

Unintended Consequences of Corporal Punishment in Schools: Evidence to Support the Introduction of an Educational Bill

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Corporal punishment in schools has been prohibited in Northern Ireland since 1972. In 2009, the Royal Society for Medicine Press published a report on the consequences of corporal punishment in schools in Northern Ireland. This article summarises the findings of the report.

therefore between physical punishment and physical abuse is related to degree (duration, amount of force, object used) rather than intent.

It is noteworthy that only a few studies have reported no association or even a negative association between parental use of CP and child behaviour problems [18,21]. Tennant et al. [22] for example reported that CP reduced drug abuse more than non-CP. However harsh CP has consistently been linked to both depression and substance misuse in

following questions: (a) "How often were you made to do chores that were too difficult or dangerous for someone your age"; (b) "How often were you left alone or unsupervised when you were too young to be alone"; (c) "How often did you go without things you need like clothes, shoes, or school supplies because your parents or caregivers spent the money on themselves"; (d) "How often did your parents or caregivers make you go hungry or not prepare regular meals"; (e) "How often did your parents or caregivers ignore or fail to get you medical treatment when you were sick or hurt"? Exposure to intimate partner violence was assessed using the following question : "How often did (your

study suggests that parental exposures to neglect do increase the likelihood of implementing CP which is known to increase the risk of perpetrating child physical abuse.

Bunting et al. [4] found that members of the Protestant faith were more likely than Catholics and members of other religious communities to implement CP in NI. The current findings are not consistent with those results. Our findings instead highlight that transmission is associated with exposures to childhood maltreatment and also with SUDs in parents. These findings are consistent with previous international research [24-27]. It was interesting that cycle breakers were also more likely to suffer from a SUD. Data was not available to investigate if those who broke cycles of implementation may have been in recovery from addiction and future research should address this issue.

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