



1-800-CHILDREN
Parent Helpline

www.pcaky.org



*Because childhood lasts
a lifetime...*



Testimony to the Interim Health, Welfare and Family Services Committee

Jill Seyfred, Executive Director

Our focus

- Primary prevention of child abuse
- By moving upstream:
 - Awareness
 - Education
 - Strengthening Families
 - Advocacy
 - Shared responsibility by ALL!



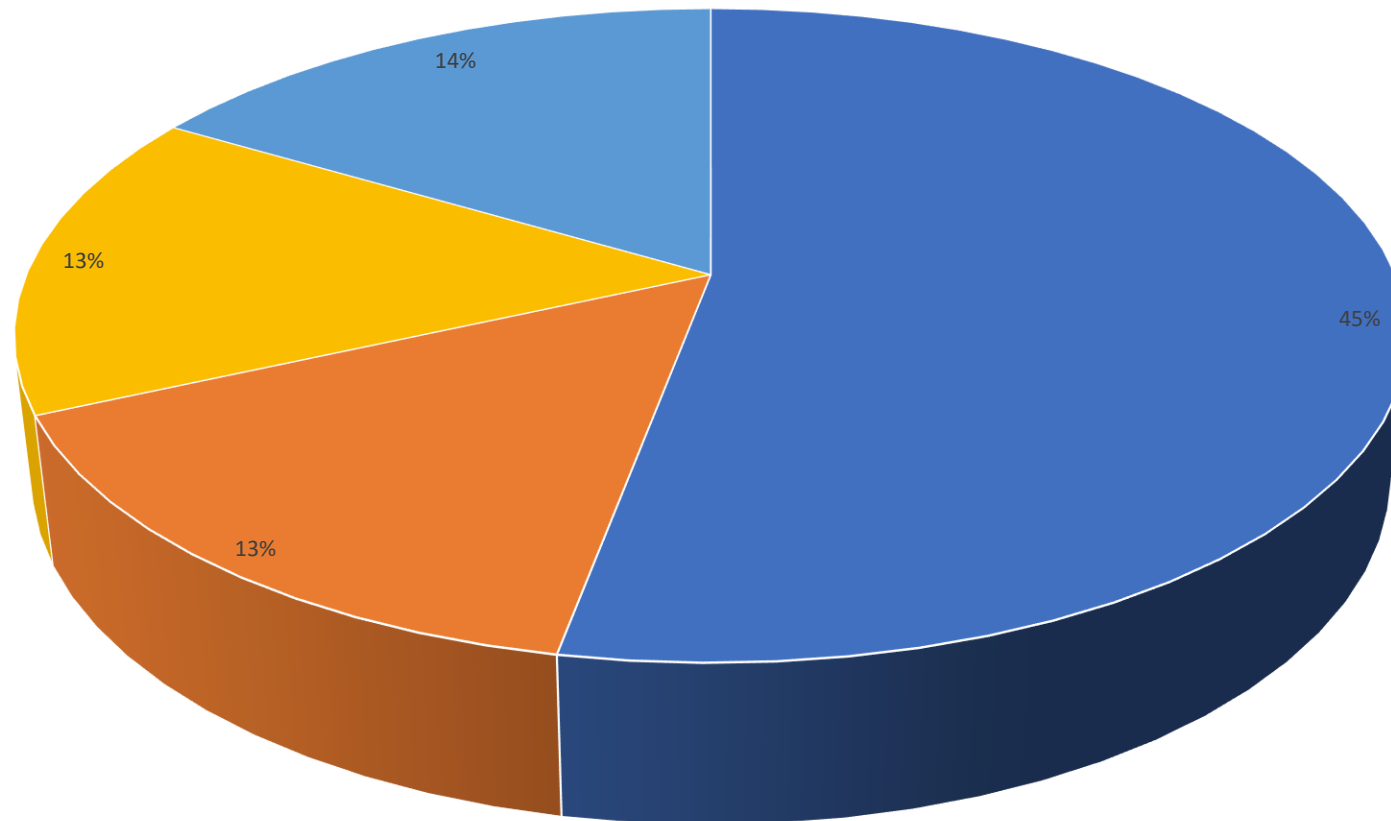


According to the national Chapter Snapshot, conducted by Prevent Child Abuse America, of its chapters, there are 16 states currently engaged in the work of corporal punishment including: FL, GA, IA, IN, KS, KY, MD, MI, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OK, OR, UT, & VT

"I would support a US law that prohibits school personnel from paddling or spanking children"

N= 507 KY responses

Prevent Child Abuse America national survey - May, 2020



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree 16% ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree



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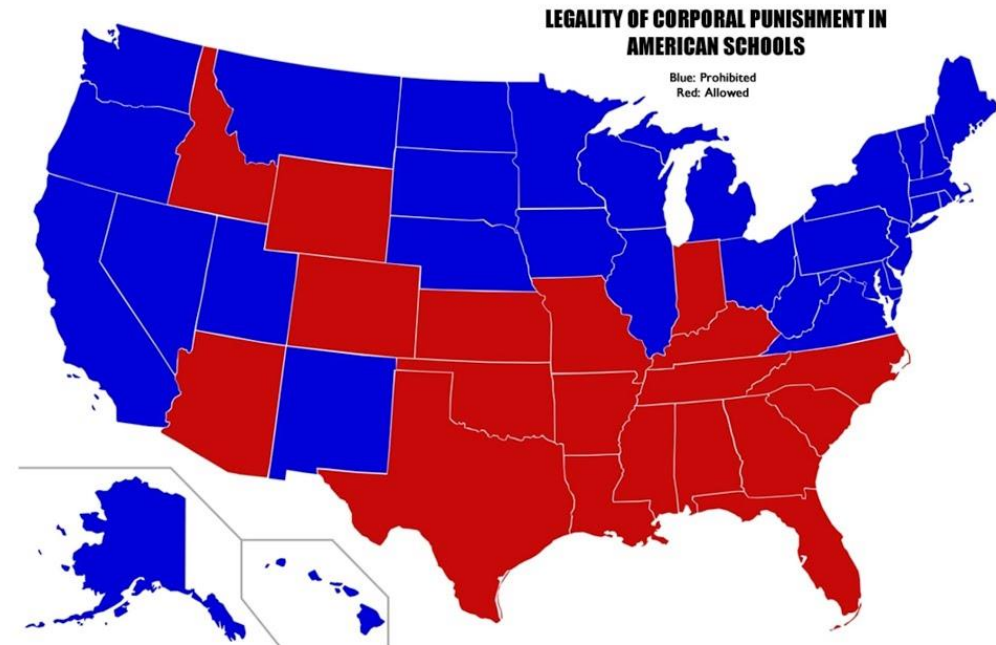
Corporal Punishment in Kentucky Schools

Kelly Dauk, MD

The content of these slides reflects my own personal and professional opinion and recommendation. It does not represent the views of my employers.

United States School Corporal Punishment

KY is 1 of 19 states
still permits
school CP



Corporal Punishment Definition

- “any punishment in which physical force is used intended to cause pain or discomfort as a means to modifying behavior”
- School CP- generally hitting student buttocks with a board/paddle
- Paddles are wooden boards typically 2-2.5 feet long, 3-5 in wide, and ½ in thick



School Corporal Punishment

If an adult hit another adult with such a board, it would be considered assault. The board would be considered a weapon.

School CP is a form of state sanctioned violence against children

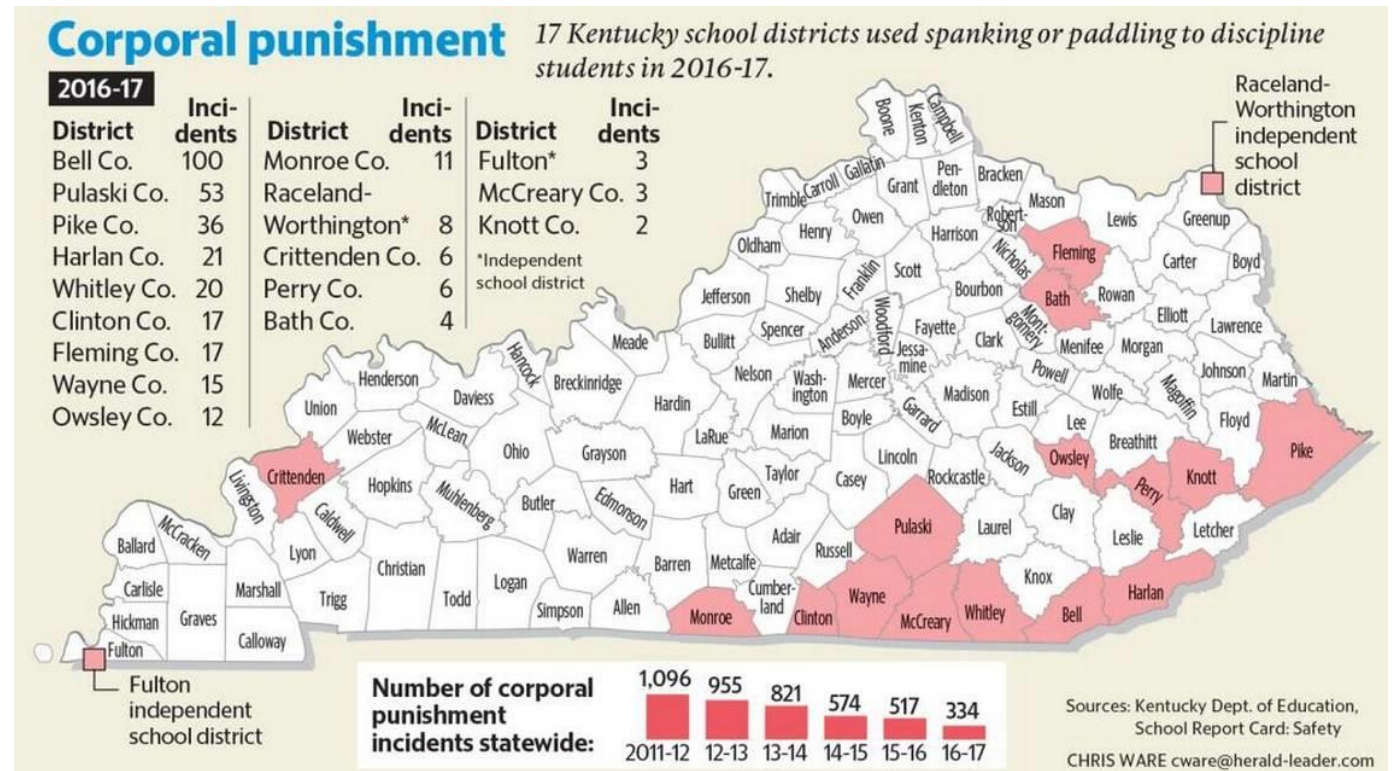
Almost 1 in 4 children report injury from school CP



