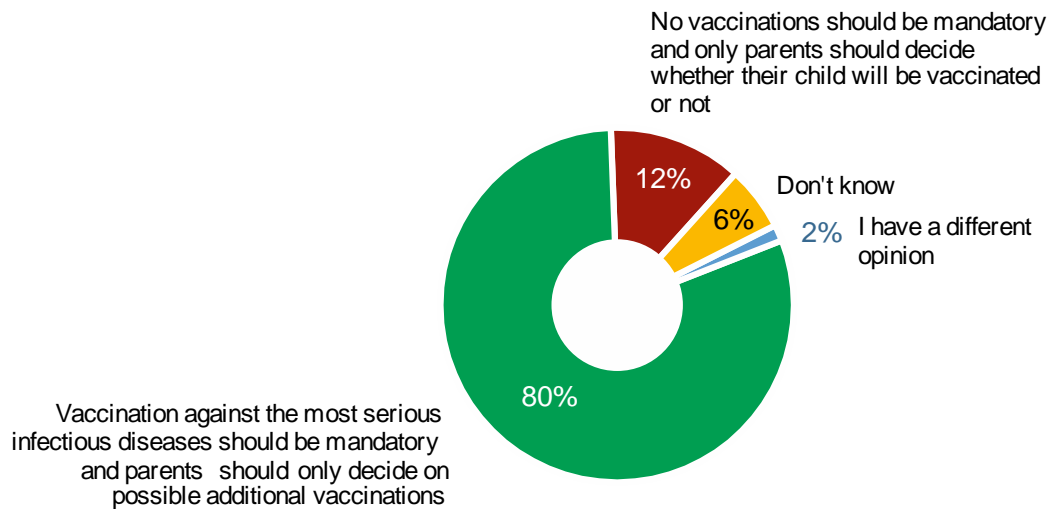


## **Opinions about mandatory vaccination of children**

According to the data of the National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene, the number of parents who have evaded compulsory vaccination has been gradually increasing for the last several years. While in 2006-2010 annually about 4 thousand refused to have children vaccinated, in 2016 the number exceeded 23 thousand. Data on evasion of mandatory vaccination are disturbing: they indicate crossing the safety barrier, understood as a proportion of the unvaccinated population, which is a threat to the so-called herd immunity. As a result, local outbreaks of infectious diseases may begin to appear.

The number of adult Poles with children who claim that their child (children) has not been vaccinated for at least one year is estimated at 3%. The most frequently declared reasons for avoiding vaccination are: fears about consequences of vaccines (40%) and medical contraindications (39%).

**With each year, there are more parents who do not vaccinate their children against infectious diseases because they are afraid of vaccines. On the one hand there are arguments about parents' rights to decide, and on the other hand arguments about the risk of return of many serious infectious diseases. Which of the following statements is closer to your own view?**



Despite the noticeable and increasing activity of the anti-vaccination movements and various concerns about the composition of vaccines and possible risks associated with their administration, the vast majority of Poles accept the status quo in the field of childhood immunization. The prevailing view holds that vaccination of children against the most severe diseases should be mandatory and that parental discretion should only apply to possible additional vaccination. Only every eighth respondent supports changing the compulsory nature of the vaccination and leaving the matter for parents to decide.

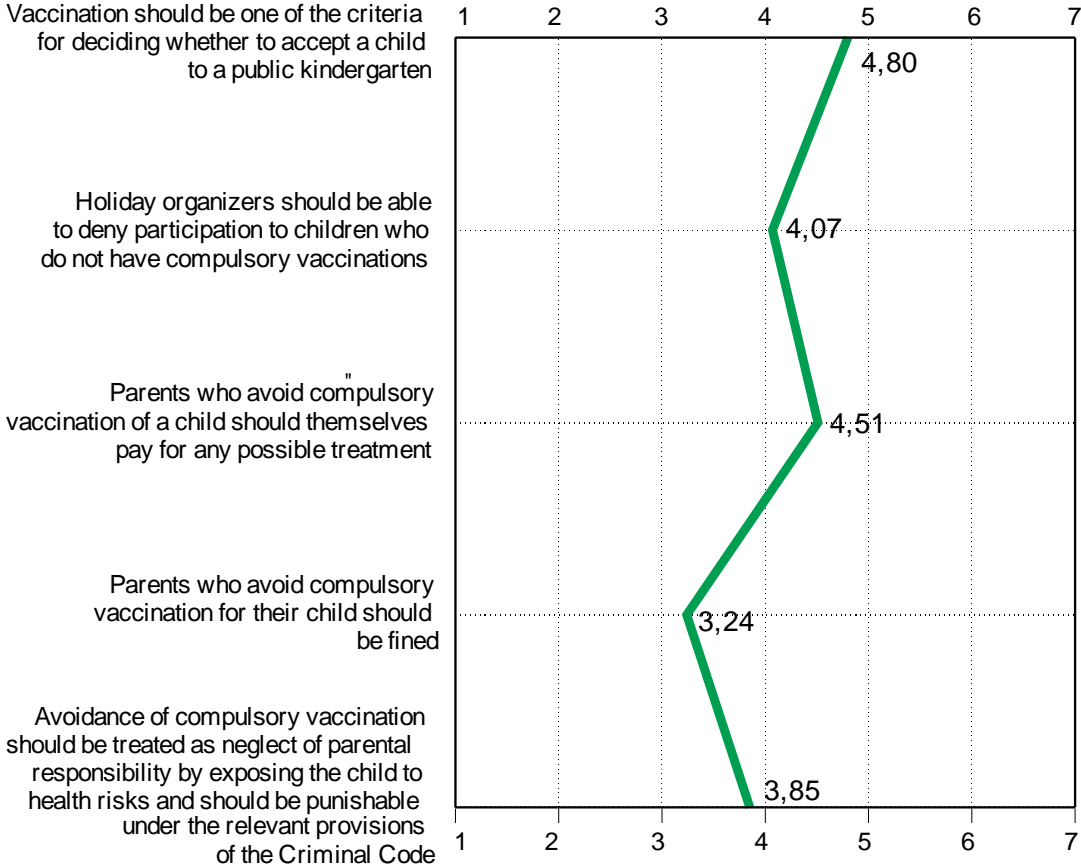
Failure to administer compulsory vaccination to children without medical contraindications is sanctioned with a fine for the parents. In response to the growing phenomenon of vaccination avoidance, proposals are being made to widen the range of sanctions.

In public opinion, the most appropriate action against parents who avoid compulsory vaccination of children should be to treat vaccination as one of the criteria for admission to a public kindergarten. There is also a wide acceptance of the obligation for parents who refrain from vaccination to independently finance the treatment of a child. Respondents also approve of giving holiday organizers the right to refuse to accept a non-vaccinated

child. Disapproval prevails with regard to financial and criminal sanctions imposed on parents who do not have children vaccinated.

**To what degree do you agree with the following statements?**

*Average on scale 1 (definitely disagree) - 7 (definitely agree)*



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Obligation to Vaccinate Children", August 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2017, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.