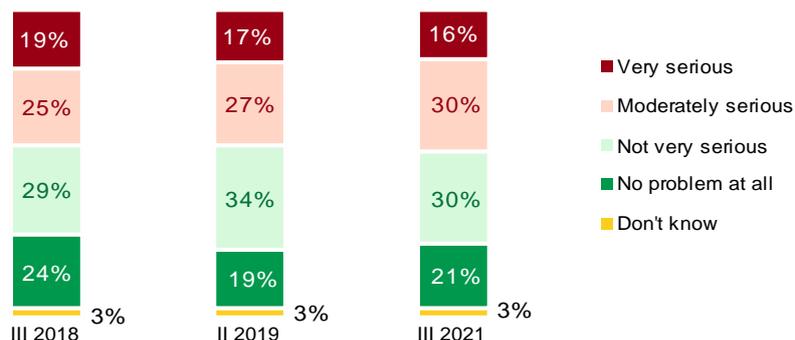


## How to deal with smog

Poland ranks among the countries with the worst air quality in Europe. The main source of pollution during the heating season are the household emissions, followed by industry, energy and road transport. Smog contributes to the development of lung and cardiovascular diseases and premature death.

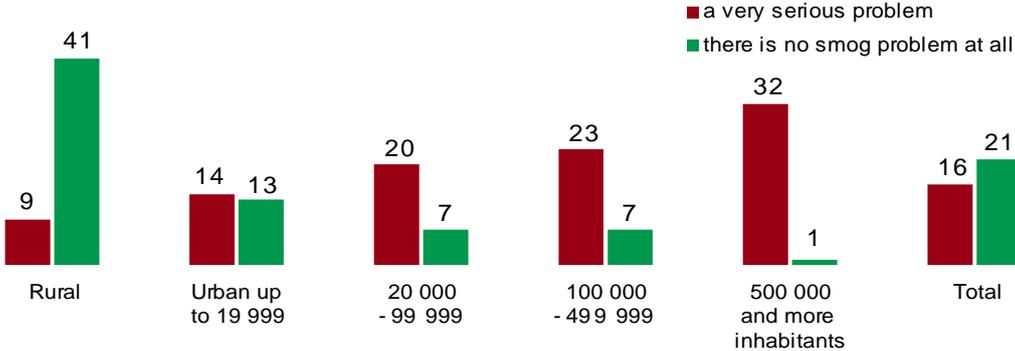
Almost half of Poles (46%), i.e. slightly more than two or three years ago, say that smog is a serious problem in their area, and about one-sixth (16%) see it as a very serious problem. Less than one-third of the respondents (30%) say that this phenomenon is negligible, while one-fifth (21%) do not notice it at all. The changes in the perception of local air pollution compared to previous measurements are small.

### How serious is the problem of air pollution (smog) in your place of residence?



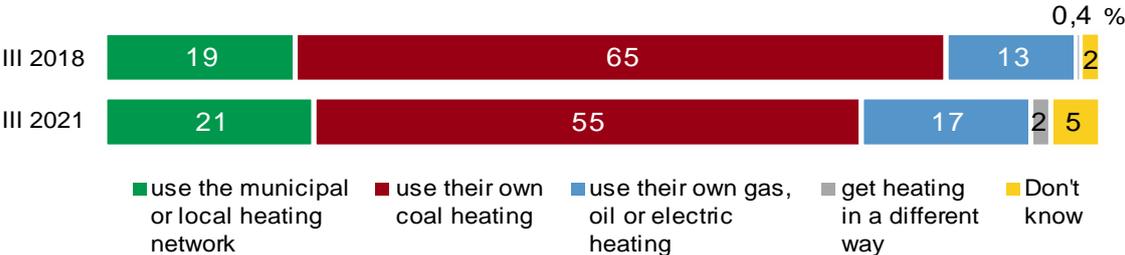
Smog is considered as a very serious problem most often in large cities, especially those with a population of half a million and larger, and in the southern macroregion. On the other hand, it is usually not considered as such by people living in rural areas, in the northern and eastern macroregions.

**Percentage of respondents indicating that in their place of residence smog is...**



A positive change that took place in the last three years and was reflected in the perceptions of respondents is the reduction in the scale of use of coal heating installations in households. More than half (55%), i.e. far less than three years ago, claim that in their area coal-fired furnaces and boilers are mostly used for heating. One-fifth (21%) indicate that central heating prevails in their area, and slightly fewer (17%) say that households generally use their own gas, oil or electric heating. Two out of one hundred respondents (2%) mention a different type of heating.

