

State of Ministry to Men Leaders Report

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN EVANGELICAL AND
BLACK PROTESTANT MEN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

Lifeway Research

Methodology

- The online survey of 473 evangelical and Black Protestant men's ministry leaders was conducted May 27 - July 18, 2026
- Sample lists of men who may have men's ministry roles were developed by individual ministries (see following slide). Invitations were emailed by each ministry with a link to the online survey
- Each respondent was screened to ensure they are the men's ministry leader or co-leader at their church and that their church is an evangelical or Black Protestant church in the U.S.
- Responses were weighted by religious tradition with an additional adjustment to SBC churches to more accurately reflect the population
- An AI tool was used to sort answers to open-ended questions into categories.
- The completed sample is 473 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed ± 5.3 . This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Acknowledgements

Many thanks go to each ministry who invited leaders to complete this survey:

- Fatherhood CoMission
- Iron Sharpens Iron
- Lifeway Christian Resources
- Man in the Mirror
- National Coalition of Ministries to Men
- Noble Warriors
- Proven Ministries
- Relevant Practical Ministry for Men

We are also grateful to Mike Young who was instrumental in connecting our research team with these ministries.

Limitations

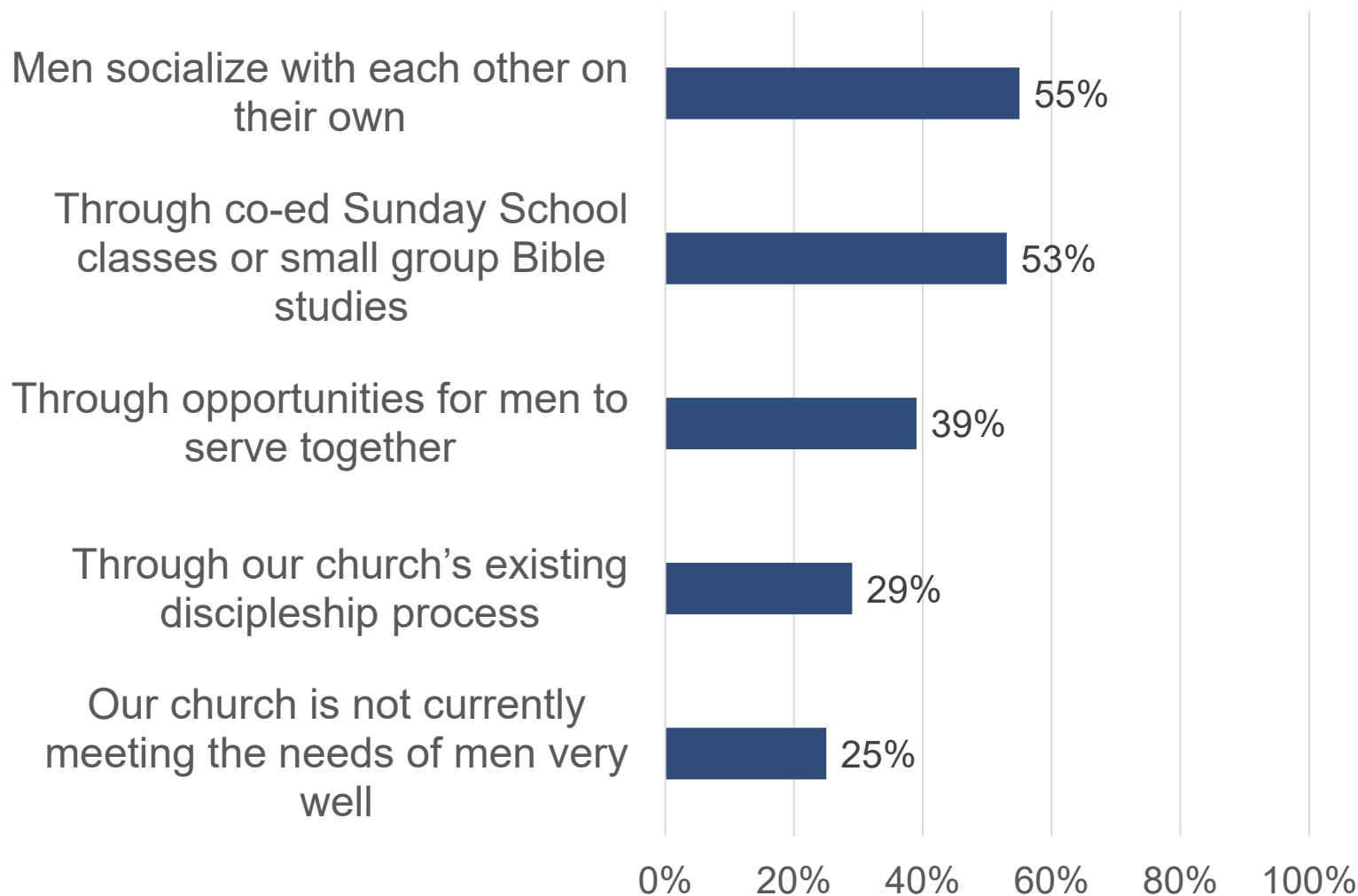
Probability samples for evangelical and Black Protestant men's ministry leaders do not exist. When representative sampling is not possible, it is important to obtain as wide a variety of respondents as possible.

This study is limited to respondents or their churches who have interacted with one of the ministries listed above. Types of churches that interact with these ministries less will be underrepresented in this study. Note that some groups are less represented because the scope of this study does not include churches that do not have men's ministry activities or a men's ministry leader.

Indications of the breadth of the sample prior to weighting include:

- Sizes of churches participating (14% <50, 30% 50-99, 30% 100-249, 26% 250+)
- Ethnicity of leader (78% White, 5% African American, 15% Hispanic, 2% Other)
- Locations of churches participating (33% rural, 32% small city, 17% suburb, 18% large city)
- Ages of men's ministry leaders (29% 18-44, 25% 45-54, 25% 55-64, 21% 65+)
- Region of churches participating (9% Northeast, 22% Midwest, 53% South, 15% West)

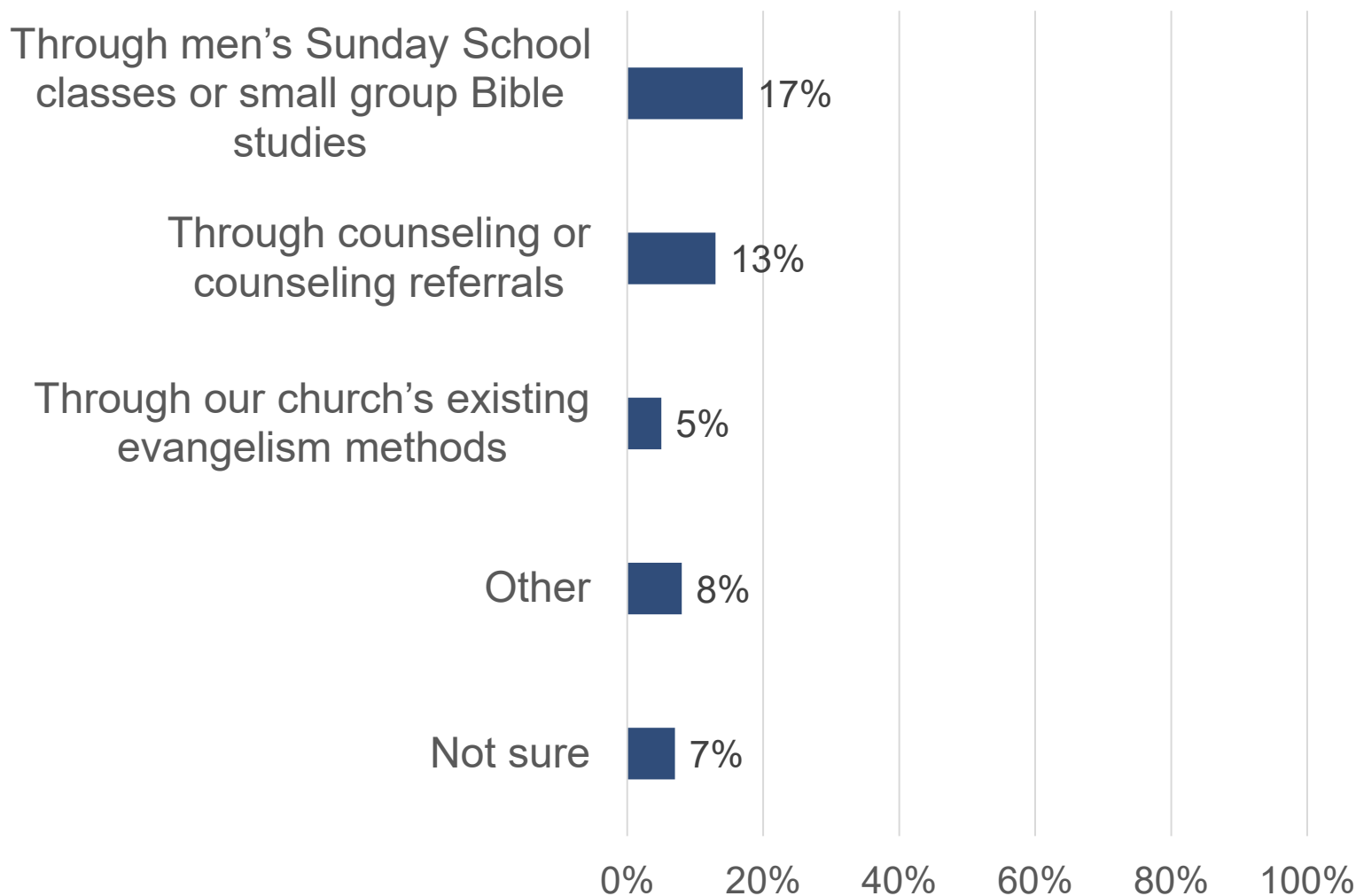
***Outside of the main sampling*, those screened out for having no activities for men were asked how their church meets the needs of men**



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Q5A: "Since your church does not offer activities specifically for men, how does your church meet the needs of men? (Select all that apply)"
n=87 unweighted responses

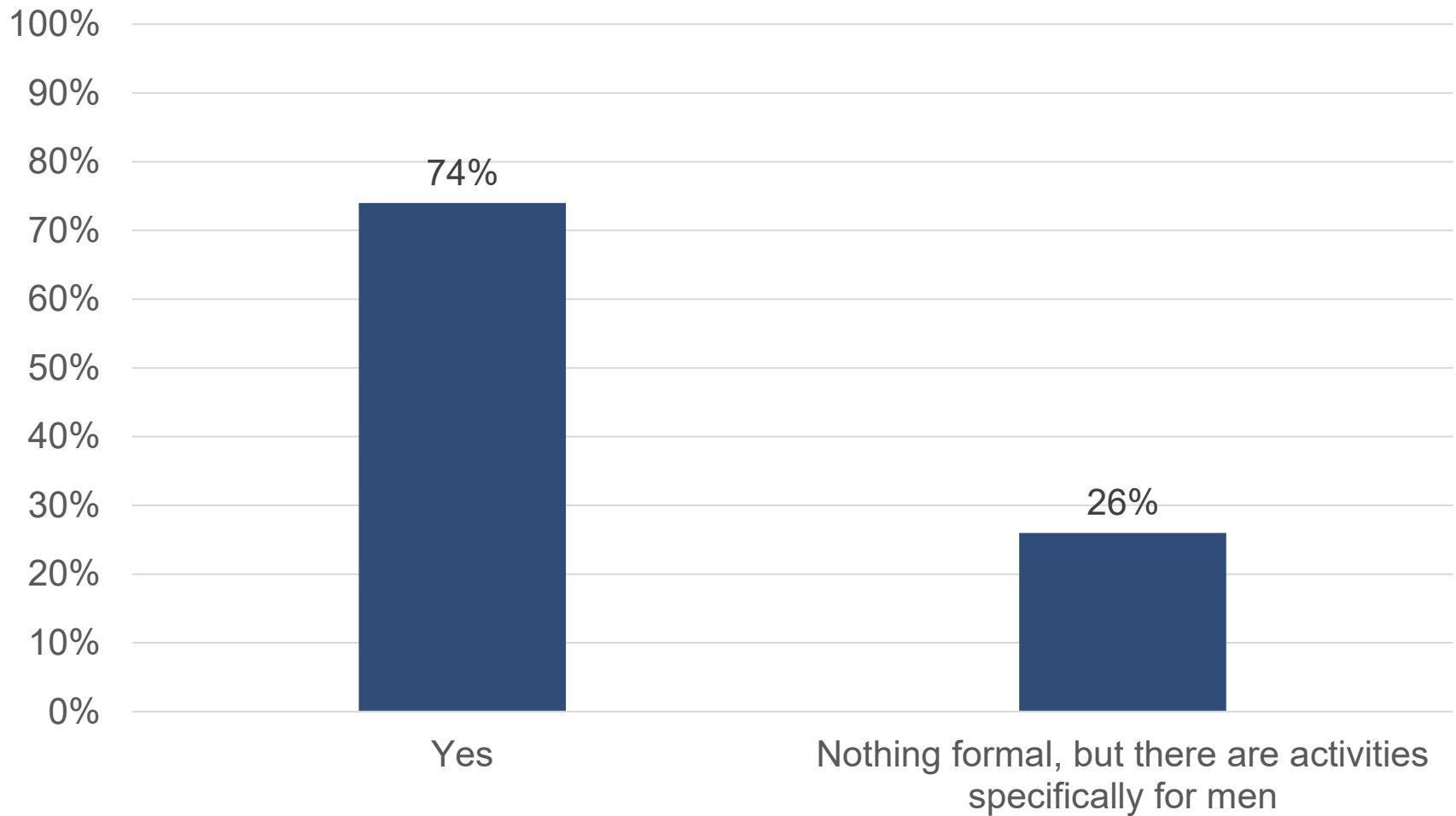
Outside of the main sampling, those screened out for having no activities for men were asked how their church meets the needs of men *continued*



Lifeway Research

Q5A: "Since your church does not offer activities specifically for men, how does your church meet the needs of men? (Select all that apply)"
n=87 unweighted responses

74% of churches with activities specifically for men have an organized men's ministry

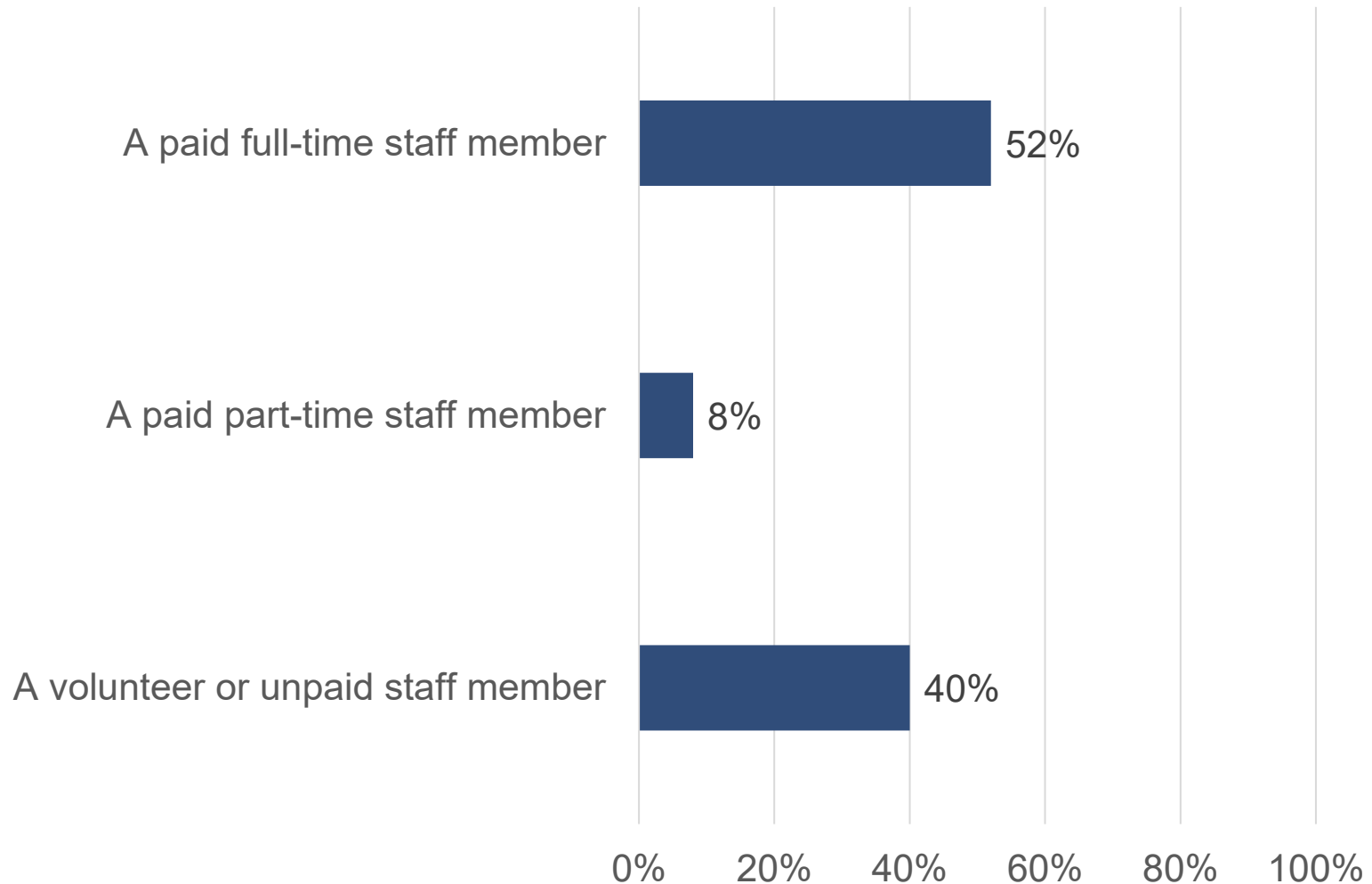


Note: Those with no activities specifically for men were excluded from this study

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Q5: "Does your church currently have an organized men's ministry of some kind? (Select one)" n=473

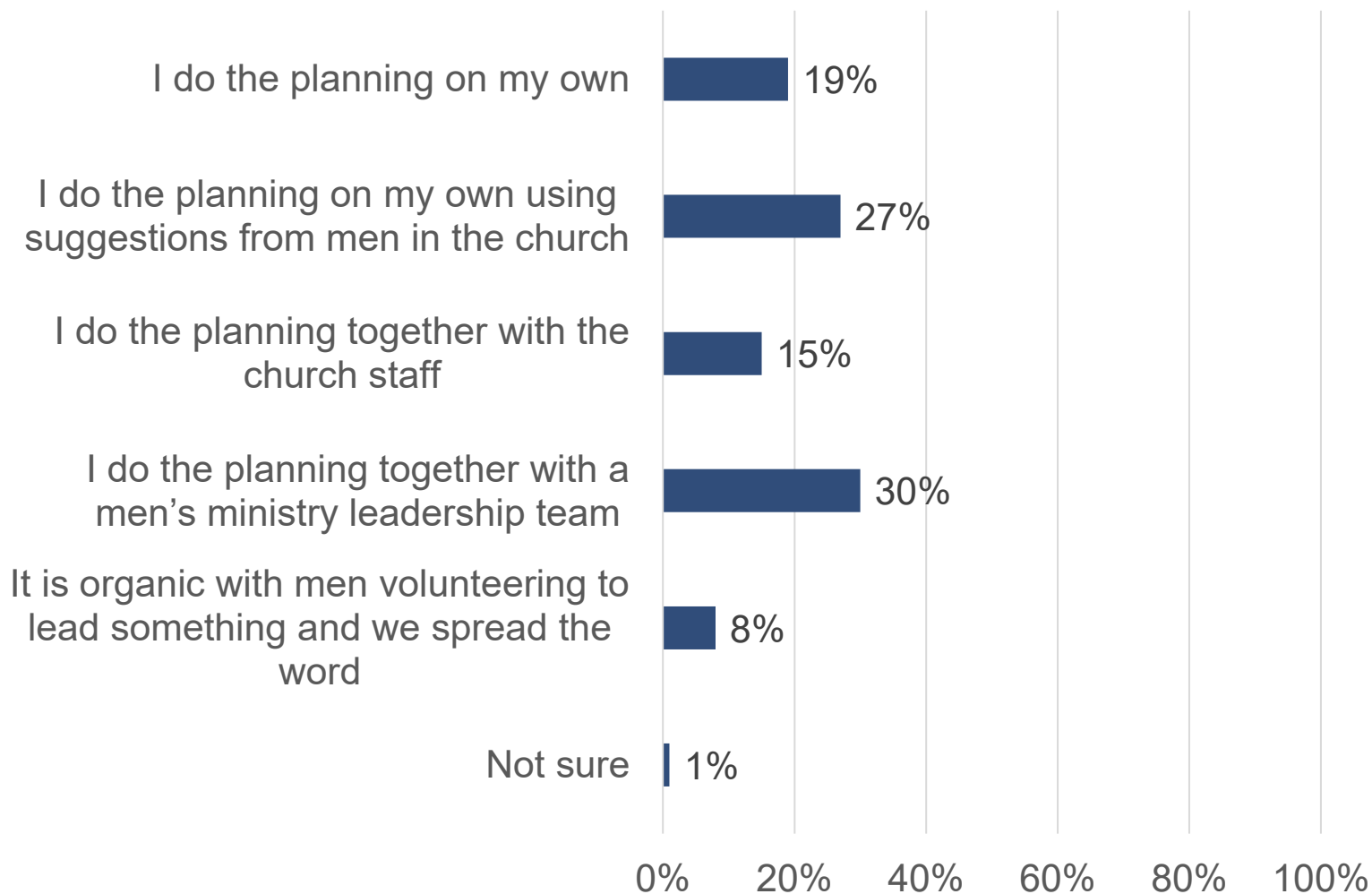
6 in 10 men's ministry leaders are in a paid staff position



Lifeway Research

Q7: "Which of the following best describes your role as the leader of your church's men's ministry? I am... (Select one)" n=473

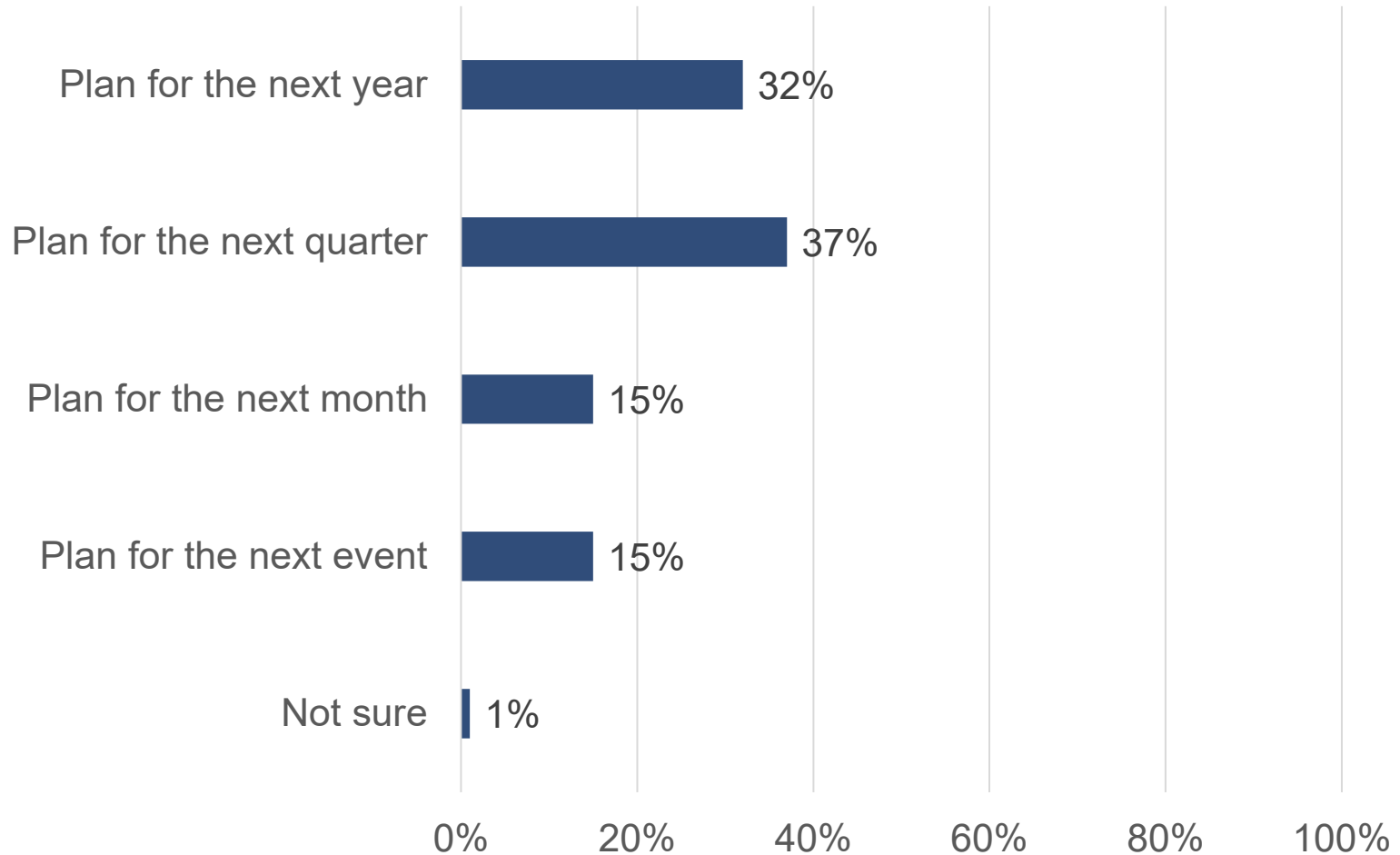
30% set plans with a men's ministry leadership team; 19% set the plans on their own



