

Churchgoer Views on Suicide

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Church Attendees

Sponsored by:

American Association of Christian Counselors

Liberty University Graduate Counseling program

Liberty University School of Medicine

Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention



Methodology

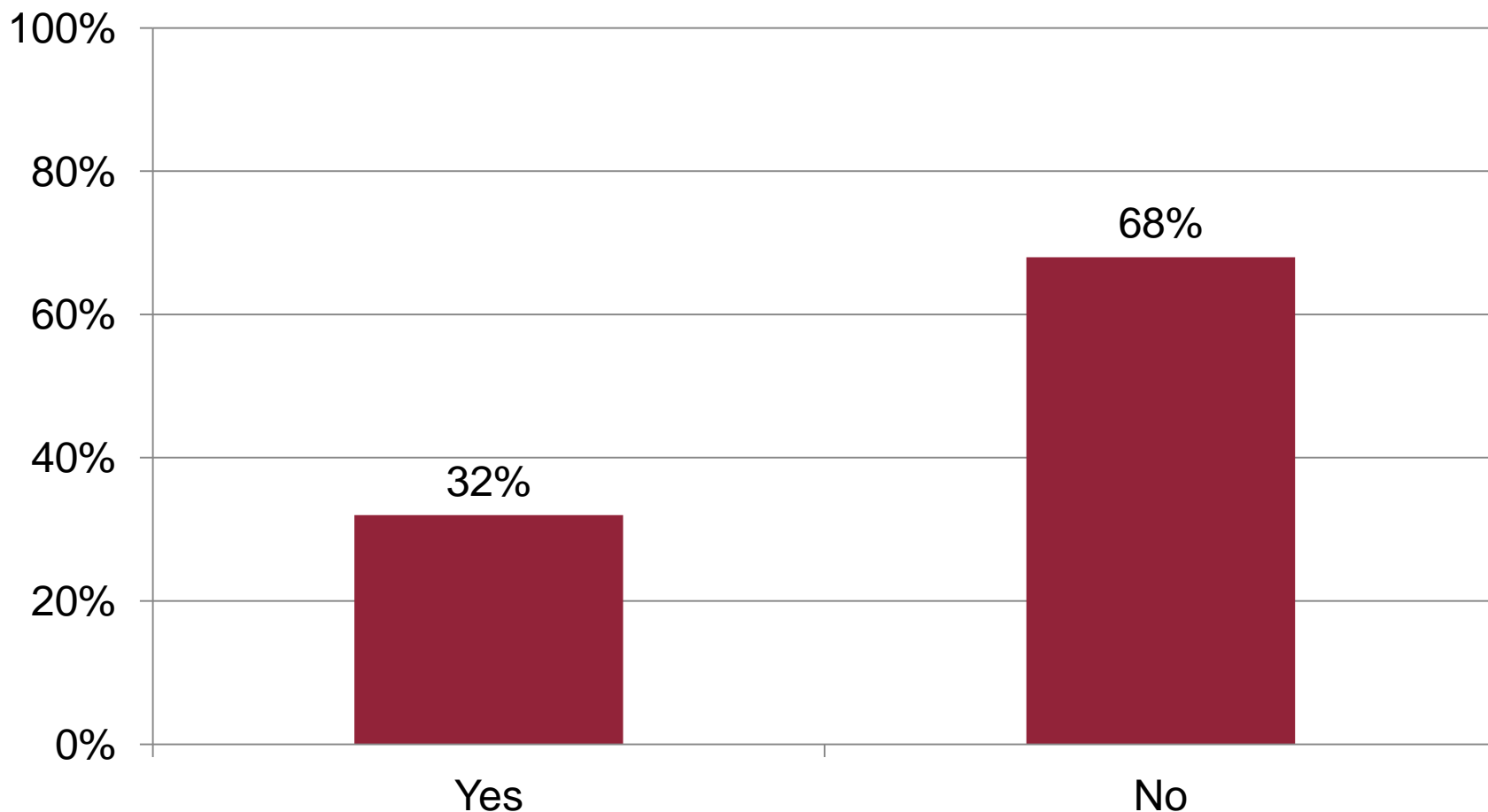
- ❑ The study was sponsored by the American Association of Christian Counselors, Liberty University Graduate Counseling program, Liberty University School of Medicine, and Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention
- ❑ A demographically balanced online panel was used for interviewing American adults
- ❑ Respondents were screened to only include Protestant and nondenominational Christians who attend worship services at a Christian church once a month or more
- ❑ 1,000 surveys were completed September 15 – 19, 2017
- ❑ Slight weights were used to balance gender, age, ethnicity, education, and region

Methodology

- ❑ Those who had a close family member or close acquaintance take their own life were oversampled (500 completed surveys) and subsequently weighted to be proportionate in questions applicable to all respondents
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the online panel does not exceed $\pm 3.4\%$ (This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting)
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

“Have you ever had a close family member or close acquaintance take their own life?”

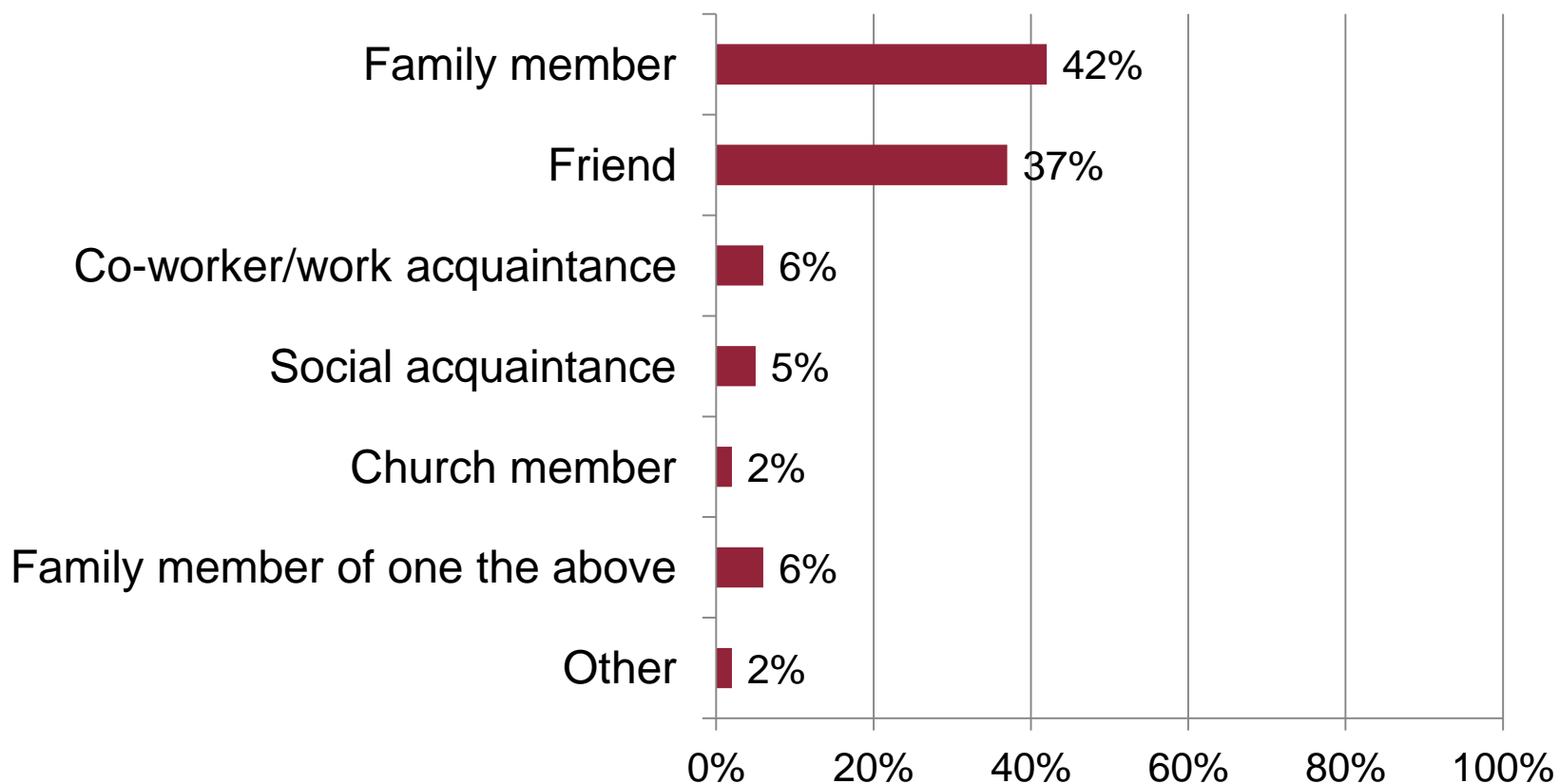


Q9: “Have you ever had a close family member or close acquaintance take their own life? (Select One)” n=1,618 Note: this includes 618 respondents included in the screening who did not complete the main survey.

Responses Among Those With a Personal Connection to Suicide

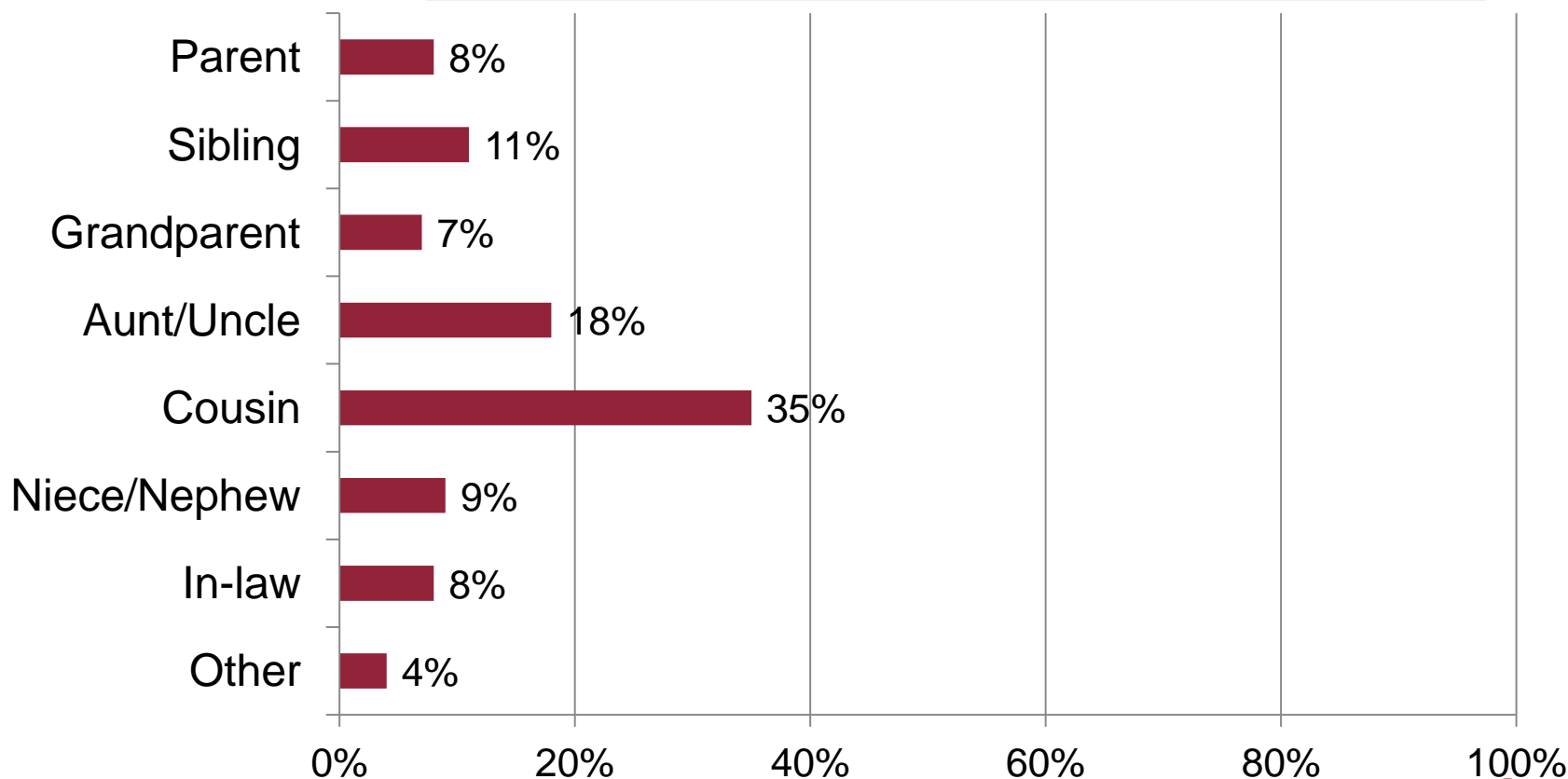
42% have had family member and 37% have had a friend take their own life

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



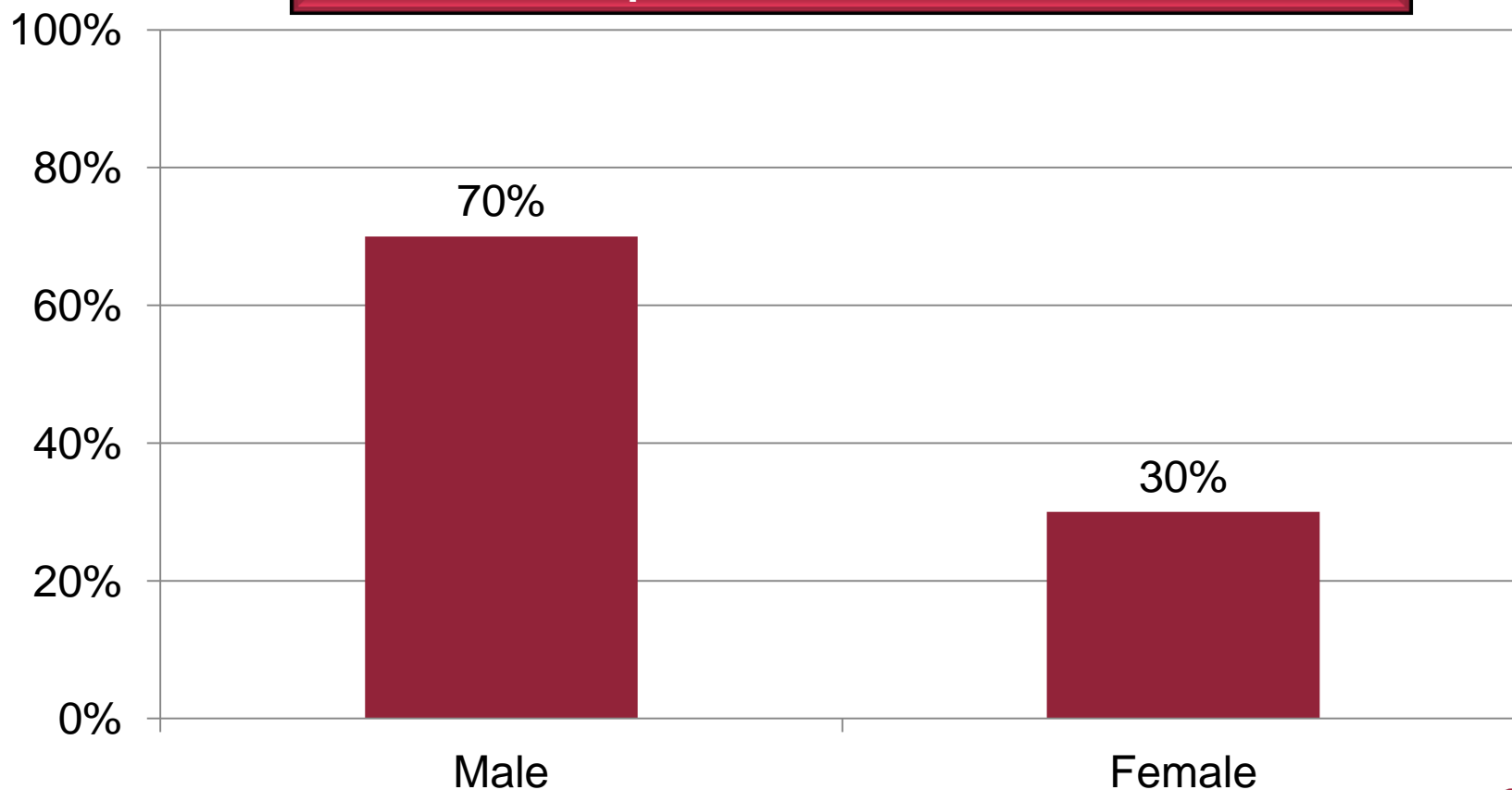
Relationship of family member who took their own life

