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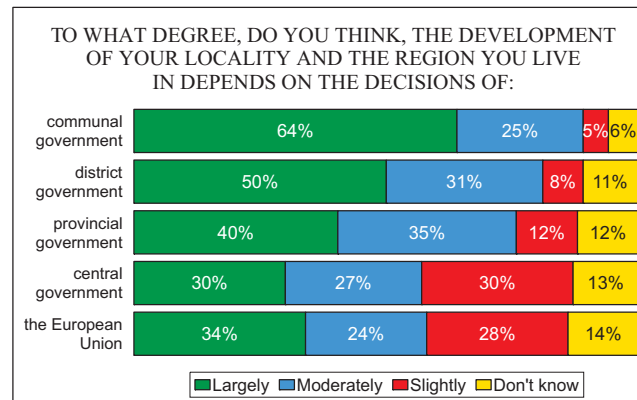
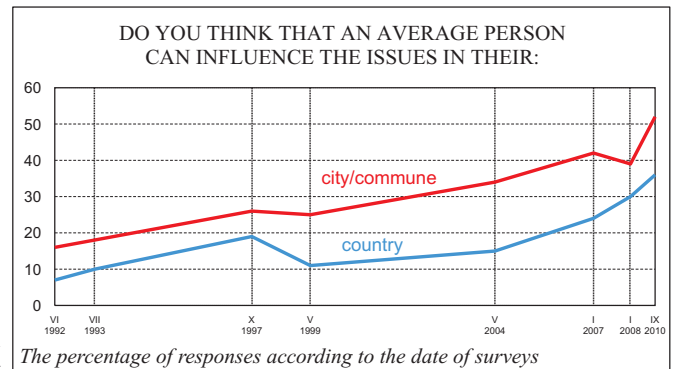
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS

This year is special for local government as the oncoming November elections to local authorities will be held twenty years after first free local elections took place in post-war Poland. Then, in succeeding years, further changes in the administrative structure were made. In 1999, Poland introduced three levels in the administrative division of the country: communes - the principal units of territorial division ("gmina"), districts ("powiat") and large provinces ("voivodeship"). In 2002, first local authorities were chosen to govern these units.

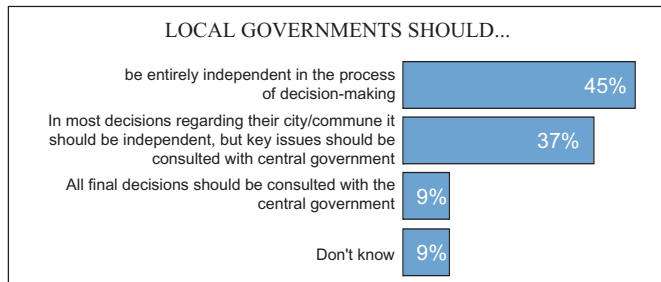
Since the 1990s the level of civic awareness and responsibility for the common good has been increasing among Poles. Although now, two decades after transformations in Poland, only slightly over a third of respondents (36%) feel they can influence the situation in the country, it is five times the number of respondents in the early 90s. An influence on local issues is far more frequently mentioned than the influence on state decisions. More than half (52%) believe that the situation in their city or commune depends, to some extent, on their personal actions. Since the early 90s, despite certain oscillations, the feeling of influencing local issues has been growing. However, it was not until twenty years after the administrative system of the Polish territory was decentralised and local authorities became responsible for local issues that the civic awareness developed in the Poles. Looking at this issue from a short-term perspective, the number of respondents convinced about their impact on local decisions has grown by 13 points compared to two years ago and the number of opposite views fell also by 13 points.

The success of local government can be measured by the fact that presently, people most frequently connect the development of their region or locality to decisions made on the local level. It seems that the lower the administrative unit, the higher its perceived impact on local decisions. Nearly two thirds of respondents (64%)



are convinced that the local government in their commune plays an important role in developing their region or locality. Half (50%) believe that it is the government at the district level that is most responsible for the local development and just two in five (40%) say it is the provincial government. The central authorities were mentioned by three out of ten respondents (30%) and downplayed by the same number of people. Every third respondent (34%) pointed to the European Union as an agent of local development.

Decentralisation of power in Poland leads to the belief that local government has large powers, and that it should be autonomous. The view that local government should be entirely independent in deciding about the issues concerning their city or commune is supported by 45% of respondents. Less than two fifths of the questioned people (37%) claim that the responsibility should be divided and the major decisions should be consulted with the central government. Only one out of eleven (9%) say that all decisions, regardless of their importance, should be debated with the central government.

