

Pastor Spouse Research Study

Survey of 722 American Pastor
Spouses

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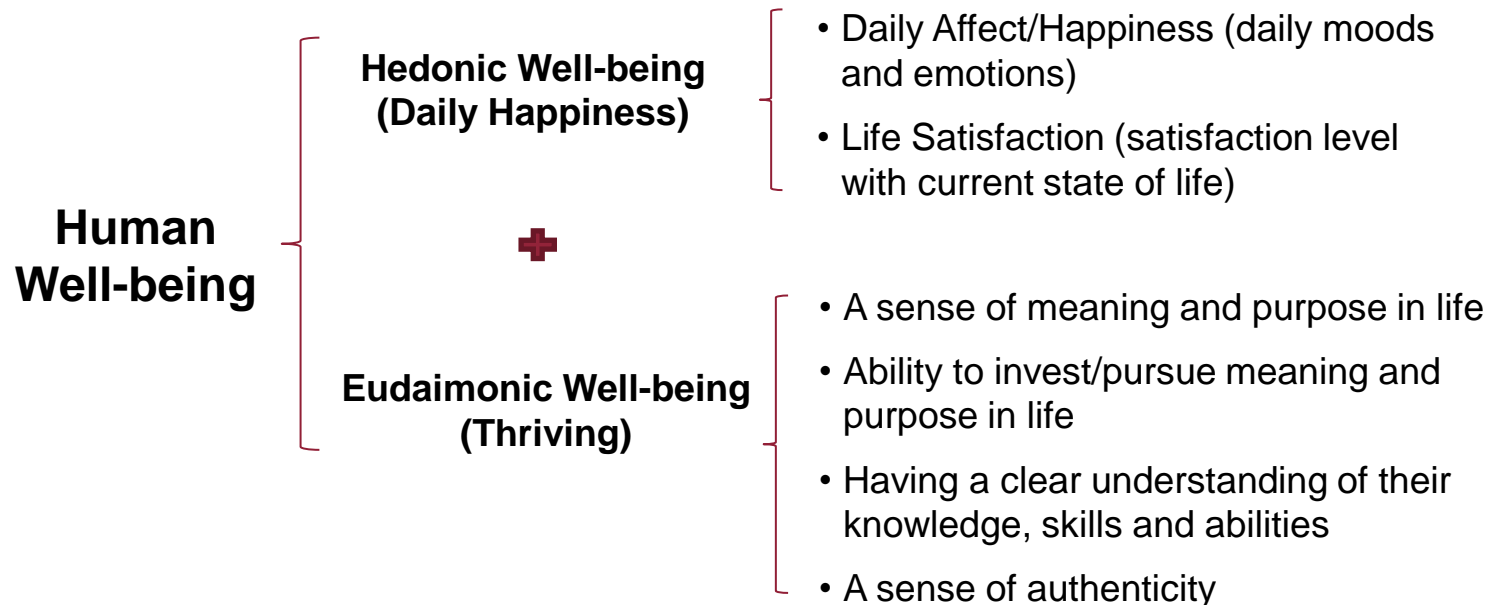
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Methodology

- ❑ The study was sponsored by the North American Mission Board and Richard Dockins, MD.
- ❑ The mail survey of spouses of Protestant pastors was conducted June 21 – August 2, 2017
- ❑ The mailing list was a random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with a spouse of someone working in a ministerial role within a Protestant church
- ❑ The completed sample is 722 pastor spouses
- ❑ Responses were weighted by denominational group to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.7\%$
- ❑ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Methodology – Well-Being

The conceptual model of human “well-being” used in this study is based on current research that suggests well-being has two forms: 1) **Hedonic** well-being (aka, “daily happiness”) and 2) **Eudaimonic** wellbeing (aka, “thriving”):



Methodology – Well-Being (cont'd)

For the purposes of this study, LifeWay Research adapted an existing model used by scholars at *Flourishing In Ministry Project* at the Mendoza College of Business, (University of Notre Dame) to measure the well-being of clergy. This model was further adapted to measure the state of well-being among pastors' spouses, along with other areas which may have "potential" effects on either increasing or decreasing well-being:

Daily Happiness (Hedonic Well –Being)

- Life satisfaction
- Level of happiness
- Amount of daily stress
- Positive/negative daily emotions

Thriving in Ministry Work* (Eudaimonic Well-Being)

- Ministry work is: satisfaction, enjoyment, enthusiasm
- Ministry work is: sense of identity, purpose, fulfillment, etc.
- Amount of daily stress in ministry work
- Positive/negative daily emotions in ministry work

Potential Areas Effecting Well-Being

- Amount/strength of personal relationships
- Church-related stressors
- Burnout
- Marriage satisfaction
- Parenting satisfaction
- Family-Life satisfaction
- Engagement in sources of help



**Please note: "Ministry work" was defined as: any "daily work you do in which you consider ministry." This would include employment or non-employment related work experiences in or outside the church as well as daily family/household responsibilities.*

Methodology – Well-Being (cont'd)

Additional scales used in this study include:

Survey Areas	Scale
Church-Related “Stressors”	Clergy Family Life Inventory (Blanton)
Burnout	Maslach Burnout Inventory-2 Item (Maslach)
Marriage Satisfaction	Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (Grover, Russell, Schumm and Paff-Bergen)
Parenting Satisfaction	Parent Satisfaction Scale (Cleminshaw, Guidubaldi)

Summary of Findings



Key Findings - Well-being

Most pastors' spouses rated well-being items on the positive or healthy sides of measurement items; Totaling all ratings from respondents together produces Mean/Median scores of 72/73 out of a possible *Total well-being* score of 95, suggesting most may reflect on their unique roles in more positive terms.

Well Being Scale Items for "Daily Happiness"	% Top-2 Box
I am satisfied with my life (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	84%
In general, I consider myself (<i>A Very Happy Person (5 rating), 4 rating</i>)	84%
In most ways, my life is close to my ideal (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	74%
Compared to most of my peers, I consider myself (<i>More Happy (5 rating), 4 rating</i>)	74%
The conditions of my life are excellent (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	68%
Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days? (<i>Only Positive, Mostly Positive</i>)	57%
Overall, how much stress do you experience in your typical day? (<i>An Extreme Amount, A lot</i>)	27%

Key Findings - Well-being (cont'd)

Well Being Scale Items for "Thriving"	% Top-2 Box
Most days, I feel what I do in my ministry work is valuable and worthwhile (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	88%
My ministry work is deeply meaningful to me (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	85%
I find real enjoyment in my ministry work (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	83%
I feel satisfied with my role in ministry (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	80%
Most days, I am enthusiastic about my ministry work (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	77%
When engaged in my ministry work, I feel this is what I was meant to do (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	75%
I have a clear sense of purpose in ministry work (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	75%
I am optimistic about my future in ministry (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	69%
Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days in your ministry work? (<i>Only Positive, Mostly Positive</i>)	66%
My ministry work gives me my strongest feeling that this is who I really am (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	60%
I feel more complete or fulfilled when engaging in my ministry work than I do when engaged with other activities (<i>Agree, Strongly Agree</i>)	55%
Overall, how much stress do you experience in your ministry work? (<i>An Extreme Amount, A lot</i>)	20%

Key Findings - Well-being (cont'd)

Identifying factors that may be effecting either increased or decreased well-being, regression analysis revealed the following (potential) *positive* and *negative* factors:

Positive Factors:

- Those who have a personal call to ministry (in either similar or different roles than their spouses).
- The extent to which a spouse can “count on” friends in the church.
- A spouse being “a good fit for the church” currently serving.
- How satisfied your spouse (husband/wife) is as a spouse.
- Satisfaction with “amount of time given” to their children.
- The degree that pastoral ministry has had a positive effect on their family.
- Having “personal time in prayer/with the Lord” in past 7 days.
- Expectations of their family being a role model to congregants.

Negative Factors:

- Experiencing conflict with church staff/leadership.
- Difficulty in balancing church and family considerations in making decisions about changing positions in the church.
- Increased “burnout” in a pastor’s spouse role.
- Developing “callousness” towards others in the church.

Key Findings - Well-being (cont'd)

Additional analysis reveals that certain demographic groups rated higher well-being on some dimensions than others...

- ❑ **Older age groups** rated more happiness, positive feelings/emotions and less stress in their ministry work and daily life compared to younger age groups.
- ❑ Those **without children at home** rated more happiness and positive feelings/emotions in their ministry work and daily life compared to those with children in the home.

Key Findings – Personal Relationships

Many pastors' spouses are experiencing some level of isolation/disconnection from others; Inability to trust others along with personal conflicts in general (past or present) tend to be contributing to this...

- ❑ 69% agree “I have very few people I can confide in about the really important matters in my life”
- ❑ 62% “count on” their spouse *A great deal* when feeling under stress or feeling bad compared to: Other family members (14%), Other relatives (12%), Friends in their church (10%), Friends outside the church (12%), and Other ministers' spouses (9%).
- ❑ 56% agree “There are too few relationships in my life that make me feel emotionally connected with others.”
- ❑ 50% agree “I am not willing to confide in others at church about personal things because my confidence has been betrayed too many times”
- ❑ 49% agree “If I were honest at church about my prayer needs, they would just become gossip.”
- ❑ 55% agree “There are not enough relationships in our lives where we feel we can be ourselves.”

Key Findings – Personal Relationships (cont'd)

- ❑ 72% agree “My spouse has experienced resistance to his/her leadership.”
- ❑ 51% agree “We have experienced personal attacks at this church.”
- ❑ 49% agree “I still feel the hurt from previous conflicts in ministry.”

Additional analysis suggests...

- ❑ Those in **younger age groups** are experiencing more challenges in building relationships than older age groups (e.g., not enough relationships where “we can be ourselves,” few people to confide in, few people connected to emotionally).
- ❑ Those in **younger age groups** are experiencing more conflicts within their church than older age groups (e.g., conflicts with staff/leadership, greater feeling of “living in a fishbowl,” congregants less accepting of family’s frustration and dissatisfaction, more resistant to spouse’s leadership, experiencing personal attacks).
- ❑ Both **younger age groups** and those with **children in the home** are experiencing more issues related to *trust* than those older and with children in the home (e.g., less willing to confide in others given past betrayal, fear of gossip, constantly feeling evaluated).

Key Findings – Finances

Financial challenges experienced by families are somewhat mixed, where about half indicate some level of financial stress; Retirement planning seems to be a major concern among many...

- ❑ 41% agree “Unexpected financial demands create havoc for our family.”
- ❑ 36% agree “It is difficult to make it through each month without worrying whether or not our financial resources will be adequate for our needs.”
- ❑ 46% agree “Our family’s inability to save money on a regular basis is a worry for me.”
- ❑ 61% agree “Our family’s financial situation requires more than the salary received from the church.”
- ❑ 54% agree “Salaries and other compensation from our church simply do not provide a strong enough financial base for our family.”
- ❑ 49% agree “(If have children) It is difficult to provide the same standard of living for our children as most of their peers have.”
- ❑ 68% agree “I am concerned about the level of retirement benefits we will have in the later years.”

Key Findings – Finances (cont'd)

Additional analysis reveals ...

- ❑ **Younger age groups** are experiencing more financial challenges than older age groups
- ❑ Those with **children at home** are experiencing more financial challenges than older age groups
- ❑ Those in **smaller congregations** are experiencing more financial challenges than older age groups

Along with these findings, it's also interesting to note that 85% agree "The church we serve takes 'good care of us.'"

Key Findings - Marriage

Most pastors' spouses offered high satisfaction ratings in their current state of marriage. However, many also indicate some level of negative (marital) impact due to their work in ministry...

- ❑ 80% of pastors' spouses are *Extremely* or *Very* satisfied with the marriage.
- ❑ 80% of pastors' spouses are *Extremely* or *Very* satisfied with their husband/wife as a spouse.
- ❑ 77% of pastors' spouses are *Extremely* or *Very* satisfied with their relationship with their husband/wife.
- ❑ 71% of pastors' spouses spend "quality time alone with their spouse (e.g., a date night...)" at least once a month.
- ❑ 46% agree "We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to the needs of our congregation."
- ❑ 48% agree "“We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to frequent church events.”"

Key Findings - Marriage

Additional analysis reveals...

- ❑ **Younger age groups** are experiencing less time for their marital relationship due to church events, congregant interruptions and other congregation demands than older age groups.
- ❑ **Younger age groups** and those **with children at home** are also experiencing less time for their marital relationship due to financial constraints.

Key Findings – Family Life

Nearly all respondents indicate that ministry involvement has had a positive effect on their family (90%); And although 59% also agree that “Congregational demands interfere with our family’s free time together during the week,” the data suggest that many are experiencing quality family time together...

- ❑ 90% agree “My spouse being in pastoral ministry has positively affected our family.”
- ❑ 65% disagree “I often resent the demands of ministry on our family.”
- ❑ 83% agree “Most nights our family eats dinner together.”
- ❑ 51% agree “Our family has designated nights during the week or month for fun activities.”
- ❑ 85% agree “Our family has vacation time during a typical year.”
- ❑ 62% agree “At least one day a week my spouse “unplugs” from ministerial work and has a day of rest.” I often resent the demands of ministry on our family.”
- ❑ 87% agree “Our family goes out to dinner during a typical month.”

Key Findings – Work Life / Calling

The majority of pastors' spouses hold responsibilities both inside and outside of their church, and also feel a sense of calling to ministry...

- ❑ Most pastors' spouses are directly involved in the work of their church(86%), with 19% holding paid positions and 67% holding responsibilities without pay.
- ❑ Over half of pastors' spouses (53%) are employed outside of their church, with 44% working full-time (40+ hrs./week) and 56% working part-time hours; Most of these positions are in the For-profit sector (74%).
- ❑ Most pastors' spouses “sense a personal call to ministry” along with their spouse (81%), and either share the same calling as their spouse (25%) or feel called to serve in different ways (56%).
 - ❑ Those “sensing a personal call to ministry” rated higher levels of well-being in areas such as: *happiness*, *ideal/excellent* conditions of life, and all *Thriving* measures.

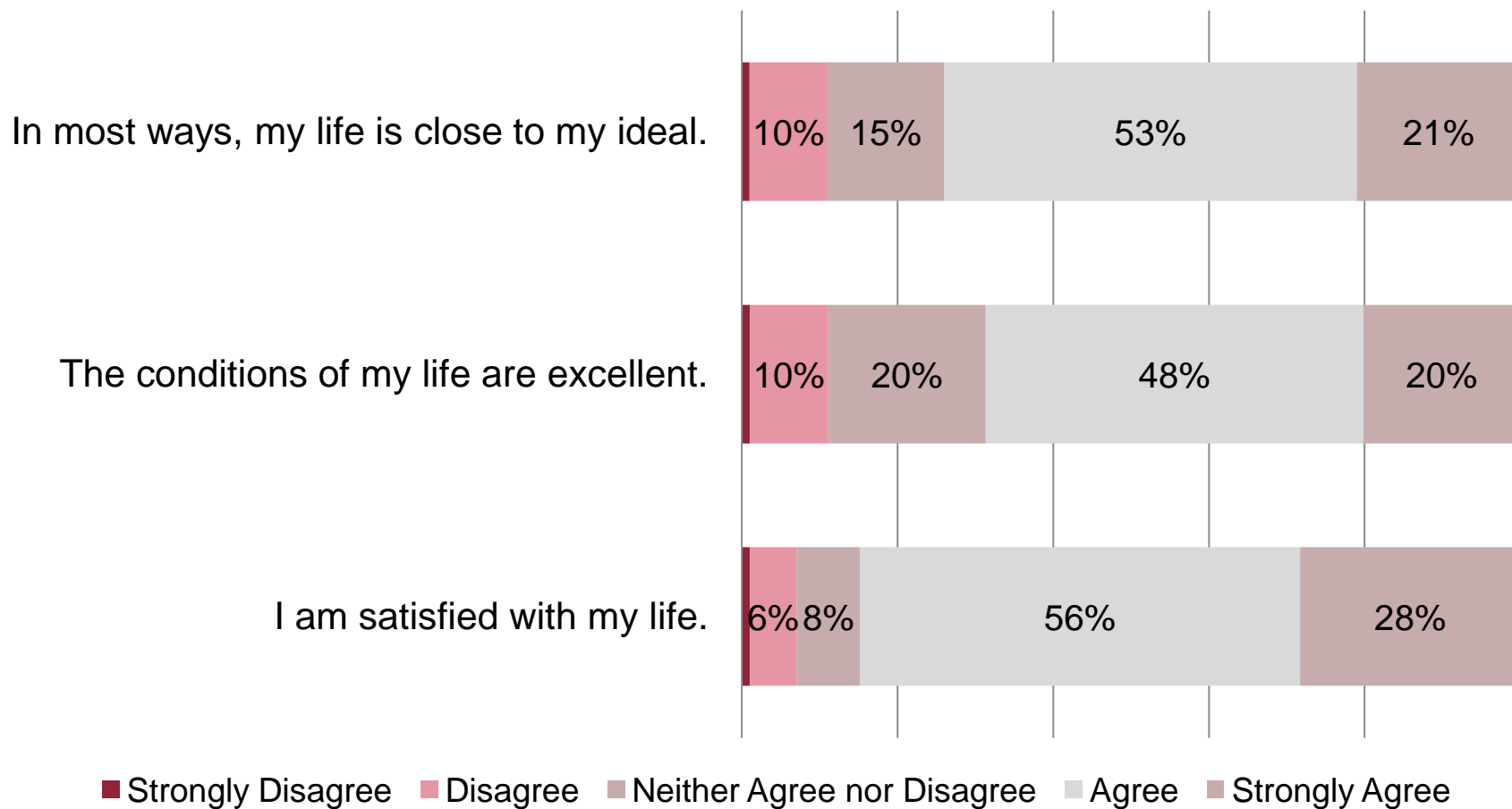
Survey Responses



Well-being – *Daily Satisfaction*

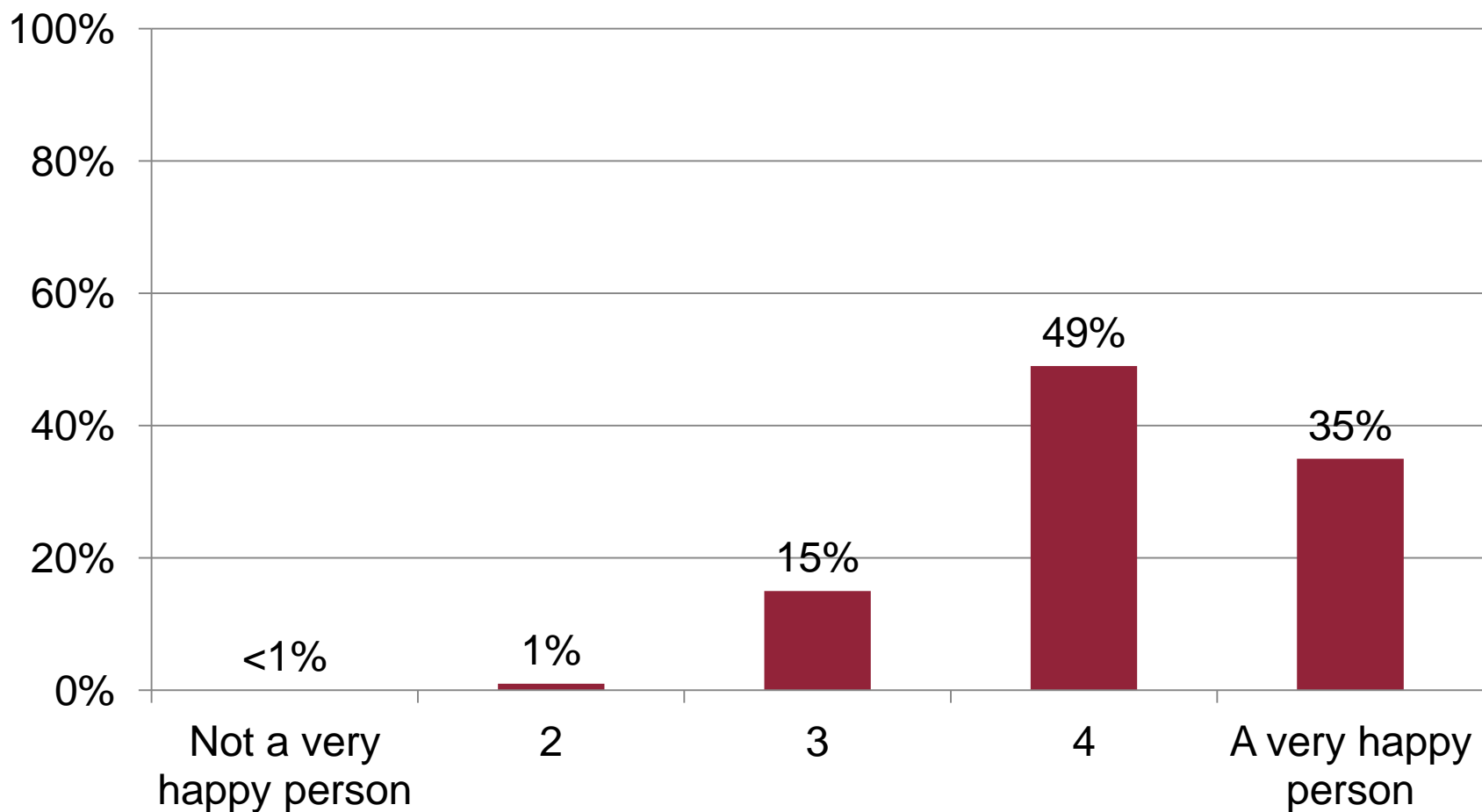


A majority agree that their life is close to ideal, the conditions of their life are excellent, and they are satisfied with their life

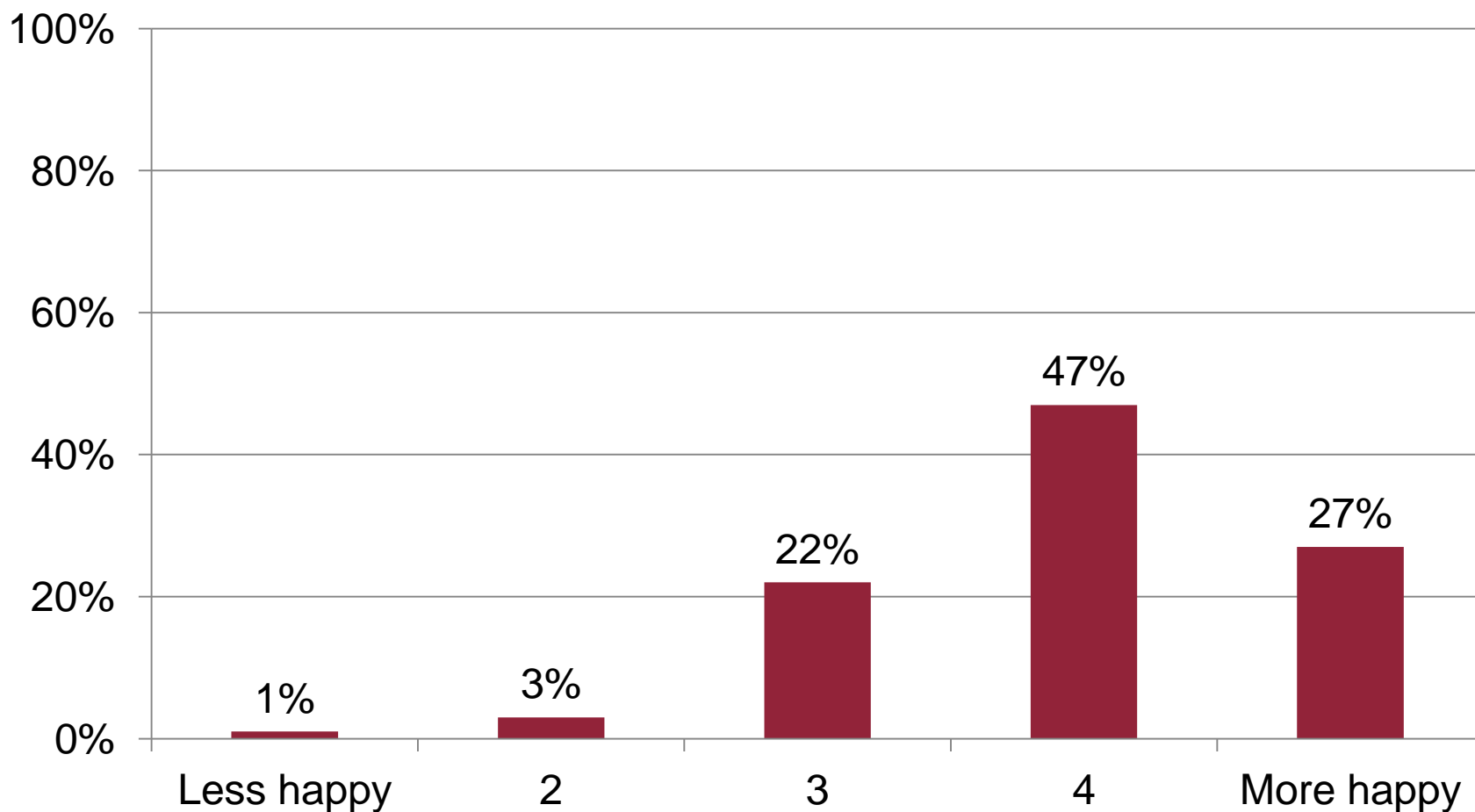


1% selected "Strongly Disagree" for each statement

35% consider themselves “a very happy person”

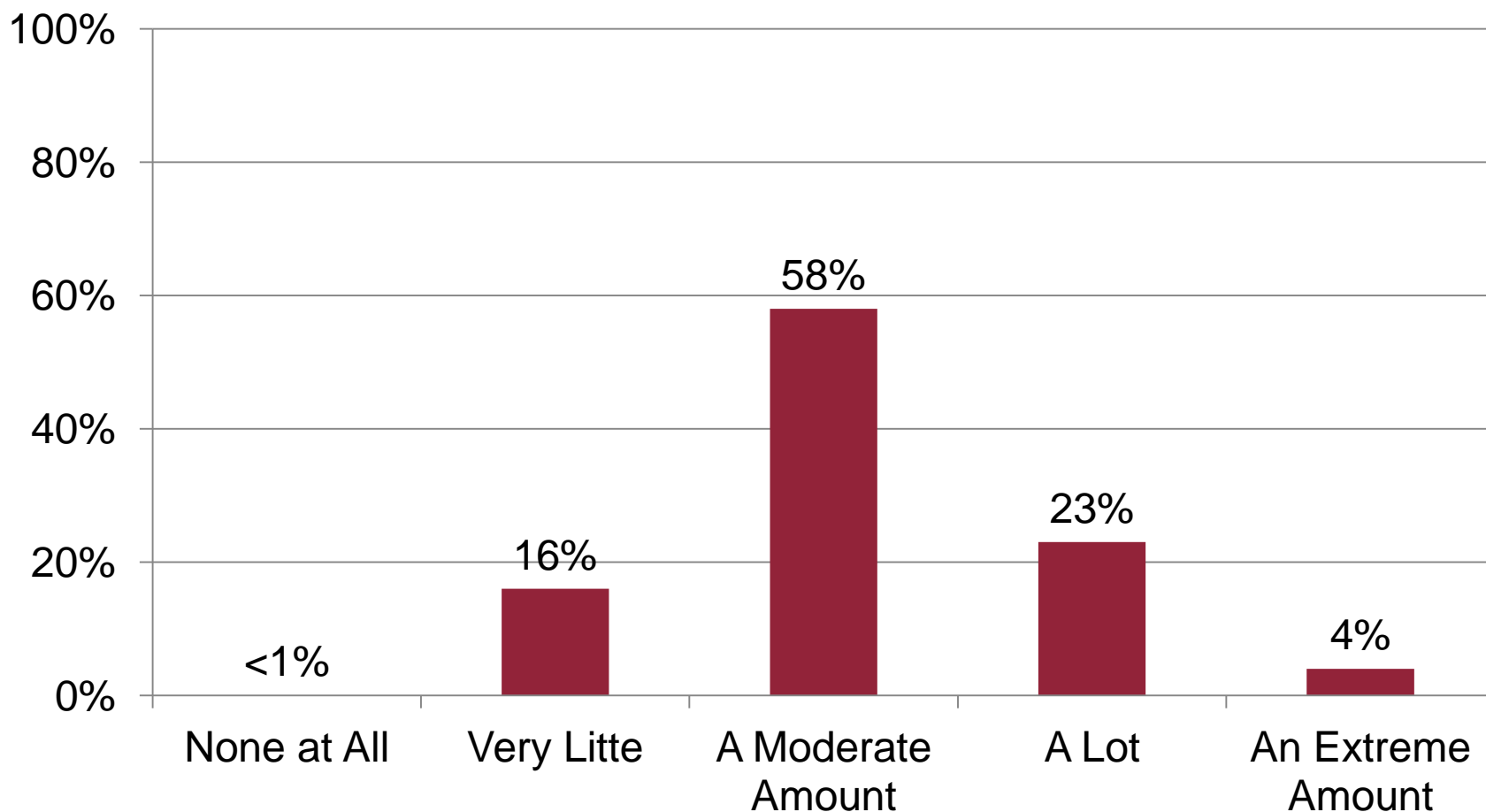


Compared to their peers, 27% consider themselves more happy

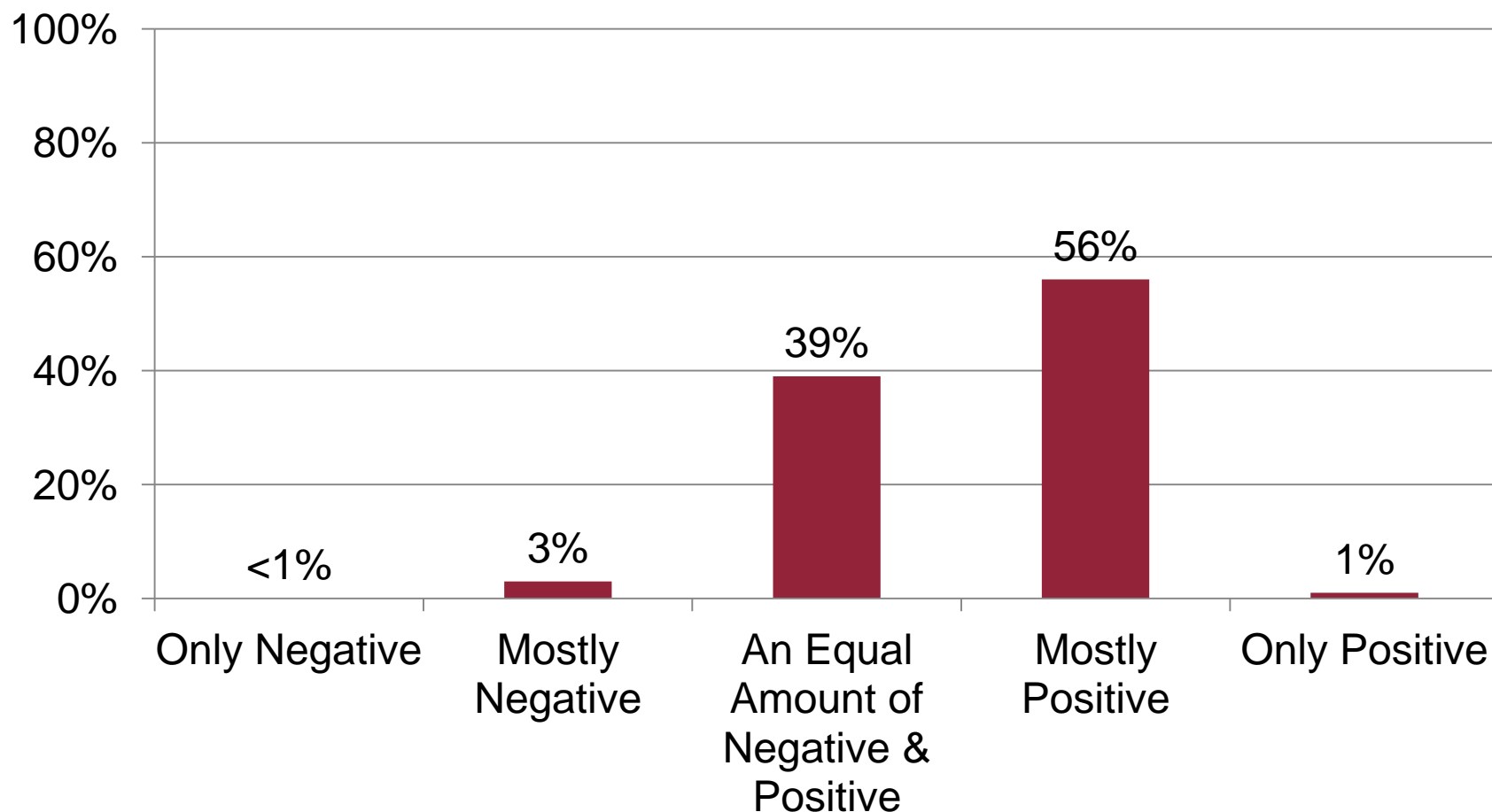


Q7: "Compared to most of my peers, I consider myself:" n=717

1 out of 4 say they experience a lot to an extreme amount of stress in a typical day



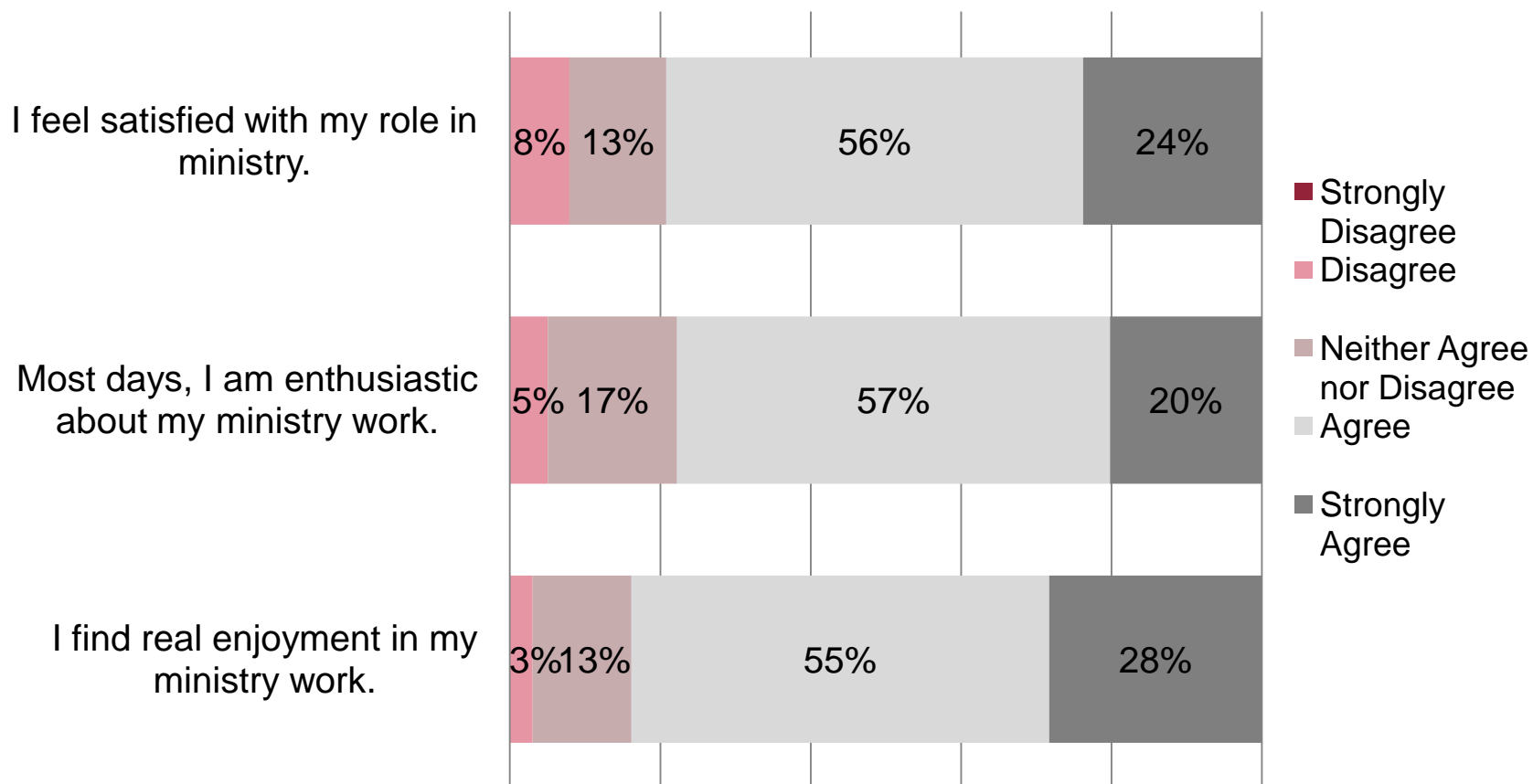
57% characterize the feelings and emotions they experience most days as positive, with 1% saying only positive



Q9: "Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days?" n=719

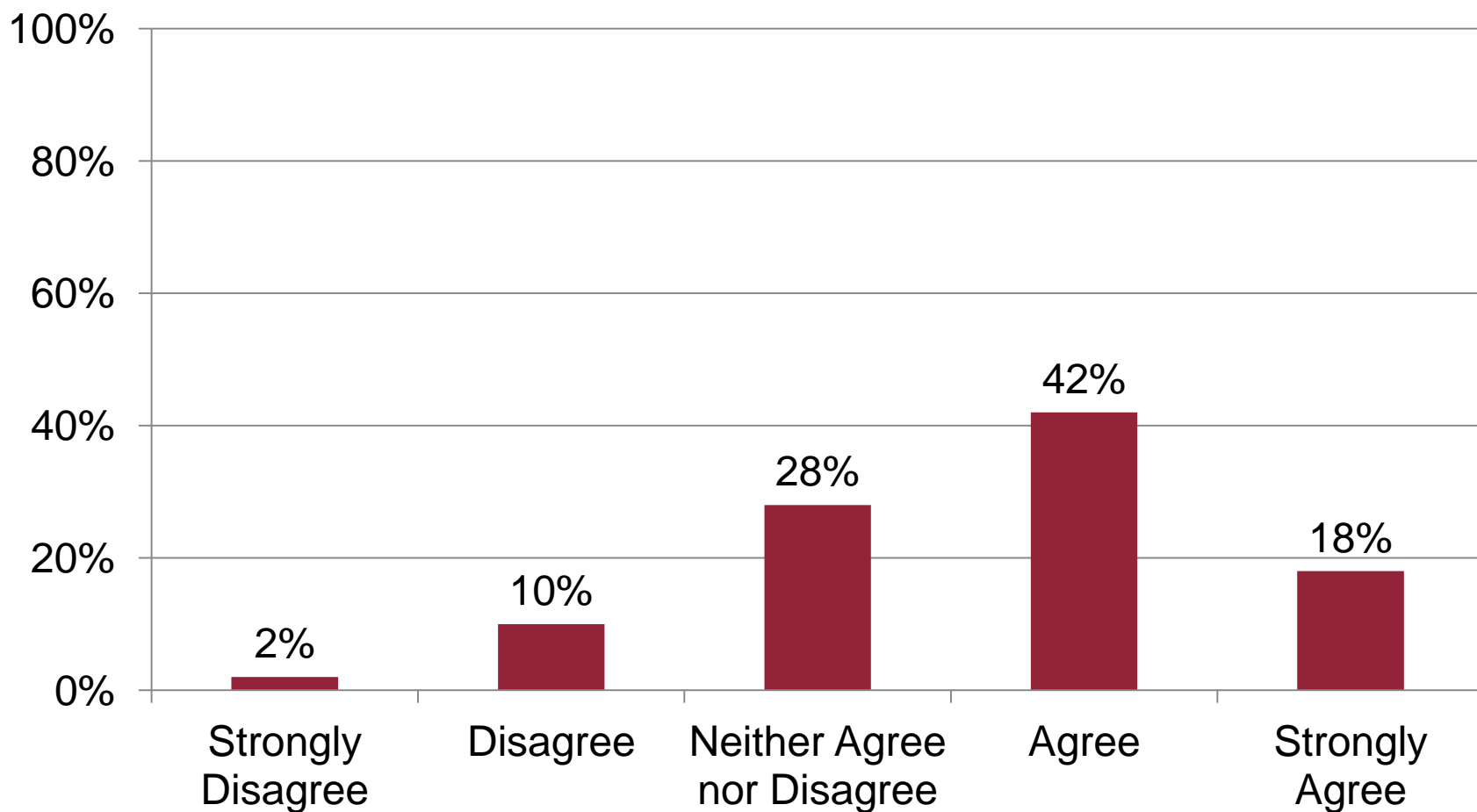
Well-being – *Thriving*

A majority agree that they are satisfied and enthusiastic about their ministry role/work and find enjoyment in ministry work

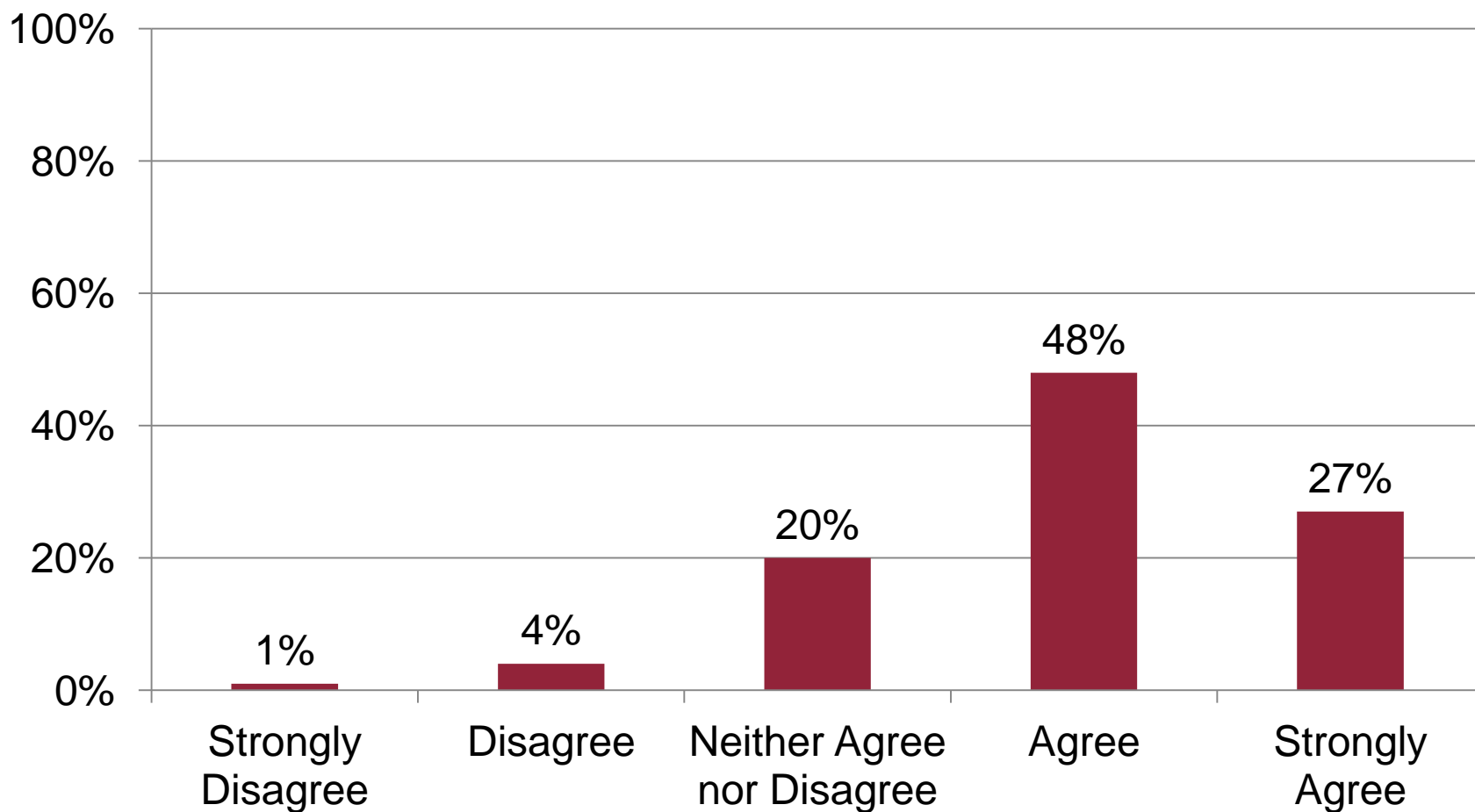


Less than 1% chose "Strongly Disagree"

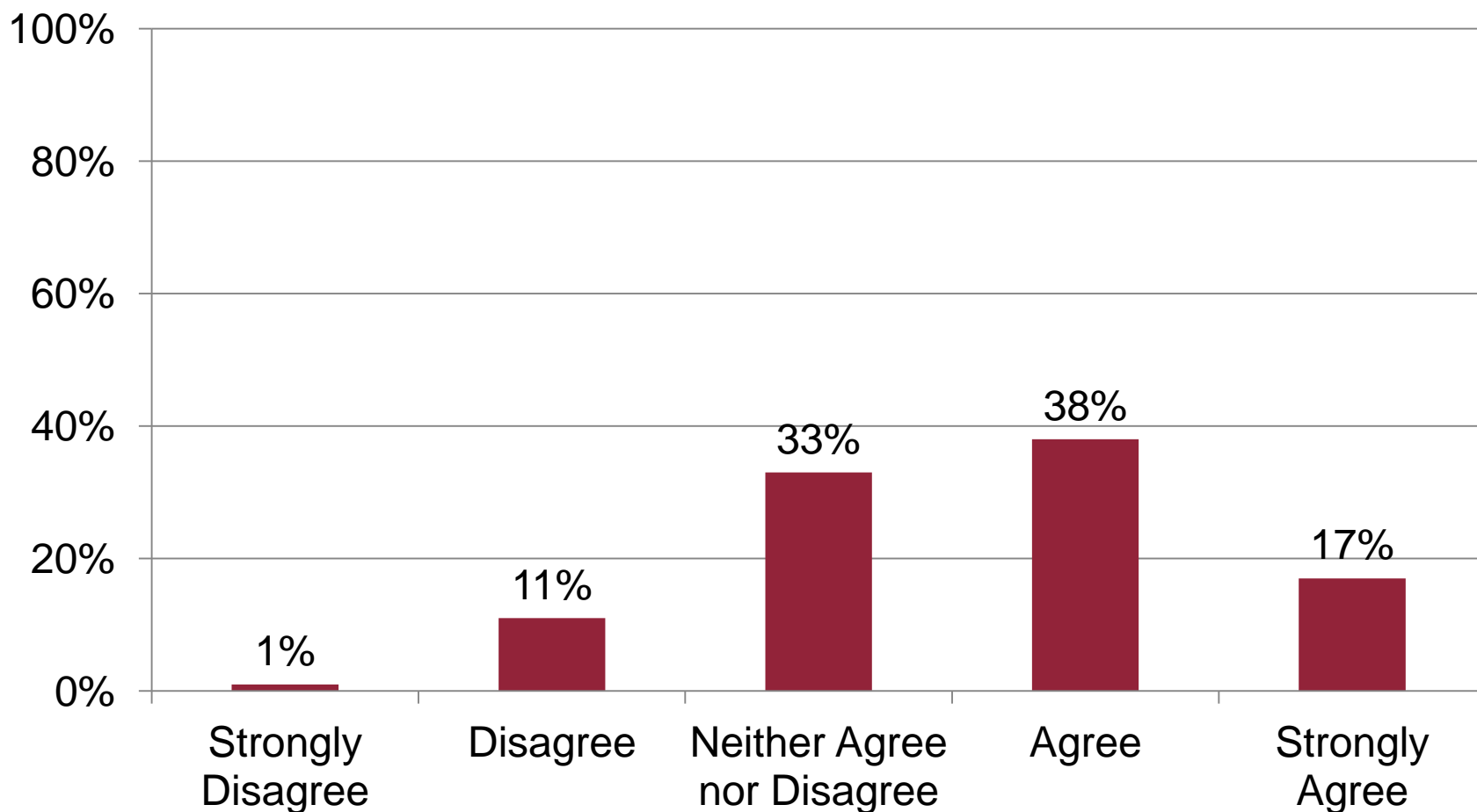
6 out of 10 agree that their ministry work gives the strongest feeling about who they really are



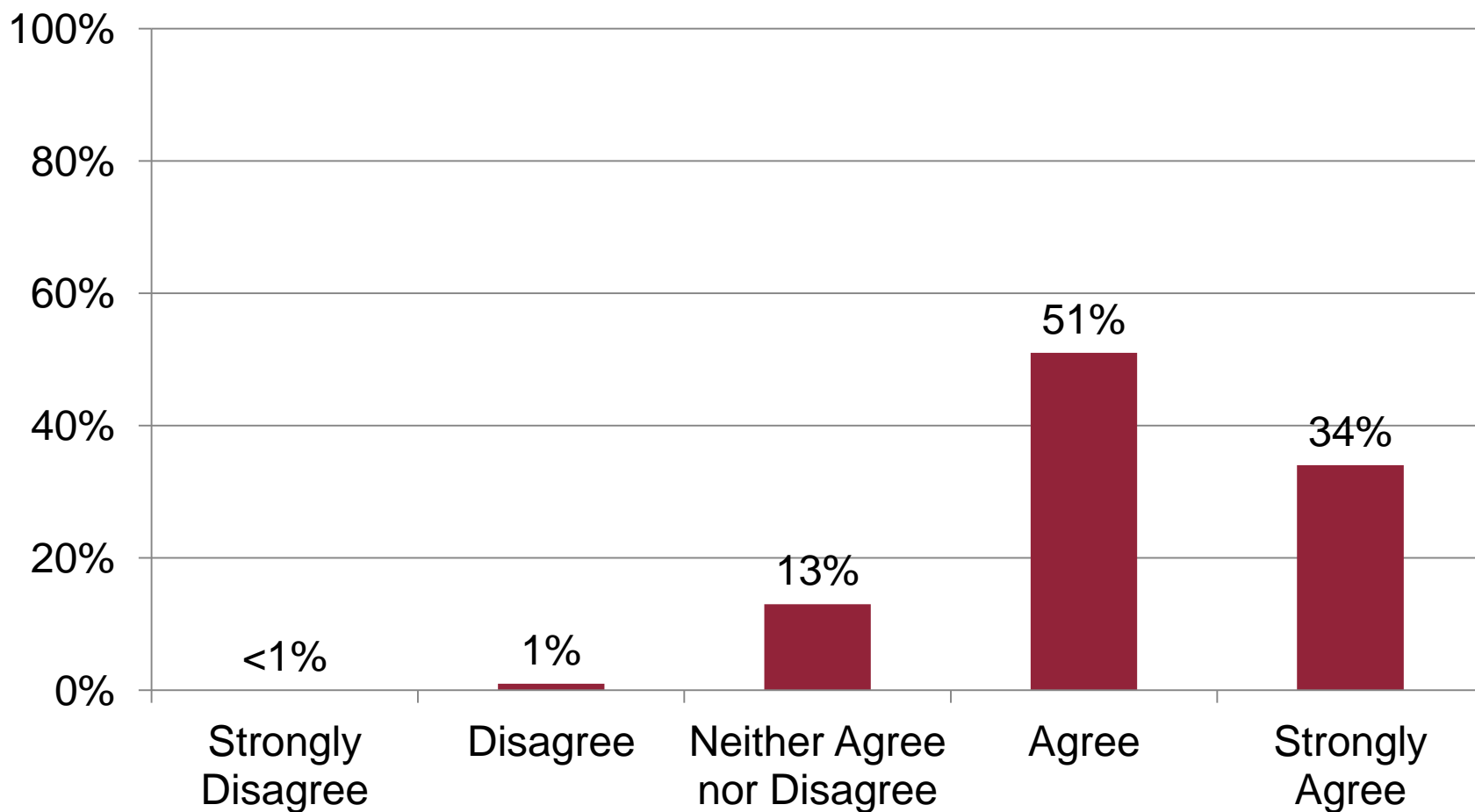
Three-fourths agree that they are meant to work in ministry



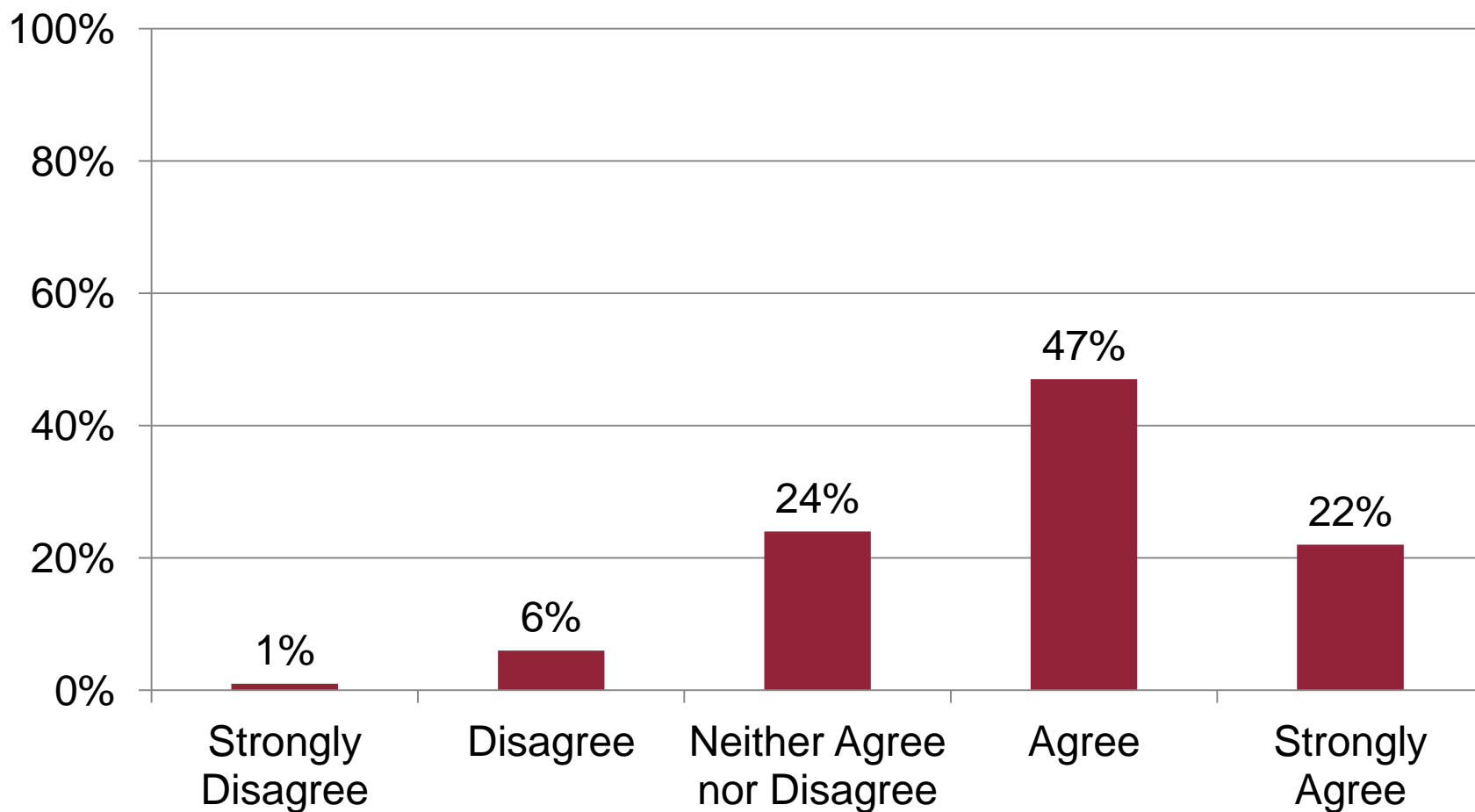
55% agree that they feel complete when engaging in ministry work than other activities



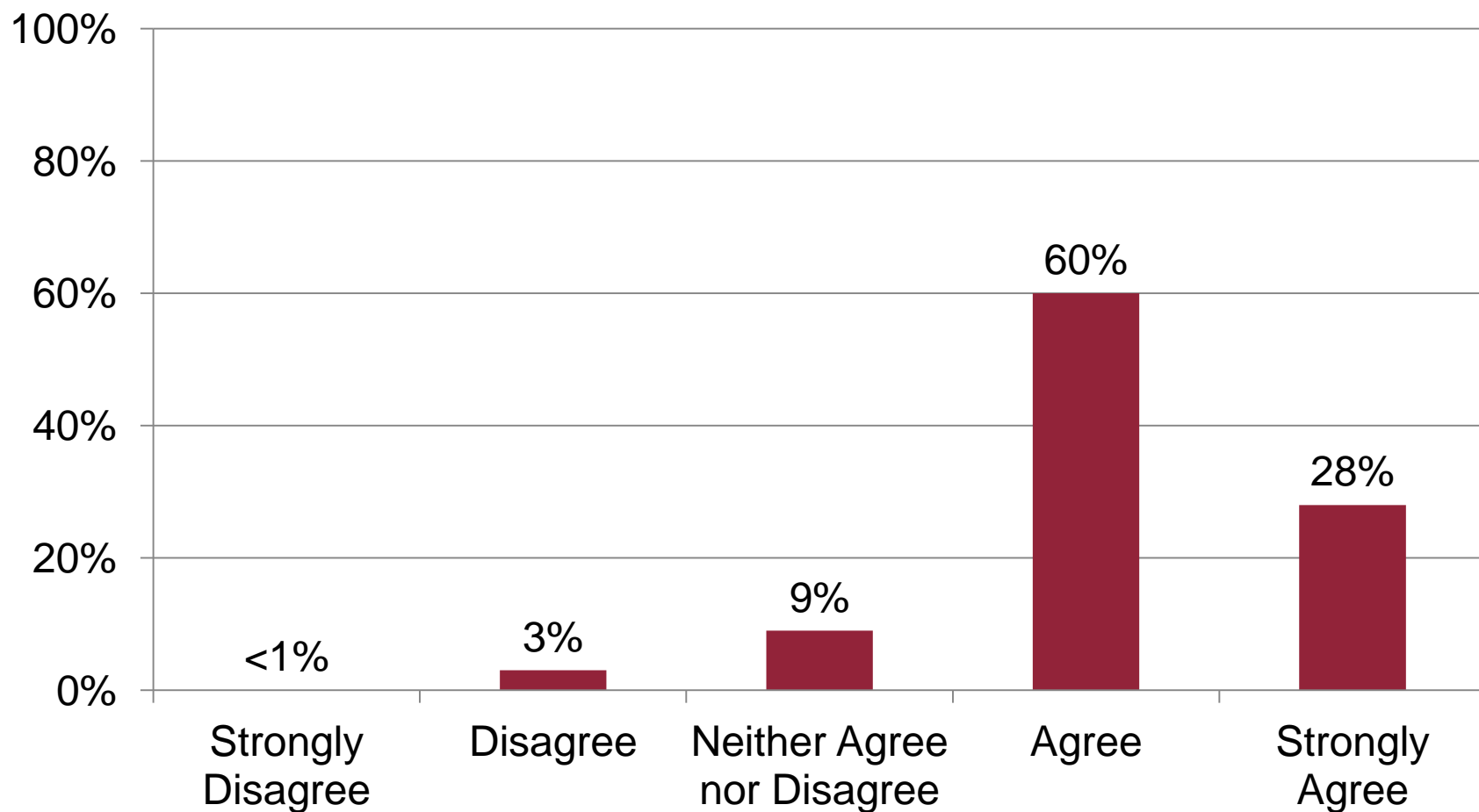
85% agree that their ministry work is deeply meaningful to them



