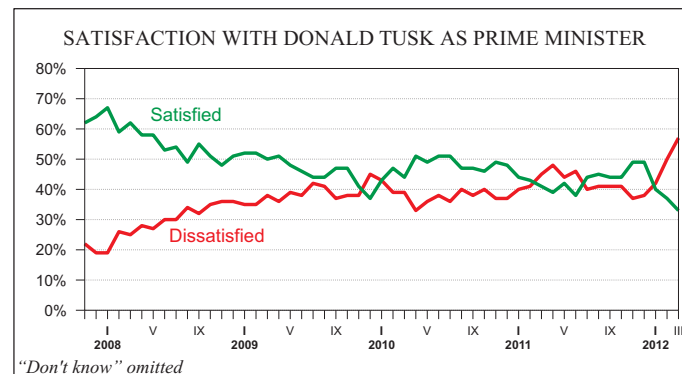
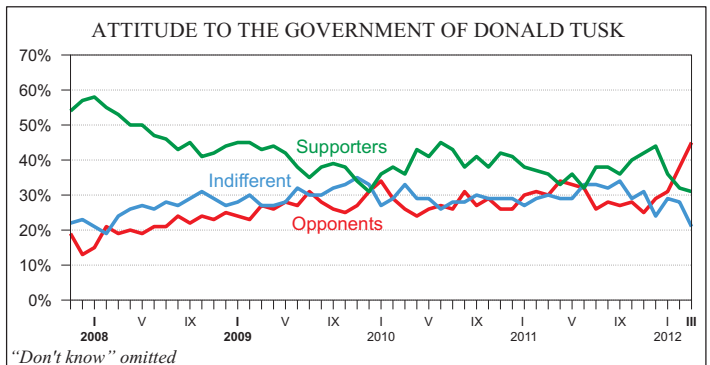


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- CONSUMPTION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
- VACLAV HAVEL IN THE OPINION OF POLES, CZECHS, SLOVAKS AND HUNGARIANS

DECLINING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT OF DONALD TUSK AND FOR CIVIC PLATFORM (PO)

The coalition of Civic Platform and Polish Peasant Party (PO-PSL), which has governed Poland for over four years, is losing social support. Evaluations of the government of Donald Tusk have deteriorated. At present, they are the worst, if both parliamentary terms are considered. The decline was precipitated by, among others, problems with implementation of new rules on refunding medicines, signing of the ACTA agreement (a decision from which the government eventually withdrew), and planned changes in the pension system, especially



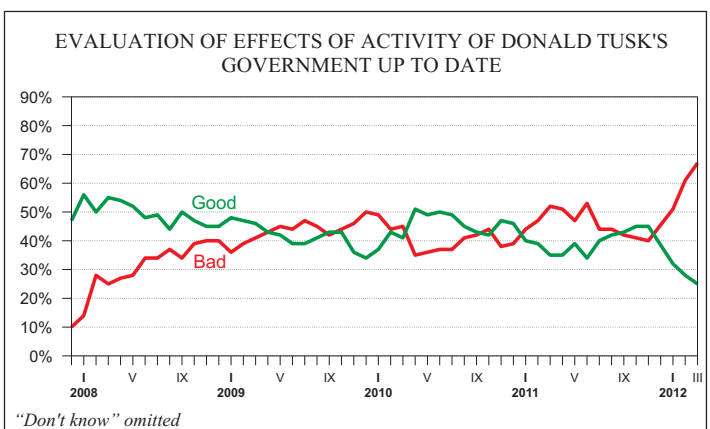
raising the retirement age to 67 years. From Dec. 2011 to March 2012 the proportion of government supporters fell from 44% to 31%, while the number of opponents rose from 31% to 45%.

The popularity of the Prime Minister is diminishing. The proportion of respondents satisfied with the work of

Donald Tusk as Prime Minister fell from 49% in Dec. 2011 to 33% in March 2012. At the same time, the number of the dissatisfied rose from 38% to 57%.

The effects of government's activities are perceived ever more critically. The proportion of people satisfied with them fell in the last four months from 45% to 25%, while the number of the dissatisfied rose from 40% to 67%.

