POLISIEI PUBLIC OPINION SEPTEMBER 2008

ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- WELFARE BENEFITS IN THE OPINION OF THE POLES
- TIES WITH THE LOCAL PARISH
- CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE INTERNET
- WILL THE OLYMPICS CHANGE CHINA?

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

4a Żurawia 00-503 Warszawa POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69 (48 22) 628 37 04 (48 22) 693 46 91

Fax:(48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl http://www.cbos.pl

Editors: Beata Roguska

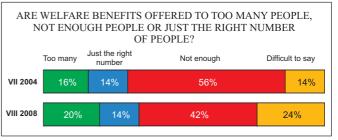
Translated by Kinga Pawłowska

\odot COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2008

ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

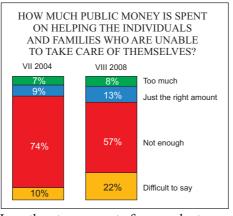
WELFARE BENEFITS IN THE OPINION OF THE POLES

In recent years, the Polish economy has been characterized by high growth and falling unemployment. Consequently, the wealth of the Poles has increased. As a result of an improvement in the conditions of living, the perception of needs



which should be satisfied from the welfare benefits changed. The belief that aid in Poland is insufficient decreased significantly compared with the year 2004. However, the opinion that the system is inefficient still prevails.

More than two-fifths of respondents believe that at present not enough Poles receive benefits.



Less than ten percent of respondents say that aid is always given to those who really need it. Most are of the opinion that at least sometimes benefits are given to people who are able to take care of themselves. Almost a fifth of those polled believe that this is very common. At the same time, it is quite commonly believed that benefits are distributed not only to those who need them, but also to those who do not.

public money is spent on helping the needy.

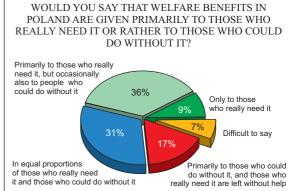
that too few people receive benefits.

Moreover, most Poles believe that too little

The lower per capita household income, and

the worse the respondents' evaluation of their

conditions of living, the more frequent the opinion



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Who and how

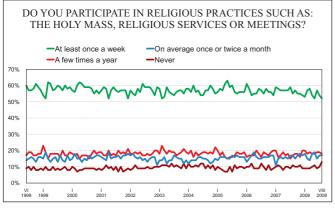
should be helped? Welfare benefits in the Poles' opinion, September 2008. Survey executed in August 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1076.

TIES WITH THE LOCAL PARISH

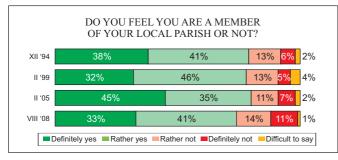
The Poles commonly describe themselves as religious. At present, 93% of respondents say so about themselves, and 11% describe themselves as "deeply religious". Only six percent admit to being non-believers.

The level of participation in religious practices is still high in Poland, especially in relation to most other European countries. According to respondents' declarations, more than

half take part in the Holy Mass, religious services or meetings at least once a week.



The ties with the Church are also reflected in the fact that a vast majority feel attached to their local parish, and almost half feel strong ties with it. It should be noted, however, that such ties have declined during the last three years.

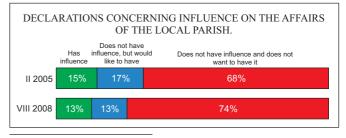


Although the primary role of a local parish is to satisfy the religious needs of its members, it also serves other purposes. A third of the Poles declare that they or their families benefit from some projects organized by their parish. However, looking at the results of our survey conducted in 2005, we can see that this group has decreased in the last three years (by 8 points, from 41% to 33%).

Respondents (or their families) take part in pilgrimages to places of worship in Poland (23%) or (rarely) abroad (4%). Some families also participate in cultural (9%) or sports and tourist (7%) events organized by the parish. Moreover, children and adolescents sometimes go to holidays organized by their parish (5%) or attend various courses (4%). Families borrow books or videos (4%), or benefit from charity help (4% in kind, 2% in cash). Occasionally, the parish runs a club for pensioners (2%), offers some facilities for old, disabled or ill people (2%) and children (1%), runs family or medical courses (1%).

Despite the fact that they feel attached to the local parish and on many occasions participate in different

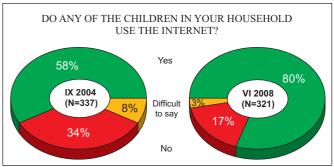
projects organized by it, most Poles declare that they have no influence on the way their parish is run. Moreover, they do not really want to influence the life of the parish. The proportion of people who do not feel that they have any influence on their local parish and do not feel a need to have it has grown in recent years.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about their ties with the local parish*, September 2008. Survey executed in August 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1076.

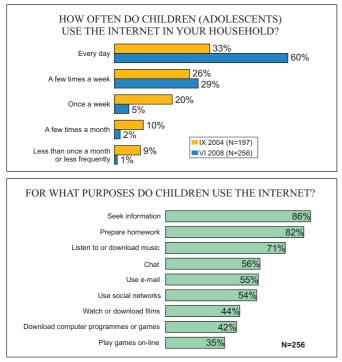
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE INTERNET

The number of Internet users in Poland has been growing rapidly in the last few years. Young people are the most likely to use the internet. Most respondents with children or grandchildren aged between 7 and 19 living in the same household declare that at least one of these children uses the Internet. The percentage of households with children using the Internet has grown significantly in the last four years.

