Southern Baptist Findings from the 2025 FACT Survey

Survey of SBC Pastors in conjunction with Faith Communities Today

Lifeway Research

Methodology

- The online survey of congregations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was conducted in 2025 with invitations being made through multiple methods
- Sothern Baptist Sample: Lifeway Research invited a random sample of congregations in the SBC to complete the survey. The invites were emailed to the pastor email or the congregation email if no pastor email was available.
- Large Church Sample: Scott Thumma and Warren Bird invited large churches (including some SBC congregations) to complete the survey for reporting on an oversample of Mega churches
- Random Protestant Sample: Faith Communities Today invited a random sample of Protestant churches to complete the survey. Some of these identified their church as SBC.

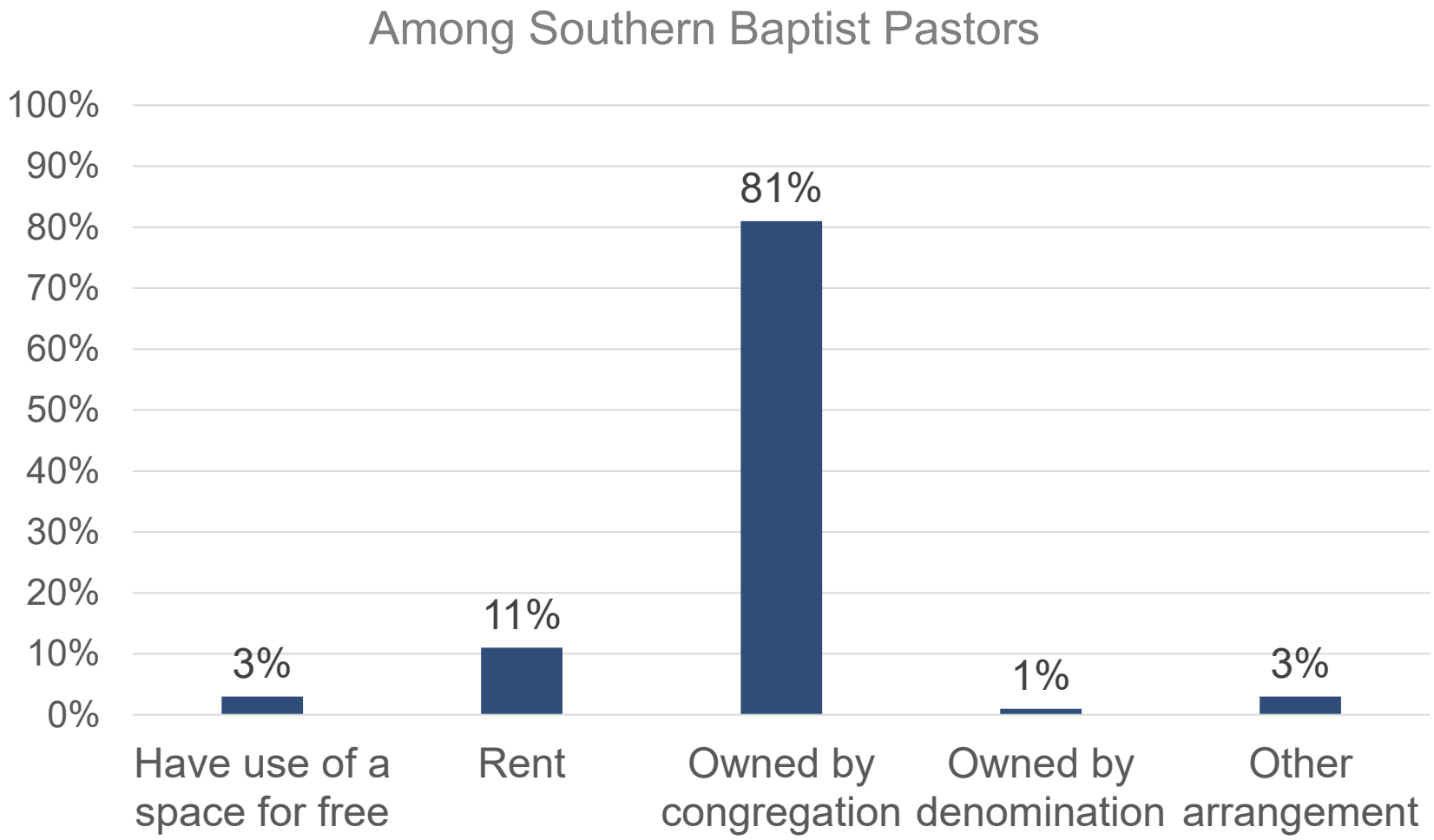
Methodology

- Each survey was completed by the senior pastor or someone they designated to complete it
- The survey was only offered and completed in English which may impact questions related to ethnicity
- Responses were weighted by church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The sample is 1,044 surveys with varying numbers of respondents for different questions
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed ±3.4%
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups and questions only answered by sub-groups

Survey Responses

Lifeway Research

“Which best describes your congregation’s relationship to its primary place of worship?”

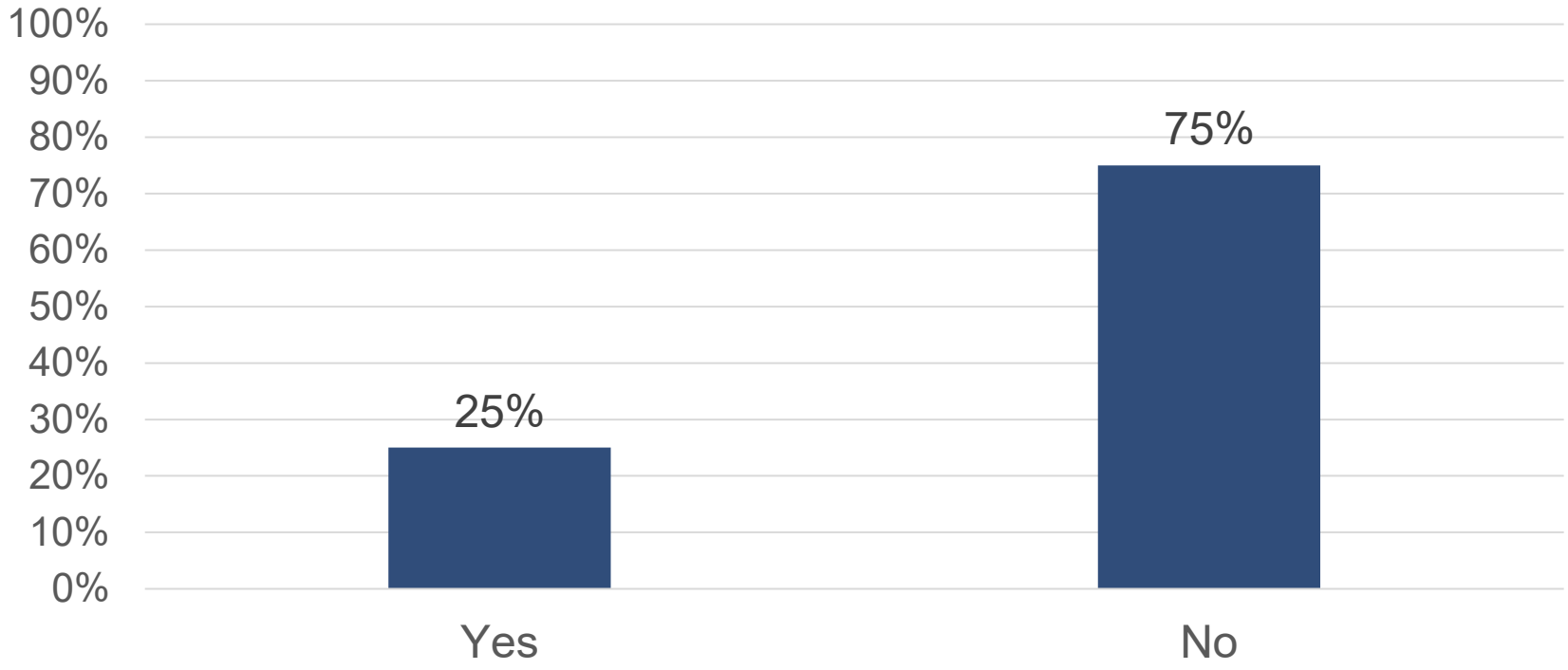


Lifeway Research

Q4: “Which best describes your congregation’s relationship to its primary place of worship?” n=1,040

“Do one or more other organizations (beyond your congregation) use space at the facility where you worship?”

Among Congregations whose worship space is owned by the church or denomination

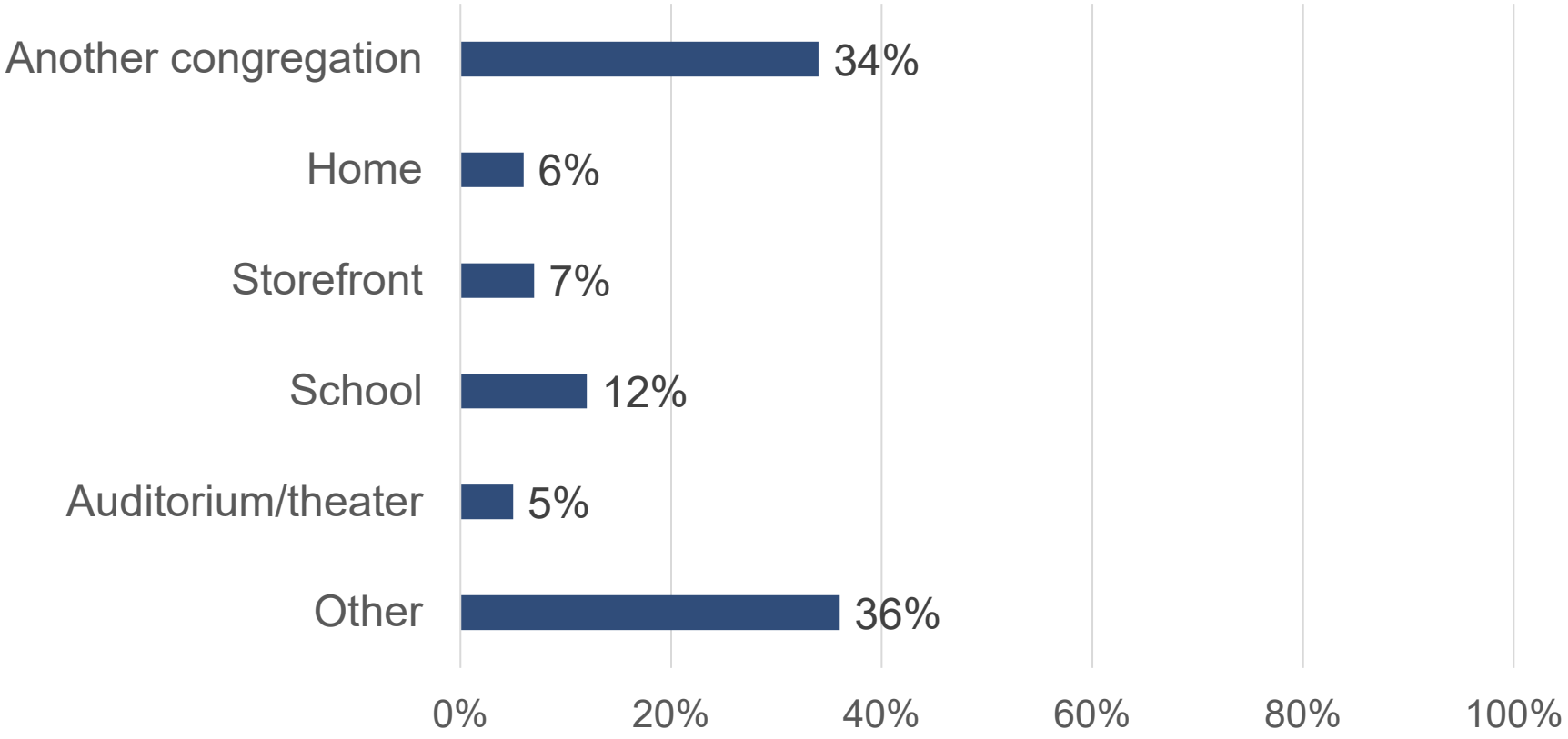


Lifeway Research

Q5: “Do one or more other organizations (beyond your congregation) use space at the facility where you worship?” n=888

“What is the type of space you are using?”

Among Congregations whose worship space is free or rented

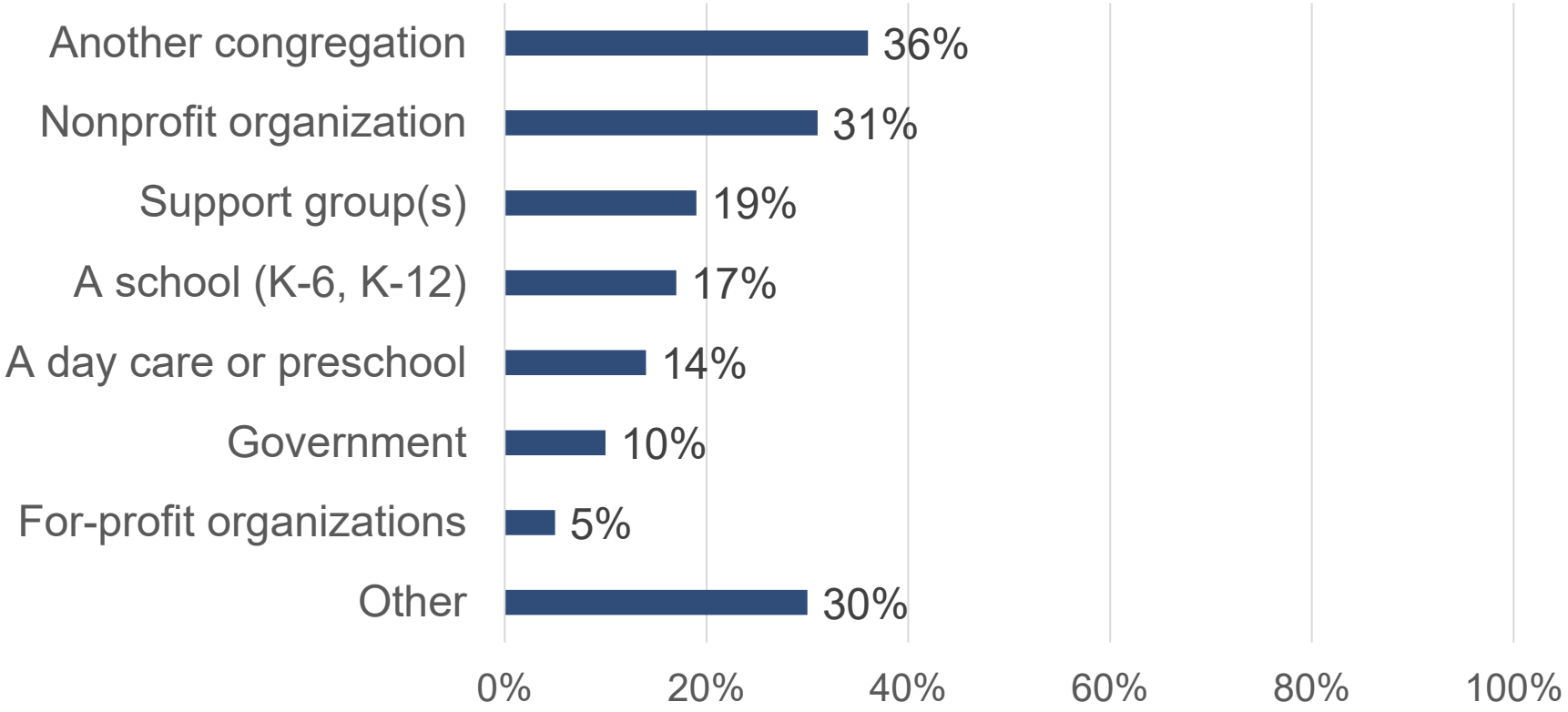


Lifeway Research

Q6: “What is the type of space you are using? ”n=125

“Do any of the following types of organizations use the facility where you worship?”

Among congregations who own their worship space and allow other organizations to use it

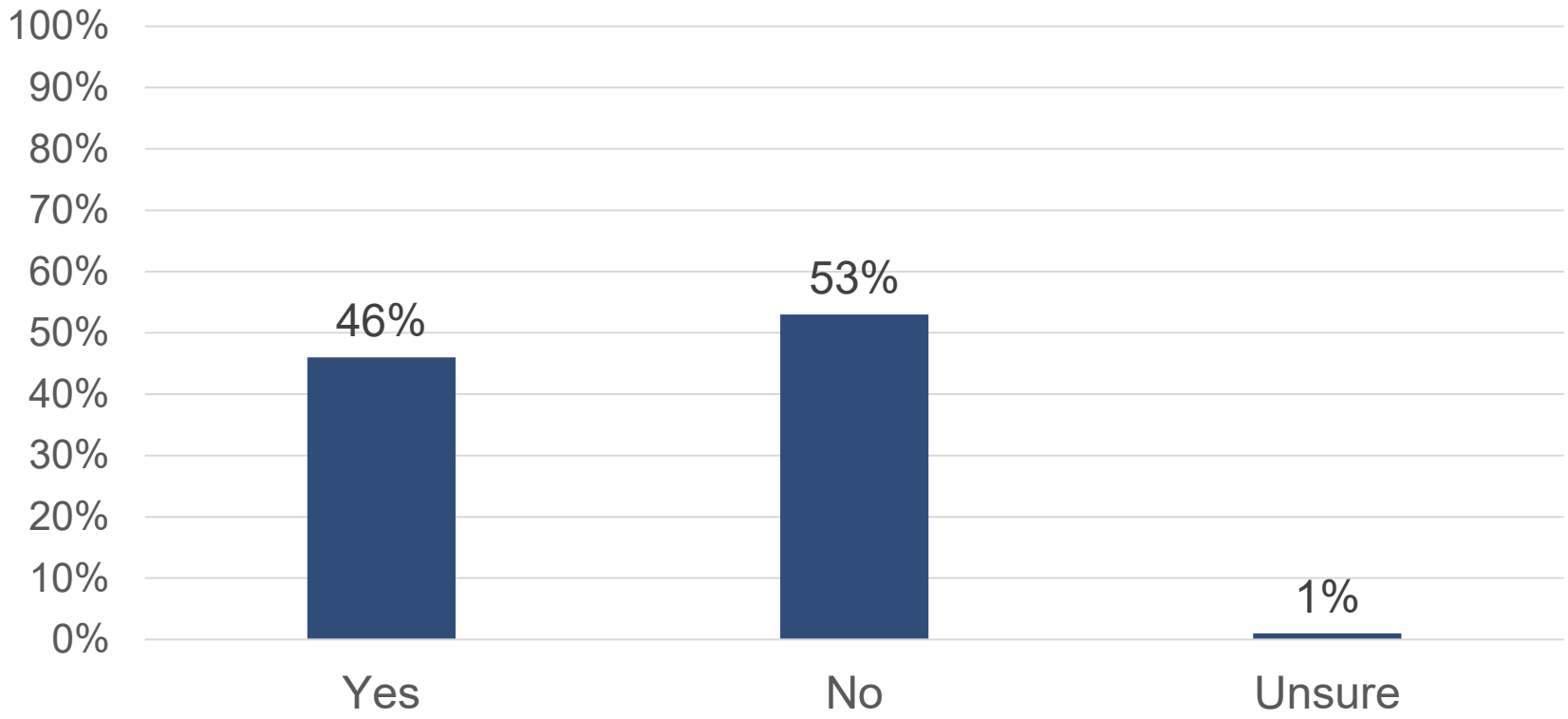


Lifeway Research

Q7: “Do any of the following types of organizations use the facility where you worship? (Check all that apply.)” n=275

“Do any of these organizations provide rental income/donations for the space?”

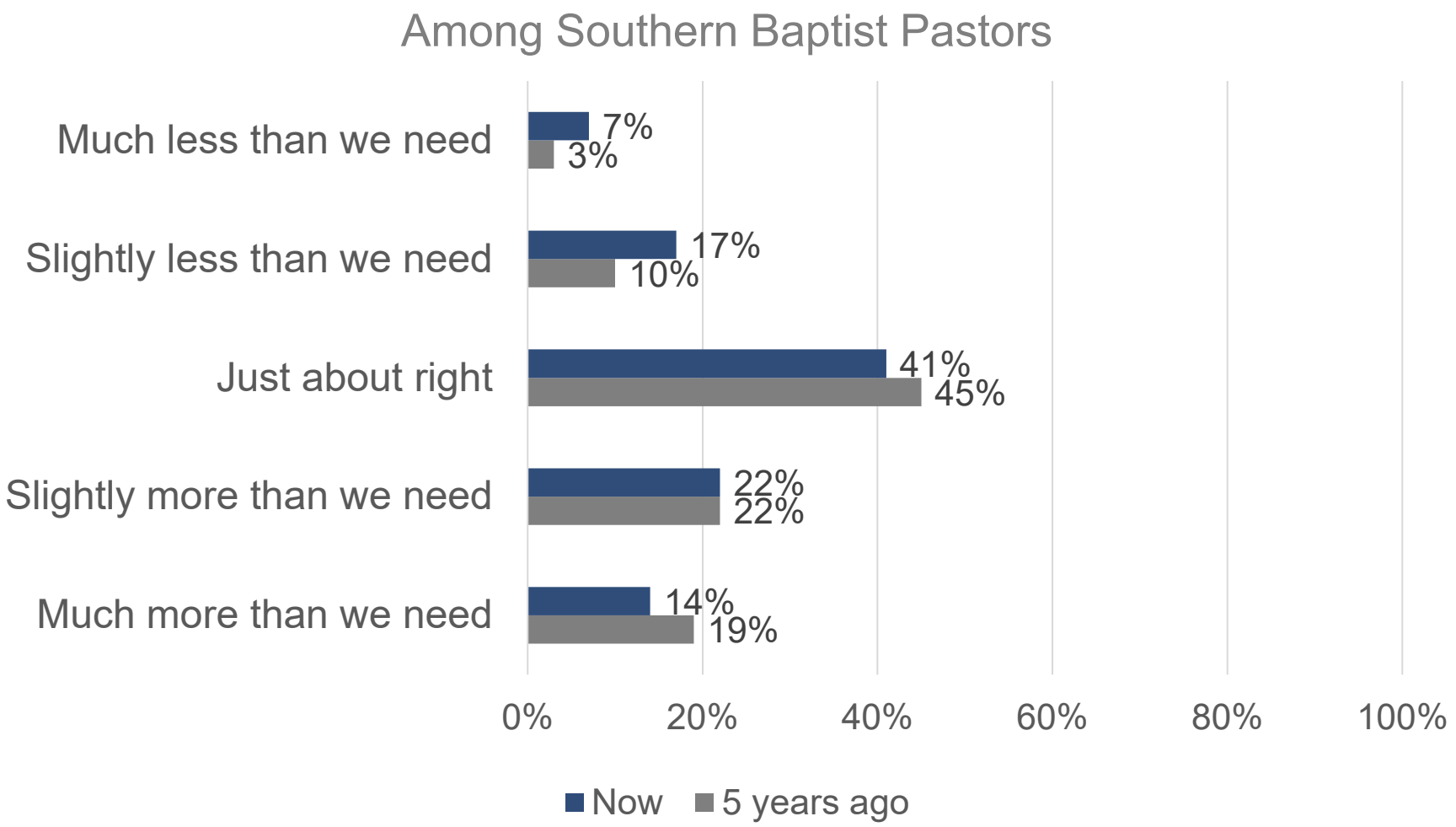
Among congregations who own their worship space and allow other organizations to use it



Lifeway Research

Q8: “Do any of these organizations provide rental income/donations for the space?” n=274

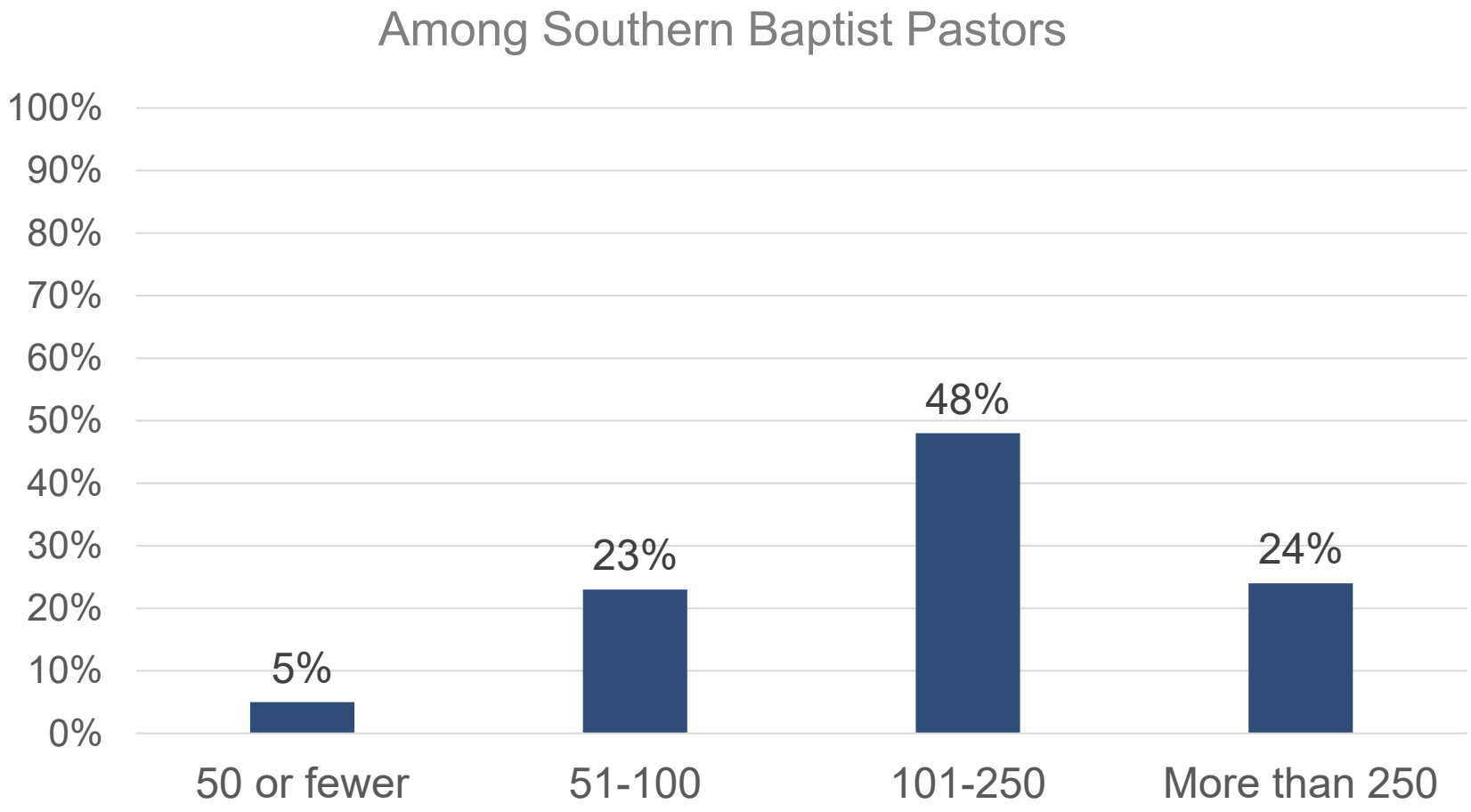
“How adequate is the space for religious services or worship for the needs of your congregation?”



