

Church Dropouts: Reasons Young Adults Stay or Go between ages 18-22

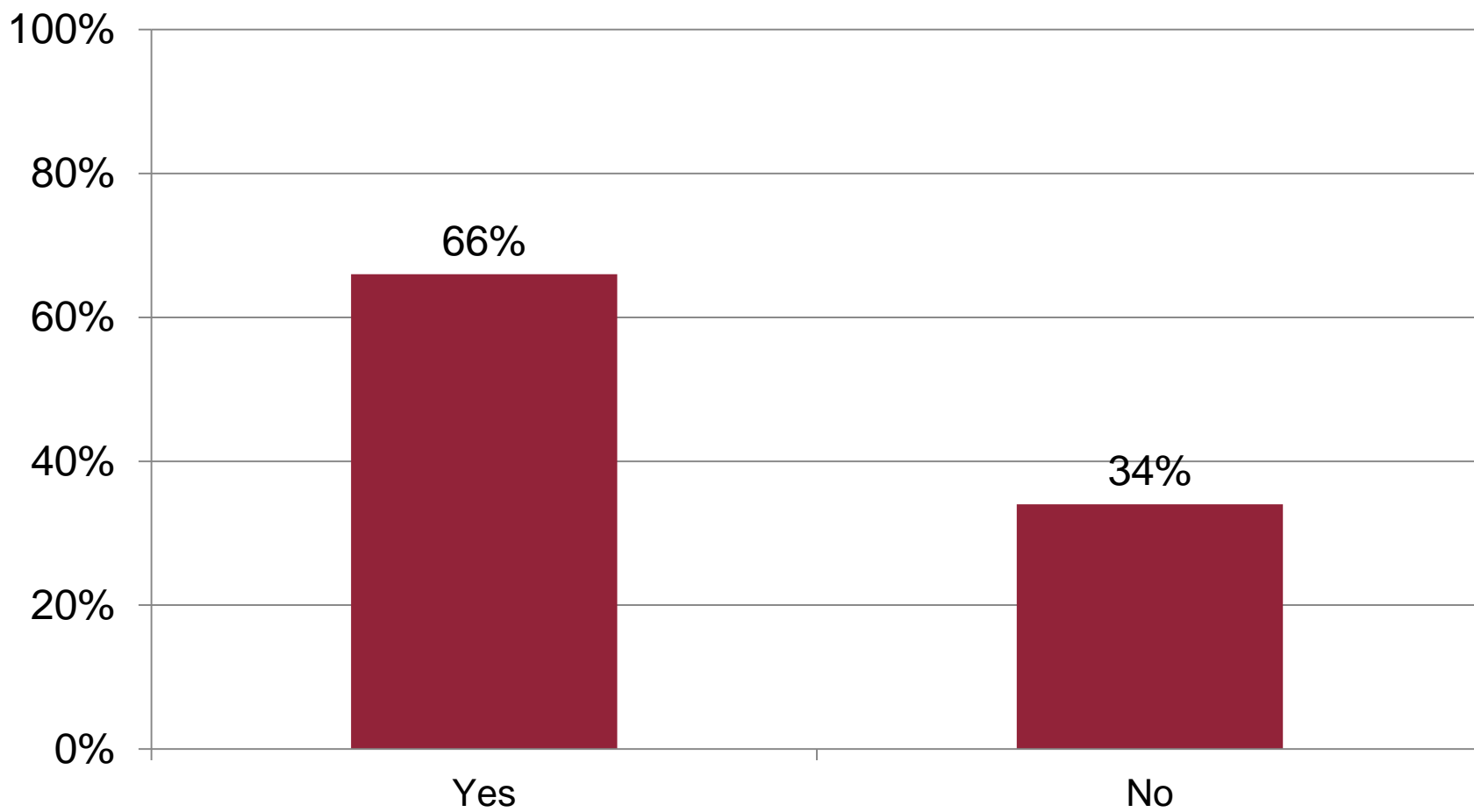
Survey of 2,002 Young Adults Who
Attended a Protestant Church
Regularly in High School

Methodology

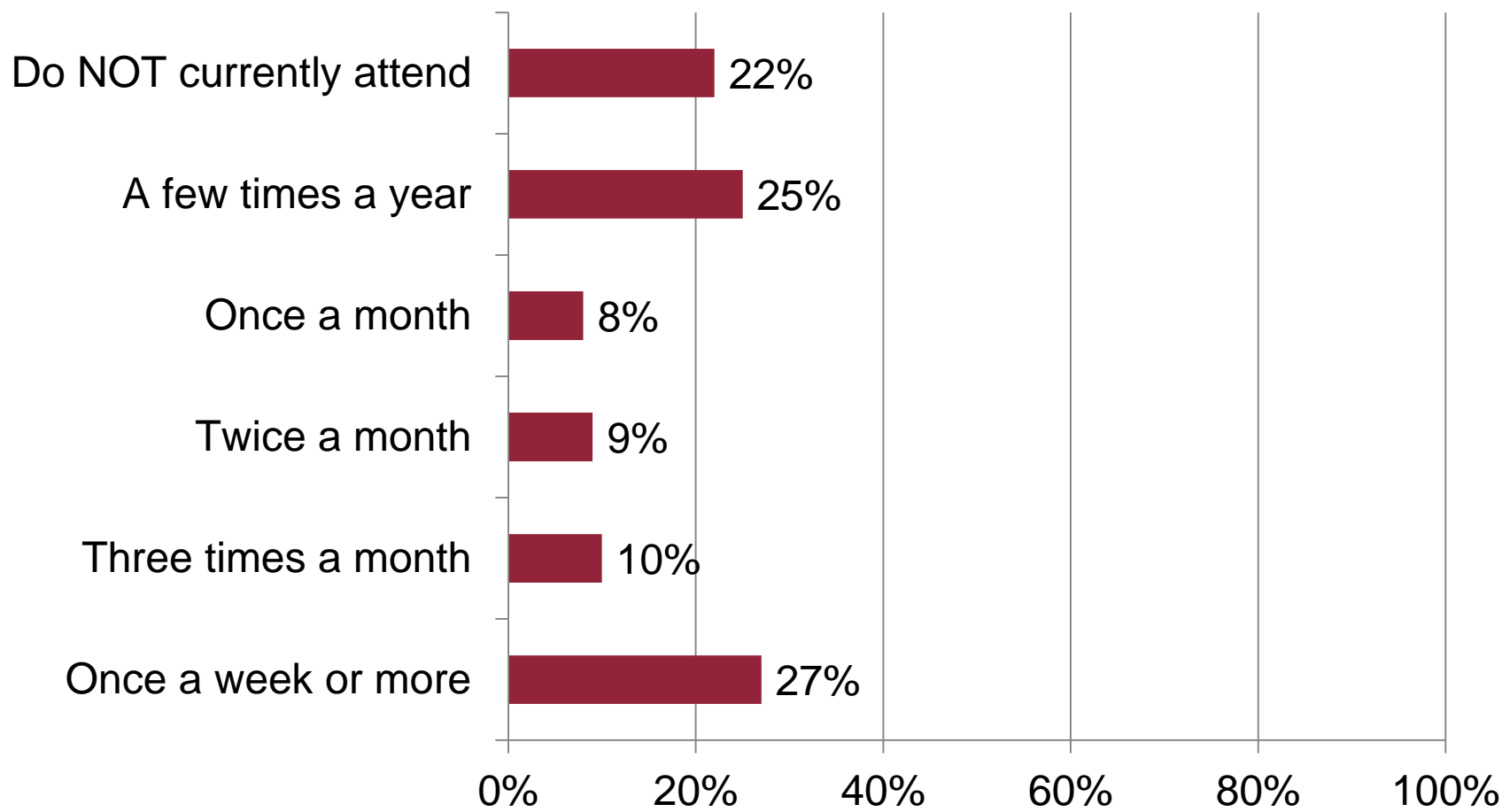
- ❑ A demographically balanced online panel was used for interviewing American adults between the ages of 23 and 30 years old
- ❑ The study was sponsored by LifeWay Students
- ❑ The survey was conducted September 15 – October 13, 2017
- ❑ Slight weights were used to balance gender, ethnicity, education, and region
- ❑ The sample was screened to only include those who attended a Protestant church regularly (twice a month or more) for at least a year in high school
- ❑ The completed sample is 2,002 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the online panel does not exceed $\pm 2.4\%$ (This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting)
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

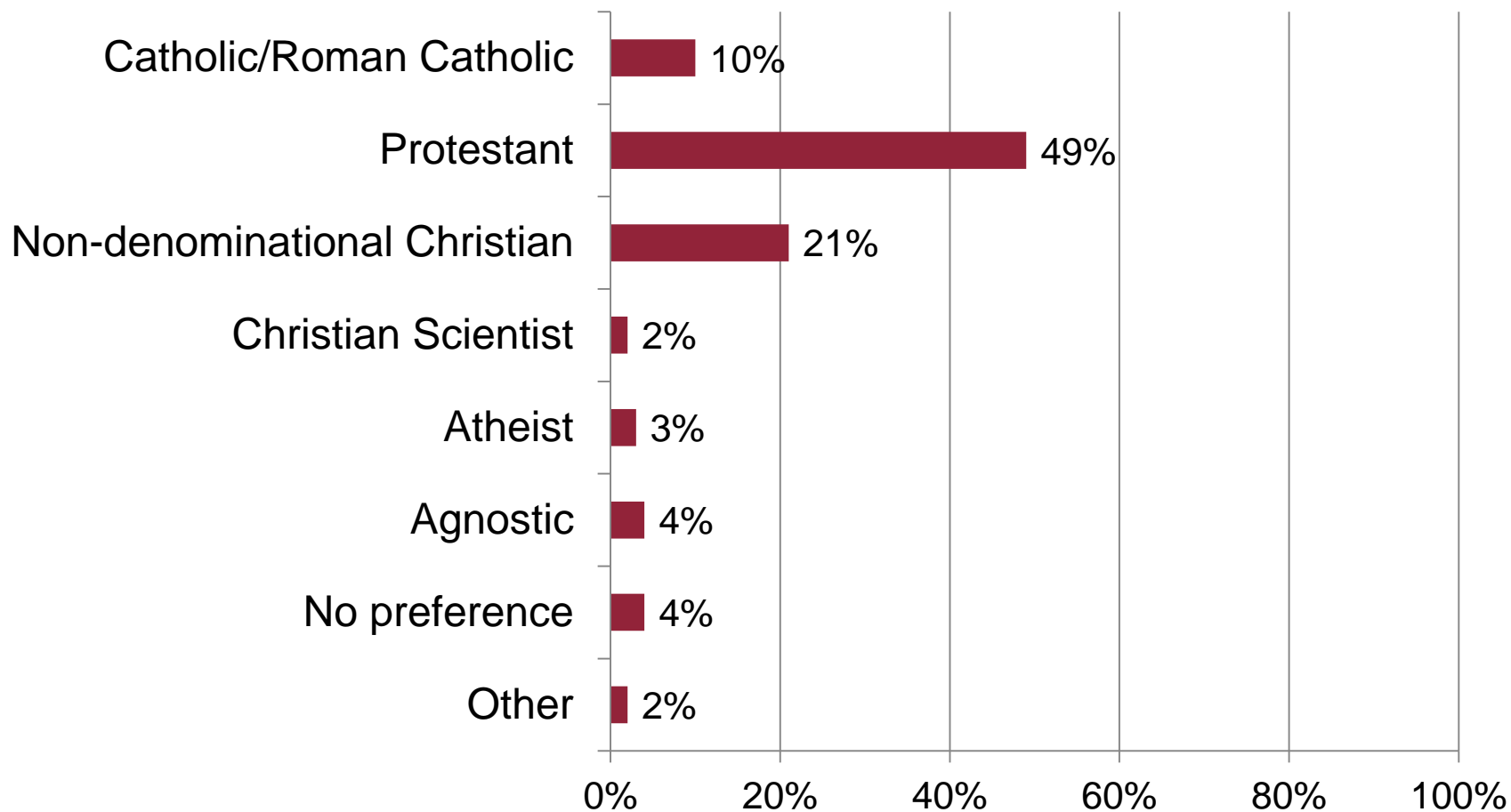
“Did you stop attending church **regularly** (twice a month or more) for at least a year between the ages of 18 and 22?”



