

# American Views on Assisted Suicide



Representative Survey of 1,000  
Americans

# Methodology

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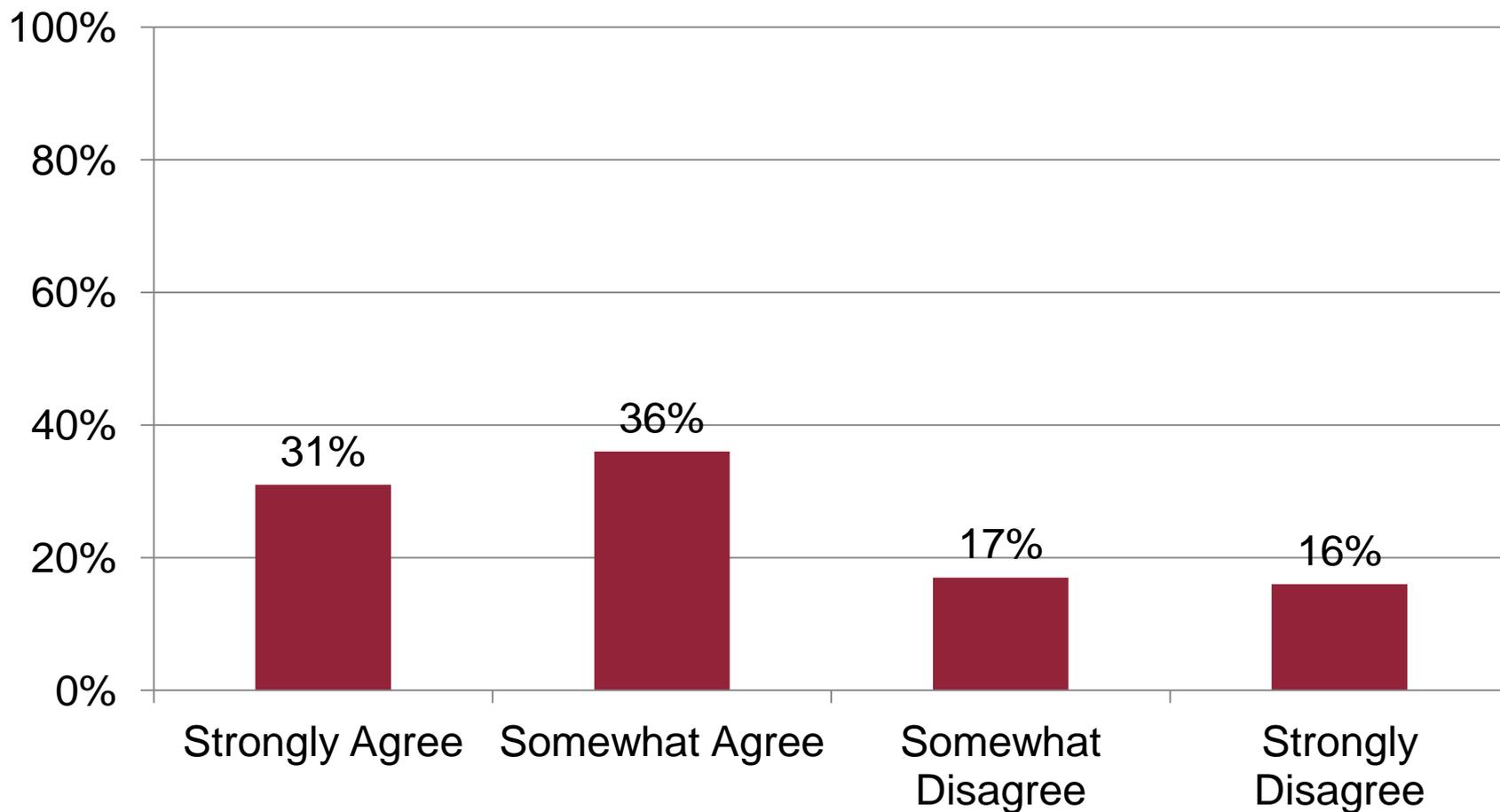
LifeWay Research conducted the study Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, 2016. The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, GfK provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection.

Sample stratification and weights were used for gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, metro/non-metro, education, and income to reflect the most recent US Census data. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.1 percent. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

