Intergenerational preferences regarding punishment of criminal offenders

Allison Deutsch
University of Northern Iowa

Molly Movall
University of Northern Iowa

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Intergenerational Preferences Regarding Punishment of Criminal Offenders

Dr. B. Keith Crew
Dr. Joe Gorton

Prepared by:
Allison Deutsch
Molly Movall
Christine Van Berkum

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine intergenerational differences regarding corporal punishment of criminal offenders, particularly preferential differences that occur between members of the Baby Boom and Echo-Baby Boom generations. This research is of interest due to America’s changing culture. The children of Baby Boomers see fewer acts and practices as sinful and morally wrong than do their parents, and our research examines if similar changes occurred in the criminal justice system in response to how offenders should be punished. No studies currently exist which examine this issue, and this research will create awareness in the discipline of criminology. To investigate these preferences, we administered a survey instrument to members of both generations in the spring of 2003. Members of the Baby Boom generation completed the survey at Spring Commencement at the University of Northern Iowa while members of the Echo-Baby Boom generation filled out the survey in selected Liberal Arts Core classes at the university.

The survey, designed to measure preferences toward corporal punishment, included several crime scenarios where the respondent picked either a corporal or non-corporal sanction for the offender. Other questions focused on topics such as support for the death penalty, surgical castration, and corporal punishment in general. Chi Squares were used to analyze the differences between the two generations and initially failed to reveal statistically significant results. Logistic regression models were employed in order to further analyze generational differences as well as the impact of other variables such as race, education, and social class which may impact preferences. Although few statistically significant differences were identified, this lack of variation can partially be attributed to the homogenous nature of Iowa’s population. Even with limited significant findings, this research provides insight regarding preferential differences of corporal punishment and cultural change.

INTRODUCTION

As our society is constantly changing and evolving, it is important to look at the many aspects of our culture to determine where and why these changes are occurring. Due to the fact that the United States is the only existing Western industrialized nation that continues the use of corporal punishment in its criminal justice system, a growing interest exists among criminologists concerning this practice and the rationale that fuels it. Much of the focus of
current research in this field centers on attitudes toward the death penalty. However, the body of research fails to address other forms of corporal punishment as well as changing attitudes between generations and across demographic boundaries.

Our primary interest lies in the differences between the generation defined as the Baby Boomers and their children, the Echo-Baby Boomers. Due to the differences in cultural conditions to which these generations were exposed, as well as demographic characteristics, the aim of this research is to highlight the generational differences in attitudes towards corporal punishment. Through the process of this project, other variables played a significant role in determining preferences for corporal punishment, perhaps even more so than age.

**HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

An integral part of the Criminal Justice System is the prosecution and punishment of criminal offenders. Even before the inception of our formal legal system, those who violated social norms were subject to corporal punishment. Whatever the form, be it flogging, or hanging, the emphasis was on the punishment of the body. In this sense, corporal punishment can be defined as, “punishment applied to the body of an offender, including the death penalty, whipping, and imprisonment” (Webster’s 1976, p. 510). For purposes of this study, corporal punishment in terms of imprisonment will be considered irrelevant. Furthermore, little research exists regarding corporal punishment in the terms stated above. Therefore, for purposes of this study, capital punishment will be used in order to understand corporal punishment more fully. Our understanding of corporal punishment as stated above, serves as the underlying framework guiding this research.
Dating back to the late seventeenth century, corporal punishment has been a significant facet of American culture. During this time period, although America was not formally recognized as a nation, corporal punishment of deviant individuals was an accepted practice. With the founding of this nation, corporal sanctions remained an acceptable form of punishment. However, the various forms used throughout the centuries varies greatly from those imposed in modern American society.

Throughout world history, beheadings were once a form of corporal punishment. Clearly, as a practice adopted from the French Court of Louis XIV and the great Queen Marie Antoinette, beheadings were commonplace for misdeeds, debt, and deviance. The prevalence of beheadings as the superior form of sanctions for misconduct soon diminished, and the practice of penal flagellation emerged as the primary form of penal sanction. The values underlying flagellation date back to Moses and the events of the New Testament (Scott 1974, p. 33). Flogging could be justified in the beginning of America, even with the freedoms individuals held because flogging dated back to early Biblical times and was viewed as severe, yet acceptable because of the underlying reasons for the practice (Scott 1974 p. 35). According to Scott (1974), the purpose of flagellation was to “pierce the flesh of the body, thereby causing pain, exhaustion, and penalty upon the sinner” (p. 36). Flogging was implemented for several offenses, and even the least severe and trivial offenses were punished by the whipping of the body. As a practice, thieves and prostitutes suffered severely from whippings, “due to the perceived moral degradation of their livelihood” (Scott 1974, p. 38). As whipping went by the wayside and evolved into a practice used to punish slaves and servants on large plantations, a new form of corporal punishment needed to be adopted.
As quickly as flagellation for penal sanctions made its way to the American colonies, it quickly became a sanction of the past as it was ushered out by a new form of punishment expected to cause less suffering. As Scott (1974) interprets, with the growth of the new American society, "the concept of punishment was elaborate . . . and was accepted by society itself" (p. 166). Debtors, savages, and criminals were viewed as needing retributive and punitive measures taken against them, and "the machinery for inflicting punishment became ever more extensive than mere flogging . . . it came in the form of hanging" (Scott 1974, p. 166). Hanging was considered to be torturous punishment that would not only inflict punitive sanctions upon the offender, but would create an "avenging and deterring potential" for those who publicly witnessed the spectacle (Scott 1974, p. 167). Hangings were expected to be painful for the convicted criminal, in addition to the concepts of hangings as a reforming mechanism for American society as a whole.

As American society industrialized and modernized, the nature of corporal sanctions changed. Many times, the viewing was removed from the public eye. In addition, peculiar methods were adopted as modernized American society became more punitive in their punishment of criminal offenders. In the nineteenth century, the garotte, similar in form to Biblical crucifixions, brought tremendous pain to those being executed (Bishop 1965, p. 129). Similarly, just as the public became withdrawn from all other forms, "simple flogging, decapacitations, and hangings soon palled on the public conscious and the masses went back to raping and killing without giving much thought to the possible consequences" (Bishop 1965, p. 142). Unique and more effective execution measures soon ensued. Commonly used only to punish practitioners of witchcraft, burnings at the stake took place in early times,
drownings were implemented, especially for women accused of infidelity and adultery, and
the beginning of death by electrocution developed (Bishop 1965, p. 155).

As the mid-twentieth century drew upon America, the concept of the death penalty
and death row came into existence, where by those convicted would receive death sentences
and would await their pending executions. As Bishop (1965) asserts, with the coming of
death row came electrocution and the electric chair, death by poisonous gas in the gas
chamber, death by firing squad in the firing ranges, and the most humane form of capital
punishment, lethal injection. (p. 156-157). Though still painful, these improved means for
execution and corporal sanctions far surpassed the early practices which became seen as
more barbaric and cruel. Many of the territories in the United States still employ the death
penalty, while others have made its use a violation of individual rights.

Furthermore, throughout the late twentieth century the use of the death penalty has
been a hotly debated issue by politicians and criminal justice practitioners alike. In Furman v.
Georgia (1972), the death penalty laws were ruled unconstitutional by the United States
Supreme Court, which in turn propelled massive legislative efforts to enact laws to
circumvent the court’s decisions (Banner 2002, p. 267). By 1976 however, 35 states along
with the federal government, enacted new statues for the implementation of capital
punishment (Banner, 2002 p. 268). Hence, in Gregg v. Georgia (1976), the United States
Supreme Court heard five cases collectively which would legalize the death penalty and
uphold it as the supreme law of the land (Banner 2002, p. 272).

