

Protestant Churchgoer Views On Skipping Worship Services

A SURVEY OF 1,002 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway research

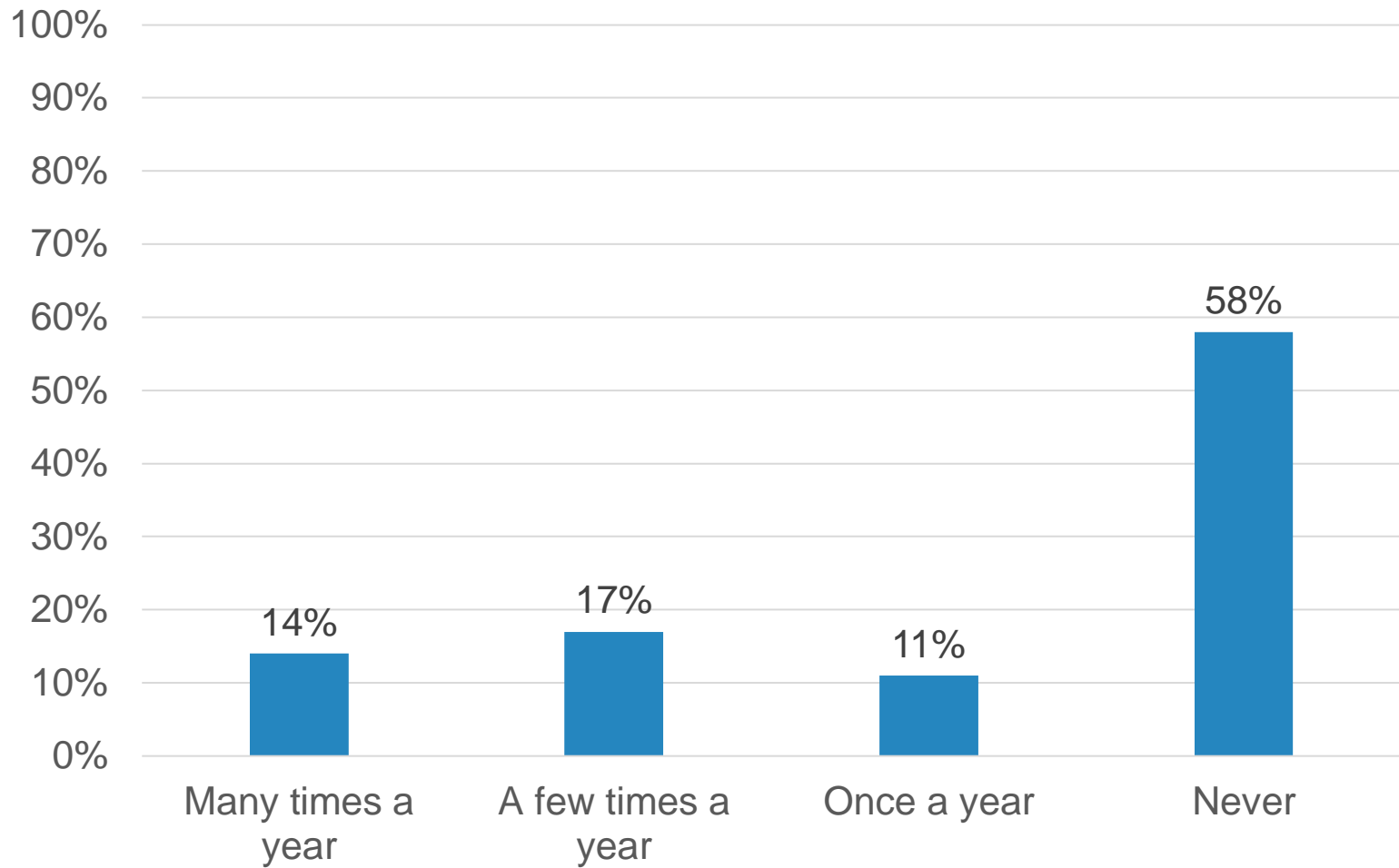
Methodology

- 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