Lifeway Research

Q17: "Which of the following best describes who is responsible for setting plans for your men's ministry? (Select one)" n=473

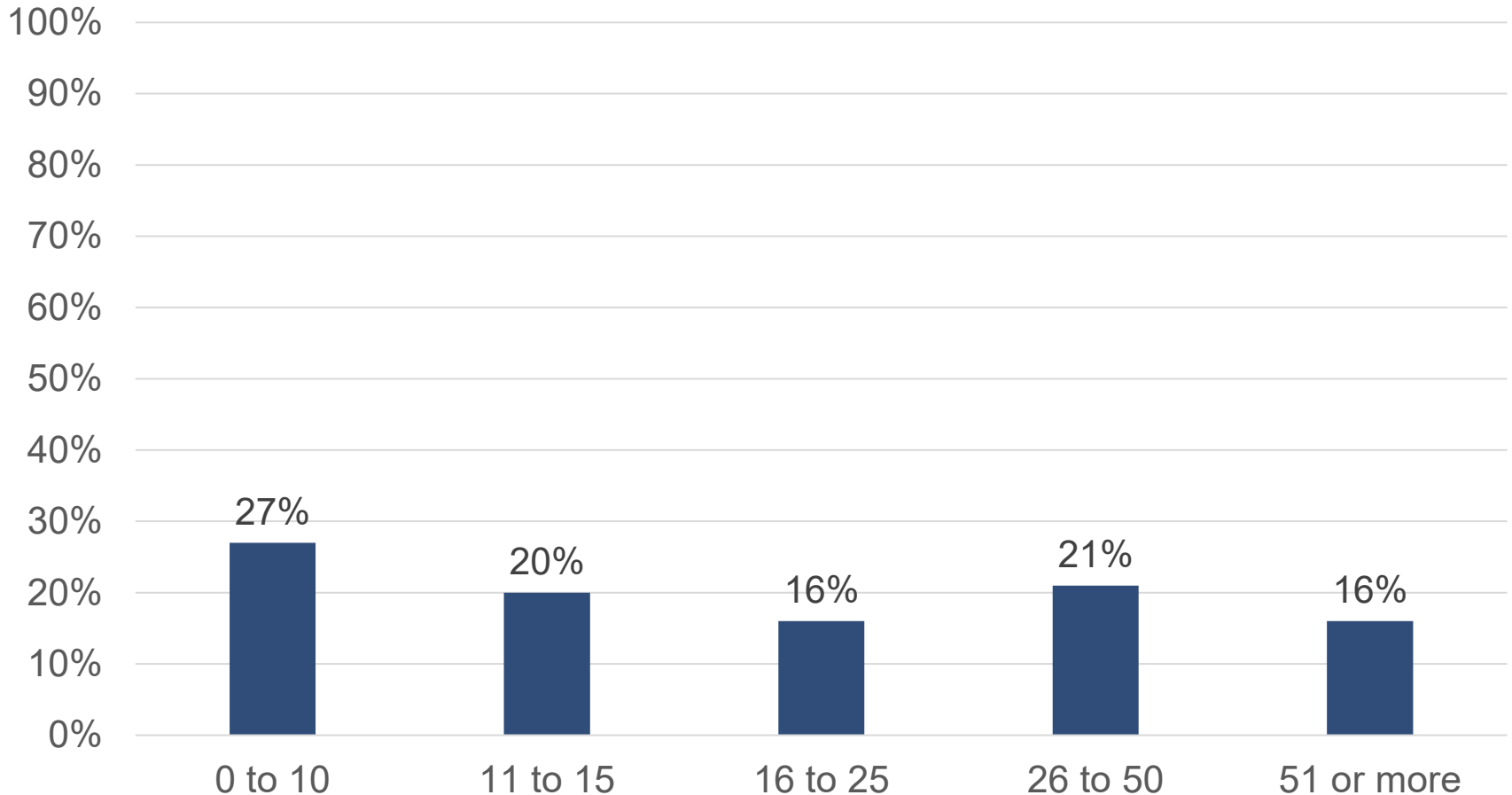
69% plan their men's ministry for at least the next quarter



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Q18: "How far out do you typically plan for your men's ministry? (Select One)" n=473

47% have 15 or less men who participate in men's ministry and are a regular part of their church



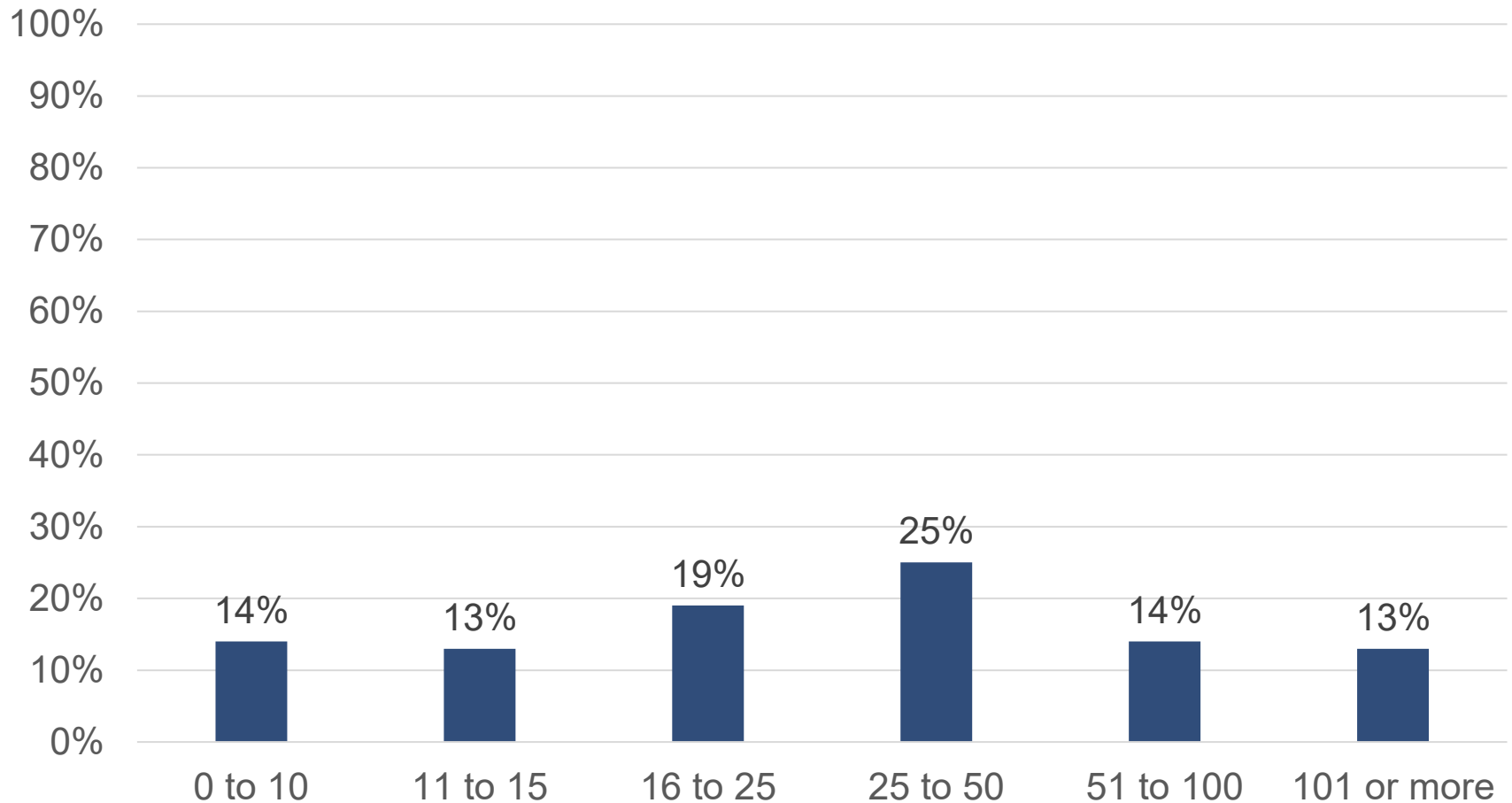
Mean: 38

Median: 20

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Q19: "About how many men participate at any level in your men's ministry who are a regular part of your church?" n=473

72% say the largest attendance at a men's event this last year was 50 or less



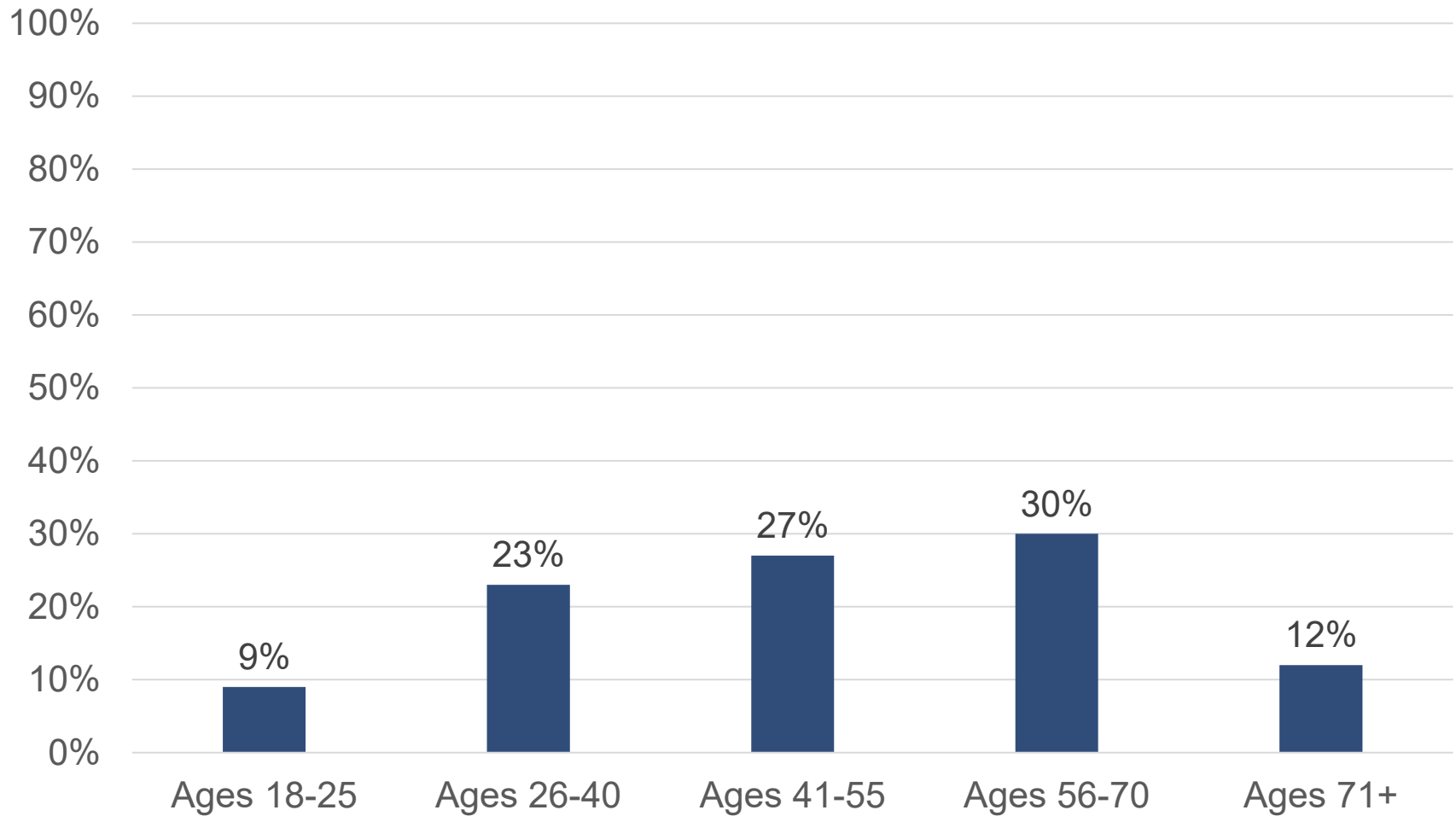
Mean: 61

Median: 30

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Q20: "What was the attendance at your largest men's ministry event this last year?" n=473

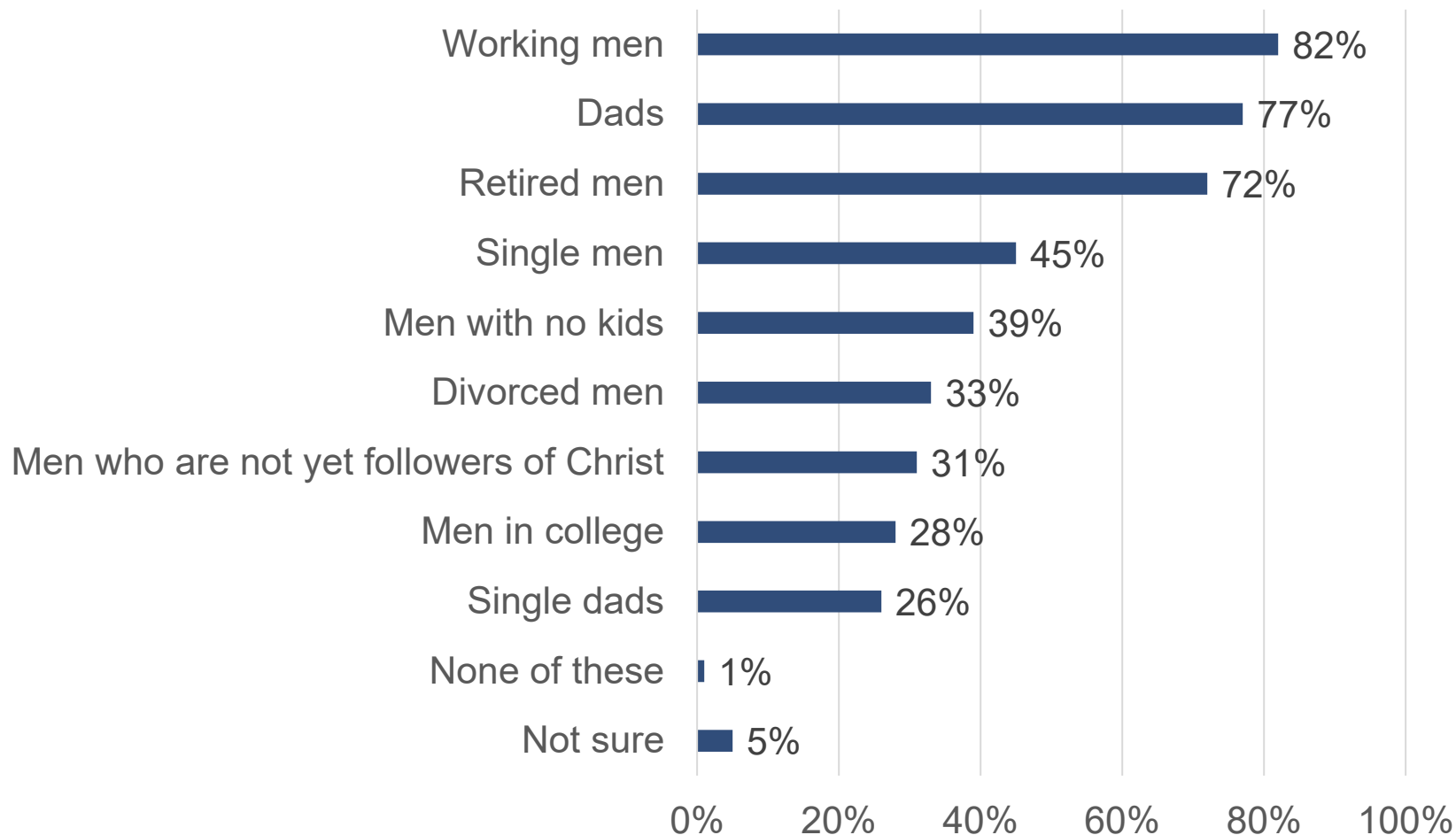
Average percentage of men participating in men's ministry in each age group. 57% are between the ages of 41 and 70



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Q21: "Please estimate the percentage of the men who participate in your men's ministry by age groups." n=473

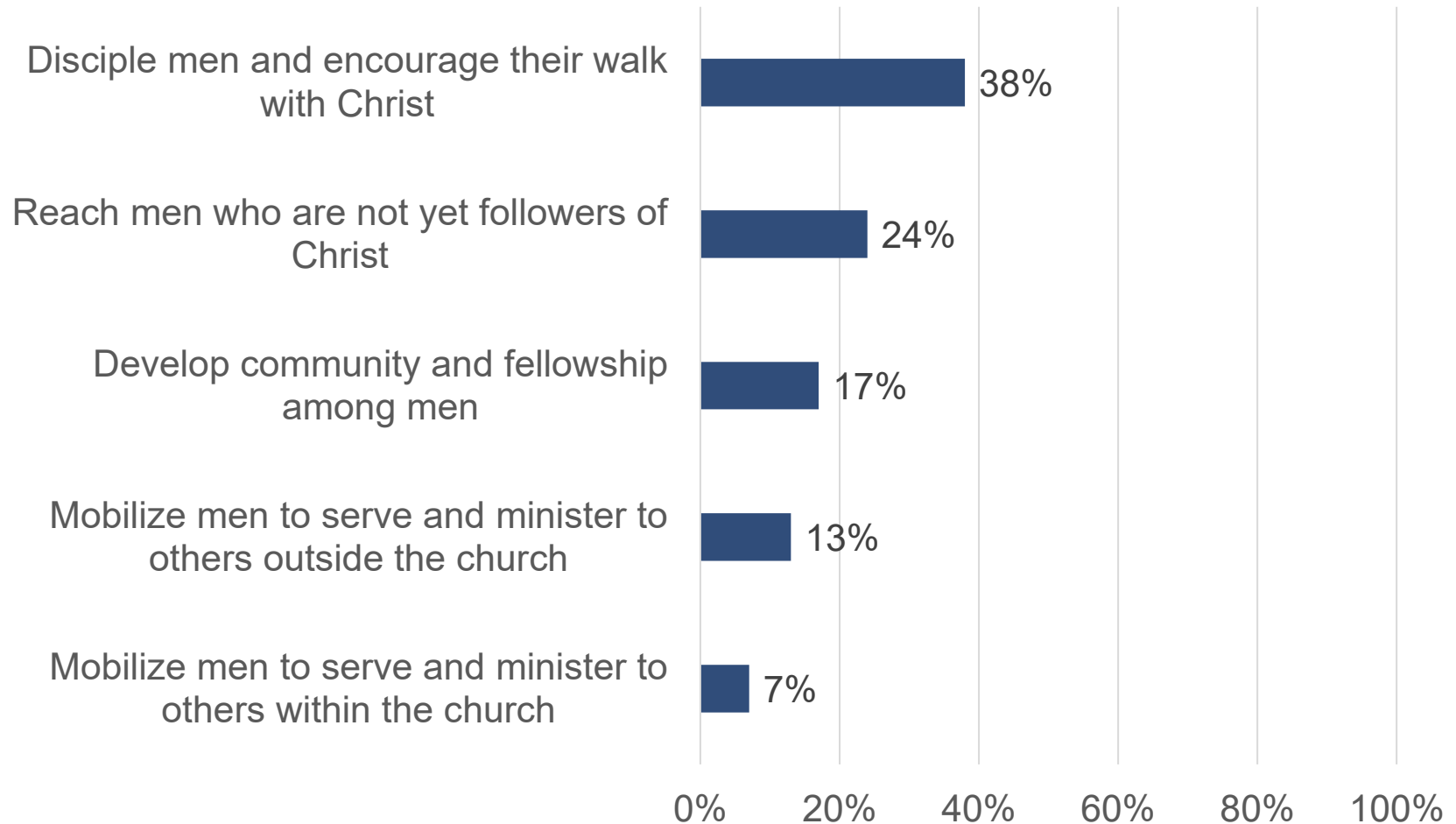
“For which of the following types of men do you believe your church’s men’s ministry is **well designed to meet their needs**?”



Lifeway Research

Q22: “For which of the following types of men do you believe your church’s men’s ministry is **well designed to meet their needs**? Please only select those where your belief is confirmed by men in that group regularly participating. (Select ALL that apply)” n=473

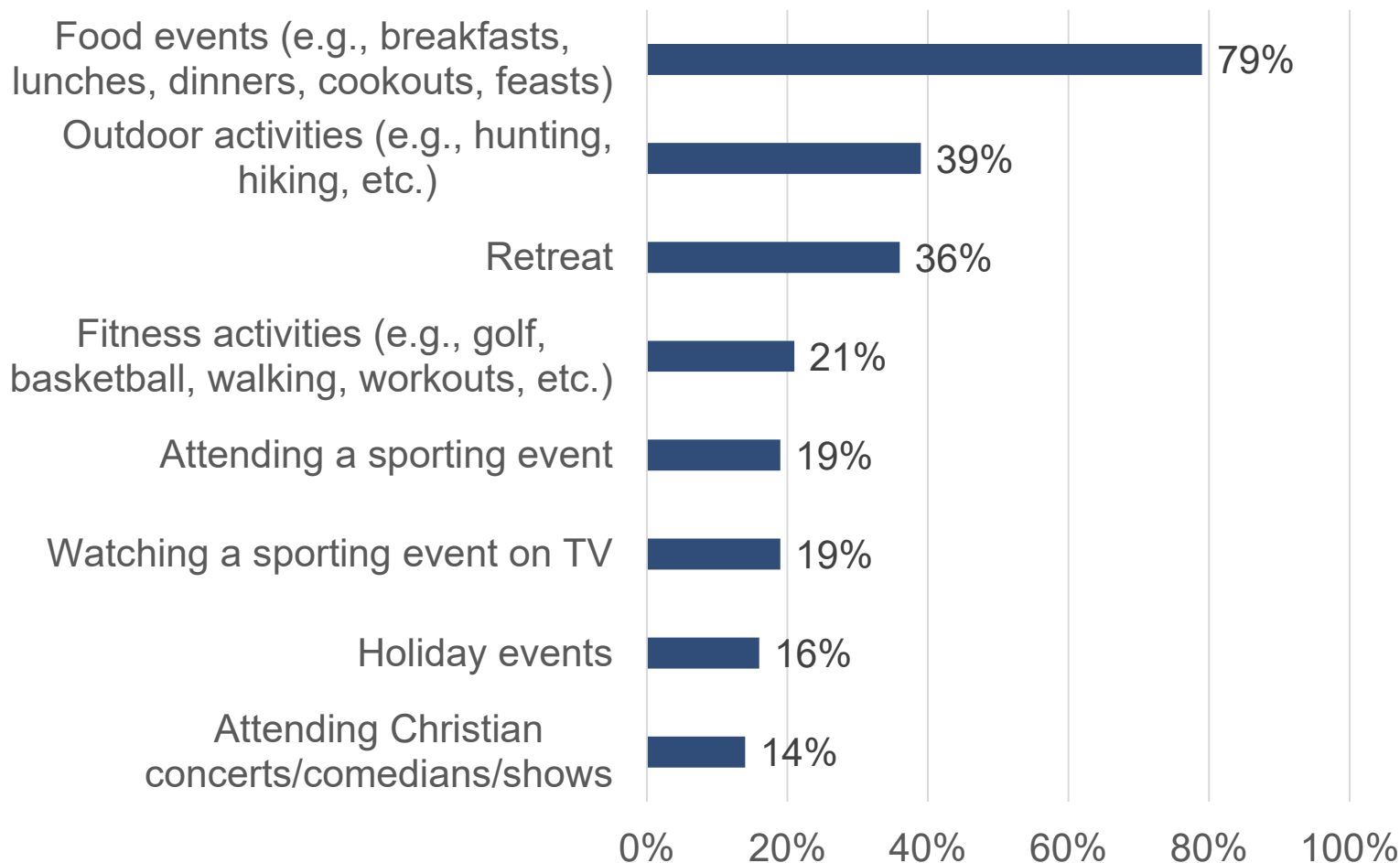
Highest ranked priority for men's ministry is to disciple men and encourage their walk with Christ



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Q23: "Describe the priorities of your men's ministry by **ranking** the following goals in priority order (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest)." n=473

“Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year to **develop community and fellowship** among new and existing men in your church?”

