

SUCHODOLSKI

Requested by: Rita Mathis

Analysis by: William F. "Fred" Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>, for UPGS 2008

In Polish this name is pronounced roughly "soo-ho-DOLE-skee." Polish ch is a bit more guttural than our *h*, closer to the *ch* in German *Bach*. But if you say "soo-ho-DOLE-skee," that's pretty close.

As of 2002, according to the Moikrewni site, there were 1,980 Polish citizens who bore the masculine version, **Suchodolski**, and another 2,044 who went by the traditional feminine version, **Suchodolska**. The name appears all over Poland, but is most common in the east and northeast. You can get details here:

<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/suchodolski.html>

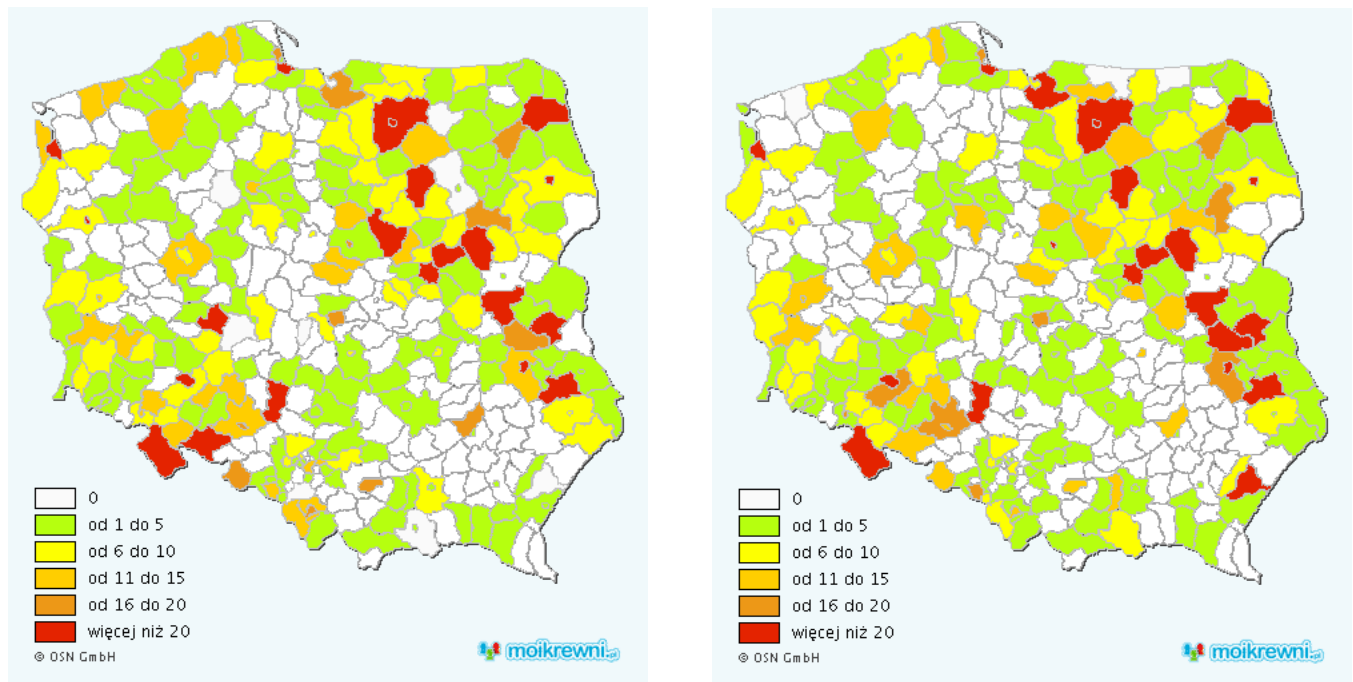
<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/suchodolska.html>

The data indicates that the name was most common in the following *powiaty*:

Łuków (69)
Warszawa (68)
Parczew (53)
Krasnystaw (44)
Przasnysz (40)

s. Lublin (37)
Wołomin (37)
Lubartów (34)
s. Białystok (34)
s. Wrocław (33)

Professor Rymut mentions this name in his book *Nazwiska Polaków* [The Surnames of Poles]. He says it appears in Polish records as early as 1399, and comes from an old Polish noun *suchodół* that means "dry valley" or from any of a number of villages in Poland named *Suchodół* or *Suchdół* or *Sudół*, which presumably got those names because they were located in a dry valley. The *Słownik geograficzny* (Vol. 11, p. 535) explains that *Suchodół* was a name often given dry areas in river lowlands, and also to dry



Map showing the distribution of the feminine form **Suchodolska** as of 2002.

