CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS: RESULTS FROM FOUR STUDIES

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• Other publications on this and related issues can be downloaded from http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mstrau
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THE FOUR STUDIES
Study 1 Sexual coercion by University students
Study 2 Risky sex by University students
Study 3 Risky sex by Secondary school students
Study 4 Masochistic sex by University students

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED
1. What is corporal punishment (CP)?
2. How prevalent and how chronic is CP?
3. What is the theoretical model which guided studies 1, 2, and 3?
4. What is the empirical evidence that led to this model?
5. What are the results of the four studies of sexual behavior problems?
6. What are the implications for primary prevention of these and many other social and psychological problems?

Questions 1 & 2: WHAT IS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (CP) AND HOW PREVALENT IS IT?

> A. USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE
> B. WITH THE INTENTION OF CAUSING BODILY PAIN
> C. BUT NOT INJURY
> D. FOR PURPOSES OF CORRECTION OR CONTROL

EXAMPLES
• "SPANK," "SMACK"
• SLAP HAND
• SHAKE, SHOVE, JERK
• GRAB OR SQUEEZE HARD
• TWIST EAR
  etc.

CHRONICITY
THREE EXAMPLES OF STUDIES SHOWING HOW OFTEN PARENTS HIT CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATION &amp; REF.</th>
<th>SAMPLE &amp; NUMBER</th>
<th>CHILD AGES</th>
<th>% HIT</th>
<th>TIME PERIOD</th>
<th>MEAN TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWEDEN (STATTIN ET AL. 1990) STOCKHOLM BIRTH COHORT 1955-58 N = 212</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>YEAR</td>
<td>33% AT LEAST DAILY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA (DALES &amp; ROSKOFF 1994) NATIONAL N = 1,770 1986, 1990</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>DURING INTERVIEW</td>
<td>3.2 TIMES PER WEEK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA (HOLLON ET AL. 1995) COLLEGE ED MOTHERS, AUSTIN, TX N = 39</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>WEEK</td>
<td>2.5 TIMES PER WEEK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TWO UK STUDIES
700 CHILDREN IN NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND STUDIED AT AGE 1, 4, AND 7 IN EARLY 1960'S

Age 1 62%
Age 4 97% - 75% once a week or more often
Age 7 over 56% - 41% once a week or more often


2002 SCOTTISH STUDY *

Children under 2 38%
Children age 3-5 68%
Children age 8-10 49%
Children aged 11 or older 14%

These results are after controlling for
- Age of child
- Gender of child
- Psychological aggression by the parent
- Positive interaction with child (love and support)
- Supervision by parent
- Depression of parent
- Education of parent
- Family income
- Income below poverty
- Family structure (single parent family)

Question 5. What are the results of the 4 studies of sexual behavior problems?

**Study 1 - Corporal Punishment and Sexual Coercion by University Students** (Garme & Strauss, 2008*)

- Sample: 14,252 students at 68 universities in 32 nations
- Measure of Corporal Punishment
  - Did not strongly disagree that “I was spanked or hit a lot before age 12”
  - Median nation = 52%, US = 61%, UK = 55%
- Measure of Sexual Coercion in Past Year - Revised Conflict Tactics Scales
  - Verbal Sexual Coercion Scale
    - Median nation = 23.3%, US = 27.4%, UK = 17.9%
  - Forced Sex scale
    - Median nation = 14%, US = 21%, UK = 17%


**Figure 2. Paths from Victimization to Sexual Coercion**

Left number is the percent by which corporal punishment increases the probability of sexual coercion by men; right is the percent for women.

- Verbal Sexual Coercion
  - +10% (+12%)
  - +33% (+43%)

- Corporal Punishment
  - +23% (+108%)

- Antisocial Personality
  - Criminal History
  - +33% (+27%)

- Physically Coerced Sex
  - +43% (+206%)

*Percent values are based on data from Table 2, regression controlling for age, length of relationship, socioeconomic status, and fear of violence under pressure. This scale

**Percent who verbally coerced sex in previous 12 months by corporal punishment before age 12, and gender**

**Percent who physically coerced sex in previous 12 months by corporal punishment before age 12, and gender**

14,252 students in 32 nations
STUDY 2 – CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND RISKS OF SEX BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Theory of study 2

- Corporal punishment (CP) increases the probability of characteristics that lead to insisting on sex without a condom
  - Lack of self-control and internalized standards of behavior
  - Approval of violence

Sample: Same as Study 1

Measure of Risky Sex: Insisting on sex without a condom

Measure of Self Control: 6 item scale (Rebello & Straus, 2000)

Measure of Violence Approval: 8 item scale (Straus et al., 1999)

Links Between Corporal Punishment as a Child and Risky Sex as an Adult

Percent by which the variable at the left increases or decreases the probability of the variable at the right.

