

# Protestant Churchgoer Views On Kids' Sports

A SURVEY OF 1,008 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway **research**

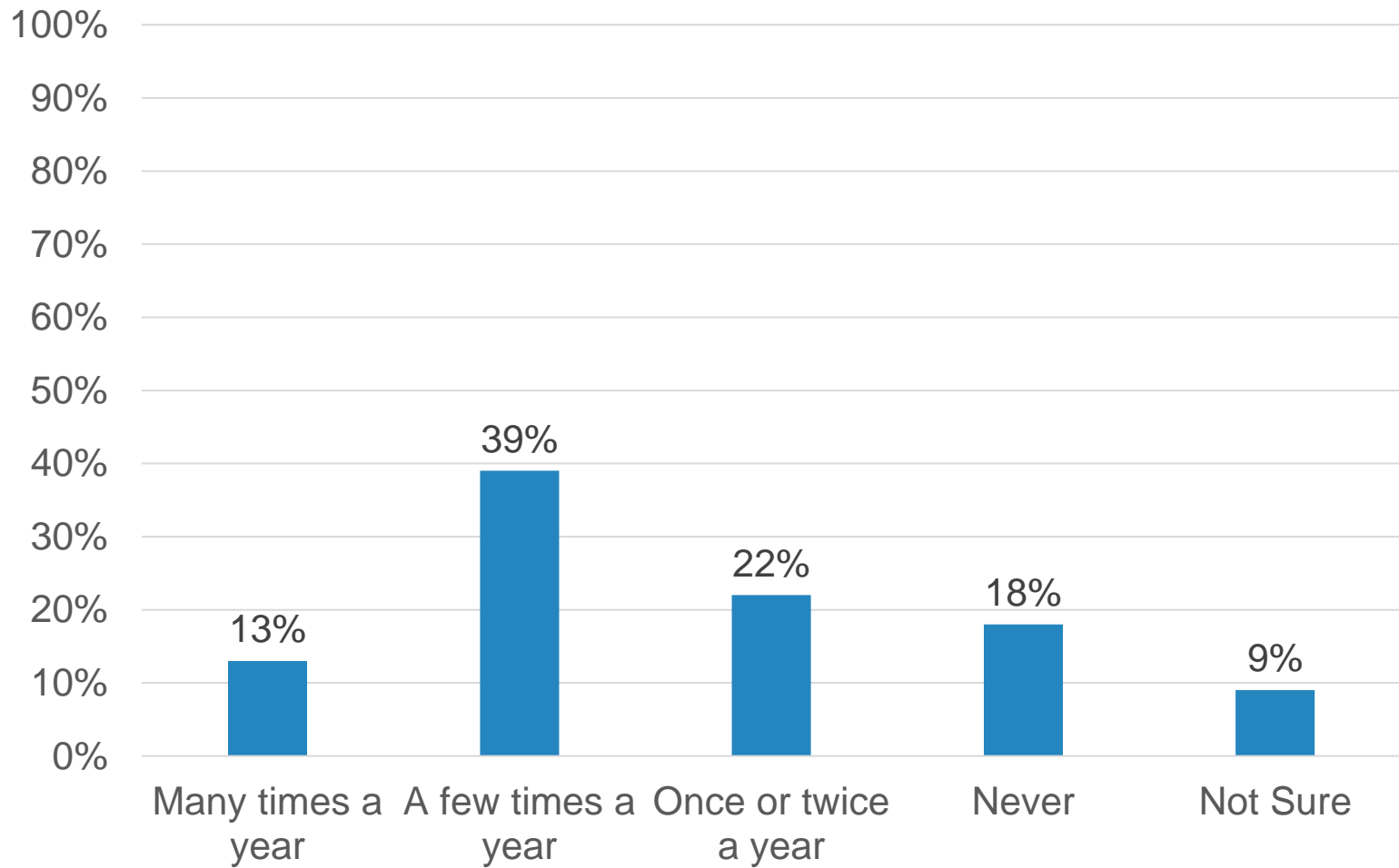
# Methodology

- The online survey of 1,008 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted September 19-29, 2023, 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 1,008 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$  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

# 39% say it is okay to skip church a few times a year for a kid's games or travel sporting events



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Q: "It is ok to skip a weekly worship service for kid's games or travel sporting events... (Select one)" n=1,008

# 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		

## **“It is ok to skip a weekly worship service for kid’s games or travel sporting events... ”**

- Those age 50-64 (20%) and 65+ (20%) are more likely to select “Never” than those 18-34 (12%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select “Many times a year” (26%)
- Those age 65+ are the least likely to select “Many times a year” (7%)
- Hispanics (20%) are more likely to select “Many times a year” than Whites (11%)
- Those in the Northeast (29%) are more likely to select “Once or twice a year” than those in the South (20%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (22%) are more likely to select “Never” than with a Bachelor’s Degree (15%)
- Methodists (64%) and Lutherans (50%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than Baptists (36%)



## **“It is ok to skip a weekly worship service for kid’s games or travel sporting events... ”**

- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (45%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those who attend 4 or more times a month (35%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (22%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (12%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those with evangelical beliefs (47% v. 32%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Never” than those without evangelical beliefs (25% v. 10%)

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