Lifeway Research

Q9: “How adequate is the space for religious services or worship for the needs of your congregation?” Now n=1,015, 5 years ago n=959

“What is the seating capacity where your primary services are held?”

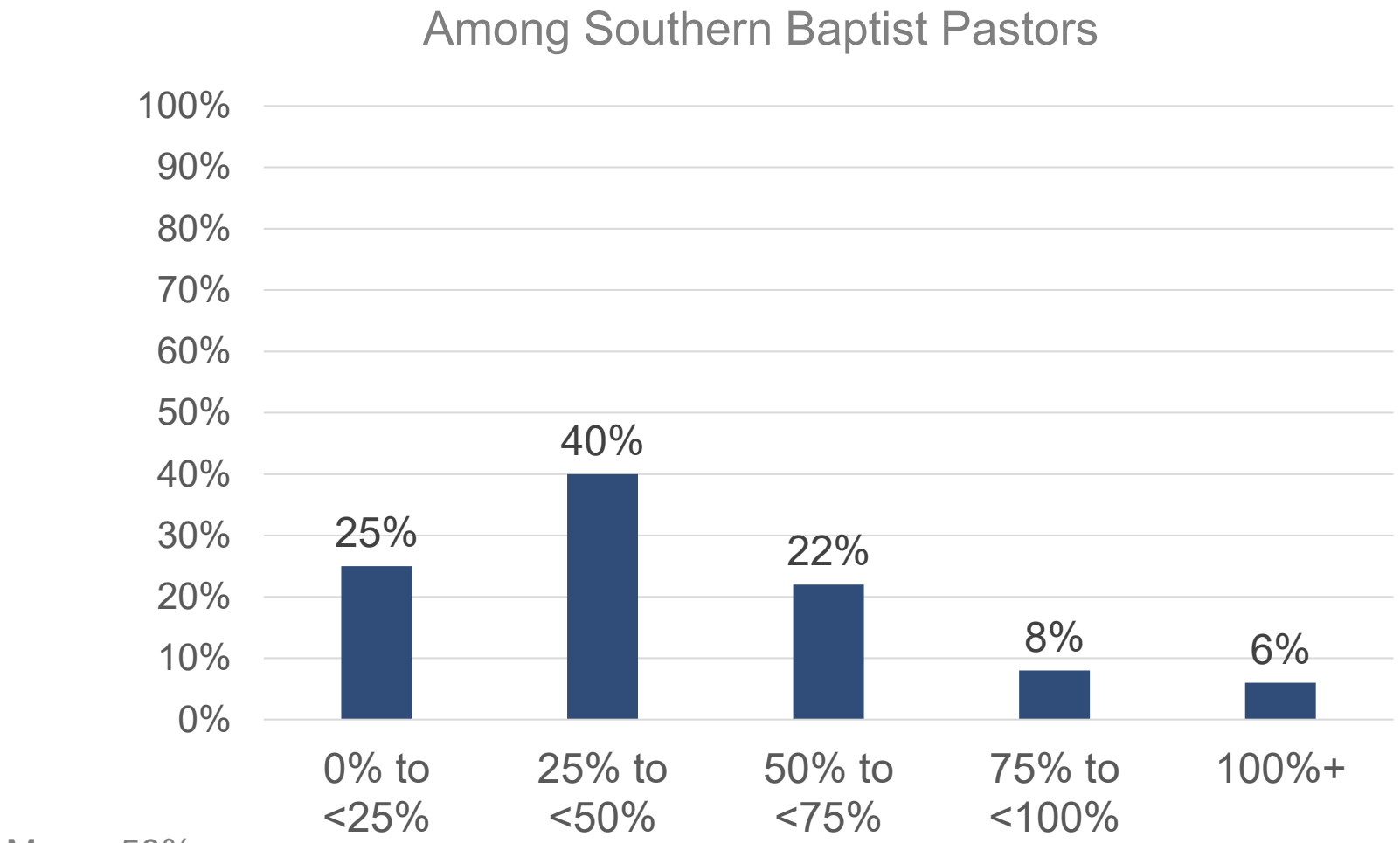


Mean: 653
Median: 150

Lifeway Research

Q10: “What is the seating capacity where your primary services are held?” n=1,004

Percentage weekly average attendance fills the seating capacity



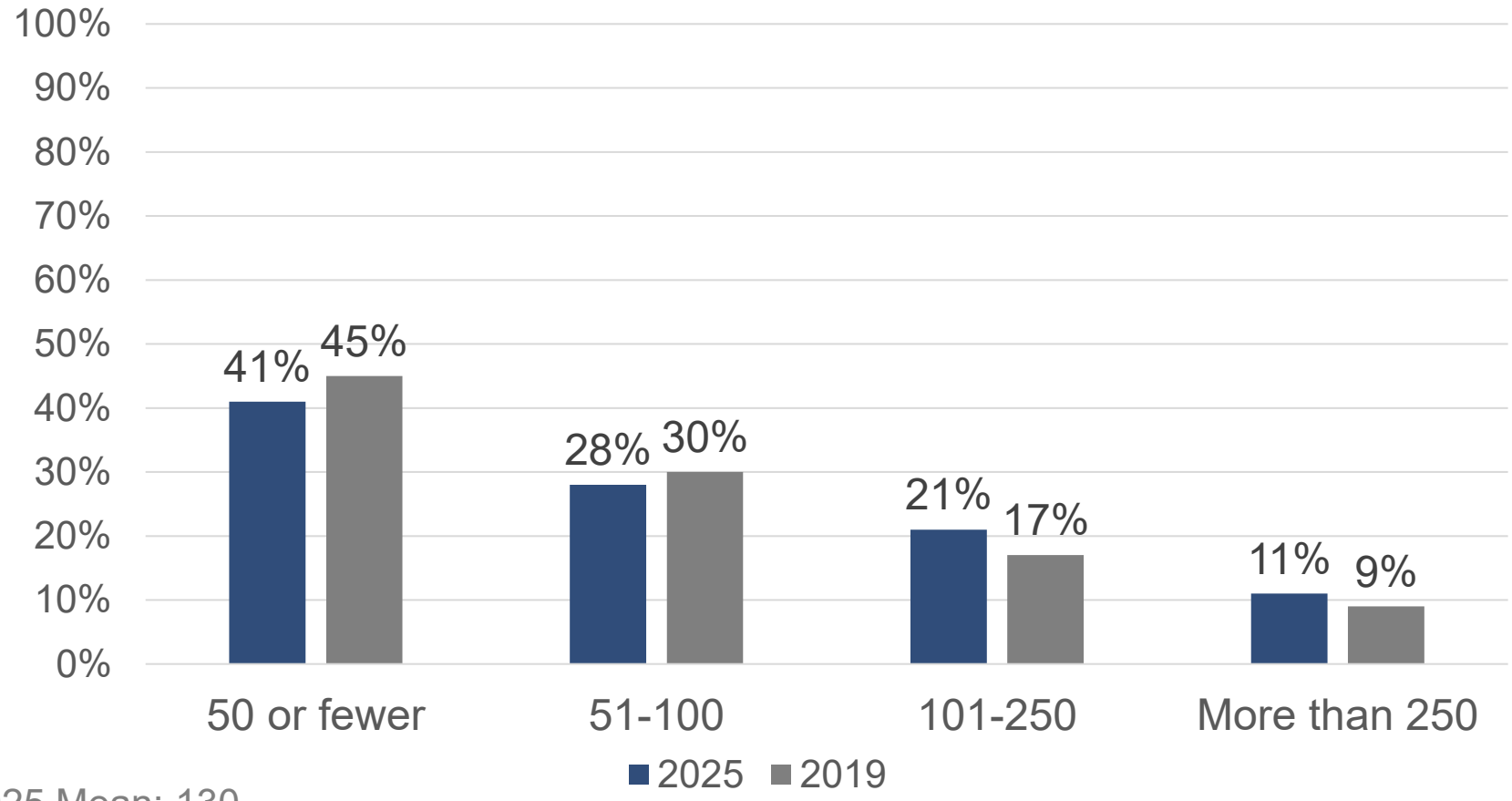
Mean: 50%
Median: 38%

Lifeway Research

Calculated Q11. Please estimate the total average in-person attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s) **currently** *divided by* Q10: "What is the seating capacity where your primary services are held?" n=1,000

“Please estimate the total average in-person attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s)”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors



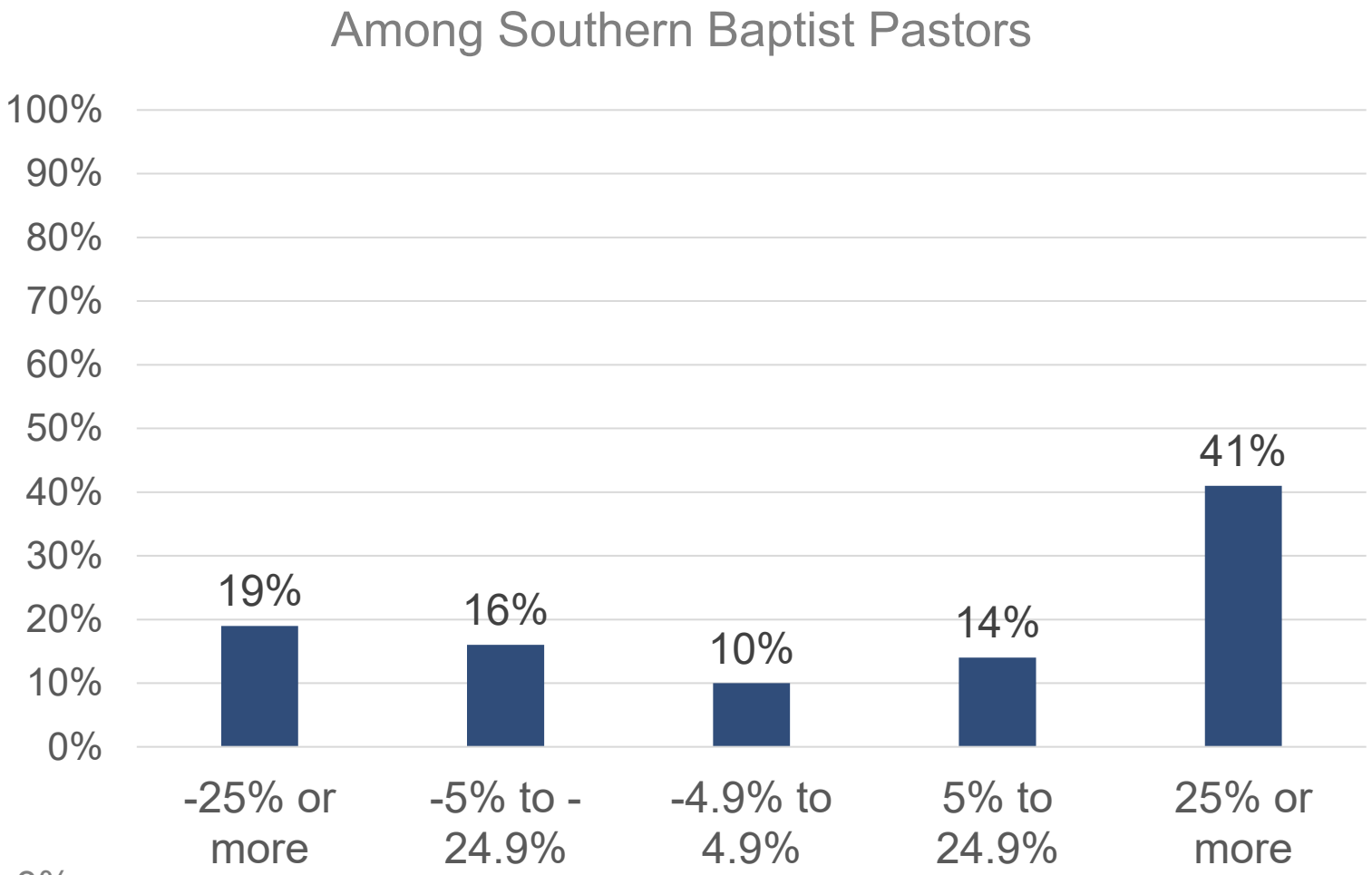
2025 Mean: 130
2025 Median: 60

2019 Mean: 125
2019 Median: 55

Lifeway Research

Q11 “Please estimate the total average in-person attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s)”
2025 n=1,035, 2019 n=975

Attendance growth rate prepandemic to now

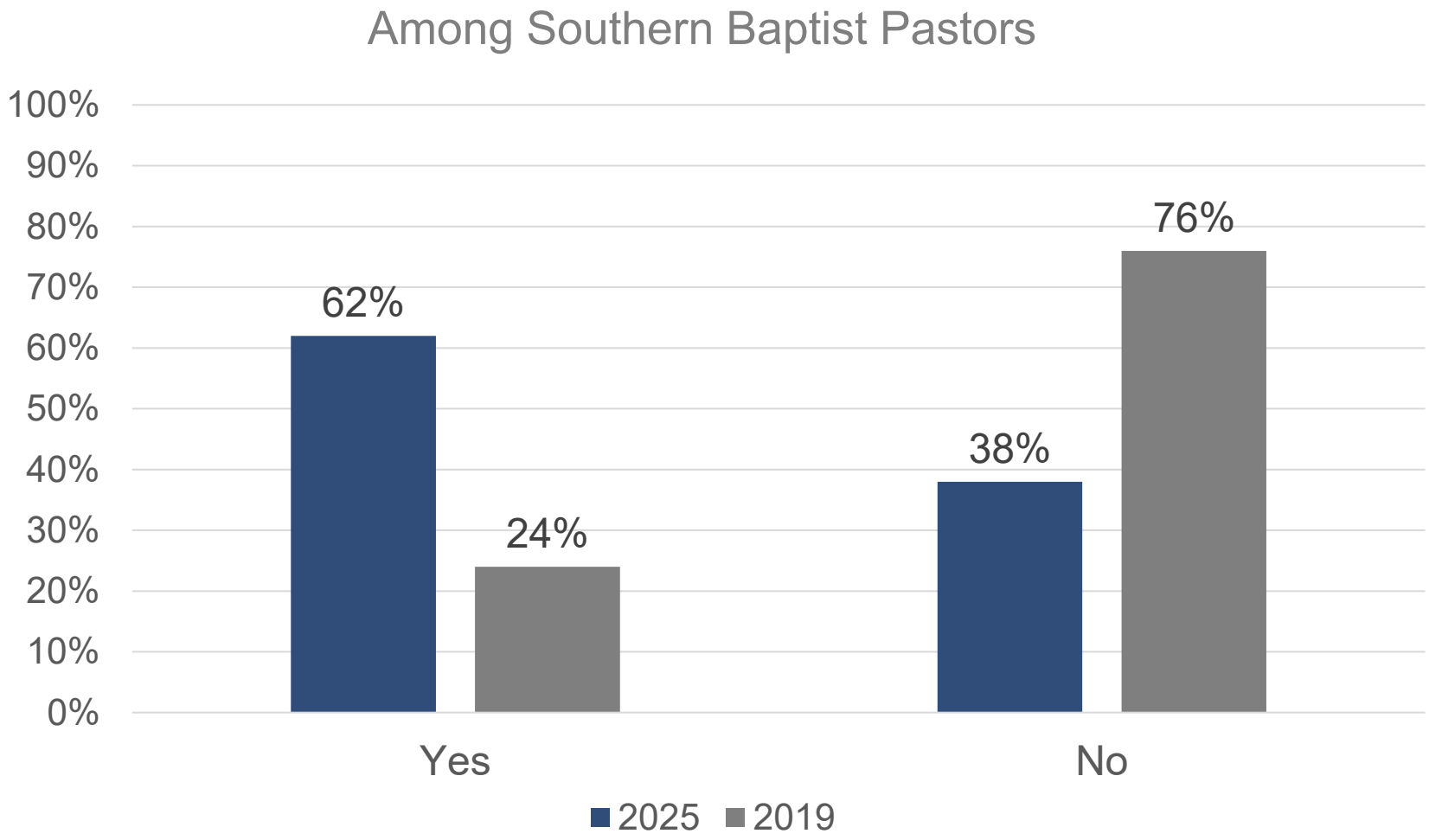


Mean: 3%
Median: 4%

Lifeway Research

Attendance growth rate prepandemic to now. n=944

“Does your congregation currently hold online/virtual worship? Did you in 2019?”

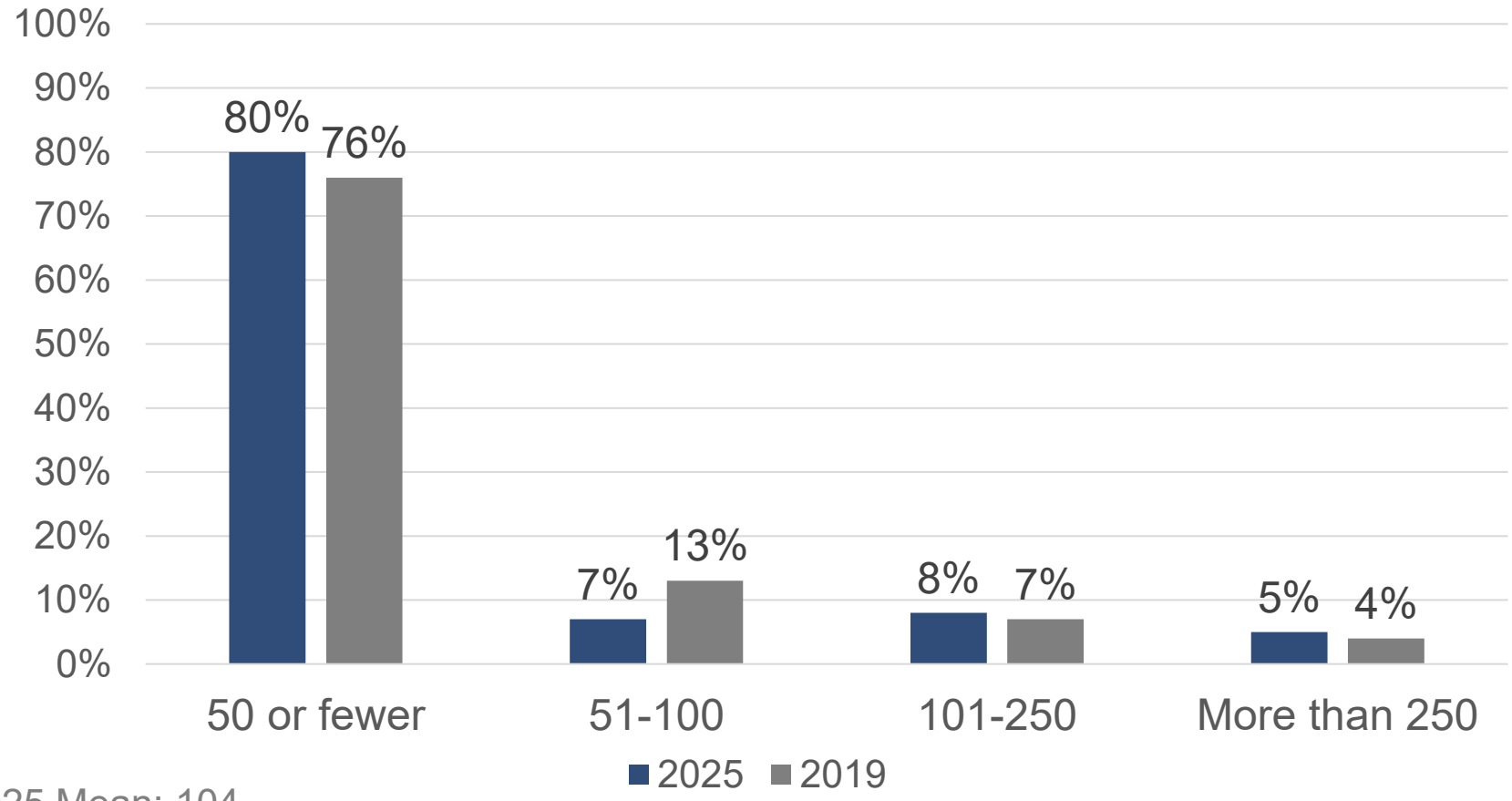


Lifeway Research

Q13: “Does your congregation currently hold online/virtual worship? Did you in 2019? (Includes in-person worship services being broadcast/live-streamed/recorded and available to watch later)” 2025 n=1,041, 2019 n-1,017

“Please estimate the total average online attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s)”

Among congregations who hold online/virtual worship



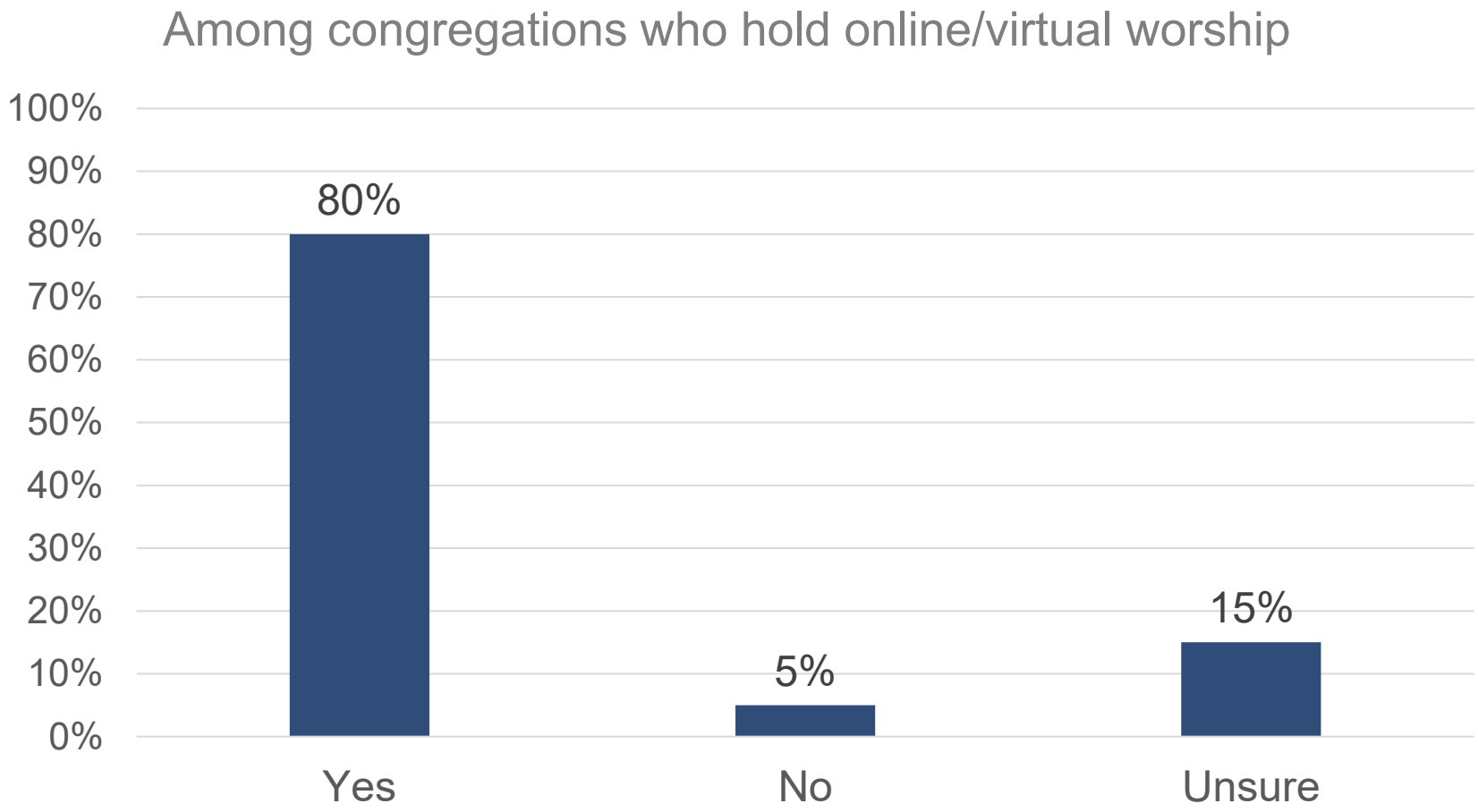
2025 Mean: 104
2025 Median: 15

2019 Mean: 103
2019 Median: 20

Lifeway Research

Q14 “Please estimate the total average online attendance at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s)”
2025 n=663, 2019 n=238

“Do you imagine that you will still be offering an online/virtual worship option in 5 years?”