Calculated from logistic regression, controlling for age of student, education of mother and father, length of relationship, and score on Limited Disclosure Scale. High-Self-Control and High Violence Approval are the high scoring fifth of the sample.

The More Corporal Punishment as a Child, the Greater the Probability of Risky Sex as a Young Adult

The More Violence is Approved, the Greater the Probability of Insisting on Sex Without a Condom

STUDY 3 – CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND RISKS OF SEX BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sample: 440 students in 9th through 12th grade of a New Hampshire high school

Measure Corporal Punishment: five groups:
  - Group 1: No CP (39% of the sample)
  - Groups 2-5: Quartiles of those who experienced CP (Group S. CP at age 13 years or older)

Measure of Risky Sex: Factor score from analysis of the following behaviors: Ever had sexual intercourse, Number of times sex in the past year, Age at first sex, Number of sex partners, Frequency of condom use, Frequency of pill use, Frequency of use of other contraception, Number of time purchased condoms in the past year, Whether or not the respondent has had or caused a pregnancy.

Theoretical Model of Links Between Corporal Punishment and Unsafe Sex

- Alienation from parents
- Poor school achievement
- Sexual victimization
- Low self-esteem

RISKY SEX
STUDY 4 - CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND MASOCHISTIC SEX BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Theory: Corporal punishment creates a fusion of love and violence, especially when parents are high in affection.

Sample: 207 students (76 men and 131 women) in sociology and psychology classes at three universities and colleges in the Northeast.

Corporal Punishment: Factor score from analysis of six questions:
- Age when most often hit by Father & Mother. How often hit at age 10 by Fa & Mo. How often hit at age 17 by Fa and Mo.

Masochistic Sex: Six question scale. Whether ever sexual aroused by doing or imagining a partner:
- Restrain me as part of sex play
- Spank me as part of sex play
- Engage in playful fights and partner being physically rough

Alpha = .72

Is masochist sex a "behavior problem"? Will leave up to you.

CHART 8-3. As corporal punishment increases, so does the chance of masochistic sex as an adult.

CHART 8-5. The link between corporal punishment and masochistic sex is greater when the parents are warm and loving.

* When parents are warm and loving, there is much more masochistic sex.

* BUT the effect of corporal punishment is much greater.
THESE ARE ALL "RISK FACTORS," NOT ONE-TO-ONE LINKS

- A CONDITION WHICH INCREASES THE PROBABILITY OF A DISEASE OR PROBLEM

- EXAMPLES:
  - HEAVY SMOKING AND DEATH FROM SMOKING RELATED DISEASE
    (33% chance of death – which means that 64% do not die)
  - BINGE DRINKING AND WIFE BEATING
    (19% chance - 3 fold increase, but 81% of binge drinkers do not beat their wives)
  - HIGH CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND MENT PHYSICALLY COERCING SEX
    (6% chance - 6 fold increase from 1.5%, but 94% did not do it)

FOR EVIDENCE ON THESE POINTS AND MANY OTHERS SEE

- This book
- Papers on my website (1st slide)
- ALSO Forthcoming book

BEATING THE DEVIL OUT OF THEM

THE PRIMORDIAL VIOLENCE: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND CRIME

- Some references on last slide

SEXUAL COERCION SCALE

Of the Revised Conflict Tactics Scales

- Insist
- Made my partner have sex without a condom
- Insisted my partner have oral or anal sex (but did not use physical force)
- Used threats to make my partner have oral or anal sex
- Forced

Alpha: By participant Males = 537 Females = 500, Total = 1037
By partner - Males = 503 Females = 389, Total = 892
* For Information on this instrument see http://ruinpages.umn.edu/~mas2