

Pastors' Views on Mental Illness

A SURVEY OF 1,000 PROTESTANT PASTORS

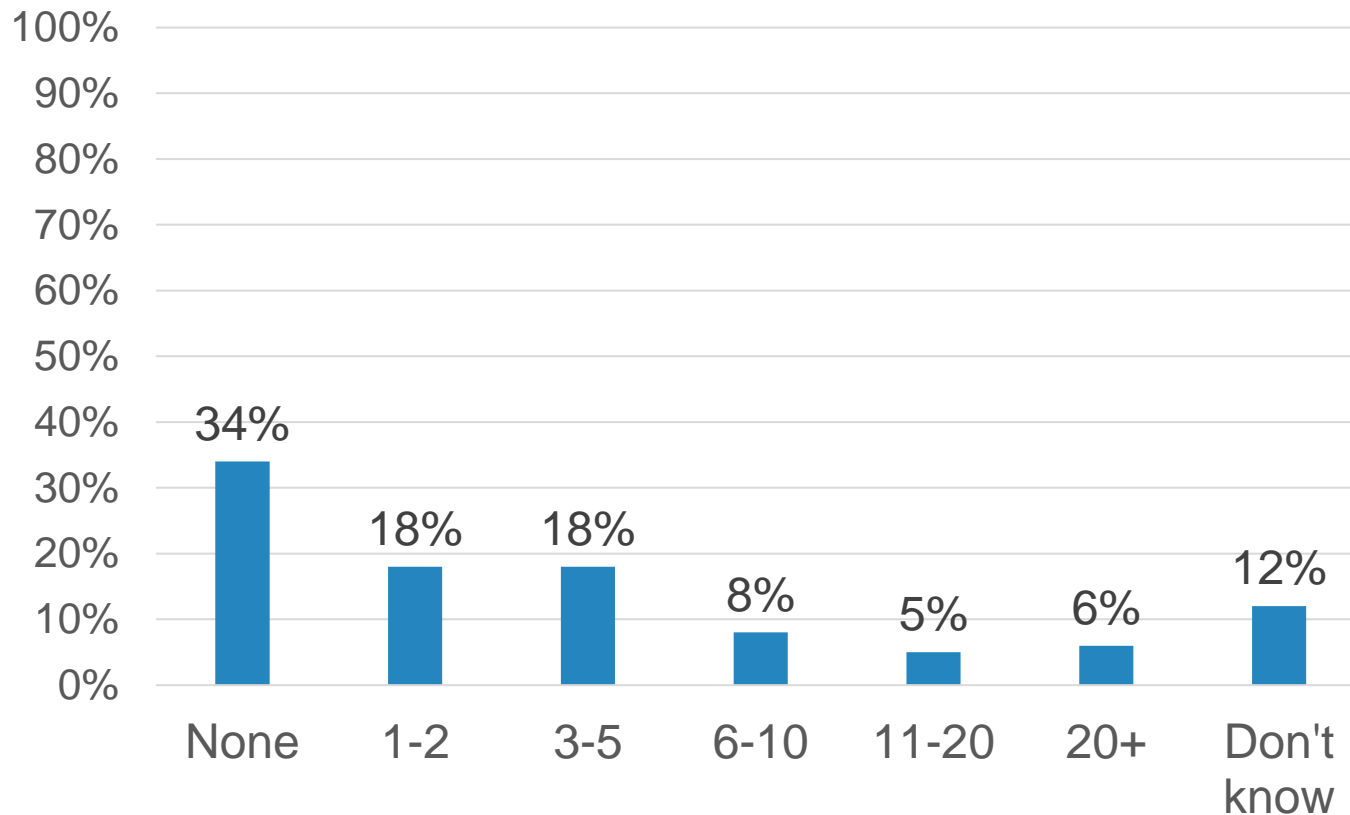
Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 1-29, 2021
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interviews was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to a Lifeway Research survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors conducted May 7-31, 2014 using the same methodology

54% have known at least one church member diagnosed with a severe mental illness

Among Protestant Pastors

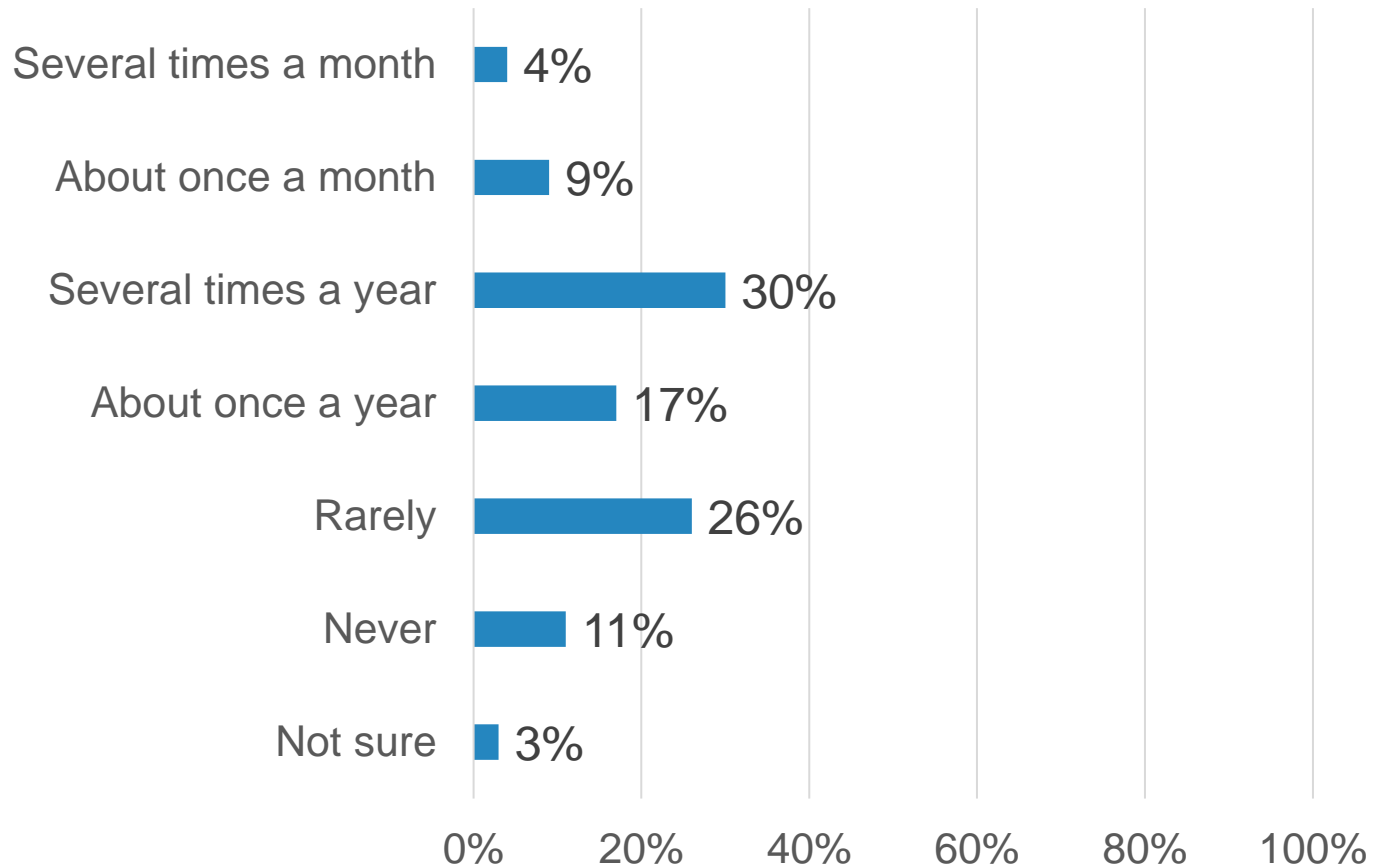


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Q8: "In the churches where you have served on staff, how many church members have you known who have been diagnosed with a severe mental illness such as clinical depression, bipolar, or schizophrenia? (Select One)" n=1,000

