

Pastors' Views on How COVID-19 is Affecting Their Church February 2022

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research

Methodology

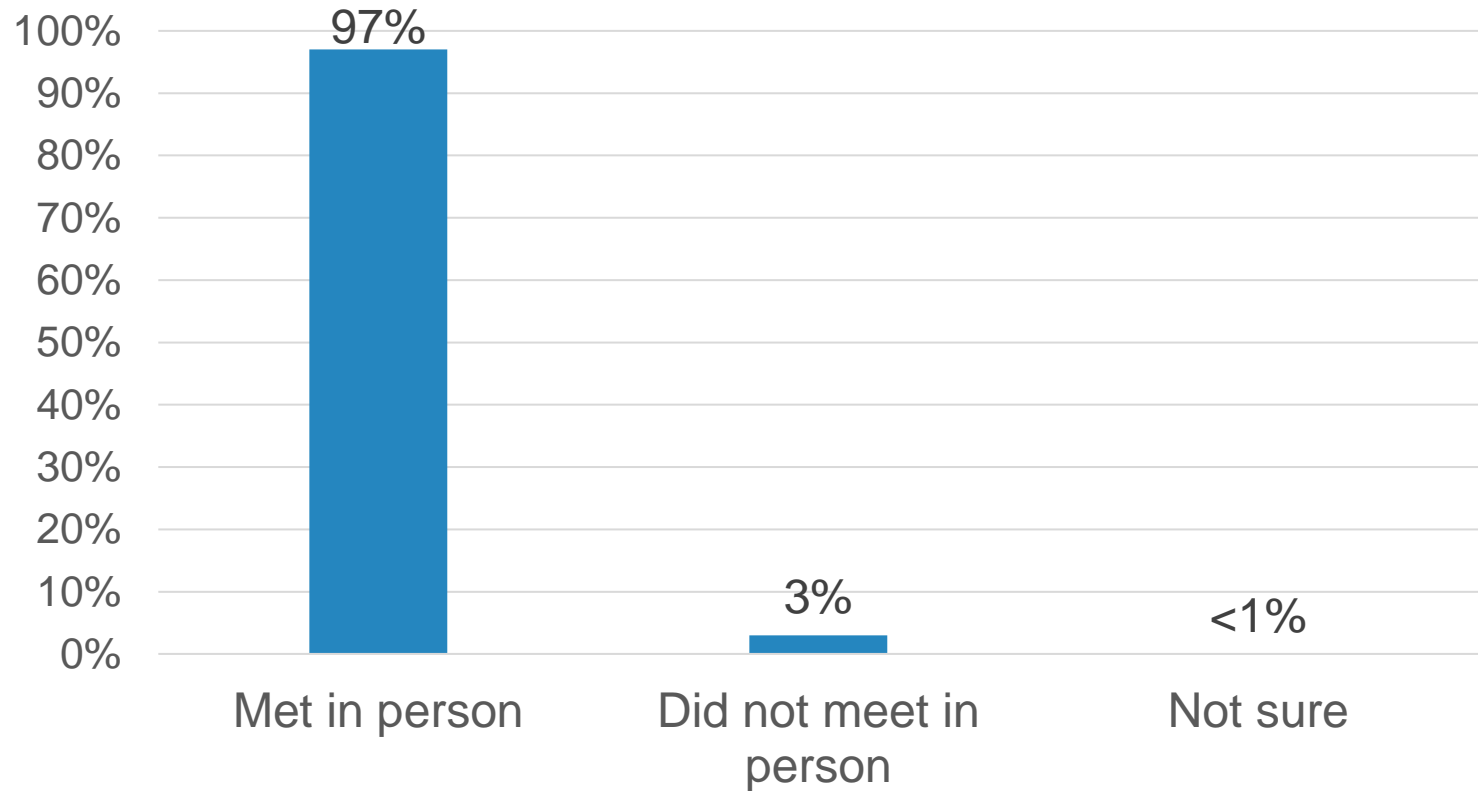
- The online survey of 560 Protestant pastors was conducted February 1-11, 2022
- Invitations were emailed to the Lifeway Research Pastor Panel followed by two reminders.
- The probability sample of Protestant churches was created by Lifeway Research through direct recruiting from random samples selected from all Protestant churches. Pastors who agree to be contacted by email for future surveys make up this Lifeway Research Pastor Panel.
- Each survey was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church
- Responses were weighted by church average attendance, region, ethnicity of pastor, and whether the pastor self-identified as evangelical or mainline to more accurately reflect the population

Methodology

- The final sample is 560 useable surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 6.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to a survey using the same methodology conducted February 1-11, 2021 with 430 completes, April 27-29, 2020 with 470 completes, and March 30-31, 2020 with 400 completes

97% of pastors say their church met in person in January 2022

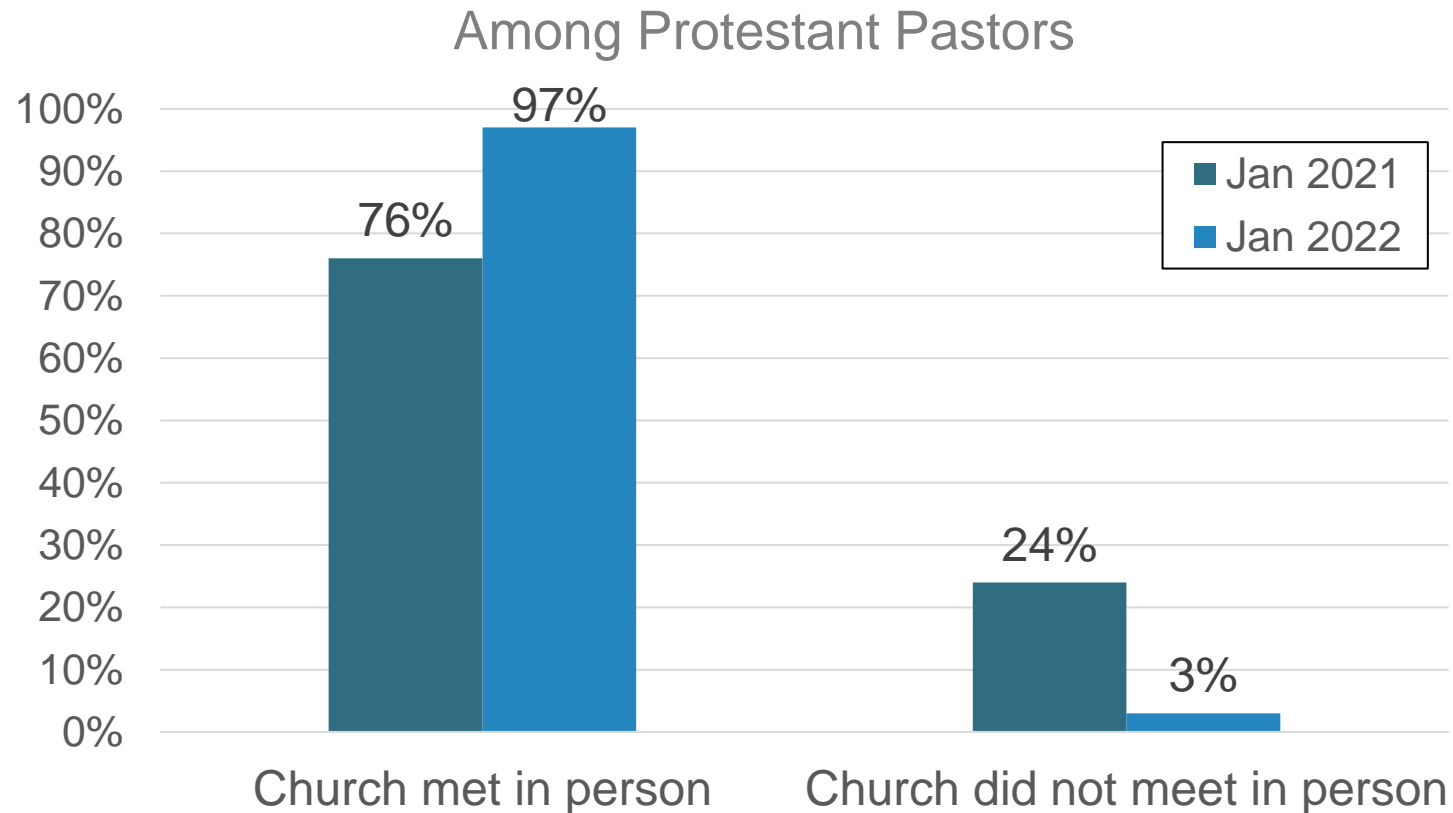
Among Protestant Pastors



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Q2: "Last month (January 2022), what was your church's average worship attendance in person on a typical weekend (including all ages from babies to adults but not counting anyone twice)?" n=560

21% more churches met in person in January 2022 than January 2021

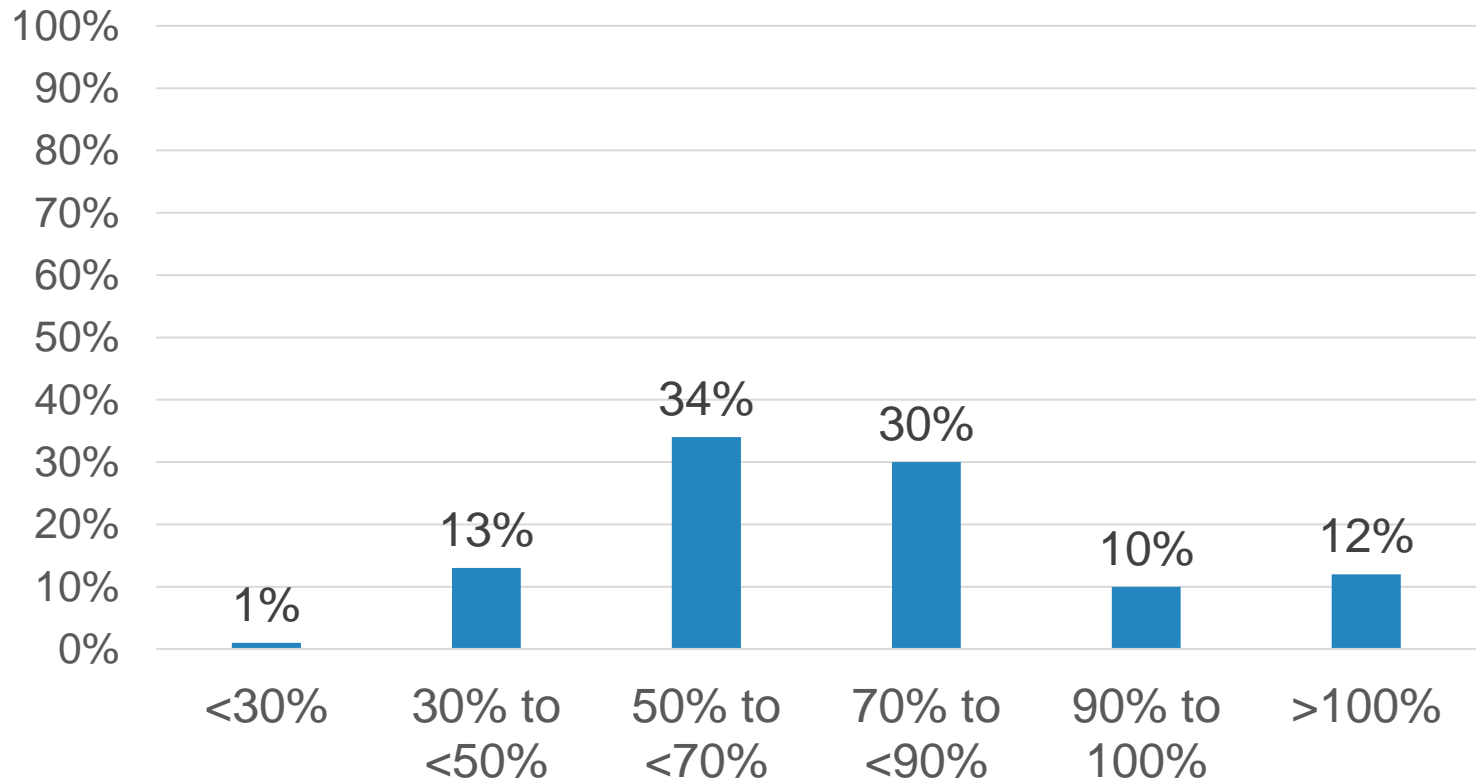


Lifewayresearch

Q2: "Last month, what was your church's average worship attendance in person on a typical weekend (including all ages from babies to adults but not counting anyone twice)?"

January 2022 Attendance as a percentage of January 2020 Attendance

Among Protestant churches that met in person in January 2022



Mean: 74%

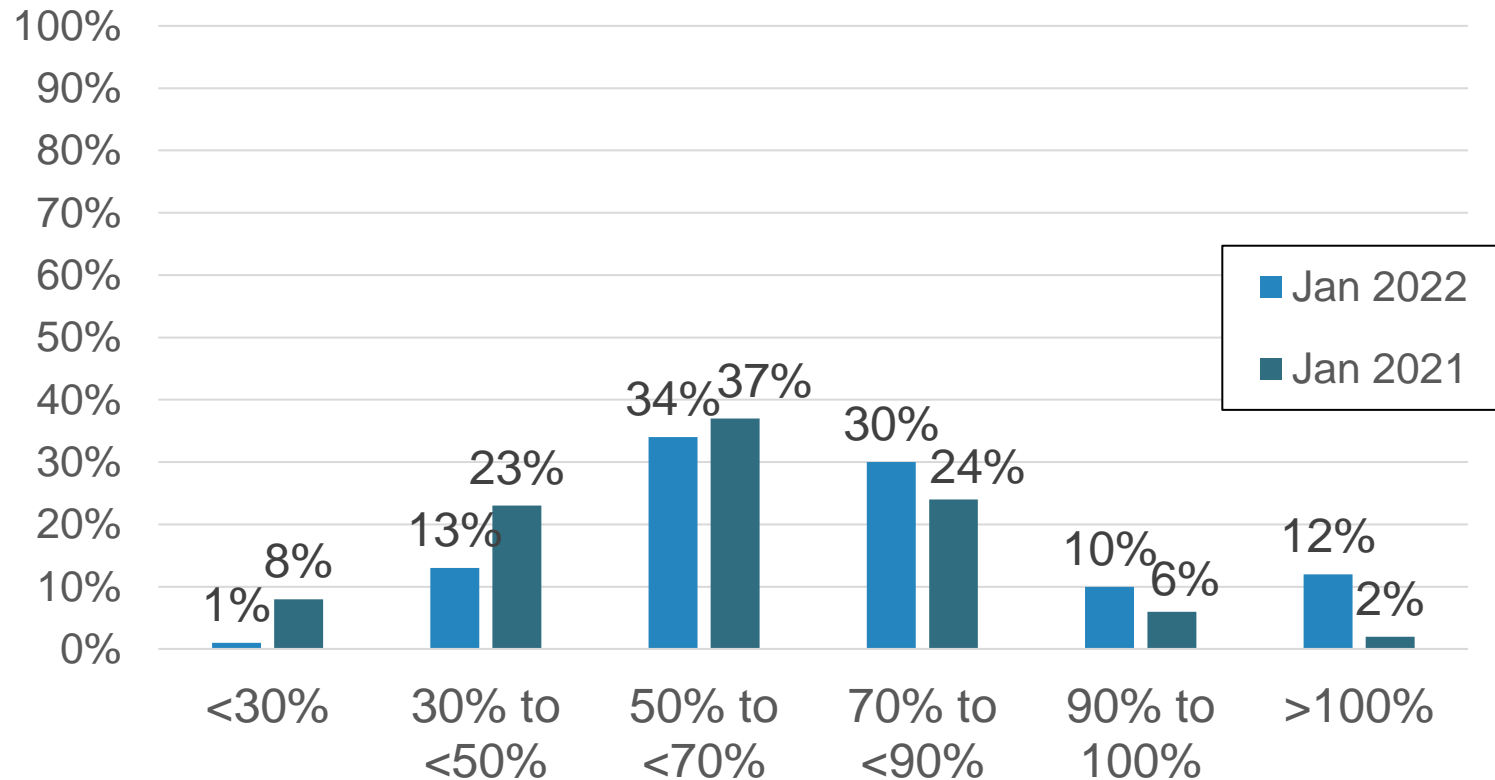
Median: 71%

Lifewayresearch

Q2: "Last month (January 2022), what was your church's average worship attendance in person on a typical weekend (including all ages from babies to adults but not counting anyone twice)?" n=540