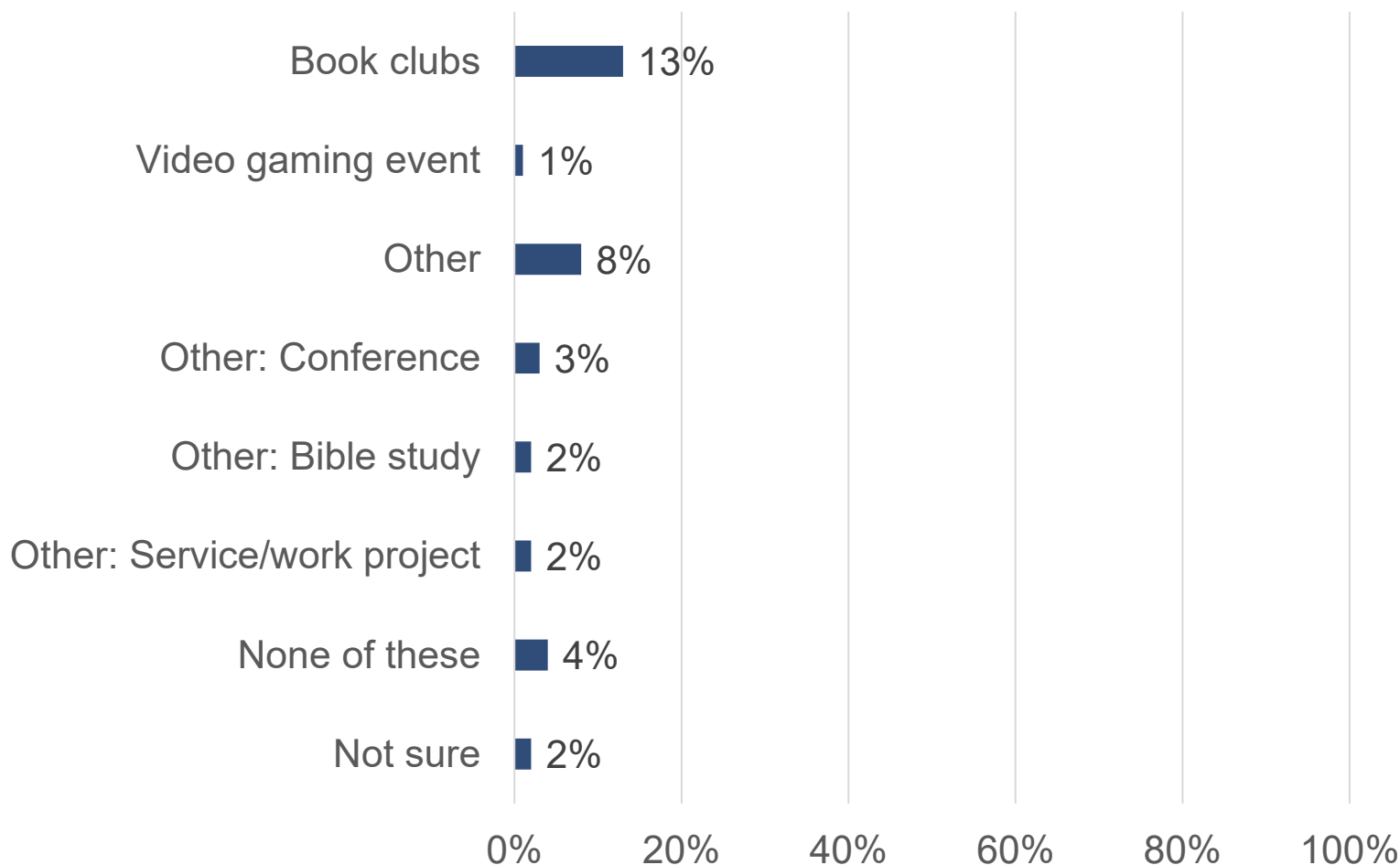


Lifeway Research

Q24: “Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year to **develop community and fellowship** among new and existing men in your church? (Select all that apply)” n=473

“Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year to **develop community and fellowship among new and existing men in your church?”**

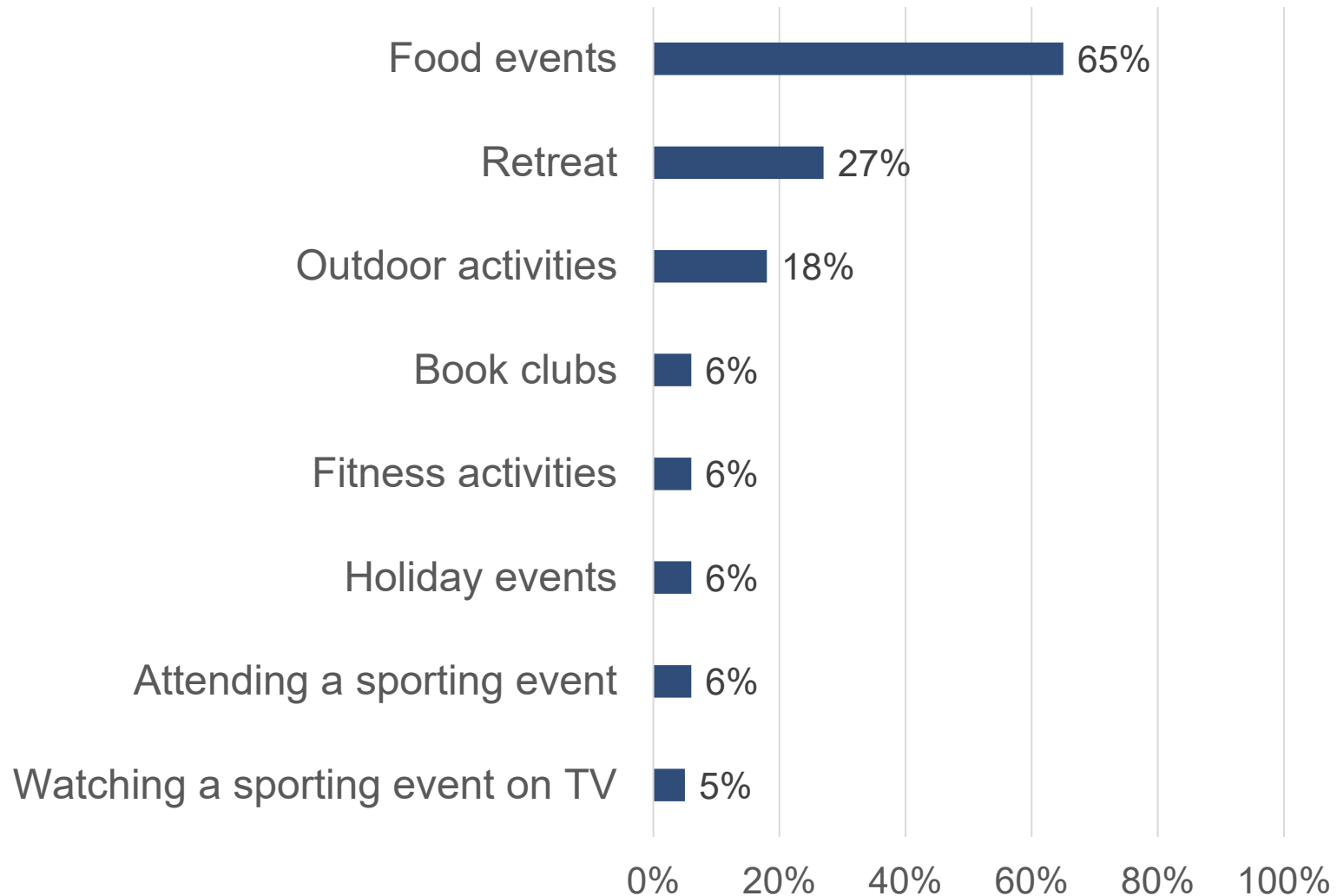
continued



Lifeway Research

Q24: “Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year to **develop community and fellowship** among new and existing men in your church? (Select all that apply)” n=473

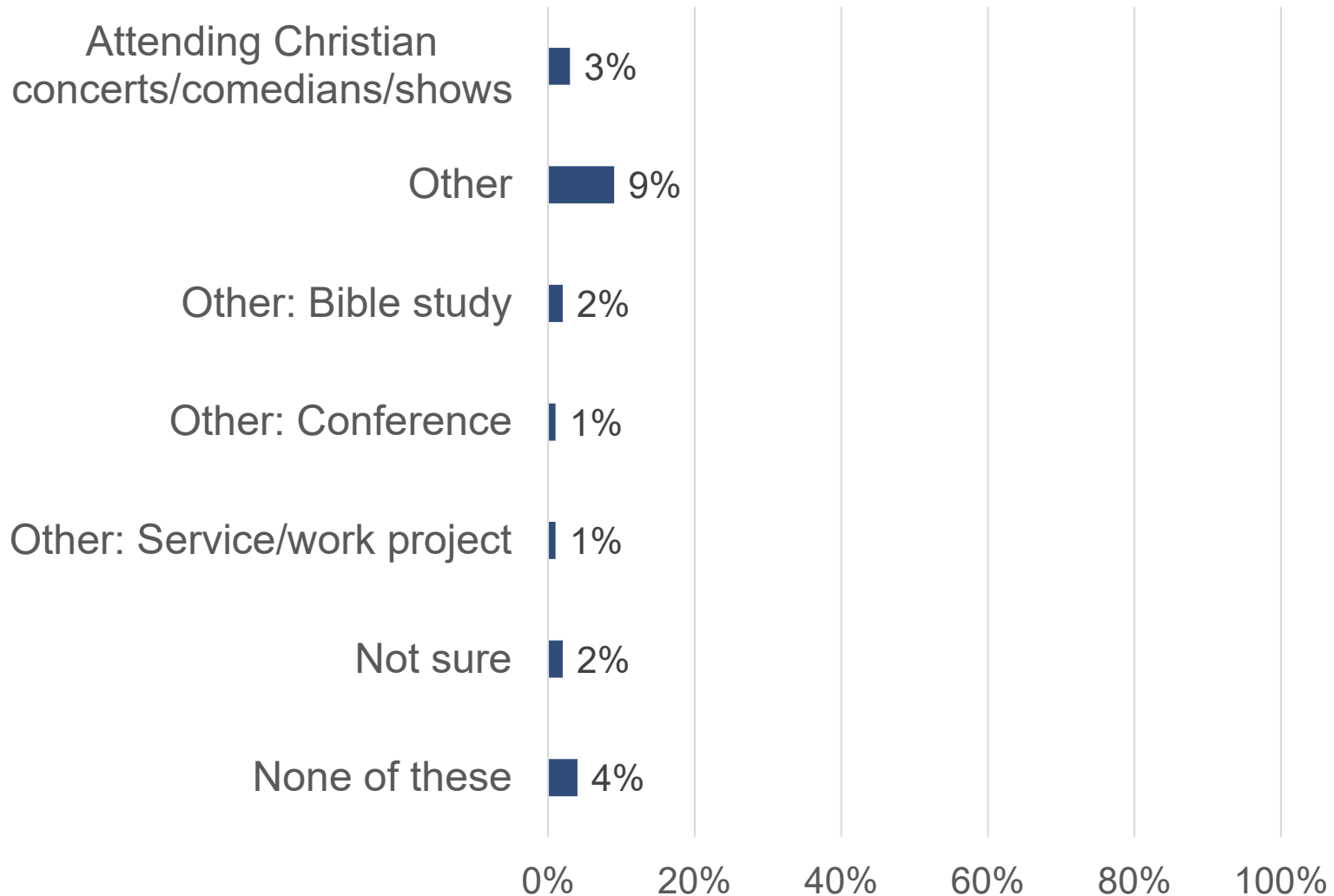
“Which two of these have been most effective in developing community among men in your church?”



Lifeway Research

Q25: “Which two of these have been most effective in developing community among men in your church? (Select two)” n=473

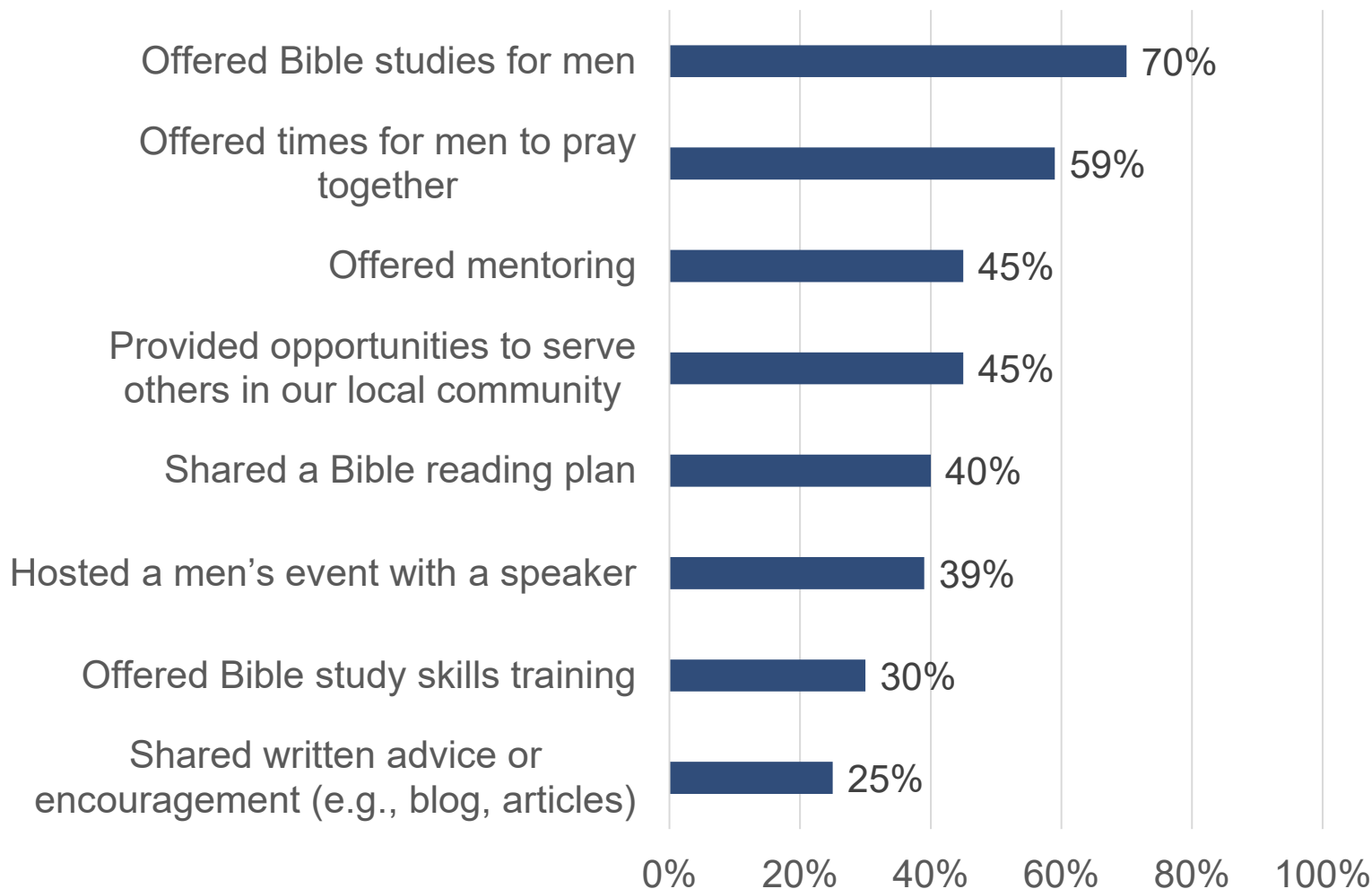
“Which two of these have been most effective in developing community among men in your church?” *continued*



Lifeway Research

Q25: “Which two of these have been most effective in developing community among men in your church? (Select two)” n=473

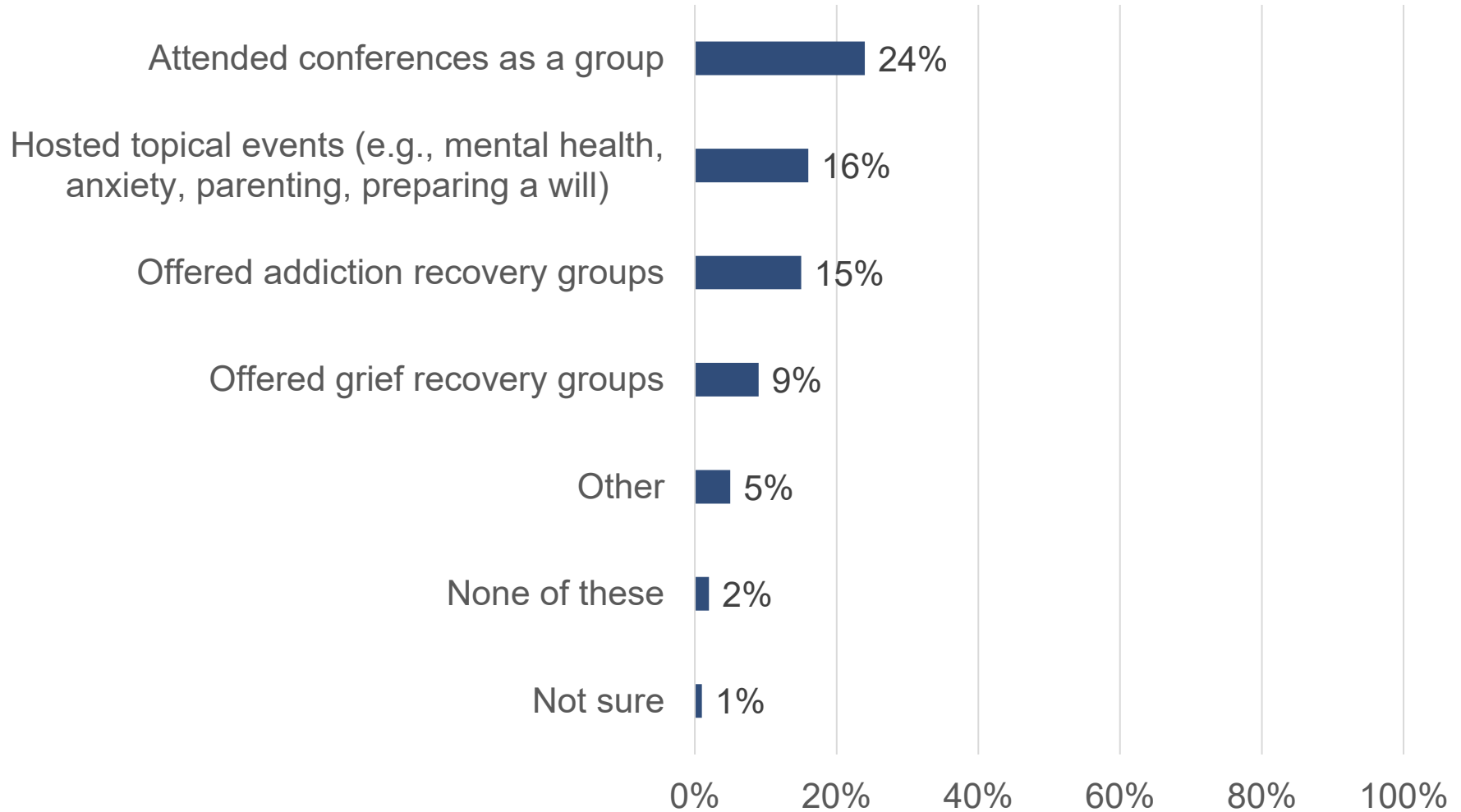
“Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year **to disciple men and encourage their walk with Christ?**”



Lifeway Research

Q26: “Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year **to disciple men and encourage their walk with Christ?** (Select all that apply)” n=473

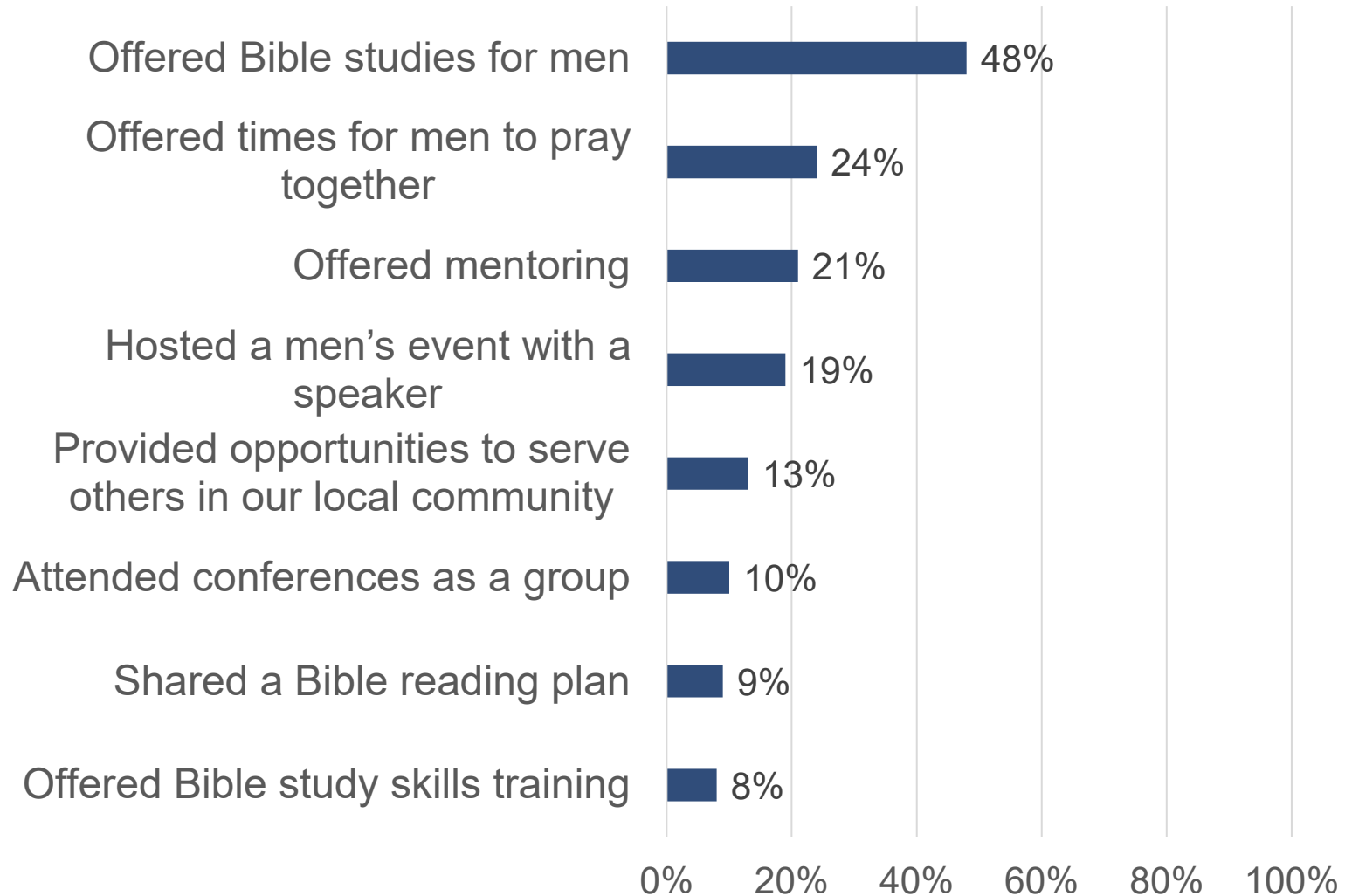
“Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year **to disciple men and encourage their walk with Christ?**” *continued*



Lifeway Research

Q26: “Which, if any, of the following events has your men’s ministry conducted in the last year **to disciple men and encourage their walk with Christ?** (Select all that apply)” n=473

“Which two of these have been most effective at encouraging men on their faith journey with Christ?”

