

Opinion poll of Małopolska residents 2016. 5th edition

Summary

Małopolska Regional
Development Observatory

Department
of Regional Policy





AIM OF THE SURVEY

The aim of this opinion survey is to obtain information on the perception of regional self-government activities in a social and economic context. Its results will help to assess public policies being carried out and to identify areas where regional policy intervention is needed.

The results of one-time surveys are very difficult to interpret without comparisons to similar surveys from other regions or to a comparison of results over a period of time. Therefore the true value of survey results becomes more evident over time. This applies both to national projects (cyclical CBOS surveys, Social Diagnosis) and to those with a broader scope (European Social Survey or World Values Survey).

As such, the opinion survey of the inhabitants of Małopolska from 2016 is a continuation of previous studies carried out every year since 2012 (hence the references in the analysis to results from previous editions). Some of the questions are repeated yearly, and some are repeated with less frequency. There are also occasional questions associated with particular projects implemented by the regional self-government or the occurrence of specific problems and challenges.



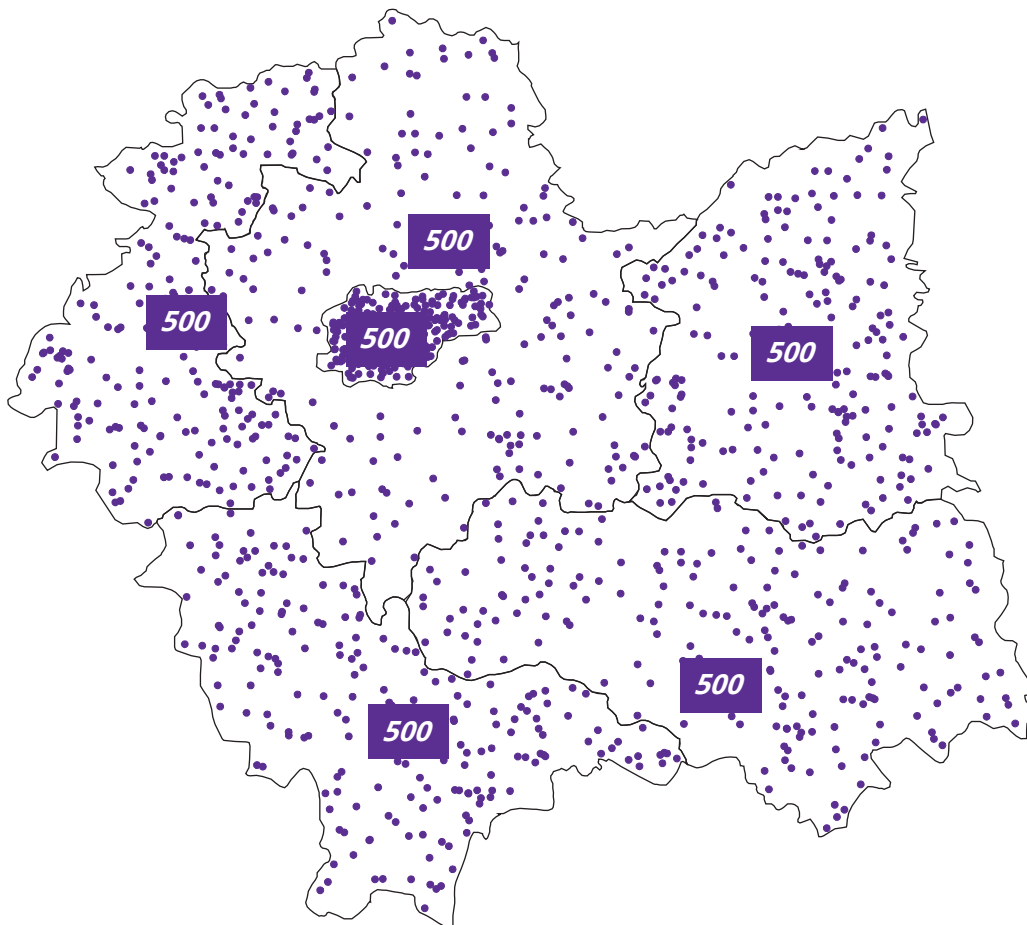
METHODOLOGY

The fifth opinion survey of Małopolska inhabitants was conducted on a sample of 3000 people (CATI - Computer-assisted telephone interviewing) in 6 territorial sub-regions: Krakow, Krakow Metropolitan Area (excluding Krakow), Tarnów, Nowy Sącz, Podhale and Małopolska Zachodnia.

The sample was selected using data from landline (50%) and cellular (50%) telephone service documentation. Selection followed the principles of stratified disproportionate random sampling.

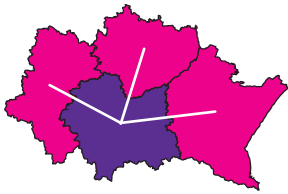
Map 1.