The decline in support for the government is accompanied by a drop in the ratings of the Civic Platform (PO). Compared with Dec. 2011, when PO had the best result since elections, the support dropped by 14 pct. points. However, the opposition parties have not gained from the decline of the main party in government, so far.



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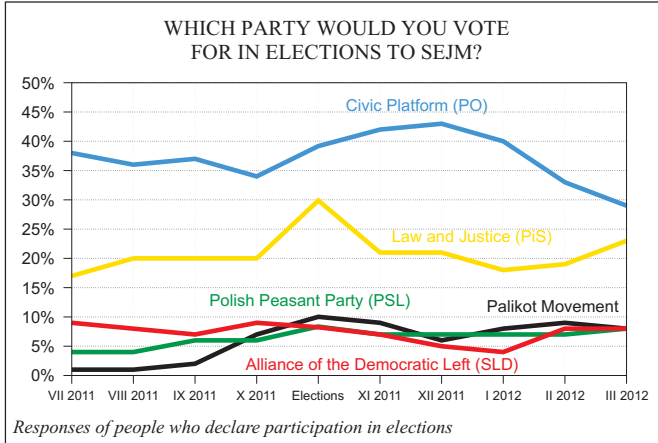
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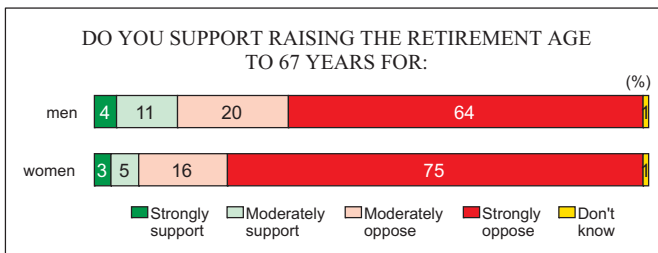


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Attitude to government in March" and "Party preferences in March", March 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

OPINIONS ABOUT RAISING THE RETIREMENT AGE

The government of Donald Tusk plans to extend the retirement age for both men and women to 67 years (at present it is 60 for women and 65 for men). Although this reform is necessitated by the growing disproportion between the number of employees paying dues into the system and retirees drawing benefits, there is widespread uncertainty about the social consequences of these changes. Therefore, coalition parties agreed to cushion the proposed reform with the possibility to take a part of the retirement benefits early.

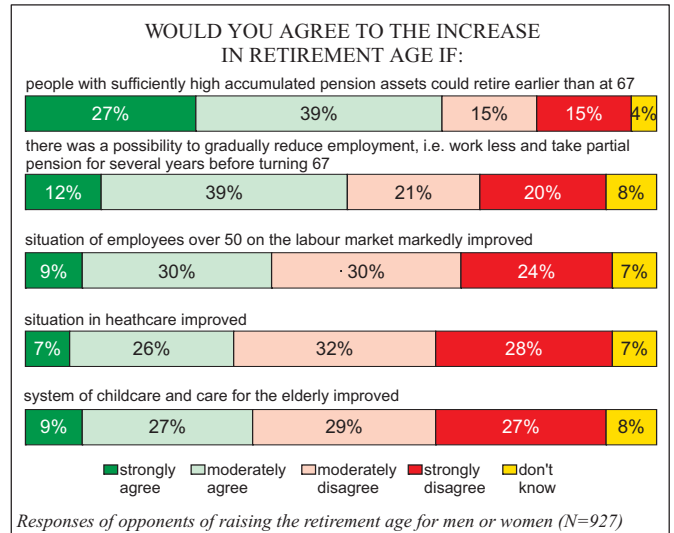
Raising the retirement age meets strong rejection in the society: 84% of Poles are opposed to raising the retirement age of men to 67 years (including 64% of strong opponents), while 91% are opposed to raising the retirement age of women (including 75% of strong opponents).



