

Okay.

So now we're being recorded.

I'll start with reading the BIOS your presenters for today.

Dr.

Elizabeth beshear is an associate professor of social work

at California State University Stanislaus.

Her research uses a strengths perspective to explore societal

changes that can help address social inequalities.

She focuses on marginalized and vulnerable populations, particularly

children and LGBT Elders recent Publications including on

Hold on school corporal punishment in the international Journal

of educational reform and article on parents voices on discipline

and child rearing and the Journal of family strengths and

a textbook entitled facilitative leadership and Social Work

practice published by Springer joining Liz's morning as Lisa

bolts. Lisa is a second-year MSW student at CSU Stanislaus.

Her undergraduate degree is in sociology and our passion

is working with children.

This is exempt defied by her professional experience working

with children in preschool group homes and Junior High School

settings bolts was also provided the opportunity to work

for children at a summer program and the ninth ward of New

Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in assisted with rebuilding

effort and coordination of a summer camp currently bolts

works as a graduate research assistant with dr.

Bashir's regarding corporal punishment of children and plans

to continue to advocate for children.

Dr.

Bashir and Lisa Bob's I will pass the torch to you now.

Thank you so much.

Dr.

Banks for the introduction and thank you to all of you who've taken time from your busy schedules to be with us this morning.

I hope today is interesting and informative and I really hope that you will participate by writing questions and letting us know your thoughts on what I consider a really important issue, which is physical punishment of children in the United States. Today's seminar will really will present the results.

Holt's of research conducted with over a thousand child welfare workers in central California the impetus for this study actually came from my dissertation research, which I'll mention in just a couple of minutes, but I'd like to give you a little bit of personal background like most people in this country.

I grew up being spanked I grew up with the idea that spanking

was a natural thing that parents did with children.

And in fact, I didn't even realize it was a choice.

Once I entered my doctoral program.

I was surprised to learn that some countries don't spank

they use nonviolent discipline methods with their children.

So when it came time to do my dissertation, well, I became

really interested in that topic in wondered.

Why do so many parents here in the United States Bank.

Why do we spanked in this country?

Why choose a parenting methods?

With violence and as one would expect when I did my dissertation

research with parents us parents love their children.

They thought they were doing a good job and they needed to

spank their kids.

I did learn in my study that none of my parents with one exception that I'll tell you about in just a minute.

None of the parents including those who had backgrounds in child development had ever heard don't spank they were totally unaware Where that there is AB aluminous amount of research that shows that spanking is a high-risk child-rearing method.

Now, the one exception is that I had three foster parents in my study and all three of the foster parents said, yes, they had heard don't spank in their foster parent training.

They didn't really understand why they weren't supposed to spank. But yes, they they had heard that.

So after that research, I really became curious about the social work profession and child welfare workers.

What do they know and understand about physical punishment of children after all child welfare workers are essentially

First Responders child welfare workers are I think arguably

the most influential group in the United States that can

alter how we parent that can affect how we parent and so

today I'm inviting you to engage in this topic, you know,

we always say that children are our most precious resource.

So perhaps together we can help parents raise more happy

healthy compassionate and productive children.

So I'm going to turn this over right now to Lisa bolts who

will give us a little bit of background and some information

about the literature.

Thank you.

Dr.

Bashir's so for this study and the Haitian physical punishment,

we defined as the intentional infliction of physical pain

for perceived misbehavior.

And this presentation will provide you with a brief background

leading into the study and its results and what it all means

for social workers.

And we also would strongly encourage questions or comments

throughout the presentation and like dr.

Banks had mentioned that there will be a couple of sections

that we will specifically have for.

questions and comments to so when looking at the United States

in comparison to other countries, we can see that we are

advanced in many areas like computer technology and medical

research, you know, we're not advanced in areas pertaining

to Children areas such as infant mortality child poverty

and child obesity greatly exceeds that of other developed

countries. Some of these areas are starting to gain attention

through research and public awareness campaigns one area

that is practically missing from American discourse is parenting

practices regarding discipline, especially physical punishment

of children.

And as I could see Sweden was the first country to ban corporal

punishment of children in 1979.

And since then there has been an international shift towards

nonviolent discipline methods.

And we will discuss the philosophical and legal reasons for

this shift as well as some of the research behind this shift

in a little bit.

But throughout this presentation.

We will be using physical punishment corporal punishment

and spanking interchangeably.

So in the United States spanking is a normative parenting

style with at least 85% of children experiencing it during

early childhood and toddlers of mothers who use corporal

punishment are spanked on average three point six times per

week. An ocean from Strauss's researches.

The American parents' acceptance of corporal punishment

is based on a cultural myth that spanking is sometimes necessary

when in fact, it's not there's always a choice to use violent

nonviolent discipline method that will be equally or more

effective in curbing a child's behavior.

