

YouGov / NSPCC Survey Results

Sample Size: 3497 adults in England
Fieldwork: 28th February - 2nd March 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE			EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region (1)				
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands	North	
Weighted Sample	3497	1210	867	318	1199	1350	1700	1797	367	1458	860	811	2028	1469	490	1357	668	983
Unweighted Sample	3497	1275	858	328	1379	1392	1505	1992	319	1360	869	949	2142	1355	395	1412	695	995
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23																	
Which of the following comes closest to your view?																			
It is always acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	3	3	4	3	3	2	5	5	1	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	4
It is usually acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	21	23	31	16	14	15	32	31	15	19	19	25	28	21	25	24	22	23	23
TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY ACCEPTABLE	24	26	35	19	17	17	37	36	16	22	22	28	32	24	29	28	25	26	27
It is usually unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	37	35	38	33	39	38	37	35	34	25	33	37	38	37	31	33	37	33	34
It is always unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	31	32	21	43	39	41	21	22	42	39	36	30	24	34	30	29	32	34	33
TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY UNACCEPTABLE	68	67	59	76	78	79	58	57	76	64	69	67	62	71	61	62	69	67	67
Don't know	8	7	6	5	6	4	6	7	7	14	8	5	5	5	10	10	7	8	6
What impact, if any, do you think physical punishment has on a child's behaviour?																			
Improves behaviour	30	31	44	21	24	22	46	43	20	21	25	37	41	30	33	28	31	31	33
Worsens behaviour	36	36	24	49	42	46	23	26	45	47	41	33	25	38	32	37	37	36	34
No impact	12	12	12	12	14	13	11	10	13	12	10	12	14	11	12	11	12	10	13
Don't know	22	21	20	19	21	20	20	21	21	21	24	18	20	21	22	24	20	23	20

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	Region (2)									
	Total	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Weighted Sample	3497	193	447	343	318	350	375	490	564	417
Unweighted Sample	3497	201	446	348	337	358	393	395	582	437
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23									
Which of the following comes closest to your view?											
It is always acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	3	3	3	3	5	2	3	3	4	2	2
It is usually acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	21	23	30	21	22	26	20	21	24	21	23
TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY ACCEPTABLE	24	26	33	24	27	28	23	24	28	23	25
It is usually unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	37	35	31	33	36	34	32	34	33	39	36
It is always unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	31	32	30	35	33	31	36	31	29	32	33
TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY UNACCEPTABLE	68	67	61	68	69	65	68	65	62	71	69
Don't know	8	7	6	7	5	7	9	11	10	6	5
What impact, if any, do you think physical punishment has on a child's behaviour?											
Improves behaviour	30	31	40	31	33	33	30	30	28	31	33
Worsens behaviour	36	36	29	36	34	36	36	33	37	38	38
No impact	12	12	17	10	14	11	9	14	11	12	10
Don't know	22	21	13	24	19	21	24	23	24	19	19

Sample Size: 3497 adults in England
Fieldwork: 28th February - 2nd March 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE			EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region (1)				
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands	North	
Weighted Sample	3497	1210	867	318	1199	1350	1700	1797	367	1458	860	811	2028	1469	490	1357	668	983
Unweighted Sample	3497	1275	858	328	1379	1392	1505	1992	319	1360	869	949	2142	1355	395	1412	695	995
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23																	
What effect, if any, do you think using physical punishment has upon a parent and child's relationship?																			
Significantly strengthens it	3	4	6	3	4	2	7	7	2	6	4	3	5	4	5	9	3	3	5
Somewhat strengthens it	13	14	19	8	10	9	20	19	8	9	10	16	19	13	15	12	13	16	14
TOTAL STRENGTHENS IT	16	18	25	11	14	11	27	26	10	15	14	19	24	17	20	21	16	19	19
No effect	16	16	21	14	12	12	21	19	13	10	13	18	22	15	17	15	16	15	17
Somewhat weakens it	26	24	24	28	28	29	22	22	27	19	26	25	24	26	22	21	26	23	25
Significantly weakens it	26	27	16	36	34	35	16	18	36	40	31	24	16	29	24	27	27	27	26
TOTAL WEAKENS IT	52	51	40	64	62	64	38	40	63	59	57	49	40	55	46	48	53	50	51
Don't know	15	15	14	12	13	12	14	16	14	15	16	13	15	12	18	16	15	17	13
What effect, if any, do you think physical punishment has upon a child's mental health?																			
Very positive	2	2	3	2	2	1	4	4	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	4	2	2	3
Fairly positive	9	7	10	4	4	5	10	10	4	10	5	9	8	7	8	8	7	8	8
TOTAL POSITIVE	11	9	13	6	6	6	14	14	5	13	8	10	11	9	11	12	9	10	11
No effect	18	18	27	12	14	12	28	24	13	10	13	20	28	18	19	16	18	19	19
Fairly negative	29	27	28	29	30	31	25	27	28	24	29	27	27	28	26	28	29	26	26
Very negative	28	29	17	40	35	37	18	18	39	40	34	27	16	31	26	27	28	29	30
TOTAL NEGATIVE	57	56	45	69	65	68	43	45	67	64	63	54	43	59	52	55	57	55	56
Don't know	15	16	14	13	15	13	15	17	15	12	16	15	18	14	19	18	16	16	15
As far as you are aware, is the use of physical punishment of children currently legal in England?																			
Is legal	20	19	22	19	26	22	20	23	16	23	19	20	18	23	15	23	20	18	19
Is not legal	58	60	61	63	57	61	63	55	64	48	58	63	66	59	61	51	60	63	62
Don't know	22	21	18	17	17	17	17	22	19	29	23	17	16	18	24	26	20	20	19