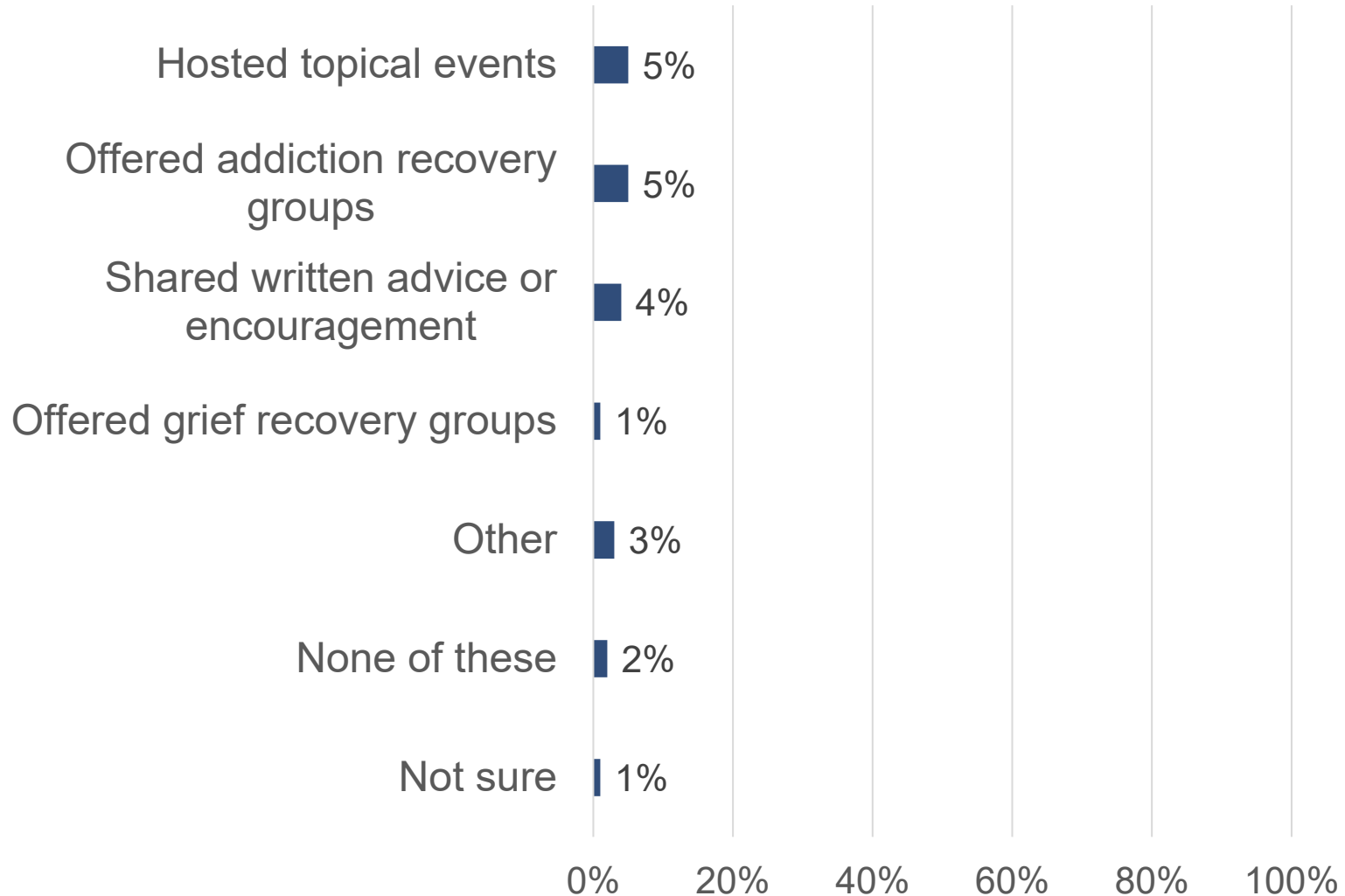


Lifeway Research

Q27: “Which two of these have been most effective at encouraging men on their faith journey with Christ? (Select two)” n=473

“Which two of these have been most effective at encouraging men on their faith journey with Christ?”

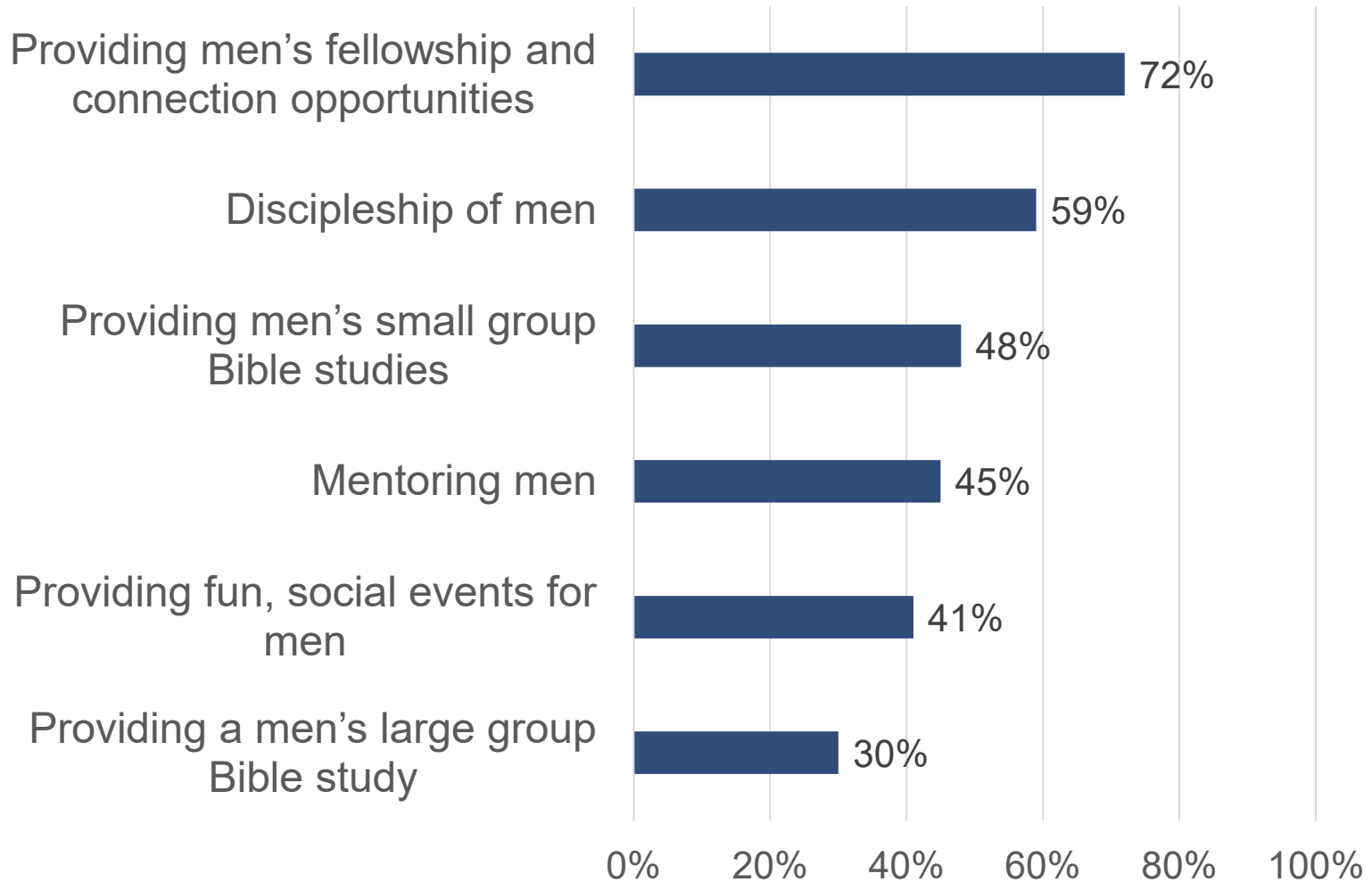
continued



Lifeway Research

Q27: “Which two of these have been most effective at encouraging men on their faith journey with Christ? (Select two)” n=473

“Which of the following does the men’s ministry at your church take primary responsibility for leading?”

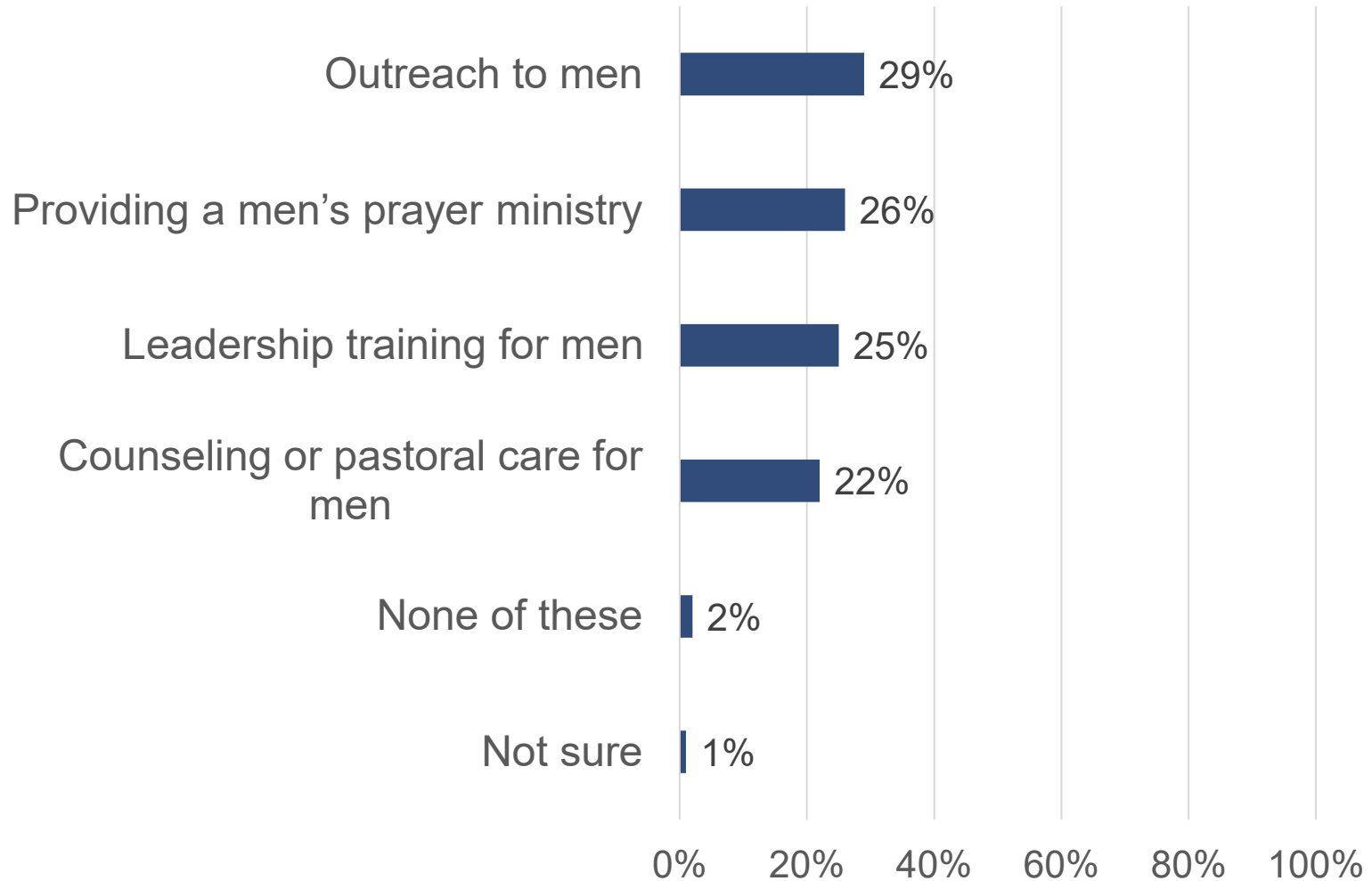


Lifeway Research

Q28: “Which of the following does the men’s ministry at your church take primary responsibility for leading? (Select all that apply)” n=473

“Which of the following does the men’s ministry at your church take primary responsibility for leading?”

continued



Lifeway Research

Q28: “Which of the following does the men’s ministry at your church take primary responsibility for leading? (Select all that apply)” n=473

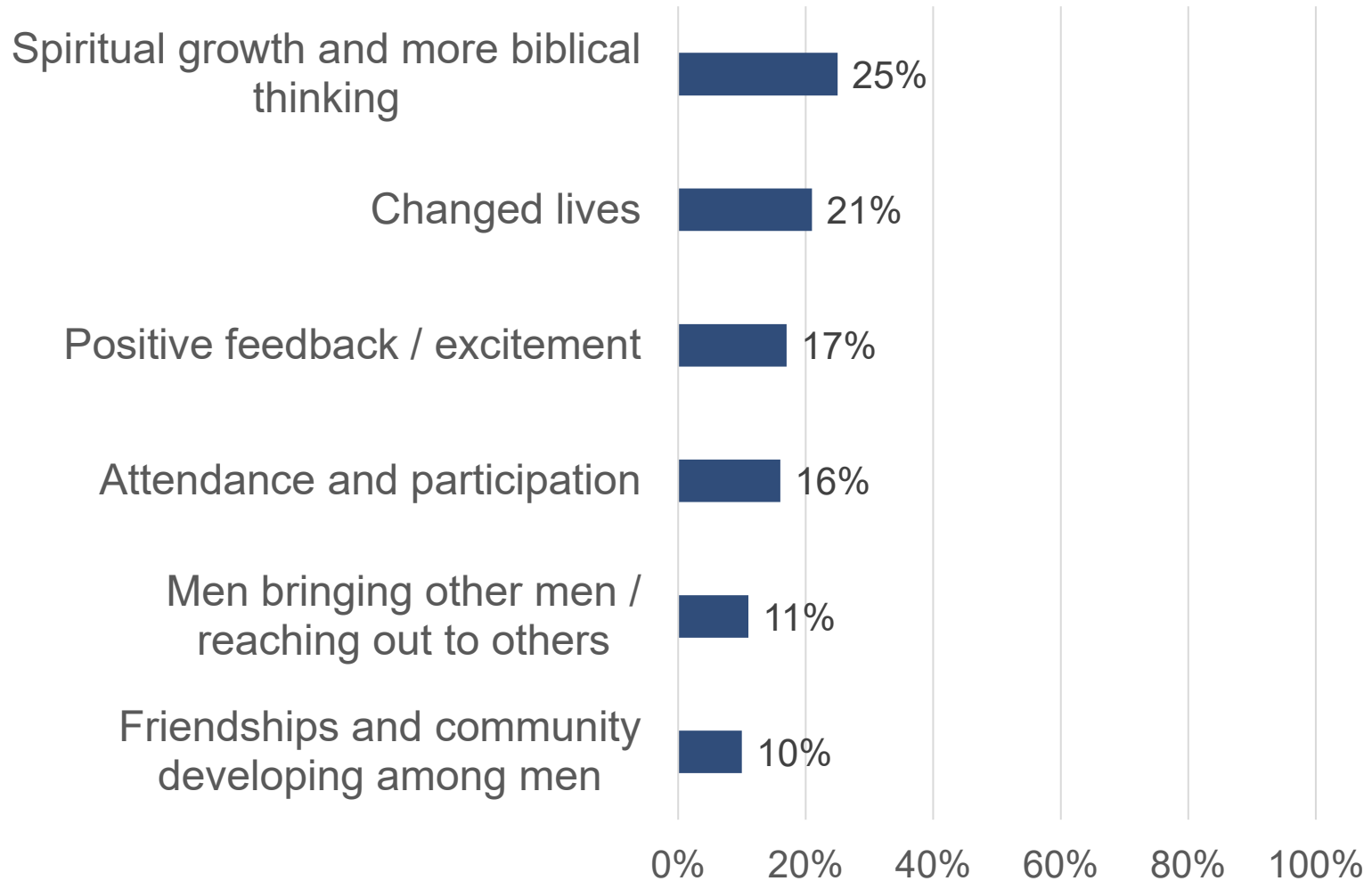
“What is the most common spiritual need among the men in your men’s ministry that you need to address?”

Discipleship / Spiritual growth	22%
Family leadership	13%
Community / Relationships	8%
Commitment / Obedience	7%
Bible literacy / Applying scripture	7%
Leadership development	4%
Loneliness / Isolation	3%
Identity in Christ / Purpose	3%
Prayer	3%
Serving / Volunteering	3%
Doctrine / Understanding the gospel	2%
Addiction / Immorality	2%
Spiritual disciplines	2%
Fellowship	2%

“What is the most common spiritual need among the men in your men’s ministry that you need to address?” *continued*

Apathy	2%
Mentoring	2%
Balancing life / Pressure	2%
Mental health	2%
Faith in everyday life	2%
Accountability	1%
Evangelism / Sharing their faith	1%
Willingness to open up / Vulnerability	1%
Encouragement	1%
Discouragement	1%
Pride	1%
Burnout	<1%
Don’t know / Not sure	2%

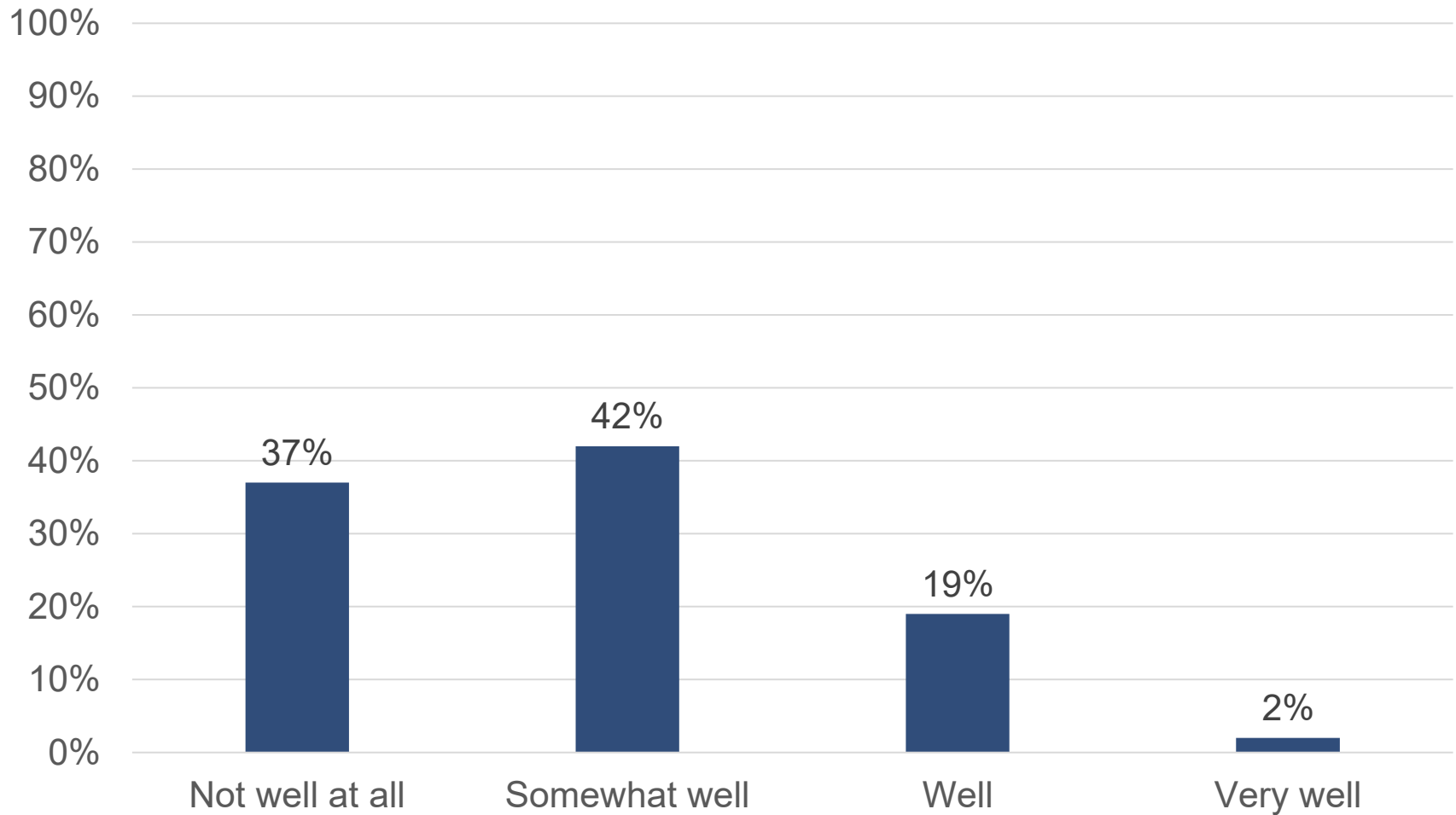
The highest ranked measure of the effectiveness of men's ministry efforts is spiritual growth and more biblical thinking, but 75% have a different priority



Lifeway Research

Q30: "Indicate which of the following you personally use to measure the effectiveness of your men's ministry efforts by **ranking** the following outcomes in priority order. (1 being the highest and 6 being the lowest)." n=473

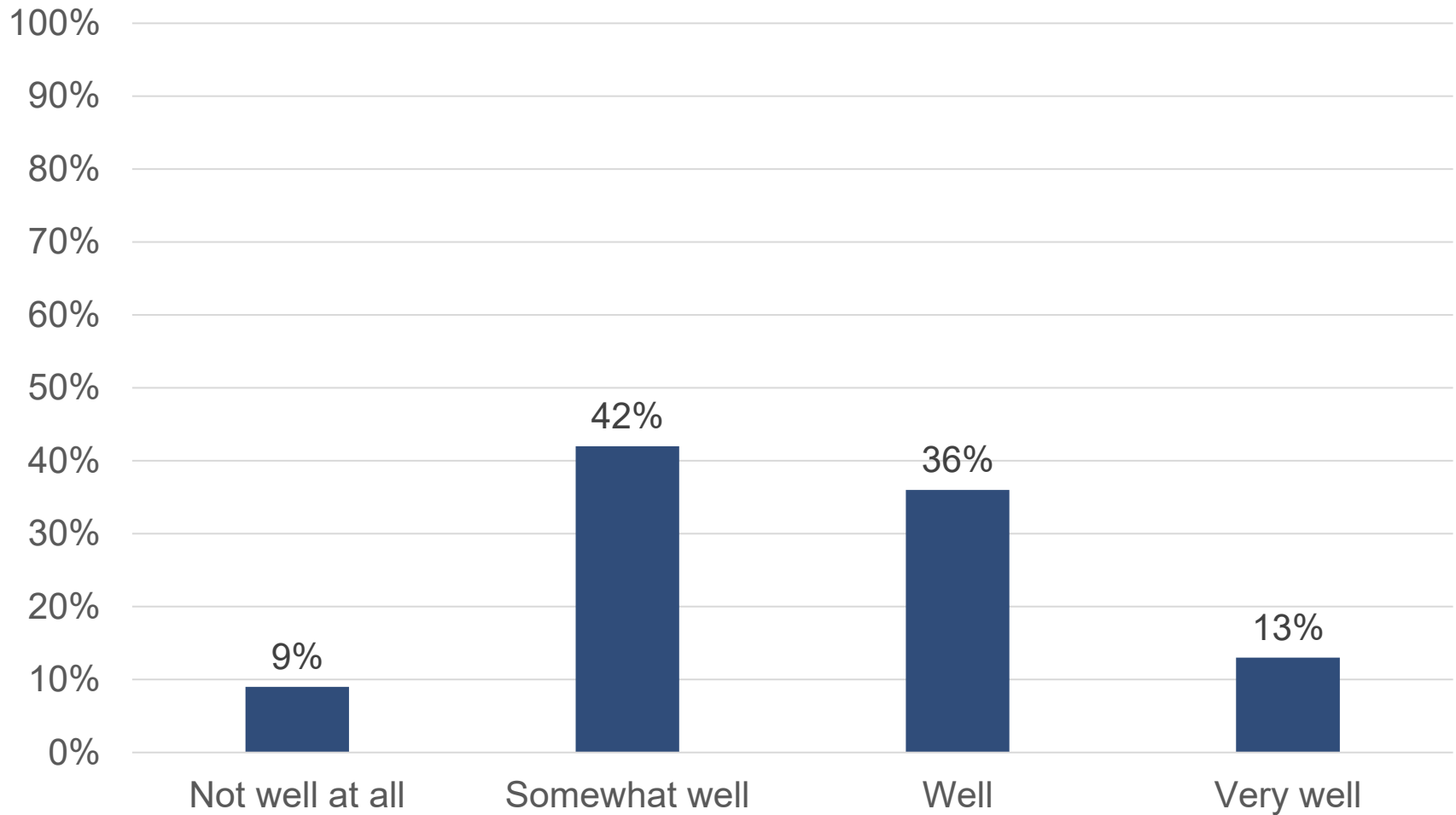
Your men's ministry's current impact: **Draws men from outside our church into Christian community**



