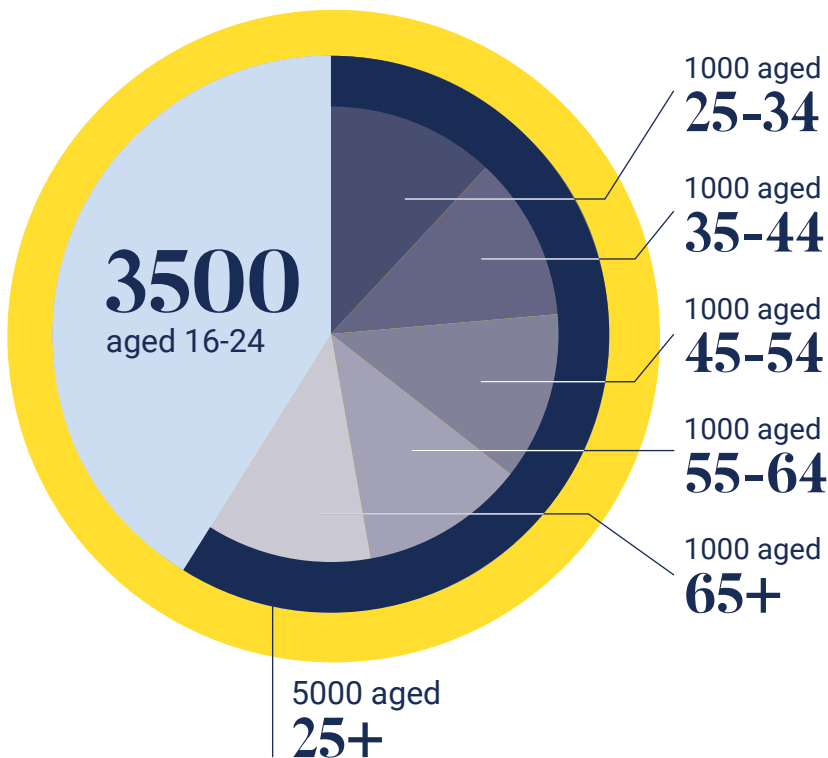ACMS | Australian Child Maltreatment Study

ACMS Methodology

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study is the first nationally representative study of the prevalence of child maltreatment and its associated health outcomes in Australia.

✓ Gold standard scientific approach

✓ Builds on prior work

✓ Refined, tested and validated survey instrument

Rigorous protocols to **protect participants** from distress and harm

3500 aged 16-24

1000 aged **25-34**

1000 aged **35-44**

1000 aged **45-54**

1000 aged **55-64**

1000 aged **65+**

5000 aged **25+**

8500 **Australians** were randomly selected. We collected data via computer-assisted telephone interviews in 2021.

What we measured

5 types of child maltreatment

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Exposure to domestic violence

4 mental health disorders

- Major depressive disorder
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Generalised anxiety disorder
- Alcohol use disorder

Health risk behaviours

- Tobacco use
- Binge drinking
- Obesity
- Cannabis dependence
- Self-harm
- Suicide attempts

For full details of these and all other outcomes measured, see:

Haslam DM, et al. (2023). Methodology of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS): A national survey of the prevalence of child maltreatment and its correlates. Med J Aust. 218 (6).

For information about the ACMS and support services visit **www.acms.au**