Current church attendance among all young adults who attended a Protestant church regularly 1+ years in high school

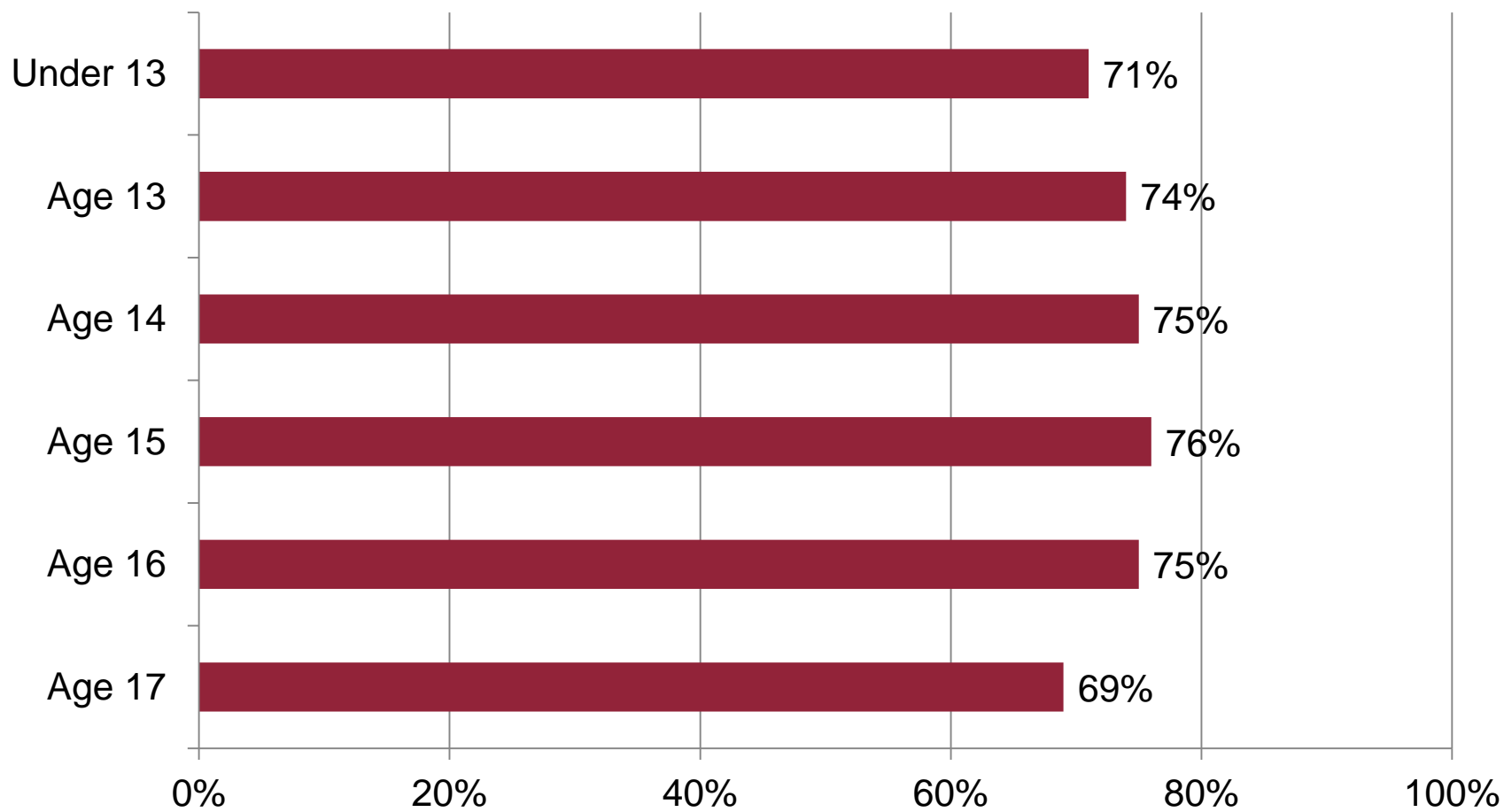


Current overall faith preference



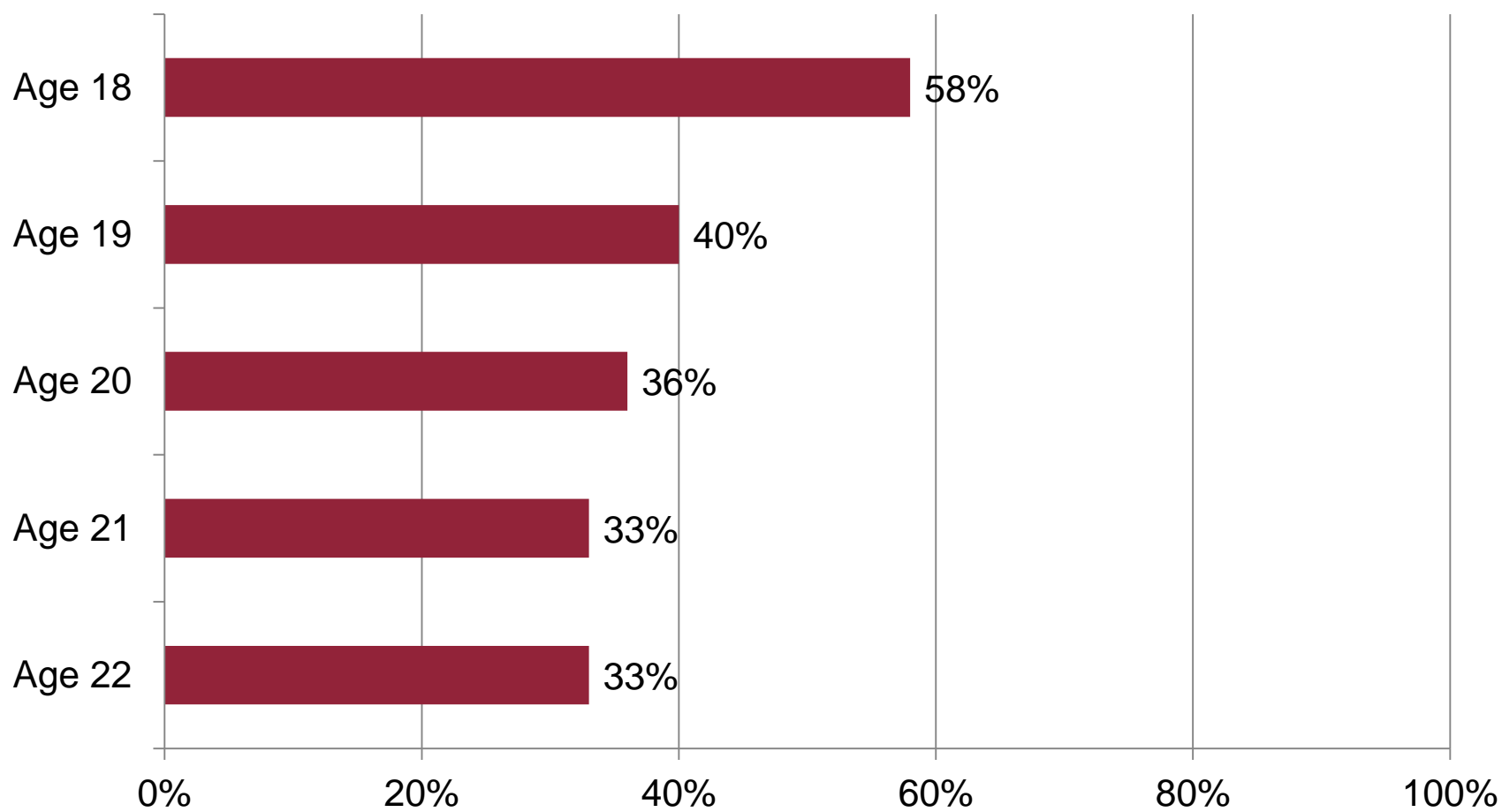
Receiving 1% or less: Orthodox Christian (Russian, Armenian, Greek), Jewish, Mormon/Latter Day Saints, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witness, Unitarian, Unity/Unity Church

Regularly attended prior to age 18



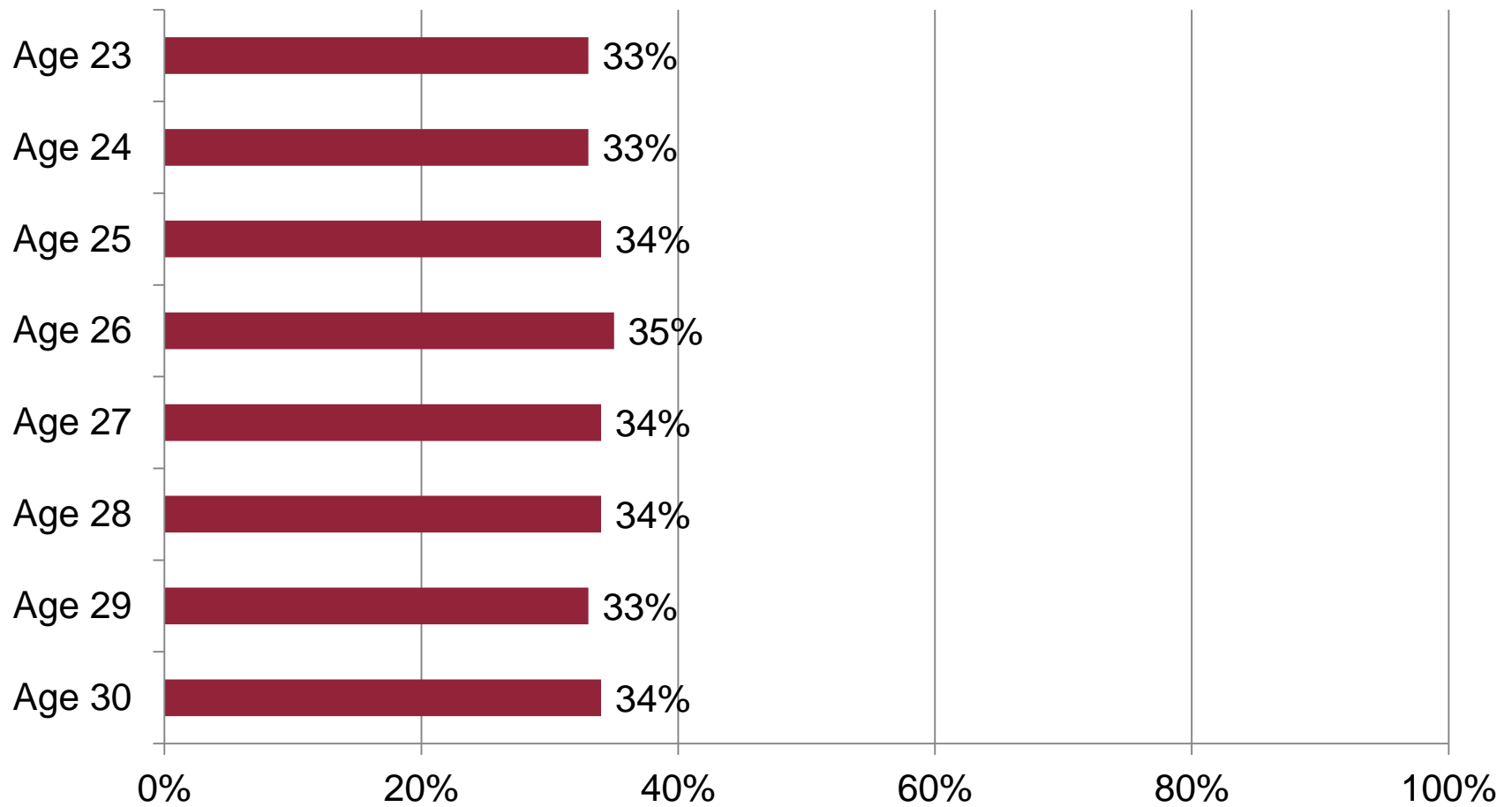
Q1: "At which of the following ages did you regularly attend church (by "regularly attend," we mean attend at least twice a month for three or more months)? *SELECT ALL THAT APPLY*"

Regularly attended ages 18-22

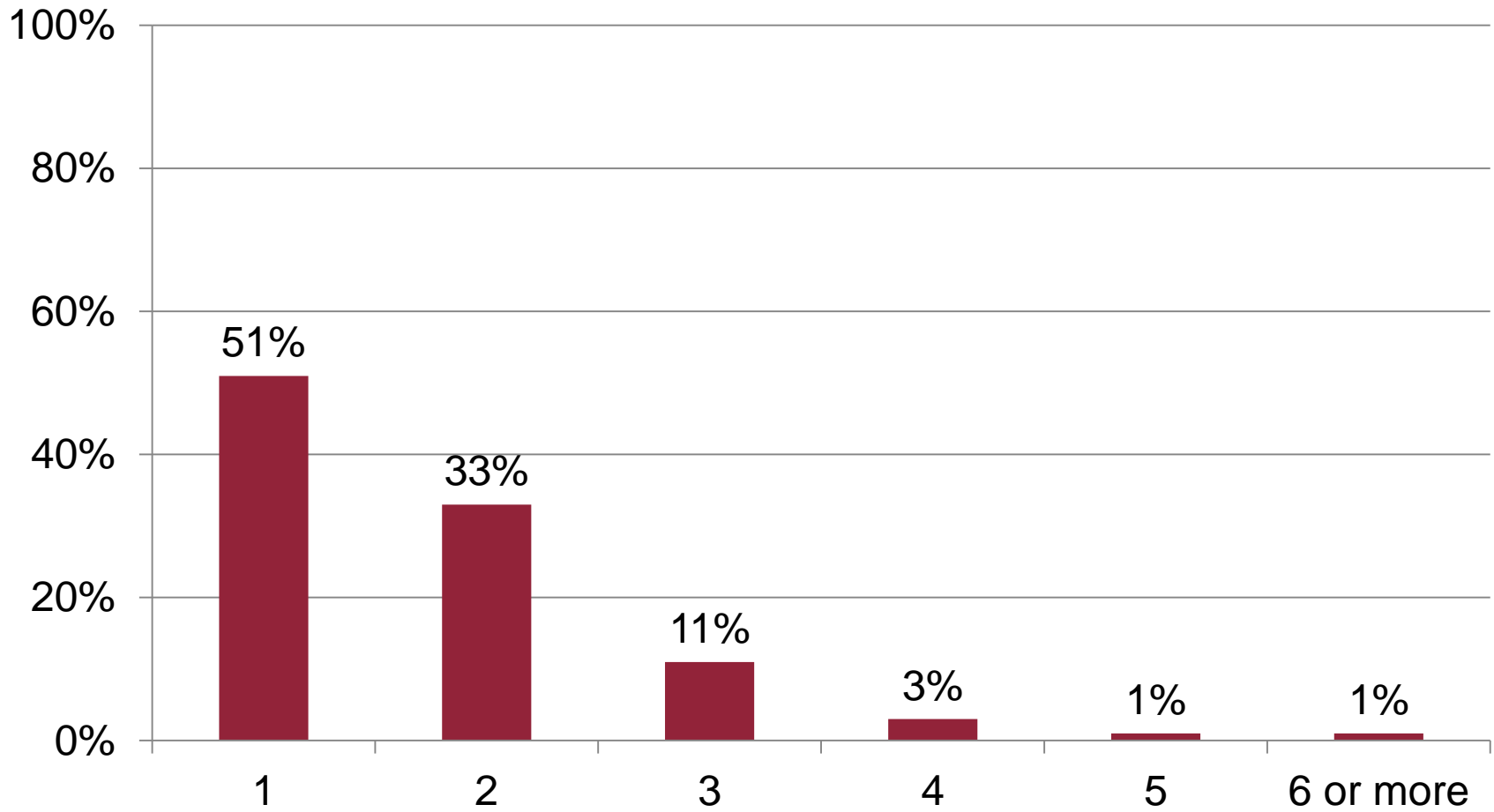


Q1: "At which of the following ages did you regularly attend church (by "regularly attend," we mean attend at least twice a month for three or more months)? *SELECT ALL THAT APPLY*"

Regularly attended ages 23-30



“How many different churches did you regularly attend at one time or another between grades 6-12?”



