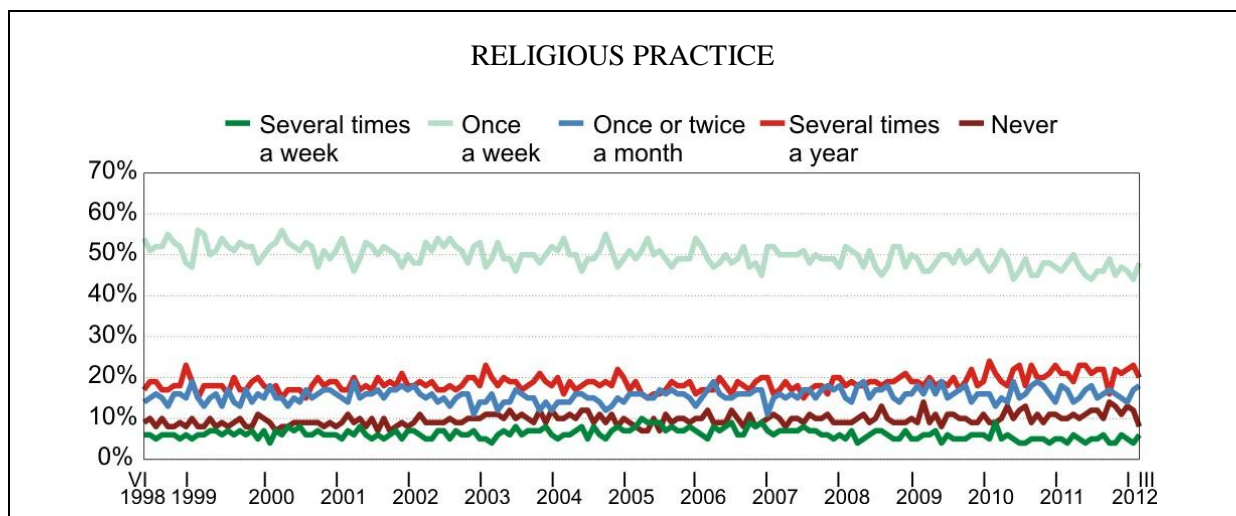


## CHANGING RELIGIOSITY OF THE POLES

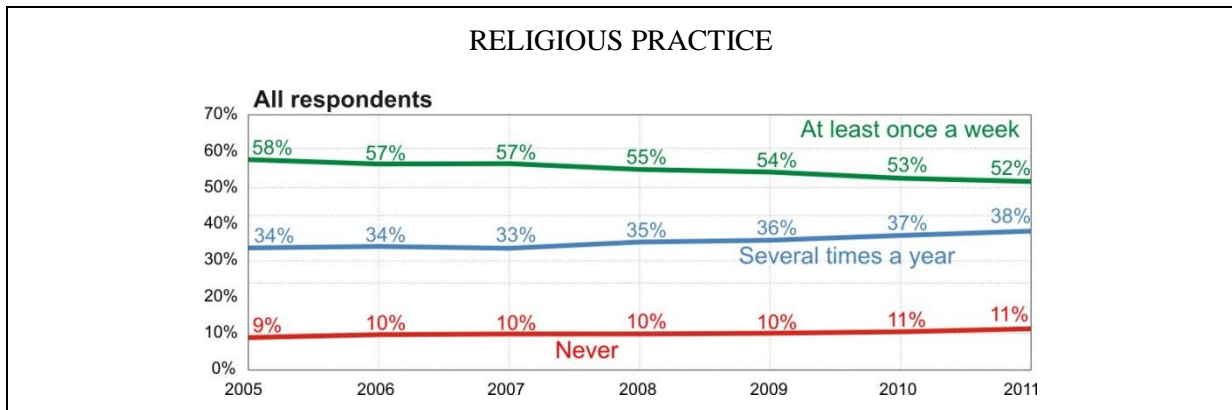
The vast majority of adult Poles (93%) consider themselves Roman Catholic. Only about 1.8% of the total are people of different religious denominations. In the last three years the proportion of people considering themselves as non-believers, atheists or agnostic rose twofold, from 2.1% to 4.2%.

