

European Population Conference 2008

Convenor: Wiktoria Wroblewska

Subject : Sexual and reproductive health

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Title: Contraception, Abortion and Social Networks **in Poland.** Changes in the Period 2001 – 2006.

Research issue: Contraception, abortion, social networks , religiosity, attitudes and behavior.

Structure of the paper:

1. Introduction – basic information about current situation in contraception and abortion (level and policy, current law regulations)
2. Theoretical consideration: social networks – contraceptive use; attitudes and behaviors
3. Source of data for the analysis
4. Attitudes and behaviors related to contraception, abortion, family plans
5. Contraception and social networks – model approach
6. Conclusions
7. Bibliography

Poland is a country with the very restricted abortion law, very few number of legal abortion, with the very low TFR (1,3 for 2006). At the same time Poland as the member of the European Union is considered as traditional catholic society which is ideal situation for exploring the relationship between: social networks, religiosity, attitudes and behaviors related to abortion and contraception.

Basic data for the analysis coming from two Polish Retrospective Surveys: “The evaluation of changes in attitudes and reproductive behaviors of young and middle generations of female and male Poles and their influence on the process of family, union, household formation and dissolution”, which were conducted by the Institute of Statistics and Demography WSE, in co-operation with the Central Statistical Office in Poland in 2001 and 2006. The 2001 survey was based on a random sample of Poland’s inhabitants aged 18-54. Sample consists of 3348 respondents, including 1724 women and 1624 men. Due to the research purposes, 1486 respondents living in towns and cities with 20 thousand and more residents were selected from the first survey. Data from 2006 consists of 1492 respondents aged 18-54 years living in towns and cities with 20 thousand and more residents.

According to the settlements accepted in the introduction and theoretical considerations, the following questions will be answered:

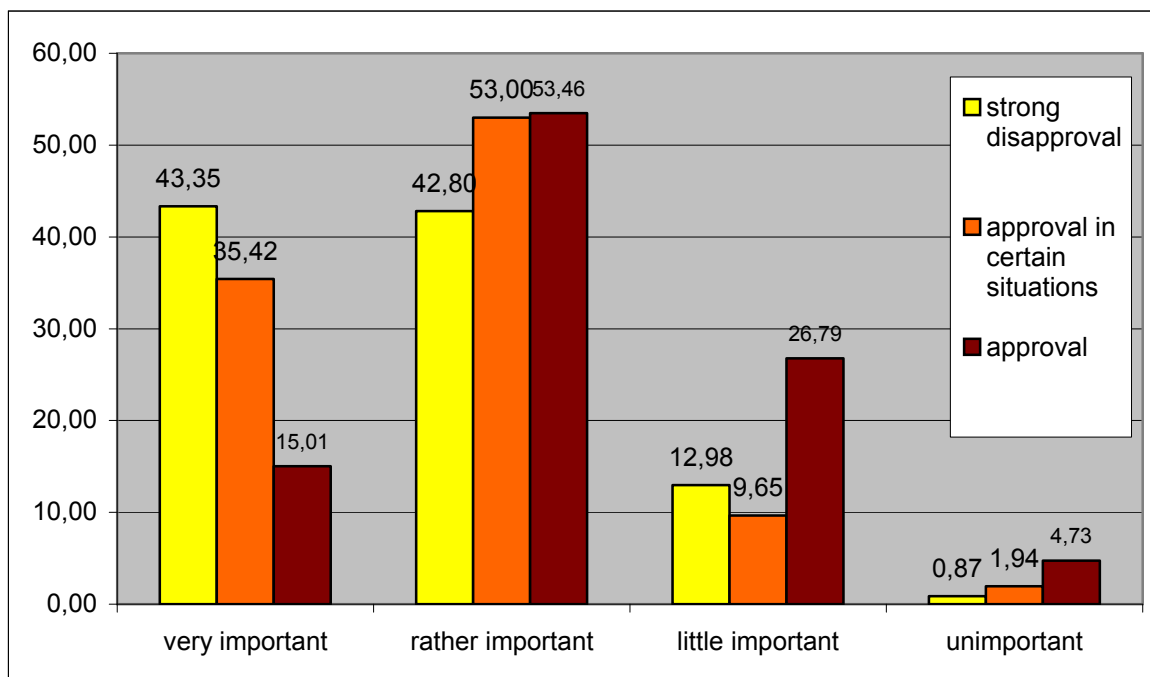
- What are the current attitudes, behaviors and intentions connected with contraception and abortion (reproductive behaviors) of persons of procreative age in Poland?

- What is the relationship/association between current attitudes and behaviors regarding contraception and abortion (reproductive behaviors) and religiosity in the Polish society of procreative age?
- How important is role of the social networks on the contraceptive use, more general reproductive behaviors of persons of procreative age in Poland?

The answers to the mentioned questions will be preceded by short information on law regulations and history of abortion in Poland. The unique data on social networks and reproductive behaviors coming from both Polish Retrospective Surveys will describe the importance of the relationship between contraceptive use, social networks and other socio-economic characteristic of the respondent based on the logistic regression models.