So part of this research is based on the fact that we absorb

cultural norms like smog whether visible or not we all breathe

it in which begs the question do social workers view thinking

differently than just the general population.

so this slide provides a list of 36 of the 36 countries that

have legislation abolishing corporal punishment in the home  
in schools and in child serving institutions, so as mentioned  
before the innovator in this shift to nonviolent discipline  
starts with Sweden in 1979 followed by Finland Norway and  
Austria in the 1980s, and then we can see a here that 24  
of the 36 countries have joined this shift within the last  
10 years with the most recent additions being Macedonia and  
Honduras last year.

The United States is one of the few Advanced countries left  
that does not have laws abolishing corporal punishment.

There are multiple philosophical legal and research related  
reasons for not using physical punishment on children.

Some philosophical questions to ask ourselves is our children  
people are they property?

Women and slaves were once considered to be property in this country, which is not something our country is proud of now.

So, why would we consider children to be property?

And if children are not owned as property, but they are viewed

as people shouldn't they deserve human rights like the basic

right to not be physically harmed by another person and this

leads us into the legal aspect legally hitting an adult is

subject to Legal sanctions.

It's a salt and in California and assault is an unlawful

attempt coupled with a present ability to commit a violent

injury on the person.

Another with this definition a person can be charged with

a fine and or jail time without any physical contact.

It's strictly the attempt along with the ability and this

brings up a question as well.

So why would it be legal to hit a child who is dependent

smaller and weaker than the adult who's thinking them?

And we have seen that progress has been made against violence

in this country.

It's no longer legal to hit a spouse and neighbor or even

a neighbor's dog.

So again, it kind of brings up the question.

Why would it be legal to hit children?

So the amount of research on corporal punishment is growing

and Elizabeth dear shop conducted the largest meta-analysis

on corporal punishment to date The Meta analysis included

88 studies with over 36 thousand participants and 94% of

the Ada studies found negative outcomes associated with the

use of corporal punishment.

And some of these findings include physical punishment teaches

children what not to do but not what to do which kind of

leads us into the next finding self-regulation.

We want children to learn self regulation and to internalize

a moral compass which requires a child to understand why

they should not continue a behavior.

And the research shows that the fear associated with spanking

does not teach self-regulation when the spanker is gone.

There's no reason for the child not to continue the behavior.

The research also finds that most child abuse stems from

a spanking episode during which the parent loses control

and parents who use an Implement like a hairbrush or belt

are almost nine times more likely to report behaviors that

could be considered.

And abusive the research also shows that spanking children

can lead to negative effects in adulthood like higher rates

of anxiety depression or even substance use and children

who are corporately punished are more likely to abuse pets

or as boys are more likely to hit a partner of stink.

Even if domestic violence was not in the home of growing

up. So these are just some of the results from your sauce

meta-analysis and there are many more studies that show other

negative effects from the use of corporal punishment.

But as we can see through just these examples that corporal

punishment is a high-risk discipline method and your shop

also points out that perhaps not all children are harmed

from physical punishment, but we can't predict who will be

negatively impacted by its use sofa nonviolent parenting

practice Works equally as well or better.

Why would we not choose a method that does not model violence

as an acceptable way to show displeasure with our During

the next few slides, we'll discuss the two major documents

to inform and guide Social Work practice the United Nations

convention on the rights of the child and social work speaks.

The convention on the rights of the child is the most widely

supported International treaty ever due to its strong stance

to protect children Article 19 of the The treaty States parties

shall take all appropriate legislative administrative social

and educational measures to protect the child from all forms

of physical or mental violence in although only 36 countries

have legislation making corporal punishment.

You've legal this treaty was ratified by a hundred and ninety

three countries, which is just amazing.

The only two countries that did not sign the treaty or Somalia

in the State so at this point we would like to ask all of

you does your program use social work speaks to help guide

practice and your anonymity will be protected as you answer

the question and you may respond with one of three choices.

Yes.

No or that you do not know or may be unfamiliar with social

social work speaks.

So if everyone would click in their responses right now will

be able to show the tabulation of those results.

Looks like almost everyone has responded.

because a few more so what the results show are roughly

a third of you are saying known about close to two-thirds

or saying I don't know if my agency uses social work speaks

or you're not familiar with that particular document so that

that's not too dissimilar from the results that we got in

our research which will go into later, but let's move on

Lisa. Thank you so much.

So little bit about social work speaks.

It's a collection of the nasw policy positions.

The use of physical Force against people especially children

does not coincide with the best values of a Democratic Society

or of the social work profession as a whole and social work

speaks states that the nasw opposes the use of physical punishment

and homes schools and all other institutions both public

and private where children are cared for and educated.

This goes on to say that the nasw believes in the right of

every child to have a safe.

And nurturing environment including home and educational

experiences that promote every child's optimal growth and

development. So through social work speaks the nasw distinguishes

the difference between punishment and discipline with punishment

being used as a wretched as retribution or a way to inflict

pain. It's just more punitive.

Whereas discipline stems from the root word disciple, which

is to teach the discipline doesn't need to be painful in

order to be effective policy advocates for programs providing

parents with trainings and support services to learn about

using nonviolent disciplinary techniques educational campaign

to eliminate physical punishment and laws to ban the use

of physical punishment So now at this point we would like

to ask if there are any questions or comments so far before

Liz discusses the study's results and its implications and

you could type them into the chat box and we'll be able to

answer them at this point.

