

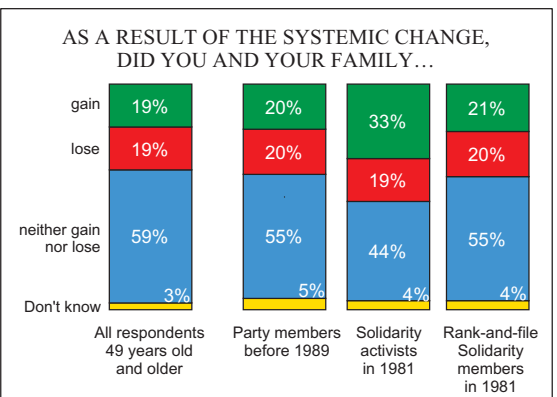
CONTENTS:

- SYSTEMIC CHANGE: OPINIONS OF THE MIDDLE-AGED AND SENIORS
- OPINIONS ABOUT IN-VITRO FERTILISATION
- ATTITUDES TO MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS
- CYCLING IN POLAND

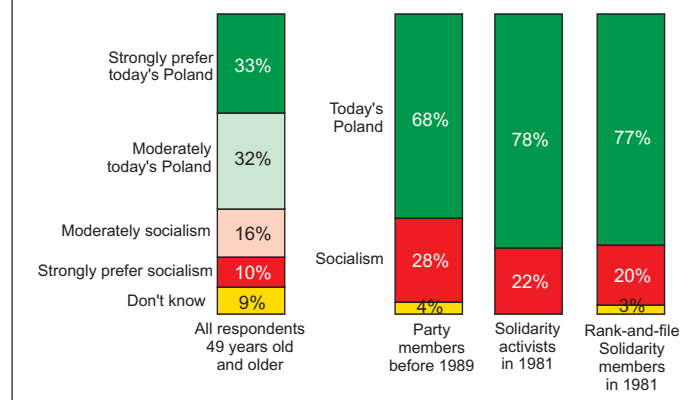
SYSTEMIC CHANGE: OPINIONS OF THE MIDDLE-AGED AND SENIORS

The number of people who remember the times of the People's Republic (1944-89) not only from childhood memories, but who have consciously experienced it (professionally, starting a family, making political choices) is diminishing. The CBOS study on "Consequences of the great change: societal perception of the role of 'Solidarity' in the collapse of Communism in Poland", conducted on the sample of people 49 and older, allows for showing systemic change from the perspective of such people.

Most middle-aged people and seniors have a feeling that they neither gained nor lost as a result of the systemic change. The others equally often see themselves as benefactors and losers of the change. The pre-1989 political affiliations influence the perceived balance of costs and benefits for the respondents and their families. The benefits from transformation are especially often appreciated by the activists of Solidarity (NSZZ Solidarność)



IF YOU HAD A CHOICE OF LIVING IN THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM AS IT WAS DURING THE LAST 10-20 YEARS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OR LIVING IN TODAY'S POLAND, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



from the year 1981. The opinions of rank-and-file Solidarity members, as well as opinions of members of pre-1989 parties (most of them are former members of the Polish United Workers' Party, PZPR) do not differ significantly from the opinion of the whole sample.

Although people who were adult and fully formed during systemic change usually do not think they gained any benefits from transformation, they would

still choose living in current Poland (65%). Former Solidarity members disproportionately often prefer the current system.

Poles who experienced the last decade of People's Republic as adults appreciate the political effects of change. In the opinion of a vast majority (80%), Poles now have far more opportunities for organizing and expressing their views than under former system. The majority (61%) admit that citizens have more influence on government than before. Over half (51%) think that the new system after 1989 is more fair. The comparison between the current and former political system is positive for the present-day Poland both in the opinions of Solidarity members from the early 1980s and former party members.

