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## **CONTENTS**

**Attitude to refugees** and the situation of migrants at the border

Use of health benefits and insurance

### **Problems with water**

### **Reading books**

### IN ADDITION

TO THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE. THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED **RECENTLY (IN POLISH):** 

- Media in Poland and License for TVN24
- Moods on the Job Market in the Second Half of August
- · Social Moods in August
- Attitude to Government in the Second Half of August
- Trust in Politicians in August
- Opinions on COVID-19 Vaccinations and Evaluation of Government Policy
- · Perception of Credibility of TV News and Current Affairs Journalistic TV Programs
- Political Party Preferences in September
- Social Moods in September
- Trust in Politicians in September
- Moods on the Job Market in the First Half of September
- Attitude to Government in September
- Attitude to COVID-19 Vaccinations and Perception of Government Policy in September

Attitude to refugees and the situation of migrants at the border

The attitude of Poles to receiving refugees is varied; however, it is more often negative than favourable. Almost half of respondents (48%) do not want to accept refugees from countries affected by armed conflicts, while two fifths (42%) approve of it, with the majority of this group (33%) believing that our country should shelter them only until they can return to their country, and about a tenth (9%) also agree to their settlement in Poland. Since the previous study on this subject more than three years ago (which was carried out in a different global situation), the attitude of Poles towards accepting refugees has clearly improved: there are fewer people unwilling to welcome them and more approving of both

temporary asylum and Should Poland accept refugees from countries permanent residence. From a historical perspective, it can be 100% seen that until the terrorist 80% attack in Paris in November 2015,  $_{60\%_{58}}$ Poles were generally favourable 40% to accepting refugees, although 20%2 they mostly preferred temporary asylum for them. After this event, rejection has prevailed.



them to settle return to their land of origin The attitude to asylum seekers from the countries of the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan who are on the Polish-Belarusian border is more negative than the

general attitude to accepting refugees, which results from the fact that the

perception of the whole situation overlaps with suspicions of deliberate transfer Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia accuse Belarus of organizing the transfer of migrants, e.g. from Afghanistan, some Middle East countries and Africa to their territories. Should the Polish authorities allow migrants staying on the Polish-Belarusian border to apply for asylum in our country or not?



Definitely should Rather should Rather not Definitely not Don't know

Poles approve of the strengthening of controls on the border with Belarus. Such actions are supported by over three-fourths of respondents (77%), and only a few (14%) consider it unnecessary.

of migrants across the border with Poland (as well as with Lithuania and Latvia). The belief that migrants on the Polish-Belarusian border should be allowed to apply for asylum in our country is expressed by one-third of Poles (33%), while over half are of the opposite opinion (52%).

In the current situation, should Poland strengthen the control of the border with **Belarus?** 



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Public Opinion on Refugees and Situation of Migrants on the Border with Belarus", September 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2021, N=1218. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### Use of health benefits and insurance

During the six months preceding the survey (i.e. in the first half of 2021), more than three-quarters of respondents (78%) at least once consulted a doctor, used the services of a dentist or prosthetist, or performed tests in analytical laboratories or diagnostic laboratories due to illness or poor health of their own or their child.

Almost three-fifths (59%) consulted a general practitioner at least once during this time. Almost half (47%) called on a specialist doctor. Almost the same number of respondents (46%) used the services of an analytical laboratory, and almost one-third (30%) had diagnostic tests such as ultrasound, X-ray, tomography, gastroscopy, etc. In total, 52% of adult Poles had some kind of diagnostic tests, either in a laboratory or carried out by specialized units. Over two-fifths (42%) visited a dentist or prosthetist. In the first half of 2021, Poles used health services significantly more often than in the corresponding period of the previous year, i.e. in the period when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. The frequency of use of medical services during the pandemic still remains much lower than registered earlier. The disproportion between the result recorded before the pandemic and at present concerns to the greatest extent the services of primary care physicians. In 2014–2018, from 73% to 75% of all adult Poles used the services of these doctors in the six-month period. Today, this percentage is 16 points lower.

#### Proportion of respondents who used the services of:



Almost two-thirds of Poles (65%) in the first half of this year used some benefits available under the general health insurance. Most often these were the advice of a primary care physician or a paediatrician (53%). Three out of ten respondents (30%) consulted a specialist doctor at least once. One-third (34%) used the services of an analytical laboratory, and one-fifth (21%) had other diagnostic tests, such as X-ray, USG, tomography, gastroscopy or other. A smaller number of people, i.e. one-seventh (13%), used the services of a dentist or prosthetist under the general health insurance.

