



# Findings of International Research on Law Reform

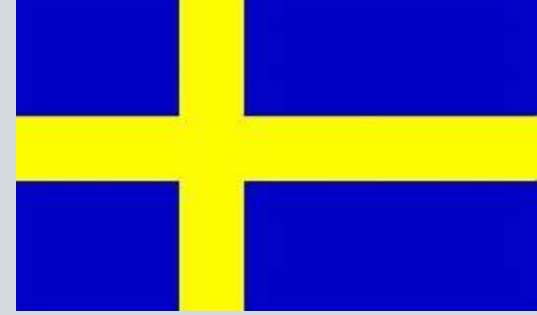
Joan E. Durrant, PhD  
University of Manitoba  
Canada

# Sweden



1957: Criminal defense repealed

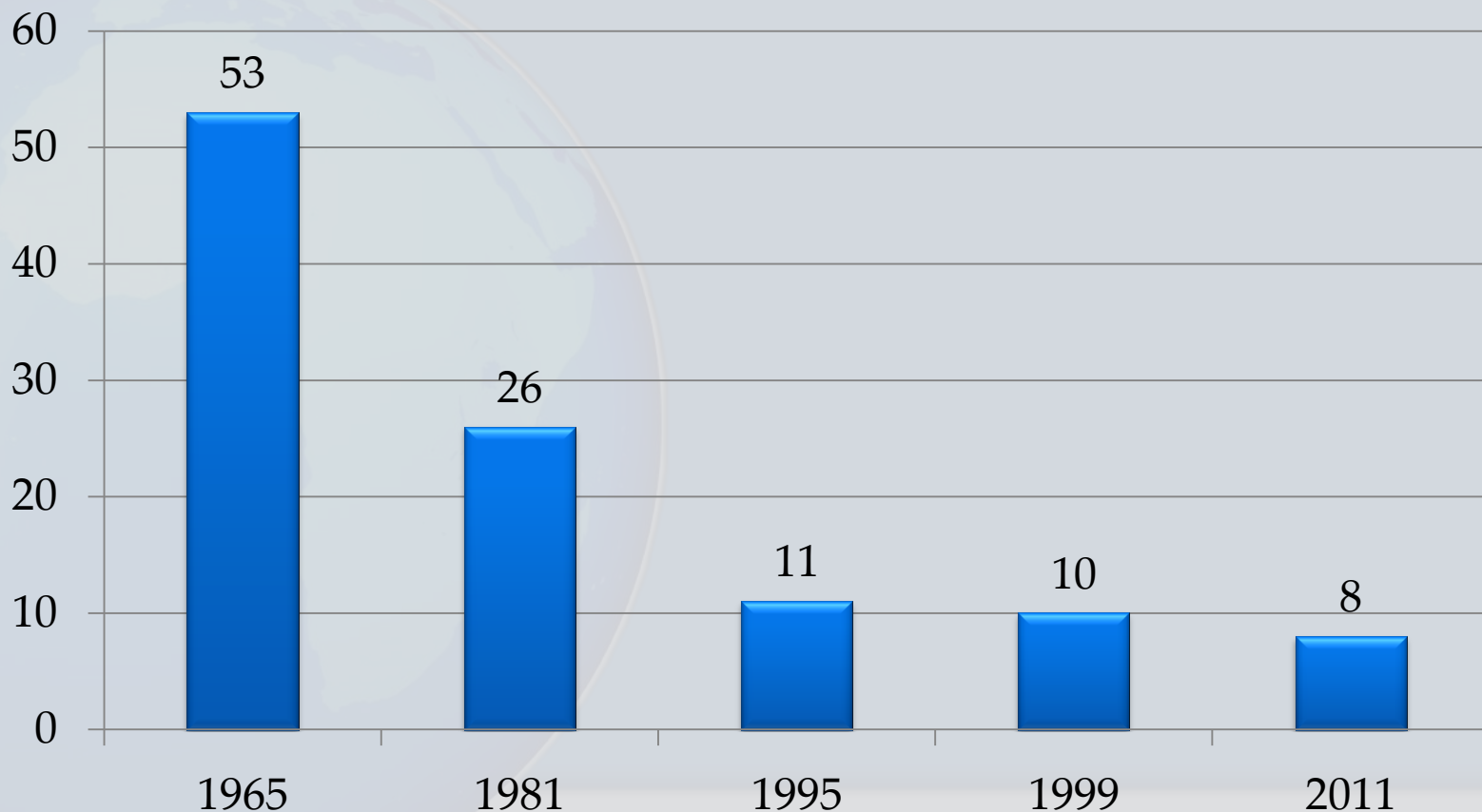
1979: Prohibited in all settings

A large, semi-transparent globe is positioned on the left side of the slide, showing the continents of North and South America. The globe is rendered in shades of blue and white, with a soft glow around it.