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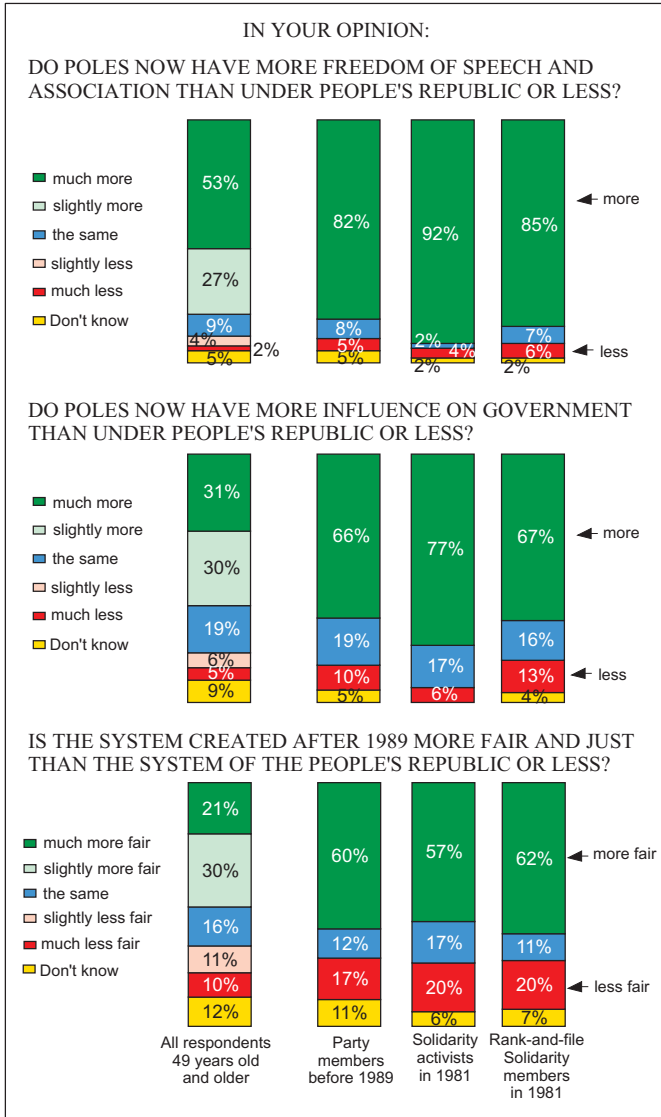
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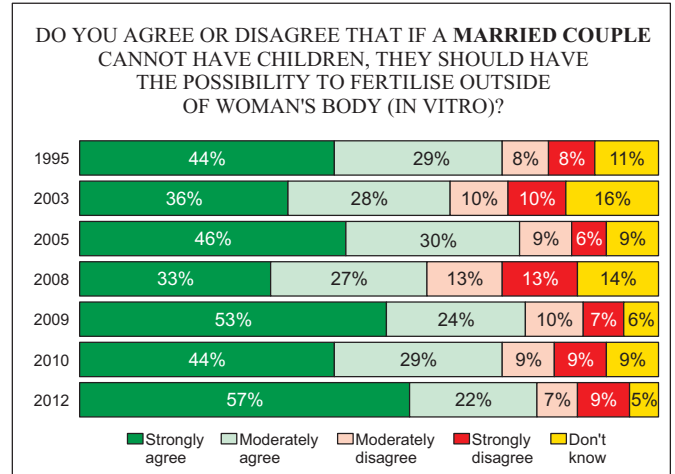
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Pre-1989 political activity, the attitude to systemic change and perception of influence on public affairs", September 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: May-June 2012, N=982. The random address sample is representative for population of Poland aged 49 and more.

OPINIONS ABOUT IN-VITRO FERTILISATION

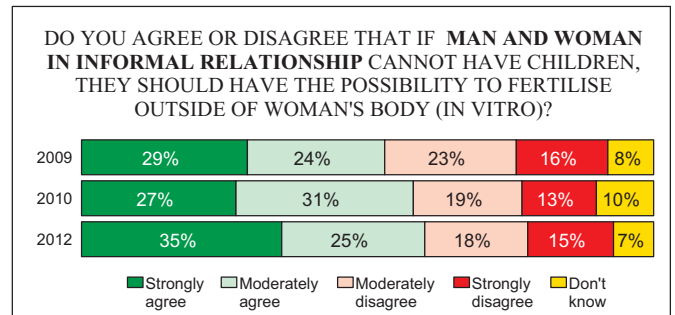
In-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment has been conducted in Poland for 25 years. In spite of that, the procedure is not regulated by law. Although the legal regulation has been discussed for a long time, the decision may still take a long time. The differences in opinion about applying this procedure are so fundamental that finding common ground will be difficult in the ideologically divided parliament.

