

## **PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IN CHILD REARING IN BULGARIA**

(Results from an Omnibus Study carried out among Bulgarian population )

Sofia  
May 2009

## I. PARAMETERS OF THE STUDY

**The fieldwork** for the survey was carried out in the period 1 – 10 May 2009r.

**Sample:** two-phase cluster sample of a size N= 1000. The results were obtained on the base of 1000 interviews among respondents aged above 15 years.

**Method:** standardized face-to-face in-home interviews.

## II. SURVEY RESULTS<sup>1</sup>

The major objective of the study was to determine the attitudes of Bulgarians towards the use of corporal punishment in child upbringing, as well as to evaluate the share of children in Bulgaria who are actually experiencing physical punishment by their parents.

On the other hand the results of this survey have been compared with the main results of the same survey, which was conducted as a part of the Omnibus from 2005.

In general the results of the survey are as follows:

- As a whole, the opinion of the respondents regarding the use of physical punishment in child rearing doesn't undergo any significant changes. As in 2005, four years later, four from five respondents still consider that there is a certain part of the children experiencing such kind of a treatment. Almost a half of those who have been interviewed still evaluate the physical punishment in child rearing as entirely intolerable, but parity is kept between them and those who accept it on some condition.
- As distinct from the results of four years ago, there are no respondents of the opinion that in Bulgaria the corporal punishment is not applied in the process of child rearing at all, and at this expense the share of those who evaluate the physically punished children within 11 to 30 per cent have slightly increased. The majority of the people stand that the children submitting physical punishment during their rearing are within 20% of the children in the country, and most often think that they are no more than 10%.
- There is still no definite opinion whether corporal punishment could be used by parents and tutors and to what extent it is a convenient upbringing method. However, every second person is of the opinion that the physical punishment should never be used in the child rearing. A little more than one third of the respondents are of the opinion that in certain situations it could be justifiable. The least part (11%) remains those, who think that corporal punishment may be used by the parent's decision.

The following more important conclusions could be drawn based on the demographic characteristics of the respondents:

- As pointed in the results of 2005, the respondents with marital status still indicate a lower share of children experiencing physical punishment by their parents, while according to single persons and divorced persons their share exceeds 40 or 50 per cent. The people who are married are more likely to support the method of physical

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<sup>1</sup> In the analysis the most important survey results are being included. A data based on a very small number of respondents and differences, close to standard statistical error are not commented.

punishment than the single persons. On their behalf the single persons more often reject entirely this type of punishment in comparison with those who are married. Or the respondents who are married and those who are living with a partner are less perceptible but more tolerable towards the physical punishment in child rearing.

- The results also depend on whether there any children up to 18 years of age in the household or not. As a whole those who are living with children indicate higher levels than the rest of the respondents and a little more often are likely to stand for the exceptional usage of physical punishment.
- The same dependence remains between the types of place of residence the respondents live and their evaluation on the share of children experiencing physical punishment: People in the capital indicate significantly higher share of those children, as in the present survey one third of them indicate a share 50 per cent. However, they are more likely to evaluate the physical punishment as acceptable. At the same time, according to the majority of the people in the small towns and the villages/ rural areas, the children that are brought up through physical violence are not more than 20%, and the share of the people rejecting categorically the usage of such resources of rearing exceeds a half of a small places of residence habitants.
- In comparison with 2005, the differences among the people with different level of education intensify. Respondents having secondary education or higher don't support the usage of physical punishment, but find it justifiable in certain situations to a greater extend. They also evaluate at higher level the share of physically punished children. People with up to 8<sup>th</sup> degree education are to greater extent than those with higher education of opinion that the physical punishment should never be used in the child rearing, but indicate to a greater extend that this problem concerns 20% of the Bulgarian children.
- The most steady opponents of the physical punishment towards children are the youngest – 75% of the respondents, 15 – 19 years of age. However, they are comparatively moderate in evaluating the measure of the occurrence. Physical punishment is supported most frequently by the people of most active age (within 30 and 50 years' old), which are most likely to have children of minor age; at the same time they evaluate a little higher the share of affected children in comparison with the younger and older.
- Regularity, not registered four years ago is that the people of Muslim religious denomination and those who identified themselves Turks are more definitely against the physical punishment towards children, but also evaluate it as more slightly distributed in comparison with the rest of the people.
- Finally a conclusion that could be drawn is that the differences among social-demographic characteristics upon age, place of residence and higher educational level are more definitely shown than in 2005. The sensibility of the higher educated people and those of the capital habitants towards the problem intensify; but it is also accompanied with higher degree of demonstrated tolerance to the physical punishment towards children. A possible explication in a hypothesis, that could be proved in a further studies is that the understanding for what exactly the physical punishment includes differ among the different social groups. The data on the base of the preceding study is confirmed, as long as the people who are married and those in the most active fertile age are relatively most tolerable to the physical punishment implement.

