



**YouGov / NSPCC Survey Results**  
**FIELDWORK DATES: 25TH - 28TH JANUARY 2024**

**Prepared by YouGov plc**  
**On behalf of the NSPCC**

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## BACKGROUND

This spreadsheet contains survey data collected and analysed by YouGov plc. No information contained within this spreadsheet may be published without the consent of YouGov Plc and the client named on the front cover.

This survey has been conducted using an online interview administered members of the YouGov Plc GB panel of 100,000+ individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. An email was sent to panellists selected at random from the base sample according to the sample definition, inviting them to take part in the survey and providing a link to the survey. (The sample definition could be "GB adult population" or a subset such as "GB adult females"). YouGov Plc normally achieves a response rate of between 35% and 50% to surveys however this does vary dependent upon the subject matter, complexity and length of the questionnaire. The responding sample is weighted to the profile of the sample definition to provide a representative reporting sample. The profile is normally derived from census data or, if not available from the census, from industry accepted data.

YouGov plc make every effort to provide representative information. All results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to statistical errors normally associated with sample-based information.

For further information about the results in this spreadsheet, please contact YouGov Plc (+44)(0)20 7 012 6000 or email [enquiries@yougov.com](mailto:enquiries@yougov.com) quoting the survey details

## EDITOR'S NOTES - all press releases should contain the following information

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 3,559 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 25th - 28th January 2024. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in England (aged 18+).

NOTE: All press releases or other publications must be checked by YouGov Plc before use. YouGov requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed. Please note, multiple press releases will require longer.

- YouGov is registered with the Information Commissioner
- YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council

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.

# YouGov / NSPCC Survey Results

Sample Size: 3559 adults in England  
Fieldwork: 25th - 28th January 2024

	Vote in 2019 GE			EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		
	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	
<b>Weighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	<b>1231</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>1374</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>1829</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>2064</b>	<b>1495</b>
<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1374</b>	<b>1592</b>	<b>1967</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>2126</b>	<b>1433</b>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23	25-28 Jan '24													
<b>Which of the following comes closest to your view?</b>															
It is always acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	3	3	4	3	1	2	4	6	1	5	3	3	5	3	4
It is usually acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	23	20	30	10	15	11	31	26	15	16	14	24	30	18	24
<b>TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY ACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>
It is usually unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	35	36	39	34	42	38	36	37	35	31	37	36	35	38	33
It is always unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	32	35	22	49	39	45	22	26	44	44	41	29	25	38	31
<b>TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY UNACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>64</b>
Don't know	7	6	5	5	4	4	5	6	5	5	5	7	5	4	8
<b>What effect, if any, do you think using physical punishment has upon a parent and child's relationship?</b>															
Significantly strengthens it	4	4	6	2	1	1	7	6	2	4	2	6	6	3	6
Somewhat strengthens it	14	14	21	8	10	9	21	20	8	10	9	17	20	12	16
<b>TOTAL STRENGTHENS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
No effect	16	15	21	10	15	13	21	17	14	8	12	16	23	14	17
Somewhat weakens it	24	25	21	28	29	27	21	23	26	27	27	22	23	26	22
Significantly weakens it	27	30	17	43	33	39	18	20	39	45	36	26	16	33	25
<b>TOTAL WEAKENS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>
Don't know	15	12	14	9	12	11	13	13	12	6	14	12	12	11	14

## YouGov / NSPCC Survey Results

Sample Size: 3559 adults in England

Fieldwork: 25th - 28th January 2024

	Region (1)					Region (2)								Parent of at least one child younger than 18 years old	
	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West		
<b>Weighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	1000	680	498	1381	172	448	379	312	367	390	498	558	433	844
<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	997	695	462	1405	169	447	381	324	371	403	462	564	438	836
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