60% say they speak about chronic mental illness at least once a year; 37% say they rarely or never do

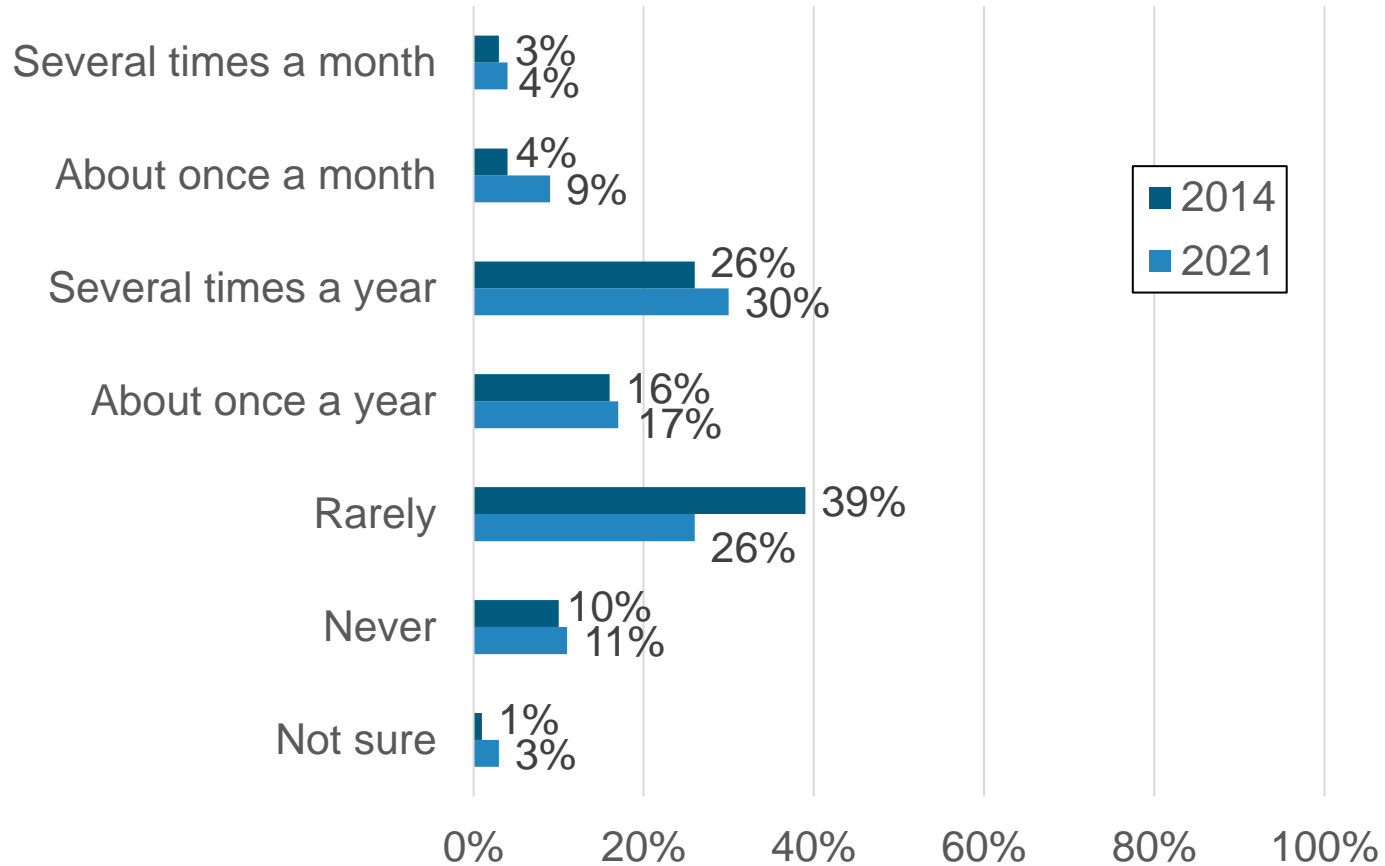
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Fewer pastors rarely speak about acute/chronic mental illness in sermons than in 2014