Definitions

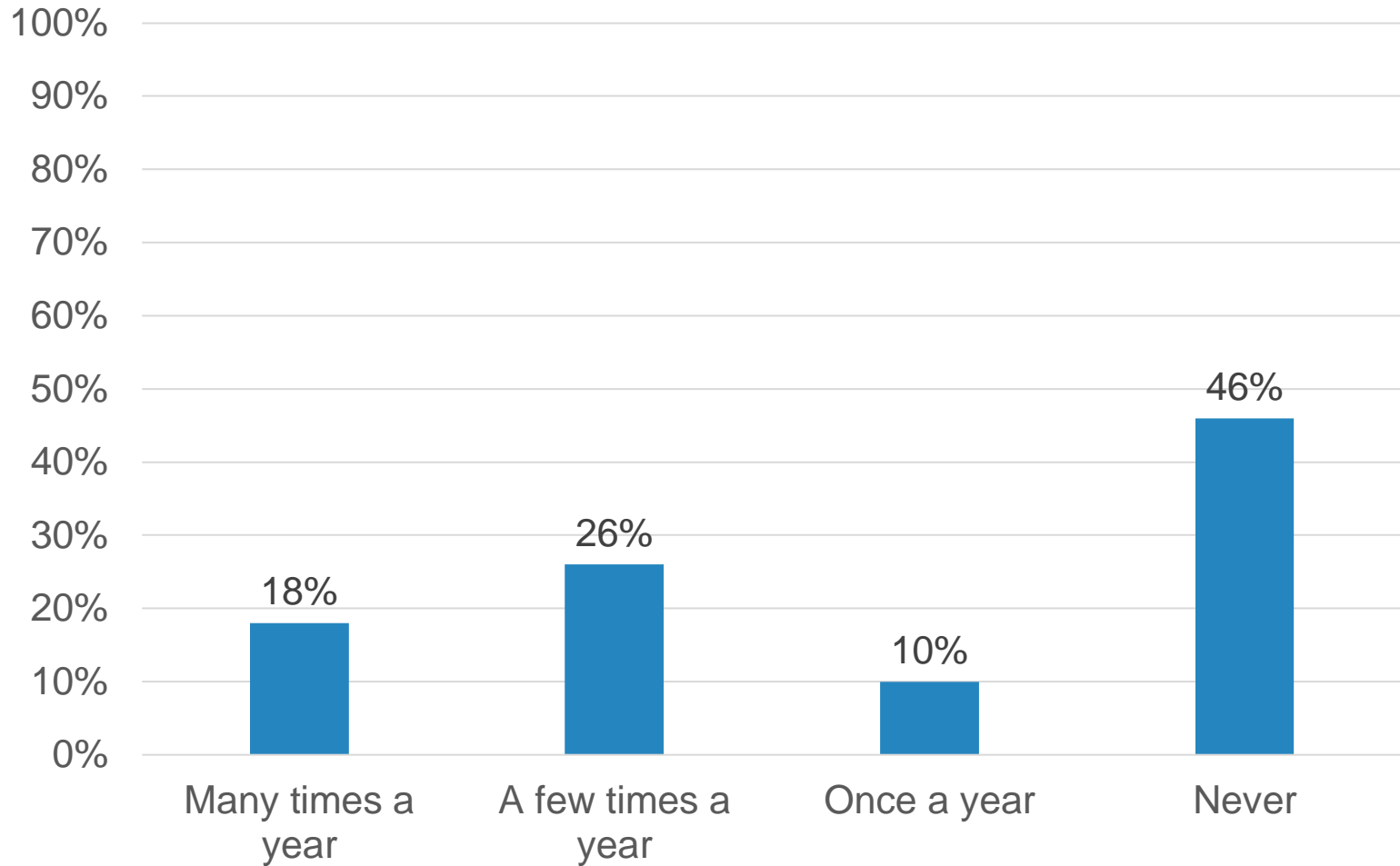
- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, 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

58% say they would never skip a worship service to watch their favorite team or sporting event



