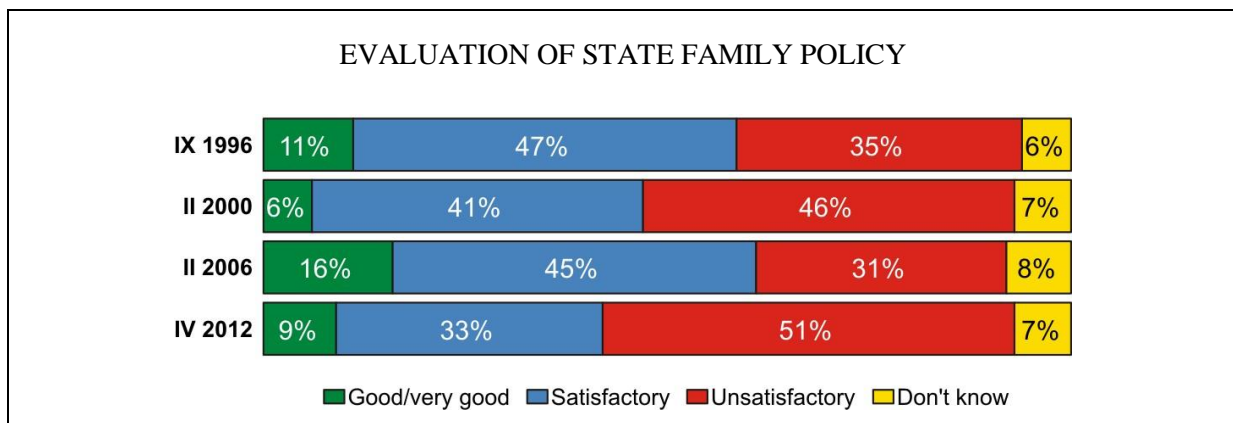


STATE FAMILY POLICY

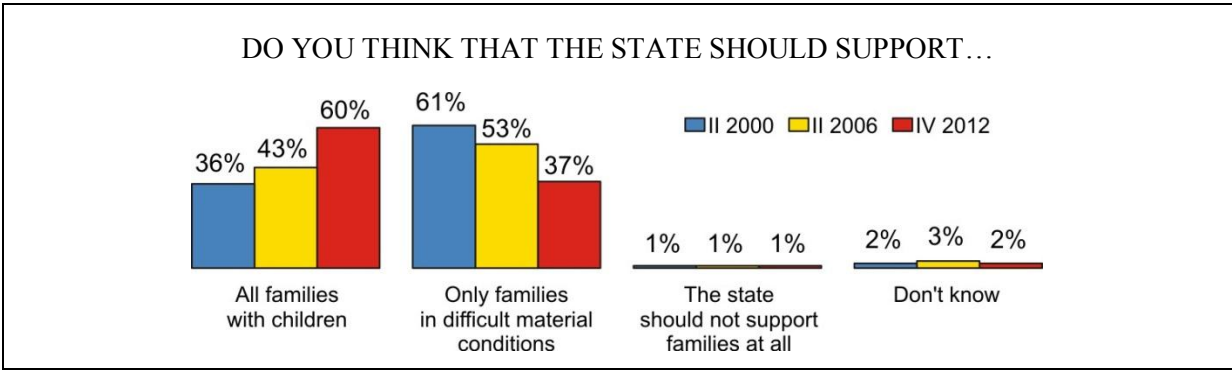
For over 20 years, the fertility rate in Poland has been very low. It does not provide the replacement of the population. In recent years, the number of births has risen, but the fertility rate has remained very low, at 1.4 children per woman. The number of marriages falls as well, while at the same time the divorce rate increases, which indicates lower stability of marriages. These factors contribute to decreasing fertility. State support for the families has been discussed publically for many years.