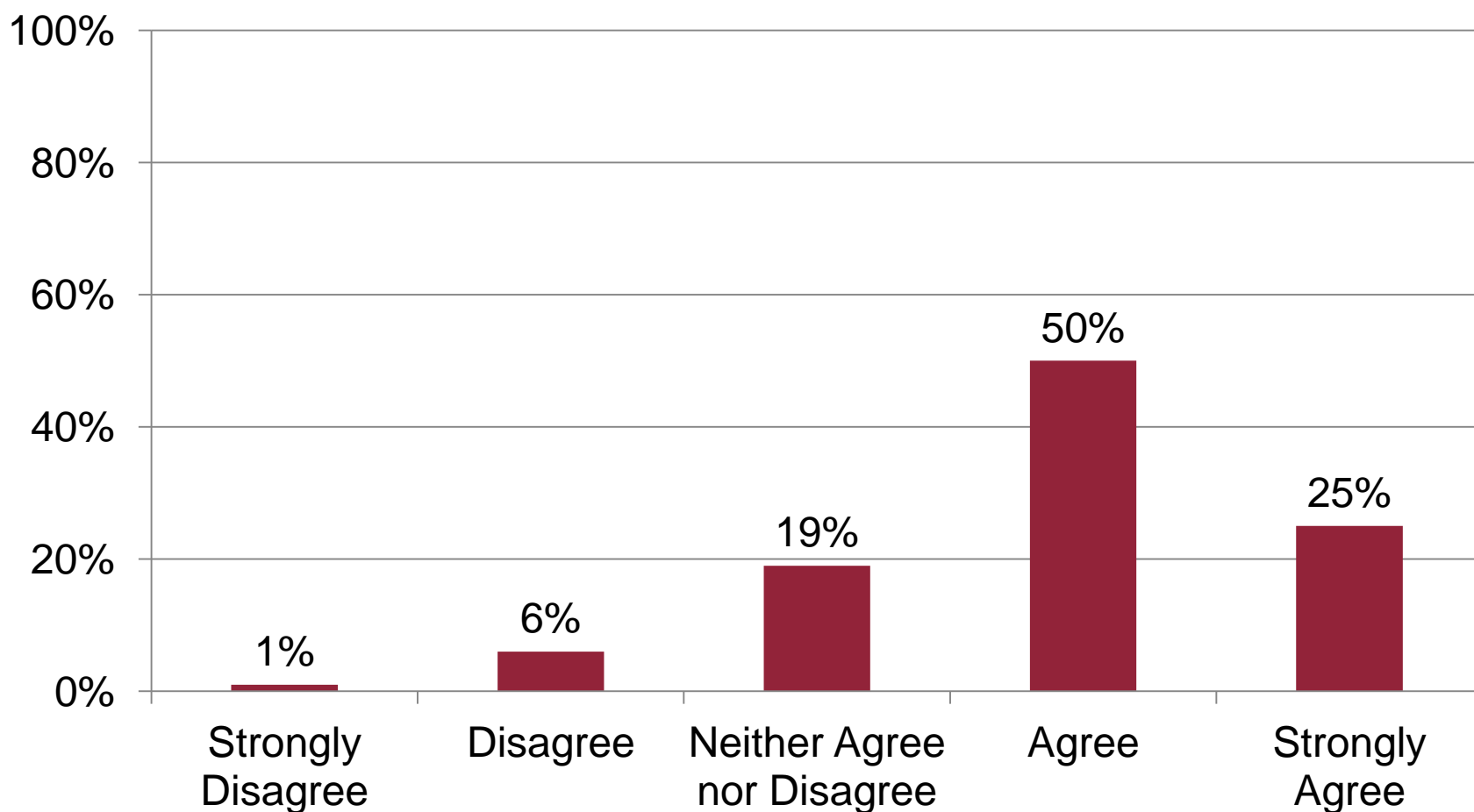
7 out of 10 agree that they are optimistic about their future in ministry



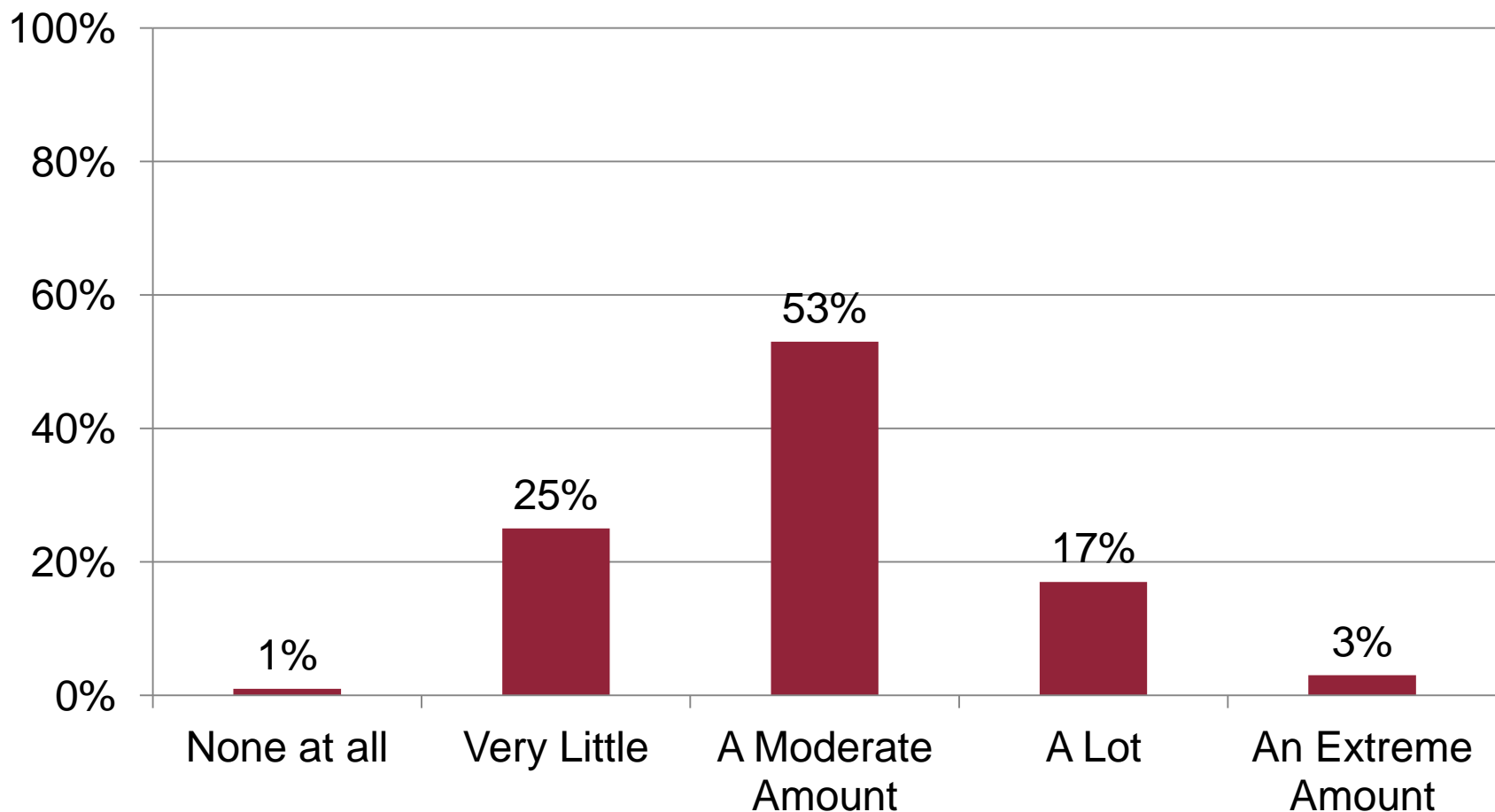
88% agree that they feel their ministry work is valuable and worthwhile



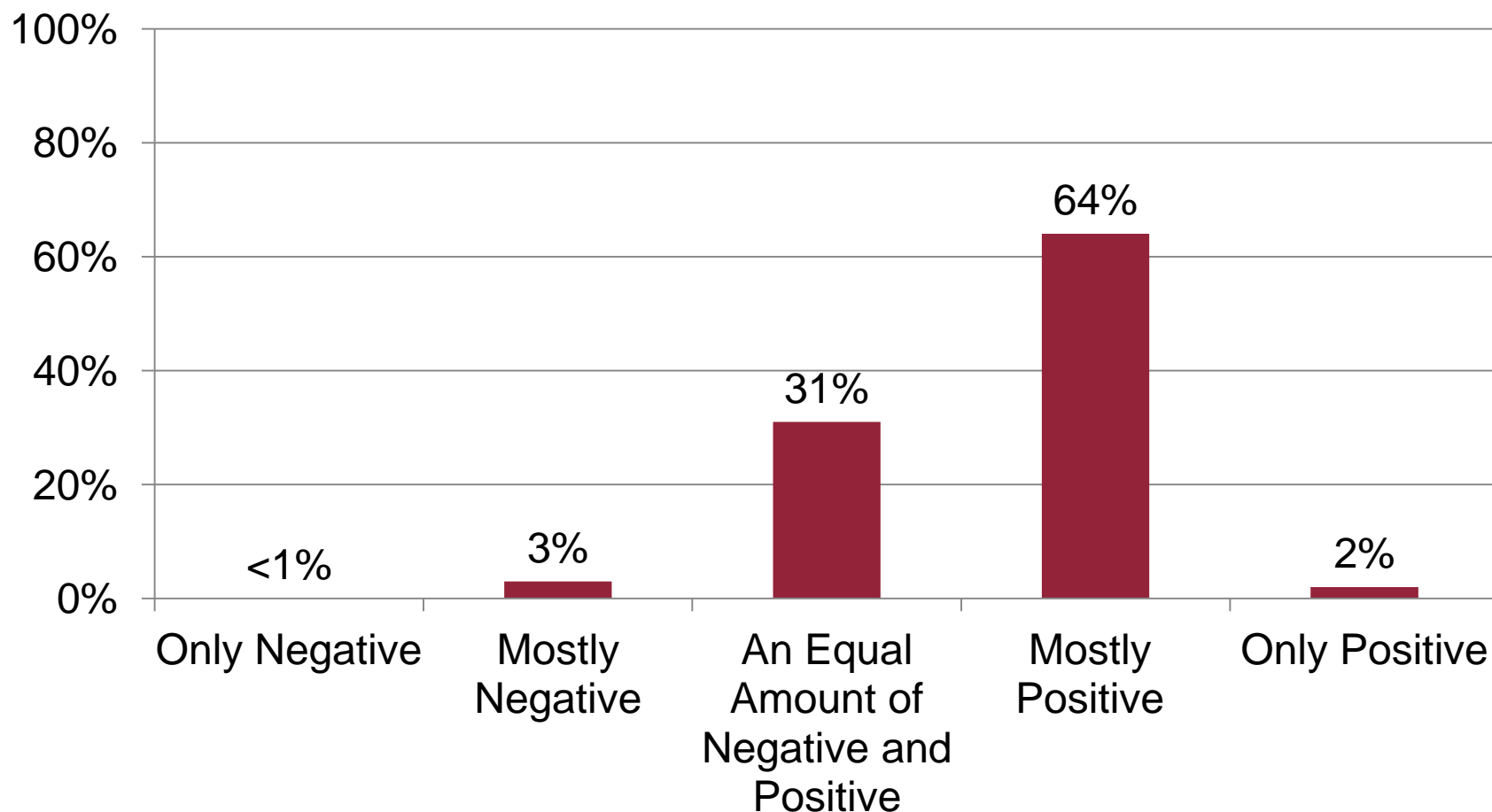
Three-fourths agree that they have a clear sense of purpose in ministry work



Almost all say they experience some stress in their ministry work, with 2 out of 10 saying they experience a lot to an extreme amount

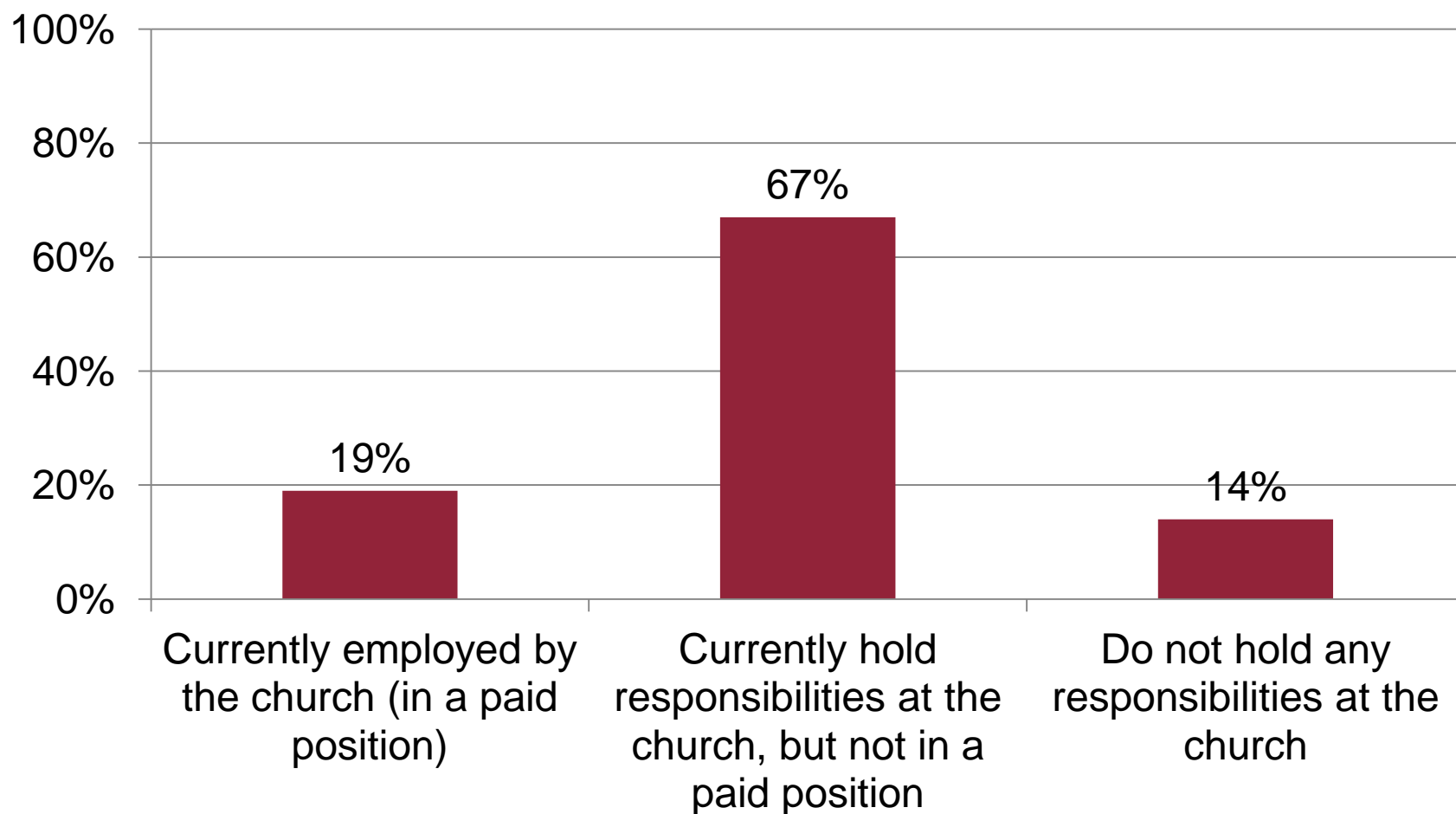


Two-thirds characterize the feelings they experience most days in their ministry work as mostly positive or only positive



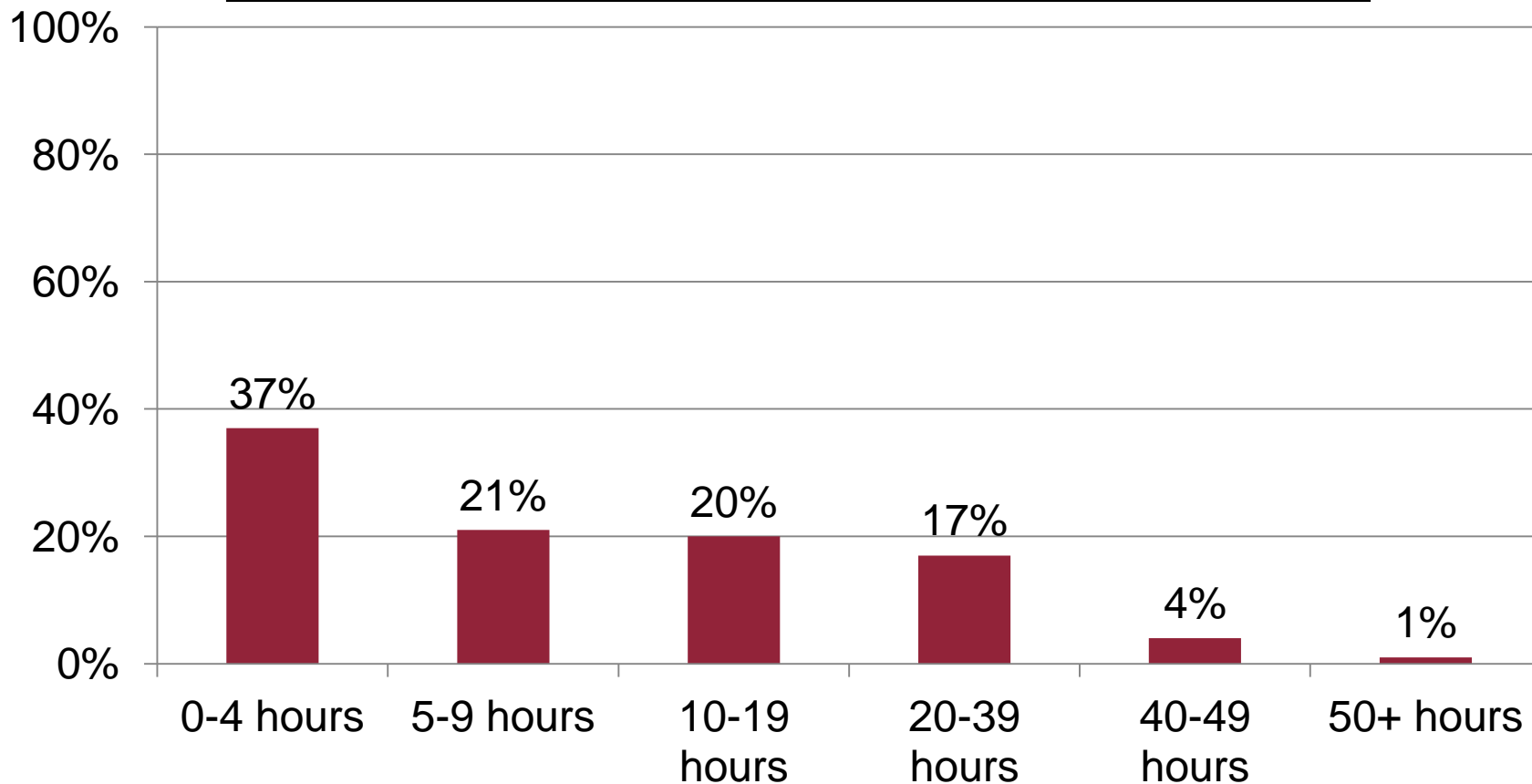
Work Life / Calling

19% are currently employed by the church and an additional two-thirds hold responsibilities at the church

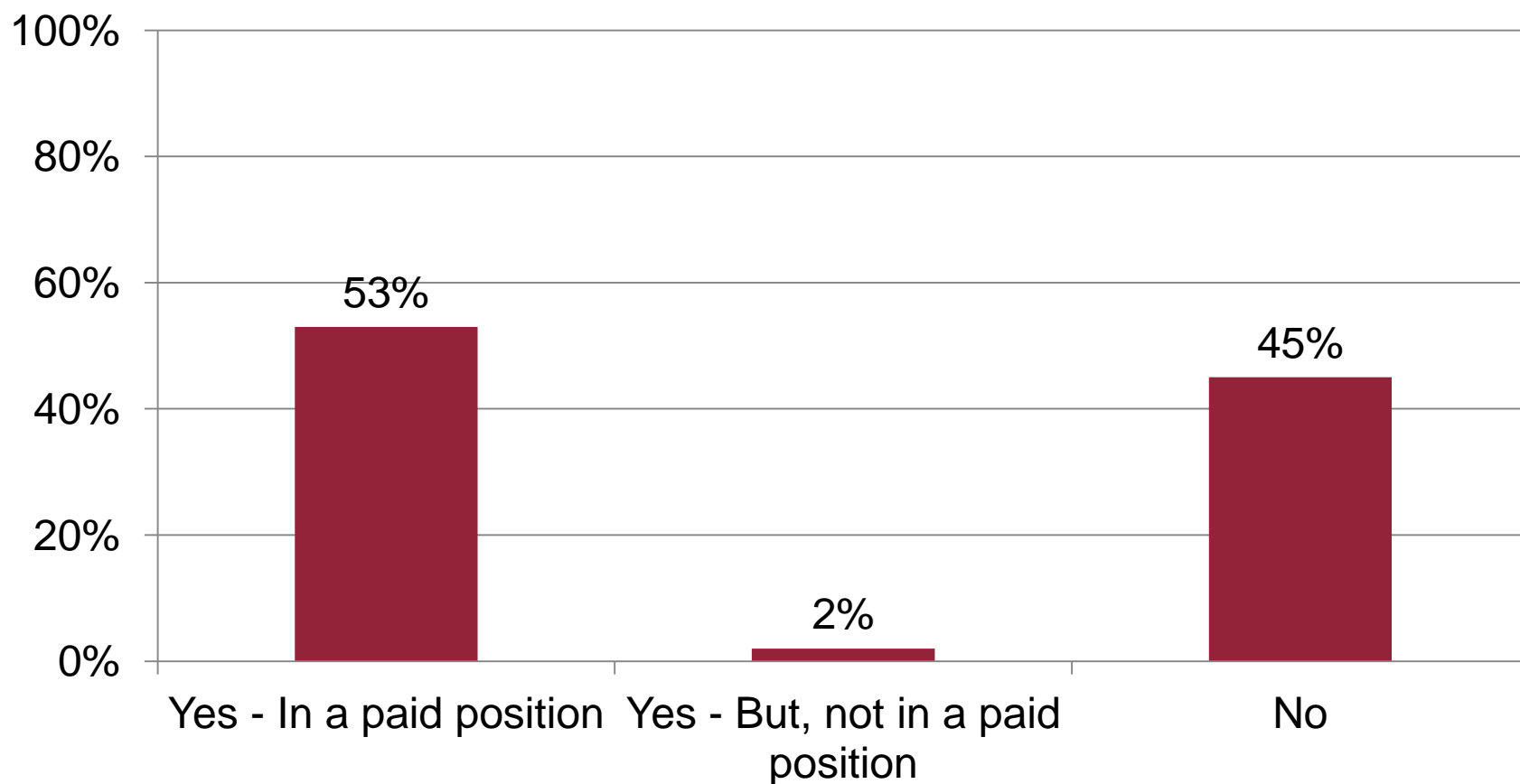


58% work less than 10 hours a week at the church

Among church employees or church volunteers



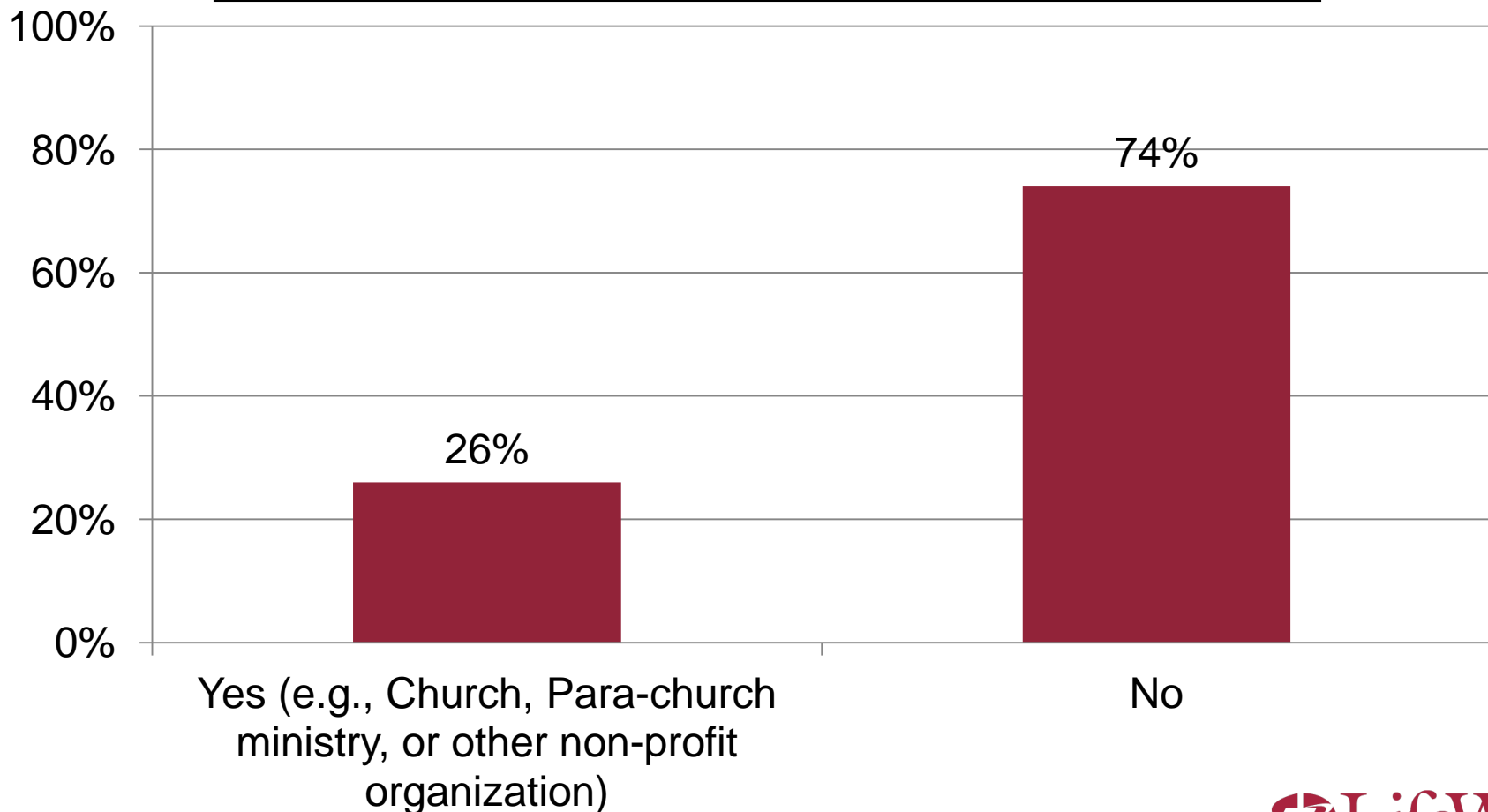
Over half are employed outside of the church in a paid position



Q12: "Are you currently employed outside of the church your spouse is pastoring?" n=716

A quarter of these are employed in “ministry” work

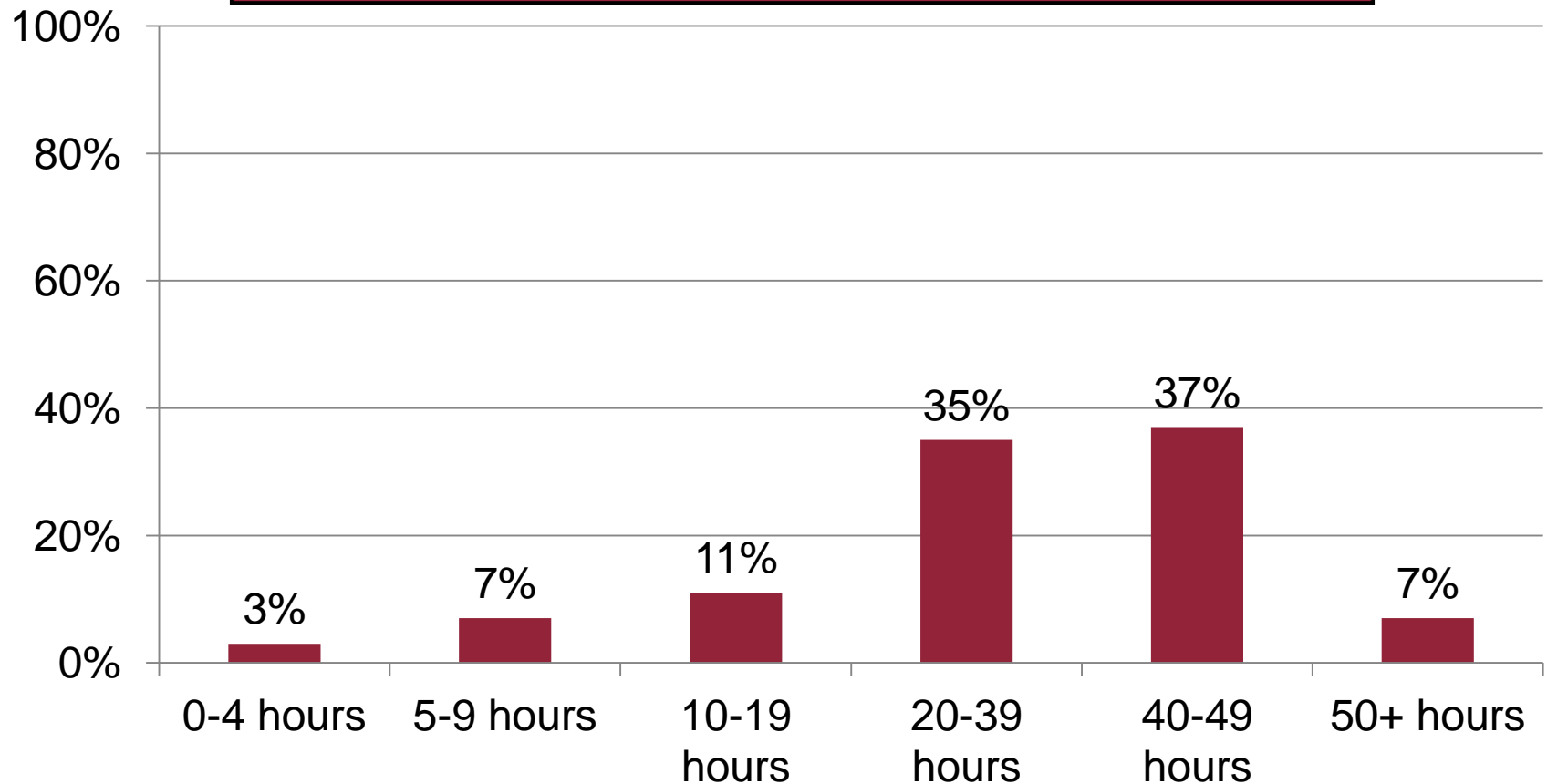
Among those employed outside the church



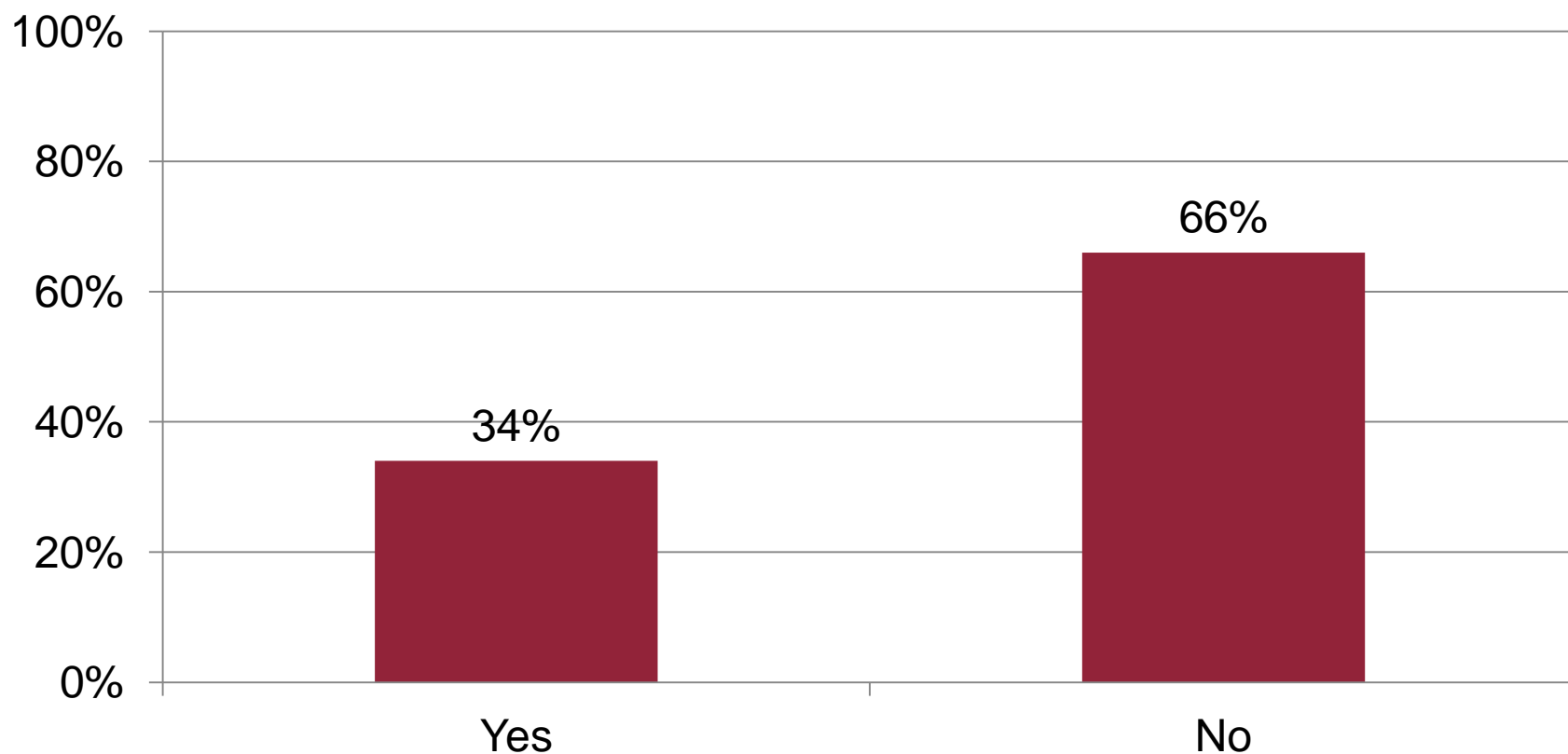
Q13: "Is this position (paid or unpaid) related to any type of "ministry" work (e.g., a church, para-church ministry or other non-profit organization)?" n=408

44% work 40 hours or more in a typical week

Among those employed outside the church



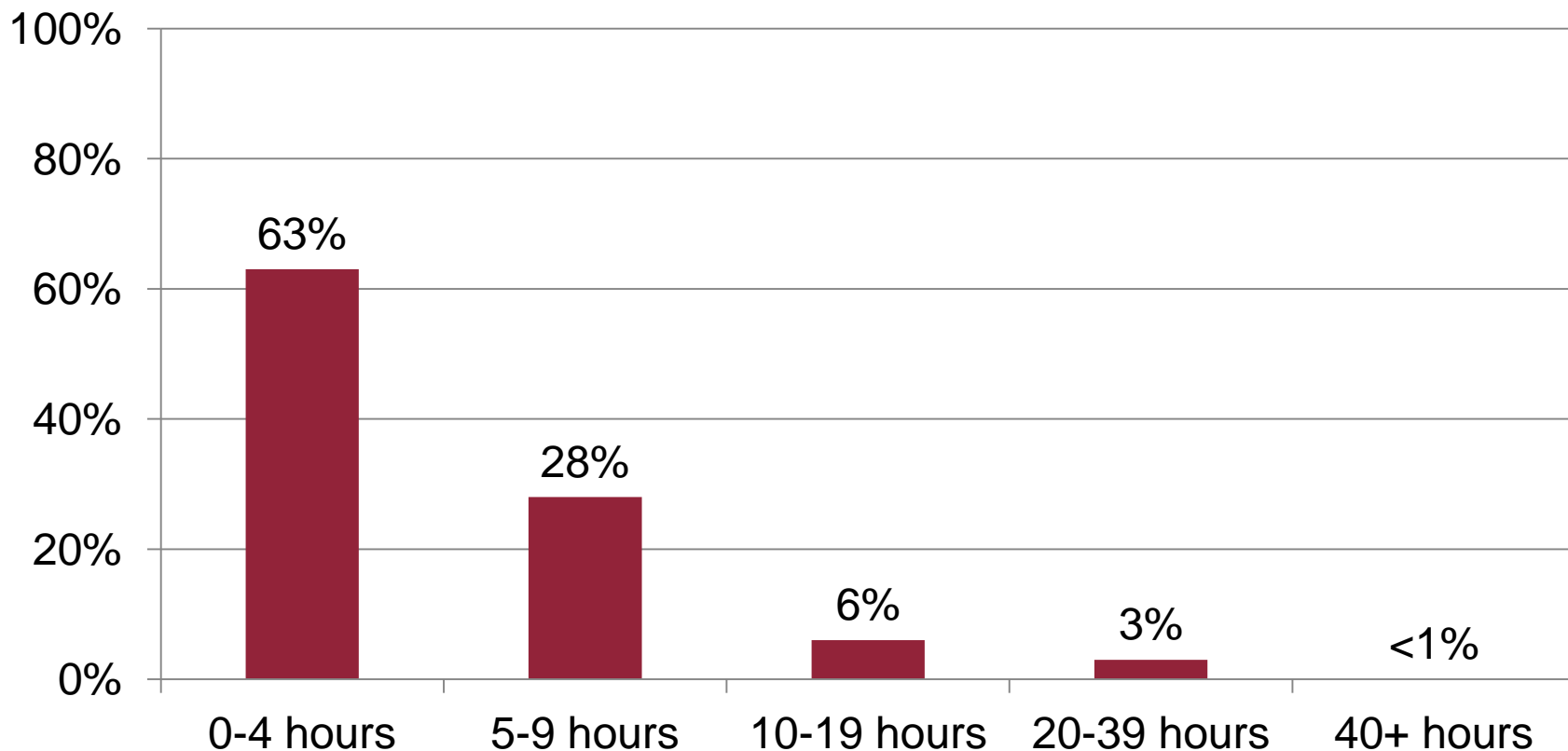
34% currently volunteer or serve at ministries outside of the church



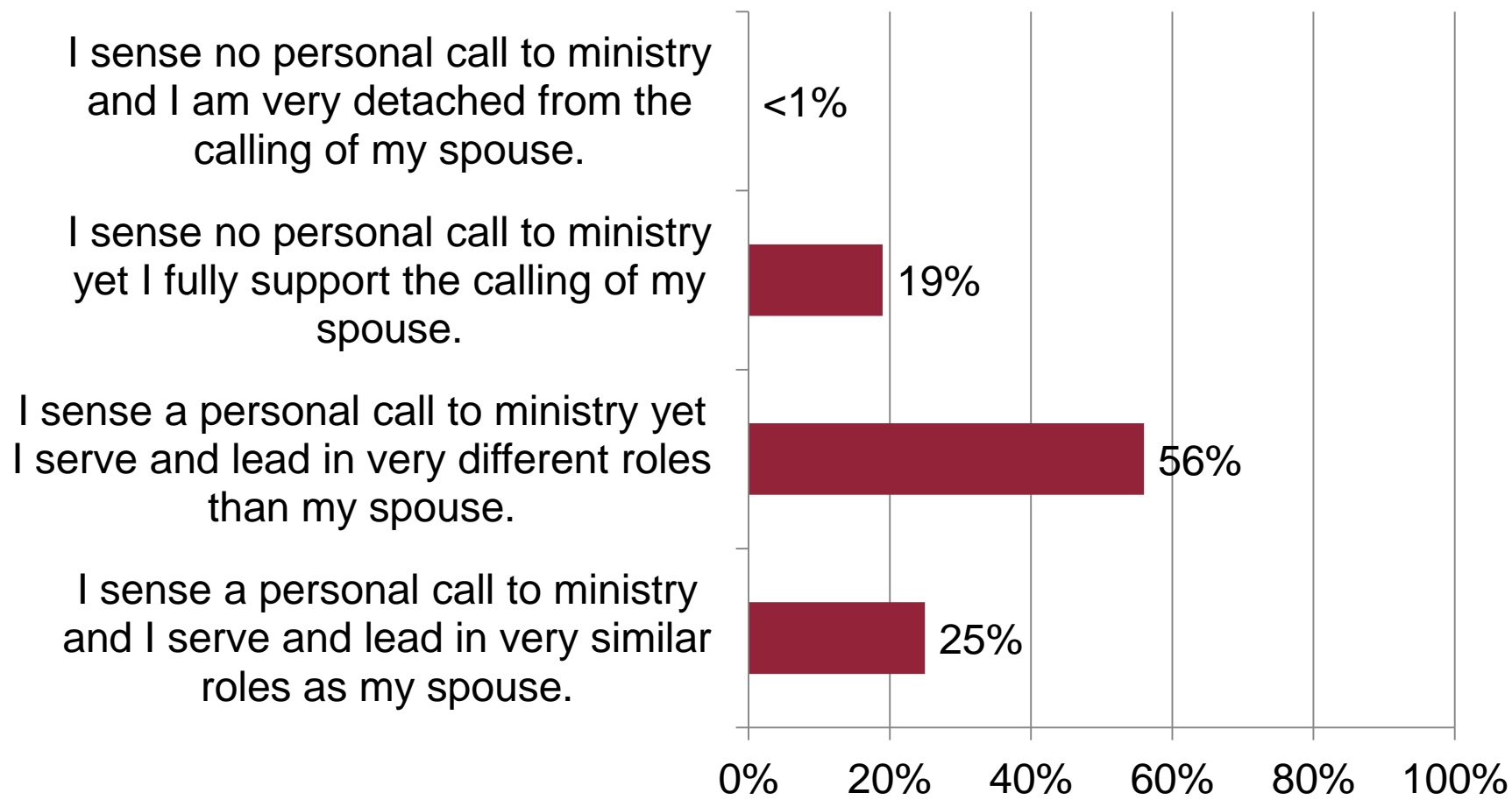
Q15: "Do you currently volunteer or serve in other ways at ministries outside of the church your spouse is pastoring?" n=710

91% volunteer less than 10 hours a week

Among those who volunteer outside the church

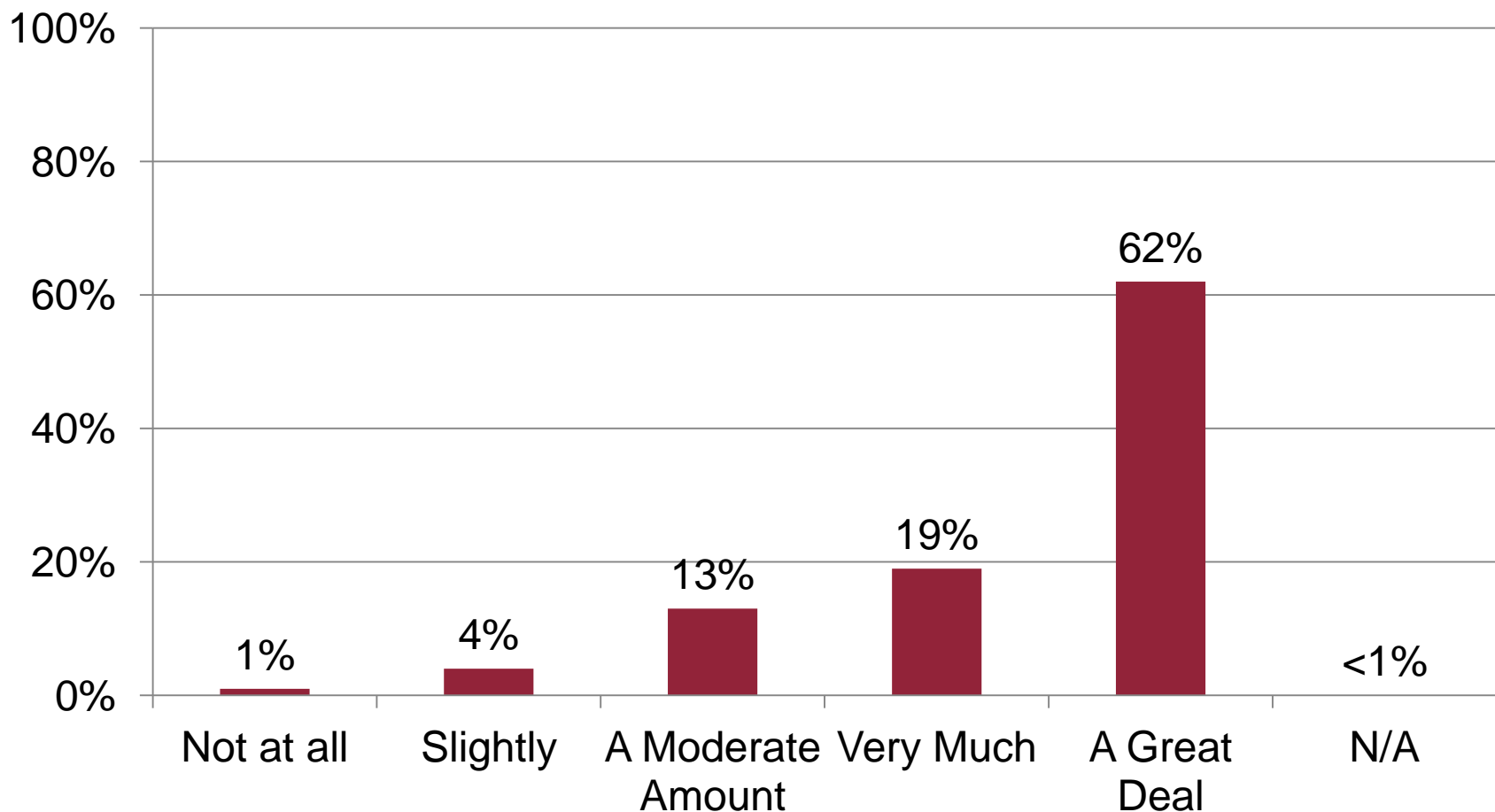


8 out of 10 sense a call to ministry, with 56% serving and leading in different roles than their spouse



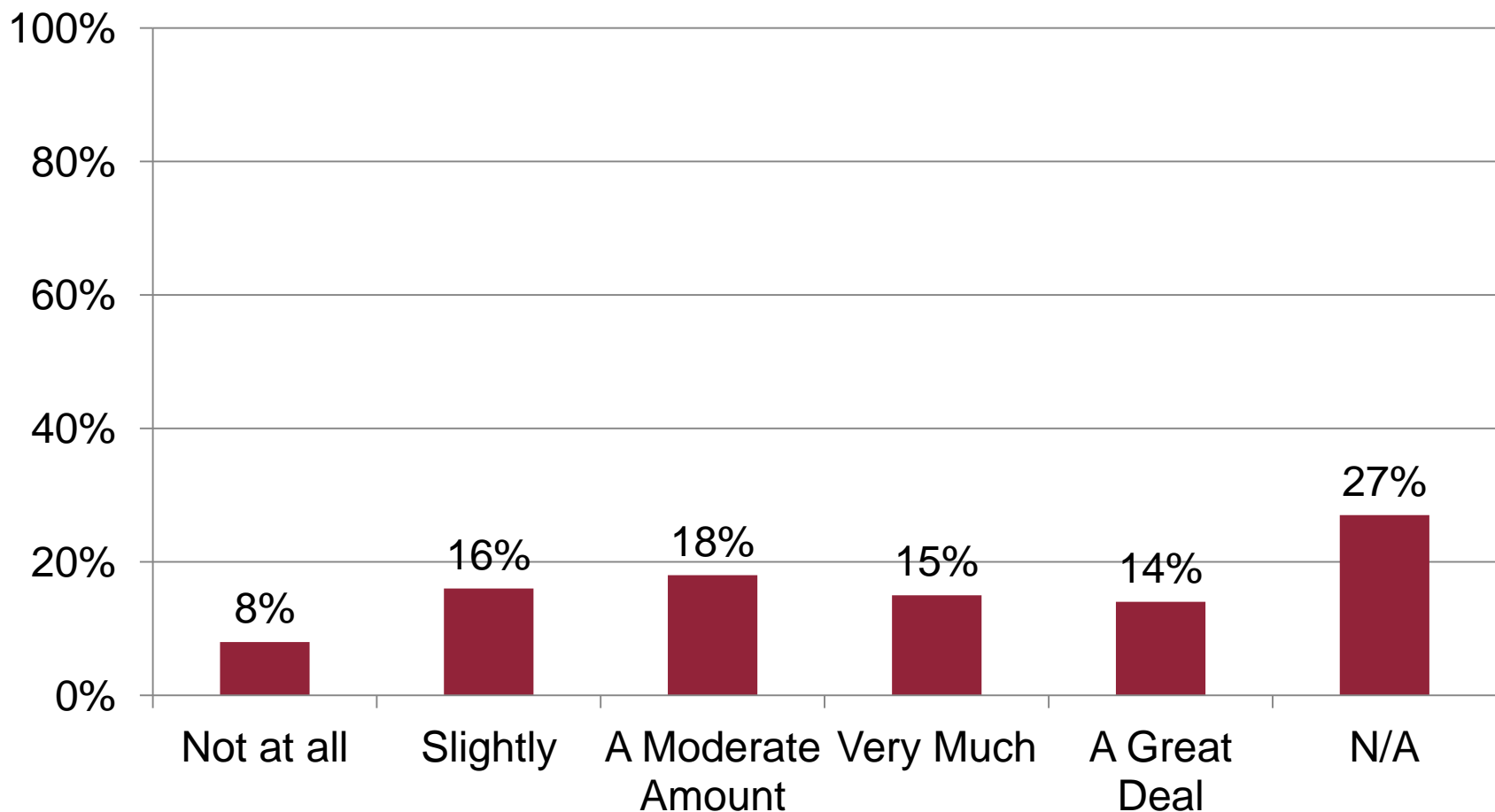
Relationships

6 out of 10 say they can “count on” their spouse a great deal when they feel under stress



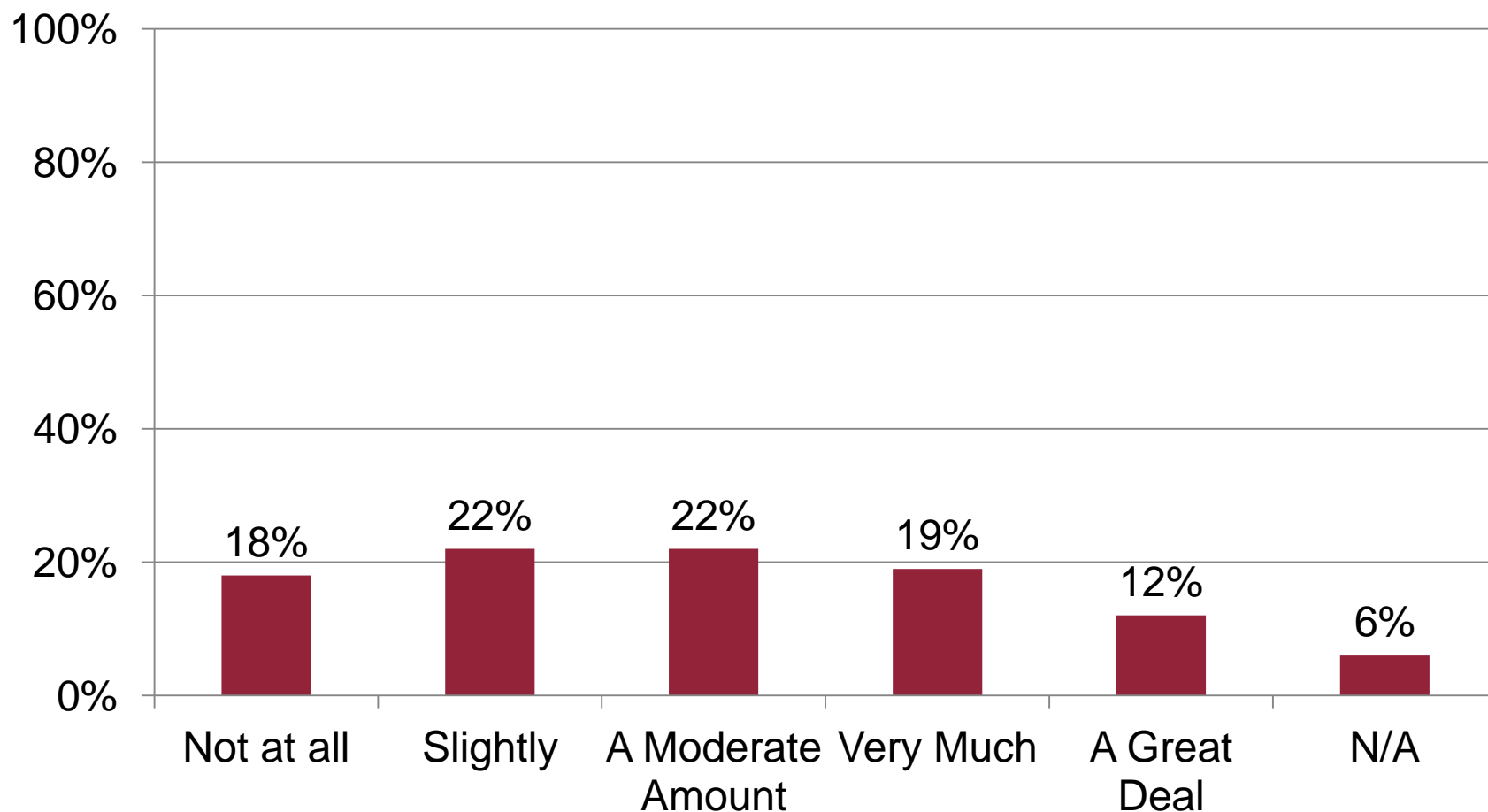
Q23_1: “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Your Spouse**” n=715

14% say they can “count on” other family members in their household a great deal when they feel under stress



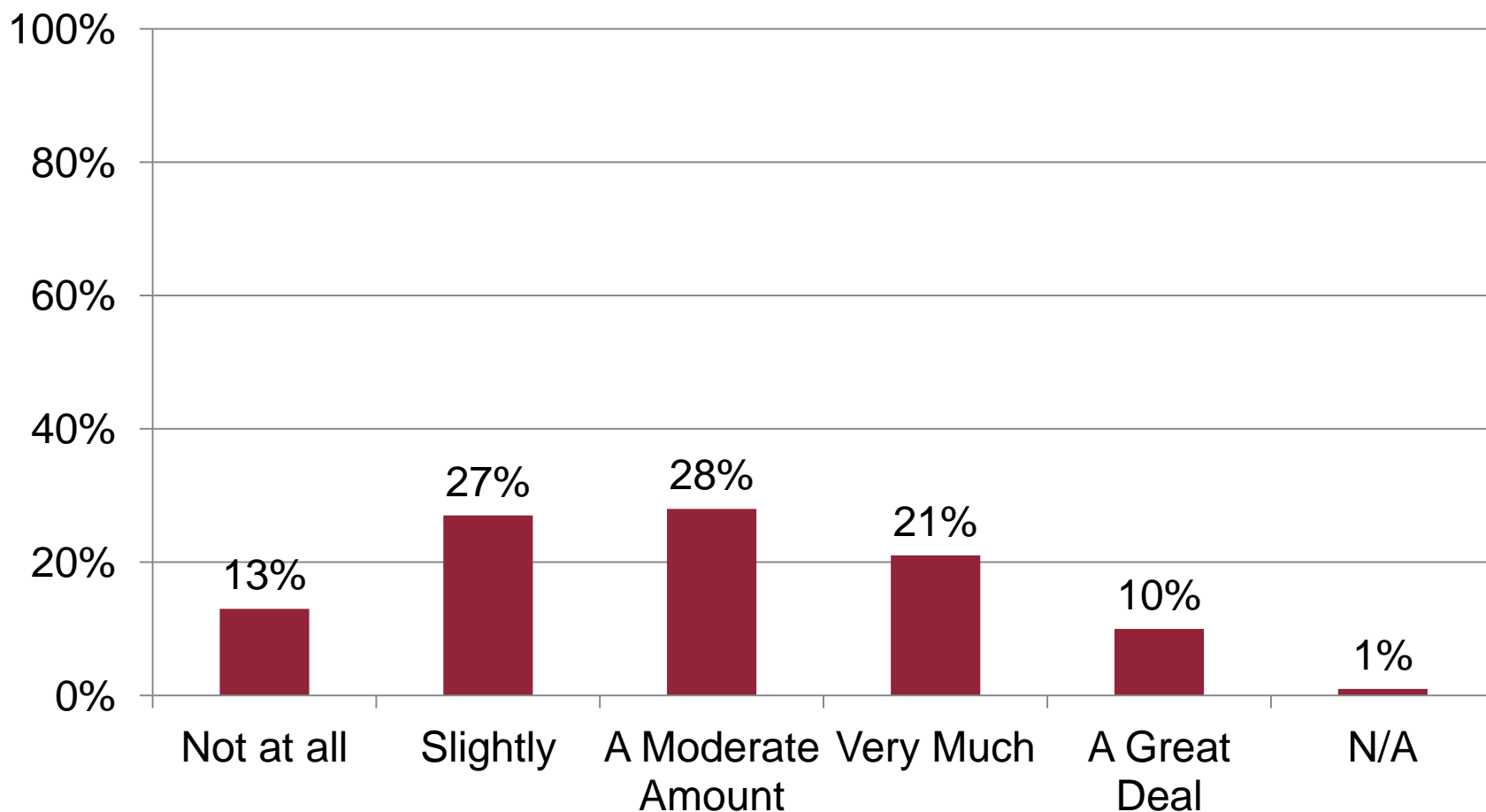
Q23_2: “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Other family members in your household**” n=704

12% say they can “count on” other relatives a great deal when they feel under stress



