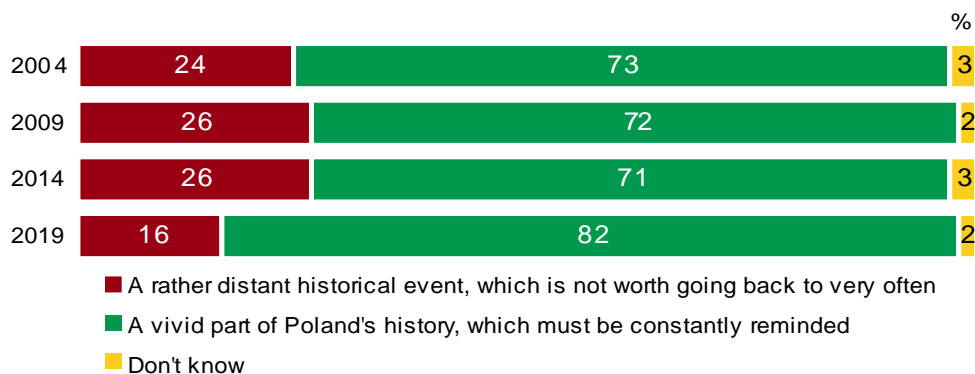


World War II in the collective memory of Poles

Despite the passage of time and the decrease in the number of people who survived World War II, the vast majority of adult Poles (82%) believe that this is still a living part of Poland's history, which must be constantly reminded. Interestingly, there are now far more people who express this belief than five years ago (an increase of 11 percentage points). On the other hand, the group of respondents who think that World War II was a rather distant historical event that was not worth returning to has been reduced (16%, a decrease of 10 percentage points).

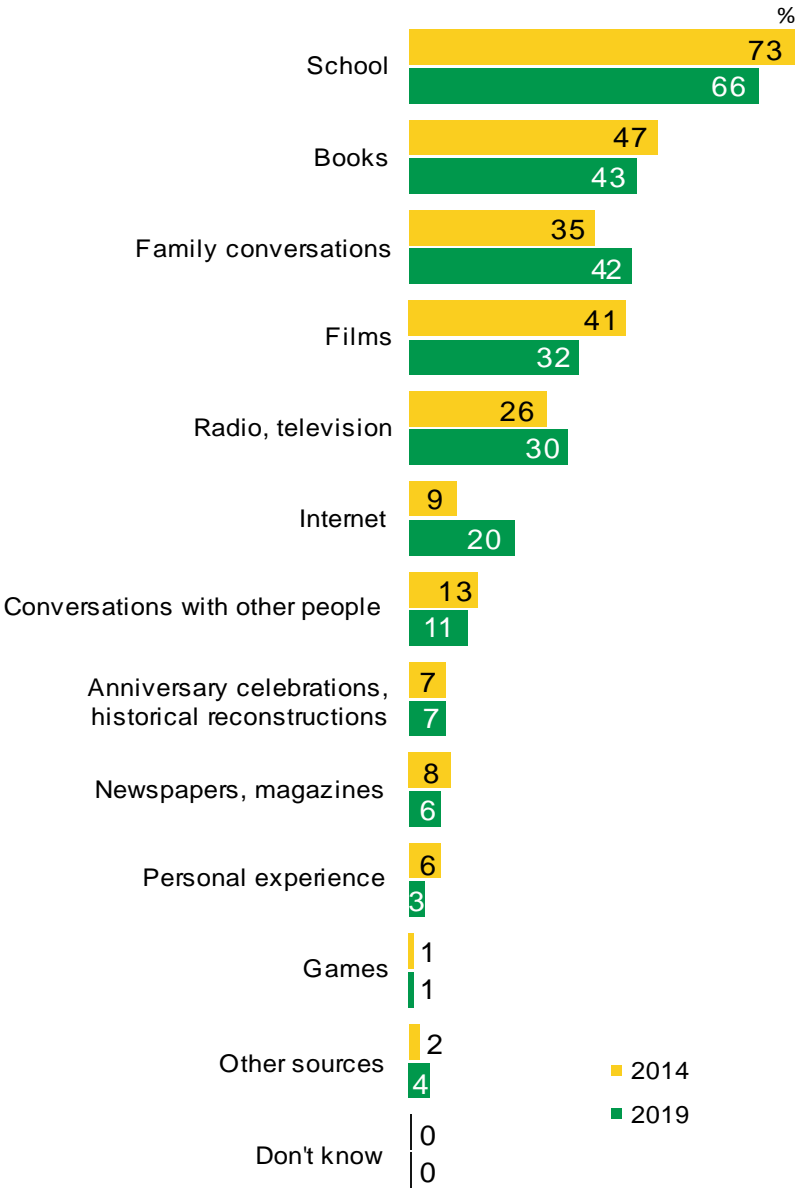
What is World War II for you personally?



Declarations show that the knowledge about World War II comes primarily from school (it was indicated by 66% of respondents among the three most important sources). Books (43%), family conversations (42%), as well as films (32%), radio and television (30%) play an important role. It is worth emphasizing the clear increase in the informational role of the internet: in 2014 in this context it was indicated by 9% of respondents, and currently 20%.

Where did you get information about World War II?

