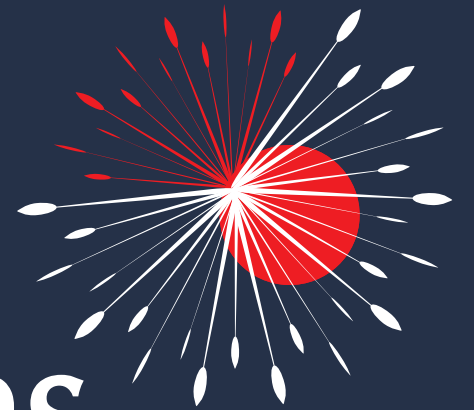


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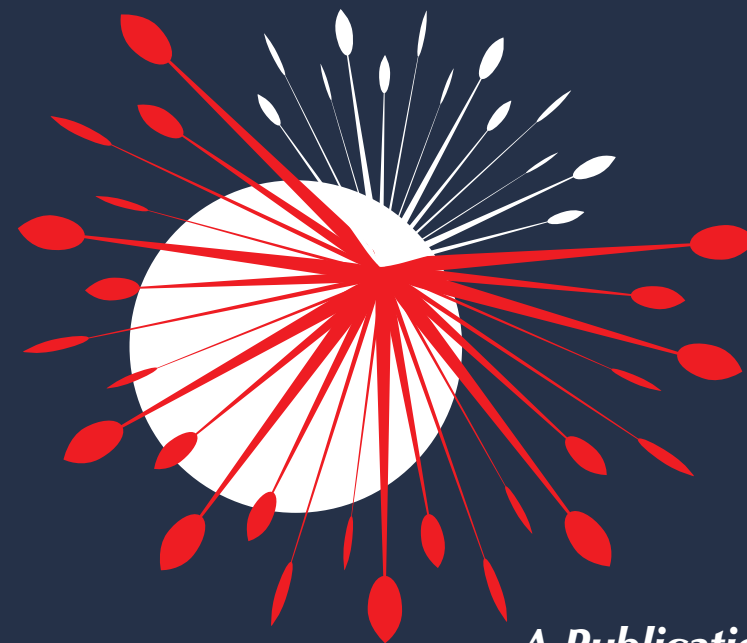


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Polish Americans Today



A Survey of Modern Polonia Leadership



A Publication of the Piast Institute



Polish Americans Today

By

Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, PhD

and

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Piast Institute

Published with Support from the Consul General
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Introduction

The Modern Polonia Survey was undertaken by the Piast Institute in late 2009 to follow up on the survey the Institute did a year earlier in conjunction with its study of the voting behavior of Polish Americans in the 2008 Presidential Election. That survey involved almost 900 Polish Americans nationwide and showed some interesting and distinctive results. We designed the current survey to follow up on the original study which was the first attempt to elicit a national response to current international, national, and communal issues from Polish Americans. The Modern Polonia Survey reached over 1,400 respondents in 44 states. This paper is a report on the results of that survey, which we hope will illuminate some of the features of the Polish community in the United States at the end of the first decade of the 21st century.

According to the United States Census Bureau, there are approximately 10,000,000 people who self-identify as being Polish by ancestry. This is a significant group of people who are willing to publicly acknowledge being Polish American. It numbers about 3.2% of the population of the country. Unfortunately, as important as that figure is, it cannot tell us about the intensity of that identification, or how it plays out in the daily lives of those who say they are Polish Americans.

There are no significant population studies or surveys that provide information of any kind on the attitudes and opinions of Polish Americans. Most of the surveys we have are of those ethnic groups or conglomerations of ethnic groups such as "Hispanics" who are covered as "protected classes" under U.S. Civil

Rights laws and regulations. The surveys done by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) of the University of Chicago, which did sample ancestry groups, had ceased to do so by the 1980's. By the end of the 20th century, the national election exit polls also dropped questions about ancestry. Although the U.S. Census continues to ask about ancestry, the question which was only added to the National Census in 1980, albeit on the so-called "long form" (a one out of six sample) was moved to the rolling three-year American Community Survey (ACS) in 2004. The ACS is based on a 1 out of 19 sample. Thus, Polish Americans together with other ethnic groups, including some like Arabs with large new migrations, are now relegated to the default racial category of "White" on the national census.

We thus have few ways of getting information about Polish Americans in the United States. At this point, an attempt to design and implement a random, statistically valid survey of the national Polish American communities is beyond our resources. We have chosen, therefore, to survey those Polish Americans who have a strong commitment to a Polish identity in the U.S., who can be mobilized to support Polish American and Polish causes and who are interested in and keep abreast of issues that concern Polonia as well as Poland. The respondents are people who are the leaders and activists at the grassroots level. We feel that this is this group upon whom the present and future of Polonia depends. To reach this group we relied on a survey technique that is called "snowballing." Those who participated were reached through press releases and other communications of the Piast Institute, information from other Polish institutions, and via media, forums and list serves, and personal contacts with colleagues. It is significant that the states from which the survey elicited the largest numbers of responses were those in which the survey project received the most coverage in mainstream media especially metropolitan dailies and public radio.

The underlying assumption of the study, as well as the other work done by the Piast Institute, is that Polish America – Polonia -- is a modern American ethnic group with strong and abiding Polish roots and a long and distinctive American experience. It was founded in the U.S. over 155 years ago and it has continued to evolve in response to new immigrants and challenges from Europe as well as to an ever-changing American environment which Polonia itself has played a significant role in shaping. It also has its own internal dynamics. Polonia was and continues to be an ongoing creation.

One distinct feature of the development of American Polonia over the last century and a half is its intense involvement with the struggle for Polish Independence. More than any other ethnic group in America it devoted an immense

amount of its energy, treasure, political and emotional capital to the pressing needs of the homeland. That focus often detracted from its ability to attend to its important but more mundane needs in the United and to mobilize resources for them.

There were only two periods in which Polonia's primary focus was on its own internal needs: The first several decades of Polish immigration to the United States when Polish Independence seemed very remote and when it was consumed with laying the basis for its own social and institutional development and the interwar period which saw the birth of a new Poland. It was a time when a second American-born generation began to assume leadership and when Polonia faced the economic devastation and social dislocation of the Great Depression.

Our present period marked by the emergence of a free, democratic, and prosperous Poland which can work in a partnership of mutual support with a modern, well-educated and financially secure Polonia is a unique era in our history. We hope this Piast survey will begin to provide an interpretation of the strengths of Polonia, its understanding of itself and to identify ways to renew the community. Our history shows we have done this several times before in the past. We further hope that our study will stimulate a dialog that will help clarify and develop stronger and more effective relations with Poland.

This publication is made possible through the generous support of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago which helped to underwrite the analysis and publication of the Modern Polonia Survey. We wish especially to acknowledge with gratitude the support and encouragement of Consul General Zygmunt Matynia and Vice Consul Aleksandra Krystek.

The results, analysis, interpretations and opinions expressed in this study are solely those of the Piast Institute and it alone is responsible for them. They in no way reflect the views of the Republic of Poland or any of its official representatives.

THADDEUS C. RADZIŁOWSKI, PhD

JULY 12, 2010

PRESIDENT

Analysis: The Survey Results

The Demographic Profile

According to the most recent 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3 Year Estimates, there are 9,962,334 Polish-Americans in the United States (3.3% of the total population). Poles are the 5th largest ancestral group in the country behind Germans, Irish, English, and Italians.

81% of Polish-Americans live in 15 states (Figure 1). Although Polish presence is most visible in states such as New York, Illinois, and Michigan, Polish-Americans are an important part of the ethnic and cultural landscape of the entire country, with a presence in every state of the Union (Figure 2). The majority of respondents for the Modern Polonia Survey came from Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. 70% of all responses came from one of those states. The number of responses from each state follows the state's name in the chart below.

37% of all Poles in the United States (3.7 million) live in the Midwest, while 33% live in the Northeast (3.2 million), 18% live in the South (1.8 million), and 12% live in the West (1.1 million). For a complete profile of the Polish American Community in the United States based on the latest U.S. Census Estimates see Appendix A.

The Modern Polonia Survey shows that 41.2% of the respondents reside in major urban areas and 41% reside in suburban areas. 13.1% live in small towns, and only 4.7% live in rural areas. The Census Bureau estimates the number of foreign-born Polish Americans at 537,605 people, or 5.4% of American Polonia.

Figure 1

State	Polish Population
New York	1033093
Illinois	1012954
Michigan	913808
Pennsylvania	889044
New Jersey	566899
Wisconsin	551305
California	523183
Florida	513690
Ohio	462253
Massachusetts	342300
Connecticut	299758
Texas	281027
Minnesota	260578
Indiana	213966
Maryland	200944

For a complete list, please refer to the Appendix A.

Figure 2

State	% Polish
Wisconsin	9.8
Michigan	9.1
Connecticut	8.6
Illinois	7.9
Pennsylvania	7.2
New Jersey	6.5
New York	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Delaware	5.1
Minnesota	5

The Modern Polonia Study shows that 35% of those who answered the survey are foreign-born. This fact highlights, not surprisingly, that a significant proportion of the most involved Polish Americans are born in Poland. The overwhelming majority of the foreign born respondents reside in the country permanently: 96.9%, of these 91.3% reported U.S. citizenship and 5.6% reported a legal permanent resident status. 1.4% of respondents reported being in the country illegally, 1% reported that they are staying in the U.S. temporarily on a work visa, and 0.8% of respondents have student visas.

Although the Census Bureau shows that the age distribution among Polonia is very similar to the U.S. average, the age of the respondents is older than the Polonia average. As our 2008 survey also shows, it is older Polish Americans who tend to get involved in the life of Polonia (Figure 3). This is consistent with the average age distributions for activists in other ethnic groups and for religious groups.

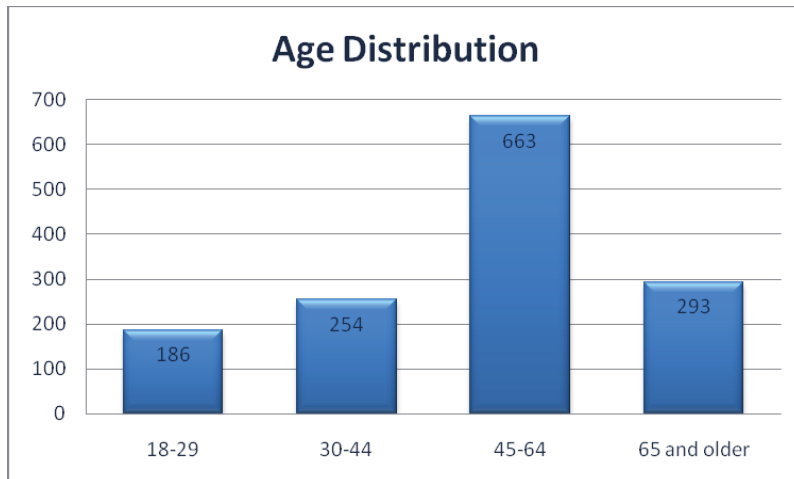


Figure 3

60.3% of the survey respondents are married, while 23.7% are single and 9.2% are divorced. Polish-Americans are therefore slightly less likely to be divorced than the general population (10.6% according to the newest American Community Survey data).

As Figure 4 demonstrates, Polonia is better educated than the general population and the Modern Polonia survey respondents demonstrate even higher levels of education than Polonia in general, with 43.6% claiming graduate or professional degrees.¹

¹ The data for the general public and Polonia come from the 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau

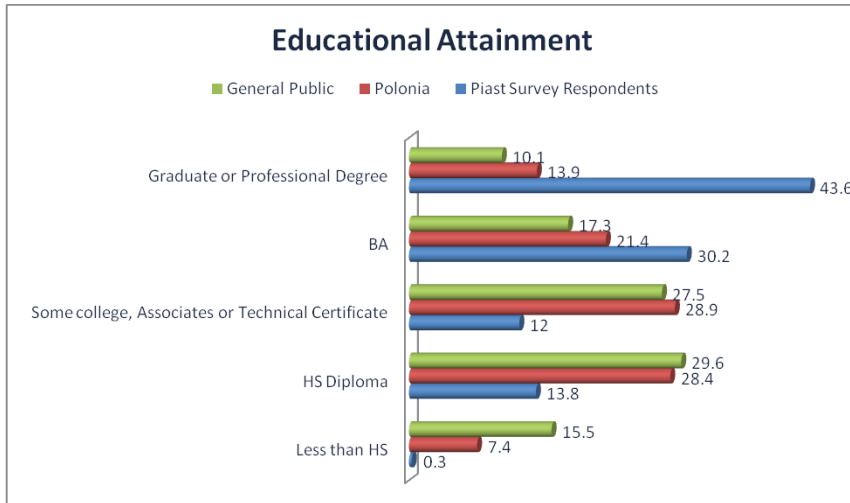


Figure 4

The income distribution of the survey respondents shows them to be wealthier than both Polonia and the general American population. (Figure 5) Census data show that the Polish American community on the whole is financially better off than the general population but it does not have as many people in the higher income brackets.

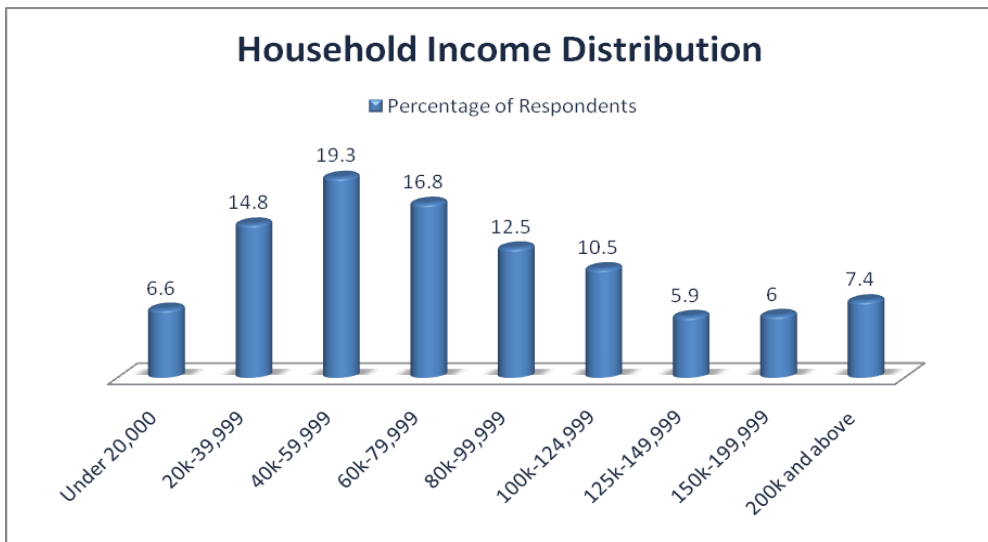


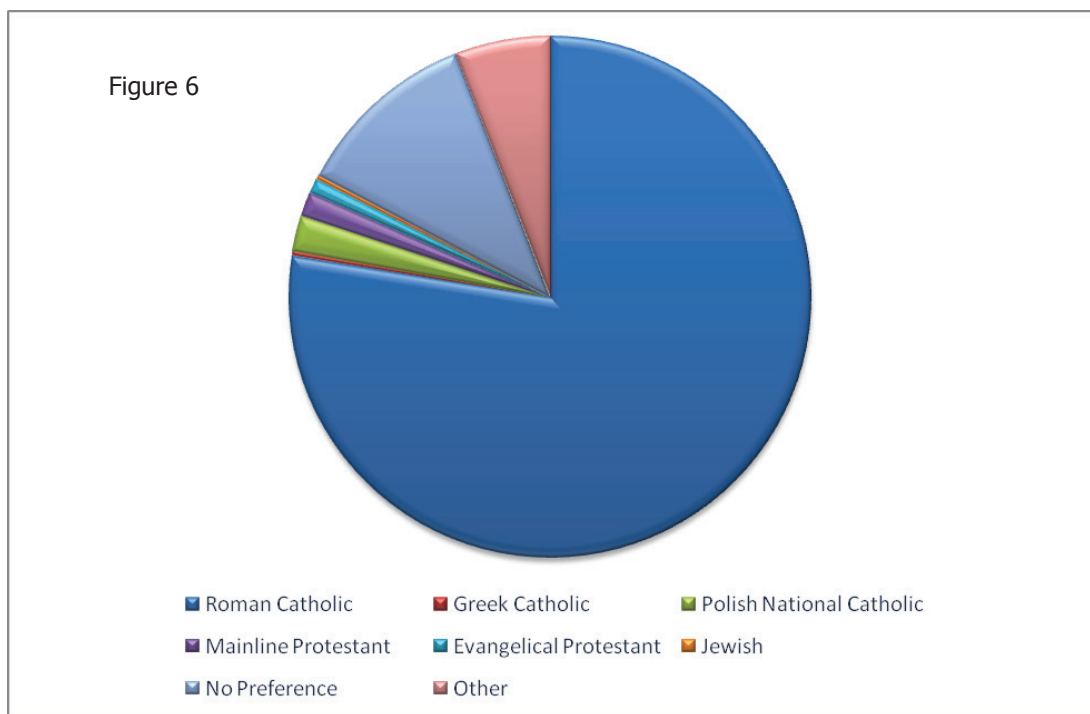
Figure 5

59.1% of respondents generate household incomes of \$60,000 and above. 16.4% of respondents report a household income of \$100,000-\$149,999, which is significantly higher than 7.7% of the Polonia and 12.2% of the general population.² Similarly, 6% of respondents report incomes of \$150,000-\$199,999

² The general Polonia figures come from the 2000 U.S. Census, while the general American public figures come from the 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

compared to 2.2% of general Polonia and 4.3% of the general population. Correspondingly, 7.4% of respondents claim incomes of \$200,000 and above, which is higher than Polonia (2.4%) and the general population (4.2%). The Census Bureau reports the Polish American median household income as \$63,049 in its most recent American Community Survey data. In comparison, for the general population the median household income is \$52,175.

