

THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT – PREVALENCE AND ATTITUDINAL RESEARCH



Global Initiative to
**End All Corporal Punishment
of Children**

**Summaries (alphabetical by country) prepared by
the Global Initiative to End All Corporal
Punishment of Children
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Note: No prevalence research identified for American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba.

AFGHANISTAN

Qualitative research into adults' perspectives on everyday physical violence against children within the family, published in 2008, involved interviews with more than 200 men and women from 61 families in urban and rural areas in four provinces, plus 56 focus group discussions and 46 interviews with key informants. The study found that violence against children is widely used and recognised, though to a significant degree is not regarded with approval. Physical violence existed to varying degrees within all 61 case study families, most commonly slapping, verbal abuse, punching, kicking, and hitting with thin sticks, electrical cables and shoes. More unusual types of violence included shooting at children, tying them up, washing them in cold water outside during winter and public humiliation. Corporal punishment was used on children as young as 2 or 3 years. No clear difference between punishment of boys and of girls was found, but men were perceived as having more "rights" to be violent towards children than women in the family.

(Smith, Deborah J., 2008, *Love, Fear and Discipline: Everyday violence toward children in Afghan families*, Kabul: Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit)

In a survey by Save the Children reported in 2003, 82% of children interviewed reported that slapping, kicking and hitting with a stick are common forms of punishment. Hair and ear pulling were reported by nearly 6% of children. Over half reported being hit or severely beaten for being noisy or naughty, almost a quarter for not learning their school lessons, and nearly one in ten for disobeying adults.

(Save the Children Sweden Afghanistan, 2003, *Mini Survey Report on Corporal Punishment*, Kabul: Save the Children, cited in Jabeen, F., 2004, *Corporal/physical and psychological punishment of girls and boys in South and Central Asia Region*, Save the Children Sweden Denmark)

A study involving 2,080 questionnaires and focus group discussions with children in orphanages found that violence against children was sometimes cited as a major concern, and many references were made to corporal punishment in the home and in schools.

(Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and UNICEF Afghanistan, 2003, *Children deprived of parental care in Afghanistan – whose responsibility?*)

ALBANIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 52% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Half of children experienced physical punishment while a much smaller percentage (6%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 70% of children. Nine per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 12% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 55% compared to 48%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 57% of children aged 5-9 compared to 46% of children aged 2-4 and 49% of children aged 10-14. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 12% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 8% of non-disabled children. Thirty per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2006 study involving 1,500 children, 1,500 parents and 1,500 teachers in eight districts of Albania found a high prevalence of corporal punishment in homes and schools. Common forms of violence including pulling children's ears (experienced by 60.1% of children at least once at home within the last year, and 38.5% of children in school within the last year), pinching (55.7% at home and 36.9% at school), hitting children with an object (53% at home and 51.8% at school), smacking with an open hand on the body (52.6% at home and 34.3% at school) and head (49.2% at home and 35.6% at school). When asked about the kinds of violence they experienced often, children mentioned having their ears pulled (18.5% experienced this often at home and 38.9% at school), being pinched (15.9% at home and 23.5% at school) and being smacked on the head (15.2% at home and 26.3% at school). At school, approximately one in three children also reported often being forcibly pushed/pulled and often being hit on the body with an object. Other reported forms of violence included being punched in the head (7.6% of children at home), grabbed by the throat (12.2% at home, 9.6% at school) and bitten (19.1%

at home, 12.8% at school). 27.7% of children had been bruised by violence at home, 24.5% had been made to bleed, 21.9% had been made dizzy, and 7.9% had lost consciousness. Violence in social care institutions was found to be particularly frequent and severe. Reported forms of violence in institutions included being kicked (78.9%), smacked in the head (68.4%), hit with an object (68.4%), punched on the body (66.7%), grabbed by the throat (35.2%), and punched in the head (25%). 44.5% of children in institutions had been made to bleed by corporal punishment, 42.2% had been made dizzy, and 16.7% had lost consciousness.

(Tamo, A. and Karaj, T., 2006, *Violence Against Children in Albania*, Tirana: Human Development Centre)

ALGERIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 87% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Three quarters of children experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (16%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 90% of children. A quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 84% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 89% compared to 87%. Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 90% of children aged 5-9 compared to 85% of children aged 2-4 and 87% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 88% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 82% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 sixty-eight per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Research reported in January 2008 found that of 1,700 Algerian families, 70% whip their children and use violence for disciplinary reasons. The most commonly used implements in corporal punishment were found to be rocks and shoes; parents also reported using their hands to beat children's faces and heads. Punishments often resulted in injuries and bruising.

(Reported in *Echorouk Online*, 6 January 2008)

ARGENTINA

A report on the human rights violations perpetrated against approximately 25,000 people – children and adults – detained in Argentina’s psychiatric institutions – documented many beatings and prolonged use of isolation in cells.

(Mental Disability Rights International & Center for Legal and Social Studies, 2007, *Ruined Lives: Segregation from Society in Argentina’s Psychiatric Asylums*)

Surveys carried out in 2002-2004 examined the attitudes of children and adults in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela towards physical punishment. In Argentina, 293 people were surveyed (201 adults and 89 children). Nearly a third (32.6%) of the children and over half of the adults (52.1%) agreed that children should not be physically punished or that “punishment does not solve anything”, and 27% of children and 15.6% of adults agreed that physical punishment is “very bad” or “makes children violent”. Over half (53.9%) of children and 79.6% of adults thought that physical punishment is never necessary.

(Save the Children Sweden & Instituto de Encuestas y Sondeos de Opinión, 2005, *Sistematización de las Encuestas Sobre la Percepción del Castigo Físico en Seis Países de America Latina*, presentation: Managua, 16 May 2005)

ARMENIA

According to statistics from UNICEF, of girls and women aged 15-49, 22% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances; 31% of boys and men aged 15-49 believe this.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2002 survey by the Armenian Relief Society of 550 parents and 550 children aged 7-18 years, together with interviews among 100 teachers, 100 neighbours, and 50 specialists from social, educational, health and legal spheres, found a high prevalence of physical abuse in families. A third of parents (33.3%), particularly young mothers, were in favour of slapping and beating in disciplining children. Preliminary analysis revealed that beating and slapping were also common in schools.

(Urumova, I., Galvastian, M. & Tevosyan, A., 2003, “Violence against children and women in Armenia”, Armenian Relief Society/UNICEF)

AUSTRALIA

In a 2011 online poll of more than 4,000 people, 85% of parents admitted smacking their children.

(Reported in *news.com.au*, 12 September 2011)

In a survey of over 300 young people carried out by the Australian Capital Territory Human Rights Commission Children & Young People Commissioner in 2010, nearly seven in ten (69%) of respondents thought that parents “smacking” their children maybe should or should be banned. Over half of respondents (52%) said it was “not OK” for parents to “smack” their children, 42% said it was “sometimes OK” and only 2% said it was “OK”.

(ACT Human Rights Commission, 2011, *Children & Young People Commissioner Annual Report Summary 2010-2011*)

The Victoria Education Department investigated 187 cases of “inappropriate discipline” in childcare centres between 2007 and 2009, including “smacking”, despite corporal punishment being prohibited.

(Reported by *The Herald Sun*, 11 April 2011, www.heraldsun.com.au)

A 2009 study looked at all identified child homicides in New South Wales from 1991 to 2005 (165 homicides by 157 offenders). It found that the most common cause of death was physical punishment, which accounted for 36% (59 deaths) over the 14 year period. In almost three in four cases, children had been beaten, thrown or shaken to death by their parents/carers. Children below the age of one are more likely to be killed than older children. The average age of the 59 children killed through physical punishment was 1.5 years. The researchers, backed by the Australian Childhood Foundation, have called for corporal punishment to be prohibited: “More lives could be saved by measures that reduce the incidence of child abuse, including the prohibition of corporal punishment of children.”

(Nielssen, O. et al, 2009, “Child homicide in New South Wales from 1991 to 2005”, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 190 (1), pp. 7-11, www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_01_050109/nie10592_fm.html)

A review of “domestic discipline” cases under section 280 of the Criminal Code – which allows parents to use “reasonable force” on their children – was undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in Queensland. The results were tabled in Parliament in November 2008. Of the 134 cases of “excessive discipline” in 2006-7, more than half (80 cases) involved the use of implements, including cattle prods. In 85 cases children were hit on the head, in 36 cases they were punched, in 13 kicked.

(Department of Justice and Attorney General, 2008, *Review of Section 280 of the Criminal Code*, www.justice.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/file/0013/21631/review-of-section-280-of-criminal-code.pdf)

A federal government funded survey of over 500 adults by the Australian Council of State School Organisations found that while most believed discipline in schools is too lax, few supported a return to corporal punishment.

(Reported in *The Herald Sun*, 10 October 2008)

A survey of parents in Queensland, conducted by the Parenting and Family Support Centre, University of Queensland, and reported in 2007, found that 71% smacked their children occasionally. When asked how likely parents were to use smacking as a punishment, 43% said they were likely or very likely to give a single smack with their hand; 10% said they were likely or very likely to spank their child more than once with their hand or another object.

(Reported in *Herald Sun*, 19 May 2007)

Telephone interviews with a representative sample of 720 adults aged 18+ were carried out in 2006 by Quantum Market Research on behalf of the Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse at Monash University. The research found that 45% of respondents believed it was reasonable to leave a mark on a child as a result of physical

punishment (representing a decrease from the 55% found in similar research in 2002). One in 10 believed that it was appropriate to use implements such as canes, sticks, belts, or slippers to punish a child (representing an increase in support for the use of implements compared with the 4% figure found in the 2002 research); one in seven (14%) supported the use of a wooden spoon. Two out of five (41%) believed that smacking a child is effective in shaping his or her behaviour, while one in ten believed that smacking a teenager is an effective way of discipline. When presented with the statement that it is sometimes necessary to smack a naughty child, 69% agreed, representing a decline in support for corporal punishment when compared with similar research in 2002 (75%).

(Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. & Goddard, C., 2006, *Crossing the Line: Making the case for changing Australian laws about the physical punishment of children*, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia: Australian Childhood Foundation)

A Senate inquiry into institutional and out-of-home care for children in Australia during the twentieth century found that punishments included beatings with straps, canes, cricket bats, and bunches of keys, being forced to perform additional and often repetitive tasks, food rationing, forced immobility for long periods, isolation and humiliation. Children were punished for “offences” including talking during mealtimes, laughing, not standing still, being left-handed, bedwetting and running away.

(Senate Community Affairs References Committee, 2004, *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children*)

AUSTRIA

A study carried out in 2008 examined the prevalence of corporal punishment and attitudes towards it through interviews with 1,054 Austrian young people aged 12-18, 1,049 Austrian parents and 614 immigrant parents (from Turkey, the former Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe) living in Austria. Compared to a similar study in 1991, which involved 380 parents of children aged under 6, the study found that the prevalence of corporal punishment had fallen: in 2008, 31.4% of Austrian mothers of children aged under 6 never used corporal punishment, compared to 8.5% in 1991, and 4.1% used “light” corporal punishment such as slapping and spanking “often”, compared to 30.5% in 1991. A large majority of all the groups interviewed agreed that “a non-violent upbringing is ideal”: 88.3% of young people, 86.2% of Austrian parents and 81.1% of immigrant parents. Ninety-six per cent of young people believed that they had legally defined rights, 78.1% of boys and 84.6% of girls were “sure” that they had a right to an upbringing without violence and 41.2% of boys and 42.1% of girls were aware of the law prohibiting corporal punishment. Of those who were aware of the law, 62.4% of young people had heard about it at school or other facilities for children, and 70.8% of Austrian and 66.7% of immigrant parents had heard about it in the media (TV, newspapers, radio and cinema).

(Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend (2009) *Familie - kein Platz für Gewalt!(!): 20 Jahre gesetzliches Gewaltverbot in Österreich*, Vienna: Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend)

A study carried out in 2007 examined five European countries: Sweden, Austria, Germany, France and Spain. Five thousand parents (1,000 in each nation) were interviewed about their use of and attitude towards corporal punishment, their own experiences of violence and their knowledge and beliefs about the law. 50% of Austrian parents said they had “mildly” slapped their child on the face and 62% had slapped their child on the bottom. 18% had given their child a “resounding” slap on the face and 4.4%

had beaten their child with an object. 30% of Austrian parents never used corporal punishment. 89% agreed that “one should try to use as little corporal punishment as possible” and 86% agreed that “non-violent child-rearing is the ideal”.

(Bussmann, K. D., 2009, *The Effect of Banning Corporal Punishment in Europe: A Five-Nation Comparison*, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

AZERBAIJAN

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 76% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Almost half (48%) experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (18%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 93% of children. Nearly one child in five (17%) experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 73% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 79% compared to 72%. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to age, household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 nearly half of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances; 58% of boys and men aged 15-49 thought this.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

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Note: No prevalence research identified for Bahrain, Bhutan, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Bermuda (UK overseas territory).

BAHAMAS

A 2010 study involving a survey of 933 adults and 12 semi-structured interviews with adults examined the coexistence in homes in the Bahamas of corporal punishment of children and other behaviours including including sexual abuse, illegal drug use, violence among adults in the home and hitting of pets. 77% of respondents from households with children reported that “spanking” was sometimes used to discipline them. 37% of respondents said that children were spanked only when “very naughty”, 28% that they were spanked “sometimes”, 26% “rarely” and 9.7% “often”. 4.1% of respondents in households where children were spanked considered the spanking to be abuse. Violence between

adults occurred more in households where children were spanked “often” than where they were not spanked “often”.

(Brennen, S. et al, 2010, “A Preliminary Investigation of the Prevalence of Corporal Punishment of Children and Selected Co-occurring Behaviours in Households on New Providence, The Bahamas”, *The International Journal of Bahamian Studies*, vol 16. 2010 pp.1-18)

BANGLADESH

In a random survey conducted by Andhra Pradesh Bala Sangham, an NGO, students of about 12 schools stated on camera that they had been subjected to corporal punishment, despite a Supreme Court judgment in January 2011 that corporal punishment in schools was unconstitutional.

(Reported in *Deccan Chronicle*, 7 Feb 2011)

A 2009 report by UNICEF documented a high prevalence of corporal punishment of children at home and school. The study involved nearly 4000 households, through interviews with children aged 9-18 and the heads of their households, focus group discussions, case studies and a special survey with children living on the street. The research found that 91% of children in school experience physical punishment. Poorer children were more likely to experience it, with greater frequency and severity, than richer students. Punishments included hitting the palm with a ruler or stick (experienced by 76% of students), standing in class, hitting other body parts with a ruler or stick, and slapping. 23% of students said they faced corporal punishment every day and 7% reported injuries and bleeding as a result. Corporal punishment was one of the top four reasons children gave for not attending school. In the home, 99.3% of children reported being verbally abused and threatened regularly by their parents, while 74% said they were physically punished by parents or guardians. 70% were usually slapped, and 40% were regularly beaten or kicked. 367 of the children who took part in the study worked outside the home. Of these, 25% experienced physical punishment in their workplace, with older girls and young boys receiving more physical punishment than other groups. Girls were more likely to be seriously injured by corporal punishment than boys. Physical punishment in the workplace was felt to be unacceptable by 59% of working children.

UNICEF, 2009, *Opinions of Children of Bangladesh on Corporal Punishment: Children’s Opinion Poll 2008*, Dhaka: UNICEF & Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

A study reported in 2005 of 153 children in 16 groups and 109 adults in 13 groups examined behaviours children liked and behaviour children disliked. The children identified a total of 1,043 behaviours that they disliked from people in the immediate family, educational settings and the workplace. Of these, 293 were categorised as physical discipline/punishment, 206 as verbal discipline/punishment, and 66 as other kinds of discipline/punishment, representing the top three disliked behaviours.

(Government of Bangladesh/UNICEF/Save the Children Alliance, 2005, *Child Abuse Study: Study Report*, Draft Version, 25 January 2005)

A survey by Save the Children of more than 2,500 child domestic workers in Dhaka found that almost two thirds of employers said they were prepared to beat their servants.

(Reported in Jabeen, F., 2004, *Corporal/physical and psychological punishment of girls and boys in South and Central Asia Region*, Save the Children Sweden Denmark)

BARBADOS

A UNICEF study of child vulnerability in Barbados, St Vincent and St Lucia, completed in November 2006, found that younger girls and boys were much more likely to be punished than their teenage siblings in all three countries. The number of young children who received no punishment was below 50% in all countries. Overall, younger children, both girls and boys, were more likely to be subjected to corporal punishment, such as spanking, slapping or hitting with the hand or an object.

(Reported in *The Barbados Advocate*, 23 May 2007)

BELARUS

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 84% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Half experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (15%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 94% of children. Two per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 78% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 87% compared to 80%. Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 86% of children aged 5-9 compared to 85% of children aged 2-4 and 82% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 90% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 81% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

BELGIUM

Telephone interviews with 1,070 adults aged 15 years and over in April 2004, revealed that 77% believe it is acceptable for parents to smack their children, including 17% who believe it is always acceptable and 60% who believe there are some circumstances in which it is acceptable. Just under a fifth (19%) believe it is unacceptable in any circumstances.

(Market & Opinion Research International, 2004, "Attitudes towards smacking children: Belgium", Research conducted for the Association for the Protection of All Children)

BELIZE

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 70% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly 60% experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (26%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 93% of children. Eight per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 53% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size, level of education of adults in the household, or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 9% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 4% of non-disabled children. Twelve per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A survey of 939 school students concerning absenteeism and child-friendly primary schools by the Human Rights Commission of Belize (NGO) found that 39% of children's opinions identified violent behaviour, including corporal punishment by teachers, as the aspect of school children liked the least.

(Hunt, H., 2003, *Leave No Child Out – the report of a survey on why children don't go to school and on how schools can be child-friendly* (Belize: Human Rights Commission of Belize))

In consultation for a report on the laws relating to corporal punishment, a group of seven 12-16-year-old children reported that children are beaten by parents, teachers, siblings, classmates and policemen, because these adults are angry, frustrated, sad, stressed, under pressure, drunk, on drugs, or have low self esteem. The beatings take place in the home, in school, on the street; they involve all parts of the bodies but especially children's backs, buttocks, head, hands and legs; and they occur almost every day. Beatings are done with a variety of instruments, including broomsticks, belts, electric cords, paddles and shoes.

(Hunt, H., 2003, *Corporal punishment in Belize – the legal framework for violence against children* (Belize: National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect))

BENIN

A 2009 study involving interviews with girls aged 6-14 and the mothers of girls aged 2-5 and a survey of 4,649 women and 1,550 men found that corporal punishment at home and in schools was very common and that 88.5% of girls aged 2-5, 88% of girls aged 5-9 and 87.7% of girls aged 10-14 had been beaten. When asked about the reasons for violence experienced by girls, 85.5% of interviewees

said that it was for “education”. Half of interviewees said that violence to girls resulted in “submission”, 32.9% “scars on the body”, 9.9% “timidity” and 1.7% “death”.

(Ministère de la Famille et de la Solidarité National, 2009, *Les Violences Faites aux Femmes au Bénin*)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 47% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

BOLIVIA

According to UN statistics, in 2003 significant proportions of women believed that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons: 5% for burning the food, 6% for arguing with him, 9% for going out without telling him, 17% for neglecting the children and 3% for refusing to have sex.

(United Nations, 2010, *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

A study in 1997 on how children in La Paz, Oruro and Cochabamba perceived their rights, carried out by the Under-Secretariat of Generational Affairs with the support of UNICEF and the European Economic Community, found that seven out of ten children had been subjected to psychological punishment and six out of ten had experienced corporal punishment. According to Defence for Children International, 20% of the punishments had occurred on parents' return from work, 14% in the context of marital disputes and a further 14% under the influence of alcohol.

(Reported in the third state party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2004, CRC/C/125/Add.2, para. 301)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 38% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly a quarter (24%) experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (7%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 93% of children. Three per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 28% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 49% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 25% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, level of education of adults in the household, or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seven per cent of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 3% of non-disabled children. Five per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

BOTSWANA

In June 2007, the Education Secretary for Ngami region reported a Baseline Study which found that 92% of students had been beaten by school, and this was supported by 67% of parents.

(Reported in *Daily News*, 13 June 2007)

In research by DITSHWANELO, a survey concerning corporal punishment in schools found that about 90% of respondents said they used corporal punishment on children.

(Reported in correspondence with the Global Initiative, February 2006)

BRAZIL

A report comparing diagnosis and treatment of attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) in different countries found that in Brazil, physical punishment is considered by a large number of teachers to be a “therapeutic” treatment for ADHD.

(Reported in *Psychiatric News*, vol. 46, no. 11, June 3, 2011)

A large scale comparative study (World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE)) which involved surveys with over 14,000 mothers of children aged under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, examined parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States. In Brazil, 70% of children experienced “moderate” physical discipline (including being “spanked” on the buttocks, hit with an object, slapped on the face and having hot pepper put in their mouth). Two per cent of children experienced harsh physical discipline (including being burnt, beaten up, kicked and smothered). Nearly four children in ten (39%) experienced harsh psychological discipline such as being called names, being cursed and being threatened with abandonment. “Moderate” psychological discipline, including being yelled or screamed at or being refused food was experienced by 77% of children. Non-violent discipline, including explaining why a behaviour was wrong and telling a child to stop, was also widely used (experienced by 96% of children). The study found that rates of harsh physical discipline were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical abuse in any country, and that rates of physical punishment can vary widely among communities within the same country.

(Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*, published online 2 August 2010, www.pediatrics.org)

A study on the relationship between severe physical punishment and mental health problems found that 20% of the children (aged 6-17) in the 813 participating households had suffered severe physical punishment (being hit with an object, being kicked, choked, smothered, burnt, scalded, branded, beaten or threatened with a weapon) by one or both parents in the last 12 months.

(Bordin, I. A. et al, 2009, "Severe physical punishment: risk of mental health problems for poor urban children in Brazil", *Bulletin of the World Health Organisation*, May 2009, vol. 87(5), pp. 336–344)

Surveys carried out in 2002-2004 examined the attitudes of children and adults in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela towards physical punishment. In Brazil, 800 people were surveyed (200 adults and 600 children). Nearly a quarter (23.2%) of the children agreed that physical punishment is "very bad" or "makes children violent", and 37.2% agreed that physical punishment is "unfair". Three-quarters of children and adults thought that physical punishment is never necessary.

(Save the Children Sweden & Instituto de Encuestas y Sondeos de Opinión, 2005, *Sistematización de las Encuestas Sobre la Percepción del Castigo Físico en Seis Países de America Latina*, presentation: Managua, 16 May 2005)

Research in five juvenile detention centres in the State of Rio de Janeiro found that beatings, and impunity for offenders, were common. Verbal violence was also common, and youths experienced lengthy periods of lock-up and being forced to stand for long periods of time in uncomfortable positions.

(Human Rights Watch, 2004, "*Real dungeons*": *Juvenile Detention in the State of Rio de Janeiro*, vol.16, no.7)

Research by Human Rights Watch in 17 detention centres in Northern Brazil, including four girls and including interviews with 44 detained young people, found that children are routinely beaten by police. Beatings both during and after arrest were found to be common. Children complaining of beatings reported that military police hit them with rubber batons with a metal core.

(Human Rights Watch, 2003, *Cruel Confinement: Abuses against detained children in Northern Brazil*)

BULGARIA

49.9% of respondents to a 2009 survey of 1,000 adults believed that corporal punishment should never be used. This was a slight increase compared to an identical 2005 survey of 994 adults, when 47.2% said that corporal punishment should never be used. 34.8% of respondents in 2009 said that corporal punishment "should not be used in general but in certain situations it is justifiable" and 10.9% felt that corporal punishment was acceptable "if the parent believes that it will be effective". The studies in 2005 and 2009 also examined adults' perceptions of the prevalence of corporal punishment.

(Vitosha Research, 2009, *Physical Punishment in Child-Rearing in Bulgaria*
www.canee.net/files/Omnibus%20research%20Bulgaria%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

A 2009 survey of 202 teachers in primary schools in Sofia found that 82% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and 74% believed that it meant that “the parents are not good at rearing children”. 41% of respondents felt that the use of “spanking” as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party. In an identical survey of a similar sample in 2005, only 30% believed this. 46% of respondents in 2009 believed that more than 50% of children in Bulgaria experience “spanking”. In 2005, 51% of respondents believed this.

(Nobody’s Children Foundation et al, 2009, *Sofia teachers’ attitudes toward child abuse*
www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Bulgaria%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

BURKINA FASO

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 83% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Over 60% experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (38%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 82% of children. More than one child in five experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 84% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 91% of children aged 5-9 compared to 84% of children aged 2-4 and 87% of children aged 10-14. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size, level of education of adults in the household, or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Burkina Faso, 91% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 88% had been beaten, 51% kicked, 51% denied food, 27% choked or burned and 43% forced to do hard work. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seventy-one per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

BURUNDI

Interviews with children in conflict with the law and with parents and law enforcement officials, carried out by Human Rights Watch in 2006-2007, found that many children have been beaten and have suffered other ill treatment while in detention.

(Human Rights Watch, 2007, *Paying the price: Violations of the rights of children in detention in Burundi*)

C

Note: No prevalence research identified for Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Chad, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Cyprus.

CAMBODIA

A Human Rights Watch report found that in Cambodia brutal physical punishment, including beatings and the administration of electrical shocks, is inflicted on children and adults who are detained in “drug detention centres”, which are used to keep the streets clear of “undesirables” such as street children, drug addicts, gamblers, alcoholics and mentally ill people.

(Human Rights Watch, 2010, *“Skin on the Cable”: The Illegal Arrest, Arbitrary Detention and Torture of People Who Use Drugs in Cambodia*)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 55% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Cambodia involved 504 children (250 boys, 254 girls) from urban, rural and remote areas, and 275 adults (122 men, 153 women). Methods used included research diaries, body maps, attitude survey, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Cambodia included being hit with a variety of implements, including a stick, cane, “whip” made of electric cable, belt, whip, chain; the use of sharp implements (knife) and sharp-edged domestic items (brooms, shoes), kicking, punching, pinching, pulling, and twisting joints. Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 39.8% reported being hit on the head and neck, 82.2% on the limbs, 80.7% on the back, 33.1% buttocks, 2.3% chest and 3.3% stomach. Over 80% of children reported being punished in the home. Nearly all adults (96%) attested that they felt unhappy after they had been punished as children. When asked what they did in response to punishment, most said that they stood still and endured it (61% boys, 76% girls); 1.8% of boys and no girls said they “fight back”; some escape the punishment (27% boys, 23% girls); some beg not to be punished (16% boys, 4% girls).

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

Research involving focus groups, discussions, interviews and a survey with 12-18 year olds in Kandal province found a very high prevalence of corporal punishment in homes and schools. Eighty-four per cent of survey respondents said that they had seen or heard of a teacher beating a boy, and 67% that they had seen or heard of a teacher beating a girl. Fifty-six per cent of boys and 19% of girls said that they had been beaten by a teacher. Thirty-six per cent of respondents said that it was always wrong for a teacher to beat a boy, and 44% that it was always wrong for a teacher to beat a girl. Ninety-two per cent of respondents had seen or heard of a boy being beaten by a parent, and 71% had seen or heard of a girl being beaten by a parent. Two thirds (67%) of boys, and 38% of girls had been beaten by their father, and 76% of boys and 60% of girls had been beaten by their mother. High percentages of respondents said that someone should intervene to stop children being beaten by their parents (95% for a boy; 92% for a girl). Almost half of respondents said a relative should intervene; other choices included neighbours, village chiefs and the police.