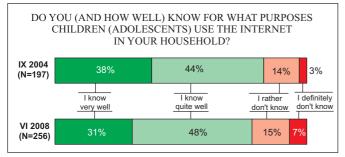


Children and adolescents use the Internet every day or a few times a week. The frequency of using the Net by young people has grown significantly in the last four years. It is probably due to better availability of broadband connection and decreasing popularity of slower and less convenient dial-up connection.

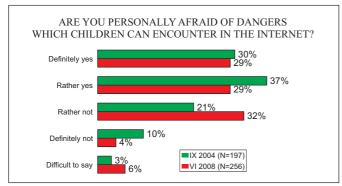
Young people usually use the Internet to seek different kinds of information or to prepare their homework. They often download or listen to music. In most households, children use messaging software, send and receive e-mails and use social networks such as Nasza-klasa or Facebook. Less than half download or watch ifilms, download computer programmes or play games on-line.



Guardians believe that they are well informed about the Internet activities of children. One-third describe their knowledge as very good, and about half as quite good. Less than a quarter admit that they do not know what their children do in the Internet.



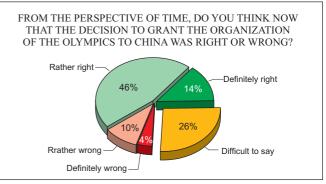
Most parents are afraid of the risks associated with the Internet. However, these fears have decreased in the last four years and the proportion who are afraid of Internet hazards is lower now than it used to be.



Those who believe that young people can be exposed to some danger in the Internet usually mention dangerous contacts (65%). Paedophiles are very often mentioned in this context: a third of those who notice risks associated with children using the Internet mention them. More than a third (37%) of respondents who have such fears mention unsuitable content. Erotic and sexual content is usually meant: pornographic films, erotic websites. Fewer persons mention possible contact with violence and aggression. Another group of potential hazards is associated with the safety of household (9% of those who expressed some fears). This category includes both disclosing information, such as address, other data and e-mails, and fraud. Fewer persons are afraid of their children becoming addicted to the Internet (4%), having contact with drugs (4%) or having contact with cults (3%).

WILL THE OLYMPICS CHANGE CHINA?

Granting the organization of summer Olympics to China was very controversial. The Poles were also divided on this issue. The prevailing opinion was that this was a wrong decision. The voices of protest died away when the Games started, and the attention of the public around the world was attracted by the athletes and their efforts. The observers agreed that the Olympics were prepared almost to perfection. China presented itself to the world as an efficient organizer and a sports power. The Chinese authorities wanted to use the Olympics to improve the image of their country on the international scene. According to the Polish public opinion polls, these efforts were to a large extent successful.

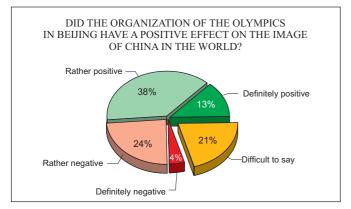


In April 2008, i.e. four months before the start of the Games, less than a third of respondents (30%)

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Internet hazards*, September 2008. Survey executed in June 2008. A representative random sample of Poles aged 15+. N=1167.

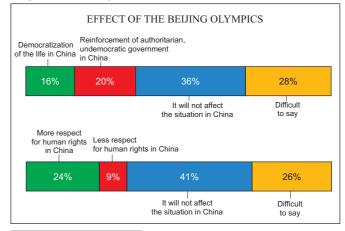
expressed the opinion that the decision to grant their organization to China was good. Today twice as many respondents (60%) believe that this was a good decision, and only 14% say, from the perspective of time, that it was a mistake.

Half of the Poles (51%) admit that the organization of the Olympic Games in Beijing helped improve the image of China in the world. The opinion that it did not have a positive effect on the perception of China is much less common.

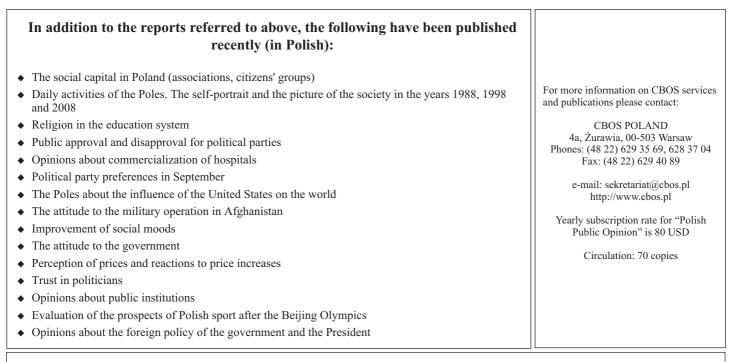


According to the Polish public opinion, the organization of the Games left a good impression and improved the image of China in the world. However, it probably will not have a major impact on the development of the situation in China. Most respondents

do not expect the Olympics to contribute to any significant political changes in China. Moreover, slightly more people believe that their organization will help reinforce undemocratic government there rather than contribute to its democratization. According to the prevailing opinion, the Olympics in China will not affect the human rights policy of that country. However, those who expect changes are usually optimistic and believe that the organization of the Games will make China respect human rights more.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Will the Olympics change China?*, September 2008. Survey executed in August-September 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1069.



CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.