

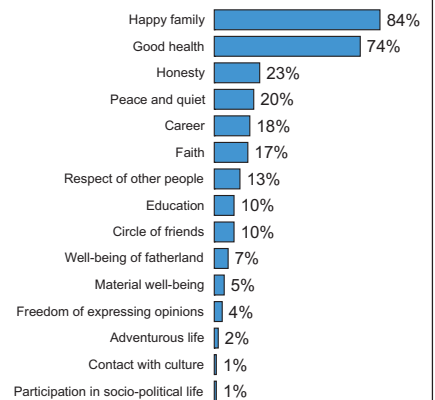
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## POLISH VALUES: WHAT IS IMPORTANT, WHAT IS PERMITTED, WHAT MUST NOT BE DONE

According to declarations, the most important value in the life of the Polish people is the family. Secondly, they value their health. Next in line are less important, but nevertheless significant values such as honesty, quiet life, career, faith, and respect from others. Every tenth respondent counts his or her education among their cherished values. The number of those mentioning a circle of friends is similar. Such values as well-being of the fatherland, material well-being, and the freedom of expressing one's views occupy lower ranks in hierarchy of values. Only very few respondents count adventurous life, contact with culture, participation in democratic socio-political life and success and fame as their most important values.

**WHICH OF THESE VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?**

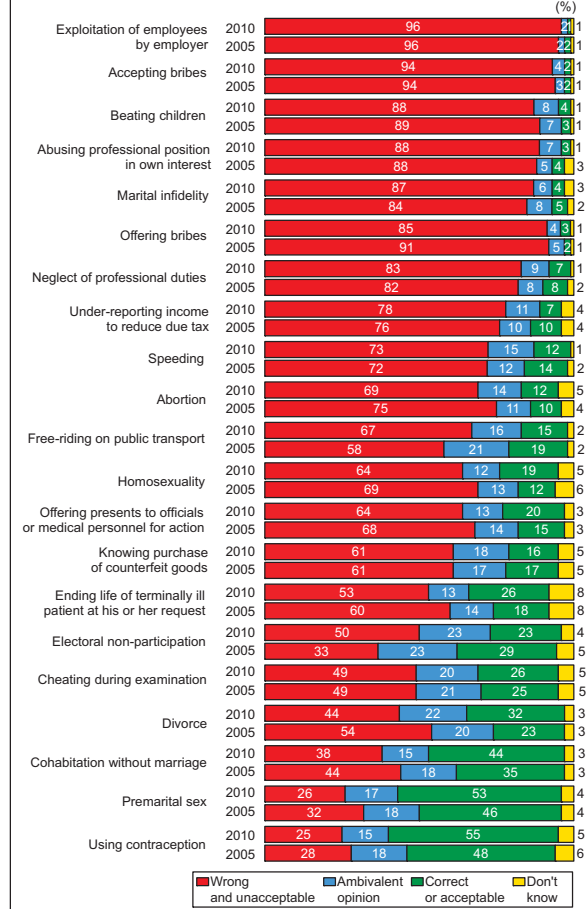


3 answers maximum

Different types of behaviour are negatively evaluated both by law and morality, but are nevertheless quite common, and are either controversial or even tacitly approved of. Among the activities under evaluation, two have been consistently condemned: exploitation of employees, and accepting bribes. A vast majority of respondents disapprove of such actions as beating children, abusing professional position for one's own benefit, marital infidelity and giving bribes. It is interesting to note that offering bribes is much less frequently condemned than accepting them.

Respondents disapprove of such behaviour as neglect of professional duties, tax avoidance through fictitious donations or under-reported income, and speeding. About two-thirds do not accept such behaviour as: abortion, free-riding on public transport, homosexuality, offering gifts to doctors, nurses or administration officials for acting or speeding a decision, and knowing purchase of counterfeit goods.

**ACTIVITIES**



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The attitude is more lenient towards such behaviour as ending the life of a terminally ill patient at his or her own request, electoral non-participation, cheating during an examination, and divorce. About half of respondents consider each of them unacceptable.

Activities receiving approval more frequently than disapproval are: living together in a relationship without marriage, premarital sex, and using contraception.