**Table 1. Share of the Bulgarian children experiencing physical punishment**

Share of children	OMNIBUS 2005		OMNIBUS 2009	
	Number	%	Number	%
0%	58	5,9	0	0
1-10%	204	20,5	212	21,2
11-20%	165	16,6	187	18,7
21-30%	127	12,8	153	15,3
31-40%	71	7,1	77	7,7
41-50%	123	12,4	125	12,5
51% и повече	152	15,2	128	12,8
not sure/ has not answered	94	9,4	118	11,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1 000</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2. Respondents' attitude towards physical punishment in child rearing**

	OMNIBUS 2005		OMNIBUS 2009	
	Number	%	Number	%
May be used if the parent believes that it will be effective	73	7,3	109	10,9
Should not be used in principle but in certain situations it is justifiable	378	38,1	348	34,8
Should never be used	469	47,2	499	49,9
Difficult to say	74	7,4	44	4,4
Total	994	100,0	1 000	100,0

**Table 3. Share of the Bulgarian children experiencing physical punishment in accordance with respondents' gender, age and education**

		1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51% and above	Difficult to say/ did not answered	Base
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	
<b>Gender</b>	Male	20,1	21,0	16,9	7,7	11,8	11,9	10,6	<b>480</b>
	Female	22,2	16,6	13,9	7,7	13,1	13,6	12,9	<b>520</b>
<b>Age - groups</b>	15-19	17,2	23,4	15,3	11,7	13,5	11,2	7,7	<b>78</b>
	20-29	22,0	16,1	13,9	7,8	13,7	19,7	6,8	<b>151</b>
	30-39	22,6	13,8	17,8	10,5	16,1	14,1	5,2	<b>172</b>
	40-49	22,0	17,3	11,1	6,5	15,9	16,7	10,6	<b>156</b>
	50-59	21,0	20,8	18,3	8,4	7,4	10,7	13,4	<b>163</b>
	60-69	21,8	21,7	15,5	6,7	10,2	9,2	14,9	<b>144</b>
	70-79	18,9	23,9	15,7	4,3	11,1	7,9	18,2	<b>105</b>
	80+	26,4	14,1	14,3		11,0		34,2	<b>25</b>
	Did not answer							100,0	<b>5</b>
<b>Which is the higher educational degree you hold</b>	Higher	19,6	13,5	17,4	10,9	18,5	15,4	4,8	<b>173</b>
	Non-degree college after secondary school	20,4	27,5	17,8	2,9	10,2	13,2	8,0	<b>48</b>
	Secondary	22,6	20,0	15,8	6,7	12,2	12,7	10,0	<b>516</b>
	Up to 8th degree	19,4	18,5	12,4	9,1	10,7	12,2	17,8	<b>199</b>
	Up to 4th degree	21,0	21,2	15,0	4,2	6,8	11,3	20,4	<b>47</b>
	No education	33,9	8,7	17,9	11,0			28,5	<b>9</b>
		Did not answer				15,3	11,5		73,2

**Table 4. Share of the Bulgarian children experiencing physical punishment in accordance with respondents' family status, ethnic group and religious denomination**

