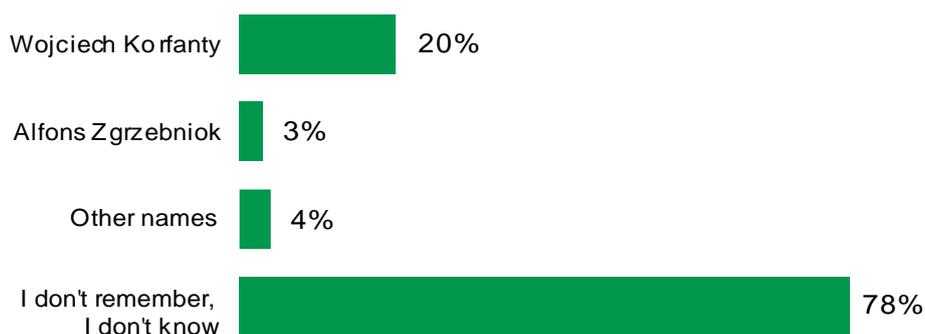


Silesian uprisings in the collective memory

On the night of May 2 1921, the Third Silesian Uprising broke out, which ended a series of national uprisings in Upper Silesia and led to the annexation of its part to Poland. The knowledge of Poles about the basic facts about the Silesian uprisings is small. One hundred years after the fights of the Silesian insurgents, 69% of Poles have heard about their struggles (20% declare that they have heard a lot about them), while almost one-third (31%) have never heard of them. Of those who heard about the uprisings, most were unable to locate them in time (69%) or give the names of their leaders (78%). The person most associated with the Silesian uprisings is the leader of the third, the victorious one - Wojciech Korfanty (his name was spontaneously mentioned by 20% of those who had heard about the uprisings). Few (3%) indicated Alfons Zgrzebnik, the leader of the first two uprisings.

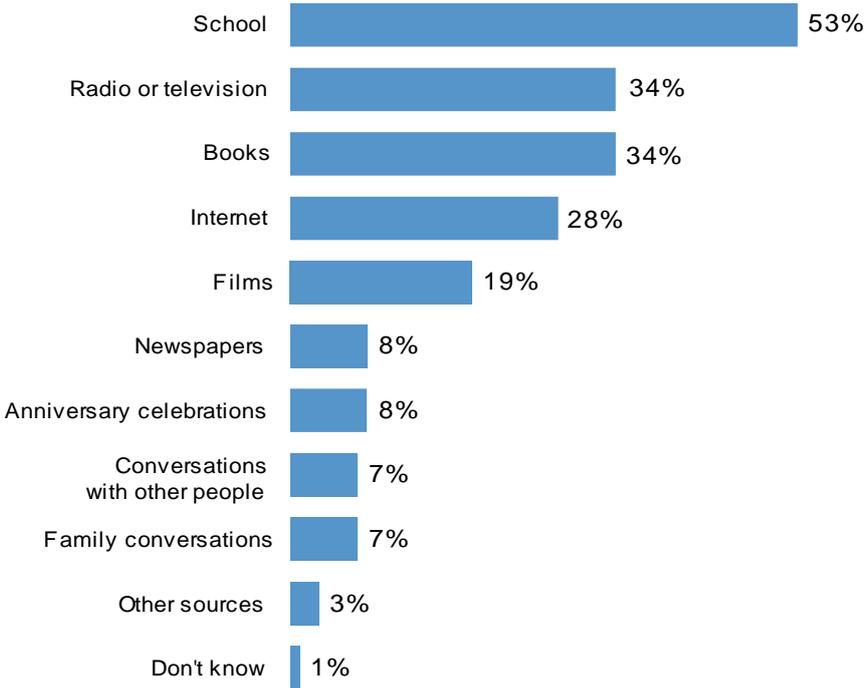
Do you remember the names of the leaders of the Silesian uprisings or people who contributed to the fact that after World War I parts of Upper Silesia became a part of Poland? *Responses from people who have heard about the Silesian uprisings.*



The knowledge of Poles about the Silesian uprisings comes mainly from school lessons (52%), radio and television (34%), books (34%), the Internet (28%) and films (19%). Personal conversations with the family are a source of knowledge for 7% of all respondents who have heard about the uprisings, including 17% of those who have lived in Upper Silesia, and 62% of those who had a Silesian insurgent in their family.

What are your primary sources of knowledge about the Silesian uprisings?

Responses of people who have heard about the Silesian uprisings.



Almost half of people who have heard about the Silesian uprisings believe that these events are important to all Poles today. The vast majority of respondents believe that they should be a reason to be proud for both Silesians (84%) and the general Polish society (81%).

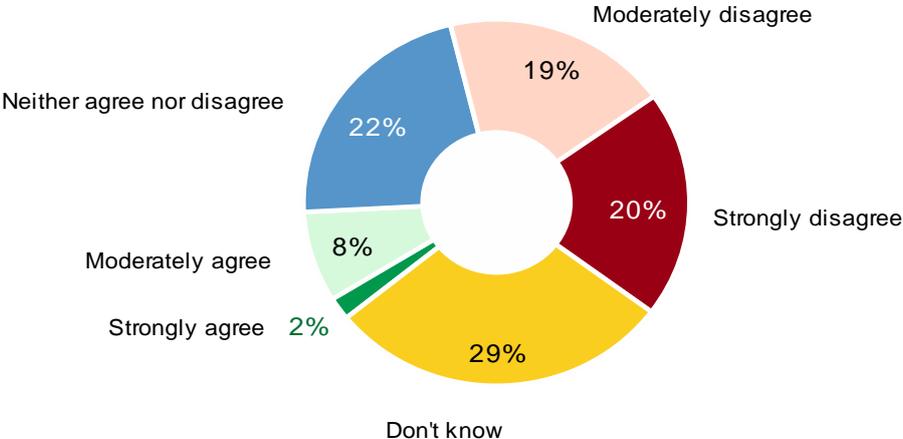
For whom are the Silesian uprisings important today?

Responses of people who have heard about the Silesian uprisings.



Over the past century, there have been voices calling for a change in the status of Upper Silesia and granting it greater autonomy within the Polish state. Half of all respondents do not have a clear opinion on the contemporary demands to increase the autonomy of this region. Among the remaining, opposition (39%) clearly outweighs the approval (10%). People who have personal ties with Upper Silesia (have lived in this region or had a Silesian insurgent in their family) are three times more likely to advocate autonomy for the region.

Some organizations, such as the Silesian Autonomy Movement, call for increasing the political autonomy of Upper Silesia. What is your attitude towards this demand?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Silesian Uprisings in Collective Memory", April 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2021, N=1154. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.