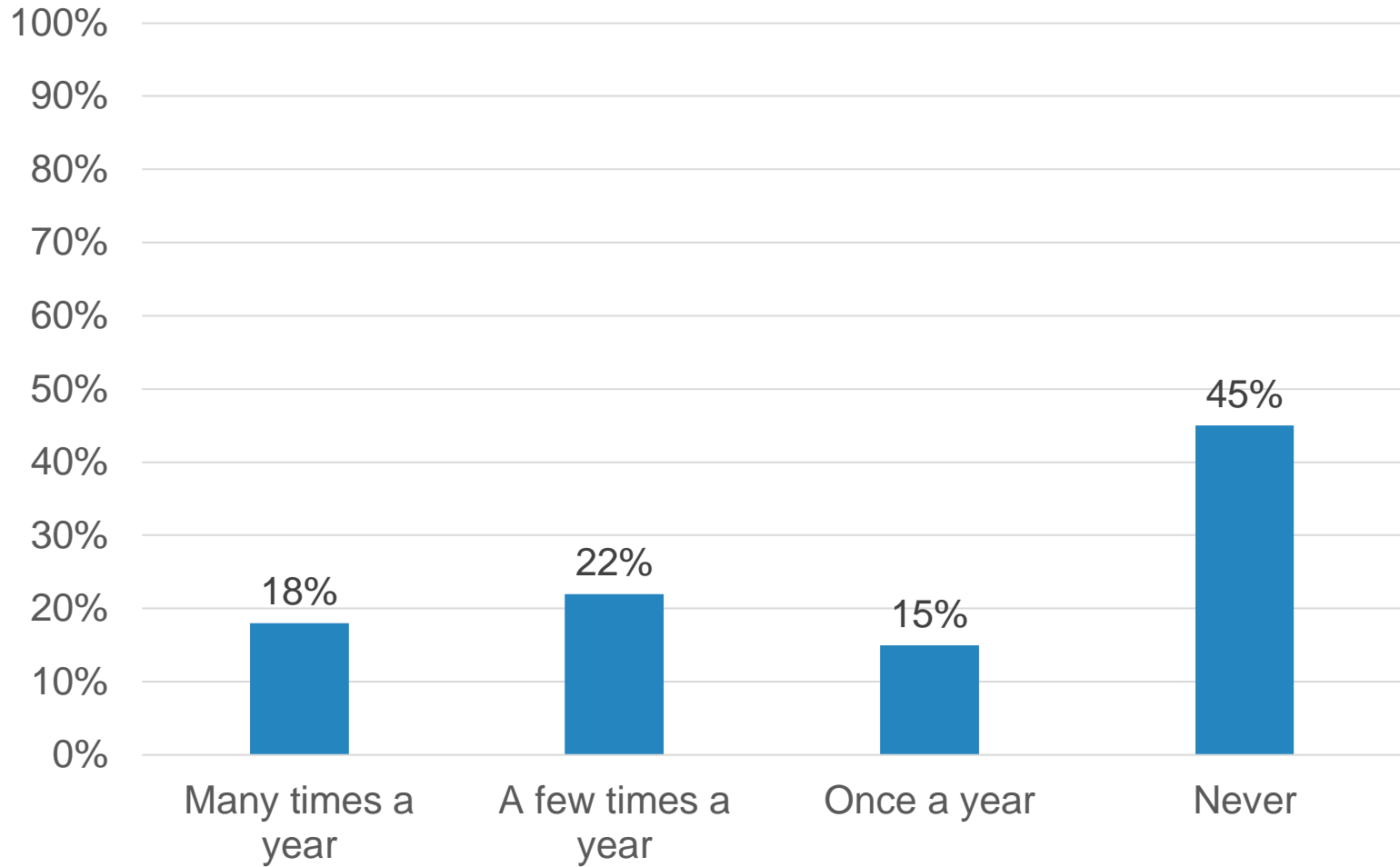
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46% say they would never skip a worship service to get some extra sleep



