

ATTITUDES ON PARENTAL DISCIPLINE POLL June 2007

CLIENT:	Family First New Zealand
POLL DATES:	Evenings of Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 June 2007
SAMPLE SIZE:	926 respondents agreed to participate.
SAMPLE SELECTION:	A random selection of 7,000 nationwide phone numbers.
SAMPLE ERROR:	Based on this sample of 926 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.3%, at the 95% confidence level.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic breakdown of the 926 respondents is:

Demographic	No	Response %	MOE
All	926	100.0%	3.8%
Female	487	52.6%	4.5%
Male	439	47.4%	4.8%
18 – 44	338	36.5%	5.4%
45 – 59	329	35.5%	5.5%
60+	259	28.0%	6.2%
Have children under 12	246	26.6%	6.4%
No children under 12	657	71.0%	3.9%
Provincial	293	31.6%	5.9%
Rural	194	21.0%	7.2%
Metro	417	45.0%	4.9%

Metro is defined as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Provincial is all other cities in New Zealand.

Rural areas are all areas not Metro or Provincial.

IEWS ON CRIMES ACT AMENDMENT

Parliament recently passed a law that removes a defence of reasonable force for parents who smack a child to correct their behaviour, but states the Police have discretion not to prosecute if they consider the offence was inconsequential. What is your view of this new law? Do you:

Strongly agree with it
Somewhat agree with it
Neither agree nor disagree with it
Somewhat disagree with it
Strongly disagree with it

View of Law	All	Female	Male	18 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Strongly agree	10.9%	10.7%	11.2%	11.2%	14.0%	6.6%
Somewhat agree	17.8%	20.5%	14.8%	20.1%	16.4%	16.6%
Neither	7.6%	9.7%	5.2%	7.7%	7.0%	8.1%
Somewhat disagree	26.1%	25.5%	26.9%	26.6%	24.6%	27.4%
Strongly disagree	36.2%	31.8%	41.0%	33.7%	37.1%	38.2%
Don't know	1.2%	1.8%	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	2.3%
Refused	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall 62% of respondents disagree with the law, and 29% agree with it. Males disagree with the law more strongly than females with 68% opposition for men and 57% for women. All age groups disagree with the law, with little variation.

View of Law	All	Children<12	No Children<12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Strongly agree	10.9%	11.8%	10.5%	9.9%	6.7%	12.9%
Somewhat agree	17.8%	17.1%	18.1%	17.1%	15.5%	18.7%
Neither	7.6%	7.3%	7.8%	7.5%	8.2%	7.4%
Somewhat disagree	26.1%	24.8%	26.5%	30.4%	26.3%	23.5%
Strongly disagree	36.2%	38.2%	35.6%	34.1%	42.8%	35.3%
Don't know	1.2%	0.8%	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	2.2%
Refused	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

63% of parents with children aged under 12 disagree with the law. Amongst other adults 62% disagree.

Respondents living in rural areas most strongly disagree at 69%, followed by 64% in provincial areas and 59% in Metro areas.

REDUCING CHILD ABUSE

Do you think the new law is likely to help reduce the rate of child abuse in New Zealand? Specifically, is it very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely to reduce the rate of child abuse?

Reduce Abuse	All	Female	Male	18 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Very likely	5.0%	5.4%	4.6%	6.5%	4.6%	3.5%
Somewhat Likely	16.5%	15.5%	17.5%	18.9%	17.3%	12.1%
Not at all likely	76.8%	77.5%	76.1%	73.1%	77.5%	80.9%
Don't know	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	0.6%	3.1%
Refused	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall 77% of respondents do not believe the new law is likely to reduce the rate of child abuse. This does not vary greatly by age or gender.

Reduce Abuse	All	Children<12	No Children<12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Very likely	5.0%	5.7%	4.9%	6.1%	2.6%	4.8%
Somewhat Likely	16.5%	15.9%	16.8%	14.3%	14.5%	18.3%
Not at all likely	76.8%	76.8%	77.0%	77.5%	81.9%	75.2%
Don't know	1.6%	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%	1.0%	1.7%
Refused	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Again there is little difference by area or parental status.