		1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51% and above	Difficult to say/ did not answer	<b>Base</b>
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	
<b>Family status</b>	Single	19,1	16,0	11,2	11,7	16,6	20,5	4,9	<b>227</b>
	Married	22,0	20,5	17,4	6,6	11,0	10,2	12,2	<b>591</b>
	Divorced	26,1	8,2	12,3	10,2	13,5	19,6	10,1	<b>52</b>
	Widowed	20,3	21,0	14,7	5,1	10,7	8,9	19,4	<b>117</b>
	Did not answer	7,8	6,7	9,3		21,6	4,1	50,5	<b>13</b>
<b>Are there any children up to 18 years of age in your household</b>	Yes	20,4	15,4	17,0	8,9	12,9	16,3	9,1	<b>357</b>
	No	21,6	20,6	14,4	7,0	12,3	10,8	13,3	<b>643</b>
<b>Which ethnic group are you member of</b>	Bulgarian	20,5	17,8	16,1	8,3	13,1	13,2	10,9	<b>847</b>
	Bulgarian-muslim	19,3	18,9	13,6	2,7	10,6	6,1	28,8	<b>29</b>
	Turk	30,8	31,7	7,9	4,6	5,6	3,6	15,8	<b>68</b>
	Roma	22,4	17,9	10,5	5,5	11,2	22,4	10,1	<b>53</b>
	Other			49,3		29,0		21,7	<b>4</b>
<b>Which is your religious denomination</b>	Christian	20,3	18,1	16,5	8,1	13,4	12,4	11,1	<b>858</b>
	Muslim	27,7	25,6	8,9	4,7	6,2	8,8	18,1	<b>116</b>
	None	26,1	19,3		13,2	19,7	21,7		<b>13</b>
	Did not answer	18,9		9,4			60,7	11,1	<b>14</b>

**Table 5. Share of the Bulgarian children experiencing physical punishment in accordance with respondents' financial and social status and place of residence**

		1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51% and above	Difficult to say/ did not answered	Base
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	
<b>Finacial status</b>	Poor	16,3	17,9	11,2	9,4	12,6	12,8	19,9	<b>178</b>
	Rather poor than rich (2)	27,8	18,4	16,6	5,4	7,0	12,8	12,0	<b>258</b>
	Neither rich nor poor (3)	20,4	19,8	15,8	8,3	15,7	12,0	8,0	<b>509</b>
	Rather rich than poor (4)	15,9	13,7	20,1	8,8	8,4	21,9	11,3	<b>47</b>
	Rich		100,0						<b>1</b>
	Did not answer			7,3		9,4	7,3	76,0	<b>7</b>
<b>Social status</b>	Lowest	21,5	14,9	9,2	8,3	11,6	12,8	21,6	<b>143</b>
	Rather low than high (2)	22,9	19,9	17,2	6,0	6,1	13,8	14,1	<b>235</b>
	Middle (3)	21,9	19,4	15,9	8,3	15,4	11,2	7,8	<b>549</b>
	Rather high thann low (4)	11,2	19,6	16,7	8,9	11,6	22,1	9,9	<b>62</b>
	Did not answer		5,9	15,8		22,9	15,8	39,6	<b>11</b>
<b>Household income</b>	Up to BGN 99	13,7		45,3		13,9	9,5	17,5	<b>6</b>
	100 - 199	26,6	22,5	4,9	3,6	12,6	5,6	24,2	<b>63</b>
	200 - 299	17,8	20,7	19,8	2,4	6,5	8,7	24,1	<b>59</b>
	300 - 399	22,4	16,2	11,8	13,4	13,3	10,1	12,7	<b>89</b>
	400 - 499	19,6	30,4	18,2	6,2	6,9	4,8	13,8	<b>79</b>
	500 - 599	24,1	18,6	21,7	6,7	8,9	7,4	12,5	<b>64</b>
	600 - 699	22,3	24,7	14,4	3,5	16,4	11,6	7,1	<b>125</b>
	700 - 799	34,6	27,1	12,6	7,9	11,1	4,4	2,3	<b>45</b>
	800 - 899	20,2	35,2	24,7	8,8	8,1		3,0	<b>29</b>
	900 - 999	9,4	6,7	21,4	17,6	22,1	12,8	10,1	<b>36</b>
	Over BGN 1000	19,9	14,2	15,9	6,3	19,0	18,2	6,4	<b>118</b>
	No income	21,0	11,2		27,1		33,3	7,4	<b>7</b>
Did not answer	19,7	13,2	14,2	9,3	11,1	20,1	12,3	<b>279</b>	
<b>Place of residence</b>	Sofia	15,3	14,8	11,6	10,5	9,0	32,3	6,5	<b>149</b>
	Large town	15,5	17,2	16,3	9,7	19,6	14,1	7,5	<b>335</b>
	Small town	28,2	20,6	15,0	5,7	9,4	5,4	15,7	<b>227</b>
	Rural area, village	25,3	21,0	16,3	5,6	8,6	6,9	16,4	<b>289</b>