Sample size in sub regions



In the current edition respondents answered 23 questions that covered a wide range of issues:

- Relations with other regions, including in particular links with Śląskie region and its inhabitants;
- Associations with Śląskie region;
- Air quality (general knowledge, feedback on actions taken by local decision-makers, public attitudes in the field of air quality);
- Physical activity (attitude of Małopolska inhabitants towards physical activity and sport).



RELATIONS OF MAŁOPOLSKA RESIDENTS WITH OTHER REGIONS

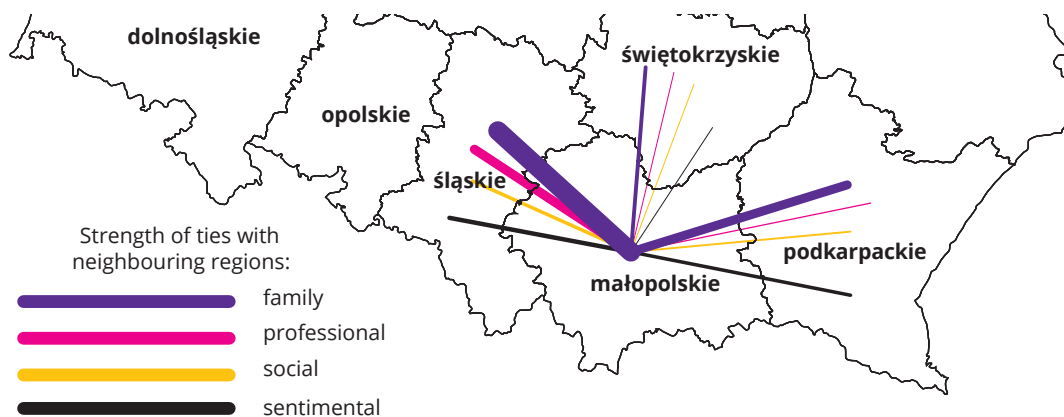
An analysis of the responses of Małopolska residents shows that **35.9% of the Małopolska inhabitants surveyed feel ties with residents of at least one region**. These respondents most often indicated links to the Śląskie region (43.4%), with markedly fewer links to the Podkarpackie region (1 in 5 persons), and 1 in 10 of the respondents who indicated ties to another region, emphasized their links to the Mazowieckie, Świętokrzyskie or Dolnośląskie regions (11.0%, 9.0%, 8.9% respectively).

The relations indicated by Małopolska respondents primarily related to family. For most regions these accounted for over 60% of responses. Significantly less frequently indicated were professional, social or sentimental (memorable) relations.

The respondents for whom relations with Śląskie region were particularly strong – the largest group – primarily selected family ties (58.5%), with professional 29.6%, sentimental (15.8%) or social contacts (12.8%) indicated significantly less often.

Map 2.

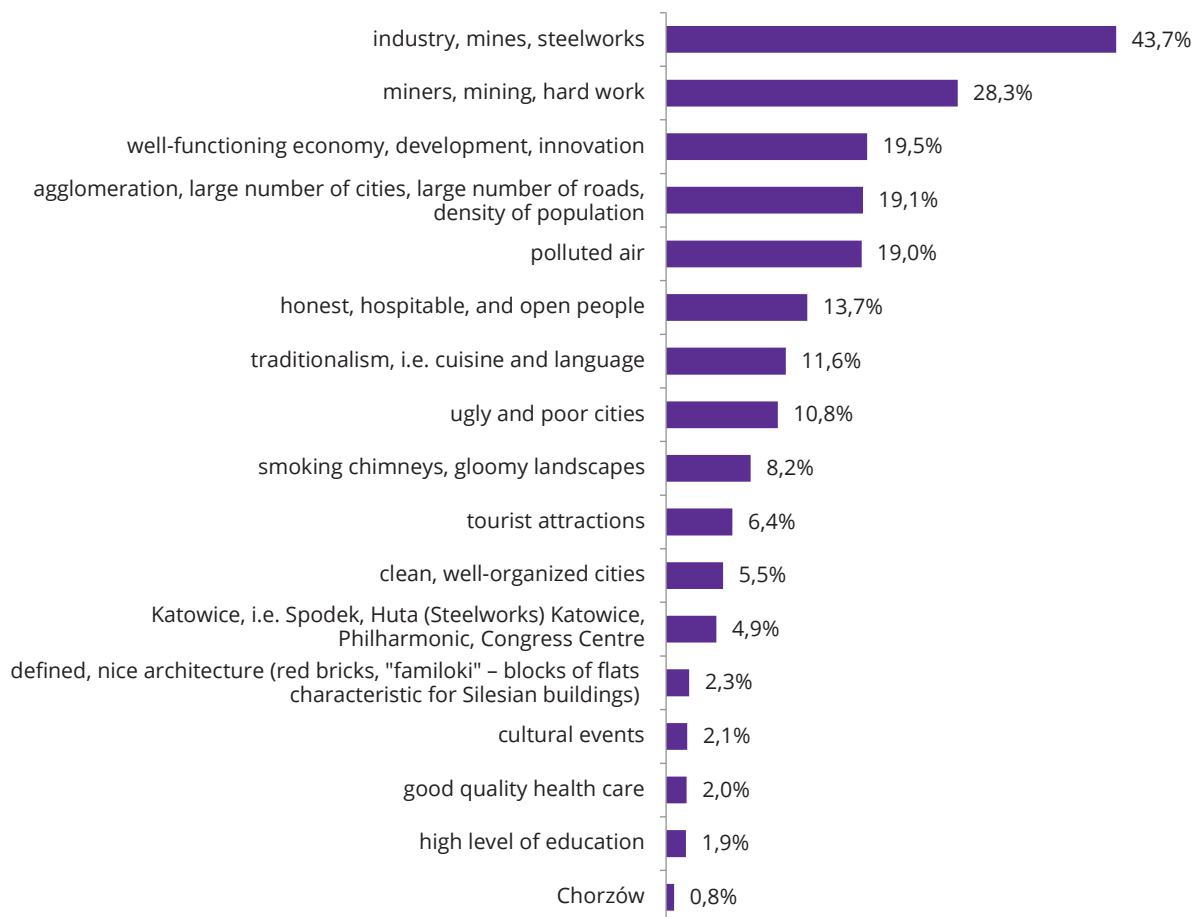
Strength of family, professional, social, and sentimental ties with neighbouring regions