Among Protestant Pastors

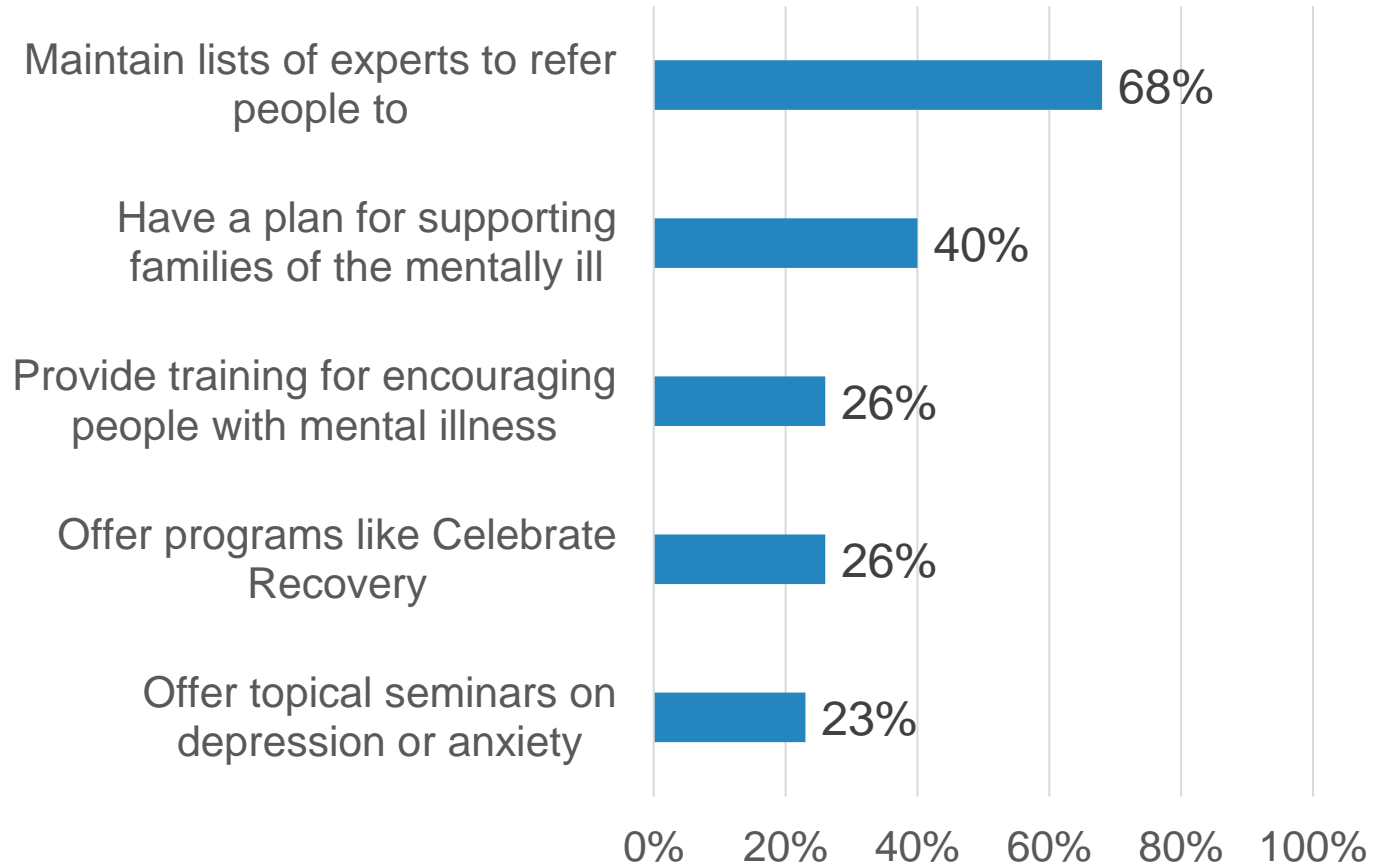


Lifeway research

2021: "How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about acute or chronic mental illness? (Select One)"
2014: "How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about acute mental illness? (Select One)"

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

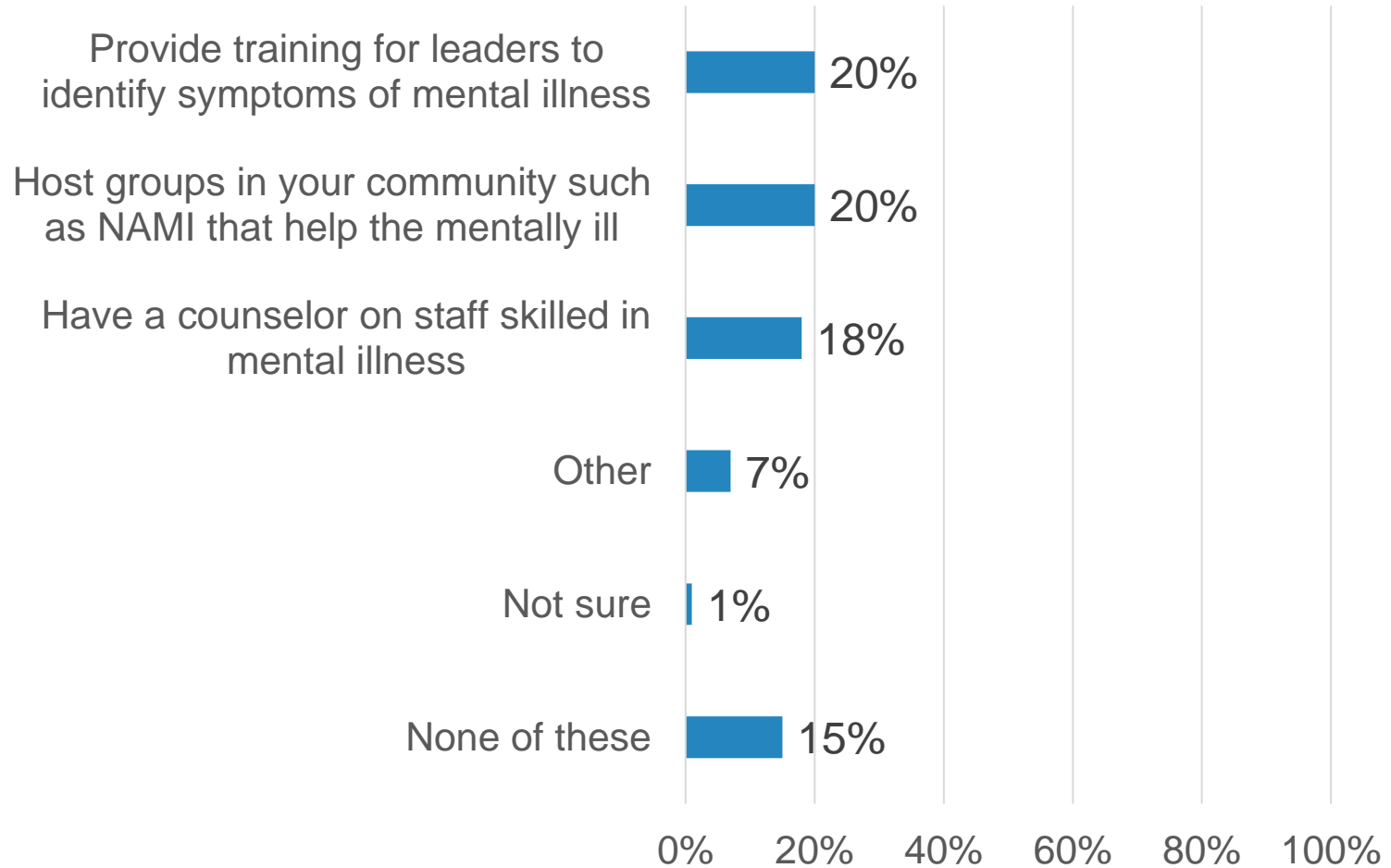
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?” *continued*

