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.

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