

# Pastors' Views on Church Security

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

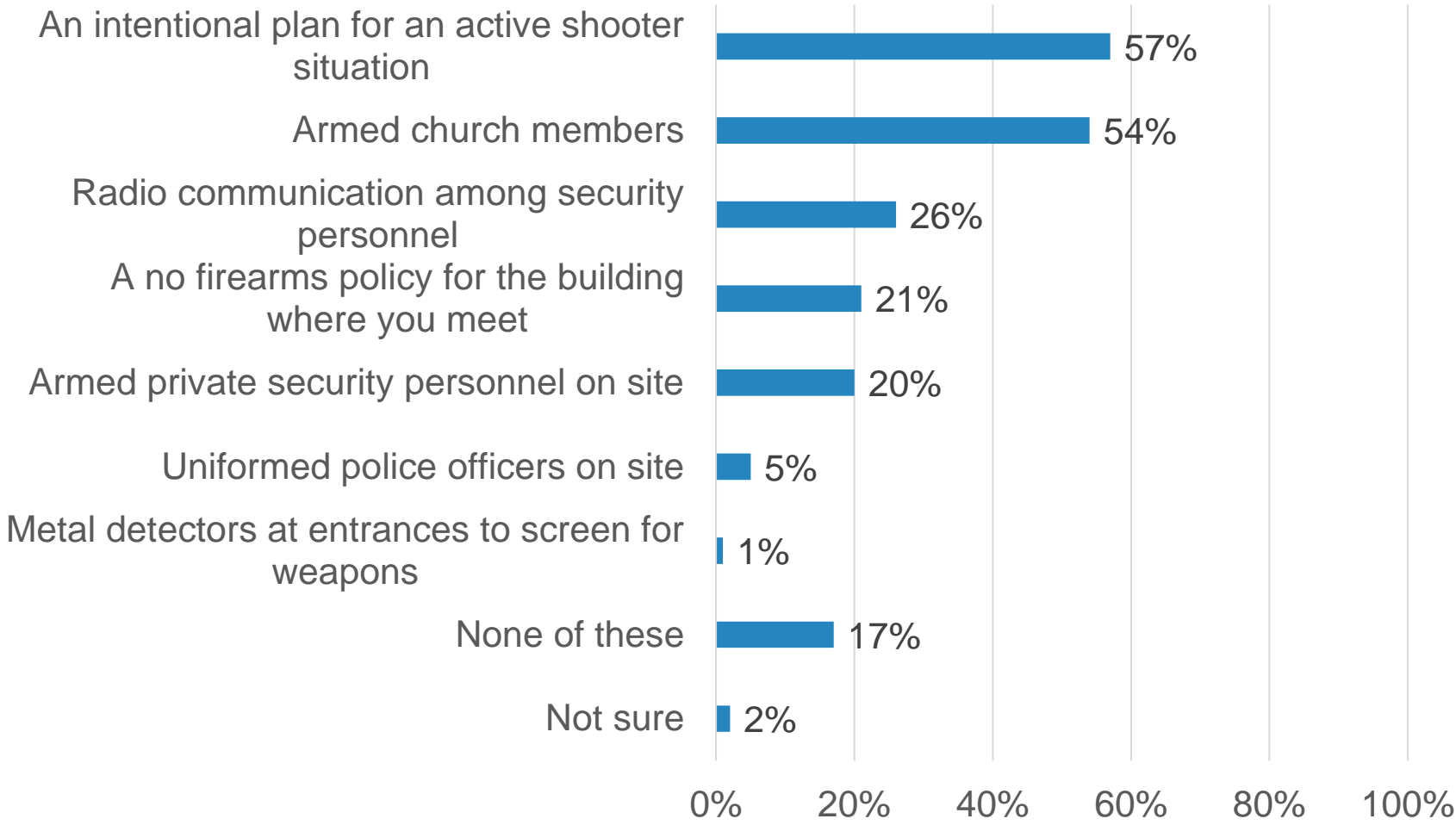
Lifeway research

# 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 interview was completed by the senior or sole pastor 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

