

# American Views on Lent

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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.

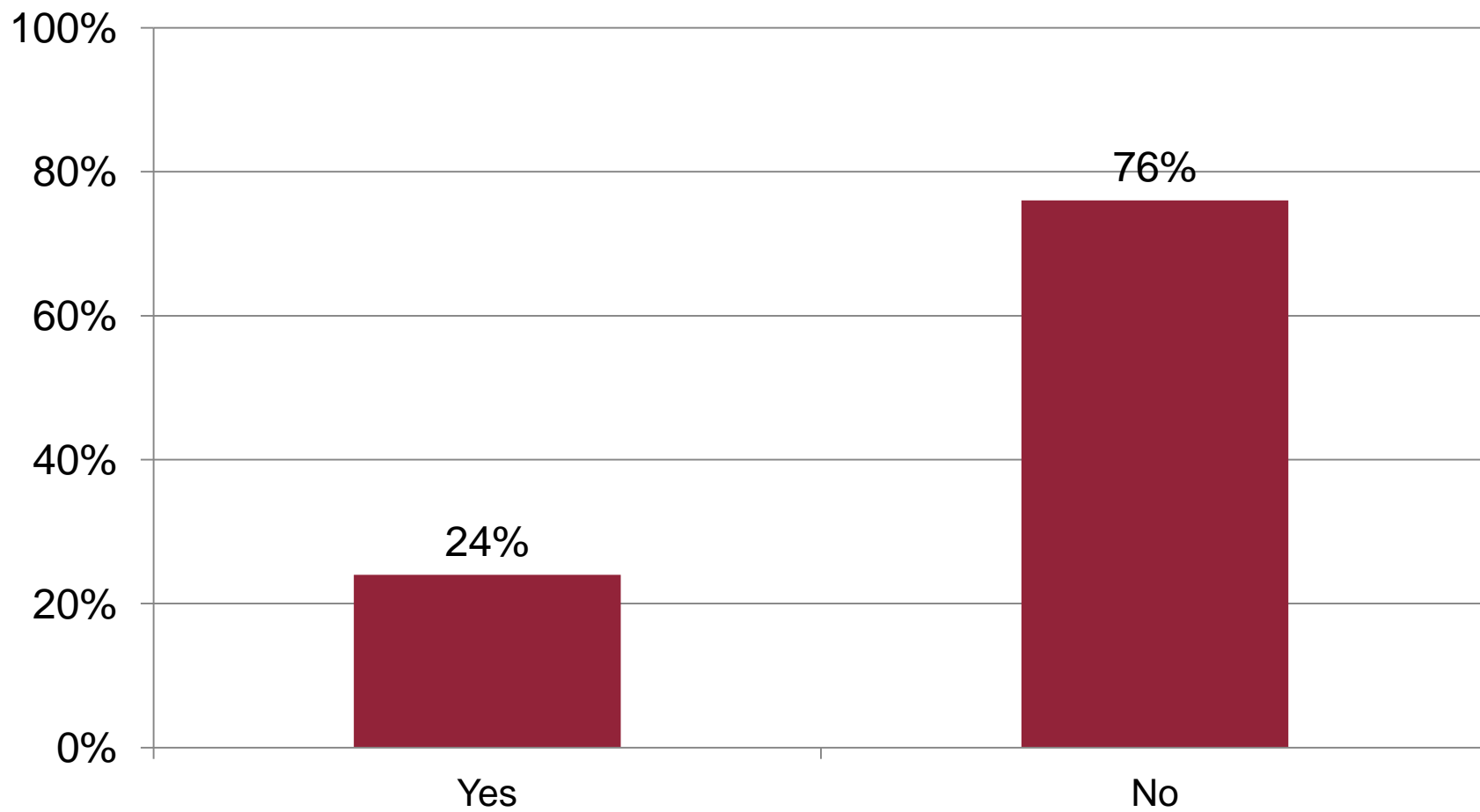
Sample stratification and weights were used for gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, metro/non-metro, education, and income to reflect the most recent US Census data. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus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

