

Cross-national data on child maltreatment, policy and legislation across the OECD

Expert consultation

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www.oecd.org/els/social/family/

www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter

Outline

What we know:

More and better data is needed to have a clear picture

- Literature review
- Indicators – « tip of the iceberg »
- Administrative data
- Policies
- Data framework – criteria and instruments

Literature

- Risk factors :
 - Parent and child characteristics
 - Parenting behaviours
 - Socio-economic status, material deprivation *
- Consequences :
 - Health-related problems (physical and mental)
 - Criminal behaviour
 - Attempted suicide, ...

Evidence scant due to data limitations

Attitudes towards spanking children

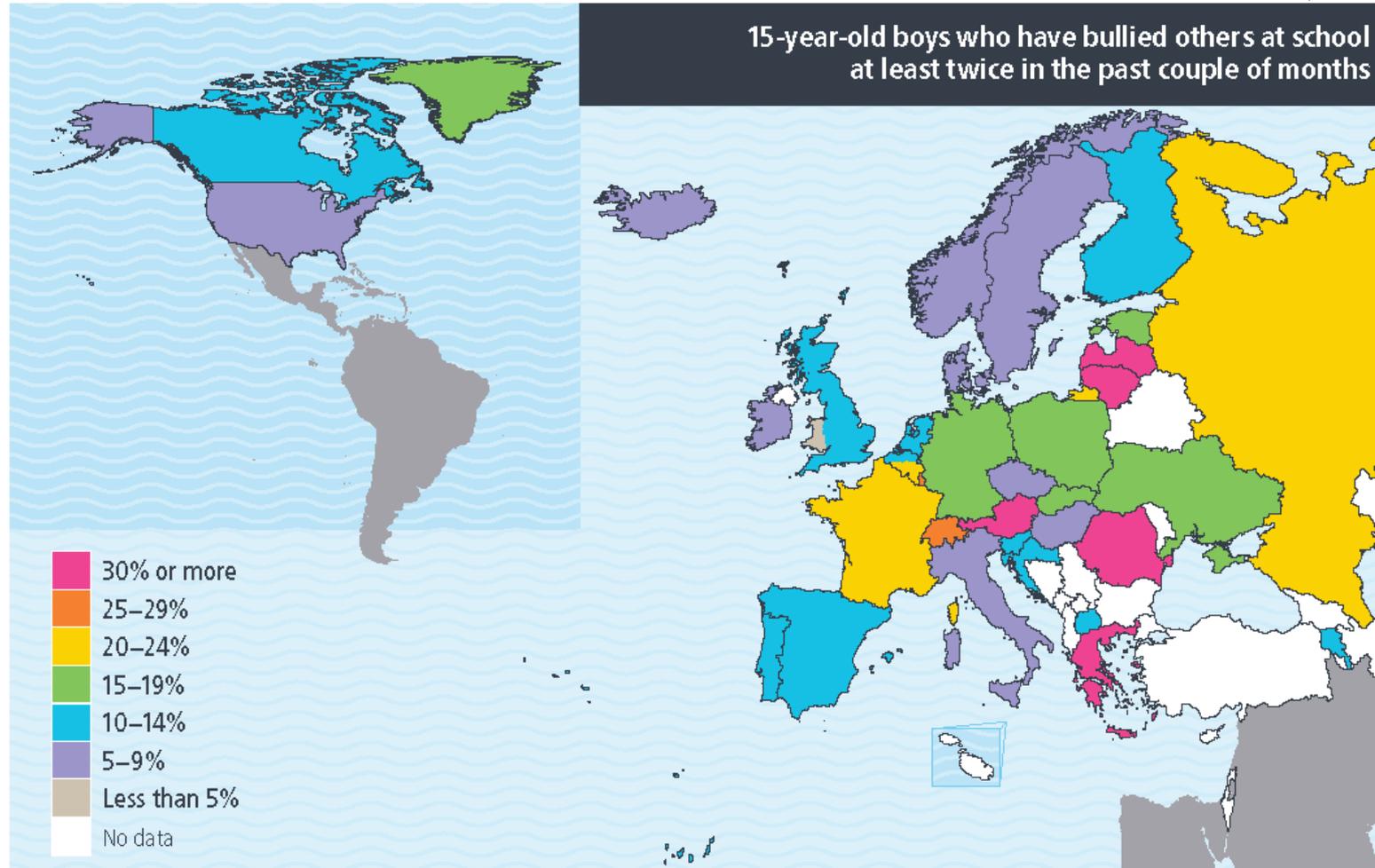
	Year	Acceptable	Unacceptable / Never acceptable
Australia ¹	2006	41% smacking is effective in shaping children's behaviour; 69% agreed sometimes necessary to smack a naughty child	
Austria			
Belgium	2004	77% acceptable for parents to smack their children (17% always acceptable and 60% in some circumstances)	19% unacceptable in any circumstances
Canada	2004	64% support use of force such as spanking by parents to discipline a child	
Finland	2007	25% acceptable physical discipline of children at least in exceptional situations	
Ireland	1999	45% agreed with the statement "I see nothing wrong with slapping a child who misbehaves"	
Italy	2004	69% acceptable for parents to smack their children (7% always acceptable and 62% in some circumstances).	25% unacceptable in any circumstances
Sweden	1999	10% support corporal punishment	
UK	2003	10% always acceptable to smack a child 50% acceptable in some circumstances	40% never acceptable to smack a child
US	2002	65% approved of spanking children	