SHOULD THE LAW BE CHANGED?

Do you think the new law should be changed to state explicitly that parents who give their children a smack that is reasonable and for the purpose of correction are not breaking the law?

Change Law	All	Female	Male	18 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Yes	82.2%	82.6%	81.7%	80.7%	79.0%	88.2%
No	14.7%	14.1%	15.3%	15.4%	18.2%	9.0%
Don't know	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	3.6%	2.1%	2.4%
Refused	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

82% of respondents would like the law amended to explicitly allow reasonable smacking for the purpose of correction.

This is strongest amongst those aged over 60, at 88%.

Change Law	All	Children<12	No Children<12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Yes	82.2%	82.5%	82.0%	83.8%	84.0%	79.7%
No	14.7%	14.2%	15.2%	12.4%	13.4%	17.1%
Don't know	2.7%	2.8%	2.4%	2.7%	2.1%	3.1%
Refused	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	1.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

There is slightly less support for a law change amongst Metro voters at 80%, but not significant.

EFFECT ON PARTY SUPPORT OF A PROPOSED LAW CHANGE

If a political party promised to change the law to state explicitly that parents who give their children a smack that is reasonable and for the purpose of correction are not breaking the law, would it make you:

More likely to vote for that party?
 Less likely to vote for that party?
 Or make no difference to your vote?

Party Support	All	Female	Male	18 - 44	45 - 59	60+
More likely	31.3%	28.1%	34.8%	31.0%	33.4%	28.7%
Less likely	5.6%	6.2%	4.8%	5.4%	7.3%	3.5%
No difference	59.3%	61.1%	57.2%	61.8%	56.5%	59.4%
Don't know	3.5%	4.2%	2.7%	1.5%	2.4%	7.5%
Refused	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Most respondents (59%) say a policy to change the law would not change their vote, but of those who say it would affect their vote, 31% say it would make them more likely to support such a party and only 6% less likely.

35% of men say it would make them more likely to vote for such a party, compared to 28% for women.

Party Support	All	Children<12	No Children<12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
More likely	31.3%	35.9%	29.3%	30.9%	34.7%	29.6%
Less likely	5.6%	4.1%	6.3%	5.2%	2.6%	7.2%
No difference	59.3%	56.3%	60.6%	60.4%	56.5%	60.0%
Don't know	3.5%	3.3%	3.7%	3.1%	5.2%	2.9%
Refused	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	1.0%	0.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Parents with children aged under 12 register higher levels of support (36%) for a party promising to change the law than for other adults (29%).

SMACKING IN FUTURE UNDER NEW LAW

Despite the new law, would you smack your child to correct their behaviour, if you believed it was reasonable to do so?

Smack in future	All	Female	Male	18 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Yes	78.0%	75.3%	81.1%	80.2%	75.7%	78.1%
No	15.9%	19.0%	12.6%	14.5%	19.1%	13.7%
Not applicable	4.0%	3.1%	5.0%	3.0%	4.0%	5.5%
Don't know	1.6%	2.3%	0.9%	1.8%	1.2%	2.0%
Refused	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

78% of respondents say they would smack their child, despite the new law, if they believe it was reasonable to do so. By gender this is 75% for women and 81% for men.

Smack in future	All	Children<12	No Children<12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Yes	78.0%	80.1%	77.9%	80.8%	84.0%	73.6%
No	15.9%	17.1%	15.2%	13.7%	11.3%	19.2%
Not applicable	4.0%	0.8%	5.2%	3.4%	3.6%	4.8%
Don't know	1.6%	1.2%	1.7%	1.4%	1.0%	1.9%
Refused	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

80% of parents with children aged 12 or younger say they would still smack their child, if they believed it was reasonable to do so. Amongst other adults it is slightly less at 78%.

Broken down by geography, 84% of adults in rural areas would still smack, 81% in provincial areas and 74% in Metro areas.

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