January 2022 and 2021 Attendance as a percentage of January 2020 Attendance

Among Protestant churches that met in person in January 2022

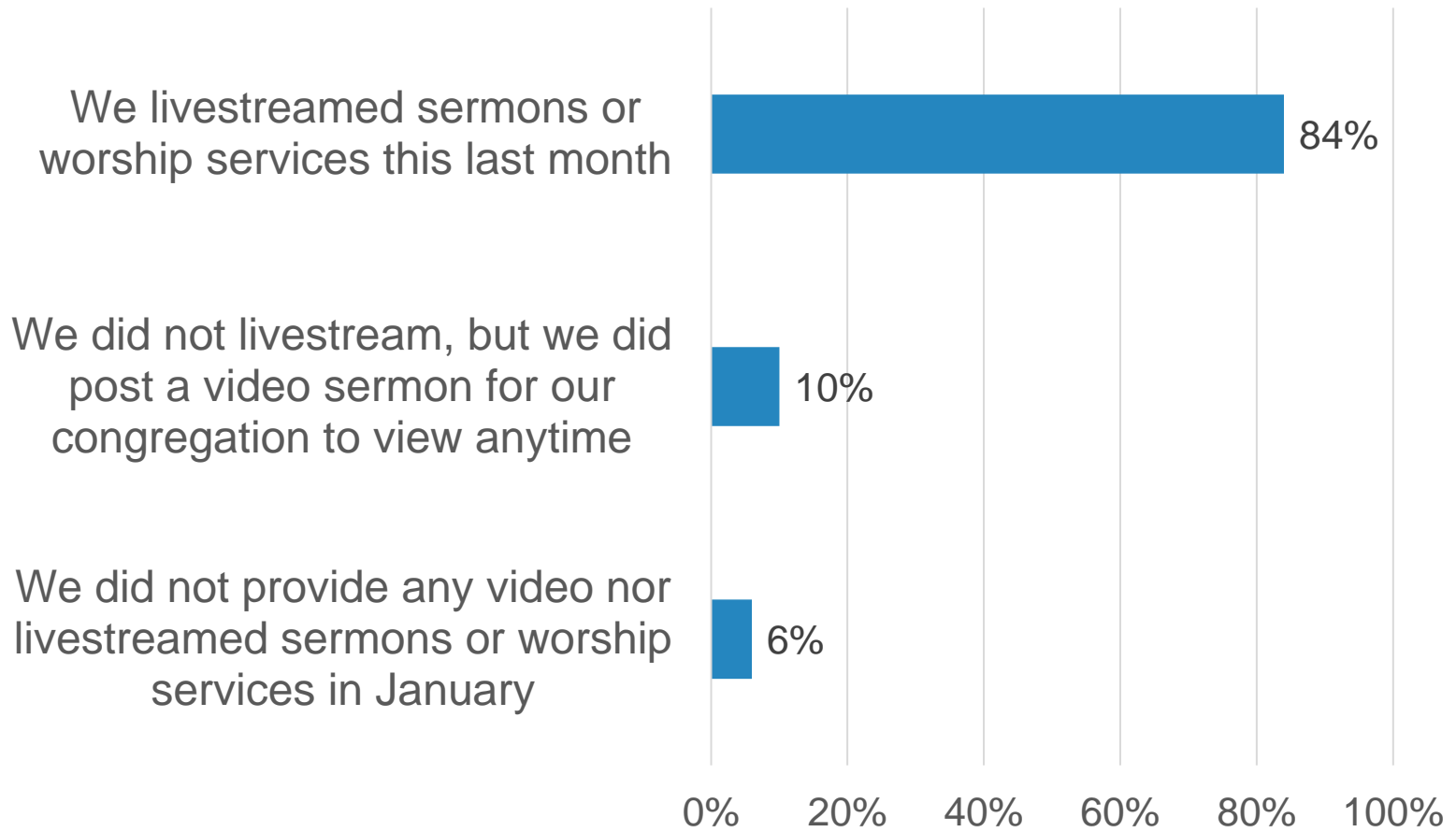


Lifewayresearch

Q2: "Last month (January 2022), what was your church's average worship attendance in person on a typical weekend (including all ages from babies to adults but not counting anyone twice)?"

84% livestreamed sermons or worship services in January 2022

Among Protestant Pastors

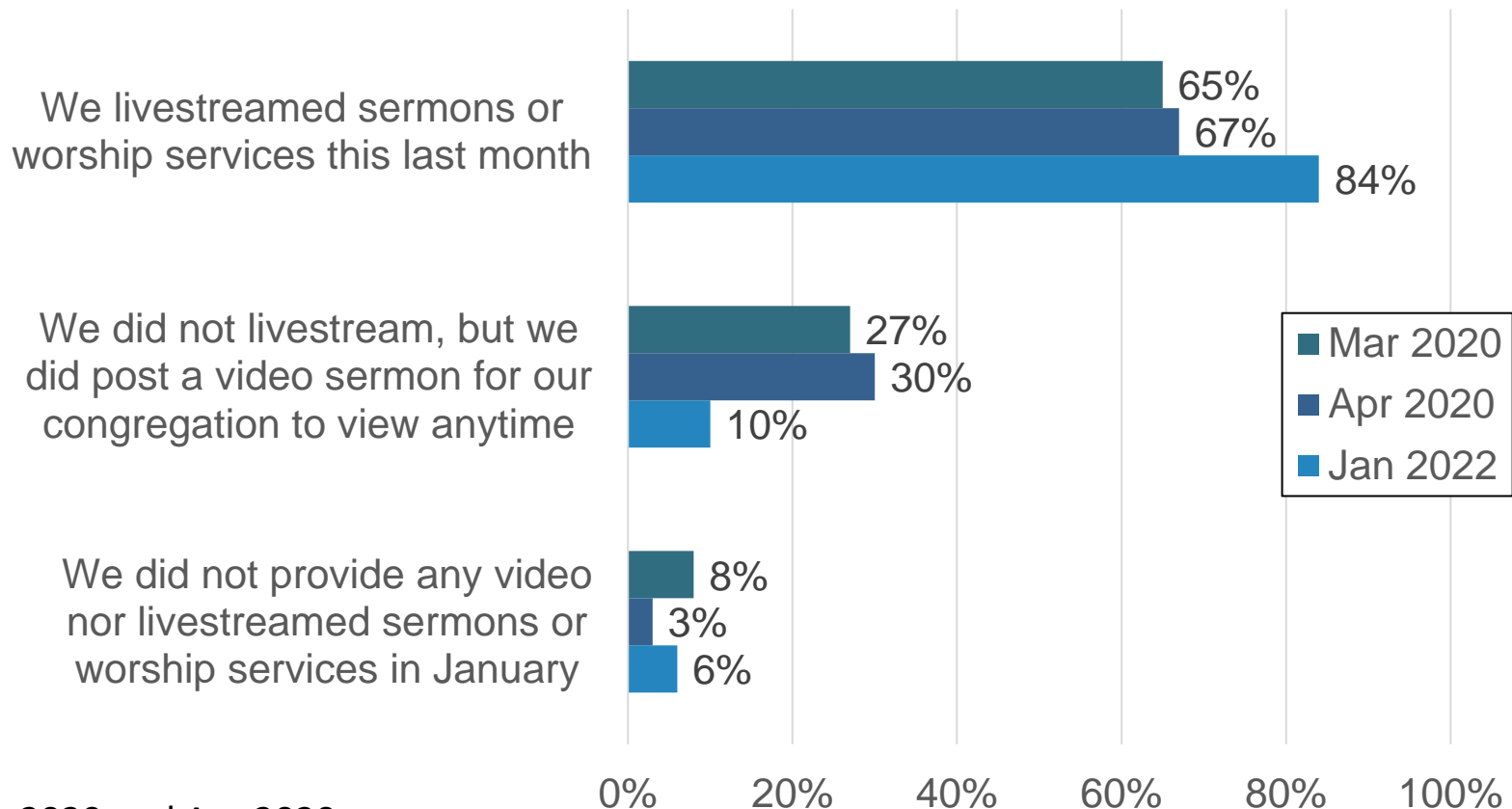


Lifewayresearch

Q4: "Did your church livestream or post video sermons or worship services last month (January 2022)?" n=560

17% more churches livestream sermons/services today than in the early months of the pandemic

Among Protestant Pastors

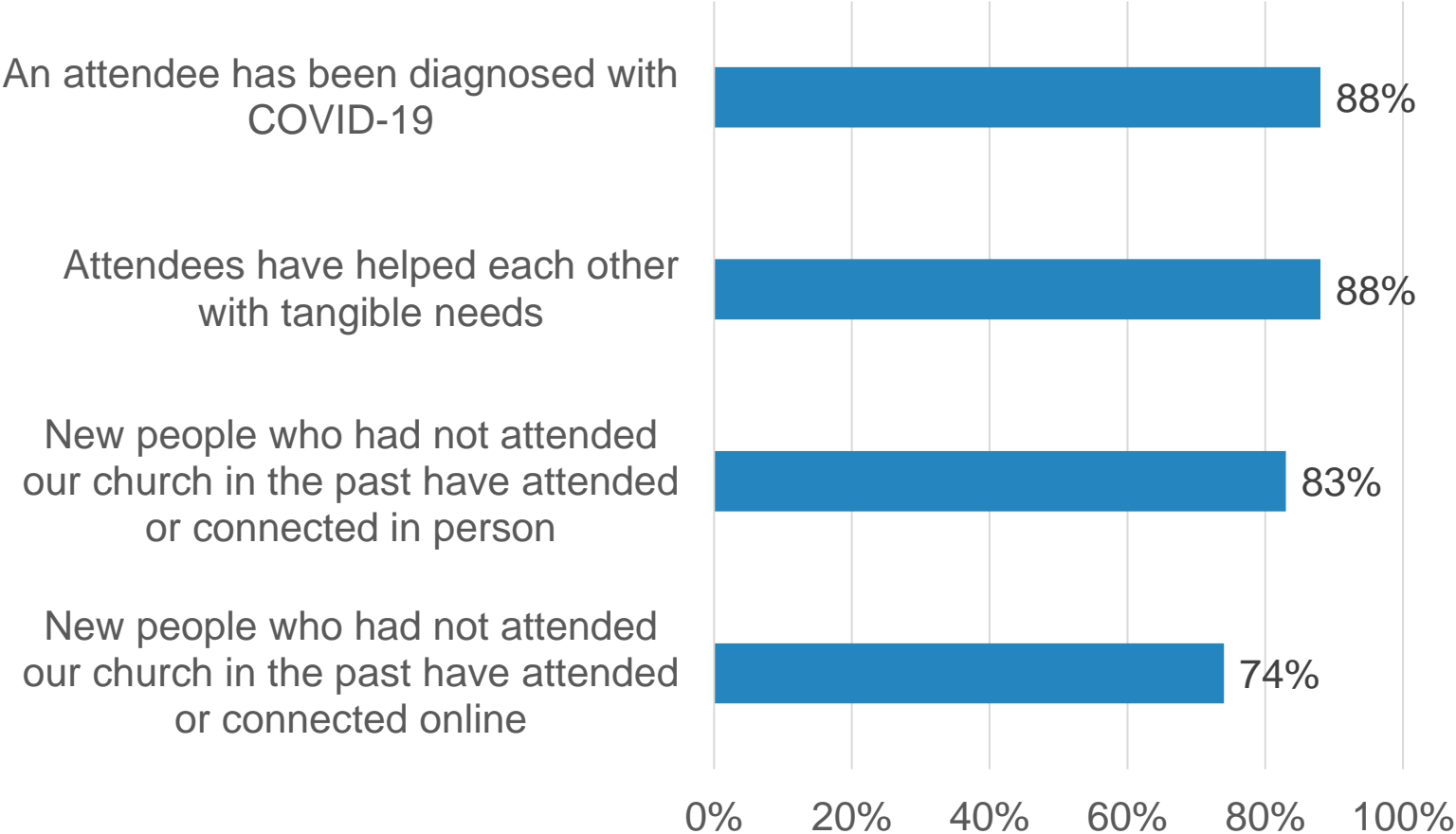


In Mar 2020 and Apr 2020
22% said they were in the habit of
livestreaming before the coronavirus pandemic

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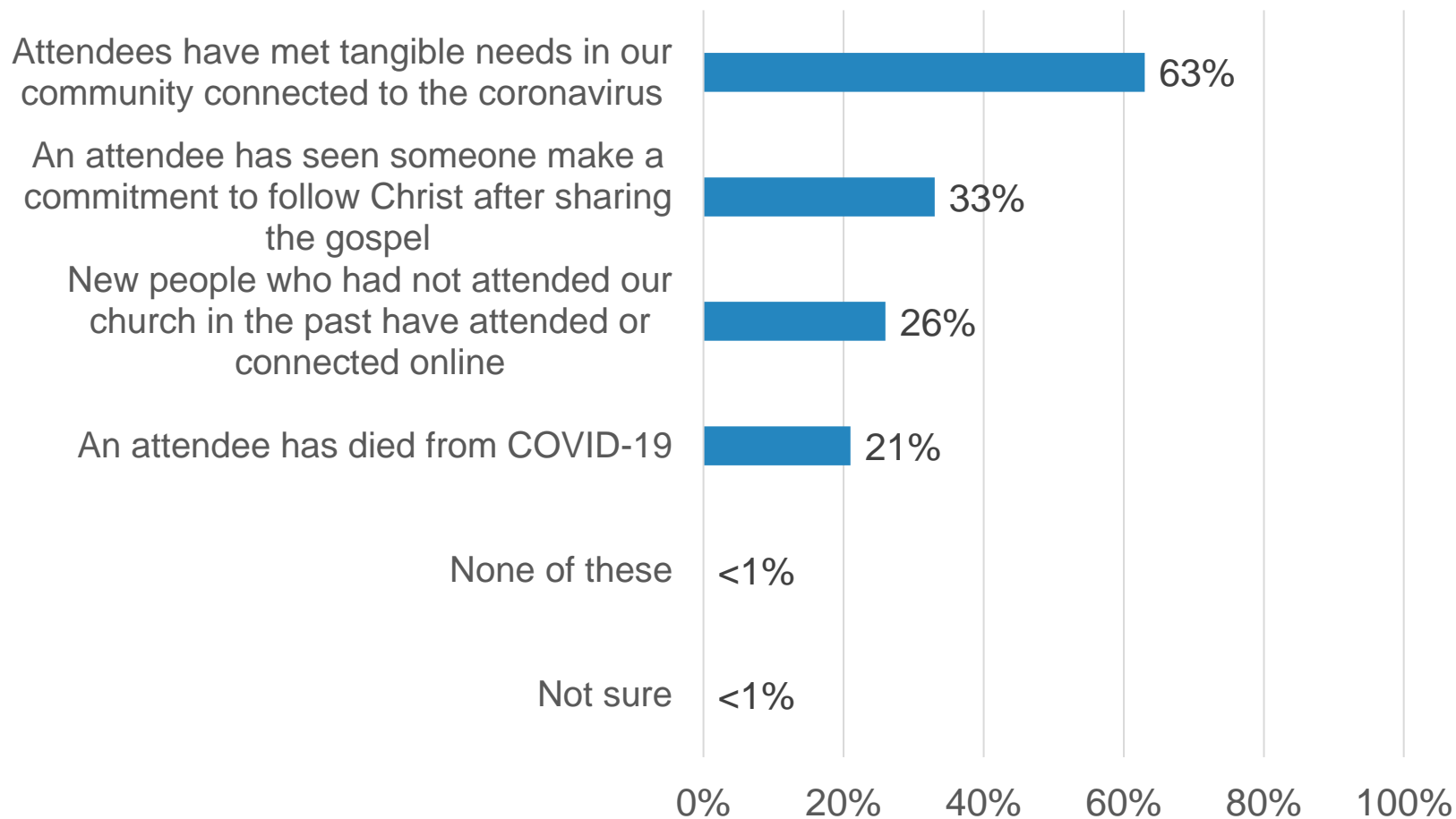
“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last 6 months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

Among Protestant Pastors



“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last 6 months of the coronavirus pandemic?” *continued*

Among Protestant Pastors

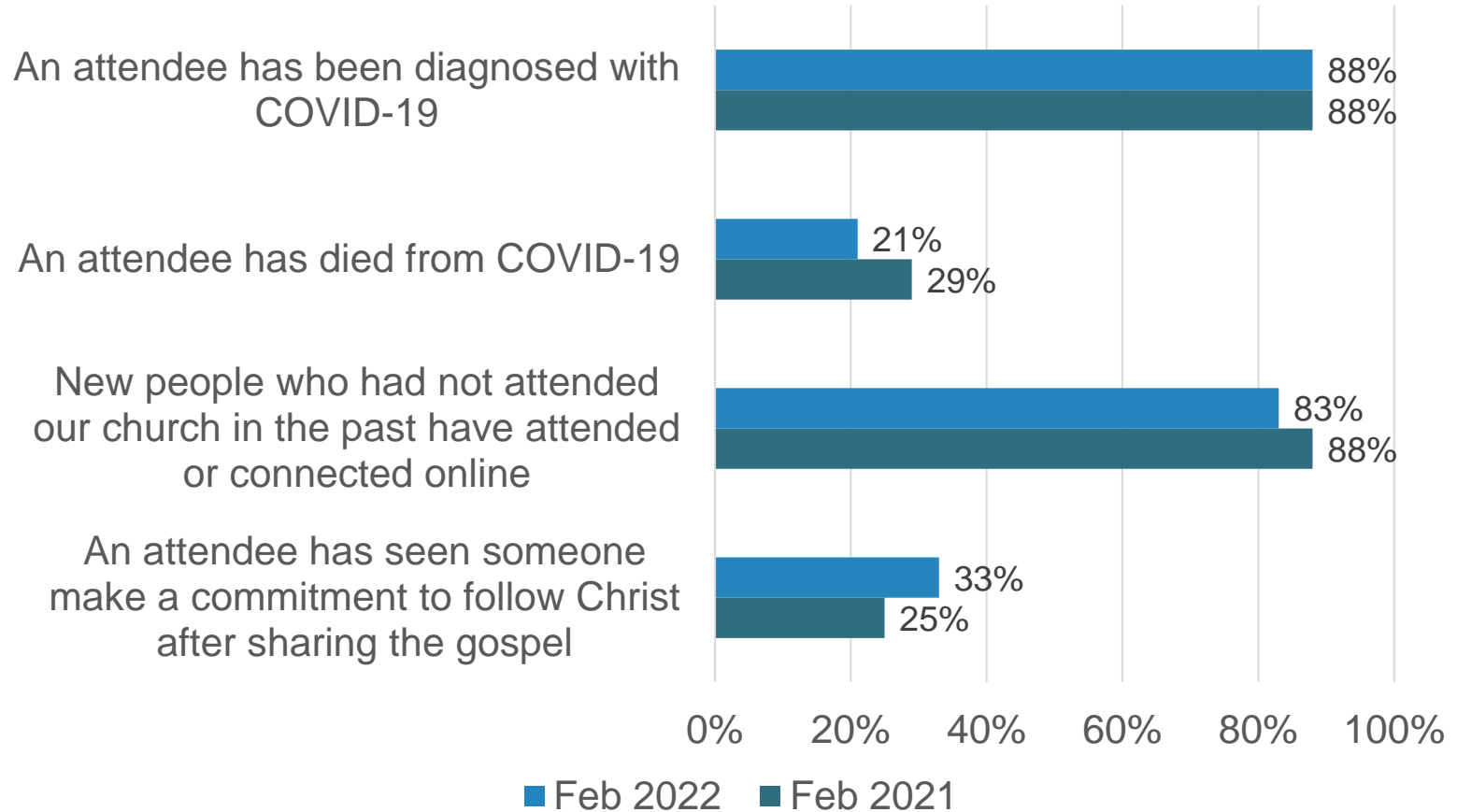


Lifewayresearch

Q5: “Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last 6 months of the coronavirus pandemic? Select all that apply” n=560

