

# Impact of Child Maltreatment on Health-Related Quality of Life: Findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health

RWD70

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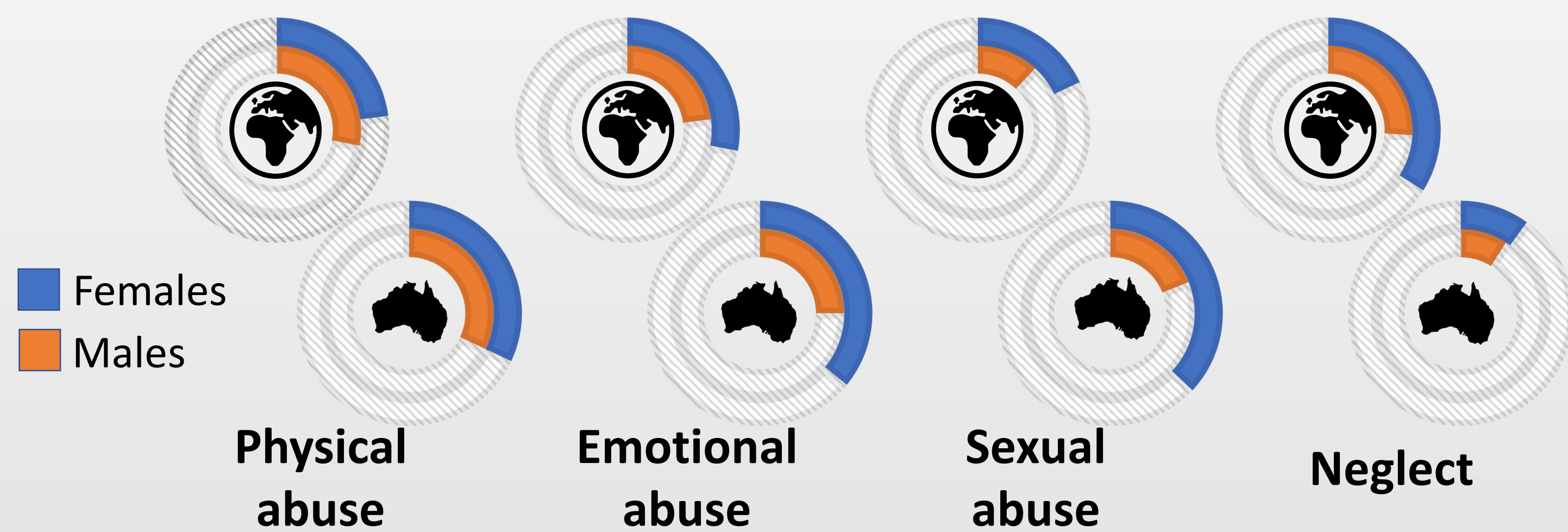
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**OBJECTIVE:** To assess the effect of child maltreatment on women's health-related quality of life (HRQoL) - measured through utility scores, and how this impact evolves over 25 years from young adulthood to midlife.

## BACKGROUND

- Child maltreatment (CM)** - is a major public health concerns, with higher prevalence in females than in males [1,2].



