

American Views on Lent

A SURVEY OF 1,200 AMERICANS

Lifeway **research**

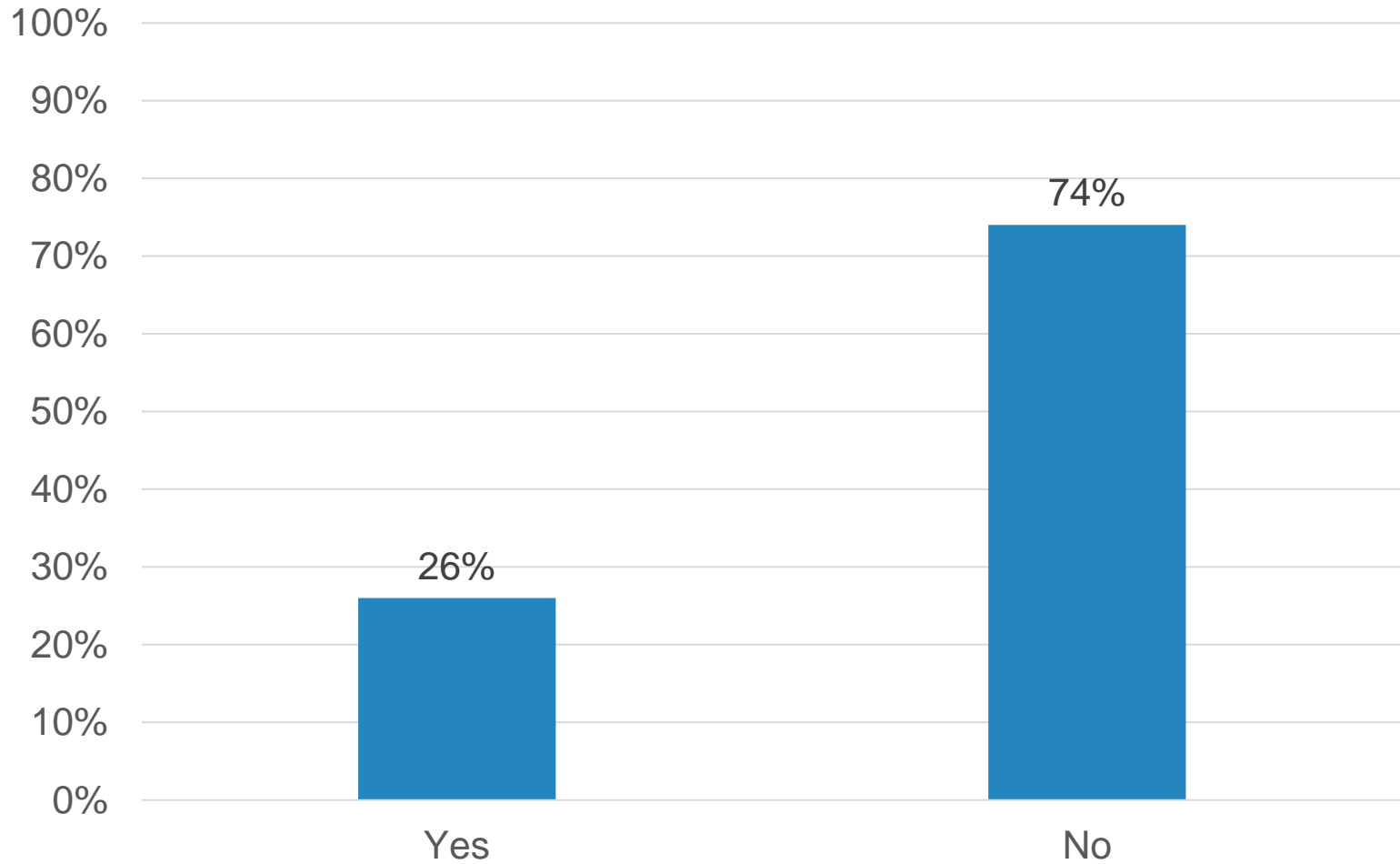
Methodology

- The online survey of 1,200 Americans was conducted August 14-30, 2024, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, religion, and evangelical beliefs to more accurately reflect the population
- The sample includes an over-sample of Americans with Evangelical Beliefs providing additional reliability for breakouts of this group. Totals for all Americans reduce these responses to their correct proportion through weighting
- The completed sample is 1,200 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
- Comparisons are made to an online survey of 1,000 Americans conducted September 27 – October 1, 2016 using a similar methodology

Definitions

- **Christians** are those with a religious preference of Catholic, Protestant, Non-denominational Christian, or Orthodox
- **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

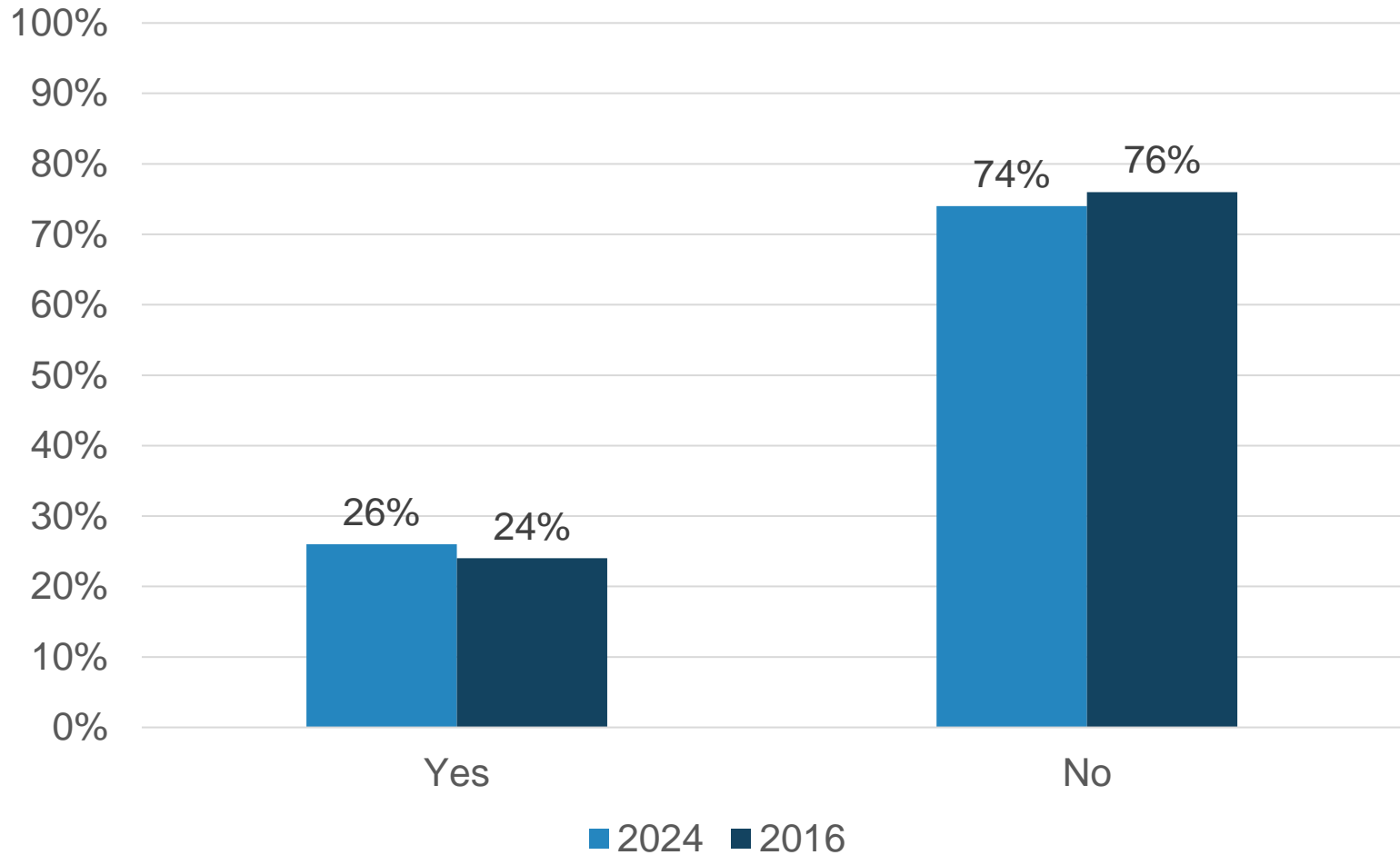
26% say that they typically observe Lent



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Q: "Do you typically observe Lent? (Select one)" n=1,200

The proportion of Americans who observe Lent is statistically unchanged compared to 2016

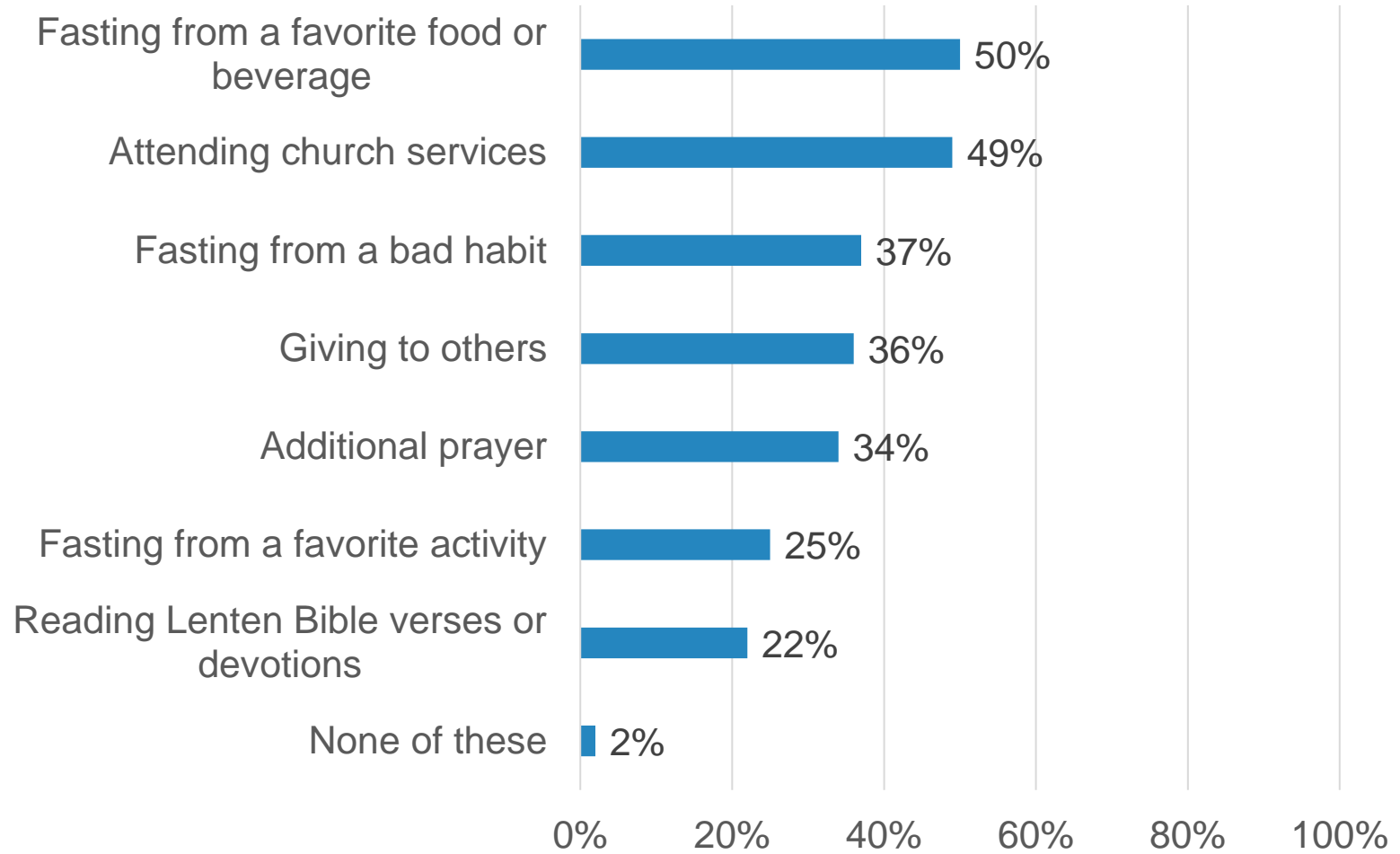


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Q: "Do you typically observe Lent? (Select one)"

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Among Americans who observe Lent

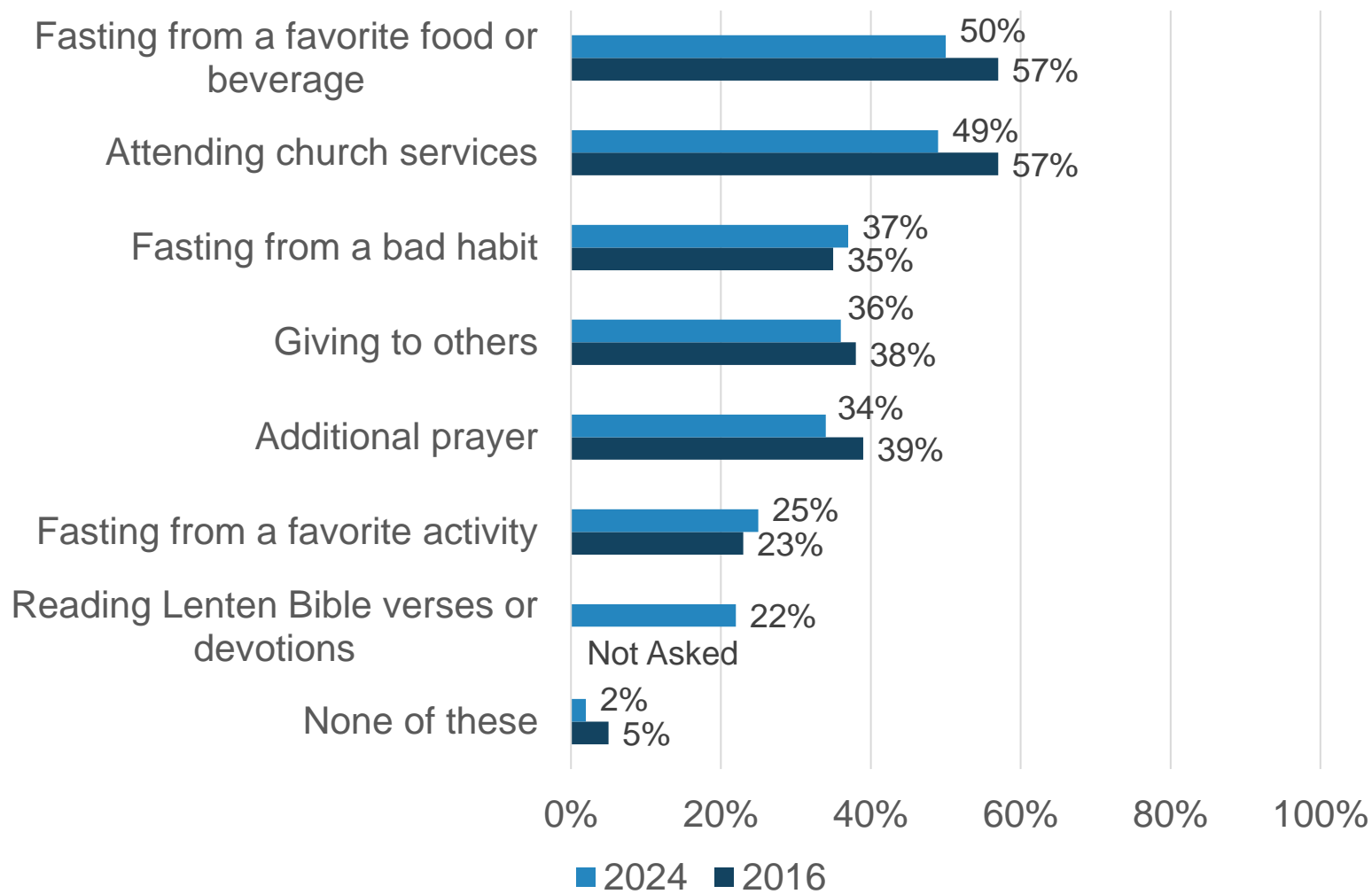


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Q: “In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent? (Select all that apply)” n=360

Differences in how observers of Lent do so are not significantly different from 2016

Among Americans who observe Lent



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Q: "In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent? (Select all that apply)"

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Religion

Religious 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 religion, religious service attendance, and evangelical beliefs.

RELIGION	RELIGIOUS SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS
Catholic	More than once a week	Yes
Protestant	About once a week	No
Other Religions	Once or twice a month/ Only on religious holidays	
Unaffiliated	Rarely/Never	

“Do you typically observe Lent?”

- Hispanics are the most likely to select “Yes” (39%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (36%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those who are High School Graduates or less (24%) or with some college (22%)
- Catholics are the most likely to select “Yes” (59%)
- Those who rarely/never attend a religious service are the most likely to select “No” (89%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Additional prayer

- African Americans (54%) are more likely to select than Whites (29%) and Hispanics (34%)
- Those in the Northeast (47%) and South (42%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (26%) and West (18%)
- Those who attend a religious service more than once a week (43%) or about once a week (38%) are more likely to select than those who rarely/never attend (23%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Fasting from a favorite food or beverage

- Those age 35-49 (57%) and 50-64 (56%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (39%)
- Catholics (55%) are more likely to select than Protestants (38%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Fasting from a favorite activity

- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (40%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (20%) or with some college (16%)
- Those who attend a religious service more than once a week (35%) are more likely to select than those who attend about once a week (20%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Fasting from a bad habit

- Those age 65+ are the least likely to select (19%)
- Whites are the least likely to select (29%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Giving to others

- Those age 18-34 (50%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (25%) and 50-64 (33%)
- African Americans are the most likely to select (59%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (38%) or with a Graduate Degree (50%) are more likely to select than those with some college (24%)
- Those who attend a religious service more than once a week (49%) are more likely to select than those who attend once or twice a month/only on religious holidays (30%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Attending church services

- Those age 65+ (60%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (39%)
- Those in the South (55%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (36%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (67%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (41%) or with some college (44%)
- Those who attend a religious service more than once a week (55%) or about once a week (61%) are more likely to select than those who rarely/never attend (31%)

“In which of the following ways do you typically observe Lent?”

Reading Lenten Bible verses or devotions

- Females are more likely to select than males (28% v. 17%)
- African Americans (41%) are more likely to select than Whites (22%) and Hispanics (16%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (26%) or a Graduate Degree (38%) are more likely to select than those with some college (12%)
- Protestants (35%) are more likely to select than Catholics (12%)
- Those who rarely/never attend a religious service are the least likely to select (6%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (35% v. 18%)

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