# **Trends in Attitudes toward Physical Punishment**



## Percentages of adults approving of physical punishment

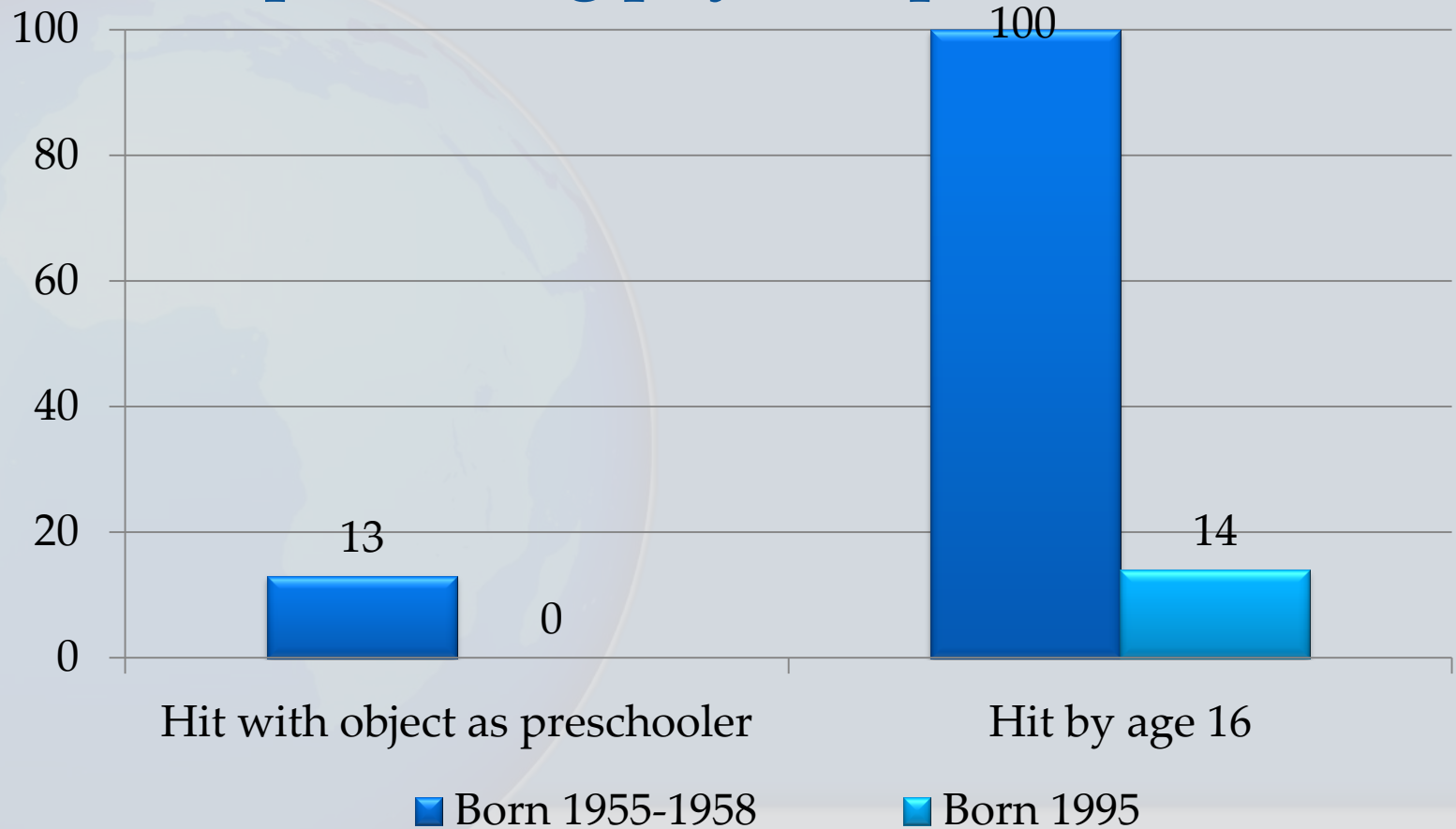


Swedish Opinion Research Surveys (1981); Statistics Sweden (1996); Janson et al. (2011)



# Trends in Parenting Practices

# Percentages of children experiencing physical punishment



Klackenburg (1981); Statistics Sweden (1996)

# Germany: 2000



A large, semi-transparent globe is positioned on the left side of the slide, showing the continents of Africa and Europe. It is partially obscured by a light blue vertical bar.

# **Trends in Attitudes toward Physical Punishment**



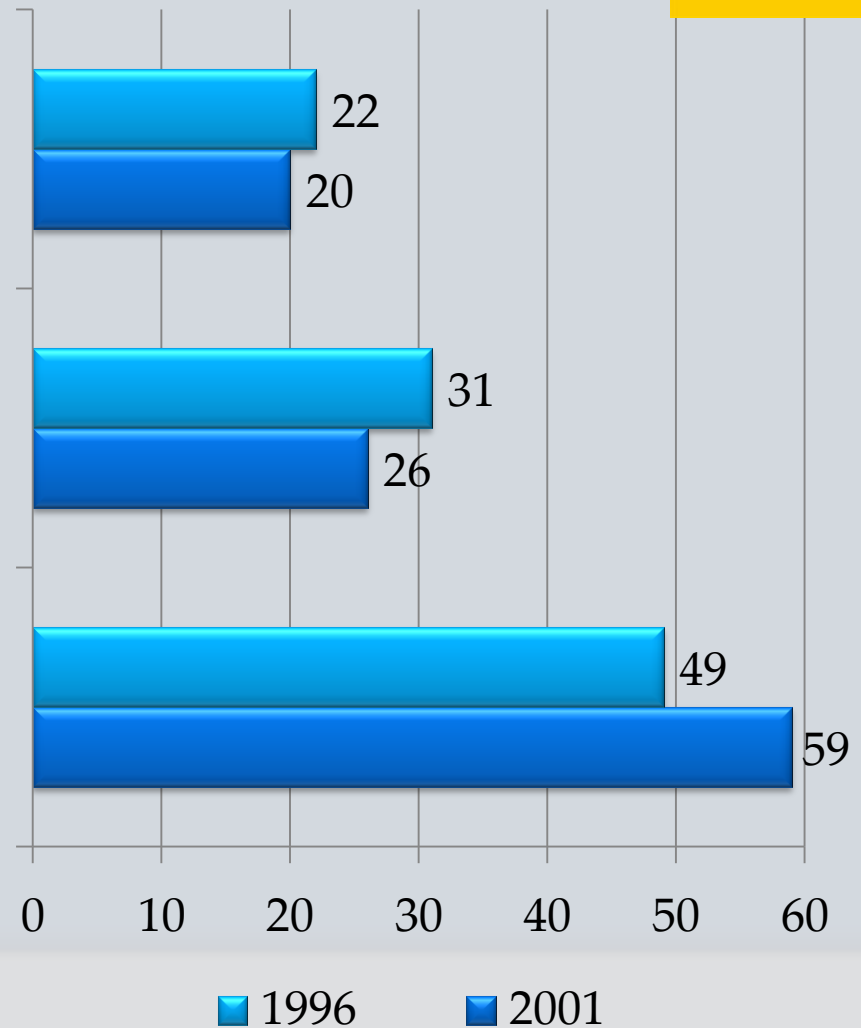
# Percentage of parents agreeing that ...