**Table 6. Respondents' attitude towards physical punishment in child rearing in accordance with respondents' gender, age and education**

		May be used	Should not be used in general	Should never be used	Difficult to say	Base
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	
<b>Gender</b>	Male	13,9	32,4	48,6	5,1	<b>480</b>
	Female	8,1	37,0	51,1	3,8	<b>520</b>
<b>Age - groups</b>	15-19	3,8	19,1	75,1	2,0	<b>78</b>
	20-29	9,9	36,5	48,6	5,0	<b>151</b>
	30-39	14,2	39,7	42,6	3,4	<b>172</b>
	40-49	12,8	38,1	44,5	4,6	<b>156</b>
	50-59	13,7	35,5	46,2	4,5	<b>163</b>
	60-69	10,7	33,3	53,5	2,5	<b>144</b>
	70-79	6,5	35,3	53,8	4,4	<b>105</b>
	80+	7,2	27,2	59,5	6,1	<b>25</b>
	Did not answer				100,0	<b>5</b>
<b>Which is the higher educational degree you hold</b>	Higher	11,8	36,7	49,6	1,9	<b>173</b>
	Non-degree college after secondary school	15,0	32,6	50,8	1,6	<b>48</b>
	Secondary	11,0	38,0	47,4	3,7	<b>516</b>
	Up to 8th degree	7,1	29,6	58,6	4,7	<b>199</b>
	Up to 4th degree	22,6	22,9	44,2	10,3	<b>47</b>
	No education		37,7	62,3		<b>9</b>
	Did not answer			21,2	78,8	<b>9</b>



**Table 7. Respondents' attitude towards physical punishment in child rearing in accordance with respondents' family status, ethnic group and religious denomination**

		May be used	Should not be used in general	Should never be used	Difficult to say	Base
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	
<b>Family status</b>	Single	9,4	30,9	54,7	5,1	<b>227</b>
	Maried	12,2	37,7	46,9	3,1	<b>591</b>
	Divorced	11,8	24,6	55,7	7,9	<b>52</b>
	Widowed	6,6	33,6	56,2	3,6	<b>117</b>
	Did not answer	11,9	20,1	21,6	46,4	<b>13</b>
<b>Are there any children up to 18 years of age in your householde</b>	Yes	11,8	37,7	47,5	3,0	<b>357</b>
	No	10,3	33,2	51,3	5,2	<b>643</b>
<b>Which ethnic group are you member of</b>	Bulgarian	10,0	36,3	49,4	4,3	<b>847</b>
	Bulgarian-muslim	20,9	27,9	51,1		<b>29</b>
	Turk	15,8	19,7	57,6	6,9	<b>68</b>
	Roma	13,6	32,7	47,3	6,4	<b>53</b>
	Other		43,6	56,4		<b>4</b>
<b>Which is your religious denomination</b>	Christian	9,9	36,8	49,2	4,1	<b>858</b>
	Muslim	16,6	21,0	56,2	6,2	<b>116</b>
	None	30,6	7,7	52,0	9,7	<b>13</b>
	Did not answer	6,4	49,4	37,2	7,1	<b>14</b>

