

**Attitude towards physical
punishment of children**

Children Support Centre
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Contents

1. Methodology of the survey	3
1.1 The poll method	3
1.2 Sampling	3
1.3 Accomplishment of the poll	4
1.4 Quality control	4
1.5 Data analysis	4
1.6 Statistical error of the data	5
2. Social-demographic characteristics of the respondents	6
3. Summary	9
4. Results of the survey	10
4.1 Number of children, experiencing physical punishment in families	10
4.2 Response distribution in the social-demographic groups	11
4.3 Physical punishment as a method of educating children	14
4.4 Response distribution in the social-demographic groups	16
A Appendix. The questionnaire	20

Performers of the survey

Director of the survey: Jurgita Verikienė
Report prepared by: Jurgita Verikienė
Interviewers supervised by: Žydra Burokaitė
Data input coordinator: Edita Zviedrienė

Any questions concerning the survey please address to:
Jurgita Verikienė,
TNS Gallup, Raugyklos str. 15, 01140 Vilnius, Lithuania
tel. (5) 210 6616, fax. (5) 210 6601, e-mail: jurga.verikiene@tns-global.com

1. Methodology of the survey

The survey was ordered by Children Support Centre.

The aim of the survey was to explore the opinion of Lithuanian population on the number of children, experiencing physical punishment in families, and the attitude towards physical punishment as a means of educating children.

The questions are listed in the Appendix of the report.

1.1 The poll method

Omnibus poll approach was used in the survey.

The poll was conducted using CAPI (computer assisted personal interview) method, at home of the respondents.

1.2 Sampling

The poll represents population of Lithuania, aged 15-74.

Sample size: 500 respondents.

The respondents were selected using multi-stage random sampling:

- First, geographical distribution of the sample was accomplished. Geographically the ratios of the sample correspond to the ratios of population in distinct regions. LR Statistical Department data of 2001 population census were used;
- At the second stage, LR Statistical Department Population Register database was used to randomly select initial sampling points, i.e. addresses to start the route of the poll from. 65 initial sampling points were used in total;
- Hereinafter households to participate in the survey were selected. This sampling was accomplished using route-sampling method. Starting from the initial sampling point, every 1) 5th household in big cities (population more than 50 thousand), 2) 3rd household in smaller towns (population 2-50 thousand), 3) 2nd household in rural districts was visited;
- Then, using “the youngest male” principle, the concrete respondent was selected, who was asked to participate in the survey.

1.3 Accomplishment of the poll

The poll was fulfilled at November 14 – 28, 2005.

62 interviewers were engaged in the poll.

Results of the survey:

Households visited in total:	1237
Nobody found at home:	120
Households refused to participate in the poll:	397
Selected person refused to participate in the poll:	18
Sampling criteria not met:	193

Respondents interviewed:	509
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1.4 Quality control

The interviewer department used the work-phone to check 10% of the interviewers.

1.5 Data analysis

SPSS for Windows version 8 was used for data analysis.

The data were weighted so, that the estimated sample would strictly correspond to the ratios of Lithuanian population on sex, age, nationality and place of residence.

1.6 Statistical error of the data

When judging on the results, one should take statistical error into account. Sampling respondents, instead of interviewing continuously, gives rise to it. This error is counted mathematically.

The next table presents errors, corresponding various number of respondents and distribution of the answers.

Sample size	Distribution of answers									
	50	45/55	40/60	35/65	30/70	25/75	20/80	15/85	10/90	5/95
10	31	30.8	30.4	29.6	28.4	26.8	24.8	22.1	18.6	13.5
30	17.9	17.8	17.5	17.1	16.4	15.5	14.3	12.8	10.7	7.8
50	13.9	13.8	13.6	13.2	12.7	12	11.1	9.9	8.3	6
75	11.3	11.3	11.1	10.8	10.4	9.8	9.1	8.1	6.8	4.9
100	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.3	9	8.5	7.8	7	5.9	4.3
150	8	8	7.8	7.6	7.3	6.9	6.4	5.7	4.8	3.5
200	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.4	6	5.5	4.9	4.2	3
300	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.5	4	3.4	2.5
400	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.5	2.9	2.1
500	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.6	1.9

Example: Suppose 500 respondents answered the question about physical punishment as a method of educating. Say, 40% of them think that physical punishment should be used under no circumstances. It means that, with 95 % possibility, we can tell that the real value is in the interval $40\% \pm 4.3\%$.