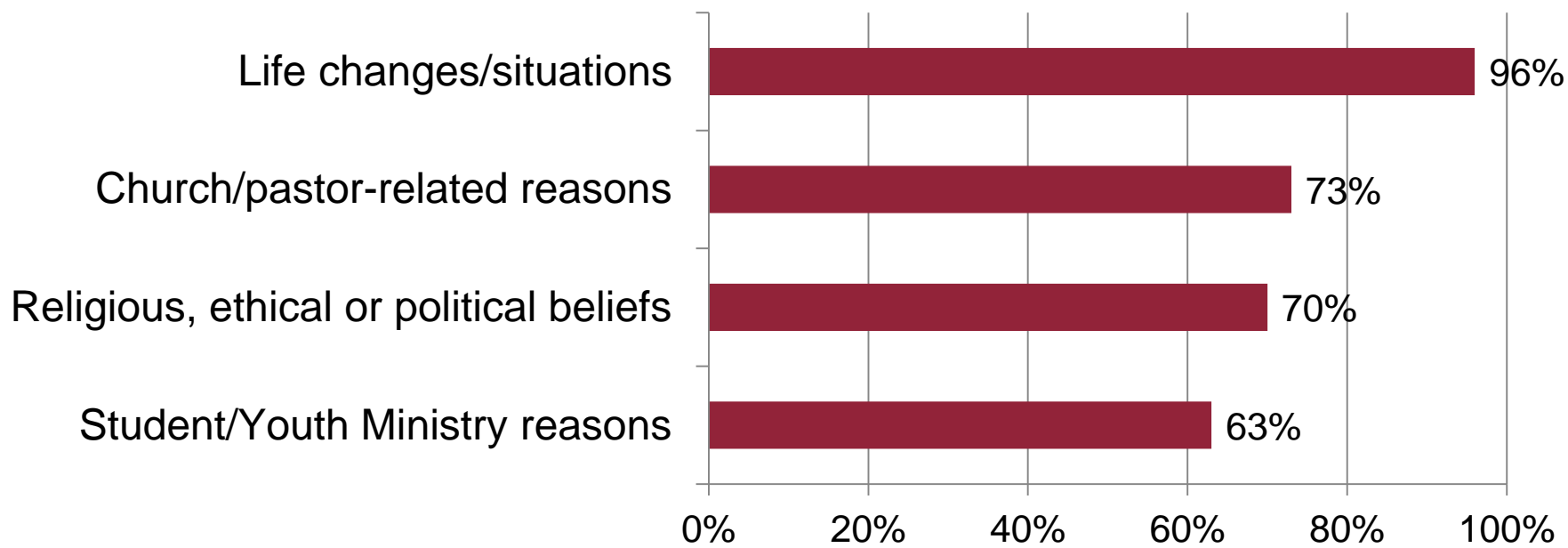
Q2: “How many different churches did you regularly attend at one time or another between grades 6-12? Please don’t count a church that is the same congregation but a different campus as a “different church.” (Select One)”

Reasons Young Adults Dropped Out of Church

Reasons young adults stop attending church

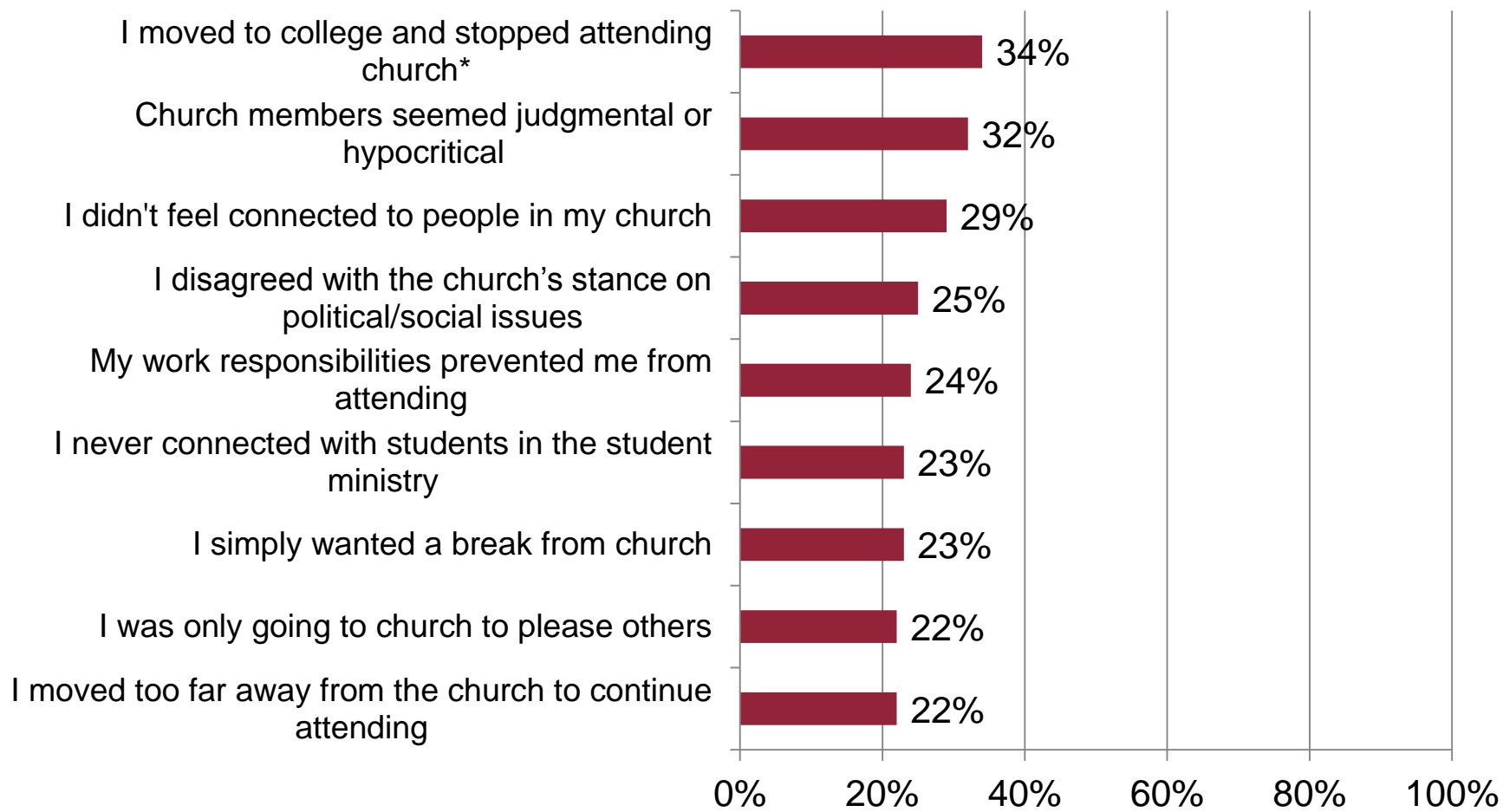
- Young adults who stopped attending church regularly between ages 18 and 22 for at least a year were asked what contributed to this decision
- 55 specific reasons were listed in the following four categories

Percent of church dropouts specifying one or more reasons within a category



Q3a: "Which of the following ... contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier?
(Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Top reasons church dropouts say they stopped attending church

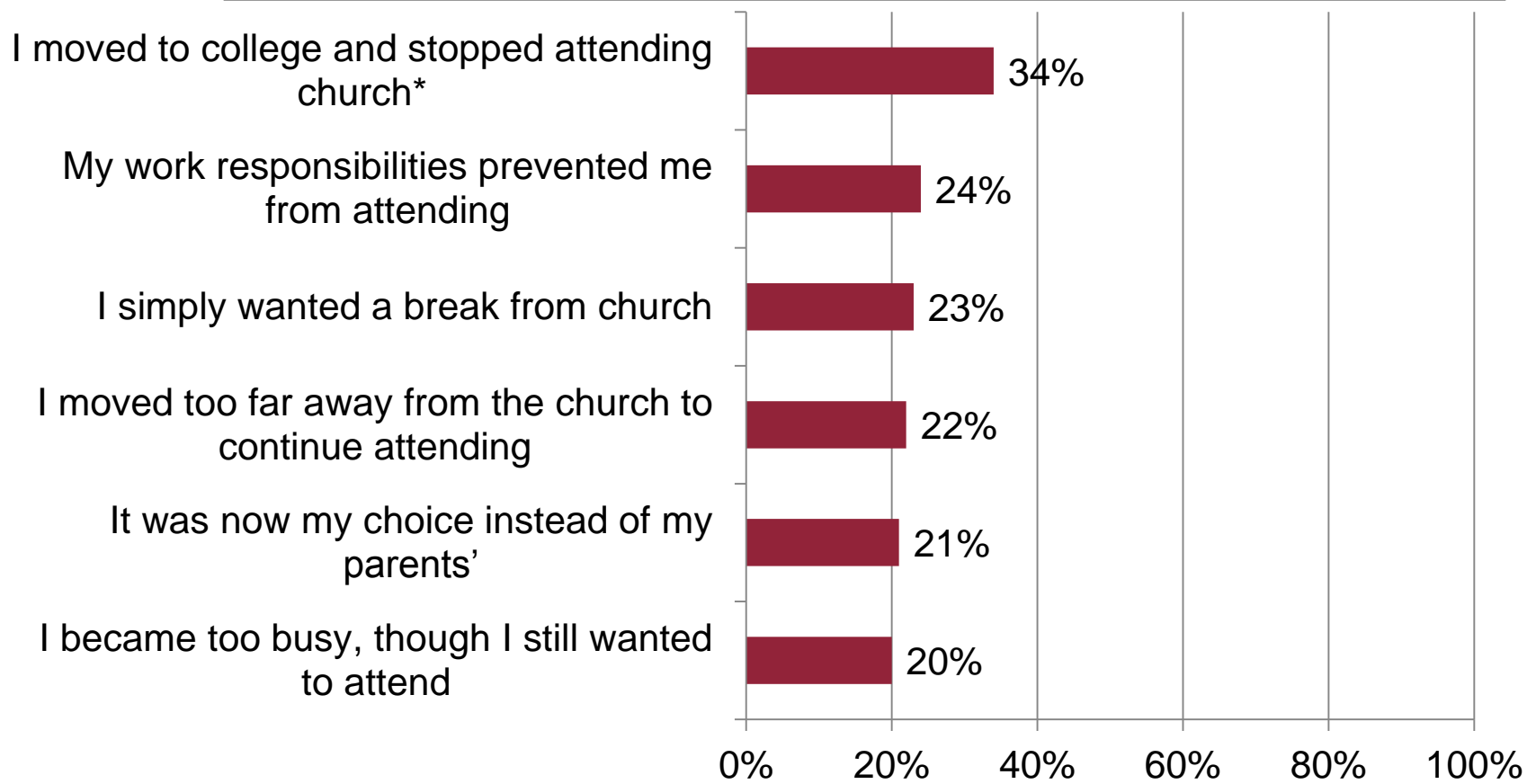


*Asked of those with at least some college, n=1,109. 47% of this group selected this option

Q3a: "Which of the following ... contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Life Changes/Situations contributed to decision to stop attending

Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22

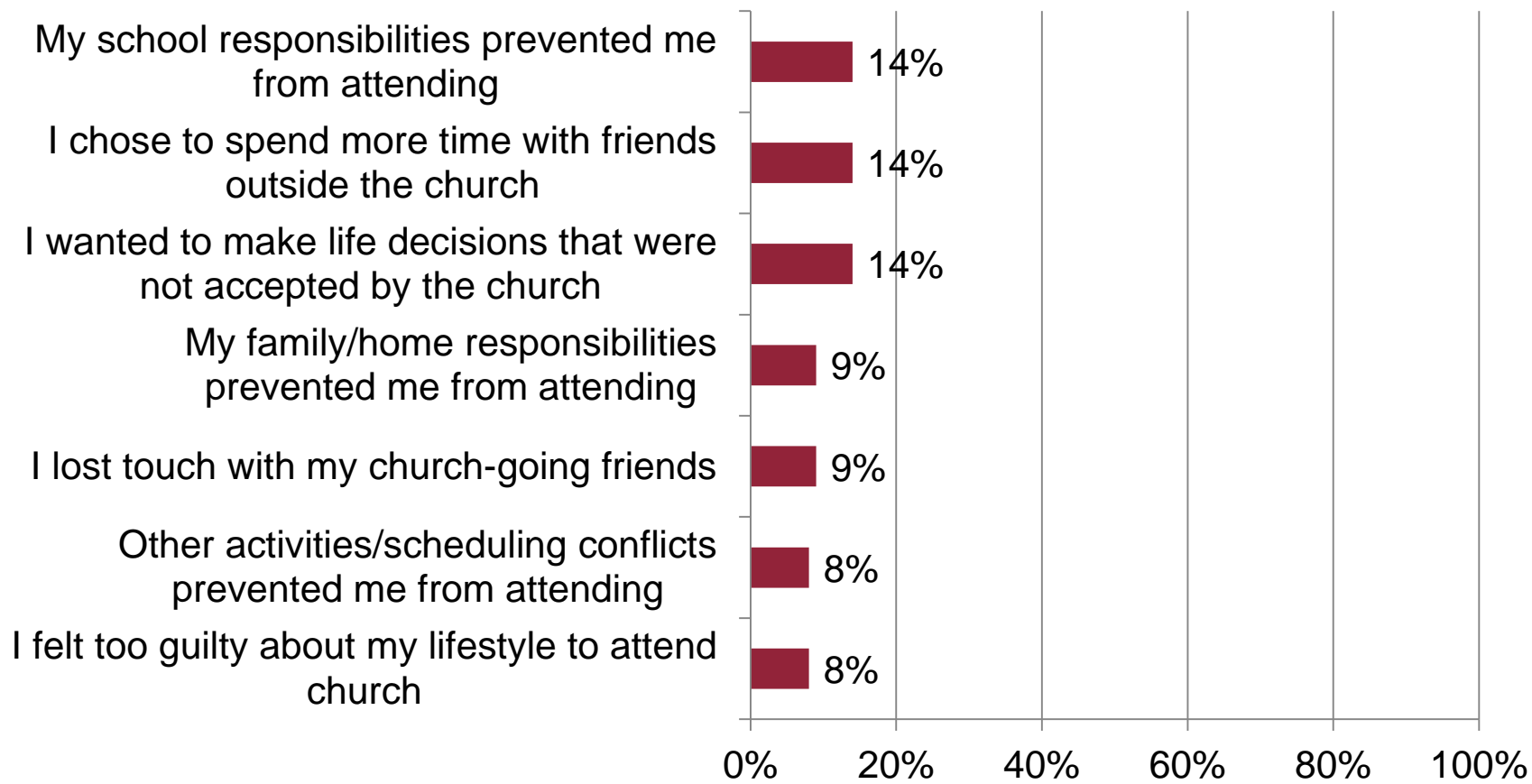


*Asked of those with at least some college, n=1,109. 47% of this group selected this option

Q3a: "Which of the following **life changes/situations** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Life Changes/Situations – Continued contributed to decision to stop attending

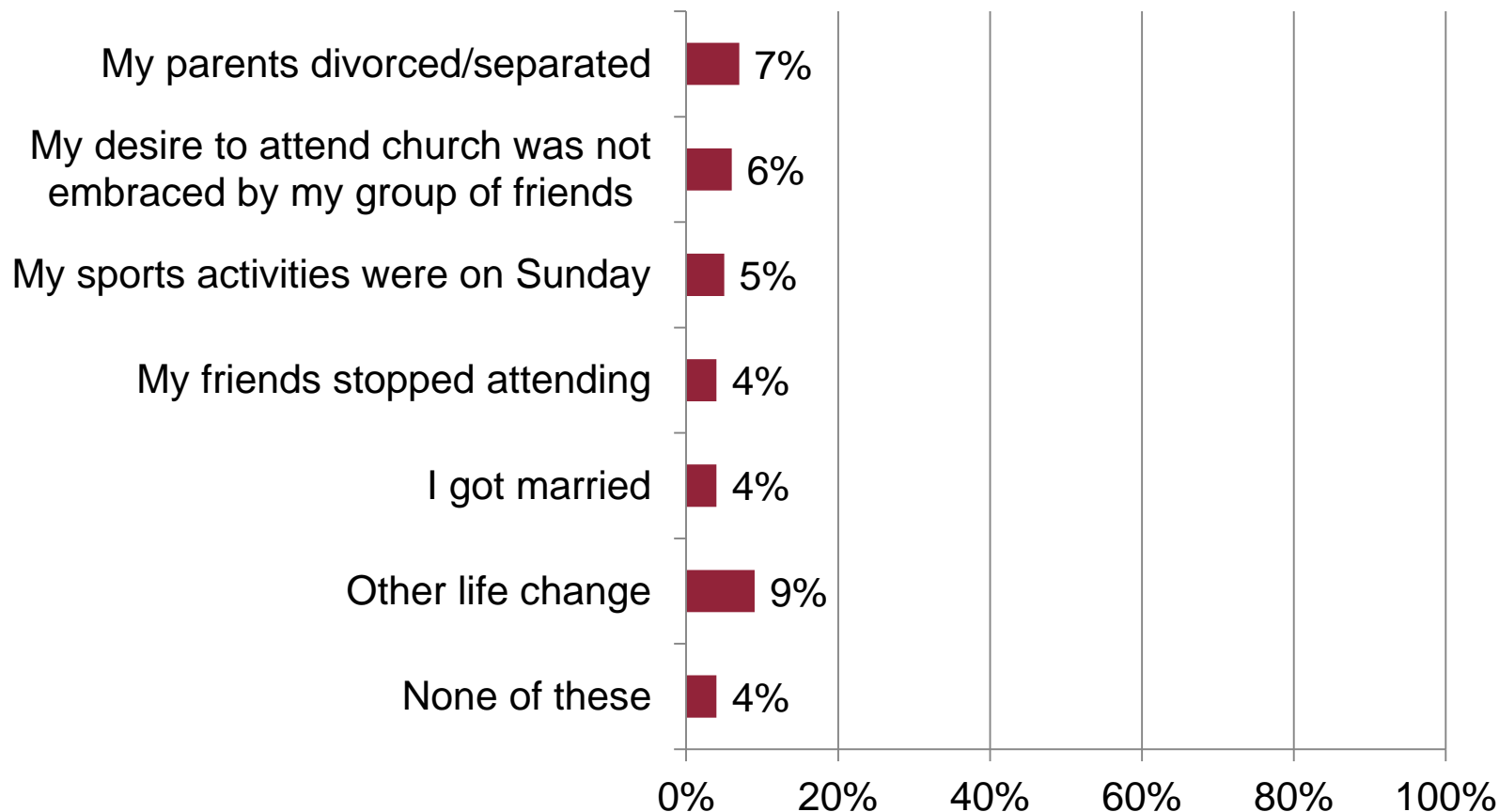
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3a: "Which of the following **life changes/situations** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Life Changes/Situations – Continued contributed to decision to stop attending

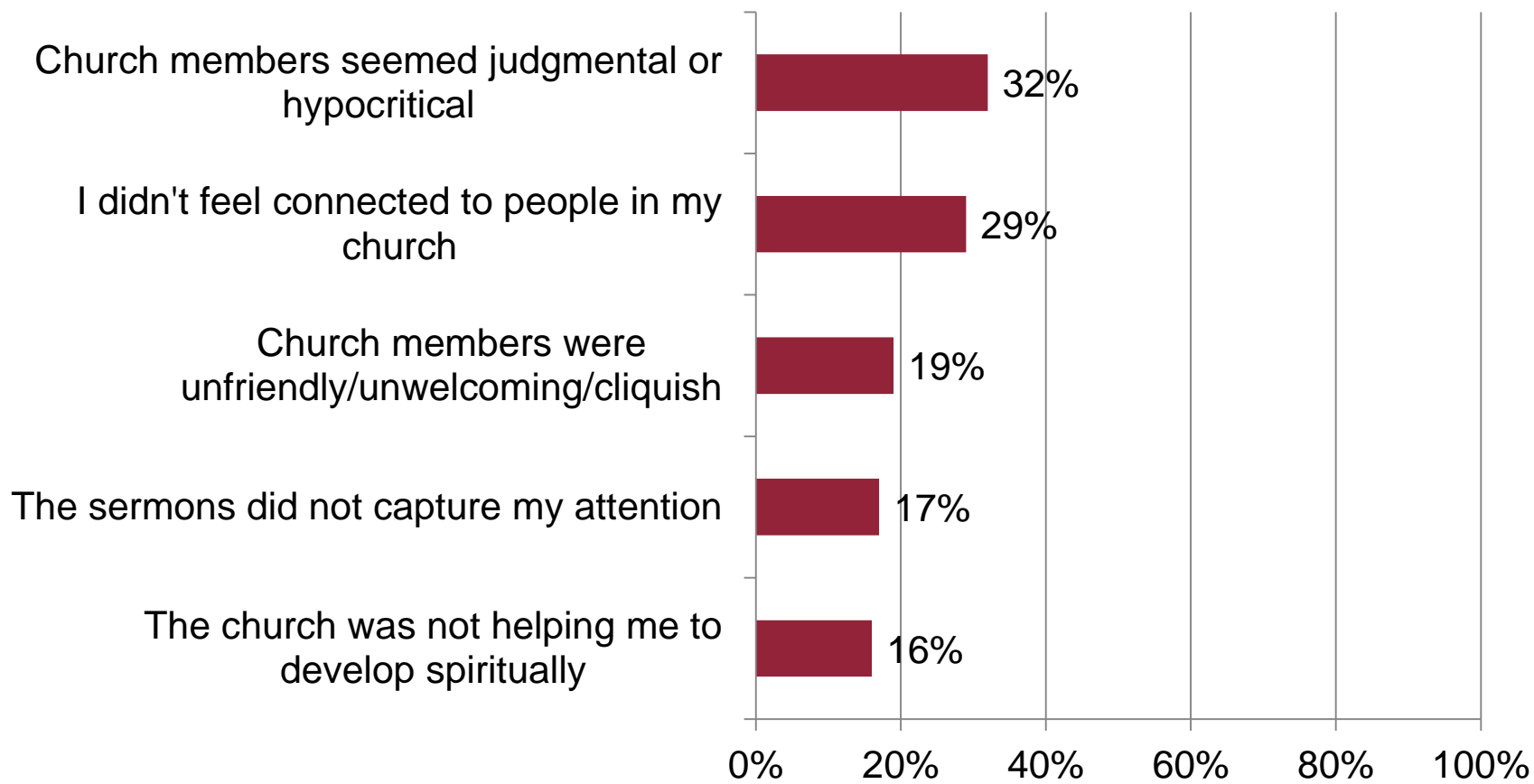
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3a: "Which of the following **life changes/situations** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Church/Pastor-Related Reasons contributed to decision to stop attending

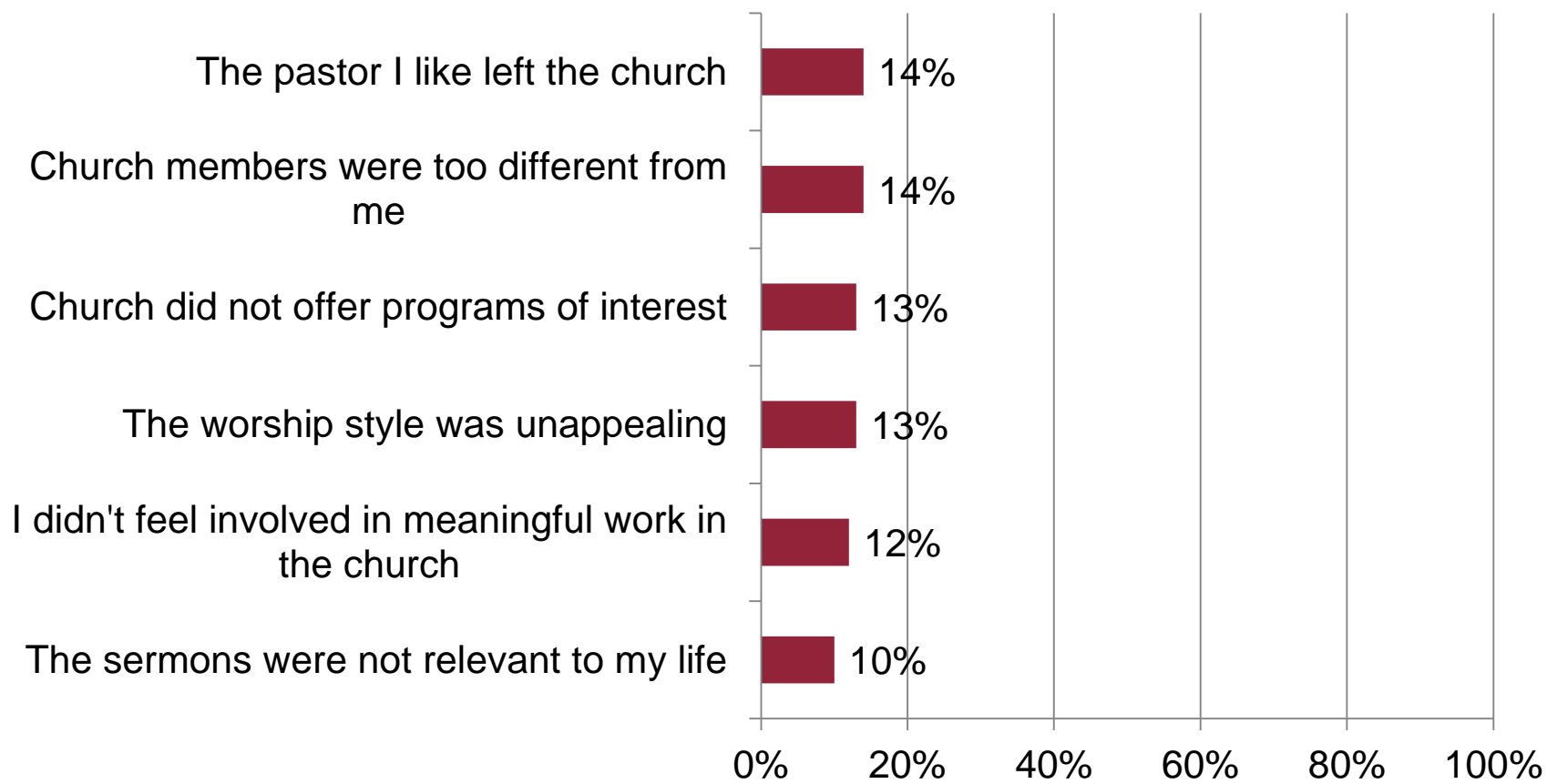
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3b: "Which of the following **church/pastor-related reasons** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Church/Pastor-Related Reasons – Continued contributed to decision to stop attending

