

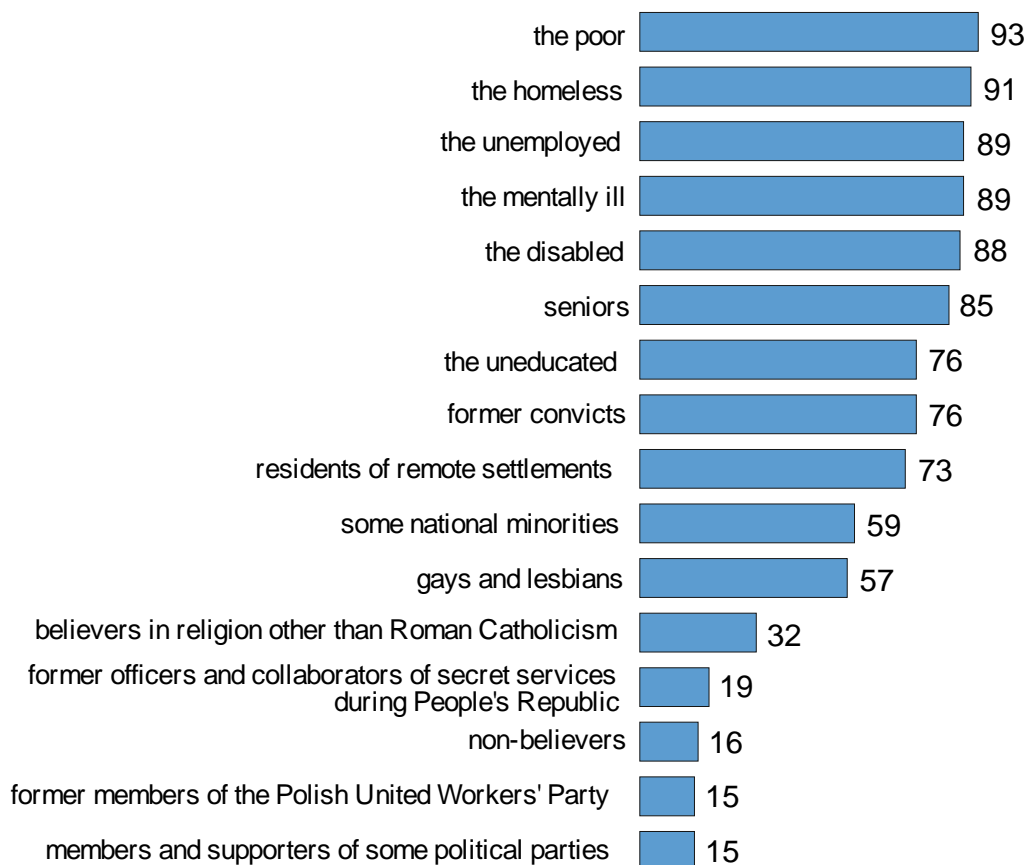
## **WHO HAS THE HARDEST LIFE IN POLAND**

Research in social exclusion clearly indicates that, while it is not synonymous with poverty, it is generally caused by low living standard. Another important factor is health. Poverty (with phenomena accompanying it, such as unemployment and homelessness), disability and long-term illness are the key factors hampering the satisfaction of needs, and, consequently, excluding from social life. These findings were confirmed by survey research.

A vast majority of respondents counted the following groups as socially excluded: the poor (93%), the homeless (91%), the unemployed (89%), the mentally ill (89%), the disabled (88%) and seniors (85%). About three-quarters of respondents count such groups as the uneducated (76%), former prisoners (76%) and people living away from big cities (73%). The majority also include some national minorities (59%, primarily the Roma), and gays and lesbians (57%). One-third (32%) think that believers in religion other than Roman Catholicism are excluded. Less than one-fifth think that marginalisation affects groups such as former officers and collaborators of secret services of People's Republic (19%), the non-believers (16%), former members of Polish United Workers' Party (15%), and members and supporters of some political parties (15%).