According to the Modern Polonia survey, 77.6% of Polish Americans are Roman Catholic while 11.4% reveal no religious preference, 2.2% identify as Polish National Catholics, 1.5% identify as Mainline Protestants, 0.9% identify as Evangelical Protestants, and 0.3% identify as Jewish. 5.9% chose the "Other" category.



By comparison, 24.5% of all Americans claim the Roman Catholic faith. 49.8% are Protestant and 1.4% are Jewish. 7.2% of Americans chose the "Other" category, while 14.2% report no affiliation.³

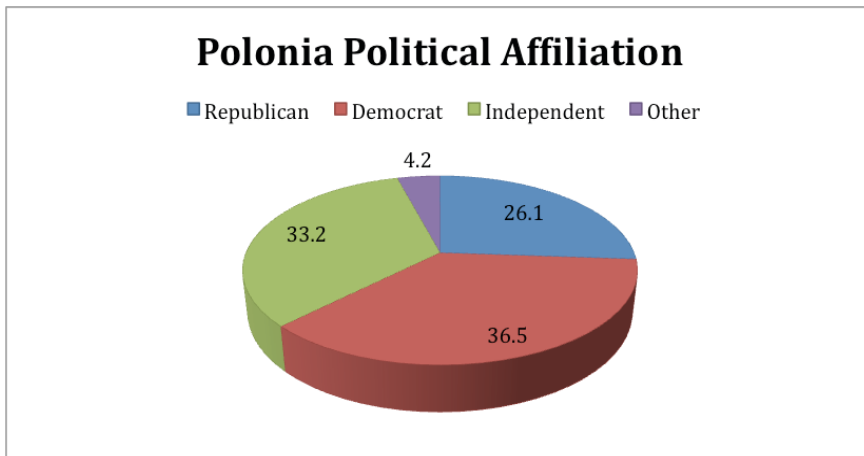
In Poland, 89.8% report the Roman Catholic faith, 1.3% is Eastern Orthodox, 0.3% is Protestant, and 0.3% are "Other." 8.3% do not specify any religious affiliation.⁴

³ According to the 2001 American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) - <http://pewforum.org/world-affairs/countries/?CountryID=222>

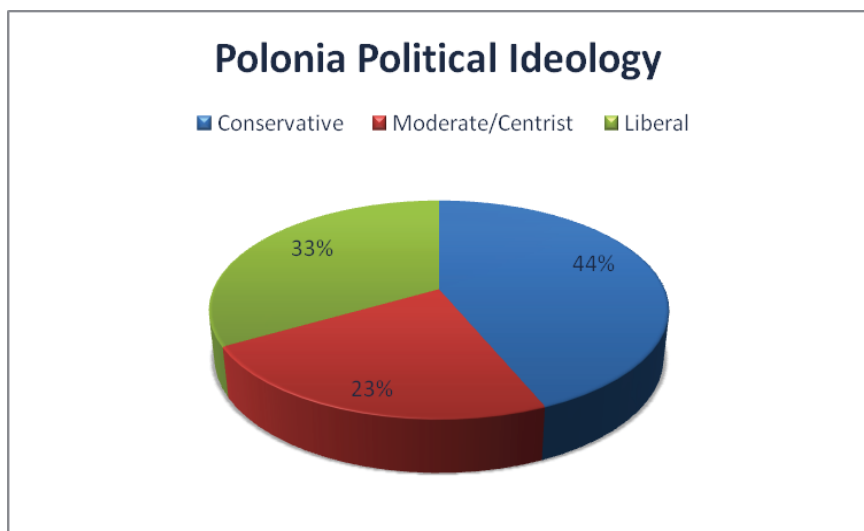
⁴ These numbers come from the 2002 survey published by the CIA World Factbook - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pl.html>

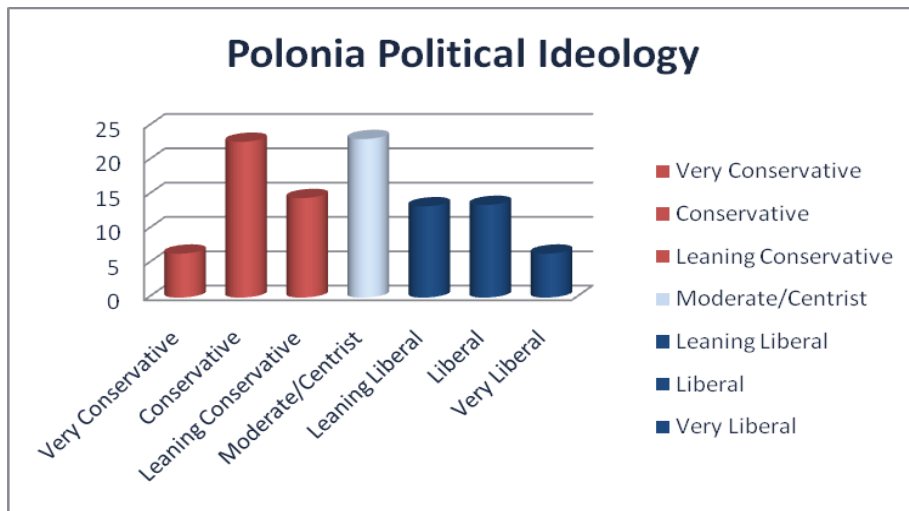
Political Profile

According to the Modern Polonia Survey, a plurality of Polonia is affiliated with the Democratic Party (36.5%). Slightly fewer Polish Americans declare themselves as Independents (33.2%), and 26.1% consider themselves Republican. 4.2% chose "Other."



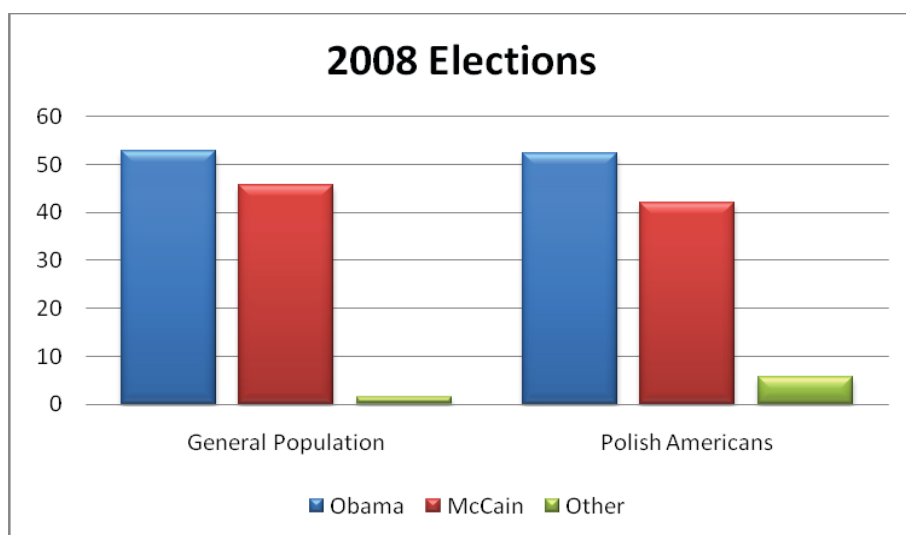
However, despite a plurality of Polish Americans declaring support of the Democratic Party, 43.6% describe themselves as conservative. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to conclude that many Polish American Democrats tend to be in the more conservative wing of the party. 33.2% describe themselves as liberal, while 23.1% claim being moderate / centrist.





In this question in which political ideology is tested separate from political party affiliation, the same number of respondents (6.4%) declare being very conservative and very liberal. Also, a similar percentage of respondents identify as “leaning conservative” and “leaning liberal.” However, more than one and a half times as many people declare themselves conservative as report themselves liberal.

Based on the previous survey conducted by the Piast Institute,⁵ 92.2% of Polish Americans are registered voters. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau estimates, that means there are approximately 7,609,630 people of Polish ancestry who are registered voters. 81.1% of the surveyed Polish Americans voted in the 2004 presidential election and 91.9% voted in the 2008 presidential election. In 2004, out of those who declared participation in the elections, 47.9% voted to



⁵ The Polish Americans and the Election of 2008 was a study conducted by the Piast Institute in the fall of 2008. It was based on the internet survey conducted in October and November of 2008. There were 876 responses from 41 states. The survey included 35 questions.

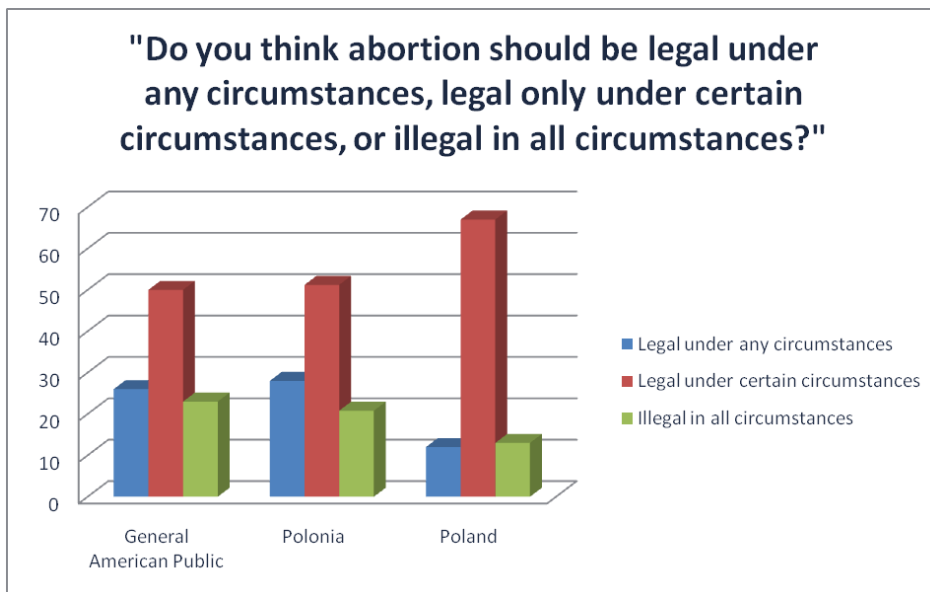
re-elect George W. Bush and 47.1% voted for the Democratic candidate John Kerry. 5% voted for third party candidates. Polish Americans were twice as likely as their fellow citizens to cast their votes for a third party candidate.

In the 2008 election, Polish American vote shifted away from the Republican party and towards the Democrats by few percentage points. The majority of Polish American vote went for Barack Obama (52.3%). 41.9% of the respondents voted for John McCain, and 5.7% of them chose third party candidates. Polish Americans were slightly less likely to vote for Barack Obama and less likely to vote for John McCain than the general population. They were also much more likely than the general population to vote for a third party candidate. This has held true in other presidential elections that featured third Party Candidates. This higher tendency to vote for third party candidates has been a characteristic of Polish American voters for several decades.

The Polish American vote for John Anderson in 1980, for example, was an astounding 13%. These votes can certainly be seen as an indication of continuing dissatisfaction with the existing Political Parties and their platforms by a substantial number of Polish Americans.⁶

The Issues

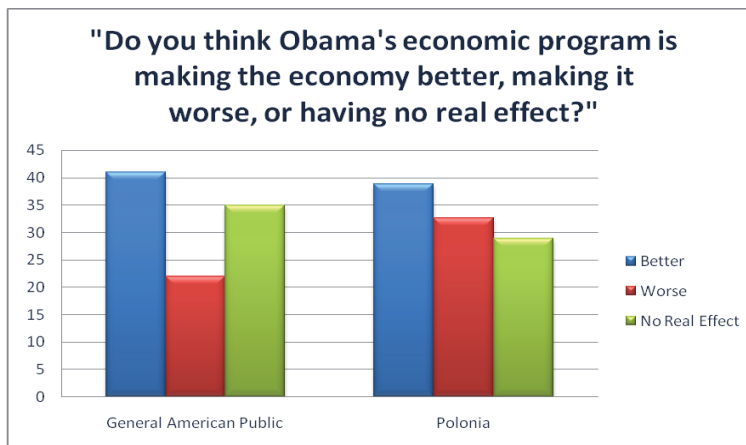
Abortion



⁶The Polish American vote for John Anderson was reported by the NBC Exit Poll for the 1980 Presidential election.

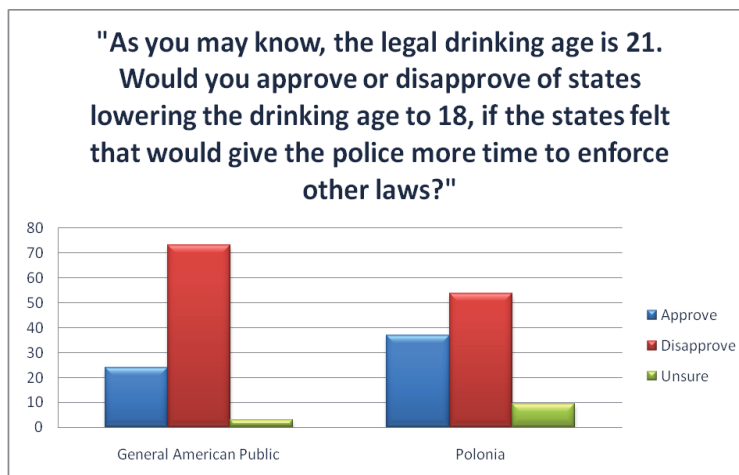
The views of the Polish American survey participants and those of the general American on abortion are similar, with relatively small percentage point differences. In Poland, however, people are less likely to support the two extreme positions. The majority supports abortion being legal in some circumstances. In Poland the Abortion issue is decided by legislation which allows for a wide variety of legal responses. In the United States it is framed as an either/or constitutional issue which is more likely to elicit a polarized response.⁷

Economy



Polish Americans in our survey tend to be more critical of President Obama's economic program than the general population by a little over 10%.

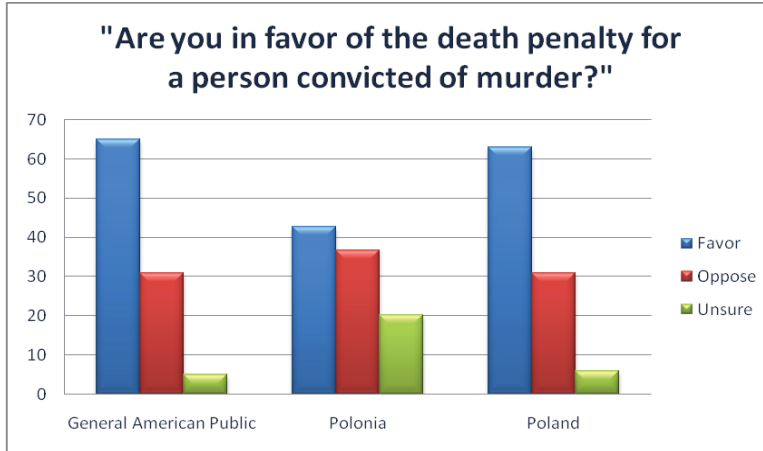
Drinking Age



⁷ Michal Wenzel, "Opinie na temat aborcji. Komunikat z badan," CBOS.pl, October, 2007

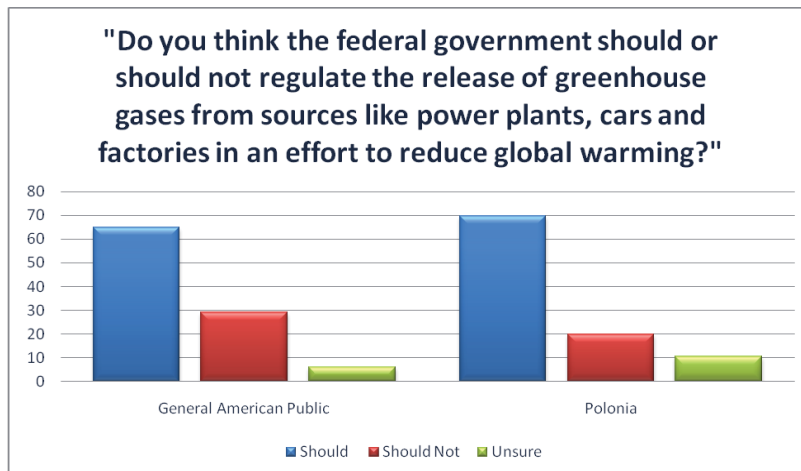
The Polish Americans surveyed are more likely to approve (by 10%) the lowering of the drinking age to 18 and less likely to disapprove (by 20%). It is important to note that the legal drinking age in Poland is 18, which could be one of the factors that shape Polish-American opinion on this issue.

