

# Protestant Churchgoer Views On Adoption/Foster Care

A SURVEY OF 1,002 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway research

# Methodology

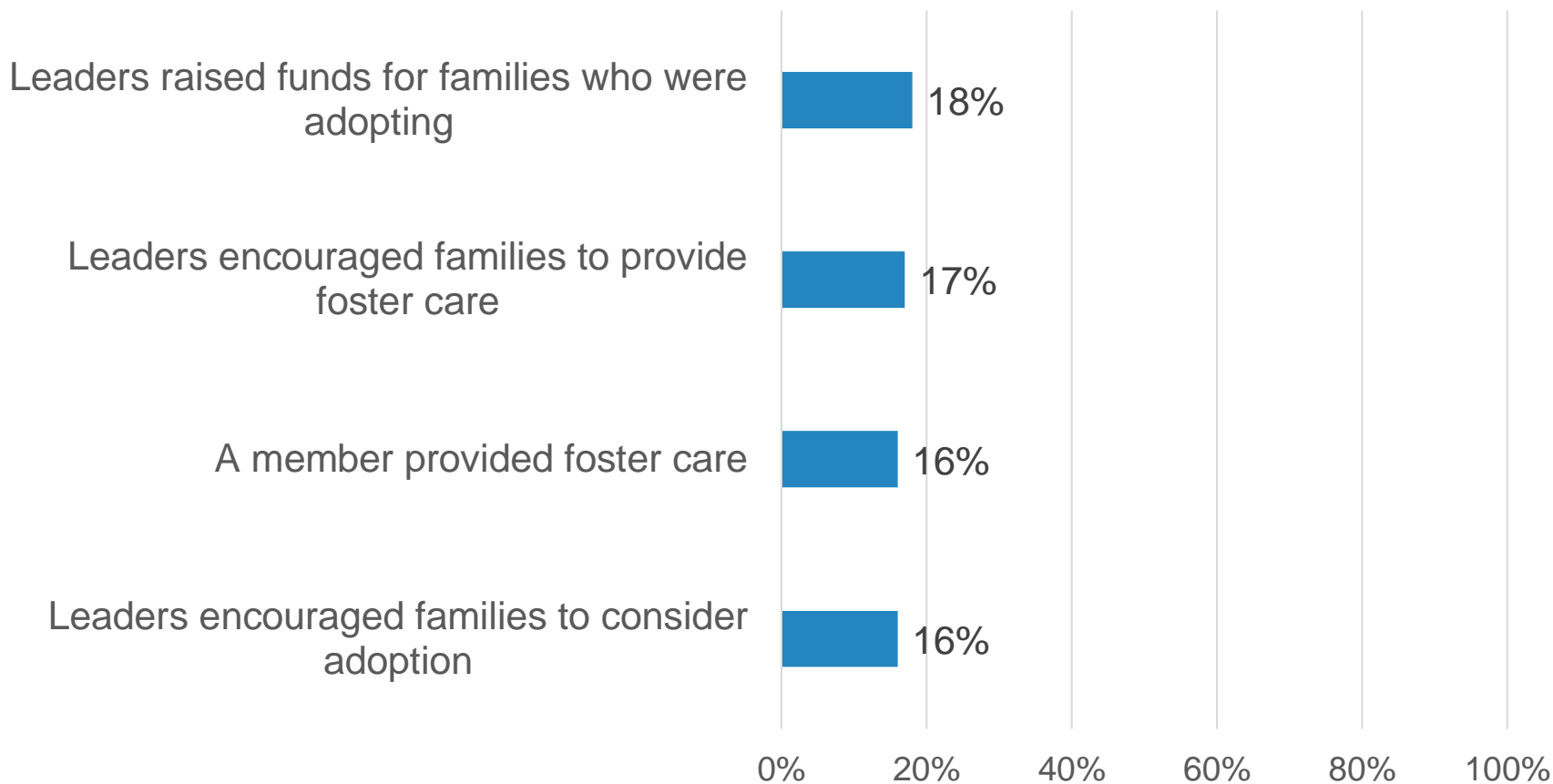
- The online survey of 1,002 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted September 19-29, 2022, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and religion to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,002 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed  $\pm 3.3\%$  This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to an online survey conducted by Lifeway Research August 22-30, 2017 among 1,010 Protestant churchgoers.

# Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
  - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

# “Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”

Among Protestant Churchgoers

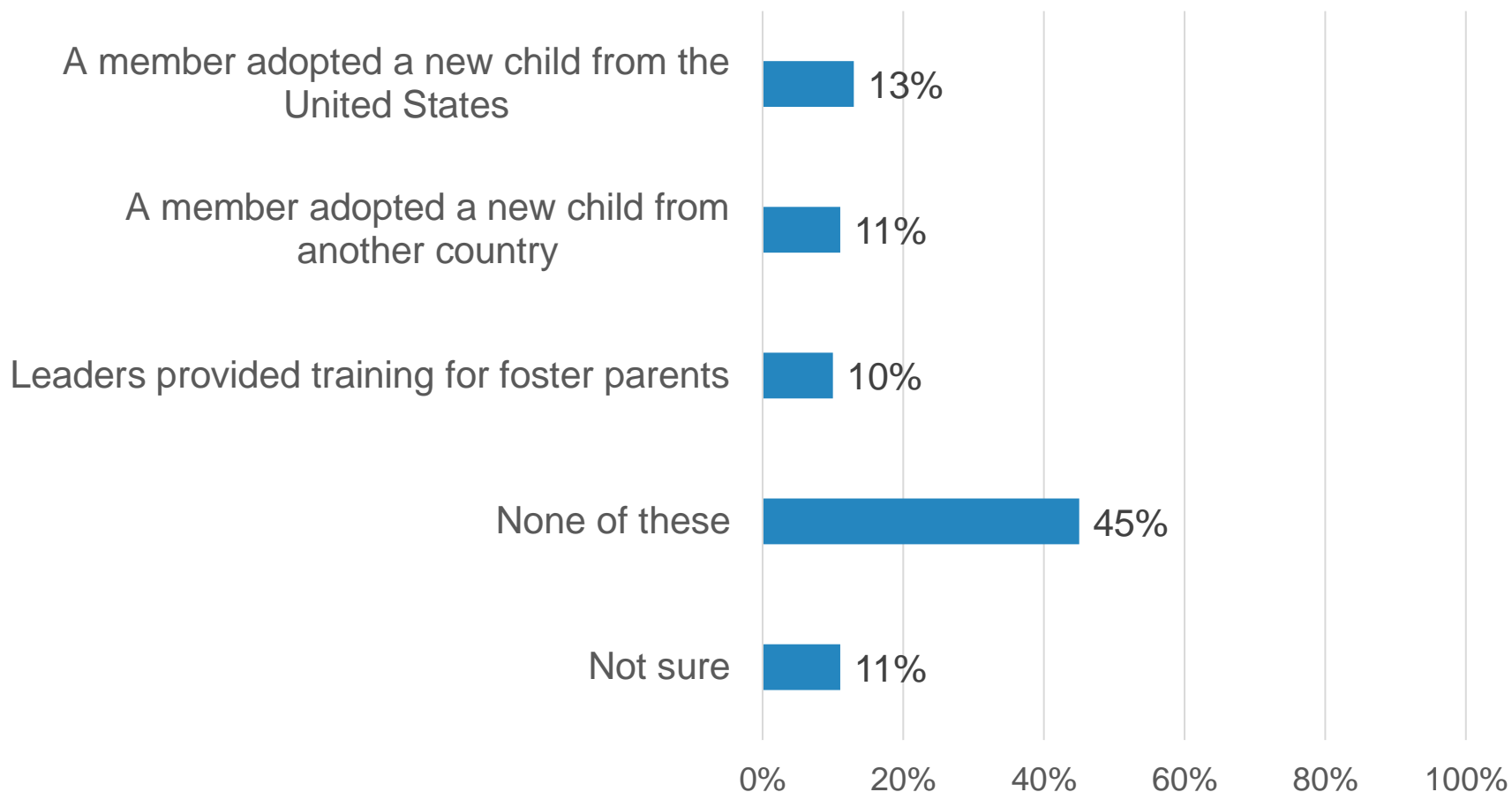


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Q: “Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year? (Select all that apply)” n=1,002