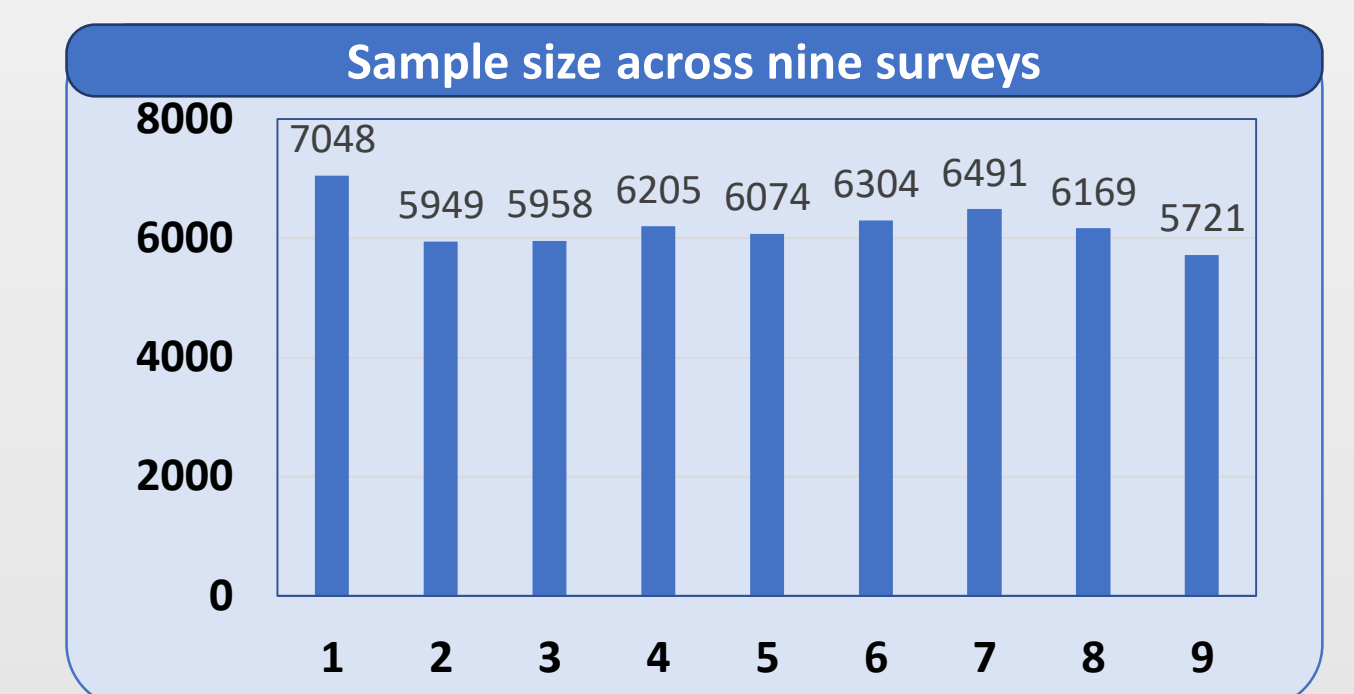
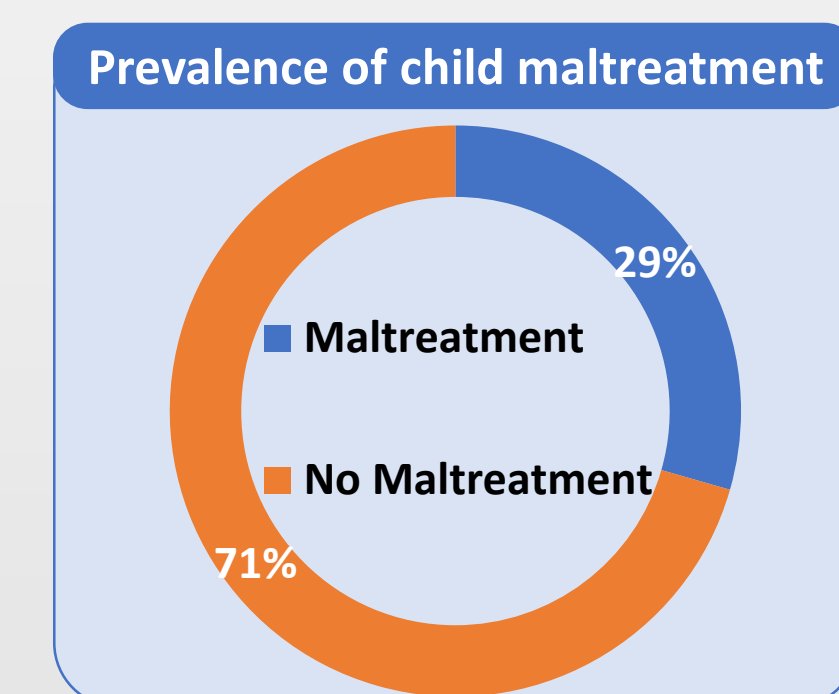
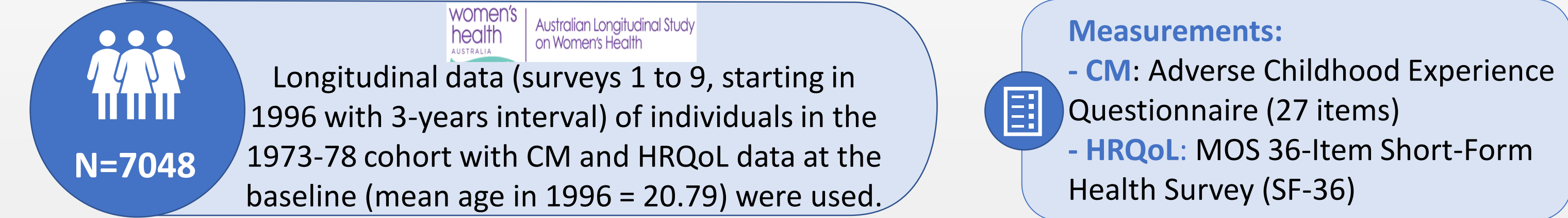
- Compared to **Australian women without CM**, those with CM have [3,4]:



- Research gap:** No **large-scale, population-based longitudinal** study has **examined** the **long-term effects** of CM on **women's HRQoL** across extended life stages (e.g., from young adulthood to later life).