IVF is a divisive issue for politicians, but the society has clear-cut views. From the beginning of

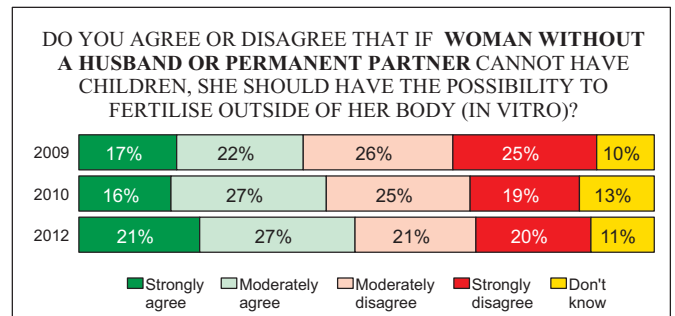
CBOS research on this topic, i.e. since 1995, the majority of Poles have supported making this treatment available for married couples who cannot have children otherwise. At present, the level of acceptance is higher than in previous years: 79% of adult Poles support it, while 16% are against.



Support for availability of IVF for heterosexual couples in informal relationships is not so universal. It is accepted by over half of respondents (60%), while one-third (33%) are opposed.

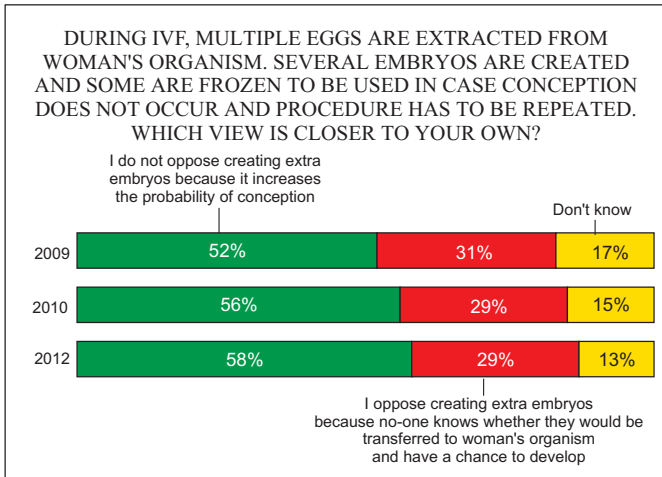


The most controversial is the availability of IVF for single women who want to have children. Still, the support for giving them such a possibility has increased from 39% in 2009 to 43% in 2010 and 48% in 2012.



The most controversial issue is creating multiple embryos during the IVF procedure. Extracting multiple eggs from woman's organisms is justified by practical considerations, as it greatly increases the chances of conception and reduces the costs. Opposition is based on ethical grounds, it stems from the belief in the sanctity of

life and concerns the destruction of unused and “expired” embryos. Faced with such a dilemma, Poles opt for the effectiveness of the method over the right to life for all embryos created during the procedure. Most respondents (58%) think that increasing the probability of conception justifies creating multiple embryos, regardless of whether all of them will have a chance to develop. The opponents are half as numerous (29%). The recent public discussions about IVF reinforce the utilitarian attitude to creating extra embryos.

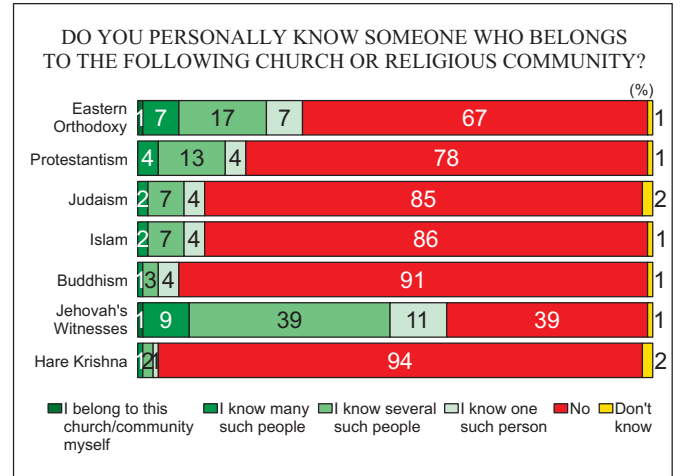


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes to in-vitro fertilisation", September 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2012, N=1011. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

