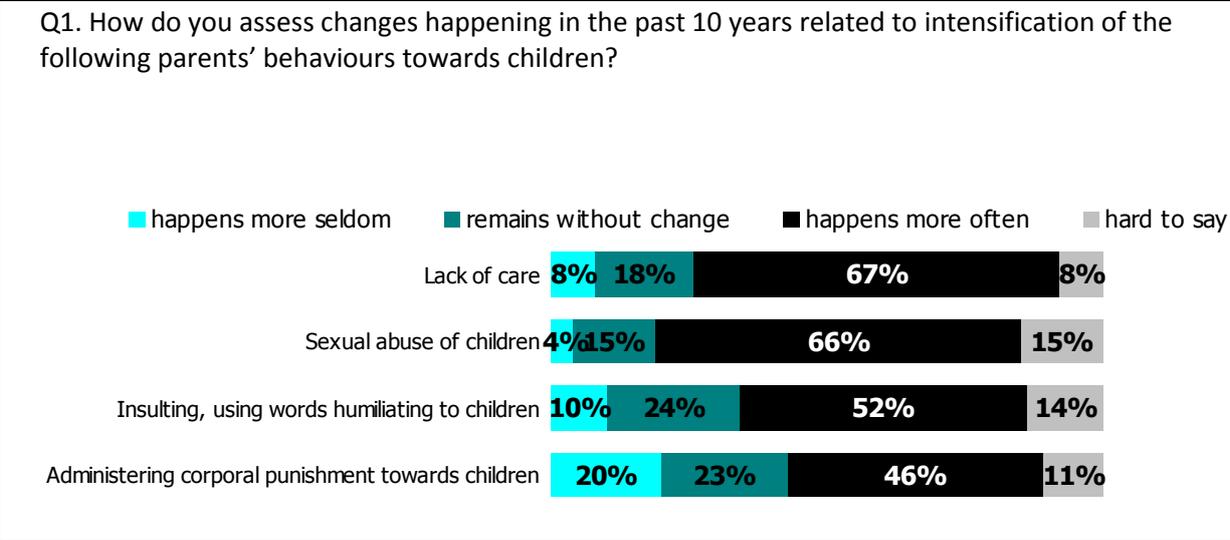
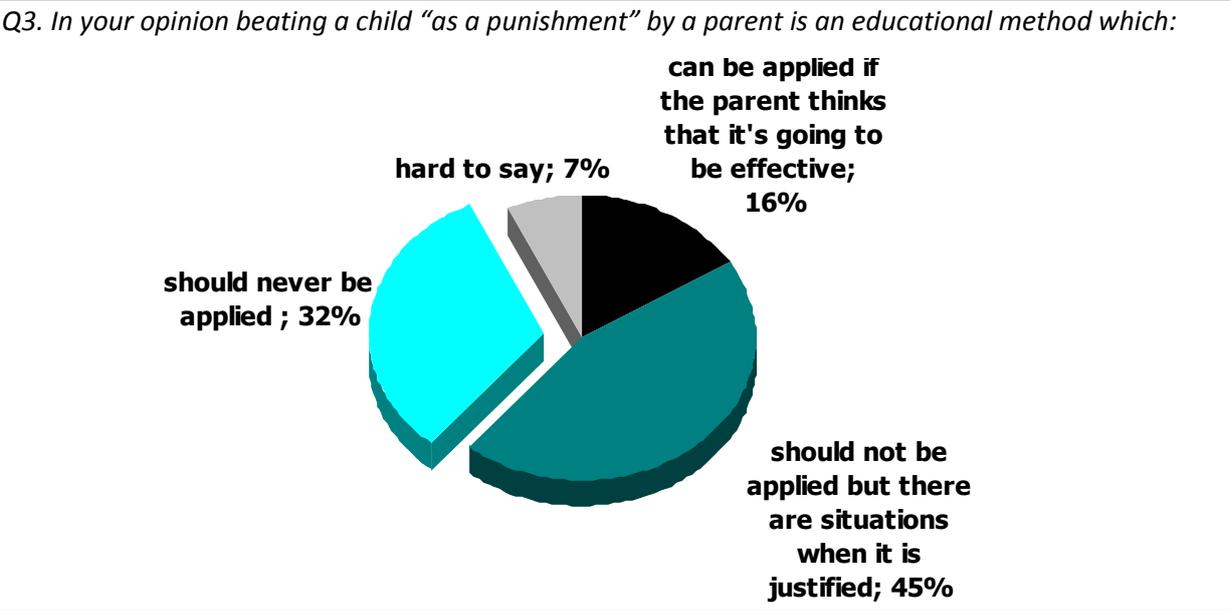


