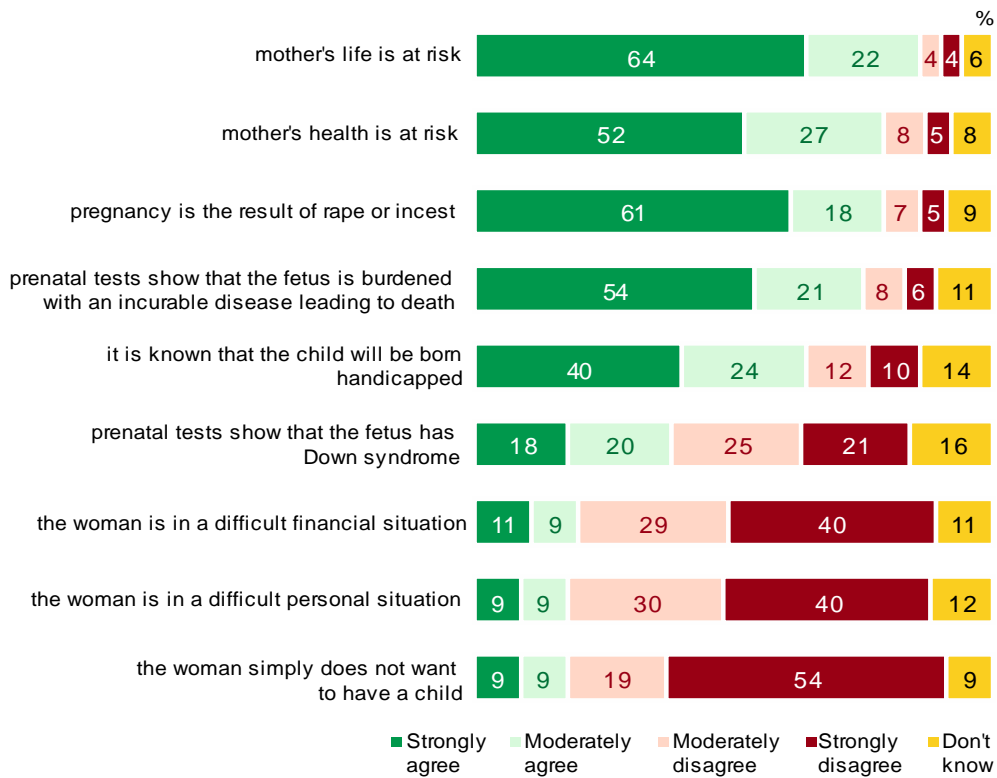


Legality of abortion and the protests after the judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal

In Poland, termination of pregnancy is legal in three situations: when it poses a threat to the life or health of the mother, when there are medical indications of severe and irreversible damage to the fetus, and when the pregnancy resulted from a prohibited act. On October 22, the Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the provision of the act allowing abortion in a situation where there is “a high probability of a serious and irreversible impairment of the fetus or an incurable disease that threatens its life” is inconsistent with the basic law containing legal guarantees of life protection. Due to the judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal, the issue of the legal regulation of termination of pregnancy returned to the mainstream public debate, triggering mass protests in the streets. The judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal has not been published so far, which means that the legal status has remained unchanged. In connection with the crisis caused by this judgment, President Andrzej Duda proposed an amendment to the act replacing the invalidated provision with a law enabling abortion in a situation where "prenatal tests or other medical considerations indicate a high probability that a child will be born with a disease or defect that will lead to its death inevitably and directly, regardless of the therapeutic measures used.”

Do you agree that termination of pregnancy should be permitted by law when:

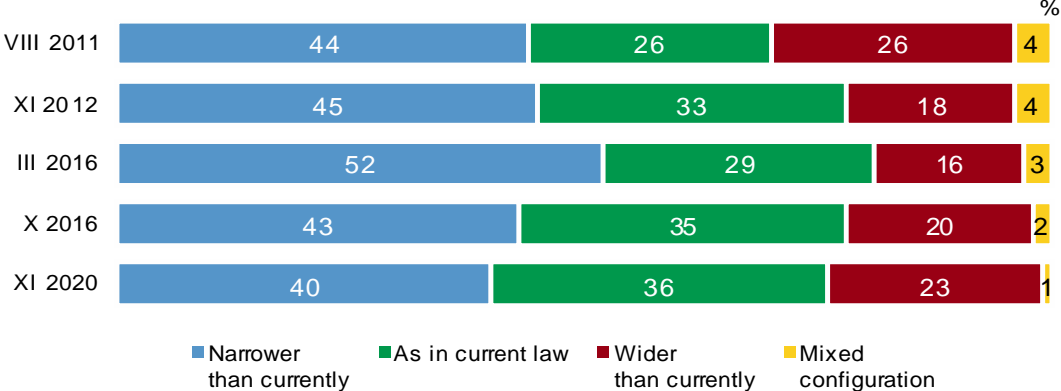


According to the opinion of the majority of respondents, the law should allow for termination of pregnancy in a situation when the mother's life is at risk (86% of respondents agree to this) or her health (79%), when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest (79%), when prenatal tests indicate that the fetus is burdened with an incurable disease leading to death (75%) as well as when it is known that the child will be born with a handicap (64%). Opinions are divided regarding the possibility of termination of pregnancy in the case of the diagnosis of trisomy 21, i.e. Down syndrome. The plurality of respondents believe that abortion in such circumstances should not be allowed (46% against, 38% would allow it). In the opinion of the majority, termination of pregnancy should not be allowed when the woman is in a difficult financial situation (69% are opposed) or in a difficult personal situation (70%) and when she simply does not want to have a child (73%).

Based on the answers to seven questions asked by CBOS over the last three decades regarding the permissibility of abortion in such circumstances as a threat to the mother's life and health, fetal impairment, a situation where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest, the woman is in a difficult financial or personal situation and when she simply do not

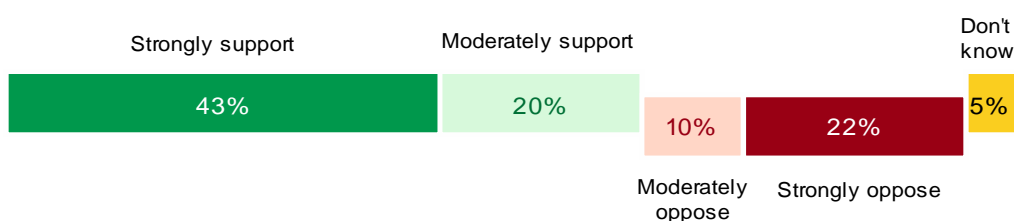
want to have a child, we divided respondents into four groups: 1) allowing abortion to a narrower scope than currently permitted by the law (40%); 2) allowing termination of pregnancy in currently legal circumstances (36%); 3) allowing abortion to a greater extent than currently legal (23%) and 4) giving mixed answers (1%). Compared to the previous measurements from the current decade, support for the current abortion compromise has strengthened, and compared to the results from 2012-2016, the percentage of supporters of the liberalization of the law has slightly increased. At the same time, the percentage of respondents who support tightening the applicable regulations is the smallest in this decade.

Range of circumstances under which a woman should be entitled to terminate a pregnancy.

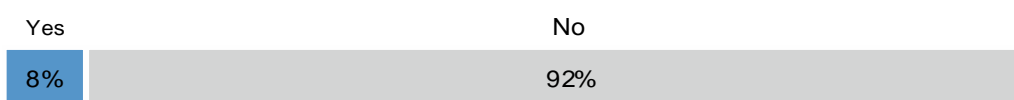


The ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal sparked a wave of social protests. Their massive scale is confirmed by the results of the CBOS survey: 8% of respondents declared their participation in the protests. This means that in the first weeks after the announcement of the judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal, a total of about two and a half million adult Poles protested across the country. It should be borne in mind that the study was conducted on a sample of adult Poles, while minors also participated in the protests.

Do you support social protests after the Constitutional Tribunal ruling that abortion is unconstitutional in the event of a severe and irreversible fetal impairment or an incurable life-threatening disease?



Did you personally participate in these protests?



Among the socio-demographic characteristics, age and gender are the key determinants of participation in recent protests. The analyzes show that mostly young people took to the streets: more than one-fourth aged 18–24 (28%) and 15% of those aged 25–34. Women (11%) declare participation in protests almost twice as often as men (6%). Taking into account both age and gender shows it was mostly young women who protested. More than two-fifths of women aged 18-24 (41%) declare participation in the demonstrations. Among those aged 25 to 34, more than one-fifth (21%) took part. Also among young men (up to the age of 24) the percentage of protesters was higher (18%) than the average, although clearly lower than in the group of women of the same age. Participation in the protests is strongly determined by the political and philosophical orientation as well as by the attitude towards the government. Almost one-fourth of people declaring left-wing political views (23%) participated in the protests, i.e. much more often than respondents identifying themselves with the right (3%) or the political center (5%). Religiousness is an important component of worldview and ideological orientation. The protesters were mainly people who do not participate in religious practices (21%), or practice irregularly. Among those practicing at least once a week, the percentage of protest participants was negligible (1%).

Almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) declared their support for the protests. Support for the protests is very broad. The opponents of Mateusz Morawiecki's cabinet (85%) identify with them, but also the majority of people indifferent to the government (62%). Protests

are supported not only by respondents declaring left-wing political views (87%), but also the majority who define themselves as centrists (74%) and who cannot place themselves on the left-right axis (62%).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Admissibility of Abortion and Protests after the Judgment of Constitutional Tribunal” , 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2020, N=1052. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.