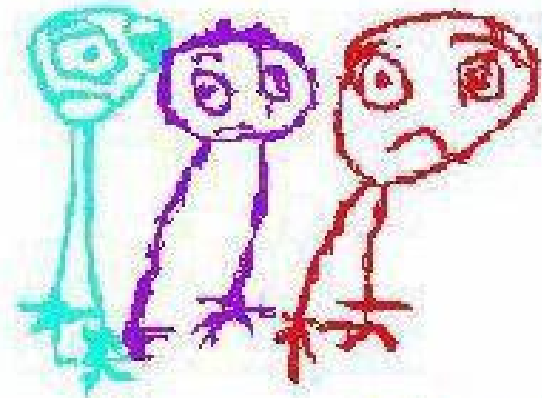


Truth and Consequences of Corporal Punishment

Joe Dorman, BA, Chris Siemens, MA, Tricia Gardner, JD,
Stacy McNeiland, MBA, MLA, David Blatt, PhD, Kyle Reynolds, EdD



“It shouldn't
hurt to be
a child.”

Findings from 50 Years of Research

Childhood

- Low moral internalization
- Aggression
- Antisocial behavior
- Externalizing behavior problems
- Internalizing behavior problems
- Mental health problems
- Negative parent-child relationship
- Impaired cognitive ability
- Low self-esteem
- Victim of physical abuse

Adulthood

- Support for physical punishment
- Mental health problems
- Antisocial behavior

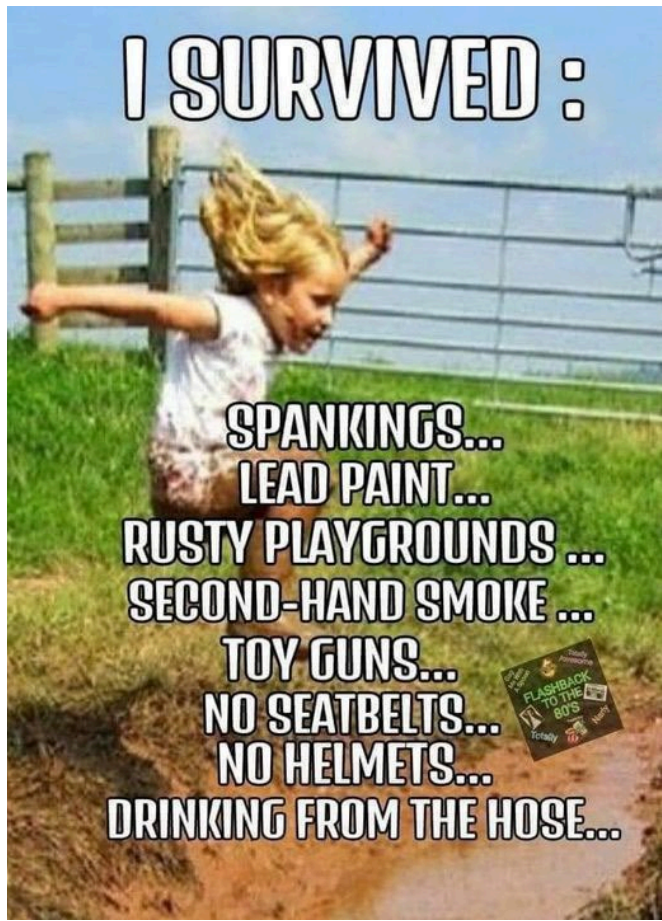
Cf. Physical Abuse

- Identical in direction
- Similar in magnitude

Why Now?

