Eliminating Corporal Punishment of Children

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Corporal punishment

- Heightened reactivity
- Hostility

- Aggression, violence
- Bullying
- Antisocial behaviour

- Humiliation
- Fear
- Anxiety
- Lowered self-worth

- Impaired learning
- Substance use
- Running away
- School absenteeism
- School dropout
- Suicidal tendencies

Societal Costs
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Special education
- Income supports
- Social services
- Child welfare
- Law enforcement
- Justice
- Lost productivity
East Asia-Pacific Region

(UNICEF, 2015)

Annual economic losses due to physical maltreatment:

$39.6 billion USD
Sustainable Development Goals to be Reached by 2030
SDG 16.2:
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Indicator:
Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the previous month.
INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children

1. Implementation and enforcement of laws
2. Norms and values
3. Safe environments
4. Parent and caregiver support
5. Income and economic strengthening
6. Response and support services
7. Education and life skills
Objective

To ensure the implementation and enforcement of laws that prohibit and prevent violence against children, including laws prohibiting corporal punishment.

63 countries have prohibited all corporal punishment of children.
Children are entitled to care, security and a good upbringing. Children are to be treated with respect for their person and individuality and may not be subjected to physical punishment or other injurious or humiliating treatment.
63 countries with full prohibitions
Purposes of legal prohibition

• To comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments.

• To be proactive and preventive rather than reactive and punitive.

• To raise awareness, shift attitudes.
INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children

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6. Response and support services
7. Education and life skills
Objective

To strengthen norms and values that support non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive and gender-equitable relationships for all children and adolescents.
Sweden
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 1979)

Percent of adults believing that corporal punishment is necessary.

SIFO, 1981.
Lansford et al., 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Percent of adults agreeing that it is wrong to hit or slap a child, even if the child had made the parent very angry.

Sweden
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 1979)

Janson, Jernbro, & Långberg, 2011.
Sweden
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 1979)

Percent of parents who report hitting their children in the previous year.

Statistics Sweden, 1996.
Janson, Jernbro, & Långberg, 2011.
Slaps make children see reason

Smacking teaches children to accept violence

Germany
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 2000)

Percent of parents agreeing.

Smacking teaches children to accept violence:
- 1992: 49%
- 2001: 59%

Slaps make children see reason:
- 1992: 31%
- 2001: 26%

Germany
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 2000)

Percent of youth who had ever experienced various types of corporal punishment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hitting to the point of bruising</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitting the bottom with an object</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard slap across the face</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light slap across the face</td>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Zealand
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 2007)

Percent of adults agreeing that there are certain circumstances when it is alright for a parent to physically punish a child.

D’Souza et al., 2016.
New Zealand
(prohibited all corporal punishment in 2007)

Percent of parents of children aged 1-14 who physically punished their children in the previous four weeks.

Prohibition or Public Education?
A Multi-country Study

Bussman, Erthal, & Schroth, 2010
At the time of the study (2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>France</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal prohibition?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public education?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Method

Random sample of 1,000 parents in each country.

Standardized face-to-face interviews.
Percentage of Parents Who Reported Using Physical Punishment

- Prohibition & public education: 9%
- Prohibition only: 14%
- Public education only: 50%
- Neither: 92%
To change attitudes and behaviour
The Sound of Change

https://youtu.be/A42E9UDCk4g