Slapping is sometimes the best or easiest way

Slaps make children see reason

Smacking teaches children to accept violence

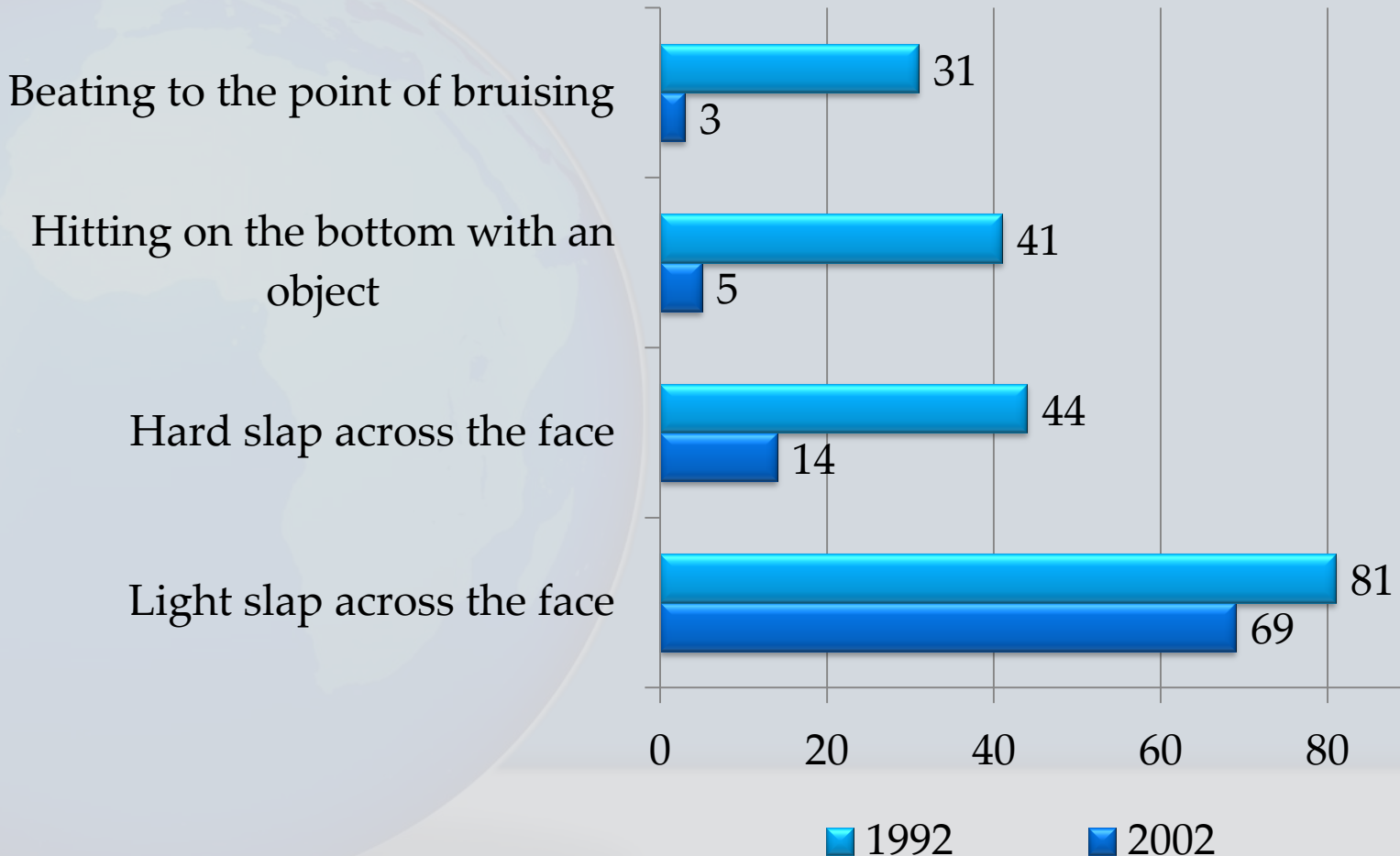


Bussman (2004)

A large, semi-transparent globe is centered on the left side of the slide. It shows the continents of Africa and Europe in a light blue tone, with the oceans in a darker blue. The globe is partially obscured by a white vertical bar on the left and a white horizontal bar at the bottom.