Death Penalty



The Polish and general American population's attitudes towards the death penalty are remarkably similar. The attitudes of the survey participants, however, are strikingly different from both, with a significant number of respondents (20.3%) being unsure of their position on this issue. The Polish Americans respondents are also more likely to oppose the death penalty than either Poles or Americans, and fewer of them favor the death penalty than other Americans or Poles.⁸

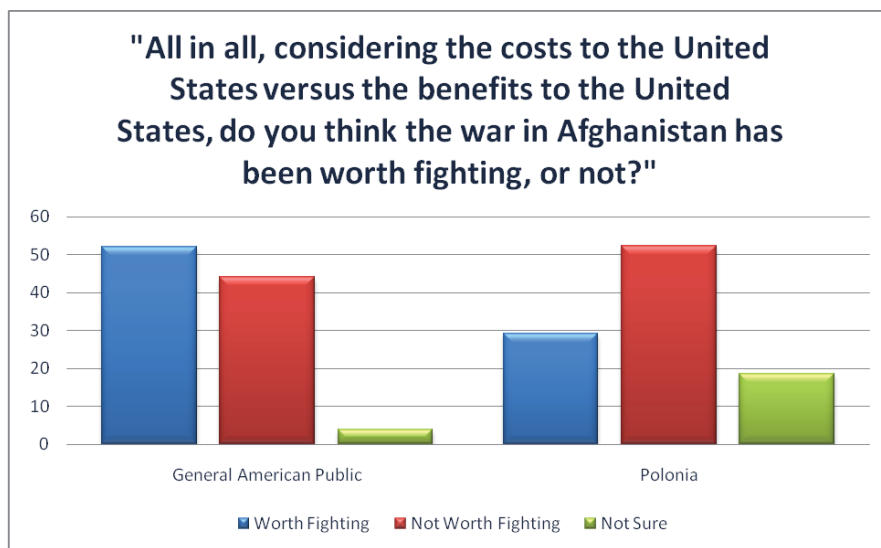
Global Warming



⁸ Rafal Boguszewski, "Opinie o karze smierci. Komunikat z badan," CBOS.pl, March, 2007

The attitudes of Polish-Americans in our survey and the general population on the issue of global warming are remarkably similar. The vast majorities of both groups agree that emissions of greenhouse gasses should be regulated to reduce the effects of the global warming.

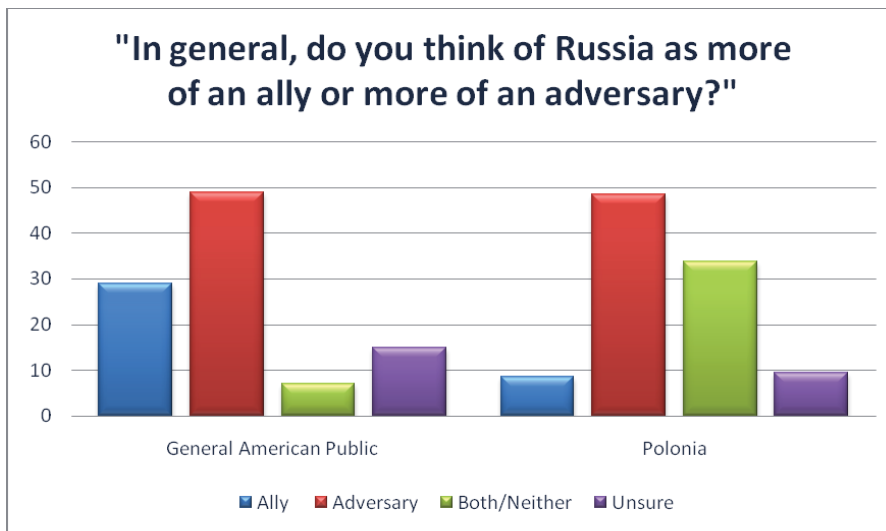
War in Afghanistan



There are stark differences between the general population and our Polish-Americans respondents on the issue of war in Afghanistan. 29.2% of the respondents believe that the war is worth fighting, compared to 52% of Americans. They are also more likely to express the belief that the war is not worth fighting compared to the general public and are more likely to be "not sure" about it. The public in Poland expresses similar sentiments on Polish participation in the war. The most recent CBOS poll of Poles, taken in September of 2009, shows that only 20% of Poles support Polish involvement in the war, while 76% are against Polish participation in this effort.⁹

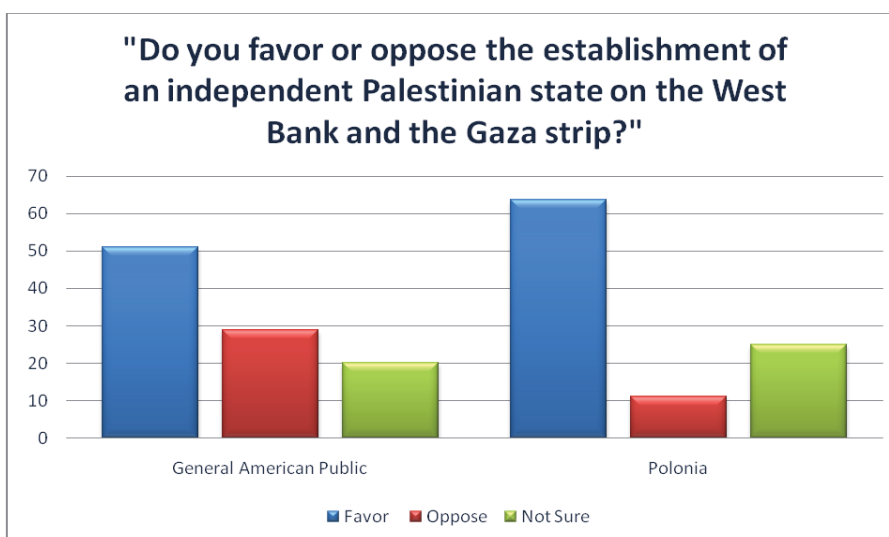
⁹Michał Feliksiak, "Opinia Publiczna wobec misji NATO w Afganistanie," CBOS.pl, September, 2009

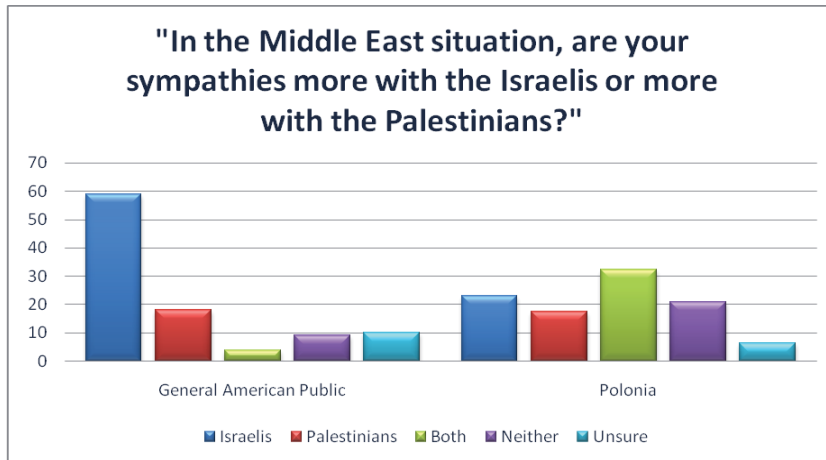
Russia



Americans are more likely to think of Russia as an ally than are Polish-Americans in the survey, which is not surprising. Similar numbers of both Polish-Americans and the members of the general population think of Russia as an adversary, but over 30% of the respondents think of Russians as both /neither, while less than 10% of Americans express that same view.

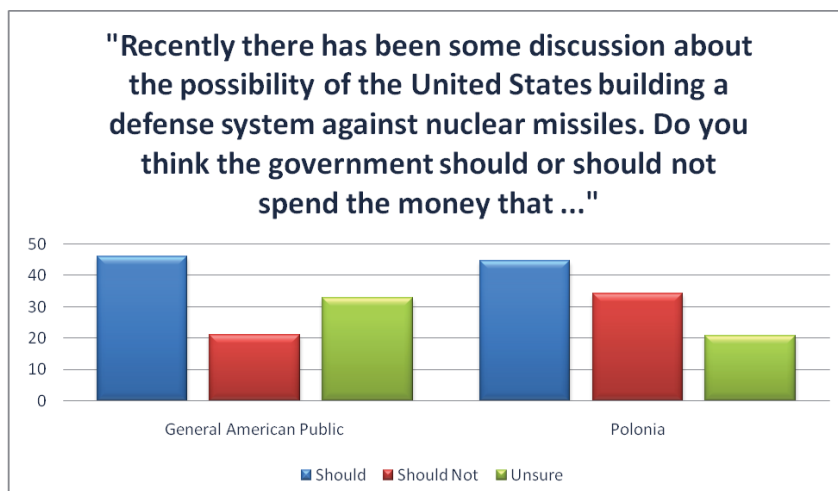
Middle East





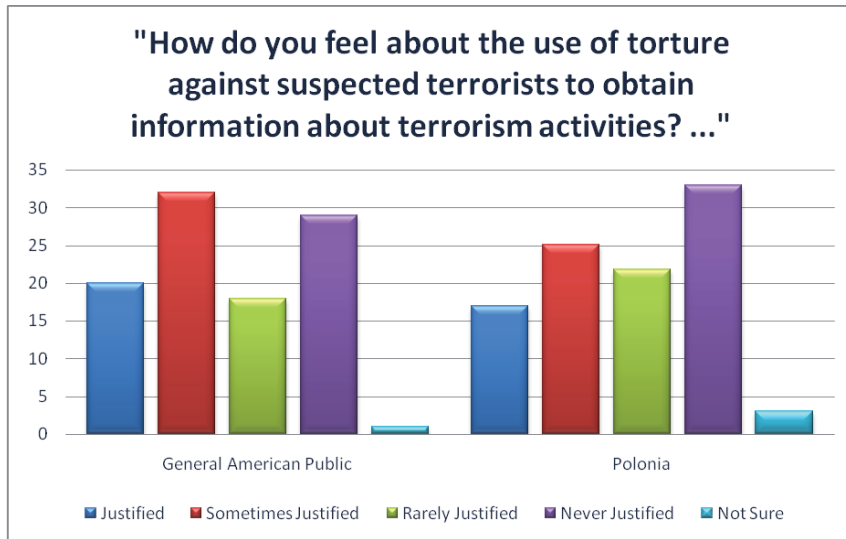
There are deep disconnects between the Polish American opinion expressed in the survey and the general population on issues dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The respondents are overwhelmingly in favor of the two state solution to the crisis in the Middle East, while the general population is more divided on the issue. It is also apparent that the survey participants are much less sympathetic towards the state of Israel than the American public. While almost 60% of Americans declare their sympathy for the Israeli side of the conflict, only slightly more than 20% of Polish Americans surveyed express the same position. This does not mean that the Polish community in the U.S. is more sympathetic towards the plight of the Palestinians. In both the general population and among the Polish American respondents, slightly less than 20% sympathize with the Palestinians. Those in the survey are more likely to sympathize with both sides equally than the general population.

Missile Shield



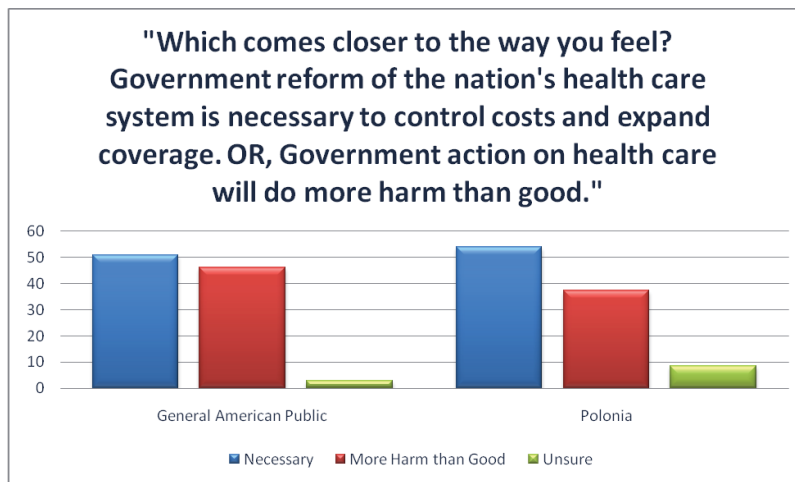
Polish Americans respondents and the members of the general population support the missile shield research in similar numbers (mid-40%). However, the Polish Americans are more likely to oppose the missile shield research than the general population by more than 10%.

Torture



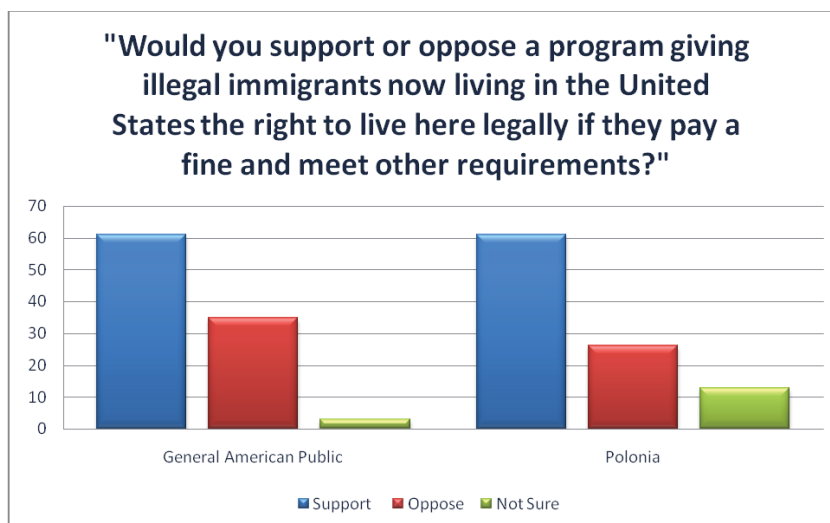
The Polish Americans surveyed are more likely to oppose the use of torture to obtain information about terrorism activities than the general population. Almost 35% of Polish Americans respondents say that the use of torture is never justified, compared to less than 30% of the general population expressing the same view. Polish Americans are also more likely to feel the use of torture is rarely justified than the general public.

Health Care Reform¹⁰

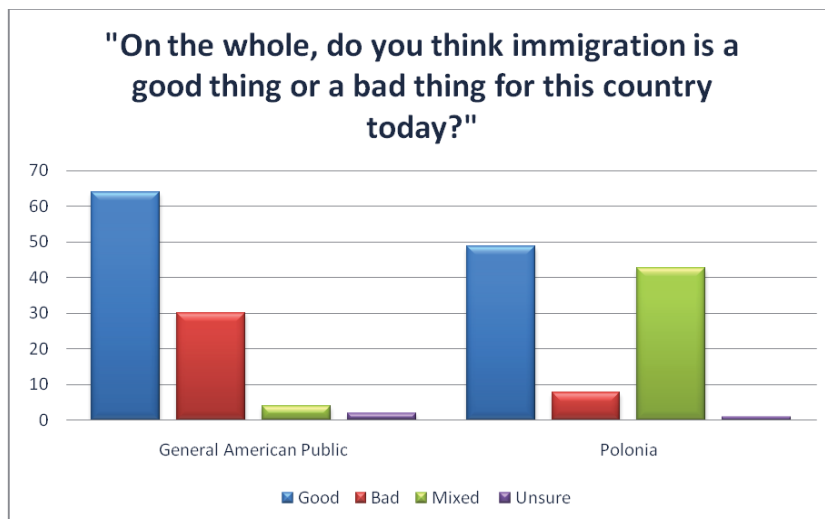


While among the general population, the view on the health care reform and the government's role in the U.S. health care system is highly polarized and close to the 50-50 split, the view of the Polish-American respondents is more clear. The majority of Polonia members surveyed want health care reform to control costs and expand coverage, while less than 40% express the view that government action on health care would do more harm than good. It is important to point out is that almost one in ten of the Polish Americans respondents was unsure about the government reform, which is significantly higher percentage than the general population.