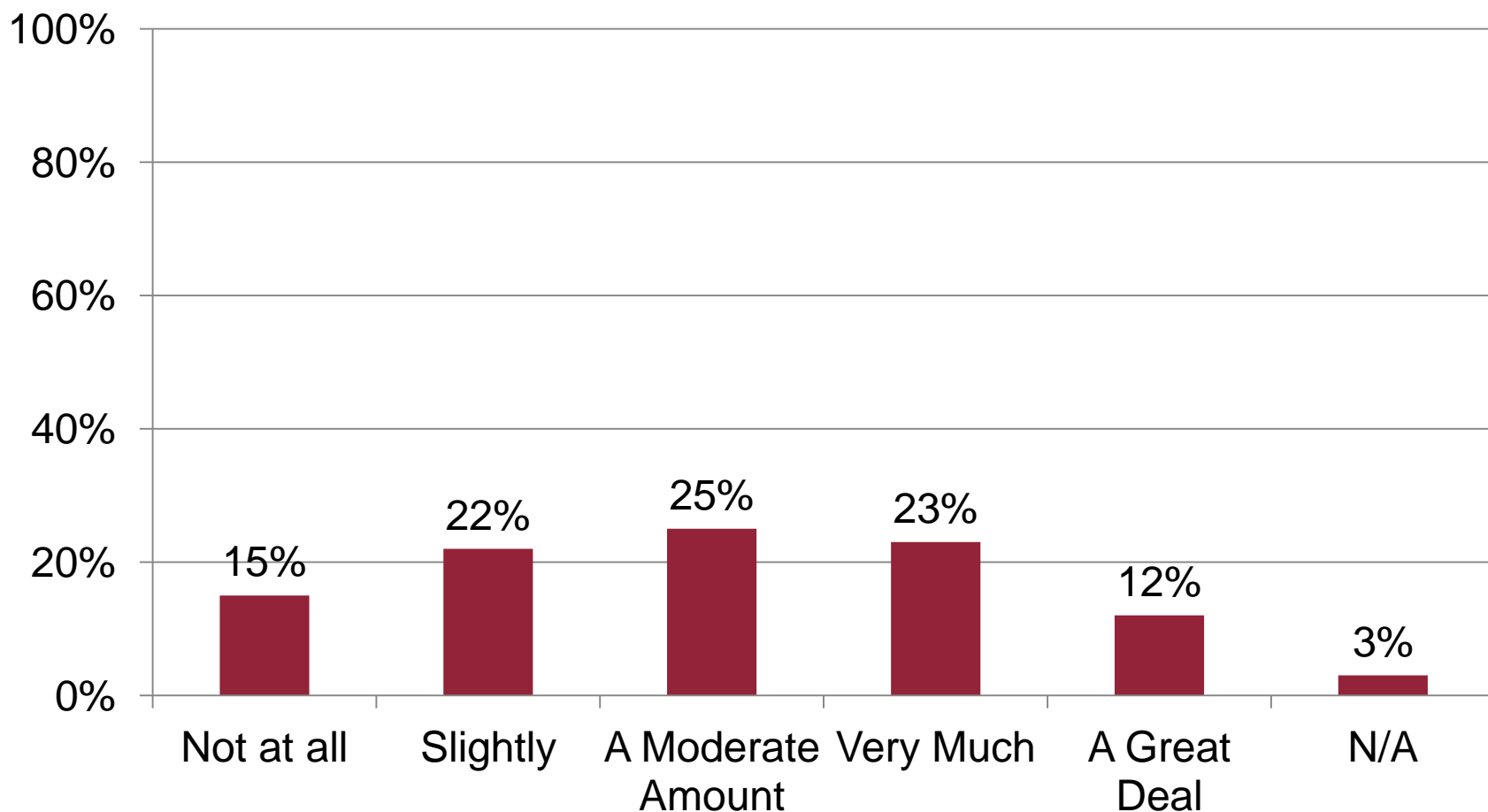
Q23_3: "Please indicate the extent to which you can really "count on" the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Other relatives (brother, sister, cousins, etc.)**" n=712

1 out of 10 say they can “count on” friends in their church a great deal when they feel under stress



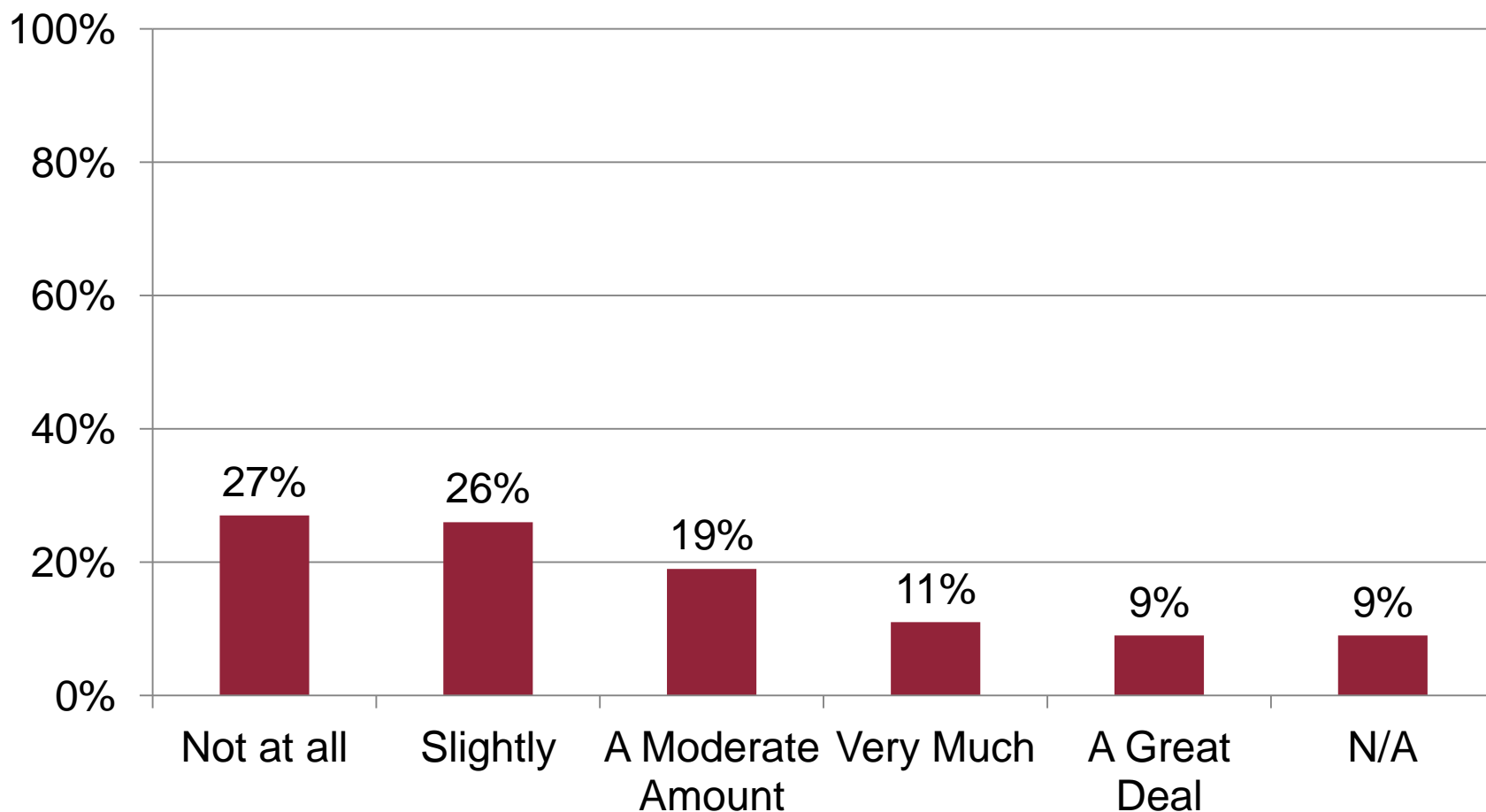
Q23_4: “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Friends in your church**” n=712

12% say they can “count on” friends outside of their church a great deal when they feel under stress



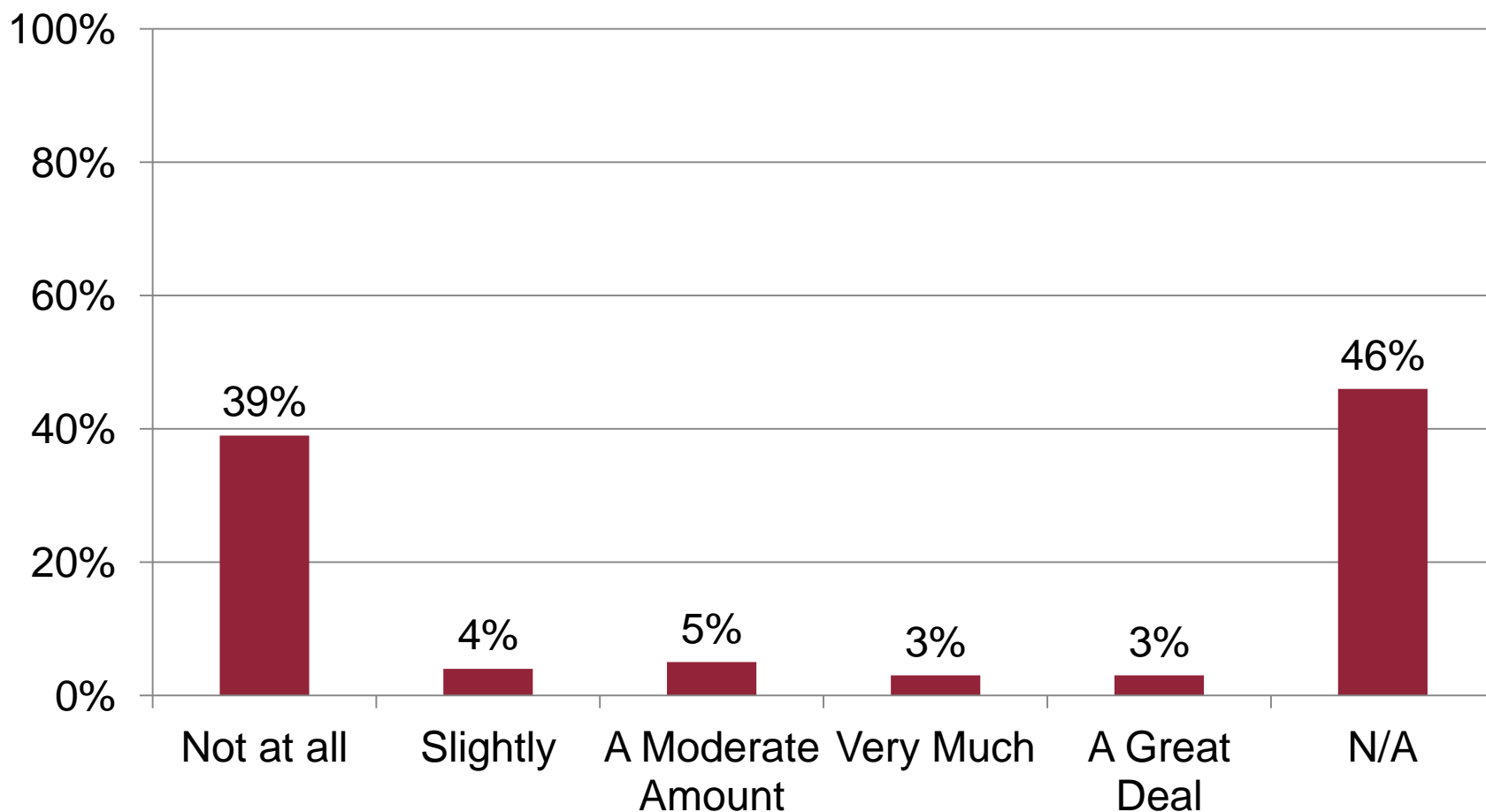
Q23_5: "Please indicate the extent to which you can really "count on" the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Friends outside of your church**" n=714

9% say they can “count on” other ministers’ spouses a great deal when they feel under stress



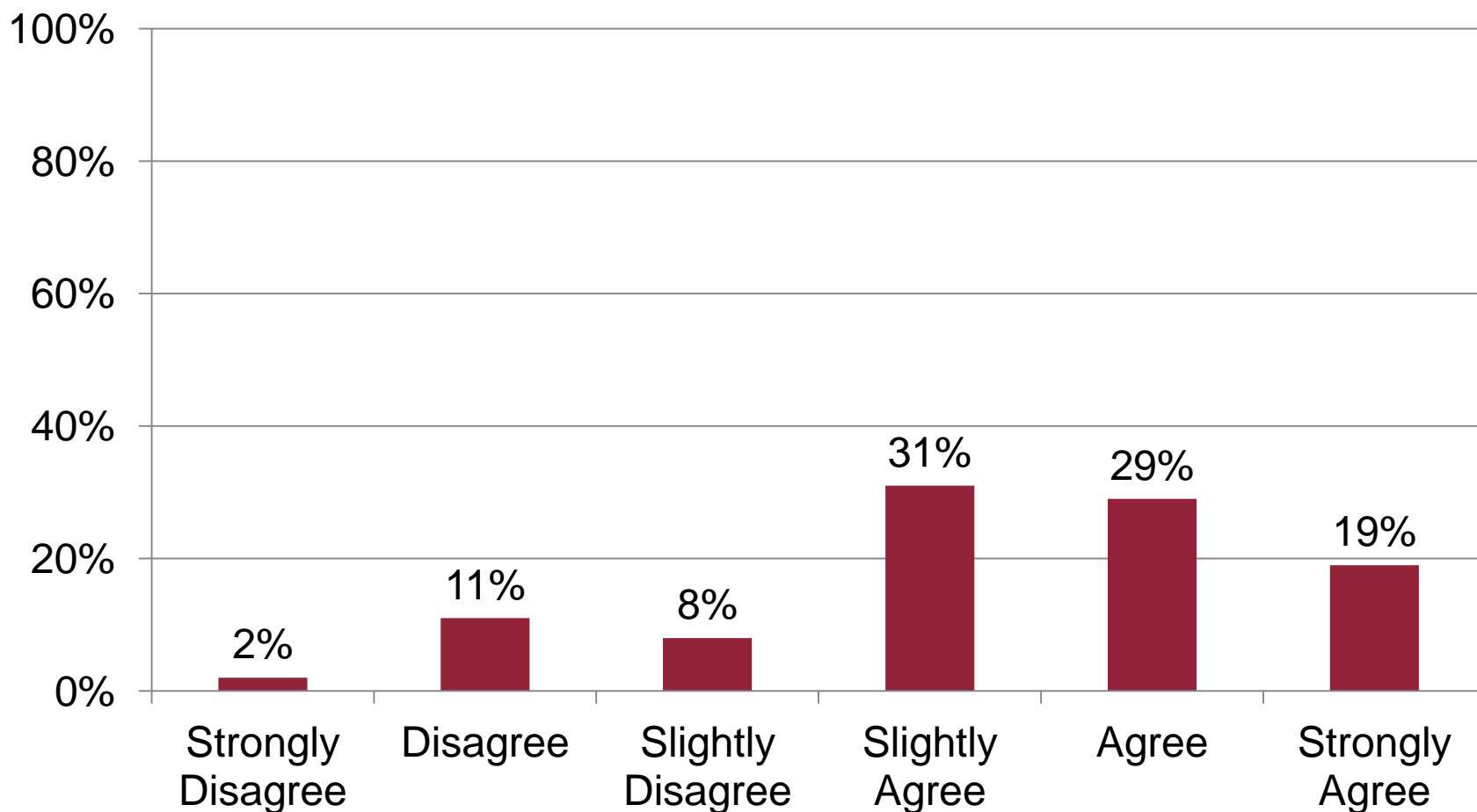
Q23_6: “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Other ministers’ spouses**” n=715

3% say they can “count on” a professional counselor a great deal when they feel under stress



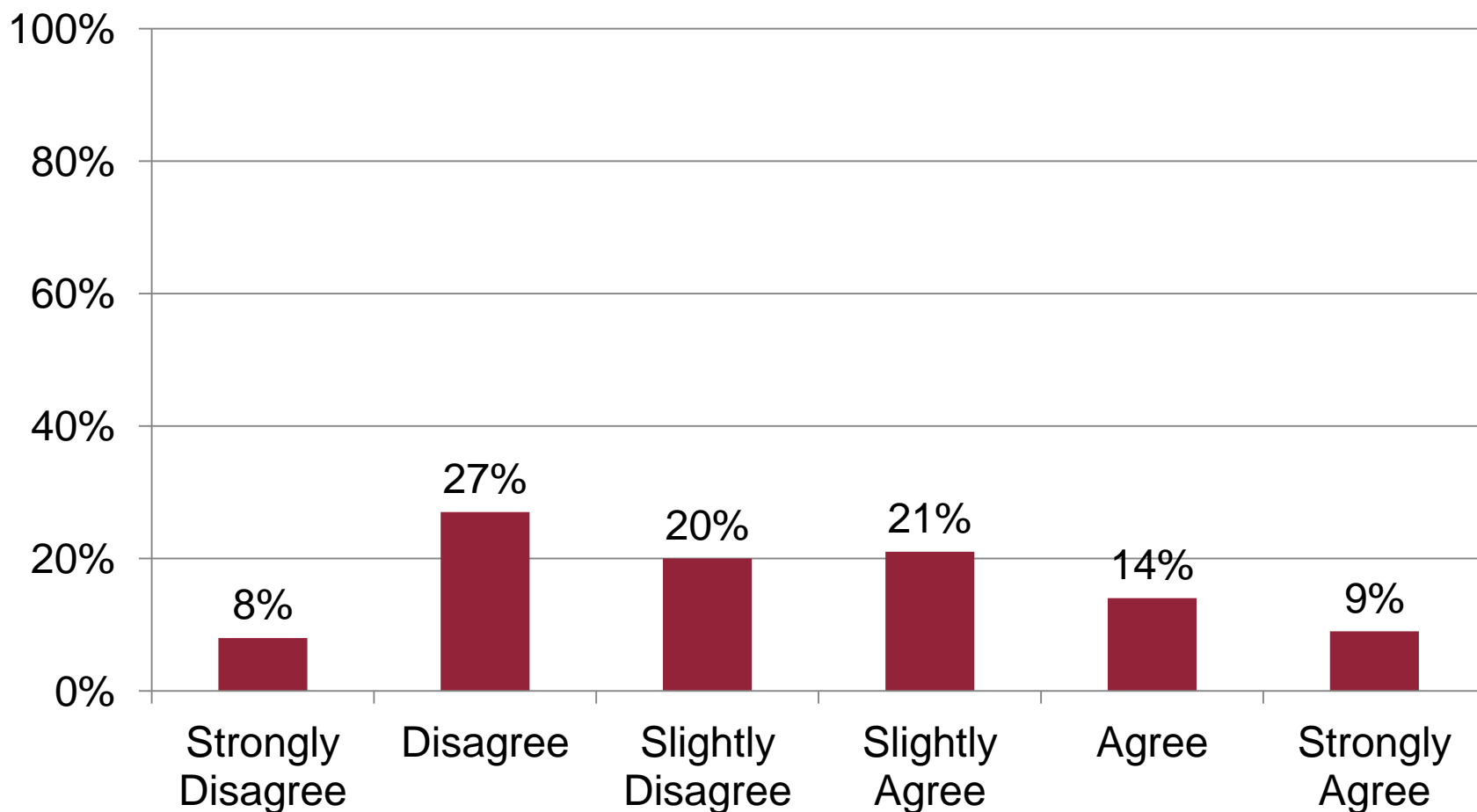
Q23_7: “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **A professional counselor**” n=712

79% agree that the congregation expects their family to be a model family

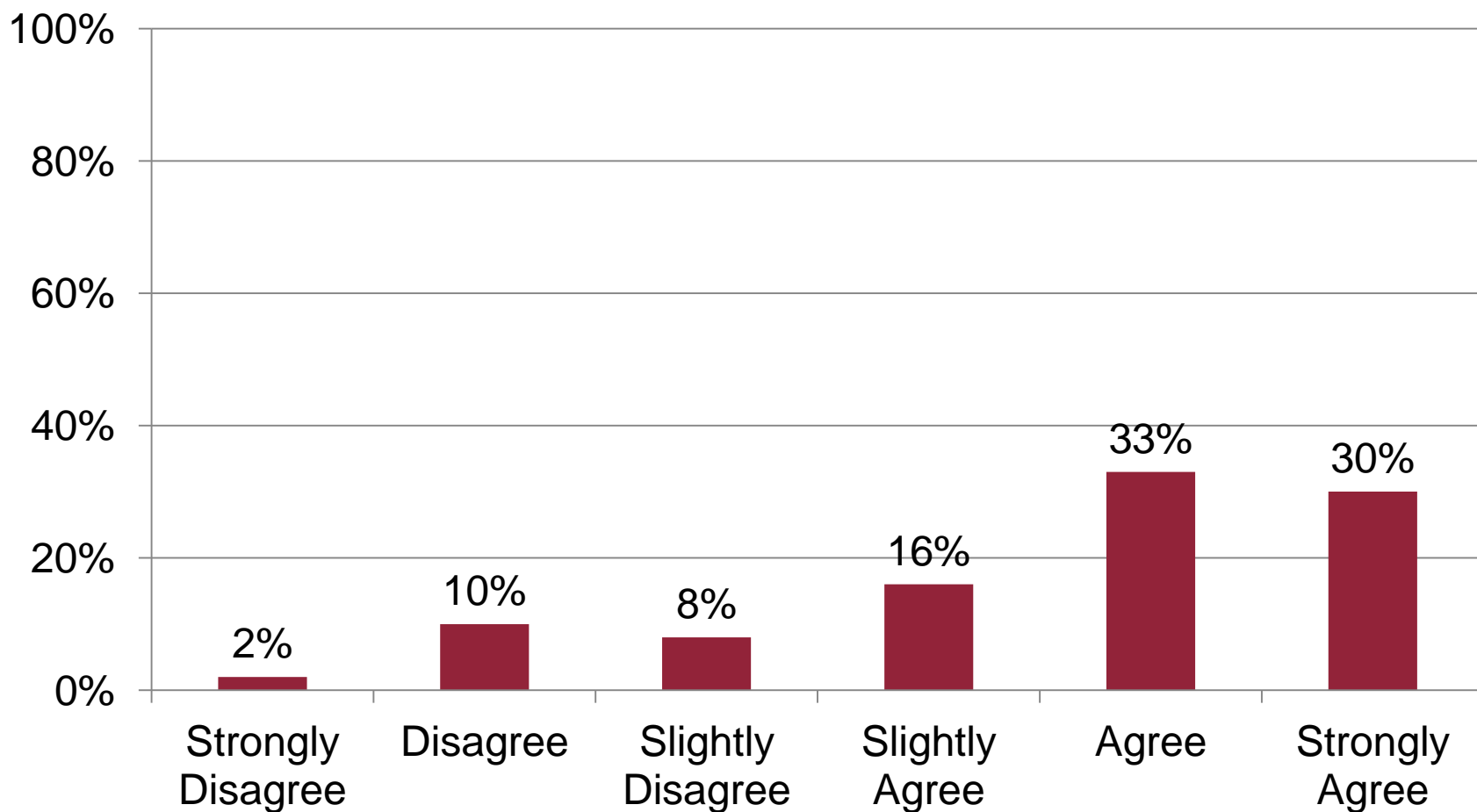


Church-Related “Stressors”

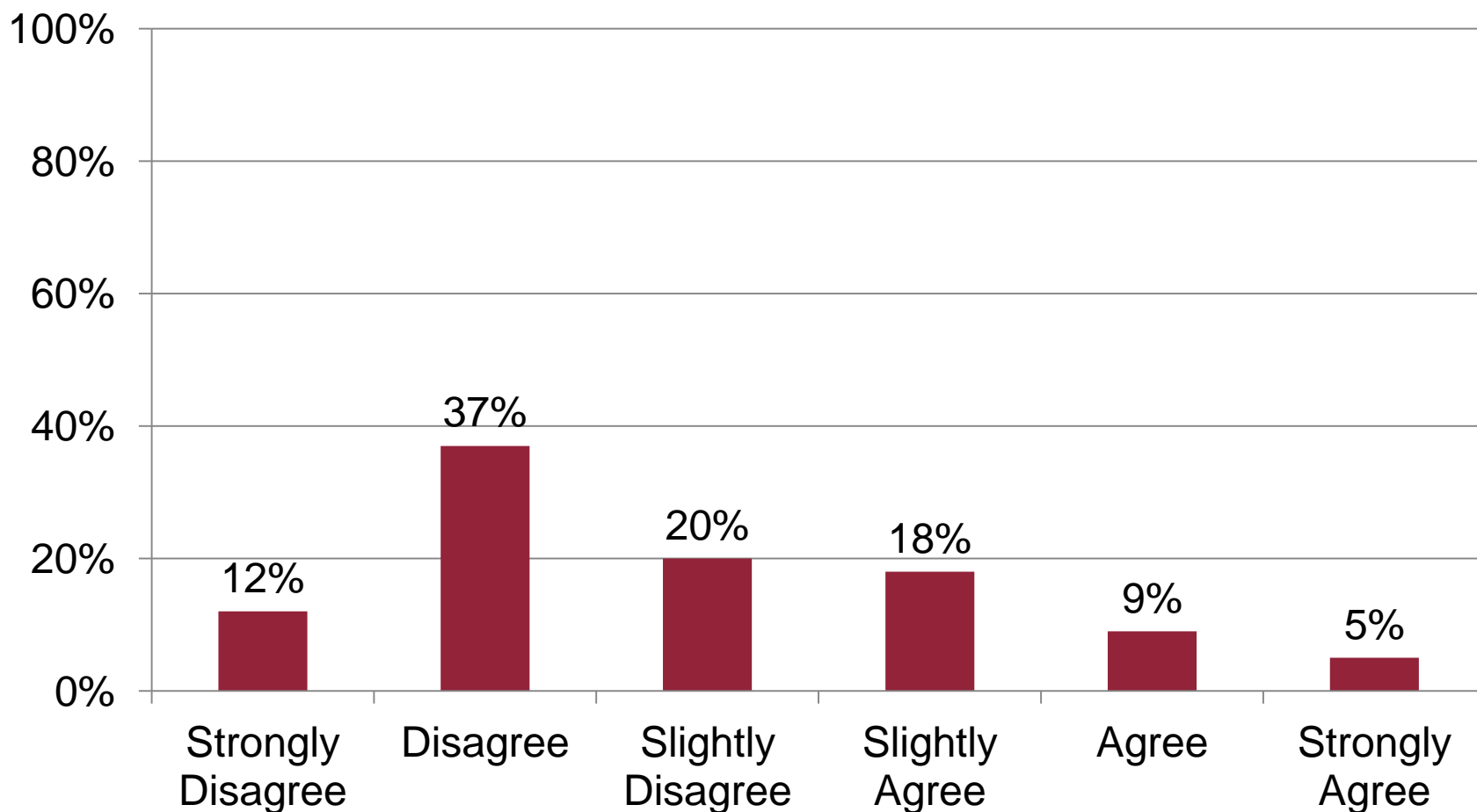
44% agree that their congregation expects the needs of their family to be secondary



8 out of 10 agree that their spouse is expected to participate in most every church event

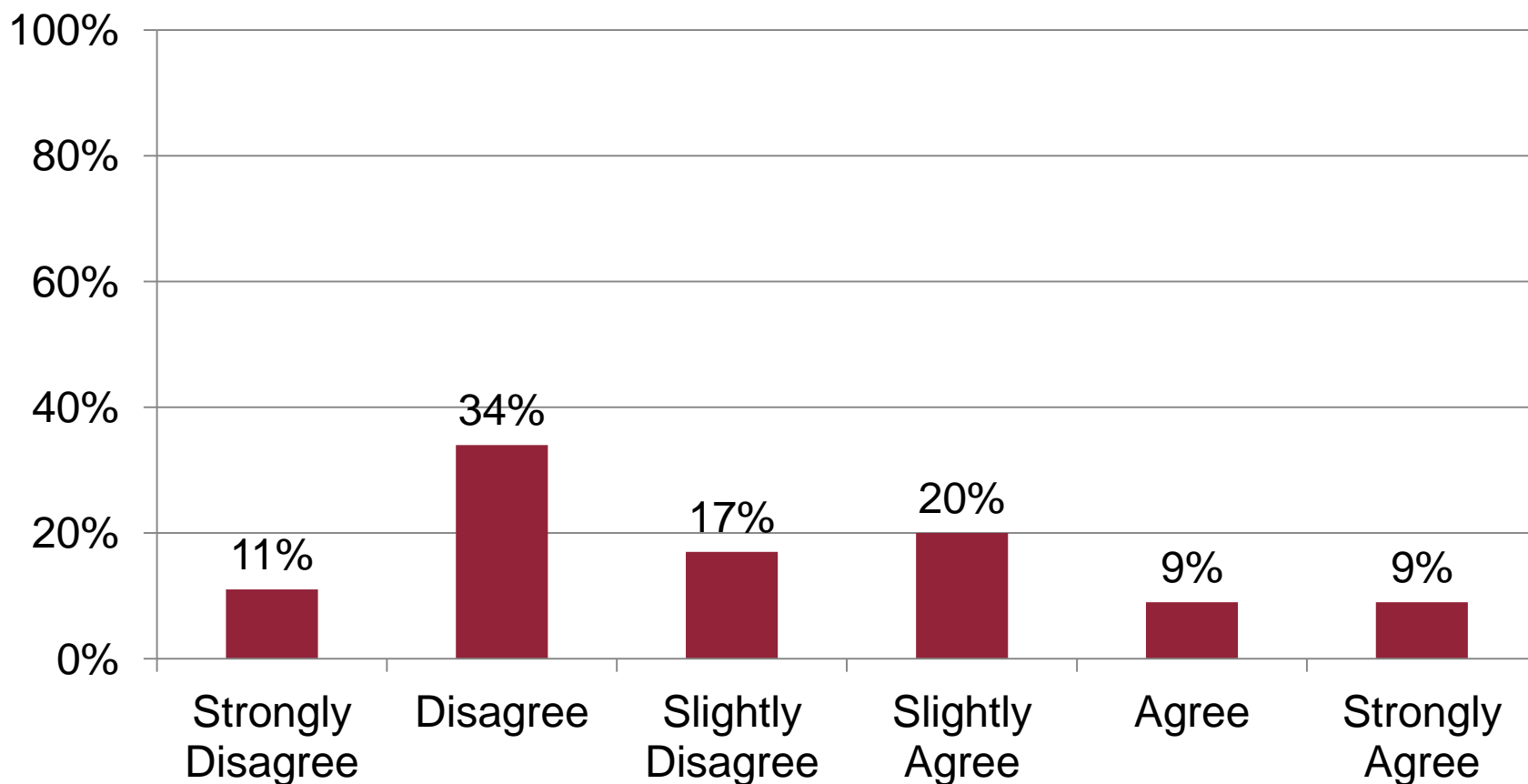


32% agree that their family does not have enough privacy

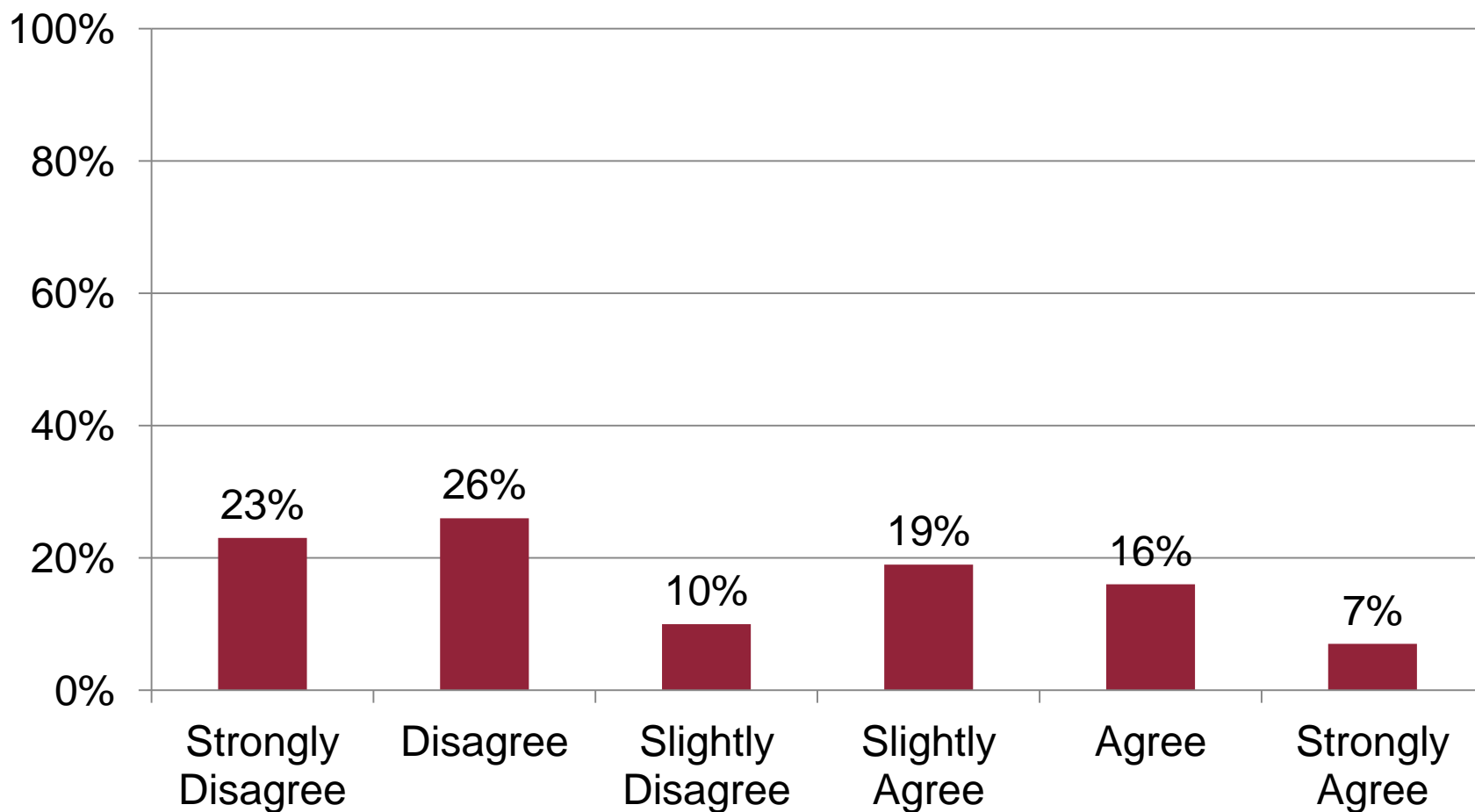


38% agree that the congregation's expectations for their child(ren) are unrealistically high

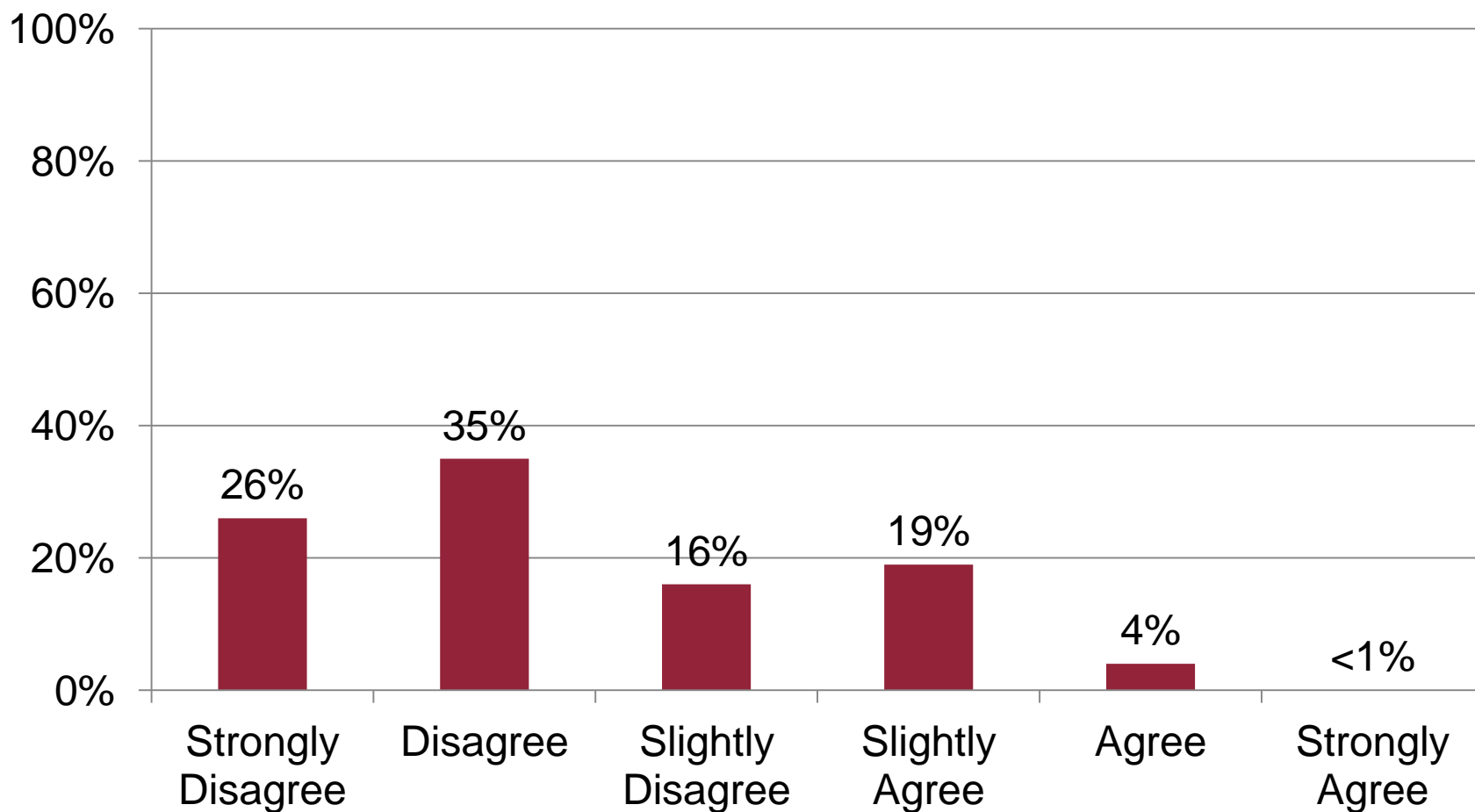
Among those with children



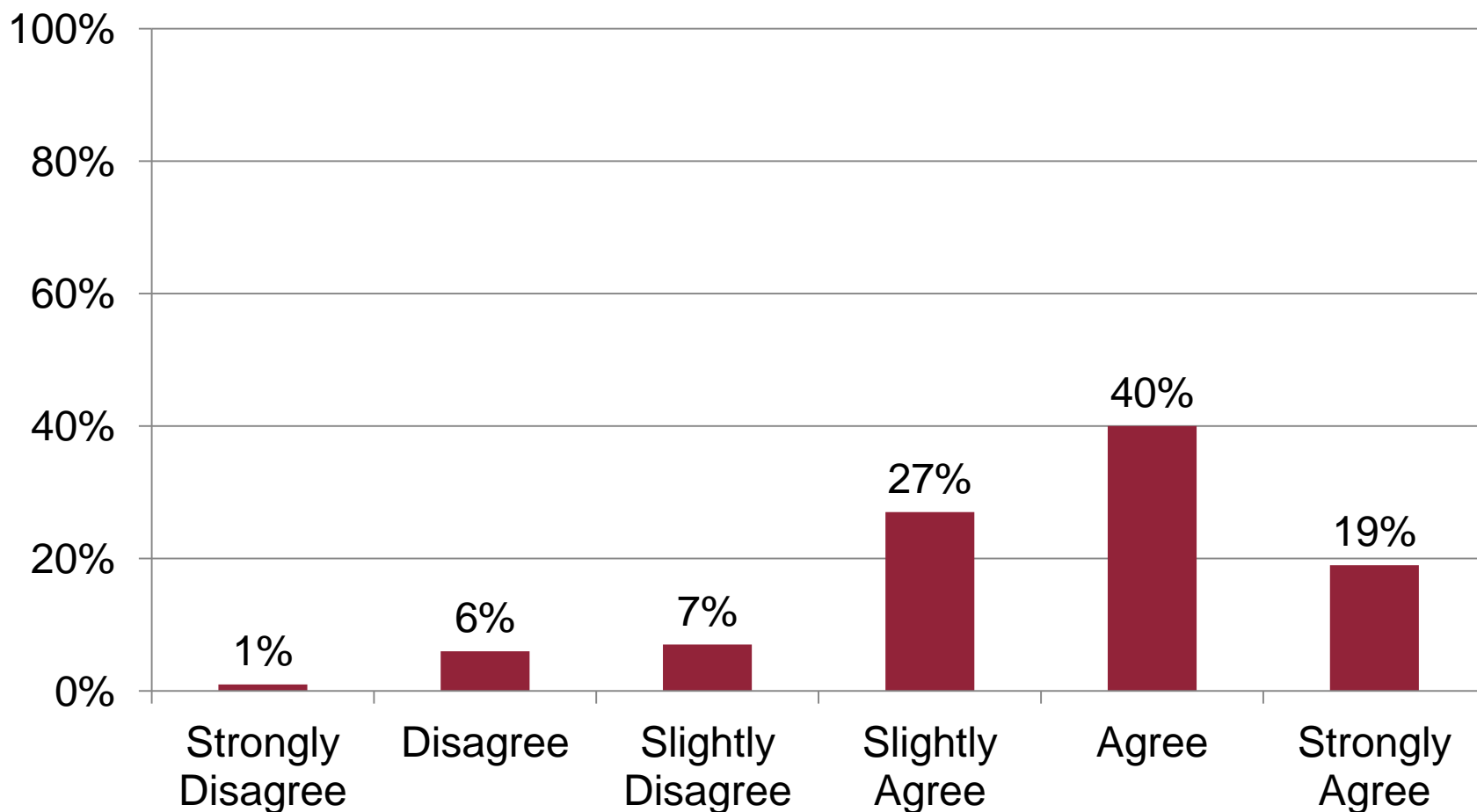
4 out of 10 have experienced conflict with other church staff/leadership



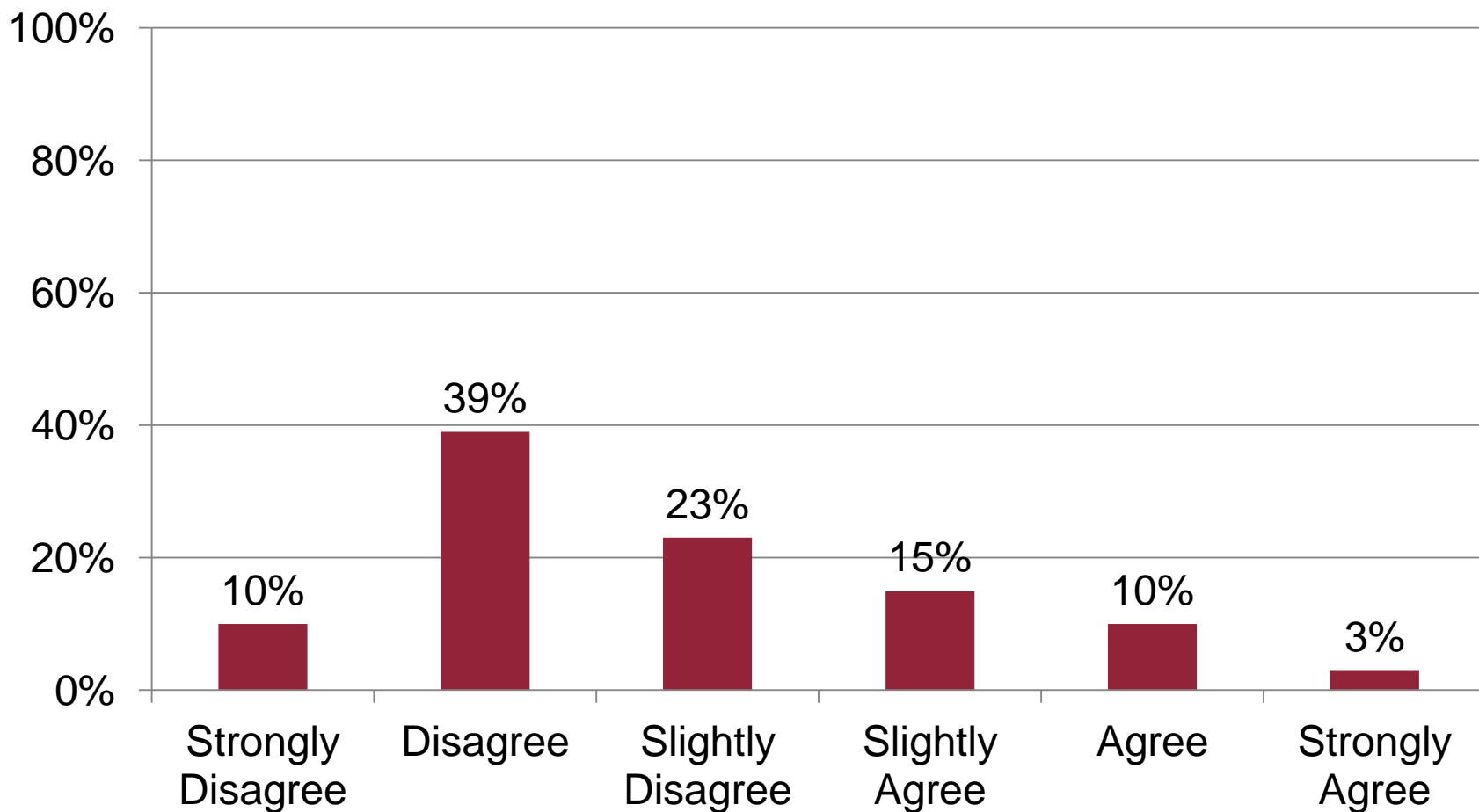
77% disagree that congregation members have a right to know what goes on in their family



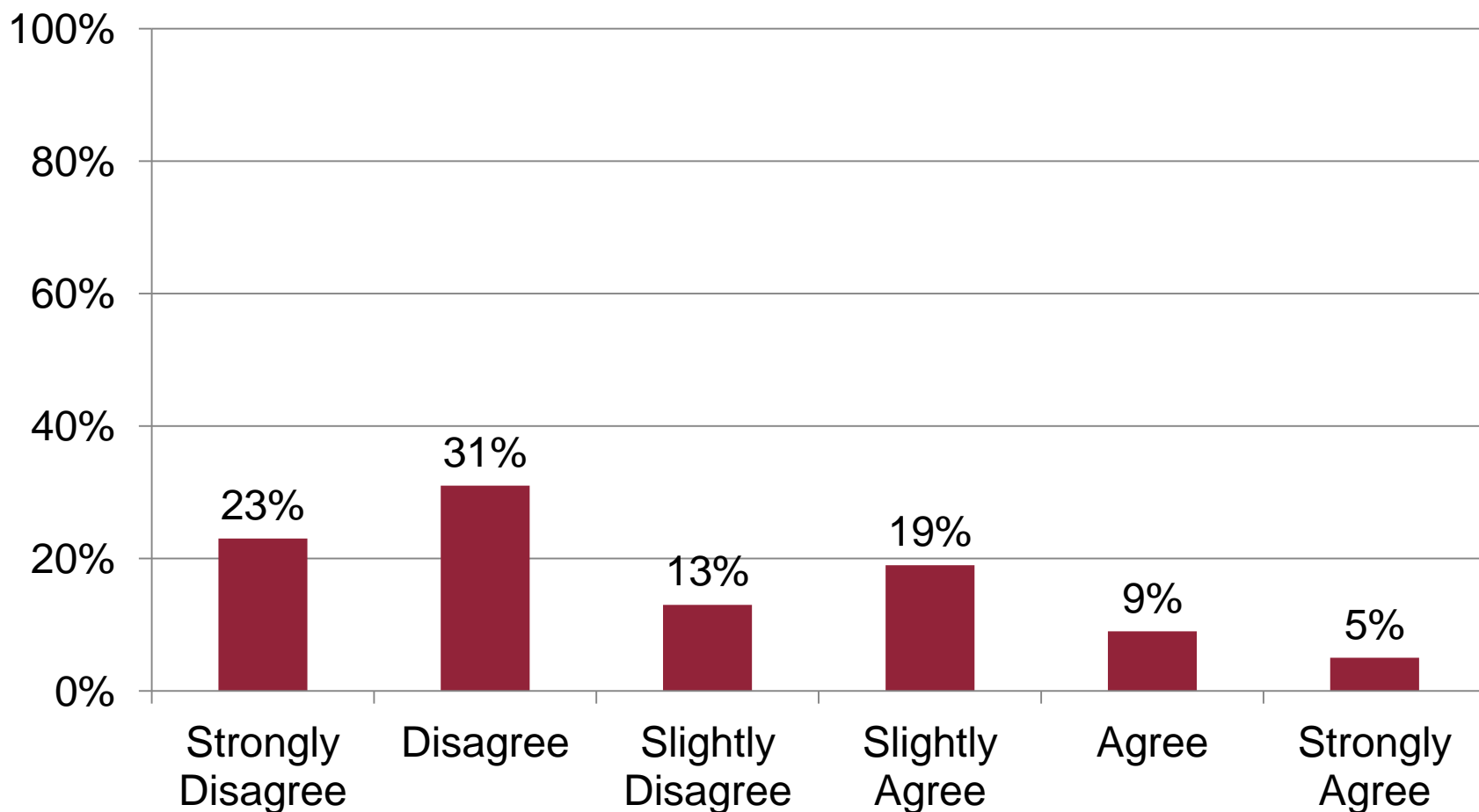
86% agree that the congregation feels their marriage should be a role model



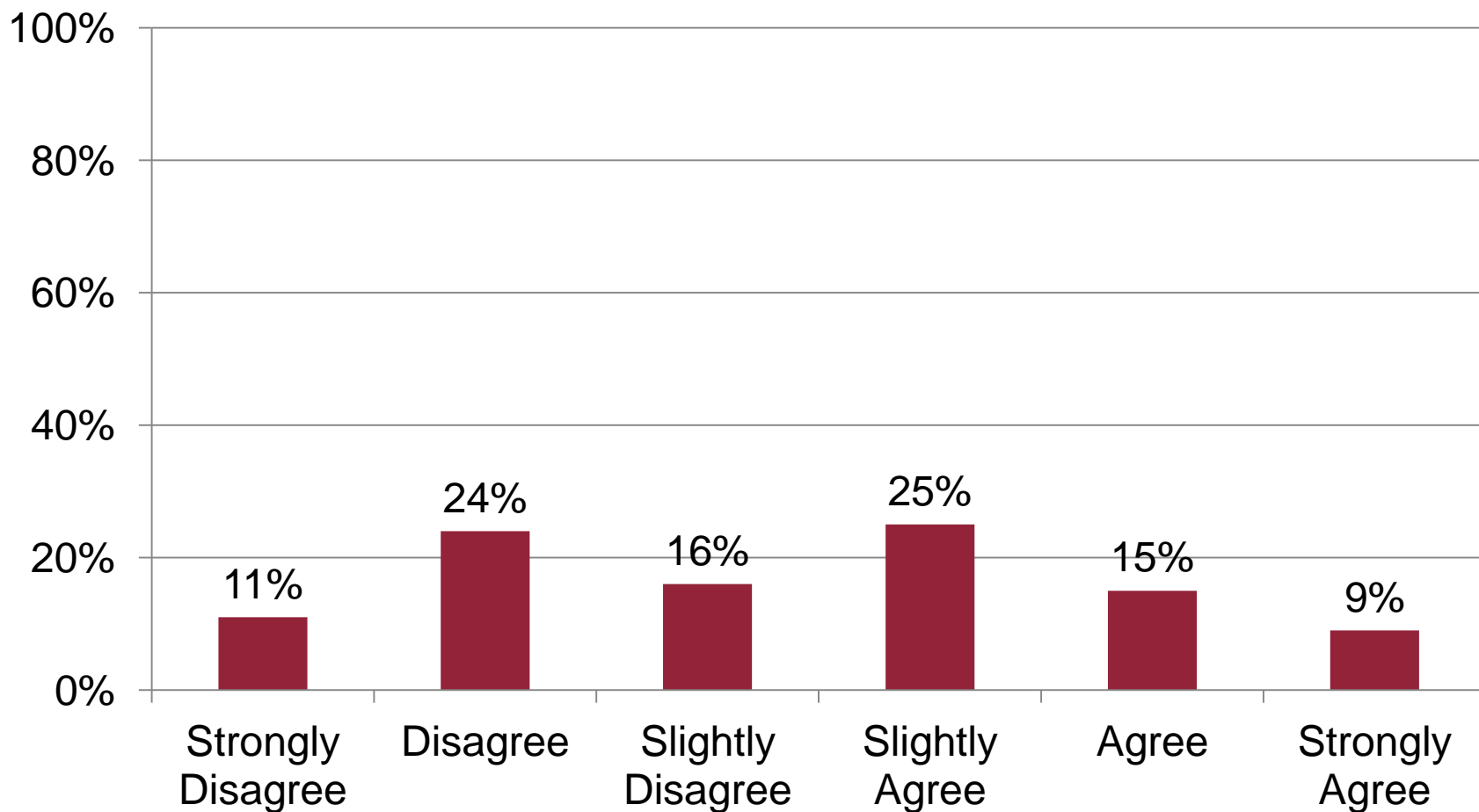
28% agree that the congregation does not accept their family's expressions of frustration and dissatisfaction



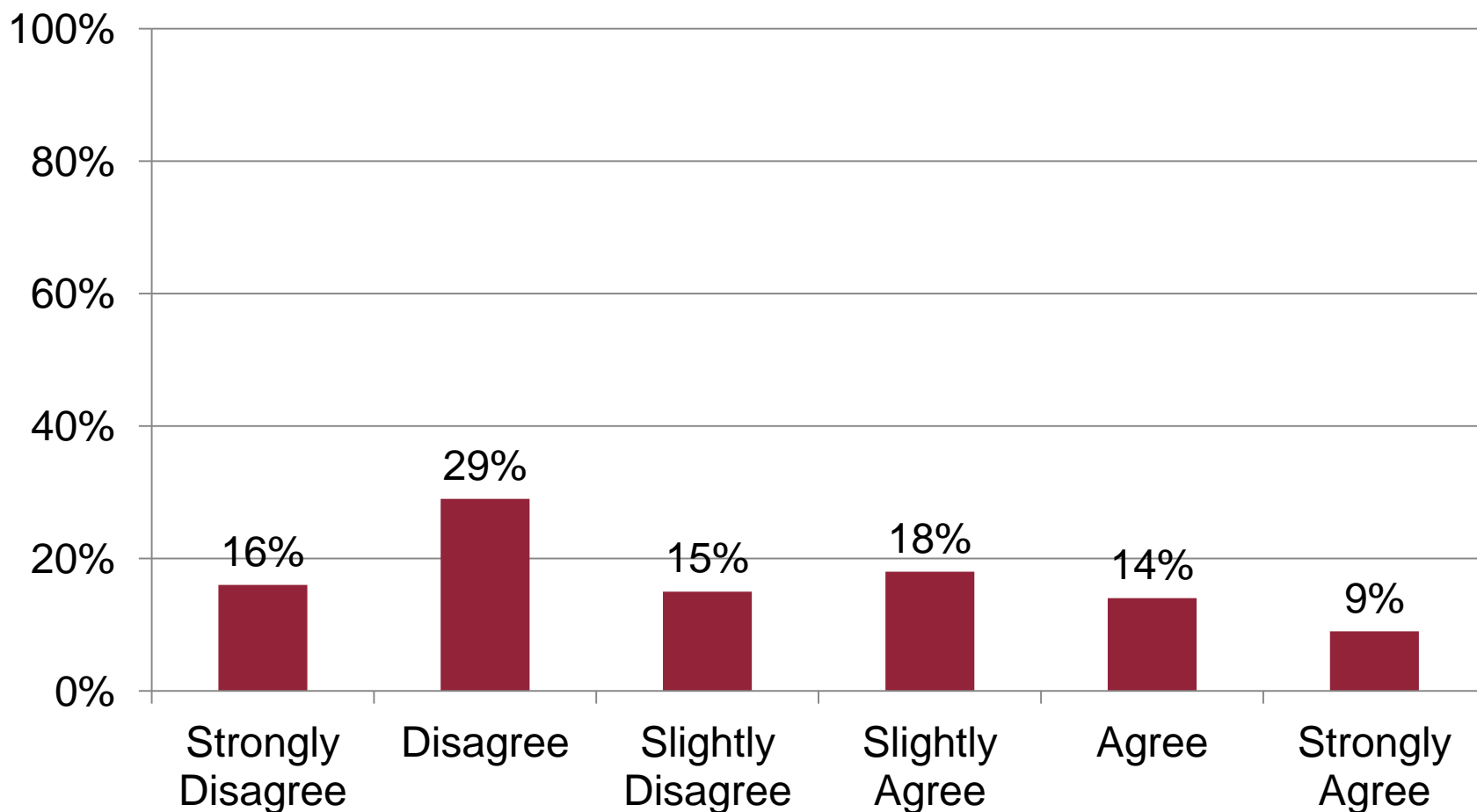
A third agree that they feel caught in a “tug-of-war” between church and family



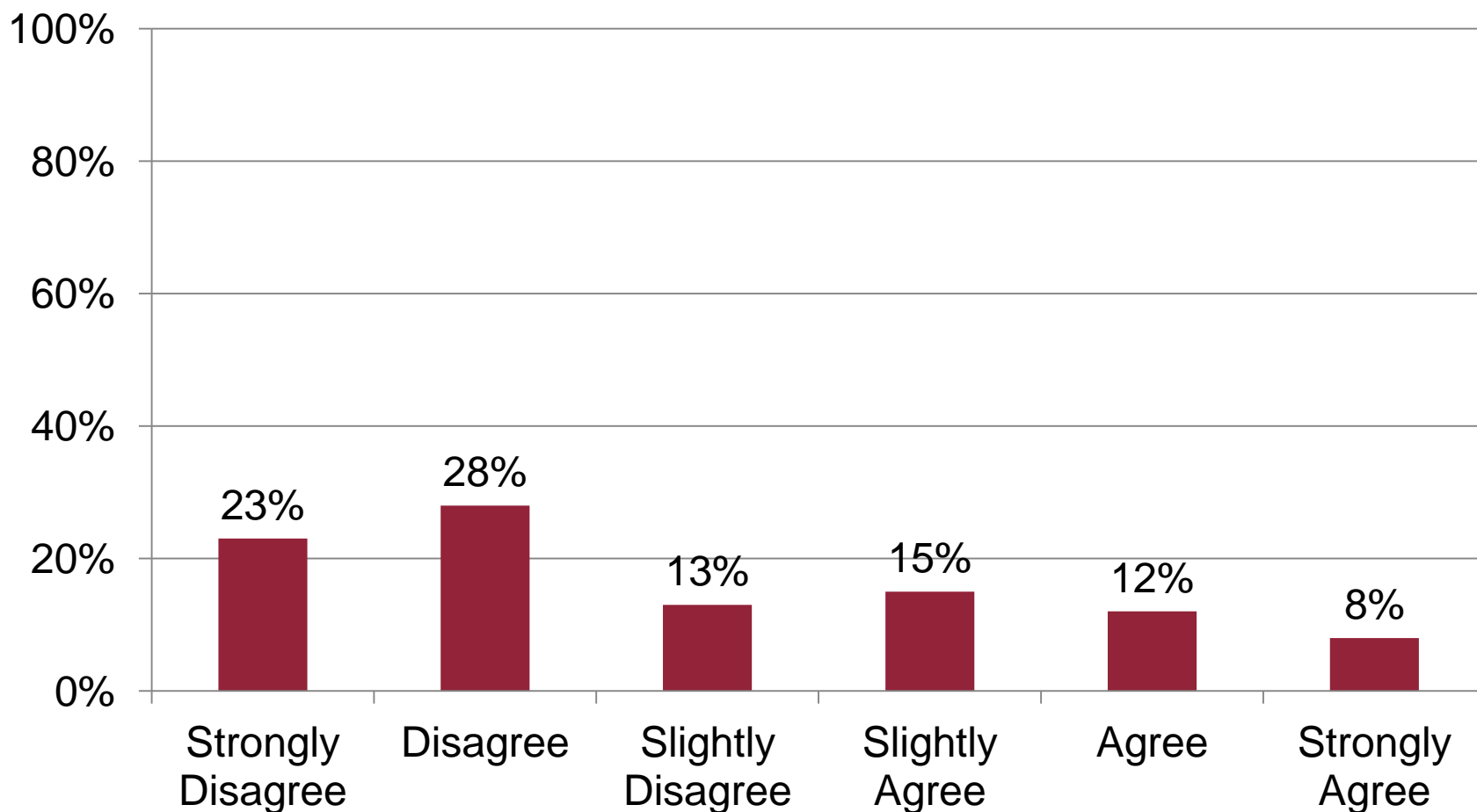
Almost half agree that their family lives in a “fishbowl”