(Fordham, G., 2005, *"Wise" Before their Time: young people, gender-based violence and pornography in Kandal Stung distict*, Phnom Penh: World Vision Cambodia)

Large-scale research into children's attitudes towards violence has been undertaken by Tearfund, a relief and development NGO working in partnership with Christian agencies and churches. The first stage of the research involved focus groups of boys and girls aged 11-13 from an urban slum community, a rural community and a provincial town community, and found that most children believed that children should be beaten by teachers if they are disobedient or if they "made a mistake", with few feeling that beating was inappropriate in some cases. Children also felt that parents should beat children if they "made a mistake". The second stage, supported by the Ministry of Education, comprised a written questionnaire survey of 1,314 children aged 12-15. Half of the boys (50.5%) and over a third of the girls (36.4%) reported having been beaten by their parents; 82.4% of girls and 81.1% of boys reported witnessing other children being beaten by their parents. Nearly one in four girls (24.1%) and over one in three boys (34.7%) reported having been beaten by their teacher in school.

(Miles, G. & Varin, S., 2005, *"Stop Violence Against Us!" A preliminary national research study into the prevalence and perceptions of Cambodian children to violence against children in Cambodia, Summary report*, Tearfund)

In a survey by the Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights reported in 2005, of more than 5,000 12-18 year old children at primary and junior high schools in 16 of the 24 provinces and municipalities, 90% of respondents said that their teachers would punish them if they did something wrong, and for 20% of these the punishment would be beating, more commonly for 12-14 year olds than for 15-18 year olds.

(Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights/Child Rights Foundation, 2004, *Children's Report: Children's Views on Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Cambodia 2000-2004*)

CAMEROON

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Cameroon, over 50% of respondents had been hit, punched, kicked or beaten, over 25% of respondents had been made to eat hot chilli, pepper or very bitter food or drink, and over 25% of respondents had been choked, burnt or stabbed. Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 93% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly eight in ten experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (44%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 82% of children. Nearly three children in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 87% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 96% compared to 93%. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size or level of education of adults in the household.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Cameroon, 43% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 66% had been beaten, 21% kicked, 31% denied food, 7% choked or burned and 18% forced to do hard work. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 30% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 24% of non-disabled children. Fifty-six per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A study of children who had lost their parent(s) due to HIV-related illnesses exposed a high level of physical violence and corporal punishment in the home. The study involved 180 children: 70% of boys without a mother reported experiencing physical violence in the month before the study, as did 62% of non-orphan boys. Between 60% and 70% of non-orphan girls reported suffering physical punishment during the same period.

(Morgan, J. and Behrendt, A., 2007, *Silent Suffering: The psychological impact of war, HIV and other high-risk situations on girls and boys in West and Central Africa: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cameroon, Burkina Faso*, Dakar: Plan West Africa)

CANADA

A 2008 study in Canada with adolescents and their parents of Caribbean and of Filipino heritage found that 78% of the 118 Caribbean parents interviewed and 42% of the 136 Filipino parents interviewed thought that they should have the “right” to physically punish their children, while adolescents disagreed.

(Hassan, G. et al, 2008, “Caribbean and Filipino adolescents' and parents' perceptions of parental authority, physical punishment, and cultural values and their relation to migratory characteristics”, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, vol. 40, no. 2, pp. 171 - 186)

In a sample of mothers of preschoolers in Manitoba, 59% reported having used physical punishment in the previous two weeks.

(Ateah, C. & Durrant, J. E., 2005, “Maternal use of physical punishment in response to child misbehavior: Implications for child abuse prevention”, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29, pp.177-193)

A survey of 1,000 people in an SES/Sun Media poll in January 2004 found that 64% support the use of force such as spanking by parents to discipline a child, though a wide majority oppose physical force being used by others. Support for spanking as a reasonable measure was highest in the West at 71% and Ontario at 62%. The lowest support was Quebec at 47%. Only 7% supported criminal charges for parents who spank their children; 7% also said that children should be removed from homes where their parents used spanking as corporal punishment; 5% supported both these measures.

(“Spanking poll backs ruling”, *Winnipeg Sun*, Manitoba, 1 February 2004)

In a sample of mothers of preschoolers in Manitoba and Ontario, 70% reported having used physical punishment at some time; one-third of those who used it did so at least once per week.

(Durrant, J. E., Rose-Krasnor, L. & Broberg, A., 2003, "Maternal beliefs about physical punishment in Sweden and Canada", *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 34, pp.586-604)

A national postal survey of households with children under the age of 6, completed by 1,643 parents (698 married mothers, 698 married fathers and 247 single mothers), was carried out in 1998-1999. Overall, 51% of parents reported using physical punishment occasionally or more often (1% "frequent", 39% "rarely", 11% "sometimes"); 49% reported never using it. There was no difference between mothers and fathers in the use of corporal punishment, but single mothers were less likely to use it than married parents, and parents with low education were more likely to use it than those with high levels of education. It was more often used for children aged 1-5 years, but 40% of parents of infants under the age of one year reported using physical punishment on their babies.

(Oldershaw, L., 2002, *A national survey of parents of young children*, Toronto: Invest in Kids Foundation)

A 2002 survey found that 50% of parents reported that they or their spouse had "inflicted light corporal punishment, like a slap" on their children; 6% reported that they or their spouse had "inflicted painful corporal punishment".

(Canadian Press and Leger Marketing, 2002, *Child Abuse Report*, Montreal, PQ: Canadian Press and Leger Marketing)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 89% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Seventy-eight per cent experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (25%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. A third of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 83% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 90% compared to 88%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 91% of children aged 5-9 compared to 85% of children aged 2-4 and 90% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 90% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 83% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 36% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit

or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 28% of non-disabled children.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

CHILE

A large scale comparative study (World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE)) which involved surveys with over 14,000 mothers of children aged under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, examined parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States. In Chile, 69% of children experienced “moderate” physical discipline (including being “spanked” on the buttocks, hit with an object, slapped on the face and having hot pepper put in their mouth). Nearly one child in twenty (4.5%) experienced harsh physical discipline (including being burnt, beaten up, kicked and smothered). Nearly a third of children (32%) experienced harsh psychological discipline such as being called names, being cursed and being threatened with abandonment. “Moderate” psychological discipline, including being yelled or screamed at or being refused food was experienced by 85% of children. Non-violent discipline, including explaining why a behaviour was wrong and telling a child to stop, was also widely used (experienced by 97% of children). The study found that rates of harsh physical discipline were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical abuse in any country, and that rates of physical punishment can vary widely among communities within the same country.

(Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*, published online 2 August 2010, www.pediatrics.org)

A 2006 survey by the Association of Chileans for the United Nations, together with Save the Children Switzerland, found that many parents admitted to frequent use of corporal punishment, most commonly in families of lower socio-economic status, and more commonly mothers than fathers; most also expressed concern about physical violence.

(Soledad Salazar Medina, 2006, *Estilos de crianza y cuidado infantil en Santiago de Chile: Algunas reflexiones para comprender la violencia educativa en la familia*, Asociacion Chilena Pro Naciones Unidas – ACHNU – PRODENI. Reported in *The Santiago Times*, 15 November 2006)

CHINA

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in China 48% of girls and 60% of boys involved in the study had experienced “mild” corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 10% of girls and 15% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 14% of mothers and 20% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 36% of mothers and 33% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, “Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender”, *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

A survey of over 2,100 primary school children aged 9-12 found that 73% are physically punished by their parents, and this was associated with psychosomatic symptoms such as headache and abdominal pain.

(Hesketh, T. et al, 2010, “Stress and psychosomatic symptoms in Chinese school children: cross-sectional survey”, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, vol. 95 (2), pp. 136-140)

In a survey of more than 100 children aged 6-15 and 126 parents, carried out by the NGO Against Child Abuse, 58% of parents admitted to smacking or caning their children in the previous 12 months. Almost half (47%) of children who had been physically punished said it had hurt them badly and a third thought it had damaged their relationship with their parents.

(Reported in *Earth Times*, 4 May 2010)

A retrospective survey of nearly 1,000 university students in China and England, carried out between 2001 and 2004, looked at their experiences of parental discipline and their attitudes towards it. Of the Chinese students, 60% of boys and 50% of girls reported being hit by their parents as children; beating with a stick, rod or branch was reported by 37% of boys and 36% of girls. Fathers were more likely to be the parent using physical punishment than mothers. Of those who had been physically punished, 42% of boys and 41% of girls said they were punished for being “disobedient”, 33% of boys and 25% of girls for being “naughty”, 25% of boys and 18% of girls for having poor results at school, and 25% of boys and 45% of girls for being “wilful”.

(Hester, M. et al, 2009, “Girls’ and boys’ experiences and perceptions of parental discipline and punishment while growing up in China and England”, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 18, pp. 401-413)

In a pilot questionnaire survey in 2004 of 528 students from a college and a technical secondary school in Hebei province, 57.6% of students reported having received corporal punishment on at least one occasion. A similar number (53.4%) reported receiving “non-contact” corporal punishment by teachers when aged below 16 years, including running, standing, kneeling etc; 16.1% reported hitting/kicking/pushing very hard with open hands or another part of the body; 10.2% reported beating with an object; and 0.2% reported being locked in a cupboard or tied with a rope. No significant correlation was found between corporal punishment and residence (rural or non-rural), parental education or number of children in the family.

(Jing-qi, C., Chun-mei, W., Dunne, M.P., Yu-xia, M., Bo, C. Yi-huai, L. & Ya-jie, 2006, “A retrospective survey of childhood corporal punishment by school teachers in students”, *Chinese Journal of Pediatrics*, vol. 44 (1))

COLOMBIA

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in Colombia 68% of girls and 63% of boys involved in the

study had experienced “mild” corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 15% of girls and 4% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 14% of mothers and 13% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 19% of mothers and 8% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, “Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender”, *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

As part of a study of the impact of publicly funded early childhood education centres in Bogotá, the kinds of punishments used on children were examined. Interviews were carried out with 97 fathers and mothers and 97 children aged 5-6 years, in which 63% of parents reported seldom using physical punishment and 1% reported using it a lot. Of those who said they smacked their children, 47% said they used their hand, 44% a belt, 10% a slipper or shoe, and 2% a paddle or broom. In the four months prior to the interviews, the most recent punishment had been smacking for 32% and scolding for 11%. Interviews with the children revealed higher incidences of corporal punishment, including 83% reporting punishment by smacking. Various ways of being hit were reported by the children, including with a belt (70%), the hand (31%), a slipper (27%), a whip (5%), a paddle (5%), a shoe (5%), and a switch (3%). Reasons given for the punishment included disobedience (27%), not doing homework or poor performance at school (29%) and talking back or being rude (12%).

(Pineda, N. et al., 2005, *Evaluación de Algunas Modalidades de Atención a la Primera Infancia en el ICBF y el DABS*, Bogotá, Cinde, Save the Children UK, UNICEF, Colombian Institute for Family Welfare and Bogotá Social Welfare Department, reported in International Save the Children Alliance, 2005, *Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children – Making it Happen: Global Submission to the UN Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

CONGO, REPUBLIC OF

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 76% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

COSTA RICA

In 2003, a survey by the Paniamor Foundation of 1,034 school children aged 9-16 found that nearly half (47.8%) experienced physical punishment occasionally in the home, while 4.2% experienced it frequently, more so for boys than girls in both cases; 11% said they had been punished in the past 15 days. The reasons given for being punished were mainly concerned with correcting behaviour: “they behave badly” (71.5%), “they don’t do as they are told” (22.7%), “to educate” (5.8%). Most punishment was administered by parents (mother 78%, father 77%), but was also given by grandparents (20%), older siblings (20%), uncles (19%), caregivers (16%), teachers (12%), domestic workers (9%), and the school principal (8%). When asked how they feel when they are punished, the most frequent responses were sadness (79.2%), pain (56.7%), fear (42.6%), guilt (39.8%) and

loneliness (37.1%). The large majority of children viewed corporal punishment negatively, with almost two out of five children saying it is very bad and almost a third saying that people should not be punished in this way.

(Paniamor Foundation/Save the Children Sweden, 2004, “National Survey of Children and Adolescents on Physical Punishment”, part of project “Prevenccion de la Violencia desde la Familia y la Adolescencia”, presented at Costa Rica, March 2004)

COTE D’IVOIRE

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 91% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (39%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 91% of children. More than one child in five experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 88% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 nearly two thirds (65%) of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

CROATIA

In research into the prevalence of various forms of family violence experienced by 1146 university students, published in 2003, 93.4% reported experiencing physical abuse (from slapping to heavy beating) before the age of 18 years, with 27.2% reporting physical injury (from bruises to fractures). The same questionnaire given to 698 primary and secondary school pupils found that up to 86% reported experiencing physical abuse with injuries in up to 32% of cases.

(Pecnik, N., 2003, *Intergenerational transmission of child abuse* (in Croatian), Slap: Jastrebarsko)

Research into the experiences of 310 high school students in 10 schools, carried out in 2001, found that 59% had experienced occasional slapping or hitting before the age of 14, and 16% had occasionally been spanked or beaten. For 5% of respondents, slapping or hitting was experienced frequently, and 3% experienced frequent spanking and beating.

(Fabijanić, S., Flander, G. B. & Karlović, A., 2002, *Epidemiological study on the prevalence of the child abuse experience among high school students of Sisačko-Moslavačka Županija*, Zagreb: Centre for Child Protection)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Studies carried out in 1994 and 2004 showed a high prevalence of corporal punishment by parents. 1,000 ten-year-olds were questioned in each study. In 1994, 90% of them had experienced some kind of corporal punishment at home; in 2004, 86% had. In 1994, a third of the children had been hit with an object, hit on a sensitive part of their body, or hit in a way that left visible marks. In 2004, a quarter of children had experienced this.

(Reported by Child Abuse and Neglect in Eastern Europe, 24 May 2007, www.canee.net/czech_republic/study_eighty_six_percent_of_czech_children_have_experienced_corporal_punishment_at_home)

A 2006 public opinion poll by Median agency for the daily *Mladá fronta Dnes* found that 25% of the 636 respondents supported the use of corporal punishment in schools, more commonly among respondents aged 45-50 years than among those with school aged children.

(Reported in *The Prague Post*, 20 June 2007)

D

Note: No prevalence research identified for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Denmark.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 74% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 83% had been beaten, 25% kicked, 48% denied food, 7% choked or burned and 29% forced to do hard work. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 76% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

DJIBOUTI

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 72% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Two thirds experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (31%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 83% of children. More than one child in five experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 57% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). The prevalence of violent discipline rose with age, with 75% of children aged 10-14 experiencing it compared to 66% of children aged 2-4. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 75% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 62% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) were found according to sex, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

Interviews with 1,669 children aged 9 – 14 in 19 schools revealed that school corporal punishment is widespread. 27.6% of the children said they had been hit with an object such as a ruler, stick or “tuyau” (a PVC pipe), 19.5% had been forced to kneel in front of the class or outside as a punishment and 14.1% had been pinched or had their hair or ears pulled. The study also examined the academic achievement of students, and concluded that the schools with the best results are those in which least corporal punishment is used, and that the students in these schools feel most secure.

(Debarbieux, E., 2006, “Pourquoi pas un bonne fessée? Une recherche sur le châtimeur corporel à l'école”, *SPIRALE - Revue de Recherches en Éducation*, 37, pp.83-95, available at spirale-edu-revue.fr/IMG/pdf/8_Debarbieux_Spirale_37.pdf (in French))

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, 83% of children aged 2-14 experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression in 2005-2006: 45% experienced physical punishment and psychological aggression, 27% experienced psychological aggression only and 12% experienced physical punishment only. In total, 57% of children experienced physical punishment, while only 9% of mothers and caregivers believe that physical punishment is necessary in childrearing. Of girls and women aged 15-49, 9% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Note: No prevalence research identified for El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Ecuador.

EGYPT

A large scale comparative study (World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE)) which involved surveys with over 14,000 mothers of children aged under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, examined parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States. In Egypt, 81% of children experienced “moderate” physical discipline (including being “spanked” on the buttocks, hit with an object, slapped on the face and having hot pepper put in their mouth). Over one quarter of children (28%) experienced harsh physical discipline (including being burnt, beaten up, kicked and smothered). Nearly two thirds of children (64%) experienced harsh psychological discipline such as being called names, being cursed and being threatened with abandonment. “Moderate” psychological discipline, including being yelled or screamed at or being refused food was experienced by 77% of children. Non-violent discipline, including explaining why a behaviour was wrong and telling a child to stop, was also widely used (experienced by 86% of children). The study found that rates of harsh physical discipline were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical abuse in any country, and that rates of physical punishment can vary widely among communities within the same country.

(Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*, published online 2 August 2010, www.pediatrics.org)

According to statistics from UNICEF, 92% of children aged 2-14 experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression in 2005-2006: 68% experienced physical punishment and psychological aggression, 22% experienced psychological aggression only and 2% experienced physical punishment only; 40% were hit on the face, head or ears, hit repeatedly or hit hard. Of girls and women aged 15-49, 50% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

ERITREA

According to UN statistics, in 2002 significant proportions of women believed that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons: 29% for burning the food, 45% for arguing with him, 52% for going out without telling him, 51% for neglecting the children and 48% for refusing to have sex.

(United Nations, 2010, *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

ESTONIA

Surveys were conducted following “Stop Child Spanking” media campaigns in 1995, 1997 and 2000, which aimed to change public opinion on spanking children. In 2000, the research company EMOR questioned 505 adults and found that the campaign was noticed by 79% of respondents (compared with 67% in 1995). In 1995 and 2000, just over four out of ten respondents continued to support the use of corporal punishment (42% and 41% respectively); the percentage of those opposing corporal punishment appeared to fall, from 58% in 1995 to 55% in 2000.

(Reported in Government response to UN Study on Violence Against Children Questionnaire, 2005)

ETHIOPIA

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Ethiopia, 68% of the sample had experienced at least one type of physical violence during their childhood. Over 50% of respondents had been hit, punched, kicked or beaten and over 25% had been denied food. The most common perpetrators of physical violence were mothers (12.5%), fathers (12.1%) and other relatives (15%). Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

A 2010 study into child care institutions in Ethiopia studied 87 institutions through visits, document reviews, interviews and focus groups with institution staff, parents of children living in institutions and former residents. The study found that children in institutions were frequently subjected to physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and exploitation. In focus group discussions, foster care was also discussed. Participants stated that children in foster care, too, often experienced violence at the hands of their caregivers, and that foster children were treated as “second-class citizens”. The report does not examine the extent to which the violence was inflicted in the context of “discipline”.

(FHI, 2010, *Improving Care Options for Children in Ethiopia through Understanding Institutional Child Care and Factors Driving Institutionalization*)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 81% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A study in 116 schools in various areas of Ethiopia which looked at violence against girls in schools found that 34% of students but only 25% of teachers stated that girls experience corporal punishment in schools.

(Save the Children Denmark, 2008, *A study on violence against girls in primary schools and its impacts on girls' education in Ethiopia*, Addis Ababa, www.ungei.org/resources/files/Study_on_Violence_Against_Schoolgfiles_final.pdf)

A survey of 485 young women in Ethiopia aged 18-24 concerning their childhood experiences of violence, undertaken by the Africa Child Policy Forum and published in 2006, found that 84% had suffered one or more types of violence. Beating with an object was found to be the most prevalent form of physical violence (71.1%). Prevalence figures for other forms of physical abuse were 59.5% for punching, 43.3% kicking, 28.6% being forced to carry out hard work, 12.4% being choked/burned/stabbed, 10.9% having spicy/bitter food put into mouth, 9.7% being locked up, and 8.3% being denied food. Girls were found to be most vulnerable to beating with an object when aged 10-13 years (59.4%) and to being hit/punched when aged 14-17 years (58.4%). Experiencing the violence more than ten times was more likely in the case of beating than other types of physical violence except for hard work. Most beating with an object and hitting/punching was carried out by mothers (45.2% and 27.2% respectively), followed by fathers (39.1% and 21.5%) and brothers (23.9% and 24%). In 55.5% of cases, the hitting/punching resulted in "bruises or scratches, broken bones or teeth, or bleeding"; the corresponding figure for beating with an object was 32.2%. The most frequent reasons given to the girls by the perpetrators of the violence were reported as doing something wrong, disrupting the home/class, going out without permission or coming in late, failing to complete an assignment, refusing to accept a proposal for love or sex, giving a confrontational reply, and going out with men.

(Stavropoulos, J., 2006, *Violence Against Girls in Africa: A Retrospective Survey in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda*, Addis Ababa, The African Child Policy Forum)

In a study in which 1,223 children from five regions were interviewed, only 17 children (1.4%) stated that they had never experienced corporal punishment in the home.

(African Child Policy Forum on Violence Against Children & Save the Children Sweden, 2005, *Report on Violence against Children*, cited in Government response to UN Study on Violence Against Children Questionnaire, 2005)

F

Note: No prevalence research identified for Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Faroe Islands, French Guiana, French Polynesia.

FIJI

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seventy-two per cent of children aged 2-14 years old experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression).

(UNICEF, 2011, *The State of the World's Children*, Table 9: Child Protection, www.unicef.org/sowc, NY: UNICEF)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Fiji involved 536 children (244 boys, 292 girls) aged 10-17 years from urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and 101 adults (49 men and 52 women, teachers in the schools and members of four community settlements in the Central Division). The research team led 51 sessions with the children, boys and girls separately, and two age groups – 10-13 years and 14-17 years. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Most punishment experienced by children were direct assaults, more frequently for younger children, including being beaten, hit, slapped or lashed, smacked, whacked, given a hiding, spanked, punched, “donged” (on the head) and pinched. Nine out of ten boys aged 10-13 years and almost eight out of ten aged 14-17 years reported the use of physical punishments; 71% of girls in both age groups reported this. More punishment was administered by immediate family members (parents 48%) than by teachers (45%); for all girls and younger boys, most punishments were experienced in the home; for older boys the majority of punishment happened at school. Reasons for the punishment included disobedience, unsatisfactory academic performance and misbehaviour. In response to the statement “After I punish a child I feel unhappy”, 38% of adults disagreed, 57% agreed, and 5% had no opinion.

(Save the Children, 2006, *The Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in Fiji: A research report*, Suva, Save the Children Fiji. See also Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific*, 2005, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

Interviews with parents and teachers conducted for Pacific Children’s Program by a team from the University of South Pacific found that corporal punishment of children is administered by parents, guardians and elders and takes many forms, including beating or using a belt or rod; hitting and punching the head with the hand or an object; inserting fingers down a child’s mouth until the child gags; tying a child up in a sack and hanging from a tree; and whipping with a stick or rope.

(Vakoati, P. & Finekaso, G., 2002, *Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices: Fiji Report*, University of South Pacific, Report prepared for International Development Support Services, Pacific Children’s Program)

FINLAND

A study on violence experienced by Finnish children examined the prevalence of corporal punishment in 1988 and 2008. The study, published by the Police College of Finland, involved over 13,000 children aged 12-15. In 1988, around a quarter of the children had been smacked before age 14, and around a third had been whipped. In 2008, around 10% had experienced these types of punishment. There had been a clear reduction in all forms of corporal punishment and other parental violence against children in the past twenty years, with the most significant reduction in the the “relatively mild forms of violence previously considered socially acceptable types of corporal punishment” (p. 160).

(Ellonen, N., Kääriäinen, J. Salmi, V. & Sariola, H., 2008, *Lasten ja nuorten väkivaltakokemukset. Tutkimus peruskoulun 6. - 9. luokan oppilaiden kokemasta väkivallasta*, Poliisiammattikorkeakoulun Raportteja 71/2008)

A nationwide survey of 1,000 people aged 15 to 79, commissioned by the Central Union of Child Welfare and conducted by the research company Taloustutkimus, found that one in four considers physical discipline of children to be acceptable at least in exceptional situations, representing an improvement from approval of corporal punishment by one in three in 2004. But the study found a high prevalence of corporal punishment, with 73% of women and 68% of men reporting that they had sometimes used physical punishment.

(Reported in *Helsingin Sanomat*, International Edition, 28 September 2007)

FRANCE

A study carried out in 2007 examined five European countries: Sweden, Austria, Germany, France and Spain. Five thousand parents (1,000 in each nation) were interviewed about their use of and attitude towards corporal punishment, their own experiences of violence and their knowledge and beliefs about the law. 72% of French parents said they had “mildly” slapped their child on the face and 87% had slapped their child on the bottom. 32% had given their child a “resounding” slap on the face and 4.5% had beaten their child with an object. 7.9% of French parents never used corporal punishment. 85% agreed that “one should try to use as little corporal punishment as possible” and 825% agreed that “non-violent child-rearing is the ideal”.

(Bussmann, K. D., 2009, *The Effect of Banning Corporal Punishment in Europe: A Five-Nation Comparison*, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

A survey by the Union of Families in Europe (UFE) of 2,000 grandparents, parents and children found that 95% of adults and 96% of children have been smacked. 84% of grandparents and 87% of parents have administered corporal punishment. One in ten parents admitted to punishing their children with a “martinet” (a small whip); 30% of children said they had been punished with a martinet. When asked the reason for smacking their children, parents said it was part of “bringing up” their children (77%), it was to “relieve their feelings” (7%) or both of these things. When asked how they planned to discipline their own children when they become parents, 64 per cent of French children responded “the same”. 61% of grandparents and 53% of parents said that they oppose a ban on corporal punishment of children.

(Reported in *The Scotsman*, 8 December 2007)

A survey of 1,000 people, carried out in 1999 by SOFRES for the organisation “Eduquer sans frapper”, found that over half (51%) of respondents who had children hit them often, a third hit them rarely, and only 16% had never hit them. Mothers were more likely to report hitting their children than fathers. Almost a half of those questioned (45%) believed that corporal punishment has a negative effect on children’s development.

(Reported in correspondence with the Global Initiative, January 2004)

A questionnaire survey by Olivier Maurel completed by 130 secondary school pupils in Toulon in 2001 found that fewer than one in ten had never been hit; 72 pupils reported having been hit moderately, 19 violently.

(Reported in correspondence with the Global Initiative, January 2004)

G

Note: No prevalence research identified for Gabon, Gibraltar, Greenland, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guam, Guernsey. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Greece, Guatemala.

GAMBIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 87% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (32%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. Nearly a quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 77% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than younger children: 88% of children aged 5-9 compared to 83% of children aged 2-4. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 88% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 75% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline slightly more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 93% compared to 89%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 nearly three quarters of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In a study involving questionnaires with 878 children, 265 teachers and 426 parents, children reported that corporal punishment is used in 70% of schools. Sixty-eight per cent of students were beaten at school "sometimes", 8% "often", 11% "very often" and 13% "rarely". Students were beaten with belts, canes and rulers. At home, 55% of children reported that parents or guardians beat them "sometimes",

22% “rarely”, 8% “often” and 14% “very often”. Children were beaten on the back, buttocks, head, face and all over their bodies. Girls were more likely to be beaten on the face - 62% of children beaten on the face were girls – while boys were more likely to be beaten on the buttocks – 61% of children beaten on the buttocks were boys. Younger children were more likely to be beaten on the face, with 18% of children aged 7 and under beaten on the face compared to 10% of 8-12 year olds, 6% of 13-15 year olds and 5% of 16-19 year olds. Nearly half (47%) of children had been injured by a punishment: of these, 31% were bruised, 17% cut, 25% suffered internal bleeding, 12% lost a tooth and 10% had an arm dislocated or fractured. Four children in ten had at some time decided not to go to school for fear of being beaten or punished by a teacher and 47% of children know of another child who left school because of corporal punishment or fear of a teacher. Seven children in ten believed that corporal punishment makes children fear their teachers or parents instead of respecting them. Half of children said that if they became teachers, they would not beat their students. Children who had been beaten by teachers were much more likely to say that they would beat their students than children who had not been beaten (38% compared to 7%). Similarly, more children who were beaten by parents or guardians at home said that they would beat their children when they grew up than those who were not beaten at home (61% compared to 37%). Nearly three quarters (73%) of teachers reported beating students “rarely”, 17% “often” and 9% “very often”. Corporal punishment was more likely to be used in schools for younger children: 80% of kindergarten teachers reported using corporal punishment, compared to 27% of senior secondary school teachers. Almost all teachers (97%) were beaten when they were students; however, 71% of those who were not beaten said that they would in turn not beat their students, while 59% of teachers who were beaten would beat their students. Forty-five per cent of teachers believed that corporal punishment can negatively impact on a child’s ability to learn and concentrate in class, and 71% of teachers reported feeling bad or very bad after using corporal punishment. Of parents, 83% reported that corporal punishment was used in their families, and 92% had experienced it themselves as children. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment.