The research commissioned by the Nobody’s Children Foundation and conducted in September 2008 by Millward Brown SMG/KRC Institute was aimed at recognising social attitudes towards corporal punishment of children among Polish citizens. The first part of the research was carried out by means of Capibus survey. The Capibus method consists in direct interviews with respondents in their homes, with the help of a standard computer assisted questionnaire. The interviewed sample counted 1002 people aged between 15 and 75.

The research shows that the majority of respondents have a decisively negative view of changes in parents and caretakers’ attitudes and behaviours towards children in the past 10 years. People that filled in the questionnaire think that negligent behaviours and sexual abuse of children have been on the increase (67 and 66 % of respondents respectively), while 52% of persons perceive that verbal abuse and insults have been happening more often. According to nearly half of the respondents (46%) corporal punishment has been more widely used, too.

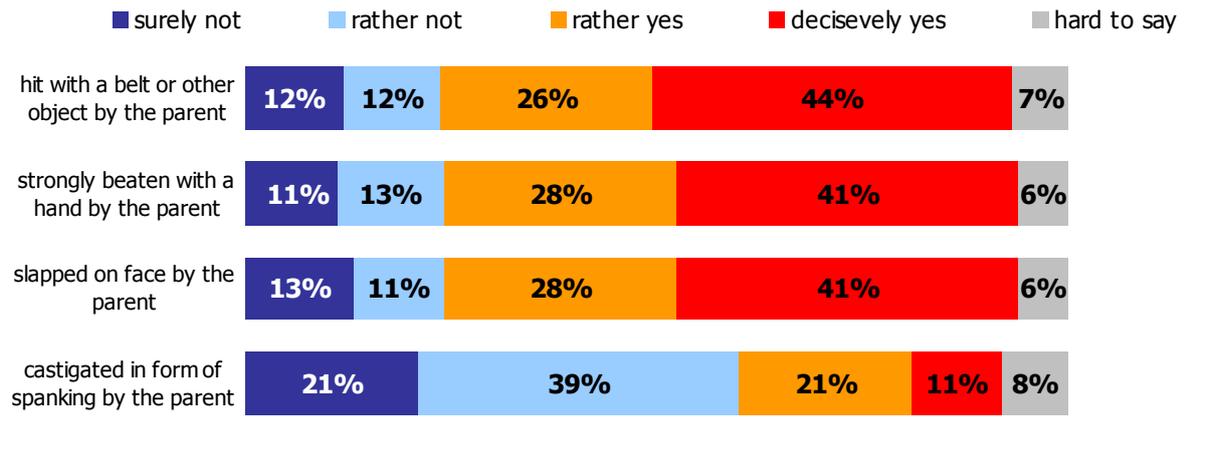


Despite this negative view on the tendency in children rearing, the many people either consider that corporal punishment may be an effective educational method and therefore can be administered to children (16%) or are likely to justify its use (45%).



