

CONTENTS:

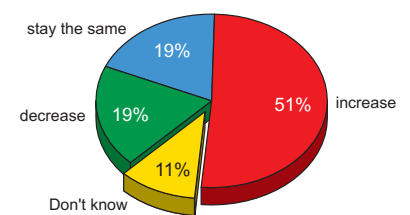
- SOCIETAL SOLIDARITY WITH SENIORS
- DOMESTIC CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE
- INTERNET USE
- SMOLENSK CRASH AND BELIEF IN ASSASSINATION THEORY

SOCIETAL SOLIDARITY WITH SENIORS

The year 2012 was declared the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations by the European Parliament and EU Council. This action was a response to the ageing of the European societies. Ageing consists in the increase in numbers of senior citizens among the population. The threshold for old age is usually set at 60 or 65 years, and sometimes the threshold for men (65 years) is different than for women (60 years). According to the forecast of the Central Statistical Office, the proportion of people in the retirement age will systematically increase in the years 2008-2035, and in 2035 they will constitute 26.7% of the total population of Poland, an 11-point increase compared with 2007.

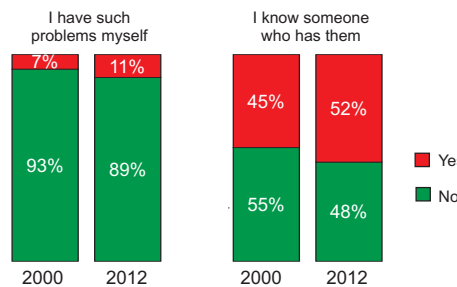
The view that the Polish society is ageing is not widespread: half of respondents express it.

IN YOUR OPINION, THE PROPORTION OF SENIORS (PEOPLE ABOVE 60) IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS IN POLAND WILL...



Over half of Poles (52%) know someone who has everyday problems due to old age, such as: difficulties with dealing with offices, doing the shopping, cleaning, preparing meals, getting dressed, personal hygiene. One in ten respondents admits such problems him or herself. Compared with 12 years ago, there is an increase in the number of respondents who know someone having such problems. The proportion of respondents admitting having such difficulties themselves has also risen slightly.

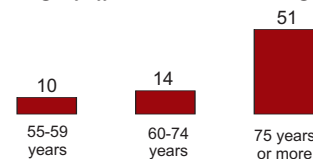
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO, DUE TO OLD AGE, HAS PROBLEMS DEALING WITH OFFICES, SHOPPING, CLEANING, COOKING, GETTING DRESSED, OR WITH PERSONAL HYGIENE?



Limitations due to old age are aggravated after reaching 75. In this age group, half of respondents experience them. In the 60-74 age group one in seven respondents has problems, and in the 55-59 group one in ten declares having these difficulties.

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS DEALING WITH OFFICES, SHOPPING, CLEANING, COOKING, GETTING DRESSED, OR WITH PERSONAL HYGIENE DUE TO OLD AGE?

Percentage of affirmative answers in age groups



DO YOU HELP A SENIOR PERSON IN NEED IN ANY WAY?



Every third adult Pole helps a senior in need. The proportion of helpers is now higher than in 2000.

Help is usually given in families: almost three-quarters (73%) of helpers support a member of their close family. Secondly, help is given

to neighbours (21%), or acquaintances (21%). Furthermore, Poles support their friends (16%), and members of distant family (12%).

Most frequently, seniors are helped with household chores: shopping, cleaning, laundry, preparing meals (78%). The other common forms of support are keeping company

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

Editor:
Beata Roguska

Translated by
Michał Wenzel

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2012

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

at home, on a walk, in church (74%), dealing with official affairs, for instance with the doctor, office or bank (70%), giving advice on important matters (66%) and caring in illness (53%). Far less frequently, support consist in assistance with personal hygiene and getting dressed (28%) or financial help (17%). One in seven (14%) respondents helping a senior person mentioned some other type of support, usually assisting in transport to different places and psychological support through conversation or sheer presence.