- APSAC Position Paper - www.apsac.org/apsacpublications
- AAP Statement - <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2018/11/05/discipline110518>
- National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment - <https://www.endphysicalpunishment.org/about-us>
- US Alliance to End the Hitting of Children - <https://endhitting.org/>
- United Nations and International Efforts to End Violence to Children
- Zero Abuse Project - <https://www.zeroabuseproject.org/>
- Stop Spanking - <https://stopspanking.org/>

I SURVIVED :



**SPANKINGS...
LEAD PAINT...
RUSTY PLAYGROUNDS ...
SECOND-HAND SMOKE ...
TOY GUNS...
NO SEATBELTS...
NO HELMETS...
DRINKING FROM THE HOSE...**



The Reality of Spanking

- Strongly associated with negative short- and long-term outcomes
- Detrimental even in an otherwise positive environment
- Detrimental after accounting for many alternative explanations
- No evidence for positive outcomes or improvement in behavior
 - One study found most children misbehaved again within 10 minutes
- Experts call for it to be added as an ACE

Spanking and Physical Abuse

- Normalizes violence to address conflict
- Different in severity; not always in intent
- Spanking significantly increases odds of CPS report for physical abuse, especially in homes that had been “low risk” (Ma & Han, 2023)
- Often the precipice of substantiated physical abuse (75%)
- Spanking → 5.74 times as likely for physical abuse
- If eliminated, could reduce physical abuse rates by 33%

CP in Schools

- More common in primary schools
- Usually involves an object
- Usually hands, arms, head, and buttocks
- School corporal punishment has been outlawed in 128 countries as of 2023
- Disproportionally used against students with disabilities
- Disproportionally used against Black and Hispanic students

Why Spanking in Schools?

- Administered for a range of behaviors
 - Late to class or absent
 - Not doing homework
 - Having a forbidden item (e.g., phone)
 - Running
 - Sleeping
 - Incorrect answers

States Which Allow CP in Schools

The following states expressly allow corporal punishment in public schools:

Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky,
Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, [Oklahoma](#), South
Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming

Review provided by US Department of Education

Corporal punishment in private schools is only banned in 4 states



David Blatt

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“WE DON’T HIT”: IT’S TIME TO END CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN OKLAHOMA

- WHY WE DID THIS STUDY: TO PROVIDE A RELIABLE, FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF THE PREVALENCE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN OKLAHOMA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEFINITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- *Corporal Punishment: the deliberate infliction of physical pain by hitting, paddling, spanking, slapping, or any other physical force used as a means of discipline.” (70 O.S. § 13-116)*
- The same behavior that is permitted as disciplinary action when inflicted by a teacher or administrator on schoolchildren in states like Oklahoma would be considered criminal assault or battery if inflicted upon adults.

CONSENSUS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS HAVING ADVERSE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS
 - PHYSICAL INJURIES
 - MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
 - DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
 - ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR
 - CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Experts in adult mental health now contend that physical punishment inflicted on children should itself be considered an adverse childhood experience

CONSENSUS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- DOZENS OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE SCHOOL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT – e.g.
 - AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
 - AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
 - AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
 - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
 - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
 - NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

“Children cannot learn when they do not feel safe... There are many alternatives to corporal punishment at our disposal that are effective and nonviolent. While a child or teen might become fearful and obedient in the short term after being struck, we know that over the long term, corporal punishment does not improve behavior and in fact leads to a number of negative effects “– American Academy of Pediatrics

Outcomes of CP in Schools

- CP has long-term implications in early childhood development
 - Lower academic achievement/performance
 - Lower social competence
 - Increased externalizing and internalizing behaviors
 - Future incidents of domestic violence
- Additionally, from a public health and public safety perspective, CP may impress upon students who are subjected to this practice—directly and indirectly—that violence is an acceptable means of problem-solving and conflict resolution

CONSENSUS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- United States Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona:
“Our nation's schools should make every effort to provide children and youth with safe and supportive environments that protect and enhance their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Therefore, if the use of corporal punishment is permitted or practiced in schools and educational settings within your state or district, I urge you to move swiftly toward condemning and eliminating it.”

