

Pastors' Views on Sports Betting

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

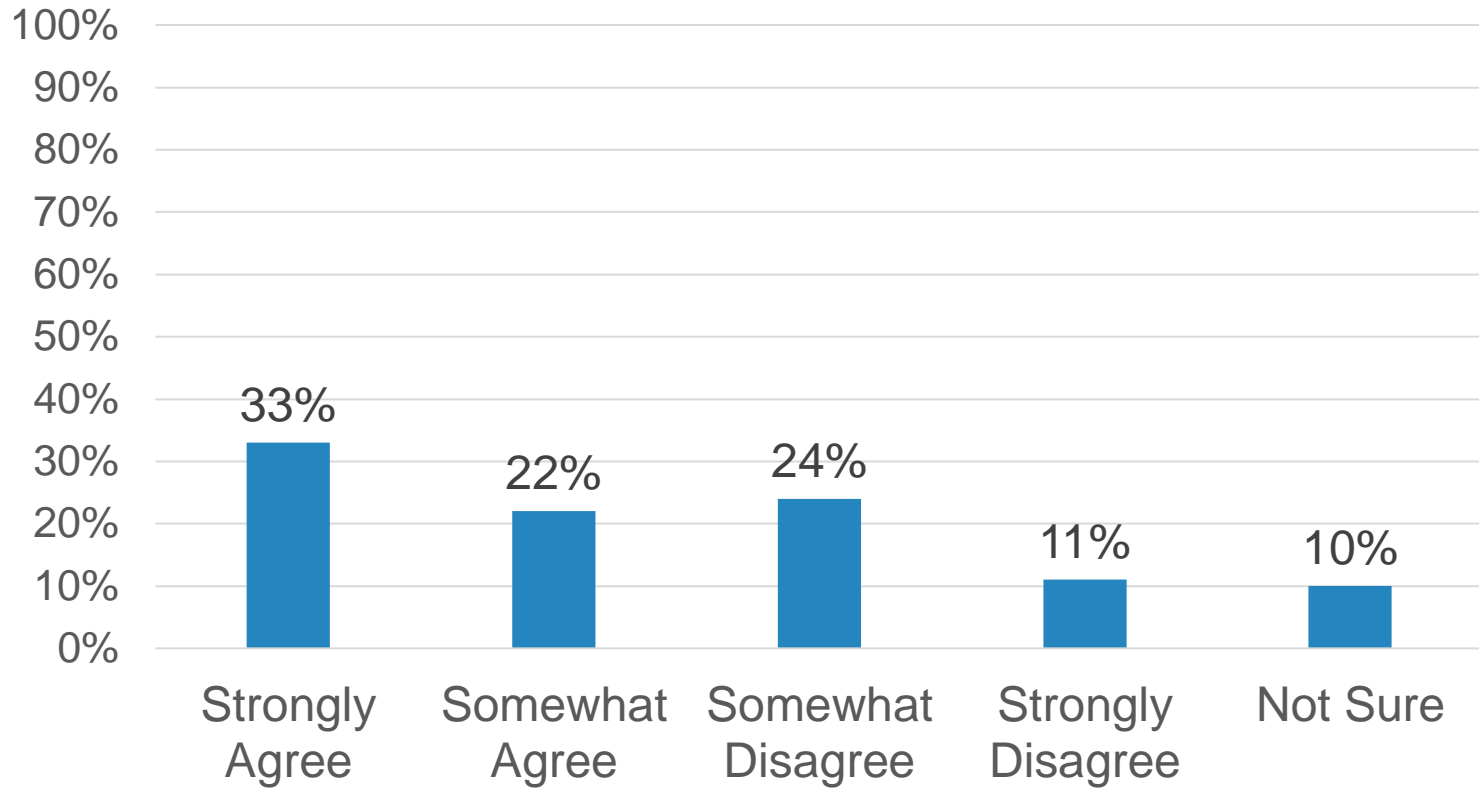
Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,004 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29, 2023 - September 20, 2023
- 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 conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,004 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 phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018

