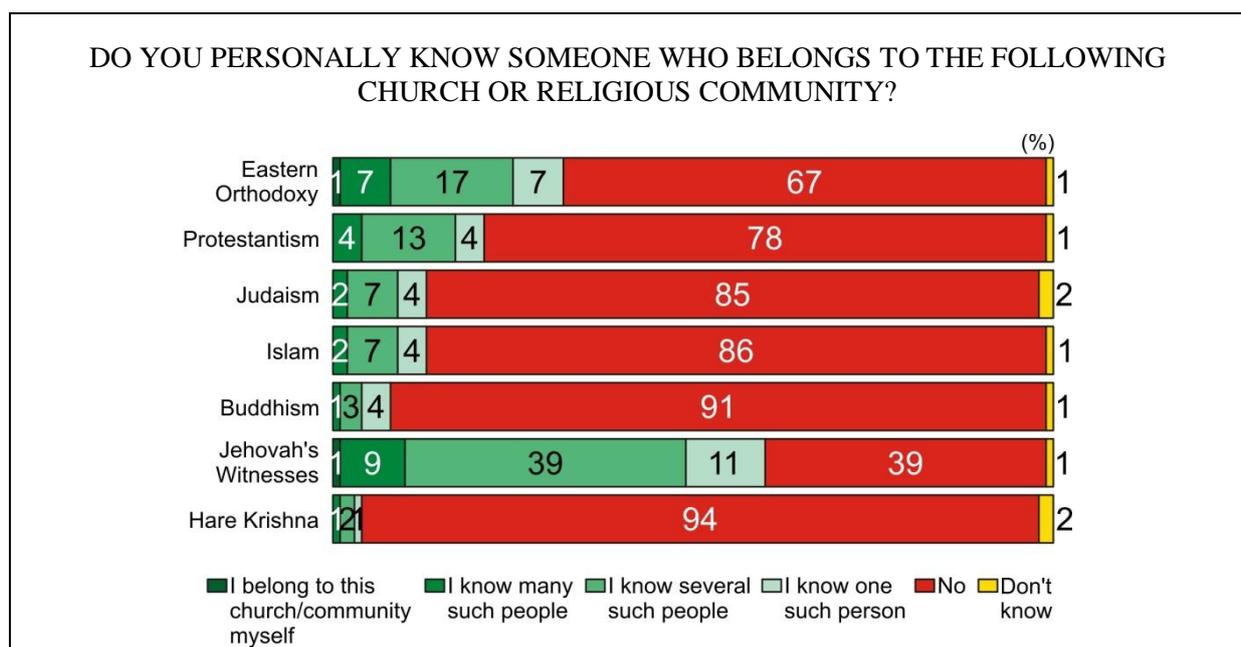


ATTITUDES TO MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

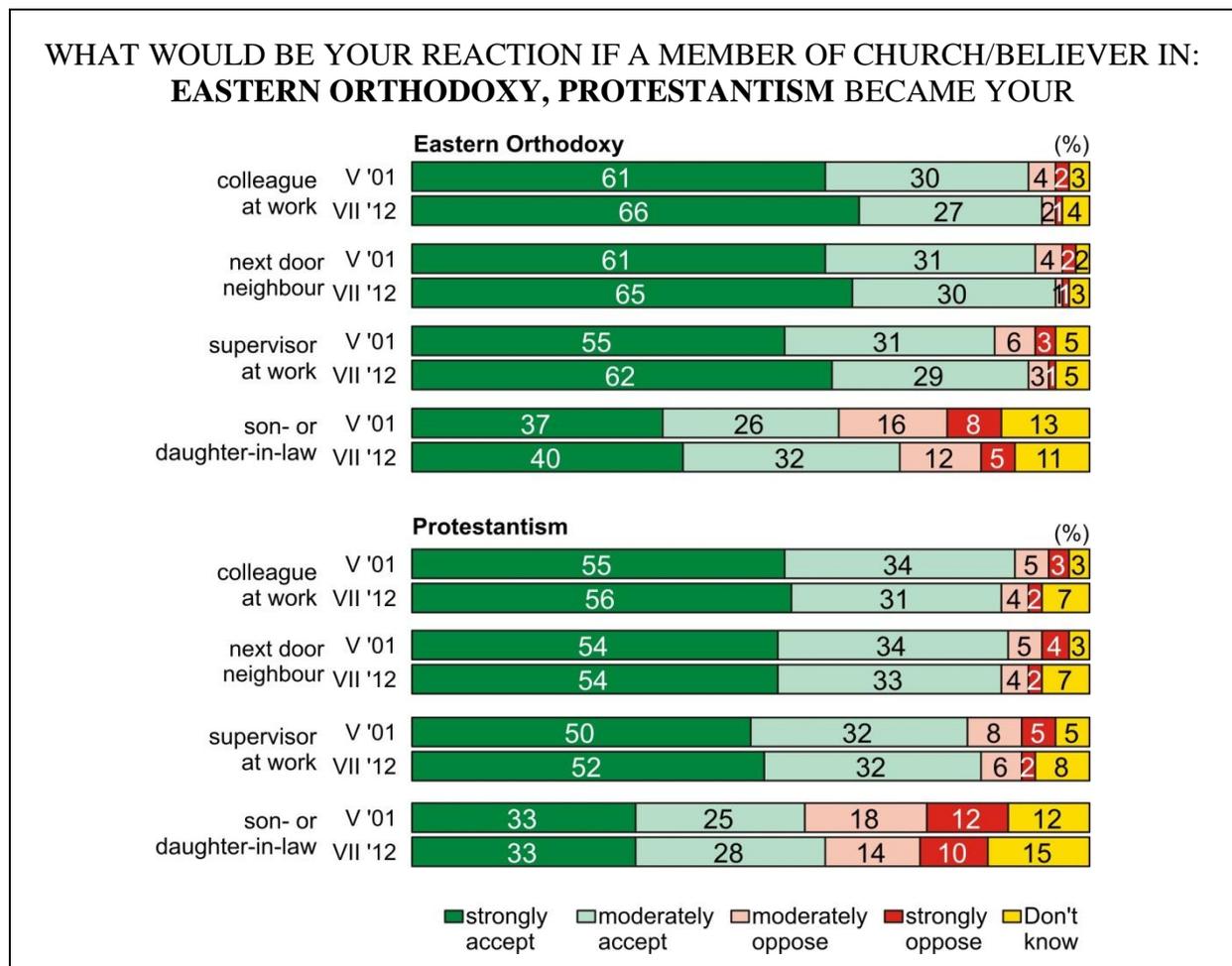
The Polish society is quite uniform in terms of religious beliefs. Apart from Roman Catholics, the biggest religious group is the Eastern Orthodox Church, which has over 0.5 million believers. There are about 150 thousand members of different Protestant denominations. Another numerous group is Jehovah's Witnesses, who number over 125 thousand.

The religious uniformity of the Polish society results in the fact that many Poles do not know members of other denominations, including the most common ones, such as Protestant or Orthodox. The only church known to a majority of Poles is Jehovah's Witnesses: 60% know personally a member of that denomination. Less than one-third (32%) know a member of Eastern Orthodox Church, and about one-fifth (21%) know personally someone belonging to a Protestant denomination. Small groups know a religious Jew or Muslim (13% each), or Buddhist (8%). A small group (4%) had a chance to meet a member of the Hare Krishna community.