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member Take Their Own Life



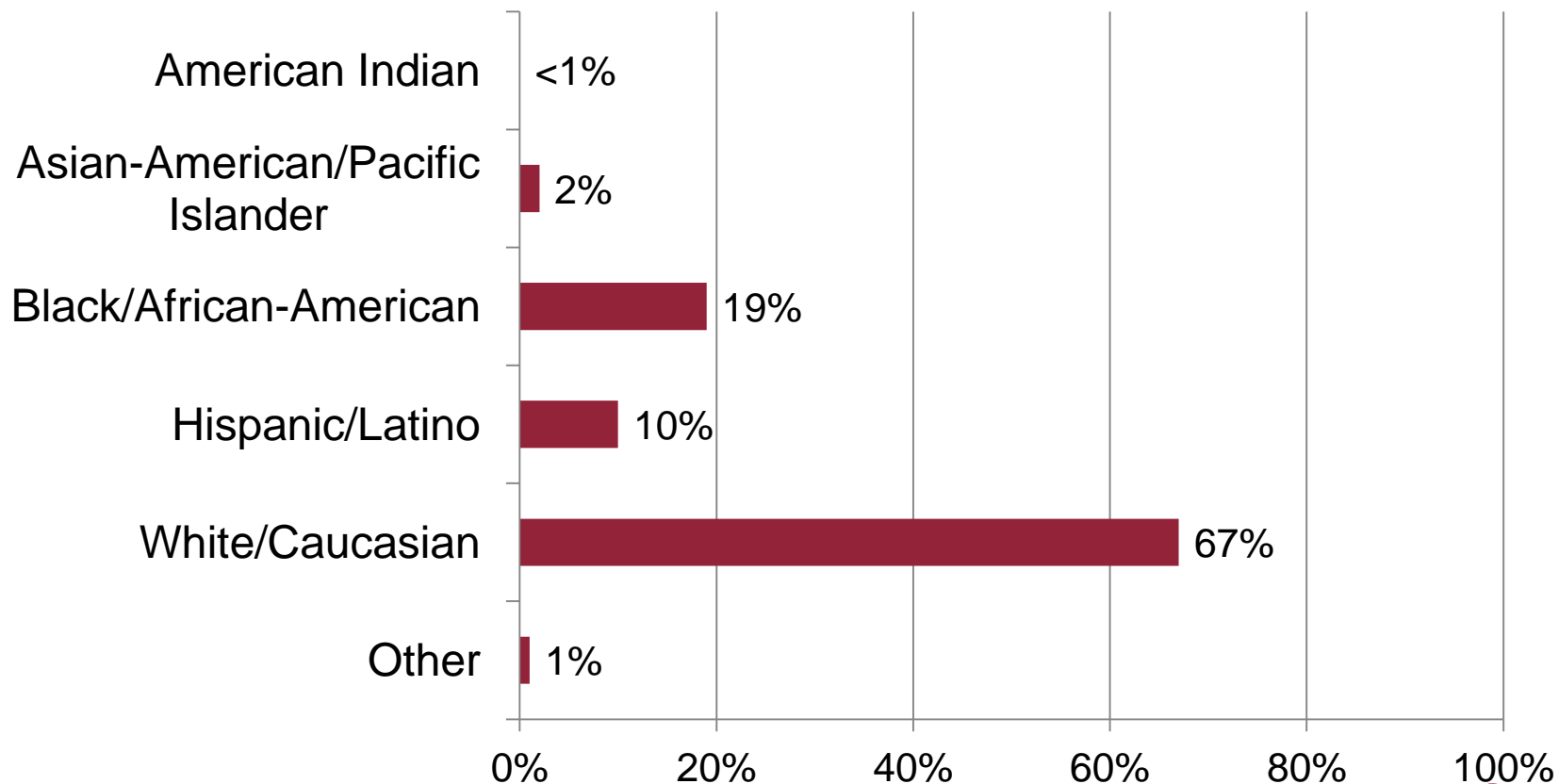
7 out of 10 of the loved ones were male

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



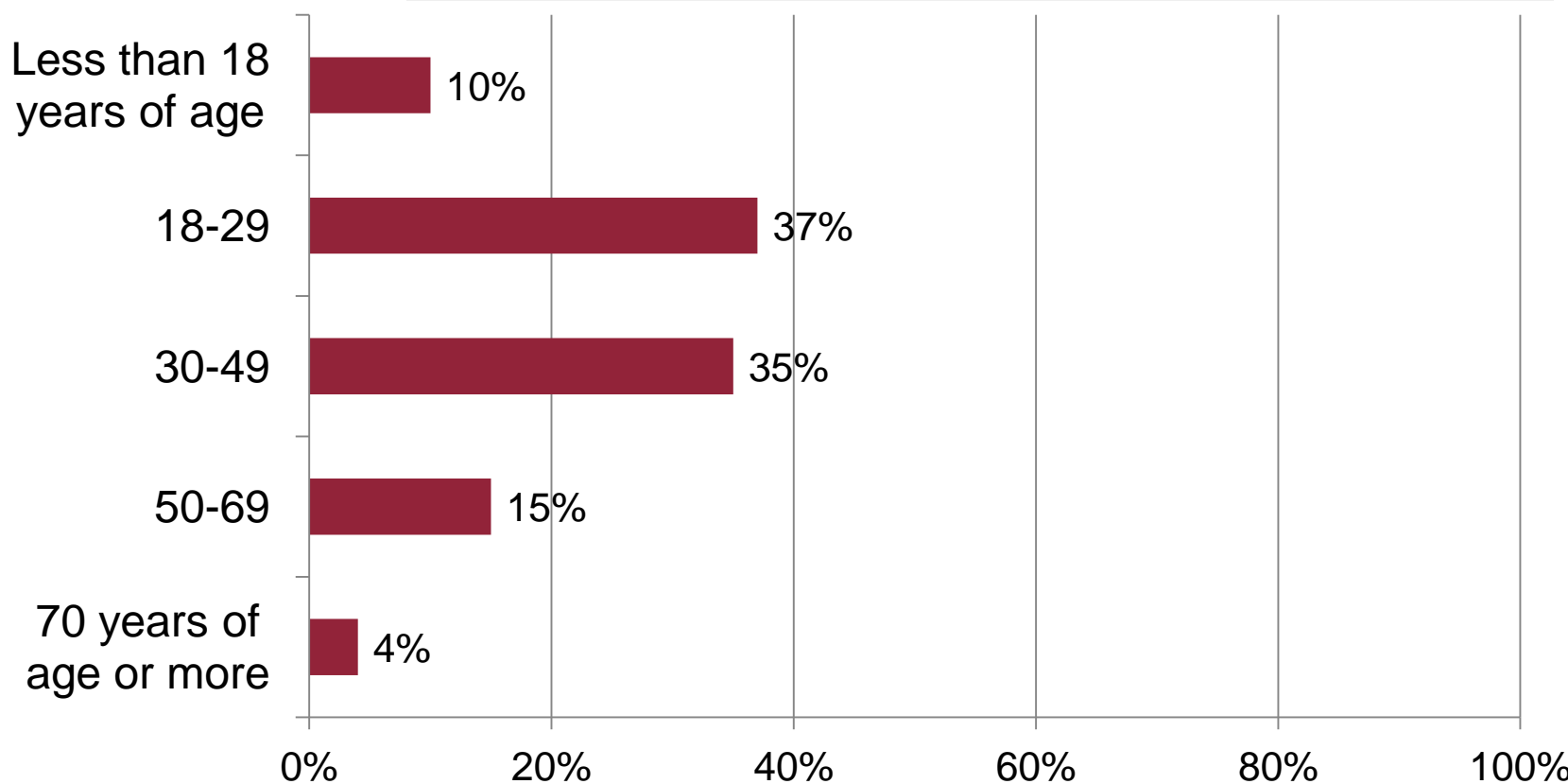
67% of loved ones were White/Caucasian

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



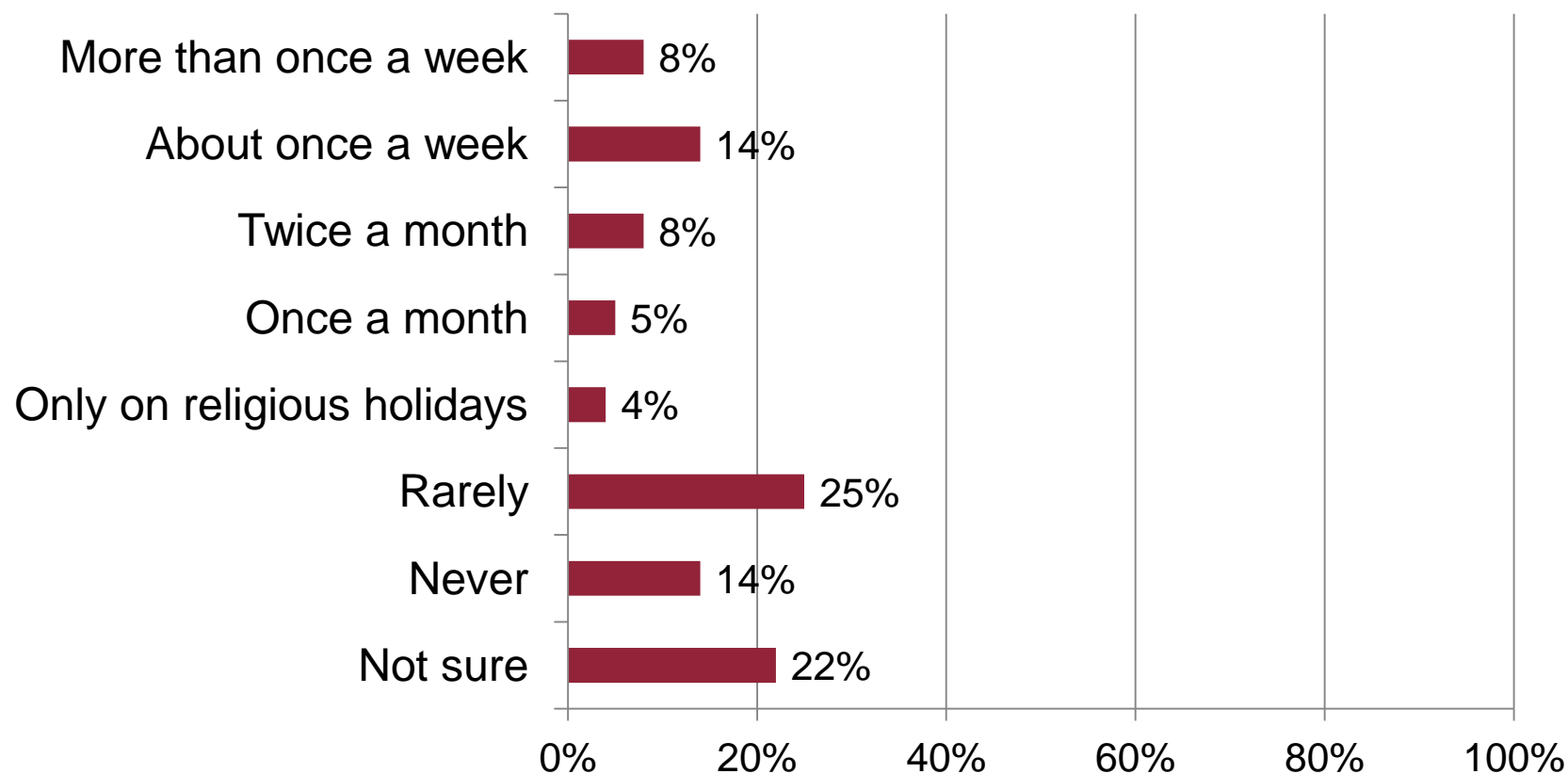
47% of loved ones were under 30 years of age

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



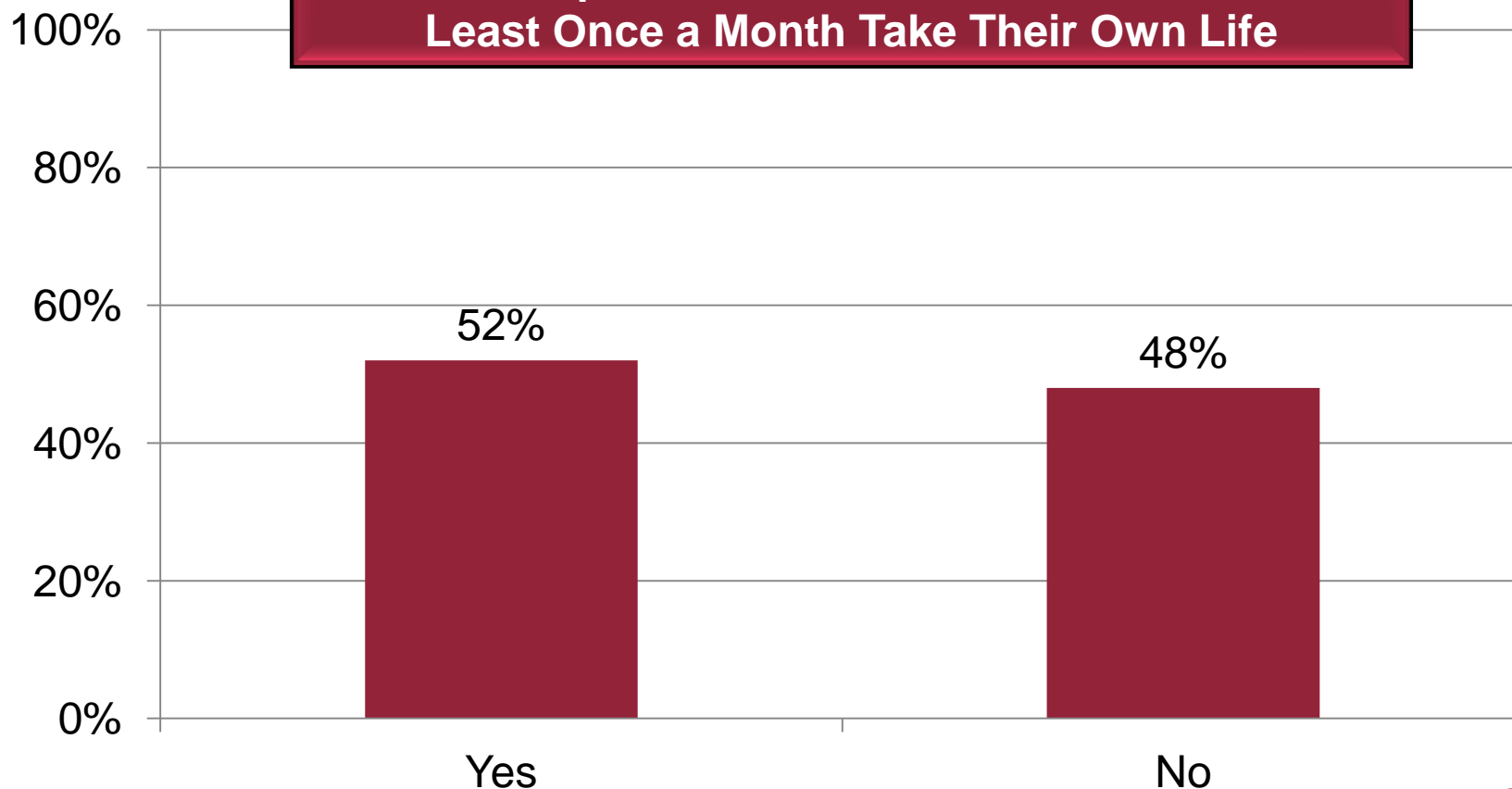
35% of loved ones attended a Christian church at least once a month

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



52% attended the same church as their loved one

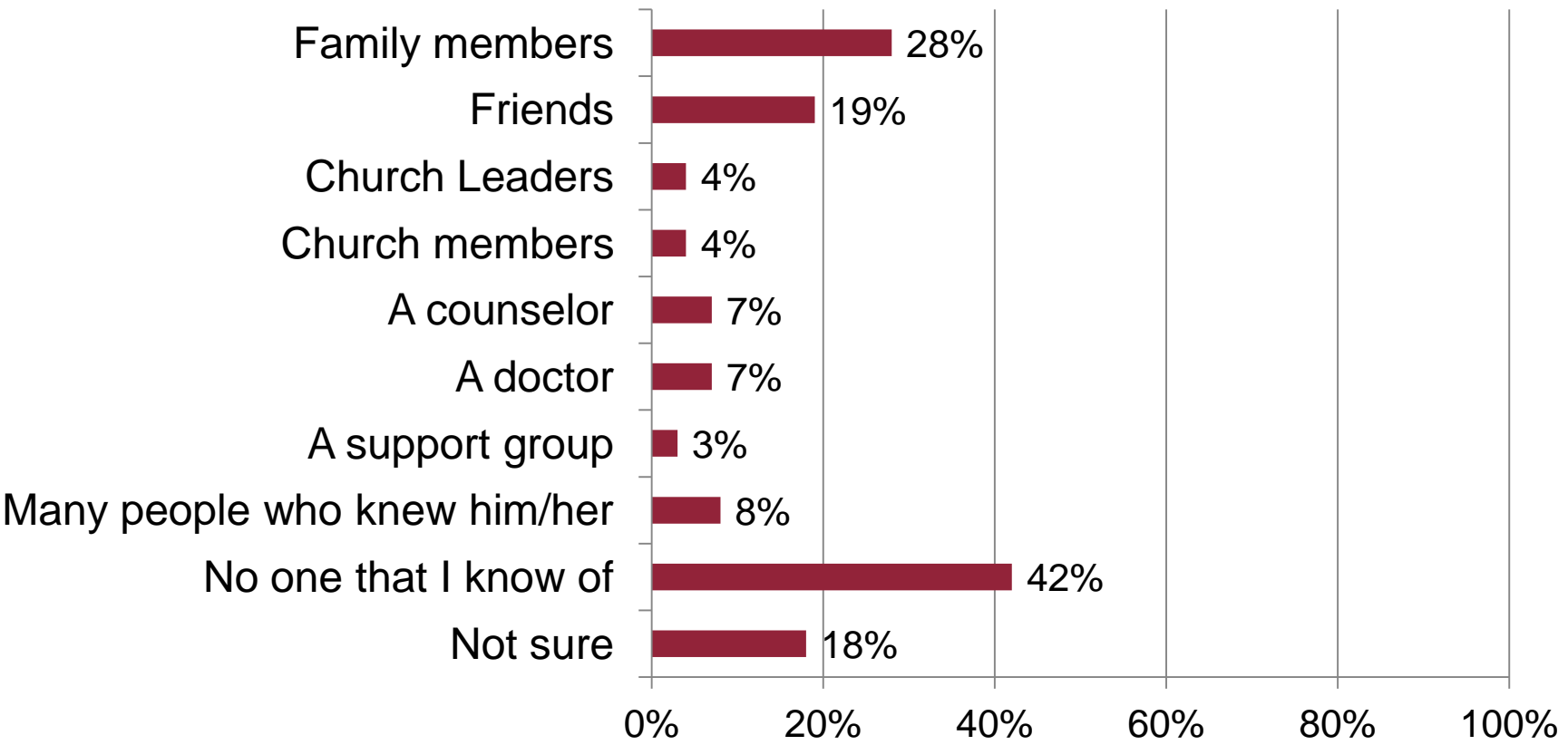
Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Who Attended Church at Least Once a Month Take Their Own Life



Q16: "Prior to their death, did you and your loved one attend the same church?" Asked if loved one attended church once a month or more. n=188

“During the months prior to death, *who was aware* of his/her struggles or risk of suicide?”

