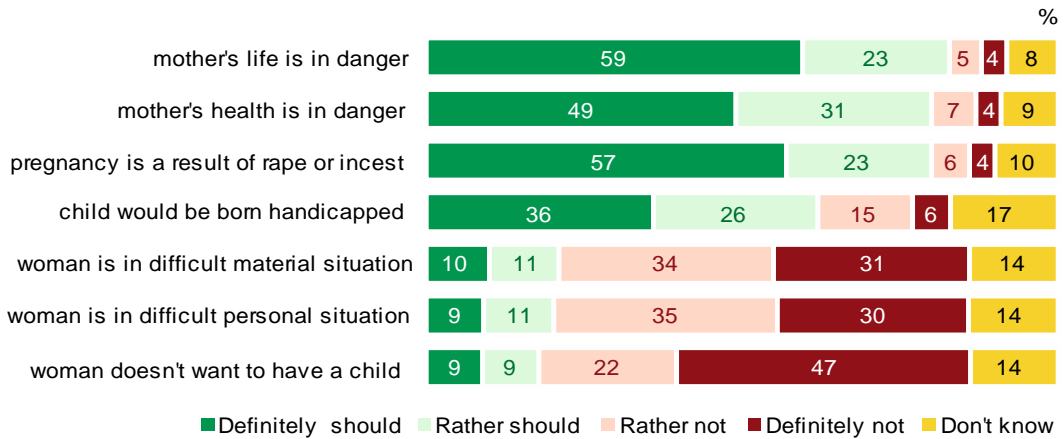


Legal regulation of abortion

Currently, abortion is legal in Poland only when the pregnancy is the result of a prohibited act (e.g. rape or incest) and when the pregnancy threatens the woman's life or health. In October 2020, the Constitutional Tribunal issued a judgment that the existing provision in the act allowing for termination of pregnancy when prenatal tests or other medical grounds indicate a high probability of severe and irreversible fetal impairment or incurable disease is contrary to the Constitution. Results of the research show that the change was made against the opinion of a large part of society.

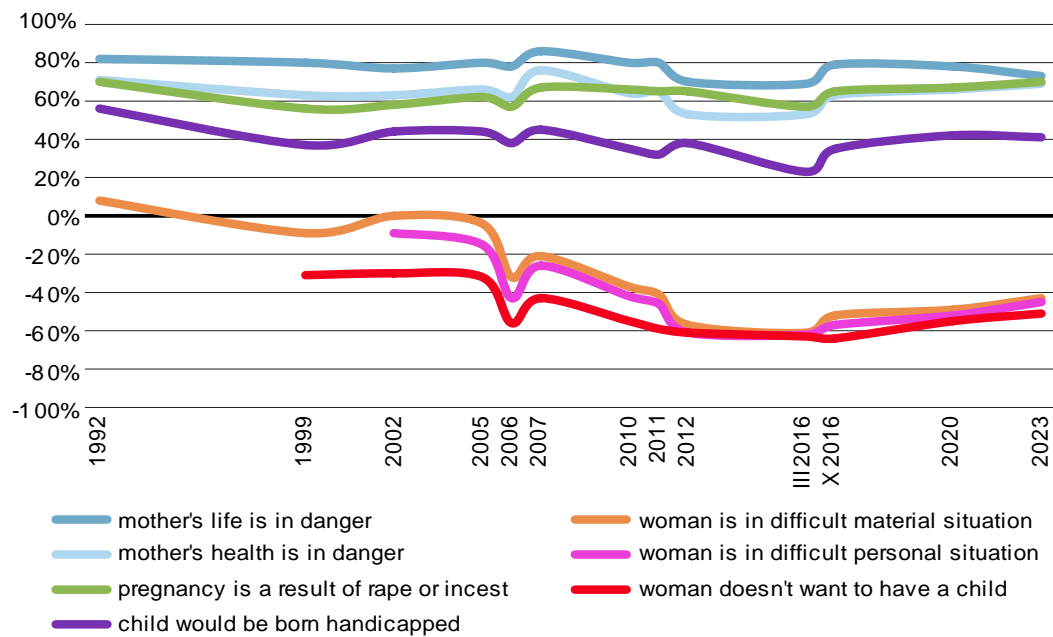
The vast majority of respondents believe that abortion should be allowed by law when life (82% in total) or mother's health (80%) is at risk. It is quite common to support the possibility of abortion when the pregnancy is the result of a prohibited act, i.e. rape or incest (80%). Nearly two-thirds of Poles (62% in total) accept abortion when it is known that the child will be born handicapped. Admissibility of abortion in other situations covered by the study is supported by a definite minority of respondents. Most people are against the possibility of abortion when the woman is in a difficult financial situation (65% in total) or is in a difficult personal situation (65%). The greatest opposition (69% of all respondents) is raised by the legality of termination of pregnancy in a situation when a woman simply does not want to have a child.

Should abortion be legal if...



Compared to November 2020, public opinion on the legal status of abortion has not changed much. From a long time perspective, covering the last two or three decades, it can be seen that the consent to perform abortions for personal and economic reasons has decreased. The most rigorous approach to this issue was observed in 2012-2016.

Should abortion be legal if...



*Difference between the proportion of "yes" answers (strong or moderate agreement) and "no" answers (strong or moderate disagreement).
"Don't know" omitted.*

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „Attitude to Abortion”, April 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2023, N=993. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.