The death penalty remains an option for the punishment of criminal offenders
convicted of felonies. Though several states refuse to legalize the death penalty within their
boundaries, a great majority of states still employ it as a means for punishment and
deterrence. Moreover, the beginnings of corporal punishment throughout all western industrialized nations began in the same manner and evolved through the centuries in similar fashion. However, it is striking to note that the United States remains the only western industrialized nation to still employ corporal, capital punishment as a response to certain crimes. Nevertheless, differences exist among individuals as to whether or not they will support the death penalty.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Some people argue that the death penalty should be outlawed, and it is equally likely that many feel the death penalty brings about justice. In the early 1990’s, attitudes towards the death penalty were extremely volatile and shift when events occur that arouse collective outrage. American attitudes have, “shifted dramatically toward support of the most extreme of all criminal penalties—three-fourths of American adults endorse capital punishment” (Keil & Vito 1991, p. 447). At this time, it appeared that support for the death penalty was rampant and demographic characteristics could be a factor. However, the 1985 Gallup Poll showed, “variables such as age, education, and religion . . . no longer had significant effects on attitudes toward capital punishment” (Keil & Vito 1991, p. 448).

Research in this area shows, “race has a direct negative effect on support for capital punishment; blacks are less likely than whites to support the death penalty” (Keil & Vito 1991, p. 456). Other direct effects can be examined in terms of gender as well. Women are less supportive than men of capital punishment (Keil & Vito 1991, p. 456). In addition, Keil & Vito (1991) found variations in terms of demographics can also be seen in terms of income, “where persons of low income are significantly less likely to favor the death
penalty” (Keil & Vito 191, p. 456). Results from Keil & Vito’s study give insight into preferences regarding the death penalty as well as variations in demographic variables.

In assessing attitudes regarding the death penalty, Robert M. Bohm (1987) notes, “many public attitudes are based upon the responses of people who know little about it” (p. 381). This explains why research based on these attitudes varies across several different research studies. As with most forms of punishment, the rationales underlying capital punishment include retribution, general deterrence, and incapacitation. These rationales affect individual’s beliefs regarding the death penalty. Individuals who support the death penalty however, “continue to be male, white, more wealthy, and republican (Bohm 1987, p. 385). Bohm (1987) found, for example, “66% would still favor capital punishment even if it were proven to be no better than life imprisonment as a deterrent, and 48% would continue to favor capital punishment even if it were no deterrent at all, that is, if it caused as many murders as it prevented” (p. 388). Incapacitation, “the belief that executing convicted murderers will prevent them from killing again,” was chosen by only 9% of supporters of capital punishment (Bohm 1987, p. 390).

The most recent research on attitudes of the American public in response to the death penalty focuses on demographic differences across all age groups of the American public. Likewise, current research tends to focus primarily on the death penalty in cases for murder. Simon & Blaskovich (2002) found that, “a majority of the American public consistently stated that they favored the death penalty for persons convicted of murder” (p. 33). Ironically, a majority of Americans continued to support the death penalty even when it had been outlawed in every jurisdiction in the United States around the time of *Georgia v. Furman* (1972). After *Gregg v. Georgia* (1976) Americans continued to support the death
penalty by 60% and 70% to 75% of Americans supported the death penalty during the time of the Get Tough Movement (Simon & Blaskovich 2002, p. 33). Although support is high, “when given the choice of the death penalty or life without parole, support for the death penalty drops sharply . . . only 44%” (Simon & Blaskovich 2002, p. 35). By the same token, regional differences should also be taken into consideration.

A belief exists that there is a, “southern subculture of violence” (Borg 1997, p. 25). These differences could be accounted for by high rates of southern homicides, assaults, accessibility to weapons, poverty, migration, historical considerations, etcetera. Because of this violent subculture, however research shows, “southerners seem disproportionately inclined to condone defensive or retaliatory forms of violence, but do not approve of random or senseless regress” (Borg 1997, p. 26). This is suggestive that southerners would be more likely to support penal sanctions in the form of the death penalty. Lending support to this argument is that between 1976 and 1995, 263 executions in the South took place, compared to 50 in all other regions of the United States (Borg 1997, p. 27). Still, Borg’s (1997) research indicates that, “the level of support for the death penalty does not seem to differ significantly between southerners and non southerners” (p. 39). Overall, regional differences do not correlate with attitudes toward the death penalty.

In addition to attitudes toward the death penalty in general, Americans have expressed less support after a stimulated viewing of the practice. As Howells, Flanagan, & Hagan (1995) suggest, the last public execution occurred in 1835 in the United States, so this does not seem to be a prevalent issue in American society. Yet, research exists which examines how viewing an execution can affect one’s attitude toward corporal punishment (p. 416). Although it was not possible for the participants in the study to actually view a live
execution due to the increasing use of capital punishment in some states, participants can be convinced the film they watch is an actual execution. Before the film was administered, survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude toward capital punishment, 78% stated they supported the practice (Howells, Flanagan, Hagan 1995, p. 419). Both control and experimental groups participated in the study, and of those who watched the film, 57% indicated they were thus less supportive of capital punishment after watching the film (Howells, Flanagan, Hagan 1995, p. 420). This is indicative that although strong support exists for capital punishment, once it is a reality, desires for this practice decrease.

This research suggests that viewing an execution decreases one’s level of support for the practice. Given the generally more graphic nature of mass media content during the decades in which the Echo-Baby Boom came of age, this research supports the hypothesis that an attitudinal difference might exist between generations concerning the use of bodily sanctions for punishing criminal offenders. Because the Echo-Baby boom generation is more likely to have been exposed to a realistic portrayal of execution or corporal punishment, they may be less likely to support such methods of punishing offenders.

Another variable that may impact one’s level of support for corporal punishment is the level of education received. This factor is directly examined in the Marshall Hypothesis, as proposed by Justice Thurgood Marshall.

“Marshall’s personal abhorrence of the death penalty was such that it led him to conclude that any ‘informed’ citizen would be compelled to deem it unconstitutional by virtue of its inherent cruelty, impracticality, and biased imposition” (Brinker 2001, p. 2)

Norris (2000) addresses the three beliefs of The Marshall Hypothesis: 1) support for the death penalty flows from ignorance, 2) if educated about it, people tend not to support it, and 3) support based in retribution is resistant to education. In order to test these beliefs, a
special class was created to educate people specifically about the death penalty. People who attended the class decreased their support for the death penalty, thus supporting Marshall’s second postulate. However, the third postulate was also found to be true—people who believe the death penalty’s primary purpose is retribution held fast in their support for the practice (Norris 2000). This research suggests the Echo-Baby Boom generation might be less supportive of imposing corporal punishment. This parallel can be drawn due to the increased opportunities to obtain an education extended to their generation as a whole. Specifically, their educational experiences, are more likely to include views opposing the death penalty and corporal punishment.