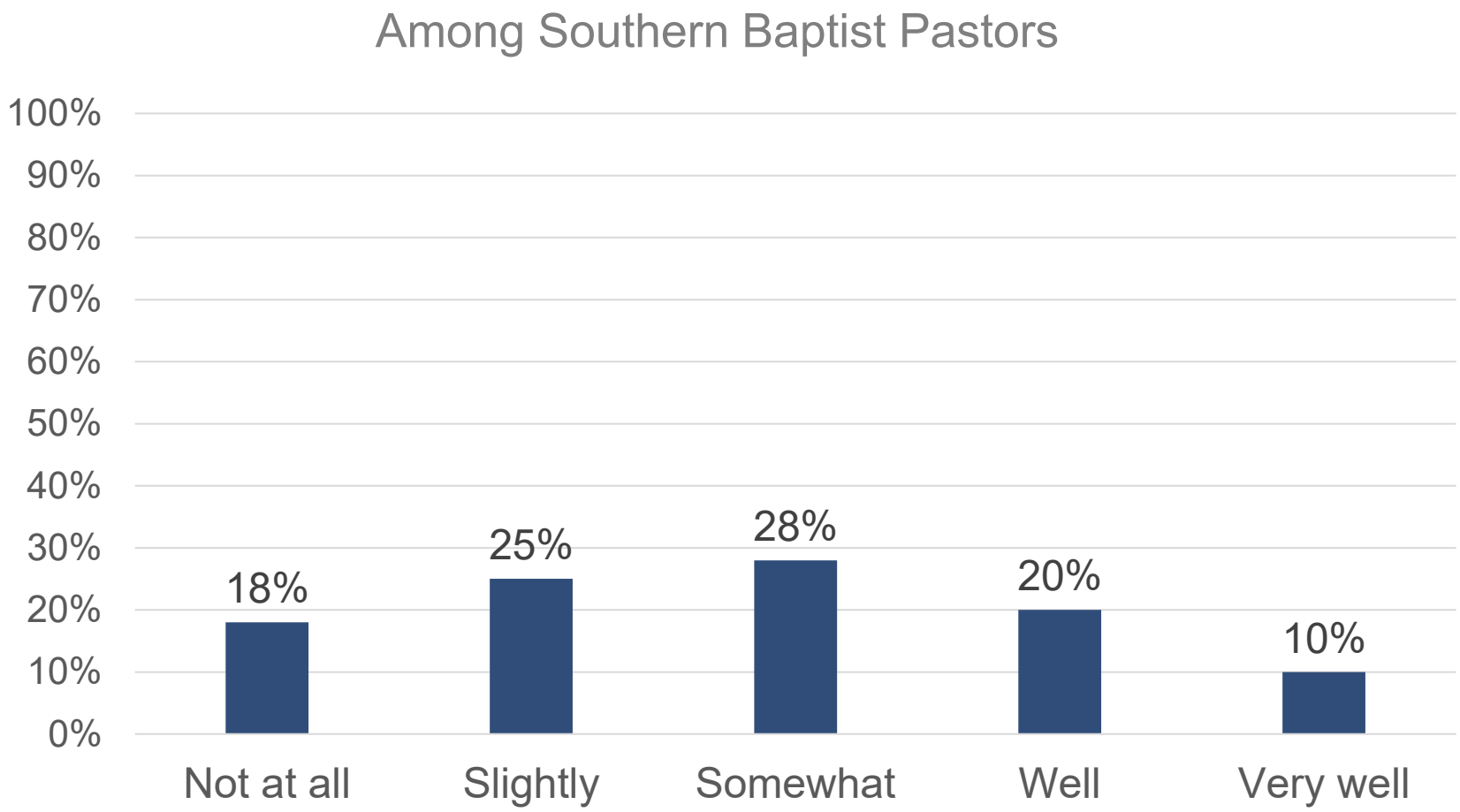
Lifeway Research

Q16: “Do you imagine that you will still be offering an online/virtual worship option in 5 years?” n=749

Worship

Lifeway Research

“Contemporary” describes 29% of SBC congregations’ primary worship service

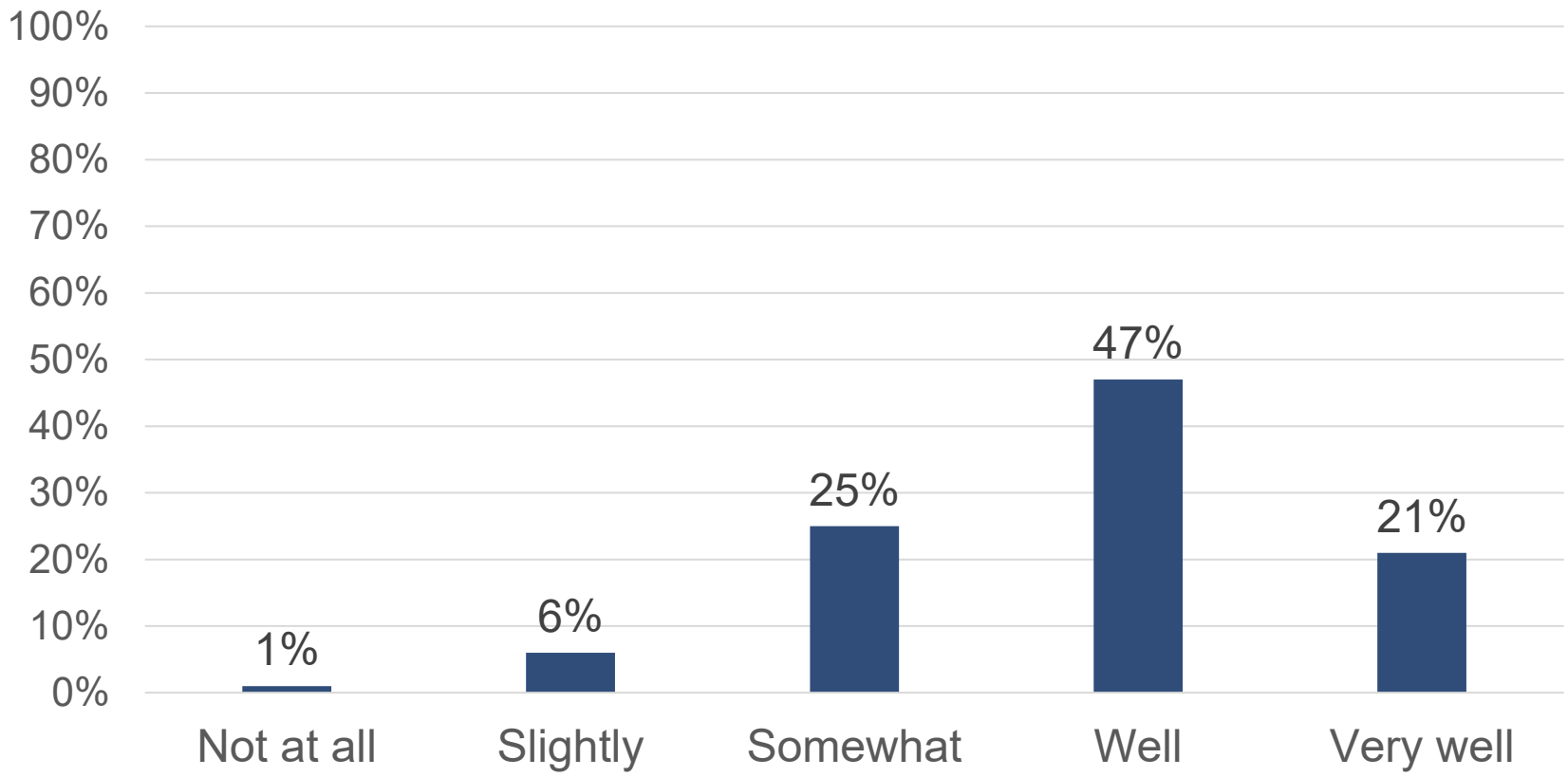


Lifeway Research

Q17_1: “How well do the following describe your congregation’s primary regular worship service(s)? **Contemporary**” n=999

“Reverent” describes 68% of SBC congregations’ primary worship service

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

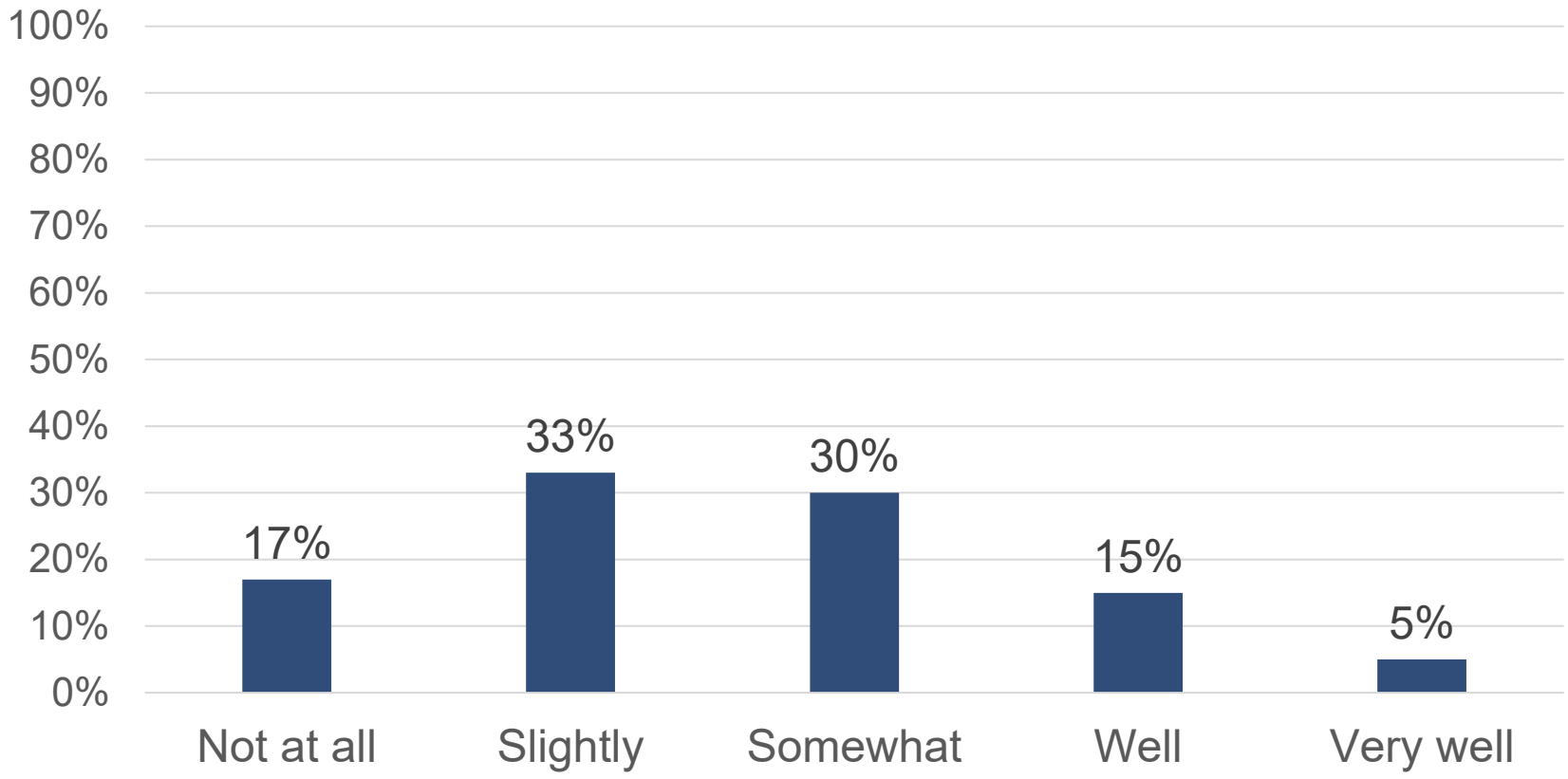


Lifeway Research

Q17_2: “How well do the following describe your congregation’s primary regular worship service(s)? Reverent” n=988

“Innovative” describes 20% of SBC congregations’ primary worship service

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

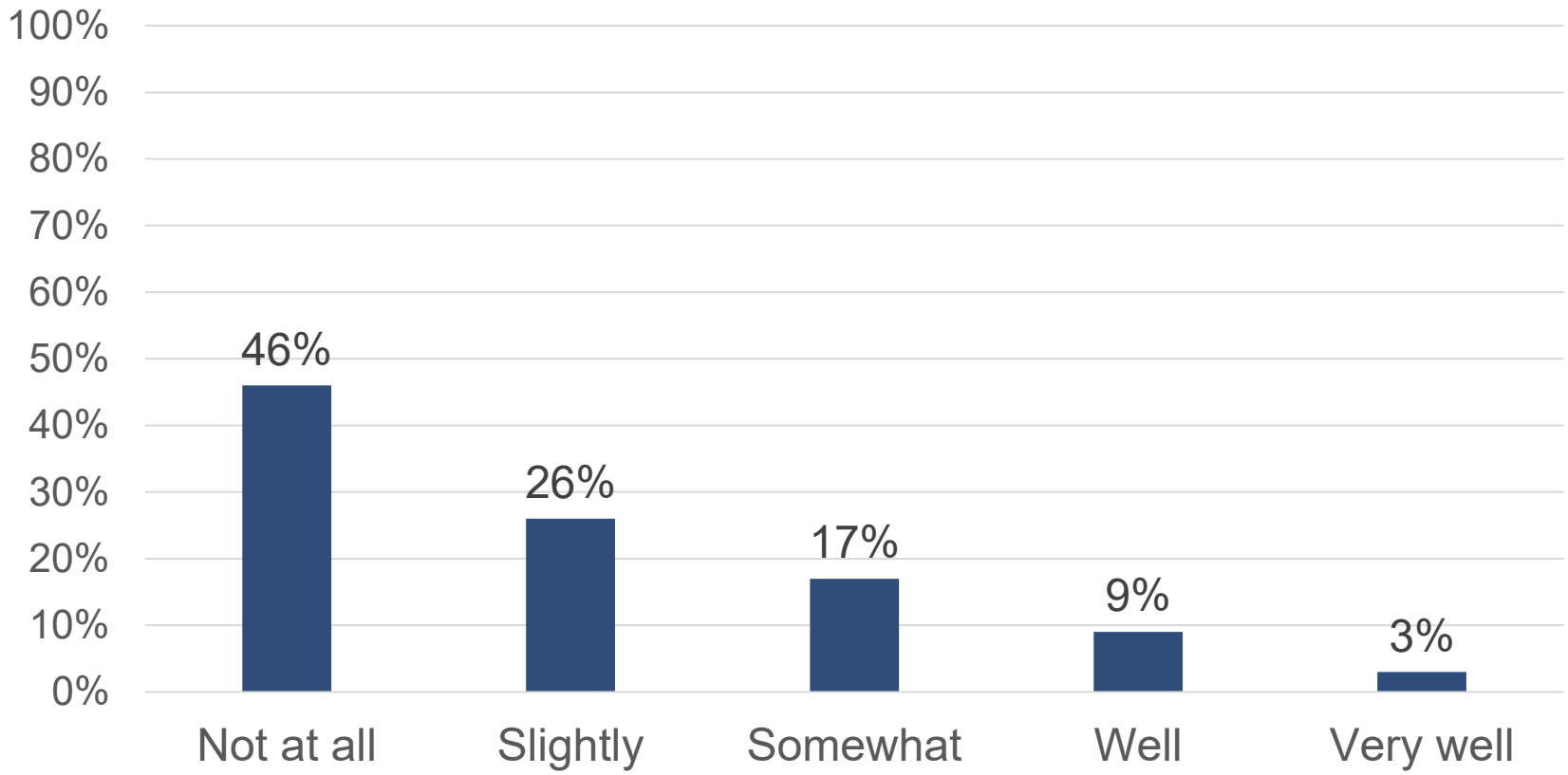


Lifeway Research

Q17_3: “How well do the following describe your congregation’s primary regular worship service(s)? Innovative” n=978

“Formal ritual or liturgy” describes 12% of SBC congregations’ primary worship service

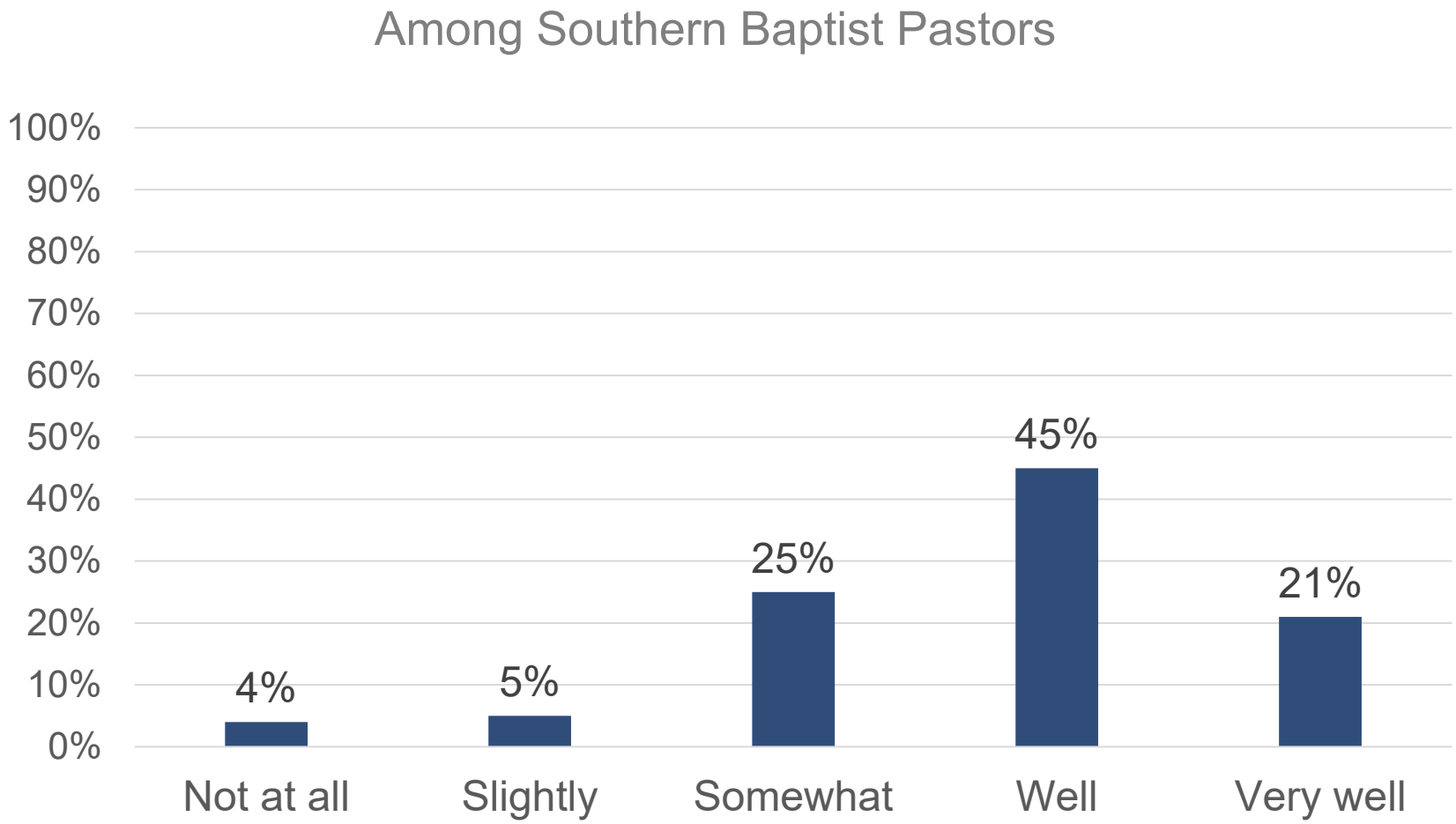
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q17_4: “How well do the following describe your congregation’s primary regular worship service(s)? Formal ritual or liturgy” n=978

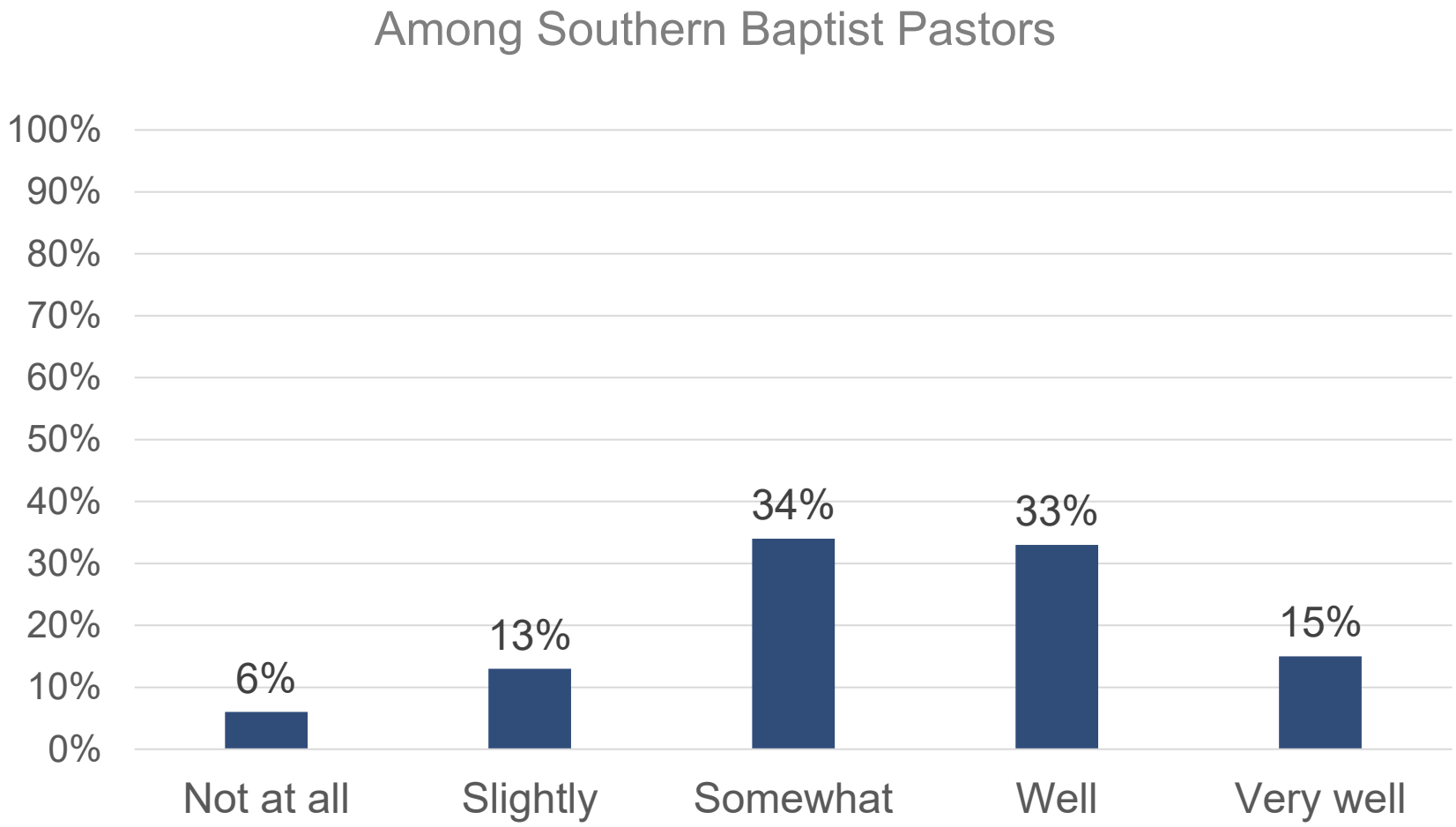
“Thought-provoking” describes 65% of SBC congregations’ primary worship service



Lifeway Research

Q17_5: “How well do the following describe your congregation’s primary regular worship service(s)? Thought-provoking” n=994

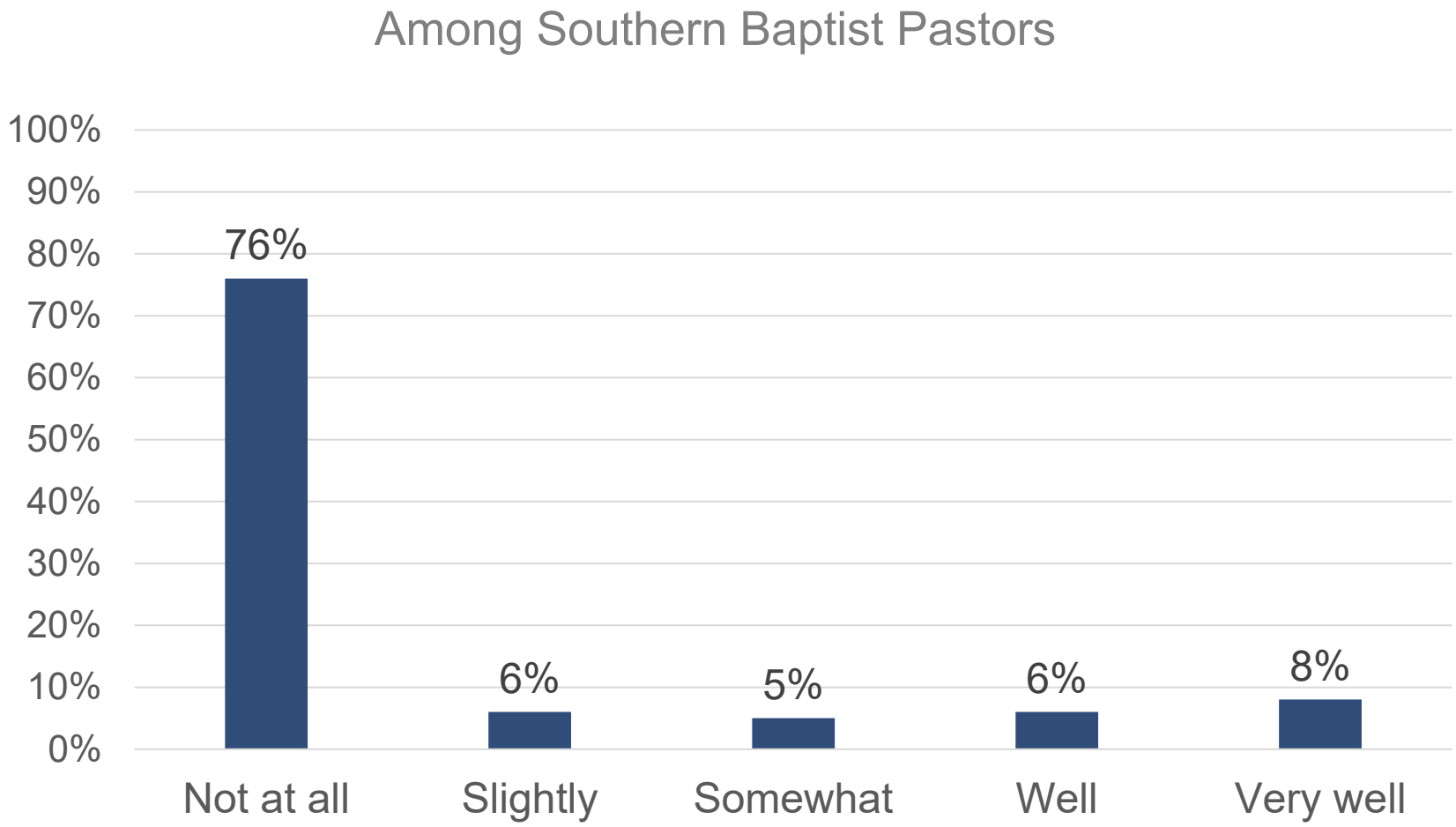
“Informal” describes 47% of SBC congregations’ primary worship service