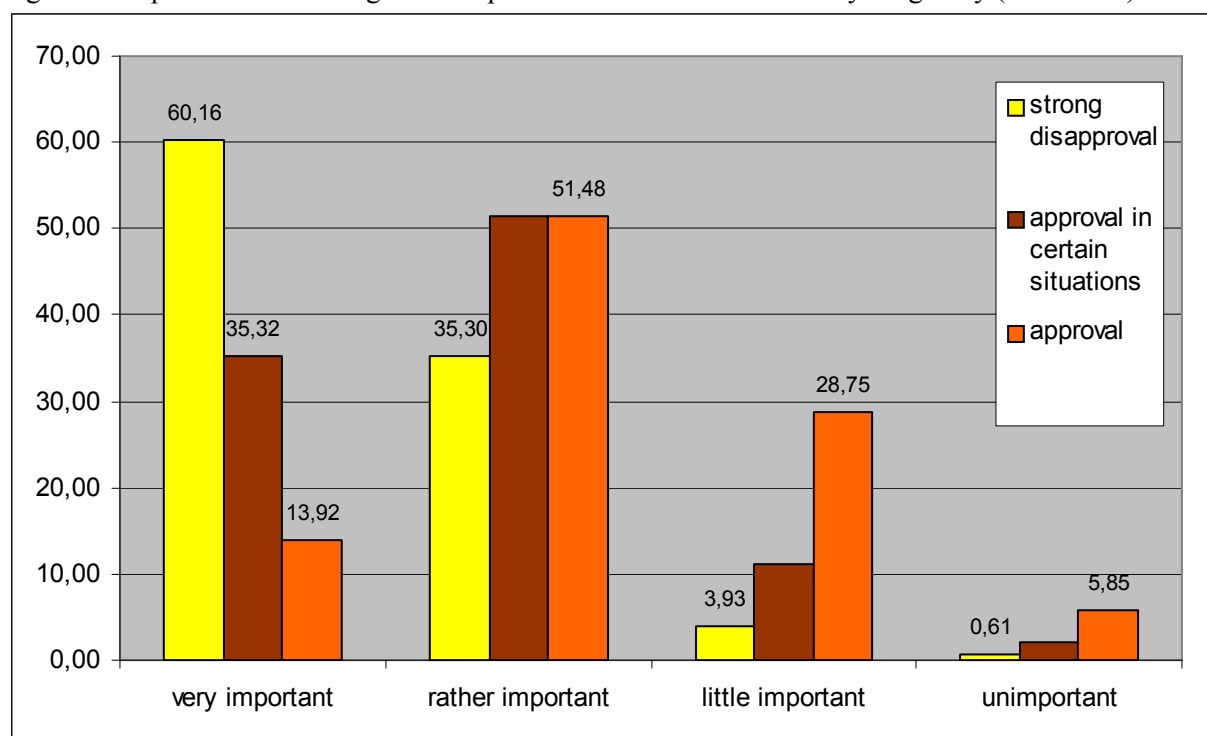
Below several graphs presenting how religiosity is important for beginning of regular sexual life, contraceptives usage and opinion about abortion.

Figure 1a. Opinions about using contraceptives methods broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



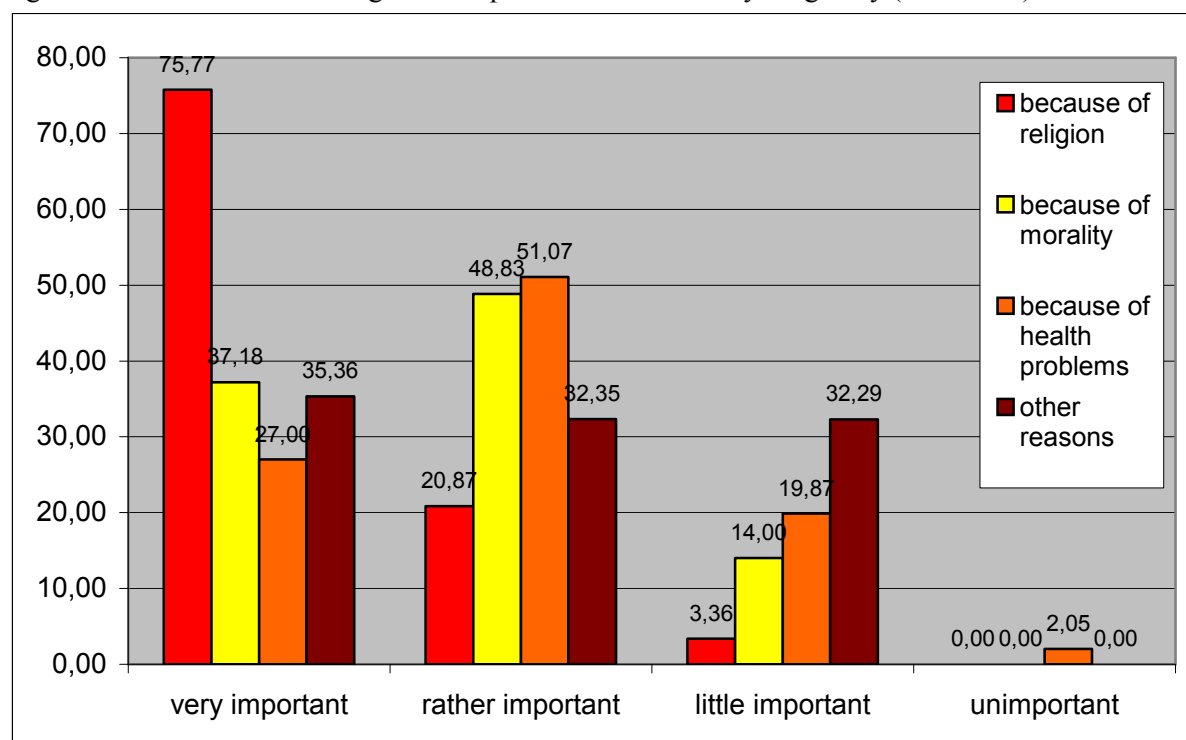
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 1b. Opinions about using contraceptives methods broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



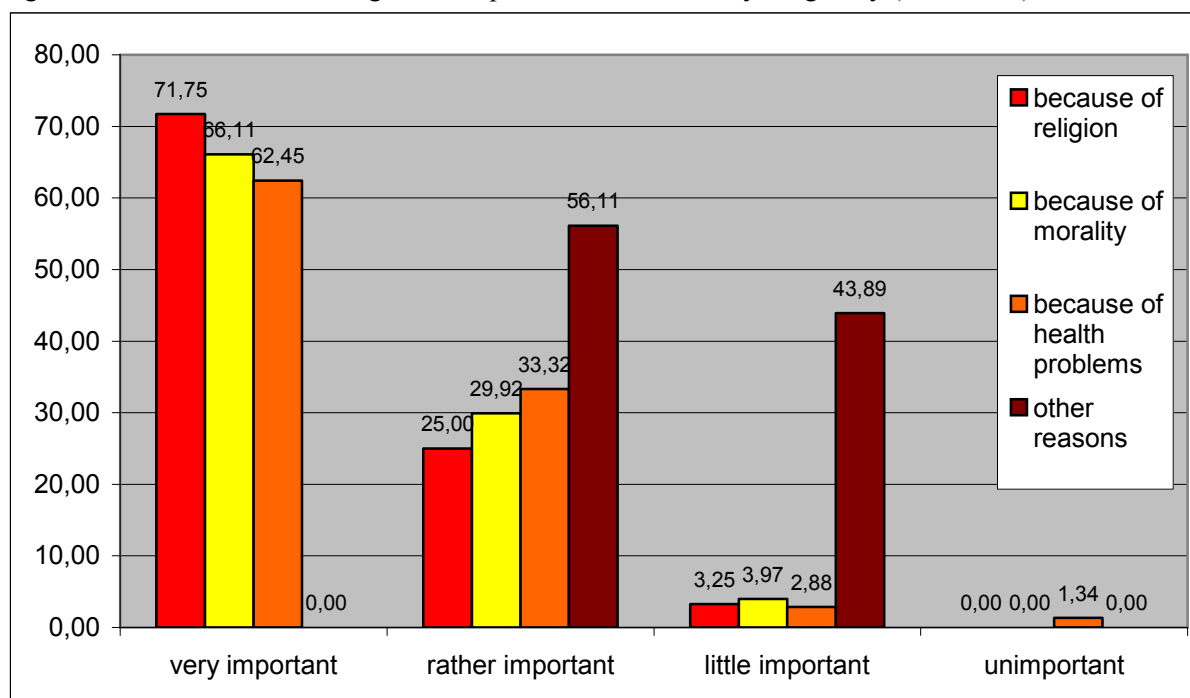
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 2a. Reasons for not using contraceptives broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