In spite of the unequivocally negative attitude to raising the retirement age to 67, the opponents could accept the changes if flexible choice of individual retirement age were introduced. Two-thirds of opponents of higher retirement age (66%) would agree to it, if employees with sufficient accumulated pensions had the choice of retiring before turning 67. Most opponents (51%) would agree to the higher retirement age if it were

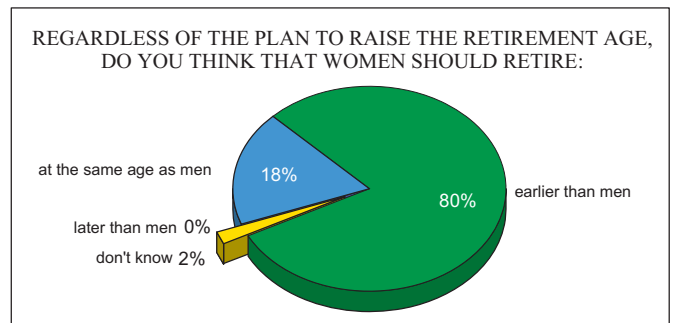
possible to gradually reduce professional activity: work less and draw reduced pension for several years before turning 67.

Opponents of longer working life are not convinced by arguments related to effective mechanisms enabling longer work. Most of them reiterate their attitude to the government proposal even assuming situation in healthcare markedly improves (60%), there is better care for children and the elderly (56%), and improvement of the situation of the over-50 on the labour market (54%).



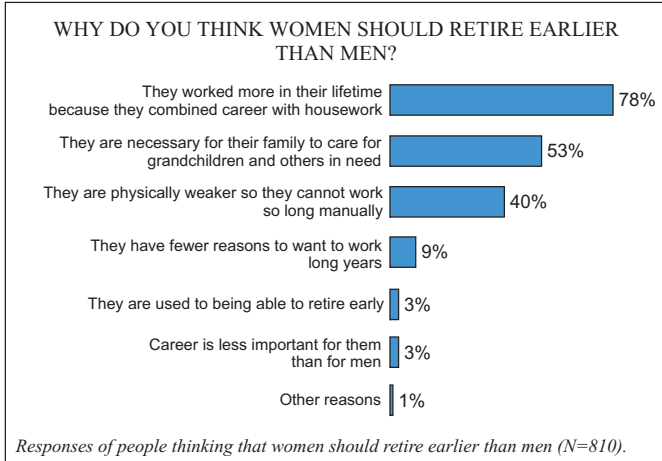
The government plans for raising the retirement age affect women in particular. They are contrary to the societal habits and ideas about the role of women in the society, and require social policy enabling women to reconcile professional work with household duties and continue working past the age of 60. In particular, it is a question of improving childcare facilities and care for the elderly.

In general, four-fifths (80%) believe that women should retire earlier than men, while 18% think that retirement age should be the same for men and women. Significantly, men tend to support equal retirement age (23%) more often than women do (13%).



People who believe that women should retire earlier than men usually justify their belief by women's overload of work resulting from the combination of professional and household duties. Another common

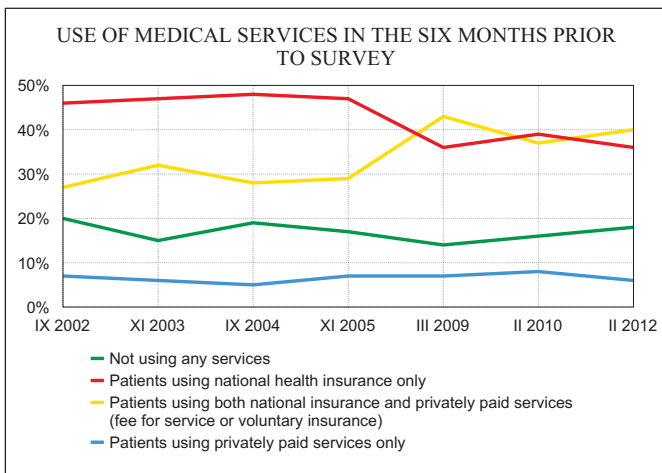
argument is the need for women to be carers for children or other people in need of care, e.g. elder parents. A sizeable part of opponents of equal retirement age claim that women are physically weaker and cannot work manually as long as men.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about raising the retirement age and changes in the pension system", March 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