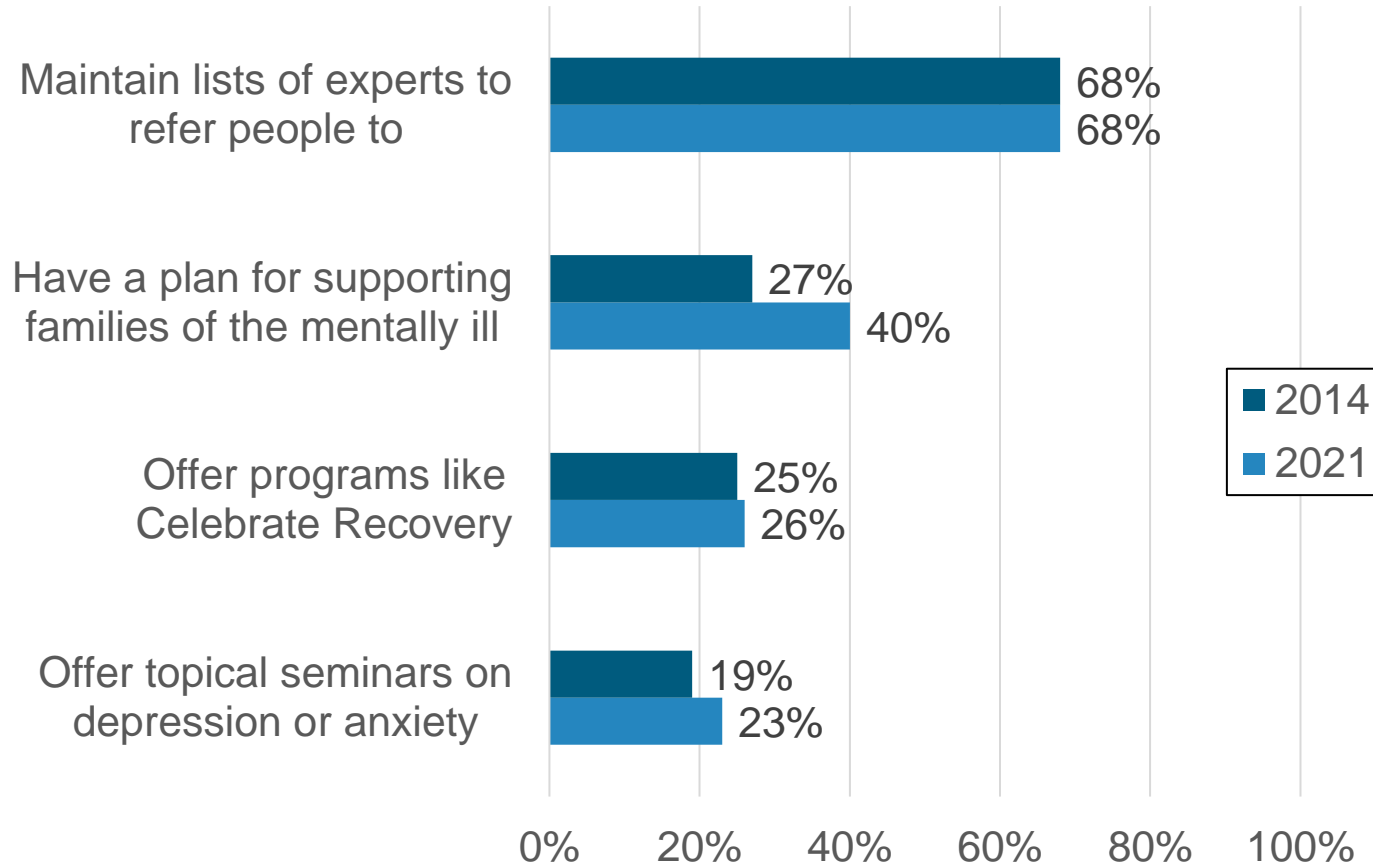
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifewayresearch

Churches are more likely to have a plan to support families of the mentally ill than in 2014

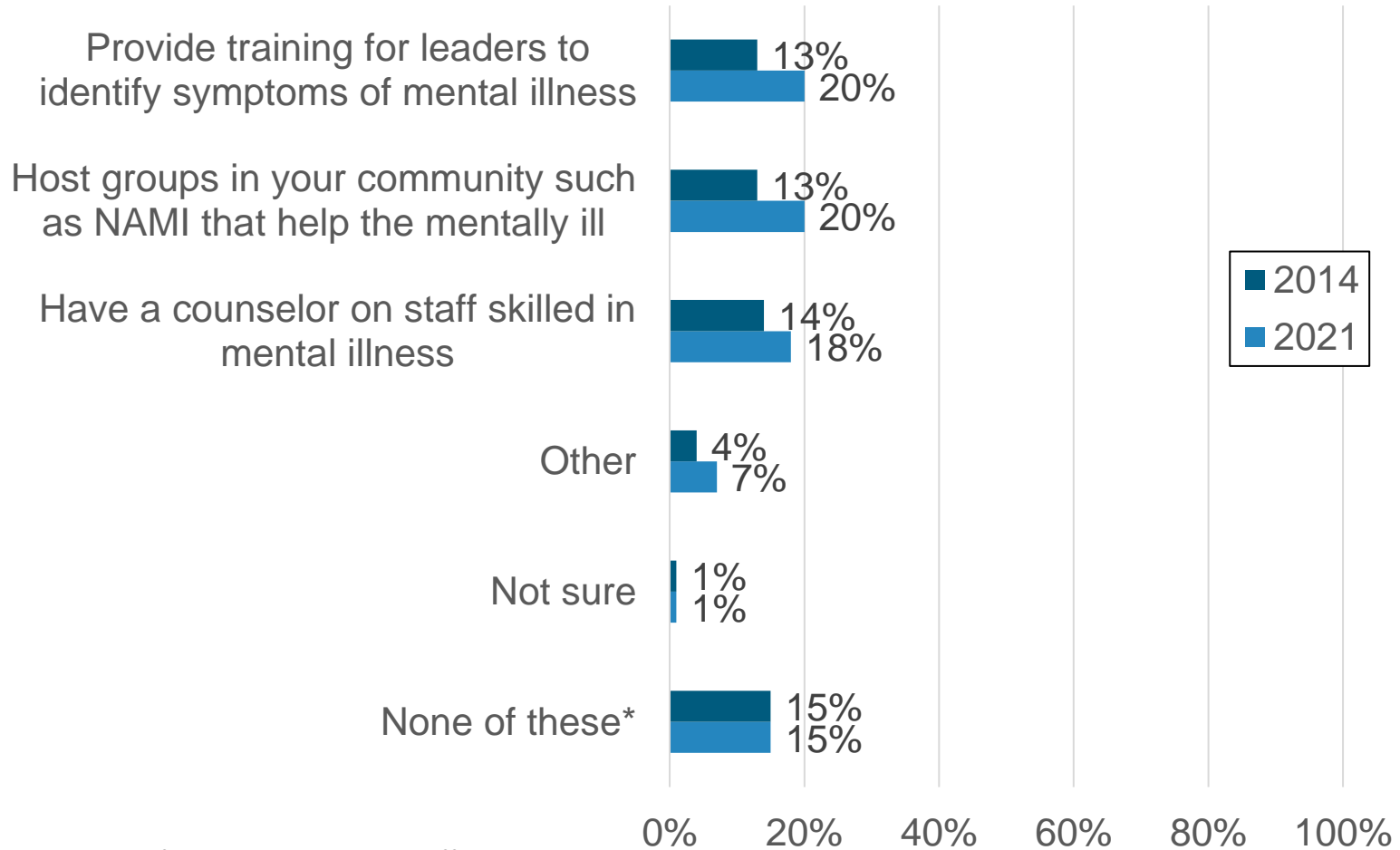
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

More churches provide training to ID mental illness and host groups that help the mentally ill than in 2014