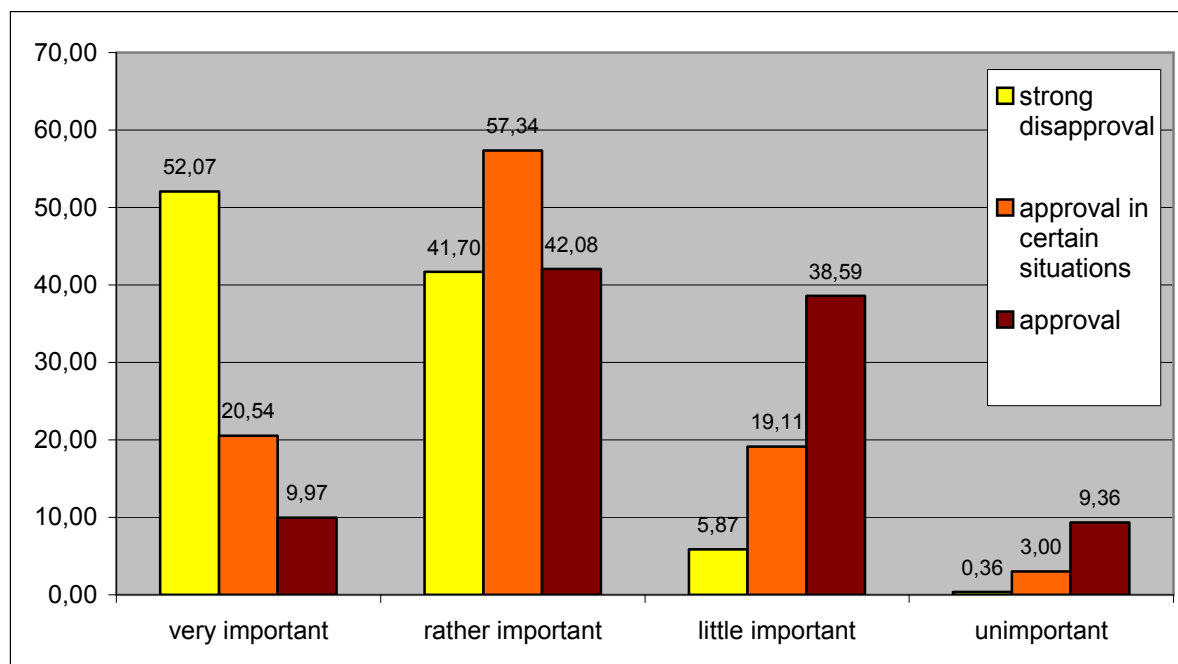
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 2b. Reasons for not using contraceptives broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



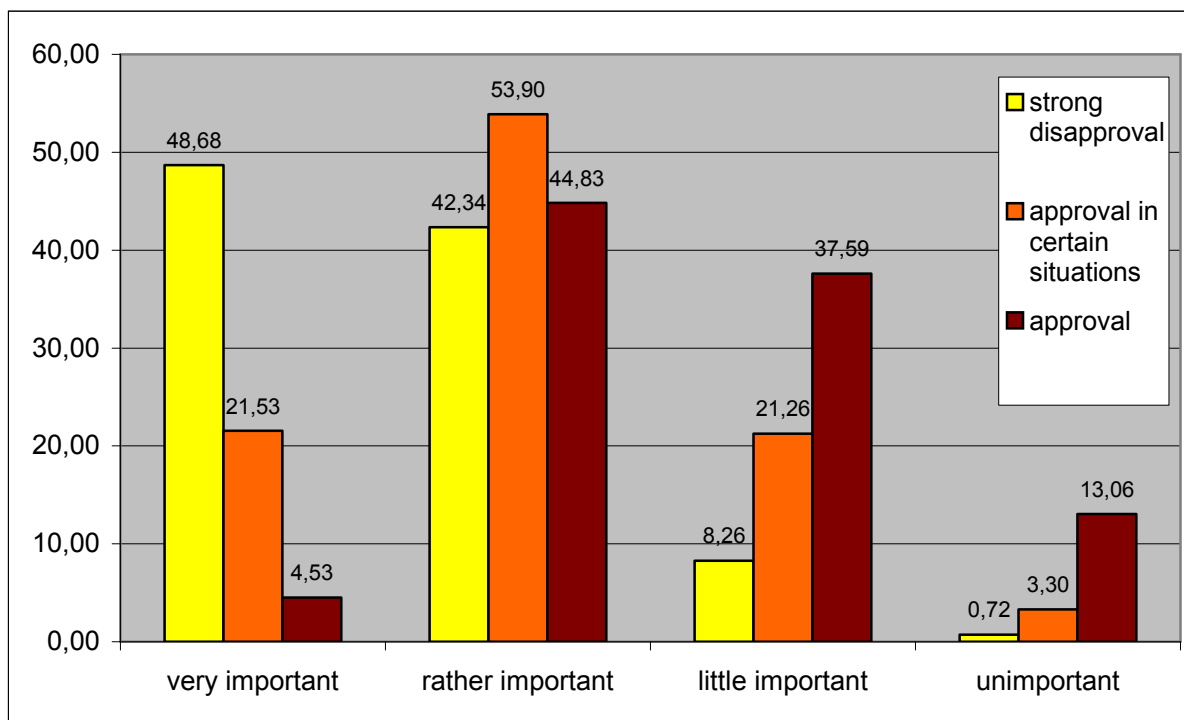
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 3a. Opinions about the abortion broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



