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It takes a world
to end violence against children

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Why do we hit children?

prepared by:



for:

World Vision
ROMÂNIA



AGAINST CHILDREN

The purpose of this report is to understand how violence occurs and to offer the proper tools to stop the violent behavior even before it starts

The analysis focuses on attitudes and behaviours towards violence and offers a clear perspective regarding the triggers that cause violence.

At the same time, it offers solutions that will hopefully contribute to the efforts already being made to prevent violence against children. The ideas found in this study are meant to push the actions for improving and extending the network of solutions and services that are already available.

Magda Vişoiu

Why do we hit children?

Quantitative – Qualitative Report

Violence Against Children

Explanatory Report

DEAR READER,

What would be your reaction if you discovered the world was dominated by a cruel and unforgiving virus with the capacity to spread, and no proven antidote? This is a virus that already affects three quarters of all children around the world – that's a staggering one and a half billion apparently healthy children. Not surprisingly, this virus is also having a massive economic and social impact on the world, causing an annual loss in global GDP of more than 8%.

Researchers have not yet found a universal cure for the dangerous disease because it seems like some children respond to certain active substances, while others respond to completely different ones. Specialists are now attempting to organise all the affected children into different sub-groups so that the appropriate medicine can be administered to each of them.

Yes, this is a disease we are talking about and it is called 'violence against children'. In Romania, it is something that we have grown far too accustomed to – an all too common reality that should, as the centenary approaches, be listed as one of the most serious threats to the future of our nation.

Over the last 20 years, there have been many information campaigns that have attempted to highlight the problem but have never been backed up with enough facts and statistics to demonstrate what a truly serious problem it is. Now, for the first time in Romania, we are able to reveal to the general public, including all the professionals involved with and concerned about the phenomena of violence against children, a segmentation study that clearly shows how separate groups of parents justify different ways of using violence against children.


World Vision Romania will dedicate its future five years of activity to a national campaign for eradicating violence against children. This is part of a global campaign – **It takes a world to end violence against children** – involving the more than 80 countries that form the World Vision International Partnership. Alone, we do not stand a chance – the size of the challenge is just too big. But so is the importance of the goal we have set out to achieve.

For the sake of our children, we cannot afford to fail and this is why we need your support. We need you to read, to understand, to reach out to a parent that is losing patience. We need to help them understand the effect their actions are having on the growth of their children.

By no coincidence, we launch this study on Saint Nicholas Day. The stick Saint Nicholas brings to children in the story is a metaphor, and yet there are many people who still take it literally. From Saint Nicholas' story we need to cherish and value peace, understanding, wisdom, patience and the capacity to love without boundaries.

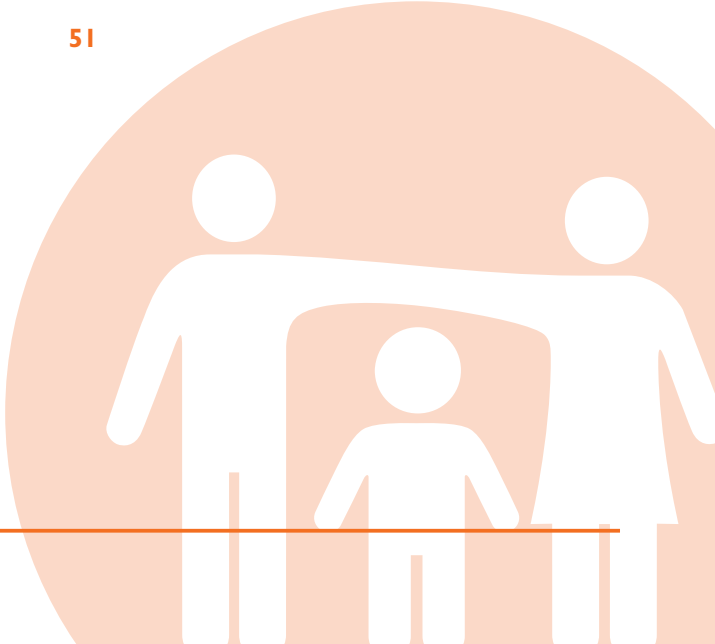
Daniela Buzducea

National Director
World Vision Romania



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VIOLENCE AFFECTS - HEALTH/EDUCATION/SOCIETY/ECONOMY

If it takes a whole village to raise a child, what will it take to protect a child from violence? How about **1.7 billion children**? Yes, this is the number of children around the world that were victims of violence in 2015. **Every hour in Romania, at least two acts of violence against children are reported to the authorities.** In 2016, 14,233 cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation were reported. **Every year, in our country, reports of abuse increase by approximately 1,000 cases,** even though our child population continues to decrease (we currently have 40% less children than in 1990).

Although these statistics speak volumes, the reality is that there are many hundreds of other cases that are never reported. And all of this happens because we live in a society in which using physical acts to enforce discipline is perceived as an acceptable method of education; in which neglect is not formally acknowledged as a type of violence; in which many people still believe that whatever happens within a family should stay behind closed doors, and very rarely do the witnesses of domestic violence feel they should interfere.

How would you, as an adult, feel if your best friend were to betray you? Most likely you would feel devastated, like your world is about to collapse! For most children, their parents mean even more than a best friend. They are often the only ones the child can fully trust. It is in their parents' arms that children can find comfort from all their fears.

86% of the reported cases of physical abuse against children have taken place within THE FAMILY, according to the National Authority for Child Protection.

It is therefore shocking to think that most of the violence committed against children, happens behind closed doors and is never revealed in national statistics. Domestic violence is not a subject for discussion in Romanian society. It is largely accepted and often not even considered to be a form of violence. And yet it is these acts of violence that inflict damage on children that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.



HEALTH

Do you know what happens in a child's body when they are being shouted at or hit?

The chemical reaction that takes place in a child's body when threatened **is identical to that experienced by our historical ancestors when they were being attacked by wild animals.** This hormonal cocktail is engaged as a response to stress, essential for the survival of the human species. **Almost 90% of the children subjected to violence in Romania need this chemical reaction in their bodies in order to survive their own family.**

When a child feels threatened, the pulse quickens, the arterial pressure increases and the child starts breathing faster than usual. The veins start to transfer more oxygen towards the muscles as the body prepares to run or hide.

At the same time, the body blocks important functions – such as digestion and growth – all of which are vital for the development of a young organism, but not necessary for immediate survival.

The brain of a child who is being shouted at or hit reacts in the same way as that of our ancestors, millions of years ago, when

confronted by a dangerous situation like a bear attack. Today, the threat may come in the form of a belt or wooden spoon wielded by an angry adult but the brain still behaves just as it did in the past.



EDUCATION

Domestic violence triggers school dropout

In the unfortunate situation when a child is frequently subjected to verbal and/or physical abuse, or is a constant witness to domestic violence at home, the instinctive response to stress remains permanently activated and transforms into what doctors call 'toxic stress'. The chemical reaction that keeps the child in a permanently alert state dominates the areas of the brain that are assigned to learning and rational thinking. The result is that these children have fewer and weaker neuronal connections.



SOCIAL

A portrait of a child-abused society

Children who lack emotional attachment (for example: feelings of care, concern and love for others) are nine times more violent than children who are emotionally attached. **And this is how they will behave as adults.** Neuropsychiatrists have analysed the scans of children's brains who have been abused or neglected and found evidence of cerebral damage that leads to a need for violence in their adult lives.

Scientists have proven that the prolonged activation of stress hormones in early childhood decreases the number of neuronal connections in important parts of the brain, precisely when new connections should be occurring. Adults who have experienced corporal punishment in childhood have less chance of graduating with a university degree or finding a well-paid job, and are not as likely to achieve a respected social status in the community.

The violence experienced in childhood affects the neuronal mechanism that adjusts **empathy and the capacity to instantly understand the actions, intentions and emotions of other people.**

If we tolerate violence against children, we are condemning ourselves and our children to a society plagued by depression and dominated by delinquency and drug abuse.

We are talking about a society in which everyone, whether in shops, on public transport or in the workplace, remain in a constant state of alert, guarding against the increasing number of people displaying aggressive behavior, bi-polar disorder and an inability to manage their emotions. Instead, they will use violence to solve their conflicts and will never be able to build stable relationships with other people.

It is the violence experienced by so many in childhood that is causing our society to behave like an aggressive, hunted animal.



ECONOMY

How much does violence against children cost us in Romania?
8.45 billion EUR per year

Studies have shown that violence against children can cost countries somewhere between 2% and 10% of GDP, depending on various factors in a country.

In Romania there has been no such study, but one can estimate based on the findings of the many studies conducted around the world. Therefore, if we consider that Romania's GDP in 2016 was 169 billion Euros and we apply a median cost of 5%, the estimated cost of violence against children in Romania was 8.45 billion Euros in that year.

Chronic diseases related to violence

Conditions that children develop because they have been exposed to violence include: cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, hepatic disease, asthma, obesity, diabetes, cancer, depression, ADHD, behavioral disorder, arterial hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and high levels of C-reactive protein.

Girls and boys

Research shows that boys develop less emotional attachment as they grow. Why?

- Mothers pay less attention to them and their needs
- Boys get hit twice or three times more often than girls;
- Boys are subjected to more violence because they are taught that they need to be strong and not weak.

Abuse and neglect produce the same type of brain damage in girls as in boys:

- **Girls** respond by hiding within themselves, which leads to depression, helplessness and dependency.
- **Boys** tend to be hyperactive and impulsive – acting on immediate reflexes such as running or fighting.

Suicide

Children who have been abused are far more likely to attempt suicide. According to Eurostat data (2014), the suicide rate among youth aged between 15 and 19 years in Romania is 6.3 deaths to 100,000 people, compared to the European average of 4.6.

Stress hormone

When we are exposed to violence or perceive the existence of a threat, a series of sudden and extremely rapid changes, also known as 'stress response', occur in our body: the hypothalamus sends a quick signal to the pituitary gland which then instructs the adrenal glands to release cortisol – the stress hormone.

High levels of cortisol decrease the quantity of a substance responsible for maintaining the efficient function of neurons and this can lead to **emotional or psychiatric problems, sleep disorder, anxiety, irritability, depression and learning difficulties.**

LEGEND

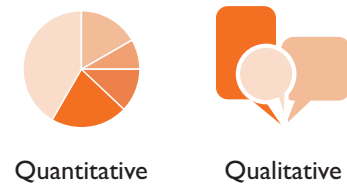
Residency



Respondent's profile



Research



METHODOLOGY

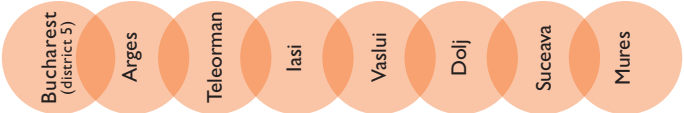
This research has been initiated by Reveal Marketing Research for World Vision Romania and is part of the national public awareness campaign regarding violence against children. It forms a part of World Vision International's global campaign: ***It takes a world to end violence against children.***

Through its Christian identity and multi-sectorial activities, World Vision International will contribute expertise, research and project models to develop and adapt solutions to help prevent violence against children and this, in turn, will contribute directly to the overall impact of the global campaign.