# Trends in Parenting Practices

# Percentage of youth reporting that they had ever experienced various physical punishments



Bussman (2004)

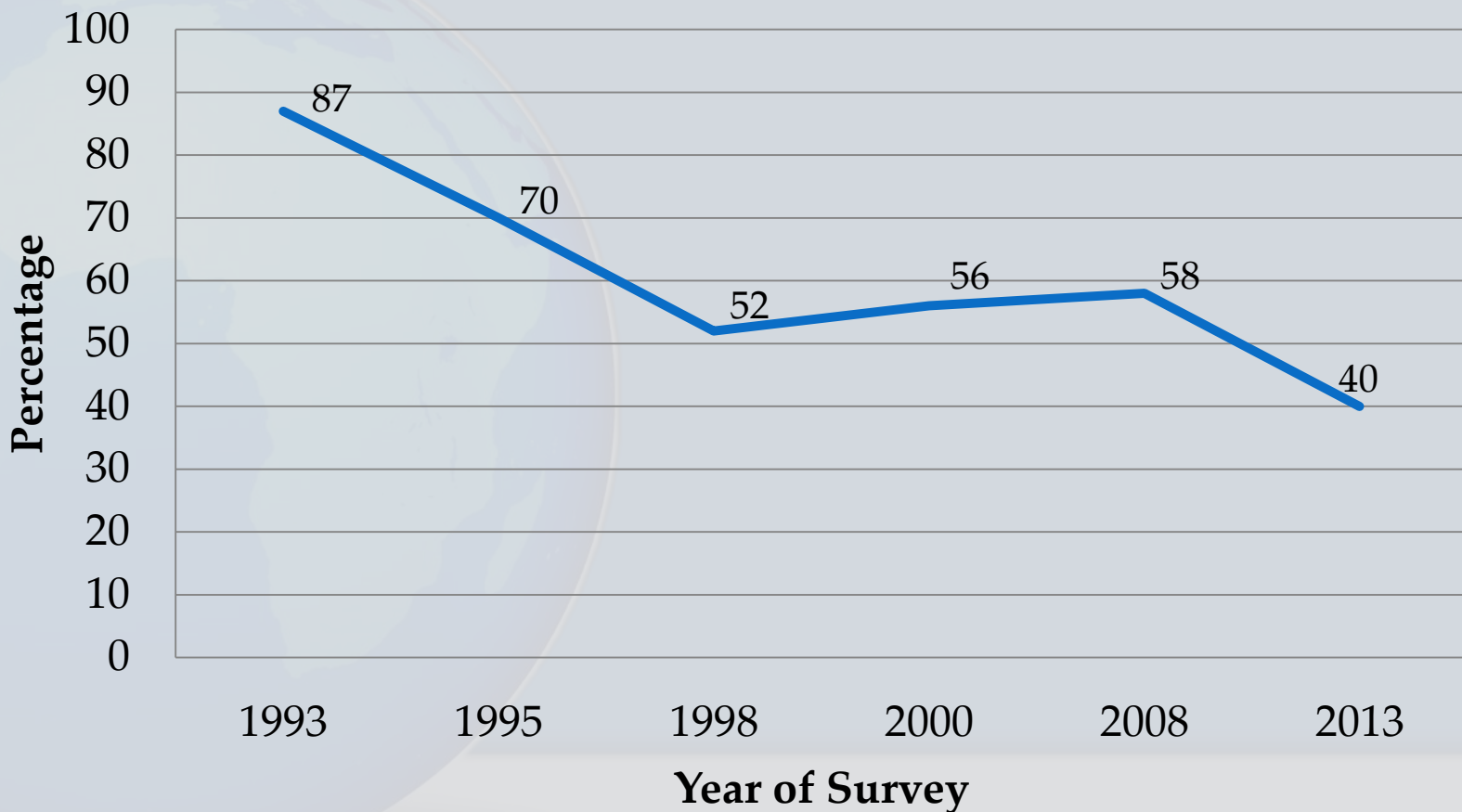
**New Zealand: 2007**



**Trends in Attitudes  
toward Physical Punishment**



# Percentage of adults agreeing that there are certain circumstances when it is alright for a parent to smack/use physical punishment