Lifeway Research

Q31_1: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Draws men from outside our church into Christian community** " n=473

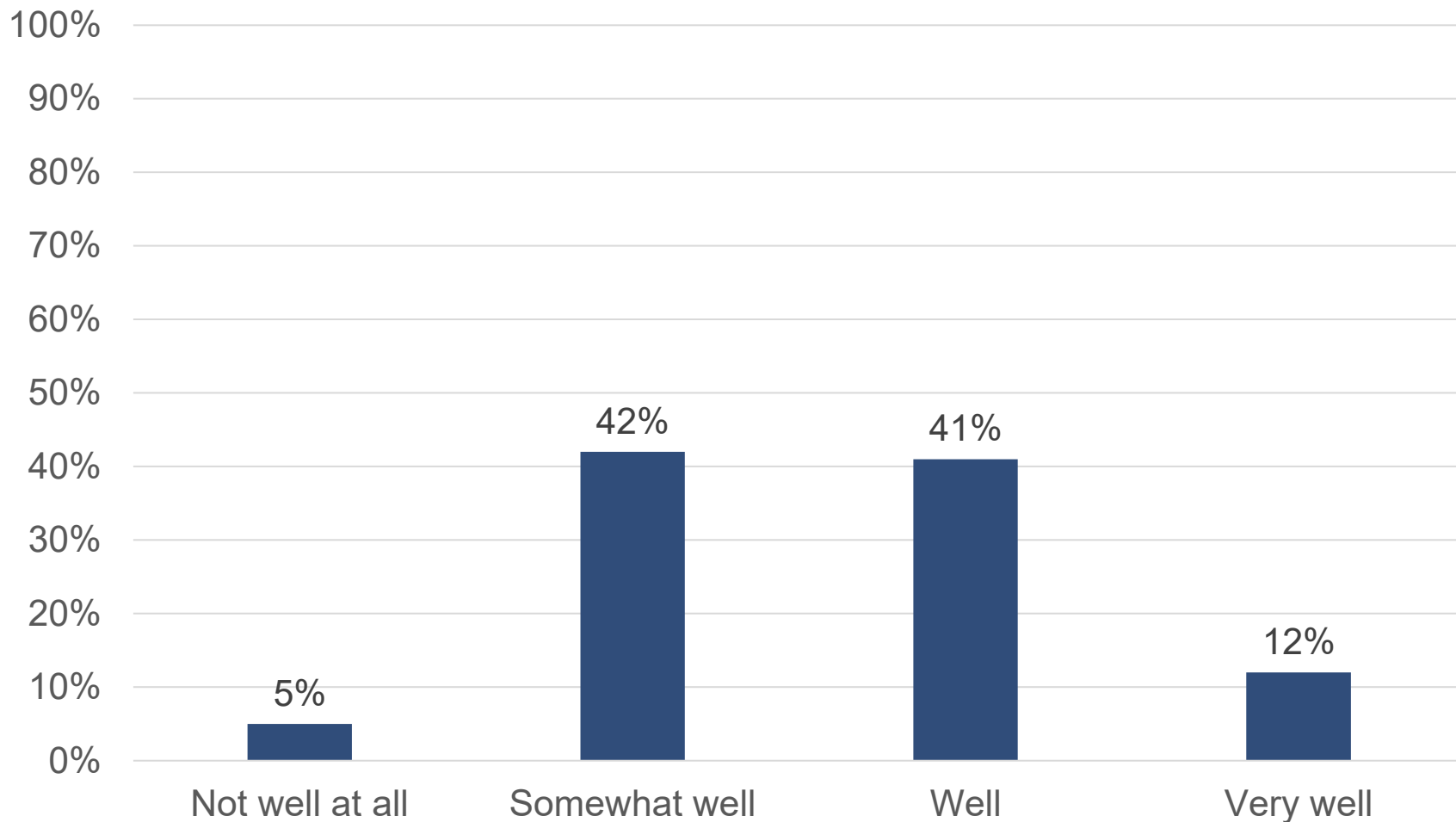
Your men's ministry's current impact: **Connects existing men in our church into community**



Lifeway Research

Q31_2: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Connects existing men in our church into community** " n=473

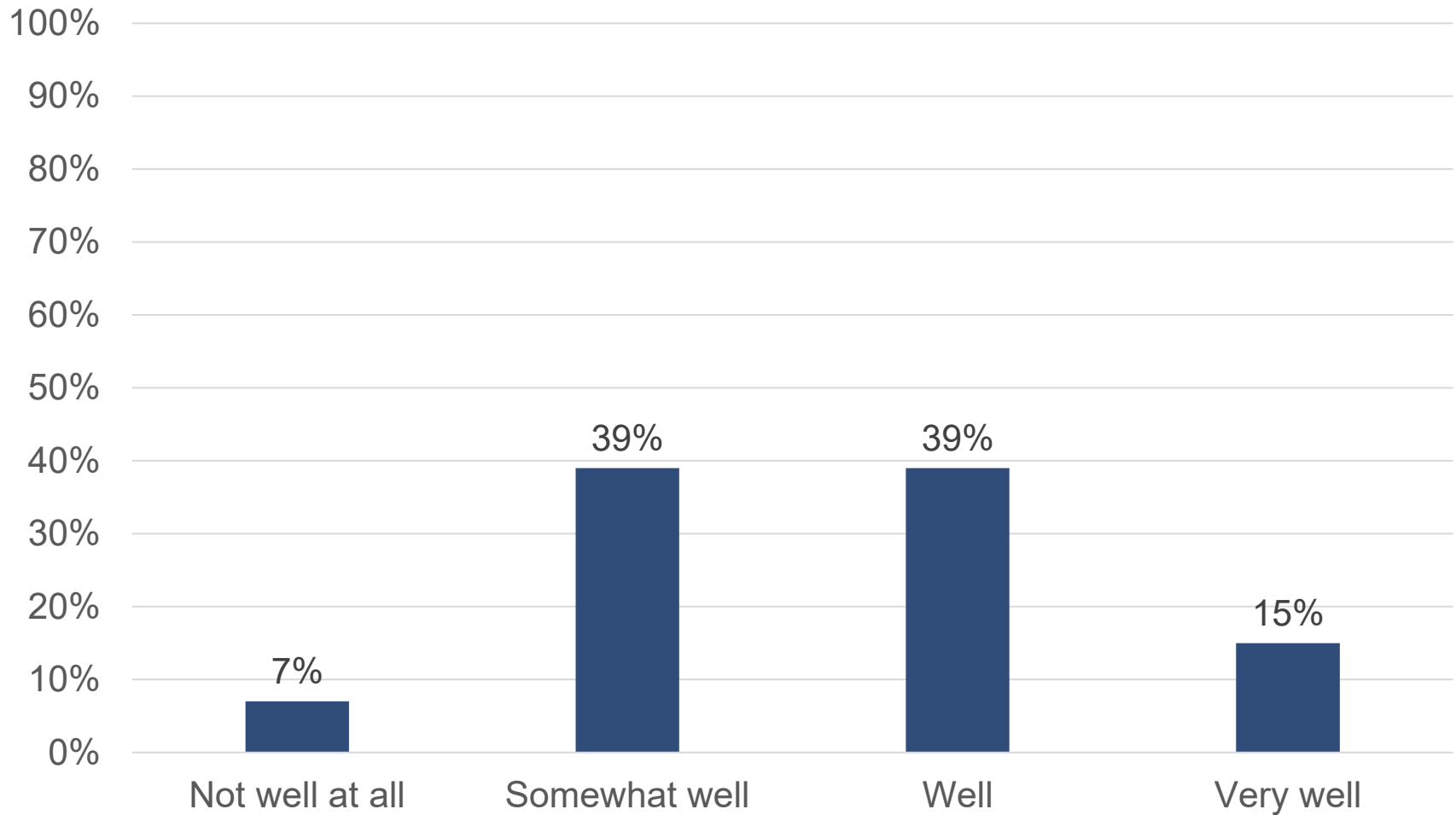
Your men's ministry's current impact: Engages existing men in our church to serve others



Lifeway Research

Q31_3: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Engages existing men in our church to serve others**" n=473

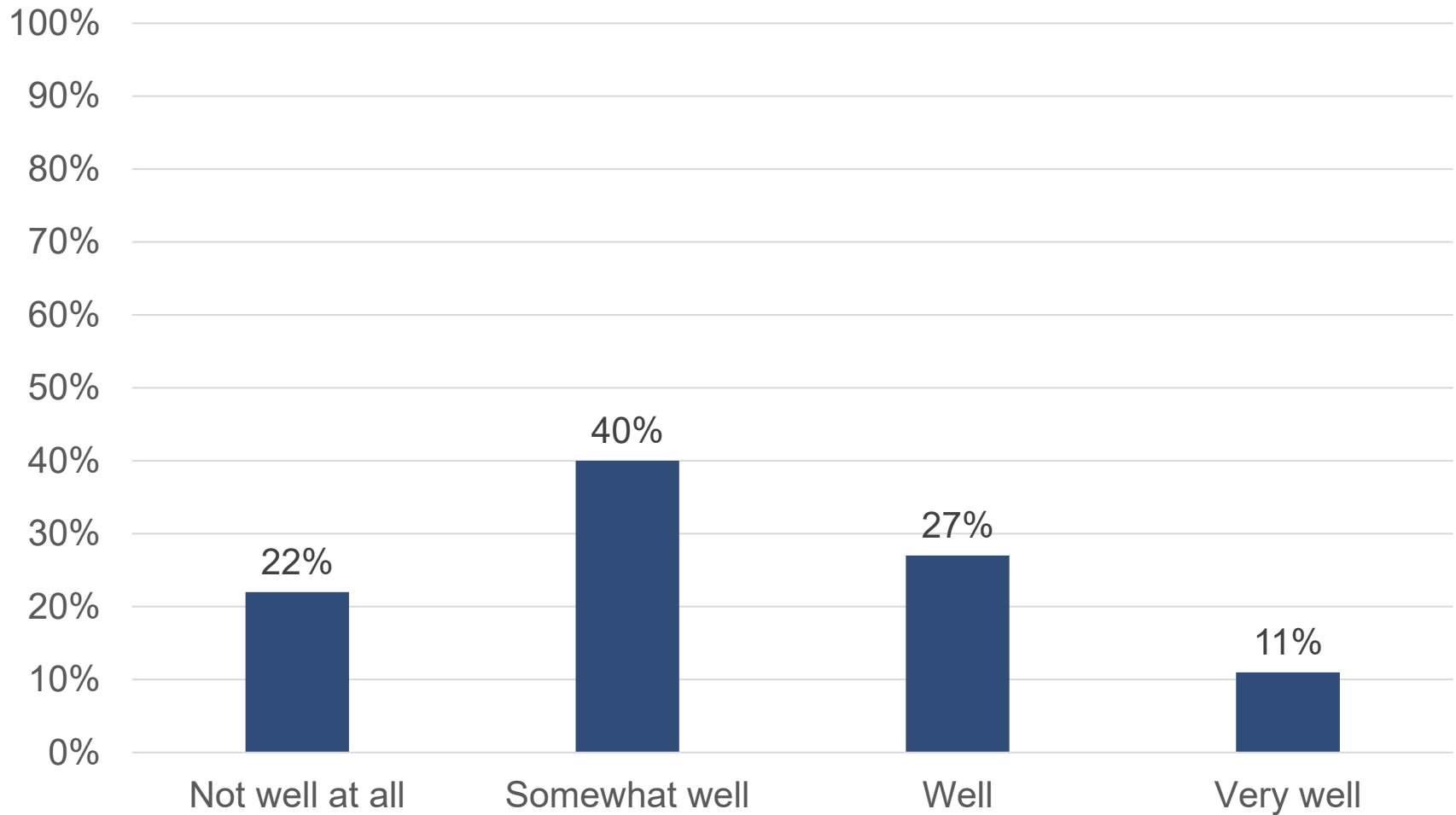
Your men's ministry's current impact: Mobilizes men to turn from sins



Lifeway Research

Q31_4: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Mobilizes men to turn from sins**" n=473

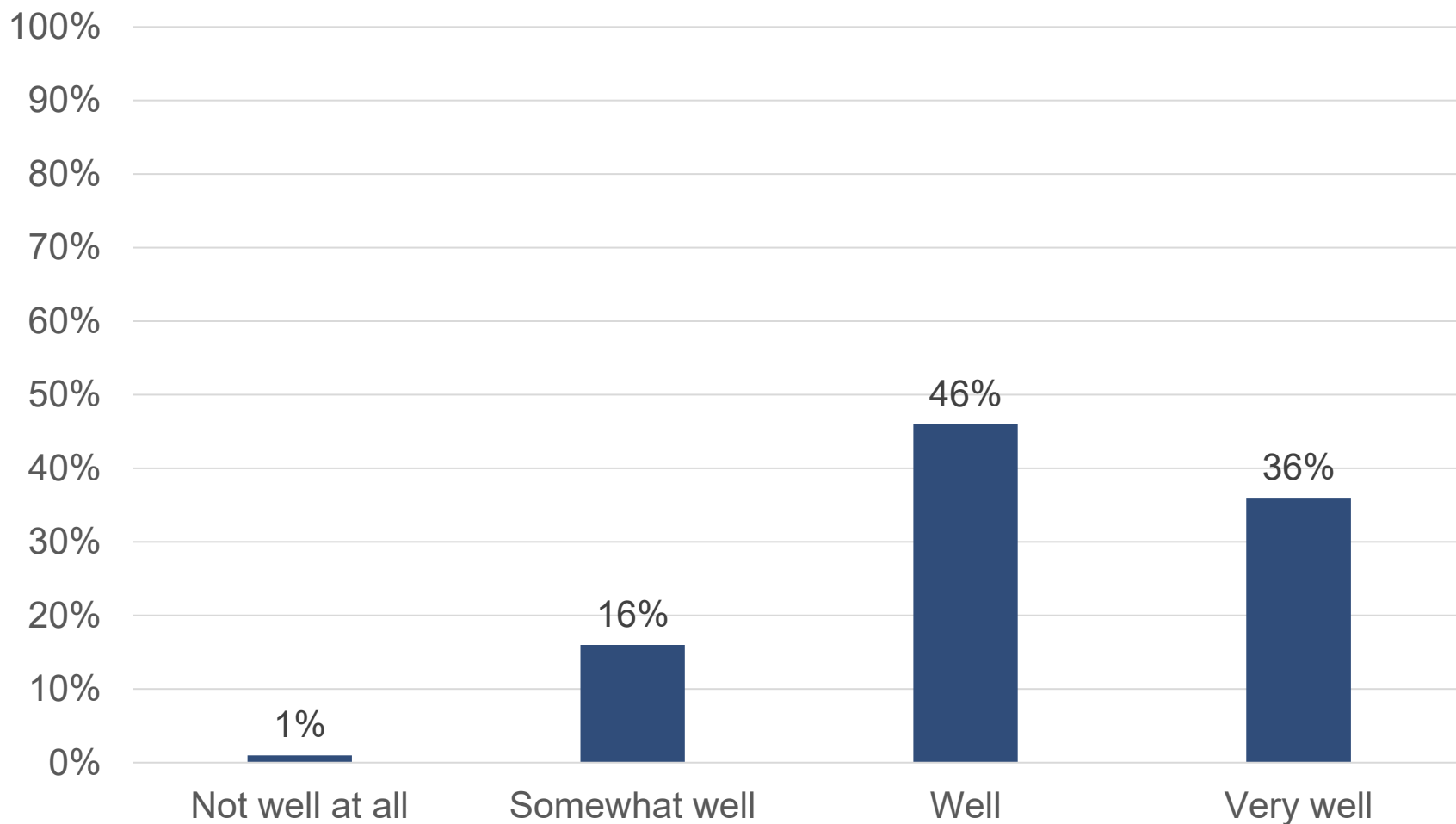
Your men's ministry's current impact: Helps men find healing from trauma, hurts, and grief



Lifeway Research

Q31_5: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Helps men find healing from trauma, hurts, and grief**" n=473

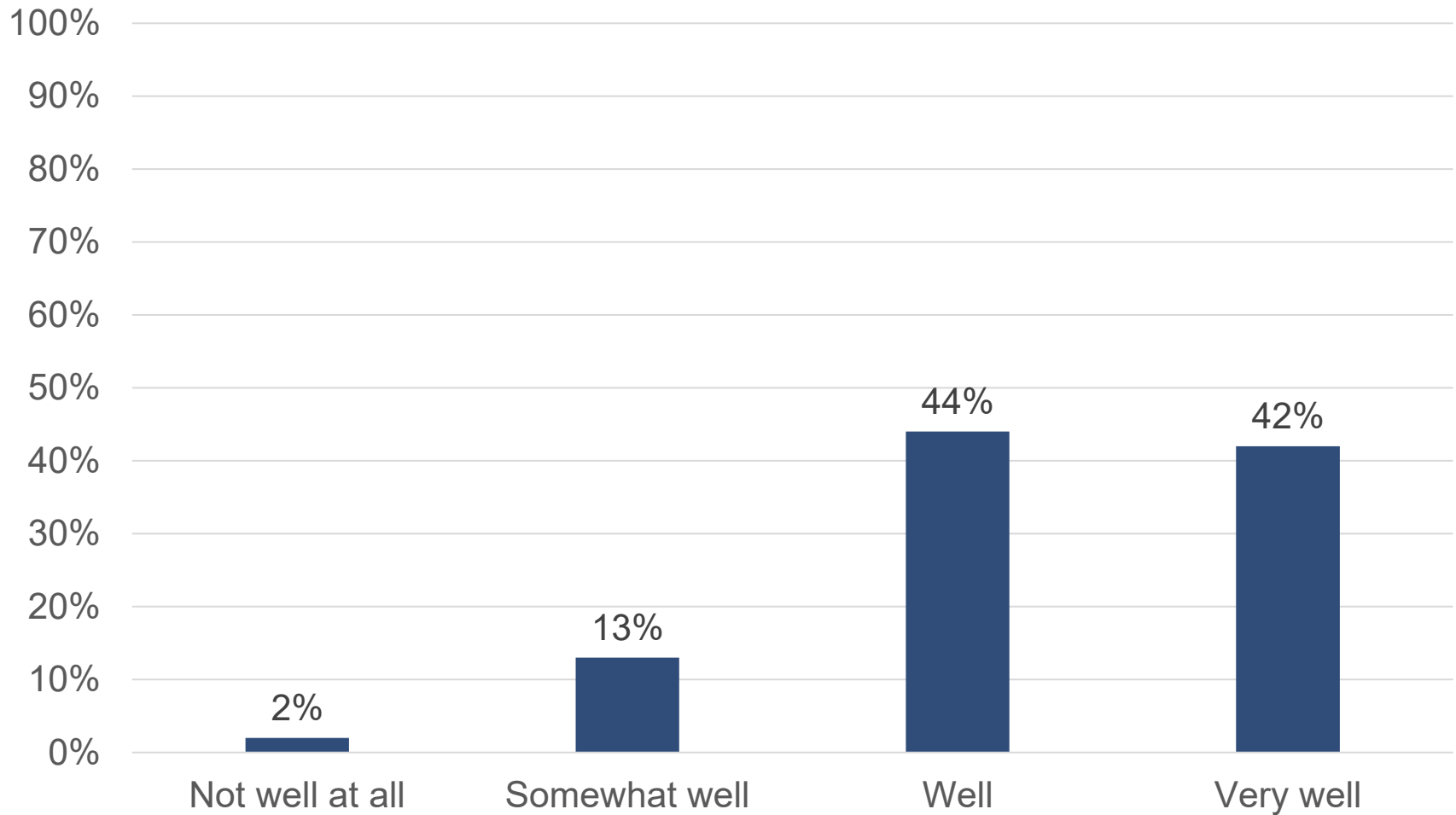
Your men's ministry's current impact: Encourages men to obey God



Lifeway Research

Q31_6: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Encourages men to obey God**" n=473

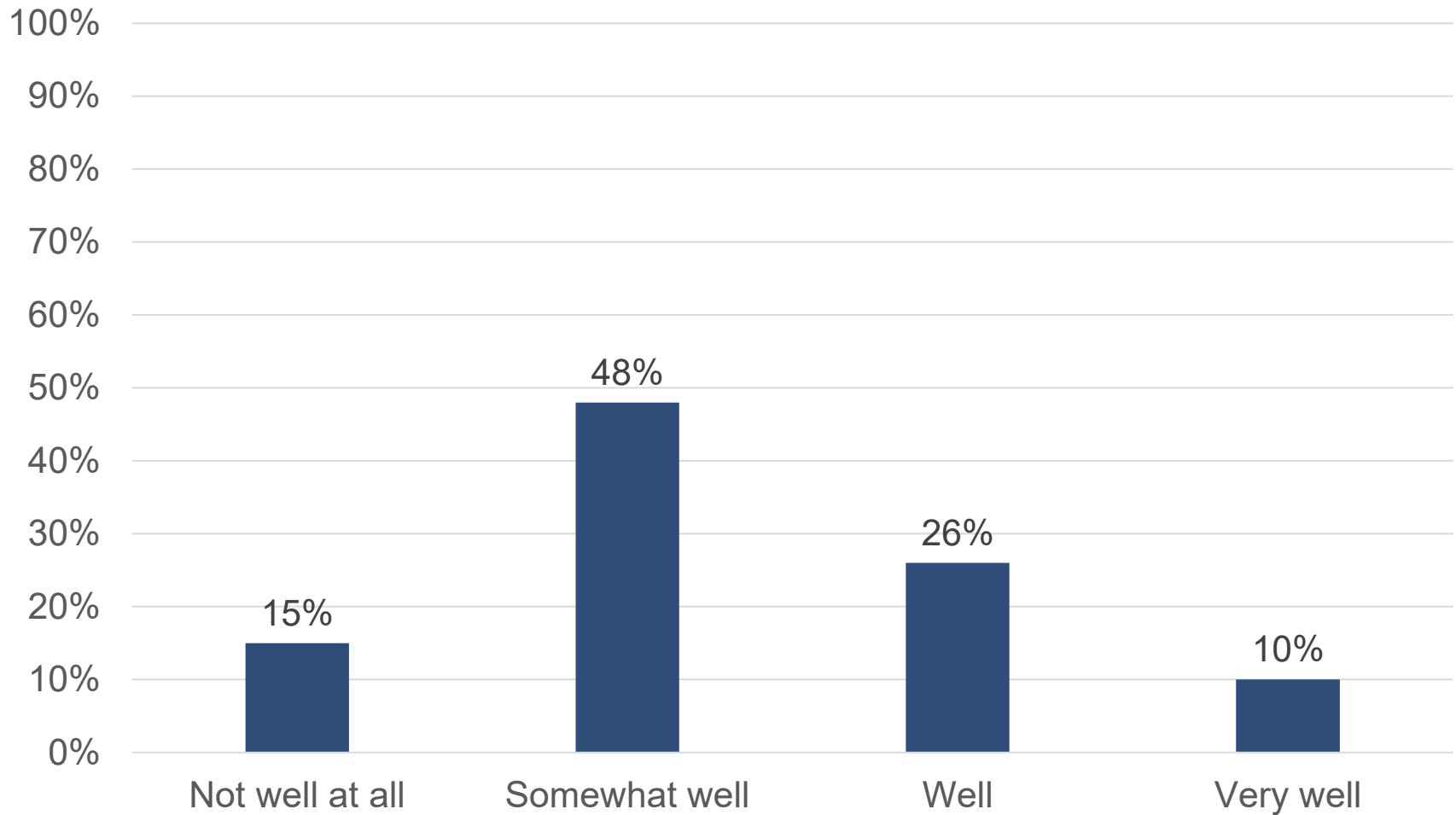
Your men's ministry's current impact: Encourages the spiritual growth of men



