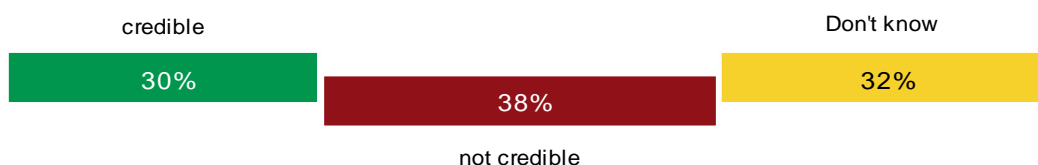


Views about Pope John Paul II

In March, TVN24 broadcast a report by Marcin Gutowski "Franciszkańska 3", in which it was suggested that John Paul II, as the metropolitan of Krakow, covered up cases of paedophilia among priests. Publications about Karol Wojtyła's knowledge of such situations and reactions to them had already appeared in various media, but this report caused a media and political storm.

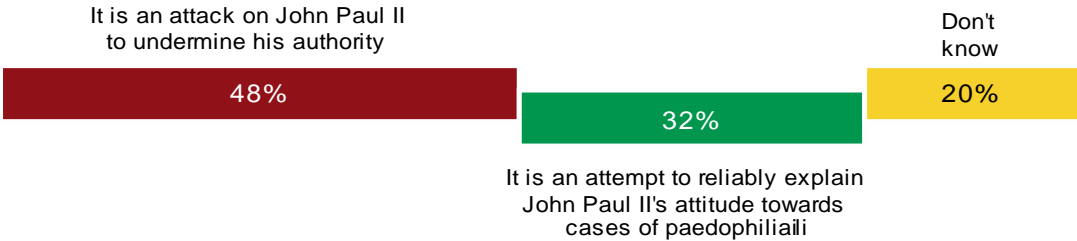
The attitude of Poles to media reports on covering up cases of paedophilia among priests by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła is ambiguous. About two-fifths of respondents (38%) believe that the information about concealing cases of paedophilia among priests by the future pope is unreliable, while 30% believe in the credibility of these reports. Nearly one-third (32%) do not have a firm opinion on this matter.

What is your opinion about the recent media reports regarding the cover-up of cases of paedophilia among priests by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła? They are ...



The assessments of perceived motives for reporting the cases of alleged cover-up of paedophilia by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła are more clear. Almost half of respondents (48%) believe that this is an attack on John Paul II aimed at undermining his authority. One-third (32%) perceive these reports as an attempt to reliably explain Cardinal Wojtyła's attitude towards cases of paedophilia among priests. A lower percentage of “don't know” responses (20%) than in the assessments of the credibility of information proves that it is easier for respondents to think about this subject in terms of the intentions and motives of the media (or possibly other entities participating in the public discourse) than in terms of facts.

What do you think about the recent media reports regarding the cover-up of cases of paedophilia among priests by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła?

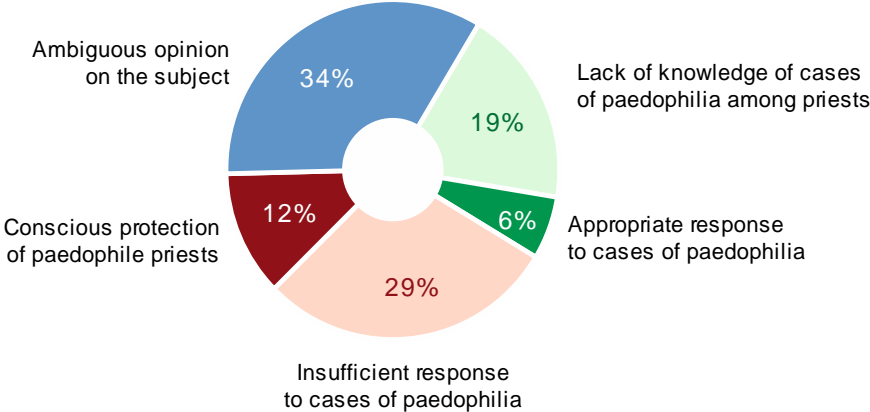


Recent media reports are part of the long-running discussion about John Paul II's knowledge and reaction to the issue of paedophiles among priests. Opinions about the late Pope's attitude to this problem are divided.

