

Pastors' Views on Opioid Abuse

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

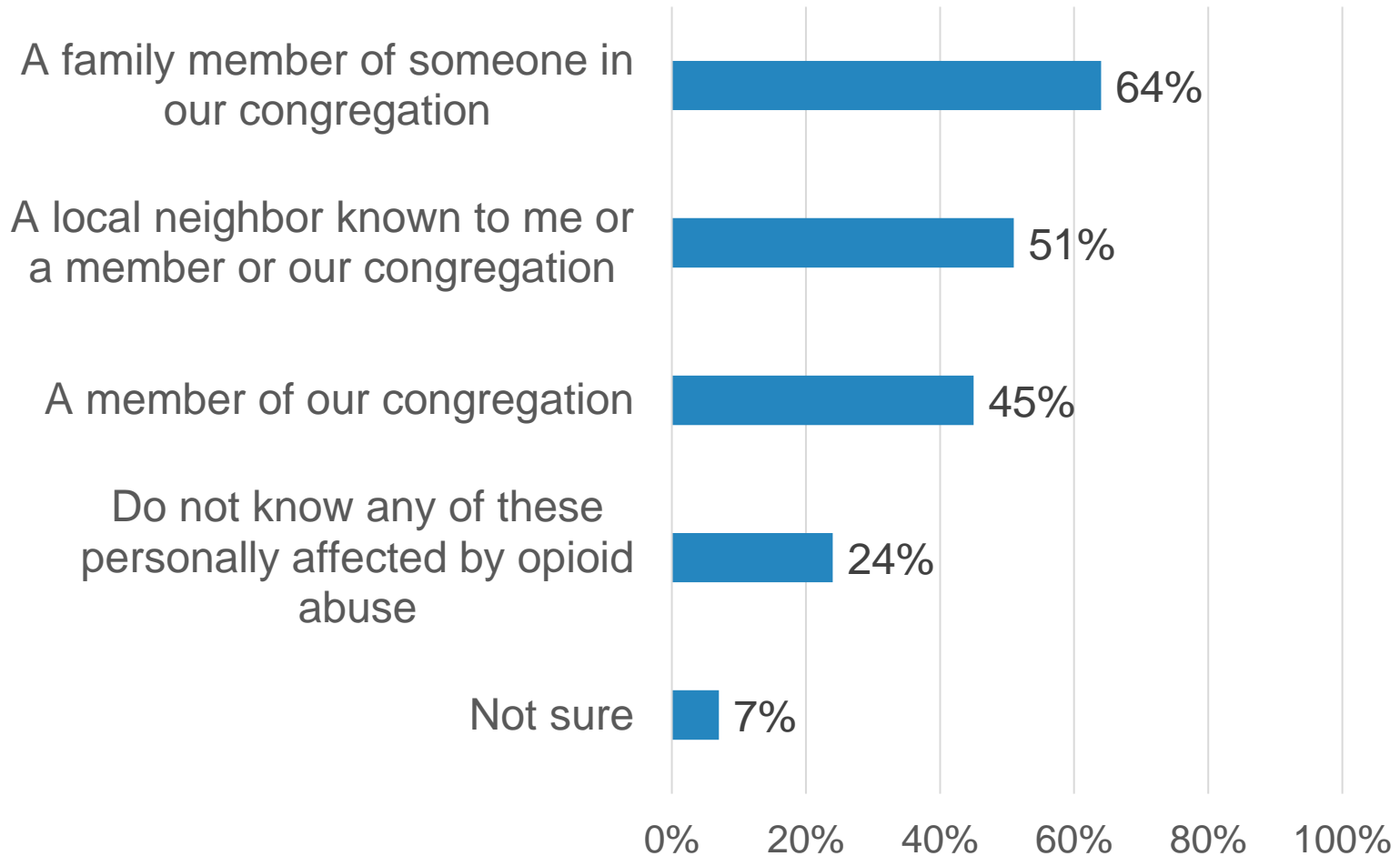
Lifeway research

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

“Do you know any of the following who have personally been affected by opioid abuse?”

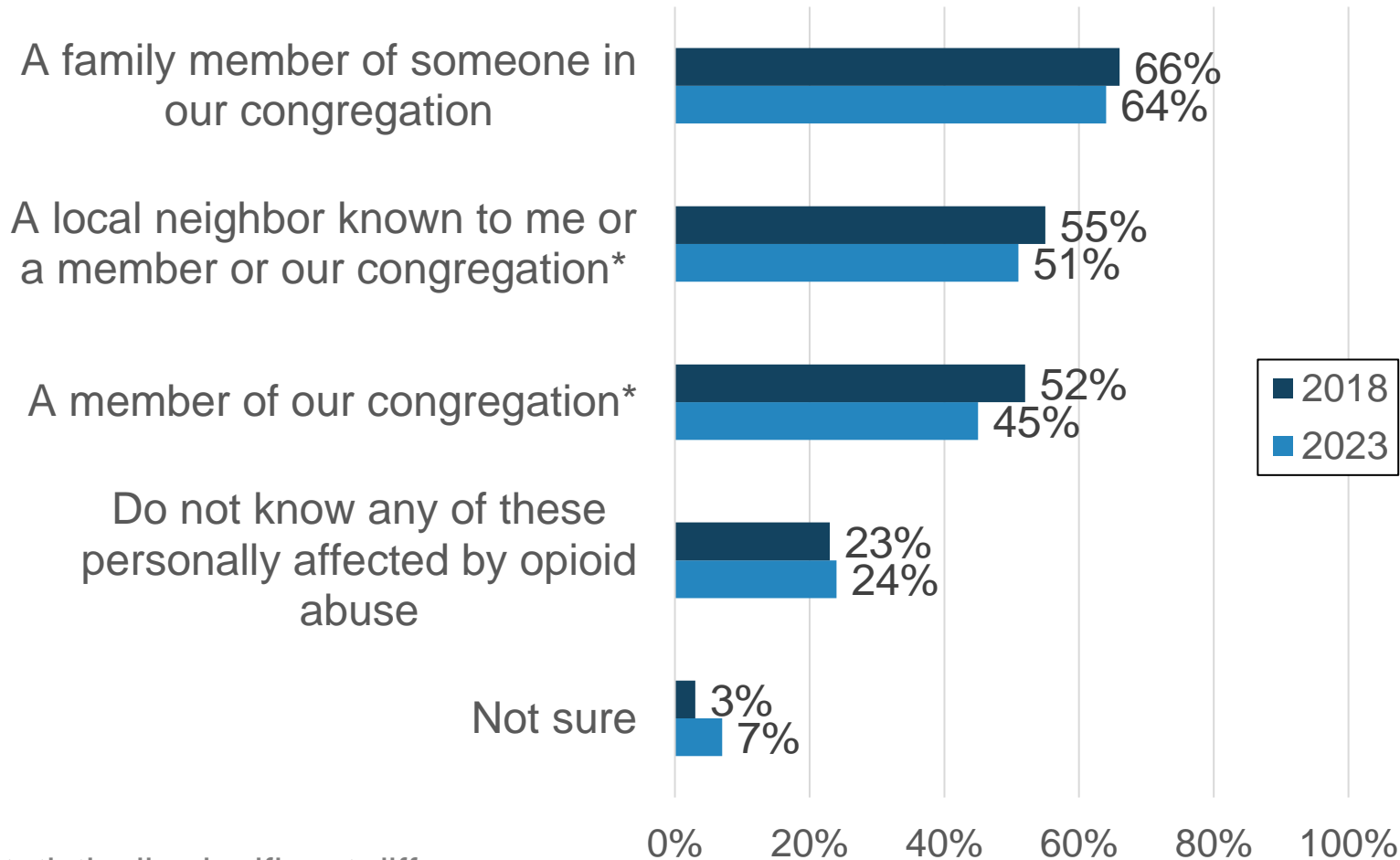
Among Protestant Pastors



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Slightly fewer pastors have a member of their congregation affected by opioid abuse than in 2018

Among Protestant Pastors

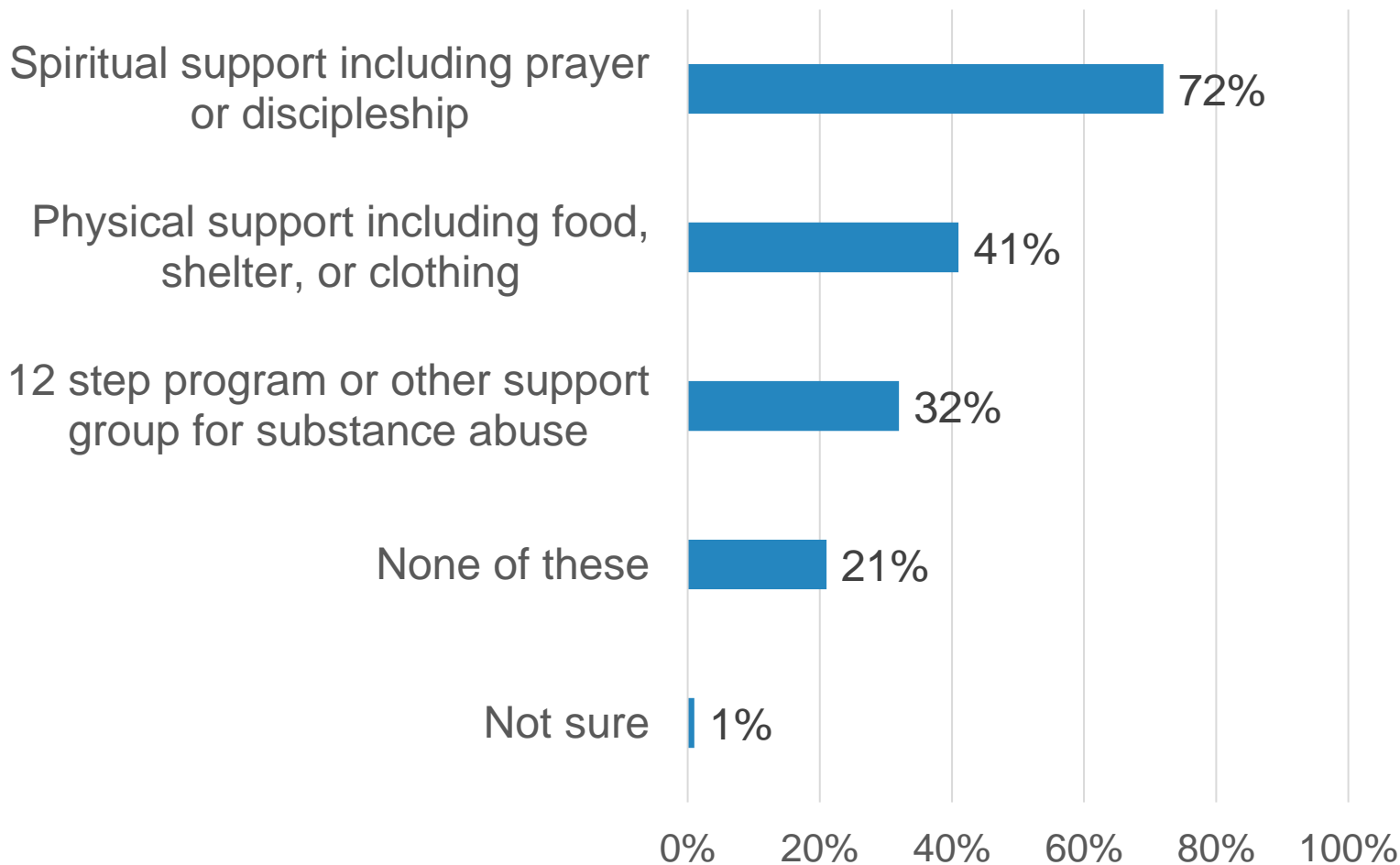


*Statistically significant difference

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“In which, if any, of the following ways is your church currently serving people with opioid addiction?”

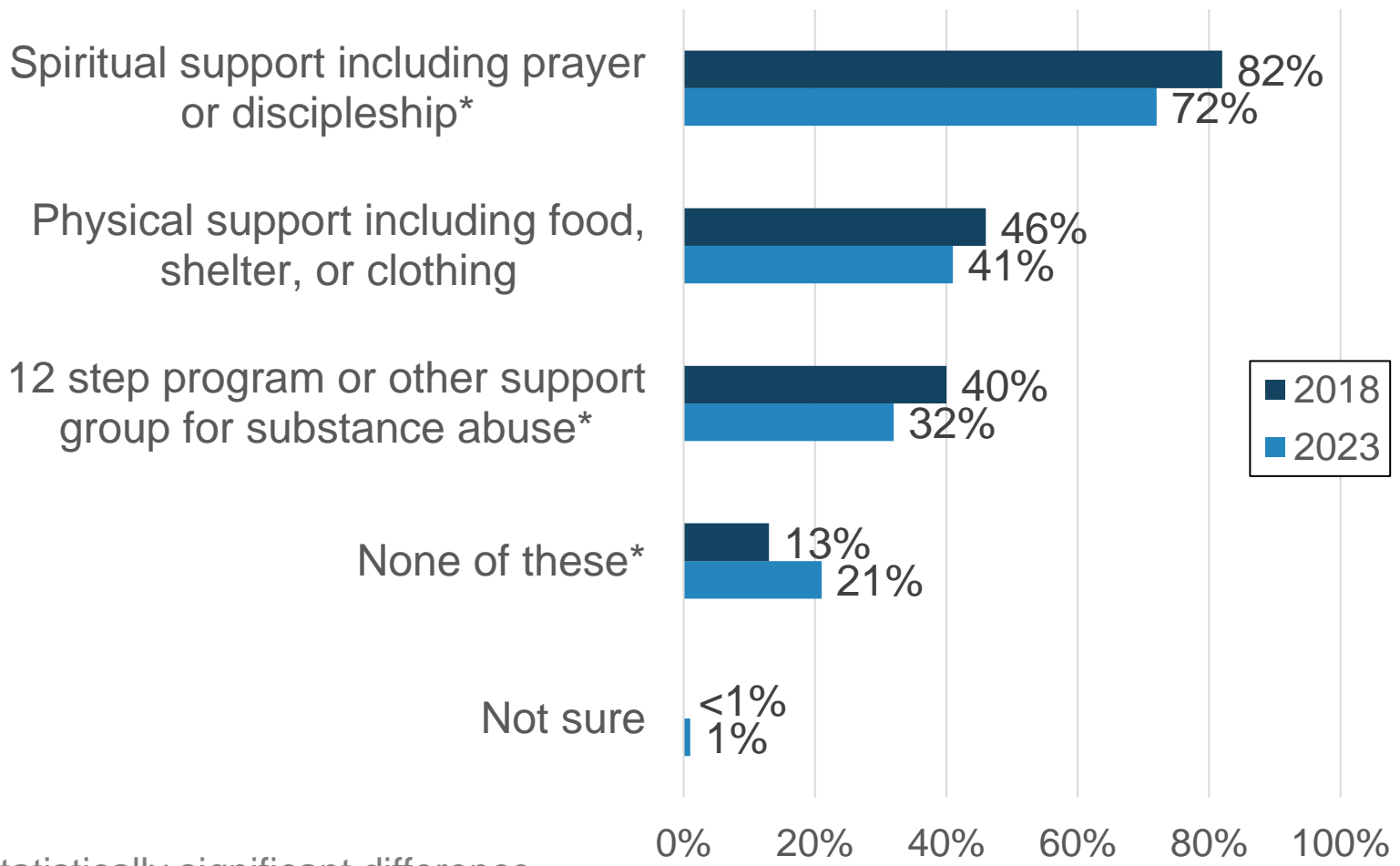
Among Protestant Pastors



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While many churches serve people with opioid addiction, fewer do than in 2018

Among Protestant Pastors



*Statistically significant difference

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Q: "In which, if any, of the following ways is your church currently serving people with opioid addiction? (Select all that apply)" n=1,004

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	Graduate 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 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

“Do you know any of the following who have personally been affected by opioid abuse?”

A member of our congregation

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (38%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (48% v. 34%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select (48%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (55%) and Non-denominational (55%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (33%), Methodists (39%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (31%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (49%) and 250+ (53%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (39%)

“Do you know any of the following who have personally been affected by opioid abuse?”

A family member of someone in our congregation

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (54%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (66% v. 57%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select (68%)
- Pastors in the South (66%) are more likely to select than those in the West (56%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (72%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (58%) and 50-99 (64%)

“Do you know any of the following who have personally been affected by opioid abuse?”

A local neighbor known to me or a member of our congregation

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (41%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (53% v. 43%)
- White pastors (52%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (33%)
- Non-denominational (64%) are more likely to select than Baptists (49%), Lutherans (42%), Methodists (48%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (43%)

“Do you know any of the following who have personally been affected by opioid abuse?”

Do not know any of these personally affected by opioid abuse

- Pastors age 65+ (29%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (17%)
- White pastors are the least likely to select (21%)
- Lutherans (35%) are more likely to select than Baptists (24%), Methodists (23%), Pentecostals (18%), and Non-denominational (13%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (27%) and 50-99 (25%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (19%)

“In which, if any, of the following ways is your church currently serving people with opioid addiction?”

Physical support including food, shelter, or clothing

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (53%)
- African American pastors (54%) are more likely to select than white pastors (41%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (46% v. 38%)
- Methodists (47%), Christian/Church of Christ (52%), and Non-denominational (52%) are more likely to select than Baptists (35%) and Lutherans (32%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 50-99 (44%) and 100-249 (45%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (36%)

“In which, if any, of the following ways is your church currently serving people with opioid addiction?”

Spiritual support including prayer or discipleship

- Pastors age 18-44 (78%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (66%)
- Pentecostals (79%) and Non-denominational (81%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (63%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select (65%)

“In which, if any, of the following ways is your church currently serving people with opioid addiction?”

12 step program or other support group for substance abuse

- Pastors age 18-44 (37%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (27%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (43% v. 28%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (42%) and West (42%) are more likely to select than those in the South (30%) and Midwest (27%)
- Methodists (37%) are more likely to select than Baptists (28%), Lutherans (24%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (24%)

“In which, if any, of the following ways is your church currently serving people with opioid addiction?”

None of these

- Pastors age 65+ (25%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (17%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the most likely to select (28%)

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