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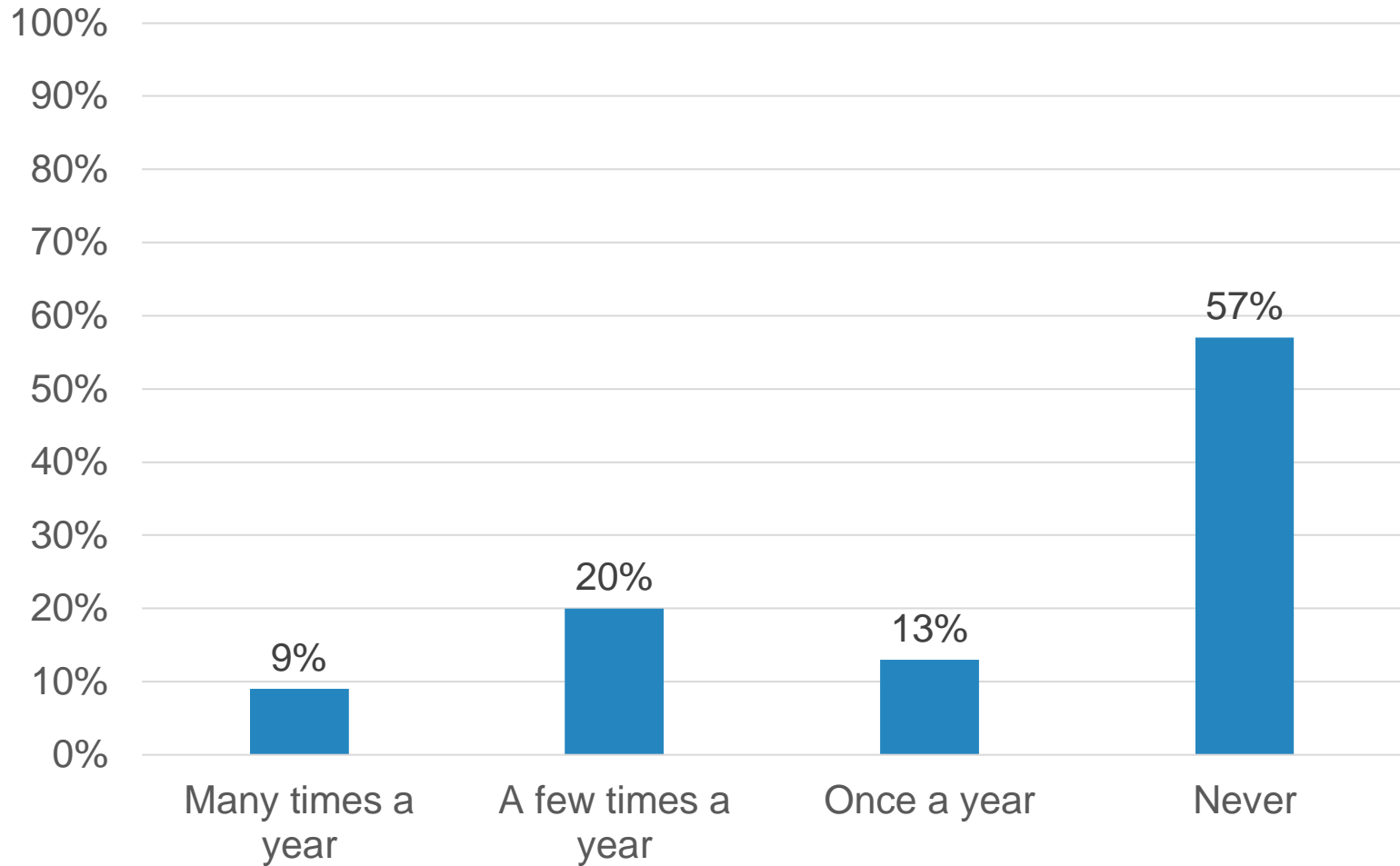
45% say they would never skip a worship service to enjoy an outdoor activity when the weather is good