55% agree that betting on sports is morally wrong

Among Protestant Pastors

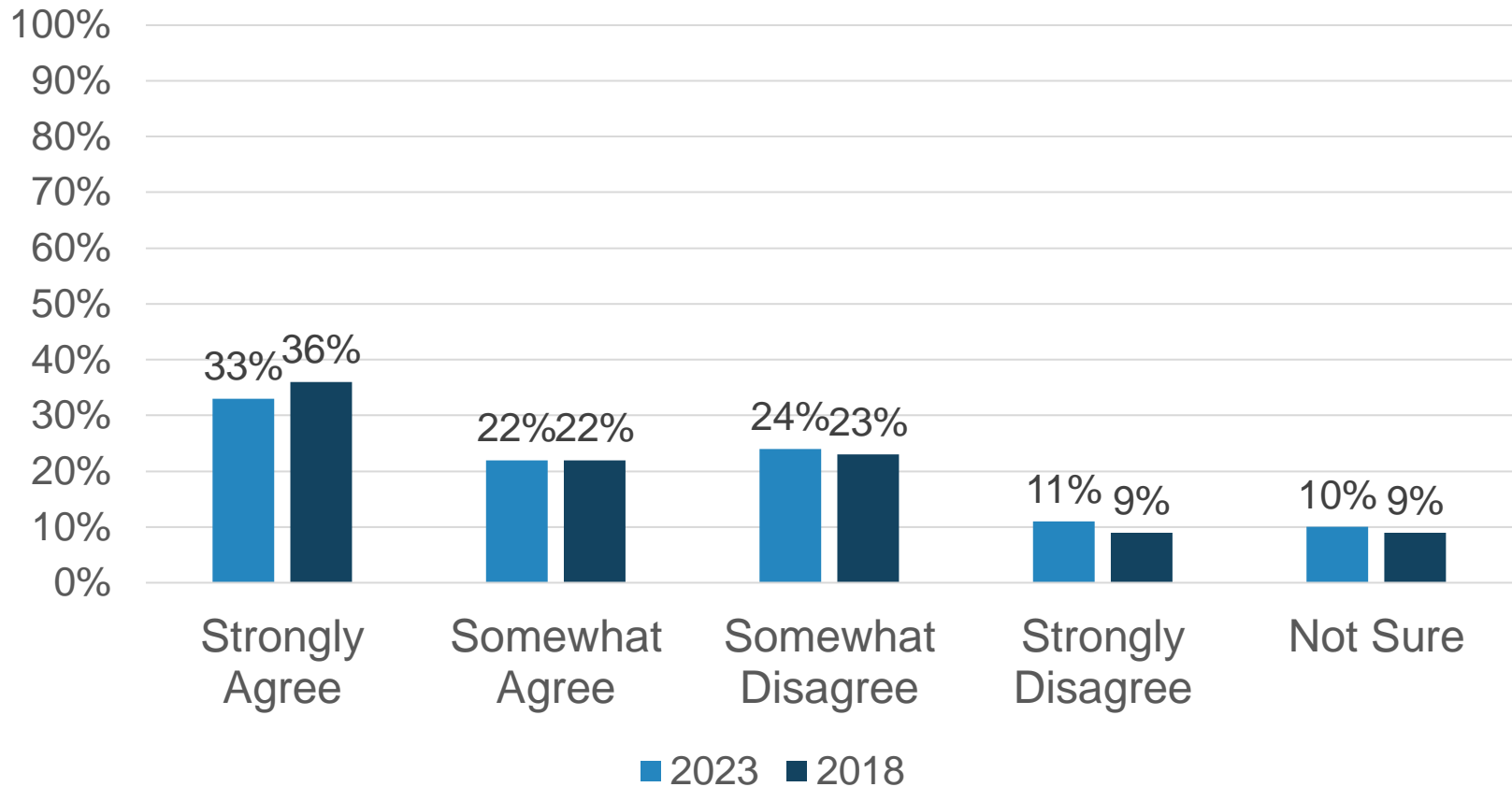


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Q: "It is morally wrong to bet on sports." n=1,004

A similar majority of pastors believe it is morally wrong to bet on sports in 2023 compared to 2018 (55% v. 59%)

Among Protestant Pastors

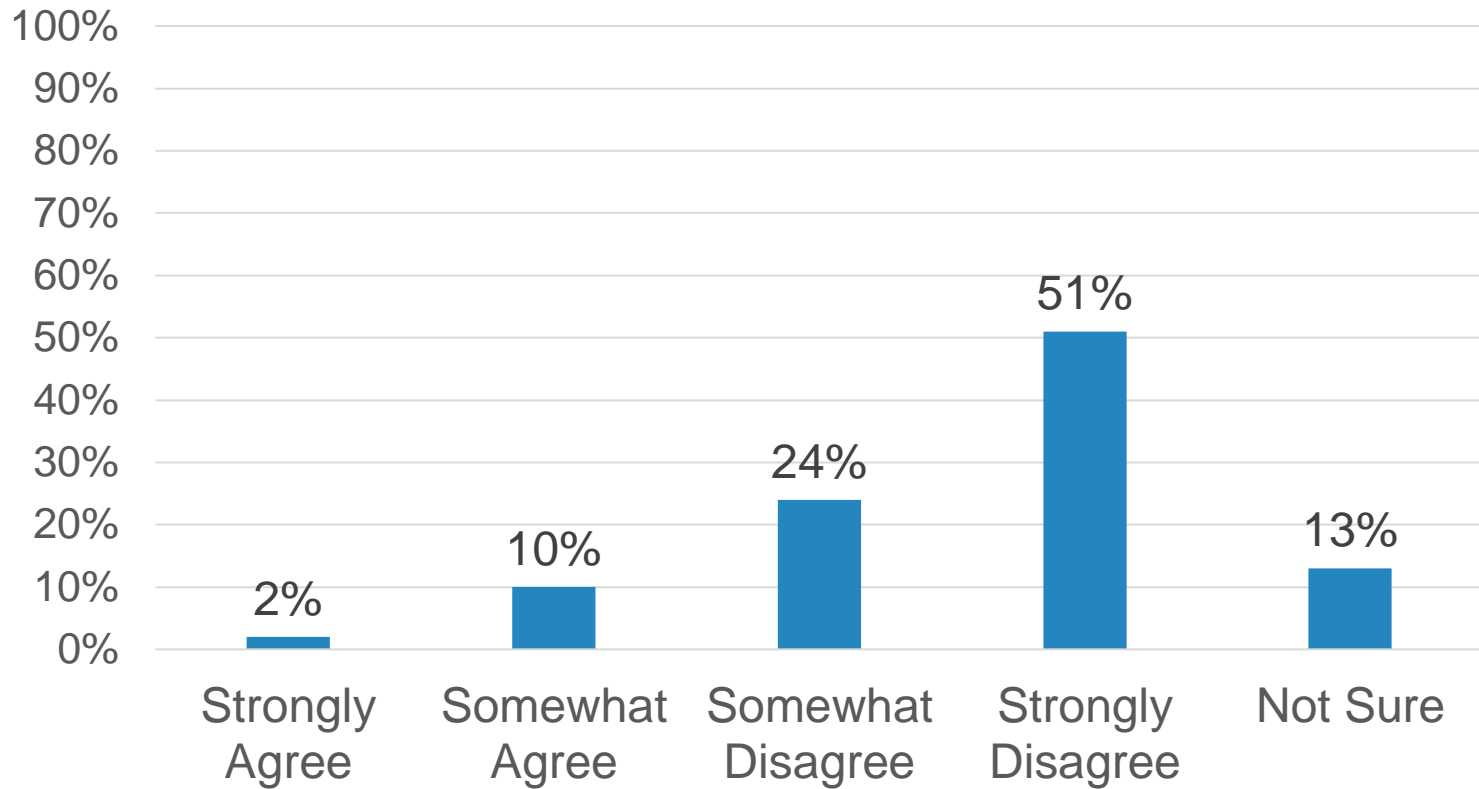


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Q: "It is morally wrong to bet on sports."

13% agree that sports betting should be legalized across the country

Among Protestant Pastors

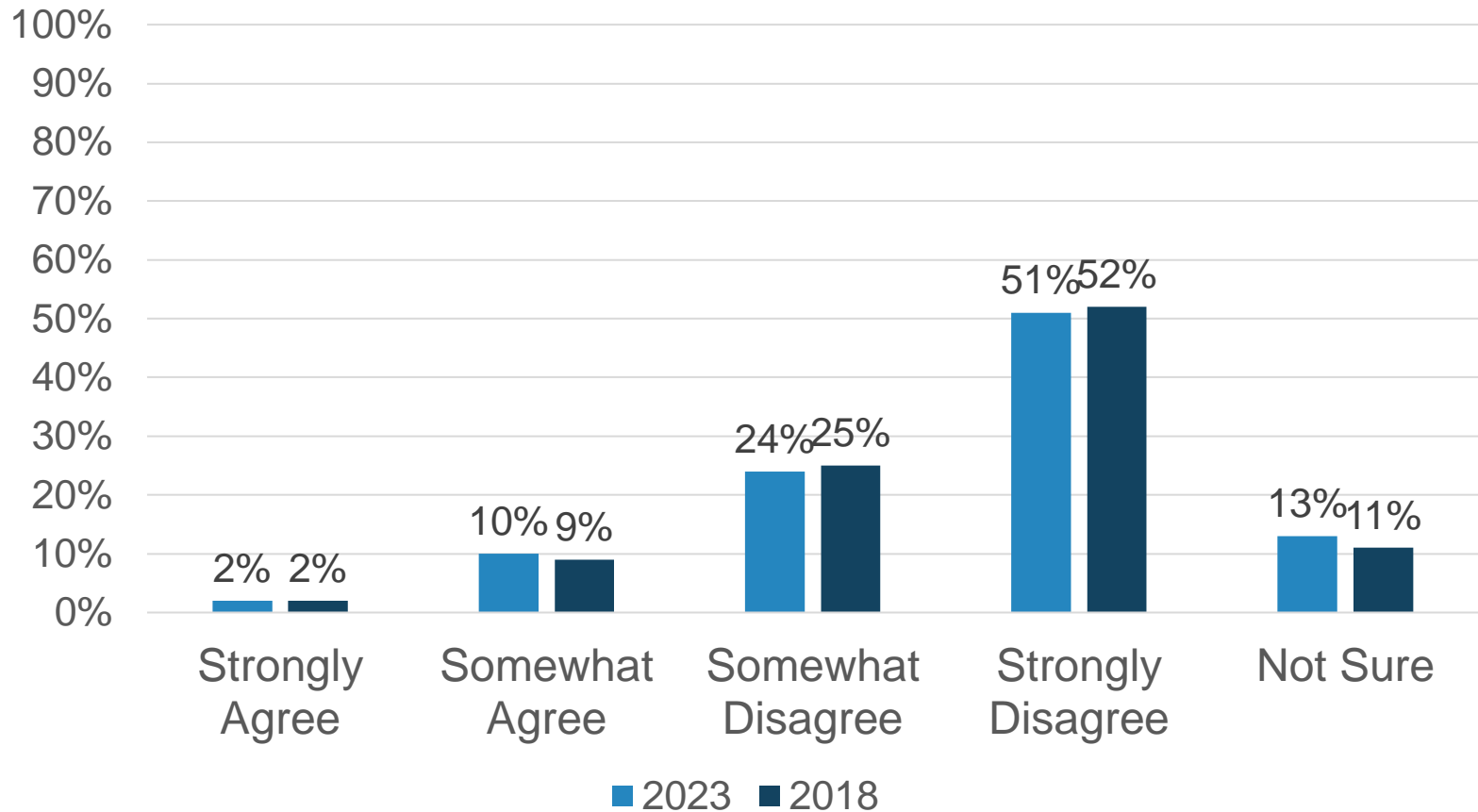


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Q: "Sports betting should be legalized throughout the country." n=1,004

Agreement among pastors that nationwide sports betting should be legal remains rare (13% v. 12% in 2018)

Among Protestant Pastors

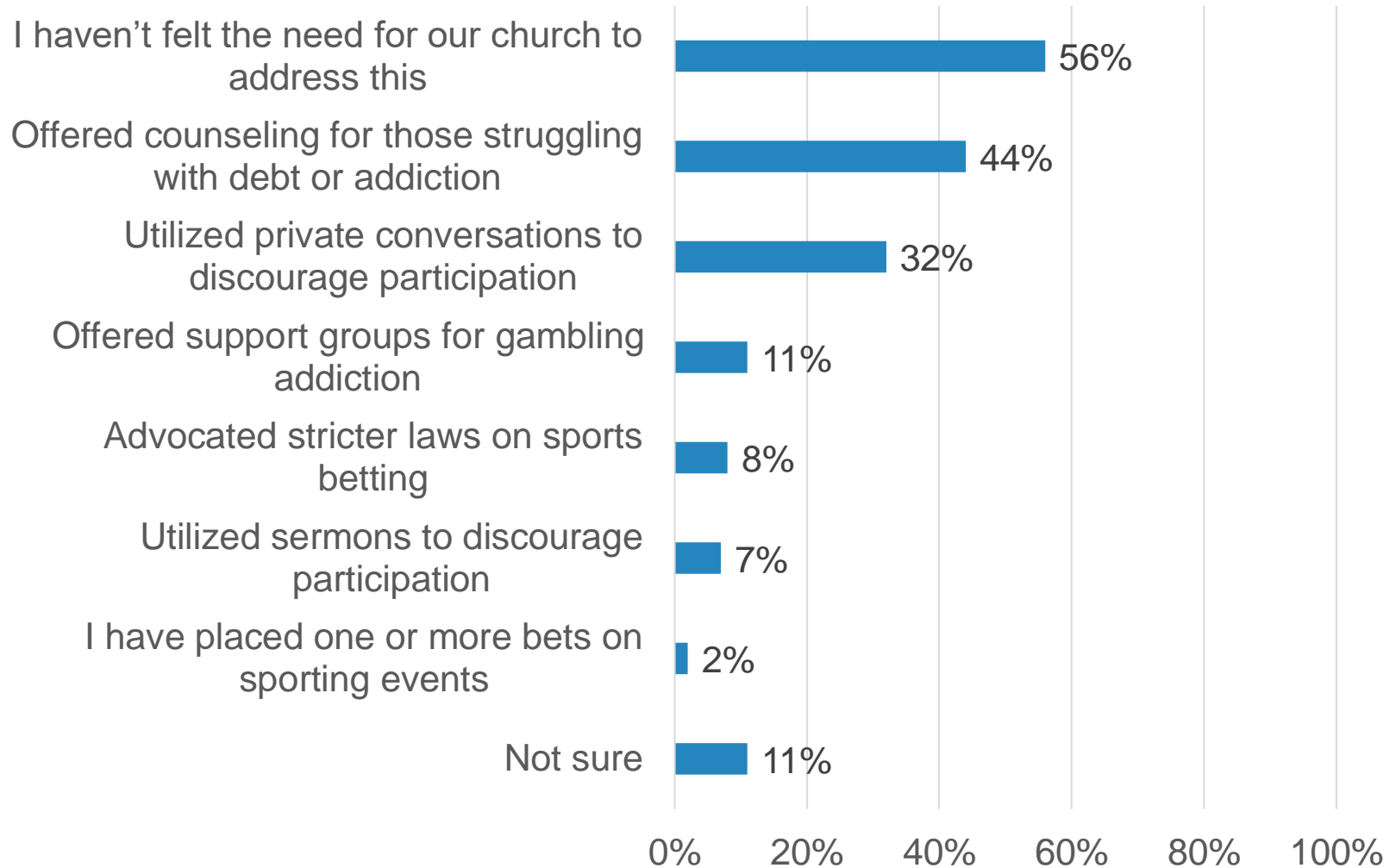


Lifeway research

Q: "Sports betting should be legalized throughout the country."

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

Among Protestant Pastors

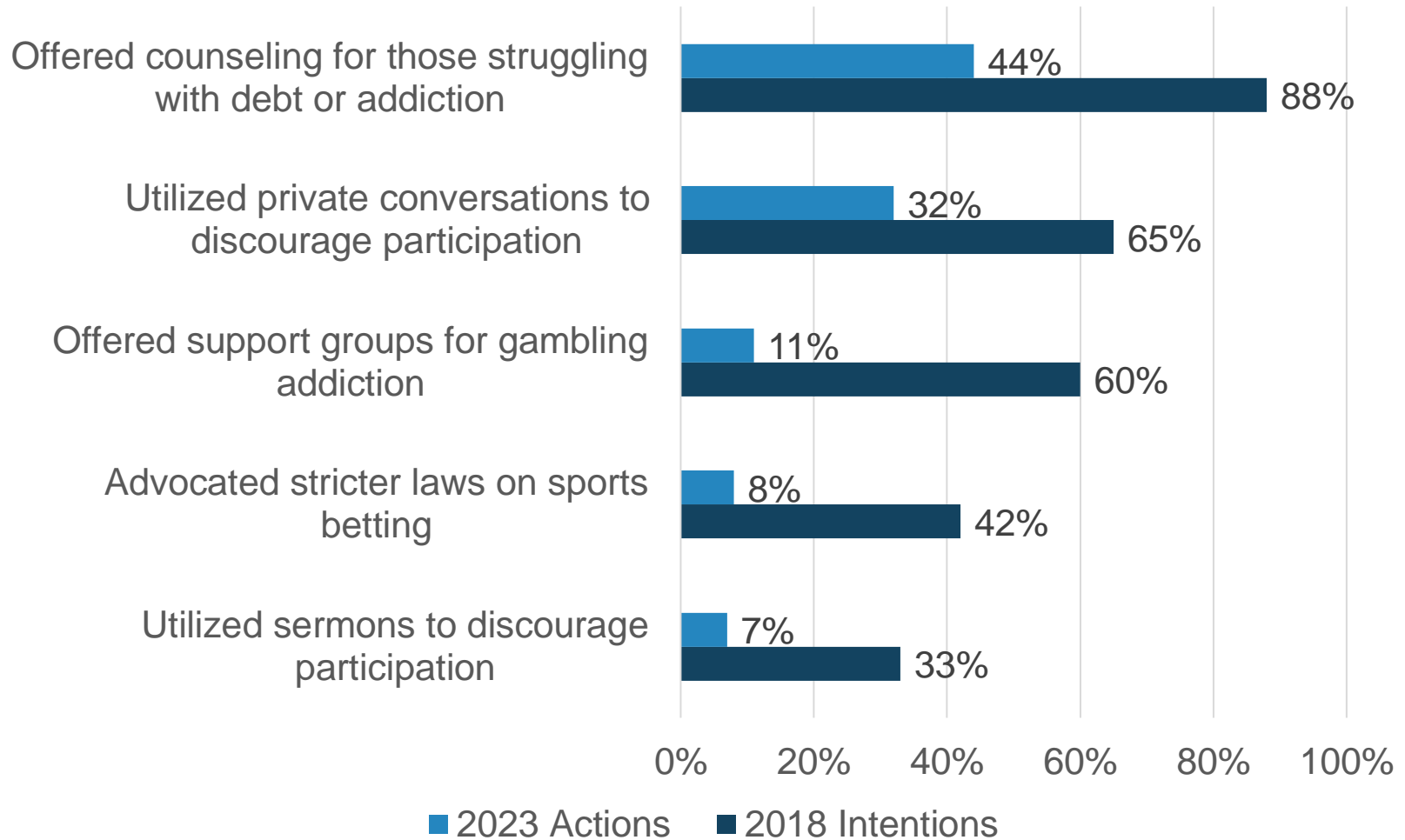


Lifeway research

Q: “Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting? (Select all that apply)” n=1,004

Pastors' actions in the last year related to sports betting fall far short of the intentions they expressed in 2018

Among Protestant Pastors

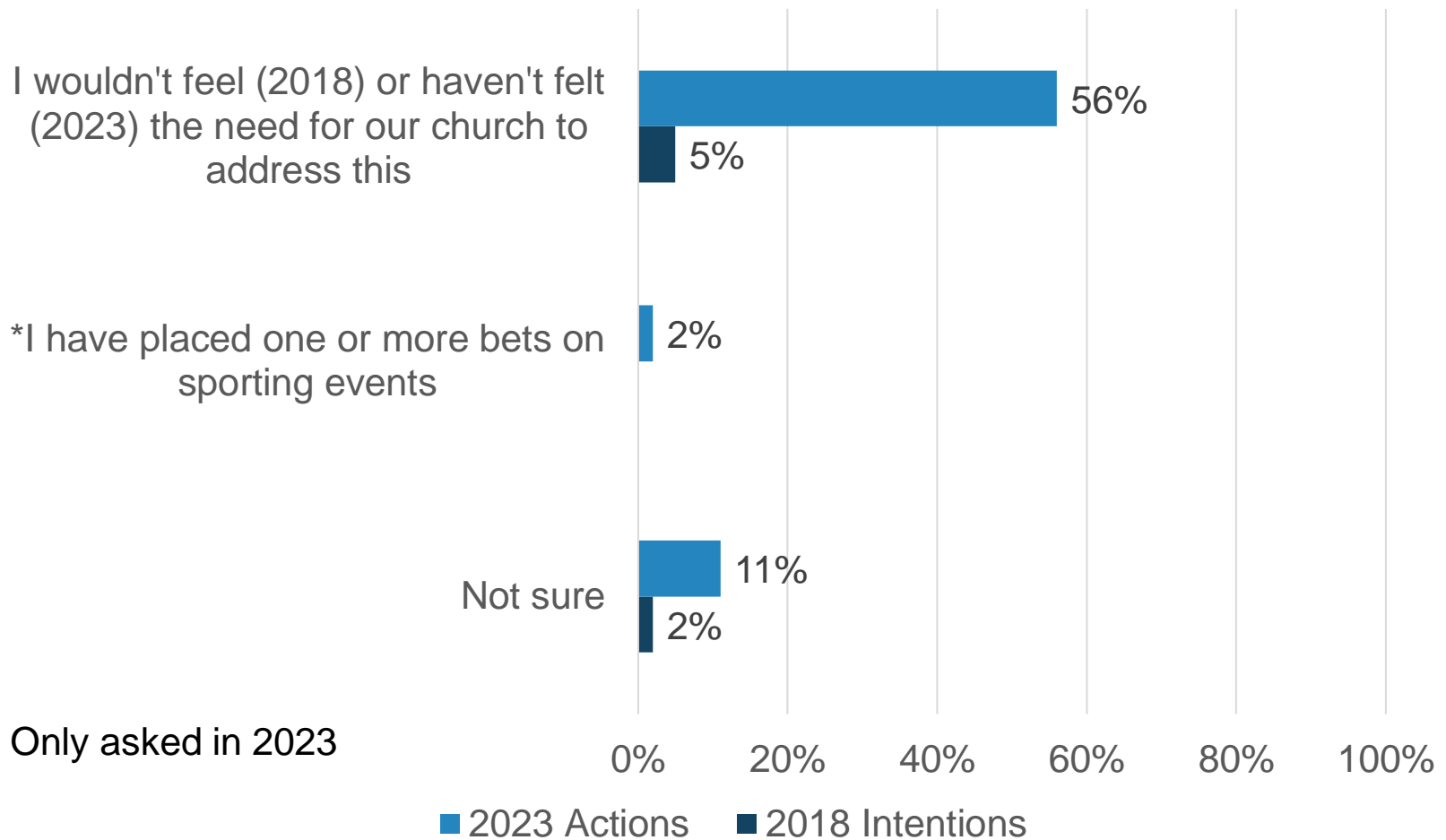


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2023: "Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting? (Select all that apply)"
2018: "If sports betting is legal or soon becomes legal in your state, which of the following will you do?"

Pastors' actions in the last year related to sports betting fall far short of the intentions they expressed in 2018 *Continued*

Among Protestant Pastors



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2023: "Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting? (Select all that apply)"
2018: "If sports betting is legal or soon becomes legal in your state, which of the following will you do?"

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	Master's 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

“It is morally wrong to bet on sports.”

- Pastors age 45-54 are the least likely to Disagree (24%)
- Male pastors are more likely to Agree than females (59% v. 41%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s Degree (61%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (49%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (62% v. 50%)
- Baptists (65%) and Non-denominational (63%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (42%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (46%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 50-99 (58%) and 100-249 (58%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (44%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to answer “Not sure” (23%)

“Sports betting should be legalized throughout the country.”

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to Agree (20%) and the least likely to Disagree (64%)
- Male pastors are more likely to Disagree than females (78% v. 64%)
- White pastors (76%) are more likely to Disagree than African American pastors (63%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Disagree than Mainline pastors (80% v. 68%)
- Pastors in the South (78%) and Midwest (75%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the West (64%)
- Baptists (83%) and Pentecostals (85%) are more likely to Disagree than Lutherans (66%), Methodists (72%), Presbyterian/Reformed (71%), and Non-denominational (66%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (79%) are more likely to Disagree than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (72%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ (21%) are more likely to answer “Not sure” than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (12%) and 100-249 (10%)

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

Utilized sermons to discourage participation

- Pastors age 65+ (12%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (6%) and 55-64 (6%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (9% v. 1%)
- Baptists (13%), Pentecostals (14%), and Non-denominational (11%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (2%), Methodists (2%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (1%)

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

Utilized private conversations to discourage participation

- Pastors age 65+ (37%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (27%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (36% v. 18%)
- Baptists (39%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (24%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (24%)

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

Offered support groups for gambling addiction

- Pastors in the West (16%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (9%)
- Methodists (16%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (7%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (2%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (20%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (10%) and 100-249 (11%)

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

Advocated stricter laws on sports betting

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select (14%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the most likely to select (14%)
- Baptists (12%) and Methodists (14%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (4%), Presbyterian/Reformed (2%), and Christian/Church of Christ (3%)

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

Offered counseling for those struggling with debt or addiction

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (47% v. 35%)
- Baptists (46%), Methodists (48%), and Non-denominational (56%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (29%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (34%)

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

I have placed one or more bets on sporting events

- No meaningful significant differences

“Which of the following have you done in the last year related to sports betting?”

I haven't felt the need for our church to address this

- Pastors age 18-44 (61%) and 55-64 (59%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (49%)
- Pastors with a Master's Degree (61%) or a Doctoral Degree (61%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (46%)
- Lutherans (71%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (67%) are more likely to select than Baptists (47%), Methodists (53%), and Pentecostals (42%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (58%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (45%)

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