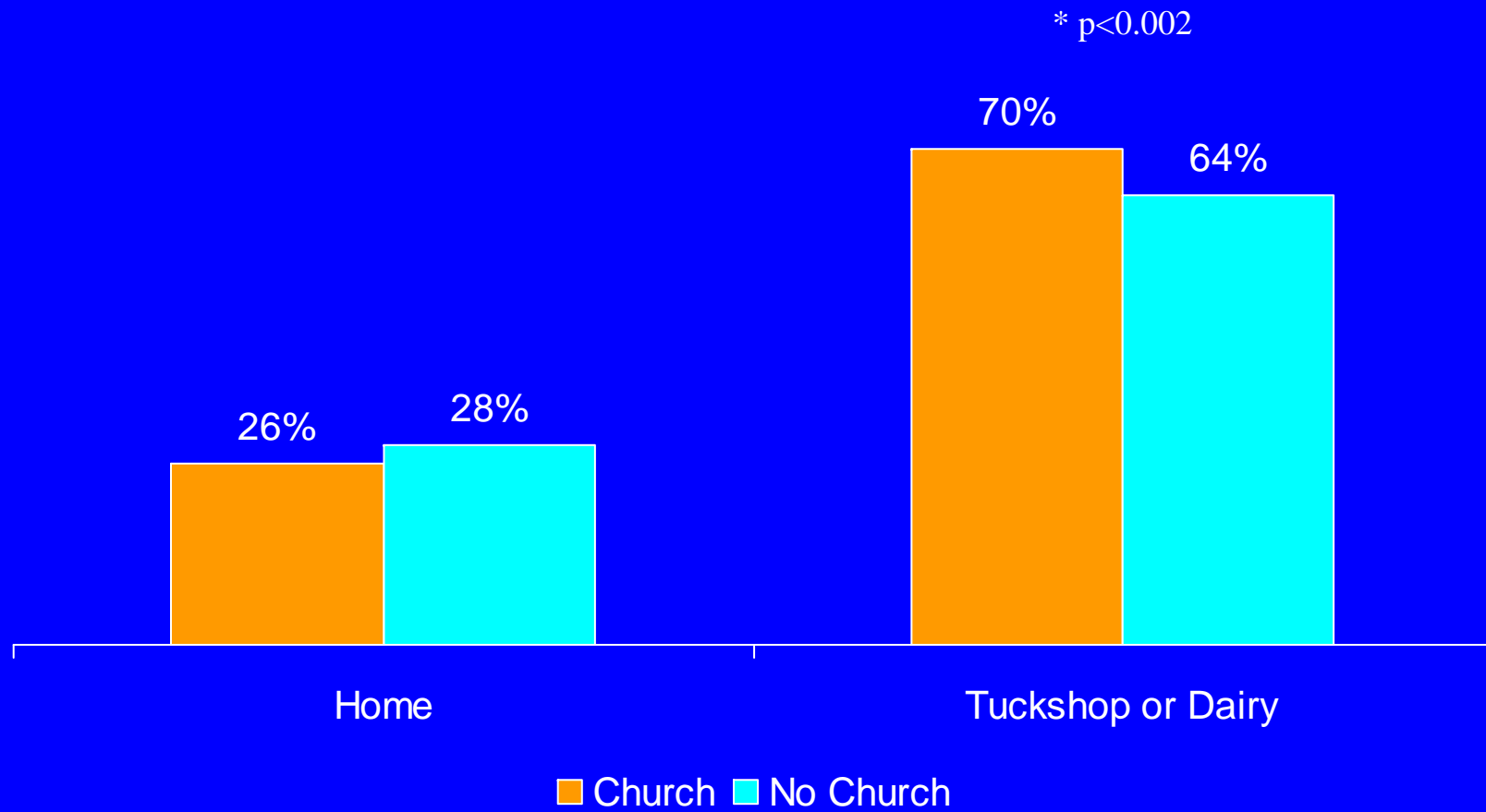
Proportion of Pacific groups attending church



