

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AT HOME IN CROATIA¹

1 in 4

Every fourth child aged 16 has:

- > experienced physical punishment at home
- > experienced psychological abuse at home
- > witnessed violence between parents

1 in 8

In 2016, every eighth child was **physically abused at home**.

REASONS WHY MOTHERS HIT THEIR CHILDREN

50% of mothers who participated in the research said that they have hit their child, and the most common reasons are the following:

- 41%** loss of self-control
- 30%** to discipline their child
- 24%** to teach their child how to behave
- 20%** feeling helpless / not knowing what else to do.



“FOR A STRONGER FAMILY” – BENEFICIARIES OF THE SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

1,400 social workers and other experts will enhance their knowledge and skills necessary to provide support for families at risk.

Persons benefiting from the programme through the social care system each year are:

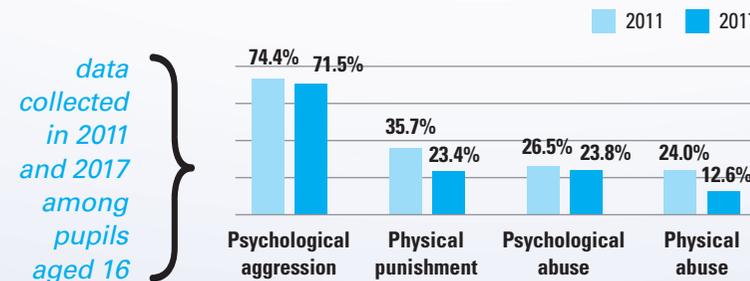
- **5,500** families at risk
- **29,000** children

VIEWS ON PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN²

- 42%** youth
 - 32%** parents
 - 32%** school employees
 - 7%** kindergarten employees
- Believe that spanking a young child is justified in order to discipline the child.
- 31%** youth
 - 16%** parents
 - 19%** school employees
 - 5%** kindergarten employees
- Believe that occasionally hitting a child has positive effects on their upbringing.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IS STILL NOT DECLINING

Chart comparing the incidence of family violence



¹ Ekonomske teškoće obitelji, psihosocijalni problemi i obrazovni ishodi adolescenata u vrijeme ekonomske krize (FEHAP) [Financial Difficulties in the Family, Psycho-social Issues and Education Outcomes in Adolescents at the Time of Financial Crisis]. Research included 827 mothers and 1,099 adolescents, and aimed to compare the incidence of violent behaviour in the last year. Research was conducted in 2017 and 2011. Head of research: M. Ajduković.

² Trbus M., Rajčić H. and Rajter M. (2015): Svako dijete ima pravo biti sigurno od nasilja [Every Child Has the Right to Protection from Violence]. Zagreb: Step by Step Parents' Association. Participants in the research included 2,339 adolescents aged 15 to 18, a total of 2,215 parents of children aged 5 to 14, 303 primary school employees (280 teachers and 19 professional associates), and 209 kindergarten employees (183 kindergarten teachers and 25 professional associates). Research was conducted from 2013 to 2015 in five counties: Dubrovnik-Neretva, Istria, Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Osijek-Baranja, and the City of Zagreb. The sample was stratified so as to equalise the ratio of participants with regard to the size of the counties.