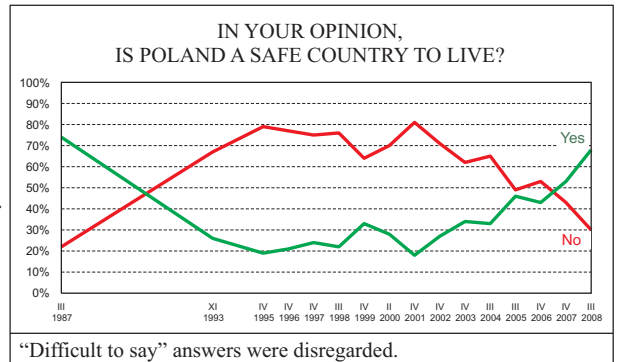


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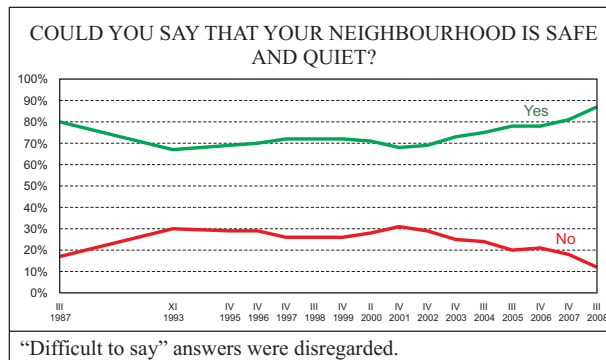
- THE FEELING OF EVERYDAY SAFETY
- CHANGES IN THE LIFE OF A POLISH FAMILY
- FINANCING OF THE PUBLIC MEDIA
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## THE FEELING OF EVERYDAY SAFETY

The side effects of the economic and political transformation in Poland include a significant growth in crime rate and a change of its nature. Before 1989, the Poles described their country as a safe place to live, whereas in the first half of the 1990s most of them expressed negative opinions. Throughout the 1990s, the stereotype of Poland as an unsafe country to live prevailed among the Poles. Free flow of information was one of the factors that contributed to this image. The free and at the same time commercially-oriented media published a lot of sensational information about different types of criminal activity, which had a particularly strong effect on the unaccustomed readers. The image of Poland as a country with high crime rates dominated the public awareness until 2001, when as many as four-fifths of the respondents (81%) believed that life was unsafe in Poland. Since then, we have observed shrinking of the social range of this stereotype and a gradual growth of the opinion that Poland is a safe country. In 2007, for the first time since the end of the 1980s, most respondents expressed positive opinions about the safety in Poland. Currently we are witnessing a further, quite rapid increase in the belief that Poland is a safe place to live. More than two-thirds of the respondents (68%) believe that Poland is a safe country, compared with less than a third (30%) of the opposite opinions.



The feeling of safety is growing not only on the national, but on the local level as well. The percentage of the Poles who feel safe in their neighbourhood is currently the highest ever (85%), even higher than in the last years before the transformation in 1989. Although subjective security in the neighbourhood is still higher than in the country as a whole, the difference between these two indicators is not as big as it used to be.



An improvement in the perceived level of safety, which has been observed recently (in particular during the last year) is a result of an actual decrease in crime rates recorded in Poland in the last years.

On the other hand, it seems that the Poles "have got used to" the new reality and a higher crime rate than before 1989. People got accustomed to the news about crime and are not as impressed as they used to be.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): The feeling of everyday safety, March 2008. Survey executed in March 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1205.

## CHANGES IN THE LIFE OF A POLISH FAMILY

The family is one of the leading values for the Poles. The belief that everybody needs a family to be truly happy is almost universal.

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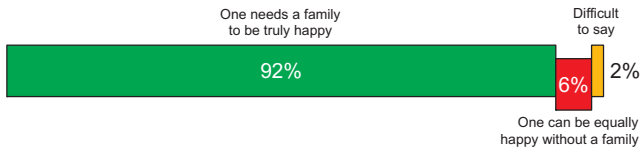
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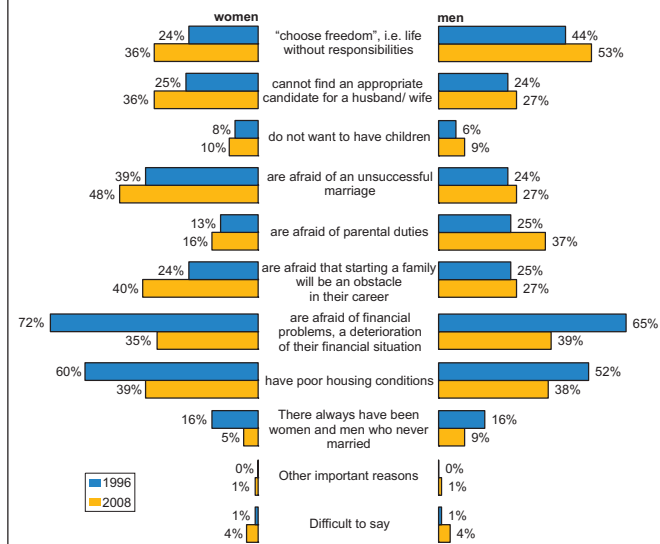
DO YOU THINK THAT EVERYBODY NEEDS A FAMILY TO BE TRULY HAPPY, OR DO YOU THINK THAT ONE CAN BE EQUALLY HAPPY WITHOUT A FAMILY?