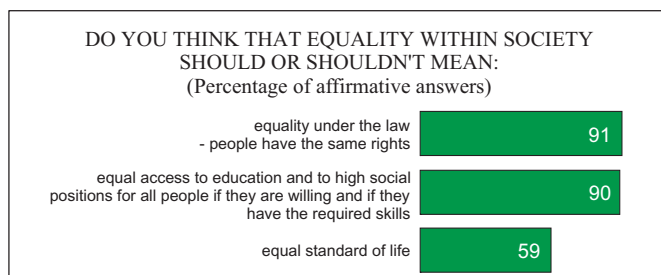


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Local government in the last twenty years"*, October 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2010, N=1041. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

INCOME INEQUALITY

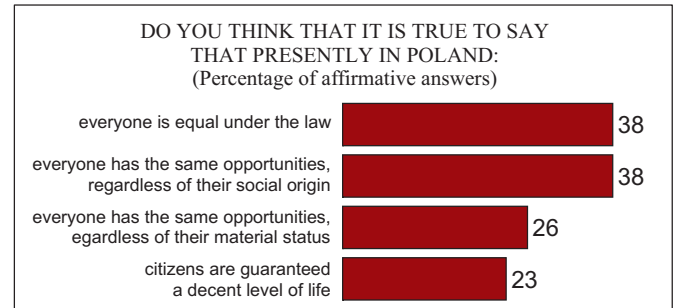
In the last twenty years some social groups in Poland have become rich and other groups grew poor in a relatively short period of time. The process started with political transformations in the country and the implementation of market economy which resulted in increasing the disparity of income. The Gini coefficient used in measuring the inequality of income, shows that in comparison to other countries worldwide Poland has a moderate disparity. Nevertheless, when compared to many EU countries or to the situation in Poland in the past, it is relatively high.

Equality within society is understood by Poles primarily as equality under the law (91%) and the same access to education (90%). However, for more than a half of respondents (59%) this implies securing a fixed and fairly even standard of life for the country's citizens.

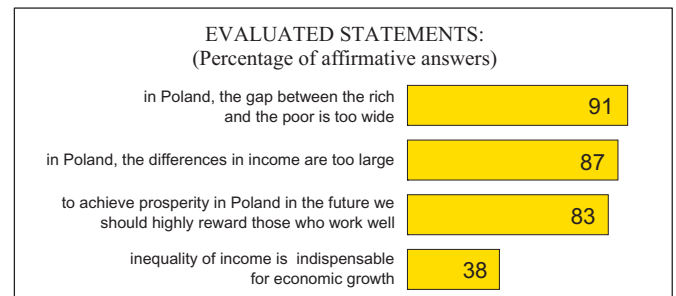


In real life, the equality principle is difficult to accomplish. Nearly two fifths of respondents (38%)

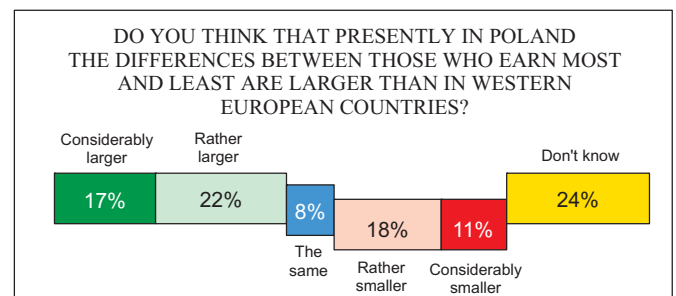
claim that in Poland everyone has the same legal rights and opportunities regardless of their social origin. The situation in the financial sphere is worse. Only about a quarter (26%) believe that all citizens have the same opportunities despite differences in their material status and 23% think that people are guaranteed a decent level of life.



Poles' opinion that the gap between the rich and the poor is too wide, has remained constant (91%) for years. Nearly as popular is the belief that the differences in income are too large (87%). A vast majority (83%) claim that to achieve prosperity you should highly reward those who work well. On the other hand, however, the opinion that inequality of income is indispensable for economic growth is far less popular (38%).



Poles are convinced that the problem of social stratification is more serious in Poland than in western countries. Two in five (39%) of the questioned people believe that in Poland the level of inequality of income is higher than the average level in western European countries. The opposite view is held by more than a quarter (29%).