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



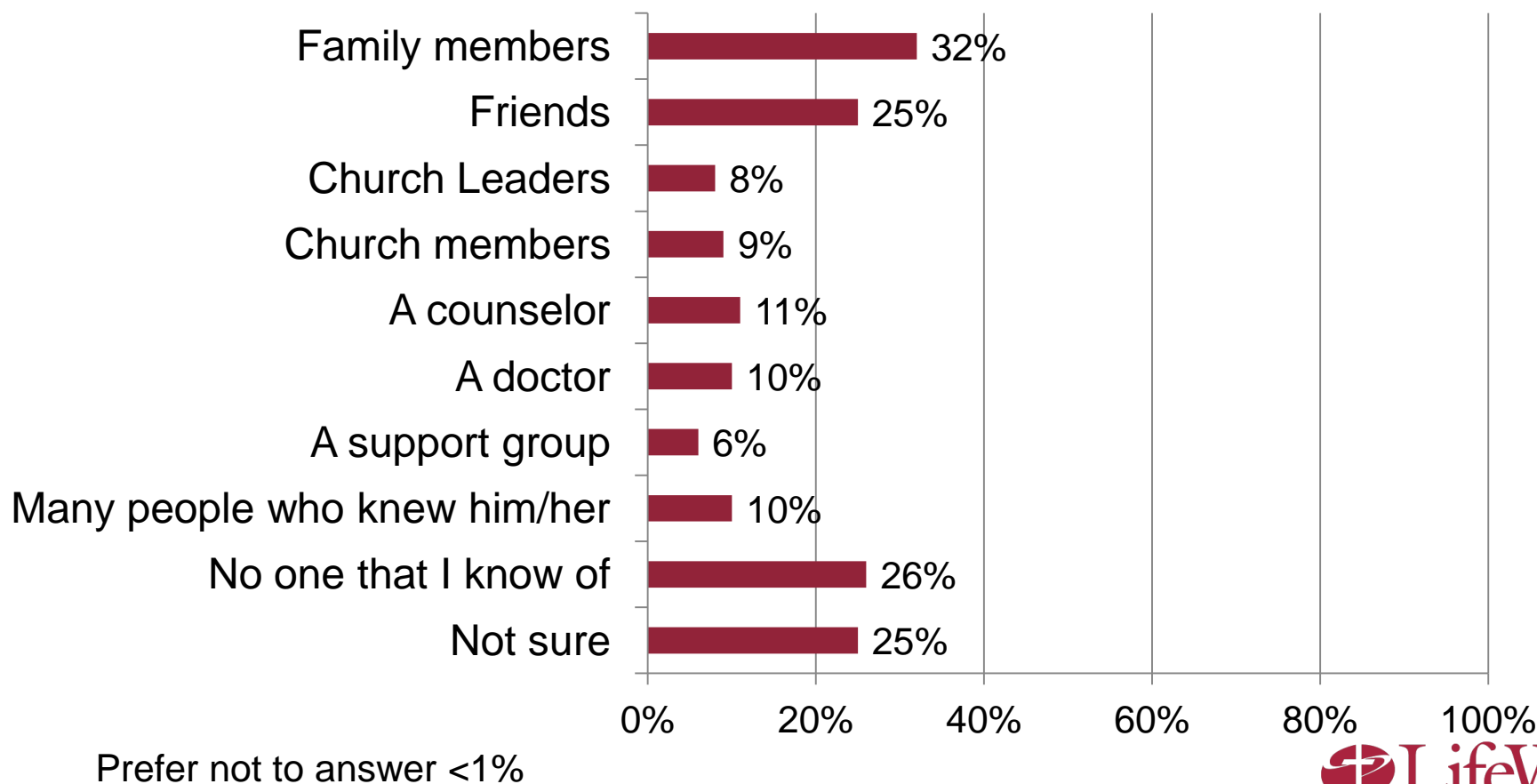
Prefer not to answer 1%



Q17: “During the months prior to death, **who was aware** of his/her struggles or risk of suicide? (Select all that apply)” n=500

“To the best of your knowledge during the months prior to death, *who offered specific support, referrals, or resources* to your loved one?”

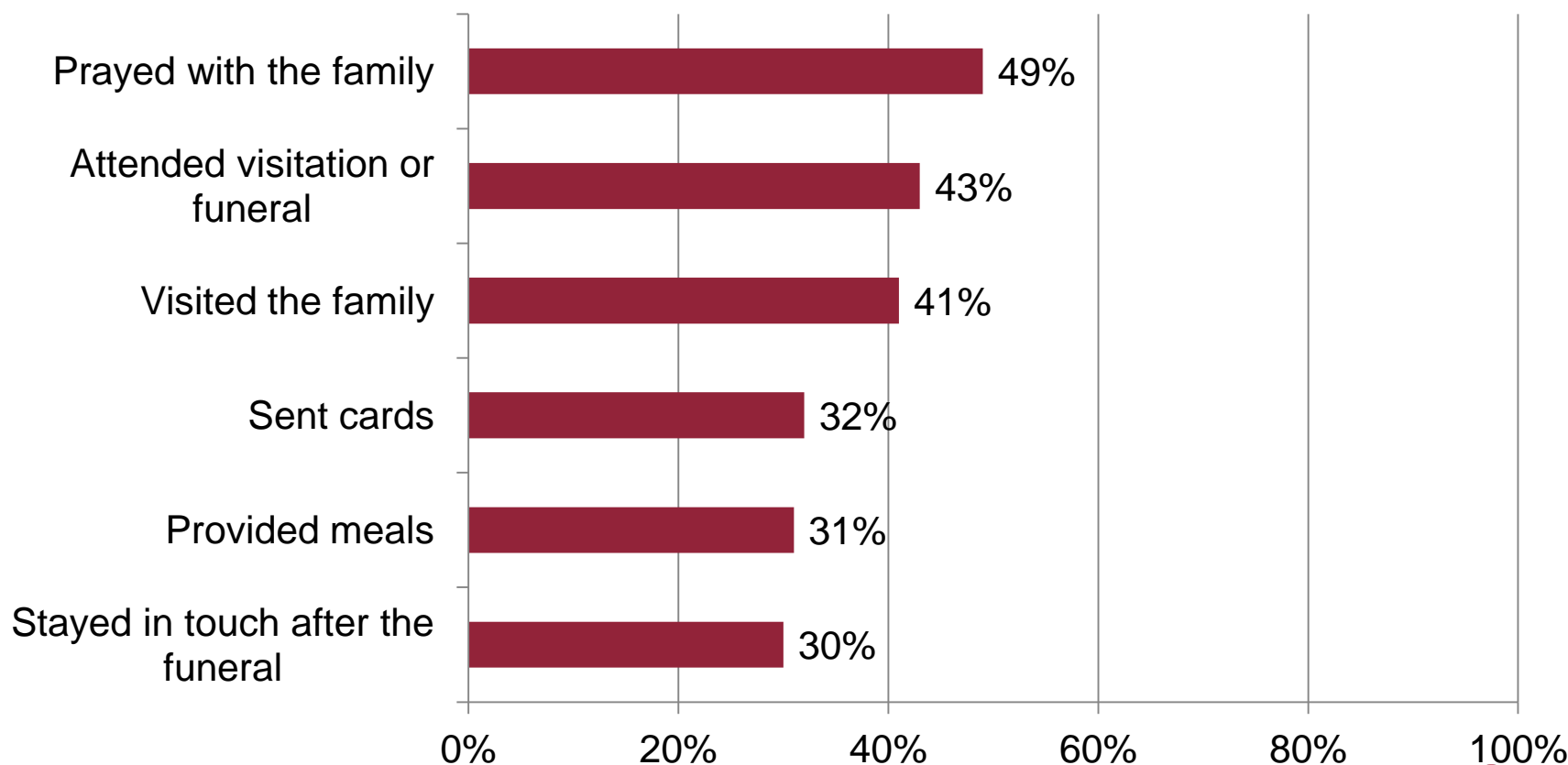
Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



Q18: “To the best of your knowledge during the months prior to death, **who offered specific support, referrals, or resources** to your loved one? (Select all that apply)” n=500

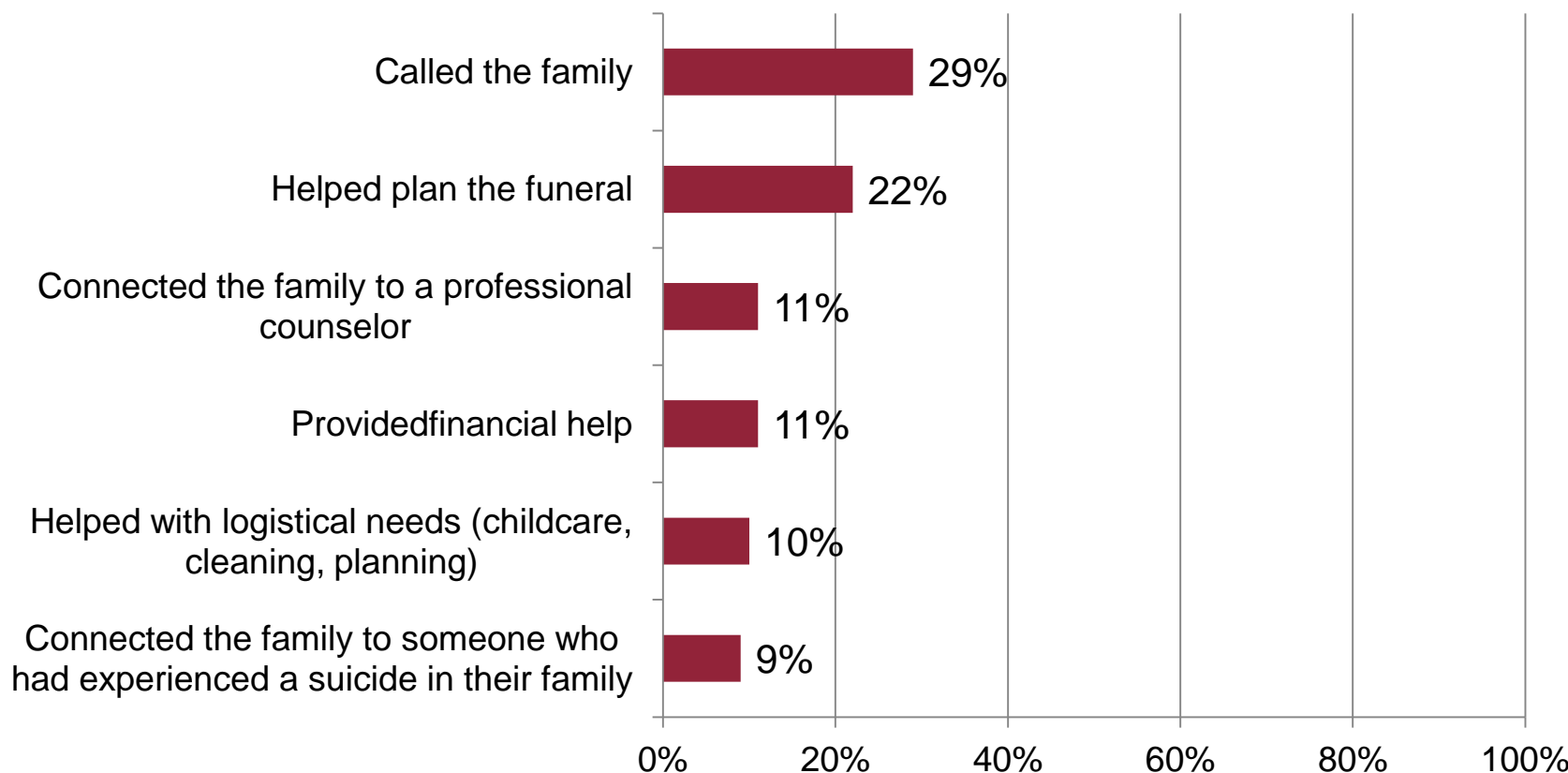
“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?”

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



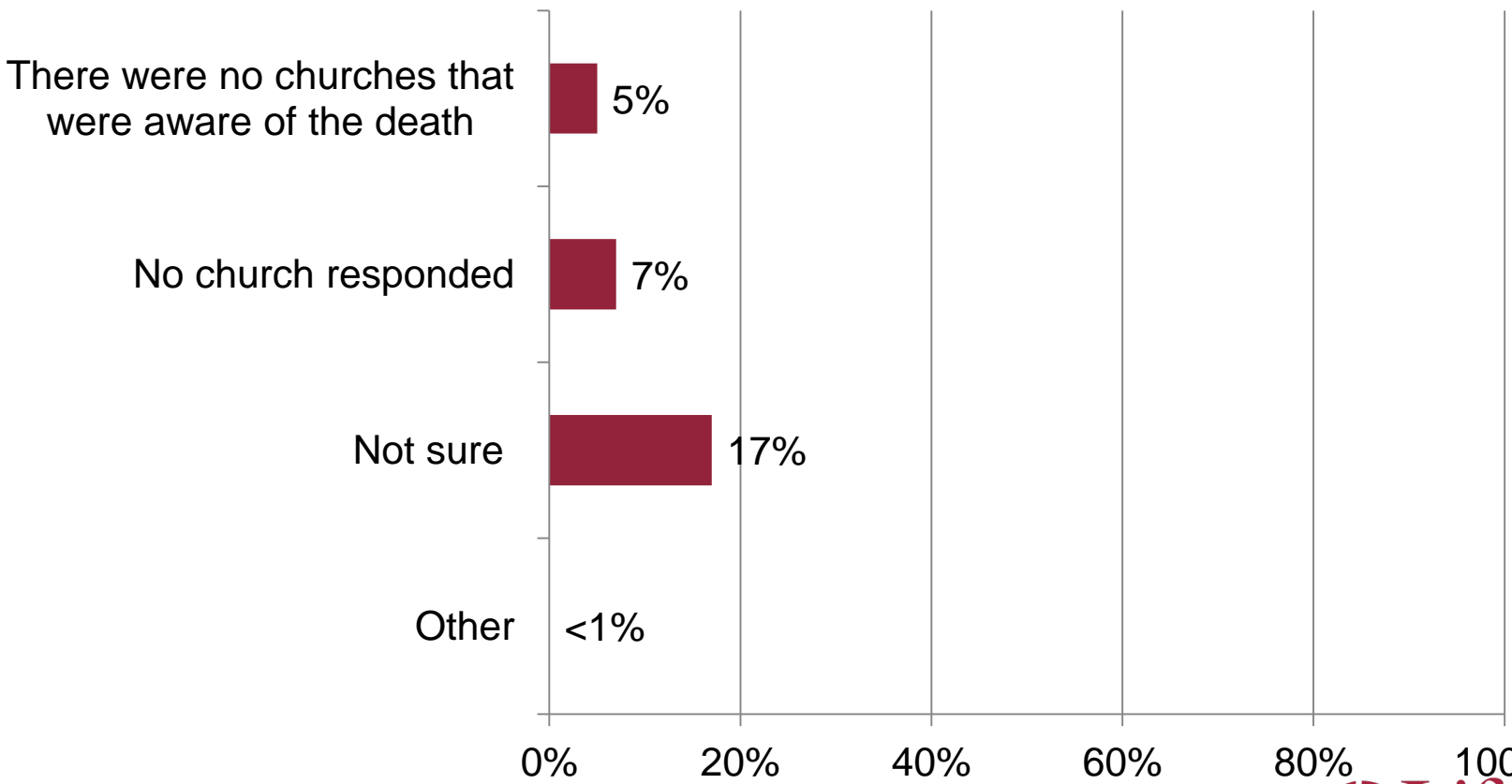
“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?” (continued)