Occurrences within congregation in last 6 months compared to the first 11 months of the coronavirus pandemic

Among Protestant Pastors

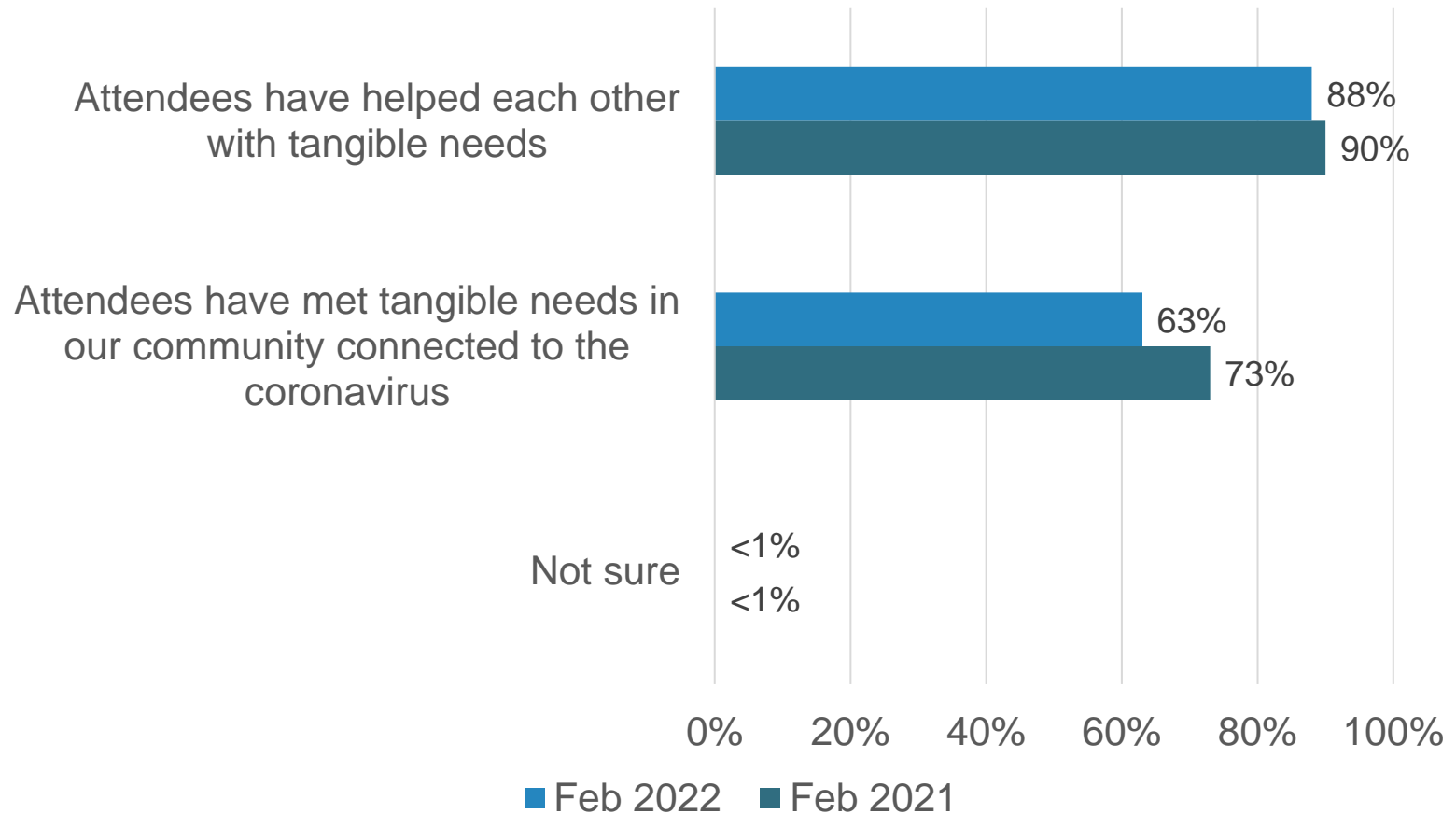


Lifeway research

Q5: "Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last 6 months of the coronavirus pandemic? Select all that apply"

Occurrences within congregation in last 6 months compared to the first 11 months of the coronavirus pandemic *continued*

Among Protestant Pastors

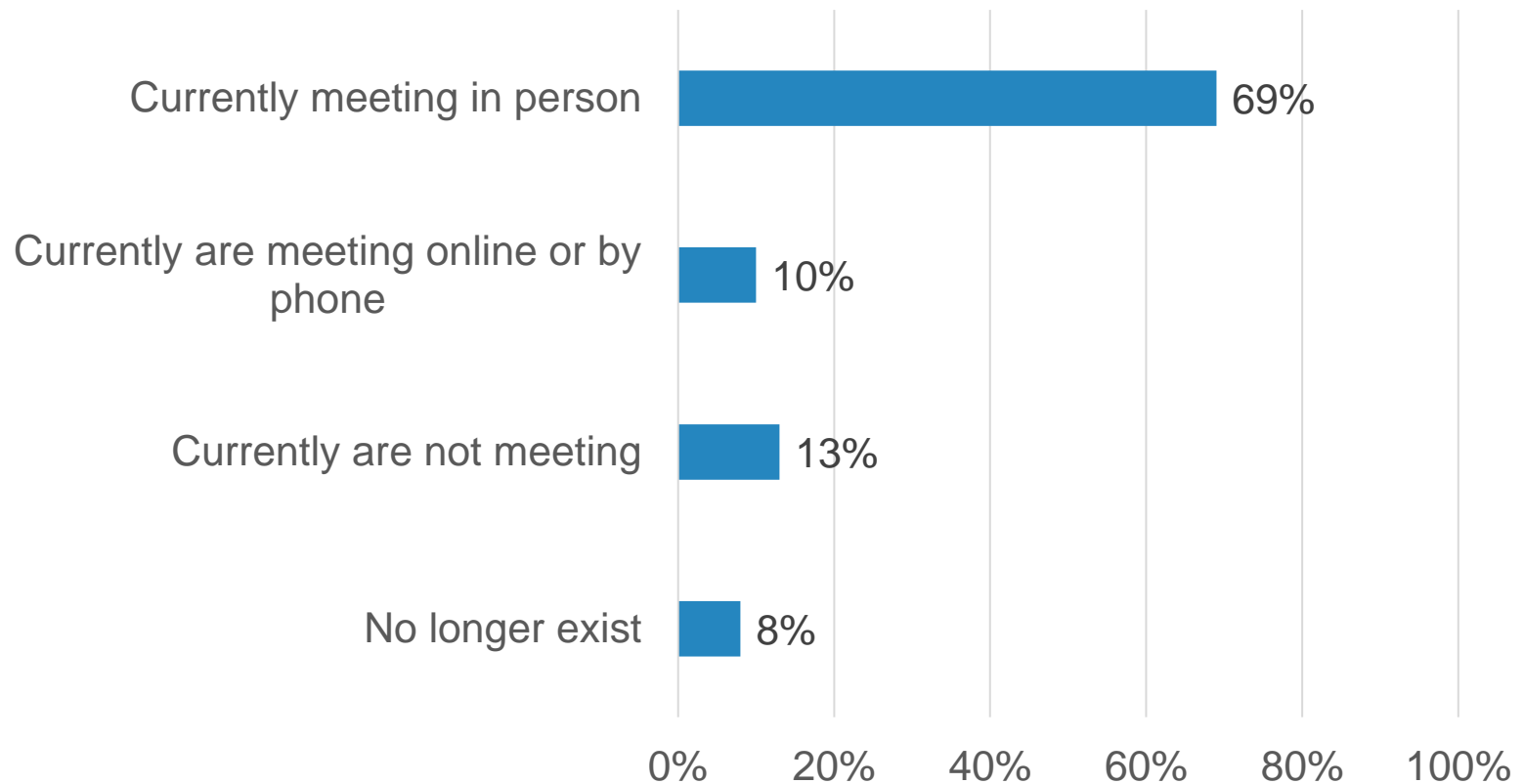


Lifewayresearch

Q5: "Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last 6 months of the coronavirus pandemic? Select all that apply"

On average pastors report 79% of their adult small groups/ Sunday school classes are currently meeting

Average Percentage Groups fitting each description

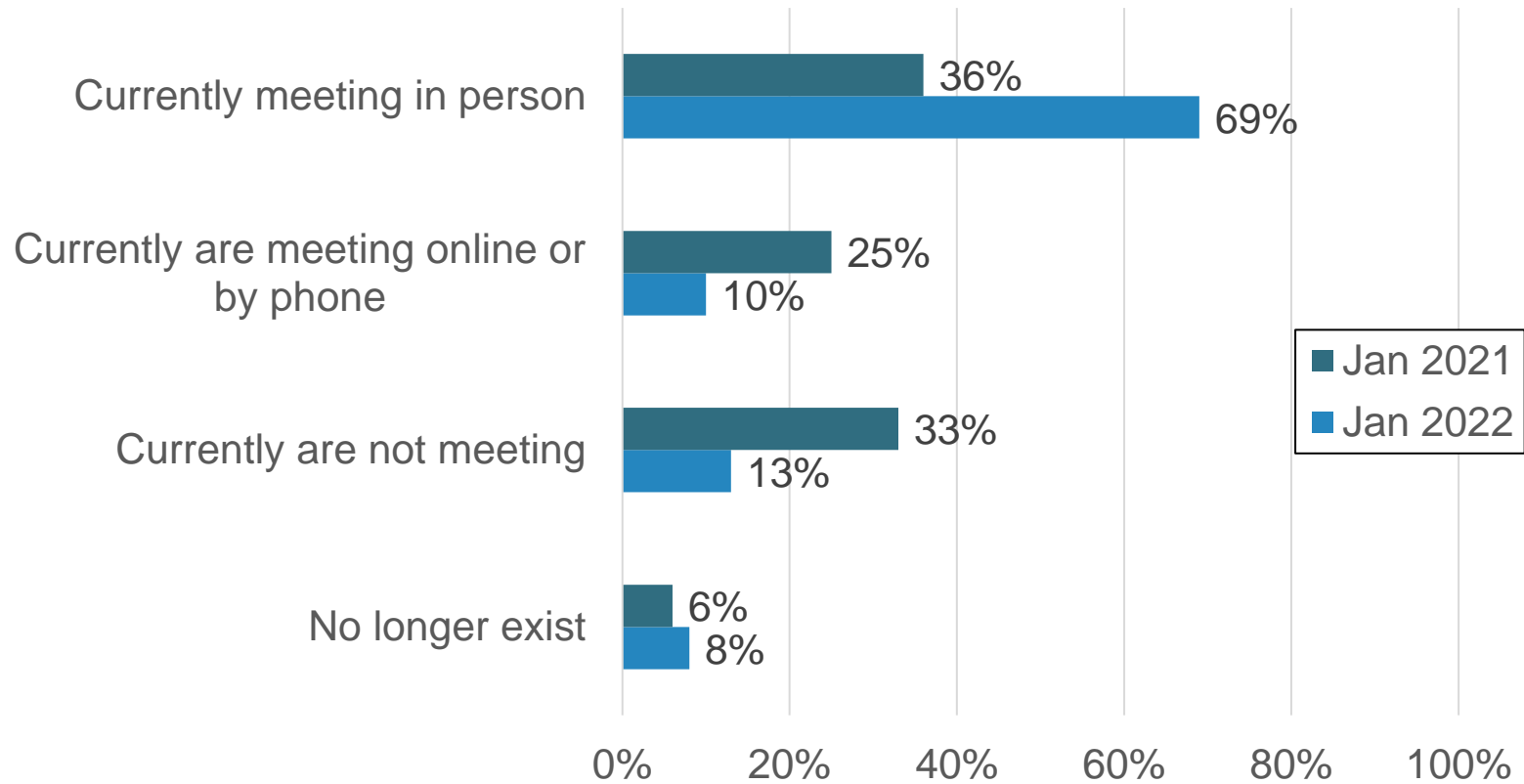


Lifewayresearch

Q6: "Of the adult small groups/Sunday School classes/Bible studies that existed in your church before COVID-19 (January 2020), estimate what percentage of groups fit each description below?" n=560

In the last year, the average percentage of adult groups/ classes not meeting dropped from 33% to 13%

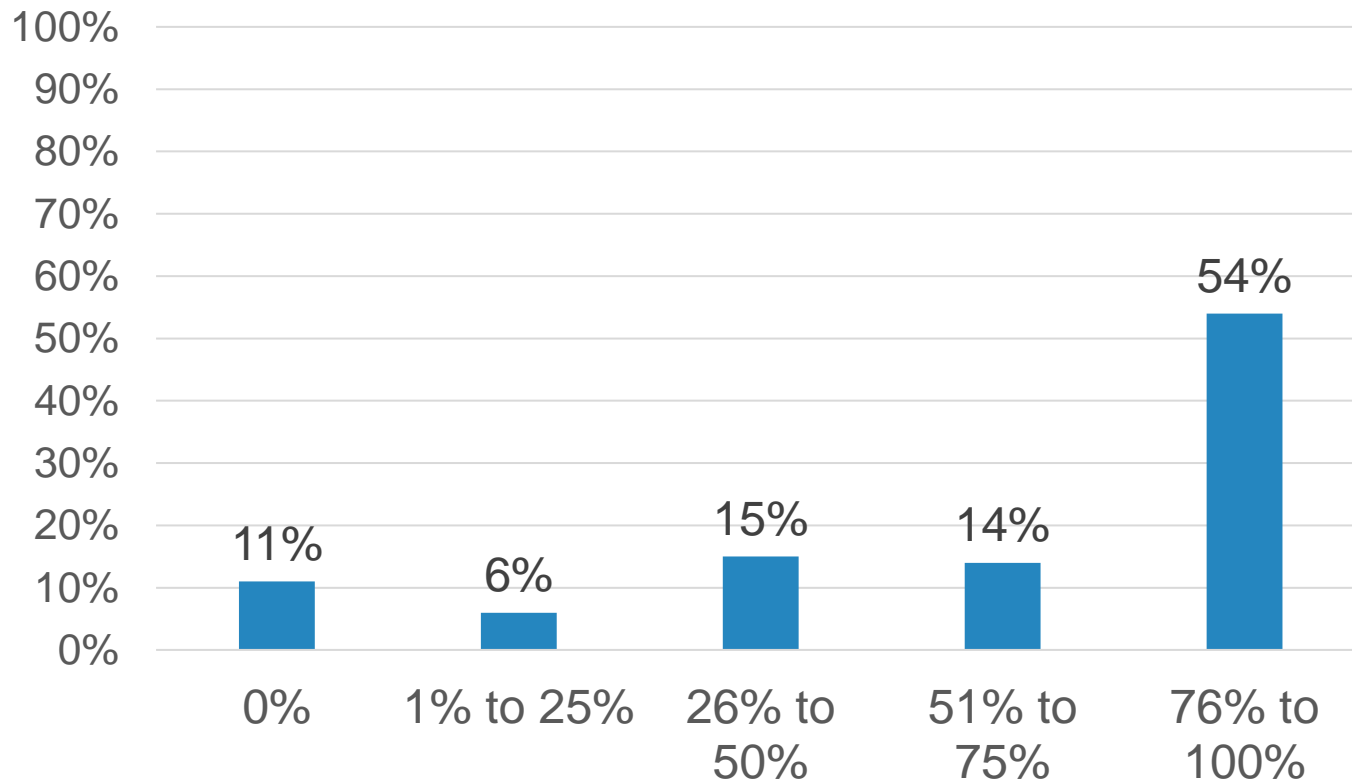
Average Percentage Groups fitting each description



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Percentage of adult small groups currently meeting in person