World Vision Romania aims to use the study and the results of qualitative and quantitative research done by its partner, Reveal Marketing Research, to evaluate the attitudes of Romanian parents towards violence against children in their own families. The research has been conducted on a sample that is representative of the national population.

In the first stage of the qualitative research, the parents were categorised according to their attitudes towards violence against children. Respondents were chosen from Bucharest and

another seven counties with high incidents of domestic violence (Argeş, Teleorman, Iaşi, Vaslui, Dolj, Suceava, Mureş). In each location, two families were interviewed from each of the following groups: medium-high income and education (Medium-High) and vulnerable families with poor education and low income (Low).



Two interviews in the urban area and two interviews in the rural area

After conducting in-depth, face-to-face interviews, the main behavioural patterns were revealed and these were used to help formulate the questions used in the quantitative research questionnaire.

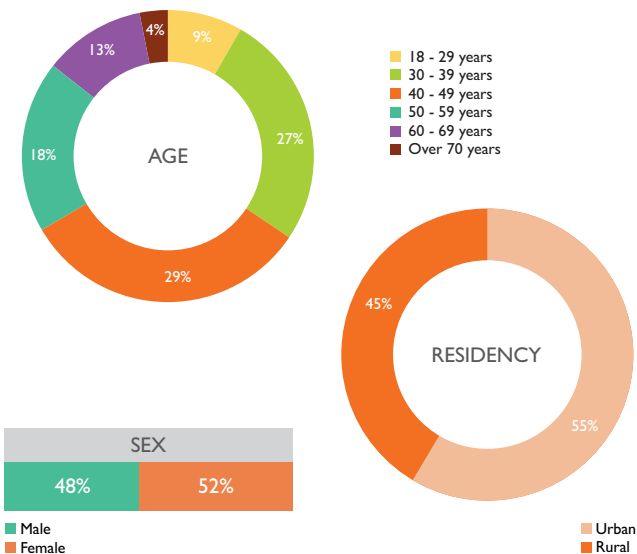


The 'Low' profile group was selected by applying a series of criteria such as low income, low education levels, single-parent families, rejoined families, etc. Those that fulfilled at least 60% of these criteria were placed in this group.



For the 'Medium-High' group, opinion leaders and people with influence in their communities were interviewed.

40–49 years old and 35% parents aged between 50–70 years old. Respondents have been chosen from each of the eight regions of development, in representative proportions for the distribution of the population by residence (45% rural, 55% urban), with a margin of error of +/- 2.5% and a trust value of 95%.

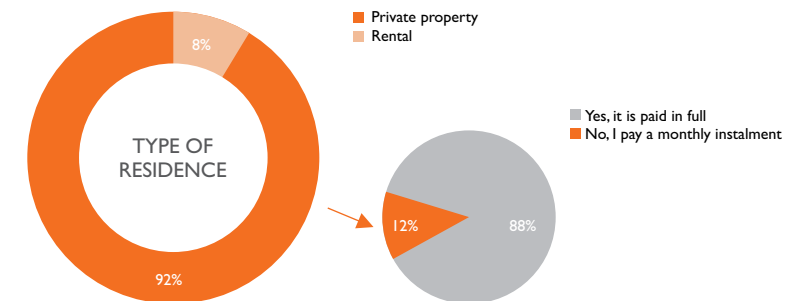
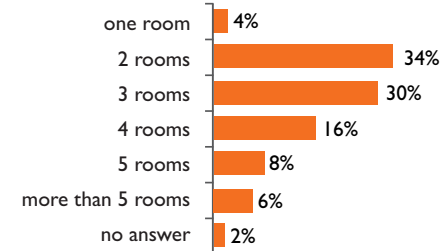


The second stage of the research, the quantitative evaluation, was conducted in late 2017 and included 1,206 computer-assisted telephone interviews in which respondents from all over the country were asked a range of relevant questions.

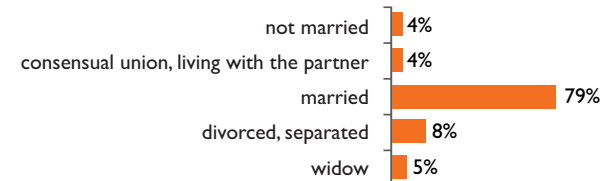
The research is representative at a national level, the respondents have been chosen based on a stratified, probability sampling methodology. The sample targets respondents aged over 18 years who have (or have had) children in their care and been involved in their upbringing.

An equilibrium principle has been applied to establish an equal gender range (48% men, 52% women) as well as to include all age categories. The sample included 36% parents aged between

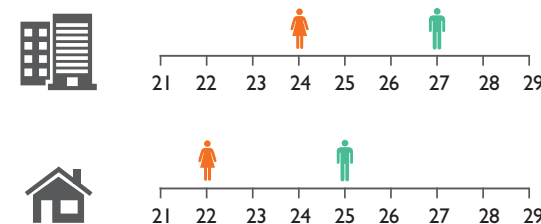
NUMBER OF ROOMS



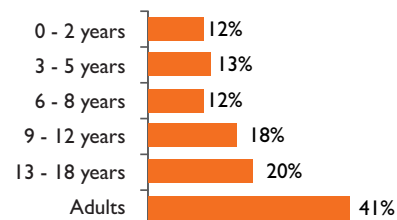
MARITAL STATUS



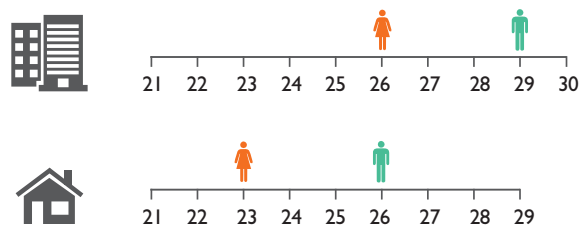
AVERAGE AGE AT GETTING MARRIED



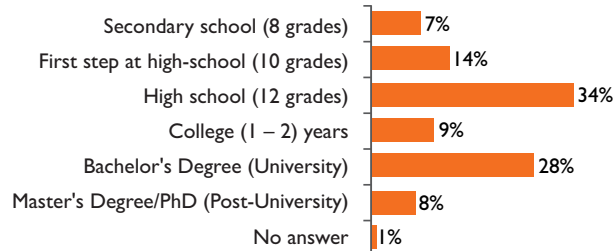
THE AGE OF CHILDREN IN FAMILIES



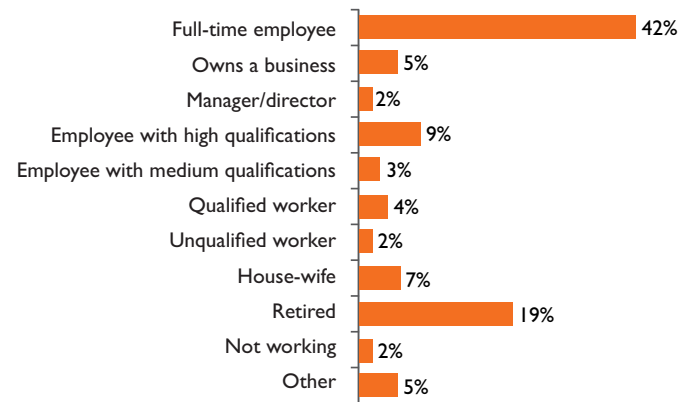
AVERAGE AGE AT HAVING A CHILD



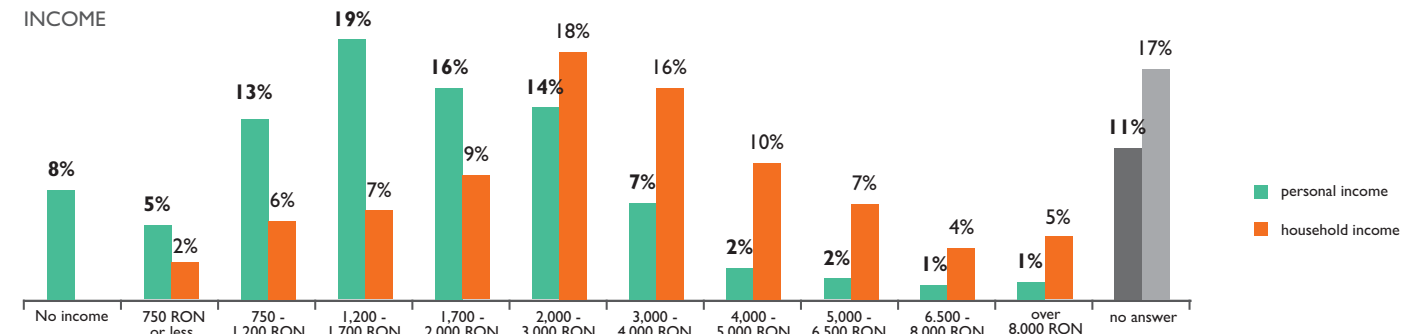
EDUCATION



OCCUPATION



INCOME



The two stages of the study (qualitative and quantitative) have contributed to the study reaching its objectives in the following ways:

- By categorising Romanian parents based on demographic data (age, sex, income, ethnicity, marital status, residency [rural and urban] and psychological data (attitudes, lifestyles, etc.);
- By understanding some aspects of parents' lifestyles such as what they do with their free time, their hobbies, habits, etc.;
- By identifying the main attitudes towards violence against children and how they justify their own acts of violence;
- By evaluating the situations in which they encourage

or tolerate their own acts of violence or others acts of violence;

- By investigating their values, fears, daily problems and how they cope with everything;
- By confronting the needs of Romanian parents (social needs, psychological needs relational needs, uncovered needs) and the triggering factors that lead to violence against children;
- By assessing the motivations and barriers that make some people more likely to use violence against children;
- By describing experiences (personal and more general information relating to the community as a whole) regarding violence against children.

The research report *Why do we hit children?* is aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding domestic violence against children, so as to later on offer suitable recommendations on how this violent behavior can be stopped, even before it emerges. The report analyses in-depth attitudes towards violence as well as the triggers that often lead to this violence. At the same time, it offers possible solutions to the problem that can be easily adopted by all segments of the Romanian population.



It takes a world

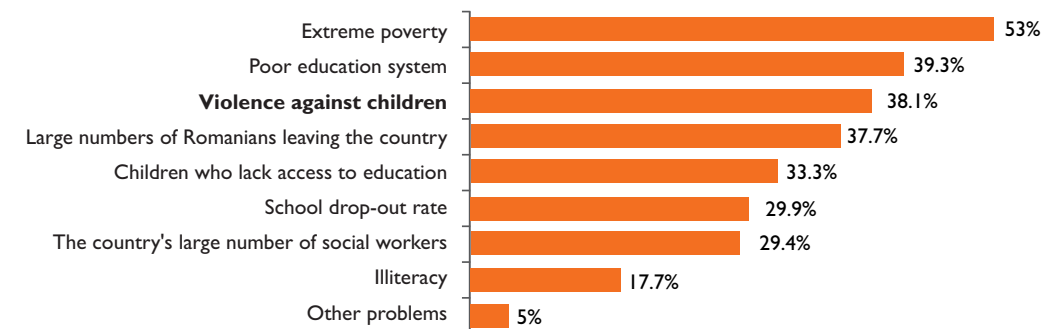
to end violence against children

THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY

I. What are Romania's main social issues?

Extreme poverty continues to be one of the main issues that Romania is dealing with. Violence against children rates as the third most serious problem facing Romanians, as indicated by almost 4 out of 10 respondents.