(Tang, J., 2005, *Beating the Misconceptions, Not the Children*, The Gambia: The Child Protection Alliance)

GEORGIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 67% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Half experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (13%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 77% of children. One fifth of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 59% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 70% compared to 63%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 73% of children aged 5-9 compared to 69% of children aged 2-4 and 61% of children aged 10-14. Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 75% compared to 65%. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to household size or level of education of adults in the household.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seventeen per cent of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared to 25% of non-disabled children. Seven per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GERMANY

A study carried out in 2007 examined five European countries: Sweden, Austria, Germany, France and Spain. Five thousand parents (1,000 in each nation) were interviewed about their use of and attitude towards corporal punishment, their own experiences of violence and their knowledge and beliefs about the law. 43% of German parents said they had “mildly” slapped their child on the face and 68% had slapped their child on the bottom. 13% had given their child a “resounding” slap on the face and 5.2% had beaten their child with an object. 28% of German parents never used corporal punishment. 88% agreed that “one should try to use as little corporal punishment as possible” and 87% agreed that “non-violent child-rearing is the ideal”.

(Bussmann, K. D., 2009, *The Effect of Banning Corporal Punishment in Europe: A Five-Nation Comparison*, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

Government research was undertaken in 2001 and published in 2003 into the reception and initial impact of the prohibition of corporal punishment in childrearing, in force since November 2000. Interviews were held nationwide with 3,000 parents of children below 18 years and 2,000 young people aged 12-18 years. Surveys were also done in 1,074 government and non-governmental institutions, with 30 representatives of relevant institutions interviewed in depth. The research found that around 28% of parents rarely resorted to disciplinary sanctions and “as far as possible” did not use corporal punishment; 54% frequently used “minor” but never “serious” corporal punishment and a further 17% frequently used “serious” corporal punishment, including beatings and spankings, as well as psychological punishments. Boys were more commonly hit than girls, and more commonly experienced “serious” corporal punishment. Based on parents’ and young people’s reports, in comparison with previous studies there had been a decrease in corporal punishment at all degrees of severity. For example, in 1996 a third of parents (33.2%) reported they had hit their child’s bottom, compared with just over a quarter (26.4%) in 2001. In 1992, 30% of young people (aged over 11) reported that they had been “thrashed,” while in 2002, 3% of young people reported this. In families where violence was used in childrearing, more severe corporal punishment had declined significantly. For example, in 1992, 98.9% of young people from families who used violence reported that they had been beaten to the point of bruising; by 2002, this had declined to 26.1%. 87% of parents surveyed in 2001 considered that a non-violent upbringing was ideal, and over 80% of parents and 90% of young people thought that parents should talk to their children instead of using corporal punishment. 74% of parents agreed that “Striking any other person is a criminal offence; there is no reason why corporal punishment of a child should be treated differently”. The study also discussed awareness of the new law among professionals, parents and children and how this could be increased.

(Federal Ministry of Justice & Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, 2003, *Violence in upbringing: An assessment after the introduction of the right to a non-violent upbringing* www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/pdfs/Germany%20research.pdf; see also an analysis of the results of this study in Bussmann, K. D., 2004, "Evaluating the subtle impact of a ban on corporal punishment on children in Germany", *Child Abuse Review*, 13: 292–311)

GHANA

A survey carried out by Action Aid in collaboration with Songtaba in 2009 found that seven boys in eight thought that corporal punishment, such as being caned, having their ears pulled or forced to kneel, weed or dig pits, was necessary, while more than a quarter of the girls interviewed said they would absent themselves from school because of the fear of punishment.

(Reported in *Modern Ghana*, 6 September 2011, www.modernghana.com)

A survey of 2,314 parents, students and graduates carried out by the Campaign for Female Education found that 94% of parents, 92% of students and 89% of female graduates supported corporal punishment in schools and 64% of teachers said that it must be tolerated.

(Reported in *GhanaWeb*, 18 August 2011)

A government report involving 4,164 children found that 81% of children experienced corporal punishment in the home and that at school, caning was the main punishment, experienced by 71% of children.

(Reported in "Eighty-nine percent of children believe in correction when at fault - IRAD Report", *Business Ghana*, 1 Feb 2011)

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 90% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Seven children in ten experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (46%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 88% of children. One child in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 84% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

Investigations into care institutions and schools in Ghana revealed that corporal punishment of children was widely used by caregivers and teachers. Types of corporal punishment included caning, kicking and slapping. As a result of corporal punishment, some children had developed fear and dislike for their caregivers, with many others playing truant to escape corporal punishment at school.

(Reported in "Scarred With Whips: The agony of Osu Children's Home inmates", *MyJoyOnline*, 10 Sept 2010, www.myjoyonline.com)

A study on children's perceptions of physical punishment which used interviews, diaries and a questionnaire found a high prevalence of physical punishment. Of the 158 children in private schools who completed a questionnaire, 61.4% experienced some physical punishment at the hands of parents or primary caregivers, with 30.4% experiencing only physical methods of punishment at home. Seven in ten (70.9%) of survey respondents said that school was the place in which they were most likely to be physically punished. Caning was the most common method of physical punishment at home and at school.

(Twum-Danso, A., 2010, *Children's Perceptions of Physical Punishment in Ghana*, Nuffield Foundation)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 15% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 8% of non-disabled children. Forty-seven per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GUINEA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 86% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GUINEA-BISSAU

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 82% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (25%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 93% of children. Three children in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 68% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 85% of children aged 5-9 compared to 76% of children aged 2-4 and 83% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 83% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 70% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 more than half (52%) of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

GUYANA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 76% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly two thirds experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (27%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 87% of children. One child in six experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 67% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 80% compared to 75%. Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 79% of children aged 5-9 compared to 78% of children aged 2-4 and 75% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 82% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 74% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 88% compared to 80%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to the level of education of adults in the household.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 eighteen per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Research carried out in 2008 by a group of individuals and organisations identified the views, needs and fears of children, parents and teachers, based on focus groups, questionnaires, interviews, and reviews of relevant research and political and non-political materials. It found, among other things, that while there was high support for school corporal punishment among parents (92%) and only 8% felt it should be abolished, almost one in four (23%) felt that children would be better behaved in class if corporal punishment was not used and 2% felt there would be no change in behaviour. Parents reported they would support prohibition if schools and teachers were properly resourced and trained in positive disciplinary methods. Few parents indicated that their opinions would be changed by media campaigns or celebrity endorsements.

(Smith, C. and Mbozi, J., 2008, *Removing Corporal Punishment from Schools: Integrating Partner Efforts*, Georgetown: Business Unlimited Consulting Services, www.hands.org.gy/files/Corporal%20Punishment%20Report%20-%202008.pdf)

In June 2007, the Minister of Education Shaik Baksh announced that the Ministry had conducted a survey on the use of corporal punishment in schools which found that 53% of schools use corporal punishment as a means of maintaining discipline and 47% do not. Phase two of this survey would focus on finding out what are the factors that lead to these schools not using corporal punishment, the performance of the students, the level of violence in the schools and other factors.

(Reported in *Stabroek News*, 8 June 2007)

An assessment of standards in the twenty residential care institutions in Guyana found that 55% of them allowed beating children as a punishment.

(Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, 2006, *Assessment of procedural and physical standards in children's residential care institutions in Guyana*)

In February 2005, government-commissioned research was published based on accounts of almost 4,000 children aged 3-17 years about their experiences of violence in home, schools and the wider community. Corporal punishment was the fourth most commonly mentioned type of abuse (45%), after fighting, killing/murder and beating/beat-up, and various types of corporal punishment were mentioned by just under half the groups in every area (43-50%). Of those interviewed (aged 7-17), 87% had received corporal punishment of some kind (licks, lashes, beating) at least once in the home and 81% had been beaten or hit with a belt, cane, whip or other object; children as young as 3 years reported being disciplined by their parents with an object. There was no difference relating to gender, ethnicity or geographical area. One third (33%) of children described physical punishments leading to injury (bleeding skin, broken bones, blacking out). Corporal punishment as most commonly reported as being inflicted by mothers. Over a quarter (27%) of children in the children's homes visited reported being physically hurt by a caregiver in the home, and a similar number reported being physically punished by staff at the New Opportunity Corps training school.

(Cabral, C. & Speek-Warnery, V., 2005, *Voices of Children: Experiences with Violence*, Georgetown: Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security/ Red Thread Women's Development Programme/ UNICEF-Guyana)

A campaign was launched in 2004 by the National Commission on the Rights of the Child in primary and secondary schools in Georgetown to find out children's views on corporal punishment. The survey found that 3,645 children in primary schools were in favour of corporal punishment, with 2,043 against it. In secondary schools, 932 children were in favour of corporal punishment compared with 1,335 against.

(Reported in "Culture of beating children goes deep – workshop on alternatives told", *Stabroek News*, 17 June 2004)

H

Note: No prevalence research identified for Hungary.

HAITI

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 29% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Research by Amnesty International found that despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools, it was commonly reported, including the use of whips, beatings with electric cables, and forcing children to kneel in the sun.

(Amnesty International, 2008, *Safe Schools: Every girl's right*)

In UNICEF's Voices of Children survey, 14% of children reported living in a family where there were scenes of violence and aggression. Four in ten (40%) said they were hit or beaten when they behaved badly, the figure even higher among rural children aged 9-13 years.

(Reported in Government response to UN Study on Violence Against Children Questionnaire, 2005)

HONDURAS

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 16% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

HONG KONG (China Special Administrative Region)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Hong Kong involved 72 children (36 boys, 36 girls) from urban areas and 51 adults. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Hong Kong included hitting. Of those who were hit, 86.7% were hit with an implement (57.8% with sticks etc, 28.9% with a whip, lash or belt). Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 13% reported being hit on the face, 45% on the limbs, 27% on the back, and 1% on the genitalia. In terms of the settings in which children experienced punishment, the research found that in the home 71% of children experienced physical punishment, 29% emotional punishment, while in school 54% experienced physical punishment and 46% emotional. In response to the statement "After I punish a child I feel unhappy", 100% agreed.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific*, 2005, Stockholm: Save the Children Sweden)

In 2006, the results of the first household survey on domestic violence were reported, commissioned by Hong Kong Social Welfare Department. The survey was carried out by the University of Hong Kong and involved interviews with 5,049 adults and 2,062 children aged 12-17 years. About 44% of

the parents admitted having administered corporal punishment and physical violence on their children. Of these, 32% said they had used violence on their children at least once during the past 12 months.

(Reported in “Hong Kong University Calls to Ban Corporal Punishment”, *CRIENGLISH.com*, 2 March 2006; “Group seeks to outlaw corporal punishment”, *The Standard*, 2 March 2006)

In 2003, the Hong Kong Christian Service conducted an interview survey of 2,956 parents of adolescents from 17 secondary schools concerning their feelings when disciplining their children. Around 10% said they would resort to corporal punishment “frequently” or “periodically”.

(Hong Kong Christian Service, 2003, “Survey on parenting”, *Christian Service News*, vol. 41, October, cited in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General’s Global Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

A questionnaire survey of 489 secondary school students found that 4.5% reported having received corporal punishment from family members during the previous 6 months, 10.9% reported having been beaten for no reason by family members during that time, and 10.4% reported that they had ever been beaten to the point of injury by family members.

(Lau, J.T.F., Chan, K.K., Lam, P.K.W., Choi, P.Y.W. & Lai, K.Y.C., 2003, “Psychological correlates of physical abuse in Hong Kong Chinese adolescents”, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 27, pp.63-75)

I

Note: No prevalence research identified for Iceland, Iran, Isle of Man.

INDIA

A 2011 report on gender equality which involved 6,011 respondents aged 10-35 found that physical, verbal and emotional violence, including in the name of “discipline”, was common in homes and schools, and that mothers and fathers were the main perpetrators of violence.

(Plan India, 2011, *Engaging Men and Boys towards Gender Equality: The State of the Girl Child in India 2011*)

A large scale comparative study (World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE)) which involved surveys with over 14,000 mothers of children aged under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, examined parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States. In India, the rate of “moderate” physical discipline (including “spanking” a child’s buttocks, hitting a child with an object, slapping a child’s face and putting hot pepper in a child’s mouth) ranged from 63% in urban and rural communities in Vellore to 89% in a rural community in Bhopal. The rate of harsh physical discipline (including burning, beating up, kicking and smothering a child) ranged from 2.7% in a non-slum community in Delhi to 39% in a rural community in Bhopal. The rate of harsh psychological discipline such as calling children names, cursing them and threatening to abandon them or kick them out ranged from 40% in a non-slum community in Chennai to 81% in a

rural community in Lucknow. “Moderate” psychological discipline, including yelling or screaming at children, refusing to speak to them or withholding food was experienced by between 76% of children (in a rural community in Vellore) and 96% of children (in an urban slum community in Nagpur). Non-violent discipline, including explaining why a behaviour was wrong and telling a child to stop, was also widely used (89-99%). The study found that rates of harsh physical discipline were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical abuse in any country, and that rates of physical punishment can vary widely among communities within the same country.

(Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*, published online 2 August 2010, www.pediatrics.org)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 54% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In February 2008 the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights published a report on the state of penal institutions for children in conflict with the law, based on a detailed study of juvenile care centres (“juvenile homes”) across the country. Physical punishment was found to be a dominant disciplinary method in 70% of the centres.

(Reported in *BigNewsNetwork.com*, 18 February 2008)

In 2007, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, published the first nationwide study on child abuse in India, based on the experiences of 12,447 children aged 5-18 years from across 13 states and also involving 2,324 young adults (aged 18-24) and 2,449 stakeholders (adults holding positions in government departments, private service and urban and rural local bodies, and individuals from the community). The study revealed a high prevalence of corporal punishment of children in all the settings – their family homes, schools, institutions and on the streets. Of the total number of children, 69% reported physical abuse, including corporal punishment, in one or more situations, more commonly (54.68%) boys and young children (48.29%). In the 5-12 age group, nearly three out of four (72.2)% reported physical abuse in one or more situations, in the 13-14 year age group 70.61%, and among 15-18 year olds 62.13%. Of children abused within the family, in the majority of cases the perpetrators were parents (reported by 88.6% of respondents – 50.9% mothers, 37.6% fathers). The second most commonly reported perpetrators were teachers (44.8%), followed by employers (12.39%), caregivers (9.45%), NGO workers (4.78%) and others. The difference between boys and girls was marginal, but age was significant, with young children aged 5-12 the most vulnerable and the risk declining for children aged 13-14 and again for adolescents aged 15-18. The most commonly reported punishment was being slapped and kicked (63.67%), followed by being beaten with a stave or stick (31.31%), and being pushed, shaken, etc (5.02%). For many (15.6%) the hurt resulted in serious physical injury, swelling or bleeding. When stakeholders were asked for their views on physical/corporal punishment, over 44.54% felt it was necessary in disciplining children; 25.45% disagreed with its necessity; 30.01% expressed no opinion. When asked about most suitable form of punishment for discipline, 35.24% said scolding or shouting, 11.31% slapping or beating with a stick, almost 11% felt locking a child in a room or denying food was suitable punishment.

As part of the Supporting Positive Alternatives in Raising Kindness in Education (SPARKE) project, questionnaires with teachers, parents and 201 students aged 8-18 were carried out before and after a project which aimed to promote the use of positive discipline in five schools in northern India. Before the project, 78.9% of boys and 40.7% of girls aged 8-11, 74.1% of boys and 54.3% of girls aged 12-15 and 80% of boys and 65.2% of girls aged 16-18 had experienced corporal punishment in the past year. More than eight teachers in ten (83.33%) had used corporal punishment, 43.52% “occasionally”, 33.33% a few times a month and 6.48% at least once a week. Types of corporal punishment included forcing children to stay in uncomfortable or painful positions or do physical exercise, twisting children’s ears, slapping, pinching, caning and kicking children. Students also experienced verbal punishments, such as being ridiculed or insulted. Before the project, 72.28% of teachers wanted to find alternatives to corporal punishment and 87.74% thought that teaching staff needed training in alternative disciplining methods. Nearly seven in ten teachers (68.32%) and 44-87% of students said they would like to be part of a group in their school working against corporal punishment. After the project, 33.33% of boys and 10.34% of girls aged 8-11, 52.24% of boys and 34.69% of girls aged 12-15 and 48.15% of boys and 25.93% of girls aged 16-18 had experienced corporal punishment in the past ten months. Before the project, between 39% and 69% of students thought that corporal punishment should be used in school. After the project, 13%-39% thought that corporal punishment should be used in school, with 52-80% thinking it should not be used, and 73-84% saying they would like their teachers to use positive discipline methods instead of corporal punishment.

(Cedar Woods Consulting Group for SOIR-IM, 2007, *Supporting Positive Alternatives in Raising Kindness in Education: The SPARKE Research Report*)

A survey in 2004 of 1,500 adolescents in ten government schools of Chandigarh, carried out by the Advanced Pediatric Center, PGI found that the prevalence rate of corporal punishment was 22%.

(Reported in *Chandigarh Newslines*, 21 June 2007)

A 2004 study by the NGO Aapanach found that, of 350 children surveyed from public, private, and municipal schools, over 75% said that they received punishment at school, and nearly 60% said the most frequent form of punishment was caning or hitting with a ruler. It was common for the whole class to be punished (66%). A third (33%) reported cases of severe injury due to punishment.

(Reported in *cities.expressindia.com*, 7 April 2007)

Research in urban schools in Andhra Pradesh in 2006 found that 59% of students said they had been hit on the palms of the hands with a cane by a teacher and 71% had witnessed this kind of punishment in school. Other kinds of corporal punishment experienced by children included forcing them to kneel in uncomfortable positions, slapping or spanking and beating on the knuckles. 45% of students said that they had witnessed corporal punishment which caused swelling and 22% had seen it cause bleeding. 13% had witnessed corporal punishment which necessitated a visit to a doctor. Only 25% of students who experienced corporal punishment at school chose to tell their parents about it. 23% of those who did not tell their parents said that this was because their parents would beat them too.

Children from lower income groups were more likely to experience corporal punishment. The research involved nearly 600 children and over 300 adults, including teachers and parents, through interviews and group discussions.

(Devi Prasad, B., 2006, *Spare the Rod and Save the Child: A Study of the Corporal punishment in urban schools of Andhra Pradesh*, Child Rights Advocacy Foundation-Vijayawada, www.endcorporalpunishment.org/children/countries/india/india-research.html)

A large scale research study conducted in May 2006 by Saath Charitable Trust and supported by Plan International (India) looked at children's experiences of corporal punishment in schools and in the home in one district in each of four states – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The research involved 1,591 children mostly from 41 schools as well as members of various children's organisations. Parents, teachers (215) community members, government officials and other adults were also consulted. The main methods used were interviews, focus group discussions, and role play and classroom observation. The study found corporal punishment to be an accepted way of life in all the schools and communities visited. The most common forms of punishments were hitting with hands and stick, pulling hair and ears, and telling children to stand for long period in various positions. Threats of physical violence were also common. Severe forms of corporal punishment were also encountered, including being severely kicked, starvation, tying with rope to chairs/poles followed by beatings, and being assigned physically strenuous labour (e.g. in the fields). In all schools, there would be at least five beatings every day, in addition to other more moderate forms of punishment, though the punishments were less severe than those experienced in the home. Punishment in the home was inflicted by mothers and fathers on both girls and boys with equal severity, more frequently for boys.

(Saath Charitable Trust/Plan International, India, 2006, *Impact of Corporal Punishment on School Children: A Research Study – Final Report*)

INDONESIA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 25% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

The first comprehensive research into the quality of care in childcare institutions in Indonesia, jointly conducted by the Social Services Ministry, Save the Children and UNICEF, found that many children face corporal punishment in childcare institutions. *Someone that Matters: The Quality of Care in Childcare Institutions in Indonesia* is based on a survey of 36 childcare institutions in six provinces plus a government owned orphanage. Most of the institutions are run privately by religious organisations. The research found that physical and psychological punishment was widespread in the childcare institutions studied, and was often routine and accepted as a part of daily life by both children and staff. Pinching childrens' stomachs and caning them were the most common forms of punishment. Shaving of heads and throwing dirty water on children were also common for repeat "offenders".

(Martin, F. and Sudjarat, T., 2007, *Someone That Matters: The Quality of Care in Childcare Institutions in Indonesia*, Jakarta: Save the Children, UNICEF and DEPSOS RI, www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/someone-that-matters.pdf)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Indonesia involved 813 children from urban, rural and remote areas, and 16 adults. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Indonesia included being hit with implements, kicking, slapping, ear twisting, hair pulling, pinching, throwing object. Of those who were hit, 32.4% were hit with an implement, 23.6% slapped with the hand, 23.6% punched with the fist, and 20.4% kicked. Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 73% reported being hit on the head and neck, 75% on the limbs, 10% on the back, 15% chest and 15% stomach.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

Save the Children UK carried out research in schools in North Maluku, surveying 541 children in two sub districts as part of a project developing non violent forms of classroom management. Children completed survey forms as follow up to classroom discussions on discipline. Nearly one quarter of the children reported having been hit by the teacher on their legs, hands, ears, cheeks and buttocks, once or more than once, the teachers using their hands, or a stick, ruler or bamboo swathe.

(Save the Children UK, Indonesia, 2004, "Violence in schools: report on a survey conducted by the Save the Children Education Programme in North Maluku", unpublished, cited in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

IRAQ

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 85% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (23%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 95% of children. Three children in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 82% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 87% compared to 83%. Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 88% of children aged 5-9 compared to 86% of children aged 2-4 and 83% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 86% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 75% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 90% compared

to 86%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006, thirty per cent of children with disabilities were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 31% of non-disabled children. Of girls and women aged 15-49, 59% thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2008 analysis of the situation of children's rights in Iraq involved around 750 children and their families in nine areas of the country, through questionnaires and focus groups. The study found a high level of family violence, especially for girls. Corporal punishment in schools was found to be common – for example, 48% of teachers in the South Region of the country said that they had used physical violence to discipline children. In the Central Region, 83% of children's drawings showed negative images of life in school, at home and in neighbourhoods, with many mentions of violence. Adults were asked who children could turn to for support if they were victims of violence. In the Central Region the police, political parties and CSOs were mentioned. Tribal and religious leaders were mentioned in both the Central and South Regions, but family members and teachers were not mentioned in either region. In the North, around 30% of adults believed children could approach their families for help if they experienced violence in school.

(Save the Children UK, 2008, *Iraq: A Child Rights Situation Analysis*)

IRELAND

A government-commissioned survey involving 1353 adults aged 21-69, all parents of children aged under 18, found that only 34% of parents believe that "smacking" should remain legal, while 42% believe it should become illegal. In addition, 24% thought that "smacking" should be illegal for children of certain ages. 64.5% of parents agreed that "smacking is not necessary to bring up a well-behaved child" and 30% agreed that "smacking is wrong and should never be used". 43% of parents agreed that smacking can damage the relationship between parents and children. The majority of parents (80%) reported feeling guilty or sorry after the last time they had smacked their child. Only 5.5% of parents said they felt "better" after smacking. Three quarters of the parents who took part in the survey indicated that they had not used any physical punishment in the past year. Non-aggressive discipline strategies were used by parents much more frequently than physically or psychologically aggressive strategies. "Discussing the issue calmly" was the most frequently adopted strategy; 80% of parents did this often, and 99% had done it at some point during the past year. However, a quarter of parents had used some form of physical punishment in the past year. 15.8% of parents reported that they had smacked their child on the bottom at some point during the past year, with 7.4% having done so "often" or "occasionally". 7.3% had shaken, grabbed or pushed their child; 2.7% had done so often or occasionally. Parents of younger children were significantly more likely to report using physical

punishment than parents of older children, with 37% of parents of 2-4 year olds sometimes using physical punishment.

(Halpenny, A. M., Nixon, E. & Watson, D., 2010, *Parenting Styles and Discipline: Parents' Perspectives on Parenting Styles and Disciplining Children*. Dublin: The Stationery Office/Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, available at omc.gov.ie/documents/publications/Parents_Perspectives_on_parenting_styles.pdf)

The report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, established in 2000 to investigate abuse of children in industrial and reform schools between 1914 and 2000, was published in 2009. Industrial schools were for children who were poor, neglected or orphaned, while reform schools were for children guilty of offences. The Commission also examined children's homes (for children without parental care, generally smaller than industrial schools), foster homes, hospitals, facilities attended by disabled children and other forms of residential care. The Commission uncovered the routine use of severe and arbitrary corporal punishment. Punishments reported by witnesses included being beaten with wooden sticks and other implements, having their heads submerged underwater, being force fed, being lifted by the ears and hair, isolation and being burned. They reported being punished for no reason at all, as well as for "offences" such as running away, bed-wetting, not knowing lessons, having torn or worn clothes, talking, speech and writing difficulties, being left-handed and disclosing sexual abuse. They described an environment of pervasive fear of physical punishment.

(Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, 2009, *Commission Report*, www.childabusecommission.com/rpt)

ISRAEL

A survey published in 2003 assessed 107 physicians' attitudes towards corporal punishment and their reporting of child abuse. Corporal punishment was perceived as an acceptable disciplinary act by 58% of the physicians. 84% of the sample were native born Israelis or had been Israeli citizens for at least 20 years, while 16% were immigrants who had arrived from the former Soviet Federation in the past three years. There was found to be a significant difference between the attitudes of Israeli and immigrant physicians towards corporal punishment, with greater proportions of immigrants than Israelis finding corporal punishment acceptable in most cases. For example, 58.5% of immigrants believed it was acceptable for a parent to slap a child's face, compared to 14.4% of Israelis, and 68.7% of immigrants believed that smacking a child's bottom and leaving a red mark was acceptable, compared to 56.3% of Israelis.

(Tirosh E, Shechter S O, Cohenc A, Jaffe M, 2003, "Attitudes towards corporal punishment and reporting of abuse", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 27, no.8, pp. 929-937)

ITALY

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in Italy, 61% of girls and 66% of boys involved in the study had experienced "mild" corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 12% of girls and 23% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month.