However, the family in Poland, as in other countries, is undergoing major changes. People get married later, the number of divorces and separations is growing, more people decide to remain single, alternative forms of marriage (informal relationships) are increasingly popular, and, finally, single-parent families are relatively common.

According to the statistics, in the early 1990s more than half of all men were below 25 at the time of their first marriage, compared with only a quarter (27%) in 2006. Among women, this number dropped by a third (from 73% to 48%).

IN YOUR OPINION, WHY DO MEN/WOMEN NOT GET MARRIED?



In the respondents' opinion, women are less willing to get married mainly because of their fear of an unsuccessful marriage. More or less two-fifths of the respondents believe that women do not want to start a family because it could have an adverse effect on their career or because of their poor housing conditions. More than a third of the respondents mention problems with finding an appropriate candidate for a husband, a desire of contemporary women to live a life without responsibilities, and a fear that their financial situation could deteriorate as a result of starting a family. According to the Poles, the reasons behind men remaining single are entirely different. In the opinion of more than half of the respondents, the most common reason why men of eligible age do not decide to get

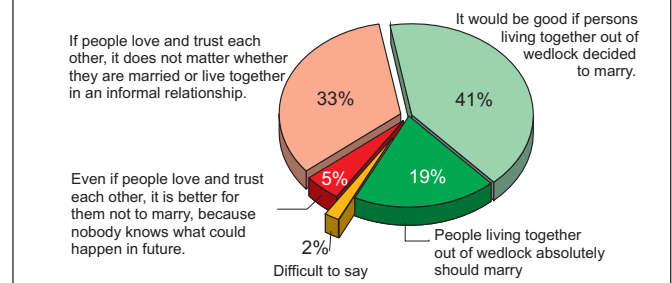
married, is their decision to "choose freedom", i.e. life without responsibilities. Almost two-thirds of the respondents mention the men's fears of financial or housing problems, as well as their lack of willingness to assume parental duties.

The public opinions on the likely causes of postponing marriage by young people have changed significantly during the last several years. According to the Poles, unlike twelve years ago, financial or housing problems are no longer the main cause of postponing marriage. They have been replaced by psychological and lifestyle factors, associated e.g. with career (especially in the case of women).

According to the respondents' declarations, married persons constitute almost two-thirds of the adult population (62%), and never married men and women constitute a quarter (25%). Widows and widowers constitute a tenth (9%), and divorced persons – only 4% of the population. One in eleven respondents (9%) admit that they live in an informal relationship, regardless of their marital status.

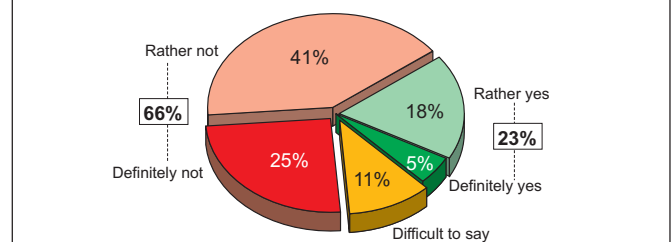
The Poles' opinions about informal relationships are quite strongly divided. A majority of the respondents believe that it is advisable, although not obligatory, for the persons living together out of wedlock to get married.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OPINIONS IS CLOSER TO YOUR OWN VIEWS?