CONSUMPTION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

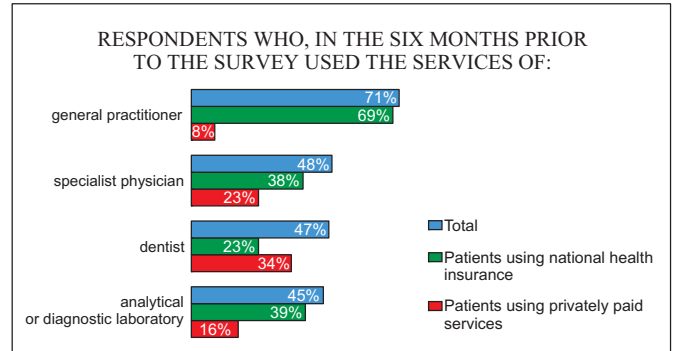
The vast majority of adult Poles (82%) used medical services in the last six months due to their own illness or health condition, or their child's.



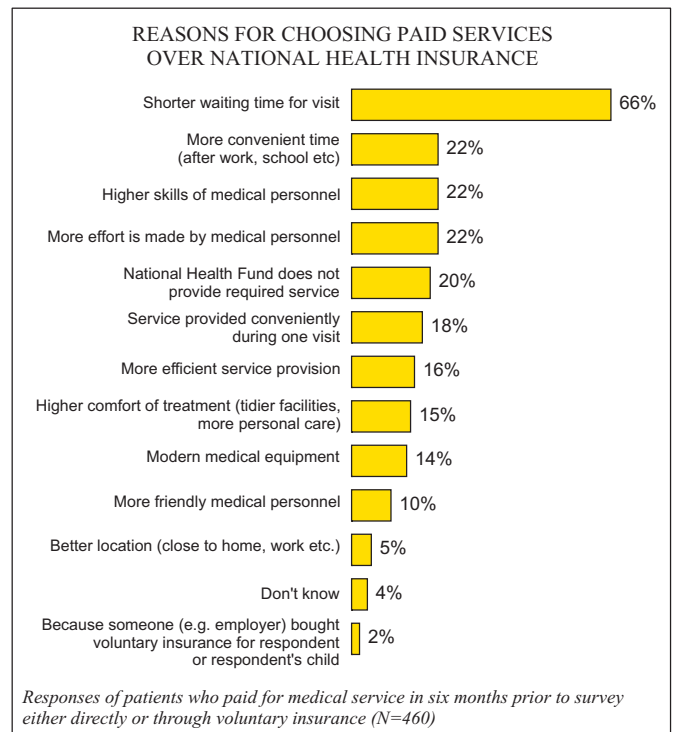
Two-fifths of all respondents used both medical services provided by national health insurance, and services they paid for themselves (either by fee for service or additional voluntary insurance). A slightly smaller group (36%) only used services paid for by the National Health Fund. A small group of patients (6% of all respondents) paid for all expenses themselves. In the last decade, the proportion of patients who use only

publically-funded services decreased, while the number of patients covering some expenses from their own funds increased.

Only rarely did patients consulting their general practitioner (family doctor) cover the expenses from their own private funds. On the other hand, patients using dental services usually pay for their medical expenses.