Q: Which of these social problems do you consider to be the most serious faced by Romanians today?



2. What are the general attitudes of parents in Romania?



LOW

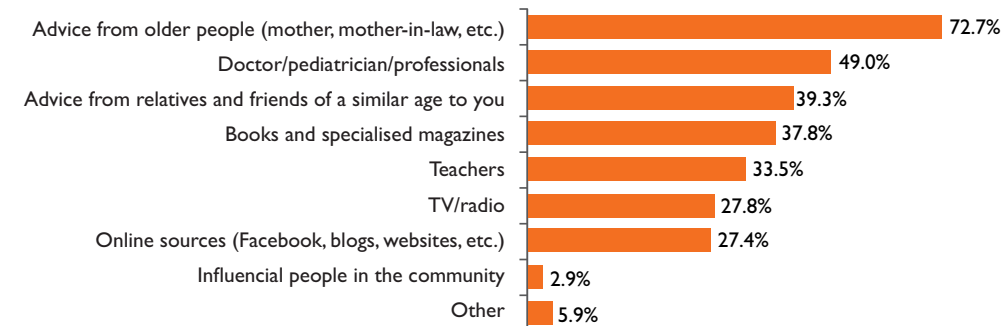


MEDIUM HIGH

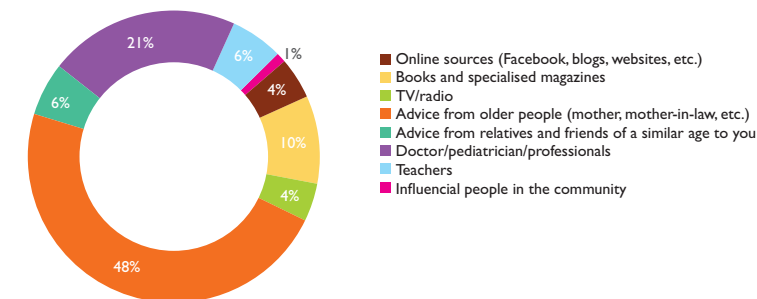
FAMILY	JOB/WORKPLACE	EDUCATION	GENERAL COMPLAINTS/ FRUSTRATIONS	COMPLAINTS ABOUT CHILDREN	SACRIFICES
In the low-income families there are numerous cases of unwanted pregnancies.	People with a low income are constantly preoccupied with securing decent short-term living conditions. For this reason, their security varies according to their access to employment.	People with a low income are preoccupied with keeping their children in school so as to ensure them of a better future.	It is with low-income people in the rural areas that the degree of discontentment and frustration is generally the highest. The discontent is often felt most by the decision-makers and has to do with issues such as bureaucracy, small salaries, living conditions, etc.	Poor school results and a lack of interest towards education are usually common to all categories of people. In the rural areas, parents are mostly frustrated by the lack of respect they get from their children.	People with a low-income often talk about personal sacrifices such as choosing not to eat so that their children don't go without, and the fact that they would do anything to ensure their children go to school.
In the higher-income families, the family is the safest place possible – the place that makes sense of everyday life. For both categories, however, family is the most important aspect of life and the main focus of all the family members.	People with higher incomes aspire to a better life. This is why the main objective of their jobs is both personal and professional development.	People with a higher income have high expectations regarding their children's education and the child's educational results.	People with a higher income are most often frustrated by the limited amount of time they have.	Parents with higher incomes are generally frustrated by the demands made by their children, much of which are unaffordable.	People with a higher income often talk about sacrificing their personal time. For them, having children may mean compromising on long holidays, not going out, etc.

3. Who and what influences the attitude of parents in Romania towards their children?

Who influences your attitude towards children the most?



What is your main source of information?



4. When is violent behaviour most likely to occur?

FIND BELOW THE LIST OF VARIOUS STRESS FACTORS OCCURRING FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY (HIGH-INCOME FAMILIES).

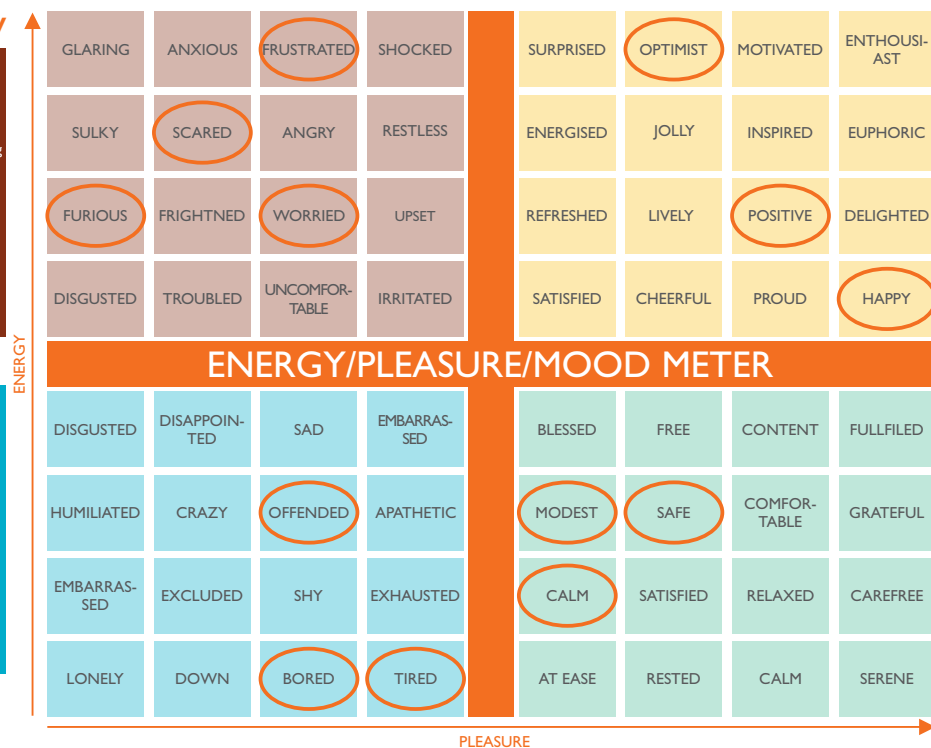
Monday - Tuesday

It's hard to mobilise children. Parents are worried and stressed-out about their jobs/household responsibilities. The probability of a parent becoming violent and/or shouting at their child increases. The parent worries and feels guilty about the little time spent home with the children.

NEGATIVE

The parents are upset, time passes slowly and they feel they have lost control. They feel tired and there are moments when it is hard for them to focus. They are bored and need a break.

Wednesday Thursday



Sunday

Parents feel more comfortable at home with their family and children. Parents feel stressed if they think they are not providing optimal living conditions for their family.

POSITIVE

Family or social activities make parents feel more optimistic and happy with what they have.

Friday, Saturday

FIND BELOW THE LIST OF VARIOUS STRESS FACTORS OCCURRING FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY (LOW-INCOME FAMILIES).

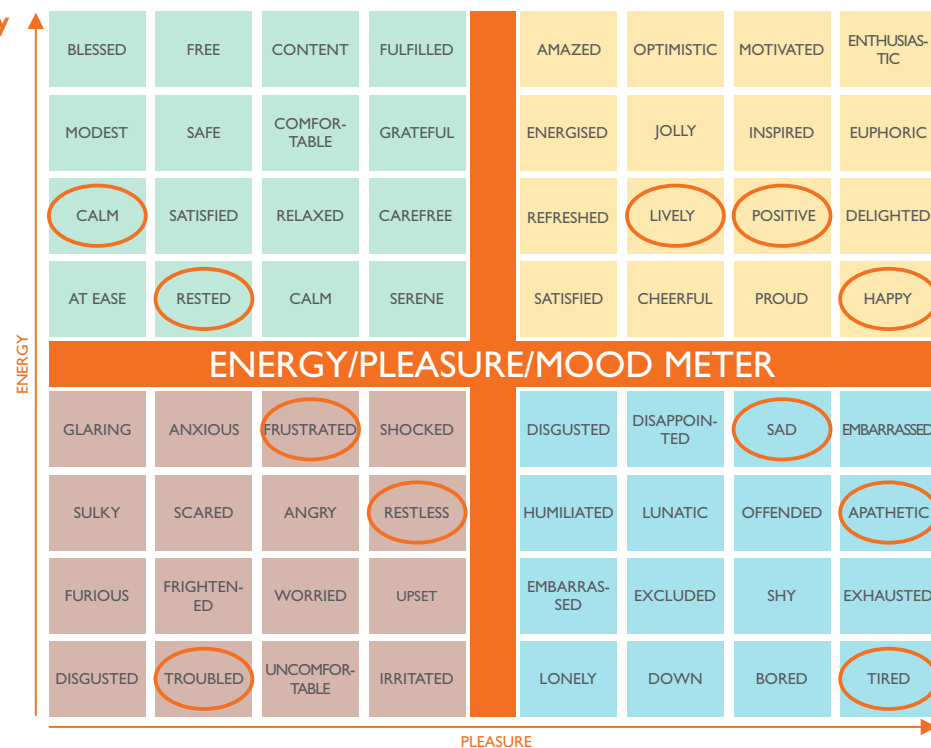
Monday - Tuesday

Parents living in rural areas or those with a low income begin their week feeling more optimistic than those in other categories. It is very unlikely that they will engage in any violent behaviour during these days.

NEGATIVE

Parents worry and grow angry more quickly as frustrations start to emerge. Parents yell more often at their children and find it harder to control their negative emotions and reactions.

Wednesday - Thursday



Sunday

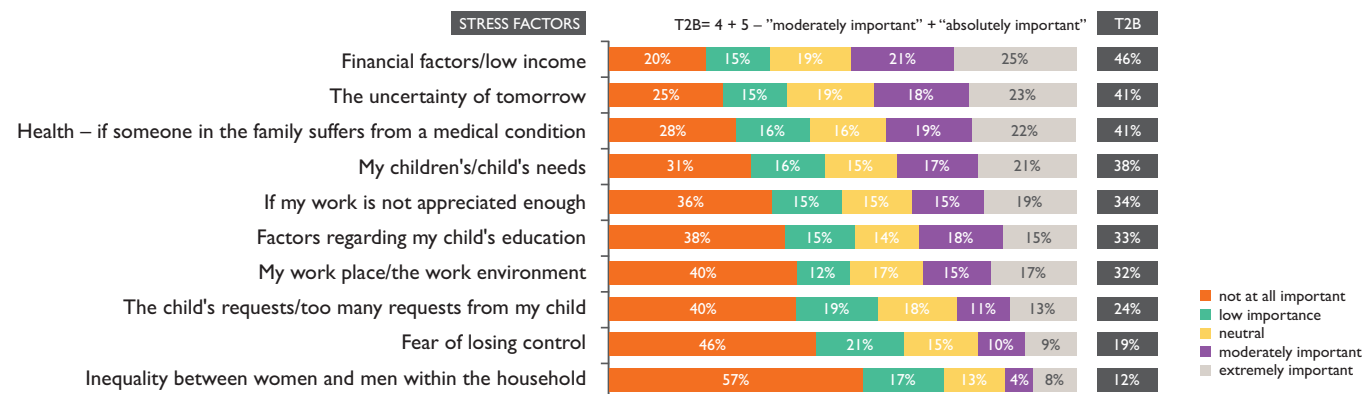
People in rural areas do not get to rest on Saturdays. For people with a low-income, the weekend is often just as busy as during the week because they are usually engaged in activities to bring in extra money.