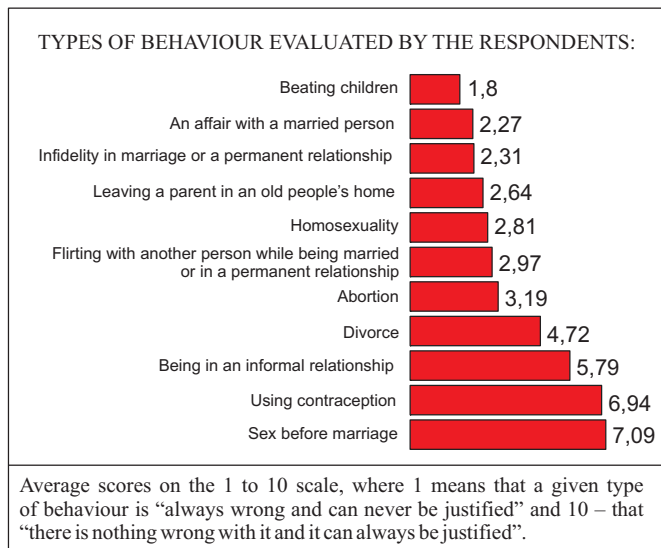
Nowadays almost nobody speaks of spinsters or old bachelors any more. Instead, the word "single" seems more and more popular. There are different definitions of being single, so different persons can be classified as belonging to this group. If we assume that "singletons" are persons aged from 25 to 50, who live alone, there are approximately 5 million of them in Poland and the number is growing.

DO YOU PERSONALLY APPROVE OF THE IDEA OF BEING SINGLE, I.E. NOT HAVING A PERMANENT PARTNER?



The social support for the decision to remain single is not very high. Below a quarter of the respondents accept this style of life.

There are various types of behaviour, associated with married and family life, which are often evaluated as inappropriate from the point of view of moral (particularly Catholic) values, yet are still quite common in the society, despite being highly controversial. Among the types of behaviour presented to the respondents, beating children met with particularly strong disapproval. The following types of behaviour also met with strong disapproval: an affair with a married person, infidelity in marriage or a permanent relationship, leaving a parent in an old people's home, homosexuality. The Poles also do not accept the following behaviour, although not so strongly: flirting with a third party despite being married or in a permanent relationship, and abortion. The following are relatively less controversial: divorce and being in an informal relationship. Using contraception and sex before marriage have much more supporters than opponents.

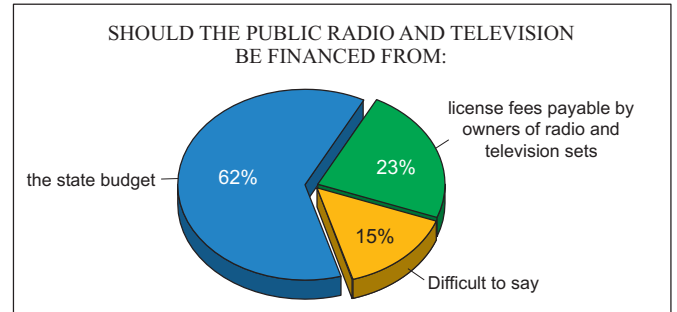


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Controversies around different aspects of married and family life and There is nothing like the family, March 2008. Survey executed in February 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1137.

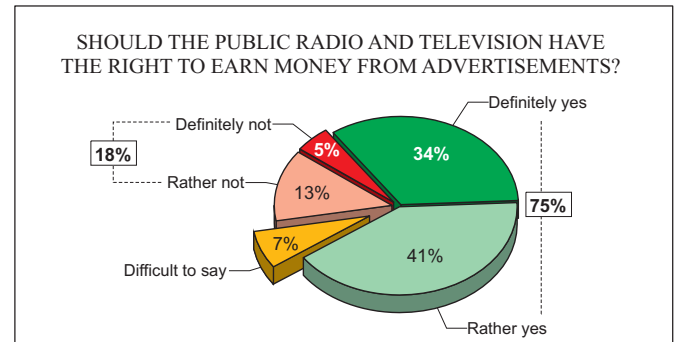
## FINANCING OF THE PUBLIC MEDIA

Changes in the method of financing public media are currently being discussed in Poland. The ruling party (the Civic Platform) suggests abolishment of license fees (first for pensioners, and finally for everybody), which now form a part of the budget of the public radio and television (along with advertising income). This concept

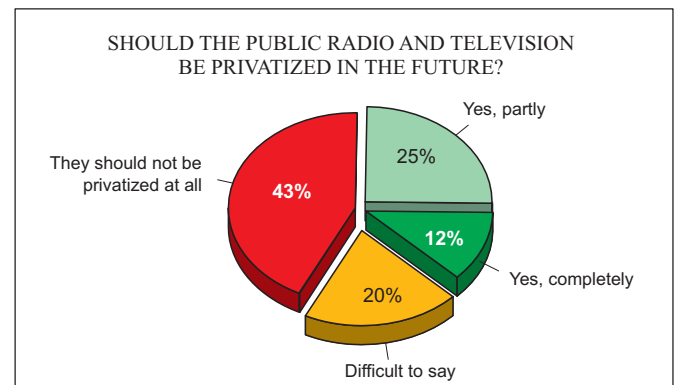
is consistent with social expectations. A majority of the Poles oppose the payment of such fees. Almost two-thirds of the Poles believe that the public radio and television should be financed from the state budget. Nearly a quarter opt for financing them from license fees payable by all owners of radio and television sets.