Lifeway Research

Q17_5: “How well do the following describe your congregation’s primary regular worship service(s)? **Informal**” n=993

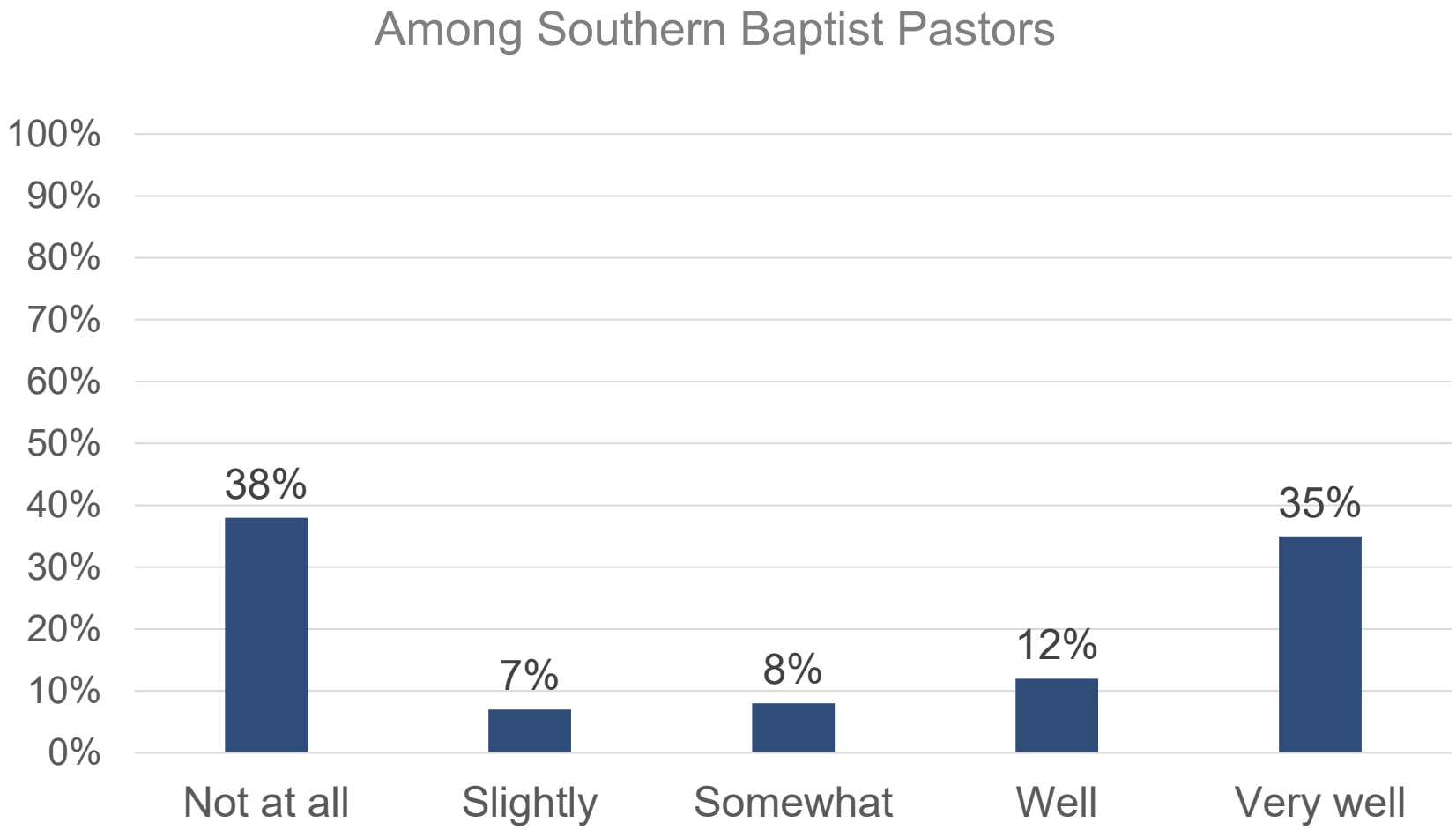
Only 24% of SBC congregations' primary worship service "Include organ" at all



Lifeway Research

Q17_6: "How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service(s)? **Includes organ**" n=985

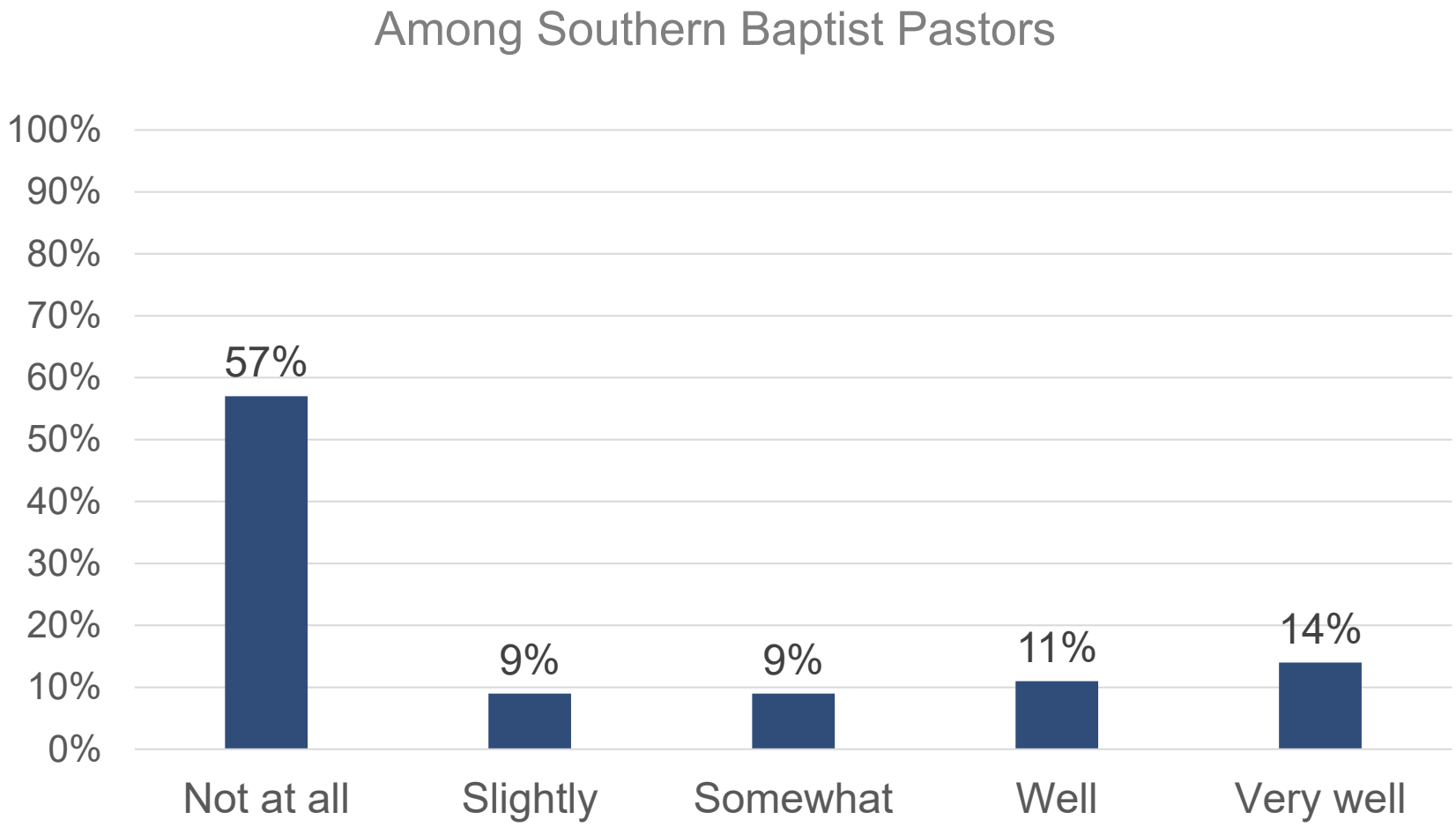
62% of SBC congregations' primary worship service "Include guitar" at all



Lifeway Research

Q17_7: "How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service(s)? **Includes guitar**" n=997

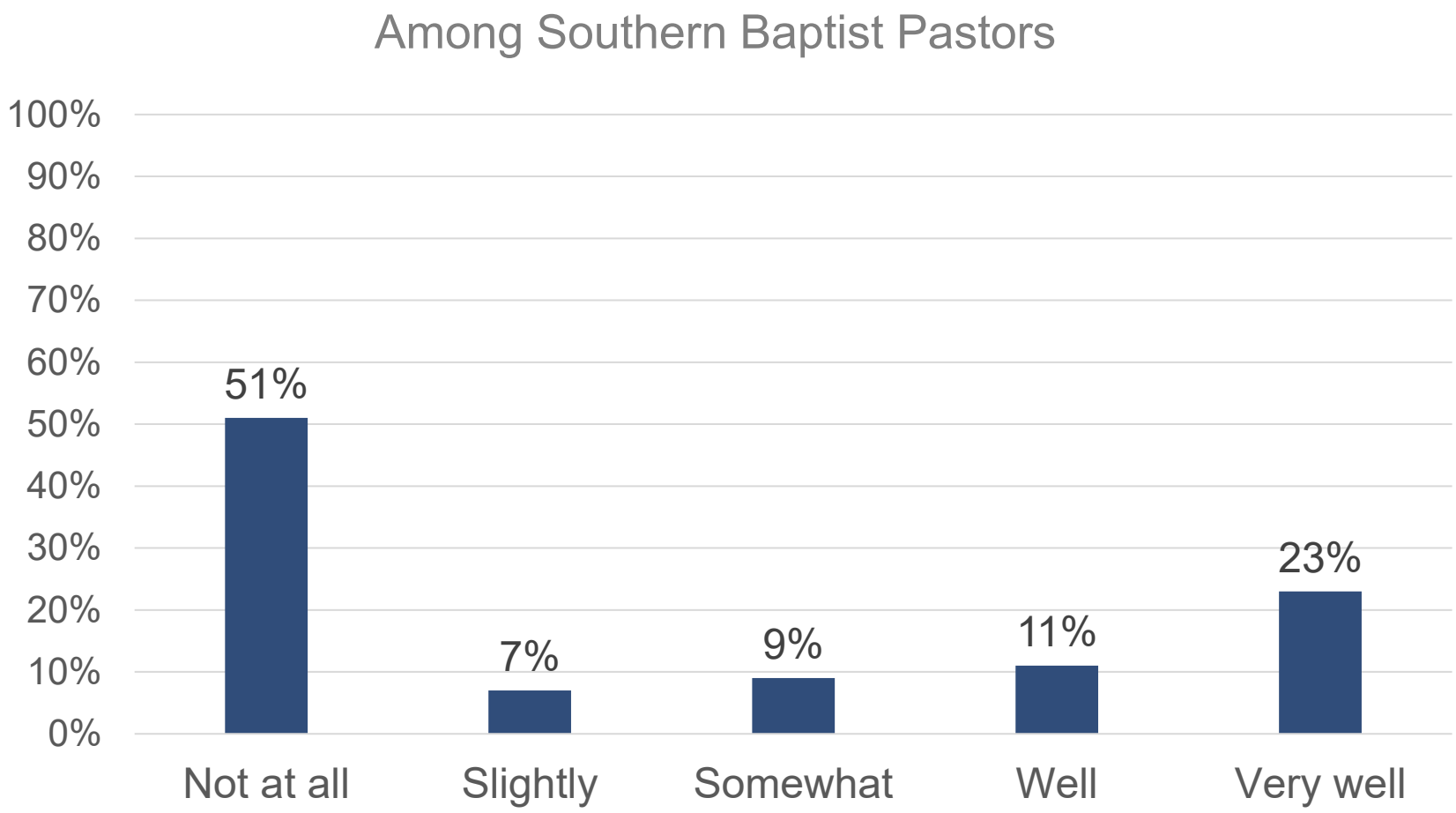
43% of SBC congregations' primary worship service "Include choir" at all



Lifeway Research

Q17_7: "How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service(s)? **Includes choir**" n=995

49% of SBC congregations' primary worship service "Include worship band" at all



Lifeway Research

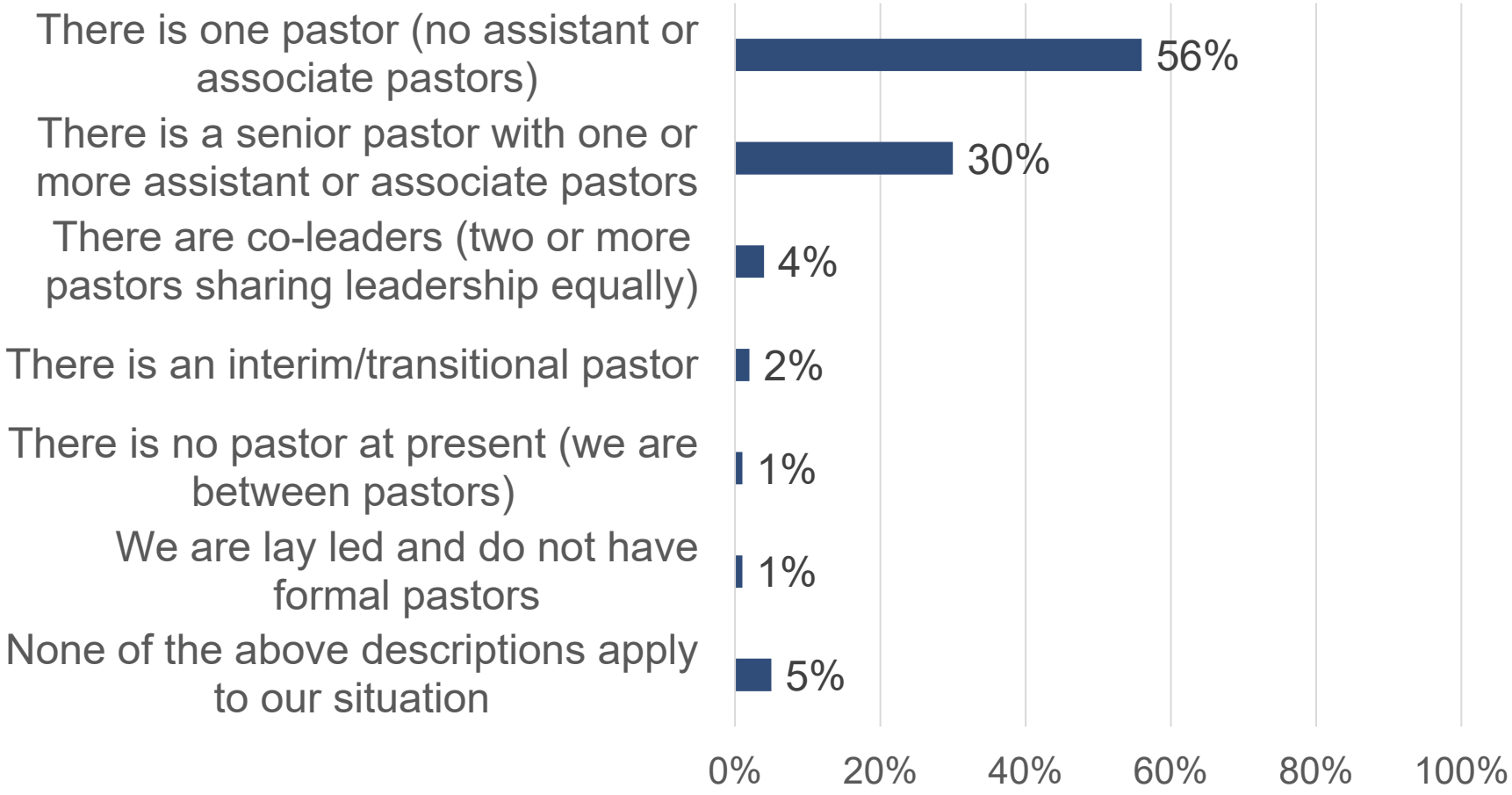
Q17_8: "How well do the following describe your congregation's primary regular worship service(s)? **Includes worship band**" n=999

Leadership

Lifeway Research

“Which statement best describes the (religious) leadership of this congregation?”

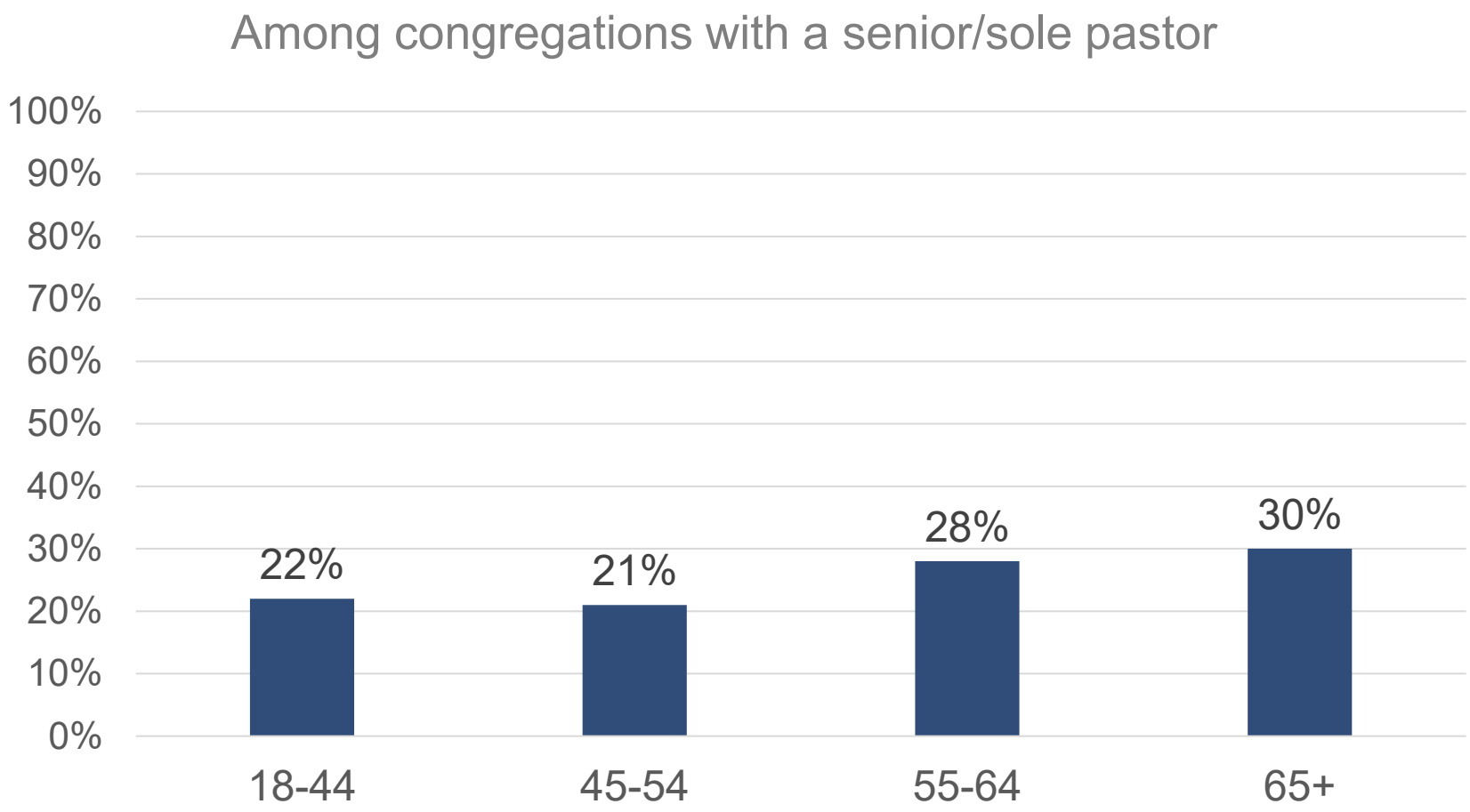
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q18: “Which statement best describes the (religious) leadership of this congregation?” n=1,020

Age of senior pastor

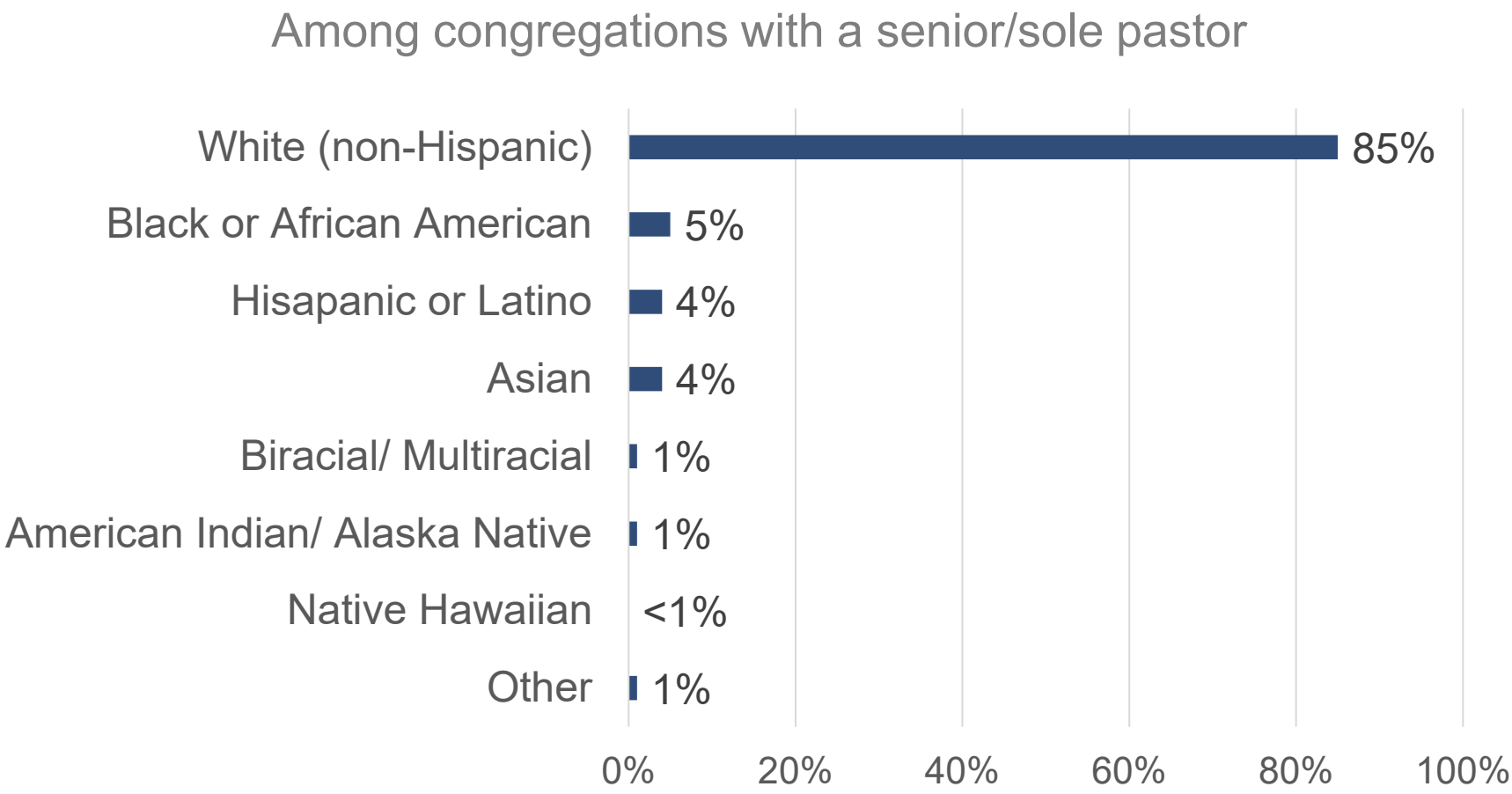


Mean: 56
Median: 57

Lifeway Research

Q19: "Please describe the senior or sole pastor of this congregation (if co-leaders, answer about the oldest co-leader)." n=906

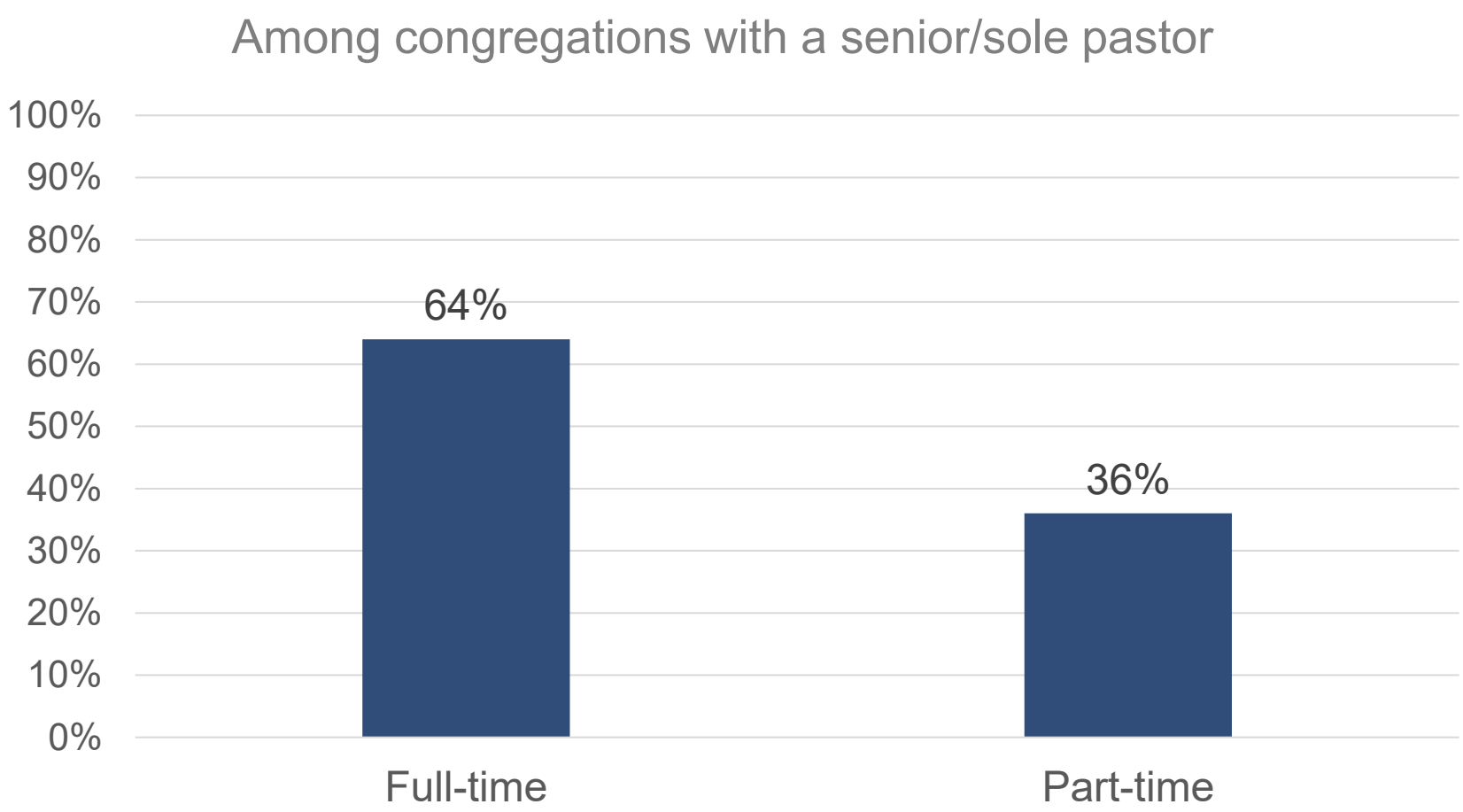
Ethnicity of participating senior pastors



Lifeway Research

Q20: "Senior pastor's race/ethnicity." n=951

“Which best describes the senior pastor’s employment status at your congregation?”