Prevalence of corporal punishment

	Year	
Australia ¹	2007	71% smacked their children occasionally; 43% were likely or very likely to use a single smack as a punishment
Canada	2002	50% of parents reported they had “inflicted light corporal punishment, like a slap” on their children; 6% reported they had “inflicted painful corporal punishment”.
Chile	2002	Mothers report using physical punishment as follows: 51% spanked buttocks with hand, 39% shook child, 27% twisted ear, 24% pulled hair, 18% hit with object on buttocks, 13% slapped face or head, 12% hit with knuckles, 3% pinched child.
Denmark	2000	12% of 3 year-olds were spanked "sometimes" or "seldom"
France	1999	51% of parents hit children often, 33% hit them rarely, and only 16% had never hit them.
Mexico	2003	55% of mothers and 29% of fathers reported using physical discipline
UK	1998-2001	58% of parents use minor physical punishment (slapping and smacking) during the past year. 9% used severe physical punishment in the last year.
US	1999	Mothers report using physical punishment as follows: 47% spanked buttocks with hand, 9% shook child, 21% hi child with object on buttocks, 4% slapped face or head, 5% pinched child.

Data on bullying among 15-year olds

HBSC survey 2009/2010

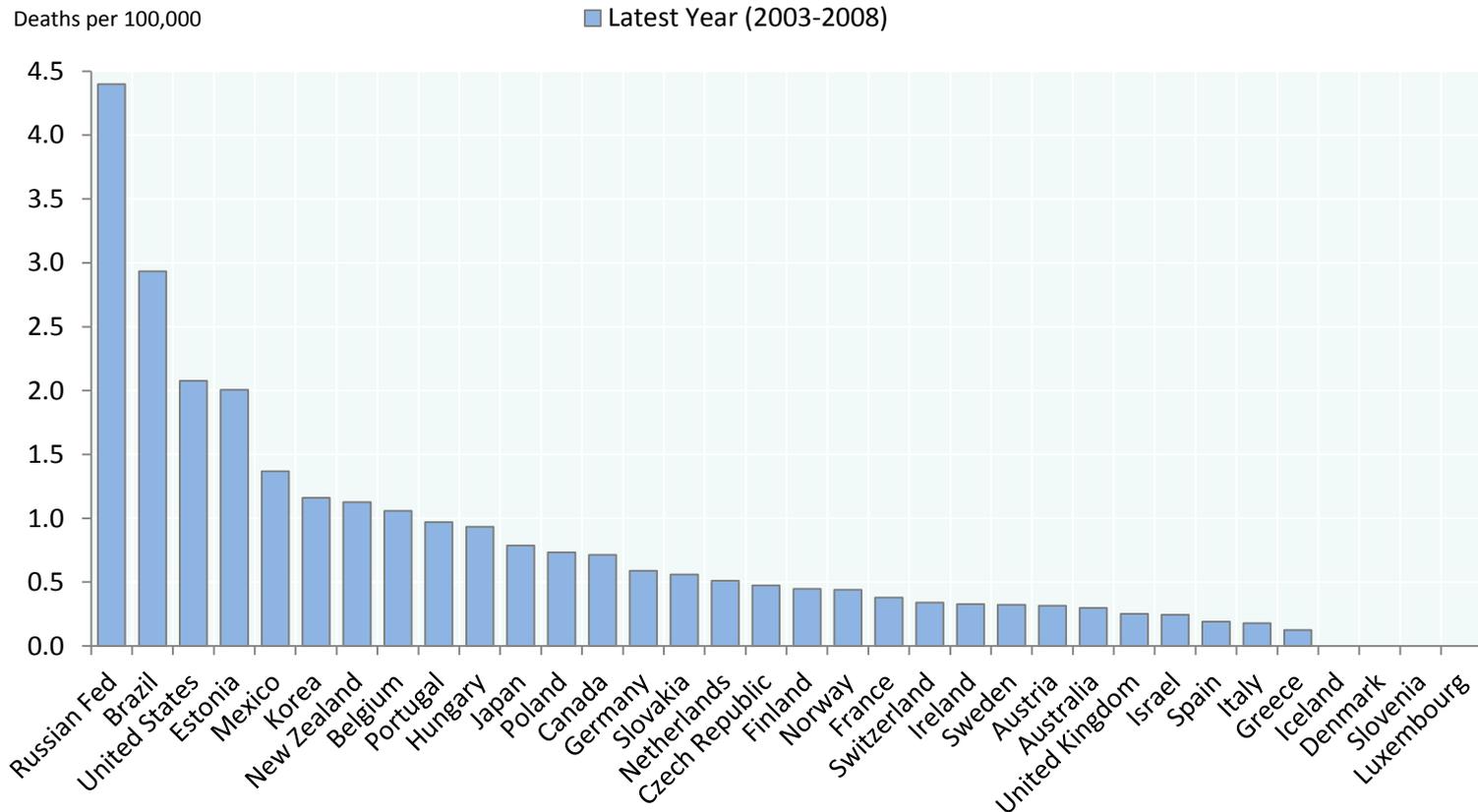


Note. HBSC teams provided disaggregated data for Belgium and the United Kingdom; these data appear in the map above.

Iceberg indicators

In most OECD countries, child mortality is very rare

Deaths due to intentional injury, death rates per 100 000 children aged 0-14, most recent year



Yet, substantial number of deaths despite under-reporting

Child annual deaths to negligence, maltreatment or physical assault, children 0-19 years old, 2006-2008 (or most recent year).

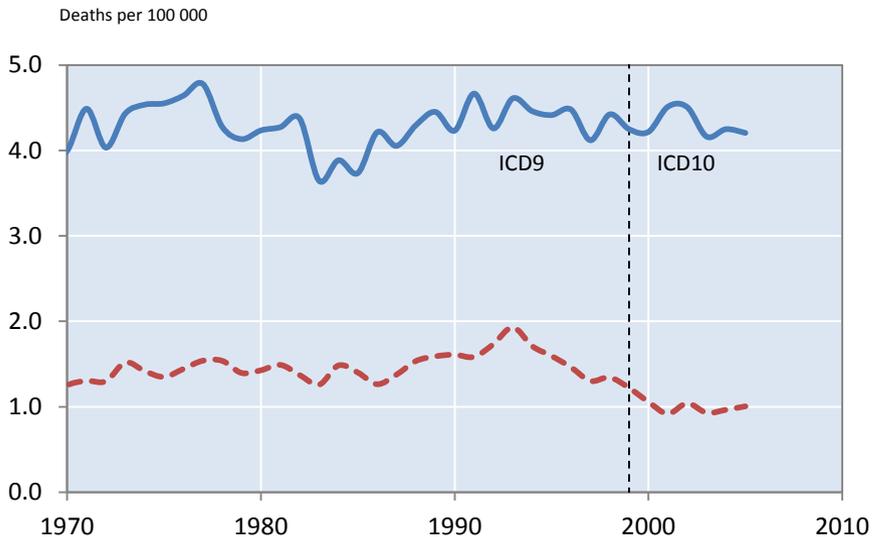
	Average annual child deaths due to negligence, maltreatment or assault	Average annual child deaths due to negligence, maltreatment or assault occurring at home	% occurring at home
US	2991	1350	45,1
Mexico	1207	269	22,3
Western Europe ⁴	177	92	51,8
Anglo-phone countries ¹	141	27	18,9
Asian countries ²	115	72	62,6
Eastern Europe ⁶	97	57	58,8
Southern Europe ⁵	63	12	18,6
Nordic countries ³	21	0	0,0

Source: WHO Mortality database, 2010.

