

Pastors' Views on Racial Reconciliation

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

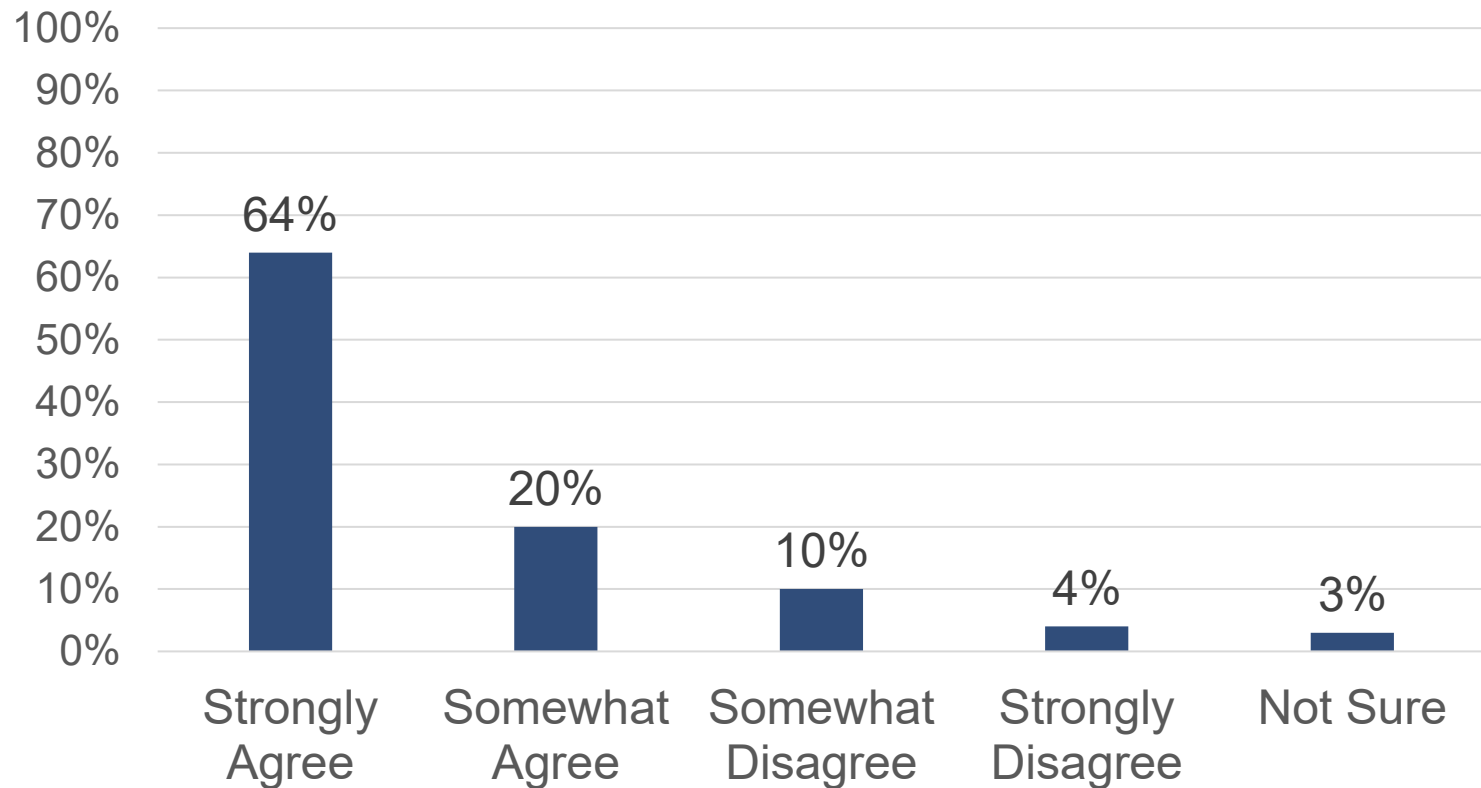
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Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted September 2-24, 2025
- 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 1,003 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error 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 also made to a telephone survey of 1,000 pastors using the same methodology in September 1-29, 2021, 1,000 in Aug. 30- Sept. 18, 2017, 1,007 in Sept. 4-19, 2013, and 1,000 in Sept. 11-18, 2014

