

Pastors' Views on Regular Church Attendance

A SURVEY OF AMERICANS PROTESTANT PASTORS

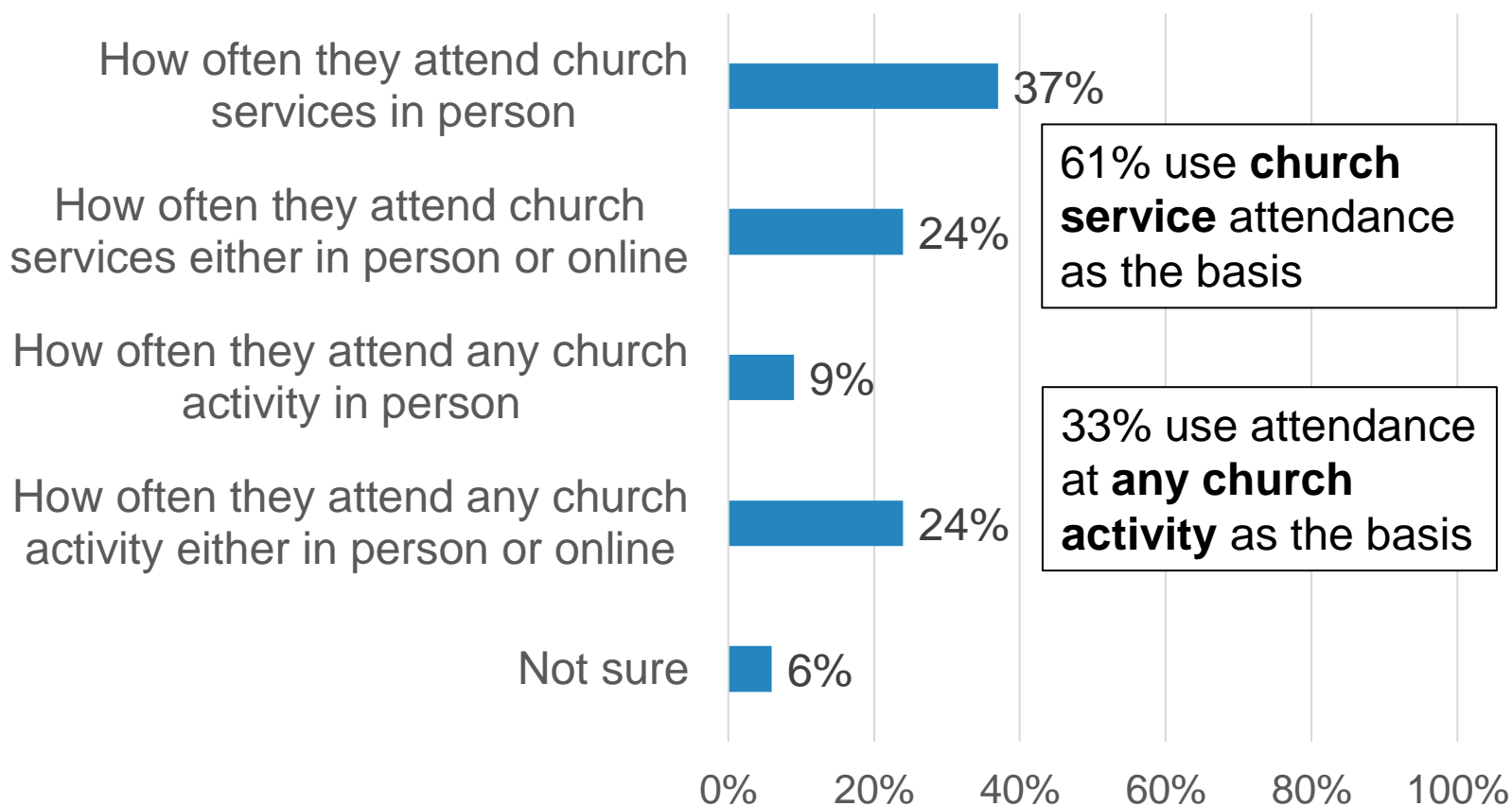
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Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 6-30, 2022
- 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

61% say someone is a regular churchgoer or attender based on how often they attend church services in person or online

