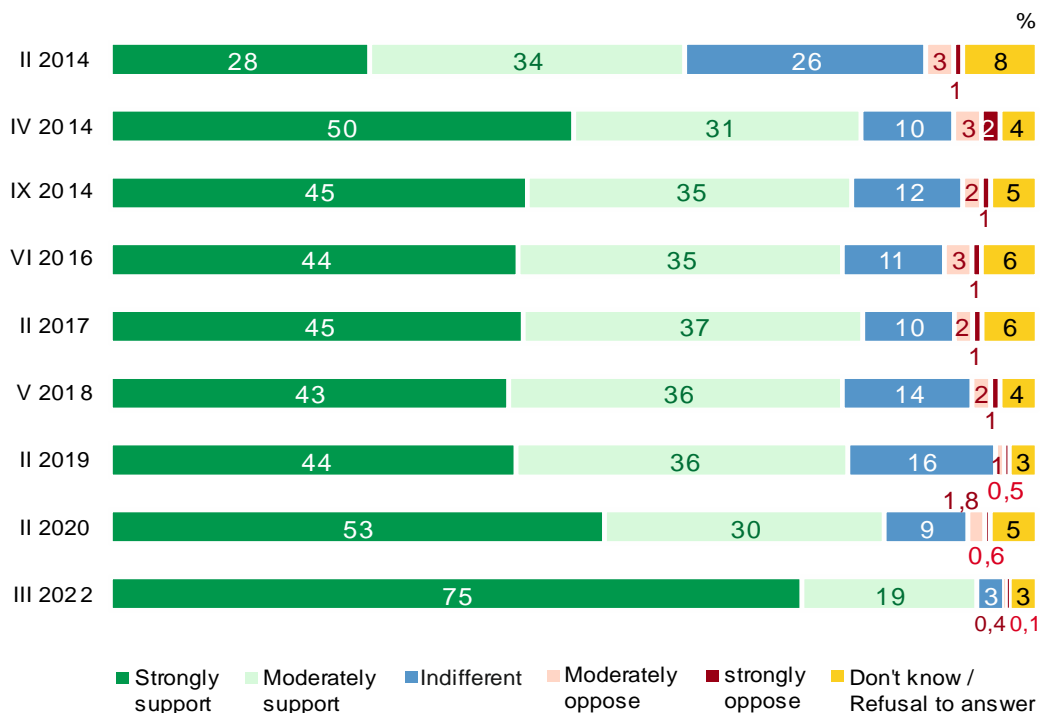


## Attitude towards NATO and the presence of allied troops in Poland

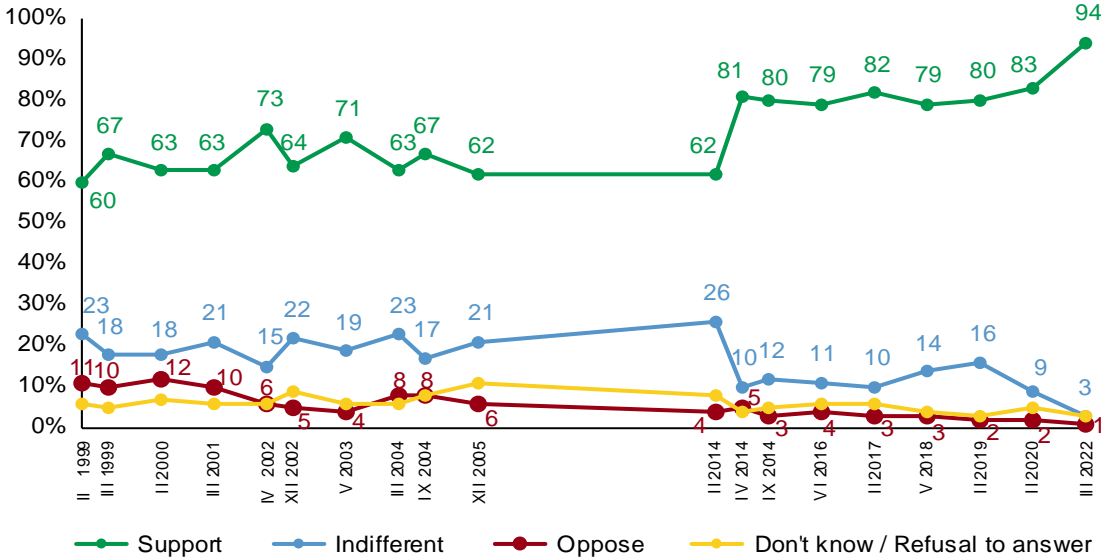
Support for Poland's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is currently the highest in the history of CBOS research. Poland's membership in NATO is supported by 94% of Poles, with as many as 75% expressing strong support for membership. Less than 1% of respondents are against our country's membership of the Alliance, and 3% declare indifference.