- Letter to Governors, Chief State School Officers, and School District and School Leaders,
March 2023

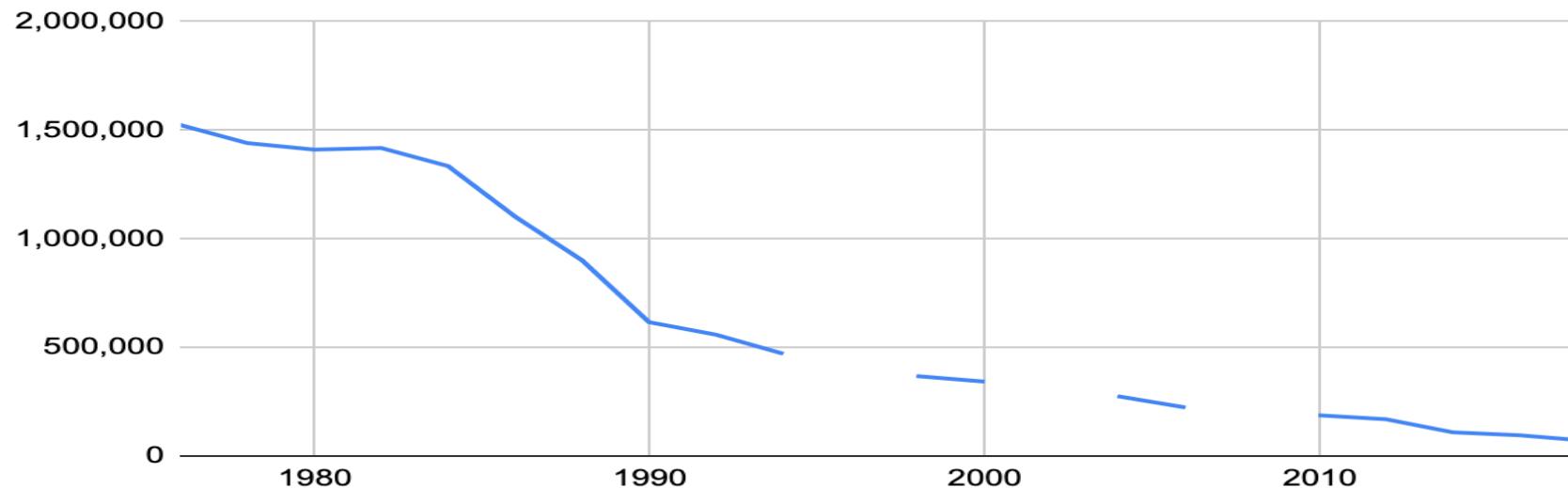
CONSENSUS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- School corporal punishment prohibited in 128 countries, including in all advanced democracies --- except the US and parts of Australia
- 33 American states plus DC have banned corporal punishment
 - Colorado and Idaho were most recent in 2023
- Allowed in 17 states but in 6 of those (AZ, IN, KS, KY, SC, WY) it is practiced never or extremely rarely

CONSENSUS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Students subjected to corporal punishment in the U.S. has declined by 95% since 1976: from over 1.5 million to under 70,000 in 2018 and then to just 19,395 in 2021*

Number of Students Subjected to Corporal Punishment, Select Years, 1976 - 2018 (data unavailable for 1996, 2002, 2008)