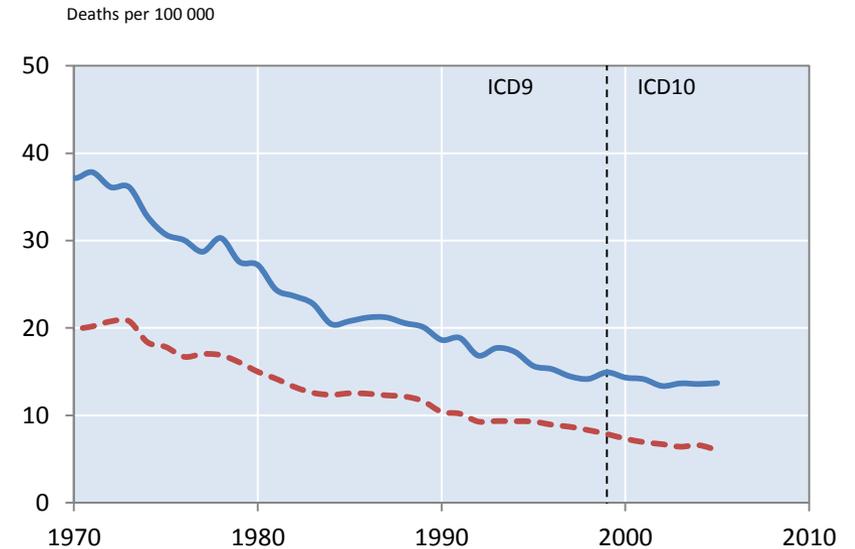
Around **5,000** annual deaths across OECD

Child mortality rates have declined since 1970s

US: deaths due to maltreatment



US: deaths due to accidental injury



However, after crisis, some evidence that child maltreatment has increased

Administrative data

- Expenditure – not disaggregated
- Out-of-home placements
- Notification rates

Policies: about half of OECD countries have abolished corporal punishment

Country	Year of introduction	Country	Year of introduction
Australia ¹	-	Korea	-
Austria	1989	Luxembourg	2008
Belgium	-	Mexico	-
Canada ²	-	Netherlands	2007
Chile	-	New Zealand	2007
Czech Republic	-	Norway	1987
Denmark	1997	Poland ⁴	-
Estonia	-	Portugal	2007
Finland	1983	Slovak Rep	-
France	-	Slovenia	-
Germany	2000	Spain	2007
Greece	2006	Sweden	1979
Hungary	2004	Switzerland	-
Iceland	2003	Turkey	-
Ireland	-	United Kingdom	-
Italy ³	1996	United States	-
Japan	-		

Source: http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/progress/prohib_states.html,

Policies: Child Protection Systems

- Protection against child abuse and neglect is a policy goal of all OECD countries
- Child protection systems exist in all industrialised countries, but differ in nature, objectives, definitions
- Typology: dualistic and holistic

Data framework

- Criteria for selection of indicators:
 - Child (and not family) unit of analysis, disaggregated by age and sex
 - Indicators should use similar definitions across and within countries to be comparable (type of actions or omissions; threshold of severity, time-frame)
 - Indicators should be easy to update to monitor progress
 - Indicators need to be policy focused

Data framework

- Instruments:
 - International surveys
 - National surveys on violence (NIS in the US)
 - Local informants

- Rationale for increasing efforts in this area:

- Equity

- Efficiency - 1% of GDP

- From child saving to child well-being.

More information

- Maria.HUERTA@oecd.org
- OECD Family Database
www.oecd.org/social/family/database
- OECD Child Well-being Module
www.oecd.org/social/family/database/CWBM
- OECD (2011), Doing Better for Families
www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter
- OECD (2009), Doing Better for Children
www.oecd.org/els/social/childwellbeing