Overall, more than half of respondents (54%) believe that John Paul II knew about cases of paedophilia among priests. Less than one-fifth (19%) think he had no such knowledge. More than a quarter (26%) do not have a specific opinion on this subject. People who believe that John Paul II knew about cases of paedophilia among priests generally think that he tried to do something about the problem, but his reaction was not sufficient (53% of them). More than one-fifth of this group (22%) are of the opinion that he consciously protected paedophile priests. Relatively the smallest group (12%) believe that he reacted appropriately to cases of paedophilia among priests. Taking into account the answers to both questions - regarding the knowledge and reaction of John Paul II to the problem of paedophilia - a new variable was created, illustrating the perception of this issue by all respondents. The largest part (34%) do not have a clear opinion on this subject. Among the others, the largest group (29% of the total) are those who believe that John Paul II tried to

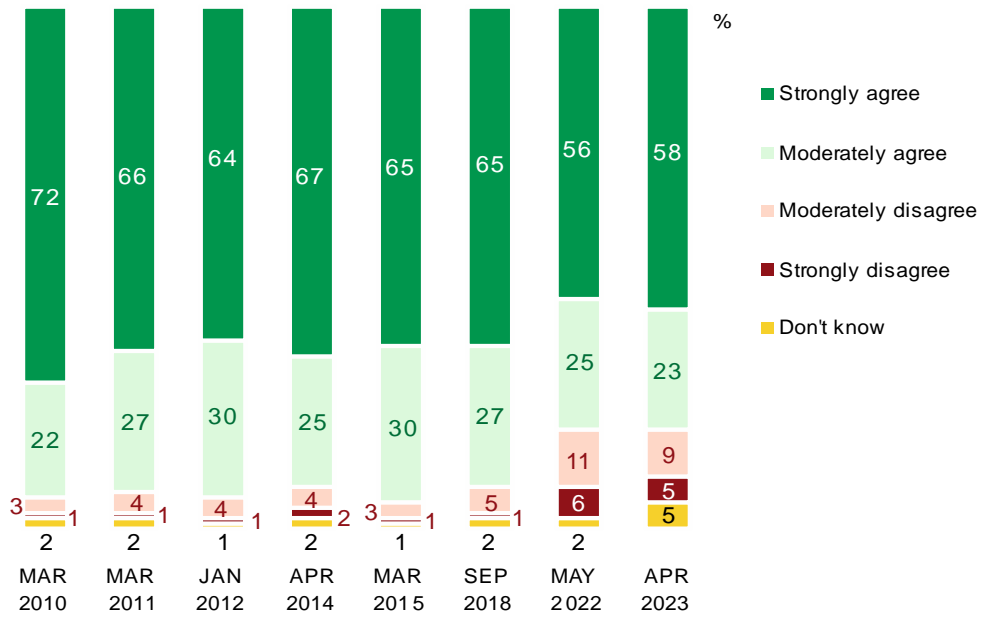
do something about paedophilia, but his reaction was insufficient. Nearly one-fifth of all Poles (19%) believe that the Pope did not know about cases of paedophilia among priests. Almost one-eighth (12%) share the opinion that John Paul II (while still the metropolitan of Krakow or already as the Pope) consciously protected paedophile priests. The least numerous group (6%) are people who are convinced that John Paul II knew about the problem of paedophiles and reacted appropriately to such cases.

