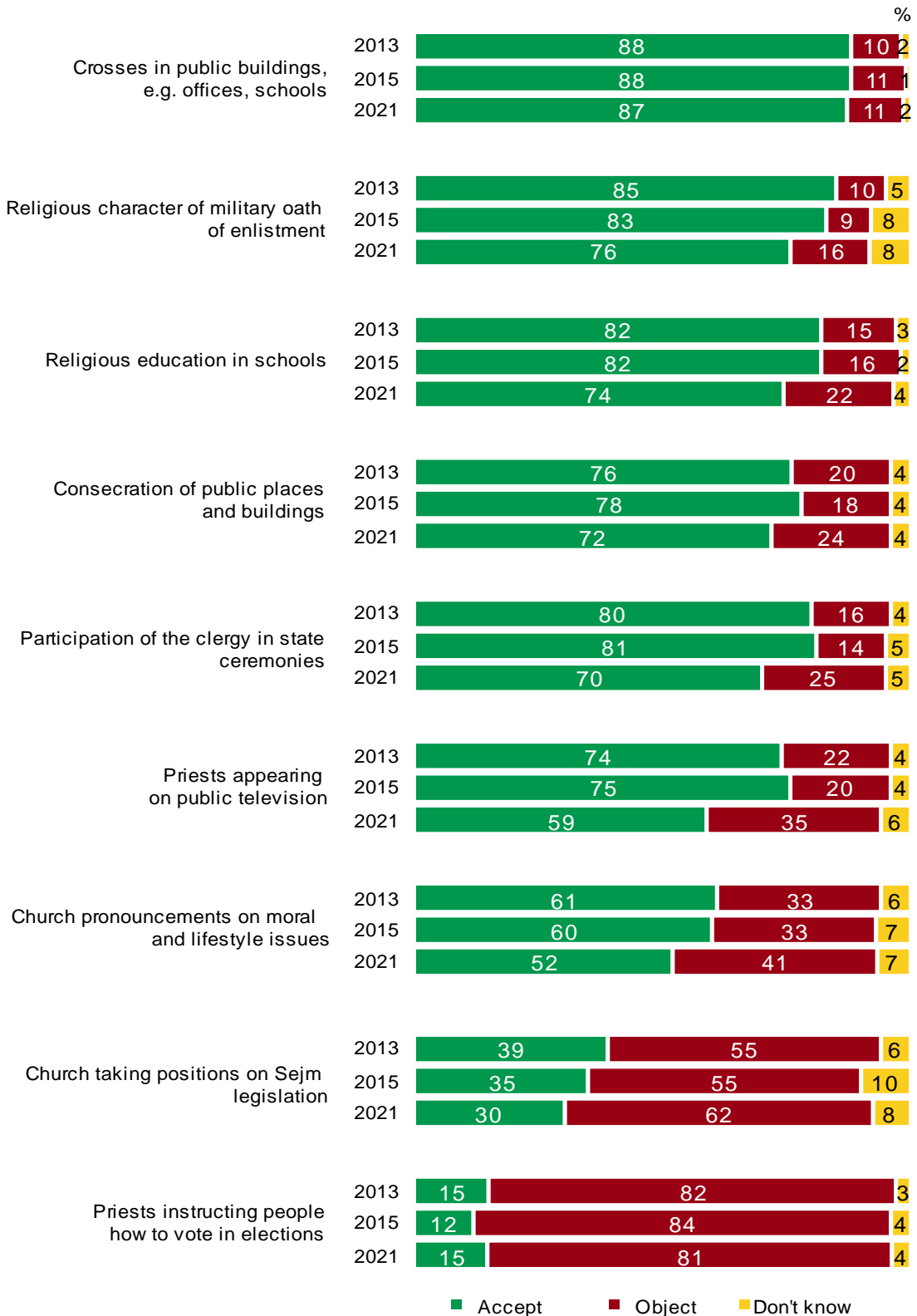


## **Attitudes towards the presence of religion and the Church in public space**

Despite the steady decline in religiosity, Poles tend to accept many manifestations of Church presence in public life. Crosses in public buildings are approved of by 87% of respondents; at least 70% accept the religious nature of the military oath, religious instruction in schools, consecration of public places and buildings, and participation of priests in state rituals and ceremonies. Almost three-fifths (59%) are not offended by priests appearing on public TV, and slightly more than half (52%) accept it when the Church speaks about moral and social issues. On the other hand, 62% are offended when the Church takes a position on laws passed by the Sejm, and 81% do not accept priests telling people how to vote in elections.

In the last few years, Polish society has become less favourable to the presence of religion and the Church in public space. The greatest reduction is in the acceptance of priests appearing on public television (by 16 percentage points since 2015), participation of clergymen in state ceremonies (drop by 11 points), religion lessons in schools (down by 8 points), and Church taking position on parliamentary acts (down by 5 points). On the other hand, the disapproval of priests telling people how to vote decreased only slightly (by 3 points).

## Do you accept the following situations



Although women remain more religious than men, they do not differ significantly from men in their general attitudes towards the presence of religion and the Church in public space. In contrast, the less religious younger respondents (aged 18–34) are less sympathetic to

Church presence than the more religious older people, especially the oldest (aged 65 and over). Moreover, the larger the place of residence and the higher the socio-economic status, the less favourable is the attitude to the presence of religion and the Church in public space.

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: " Attitudes towards Religion and Church in Public Sphere", January 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2021, N=1157. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.