

RuralNet Associates Ltd
Lusaka, Zambia
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News release (**Correction**)

Zambians overwhelmingly oppose physical punishment

An overwhelming majority of Zambian women and men disapprove of the use of physical force to discipline wives or children, Afrobarometer's most recent survey has revealed.

Due to a coding error, initial Afrobarometer reports misstated Zambians' views on whether a husband should have the right to physically discipline his wife and whether parents and teachers should have the right to physically punish children. Instead of approving of physical punishment, in fact almost nine of 10 Zambians disapprove of physical punishment of wives by their husbands, while 60% disapprove of physical punishment of children by their parents and 71% disapprove of physical punishment of pupils by their teachers.

This clear rejection of physical violence is about equally strong among both genders, among rural as well as urban residents, and at all levels of educational attainment.

Despite these expressed views, the 2013-2014 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey reports that 47% of ever-married women have been victims of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by a current or former husband/partner, and 43% of victims of spousal physical violence incurred physical injuries (see <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR304/FR304.pdf>).

Key findings

- In Zambia, 89% of women and 85% of men say husbands should not have the right to physically discipline their wives. Urban and rural residents are equally likely to reject such violence (Figure 1).
- Respondents at all levels of educational attainment are about equally strong in their rejection of physical punishment of wives (Figure 2). Disapproval of physical punishment increases along with respondents' level of religiosity (as measured by the frequency of their participation in religious activities) (Figure 3).
- Majorities of Zambians disapprove of physical punishment of children by their parents (60%) (Figure 4) and by teachers (71%) (Figure 5). Rural residents are somewhat more likely to approve of corporal punishment of children than their urban counterparts.

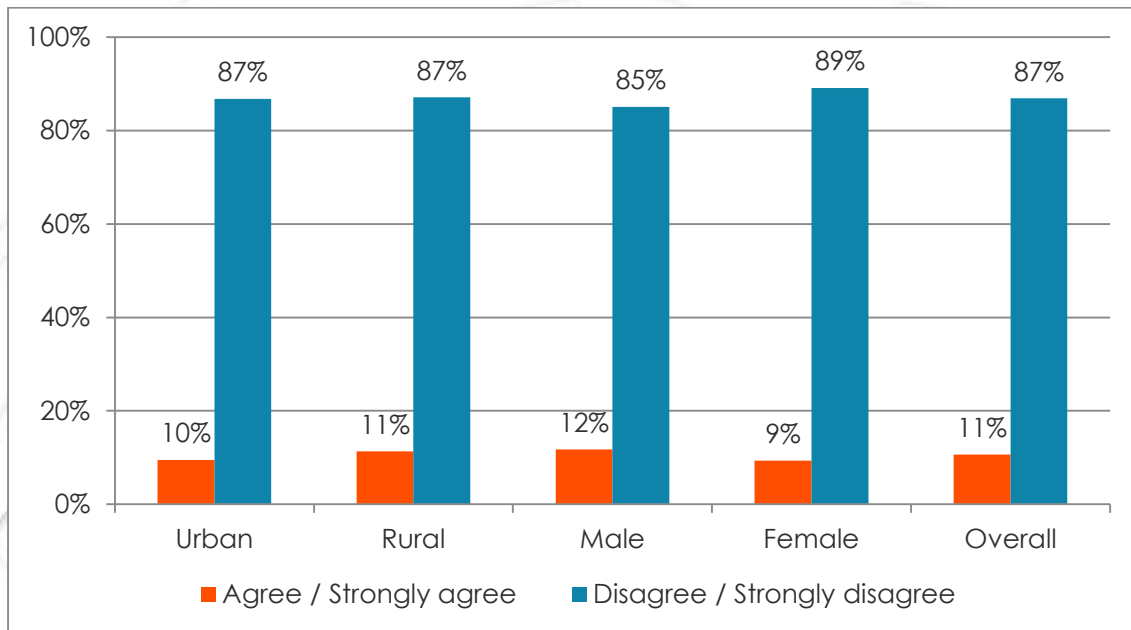
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by RuralNet Associates, interviewed 1,200 adult Zambians in October 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2009, and 2012.