The inhabitants of Małopolska most often associate Śląskie region with: **“industry, mines, steelworks”, “miners, mining, hard work”, and “well-functioning economy, development, innovation”**.

Graph 1.

Associations of Małopolska residents in relation to Śląskie region (up to three responses could be given, hence responses do not add up to 100)



Małopolska inhabitants **very rarely or never use the services provided in the Śląskie region**. Tourism services topped the list, though only 4.9% of respondents reported that they “very often” or “often” use these services, and 1 in 3 inhabitants (33.8%) use them “rarely” or “very rarely”. Second and subsequent places were taken by services in the areas of culture, and sport and leisure services: 2.6% and 3.1% respectively use them “very often” or “often”, and 27.3% and 20.9% “rarely” or “very rarely” respectively.

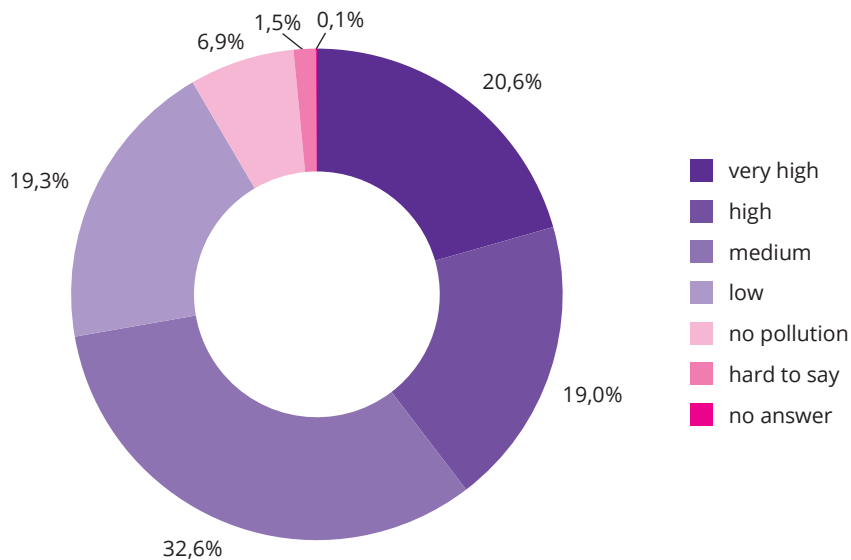


AIR QUALITY

Only 1 in 14 inhabitants of Małopolska (6.9%) believes that there is no air pollution in the place of living. As many as 39.6% describe pollution as “very high”, or “high”, 32.6% rate it as “medium”, and 19.3% as “low”.

Graph 2.