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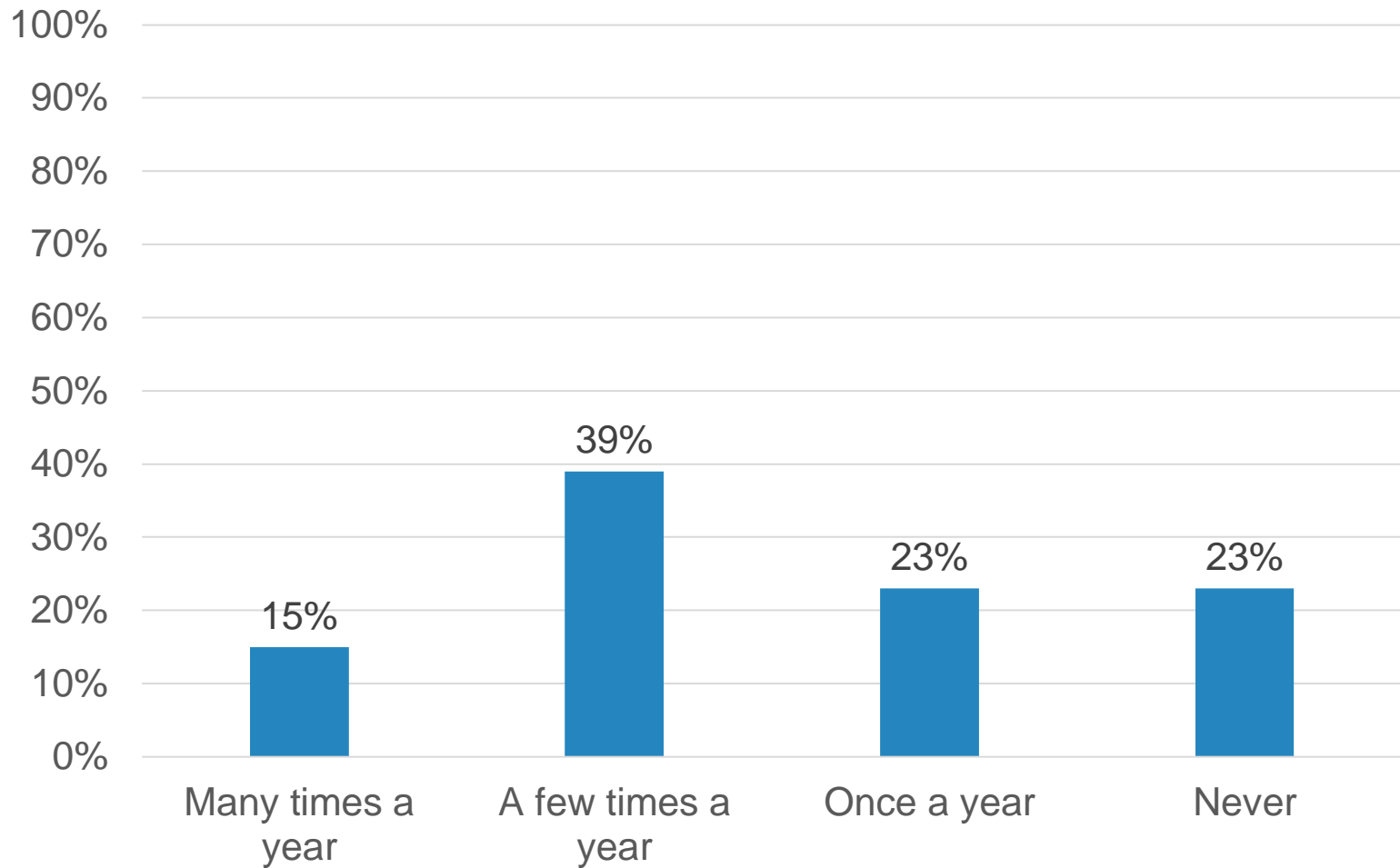
Q_3: "How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons? **Enjoy an outdoor activity when the weather is good**"
n=1,002

57% say they would never skip a worship service to avoid travelling to church when it is raining



