

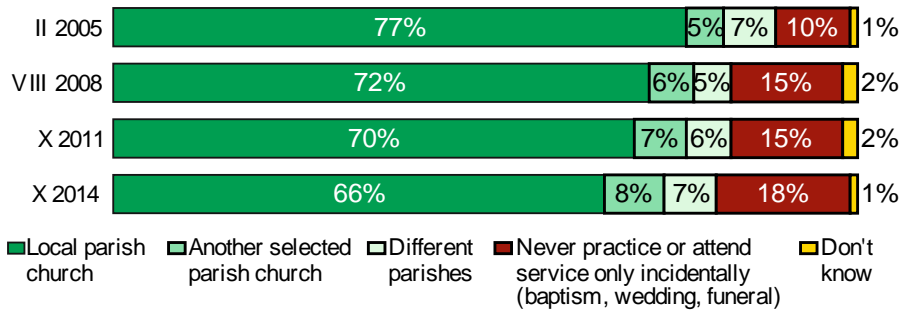
SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL PARISH

Religion is still an important dimension in the life of the Polish people. A vast majority of respondents (93%) consider themselves as believers (in which 8% are strong believers), and almost half (48%) attend religious service regularly, i.e. at least once a week. As far as the denomination is concerned, 89% of respondents describe themselves as Roman Catholics, and 5% as Christians. Agnostics, atheists and the non-denominational constitute 4% of all Poles.

Both the level of religiosity and the frequency of religious practice, while still high, have declined systematically, if to a limited extent, since 2005, the year pope John Paul II died. Yearly data calculated for the period 2005-2014 show that the proportion of believers decreased from 97% to 93%, while the percentage of the non-religious increased more than twice, from 3% to 7%. The proportion of people participating weekly in a religious service fell by 8 percentage points (from 58% to 50%), and the relative number of people who never practice rose from 9% to 12%.

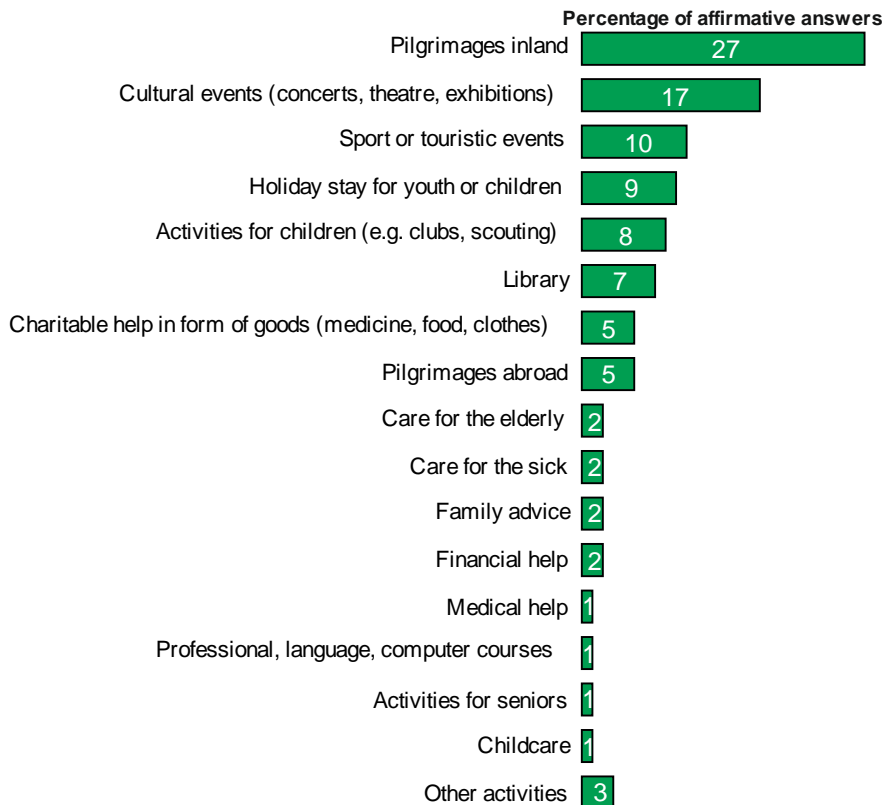
According to declarations recorded in October, for two-thirds of adult Poles (66%) the local community parish is the basic location of religious practice. Since 2005, the proportion of Poles attending the service in the local parish has systematically decreased (by 11 percentage points in total), with corresponding increase in the percentage of those attending service elsewhere (a 3-point rise) and never practicing (an 8-point increase).