POSITIVE

In the rural areas, respondents with lower incomes usually attend church or socialise with their neighbours. This fills them with energy again and is everyone's favourite day of the week.

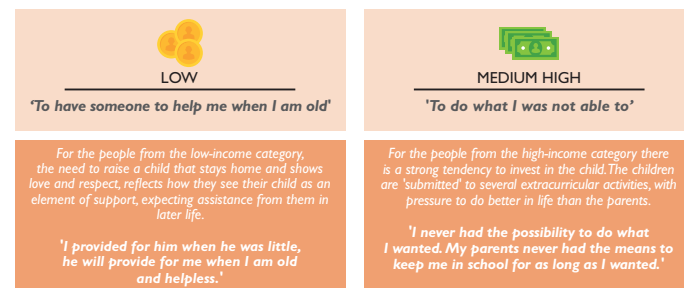
Friday, Saturday

5. What worries the parents?



6. What does it mean to have a child?

In-depth interviews have shown that parents who have not fulfilled their 'safety needs' and 'belongingness needs' (according to Maslow's pyramid/hierarchy of needs) are already stressed as a result of this and children become an extra thing to worry about.




For the low-income parents: The child is an additional source of worry and anxiety.

Raising a child is described as the most important and difficult task in life. The main challenges involve satisfying the child's needs and the sacrifices the parents must make (such as changing their lifestyle) in order to do this.


For the higher-income parents: The mirror of the parent

The child is almost considered the property of the parent. Often the parent replicates the way he/she was raised including an adherence to his/her own parents' educational beliefs.


7. What are Romanian parents afraid of/worried about ?


Age 25-35
Young people have fears and worries related to the pick of the pyramid – to personal fulfilment. When they talk about their fears, they do not look at their immediate needs but rather at the lack of opportunities available to them in Romania.



Age 60+
The main fears of these respondents are emotionally-centered, fearing that they did not manage to do everything they wanted, or that they did not succeed in fully supporting their children, or they are afraid of loneliness.



Age 46-60
These people are worried about the unpredictability of their economic situation, about the future of their children, etc.



Age 36-45
These people are generally young parents, feeling overwhelmed by responsibilities and daily activities: healthy eating, getting a good rest, working towards financial security, etc. As young parents, they become frustrated at having to satisfy the needs on the lower levels of the pyramid.

What are Romanians afraid of/worried about?



A popular opinion in Romanian society is that a child must recognise a parent's authority (even fearing the parent) so that the parent can exercise control over the child by applying (often strict) disciplinary measures. Parents also feel it is important to transmit certain values to their children which they hope will lead to better critical thinking and prevent them from being easily influenced.



People from urban areas are afraid of losing control over their children since this could impact their social status, self-esteem and their overall success as parents.



People with a medium-high income as well as people from rural areas put more emphasis on socialising and on mutual support in the community.



People from rural areas with low incomes tend to remain focused on fulfilling their basic needs. The need to belong and get involved in community life is largely ignored.

What problems are Romanians confronting?



People from the medium-high income category think that poverty is a consequence of choice and they do not believe that the rural areas have the power to regenerate themselves. They are also cognisant of the numerous financial needs they face: requests from the school, high education expenses, everyday child-related expenses – all of which are confirmation that a child's education requires investment on their part.



People from the urban areas are generally unhappy with how their children's knowledge and skills are being evaluated, believing that the topics taught in school are not really useful for their children.



People from the medium-income rural areas are worried about the lack of jobs and the lack of public transportation into the cities.



People from the low-income category are usually beneficiaries of social assistance and live in rented housing facilities. Not owning their own home is a major stress factor, especially for women who are conditioned to continue living with violent spouses.

'My daughter started school. But after a while she did not want to go back because she was ashamed that the other richer girls were better dressed than she was. She was ashamed of the old clothes I was able to buy her.'

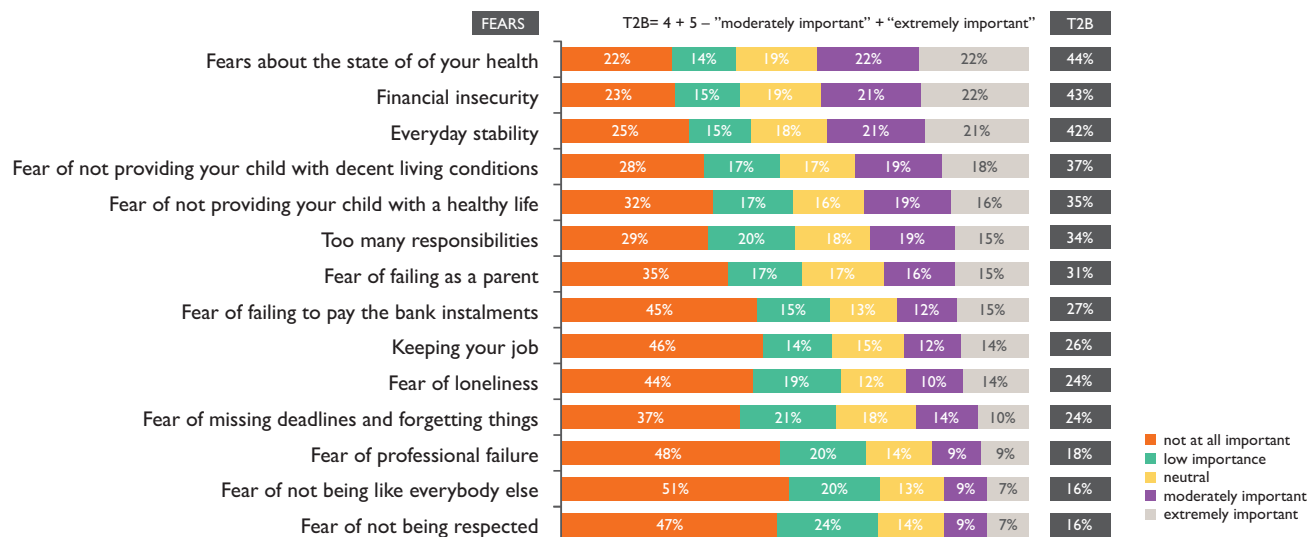


Mothers with low-incomes are doing their best to give their children better lives so that their children don't have to go through what they went through. This often requires many personal sacrifices. *'Sometimes I would not eat just to have something to feed my children with. When I see them full and content, I feel that I can happily go to bed. I just want to see them being well.'*

What are Romanians afraid of?



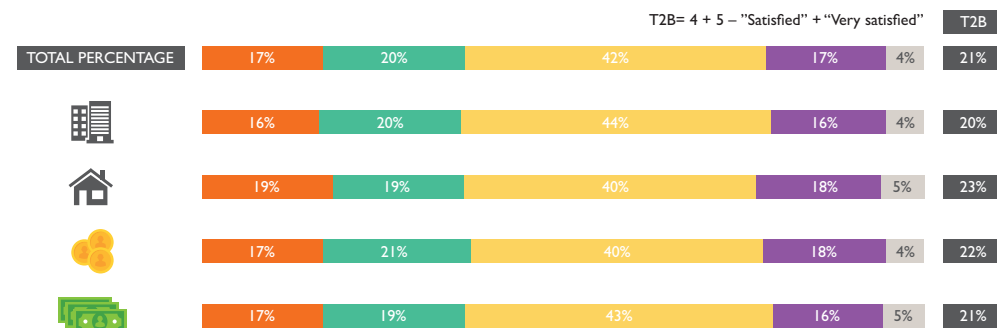
What are Romanians afraid of?



FEARS	Total percentage				
Fears about the state of your health	45%	44%	46%	55%	39%
Financial insecurity	44%	43%	44%	54%	38%
Everyday stability	42%	42%	42%	51%	37%
Fear of not providing your child with decent living conditions	37%	37%	38%	45%	33%
Fear of not providing your child with a healthy life	35%	34%	36%	39%	33%
Too many responsibilities	34%	37%	30%	35%	33%
Fear of failing as a parent	31%	32%	30%	33%	30%
Fear of failing to pay the bank instalments	27%	27%	28%	32%	24%
Keeping your job	26%	27%	24%	29%	24%
Fear of loneliness	25%	24%	26%	30%	22%
Fear of missing deadlines and forgetting things	24%	22%	27%	30%	21%
Fear of professional failure	18%	18%	17%	20%	17%
Fear of not being like everybody else	16%	15%	17%	22%	13%
Fear of not being respected	15%	13%	18%	20%	13%

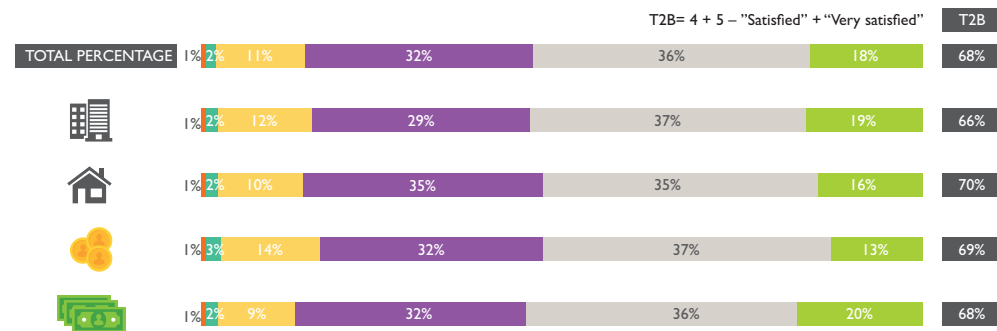
Significantly lower than the total
 Significantly higher than the total

