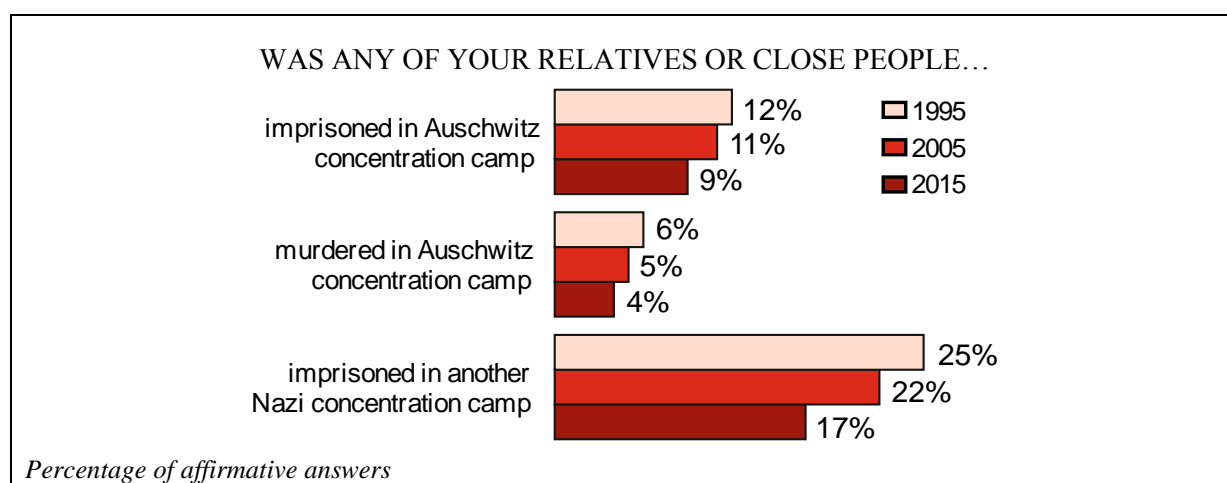


AUSCHWITZ – BIRKENAU IN COLLECTIVE MEMORY

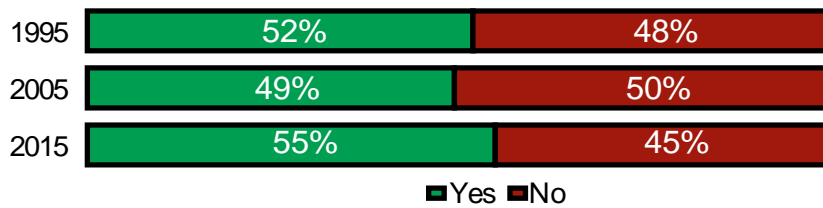
On 27 January was the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, which became a symbol of the genocide committed by the Nazis during World War II. In 2005, United Nations General Assembly designated an International Holocaust Remembrance Day on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. Each year, there are international celebrations at the camp location whose special guests are former prisoners.

For a large proportion of Poles, Auschwitz-Birkenau is a part of the family tradition. Close to a tenth of respondents (9%) declare that someone close to them was a prisoner of that camp, while 4% lost someone there. Relatives of 17% were prisoners in camps other than Auschwitz--Birkenau. In general, close to a quarter of respondents (23%) had a family member in one of the Nazi concentration camps. With time, this proportion is decreasing.



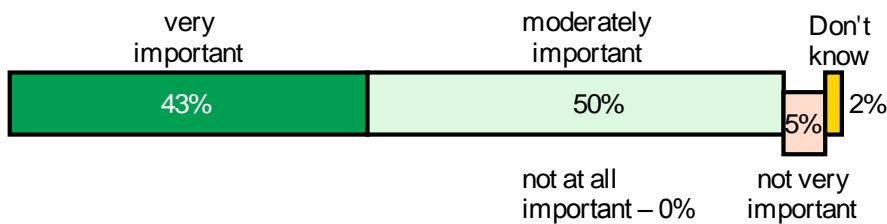
The Auschwitz-Birkenau museum was visited by over half (55%) of respondents, i.e. slightly more than ten or twenty years ago.

HAVE YOU EVER VISITED THE AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM?