Immigration



¹⁰ This survey was conducted before the U.S. Congress passed the health care reform bill

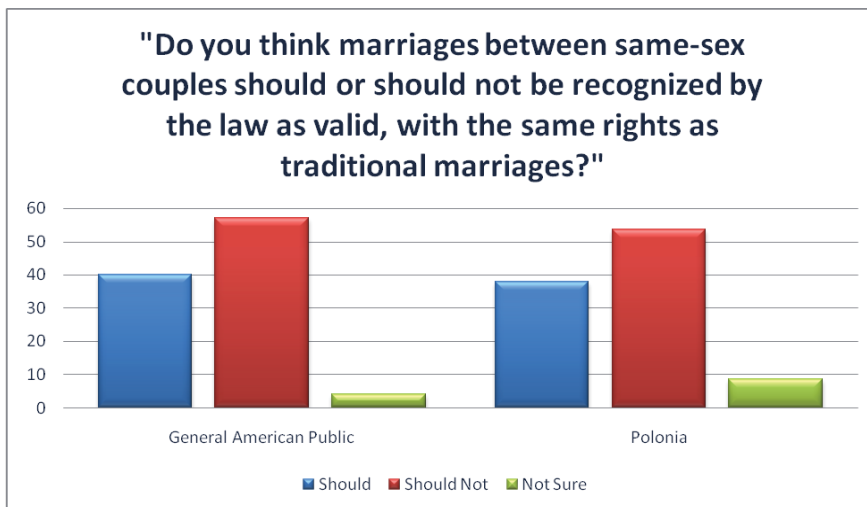


In regard to the polarizing issue of immigration, the Polish American opinion expressed in the survey differs from the general population's. Almost 60% of Polish American respondents support some form of an amnesty for illegal immigrants, while less than 30% oppose it.

When asked specifically about the Polish immigrants, Polish Americans are even more willing to support the legalization of their status. 18.9% believe in absolute amnesty, while almost 68% support a plan which would include the paying of a fine to establish a path to legalization. Only 13.4% are in favor of immediate deportation.

Surprisingly, however, less than 50% of Polish Americans surveyed express a view that overall, immigration is a good thing for America (while over 60% of Americans express this view). However, less than 10% express the view that immigration is bad for America, a view that 30% of the general population holds. Over 40% of Polonia respondents think that immigration is a mixed benefit for the country, an ambiguous view few other Americans share. This attitude may reflect a greater familiarity with the issue in their daily lives than other Americans have.

Same-Sex Marriage

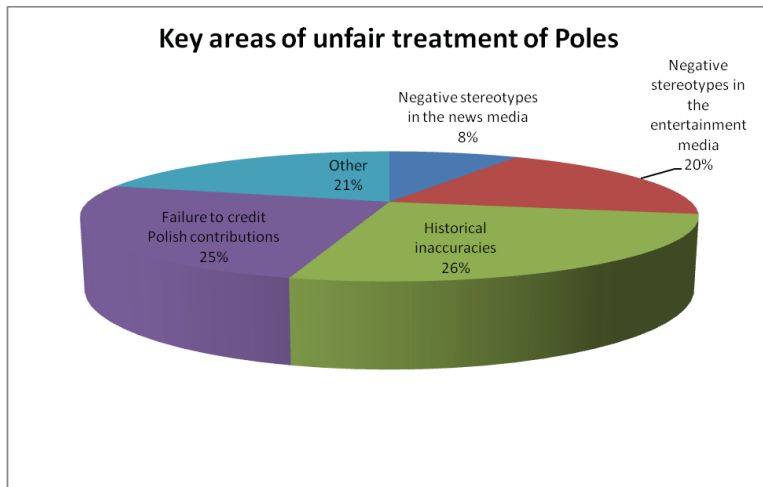


The public opinion on same-sex marriage is similar for the general population and Polish Americans. The majority of both groups believe that same-sex marriages should not be recognized as valid and have the same rights as traditional marriages. Less than 40% of the Polish Americans who responded believe in the legalization of same-sex marriage, while almost 10% are not sure about their position on the issue.

Polonia Concerns

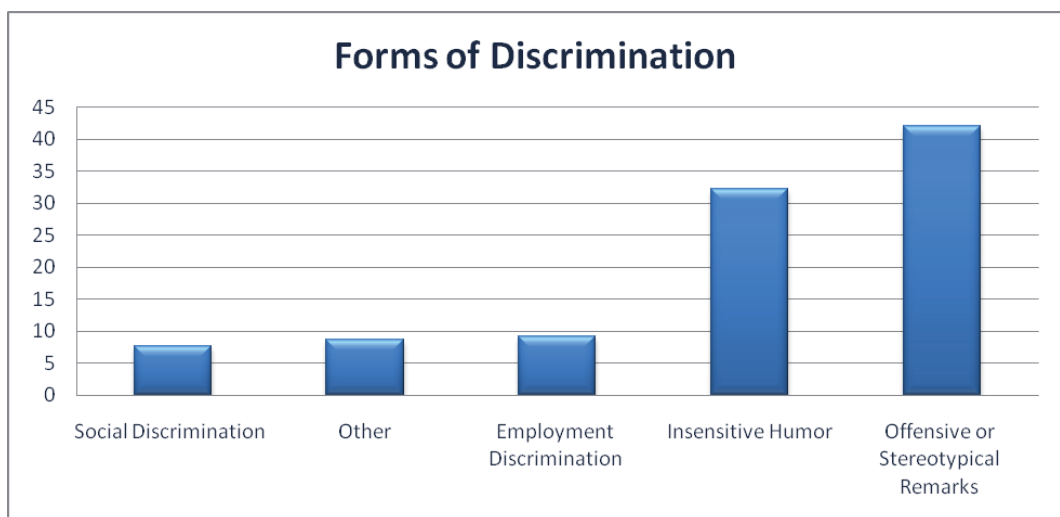
Unfair Treatment and Lack of Respect for Poles and Polonia

The majority of Polish Americans surveyed (57.7%) believe that Polish Americans are not accorded the same public respect as other ethnic groups. When asked about the areas of life in which this unfairness is exhibited, the respondents pointed to the following:

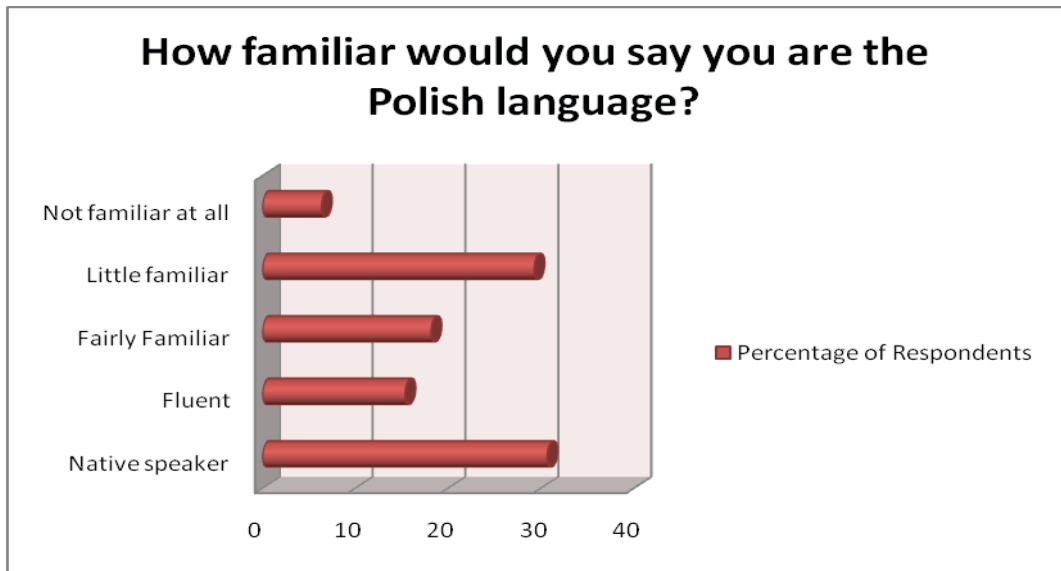


Discrimination

However, the perception that Poles are not treated with the same level of respect as other ethnic groups goes beyond the treatment of our community as a whole. The slight majority of Polish Americans surveyed (50.3%) feel they were personally treated unfairly, specifically because of their ethnic origin. Out of the people who feel discriminated against, 42% identify the discrimination as offensive or stereotypical remarks, 32.3% point out insensitive humor about name or ethnicity, 9.2% point to employment discrimination, and 7.7% point to social discrimination. 8.7% choose "other" as a form of discrimination, while one respondent points to housing discrimination.



Language Fluency



Almost half of respondents (46.1%) declare that they speak Polish language fluently, while only 6.4% declare that they have no knowledge of Polish at all. More importantly, almost half of the respondents (46.8%) say that teaching Polish language to their children is very important and 34.7% say it is somewhat important. About 20% of the respondents place no value on their children understanding the Polish language.

Familiarity with Poland



Almost two-thirds of Polish Americans surveyed have in fact visited Poland (65.6%), and most of them have been to Poland three times or more. 80.1% of the respondents who have been to Poland, visited the country in 2000 or later. Only 7.9% of respondents who visited Poland did so before 1990 for the last time.

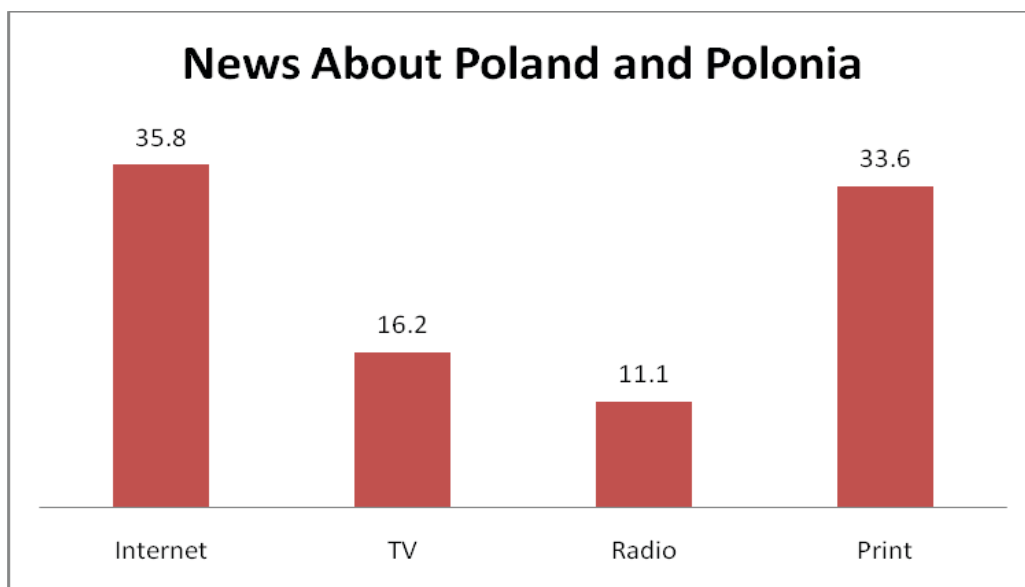
Organizational Life



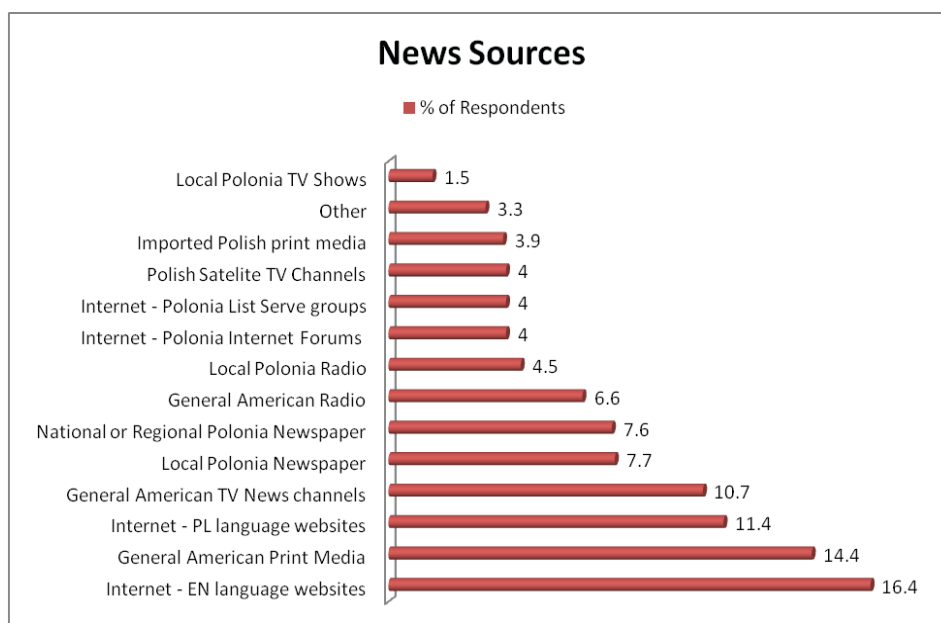
The plurality of respondents (24%) indicate they do not belong to any Polish American organizations. 21.8% declare membership in a cultural organization, 17.1% in social organization, 11.9% in a fraternal Polonia organization, 8.4% declared membership in foundations, 4.4% in dance or folk groups, 3.8% in political organizations and 1.4% in music chorals. 7.1% of the respondents chose "Other" type of organizations.

However, in a follow up question, despite the fact that 76% of respondents declare membership in an organization of some sort, 31.2% of those describe themselves as "inactive." 22.3% of respondents who belong to an organization say that they serve as elected officers, while 46.5% of organizational members describe themselves as active, participating members.

News Sources and Media Use



*Percentages of respondents do not add up to 100% because respondents could select more than 1 option



Polish Americans are a technologically savvy community. The majority of respondents (57.2%) declare having a profile on a social networking site (such as Facebook) and the internet serves as the largest source of news about Polonia and Poland for them (35.8%). 33.6% point to print publications as major source

of news about Poland and Polonia and 16.2% turn to television. Only 11.1% declare radio as their news source. 16.4% of respondents choose English language websites as their news source on Poland and Polonia, 14.4% turn to the general American print media and 10.7% choose the general American television news channels. About half of the respondents get the majority of their information about Poland and Polonia from other than Polish or Polonia sources. For people active, involved or concerned about Poland and the Polish Community in the United State this is a significant figure.

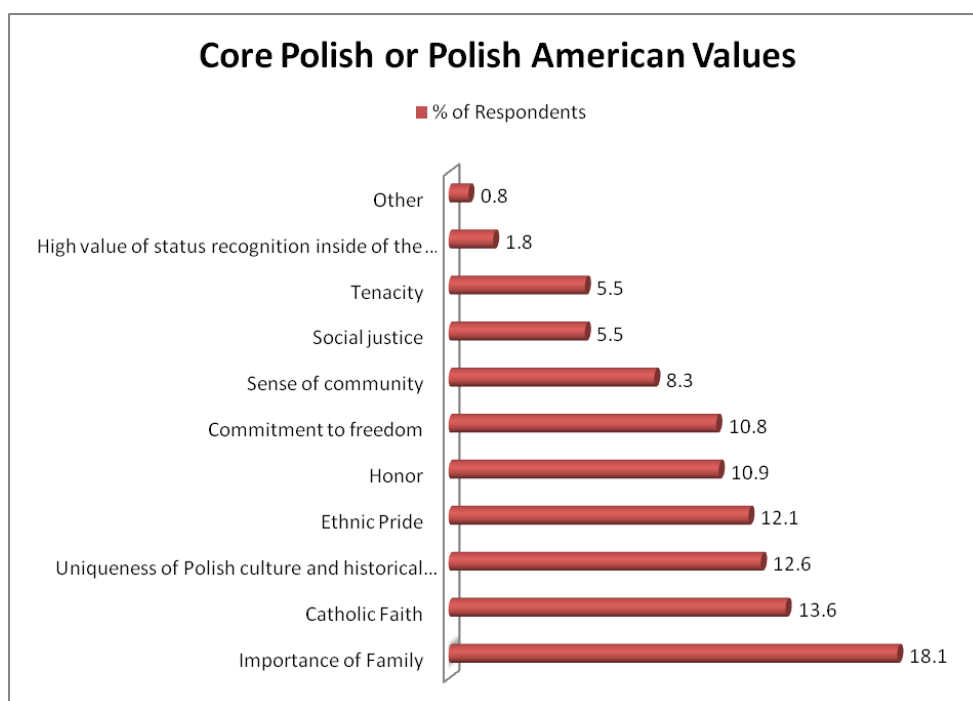
Important Polonia Issues



When asked to identify the five most important issues facing the Polish American community, most respondents declared that preserving Polish language and culture is the leading issue that needs to be addressed by the community (18.1%). 13.7% of respondents decided that one of the most important issues facing Polonia is its inability to be effective politically. Other issues include incorporation of modern Polish culture into the Polish American identity (11.7%), increased political involvement (11.2%), the gap between the Polish immigrants and Polish Americans (10.4%), need for new or restructured organizations (8.5%), the generational gap (8.1%), relations between Poland and Polonia (7.8%) and relations with other American ethnic groups (4.7%). It is noteworthy that resolving past issues, such as residual communist influence in Polonia organizations is considered an important issue by only 4 % of respondents.

It is important to point out that there are two related key concerns which taken together seem to express a frustration by Polish Americans with the failure of the community to exercise a political influence in the United States commensurate with its size, education, economic status and concentration in key geographical areas. The concerns –greater political effectiveness by Polonia and the need for increased political involvement by Polish Americans– are ranked second and fourth respectively out of the five most important issues facing Polonia. The first speaks more to the ability of Polonia leaders and activists to have an impact on politics at local and national levels while the second addresses the need for more individual involvement and mobilization.