Among Protestant Pastors

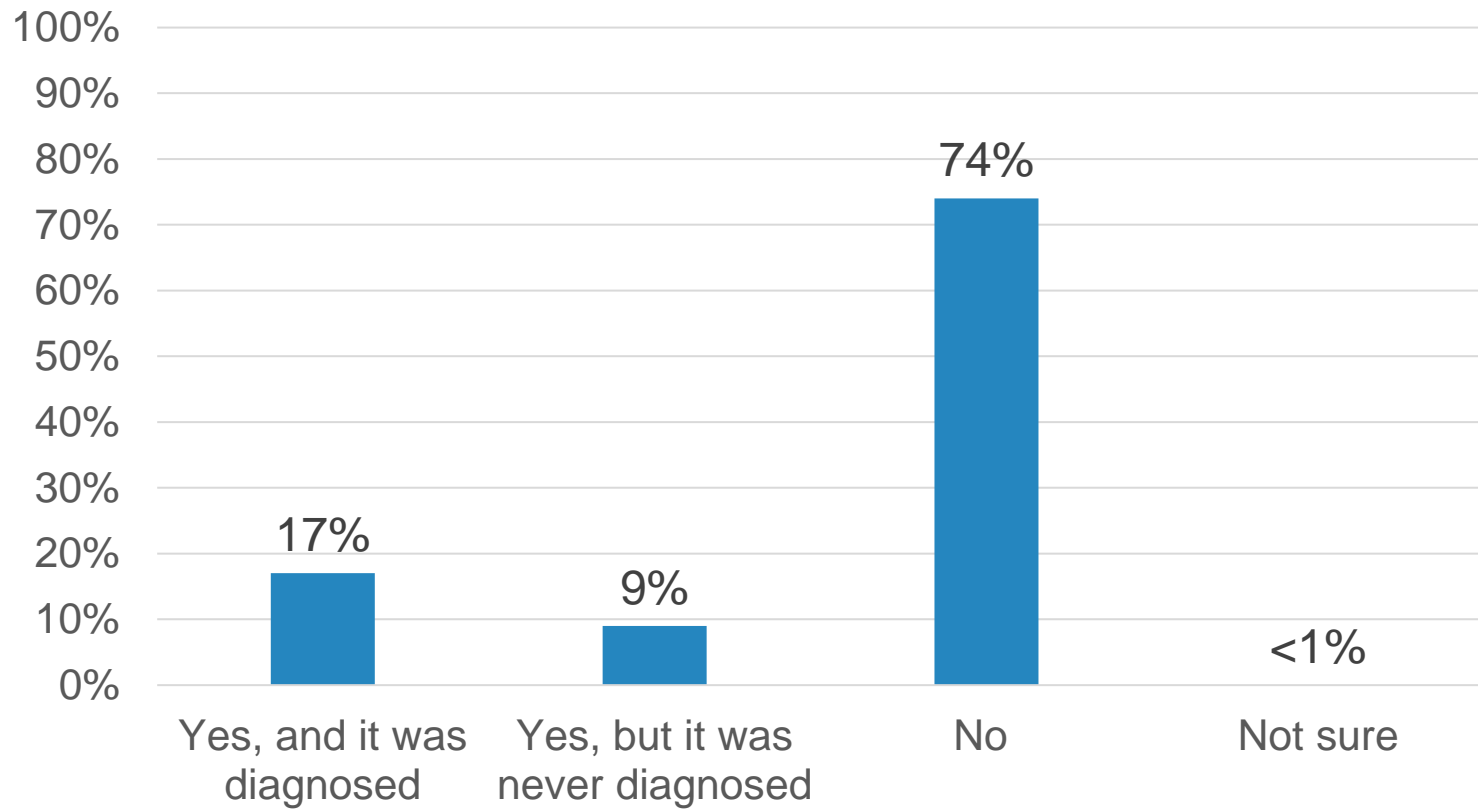


*The wording of one option was different in 2014

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26% say they have personally struggled with mental illness of some kind

Among Protestant Pastors

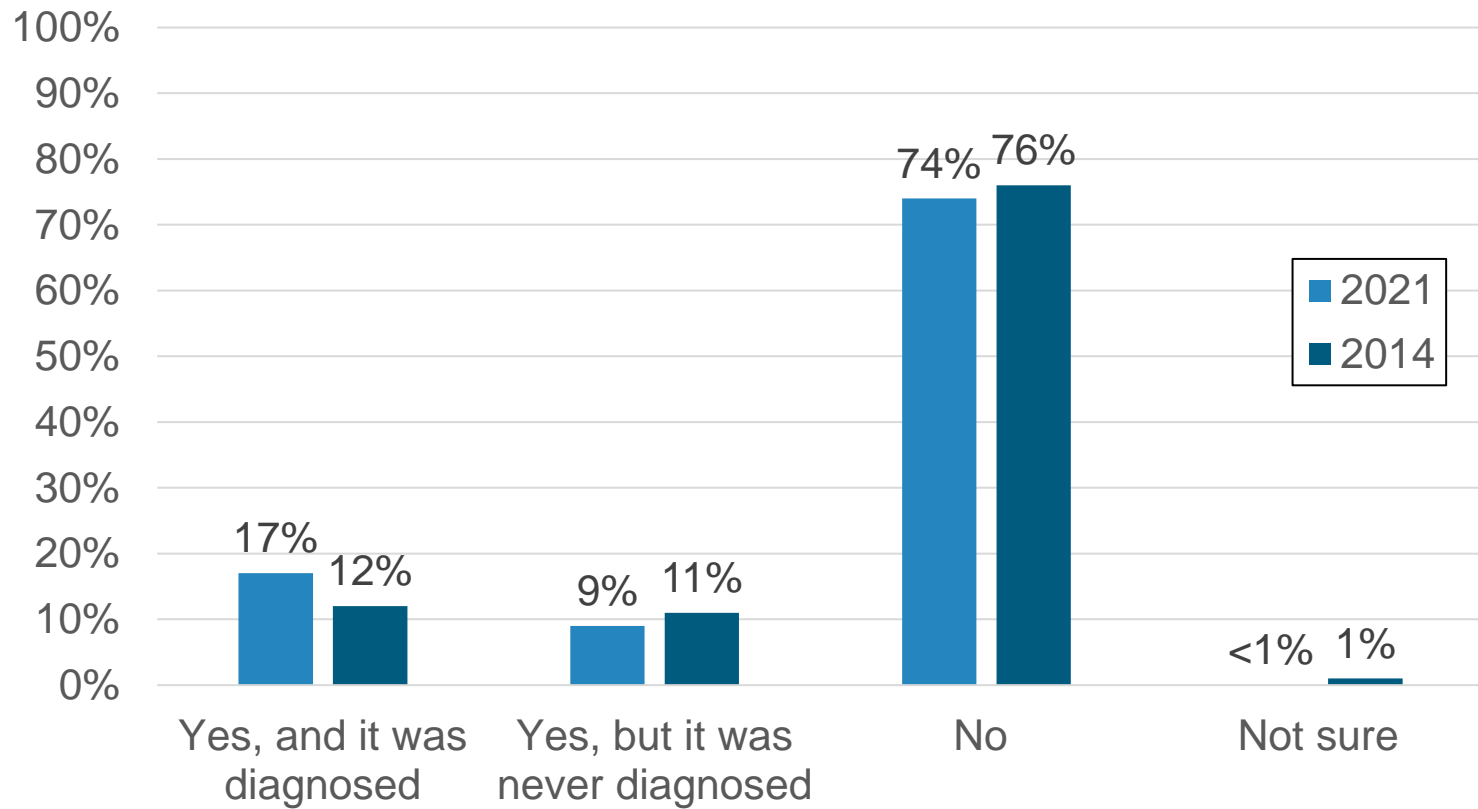


Lifewayresearch

Q11: "Have you ever personally struggled with mental illness of any kind? (Select one)" n=981