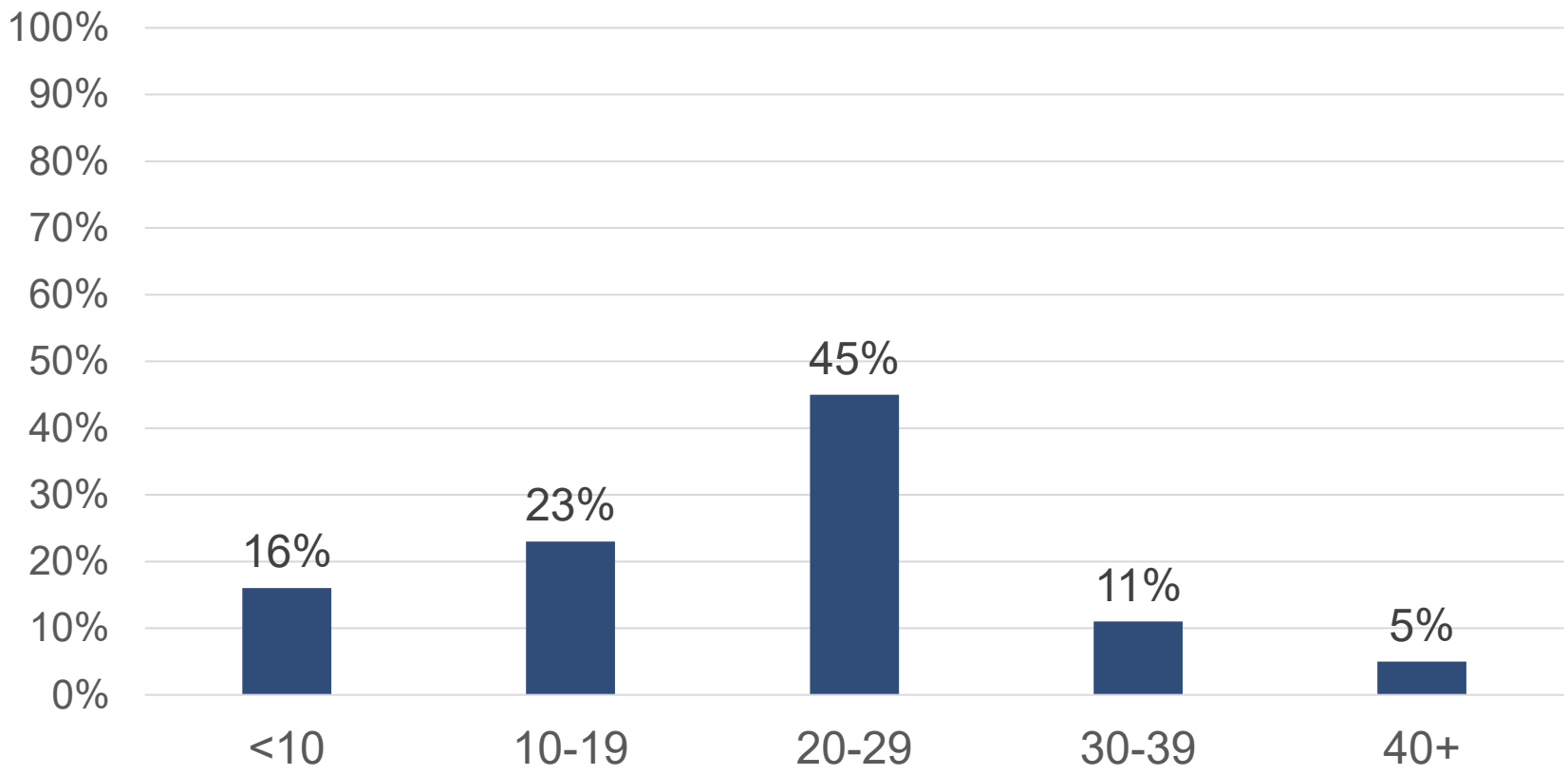


Lifeway Research

Q21 “Which best describes the senior pastor’s employment status at your congregation?” n=948

“If part-time, how many hours is this person contracted to work each week?”

Among congregations with a part-time senior/sole pastor

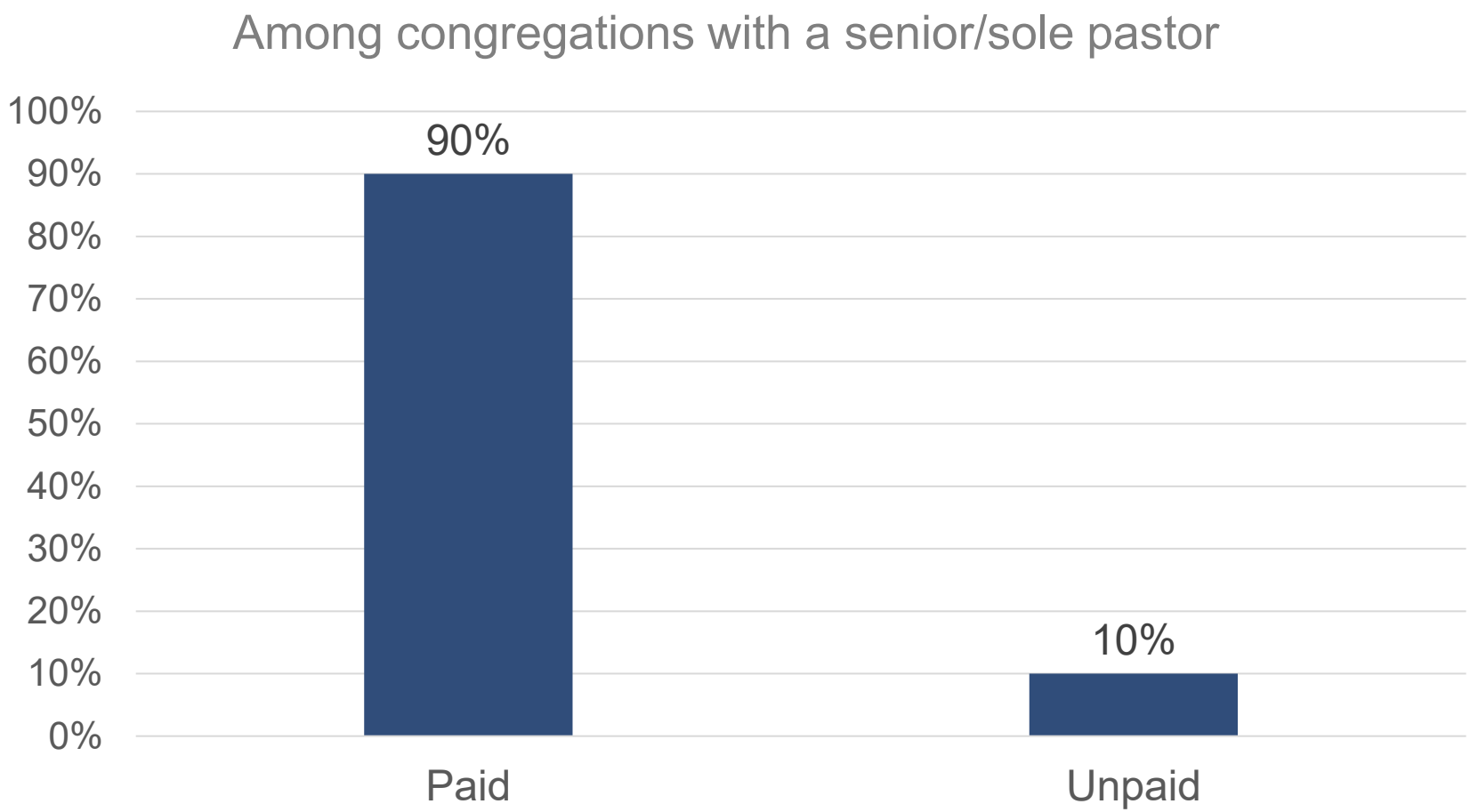


Mean: 19
Median: 20

Lifeway Research

Q22 “If part-time, how many hours is this person contracted to work each week?” n=152

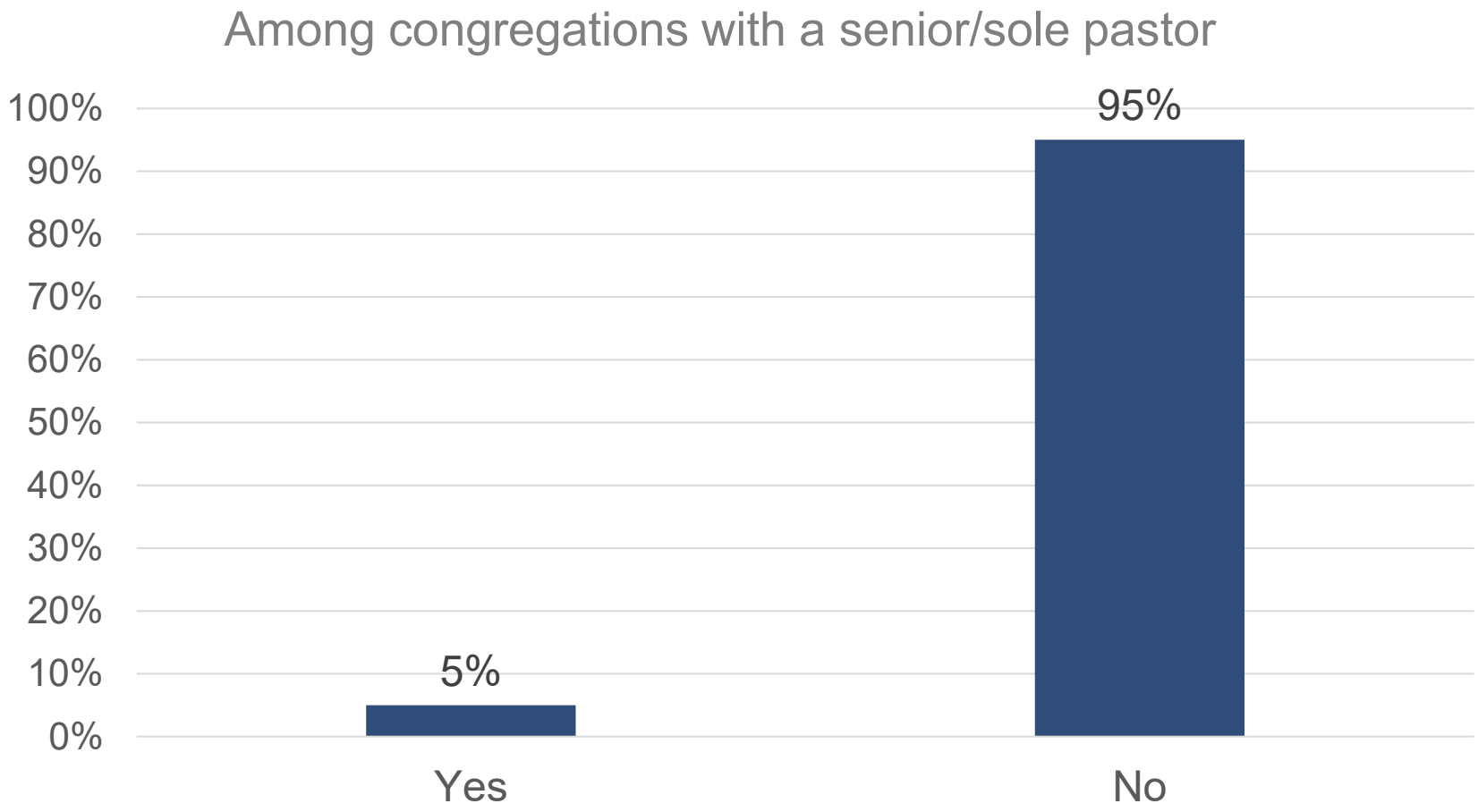
“Which best describes the senior pastor’s compensation?”



Lifeway Research

Q23 “Which best describes the senior pastor’s compensation?” n=929

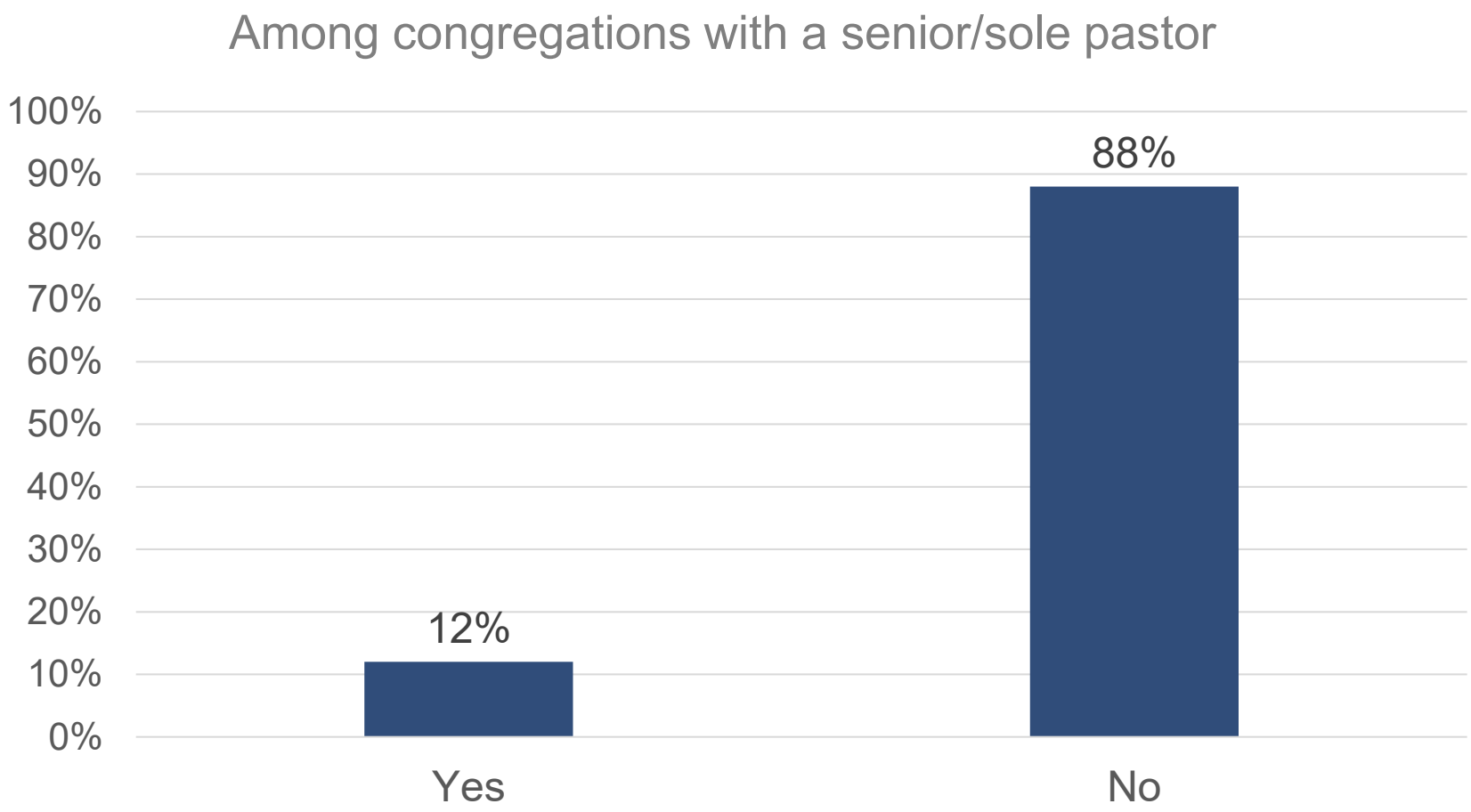
Serves another congregation(s)



Lifeway Research

Q24 _1 “Do any of the following characteristics apply to the senior pastor of this congregation? **Serves another congregation(s)**” n=898

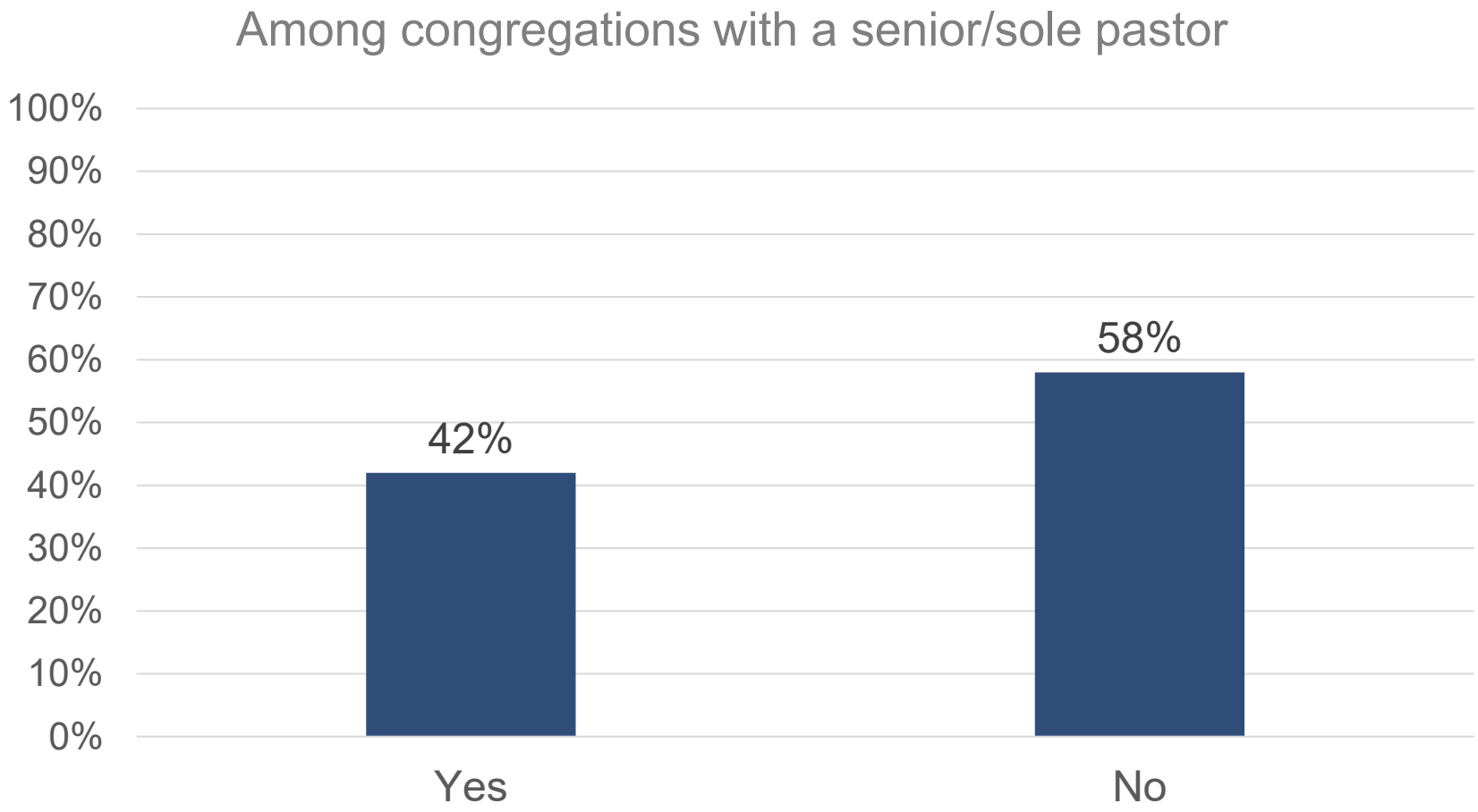
Serves as a chaplain



Lifeway Research

Q24_2 “Do any of the following characteristics apply to the senior pastor of this congregation? **Serves as a chaplain**” n=899

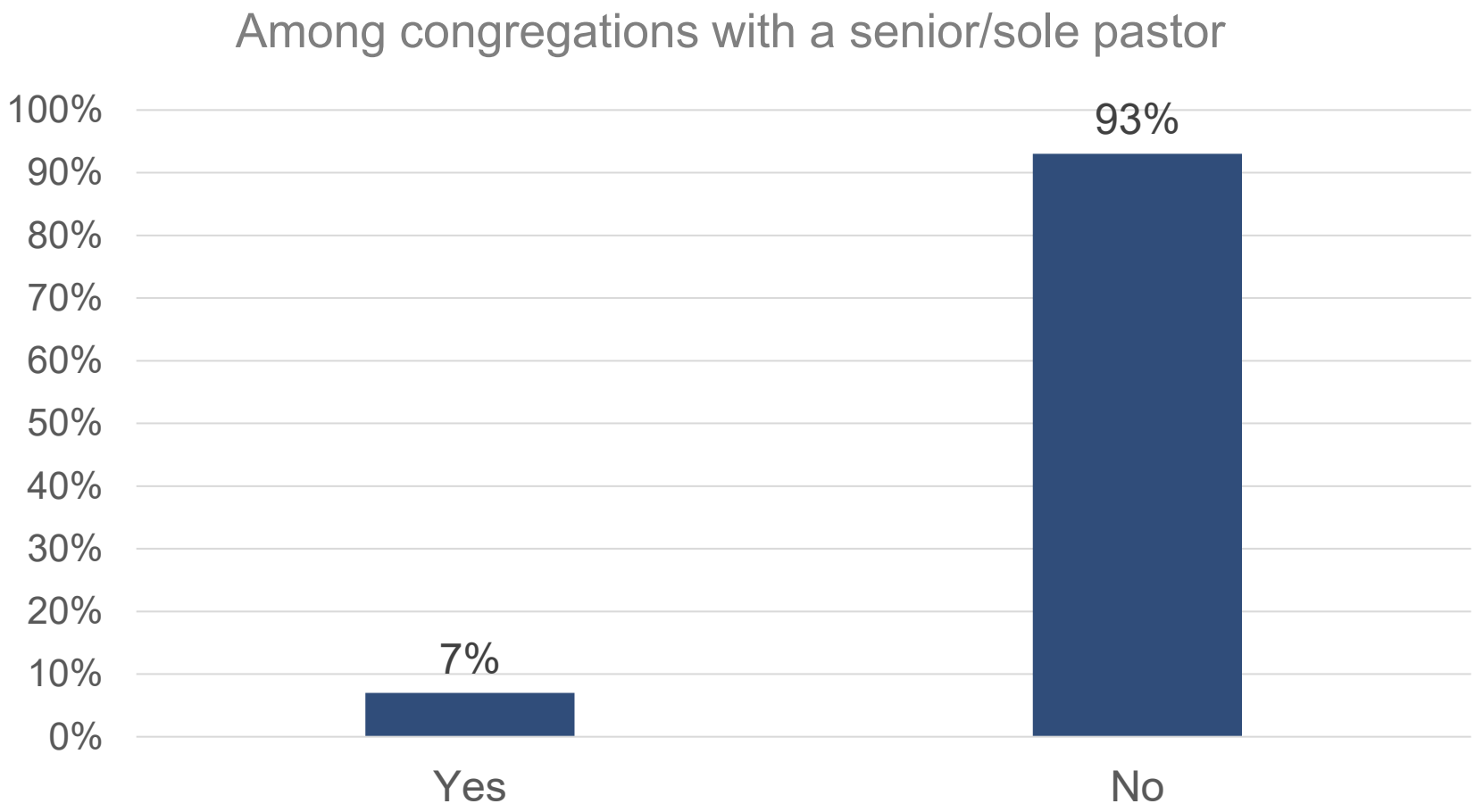
Has other paid employment outside of this congregation



Lifeway Research

Q24_3 “Do any of the following characteristics apply to the senior pastor of this congregation? **Has other paid employment outside of this congregation**” n=914