**Table 8. Respondents' attitude towards physical punishment in child rearing in accordance with respondents' financial and social status and place of residence**

		May be used	Should not be used in general	Should never be used	Difficult to say	Base
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	
<b>Financial status</b>	Poor	14,1	29,7	50,6	5,7	<b>178</b>
	Rather poor than rich (2)	9,6	41,8	43,7	4,9	<b>258</b>
	Neither rich nor poor (3)	10,7	32,5	53,8	2,9	<b>509</b>
	Rather rich than poor (4)	9,4	42,1	42,8	5,7	<b>47</b>
	Rich		100,0			<b>1</b>
	Did not answer		13,5	31,3	55,2	<b>7</b>
<b>Social status</b>	Lowest	13,1	28,1	52,2	6,5	<b>143</b>
	Rather low than high (2)	11,7	44,0	39,2	5,1	<b>235</b>
	Middle (3)	10,4	33,0	53,7	2,8	<b>549</b>
	Rather high than low (4)	6,4	33,8	54,5	5,3	<b>62</b>
	Did not answer	11,1	19,6	34,3	35,0	<b>11</b>
<b>Household income</b>	Up to BGN 99	17,5	54,8	27,6		<b>6</b>
	100 - 199	9,5	28,6	56,0	5,9	<b>63</b>
	200 - 299	12,5	19,0	67,2	1,4	<b>59</b>
	300 - 399	12,9	36,8	47,5	2,8	<b>89</b>
	400 - 499	11,9	40,7	46,4	1,0	<b>79</b>
	500 - 599	10,6	36,2	51,7	1,6	<b>64</b>
	600 - 699	7,8	32,7	57,4	2,1	<b>125</b>
	700 - 799	8,4	26,4	65,2		<b>45</b>
	800 - 899		46,7	47,9	5,4	<b>29</b>
	900 - 999	2,9	43,5	43,7	9,9	<b>36</b>
	Over BGN 1000	6,5	37,6	51,3	4,7	<b>118</b>
	No income	7,4	24,7	34,5	33,3	<b>7</b>
Did not answer	15,7	35,5	41,6	7,1	<b>279</b>	
<b>Place of residence</b>	Sofia	14,0	39,5	41,4	5,2	<b>149</b>
	Large town	11,0	37,1	47,3	4,7	<b>335</b>
	Small town	9,9	32,1	52,8	5,2	<b>227</b>
	Rural area, village	10,0	31,8	55,0	3,2	<b>289</b>



**PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IN CHILD REARING IN  
BULGARIA**

(Omnibus Study among Bulgarian population)

**FIELDWORK IMPLEMENTATION**

**TECHNICAL REPORT**

**May, 2009**

# QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AMONG POPULATION

## 1. Sample

**Target group:** Population aged 15 and over in the project implementation areas

**Sample design:** Two-stage random cluster sample with encircling procedure

The first stage includes random sampling of clusters in the settlements where the number of electoral sections is bigger than the number of clusters in the sampling plan. From the list of electoral sections from the last Parliament elections in 2005, totally 125 sections with start points in each of them have been randomly chosen. From the starting point, interviewers implement a circling procedure keeping the right direction and choosing every second address. Further, they should find a respondent meeting the sample criteria – having completed at least 15 years and being this household member who had last have birthday. The interviewer makes up to two attempts to find and interview the chosen respondent. The procedure continues until in every cluster the required number of interviews is conducted.

**Sample size:** Planned size N = 1000, implemented size N = 1000, distributed by region as follows:

**Table 1 Sample Distribution by Region**

Region	Implemented sample	Region	Implemented sample
Blagoevgrad	39	Pleven	38
Burgas	56	Plovdiv	106
Varna	63	Razgrad	13
Veliko Tarnovo	42	Russe	30
Vidin	14	Silistra	17
Vratza	23	Sliven	25
Gabrovo	15	Smolyan	17
Dobrich	25	Sofia City	166
Kurdjaly	23	Sofia Region	32
Kyustendil	23	Stara Zagora	46
Lovech	23	Targovishte	15
Montana	27	Haskovo	27
Pazardzhik	40	Shoumen	26
Pernik	15	Yambol	14
		<b>Общо:</b>	<b>1000</b>

