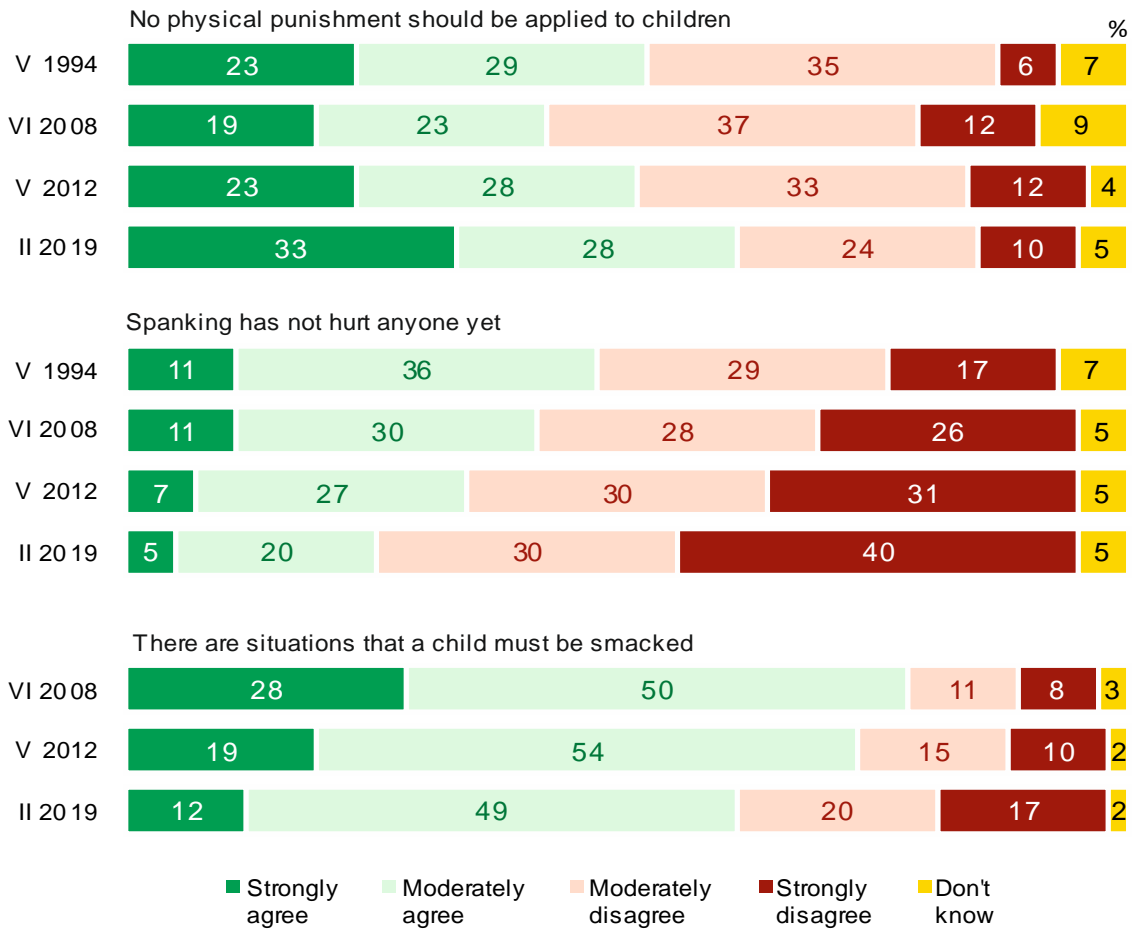


Domestic violence against children

Almost nine years ago, the amendment to the law on counteracting domestic violence added to the family code an article prohibiting parents and guardians of children from using corporal punishment. Beating a child, if it has not caused bodily injury, does not have criminal consequences, but it may constitute grounds for limiting or removing parental authority.

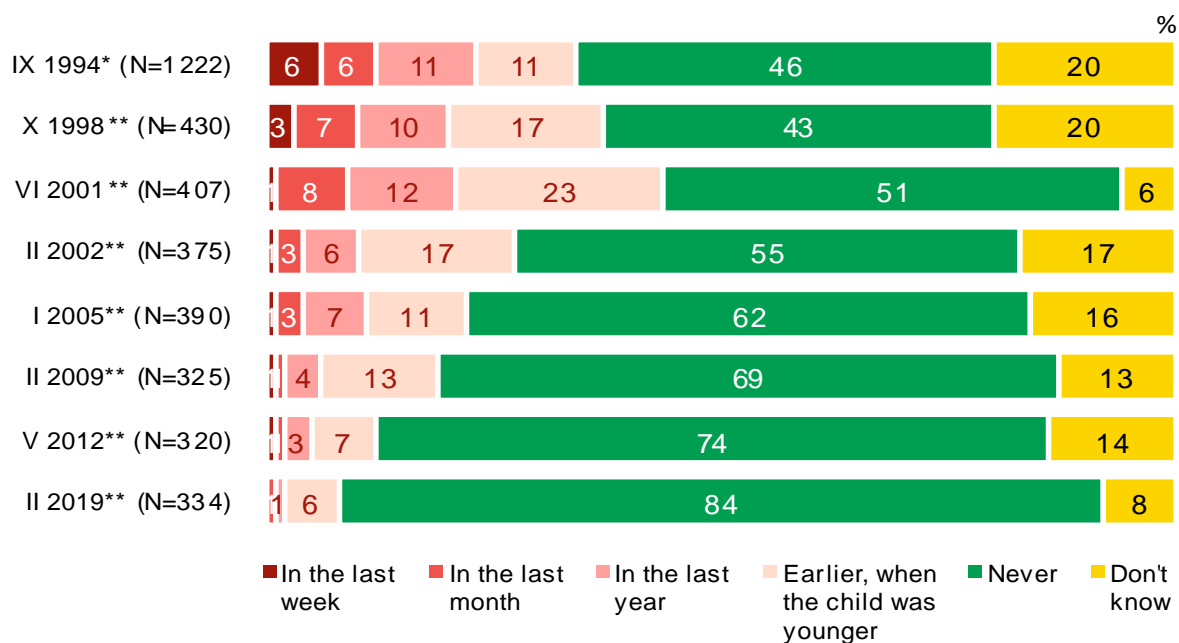
Over the past seven years, disapproval of physical punishment has strengthened. Not only do more people than in 2012 believe that corporal punishment should not be applied to children (an increase of 10 percentage points, to 61%), but also there is stronger opposition to both spanking (increase from 61% to 70%), and smacking (increase from 25% to 37%). The percentage of adults accepting physical punishment has fallen to 34% (a decrease by 11 points). At present, 25% (an 11-point decrease) agree with the opinion that spanking has not harmed anyone yet, while 61% (a decrease by 12 points) think that there are situations in which you have to give a child a slap. While most Poles do not approve of corporal punishment, especially stronger beating (spanking), they still generally approve of light slapping, though less often than before.

Do you agree with the following statements?



In recent years, we have observed a gradual decrease in the scale of corporal punishment. Since 2001, the percentage of people admitting giving it has fallen from 44% to 8%, while the proportion of those who did it in the year preceding the survey fell from 21% to 2%. It should be borne in mind that decreasing acceptance of corporal punishment, as well as the ban on beating children, are not only likely to reduce the real scale of the phenomenon, but may also discourage some respondents from disclosing such behaviour.

When was the last time your child got a good spanking?



Declarations of persons with children up to 19 years of age.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Domestic Violence against Children", April 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2019, N=968. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.