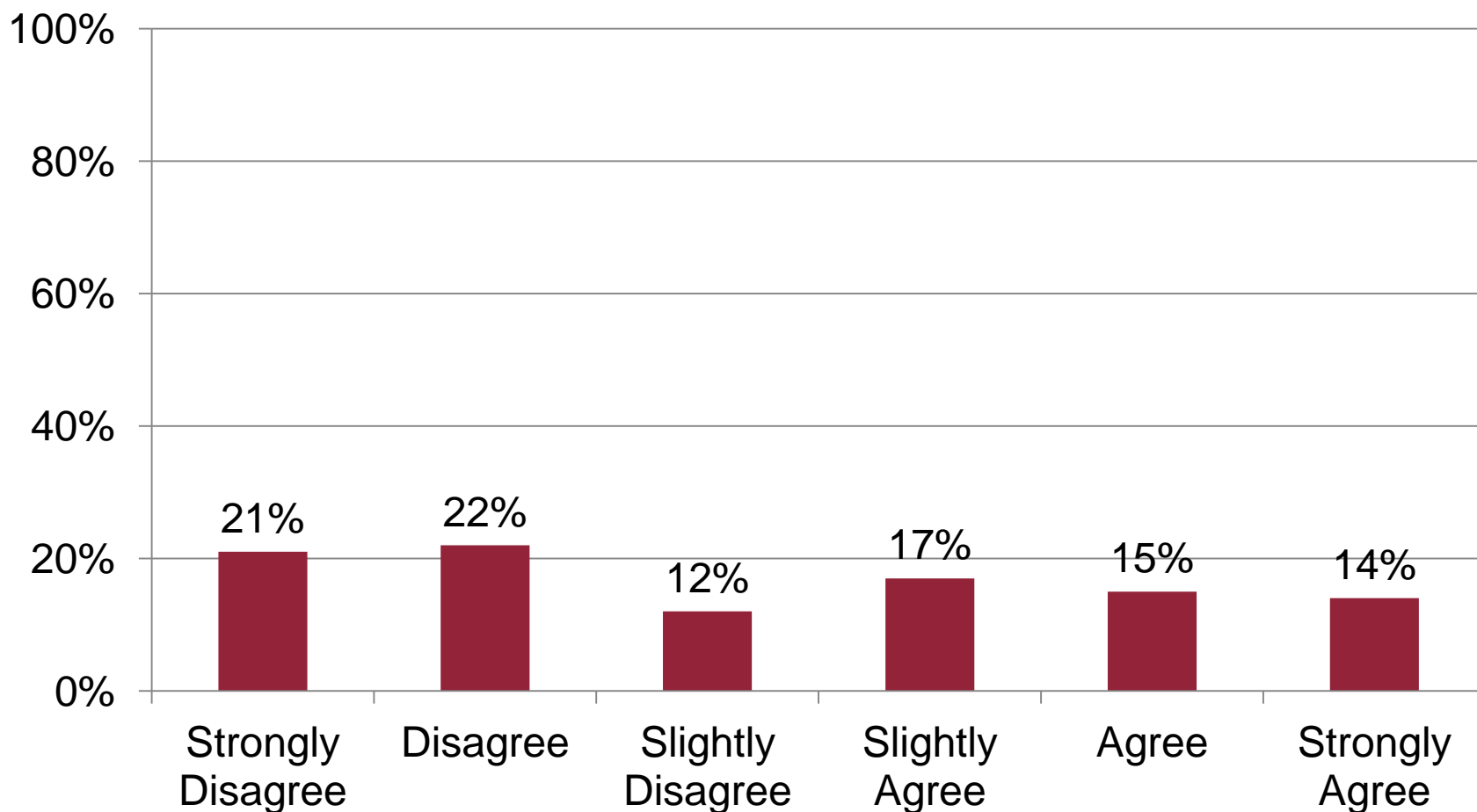
41% agree that unexpected financial demands create havoc for our family



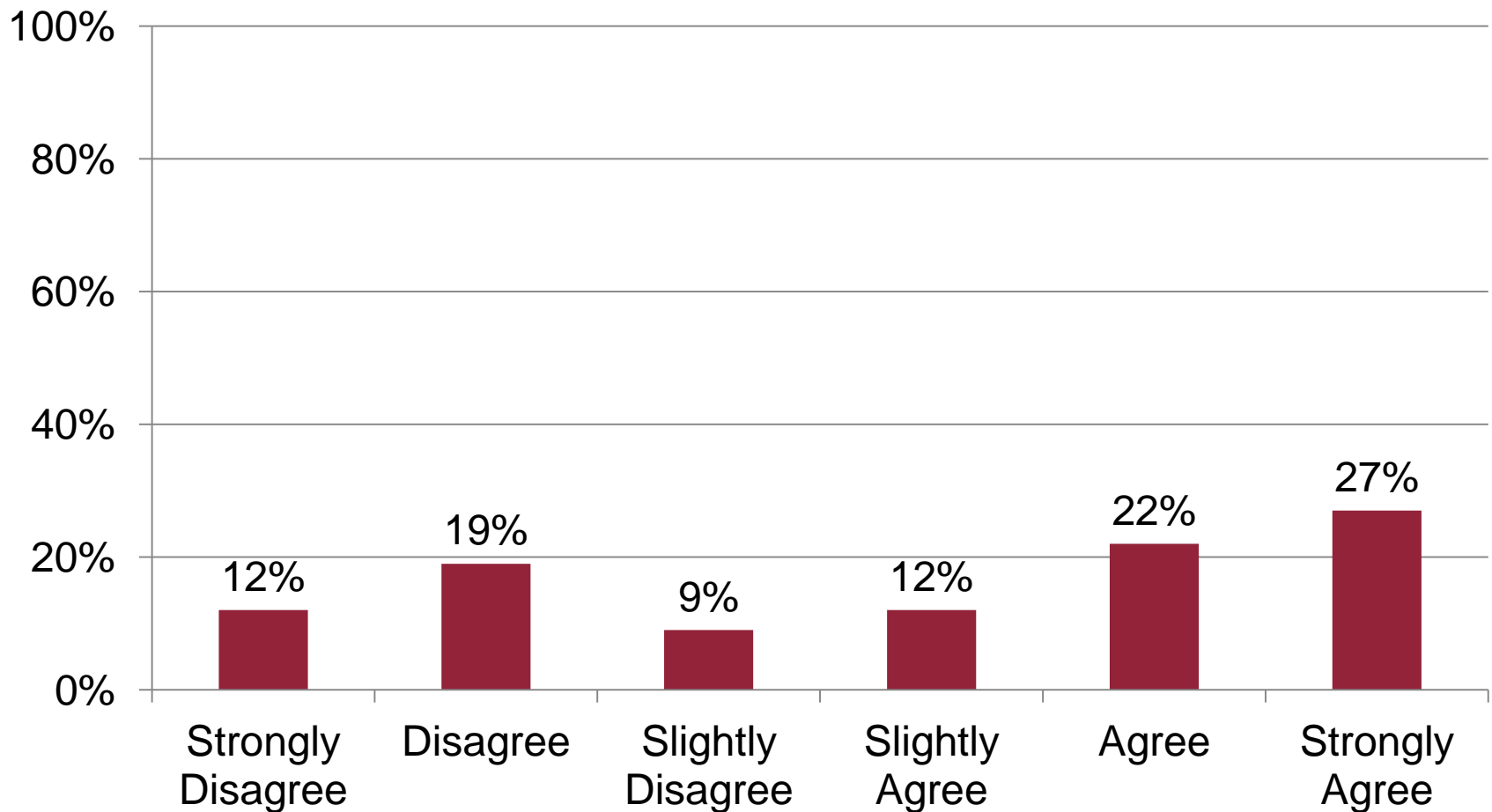
36% agree that it is difficult to make it through each month without worrying whether their financial resources will be adequate



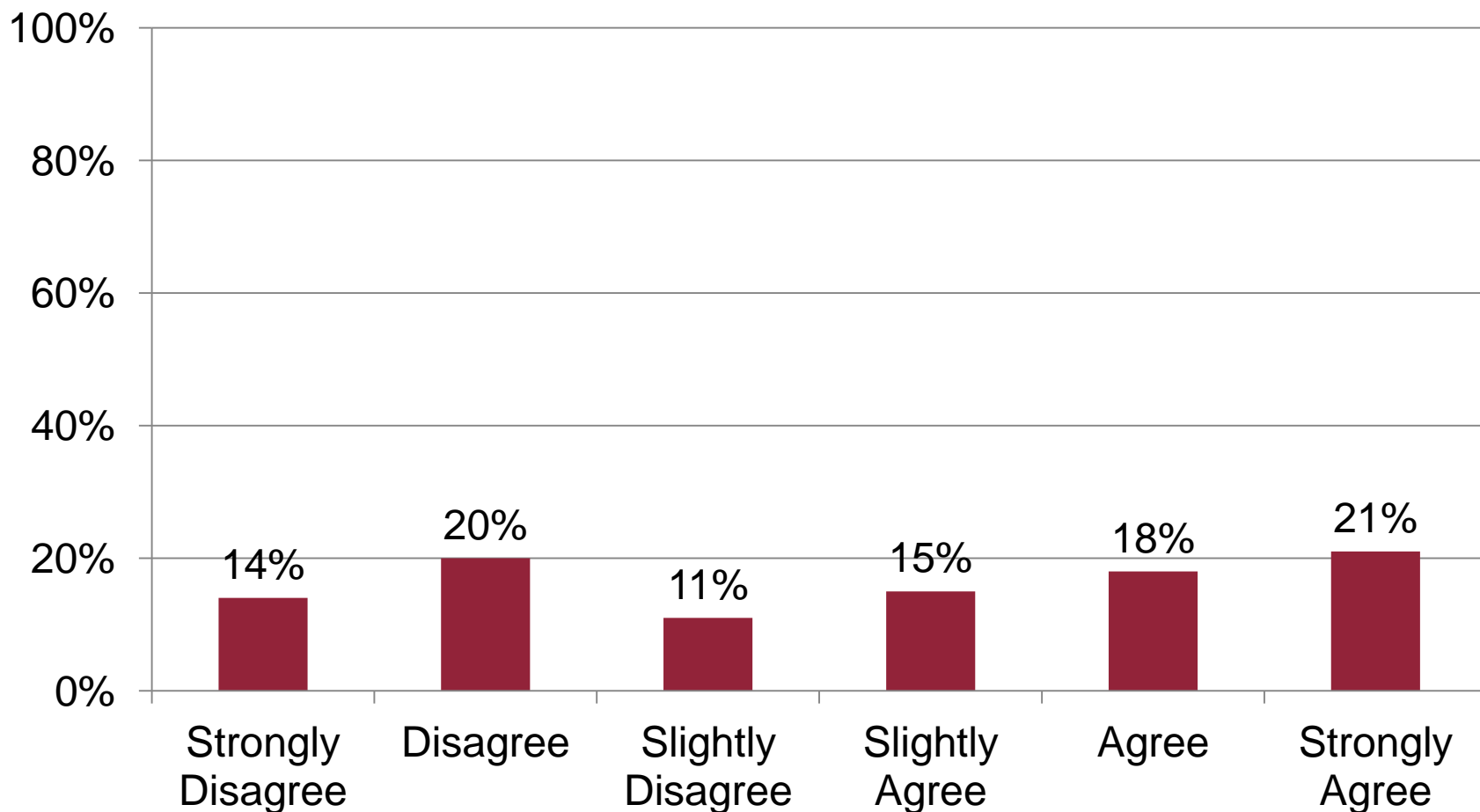
46% agree that they are worried about their family's inability to regularly save money



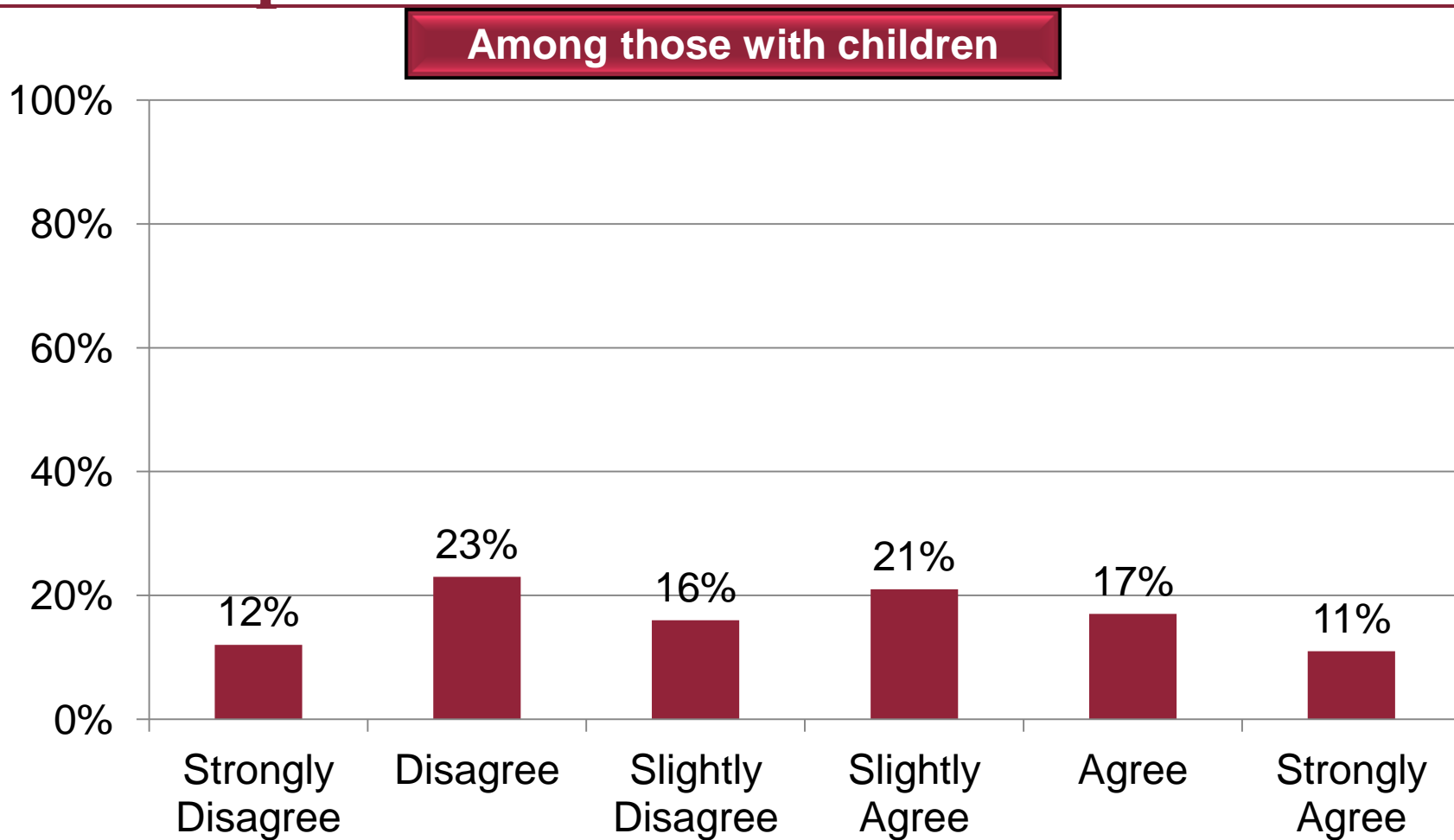
6 out of 10 agree that their family's financial situation requires more than the salary received from the church



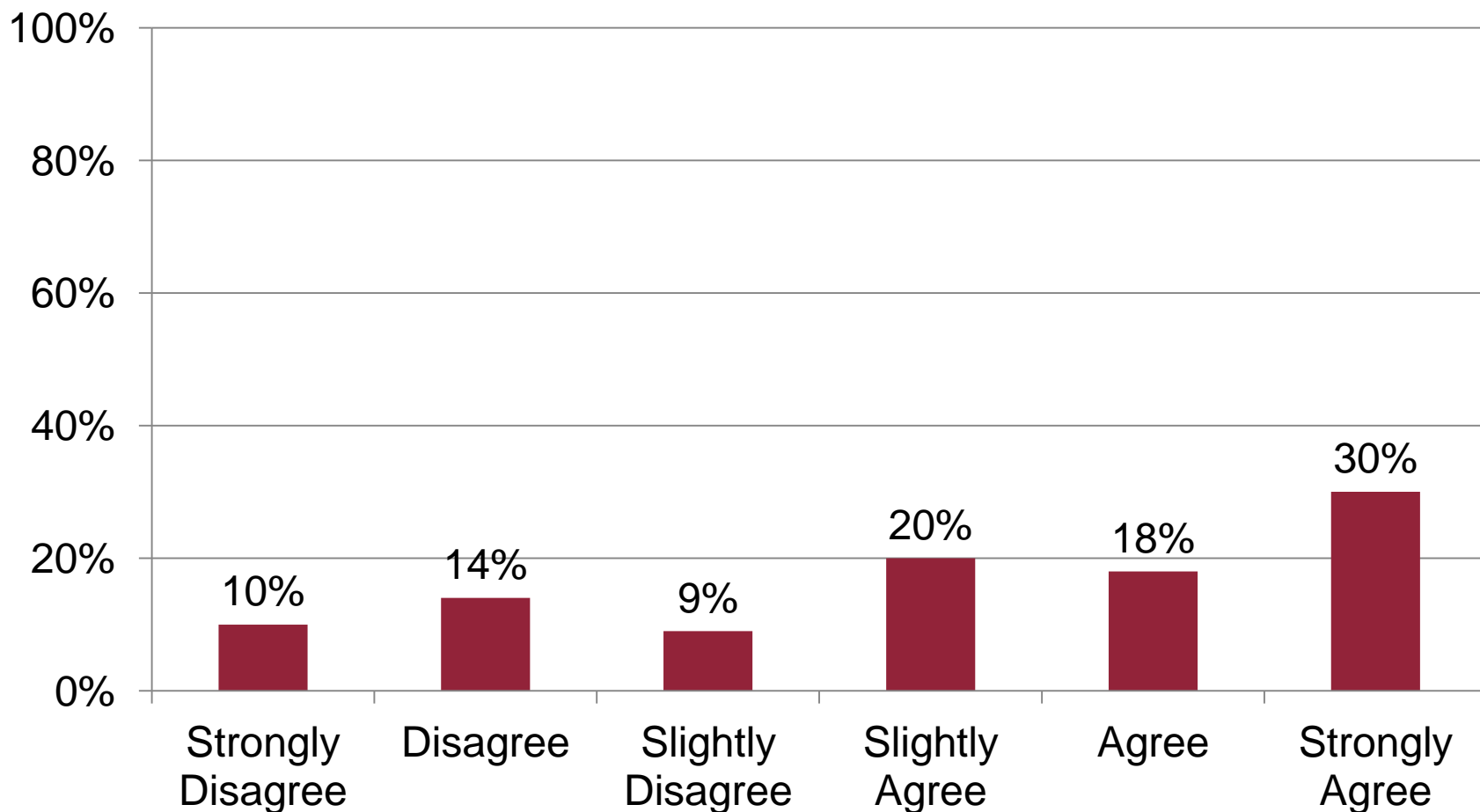
Over half agree that salaries and other compensation from the church do not provide a strong enough financial base



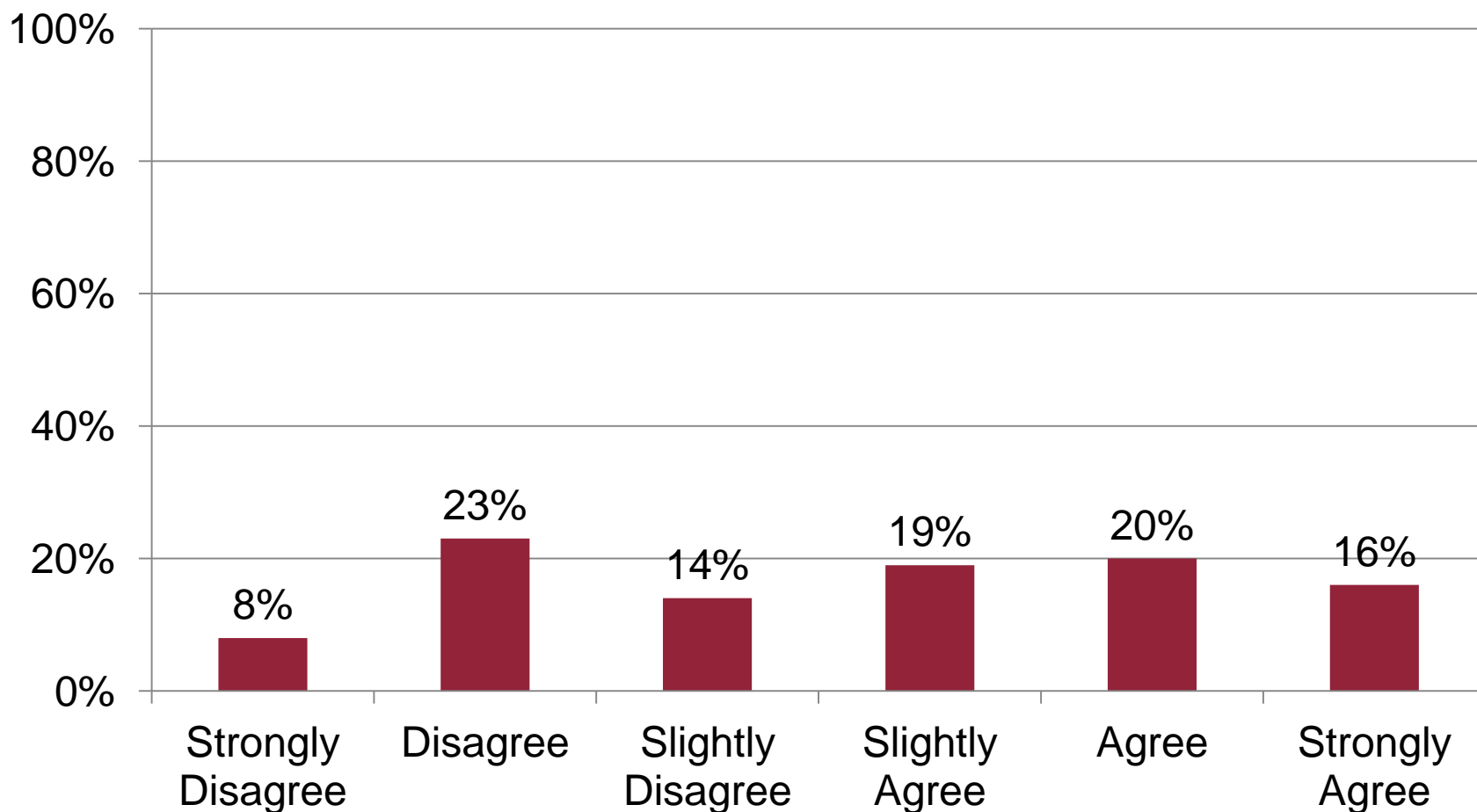
49% agree that it is difficult to provide their children the same standard of living as most of their peers



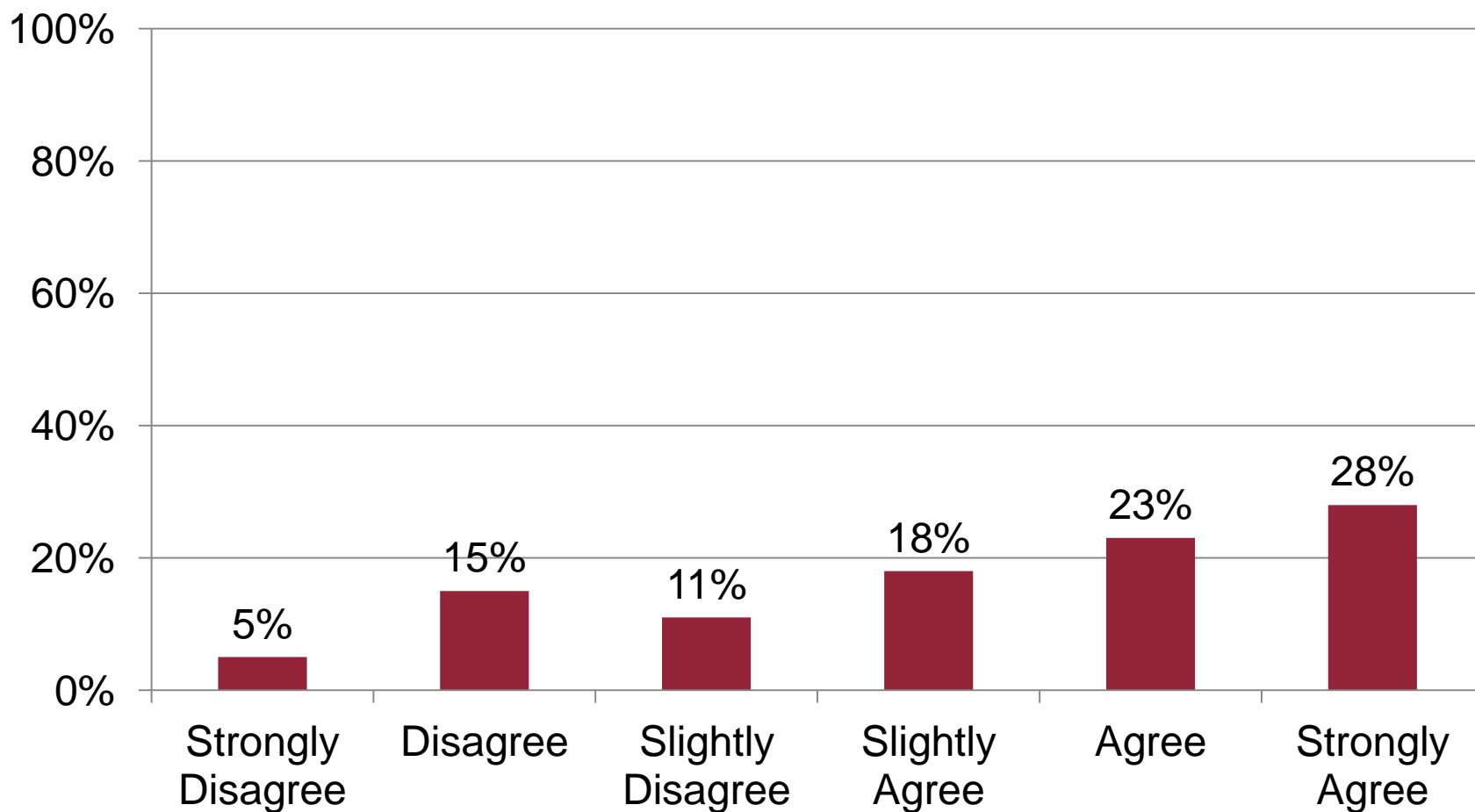
7 out of 10 agree they are concerned about the level of retirement benefits that will be available in later years



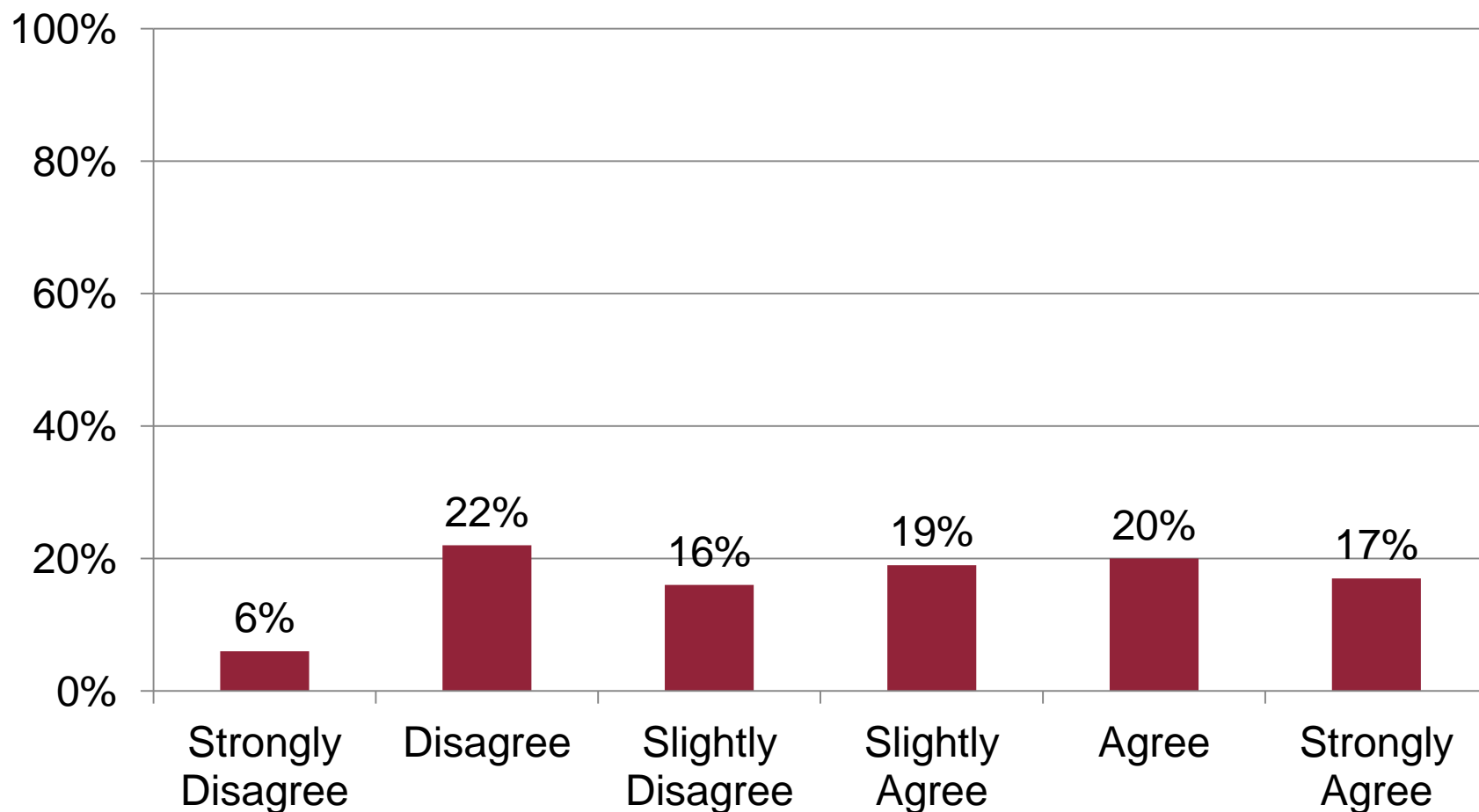
55% agree there are not enough relationships where they can be themselves



7 out of 10 agree they have very few people to confide in about important matters in life

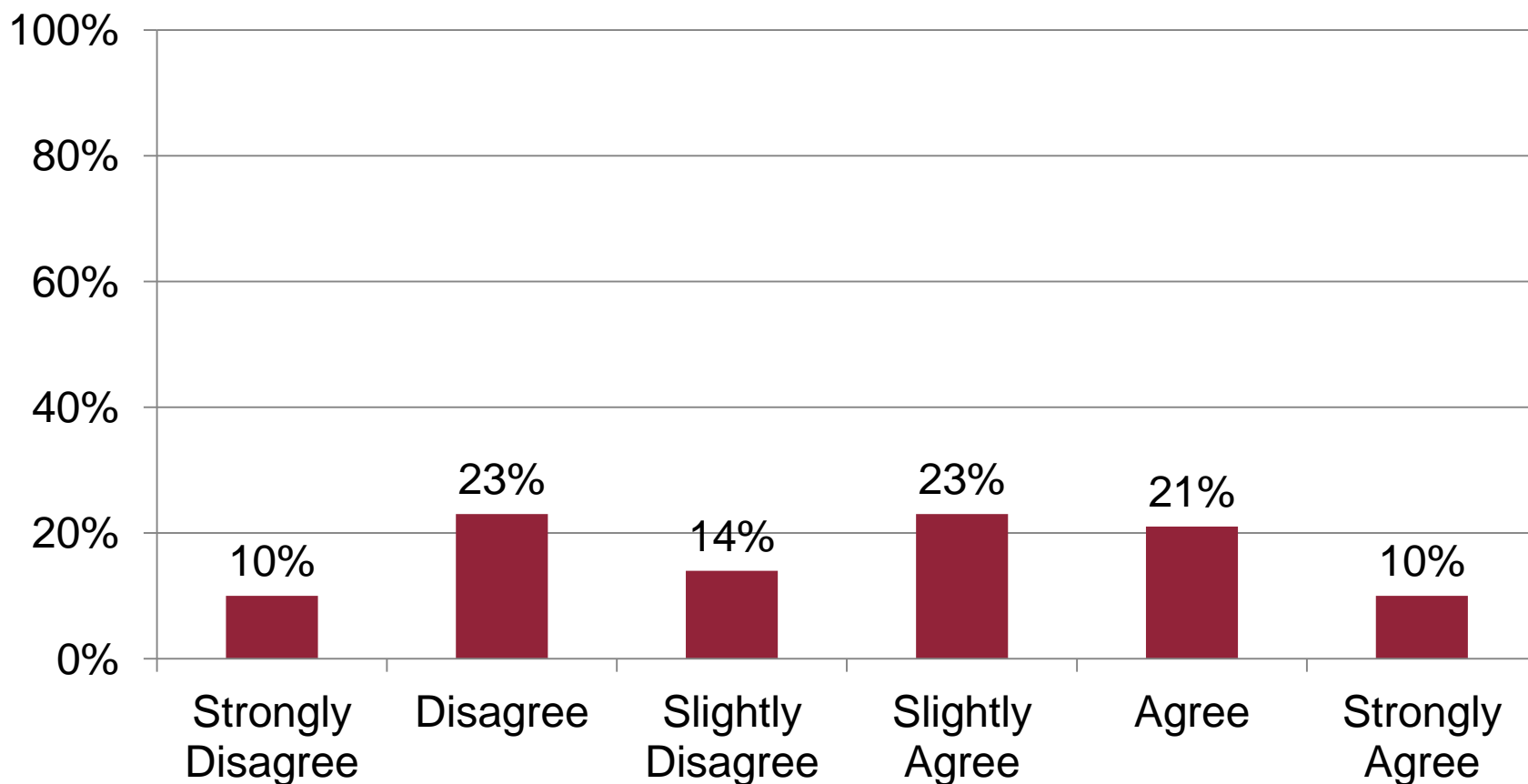


56% agree they have too few relationships that make them feel emotionally connected with others



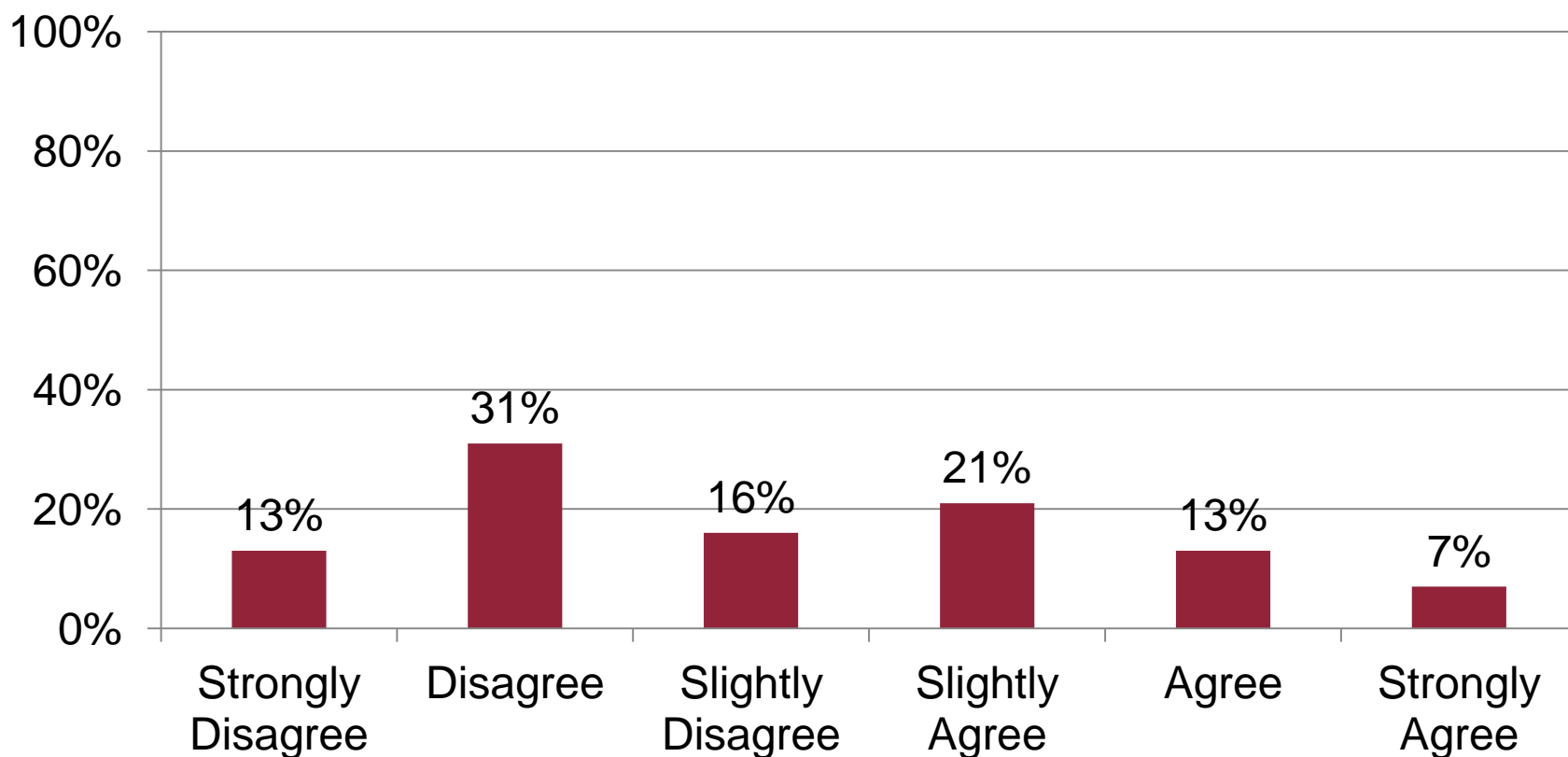
53% agree their family is upset when faced with the possibility of moving

Among those that have moved/relocated

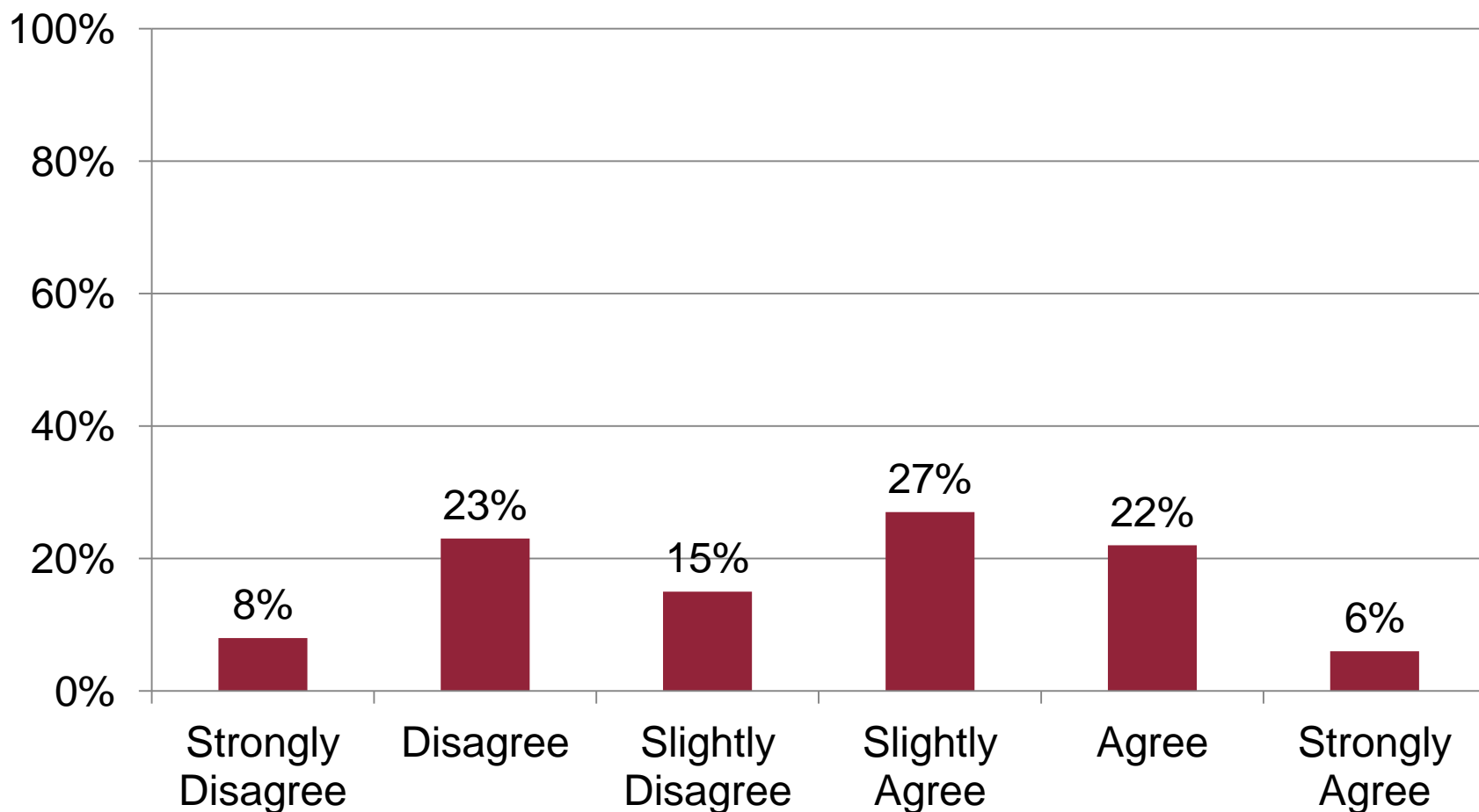


4 out of 10 agree that their children have difficulty adjusting to new people and new situations

Among those with children and that have moved/relocated

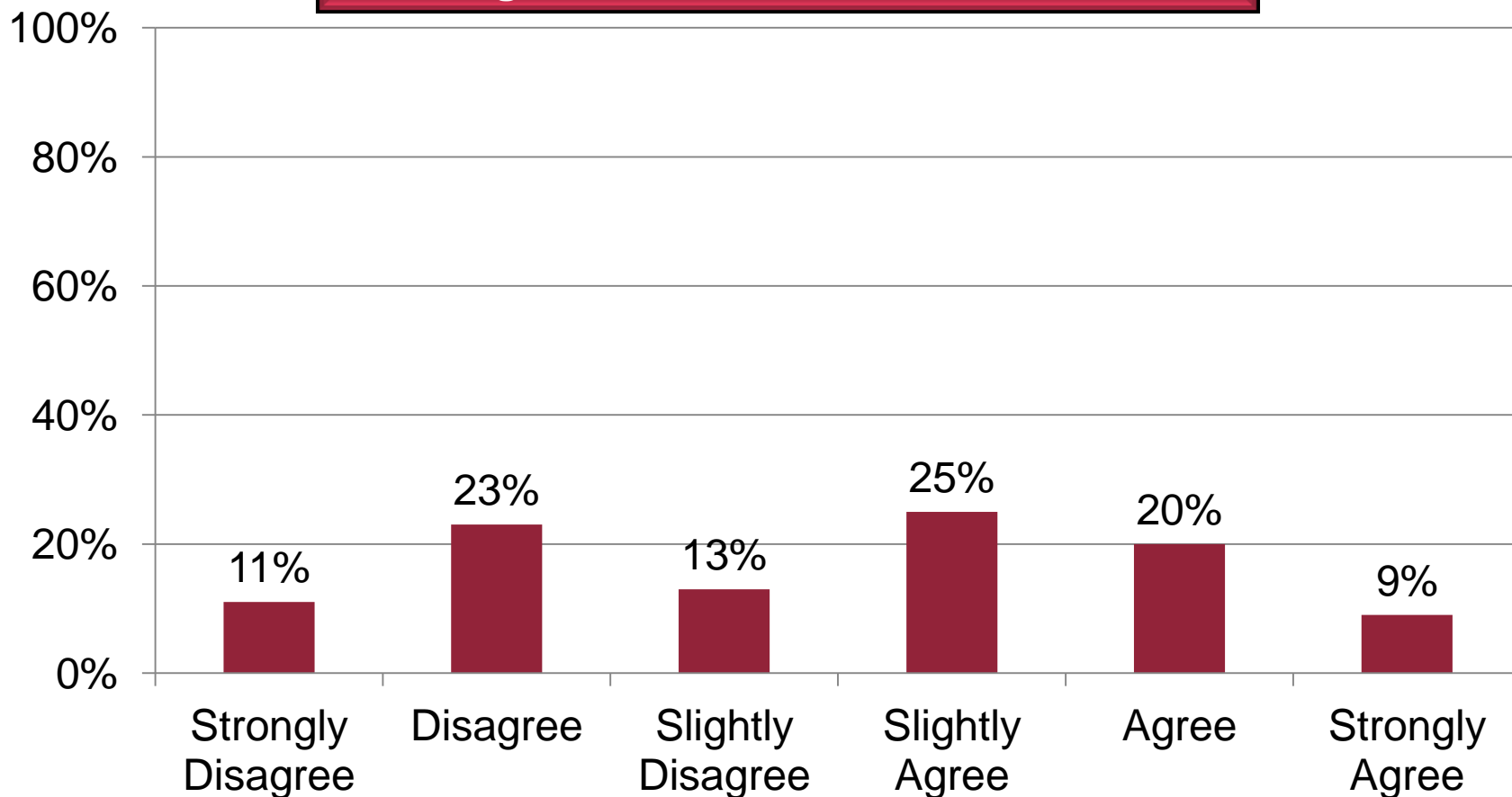


55% agree that it is difficult to balance church and family considerations in making decisions about changes in position

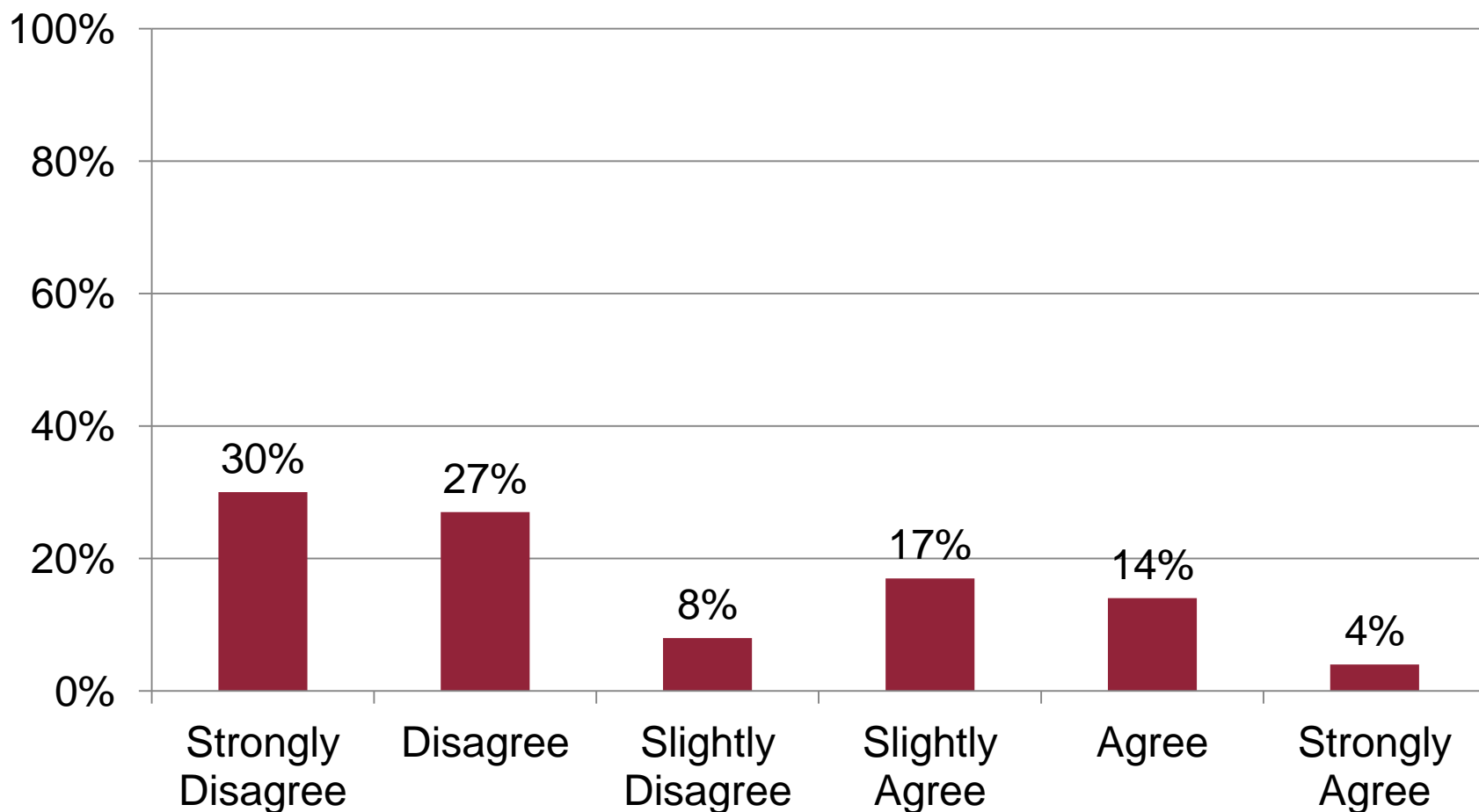


54% agree that past moves have created financial concerns for their families

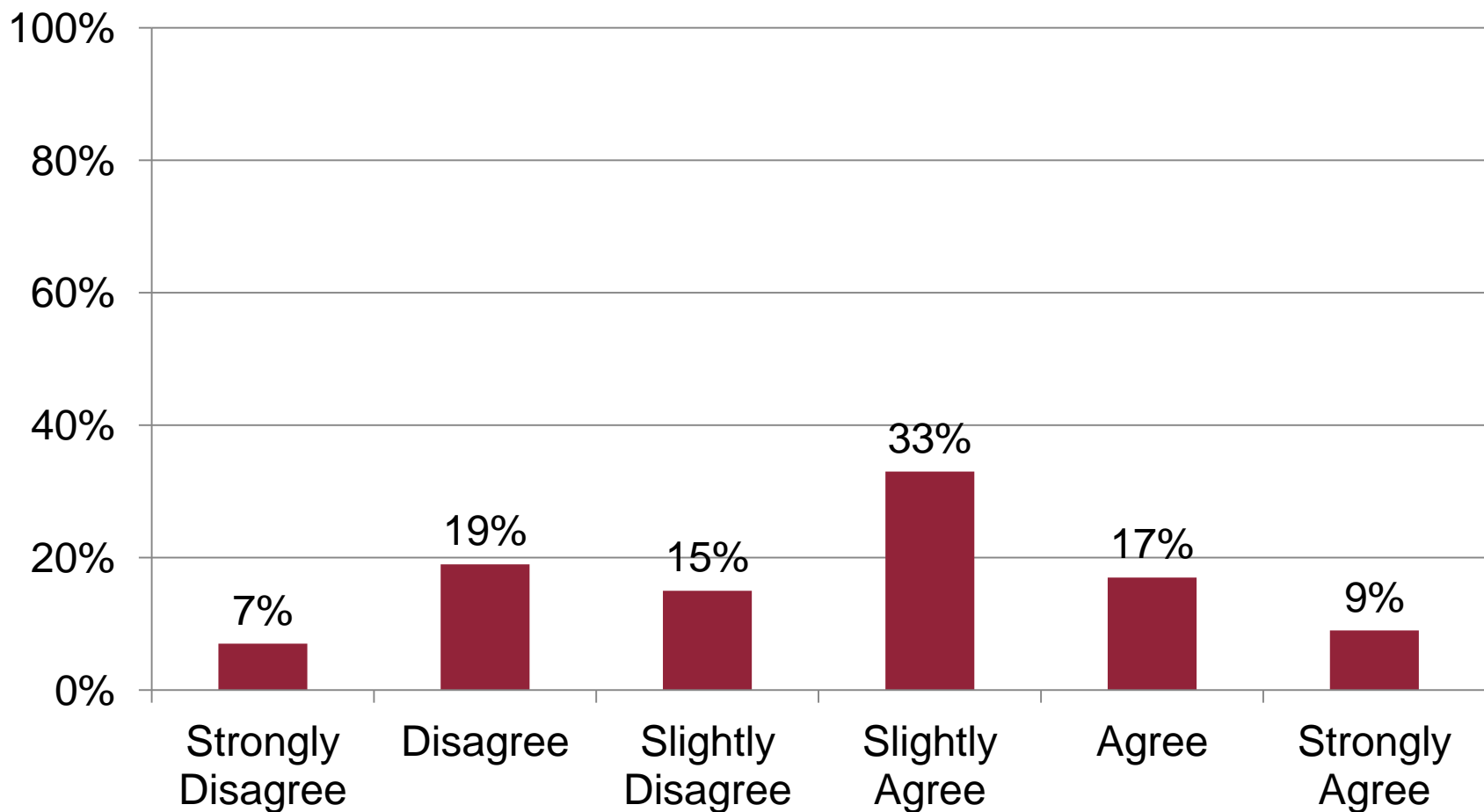
Among those that have moved/relocated



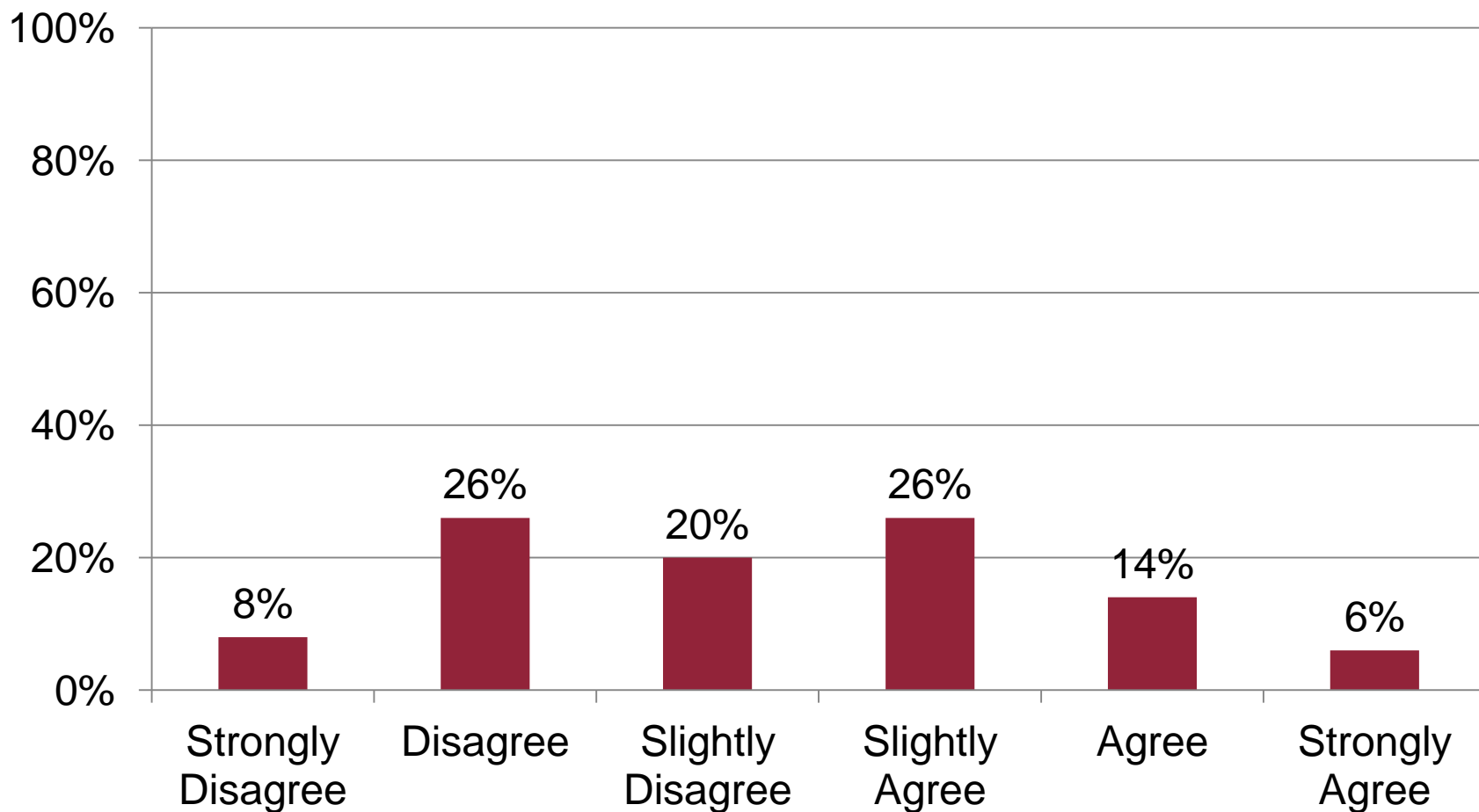
64% disagree that the church offers “perks” for their family (free or discounted schooling, paid travel for missionary trips, etc.)