The political and social conditions in which the Baby Boom generation and Echo-Baby Boom generation came of age are vastly different, and these differences influence the way people view using corporal sanctions to punish criminal offenders. The Baby Boom generation came of age during a period where there was a strong emphasis on the rehabilitative nature of offenders in the criminal justice system. Leaders in the field at this time recognized a variety of factors contributing to a person’s likelihood to commit crime, some of which were beyond the control of the offender such as environment, parental supervision, and the like. For this reason, the focus shifted to fixing an offender rather than locking them up, and an increasing awareness for prevention developed.

However, after several years of this rationale, progress was not made and crime rates did not decrease. As a backlash to this liberal rehabilitative perspective, the conservative revolution emerged. The conservative revolution centered on the belief that the criminal justice system had been too lenient with offenders and increased use of incarceration would be a more effective solution to decrease levels of crime. During this period when ideologies
regarding crime shifted, Baby Boomers became adults and played a more substantial role in society.

The conservative revolution, or ‘Get Tough Movement’ as it is commonly known, widely contributed to the Baby Boom’s preferences regarding punishment of criminal offenders, making them more likely to support punitive and corporal sanctions. In contrast, the Echo-Baby Boom generation grew up during a period when another shift was beginning to occur. This shift continued to focus on understanding the root causes of crime and once again placed a higher value on rehabilitation and diminishing the external factors acting upon offenders. This period also witnessed a shift in the research agenda, with scholars like Currie focusing more on the underlying social conditions which cause individuals to commit crime as well as prevention programs.

Another key example of the way the political and social environment shapes different generations is evident in the support and levels of trust in the government, specifically the military branch. The generation comprised of the children of Baby Boomers, the Echo-Baby Boomers, are perhaps more trusting the United States Government, especially the military (Toner 2003, par. 8). This is due to the events that have occurred during the time the Echo-Baby Boom generation was reaching full fruition. The Gulf War, the only war to occur in the upbringing of the Echo-Baby Boom generation was a quick and successful military action. In contrast, the primary military episode witnessed by the Baby Boom generation, the Vietnam War, entailed a long and grueling affair that was not as widely supported as the Gulf War. These separate experiences of each generation contribute to the contrasting perceptions of government and its ability to solve social and political problems.
In addition to the political and social context shaping one’s preference regarding corporal sanctions is the actual fear of crime itself. “In times of fear, people may retreat to the most traditional responses” (Simon & Feeley 1995, p. 153). Victimization research conducted by the United States Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics suggest the possibilities that individuals who fall within the Echo-Baby Boom generation are most likely to be the victims of crime; however, they are also the least fearful segment of the population. The segment of society most likely to fear crime includes the Baby Boom generation. When this threat occurs, they are more likely to respond in a more punitive manner.

The Echo-Baby Boom generation, those most likely to be the victims of crime, are also most likely to be perpetrators of crime. “In fact, juvenile arrests have accounted for the same percentage of all violent crime arrests—about 20% for the last twenty years” (Beckett & Sasson 2004, p. 175). Thus Echo-Baby Boomers are more likely to be brought into the criminal justice system as victims. Since they commit a higher proportion of crime than their generational counterparts, they would be the cohort receiving the more punitive sanctions. Therefore, their preference in support of corporal punishment weakens compared to that of members of the Baby Boom generation.

Research conducted by The Innocence Project also lends support to the argument that Echo-Baby Boomers are less likely to be in favor of corporal sanctions. Originating in 1992, the aim of this project is to exonerate inmates wrongly convicted of crimes through biological evidence, namely DNA testing. Through this organization, it is evident that flaws exist in the criminal justice system. “Mistakes have been made in conviction and sentencing and inevitably will be made in the future (Beckett & Sasson 2004, p. 174). As of March
2004, 142 prisoners have been exonerated resulting from conclusive evidence supporting innocence and wrongful conviction (Radical Media, Inc 2001). With this recent development in the criminal justice system, “... public discussions of the death penalty have become much more ambivalent, and levels of public support for capital punishment are declining” (Beckett & Sasson 2004, p. 153). Due to the decade in which The Innocence Project emerged, Echo-Baby Boomers more directly experience its implications.

HYPOTHESES

There is a substantial amount of research on the general topic of corporal punishment. However, previous research tends to focus on the broad topic of attitudes towards this issue but does not address the origins of these values. A more in-depth investigation of these values is suggestive by the hypothesis that the Baby Boom generation is more supportive of corporal sanctions than the Echo Baby Boom generation. This hypothesis stems from the differences in the social and political climates of each generation and how societal culture influences their values.

A related hypothesis emerges from research conducted related to the Marshall Hypothesis. An analysis of the Marshall Hypothesis finds that the more education an individual receives, the less likely that person is to be supportive of corporal punishment (Brinker 2001). In the landmark Supreme Court case Furman v. Georgia (1972), Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall contended, “support for the death penalty flows from ignorance, if educated about it people tend not to support it, but support based in retribution is resistant to education” (Morris 1999, p. 7). Therefore, the more education an individual receives regarding corporal punishment or education in general, the less they will support the concept.
Existing studies regarding gender and morality give way to the hypothesis that females are less likely to be in favor of corporal sanctions. Using Gilligan’s research on gender, two orientations exist to explain how moral judgments are made. Men employ a rights/justice orientation in which “morality is conceived as being tied to respect for rules” (Harris 2004, p. 307). In contrast, women frequently operate from a care/response orientation. In this model, “morality is conceived contextually and in terms of a network of interpersonal relationships and connection” (Harris 2004, p. 397). Based on this research, in terms of confronting moral issues, “men were more likely to employ a rights/justice orientation and women were more likely to reflect a care/response orientation” (Harris 2004, p. 398). This research suggests that women might be less punitive based on their nurturing relationships. Conversely, men display more aggressive and enforcing characteristics.

Individuals of the Catholic faith are less likely to support corporal punishment than those of the Protestant faith. This argument arises from the nature of Catholicism and its primary base in the New Testament of the Bible. The New Testament focuses on the notion, “Christ eliminated the need for retribution of any kind by dying for the sins of humankind. His death meant that people no longer had to fear the retribution of God’s wrath” (Simon & Blaskovich 2002, p. 6). In regards to the Protestant branch of Christianity, there is a stronger reliance on the beliefs and parables of the Old Testament. The age-old notion of ‘an eye for an eye’ is connected to the Old Testament and the belief “certain penalties are connected to certain crimes ordained by the word of God” (Simon & Blaskovich 2002, p. 4). In light of this, Protestants are likely to be more primitive in nature.

Research related to the demographic variable of race suggest those of a white, non-Caucasian origin are less likely to be in favor of the death penalty. “With respect to the
exogenous variables, race has a direct negative effect on support for capital punishment. Hence, blacks are less likely than whites to support the death penalty” (Keil & Vito 1991, p. 465). Given such strong correlating evidence of the influence of race on attitudes towards capital punishment, a similar hypothesis is generated for the more broad investigation of corporal punishment. Consequently, non-whites are less likely to be supportive of corporal sanctions than whites.

Previous research lends credence to our hypothesis that those of higher income levels are more likely to support the use of corporal punishment when punishing criminal offenders. An existing study by Keil and Vito (1991) unearthed, “...persons of low income are significantly less likely to favor the death penalty” (p. 456). Lower income individuals are more likely to commit criminal offenses. Therefore, these individuals are not going to support a corporal form of punishment, which they will experience upon conviction. Results from Keil & Vito’s study give insight into perceptions regarding the death penalty and variations in demographic variables.