Up to three answers possible

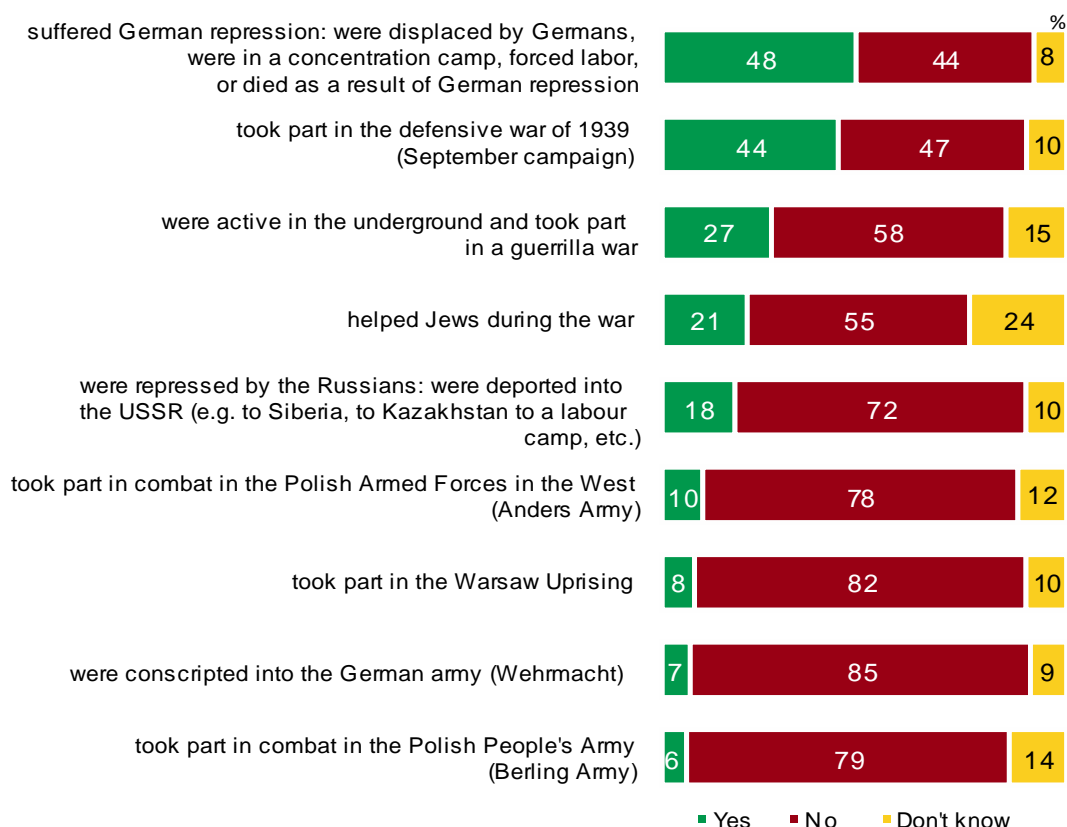


80 years have passed since the outbreak of World War II and there are fewer and fewer eyewitnesses. Declarations show that currently two-fifths (40%) of adult Poles have family members who remember World War II from their own experience.

In total, 76% of adult Poles declared that, according to their knowledge, their family members were either actively involved in the events of the Second World War, or were victims of repression by Germans or Russians at that time.

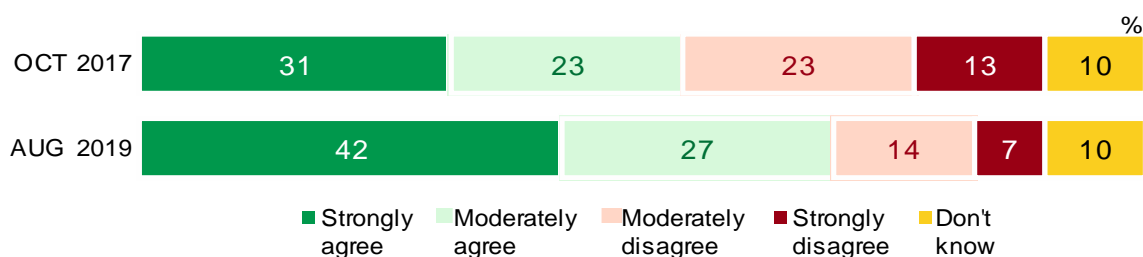
Nearly half (48%) of adult Poles know that their family members suffered some German repression during World War II: they were displaced by the Germans, were in a concentration camp, forced labour or died as a result of German repression. Slightly fewer (44%) say that in their family there have been people who took part in the 1939 defensive war. Less than a third (31%) state that their family members were involved in underground or guerrilla warfare during the World War II: 27% claim that their relatives were active in the underground and took part in the guerrilla war, and 8% know that they took part in the Warsaw Uprising. There is a significant group of respondents claiming that their relatives helped Jews during World War II (21%). Slightly fewer people (18%) know that there have been people in the family who were repressed by the Russians: they were deported into the USSR (e.g. to Siberia, to Kazakhstan), sent to a labour camp, etc. Overall, every seventh respondent (14%) declares that in his or her family there have been soldiers of armed forces fighting on the side of the anti-Hitler coalition, with more respondents claiming that their relatives participated in the fighting of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, the Anders Army (10%) than fighting for the Polish People's Army, the Berling Army (6%). Interestingly, slightly fewer people admit that a family member was a soldier of the Polish army fighting alongside the Red Army than having relatives conscripted into the German army, Wehrmacht (7%).

According to your knowledge, are there people in your family who:



Over two-thirds of respondents (69%) believe that Poland should claim damages from Germany for losses incurred during World War II. Over the past two years, Poles' support for applying for reparations has increased significantly, by 15 percentage points.

Do you agree that Poland should demand reparations (compensation) from Germany for losses incurred during World War II?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Perception of the Second World War and Support for Demanding Reparations from Germany", September 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2019, N=974. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.