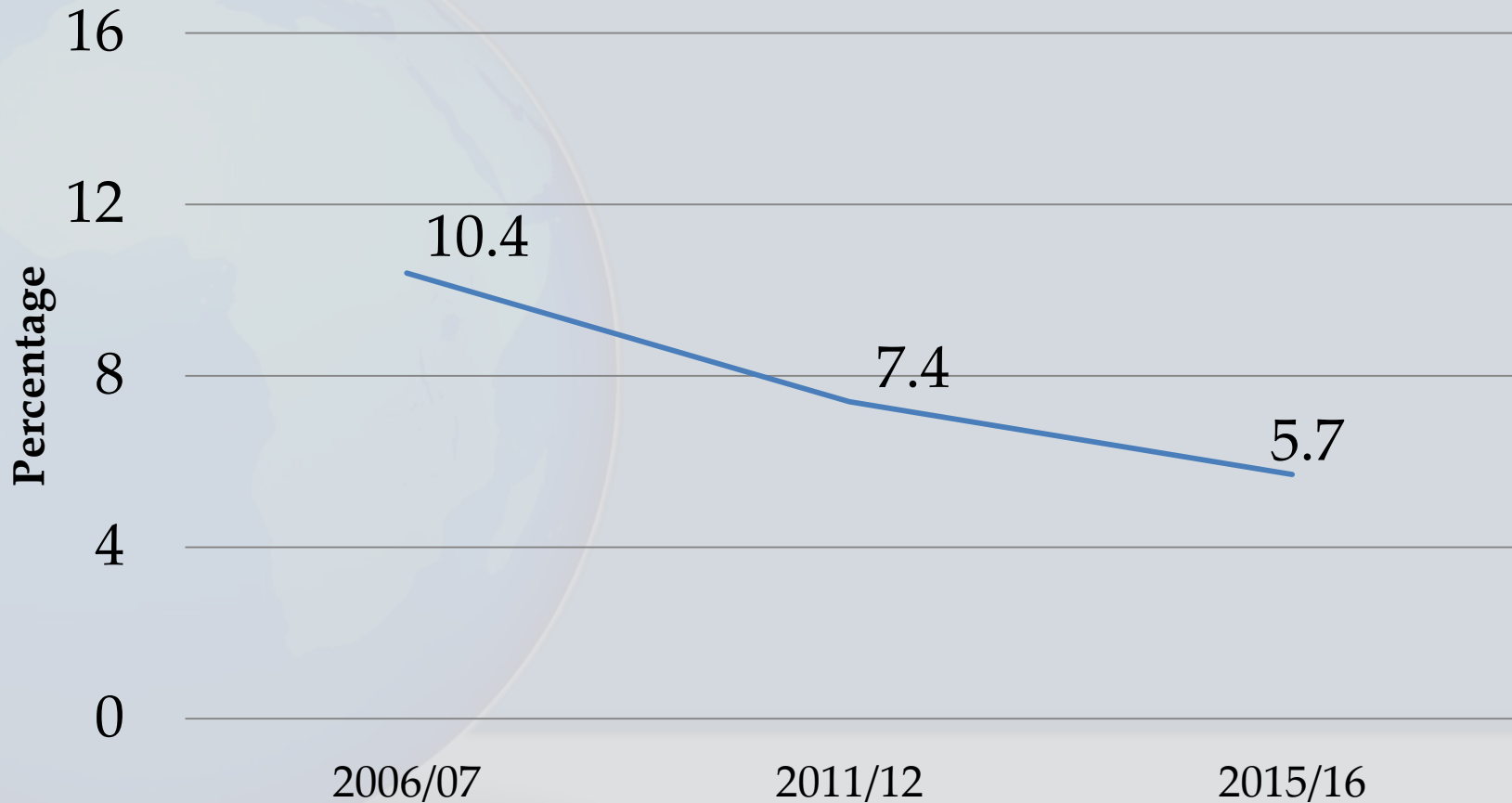


D'Souza et al. (2016)

A large, semi-transparent globe is centered on the left side of the slide. It shows the continents of Africa and Europe in a light blue color against a darker blue background. The globe is partially cut off by the left edge of the frame.

# Trends in Parenting Practices

# Percentage of parents with children aged 1-14 reporting that they had physically punished their children in the previous four weeks



Ministry of Health (2016)



# Trends in Prosecution Rates



# Police monitoring of 'minor' physical punishment reports

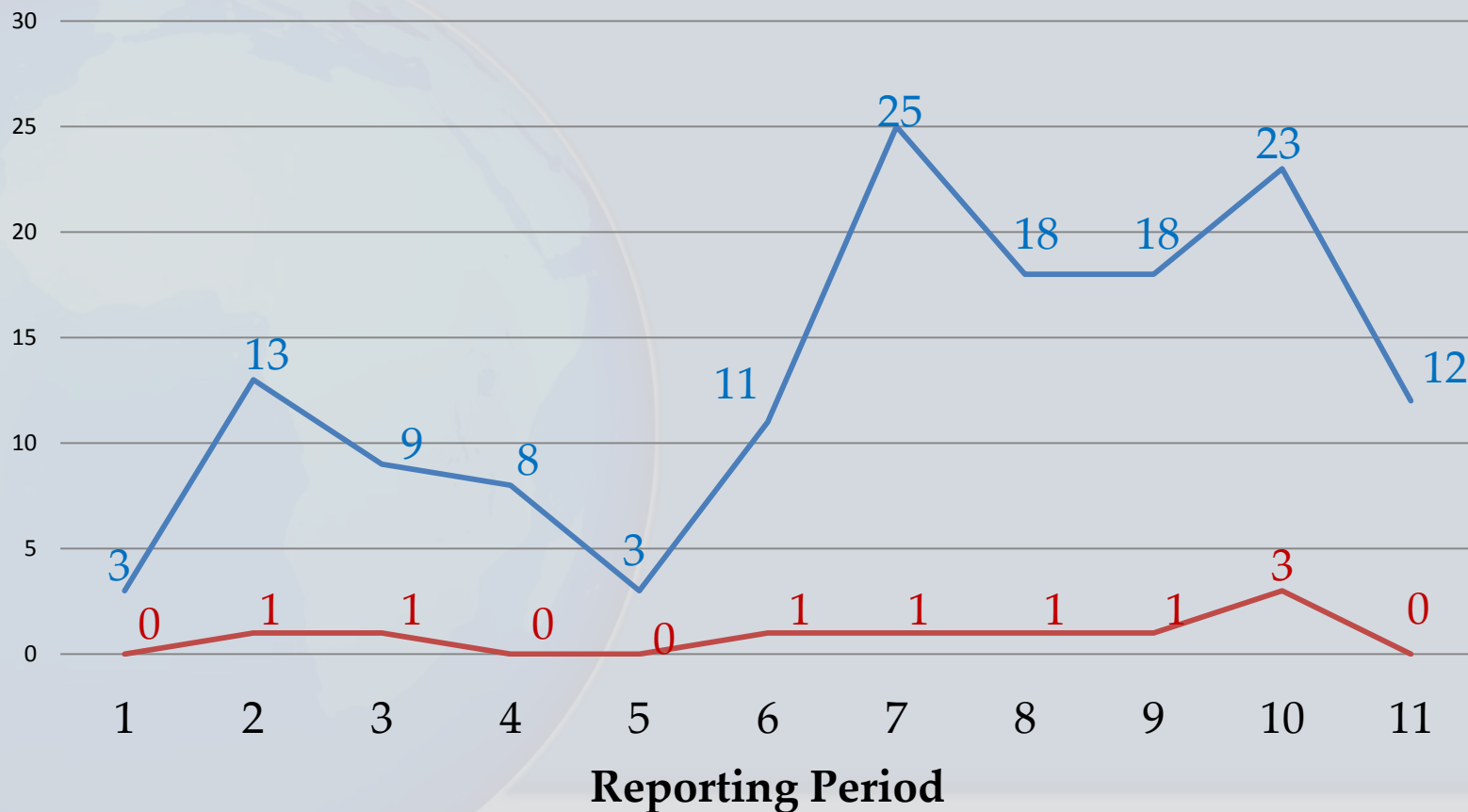


Issued a report every 6 months for 3 years (11 reporting periods)