	28 Feb - 2 Mar '23	25-28 Jan '24														
<b>Which of the following comes closest to your view?</b>																
It is always acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	3	3	3	3	5	3	2	4	3	2	4	4	5	3	3	3
It is usually acceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	23	20	19	21	19	22	18	19	19	23	19	24	19	21	21	13
<b>TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY ACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>
It is usually unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child, with some exceptions	35	36	37	38	31	35	37	35	40	37	39	32	31	36	37	35
It is always unacceptable for a parent to use physical punishment on their child	32	35	34	33	38	35	35	36	32	32	34	35	38	34	36	45
<b>TOTAL ALWAYS / USUALLY UNACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>80</b>
Don't know	7	6	6	5	7	5	7	6	6	5	5	5	7	6	4	3
<b>What effect, if any, do you think using physical punishment has upon a parent and child's relationship?</b>																
Significantly strengthens it	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	6	3	4	4	6	4	3	4	3
Somewhat strengthens it	14	14	13	13	16	14	12	12	14	11	14	14	16	14	14	9
<b>TOTAL STRENGTHENS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>
No effect	16	15	16	18	15	14	16	16	16	19	17	15	15	15	13	14
Somewhat weakens it	24	25	25	26	21	25	27	23	26	25	26	23	21	26	27	26
Significantly weakens it	27	30	30	28	31	30	29	33	27	27	29	32	31	29	31	38
<b>TOTAL WEAKENS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>64</b>
Don't know	15	12	12	11	13	12	13	10	15	13	10	11	13	13	12	11

Sample Size: 3559 adults in England  
Fieldwork: 25th - 28th January 2024

	Vote in 2019 GE			EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE
<b>Weighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	1231	883	324	1221	1374	1730	1829	374	1484	876	826	2064	1495
<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	1239	901	322	1350	1374	1592	1967	329	1455	886	889	2126	1433
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**What effect, if any, do you think physical punishment has upon a child's mental health?**

Very positive	2	3	4	2	1	1	4	4	1	4	2	2	4	2	3
Fairly positive	7	8	11	5	4	5	11	11	5	8	4	9	13	7	9
<b>TOTAL POSITIVE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
No effect	18	19	26	10	19	13	27	24	14	7	13	22	30	17	22
Fairly negative	27	29	28	30	33	32	26	29	29	32	31	29	24	31	25
Very negative	29	31	18	45	33	39	19	21	40	44	37	26	18	33	27
<b>TOTAL NEGATIVE</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>52</b>
Don't know	16	11	12	9	10	10	12	12	11	5	12	12	12	10	14

**Would you support or oppose changing the law in England to end the use of physical punishment on children?**

Strongly support	26	30	19	44	30	39	20	21	38	42	35	25	21	32	28
Somewhat support	24	22	22	21	28	23	21	21	23	23	21	21	24	24	19
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>
Somewhat oppose	19	19	26	13	19	15	25	23	15	16	16	21	25	19	20
Strongly oppose	11	12	17	7	7	8	17	17	8	7	9	16	16	11	13
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>
Don't know	20	17	16	14	16	15	17	17	16	12	19	17	14	14	20

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	Region (1)					Region (2)								Parent of at least one child younger than 18 years old	
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<b>Weighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	1000	680	498	1381	172	448	379	312	367	390	498	558	433	844
<b>Unweighted Sample</b>	<b>3559</b>	997	695	462	1405	169	447	381	324	371	403	462	564	438	836
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**What effect, if any, do you think physical punishment has upon a child's mental health?**

Very positive	2	3	2	2	4	3	1	3	2	2	2	3	4	3	2	2
Fairly positive	7	8	8	7	6	8	7	9	8	4	10	6	6	8	10	4
<b>TOTAL POSITIVE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
No effect	18	19	18	21	19	18	19	18	18	25	17	22	19	17	16	13
Fairly negative	27	29	27	30	29	30	29	24	30	30	30	26	29	31	31	31
Very negative	29	31	32	29	31	31	29	36	30	27	30	33	31	29	31	41
<b>TOTAL NEGATIVE</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>72</b>
Don't know	16	11	12	12	11	11	14	11	13	12	11	10	11	12	10	9

**Would you support or oppose changing the law in England to end the use of physical punishment on children?**

Strongly support	26	30	30	29	29	30	30	31	30	30	29	31	29	30	31	36
Somewhat support	24	22	21	21	28	21	19	22	20	22	21	20	28	21	22	22
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>
Somewhat oppose	19	19	19	19	18	20	22	15	21	19	19	22	18	20	19	16
Strongly oppose	11	12	13	14	9	12	14	15	11	13	15	15	9	10	11	10
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>
Don't know	20	17	17	17	17	16	16	17	18	17	17	12	17	19	16	16

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