More pastors have ever been diagnosed with a mental illness than in 2014

Among Protestant Pastors

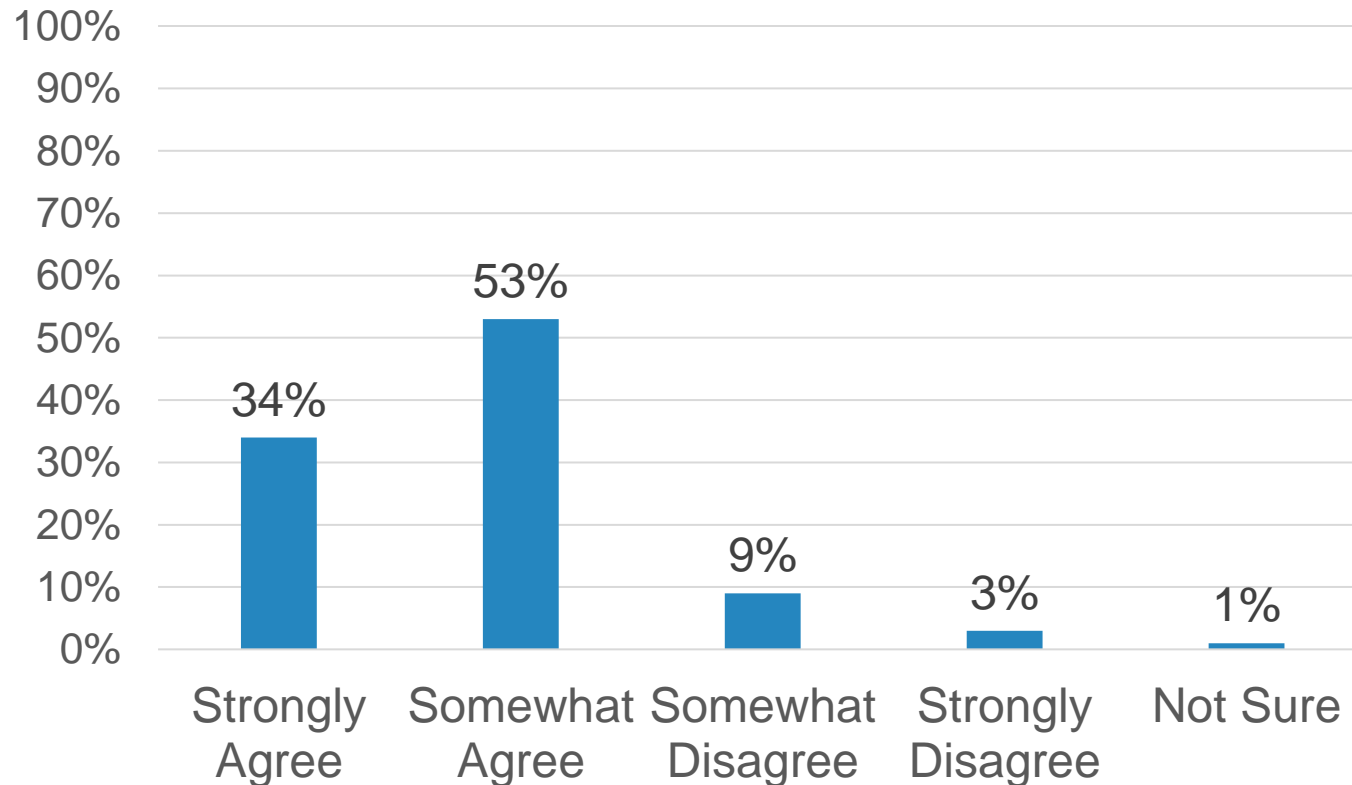


Lifeway research

Q11: "Have you ever personally struggled with mental illness of any kind? (Select one)" n=981

86% feel equipped to identify when a person requires a referral to a medical professional