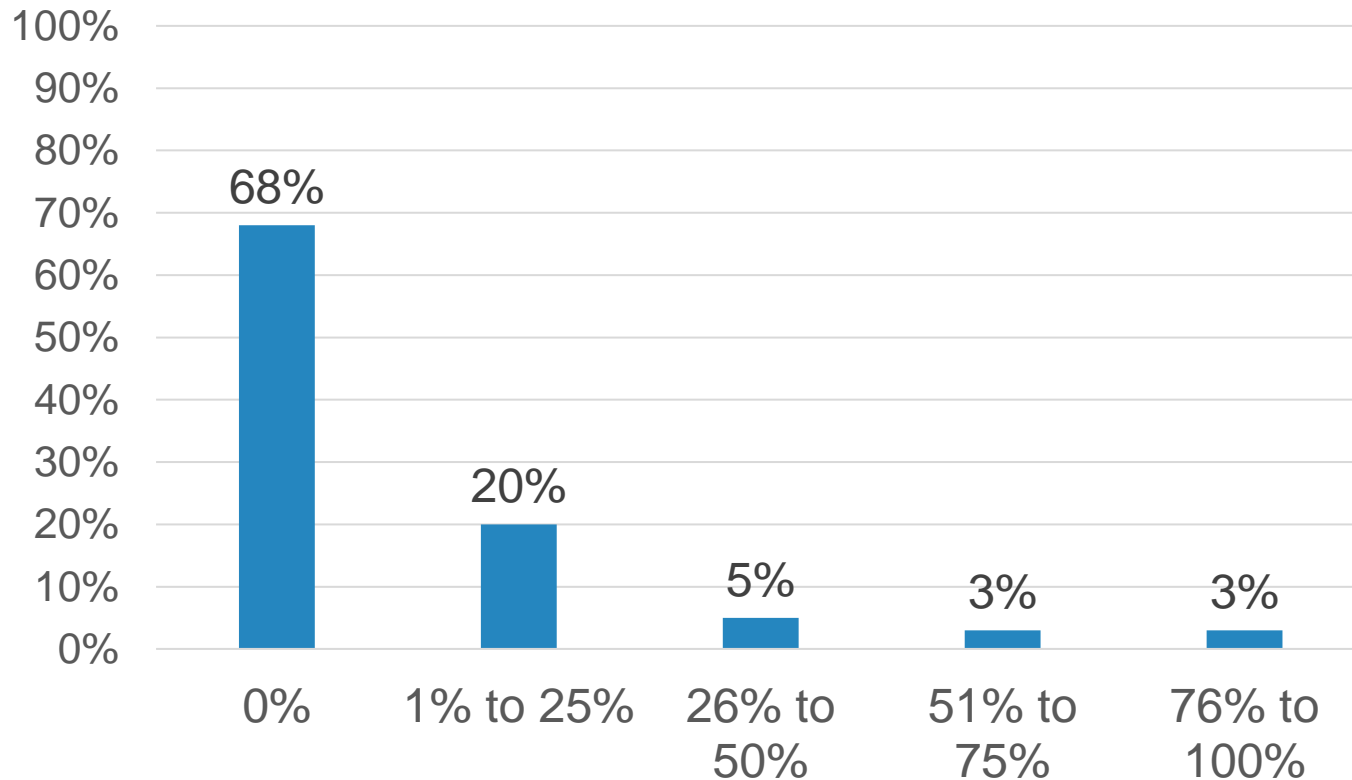
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Percentage of adult groups currently meeting online or by phone

Among Protestant Pastors

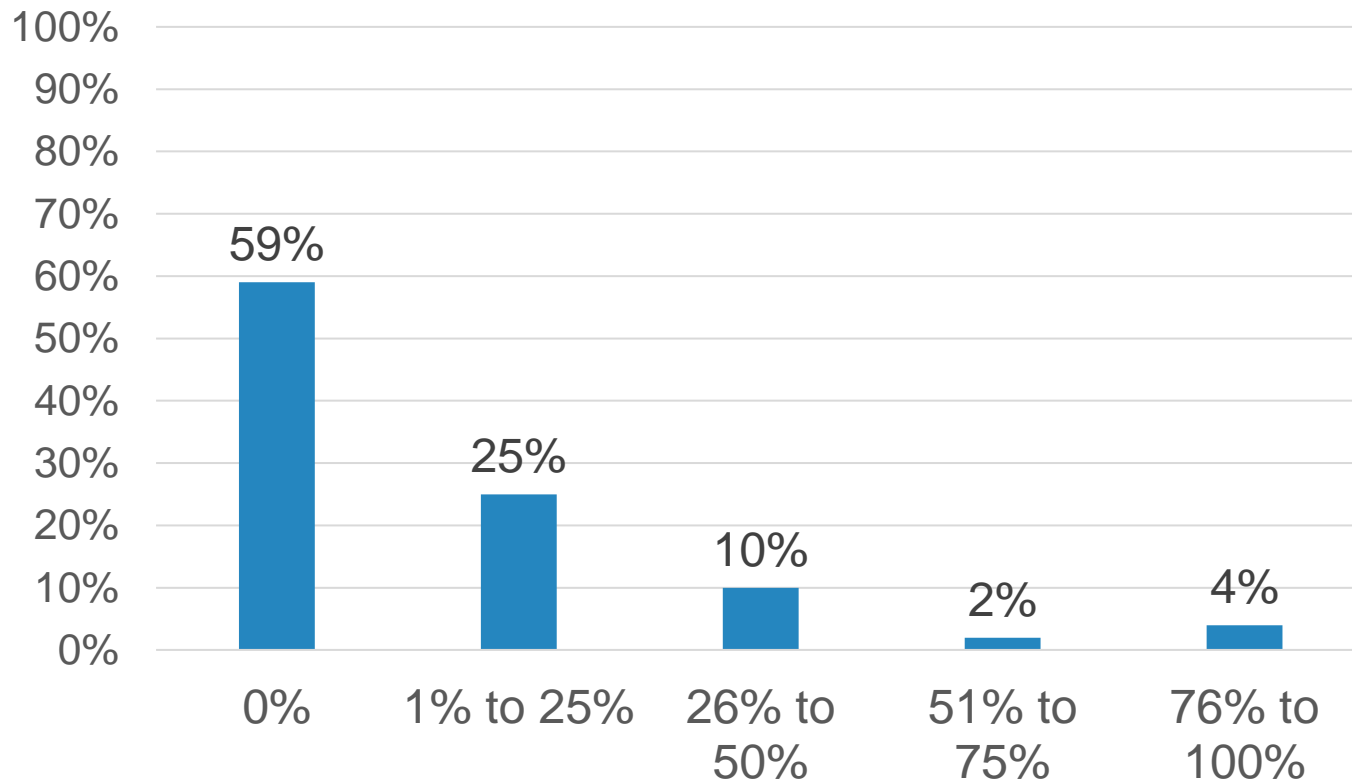


Lifeway research

Q6: "Of the adult small groups/Sunday School classes/Bible studies that existed in your church before COVID-19 (January 2020), estimate what percentage of groups fit each description below?" n=560

Percentage of adult groups currently not meeting

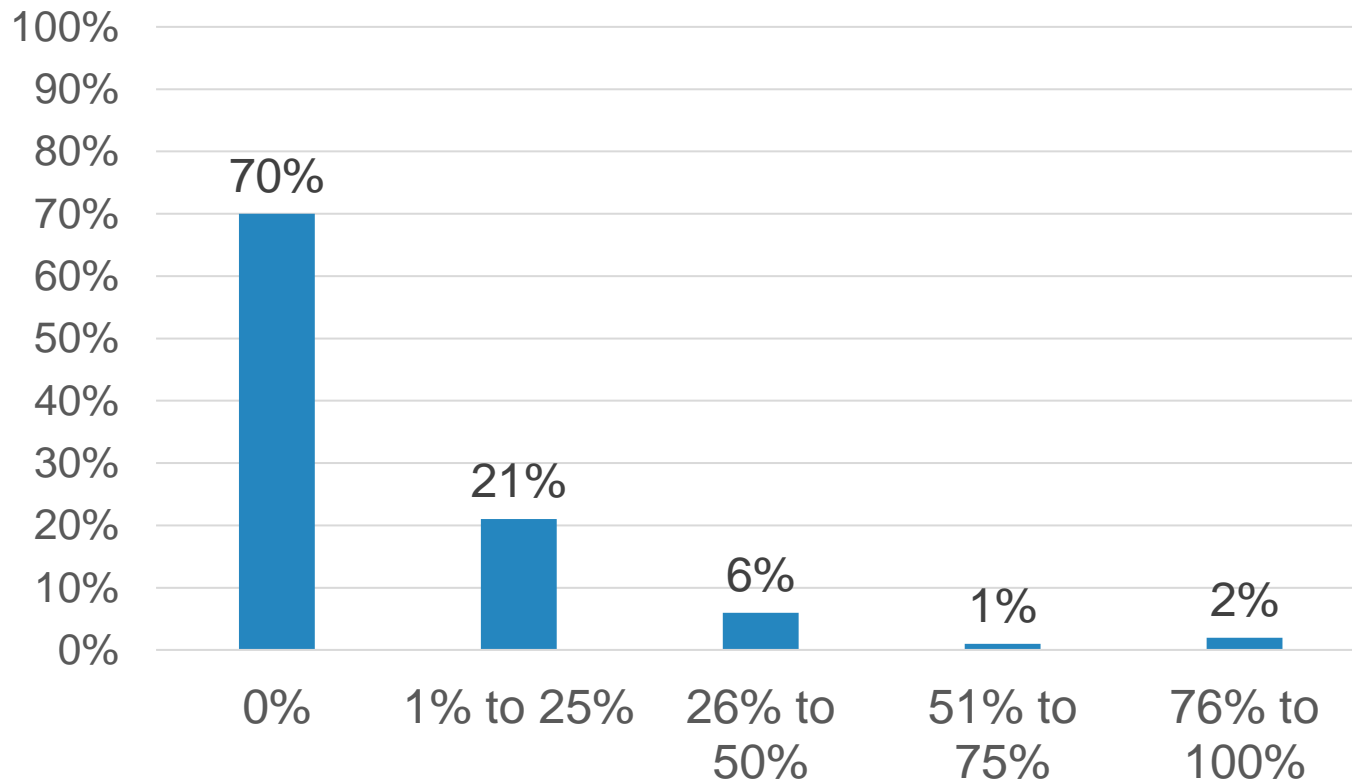
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Percentage of adult groups that no longer exist

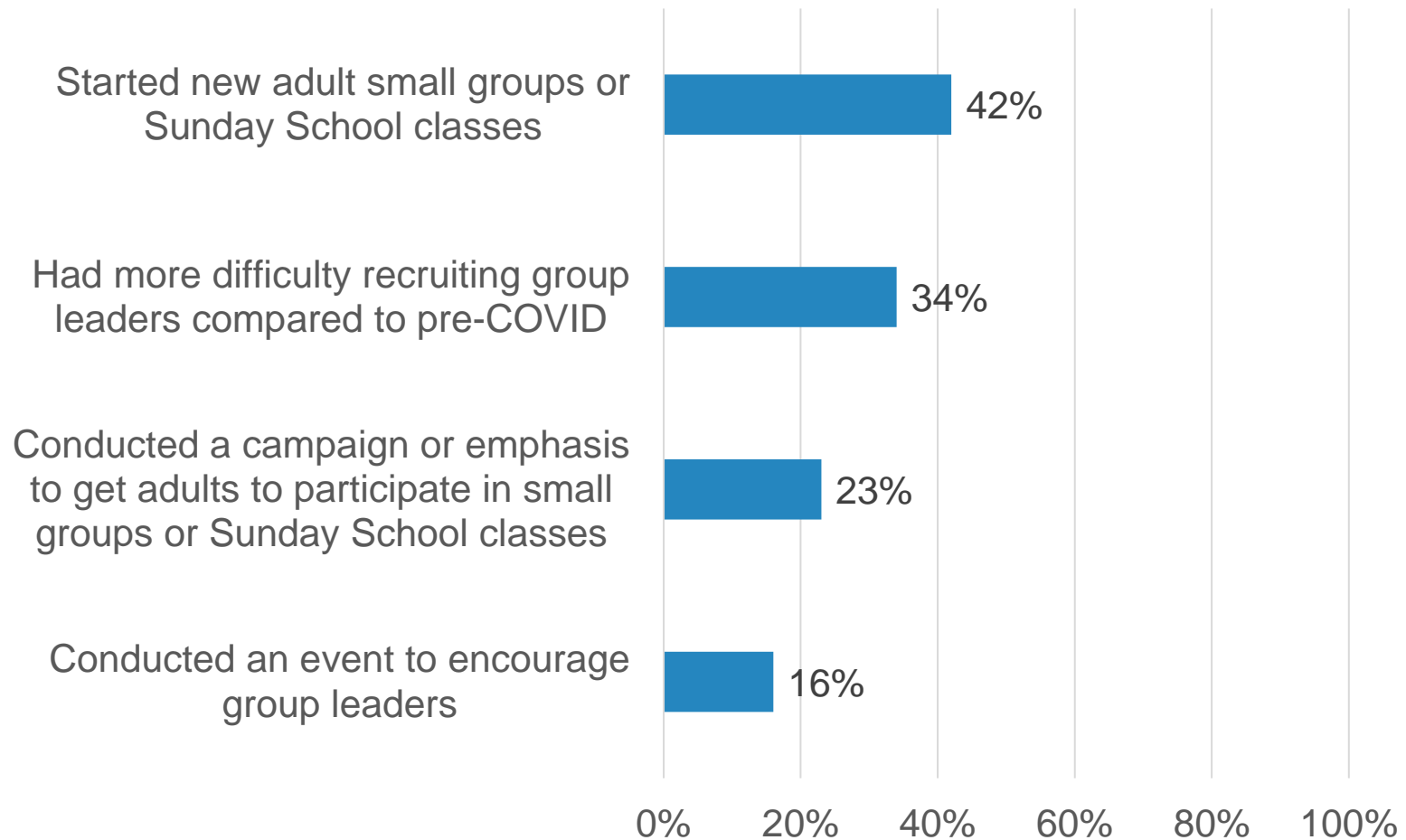
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?”

Among Protestant Pastors

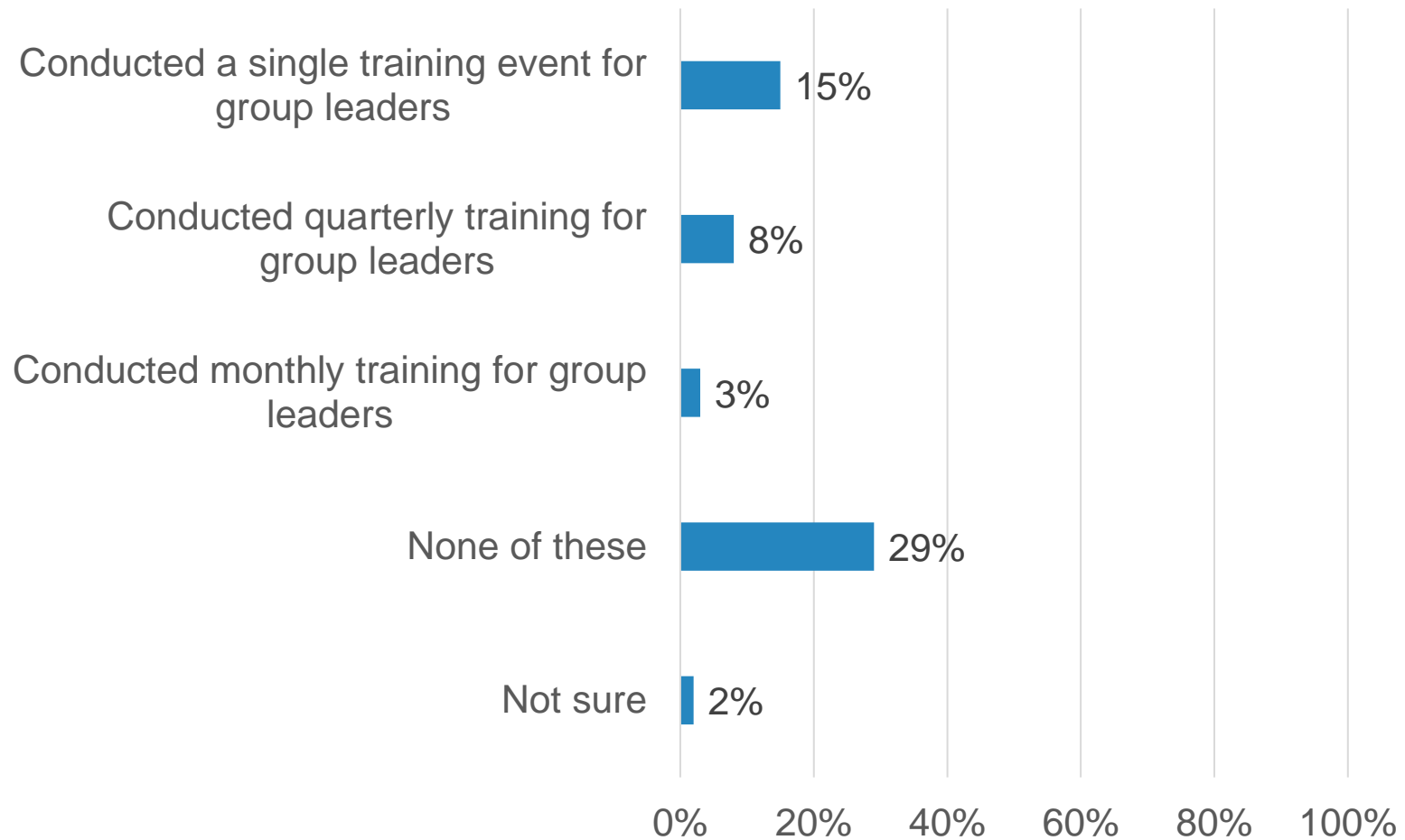


Lifeway research

Q7: “Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry? Select all that apply” n= 560