6 out of 10 agree that congregational demands interfere with their family's free time together during the week

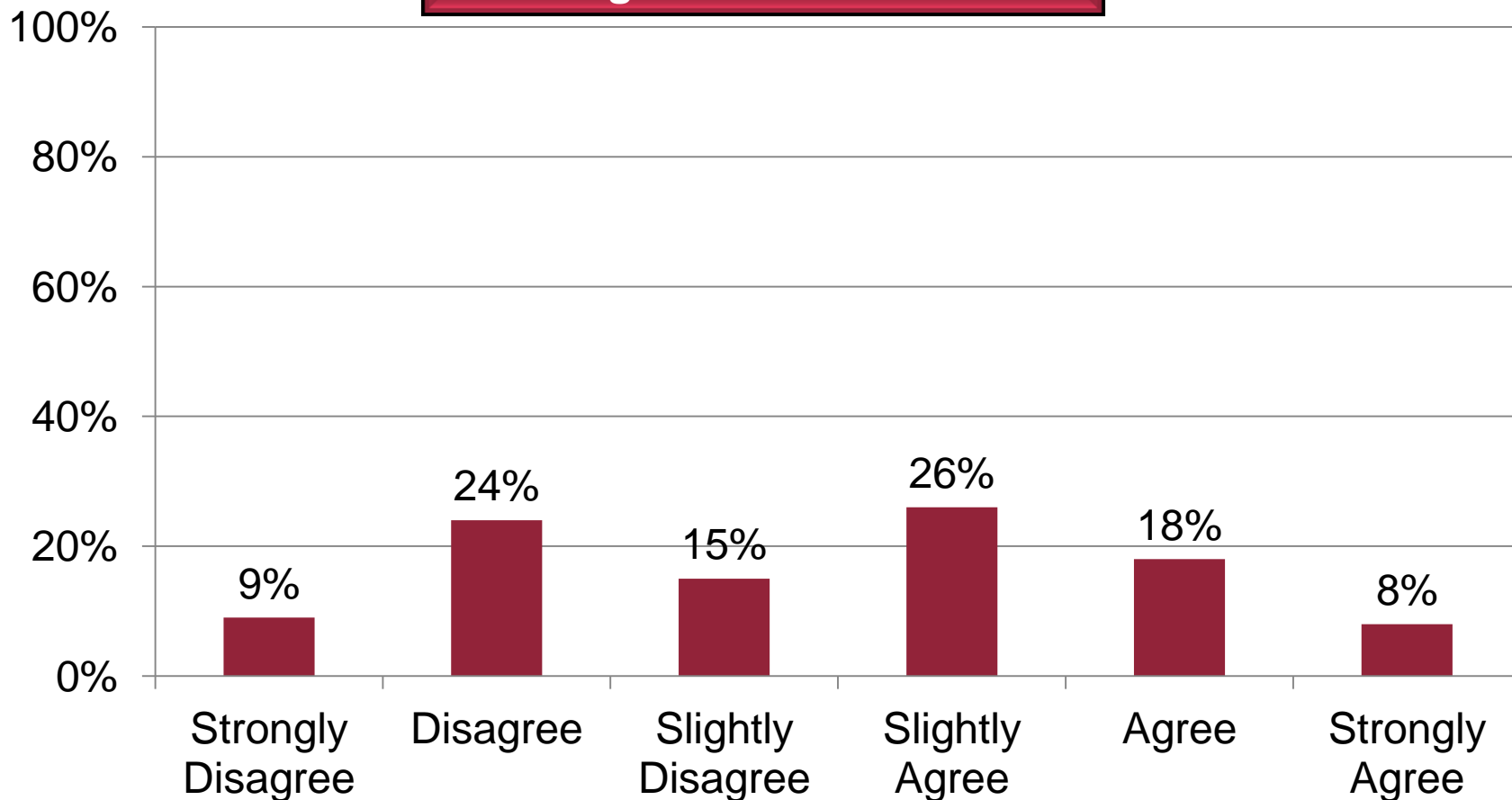


46% agree it is difficult to establish times for their marriage without interruptions related to the congregation's need

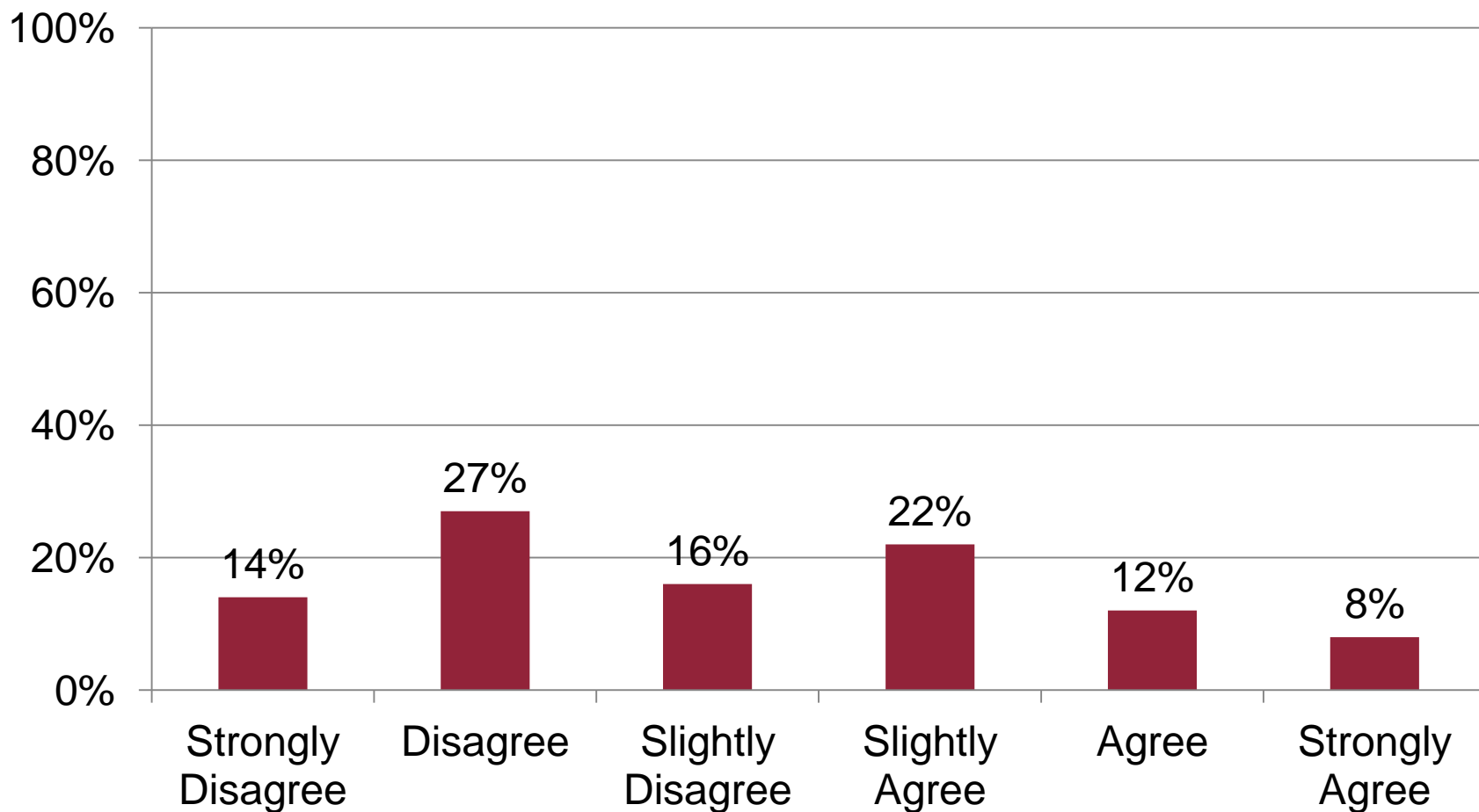


Over half agree it is difficult to establish times for their marriage without interruptions related to their children's need

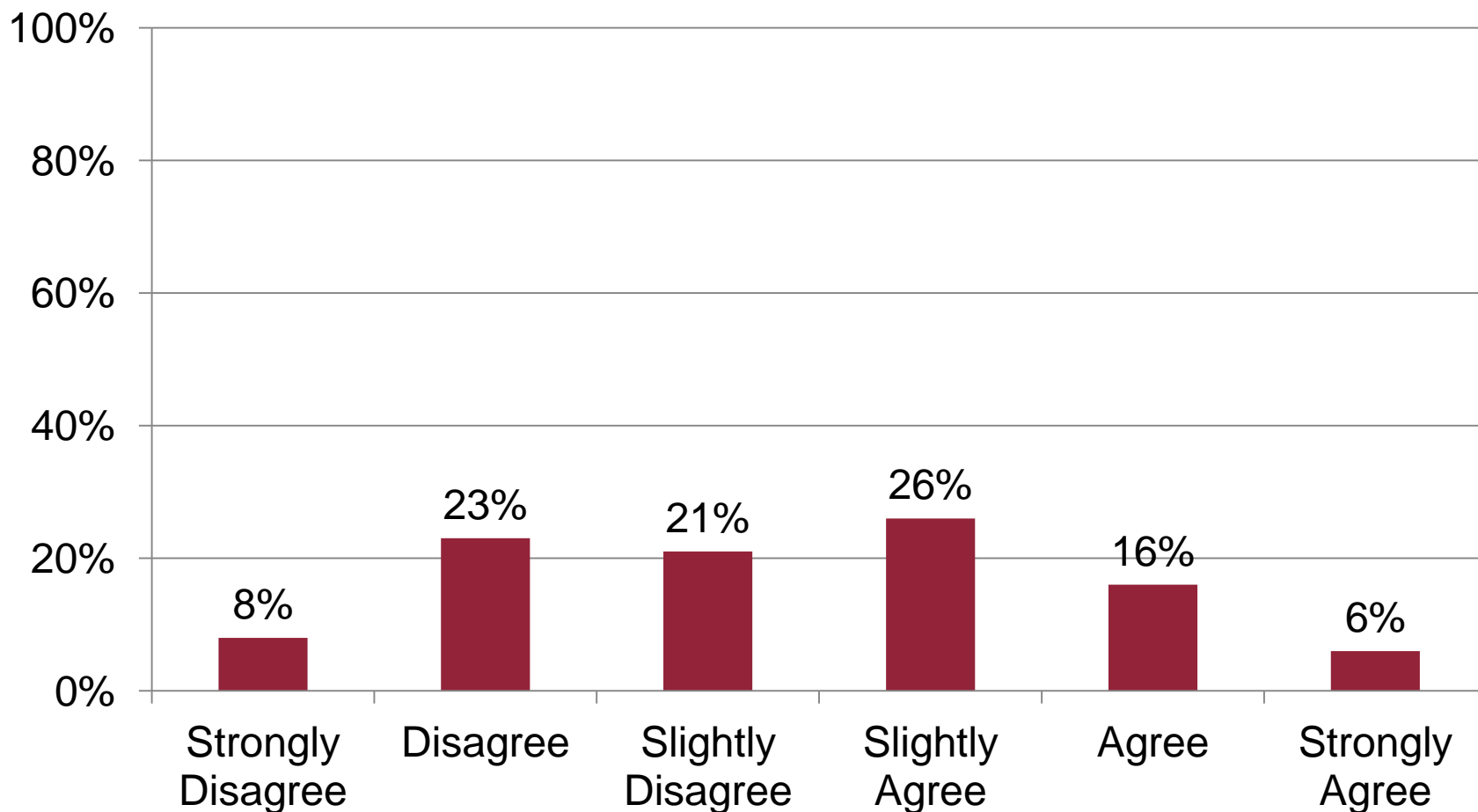
Among those with children



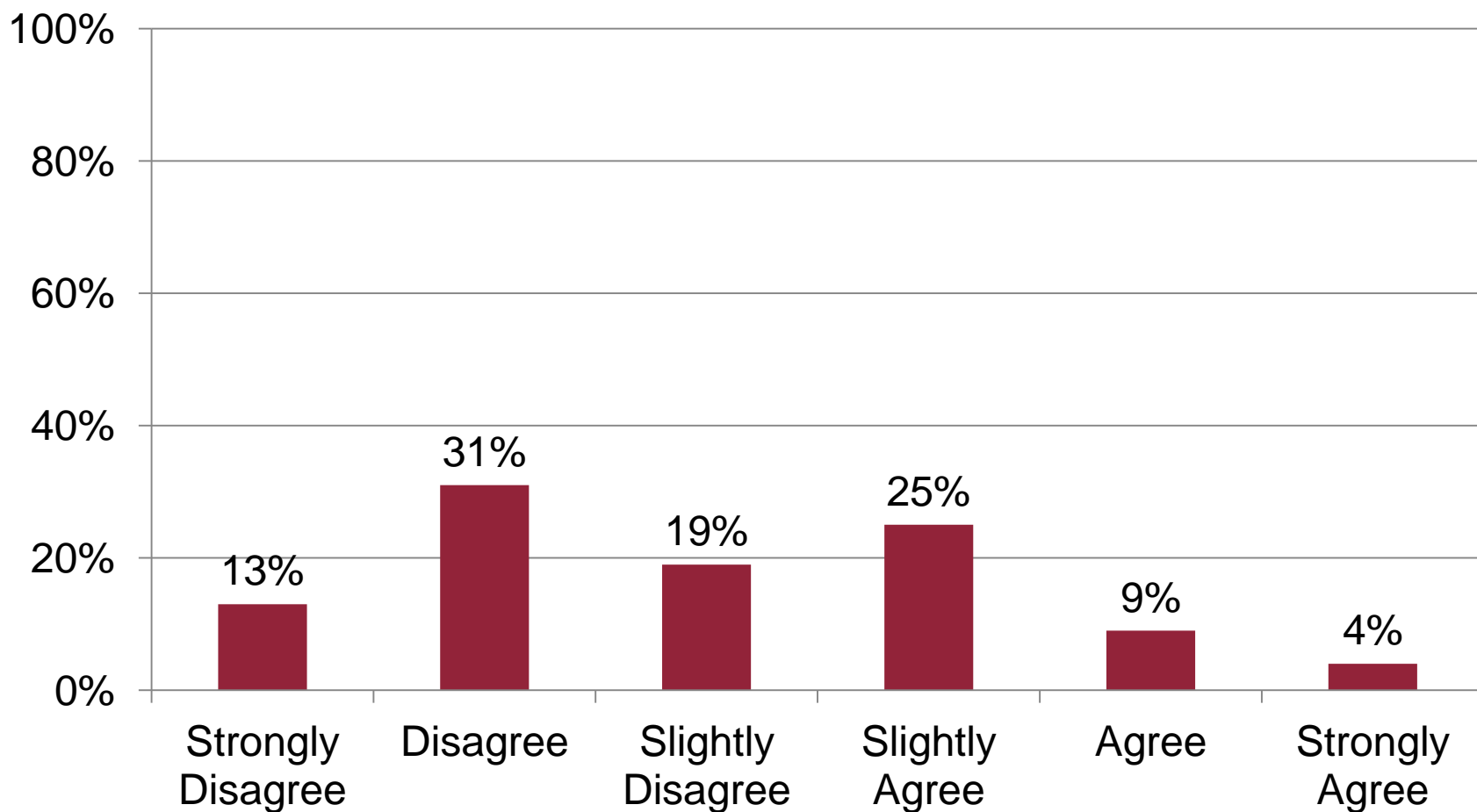
43% agree it is difficult to establish times for their marriage without interruptions related to financial constraints



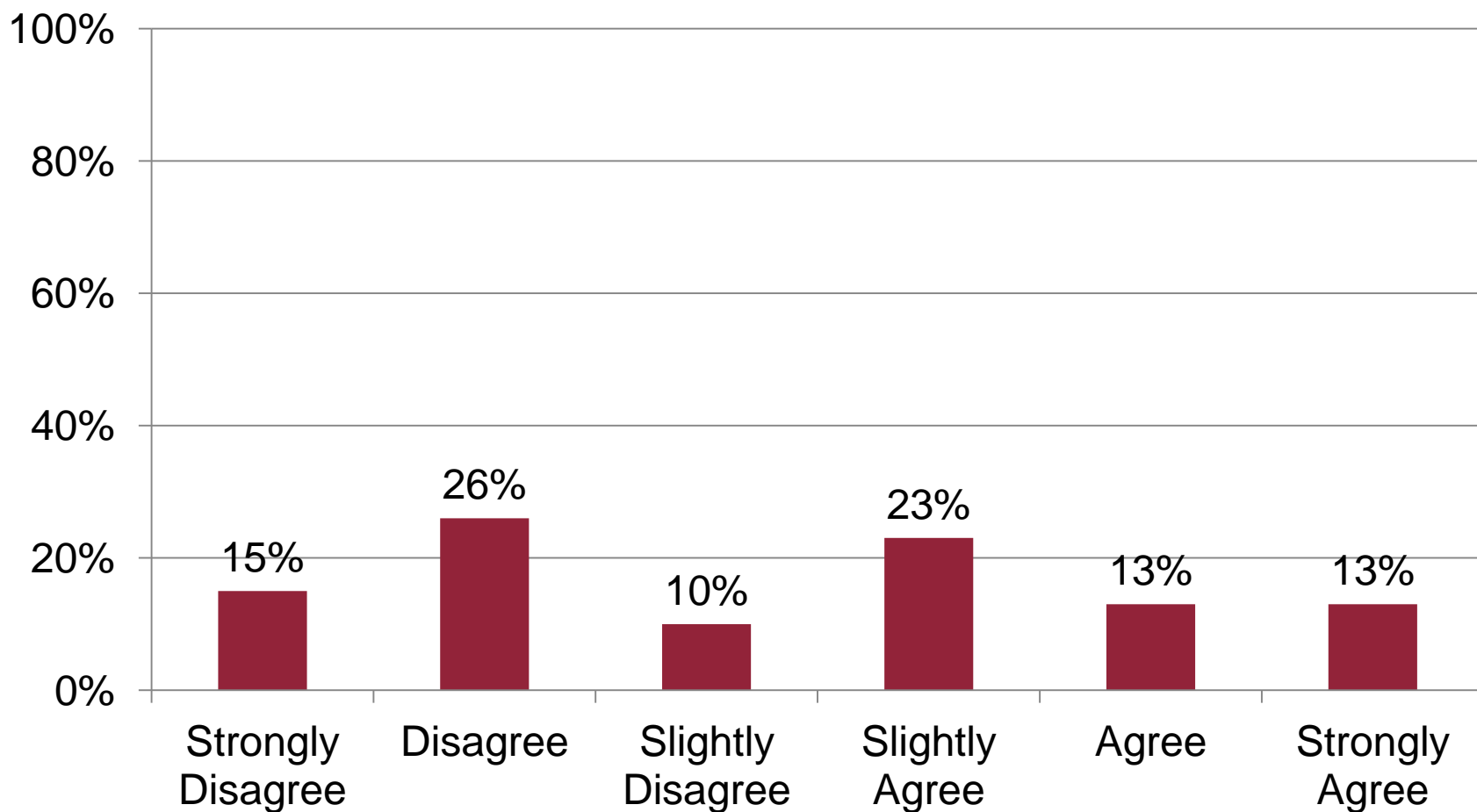
48% agree it is difficult to establish times for their marriage without interruptions related to frequent church events



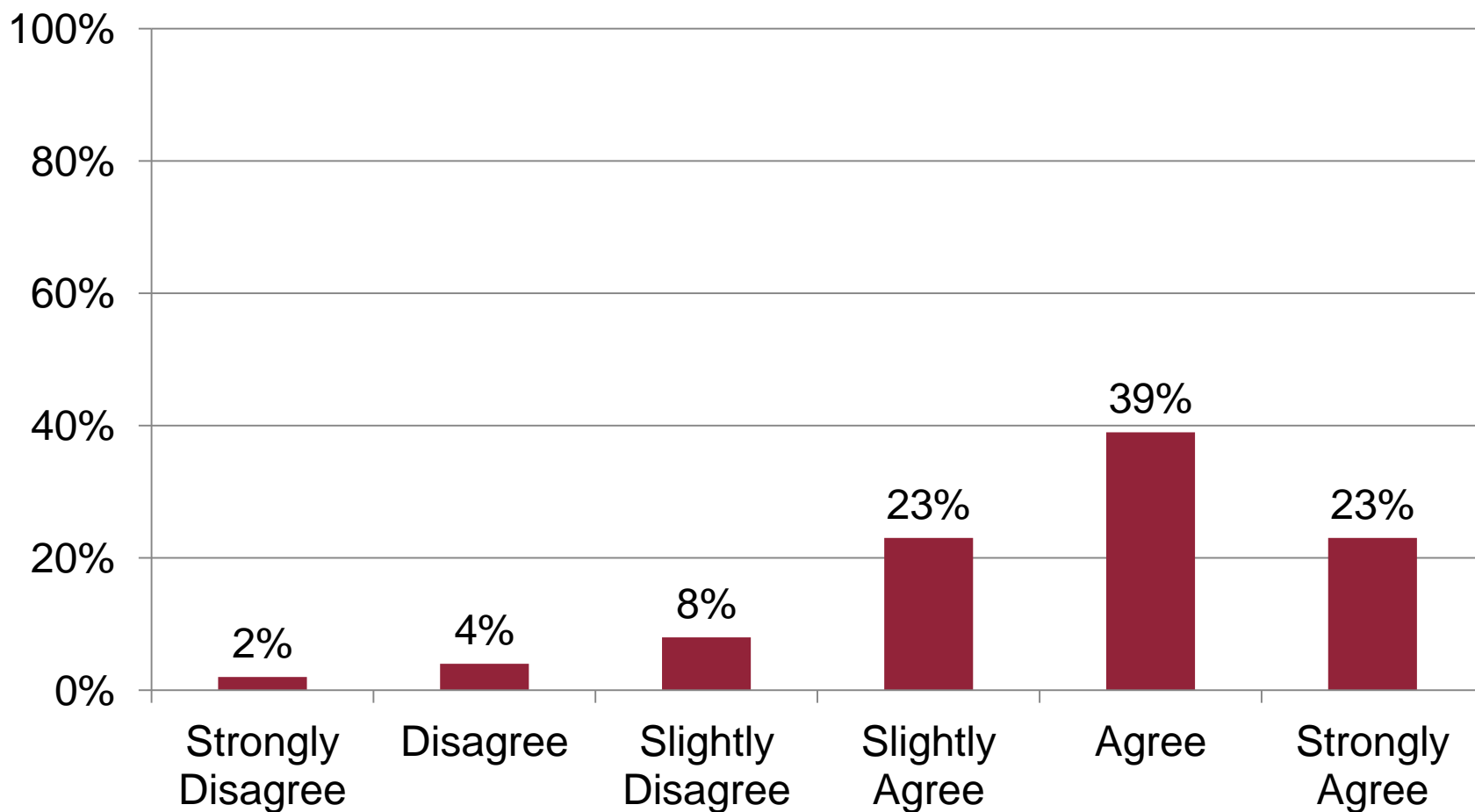
37% agree that they do not get the attention they need from their spouse because the church needs so much attention



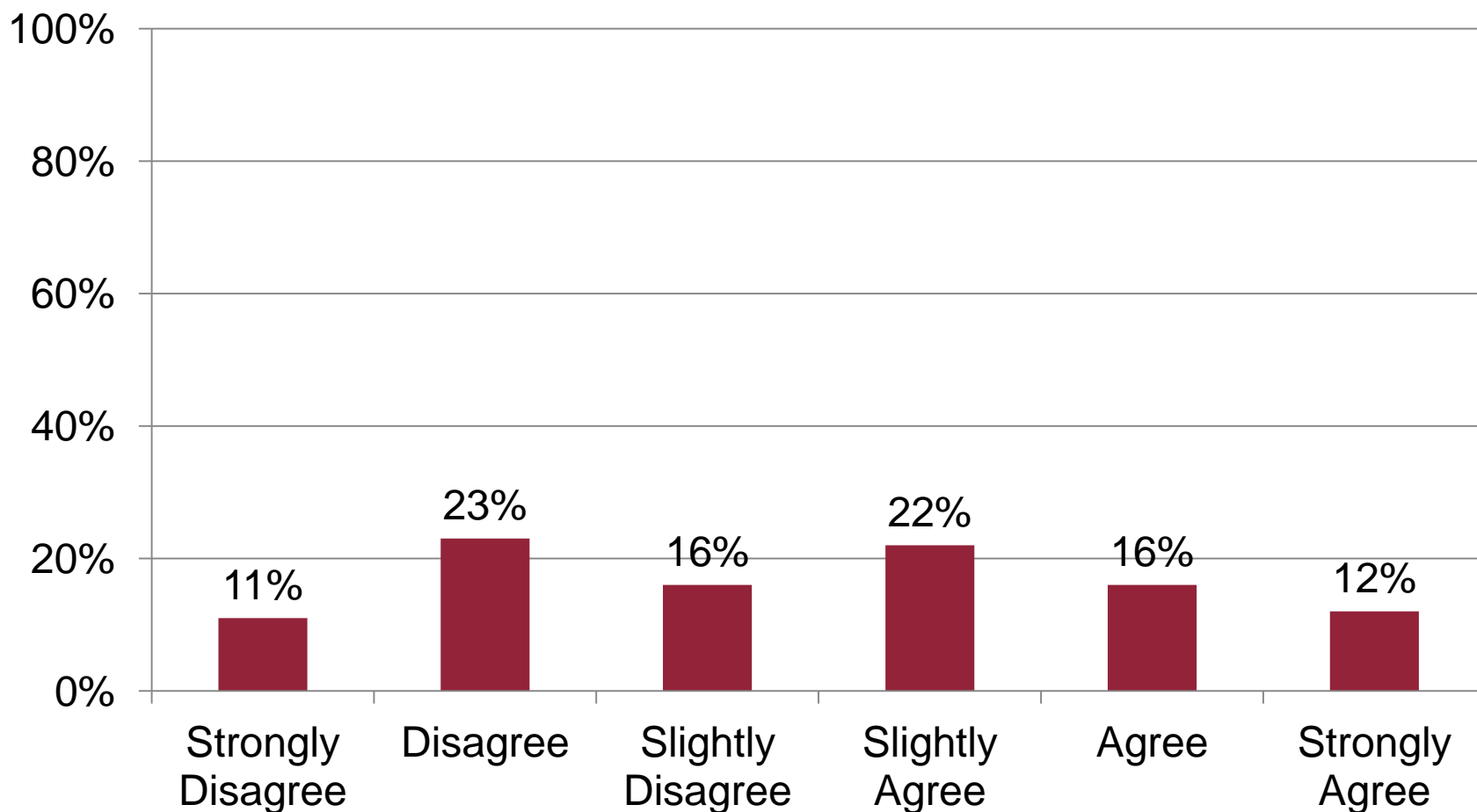
Almost half agree they still feel the hurt from previous conflicts in ministry



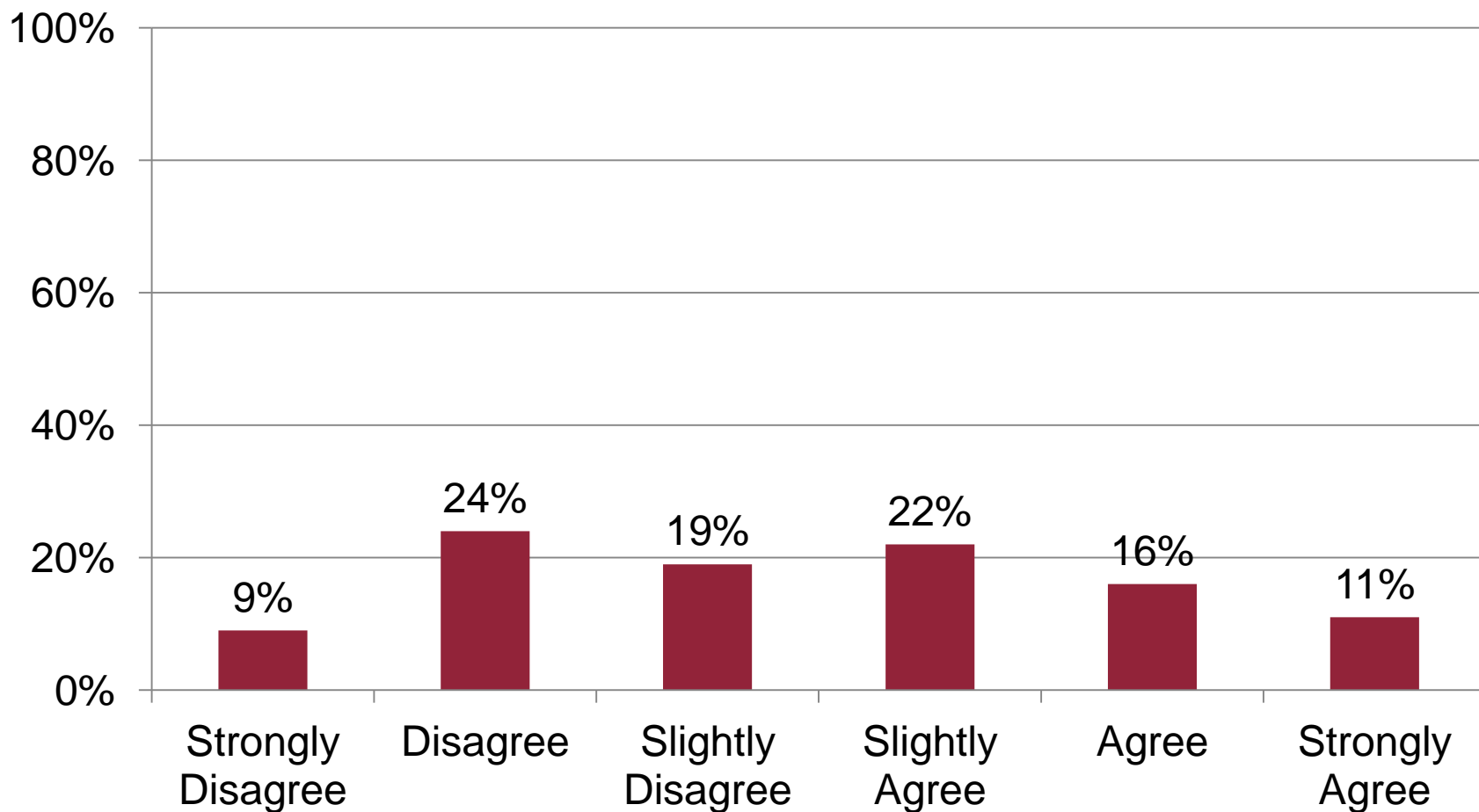
85% agree that the church they serve takes “good care” of them



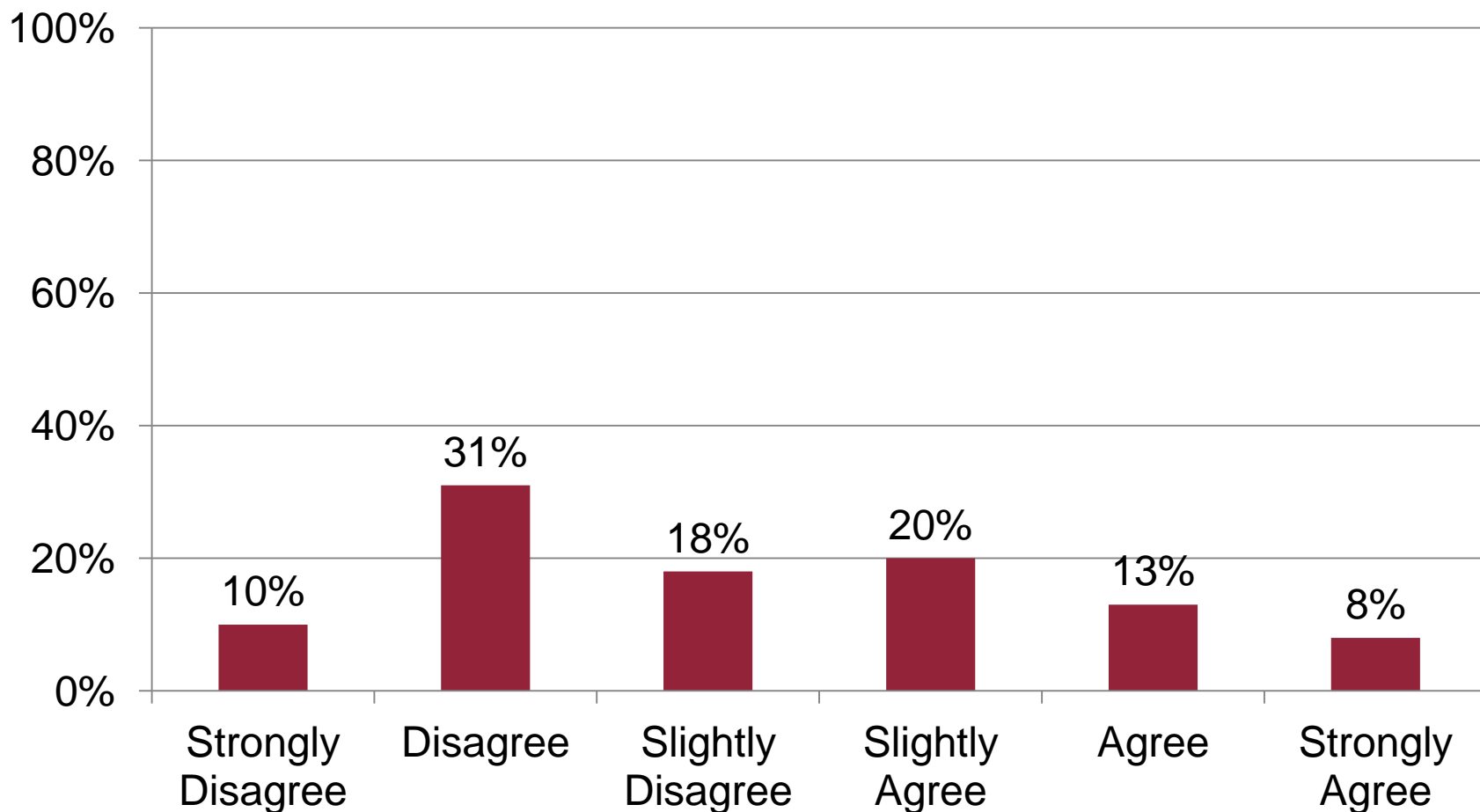
Half agree that they are not willing to confide in others at church because their confidence has been betrayed too many times



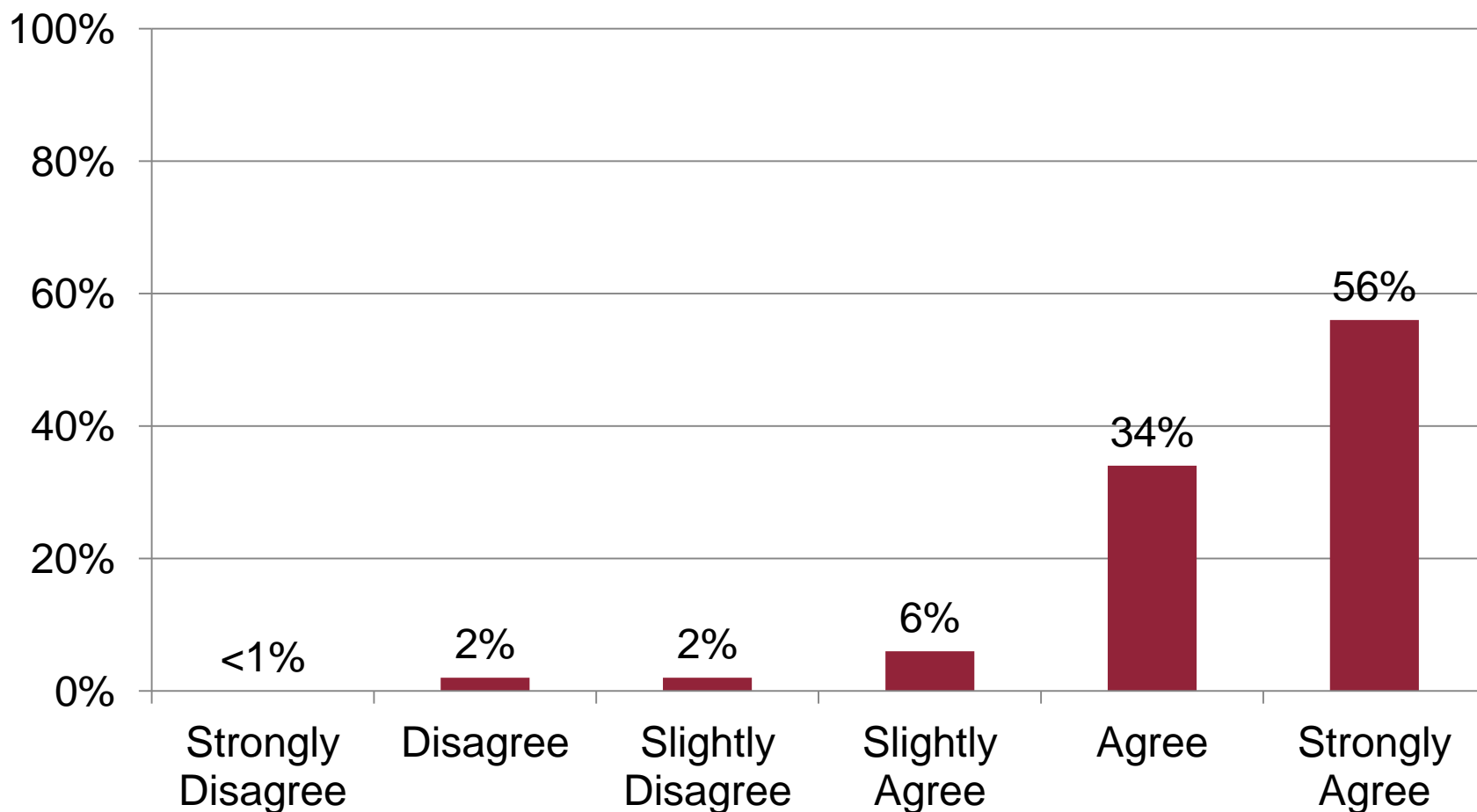
49% agree that if they were honest at church about prayer needs, they would become gossip



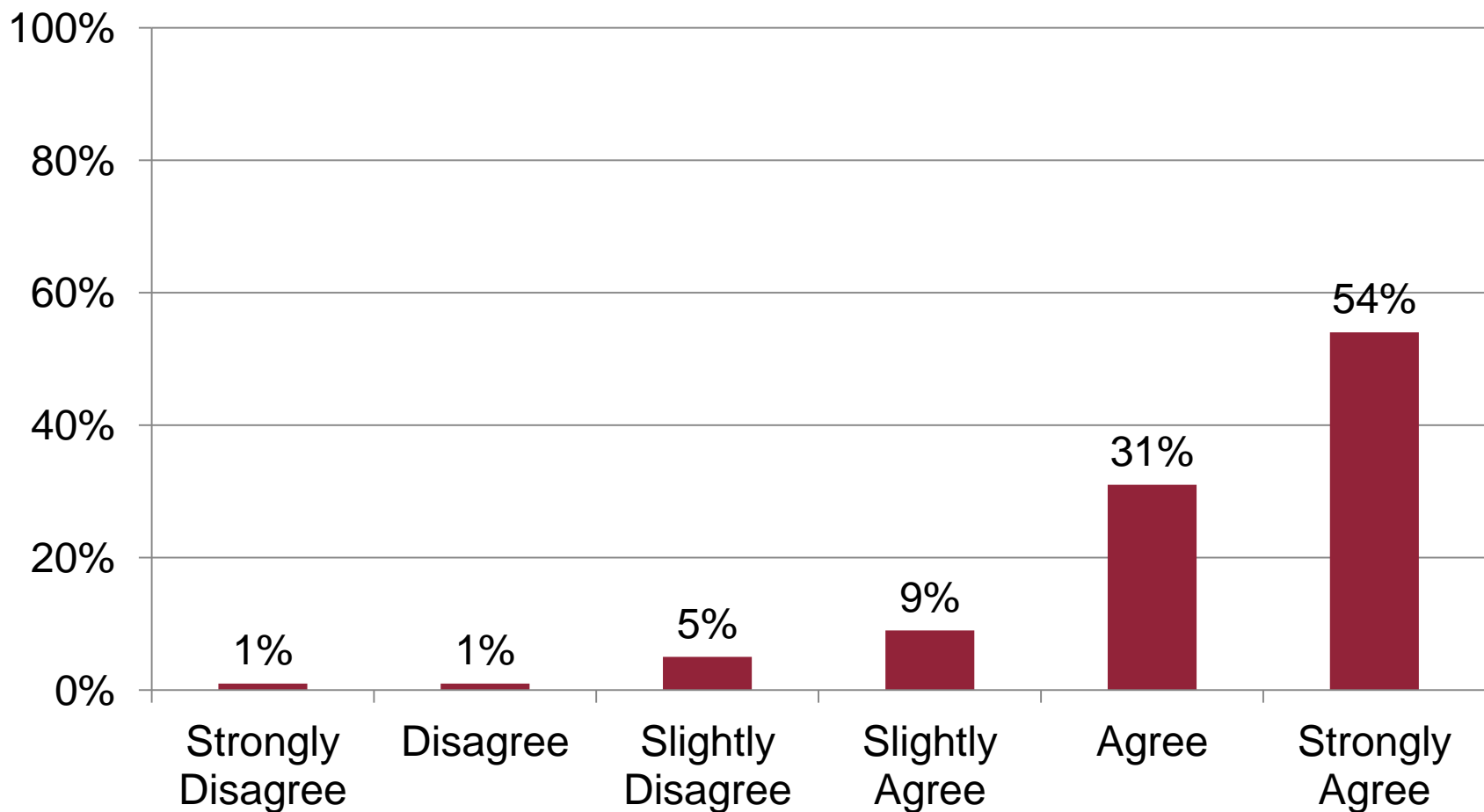
4 out of 10 agree that their families constantly feels like they are being evaluated



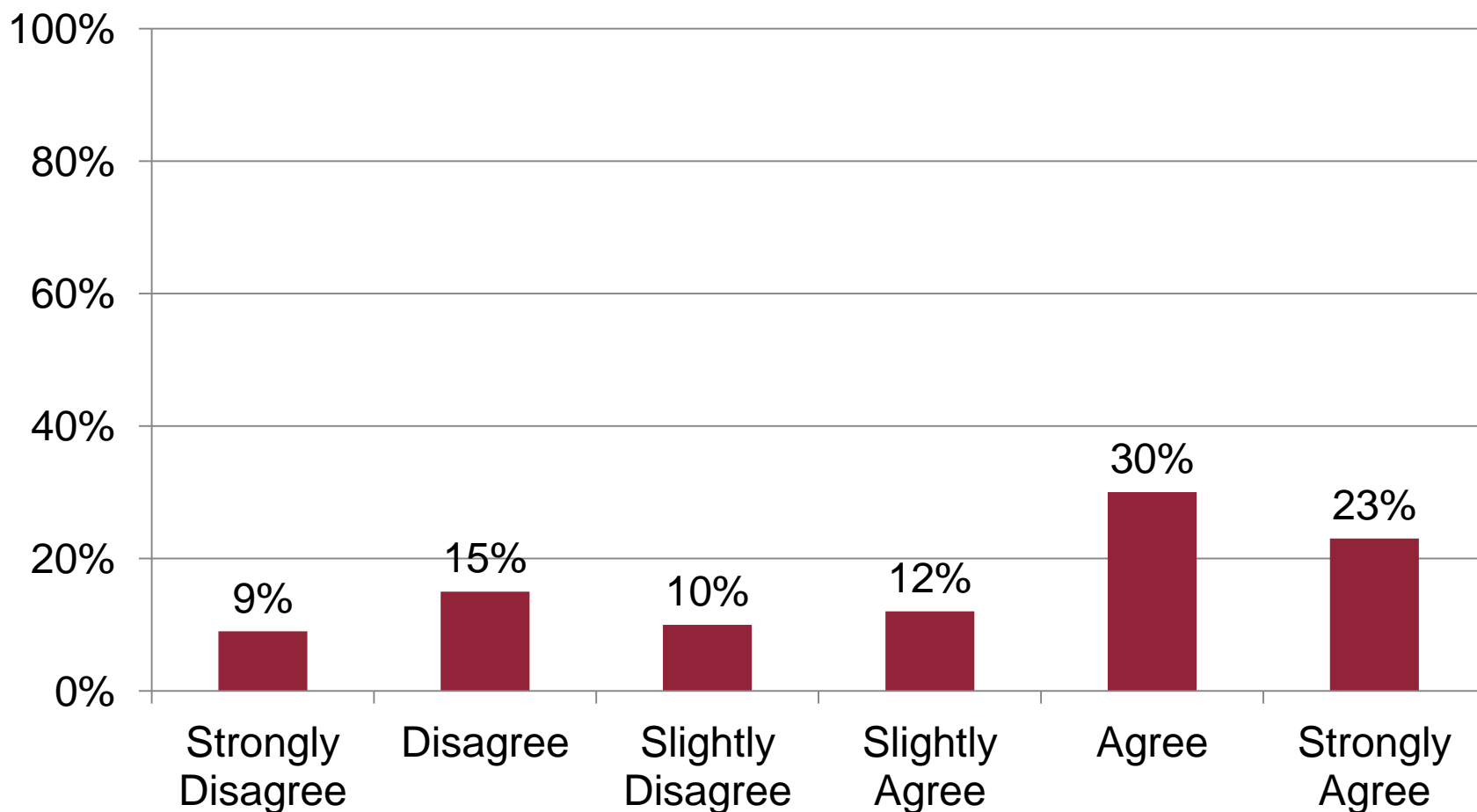
96% agree that their spouse is well suited for this type of ministry opportunity



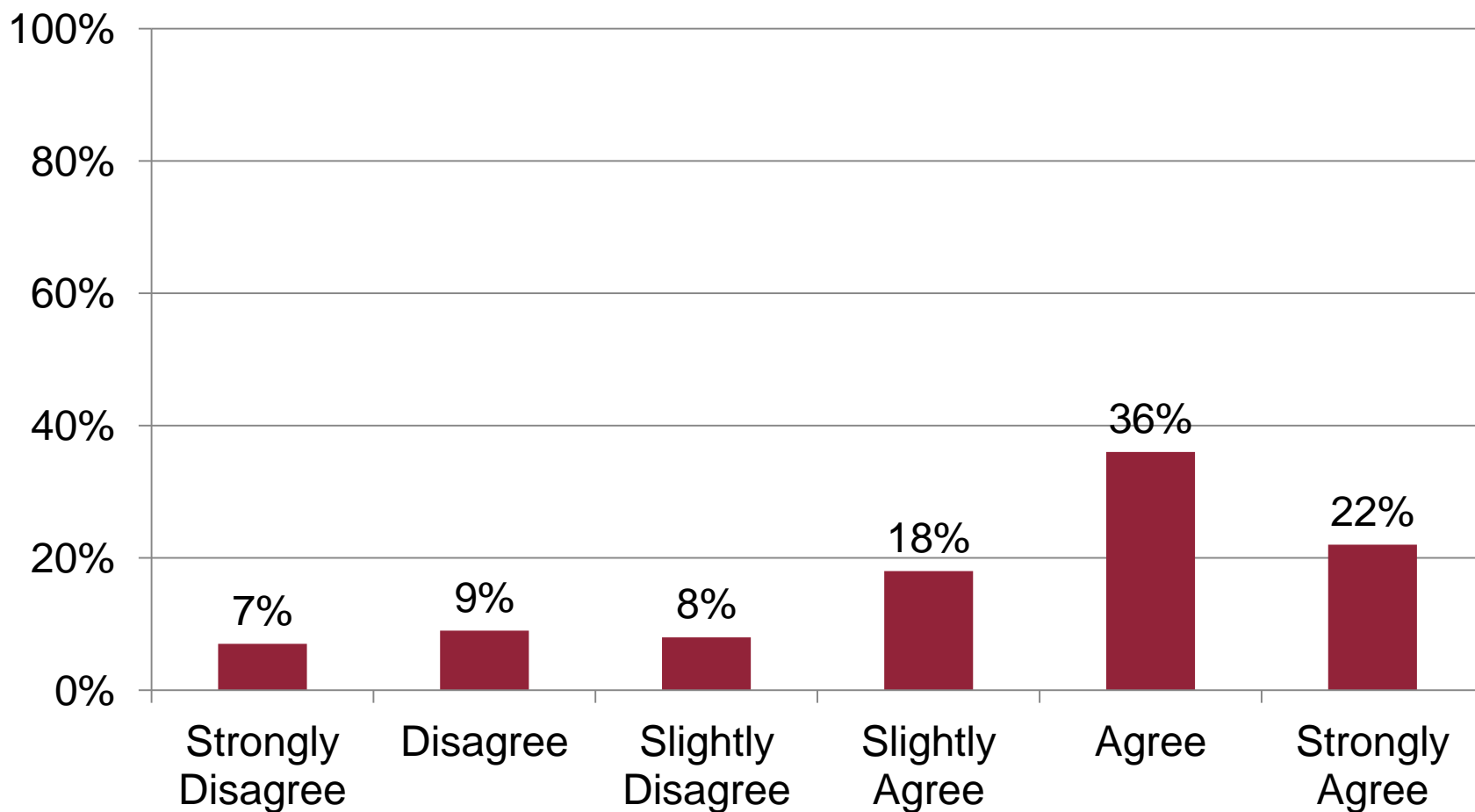
93% agree that their spouse is a good fit for their current church



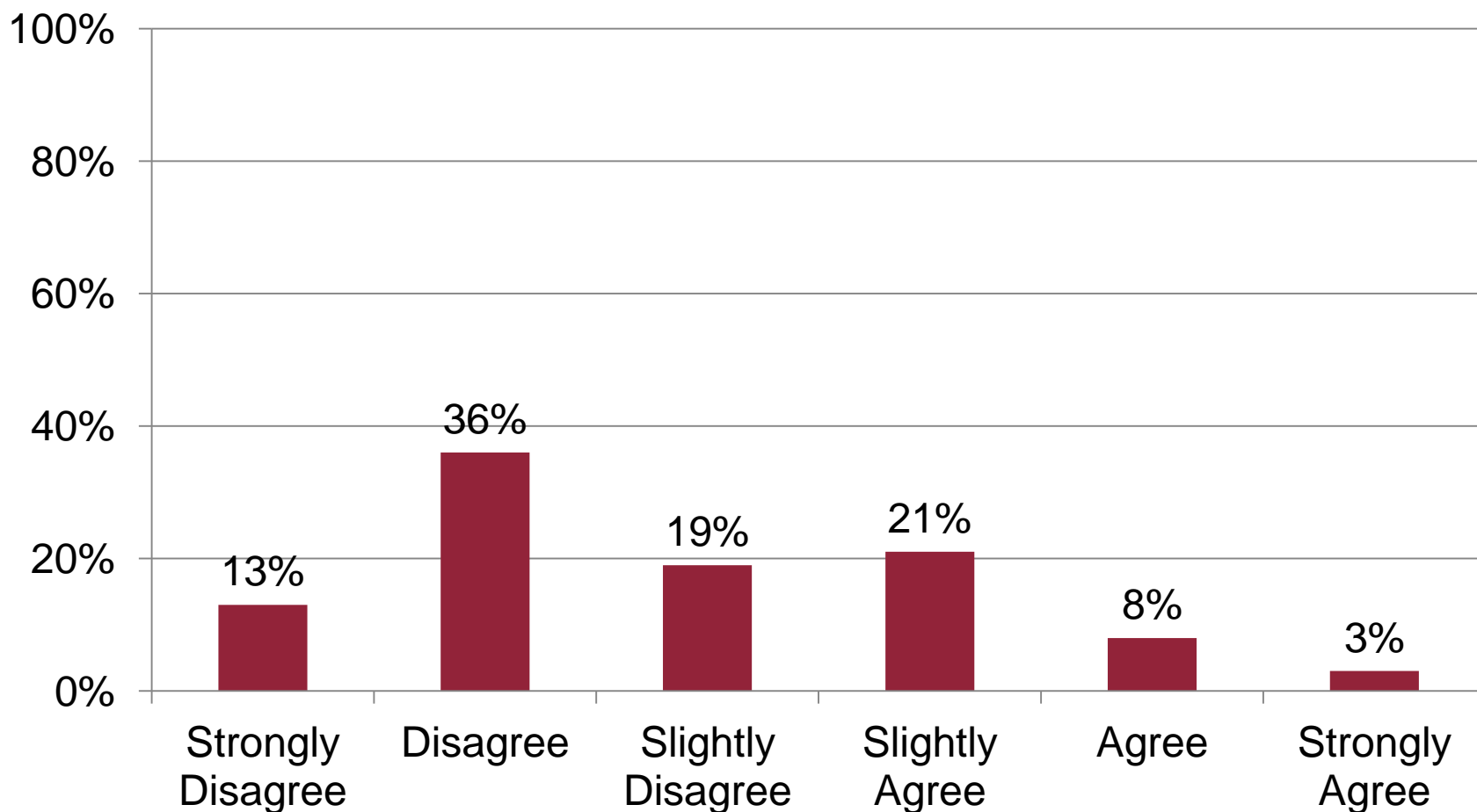
Two-thirds agree that the current ministry role has included things their spouse has never done before



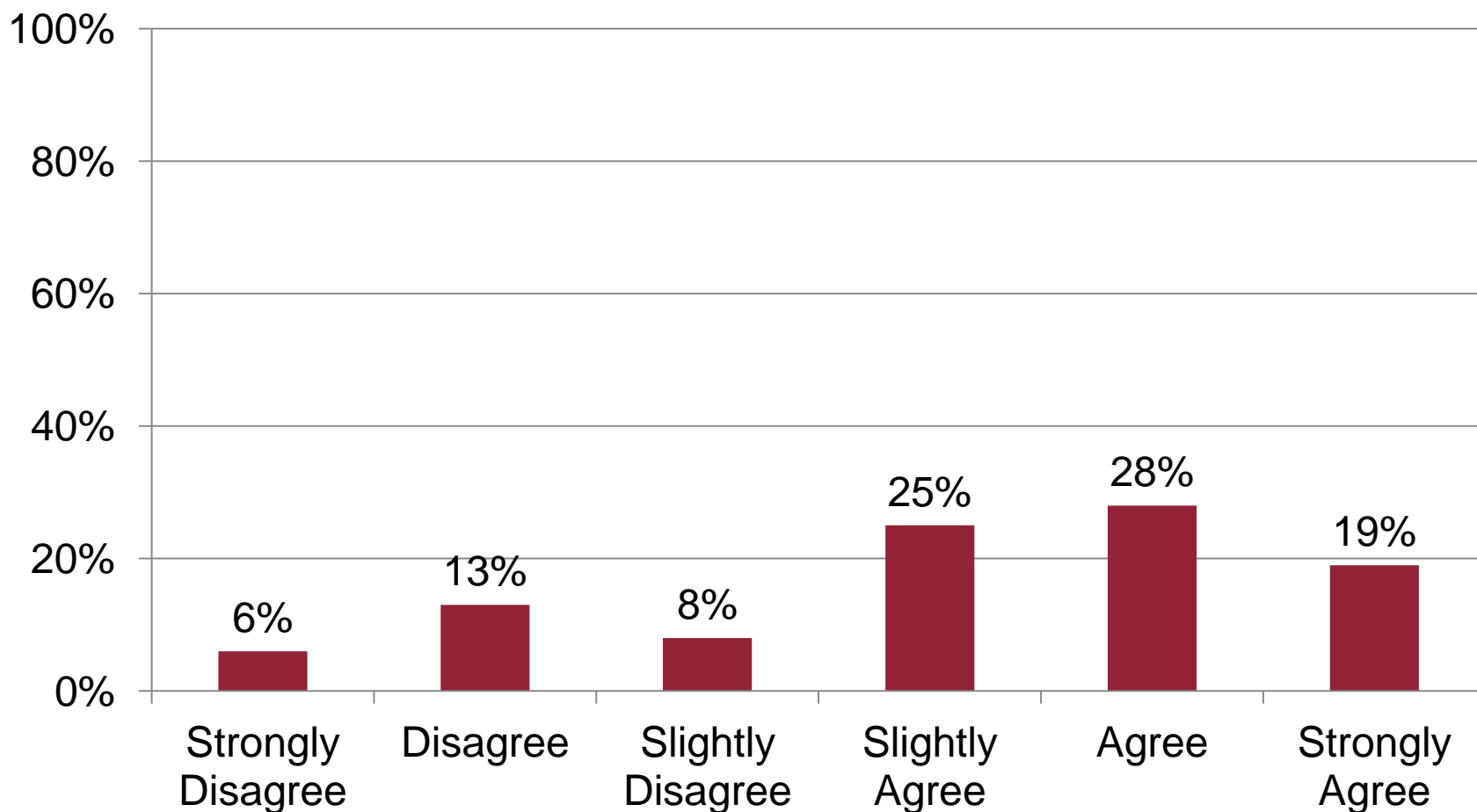
76% agree that their spouse has someone (besides them) with whom to openly share struggles



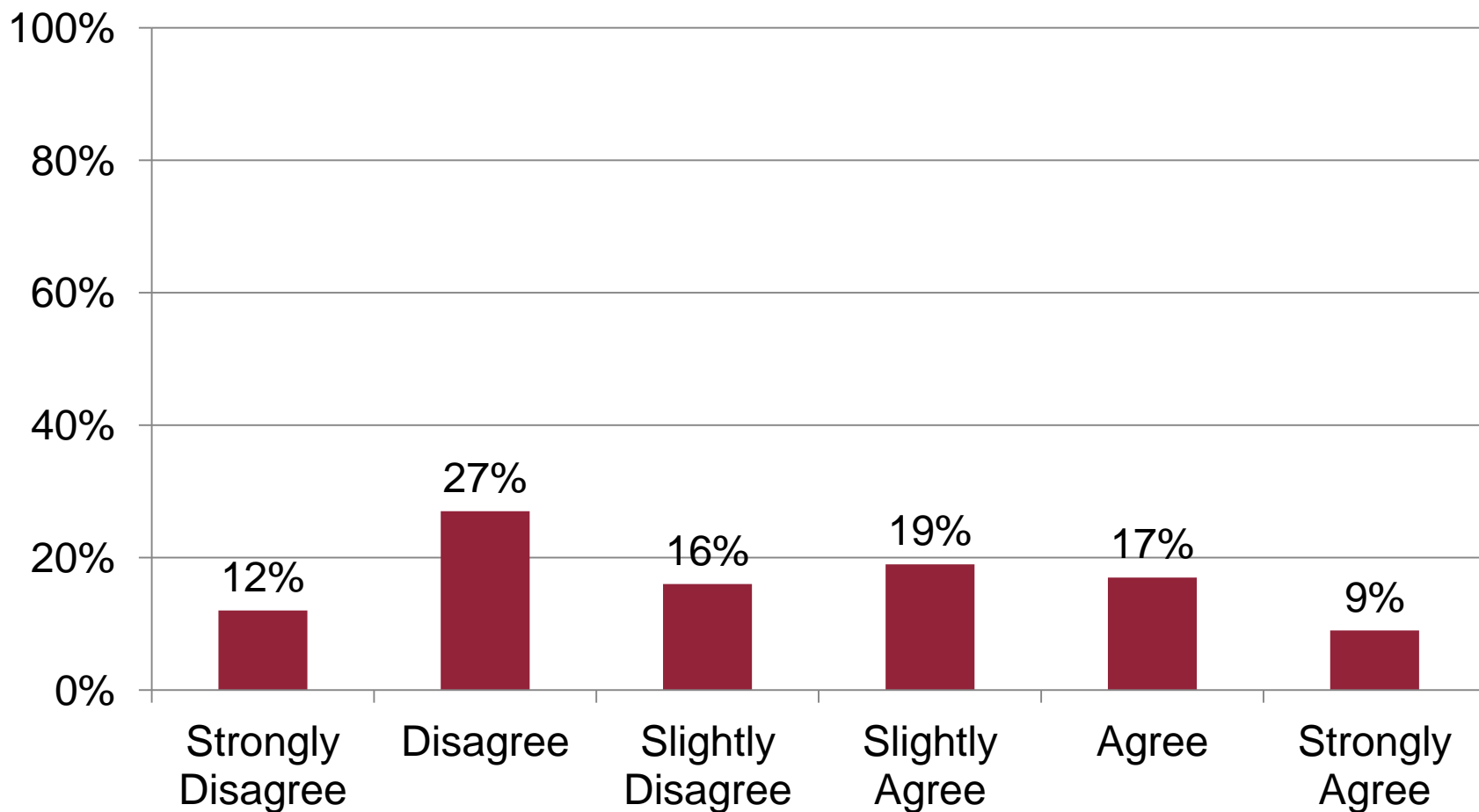
3 out of 10 agree that they often lack the skills to navigate the power struggles in their church