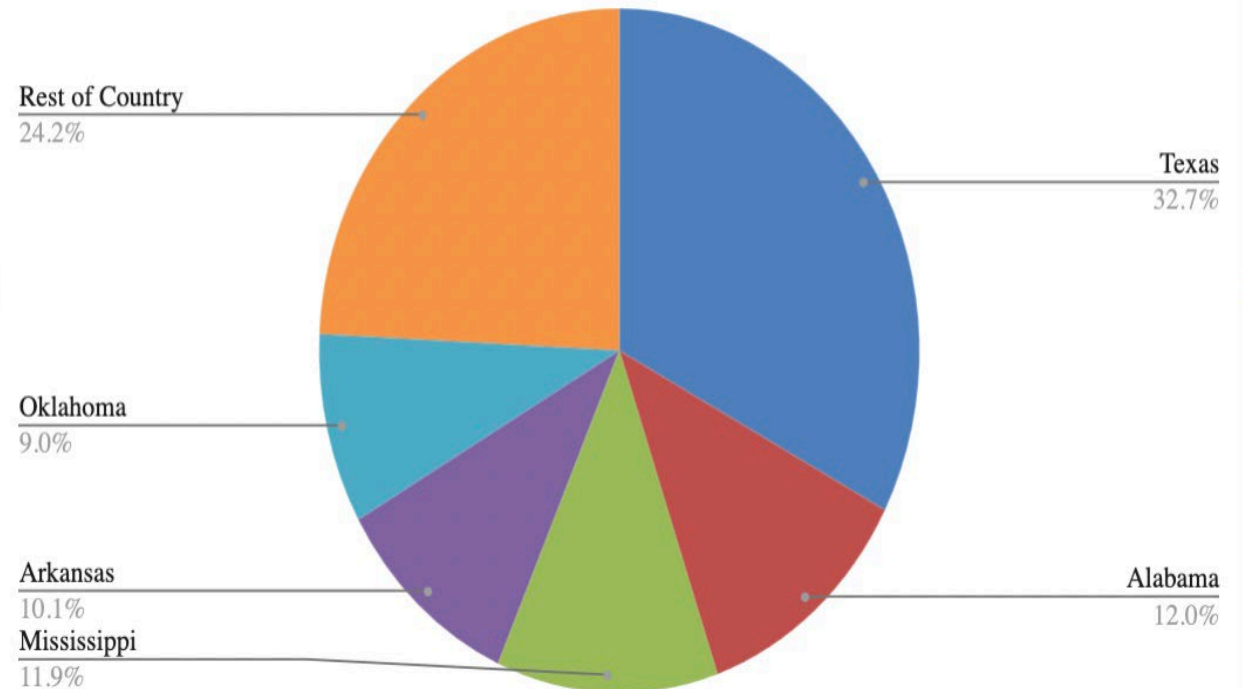


Number of Students Subjected to Corporal Punishment, Select Years, 1976 - 2018

CONSENSUS AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- 5 states accounted for 92% of all students subjected to corporal punishment in 2021:
 - TX (6,345)
 - MS (2,314)
 - AL (2,324)
 - AR (1,968)
 - **OK (1,745)**

State Share of All Students Experiencing Corporal Punishment, 2020-21



CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN OKLAHOMA

- Corporal Punishment has been banned or made unacceptable in most of the state
- First districts banned the practice in late 1980s, early 1990s; most have followed
- Still practiced in 143 of 512 school districts (2021)
 - Mostly small and rural; total enrollment of 84,551 students (about 11%)
- 1,579 K-12 students in 2021* (0.2%) vs. 3,968 students in 2018 (0.6%) vs. 51,306 in 1986 (7.5%)

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN OKLAHOMA

- Troubling Discrepancies:
 - 1 out of 4 Oklahoma students subjected to corporal punishment in 2021 were Native American (24.1%)
 - In schools where corporal punishment was practiced, Black students were 2.5 times likelier to receive the punishment than their share of the school population
 - Black students: 2.1% of school population; 5.6% of those subject to corporal punishment (2018)
 - Students with disabilities accounted for 19.8% of all instances of corporal punishment in 2021 (17.9% of overall student population)
 - 166 pre-K students received corporal punishment in 2021 a total of 224 times.
 - OK pre-k students accounted for more than 1 of every 3 pre-K students in the entire United States subject to corporal punishment.