Let's give people maybe a minute or so.

We ask that if you have questions the please type them in

the chat box now.

Well, people are thinking of questions or chatting them.

I might add that literally there there is a very large body

of literature and the results are really robust.

They're compelling in terms of the risk associated with physical

punishment of children.

One of the interesting things is I researched several of

the countries that now have And corporal punishment and for

example in Israel, it was an issue that went before The Supreme

Court and if you look at those documents the Supreme Court

actually examined a lot of the research done in the United

States. So apparently research done in this country is better

known and several other countries than it is here here at

home. I find that interesting.

Okay, there's a few things that are coming up Liz the first

question is about research.

Let's see.

It says opposing your point of view, but I think it's about

may be supporting or reasons.

Perhaps why people might spank or or in support of spanking

so to speak I didn't my research doesn't specifically cover

reasons to spank them.

Is a lot of literature out there.

It pales in comparison to the risks found associated with

spanking but there are certainly some literature that supports

using spanking.

There are differences within that literature.

So for example, some of the pro spanking literature says

start when the child is six months old, you know, you start

with babies and and others say no wait a second don't Don't

wait until the child is 18 months old other literature looks

at when when to end it and some say when the child hits puberty

stop using corporal punishment and other punishment goes

on into the teen years.

I research is looking more at do parents spank.

What do professionals know about spanking in the risks and

the literature both pro and con because obviously you've

got to understand all sides of an issue.

I have come down on the side in terms of if I were to make

recommendations, which I do when I speak with parent groups

because the results are so overwhelmingly suggesting.

on that Since nonviolent discipline methods work equally

as well or better why not choose those because just like

smoking I smoked at one point.

I don't have cancer do I think smoking can cause cancer?

Yes I do and but I couldn't predict the risk, you know, so

yes, some people smoke and don't develop cancer, but do most

people You really want to take that risk that they won't

and the same with making the choice about spanking and adding

on to that and my research through the articles that I found

opposing corporal punishment.

I mean for corporal punishment.

They were not done on actual studies.

It was kind of more of the person's views or trying to refute

some of the other studies that were done.

So at least for my own research into the Articles, that's what I found.

Okay, so there's an interesting comment or question from?

Don as it says at one time spanking was legal in schools.

It is now balanced asking is it now banned in both public

and private schools and close to half of the states still

allow paddling or spanking in public and private schools.

So 20 I think 28 have now banned it in public schools, including

California where we are but 48 out of the 50 states allow.

Corporal punishment in private schools and that is this case.

So in California now, it's interesting that one of the largest

private school systems.

Actually, it's not a school system because it's done individually

different places, but the Catholic church now has a policy

that bans physical punishment of children in its private

schools Nationwide and it used to be very Common in Catholic

schools. So but that's still an area that we also do not

have a national policy in terms of whether children can be

paddled in schools and some schools do believe.

It's a way to motivate learning just yesterday.

I asked him one of my classes.

I teach in the MSW program and I said does anyone in here

think that you would be more motivated and do better in this?

Class if you were corporally punished if you were spanked,

I mean and not that I would do it.

I would feel very uncomfortable.

But you know, they could perhaps go out and search.

So no one bid.

There's a couple of more it looks like more statements than

questions Liz.

I think this one person and then we'll move onto to the rest

of your presentation is asking about your thoughts about

case law coming out that's overturning child welfare conclusions.

As it relates to sustaining allegations of physical abuse.

you know, I think part of the challenge is that our whole

child welfare system in the legalities are constantly shifting

and morphing one of the reasons why I think that looking

at teaching best practice in parenting, I mean because right

now spanking is legal it is what is considered sub abusive,

but clearly the literature says that children are happier

healthier internalized and moral compass, you know, it has

been said when parents use nonviolent discipline methods

and the research and other countries, for example in Sweden,

their juvenile crime rate has dropped pretty dramatically

since they have at least they have almost two decades of

children who've been primarily raised without being seen

Spanked and so that was an interesting finding because I

think some parents here in the US feel that kids are going

to go wild if they're not spanked and sometimes parents actually

think that spanking is discipline and so not spanking means

you don't have discipline.

So I think that if we were to do a very broad educational

campaign, and so more and more parents viewed that spanking

is not an acceptable way to discipline that we want to use

Timeouts we want to have children make some sort of immense

depending on their age and capacity that we talk to them

that we try to teach them to empathize.

You know, there's there's something that's can be confusing

to a small child at the small child hits someone and then

it hit him or herself to try to teach him not to hit Joe

someone so and also with that Sweden has also closed for

prisons recently.

So that also kind of continues on not only in the Juvenile

Justice but also through adulthood the other piece in terms

of kind of the hell.

Our courts are responding.

I'm not trying to suggest that corporal punishment or spanking

is and of itself.

Child abuse because it's clearly not.