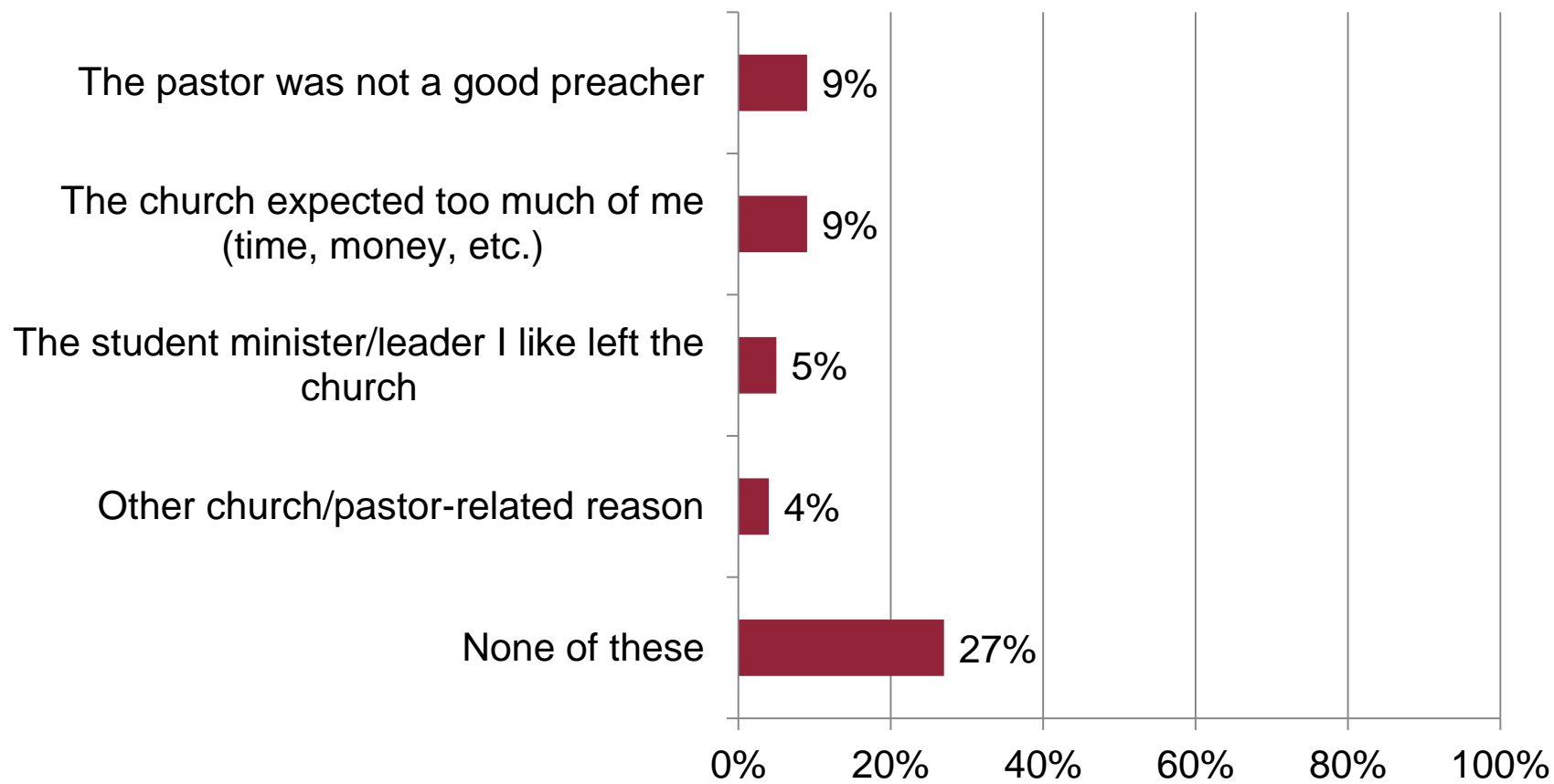
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3b: "Which of the following **church/pastor-related reasons** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Church/Pastor-Related Reasons – Continued contributed to decision to stop attending

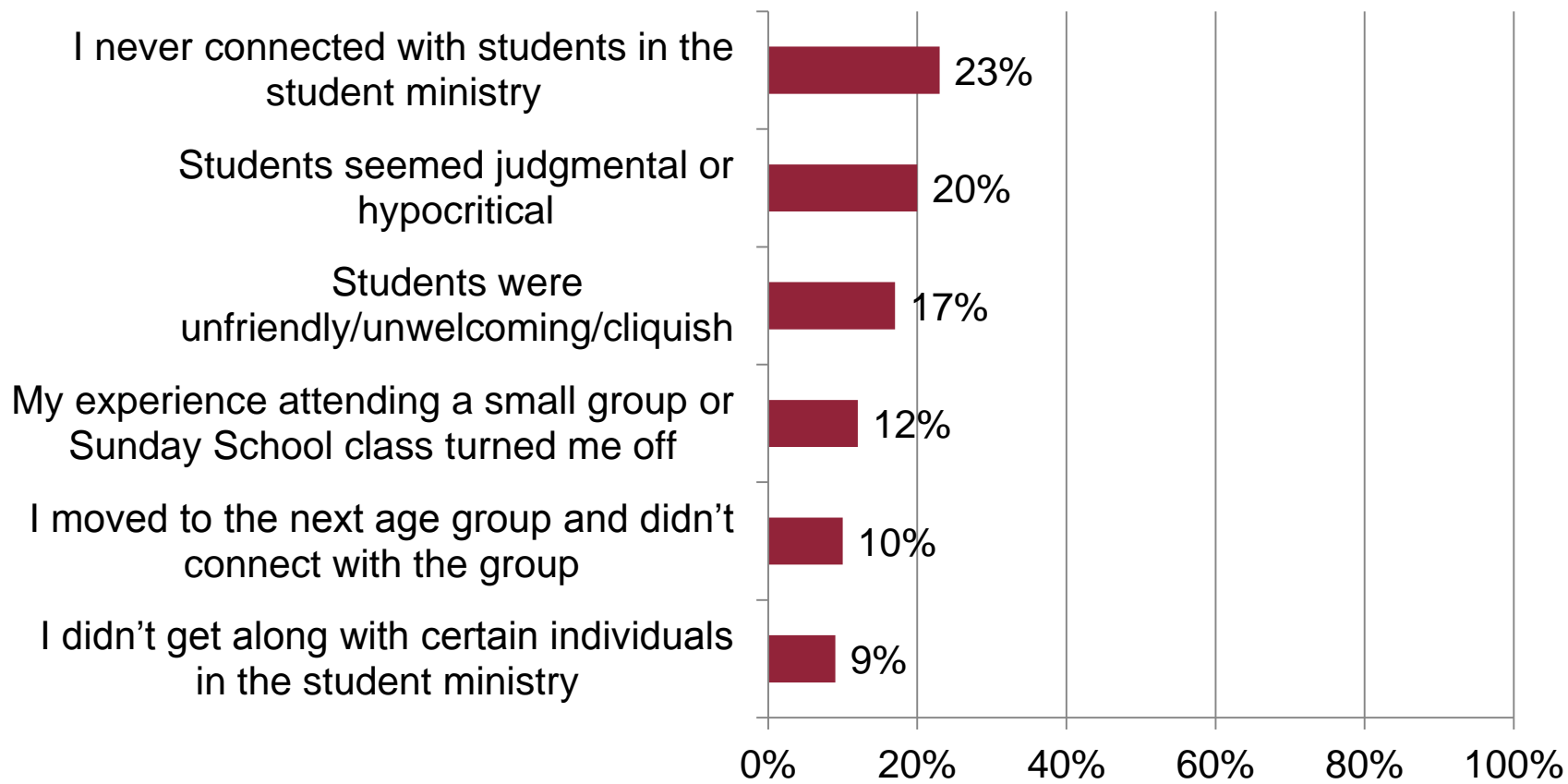
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3b: "Which of the following **church/pastor-related reasons** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Student/Youth Ministry Reasons contributed to decision to stop attending

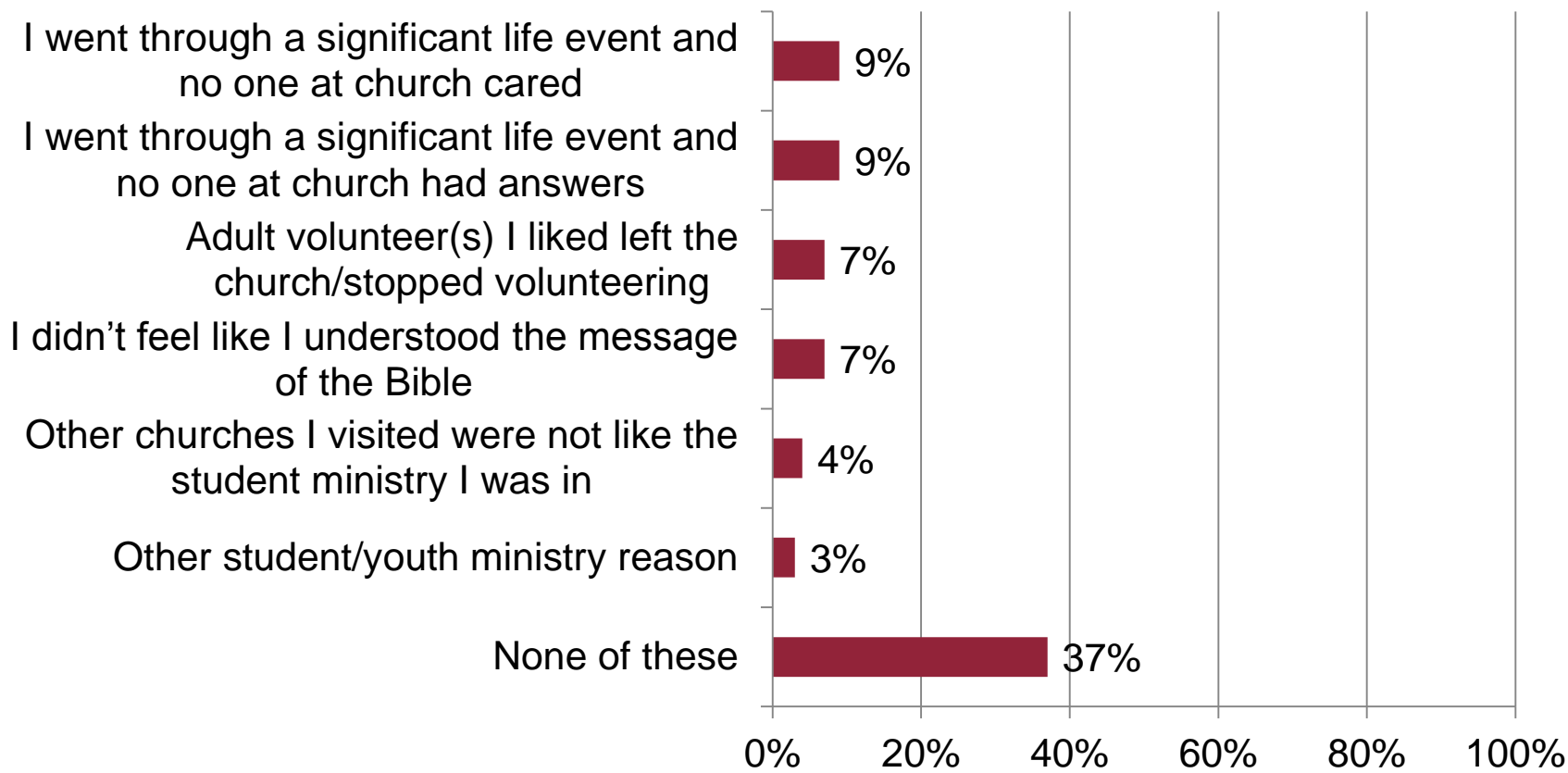
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3c: "Which of the following **student/youth ministry reasons** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Student/Youth Ministry Reasons – Continued contributed to decision to stop attending

