

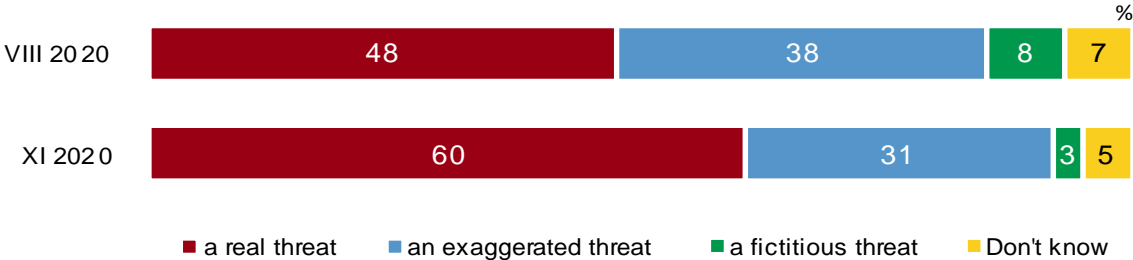
## **How many coronasceptics are there in Poland?**

Already in March, during the first wave of COVID-19, there were indicators of rebellion both against the restrictions introduced by the government and against the epidemic itself. The Internet, and especially its segment loosely called the alt-internet, has become the main forum connecting coronasceptics. With regard to the pandemic, the alt-internet environment is very diverse, ranging from people who simply consider government reactions to be exaggerated, through those who deny the epidemic but not the virus, to those who say there is no disease at all. These theories find fertile ground especially among former rebels against official science and knowledge, incl. anti-vaxxers, people who believe in the dangers of electromagnetic radiation or 5G and 6G systems.

The development of the epidemic in the autumn and winter season has reduced skepticism towards the threat of the spread of the coronavirus. In August, during the period of eased restrictions and a relatively small number of cases, Poles were divided over whether the coronavirus epidemic actually posed a threat to Poles' health. Less than half believed that it was a real threat (48%), while a slightly smaller percentage believed that the coronavirus epidemic was an exaggerated threat (38%) or even a fictitious threat (8%). Opinions were different in November, close to the apex of the second wave of cases. Most respondents

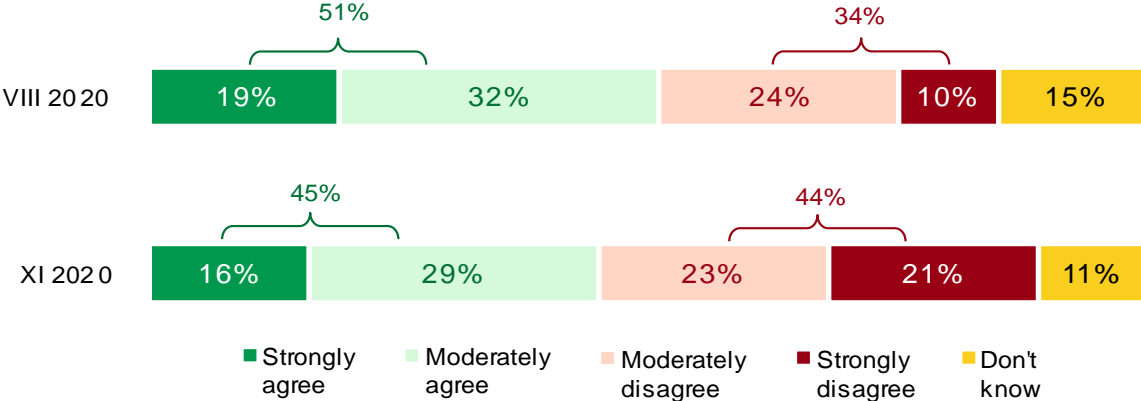
were inclined to conclude that the coronavirus epidemic posed a real threat to the health of Poles (60%, an increase by 12 percentage points compared to August), while the minority argued that it was an exaggerated threat (31%, a decrease by 7 points) or a fictitious threat (3%, a decrease by 5 points).

**In your opinion, how big of a threat is the coronavirus epidemic for the health of Poles:**



People who believe that the coronavirus epidemic is, to a greater or lesser extent, a conspiracy against the so-called ordinary people attribute different goals to these hidden activities. One popular conspiracy theory is that politicians, the media, and pharmaceutical companies are exaggerating the threat of coronavirus for their own ends. In August, over half of Poles (51%) agreed with the statement that this was the case, whereas slightly more than a third (34%) did not agree with this. In November, Poles' opinions on this subject were already divided: almost the same percentage agreed with the statement that the pharmaceutical lobbies, politicians and the media around the world are deliberately exaggerating the threats related to coronavirus (45%), and rejected it (44%).

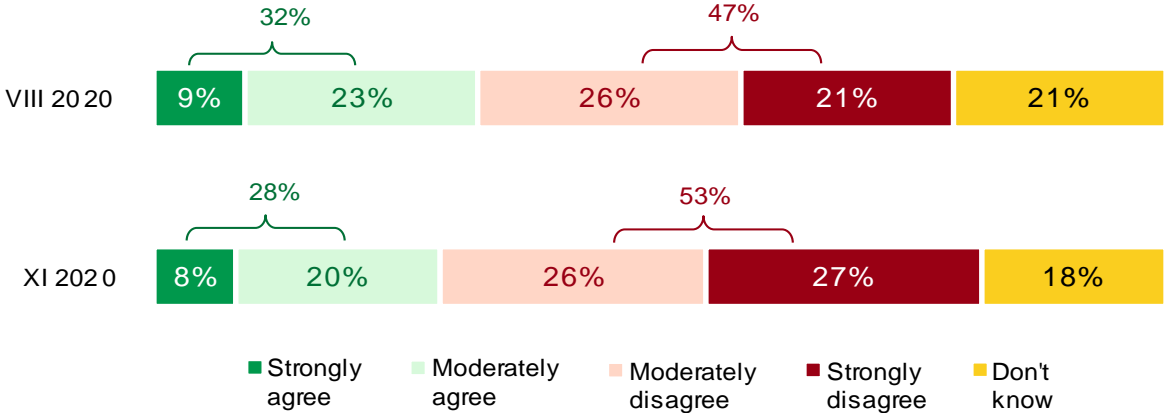
**Do you agree that pharmaceutical lobbies, politicians and the media around the world are deliberately exaggerating the dangers of the coronavirus?**



The idea that the coronavirus pandemic was caused artificially in order to reduce the population of humanity living on Earth has a lower level of acceptance among Poles. In

August, nearly one-third agreed (32%), while less than half (47%) rejected it. Here, too, the conspiratorial vision of reality lost some of its popularity after the experience of the second wave of cases. The belief that the coronavirus and its epidemic are a product of the deliberate actions of people who want to reduce the population of people living on Earth, and not the result of the forces of nature, was shared in November by slightly more than a quarter of respondents (28%, a decrease by 4 percentage points), while the majority rejected it (53%, an increase of 6 points).

**Do you agree that the coronavirus pandemic was caused artificially to reduce the population of humanity on Earth?**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Coronavirus Scepticism – Who Does Not Believe in the Epidemic Threat ", December 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2020, N=1149. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.