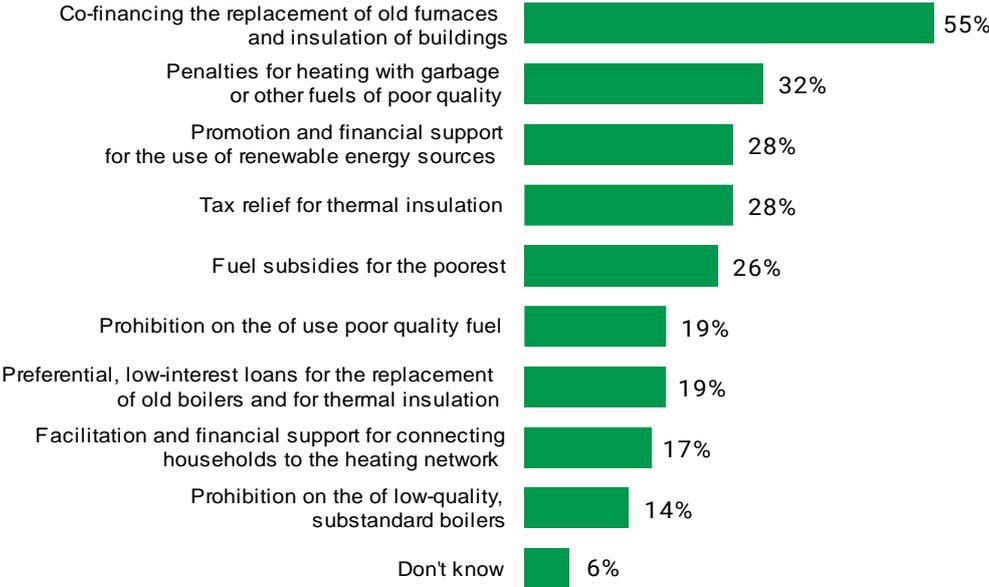
**Do households in your area generally:**



In order to reduce air pollution caused by the municipal and housing emissions, respondents generally prefer financial incentives to prohibitions and financial penalties. Co-financing the replacement of old furnaces and insulation of buildings is considered to be the most useful: the need for this type of action is recognized by over half of respondents (55%). The second most often indicated measure is punishing people who heat with rubbish

or other poor quality fuel, indicated by nearly one-third of Poles (32%). Only slightly fewer people consider the best solutions to be: promotion and financial support for the use of renewable energy sources (28%), tax relief for thermal insulation (28%) and subsidies for fuel for the poorest (26%). Although the penalties for burning waste are among the most supported solutions, the ban on the use of low-quality boilers that do not meet the current standards has the least supporters (14% of respondents mentioned it among the preferred actions). This shows, it seems, that the replacement of the furnace is a real problem and a financial challenge for many people, despite various possibilities of obtaining funding for this purpose. As a rule, the expenses incurred for the replacement of the furnace are refinanced, but the amount of the subsidy is limited.

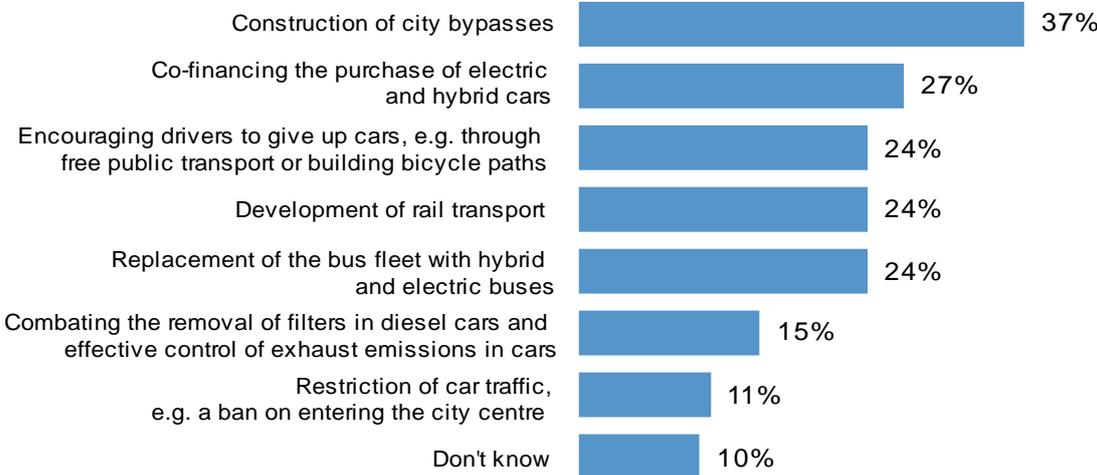
**Which of the solutions are the best to limit air pollution caused by emissions from household stoves and boilers?**



The best solution to reduce air pollution related to road transport and car traffic is, in the opinion of the public, the construction of city bypasses, indicated by 37% of respondents. The priority given to this solution shows that the lack of bypasses is a troublesome problem for city dwellers. Similar percentages of respondents indicated policies such as: co-financing the purchase of electric and hybrid cars (27%), replacement of the bus fleet (24%), encouraging drivers to give up driving, e.g. through free public transport and building bicycle paths (24%) and development of railways (24%). Restrictions and bans, such as the

fight against the removal of filters in diesel cars (15%) or a ban on cars from entering city centres (11%), have fewer supporters.

**Which of the following solutions are the best to reduce air pollution related to road transport and car traffic?**



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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Smog and How to Deal with It", March 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2021, N=1154. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.