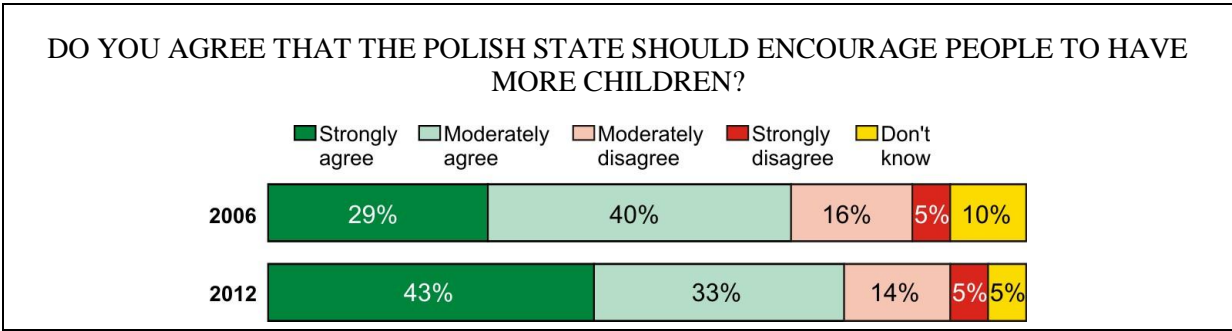
Family policy receives the worst evaluations since 1996. Only one in eleven respondents (9%) gives good marks to state actions in this field. One-third (33%) think that the policy is barely satisfactory, while half of Poles (51%) are dissatisfied with it. This is much more than six years ago.

In recent years, the opinions about state policy towards families have changed markedly. In 2000, the dominant view was that state support should be directed towards the

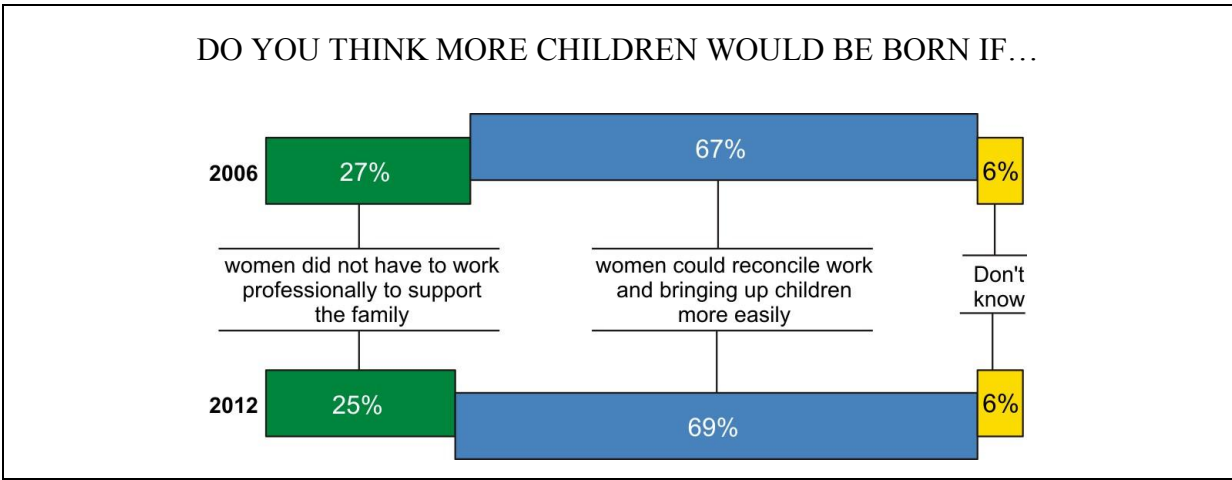
poorest people: family policy was treated as a part of social policy. Presently, the proportions are inverted, and three-fifths of respondents (60%) think that the state should support all families with children. One-third think that the state should support the poorest only.



