

## ANTI-SMACKING LAW POLL April 2014

- CLIENT:** Family First New Zealand
- POLL DATES:** Mon 15, Tue 16, Tue 23, Wed 24, Mon 29 and Tue 30 April 2014. The median response was collected on Wed 24 April 2014.
- TARGET POPULATION:** Eligible New Zealand voters.
- SAMPLE POPULATION:** Eligible New Zealand voters who are contactable on a landline.
- SAMPLE SIZE:** 1,022 respondents agreed to participate.
- SAMPLE SELECTION:** A random selection of 15,000 nationwide phone numbers.
- WEIGHTING:** The results are weighted to reflect the overall voting adult population in terms of gender, age, and area.
- SAMPLE ERROR:** Based on this sample of 1,022 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.2%, at the 95% confidence level.
- CODE COMPLIANCE:** This poll was conducted in accordance with the New Zealand Political Polling Code, the Research Association New Zealand Code of Practice and the International Chamber of Commerce/European Society for Opinion and Market Research Code on Market and Social Research.



## ANTI-SMACKING LAW

In 2007 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.

Do you think the anti-smacking 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?

### Amend law to allow correctional smacking

		Count	Col %
Amend law to allow correctional smacking	Yes	729	72%
	No	228	22%
	Unsure/refuse	61	6%
	Total	1017	100%

72% (was 77% in 2013, 63% in 2012) of respondents back a law change to allow correctional smacking.

### Amend law to allow correctional smacking BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Amend law to allow correctional smacking	Yes	70%	74%
	No	23%	22%
	Unsure/refuse	8%	4%
	Total	100%	100%

Slightly more men than women support a law change.

### Amend law to allow correctional smacking BY Age Group

		Age Group			
		18-30	31-45	46-60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Amend law to allow correctional smacking	Yes	69%	71%	69%	77%
	No	25%	25%	26%	16%
	Unsure/refuse	6%	4%	6%	8%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

All age groups support a law change, with over 60s most supportive

**Amend law to allow correctional smacking BY Area Type**

		Area Type			
		Metro	Provincial	Towns	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Amend law to allow correctional smacking	Yes	69%	72%	75%	84%
	No	25%	23%	17%	13%
	Unsure/refuse	6%	6%	8%	3%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The highest support for a law change is 84% in rural areas, and lowest is (a still high) 69% in metropolitan areas.

Metropolitan is defined as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Provincial is all other cities of over 30,000 population. Towns are urban areas between 1,000 and 30,000 population and Rural are areas with under 1,000 population.

**Amend law to allow correctional smacking BY Deprivation Decile**

		Deprivation Decile		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Amend law to allow correctional smacking	Yes	70%	73%	71%
	No	24%	21%	21%
	Unsure/refuse	6%	5%	8%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Support for a law change is consistent over all deprivation deciles. The deprivation decile is the decile measuring the average deprivation of the area (meshblock) the respondent lives in. Decile 1 is the 10% least deprived areas and Decile 10 is the 10% most deprived areas.

**Amend law to allow correctional smacking BY Probed Party Vote (All Voters)**

		Probed Party Vote (All Voters)				
		National	Labour	NZ First	Green	Undecided
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Amend law to allow correctional smacking	Yes	80%	69%	81%	43%	73%
	No	17%	25%	17%	48%	16%
	Unsure/refuse	4%	6%	2%	9%	11%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

80% of National supporters favour a law change, as do 73% of undecided voters and 69% of Labour supporters. The only supporters against a law change are Green Party supporters.

**If a political party promised that amending the law to allow light correctional smacking was a non-negotiable policy at the next general election, would that make you more likely to vote for them, or less likely, or make no difference to your likely vote?**

**Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking**

		Count	Col %
Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking	More likely	189	19%
	No difference	629	62%
	Less likely	144	14%
	Unsure/refuse	59	6%
Total		1021	100%

19% of respondents say they are more likely to vote for a party promising to amend the anti-smacking law and 14% less likely. In February 2013, 30% said they were more likely and 22% less likely.

**Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking BY**

**Gender**

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking	More likely	17%	20%
	No difference	62%	61%
	Less likely	13%	15%
	Unsure/refuse	7%	4%
	Total	100%	100%

**Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking BY Age Group**

		Age Group			
		18-30	31-45	46-60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking	More likely	11%	21%	21%	19%
	No difference	60%	64%	57%	65%
	Less likely	23%	10%	16%	10%
	Unsure/refuse	6%	5%	6%	6%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking BY Area Type**

		Area Type			
		Metro	Provincial	Towns	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking	More likely	15%	23%	23%	16%
	No difference	63%	58%	60%	73%
	Less likely	16%	15%	10%	8%
	Unsure/refuse	6%	5%	7%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking BY Deprivation Decile**

		Deprivation Decile		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking	More likely	15%	19%	26%
	No difference	68%	61%	49%
	Less likely	13%	14%	17%
	Unsure/refuse	4%	6%	8%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking BY Probed Party Vote (All Voters)**

		Probed Party Vote (All Voters)				
		National	Labour	NZ First	Green	Undecided
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Support for party that promises to legalise correctional smacking	More likely	18%	21%	22%	8%	27%
	No difference	69%	54%	54%	54%	53%
	Less likely	10%	18%	20%	31%	8%
	Unsure/refuse	4%	7%	4%	7%	12%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

27% of undecided voters said they are more likely to vote for a party pledging to amend the anti-smacking law, and only 8% less likely.

## WEIGHTED DEMOGRAPHICS

The results have been weighted to reflect the voting adult gender, age and area.

### Gender

		Count	Col %
Gender	Female	545	53%
	Male	479	47%
	Total	1024	100%

### Age Group

		Count	Col %
Age Group	18-30	178	17%
	31-45	256	25%
	46-60	291	28%
	61+	298	29%
	Total	1024	100%

### Area Type

		Count	Col %
Area Type	Metro	520	51%
	Provincial	275	27%
	Towns	167	16%
	Rural	62	6%
	Total	1024	100%

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