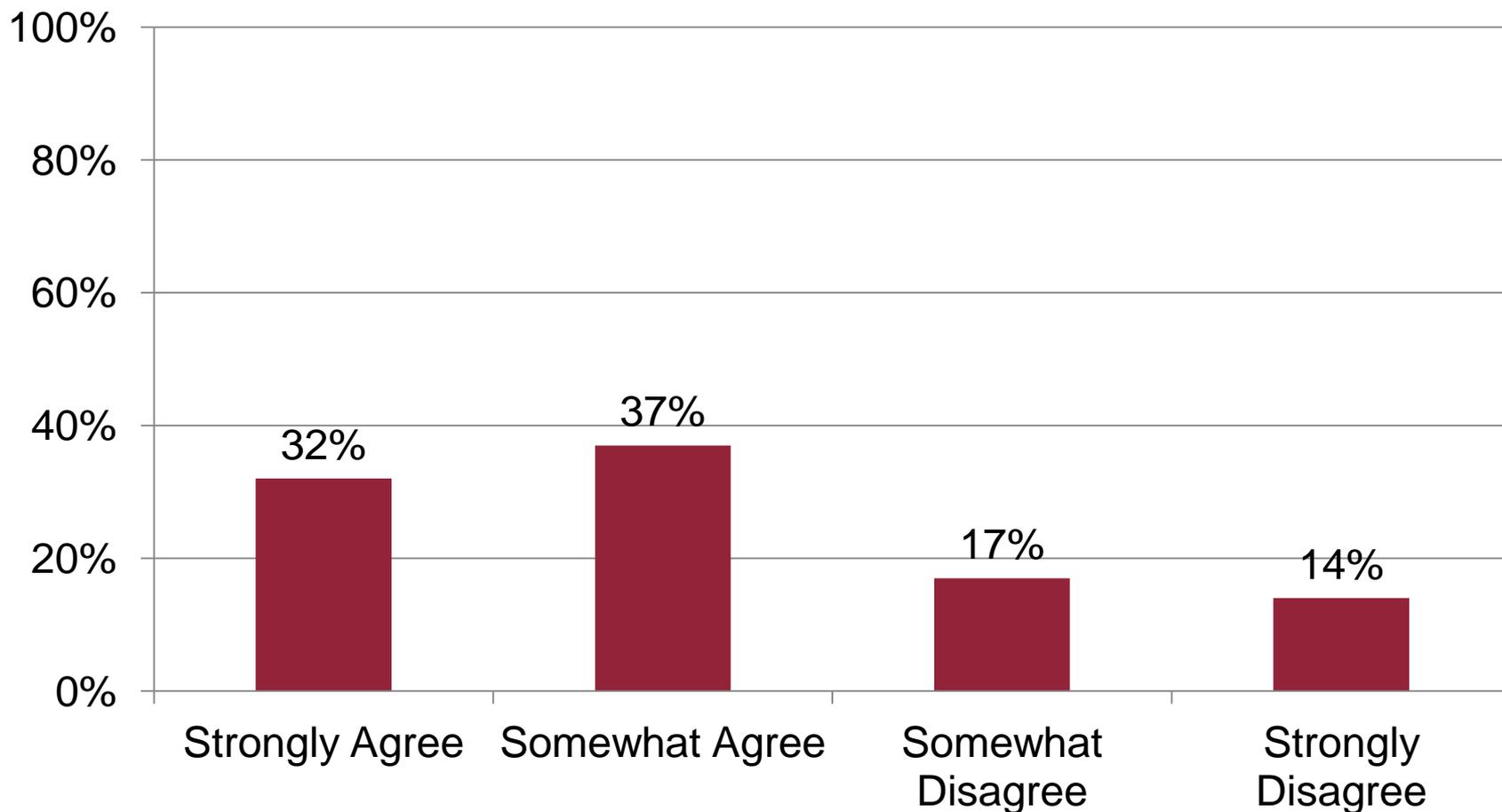
# Survey Responses

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# 67% agree that it is morally acceptable for a person to ask for a physician's aid in taking his or her own life.



# 7 out of 10 agree that physicians should be allowed to assist terminally ill patients in ending their life



# Significant Differences

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Gender  
Region  
Age  
Ethnicity  
Education Level  
Religious Preference  
Denomination  
Evangelical Beliefs  
Religious Service Attendance

# Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, region, age, ethnicity, and education.

Gender	Region	Age	Ethnicity	Education
Male	Northeast	18-24	White, Non-Hispanic	High School graduate or less
Female	Midwest	25-34	Black, Non-Hispanic	Some college
	South	35-44	Hispanic	Bachelor's Degree
	West	45-54	Other Ethnicities	Graduate Degree
		55-64		
		65+		

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

# Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among religious preference, denomination, Evangelical Beliefs, and religious service attendance.

Religious Preference	Denomination	Evangelical Beliefs	Religious Service Attendance
Christian*	Catholic	Yes	Attending at least once a month
Other Religions	Protestant Christian	No	Attending less than once a month
No religion			

\*includes Catholic, Protestant, Nondenominational, and Orthodox

# Evangelical Beliefs

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- Evangelical Beliefs are defined using the NAE LifeWay Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
  - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

# **“When a person is facing a painful terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician’s aid in taking his or her life.”**

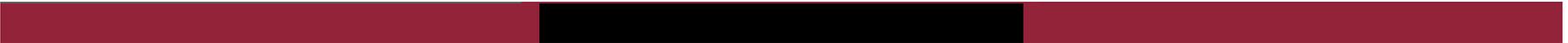
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- Those age 18-24 (77%) are more likely to Agree than those 35-44 (63%) and 55-64 (64%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (71%) and Hispanics (69%) are more likely to Agree than Black, Non-Hispanics (47%)
- Those with some college (71%) or a graduate degree (73%) are more likely to Agree than those who are high school graduates or less (61%)
- Nonreligious (84%) are more likely to Agree than Christians (59%) and Other Religions (70%)
- Catholics (70%) are more likely to Agree than Protestant Christians (53%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are less likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (38% v. 73%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more are less likely to Agree than those who attend less than once a month (49% v. 76%)

## “Physicians should be allowed to assist terminally ill patients in ending their life.”

- Those in the Northeast (73%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (64%)
- Those age 45-54 (75%) are more likely to Agree than those 55-64 (65%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (73%) and Hispanics (67%) are more likely to Agree than Black, Non-Hispanics (53%)
- Those with a graduate degree (77%) are more likely to Agree than those who are high school graduates or less (64%)
- Nonreligious (88%) are more likely to Agree than Christians (60%) and Other Religions (77%)
- Catholics (70%) are more likely to Agree than Protestant Christians (53%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are less likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (42% v. 74%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more are less likely to Agree than those who attend less than once a month (52% v. 78%)

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