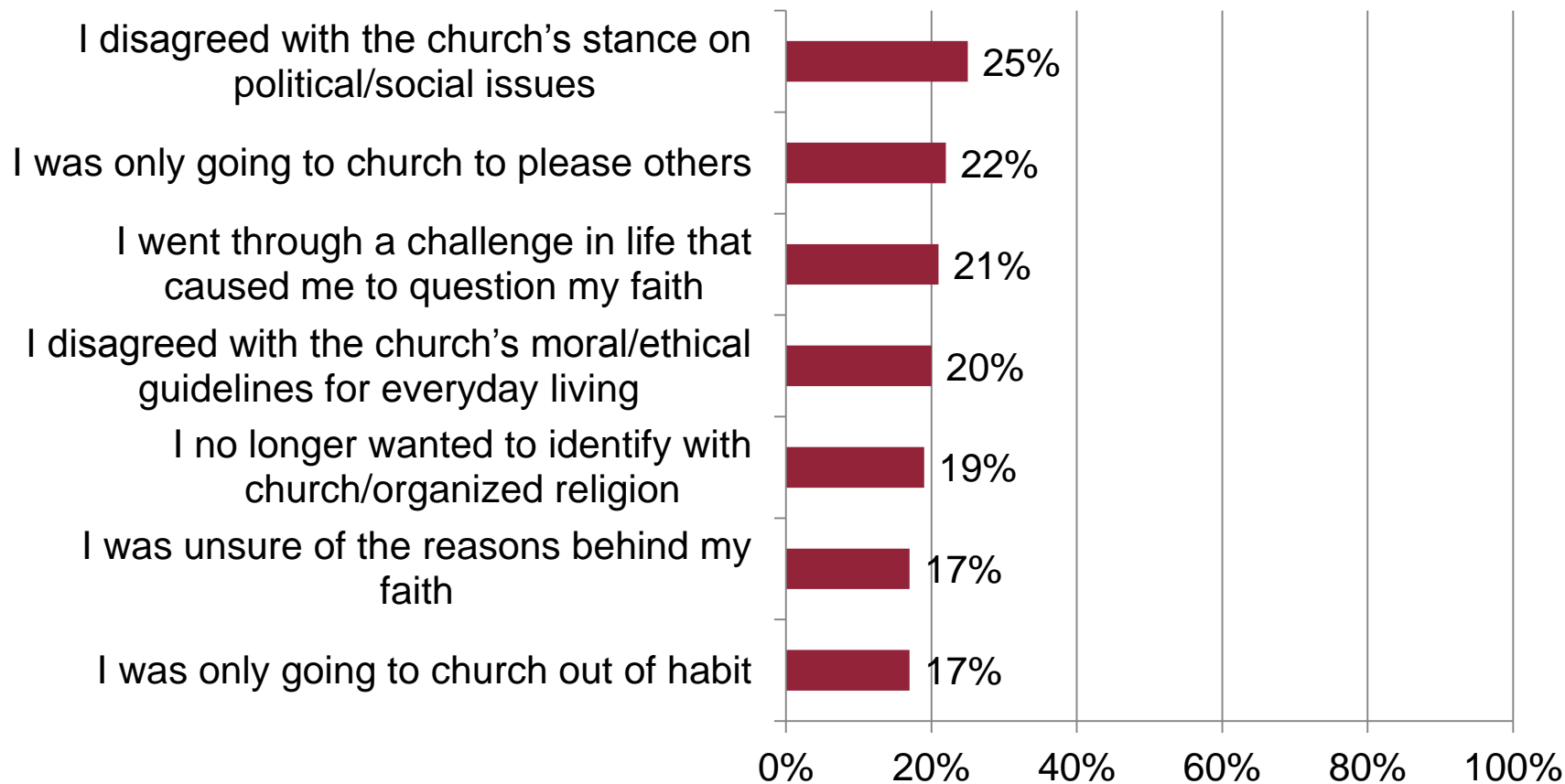
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3c: "Which of the following **student/youth ministry reasons** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Religious, Ethical, or Political Beliefs contributed to decision to stop attending

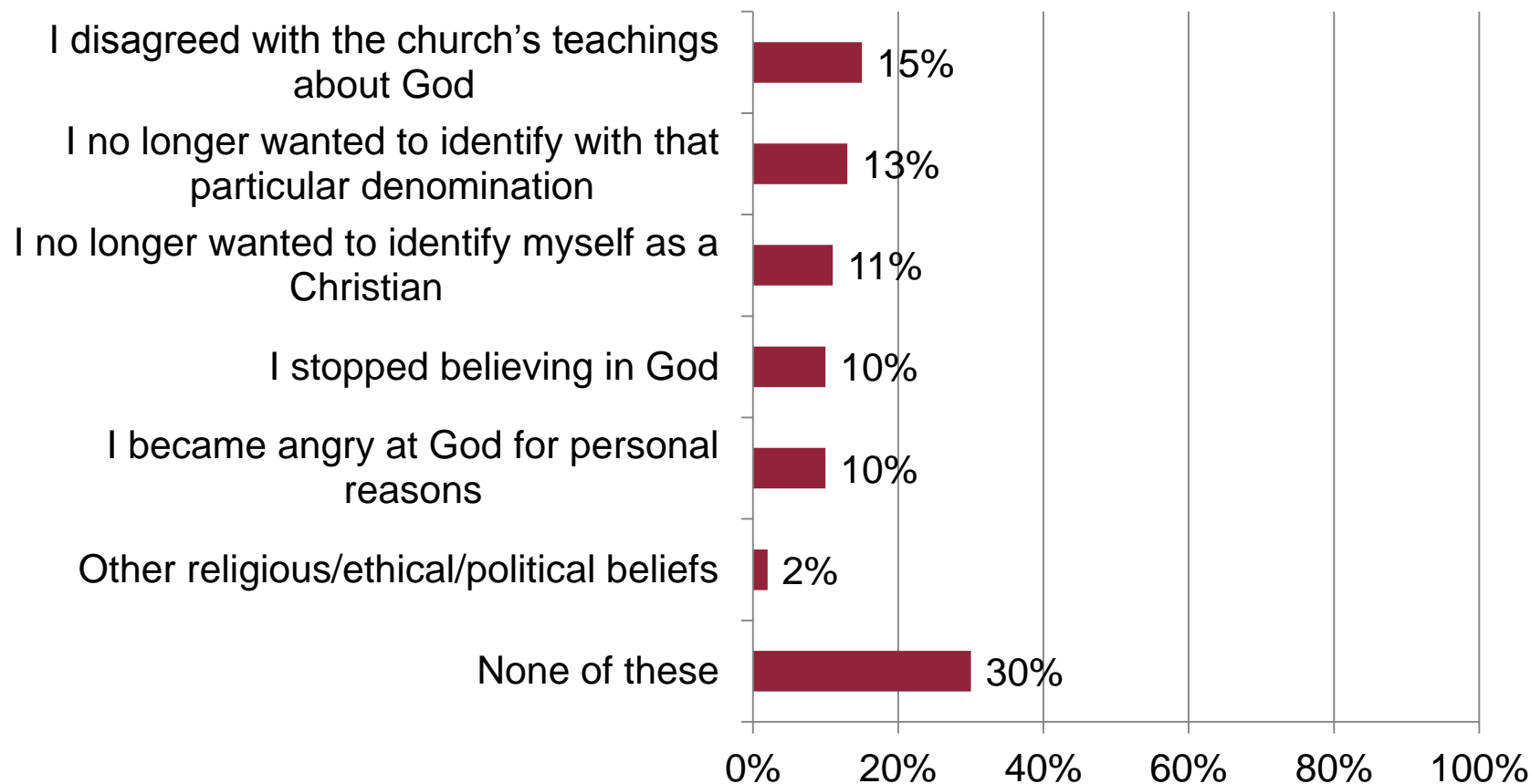
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q3d: "Which of the following **religious, ethical, or political beliefs** contributed to your decision to stop attending church regularly between the ages of 18 and 22 or earlier? (Select all that apply)" n=1,323

Religious, Ethical, or Political Beliefs – Continued contributed to decision to stop attending

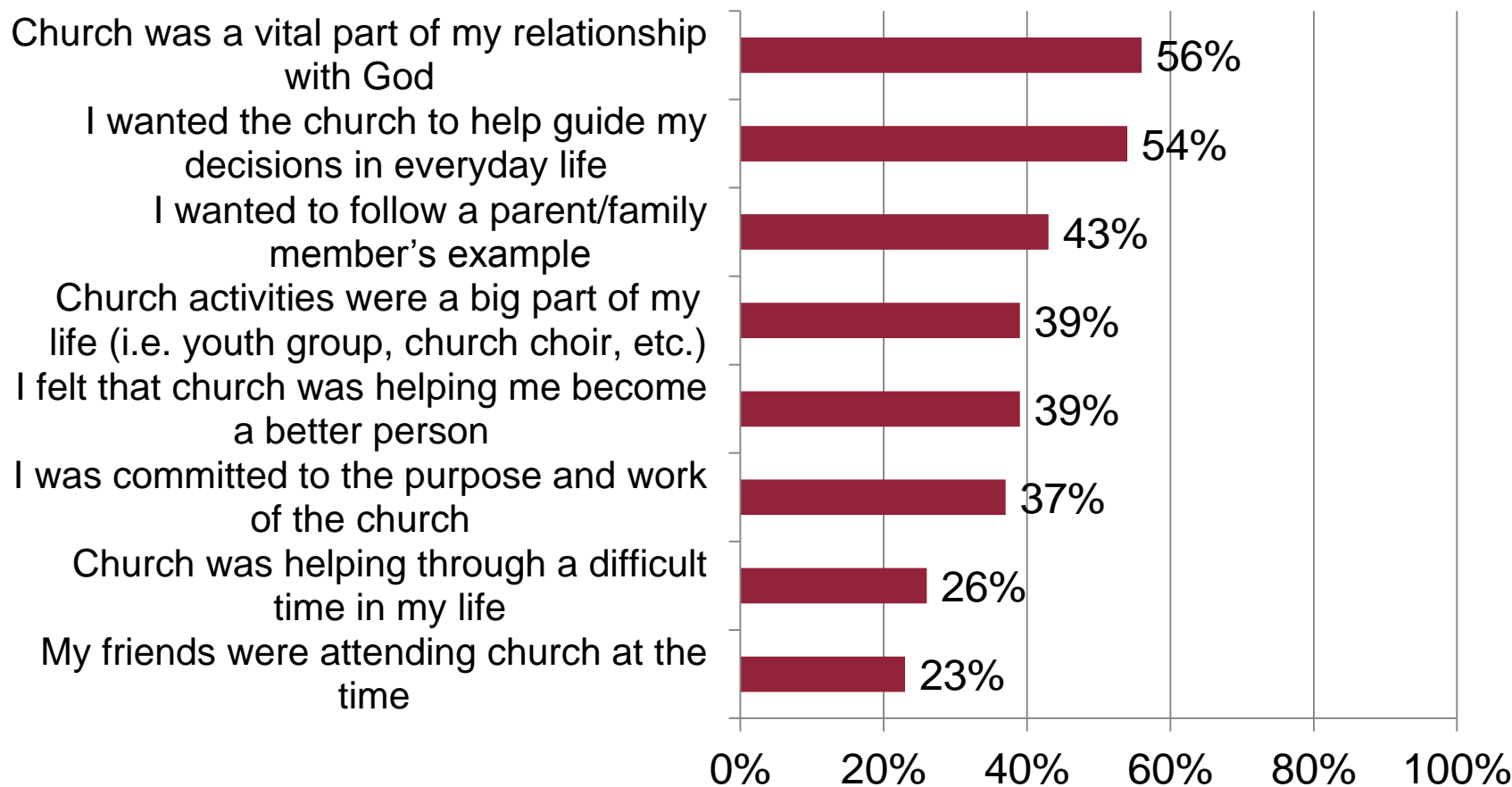
Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Stayed in Church