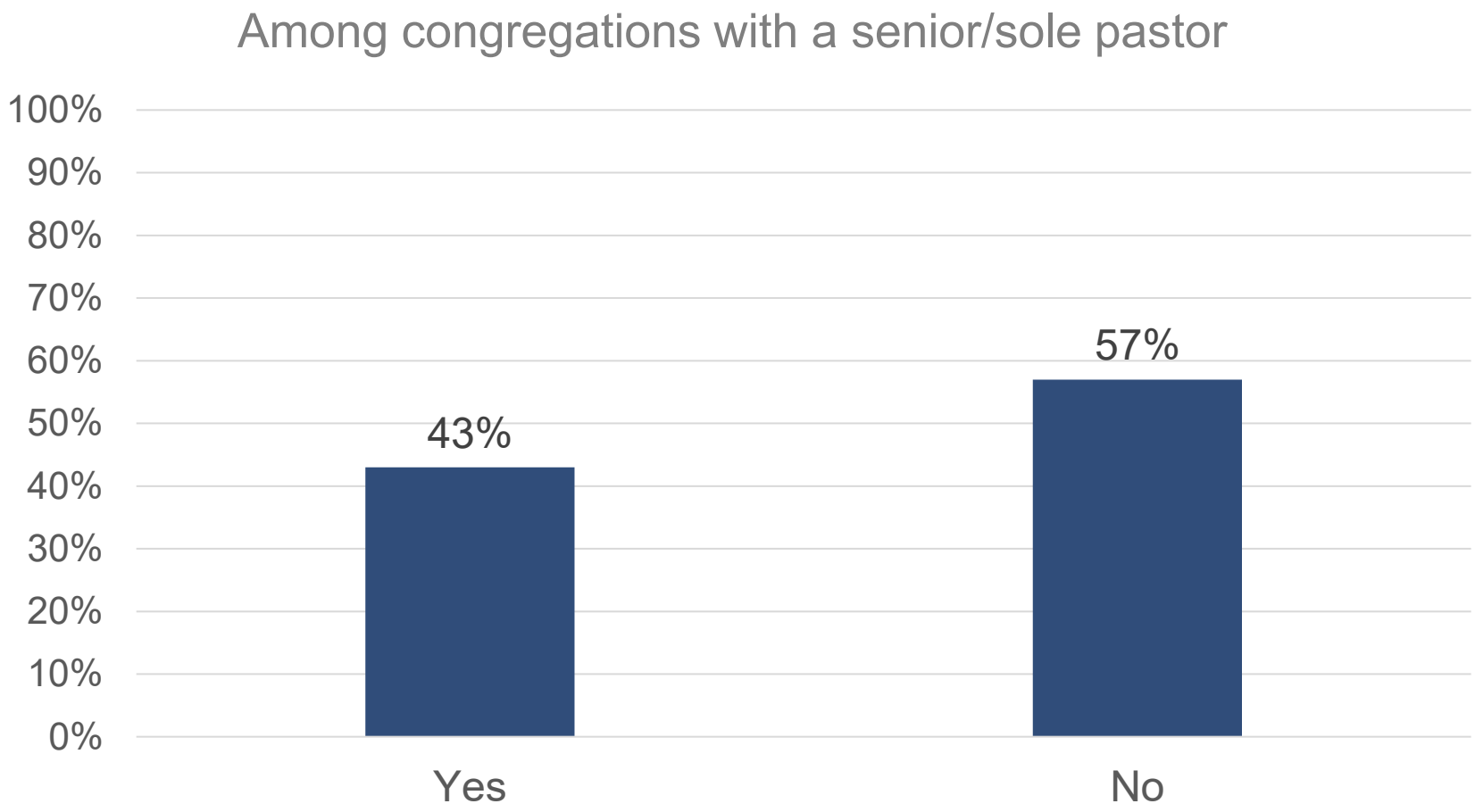
Was previously retired from ministry



Lifeway Research

Q24_4 “Do any of the following characteristics apply to the senior pastor of this congregation? **Was previously retired from ministry** ” n=896

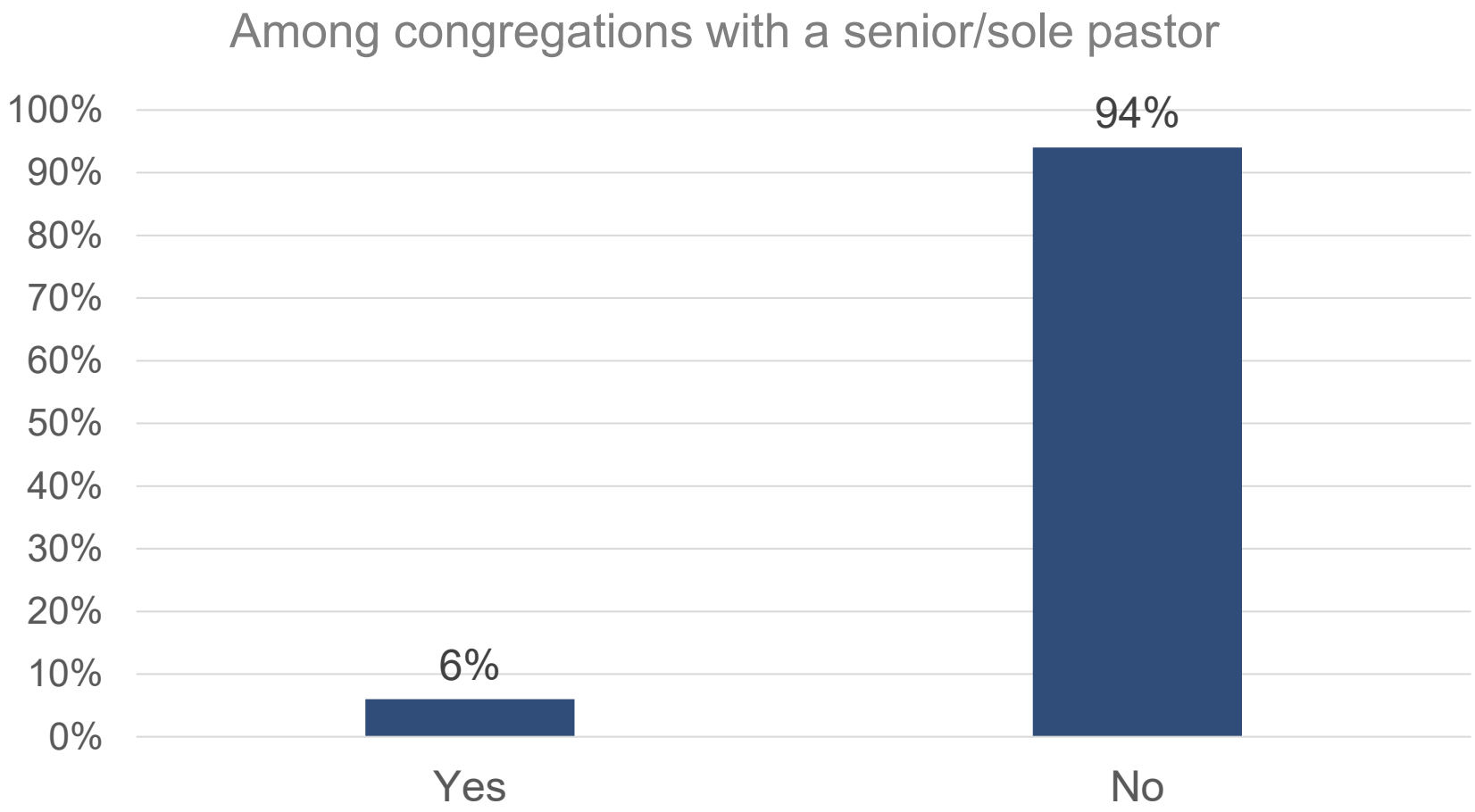
Has an MDiv degree



Lifeway Research

Q24_5 “Do any of the following characteristics apply to the senior pastor of this congregation? **Has an Mdiv Degree**” n=914

Is a first-generation immigrant



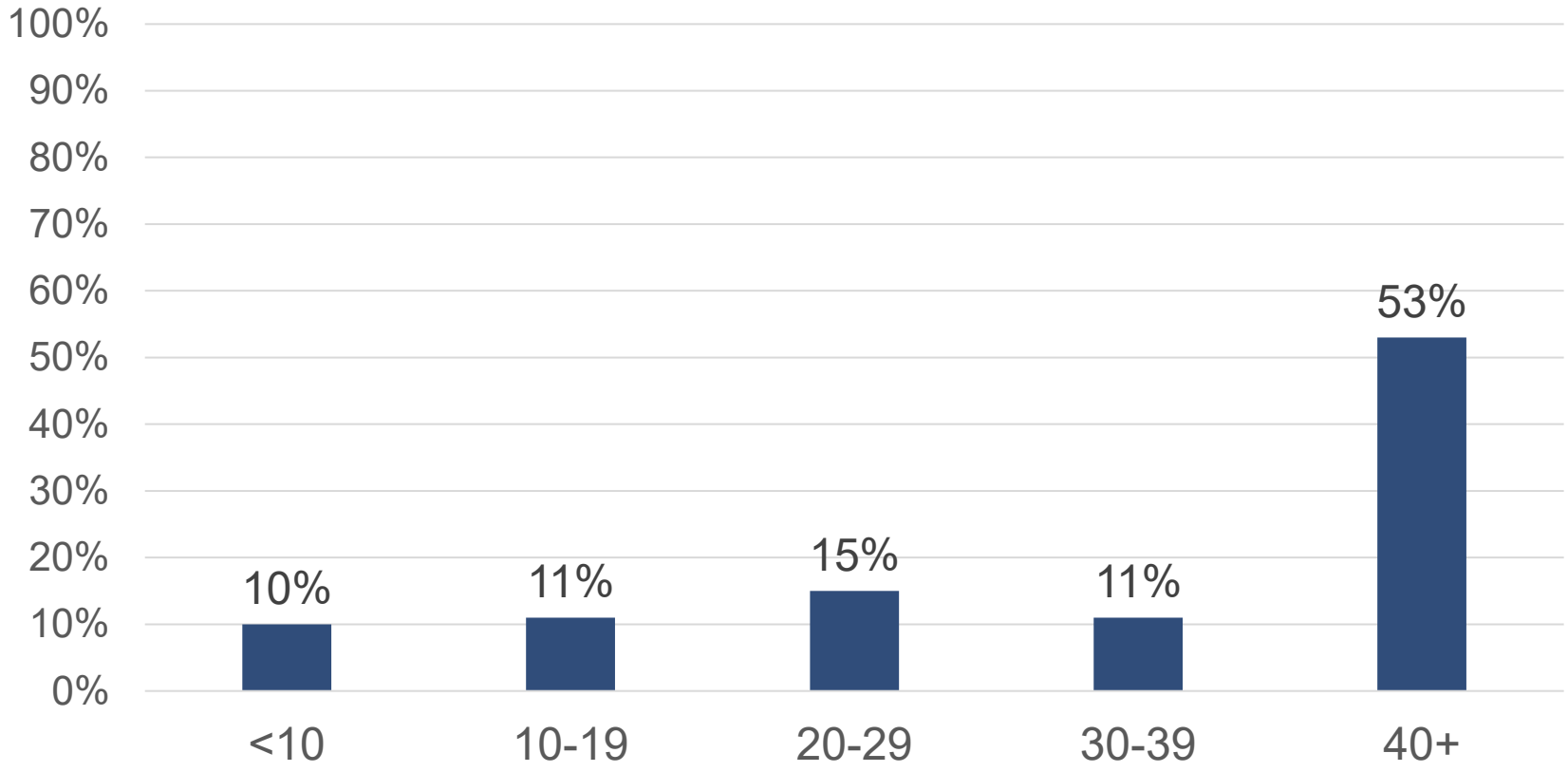
Note: The survey was only offered and completed in English which may impact these totals

Lifeway Research

Q24_5 “Do any of the following characteristics apply to the senior pastor of this congregation? **Is a first-generation immigrant**” n=893

Over half of bivocational pastors work full-time at the non-church employment

Among congregations whose senior pastor has outside employment



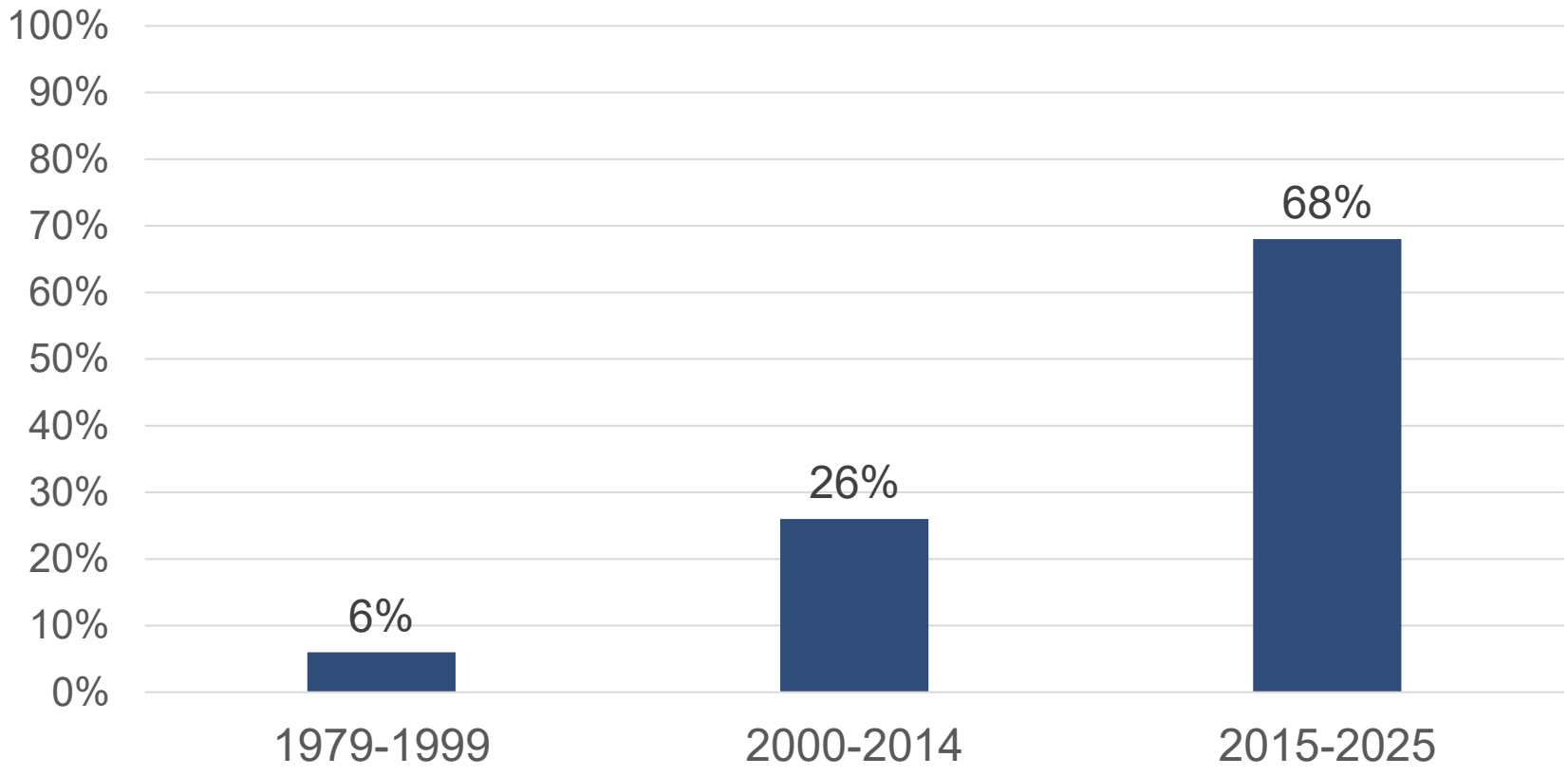
Mean: 32
Median: 40

Lifeway Research

Q25 "How many hours a week on average does the senior pastor work outside of the congregation?" n=304

“In what year did the senior pastor start serving this congregation?”

Among congregations with a senior/sole pastor



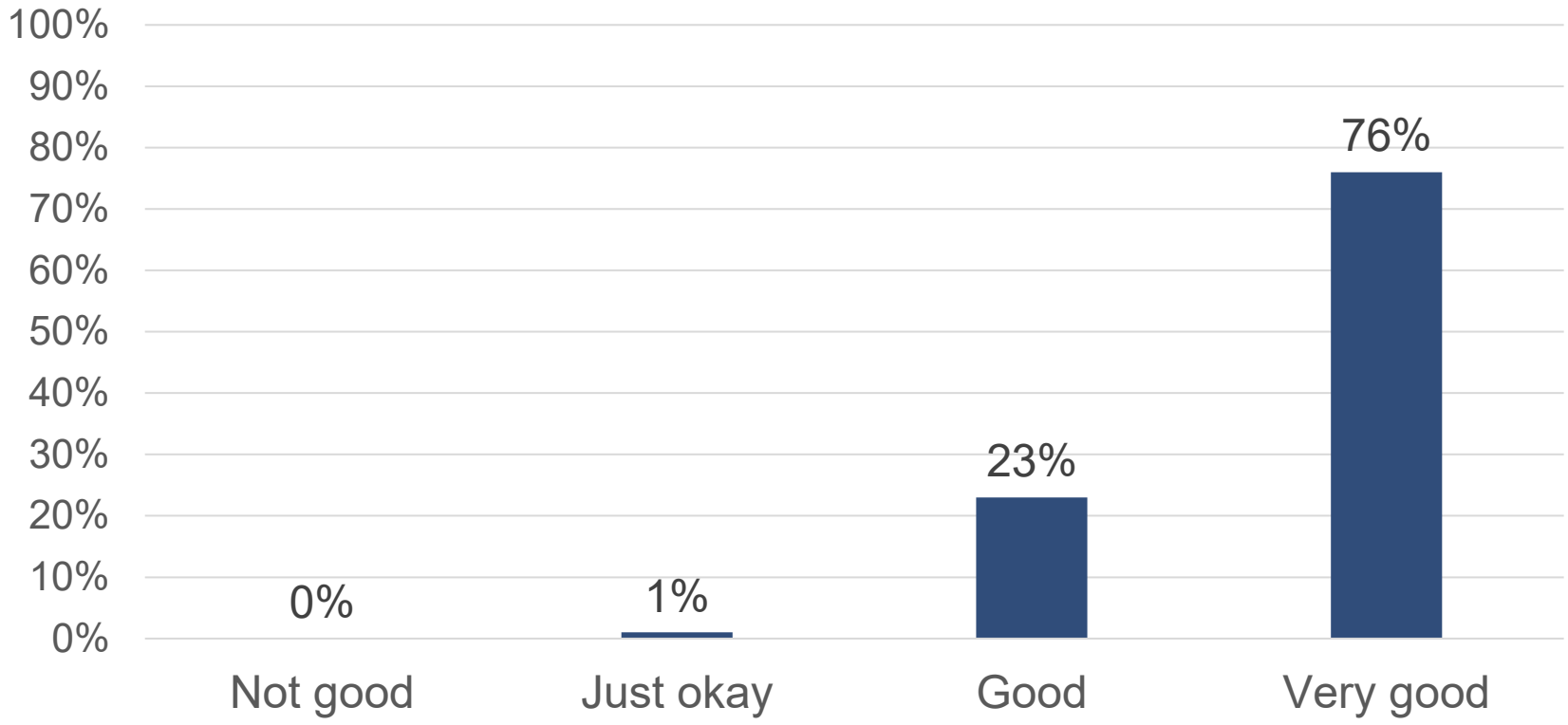
Average tenure is 9 years (Median 6 years)

Lifeway Research

Q26 “In what year did the senior pastor start serving this congregation?” n=917

“To what extent is there a good ‘fit’ between the senior pastor of this congregation and the members?”

Among congregations with a senior/sole pastor



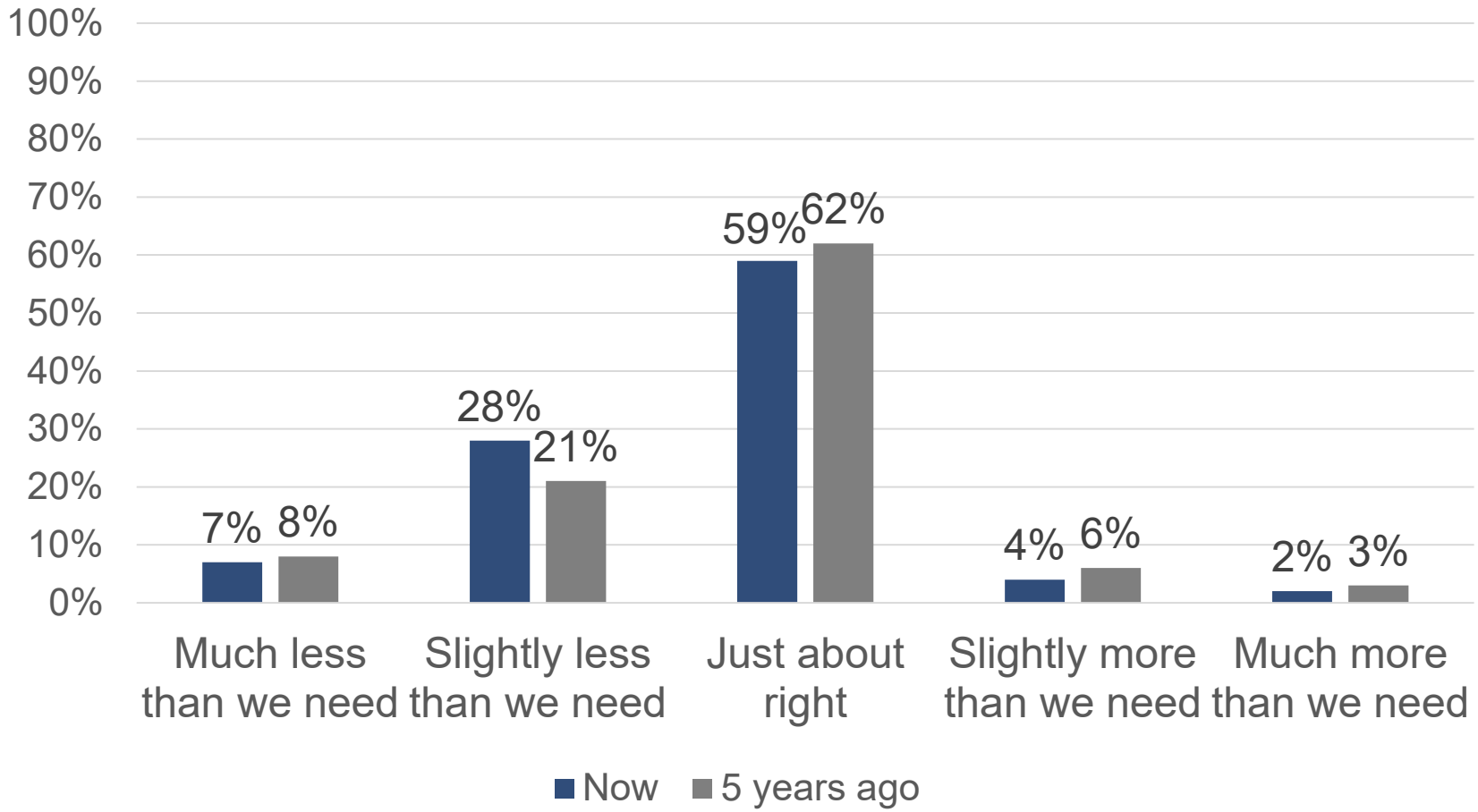
Pastors age 18-44 (70%) and 45-54 (67%) are less likely to select “Very good” than those age 65+ (80%)

Lifeway Research

Q27 “To what extent is there a good ‘fit’ between the senior pastor of this congregation and the members?” n=945

“How adequate is the staffing (pastors and support staff) for the needs of your congregation now and five years ago?”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

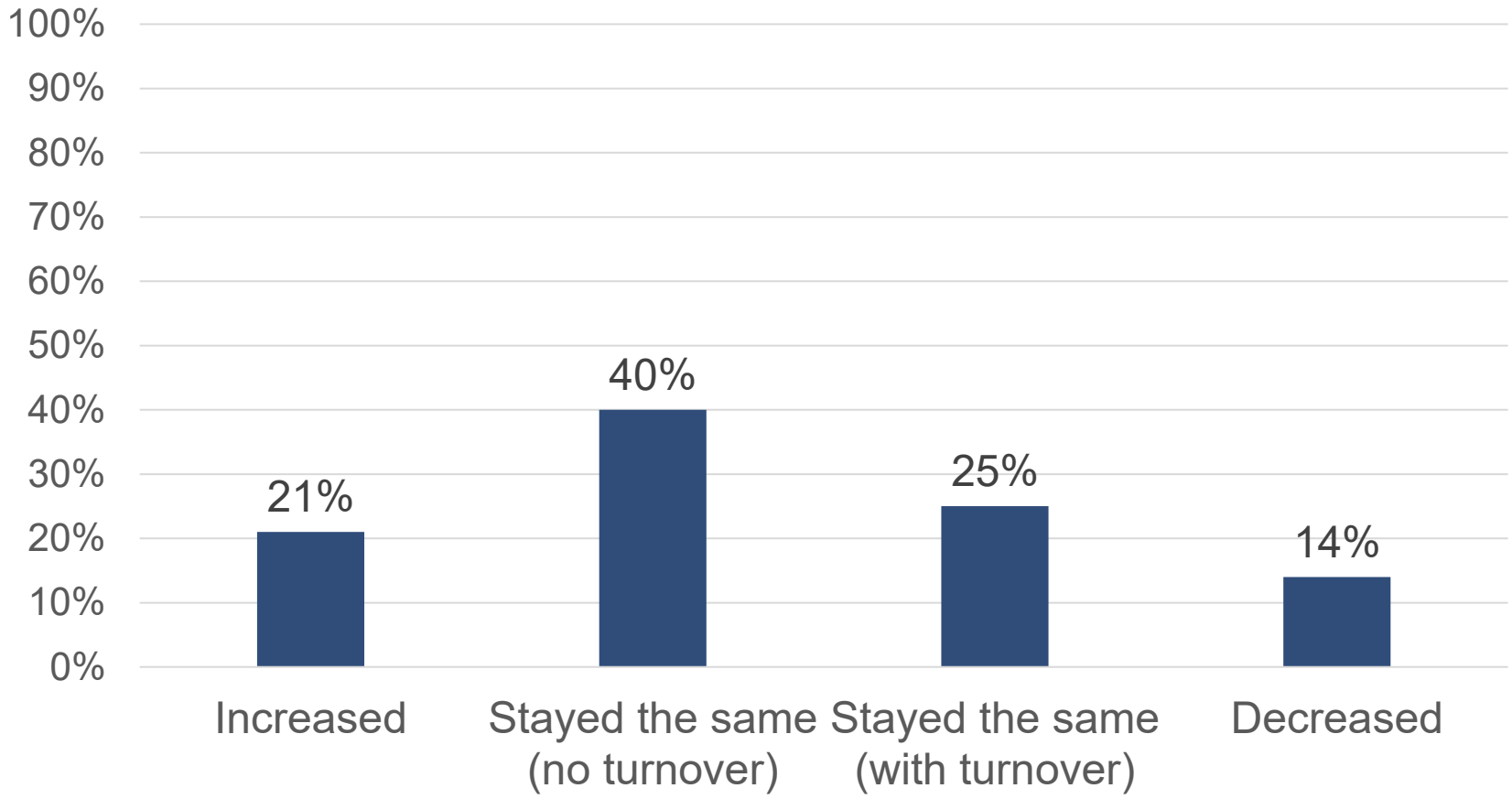


Lifeway Research

Q28 “How adequate is the staffing (pastors and support staff) for the needs of your congregation now and five years ago?”
Now n=983, 5 years ago n=956

“Has the total number of staff (pastors and support staff) increased, decreased, or stayed the same since 2020?”