Lifeway Research

Q31_7: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Encourages the spiritual growth of men**" n=473

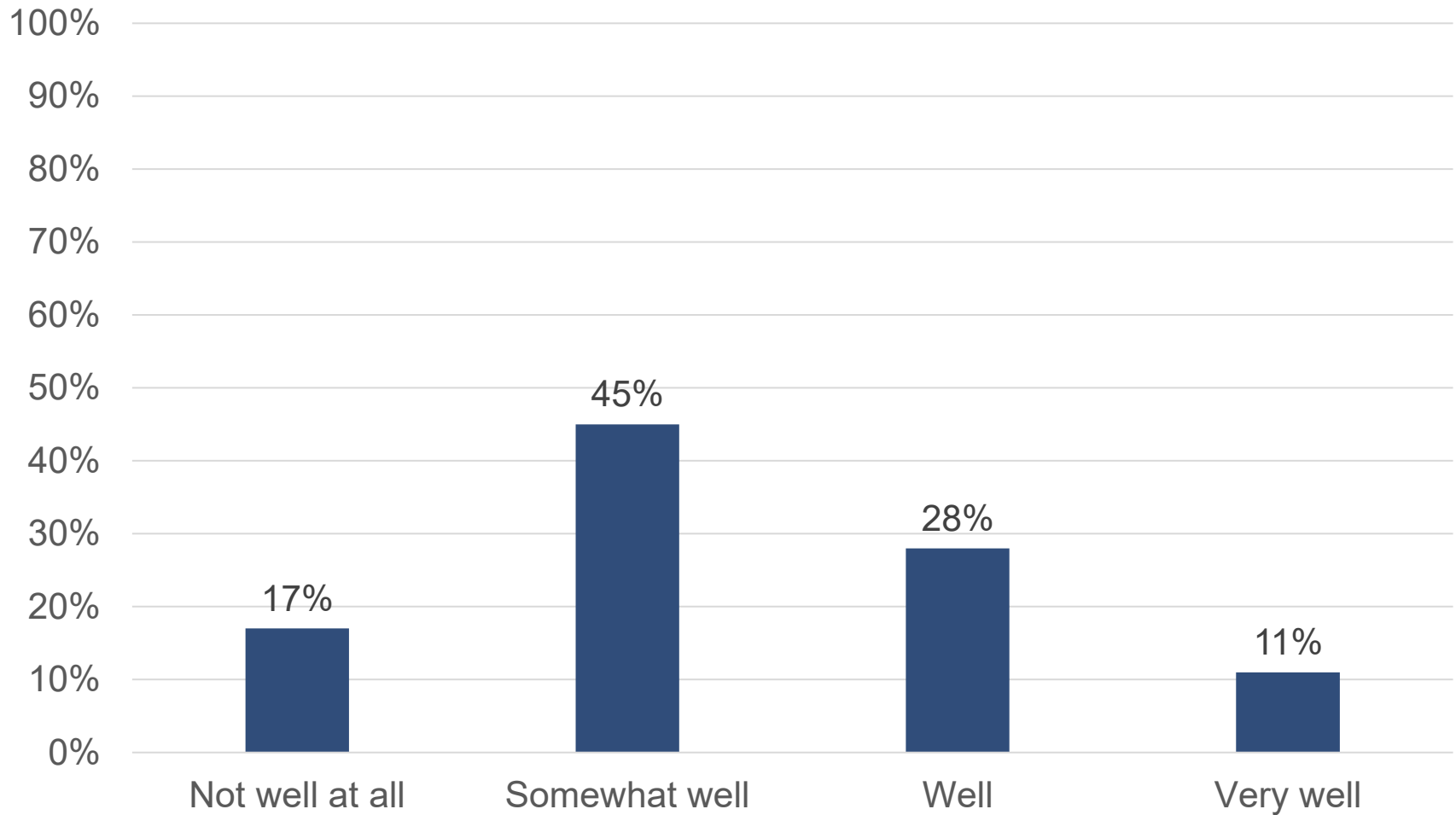
Your men's ministry's current impact: Mobilizes men to share the Gospel personally



Lifeway Research

Q31_8: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) Mobilizes men to share the Gospel personally" n=473

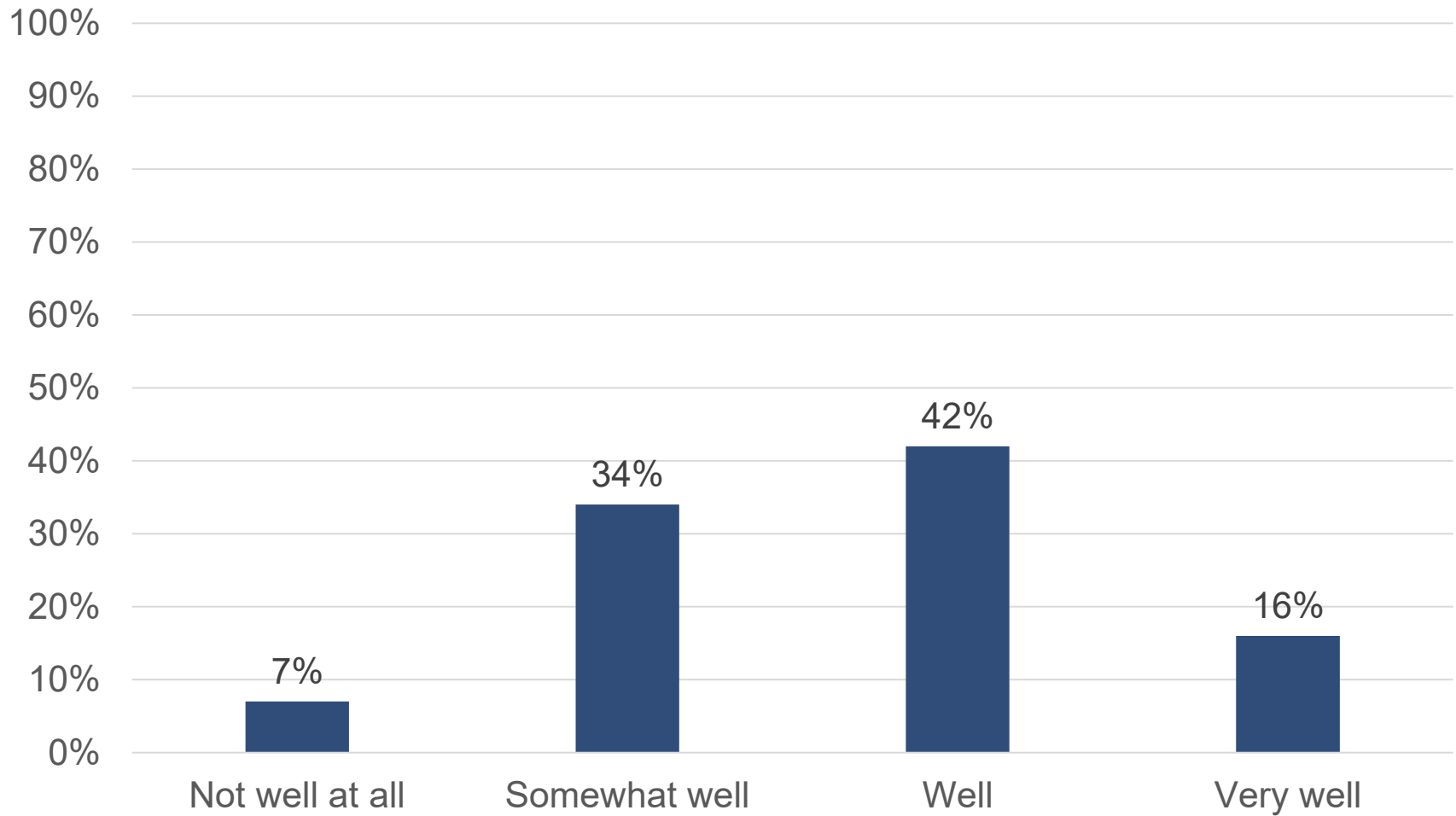
Your men's ministry's current impact: Mobilizes men to invite people to church



Lifeway Research

Q31_9: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Mobilizes men to invite people to church**" n=473

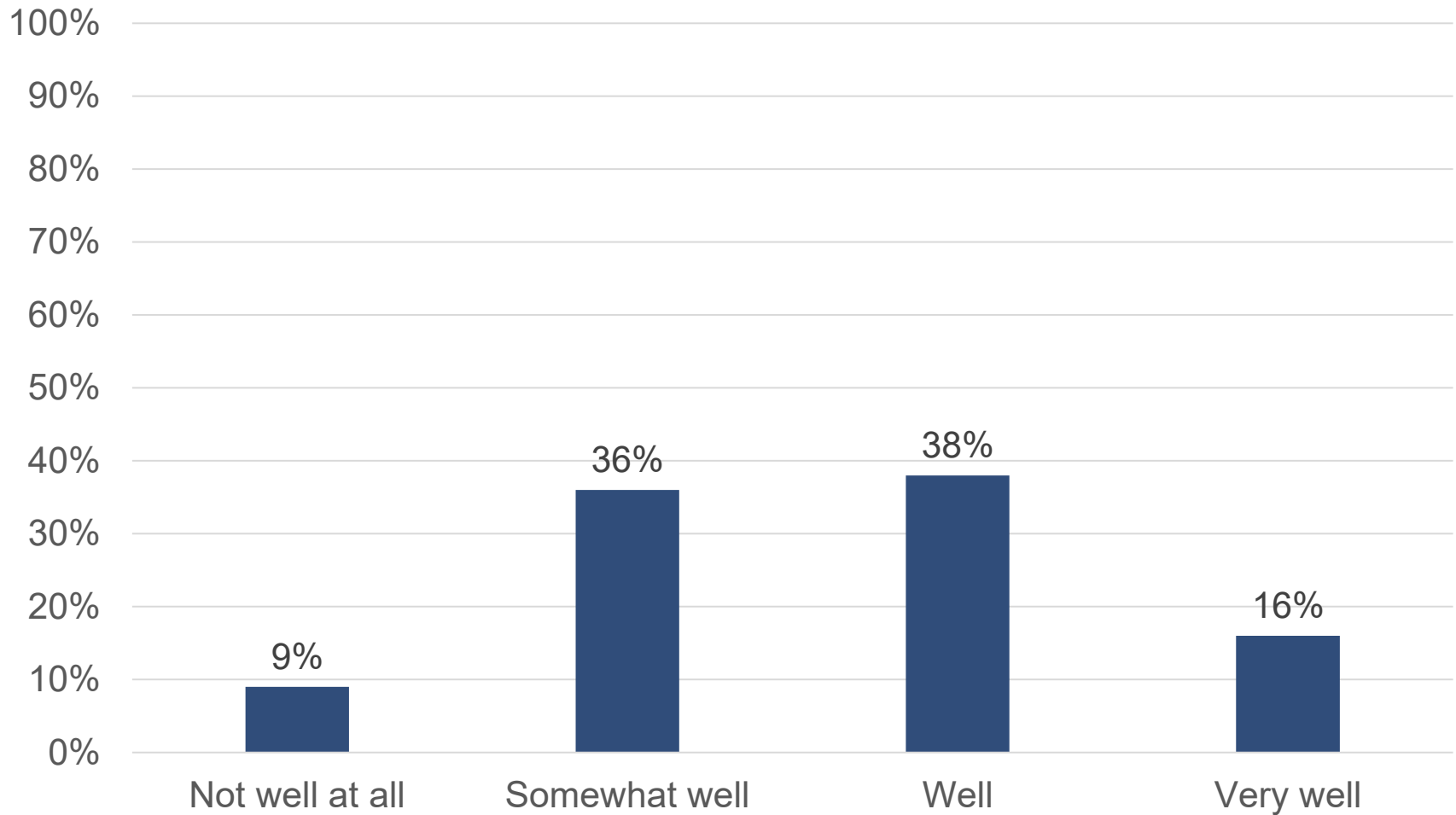
Your men's ministry's current impact: Improves marriages



Lifeway Research

Q31_10: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) **Improves marriages**" n=473

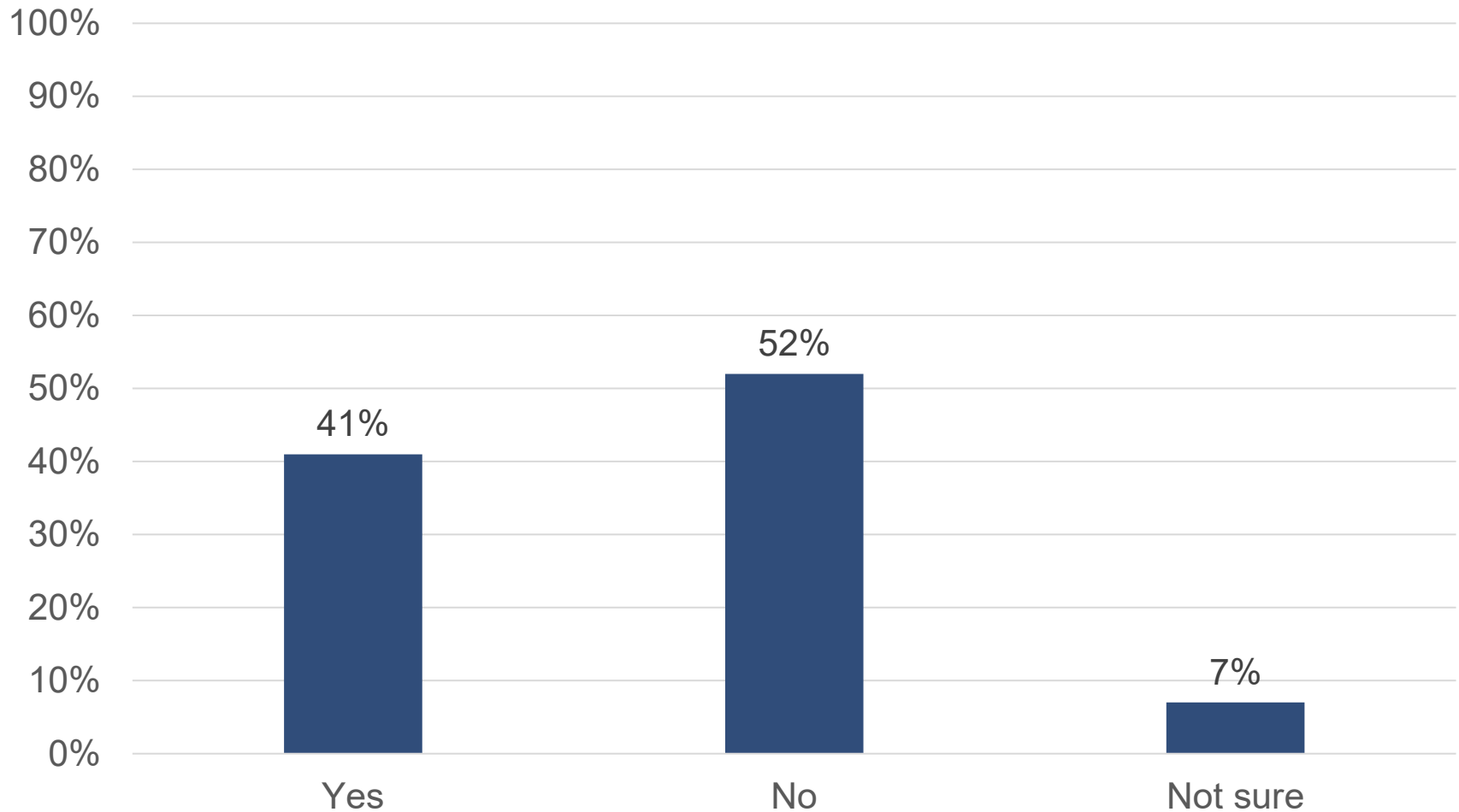
Your men's ministry's current impact: Improves the spiritual direction of kids through their fathers



Lifeway Research

Q31_11: "How well does your men's ministry currently impact each of these potential areas of ministry? (Select one response for each area of ministry) Improves the spiritual direction of kids through their fathers" n=473

41% say their men's ministry has a spiritual development pathway/plan



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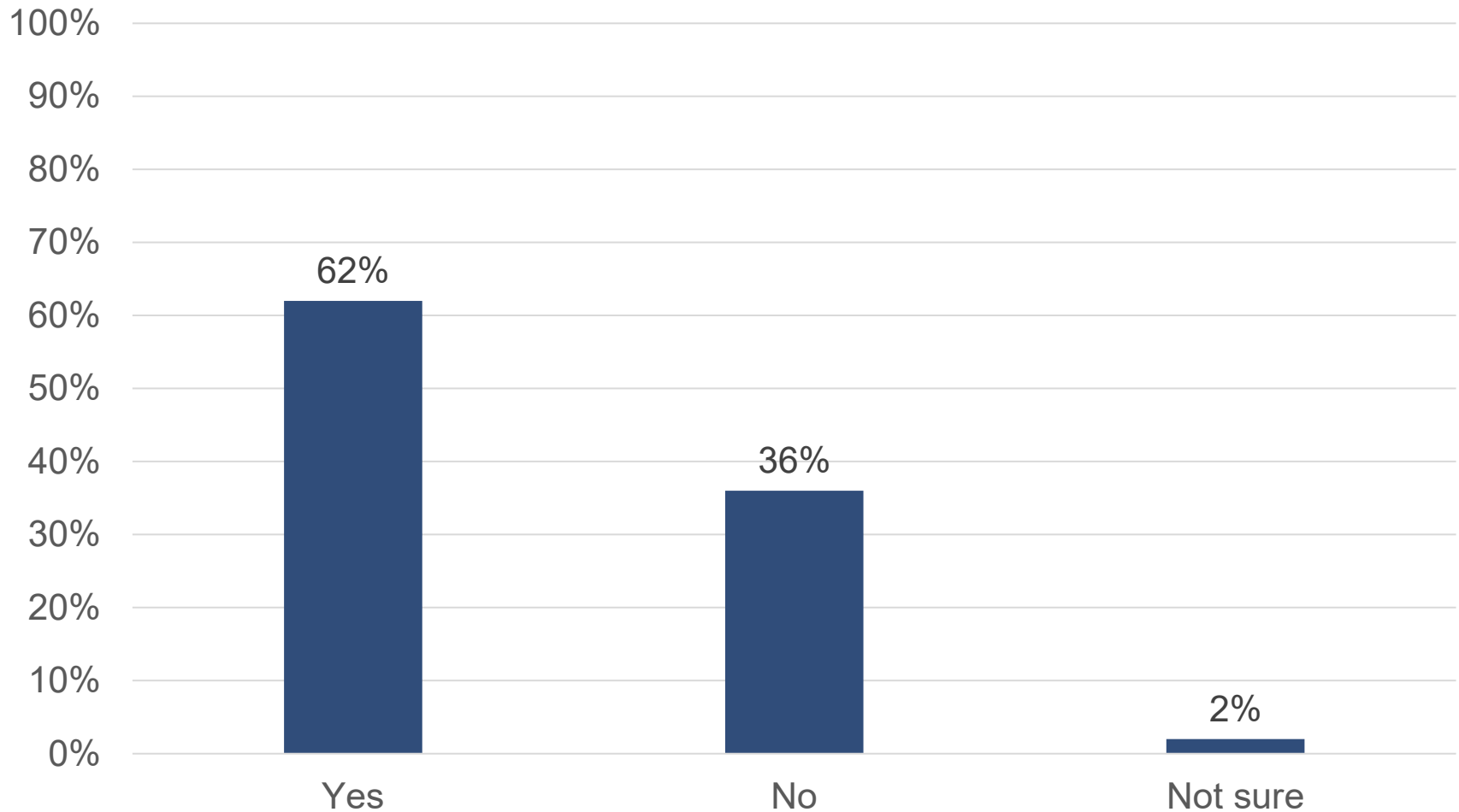
Q32: "Does your men's ministry have a spiritual development pathway/plan to guide and encourage men to take next steps in their walk with Christ?" n=473

“Please describe your men’s ministry’s spiritual development pathway and how it allows you to measure spiritual growth.”