# Survey Responses

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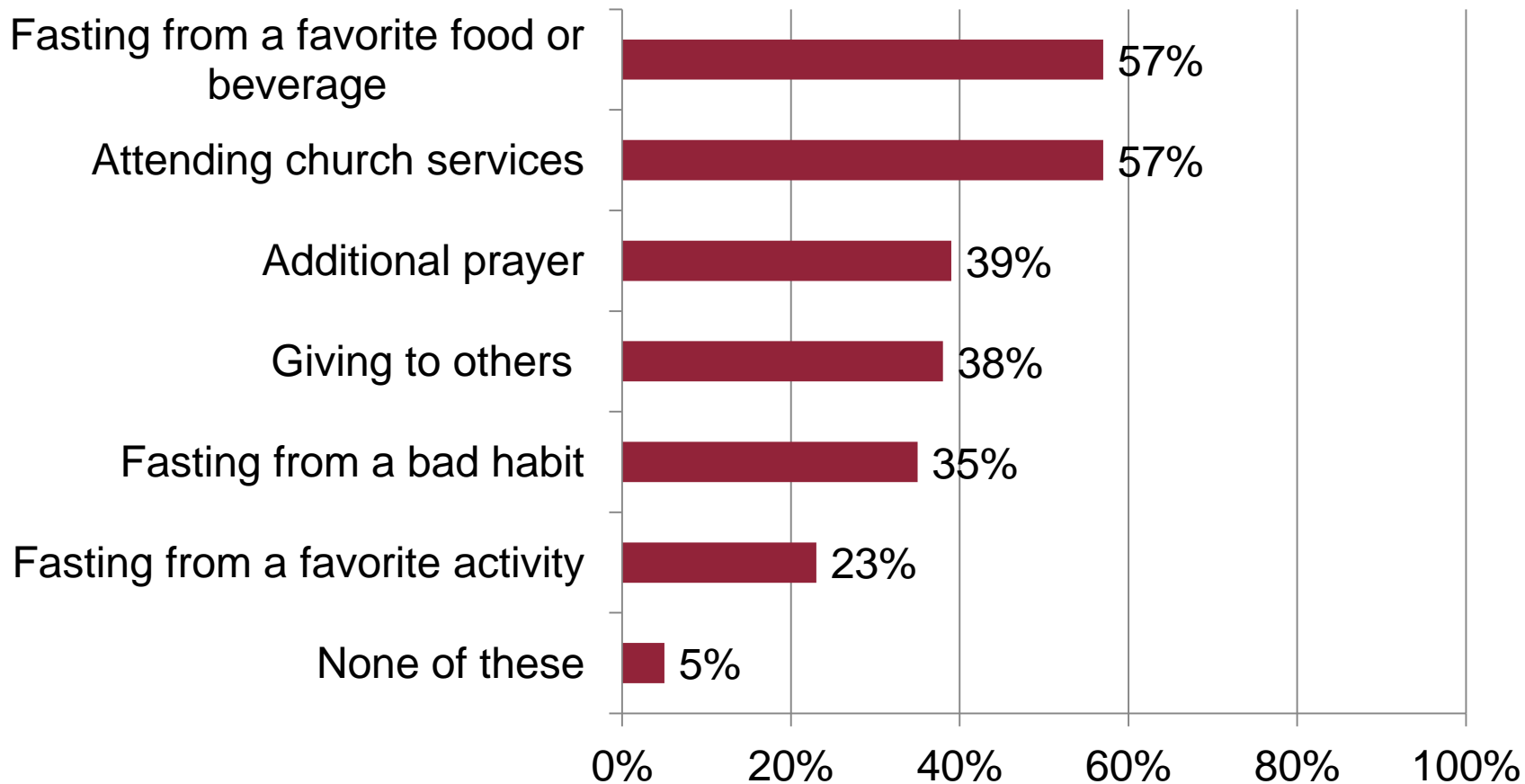
# Just under one quarter (24%) say they typically observe Lent

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# “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Among Americans who observe Lent



# 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

## “Do you typically observe Lent?”

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- Those age 55-64 (29%) and 65+ (31%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 25-34 (18%) and 45-54 (19%)
- Hispanics are the most likely ethnic group to select “Yes” (36%)
- Christians (35%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Other Religions (12%) and Nonreligious (4%)
- Catholics (61%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Protestant Christians (20%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (43%) are more likely “Yes” than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (15%)

# “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

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## Additional prayer

- Those in the Midwest (52%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (29%) and South (35%)
- Those age 65+ (53%) are more likely to select than those 18-24 (18%) and 35-44 (29%)
- Christians (41%) and Other Religions (49%) are more likely to select than Nonreligious (0%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (55%) are more likely to select than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (18%)

# “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

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## **Fasting from a favorite food or beverage**

- Those in the West (62%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (42%)
- Those age 18-24 (86%) are more likely to select than those 25-34 (50%), 35-44 (58%), 55-64 (61%), and 65+ (43%)
- Black, Non-Hispanics (80%) are more likely to select than White, Non-Hispanics (51%)
- Those with some college (65%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (50%) or have a graduate degree (44%)
- Catholics (64%) are more likely to select than Protestant Christians (43%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs (42%) are less likely to select than those without Evangelical Beliefs (60%)

# “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

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## **Fasting from a favorite activity**

- Those age 25-34 (33%) and 35-44 (34%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (11%)
- Hispanics (34%) are more likely to select than White, Non-Hispanics (17%)

## **Fasting from a bad habit**

- Those in the South (39%) and West (44%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (21%)
- Those age 65+ are the least likely age group to select (12%)
- Hispanics (50%) are more likely to select than White, Non-Hispanics (30%) and Other Ethnicities (11%)

# “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

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## Giving to others

- Hispanics (50%) are more likely to select than Black, Non-Hispanics (22%)
- Christians (42%) are more likely to select than Other Religions (<1%) and Nonreligious (<1%)
- Catholics (46%) are more likely to select than Protestant Christians (32%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (49%) are more likely to select than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (22%)

# “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

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## Attending church services

- Those in the Midwest (68%) are more likely to select than those in the South (50%)
- Those age 65+ (74%) are more likely to select than those 35-44 (47%) and 55-64 (53%)
- Christians (61%) and Other Religions (49%) are more likely to select than Nonreligious (<1%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs (71%) are more likely to select than those without Evangelical Beliefs (54%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (76%) are more likely to select than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (32%)

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