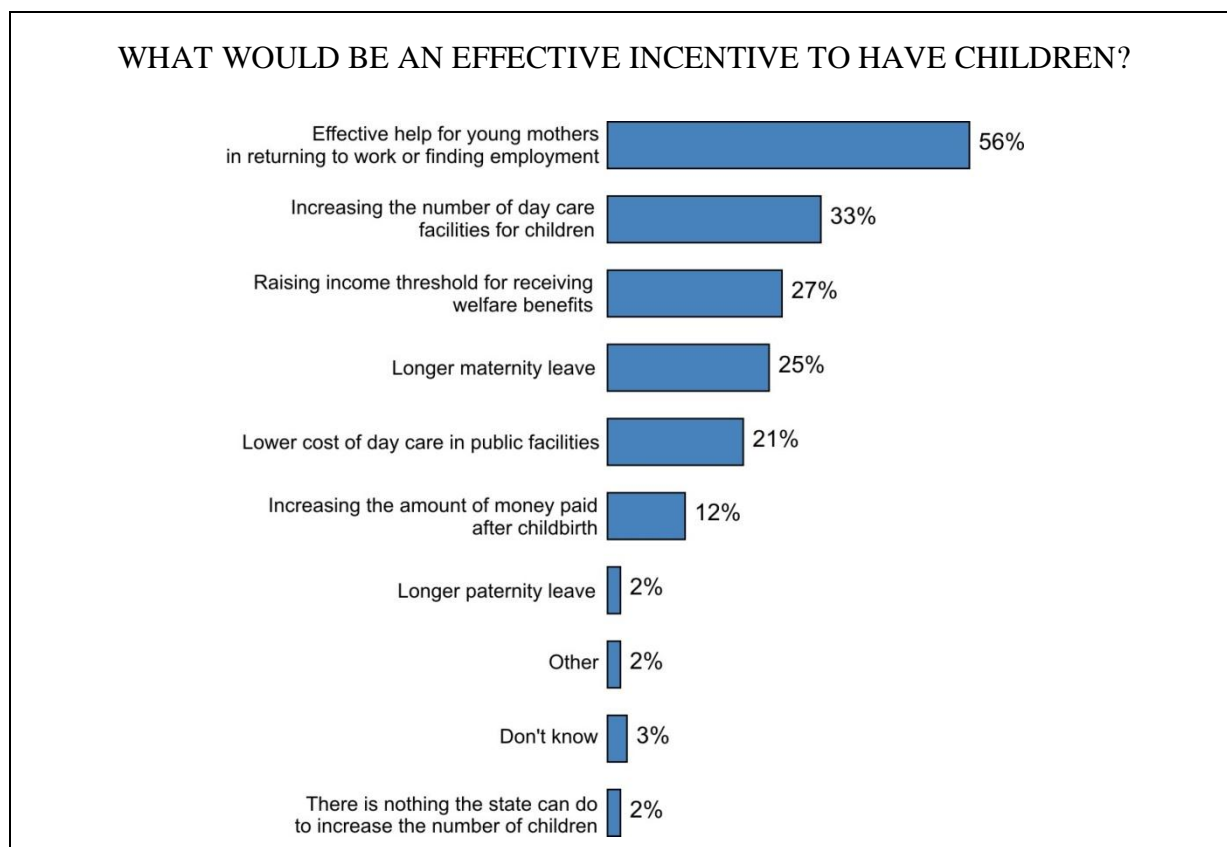
In the last six years, the conviction that the state should encourage Poles to have more children has strengthened. The proportion of respondents strongly sharing this view increased from 29% to 43%. One-third of adults (33%) moderately agree, while one-fifth (19%) think that the state should not encourage people to have children.



Poles expect the state to enable women to reconcile professional career with household duties (69%). Only a quarter of respondents (25%) think that more children would be born if women did not have to work professionally.



In public opinion, the best incentive to have larger families would be state help in finding employment for young mothers (57%) and increasing the number of day care facilities for children (33%). More than a quarter of respondents (27%) mention raising the income threshold for receiving welfare benefits. A similar number (25%) consider extending maternity leave to be an effective measure, while one-fifth (21%) believe that lowering the cost of day care at public institutions would be an effective incentive.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"State family policy"*, May 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2012, N=1018. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.