Charts

Figure 1: Disapproval of physical punishment of wives | by respondent's urban-rural residence and gender | Zambia | 2014



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you agree or disagree: Husbands should have the right to use physical punishment on their wives as a way of disciplining them?

Figure 2: Disapproval of physical punishment of wives | by respondent's education level | Zambia | 2014

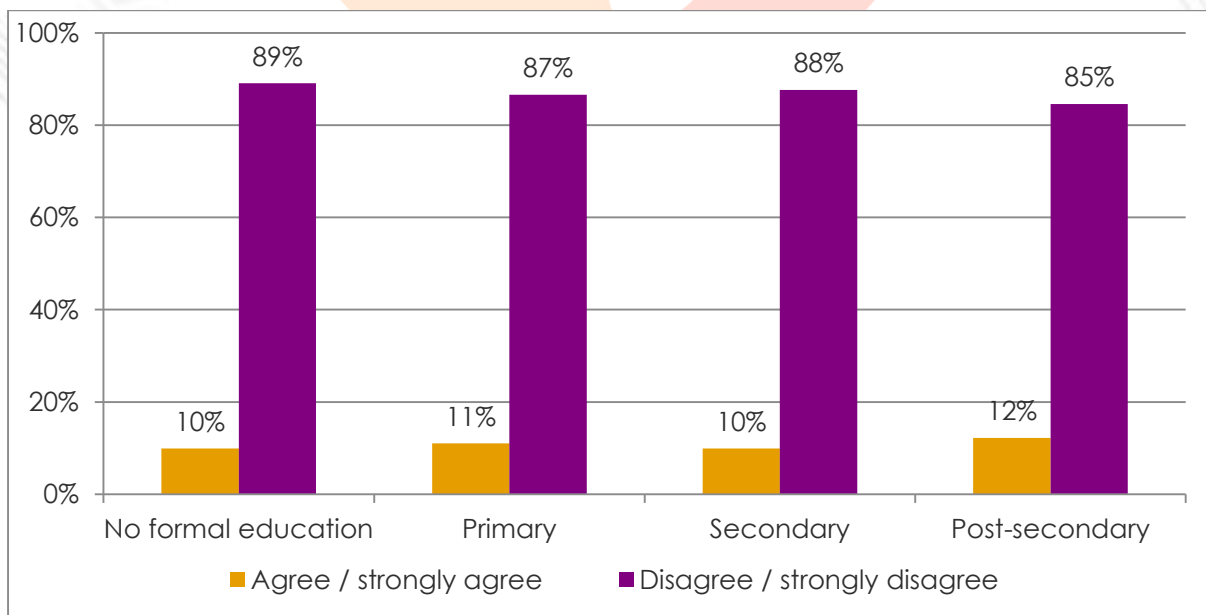
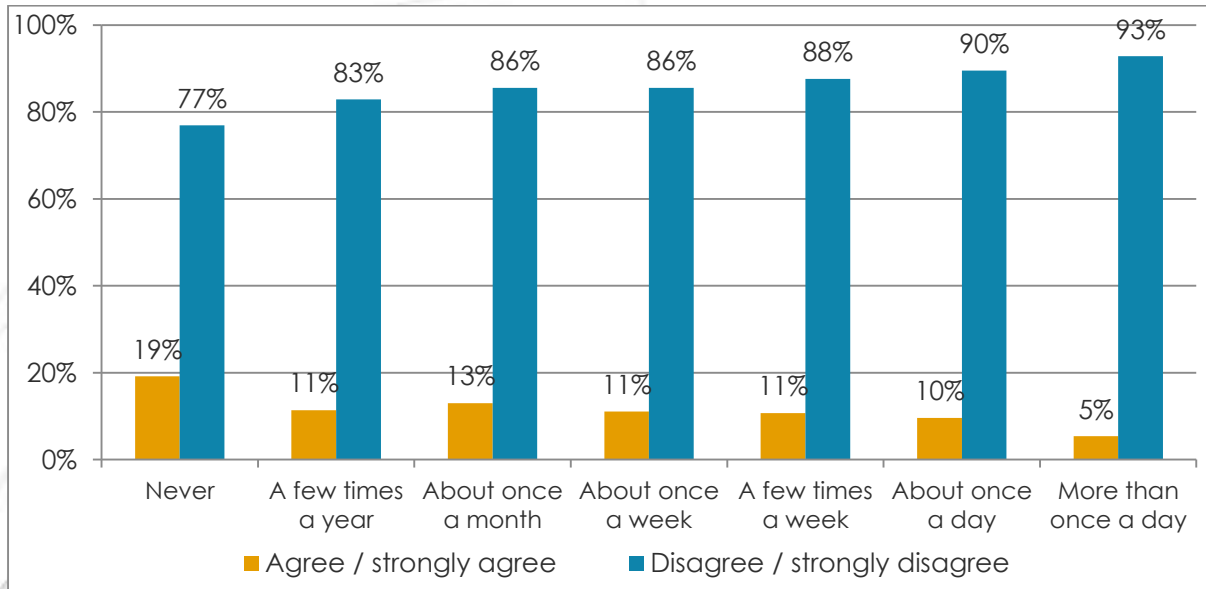