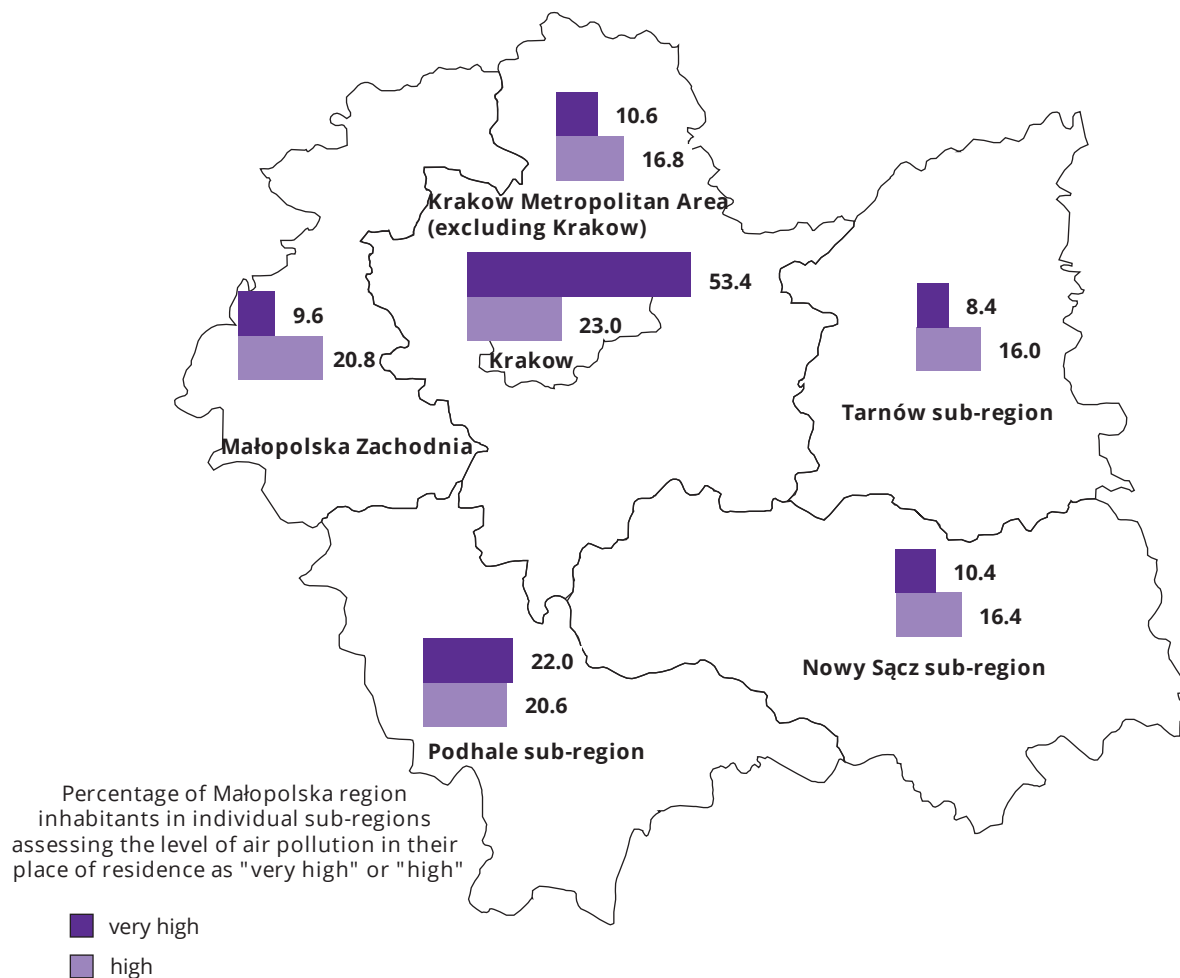
Assessment of the degree of air pollution in the place of residence



Significant differences in the perception of the degree of air pollution in the place of residence can be seen among Małopolska inhabitants living in different parts of the region. While 53.4% Krakow inhabitants rate air pollution as “very high”, in the Tarnów sub-region this opinion is only shared by 8.4% of the population. In Krakow 76.4% of inhabitants think that the pollution is “very high” or “high”, whereas in the Krakow Metropolitan Area the percentage rating it similarly is only 27.4%, in Małopolska Zachodnia 30.4%, in Podhale sub-region – 42.6%, in Nowy Sącz sub-region – 26.8%, and in Tarnów sub-region – 24.4%.

Map 3.

Percentage of Małopolska region inhabitants in individual sub-regions assessing the level of air pollution in their place of residence as "very high" or "high".