Much smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 5% of mothers and 2% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 4% of mothers and fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, "Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender", *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

In a 2009 study, 63% of parents of children aged 3-5, 55% of parents of children aged 6-10 and 40% of parents of children aged 11-16 said that they had slapped their children. Over one third (34%) of 11-13 year olds and 24% of 14-16 year olds said that their parents had slapped them. Two per cent of 11-13 year olds and 1% of 14-16 year olds said that it happened almost every day. The study involved 1,000 telephone interviews with a representative sample of the Italian population and online interviews with 600 parents and 500 11-16 year olds. Parents and children were asked how children react when they are slapped, and why parents slap. Around 20% of parents, 14% of 11-13 year olds and 26% of 14-16 year olds said that children are angry, want revenge on their parents and will deliberately repeat the behaviour which led the parent to smack them. Around 30% of 11-16 year olds and 23% of parents of 11-16 year olds said that children are offended and will respect their parents less. Only 8-14% of parents and children thought that parents slap because they believe that it is the best thing to do, while around half of parents and children said that parents slap because of exasperation or fear. Seventeen per cent of parents of 11-16 year olds and around 13% of 11-16 year olds felt that it was "essential" that all corporal punishment be prohibited by law in Italy, while a further 26% of parents and 30-37% of young people said that a law prohibiting corporal punishment would be useful. Two thirds (67%) of parents of 11-16 year olds, 62% of parents of 6-10 year olds and 59% of parents of 3-5 year olds strongly agreed that it is not acceptable or legitimate to beat a child.

(Save the Children Italia ONLUS and Ipsos, 2009, *Vissuto della punizione corporale e reazioni all'ipotesi di un'educazione senza violenza* (in Italian), images.savethechildren.it/f/download/Educazione-senza-violenza/Ri/Ricerca.pdf)

Telephone interviews with 1,009 adults aged 14 and over in April 2004, revealed that 69% believe it is acceptable for parents to smack their children, including 7% who believe it is always acceptable and 62% who believe there are some circumstances in which it is acceptable. A quarter believe it is unacceptable in any circumstances.

(Market & Opinion Research International, 2004, "Attitudes towards smacking children: Italy", Research conducted for the Association for the Protection of All Children)

Data analysis of calls to Telefono Azzurro (a children's helpline) between January 2000 and June 2002 indicated that over 40% of abuse was physical and 78.6% of all child abuse takes place in the home, with children up to 10 years of age being most at risk.

(Analysis presented in the alternative report by Telefono Azzurro to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, February 2003)

An inspection by the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the penal institution for minors in Naples found that staff believed in and administered slaps to the child detainees, for their "educational function".

J

Note: No prevalence research identified for Jersey.

JAMAICA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 89% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Over three quarters experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (33%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 89% of children. Nine per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 77% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 92% of children aged 5-9 compared to 90% of children aged 2-4 and 86% of children aged 10-14. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. Children engaged in child labour experienced violent discipline more than those who were not engaged in child labour: 95% compared to 89%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex or household size.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2010 government sponsored attitudinal survey of 1,000 adults, carried out by Market Research Services Limited, revealed that the majority – regardless of socio-economic status – believe beating a child is necessary in correcting bad behaviour; 30% supported ending the beating of children. More than half (51.8%) did not agree that acts such as pinching, hitting the head, biting, kicking and thumping a child constituted corporal punishment. 51% said that they had physically punished a child. However, 80% of those surveyed agreed that parents could use other forms of discipline that are just as effective.

(Reported in *The Gleaner*, 17 February 2010, www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20100217/lead/lead4.html)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 six per cent of disabled children and six per cent of non-disabled children were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement. Six per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Focus group research with parents, children aged 5-8 years and practitioners in 2007 found that young children were still receiving corporal punishment despite the prohibition in the Early Childhood Act passed in 2005.

(Reported in *The Jamaica Observer*, 6 June 2007)

According to a study reported in *The Gleaner* in March 2007, in a survey of teachers from all types of primary educational settings, one in four admitted to flogging students often and one in three to pinching and thumping them. Boys were more likely to be flogged. Less than a quarter of teachers believed beating was effective, and almost half identified negative effects they had seen, including students becoming oppositional, aggressive, destructive towards school property, gathering peer support against teachers, and becoming “disconnected” from school activities.

(Reported in *Jamaica Gleaner Online*, 21 March 2007)

A survey conducted in July 2006 for *The Gleaner* found that 60% of respondents were in favour of spanking and caning in schools, with 28% feeling strongly that teachers should be given the right to physically punish students. Over a third (37%) opposed corporal punishment, including 13% who were strongly against it.

(Reported in “Jamaica Gleaner-Bill Johnson Poll – Majority support caning in schools”, *Jamaica Gleaner Online*, 19 August 2006)

203 parents (71.3% mothers, 6.4% fathers, and other caregivers) from across six parishes, of 100 boys and 103 girls aged between 5 and 7, completed questionnaires which were administered by trained interviewers, followed by an investigation into the frequency of use of specific disciplinary methods. Of the 193 parents who responded to questionnaires about the disciplinary methods they used in their homes, 28% reported that non-violent methods were most commonly used; 25.4% reported psychological aggression and 46.6% physical assault. Of those reporting physical assault, 1% reported pinching, 31.1% spanking, 13% beating with an object, 1% shaking, and 0.5% tying of hands. In the week prior to the interview, 1% reported spanking more than 7 times, 3.1% 4-6 times, and 27.4% 1-3 times. Beating with a strap was reported as occurring 1-3 times over the same period by 14.6% of respondents.

(Samms-Vaughan, M., Williams, S. & Brown, J., 2004, *Disciplinary Practices among parents of six-year-olds in Jamaica*, University of the West Indies)

Research was undertaken into the experiences of 1,720 children aged 11-12 (51.5% girls, 48.4% boys; 68.7% in primary schools, 32.3% in secondary schools) on conflict resolution measures between themselves and adults at home and school (the schools were in two urban parishes). Overall, 97.2% of children reported a lifetime experience of verbal aggression or violence resulting from conflict with adults in the home, with 82.3% reporting verbal aggression, 87.4% minor violence, and 84.8% severe violence. The preferred methods of resolving conflict between adults and children in the home were pushing, grabbing and slapping (86%) or beating with an object (84.2%). The main cause of conflict was reported as disobedience (reported by 73.5% of children). The mother was most frequently reported as responsible for administering discipline (73.7%, cf. fathers 30.5%, uncles and aunts 9.2%,

grandparents 7.6%, siblings 4.6% and step-parents 2.7%). With regard to conflict resolution between teachers and children, a total of 86.2% of children reported a lifetime prevalence of verbal aggression or physical violence, with verbal aggression reported by 49.3%, minor violence by 74% and severe violence by 75.4%. The most common forms of resolving conflict were reported as pushing, grabbing or slapping (with a lifetime prevalence of 70.8%) and beating with an object (75.3%). For 64% of children there were no incidents in the four weeks prior to the survey, but for some such incidents occurred daily. Most physical punishment was administered by the class teacher (83.3%), followed by the principal (9.1%), the vice principal (3.9%) and subject teachers (1.7%).

(Samms-Vaughan, M. et al., 2004, "Jamaican Children's Experiences of Corporal Punishment at Home and School", University of the West Indies/Ministry of Health, University of Missouri-Columbia)

In a focus group with twenty children aged 10-18 years, living in children's homes and "places of safety" in Jamaica, a common thread that ran through their conversations was the beatings given by Housemothers and 'Aunties'. Corporal punishment was also raised as a concern in a focus group with workers for NGOs, and in written submissions from members of the public.

(Keating, S., 2003, *A Review of Children's Homes*, www.jamaicansforjustice.org/docs/Keating%20Report.pdf)

JAPAN

In research carried out in March 2002 by the City Government of Kawasaki, which involved 2,061 children aged 11-17, 9.7% of children often experienced corporal punishment and 27.9% sometimes experienced it. One quarter of children were against corporal punishment, with 43.9% thinking that corporal punishment was acceptable.

(Information from Initiative for Ending Violence Against Children, www.kodomosukoyaka.net)

JORDAN

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in Jordan 66% of girls and 80% of boys involved in the study had experienced "mild" corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 21% of girls and 31% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 8% of mothers and fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 7% of mothers and 10% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, "Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender", *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

According to statistics from UNICEF, of girls and women aged 15-49, 90% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2007 study into violence against children in Jordan found that in schools, children are subjected to ‘mild, moderate and severe’ violence. ‘Severe violence,’ defined by the study to include hitting a child with an object such as a rod, rope or cane and biting and burning the child, was the most common kind of violence, suffered by 57% of the 3,130 children who took part in the study. 50% of the children suffered ‘mild’ violence from teachers and other staff at school – ‘mild’ violence was defined to include slapping, pinching, pulling hair, pushing or shoving and twisting arms or legs. The study noted that violence against children in the home often took place in the context of ‘discipline.’ 53% of children in the study had experienced ‘mild’ violence from their parents while 34% had experienced ‘severe’ violence.

(Elayyan, K., 2007, *Violence against children in Jordan study: Summary*, UNICEF, www.unicef.org/jordan/VAC_Study_English_FOR_SCREEN%282%29.pdf)

K

Note: No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Kuwait.

KAZAKHSTAN

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 54% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. A quarter experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (7%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 77% of children. One per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and half experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 56% compared to 51%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 57% of children aged 5-9 compared to 47% of children aged 2-4 and 55% of children aged 10-14. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-6 ten per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2002 study in Kazakhstan found that 28% of children in children's homes were regularly subjected to violence, while 63% experienced violence "sometimes". Punishments included beatings, humiliation and forcing children to do strenuous work.

(Alternative Report of Non-Governmental Organisations of Kazakhstan, 2002, www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.33/kazakhstan_ngo_report.pdf)

A nationwide survey on violence against children was conducted in 2002 by the Association of Social Scientists and Politologists with the support of UNICEF, using anonymous questionnaires for parents and for children and in-depth interviews with education, health and childcare specialists. 1,100 children aged 7-18 years living with their parents, in institutions and on the street, 1,100 parents of children aged 5-18 years, and 220 specialists were included in the research. Specialists estimated that 60-80% of children are subject to violence by parents, adults and children, and the number is increasing. Health workers reported an increase in the number of children coming to their facilities as a result of beating and torture in families. Interviews showed that most often the victims were from "troublesome" families (49.5%) and families with a low level of education (28.7%), and children of all ages were susceptible. "Educational" measures reported by parents on their children included explanations (32%), reprimands (29.1%), moral punishment or bans (17.6%), scolding (16.4%) and physical punishment (2.3%). Scolding and physical punishment were most common for low-income families. One third (33%) of children reported encountering violence – on average 3.3% constantly suffer from brutal treatment, 16.3% frequently, 66.6% sometimes and 13.8% never. The perpetrators of the violence were reported as older children (44.5%), parents/relatives (23.9%), policemen (9.6%), teachers and educators (9.6%), youth groups (8.2%), and hooligans and bandits (4.2%). In all settings (at home, with relatives, boarding school, orphanage, remand centre, and special school), violence was most commonly carried out by older children followed by parents and relatives.

(Association of Social Scientists and Politologists/UNICEF, 2002, Violence against Children in the Republic of Kazakhstan February – March 2002, Almaty: ASSAP/UNICEF)

KENYA

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in Kenya 82% of girls and 97% of boys involved in the study had experienced "mild" corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 61% of girls and 62% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 44% of mothers and 48% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 56% of mothers and 54% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, "Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender", International Journal of Pediatrics)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 68% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

A survey of 500 young women in Kenya aged 18-24 concerning their childhood experiences of violence, undertaken by the Africa Child Policy Forum and published in 2006, found that 99% reported experiencing physical violence. Beating with an object was found to be the most prevalent form of physical violence (80.8%), though the research does not investigate the degree to which this and other physical violence was explicitly in the name of “discipline”. Prevalence figures for other forms of physical violence were 59.5% for punching, 39.6% kicking, 43.8% hard work, 20.5% being choked/burned/stabbed, 12.3% having spicy/bitter substances put in mouth, 14.3% being locked or tied up, and 35% being denied food. Girls were found to be most vulnerable when aged 10-13 years. Experiencing the violence more than ten times was more likely in the case of beating than other types of physical violence. Most beating with an object was carried out by mothers (23.5%), followed by female teachers (15.3%) and fathers (13.3%). Most hitting/punching was carried out by female teachers (16.1%), followed by mothers (14.2%) and male teachers (11.3%), with medical attention necessary in 20% of cases. In 52.3% of cases, the hitting/punching resulted in “bruises or scratches, broken bones or teeth, or bleeding”; the figure for beating with an object was 64.6%.

(Stavropoulos, J., 2006, *Violence Against Girls in Africa: A Retrospective Survey in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda*, Addis Ababa, The African Child Policy Forum)

A survey of 267 adults and children and interviews with parents, teachers and children, reported in 2005, found that the most frequent forms of physical discipline used on children were smacking (78.8%), pulling ears (68.8%) and cuffing (61.5%). Other corporal punishments included forcing a child to kneel on a hard floor (45.9%), tapping (43.3%), forcing a child to stand in the sun (33.2%) and burning fingers (19.7%). Almost two thirds of children (62.2%) said they wanted the use of corporal punishment to be stopped. Over half of parents (54%) said that physical punishment should not be stopped.

(ANPPCAN Kenya Chapter, 2005, *From Physical Punishment to Positive Discipline: Alternatives to Physical/Corporal Punishment in Kenya*, second draft)

A 2004 survey by Population Communication Africa reported that over 60% of children believed that they had been or were being physically abused at school, including being slapped in the face, being hit on the body with a cane or stick, and being beaten, kicked or punched or otherwise physically bullied.

(Johnston, T., 2004, *Gender Series: The Abuse of Nairobi School Children*, Population Communication Africa: Nairobi. Cited in O’Sullivan, M., 2005, “Corporal Punishment in Kenya”, *Juvenile Justice Quarterly*, vol.2, no.1)

KIRIBATI

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 eighty-one per cent of children aged 2-14 years old experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression).

(UNICEF, 2011, *The State of the World’s Children*, Table 9: Child Protection, www.unicef.org/sowc, NY: UNICEF)

KYRGYZSTAN

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 54% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. More than a third experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (7%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 89% of children. Three per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 43% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 59% compared to 49%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to age, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A large-scale national study which involved over 2,000 children found that nearly one quarter (24%) of children said they had been hit, kicked, beaten or physically hurt in another way by an adult in their family. Sixteen per cent had experienced this in the past month. Eleven per cent had been hit or attacked with a weapon or other object by a family member. Of the quarter of children who had been physically hurt by an adult in their family, 31% could still feel the pain next day or had a bruise, cut that bled or other injury such as a broken bone. Twelve per cent of these children had required medical attention. Forty-four per cent of children said that adults in their family had called them names or said things that hurt their feelings; 33% had experienced this in the past month. Fifteen per cent of children had been threatened with violence with a weapon; 10% in the past month. Surveys with 155 parents also revealed very high rates of use of physical and verbal punishment. While positive discipline was widely used (93% of parents had used positive discipline methods such as explaining why a behaviour was wrong or taking away a child's privileges; 87% in the past month), the majority of parents who used positive discipline also used physical, verbal and psychological violence as a punishment. Sixty-eight per cent of parents had used some kind of corporal punishment; 57% in the past month. Fifty-eight per cent had slapped their child on the back, buttocks, leg or arm; 41% had shaken their child; 32% had hit their child with a hard object (including belts, hairbrushes and sticks); 25% had slapped their child on the face or head. Eleven per cent had hit their child over and over as hard as they could; 4.5% had thrown their child or knocked them down. Forty-seven per cent of parents had sworn at or cursed their child or called them names; 41% in the past month. Thirty-four per cent had threatened to hit, beat or kick their child; 27% in the past month. The study recommends prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings, including the home.

(Haarr, R. et al, 2009, *Child Abuse and Neglect in Families in the Kyrgyz Republic: a National Population-Based Study*, UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 thirty-eight per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

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Note: No prevalence research identified for Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Liechtenstein, Luxembourg.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

A 2011 Human Rights Watch report documented beatings and other inhuman and degrading punishment in Somsanga Center, where drug users, homeless people, street children and people with mental disabilities were detained. The report was based on interviews with 12 former detainees, four of whom were children at the time of their detention, and 8 current or former staff members of international organisations.

(Human Rights Watch, 2011, *Somsanga's Secrets: Arbitrary Detention, Physical Abuse, and Suicide inside a Lao Drug Detention Center*)

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 74% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly half experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (17%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 79% of children. Eight per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 64% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 75% compared to 72%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 78% of children aged 5-9 compared to 74% of children aged 2-4 and 69% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 75% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 63% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 eighty-one per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In a study reported in 2003, 30% of detained children reported experiencing physical or mental punishment, including beating, crawling, sitting in the sun and withholding meals.

(Sandvik-Nylund, 2003, *Regional Assessment: Violence against children in East Asia and the Pacific region*, Bangkok: UNICEF. Cited in Nogami, N., 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific - Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

LATVIA

A 2009 survey of 1,010 respondents found that 38.9% believed that corporal punishment should never be used. 48.8% believed that it “should not be used in general, but there are situations when it is justified” and 8.5% that it “may be used if the parent considers that it will be effective”. In an identical survey with a similar sample in 2005, 12.1% said that corporal punishment “may be used.” 47% of respondents to the 2009 survey believed that over 40% of children in Latvia experience corporal punishment. Results were similar in 2005.

(Marketing and public opinion research centre SKDS, 2009, *Attitude towards corporal punishment of children: survey of Latvia's population*, www.canee.net/files/Omnibus%20research%20Latvia%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

A 2009 survey of 214 teachers in primary schools in Riga found that 54% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and 44% believed that it meant that “the parents are not good at rearing children”. 22% of respondents felt that the use of “spanking” as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party.

(Nobody's Children Foundation and Center Against Abuse “Dardedze”, 2009, *Riga teachers' attitudes toward child abuse: Research report*, www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Latvia%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

LEBANON

A 2009 report on the situation of Palestinian refugees living in refugee camps and informal gatherings in Southern Lebanon revealed widespread use of corporal punishment at home and in schools. 764 people (children aged 7 years and older and adults of all ages) took part in the research through group discussion. Many children aged 7-13 who took part spoke of school as an unsafe place and said that they don't like to go to school because of violence and unkind treatment by teachers. Children stated that a recent policy change forbidding school corporal punishment was not applied properly. Many children were opposed to both physical and verbal violence in schools. In all areas, violence in the home was seen primarily as a means of releasing stress and frustration caused by difficult living conditions. Those who admitted using violence in the home also acknowledged that this was not a good way of dealing with problems. Violence against children, perpetuated mostly by parents, ranged from slaps in the face to violent use of implements.

(Abu Sharar, S., 2009, *Community Perspectives on Protection: A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Analysis of Palestinian Communities in Southern Lebanon*, Danish Refugee Council and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department, lebanon-support.org/Uploads/2009-10/News1852.pdf)

A child rights situation analysis by Save the Children noted the use of corporal punishment in private, public and UNRWA schools, and cited research estimating that 40% of school students experience physical violence at the hands of educators.

(Save the Children Sweden, 2008, *Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon*, citing research by the University Center for Family and Community Health)

A survey of over 1,000 youth on sexual and physical violence found that over a one year period, 54.1% of children experienced at least one of the following forms of physical violence: 31.5% were pushed or kicked (31.5%), hit by hand (43.0%), hit by an instrument (18.1%), attempted strangulation (3.1%), burned (2.9%), imprisoned or tied up (6.4%), bitten (25.3%), and threatened with a weapon (1.9%). The father was the most frequent perpetrator, except for biting (the mother) and hitting (sibling). Psychological violence was reported by 64.9%, most frequently by the father.

(Usta, J. A., Mahfoud, Z. R., Chahine, G. A. & Anani, G. A., 2008, *Child Sexual Abuse: The situation in Lebanon*, KAFA/The Higher Council for Children/The Ministry of Social Affairs/Save the Children Sweden)

The 2005 school-based health survey found that 37% of students were physically attacked by an adult family member during the previous 30 days, more commonly for younger (grade 7) students (40.4%) than older (grade 9) students (32.6%). One in four students (24.7%) reported being physically assaulted by a teacher or school staff in the same period.

(WHO, Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007, *Lebanon 2005: Global School-based Student Health Survey*)

In interviews with Palestinian young people, 28% believed that “it is appropriate for a husband to hit his wife or for a brother to hit his sister”.

(Ricerca e Cooperazione, Lebanon Family Planning Association and National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training, 2007, “Adolescents and Young Adults in Six Palestinian camps in Lebanon: Reproductive Health and Emotional Wellbeing” Funded by the European Commission. P. 78, cited in Save the Children Sweden, 2008, *Child Rights Situation Analysis for Lebanon*)

LESOTHO

According to UN statistics, in 2004 significant proportions of women believed that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons: 13% for burning the food, 36% for arguing with him, 24% for going out without telling him, 37% for neglecting the children and 20% for refusing to have sex.

(United Nations, 2010, *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

LIBERIA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 59% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Research by the NGO Cherish the Kids has shown that corporal punishment of children is common in most homes. In a 1999 survey of 18,000 parents of children aged 5-15 years, 85% approved of corporal punishment. Of these, 46% approved of severe beating of children in cases of “gross misbehaviour”. The same organisation undertook a survey of school chapters in 1999-2000, which found that of 24,000 children from 41 schools in rural and urban areas, 81% said they had been physically punished or severely flogged by their parents. A large scale interview study of parents and children in rural areas showed that one third of children (38%) were disciplined by beating and flogging, and children reported that harsh discipline caused injuries.

(All studies reported by Cherish the Kids in correspondence with the Global Initiative, July 2004)

LITHUANIA

38% of respondents to a 2009 survey of 500 15-74 year olds believed that corporal punishment should never be used, 56% said that corporal punishment “should not be used in general but in certain situations it is justifiable” and 5% felt that corporal punishment was acceptable “if the parent believes that it will be effective”. 29% of respondents in 2009 believed that corporal punishment was experienced by more than 65% of children in Lithuania.

(Children support centre, 2009, *Attitude towards physical punishment of children*, www.canee.net/files/Omnibus%20research%20Lithuania%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

A 2009 survey of 123 teachers in primary schools in Vilnius found that 64% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and 59% believed that it meant that “the parents are not good at rearing children”. 15% of respondents felt that the use of “spanking” as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party. In an identical survey of a similar sample in 2005, 13% believed this. On average, respondents in 2009 estimated that 42% of children in Lithuania experience spanking as punishment, compared to an average estimate of 58% in 2005.

(Children Support Centre and Nobody’s Children Foundation, 2009, *Vilnius teachers’ attitudes toward child abuse*, www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Lithuania%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

M

Note: No prevalence research identified for Macao, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Montserrat. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Mexico.

MADAGASCAR

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 28% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

MALAWI

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 28% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In a study in 40 schools, involving interviews with 800 students and 288 teachers, 68.5% of students reported having experienced whipping/caning (20.5% in the home and 48% in school); 70.6% said they had experienced beating/fighting. More boys than girls reported being beaten: 47.2% and 40.7% respectively.

(DevTech Systems, Inc. and Centre for Educational Research and Training, 2007, *The Safe Schools program: Students and teacher baseline report on school-related gender-based violence in Machinga district, Malawi*, USAID)

MALAYSIA

In 2003, research into human rights awareness among secondary school teachers, students and administrators conducted by researchers from local universities assigned by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) found the cane being used regularly. In the survey of 5,754 students, 52% agreed that caning commonly happened in their schools, more often in rural schools than urban schools; around 80% of cases occurred at technical schools; 79.5% of teachers and 71.8% of administrators agreed that persistent offenders should be caned.

(Reported in "Spare the rod?", *New Straits Times*, Kuala Lumpur, 21 March 2004)

MALDIVES

An unpublished large scale 2009 UNICEF study found that 47% of children had experienced physical or emotional punishment at home, at school or in the community. The study involved almost 17,035 people in 2,500 households and 2,000 children in schools. Thirty per cent of children at secondary school had been hit by at least one of their caregivers, 21% with an object; 8% of school students had been physically punished by their teachers.

(Reported by *Minivan News*, 21 February 2011, www.minivannews.com)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 70% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

MALI

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 75% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

MEXICO

A report on institutions including psychiatric hospitals and shelters in Mexico found that children and adults with disabilities are kept in permanent restraints, and that this constitutes cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and sometimes torture.

(Rosenthal, E., Jehn, E., Galván, S. et al, 2010, *Abandoned & Disappeared: Mexico's Segregation and Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities*, Disability Rights International & Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos)

MONGOLIA

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, 79% of children aged 2-14 experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression in 2005-2006: 37% experienced physical punishment and psychological aggression, 42% experienced psychological aggression only and 1% experienced physical punishment only; boys were more likely than girls to be physically punished (42% compared with 34%). Disabled children were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 47% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 40% of non-disabled children. Of girls and women aged 15-49, 20% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Mongolia involved 607 children from urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and 40 adults. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Mongolia included slapping, hitting with implements, forcing to the ground, bearing with a rubber baton, pinching, grabbing, pulling hair, scratching. Children in institutions in Mongolia mentioned the following punishments: adults stomping on their stomachs, being forced to the ground, having to stand in the hot sun, being hit with a rubber baton. The prevalence of punishment was given as direct assault (hitting) for children aged 10-13 years 45.6%, other direct assault 5%, indirect assault 9%, deliberate neglect 1.2, verbal attack 33.8%. Of

those from urban areas who were hit, 70.4% were hit with an implement, 21.4% were slapped with the hand, 8.2% kicked. The study included 55 children in institutions, with 25% reporting punishments such as being beaten with a rubber truncheon and having to maintain uncomfortable positions for long periods of time. Reasons for punishment were given mainly as failure of behaviour (30% home, 22% school) and failure of obedience (60% home, 46% school).

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

In a study reported in 2003, a survey found that 89% of parents and 74% of children agreed that violence is practised against children in families.

(Sandvik-Nylund, 2003, *Regional Assessment: Violence against children in East Asia and the Pacific region*, Bangkok: UNICEF. Cited in Nogami, N., 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific - Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

MONTENEGRO

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 63% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Forty-five per cent experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (5%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 93% of children. Six per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 56% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 67% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 53% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 eight per cent of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 6% of non-disabled children. Eleven per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Interviews with young offenders, carried out as part of a UNICEF assessment of the juvenile justice system, revealed that many had experienced physical punishment during custody in penal institutions.

(Conragan, C., 2002, *Children in conflict with the law: Victims of the transition – An assessment of the juvenile justice systems in the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro*, UNICEF)

MOROCCO

At least 1,000 cases of violence in schools were recorded in 2009, according to the Centre for People's Rights. Four hundred cases were physical violence, 350 psychological violence and 126 sexual violence. The physical violence mostly consisted of corporal punishment, including slapping, kicking and hitting with sticks, iron rulers and electrical cables.

(Reported in *Algeria News*, 8 October 2010, <http://news.marweb.com/algeria>)

According to a report by the Moroccan Ministry of Justice, widespread violence against children is reported in government run orphanages and care institutions, with physical punishment being the most practiced disciplinary measure.

(Cited in Abdul-Hamid, Y., 2011, *Child Rights Situation Analysis: Middle East and North Africa*, Save the Children Sweden)

According to UN statistics, in 2003-2004 significant proportions of women believed that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons: 24% for burning the food, 51% for arguing with him, 50% for going out without telling him, 49% for neglecting the children and 43% for refusing to have sex.

(United Nations, 2010, *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

A Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) commissioned by UNICEF, UNFPA and the Arab Family Health Project in 2008 revealed the magnitude of corporal punishment of children in Morocco. In interviews with 5,078 children, 24% reported experiencing severe physical punishment (including being hit on the face or the head with a hard object) and 67% minor physical punishment (e.g. being shaken or slapped). Children were more likely to be physically punished in rural zones (30%) than in urban zones (20%), educated mothers were less likely to use corporal punishment than uneducated mothers and wealthy families were less likely to use corporal punishment (12%) than poorer parents (32%).