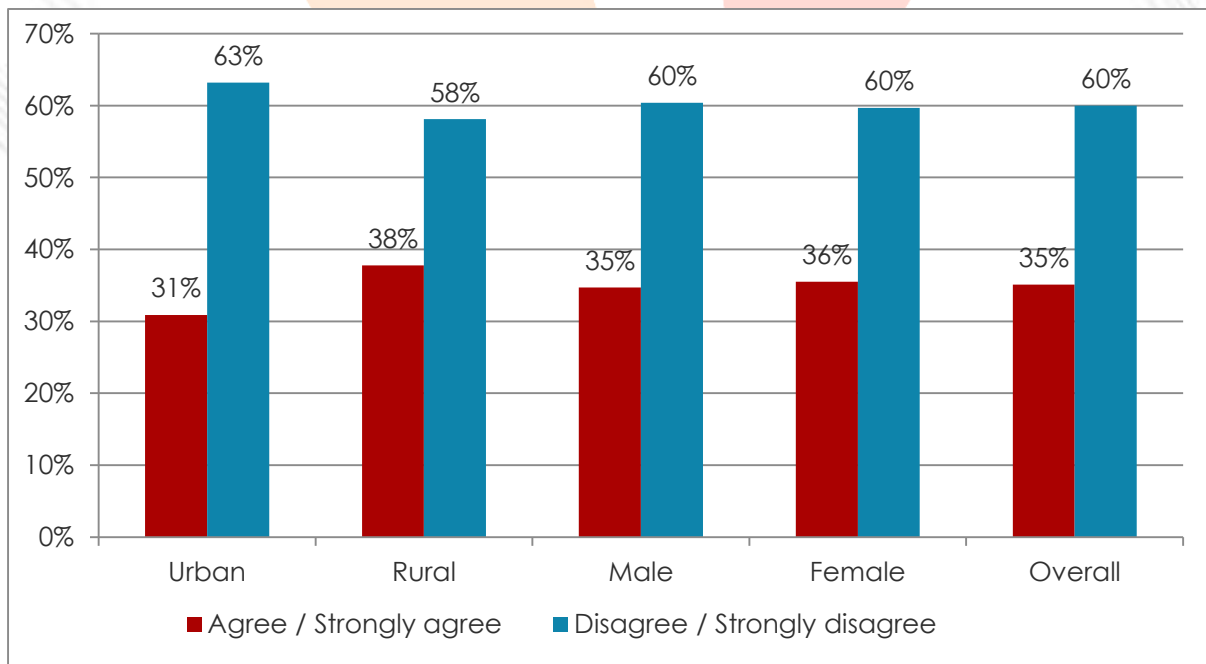
Figure 3: Disapproval of physical punishment of wives | by respondent's religiosity
 | Zambia | 2014



Results show the proportions of respondents who agree/strongly agree and disagree/strongly disagree that husbands should have the right to physically punish their wives.

