

Legal availability of abortion

In Poland abortion can be legally performed in three situations: when the woman's life or health is endangered by the continuation of pregnancy, when there is a high probability that the foetus is seriously and irrevocably malformed or is affected by a life-threatening incurable disease, and when the pregnancy is a result of a criminal act, for instance rape.

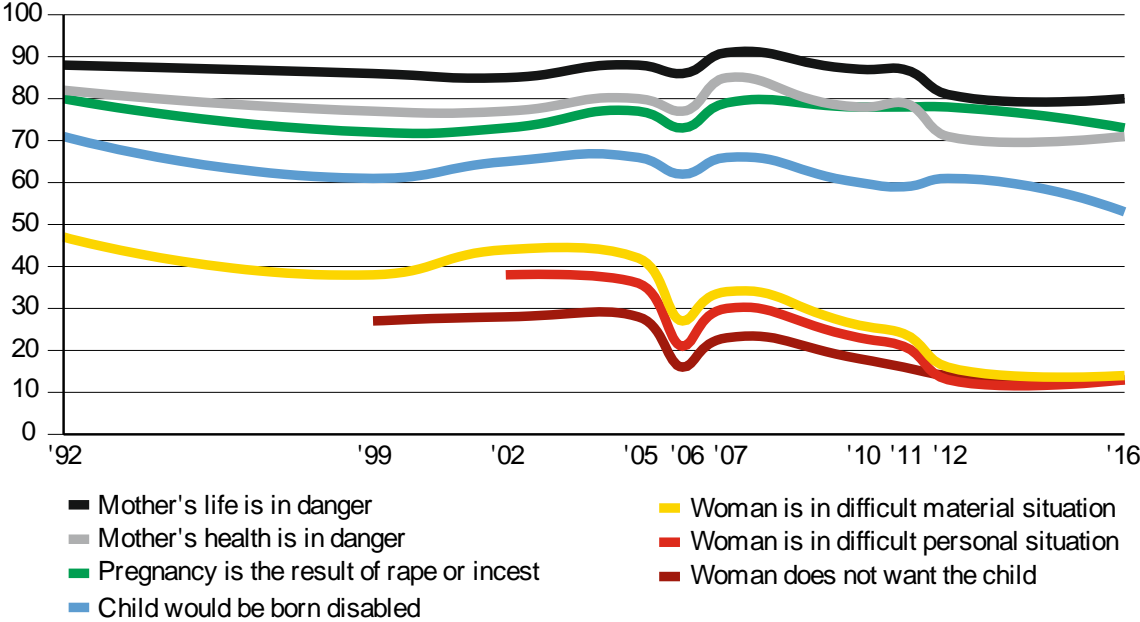
Public opinion on legal availability of abortion is largely consistent with the existing law. The conviction that the woman should have the right to terminate pregnancy which is a threat to her life or health, or if it began with rape or incest is quite widespread (80%, 71% and 73% of respondents, respectively). The acceptance of abortion in case of a defect of the foetus is less common. Nevertheless, the majority of respondents (53%) allow for abortion in such circumstances, while 30% have the opposite opinion.

Bad material situation and unwillingness to have children should not constitute legal grounds for abortion, in the opinion of the majority of respondents. Three quarters reject it in these cases.

In general, acceptance of legal abortion in circumstances not included in the law is continuously diminishing. The acceptance of abortion in cases when it is currently legal is also falling, but not as steeply.

Should abortion be legally available if...

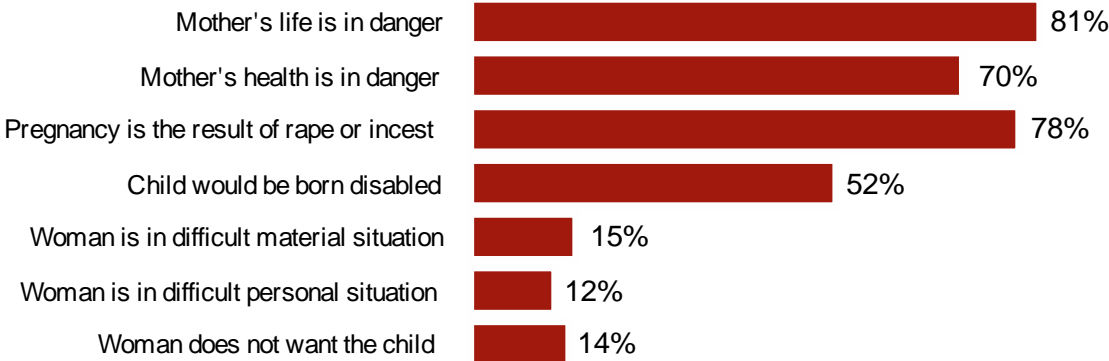
Percentage of affirmative answers



What is interesting, the opinions about legal availability of abortion among women in childbearing age, i.e. those affected directly, are not much different from the total.

Should abortion be legally available if...

Percentage of affirmative answers among women up to the age 49 (N=302)



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Abortion", April 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2016, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.