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?” (continued)

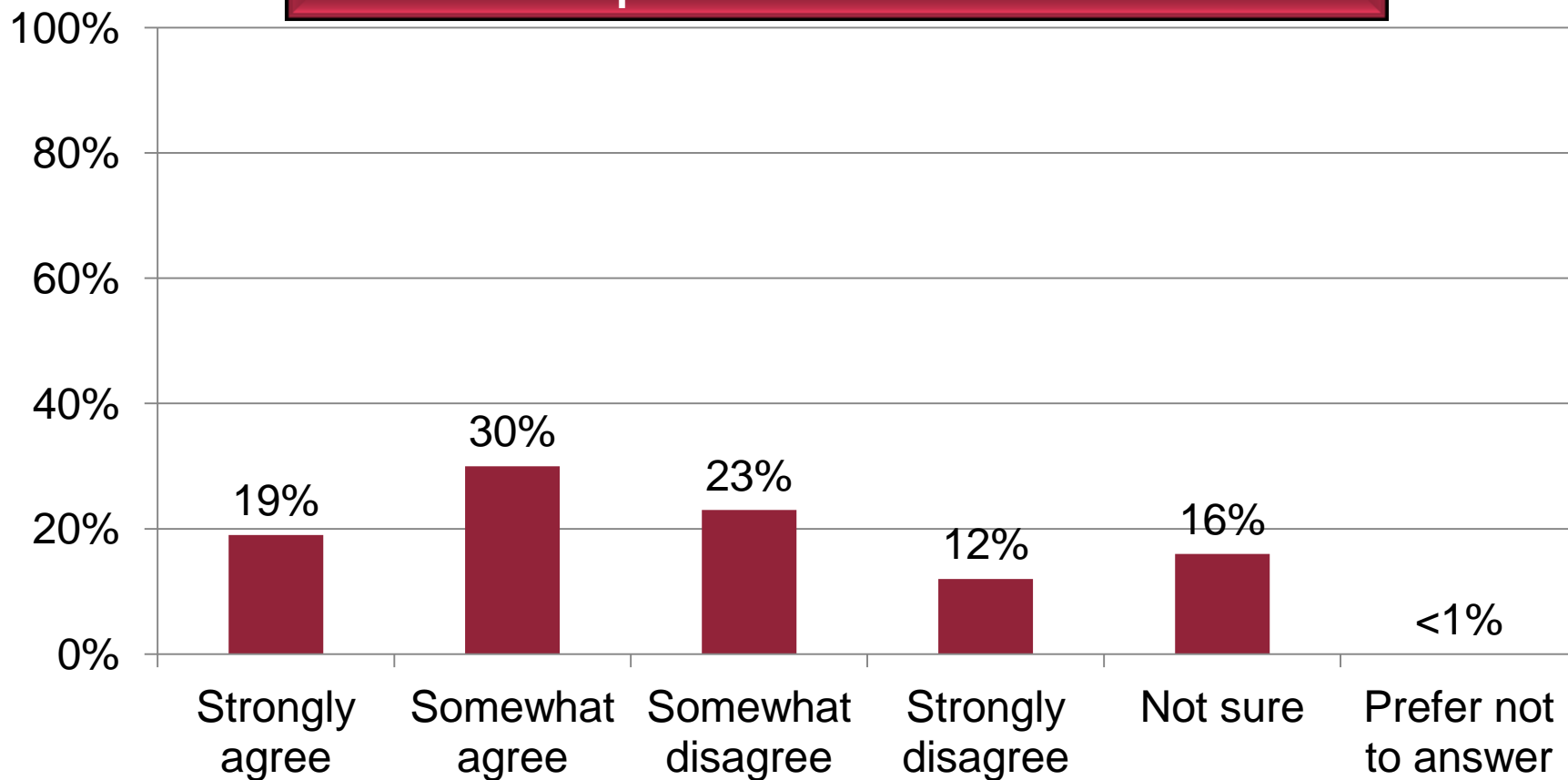
Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



Q19: “At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?” n=500

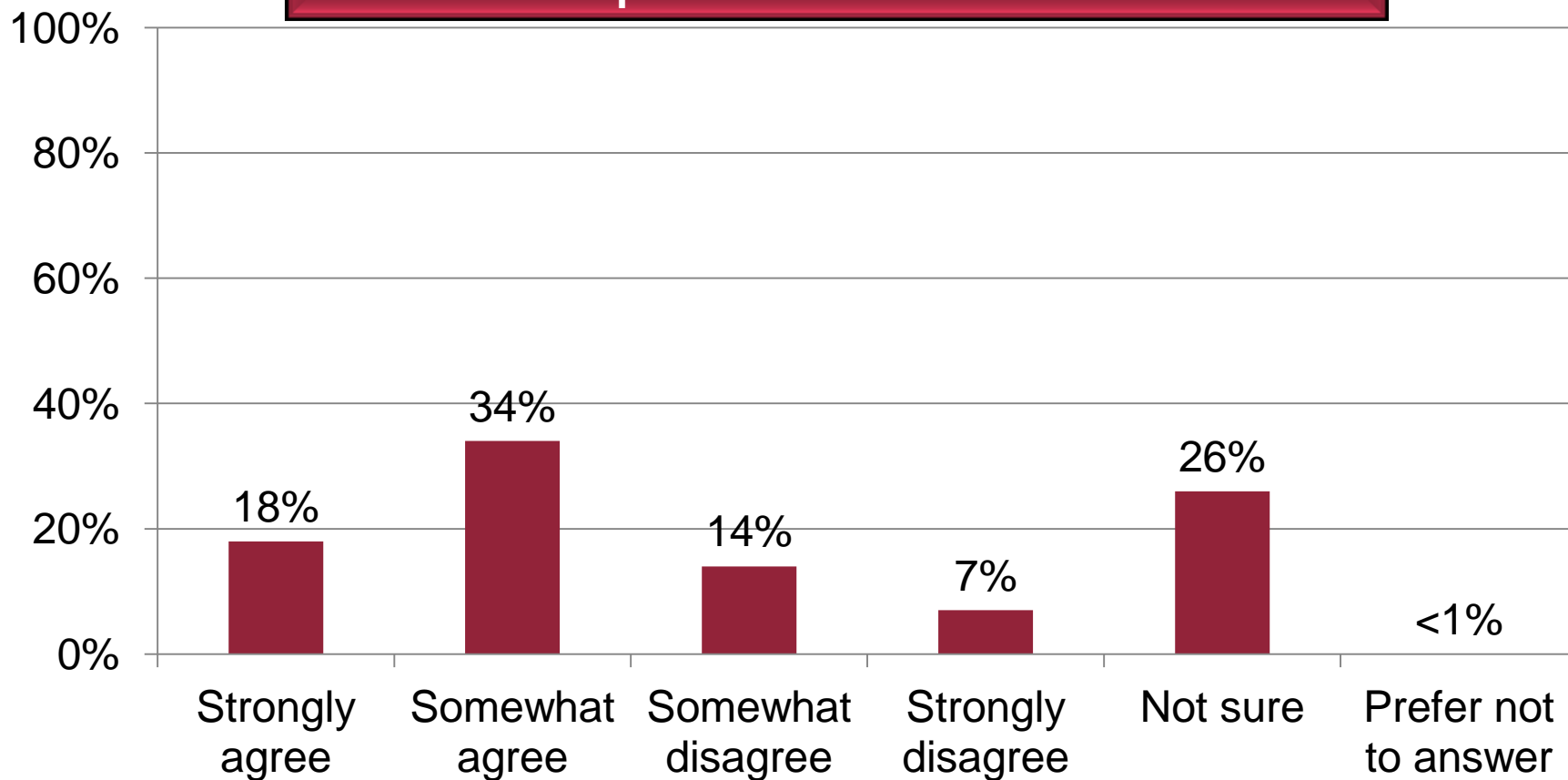
49% agree their loved one had withdrawn from most relationships

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



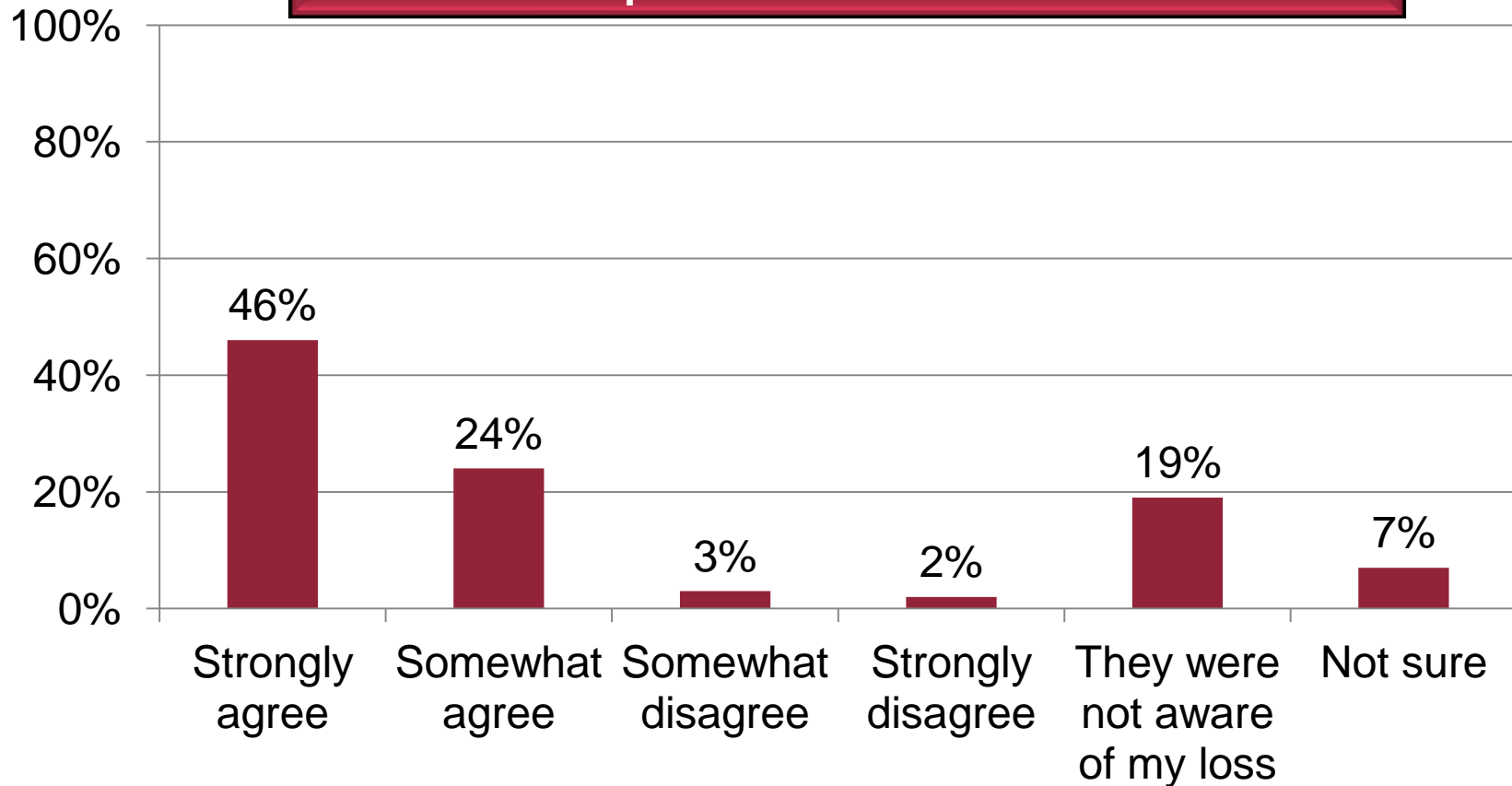
52% agree their loved one was not very open to help or support

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life



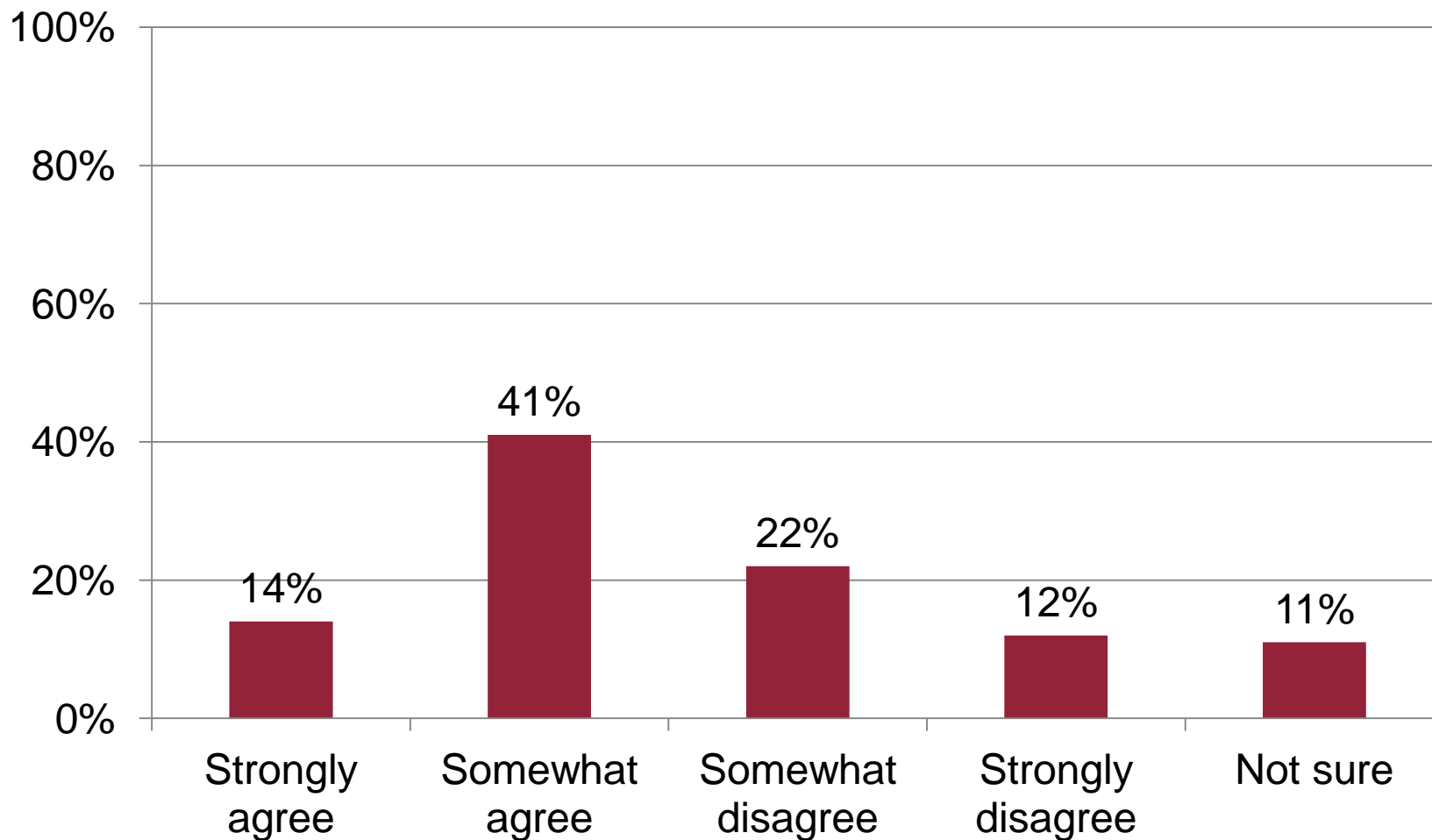
7 out of 10 agree their local church was loving and supportive regarding their loss

Among Those Who Have Had a Family Member or Close Acquaintance Take Their Own Life