## METHOD

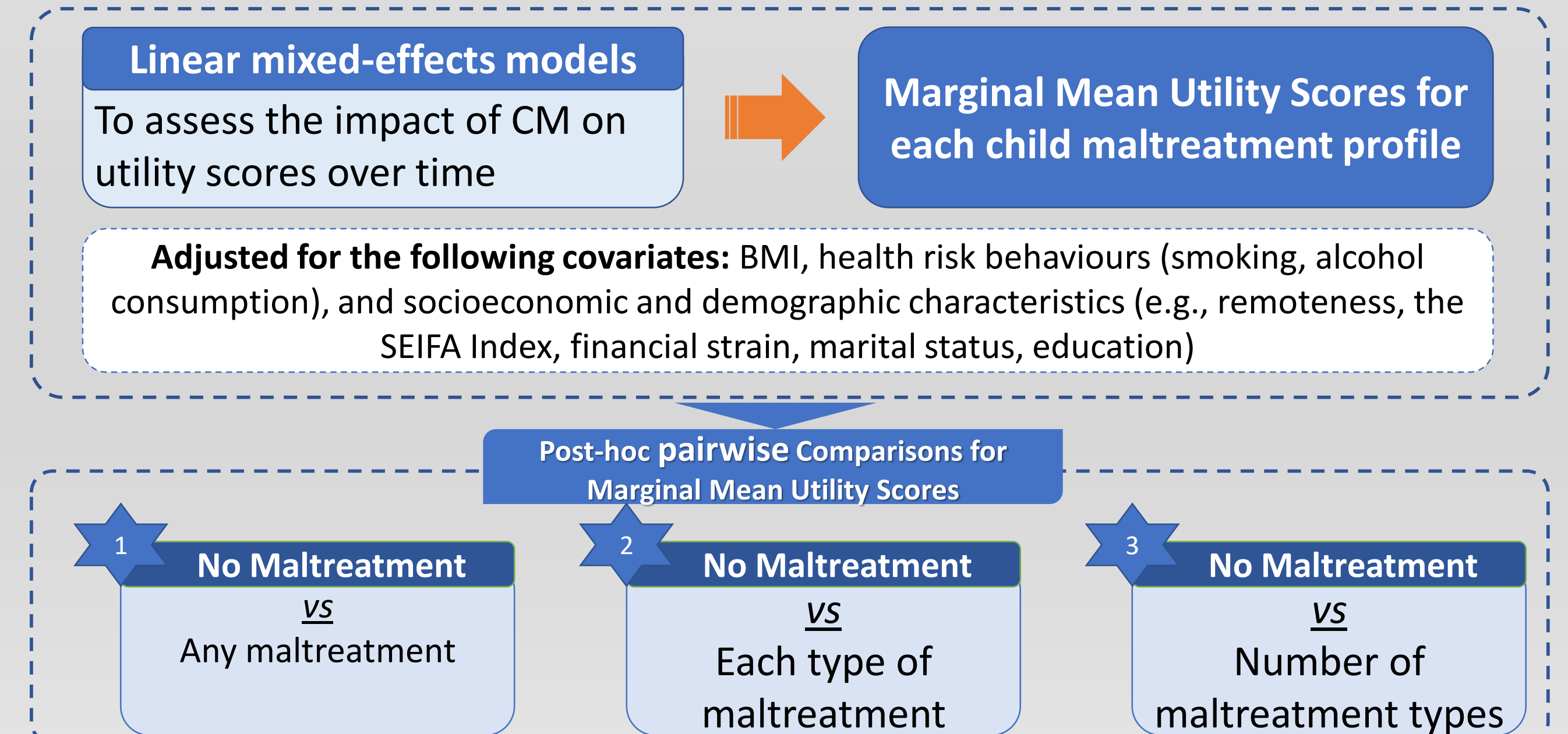
- Data:** the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health



- Process** of deriving **utility scores** from the **SF-36**:



- Statistical analyses:**

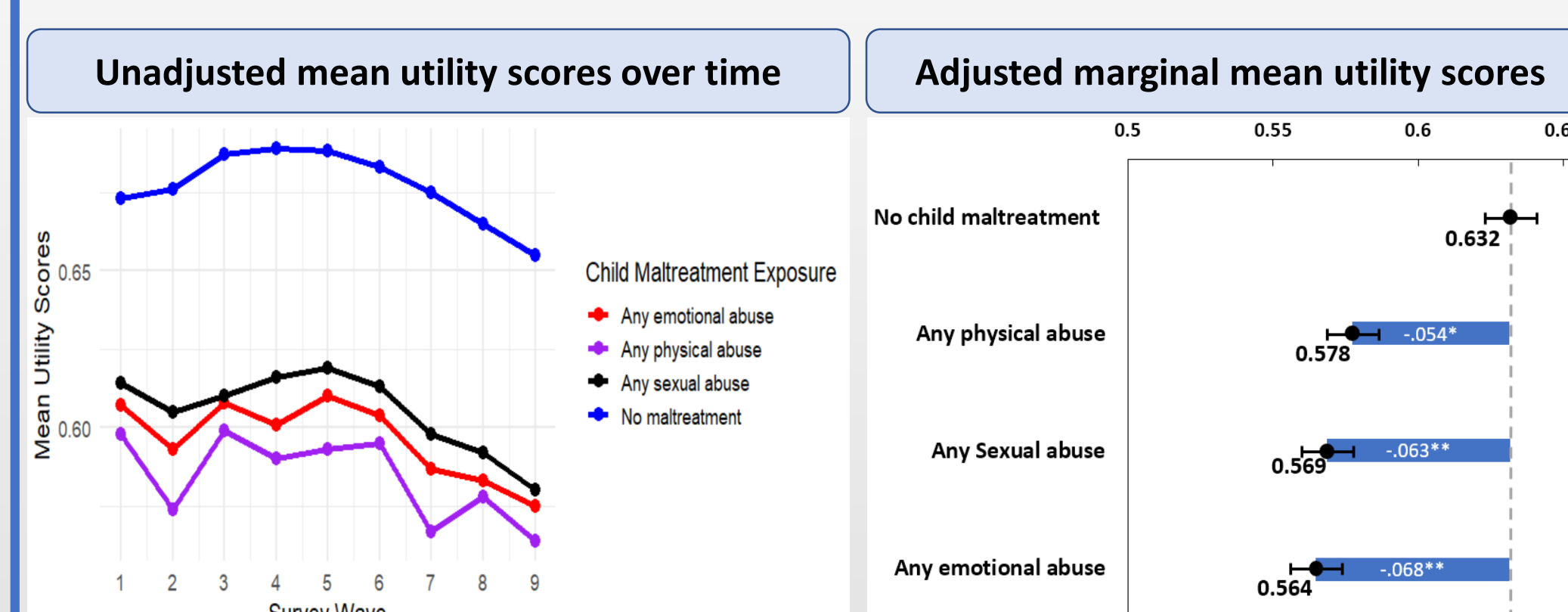


## RESULTS

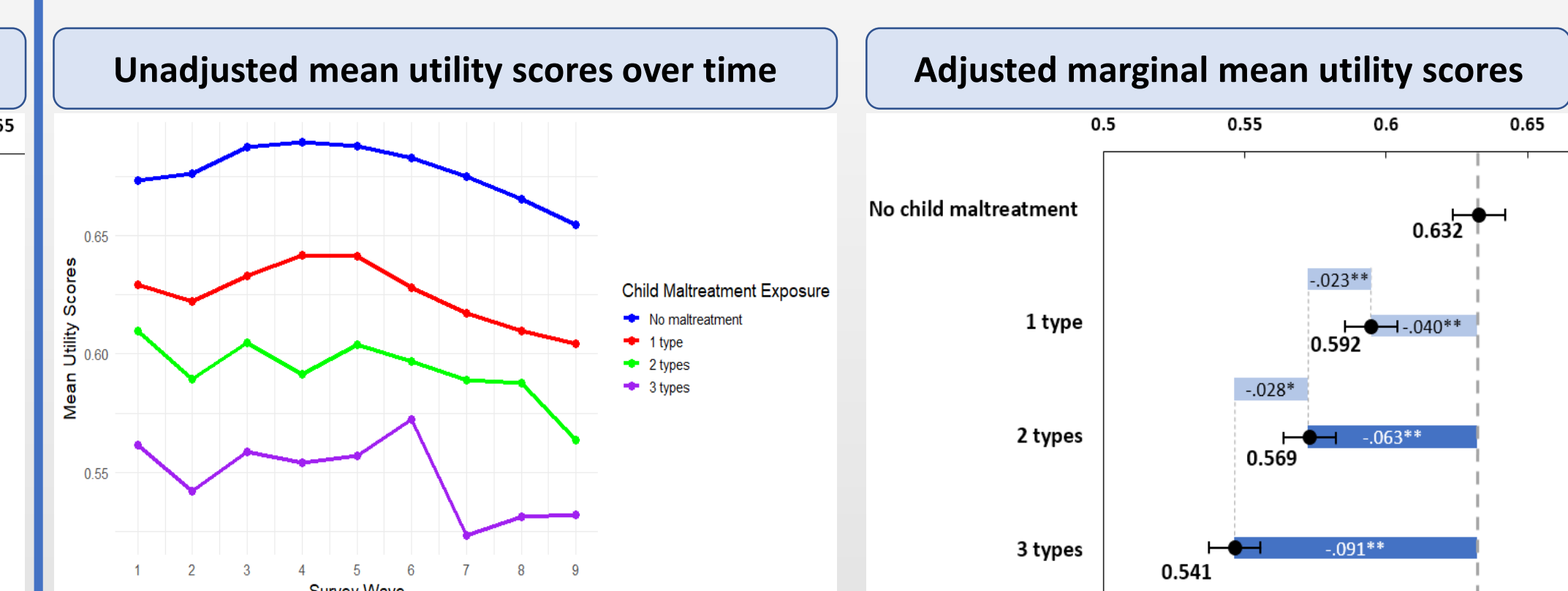
### 1. Any CM compared to no CM



### 2. Each type of CM compared to no CM



### 3. Multiple types of CM compared to no CM



- Individuals with any CM** had significantly **lower mean utility scores** compared to those with **no CM**.
- Stable long-term effect:** differences in utility scores between those with and without CM **persisted across 25 years**.
- Magnitude of impact:** medium effect size (Cohen's  $d = 0.4$ ).

- Experiencing any CM subtypes** led to significantly **lower mean utility scores** compared to **no CM**.
- Stable long-term effect:** differences in utility scores between **each CM subtype** and **no CM** persisted across **25 years**.
- Magnitude of impact:** medium effect sizes for **any EA** (Cohen's  $d = 0.5$ ), **any PA** (Cohen's  $d = 0.4$ ), and **any SA** (Cohen's  $d = 0.4$ ).

- Experiencing multiple CM subtypes** led to significantly **lower mean utility scores** compared to **no CM**.
- Stable long-term effect:** a clear and stable **dose-response relationship** was observed as the **number of CM types** experienced increased, the utility scores also progressively **decreased** over 25 years.
- Magnitude of impact:** medium effect sizes for **2 CM types** (Cohen's  $d = 0.4$ ), & **3 CM types** (Cohen's  $d = 0.6$ ).

## IMPLICATIONS

- Preventing CM** among women is **critical**
- Parenting programs** and **early childhood education** showed **promising clinical and cost-effectiveness** in **preventing CM**.
- Ongoing support** (e.g., Trauma-focused CBT reduces mental health problems) to **mitigate** lasting **impacts** of CM on **HRQoL** is also **needed**.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Child maltreatment** is associated with significantly lower utility scores throughout adulthood among Australian women.