Polish religiosity is exceptional compared with other European nations. The declared faith is almost universal, and over half of adult residents of Poland admit at least weekly participation in religious service.

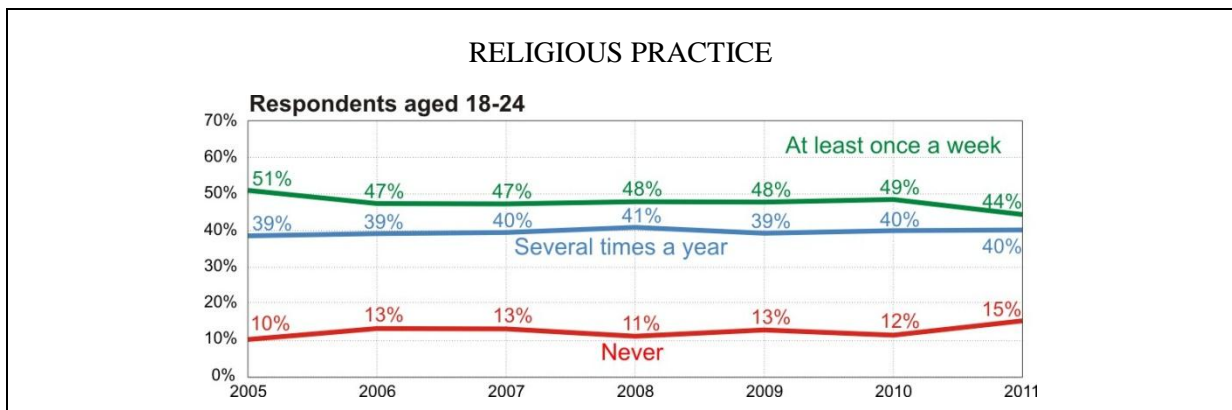
For over a quarter of a century both the declared faith and religious practice have not changed markedly. There were some changes due to particular events in the life of the Catholic Church, but, overall, the general trend in Polish religiosity remains relatively stable.



Nevertheless, in the last years there is a slight trend away from regular practice and towards occasional or no participation in religious service. Since 2005 (the year of the death of pope John Paul II) the proportion of respondents admitting regular practice (attending service at least once a week) fell from 58% to 52% (average yearly for 2011), while the number of respondents going to church not more often than once or twice a month rose from 34% to 38%, and the number of people never attending service rose from 9% to 11%.



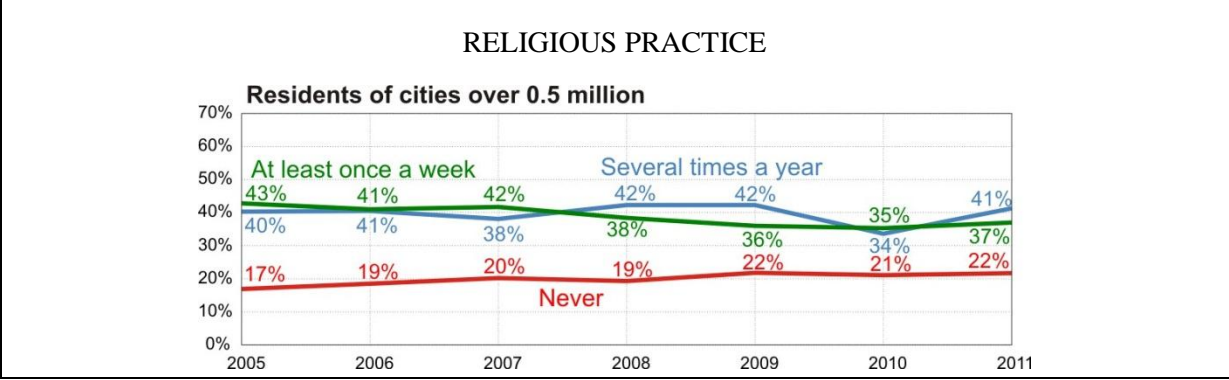
The decline in declared religious practice is more pronounced among the youngest respondents. Since 2005, the proportion of people aged 18-24 who go to church at least once a week fell from 51% to 44%, while the number of those who, according to their own declarations, never attend religious service rose by 5 percentage points, from 10% to 15%.