Asked of those who have a spiritual development pathway/plan

Discipleship classes/curriculum	23%
Prayer / Spiritual disciplines	13%
Mentoring / One-on-one discipling	13%
Bible study groups	12%
Spiritual growth assessment	12%
Small groups	9%
Fellowship / Relationship building	7%
Serving / Evangelism	5%
Leadership development	3%
Don’t know / Not sure	3%

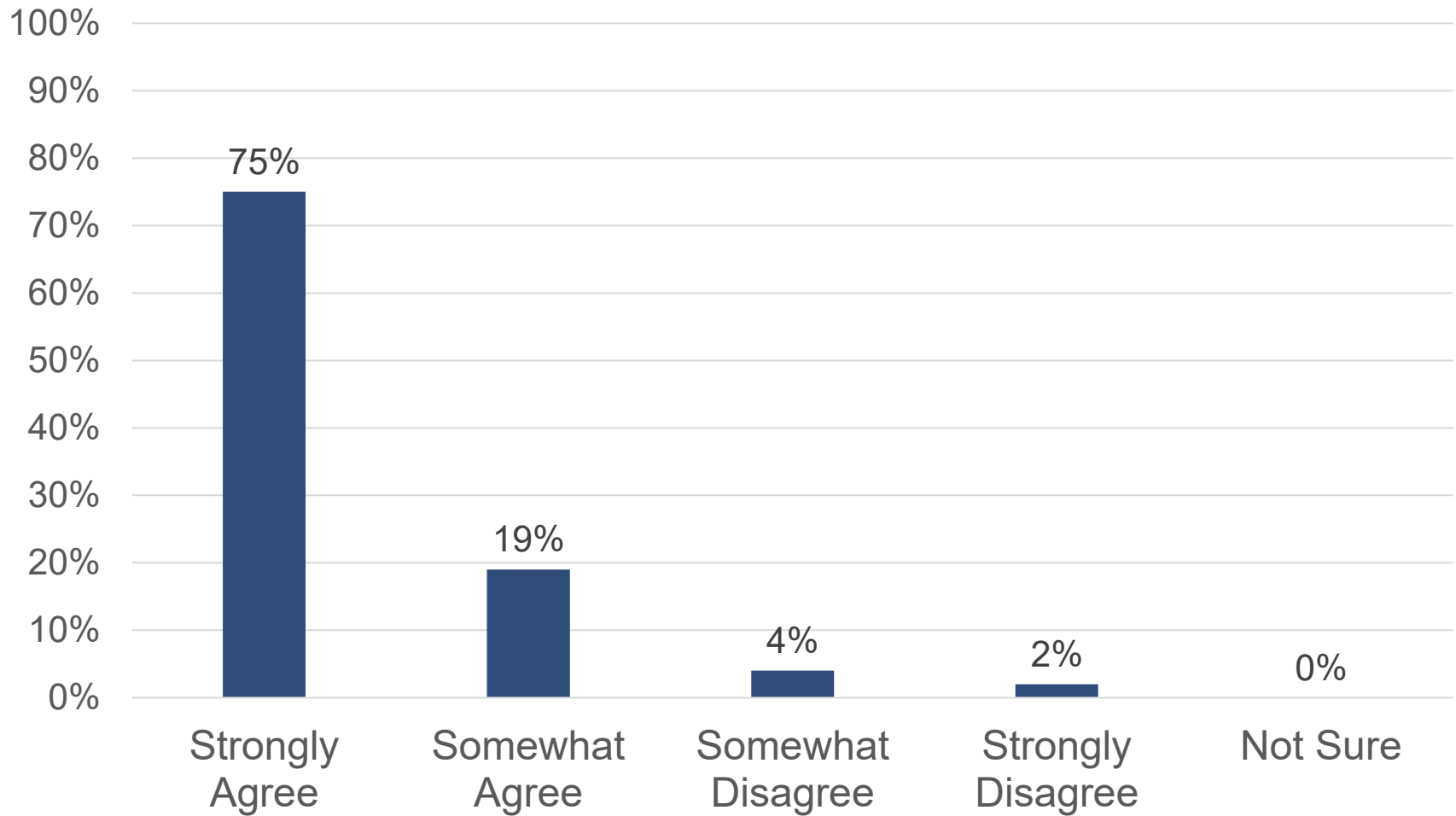
62% of churches provide the men's ministry with funds from the church budget



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Q34: "Does your church provide the men's ministry with funds from the church budget to spend?" n=473

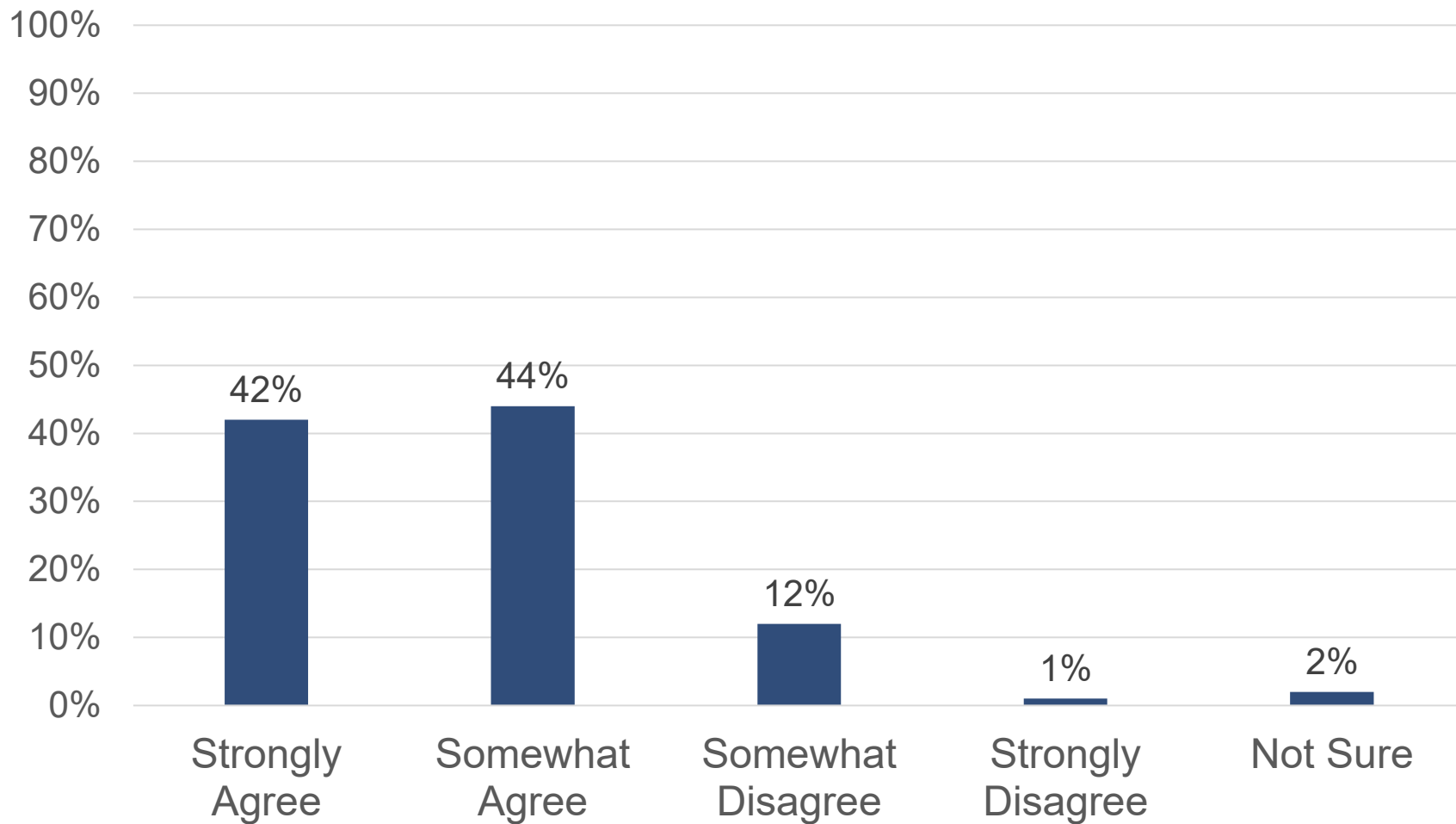
94% receive support from their church's pastor for their men's ministry



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Q35: "Our men's ministry regularly receives support from our church's pastor(s)." n=473

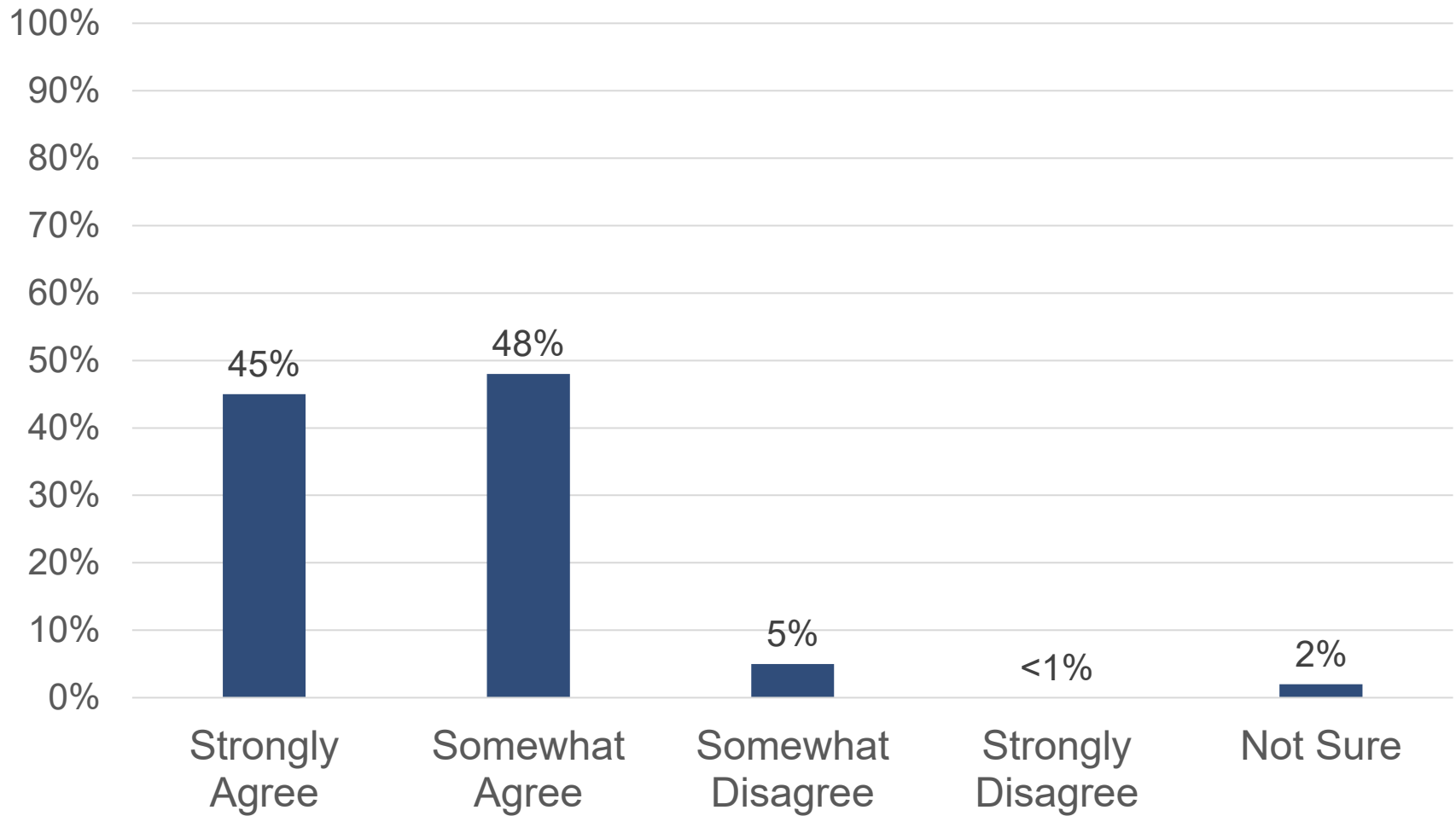
86% say their entire church values their men's ministry



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Q36: "Our entire church values our men's ministry." n=473

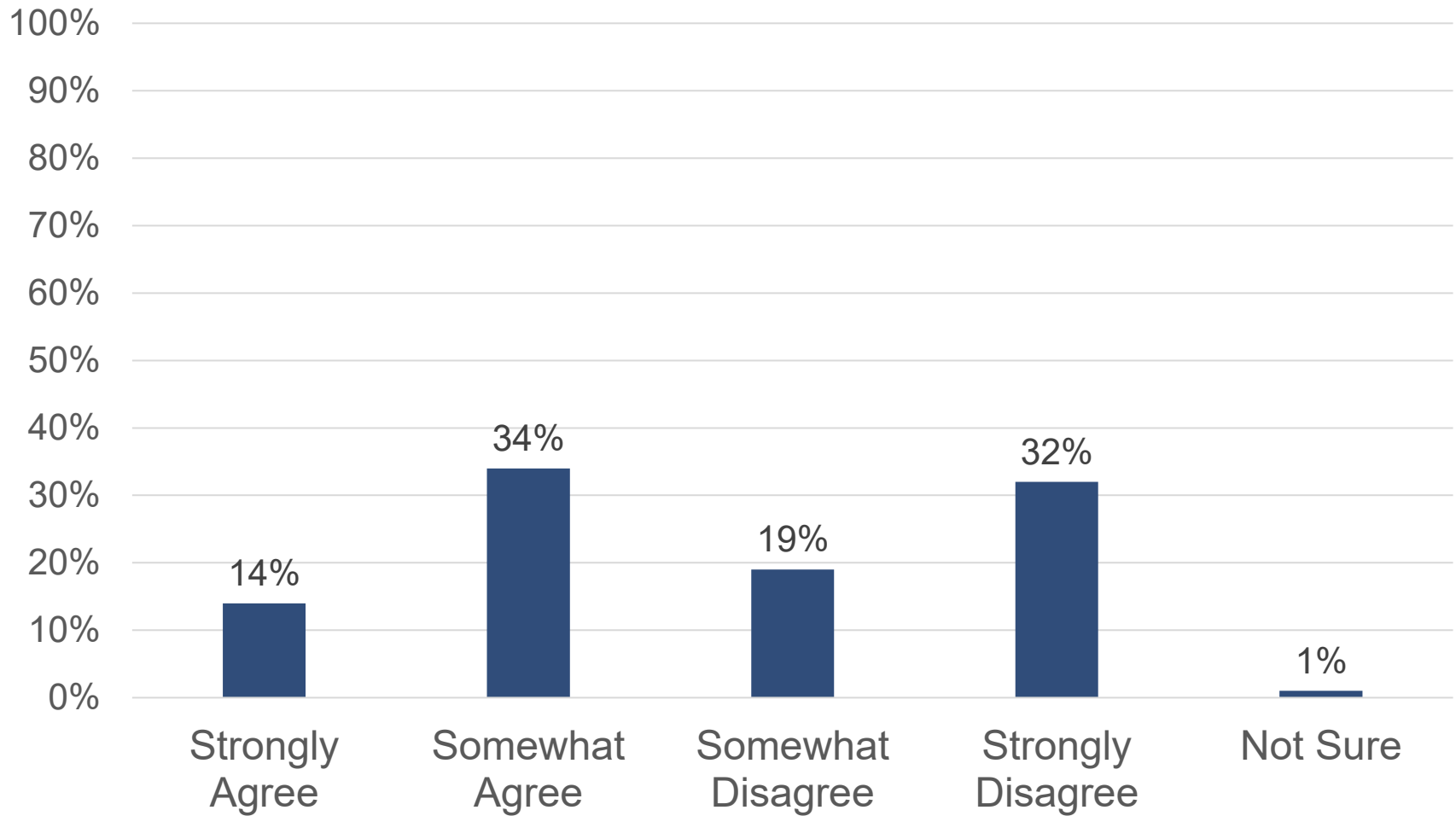
93% witness God's faithfulness at work in men's lives each month



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Q37: "Each month, I witness God's faithfulness at work in men's lives in our church." n=473

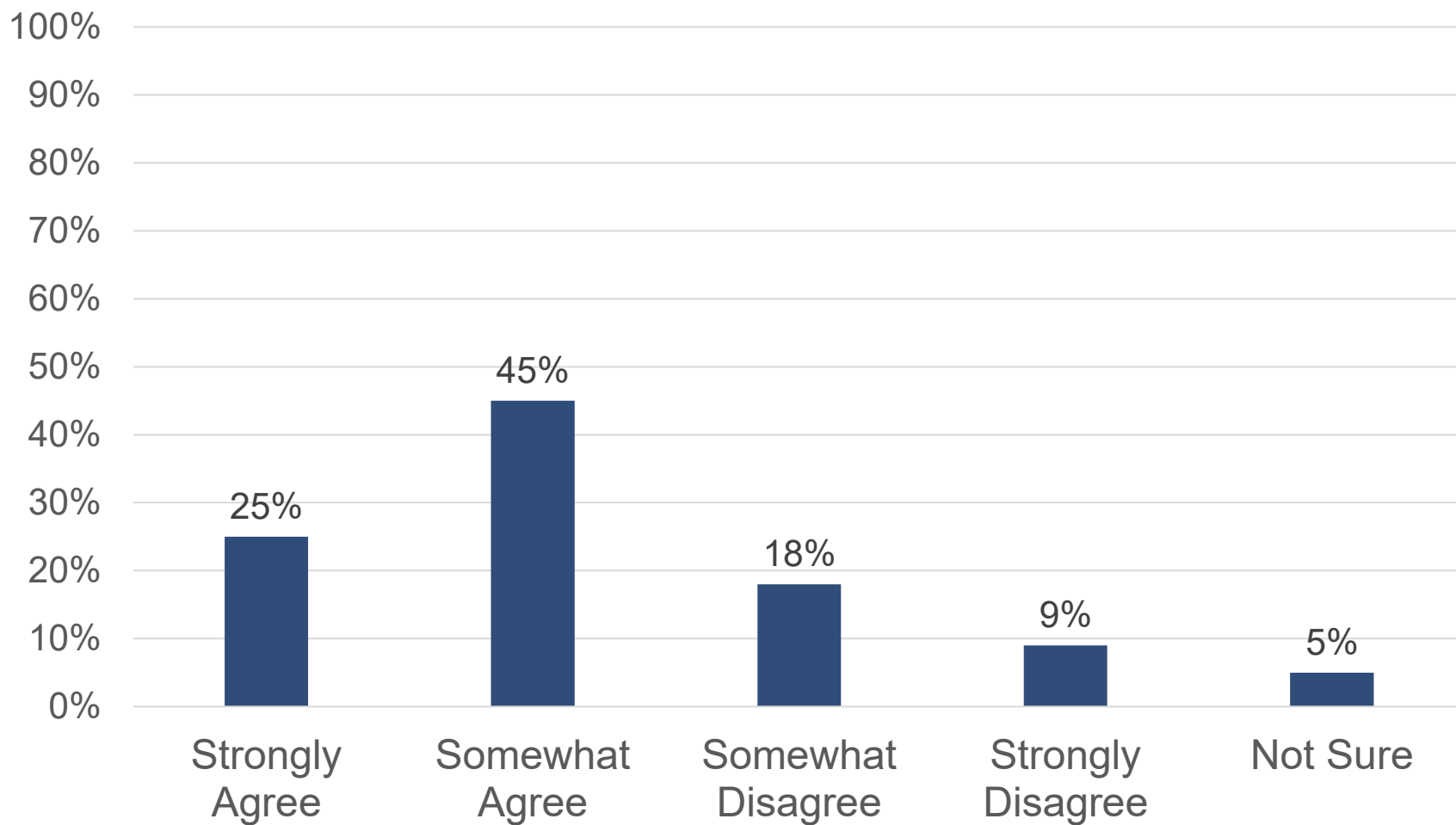
47% wonder each month if their efforts in men's ministry matter



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Q38: "Each month, I wonder if our efforts in men's ministry matter." n=473

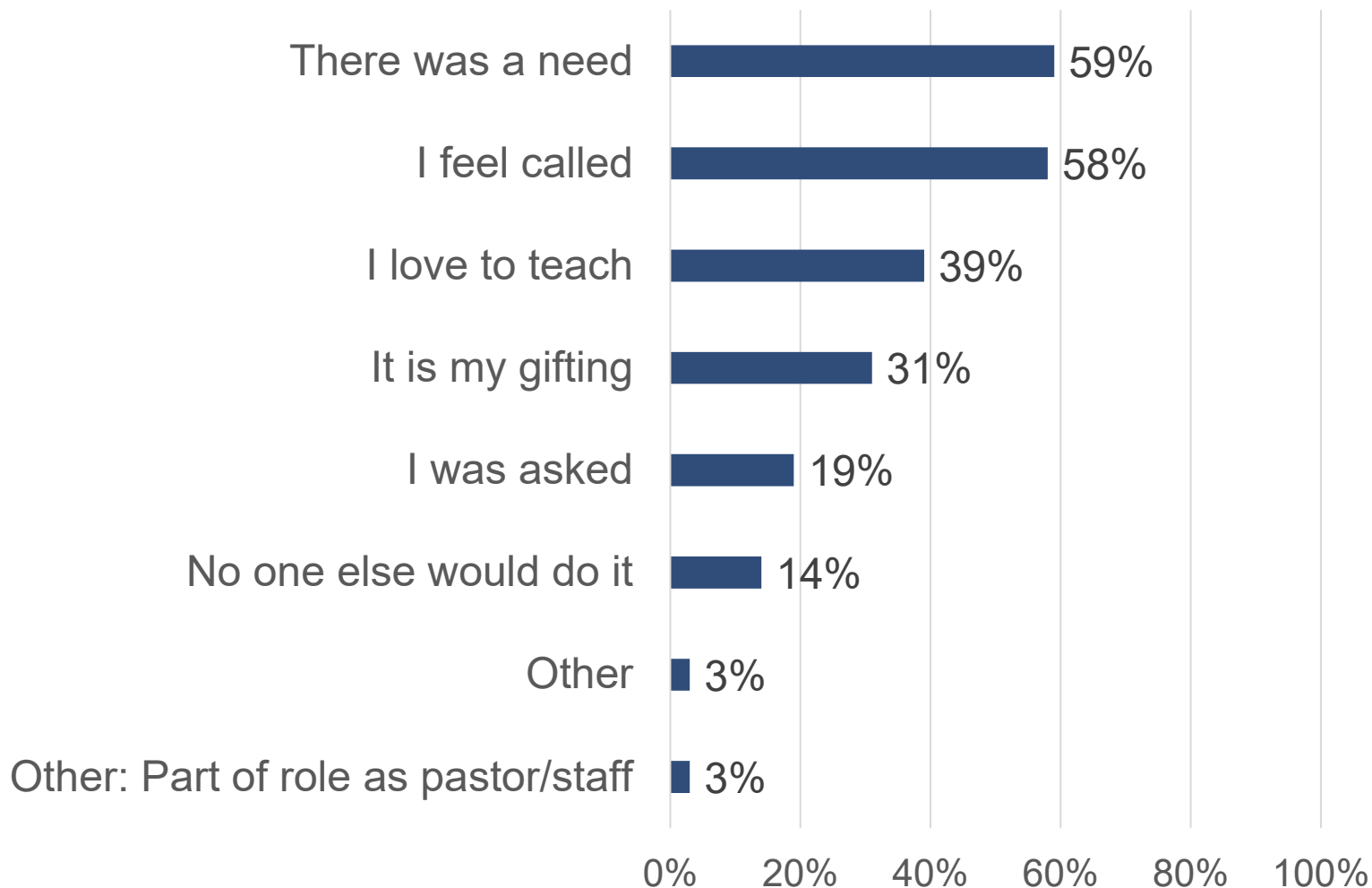
69% hear men each month giving God glory for what they are experiencing in their men's ministry



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Q39: "Each month, I hear men giving God glory for what they are experiencing in our men's ministry." n=473

“Why do you choose to lead the men’s ministry in your church?”



Lifeway Research

Q40: “Why do you choose to lead the men’s ministry in your church? (Select all that apply)” n=473

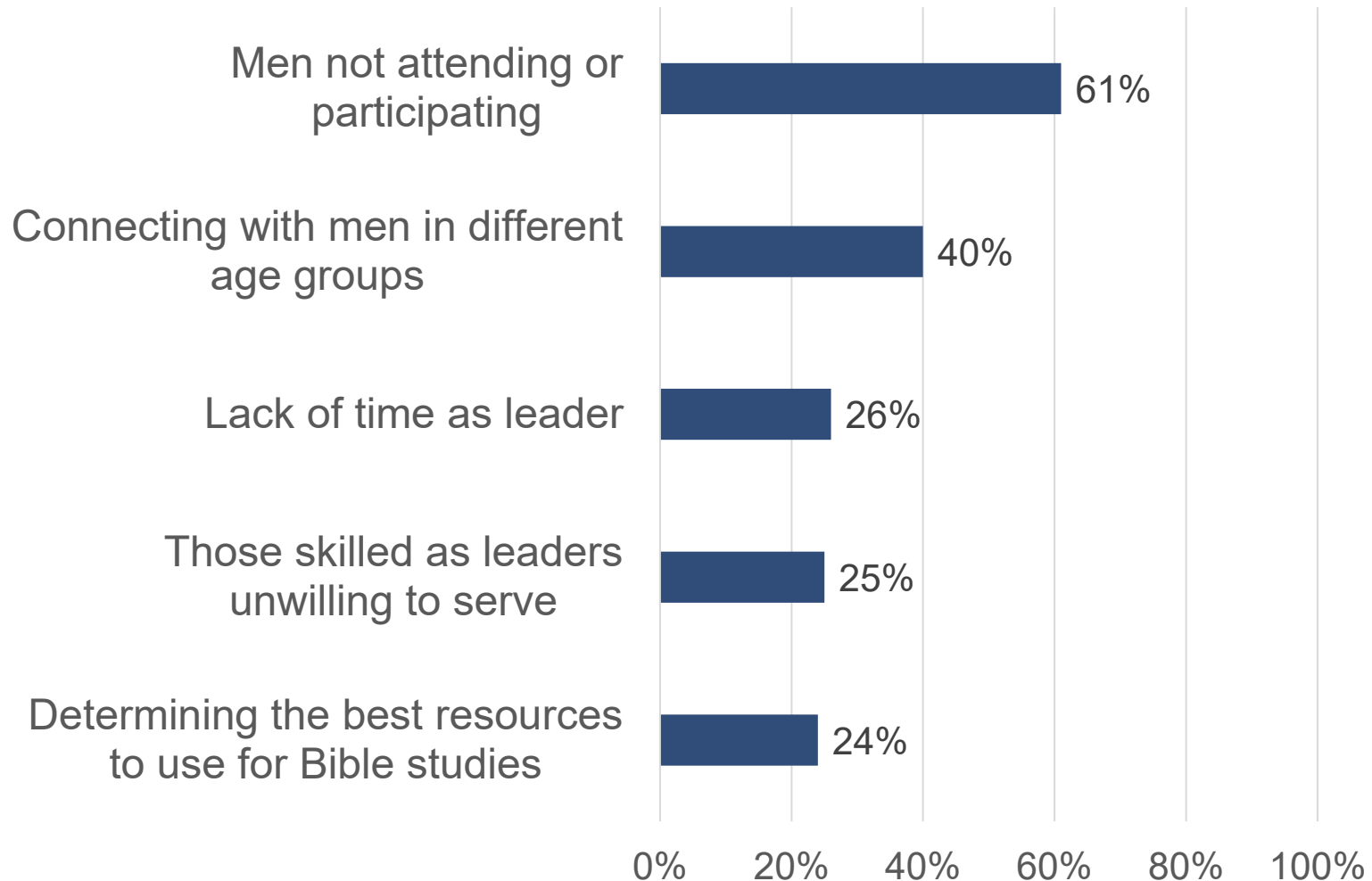
“Which of the following describe your training as a men’s ministry leader?”