8. How content are Romanians with the Romanian education system?



Extremely unsatisfied
Unsatisfied
Neutral
Satisfied
Very satisfied

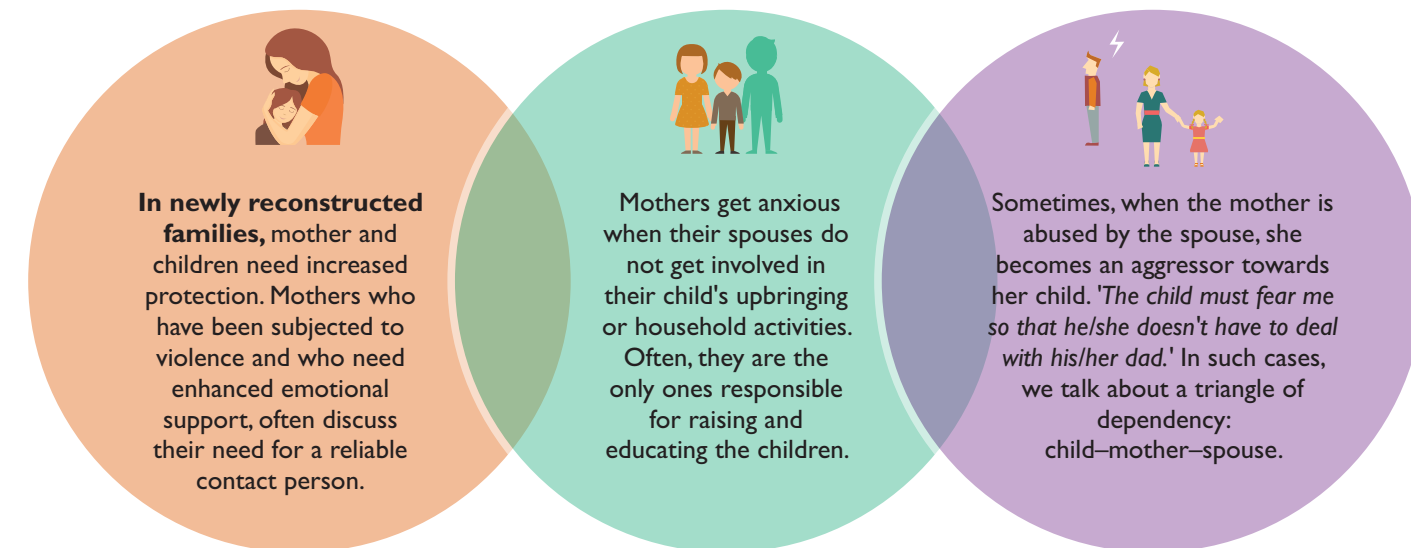
9. How satisfied are Romanians with the grades their children receive at school?



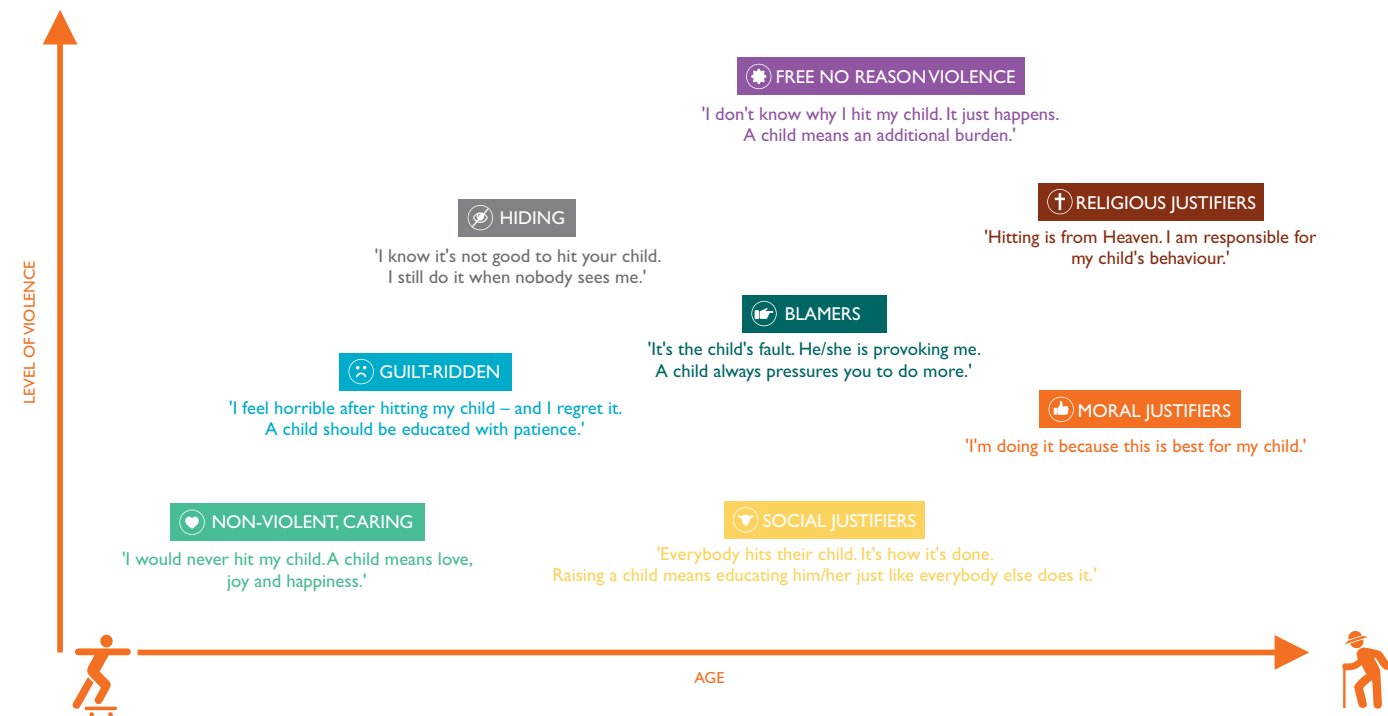
Extremely unsatisfied
Unsatisfied
Neutral
Satisfied
Very satisfied
N/A