2. Social-demographic characteristics of the respondents

	N	%
Sex:		
Male	237	46,6
Female	272	53,4
Age:		
15–19 years	54	10,6
20–29 years	94	18,5
30–39 years	107	21,0
40–49 years	91	17,8
50–59 years	70	13,8
60–74 years	93	18,4
Nationality:		
Lithuanian	432	84,8
Russian	30	5,9
Polish	35	7,0
Other	12	2,3
Education:		
Primary	59	11,6
Basic	84	16,6
Secondary	167	32,9
Vocational or professional training	120	23,6
Higher	78	15,3
Occupation:		
Self-employer	27	5,3
Hired worker:	212:	41,6:
Executive, manager	9	1,8
Highest and mediate level specialist	59	11,7
Officer, service system, defence system worker	55	10,8
Qualified workman	58	11,4
Nonqualified worker	30	5,9
Unemployed, looking for job	55	10,8
On pension	115	22,7

Housewife, on baby break	38	7,3
Schoolchild, student	62	12,3

	N	%
Household composition:		
Household without under-age children	307	60,4
Household with children up to 7 years	88	17,3
Household with children from 7 till 15 years	114	22,4
Income for one family member per month:		
Up to 150 litas	72	14,2
151–250 litas	107	21,0
251–400 litas	69	13,5
401–600 litas	89	17,5
More than 600 litas	94	18,4
Did not indicate	78	15,3
Place of residence:		
Vilnius	80	15,7
Kaunas	56	11,0
Klaipėda	28	5,5
Šiauliai	19	3,8
Panevėžys	17	3,3
Vilnius district	46	9,0
Utena district	27	5,2
Kaunas district	49	9,5
Alytus district	26	5,0
Marijampolė district	27	5,4
Panevėžys district	26	5,1
Šiauliai district	34	6,7
Tauragė district	20	3,9
Telšiai district	26	5,1
Klaipėda district	29	5,7
Size of the populated locality:		
Population more than 200 thousand	136	26,7
Population 30–200 thousand	103	20,1
Population 2–30 thousand	91	17,9
Population up to 2 thousand	180	35,3

3. Summary

- The most common opinion on the subject of physical punishment (or beating/spanking as punishment) is that more than half of Lithuanian children experience it at home.
Almost one forth (23%) of Lithuanian population think that up to 20% of Lithuanian children experience physical punishment, more than one forth (28%) think, that such children amount not less than 65%.
Only one respondent proposed that no child in Lithuania experience physical punishment.
4% of population suppose that we have 100% of such children in Lithuania.
- 20-39 aged people and residents of large cities predict the largest amount of children experiencing physical punishment.
- 40% of Lithuanian population think that physical punishment in families should not be used under any circumstances. 52% essentially state negative attitude, but admit that there are situations when physical punishment may be justifiable. 6% of population count that this method of educating children may be used if parents consider it effective.
- Most differences regarding this question show up in different age groups. Youngsters 15-19 years of age form the majority of those having the opinion, that physical punishment may be used if parents consider it necessary. 20-39-year-age people are more frequent than others to justify physical punishment in particular situations. 40-49-year-age people are more frequent than others to have the opinion that physical punishment may not be used at all.

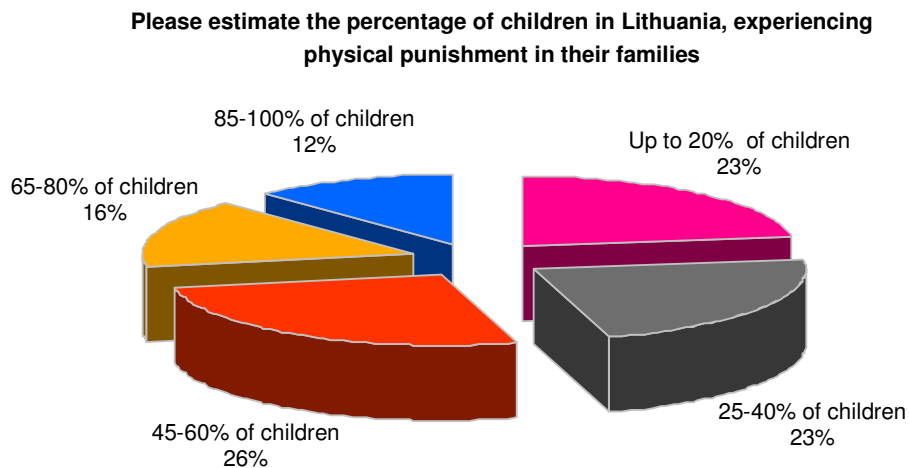
4. Results of the survey

4.1 Number of children, experiencing physical punishment in families

The most common opinion on the subject of physical punishment (or beating/spanking as punishment) is that more than half of Lithuanian children experience it at home.