Status of Corporal Punishment Under OK Law

- Students without disabilities: No statutory restrictions
- Students with disabilities: It's Complicated
 - Statutory prohibition on corporal punishment for students with "most significant cognitive disabilities"
 - Parents can request a waiver from this exemption to allow their disabled child to be hit
 - SDE regulations (2020) prohibits corporal punishment for all children with IEPs
 - SDE rule not being observed statewide: At least 455 students with IEPs in 63 districts were subject to corporal punishment in 2021-22
 - Bill to align statute with the SDE rule regarding students with special needs (HB 1028) remains alive in Senate

Looking Ahead

The day when teachers and principals hitting children in school is a thing of the past is coming – but it's not coming soon enough.

OKLAHOMA APPLESEED'S RECOMMENDATION:

ELIMINATE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR ALL SCHOOLCHILDREN IN OKLAHOMA

- PLEASE JOIN US!!

parent 
promise

**Prevent Child Abuse
Oklahoma™**

strong families | healthy children | brighter futures

Chris Siemens, MA
Executive Director

IDEA Disabilities

*Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education, Categories of Disabilities Under IDEA

- Autism
- Specific Learning Disability
- Developmental Delay
- Emotional Disturbance
- Intellectual Disability
- Other Health Impairment
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Deaf-blindness
- Deafness
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment, Including Blindness

Prevent Child Abuse America Statement*

*Source: Prevent Child Abuse America, Dr. Melissa Merrick, August 30th, 2022

- “The experts agree: hitting kids does not promote healthy development. In fact, not a single scientific research study demonstrates that hitting children leads to healthy, compassionate, respectful, and successful adults. In fact, the opposite is true. Hitting children—whether you call it spanking, popping, paddling, whooping, slapping—increases the chances that children will be more violent, experience mental health and academic problems, and develop problems with drugs or alcohol.”
- “What is the purpose of allowing hitting children in schools? Are they acting out in the classroom? Again, what the science tells us is that when children experience violence in their homes and communities, they are more likely to act-out behaviorally at school. Now consider the traumatizing experience of re-entering school with so many recent and ongoing threats – COVID, bullying and shootings – and now hitting. By allowing children to be hit in schools, by people that are supposed to be teaching and caring for them, we are not creating a safe and nurturing space for children to learn. Even the threat of experiencing violence in schools can have deleterious impacts for children.”
- “Prevent Child Abuse America strongly opposes any use of violence against children, including in state sanctioned hitting in our schools.”

National Association of School Psychologists Statement*

*Source: National Association of School Psychologists, Position Statement: Corporal Punishment 2021

- Positive and proactive forms of discipline and behavior correction teach children to recognize and adopt adaptive and socially acceptable behaviors in school.
- Effective discipline is primarily a matter of modeling, instruction, and vicarious learning that leads to the internalization of adaptive prosocial behaviors.

Alternative Evidence Based Strategies for Schools*

*Source: National Association of School Psychologists, Position Statement: Corporal Punishment 2021

- **Encourage**

- a whole-school systems approach for prevention and intervention

- disciplinary practices that are meaningful to students

- consistent, fair, and calm enforcement of rules

- programs that emphasize early identification and intervention for school problems

- programs that emphasize children and youth taking responsibility

- **Establish**

- clear behavioral expectations and guidelines for engaging in positive behaviors

- **Participate**

- in the development of discipline practices that are restorative in nature

- in the adoption and implementation of a multitiered system of supports

- in the development of fair, reasonable, and consistent rules and appropriate consequences

Alternative Evidence Based Strategies for Schools*

*Source: National Association of School Psychologists, Position Statement: Corporal Punishment 2021

- **Promote**
strong family–school collaboration and parent support
- **Provide**
social skills, conflict resolution, anger management, antibullying, and problem-solving training

individual, family, and group counseling when deemed necessary
- **Monitor**
the administration of discipline practices

school and classroom environments continuously to facilitate early detection
- **Consult**
teachers as they implement effective classroom management practices
- **Help**
students achieve academic success by identifying students' strengths

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