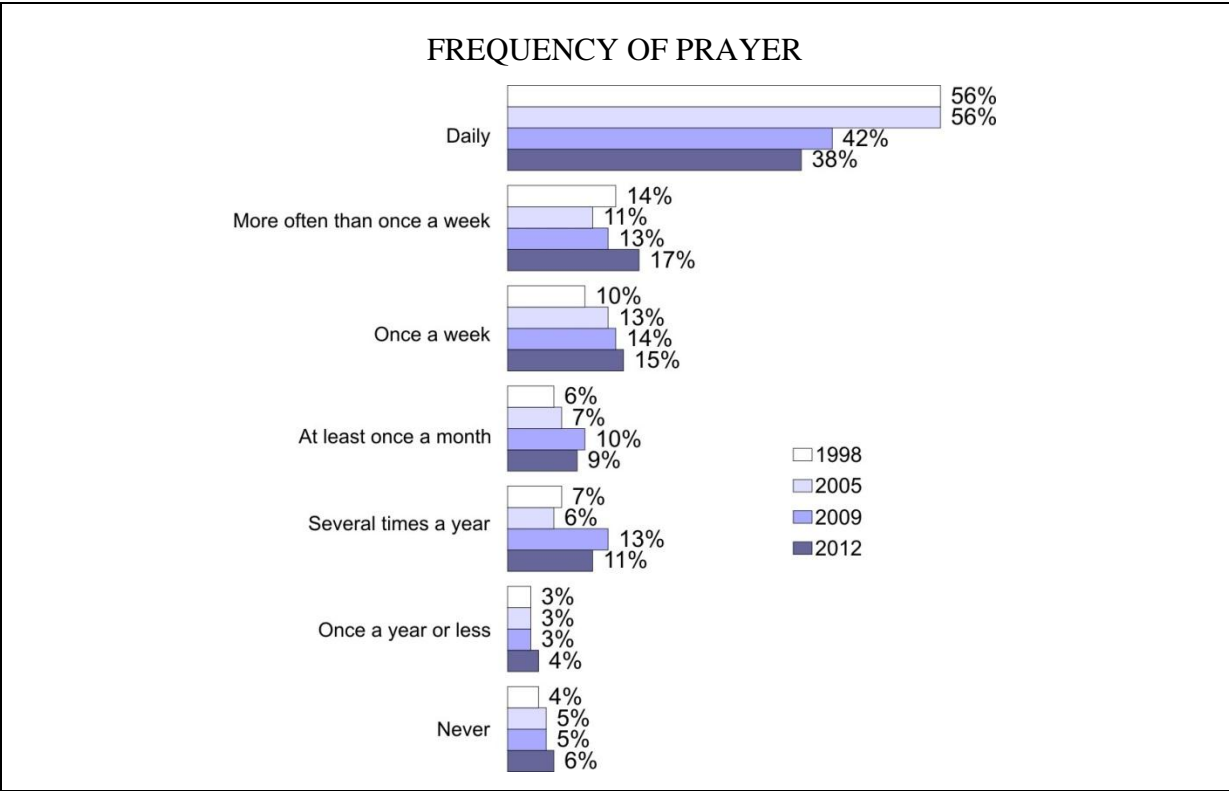
Systematic decline in regular attendance in religious service has been recorded since 2005 in case of the best-educated respondents (from 54% to 47%). As with youth, the proportion of people with college degrees who practice irregularly or don't practice at all rose in total in 2005-2011 from 46% to 52%.

As far as the size of the place of residence is concerned, people living in biggest metropolitan areas have the lowest level of religious practice. Since 2005, the number of

people living in cities above 0.5m who participate at least once a week fell from 40% to 37%, while the proportion of never attending church rose from 17% to 22%. Residents of the biggest cities are one of the few groups in which people practicing irregularly (several times a year) prevail numerically over regular churchgoers.



Another indicator of religiosity is the frequency of prayer. Since 2005, this aspect of religiosity has weakened significantly. The number of those who pray once a year or less often changed minimally, as did the proportion of people who never do that. However, the proportion of people who pray every day fell by 18 pct. points. The percentage of the faithful who practice this form of religiosity weekly or several times a week has risen.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Changes in faith and religiosity of Poles after the death of pope John Paul II", April 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.