In the last six months, almost half of people (49%) used at least once some medical services outside of the general

health insurance system, for which they paid out of their own pocket or which were available under additional insurance paid individually or financed by the employer. As before, the services of a dentist or a prosthetic laboratory were the most frequently used by patients (35%). More than one-fourth (28%) consulted a specialist doctor outside of public health system. One-fifth (21%) used the services of an analytical laboratory on this basis, and one-seventh (13%) underwent some other diagnostic tests, e.g. ultrasound, had tomography, gastroscopy, etc. Fewer patients (12%) visited a general practitioners on this basis.

As the data show, dental care is the only medical service usually paid for by patients themselves or offered under additional health insurance. All the other benefits discussed are usually provided by the state. The prevalence of public service provision is greatest in the case of general practice, while it is relatively small in the case of specialist doctors.

## Percentage of users, in the six months preceding the survey, of health benefits and services ...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Use of Healthcare Services and Insurance", September 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2021, N=1166. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### **Problems with water**

The territory of Poland is an area where water resources are not very large and it is predicted that in the near future the water deficit in our country will occur. In addition, climate change causes the increased incidence of both heavy rainfall and related floods as well as periods of drought.

The declarations show that Poles experience the effects of water deficit much more often than its excess. Almost twothirds of respondents (65%), at least from time to time, in their place of residence or in the vicinity, reported the occurrence of drought that affects the state of nature and agriculture, with one-fifth (20%) claiming that such a situation occurs regularly every year or almost every year. Almost one-third (31%) reported floods from time to time, including 4% observing them regularly every year or almost every year.

#### Are there:



The majority (62%) of respondents noting droughts in their place of residence or the surrounding area believe that they happen more often now than in the past. Only 26% say that they always happened as often as in recent years. Also, a significant group observing floods and inundations in the vicinity of their place of residence think that in recent years they have happened more often than before (39%). However, the prevailing group are convinced that floods have always been as common as in recent years (45%).

According to your knowledge, in your place of residence or in the vicinity, periods of drought that affect the state of nature and agriculture:



Responses of people who answered that there are periods of drought in their place of residence or their vicinity, which affect the state of nature and agriculture (N = 756).

# According to your knowledge, in your place of residence or in the vicinity, floods, or inundations:



Responses of people who answered that there were floods or inundations in their place of residence or in the vicinity (N = 362).

Respondents who think that droughts or floods affecting nature or agriculture in their place of residence or their vicinity happen more often than before usually link the occurrence of these phenomena with climate change (82 % of them, i.e. 36% of all respondents). It can therefore be said that more than one-third of adult Poles perceive the negative impact of climate change on problems with the amount of water in the immediate vicinity. Other factors mentioned in this context quite often are: investments resulting in overdevelopment in the area and liquidation of natural water reservoirs such as ponds and wetlands (28% and 27%, respectively, of people noting an increase in the frequency of problems with lack or excess of water, which constitutes 12% of the total).

# What causes these phenomena to be more frequent now than they used to be?



Responses of people who answered that in recent years droughts that affect the state of nature and agriculture or floods and inundations have occurred more frequently in their place of residence or in the vicinity than in the past (N = 515).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish Water Problems", September 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2021, N=1166. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### **Reading books**

The vast majority of Poles (62%) like reading books. We registered a similar percentage of avid readers in previous years.

The willingness to read is related to the gender of respondents. Women are much more interested in reading: as many as 72% of them admit that they like reading, while only 50% of men say the same. Education is important: 86% of respondents with higher education like reading, 70% with secondary and only 37% of respondents with primary, lower secondary or basic vocational education.



According to the declarations, in the 30 days preceding the survey, nearly two-fifths of respondents (38%) read a book for pleasure. The percentage of people reading for their own pleasure within 30 days prior to the survey is higher than recorded in previous years, when the proportions were: 36% in 1998, 32% in 2001 and 2011, and 28% in 2007. This increase may be related to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on social life and significant restrictions in the ways of spending free time.

#### Do you like reading books?

The vast majority of respondents (65%) prefer reading books in print. However, as the digitization progresses, alternatives to traditional books are beginning to appear on the market. One of them is e-books, indicated by 7% of respondents (including one-fifth aged 18 to 24). Audiobooks (3%), which allow users to listen to the content of a book, instead of reading it, are slightly less popular.

#### In what form do you prefer books?



Poles' reading preferences are constantly changing. This is evidenced by the differences between the number of respondents pointing to particular literary genres over the years. In 2007 and 2011, the most popular among readers were adventure and travel books, while in 2021 their popularity decreased significantly by 8 percentage points compared to 2011 and by 12 points compared to 2007. The genre currently indicated by the respondents most often (25%) is crime fiction. As the years go by, readership of guidebooks or handbooks declines: they are currently selected by only 12% of respondents, compared to 24% in 2007. The least frequently indicated genres are still poetry (5%), contemporary fiction (5%) and comics (only 3%).

#### What books do you read most often?

5 answers possible.



#### What books do you read most often?

5 answers possible.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles and Books", September 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2021, N=1167. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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