Almost one forth (23%) of Lithuanian population think that up to 20% of children experience physical punishment, more than one forth submit that such children make up not less than 65%.

Only one respondent proposed that no child in Lithuania experience physical punishment. 4% of population suppose that we have 100% of such children in Lithuania.



4.2 Response distribution in the social-demographic groups

The next tables present response distribution according to the social-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Statistically significant differences are marked in colours: statistically significantly more – **pink**, statistically significantly less – **gray**.

By sex:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	Male	Female
Up to 20%	27,3%	18,6%
25-40%	23,1%	22,9%
45-60%	23,5%	28,8%
65-80%	14,1%	17,2%
85-100%	12,0%	12,4%

By age:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	15-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-74 years
Up to 20%	19,8%	16,9%	24,3%	26,3%	24,1%	23,5%
25-40%	38,6%	14,4%	18,0%	24,6%	21,3%	28,1%
45-60%	21,9%	24,7%	22,3%	27,2%	30,1%	31,4%
65-80%	10,6%	30,8%	15,6%	9,3%	15,5%	10,2%
85-100%	9,0%	13,2%	19,8%	12,5%	8,9%	6,7%

By nationality:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	Lithuanian	Russian	Other nationalities
Up to 20%	23,3%	17,1%	19,9%
25-40%	21,1%	41,4%	28,5%
45-60%	27,7%	6,6%	26,7%
65-80%	15,8%	22,6%	10,8%
85-100%	12,0%	12,3%	14,1%

By education:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	Primary, basic	Secondary	Vocational, professional	Higher
Up to 20%	20,6%	23,6%	24,0%	22,5%
25-40%	27,9%	18,5%	23,4%	22,9%
45-60%	29,9%	28,9%	22,4%	20,3%
65-80%	13,0%	19,6%	10,8%	20,3%
85-100%	8,7%	9,4%	19,3%	13,9%

By occupation:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	“White collars”	“Blue collars”	Unemployed	Pensioners	Housewives, on baby brake	Schoolchildren, students
Up to 20%	25,8%	18,8%	18,8%	25,0%	16,4%	22,8%
25-40%	20,4%	19,0%	22,2%	28,7%	26,1%	23,5%
45-60%	23,0%	23,7%	38,0%	29,6%	24,8%	22,9%
65-80%	14,6%	22,5%	6,1%	10,4%	25,0%	22,1%
85-100%	16,3%	16,0%	14,8%	6,3%	7,7%	8,8%

By household composition:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	Households without underage children	Households with children up to 7 years	Households with children 7-15 years
Up to 20%	21,1%	20,7%	28,2%
25-40%	23,5%	28,0%	17,8%
45-60%	29,1%	20,8%	23,0%
65-80%	15,1%	16,8%	16,8%
85-100%	11,1%	13,6%	14,2%

By average income for one family member:

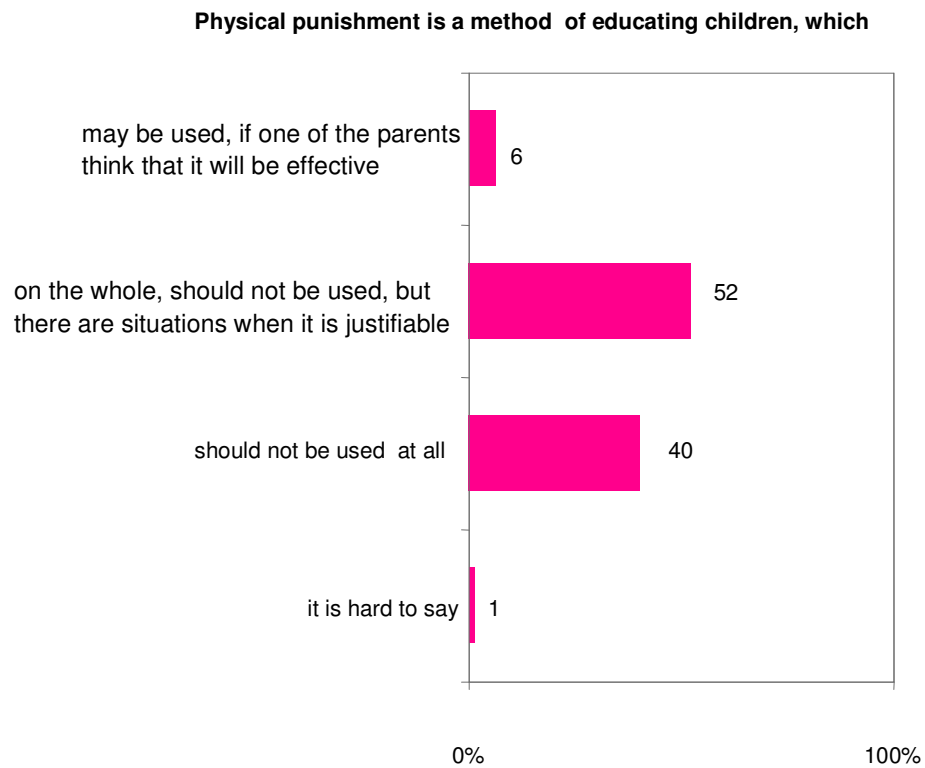
Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	Up to 150 litas	151–250 litas	251–400 litas	401–600 litas	More than 600 litas	Did not indicate
Up to 20%	26,2%	25,4%	15,8%	26,8%	18,8%	21,4%
25-40%	18,7%	23,3%	22,1%	29,5%	16,2%	28,1%
45-60%	38,6%	23,4%	35,5%	16,9%	24,5%	23,7%
65-80%	7,1%	17,1%	14,2%	15,7%	22,6%	15,2%
85-100%	9,4%	10,8%	12,3%	11,0%	17,8%	11,5%

By size of the populated locality:

Percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment at home	Towns with more than 200000 residents	Towns with 30000-200000 residents	Towns with 2000-30000 residents	Rural areas
Up to 20%	16,3%	22,5%	26,2%	25,8%
25-40%	18,6%	20,7%	25,3%	26,5%
45-60%	17,4%	25,1%	29,5%	32,1%
65-80%	21,5%	19,5%	13,6%	10,4%
85-100%	26,2%	12,1%	5,4%	5,2%

4.3 Physical punishment as a method of educating children

40% of Lithuanian population think that physical punishment in families should not be used under any circumstances. 52% essentially state negative attitude, but admit that there are situations when physical punishment may be justifiable. 6% of population count that this method of educating children may be used if parents consider it effective.