## 2. Response Rates and Fulfillment of the Sampling Plan

**Table 2 Total number of addresses visited and questionnaires received**

		<b>Initial interviews</b>
1	Total number of addresses visited	2018
2	Total questionnaires received	1000

The interviews conducted, as well as cases in which interview is not conducted could be systemized by the reasons of non-conducting, as follows:

**Table 3 Number of refusals, non-contacted and non-eligible units**

		<b>Initial interviews</b>
Non-contacted but known eligible units	The respondent is not at home (138 visits)	64
	Health care problems (long term sick, inadequate, ill, drunk, deaf or can't answer, etc.)	60
Refused units	Respondent does not want to participate - personal refusal	378
	<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>
Non-eligible units	The house is inhabitable – it's not a dwelling-place	172
	The person contacted from at the house refuses to cooperate	112
	There is nobody at home (498 visits)	232
	There is no person in the household meeting the sampling criteria	0
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>516</b>
<b>Completed interviews</b>		<b>420</b>
<b>Total number of addresses visited</b>		<b>775</b>
<b>Total visits</b>		<b>942</b>

$$\text{Non-eligible units} = \frac{\text{Non-eligible units (516)}}{\text{Total number of addresses visited (2018)}}$$

$$\text{Share of non-eligible units} = 516 / 2018 = 0.255 \text{ (25,5\%)}$$

$$\text{Response rate} = \frac{\text{Completed interviews (1000)}}{\text{Completed interviews (1000) + non-contacted but known eligible units (64+60) + refused eligible units (378)}}$$

$$\text{Response rate} = 1000 / 1502 = 0.665 \text{ (66,5\%)}$$

**C. Total number of participated interviewers:** 45 interviewers, or about 22 interviews per interviewer in average.

#### **4. Fieldwork Dates**

Starting date: 30.04.2009

Completion date: 11.05.2009

#### **5. Problems occurred in interviewing process**

There were no registered problems on behalf of the respondents connected with the specific character and the topic of the survey.

#### **6. Interviewer Training**

The interviewer net of Vitosha Research conducted the survey. In each region, the interviewers' team is headed by experienced supervisor. The interviewers have undergone the necessary training and have a considerable experience. For solution of specific problems, interviewers were instructed to contact the head of the regional team or the staff members of VR, Sofia.

The greater parts of interviewers have university education in the social sciences (sociologists, psychologists, etc.), and rich fieldwork experience. The remaining part also has

rich fieldwork experience, and has passed through different fieldwork training courses. The interviewers were supplied with written instructions for the aims of the survey, as well as specific sampling and interviewing techniques.

## ***7. Fieldwork Quality Control***

### ***7.1. Direct Control***

VR supervisors conducted the direct fieldwork control. The principal tasks of the supervisors were to control the fulfillment of the sampling plan and the work of the interviewers. The overall impression is that the sample was covered according to the plan.

### ***7.2. Call-back Procedures***

Call-back was conducted from May 14 to May 15, 2009.

The number of interviews controlled was 100 (10% of the sample). A uniform selection technique (random selection) was employed. The call-back procedure included the following:

1. The call-back control was conducted by VR controllers with rich fieldwork experience and training.
2. The supervisors have supplied the controllers with the names and phone numbers of the respondents that were interviewed.
3. The tasks of the controllers were to check the fulfillment of the sampling plan; to control the work of the interviewers (duration of the interviews, keeping to professional standards, etc.).
4. For solution of specific problems the controllers were instructed to contact VR supervisors or the staff members of VR, Sofia.

### ***7.3. Logical Review of the Questionnaires and Data Entry***

All questionnaires were subjected to a logical review before data entry. A detailed logical review instruction had been preliminary designed.

The logical review was carried out by the VR staff and included:

1. Fulfillment of all questionnaire instructions;
2. Logical correspondence between answers of different questions;
3. Control for accuracy in the cases where there is objective information (e.g. questions on size of the city/village, administrative region).