Usually, the helping people live close to the seniors they support: either in close neighbourhood (37%) or nearby (54%). About a quarter (27%) live together with the person they help, while one-third must cover a long distance to reach that person (13% travel within the same locality, and 23% go to another town or village).

On average, respondents helping seniors devote over 11 hrs. per week, which means that the daily workload is ca. 1.5 hours. Almost half of helpers (45%) spend less than 4 hrs. a week on helping seniors, whereas one-third (33%) spend between 4 and 10 hrs., and one-fifth (22%) devote more than 10 hours a week.

Almost all helpers work voluntarily, without pay (96%). This is related to the family nature of support. Only very few work full-time (2%) or irregularly (2%) and receive compensation. Although this type of help is typically time-consuming and unpaid, only 11% of carers consider it tedious. Almost half (46%) does not find it a great burden, while 42% consider it not burdensome at all.

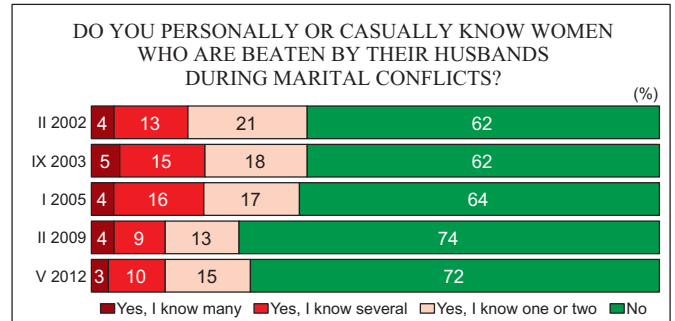
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Societal solidarity with seniors"*, June 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2012, N=1017. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

DOMESTIC CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE

Estimating the scale of domestic violence is very difficult. Such behaviour is socially unacceptable, so perpetrators are likely to conceal it. Victims may also hide such cases out of shame. Therefore, estimates are often made with questions about the prevalence of domestic violence in respondent's immediate surroundings, rather than about personal experience.

More than a quarter of Poles (28%) declare knowing personally or casually a woman beaten by her partner. The results have remained almost unchanged since 2009. In that year, we noted a decrease in the number of reported contacts with domestic violence.

Particular attention should be given to women's responses, as they are likely to be more sensitive to this problem and better able to correctly assess the scale of this phenomenon. Every third woman (32%) knows another woman beaten by a husband.



It is difficult to reveal personal experience of domestic violence, and presumably some cases are concealed. Nevertheless, a large number of respondents do admit being struck by a partner during a row. One in nine people living with a partner (11%) declare having experienced domestic violence; among them, 5% admit such incidents happened many times. In recent years, this proportion has remained unchanged. Men admit being beaten as often as women (10% and 11%, respectively), but more women admit being beaten frequently.

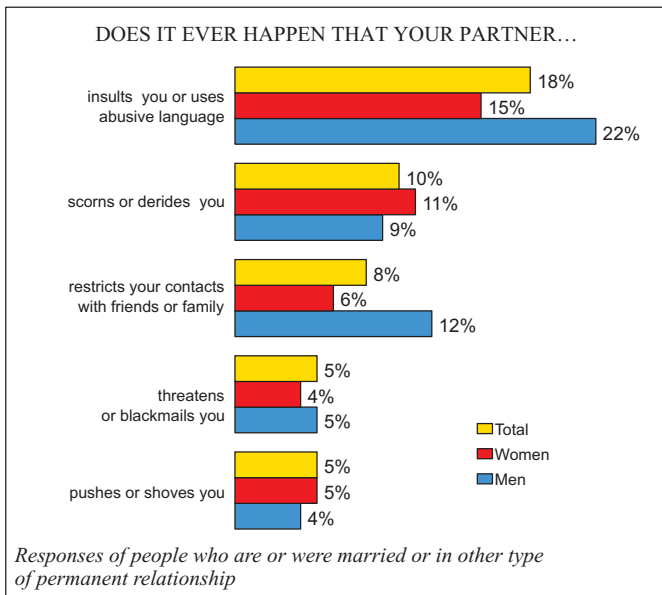


Similarly, 11% of adults admit being a perpetrator of domestic violence. A vast majority of these people say these were isolated incidents. The declared violence has not changed in the last 10 years. There is almost no difference in the sex of perpetrators. Women slightly more often than men admit striking their partner (12% and 10%, respectively).