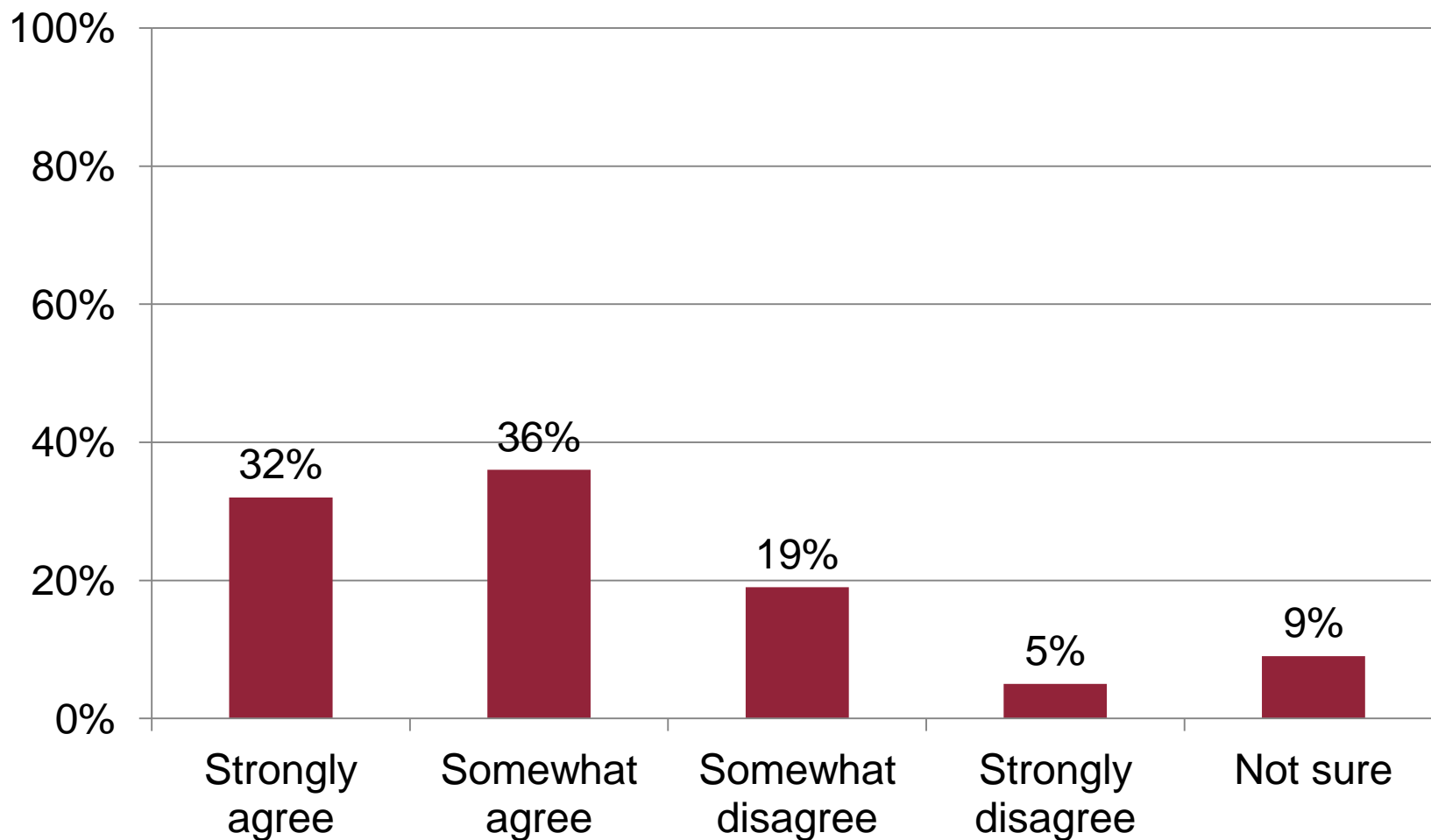


Responses Among Protestant Churchgoers

55% agree people are more likely to gossip about a suicide than to reach out to the family in support

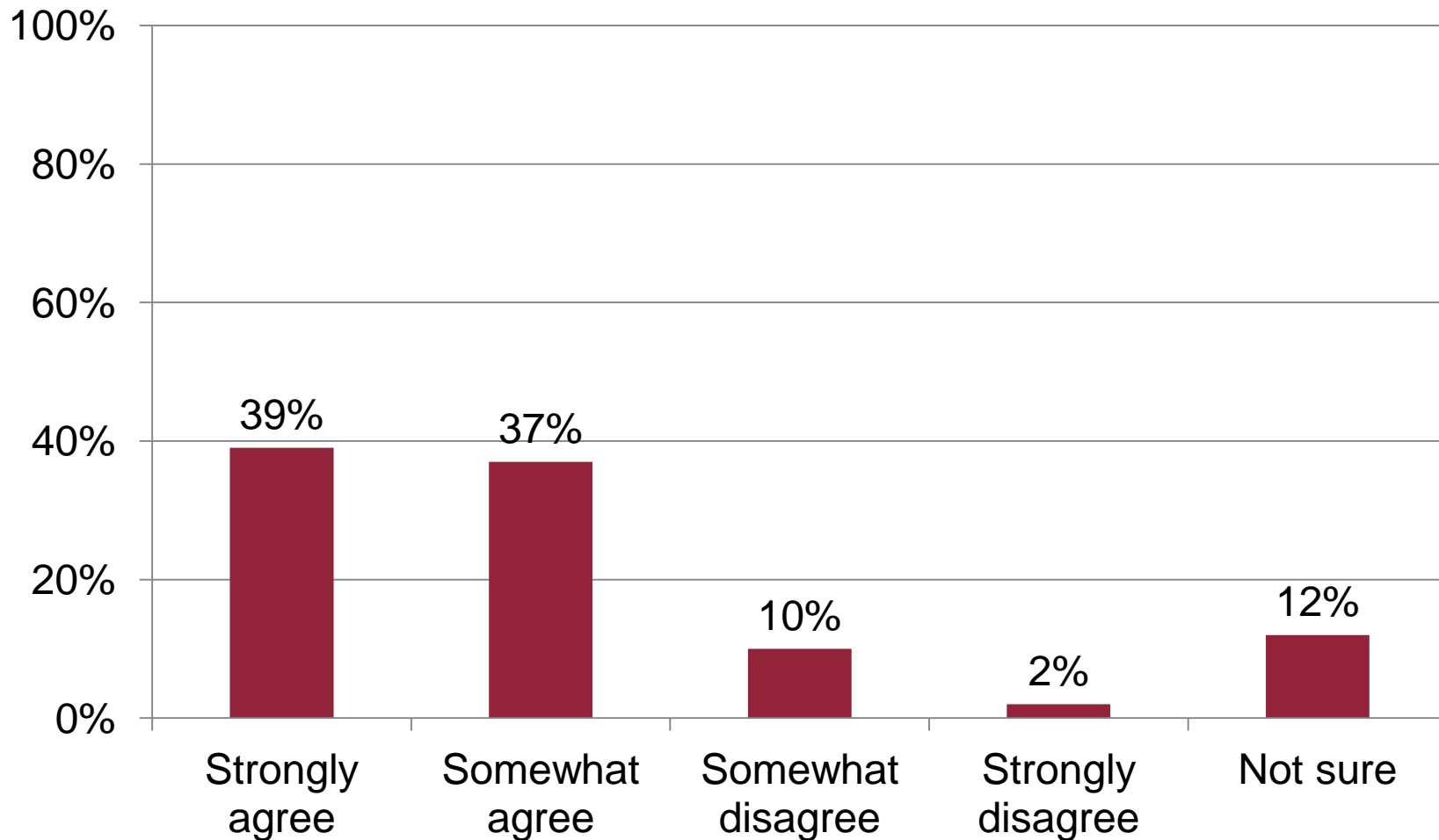


67% agree a family would receive the same amount of support and care as they would losing someone suddenly

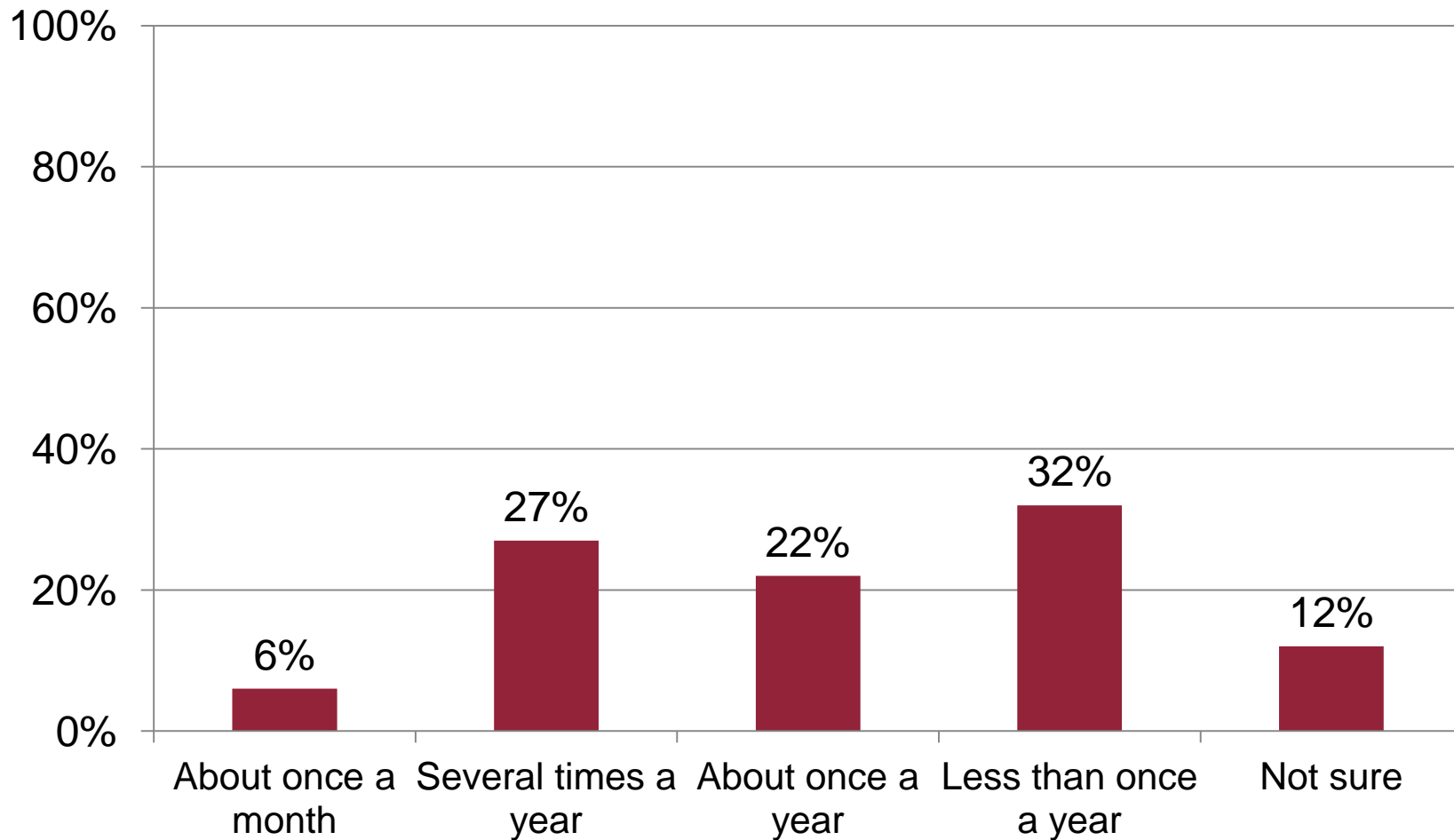


Q24: "In our local community, a family would receive the same amount of support and care after losing someone to suicide as they would losing someone suddenly to an accident or illness."

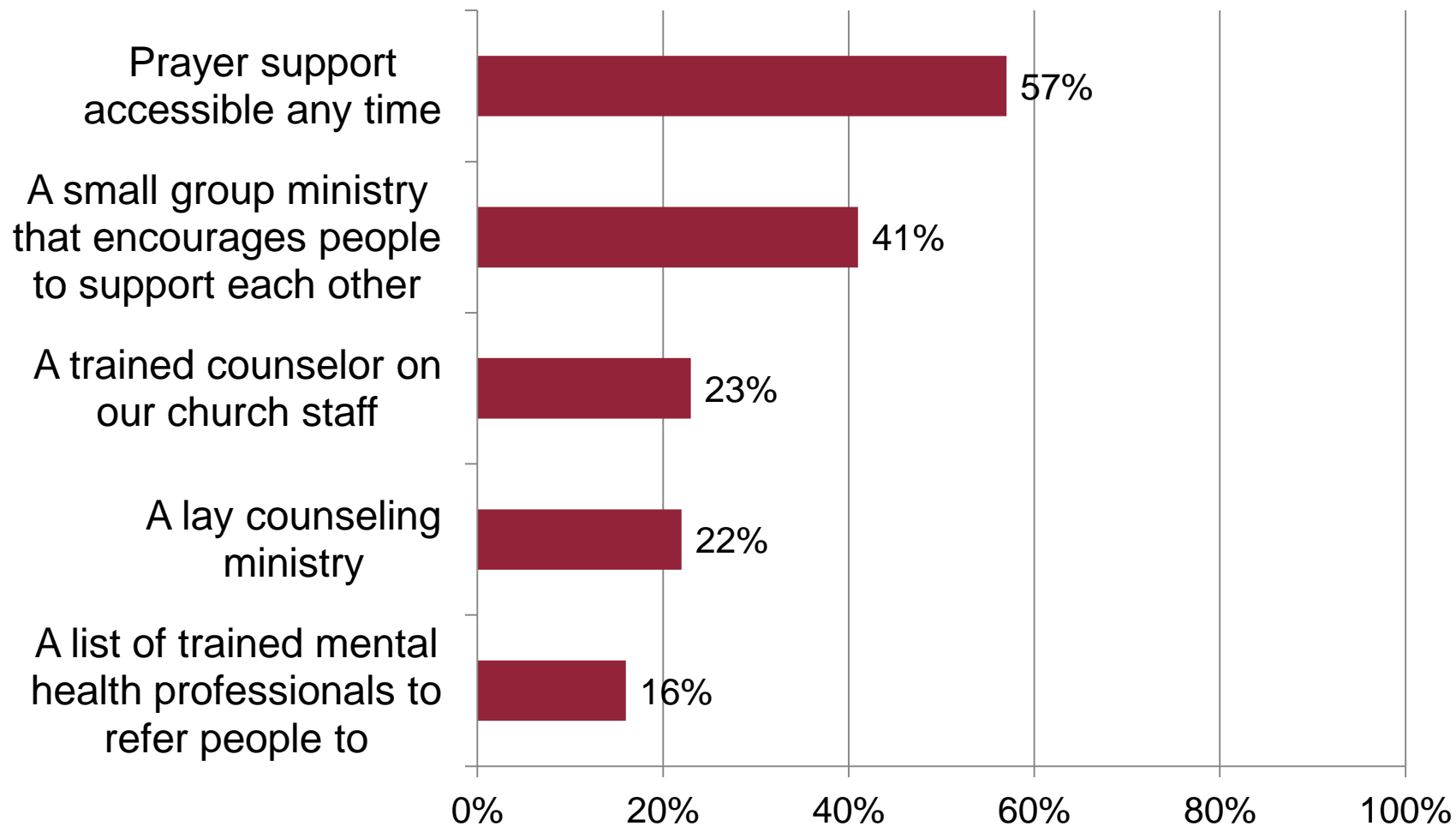
76% agree suicide is a problem that needs to be proactively addressed in their local community



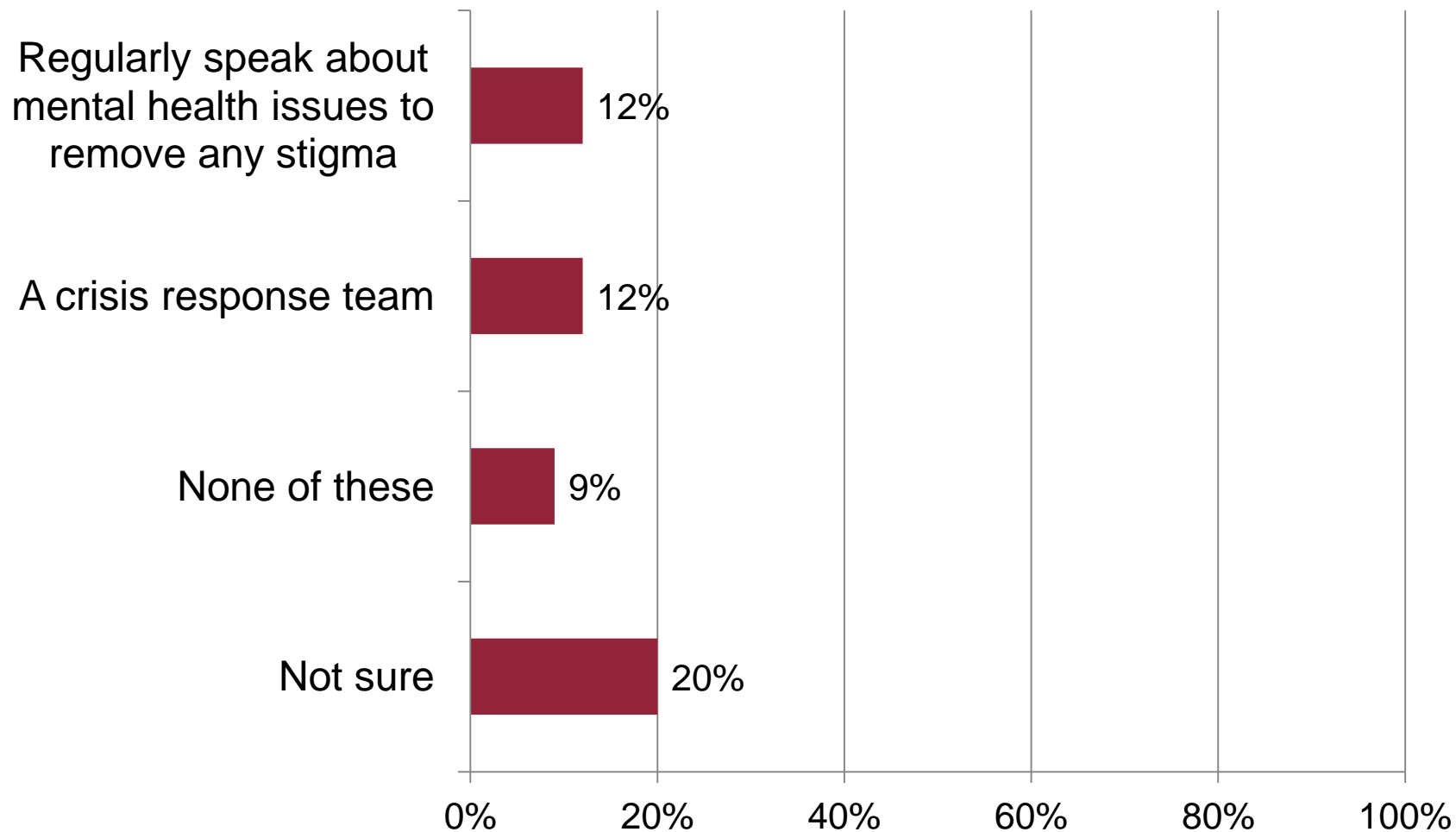
55% say that they hear about a suicide in their local community about once a year or more