# “Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?” Continued

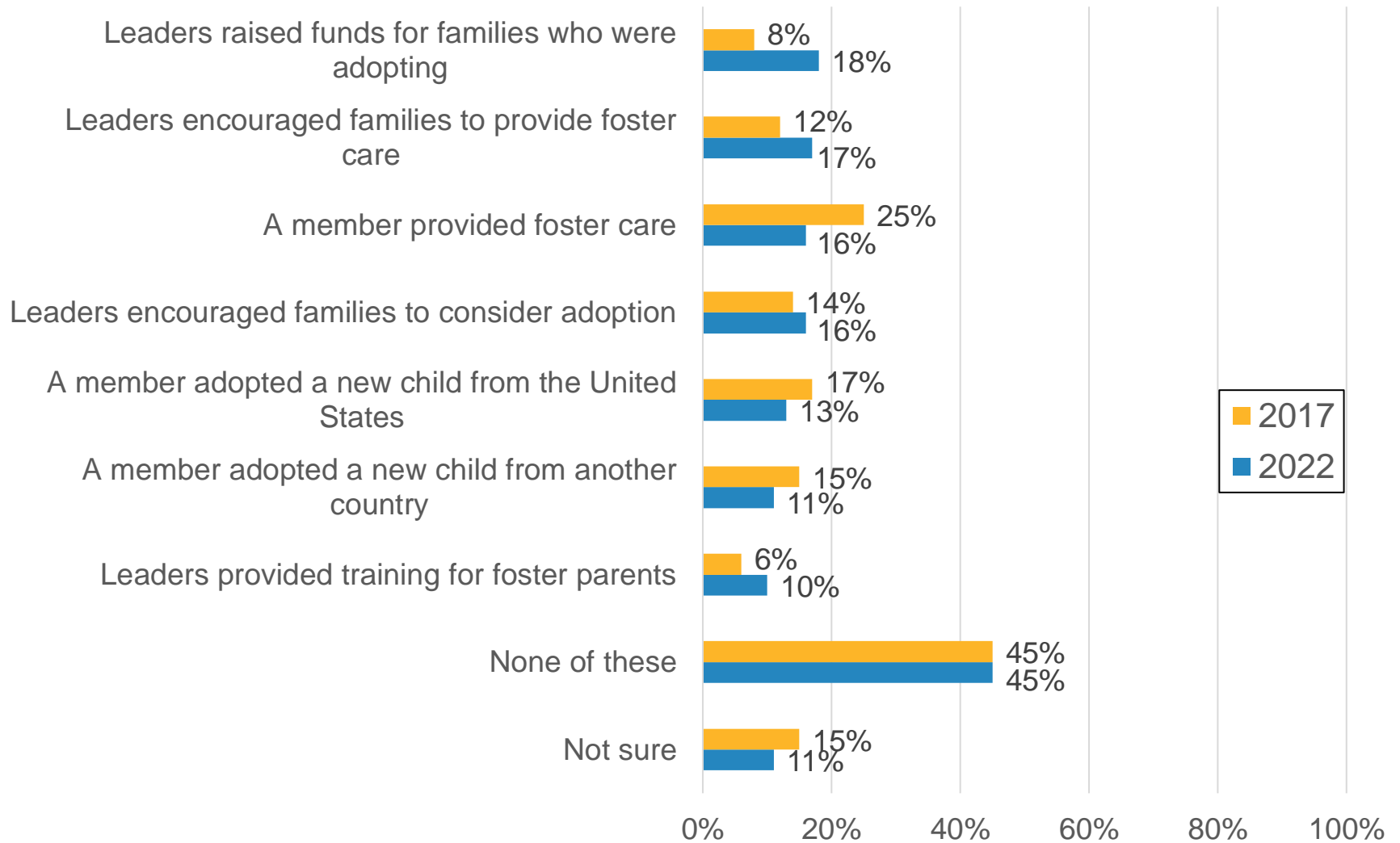
Among Protestant Churchgoers



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Q: “Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year? (Select all that apply)” n=1,002

# More churchgoers are in churches that raised funds for adoption and fewer saw members providing foster care than in 2017



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Q: "Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year? (Select all that apply)"

# Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Denomination

Worship Service Attendance

Evangelical Beliefs

# Significant Differences

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

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION
Male	18-34	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	35-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+	Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations



# Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among denomination, worship service attendance, and evangelical beliefs.

DENOMINATION	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS
Baptist	1 to 3 times a month	Yes
Methodist	4 or more times a month	No
Lutheran	Not sure	
Presbyterian/Reformed		
Christian/Church of Christ		
Non-denominational		

**“Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”**

**A member provided foster care**

- Those age 18-34 (19%) and 35-49 (22%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (10%)
- Non-denominational (22%) are more likely to select than Baptists (12%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%)

**“Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”**

**A member adopted a new child from another country**

- Those age 35-49 (16%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (8%) and 65+ (9%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (17%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (8%)
- Methodists (18%) are more likely to select than Baptists (10%)

**“Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”**

**A member adopted a new child from the United States**

- Those age 18-34 (19%) and 35-49 (20%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (10%) and 65+ (8%)
- Those in the West (18%) are more likely to select than those in the South (12%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (9%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (31%)

# “Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”

## Leaders raised funds for families who were adopting

- Males are more likely to select than females (23% v. 14%)