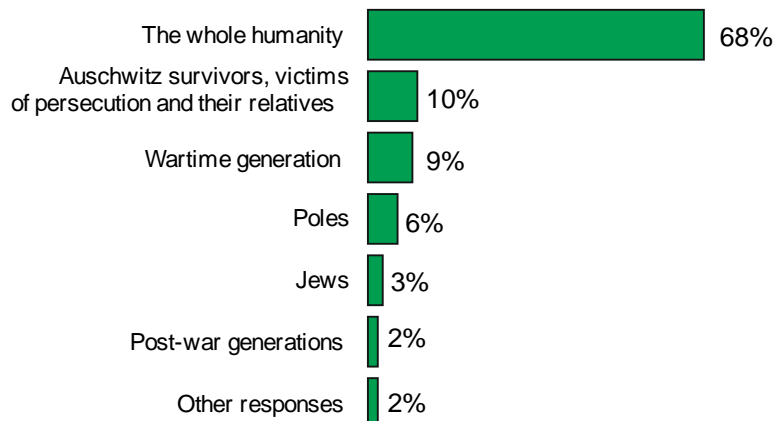
Almost all respondents (93%) claim that the memory about Auschwitz-Birkenau is important for them. Among them, 43% attach a lot of importance to it.

FOR YOU PERSONALLY, IS THE MEMORY OF AUSCHWITZ...

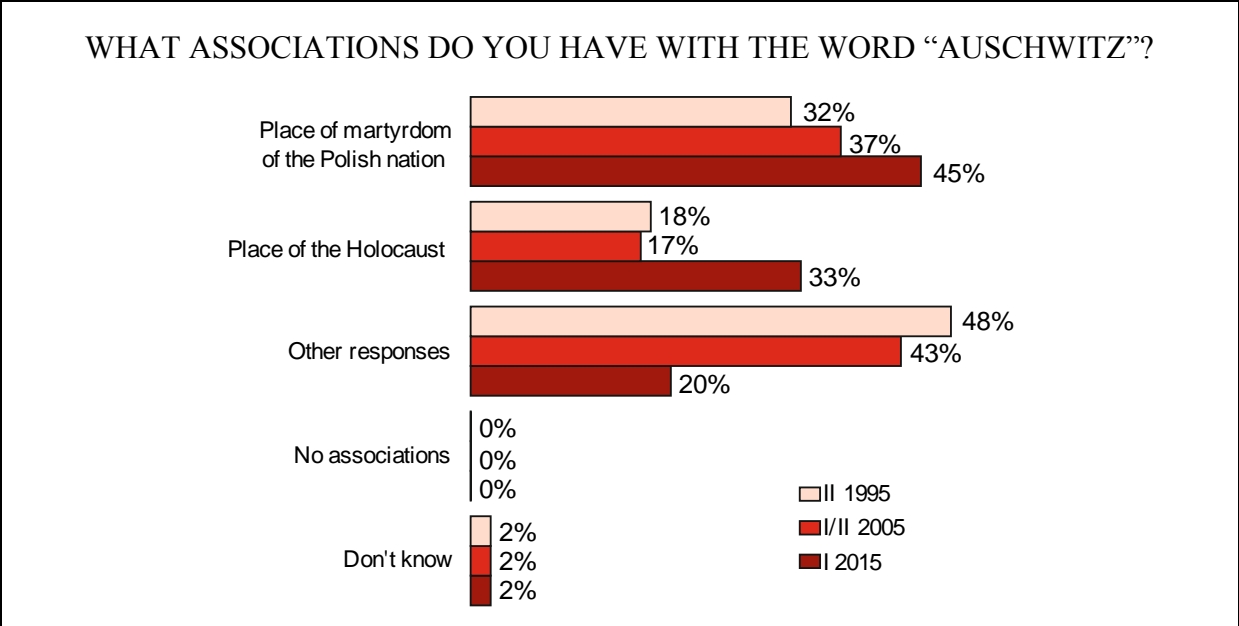


In the opinion of over two-thirds of respondents, the memory about the biggest Nazi concentration camp has a universal dimension and is important for the whole humanity. A tenth (10%) think that the memory is important mainly for the people who survived this camp or other forms of wartime persecution, and for the families of the deceased. A similar group of people (9%) think that it is primarily important for the older generation, the people who lived during the war. Few respondents (2%) stress the importance for the post-war generations. There are infrequent references to different nationalities: 6% of respondents answer that the memory about Auschwitz-Birkenau is important mainly for Poles, while 3% think it is significant mostly for Jews.

FOR WHOM IS THE MEMORY ABOUT AUSCHWITZ IMPORTANT?



The name “Auschwitz” is associated primarily (45%) with a place of martyrdom of the Polish nation, and less frequently (33%) as a place where the Holocaust took place. Both associations are more common than ten and twenty years ago, while other responses (20%) occur less frequently. People who formulated their answers by themselves usually stressed the comparable dimension of the Jewish and Polish martyrdom, or stressed that people of many nationalities died there.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Auschwitz-Birkenau in collective memory"*, January 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2015, N=1005. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.