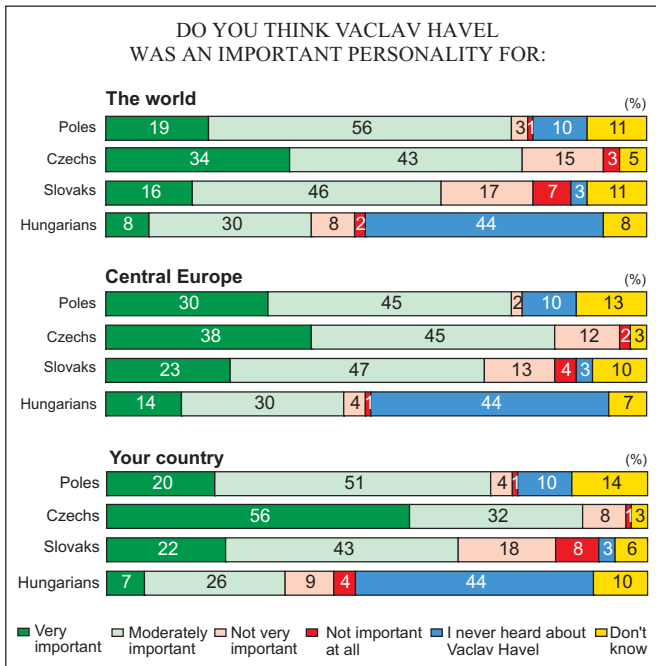
The main reason for using privately paid services is the short term for obtaining them (66%). More than one-fifth of clients of private medical services are motivated by convenient schedule, and by higher skills of medical personnel. Equally important, patients believe that doctors giving privately-paid services make more effort. One-fifth of people paying for medical services could not get the required services within national health insurance. The same proportion of patients cite the possibility to obtain services right away, during one visit.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Public and private healthcare", March 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2012, N=999. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

VACLAV HAVEL IN THE OPINION OF POLES, CZECHS, SLOVAKS AND HUNGARIANS

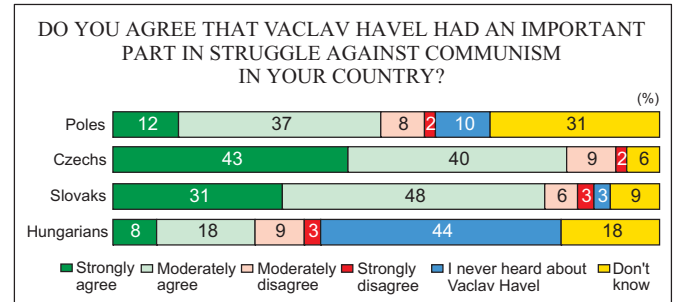
Vaclav Havel, the recently deceased Czech opposition activist, president of Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic, is recognised to a different degree in the Visegrad Countries. Understandably, all Czechs know who he was. In Slovakia only 3% never heard about him, while in Poland the figure is 10%. In Hungary he is least known (44% do not know him).



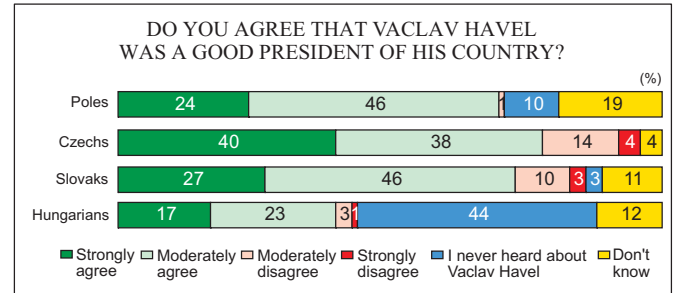
Most Czechs, Slovaks, Poles and Hungarians who know Havel consider him to be an important

personality for the world, Central Europe, and for their own country.

The vast majority of Czechs and Slovaks believe that Vaclav Havel had an important part in the struggle against communism in Czechoslovakia. About half of Poles think he contributed to systemic transformation in Poland, as well. Hungarians least often see the influence of Vaclav Havel on the transformation in their country.



In all four countries, respondents think Vaclav Havel was a good president of Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Vaclav Havel in the opinion of Poles, Czechs Slovaks and Hungarians", March 2012. Fieldwork for national sample in Poland: February 2012, N=999. In Czech Republic the survey was conducted by CVVM – Sociological Institute (fieldwork: February 2012; N=1006). In Hungary the survey was conducted by TARKI (fieldwork: February 2012; N=1010). In Slovakia the survey was conducted by FOCUS (fieldwork: February 2012; N=1053).

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

- ◆ Opinions on Social Justice
- ◆ Public Opinion on ACTA
- ◆ Social Trust
- ◆ Use of Healthcare Services and Insurance
- ◆ Social Moods in March
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
- ◆ Opinions About Job Market and Threat of Unemployment
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in March
- ◆ John Paul II and His Teachings

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