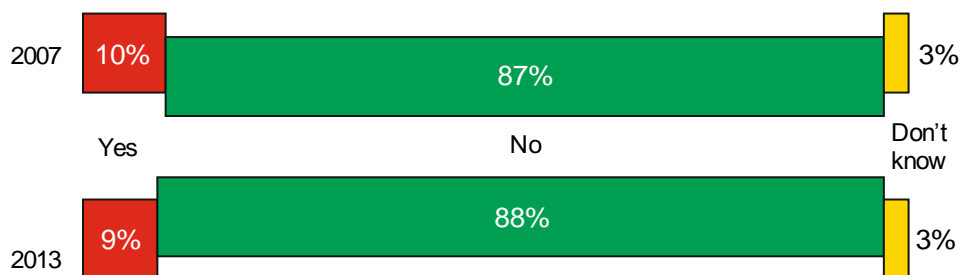
DO YOU THINK THAT THE FOLLOWING GROUPS ENCOUNTER DISPROPORTIONAL DIFFICULTIES AND LIMITATIONS IN SOCIAL LIFE?

*Percentage of affirmative answers*



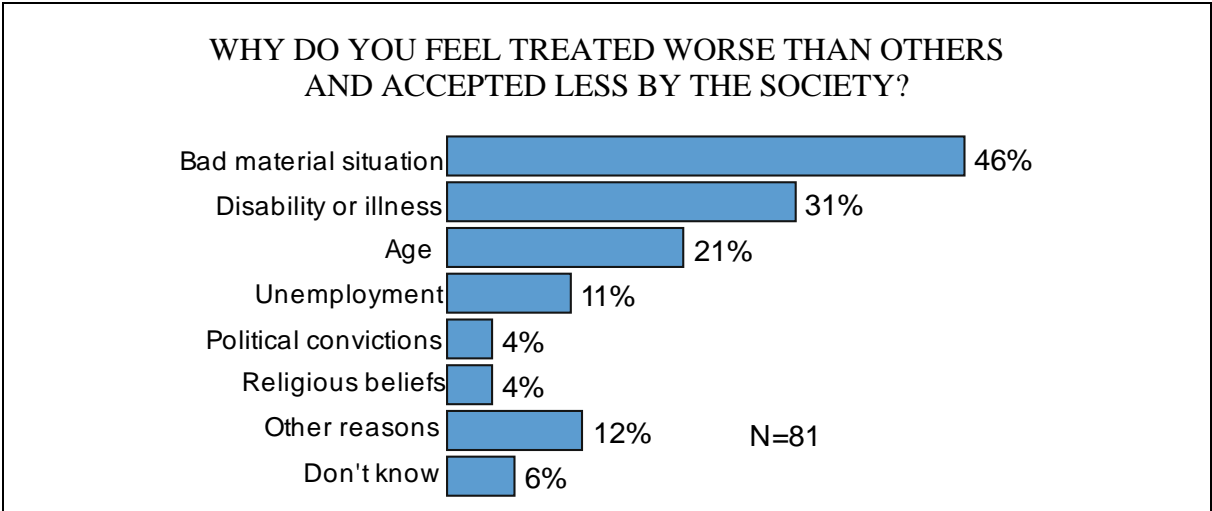
About one in eleven Poles (9%) feels excluded him or herself, i.e. treated worse and accepted to a lesser degree.

DO YOU PERSONALLY FEEL TREATED WORSE THAN OTHERS AND ACCEPTED LESS BY THE SOCIETY?



The strongest identification with the marginalised groups was noted among the respondents describing their living conditions as bad (27%) and among those on disability benefits (26%). Education influences subjective exclusion as well: respondents with primary (10%) and basic vocational education (13%) feel treated worse than others far more often than people with higher education (4%).

Respondents confirmed the importance of the above-mentioned factors when they gave justification for being excluded. According to declarations, they are not accepted due to their material situation (46%) or disability or illness (31%). Quite frequently, they mention age (21%) and unemployment (11%). Relatively few of them feel marginalised because of their political convictions (4%) or religion (4%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Who has the hardest life in Poland", October 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2013, N=911. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.