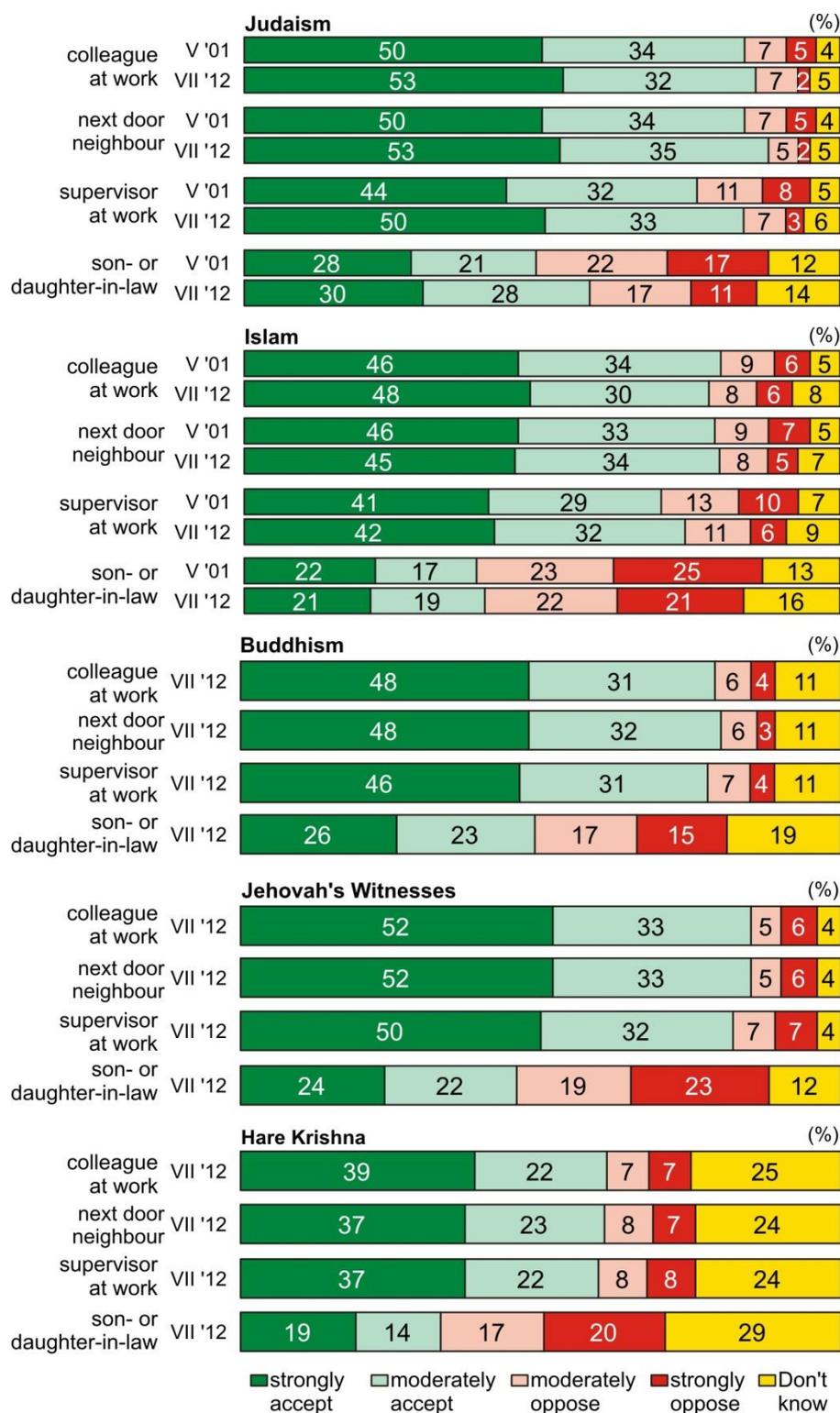


In general, Poles are most open to contacts Christian denominations (especially Eastern Orthodoxy) and Judaism. The social distance to Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, Buddhists and members of Hare Krishna movement is larger than to others.

During the last 11 years, the distance to other religions has diminished. This development is visible on every level of closeness of imagined relations with believers in other faiths. The greatest changes have occurred in case of the roles in which the acceptance of people of other religions was the weakest: son- or daughter-in-law and supervisor at work. The improvement is strongest in case of Judaism and Eastern Orthodoxy. For instance, the percentage of people who would accept it if their child married an Orthodox person increased from 63% to 72%, while the proportion of people opposed to such a partner fell from 24% to 17%. In case of Judaism, the acceptance rose from 49% to 58%, and rejection fell from 39% to 28%.



WHAT WOULD BE YOUR REACTION IF A MEMBER OF CHURCH/BELIEVER IN:
JUDAISM, ISLAM, BUDDHISM, JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, HARE KRISHNA
 BECAME YOUR



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Societal attitudes to members of different religions", September 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2012, N=960. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.