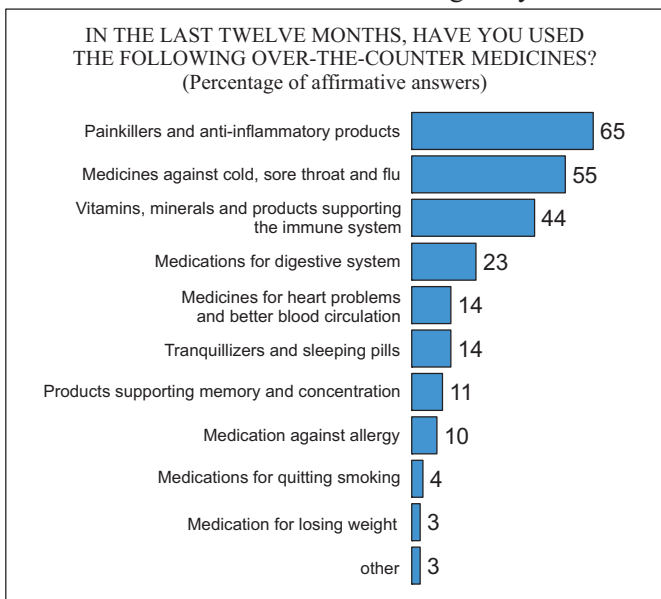


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Attitude to income inequality and social stratification"*, October 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2010, N=986. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINES

The sales figures of medicines have been growing in Poland for the last several years. Our country is the sixth largest market for medicine sales in Europe according to the Regulatory Agency (Urząd Rejestracji Produktów Leczniczych, Wyrobów Medycznych i Produktów Biobójczych). In terms of items of medicines per citizen, Poland comes second, after France. The extent of consumption of over-the-counter medicines is worrying. Overdosing with pharmaceutical products, ignoring instructions and taking the same substances sold under different trade names may lead to drug-poisoning. Moreover, an unmitigated use of medicines may lead to addiction.

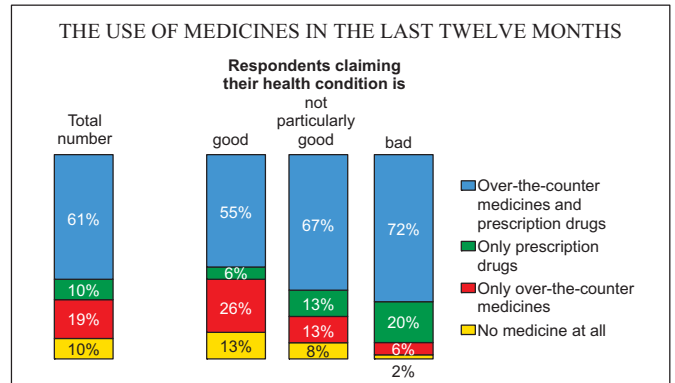
The most frequently used over-the-counter medicines are painkillers and anti-inflammatory products. In the last twelve month, two thirds of respondents (65%) said they have been using them. Another popular over-the-counter medicaments are medicines against cold, sore throat and flu - more than a half (55%) have taken them. Vitamins, minerals and products supporting the immune system are also among the most frequently used. In the last twelve months, 44 % of Poles have used them more or less regularly.



Relatively many people declare using medications alleviating problems with the digestive system. Nearly a quarter (23%) declare to have used these in the last year. Medicines for heart problems and better blood circulation as well as tranquillizers and sleeping pills enjoy comparable popularity. In the last year, 14% of respondents have used medications from either category. Products supporting memory and concentration are as popular than drugs alleviating allergy symptoms - used by 11% and 10% of respondents respectively in the last

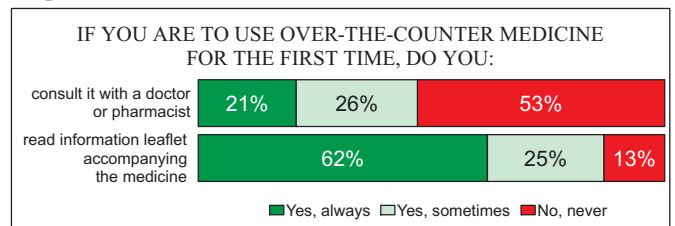
twelve months. Comparatively least common are medications helpful in losing weight (3% of respondents) and in quitting smoking (4%). Categories of medicines other than listed in the research were used by 3% of all of the surveyed people.

All in all, in the year preceding the survey, over-the-counter medicines were used by four out of five adult Poles (80%). In the same space of time, 72% of all the respondents used prescription drugs.