The distinction between a victim and a perpetrator is not clear. Most victims of domestic violence (59%) admit using it themselves as well. On the other hand, only 5% of people who never experienced beating admit ever striking their partner themselves.

In addition to physical attacks, domestic violence can take the form of psychological tormenting. Almost one-fifth of people in a permanent relationship (18%) admit that their partner sometimes uses abusive or insulting language towards them, while one in ten (10%) experiences scorn and derision, and one in twelve (8%) has his or her contacts with friends or family severely restricted. One in twenty (5%) admits that his or her partner sometimes threatens or blackmails them, and the same proportion are sometimes pushed or shoved. Men more often than women experience restrictions of contacts with friends or family. Women more often than men say partners demean and scorn them.



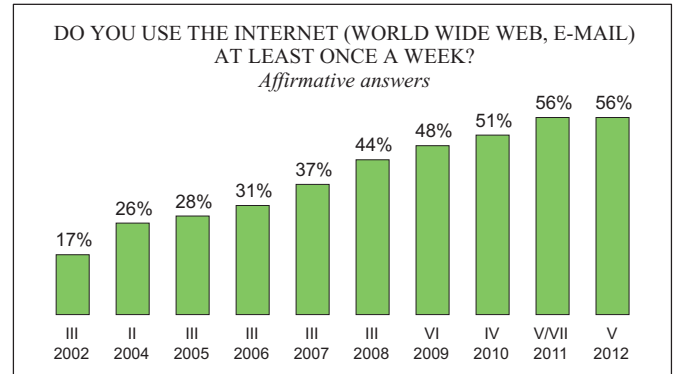
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Domestic conflicts and violence", June 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2012, N=1017. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

INTERNET USE

In the previous decade, internet use increased very fast. At present, the majority of adult Poles (56%) use the internet regularly, i.e. at least once a week. The proportion is the same as a year ago. It is to be expected that the increase in the number of internet users will now be gradual, rather than tidal, as was the case in the previous decade.

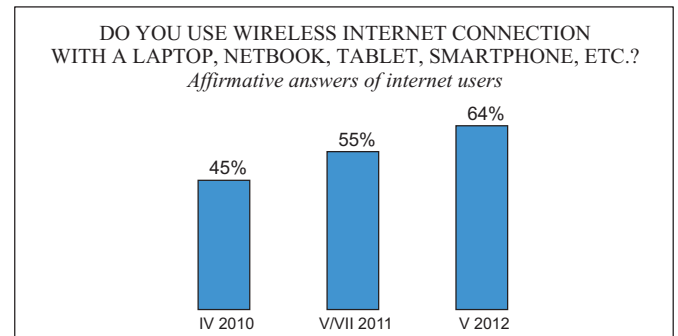
Internet use is strongly determined by age and education. The youngest generations acquire digital competence irrespective of other aspects determining the

position in the social structure, thus almost all use the web. The older the respondents, the less likely they are to use the internet.