Polish Values



When asked about core Polish or Polish American values, respondents, who were again allowed to choose up to five, identified the importance of family as the most essential Polish value (18.1%). Other core values include the Catholic Faith, uniqueness of Polish culture, and historical experience, ethnic pride, honor and a commitment to freedom.

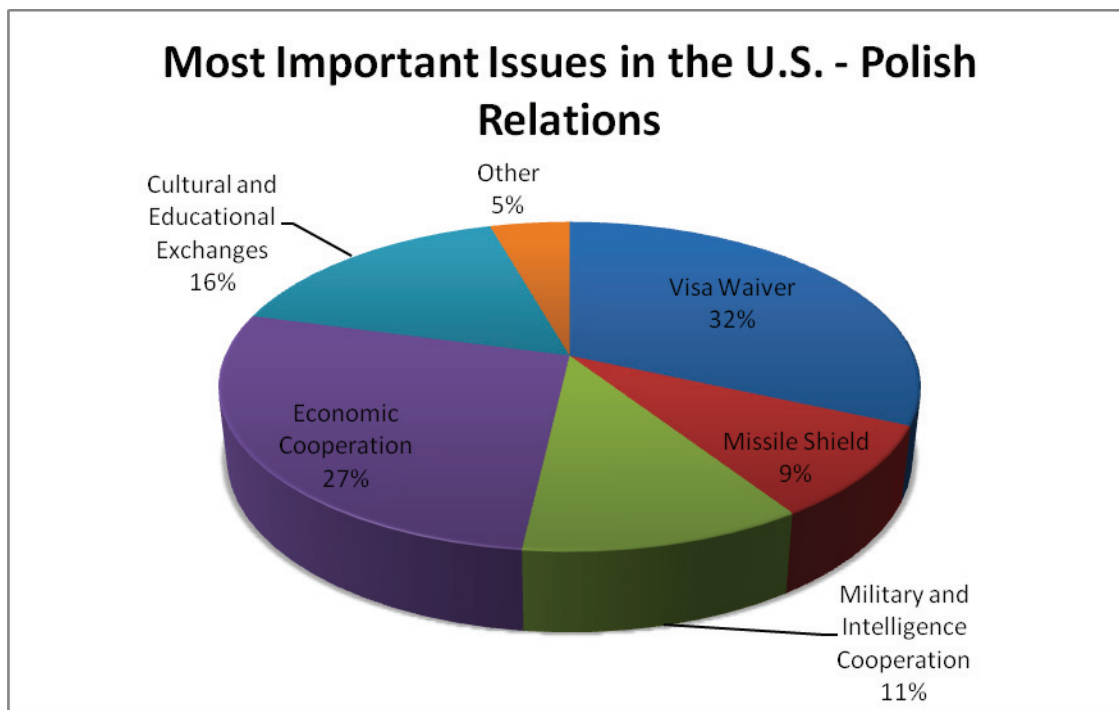
The issue of “ethnic pride” deserves amplification. As will be seen below, this issue animates American born respondents more than Polish born. It seem to speak in the main not to pride in the glories of Polish History and Culture, an issue which is clearly addressed in a separate response, but rather refers to Polish American History and Polonia accomplishments both individual and collective. These may include the creation of parishes, schools and the establishment of a rich array of cultural, fraternal, and economic institutions, the Polish American role in the America’s Wars, the establishment of labor unions and the building of Industrial America and the social, economic and educational mobility exhibited by Polonia. It also certainly addresses the role of the Poles at Jamestown, the contributions of Kosciuszko and Pulaski to American Independence and the contributions of Polonia throughout the last Century in the cause of Polish Independence in addition to the notable successes of individual Polish Americans.

The Government Role in Ending Poverty

We included in the survey the statement **“The Government should do all in its power to end Poverty.”** The respondents were given a choice of affirming their support for the statement or denying their support. This is a question that appeared in the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) surveys in the late 1960s. Of all of the major ethnic groups Polish Americans were among the highest in support (78%) of the idea that the government should take major responsibility to end poverty. This response was seen as shaped by Catholic Social thought which became a key element of the ethnicity Catholic immigrant groups had developed by the 1930s, combined with their experience as working class trade unionists who were an important element of the New Deal coalition. The Survey was interested in seeing whether this sensibility still resonated with Polish Americans and what its sources might be. This issue will be explored further below in our look at the survey patterns. **The Respondents supported the idea that government should do all in its power to end poverty by 67%¹¹**

Although slightly lower than the original support, the Polish American response in which two-thirds of the respondents favor in principal the idea of the use of government agency to end poverty is a very substantial show of support that does not suggest a strong ideological opposition to government intervention in the economy.

¹¹ Andrew M. Greeley, *Ethnicity in the U.S.: A Preliminary Reconnaissance* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1974, p 191-192)



In terms of the U.S. – Poland relations the respondents point to the visa waiver for Polish citizens as the most important issue (31.7%). 27.4% of the respondents identify economic cooperation as the most important issue in the bilateral relations of the two countries, while 16.4% point to cultural and educational exchanges. 11% would like to see more military and intelligence cooperation, while only 9.1% point to the missile shield placement in Poland as the most important issue in the relations between the two countries.

Summary

In summary, we can see that respondents to the Modern Polonia survey represent individuals who participate in Polish affairs, have a decided interest in news about Poland and Polonia, actively join discussions on Polish and Polonia issues and who have formed opinions on the nature of the community, its future and its relationship with Poland. This is the population that needs to be mobilized to ensure the maintenance and growth of Polonia and its development as an effective force to influence American opinion and American leadership in support of better and closer Polish-U.S. ties and of the interests of the Polish American community. This group should provide the leadership cadre of the Polonia of the 21st century.

As the survey shows, this group has achieved significantly higher economic and educational levels than Polonia in general and even greater levels than the American population in general. About 60% of this group report incomes between \$40,000 and \$150,000 a year, which puts it solidly in the American middle class. Although not as Catholic as their relatives in Poland, almost 78% report themselves as Roman Catholic. The second largest group is composed of those who report no religion (11.4%) and who presumably are persons who have drifted away from Catholicism but have not affiliated with any other religion. In Poland, 8.3% report no religious affiliation.

One striking characteristic of the Polonia respondents is the presence in the group of a higher proportion than the American population in general, of those who did not choose to express an opinion on issues such as the death penalty, the Afghan war, an independent Palestinian state and immigration reform. On all of these issues, it should be noted, Polish American respondents who did make a choice of a position opted for a more "liberal" position than did the American population in general. Since these key issues facing U.S. society are widely discussed, it seems less likely that the failure to choose represents a lack of an opinion than a genuine cultural and political conflict in the minds of respondents.

For a complete list of the survey questions, see Appendix B

Patterns: The Issues

An analysis of the data by certain key variables yields deeper and more nuanced understandings of the responses to the Modern Polonia Survey.

Marital Status

Married respondents are more likely to be older, hold graduate or professional degrees, earn more than \$150,000 per year, and indicate a religious affiliation than those who are single. They are also slightly more likely to be Polish-born and hold U.S. citizenship.

Single respondents are far less likely to be Republican (about 20%) and far more likely to be liberal (46%) than married respondents. Half of those who are married report being conservative and more than a third identify themselves as independents.

Those who are single are more likely to report speaking Polish fluently and belonging to Polish organizations than married respondents.

A significant gap exists between single and married individuals in their use of social networking sites, although more than half those married report such use.

A majority of single respondents report living in urban areas (53.3%), while only a little over a third of those who were married said they lived in urban areas. Most report living in suburban areas.

On questions that dealt with public issues, those who were single were more likely to take the more liberal position on lowering the drinking age, opposition to the death penalty, the regulation of environmentally-dangerous gases, opposition to missile defense systems, support for government health care, establishment of paths to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, and the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Place of Birth

Polish-born respondents on the whole tend to be younger, better-educated, and earn more money than the American-born members of the Polonia sample. They are far more likely to be urban (51.9% versus 36.1%) and much more likely to declare no religious preference (15.6% versus 9.3%). It is worth noting that the Polish-born respondents are almost twice as likely to report no religious preference as their contemporaries in Poland (8.3%).

A plurality of Polish-born respondents declares its political affiliation as independent while a plurality of the American-born participants favors the Democratic Party. The Polish-born describe themselves as significantly more liberal (45.9% vs. 37.1%) than their American compatriots. Almost equal numbers of both groups declare themselves as conservative. This is far more than one and a half times larger than those who identify as Republican in both groups.

Polish-born respondents are more likely to support the position identified as "liberal" than American-born respondents in cases such as abortion, drinking age, opposition to the death penalty, torture, the war in Afghanistan, regulation of greenhouse gases, sympathy for the Palestinian cause and a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, support for government health care reform, legalization of undocumented immigrants, and support for immigration. Not surprisingly, however, Polish born respondents see Russia as an adversary by a larger percentage than those born in the U.S.

The respondents born in the United States are more likely to assert that they have suffered discrimination and to feel that Poles are not accorded the same respect as other groups than those born in Poland.

Those born in Poland are also more likely to be members of Polish organizations and very much more likely to engage in electronic social networking than those born in the U.S. (71.8% vs. 50.8%).

Although the percentage of respondents living with domestic partners is low (2.7%) for the whole sample, the figure for Polish-born respondents in such a relationship is higher than that for American-born (3.9% vs. 2.3%). The relative youth of the Polish-born may account for some of this difference.

The States with the highest percentage of respondents living with domestic partners are Washington and Illinois each with 5.4%, California with 5% and Virginia with 4.7%.

In terms of respondents who reported that they were undocumented the largest number came from Illinois with 4.6% of all who participated from that state and from the District of Columbia with 3.2% of respondents identifying as undocumented. Responses from undocumented immigrants were negligible from other areas.

Education

If we look at the responses by educational attainment, we see that those born in Poland have higher than average educational levels, with about 38% holding graduate degrees.

The better-educated respondents are more urban and more likely to indicate no religious preference, although those with bachelor's-level education were slightly more likely not to declare a denominational affiliation than those with graduate training.

Politically, those with college degrees were also more likely to acknowledge themselves as Democrats and as being liberal than those with high school, technical, or associate degrees. The most conservative group was composed of those with two-year or technical degrees. Although more than 34% of those holding high school diplomas listed themselves as Democrats, they also described themselves overwhelmingly (57.5%) as Conservatives.

The four-year and graduate degree holders among the respondents were significantly more likely to speak Polish and to have visited Poland than those with less than a four-year degree. They were also more likely to join organizations and, in the case of those with graduate degrees, to be active members of their organizations.

Four-year and graduate degree respondents, not surprisingly, were more likely to get their news about Poland and Polonia through the Internet and were

more deeply involved in social networking than the survey respondents as a whole. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that more than 50% of those with high school diplomas were also involved in social networking.

One of the most interesting findings is that those reporting four-year and graduate degree levels were more likely to report discrimination because of their Polish origin. Almost 60% of these respondents also felt that Poles and Poland do not receive the same respect as other ethnic groups. Those with high school educations were the least likely to report discrimination or feel disrespected.

On almost all political issues, those with four-year and graduate degrees opted for the more liberal position. There were only three exceptions:

- Those with high school diplomas are slightly less likely to support missile defense research and placement.
- Those with high school and associate or technical degrees were more likely to support special treatment for Polish undocumented immigrants.
- Those with four-year and graduate degrees were more convinced that Russia should be seen primarily as an adversary than those with less education.

Age

The younger the respondent, the more likely he /she is to live in an urban area and express no religious preference (15.6% of the 18-29 age group did not identify a religious preference).

Half of those in the 30-44 year old cohort were born in Poland and 23.2% have not acquired citizenship.

In terms of education, 26.3% of the 18-29 cohort have a graduate or professional degree while the next two cohorts (30-44 and 45-64) were almost identical in the attainment of advanced or professional degrees (47.6% and 47.8%, respectively).

The youngest age cohort showed the highest identification with the Democratic Party (45%) and with liberal ideology (45.2%).

The oldest cohort of those 65 and above recorded the highest number of Independents (38%) and the highest identification as Conservatives (57.8%).

In general, the survey shows that the older the respondent, the more likely he/she will declare a Conservative ideological conviction.

On the issue of discrimination, slightly more than half of those in the 18-29, 30-44 and 45-64 cohorts report being discriminated against and from 54% to 60% of them agree that Poles do not receive the same respect as other ethnic groups.

Although less than half of the 65 and older cohort report being discriminated against, almost 57% of them indicate that they feel that Poles are not accorded the same respect as other groups.

Those in the oldest and youngest cohorts report the highest involvement in Polish organizations (77.2% and 80.1%, respectively), with the oldest being more likely to be active. The highest rate of inactivity (35.9%) is reported by the 30-44 year old cohort, who is more likely to be involved in raising families and building careers.

The younger cohorts are significantly more likely to get their news about Poland and Polonia via the Internet than those who are older. Nevertheless, more than a quarter of those 65 and older use the Internet as their primary source for such news.

94.6% of the 18-29 cohort are involved in social networking sites, followed by almost 80% of the 30-44 cohort. A surprising 23% of those over 65 are also on social networks.

In terms of Polish fluency, the younger the cohort, the more likely the respondents are to report speaking Polish, and the older the respondent, the lower the possibility of Polish fluency. In the 18-29 age cohort, 78.5% report fluency in Polish.

The majority of this cohort is American born. Less than half report being born in Poland. The members of this group also report the highest number of respondents who visited Poland more than three times (66.1%), with 89% of them reporting at least one visit since 2000.

On the questions in general, the younger the cohort, the more liberal the response, as the cross tabulations in Appendix C illustrate.

Religion

In responses to the question about religious affiliation, 77.8% of survey respondents identify themselves as Catholic, while 11.4% indicate no religious preference. Isolating these two groups, allows us to compare their responses to a number of key survey questions.

In general, we find that those with no religious preference are more likely to be urban (56% vs. 39.4%), hold graduate degrees (48.4% vs. 43.2%), and be Polish-born (42.8% vs. 30.1%). They are less likely to be married or hold U.S. citizenship.

Those who express no religious preference were decidedly more likely to be Democrats (48% vs. 33.5%) or Independents (37.7% vs. 32.6%) than were Catholics. They are overwhelmingly self identified as liberals (68.6%). Only 26.1% of Catholics describe themselves as liberal.

A significant finding is that almost 40% of those without a religious affiliation are not members of any Polish organization. Of those who belong, a very high percentage (36.1%) takes no active part in organizations to which they belong. It is possible to surmise that the decidedly Catholic character of Polish organizations acts to deter participation by a large proportion of those members of Polonia who are not Catholic.

Almost 42% of those who report no religious affiliation depend on the Internet for their news about Poland and the Polish community in the U.S.

Given the political ideology expressed by those respondents who choose no religious preference, it is not surprising to find them taking stands on the issues featured in the survey that are more liberal than those of Polonia in general or of those who identify as Catholic.

The responses of Catholics who represent the overwhelming majority of Polonia respondents, both American and Polish-born, also allow us to analyze their views vis-à-vis other American Catholics on several salient issues.

- Polish Catholic respondents show a higher support for making abortion illegal in all circumstances than the Catholic population at large (24.8% vs. 18%)¹²

¹² <http://pewforum.org/Abortion/Abortion-Views-by-Religious-Affiliation.aspx>

- 44.3% of Polish American Catholics respondents favor the death penalty. The support in the general Catholic population is 67%. This result seems to reflect the Polish cultural values and the Catholic opposition to capital punishment which was strongly enunciated by Pope John Paul II¹³
- The legalization of gay marriage is supported by 29.5% of Polish American Catholic respondents, while American Catholics in general support the legalization by 39%¹⁴

Geographic Location

As the appended cross tab data show, there is a significant geographical variation in the composition and opinions of respondents. The data we have compiled to determine correlations were chosen from the 11 states with the largest number of responses.

The states with percentages Polish-born respondents above the survey average of 31.1% are Maryland (67.4%), Washington (59.5%), Virginia (57.8%), Illinois (53.6%), Florida (35.5%), and New York (31.3%).

Respondents from Virginia have the highest level of educational attainment, with 75% claiming a professional or graduate degree. Virginia is followed by Maryland (65.2%), Pennsylvania (55.8%), New York (53.6%), and California (47.5%). The states of Florida (32.3%), Michigan (33.5%), New Jersey (37.5%), Illinois (41%), and Ohio (40%) are below the national average of the educational level of all those surveyed.

It should be noted that percentages for even the lowest attainment levels recorded by the survey are three times higher than the 10.1% who hold graduate and professional degrees recorded by the U.S. Census for the American population in general.

In terms of religious identification, Polish American respondents who claim no religious preference are most numerous in California (27.5%), followed by Maryland (19.6%), Washington (18.9%), Ohio (13.3%), Illinois (12.6%), Virginia (12.5%), and New Jersey (12.5%). The average for all respondents is 11.4%.