(UNICEF, 2008, *Enquête Nationale à Indicateurs Multiples et Santé des Jeunes, ENIMSJ 2006-2007*, Rabat, Maroc: UNICEF)

MOZAMBIQUE

In 2009, over 2600 children aged 6-18 took part in a survey, while 168 children drew pictures and talked about the last time they were punished at home and at school. The research found that one child in three had been hit with a hand at home in the past two weeks, and 37% had been beaten with an object. 6-8 year olds were more likely to have been hit than older children, and children from low income families were more likely to have been hit than children from high income families. About one

child in three had been hit with a hand at school in the past two weeks, and 40% had been hit with an object at school in the past two weeks.

(Clacherty, G., Donald, D., and Clacherty, A., 2009, *Children's Experiences of Punishment in Mozambique: A Qualitative and Quantitative Survey*, Pretoria: Save the Children Sweden)

According to UN statistics, in 2003 significant proportions of women believed that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons: 24% for burning the food, 33% for arguing with him, 37% for going out without telling him, 38% for neglecting the children and 34% for refusing to have sex.

(United Nations, 2010, *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

MYANMAR

A report on alternative care for children in some countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami found that the use of corporal punishment was one of ten fundamental issues affecting the care and protection of children in residential care.

(UNICEF, 2006, *Alternative Care for Children without Primary Caregivers in Tsunami-Affected Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand*)

In a 2002 study by UNICEF, 17% of children surveyed in four peri-urban townships said they were unhappy at school because teachers beat them. The study involved face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions, and included both primary and secondary schools and children currently out-of-school.

(Reported by UNICEF, September 2003)

N

Note: No prevalence research identified for Nauru, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Netherlands.

NAMIBIA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 35% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2008 survey of 1,680 respondents found that 78% of them thought that a parent had a right to hit their child if the child was disobedient, 63% if the child did not want to go to school, 51% if the child ran away from home and 27% if the child performed poorly in school. Almost 61% of respondents

believed that it was common in their communities for children to be smacked or caned. Respondents from households with children aged 2-14 years old were asked about what forms of discipline had ever been used in their household. 40% said that children had been spanked, hit or slapped on the bottom with a bare hand, 30% that children had been hit with objects and 18% that children had been hit or slapped on the face, head or ears.

(SIAPAC, 2008, *Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Study on Factors and Traditional Practices that may Perpetuate or Protect Namibians from Gender Based Violence and Discrimination: Caprivi, Erongo, Karas, Kavango, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke, and Otjozondjupa Regions (Final Report)*, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, cited in Hubbard, D. et al, 2010, *Corporal Punishment: National and International Perspectives*, Windhoek: Legal Assistance Centre)

NEPAL

A study on barriers to education for children with disabilities in Nepal found that students with disabilities experienced corporal punishment at home and at school, and that this could contribute to the children's lack of access to education.

(Human Rights Watch, 2011, *Futures Stolen: Barriers to Education for Children with Disabilities in Nepal*)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 23% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2008 study in 71 child centres in Nepal involved interviews and focus groups with children, child centre staff and children's biological parents. It found that punishments in child centres included hitting children, isolating them, locking them in the toilet, public humiliation, and forcing them to clean floors and toilets.

(UNICEF and Terre des Hommes, 2008, *Adopting the Rights of the Child: A study on intercountry adoption and its influence on child protection in Nepal*, www.crin.org/docs/adopting_rights_child_ICA.pdf)

In a study in the schools of Kathmandu, 82% of students were found to suffer physical punishment in schools; 80% of students said that alternative methods can be used to discipline children.

(Reported in *The Rising Nepal*, 24 December 2006)

In December 2003, the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT), in collaboration with UNICEF, conducted a focus group study on "Existing Systems of Discipline in Schools" among students, teachers and parents in four regions. The study revealed that corporal punishment was being used in most schools, more commonly in the private than the public schools. Physical punishment was most commonly used against primary school students, while psychological punishment was more common against secondary level students. Both were commonly used against lower secondary students. Many teachers and parents reported that they give severe punishment to children because they were unaware of alternatives to corporal punishment and knew little about the physical and psychological impacts of harsh punishments.

NEW ZEALAND A 2007 Families Commission survey found that while 41% of parents and carers in the sample of 100 families with children aged under 5 had smacked their children, only 9% thought smacking was effective. Around half of the sample filled in detailed diary sheets about “disciplinary encounters” with their children over three days. Of these parents, 2.6% smacked the child’s bottom at some point during the three days, 2% smacked the child’s hand and 2% smacked the child on another part of their body. Parents and carers were two to three times more likely to use positive techniques (such as giving rewards and praise) than punishments (such as smacking, verbal reprimands and withdrawal of privileges).

(Lawrence, J., and Smith, A., 2009, *Discipline in context: families’ disciplinary practices for children aged under five*, Wellington: Families Commission, www.familiescommission.govt.nz/sites/default/files/downloads/discipline-in-context.pdf; see also Lawrence, J., and Smith, A., 2008, “Aotearoa/New Zealand Families: Their Perspectives on Child Discipline and Recent Legislative Change”, *Childrenz Issues*, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 17-24)

A survey of 100 families with children aged under five found that 46% of parents and carers were in favour of the legislation which gave children equal protection from assault to adults. 27% were opposed to the legislation and 27% were undecided. Of those who were in favour of the legislation, 58% had an accurate understanding of it. Of those who were undecided or opposed to reform, a large majority had an inaccurate understanding of the legislation (81% of those who were undecided and 70% of those who were opposed to reform). The law came into action in June 2007. Around a third of the interviews were carried out before the law change, and two thirds following it.

(Lawrence, J., and Smith, A., 2008, “Aotearoa/New Zealand Families: Their Perspectives on Child Discipline and Recent Legislative Change”, *Childrenz Issues*, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 17-24; see also Lawrence, J., and Smith, A., 2009, *Discipline in context: families’ disciplinary practices for children aged under five*, Wellington: Families Commission)

In the wake of prohibition of all corporal punishment in 2007, the Children’s Commissioner commissioned a benchmark survey in order to gauge changes in attitudes towards corporal punishment and the law. Of a nationally representative sample of 750 adults, 43% supported the law, compared with 28% who opposed it. The research found a high awareness of the law change (91%), and high levels of support (84-89%) for the principle of equal protection from assault for children and adults. Support for the use of corporal punishment is declining over time: 58% agreed that there are some circumstances in which smacking a child is acceptable, compared with 87% in 1993 and around 90% in 1981. The research confirms that attitudes and knowledge of the law are changing, even over the one-year period since its introduction. The report includes detailed recommendations for continued and improved implementation of the law based on the issues raised.

(UMR Research, 2008, *Omnibus Survey Report: One year on: Public attitudes and New Zealand’s child discipline law*, Office of the Children’s Commissioner, www.occ.org.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/5669/OCC_UMR-Research_141108.pdf)

One in ten children aged up to 14 had received physical punishment from their primary caretaker in the four weeks leading up to the 2006/7 New Zealand Health Survey. However, only 5% of all primary caregivers believed that physical punishment was an effective form of punishment. Less than a third of

those who had used physical punishment in the previous four weeks felt that it was effective. The survey was carried out between October 2006 and November 2007, before and after New Zealand prohibited all corporal punishment, on a sample size of 17,000.

(Ministry of Health, 2008, *A Portrait of Health – Key results of the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey*, [www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/7601/\\$File/physical-punishment-ch2.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/7601/$File/physical-punishment-ch2.pdf))

A poll of more than 3,000 respondents by *The New Zealand Herald* found that almost 70% supported the return of caning and strapping in schools.

(Reported in *Radio New Zealand News*, 1 August 2007)

As part of the Government's *Strategies with Kids: Information for Parents* public education programme, designed to promote alternatives to corporal punishment, the Ministry of Social Development commissioned telephone interviews with 612 parents and 539 caregivers of children up to 5 years of age nationwide in 2004. Overall, 51% of parents and 21% of caregivers reported using physical discipline, with this being more likely the lower the level of education and higher the number of children (for parents) and with decreasing household income and increasing age (for caregivers). The most common form was smacking on the bottom (45% parents, 32% caregivers). 25% of parents using physical discipline were not interested in receiving information on parenting.

(Gravitas Research and Strategy Ltd, for the Ministry of Social Development, 2004, *Strategies with Kids – Information for Parents (SKIP) Strategy Development Research: Parent and Care-giver Survey Report*, draft report)

NICARAGUA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 17% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Surveys carried out in 2002-2004 examined the attitudes of children and adults in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela towards physical punishment. In Nicaragua, 260 children were surveyed. Nearly a third (33.1%) of the children agreed that children should not be physically punished or that "punishment does not solve anything", and nearly a quarter (24.6%) agreed that physical punishment is "very bad" or "makes children violent". Fifty-eight per cent thought that physical punishment is never necessary.

(Save the Children Sweden & Instituto de Encuestas y Sondeos de Opinión, 2005, *Sistematización de las Encuestas Sobre la Percepción del Castigo Físico en Seis Países de America Latina*, presentation: Managua, 16 May 2005)

NIGER

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 70% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

NIGERIA

In a survey of 172 elementary school teachers in Ilorin State, 80% of respondents had seen pupils being punished by elementary school teachers with a cane. Forty-six per cent had seen pupils being punished with a horse-whip (“koboko”), and 30% with a hand. Sixty-one per cent had seen pupils being hit on the buttocks, 49% on the back, 52% on the palm of the hand, 20% on the head and 16% on the face. Twenty-nine per cent of respondents said that they favoured the use of corporal punishment by elementary school teachers.

(Mahmoud, A. O, Ayanniyi, A. A. & Salman, M. F., 2011, “Observations of teachers in Ilorin, Nigeria on practices of corporal punishment that are potentially injurious to their pupils’ eyes”, *Annals of African Medicine* vol. 10, no. 2)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Nigeria, 84% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 90% had been beaten, 55% kicked, 71% denied food and 17% choked or burned. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 65% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Q

OMAN

In 2003, research conducted by UNICEF in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development found that some teachers used corporal punishment, despite its prohibition in schools. Other studies have shown that it is also prevalent in the home, particularly among families with the lowest levels of educational attainment.

(Reported in the second state party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/OMN/2, 2006, para. 175)

P

Note: No prevalence research identified for Palau, Panama, Pitcairn Islands, Puerto Rico.

PAKISTAN

In a survey carried out by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) in 2011, 76% of parents were in favour of corporal punishment and believed it was “necessary to correct children’s behaviour”.

(Reported in *The Peninsula*, 7 October 2011, www.thepeninsulaqatar.com)

A participatory study by Save the Children, UNICEF and Government of the North West Frontier Province in three districts of NWFP – Peshawar, Hangu and D.I.Khan – revealed that corporal punishment is widely used to discipline children in homes and educational institutions. A total of 155 consultations were undertaken, using participatory research techniques, with 3,582 children aged 6-14 years from government and religious schools, 86 consultations with 1,231 parents, and 86 consultations with 486 teachers. Not one child reported never having received corporal punishment. Cumulatively, the children identified 28 types of punishment used in homes and 43 in schools. The most common punishments at home were hitting with an object (shoe, brick, iron rod, knife, etc), smacking, kicking, punching, hair-pulling and ear-twisting. The most common in schools were smacking, hitting with an object, hair-pulling, ear-twisting, and awkward and humiliating physical positions. About 43% of all punishments identified were reported by children in government primary schools, about 30% in government middle schools, 10% in government high schools, and 16% in private schools. Corporal punishment at home and in schools was more frequent the younger the child. There were no significant gender differences – boys and girls were subjected to similar frequencies of punishment. Corporal punishment in homes was reported as being inflicted most frequently by immediate family members such as parents (20.22%), grandparents (24.04%) and older siblings (18.91%) and uncles and aunts (27.31%), followed by close relatives such as cousins and in-laws. Neighbours, village elders, tutors, housemaids and other relations were reported as less frequently beating children. Corporal punishment in schools was most commonly inflicted by the teacher and students assigned discipline duties in the school (49.6%), including class monitor, commander, and assembly commander. Senior students were also frequently reported to be hitting younger children (14.7%).

(April 2005, *Disciplining the Child: Practices and Impacts*, Save the Children/UNICEF/Schools and Literacy Dept, Government of NWFP)

A survey by the Pakistan Paediatrics Association and UNICEF, the results of which were published in March 2003, showed that more than four out of five children were vulnerable to physical abuse from parents, elders and teachers, with boys more likely than girls to suffer physical abuse.

(Cited in Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 2004, *State of Human Rights 2003*)

PALESTINE

A report on Palestinian children detained in occupied East Jerusalem between January and June 2011, based on the cases of 118 children and the testimony of 16 children, found that children frequently

experienced physical and verbal violence by law enforcement officers or military personnel during their arrest or while in custody. Children were punched, kicked, slapped, painfully handcuffed, threatened and verbally abused.

(DCI-Palestine, 2011, *In their own Words: A report on the situation facing Palestinian children detained in occupied East Jerusalem*)

In January 2011, Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-Palestine) published a report on Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military court system, covering July to December 2010. The report describes widespread and systematic torture and ill-treatment of children as young as 12: complaints included being beaten or kicked (70%), being made to adopt painful positions (60%), verbal abuse and humiliation (45%) and electric shocks (7.5%).

(DCI-Palestine, 2011, *A report on the situation facing Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military court system*, www.dci-pal.org/English/Doc/Press/EASTJERUSALEM_JANUARY2011.pdf)

Research which included a survey with 306 students in three schools and focus groups with 88 students, teachers, counsellors and principals found that 36.6% of students had often seen a teacher hit students or been hit themselves. 37.6% reported that this happened sometimes and 25.7% rarely. 22.2% had heard a teacher insult students or been insulted themselves often, 30.6% sometimes and 47.1% rarely.

(Riyada Consulting and Training, 2010, *Level of Violence in UNRWA Schools in the West Bank – Protective Sphere for Palestinian Children*, Save the Children UK).

A 2009 report by Defence for Children International – Palestine Section documented widespread and systematic violations of the rights of Palestinian children in Israeli custody in the occupied Palestinian territory, including corporal punishment. Children reported being kicked, hit, beaten with guns and tied up.

(DCI-Palestine, 2009, *Palestinian Child Prisoners: The systematic and institutionalised ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities*)

In research on violence in educational settings which involved 1,723 children in 15 schools in five districts in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, 80% of students in school grades 1-3, 15% of those in grades 4-6 and 30% of those in grades 7-10 said they were “exposed to beating” at school.

(MaDad, 2009, *Protective Sphere for Palestinian Children Project: Executive Summary – the Participatory Action Research report*, Save the Children UK)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, 95% of children aged 2-14 experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression in 2005-2006: 70% experienced physical punishment and psychological aggression, 3% experienced psychological aggression only and 2% experienced physical punishment only.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In a survey of 679 parents in the south of the Gaza Strip in 2007, nearly 100% admitting to inflicting corporal punishment and/or verbal punishment on their children.

(Survey results conducted during the “Community-Based Child Protection” project, Al Shoka, South Gaza Strip, Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution and SCS, 2007, on file at the DCI-Palestine Ramallah office, reported in Trojan, V., 2008, *Child Rights Situation Analysis: Right to Protection in the occupied Palestinian territory – 2008*, Ramallah/Jerusalem: DCI-Palestine/Save the Children Sweden)

The Domestic Violence Survey carried out in 2005/6 found that 27.9% of women agreed that a husband should beat his wife if she left the house without asking, 10.5% agreed that a husband should beat his wife if she fails to prepare the food on time. The report documented high “exposure” to violence at home by children, although it did not directly address corporal punishment by parents.

(Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2006, *Domestic Violence Survey (December, 2005 – January, 2006): Main Findings Report*, Ramallah, Palestine)

Figures published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2005 showed that over 50% of mothers supported the use of corporal punishment when children misbehave.

(Information on file at the DCI-Palestine Ramallah office, reported in Trojan, V., 2008, *Child Rights Situation Analysis: Right to Protection in the occupied Palestinian territory – 2008*, Ramallah/Jerusalem: DCI-Palestine/Save the Children Sweden)

A study by the Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture and Organized Violence on violence in public and private schools in the West Bank found that of 2,331 students surveyed (aged 14-17), 50.8% reported having been beaten by a school teacher. Only 0.6% said that teachers are never violent towards students. The study also asked about being beaten at home: 43.6% said that they or their siblings were beaten by their father, 47.5% by their mother.

(Sehwail. Mahmu, Rasra, Khader, & Alkrenawi. Alean, 2005, *The phenomenon of Violence as perceived by Palestinian school pupils aged (14-17 years); (8-11 grade), at the schools of the public and private sectors in the West Bank*, Palestine, Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture and Organized Violence)

A study on violence in schools in 2004 found that 44% of teachers used physical punishment on students, 77% used verbal punishment. It also found that 52% of fathers and 60% of mothers physically punish their children.

(UNICEF and Birzeit University, 2004, *Primary School Years*, www.unicef.org/oPt/children_215.html)

PARAGUAY

A survey carried out after a two-month long UNICEF campaign designed to raise awareness about family violence against children and provide parents with information about positive parenting asked 753 parents about their childrearing opinions and practices. When asked what discipline strategy they used the most, 57.1% of parents said they talked to their children, compared to 55.6% before the campaign. Just over one parent in ten (11.5%) said they shouted or raised their voice, compared to one in five (20.4%) before the campaign. Before the campaign, 3.6% of parents said they most often “used a belt or other object”; after the campaign, 0.9% said this. After the campaign, nearly nine out of ten

parents (88.9%) believed it was possible to bring up children without hitting them or using verbal violence, compared to 76.6% before the campaign. One in ten (10.2%) did not think it was possible, compared to one in five (20.3%) before the campaign. Seven in ten (70.3%) of those interviewed remembered the campaign. Of these, 46.5% thought that the campaign would influence their friends' and neighbours' way of bringing up children a lot, and 34% a little.

(First Analysis y Estudios, 2010, *Sin Violencia si Educa Mejor: medición comparativa post campaña*, UNICEF)

A 2010 UNICEF study found that 61% of respondents had experienced violence or other kinds of mistreatment from their closest family members. The study, the first of its kind in Paraguay, involved over 800 children and young people aged 10-18, attending 54 private and public schools in different areas of the country. 35% of respondents had experienced severe physical violence (being hit with objects, kicked, burned or suffocated) in their families and 13% had experienced “light” physical violence (including slaps, having their hair pulled and being forced to stay in uncomfortable positions). 13% had experienced psychological violence such as insults and threats of abandonment. The physical violence had serious consequences, with 13% of respondents reporting being hit until they bled and 7.7% needing medical attention due to violence. More than half of the study participants remembered that they began to experience family violence at between 3 and 5 years old. Boys experienced more severe physical violence than girls, while girls experienced more psychological violence than boys. Physical and psychological violence was experienced by children of all social classes, although children at public and subsidised schools experienced more physical violence than children in private schools, while children in private schools experienced more psychological violence than their publicly schooled peers. Parents with a higher level of education were less likely to use physical violence – for example, 23.9% of mothers and 26.8% of fathers who had been to university used severe physical violence as a punishment, compared to 46.8% of mothers and 55.6% of fathers who had not been to school. The results of the study suggested that, as mothers spend more time with their children than fathers, mothers use physical violence more often than fathers. However, mothers were more likely to decrease their use of physical violence as their children grew older, while fathers were more likely to use a greater degree of violence than mothers and to continue to use it at the same level as their children grew older. Mothers who spent less time with their children used most physical violence – 27.7% of those who spent all day at home used severe physical violence, compared to 39.6% of other mothers who spent only some hours of the day or some days of the week at home. The study recommended that more research be done on this topic and on the various demands placed on mothers who work both inside and outside the home.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Resumen Para Prensa: Estudio sobre maltrato infantil en el ámbito familiar, Paraguay 2010* www.unicef.org/paraguay/spanish/py_resumen_periodistas_estudio_14set10.pdf (in Spanish))

PERU

A survey of 1,000 adults in 15 cities by Ipsos Apoyo, published by El Comercio, found that 42% of the respondents agreed with using corporal punishment “occasionally” to discipline children. Over half (56%) were against physical punishment.

(Reported in *Living in Peru*, 27 September 2009, www.livinginperu.com/news/10206)

In 2004, interviews were carried out with 870 female carers of children below the age of 10 years (95% mothers, 5% aunts, cousins and grandmothers) from six communities, as part of a project sponsored by Save the Children Canada and Save the Children UK to establish a community network for the eradication of corporal punishment. The majority (80%) believed corporal punishment necessary to educate their children; 52% believed ear pulling, slapping, or hitting with a belt or stick acceptable; and 20% believed corporal punishment helps children learn to obey. Just over a quarter (27%) felt that corporal punishment was not good but used it nevertheless, while only 16% stated that they did not use corporal punishment. In interviews with young children (aged 4-5 years), 96% reported having been physically punished for “bad behaviour”.

(Base line project sponsored by Save the Children Canada and Save the Children UK in San Juan de Lurigancho – Lima, reported in International Save the Children Alliance, 2005, *Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children – Making it Happen: Global Submission to the UN Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

In 2002, Save the Children surveyed 1,555 children and adolescents and 689 teachers, parents and other adults who work with children. Nearly half the children (48.2%) reported being “occasionally” punished in the home, 5.1% “frequently”, 30.4% “never”. The responses from adults were comparable, with 46.9% stating that they had been “occasionally” punished in their homes, 11.2% “frequently”, and 23.5% “never”. Just under one in five (18.8%) reported being “occasionally” punished in school, 1.8% “frequently”, and 39.7% “never” – but 39.7% did not respond regarding school corporal punishment. Boys reported being punished more often than girls in school (23% compared with 13%).

(Reported in International Save the Children Alliance, 2005, *Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children – Making it Happen: Global Submission to the UN Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

PHILIPPINES

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in the Philippines 71% of girls and 77% of boys involved in the study had experienced “mild” corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 9% of girls and 8% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 13% of mothers and 16% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 20% of mothers and 15% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, “Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender”, *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

A 2010 survey of 270 grade-six students with an average age of 12 found that 61.1% of them had experienced physical punishment at home. 74.5% of those who experienced physical punishment had been pinched, and 49.7% beaten. 13.9% had been slapped, 3.6% kicked and 3% punched. Boys were more likely to be physically punished than girls, with 64.8% of boys experiencing beating compared to 40.9% of girls. The rate of pinching was similar for boys and girls. Mothers were reported to inflict more physical punishment than fathers, with mothers solely responsible for pinching, while both

mothers and fathers beat children. The most common reasons for being physically punished were disobedience, cited by 35.6% of children who had been punished, and “pasaway” (35.3%) or being naughty, which included causing younger siblings to cry, interrupting adult conversations by what was perceived to be meaningless or disrespectful chatter, play-fighting with other children or siblings, making noises and disrupting order in the house. 32.9% of the children said that they “felt nothing” after being physically punished, while 25% were angry, 14.5% felt lonely or sad and 7.2% felt hatred.

(Sanapo, M. and Nakamura, Y., 2010, “Gender and Physical Punishment: The Filipino Children’s Experience”, *Child Abuse Review*, published online in Wiley Online Library DOI: 10.1002/car.1148)

A large scale comparative study (World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE)) which involved surveys with over 14,000 mothers of children aged under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, examined parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States. In the Philippines, 83% of children experienced “moderate” physical discipline (including being “spanked” on the buttocks, hit with an object, slapped on the face and having hot pepper put in their mouth). Nearly one child in ten (9.9%) experienced harsh physical discipline (including being burnt, beaten up, kicked and smothered). More than seven children in ten (71%) experienced harsh psychological discipline such as being called names, being cursed and being threatened with abandonment. “Moderate” psychological discipline, including being yelled or screamed at or being refused food was experienced by 87% of children. Non-violent discipline, including explaining why a behaviour was wrong and telling a child to stop, was also widely used (experienced by 98% of children). The study found that rates of harsh physical discipline were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical abuse in any country, and that rates of physical punishment can vary widely among communities within the same country.

(Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*, published online 2 August 2010, www.pediatrics.org)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 24% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2009 study involving 2400 children through questionnaires, interviews and group discussions found that violence against children by adults in school is usually inflicted in the guise of discipline. The most common form of violence by adults was pinching, experienced by 18% of children aged 6 – 13 years. This was closely followed by forms of verbal violence such as shouting, and spanking with hands or an object, experienced by 16% of 6 – 10 year olds and 13% of 9 – 13 year olds.

(Plan Philippines, 2009, *Toward a Child-Friendly Education Environment - A Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in Public Schools*, plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/files/philippines-toward-a-child-friendly-education-environment-english)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in the Philippines involved 139 children (69 boys, 70 girls) from urban areas and 78 adults

(34 men and 44 women). Methods used included research diaries, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Philippines included hitting, punishing, spanking, whipping, use of implements, hair pulling, ear twisting, and pinching.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

POLAND

A study conducted in 2011 on behalf of the Children's Ombudsman, involving 1,005 residents of Poland aged 15-75, found decreases in the social acceptance of parents hitting children since the achievement of full prohibition in 2010. In research published in 2008, 78% of respondents agreed that "there are situations when a child needs to be smacked", compared to 69% in 2011; in 2008, 19% disagreed with the statement, compared to 27% in 2011. A previous comparison of research carried out in 1994 and 2008 did not reveal similar decreases in public approval of corporal punishment, suggesting that law reform and accompanying public education activities had an impact on public opinion. The study also showed a high rate of awareness of the law: 74% of respondents agreed that "beating of a child is unlawful".

(TNS OBOP, 2011, *Social resonance of the amendment to the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence*, Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Poland)

A 2009 survey of 189 teachers in primary schools in Warsaw found that 75% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and 71% believed that it meant that "the parents are not good at rearing children". 36% of respondents felt that the use of "spanking" as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party, in comparison to 20% in an identical survey with a similar sample in 2005. On average, respondents in 2009 estimated that 61% of children in Poland experience "spanking" as punishment, compared to an average estimate of 72% in 2005. Of 1,000 respondents to a 2009 nationwide study, 38% believed that corporal punishment should not be used, compared to 35% in 2005.

(Nobody's Children Foundation, 2009, *Warsaw teachers' attitudes toward child abuse: research report*, www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Poland%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

A study on residential care for children found that one ninth of children in residential care had been physically hurt by a caregiver.

(The Nobody's Children Foundation, 2005, *Being a child victim in residential care*)

PORTUGAL

Telephone interviews with 809 adults aged 18 years and over in April 2004, revealed that 83% believe it is acceptable for parents to smack their children, including one in six (16%) who believe it is always acceptable and a further two thirds (67%) who believe there are some circumstances in which it is acceptable. Just over one in ten (13%) believe it is unacceptable in any circumstances.

Q

Note: No prevalence research identified for Qatar.

R

Note: No prevalence research identified for Reunion. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Russian Federation.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Government research into corporal punishment at middle and high schools showed a decline in prevalence, with 6% experiencing it in 2006 compared with 40% in a similar survey by the Korean Teachers and Education Workers’ Union in 2000. The research surveyed 1,160 students at 40 schools, 533 parents and 262 teachers. When asked if teachers listened to the student’s side of the story before giving the punishment, 89% of teachers said “yes” while 88% of students and 92% of parents answered “no”. Corporal punishment is given when students do not obey school rules, e.g. not finishing homework or being late or absent from class.

(Reported in *The Korea Herald*, 26 January 2007)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Republic of Korea involved 152 children (69 boys, 83 girls) from urban areas and 175 adults (32 men and 143 women). Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Republic of Korea included slapping, whipping, beaten with a broomstick, punching, kicking, pinching, ear pulling. In terms of the settings in which children experienced punishment, the research found that in the home 97.4% of children experienced physical punishment, 3% emotional punishment, while in school 93.6% experienced physical punishment and 6% emotional. Punishment in the home comprised 61% of all punishments, followed by school, then after-school learning centres, playgrounds, and other locations (street, friends’ houses, welfare centres). Punishment is most commonly inflicted by parents (45%), teachers (24%) and other relatives (20%). In response to the statement “After I punish a child I feel unhappy”, 16.6% of adults disagreed, 65.1% agreed, and 18.3% had no opinion.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

In a nationwide survey of 3,228 students conducted by the Korean Federation of Teachers Association in April 2003, 70% said that corporal punishment given by their teachers was fair but that it should be limited to severe cases of insubordination. Students said teachers should not abuse the right to punish students.

