YouGov Results - Child Smacking

Child Punishment

Fieldwork: 2nd - 5th July 2021

Sample: 2,152 GB adults

Are you the parent/ guardian of children of any of the following ages? (Please select all that apply. If you do not have any children, please select the "Not applicable" option)

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Unweighted base	2152	993	1159	198	312	349	376	917
Base: All GB adults	2152	1044	1108	239	327	368	382	836
Under 6 months old	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	-
Between 6 and 12 months old	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	2%	-	-
1 year old	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	4%	-	-
2 years old	2%	2%	2%	0%	4%	6%	1%	0%
3 years old	2%	2%	2%	0%	5%	3%	1%	0%
4 years old	2%	2%	2%	0%	4%	5%	2%	0%
5 years old	2%	2%	2%	0%	5%	4%	3%	0%
6 years old	2%	2%	2%	0%	4%	6%	2%	0%
7 years old	2%	2%	2%	-	5%	5%	2%	0%
8 years old	2%	1%	2%	-	1%	5%	3%	0%
9 years old	2%	2%	2%	-	2%	4%	4%	0%
10 years old	2%	2%	2%	-	1%	4%	3%	0%
11 years old	2%	3%	2%	-	2%	6%	5%	0%
12 years old	2%	2%	2%	-	1%	5%	5%	0%
13 years old	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	6%	6%	0%
14 years old	2%	2%	2%	-	0%	4%	6%	1%
15 years old	2%	3%	2%	1%	0%	5%	7%	0%
16 years old	2%	2%	2%	0%	-	2%	7%	1%
17 years old	2%	2%	1%	-	-	2%	6%	1%
18 years old	2%	2%	2%	-	-	1%	6%	1%
Older than 18 years old	34%	30%	38%	1%	-	5%	32%	70%
Not applicable - I do not have any children	48%	51%	44%	94%	74%	52%	37%	27%

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	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
The present law states that parents are allowed to carry out "reasonable chastisement" in smacking their children, as long as they don't cause any injury such as bruising. Do you think it should or should not be legal for parents to smack their children?								
Unweighted base	2152	993	1159	198	312	349	376	917
Base: All GB adults	2152	1044	1108	239	327	368	382	836
Should be legal for parents to smack their children	49%	56%	43%	22%	34%	48%	54%	62%
Should not be legal for parents to smack their children	36%	32%	40%	60%	49%	36%	32%	26%
Don't know	14%	12%	17%	18%	18%	16%	14%	12%
Thinking about your own childhood, how often, if at all, did your parents or guardians physically punish (e.g. smacking) you for bad behaviour?								
Unweighted base	2152	993	1159	198	312	349	376	917
Base: All GB adults	2152	1044	1108	239	327	368	382	836
Yes, often	11%	12%	10%	10%	8%	12%	14%	10%
Yes, sometimes	25%	27%	23%	17%	18%	28%	27%	28%
Yes, but not often	25%	24%	25%	15%	30%	25%	28%	24%
Yes, but only once or twice	22%	22%	23%	20%	20%	22%	22%	25%
No, I was never physically punished by my parents or guardians	13%	10%	16%	29%	17%	9%	7%	12%
Don't know	2%	3%	2%	5%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	1%	4%	3%	3%	0%	0%

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	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
As a reminder, please remember your answers are always treated confidentially and are never analysed individually. We have provided you with a "Prefer not to say" option if you would rather not share your experiences.Which of the following punishments if any did you receive as a child?								
Unweighted base	1787	848	939	121	234	302	344	786
Base: All GB adults that received physical punishments as a child	1785	888	898	148	251	319	349	719
Smacking/ spanking	93%	92%	94%	90%	91%	92%	95%	93%
Hit with an object, (e.g. paddle, belt, hairbrush, whip, or stick etc.)	25%	29%	20%	23%	26%	22%	29%	24%
Being made to eat wash your mouth with soap, hot sauce, hot pepper, or other unpleasant substances	9%	11%	6%	9%	16%	11%	9%	5%
Other	11%	11%	11%	15%	10%	15%	13%	9%
Can't remember	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Don't know	0%	0%	1%	-	0%	2%	-	0%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	5%	3%	1%	1%	1%
Have you ever physically punished (e.g. smacking) your own child(ren)?								
Unweighted base	1156	512	644	*11*	72	168	234	671
Base: All GB parents	1128	511	617	*14*	85	178	239	612
Yes, often	1%	0%	1%	-	-	1%	0%	1%
Yes, sometimes	8%	8%	8%	*12%*	6%	3%	5%	11%
Yes, but not often	18%	15%	20%	*13%*	9%	11%	22%	20%
Yes, but only once or twice	35%	37%	35%	*6%*	25%	34%	34%	38%
No, I have never physically punished my children	34%	37%	32%	*37%*	54%	44%	36%	28%
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	*15%*	2%	2%	1%	1%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	2%	*16%*	3%	5%	2%	1%
Overall, do you think physical punishments for children who misbehave result in them...								
Unweighted base	2152	993	1159	198	312	349	376	917
Base: All GB adults	2152	1044	1108	239	327	368	382	836
Behaving better in the future	34%	40%	29%	13%	20%	31%	41%	44%
Behaving about the same in the future	18%	18%	18%	17%	17%	18%	18%	19%
Behaving worse in the future	22%	18%	25%	42%	33%	20%	18%	14%
Don't know	24%	22%	26%	24%	27%	27%	22%	22%
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%	3%	1%	1%

Cell Contents (Column Percentages)

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Are you the parent/ guardian of children of any of the following ages? (Please select all that apply. If you do not have any children, please select the "Not applicable" option)