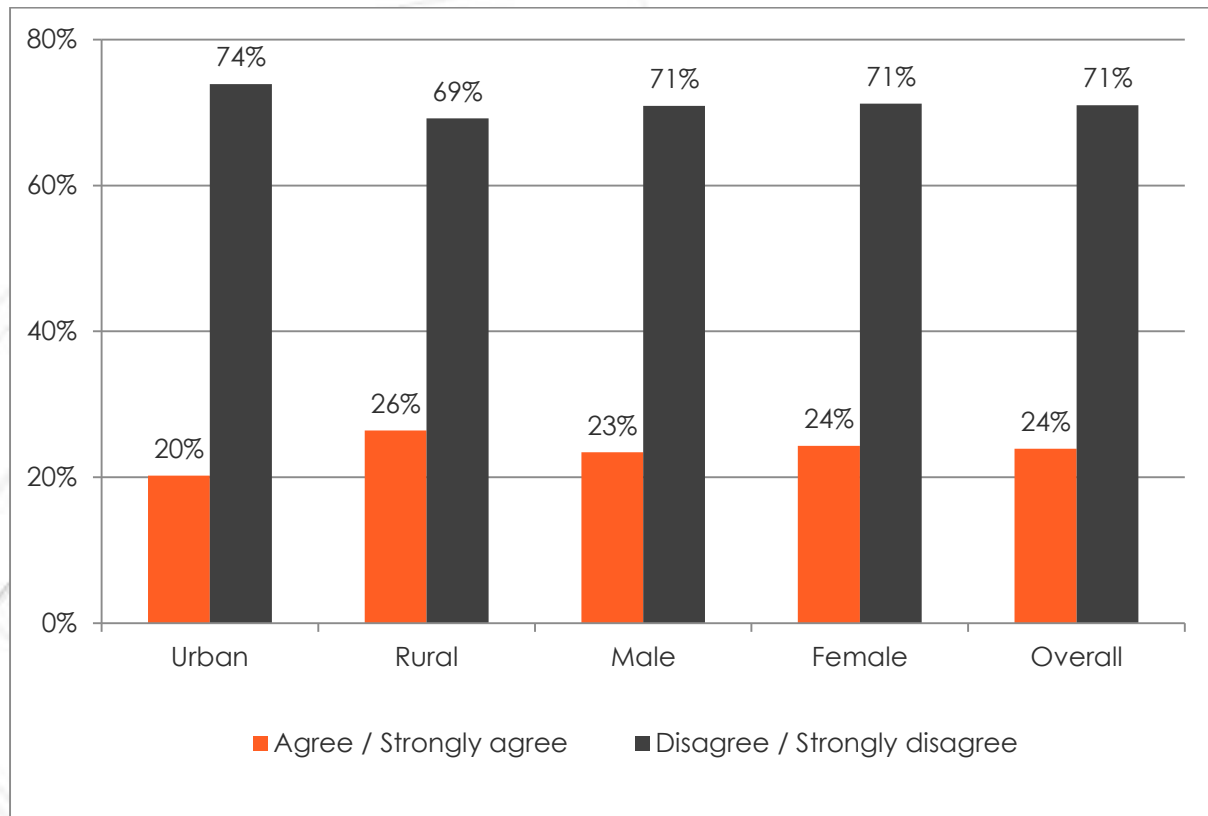
“Religiosity” is measured by responses to the question: People practice their religion in different ways. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you personally engage in religious practices like prayer, reading a religious book, or attending a religious service or a meeting of a religious group?

Figure 4: Disapproval of physical punishment of children by parents | by respondent's urban-rural residence and gender | Zambia | 2014



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you agree or disagree: Parents should have the right to use physical punishment on their children as a way of disciplining them?

Figure 5: Disapproval of physical punishment of pupils by teachers | by respondent's urban-rural residence and gender | Zambia | 2014



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you agree or disagree: Teachers should have the right to use physical punishment on their pupils as a way of disciplining them?

For more information, please contact:

RuralNet Associates Ltd
 Fison Mujenja
 Telephone: +260 964864614, +260 211 292814/21
 Email: fison.mujenja@ruralnet.co.zm

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www.ruralnet.co.zm
www.afrobarometer.org

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