Lifeway Research

Q41: “Which of the following describe your training as a men’s ministry leader? (Select all that apply)” n=473

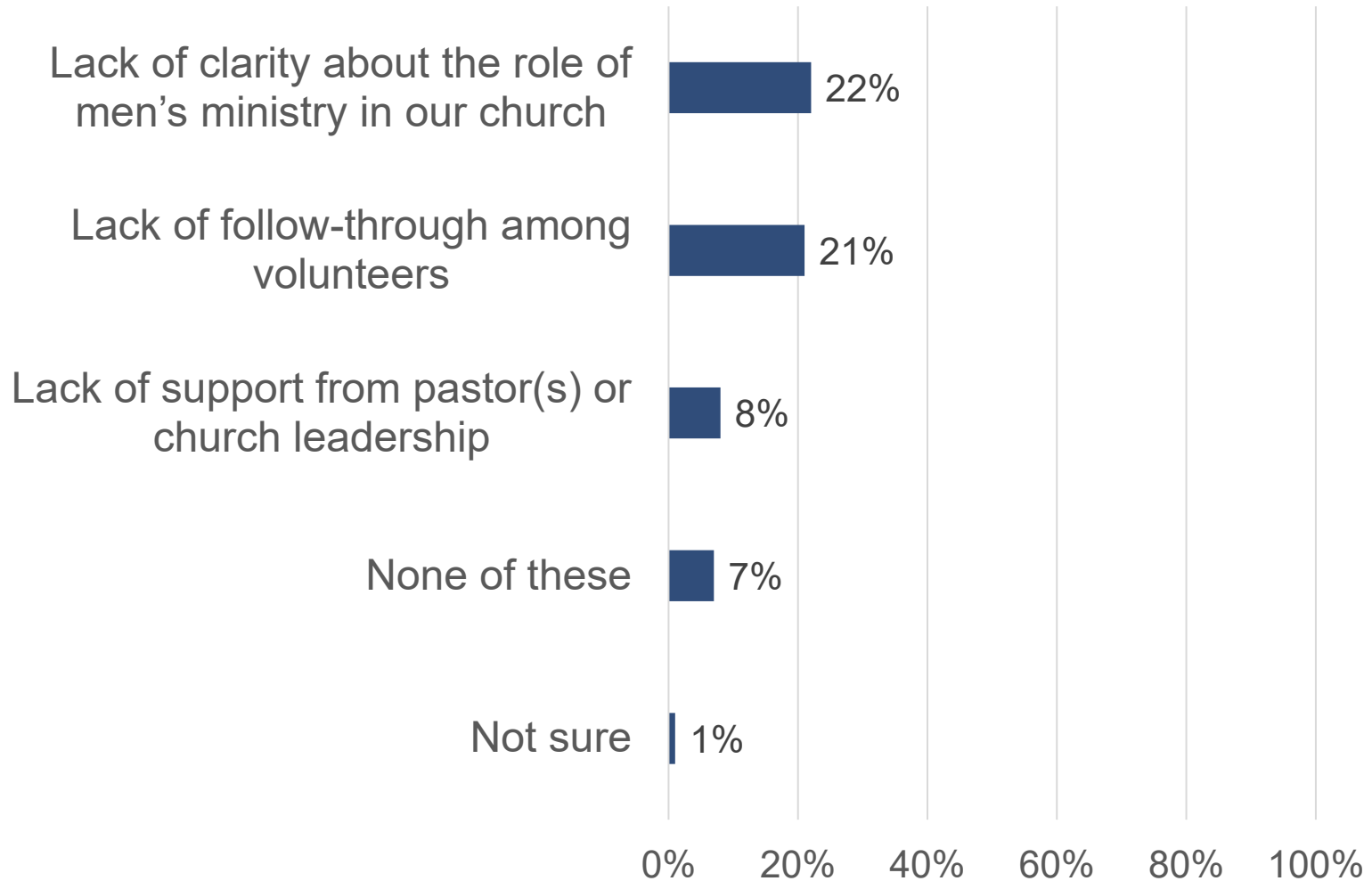
“What are the biggest challenges your church’s men’s ministry faces?”



Lifeway Research

Q42: “What are the biggest challenges your church’s men’s ministry faces? (Select all that apply)” n=473

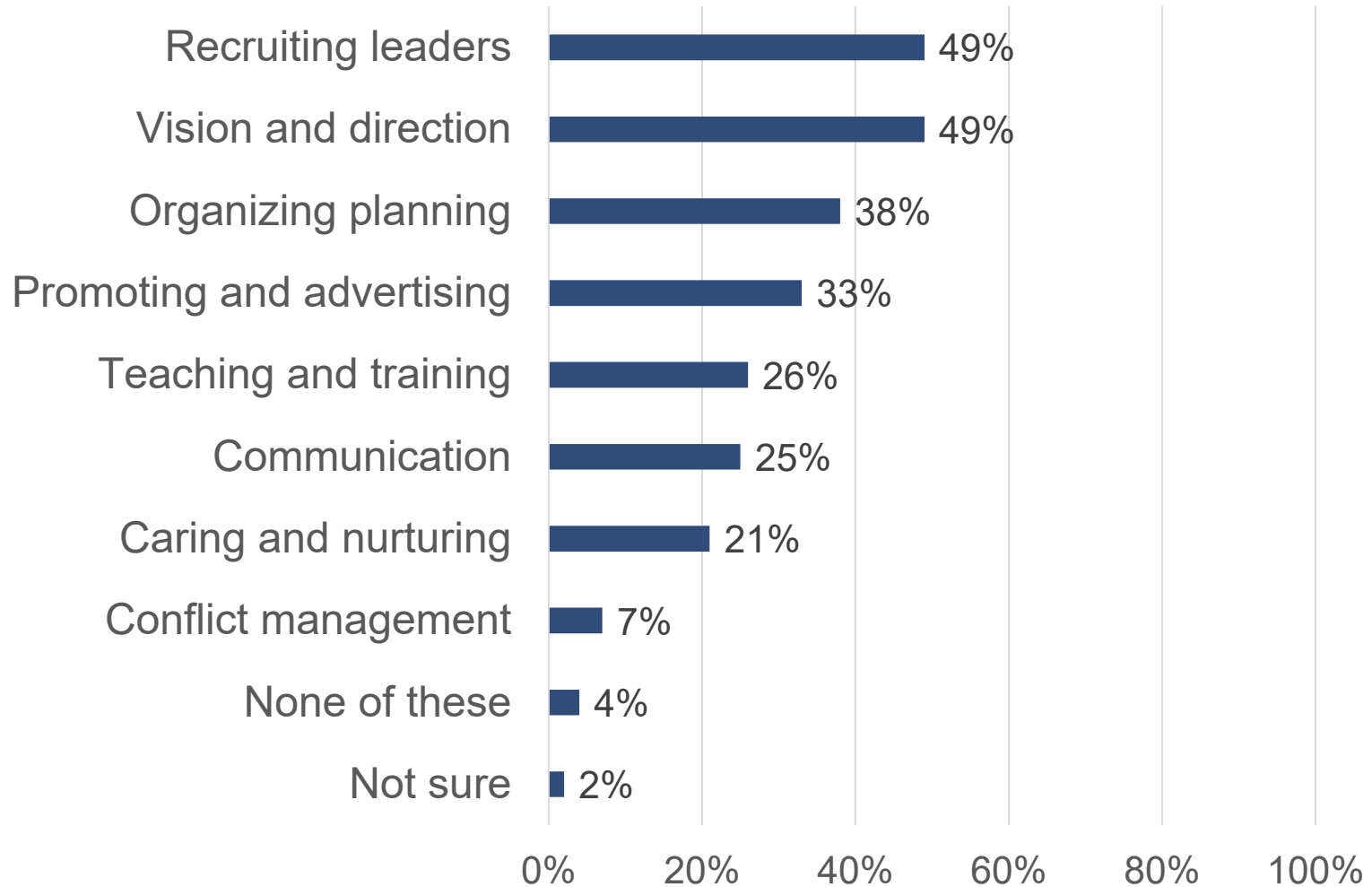
“What are the biggest challenges your church’s men’s ministry faces?” *continued*



Lifeway Research

Q42: “What are the biggest challenges your church’s men’s ministry faces? (Select all that apply)” n=473

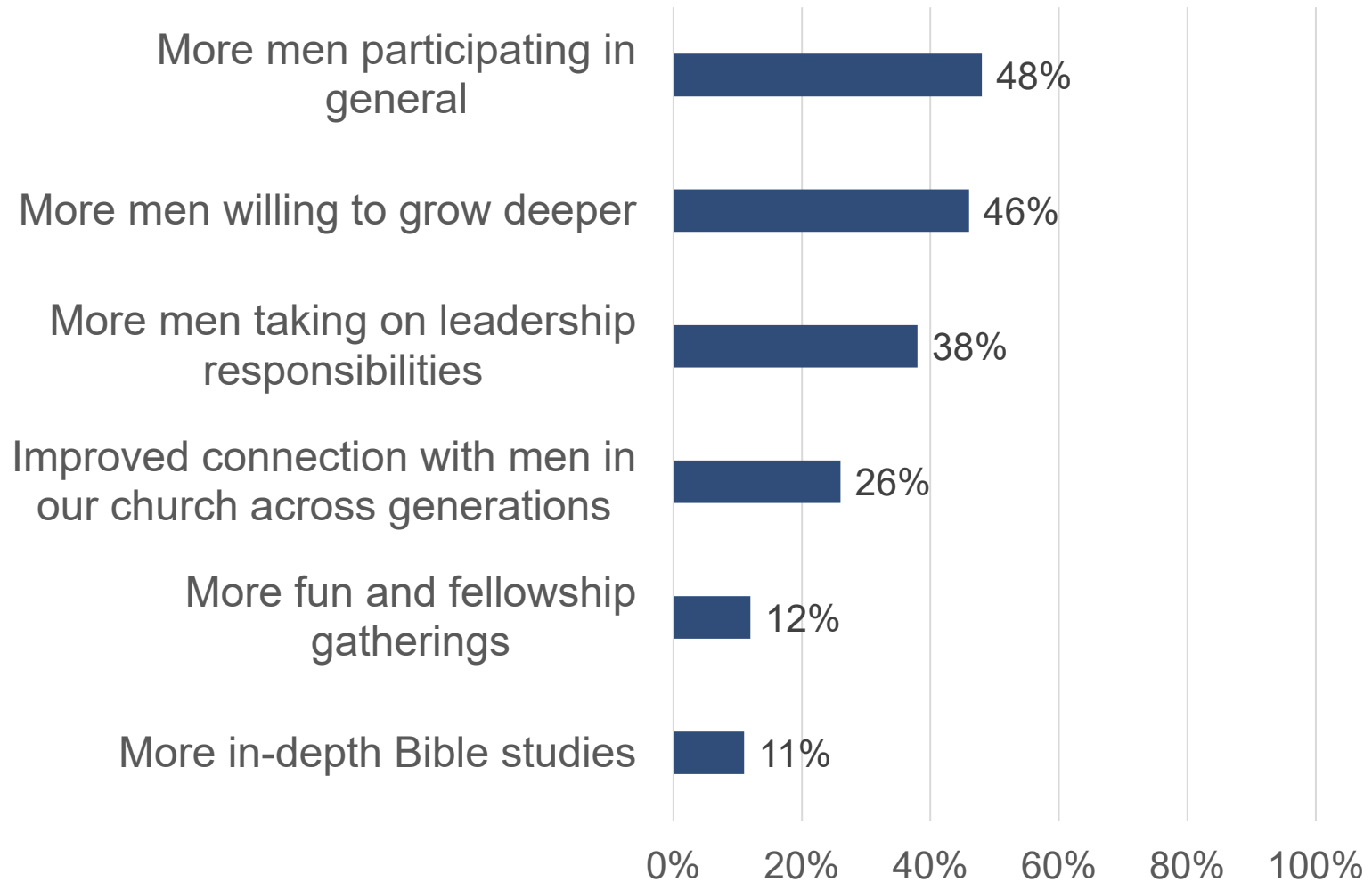
“In which of the following areas do you feel you need to develop the most as a men’s ministry leader?”



Lifeway Research

Q43: “In which of the following areas do you feel you need to develop the most as a men’s ministry leader? (Select all that apply)” n=473

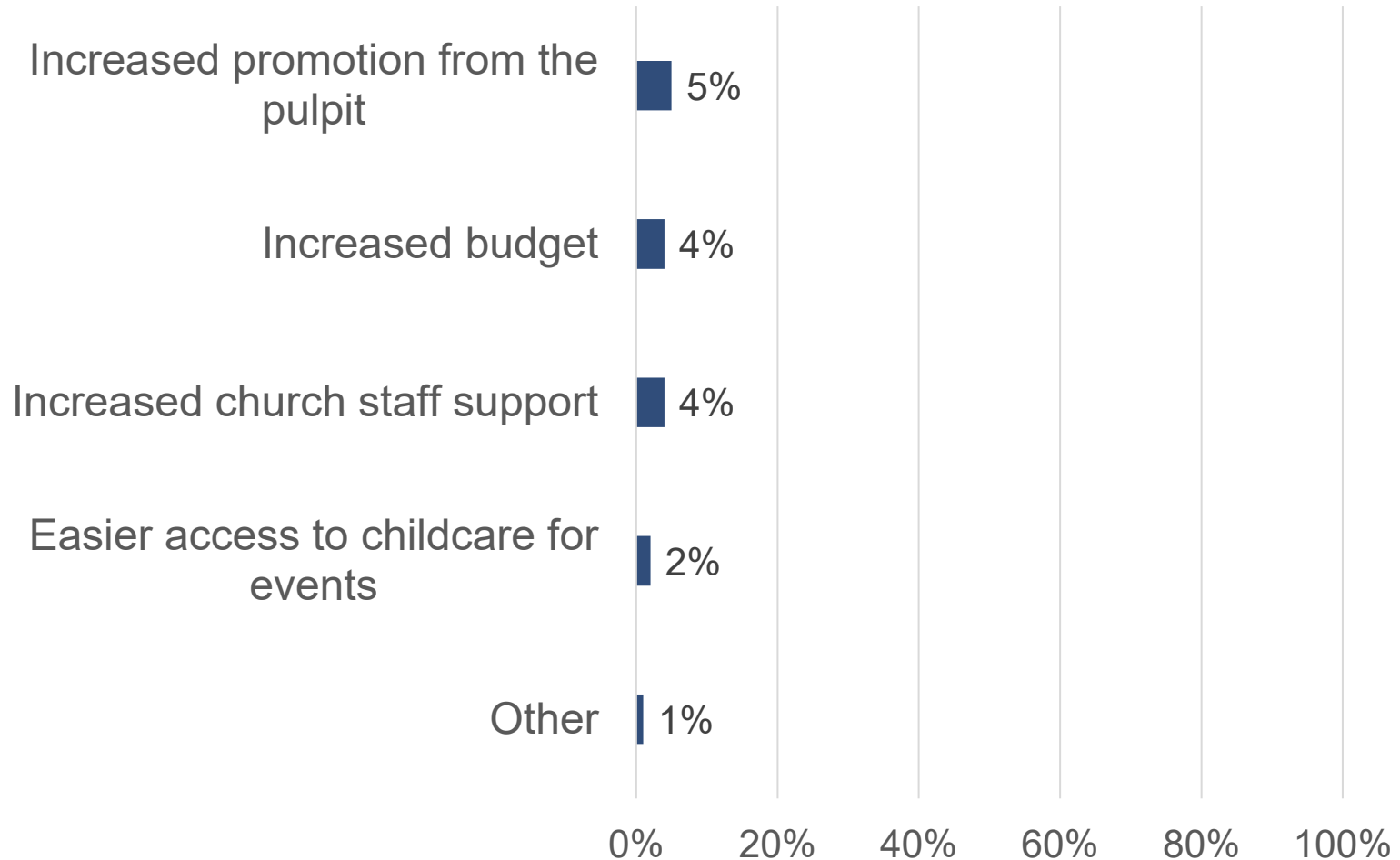
“Select the two changes that would have the biggest positive impact on your men’s ministry over the next year?”



Lifeway Research

Q44: “Select the two changes that would have the biggest positive impact on your men’s ministry over the next year? (Select 2)” n=473

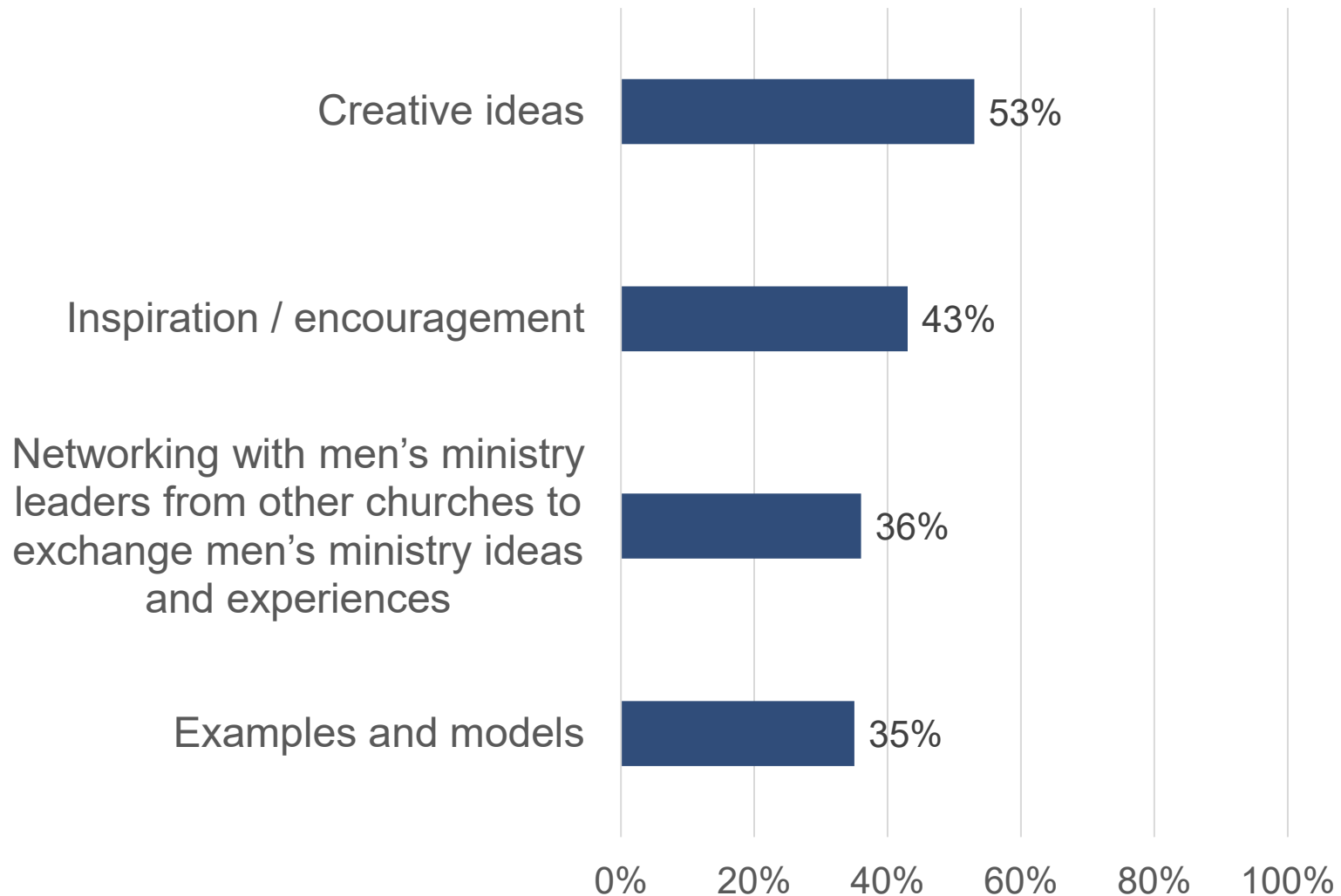
“Select the two changes that would have the biggest positive impact on your men’s ministry over the next year?” *continued*



Lifeway Research

Q44: “Select the two changes that would have the biggest positive impact on your men’s ministry over the next year? (Select 2)” n=473

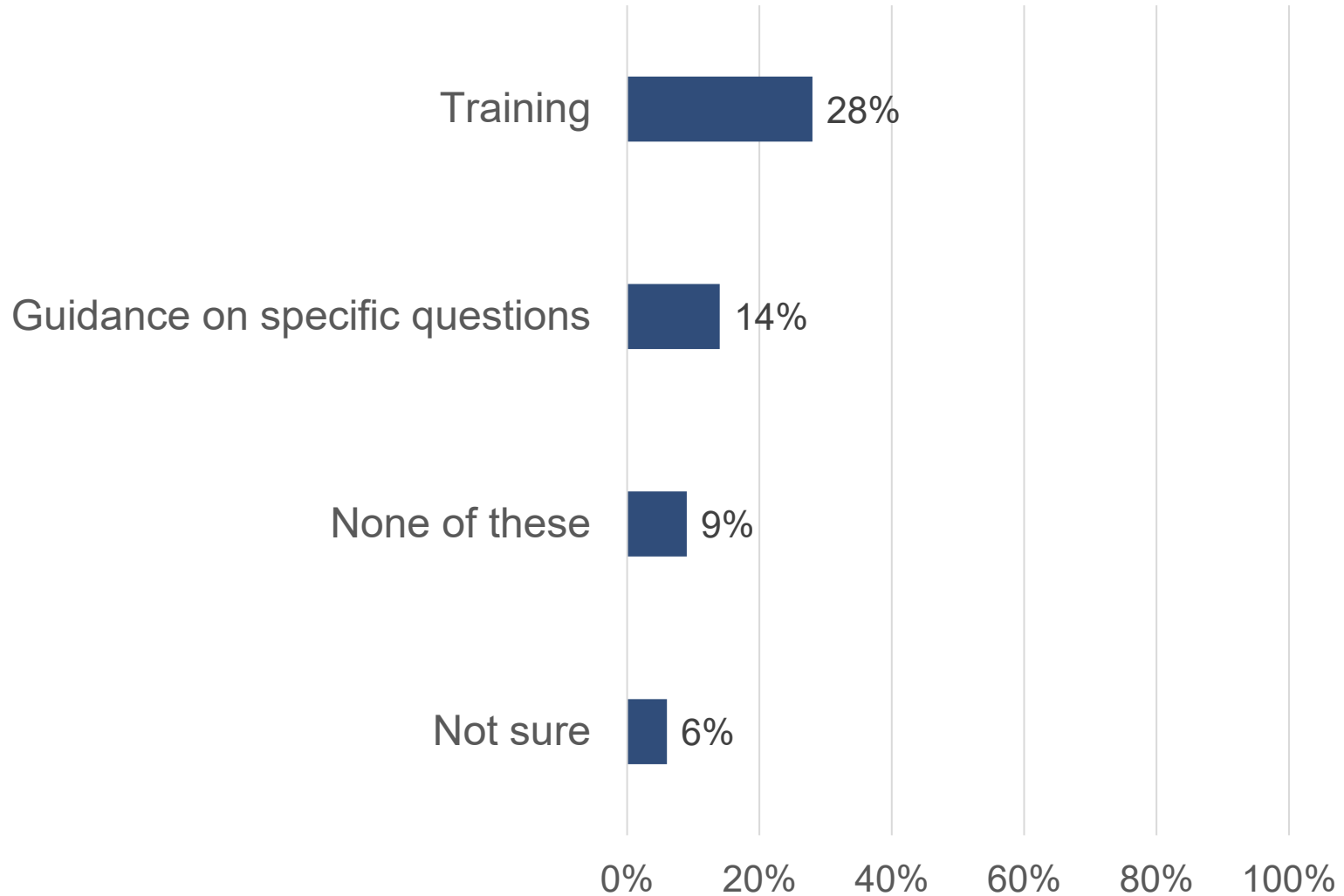
“What resources do you need to lead men’s ministry well?”



Lifeway Research

Q45: “What resources do you need to lead men’s ministry well? (Select all that apply)” n=473

“What resources do you need to lead men’s ministry well?”



Lifeway Research

Q45: “What resources do you need to lead men’s ministry well? (Select all that apply)” n=473