



Corporal Punishment by Parents:

Links to Criminal Behaviour of University Students in 32 Nations

Professor Murray Straus

Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

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Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Parents smack children to correct misbehaviour. They also believe it will make them more law-abiding citizens. However, the theoretical bases for expecting the opposite – that corporal punishment increases the probability of crime – will be presented. Previous empirical research to test that theory will be summarized. Then the results of testing the theory using data on 17,404 university students in 32 nations will be presented, including whether the results apply to both men and women, to both economically developing and developed nations, and to children whose parents are also high in “positive parenting” (nurturing, helping, and monitoring). Implications for crime prevention and crime trends will be suggested.

Murray A. Straus is Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire, USA. He is a former president the National Council on Family Relations and two other U.S. scientific societies, and has published many articles on family violence. His books include: *The Primordial Violence: Corporal Punishment by Parents, Cognitive Development, and Crime* (Psychology Press, forthcoming), *Behind Closed Doors: Violence In The American Family* (2nd Ed. Transaction, 2006), *Corporal Punishment of Children In Theoretical Perspective* (Yale, 2005), *Beating the Devil out of Them: Corporal Punishment in American Families And Its Effects on Children* (2nd Ed, Transaction, 2001).

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If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on:

jf225@cam.ac.uk