Most Poles believe that the public media, which are financed from the public money, should also have the right to earn money from advertisers.



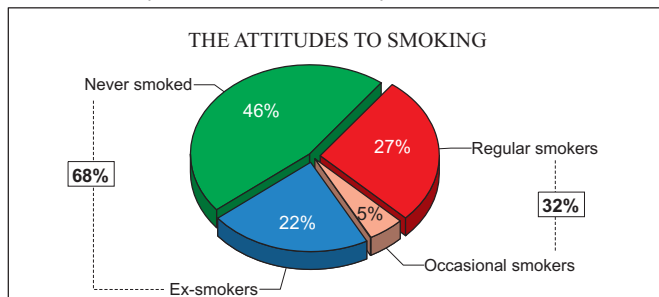
Discussions concerning the condition of the public media several times touched the issue of their privatization. The Poles are divided around the issue of the possible privatization of the public radio and television. A majority believe that the public media should not be privatized. Others opt for a partial rather than complete privatization of the public radio and television.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Financing of the public media, March 2008. Survey executed in March 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1205.

## ATTITUDES TO SMOKING

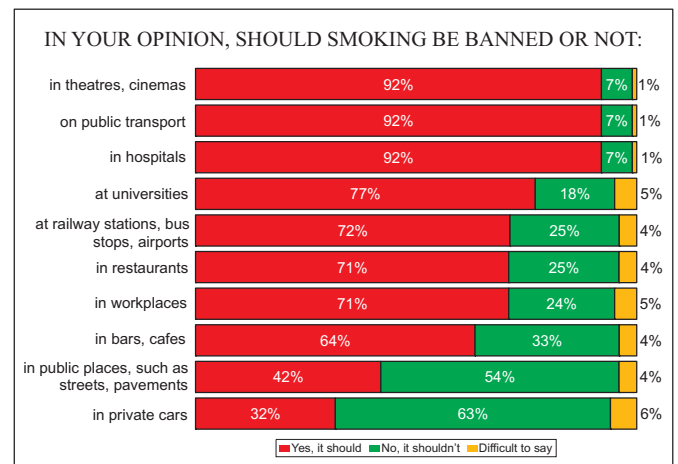
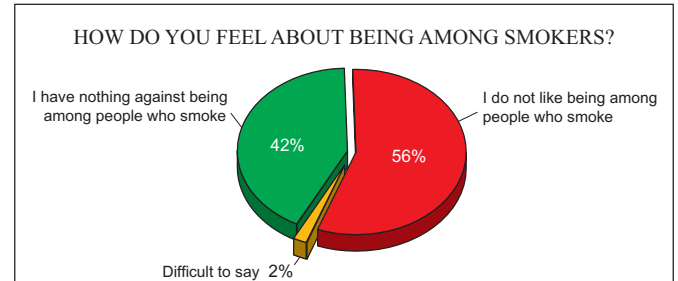
Most adult Poles (68%) do not smoke. Half of this group never smoked cigarettes. A third (32%) are smokers. In this group, a quarter are regular smokers, and one in twenty smoke occasionally.



More than half of adult Poles claim that they do not like to be in the company of smokers. However, a relatively large proportion declare that they have nothing against it. The company of smokers is particularly unpleasant for those who never smoked (80%) and most ex-smokers (61%). More than half of those who smoke occasionally (55%) do not mind it, although a large part of them (45%) admit that they do not like to be surrounded by smokers. Habitual smokers usually have nothing against such company, although they also sometimes do not like cigarette smoke (13%).

The Poles commonly support a ban on smoking in theatres and cinemas, on public transport and in hospitals. More than three quarters believe that smoking should be banned at universities. Almost three quarters believe that smoking should be banned in the following places as well: railway stations, bus and tram stops and

airports. Most adults believe that it also should be banned in workplaces, restaurants, cafes and bars. The opinions about a ban on smoking in the streets are divided, although most respondents believe that it should not be introduced. Most Poles would not like smoking to be banned in private cars.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): The attitudes to smoking, March 2008. Survey executed in February 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 1137.

### In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ Methods used by households to improve their financial situation
- ◆ The housing conditions of households
- ◆ There is nothing like family
- ◆ Durable goods in households
- ◆ Contact with the law, opinions about legal institutions and the feeling of safety among the Poles
- ◆ The Poles' attitude to divorce
- ◆ Willingness to cooperate
- ◆ Political party preferences in March
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the Parliament and the President
- ◆ The situation of the healthcare system
- ◆ The attitude to the government in March
- ◆ Social moods in March
- ◆ Trust in politicians

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