84% believe that every church should strive to achieve racial diversity

Among Protestant Pastors

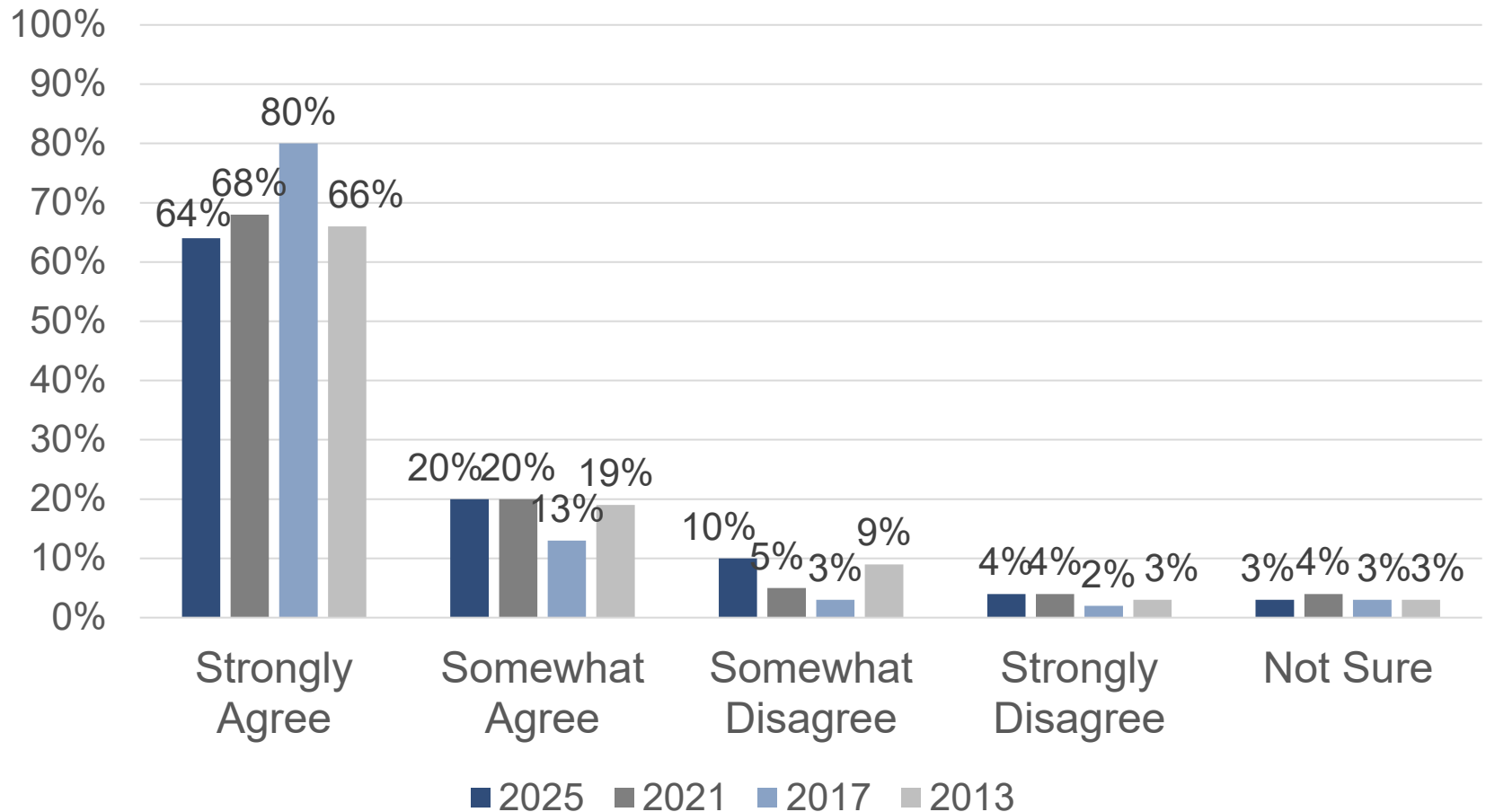


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Q: "Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity." n=1,003

Views over time: Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity

Among Protestant Pastors

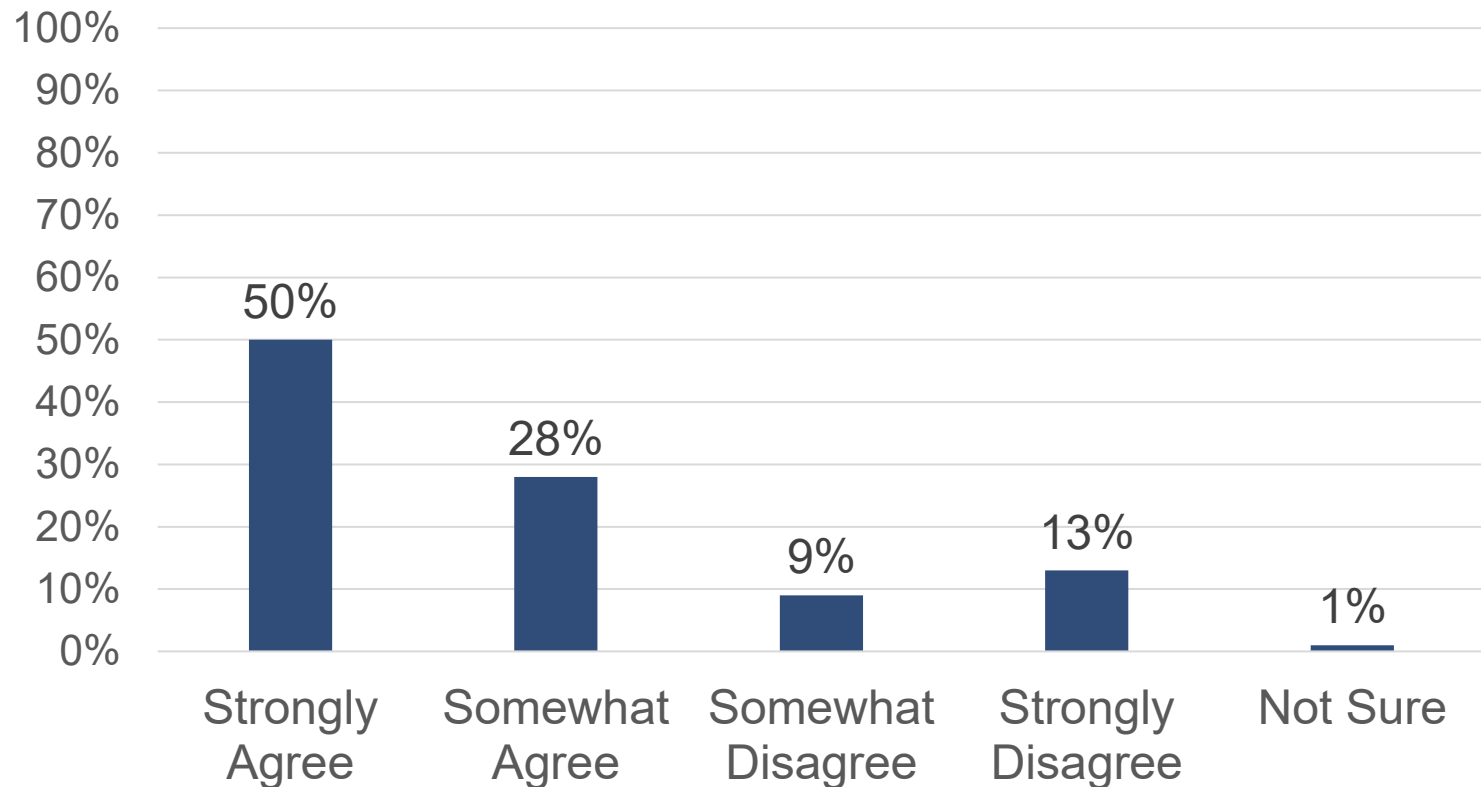


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Q: "Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity." n=1,003

77% say that their church is predominately one racial or ethnic group

Among Protestant Pastors

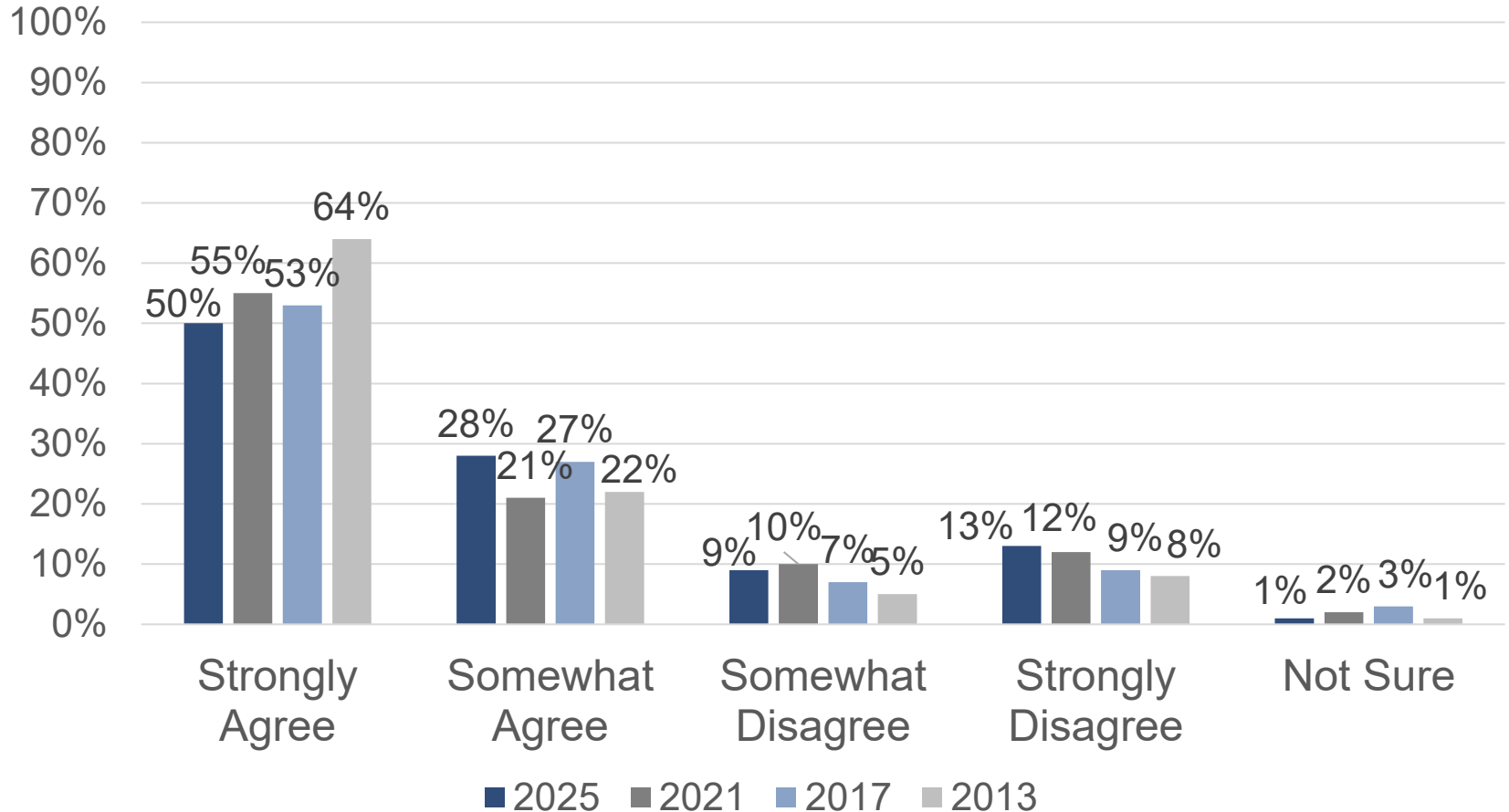


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Q: "My church is predominantly one racial or ethnic group." n=1,003

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Among Protestant Pastors

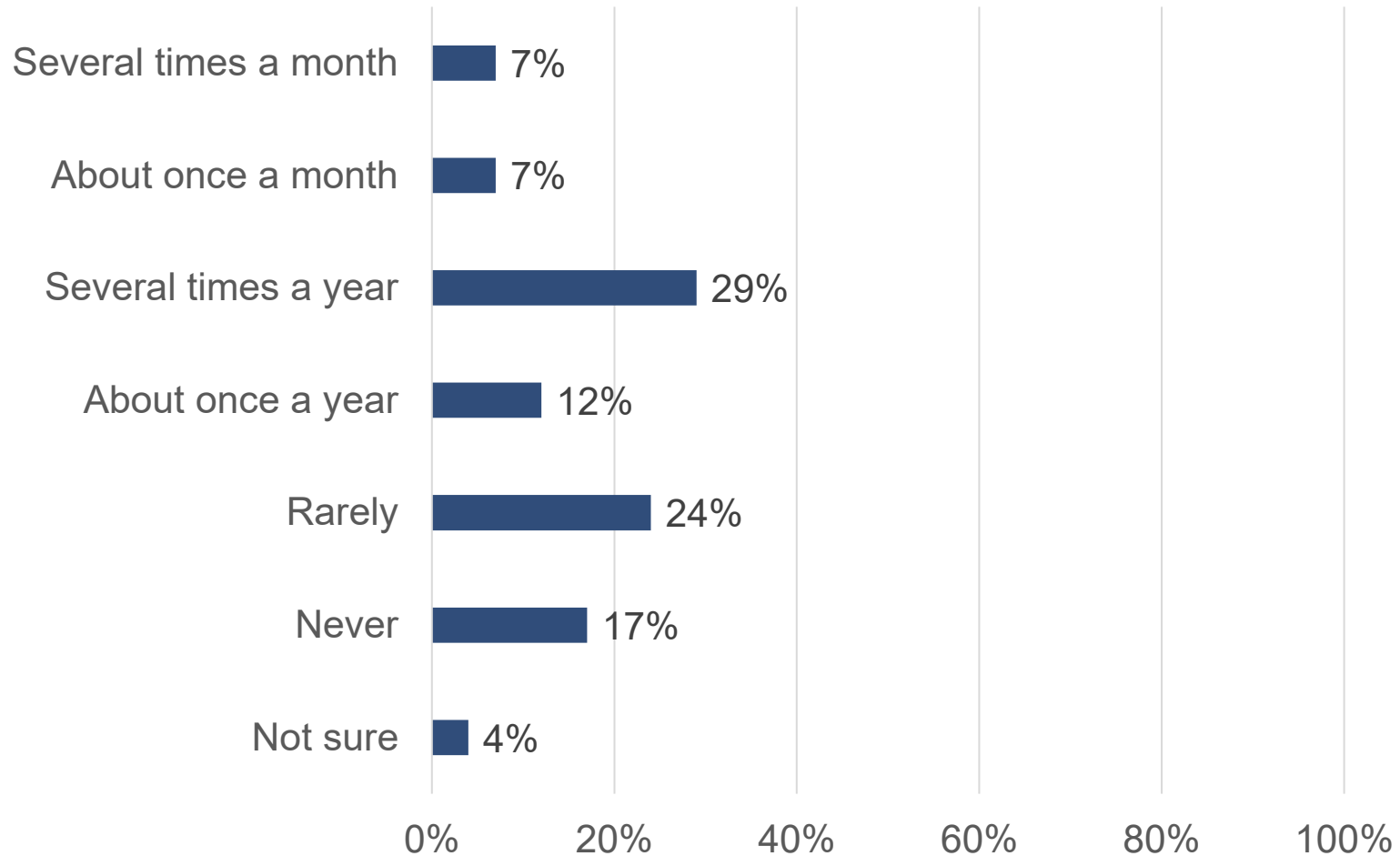


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Q: "My church is predominantly one racial or ethnic group." n=1,003

29% say they preach on racial reconciliation several times a year; 15% say they preach on it at least once a month

Among Protestant Pastors

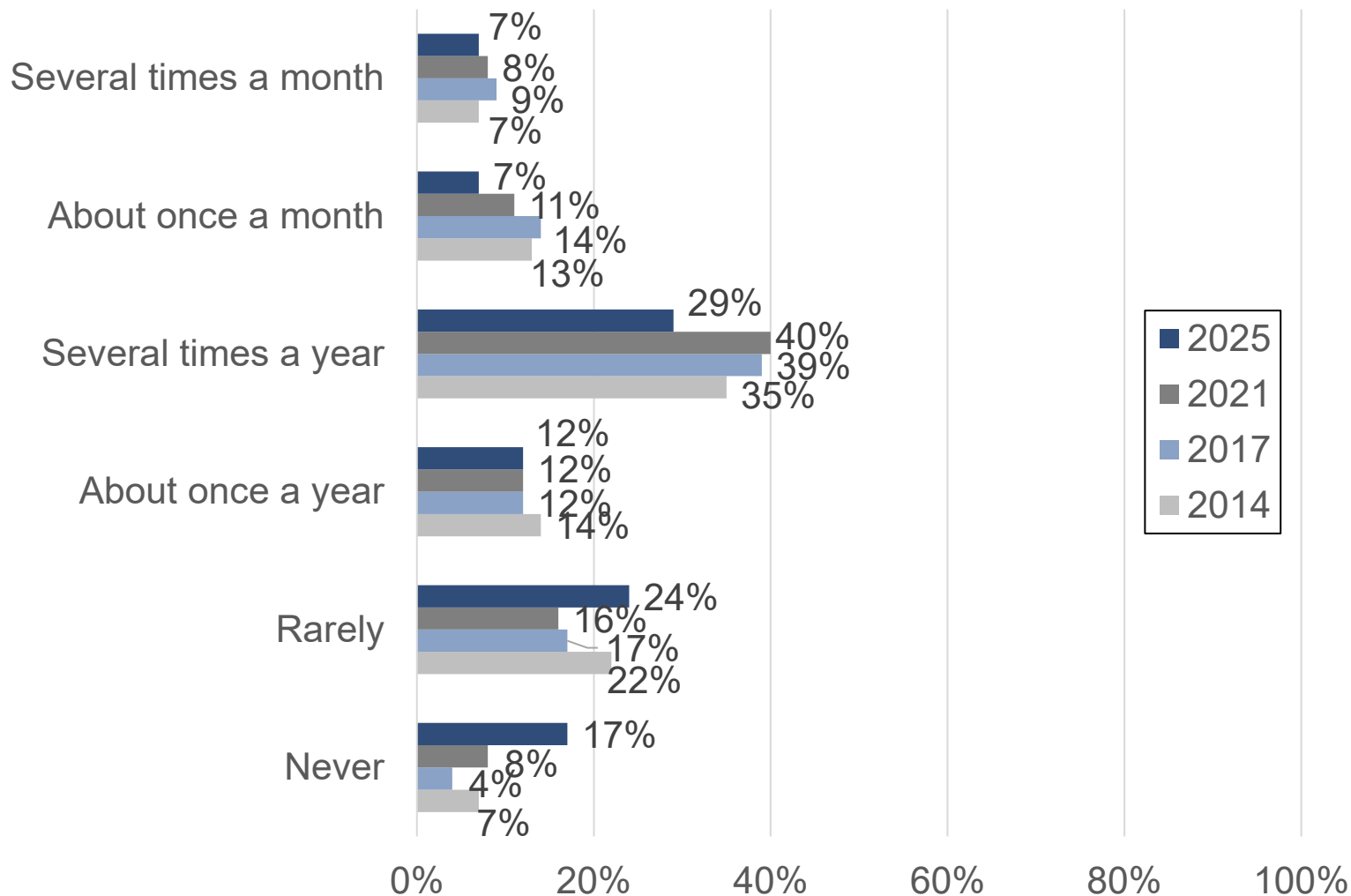


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Q: "How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about racial reconciliation? (Select One)" n=1,003

Practice over time: How often pastors preach on racial reconciliation

Among Protestant Pastors



Not sure: 4%, 4%, 4%, 2%

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Q: "How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about racial reconciliation? (Select One)" n=1,003

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Location

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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		Other Ethnicities	Graduate 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, attendance, and location.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE	LOCATION
Northeast	Baptist	0-49	Urban
South	Lutheran	50-99	Suburban
Midwest	Methodist	100-249	Rural
West	Pentecostal	250+	
	Presbyterian/Reformed		
	Holiness		
	Non-Denominational		

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity.”

- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (92% v. 80%)
- Pastors with no college degree (89%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master's Degree (83%) or a Doctoral Degree (78%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (89% v. 79%)
- Methodists (89%), Pentecostals (91%), and Holiness (91%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (77%) and Non-denominational (76%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (87%) and 250+ (88%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (80%)

“My church is predominantly one racial or ethnic group.”

- White pastors (79%) are more likely to Agree than pastors of Other Ethnicities (61%)
- Pastors with a Master's Degree (83%) or a Doctoral Degree (83%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (66%) or a Bachelor's Degree (72%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (83% v. 75%)
- Pastors in the Midwest are the most likely to Agree (86%)
- Pentecostals are the least likely to Agree (50%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (82%) and 50-99 (80%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (70%)
- Pastors at church in a rural area (85%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches in an urban area (76%)

“How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about racial reconciliation?”

- Female pastors are more likely to select “Several times a month” than males (11% v. 6%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (19%) and 55-64 (19%) are more likely to select “Never” than pastors age 65+ (11%)
- African American pastors are the most likely to select “Several times a month” (20%)
- White pastors (31%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than pastors of Other Ethnicities (19%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (33%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than those with no college degree (25%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Several times a year” than Evangelical pastors (35% v. 27%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (33%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than those in the West (23%)

“How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about racial reconciliation?” *Continued*

- Methodists (40%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than Baptists (24%), Lutherans (27%), Holiness (22%), and Non-denominational (25%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the most likely to select “Several times a year” (37%)
- Pastors at church in an urban area (9%) are more likely to select “Several times a month” than those at churches in a rural area (3%)

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