Source of Breakfast (Pacific only)



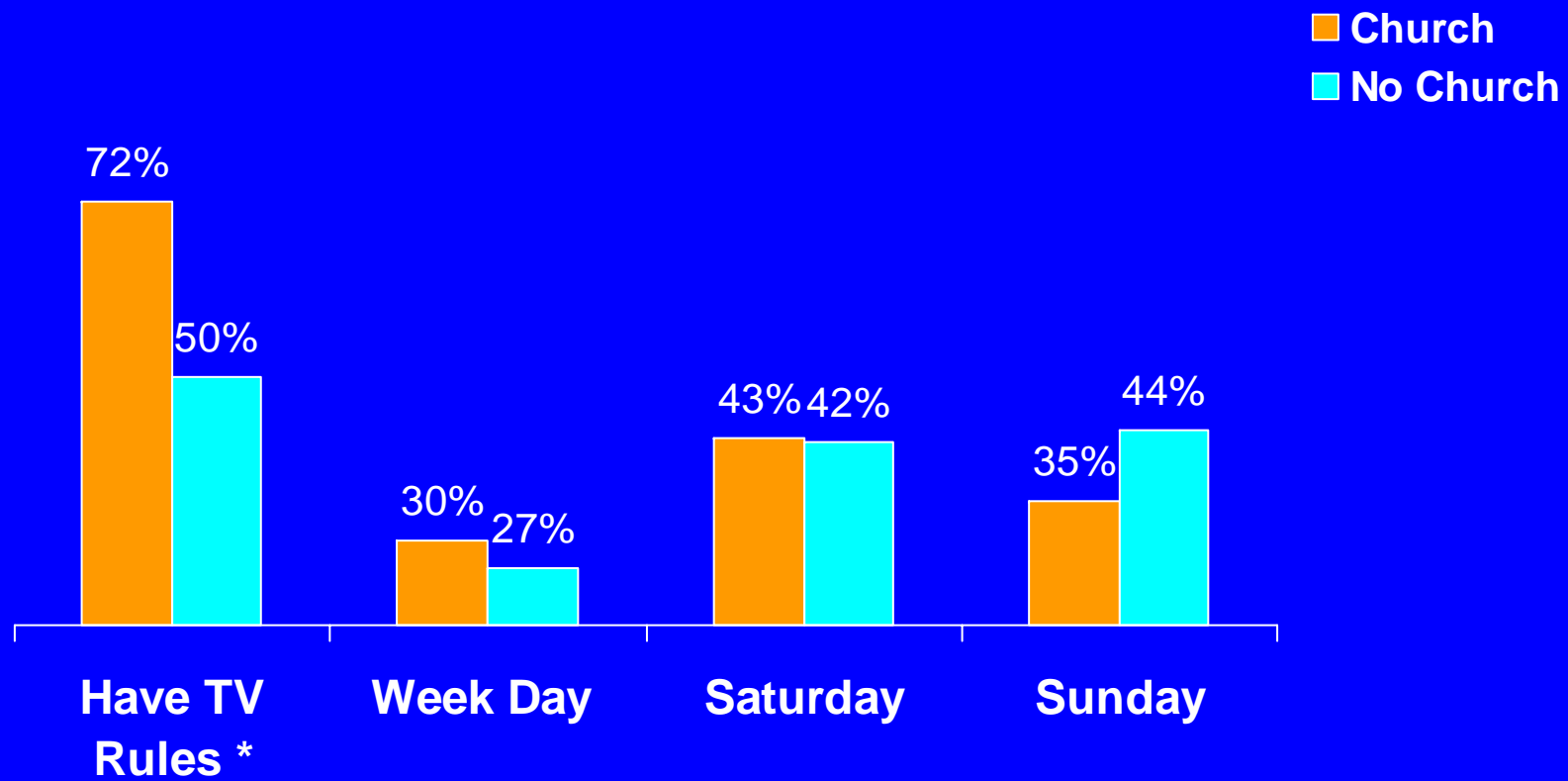
Source of Lunch (Pacific only)