### Do you support Poland's NATO membership?



Since 1999, Poland's membership in NATO has been supported by the vast majority of Poles. However, Russia's aggressive actions towards its neighbouring country are a factor that clearly strengthens public support for Poland's membership of the Alliance. It is worth recalling that the level of support significantly rose in April 2014, when after the "referendum" in Crimea and the annexation of this peninsula by the Russian Federation, the proportion of Poles supporting Poland's membership in NATO increased, compared to February 2014, by 19 percentage points, and at the same time the percentage of the indifferent decreased by 16 points. We recorded the increase in support for NATO membership in 2014 even before the attacks by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine and before the escalation of violence in the region. After Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine commenced on February 24 this year, pro-NATO attitudes are more widespread in Polish society than ever before.

**Do you support Poland's NATO membership?**

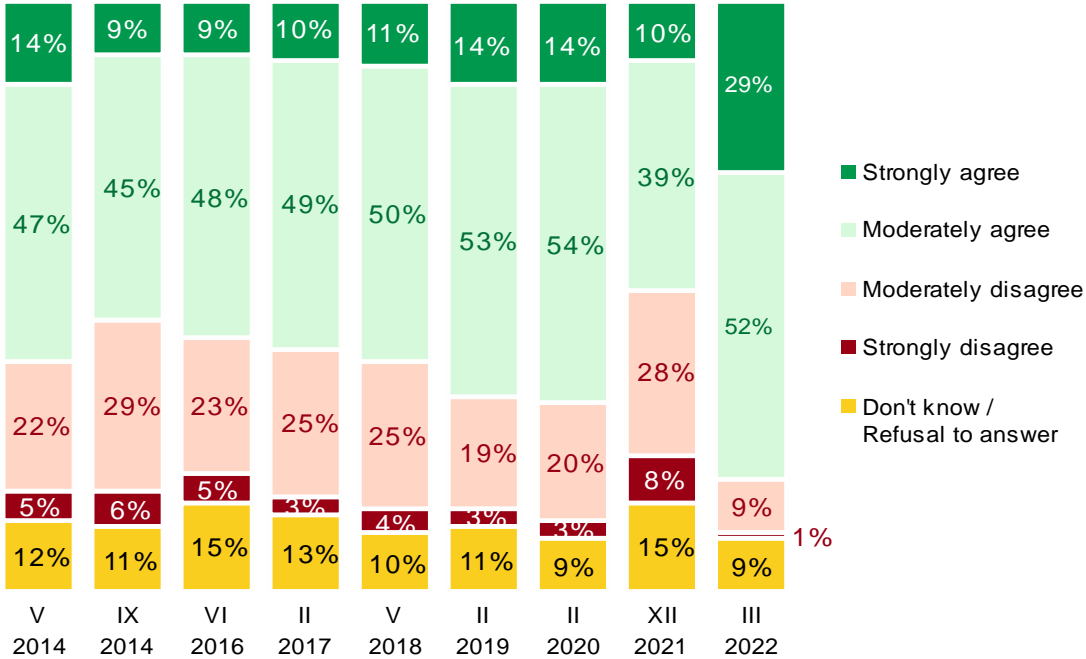


Due to the current situation of Ukraine, supporters of Poland's membership in the North Atlantic Alliance strongly dominate in all socio-demographic groups.

Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that an attack on any NATO country is tantamount to an attack on the entire Alliance. During the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we repeatedly heard the assurances of official representatives of other Alliance countries, led by the President of the United States, Joe Biden, that NATO would defend the entire territory belonging to the allied countries. The confidence in NATO is currently at a record

high level among Poles; we have been monitoring it since 2014. In March this year, over four-fifths (81%) of respondents believe that at the moment Poland can be sure of the involvement of allies in the possible defence of our borders (of which 29% are definitely convinced of it), while every tenth respondent (10%) is of the opposite opinion, and 9% are unable to take a position on this issue.

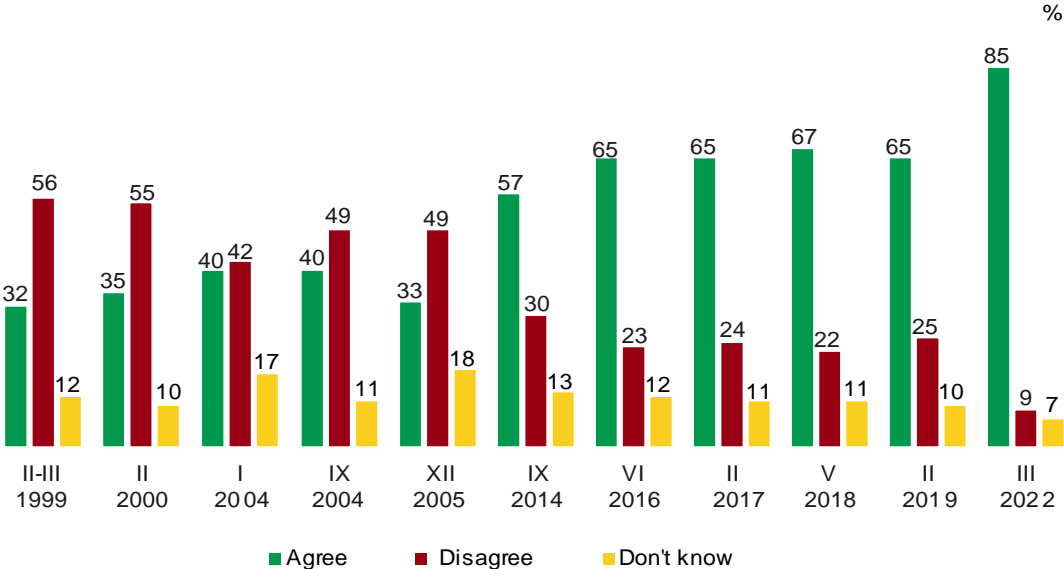
**Do you agree that Poland can be sure that NATO allies would engage in case of a need to defend our borders?**



In February this year, even before the start of Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine, the presence of US troops in Poland increased. Additional soldiers from Great Britain also appeared in Poland. Currently, 85% of respondents believe that troops from other NATO countries should be stationed in Poland, with nearly half (47%) supporting it strongly, and 38% expressing this opinion moderately. Currently, 9% of respondents are opposed to the permanent presence of allied forces in our country, but only one in 100 (1%) is strongly against it. Therefore, we have noted record support for the stationing of troops from other countries of the North Atlantic Alliance in Poland in the history of CBOS research. Since February 2019, when we asked about this issue last time, the percentage of supporters has increased by 20 percentage points, while the percentage of opponents has decreased by 16 points. It is worth recalling that in the period from June 2016 to February 2019 we already saw the increase in support for the stationing of troops from other NATO countries in Poland

relative to the earlier period. The percentage of supporters of the permanent presence of allied troops for the first time exceeded the proportion of opponents in September 2014, i.e. after the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol into the Russian Federation and after the outbreak of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. It should also be emphasized that from mid-2016 to February 2019 the research results were extremely stable, which was reflected not only in the overall proportions of supporters and opponents of the permanent presence of other NATO countries in Poland, but also in the percentage of its strong and moderate supporters and opponents.

**Do you agree that troops from other NATO countries should be stationed in Poland?**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to NATO and Presence of Allied Troops in Poland", March 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2022, N=1078. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.