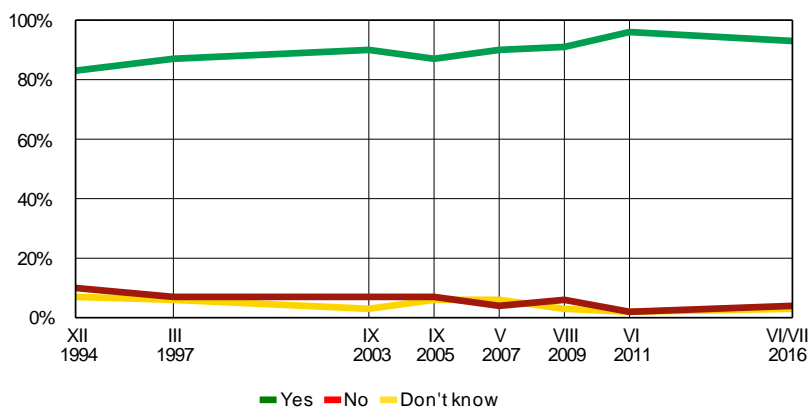


Attitude to organ transplantation

Organ transplantation in Poland is fraught with difficulties related to problems with sourcing organs from the dead. Past year was one of the worst in this decade in terms of the potential donors (listed by hospitals) and effective cases. Aside from organizational issues, there is a large number of cases when transplantation is abandoned due to lack of authorization. It usually consists in refusal by the family of the deceased, usually informal expression of the will of the deceased or the will of relatives of the dead person. Such refusal is not legally binding (if the deceased did not register the refusal, his or her agreement is assumed by default), but in practice it results in transplantation not taking place.

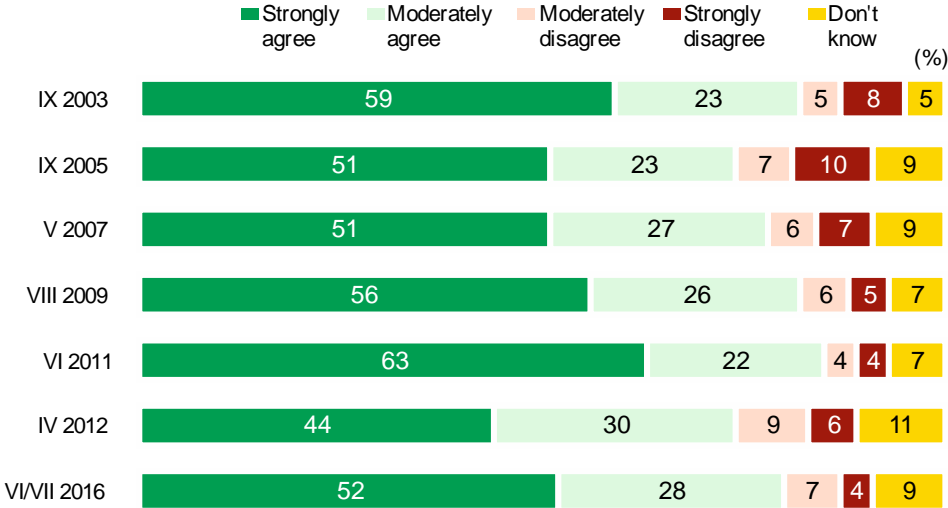
The attitude of Poles to transplantation of organs of the deceased to save life or health of other people has been consistently positive. At present more than nine-tenths agree (93%).

Do you think it is right to transplant organs after death to save life or health of another person?



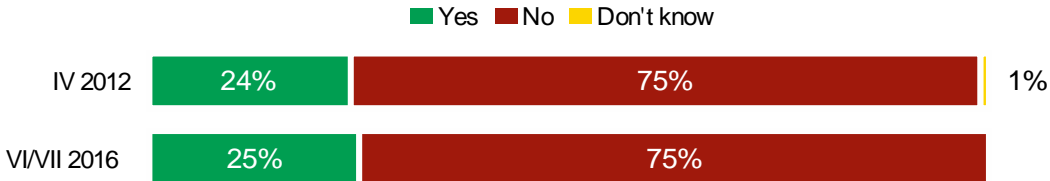
Moreover, eight-tenths of respondents (80%) would agree to have their own organs transplanted after death. The proportion of people accepting the possibility of being a donor has increased since the previous measurement.