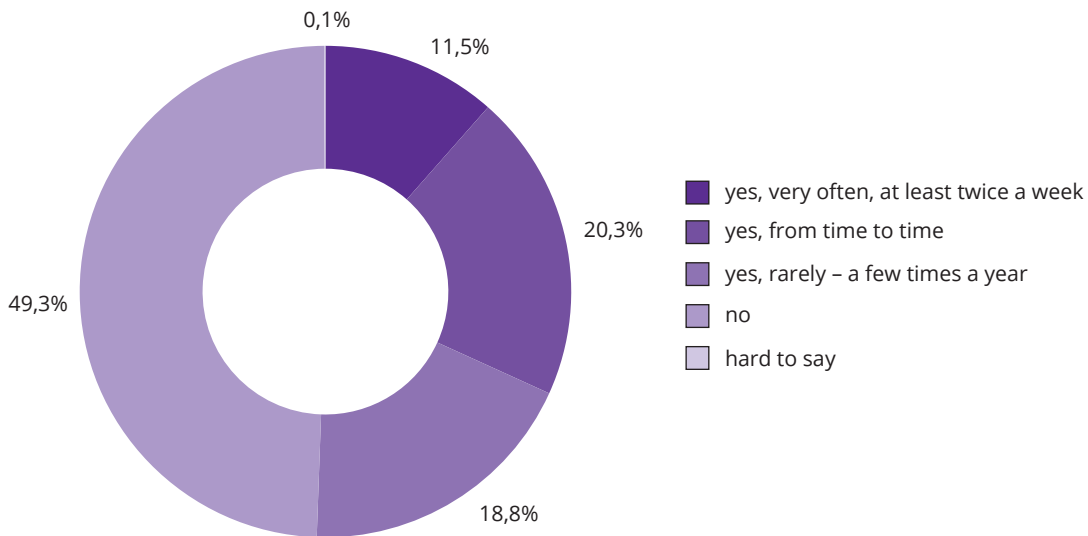


Małopolska inhabitants are convinced that using "bad quality heating fuel" is the main cause of air pollution. "Pollution from cars" was indicated almost as frequently. A lower percentage pointed to "industry", or "generating heat by burning garbage". "Geographic location" was indicated by 8.0% of Małopolska inhabitants. 5.9% of the region inhabitants believes that air quality is influenced by "poor spatial planning (e.g. air flow constricted by poor spatial and land use planning)". Other reasons (including "poor waste management", "generating heat using bad quality fuel despite awareness of the harmful effects", "lack of awareness about the harmful effects of air pollution on health", "proximity to Śląskie region", "high cost of more environmentally-friendly heat sources" or "lack of gas network") were indicated by a total of 6.4%.

Half of Małopolska residents searches for information on air quality, with 1 in 9 inhabitants looking for it at least twice a week; 1 in 5 search from time to time, and 18.8% – just a few times a year.

Graph 3.

Searching for information on the current state of air quality in the place of residence – by percentage

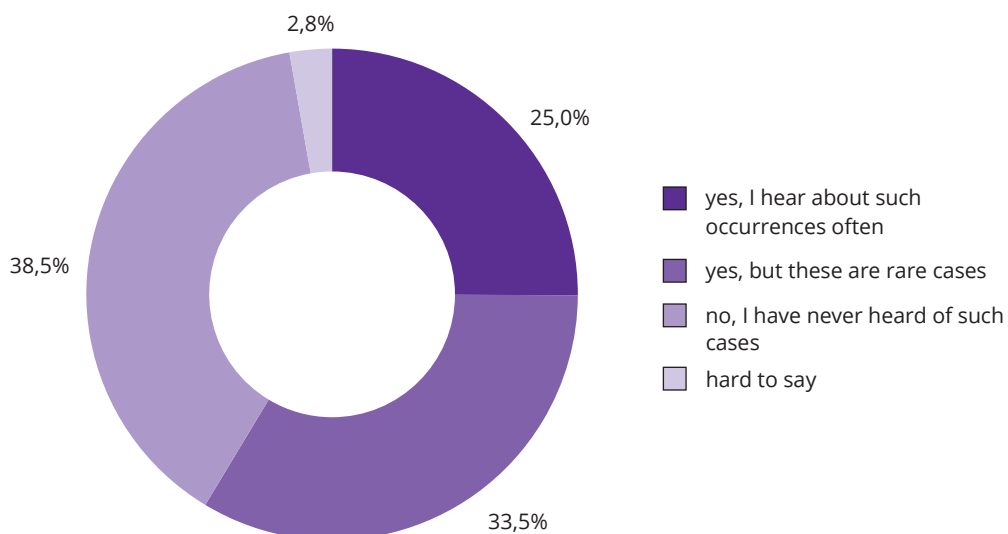


Malopolska residents believe that “municipal authorities should take action to reduce air pollution” – this is “very important” or “important” for 89.9% of the population. Only 8.4% of respondents believe that “there is no need”.

Nearly 40.0% of Malopolska residents have not encountered a situation where someone has incinerated garbage in their place of residence, but 1 in 4 respondents' has personally encountered such a situation, and 1 in 3 said that they had heard of such cases, though they are sporadic.

Graph 4.