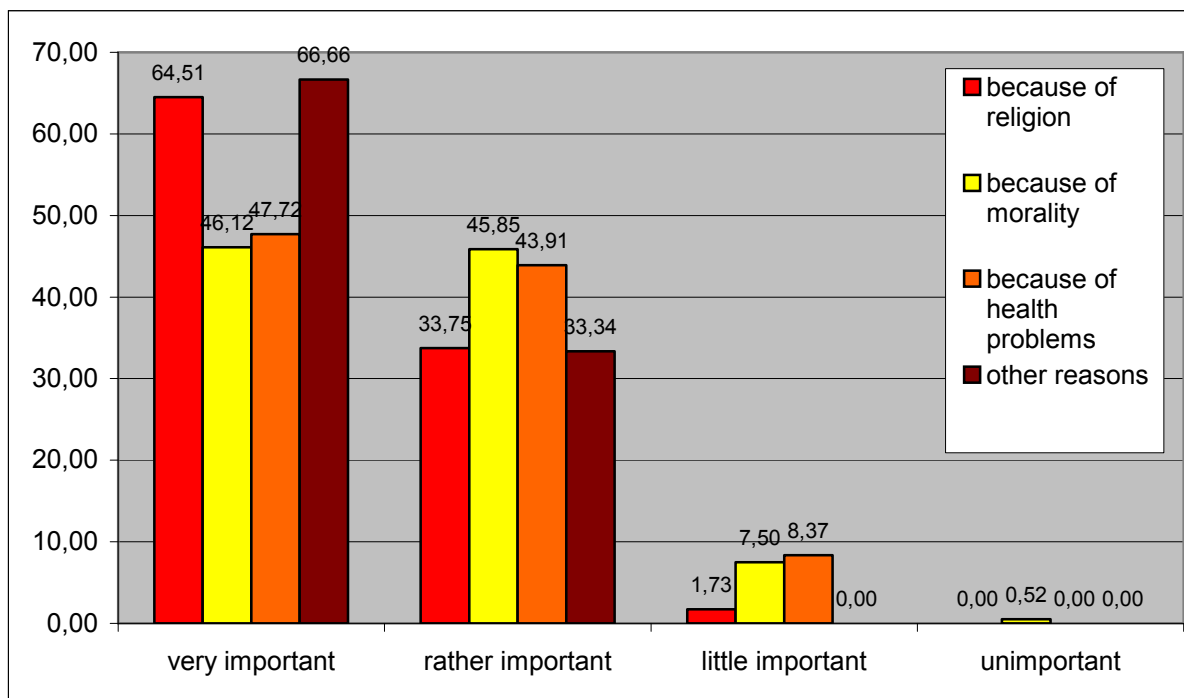
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 3b. Opinions about the abortion broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



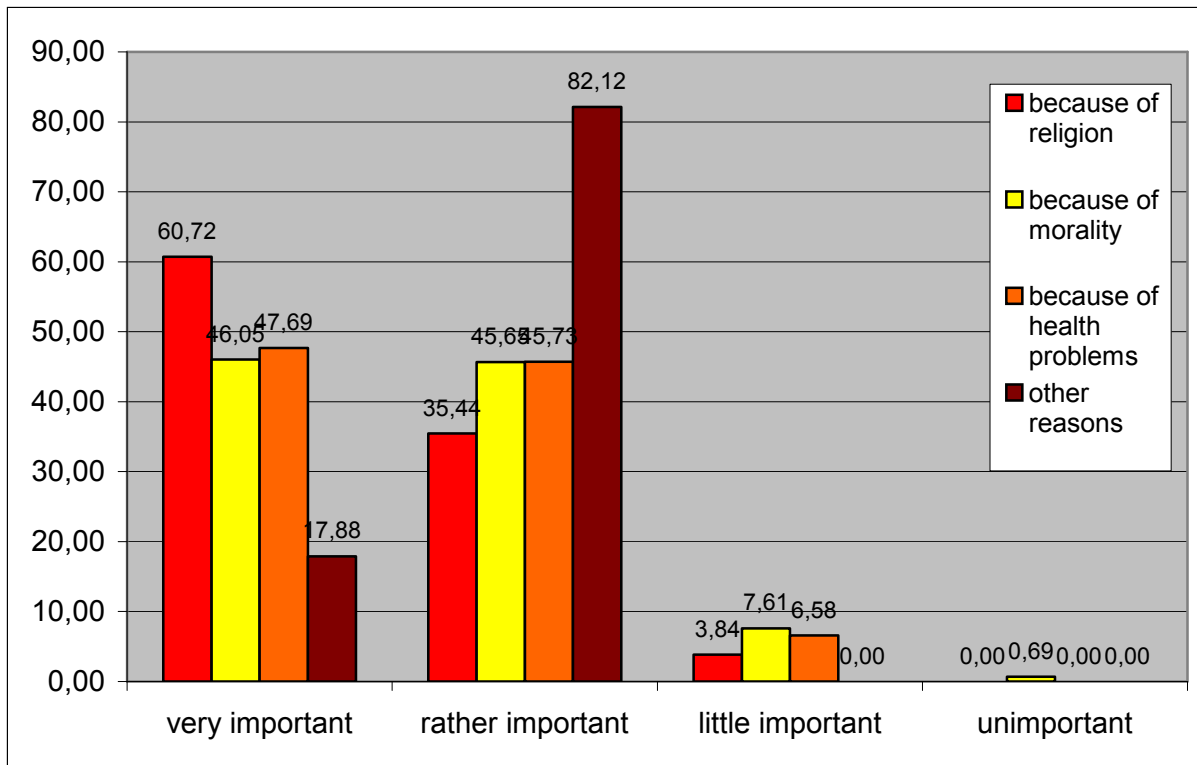
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 4 a. Reasons for condemning the abortion broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



