

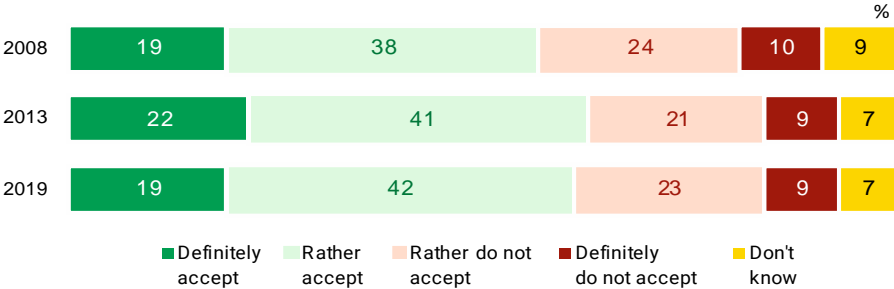
## **Acceptance of alternative models of family life**

The family has undergone significant changes in the last three decades. The average age of getting married has moved. The number of divorces and separations is rising. People increasingly decide to live by themselves. Alternative forms of marital life are also becoming more and more popular, including mainly cohabitation. Incomplete families, single parents raising children and reconstructed families (so-called patchwork families) are becoming more and more frequent. In connection with the above trends, the ways of thinking about marriage and family are also changing. Liberalization concerns opinions on various phenomena and behaviours related to both marital and family life.

Postponing the decision to marry or complete rejection of the possibility of formalizing a relationship are increasingly practiced and, as it turns out, quite widely socially approved of. Almost two-thirds of respondents (61%) accept the fact that young people temporarily or definitively choose not to marry. It is incomprehensible for every third respondent (32%). Since 2013, acceptance of such an attitude has weakened slightly, but it is still higher than in 2008.

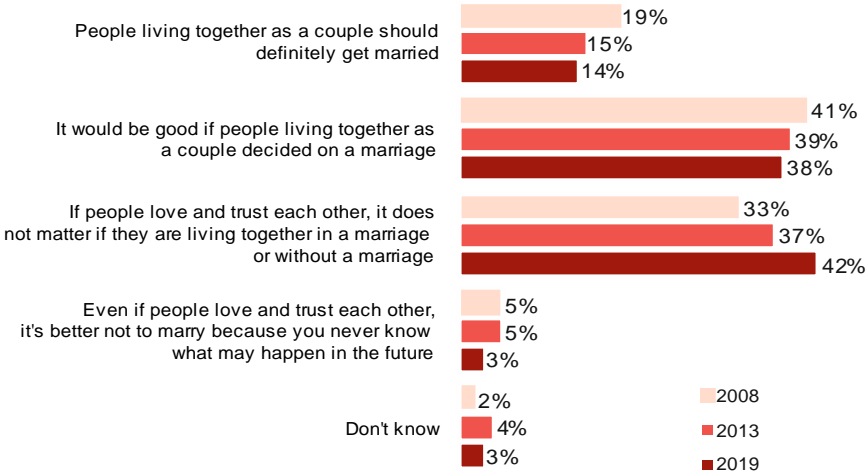
Acceptance of the decisions of young people to postpone or resign from marriage is largely connected with the religiosity of respondents and the frequency of participation in religious practices. Delaying marriage is accepted by 30% of people participating several times a week in religious practices and by 85% of non-practitioners.

**Do you accept the fact that young people, for various reasons, postpone marriage or decide not to marry at all?**



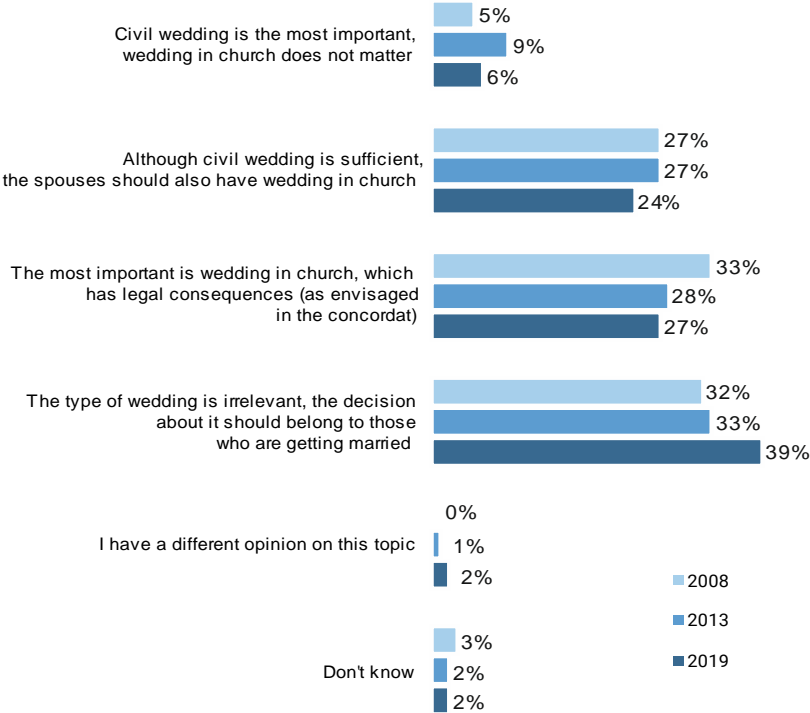
In opinions on the need to formalize cohabitation, Poles are quite divided. Almost equal groups of respondents assume that if people love and trust each other, it does not matter if they get married (42%), and think that marriage is desirable, although not obligatory (38%). Every seventh respondent (14%) is more categorical in this respect and believes that people living in a relationship should definitely get married. However, only a few (3%) express the opposite view, claiming that even if people love and trust each other, it is better not to marry because you never know what may happen in the future. Over time, a group of people for whom cohabitation is an equal alternative to marriage is growing.

**Which opinion is closer to your own view?**



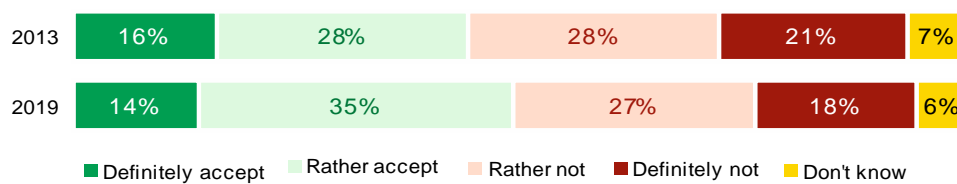
In recent years, more and more couples who decide to marry have only a civil ceremony, rejecting religious wedding or postponing it for a later date. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in the largest cities. Regarding the opinions of Poles about the type of wedding, they are consistently quite divided. There has been an increase in the conviction that the type of wedding is irrelevant and should only be the decision of the people who are getting married. Currently, 39% of respondents think so, which is 6 percentage points more than six years ago. Over a quarter of respondents (27%) assume that the most important is the church wedding which has legal consequences, as stipulated by the concordat. A slightly smaller percentage (24%) consider that civil marriage is sufficient, but it is advisable to conclude a church wedding as well. Every sixteenth respondent (6%) claims that the church wedding is of no great significance and the most important is the civil marriage.

**Which opinion is the closest to your own view?**



Opinions about living alone as a single are divided: 49% of respondents express acceptance of such a lifestyle, while 45% disapprove. Since 2013, the number of people who are positive about singles' lifestyle has increased.

## Do you personally accept the fact that some people live alone as singles?



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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Alternative Models of Family Life", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2019, N=928. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.