Those states with below-average responses indicating no religious affiliation are Florida (6.5%), Michigan (8.1%), New York (8.7%), and Pennsylvania (9.6%).

¹³ <http://pewforum.org/Death-Penalty/An-Impassioned-Debate-An-Overview-of-the-Death-Penalty-in-America.aspx>

¹⁴ <http://pewforum.org/Gay-Marriage-and-Homosexuality/Public-Opinion-on-Gay-Marriage-Opponents-Consistently-Out-number-Supporters.aspx>

Politically, the most liberal state cohort is Washington (54% liberal) and the most conservative is Florida (67.8% conservative). Other states who show an above-average response rate of 33.2% for liberal ideology are California (47.5%), Illinois (38.9%), Virginia (36%), Ohio (34.2%), and New York (33.3%). Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania show interesting patterns of dissimilarity between party affiliation and ideology. In Ohio, 18.3% of the respondents identify as Republican while 43.4% claim to be conservative. In New Jersey, Republicans constitute 40% of respondents, but 60% identify as conservative. Similarly, in Pennsylvania, 19.2% declare themselves as Republican while over 46% identify as conservative.

Organizational membership ranged from a high of 86.6% in Ohio, 84.4% in New York and 83.1% in Pennsylvania to a low 58.1% in Florida, 66.5% in Michigan and 68.2% in California. Floridians also indicated the lowest level of active participation by those who were members of Polonia organizations (43.7%). The results from Florida perhaps reflect the large number of retirees whose organizational memberships are in organizations in other states. California, which recorded an above-average number of organizational memberships, also showed the highest level of active participation by those who were members (83.3%). While the results speak in some degree to the quality of organizational life in each state, they are also likely the product of other complex social forces that require deeper state-by-state research.

In regard to fluency in Polish, respondents in Virginia (78.1%), Maryland (70.3%), and Washington (70.3%) claim the highest levels while those in Michigan (25.2%), Ohio (33.3%), and Florida (35.5%) report the lowest fluency levels.

For a full view of the results of the cross tabulations, see Appendix C.

Patterns: Polonia Concerns

In this section we have broken down responses to the questions on Polonia concerns by education, place of birth, religion, age, marital status and place of residence to develop correlations that allow us to do a finer analysis of the data.

Education

A. Polonia Issues: Across educational differences, all Polish-Americans point to the same five issues within the Polonia community that they believe are most pressing. They are in rank order:

1. Preserving Polish Language and culture
2. Inclusion of modern Polish culture into the Polish-American identity
3. The need to be more effective politically
4. Political involvement
5. The gap between Polish-Americans and Polish immigrants

B. Polish Core Values: There is some variety in identifying core Polish values among people with different educational backgrounds:

High School	Assoc. or Tech	Bachelor	Graduate
Family (19.2%)	Family (18.8%)	Family (18.2%)	Family (17.3%)
Catholicism (15%)	Catholicism (13.7%)	Catholicism (12.8%)	Polish Uniqueness (14.5%)
Ethnic Pride (14.1%)	Honor (13.2%)	Ethnic Pride (12.4%)	Catholicism (13.6%)
Honor (12.9%)	Ethnic Pride (13%)	Polish Uniqueness (11.8%)	Freedom (11.4%)
Freedom (11%)	Polish Uniqueness (11.4%)	Honor (11.4%)	Ethnic Pride (10.9%)

C. Responses to: "The Government should do all in its power to end poverty."

Percentages of those who answered "Yes"

- High School 71.5%
- Associate or Technical 66.1%
- Bachelor 64.7%
- Graduate 67.5%

D. Most Important Issues in Polish-U.S. Relations:

1. Visa Waiver – Named first by all educational level groups
2. Economic Cooperation – named second by all groups but those with HS education
3. Educational and Cultural Cooperation named second by those with a HS Education and third by all other groups

Religion

A. Polonia Issues

Catholic	No Preference
Preserving Language and Culture (18.8%)	Political Effectiveness (14.5%)
Political Effectiveness (14%)	Preserving Language and Culture (13.6%)
Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (11.3%)	Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (12.6%)
Political Involvement (11.1%)	Political Involvement (11.1%)
Gap Between Immigrants and Polish Americans (10.9%)	Need for New or Reformed Organizations (10%)

B. Core Polish Values

Catholic	No Preference
Family (18.4%)	Family (15.3%)
Catholicism (15.6%)	Uniqueness of Polish Culture (15%)
Uniqueness of Polish Culture (12.1%)	Freedom (13.1%)
Ethnic Pride (11.8%)	Ethnic Pride (12.1%)
Honor (11.1%)	Community (10.2%)

C. Responses to: "The Government should do all in its power to end poverty."

Yes

Catholics – 64.1%

No Preference – 79.2%

D. Most Important Issues in Polish-U.S. Relations for both Catholics and those with no religious affiliation in order of preference:

1. Visa Waiver
2. Economic Cooperation
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

Place of Birth

A. Polonia issues

US Born	Polish Born
Preserving Language and Culture (20%)	Political Effectiveness (15.9%)
Political Effectiveness (12.4%)	Political Involvement (14.8%)
Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (12.4%)	Preserving Language and Culture (14.1%)
Gap Between Immigrants and Polish Americans (11.4%)	Need for New or Reformed Organizations (11%)
Political Involvement (9.5%)	Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (9.9%)

B. Core Polish Values

US Born	Polish Born
Family (18.1%)	Family (17.9%)
Catholicism (13.7%)	Catholicism (13.3%)
Ethnic Pride (13%)	Polish Uniqueness (13.3%)
Polish Uniqueness (12.3%)	Commitment to Freedom (12.1%)
Honor (10.5%)	Honor (11.9%)

C. Response to: "The Government should do all in its power to end poverty."

Yes

US Born – 64.9%

Polish Born – 71.4%

D. Most Important Issues in U.S.-Polish Relations

For Polish born:

1. Visa Waiver (43.7%)
2. Economic Cooperation
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

For US born:

1. Economic Cooperation (26.1%)
2. Visa Waiver (26%)
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

Marital Status

A. Polonia Issues

Single	Married
Preserving Language and Culture (16.9%)	Preserving Language and Culture (18.5%)
Political Effectiveness (12.9%)	Political Effectiveness (14%)
Gap Between Immigrants and Polish Americans (10.8%)	Political Involvement (11.8%)
Preserving Language (10.4%)	Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (11.8%)
Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (10.1%)	Gap Between Immigrants and Polish Americans (10.1%)

B. Core Polish Values

Single	Married
Family (16.9%)	Family (18.1%)
Catholic (14.1%)	Catholic (13.7%)
Uniqueness of Polish Culture (13.8%)	Uniqueness of Polish Culture (12.2%)
Ethnic Pride (12.5%)	Honor (11.5%)
Honor (10.2%)	Ethnic Pride (11.4%)

C. Response to: "The Government should do all in its power to end poverty."

Yes

Single – 72.2%

Married – 63.4%

D. Most Important Issues in U.S. - Polish Relations.

The order was the same for both groups:

1. Visa Waiver
2. Economic Cooperation
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

Age

A. Polonia Issues

18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Preserving Language (17%)	Preserving Language (17.4%)	Preserving Language (18.3%)	Preserving Language (19.1%)
Political Effectiveness (11.4%)	Political Effectiveness (14.2%)	Political Effectiveness (14%)	Political Effectiveness (14%)
Generational Gap (11%)	Political Involvement (11.8%)	Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (11.9%)	Political Involvement (12.6%)
Need for New or Reformed Organizations (10.5%)	Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (11.8%)	Gap Between Im-migrants and Polish Americans (10.8%)	Inclusion of Modern Polish Culture (12.2%)
Political Involvement (10.4%)	Gap Between Im-migrants and Polish Americans (9.9%)	Political Involvement (10.7%)	Gap Between Im-migrants and Polish Americans (10.3%)

B. Core Polish Values

18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Family (18%)	Family (19%)	Family (17.8%)	Family (17.9%)
Polish Uniqueness (14.7%)	Catholicism (13.9%)	Catholicism (13%)	Catholicism (14.3%)
Catholicism (14%)	Polish Uniqueness (13.9%)	Ethnic Pride (12.3%)	Ethnic Pride (12.5%)
Ethnic Pride (12.2%)	Ethnic Pride (10.7%)	Polish Uniqueness (12.1%)	Commitment to Freedom (12.2%)
Honor (11.5%)	Honor (10.5%)	Comm. To Freedom (11.1%)	Honor (11.4%)

C. Response to: "The Government should do all in its power to end poverty."

Yes

18-29 cohort – 69.4%

30-44 cohort – 65.7%

45-64 cohort – 67%

65+ cohort- 66.6%

D. Most Important Issues in U. S. – Polish Relations

18-29 Cohort:

1. Visa Waiver
2. Cultural and Educational Cooperation
3. Economic Cooperation

30-44 Cohort:

1. Visa Waiver
2. Economic Cooperation
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

45-64 Cohort:

1. Economic Cooperation
2. Visa Waiver
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

65+ Cohort:

1. Economic Cooperation
2. Visa Waiver
3. Cultural and Educational Cooperation

Analysis

There are a number of key observations that can be made about the responses to the questions on Polonia issues and values.

There is a remarkable consistency in the responses on key issues. In brief, Polish Americans want to preserve, develop and propagate Polish language and culture, want the community to be more prominent, especially in the American political arena, and want to create a stronger unity between new immigrants and those born in the United States.

There are several important variations in the responses by different segments of the community that suggest different approaches to the problems.

In regard to the issue of Polonia unity, those in the younger cohort, those born in Poland (there is considerable overlap in the two categories), and those who do not identify with any religious denomination speak of the need for "new or reformed organizations." These groups by large percentages seem to indicate that the current organizational structure does not meet their own needs or those of Polonia in general.

Although it is commonplace for the organizational leadership of Polonia to address the question of how to involve the young generation in Polonia organizations, it is only the 18-29 year old group which notes "bridging the generation gap" as an important issue. Juxtaposing the two responses, it seems apparent that younger members of Polonia are anxious to be active and to join in the organizational life of the community but find the existing organizations wanting. This is a pressing issue that should be highlighted for future research.

Those who do not identify with the Catholic Church (11.4% of the sample) present an interesting case. They are the least likely to join organizations and are the least active in the organizations they do join, perhaps, as suggested above, because of the strong Catholic character of most Polonia groups. This group favors strongly the creation of new or reformed Polonia organizations and also is the only subset of participants which lists the importance of the community as a Polish core value. It is the only one, of course, which does not mention the Catholic Church. It is likely the first substitutes for the second as not only as a value in itself but also as the venue in which Polish values are incarnated.

For the majority of respondents, the issue of Polonia unity is addressed by the expression of the need "to bridge the gap between immigrants and Pol-

ish Americans" which does not imply the restructuring of the organizational life of the community. Bridging this gap, it must be stressed, was not a key issue for those of immigrant background. They voiced their concerns about the vitality of the community through the support of the idea of the need of "new or restructured organizations." Given this context, it would be worthwhile for Polonia leadership to understand the two responses in tandem when planning the future of the community.

The issue of culture was expressed in two separate responses: the preservation of Polish language and culture and the inclusion of modern Polish culture into Polish American culture. The first speaks to the issue of preserving traditional high culture as well as the folk culture. The second addresses the need to keep abreast of the evolution of modern Poland. It implies an appreciation that modern Poland offers new, rich understandings of a shared heritage. It also speaks, we believe, to the desire to avoid the development of too great a cultural gap between the two societies as Polonia can never be vital if its ties to Poland attenuate. It is noteworthy that those born in the United States place a higher value on both issues than do Polish-born respondents. This suggests the possibility of fruitful relations between Polish institutions, the Polish government, and Polish Americans born in the U.S. in pursuit of the propagation of modern Polish culture.

In the area of core values, there is remarkable unanimity in the listing of the importance of family, Catholicism, the uniqueness of Polish culture and history, and honor as the shared values of a Polish identity. As noted above, those born in Poland do not find "ethnic pride" with its implication of the value of the Polish American experience important and compelling. In its place, Polish-born respondents choose "freedom" which obviously resonates well with Poles given the country's recent history.

Conclusions

There is no need to review at length the conclusions we reached throughout our report. It is, however, worth summarizing several key points.

Our respondents include people who have a strong interest and concern for Polish and Polish American affairs. They belong to Polish organizations and serve as officers and activists in higher numbers than does the average person who identifies as Polish American. They are also better-educated and earn higher salaries than the average Polish American and even higher than the general average for the United States. The group also represents, not surprisingly, a much higher percentage of Polish-born respondents than are present in the Polish American population as a whole.

The survey reveals that the respondent group is not as Catholic as it is generally assumed Polish Americans are and that Polish-born members of the group contribute disproportionately to the percentage of those who claim no religious affiliation.

The survey also shows that there are wider regional variation in the characteristics and opinions of the Polish Americans who responded to the survey than we had expected. It speaks to the need to address those differences in any national efforts to reach or mobilize Polonia.

The survey shows that if it represents a reasonably accurate picture of conscious and committed Polonians, as we believe it does, it reveals a group with distinctive opinions and sensibilities that are different from the general American population as well as the population of Poland.

A striking characteristic of the respondents is their technological sophistication and wide use of social networking media. Polish American organizations and businesses who wish to reach this population need to rapidly adapt to these media if they are not to lose opportunities to reach and mobilize this significant segment of Polonia. Although there are notable exceptions, on the whole, organized Polonia's response to the use of information technology to date has been primitive.

The respondents as a group express a strong commitment to Poland and all things Polish. Two-thirds have visited Poland, and over 90% have been there since the fall of Communism. Thus, their commitment is based on recent first-hand knowledge of modern Poland. All subsets of the respondent group give robust support to a preservation of Polish culture and language and almost half claim some fluency in the language. They also favor strongly the inclusion and adaptation of modern Polish culture into Polish American culture and identity. This is a subject that has not been widely discussed in Polonia, but it seems to survey respondents to be an important issue.

Two themes that come through clearly in the survey are the feeling that Poles and Poland have not yet received the full recognition and respect that they deserve in American society and the conviction that Polish Americans are still discriminated against. Those with higher education and income feel those concerns more strongly than those in lower education and income ranking.

Finally, the respondents with unanimous intensity find the most serious weakness in Polonia to be its inability to have a political influence in American society that reflects the number, income, and education of Polish Americans. A related concern voiced with equal frequency is the failure of Polish Americans to participate in political affairs and by implication, the failure of political mobilization by Polish organizations.

This response does point to an interest in and perhaps a willingness to move to greater political involvement by Polonia activists. Although there are in many cases wide divergences in political opinions, by our respondents, there is deep agreement on Polonia issues around which the community could be mobilized. This is also a topic for a specific future study.

This first Modern Polonia survey shows not only a distinct and self-conscious Polonia, but it also underlines its profound desire for greater unity, effectiveness and recognition as a major American ethnic group.

A Note on Methodology

This survey has involved participants across the entire country in responding to a wide spectrum of questions and issues dealing with Polonian Community concerns and American Civic life. It is the largest such survey of Polish Americans on such issues undertaken in the United States. It follows up on an earlier national survey of about 900 Polish Americans dealing with political issues done by the Piast Institute in the wake of the 2008 Presidential elections. Both surveys employed the "Snowball Sampling Technique" which we employed to focus our effort on Polonia activists, leaders, and those with deep concerns about the community. We did not have the ability or funds to be able to launch a national statistically valid random sample survey, as we noted in the introduction. Neither the Piast Institute nor for that matter, any other institution in Polonia, can deploy the huge investment required for such an effort.

Nevertheless, we are confident that the method we employed has, as a result of careful planning and considerable effort, yielded solid results. We feel that we were able to reach and engage the audience we had defined and targeted. The remarkable similarity of responses on profile questions such as age, income, and education distribution, religious preferences, political allegiances and ideological orientation between the 2008 election survey which involved 900 respondents and the current effort which reached 1400 people gives us confidence that we have indeed identified a key segment of the Polish American community whose opinions are critical to shaping our common future.

The responses to both surveys also confirmed the tendency noted by Political Scientists and pollsters well over a generation ago of the much stronger propensity of Polish American voters to vote for third party candidates in Presidential Elections than the general American electorate. Our participants expressed clearly this distinctive characteristic which has emerged as a hallmark of the Polish American political experience.

Building on the baseline of material which the initial surveys have developed, the Piast Institute hopes to design studies of more specific areas of interest and concern, ideally in partnership with other Polish American institutions and organizations to provide a clearer picture of the community and create the kind of understanding which we need for our dialogue about who we are and what we shall become in this new century.