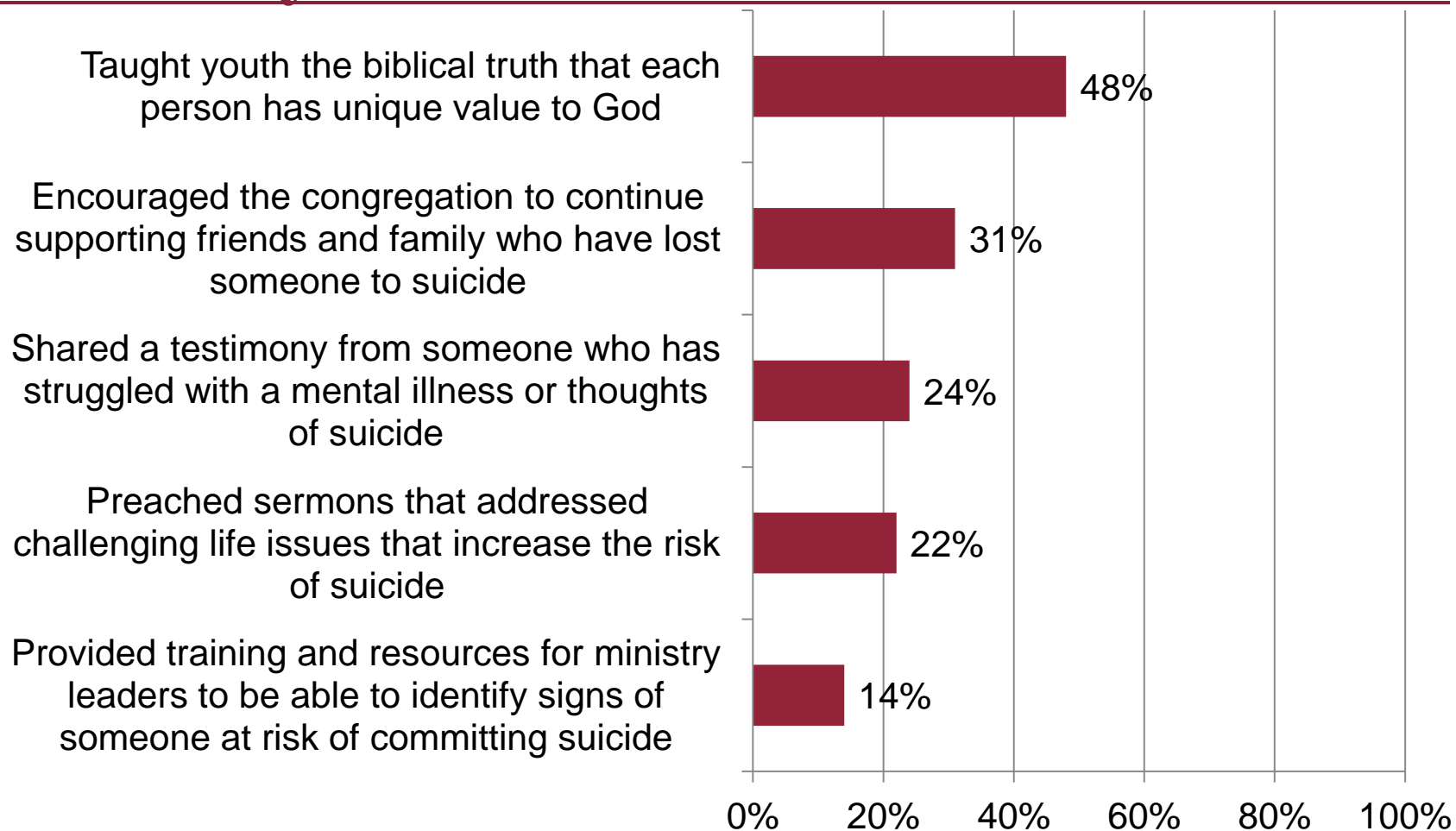
“Does your church have any of the following in place to help prevent suicide?”



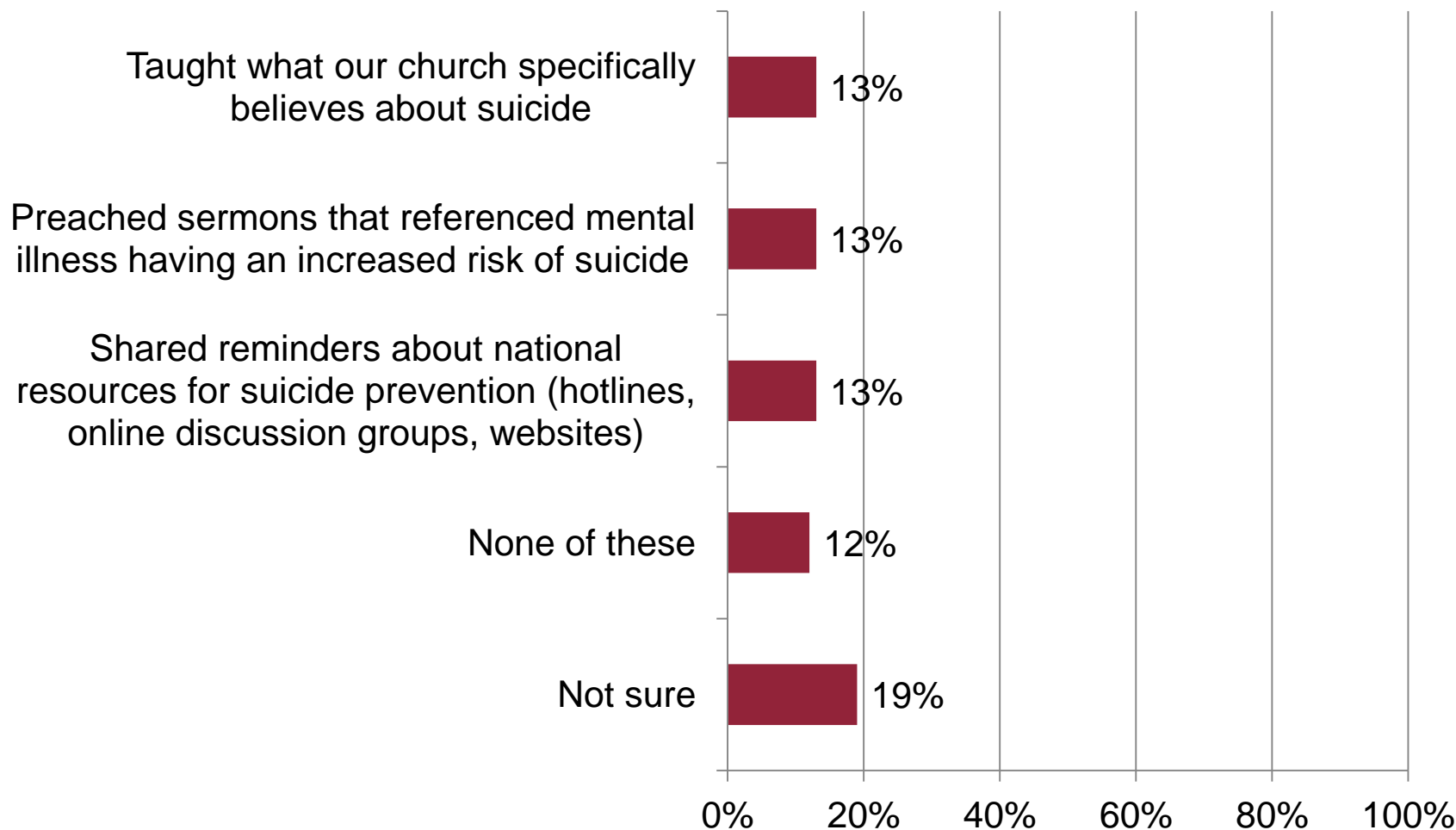
“Does your church have any of the following in place to help prevent suicide?”



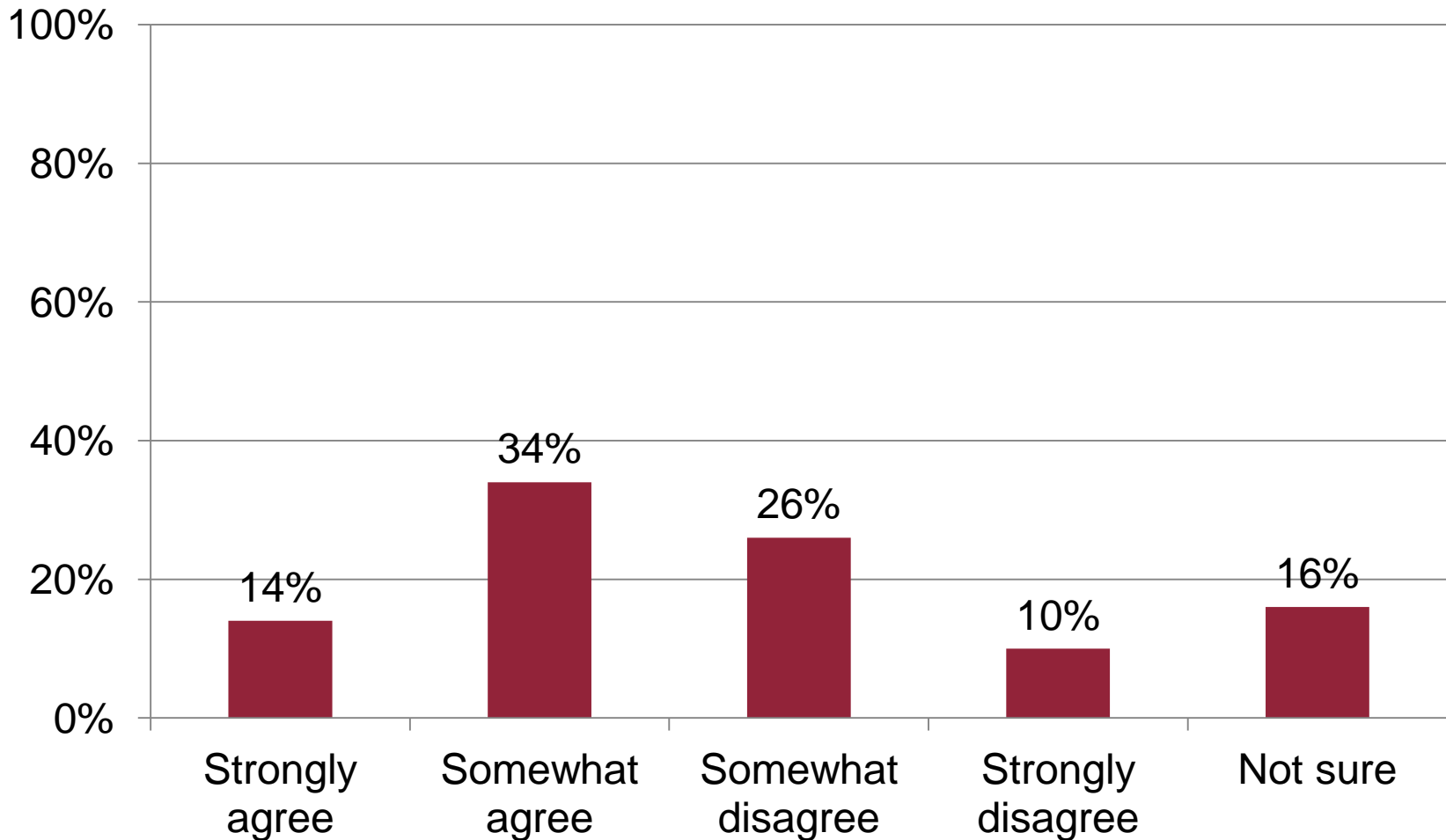
“Which, if any, of the following support activities has your church conducted in the last year?”



“Which, if any, of the following support activities has your church conducted in the last year?”

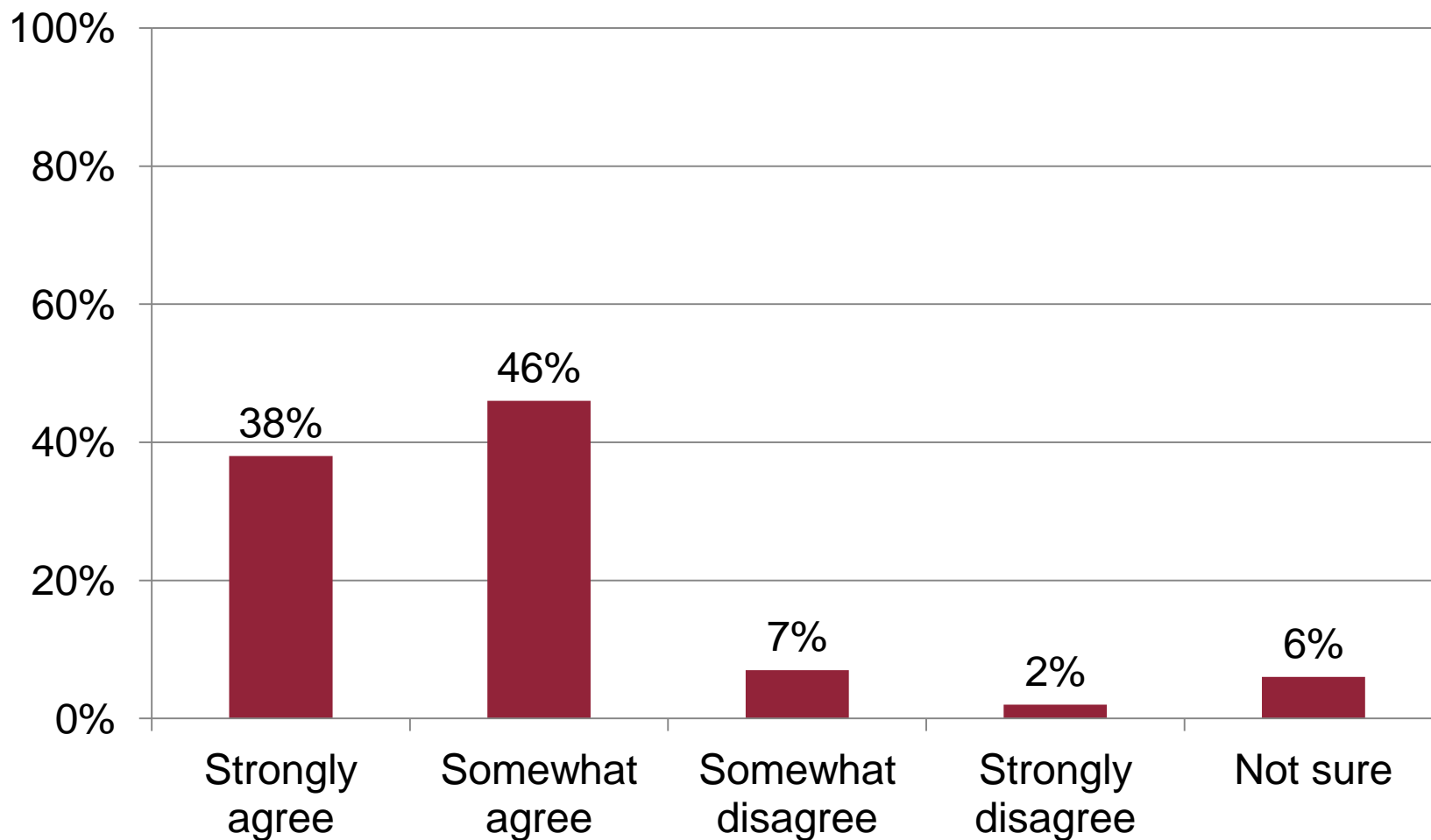


47% agree their church proactively raises awareness about issues related to mental illness and suicide