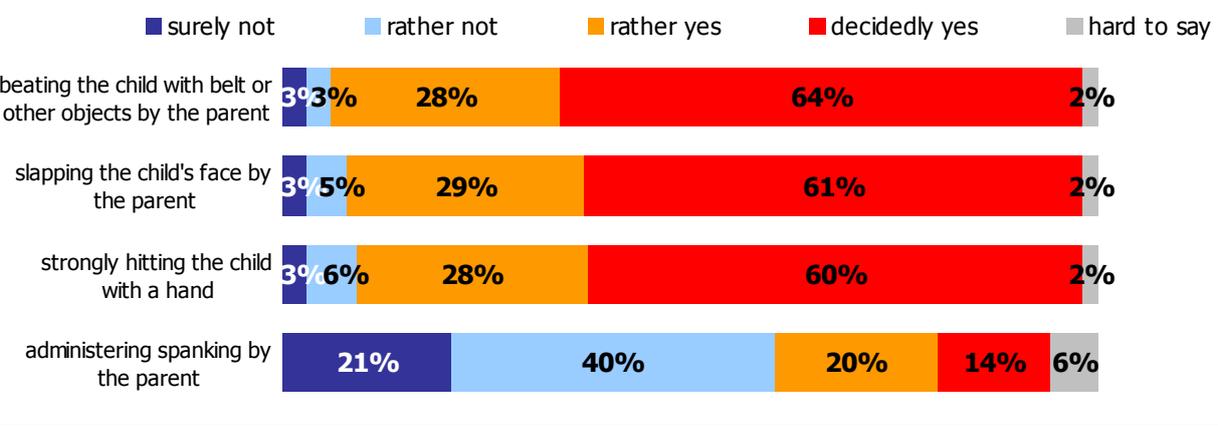
However, a great majority of adult Poles (nearly 70%, with a slight prevalence of women and people with at least secondary education) think that a person from outside of the family is entitled to intervene if a child is beaten by its parent with a belt or other object, strongly hit with a hand, slapped on face, while only one fourth of Poles think that such an intervention is not appropriate. The percentage of those in favour of intervention decreases if spanking is concerned: in such a case only 32% of respondents give a non-family member a moral right to intervene, against 60% of those denying such a right.

*Q4: Do you think that a person from outside of the family can (has a moral right) to intervene when they see or know that the child is:*



As far as legal ban on corporal punishment is concerned, exactly half of the respondents are in favour of such a ban (against 32% opposing to it, and 17 % abstaining). Among those in favour, once again a prevalence of women and people with secondary and higher education can be observed. When asked which behaviours should be covered by such a ban, again the great majority of respondents (among those generally in favour of the ban on corporal punishment of children) listed beating with a belt or other object, strongly hitting with a hand and slapping on the face, but spoke against including spanking in the list of prohibited “punishments” (61%).

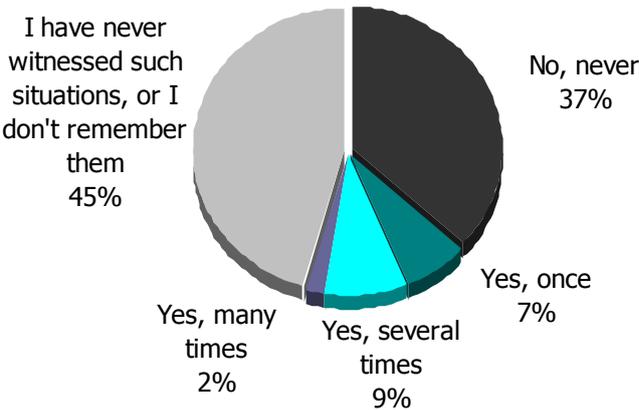
*Q6. Which parents’ behaviours towards children, in your opinion, should be covered by the legal ban on beating children?*



As far as consequences of disrespecting the ban are concerned, most people (36 %) spoke in favour of probation officer’s surveillance and compulsory therapy (28%). 15% of respondents were in favour of more severe consequences, such as deprivation of parental rights (10%) and imprisonment (5%).

The second part of the research was aimed at examining experiences related to corporal punishments. Respondents, aged 18-75 (total number of 756), were given a survey during the interview and were asked to fill it in without any assistance. For the first question asking if they have ever happened to intervene when they saw or suspected that a child was being beaten, the majority of respondents replied either “no”, or that they have never been in such a situation. Only 21% say that they have intervened at least once, and the research shows that those who experienced corporal punishment in their childhood and youth, and generally inhabitants of cities were more likely to take action.