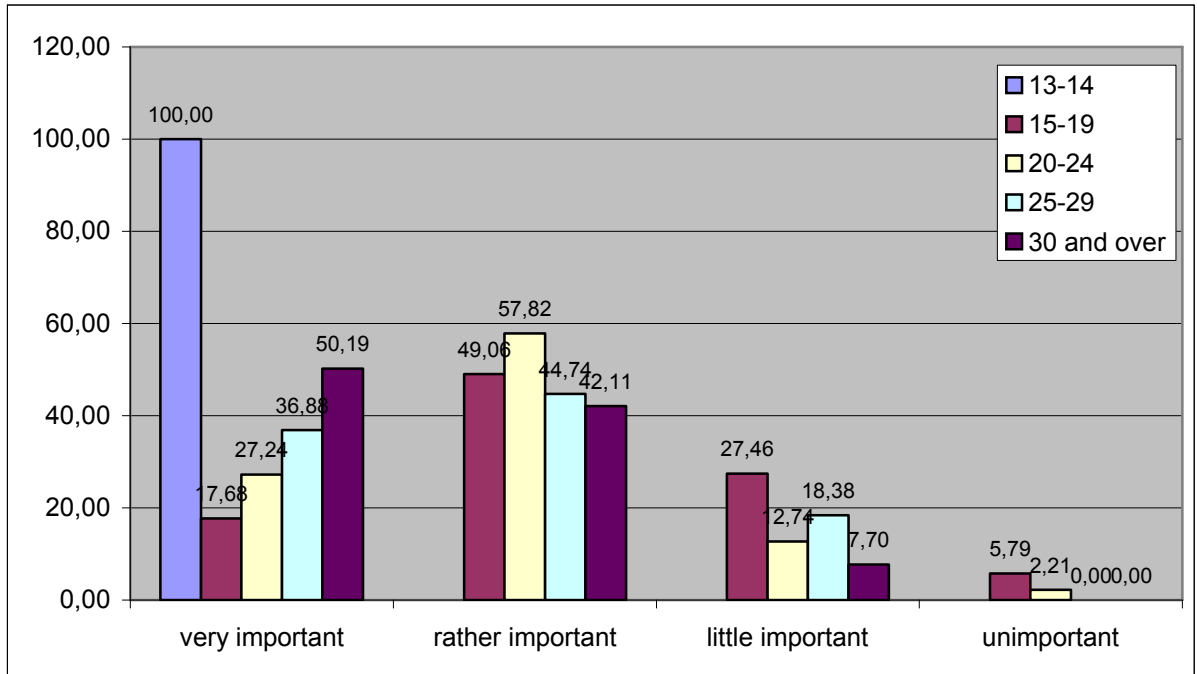
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 4 b. Reasons for condemning the abortion broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



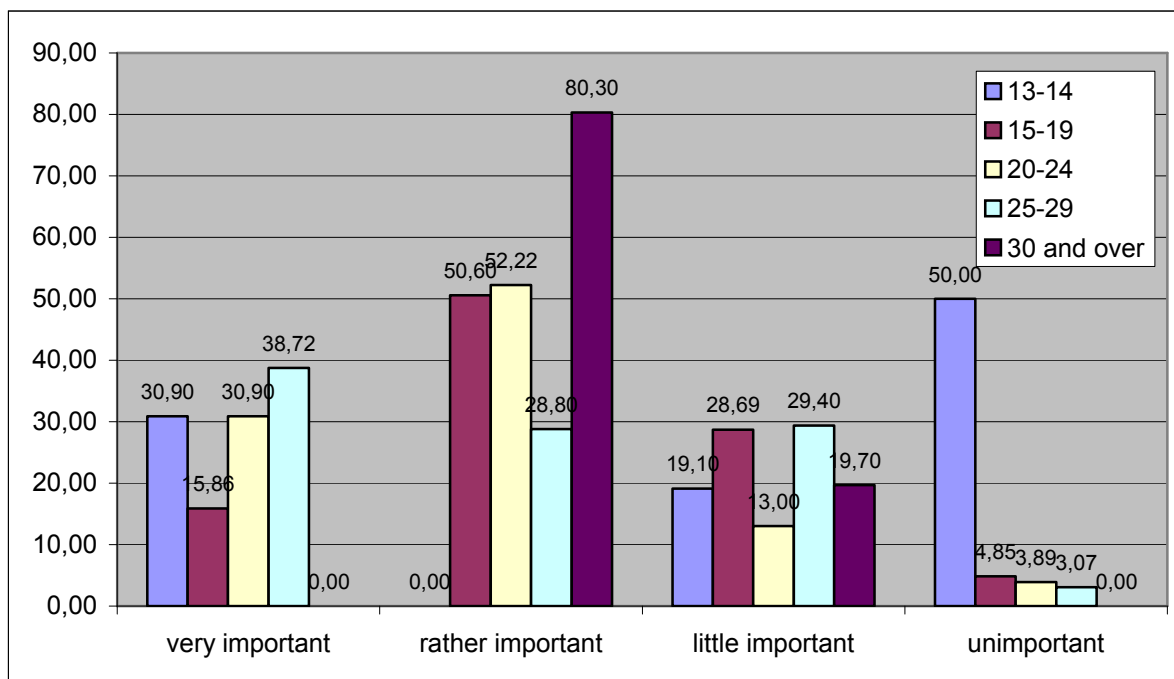
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 5a. Age of the beginning of sexual life broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



