

## Childhood Punishment Reflected in Later Life Adjustment

In a presentation at the Western Psychological Association convention, Adah Maurer of End Violence Against the Next Generation, Inc. in Berkeley brought forth further evidence regarding the relationship between physical punishment in childhood and appropriate adjustment in later life.

While the table shown below indicates a co-relationship, Ms. Maurer takes the position that this is clear evidence of a cause and effect relationship.

It is well documented that the human organism reacts to pain by either avoidance or attack behavior. If both of these responses are thwarted, the physiological concomitants of severe, prolonged stress appear to contribute to a lifelong performance decrement. If this performance decrement extends into the social sphere then anti-social or socially maladaptive behavior could be the result.

Hopefully, responsible officials will realize that it is cost-effective-cheaper to provide adequate care habilitation of a young child than to pay for the rehabilitation of an adult.

### AFTERMATH OF PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT AGES 1 TO 10

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Violent Inmates San Quentin	0	0	0	0	100%
Juvenile Delinquents	0	2%	3%	31%	64%
High School Drop-Outs	0	7%	23%	69%	0
College Freshmen	2%	23%	40%	33%	0
Professionals	5%	40%	36%	17%	0

- (1) Never.
- (2) Rare.
- (3) Moderate. Includes open hand slaps and spansks.
- (4) Severe. Use of an instrument such as belt, paddle, hairbrush.
- (5) Extreme. Needing medical attention or hospitalization.

The above figures were the result of a self-report by 200 psychologists at the 1975 CSPA/CASPP convention, by 372 college freshmen at University of California, Davis, and California State University, Fresno. The high school "dropouts" were actually slow track under achievers reading at a four to fifth grade level while data on delinquents was secured by Ralph Welsh, Ph.D. from Bridgeport, Connecticut. Prisoner information was supplied by Hobert Banks.

From:

Directions, June 1976  
published by HEW Region 14  
Child Abuse and Neglect  
Project

NOV 1

AUG 20 1977

517995

**END**

7 11/15/1964