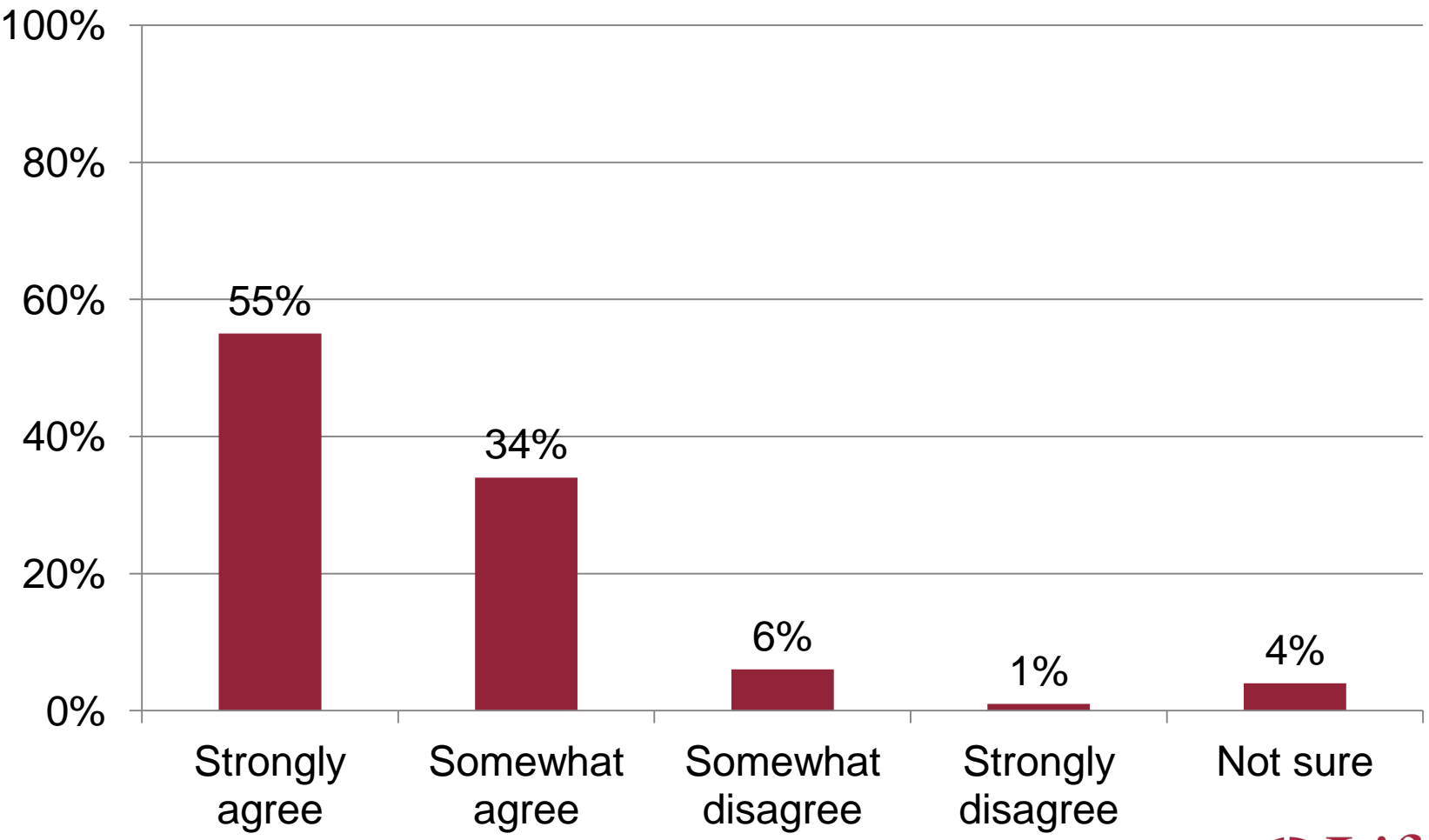


Q29: "My church proactively raises awareness about issues related to mental illness and suicide."

84% agree churches have a responsibility to provide resources and support to individuals with mental illness and their families



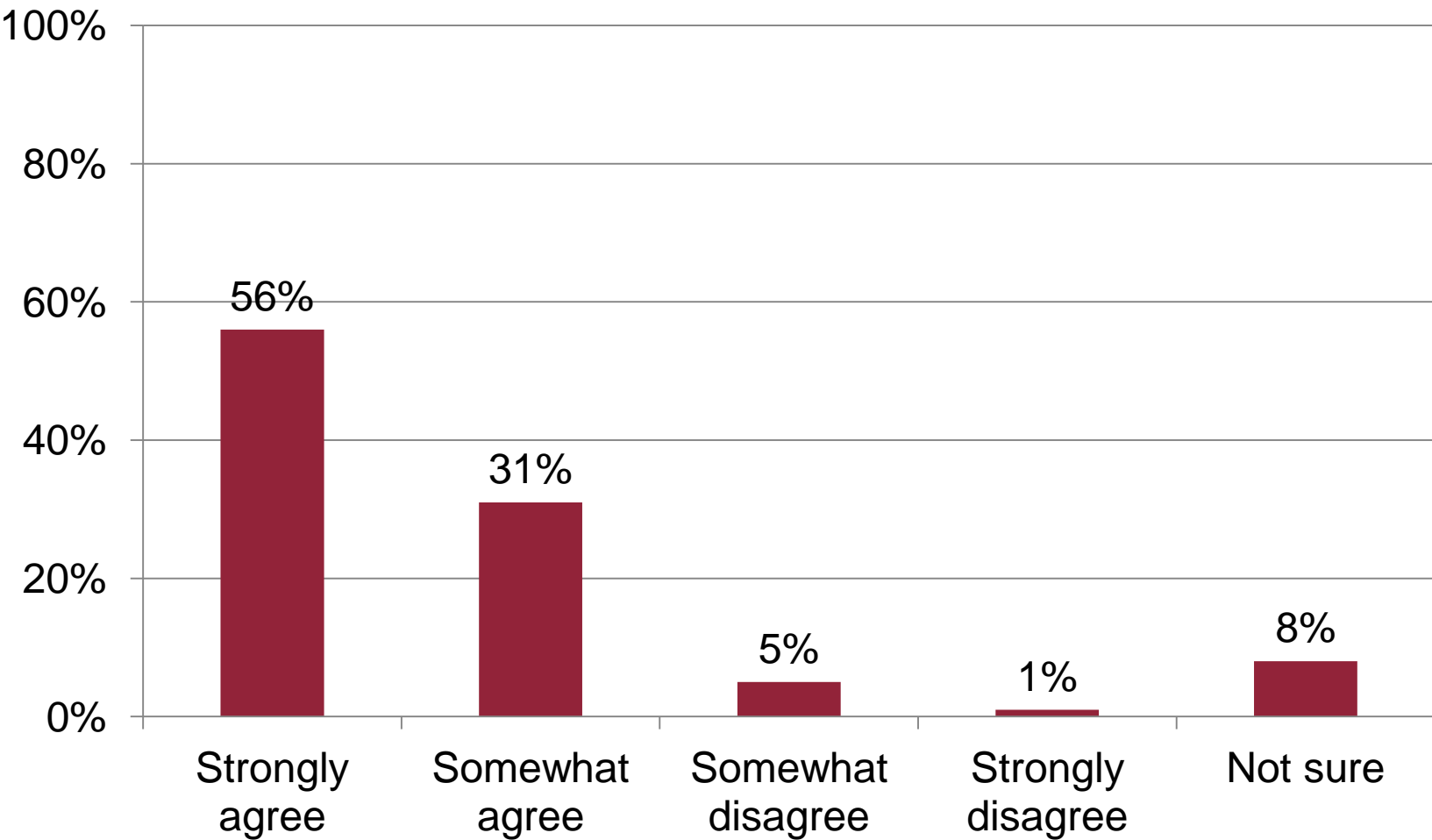
89% agree churches have a responsibility to provide resources and support to individuals and families grieving the loss of a loved one who has taken their own life



Q31: "Local churches have a responsibility to provide resources and support to individuals and families grieving the loss of a loved one who has taken their own life."



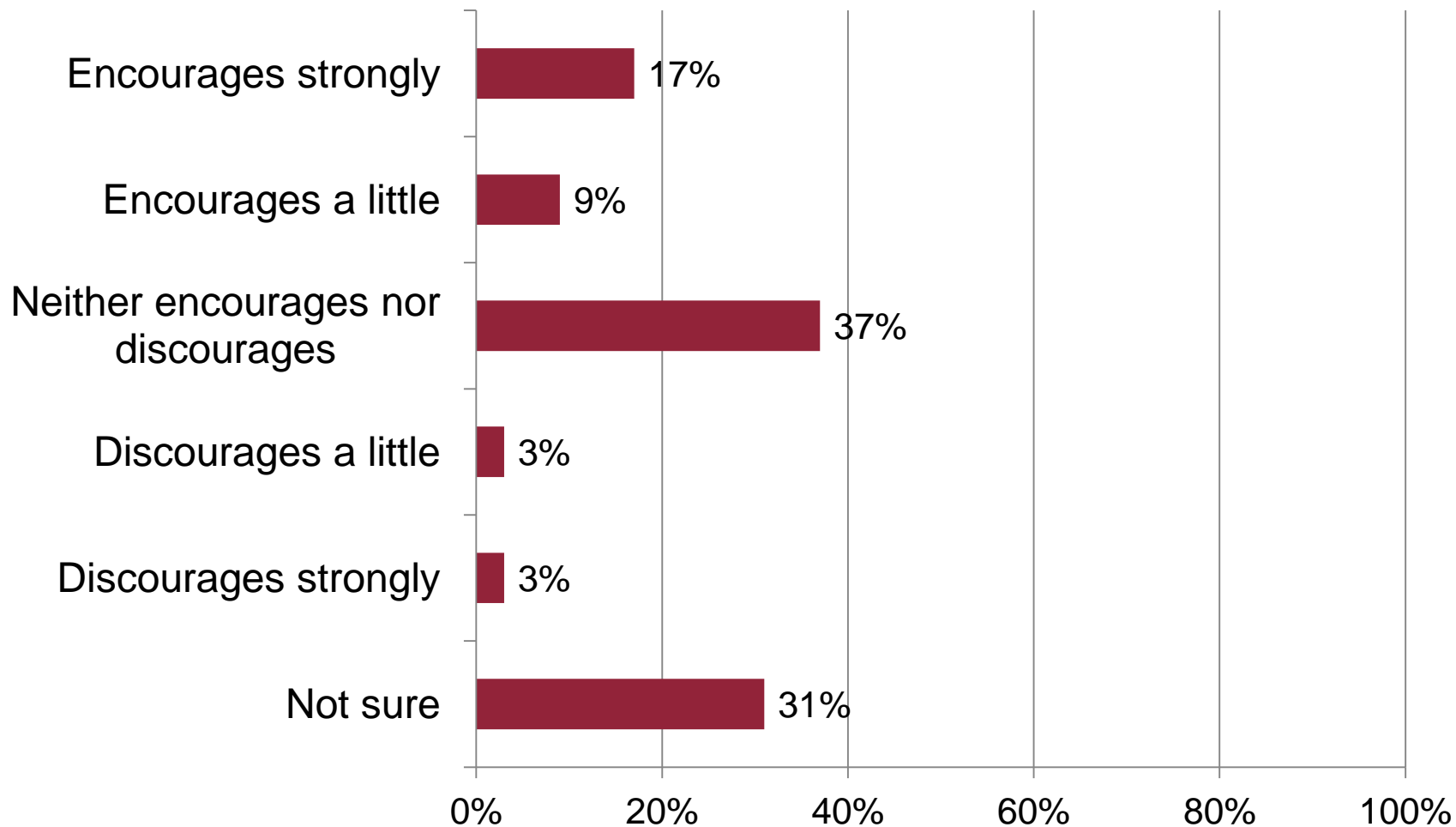
86% agree their church would be a safe, confidential, and supportive place for someone who had considered or attempted to take their own life



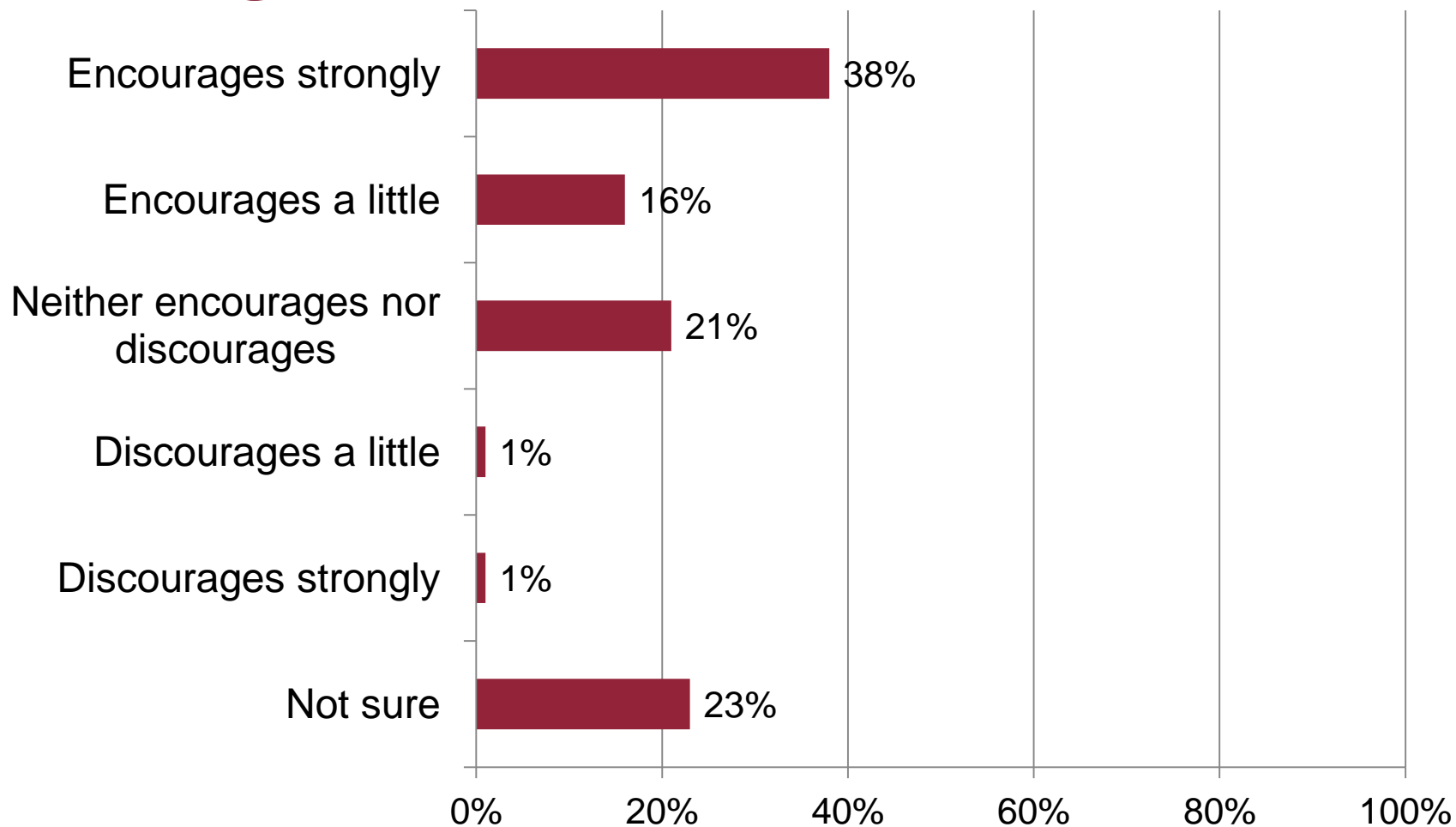
Q32: "If someone had considered or attempted to take their own life, my church would be a safe, confidential, and supportive place to disclose this."



26% say their church encourages the use of prescription drugs to treat mental illness



54% say their church encourages the use of psychological counseling or therapy in treating someone with mental illness



Significant Differences

Gender
Region
Age
Ethnicity
Education Level

Significant Statistical Differences

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

Gender	Region	Age	Ethnicity	Education Level
Male	Northeast	18-29	White	High school graduate or less
Female	Midwest	30-44	African American	Some college
	South	45-59	Hispanic	College graduate
	West	60+	Other Ethnicities	Graduate degree

Notes: Region is defined by US Census locations

“Have you ever had a close family member or close acquaintance take their own life?”

- Those in the Midwest (36%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the South (29%)
- Those age 60+ are most likely to select “No” (75%)
- Whites (33%) and Hispanics (39%) are more likely to select “Yes” than African Americans (26%)

“Which one of the following best describes your relationship with this loved one?”

