

## The Association Between Corporal Punishment and Future Academic Performance

Kaylee Frye & Jade Kalish

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Laura Wilson

### INTRODUCTION

- Corporal punishment is a commonly used technique, with 85% of high school students reporting that they have been physically punished and 51% reporting that they have been hit with an object (Gershoff, 2008).
- Previous studies have shown that corporal punishment is associated with lower well-being (Bachar et al., 1997).

Research question: Does corporal punishment as a child have a negative effect on college students' academic performance?

### METHODOLOGY

#### Participants

- 36 college students recruited through psychology subject pool
- Mean Age = 18.69 (SD = 1.55)
- Predominantly female (94%)
- Predominantly Caucasian (78%)

#### Procedure

- Participants were asked to complete a survey
- Conducted using SONA in a computer lab on campus

#### Measures

- Parental Bonding Instrument (Parker et al., 1979)
- Corporal punishment
- Children's attitudes toward their parents

FIGURE 1

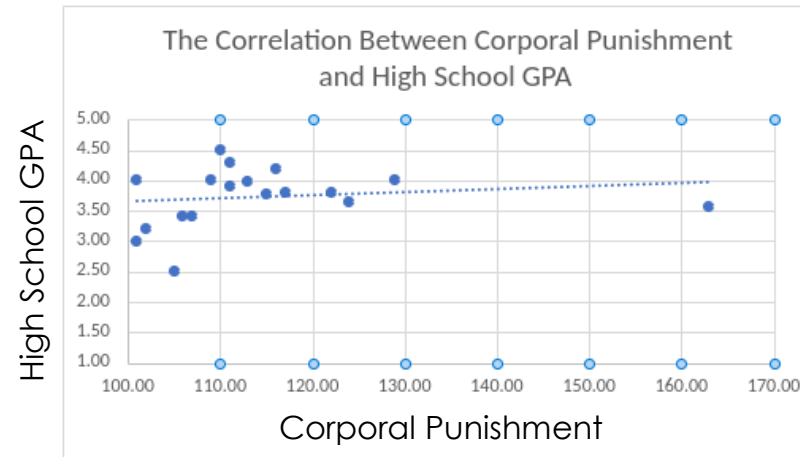
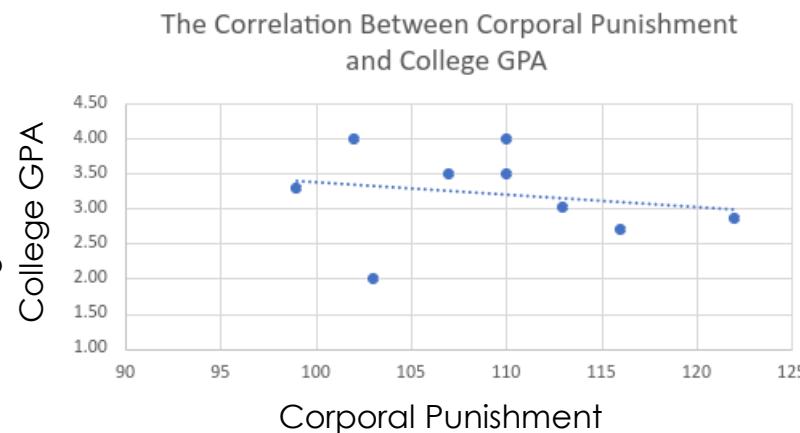


FIGURE 2



### RESULTS

- There was no significant impact of corporal punishment on high school GPA or college GPA.
- Corporal punishment as a child does not have a negative impact on academic performance.

### DISCUSSION

- The current results suggest that being corporally or physically punished as a child does not decrease high school nor college GPA.
- These results should be interpreted in the context of several limitations, such as the homogenous sample (predominantly 18-year-old, Caucasian, female college students).
- If the study is to be replicated, more open-ended questions should be added, a different measurement scale should be used, and a more representative population should be used.

### REFERENCES

- Bachar, E., Canetti, L., Bonne, O., DeNour, A. K., & Shalev, A. Y. (1997). Physical punishment and signs of mental distress in normal adolescents. *Adolescence*, 32(128), 945-958.
- Gershoff, W. (2008). Report on physical punishment in the United States: What research tells us about its effects on children. Report on Physical Punishment in the United States.
- Parker, G., Tupling, H., & Brom, L. B. (1979). A parental bonding instrument. *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, 52, 1-10.