

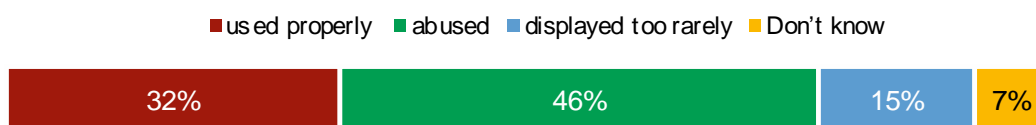
Use of national and patriotic symbols

In the public debate, the issue of proper use of national and patriotic symbols is raised systematically. In recent years we have seen increasing amount of national and patriotic symbols in public space, primarily in the form of "patriotic clothing" using national symbols.

Almost half of respondents (45%) declare that during national holidays they fly the national flag. One third (33%) have items such as mugs, bags, key rings decorated with national symbols, and almost every fifth (18%) sometimes wear clothes with such symbols.

Almost half of respondents (46%) believe that national symbols are appropriately used in Poland today, but one third (32%) claim that they are abused. Every seventh respondent (15%) considers that the flag and coat of arms of Poland are too rare in public space.

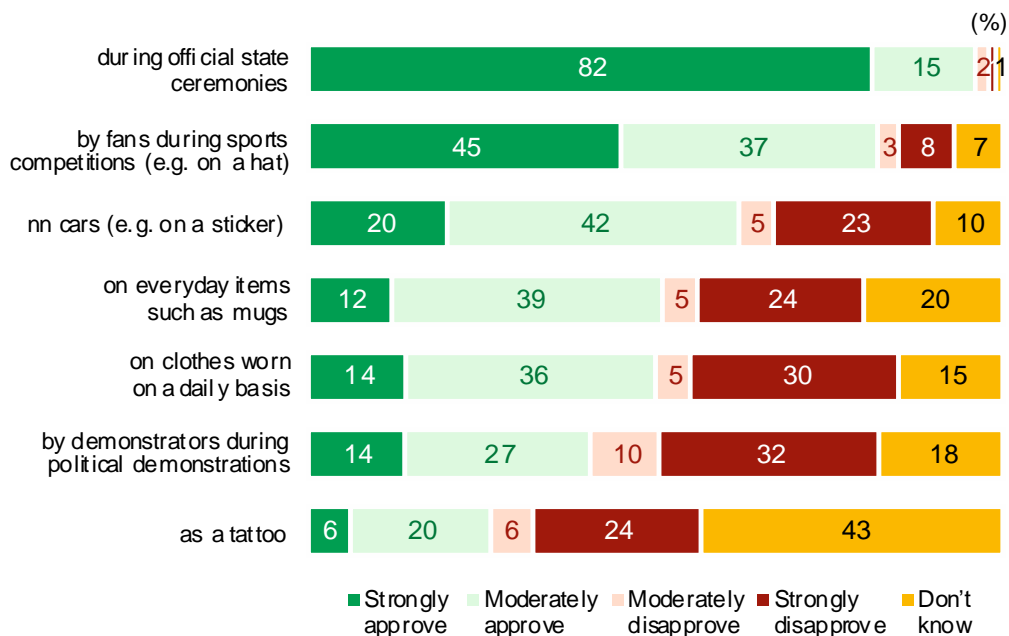
Do you think that in Poland today national symbols, i.e. the national flag and the coat of arms, are ...



Obviously, the least controversial situation in which national symbols appear in public space are official state ceremonies. Virtually no-one opposes the use of the national flag and

the coat of arms in these circumstances. Their use during sports competitions is also commonly approved (82%). There is more controversy regarding the adornment of cars with national symbols (62% approval), everyday items (51%) and clothing (50%). Less than half of respondents (41%) approve of their use during political demonstrations. Only a quarter (26%) view favourably tattoos using national symbols. In this case, however, one must also take into account that most Poles have a reluctant attitude to tattoos in general, which probably influences their attitude to the decoration of the body with national colours or the state coat of arms.

Polish national symbols, i.e. the national flag and the coat of arms, are used in many situations, both official and unofficial. Please tell me if you approve of using them in the following situations:



In the majority of cases, the liberal attitude towards using colours and national emblems is expressed by the younger, rather than the older respondents. This is especially true in case of tattoos, but also in case of use of symbols during sport events and as adornment on everyday items.

National symbols are subject to legal protection and disrespect is subject to a fine. Poles in the majority approve of this state of affairs.

Do you agree that the national flag and the coat of arms should be covered by special legal protection?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "The Use of National and Patriotic Symbols", November 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2017, N=985. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.