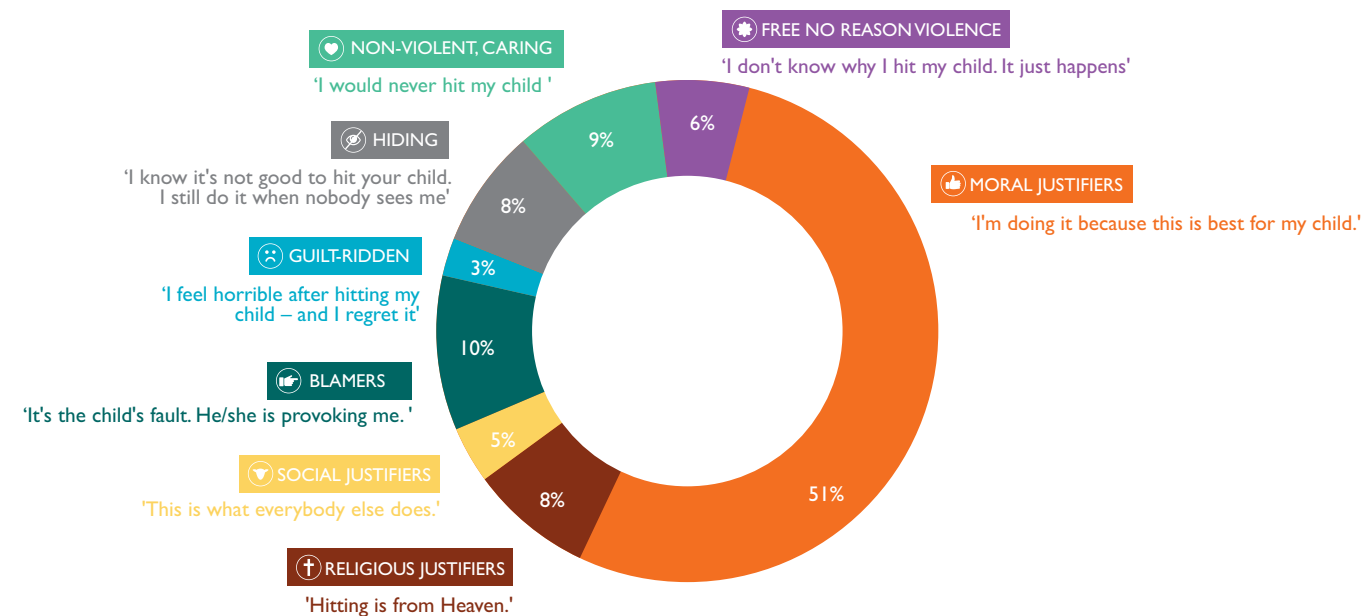
Conclusions



10. Why do we hit our children? 7 types of parents who hit their children



11. 1 in 9 parents would never hit his or her child

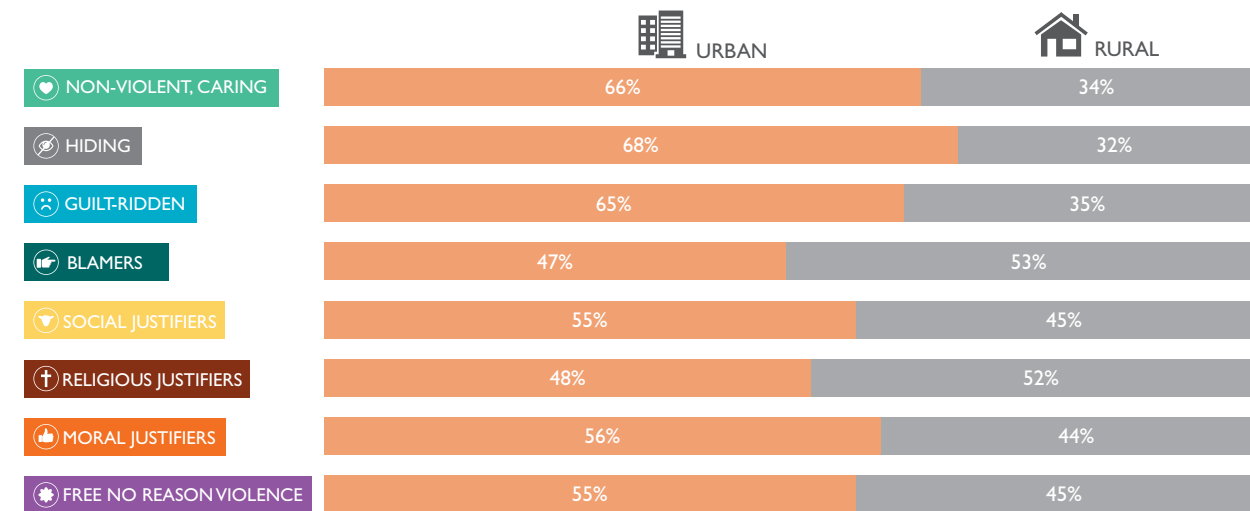


12. What age do parents hit their children?

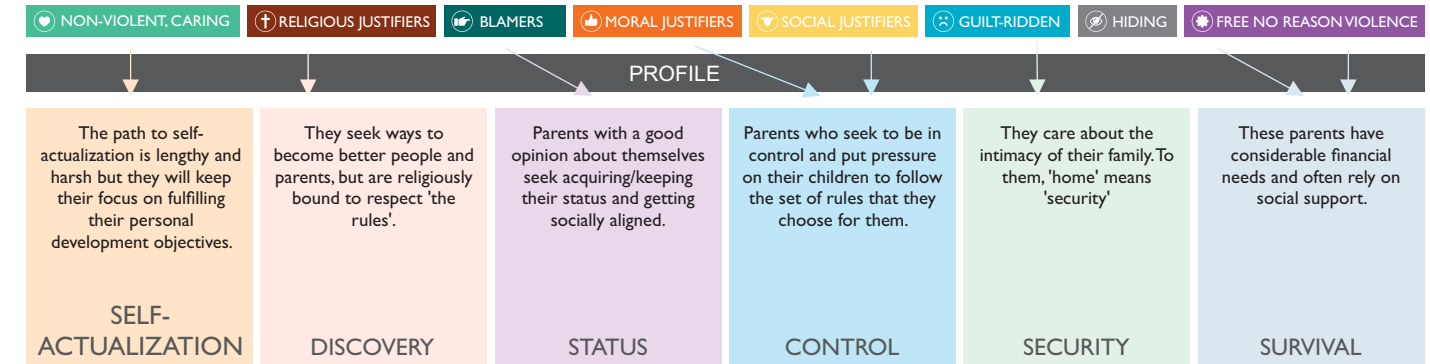
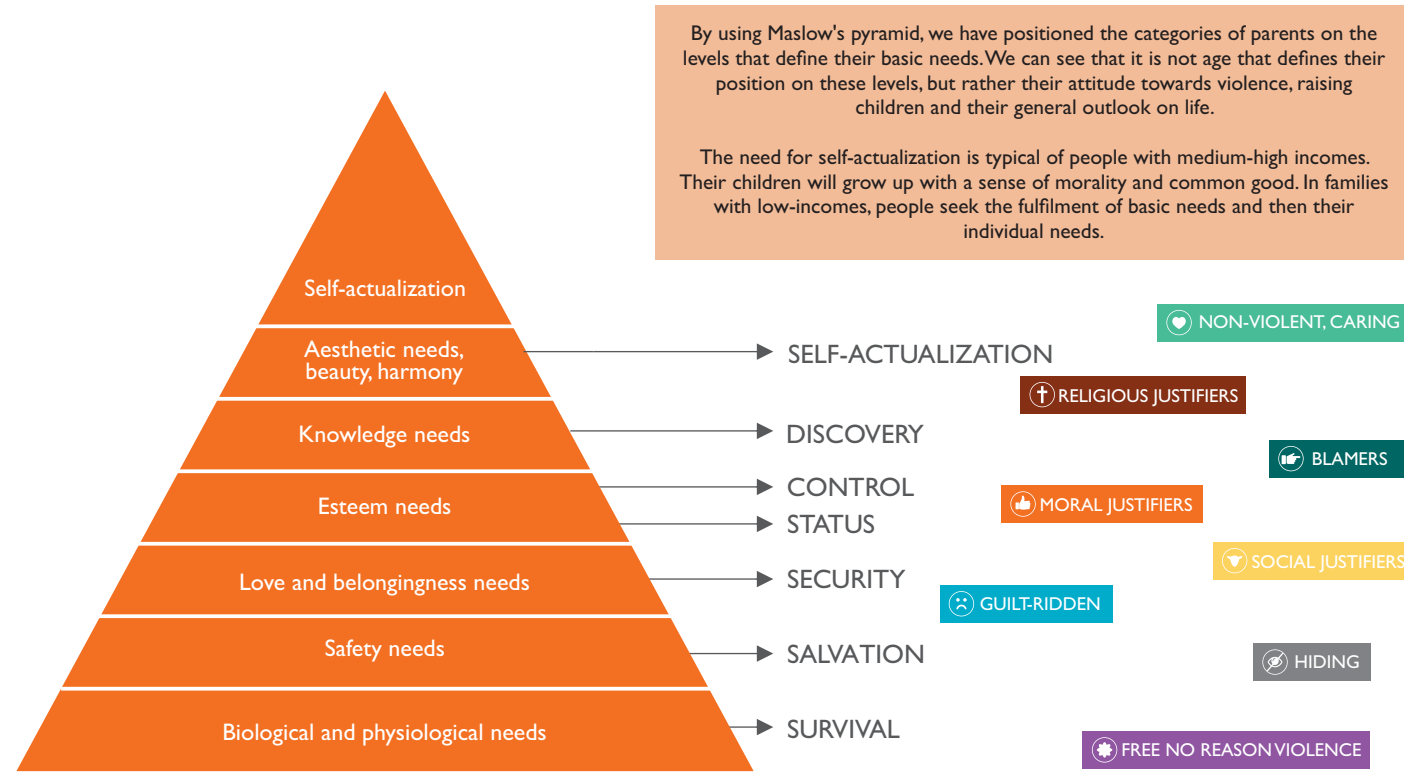
	TOTAL PERCENTAGE	0 - 2 years	3 - 5 years	6 - 8 years	9 - 12 years	Teenager	Adult
♥ NON-VIOLENT, CARING	9,3%	11,7%	11,6%	7,3%	7,0%	9,7%	8,1%
👁 HIDING	7,5%	9,0%	6,5%	9,3%	4,7%	9,7%	6,5%
😞 GUILT-RIDDEN	2,8%	2,8%	1,3%	4,0%	4,2%	6,3%	1,6%
👊 BLAMERS	10,3%	12,4%	10,3%	12,0%	12,6%	13,1%	8,3%
👉 SOCIAL JUSTIFIERS	5,5%	7,6%	6,5%	5,3%	3,3%	4,2%	6,5%
✝ RELIGIOUS JUSTIFIERS	8,1%	9,7%	6,5%	6,7%	10,7%	8,4%	8,1%
👍 MORAL JUSTIFIERS	50,6%	45,5%	51,6%	49,3%	49,8%	40,9%	55,3%
⚙ FREE NO REASON VIOLENCE	5,9%	1,4%	5,8%	6,0%	7,9%	7,6%	5,5%

○ Significantly lower than the total ○ Significantly higher than the total

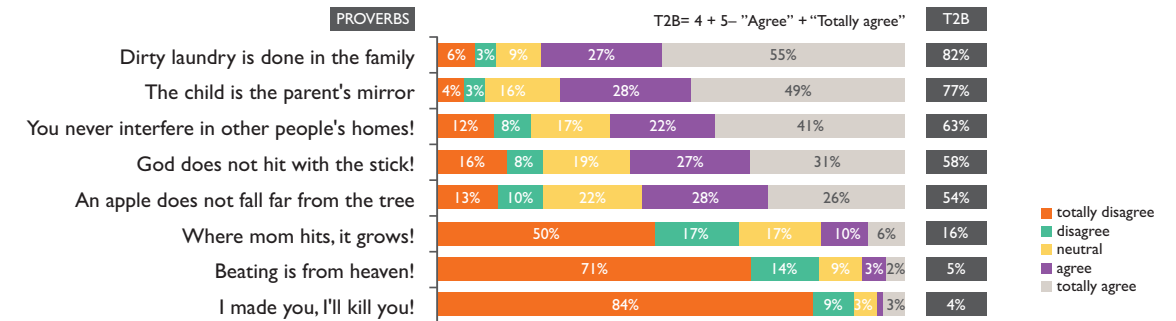
13. Where do these parents live?



14. Why do we hit our children? Describing typologies



15. Why do we hit children? Romanian proverbs

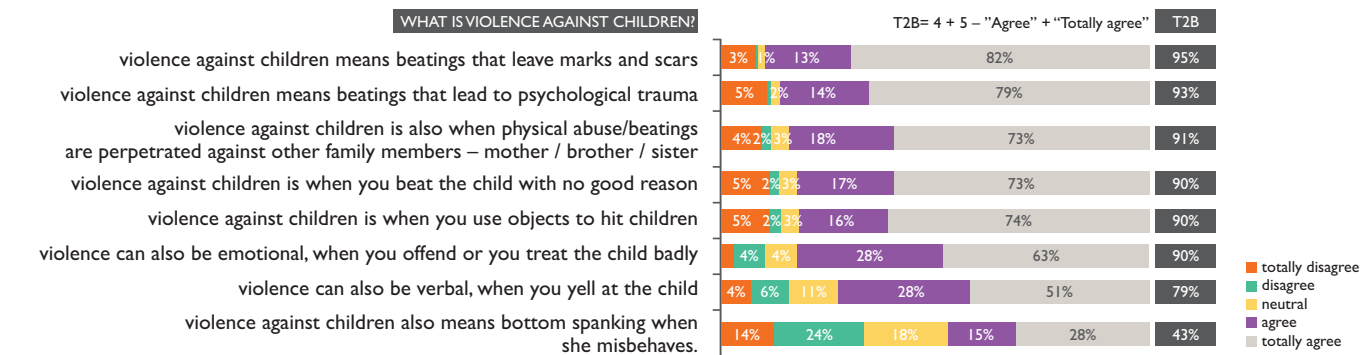


PROVERBS	Total sample				
Beating is from heaven.	6%	5%	7%	7%	5%
You do not interfere in other people's homes!	63%	68%	62%	67%	61%
The child is the parent's mirror.	77%	75%	80%	83%	74%
God does not hit with the stick!	58%	56%	60%	62%	56%
Dirty laundry is done in the family.	82%	83%	79%	82%	81%
I made you, I'll kill you!	4%	1%	7%	5%	3%
Where mom hits, it grows!	16%	13%	20%	22%	13%
An apple does not fall far from the tree.	54%	51%	59%	57%	53%

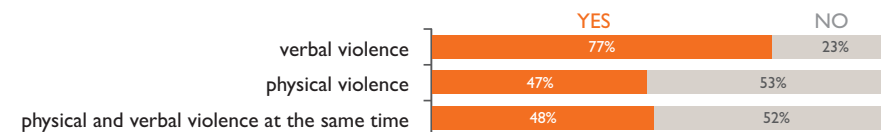
PROVERBS	Total sample	NON-VIOLENT, CARING	RELIGIOUS JUSTIFIERS	BLAMERS	MORAL JUSTIFIERS	SOCIAL JUSTIFIERS	GUILT-RIDDEN	HIDING	FREE NO REASON VIOLENCE
Beating is from heaven.	6%	5%	3%	3%	6%	5%	15%	5%	8%
You do not interfere in other people's homes!	63%	47%	64%	50%	72%	61%	62%	65%	65%
The child is the parent's mirror.	77%	67%	73%	74%	82%	78%	80%	78%	75%
God does not hit with the stick!	58%	50%	41%	50%	58%	67%	61%	60%	65%
Dirty laundry is done in the family.	82%	66%	86%	68%	81%	90%	83%	82%	89%
I made you, I'll kill you!	4%	4%	2%	9%	4%	5%	9%	2%	4%
Where mom hits, it grows!	16%	14%	7%	18%	18%	21%	26%	15%	23%
An apple does not fall far from the tree.	54%	41%	40%	47%	55%	58%	55%	58%	65%