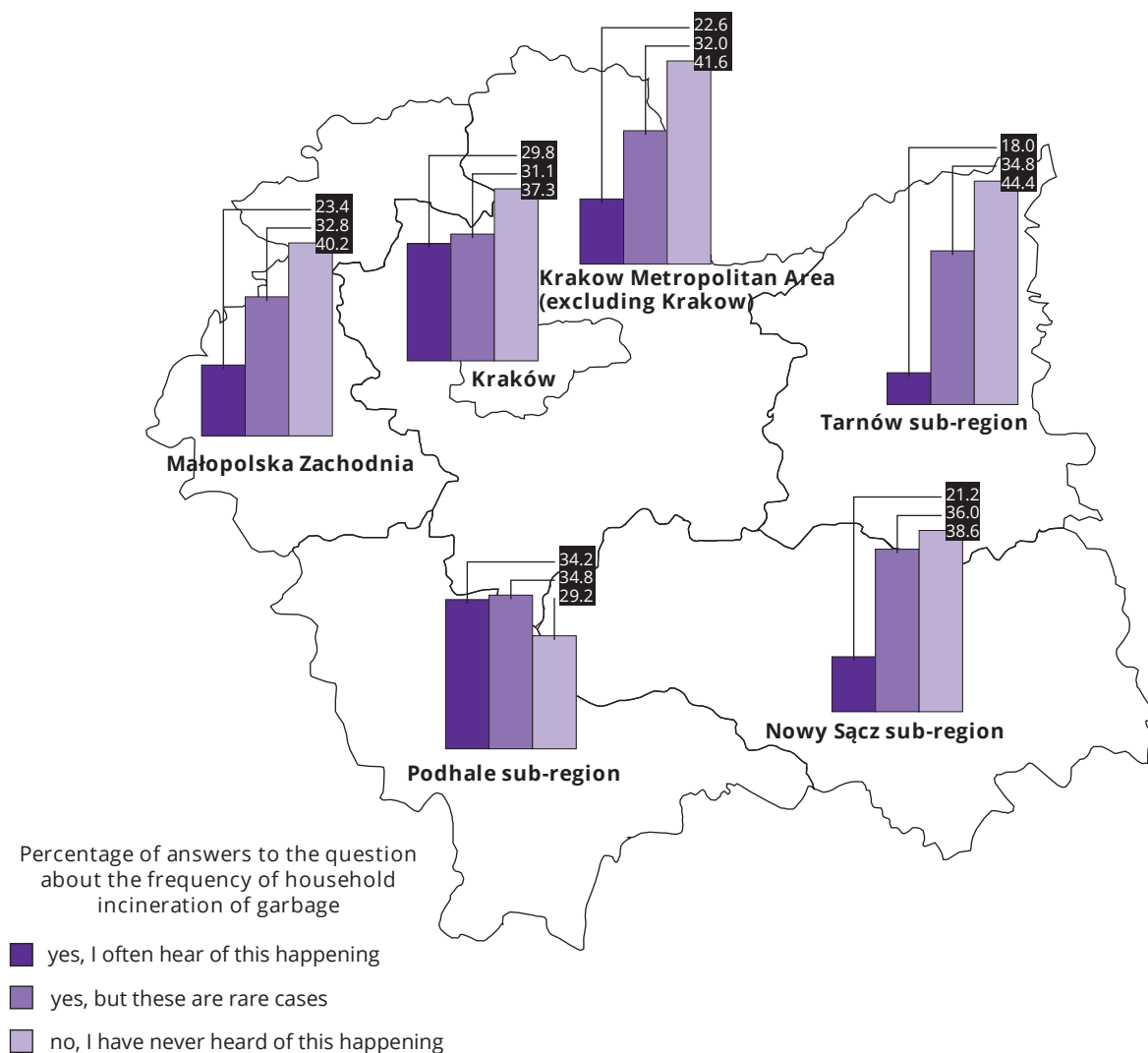
The percentage of answers to the question about whether the cases where some households are incinerating garbage are frequent



The most alarming results come from the Podhale sub-region – this is the only sub-region in which the proportion of people who have not heard of cases of incinerating garbage is lower (29.2%), than those who often hear such opinion (34.2%), or those who have heard of it, but feel that these are rare cases (34.8%).

Map 4.

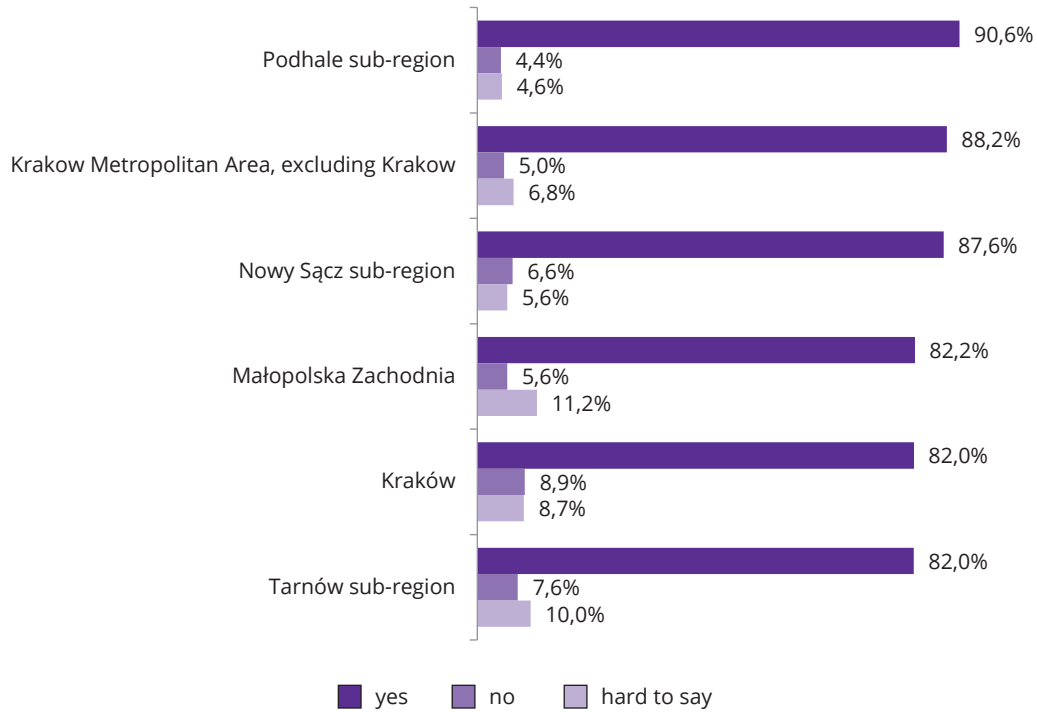
The percentage of answers to the question about the existence and frequency of household incineration of garbage