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

Among Protestant Pastors

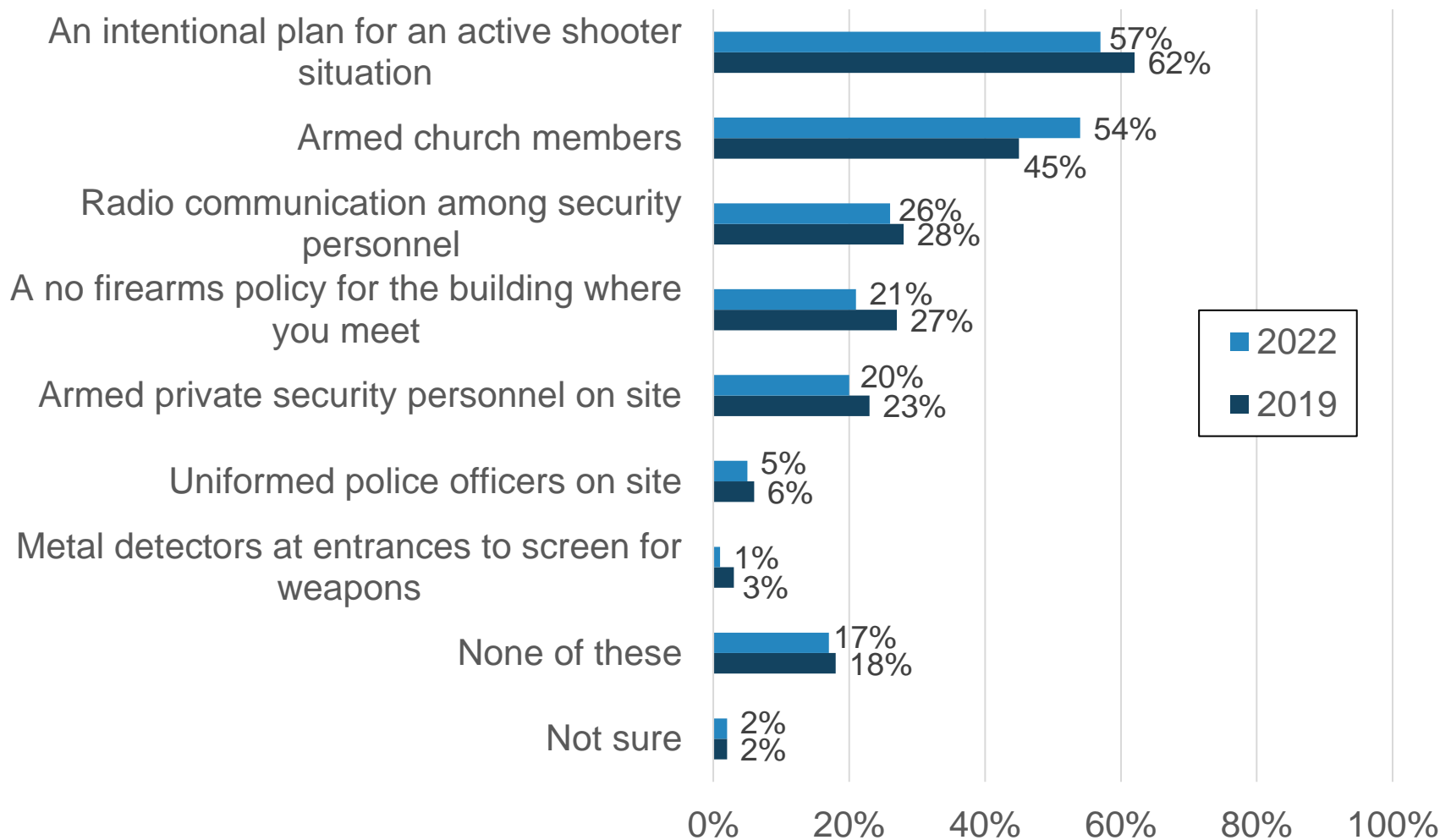


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Q: “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship? (Select all that apply)” n=1,000

# More churches have armed church members for security and fewer have a no firearms policy or an intentional plan for an active shooter than in 2019

Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship? (Select all that apply)" n=1,000

# Significant Differences

Pastor

Age

Gender

Ethnicity

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 age, gender, ethnicity, education, and 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	Master's 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 average worship 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

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## Uniformed police officers on site

- African American pastors (12%) are more likely to select than White pastors (4%)
- Pastors with no college degree (10%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (4%) or a Master’s Degree (4%)
- Pastors in the South are the most likely to select (9%)
- Baptists (6%), Methodists (6%), Pentecostals (9%), Christian/Church of Christ (10%), and Non-Denominational (7%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (0%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (27%)



# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## Armed private security personnel on site

- Pastors with no college degree (28%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (25%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s Degree (16%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (25% v. 16%)
- Pastors in the South (26%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (13%) and Midwest (15%)
- Pentecostals are the most likely to select (44%)
- Each level of church attendance is significantly different than all the other levels. Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (41%), followed by 100-249 (28%), 50-99 (20%), and 0-49 (9%)

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## Armed church members

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (59% v. 36%)
- White pastors (56%) are more likely to select than African American (33%)
- Pastors with no college degree (60%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (61%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s Degree (50%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (65% v. 39%)
- Pastors in the South are the most likely to select (65%)
- Baptists (73%), Pentecostals (68%), Christian/Church of Christ (54%), and Non-Denominational (66%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (32%), Methodists (36%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (26%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (74%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (66%) and 250+ (74%) are more likely to select than those with attendance 0-49 (41%) and 50-99 (53%)

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## Radio communication among security personnel

- African American pastors (37%) are more likely to select than White pastors (25%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree are the least likely to select (21%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (29% v. 22%)
- Pastors in the South (34%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (17%) and Midwest (18%)
- Baptists (39%), Pentecostals (37%), and Non-Denominational (33%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (4%), Methodists (17%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%)
- Each level of church attendance is significantly different than all the other levels. Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select (72%), followed by 100-249 (38%), 50-99 (23%), and 0-49 (8%)

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## An intentional plan for an active shooter situation

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (48%)
- Pastors with no college degree (64%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (63%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s Degree (53%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (61% v. 53%)
- Pastors in the South (64%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (47%) and Midwest (52%)
- Baptists (65%), Pentecostals (65%), and Christian/Church of Christ (70%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (39%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (44%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (70%) and 250+ (74%) are more likely to select than those with attendance 0-49 (39%) and 50-99 (60%)

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## A no firearms policy for the building where you meet

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (31% v. 18%)
- African American pastors (34%) are more likely to select than White pastors (21%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (24%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (15%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (29% v. 16%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (26%) and Midwest (25%) are more likely to select than those in the West (14%)
- Methodists (32%) are more likely to select than Baptists (13%), Pentecostals (19%), and Non-Denominational (17%)

**“Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”**

**Metal detectors at entrances to screen for weapons**

- No significant differences

# “Which, if any, of the following security measures does your church have in place when your church meets for worship?”

## None of these

- Pastors age 65+ (20%) are more likely to select than those age 18-44 (13%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (23% v. 15%)
- Hispanic pastors (25%) are more likely to select than White pastors (16%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (22% v. 14%)
- Pastors in the South are the least likely to select (12%)
- Lutherans (34%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (30%) are more likely to select than Baptists (8%), Pentecostals (12%), Christian/Church of Christ (13%), and Non-Denominational (14%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the most likely to select (29%)

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