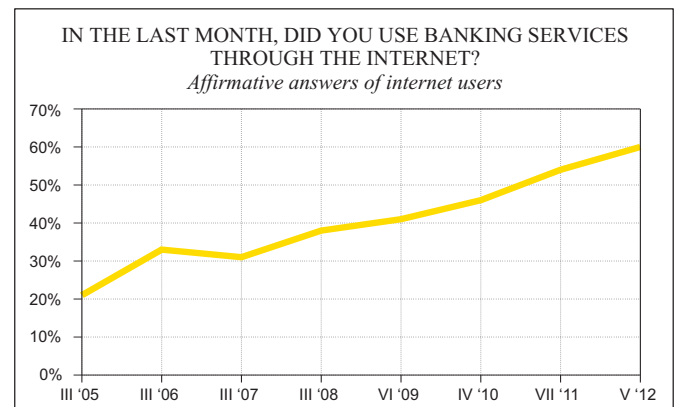


Almost all adults with higher education use the web, as well as over two-thirds of Poles with secondary education. People with primary education are least likely to be online.

During the last two years, the popularity of wireless connection greatly increased. At present, two-thirds of internet users (64%) use wi-fi connections.



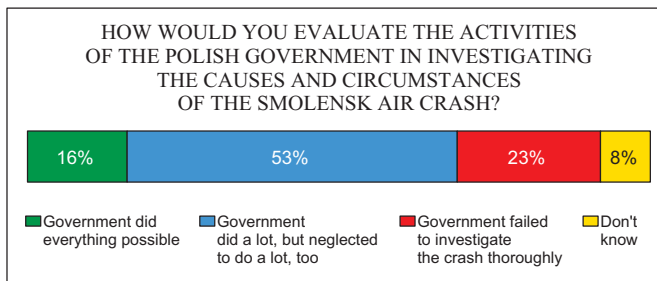
Different types of activities take place on the internet. Recently, internet banking has strongly increased in popularity. In the month preceding the survey, three-fifths of internet users (60%), or two-fifths of all adults, accessed their bank account via internet.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Internet use", June 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2012, N=1017. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

SMOLENSK CRASH AND BELIEF IN ASSASSINATION THEORY

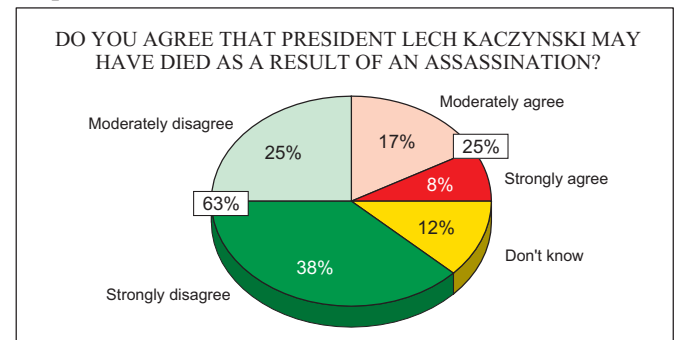
In April, two years have passed since the Smolensk air crash in which president Lech Kaczyński and 95 other people died, among them many politicians. They were going to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyń mass murder. In spite of the actions taken to investigate this incident (e.g. published findings of the government commission chaired by Jerzy Miller), there are still doubts and speculations about the causes of this crash. In public discourse there is an assassination theory, according to which the crash was caused by an explosion close to the ground.



According to the majority of respondents (53%), the Polish government did a lot to investigate the causes

of the Smolensk crash, but also neglected a lot. Almost a quarter (23%) are even more critical and believe that the government failed to investigate the disaster at all. Only 16% of respondents think that the government did everything that was possible.

A vast majority of Poles accept the official findings of the government commission investigating the Smolensk air crash. However, a quarter of respondents takes into consideration the possibility that the airplane was a victim of an attack. Most potential voters (60%) of the Law and Justice party (PiS) share this view. Electorates of the other parliamentary parties are rather sceptical.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Smolensk crash: who believes in assassination theory"*, June 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2012, N=1017. 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):

- ◆ Opinions About Changes in Pension System
- ◆ Who Will Win Euro 2012
- ◆ Future Voters – Party Preferences of Underage Poles
- ◆ Electorates of Major Political Parties
- ◆ Party Preferences in June
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in June
- ◆ Improvement of Government Ratings
- ◆ Social Moods in June

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

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

Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

Circulation: 70 copies

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