The vast majority of the region inhabitants (85.3%) believe that only “good quality” coal should be marketed, understood as highly calorific, or with high calorific value, leaving a small amount of ash, and emitting less toxic substances into the atmosphere.

Graph 5.

Opinions on whether only good quality coal should be marketed depending on the sub-region of residence



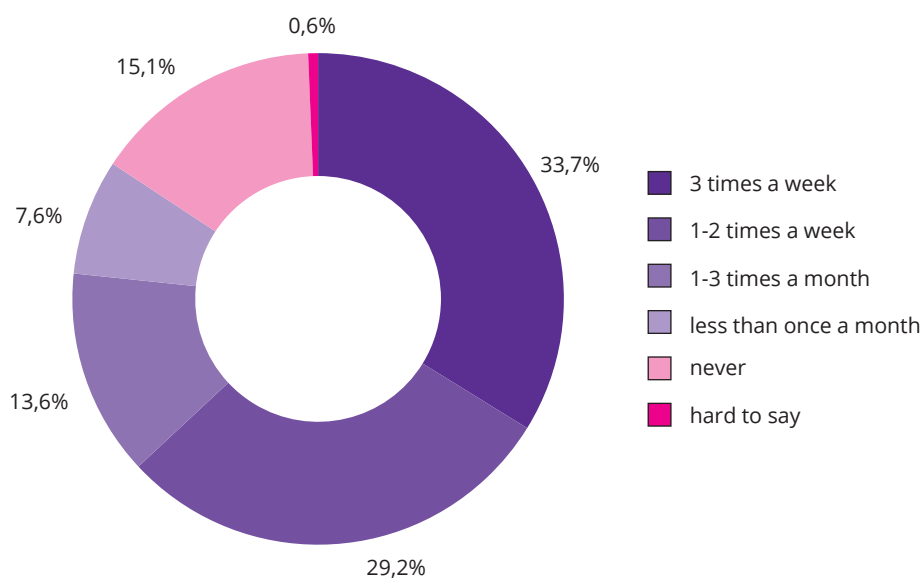


PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

One out of every three inhabitants of the region exercises, aimed at improving health, fitness, etc., not related to home or professional work, and scheduled at least **3 times a week or more**. Another third of Malopolska residents exercises one to two times a week. One in seven respondents participates in physical activity 1-3 times a month.

Graph 6.

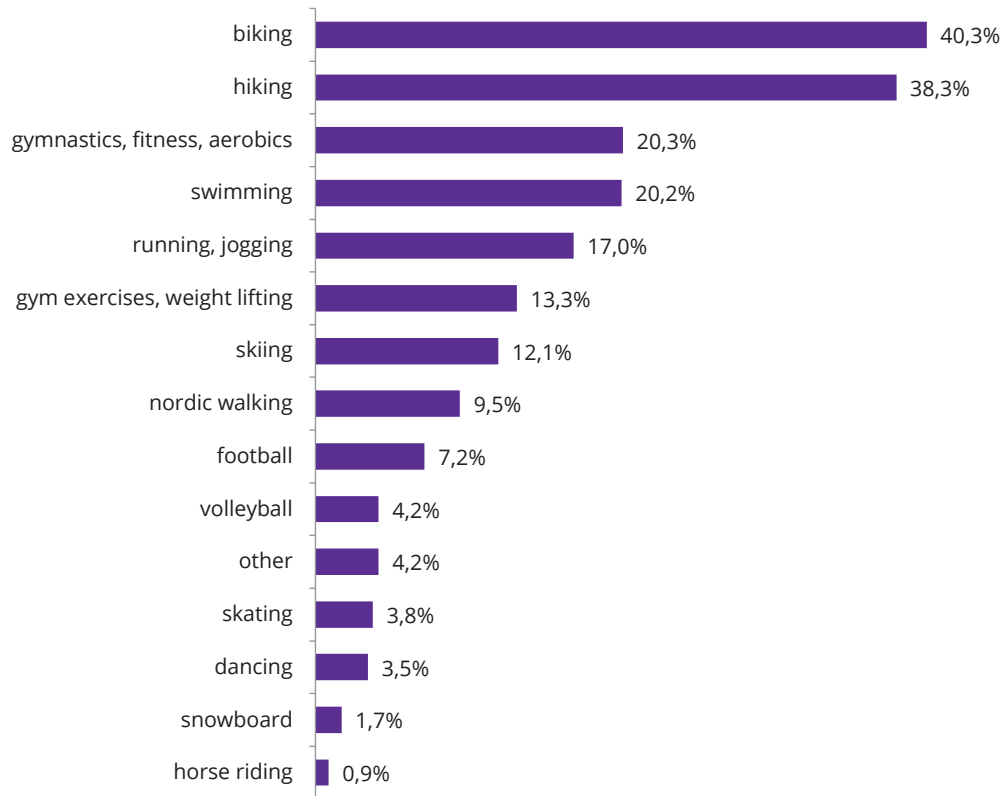
Frequency of physical activity undertaken by residents of the region



