

# Child maltreatment and associated mental health disorders in youth aged 16-24

The ACMS team examined the associations between child maltreatment and mental health disorders using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview to determine if participants would meet clinically diagnostic criteria for a mental disorder. Child maltreatment is strongly related to mental health in young people.

Child maltreatment includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence.

Youth who experienced child maltreatment are:

**2.9 x** more likely to have any mental disorder

**5.8 x** more likely to have PTSD

**3.3 x** more likely to have generalised anxiety disorder

**4.1 x** more likely to have severe alcohol use disorder

**2.7 x** more likely to have had major depressive disorder

The disparity in any mental health disorder in those youth who experienced child maltreatment compared to those who did not

**60% vs 29.8%**

(After accounting for other associated factors)

Enhanced prevention and early support is **essential.**

Child maltreatment is associated with **dramatically increased** odds of young people having a mental disorder.

Scott, JG, et al. (2023). The association between child maltreatment and mental disorders in the Australian Child Maltreatment Study. *Med J Aust.* 218 (6).

For information about the ACMS and support services visit [www.acms.au](http://www.acms.au)