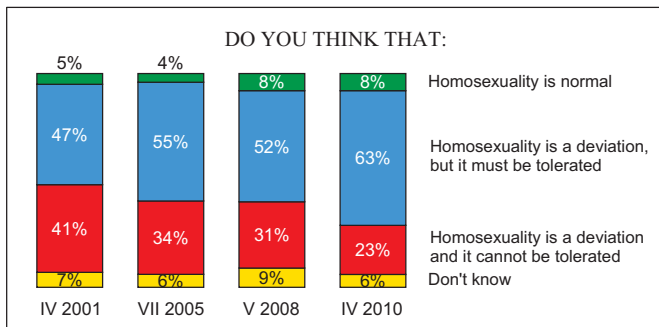
Compared with 2005, there has been liberalisation of attitudes towards some types of behaviour where moral judgements are involved. There is increased acceptance of divorce, homosexuality, cohabitation, euthanasia and premarital sex. Disapproval to contraception, abortion and offering gifts has declined.

Now Poles are more restrictive than 5 years ago to such behaviour as electoral non-participation (this result is probably due to the electoral campaign during the poll, and accompanying actions aimed at stimulating participation), and free-riding on public transport.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Polish values: what is important, what is permitted, what must not be done"*, July 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2010, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## ATTITUDES TO GAYS AND LESBIANS

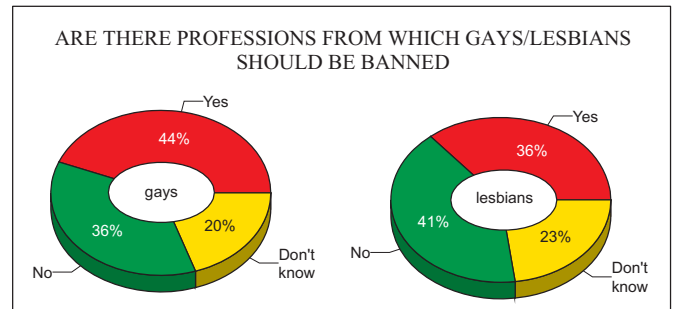
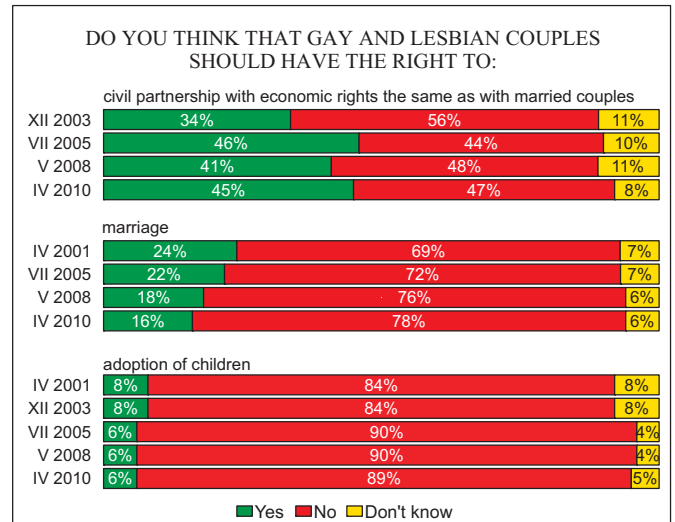
The Polish society prevalingly considers homosexuality to be a deviation from the norm. The majority of respondents (63%) believe that it should be tolerated, while a quarter (23%) think it cannot be tolerated. Only 8% of respondents considers homosexuality to be normal. In recent years, tolerance to homosexuality increased significantly.



Opinions about legalising civil partnership between same sex couples are divided. According to 45% of respondents, there should be a law that would allow two people of the same sex to enter into partnership guaranteeing them the right to tax breaks for couples and inheritance. A marginally smaller group (47%)

disapprove of this idea. Since 2008, the number of opponents has remained stable, while supporters have increased their numbers slightly.

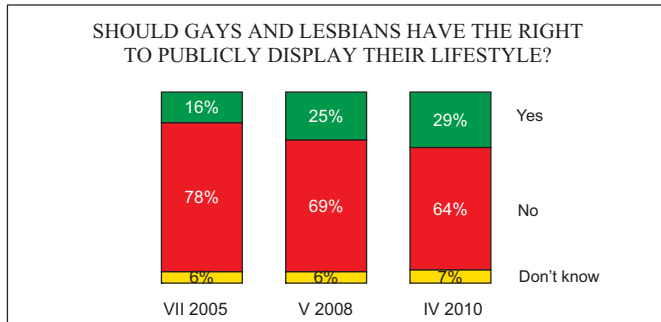
Poles are unequivocal about marriage for gays and lesbians. A large majority (78%) disagree with the introduction a law which would allow that, while 16% would not object. The opposition (89%) is even stronger when the prospect of adoption of children by homosexual couples is raised. Only 6% would accept that.