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?” *continued*

Among Protestant Pastors

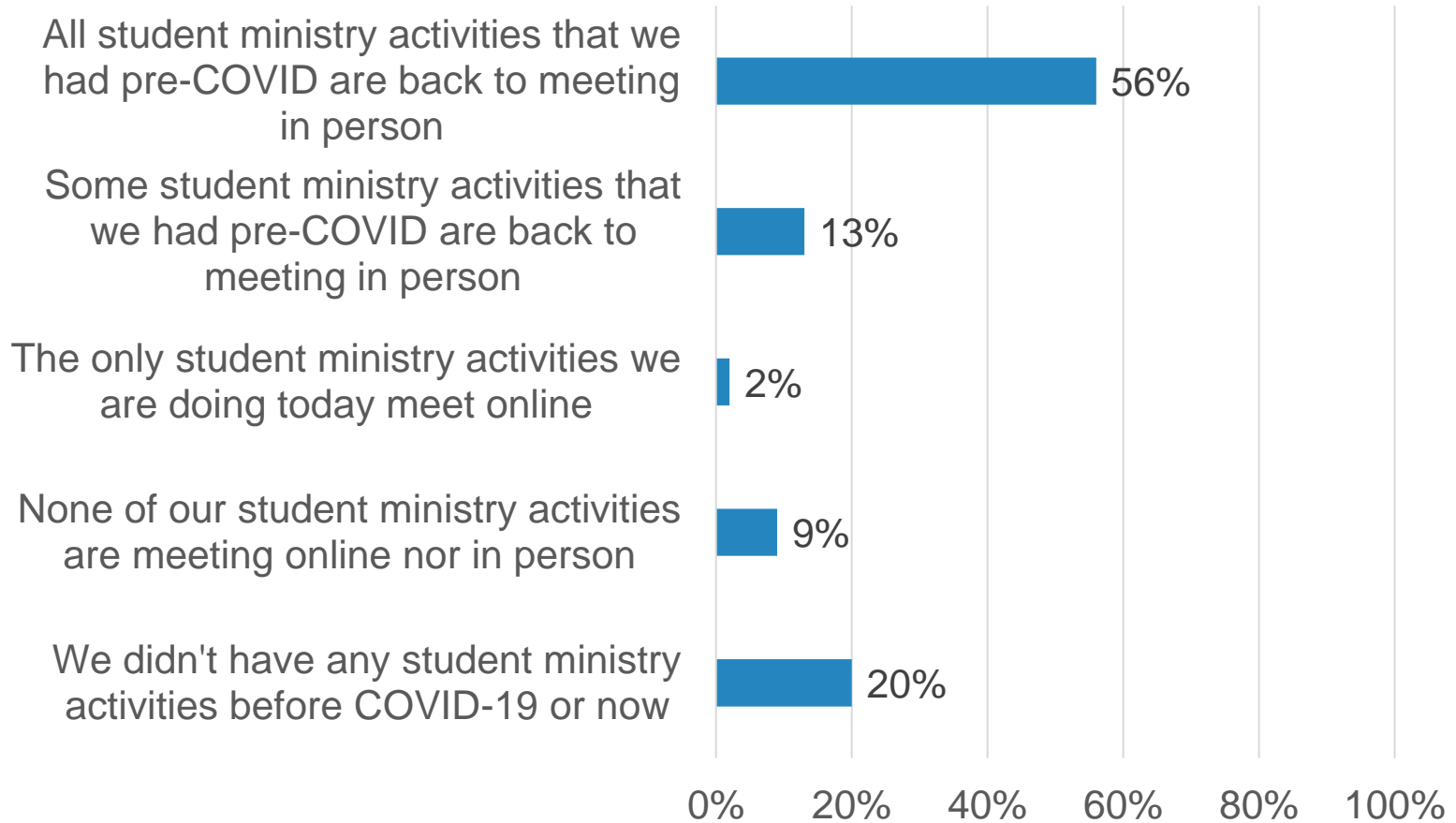


Lifewayresearch

Q7: “Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry? Select all that apply” n= 560

69% of churches have resumed all or some of their student ministry activities in person

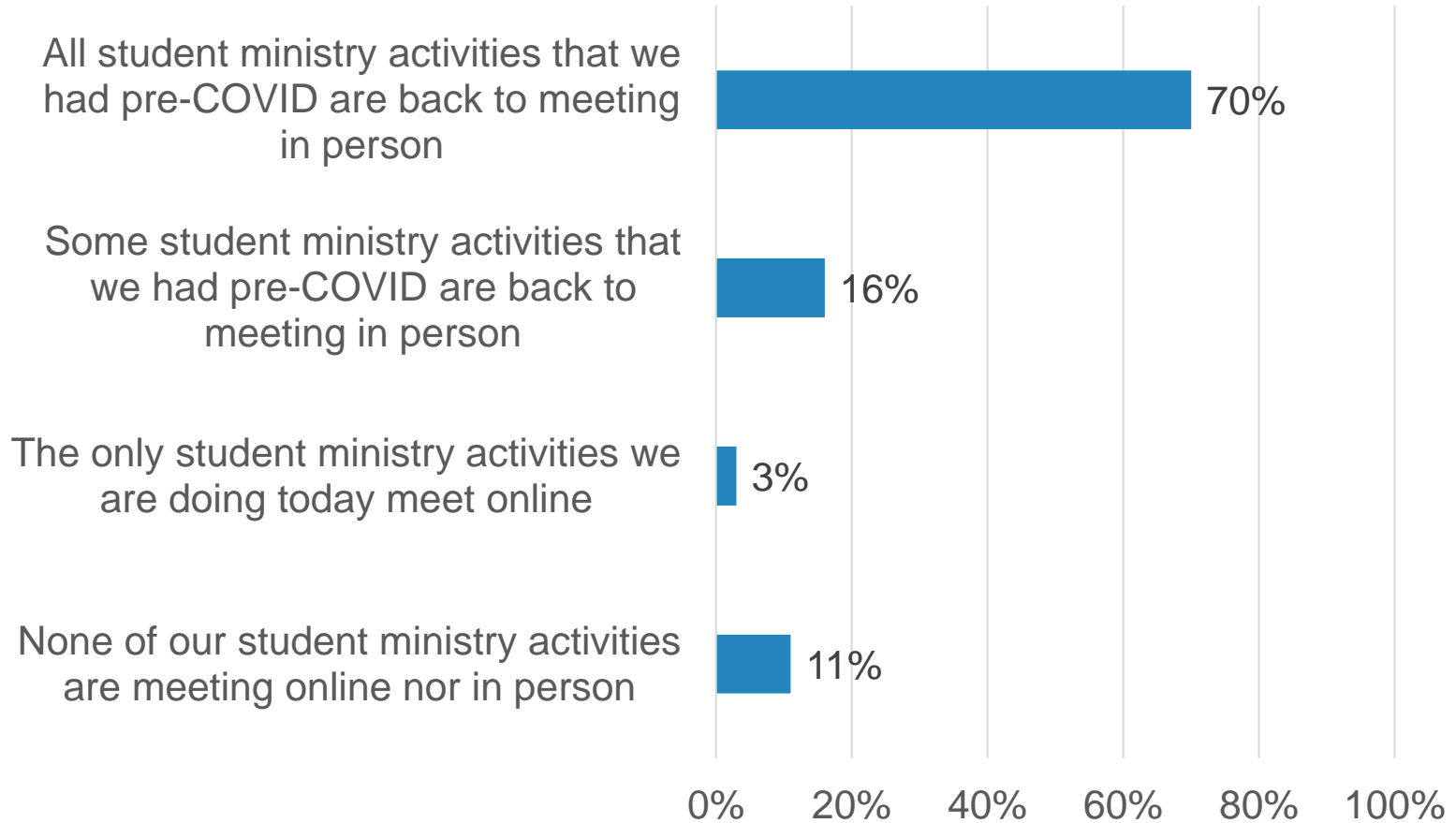
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

86% of churches with pre-COVID student activities have resumed all or some of these activities in person

Among those that had Student Ministry Activities before COVID-19



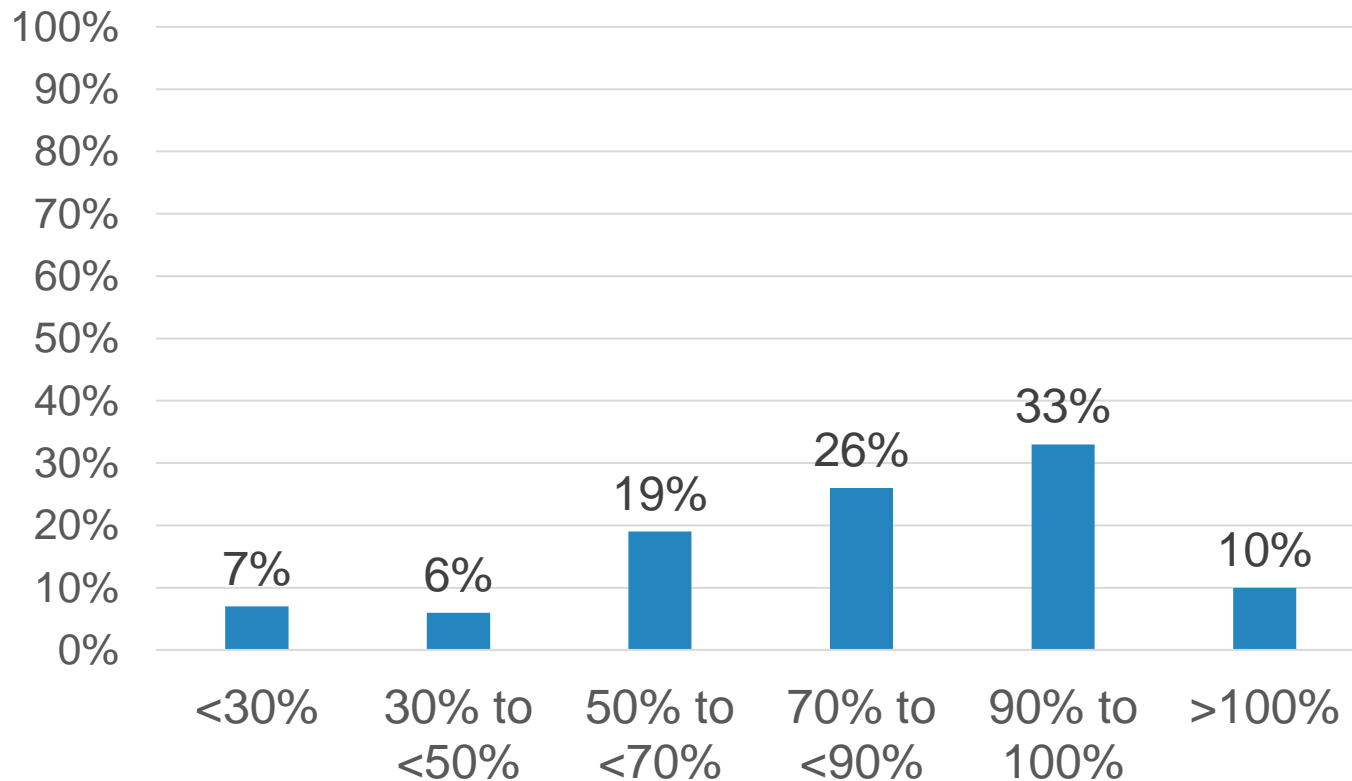
Student ministry activities NOT meeting in person in churches that have resumed some

Among those with some Student Ministry Activities *NOT* meeting in person

- Weekly youth gathering (33% of churches listing activities not meeting)
- Youth Sunday School (22%)
- Youth events (camps, fellowships, retreats) (18%)
- Youth weekly Bible study (7%)
- Confirmation Classes (6%)
- Outside organizations (after school programs, boy scouts) (5%)
- Youth VBS (4%)
- Recreation Center (1%)
- None specified (4%)

58% say that current in-person student ministry attendance is less than 90% of pre-COVID attendance

