

SMACKING POLL December 2019

- CLIENT:** Family First New Zealand
- POLL DATES:** Wed 27 November to Sun 1 December 2019. The median response was collected on Thu 28 November 2019.
- TARGET POPULATION:** Eligible New Zealand voters.
- SAMPLE POPULATION:** Eligible New Zealand voters who are contactable on a landline or mobile phone.
- SAMPLE SIZE:** 1,000 respondents agreed to participate.
- SAMPLE SELECTION:** A random selection of 15,000 nationwide phone numbers.
- WEIGHTING:** The results are weighted to reflect the overall voting adult population in terms of gender, age, area and deprivation.
- SAMPLE ERROR:** Based on this sample of 1,000 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.1%, at the 95% confidence level.
- CODE COMPLIANCE:** This poll was conducted in accordance with the Research Association New Zealand Code of Practice and the International Chamber of Commerce/European Society for Opinion and Market Research Code on Market and Social Research.

This survey is about the law often called the anti-smacking law. In 2007 Parliament passed a law that removes a defence of reasonable force for parents who smack a child to correct their behaviour, but states the Police have discretion not to prosecute if they consider the offence was inconsequential.

Do you think the anti-smacking law has caused a decline in discipline amongst young children?

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline

		Count	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	505	51%
	No	326	33%
	Unsure/Refuse	154	16%
	Total	985	100%

51% of respondents say the anti-smacking law has caused a decline in discipline amongst young children.

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	45%	58%
	No	39%	27%
	Unsure/Refuse	16%	15%
	Total	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	49%	52%	53%
	No	30%	35%	34%
	Unsure/Refuse	20%	13%	13%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline BY Area

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	47%	48%	62%
	No	33%	40%	26%
	Unsure/Refuse	19%	12%	12%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline BY Deprivation

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	50%	47%	60%
	No	34%	39%	22%
	Unsure/Refuse	16%	14%	17%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline BY Parent /Guardian of child under 12

		Parent /Guardian of child under 12	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	46%	53%
	No	39%	31%
	Unsure/Refuse	14%	16%
	Total	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law caused decline in discipline	Yes	64%	49%	67%	25%	69%	41%
	No	28%	35%	15%	51%	30%	36%
	Unsure/Refuse	8%	17%	18%	23%	1%	23%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

If you saw a parent smacking a child on their backside or hand, would you report it?

Would you report a parent who smacked a child

		Count	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	195	20%
	No	688	70%
	Unsure/Refuse	102	10%
	Total	985	100%

20% of respondents said they would report a parent who they saw smacking their child on their backside or hand, while 70% would not.

Would you report a parent who smacked a child BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	18%	22%
	No	73%	67%
	Unsure/Refuse	9%	12%
	Total	100%	100%

Would you report a parent who smacked a child BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	37%	11%	9%
	No	52%	79%	81%
	Unsure/Refuse	11%	10%	10%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

A large difference by age.

Would you report a parent who smacked a child BY Area

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	24%	19%	12%
	No	68%	70%	74%
	Unsure/Refuse	8%	12%	14%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Also significant differences by area.

Would you report a parent who smacked a child BY Deprivation

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	24%	20%	15%
	No	66%	68%	77%
	Unsure/Refuse	10%	12%	7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Those who live in the least deprived areas are most likely to report.

Would you report a parent who smacked a child BY Parent /Guardian of child under 12

		Parent /Guardian of child under 12	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	23%	19%
	No	70%	70%
	Unsure/Refuse	7%	11%
	Total	100%	100%

Would you report a parent who smacked a child BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you report a parent who smacked a child	Yes	13%	23%	5%	32%	14%	23%
	No	81%	65%	93%	64%	66%	63%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	12%	2%	3%	21%	14%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Are you aware of any families that have been negatively affected by the anti-smacking law?

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law

		Count	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	119	12%
	No	856	87%
	Unsure/Refuse	10	1%
	Total	985	100%

12% of respondents said they were aware of a family that had been negatively affected by the anti-smacking law.

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	9%	15%
	No	90%	84%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	1%
	Total	100%	100%

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	9%	15%	12%
	No	91%	84%	87%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	1%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law BY Area

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	12%	14%	11%
	No	88%	84%	87%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	2%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law BY Deprivation

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	11%	10%	16%
	No	89%	89%	82%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	1%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law BY Parent /Guardian of child under 12

		Parent /Guardian of child under 12	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	15%	11%
	No	84%	88%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	1%
	Total	100%	100%

Aware of any families negatively impacted by law BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Aware of any families negatively impacted by law	Yes	13%	9%	25%	0%	3%	17%
	No	86%	90%	71%	100%	97%	83%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	1%	4%	0%	0%	1%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Are you the parent or guardian of any children who are aged 12 years old or younger?