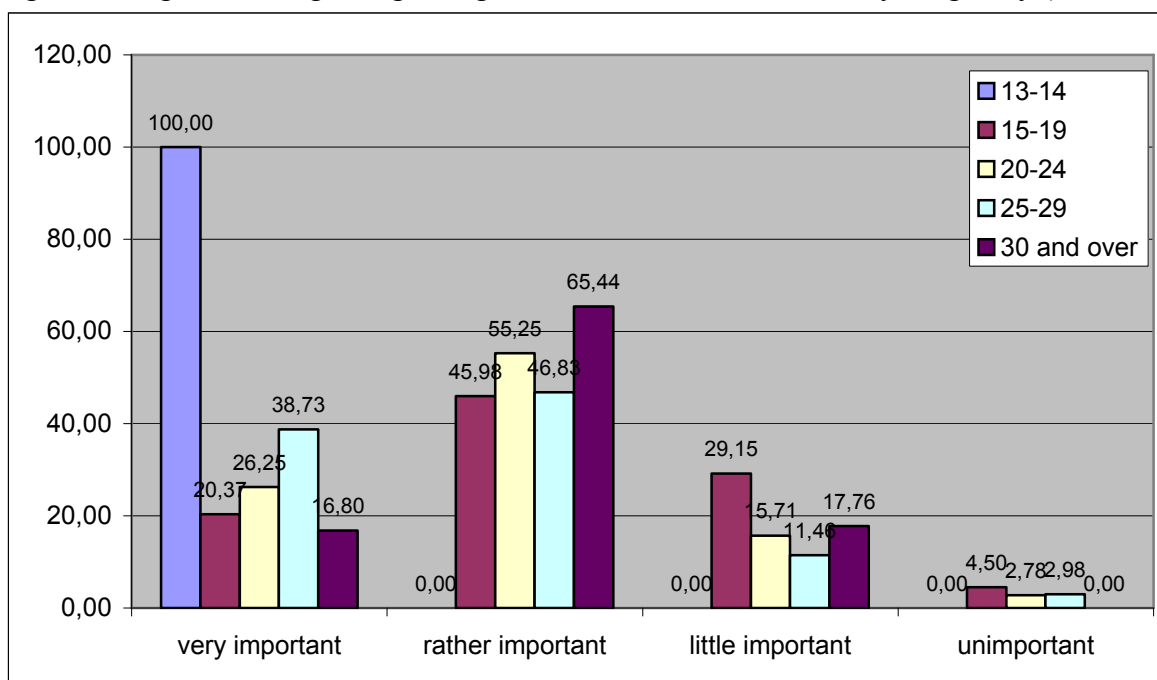
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 5b. Age of the beginning of sexual life broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



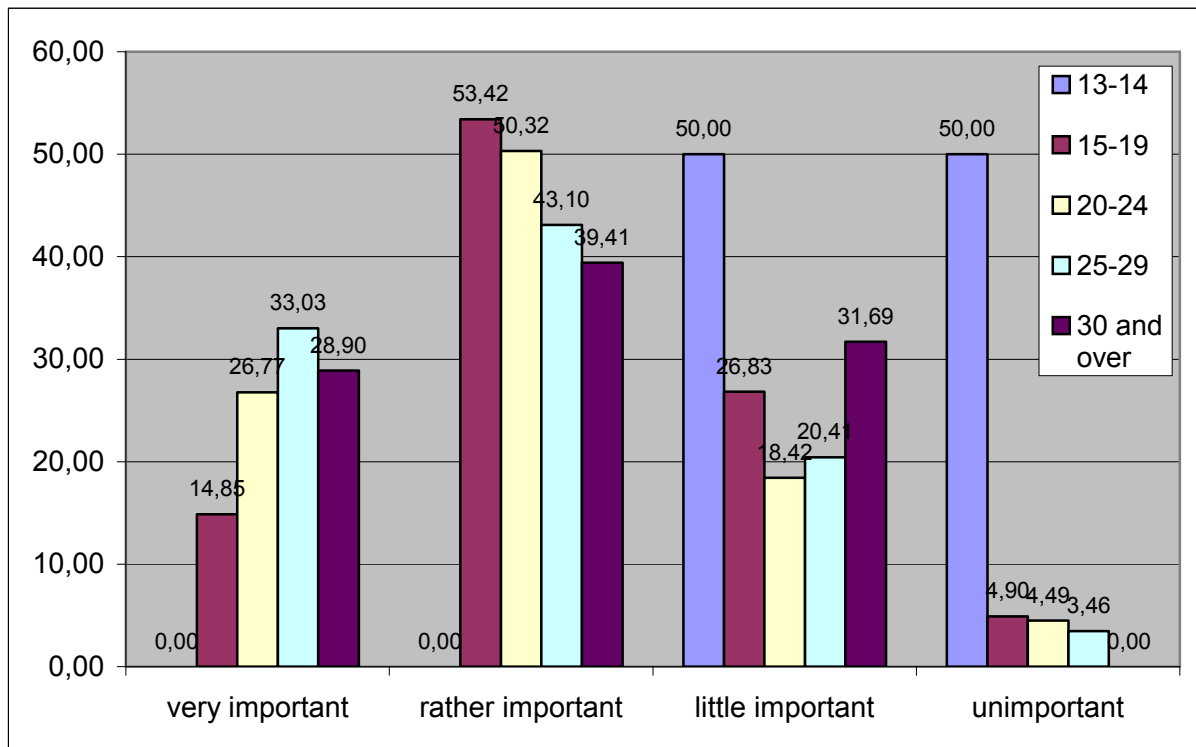
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 6a. Age of the beginning of regular sexual life broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



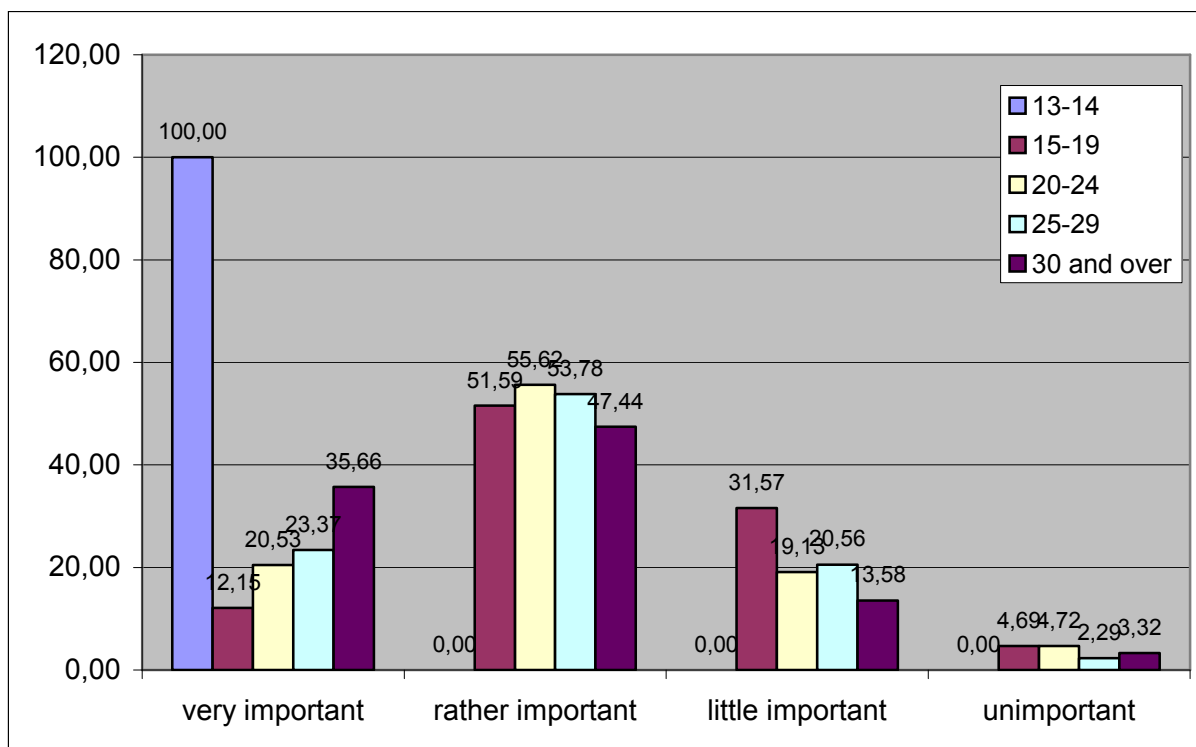
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 6b. Age of the beginning of regular sexual life broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