Among student ministries meeting in person for some or all activities



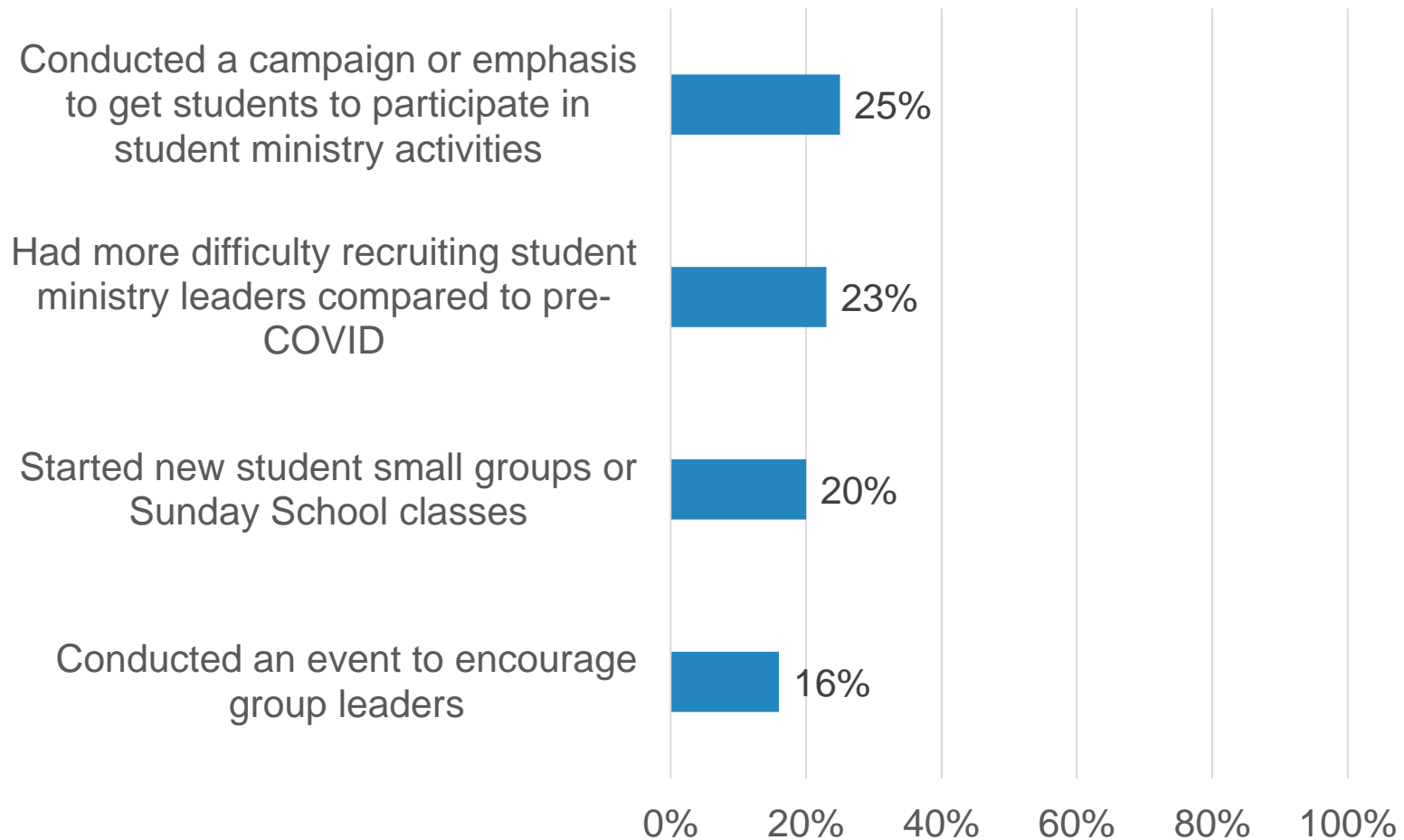
Mean: 65%

Median: 75%

Lifeway research

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

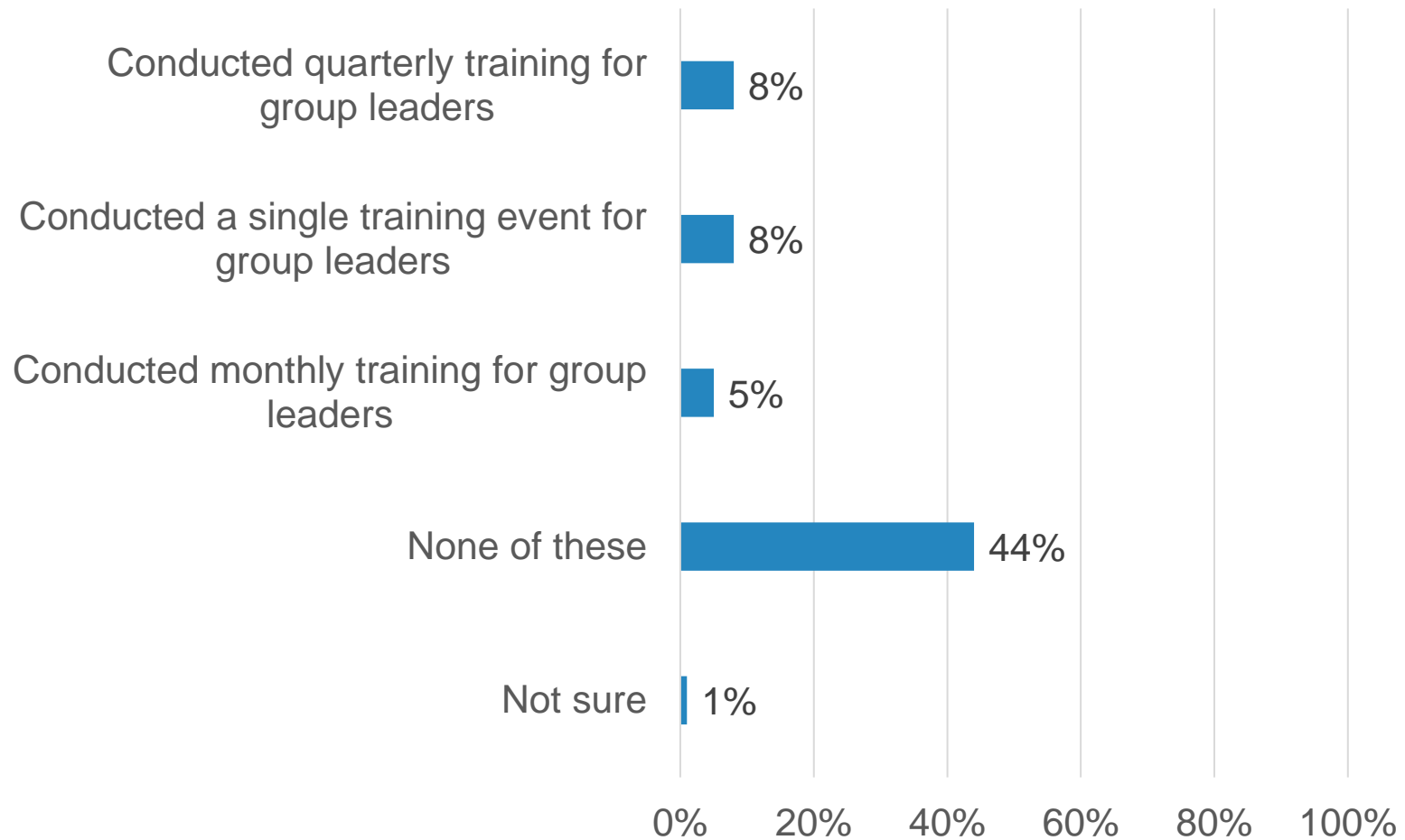
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?” *continued*

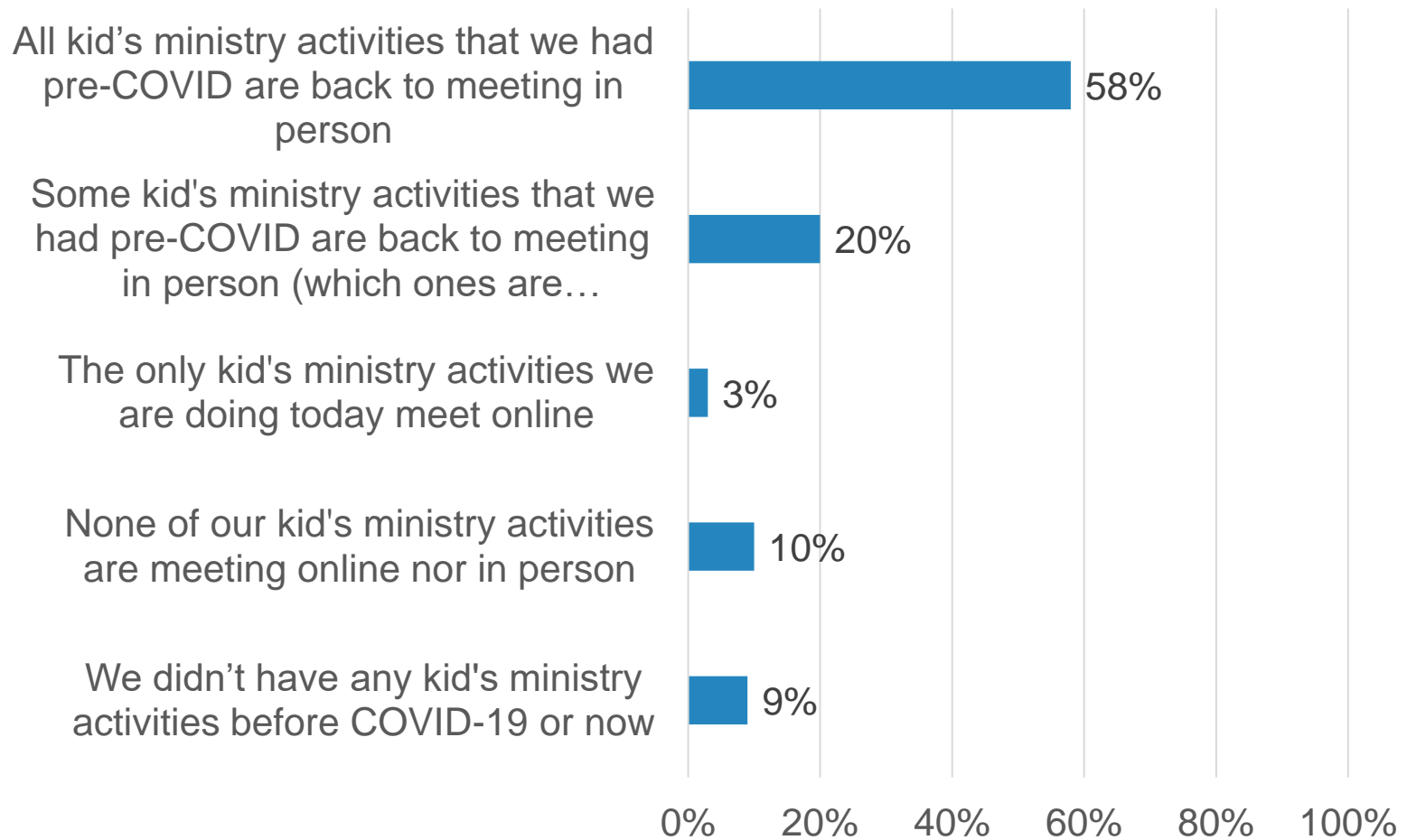
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

78% of churches have resumed all or some kid's ministry activities

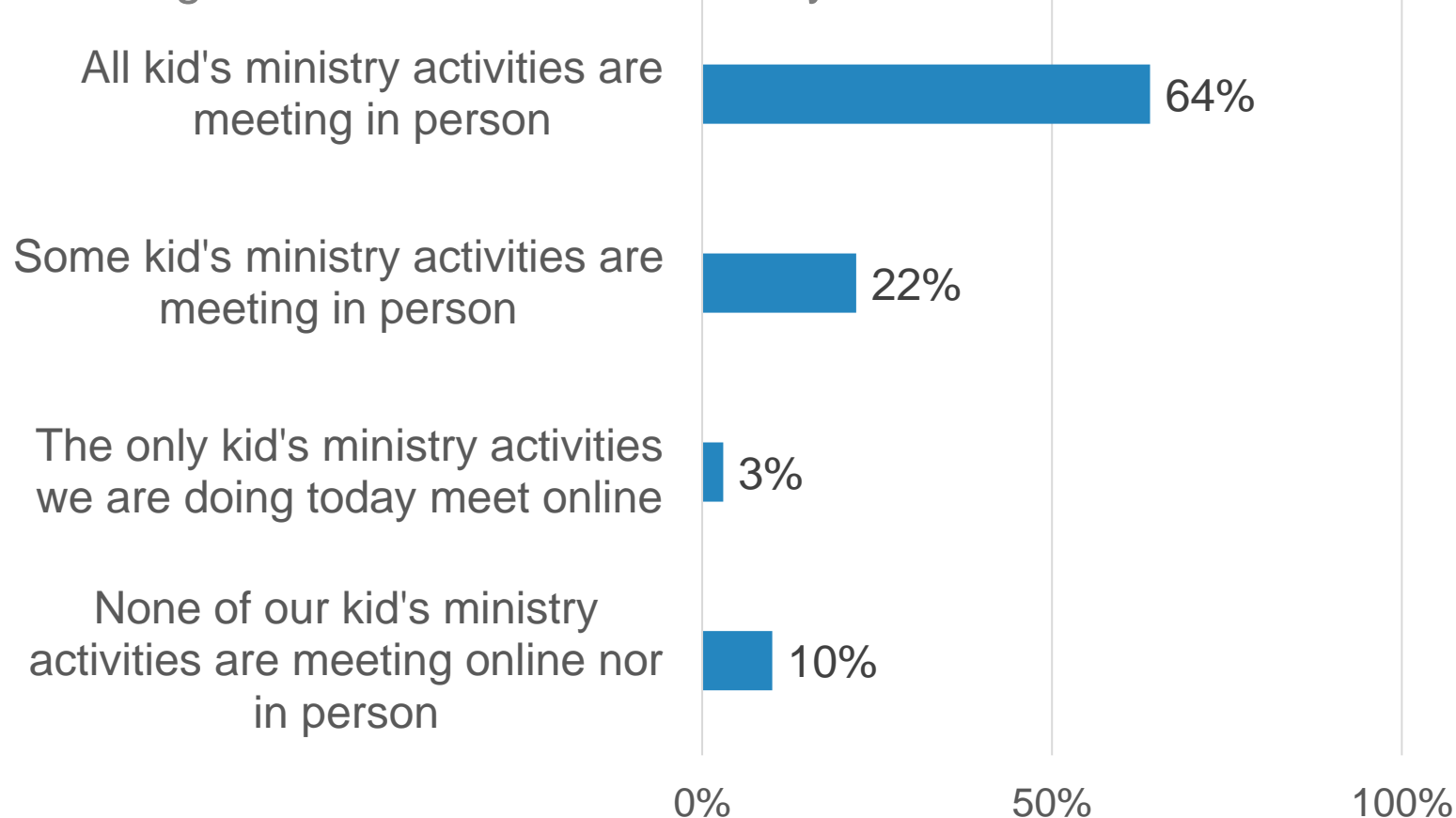
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

86% of churches with pre-COVID kid's ministry activities have resumed all or some of those activities in person

Among those that had Kids Ministry Activities before COVID-19



Lifeway research

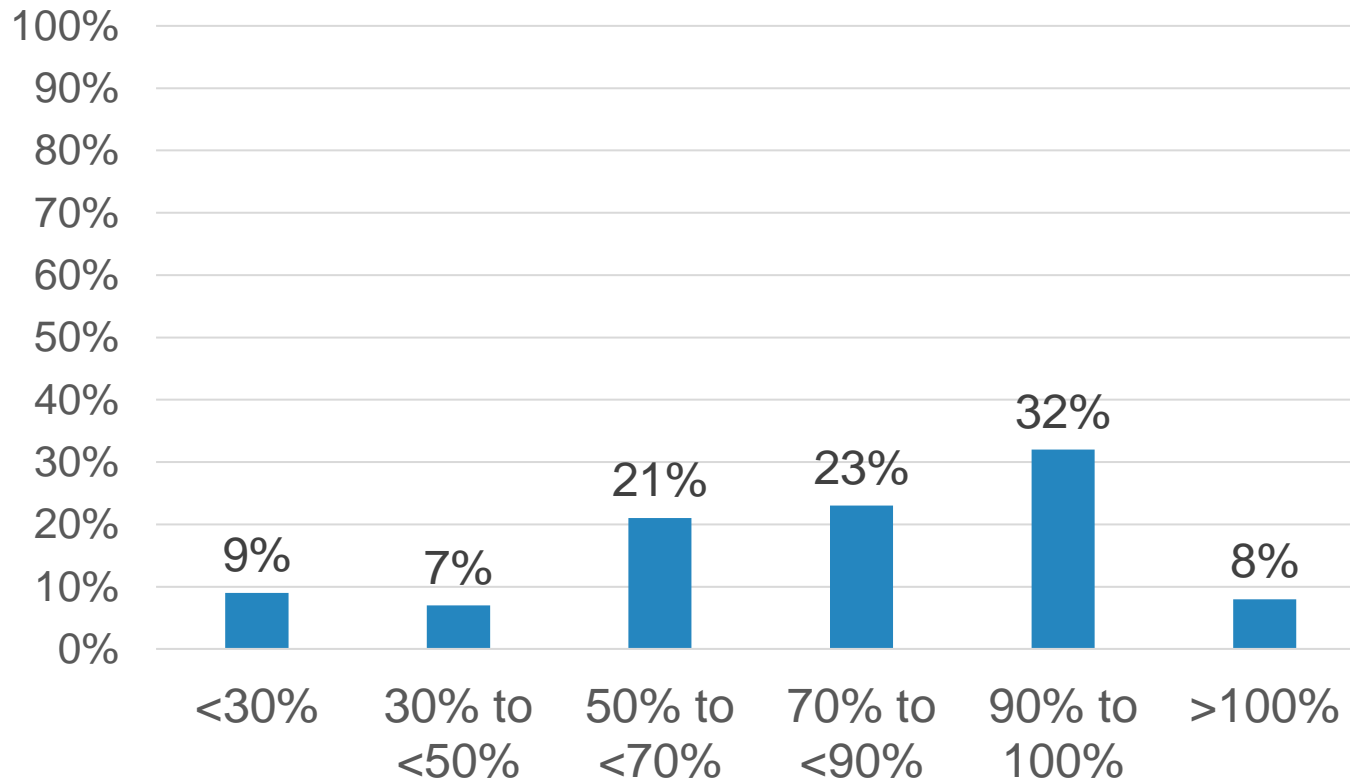
Kid's ministry activities NOT meeting in person in churches that have resumed some

Among those with some Kid's Ministry Activities NOT meeting in person

- Kids Sunday School (44% of churches listing activities not meeting)
- Midweek/Wednesday evening activities (13%)
- AWANA (6%)
- Nursery/ childcare (6%)
- Sunday evening activities (6%)
- Weekday Preschool/ Mothers Day Out (6%)
- Children's Church (6%)
- After-school programs (Cub scouts) (5%)
- Kids social events (4%)
- Children's choir (3%)
- Kids confirmation (3%)
- Kids VBS (3%)
- Sports ministry (1%)
- Bus ministry (<1%)
- None specified (2%)

60% say that current in-person kid's ministry attendance is less than 90% of pre-COVID attendance

Among kid's ministries meeting in person for some or all activities



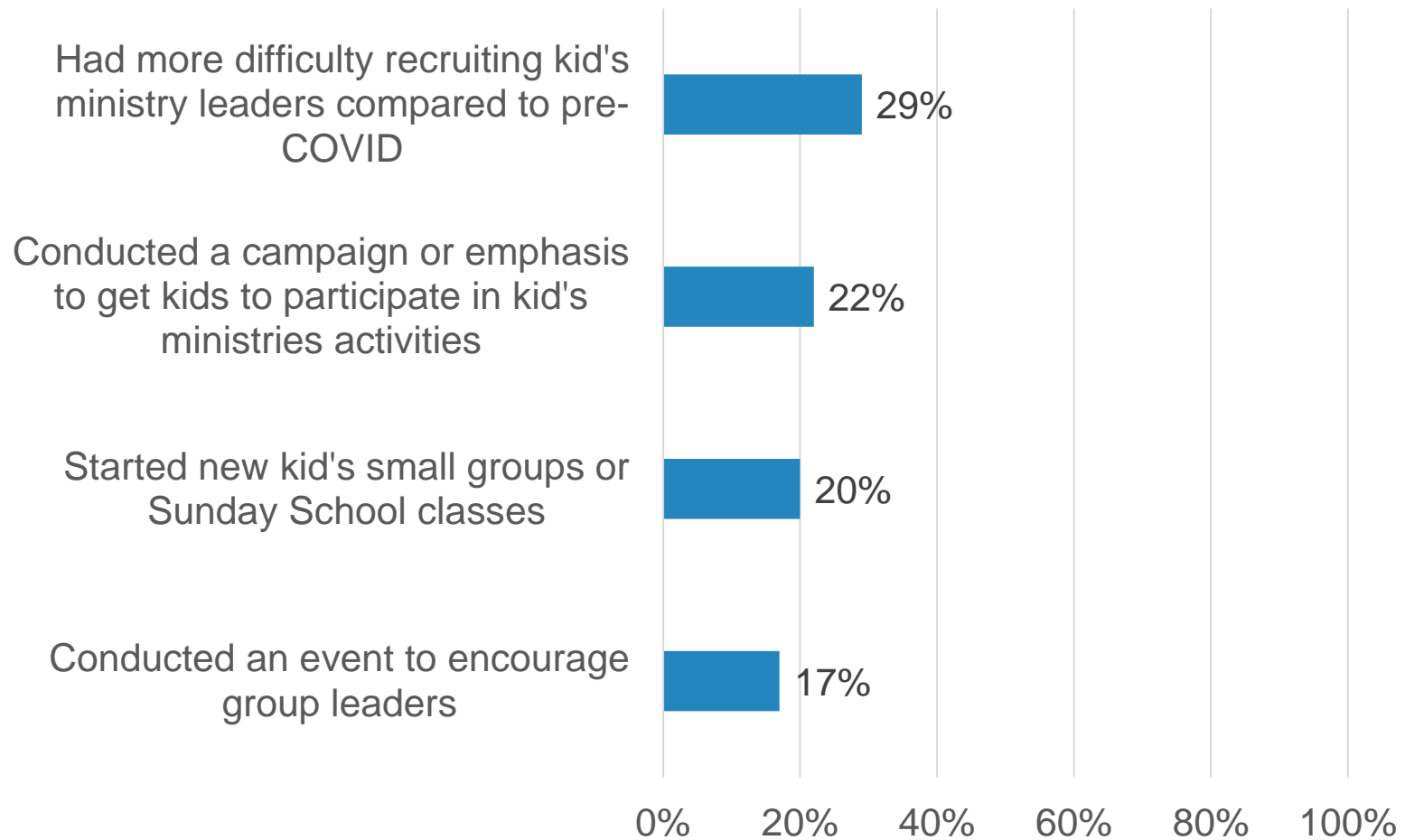
Mean: 64%

Median: 70%

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“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?”