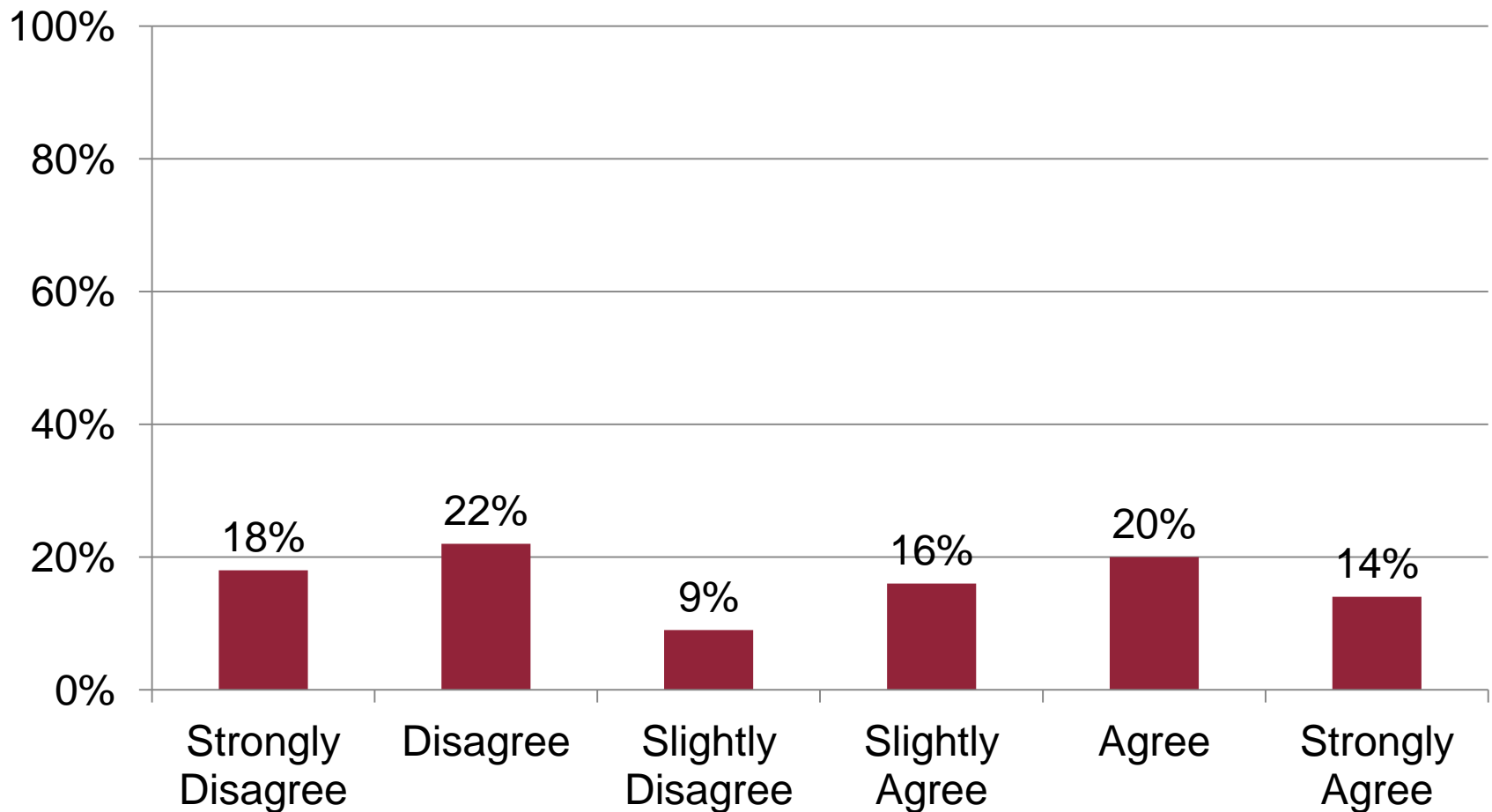
72% agree that their spouse has experienced resistance to his/her leadership



45% agree that their spouse was not prepared for all that they have experienced at their church



51% agree that they have experienced personal attacks at the current church



Lack of close relationships and not having enough time are common struggles among many spouses

Comment Category	# of Comments	% Comments	% Respondents
Lack of friendships, Loneliness, Unable to be transparent/trust people in the church	106	14.8%	17.2%
Balancing time/needs of church, work, family, etc., Not enough time for marriage/family	90	12.6%	14.6%
Unrealistic expectations to fill role of a pastor's spouse, Not fitting a certain "mold," Feeling ill-equipped in role	49	6.8%	7.9%
Financial Issues - Underpaid, No retirement savings, No health insurance, Hurt/resentment	49	6.8%	7.9%
Spouse (Pastor) puts the church "first" before family, Is overworked and negatively effecting marriage/home life	38	5.3%	6.1%
Dealing with congregants' personal attacks and disrespect towards spouse (Pastor) and family	34	4.7%	5.5%
Personal conflicts with church leadership, other pastors' spouses, and congregants in general	33	4.6%	5.3%
Lack of volunteering/commitment by church members, Expected (and need) to fill vacant roles in church	30	4.2%	4.9%

Common Struggles (*cont'd*)

Comment Category	# of Comments	% Comments	% Respondents
Overworked, Too many responsibilities at church	28	3.9%	4.5%
None (or few) struggles, Struggles are outside of being a pastor's spouse	26	3.6%	4.2%
Finding "my place" in the church, Developing my gifts to help others, Knowing where (and where not) to help	26	3.6%	4.2%
How to help/support my husband, Help him with discouragement/depression	20	2.8%	3.2%
Not being appreciated by others in church, Hurt when people leave, Resentment	18	2.5%	2.9%
Working FT limits amount of time to help with church, Would like to be more helpful in church (in general)	14	2.0%	2.3%
No time for personal prayer and devotions, Always "feeding" others, Little time "for myself"	12	1.7%	1.9%
Feel outside of congregation, Not connecting with congregants, Unable to participate or do things as a couple in the church	11	1.5%	1.8%

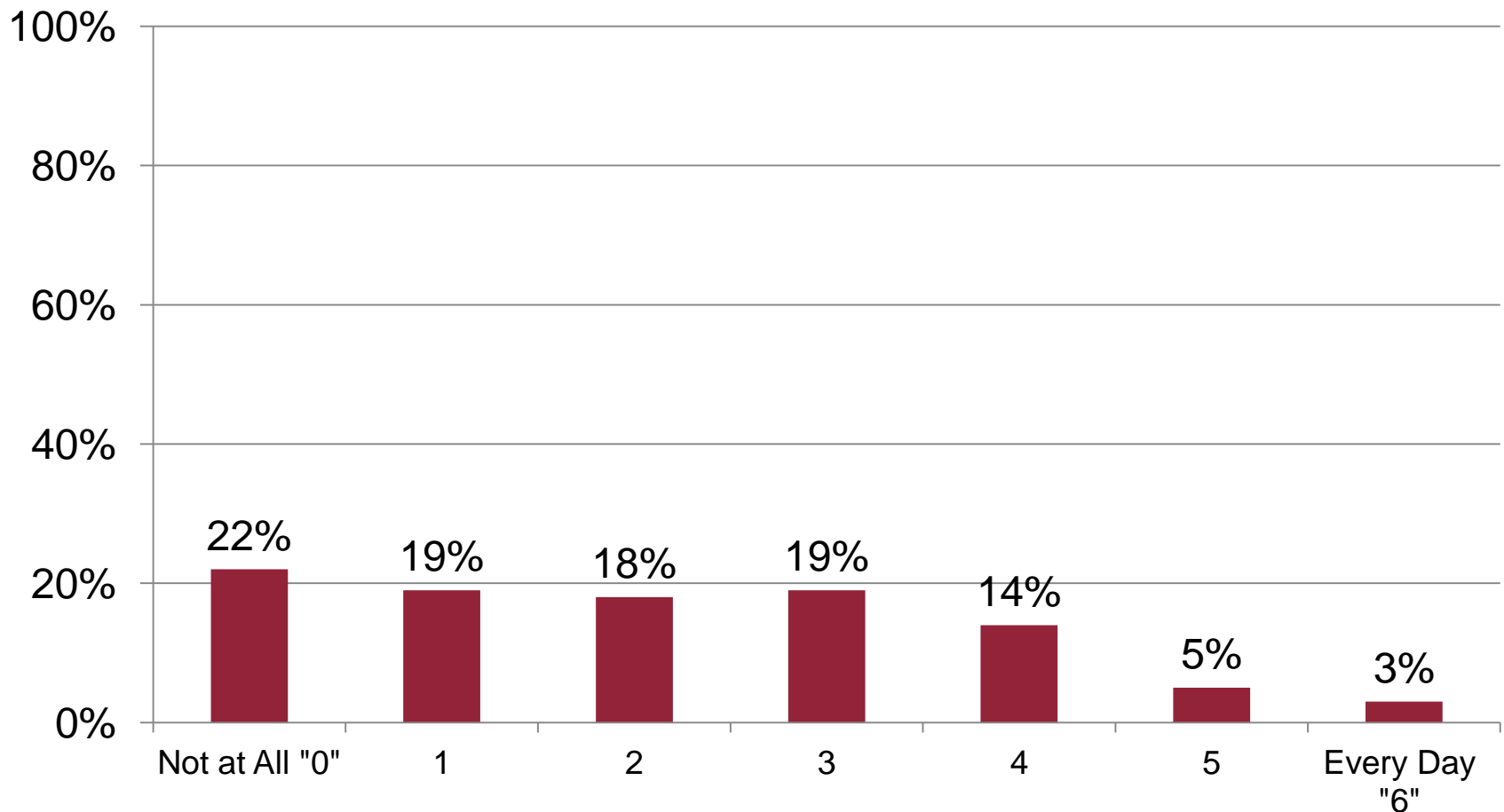
Common Struggles (*cont'd*)

Comment Category	# of Comments	% Comments	% Respondents
Being the center of attention, Living in a "fishbowl"	9	1.3%	1.5%
Living distant from relatives/family, Not having family support	9	1.3%	1.5%
Not enough time to meet all the needs in church (in general)	8	1.1%	1.3%
Congregants do not respect personal time-off, Asked to do too much, Congregants assume your "interchangeable" with spouse (Pastor)	7	1.0%	1.1%
Unrealistic or high expectations for children, Raising children in front of the congregation	5	0.7%	0.8%
Tired of always helping others, "Weary in doing well"	5	0.7%	0.8%
Other	89	12.4%	14.4%
Total Comments	716		

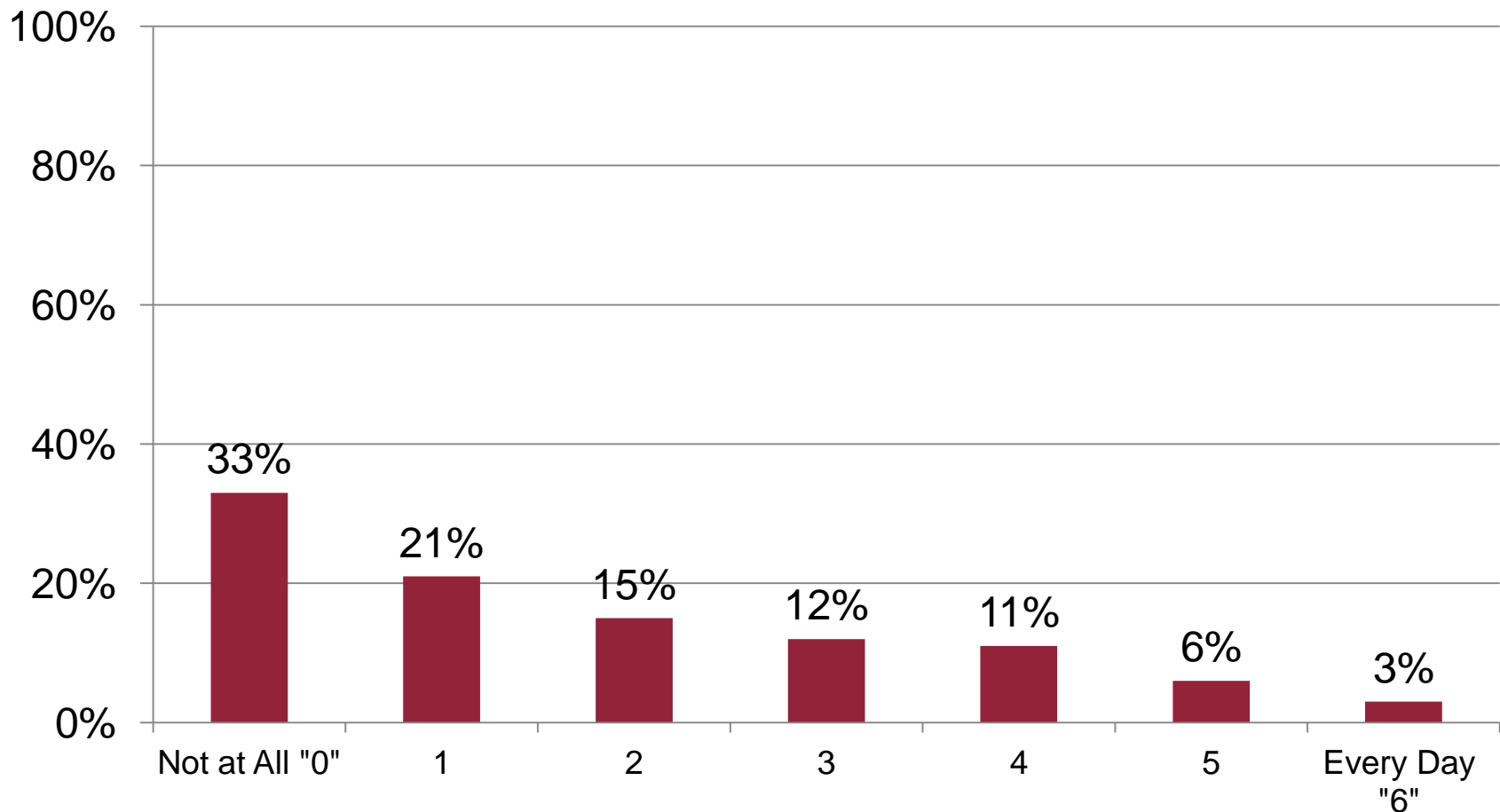
Burnout



22% say they do not feel at all burned out from their work as a minister's spouse



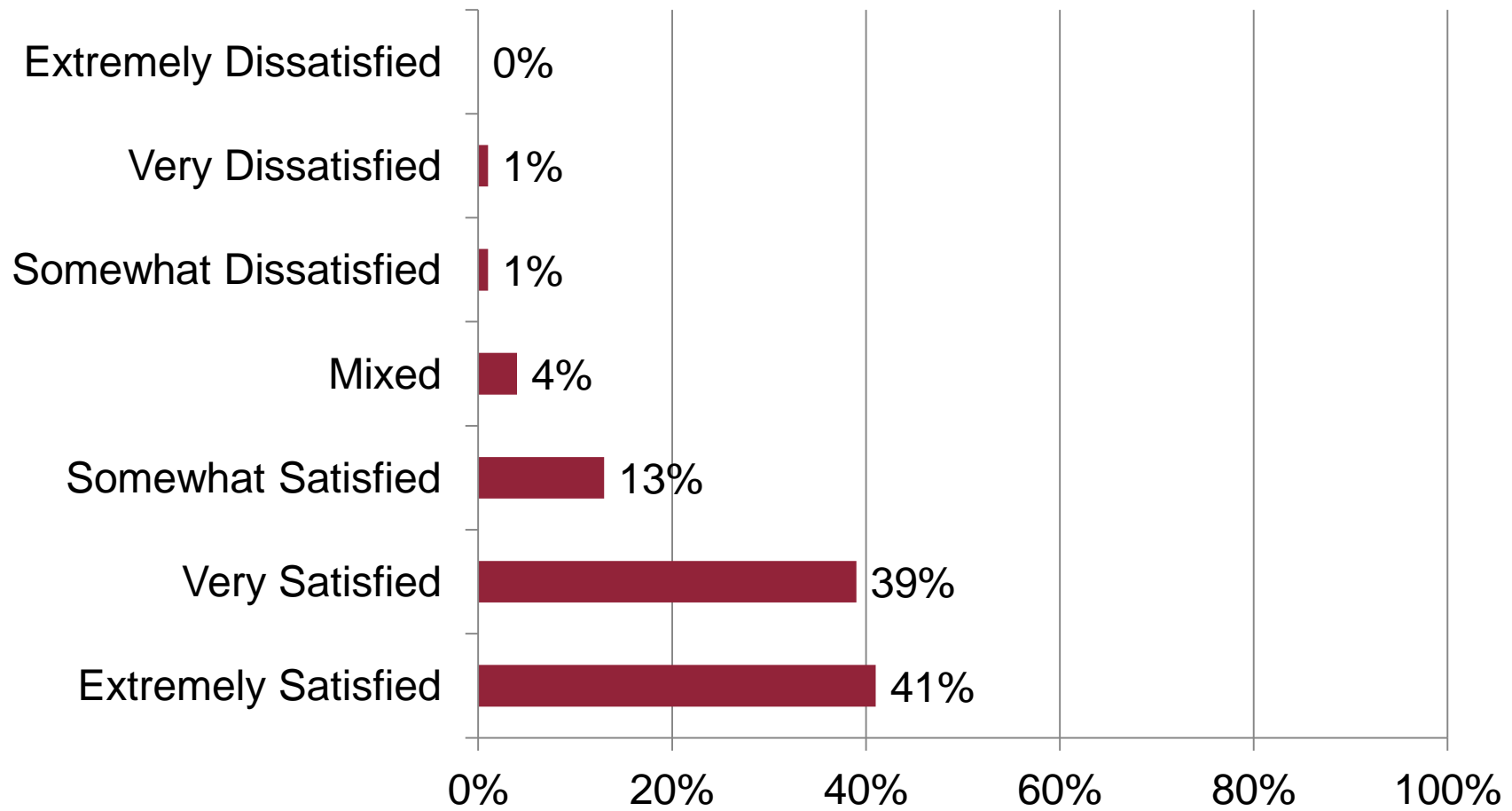
One-third say they have not at all become more callous towards people since their spouse took this job



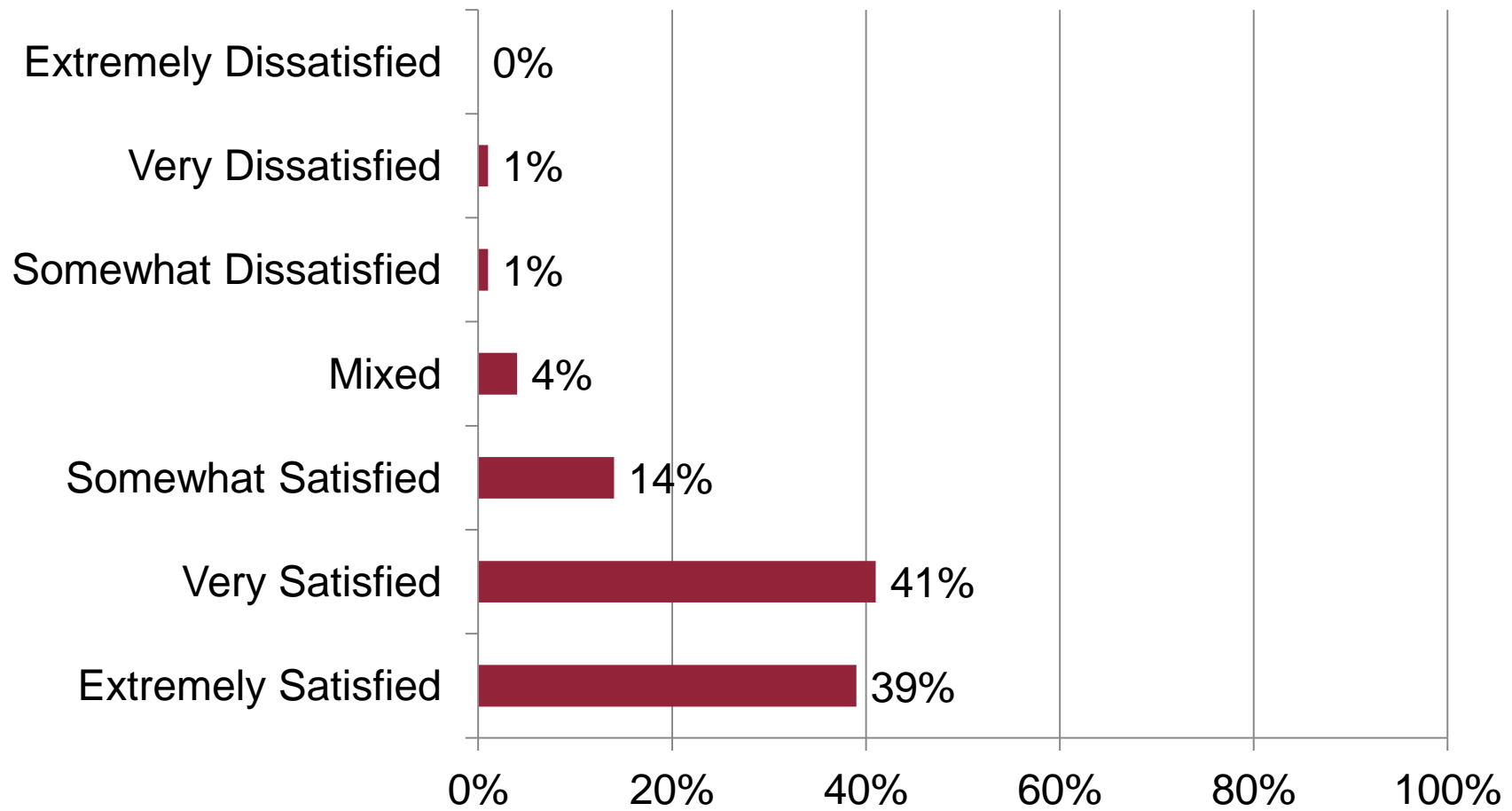
Marriage Satisfaction



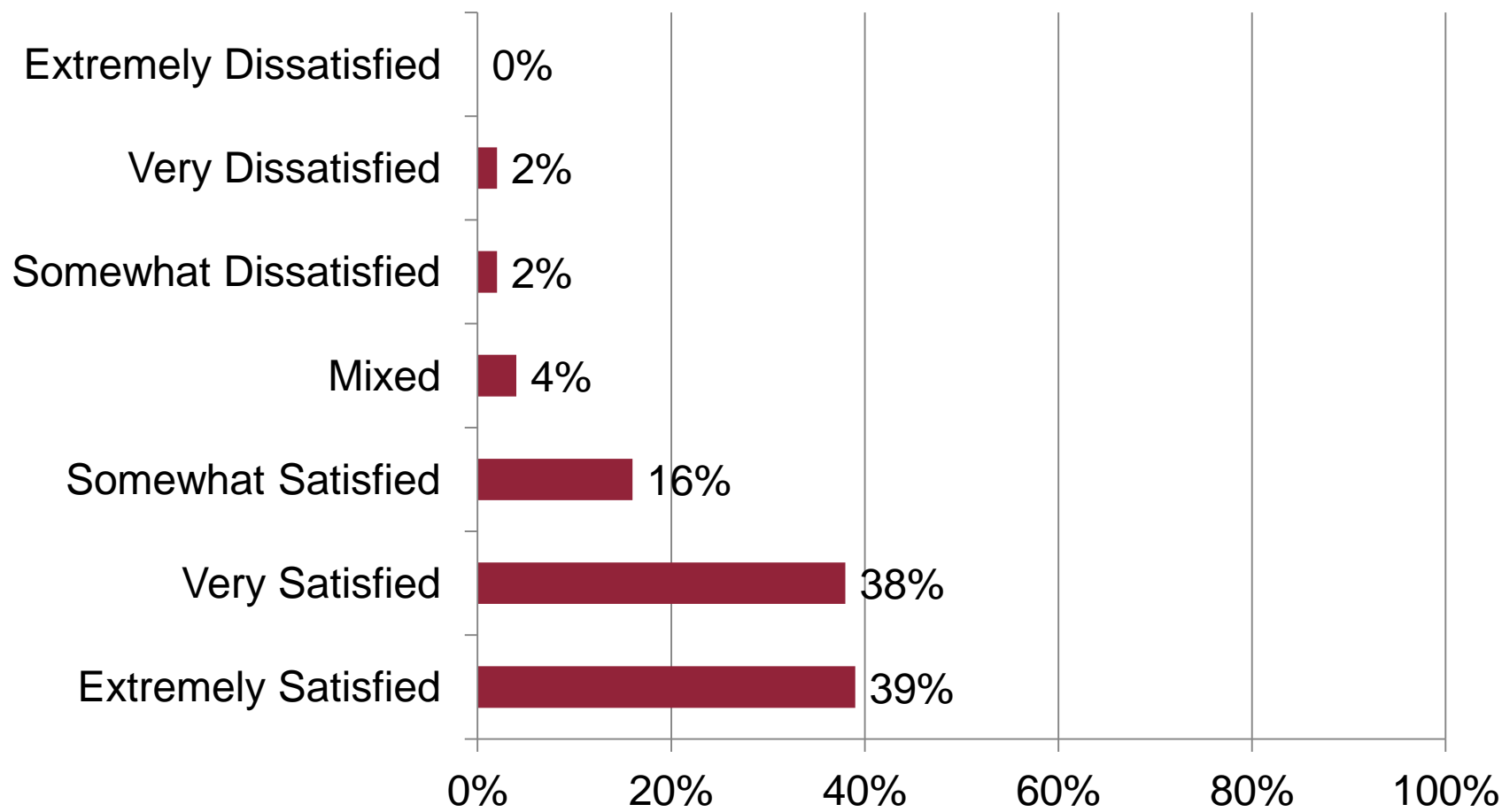
94% are satisfied with their marriage, with 4 out of 10 being extremely satisfied



95% are satisfied with their husband/wife as a spouse, with 39% being extremely satisfied



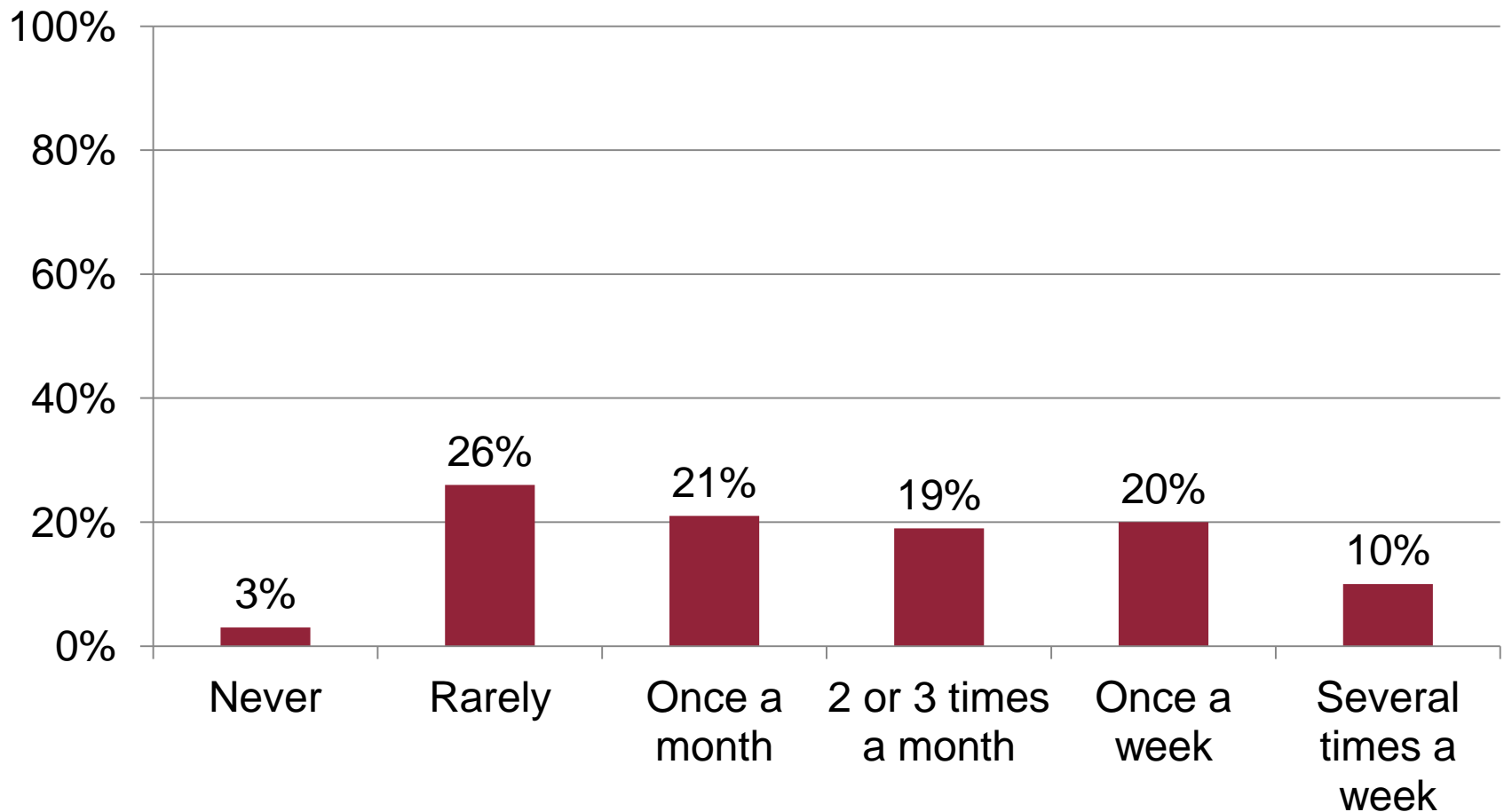
92% are satisfied with their relationship with their husband/wife, with 39% being extremely satisfied



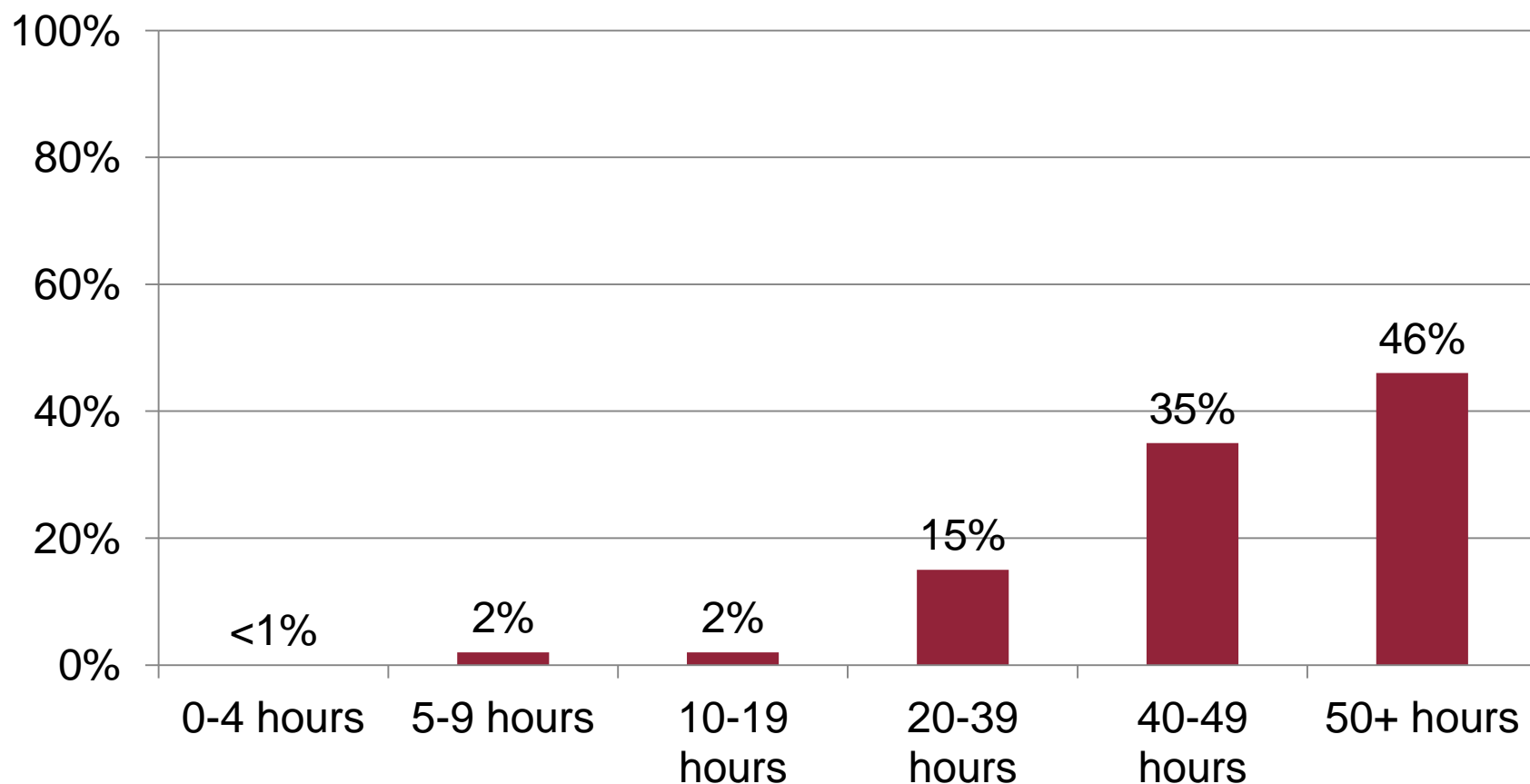
Parenting Satisfaction



30% plan “quality time” alone with their spouse once a week or more

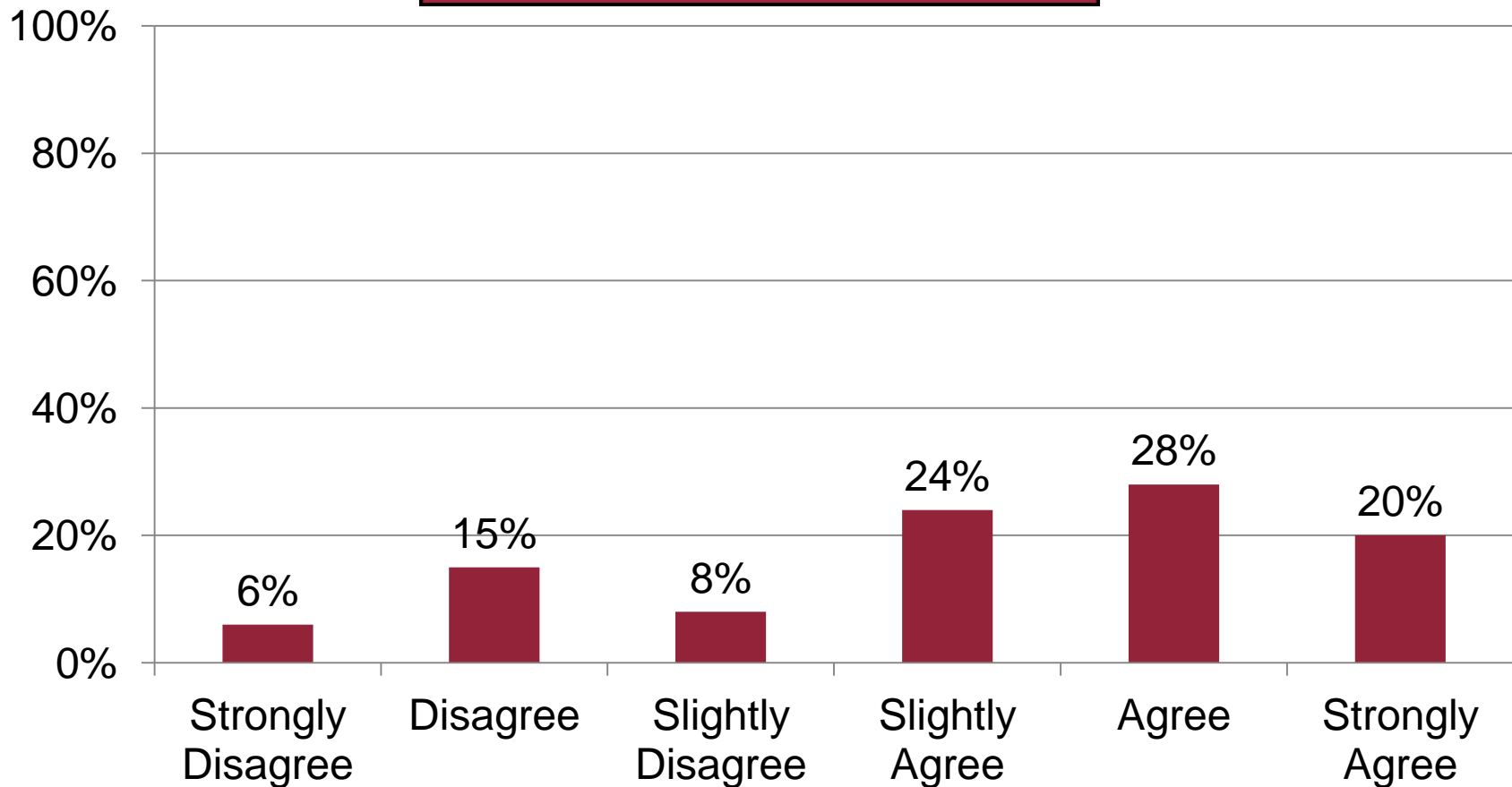


8 out of 10 say their spouse work 40 hours or more in a typical week, with 46% saying their spouse works 50+ hours



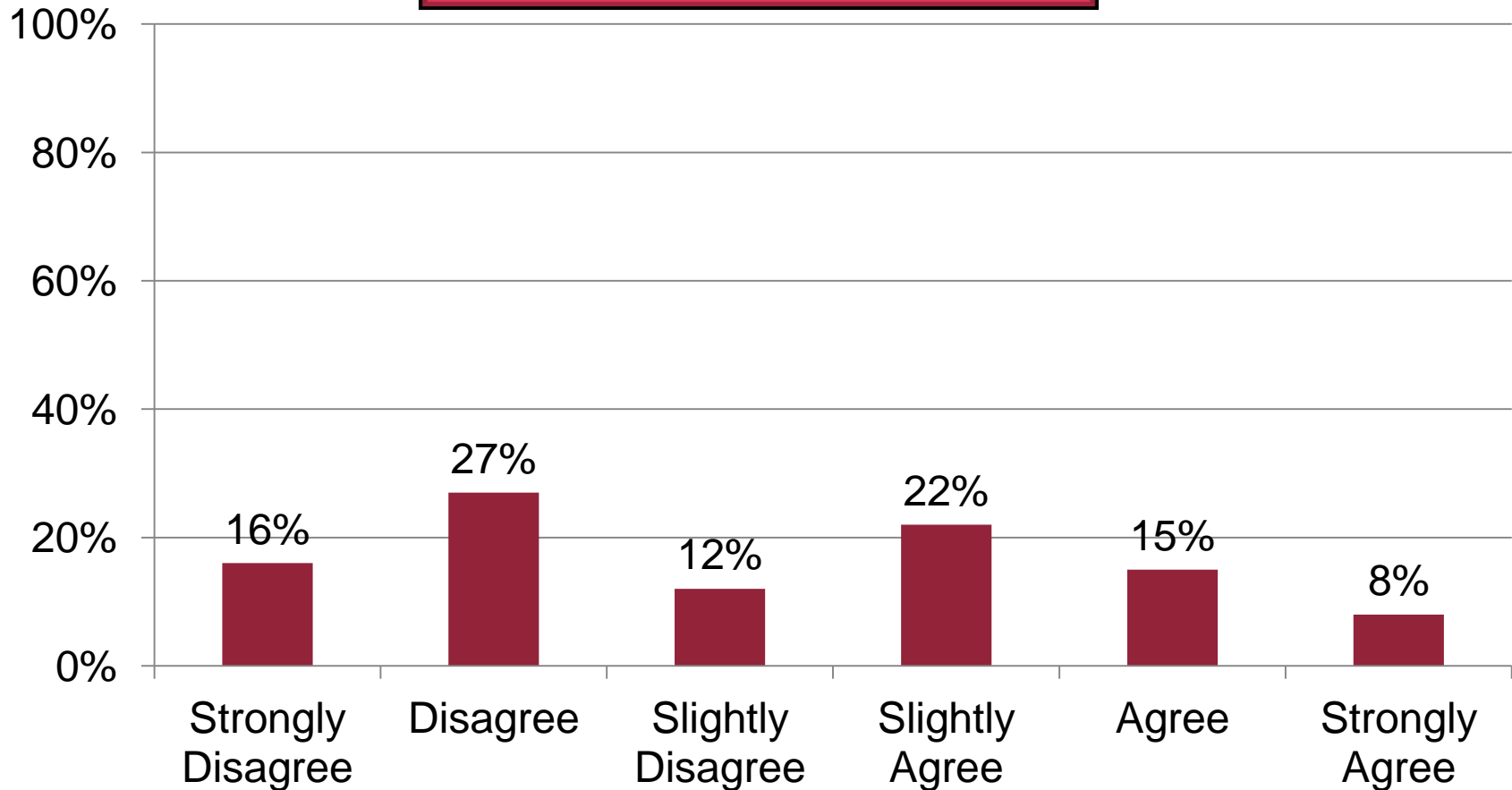
72% wish they did not become impatient so quickly with their children

Among those with children



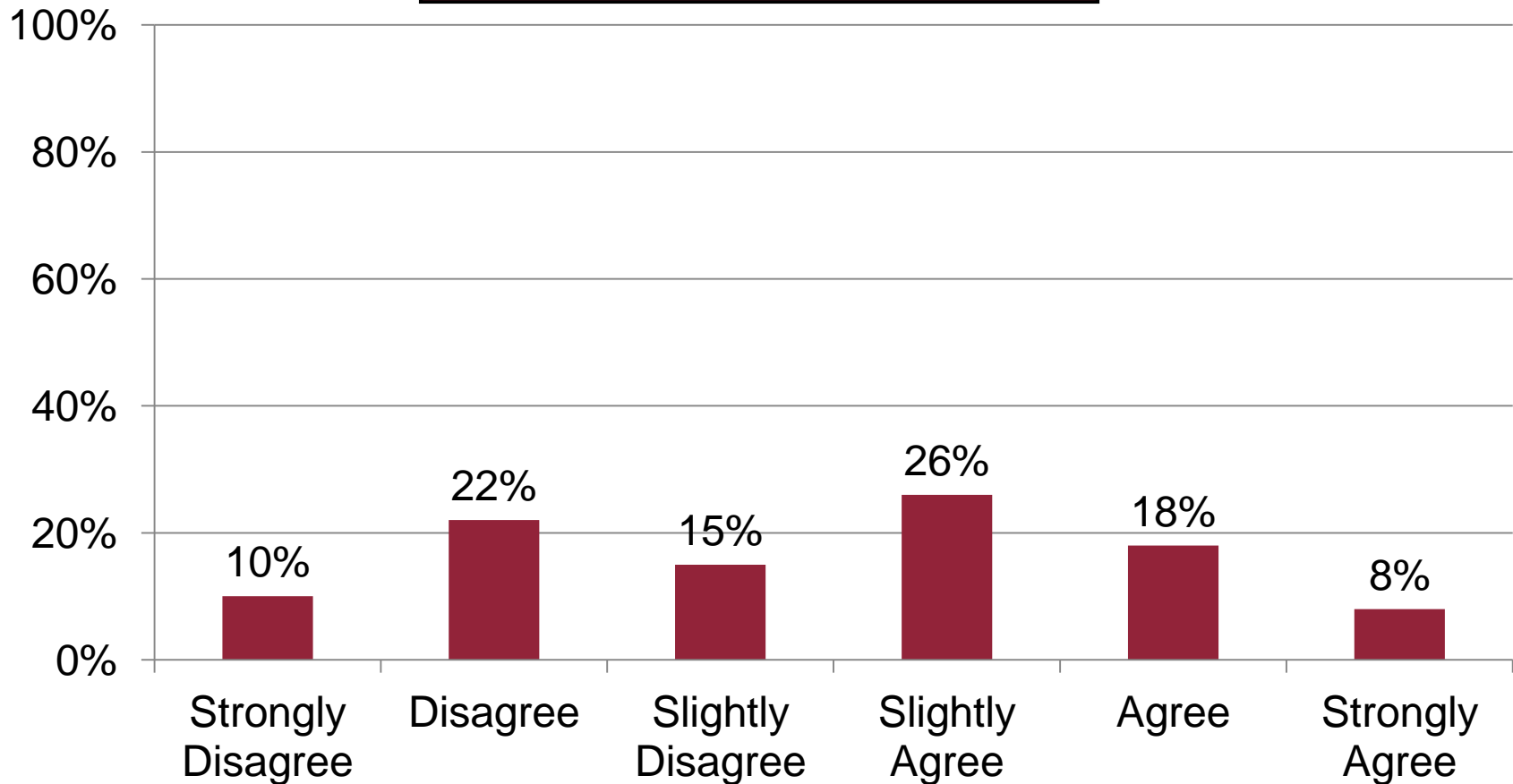
45% are upset with the amount of yelling they direct towards their children

Among those with children



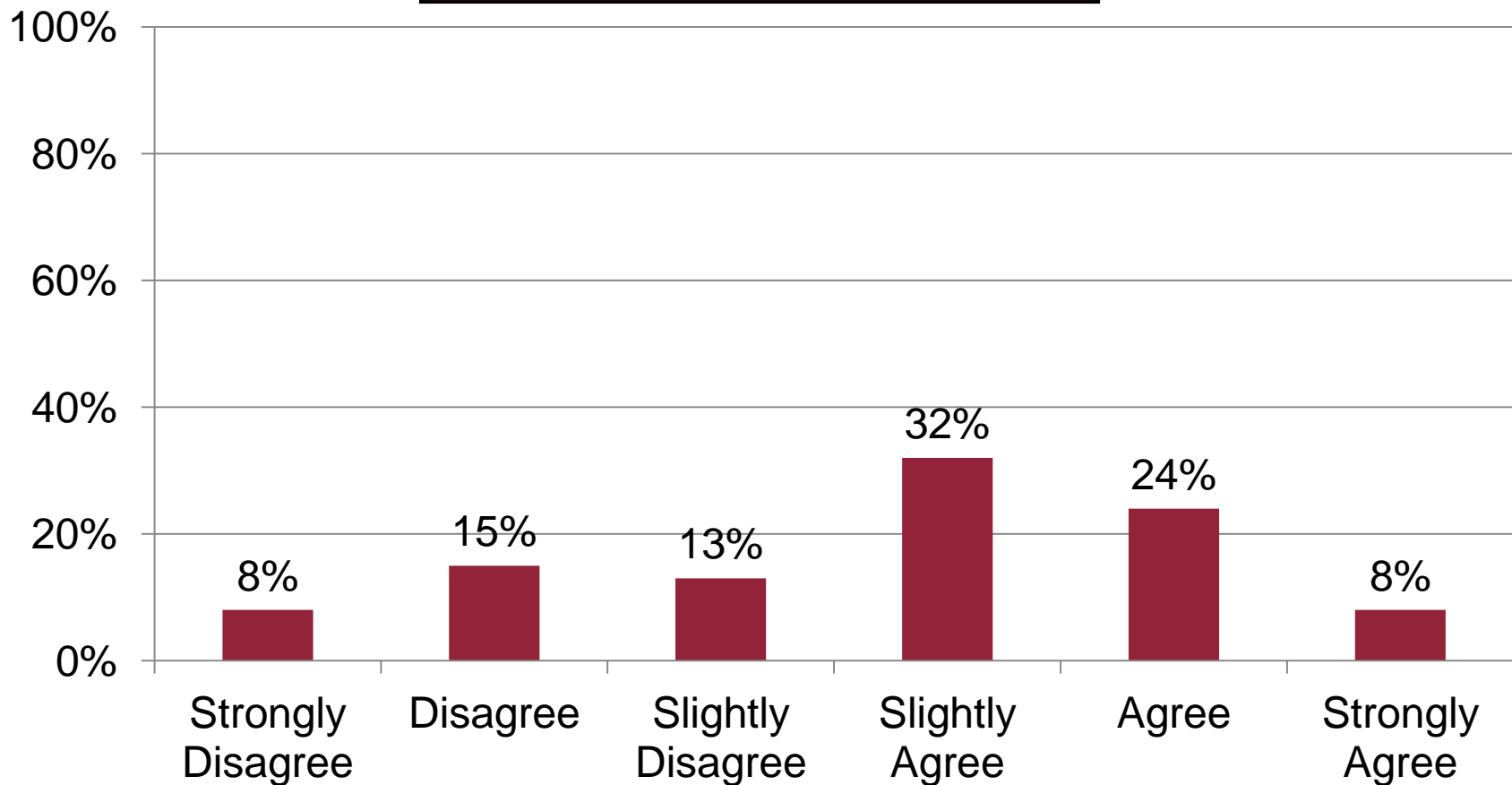
52% wish they were more consistent in their parenting behaviors

Among those with children



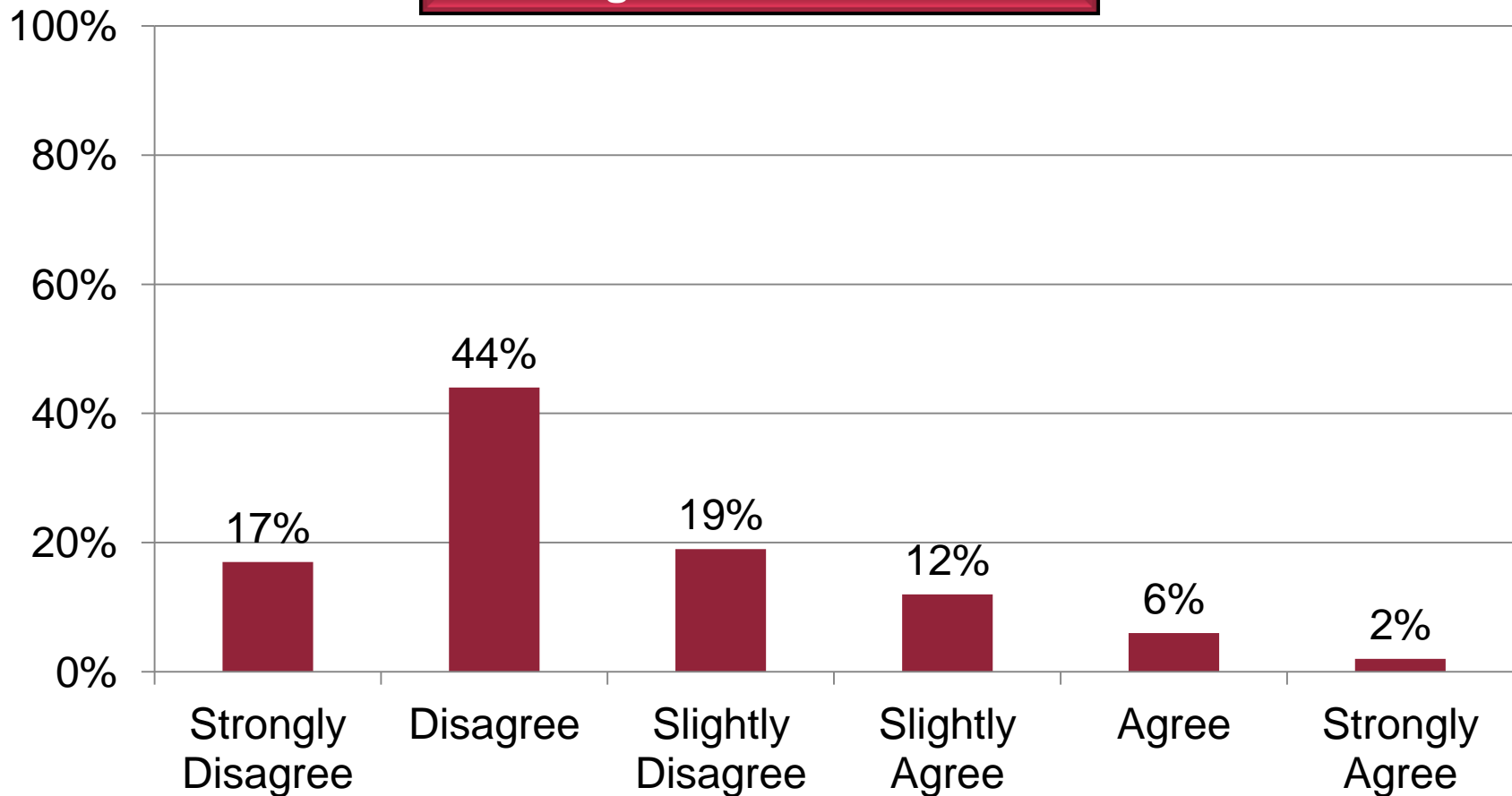
64% feel like they are sometimes too critical of their children

Among those with children



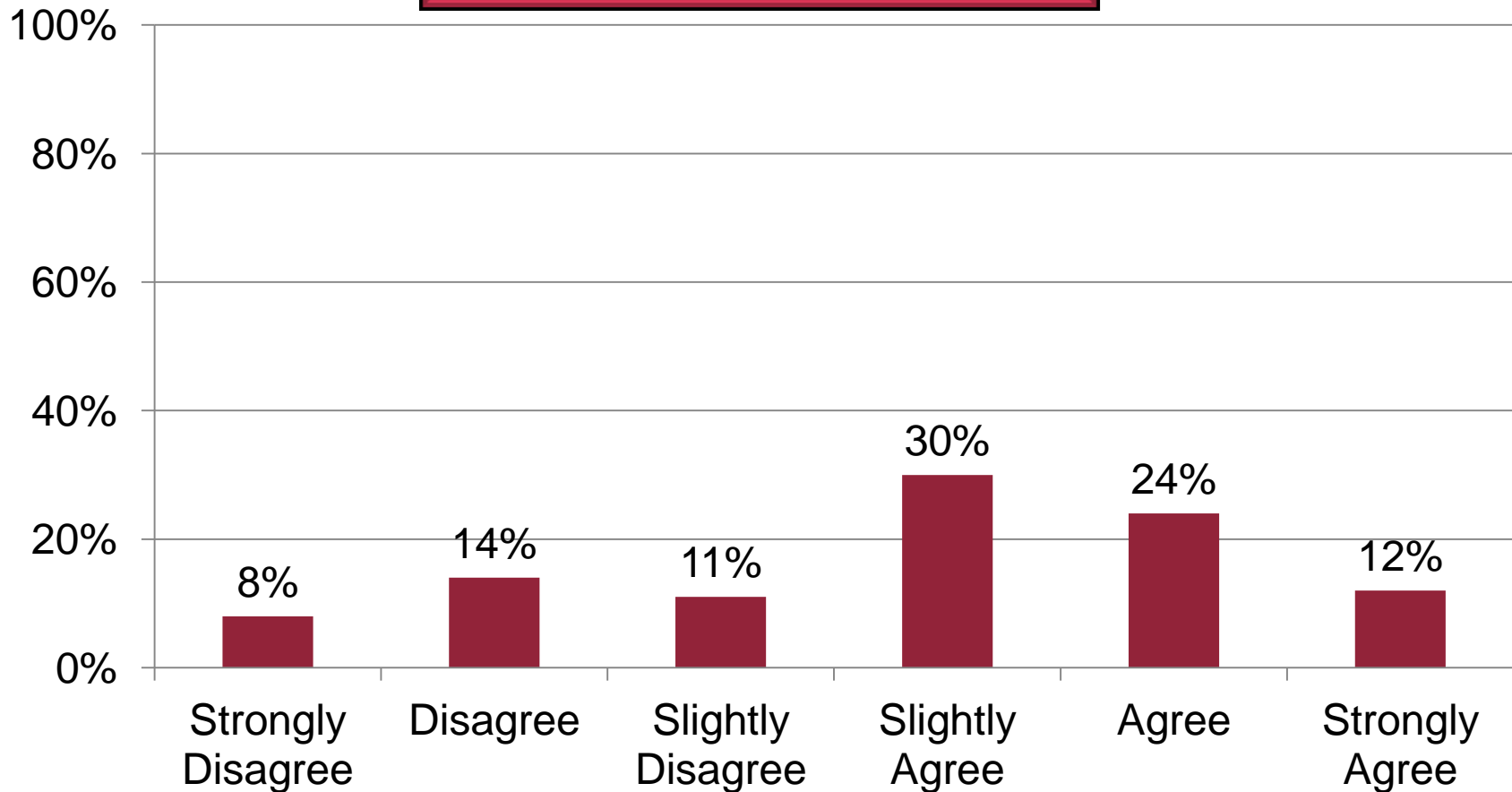
8 out of 10 do not feel uncomfortable with the way they often discipline their children