I just think that we could take one whole group of parents

who are now in what I consider a fairly punitive system,

they're punishing their children.

And so we're punishing them a perhaps remove them from that

system. If they were more aware of parenting choices parenting

strategies parenting methods incidentally in Sweden child

abuse is not Not part of the criminal code.

It's part of what is called the parents code the family code.

And when there is a violation the intent is to provide support

and help for the parent as opposed to criminalize.

So that's one philosophical difference in terms of their

legal system as well.

Should we move on?

Yes, please landscape, thank you.

Okay.

So this next section is going to talk about the results and

I'd like to just start with a research partnership California

State University Stanislaus worked with the central California

area Social Services Consortium, which is much more nicely

said when you call them Cassie, so that's what I mean.

When I say Cassie throughout the rest of this presentation

and I'm so appreciative of all of the county the 12 County

Social Service directors in Cassie who participated in this

study all of the counties participated which is why we ended

up with over a thousand participants and one of the ways

these County directors helped was prior to initiating the

research. They sent a letter to every single worker child

welfare worker saying that the workers were going to receive

a survey and ask them to please participate and and sharing

that it would be anonymous and that their opinions were important.

So if you look at the map on this particular slide, you'll

see the darkest area is the Central Valley which is where

the survey took place.

And I think the purpose of this slide is to just reinforce.

I know everyone knows it but child welfare is really large.

It's a very significant issue in this country.

It affects many many children and families at any point in

time or at least on September 30th 2012.

We had almost 400,000 children in foster care.

That's out of over 680.

Thousand children who were victims of maltreatment and approximately

1500 plus of the children died from abuse and neglect in

the United States here in California.

We have over fifty five thousand children in foster care

in in Central Valley that the area of our research there

were over 8,500 children in foster care, California receives

almost 500.

A thousand reports allegations a year of which over 81,000

are substantiated and out of that is figure than the 55,000

who end up in foster care.

It's a very costly business and I'm calling it business because

opponents of child welfare systems accused the whole system

of being away, too.

story families if you look at some of the anti literature,

which is somewhat painful for many of us who are motivated

with an intent to help preserve a families to help children,

so but its controversial and as you can see a hundred and

three point eight billion federal and state and dollars go

into child welfare, annually and in California, it's 6.4

billion or it was in 2009.

A little bit more about the history of this particular research.

The survey instrument itself was adapted from one developed

by the American Academy of Pediatrics who periodically wants to know what your pediatricians feel about corporal punishment of children.

We took their instrument.

We ask Cassie members to provide input and so it was edited to better reflect child welfare per se and as I mentioned earlier are all of the child of counties agreed to participate

I can't thank them enough because you know, when you volunteer or agree to participate with your organization and research don't know what the results are going to be, you know, so there's some risk to counties.

What if we look bad how do our workers compared do other workers? So it was really important that we had a positive relationship and I think one of the most peace important

pieces in that was framing the issue that the intent of this

survey is not to do to blame to point fingers fingers.

The intent of the survey is to really understand what do

child welfare workers understand and know about corporal

punishment of children about spanking and hopefully we can

use this information to do a better job with our system and

better help children and families because I think isn't that

what it's all about.

So we'll go right now to the survey results 1125 participants

took the survey which was a 65% a response rate, which I'm

really pleased with the survey was mailed out to 17:30 child

welfare workers.

So 1730 was potential and it's interesting because the counties

that we surveyed range from Eleven workers to 456 workers

some counties are as you can see large small we had Urban

counties rural counties.

So the results may not be representative of all of California,

but there were you know, there was quite a bit of diversity

in terms of population and counties in the counties that

we did survey looking at the demographics as you would probably

predict the vast majority of depart of participants were

female slightly over 80% There was a bell-shaped curve for

age and experience in child welfare.

The largest group of age was 32 % were between ages 35 and

44 83 percent of the workers were between 25 and 54 if we

looked at experience and we looked at ranges of And so from

0 to 5 years about 25 percent of the workers fell in that

category. A third of the workers had worked in child welfare

between five and ten years and over forty-two percent of

the workers had been in the child welfare for over 10 years.

So there's quite a bit of experience with the majority of

participants. We also looked at population and ethnicity.

And as you can see from the the chart, we fairly closely

modeled the demographics in California.

However, there are twice as many Asian in our California

population as show up on this as participated in our study.

we also ask about religious affiliation because some of the

research suggests that religious connection influences, whether

one supports or opposes corporal punishment with some Churches

organizations bodies taking a strong stand opposing corporal

punishment, like the the Methodist Church has policies in

place which asked parents to use nonviolent discipline methods

and some of of the religious organizations churches actually

build corporal punishment in as something that they feel

is perfectly acceptable for their particular their members

to engage in and 95 90 percent of the respondents identified

as either Protestant or Catholic.

We gave people the option not to state in about seven percent

chose that option.

We the participants were well-educated group nine out of

every ten had a bachelor's degree or higher over half headed

pain their master's degree and almost half of them had their

highest degree in social work about 8% held a professional

license. Primarily LCSW use or mft S.