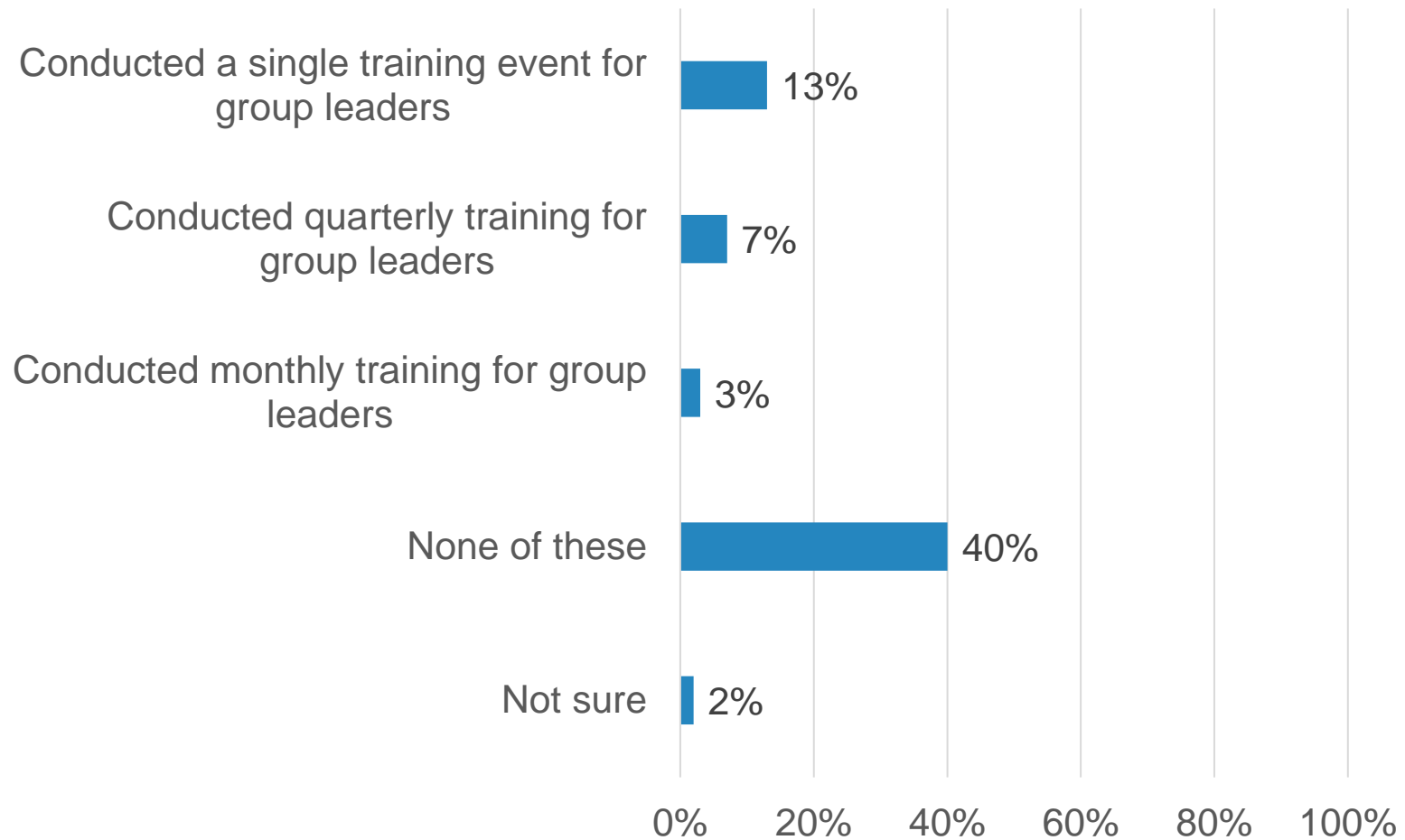
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?” *continued*

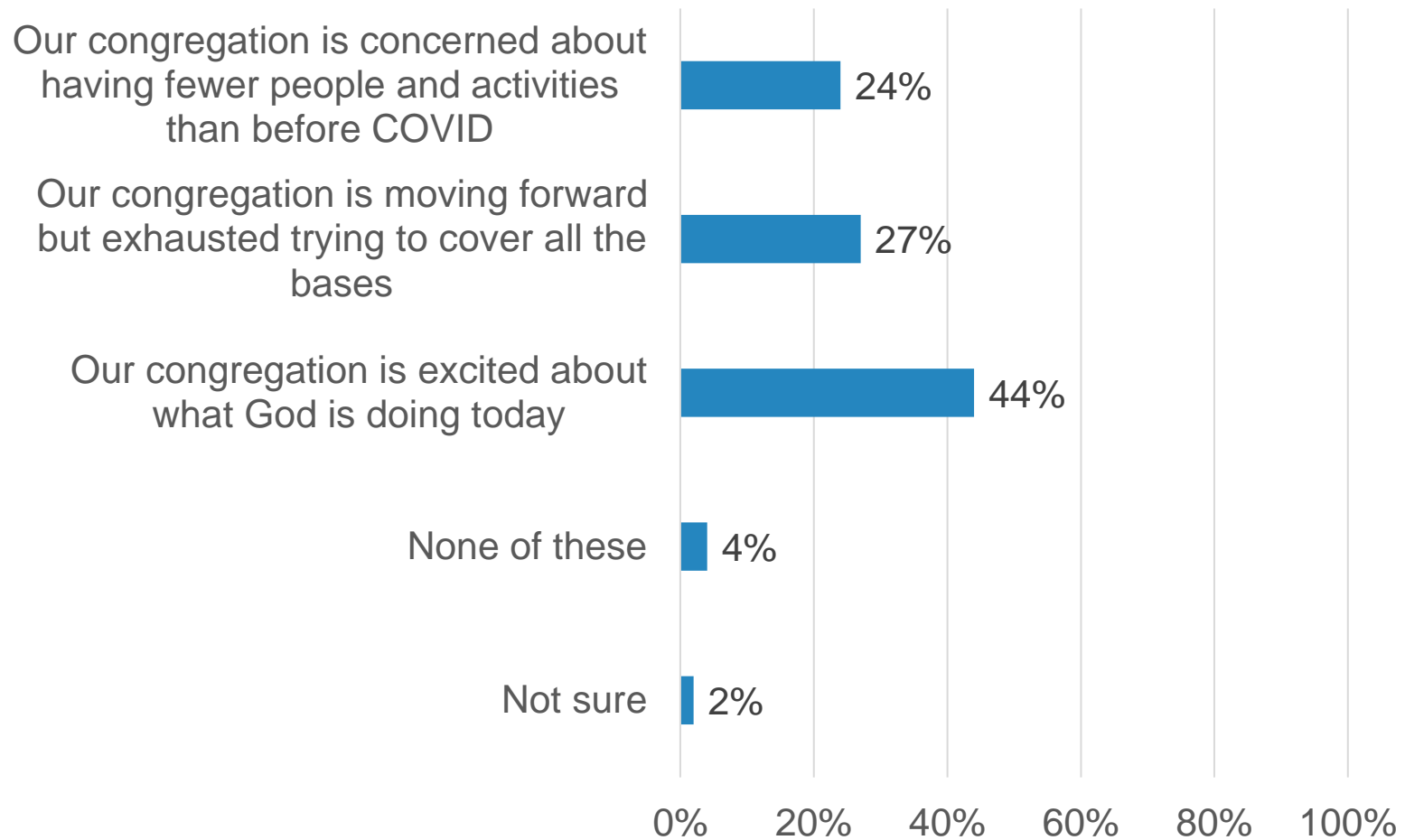
Among Protestant Pastors



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44% say their congregation is excited about what God is doing; 27% say their congregation is moving forward but is exhausted

Among Protestant Pastors

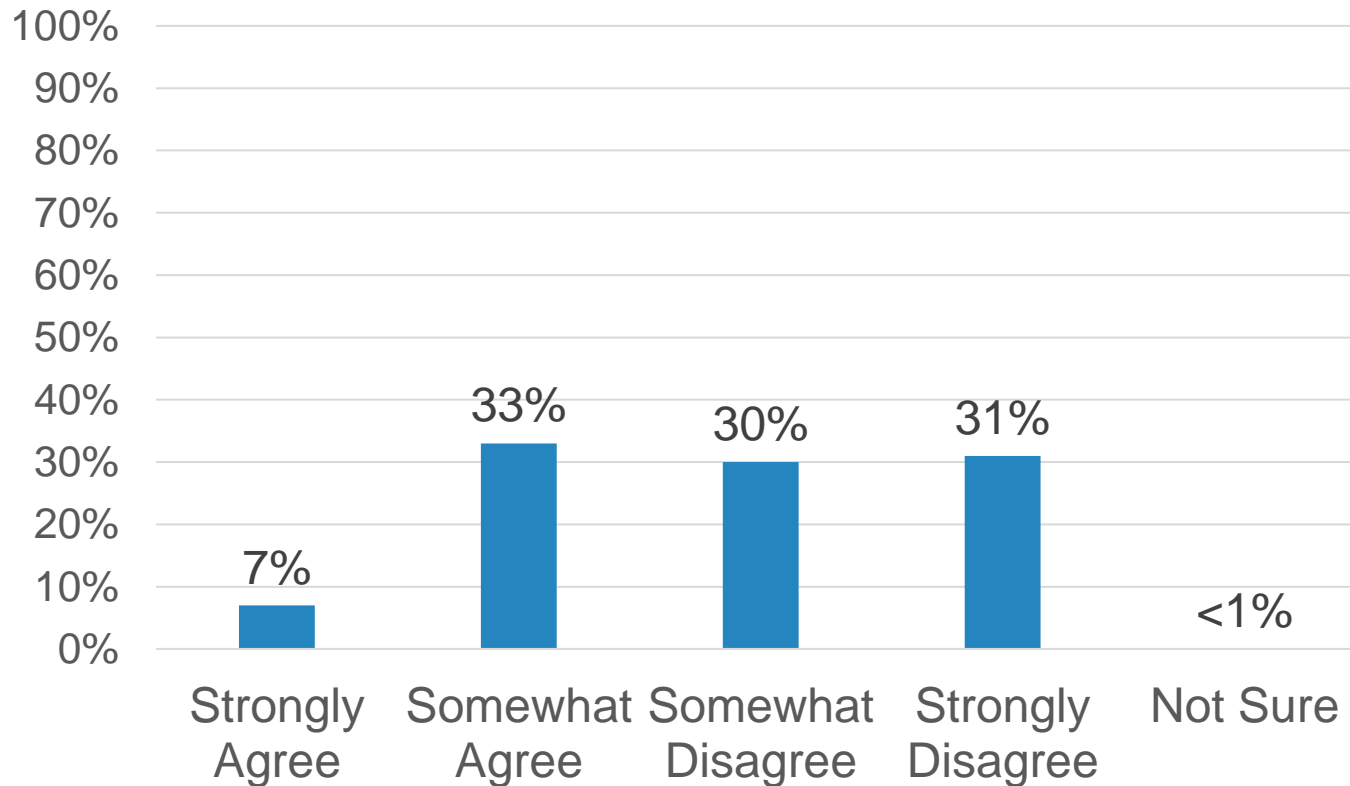


Lifeway research

Q14: "Which of the following statements best describes your church today?" n=558

40% say that it is hard to keep a positive tone among the leaders in their church

Among Protestant Pastors

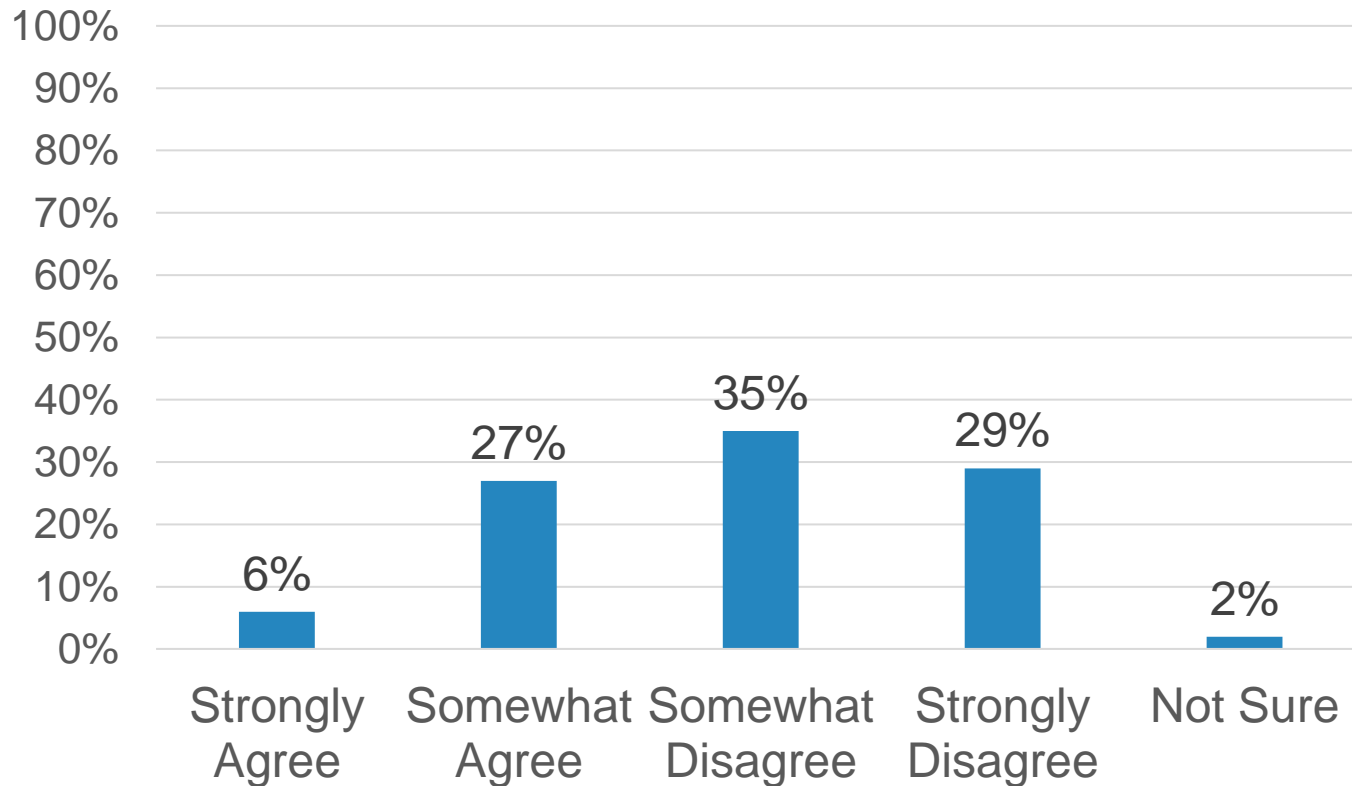


Lifewayresearch

Q15: "It is hard to keep a positive tone among the leaders in our church." n=560

33% say that the large number of needs in their church has made it hard to focus on reaching their community

