

The Connection Between Corporal and Capital Punishment

Research Questions

- Is the favoring of corporal punishment (spanking) a significant predictor of favoring the use of capital punishment (death penalty)?
- Does sex influence an individual's favorability towards either form of punishment?

Background

- The effectiveness of corporal punishment is doubted, thus discouraged by the American Academy of Pediatrics (Sege & Siegel, 2008).
- In 2012, more than 70% of parents in the U.S. agreed it is necessary to spank children on occasion (Cuddy & Reeves, 2016).
- In 2018, it was found that 54% of Americans favored the death penalty for the crime of murder (Oliphant).
- The use of Capital Punishment is generally favored more as a last resort, according to recent study (Sandys and McGarrell, 2015).

Hypotheses

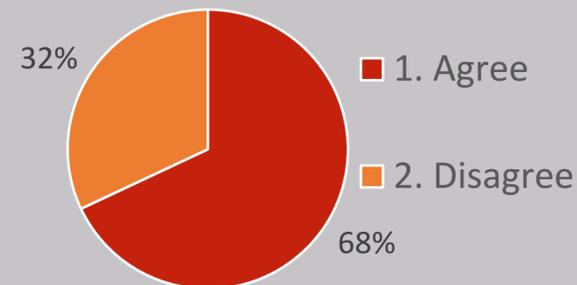
- There will be a positive relationship between those who favor corporal punishment of children and capital punishment.
- Males will favor both corporal and capital punishment at a higher percentage than females.

Data

- 2018 General Social Survey (GSS).
- Adults aged 18 and older.

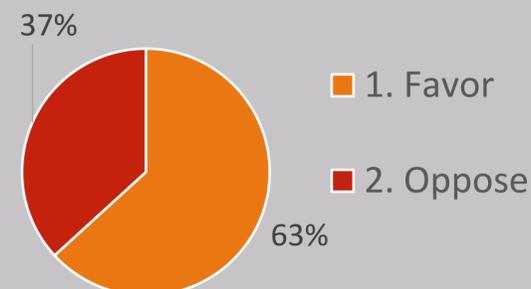
Independent Variable

Favor Spanking to Discipline Child?



Dependent Variable

Favor or Oppose Death Penalty for Murder?



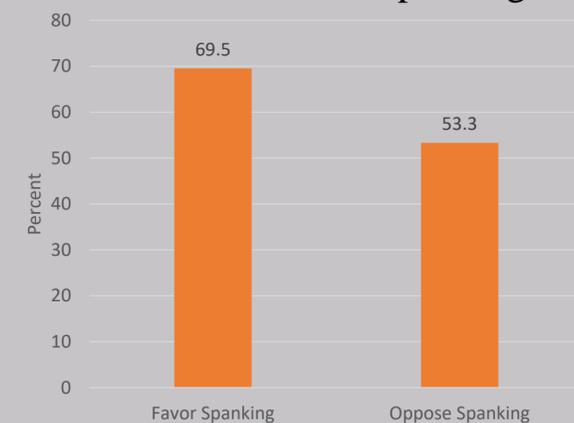
Control Variable

Respondent Sex?

- 55% Female
- 45% Male

Bivariate Results

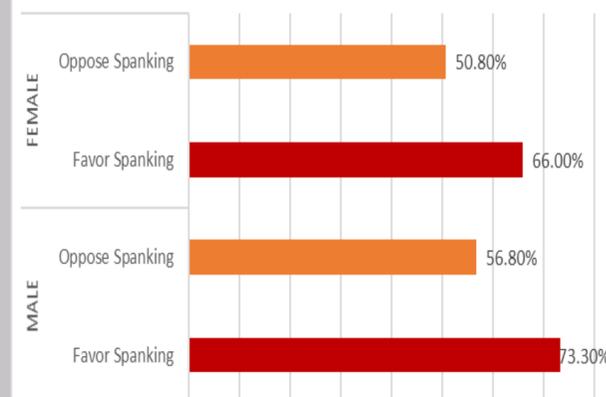
Favoring Death Penalty by Attitudes Toward Spanking



Note: Chi-Squared test is significant at $p < 0.001$.

Multivariate Results

% Who Favor Death Penalty by Favor Use of Spanking and Sex



Note: Chi-Squared test is significant at $p < 0.001$.

Findings

- There is a positive relationship between the a person favoring corporal punishment and favoring capital punishment.
- Males as a whole are more likely to favor corporal punishment or capital punishment than females.

Limitations

- Not having data regarding opinions on other forms of punishment.
- Respondents may not necessarily be parents.

Future Research

- Looking at the societal causes of favorable attitudes towards corporal and capital punishment.
- Understanding the other attitudes towards other forms of punishment.

References

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- Sandys, M., & McGarrell, E. (1995). Attitudes Toward Capital Punishment: Preference for the Penalty or Mere Acceptance? Retrieved November 4, 2019, from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/>