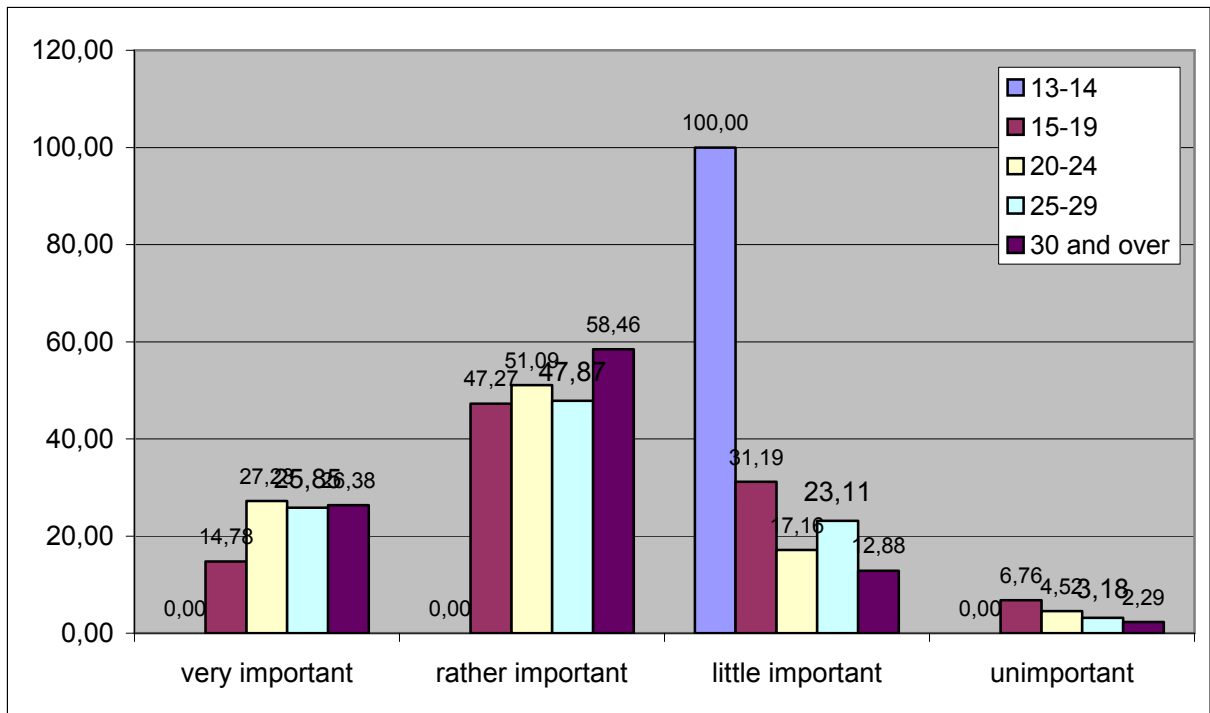
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 7a. Age of the beginning of using contraceptives broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



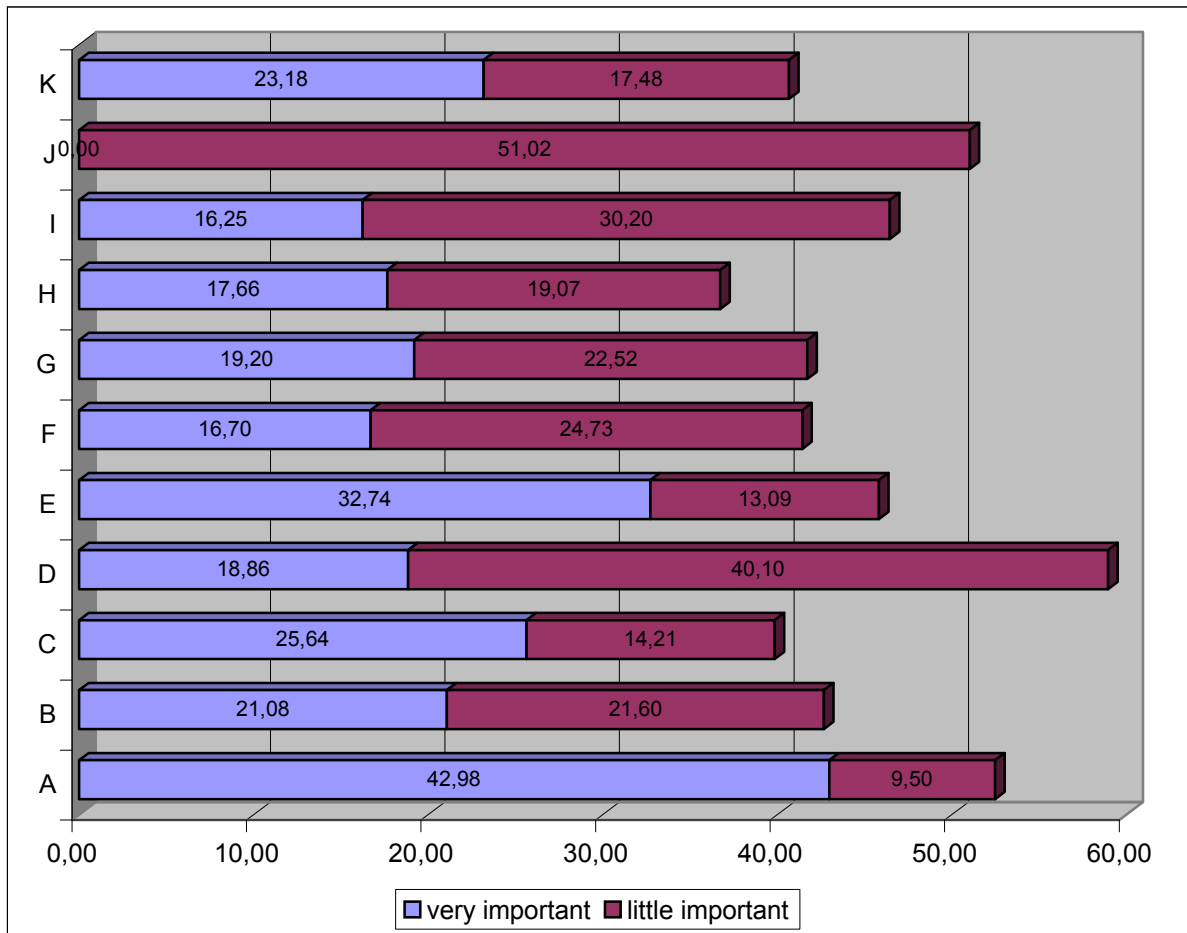
Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