(Reported in Hae-noon, K., 2003, "Students cite slip in respect for teachers", *Joong Ang Daily*, Seoul, 14 May 2003)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

A 2009 survey of 206 teachers in primary schools in Chişinău found that 68% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and 58% believed that it meant that "the parents are not good at rearing children". 51% of respondents felt that the use of "spanking" as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party. In an identical survey of a similar sample in 2005, 40% believed this. In a 2009 nationwide study, 55% of respondents believed that corporal punishment should not be used, compared to 37% in 2005. In 2005, 11% of respondents said that corporal punishment "may be used if the parent believes it will be effective"; in 2009, 5% of respondents said this.

(National Center for Child Abuse Prevention and Nobody's Children Foundation, 2009, *Chişinău teachers' attitudes toward child abuse* www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Moldova%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

According to statistics from UNICEF, of girls and women aged 15-49, 21% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances; 23% of boys and men aged 15-49 believe this.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In 2004, the Working Group on Development of Policies and Strategies in the Field of Small Children Care and Development, supported by UNICEF, carried out a national study on children's health, education and experience of violence and abuse. Of the 4-7 year old children questioned, 58.4% reported being beaten at home.

(Reported in Government Response to UN Study on Violence Against Children Questionnaire, September 2005)

ROMANIA

A report on institutions, including psychiatric institutions and care facilities, in Romania found that children with disabilities were kept in permanent restraints, including being tied to chairs, tied up with bedsheets and kept in cribs.

(Ahern, L., Rosenthal, E., et al, [n.d.], *Hidden Suffering: Romania's Segregation and Abuse of Infants and Children with Disabilities*, Mental Disability Rights International)

A 2007 study included a nationally representative poll of 1,110 people and interviews with 155 teachers, doctors, psychologists and other adults who worked with children. 70% of the sample polled and 92% of professionals interviewed were aware that Romanian legislation included "provisions that

forbid physical punishment and humiliating treatment of children”. 73% of the polled sample and 95% of professionals were aware that physical punishment and humiliating treatment of children were banned in all environments, including schools and the home. 97% of professionals believed that the law was necessary in Romania. 82% of the sample felt that an information campaign for the public on child protection legislation was “greatly needed” and 14% that it was needed to some extent. 90% of professionals thought that an information campaign for adults working with children was needed. The poll asked people to define “humiliating treatment of children”. Of the 923 people who answered this question, 60% referred to physical violence and 21% to psychological violence. 12% of the sample interviewed said that they were aware of children being treated violently in the families of friends or neighbours.

(Save the Children Romania, 2007, *Study on the Level of Awareness of Child Protection Legislation Among the General Population and Experts*)

An opinion poll of 1,200 children aged 8-13 years, carried out by Save the Children Romania during the 2002 national campaign “Beating is not from Heaven”, found that 81% considered beating to be an inefficient method of education, 70% believed that child protection against violence was inadequate, 76% believed that adults should be punished by the state for beating children, and 83% felt that corporal punishment should be prohibited by law.

(Reported by Save the Children Romania in correspondence with the Global Initiative)

RWANDA

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 48% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

S

Note: No prevalence research identified for Saint Helena, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sri Lanka. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for St Kitts and Nevis, Slovenia.

ST LUCIA

A UNICEF study of child vulnerability in Barbados, St Vincent and St Lucia, completed in November 2006, found that younger girls and boys were much more likely to be punished than their teenage siblings in all three countries. The number of small children who received no punishment was below 50% in all countries. Overall, younger children, both girls and boys, were more likely to be subjected to corporal punishment, such as spanking, slapping or hitting with the hand or an object.

(Reported in *The Barbados Advocate*, 23 May 2007)

A UNICEF study on Child Rights in Saint Lucia (2000) found that the method of discipline of children most favoured by respondents was corporal punishment (59%), marginally greater among lower socio-economic respondents and males.

(Cited in initial state party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2004, CRC/C/28/Add.23, para.98)

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

A UNICEF study of child vulnerability in Barbados, St Vincent and St Lucia, completed in November 2006, found that younger girls and boys were much more likely to be punished than their teenage siblings in all three countries. The number of small children who received no punishment was below 50% in all countries. Overall, younger children, both girls and boys, were more likely to be subjected to corporal punishment, such as spanking, slapping or hitting with the hand or an object.

(Reported in *The Barbados Advocate*, 23 May 2007)

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 32% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

SAUDI ARABIA

Adults Before Their Time: Children in Saudi Arabia's Criminal Justice System is one of a series of reports published by Human Rights Watch following an examination of the criminal justice system during the first fact-finding visit to Saudi Arabia by an international human rights organization. The investigation included interviews with Saudi officials, detainees, lawyers and families. The research found that judges regularly try children without the presence of lawyers or sometimes even guardians, even for crimes punishable by death, flogging, or amputation. Flogging is a very common sentence for crimes and there is no minimum age for corporal punishment. Corporal punishment is also used in detention centres for both girls and boys. The report calls on Saudi Arabia to adopt a written penal code and to prohibit all corporal punishment of persons under the age of 18 at the time of the offence.

(Human Rights Watch, 2008, *Adults Before Their Time: Children in Saudi Arabia's Criminal Justice System*, www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/03/24/adults-their-time-0)

A news item in 2003 reported a recently published survey on corporal punishment in schools which found 59.5% of respondents in favour of reintroducing corporal punishment into schools, with 38.5% against.

(Reported in "Yes to corporal punishment", *Arab News*, 30 June 2003)

SENEGAL

A report by Human Rights Watch documented physical punishment and other severe violations of the rights of at least 50,000 children (talibés), mostly boys under twelve years old, attending residential Quranic schools in Senegal. The report found that the children, who were forced by the teachers who serve as their guardians (marabouts) to beg on the streets, experienced severe physical punishment including being beaten with electric cables or clubs for not bringing back the quota of money and food set by the marabouts.

(Human Rights Watch, 2010, *Off the Backs of the Children: Forced Begging and Other Abuses against Talibés in Senegal*)

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Senegal, 60% of the sample had experienced at least one type of physical violence during their childhood. The most commonly experienced type of physical violence was being hit, punched, kicked or beaten, followed by being choked, burnt or stabbed. The most common perpetrators of physical violence were mothers (20.5%) and fathers (15.8%). Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

A study by the African Child Policy Forum in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal found that hitting, beating and forced hard work were the most prevalent forms of violence against girls, and that most of the physical violence experienced by girls was corporal punishment. The study involved a survey of 3,025 young women (nearly 600 per country) aged 18-24 about the violence they had experienced in their childhood. In Senegal, 52% of respondents had been hit during their childhood, 79% had been beaten, 21% kicked, 25% denied food and 16% choked or burned. Parents and close relatives were the most common perpetrators of physical violence.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Childhood Scars in Africa: A Retrospective Study on Violence Against Girls in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Senegal*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 65% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

SERBIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 75% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Fifty-five per cent experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (11%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also very widely used: experienced by 90% of children. Eight per cent of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 64% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 five per cent of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 8% of non-disabled children. Six per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A report on institutions in Serbia found that, as there are no enforceable laws or regulations regulating the use of physical restraints and no oversight, children with disabilities were kept in restraints for days, weeks or years. Restraint was used for the convenience of staff and included being tied to beds, chairs and cribs.

(Ahern, L., Rosenthal, E., et al, 2007, *Torment not Treatment: Serbia's Segregation and Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities*, Mental Disability Rights International)

In a study of children in six state residential care institutions, 26% of children reported experiencing physical violence at least once from a member of staff; 17% of adults working in these institutions reported that some of their colleagues were violent towards the children.

(Plut, D. & Popadić, D., 2007, *U lavirintu nasilja – istraživanje nasilja u ustanovama za decu bez roditeljskog staranja u Srbiji*, Beograd: Save the Children UK & Institut za psihologiju, reported in Srna, J. & Stevanović, I., 2011, "Serbia: Moving Towards the Abolition of Physical Punishment of Children", in Durrant, J. E. & Smith, A. B. (eds), 2011, *Global Pathways to Abolishing Physical Punishment: Realizing Children's Rights*, New York: Routledge, pp.222-233)

A 2006 study surveyed nearly 27,000 children aged 9-15 and 4,000 adults including teachers, secretaries, technical and security staff in 50 schools. 32% of children said that they had experienced violence from a teacher in the past three months, with 5% of children saying that they had experienced violence from teachers several times and even daily. 17% reported that a teacher had hit them or pulled their hair or ears at least once, 24% had experienced verbal aggression from a teacher, and 8% had been threatened by a teacher in the past three months.

(Plut, D. and Popadic, D., 2006, *School Without Violence: towards the safe and enabling environment for children*, Belgrade: UNICEF and Institute of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade)

Interviews with young offenders, carried out as part of a UNICEF assessment of the juvenile justice system, revealed that many had experienced physical punishment during custody in penal institutions.

(Conragan, C., 2002, *Children in conflict with the law: Victims of the transition – An assessment of the juvenile justice systems in the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro*, UNICEF)

SIERRA LEONE

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 92% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly eight in ten experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (56%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 93% of children. One quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 83% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 10-14 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than younger children: 94% of children aged 10-14 compared to 88% of children aged 2-4 and 93% of children aged 5-9. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 children with disabilities were more likely to experience severe physical punishment: 24% of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 21% of non-disabled children. Eighty-five per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

SINGAPORE

Research by the Singapore Children's Society, published in October 2006, examined parents' childrearing and how children view this. Over 1000 interviews were conducted with 533 parents (248

fathers, 285 mothers) and 533 children aged 10-12 years (262 boys and 271 girls) covering different ethnic groups, mostly middle-income families. The part of the study which focused on disciplinary practices found that reasoning was considered the most effective practice by both parents and children, but physical punishment was also used. Mothers tended to inflict physical punishment more frequently than fathers, though both regarded it as ineffective. Children were reported as “neutral” about both its effectiveness and its fairness.

(Shan, S.-C. H., Hawkins, R. & Whee, L. K., 2006, *The Parenting Project: Disciplinary practices, childcare arrangements and parenting practices in Singapore*, Singapore Children’s Society)

A telephone poll of 358 people following the resignation of a school principal for breaking Ministry of Education guidelines on corporal punishment was carried out by the Sunday Times (by the Singapore Press Holdings’ research arm in April 2004) and found that seven in 10 favoured corporal punishment, while nine in 10 said parents today were too protective of their children.

(Reported in Quek, T., 2004, “Go ahead, cane wayward students”, *Sunday Times*, Singapore, 2 May 2004)

A Lifestyle (Sunday Times) poll of 50 people found that nine in 10 think girls are less well-behaved than they used to be and six in 10 approved of corporal punishment for girls.

(Reported in “Girls behaving badly”, *Sunday Times*, Singapore, 9 May 2004)

SLOVAKIA

Preliminary analysis of attitudinal research in 2002, undertaken by the Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies and involving 856 adults, found that 98.6% believed that parents should be allowed to use a “smack on the buttock from time to time”, 75.3% believed that parents should be allowed to use “occasional slaps”, 41.7% felt that occasional beating with an implement was acceptable, and 22.9% felt that repeated beating was acceptable.

(International Centre for Family Studies, 2003, “The prevalence of violence in Slovakia” , Bratislava: International Centre for Family Studies)

Research in 2000 on the prevalence of corporal punishment within the family by the Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies, involving 2,433 children aged 13-17 years, found that corporal punishment was common for 2.2% of the children. It was experienced occasionally by 38%, and never by 59.2%.

(International Centre for Family Studies, 2002, “The children’s rights applying in the praxis. Preliminary survey report”, Bratislava: International Centre for Family Studies)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seventy-two per cent of children aged 2-14 years old experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression).

(UNICEF, 2011, *The State of the World’s Children*, Table 9: Child Protection, NY: UNICEF, www.unicef.org/sowc)

SOMALIA

According to statistics from UNICEF, of girls and women aged 15-49, 76% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Figures provided by the NGO Somalia Child Protection and Development (SOCPD) state that in one study 30% of adults and 40% of children reported some form of beating being administered.

(Reported by Somalia Child Protection and Development, August 2004)

SOUTH AFRICA

A survey by Statistics SA revealed that the use of corporal punishment in schools declined overall between 2009 and 2010, from 17% of students experiencing corporal punishment in 2009 to 14% in 2010. However, in some areas the use of corporal punishment increased: in the Northern Cape, from 5.6% to 17.5%, and in the North West, from 12.7% to 21.7%.

(Reported in "Disturbing rise in corporal punishment - survey", *News24*, 5 May 2011, www.news24.com)

In 2008 the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention released its report on the National Schools Violence Study, which provides a baseline from which to monitor school violence in the future. Over 12,000 students took part in the survey, as well as nearly 800 principals and educators at 245 primary and secondary schools. The study found that, despite prohibition in schools, 71% of primary school children and 47.5% of secondary school children experienced corporal punishment. Rates of corporal punishment varied by province, with 90% of primary school educators or principals in the Northern Cape using corporal punishment, 81% in Limpopo and 78% in the Eastern Cape. Secondary school principals and educators were most likely to use corporal punishment in the Free State (61.8%), Gauteng (61%) and the Eastern Cape (58.5%). The report notes that there is a strong correlation in provinces between high rates of corporal punishment and use of violence by students. Almost half (47.3%) of primary school children suffered corporal punishment in the home. Students who experienced corporal punishment at home were more likely to report experiencing violence at school than those who did not experience corporal punishment at home.

(Burton, P., 2008, *Merchants, Skollies and Stones: Experiences of School Violence in South Africa*, Cape Town: Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, www.cjcp.org.za/admin/uploads/NSVS-final-internet-ready.pdf, accessed 1st July 2010)

The National Youth Victimization Study released in May 2006 by the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention reported on a survey of 4,409 young people aged between 12 and 22 years which found that nationally 51.4% of children continue to be subjected to corporal punishment in schools, with the lowest prevalence being 17% in the Western Cape. The survey also found that around a quarter of the youth live in a home where domestic violence between caregivers or parents is common.

(Reported in "Corporal punishment still rife in classrooms despite being banned", *Cape Times*, 11 May 2006)

In 2004, Save the Children undertook qualitative research involving 410 boys and girls aged 6-18 years from four provinces in South Africa. The study found that children of all ages and income categories experienced corporal punishment at home and in school, although very few cases were reported by children in high income environments and children from Indian communities. The most common form of corporal punishment was beating with a belt; in schools it was most often inflicted using a ruler, stick or board duster on the hands. The most severe forms were experienced by children from low income environments, in both the home and school. Schools from high income areas were generally not using corporal punishment.

(Clacherty, G., Donald, D. & Clacherty, A., 2005, *South African Children's Experiences of Corporal Punishment*, Pretoria: Save the Children Sweden)

The first national survey of attitudes to child rearing and the use of corporal punishment by caregivers was undertaken in 2003, as part of the South African Social Attitude Survey (SASAS). Out of a representative sample of 2,497 men and women over 16 years of age from all provinces, population groups and economic backgrounds, 952 parents with children were surveyed specifically on corporal punishment. 57% of parents reported using corporal punishment, most commonly on children aged 3 years, with 33% using severe corporal punishment (beating with a belt or stick), most commonly on 4-year-olds. Of those who had smacked their children in the past year, 30% were men and 70% were women, with fewer younger than older parents using corporal punishment. The study concluded that the strongest predictor of severe corporal punishment was an attitude supportive of the use of physical punishment.

(Dawes, A. et al., 2004, *Partner violence, attitudes to child discipline & the use of corporal punishment: A South African national survey*, Cape Town: Child Youth & Family Development, Human Sciences Research Council)

SPAIN

A 2009 study by the Defensor del Pueblo (ombudsman) on centres for children without parental care found that “disciplinary regimes” varied widely between centres. While some centres applied positive disciplinary techniques, others relied more on punitive sanctions. In some centres, punishments included tying two children together, preventing children from attending school and isolating children. The report recommends increased regulation at a regional level and states that regulations must not directly or indirectly provide for corporal punishment or other types of punishment which violate children’s rights.

(Defensor del Pueblo, 2009, *Centros de Protección de Menores con Trastornos de Conducta y en Situación de Dificultad Social*)

A study carried out in 2007 examined five European countries: Sweden, Austria, Germany, France and Spain. Five thousand parents (1,000 in each nation) were interviewed about their use of and attitude towards corporal punishment, their own experiences of violence and their knowledge and beliefs about the law. 55% of Spanish parents said they had “mildly” slapped their child on the face and 80% had slapped their child on the bottom. 31% had given their child a “resounding” slap on the face and 6.7% had beaten their child with an object. 16% of Spanish parents never used corporal punishment. 84% agreed that “one should try to use as little corporal punishment as possible” and 85% agreed that “non-violent child-rearing is the ideal”.

Research in 2004 by the National Social Research Centre found that 25.6% of adults believed it was necessary to smack their own children to impose discipline, with 74.4% believing it unnecessary.

(Cited in Goicoechea, P. H., *Castigo Físico y Psicológico en España: Incidencia, voces de los niños y niñas y situación legal*, Save the Children Spain)

SRI LANKA

A study into institutional care in Sri Lanka found that corporal punishment and other cruel treatment occurred sometimes in institutions. The study recommended that corporal punishment of children in care be banned.

(Save the Children in Sri Lanka, 2005, *Home Truths: Children's Rights in Institutional Care in Sri Lanka*)

SUDAN

Research by Save the Children Sweden in Sudan looked at children's experiences of physical punishment at home and in school. Two reformatories and custody centres were also visited. In schools, reasons for being beaten by teachers included late arrival (41.1%) and failure to complete homework or recite Koranic verses (45.1%); of children at Koranic schools, 89% gave the main reason for corporal punishment as imperfect recitation of Koranic verses. In the home, reasons included disobedience (35.6%), persistent demands (28.4%) and making loud noises (24%); 89% of interviewed parents believed corporal punishment to be the best technique for achieving desirable behaviour in their children. The most common form of corporal punishment by teachers and parents was reported by the children as whipping (87%). Almost half (48.1%) the children stated that they would not use corporal punishment on children when they were older, but 37.9% intended to use it. The children reported experiencing corporal punishment as very painful (35.6%) and embarrassing (5.8%). The punishment also invoked fear of teachers or parents (16.3%), weakness (9.8%), lack of respect for the person inflicting the punishment (8.6%) and hatred of the people and the setting where the punishment was carried out (12.3%). In the reformatories and custody centres visited, 65% of juvenile offenders said they had received corporal punishment at some stage of the juvenile justice process; 87% of those interviewed while in custody said they had been beaten by police to obtain a confession. Children with a variety of disabilities (including deafness, blindness, other physical and mental disabilities) were asked for their views on corporal punishment. Forty-three per cent of mentally disabled children stated that it was bad to be beaten by anybody. They said that they felt distressed and sad when somebody beat them.

(Save the Children Sweden, 2005, *Ending Physical and Psychological Punishment against Children: Sudan, Ethiopia: Save the Children Sweden*)

SURINAME

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 86% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Sixty-two per cent

experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (17%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 95% of children. One child in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 81% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, age, household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 nine per cent of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared with 8% of non-disabled children. Thirteen per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

In a survey conducted by the Teachers Training College in 1999, 12.9% of parents reported that they applied corporal punishment; 50% endorsed the use of corporal punishment in school.

(Reported in second state party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2005, CRC/C/SUR/2, para. 59)

SWAZILAND

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 38% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A large scale survey by Save the Children in 2005 looked at the experience over a two week period of corporal punishment of 2,366 children aged 6-18 years from all of Swaziland's four regions. Children revealed being subjected to high levels of corporal punishment in the home and at school: 18% reported being hit with the hand in the home during the period; 28% reported being beaten with objects such as sticks, belts, sjamboks and whips. Boys were punished for such behaviour as breaking or stealing things, not tending livestock properly, playing instead of working, or playing out too late. Young children, particularly girls, were punished in connection with household chores. In school during the two weeks, 28% of children reported being hit with a hand, and 59% reported being beaten with an object, most often sticks, canes, sjamboks and blackboard dusters. Other punishments included physical labour or physical (and often humiliating) activities causing pain and discomfort. Children reported experiencing humiliating punishment, 35% in the home, 28% in school, in addition to experiencing corporal punishment itself as humiliating. Generally, corporal punishment was more commonly used in low income environments and on younger children. 77% of children considered

corporal punishment to be unacceptable in the home and in school; 81% felt humiliating punishment to be unacceptable. The study also involved qualitative research with 384 children from the regions.

(Clacherty, G., Donald, D. & Clacherty, A., 2005, *Children's Experiences of Corporal Punishment in Swaziland*, Pretoria: Save the Children Sweden)

SWEDEN

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in Sweden, none of the boys or girls had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month, and none of the parents believed that it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child. Nine per cent of girls and 6% of boys had experienced "mild" corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object) by someone in their household in the past month.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, "Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender", *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

A study carried out in 2007 examined five European countries: Sweden, Austria, Germany, France and Spain. Five thousand parents (1,000 in each nation) were interviewed about their use of and attitude towards corporal punishment, their own experiences of violence and their knowledge and beliefs about the law. 14% of Swedish parents said they had "mildly" slapped their child on the face and 17% had slapped their child on the bottom. 4% had given their child a "resounding" slap on the face and 1.8% had beaten their child with an object. 76% of Swedish parents never used corporal punishment. 88% agreed that "one should try to use as little corporal punishment as possible" and 93% agreed that "non-violent child-rearing is the ideal".

(Bussmann, K. D., 2009, *The Effect of Banning Corporal Punishment in Europe: A Five-Nation Comparison*, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

SWITZERLAND

Research in 2004 by Fribourg University commissioned by the Federal Social Insurance Office involved interviews with 1,240 parents with children under the age of 16 years and found that the use of corporal punishment by parents is in decline but smaller children are more often subjected to beatings than older ones. Based on the findings, the study estimates that 13,000 children under the age of 30 months have been slapped, nearly 18,000 have been pulled by the hair and about 1,700 hit with objects.

(Schöbi, D. & Perrez, M., 2004, *Bestrafungsverhalten von Erziehungsberechtigten in der Schweiz: Eine vergleichende Analyse des Bestrafungsverhaltens von Erziehungsberechtigten 1990 une 2004*, Universität Fribourg (in German); English information from "Small children target of parental beatings", *swissinfo*, 24 January 2005)

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 89% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly eight in ten experienced physical punishment, and 92% of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing. Non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. Nearly one quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 84% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 90% compared to 88%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 91% of children aged 5-9 compared to 85% of children aged 2-4 and 88% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 90% of children in households of 6 or more people compared to 75% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

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Note: No prevalence research identified for Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu. No prevalence research in the last ten years identified for Tonga.

TAIWAN

In a 2011 poll of over 2,000 students at schools in 22 cities and counties, nearly 30% of junior high school students and 20% of elementary school students had experienced corporal punishment, despite the prohibition of school corporal punishment enacted in 2006. Twenty per cent of students had experienced verbal abuse or threats from their teachers.

(Reported in "Legal ban has not stopped corporal punishment: poll", *Taipei Times*, 10 Aug 2011)

Government research has shown a drop in the incidence of corporal punishment in schools since it was prohibited in December 2006. Surveys among junior high students conducted every two months reveal that corporal punishment of students fell from 42.5% in 2006 to 29.2% in 2007 and to 15.8% in the first two months of 2008 (compared with 27.7% in the first two months of 2007).

(Reported in *The China Post*, 25 April 2008)

In a nationwide survey by the Humanistic Education Foundation of 2,779 elementary and junior high school students in April and May 2007 more than 52.8% reported receiving corporal punishment,

representing a decline compared with the figure of 64% for 2005. There was also a change in the types of punishment inflicted – student beatings dropped from 51% in 2005 to 27.3% in 2007, while the use of *fazhan* (standing for a certain period of time) increased from 9.7% in 2005 to 35% in 2007.

(Reported in the *Taipei Times*, 4 June 2007)

In January 2007, the findings from a survey of 5,630 elementary and junior high school educators who had attended discussions hosted by the 21st Century Education Association in autumn 2006 were published, revealing that 30% of teachers believed that corporal punishment is appropriate and necessary in improving academic performance, study skills and students' characters; 60% felt that educators would continue to use physical force as a disciplinary measure, despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in law; 69% felt that an online forum for sharing and discussing positive disciplinary methods would facilitate the move away from corporal punishment.

(Reported in *The China Post*, 19 January 2007)

The Humanistic Education Foundation conducted five surveys between 1999 and 2005 which showed a decline in the use of corporal punishment in schools. In 1999, 83.4% of students interviewed reported experiencing corporal punishment in that academic year. In 2000, the figure was 74.2%, in 2001 70.9%, and in 2004 it was 69.4%. In 2005, the survey was conducted in 23 cities/counties in Taiwan, involving 3,240 respondents (1,164 junior high school students and 2,076 primary school students). Almost two thirds of students (65.1%) reported having experienced corporal punishment, 56.2% of primary school students and 70% of junior high school students. The most common form of corporal punishment was by hitting on the palms or bottoms with a hand or stick (47.7%). Direct infliction of physical pain was used in 56.8% of cases (including hitting with a hand or stick, deprivation of physical needs, holding painful postures). Almost a quarter (23.9%) of students received punishment that may constitute crimes of assault, instigation of assault or public insults. Almost one in ten (9.5%) of those who experienced physical pain were punished in this way over 10 times during the year.

(Humanistic Education Foundation, 2005, *How much does it hurt? Only the children can tell: HEF 2005 survey of corporal punishment in schools*, HEF)

TAJIKISTAN

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 78% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Six in ten experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (12%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 89% of children. Nearly one child in five experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 73% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 80% compared to 75%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 81% of children aged 5-9 compared to 69% of children aged 2-4 and 79% of children aged 10-14. Children living in larger households were more likely to experience violent discipline: 79% of children in households of 6 or

more people compared to 61% of children in households of 2-3 people. The statistics also suggest that children with more siblings are more likely to experience violent discipline in most countries involved in the study (p. 72). No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 seventy-four per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

THAILAND

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in Thailand 58% of girls and 72% of boys involved in the study had experienced "mild" corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 5% of girls and 3% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 16% of mothers and 22% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 11% of mothers and 10% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, "Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender", *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

A UNICEF study involving more than 2,300 children in the southern border area of Thailand found that violence, and the anxiety it causes, is an everyday occurrence in their lives, including corporal punishment in homes and schools. Of the 475 children who answered a question about corporal punishment in the home, 38% said they had direct experience of violent punishment like beating with a stick or belt, and 8% said this kind of punishment happens often. 50% of the 1,010 children who answered a question on their opinion on corporal punishment at home disagreed that they deserved violent punishment when they did wrong.

(UNICEF, 2008, *Everyday Fears: A study of children's perceptions of living in the southern border area of Thailand*, Bangkok: UNICEF, www.unicef.org/thailand/Everyday_fears.pdf)

In November 2006, the findings of a study funded by the National Health Foundation were released which showed that corporal punishment continues to be used in schools, despite its prohibition. The research constituted a questionnaire sent to 1,300 teachers in primary and high schools across the country. Punishments reported included hitting students with open palms, fists, clothes and blunt objects, kicking, applying heated materials and slapping the face. Up to 60% of the teachers strongly believed that corporal punishment was the right method to use with students.