Factors contributing to continued regular attendance

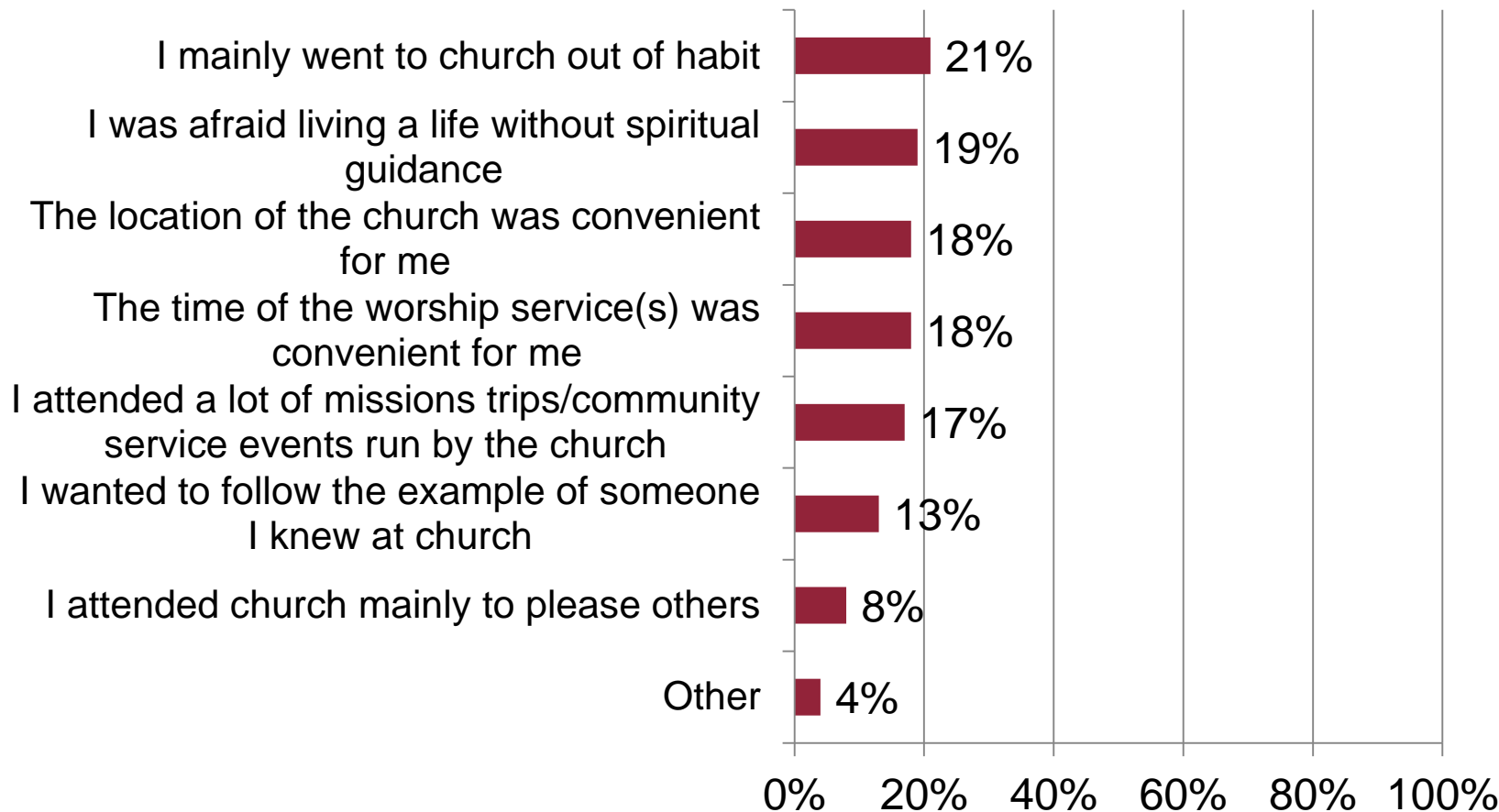
Among those who continued attending between ages 18-22



Q5: "Which of the following factors contributed to your continued regular attendance between the ages of 18 and 22? (Select all that apply)" n=679

Factors contributing to continued regular attendance

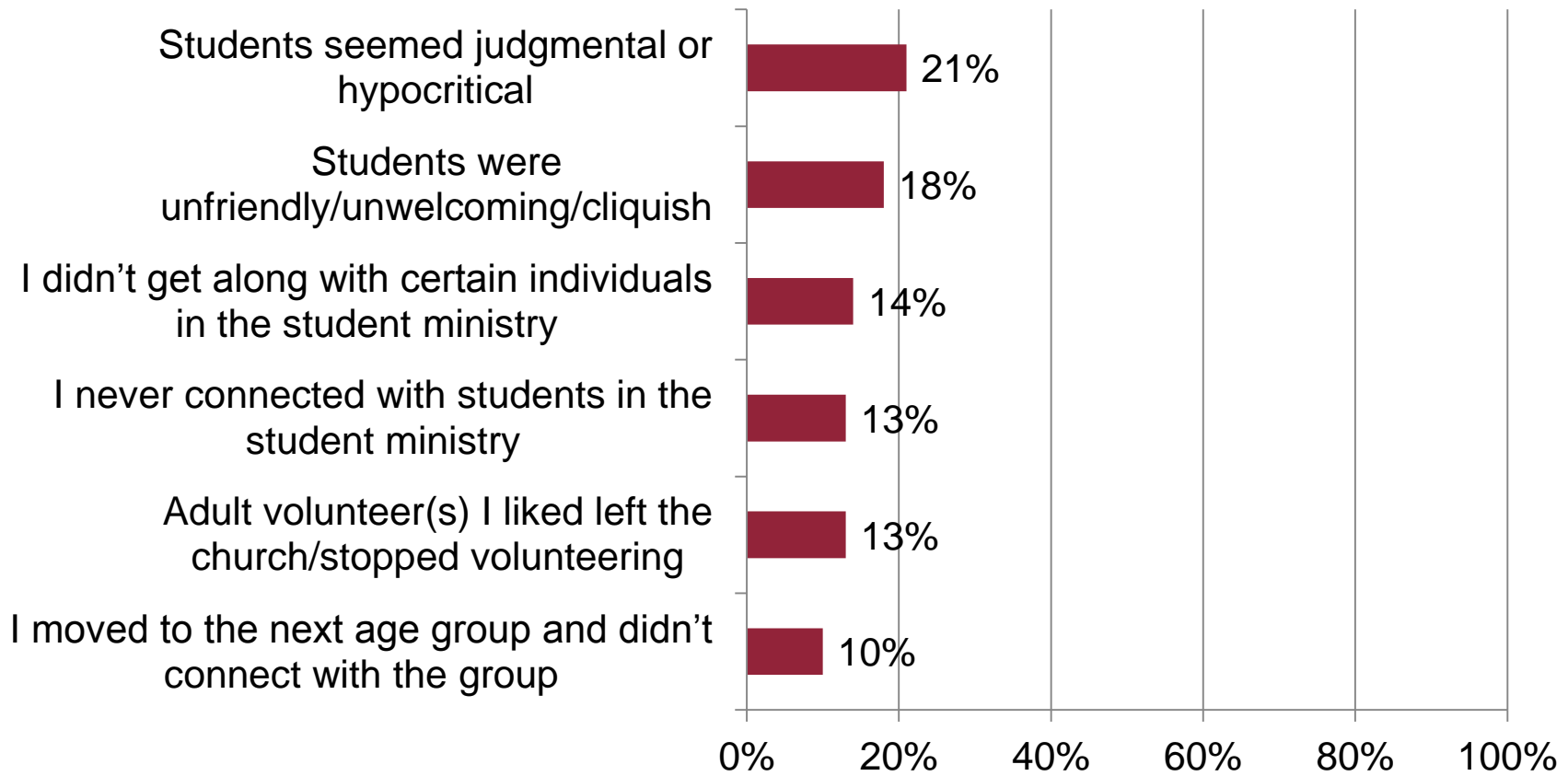
Among those who continued attending between ages 18-22



Q5: "Which of the following factors contributed to your continued regular attendance between the ages of 18 and 22? (Select all that apply)" n=679

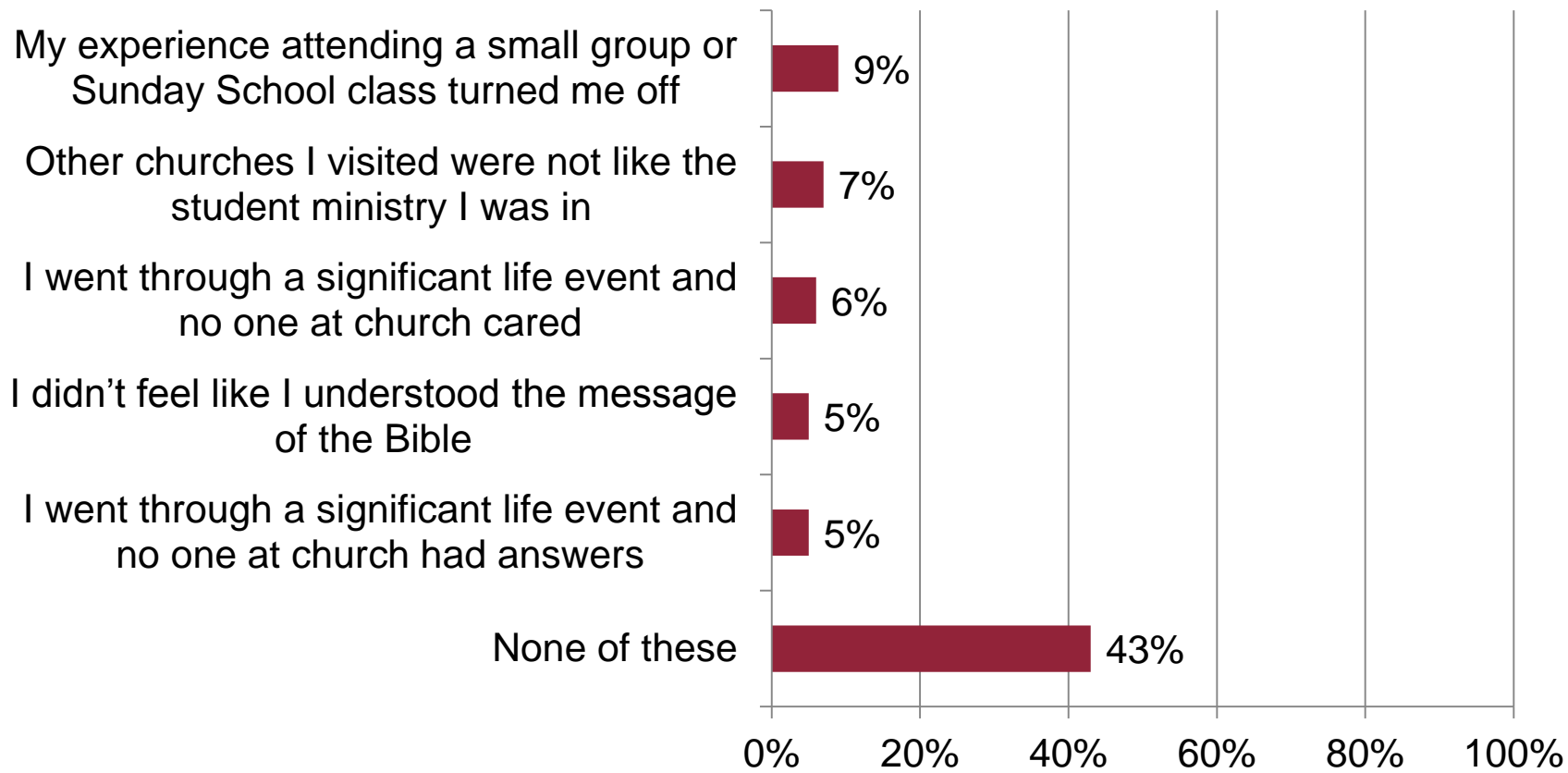
Occurred while attending church regularly during high school

Among those who continued attending between ages 18-22



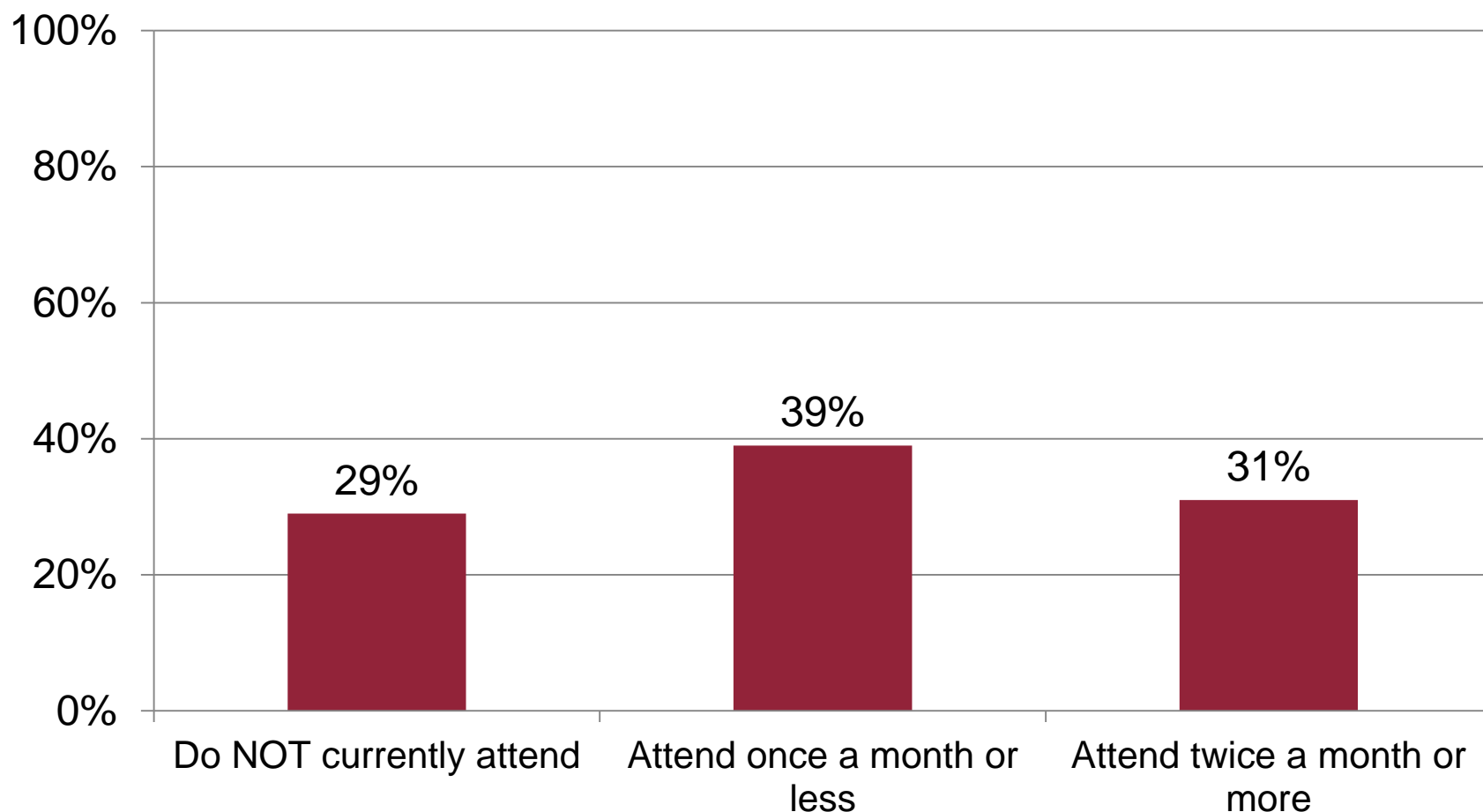
Occurred while attending church regularly during high school