After reviewing previous literature related to corporal punishment, the results of this statistical analysis can be used to further the existing knowledge in the area of crime and punishment. The hypotheses will examine the relationship between various demographic variables and their influence on values and attitudes towards the corporal punishment of criminal offenders. The final objective of this study, intergenerational differences in preferences regarding punishment, will be uncovered, allowing for a better understanding of implications for future development of correctional public policy.

RESEARCH DESIGN
**Target Population**

Participants in this study came from two separate target populations. The first population consisted of students in Liberal Arts Core courses at the University of Northern Iowa. The courses included a 9:00 am Humanities course, a 9:30 am Human Origins course, as well as an 11:00 am section of Human Origins. The goal of using this population was to obtain a sample of students representative of the Echo Baby Boom generation. In order to be part of this population, students must be in the age range of seventeen to twenty-eight years.

The second population used for this study consisted of adults present at the Spring Commencement Exercises at the University of Northern Iowa, both the 10:00 am ceremony as well as the afternoon session. The purpose of this population was to obtain a sample of adults representative of the Baby Boom generation. In order to be part of this population, an adult must be in the age range of thirty-eight to fifty-eight.

**Sampling Plan**

The sampling frame for the first target population was determined by students enrolled in Liberal Arts Core course instructed by professors in the discipline of social sciences who were willing to allow survey administration during the course. A sampling frame for the second target population was developed using willing adult family and friends of graduates at the University of Northern Iowa’s spring commencement. Those members were chosen due to survey administrators viewing them as being representative of the Baby Boom generation. Adults were chosen primarily on the basis of looks, if they appeared to be in the appropriate age range, they were offered a survey to complete. A brief synopsis of the research project explained who was eligible for the study, and those who did not perceive themselves as Baby Boomers respectfully declined participation.
The sampling method used in this research was a non-probability random sample. Specifically, participants were selected due to convenience. The sections of Liberal Arts Core courses selected resulted from the availability of researchers' time, and the willingness of professors to allow survey administration. Commencement ceremonies were selected due to the large number of Baby Boomers present on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa as well as the ample amount of time available to complete the survey instrument while waiting for commencement to get underway. Convenience sampling was the method chosen due to the lack of resources available for the research, as well as the quick obtainment of results, and time constraints of survey administrators.

Due to the controversial nature of the issue of corporal punishment, a cross-sectional study was the best method for gathering data. Where a longitudinal study is more complex and gathers views over a period of time, a cross-sectional study examines each target population's views at a given point in time. Since the attitudes of two age-specific groups were examined, our cohort study allowed us to independently analyze the two subpopulations. Additionally, members of each cohort are not under the influence of external forces and true attitudes can be reported. Cross-sectional studies also allow for a substantial amount of data collection with minimal costs and time.

**Operational Definitions**

**Baby Boom Generation** – The core baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1966), comprise those age thirty-eight to fifty-eight. They are the product of the years following World War II when America experienced an increase in births, which is surmised to be the consequence of the ending of the War and men returning home to their wives after the War.
Echo Baby Boom Generation – The byproduct of the baby boomers themselves. These are
the children born between 1976 and 1987 who are ages seventeen to twenty-eight. Known as
the echo baby boom generation, the ‘kids’ in this generation are the offspring of the baby
boom cohort.

Corporal Punishment – The punishment of the body, which includes methods such as
flogging and non lethal electrocutions. It involves additional pain for committing the crime,
in addition to crossing the threshold from law-abiding to law-violating behavior. Punishment
if meant to inflict pain upon the individual.

Surgical Castration – Medical procedure to remove the genitalia of an individual. A surgical
procedure undertaken to remove the reproductive appendages. This is an alternative to
legally prescribed hormone therapy.

Data Gathering Instrument

The initial procedure for gathering data consisted of administering a pre-test survey to
a required course in the department of criminology at the University of Northern Iowa,
entitled Corrections and Punishment. The purpose of the pretest was to determine if the
wording and general structure of the instrument were conducive to the data to be collected.
The final survey instrument was designed and administered in order to obtain the information
necessary to test the hypotheses of the researchers. The survey instrument consisted of a
questionnaire which assessed an individual’s preferences regarding corporal punishment.

The survey instrument used to collect data was developed with the Iowa State Code
as a reference for the non-criminal sentences imposed in the crime scenarios. These
sanctions are consistent with the statutes of Iowa, thus making them realistic in the survey. The corporal sanctions of flogging and electric shock were included to create a balance in the type of punishment options. The electrical shock is a painful form of punishment where the body is without a doubt punished, yet it yields no physical marking, perhaps making it more appealing to some individuals in the sample who would be willing to impose a corporal sanction as long as it was a more modern method. Flogging is a punishment most people are familiar with from history due to its extensive use during the nineteenth century, making it more widely recognized as a form of corporal punishment. Some view it as a more brutal punishment as well as more permanent due to the scarring and visible damaging to one’s appearance.

The actual crime scenarios ranged in offenses from home invasion to sexual assault to aggravated assault and robbery to drug trafficking to burglary (see Appendix A). Other questions included general preferences regarding the death penalty, public viewing of the death penalty, and the surgical castration of violent sex offenders. In addition to the questions directly related to criminal justice, other demographics were included such as race, religion, ethnicity, education, income, gender, and the most important variable, age.

Data Gathering Method

Data collection for the Echo-Baby Boom cohort took place on the University of Northern Iowa campus in the spring of 2003. A brief description of the survey instrument and procedure was given to the participants, as well as an explanation of the study’s purpose. It was also explained that participation was voluntary and all responses confidential. Surveys were given to the students to be filled out independently with as much time as necessary, then were collected by researchers. Data for the Baby Boom generation was collected at
Spring Commencement of 2003 at the UNI-Dome. While attendees were waiting for commencement to begin, we approached adults who appeared to be part of the Baby Boom generation. Those adults were given a brief description of the survey and asked if they would be willing to participate under the conditions that their results would be anonymous. Ample time was given for survey completion, and researchers gathered the surveys upon completion.

The survey was administered face to face to produce increased return rates as well as higher quality data. Administering the survey face to face was also the most cost effective and most time efficient. By using this method of administration, the effects of social desirability bias were diminished. The survey design was such that it allowed for self-reporting by individuals and attitudes and values could be assessed. The presence of survey administrators ensured surveys were being completed independently in order to produce more valid responses.

**DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

**Analysis**

Before analysis of the data occurred, the data had to be entered, checked for errors and coded to prepare it for running analysis. When all the data had been entered, cleaning occurred through the process of random checking for errors. Not all surveys were checked, however a random sample was selected in order to minimize the number of errors made during data entry. Also, to eliminate even more errors, the researchers ran frequencies on each variable to uncover any outliers or inaccurate entries. One all the data had been entered, cleaned, and coded, certain variables had to be recoded in order to run desired statistics. The variables in this recode included age, income, occupation, and education. It was necessary to
dichotomize these variables in order to run cross tabulations and logistic regressions and
uncover any statistically significant findings.

The first statistics run on the data set were cross tabulations examining the
relationship between independent variables consisting of age, gender, education, income, and
occupation and the dependent variables focusing on support for corporal punishment, that of
the preferences toward corporal punishment, death penalty, and surgical castration, as well as
the five crime scenarios. Preliminary findings indicated few relationships as statistically
significant. The relationship uncovered generational differences among corporal sanctions
including the death penalty and surgical castration. The Baby Boom generation was found to
be more supportive of both practices. Cross tabulations revealed a strong relationship
between the variables. Of the 106 Baby Boom respondents, 93 supported the death penalty
while 63 of the 97 Echo Baby Boomers supported it. In regards to surgical castration, 90%
of the Baby Boom generation was in favor and only 63% of the Echo Baby Boom. However,
when logistic regression models were employed to further analyze these relationships, results
were inconclusive and no statistical significance was revealed. While age is a significant
variable in cross tabulations, the association is weak and does not hold when multivariate
analysis is run.