Appendix A

A National Demographic Overview of Polonia

Polish Population in U.S. States (including as % of total population)
Based on the American Community Survey 2005-2008 3 Year Estimates

State	Polish Population
New York	1033093
Illinois	1012954
Michigan	913808
Pennsylvania	889044
New Jersey	566899
Wisconsin	551305
California	523183
Florida	513690
Ohio	462253
Massachusetts	342300
Connecticut	299758
Texas	281027
Minnesota	260578
Indiana	213966
Maryland	200944
Arizona	164257
Virginia	157381
North Carolina	132413
Washington	125066
Colorado	121764
Missouri	108385
Georgia	108075
Oregon	69546
Nebraska	67254
Tennessee	64062

State	Polish Population
Nevada	59054
New Hampshire	57310
South Carolina	53606
Rhode Island	45539
Delaware	43934
Kentucky	41859
Kansas	41607
Iowa	41467
West Virginia	34386
Oklahoma	33912
Alabama	32868
Maine	30248
Utah	25770
Arkansas	25628
Vermont	24450
New Mexico	24043
Louisiana	22131
Idaho	21643
Montana	19196
North Dakota	18342
Alaska	16898
Mississippi	15401
Hawaii	14198
District of Columbia	12125
South Dakota	12062

Geography	Total Population	Polish Population	% Polish
Wisconsin	5598453	551305	9.8%
Michigan	10045697	913808	9.1%
Connecticut	3493006	299758	8.6%
Illinois	12829014	1012954	7.9%
Pennsylvania	12418756	889044	7.2%
New Jersey	8658668	566899	6.5%
New York	19428881	1033093	5.3%
Massachusetts	6469770	342300	5.3%
Delaware	861804	43934	5.1%
Minnesota	5181962	260578	5.0%

Geography	Total Population	Polish Population	% Polish
New Hampshire	1312298	57310	4.4%
Rhode Island	1054306	45539	4.3%
Ohio	11473983	462253	4.0%
Vermont	620738	24450	3.9%
Nebraska	1770896	67254	3.8%
Maryland	5618250	200944	3.6%
Indiana	6335595	213966	3.4%
North Dakota	638613	18342	2.9%
Florida	18182321	513690	2.8%
Arizona	6343952	164257	2.6%
Colorado	4844568	121764	2.5%
Alaska	681235	16898	2.5%
Nevada	2546235	59054	2.3%
Maine	1315069	30248	2.3%
District of Columbia	588373	12125	2.1%
Virginia	7698738	157381	2.0%
Montana	956496	19196	2.0%
Washington	6453083	125066	1.9%
West Virginia	1810358	34386	1.9%
Oregon	3735524	69546	1.9%
Missouri	5874327	108385	1.8%
South Dakota	795757	12062	1.5%
Kansas	2778599	41607	1.5%
North Carolina	9036449	132413	1.5%
Idaho	1493713	21643	1.4%
California	36418499	523183	1.4%
Iowa	2984391	41467	1.4%
New Mexico	1962226	24043	1.2%
South Carolina	4403175	53606	1.2%
Texas	23845989	281027	1.2%
Georgia	9509254	108075	1.1%
Hawaii	1280273	14198	1.1%
Tennessee	6144104	64062	1.0%
Kentucky	4234999	41859	1.0%
Utah	2663500	25770	1.0%
Oklahoma	3606200	33912	0.9%
Arkansas	2830047	25628	0.9%
Alabama	4625354	32868	0.7%
Mississippi	2918790	15401	0.5%
Louisiana	4342582	22131	0.5%
Wyoming	522833	-	N/A

Metropolitan Area	Polish Population
Chicago	831,774
Detroit	479,659
Philadelphia	288,440
New York	268,228
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	209,303
Pittsburgh	209,032
Milwaukee-Waukesha	190,076
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria	186,571
Minneapolis – St. Paul	148,876
Los Angeles	122,680

Top 10 “Polish” Metropolitan Areas based on the 2000 U.S. Census

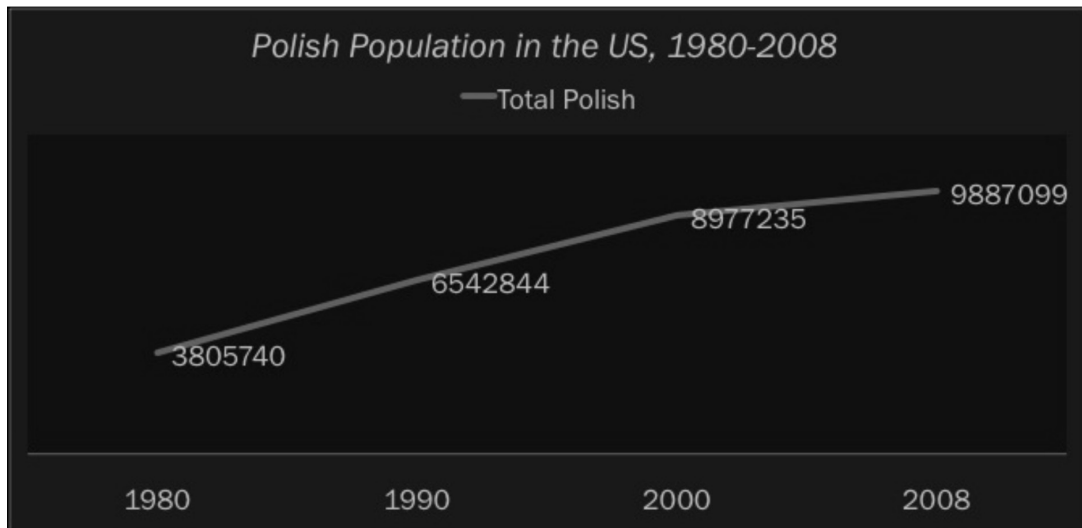
Top 10 States with the highest % growth in Polish population between the 2000 U.S. Census and 2005
American Community Survey

State	% Change from 2000-2005
Utah	+66%
South Carolina	+42%
Maine	+33%
Idaho	+31%
Alabama	+30%
North Carolina	+30%
Tennessee	+29%
Louisiana	+29%
Arizona	+28%
Arkansas	+28%

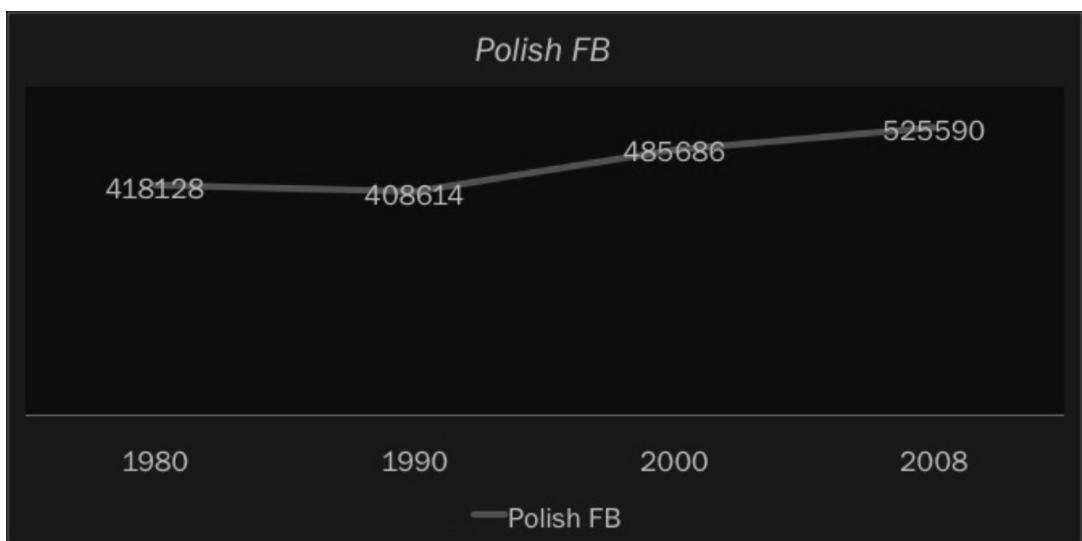
State	Growth in Polish Population (# of people) between 2000-2005
Florida	93,471
Michigan	64,163
Illinois	62,449
Pennsylvania	61,072
Ohio	41,553
California	39,408
Wisconsin	36,061
Arizona	34,958
Texas	33,202
North Carolina	26,264

Top 10 States with the highest growth in Polish population (# of people) between the 2000 U.S. Census and the 2005 American Community Survey

Change in Polish Population in the United States
Based on U.S. Census Data



Polish Foreign Born Population Change
Based on U.S. Census Data












Appendix B

The Survey Questions and Results



Results for: Polish Americans Today. A 2009 Piast Institute Survey of American Polonia.

1) Where do you live?

		Percentage	Responses
Alabama		0.1	1
Alaska		0.1	2
American Samoa		0.0	0
Arizona		0.6	8
Arkansas		0.1	2
California		2.9	40
Colorado		0.5	7
Connecticut		1.6	23
Delaware		0.3	4
District of Columbia		2.1	29
Florida		2.2	31
Georgia		0.5	7
Guam		0.0	0
Hawaii		0.0	0
Idaho		0.0	0
Illinois		17.1	239
Indiana		0.7	10
Iowa		0.0	0
Kansas		0.2	3
Kentucky		0.1	1
Louisiana		0.1	1
Maine		0.1	1
Maryland		3.3	46
Massachusetts		1.3	18
Michigan		30.8	430
Minnesota		1.5	21
Mississippi		0.1	2
Missouri		0.9	12
Montana		0.0	0
Nebraska		0.0	0
Nevada		0.4	5
New Hampshire		0.0	0
New Jersey		2.9	40

New Mexico		0.2	3
New York		4.9	69
North Carolina		0.7	10
North Dakota		0.1	1
Northern Marianas Islands		0.0	0
Ohio		8.6	120
Oklahoma		0.1	1
Oregon		1.1	16
Pennsylvania		3.7	52
Puerto Rico		0.0	0
Rhode Island		0.1	2
South Carolina		0.1	2
South Dakota		0.0	0
Tennessee		0.4	5
Texas		1.0	14
Utah		0.1	2
Vermont		0.0	0
Virginia		4.6	64
Virgin Islands		0.0	0
Washington		2.7	37
West Virginia		0.4	5
Wisconsin		0.6	9
Wyoming		0.1	1
Total responses:			1396

2) How would you describe your place of residence? (select one)

		Percentage	Responses
Major urban area		41.2	575
Small town (less than 50,000 residents)		13.1	183
Suburban		41.0	572
Rural		4.7	66
Total responses:			1396

3) What is your marital status?

		Percentage	Responses
Single		23.7	331
Married		60.3	842
Divorced/Separated		9.2	129

Widowed		4.0	56
Domestic Partner		2.7	38
		Total responses:	1396


4) What is your age group?

		Percentage	Responses
18-29		13.3	186
30-44		18.2	254
45-64		47.5	663
65 and older		21.0	293
		Total responses:	1396





5) In what country were you born in?

		Percentage	Responses
United States		65.0	907
Poland		31.3	437
Other		3.7	52
		Total responses:	1396

6) What is your current status in the United States?

		Percentage	Responses
U.S. Citizen		91.3	1274
Legal Resident (Green Card Holder)		5.6	78
Student Visa		0.8	11
Work Visa		1.0	14
Undocumented		1.4	19
		Total responses:	1396










7) What is the highest level of education that you have attained?

		Percentage	Responses
Less than high school		0.3	4
High School Diploma		13.8	193
Associate Degree or Technical Certificate		12.0	168
Bachelor's Degree		30.2	422
Graduate or Professional Degree		43.6	609
		Total responses:	1396






8) Are you currently employed?

		Percentage	Responses
Yes		68.3	954
No		31.7	442
		Total responses:	1396

9) What is your current household annual income?

		Percentage	Responses
Under \$20,000		6.6	92
\$20,000-\$39,999		14.8	207
\$40,000-\$59,999		19.3	270
\$60,000-\$79,999		16.8	234
\$80,000-\$99,999		12.5	175
\$100,000-\$124,999		10.5	147
\$125,000-\$149,999		5.9	83
\$150,000-\$199,999		6.0	84
\$200,000 and over		7.4	104
		Total responses:	1396

10) What is your religious preference?

		Percentage	Responses
Roman Catholic		77.6	1083
Greek Catholic		0.3	4
Polish National Catholic		2.2	31
Mainline Protestant		1.5	21
Evangelical Protestant		0.9	12
Jewish		0.3	4
Muslim		0.0	0
No preference		11.4	159
Other		5.9	82
		Total responses:	1396

11) Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

		Percentage	Responses
legal under any circumstances		28.0	391
legal only under certain circumstances		51.2	715
illegal in all circumstances		20.8	290
Total responses:			1396

12) Do you think Obama's economic program is making the economy better, making it worse, or having no real effect?

		Percentage	Responses
Better		38.3	535
Worse		32.7	457
No real effect		28.9	404
Total responses:			1396

13) As you may know, the legal drinking age is 21. Would you approve or disapprove of states lowering the drinking age to 18, if the states felt that would give the police more time to enforce other laws?

		Percentage	Responses
Approve		36.8	514
Disapprove		53.7	749
Unsure		9.5	133
Total responses:			1396

14) Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?

		Percentage	Responses
Favor		42.8	598
Oppose		36.8	514
Unsure		20.3	284
Total responses:			1396

15) Do you think the federal government should or should not regulate the release of greenhouse gases from sources like power plants, cars and factories in an effort to reduce global warming?

		Percentage	Responses
Should		69.7	973
Should Not		19.8	276
Unsure		10.5	147
Total responses:			1396

16) Considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting, or not?

		Percentage	Responses
Worth Fighting		29.2	407
Not Worth Fighting		52.3	730
Not Sure		18.6	259
Total responses:			1396

17) In general, do you think of Russia as more of an ally or more of an adversary?

		Percentage	Responses
Ally		8.5	119
Adversary		48.4	676
Both/Neither		33.7	470
Not Sure		9.4	131
Total responses:			1396

18) How concerned are you about the conflict between Russia and the former Soviet republic of Georgia: very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?

		Percentage	Responses
Very Concerned		19.6	273
Somewhat Concerned		46.1	643
Not Too Concerned		21.1	295
Not Concerned At All		6.8	95
Not Sure		6.4	90
Total responses:			1396

19) Do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza strip?

		Percentage	Responses
Favor		63.8	890
Oppose		11.1	155
Not Sure		25.1	351
		Total responses:	1396




20) In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

		Percentage	Responses
Israelis		23.1	322
Palestinians		17.4	243
Both		32.3	451
Neither		20.8	290
Not Sure		6.4	90
		Total responses:	1396

21) Recently there has been some discussion about the possibility of the United States building a defense system against nuclear missiles in Poland and the Czech Republic. Do you think the government should or should not spend the money that would be required for research and possible development of such a system, or are you unsure?

		Percentage	Responses
Should		44.8	626
Should Not		34.3	479
Not Sure		20.8	291
		Total responses:	1396

22) How do you feel about the use of torture against suspected terrorists to obtain information about terrorism activities? Can that often be justified, sometimes be justified, rarely be justified, or never be justified?

		Percentage	Responses
Justified		17.0	237
Sometimes be justified		25.1	351
Rarely be justified		21.8	305
Never be justified		33.0	461
Not Sure		3.0	42
		Total responses:	1396




- 23) Which comes closer to the way you feel: government reform of the nation's health care system is necessary to control costs and expand coverage, or government action on health care will do more harm than good?

		Percentage	Responses
Necessary		54.1	755
Do More Harm Than Good		37.3	521
Unsure		8.6	120
Total responses:			1396

- 24) Would you support or oppose a program giving illegal immigrants now living in the United States the right to live here legally if they pay a fine and meet other requirements?

		Percentage	Responses
Support		61.0	852
Oppose		26.1	364
Not Sure		12.9	180
Total responses:			1396

- 25) Different organizations and governmental agencies put the number of undocumented immigrants from Poland currently residing in the United States between 90,000 and 110,000. What do you think should be done with this group of people?

		Percentage	Responses
Amnesty		18.9	264
Ability to pay a fine and get on a path to legalization of their presence in the U.S.		67.7	945
Immediate deportation		13.4	187
Total responses:			1396

- 26) On the whole, do you think immigration is a good thing or a bad thing for this country today?

		Percentage	Responses
Good Thing		48.7	680
Bad Thing		7.7	107
Mixed		42.8	597
Not Sure		0.9	12
Total responses:			1396

27) Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

		Percentage	Responses
Should		37.8	527
Should Not		53.6	748
Not Sure		8.7	121
Total responses:			1396

28) Have you personally ever felt treated unfairly specifically because of your ethnic origin?

		Percentage	Responses
Yes		50.3%	702
No		49.7%	693
Total responses:			1395






29) If you answered YES to the previous question, please indicate the specific type of discrimination that you encountered:

		Percentage	Responses
Employment Discrimination		9.2	67
Social Discrimination		7.7	56
Housing Discrimination		0.1	1
Offensive or stereotypical remarks		42.0	306
Insensitive humor about name or ethnicity		32.3	235
Other		8.7	63
Total responses:			728

30) Do you feel Poles are accorded the same public respect that other ethnic groups are?

		Percentage	Responses
Yes		42.3	590
No		57.7	806
Total responses:			1396

31) If you answered NO to the previous question, what do you feel are the key areas of unfair treatment of Poles?

