

## ATTITUDES ON PARENTAL DISCIPLINE POLL May 2008

<b>CLIENT:</b>	Family First New Zealand
<b>POLL DATES:</b>	Evenings of Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 and Tuesday 20 May 2008.
<b>SAMPLE SIZE:</b>	1,018 respondents agreed to participate.
<b>SAMPLE SELECTION:</b>	A random selection of 10,000 nationwide phone numbers.
<b>SAMPLE ERROR:</b>	Based on this sample of 1,018 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.1%, at the 95% confidence level.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic breakdown of the 1,018 respondents is:

Demographic	No	Response %	MOE
All	1,018	100.0%	3.1%
Female	557	54.7%	4.2%
Male	461	45.3%	4.7%
18 – 40	239	23.5%	6.5%
41 – 60	461	45.3%	4.7%
60+	318	31.2%	5.6%
Have children under 12	229	22.7%	6.6%
No children under 12	777	77.2%	3.6%
Provincial	233	22.9%	6.6%
Rural	299	29.4%	5.8%
Metro	486	47.7%	4.5%

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.

## VIEWS ON CRIMES ACT AMENDMENT

Almost a year ago Parliament 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. 12 months on 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 - 40	41 - 60	61+
Strongly agree	8.2%	8.8%	7.4%	5.4%	10.4%	6.9%
Somewhat agree	11.3%	13.3%	8.9%	13.8%	11.1%	9.7%
Neither	7.2%	8.3%	5.9%	11.7%	6.1%	5.3%
Somewhat disagree	26.1%	26.0%	26.2%	31.4%	25.4%	23.3%
Strongly disagree	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>
Don't know	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%	1.1%	0.3%
Refused	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall 73% (62% in June 2007) of respondents disagree with the law, and 29% (20%) agree with it. Males disagree with the law more strongly than females with 77% opposition for men and 69% for women. All age groups disagree with the law, with older respondents more strongly opposed.

View of Law	All	Children <12	No Child <12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Strongly agree	8.2%	8.7%	8.0%	8.6%	5.0%	9.9%
Somewhat agree	11.3%	15.3%	10.2%	9.4%	10.4%	12.8%
Neither	7.2%	6.6%	7.3%	5.2%	7.4%	8.0%
Somewhat disagree	26.1%	30.1%	25.0%	29.6%	24.1%	25.7%
Strongly disagree	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>46.8%</b>	<b>52.2%</b>	<b>42.8%</b>
Don't know	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%	0.6%
Refused	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

69% of parents with children aged under 12 disagree with the law. Amongst other adults 74% disagree.

Respondents living in rural areas and provincial areas most strongly disagree at 76%, followed by 69% 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	5.5%	6.1%	4.8%	3.3%	7.6%	4.1%
Somewhat Likely	13.7%	14.0%	13.2%	15.9%	14.5%	10.7%
Not at all likely	<b>78.2%</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	<b>79.2%</b>	<b>78.2%</b>	<b>76.8%</b>	<b>80.2%</b>
Don't know	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%	1.1%	4.1%
Refused	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall 78% (77% in June 2007) 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 Child <12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Very likely	5.5%	5.2%	5.5%	6.4%	3.7%	6.2%
Somewhat Likely	13.7%	17.0%	12.9%	11.6%	14.7%	14.0%
Not at all likely	<b>78.2%</b>	<b>77.3%</b>	<b>78.4%</b>	<b>80.3%</b>	<b>78.6%</b>	<b>77.0%</b>
Don't know	2.4%	0.4%	3.0%	1.7%	2.3%	2.7%
Refused	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
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	84.9%	84.4%	85.5%	87.4%	84.2%	84.0%
No	11.0%	11.3%	10.6%	9.2%	11.9%	11.0%
Don't know	3.5%	3.9%	3.0%	2.9%	3.3%	4.4%
Refused	0.5%	0.2%	0.9%	0.4%	0.7%	0.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

85% (82% in June 2007) of respondents would like the law amended to explicitly allow reasonable smacking for the purpose of correction.

There is little variation by gender or age.

Change Law	All	No				
		Children<12	Children<12	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Yes	84.9%	83.0%	85.7%	83.7%	88.3%	83.3%
No	11.0%	13.5%	10.2%	12.0%	8.0%	12.3%
Don't know	3.5%	2.6%	3.9%	3.4%	3.0%	3.9%
Refused	0.5%	0.9%	0.3%	0.9%	0.3%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Slightly more support for a law change by those without children under 12 and those in rural areas.

## 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?

<b>Party Support</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>18 - 44</b>	<b>45 - 59</b>	<b>60+</b>
Less likely	5.1%	4.8%	5.4%	3.3%	6.9%	3.8%
More likely	36.8%	33.9%	40.3%	35.1%	39.7%	34.0%
No difference	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>55.5%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>57.3%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>54.1%</b>
Don't know	4.2%	5.4%	2.8%	3.8%	2.6%	6.9%
Refused	0.5%	0.2%	0.9%	0.4%	0.2%	0.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

53% (59% in June 2007) of respondents say a policy to change the law would not change their vote, but of those who say it would affect their vote, 37% (31% in June 2007) say it would make them more likely to support such a party and only 5% (6% in June 2007) less likely.

40% of men say it would make them more likely to vote for such a party, compared to 34% for women.

<b>Party Support</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Children &lt;12</b>	<b>No Child &lt;12</b>	<b>Provincial</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Metro</b>
Less likely	5.1%	6.1%	4.9%	4.7%	3.0%	6.6%
More likely	36.8%	39.3%	35.9%	32.6%	40.1%	36.8%
No difference	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>52.4%</b>	<b>53.8%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>52.9%</b>
Don't know	4.2%	2.2%	4.9%	5.6%	4.7%	3.3%
Refused	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Respondents with children aged under 12 are more likely (39% to 36%) to support a party promising to change the law.

## SMACKING IN FUTURE UNDER NEW LAW

Despite the new law, have you in the last year smacked your child to correct their behaviour, when you believed it was reasonable and appropriate to do so? (question asked to respondents with a child aged under 12 only)

(Note June 2007 question was “Despite the new law, would you smack your child to correct their behaviour, if you believed it was reasonable to do so?”)

Have smacked	All	Female	Male	18 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Yes	48.4%	<b>50.8%</b>	45.5%	<b>57.1%</b>	34.1%	0.0%
No	<b>48.9%</b>	46.0%	<b>52.5%</b>	39.3%	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Don't know	0.4%	0.0%	1.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Refused	2.2%	3.2%	1.0%	2.9%	1.2%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

48% of respondents who had a child aged under 12 said they had smacked their child, to correct their behaviour, in the last year.

In June 2007 78% of all respondents say they would smack their child, despite the new law, if they believed it was reasonable to do so.

Females were slightly more likely than males to have smacked their child for correctional purposes. A more significant variation is by age – 57% of younger parents (under 45) have smacked their child while only 34% of parents aged 45 to 60 have done so. Only one respondent who was aged over 60 had a child aged under 12 so that column should have no reliance placed on it.

Have smacked	All	Provincial	Rural	Metro
Yes	48.4%	48.8%	61.4%	42.3%
No	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>56.1%</b>
Don't know	0.4%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Refused	2.2%	0.0%	5.3%	1.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

There is a significant difference by geography. In rural areas 61% of parents with children under 12 have smacked for correctional purposes in the last year. This drops to 49% in provincial areas and further to 42% in metropolitan areas.

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**20 May 2008**