		Count	Col %
Parent /Guardian of child under 12	Yes	211	21%
	No	774	79%
	Unsure/Refuse	0	0%
	Total	985	100%

Since the law changed in 2007, have you smacked your child or children never, rarely, occasionally or frequently? (asked of parents of those aged under 12 only)

Frequency of smacking

		Count	Col %
Frequency of smacking	Never	130	62%
	Rarely	44	21%
	Occasionally	31	15%
	Frequently	0	0%
	Unsure/Refuse	6	3%
	Total	211	100%

36% say that despite the law, they have occasionally or rarely smacked their child.

Frequency of smacking BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Frequency of smacking	Never	57%	65%
	Rarely	27%	16%
	Occasionally	10%	19%
	Frequently	0%	0%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	0%
	Total	100%	100%

Frequency of smacking BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Frequency of smacking	Never	72%	50%	38%
	Rarely	24%	18%	3%
	Occasionally	4%	26%	48%
	Frequently	0%	0%	0%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	6%	11%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Frequency of smacking BY Area

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Frequency of smacking	Never	74%	39%	60%
	Rarely	6%	40%	28%
	Occasionally	18%	13%	11%
	Frequently	0%	0%	0%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	9%	1%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Frequency of smacking BY Deprivation

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Frequency of smacking	Never	63%	66%	56%
	Rarely	27%	24%	10%
	Occasionally	10%	7%	29%
	Frequently	0%	0%	0%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	3%	5%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Frequency of smacking BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Frequency of smacking	Never	59%	55%	28%	46%	0%	78%
	Rarely	19%	20%	0%	54%	100%	14%
	Occasionally	20%	20%	72%	0%	0%	5%
	Frequently	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	5%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Has the anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent when dealing with unacceptable behaviour from your child? (asked of parents of those aged under 12 only)

Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?

		Count	Col %
Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?	Yes	36	17%
	No	175	83%
	Unsure/Refuse	1	0%
	Total	211	100%

17% of parents said the anti-smacking law has made them less confident as a parent.

Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent? BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?	Yes	12%	21%
	No	88%	79%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	0%
	Total	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent? BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?	Yes	13%	20%	44%
	No	87%	80%	49%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	0%	7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent? BY Area

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?	Yes	24%	12%	9%
	No	76%	86%	91%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	1%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent? BY Deprivation

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?	Yes	10%	17%	23%
	No	90%	82%	77%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	1%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent? BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Has anti-smacking law made you less confident as a parent?	Yes	27%	16%	0%	0%	0%	15%
	No	73%	84%	100%	100%	100%	84%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Has your child ever said they would tell authorities like a teacher, social worker or the police if you smacked them? (asked of parents of those aged under 12 only)

Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?

		Count	Col %
Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?	Yes	45	22%
	No	160	77%
	Unsure/Refuse	2	1%
	Total	207	100%

22% of parents said their child had said they would report them to the authorities if their parents smacked them.

Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them? BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?	Yes	20%	23%
	No	80%	74%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	2%
	Total	100%	100%

Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them? BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?	Yes	13%	33%	7%
	No	87%	66%	75%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	1%	18%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them? BY Area

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?	Yes	18%	26%	24%
	No	81%	74%	75%
	Unsure/Refuse	1%	0%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them? BY Deprivation

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?	Yes	26%	20%	19%
	No	74%	78%	79%
	Unsure/Refuse	0%	1%	2%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them? BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Has child ever threatened you to report you if you smack them?	Yes	21%	21%	0%	0%	100%	27%
	No	75%	79%	100%	100%	0%	73%
	Unsure/Refuse	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Despite the law, would you smack your child to correct their behaviour, if you believed it was reasonable to do so? (all respondents)

Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so

		Count	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	488	50%
	No	434	45%
	Unsure/Refuse	50	5%
	Total	972	100%

50% of respondents said that despite the law they would smack their child to correct their behaviour if reasonable to do so.

Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	49%	51%
	No	47%	42%
	Unsure/Refuse	4%	7%
	Total	100%	100%

Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	35%	58%	60%
	No	62%	36%	34%
	Unsure/Refuse	4%	6%	6%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so
BY Area**

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	45%	49%	63%
	No	50%	45%	34%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	6%	3%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so BY
Deprivation**

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	41%	49%	63%
	No	56%	44%	33%
	Unsure/Refuse	4%	7%	4%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so
BY Parent /Guardian of child under 12**

		Parent /Guardian of child under 12	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	48%	51%
	No	45%	44%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	5%
	Total	100%	100%

Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Would you smack your child if you believed reasonable to do so	Yes	66%	42%	84%	19%	63%	43%
	No	28%	55%	10%	78%	30%	50%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	3%	6%	3%	8%	7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do you think the anti-smacking law should be changed to state explicitly that parents who give their children a smack that is reasonable and for the purpose of correction are not breaking the law?

Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking

		Count	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	595	61%
	No	276	28%
	Unsure/Refuse	106	11%
	Total	976	100%

61% of respondents support a law change to allow for reasonable correctional smacking with only 28% opposed.

Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	56%	66%
	No	31%	25%
	Unsure/Refuse	12%	9%
	Total	100%	100%

Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	50%	67%	68%
	No	39%	22%	22%
	Unsure/Refuse	12%	11%	9%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking
BY Area**

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	55%	65%	70%
	No	35%	20%	23%
	Unsure/Refuse	10%	16%	7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking BY
Deprivation**

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	56%	55%	77%
	No	32%	31%	18%
	Unsure/Refuse	12%	14%	5%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional
smacking BY Parent /Guardian of child under 12**

		Parent /Guardian of child under 12	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	44%	66%
	No	42%	24%
	Unsure/Refuse	14%	10%
	Total	100%	100%

Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Should law be changed to allow reasonable correctional smacking	Yes	79%	55%	86%	35%	69%	49%
	No	18%	34%	7%	51%	4%	34%
	Unsure/Refuse	4%	12%	7%	14%	27%	17%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

If a political party promised that amending the law to allow light correctional smacking was a non-negotiable policy at the next general election, would that make you more likely to vote for them, or less likely, or make no difference to your likely vote?

Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law

		Count	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	196	20%
	Less likely	169	17%
	No difference	562	58%
	Unsure/Refuse	49	5%
	Total	976	100%

20% of respondents are more likely to vote for a party promising to amend the anti-smacking law and 17% less likely, so overall a net +3% more likely.

Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	18%	22%
	Less likely	21%	14%
	No difference	55%	60%
	Unsure/Refuse	5%	5%
	Total	100%	100%

Women are a net -3% and men a net +8%

Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law BY Age

		Age		
		18 - 40	41 - 60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	18%	21%	22%
	Less likely	23%	16%	13%
	No difference	54%	60%	59%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	3%	7%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law
BY Area**

		Area		
		Metro	Provincial	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	16%	23%	26%
	Less likely	16%	23%	14%
	No difference	63%	52%	51%
	Unsure/Refuse	4%	2%	9%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

**Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law BY
Deprivation**

		Deprivation		
		Deciles 1 - 3	Deciles 4 - 7	Deciles 8 - 10
		Col %	Col %	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	17%	16%	31%
	Less likely	20%	18%	12%
	No difference	61%	58%	53%
	Unsure/Refuse	3%	8%	3%
	Total	100%	100%	100%

A big difference by deprivation. Those in least deprived areas are a net -3%, moderately deprived areas a net -2% and those in most deprived areas a net +19%

**Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law
BY Parent /Guardian of child under 12**

		Parent /Guardian of child under 12	
		Yes	No
		Col %	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	23%	19%
	Less likely	15%	18%
	No difference	57%	58%
	Unsure/Refuse	6%	5%
	Total	100%	100%

Parents are a net +8% more likely to vote for a party promising to amend the law.

Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law BY Party Vote 2017

		Party Vote 2017					
		National	Labour	NZ First	Greens	Others	Not Vote/Unsure
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Vote impact for party that promises to amend anti-smacking law	More likely	32%	18%	29%	9%	6%	11%
	Less likely	10%	25%	4%	47%	17%	13%
	No difference	56%	52%	52%	43%	44%	71%
	Unsure/Refuse	3%	5%	15%	1%	33%	5%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Net more likely is +22% for National voters, -7% Labour, +25% NZ First and -39% Greens.

MARGINS OF ERROR

The following maximum sampling margin of errors apply for each demographic group:

- All 3.1%
- Women 4.0%
- Men 5.0%
- Under 40s 10.4%
- 41 to 60 5.3%
- Over 60s 4.1%
- Metro 5.0%
- Provincial 6.1%
- Rural 5.2%
- Deciles 1 to 3 6.5%
- Deciles 4 to 7 4.0%
- Deciles 8 to 10 7.6%
- Parent of under 12 8.8%
- Non-Parent 3.3%
- National voters 5.3%
- Labour voters 5.3%
- NZ First voters 15.1%
- Green voters 18.2%
- Unsure voters 6.6%

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