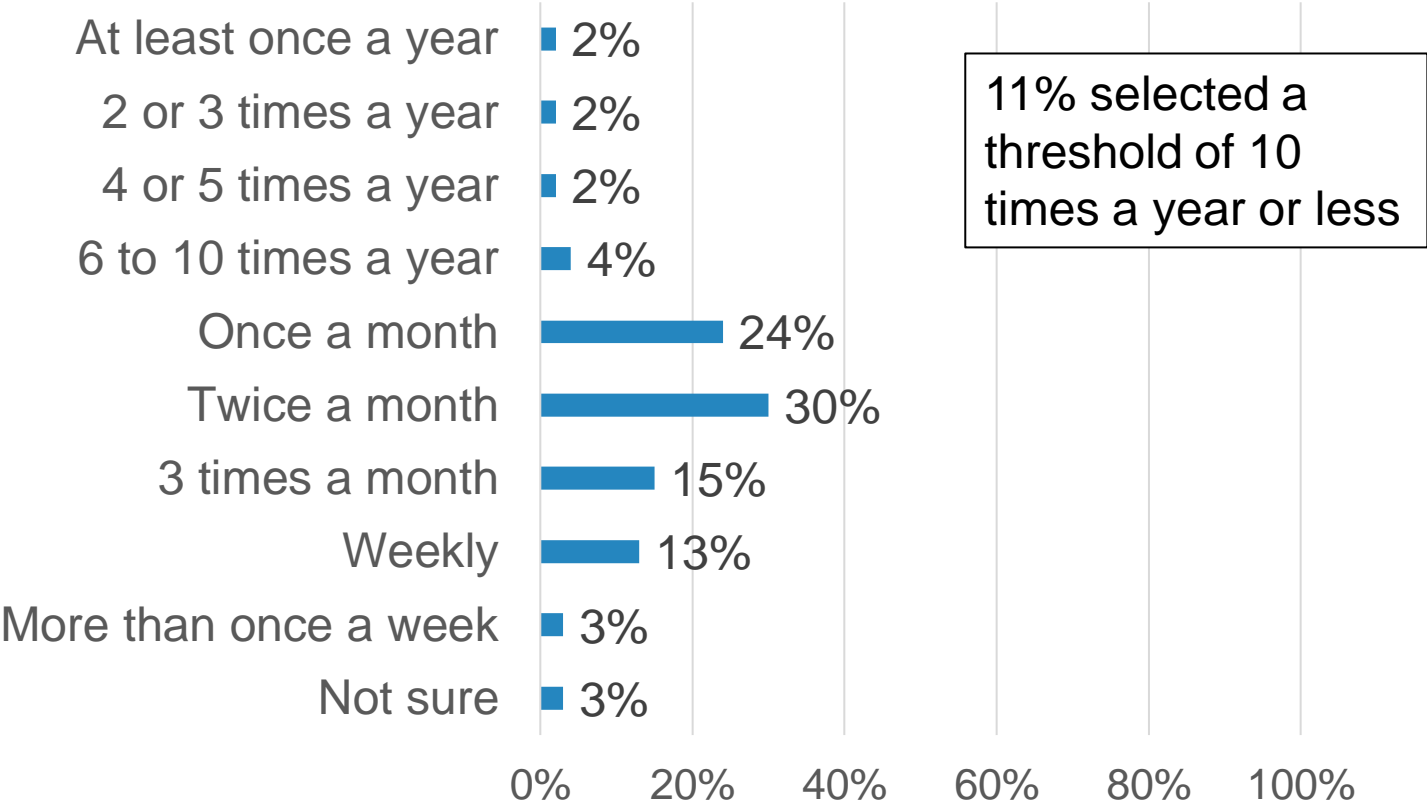
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

30% define a regular churchgoer or attender as someone who attends twice a month

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

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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+			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 your opinion, what is the basis to consider someone a ‘regular churchgoer’ or a ‘regular church attender’?”

- Pastors age 18-44 (42%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than pastors age 55-64 (32%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (26%) and 55-64 (30%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person or online” than pastors age 18-44 (17%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than females (42% v. 20%)
- White pastors (38%) and Hispanic pastors (40%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than African American pastors (17%)
- Pastors with no college degree (41%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (45%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than those with a Doctoral Degree (27%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than Mainline pastors (45% v. 25%)

“In your opinion, what is the basis to consider someone a ‘regular churchgoer’ or a ‘regular church attender’?” *continued*

- Pastors in the Midwest (44%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than those in the Northeast (33%) and South (36%)
- Baptists (47%), Lutherans (44%), and Non-Denominational (53%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than Methodists (18%), Presbyterian/Reformed (27%), and Christian/Church of Christ (27%)
- Methodists (39%), Presbyterian/Reformed (38%), and Christian/Church of Christ (35%) are more likely to select “How often they attend any church activity in person or online” than Baptists (17%), Lutherans (20%), Pentecostals (21%), and Non-denominational (13%)

“In your opinion, what is the threshold to consider someone a ‘regular churchgoer’ or a ‘regular church attender’? Someone who attends ...”

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select “Weekly or more than once a week” (22%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Once a month” than males (33% v. 22%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Twice a month” than females (32% v. 19%)
- White pastors (31%) and Hispanics (30%) are more likely to select “Twice a month” than African American pastors (10%)
- African American pastors (36%) and Hispanics (25%) are more likely to select “Weekly or more than once a week” than White pastors (14%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (33%) are more likely to select “Twice a month” than those with no college degree (22%)
- Pastors with no college degree (25%) are more likely to select “Weekly or more than once a week” than those with a Masters Degree (12%) and Doctoral Degree (14%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Once a month” than Evangelical pastors (30% v. 20%)

“In your opinion, what is the threshold to consider someone a ‘regular churchgoer’ or a ‘regular church attender’? Someone who attends ...”

- Pastors in the Northeast (32%) are more likely to select “Once a month” than those in the South (21%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (32%) and West (34%) are more likely to select “Twice a month” than those in the Northeast (23%)
- Pastors in the South (20%) are more likely to select “Weekly or more than once a week” than those in the Northeast (12%) and Midwest (11%)
- Lutherans (40%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (36%) are more likely to select “Once a month” than Baptists (15%), Pentecostals (21%), Christian/Church of Christ (20%), and Non-denominational (17%)
- Non-Denominational (36%) are more likely to select “Twice a month” than Pentecostals (22%) and Christian/Church of Christ (19%)
- Baptists (23%), Pentecostals (26%) and Christian/Church of Christ (26%) are more likely to select “Weekly or more than once a week” than Lutherans (4%), Methodists (11%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (4%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (27%) and 50-99 (27%) are more likely to select “Once a month” than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (19%)

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