Report Classification	Definition
Smacking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open-handed slap to buttocks or legs</li><li>• No injury</li></ul>
Minor Act of Physical Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open-handed slap to any other part of the body, including the face</li><li>• No injury</li></ul>



# Smacking reports attended by police and prosecuted



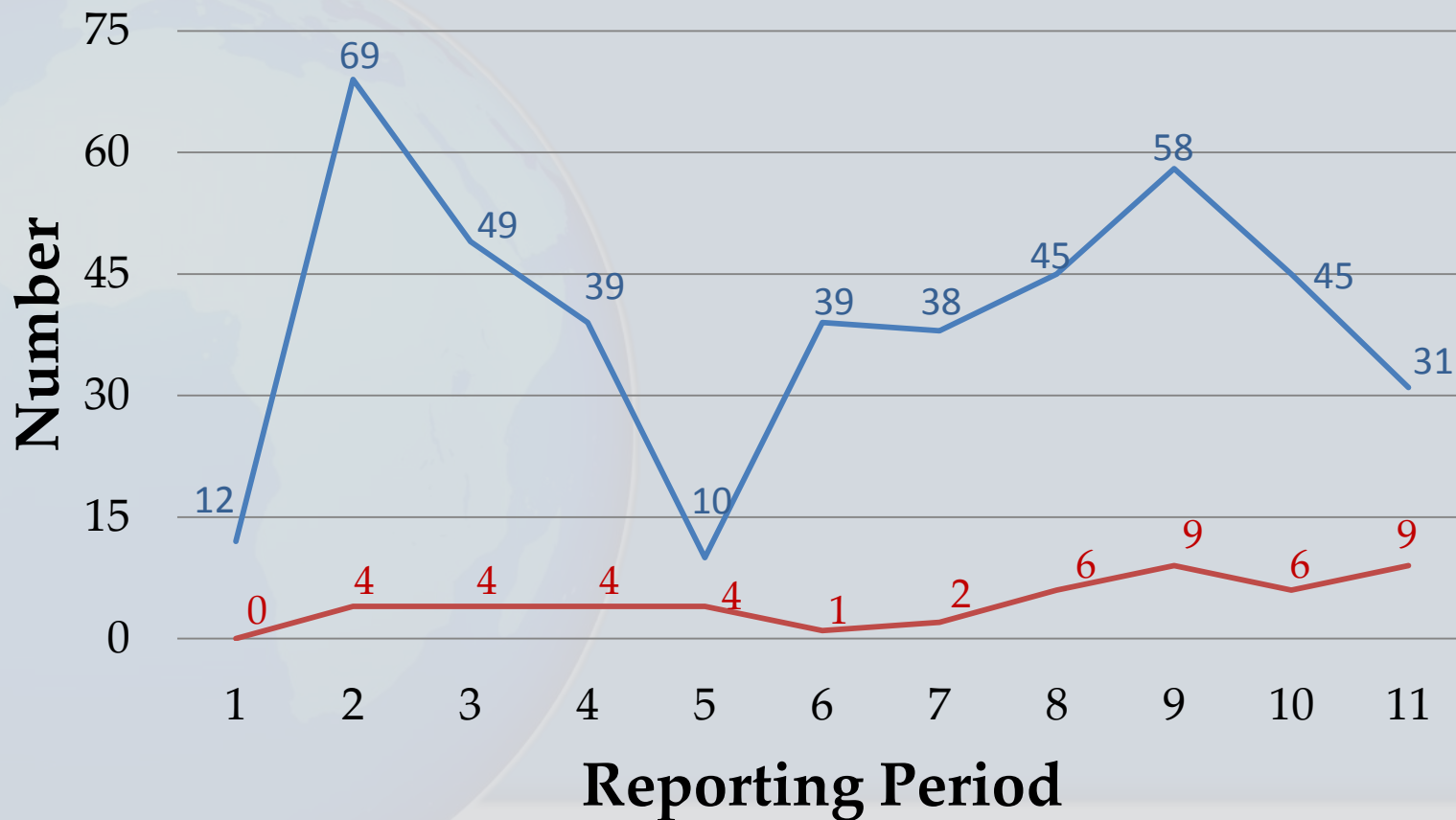
[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

