

# Progress towards prohibiting all corporal punishment in North America

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children  
([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org))

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Global Initiative to  
End All Corporal Punishment  
of Children

The following table summarises the legal status of corporal punishment of children – and progress towards achieving prohibition – in all settings in all states in North America. As at October 2017 no state has achieved prohibition in all settings, including the home, nor made a commitment to doing so.

| State  | Prohibited in the home | Prohibited in alternative care settings | Prohibited in day care | Prohibited in schools | Prohibited in penal institutions | Prohibited as sentence for crime |
|--------|------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Canada | NO <sup>1</sup>        | SOME <sup>2</sup>                       | SOME <sup>3</sup>      | YES <sup>4</sup>      | YES                              | YES                              |
| USA    | NO                     | SOME <sup>5</sup>                       | SOME <sup>6</sup>      | SOME <sup>7</sup>     | SOME <sup>8</sup>                | YES                              |

## Note

The above information is based wherever possible on examination of national legislation; additional information is gathered from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. **Information in square brackets is unconfirmed.** We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have assisted us in our research. We welcome corrections and updates: email [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org). For further details on all states see the individual state reports at [www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org).

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<sup>1</sup> 2004 Supreme Court ruling limited but upheld parents' right to physically punish children; Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2016)

<sup>2</sup> Prohibited in state provided care in Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba and in foster care in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario; in Ontario prohibited in provincially licensed childcare programmes and in foster homes for children receiving services from provincially licensed/approved child protection agency or other service provider

<sup>3</sup> Prohibited in all states/territories except Quebec

<sup>4</sup> Unlawful under 2004 Supreme Court ruling but this not yet confirmed in laws relating to private schools and to all schools in Alberta and Manitoba

<sup>5</sup> Prohibited in all care settings in 31 states, and in some settings in other states and District of Columbia

<sup>6</sup> Prohibited in all care settings in 31 states, and in some settings in other states and District of Columbia

<sup>7</sup> Prohibited in public schools in 29 states and District of Columbia, and in public and private schools in Iowa and New Jersey; federal bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015)

<sup>8</sup> Prohibited in 32 states