Reducing Child maltreatment: The Swedish experience

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Attitudes towards corporal punishment of children and behavior of Swedish parents 1960 - 2011

Positive to corporal punishment
Behavior (spanking)
Number of children 0-17 y /100 000, deceased due to assault/maltreatment in Sweden 1970-2010. **Boys**  **Girls**

**Antal barn per 100 000 barn som avlidit till följd av övergrepp, 1970-2010.**

Källa: Dödsorsaksregistret, Socialstyrelsen
Important Swedish lawmaking to prevent corporal punishment

- **1858** prohibited to beat grown up servants
- **1920** prohibited to beat all servants, children included
- **1928** corporal punishment of pupils prohibited in higher education
- **1957** corporal punishment legally equalised to cruelty
- **1958** corporal punishment prohibited in all schools
- **1966** corporal punishment abolished as a method of upbringing of children in the Swedish Parental Act
- **1979** Corporal punishment of children prohibited by the Swedish Parental Act
- **1982** Corporal punishment of children incorporated under public prosecution
- **1990** Sweden ratifies the UNCRC.
The importance of progressive law-making and intensive information

Figure 24.1 Percentages of parents who had used different forms of corporal punishment.
Universal prevention

Figure 1: Time trends in child poverty (proportion of children living in households with <50% of median income)
Data from Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Gapminder World.
Where are we heading?

Sweden  England  USA

Universal prevention
Targeted prevention
Child protection
Out of home care