Q: Has it ever happened to you to intervene when you saw or suspected that a child was being beaten?

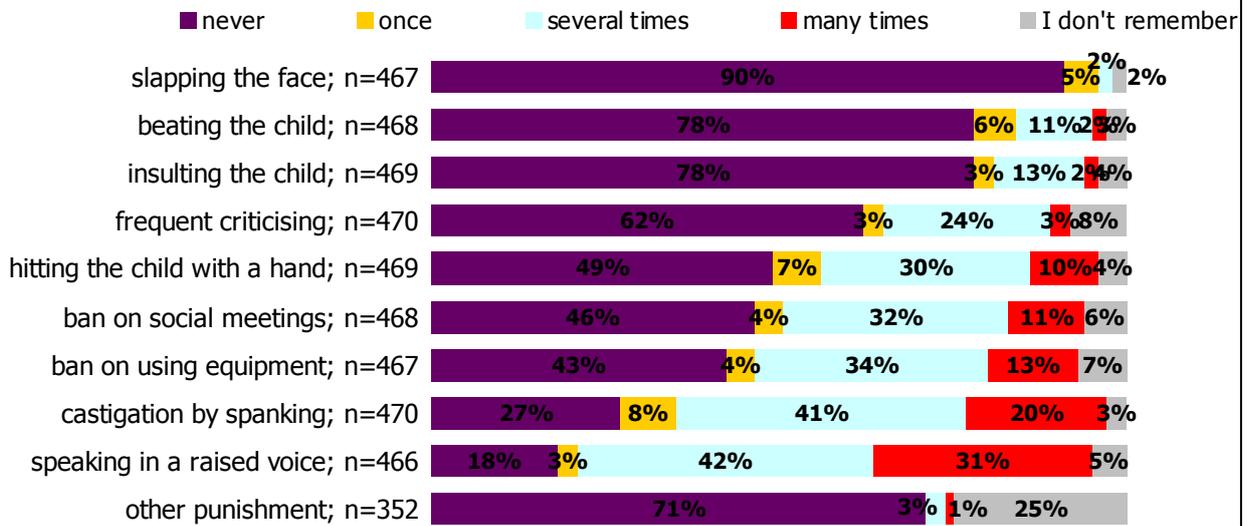


The reasons for lack of reaction were mainly not being sure if their suspicion is justified, being afraid of what the parents’ reaction might be, unwillingness to getting involved or not knowing which actions to take. Only 13% of people stated that in their opinion the parents are entitled to administer such punishment to their children.

When asked if they themselves used to be beaten in childhood by their parents or other family members, the vast majority (60%) said that it happened at least once. Only 32% of respondents stated that they had never received such a punishment. Among those to whom corporal punishment was administered in their childhood, a substantial group claimed that it had a positive influence on their lives (43%) or had no influence whatsoever (32%). Only 8 % stated that it affected their lives in a negative way.

When asked about castigation used towards their own children, the most frequent answers included: speaking in a raised voice (76%), spanking (69%), ban on using equipment (51%), ban on social meetings (47%). It should be noted that single answers were given with basically the same frequency both by men and women.

Have you ever used the following punishment when bringing up your child?



However, although almost 70% of respondents admitted to spanking the child, 47% to hitting the child with a hand and 19% to beating the child with a belt, only 6% owned up to having beaten their child at least once so strong, that it left marks on the child's body.

When respondents were questioned as to their family's drinking habits, the vast majority stated that either no one in the family drinks or alcohol is consumed in moderate amounts. 8% stated that sometimes there have been problems with alcohol abuse and 3% said that such problems happened frequently. When asked about their own drinking habits, the vast majority of respondents claimed that they haven't got drunk in the past year, but nearly 30% stated that it happened at least once. Among those admitting to alcohol abuse, the most numerous group was represented by people with higher education, and generally people living in big cities. Also almost 70% claimed that their partner has not overdosed alcohol in the past year, but nearly 20% stated that it happened at least once.