WHERE DO YOU USUALLY ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICE?

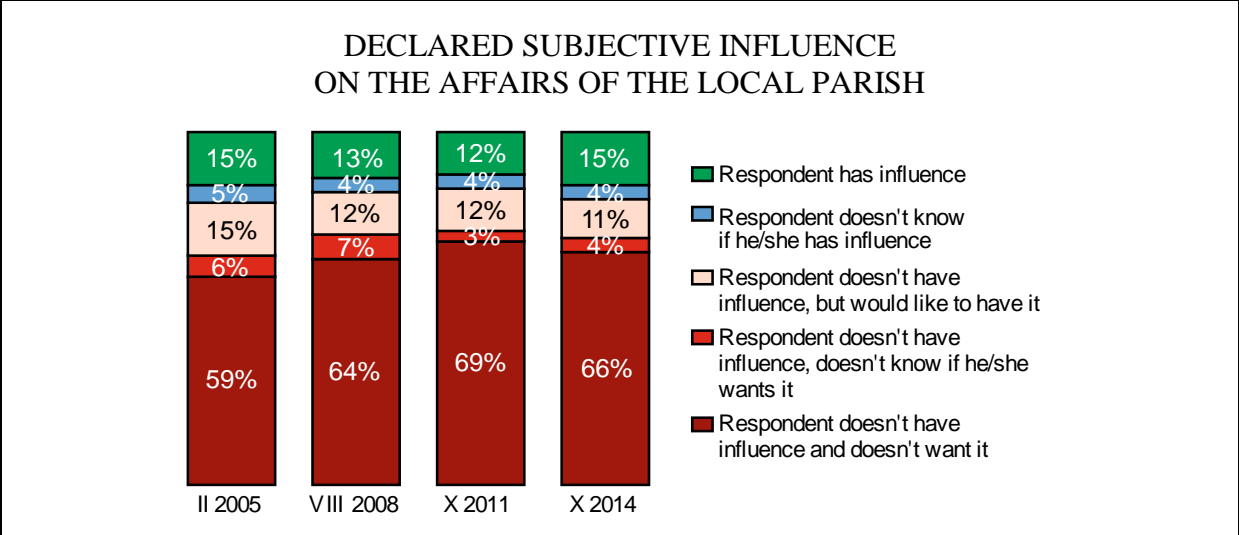


The local parish not only satisfies religious needs, which is its primary role, but also fulfils other needs. Respondents most commonly claim that they themselves or members of their family participate in pilgrimages to places of religious cult inland or abroad. A sizeable part of families take part in cultural or sport and touristic events organized by the local parish. Somewhat less frequently, respondents have children who go on vacation organized by the parish, or participate in events in the church. Fewer families borrow books from the parish library or receive charitable help (goods or financial help). Very few people take part in other parish events.

HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ORGANIZED BY YOUR PARISH...



Counting all activities, over two-fifths (43%) of respondents (including their family members) are beneficiaries of parish activities. The groups most commonly participating in parish activities are, in addition to people most commonly attending religious services: youngest respondents in the age group 18-24 (58% participate at least in one activity), students (60%), entrepreneurs (54%), farmers (53%), people with right-wing political views (54%).



A vast majority of respondents (81%) feel that they have no influence on the affairs in the local parish, while only one-seventh (15%) believe that they have. Although most people do not think they can influence the local parish life, a relatively small group (14% of the total) would like to have some say. This means that most people neither have influence on parish life, nor any ambition to have it.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Social significance and functions of the local parish"*, November 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2014, N=919. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.