- Those age 60+ (51%) are more likely to select “Family member” than those 18-29 (33%)
- Those age 60+ are the least likely to select “Friend” (25%)
- Those age 18-29 (9%) are more likely to select “Social acquaintance” than those 45-59 (3%) and 60+ (3%)
- Those age 30-44 are the least likely to select “Family member of one of the above” (<1%)
- Hispanics (6%) are more likely to select “Church member” than Whites (2%)
- Whites (8%) are more likely to select “Family member of one of the above” than African-Americans (2%)
- Those who have a graduate degree (53%) are more likely to select “Family member” than those with some college (36%)
- Those with some college are the most likely to select “Friend” (49%)
- Those who have a Bachelor’s degree (10%) or a graduate degree (12%) are more likely to select “Co-worker/work acquaintance” than those who are high school graduates or less (4%)
- Those who have a graduate degree (7%) are more likely to select “Church member” than who are high school graduates or less (2%) or have some college (1%)

“How was the family member related to you?”

- Those age 30-44 (15%) are more likely to select “Grandparent” than those 60+ (2%)
- Those age 30-44 (25%) are more likely to select “Aunt/Uncle” than those 45-59 (10%)
- Those age 30-44 (42%) and 45-59 (40%) are more likely to select “Cousin” than those 60+ (23%)
- Those age 45-59 (11%) and 60+ (16%) are more likely to select “Niece/Nephew” than those 30-44 (<1%)
- African-Americans (48%) are more likely to select “Cousin” than Whites (31%)

“Was the loved one...”

- Males (86%) are more likely to select “Male” than females (59%)
- Those in the Midwest (75%) and South (71%) are more likely to select “Male” than those in the West (57%)
- Those age 30-44 (75%) and 60+ (76%) are more likely to select “Male” than those 18-29 (60%)

“What is your racial or ethnic background of your loved one?”

- Those in the West are the least likely to select “Black/African-American” (5%)
- Those in the South (12%) and West (15%) are more likely to select “Hispanic/Latino” than those in the Midwest (3%)
- Those age 18-29 (30%) are more likely to select “Black/African-American” than those 45-59 (16%) and 60+ (10%)
- Those age 60+ are the least likely to select “Hispanic/Latino” (4%) and most likely to select “White/Caucasian” (83%)
- African Americans are most likely to select “Black/African-American” (77%)
- Hispanics are most likely to select “Hispanic/Latino” (75%)
- Whites are most likely to select “White/Caucasian” (95%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less are the least likely to select “Black/African-American” (9%), the least likely to select “Hispanic/Latino” (3%), and the most likely to select “White/Caucasian” (85%)

“About what was the age of your loved one?”

- Males (19%) are more likely to select “50-69” than females (12%)
- Those in the Midwest (46%) are more likely to select “18-29” than those in the Northeast (26%) and South (34%)
- Those in the Northeast are the most likely to select “30-49” (51%)
- Those in the West (20%) are more likely too select “50-69” than those in the Northeast (7%)
- Those age 18-29 are most likely to select “Less than 18” (23%)
- Those with some college (18%) are more likely to select “Less than 18” than those who are high school graduates or less (6%) or have a graduate degree (5%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s (40%) or a graduate degree (41%) are more likely to select “30-49” than those with some college (26%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (20%) are more likely to select “50-69” than those with some college (9%)

“To the best you can recall, during the months prior to death, how often did your loved one attend worship services at a Christian church?”

- Those in the South (18%) are more likely to select “About once a week” than those in the Midwest (9%)
- Those in the Northeast (9%) are more likely to select “Only on religious holidays” than those in the West (1%)
- Those age 18-29 (17%) are more likely to select “More than once a week” than those 45-59 (4%) and 60+ (3%)
- African-Americans (14%) and Hispanics (14%) are more likely to select “More than once a week” than Whites (4%)
- African-Americans (21%) are more likely to select “About once a week” than Hispanics (7%)
- Whites (17%) and Hispanics (16%) are more likely to select “Never” than African-Americans (5%)
- Those with a graduate degree are the most likely to select “More than once a week” (19%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (19%) are more likely to select “Never” than those with some college (10%) or a Bachelor’s degree (9%)

“Prior to their death, did you and your loved one attend the same church?”

- Those age 18-29 (65%) and 30-44 (61%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 60+ (27%)
- Those who have a Bachelor’s degree (66%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with some college (44%)

“During the months prior to death, *who was aware of his/her struggles or risk of suicide?*”

Family members

- Females (32%) are more likely to select than males (23%)
- Those age 60+ are the least likely to select (16%)

Friends

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (36%), while those age 60+ are the least likely to select (5%)
- African-Americans (29%) are more likely to select than Whites (15%)
- Those with some college (21%) or a Bachelor's degree (28%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (13%)

Church Leaders

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (12%)
- African-Americans (10%) and Hispanics (8%) are more likely to select than Whites (2%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (11%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (2%) or with some college (2%)

“During the months prior to death, *who was aware of his/her struggles or risk of suicide?*”

Church members

- Those age 18-29 (10%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (1%)
- African-Americans (11%) are more likely to select than Whites (2%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s (8%) or graduate degree (9%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (1%)

A counselor

- Those in the Midwest (13%) and South (7%) are more likely to select than those in the West (1%)
- Those age 18-29 (16%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (5%) and 60+ (3%)
- Those with some college (10%) or a Bachelor’s degree (12%) are more likely to select than who are high school graduates or less (4%)

A doctor

- Those age 60+ are the least likely to select (2%)

“During the months prior to death, *who was aware of his/her struggles or risk of suicide?*”

A support group

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (12%)
- African-Americans (8%) are more likely to select than Whites (2%)
- Those with some college (5%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (1%)

Many people who knew him/her

- Those age 18-29 (11%) and 45-59 (12%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (4%)

No one that I know of

- Those in the Midwest (52%) are more likely to select than those in the South (40%) and West (34%)
- Those age 60+ (54%) are more likely to select than those 18-29 (32%) and 45-59 (40%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (47%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s degree (35%)

“To the best of your knowledge during the months prior to death, *who offered specific support, referrals, or resources to your loved one?*”

Family members

- Those age 18-29 (46%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (29%) and 60+ (22%)
- African-Americans are the most likely to select (44%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree are the most likely to select (47%)

Friends

- Those age 18-29 (35%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (20%) and 60+ (15%)
- African-Americans (36%) and Hispanics (35%) are more likely to select than Whites (20%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (35%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (20%)

Church Leaders

- Those age 18-29 (16%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (3%) and 60+ (6%)
- African-Americans (14%) are more likely to select than Whites (6%)

“To the best of your knowledge during the months prior to death, *who offered specific support, referrals, or resources to your loved one?*”

Church members

- Those age 18-29 (17%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (7%) and 60+ (5%)
- African-Americans (15%) and Hispanics (23%) are more likely to select than White (5%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (16%) or a Graduate degree (15%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (5%)

A counselor

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (21%)
- Hispanics (21%) are more likely to select than Whites (10%)
- Those with some college (16%) or a Bachelor's degree (18%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (6%)

“To the best of your knowledge during the months prior to death, *who offered specific support, referrals, or resources to your loved one?*”

A doctor

- No significant differences

A support group

- Those in the Midwest (8%) and South (8%) are more likely to select than those in the West (2%)
- Those age 18-29 (15%) and 30-44 (9%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (3%) and 60+ (1%)
- African-Americans (15%) are more likely to select than Whites (4%)
- Those with some college (10%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (4%)

Many people who knew him/her

- African-Americans (13%) and Hispanics (21%) are more likely to select than White (7%)

“To the best of your knowledge during the months prior to death, *who offered specific support, referrals, or resources to your loved one?*”

No one that I know of

- Those age 60+ (33%) are more likely to select than those 18-29 (18%)
- Whites (30%) are more likely to select than African-Americans (17%)

“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?”

Visited the family

- Those in the Midwest (48%) and South (44%) are more likely to select than those in the West (31%)
- Those age 30-44 (46%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (34%)

Prayed with the family

- Those age 18-29 (63%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (42%) and 45-59 (43%)
- African-Americans (59%) are more likely to select than Whites (47%)

Called the family

- Those age 18-29 (41%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (22%) and 45-59 (26%)
- African-Americans (38%) are more likely to select than Whites (25%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (39%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (25%) or have a Graduate degree (22%)

“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?”

Helped with logistical needs (childcare, cleaning, planning)

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (21%)
- Hispanics (21%) are more likely to select than Whites (8%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (16%) or a Graduate degree (16%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (6%)

Connected the family with a professional counselor

- Those age 18-29 (19%) and 30-44 (16%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (6%) and 60+ (5%)
- African-Americans (16%) and Hispanics (17%) are more likely to select than Whites (8%)
- Those with some college (14%) or a Bachelor’s degree (17%) are more likely to select than who are high school graduates or less (7%)

“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?”

Connected the family to someone who had experienced a suicide in their family

- Those age 18-29 (13%) and 30-44 (12%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (4%)
- African-Americans (17%) are more likely to select than Whites (7%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (16%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (7%)

Helped plan the funeral

- Those in the Midwest (26%) are more likely to select than those in the West (14%)

Provided meals

- Those with some college (37%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (25%)

“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?”

Sent cards

- Those in the South (36%) are more likely to select than those in the West (23%)
- Those age 18-29 (40%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (27%) and 45-59 (27%)

Attended visitation or funeral

- Those in the Midwest (46%) and South (48%) are more likely to select than those in the West (27%)
- Those age 18-29 (51%) and 60+ (48%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (34%)

Provided financial help

- Those age 18-29 (21%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (5%) and 60+ (9%)
- African-Americans (18%) are more likely to select than Whites (9%)
- Those with some college (19%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (7%)

“At the time of your loved one’s death, what type of response was offered by a local church to the family?”

Stayed in touch after the funeral

- Those in the Midwest (34%) and South (33%) are more likely to select than those in the West (19%)
- Those age 18-29 (43%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (26%) and 45-59 (23%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (38%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (27%)

There were no churches aware of the death

- Those age 30-44 (5%), 45-59 (5%), and 60+ (8%) are more likely to select than those 18-29 (<1%)

No church responded

- Those who are high school graduates or less (11%) are more likely to select than those with some college (4%)

“Prior to my loved one’s death, he/she had withdrawn from most relationships.”

- Those age 60+ are the least likely to Agree (30%)
- African-Americans (60%) are more likely to Agree than Whites (44%)

“Prior to my loved one’s death, he/she was not very open to help or support.”

- Those age 60+ are the least likely to Agree (37%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (30%) are more likely to Disagree than those who are high school graduates or less (19%)

“At the time of my loved one’s death, my local church was loving and supportive regarding my loss.”

- Those in the Midwest (74%) and South (71%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (59%)
- Those age 18-29 (79%) and 30-44 (76%) are more likely to Agree than those 60+ (61%)
- African-Americans (79%) are more likely to Agree than Whites (67%)
- Those with some college (76%) or a Bachelor’s degree (76%) are more likely to select than those with a graduate degree (57%)

“When a suicide occurs in our local community people are more likely to gossip about it than reach out to the family in support.”

- Those in the Midwest (58%) and South (57%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (48%)
- Those age 60+ are the least likely to Agree (45%)
- Those with a Graduate degree (64%) are more likely to Agree than those who are high school graduates or less (53%)

“In our local community, a family would receive the same amount of support and care after losing someone to suicide as they would losing someone suddenly to an accident or illness.”

- Those age 60+ are the most likely to Agree (74%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to Agree (47%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (71%) or with some college (69%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Graduate degree (55%)

“Suicide is a problem that needs to be proactively addressed in my local community.”

- Those in the West (83%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (74%)
- Those age 18-29 (80%) and 45-59 (79%) are more likely to Agree than those 60+ (71%)
- Those with some college (80%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Graduate degree (70%)

“How often do you hear of a suicide in your local community?”

- Those age 18-29 (32%) and 30-44 (31%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than those 60+ (22%)
- Those age 60+ (37%) are more likely to select “Less than once a year” than those age 30-44 (28%)
- Hispanics (13%) are more likely to select “About once a month” than Whites (6%) and African Americans (6%)
- African-Americans (40%) are more likely to select “Less than once a year” than Whites (31%) and Hispanics (23%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (7%) or have a Graduate degree (10%) are more likely to select “About once a month” than those with some college (3%)

“Does your church have any of the following in place to help prevent suicide?”

A list of trained mental health professionals to refer people to

- Those in the Midwest (20%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (9%)
- Those with some college (18%) or a Bachelor's degree (21%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (11%)

Prayer support accessible any time

- Those with a Bachelor's degree (63%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (53%)

Regularly speak about mental health issues to remove any stigma

- Those age 18-29 (18%) and 30-44 (17%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (7%)
- African-Americans (18%) and Hispanics (17%) are more likely to select than Whites (10%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less are the least likely to select (8%)

“Does your church have any of the following in place to help prevent suicide?”

A small group ministry that encourages people to support each other

- Those in the West (46%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (35%)
- Those age 30-44 (48%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (36%)
- Those with some college (44%) or a Bachelor's degree (51%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (35%)

A lay counseling ministry

- Those age 45-59 (24%) and 60+ (25%) are more likely to select than those 18-29 (14%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (32%) or a Graduate degree (32%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (17%) or with some college (19%)

“Does your church have any of the following in place to help prevent suicide?”

A trained counselor on our church staff

- Hispanics (34%) are more likely to select than Whites (23%) and African-Americans (21%)
- Those with some college (28%) or a Bachelor's degree (27%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (19%)

A crisis response team

- Those age 60+ are the least likely to select (5%)
- Hispanics are the most likely to select (33%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (16%) or a Graduate degree (17%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (10%)

“Which, if any, of the following support activities has your church conducted in the last year?”

Taught what our church specifically believes about suicide

- Males (19%) are more likely to select than females (11%)
- Those age 18-29 (16%) and 30-44 (19%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (9%)
- African-Americans (19%) and Hispanics (19%) are more likely to select than Whites (11%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (17%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (11%)

Provided training and resources for ministry leaders to be able to identify signs of someone at risk of committing suicide

- Those in the Midwest (14%) and South (17%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (6%)
- Those age 18-29 (20%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (10%)
- African-Americans (18%) and Hispanics (22%) are more likely to select than Whites (12%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less are the least likely to select (10%)

“Which, if any, of the following support activities has your church conducted in the last year?”

Taught youth the biblical truth that each person has unique value to God

- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (54%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (44%)

Preached sermons that referenced mental illness having an increased risk of suicide

- Those age 60+ are the least likely to select (5%)
- African-Americans (19%) are more likely to select than Whites (11%)
- Those with some college (17) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (11%)

Preached sermon series that addressed challenging life issues that increase the risk of suicide

- Those age 18-29 (30%) are more likely to select than those 60+ (19%)
- African-Americans (30%) are more likely to select than Whites (19%)
- Those with some college (25%) or a Bachelor’s degree (25%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (18%)

“Which, if any, of the following support activities has your church conducted in the last year?”

Shared reminders about national resources for suicide prevention (hotlines, online discussion groups, websites, etc.)

- Those age 30-44 (19%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (9%) and 60+ (12%)
- African-Americans (17%) and Hispanics (22%) are more likely to select than Whites (10%)

Shared a testimony from someone who has struggled with a mental illness or thoughts of suicide

- Those in the Midwest (28%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (17%)
- Those age 18-29 (34%) are more likely to select than those 45-59 (22%) and 60+ (19%)
- Whites are the least likely to select (20%)
- Those with some college (29%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (22%)

“Which, if any, of the following support activities has your church conducted in the last year?”

Encouraged the congregation to continue supporting friends and family who have lost someone to suicide

- Those age 18-29 (38%) are more likely to select than those 30-44 (27%)
- Hispanics (46%) are more likely to select than Whites (28%) and Other Ethnicities (29%)

“My church proactively raises awareness about issues related to mental illness and suicide.”

- African-Americans (55%) and Hispanics (63%) are more likely to select than Whites (43%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (52%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate degree (38%)

“Local churches have a responsibility to provide resources and support to individuals with mental illness and their families.”

- Females (86%) are more likely to Agree than males (80%)
- Those in the Northeast (90%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (81%)
- Those age 60+ (87%) are more likely to Agree than those 30-44 (80%)

“Local churches have a responsibility to provide resources and support to individuals and families grieving the loss of a loved one who has taken their own life.”

- Those age 60+ (93%) are more likely to Agree than those 18-29 (86%) and 30-44 (84%)

“If someone had considered or attempted to take their own life, my church would be a safe, confidential, and supportive place to disclose this.”

- Those in the West (91%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (84%)

“Where does your church stand on the use of prescription drugs to treat mental illness?”

- Those in the Midwest (6%) and South (7%) are more likely to select “Discourages” than those in the West (2%)
- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select “Discourages” (14%)
- African-Americans (33%) are more likely to select “Encourages” than Whites (23%)
- African-Americans (9%) and Hispanics (11%) are more likely to select “Discourages” than Whites (4%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (31%) are more likely to select “Encourages” than those who are high school graduates or less (23%)

“Where does your church stand on the use of psychological counseling or therapy in treating someone with mental illness?”

- Those age 18-29 (7%) are more likely to select “Discourages” than those 45-59 (2%) and 60+ (<1%)
- African-Americans (60%) are more likely to select “Encourages” than Whites (51%)
- Those with some college (58%) or a Bachelor’s degree (63%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (46%)

Churchgoer Views on Suicide

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Church Attendees



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