— Number of Smacking events attended

— Number of Smacking events prosecuted



# MAPD reports attended by police and prosecuted

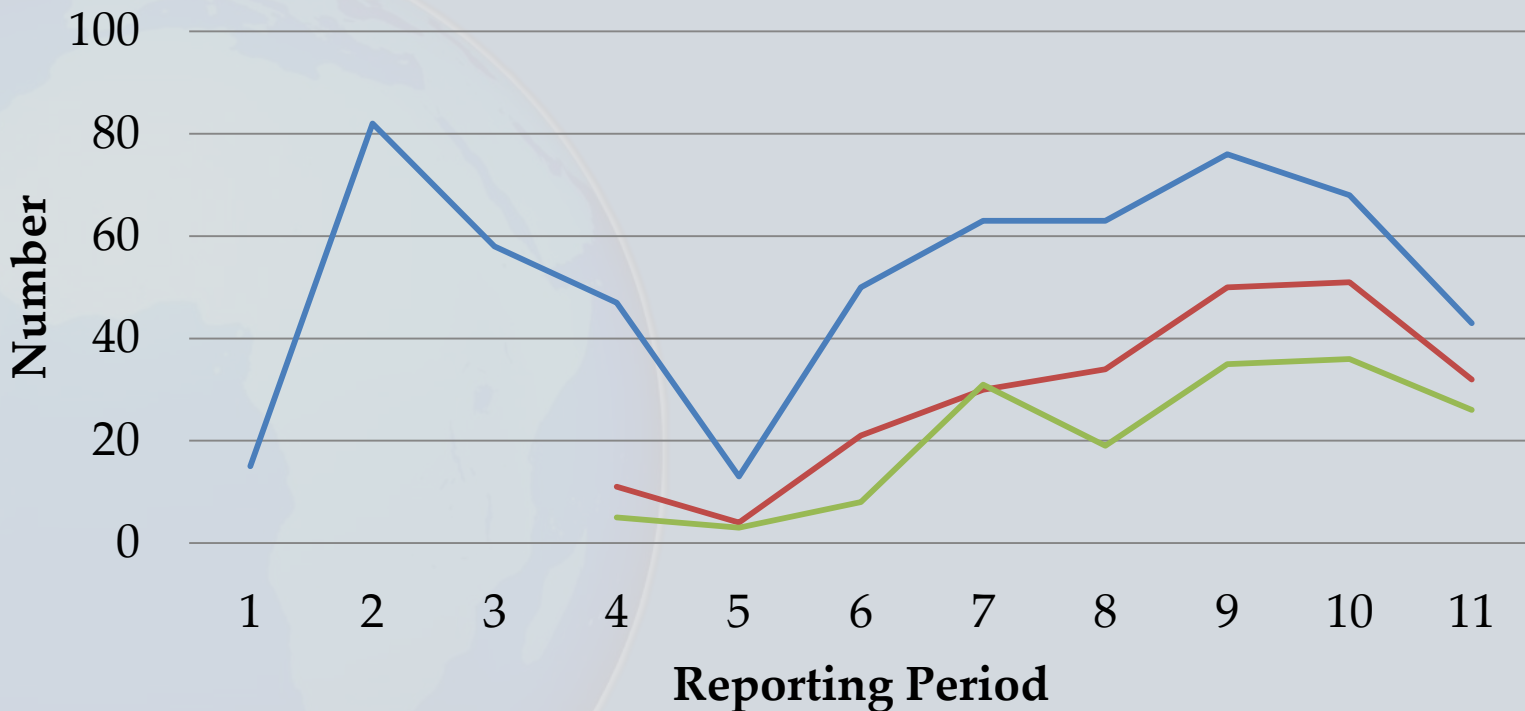


[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

- Number of MAPD events attended
- Number of MAPD events prosecuted



# Smacking/MAPD events attended and referred to social services



- Total number of Smacking and MAPD events attended
- Number of referrals to Child, Youth & Family
- Number of referrals to other agencies



# Prohibition or Public Education?

## A Multi-country Study

*Bussman, Erthal, & Schroth (2010)*

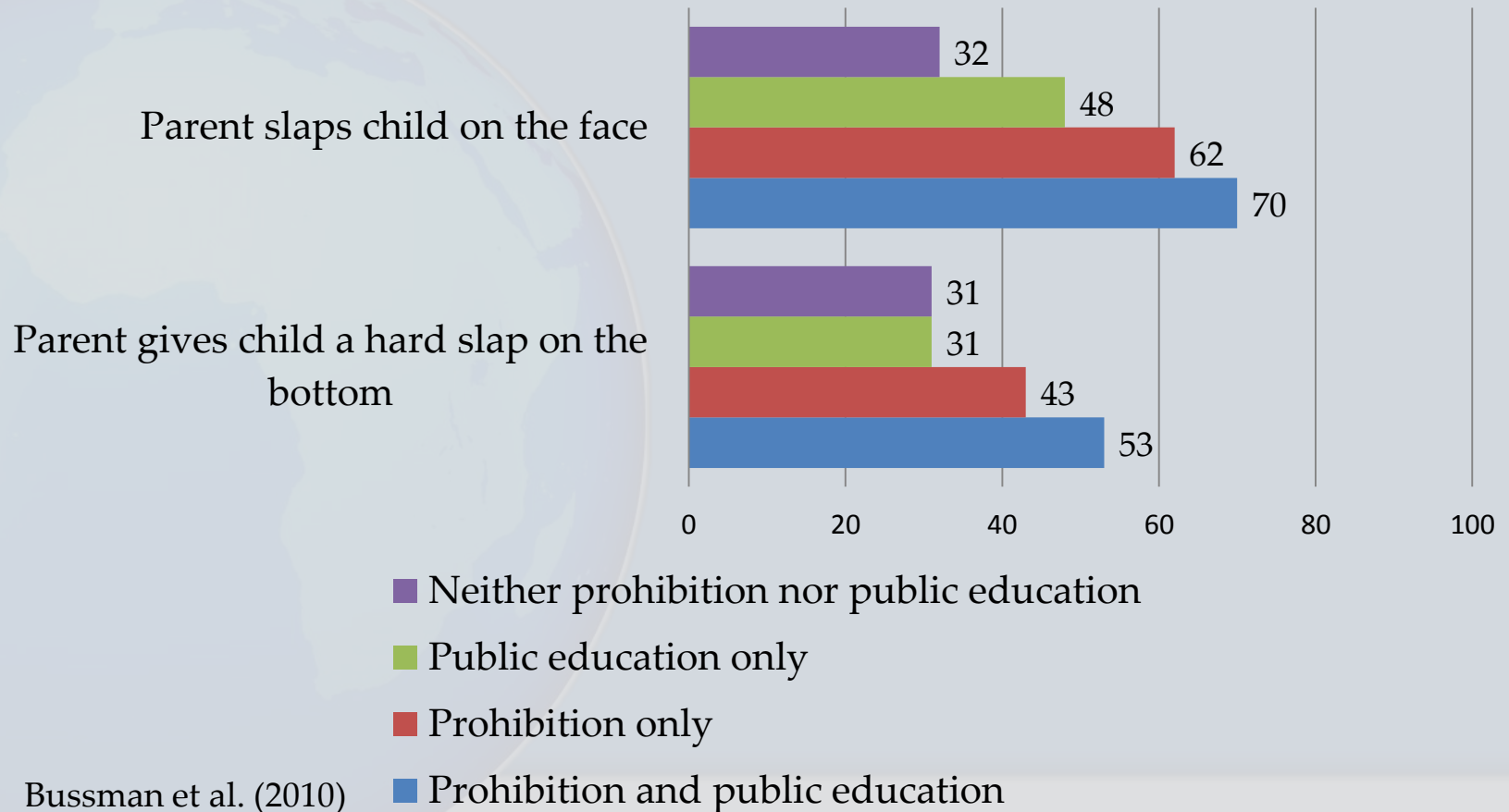
## At the time of the study (2007):