We also ask their So a series of the questions were more

personal like religion and Etc.

We asked their personal opinions of use of corporal punishment

or spanking and we found that 72% support spanking about

a quarter opposed spanking and five percent said they were unsure we wanted to know is this distribution change between those who had a social work background, which is my background.

Or other disciplines and there was really no significance based on discipline.

Now interestingly those who had a major in criminal justice showed the lowest support for spanking, but it was a relatively small number of percent of participants, so it wasn't significant.

we also asked participants about the discipline methods that they experienced when children and those with children which

are 75% of the participants in this study what they use with their own children and the figures you don't are more than

100% because we asked them to check all that apply so you can see by this that Slightly over seventy percent received

corporal punishment or spanking when they were children and

40% continue to use thinking with their own children.

One of the interesting findings.

I thought was positive reinforcement, which is the next to

the last item that about 40% had received positive reinforcement

when they were children, but that jumps to 76 percent in

terms of using with their own children and positive reinforcement

is a philosophy where rather than focusing on just the negative.

What you really want to do is focus on the positive when

things when children do something well, like I really appreciate

that you put the dirty towel in the hamper as opposed to

leaving it on the floor.

That's personal.

Okay.

I'll move on And in a brief summary at this point, we found

that personal opinions on corporal punishment weren't linked to age social work education licensure years of experience or racial or ethnic identification.

In fact, there were only two areas in which there was an influence and that is that men were more supportive.

The males who participated were more supportive of spanking and that those who were spanked as children were more likely to support spanking as an appropriate child rearing method.

This is a good point to ask a do any of these results surprise you at this point do they really do they reflect a your experiences either personally or in your work?

Anyone have any particular comments or questions this point?

So those you'd like them to type something in a chat box if they like to respond to this these questions.

So if you like to respond to the questions and purple do

any of these results surprised you do they reflect your experiences.

You can type them in the chat box.

There is a little bit of a delay last time.

So let's give people a minute or so.

I think I feel a little bit ambivalent which is why I like

this question.

I think that we all grow up like yo Lisa earlier use the

metaphor of Smaug.

We are exposed to the dominant beliefs in a culture and you

know that metaphor says essentially you you breathe smog

in whether you're aware of it or not.

And in this particular case, it looks like people in child

welfare are influenced by The same sort of beliefs and Norms

that the general population is so that part doesn't surprise

me. I think what surprised me a little was that we may not be teaching or doing as good a job in terms of teaching about the actual results of physical punishment of children or best practice in terms of disciplining children.

And and so that those results also mirror the general population findings So there's a couple of responses one person said that she's surprised that so many social workers agree with spanking. Another person responded that they also teach at the at the MSW level and many students report that they were spanked themselves as children and that experience influences the way that they look at Family situations.

Yes.

Yeah, and I'm guessing in the practice some of the early National surveys basically said are there times when a child needs a good hard spanking and a significant population percent

said oh, yes.

Part of it is we don't really as also mentioned earlier.

We really don't dialogue much about rearing children and

how to help children develop optimally So should I go ahead

and move on?

Yeah, that's one more thought that these results seem to

be in line with with his perceptions also that there is a

trend away from physical punishment, but that is still perceived

as useful.

You know, that's an interesting comment because Marie Strauss

talks about a number of parents say, well, I only use spanking

as a last result and dr.

Strauss is concern is that when one has that belief Still

in essence promotes thinking as a legitimate and successful

option and so he expresses some concern about that.

Okay, so I'll go ahead and move on the next set of questions

or results ask about professional opinions and practice.

So the first few that we covered were more personal opinions

and Perience, so now we're moving into the professional area.

And we asked people about their views of their own practice

competence and we asked them how strongly do you agree or

disagree with each of the following statements.

So these numbers also don't add up to a hundred percent because

there was also an additional option to choose I neither agree

nor disagree, but these were the significant period And if

you look at this, so we've just seen you know, how people

feel personally the vast majority of participants almost

90% field that belief that they have adequate knowledge about

discipline methods significantly, they're comfortable in

terms of discussing physical punishment with parents and

that they have the skills needed to counsel family on discipline

and it does drop a little in terms of their feeling of awareness

with the research finding but it's still significantly above

50% So, you know being researchers we decided Well, you know

you're viewing yourself is pretty competent.

And but we wanted to throw in just a few questions that actually

asked about their knowledge.

So one of the questions is was is there a link between corporal

punishment and child abuse because as Lisa mentioned most

physical most physical abuse actually is A spanking episode

in which the parent loses control and you know again the

lowest number in terms of lower than all of the competence

questions 57% However did correctly say yes.

I understand that.

There is a link between using spanking and child abuse of

we also asked how the estimated percent of us children are

saying now this wasn't a setup question.

So it's not out of a Under percent you have one chance and

getting right and 99 chances of answering the question wrong

note the six percent represents those who selected the correct

quintile. So we asked participants 0 is it 0 to 20% of kids

who are staying twenty to forty forty to sixty sixty to eighty

eighty to a hundred?