The government's written reply to the list of issues raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2005 gives the following figures for the percentages of children aged 6-12 and 13-17 experiencing domestic violence in 2003: being yelled at/scolded 45.9% and 51.5% respectively; being cursed with bad words 31.1% and 32.1%; being condemned 6.0% and 8.2%; being compared to an animal 8.3% and 11.8%; being whipped/caned 27.9% and 7.8%; being thrown at with an object 6.6% and 7.2%; having hair pulled 5.0% and 2.2%; being slapped 3.7% and 3.0%; being kicked and punched 2.9% and 2.5%; being trampled on 1.4% and 0.9%; having head knocked against the wall 0.7% and 0.2%; and being burned with a cigarette 0.3% and 0.1%.

(Associate Prof. L. Mohsuwan et al., 2003, reported in Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Replies to the List of Issues Sent by The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/THA/Q/2/Add.1, 2005)

A survey in 2001 of 9,488 young people aged 1-18 years in 16 provinces, reported by the Thailand Research Fund, found that 45.9% of children were verbally and physically attacked by their parents and elder relatives.

(Reported in the *Bangkok Post*, 1 October 2003, cited in International Save the Children Alliance, 2004, *How to research the physical and emotional punishment of children: Resource Handbook*, Bangkok, Thailand: International Save the Children Alliance)

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 72% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly six in ten experienced physical punishment, while a much smaller percentage (7%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. More than one child in seven experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 61% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 77% compared to 68%. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to age, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006, twelve per cent of disabled children aged 2-9 were hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or hit over and over as hard as possible with an implement, compared to 20% of non-disabled children. Twenty-one per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2009 report by the office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia found that corporal punishment was very common in institutions. Fifty-three children living in three institutions took part in the research. Of these, 21% said physical violence occurred often in institutions and 21% said it occurred rarely. Seventeen per cent said they were often psychologically abused, and 11% rarely. Only about half of the children had never experienced physical violence, and half had never experienced psychological violence. Children were afraid to report experiencing corporal punishment, and also did not know where to report it.

(First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi, 2009, *Overview of the situation of children in institutions in Republic of Macedonia*, www.childrensembassy.org.mk)

65.3% of respondents to a 2009 survey of 662 adults believed that corporal punishment should never be used. This was a significant increase compared to an identical 2005 survey of 519 adults, when 42.8% said that corporal punishment should never be used. 1.5% of respondents in 2009 said that corporal punishment was acceptable "if the parent believes that it will be effective", compared to 14.5% in 2005. The studies in 2005 and 2009 also examined adults' perceptions of the prevalence of corporal punishment.

(BRIMA, 2009, *Overview of the perception about the corporal punishment of the children in Republic of Macedonia and comparative analysis between the research results from 2005 and 2009 year*, www.canee.net/files/Omnibus%20research%20Macedonia%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

A 2009 survey of 208 teachers in primary schools in Skopje found that 73% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and 70% believed that it meant that "the parents are not good at rearing children". 68% of respondents felt that the use of "spanking" as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party. In an identical survey of a similar sample in 2005, 62% believed this. On average, respondents in 2009 estimated that 30% of children in Macedonia experience spanking as punishment, compared to an average estimate of 52% in 2005.

(Nobody's Children Foundation et al, 2009, *Skopje teachers' attitudes toward child abuse*, www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Macedonia%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

The First Children's Embassy in the world-Megjashi, carried out research on children's rights, discrimination and violence in 2009, involving over 2,200 students. According to the report, 56% of children named hitting/beatings as a form of violence that happens in schools, and 57% said they knew a child who had been beaten by a teacher or headteacher, including slapping (63%), caning (34%), and kicking (15%).

(First Children's Embassy in the world-Megjashi, 2009, *Perception of Children's Rights, Discrimination and Children's Exposure to Violence*, www.childrensembassy.org.mk/default-en.asp?ItemID=BDE30F4995F6E24A8495ABB7F7C731A1)

TIMOR-LESTE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF

Research carried out in 2004/5 by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion, UNICEF and Plan International, examined the attitudes and practices of teachers and parents towards discipline of children. Self administered questionnaires were completed by 168 students and interviews were carried out with 1,031 parents and 31 community leaders; focus group discussions were held separately with students, parents, children who lived in residential care, and residential care staff. Over two thirds of children (67%) reported being beaten with a stick by teachers, and 39% reported being slapped on the face by teachers. Three out of five (60%) reported being beaten with a stick by their parents. Almost two thirds of parents (63%) felt it acceptable to yell violently at a child; almost two in five (39%) said it was acceptable to beat a child with a stick, and just over a third considered other physical punishments such as ear twisting and face slapping acceptable.

(UNICEF, 2006, *Speak Nicely to Me – A Study on Practices and Attitudes about Discipline of Children in Timor-Leste*)

TOGO

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 91% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. More than three quarters experienced physical punishment. Non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 90% of children. More than a quarter of children experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 83% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were slightly more likely to experience violent discipline than younger children: 92% of children aged 5-9 compared to 87% of children aged 2-4. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 more than half (53%) of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

From mid-2005, Plan Togo commissioned research into violence and abuse in schools (Plan Togo, 2006). This included a joint study with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) which involved interviews with 1,000 schoolchildren in 35 villages and with more than 500 mothers of school aged children, teachers, traditional chiefs, members of security services, social workers and others, a case study on violence and abuse in Togolese schools comprising 19 first-person narratives and observations based on interviews with children, parents and teachers in 7 villages and 2 towns, and a discussion of structural violence in the education system in Togo. In the FAWE research, children in their last 3 years of primary school were interviewed: 88% of the girls and 87% of the boys reported

experiencing physical violence at school; 52% of girls and 48% of boys reported experiencing threatening behaviour or psychological violence.

(Plan Togo, 2006, *Suffering to Succeed? Violence and abuse in schools in Togo*, Lome: Plan Togo)

A 2003 Human Rights Watch report on child trafficking in Togo noted that many boys had been recruited into agricultural labour and worked very long hours, with many recalling that taking time off for sickness or injury would lead to longer working hours or corporal punishment. Most boys interviewed reported suffering physical injuries on the job and some of these were from corporal punishment by employers. The report notes that girls trafficked for domestic or market labour also experienced frequent beatings, carried out by bosses or by other neighbours.

(Human Rights Watch, 2003, *Borderline Slavery: Child Trafficking in Togo*)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 77% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. More than half experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (25%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 89% of children. One child in twenty experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 68% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 2-4 were more likely to experience violent discipline than older children: 83% of children aged 2-4 compared to 79% of children aged 5-9 and 74% of children aged 10-14. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 eight per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

TUNISIA

A 2006 study of 4,511 households with children aged 2-14 found that 94% of the children were punished using physical, verbal or other forms of violence. 73% of them were hit and 26% insulted. 85% of 2-5 year olds, 81% of 6-9 year olds and 66% of 10-14 year olds experienced corporal punishment. Boys and girls were punished equally and the number of people in the household, amount of living space and levels of maternal education had little effect on the levels of corporal punishment. 82% of mothers aged under 40 were physically violent towards their children compared to 70% of mothers aged over 40.

TURKEY

A 2010 study examined the prevalence of various types of family violence in the childhoods of 988 college students through anonymous questionnaires. The types of violence included being kicked, punched, thrown, bruised, burned, or caused to bleed, lose teeth, or have broken bones. 53.3% of the students had experienced some of these types of violence in childhood (64% of males and 41.6% of females). The most common perpetrators were mothers and fathers, but siblings and other relatives also inflicted some violence. 22.6% of the victims of violence said that the perpetrator had behaved violently to establish discipline, 15.9% said that the perpetrator wanted to teach them a lesson and 16.1% that the perpetrator wanted to instill respect. 60.7% stated that the perpetrator was unable to control him or herself and 8.7% that the perpetrator was violent in order to release their anger. 35.4% reported feeling humiliated by the violence, 26.3% accepted it, and 10.4% felt hate for the perpetrator.

(Turla, A., Dündar, C., and Özkanli, C., 2010, "Prevalence of Childhood Physical Abuse in a Representative Sample of College Students in Samsun, Turkey", *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 25, no. 7, pp. 1298–1308)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 39% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A report on psychiatric facilities, orphanages and rehabilitation centres in Turkey found that in psychiatric institutions children as young as nine were subjected to electroconvulsive or 'shock' treatment (ECT), including as a punishment, without the use of muscle relaxants or anaesthesia – extremely painful, frightening and dangerous treatment. In rehabilitation centres and orphanages, children were restrained, sometimes permanently, by being tied by their arms and legs or having plastic bottles taped over their hands. The report documents an incident of corporal punishment where a child was locked up, thrown across a room, tied up and hit.

(Ahern, L., Rosenthal, E., et al, 2005, *Behind Closed Doors: Human Rights Abuses in the Psychiatric Facilities, Orphanages and Rehabilitation Centers of Turkey*, Mental Disability Rights International)

Research involving 1,800 children and young people aged 10-18 years in Istanbul found that 23% reported experiencing physical punishment by their parents, and this was more common for children below the age of 14 years than for older children.

(Erkman, F., 2003, paper presented at the Society for Cross Cultural Research Conference, South Carolina, February 2003)

TURKMENISTAN

According to statistics from UNICEF, of girls and women aged 15-49, 38% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

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Note: No prevalence research identified for US Virgin Islands, Uruguay,

UGANDA

In a survey of 1,015 children at 25 public and private primary schools in Acholi, Lango, West Nile and Central regions, 81% of respondents reported having been beaten at school. Of those who had been beaten, 73% had been beaten by a teacher, 15% by other students and 12% by their parents or guardians. Children were also punished by being denied food for extended periods of time, locked up in rooms, assigned difficult work and forced to kneel in front of other children at school. Eighty-two per cent of children had seen their friends being caned. The study, conducted in April 2011 by ANPPCAN Uganda Chapter, also involved 52 professionals including teachers, head teachers, PTA members, police, government and non-government experts in the education and child protection fields at district and national level.

(Reported by Anppccan Uganda Chapter, 10 July 2011, www.anppcanug.org)

A 2011 report by Human Rights Watch documented corporal punishment of prisoners in Uganda, including beatings with batons, canes, sticks, whips and electric cable and wire, despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in the Prisons Act (2006). Children are sometimes detained with adults in prisons, even though this is prohibited. The report calls for efforts to end the use of corporal punishment and prosecution of persons who inflict it.

(Human Rights Watch, 2011, *“Even Dead Bodies Must Work”*: Health, Hard Labor, and Abuse in Ugandan Prisons)

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Uganda, 87% of the sample had experienced at least one type of physical violence during their childhood. The most commonly experienced type of physical violence was being hit, punched, kicked or beaten. Common perpetrators of physical violence included step-mothers (10.8%), mothers (9.5%), fathers (8.7%) and other relatives (15.7%). Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The

report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 70% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A survey of 500 young women in Uganda aged 18-24 years concerning their childhood experiences of violence, undertaken by the Africa Child Policy Forum and published in 2006, found that 94.2% had been subjected to physical violence. Beating with an object was found to be the most prevalent form of physical violence (85.8%). Prevalence figures for other forms of physical violence were 55% for punching, 26.8% kicking, 47.8% hard work, 20.4% being choked/burned/stabbed, 9% having spicy/bitter food put in mouth, 18.2% being locked or tied up, and 52.8% being denied food. Girls were found to be most vulnerable to beating with an object when aged 10-13 years (57.1%), and to being hit/punched when aged 14-17 years (44%). Experiencing the violence more than ten times was more likely in the case of beating than other types of physical violence. Most beating with an object was carried out by male teachers (48.5%), followed by fathers (43.4%) and mothers (42.9%), and in 57.3% of cases medical attention was required. Most hitting/punching was carried out by fathers (22.9%), followed by mothers (17.1%) and brothers (15.6%), with medical attention required in 21.1% of cases. At school, girls were told they were beaten for being late, for misbehaving, or for being disrespectful. At home, the reasons given for beating or hitting included for breaking/losing something, for being disrespectful to their elders, or for not doing housework.

(Stavropoulos, J., 2006, *Violence Against Girls in Africa: A Retrospective Survey in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda*, Addis Ababa, The African Child Policy Forum)

A 2005 study which included interviews with orphans living with guardians (often family members) reported that orphans experience corporal punishment daily to monthly, including slapping and caning with sticks and logs. The orphans reported experiencing more frequent and severe corporal punishment than other children, including the children of their guardians. Orphans were also spoken to more severely than other children. The motive for the severity and frequency of punishments was understood by the children to be “the guardians’ anger and frustration about having to care for the orphans when their resources were limited” (p. 9).

(World Vision International – Africa Office, 2005, *Violence Against Children affected by HIV/AIDS: a case study of Uganda*)

In-depth research into children’s experiences of violence against them was carried out in 2005 using a range of methods to look at the stories and opinions of 1,406 children aged 8-18 years (719 girls, 687 boys) and 1,093 adults (520 women, 573 men), including parents, teachers and community leaders, from five diverse districts. This included the administration of 1,000 questionnaires to children (in and out of school), of which 777 were valid returns, and 900 questionnaires to adults, of which 755 were valid returns. Other methods were focus groups, narrative role play, journal writing and interviews.

Almost all children (98.3%) reported experiencing physical violence at home and/or school. The most common forms were caning, slapping and pinching, followed by burning, locking up, tying up and other (e.g. kneeling, slashing grass, cleaning latrines), all more common for boys than girls except slapping, pinching and other. Older boys were more likely to experience severe physical violence. Almost one third (31.3%) said they experienced physical violence at least once per week and 15% said it happened “every day”; 38.8% said it occurred mainly at home, 28.6% said mainly at school and 31.8% said both at school and home. Most adults (90%) agreed that in their communities children were deliberately beaten, with 37% saying children in their communities were “frequently mistreated”; 55.1% said “sometimes mistreated”. Most (91.3%) described using a combination of physical and emotional punishment, most commonly caning (78.3%), slapping (45.7%), pinching (42.8%), assigning excessive work (19.3%), and locking children up (11.4%), tying them up (3.4%) and burning them (2.9%). Apart from caning, these figures are significantly lower than those given by the children. Only 1.2% said they themselves never punished children. While 87.9% said they punished children to guide their behaviour, only 32.6% believed the punishment would change the behaviour. 81.7% said they punished their own children and 57.9% said they felt comfortable punishing other children in the community. Of teachers, 80.1% reported punishing their own children and 60.4% their students. Of community leaders, 89.4% punished their own children compared with 22.4% punishing others’ children.

(Naker, D., 2005, *Violence Against Children – The Voices of Ugandan Children and Adults*, Raising Voices/Save the Children in Uganda)

Research reported in 2004 looked at the problem of violence against children in Uganda and found that physical abuse was the most common form. More than nine out of ten children (93.3%) reported having experienced physical violence including caning, slapping and pinching. Of those who experienced physical violence, 16.1% said it occurred at least once a week, 15% said it occurred daily.

(Dipak, 2004, “Raising Voices Uganda”, cited in Derib, A., 2005, *Regional Report on Physical and Humiliating Punishment Against Children*, Save the Children)

In research by Save the Children UK focusing on deprivation and criminal behaviour, carried out in 2002, 116 children who had been convicted of theft and children at the national rehabilitation centre, aged 10-19 years and 71 parents/guardians were interviewed. The prohibition of caning in the juvenile justice system under the Children’s Statute was perceived as a weakness by 14% of parents. The research confirmed that despite the law, children are tortured and beaten in police stations. 52% of parents said they normally disciplined their children by caning.

(Kakama, P.T., 2002, *Deprivation of Basic Needs as a Motivator for Criminal Activities among Children*, Save the Children UK)

UKRAINE

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 70% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Over one third experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (13%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 96% of children. Two per cent of children experienced severe physical

punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 66% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 76% compared to 65%. Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 79% of children aged 5-9 compared to 60% of children aged 2-4 and 66% of children aged 10-14. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to household size, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 four per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances; 11% of boys and men aged 15-49 thought this.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

35% of respondents to a 2009 survey of 1,501 parents aged over 25 believed that corporal punishment should never be used, 51% said that corporal punishment "should not be used in general but in certain situations it is justified" and 12% said that corporal punishment "could be used". 54% of respondents believed that corporal punishment was experienced by more than 50% of children in Ukraine.

(Child Well Being Fund Ukraine, 2009, *Public opinion monitoring in Ukraine: July 2009* www.canee.net/files/Omnibus%20research%20Ukraine%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

A 2009 survey of 213 teachers in primary schools in Kiev found that 74% believed that corporal punishment is humiliating for the child and that it meant that "the parents are not good at rearing children". 76% of respondents felt that the use of "spanking" as a punishment would justify intervention by a third party.

(Child Well Being Fund Ukraine and Nobody's Children Foundation, 2009, *Kiev teachers' attitudes toward child abuse* www.canee.net/files/Teachers%20studies%20Ukraine%202009.pdf)

Part of the Childhood Without Abuse project, which includes studies carried out in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine in 2005 and 2009.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Eighty-four per cent of parents and educationalists who took part in a 2011 poll said that corporal punishment of children is outdated and should not be condoned or encouraged. 16% said that "spanking" should be used to discipline children.

(Reported by *Emirates 24/7*, 23 February 2011, www.emirates247.com)

A poll conducted for Al Aan TV's Nabd al Arab programme and carried out by YouGov Siraj found that 53% of the 770 respondents agreed that parents should have the right to discipline their children

including through physical punishment. One in five respondents (21%) said that corporal punishment was a form of domestic violence, and 10% said it was “backward”. The majority (84%) said that teachers could discipline children, with 32% happy for a teacher to strike the child, including with an object such as a ruler; 7% thought it acceptable to slap a child in the face or swear at them.

(Reported in *The National*, 5 March 2011)

UNITED KINGDOM

Research carried out by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in 2009 and published in 2011 involved 2,160 interviews with parents of children aged under 11, 2,275 interviews with 11-17 year olds and their parents and 1,761 interviews with 18-24 year olds on their childhood experiences. More than two in five (41.6%) of the parents or guardians interviewed said they had physically punished or “smacked” their child in the past year: 39.4% of the parents or guardians of under 11s and 45.9% of the parents or guardians of 11–17s. The report compares the responses of the 18-24 year olds to those in a similar study which examined the experiences of 18-24 year olds in 1998. In 2009, 41% of 18-24 year olds said they had been smacked on the bottom with a bare hand by an adult at home, school or elsewhere during their childhood, compared to 53.1% in 1998. Forty-three per cent had been smacked on the leg, arm or hand (61% in 1998), and 13.4% had been slapped on the face, head or ears (21.3% in 1998).

(Radford, L. et al, 2011, *Child abuse and neglect in the UK today*, NSPCC)

A 2011 report on madrassas (supplementary schools for Muslim children that operate outside the mainstream education system) found that children experienced corporal punishment, including being “smacked”, hit with a belt and threatened with a stick in some madrassas. The report recommended prohibition of corporal punishment in supplementary schools, including madrassas.

(Cherti, M. & Bradley, L., 2011, *Inside Madrassas: Understanding and Engaging with British-Muslim Faith Supplementary Schools*, London: Institute for Public Policy Research)

A survey of 55 health care workers working primarily with children (including paediatricians, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, school nurses and health visitors) in Scotland found that 47% of them incorrectly believed that the law protected children from assault to a greater extent than adults, 40% correctly stated that this was not the case and 13% did not know.

(Rae, H., McKenzie, K. and Murray, G., 2010, “Health Care Workers’ Knowledge of Current Child Protection Legislation and Child Discipline Practices”, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 19, pp. 259-272)

A 2010 review of the literature on UK parents’ attitudes to physical punishment highlighted the ambivalence which is evidenced by many studies. While physical punishment was found to be common by many surveys, parents’ attitudes towards it were often inconsistent or conflicting, with many parents, including those who used physical punishment, agreeing that it was not a good thing to do.

(Bunting, L., Webb, M. A. and Healy, J., 2010, “In Two Minds? Parental Attitudes Toward Physical Punishment in the UK”, *Children and Society*, vol. 24, pp. 359-370)

A retrospective survey of nearly 1,000 university students in China and England, carried out between 2001 and 2004, looked at their experiences of parental discipline and their attitudes towards it. Of the English students, 43% reported being hit by their parents as children; beating with a stick, rod or branch was reported by 11% of boys and 7% of girls. Of those who had been physically punished, 60% of boys and 47% of girls said they were punished for being “disobedient”, and 75% of boys and 64% of girls for being “naughty”.

(Hester, M. et al, 2009, “Girls’ and boys’ experiences and perceptions of parental discipline and punishment while growing up in China and England”, *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 18, pp. 401-413)

In a survey of 1,000 parents of children aged 0-10 in Northern Ireland, 47% said that they had physically punished their children at some point and 45% had done so in the last year. On average, those who had used physical punishment during the last year had done so 8 times. The most common form of physical punishment used was a smack on the bottom with a bare hand, used by 33% of parents, on average 5.3 times in the past year. 26% of parents had slapped their child on the hand, arm or leg, on average 5.6 times in the past year, and 2.2% had hit their child on the bottom with a belt, a hairbrush, a stick or some other hard object, on average 4.5 times in the past year. Children aged 3-6 were more likely to have been physically punished in the past year (53%) than children aged 7-10 (43%) or 0-2 (33%). Two thirds of parents thought that physical punishment never or infrequently led to the child having increased respect for parents, and 60% that it never or infrequently led to the child learning acceptable behaviour. 40% thought that physical punishment always or frequently made the child more aggressive, 36% that it always or frequently led to long-term emotional upset for the child, and 60% that it always or frequently made the parent feel regret or guilt.

(Bunting, L., Webb, M. A. and Healy, J., 2008, *The ‘smacking debate’ in Northern Ireland: messages from research*, Barnardo’s Northern Ireland, NICCY and NSPCC Northern Ireland, www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/findings/SmackingDebateNI_wda63277.html)

Of nearly 14,000 mothers interviewed as part of the third survey of the Millennium Cohort Study, which is tracking the development of more than 15,000 UK children, 45% said that they never smacked their five year old child. Half of the mothers in Wales (49%) said that they never smacked their child, compared with 35% in Northern Ireland, 45% in England and 43% in Scotland.

(Hansen, K. and Joshi, H., 2008, *Millennium Cohort Study: Third Survey: A User’s Guide to Initial Findings*, London: Institute of Education, www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/core/documents/download.asp?id=1083&log_stat=1)

In 2008, a report on the ongoing Growing up in Scotland (GUS) study focussed on parenting styles. Interviews were carried out with over 4,500 parents of children aged on average 22.5 months and 2,500 parents of children aged on average 46.5 months. 34% of the parents of 3 year olds and 16% of the parents of younger children reported that they had smacked their children. Less than one in five of the parents of 3 year olds believed that smacking was useful, and fewer still of the parents of younger children.

(Bradshaw, P. et al, 2008, *Growing up in Scotland: Sweep 2 Overview Report*, Edinburgh: The Scottish Government, www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212225/0056476.pdf)

An Ipsos MORI poll for Parenting Across Scotland revealed that 5% of the 1,000 parents surveyed had smacked their child “fairly often” or “sometimes” in the previous year, 15% had smacked their child one or twice during that time, and around 20% had threatened to smack their child. Only 1% believe smacking is an effective way of changing a child’s behaviour, and 3% believe threatening to smack is effective. A majority of parents (71%) have shouted or yelled at their child, though only 7% consider this to be effective.

(Ipsos MORI, 2008, *What Scottish Parents Tell Us*, Edinburgh: Parenting Across Scotland)

In April 2007, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) published the results of a survey of 1,000 adults in which 77% believed smacking is becoming less acceptable. The survey was part of the NSPCC’s campaign to stop children being smacked in shops. It revealed that a child being smacked in public had been witnessed by 41% of respondents within the previous six months. The majority of adults (86%) would be happy to shop in a smack-free shop, while 40% would actively prefer to shop where smacking was prohibited; almost all (93%) said they would like shops to take action to help parents losing their tempers with their children. When asked how they felt on seeing a child being smacked, 65% of respondents said they felt concerned for the child; 51% felt upset; 51% said they would like to stop the child being smacked, with 42% of those wanting to comfort the child and 47% wanting to help the parent.

(Reported by the NSPCC, 10 April 2007)

As part of its 2007 review into Section 58 of the Children Act 2004, the Department of Children, Schools and Families commissioned studies into the views of parents and children in England and Wales on “smacking”. The parental survey involved 1,822 parents, of whom 1,204 had children aged under 18 and 618 had children aged 18 and over. Of the parents with children aged under 18, 29% said they had smacked their child at some point in the past year. 8% had smacked in the past month and 5% in the past week. 38% said they had never smacked their child. 2-5 year olds were most likely to have been smacked in the last year, with 37% of parents of this age group saying they had done this, compared to 32% of parents of 6-10 year olds, 18% of parents of 11-15 year olds, 10% of parents of 16-17 year olds, and 9% of parents of 0-1 year olds. 57% said that they had smacked at least one of their children at some stage. 14% of parents said they had smacked their children because they “snapped” or lost their temper. 39% of parents with a child aged under 18 disagreed that “it is sometimes necessary to smack a naughty child”, and 31% agreed with the statement “I think it is always wrong to smack a child and I won’t do it”. 55% of parents disagreed that “smacking is a good way of teaching children right from wrong”.

(IPSOS Mori, 2007, *A study into the views of parents on the physical punishment of children for the Department for Children, Schools and Families*, DCSF)

As part of its 2007 review into Section 58 of the Children Act 2004, the Department of Children, Schools and Families commissioned studies into the views of parents and children in England and Wales on “smacking”. The study into children’s views involved 64 children aged 4-16, through group and pair discussions. The majority of the children who took part had been smacked at some point in their lives, mostly but not exclusively when they were aged under 10. Boys and girls from all social classes were smacked. Smacking was “often the most feared type of punishment”, but “children

consistently agreed that it was not the most effective” (p. 55). Children highlighted the emotional impact of smacking, saying that it often made them feel “scarred, stressed, harassed and on edge” (p. 47). Most of the children “struggled to endorse smacking as an effective form of punishment” (p. 56).

(Sherbert Research, 2007, *A Study into Children’s Views on Physical Discipline and Punishment*, DCSF and COI)

In a survey of 1,250 people by the organisation Parenting Across Scotland, 90% of respondents said they choose to discuss problems. While 7% said it was acceptable to smack a child, 20% admitted having done so in the last year, with a further 36% saying they had threatened physical punishment.

(Reported in *BBC News*, 27 February 2007)

Between November 2005 and October 2006, there were a total of 3,036 incidents of restraint in the four secure training centres (STCs); 41% of these (1,245 incidents) were perpetrated on girls who represent 34% of the STC population.

(Reply to Parliamentary question, reported in The Howard League for Penal Reform, 2007, *Briefing for House of Lords Debate on the use of restraint in secure training centres*)

61% of 1,629 parents who took part in a survey on interactions between parents and children in Northern Ireland said they never spanked their child. Younger children were more likely to be physically punished than older children, and boys were more likely to be physically punished than girls.

(Devine, P. & Lloyd, K., 2005, *Research Update: Bringing up baby*, Queen’s University and University of Ulster: ARK NI Social and Political Archive, www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update40.pdf)

In a 2004 poll of 2,004 adults in England and Wales, 56% agreed that “it is wrong for someone to hit a child in their family”, compared with 31% who disagreed. Over half of the respondents (57%) thought that children and adults should have the same protection in law from being hit while nearly a third (29%) thought children should have more protection; only 7% thought that adults should have greater protection from assault. Nearly three quarters (71%) said they would support changing the law to give children the same protection from being hit as adult family members.