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	Region (2)									
	Total	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Weighted Sample	3497	193	447	343	318	350	375	490	564	417
Unweighted Sample	3497	201	446	348	337	358	393	395	582	437
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23									
What effect, if any, do you think using physical punishment has upon a parent and child's relationship?											
Significantly strengthens it	3	4	6	4	5	2	3	4	9	4	3
Somewhat strengthens it	13	14	19	13	14	16	16	11	12	11	16
TOTAL STRENGTHENS IT	16	18	25	17	19	18	19	15	21	15	19
No effect	16	16	22	16	16	16	14	14	15	16	17
Somewhat weakens it	26	24	22	24	27	24	23	26	21	28	23
Significantly weakens it	26	27	23	28	25	24	29	25	27	27	29
TOTAL WEAKENS IT	52	51	45	52	52	48	52	51	48	55	52
Don't know	15	15	9	15	13	18	16	20	16	14	13
What effect, if any, do you think physical punishment has upon a child's mental health?											
Very positive	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	2	2
Fairly positive	9	7	7	8	7	7	9	5	8	8	6
TOTAL POSITIVE	11	9	10	11	9	9	11	7	12	10	8
No effect	18	18	26	16	20	21	17	16	16	17	20
Fairly negative	29	27	25	27	25	26	26	31	28	30	28
Very negative	28	29	28	32	30	28	30	27	27	28	29
TOTAL NEGATIVE	57	56	53	59	55	54	56	58	55	58	57
Don't know	15	16	11	15	16	17	16	18	18	15	15
As far as you are aware, is the use of physical punishment of children currently legal in England?											
Is legal	20	19	17	18	21	17	19	24	23	18	18
Is not legal	58	60	66	62	60	63	62	54	51	64	61
Don't know	22	21	17	20	19	21	18	21	26	18	21

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23																	
Would you support or oppose changing the law in England to end the use of physical punishment on children?																			
Strongly support	28	26	19	37	31	34	18	19	33	36	29	24	18	28	24	26	25	25	29
Somewhat support	23	24	22	25	30	26	22	24	24	27	24	21	23	25	21	26	25	20	23
TOTAL SUPPORT	51	50	41	62	61	60	40	43	57	63	53	45	41	53	45	52	50	45	52
Somewhat oppose	18	19	26	14	15	16	26	23	16	14	15	21	28	20	19	16	20	18	21
Strongly oppose	11	11	15	7	5	7	16	14	8	8	9	13	13	11	11	9	11	13	10
TOTAL OPPOSE	29	30	41	21	20	23	42	37	24	22	24	34	41	31	30	25	31	31	31
Don't know	20	20	18	16	18	18	18	20	19	15	22	20	17	17	24	23	19	23	18

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23																	
In Wales and Scotland, legally a parent can no longer use physical punishment on their child. With this in mind, would you support or oppose changing the law to end the use of physical punishment on children in England as well?																			
Strongly support	30	29	19	41	37	38	19	21	37	42	33	26	21	32	26	29	29	29	30
Somewhat support	23	23	21	26	25	26	22	23	23	23	23	21	25	25	21	23	25	20	23
TOTAL SUPPORT	53	52	40	67	62	64	41	44	60	65	56	47	46	57	47	52	54	49	53
Somewhat oppose	19	20	29	13	18	16	28	25	16	12	16	23	28	20	21	19	21	19	21
Strongly oppose	11	10	16	6	5	6	17	14	7	8	8	13	12	10	11	11	9	11	11
TOTAL OPPOSE	30	30	45	19	23	22	45	39	23	20	24	36	40	30	32	30	30	30	32
Don't know	17	17	15	14	14	14	15	17	17	14	19	17	14	14	21	18	17	20	15

*Any percentages calculated on bases fewer than 100 respondents do not represent a wide enough cross-section of the target population to be considered statistically reliable. These figures should not be used.

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	4-7 Mar '22	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23										
Would you support or oppose changing the law in England to end the use of physical punishment on children?												
Strongly support	28	26		29	30	27	27	24	23	26	24	29
Somewhat support	23	24		18	23	24	22	19	23	26	31	19
TOTAL SUPPORT	51	50		47	53	51	49	43	46	52	55	48
Somewhat oppose	18	19		23	22	20	18	19	20	16	18	23
Strongly oppose	11	11		9	9	11	11	15	13	9	11	9
TOTAL OPPOSE	29	30		32	31	31	29	34	33	25	29	32
Don't know	20	20		20	17	18	22	24	20	23	17	20
In Wales and Scotland, legally a parent can no longer use physical punishment on their child. With this in mind, would you support or oppose changing the law to end the use of physical punishment on children in England as well?												
Strongly support	30	29		30	31	28	30	29	27	29	28	32
Somewhat support	23	23		20	24	23	19	22	25	23	29	18
TOTAL SUPPORT	53	52		50	55	51	49	51	52	52	57	50
Somewhat oppose	19	20		24	20	21	23	16	21	19	19	24
Strongly oppose	11	10		11	9	13	10	13	8	11	10	9
TOTAL OPPOSE	30	30		35	29	34	33	29	29	30	29	33
Don't know	17	17		15	15	14	19	20	19	18	15	18

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