ATTITUDES TO MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

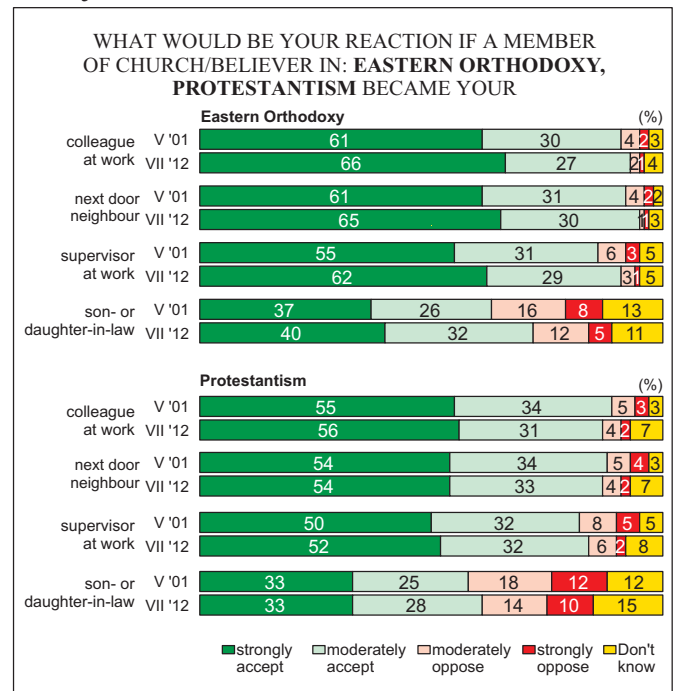
The Polish society is quite uniform in terms of religious beliefs. Apart from Roman Catholics, the biggest religious group is the Eastern Orthodox Church, which has over 0.5 million believers. There are about 150 thousand members of different Protestant denominations. Another numerous group is Jehovah's Witnesses, who number over 125 thousand.

The religious uniformity of the Polish society results in the fact that many Poles do not know members of other denominations, including the most common ones, such as Protestant or Orthodox. The only church known to a majority of Poles is Jehovah's Witnesses: 60% know personally a member of that denomination. Less than one-third (32%) know a member of Eastern Orthodox Church, and about one-fifth (21%) know personally someone belonging to a Protestant denomination. Small groups know a religious Jew or Muslim (13% each), or Buddhist (8%). A small group (4%) had a chance to meet a member of the Hare Krishna community.