Significantly lower than the total Significantly higher than the total

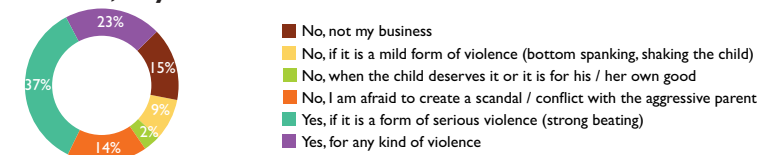
16. Perceptions on violence



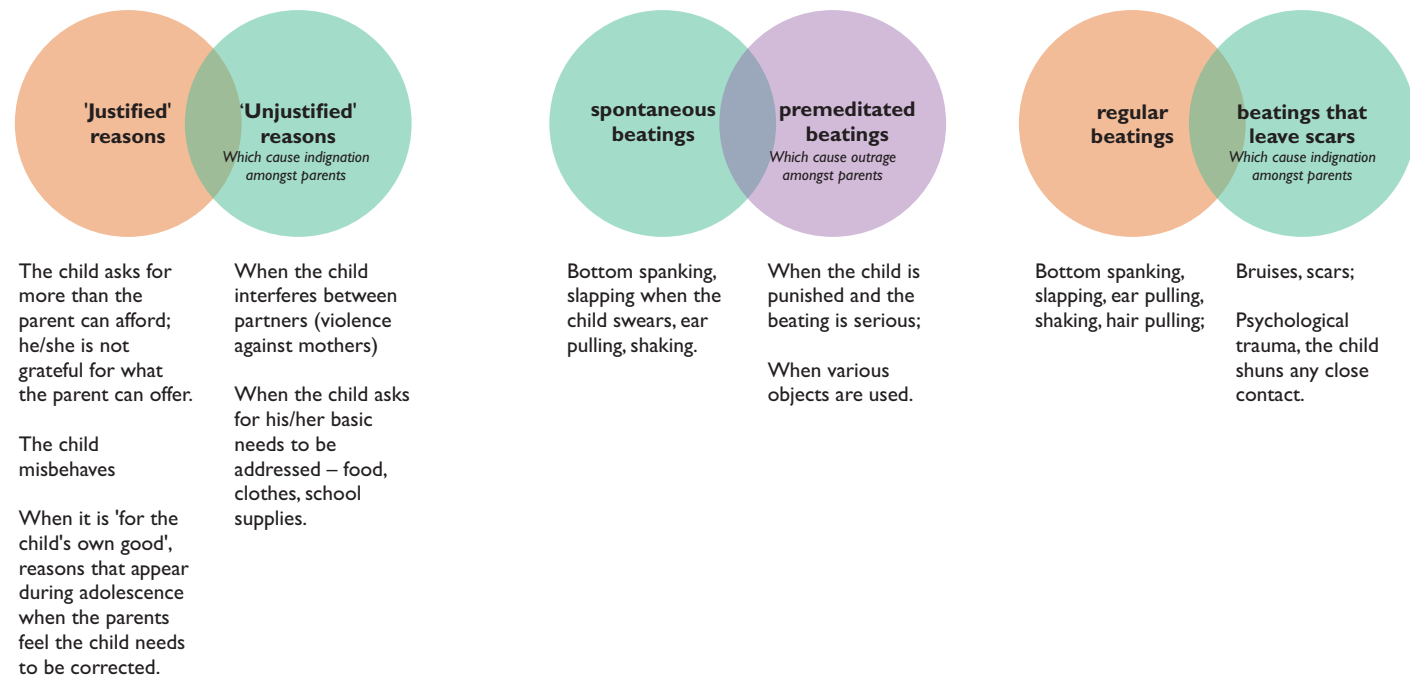
17. Have you ever noticed parents who are violent towards their children?



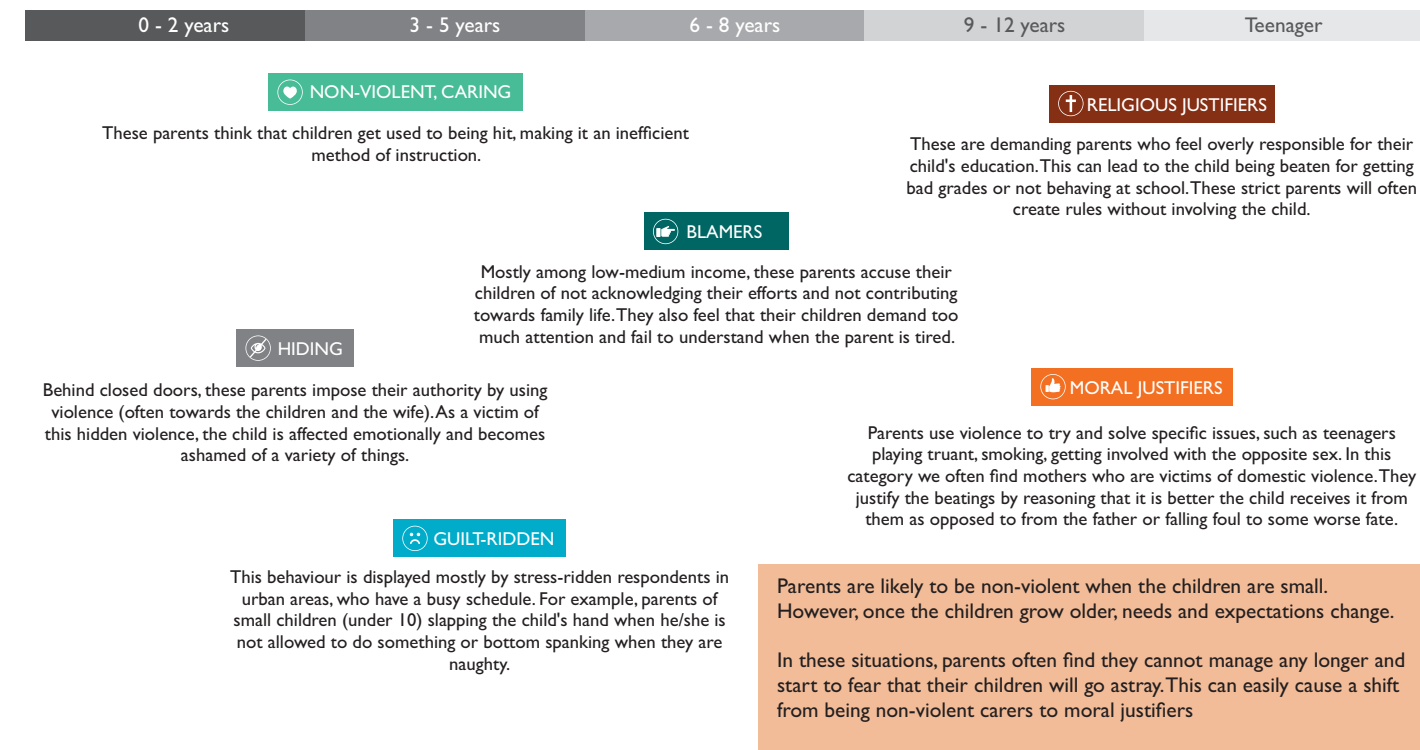
18. If you see a parent being violent towards a child, do you interfere?







19. How do Romanians justify child beating?



20. Why do we hit children?











21. What is violence against children? Perceptions of violence based on the respondents' background.

	Total percentage				
Violence against children means beatings that leave marks and scars	93%	94%	92%	93%	93%
Violence against children means beatings that lead to psychological trauma	95%	96%	94%	94%	96%
Violence against children also means bottom spanking when s/he misbehaves	43%	46%	39%*	38%*	45%
Violence against children is when you use objects to hit children	90%	91%	89%	89%	91%
Violence against children is when you beat the child with no good reason	90%	92%	88%	88%	92%
Violence can also be verbal, when you yell at the child	79%	81%	76%	76%	81%
Violence can also be emotional, when you offend or you treat the child badly	90%	91%	89%	88%	91%
Violence against children is also when physical abuse/beatings are perpetrated against other family members – mother/brother/sister	91%	91%	90%	89%	92%

 Significantly lower than the total
  Significantly higher than the total

*Parents from rural areas do not consider bottom spanking as a violent behaviour.

22. What is violence against children? Perceptions of violence based on the respondents' typology.

	Total percentage	 NON-VIOLENT, CARING	 RELIGIOUS JUSTIFIERS	 BLAMERS	 MORAL JUSTIFIERS	 SOCIAL JUSTIFIERS	 GUILT-RIDDEN	 HIDING	 FREE NO REASON VIOLENCE
Violence against children means beatings that leave marks and scars	93%	92%	96%	85%	94%	94%	96%	93%	92%
Violence against children means beatings that lead to psychological trauma	95%	95%	99%	97%	95%	92%	96%	95%	92%
Violence against children also means bottom spanking when s/he misbehaves	43%	48%	55%	47%	40%	47%	39%	41%	35%
Violence against children is when you use objects to hit children	90%	91%	95%	88%	94%	85%	91%	89%	92%
Violence against children is when you beat the child with no good reason	90%	90%	92%	88%	90%	86%	89%	91%	87%
Violence can also be verbal, when you yell at the child	79%	81%	91%	79%	77%	76%	74%	79%	75%
Violence can also be emotional, when you offend or you treat the child badly	90%	90%	93%	85%	90%	91%	90%	90%	89%
Violence against children is also when physical abuse/beatings are perpetrated against other family members – mother/brother/sister	91%	90%	95%	94%	94%	89%	89%	90%	89%

 Significantly lower than the total
  Significantly higher than the total



23. What is violence against children? Perceptions of violence based on children's age.

	Total percentage	0 - 2 years	3 - 5 years	6 - 8 years	9 - 12 years	Teenager	Adult
Violence against children means beatings that leave marks and scars	93%	92%	97%	95%	92%	94%	92%
Violence against children means beatings that lead to psychological trauma	95%	94%	97%	97%	94%	95%	95%
Violence against children also means bottom spanking when s/he misbehaves	43%	44%	48%	38%	41%	46%	42%
Violence against children is when you use objects to hit children	90%	90%	91%	89%	90%	91%	90%
Violence against children is when you beat the child with no good reason	90%	90%	90%	93%	88%	91%	90%
Violence can also be verbal, when you yell at the child	79%	83%	83%	84%	77%	78%	78%
Violence can also be emotional, when you offend or you treat the child badly	90%	92%	94%	95%	87%	90%	90%
Violence against children is also when physical abuse/beatings are perpetrated against other family members – mother/brother/sister	91%	92%	92%	91%	92%	92%	90%

○ Significantly lower than the total ○ Significantly higher than the total



24. What is violence against children? Perceptions of violence:atheists vs.believers.

	Total percentage	⛔ ATHEIST 6%	⛪ BELIEVERS 50%
Violence against children means beatings that leave marks and scars	93%	89%	95%
Violence against children means beatings that lead to psychological trauma	95%	96%	96%
Violence against children also means bottom spanking when s/he misbehaves	43%	56%	46%
Violence against children is when you use objects to hit children	90%	91%	91%
Violence against children is when you beat the child with no good reason	90%	93%	90%
Violence can also be verbal, when you yell at the child	79%	74%	82%
Violence can also be emotional, when you offend or you treat the child badly	90%	85%	91%
Violence against children is also when physical abuse/beatings are perpetrated against other family members – mother/brother/sister	91%	93%	92%

○ Significantly lower than the total ○ Significantly higher than the total

*Those who consider to be believers (go to church, fast) are less inclined to believe that 'bottom spanking' is a violent behaviour, but are against verbal violence.