	Total	Social Grade		Region							
		ABC1	C2DE	North	Midlands	East	London	South	England (NET)	Wales	Scotland
Unweighted base	2152	1311	841	519	340	195	296	494	1844	112	196
Base: All GB adults	2152	1227	925	514	355	208	291	491	1859	105	187
Under 6 months old	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	-	2%	1%	1%	-	-
Between 6 and 12 months old	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	-
1 year old	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%
2 years old	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%
3 years old	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	2%	-	-
4 years old	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%	-
5 years old	2%	3%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	-	1%
6 years old	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	8%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%
7 years old	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%
8 years old	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	-	2%
9 years old	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	3%
10 years old	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
11 years old	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
12 years old	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
13 years old	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	-	1%
14 years old	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
15 years old	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%	4%	3%	1%	2%
16 years old	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	-	3%
17 years old	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	3%
18 years old	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	0%
Older than 18 years old	34%	31%	39%	36%	36%	30%	28%	35%	34%	41%	33%
Not applicable - I do not have any children	48%	49%	46%	44%	46%	45%	59%	45%	47%	47%	53%

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	Total	Social Grade		Region							
		ABC1	C2DE	North	Midlands	East	London	South	England (NET)	Wales	Scotland
The present law states that parents are allowed to carry out "reasonable chastisement" in smacking their children, as long as they don't cause any injury such as bruising. Do you think it should or should not be legal for parents to smack their children?											
Unweighted base	2152	1311	841	519	340	195	296	494	1844	112	196
Base: All GB adults	2152	1227	925	514	355	208	291	491	1859	105	187
Should be legal for parents to smack their children	49%	47%	53%	49%	52%	48%	51%	51%	50%	47%	42%
Should not be legal for parents to smack their children	36%	40%	30%	36%	31%	36%	37%	36%	35%	41%	44%
Don't know	14%	13%	16%	16%	17%	16%	12%	13%	15%	12%	14%
Thinking about your own childhood, how often, if at all, did your parents or guardians physically punish (e.g. smacking) you for bad behaviour?											
Unweighted base	2152	1311	841	519	340	195	296	494	1844	112	196
Base: All GB adults	2152	1227	925	514	355	208	291	491	1859	105	187
Yes, often	11%	9%	14%	9%	12%	9%	12%	11%	11%	11%	14%
Yes, sometimes	25%	24%	26%	25%	27%	27%	27%	25%	26%	20%	20%
Yes, but not often	25%	26%	23%	26%	23%	26%	23%	25%	25%	22%	27%
Yes, but only once or twice	22%	24%	21%	27%	19%	18%	19%	25%	23%	31%	16%
No, I was never physically punished by my parents or guardians	13%	14%	12%	9%	12%	14%	15%	13%	12%	16%	18%
Don't know	2%	2%	4%	2%	4%	4%	2%	1%	2%	-	4%
Prefer not to say	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	0%	2%	-	1%

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	Total	Social Grade		Region							
		ABC1	C2DE	North	Midlands	East	London	South	England (NET)	Wales	Scotland
As a reminder, please remember your answers are always treated confidentially and are never analysed individually. We have provided you with a "Prefer not to say" option if you would rather not share your experiences.Which of the following punishments if any did you receive as a child?											
Unweighted base	1787	1089	698	450	277	157	237	421	1542	94	151
Base: All GB adults that received physical punishments as a child	1785	1018	767	445	289	167	233	419	1554	89	143
Smacking/ spanking	93%	93%	93%	93%	97%	90%	87%	92%	92%	98%	97%
Hit with an object, (e.g. paddle, belt, hairbrush, whip, or stick etc.)	25%	23%	27%	23%	26%	30%	25%	24%	25%	16%	28%
Being made to eat wash your mouth with soap, hot sauce, hot pepper, or other unpleasant substances	9%	9%	9%	7%	11%	13%	8%	10%	9%	2%	4%
Other	11%	10%	13%	11%	11%	9%	14%	11%	11%	11%	13%
Can't remember	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%	-	-
Don't know	0%	0%	1%	1%	-	1%	1%	0%	1%	-	-
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	1%	3%	2%	2%	-	1%
Have you ever physically punished (e.g. smacking) your own child(ren)?											
Unweighted base	1156	686	470	300	190	108	125	277	1000	60	96
Base: All GB parents	1128	624	504	289	191	114	120	270	984	56	88
Yes, often	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	-
Yes, sometimes	8%	7%	10%	9%	7%	6%	10%	9%	8%	4%	9%
Yes, but not often	18%	17%	19%	19%	18%	17%	21%	15%	18%	17%	17%
Yes, but only once or twice	35%	37%	33%	33%	36%	39%	32%	37%	35%	42%	35%
No, I have never physically punished my children	34%	37%	32%	33%	33%	34%	35%	36%	34%	35%	38%
Don't know	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	-	2%	2%	-	1%
Prefer not to say	2%	1%	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	-	1%
Overall, do you think physical punishments for children who misbehave result in them...											
Unweighted base	2152	1311	841	519	340	195	296	494	1844	112	196
Base: All GB adults	2152	1227	925	514	355	208	291	491	1859	105	187
Behaving better in the future	34%	31%	39%	34%	36%	32%	29%	35%	34%	44%	33%
Behaving about the same in the future	18%	19%	17%	20%	17%	11%	20%	21%	19%	14%	18%
Behaving worse in the future	22%	24%	19%	22%	20%	27%	24%	18%	21%	24%	25%
Don't know	24%	25%	23%	22%	25%	29%	24%	26%	25%	18%	22%
Prefer not to say	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	2%

Cell Contents (C

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