Among Protestant Pastors

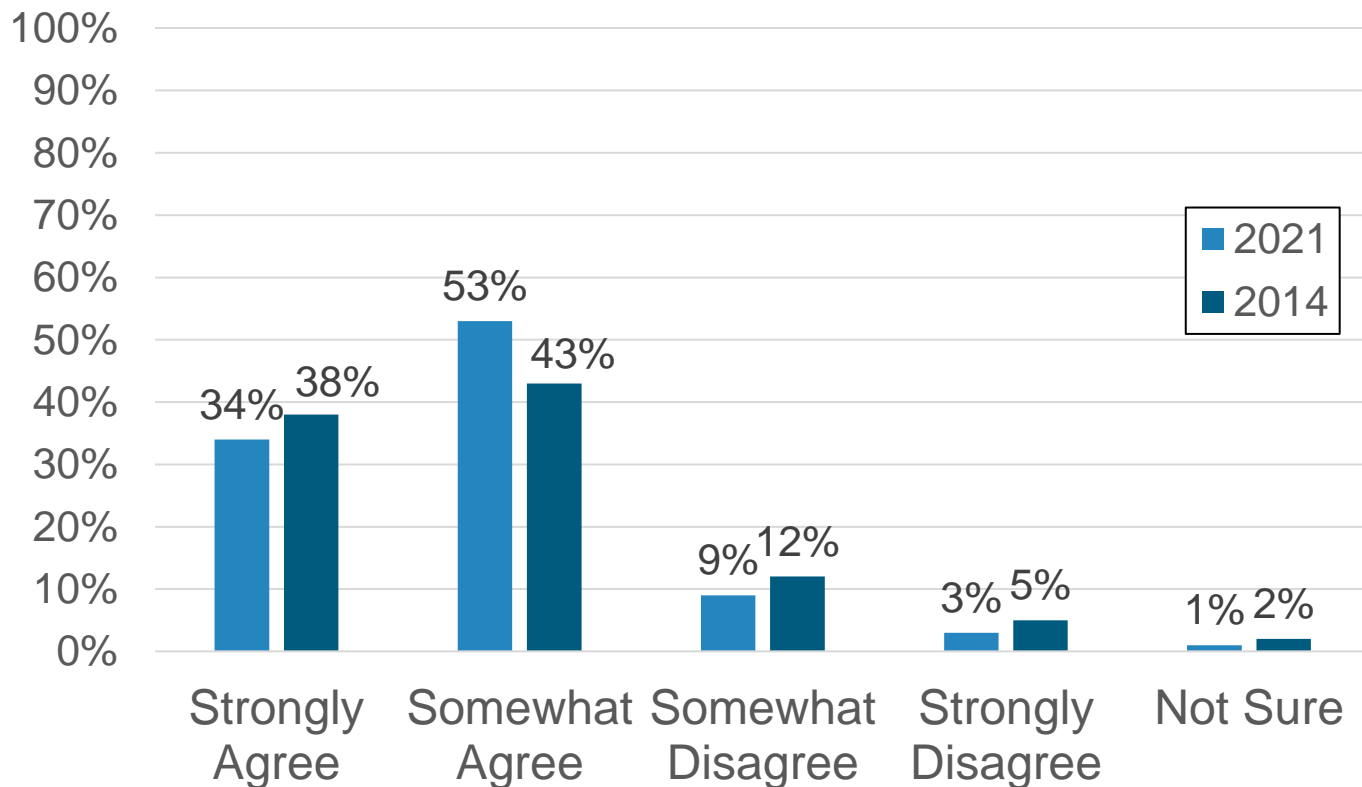


Lifewayresearch

Q12: "I feel equipped to identify when a person is dealing with acute or chronic mental illness that may require a referral to a medical professional." n=1,000

More pastors agree they feel equipped to identify when a person requires a referral to a medical professional than in 2014 (86% v. 81%)

Among Protestant Pastors

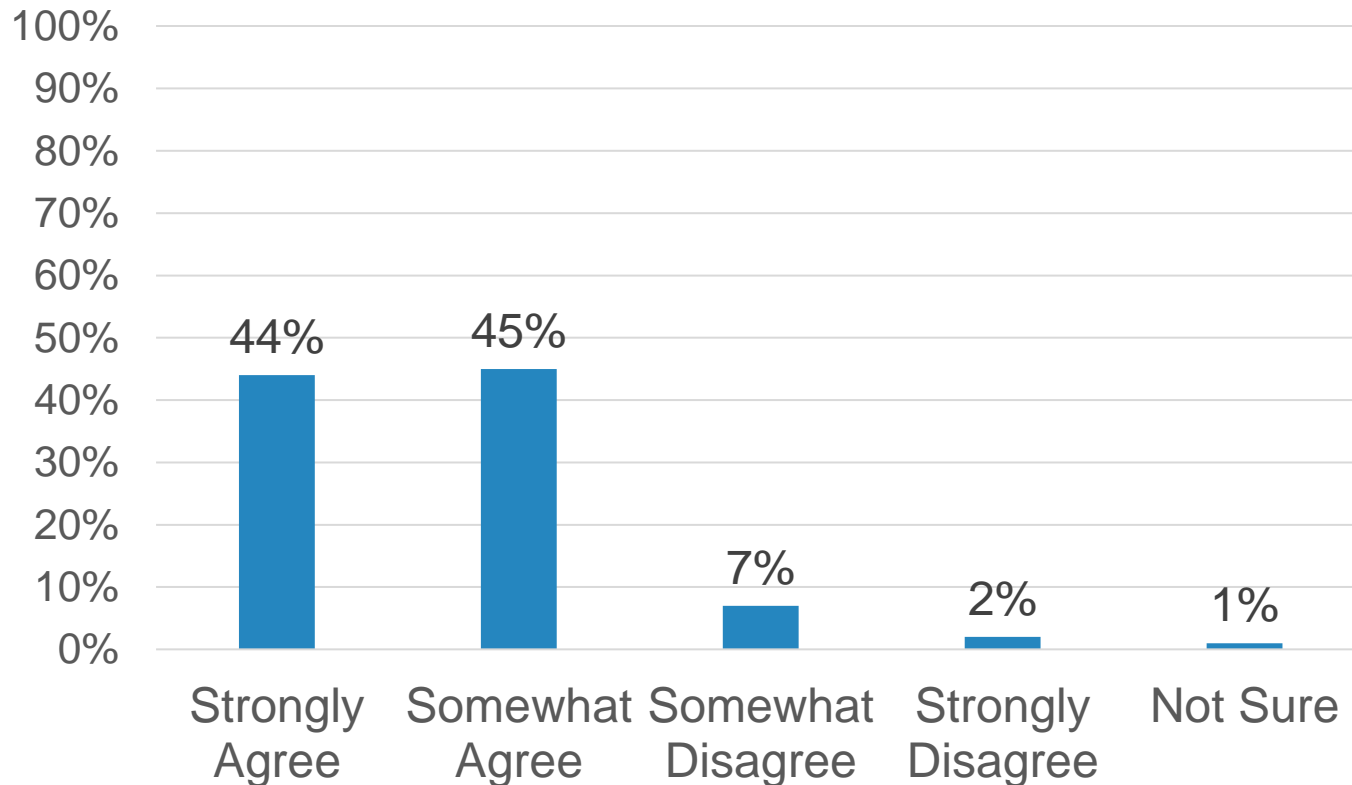


Lifeway research

Q12: "I feel equipped to identify when a person is dealing with acute or chronic mental illness that may require a referral to a medical professional." n=1,000

89% believe local churches have a responsibility to provide resources and support to individuals with mental illness and their families