Map showing the distribution of the masculine form **Suchodolski** as of 2002.

ditches or trenches, which might be natural or artificial formations used as barriers to make it harder to attack castles—sort of like the opposite of a moat.

The *Słownik* has 18 entries for places called *Suchodół* and 11 for places called *Suchodoły*, some of which were located in areas formerly ruled by Poland or the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania, but now in the independent nations of Belarus and Ukraine. So while the map site <http://mapa.szukacz.pl/> shows 8 places in modern Poland named *Suchodół*, and 5 more named *Suchodoły*—, that's not the whole story—and this surname could easily refer to any of the places with those names. From the surname alone, there's no way to tell which one a given Suchodolski family came from. Only research into the family history might establish that, by determining exactly which area of Poland the family came from, and thus allowing you to make a reasonable assumption as to which place with the appropriate name was nearest and thus most likely to be the place to which the surname referred.

Note, too, that in the place names as well as the surname, the combination *-cho-* was sometimes shortened or even deleted, so that we also see the surname *Sudolski*, which means essentially the same thing. This is worth knowing because surname forms were often inconsistent, and it wouldn't be all that odd if the same family showed up in records under the name *Suchodolski* one time, *Sudolski* another. You can't afford to assume that all Suchodolskis are related, or that Suchodolskis and Sudolskis aren't related. You have to focus on gathering information on the family, focusing on the form *Suchodolski* but not ignoring others with similar names who might be related.

This is one aspect of names for which the database at <http://www.herby.com.pl/indexslo.html> can sometimes be more helpful than the Moikrewni site, even though the Herby.com.pl site has older and less accurate data (1990 vs. 2002). The Herby site allows you to search using “wild cards,” * for any combination of letters, ? for any one letter. A search for SU*DOLSK brings up the following results:

Suchadolska 0 0

Suchdolski 2 El:1, Kr:1

Suchodolski 3717 Wa:315, BP:145, Bs:88, BB:42, By:67, Ch:31, Ci:95, Cz:74, El:124, Gd:137, Go:54, JG:69, Kl:88, Ka:154, Ki:21, Kn:1, Ko:100, Kr:28, Ks:5, Lg:44, Ls:21, Lu:155, Ło:86, Łd:51, NS:11, Ol:169, Op:81, Os:135, Pl:14, Pt:17, Pł:106, Po:46, Pr:24, Ra:25, Rz:7, Sd:150, Sr:7, Sk:21, Sł:67, Su:111, Sz:103, Tb:27, Ta:26, To:35, Wb:129, Wł:19, Wr:180, Za:96, ZG:116

Sudolski 318 Wa:9, By:12, Gd:2, Go:1, Kl:119, Ka:9, Ki:1, Kn:11, Ko:2, Kr:11, Ls:14, Łd:2, Pt:5, Po:10, Sr:3, Sk:9, Sz:6, To:13, Wb:3, Wł:4, Wr:42, ZG:30

This tells us that *Suchdolski* and *Sudolski* are rare variants of *Suchodolski*, but they do exist. There's even a form *Suchadolski*, though it's died out. The frequency of 0 means there was an entry for that name in the database, but the data was incomplete -- usually because the name was rare and the only person(s) by that name had either died or gotten married recently. *Suchdolski* was very rare, with only 2 Polish citizens by that name, one each in the provinces of Elbląg and Kraków. *Sudolski* was more common, with a particularly high number, 119, in the province of Kalisz, in west central Poland. You never know what bit of data prove useful. That's why I suggest searching for names on both the Herby.com.pl and Moikrewni sites. They're both online and free, so you might as well cover all the bases!

To return to the index page for UPGS 2008 surname analyses, <http://www.fredhoff.com/UPGS2008.htm>, click on the URL.