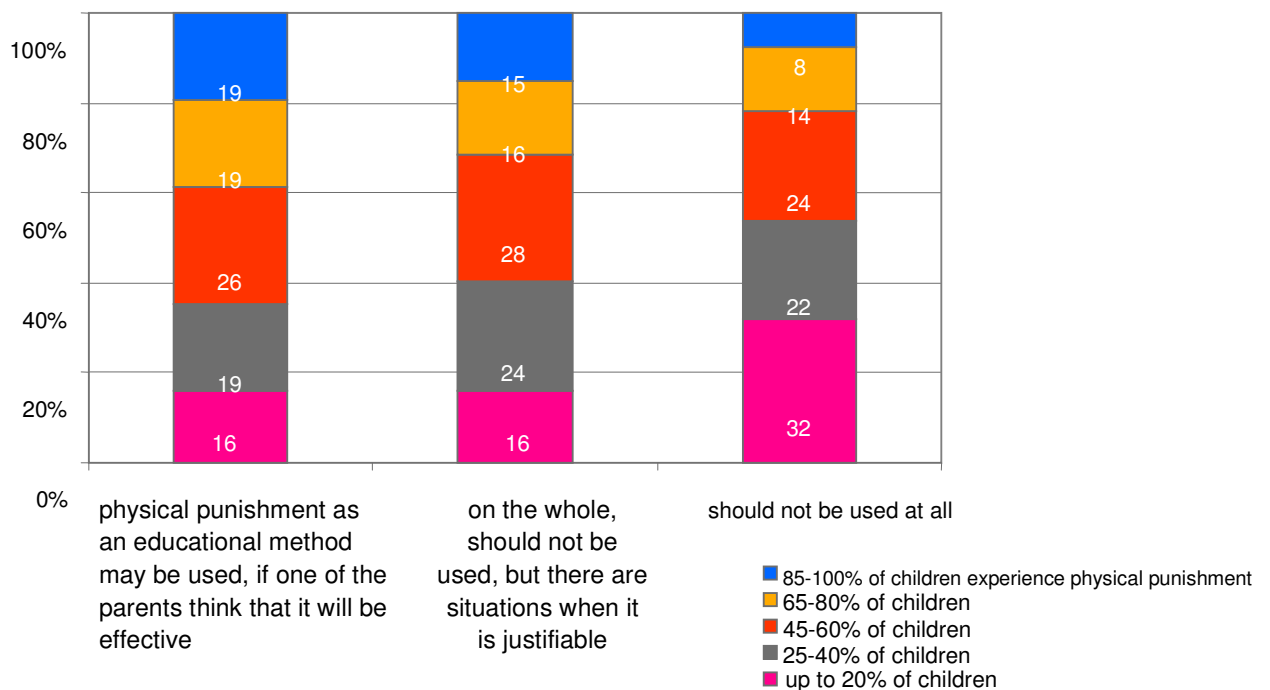


The more restrained is the population's attitude towards physical punishment, the bigger is their notional percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment.

38% of people, considering physical punishment an acceptable method of educating children, suppose that the percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment, is not less than 65%. Among those who justify physical punishment only in special situations this number is 31%, among those not justifying – only 22%.

32% of people, taking the view that physical punishment should not be used, suppose that up to 20% of Lithuanian children experience it, whereas 16% of those accepting physical punishment name this number.

Notional percentage of children, experiencing physical punishment, depending on the attitude towards physical punishment



4.4 Response distribution in the social-demographic groups

The next tables present response distribution according to the social-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Statistically significant differences are marked in colours: statistically significantly more – **pink** colour, statistically significantly less – **gray** colour.

By sex:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	Male	Female
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	7,4%	5,0%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	53,4%	51,1%
Should not be used at all	37,1%	43,3%
It is hard to say	2,1%	0,6%

By age:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	15-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-74 years
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	14,1%	0,6%	7,1%	6,3%	3,1%	7,9%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	50,1%	63,2%	54,7%	40,5%	53,2%	50,0%
Should not be used at all	35,8%	36,2%	38,1%	51,0%	40,0%	39,8%
It is hard to say				2,3%	3,7%	2,2%

By nationality:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	Lithuanian	Russian	Other nationalities
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	5,3%	25,4%	1,5%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	53,2%	48,3%	45,7%
Should not be used at all	40,0%	26,3%	52,8%
It is hard to say	1,6%		

By education:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	Primary, basic	Secondary	Vocational, professional	Higher
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	9,2%	4,8%	5,5%	4,3%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	54,1%	49,1%	51,5%	56,3%
Should not be used at all	34,5%	45,6%	41,2%	38,8%
It is hard to say	2,3%	0,5%	1,7%	0,6%

By occupation:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	“White collars”	“Blue collars”	Unemployed	Pensioners	Housewives, on baby brake	Schoolchildren, students
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	4,7%	7,2%	8,5%	6,7%	5,0%	5,4%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	48,3%	54,0%	62,2%	47,2%	59,9%	54,4%
Should not be used at all	46,9%	38,7%	24,3%	42,7%	35,1%	40,3%
It is hard to say			5,0%	3,4%		

By household composition:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	Households without underage children	Households with children up to 7 years	Households with children 7-15 years
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	4,4%	8,4%	8,8%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	54,8%	50,2%	46,8%
Should not be used at all	38,6%	41,4%	44,4%
It is hard to say	2,2%		

By average income for one family member:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	Up to 150 litas	151–250 litas	251–400 litas	401–600 litas	More than 600 litas	Did not indicate
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	8,8%	8,4%	7,7%	5,0%	2,6%	4,5%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	54,7%	49,1%	55,2%	65,1%	48,4%	41,4%
Should not be used at all	32,7%	40,1%	35,8%	29,3%	49,0%	54,1%
It is hard to say	3,8%	2,4%	1,3%	0,6%		

By size of populated locality:

Physical punishment is a method of educating children, which	Towns with more than 200000 residents	Towns with 30000-200000 residents	Towns with 2000-30000 residents	Rural areas
May be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective	4,7%	4,6%	6,7%	7,8%
On the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable	50,5%	59,9%	51,7%	49,4%
Should not be used at all	44,5%	35,6%	39,4%	40,5%
It is hard to say	0,4%		2,2%	2,3%

A Appendix. The questionnaire

1. Equating all children, living in Lithuania, to 100%, please give the percentage of how many of them experience physical punishment (or beating/spanking as punishment) in their families.

..... % of children experience physical punishment in Lithuania.

2. In your opinion, physical punishment is a method of educating children, which:
One answer.

may be used, if one of the parents think that it will be effective;

on the whole, should not be used, but there are situations when it is justifiable;

should not be used at all;

it is hard to say.