Among those who continued attending between ages 18-22



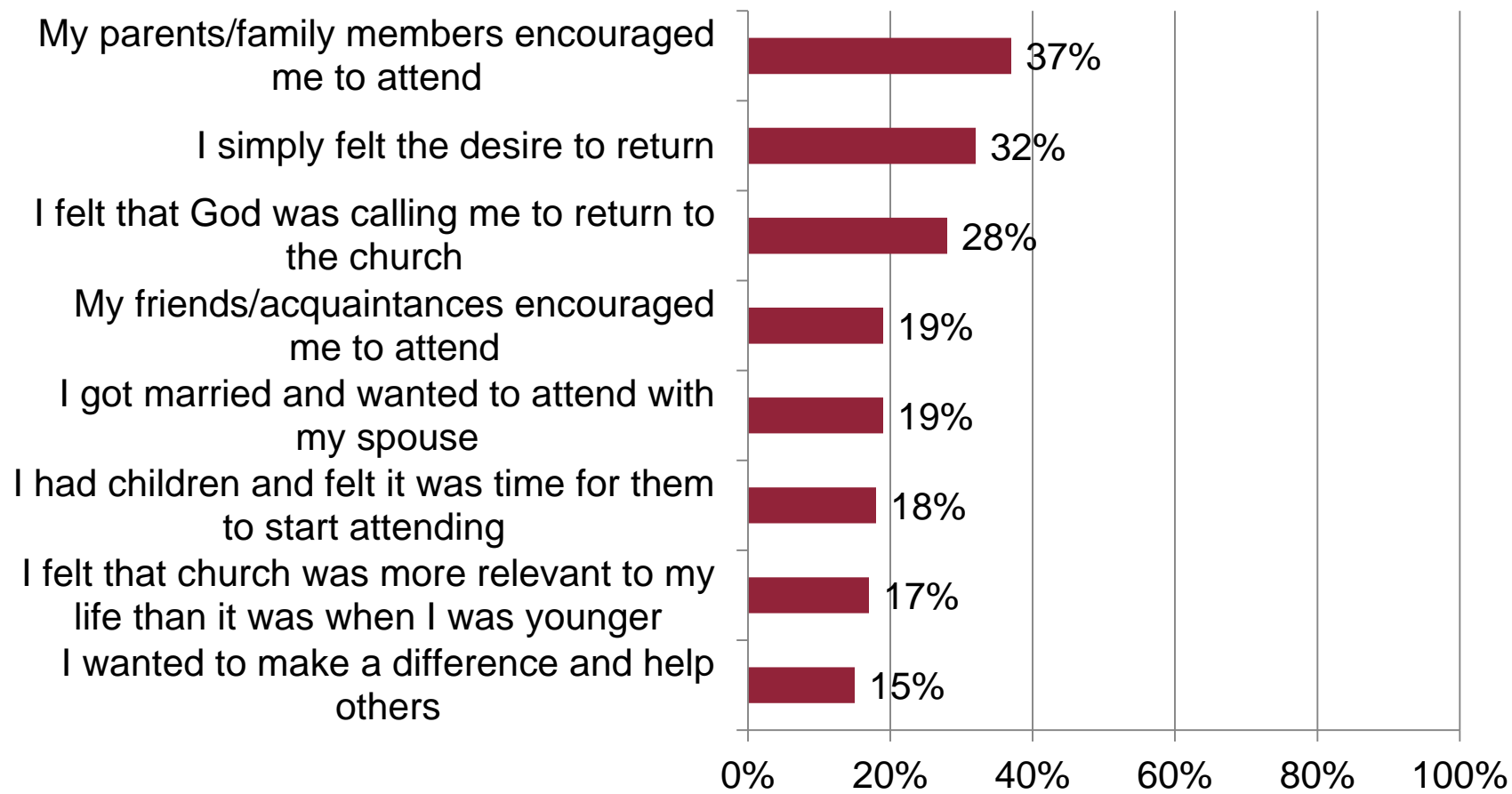
Dropped Out and Returned to Church

Current church attendance among those who dropped out between ages 18-22



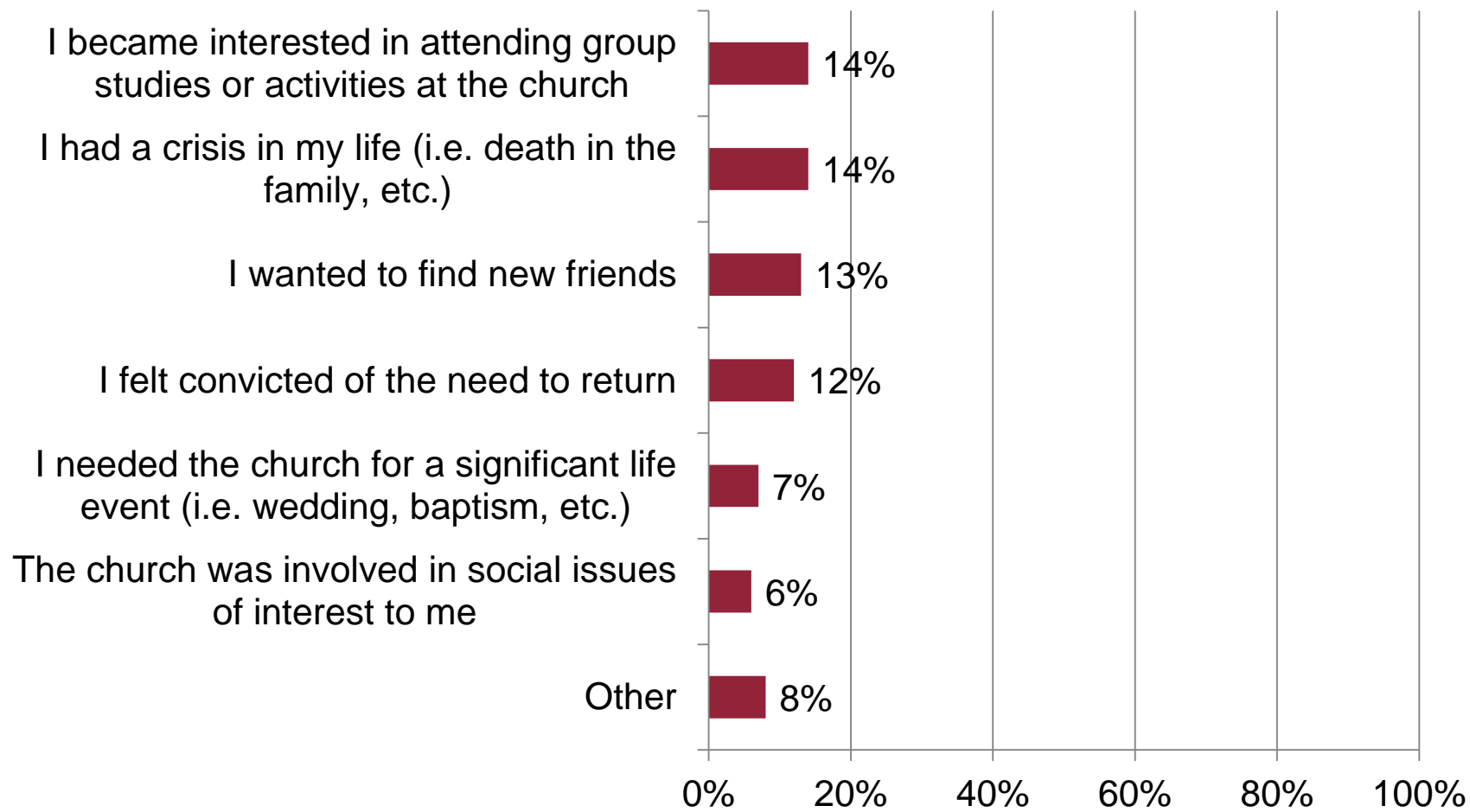
S8: "Which of the following best describes your CURRENT church attendance? (Select One)"

Contributed to decision to start attending church again



Q7: "Which of the following situations or influences contributed to your decision to start attending church again? (Select all that apply)" Asked of those who dropped out and currently attend at all. n=940

Contributed to decision to start attending church again

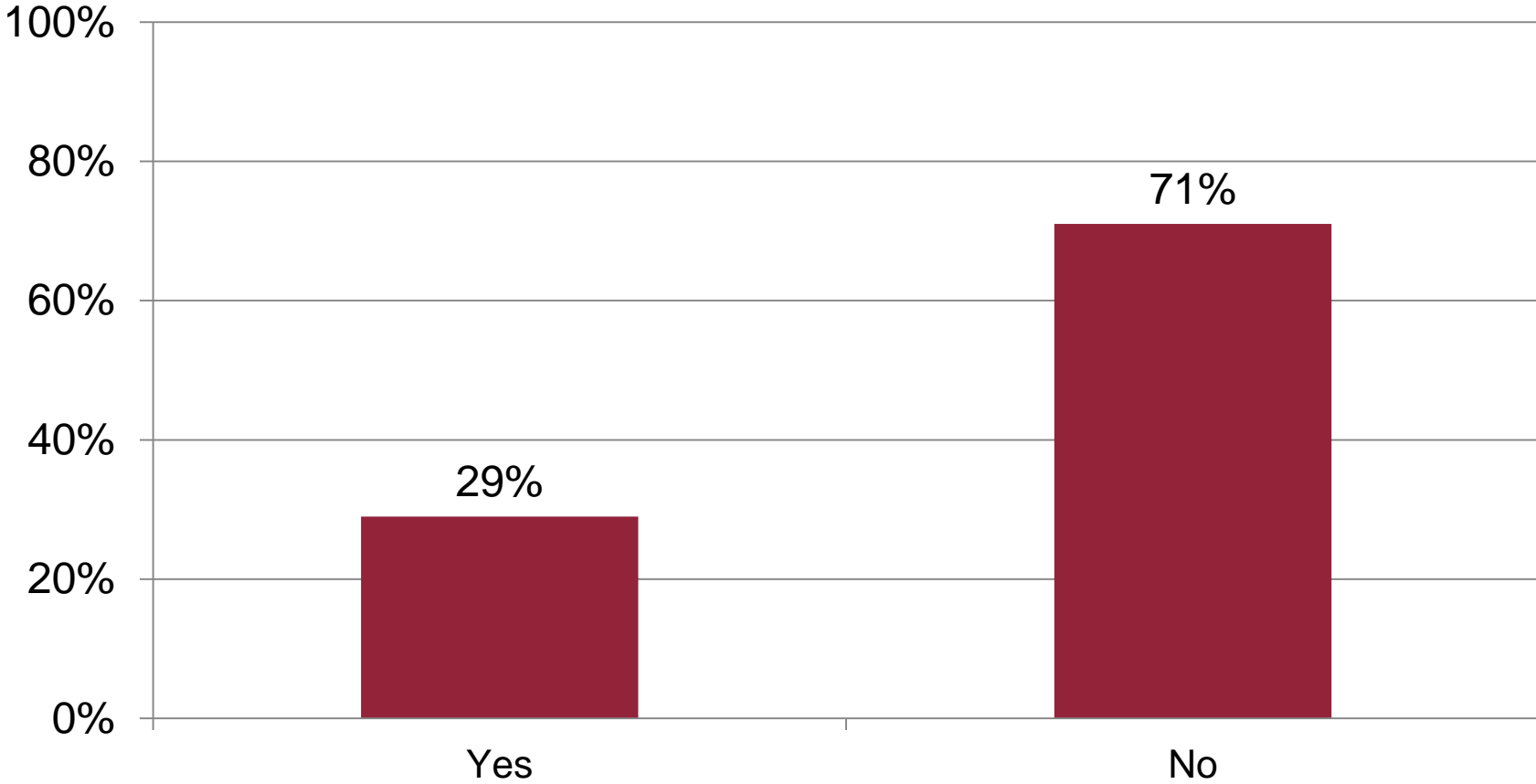


Q7: "Which of the following situations or influences contributed to your decision to start attending church again? (Select all that apply)" Asked of those who dropped out and currently attend at all. n=940

Dropped Out of Church

Planned on a taking a break from church

Among those who stopped attending between ages 18-22



Q8: "Thinking back to your days of regular church attendance in high school, had you planned on taking a break from church once you finished high school?" n=1,323



Church Dropouts: Reasons Young Adults Stay or Go between ages 18-22

Survey of 2,002 Young Adults Who
Attended a Protestant Church
Regularly in High School