- A **dose-response relationship** was observed, with **more CM types** corresponded to **lower utility scores**.

## References:

- [1] Mathews, B., Pacella, R., Scott, J. G., Finkelhor, D., Meinck, F., Higgins, D. J., Erskine, H. E., Thomas, H. J., Lawrence, D. M., Haslam, D. M., Malacova, E., & Dunne, M. P. (2023). The prevalence of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from a national survey. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 218(S6), S13–S18. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51873>
- [2] Moody, G., Cannings-John, R., Hood, K., Kemp, A., & Robling, M. (2018). Establishing the international prevalence of self-reported child maltreatment: a systematic review by maltreatment type and gender. *BMC Public Health*, 18(1), Article 1164. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-6044-y>
- [3] Madzoska, M., Lawrence, D., Higgins, D. J., Haslam, D. M., Mathews, B., Malacova, E., Dunne, M. P., Erskine, H. E., Pacella, R., Meinck, F., Thomas, H. J., & Scott, J. G. (2025). Child Maltreatment, Mental Health Disorders, and Health Risk Behaviors in People With Diverse Gender Identities. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 40(9–10), 2281–2306. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605241270077>
- [4] Moore, S. E., Scott, J. G., Ferrari, A. J., Mills, R., Dunne, M. P., Erskine, H. E., Devries, K. M., Degenhardt, L., Vos, T., Whiteford, H. A., McCarthy, M., & Norman, R. E. (2015). Burden attributable to child maltreatment in Australia. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 48, 208–220. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.05.006>

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