So it's interesting that there is now a little bit of a disconnect

when 62 percent of our participants any Participant said

yes, I'm familiar with research findings.

But only six percent correctly estimated the quintile in

which the percent of children who were Spain.

We wanted to know if they had attended any training on nonviolent

discipline and over 50% of agencies in our 12 County area

have provided training on nonviolent discipline methods of

which 75% said, yes, we attended those.

So we'll quarter did not attend have not attended any additional

training on nonviolent.

Discipline methods but 75% have and so we asked them about

the to probably the most influential or major documents that

address physical punishment of children.

One is the social work speaks compendium of physical punishment

of children policy and five percent said, yes, and as you

can see a quarter said no and the vast majority almost 70%

We're not familiar with that document as similarly.

We asked about the UN convention on the rights of the child

the international document in which the United Nation is

trying to work towards a better life for all children in

the world and you know Article 19 that Lisa coverage specifically

addresses physical punishment of children again, 6% Very

close a very small number.

Said yes, we use that document 1/4 again say no we don't

use the document.

And again the vast majority were not familiar with that document.

we then went on to ask about their counseling practices now

as you can see most of the Child Welfare workers do recommend

timeout removal of privileges, which are great nonviolent

discipline methods the vast majority recommend positive reinforcement

a great nonviolent discipline message method Over half discourage

use of corporal punishment or physical punishment.

If you look to the next next to the last line You'll see

that 20% recommend corporal punishment in their counseling

sessions at times.

We thought it would be interesting to then ask.

What are your agency policies or position on corporal punishment

and we gave them as you can see these multiple choices.

So a 40% if you look at the last two bars you said that their

agency has no policy or that they didn't know the agency

position or policy and 45% said that their agency has a Policy

that opposes corporal punishment of children and now since

these are child welfare agencies, you know, I'm curious about

the content of those policies because we've already discussed

the spanking your children is legal.

It's not best parenting practice according to the research,

but it is certainly legal.

So does the agency policy promote helping parents learn and become more familiar with best practice?

I think that would be interesting.

Trying to find out and then it says that 16% of our participants said that our agency policy supports parents rights to smoke to I'm sorry not to smoke to spank different studies smoking.

We also ask more about the role of social workers specifically is part of the role of social workers to try to eliminate the practice of spanking and you can see it was a very close split all the way around a third angry at their disagree and a third say neither.

We then wondered is there a connection between social workers views on the role whether the to eliminate physical punishment of children and agency policy.

So of the social workers who believe that they're part of

their role is to try to eliminate physical punishment of

children, you can see that over 50% said that yes our agency.

Policy opposes physical punishment of children and you can

see the remaining choices that they made.

that actually leads to another question which essentially

says does agency policy influence counseling practices within

the agency and I think that's a really interesting question

because I think policy obviously in many Arenas shapes how

we practice and I think this slide has if you look across

the top you'll see agency policy that opposes corporal punishment

agency policy that supports right to spank that the those

whose agency has no policy or the agency policy is unknown

and if you look down at the first the rows you'll see the

that the social workers who recommend positive reinforcement

the social workers who discourage corporal punishment the  
social workers who recommend For punishment and those who  
make no recommendation and you'll see four of your blocks  
cells in Red.

So when the agency opposes corporal punishment, we find that  
66% of social workers discouraged corporal punishment in  
their counseling practices.

And if an agency opposes corporal punishment still see 11  
percent but it you know dramatically drops in terms of the  
social workers who recommend corporal punishment.

Now if you look at an agency who supports the right to spank  
you'll see that social workers who recommend corporal punishment  
essentially triple.

So agency policy has a strong influence in terms of what  
social workers do in their practice with families.

So this is the time where we get to implement implications

and discussion, and I'd like to throw out these several questions.

Because those who are listening today, you know, you all

are shaping how our state works with families works with

children. And I think we are all motivated to try to

improve people's lives.

And you know save the world I'm being only just partly joking

because we all have a commitment to this we could have gone

into many other professions and being paid more.

So most people who work in child welfare.

It's both a heart and a gut commitment to trying to help

children and families.

So I'd be interested in hearing your responses to any of

the questions.

Since any of the your comments to any of the items on this list. And give you a few minutes to write some of your thoughts.

So this is an opportunity for the folks attending the webinar to type your responses in the chat box.

For any of the questions that are on the screen.

Questions questions or comments?

Well, people are writing.

I'll make one comment.

When I presented.

I was able to present some of the results prior to all of the all of the responses coming in.

I was able to do kind of an initial overview for the county directors in Cassie and a couple of the directors.

He saw these results and one of them come commented, you know, I had not thought of developing policy to promote best

practice. They had viewed policy as kind of the do's and

the don'ts in terms of legal and legislatively required actions

on the part of staff and they viewed that this was an opportunity

of yes, it's still legal.

Eagle to spank children, but we know so much more about the

impact on children who are spanked and that well intended

parents can and do lose control and you up it to the level

of what would be considered abuse.

So I know at least one county is looking at developing policies

in which their workers attend.

