

Health risk behaviours

People who have experienced child maltreatment are:

6.2 x

more likely to be
**cannabis
dependent**



4.6 x

more likely to have
**attempted
suicide**
in the past 12 months



1.9 x

more likely to be a
**current
smoker**



3.9 x

more likely to have
self-harmed
in the past
12 months



1.3 x

more likely to
binge drink
at least weekly



1.2 x

more likely to have
obesity



These increased odds account for other explanatory factors

Child maltreatment dramatically increases the likelihood of three serious health risk behaviours:



Cannabis
dependence



Self-harm



Suicide
attempt

Sexual abuse and emotional abuse are most strongly associated with these major adverse outcomes.

Experiencing more than one type of child maltreatment is associated with higher rates of health risk behaviours.

Associated harm continues over life

By middle age (45 years +), cannabis dependence, self-harm, and suicide attempts were almost non-existent in those who had not experienced child maltreatment.

Lawrence D, et al. (2023). The association between child maltreatment and health risk behaviours and conditions throughout life: The Australian Child Maltreatment Study. *Med J Aust.* 218 (6).

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