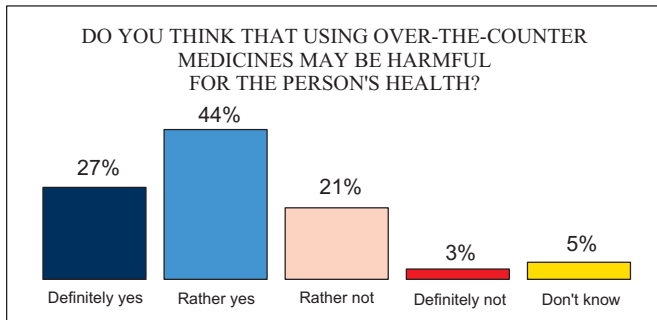


Considering respondents' declarations about their use of over-the-counter medicines and prescription drugs, we can divide them into four groups. Three out of five adult Poles (61%) have used both types of medications in the last twelve months, nearly one in five (19%) used only over-the-counter medicines, one in ten (10%) used only prescription drugs and also a tenth (10%) did not take any medications at all in the last twelve months. The respondents who describe their health condition as bad use only prescription drugs relatively more often and over-the counter medicines less frequently than those who say their health condition is good. The surveyed people who claim they use only over-the-counter medicines prevalingly describe themselves as healthy.

Over half of respondents (53%) taking some medications do not consult the doctor whether or not to use over-the-counter medicine if it is the first time he/she uses it. Every fifth respondent (21%) never consults the doctor before using medicines and a quarter do it sometimes (26%). The situation is different with regard to consulting information leaflets accompanying medicines. A vast majority of people who use pharmaceutical products (87%) read them. Among them, nearly two thirds (62%) do it each time they use a given medicine for the first time. However every eight respondent (13%) admits he/she never reads it.



The fact that over-the-counter medicines may have a negative effect on people's health is known to seven out of ten (71%) of adult Poles. A quarter of respondents (24%) believe that they cannot be harmful.



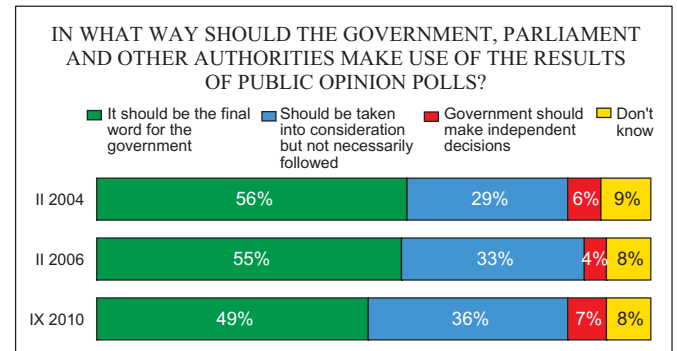
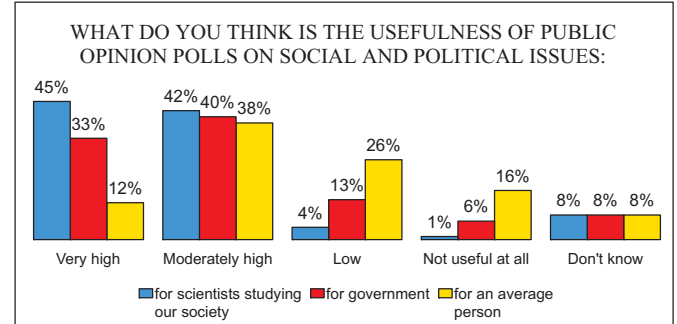
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Over-the-counter medicines"*, October 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2010, N=1041. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland

OPINION POLLS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

According to respondents, public opinion polls serve mainly research purposes and are useful for the government. They are perceived to be less valuable for an average person.

In recent years, the number of people who believe that opinions expressed in public opinion polls should have a final word in political decisions has declined. Presently, less than half (49%) of the surveyed people think that opinions expressed in public opinion polls should force the government to act according to

citizens' views on a given social issue. According to over one third of respondents (36%), the government should take citizens' views into consideration but they do not necessarily have to follow it. Few people claim (7%) that the respondents cannot know what is best for the country and therefore the government should make independent decisions.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Opinion polls and their significance"*, October 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2010, N=1041. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ Leisure Time
- ◆ Opinions About Architecture
- ◆ Opinions About Lech Kaczynski Monument in Warsaw
- ◆ Party Preferences in October
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament and President
- ◆ Attitude to Government
- ◆ Social Moods in October
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in October

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