Among Protestant Pastors

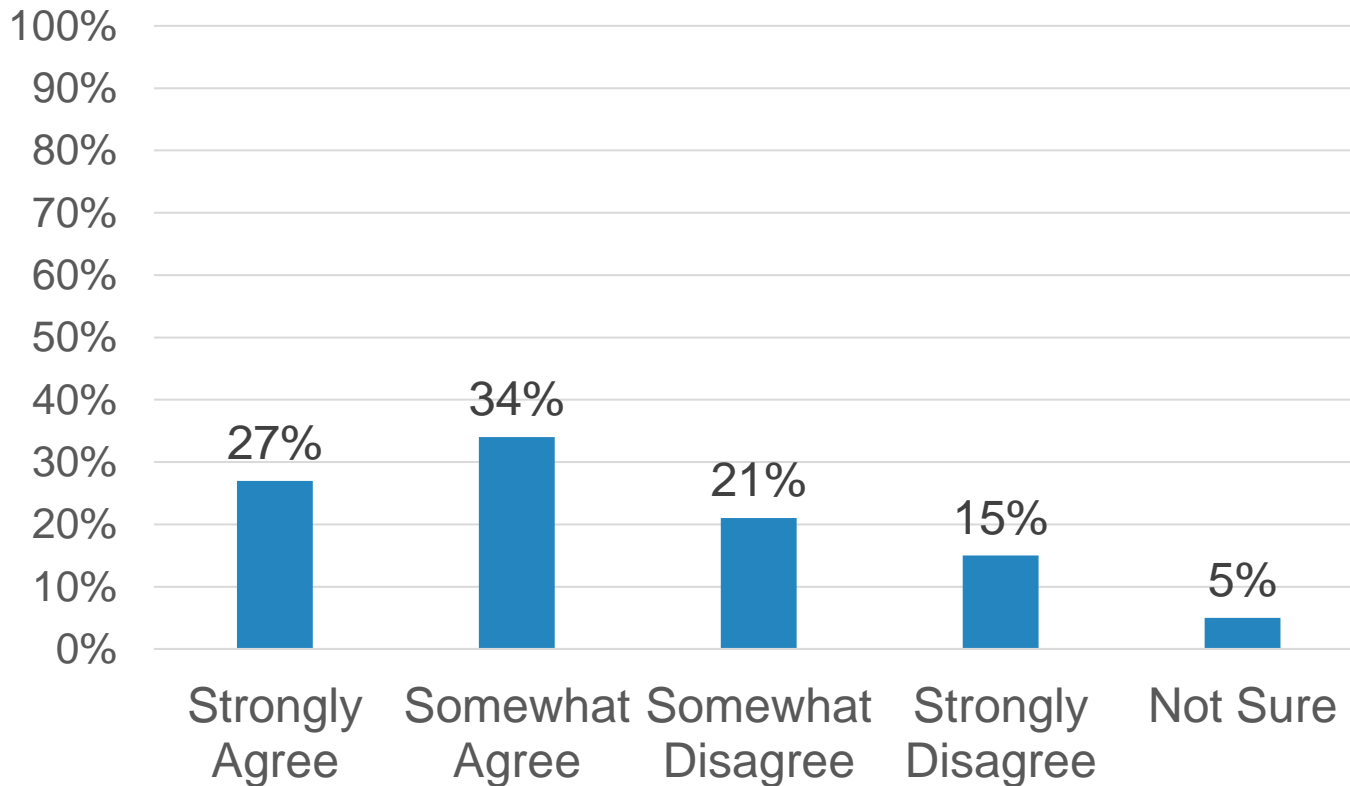


Lifeway research

Q16: "The large number of needs within our church have made it hard to focus on reaching our community." n=560

60% say they are encouraging online worshippers who are able to resume attending in person

Among Protestant Pastors

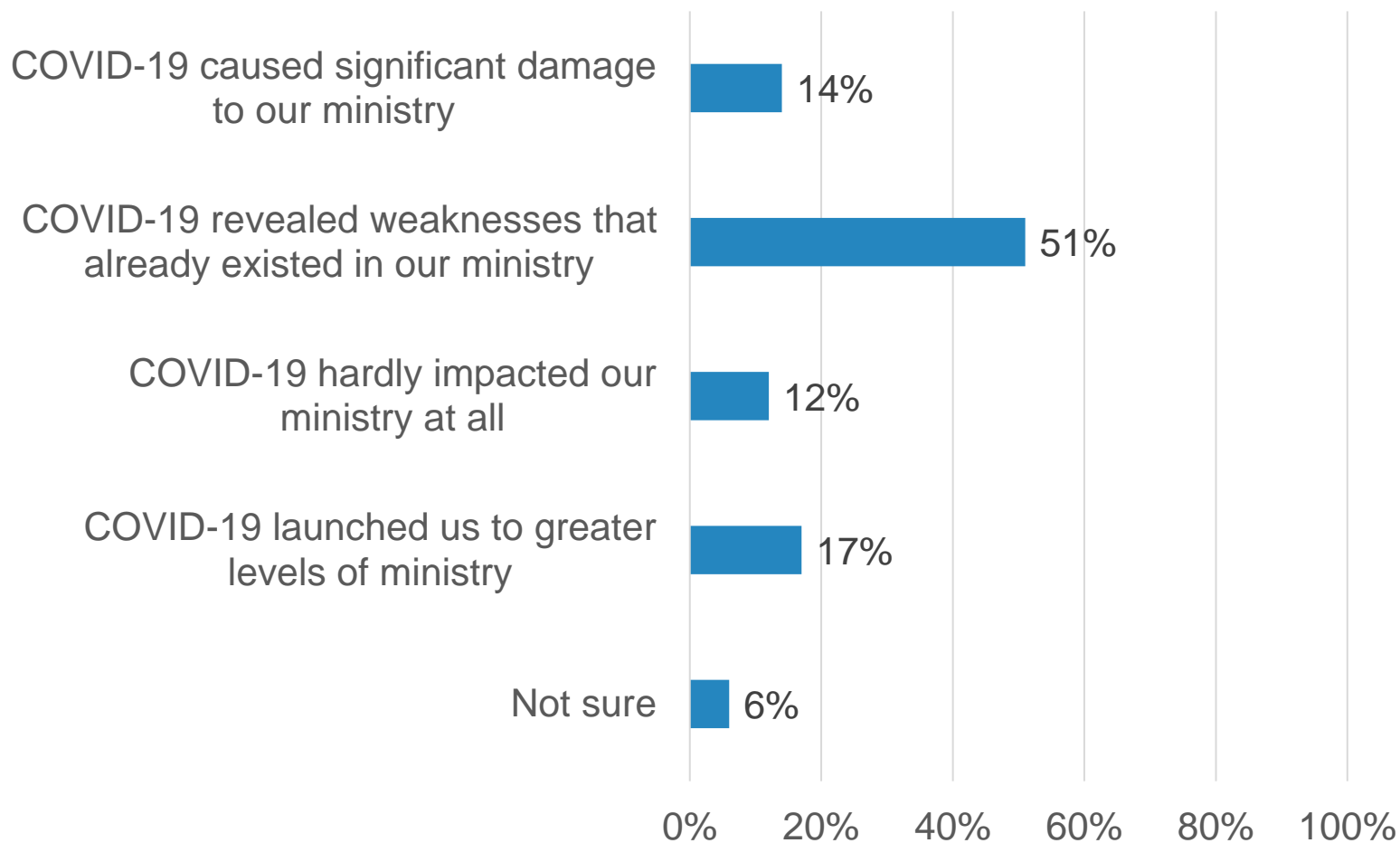


Lifewayresearch

Q17: "We are specifically exhorting our online worshippers who are able, to resume or begin attending in person." n=560

51% say that COVID-19 revealed weaknesses that already existed in their church's ministry

Among Protestant Pastors



Lifewayresearch

Q18: "Which is most true for your church?" n=560

Significant Differences

Pastor

Age

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Average Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's age and self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, as well as the church's region and average attendance.

AGE	SELF-IDENTIFIED	REGION	PRE-COVID ATTENDANCE
18-44	Evangelical	Northeast	0-49
45-54	Mainline	South	50-99
55-64		Midwest	100-199
65+		West	200+

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

January 2022 Attendance as a percentage of January 2020 Attendance

- Pastors age 45-54 (14%) are more likely to report January 2022 attendance between **90-100%** of January 2020 than those pastors age 18-44 (6%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to report January 2022 attendance **70-<90%** of January 2020 than Mainline pastors (35% v. 25%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to report January 2022 attendance **30-<50%** of January 2020 than Evangelical pastors (20% v. 7%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (30%) and South (35%) are more likely to report January 2022 attendance between **70-<90%** of January 2020 than those in the West (15%)
- Pastors in the West (23%) are more likely to report January 2022 attendance between **90-100%** of January 2020 than those in the Midwest (10%) and South (7%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the most likely to report January 2022 attendance **90-100%** of January 2020 (19%). An additional 18% are **>100%**

“Did your church livestream or post video sermons or worship services last month (January 2022)?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (88%) and 45-54 (89%) are more likely to select “We livestreamed our worship services this last month” than those age 65+ (74%)
- Pastors in the South (87%) are more likely to select “We livestreamed our worship services this last month” than those in the Midwest (79%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select “We livestreamed our worship services this last month” (68%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

An attendee has been diagnosed with COVID-19

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (98%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (92% v. 80%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (99%)
- Pastors of church with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (79%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

An attendee has died from COVID-19

- Pastors age 18-44 (25%) and 45-54 (26%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (15%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (25% v. 16%)
- Pastors in the South (24%) and West (29%) are more likely to select than pastors in the Northeast (10%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are most likely to select (42%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

New people who had not attended our church in the past have attended or connected online

- Pastors age 45-54 (81%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (67%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-199 (78%) and 200+ (87%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of less than 50 (63%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

New people who had not attended our church in the past have attended or connected in person

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (94%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (88% v. 79%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (97%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (68%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

An attendee has seen someone make a commitment to follow Christ after sharing the gospel

- Pastors age 18-44 (39%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (26%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (42% v. 20%)
- Pastors in the South (40%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (23%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (61%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (15%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

Attendees have helped each other with tangible needs

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (75%)
- Pastors in the South (90%) are more likely to select than those in the West (79%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-199 (91%) and 200+ (99%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of less than 50 (75%)

“Have any of the following occurred within your congregation (including to yourself) in the last six months of the coronavirus pandemic?”

Attendees have met tangible needs in our community connected to the coronavirus

- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (69% v. 60%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (75%) are more likely to select than those in the South (60%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (85%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (48%)

“Of the adult small groups/Sunday School classes/Bible studies that existed in your church before COVID-19 (January 2020), estimate what percentage of groups fit each description below?”

% Currently are meeting in person

- Pastors age 18-44 (63%) are more likely to answer “76% to 100%” than pastors age 55-64 (51%) and 65+ (49%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to answer “76% to 100%” than Mainline pastors (60% v. 43%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (62%) are more likely to answer “76% to 100%” than those in the West (42%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ (67%) are more likely to answer “76% to 100%” than those with attendance of 50-99 (50%) and 100-199 (49%)

“Of the adult small groups/Sunday School classes/Bible studies that existed in your church before COVID-19 (January 2020), estimate what percentage of groups fit each description below?”

% Currently are meeting online or by phone

- Pastors age 18-44 (26%) are more likely to answer “1% to 25%” than pastors age 65+ (13%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to answer “26% to 50%” than Evangelical pastors (10% v. 3%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (76%) are more likely to answer “0%” than those in the West (60%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the most likely to answer “0%” (82%)
- Pastors of church with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to answer “1% to 25%” (40%) and least likely to answer “0%” (52%)

“Of the adult small groups/Sunday School classes/Bible studies that existed in your church before COVID-19 (January 2020), estimate what percentage of groups fit each description below?”

% Currently are not meeting

- Pastors age 45-54 (12%) and 55-64 (14%) are more likely to answer “26% to 50%” than pastors age 18-44 (5%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (64%) are more likely to answer “0%” than those in the Northeast (47%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to answer “1% to 25%” (15%)

“Of the adult small groups/Sunday School classes/Bible studies that existed in your church before COVID-19 (January 2020), estimate what percentage of groups fit each description below?”

% No longer exist

- Pastors age 55-64 (77%) and 65+ (85%) are more likely to answer “0%” than pastors age 18-44 (59%) and 45-54 (63%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (77%) are more likely to answer “0%” than those in the South (66%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 (83%) and 50-99 (75%) are more likely to answer “0%” than those with attendance of 100-199 (63%) and 200+ (58%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?”

Started new adult small groups or Sunday School classes

- Pastors age 18-44 (48%) and 45-54 (50%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (30%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (63%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (24%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?”

Conducted a campaign or emphasis to get adults to participate in small groups or Sunday School classes

- Pastors age 18-44 (29%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (17%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (42%)

Conducted monthly training for group leaders

- Pastors in the Northeast (10%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (3%) and South (1%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?”

Conducted quarterly training for group leaders

- Pastors age 18-44 (13%) are more likely to select than pastors age 45-54 (6%)
- Pastors in the South (11%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (2%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (21%)

Conducted a single training event for group leaders

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-199 (19%) and 200+ (27%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of less than 50 (6%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?”

Conducted an event to encourage group leaders

- Pastors in the South (18%) and West (21%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (11%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (31%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your church done in the last 6 months with your adult small groups/Sunday School ministry?”

Had more difficulty recruiting group leaders compared to pre-COVID

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (22%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (23%)

“Which of the following best describes your student ministry activities today (middle and high school ages)?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (68%) and 45-54 (61%) are more likely to select “All student ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” than pastors age 65+ (41%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “All student ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” than Mainline pastors (66% v. 40%)
- Pastors in the South (63%) are more likely to select “All student ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” than those in the Northeast (45%) and West (40%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select “All student ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” (87%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the most likely to select “We didn’t have any student ministry activities before COVID-19 or now” (51%)

“As a percentage, how does your church’s in-person student ministry attendance today compare to your pre-COVID attendance?”

- Pastors age 55-64 (29%) and 65+ (36%) are more likely to select “70% to <90%” than pastors age 18-44 (18%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to answer “>100%” than Mainline pastors (12% v. 2%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (46%) are more likely to answer “90% to 100%” than those in the South (31%) and West (24%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Started new student small groups or Sunday School classes

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (8%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (39%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted a campaign or emphasis to get students to participate in student ministry activities

- Pastors in the Midwest (25%) and South (28%) are more likely to select than those in the West (13%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (48%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted monthly training for group leaders

- Pastors age 55-64 (8%) are more likely to select than pastors age 45-54 (2%) and 65+ (1%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the most likely to select (17%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ (10%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of less than 50 (1%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted quarterly training for group leaders

- Pastors age 18-44 (13%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (6%) and 65+ (3%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ (16%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of less than 50 (1%) and 100-199 (6%)

Conducted a single training event for group leaders

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (1%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (26%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted an event to encourage group leaders

- Pastors age 18-44 (21%) and 45-54 (22%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (12%) and 65+ (9%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (19% v. 12%)
- Pastors in the South are the most likely to select (21%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (43%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your student ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Had more difficulty recruiting student ministry leaders compared to pre-COVID

- Pastors age 18-44 (29%) and 45-54 (30%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (18%) and 65+ (14%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (9%)

“Which of the following best describes your kid’s ministry activities today (birth-elementary ages)?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (63%) and 45-54 (65%) are more likely to select “All kid’s ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” than pastors age 65+ (49%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “All kid’s ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” than Mainline pastors (70% v. 39%)
- Pastors in the South (62%) are more likely to select “All kid’s ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” than those in the Northeast (46%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select “All kid’s ministry activities that we had pre-COVID are back to meeting in person” (84%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the most likely to select “We didn’t have any kid’s ministry activities before COVID-19 or now” (23%)

“As a percentage, how does your church’s in-person kid’s ministry attendance today compare with your pre-COVID attendance?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (14%) and 45-54 (14%) are more likely to select “>100%” than pastors age 55-64 (1%) and 65+ (3%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the most likely to select “90% to 100%” (49%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Started new kid’s small groups or Sunday School classes

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (9%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 are the least likely to select (11%)

Conducted a campaign or emphasis to get kids to participate in kid’s ministry activities

- Pastors age 65+ (10%) are the least likely to select
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (46%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted monthly training for group leaders

- No significant differences

Conducted quarterly training for group leaders

- Pastors age 18-44 (9%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (3%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (9% v. 3%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (17%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted a single training for group leaders

- Pastors age 18-44 (18%) and 45-54 (19%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (10%) and 65+ (6%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (28%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Conducted an event to encourage group leaders

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (8%)
- Pastors in the South (19%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (11%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (32%)

“Which, if any, of the following has your kid’s ministry done in the last 6 months?”

Had more difficulty recruiting kid’s ministry leaders compared to pre-COVID

- Pastors age 18-44 (38%) and 45-54 (36%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (21%) and 65+ (21%)
- Pastors in the South (32%) and West (35%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (17%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select (48%)

“Which of the following statements best describes your church today?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (31%) are more likely to select “Our congregation is moving forward but exhausted trying to cover all the bases” than pastors age 55-64 (20%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Our church is excited about what God is doing today” than Mainline pastors (49% v. 34%)
- Pastors in the South (46%) and West (51%) are more likely to select “Our church is excited about what God is doing today” than those in the Northeast (33%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of less than 50 (32%) are more likely to select “Our congregation is concerned about having fewer people and activities than before COVID” than those with attendance of 200+ (14%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are most likely to select “Our church is excited about what God is doing today” (60%)

“It is hard to keep a positive tone among the leaders in our church.”

- Pastors in the Northeast (53%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (34%) and South (38%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 50-99 (44%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 200+ (32%)

“The large number of needs within our church have made it hard to focus on reaching our community.”

- Pastors age 55-64 (69%) are more likely to Disagree than pastors age 65+ (55%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (72%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the Midwest (57%)

“We are specifically exhorting our online worshippers who are able to resume or begin attending in person”

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to Agree (72%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (70% v. 49%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ (72%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of less than 50 (49%) and 50-99 (58%)

“Which is most true for your church?”

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select “COVID-19 revealed weaknesses that already existed in our ministry” (67%)
- Pastors in the South (56%) are more likely to select “COVID-19 revealed weaknesses that already existed in our ministry” than those in the Northeast (41%) and Midwest (45%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ (59%) are more likely to select “COVID-19 revealed weaknesses that already existed in our ministry” than those with attendance of less than 50 (44%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 200+ are the most likely to select “COVID-19 launched us to greater levels of ministry” (27%)

Pastors' Views on How COVID-19 is Affecting Their Church February 2022

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research