- Those 18-34 (23%) and 35-49 (32%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (13%) and 65+ (5%)
- Those in the Northeast (26%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (15%) and South (17%)
- Those with some college (22%) or a Graduate Degree (21%) are more likely to select than with a Bachelor’s Degree (11%)
- Methodists (42%) and Christian/Church of Christ (39%) are more likely to select than Baptists (14%), Lutherans (14%), Presbyterian/Reformed (3%), and Non-denominational (15%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (12% v. 22%)

# “Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”

## Leaders encouraged families to consider adoption

- Those age 18-34 (18%) and 35-49 (26%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (11%) and 65+ (8%)
- Whites (19%) are more likely to select than African Americans (12%) and Hispanics (7%)
- Those in the West (20%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (12%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (21%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (12%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (12%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (48%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (13% v. 18%)

**“Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”**

### **Leaders encouraged families to provide foster care**

- Those age 18-34 (23%) and 35-49 (25%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (12%) and 65+ (10%)
- Hispanics are the least likely to select (5%)
- Those in the West (23%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (12%)
- Those with some college (19%) or a Graduate Degree (22%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (14%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (41%)

**“Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”**

### **Leaders provided training for foster parents**

- Those age 65+ are the least likely to select (4%)
- Those in the South (11%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (6%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (18%) are more likely to select than Baptists (9%), Lutherans (7%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (1%)



**“Which, if any, of the following have you seen at your church in the last year?”**

**None of these**

- Females are more likely to select than males (49% v. 39%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (59%)
- Those in the Midwest (51%) and South (46%) are more likely to select than those in the West (37%)
- Baptists (50%), Lutherans (55%), Presbyterian/Reformed (60%) are more likely to select than Methodists (20%) and Christian/Church of Christ (26%)

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