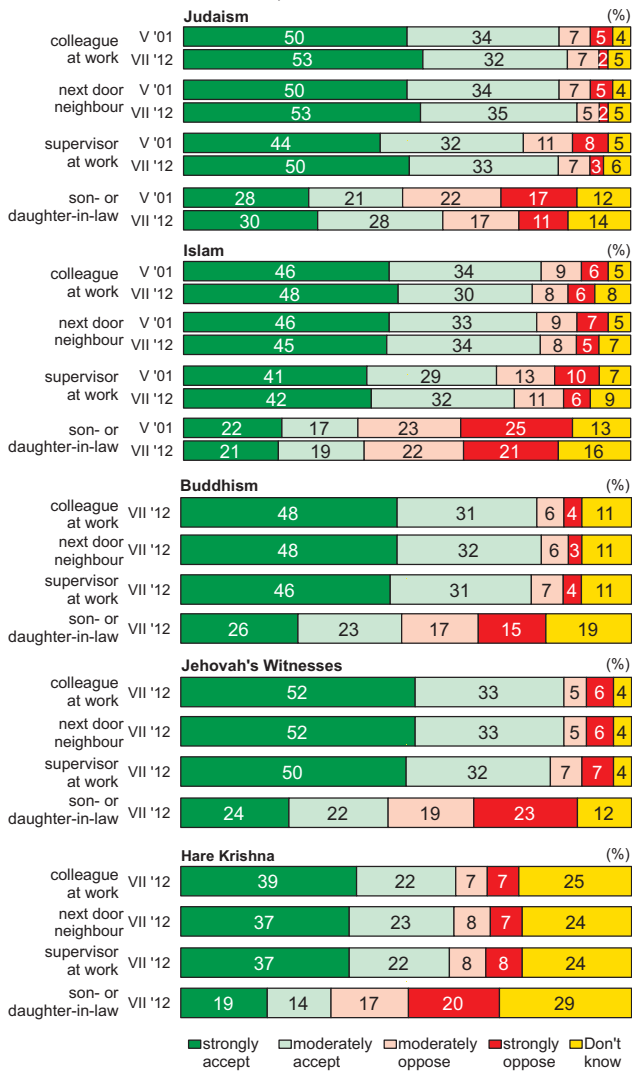


In general, Poles are most open to contacts Christian denominations (especially Eastern Orthodoxy) and Judaism. The social distance to Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, Buddhists and members of Hare Krishna movement is larger than to others.

During the last 11 years, the distance to other religions has diminished. This development is visible on every level of closeness of imagined relations with believers in other faiths. The greatest changes have occurred in case of the roles in which the acceptance of people of other religions was the weakest: son- or daughter-in-law and supervisor at work. The improvement is strongest in case of Judaism and Eastern Orthodoxy. For instance, the percentage of people who would accept it if their child married an Orthodox person increased from 63% to 72%, while the proportion of people opposed to such a partner fell from 24% to 17%. In case of Judaism, the acceptance rose from 49% to 58%, and rejection fell from 39% to 28%.



WHAT WOULD BE YOUR REACTION IF A MEMBER OF CHURCH/BELIEVER IN: JUDAISM, ISLAM, BUDDHISM, JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, HARE KRISHNA BECAME YOUR

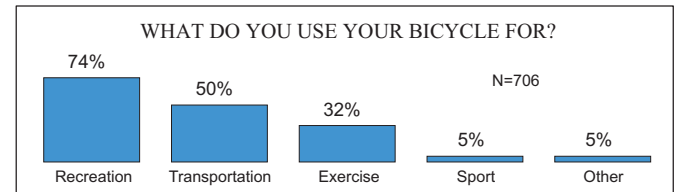


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Societal attitudes to members of different religions", September 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2012, N=960. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

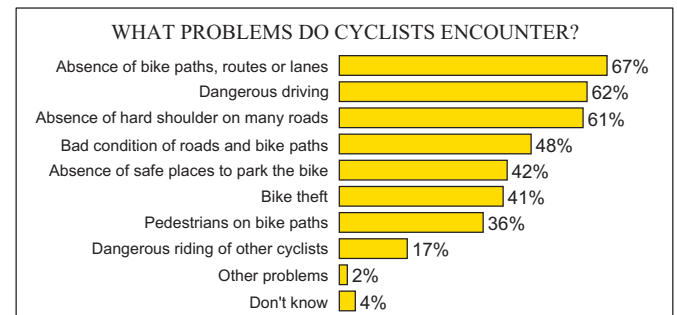
CYCLING IN POLAND

Cyclists constitute 70% of the Polish society, out of which 22% ride the bicycle regularly.

The bicycle is usually used for recreation (74% of cyclists), or as a means of transportation (50%). Every third cyclist (32%) uses the bike for physical exercise. Only 5% of respondents treat biking as professional sport; a vast majority of them are young. Among other purposes mentioned in the survey was shopping.



The biggest problem for cyclists is, in public opinion, low number of bike routes, paths or separate lanes (67%). Another problem is the danger from car drivers (62%) and absence of hard shoulders on many roads (61%). Cyclists' life is made difficult by bad condition of roads and bike paths: almost half of respondents indicated such problems (48%). A big problem is the limited number of places where bikes can be parked (42%) and frequent thefts (41%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Cycling in Poland", September 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2012, N=960. 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 Financing the Public Media
- ◆ Opinions About Allotment Gardens
- ◆ Party Preferences in September
- ◆ Opinions About Nepotism in Public Life
- ◆ Attitude to Government in September
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in September
- ◆ Social Moods in September
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