Another independent variable found to have a relationship to corporal punishment
preferences was level of education. There was a negative relationship between these two
variables—as level of education increased support for corporal punishment decreases. This
relationship was uncovered using cross tabulations. The Chi Square indicating level of
significance was .004, below the .005 standard. Comparatively, when further examined with
logistic regression the level of education was not significant in a multivariate analysis.
The final statistically significant relationship uncovered through cross tabulations was between income and surgical castration. It was found that those with higher income levels are less supportive of surgically castrating violent sex offenders than their low income counterparts. This relationship was also found to hold true when we ran logistic regression models on the variables. The relationship proved to be strong with a Chi Square of .042 reinforcing the correlation between income and surgical castration when other variables are taken into consideration. Through regression analysis, we concluded that lower income individuals were not only more likely to support surgical castration, but they were one and a half times more likely to support it than individuals in the higher income category. In addition to this finding from regression analysis, the relationship between occupation and surgical castration was also statistically significant. The Chi Square with these two variables held a stronger association with a Chi Square of .020. These two findings suggest social class variables may be a more reliable predictor of support for surgical castration.

Discussion

Cross tabulations and logistic regressions were performed to measure preferences regarding corporal punishment based on the responses on our survey instrument. These statistics were used to test our five hypotheses and in order to uncover statistically significant relationships. Although all of our hypotheses were not supported by our research findings, other research and literature helps to explain this lack of significance.

**Hypothesis 1**: The Baby Boom generation is more supportive of corporal sanctions than the Echo Baby Boom generation. When examining the data analysis, age was not found to be a significant predictor of support for corporal punishment. We did find that support for corporal punishment was approximately equal within each cohort.
Hypothesis 2: The more education an individual receives, the less likely that person is to be supportive of corporal punishment. This hypothesis was supported with the data analysis (see Appendix C). With increasing levels of education, support for corporal punishment decreased significantly, varying from 9% to 26% between levels.

Hypothesis 3: Females are less likely to favor corporal sanctions than males. Results from cross tabs and logistic regression do not support this hypothesis. On the contrary, 46% of females and 47% of males supported corporal punishment.

Hypothesis 4: Individuals of the Catholic faith are less likely to support corporal punishment than those of the Protestant faith. No significant results were uncovered using statistical analysis of the variable religion. Catholics and Protestants reported similar preferences in the punishment of criminal offenders.

Hypothesis 5: Persons of low income are significantly less likely to favor corporal punishment than those of higher incomes. A statistically significant relationship was uncovered when specifically asked about the use of surgical castration for violent sex offenders. However, when examining corporal punishment in general, the relationship did not hold.

Multiple explanations exist to account for the significant relationships and the lack thereof. In terms of the findings regarding surgical castration, more support by the lower class could possibly be explained due to the desensitization to violence that occurs in their environment. Violence tends to be more prevalent in lower income communities, thus decreasing the emotional outrage expressed toward violence in general. In the same sense, surgical castration appears to be less abhorrent than the violence they experience in their everyday lives. In examining acceptance of surgical castration in relation to acceptance of
corporal punishment, we unveiled a major discrepancy. While there was opposition to corporal sanctions, respondents ironically expressed greater support for surgical castration. A possible explanation for this contradiction can be seen in terms of how one perceives corporal sanctions. Surgical castration is not a legal form of punishment associated with the practice, and it is not legal in our justice system at this time. Therefore, when responding to the corporal punishment question, surgical castration was not perceived as a real or actual option.

While 50% of our sample did support corporal punishment as a general practice, the support decreased dramatically when applied to specific crimes. More specifically, in crime scenarios four and five of the survey, all respondents chose a non-corporal sanction. This can be explained by Brinker’s research. “Most of the variance in death penalty opinions is not over whether murderers should be executed, but which murderers or under what circumstances murderers should be executed” (Brinker 2001, p. 35). Using this research as a foundation, similar conclusions can be drawn when making a parallel to corporal punishment. Lack of support for imposing corporal sanctions does not have to be an issue of morality, but one of justice. There is no guarantee it can be “applied fairly and without error” (Brinker 2001, p. 35). This issue is the justification behind the Innocence Project as well. People fear that by imposing the death penalty or other bodily sanctions the wrong person may be punished for a crime he or she did not commit.

LIMITATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Limitations

While in the process of entering and analyzing the data set, problems arose with the project that deserve mention. The first problem discovered related to the administration of the
survey, specifically the surveys of the Baby Boom generation. Due to the difficulty of finding a large number Baby Boomers in the same location with twenty plus minutes to fill out a questionnaire, a convenient sample was the only solution. Who was given the survey depended mostly on appearance of the individual and if that person appeared to be in the desired age range. Some people given the survey we later found did not fit in the range, and their data had to be thrown out. Another problem with this administration design resulted from not everyone filling out the survey independently. Some individuals filled out the survey with a spouse, making the results less reliable. Also, with the survey possibly not being filled out independently, the problem of social desirability is introduced, possibly making people fill out questions how they thought society would, not how they truly felt.

Another limitation having an even more significant impact on our results has its foundation in the demographic make-up of the State of Iowa. Iowa is a fairly homogenous population with the overwhelming majority being middle class white Americans. As a result, we had very few non-Caucasian respondents and could not use race as a variable to explain any differences in preferences. Additionally, Iowa is a more conservative state than others, and parents tend to pass on to their children the beliefs and morals they encompass. The demographic composition of Iowa contributed to the findings in the research and a lack of much significant variance. Perhaps if the surveys were administered in a more culturally and economically diverse setting, the research findings would have been different.

**Conclusions**

Further research in this particular area of criminology should focus on obtaining a sample more representative of the American population as opposed to just that of one state. Generational differences found from another sample could greatly contradict the results of
this research. A factor to consider which was not taken into consideration in this survey was political ideologies and affiliations and their impact on perceptions of crime and how society responds to it. Additionally, crime scenarios more applicable to the experiences of the respondents may produce different results.

In examining the results the data produced, problems and limitations of our survey design are clearly evident. Due to the survey design, we were unable to compare demographic differences between the generations and results were limited. In the same respect, the relevance of our results is limited, thus virtually eliminating the data to be used in a future public policy setting. Although the results did not seek to explain the existing empirical conditions and did not directly support our hypotheses, the results are still valuable to the researchers and other criminologists may use this as a starting block for similar research interests.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX A

PART ONE: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT QUESTIONS

Directions: This survey focuses on views about punishing criminal offenders. Please read each of the following crime descriptions and select ONE response that most represents the punishment YOU would want to be imposed against the offender. Assume that all offenders are guilty and all punishment options are permitted.

Crime 1

At age 16, Jimmy Long was convicted of a brutal home invasion robbery against an elderly couple (ages 84 and 87). During the robbery, he used electrical wire to tie up both victims. Before fleeing the scene, he severely beat both victims, each of whom barely survived the attack. Because of his prior juvenile probation for a drug possession case, Long was sentenced to three years of confinement in a juvenile prison facility. Soon after he was released, at age 19, he kidnapped a 10 year-old girl from a slumber party. During her ordeal, Sally was raped, severely beaten, and left for dead.