25. What are the triggers for violent behaviour?



Whims related to food and sleep;
The child takes too long to eat or fall asleep;
The parents feel like this is affecting their social life.

The child has a temper tantrum, stamping, falling on the floor, screaming, throwing objects.

spontaneously

Not listening;
Cries "without a reason";
Not falling asleep;
Changing behaviour;

Puts his life/health in danger;
Emotional extortion (blackmail);
"At your age you should know who is boss";
Not complying with the parent's schedule/agenda;

Wants to watch TV or use the phone/tablet;

beatings every day

Bad marks at school;
Claiming the parents are demanding too much from him/her;
Interfering with the adults' problems;

premeditated

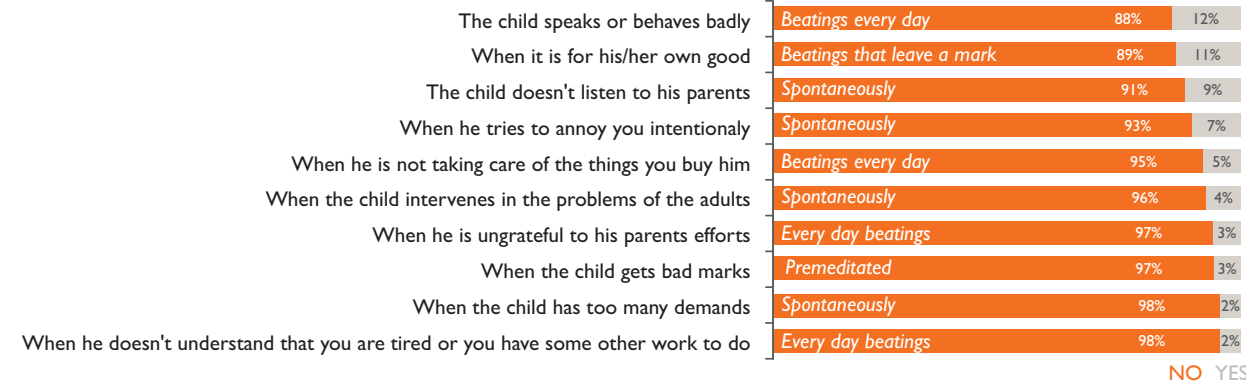
Absence from school;
'Hanging out in bad company';
Not respecting the program imposed by parents;
Smoking or consuming alcohol;
Girls – starting to hang out with boys;
Not contributing to the affairs of the house – making a mess and not cleaning up afterwards;

When he does not contribute to household chores: he only makes a mess, without cleaning afterwards;

26. When does a child deserve to be hit?

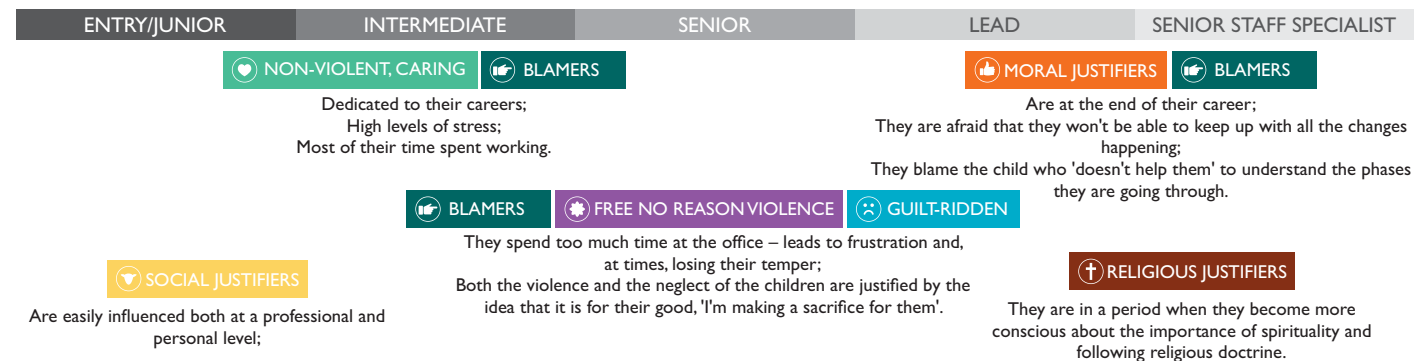


DESERVES TO BE HIT IF

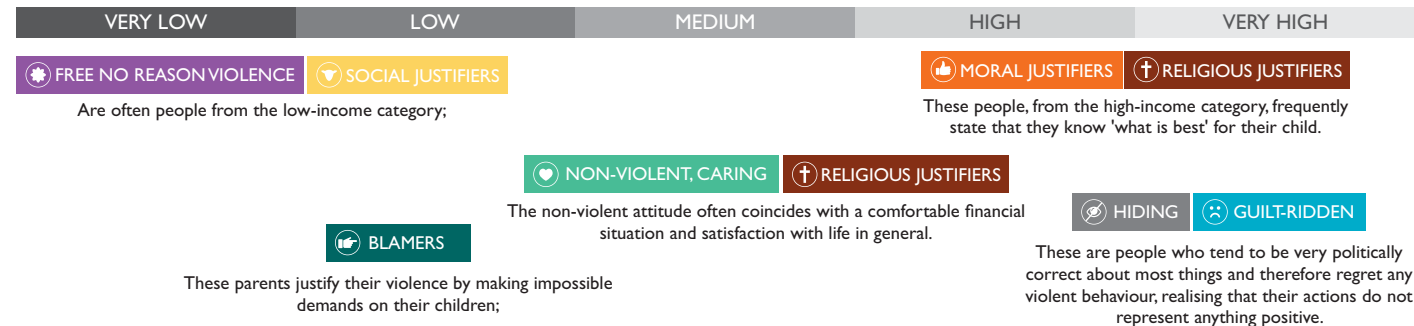


NO YES

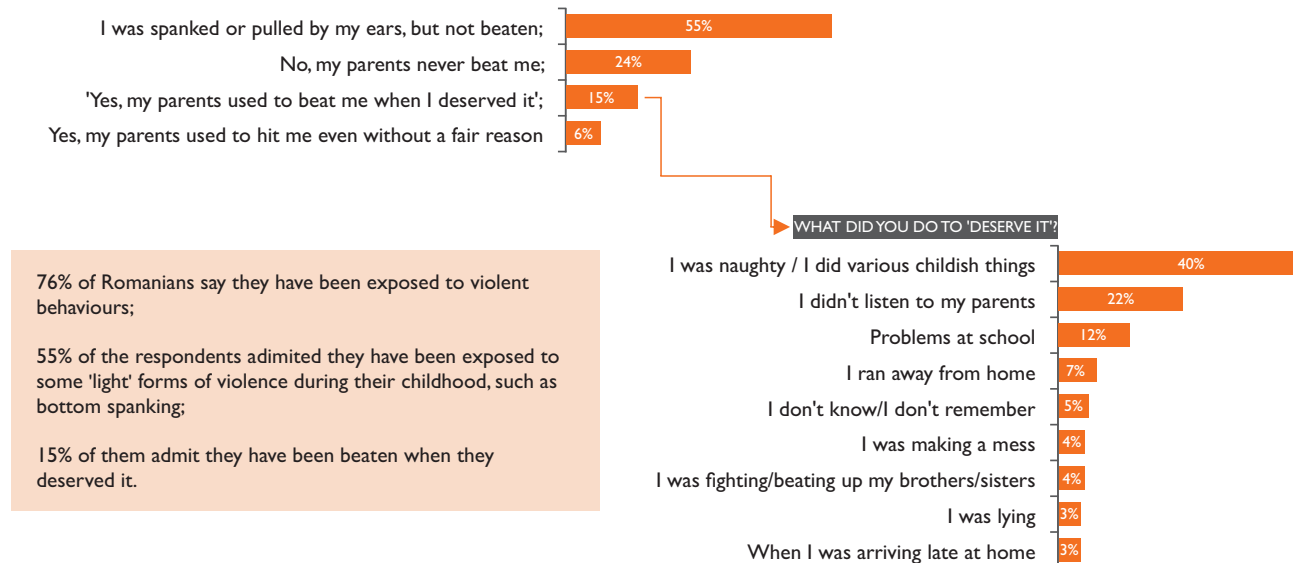
27. Is a parent's career path or stress levels related to violent behaviour?



28. Is a parent's financial situation related to violent behaviour?



29. Is the beating inherited?



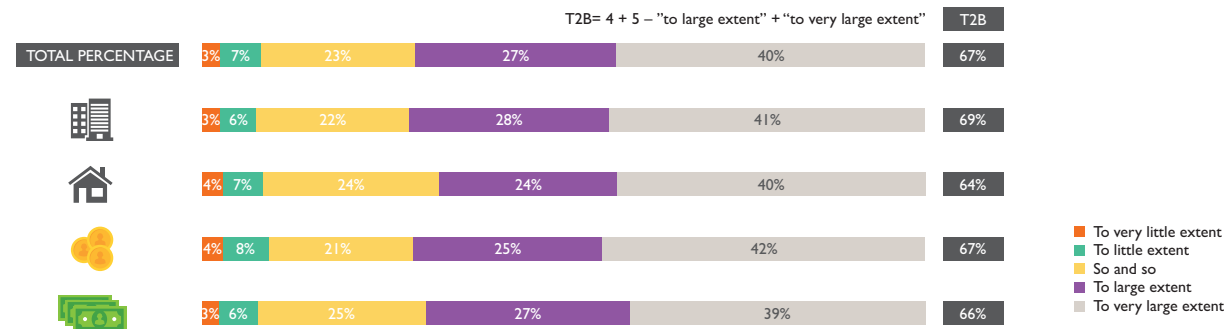
76% of Romanians say they have been exposed to violent behaviours;

55% of the respondents admitted they have been exposed to some 'light' forms of violence during their childhood, such as bottom spanking;

15% of them admit they have been beaten when they deserved it.

30. Verbal violence, a sign of physical violence.

Q: To what extent do you believe that the acts of verbal violence that occur in public spaces are signs of physical aggression at home?



CONCLUSIONS

Most of the time, violence is an abuse of power which appears when the parents are feeling helpless or like they are losing their authority. Approximately 60% of Romanian parents agree with the statement 'God is not beating us with a club/stick'. Meanwhile, the same number don't consider a 'slap on the back' to be violent behaviour. These parents consider themselves in charge of making any decisions regarding their children and use violence to keep the parent-child relationship as they think it should be.

Half of the parents belong to the the Moral Justifiers segment who think that it is for the child's own good to be hit from time to time.

A few parents from the Non-violent/caring segment think that the child is the mirror of his parents. This leads them to explore other options to raise and educate their children, as they do not agree with the way their parents acted in the past.

In Romania, there is a general acceptance that 'dirty laundry is washed in the family'. 82% of respondents agreed with this saying. This confirms the fact that the actual sharing of ideas and problem-solving methods is limited. The same methods continue to be used from one generation to the next.

77% of the respondents agreed with the saying 'The child is the image of his parents', which sustains the hypothesis which was built in the qualitative phase that violence is a tradition in the family and not perceived as something negative.

It's time to end violence against children!