		Percentage	Responses
Negative stereotypes in news media		8.4	69
Negative stereotypes in entertainment media		19.6	162
Historical inaccuracies on issues such as "Polish death camps" or record in World War II		26.2	216
Failure to credit Polish contributions		25.1	207
Other		20.7	171
Total responses:			825

32) Regardless of how you may vote, what do you usually consider yourself: a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or some other party?

		Percentage	Responses
Republican		26.1	365
Democrat		36.5	510
Independent		33.2	463
Other		4.2	58
Total responses:			1396

33) How would you describe your political orientation?

		Percentage	Responses
Very Conservative		6.4	90
Conservative		22.7	317
Leaning Conservative		14.5	202
Moderate/Centrist		23.1	323
Leaning Liberal		13.3	186
Liberal		13.5	189
Very Liberal		6.4	89
Total responses:			1396

34) How familiar would you say you are with the Polish language?

		Percentage	Responses
I am a native speaker		30.7	428
Fluent		15.4	215

Fairly Familiar		18.2	254
Little Familiar		29.3	409
Not Familiar at all		6.4	90
		Total responses:	1396

35) Regardless of your place of birth and your knowledge of the Polish language, how important would it be for you to have your child speak and understand the Polish language?

		Percentage	Responses
Very important		46.8	653
Somewhat important		34.7	484
Not important		18.6	259
		Total responses:	1396

36) Are you self employed?

		Percentage	Responses
Yes		20.6%	288
No		79.4%	1107
		Total responses:	1395

37) If you answered Yes to the above questions, how would you describe your employment?

		Percentage	Responses
Professional		58.8	234
Service		17.8	71
Retail		2.8	11
Wholesale		1.5	6
Manufacturing		1.3	5
Farming		0.3	1
Other		17.6	70
		Total responses:	398

38) Have you ever visited Poland?

		Percentage	Responses
No, never		34.4	480
Yes, 1-2 times		18.6	260

Yes, 3 or more times



47.0










656

Total responses: 1396

39) If you answered Yes to the above question, please specify the approximate date of your most recent visit to Poland.

		Percentage	Responses
Before 1979		3.7	34
Between 1980-1989		4.2	38
Between 1990-1999		12.0	110
2000 and after		80.1	732
		Total responses:	914

40) What type of Polish American organizations do you belong to?
(Choose all that apply)

		Percentage	Responses
Fraternal		11.9	272
Foundations		8.4	192
Social		17.1	390
Dance or Folk Groups		4.4	101
Music Chorals		1.4	33
Political		3.8	87
Cultural		21.8	499
None		24.0	548
Other		7.1	163

41) If you are involved in Polish American organization\,s, what is your level of involvement?

		Percentage	Responses
Elected Officer		22.3	191
Participating Member		46.5	398
Inactive Member		31.2	267
		Total responses:	856

42) Where do you get your news about Poland and Polonia?
(Choose all that apply)




		Percentage	Responses
General American Print Media		14.4	579
General American Television News Channels		10.7	430
General American Radio		6.6	266
National or regional Polonia Newspaper		7.6	306
Local Polonia Newspaper		7.7	312
Local Polonia Radio		4.5	180
Local Polonia Television Shows		1.5	61
Polish Satellite Television Channels		4.0	162
Imported Polish print media		3.9	158
Internet - English language websites		16.4	661
Internet - Polish language websites		11.4	458
Internet - Polonia List Serve groups		4.0	161
Internet - Polonia Internet Forums		4.0	161
Other		3.3	135

43) Do you have a profile on a social networking site (such as Facebook, MySpace, Nasza-Klasa, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc)?












		Percentage	Responses
Yes		57.2%	798
No		42.8%	597
Total responses:			1395

44) As Polonia faces the future it has to deal with important structural issues and questions of where to focus its energies. What do you see as the major challenges facing Polonia in the 21st Century? (Please select the most important three (3))




		Percentage	Responses
Generational gap		8.1	336
The gap between Polish immigrants and Polish Americans		10.4	430
Need for new or restructured organizations		8.5	349
Political involvement		11.2	463
Preserving Polish language and culture		18.1	748
The ability to be more effective politically		13.7	563
The mutual relations between American Polonia and Poland		7.8	321

Incorporation of modern Polish culture into the Polish American identity		11.7	481
Resolving past issues, such as residual communist influence in Polonia organizations		4.0	166
Relations with other American ethnic groups		4.7	195
Other		1.7	72

45) What do you consider to be the core Polish or Polish American values? (Please select up to five (5) values)





		Percentage	Responses
Honor		10.9	672
Importance of family		18.1	1114
Social justice		5.5	337
Sense of community		8.3	512
High Value of Status Recognition Inside of the Community		1.8	114
Catholic Faith		13.6	836
Uniqueness of Polish Culture and Historical Experience		12.6	778
Commitment to Freedom		10.8	668
Tenacity		5.5	341
Ethnic Pride		12.1	743
Other		0.8	48

46) In surveys in the 1970s and 1980s, Polish Americans were the ethnic group that responded favorably, in highest percentages (in high 70s) to the statement that the government should do all in its power to end poverty. Now, few decades later, would you support that statement?




		Percentage	Responses
Yes, I believe that the government should do all in its power to end poverty		67.0	935
No, I do not believe that the government should do all in its power to end poverty		19.1	267
I am not sure		13.9	194
Total responses:			1396

47) There are still many Polish Americans (youth, elderly, immigrants) who need assistance and social services but face

linguistic and cultural barriers. What is the most appropriate way to assist them?

		Percentage	Responses
Existing federal and state welfare programs		8.7	122
Federal and state welfare programs with adequate linguistic and cultural support		42.8	598
Assistance programs by the Polish community but funded by the state		32.2	450
Same as above but funded by Polish Americans		16.2	226
Total responses:			1396

48) In terms of relations between the Republic of Poland and the United States, what do you see as the single, most important issue?

		Percentage	Responses
The Visa Waiver for Polish citizens		31.7	443
The so-called Missile Shield placement in Poland		9.1	127
Military and Intelligence Cooperation		11.0	153
Economic Cooperation		27.4	383
Cultural and Educational Exchanges		16.4	229
Other		4.4	61
Total responses:			1396

49) Have you ever heard of the Piast Institute (www.piastinstitute.org)?

		Percentage	Responses
Yes		49.2%	687
No		50.8%	708
Total responses:			1395

Appendix C

Cross Tabulations

Age	Urban	Polish Born	Married	US Citizen	Graduate/Prof Degree	150k + Income	No Religious Preference
18-29	54.3	46.2	15.6	80.1	26.3	5.4	15.6
30-44	52.4	50.4	67.3	76.8	47.6	15.8	14.2
45-64	37	28.2	67.3	96.2	47.8	16.4	11.3
65+	32.8	12.3	66.9	99.7	41.6	9.9	6.5

Age	Rep	Dem	Ind	Lib	Cons
18-29	19.4	43	30.1	45.2	29
30-44	29.9	35.4	28.3	41.4	37
45-64	26.2	37	33.6	31.6	44
65+	27	32.4	38.2	22.2	57.8

Age	Discriminated?	Pol Same Respect	Fluent Pol	Visited 3+ times	2000 or later	No Orgs	Inactive Mem	Internet News	Social Nets
18-29	50.5	44.6	78.5	66.1	88.1	19.9	32.3	40.9	94.6
30-44	51.8	46.1	65.7	61.4	86.5	23.9	35.9	44.9	79.8
45-64	51.6	39.7	39.7	41.3	77.5	25.7	31.2	34.3	53.2
65+	46.1	43.3	22.9	35.2	71.3	22.8	26.1	26.9	22.9

Age	Abortion Illegal	Obama Econ Better	18 Drink Age	Yes Death Pen	Govt Reg. Gases	Afg War Not Worth	Russia Adver	Pal State	Sym. With Pal.	NMD Yes	Torture Never Just	Govt Health Care	Path to Citizenship Yes	Amnesty for Pol	Imm. Good	Gay Marriage Legal
18-29	16.1	43	67.2	32.8	83.3	59.1	47.8	57	28.5	38.7	33.3	62.4	74.7	17.7	51.1	57.5
30-44	16.5	37.4	44.1	34.6	77.6	57.5	50	57.9	20.5	40.6	34.3	58.7	69.3	21.3	54.3	45.3
45-64	20.2	39.7	32.9	44.3	66.8	50.7	47.8	65.9	14.6	44.9	35.6	54.3	60.8	18.3	46	36.5
65+	28.7	33.1	20.1	52.9	60.8	47.1	48.8	68.3	14	52.2	25.9	44.4	45.7	19.1	48.5	21.5

Education	Urban	Polish Born	Married	US Citizen	18-29	150k + Income	No Religious Preference
HS Diploma	32.1	22.8		58	92.7	16.1	5.2
Assoc. Or Tech	33.9	26.8		67.9	92.9	4.2	7.1
Bachelor	39.8	27.5		55.5	92.2	23.2	14.2
Graduate/Prof	47	37.9		62.4	90	8	12.6

Education	Rep	Dem	Ind	Lib	Cons
HS Diploma	26.9	34.2	33.7	23.3	57.5
Assoc. Or Tech	35.1	28	33.9	17.8	63
Bachelor	29.6	37	29.6	36.3	41.4
Graduate/Prof	20.9	39.4	35.3	38.7	35

Education	Discriminated?	Pol Same Respect	Fluent Pol	Visited 3+ times	2000 or later	No Orgs	Inactive Mem	Internet News	Social Nets
HS Diploma	41.5	46.1	33.1	31.6	72.4	33.2	37.5	31.5	50.8
Assoc. Or Tech	50	45.2	37.5	32.7	72.9	31.4	32.3	32.4	43.5
Bachelor	50.9	41.7	44.6	43.8	80.4	24.3	33.2	35.2	65.6
Graduate/Prof	53.1	40.6	53.7	58.1	82.8	19.9	27.8	37.8	56.9

Education	Abortion Illegal	Obama Econ Better	18 Drink Age	Yes Death Pen	Govt Reg. Gases	Afg War Not Worth	Russia Adver	Pal State	Sym. With Pal.	NMD Yes	Torture Never Just	Govt Health Care	Path to Citizenship Yes	Amnesty for Pol	Imm. Good	Gay Marriage Legal
HS Diploma	30.1	25.9	30.1	52.8	56.5	56	43.5	46.6	10.9	42.5	22.3	37.8	54.4	21.2	38.3	25.4
Assoc. Or Tech	25.6	25.6	21.4	54.8	56	43.5	47	56.5	10.7	51.8	19.6	39.3	52.4	20.8	37.5	24.4
Bachelor	18.2	36.7	41.2	43.8	72	56.9	50.7	61.6	19.9	43.6	32.9	56.6	60.4	18.5	47.9	41.5
Graduate/Prof	18.2	47.1	40.2	35.5	76.4	50.4	49.1	72.9	19.7	44.3	40.4	61.9	66.2	18.1	55.8	42.7

Religion	Urban	Age 18-29	Married	US Citizen	Graduate/Prof Degree	150k + Income	Polish Born
Roman Catholic	39.4	12.6	62	92.3	43.2	13.6	30.1
No Preference	56	18.2	50.3	87.4	48.4	11.3	42.8

Religion	Rep	Dem	Ind	Lib	Cons
Roman Catholic	30.5	33.9	32.6	26.1	50.4
No Preference	5.7	48.4	37.7	68.6	11.3

Religion	Discriminated?	Pol Same Respect	Fluent Pol	Visited 3+ times	2000 or later	No Orgs	Inactive Mem	Internet News	Social Nets
Roman Catholic	49.2	41.3	45.6	46.5	79.8	20.9	28.6	34.3	54.1
No Preference	52.2	50.3	55.9	54.1	84.1	39.4	36.1	41.5	68.6

Religion	Abortion Illegal	Obama Econ Better	18 Drink Age	Yes Death Pen	Govt Reg. Gases	Afg War Not Worth	Russia Adver	Pal State	Sym. With Pal.	NMD Yes	Torture Never Just	Govt Health Care	Path to Citizenship Yes	Amnesty for Pol	Imm. Good	Gay Marriage Legal
Roman Catholic	24.8	33.6	33.3	44.3	67	49.2	52.5	62.4	16.3	48.8	29.5	48.8	58.8	19.1	47.7	29.5
No Preference	0.6	62.3	56	36.5	84.9	64.2	30.2	71.7	24.5	22	50.9	79.9	76.7	13.8	54.1	74.2

Marital Status	Urban	Age 18-29	Polish Born	US Citizen	Graduate/Prof Degree	150k + Income	No Religious Preference
Single	52.3	44.7	29.3	87.6	39.9	3.9	13.6
Married	35.5	3.4	31.1	92.8	45.1	19.1	9.5

Marital Status	Rep	Dem	Ind	Lib	Cons
Single	19.6	43.2	32.6	45.9	30.2
Married	29.3	32.5	34.4	27.1	49.9

Marital Status	Discriminated?	Pol Same Respect	Fluent Pol	Visited 3+ times	2000 or later	No Orgs	Inactive Mem	Internet News	Social Nets
Single	50.9	40.8	55.6	52.6	78	18.2	31.9	36.3	71.8
Married	50.7	42.9	42.4	45.2	81.2	26.6	34.1	36.3	52.6

Marital Status	Abortion Illegal	Obama Econ Better	18 Drink Age	Yes Death Pen	Govt Reg. Gases	Afg War Not Worth	Russia Adver	Pal State	Sym. With Pal.	NMD Yes	Torture Never Just	Govt Health Care	Path to Citizenship Yes	Amnesty for Pol	Imm. Good	Gay Marriage Legal
Single	20.8	40.2	45.9	32.3	77	55.3	46.8	61.3	22.1	39	35	59.8	66.8	21.8	47.1	50.5
Married	22.3	36.9	32.9	47.1	64.7	50.7	50.2	63.7	15.6	47.3	30.9	51.7	58.2	17.5	50.5	31.1

Place of Birth	Urban	Age 18-29	Married	US Citizen	Graduate/Prof Degree	150k + Income	No Religious Preference
US	36.1	10.8	59.5	100	38.8	12	9.3
Poland	51.9	19.7	60	73.9	52.9	16.1	15.6

Place of Birth	Rep	Dem	Ind	Lib	Cons
US	27.5	37.7	30.7	31.3	45.9
Poland	22.9	34.8	38	38	37.1

Place of Birth	Discriminated?	Pol Same Respect	Fluent Pol	Visited 3+ times	2000 or later	No Orgs	Inactive Mem	Internet News	Social Nets
US	51.6	39.8	19.2	28.3	73.5	25.3	30.8	30.3	50.8
Poland	46.6	47.6	98.9	85.1	88.1	21.4	32.8	44	71.8

Place of Birth	Abortion Illegal	Obama Econ Better	18 Drink Age	Yes Death Pen	Govt Reg. Gases	Afg War Not Worth	Russia Adver	Pal State	Sym. With Pal.	NMD Yes	Torture Never Just	Govt Health Care	Path to Citizenship Yes	Amnesty for Pol	Imm. Good	Gay Marriage Legal
US	23.2	37.7	28.9	45.3	65.8	46.6	45.6	60.4	12.8	45.1	30.7	51	53.9	17.6	45	37.5
Poland	16.7	40.5	53.1	36.6	78.5	63.4	54.5	70.7	26.8	43.9	38.4	60.9	76.4	22.2	55.4	38.7

About the Piast Institute

The Piast Institute was founded in 2003 by Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, a researcher, historian, and university professor, and Ms. Virginia Skrzyniarz, a Polish American community leader and experienced executive who has served and led a variety of non-profit organizations.

The Institute is the only independent research center in North America established to study the Polish experience in North America and Europe. In 2006, it was designated as an official Census Information Center (CIC) by the Census Bureau. It is one of 56 such centers in the U.S. and the only one with a mission to study and disseminate information on a European ethnic group.

With its staff, board, and network of fellows, the Institute sponsors conferences, seminars, publications, public programs, lectures, surveys, and exhibits that provide timely and accurate information about Poles, Polish Americans, and Poland. The Institute's mission and programming aim to celebrate Polish contributions to American as well as world culture and history and to address and counter inaccurate or defamatory information about Poles, Polish Americans, and Poland. It also has a special interest in pluralism and ethnicity in American life.

Through its Research Center and CIC, the Institute acts as a data resource center, helping scholars and community groups develop policy papers and historical, cultural, political, economic, social, and demographic studies on a variety of topics.

The Institute is officially certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an assistance site to help immigrants with visa, documentation, citizenship, and status issues. The Institute's immigration assistance office is staffed by two accredited representatives.

Through its capacity-building programs, it assists other Polish American organizations to improve their capacities to achieve their missions, build their assets, and develop an understanding of the regulatory world in which modern non-profits must operate.

The Institute oversees faculty exchange programs between the Universities of Michigan, British Columbia, and Glasgow and the Agricultural, Economic, and Technological Universities in Warsaw for the Dekaban Foundation.

For more information on the Institute and its work, to help support the Institute through donations or volunteer assistance, and / or to inquire about its research and other services, please contact Ms. Virginia Skrzyniarz at 313.733.4535 or skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org.

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Design and Format by Valerie Tuczek