Kentucky School Corporal Punishment Disparities

Historically-

- Boys
- Students with disabilities
- Free and reduced lunch
- Geographic variability



School CP Causes Trauma

School CP children
report feeling
angry,
embarrassed, and
afraid

School CP is
linked with
higher
depressive
symptoms

School CP
witnessed or
heard by
others can be
traumatic

A school environment free
and safe from emotional
and physical harm is
critical for effective
teaching and learning



KDE and Trauma-Informed Discipline

- School CP- not viewable via a trauma informed lens as required by KRS 158.4416
- KDE attempting to reduce the trauma inflicted by school CP by disallowing its use on homeless children and those with IEP
- Requires counseling for students to mitigate the trauma



KDE and Trauma-Informed Discipline

Given the KDE now requires counseling in the setting of school CP to try to “undo” the harm and prohibits the practice for certain groups of students, why wouldn’t we want to protect ALL of Kentucky kids from this harmful, trauma-inflicting practice??

School CP Interferes with Learning

- CP students have lower academic achievement
- Lower GPA
- Lower performance on achievement tests
- Given pandemic-related decline in student achievement, KY kids cannot withstand any additional factors that negatively impact learning



School CP Interferes with Key Relationships

Teaches
violence as a
way to solve
problems

KY
administrators/
educators as
role models for
students

Direct
opposition to
Trauma
Informed
Approach in KY
Schools

TRAUMA
INFORMED
SCHOOL or
TRAUMA
INFLICTING
SCHOOLS?

Corporal Punishment is Ineffective

- Decades of research suggests CP does NOT improve children's behavior
- Children receiving CP become more aggressive
- Children receiving CP have an increase in problematic behaviors over time
- Inability to self regulate
- Interferes with development of secure and trusting relationships with adults



KY schools are Successful WITHOUT CP

- 152 districts do NOT use CP
- 19 districts are permissive or unclear about CP
- School-wide approach to improving school climate- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS):
 - improves school achievement
 - improves attendance
 - increases positive student behavior
 - enhances student mental health

School CP linked with decreased feelings of belonging/less motivation at school



Professional Organizations Opposing School Corporal Punishment

- American Academy of Pediatrics
 - American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology
 - National Association of Secondary School Principals
 - American Psychological Association
 - American School Counselor Association
 - National Association of School Psychologists
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children
 - American Bar Association
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- American Civil Liberties Association
 - National Association for State Boards of Education
 - American Public Health Association
 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 - National Association of Social Workers
 - National Education Association
 - National Parent Teachers Association
 - Society for Adolescent Medicine

COVID-19 Pandemic

Supportive environments in schools
are critical for learning

Trauma is at an all-time high

KY Maltreatment rate of 17/1000 children- 2 TIMES
the National rate

School personnel can play a crucial
role in supporting students

Children must be able trust they
are in a safe environment

Ongoing support of positive
discipline methods

SUMMARY

NO evidence to suggest that CP improves academic achievement or mental health outcomes

SIGNIFICANT risks of trauma induced by CP

Majority of school districts in US and in KY have found discipline methods that do NOT include hitting children with boards

MAKE KY the 32nd state to protect children from being hit with boards in schools!

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