

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study:

Findings on the association between child maltreatment and suicide.

Family and Community Services Insights, Analysis and Research (FACSIAR), NSW Dept of Communities and Justice 26 Sept 2023



Dr Divna Haslam

Australian Centre for Health Law Research, QUT

University of Queensland

Assoc Prof Holly Erskine

Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research

University of Queensland

How we did the ACMS





Nationwide cross-sectional survey

- Informed by systematic review and analysis
- Computer-assisted telephone interviews
- Random sample of the population

8500

Participants aged 16 and over

3500

Adolescents/young adults aged 16-24

Enables future Wave Studies, Cohort Study

5000

Adults aged 25+

1000 adults in 5 strata (25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+) Enables measurement of health through life

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS), a national survey of the prevalence of child maltreatment and its correlates: methodology

Divra M Haslam^{1,1} , David M Lawrence^{1,1} , Ben Mathews^{1,1} , Davyl J Higgins^{1,1} , Anna Hunt¹, James G Scott^{1,1} , Michael P Dunne^{1,1}, Holly E Erskine^{1,1}, Hannah J Thomas^{1,1} , David Finkelhor¹, Rosana Pacella^{1,1} , Franziska Meinde

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has been assessed by studies in nations comparable with trails, such as the United Kingdom³ and Canada. ¹ Finally, inclusion of all five maltreatment types in our infortunent was used during testing phases by our international technical

port panel.

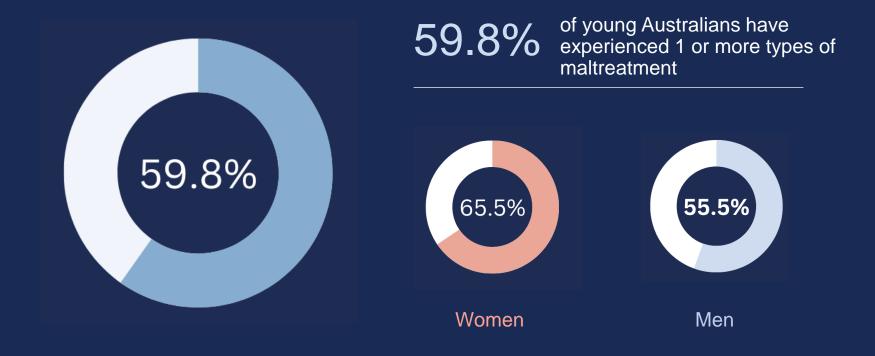
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Child maltreatment is disturbingly common in young people 16-24



Prevalence of maltreatment in young Australians aged 16-24



28.2%

Physical abuse

25.7%

Sexual abuse

34.6%

Emotional abuse

10.3%

Neglect

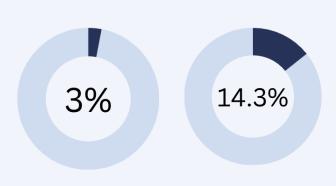
43.8%

Exposure to domestic violence

40.2% experience multi-type maltreatment

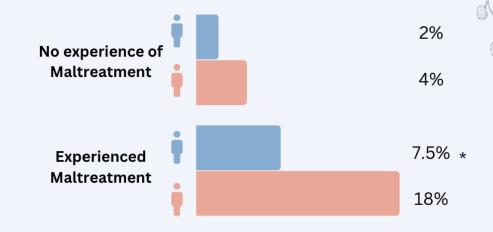


Clear associations between maltreatment and past year self-harm in young people 16-24 years



Of young people without CM report self harm in past 12 months

Of young people * with CM report self harm in past 12 months



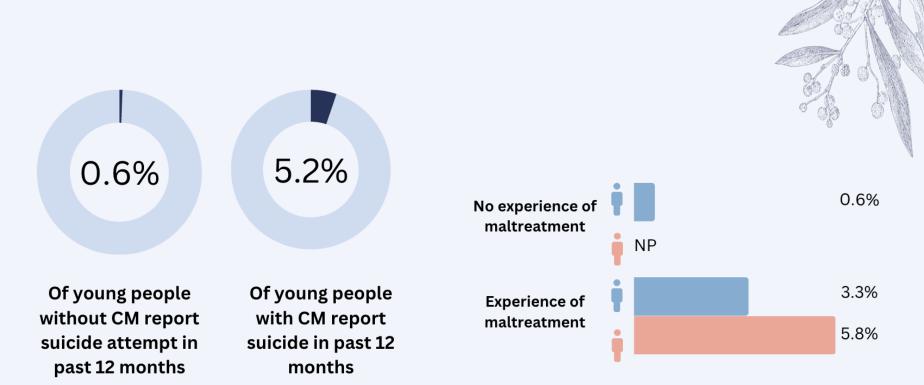
Question

Have you ever deliberately harmed or injured yourself, without intending to take your own life?

Has this happened in the past year?



Clear associations between maltreatment and <u>past</u> <u>year</u> suicide attempts

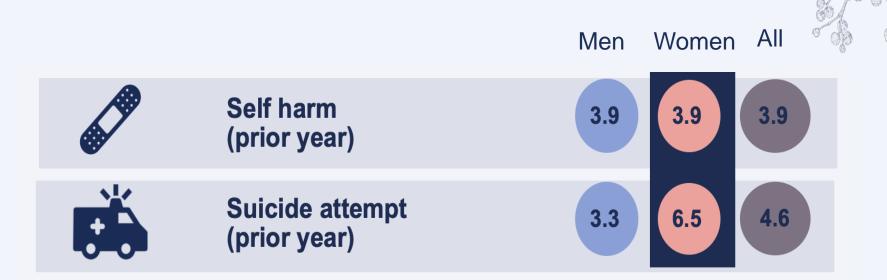




Have you ever attempted suicide? Has this happened in the past year?



Gender effects on health risk behaviours by maltreatment status (odds ratios)



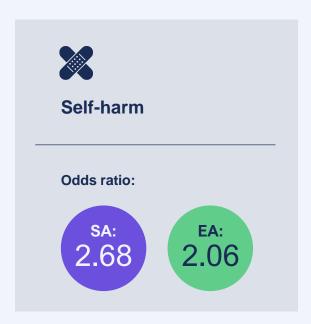
>1 represents increased likelihood compared to those with no maltreatment



Model adjusts for age group, socio-economic status (quintiles of SEIFA index of relative disadvantage based on postcode of current residence), experience of financial hardship during childhood and current financial strain

Sexual abuse and emotional abuse produce the strongest associations with self-harm and suicide









Implications

- Child maltreatment highly related to self-harm and suicide attempts
- Strong gender effects differentially impact girls and women
- Child sexual abuse and emotional abuse particularly harmful
- Prevention of child maltreatment should form an important part of self harm and suicide prevention initiatives. Highly likely to have experienced maltreatment
- Importance of assessment and trauma informed mental health support for children under child protection orders





www.acms.au

Resource Library