_______ Life in prison, no parole possible

_______ 20 years in prison, no parole possible

_______ 20 years in prison, no parole, and 10 lashes with a caning rod used for flogging

_______ 20 years in prison, no parole, and 10 non-lethal shocks with 440 volts of electricity

Crime 2

Harold Johnson was convicted of child sexual assault after his niece, ten-year-old Samantha Johnson, reported being abused to her teacher following an abuse awareness class. Samantha later testified that the abuse, including vagina intercourse, had been occurring regularly since Harold moved in with her family approximately a year ago. Johnson, who has two prior child sexual assault convictions, confessed to police during interrogation. During his confession, he stated repeatedly that his actions should not be considered a crime.

_______ Life in prison, no parole possible

_______ 25 years in prison, no parole possible

_______ 25 years in prison, parole possible after 15 years

_______ 25 years in prison, no parole, and 10 lashes with a caning rod used for flogging

_______ 25 years in prison, no parole, and 10 non-lethal shocks with 440 volts of electricity
Crime 3

Tony Robinson was convicted of robbery and aggravated assault. Robinson was surprised in the middle of the robbery by the return of the couple whose house he was in, Karen and David Turner, ages 32 and 33, respectively. Robinson bound and gagged the couple, slapped and hit both several times and pistol-whipped David across the temple, knocking him unconscious. Robinson has a prior conviction for domestic violence.

— 25 years in prison, no parole possible
— 25 years in prison, parole possible after 15 years
— 25 years in prison, no parole, and 10 lashes with a caning rod used for flogging
— 25 years in prison, no parole, and 10 non-lethal shocks with 440 volts of electricity

Crime 4

Derrick Taylor was recently convicted of possession and intent to deliver heroin. Taylor is a major drug dealer who controls an extensive drug trafficking operation. He has five mid-level, "street" dealers working for him. Taylor's average yearly sales total about ten pounds of heroin, which has a current street price of approximately $400,000. A warranted search of the apartment following Taylor's arrest found approximately two kilos of heroin. Taylor has one prior conviction for trafficking heroin for which he served five years in prison.

— Life in prison, no parole possible
— 25 years in prison, no parole possible
— 25 years in prison, parole possible after 15 years
— 25 years in prison, no parole, and 10 lashes with a caning rod used for flogging
— 25 years in prison, no parole, and 10 non-lethal shocks with 440 volts of electricity
Crime 5

Jack Williams was convicted of burglary and felony theft after he attempted to sell some items taken from the home of Michael and Bonnie Roberts. The burglary occurred at approximately 1:00 in the afternoon while the Roberts were at work. During the burglary, Williams stole approximately $7,500 worth of jewelry and $3,000 in electronic equipment. In his confession Williams stated that he sold many of the items to people whose names he did not know. Most of the stolen property was not recovered. Williams has prior convictions for theft, forgery, and using a stolen credit card.

- 10 years in prison, no parole possible
- 10 years in prison, parole possible after 5 years
- 10 years in prison, and 10 lashes with a caning rod used for flogging
- 10 years in prison, and 10 non-lethal shocks with 440 volts of electricity
- 10 lashes with a caning rod used for flogging
- 10 non-lethal shocks with 440 volts of electricity

PART TWO: POLICIES FOR PUNISHMENT

1. Would you support a policy that permitted corporal punishments (e.g., flogging, non-lethal electrical shocks) for serious violent adult criminal offenders?

   Yes ____ (please answer question 1a)      No ____ (please go to question 2)

1A. Would you support a policy that permitted corporal punishments for serious violent adult offenders to be broadcast for viewing on television (either network or cable)?

   Yes ____      No ____
2. Do you support the death penalty?

   Yes ____ (please answer question 2a)      No ____

2A. Would you support a public policy that permitted the death penalty to be broadcast for viewing on television (either network or cable)?

   Yes ____    No ____

3. Would you support a policy that required surgical castration of convicted violent sex offenders?

   Yes ____    No ____

PART THREE: Please answer the following descriptive questions

1. Age: ______

2. Male: ______      Female: ______

3. Ethnicity:

   Asian/Pacific Islander: ______

   American Indian: ______

   Black/African American: ______

   Hispanic (not Mexican American or Chicano): ______

   Mexican American or Chicano: ______

   Puerto Rican: ______

   White/Caucasian: ______

   Other: ____________________________
4. Religion

Protestant (e.g., Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian)

Please specify: ________________________________

Catholic ______

Jewish ______

Muslim ______

Other ______

None ______

5. Education

Highest degree earned: GED  High School  Associate  Bachelors  Masters  Doctorate

Other professional degree ________________________________

If no degree, circle highest grade completed: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

6. Current occupation (please be specific) ________________________

7. Please circle the categories that described your current situation

Employed Full-time  Employed Part-time  Unemployed

Full-time student  Part-time student

8. Please estimate your individual annual income (before taxes)

0 - $10,000  $25,000 - $45,000  More than $70,000

$10,000 - $25,000  $45,000 - $70,000

If you are married or if you are living with an intimate partner (example: common-law marriage or co-habitation) please answer number 8A. If not, go to question 9.
8a. Please estimate your annual household income (before taxes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>0 - $10,000</th>
<th>$25,000 - $45,000</th>
<th>More than $70,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 - $25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45,000 - $70,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9. Parent, Step-Parent, or Guardian (Male)

Highest degree earned: GED High School Associate Bachelors Masters Doctorate

Other professional degree ______________________

If no degree, circle highest grade completed: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

9a. Parent, Step-Parent, or Guardian (Female)

Highest degree earned: GED High School Associate Bachelors Masters Doctorate

Other professional degree ______________________

If no degree, circle highest grade completed: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

10. Parent, Step-Parent or Guardian's occupation (if retired, please indicate previous occupation)

Parent, Step-Parent, or Guardian (Male) ______________________

Parent, Step-Parent, or Guardian (Female) ______________________

11. Please estimate your parent's, step-parent's or guardian's annual household income (before taxes). If one or both parents are retired or deceased, estimate the household income they would have if they were currently employed in the occupation(s) indicated in previous question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>0 - $10,000</th>
<th>$25,000 - $45,000</th>
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<td>$10,000 - $25,000</td>
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<td>$45,000 - $70,000</td>
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Differences in Attitudes Towards Corporal Punishment by Age Generation, Gender, Religion, and Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Generation</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Income</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby Boom Gen</td>
<td>Echo Gen</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>47.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>52.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support for Death Penalty

| Yes | 87.7 | 64.9 | 79.3 | 76.9 | 80.8 | 76.7 | 69.6 | 79.2 | 76.3 |
| No  | 12.3 | 35.1 | 20.7 | 23.1 | 19.2 | 23.3 | 30.4 | 20.8 | 23.8 |

Surgical Castration for Violent Sex Offenders

| Yes  | 90.6 | 63.3 | 78.5 | 75.6 | 74.4 | 82.7 | 69.6 | 81.3 | 69.1 |
| No   | 9.4  | 36.7 | 21.5 | 24.4 | 25.6 | 17.3 | 30.4 | 18.8 | 30.9 |

Crime 1

| Corporal | 11.3 | 11.1 | 13.0 | 9.8  | 12.7 | 9.3  | 8.7  | 10.9 | 11.1 |
| Non-Corp | 88.7 | 88.9 | 87.0 | 90.2 | 87.3 | 90.7 | 91.3 | 89.1 | 88.9 |

Crime 2

| Corporal | 18.9 | 13.1 | 15.2 | 15.0 | 17.5 | 13.3 | 13.0 | 16.3 | 13.6 |
| Non-Corp | 81.1 | 86.9 | 84.8 | 85.0 | 82.5 | 86.7 | 87.0 | 83.7 | 86.4 |

Crime 3

| Corporal | 15.9 | 17.2 | 20.4 | 12.8 | 15.0 | 17.3 | 13.0 | 16.3 | 14.8 |
| Non-Corp | 84.1 | 82.9 | 79.6 | 87.2 | 85.0 | 82.7 | 87.0 | 83.7 | 85.2 |

Crime 4

| Corporal | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Non-Corp | 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0|

Crime 5

| Corporal | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Non-Corp | 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0| 100.0|

* At .000 significance level, support for the death penalty in relation to age generation yields $\chi^2 = .000$. Result suggests those in the Baby Boom Generation are more likely to support the death penalty.