Training and really look at how do we help parents become

better parents not just non abusive parents, but better parent.

There's a couple of comments one couple statements love and

logic is a compelling approach.

And another statement about training.

I think a training it's about improving self awareness of  
childhood experiences and also recognizing that just like  
with other values.

We have to put those aside and best practice with the families.

We work with in the number one concern is always safety of  
our clients.

Should I continue reading I think that would be thoughtful.

Thank you.

Okay.

So this is about promoting best practice is by having an  
agency wide distribution and review of agency policies about  
corporal punishment providing an abbreviated parenting training  
to social workers, especially in the area of challenging  
beliefs values and attitudes And then the next one is as

a former agency child welfare worker in supervisor.

We were taught to direct parents that spanking was legal

bruises and injuries were abuse.

Is this to come in message to child welfare staff?

So I really I like Don as question.

First of all asking others, is that the common message because

we can certainly say, you know spanking is legal and bruising

and injuries crosses the line but we also have the option

if our County promotes it to say spanking is legal, but I

know that you love your children and Would you be interested

in hearing some other parenting strategies that actually

work better to raise happier healthier and more productive

children that are different than spanking.

One of the questions that I ask people.

When I do workshops is most of us were spanked and typically

in a room if it's a if it's a small group, I don't ask people

to raise their hands but in a group of 70 or 80 people will

say who and here was never spanked as a child and one or

two people will raise their hands and I say see look there

normal to they turned out.

Okay, and they were never spanked and and then I say to parents

to the participants.

um if you think your parents loved you And I think most of

them do do feel that way most of us feel that way about our

parents and if your parents learned a better way better strategies

for child-rearing do you think your parents would have changed

some of theirs but their behaviors?

Specifically about spanking and I think that a lot of people

think yes, you know if my parents had known that there are

risks associated with spanking.

I mean you have to have one of the results in adulthood is

twice the rate of anxiety among those who spanked versus

those who haven't, you know, they're just a number of factors

that show up in the literature and that study incidentally

was done in Canada with almost 6,000 adults.

I don't there's a have a question of if it's a question or

comment or statement but I teach a summer class here on campus

and of course when we talk about child welfare, the issue

of spanking always comes up and I'm surprised personally

surprised at how the students seem to err on the side of

removal. You know, maybe it speaks to age and maturity and

they a lot of them have not had a lot of experience in child

welfare or any experience for that matter, but kind of go

in the direction of you know removal in that just alarms

me. You know, I think as you mentioned young students without

a lot of experience may not be aware of the trauma that is

associated how traumatic an event that is associated with

removal particularly.

When we look at that the greatest percentage of children

who are removed are between the ages of 0 and 5.

So the vast majority of children are quite Young Can have

a serious impact?

So we have another comment.

Our County does not have a policy regarding physical punishment,

but we inform parents of their legal rights and when corporal

punishment crosses the line and I think we generally advised

of other more effective methods.

However, this makes me realize that we have no standard for

what each social worker shares in the field.

It is probably very important my personal experiences reviews.

I like that comment a lot and to me it reminds me of the

slide when people assess their own competence and how how

comfortable the participants in this research felt in terms

of their level of knowledge and expertise and and comfort

level with counseling parents about different forms of discipline.

And as far as I can tell it's primarily since since their

responses to actual Knowledge Questions were quite low.

It actually suggests that they're basing that information

on the fact that they were children and how they were disciplined

or strategies that their own parents used.

another comment It's important to address religious beliefs

as well regarding corporal punishment in important to provide

social workers with tools to counter parental practices,  
which are based in religion and provide research provide  
information about research findings.

There's an interesting book entitled the religious roots  
of corporal punishment, and I happened to be blocking on  
the author's name as the moment.

But it provides a historical overview of religions and some  
of the interpretations of spanking or corporal punishment  
and religion.

It's primarily based on a belief that when we are born we  
are born as you know, kind of slothful negative evil evil.

Fin in fact Marie Strauss's but Beat the Devil out of them  
when spanking was really the most significant method of child-rearing  
discipline that was part of the belief that you've literally  
got to beat the devil out of them.

Now we tend to have a much more benign view of children and

infants in this day and time and we don't you children as

inherently evil for the most part, so I think that that is

helping us change how you know how to bring out the optimum

in children how to help them really become all that they

can be and I'm just not sure that discipline using physical

pain is the best way to do that.

In fact many organizations including the American Pediatric

Association whereas their members are somewhat conflicted.

Terms of should there be spanking in the home.

They're very consistent in terms of a very strong policy

that spanking should not occur in the schools.

And that spanking is not a method that motivates children

to learn or you know, develop more self-esteem in fact the

reverse another comment to add to the previous discussion

is We do have a standard for parents involved in court-ordered

services, but my comment is geared more towards social workers

working with families involved in ER investigation on course.

Yeah, one of the interesting this is a bit tangential to

the to that last comment but one of the interesting things

that Sweden did I had mentioned earlier that child abuse

is not part of their if a child is killed.

It's part of the criminal code.