(MORI, 2004, *Attitudes to hitting family members: Research study conducted for the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance*)

In a 2003 study carried out for the Economic and Social Research Council, 58% of parents reported using “minor” physical punishment (such as “smacking” or “slapping”) in the last year, and 71% reported having used it at some point. 9% reported using “severe” physical punishment in the last year, and 16% reported using it at some point. Parents with children aged 2-4 years old were significantly more likely to use minor and/or severe physical punishment than other parents, with 85% reporting using it in the last year. 40% of parents thought it was never acceptable to smack a child, and 98% thought it was never acceptable to hit a child with an implement such as a slipper or belt. The study examined the circumstances in which conflict occurs between parents and children, and found that parents who used physical punishment were twice as likely as parents who did not use physical punishment to report feeling distressed at the time of the conflict, and to say that their child was upset.

They were also more likely to report having been in a “bad mood” beforehand and to describe their reaction as “automatic” or “spur of the moment”. The study involved a survey of 1,250 parents of children aged 0-12, and discussions with adults and children.

(Ghate D., Hazel N., Creighton S., Finch S. and Field J., 2003, *The National Study of Parents, Children and Discipline in Britain: Key Findings*, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): Swindon, www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/publications/downloads/parentschildrenanddisciplinesummary_wdf48031.pdf)

A study into the views and experiences of children in Wales on “smacking” involved 77 children aged 4-10, through use of group discussions prompted by a specially created storybook. Children said that “smacking” is hitting, and that it happened when children were “naughty”, which included not listening, not doing as they were told, lying, running away, and behaving violently towards other children. Parents and other relatives smacked children, usually in the house where nobody else could see. Children were often smacked on the bottom, but also on their legs, hands, faces and other parts of the body. They emphasised the physical and emotional pain caused by smacking, saying that smacking “burns”, “stings”, was “painful”, and made them cry and feel “upset”. Smacking was commonly associated with adults who are angry. Children also said that some adults regret smacking or are sad about it. Children were asked why children don’t smack adults and replied that children are too scared to smack adults, and that adults are bigger and stronger than children. When asked why adults don’t smack each other, children said that adults like each other, want to behave well towards one another and do not want to fight. Two-thirds of the children involved said that when they grew up, they would not smack children. Children said that they didn’t like smacking and that smacking is wrong. They suggested that smacking could be stopped by children behaving differently, by asking adults to stop, and by making smacking against the law. Instead of smacking, adults could send children to their rooms, “ground” them, or take away their pocket money or other things they like.

(Crowley, A. and Vulliamy, C., [2002], *Listen Up: Children Talk About Smacking*, Save the Children UK)

Research by Save the Children in Northern Ireland, published in 2002, involved questionnaires and interviews with 189 children aged 4-11 years. Two thirds believed that children were hit because they are “bad, bold, cheeky, doing things wrong or doing wrong things”; one in four believed that children are hit because of how the adult is feeling. More than 80% of children used words like “hurt, sad, sore, upset, unhappy, unloved, heartbroken, awful” to describe how they felt when they were hit. 94% said they would not smack their children when they themselves became parents. Fewer than three in 20 thought it was acceptable for an adult to hit a child.

(Horgan, G., 2002, *It’s a hit, not a “smack”*: A booklet about what children think about being hit or smacked by adults, Belfast: Save the Children)

A study carried out in Scotland in 2002 involved 20 small group and individual interviews followed by a survey of 692 parents. 39% of the parents said that they had “smacked” their child on the bottom in the past year, and 8% in the past week. 33% said that they had smacked their child on the hand, arm or leg in the past year, and 6% that they had smacked or slapped their child on the face, head or ear. Overall, 51% of parents had used some kind of physical punishment in the past year, and 10% in the past week. 90% of incidents of physical punishment took place in the home. 53% of parents felt guilty after the last time they had used physical punishment. 13% of parents thought that parents should not smack their children in any circumstances. 80% of parents thought that there was an age below which

children should not be smacked. Of these, 17% thought the age was one year, 29% thought the age was 2 and 23% thought the age was 3. 66% of parents thought there was an age above which children should not be smacked. Of these, 76% suggested age 8 or above. When asked how much they knew about the current law on physical punishment, 80% of parents said “not very much” or “nothing at all”. 15% of parents thought incorrectly that it was illegal to smack a child of any age and 37% that it was illegal to smack a child under a particular age.

(Anderson S., Murray L. and Brownlie J., 2002, *Disciplining Children: Research with Parents in Scotland*, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit: Edinburgh, www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/blue/dcrp.pdf)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

A study involving over 3,700 13-24 year olds found that 73.5% of females and 71.7% of males had been slapped, pushed, punched, kicked, beaten up or attacked or threatened with a weapon such as a gun or knife by a relative, authority figure (including teachers), or intimate partner during their childhood. Over half (51%) of 13-17 year olds had experienced this in the past year. The report is not explicit about how much of the violence was inflicted in the name of “discipline”; however, 58.4% of females and 57.2% of males experienced physical violence by relatives (the majority by fathers and mothers), and 52.6% of females and 50.8% of males experienced physical violence by teachers. Nearly eight in ten girls (78%) and nearly seven in ten boys (67%) aged 13-17 who had been punched, kicked or whipped by a teacher had experienced this more than five times, and nearly half of 13-17 year olds (46.3% girls; 45.9% boys) who had been punched, kicked or whipped by a relative had experienced this more than five times. Experiencing physical violence in childhood was associated for females with poor to fair general health, feelings of anxiety in the past 30 days, having suicidal thoughts, and having a STI diagnosis or symptoms in the past 12 months; and for males with feelings of depression in the past 30 days.

(UNICEF Tanzania, Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, 2011, *Violence against Children in Tanzania: Findings from a National Survey, 2009*, Dar es Salaam: United Republic of Tanzania)

A 2010 consultation on the Zanzibar Children’s Bill found that, of over 500 children aged 8 years and over, 77% thought that all school corporal punishment should be banned.

(Save the Children, 2010, *Capturing Children’s Views on the Children’s Bill 2010: The National Child Consultation Programme in Zanzibar*)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 60% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In a survey in North Carolina which involved nearly 3,000 mothers of children aged 3-27 months, 30% of respondents said that they had spanked their child in the past year. Eleven per cent of those who had

spanked their child in the past year had done so more than 20 times. Five per cent of mothers of 3 month olds said they had spanked them, and more than 70% of mothers of 23 month olds had done so. With every month of age, a child had 27% increased odds of being spanked.

(Zolotor, A. J. et al., 2011, "The emergence of spanking among a representative sample of children under 2 years of age in North [Carolina](#)", *Frontiers in Child and Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry*, 2(36), 1-8)

A study found that fathers of children aged 1 year old with depression were more likely to spank their children. Over 1,700 fathers in cities in the USA were interviewed, of whom 7% had depression. 13% of non-depressed fathers and 41% of depressed fathers reported spanking their child in the past month, making depressed fathers nearly 4 times more likely to report spanking. The study authors noted that associations between maternal depression and spanking have been reported, and that the association may be directly related to symptoms of depression such as irritability and anger.

(Davis, R. N. et al, 2011, "Fathers' Depression Related to Positive and Negative Parenting Behaviors With 1-Year-Old Children", *Pediatrics*, published online March 14 2011, www.pediatrics.org)

A 2010 report on the Judge Rotenberg Center, a residential facility and school for children and adults with mental disabilities, found that severe corporal punishment was widespread. Punishments included electric shocks, long-term restraint, food deprivation and isolation.

(Ahern, L. and Rosenthal, E., 2010, *Torture not Treatment: Electric Shock and Long-Term Restraint in the United States on Children and Adults with Disabilities at the Judge Rotenberg Center*, Mental Disability Rights International)

65% of three year olds in a sample of nearly 2,000 families had been "spanked" by one or both parents in the previous month. The study examined the prevalence of corporal punishment and intimate partner aggression, with 49% of the families reporting both of these. In about 15% of these families, bilateral aggression or violence between the parents was combined with a single parent spanking the child.

(Taylor C.A., et al, 2010, "Use of spanking for 3-year-old children and associated intimate partner aggression or violence", *Pediatrics* 126: 415-424)

A large scale comparative study (World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE)) which involved surveys with over 14,000 mothers of children aged under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, examined parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States. In the USA, 55% of children experienced "moderate" physical discipline (including being "spanked" on the buttocks, hit with an object, slapped on the face and having hot pepper put in their mouth). One per cent of children experienced harsh physical discipline (including being burnt, beaten up, kicked and smothered). More than a quarter of children (26%) experienced harsh psychological discipline such as being called names, being cursed and being threatened with abandonment. "Moderate" psychological discipline, including being yelled or screamed at or being refused food was experienced by 76% of children. Non-violent discipline, including explaining why a behaviour was wrong and telling a child to stop, was also widely used (experienced by 92% of children). The study found that rates of harsh physical discipline were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical abuse in any country, and that rates of physical punishment can vary widely among communities within the same country.

(Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*, published online 2 August 2010, www.pediatrics.org)

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, which used interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that in the US 38% of girls and 36% of boys involved in the study had experienced “mild” corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 4% of girls and 5% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears) by someone in their household in the past month. Smaller percentages of parents believed it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child: for girls, 17% of mothers and 11% of fathers believed it was necessary; for boys, 13% of mothers and 16% of fathers believed it was necessary.

(Lansford, J. et al, 2010, “Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender”, *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

A study which tracked corporal punishment of 3-11 year olds from 1975 to 2002 found that 18% fewer children were slapped or spanked by caregivers in 2002 compared to 1975. However, in 2002, 79% of preschool-aged children were spanked, and nearly half of children aged eight and nine were hit with an object such as a paddle or switch.

(Zolotor, A. J., Theodore, A. D., Runyan, D. K., Chang, J. J. and Laskey, A. L., 2010, “Corporal punishment and physical abuse: population-based trends for three-to-11-year-old children in the United States”, *Child Abuse Review*, n/a. doi: 10.1002/car.1128, cited in “Spanking And Other Forms Of Corporal Punishment Of Children Are Still Common In The U.S. And Worldwide, Despite Bans In 24 Countries”, *Medical News Today*, 10 August 2010, available at www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/197332.php)

The CS Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll on Children’s Health 2010 presented various scenarios to over 1,500 parents of 2-17 year olds and asked how likely they were to use different discipline strategies. A third said they were very likely to spank (hit with a hand) or paddle (hit with a wooden paddle) their child. More parents of young children said they were very likely to spank (30% of parents of 2-5 year olds, 24% of parents of 6 – 12 year olds and 13% of parents of 13-17 year olds), while slightly more parents of older children said they were very likely to paddle their child (8% for 2-5 year olds, 10% for 6-12 year olds, and 12% for 13-18 year olds).

(C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, *National Poll on Children’s Health*, April 16 2010, Vol. 9 Issue 4, www.med.umich.edu/mott/npch/pdf/041510report.pdf)

In 2009, a study by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Human Rights Watch looked at corporal punishment of disabled children in American schools. The report, based on data from 202 interviews with parents, students, teachers, administrators, and special education professionals, and statistics from the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, shows that disabled students experience a high rate of “paddling” (beating with a wooden paddle). Disabled students made up 18.8% of students who experienced this form of corporal punishment in schools in 2006-7, despite constituting only 13.7% of the total student population. In the states which use the most corporal punishment, students with disabilities were up to twice as likely as non-disabled students to experience

this form of corporal punishment. In addition to paddling, students with disabilities were also spanked, slapped, pinched, dragged across the floor and thrown to the floor. Most instances of corporal punishment uncovered by the report were in response to minor infractions of the rules such as lateness. Students with disabilities were also punished for behaviours connected to their disabilities – for example, students with autism were punished for rocking, spinning and other behaviours which were a direct result of their condition.

(Human Rights Watch and American Civil Liberties Union, 2009, *Impairing Education: Corporal Punishment of Students with Disabilities in US Public Schools*, www.hrw.org/node/84950)

In 2009, the US Government Accountability Office reviewed legislation on restraint and disciplinary techniques used in public and private schools and examined student death and abuse from these methods over the last 20 years. It discovered hundreds of allegations of death and abuse, nearly all of which involved children with disabilities. In several cases in which these techniques were proven to result in death or serious injury, the staff involved continued to be employed as educators.

(United States Government Accountability Office, 2009, *Seclusions and Restraints: Selected cases of death and abuse at public and private schools and treatment centers*, www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-719T)

A joint report by Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union published in August 2008 highlighted the extent of corporal punishment of children in schools. 181 interviews were carried out with parents, teachers, students and administrators, including interviews with 34 young people aged under 18 and 37 former students aged 18 – 26. The report states that, according to the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, more than 200,000 students were punished at least once in the 2006-2007 school year and notes that actual totals may well be higher. African-American students and disabled students were punished more frequently than others. The interviews focussed on Mississippi and Texas, where corporal punishment is widely used. They found that corporal punishment is used in response to a wide range of behaviours, including minor misdemeanors such as drinking in class and dress code violations. Corporal punishment usually takes the form of ‘paddling,’ or hitting a student on the buttocks and upper thighs with a wooden paddle. In several cases, this had caused serious injury.

(Human Rights Watch and American Civil Liberties Union, 2008, *A Violent Education: Corporal Punishment of Children in US Schools*, www.hrw.org/reports/2008/us0808)

A telephone interview survey of 600 adults in each of the 50 states, carried out by SurveyUSA of Verona NJ in August 2005, found that overall almost three out of four (72%) supported the use of spanking as a disciplinary method (ranging from 55% in Vermont to 87% in Alabama), with almost one in four (23%) believing it acceptable for a teacher to spank a child (ranging from 8% in New Hampshire to 53% in Arkansas and Mississippi). Nearly one third (31%) believed it is acceptable to wash out a child’s mouth with soap (from 23% in Hawaii, Maryland and Massachusetts to 46% in Idaho).

(SurveyUSA, Verona NJ, August 2005, *Disciplining a Child 08/24/05*, www.surveyusa.com/50StateDisciplineChild0805SortedbyTeacher.htm)

Federal statistics show that during the 2002-3 school year, more than 300,000 American schoolchildren were disciplined with corporal punishment, usually one or more blows with a thick wooden paddle. Sometimes holes were cut in the paddle to make the beating more painful. Of those students, 70% were in five Southern states: Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and Arkansas.

(Reported in *New York Times*, 30 September 2006)

A report on foster homes and residential facilities in Texas documented several incidents of severe corporal punishment, including children being punched in the stomach, pushed down the stairs, thrown against walls, kicked and isolated.

(Strayhorn, C.K., 2004, *Forgotten Children: A Special Report on the Texas Foster Care System*)

An ABC News telephone poll of a random national sample of 1,015 adults in 2002 found that overall 65% approved of spanking children, with 31% disapproving; 72% thought that teachers should not be permitted to spank children in school.

(ABC News poll conducted by telephone, 25-29 October 2002; fieldwork by International Communications Research of Media, Pennsylvania)

UZBEKISTAN

According to statistics from UNICEF, of girls and women aged 15-49, 70% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances; 61% of boys and men aged 15-49 believe this.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

V

VANUATU

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 more than three quarters (78%) of children aged 2-14 years old experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression).

(UNICEF, 2011, *The State of the World's Children*, Table 9: Child Protection, www.unicef.org/sowc NY: UNICEF)

Research conducted for Pacific Children's Program by a team from the University of South Pacific found that corporal punishment is common and can be severe. The rationale for its use is to "teach children about correct thinking and appropriate behaviour", although it is often administered in anger. The most common type of punishment is "whipping", used in the home and in schools.

(Hughes, D., 2002, *Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices: Vanuatu Report*, University of South Pacific, Report prepared for International Development Support Services, Pacific Children's Program)

VENEZUELA

Surveys carried out in 2002-2004 examined the attitudes of children and adults in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela towards physical punishment. In Venezuela, 889 people were surveyed (685 children and 204 adults). Nearly half (46.8%) of the children and 30.2% of the adults agreed that physical punishment is “very bad” or “makes children violent”, and 13.4% of the children and 35.1% of the adults agreed that children should not be physically punished or that “punishment does not solve anything”. More than eight in ten adults (83.4%) and 71.2% of children thought that physical punishment is never necessary.

(Save the Children Sweden & Instituto de Encuestas y Sondeos de Opinión, 2005, *Sistematización de las Encuestas Sobre la Percepción del Castigo Físico en Seis Países de America Latina*, presentation: Managua, 16 May 2005)

VIET NAM

A study on drug detention centres in and around Ho Chi Minh City found that corporal punishment, including beatings, forced labour and confinement in “punishment rooms” was common. In 2007, 3.5 percent of detainees in Ho Chi Minh City centres were children, and the study included one centre for youths.

(Human Rights Watch, 2011, *The Rehab Archipelago: Forced Labor and Other Abuses in Drug Detention Centers in Southern Vietnam*)

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 94% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Nearly two thirds experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (45%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 96% of children. One child in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 90% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Boys were slightly more likely than girls to experience violent discipline: 95% compared to 92%. Children living in households with adults with a higher average level of education were less likely to experience violent discipline than those living with less educated adults. No significant differences in children’s experience of violent discipline were found according to age, household size or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

According to statistics from UNICEF on violence in the family, in 2005-2006 sixty-four per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 thought that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Viet Nam involved 499 children (225 boys, 273 girls) from urban rural and remote areas, and 306 adults (85 men, 219 women). Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Viet Nam included hitting with implements, punching, kicking, pinching, twisting body parts, throwing objects, electric shocks. At home, punishment by family members included: arm broken, beaten on the buttocks until raw then a mixture of salt and chilli rubbed on the wounds, beaten with a thick stick, ear twisted until torn and bleeding, electrocution with wires, excess labour, knelling on the spiky peel of durian fruit, standing naked outside the house, standing under the weight of a buffalo yoke, head repeatedly submerged in water, hanging on a tree and beaten until unconscious, hung on an electricity pole, hung on a wall by the hands, hung upside down from a tree, tied next to an ants nest, tied to a bicycle and forced to run alongside it, whipped while hanging from a tree. Punishments by teachers at school included: confined under a bed, standing in front of class and being denounced by classmates, hit on forehead by ruler thrown by teacher, hit on head by box of chalks, not being allowed to eat, stripped naked and beaten on the back, two children forced to slap each other on their cheeks. Of those who were hit, 50% were hit with an implement (34.8% with sticks etc, 15.2% with a whip, lash or belt), 45.5% were slapped with the hand, 4.5% kicked. Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 26% reported being hit on the head and neck, 27% on the limbs, 11% on the back, 13% buttocks, 5% chest, 4% stomach, and 1% genitalia. In terms of the settings in which children experienced punishment, the research found that in the home 81% of children experienced physical punishment, 19% emotional punishment, while in school 69% experienced physical punishment and 31% emotional.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

A major study into child abuse in Vietnam found that physical punishment was very widespread, with 70% of the 178 children and young people (aged 8-25) who participated reporting having been “spanked” on the bottom or hand with a hand during their childhood and over half having been hit with an implement. Participants living in reform schools and social protection centres were more likely to experience physical punishment than those living elsewhere: 80% had been hit with a hand and 75% with an implement. The results of the qualitative element of the research suggested that while many adults thought that physical punishment was acceptable most of the children and young people rejected the use of physical punishment, believing that more humane and effective forms of discipline could be used instead.

(UNICEF Viet Nam, 2006, *Child Abuse in Viet Nam: Final Report into the Concept, Nature and Extent of Child Abuse in Viet Nam*)

A 2004 situation analysis of institutional and alternative care programmes in Vietnam found that physical punishment took place in institutional alternative care settings. Children with mental disabilities were especially likely to experience physical punishment, as were children previously involved in commercial sex work, living in residential “rehabilitation” facilities in Ho Chi Minh City. In interviews, children said that punishments included beating them, locking them in their rooms,

punishing them by making them kneel in front of the caregivers, and forcing them to clean the toilets or animal stables.

(MOLISA, Canadian International Development Agency and UNICEF Viet Nam, 2004, *Situation Analysis of Institutional and Alternative Care Programs in Vietnam*)

W

Note: No prevalence research identified for Wallis and Futuna Islands, Western Sahara.

Y

YEMEN

A UNICEF report published in 2010 states that 95% of children aged 2-14 experienced violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) in 2005-2006. Eight-six per cent experienced physical punishment, while a smaller percentage (44%) of mothers and caregivers thought that physical punishment was necessary in childrearing, and non-violent discipline was also widely used: experienced by 94% of children. More than four children in ten experienced severe physical punishment (being hit or slapped on the face, head or ears or being hit over and over with an implement) and 93% experienced psychological aggression (being shouted at, yelled at, screamed at or insulted). Children aged 5-9 were more likely to experience violent discipline than those of other ages: 97% of children aged 5-9 compared to 92% of children aged 2-4 and 95% of children aged 10-14. No significant differences in children's experience of violent discipline were found according to sex, level of education of adults in the household or engagement in child labour.

(UNICEF, 2010, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home: Evidence from a Range of Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, NY: UNICEF)

A synthesis in 2005 of research on physical and humiliating punishment of children in Yemen found that almost 90% of children reported that physical and humiliating punishment is the main method of disciplining them in the family. The most common form of punishment in the home was beating, especially for girls in rural areas. Severe physical punishment, including hitting with a stick, was more commonly used against boys in urban areas. Punishments were usually inflicted by mothers and fathers, but also by elder brothers. Corporal punishment in schools was found to be even more common and more severe, with over 90% of children reporting that it is the most commonly used form of punishment. A third of children in social care institutions reported experiencing severe treatment and a further third reported moderate treatment, including being beaten with a stick. Parents report that punishment usually begins to be inflicted on children between the ages of 5 and 7 years, though children as young as 1 are punished, and ceases at the age of 15 years.

(Habasch, R., 2005, *Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children in Yemen*, Save the Children Sweden)

A 2004 study involving over 600 children aged 6-15 and over 400 parents from several urban and rural areas of Yemen used questionnaires and focus groups to investigate the prevalence of violence against children, including corporal punishment. The study found that 88.2% of children were punished by their parents when they did something wrong, compared to only 10.6% who had their mistake explained to them. The majority of the punishments experienced by children were physical, with 53.1% of children saying that the most common method of punishment used was violence, in the form of being hit or beaten (38.6%), being hit with a stick (12.5%) or having their faces slapped (2%). Other punishments included depriving children of meals and imprisoning them. More girls than boys, and more rural children than urban children reported experiencing beating, while boys were more likely to be hit with a stick than girls. Children were most often punished for disobeying their parents, not doing schoolwork and returning home late. 58.7% of children reported feeling angry when punished at home, while 40.4% felt depressed. When parents were asked how they dealt with their children's faults at home, 60.5% said that they punished children, while 35.3% said that they explained children's mistakes. 43.8% of parents thought that boys are punished more than girls, while 8.6% thought that girls are punished more than boys. 40.1% thought that there was no difference in how often girls and boys are punished. When asked about children's reactions to punishment, most fathers and mothers (68.8%) said that children stop or change their misbehaviour. 15.6% said that punishment has no effect on children, while 11.6% said that children become more obstinate and repeat their faults. 82.1% believe that it is right for parents to punish children, while 15.1% believe that punishment is wrong. 33.1% of parents said that using kindness, encouragement and consideration is the best way to bring up children. In schools, physical punishment was common, with 65% of children saying that being hit with a stick is the most common method of punishment used. 18.3% of children said they felt depressed when physically punished at school, 6.8% felt sad, 5.6% felt annoyed and 5.3% felt like taking revenge. The study involved a small number of children (33) who lived in institutions ("Social Guidance Houses") due to the death of their parents, poverty or having been convicted of a crime. Of these children, 75.7% said that in the institutions, punishment was the most common way of dealing with faults. 68% of children said that the most common means of punishment was being beaten with a stick. 32% of children reported feeling degraded during punishment, 16% felt depressed and 12% felt insulted.

(Al-thabhani, N., 2004, *A Report on Violence Against Children in Selected Areas of Yemen*, Presidency of Council of Ministers and Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Republic of Yemen)

A sample of 1,325 city schoolchildren and 274 rural schoolchildren in Yemen, together with their parents and teachers, participated in questionnaire based research into the prevalence of corporal punishment, reported in 2004. It was found that 80% of mothers in the rural area and 59% of mothers in the city use corporal punishment to discipline their children. Boys were significantly more likely than girls to be spanked, and the lower the level of the mothers' education, the more likely they were to use corporal punishment. Experience of severe corporal punishment was linked with poor educational achievement for the child, and corporal punishment was found to contribute to a child's mental health difficulties. The most common forms of punishment were hitting with the hand, a belt, stick or other implement. Other measures included locking, tying, biting and pinching.

(Alyahri, A., 2004, "Mental health, education and corporal punishment in Yemeni school-aged children", Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London)

Z

ZAMBIA

A 2010 African Child Policy Forum report on violence against children with disabilities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia documented a very high level of violence. Nearly a thousand 18-24 year olds took part in the study across the five countries, reporting on their experiences as children. In Zambia, all the respondents had experienced at least one type of physical violence during their childhood: 100% had been denied food, over 50% had been hit, punched, kicked or beaten and over 25% had been choked, burnt or stabbed. Common perpetrators of physical violence included mothers (10.2%), step-mothers (4.9%) and adult neighbours (18.5%). Across the five countries, 23% of the young people said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline, reasonable and justified” and 27% said that they had experienced physical violence which was “mostly discipline but not reasonable or justified”. Twenty-six per cent said that they had experienced emotional violence which was “discipline, but not reasonable or justified”, and 22% that they had experienced emotional violence that was “disciplinary, reasonable and justified”. Across all five countries, more than half (54%) of those who had been physically beaten said they had suffered broken bones, teeth, bleeding or bruising; 2% had been permanently disabled; 21% required medical attention; 13% had to miss school or work; and 20% had needed rest at home. For all five countries, the majority of respondents with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities experienced physical violence more than 10 times. The report recommends prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home, as a way to minimise the risk of violence against children with disabilities.

(The African Child Policy Forum, 2010, *Violence Against Children With Disabilities in Africa: Field Studies from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia*, Addis Ababa: The African Child Policy Forum)

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 85% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A large scale survey conducted by Save the Children in 2005, involving 2,321 children aged 6-18 years from all nine of Zambia’s provinces, looked at children’s experiences of corporal punishment over a two week period. The findings were also informed by in depth qualitative research with 384 children from four provinces. The research found that 24% of children reported experiencing corporal punishment in the home during the period, including being beaten with hands, sticks and belts. Despite the prohibition of corporal punishment at school, 32% reported being hit with a hand during the period and 38% with an object, most commonly a stick or hosepipe. Other punishments included hard physical labour and excessive physical exercise. Humiliating punishment was reported as being experienced in the home by 43% of children and in school by 37%. Corporal punishment was more common in low income than high income environments and more common for younger (6-12 years) than older (13-18 years) children. It was most often inflicted by mothers in the home and by teachers

in schools. It was also administered by prefects in boarding schools. Almost three in four children (70%) felt corporal punishment was unacceptable in the home and in school; 79% felt that humiliating punishment was unacceptable.

(Clacherty, G., Donald, D. & Clacherty, A., 2005, *Zambian Children's Experiences of Corporal Punishment*, Pretoria: Save the Children Sweden)

ZIMBABWE

According to statistics from UNICEF relating to the period 2001-2007, of girls and women aged 15-49, 48% think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2009, *Progress for Children: A report card on child protection*, NY: UNICEF)

A 2009 baseline study carried out by Plan on violence in schools in preparation for the launch of the Learn Without Fear campaign in the country found that 67% of children and 35% of teachers surveyed agreed that corporal punishment was inflicted by all teachers at one point or another, usually unrecorded and unreported.

(Reported in *The Zimbabwean*, 14 October 2009)

Plan International's "Learn Without Fear" campaign: plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear