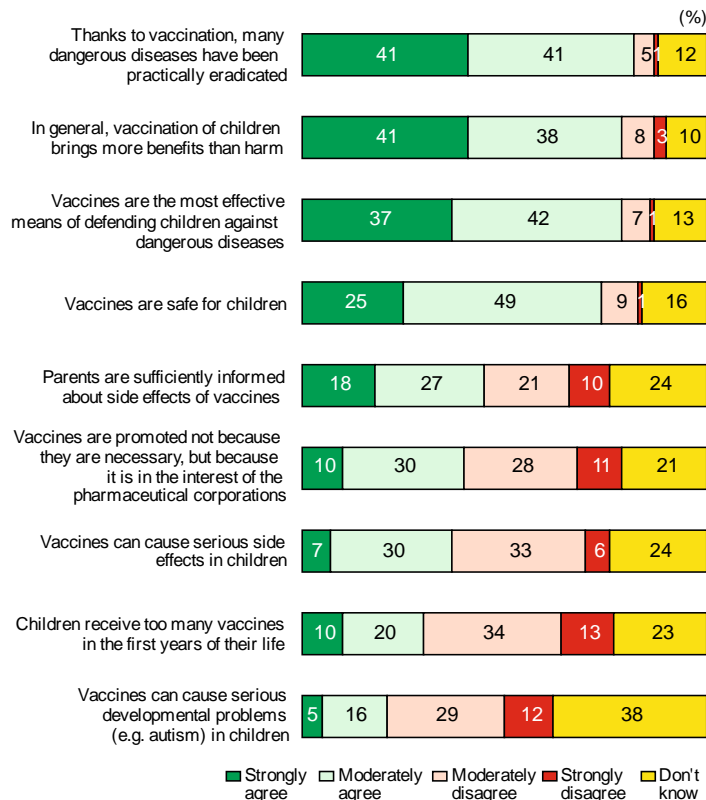


VACCINATION OF CHILDREN

Issues related to vaccination of children are sometimes raised in public debates. Supporters of immunization argue that it is the most effective means of defence against dangerous diseases. Some of them have been practically eradicated in this way. The opponents of immunization claim that children receive too many vaccines in the initial years of their life. They question the safety of vaccines quoting the errors committed by the pharmaceutical industry and vaccine side effects.

THE PICTURE OF THE POLISH SOCIETY CREATED BY SUMMING THE POSITIONS IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE GIVEN BY RESPONDENTS

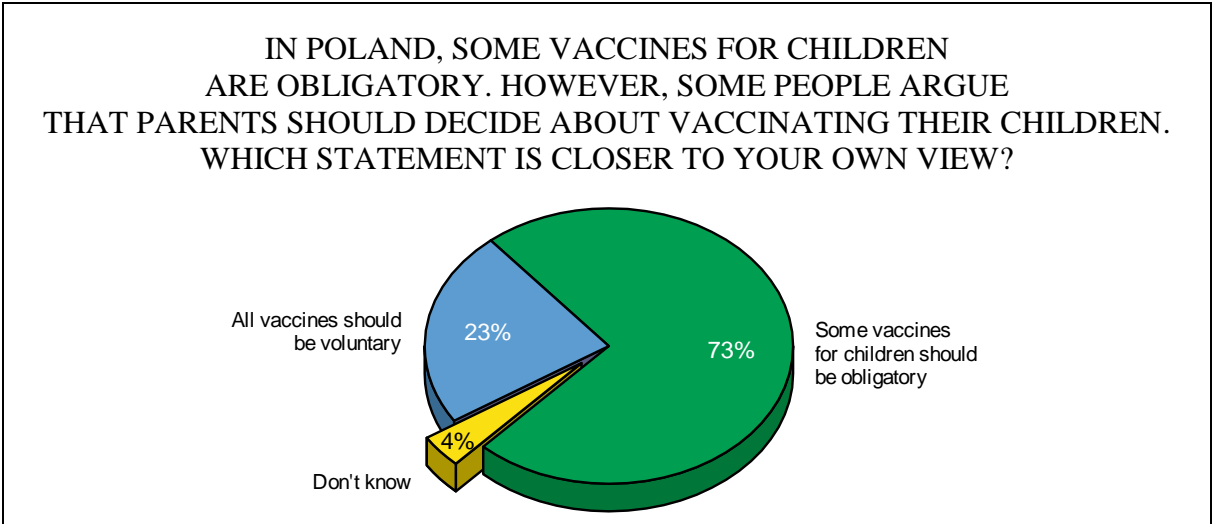


In general, Poles have positive attitude to vaccination of children. According to the vast majority of respondents (79%), immunization has, on balance, positive effects. Most Poles are convinced that, thanks to vaccines, many dangerous diseases have been eliminated (82%) and that they are the best defence against dangerous diseases (79%). Three-quarters (74%) think that vaccines are, in general, safe. However, almost two-fifths (37%) share the opinion that they can cause serious side effects, while one-fifth (21%) think that they can lead to developmental problems, e.g. autism. Almost half of respondents (45%) evaluate the information about side effects of vaccines as sufficient, while a smaller group (31%) disagree.

A minority of adults (30%) share the opinion that children receive too many vaccines, while close to half (47%) disagree with this view.

Two-fifths (40%) believe that vaccines are promoted not because they are necessary, but because it is in the interest of the pharmaceutical corporations to do so. The proportion of people who disagree with this view is almost the same (39%).

In Poland, according to government regulation, some vaccines are obligatory, while others are recommended. Almost three-quarters of Poles (73%) agree that at least some vaccines should be mandatory, while a quarter (23%) support voluntary immunization.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Vaccination of children*", December 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2013, N=990. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.