** At .000 significance level, support for surgical castration for violent sex offenders in relation to age generation yields $\chi^2 = .000$. Result suggests those in the Baby Boom Generation are more likely to support surgical castration for violent sex offenders.

*** At .050 significance level, support for surgical castration for violent sex offenders in relation to income yields $\chi^2 = .039$. Result suggests those low income are more likely to support surgical castration for violent sex offenders.
## APPENDIX D

### Differences in Attitude Toward Corporal Punishment by Education and Occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support for Corporal Punishment</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>57.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>42.3</td>
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### Support for Death Penalty

<table>
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<th>Occupation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>80.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

### Surgical Castration for Violent Sex Offenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surgical Castration for Violent Sex Offenders</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>30.8</td>
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</table>

### Crime 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corporal</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>10.2</td>
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### Crime 2

<table>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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### Crime 3

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>14.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Corporal</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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</table>

### Crime 4

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime 4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Corporal</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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### Crime 5

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Corporal</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* At .050 significance level, support for corporal punishment in relation to education yields $\chi^2 = .040$. Result suggests those with increasing education are less likely to support corporal punishment.
## Logistic Regression Results for Surgical Castration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
<th>S.E.</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Exp(B)</th>
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<td>.321</td>
<td>.111</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.739</td>
<td>1.113</td>
</tr>
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<td>.006</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>.673</td>
<td>1.003</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>.012</td>
<td>1.603</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.205</td>
<td>1.015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preferences towards Surgical Castration by Income Level

Based upon logistic regressions using multivariate analysis run on the variables of age, gender, education, income level, and occupation, a significant correlation exists between level of income and preferences towards surgical castration. At the .050 significance level, those of low income status are more likely than those of higher incomes to express preferences towards surgical castration for predatory, violent sex offenders. At .042, income is a significant predictor of whether or not an individual will be in favor of surgical castration.

Figure 1: Surgical Castration Preferences by Income Level
APPENDIX G

Preferences towards Surgical Castration by Occupational Classification

Based upon logistic regressions using multivariate analysis run on the variables of age, gender, education, income level, and occupation, a significant correlation exists between occupational classification and preferences towards surgical castration. At the .050 significance level, those of lower occupational status are more likely than those of an increased occupational standing to express preferences towards surgical castration for predatory, violent sex offenders. At .020, occupational classification is a significant predictor as to whether or not an individual will be in favor of surgical castration.

Figure 1: Surgical Castration Preferences by Occupational Classification
WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT?
Intergenerational Preferences Regarding Punishment of Criminal Offenders
Allison Deutsch, Molly Movall, Christine Van Berkum
University of Northern Iowa

Baby Boomers

OR

Echo Baby Boomers

ABSTRACT
The purpose of this study is to examine intergenerational differences regarding corporal punishment of criminal offenders, particularly preferential differences that occur between members of the Baby Boom and Echo Baby Boom generations. This research is of interest due to America's fluid culture. The children of Baby Boomers see fewer acts and practices as sinful and morally wrong than do their parents, and our research examines if similar changes occurred in the criminal justice system in response to how offenders should be punished. No studies currently exist which examine this issue, and this research will create awareness in the discipline of criminology. To investigate these preferences, we administered a survey instrument to members of both generations in the spring of 2002. Members of the Baby Boom generation completed the survey at Spring Commencement at the University of Northern Iowa while members of the Echo Baby Boom generation filled out the survey in selected Liberal Arts Core classes at the university. The survey, designed to measure preferences toward corporal punishment, included several crime scenarios where the respondent picked either a corporal or non-corporal sanction for the offender. Other questions focused on topics such as support for the death penalty, surgical castration, and corporal punishment in general. Chi Squares were used to analyze the differences between the two generations and initially failed to reveal statistically significant results. Logistic regression models were employed in order to further analyze generational differences as well as the impact of other variables such as race, education, and social class which may impact preferences. Although few statistically significant differences were identified, this lack of variation can partially be attributed to the homogeneous nature of Iowa's population. Even with limited significant findings, this research provides insight regarding preferential differences of corporal punishment.

DATA ANALYSIS

- Logistic regression models were employed for multivariate analysis. Regression coefficients were considered to be statistically significant if p < .050.
- Based upon this criteria, two predictor variables, income and occupation, impacted support for surgical castration, where income $\beta = .042$ and occupation $\beta = .020$.
- Through regression analysis we concluded that lower income earners are one and a half times more likely to support surgical castration than individuals with higher income status. In addition, persons of lower occupational status are also more likely to support surgical castration.
- These findings suggest social class variables are a reliable predictor of support for surgical castration.

The following table presents the results of the logistic regression analysis when surgical castration is the dependent variable.

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<tr>
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<th>S.E.</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Exp(B)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS
- Age was found not to be a significant predictor of support for corporal punishment. Support for corporal punishment was approximately equal within each cohort.
- The more education an individual receives, the less likely that person is to be supportive of corporal punishment. However, whenever other variables are taken into consideration, a suppressor effect is present.
- Gender is not a factor in determining preferences toward corporal punishment. Support for corporal punishment was approximately equal for males and females.
- No significant results were uncovered regarding religion and preferences toward corporal punishment. Catholics and Protestants reported similar preference in the punishment of criminal offenders.
- A statistically significant relationship was uncovered when specifically asked about the use of surgical castration for violent sex offenders. However, when examining corporal punishment in general, the relationship did not hold.
- An iconoclastic relationship was discovered in terms of support for corporal punishment and support for surgical castration for violent sex offenders. Approximately fifty percent of the sample opposed corporal punishment. In contrast, almost three-fourths of the sample was in support of surgical castration for violent sex offenders.

Based on our analysis, we can only speculate that further research should be conducted to examine why people favor corporal punishment, but when given the opportunity to impose a corporal sanction in the form of flagellation and electrical shock for a given crime scenario, neither was chosen as a form of punishment.
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**Baby Boomers**

- The core baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964), comprise those age 38 to 58. They are the product of the years following World War II when America experienced an increase in births, which is surmised to be the consequence of the ending of the War and men returning home to their wives.

**OR**

**Echo Baby Boom Generation**

- The byproduct of the baby boomers themselves. These are the children born between 1976 and 1987 who are ages 17 to 28. Known as the echo baby boom generation, the “kids” in this generation are the offspring of the baby boomers.