Figure 7b. Age of the beginning of using contraceptives broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

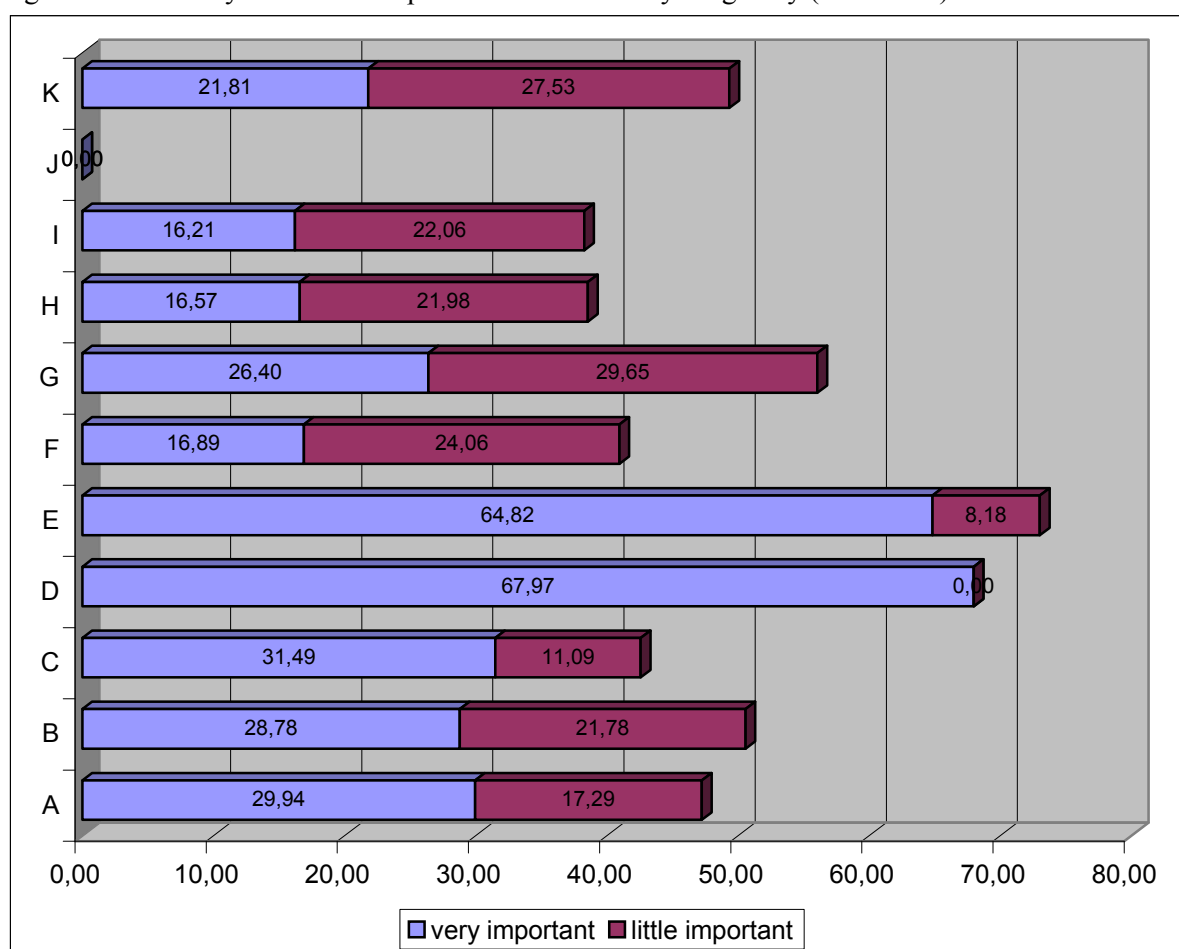
Figure 8a. Recently used contraceptives broken down by religiosity (% in 2001).



Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2001, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

- A - Sexual abstinence
- B - Coitus interrupted
- C - Calendar
- D - Thermal method
- E - Ovulation method
- F - Condom
- G - Chemical means
- H - Contraceptive spiral
- I - Contraceptive pills
- J - Sterilization
- K - None

Figure 8b. Recently used contraceptives broken down by religiosity (% in 2006).



Source: Own elaboration based on the Polish Retrospective Survey 2006, Warsaw School of Economics, 2006.

- A - Sexual abstinence
- B - Coitus interrupted
- C - Calendar
- D - Thermal method
- E - Ovulation method
- F - Condom

- G - Chemical means
- H - Contraceptive spiral
- I - Contraceptive pills
- J - Sterilization
- K - None

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