Among those with children

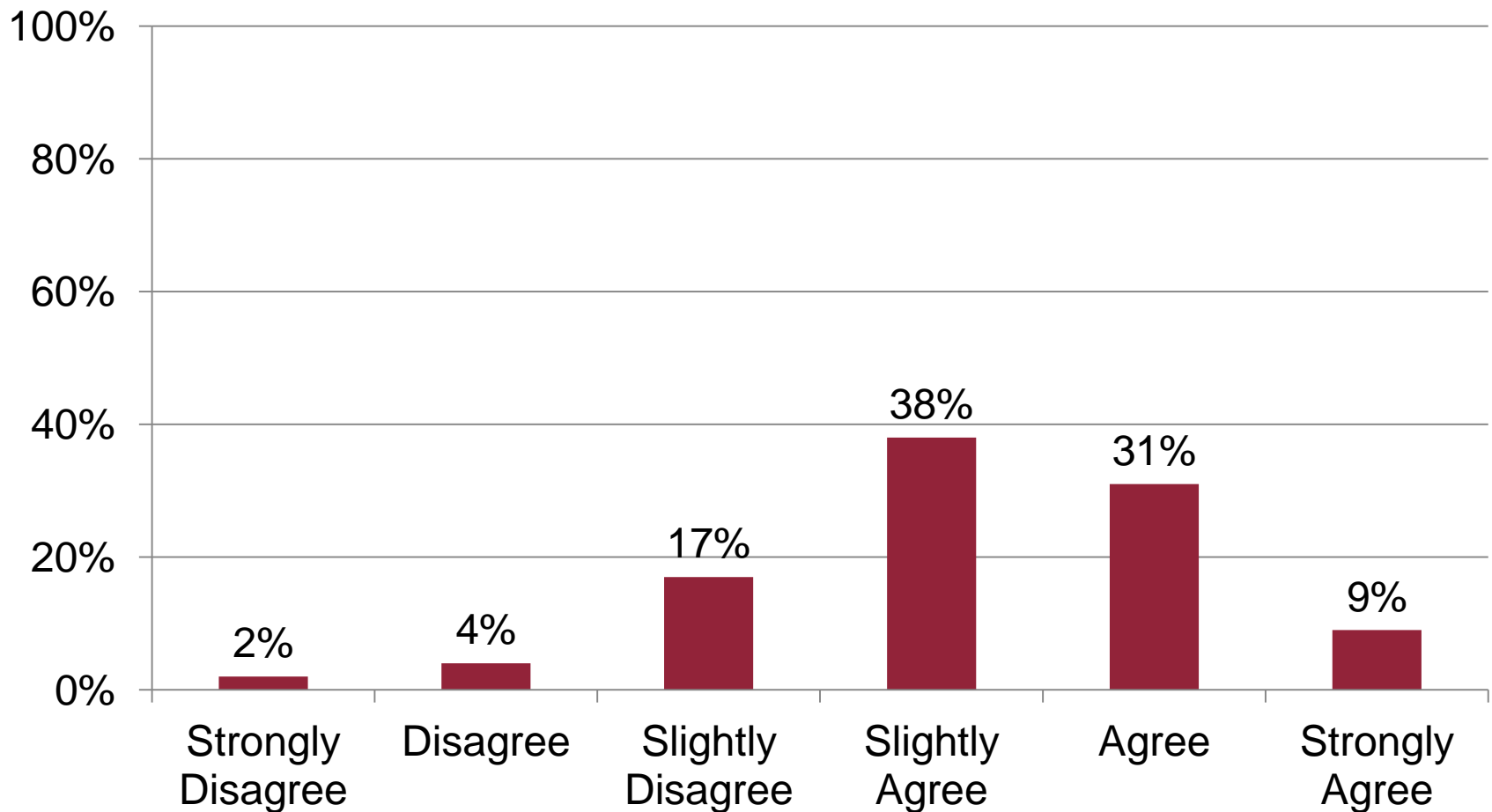


Two-thirds wish they were a better parent and could do a better job parenting

Among those with children

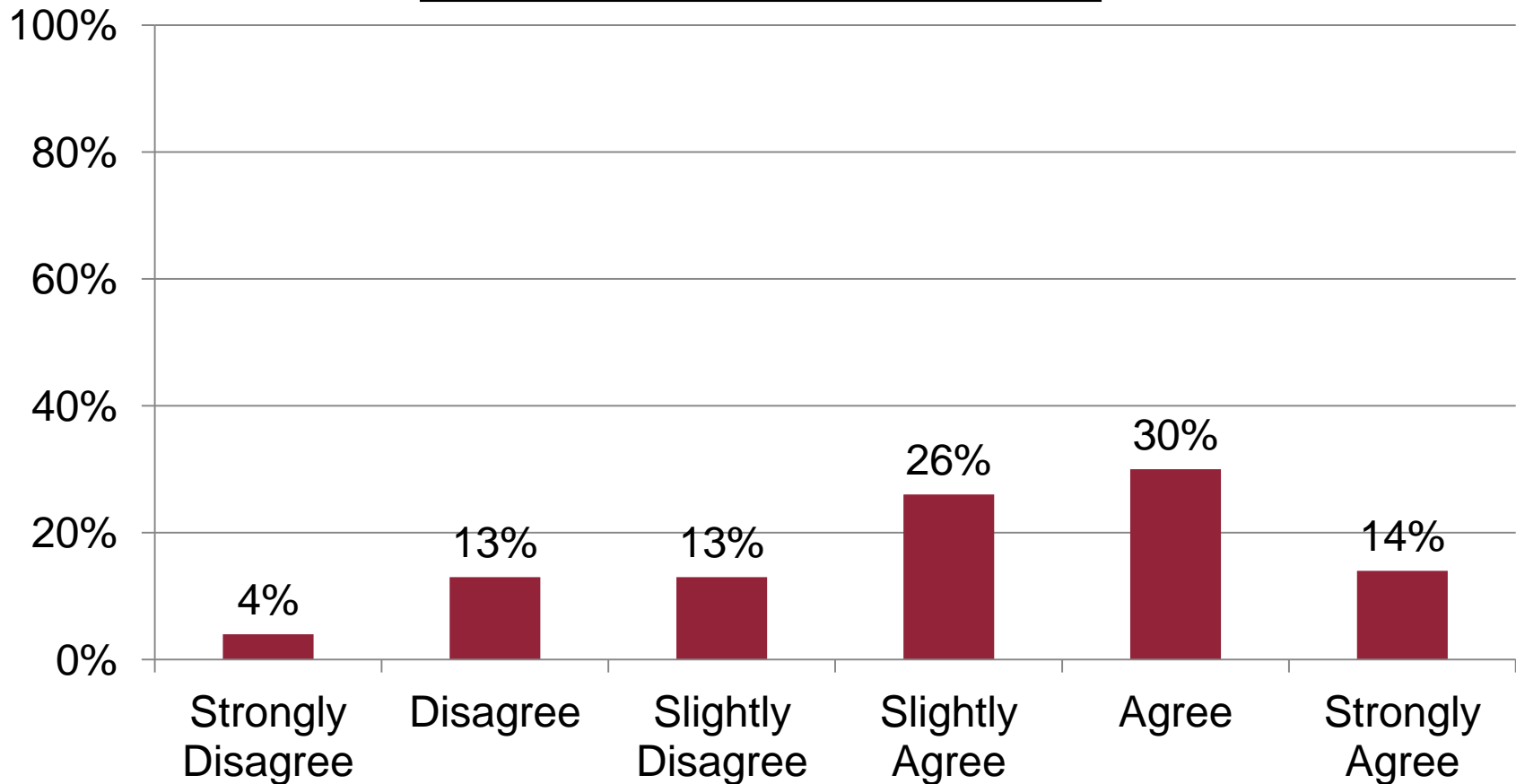


78% are satisfied with their child-rearing skills



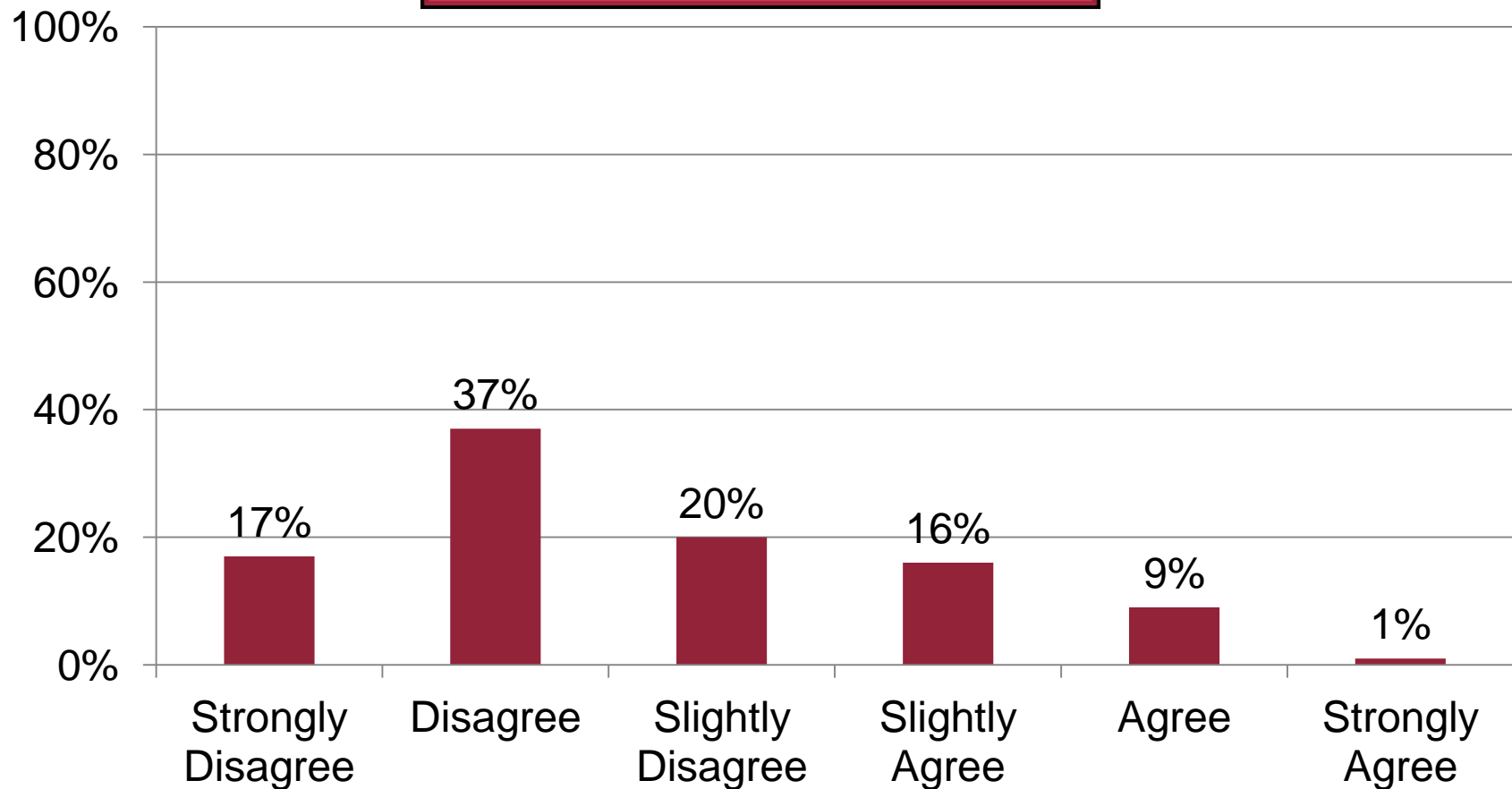
7 out of 10 wish they gave their children more individual attention

Among those with children



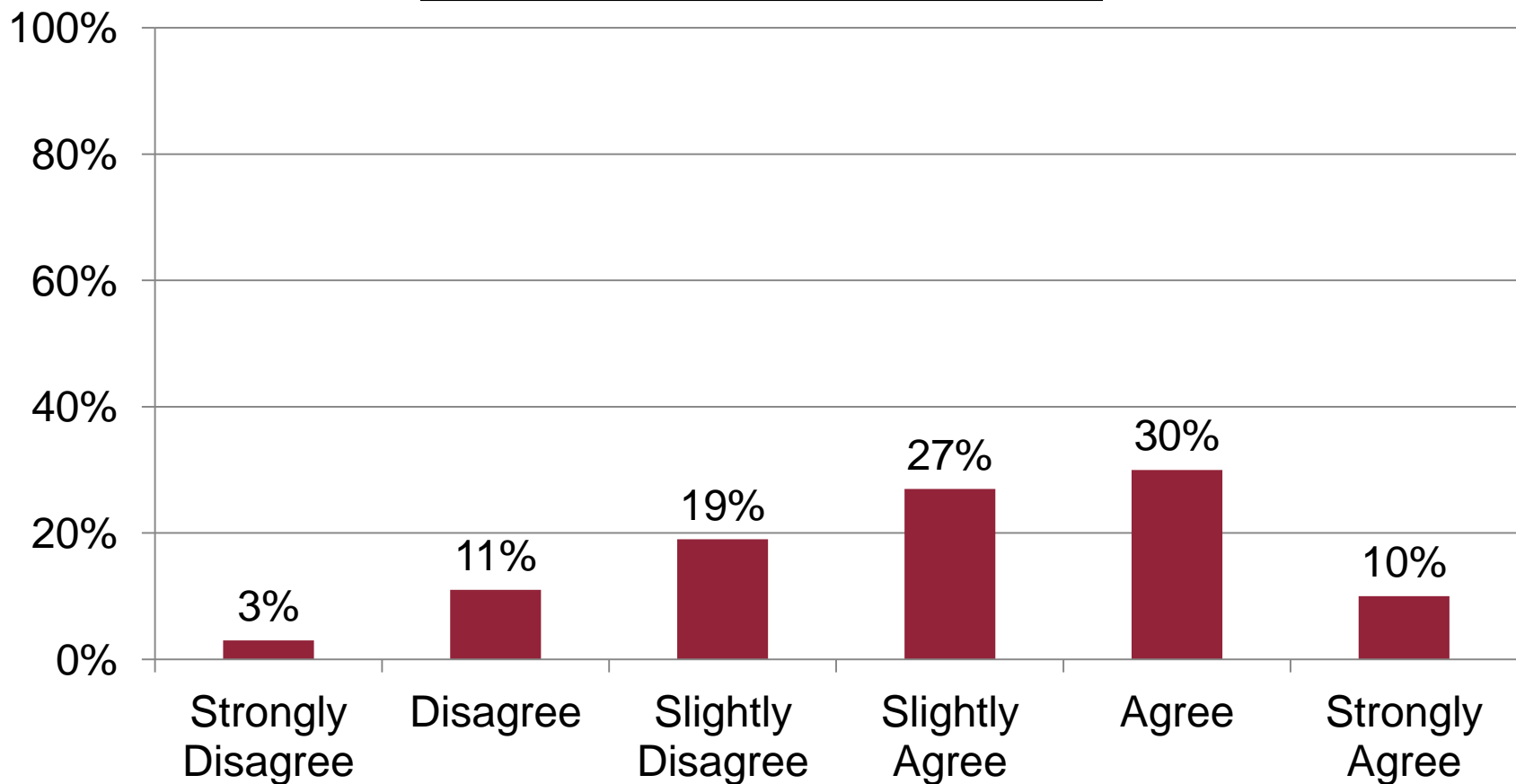
26% sometimes feel they should provide more supervision for their children

Among those with children



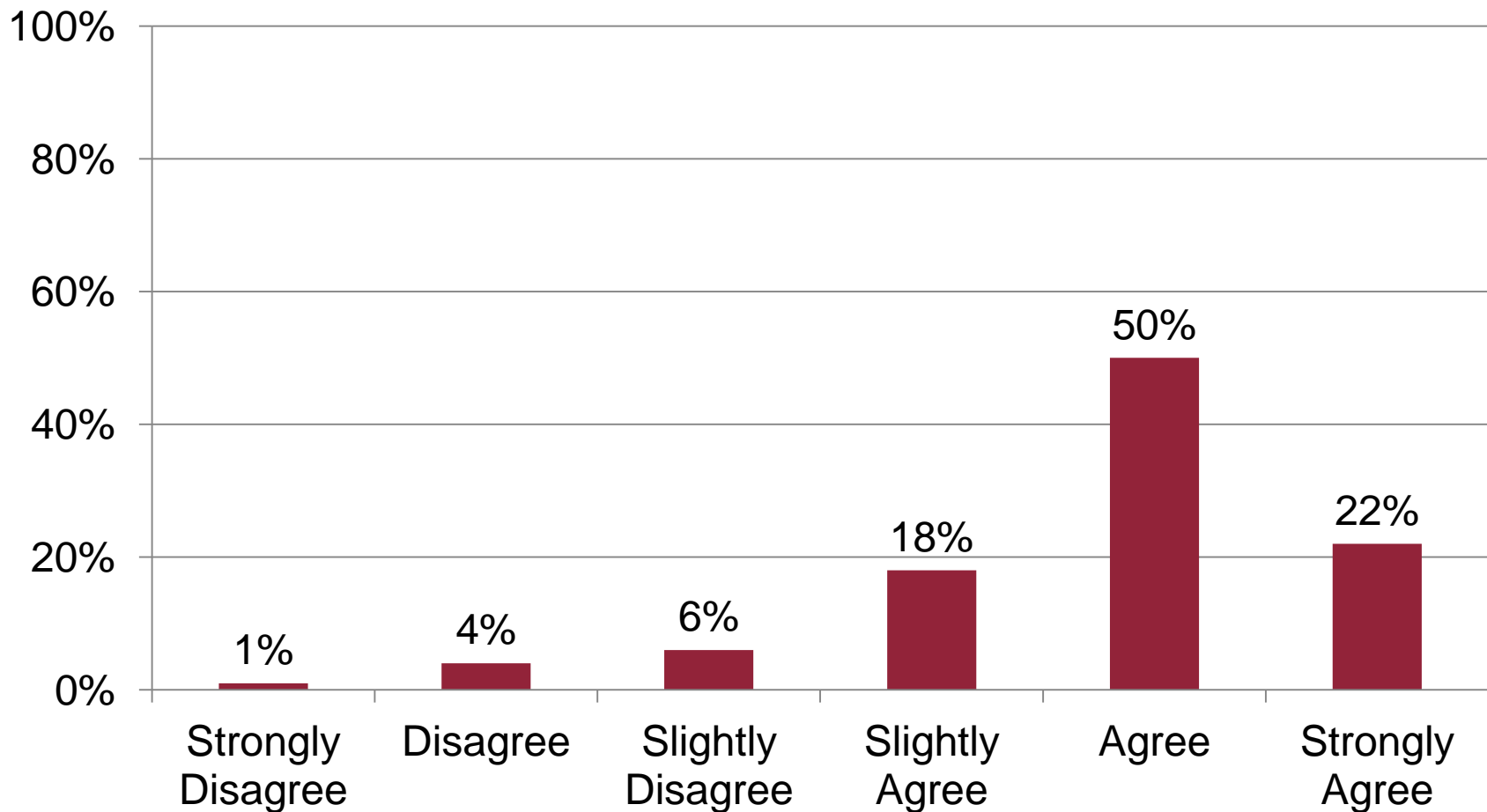
67% are satisfied with the amount of time they can give to their children

Among those with children

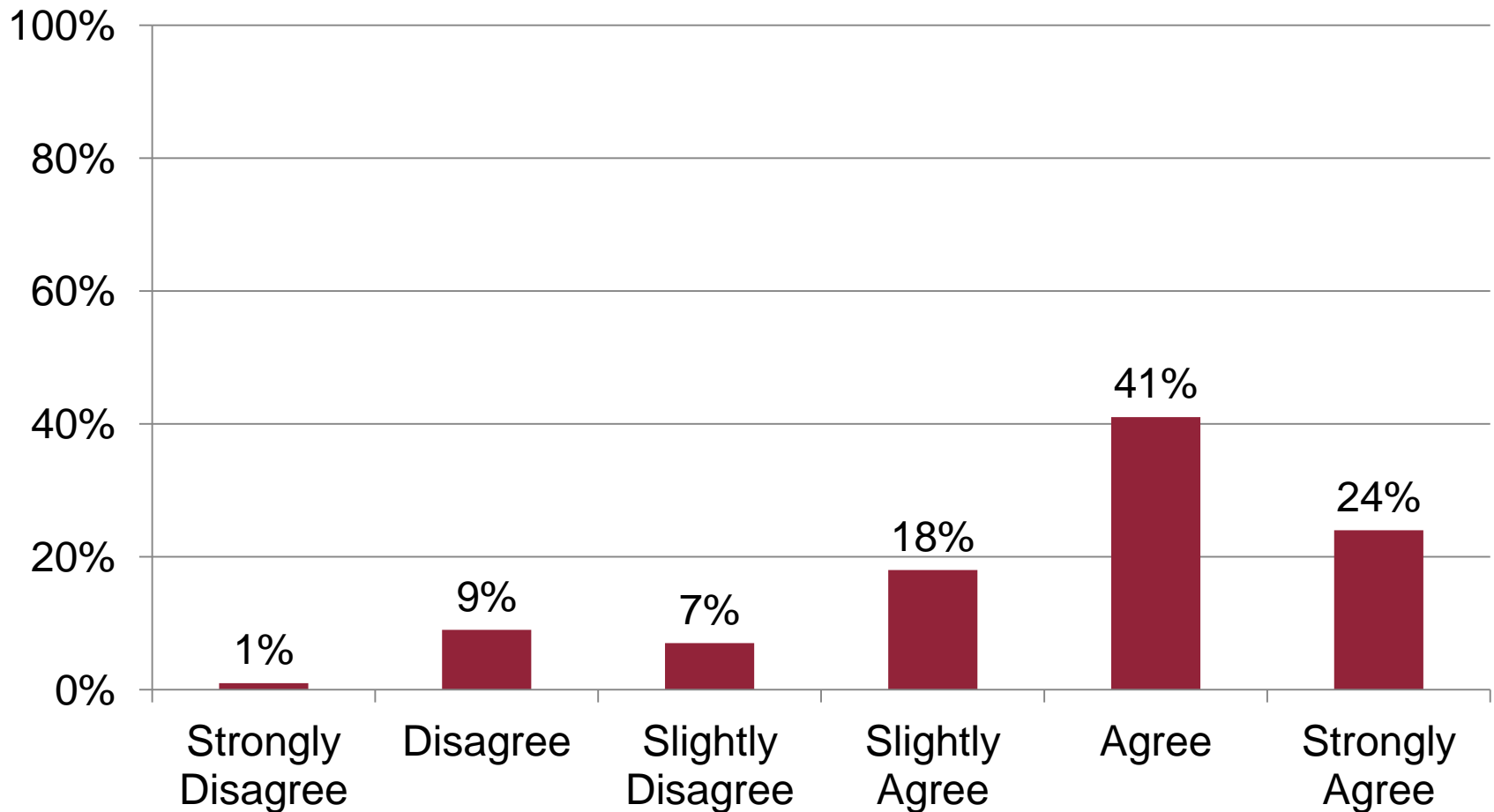


Family Life

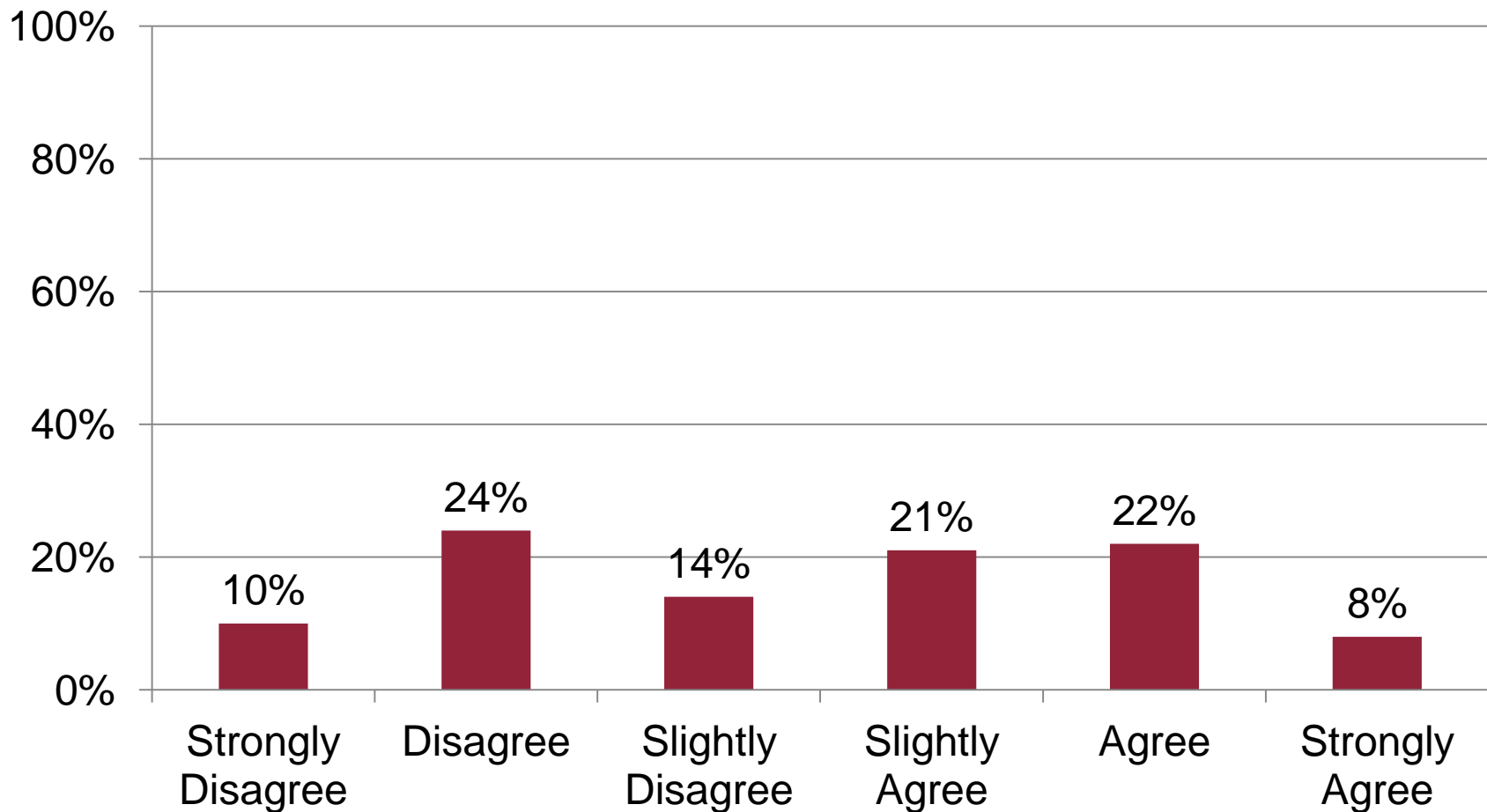
9 out of 10 agree that their spouse being in pastoral ministry has positively affected their family



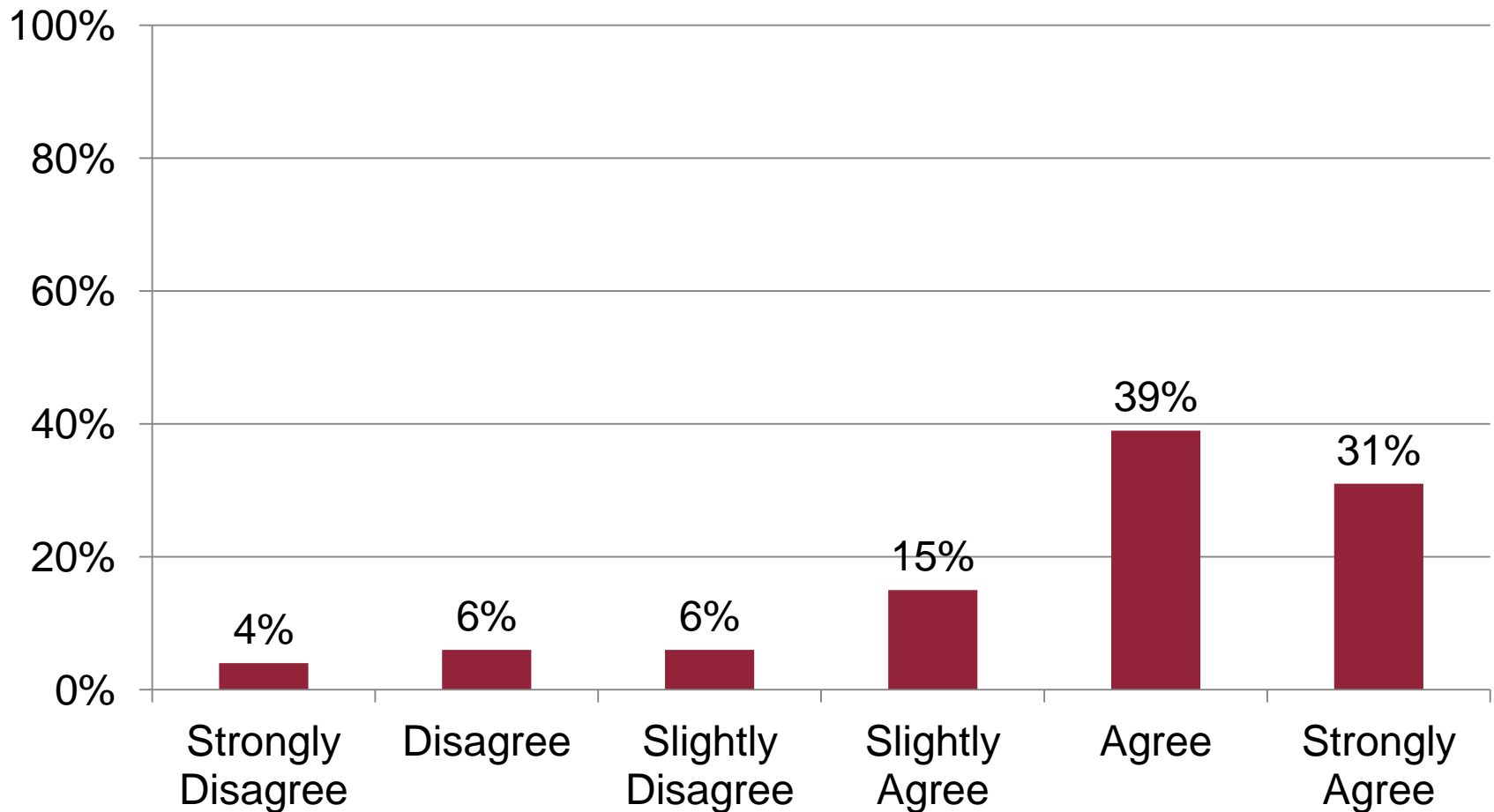
83% agree that their family eats dinner together most nights



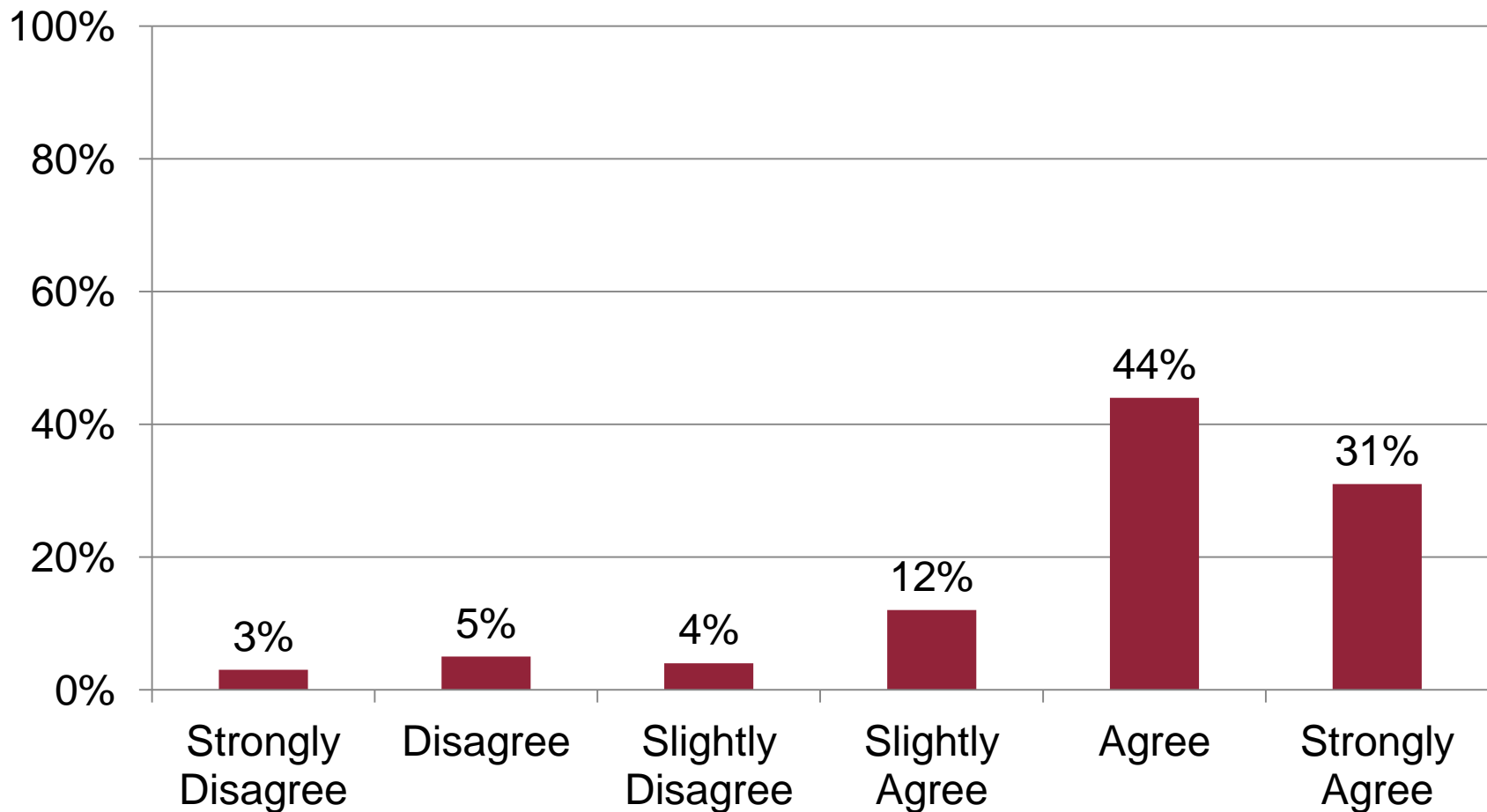
A little more than half agree that their family has designated nights for fun activities



85% agree that their family has vacation time during a typical year

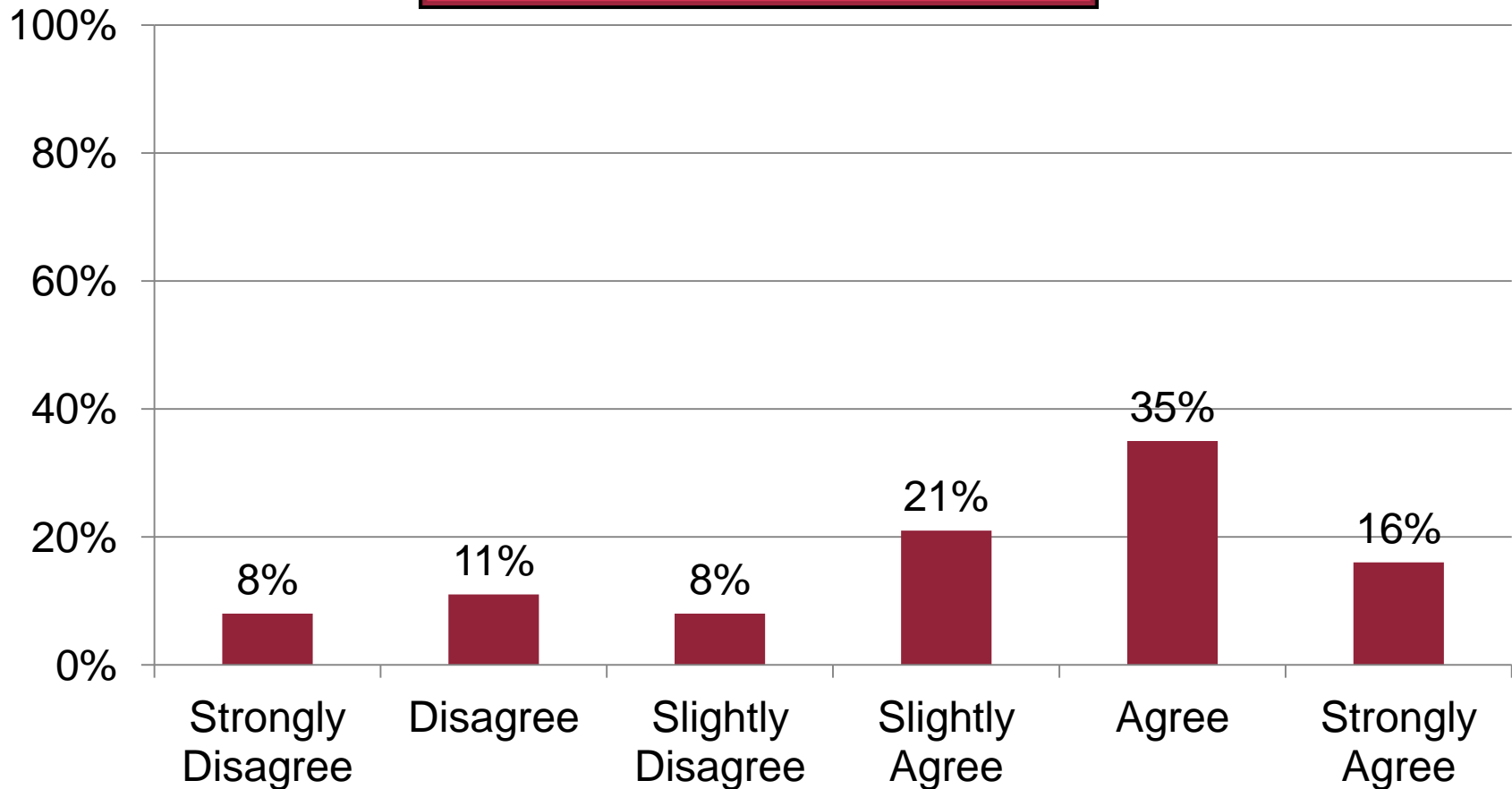


87% agree that their family goes out to dinner during a typical month



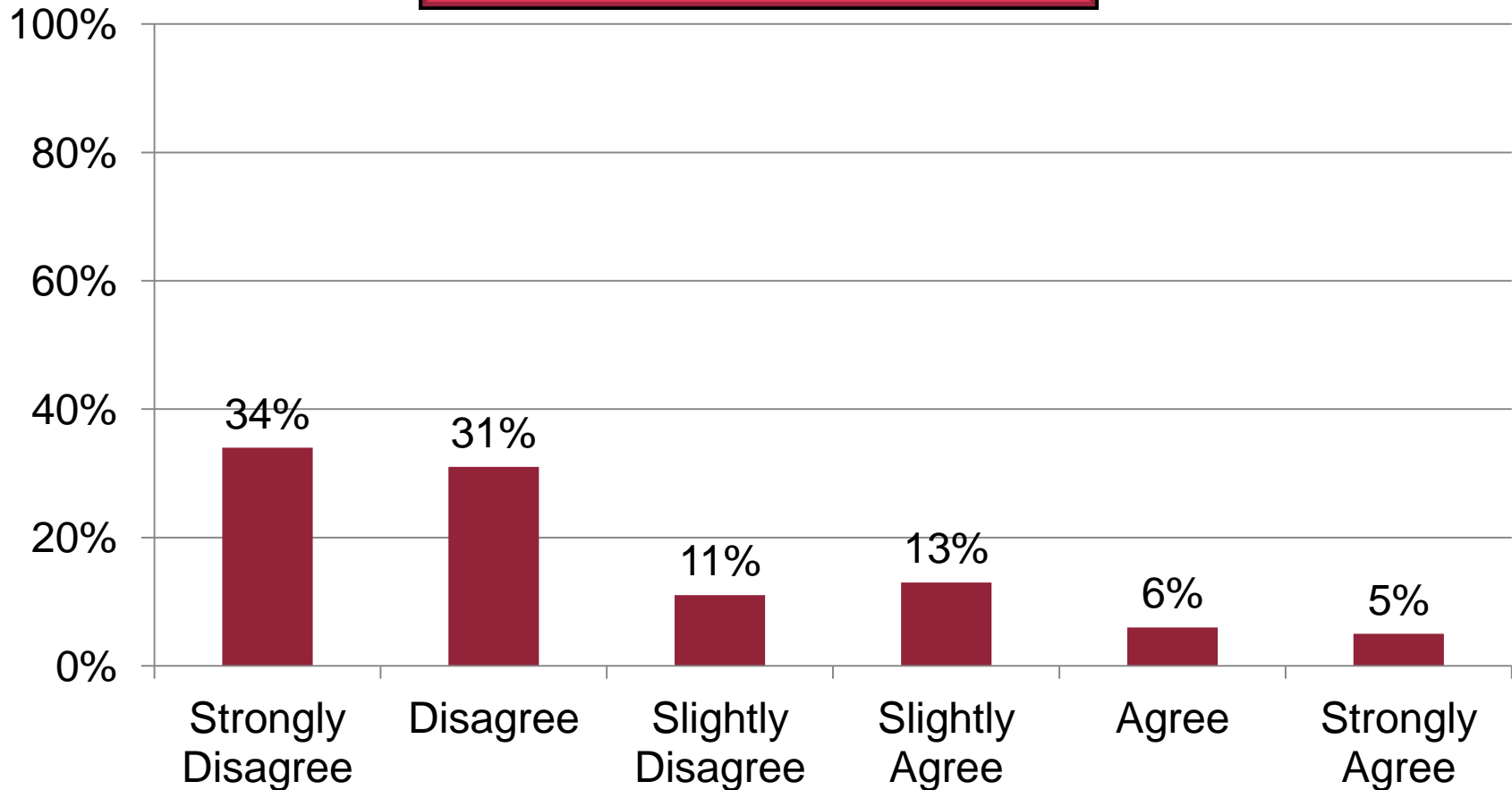
72% agree that their children have developed close friends at this church

Among those with children

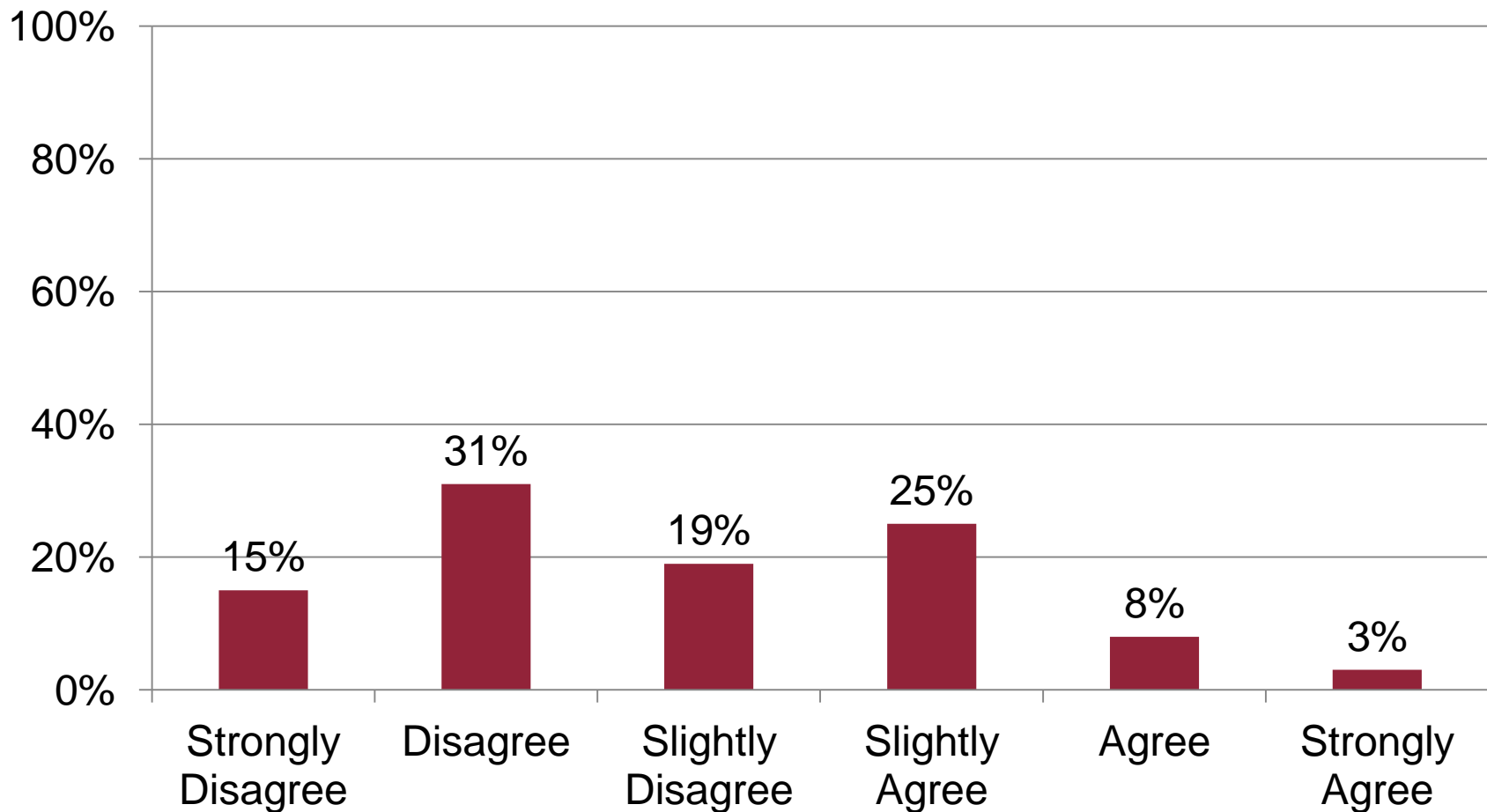


1 out of 4 agree that their children often don't want to attend church

Among those with children

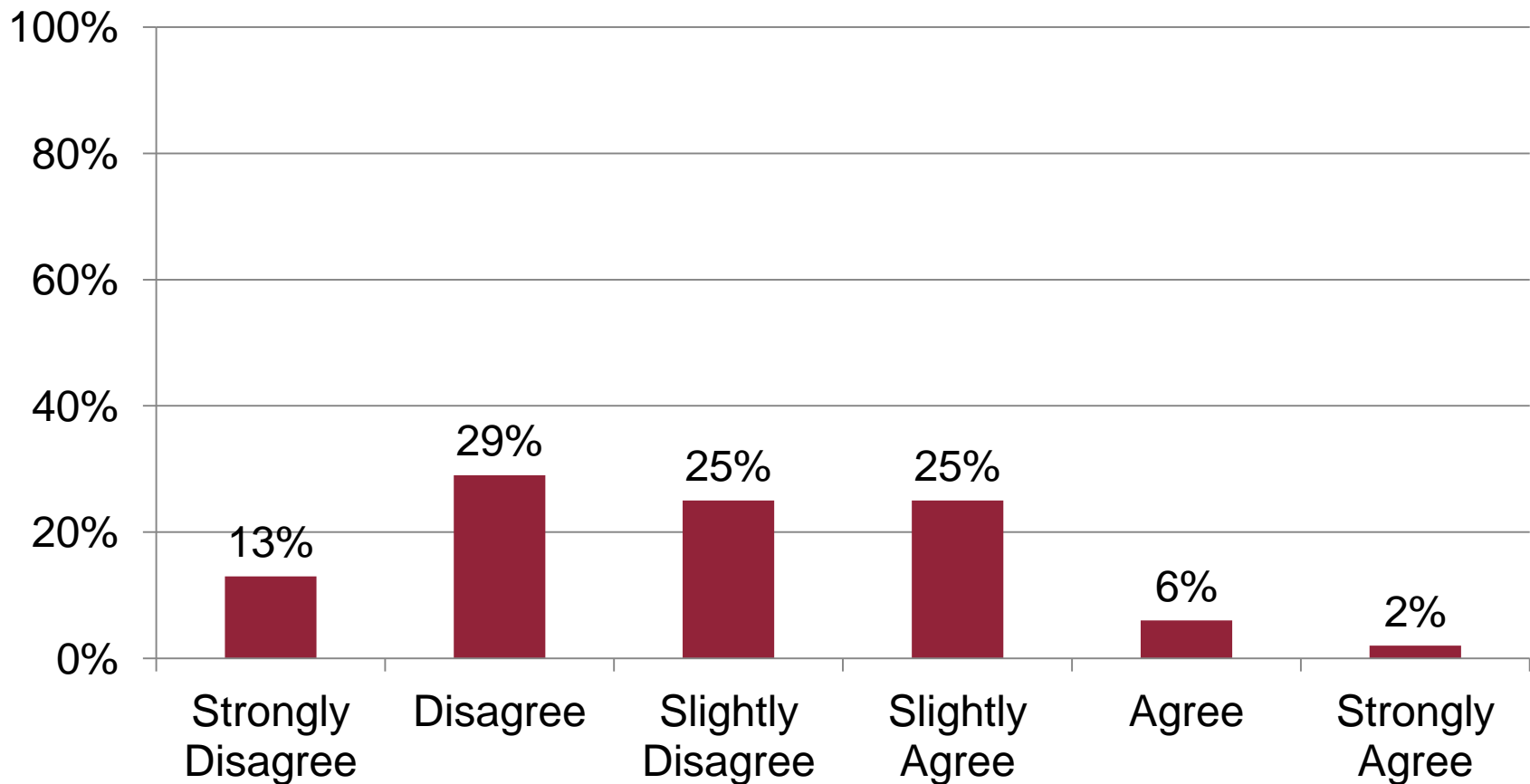


35% agree that they often resent the demands of ministry on our family

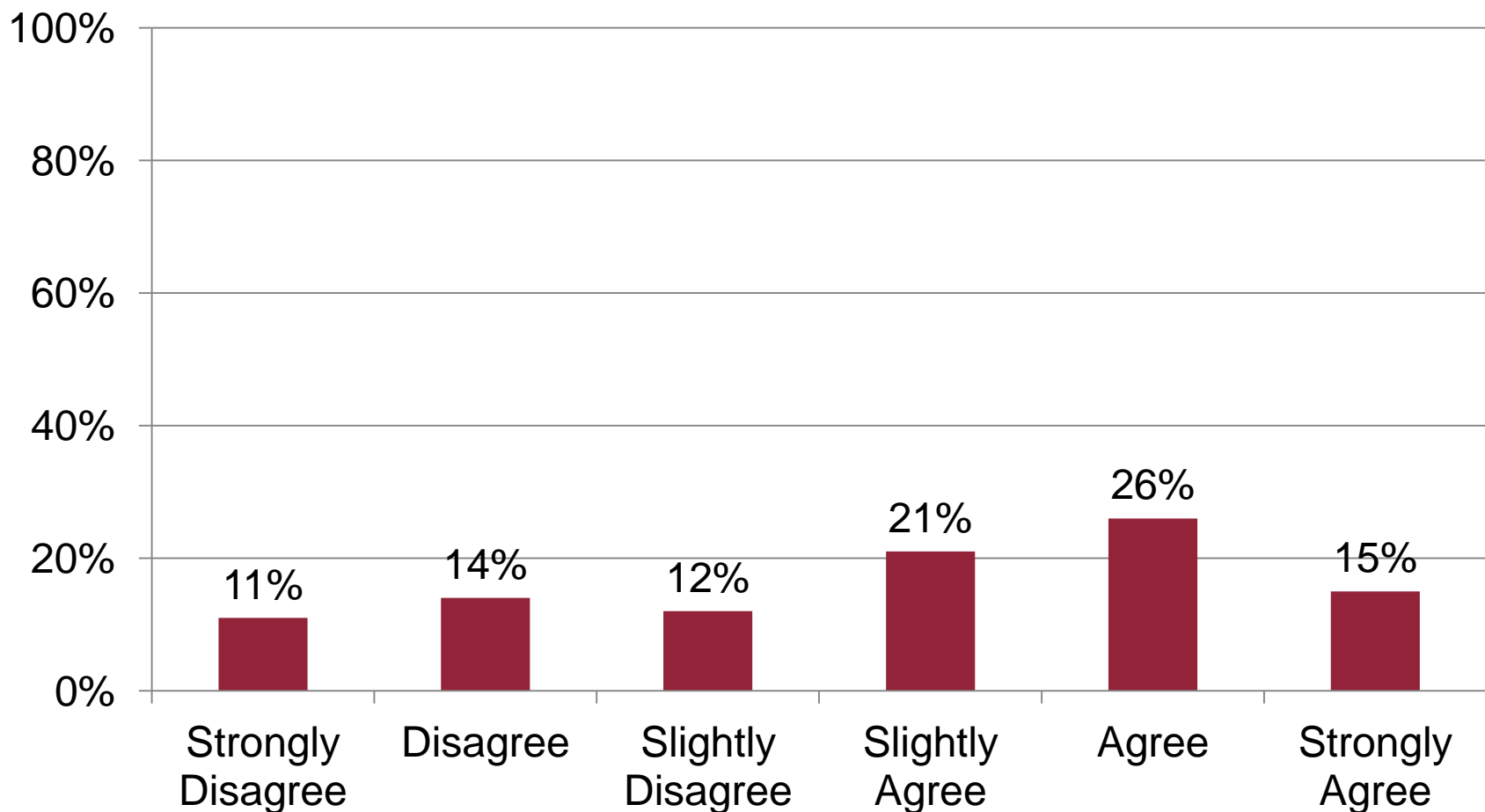


1 out of 3 agree their children resent how much time their spouse spends in ministry

Among those with children

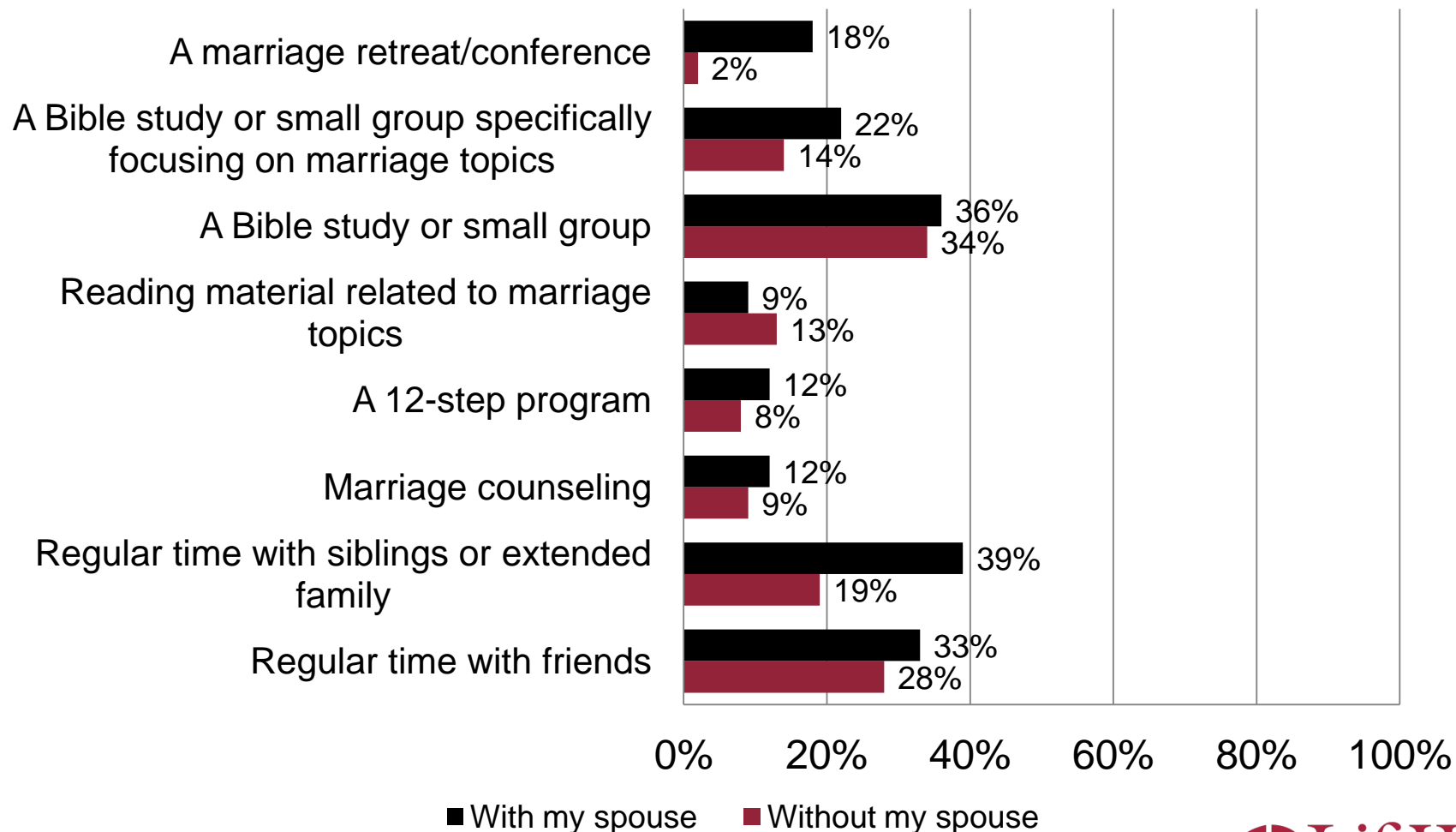


62% agree that their spouse “unplugs” from ministerial work one day a week and rests

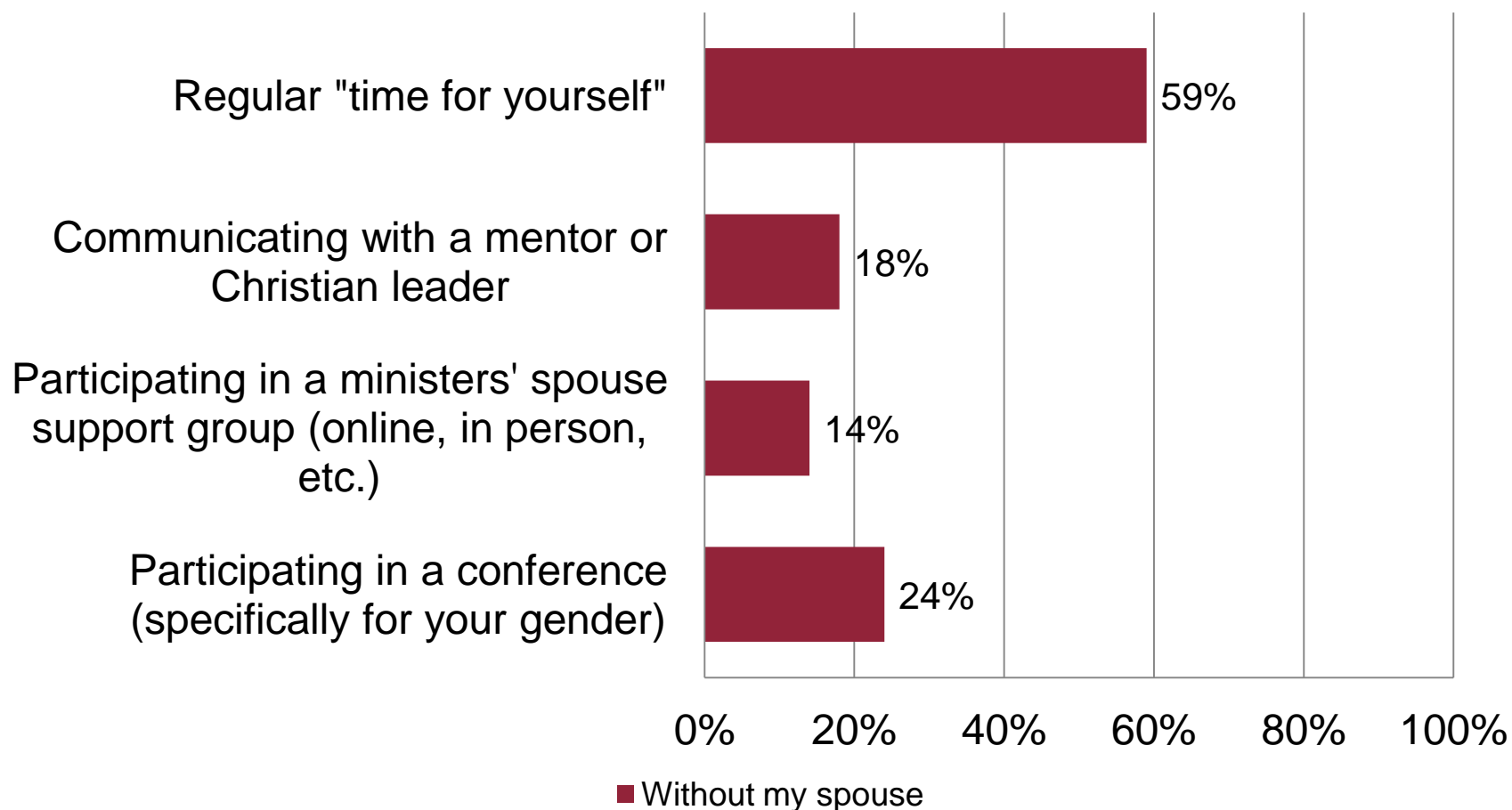


Engagement with Sources of Help

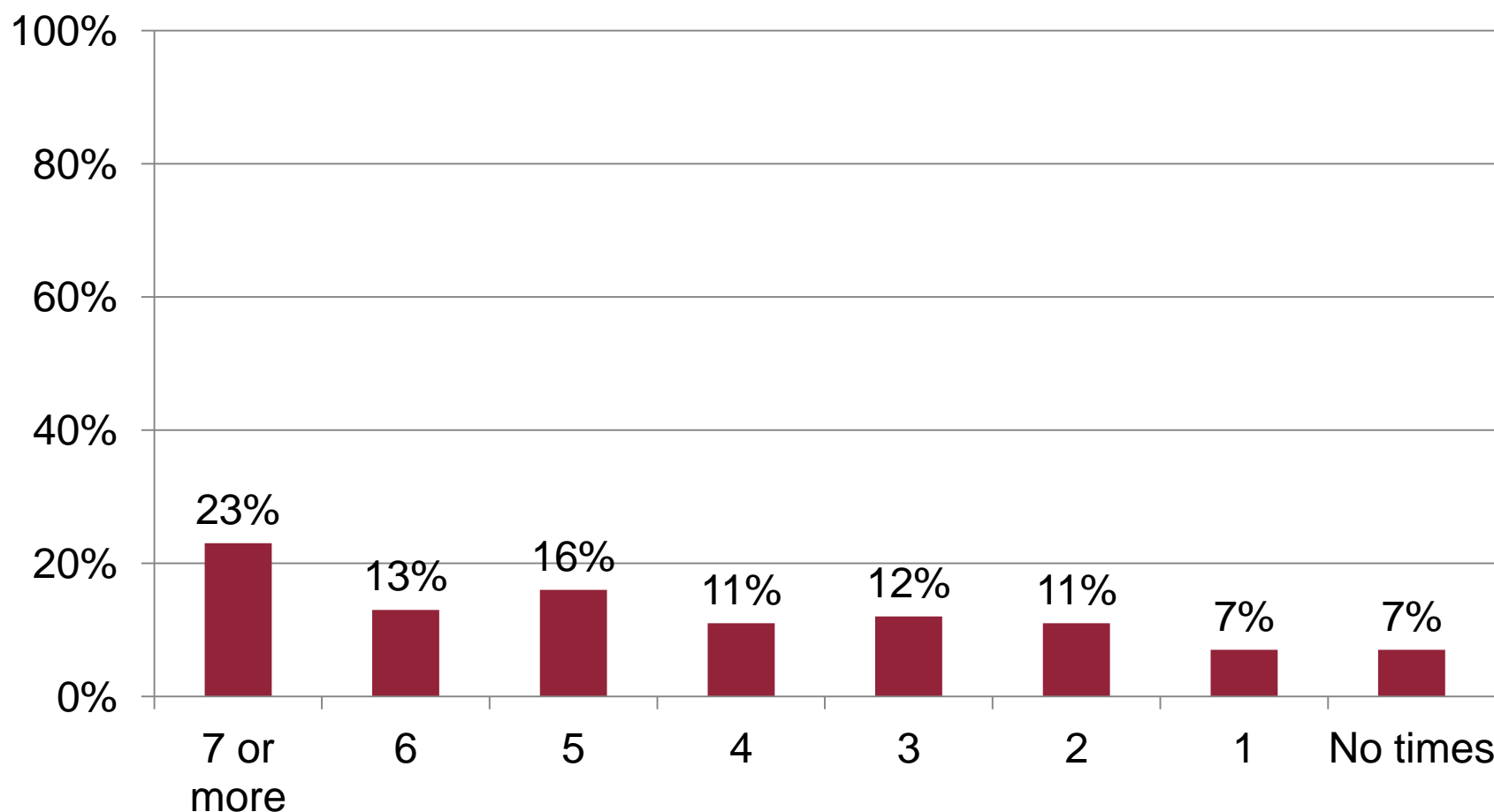
“Are you currently engaged with any of the following *with* or *without* your spouse...”