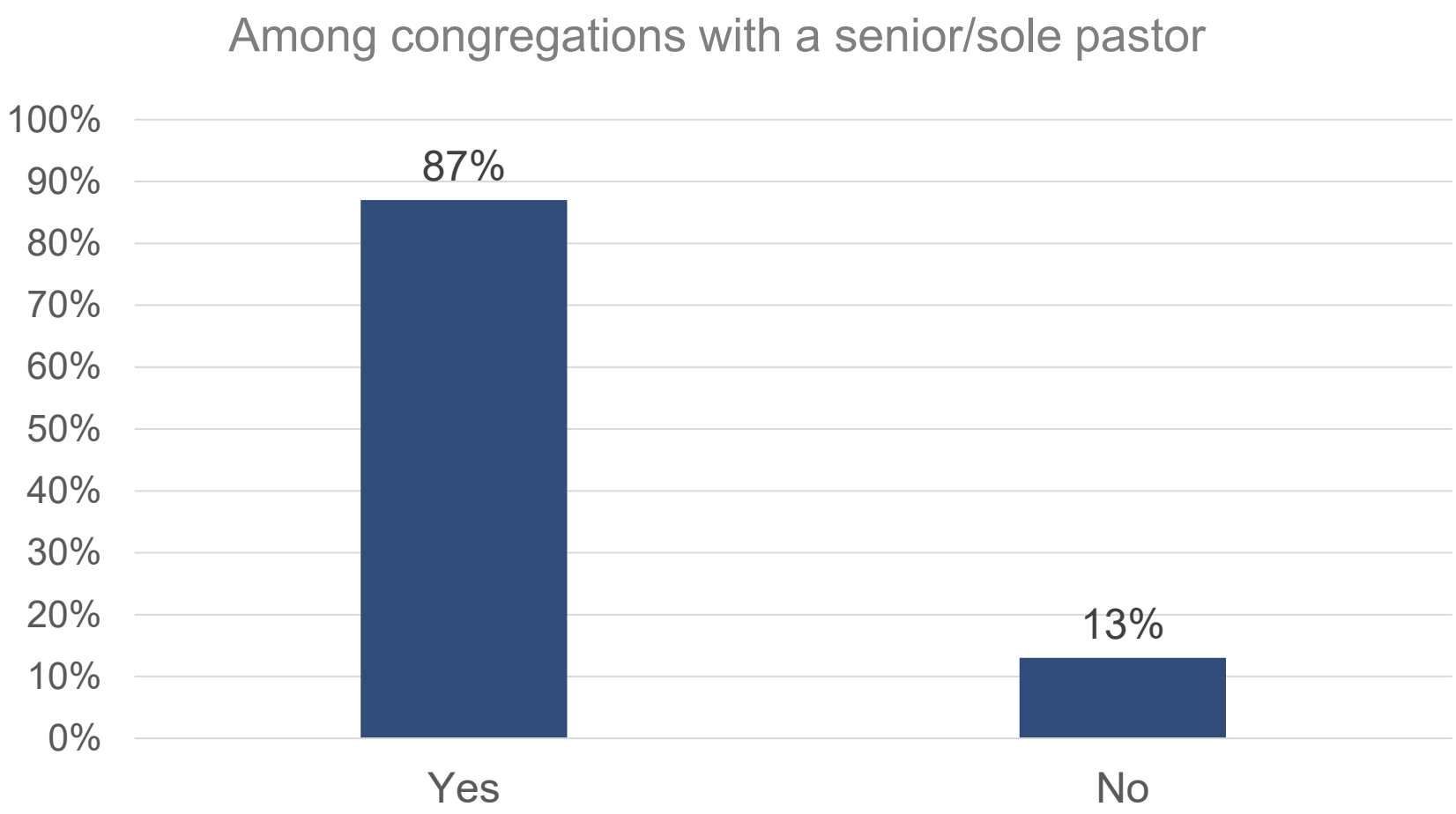
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q29 “To what extent is there a good ‘fit’ between the senior pastor of this congregation and the members?” n=994

“Are you the senior, co-senior, or solo pastor of this congregation?

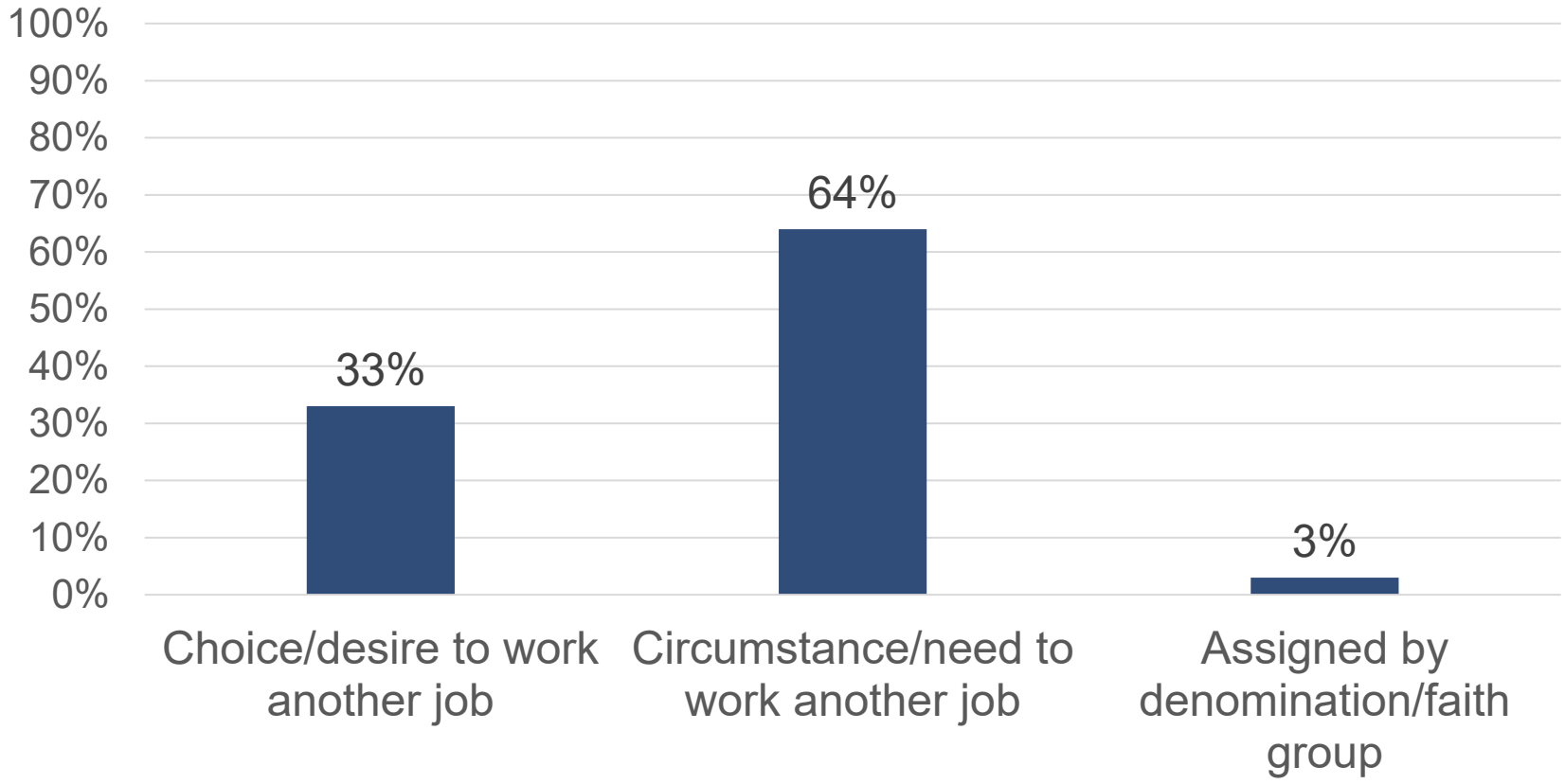


Lifeway Research

Q30 “Are you the senior, co-senior, or solo pastor of this congregation?” n=948

“Which of the following best describes why you have paid employment outside this congregation?”

Among senior/sole pastor respondents who have outside employment

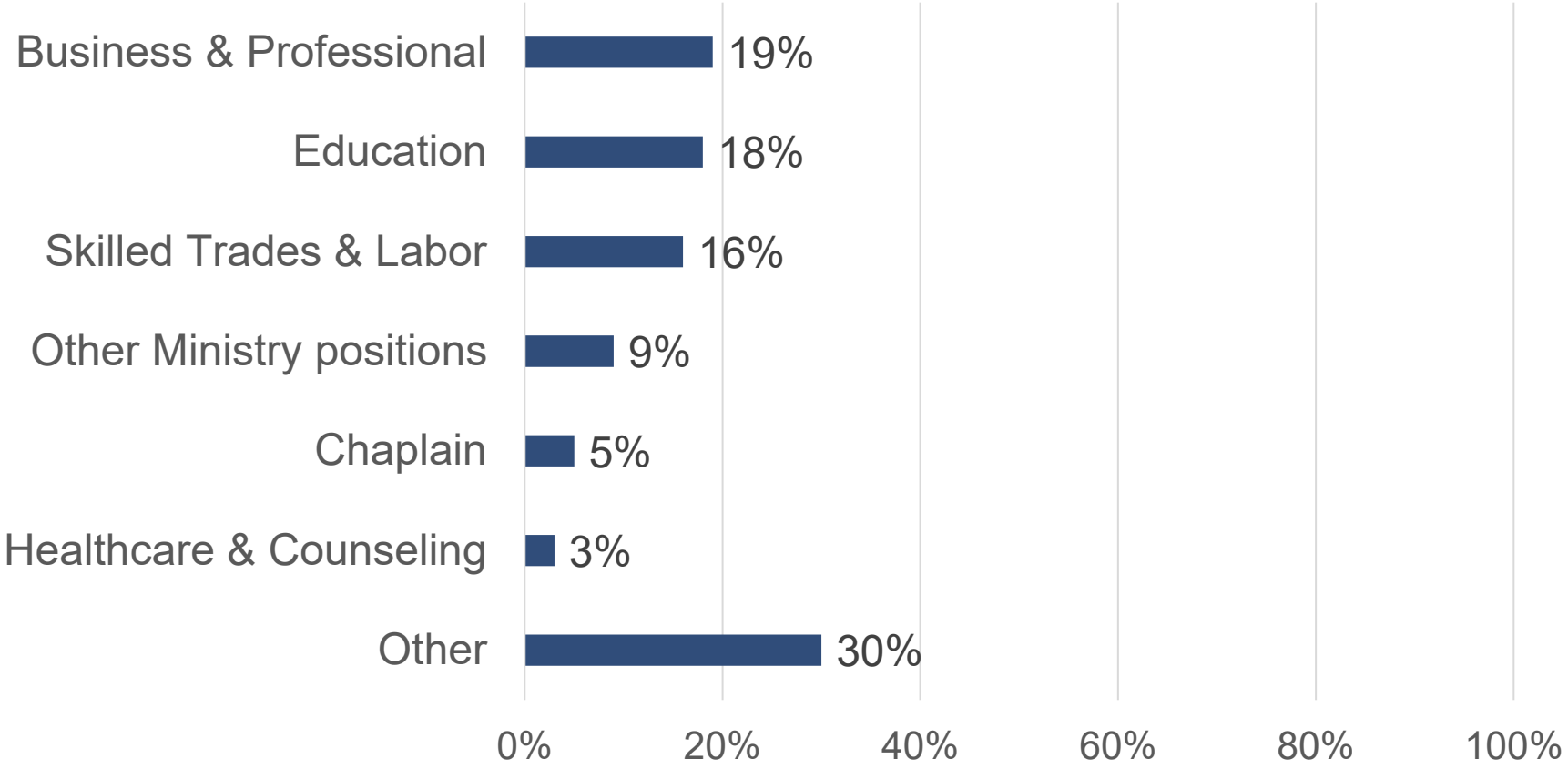


Lifeway Research

Q31 “Which of the following best describes why you have paid employment outside this congregation?” n=265

“In what sector is this other paid employment?”

Among senior/sole pastor respondents who have outside employment

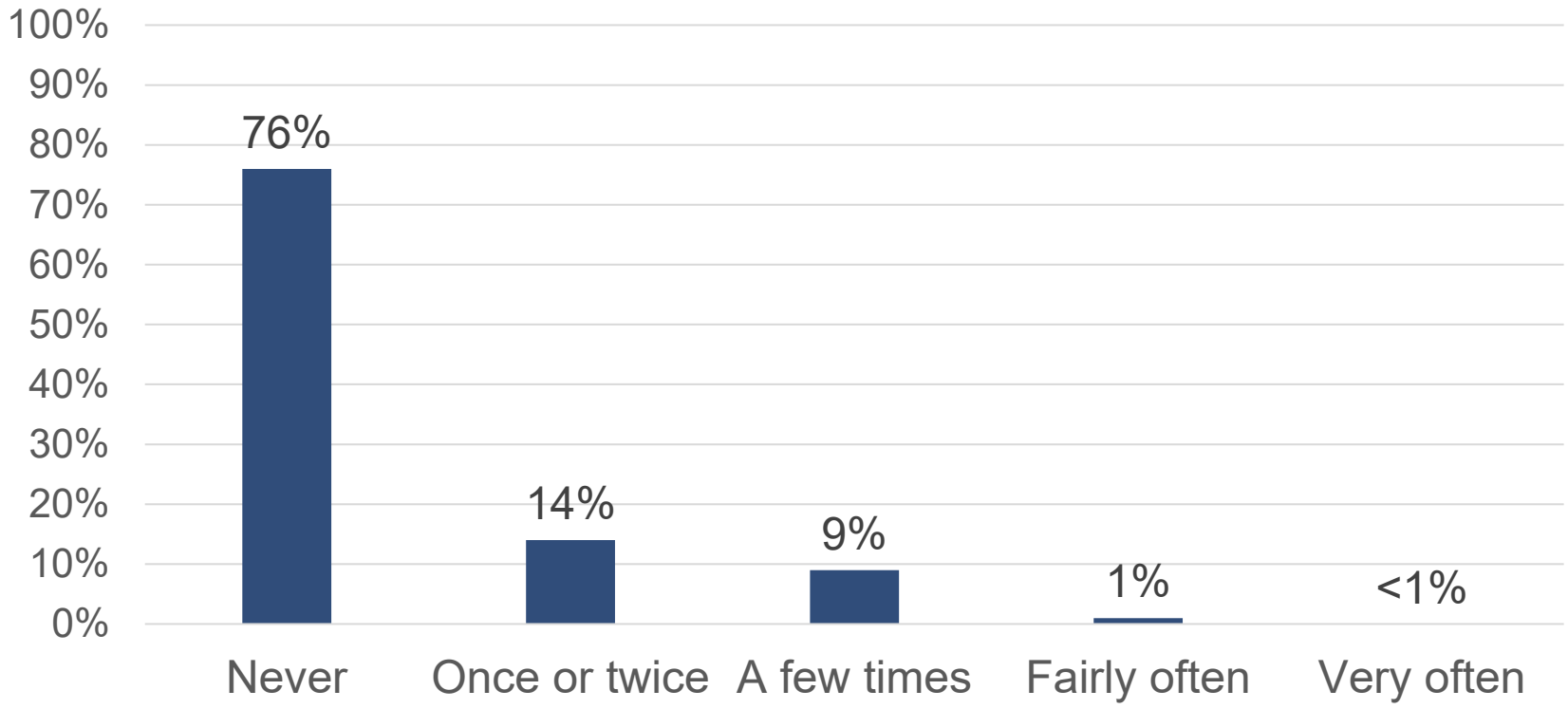


Lifeway Research

Q32: In what sector is this other paid employment? n=274

"In the past year, how often have you: **Doubted that you are called by God to ministry"**

Among SBC senior/sole pastor respondents



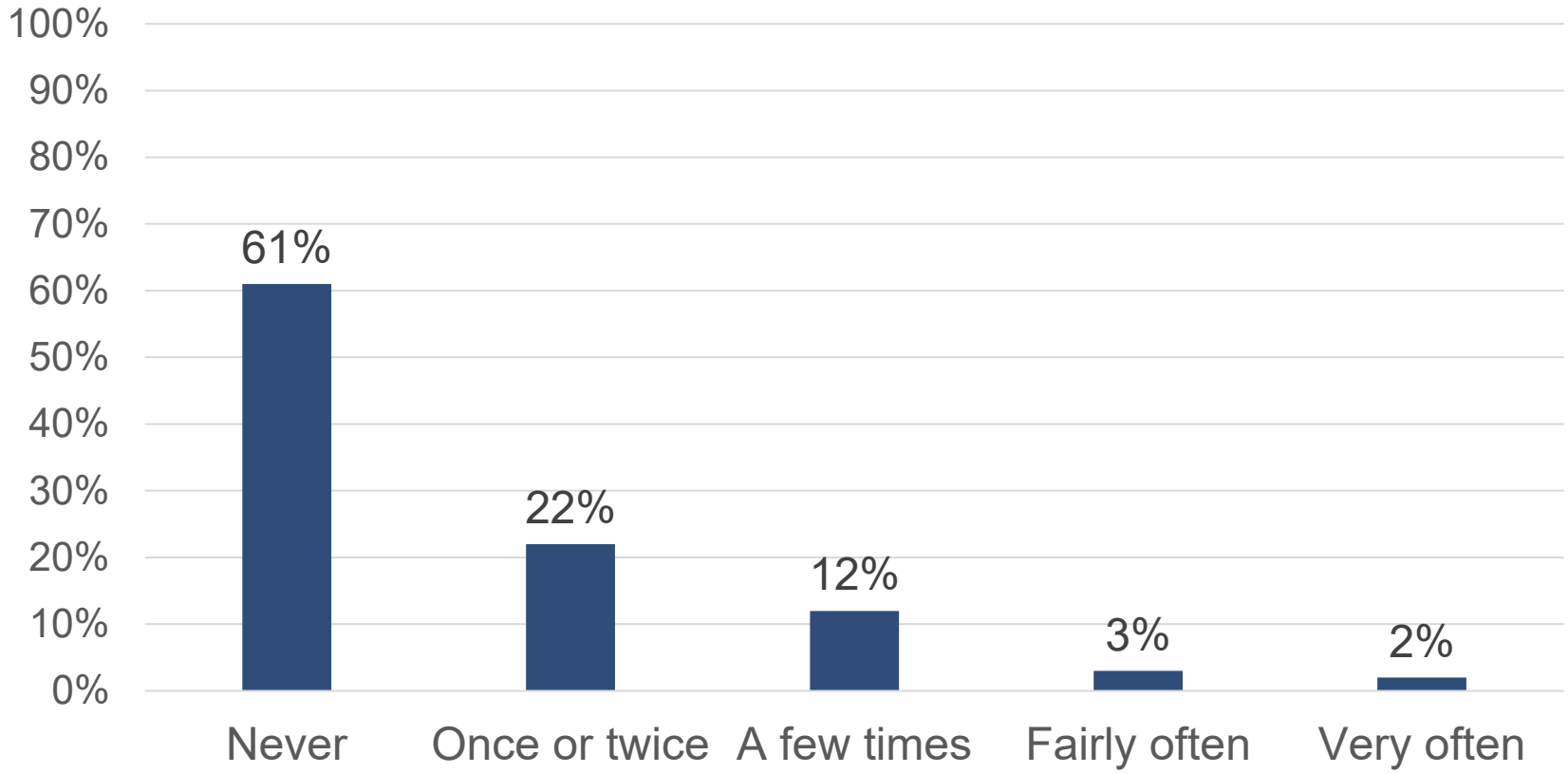
Pastors age 18-44 (66%) and 45-54 (65%) are less likely to select "Never" than those age 55-64 (77%) and 65+ (88%)

Lifeway Research

Q33_1 "In the past year, how often have you: Doubted that you are called by God to ministry" n=805

"In the past year, how often have you: **Seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry"**

Among SBC senior/sole pastor respondents

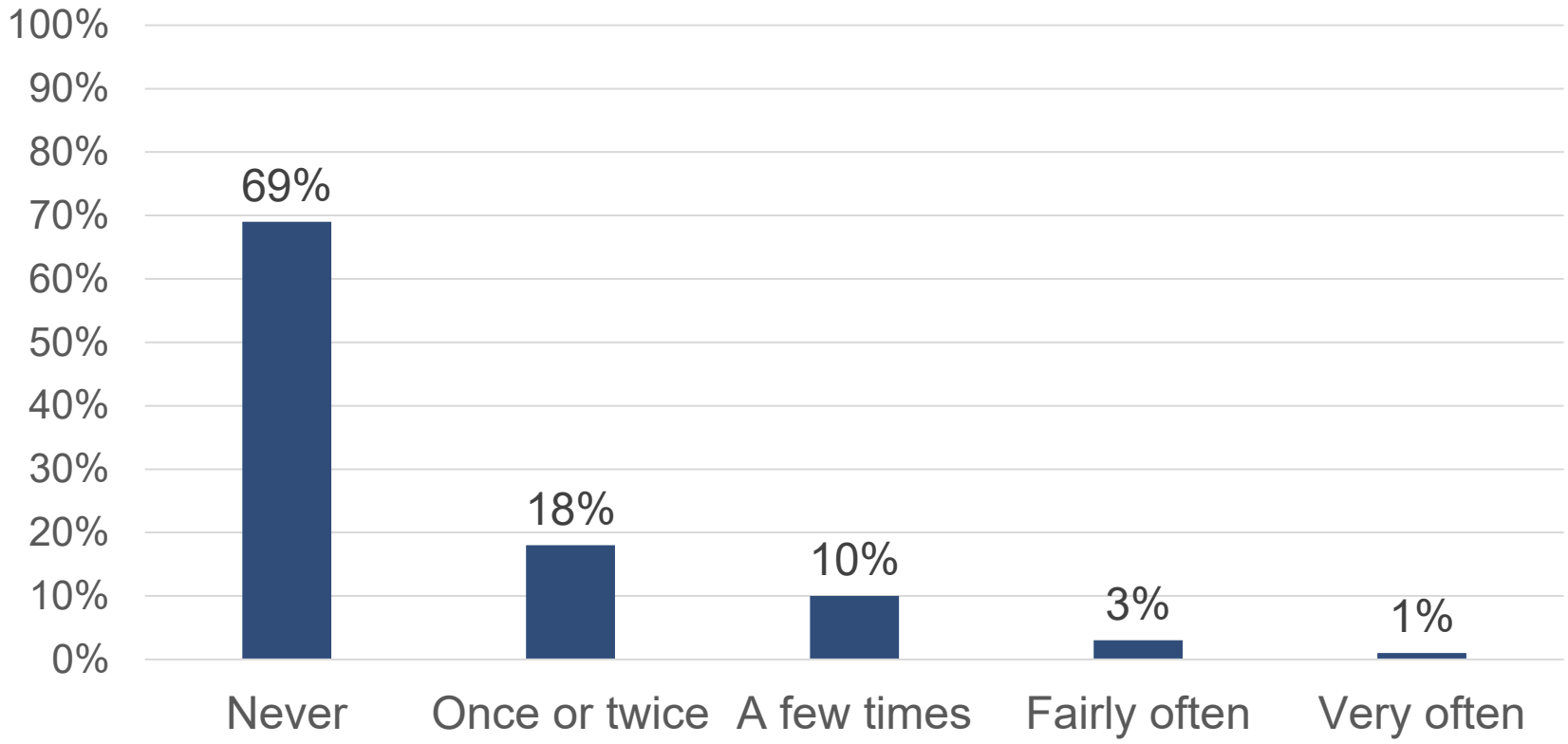


Lifeway Research

Q33_2 "In the past year, how often have you: Seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry" n=804

"In the past year, how often have you: **Seriously considered leaving this congregation for another one"**