Poles are divided in their opinions about whether gays and lesbians should have the right to work in all professions. More than two-fifths believe that there are jobs into which gays should not be allowed, while a smaller group (36%) think there are jobs which should not be performed by lesbians.

The respondents supporting restrictions of availability of certain professions for homosexuals usually mentioned occupations related to education and work with children and youth, such as teacher and educator (77% for gays, 82% for lesbians). Many people also mentioned healthcare professions, most commonly the physician (24% and 26%, respectively). As far as gays are concerned, respondents would relatively frequently restrict them from performing the function of priest (18%). Less often restrictions concerned public functions such as politician, public official (6% for gays, 5% for lesbians) and military and police (8% and 4%, respectively).

Public display of sexual orientation by homosexuals encounters strong rejection. Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents believe that homosexual couples should not have the right to publicly display their lifestyle, while over a quarter (29%) think the opposite. In recent years, the acceptance of public manifestation of gay sexual orientation in the public sphere increased.

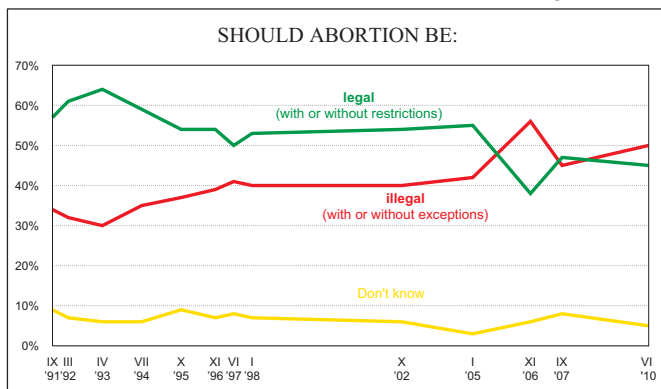


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Attitudes to gays and lesbians"*, July 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2010, N=1056. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## OPINIONS ABOUT ABORTION

Abortion rights are controversial in Poland. The discussions about them started in 1989, when parliamentary debate about changing the liberal 1956 abortion law started. Since 1993, the law allows abortion only in case of pregnancy posing a threat to mother's life or health, if the foetus is irreparably damaged, or in cases of pregnancy caused by illegal action.

Half of Poles oppose the right to abortion, but only one in seven (14%) supports the complete ban of all abortions, while more than one-third (36%) believe there should be exceptions. At the same time, almost half (45%) think that abortion should be permitted. In this group, 7% support abortion without restrictions, and 38% would like to see some restrictions to abortion rights.

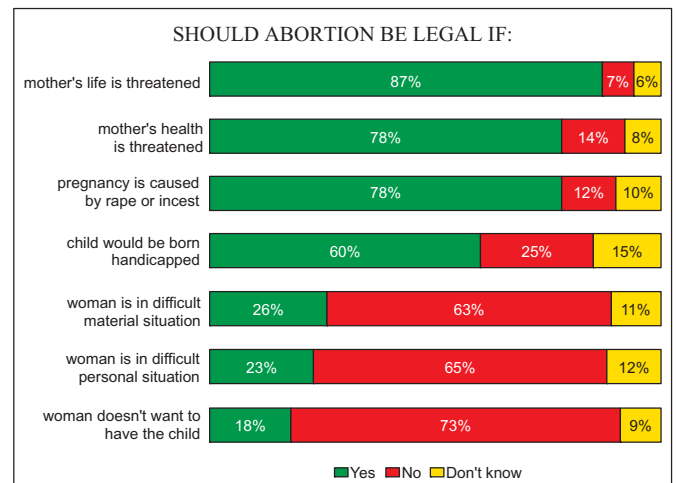


Our surveys indicate a conservative turn in the 1990s. Although the supporters of legal abortion prevailed, the difference continuously narrowed. In 2006,

when the discussion about introducing a constitutional ban on abortion was publicly conducted, the opponents of legal abortion were for the first time more numerous than supporters of abortion rights. At present the proportions have returned to 2007 levels, when both groups were about equal in size.

Most Poles accept abortion in cases when it is legal under current law. The support for abortion rights when mother's life is in danger is almost universal (87%). Over three-quarters of respondents think that it should be available for women whose pregnancy threatens their health (78%), or was caused by rape or incest (78%). Three-fifths (60%) support the right to abortion if it is known that the child would be handicapped.