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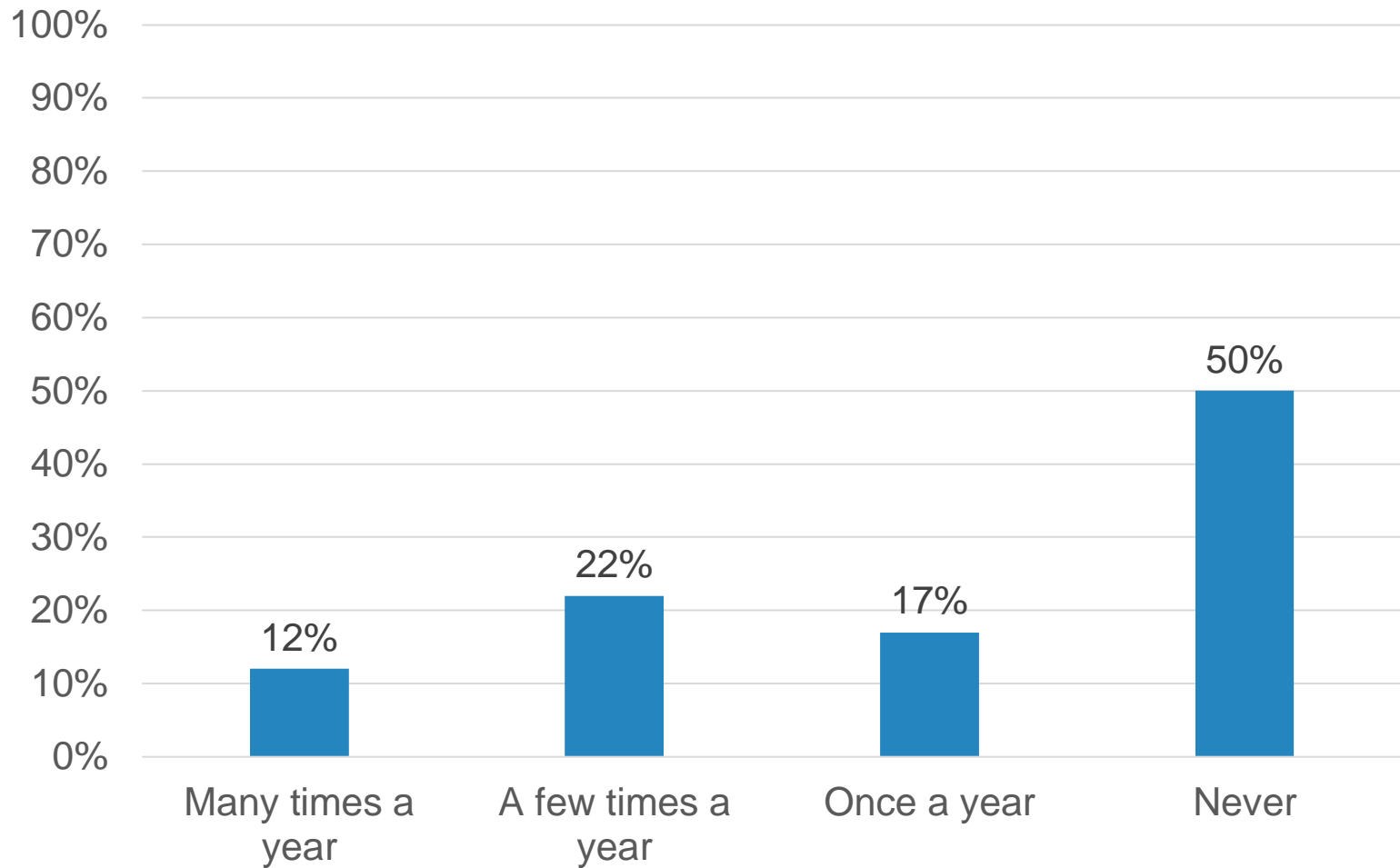
39% say they would skip a worship service a few times a year to avoid travelling to church when there is severe weather



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Q_5: "How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons? Avoid travelling to church when there is severe weather (e.g., snow, ice, tornado watch)" n=1,002

50% say they would never skip a worship service to meet a friend or group of friends



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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		

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Watch my favorite team or sporting event

- Females are more likely to select “Never” than males (61% v. 54%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “Never” (79%)
- Other Ethnicities are the most likely to select “Never” (81%)
- African Americans (25%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than whites (14%)
- Those in the Midwest (17%) are more likely to select “Once a year” than those in the Northeast (7%) and South (9%)
- Those in the Midwest are the least likely to select “Many times a year” (8%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (66%) are more likely to select “Never” than with some college (56%)
- Baptists (62%), Lutherans (65%), Presbyterian/Reformed (74%), and Non-denominational (62%) are more likely to select “Never” than Methodists (30%) and Christian/Church of Christ (36%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Watch my favorite team or sporting event *Continued*

- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (65%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (48%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (69% v. 50%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Get some extra sleep

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “Never” (70%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select “Many times a year” (38%) followed by those age 35-49 (28%), 50-64 (13%), and 65+ (4%)
- Whites (52%) and Other Ethnicities (50%) are more likely to select “Never” than African Americans (33%) and Hispanics (33%)
- Those in the Midwest (49%) and South (47%) are more likely to select “Never” than those in the West (39%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (54%) or a Graduate Degree (53%) are more likely to select “Never” than who are High School Graduates or less (40%)
- Lutherans (63%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (70%) are more likely to select “Never” than Baptists (44%), Methodists (29%), Christian/Church of Christ (28%), and Non-denominational (47%)
- Methodists (40%) and Christian/Church of Christ (33%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than Baptists (16%), Lutherans (8%), Presbyterian/Reformed (10%), and Non-denominational (14%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Get some extra sleep *Continued*

- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (53%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (35%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (56% v. 38%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select “Many times a year” than those without evangelical beliefs (13% v. 22%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Enjoy an outdoor activity when the weather is good

- Those age 50-64 (55%) and 65+ (60%) are more likely to select “Never” than those 18-34 (33%) and 35-49 (26%)
- Those age 18-34 (33%) and 35-49 (27%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than those 50-64 (13%) and 65+ (6%)
- Other Ethnicities are the most likely to select “Never” (61%)
- African Americans (25%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than whites (16%) and Other ethnicities (10%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree are the most likely to select “Never” (55%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (21%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (14%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Enjoy an outdoor activity when the weather is good *Continued*

- Baptists (49%), Presbyterian/Reformed (61%), Non-denominational (48%) are more likely to select “Never” than Methodists (30%) and Christian/Church of Christ (28%)
- Methodists (27%) and Christian/Church of Christ (29%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than Baptists (17%), Lutherans (12%), Presbyterian/Reformed (9%), and Non-denominational (15%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (54%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (32%)
- Those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (21%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (15%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (60% v. 34%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select “Many times a year” than those without evangelical beliefs (14% v. 21%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Avoid traveling to church when it is raining

- Males are more likely to select “Never” than females (63% v. 53%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “Never” (75%)
- Whites (62%) and Other Ethnicities (73%) are more likely to select “Never” than African Americans (45%) and Hispanics (46%)
- Those in the Midwest (65%) are more likely to select “Never” than those in the South (56%) and West (54%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (64%) are more likely to select “Never” than with some college (54%)
- Lutherans (73%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (74%) are more likely to select “Never” than Baptists (58%), Methodists (32%), and Christian/Church of Christ (32%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (63%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (49%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (68% v. 50%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Avoid traveling to church when there is severe weather (e.g., snow, ice, tornado watch)

- Females are more likely to select “A few times a year” than males (43% v. 34%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “Once a year” (33%)
- Hispanics (47%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than African Americans (33%)
- African Americans are the most likely to select “Many times a year” (28%)
- Those in the Midwest (45%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those in the South (36%)
- Those with some college (44%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than who are High School Graduates or less (36%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (30%) and Non-denominational (27%) are more likely to select “Never” than Methodists (11%) and Christian/Church of Christ (14%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

Avoid traveling to church when there is severe weather (e.g., snow, ice, tornado watch) *Continued*

- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (47%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (35%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (27%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (17%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (26% v. 20%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

To meet a friend or group of friends

- Those age 50-64 (59%) and 65+ (59%) are more likely to select “Never” than those 18-34 (42%) and 35-49 (36%)
- Those age 18-34 (18%) and 35-49 (19%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than those 50-64 (10%) and 65+ (2%)
- African Americans (16%) and Hispanics (17%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than whites (10%) and Other ethnicities (2%)
- Whites (19%) are more likely to select “Once a year” than African Americans (13%)
- Those in the South (54%) are more likely to select “Never” than those in the Northeast (44%) and West (41%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (56%) are more likely to select “Never” than with some college (47%)

“How often would you skip a weekly worship service for the following reasons?”

To meet a friend or group of friends *Continued*

- Baptists (51%), Lutherans (50%), Presbyterian/Reformed (50%), and Non-denominational (57%) are more likely to select “Never” than Methodists (34%)
- Methodists (35%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than Baptists (22%), Lutherans (20%), and Non-denominational (16%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (55%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (42%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (29%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (17%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (60% v. 42%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select “A few times a year” than those without evangelical beliefs (15% v. 27%)

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