The most popular activities are cycling and hiking. A large percentage of residents swims, exercises in fitness clubs and gyms, or jogs.

Graph 7.

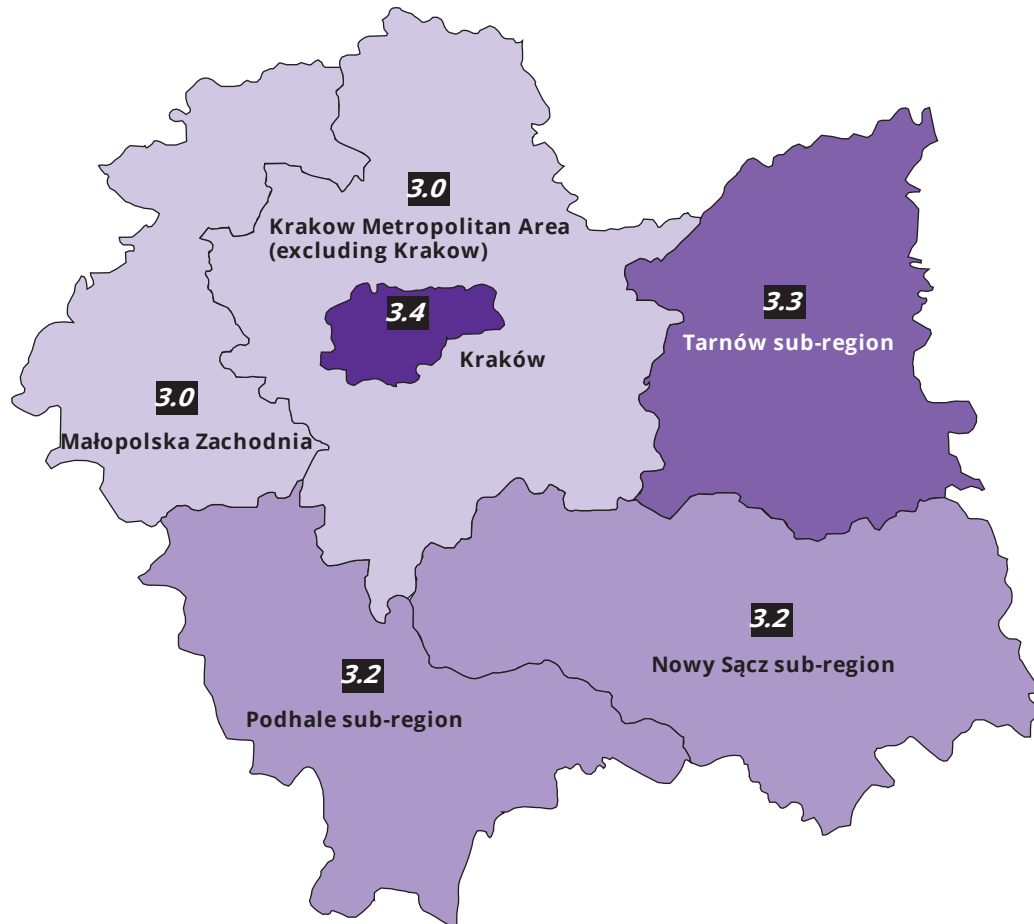
Types of physical activity / sport undertaken by Malopolska residents (percentages do not add up to 100 because respondents could select more than one answer)



Respondents rated the availability of sports and recreational facilities in their respective municipalities quite highly (with 1 indicating very poor access, and 5 as very good) – the average was 3.2. Sports and recreational facilities in the survey were understood as playing fields, swimming pools, ice rinks, tennis courts, roller-skating rinks, and gyms. The inhabitants of Krakow gave the highest ratings for accessibility to sports and recreational facilities.

Map 5.

Average ratings of accessibility to sports and recreational facilities in sub-regions, with 1 indicating very poor access and 5 indicating very good access



Malopolska residents believe that the lack of bike paths and swimming pools in their municipality are the greatest problem.



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