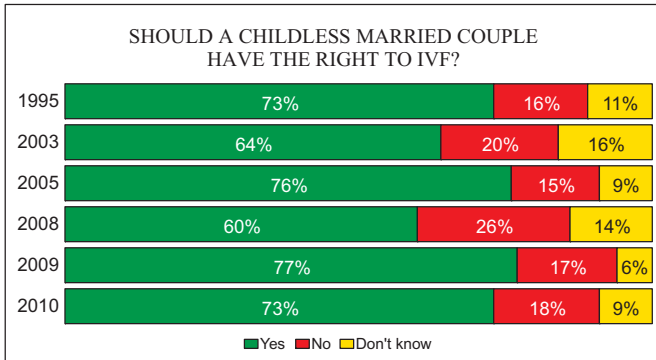
The support for legal abortion in cases when it is currently banned is much lower. About a quarter think that it should be legal if the woman is in difficult material (26%) or personal (23%) situation. Almost one in five respondents (18%) think abortion should be legal if a woman does not want to have a child.



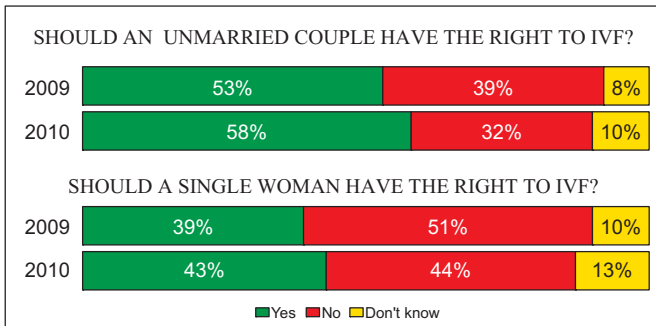
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Opinions about abortion"*, July 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2010, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## ETHICAL ASPECTS OF IN-VITRO FERTILISATION (IVF)

Performing IVF is not regulated by the Polish law. At present, there are several drafts of law regulating this issue. They strongly differ. Although IVF is the subject of contentious political debate, it is not controversial among the society. The level of support for legal IVF for childless married couples never fell below 60% (recorded in 2008), although it varied depending on the state of the public debate. Most recently, 73% of respondents express support.

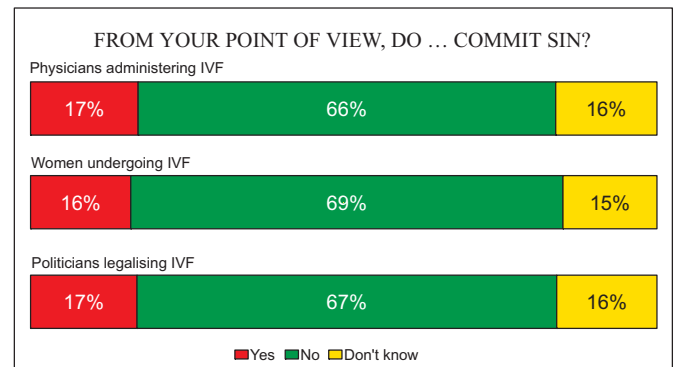


The approval of IVF for heterosexual couples in informal relationships is less common. It is accepted by the majority of respondents (58%). Still lesser is the support of IVF for single women who want to have offspring (43%). The support of this method for single women and unmarried couples is higher than last year.



The Roman Catholic church consequently and unequivocally condemns the performance of IVF. A vast majority of adult Poles (84%) are aware of the position of the Church on this matter. Only very few respondents think the Church supports IVF (1%) or has no position (4%).

In spite of the widespread awareness of the Church doctrine, most respondents do not consider it as a sin to perform or support IVF. From the point of view of the majority (66% to 69%), neither physicians involved in administering this procedure, nor women undergoing it, nor its supporters commit sin.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Ethical aspects of in-vitro fertilisation", July 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2010, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

**In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):**

- ◆ Losses caused by Flooding
- ◆ Attitudes toward transformation and opinions about its Effects
- ◆ Battle of Grunwald in Collective Memory
- ◆ "Solidarity" - Memory and Oblivion
- ◆ Public Opinion about Magdalenka, Round Table and Sense of Betrayal
- ◆ Party Preferences in July and Electorates of Three Largest Parties
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
- ◆ Attitude to Government
- ◆ Trust in Politicians After Presidential Election
- ◆ Social Moods in July
- ◆ Evaluation of Presidential Election Campaign
- ◆ Flooding – Opinions About Authorities' Action and Assistance to Flood Victims

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