	Sweden	Germany	Austria	Spain	France
Legal prohibition?	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Public education?	yes	yes	no	yes	no

## Method

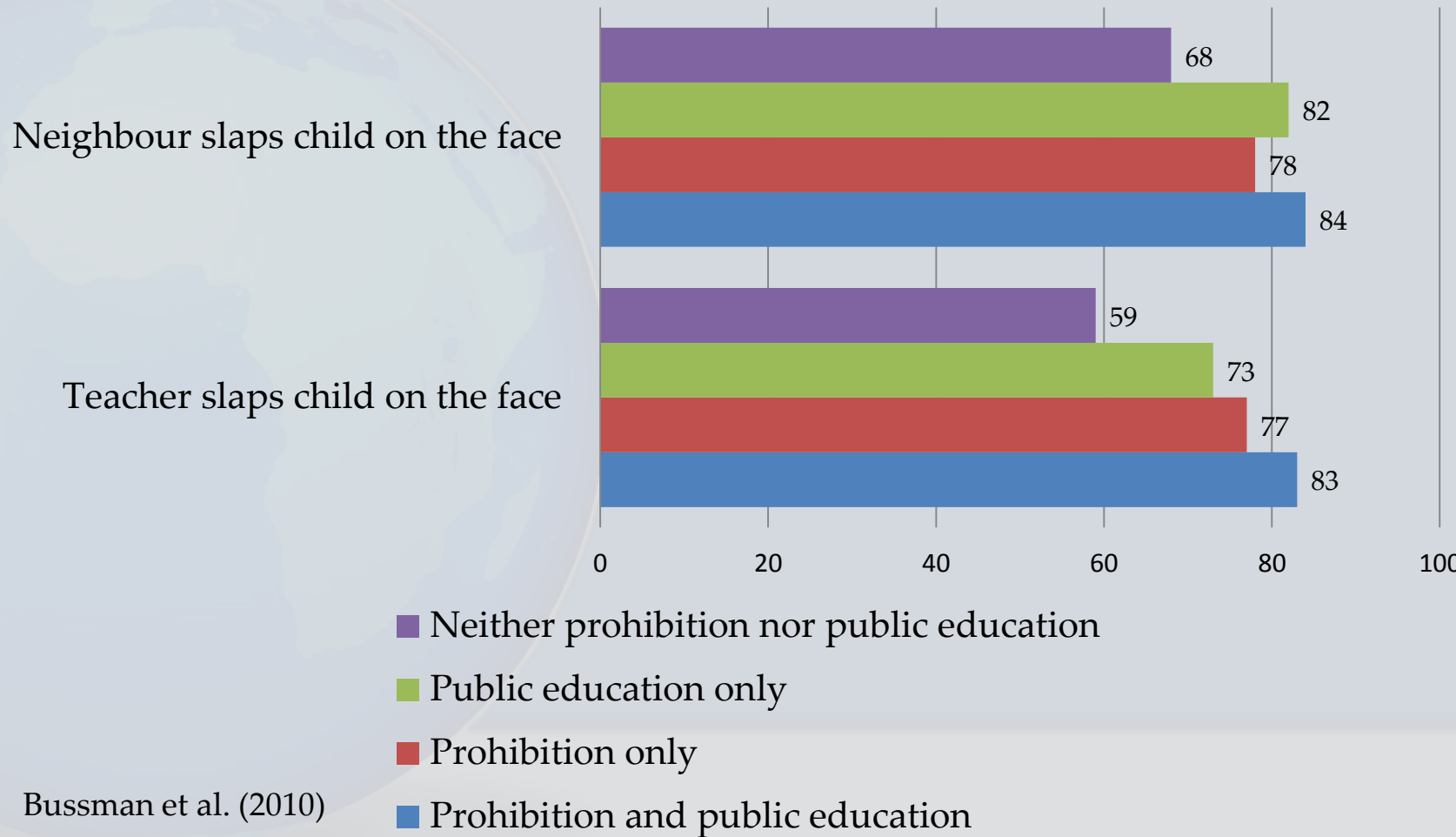
- random sample of 1,000 parents in each country
- standardized questionnaire administered through face-to-face interviews

# Percentage of parents in each condition defining acts as violence





# Percentage of parents in each condition defining acts as violence



Bussman et al. (2010)

# Percentage of parents who reported using physical punishment