Would you agree to donate your organs after death, to be transplanted to others?



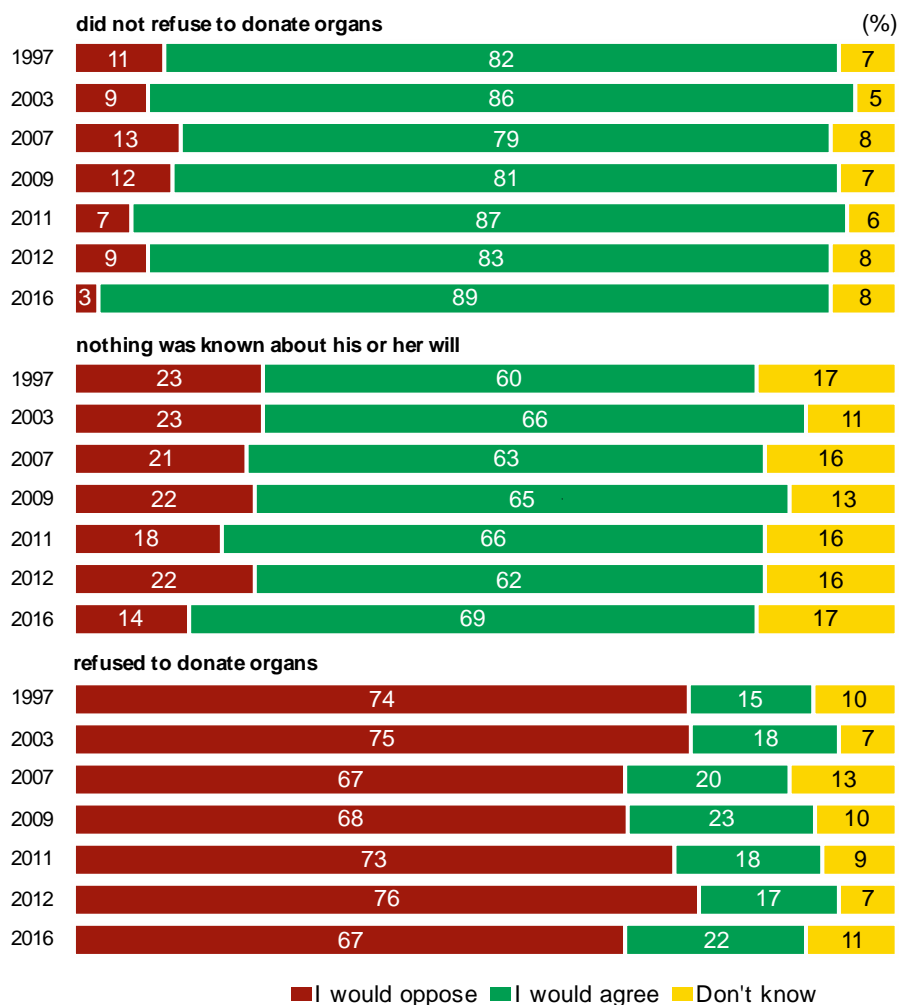
On the other hand, declarations show that three-quarters of Poles (75%) did not talk with relatives about donating their organs after death.

Did you talk to your relatives about donating your organs after death for transplantation to people who need them?



The dominant group of respondents claim not to be opposed to transplanting organs of a dead relative, provided he or she would not be opposed to it when alive. Rejection of transplantation of organs of a deceased relative is now markedly lower than four years ago. Moreover, the proportion of people opposing transplantation in cases when the deceased relative had nothing against or if his or her will was not known is now on the lowest level recorded in the last twenty years.

In case of death of a close person, would you oppose removing his or her organs to save someone else's life if this person ...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Organ Transplantations", August 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2016, N=983. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.