But if but for more normal, if you can call with that child

abuse, it's really it's in their family code and it triggers

Services as opposed to being punished.

One of the things that they did when they passed their law

was they sent a booklet out in the three major languages

spoken spoken in Sweden to all parents and it was it talked

about nonviolent discipline methods why those are better

how they help children how to implement them and ten years

after implementation of their law.

Rate of parenting parents who spank dropped to less than

10% So 90% of parents do not spank 10% did and what they

found was that those who did tended to be older parents and

male parents who were still holding on to the old ways and

and part of that then the generation of children who was

the first generation of children weird without spanking then

led to the research that demonstrates.

Just rated a pretty dramatic drop in terms of their juvenile

crime. Which I find interesting.

All right, are there any other questions responses to the

questions that are on the screen statements comments?

Could I ask specifically I'm really interested in.

if we were able to create more widespread training for child

welfare workers about physical punishment, what kinds of

things do the listeners here think should be incorporated

to help impact beliefs values and attitudes About physical

punishment know what would help shift people to less violent,

but equally effective methods and to help parents.

Think about what this thinking model.

You know that.

You know spanking you can find online that spanking can model.

It's an appropriate way to show displeasure.

It's an appropriate way to stop children from doing something.

So are there other other things that we can use instead that

the general public I'd adopt.

And while you are thinking about that Liz I want to look

at this comment here and I don't maybe it's speaks to some

things that could be included in training or not.

But it it's a question about how to balance the idea of respecting

culture at the same time or with discouraging corporal punishment.

You know, I think that this the whole focus of that then

becomes what kind of children do you want to rear?

What kind of traits and characteristics do you want your

children to have and that typically those values can influence

if you then tied those values to physical punishment, even

though that's been the activity that perhaps has historically

been used are those really?

The best methods to achieve what you want to have happen.

So I have an adult son and I hope that he is compassionate

that he is responsible.

You know that there are there are a number of traits that

I hope he has and then as I think about the type of human

being I want my son to be I want to be able to respect and

admire him and in fact I do.

What kinds of things can I do as a parent?

What strategies can I use as a parent to help him become

that person?

And I think that's a way that then people alter their own

activities or behaviors that still fit within their culture.

Again.

Our culture spanking has been like in European culture spanking

has traditionally been part of child-rearing but now 36 countries

spanking is no longer considered.

part of adequate or appropriate child rearing so it can be

done. I think it all really is based around values and understanding

the kinds of values and perhaps it's like a better way to

achieve those values.

Donna adds to that.

I think you have to discuss how cultural practices of discipline

can be addressed cross-culturally.

Okay, then to answer the question of what what to include

in trainings one person wrote incorporating incorporating

information about protective factors.

And possibly a parents.

at the training I think if the protective factors were talking

about are rearing children to feel yo to have high expectation

and to help them have a feeling of self-efficacy and that

they're significant individuals who can contribute to society.

I think that can those kinds of inclusions can help children

can help both parents decide.

To use to use other forms of discipline that maybe help children

achieve some of those protective factors.

All right.

Thank you everyone.

I'm conscious about the time that one went to give Liz and

Lisa, maybe some final words before we conclude the webinar

and I see there's still a few slides left.

Well, we have two pages of of references and there are many

many more so because we had limited room so if anyone is

interested in having additional References sources of information

on corporal punishment of children if they want to look at

what is happening internationally.

The best website is probably the global initiative to end

all corporal punishment of children, which is it was initiated

out of Sweden and now has multiple partners and tracks different countries and publishes issues and Minutes about the effects of spanking children in the whole move to nonviolent discipline methods. I want to reinforce that.

I think children need discipline.

We are not anti discipline.

We are very Pro disciplined.

We like however to go back to the court that you know, the root word of discipline, which is the same root word in disciple, which has to do about teaching and learning and that we want to separate that from punishment which has to do with pain and retribution that we believe that Parents can discipline their children without using violence.

And in other words, they will model to their children that

problem-solving showing displeasure doesn't have to be violent.

In fact, they model to their children nonviolent methods

in terms of resolving issues and problems and that we would

like to see a less violent country in I'm sure we all know.

Know that the United States is one of the most violent countries

in terms of developed countries in the world.

So we'd like to change that Dynamic and we think that child

welfare workers being on the front lines really have a way

to have the capacity to influence parents so that we do raise

children who are more fulfilled who are more compassionate

people. And who are more productive in society?

Okay.

Thank you Liz in Lisa on that note.

I'd like to give a very special thank you to our presenters.

Dr.

Elizabeth Brashear and Lisa bulbs for their informative and  
provocative presentation.

I'd also like to say thank you to our attendees for your  
your interest in for your depth and breadth of comments and  
questions. I'd like to encourage you to visit the cows like  
website and take a look at this webinar.

I will be posting it posting it on the council website maybe  
within about a week and encourage you to forward to others  
who you think may be interested in in this in the other webinars  
that are on our website.

So this concludes this webinar and have a great day.

Thank you to everyone.

Thank you.

Bye.