Perceived attitude of John Paul II to the problem of paedophilia among priests



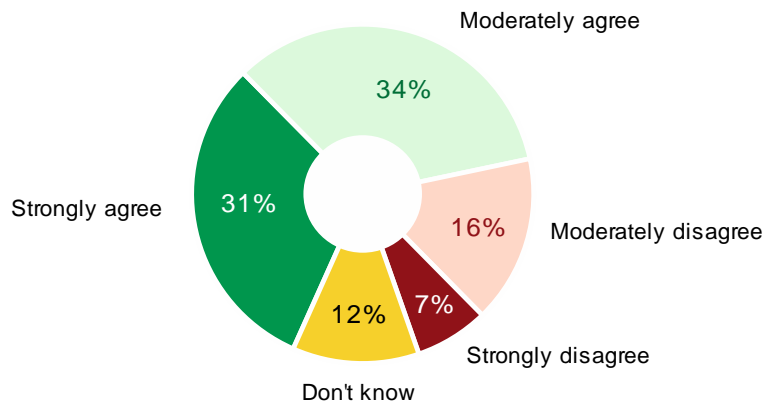
CBOS time series surveys give an opportunity to answer the question of how recent media reports on the cover-up of cases of paedophilia among priests by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła affected the late Pope's authority in Polish society. In May 2022, a total of 81% of respondents declared that John Paul II was a moral authority for them (including 56% who stated it strongly). Nearly a year later, such declarations were also made by 81% of respondents (including 58% who stated it strongly). It can therefore be said that the accusations against John Paul II have not translated into a decrease in his perception as moral authority.

Do you agree that Pope John Paul II is an important moral authority for you?



Almost two-thirds of Poles (65%) believe that recent media reports do not undermine the merits of John Paul II. Less than one-fourth (23%) are of the opposite opinion. Interestingly, nearly half of those who believe that John Paul II consciously protected paedophile priests (47%) are also of the opinion that the allegations against the late Pope do not nullify his merits.

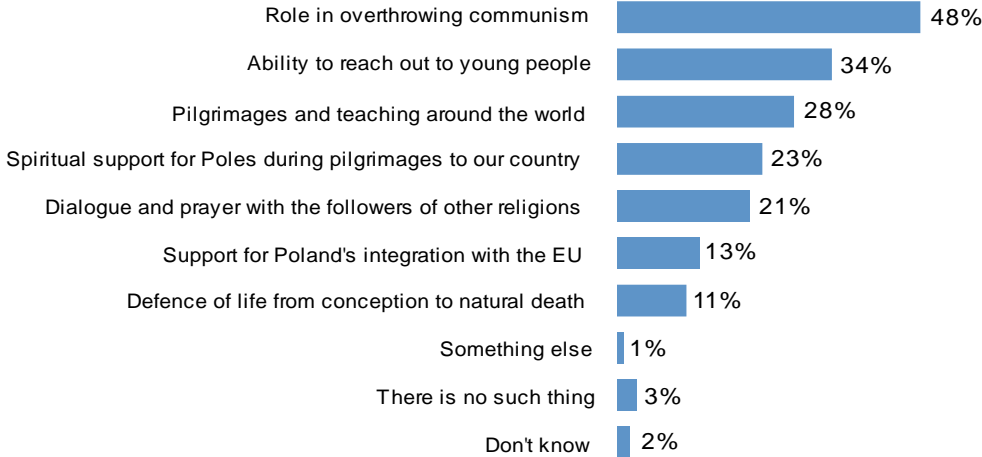
Do you agree that current reports do not undermine the merits of John Paul II?



Almost all respondents can find something for which they value the late Pope. The merits of John Paul II for the overthrow of communism are most frequently noticed (48% of respondents). His ability to reach out to young people is relatively often emphasized (34%

of respondents). Papal pilgrimages and teaching around the world were also among the top three most often listed items (indicated by 28% of respondents).

Is there anything for which you appreciate John Paul II? If so, what is it?



Possibility to choose multiple answers

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles about John Paul II", May 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2023, N=1081. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.