Watching Television

(Pacific only)

Rules and Viewing >2 hours/day



* p<0.05

Means - adjusted for age & sex: Pacific

Mean Waist (cm)

91.3

87.9

*p<0.01

■ Church

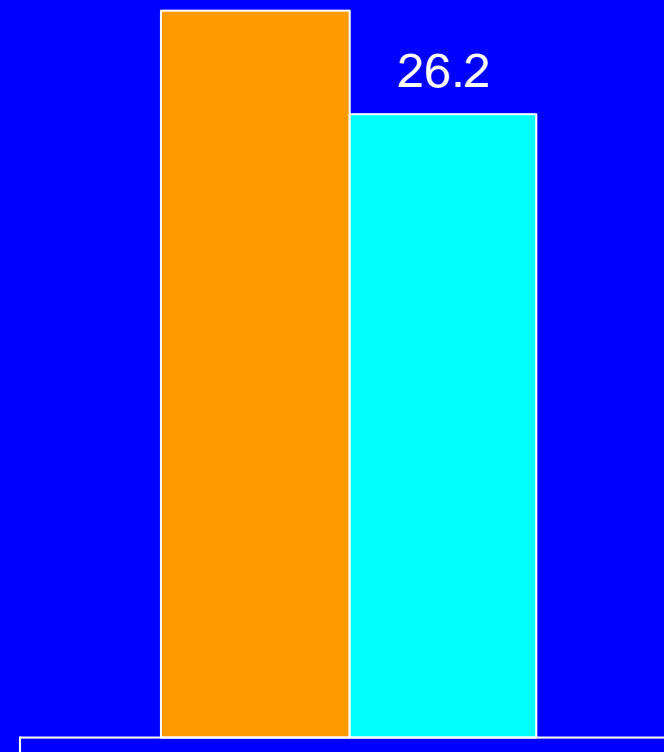
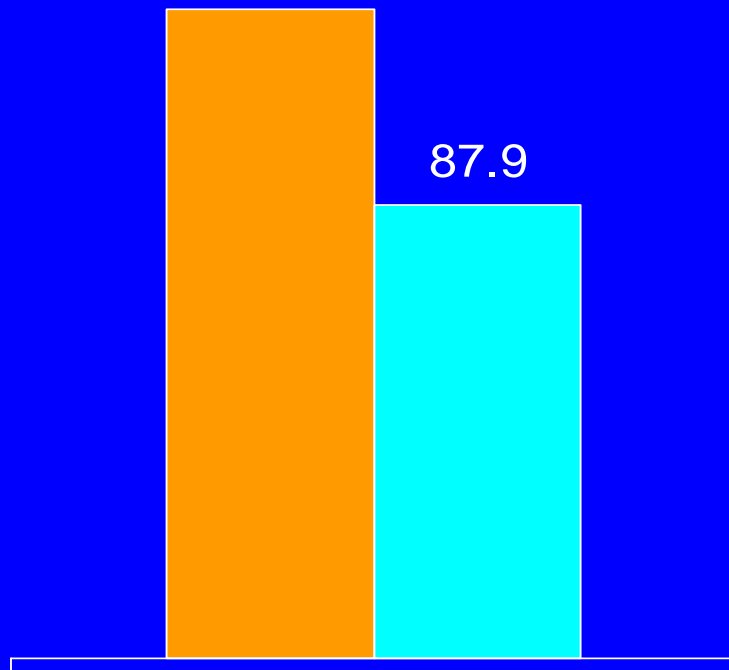
Mean BMI

27.6

26.2

*p<0.001

■ No Church



Summary / Conclusion

- High level of Pacific church attendance
- Students attending church:
 - More likely to get school food from shop
 - Have higher BMI & waist circumference
- A lot of potential benefit to be gained through church interventions