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to examine intergenerational differences regarding corporal punishment of criminal offenders, particularly preferential differences that occur between members of the Baby Boom and Echo Baby Boom generations. This research is of interest due to America’s fluid culture. The children of Baby Boomers see fewer acts and practices as sinful and morally wrong than do their parents, and our research examines if similar changes occurred in the criminal justice system in response to how offenders should be punished. No studies currently exist which examine this issue, and this research will create awareness in the discipline of criminology. To investigate these preferences, we administered a survey instrument to members of both generations in the spring of 2003. Members of the Baby Boom generation completed the survey at Spring Commencement at the University of Northern Iowa while members of the Echo Baby Boom generation filled out the survey in selected Liberal Arts Core classes at the university.

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**DATA ANALYSIS**

- Logistic regression models were employed for multivariate analysis. Regression coefficients were considered to be statistically significant if p < .05.

- Based upon this criteria, two predictor variables, income and occupation, impacted support for surgical castration, where income $x_1^2 = .042$ and occupation $x_2^2 = .020$.

- Through regression analysis we concluded that lower income individuals are one and a half times more likely to support surgical castration than individuals with higher income status. In addition, persons of lower occupational status are also more likely to support surgical castration.

- These findings suggest social class variables are a reliable predictor of support for surgical castration.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Wald</th>
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<td>Age</td>
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<td>.015</td>
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**METHODS**

- Target populations:
  - Baby Boom generation - adults attending the Spring Commencement exercises at the University of Northern Iowa
  - Echo Baby Boom generation - students in Liberal Arts Core courses at the University of Northern Iowa

- Convenience sample of Echo Baby Boom generation taken during Liberal Arts Core courses when researchers were available for administration. Convenience sample of Baby Boom generation taken at Spring Commencement exercises from those who voluntarily participated

- Non-probability, random sampling plan based on individuals who appeared to be members of the specified target populations. Cross-sectional study of two cohorts was used to gather target populations’ views at a given point in time. This cohort study allows for independent analysis of the two sub-populations.

- Survey instrument was a questionnaire containing crime scenarios, corporal punishment, death penalty, public execution, surgical castration, and demographics

- Crime Scenarios: home invasion/robbery, sexual assault, aggravated assault/robbery, drug trafficking, and burglary/theft

- Demographics: age, race, gender, religion, income, occupation, education

- Questionnaire was developed with the Iowa State Code as a reference for the sentences imposed in the crime scenarios. Sanctions are consistent with the statutes of Iowa, making them realistic.

- Data collection was conducted from Liberal Arts Core courses for the Echo Baby Boom generation and the Spring Commencement 2004 ceremonies for the Baby Boom generation. Administration of questionnaire was face-to-face

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DATA ANALYSIS RESULTS FOR CORPORAL SANCTIONS

Intergenerational Support for Corporal Sanctions

METHODS
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<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
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<td>Age</td>
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<td>Occupation</td>
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The survey, designed to measure preferences toward corporal punishment, included several crime scenarios where the respondent picked either a corporal or non-corporal sanction for the offender. Other questions focused on topics such as support for the death penalty, surgical castration, corporal punishment, and general Chi-Squares were used to analyze the differences between the two generations and initially failed to reveal statistically significant results. Logistic regression models were employed in order to further analyze differences as well as the impact of other variables such as race, education, and social class which may impact preferences. Although few statistically significant differences were identified, this lack of variation can partially be attributed to the homogenous nature of Iowa's population. Even with limited significant findings, this research provides insight regarding preferential differences of corporal punishment.

DATA ANALYSIS

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- Based on this criteria, two predictor variables, income and occupation, impacted support for surgical castration, where income \( X^2 = 0.042 \) and occupation \( X^2 = 0.020 \). Through regression analysis we concluded that lower income individuals are one and a half times more likely to support surgical castration than individuals with higher income status. In addition, persons of lower occupational status are also more likely to support surgical castration.
- These findings suggest social class variables are a reliable predictor of support for surgical castration.

The following table presents the results of the logistic regression analysis when surgical castration is the dependent variable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor Variable</th>
<th>( \chi^2 )</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>S.E</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Exp(B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>.050</td>
<td>.003</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>.042</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.013</td>
<td>.003</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- Age was found not to be a significant predictor of support for corporal punishment. Support for corporal punishment was approximately equal within each cohort.
- The more education an individual receives, the less likely that person is to be supportive of corporal punishment. However, whenever other variables are taken into consideration, a suppressor effect is present.
- Gender is not a factor in determining preferences toward corporal punishment. Support for corporal punishment was approximately equal for males and females.
- No significant results were uncovered regarding religion and preferences toward corporal punishment. Catholics and Protestants reported similar preferences in the punishment of criminal offenders.
- A statistically significant relationship was uncovered when specifically asked about the use of surgical castration for violent sex offenders. However, when examining corporal punishment in general, the relationship did not hold.
- An ironic relationship was discovered in terms of support for corporal punishment and support for surgical castration for violent sex offenders. Approximately fifty percent of the sample opposed corporal punishment. In contrast, almost three-fourths of the sample was in support of surgical castration for violent sex offenders.
- Based on our analysis, we can only speculate that further research should be conducted to examine why people favor corporal punishment, but when given the opportunity to impose a corporal sanction in the form of flogging and electrical shock for a given crime scenario, neither was chosen as a form of punishment.
Intergenerational Preferences Regarding Punishment of Criminal Offenders

Allison Deutsch, Molly Movall, Christine Van Berkum
University of Northern Iowa

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine intergenerational differences regarding corporal punishment of criminal offenders, particularly preferential differences that occur between members of the Baby Boom and Echo-Baby Boom generations. This research is of interest due to America’s fluid culture. The children of Baby Boomers see fewer acts and practices as injurious while morally wrong than do their parents, and our research examines if similar changes occurred in the criminal justice system in response to how offenders should be punished. No studies currently exist which examine this issue, and this research will create awareness of the discipline of criminology. To investigate these preferences, we administered a survey instrument to members of both generations in the spring of 2003. Members of the Baby Boom generation completed the survey at Spring Commencement at the University of Northern Iowa while members of the Echo-Baby Boom generation filled out the survey in selected Liberal Arts Core classes at the university.

The survey, designed to measure preferences toward corporal punishment, included several crime scenarios where the respondent picked either a corporal or non-corporal sanction for the offender. Other questions focused on topics such as support for the death penalty, surgical castration, and corporal punishment in general. Chi Squares were used to analyze the differences between the two generations and initially failed to reveal statistically significant results. Logistic regression models were employed in order to further analyze preferential differences as well as the impact of other variables such as race, education, and social class which may impact preferences. Although these statistical differences were identified, this lack of variation can be attributed to the homogeneous nature of Iowa’s population. Even with limited significant findings, this research provides insight regarding preferential differences of corporal punishment.

DATA ANALYSIS

- Logistic regression models were employed for multivariate analysis. Regression coefficients were considered to be statistically significant if p < .05.
- Based upon this criteria, two predictor variables, income and occupation, impacted support for surgical castration, where income X^2 = .042 and occupation X^2 = .025.
- Through regression analysis we concluded that lower income individuals are one and a half times more likely to support surgical castration than individuals with higher income status. In addition, persons of lower occupational status are also more likely to support surgical castration.
- These findings suggest social class variables are a reliable predictor of support for surgical castration.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>S.E.</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Exp(B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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