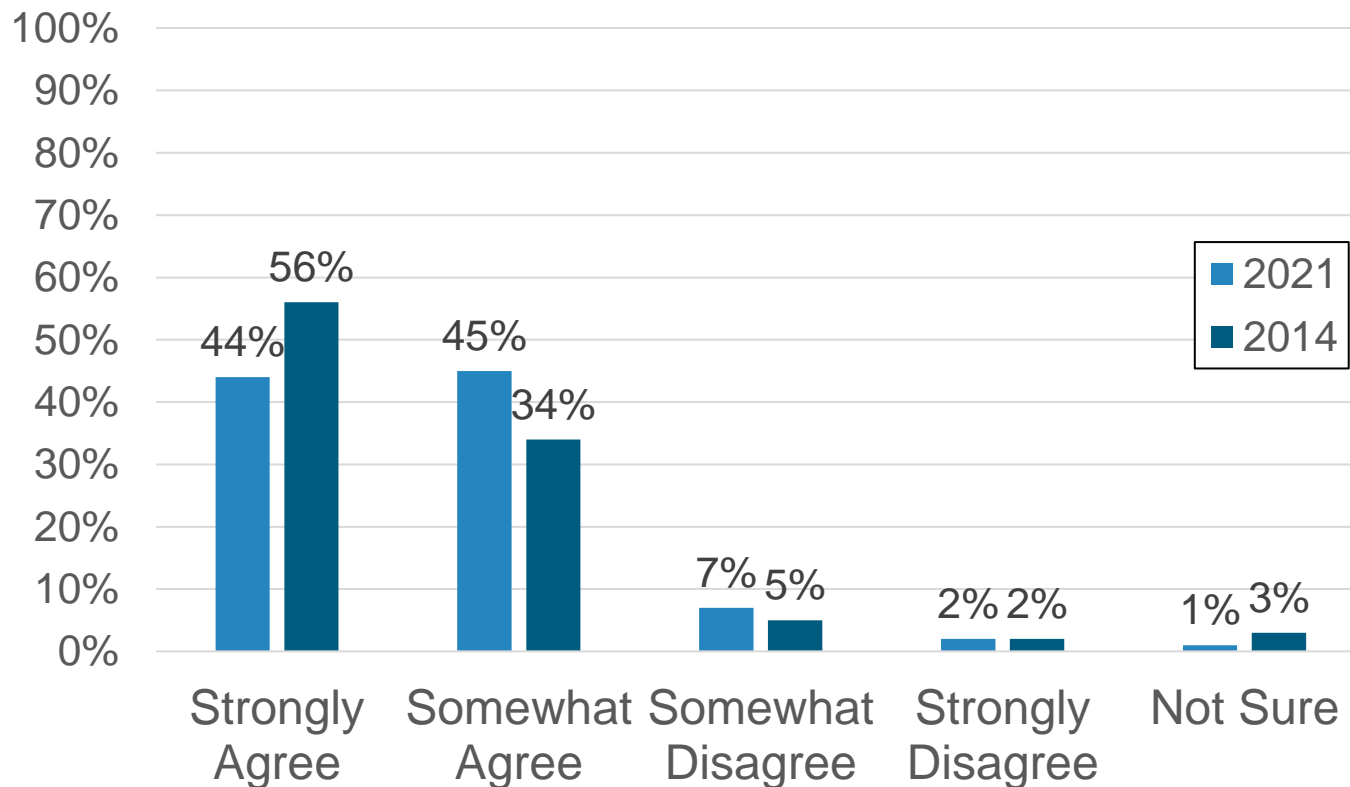
Among Protestant Pastors



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Fewer pastors strongly agree churches are responsible to provide resources and support to individuals/families with mental illness than in 2014

Among Protestant Pastors



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Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Lifewayresearch

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

AGE	GENDER	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	Self-Identified
18-44	Male	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	Female	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64		Hispanic	Graduate Degree	
65+		Other Ethnicities	Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-Denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“In the churches where you have served on staff, how many church members have you known who have been diagnosed with a severe mental illness such as clinical depression, bipolar, or schizophrenia?”

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select “None” (46%)
- White pastors (20%) are more likely to select “1-2” than African American pastors (6%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the most likely to select “None” (52%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (11%) are more likely to select “6-10” than those in the West (4%)
- Non-denominational (47%) are more likely to select “None” than Baptists (33%) and Lutherans (26%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (41%) are more likely to select “None” than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (31%)

“How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about acute or chronic mental illness?”

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select “Several times a year” (40%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Rarely” than females (28% v. 21%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select “Rarely” (28%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (35%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than those with no college degree (26%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (26%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Several times a year” than Evangelical pastors (36% v. 27%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (36%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than those in the West (23%)
- Pastors in the South (29%) are more likely to select “Rarely” than those in the Northeast (19%)

“How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about acute or chronic mental illness?”

continued

- Methodists (40%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (35%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than Baptists (24%)
- Baptists (33%) and Christian/Church of Christ (32%) are more likely to select “Rarely” than Methodists (19%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 50-99 (20%) are more likely to select “About once a year” than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (13%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are least likely to select “Rarely” (18%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Provide training for leaders to identify symptoms of mental illness

- White pastors are the least likely to select (17%)
- Pentecostals (32%) and Non-denominational (31%) are more likely to select than Baptists (17%) and Methodists (14%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (31%)

Provide training for encouraging people with mental illness

- White pastors are the least likely to select (24%)
- Pentecostals (39%) are more likely to select than Baptists (23%), Methodists (23%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (23%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (34%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (23%) and 50-99 (24%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Maintain lists of experts to refer people to

- Pastors age 18-44 (75%) and 55-64 (72%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (57%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (71%) or a Doctoral Degree (72%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (59%)
- Lutherans (73%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (72%) are more likely to select than Non-denominational (56%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (80%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select (57%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Have a plan for supporting families of the mentally ill

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (51%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (43%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral Degree (33%)
- Lutherans (46%), Pentecostals (52%), and Non-denominational (50%) are more likely to select than Methodists (34%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (32%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (57%)

Offer programs like Celebrate Recovery

- Pentecostals (42%) are more likely to select than Baptists (19%) and Lutherans (21%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (43%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Offer topical seminars on depression or anxiety

- White pastors are the least likely to select (21%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral Degree are the most likely to select (36%)
- Non-denominational (31%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (16%) and Christian/Church of Christ (13%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (27%) and 250+ (34%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (17%) and 50-99 (20%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Have a counselor on staff skilled in mental illness

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (20% v. 14%)
- White pastors are the least likely to select (16%)
- Pastors with Doctoral Degree are the most likely to select (29%)
- Baptists (22%) and Pentecostals (29%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (11%), Methodists (14%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (13%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (30%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Host groups in your community such as NAMI that help the mentally ill

- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (23%) or a Doctoral Degree (26%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (12%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (16%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (26% v. 17%)
- Methodists (27%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (27%) are more likely to select than Baptists (13%)

“Which if any of the following types of care for the mentally ill or their families does your church provide?”

Other

- Pastors age 55-64 (10%) are more likely to select than pastors age 45-54 (4%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (10% v. 6%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (10%) and West (10%) are more likely to select than those in the South (5%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (13%) are more likely to select than Baptists (5%) and Non-denominational (2%)

None of these

- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select (9%)
- Pastors with no college degree (21%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s Degree (12%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the most likely to select (24%)

“Have you ever personally struggled with mental illness of any kind?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (22%) are more likely to select “Yes, and it was diagnosed” than pastors age 45-54 (15%) and 65+ (15%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select “No” (63%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “No” than females (76% v. 69%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select “Yes, and it was diagnosed” (20%)
- Pastors with no college degree (80%) are more likely to select “No” than those with no Master’s Degree (70%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Yes, and it was diagnosed” than Evangelical pastors (23% v. 13%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “No” than Mainline pastors (77% v. 68%)

“Have you ever personally struggled with mental illness of any kind?” *continued*

- Pastors in the South (77%) are more likely to select “No” than those in the Midwest (68%)
- Baptists (81%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (67%), Methodists (66%), and Christian/Church of Christ (58%)

“I feel equipped to identify when a person is dealing with acute or chronic mental illness that may require a referral to a medical professional.”

- Pastors age 18-44 (91%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 45-54 (84%) and 65+ (83%)
- Male pastors are more likely to Agree than Females (89% v. 79%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (91%) or a Doctoral Degree (89%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (78%)
- Non-denominational (19%) are more likely to Disagree than Pentecostals (6%)

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

- Pastors age 18-44 (94%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 55-64 (88%) and 65+ (83%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s Degree (92%) or a Master’s Degree (90%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Doctoral Degree (83%)
- Methodists (93%) are more likely to Agree than Non-denominational (83%)

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