“Are you currently engaged with any of the following *with* or *without* your spouse...



In the last seven days, 52% have had personal time with the Lord involving Bible study and prayer five or more times

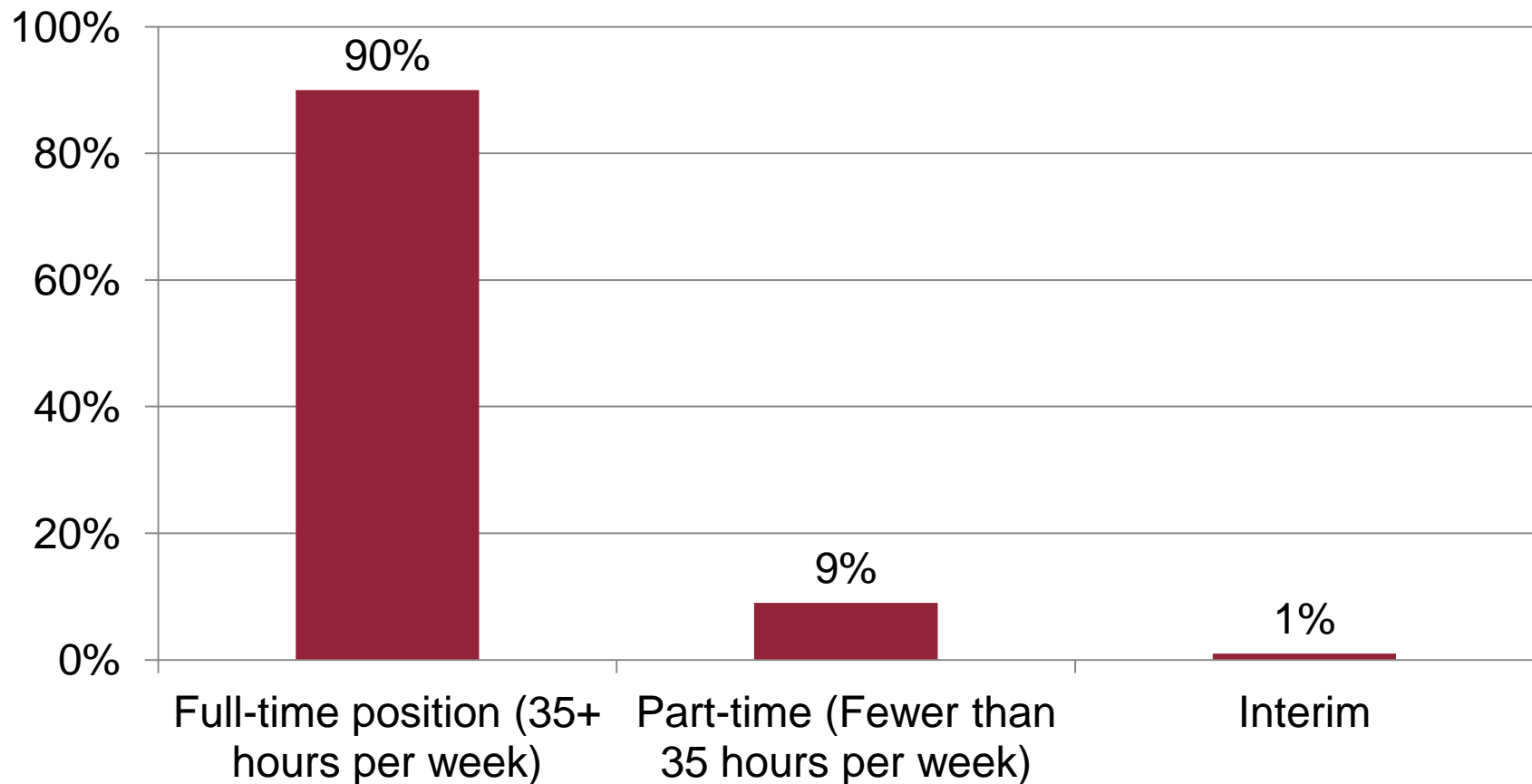


Q33 "In the last 7 days, how many times have you had personal time alone with the Lord involving Bible study and prayer, other than lesson preparation?" n=705

Demographics

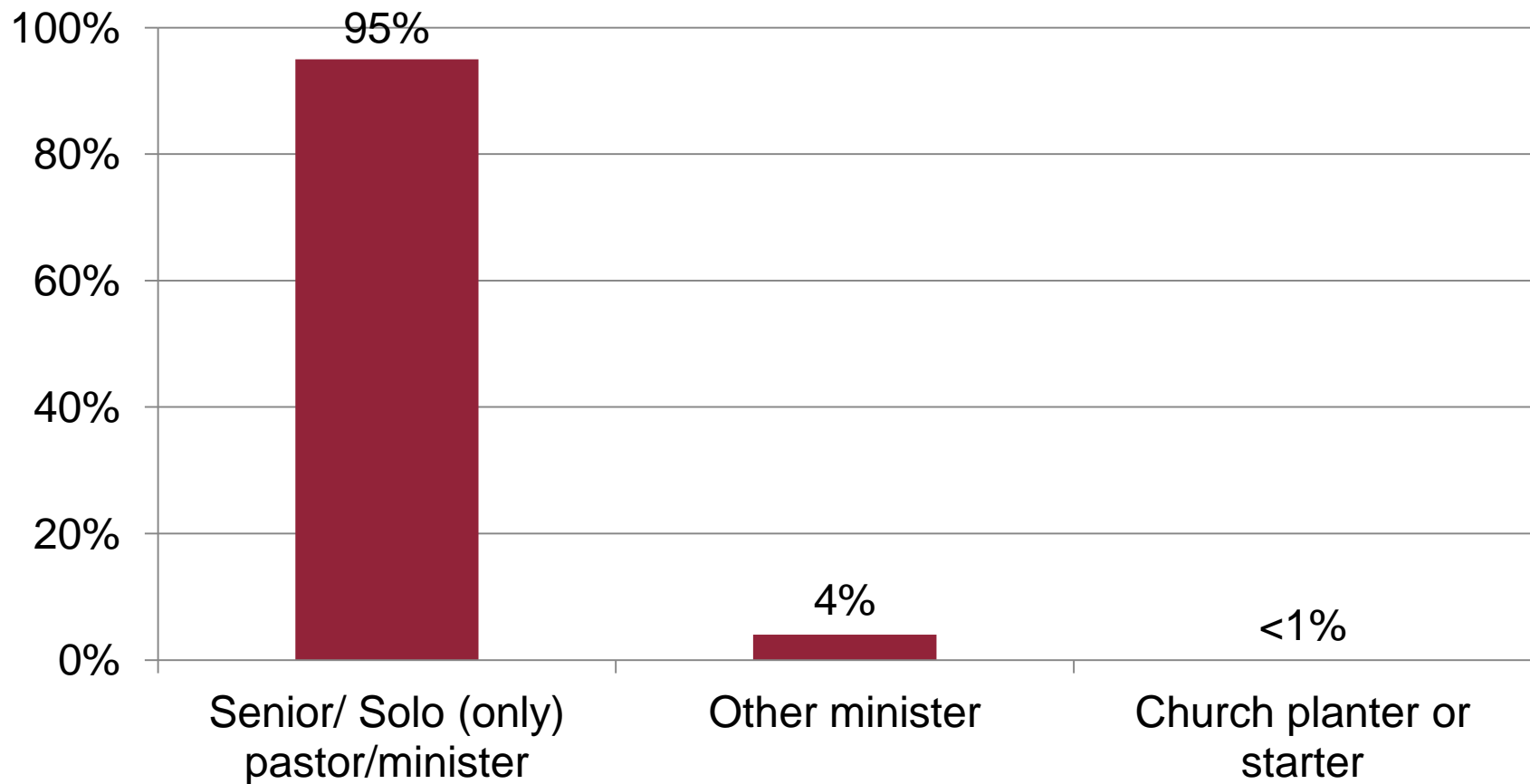


Spouse's employment status



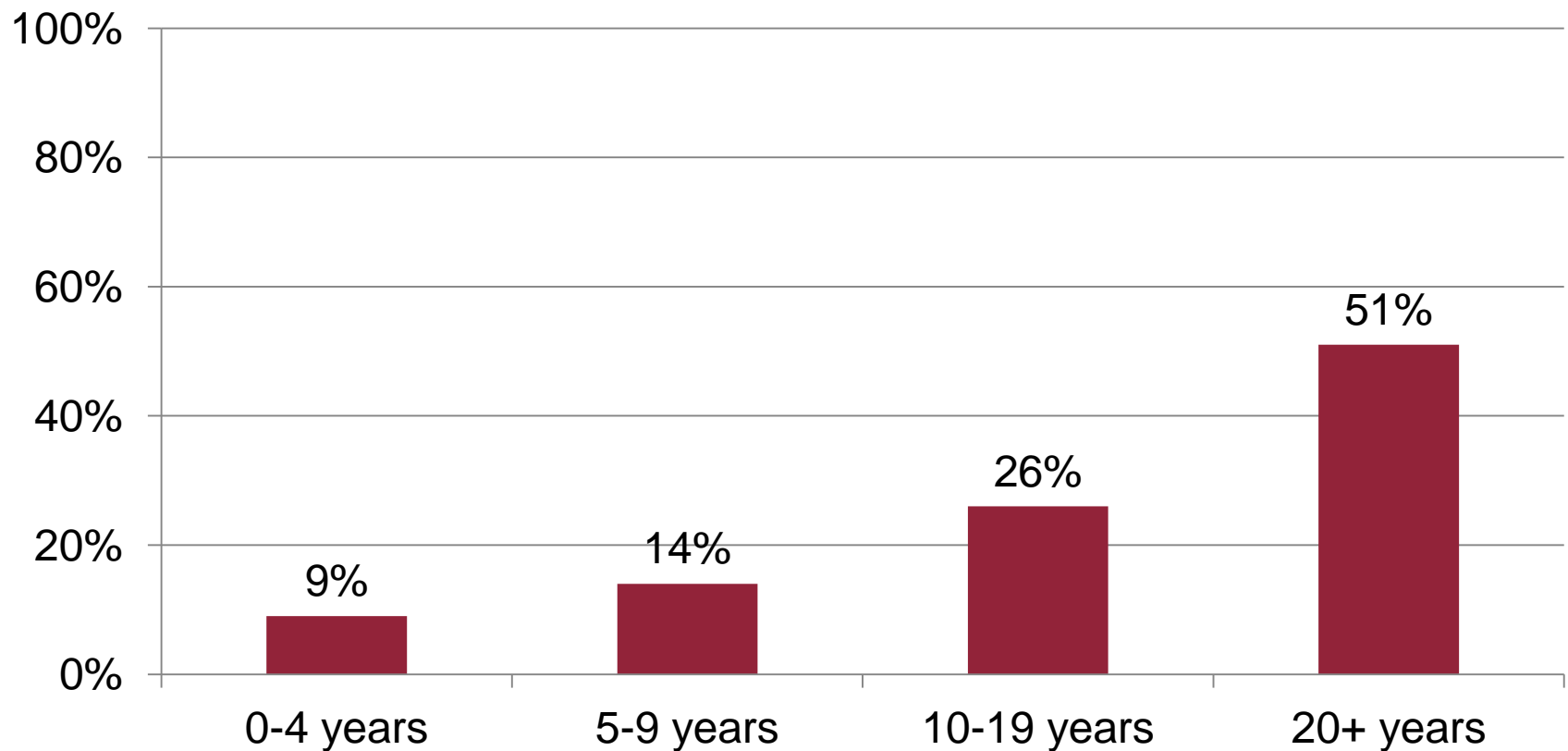
Q2: "And, is your spouse's position at the church part-time or full-time?" n=717

Current position

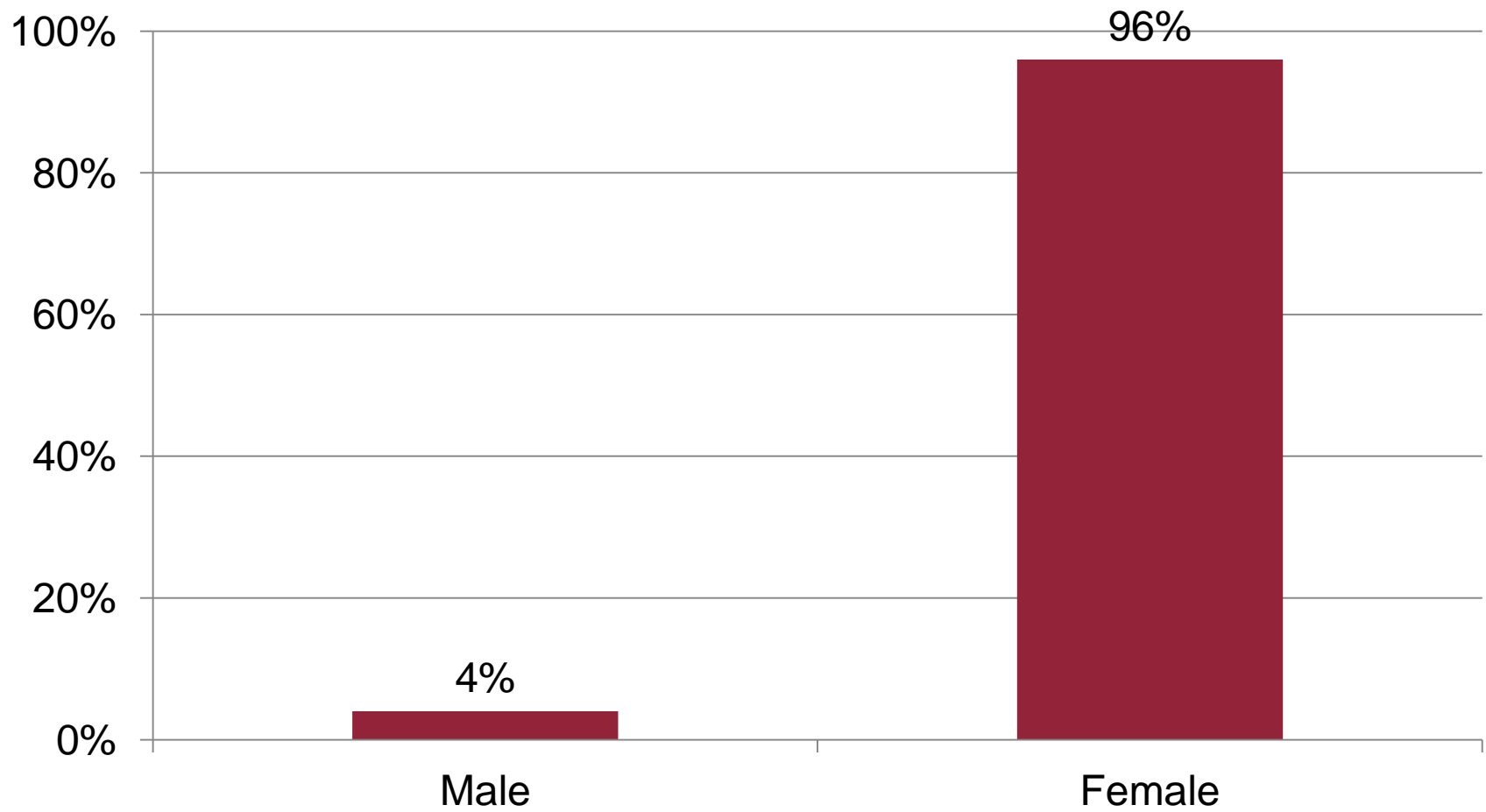


Q3: "What is your spouse's part-time or full-time employment position?" n=715

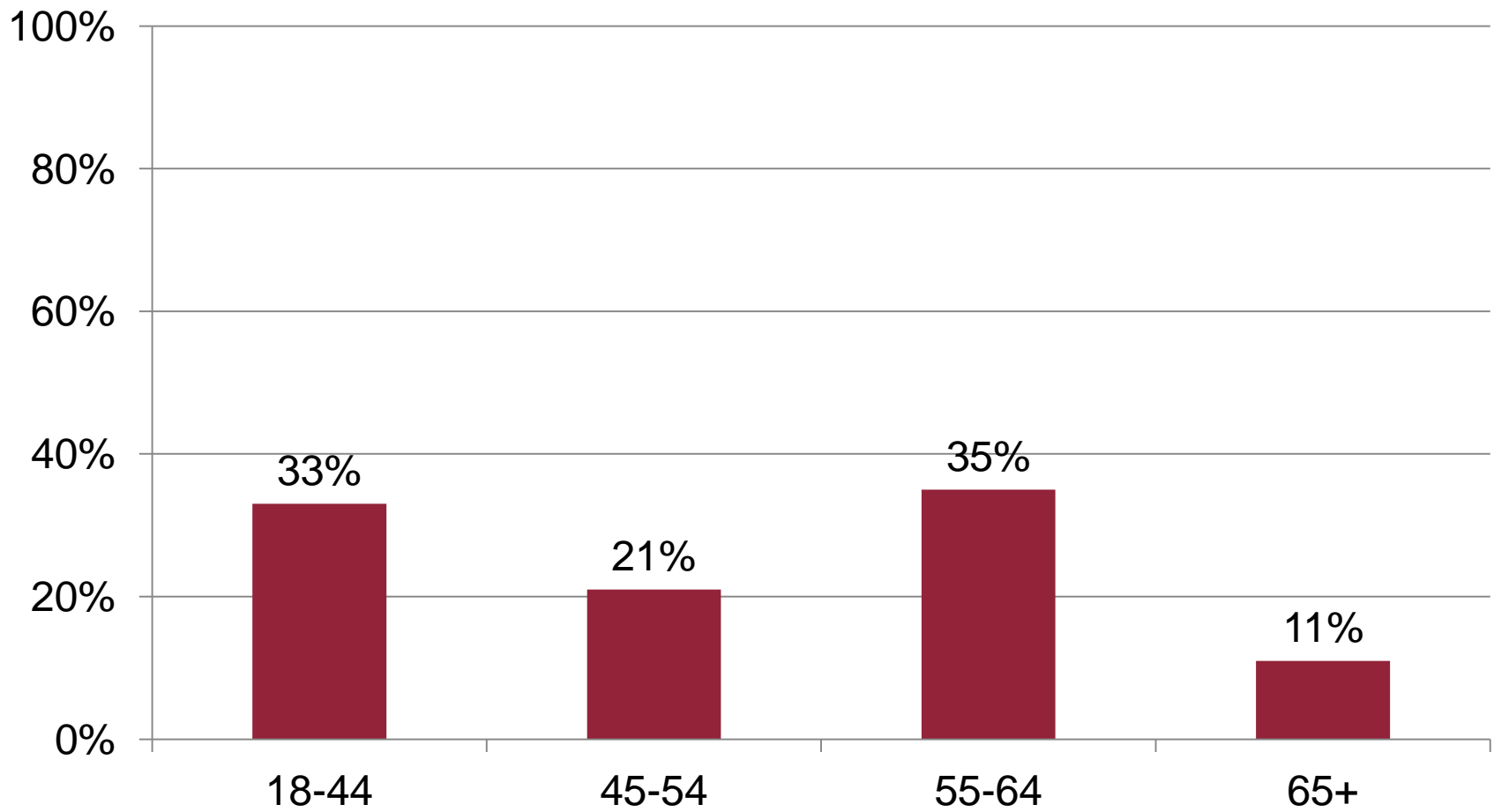
Years as a minister's spouse



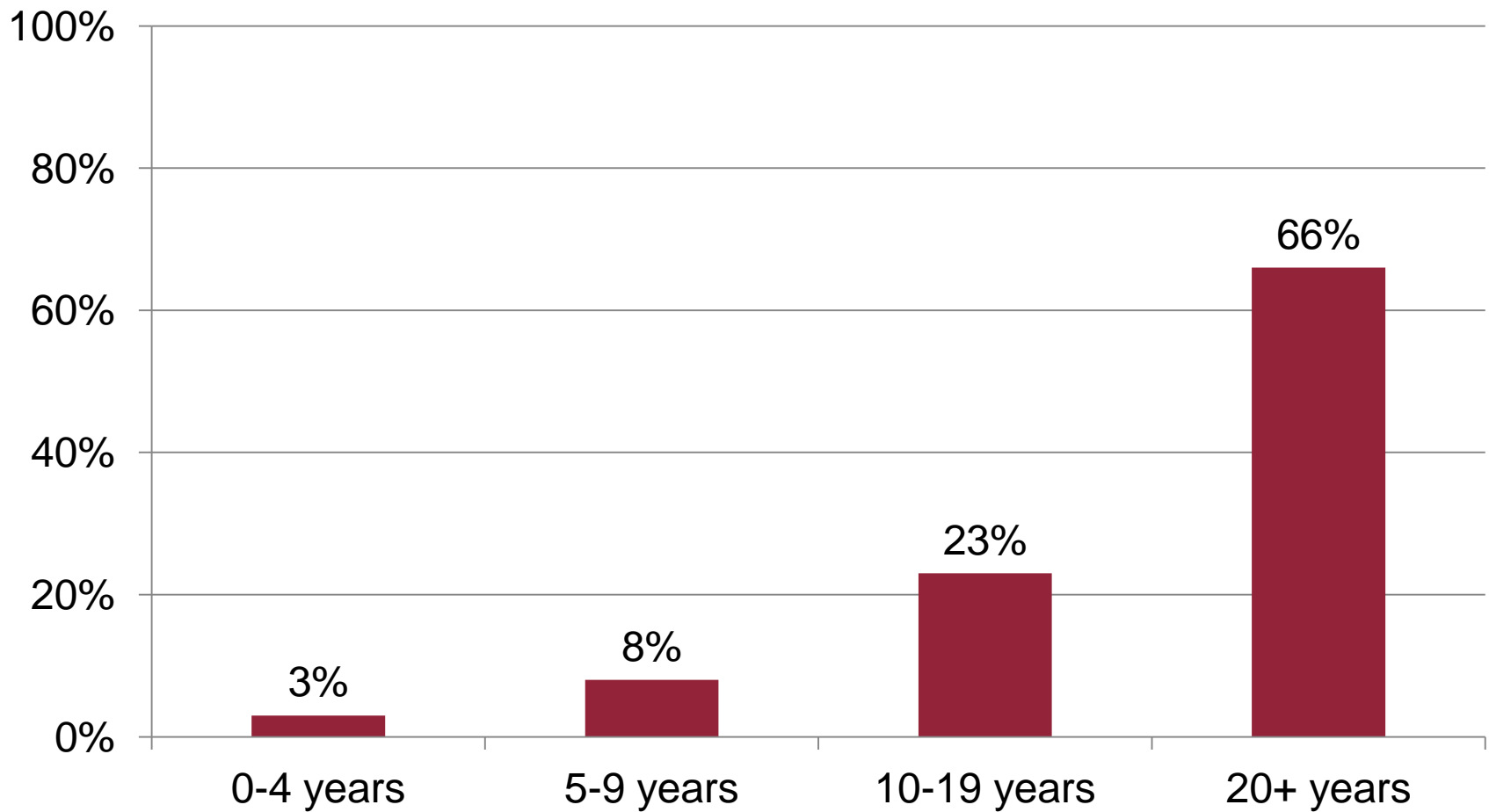
Gender



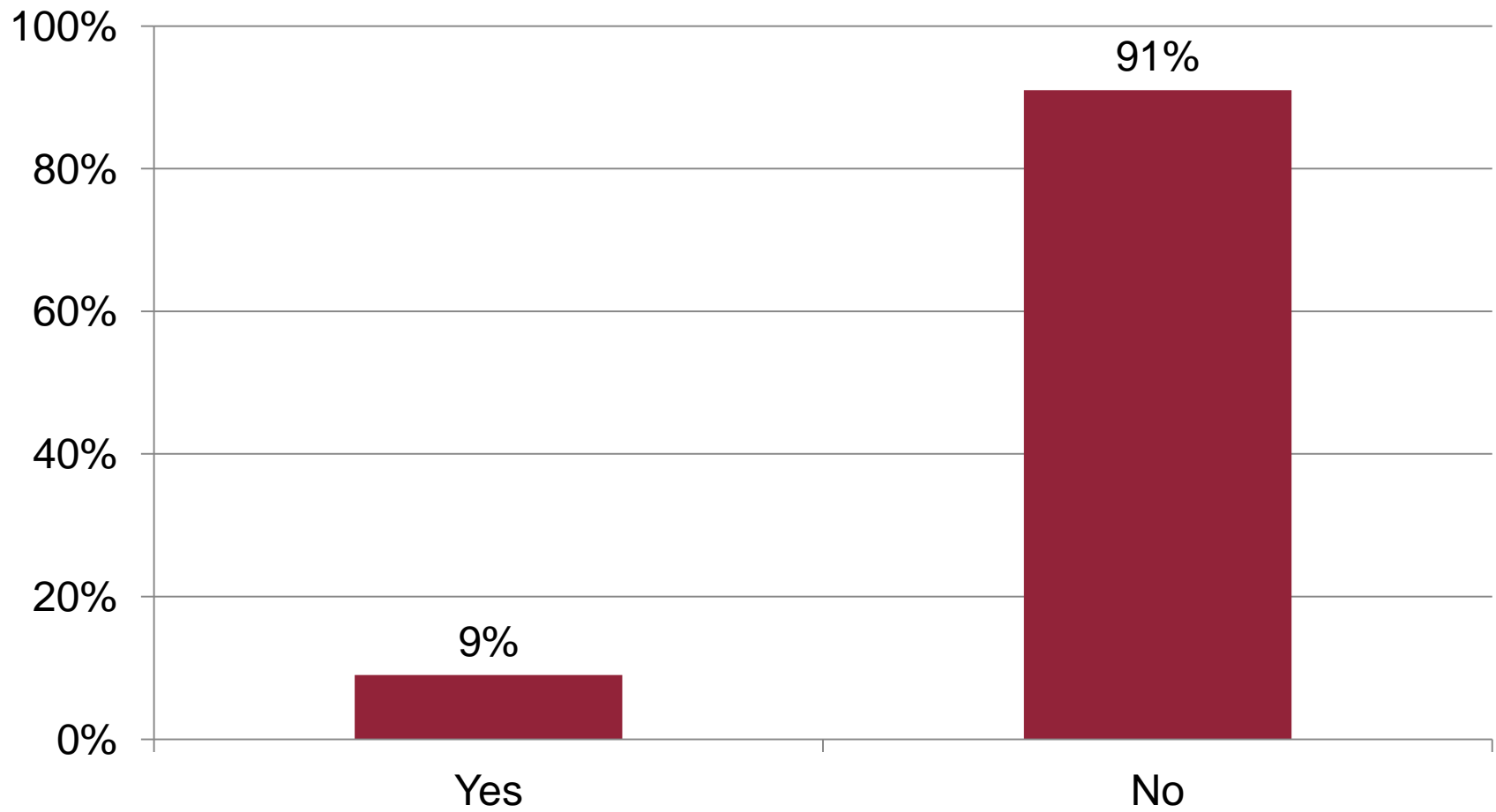
Age



Years married

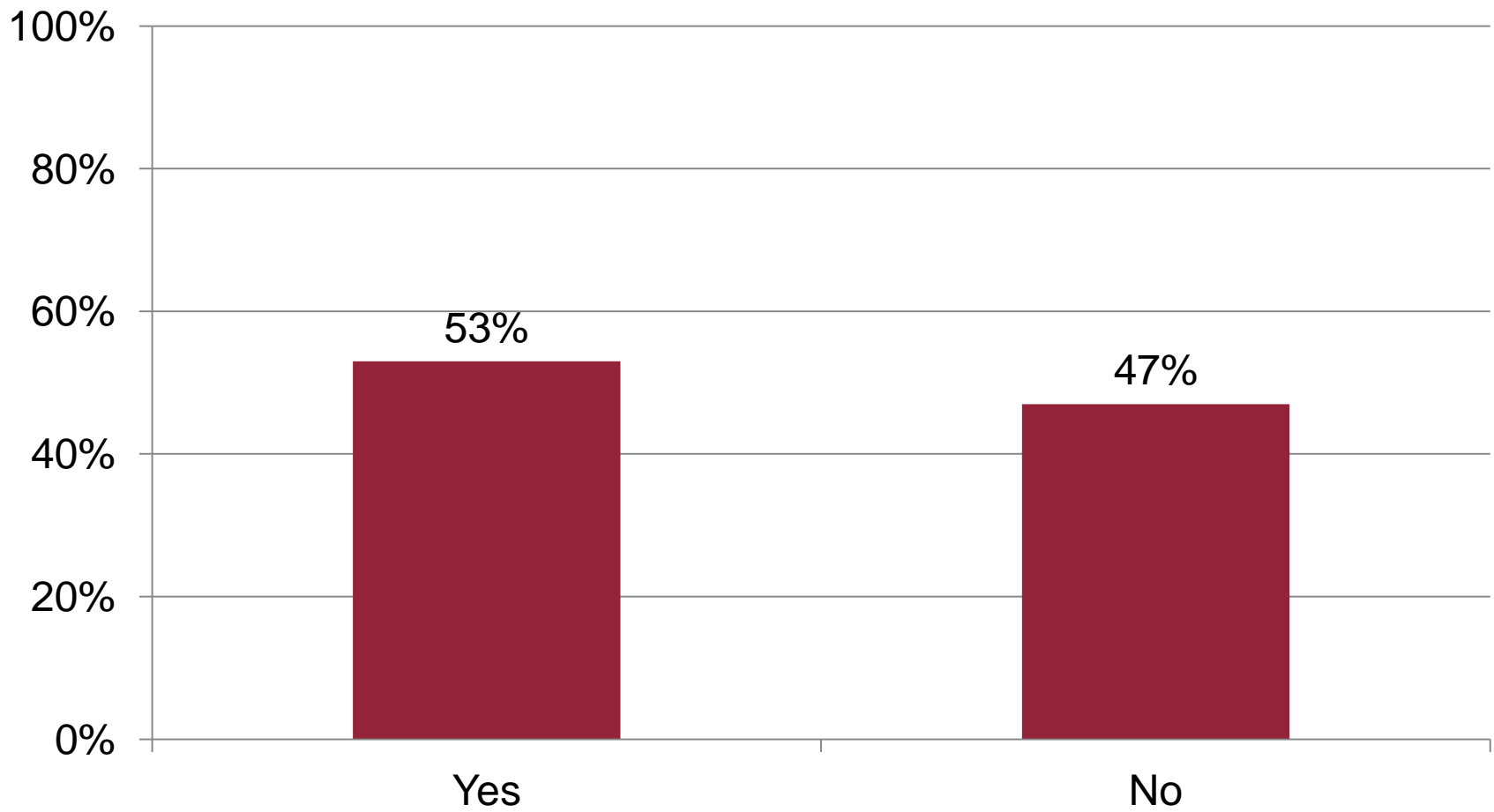


Marital history - divorce

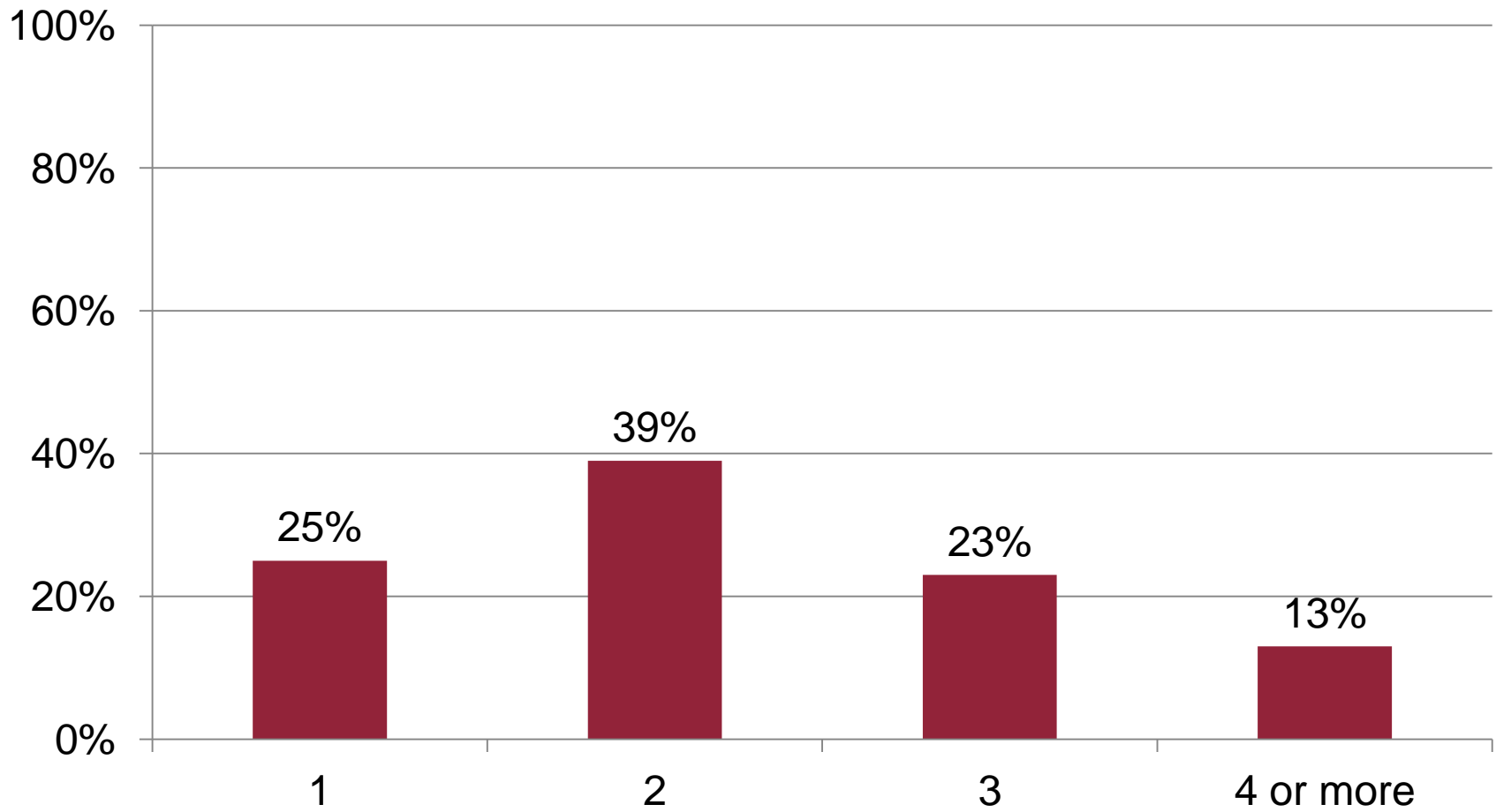


Q37 "Have you ever been divorced?" n=708

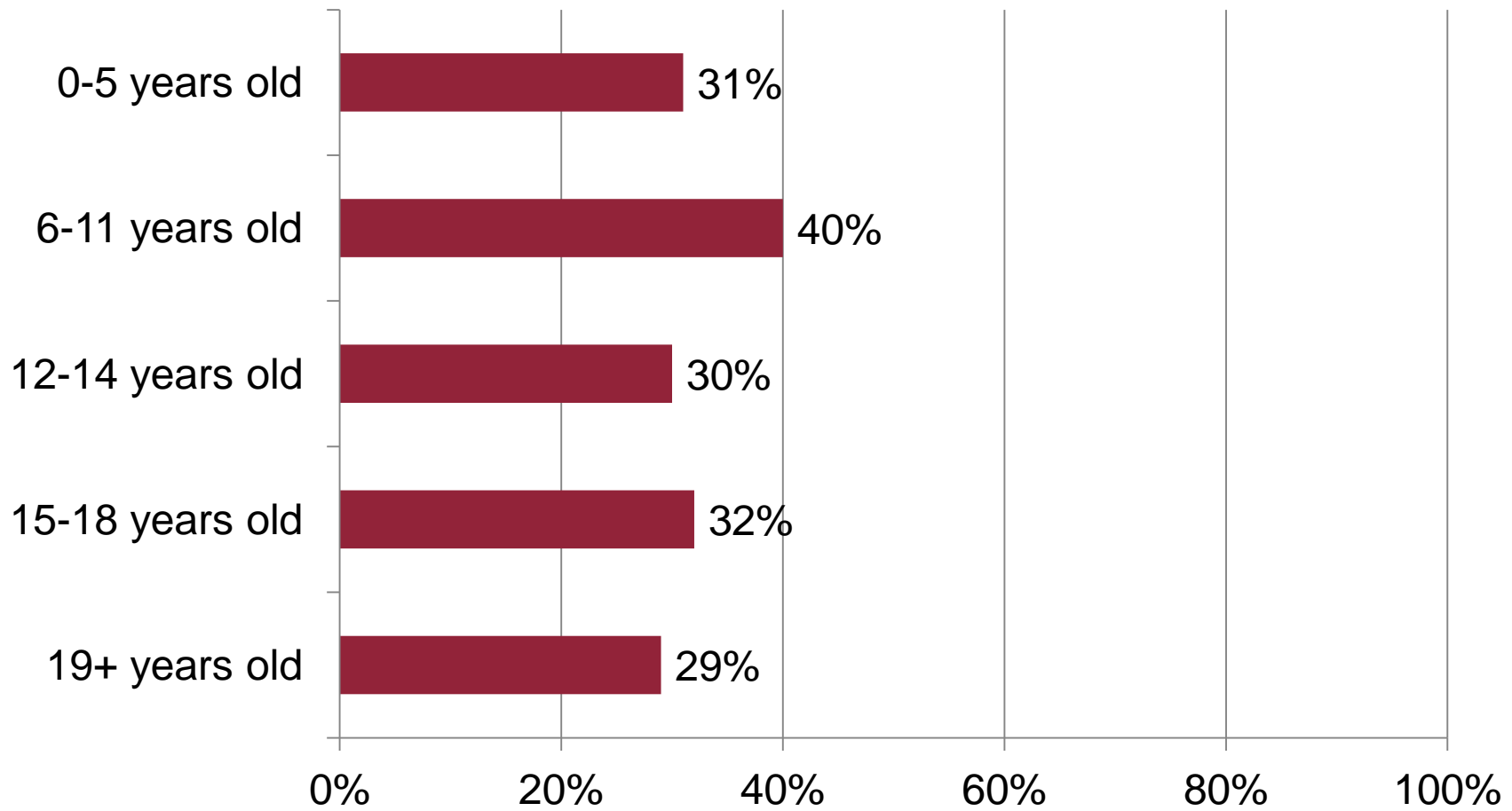
Children living at home



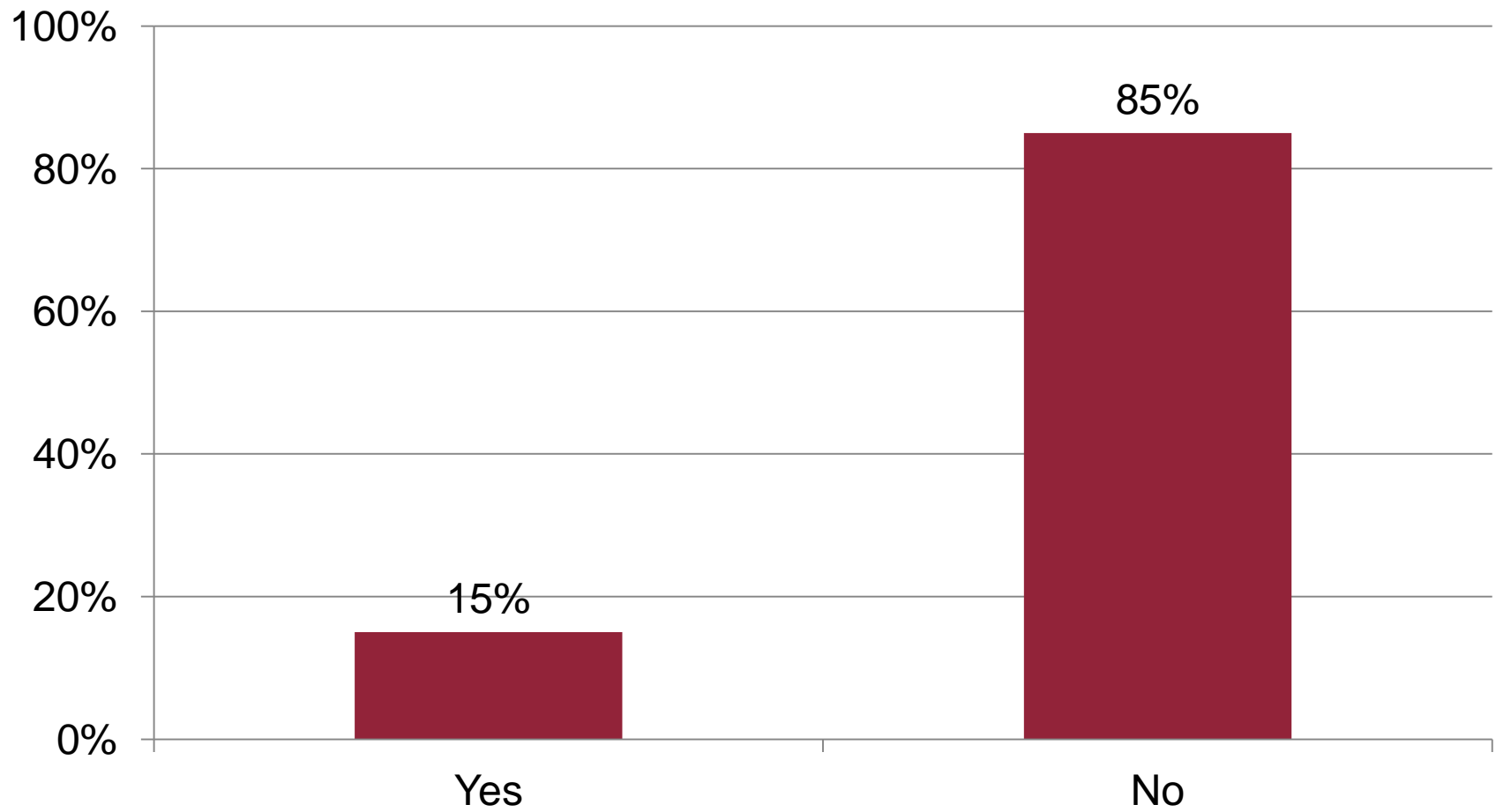
Number of children living at home



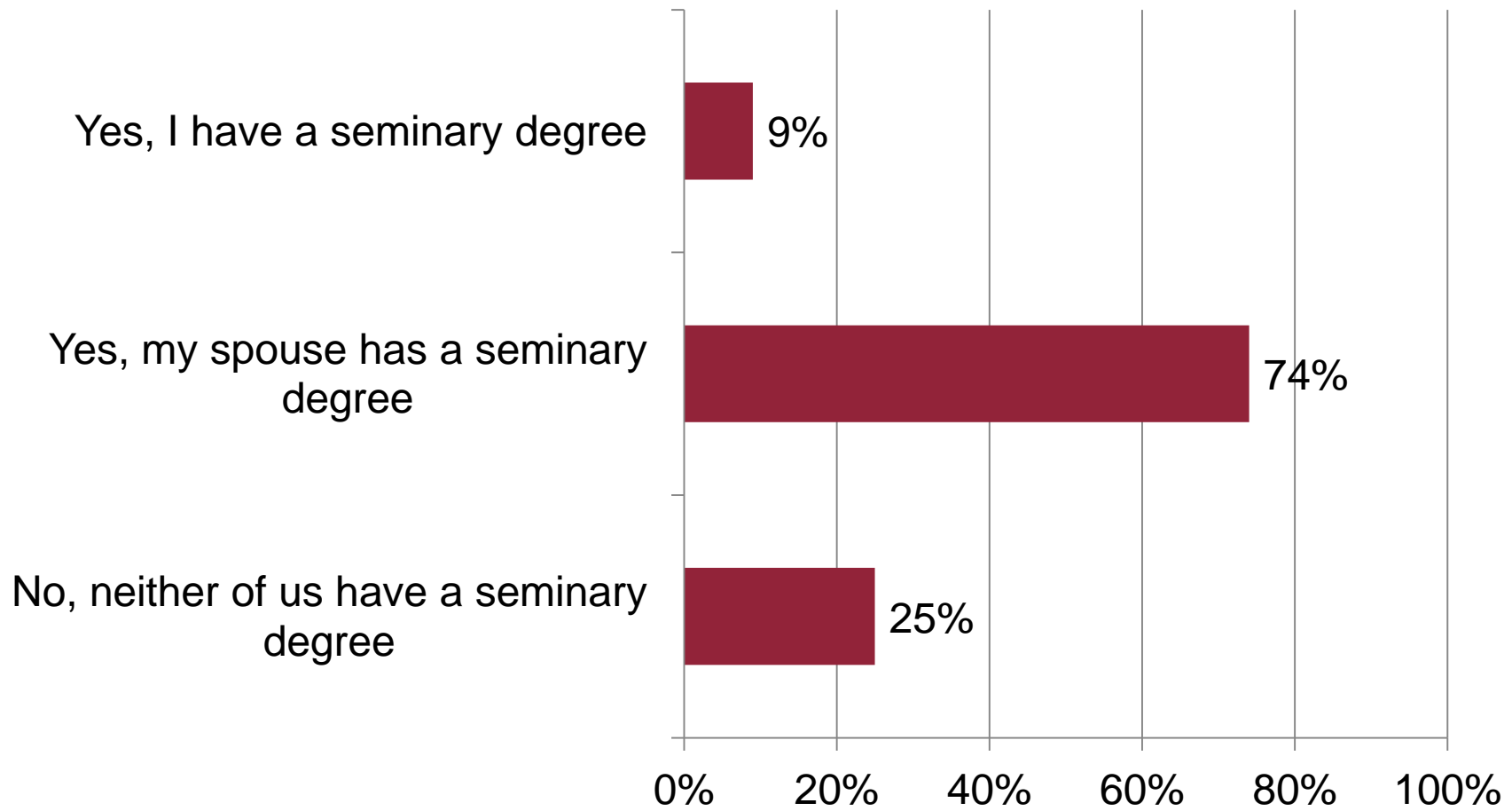
Ages of children living at home



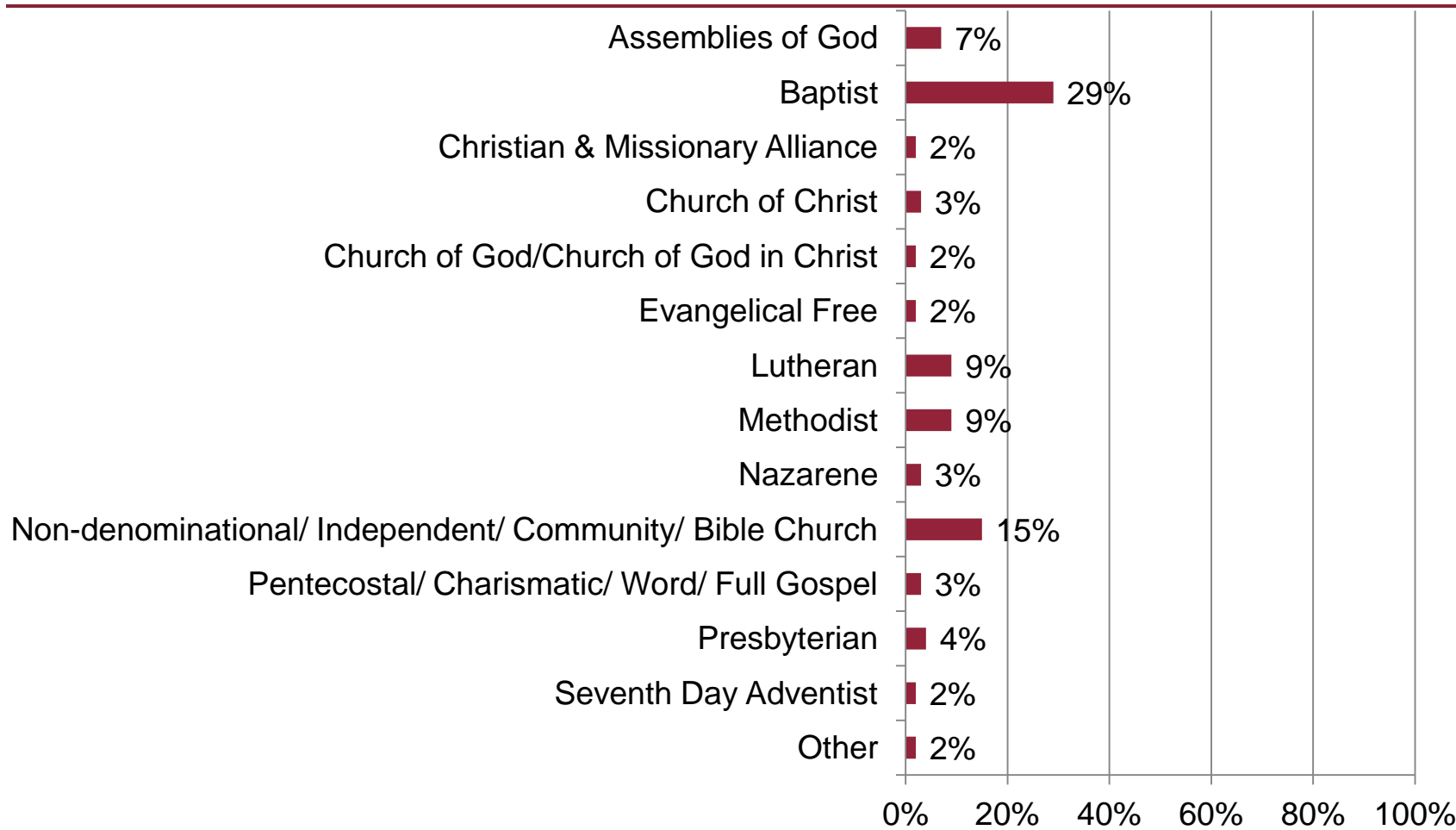
Children with special needs



Seminary education

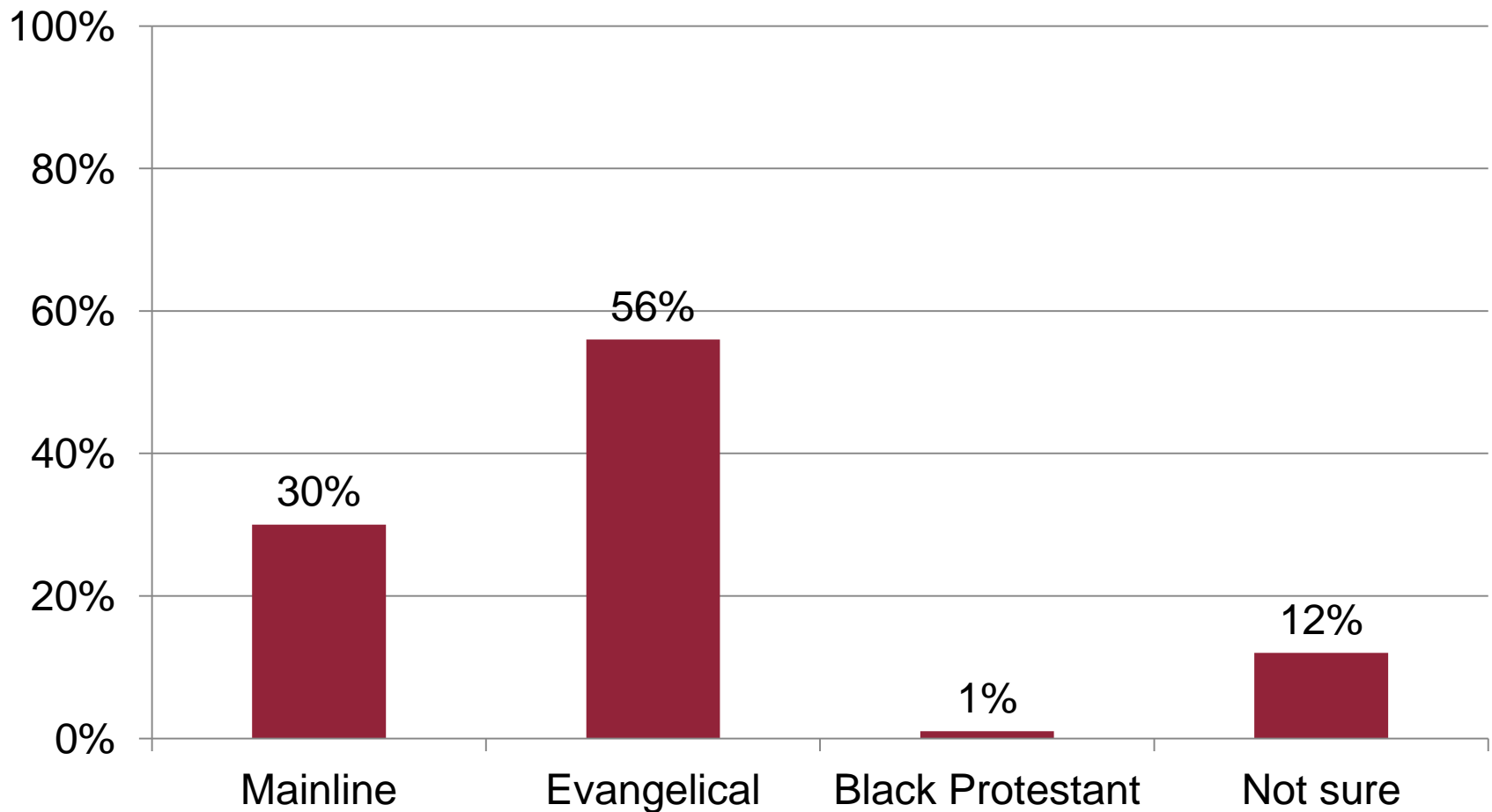


Church affiliation or denomination

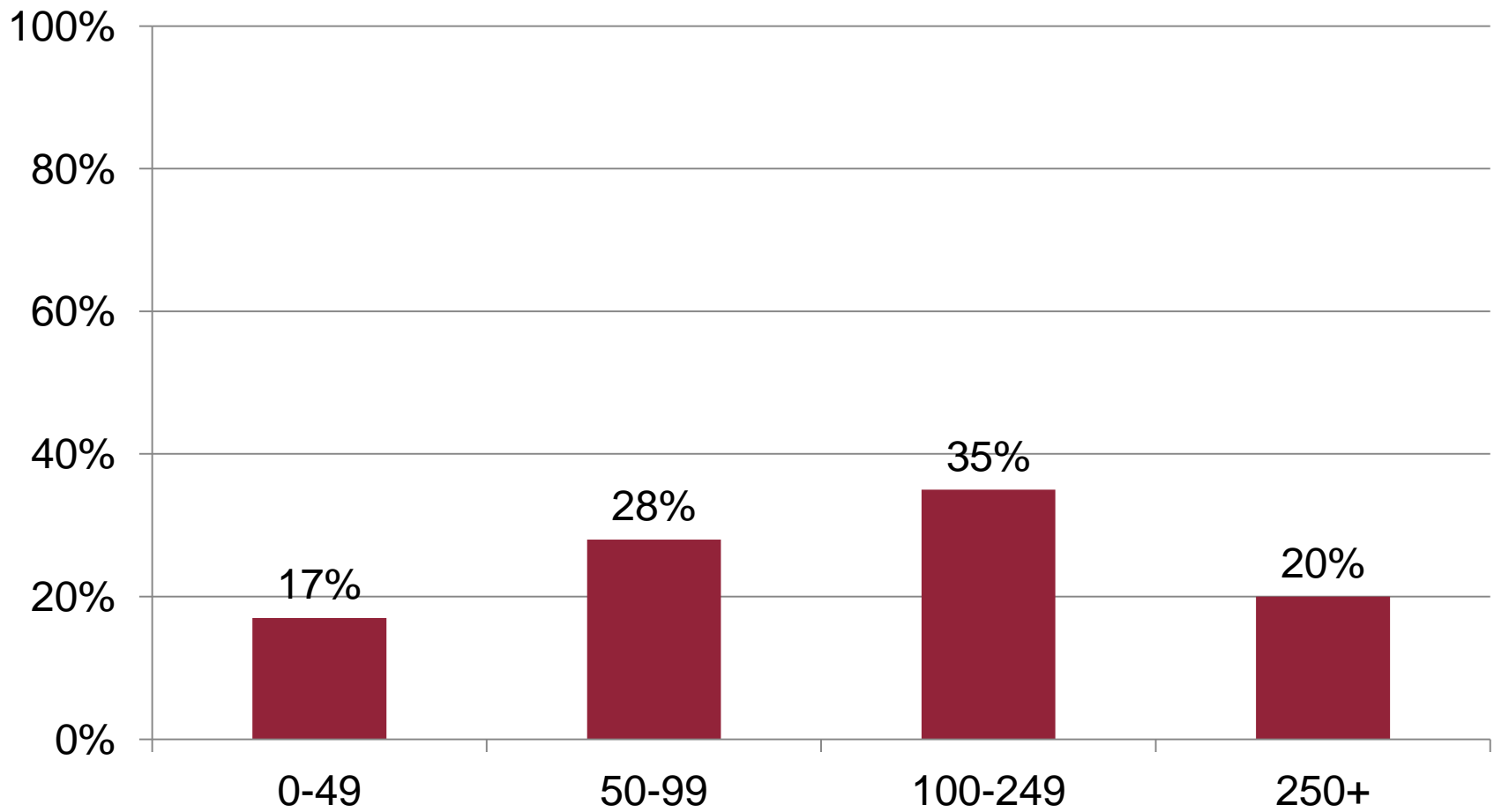


Select by 1% or less: African Methodist Episcopal (AME); Anglican; Apostolic; Brethren; Calvary Chapel; Christian Methodist Episcopal; Congregational; Disciples of Christ; Episcopal; Friends/ Quaker; Foursquare Gospel; Mennonite; Reformed, Reformed Church, or Christian Reformed; Vineyard Church, Wesleyan

Church identification



Average worship attendance



Pastor Spouse Research Study

Survey of 722 American Pastor
Spouses