Among SBC senior/sole pastor respondents

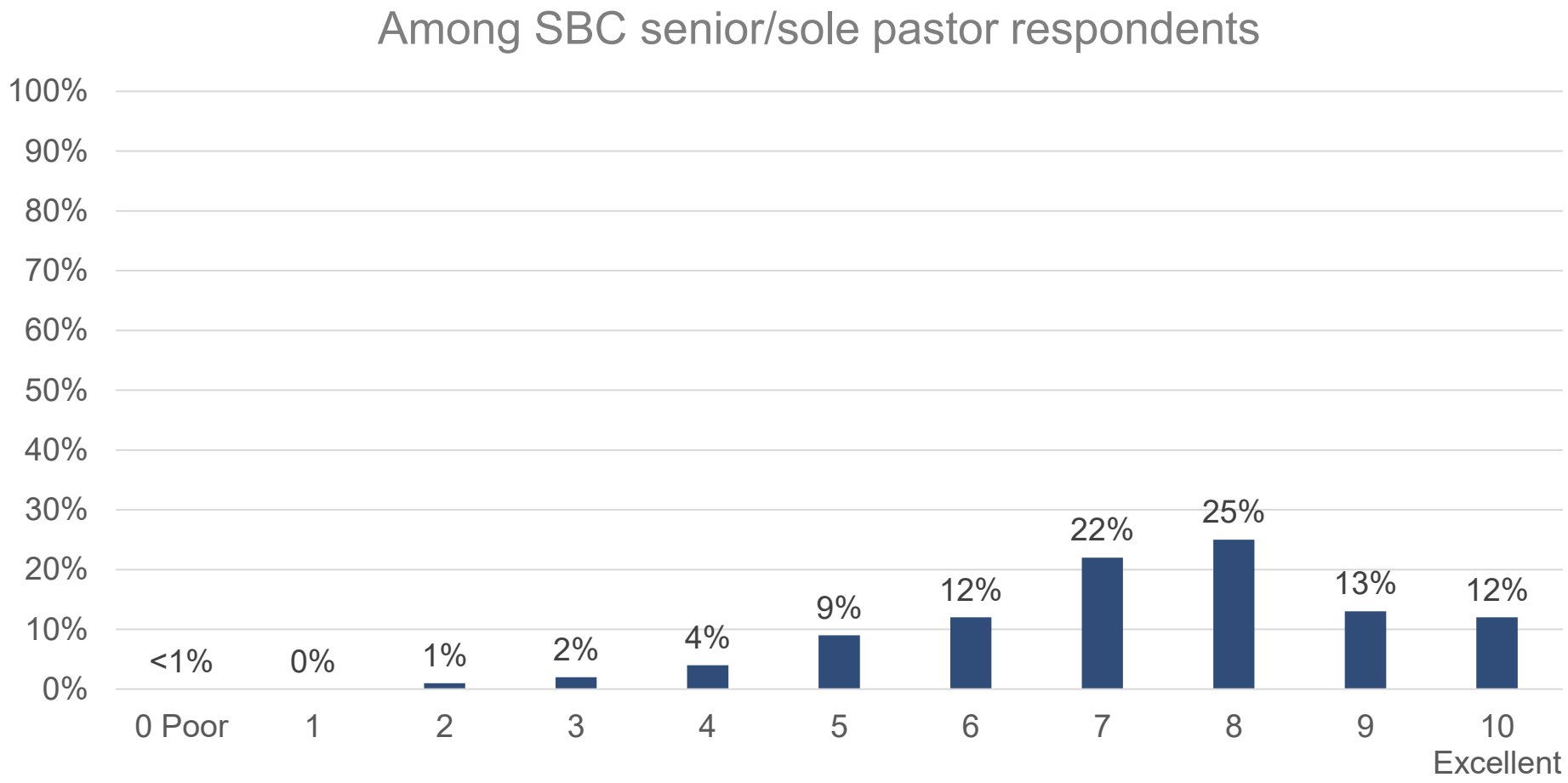


Pastors age 18-44 (59%) and 45-54 (60%) are less likely to select "Never" than those age 55-64 (71%) and 65+ (79%)

Lifeway Research

Q33_3 "In the past year, how often have you: Seriously considered leaving this congregation for another one" n=803

Physical health

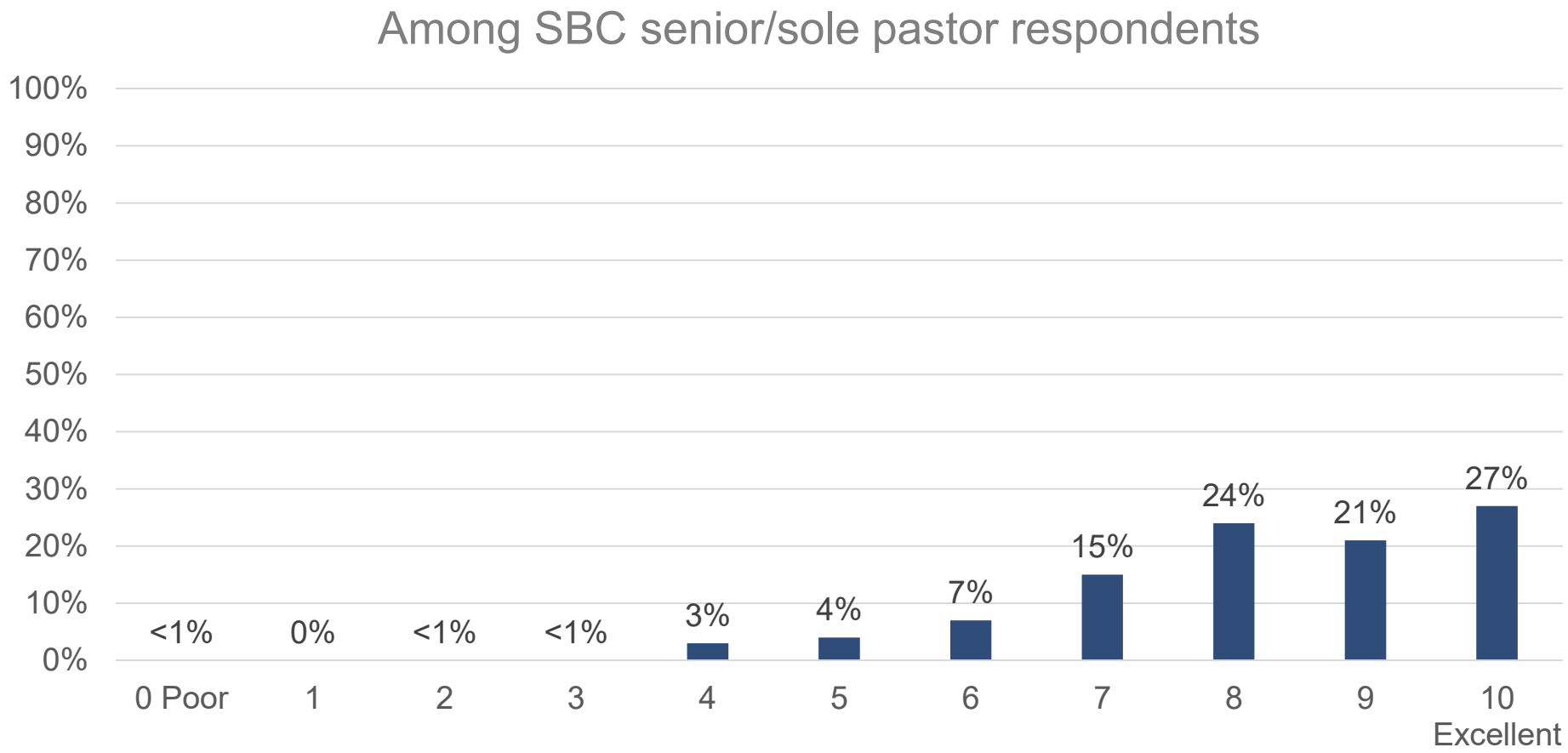


Mean: 7.30 Median: 7

Lifeway Research

Q34_1 “In general, how would you rate your **Physical health**” n=806

Mental health



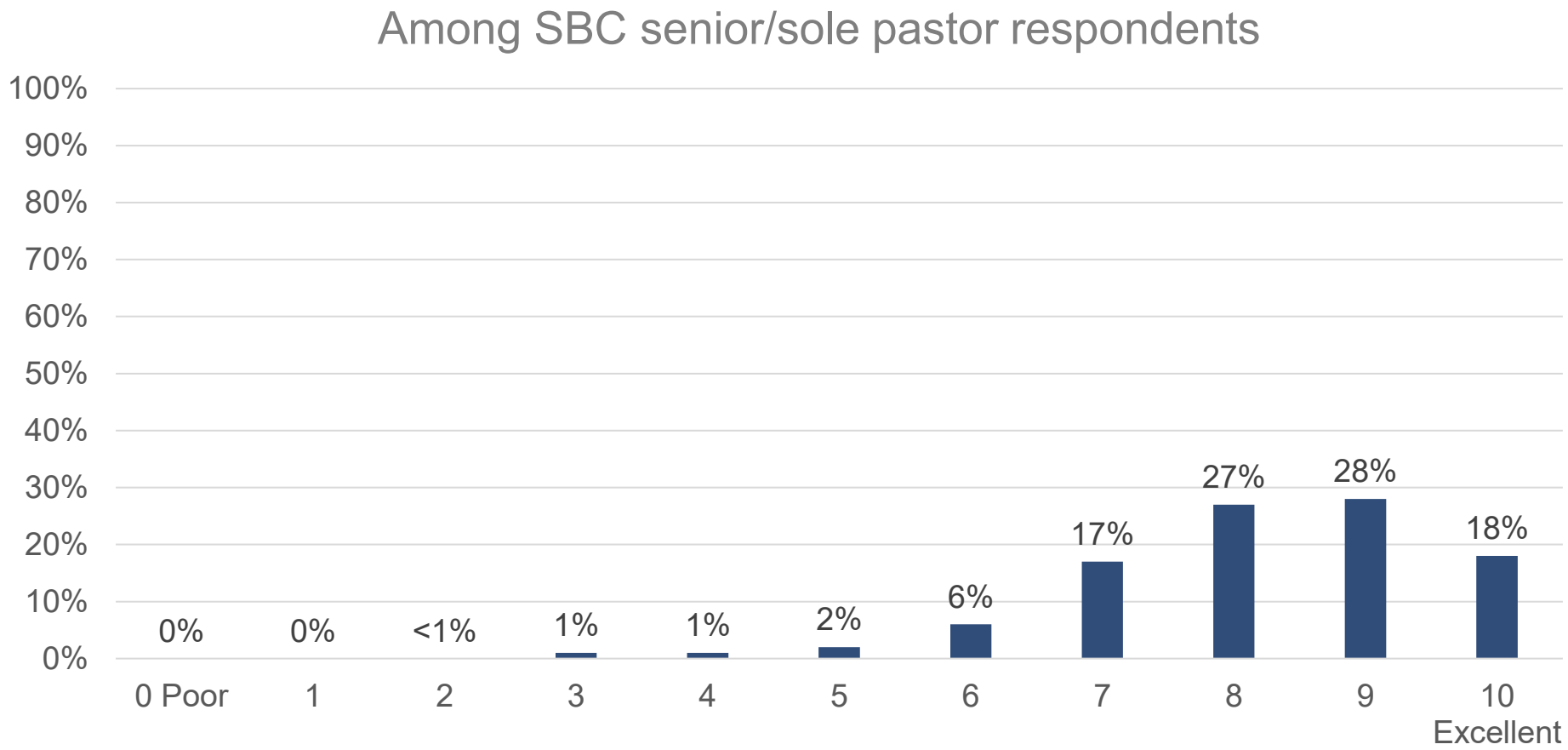
Mean: 8.19 Median: 8

Means are lower for pastors age 18-54 (7.58) than those age 55+ (8.58)

Lifeway Research

Q34_2 “In general, how would you rate your **Mental health**” n=802

Spiritual health



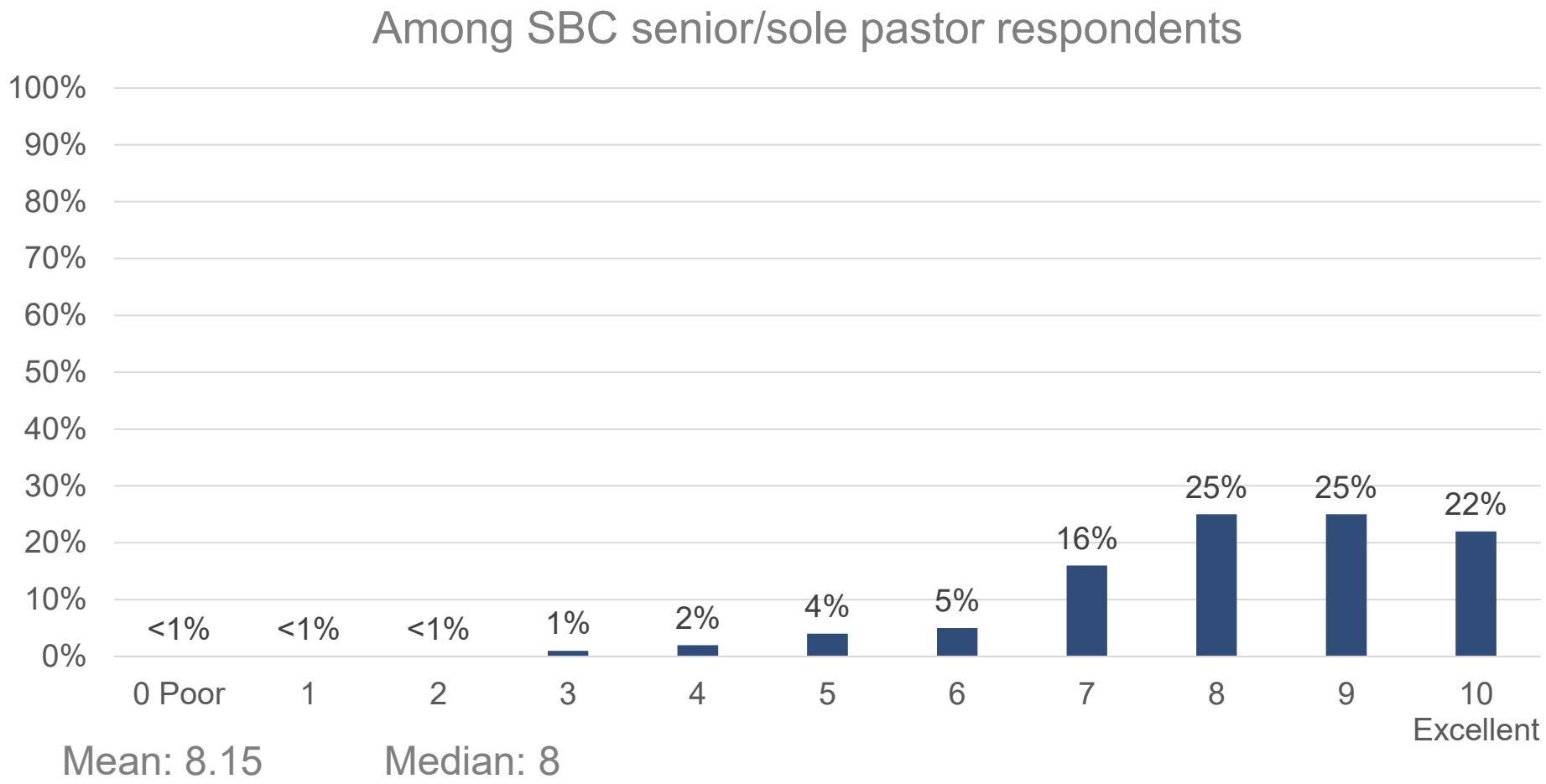
Mean: 8.20 Median: 8

Means are lower for pastors age 18-54 (7.88) than those age 55+ (8.43)

Lifeway Research

Q34_3 “In general, how would you rate your **Spiritual health**” n=803

Relational health



Mean: 8.15 Median: 8

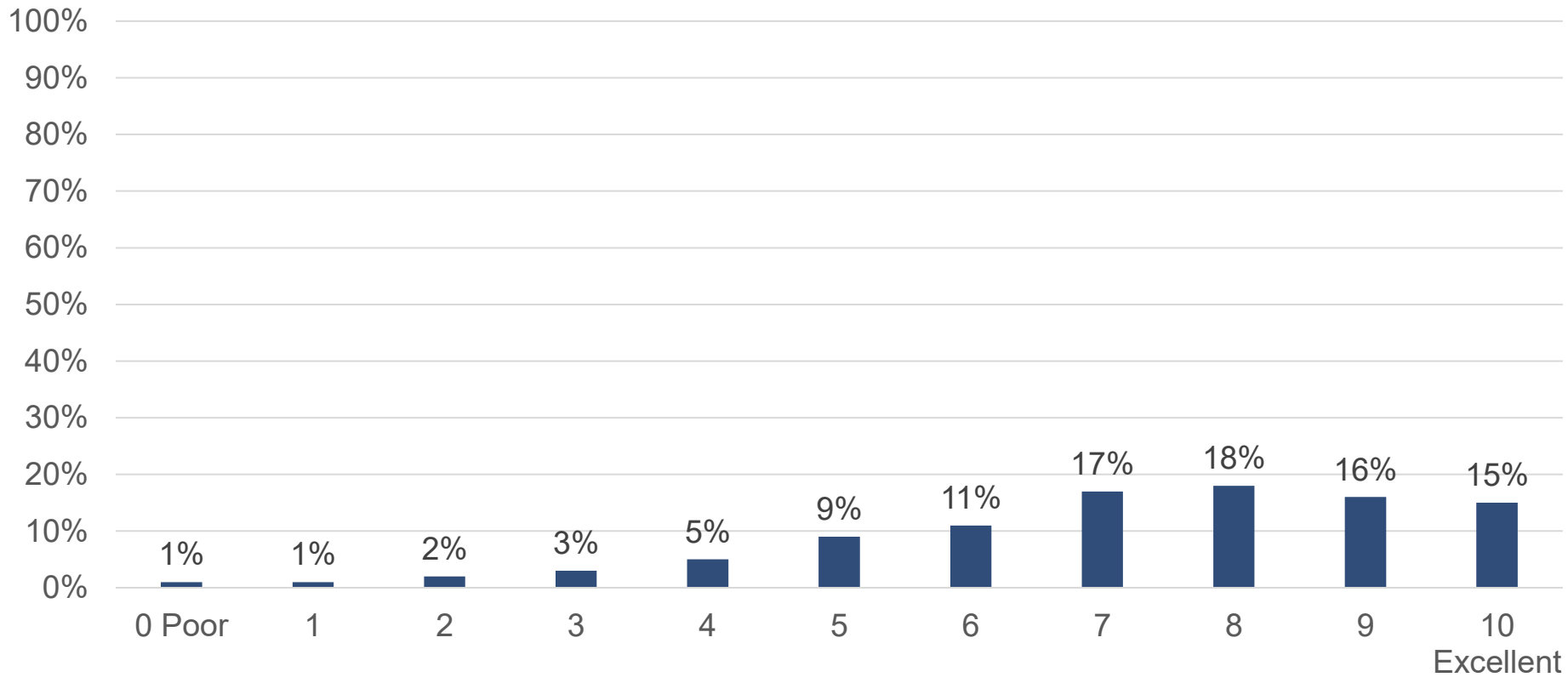
Means are lower for pastors age 18-54 (7.65) than those age 55+ (8.49)

Lifeway Research

Q34_4 “In general, how would you rate your **Relational health**” n=803

Financial health

Among SBC senior/sole pastor respondents



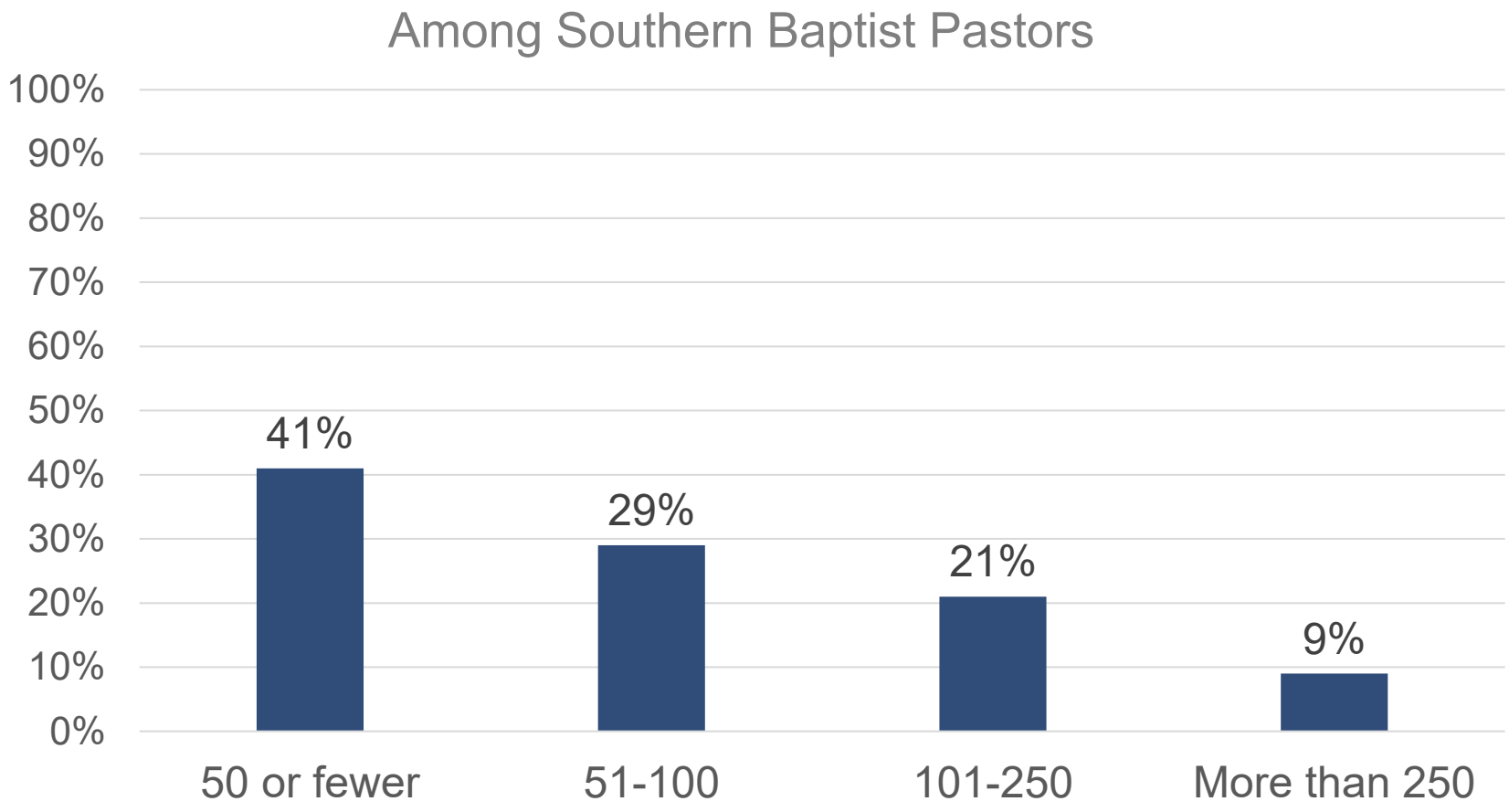
Mean: 7.16 Median: 8

Means are lower for pastors age 18-54 (6.45) than those age 55+ (7.61)

Lifeway Research

Q34_5 “In general, how would you rate your **Financial health**” n=799

“How many unique individuals regularly participate (once a month or more) in worship or other religious activities in your congregation?”



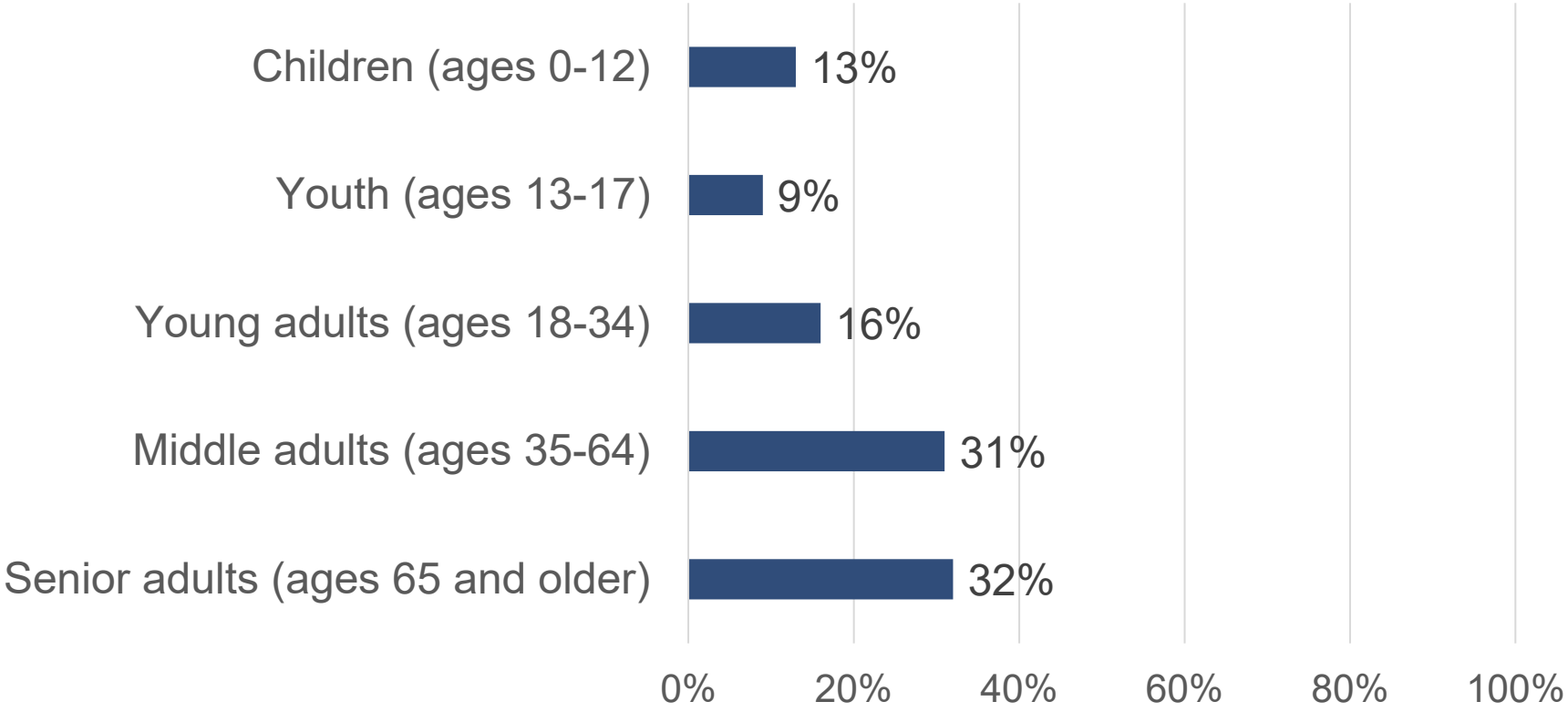
Mean: 152
Median: 65

Lifeway Research

Q35 “How many unique individuals regularly participate (once a month or more) in worship or other religious activities in your congregation?”
n=929

Average percentage of regular participants in each age group

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

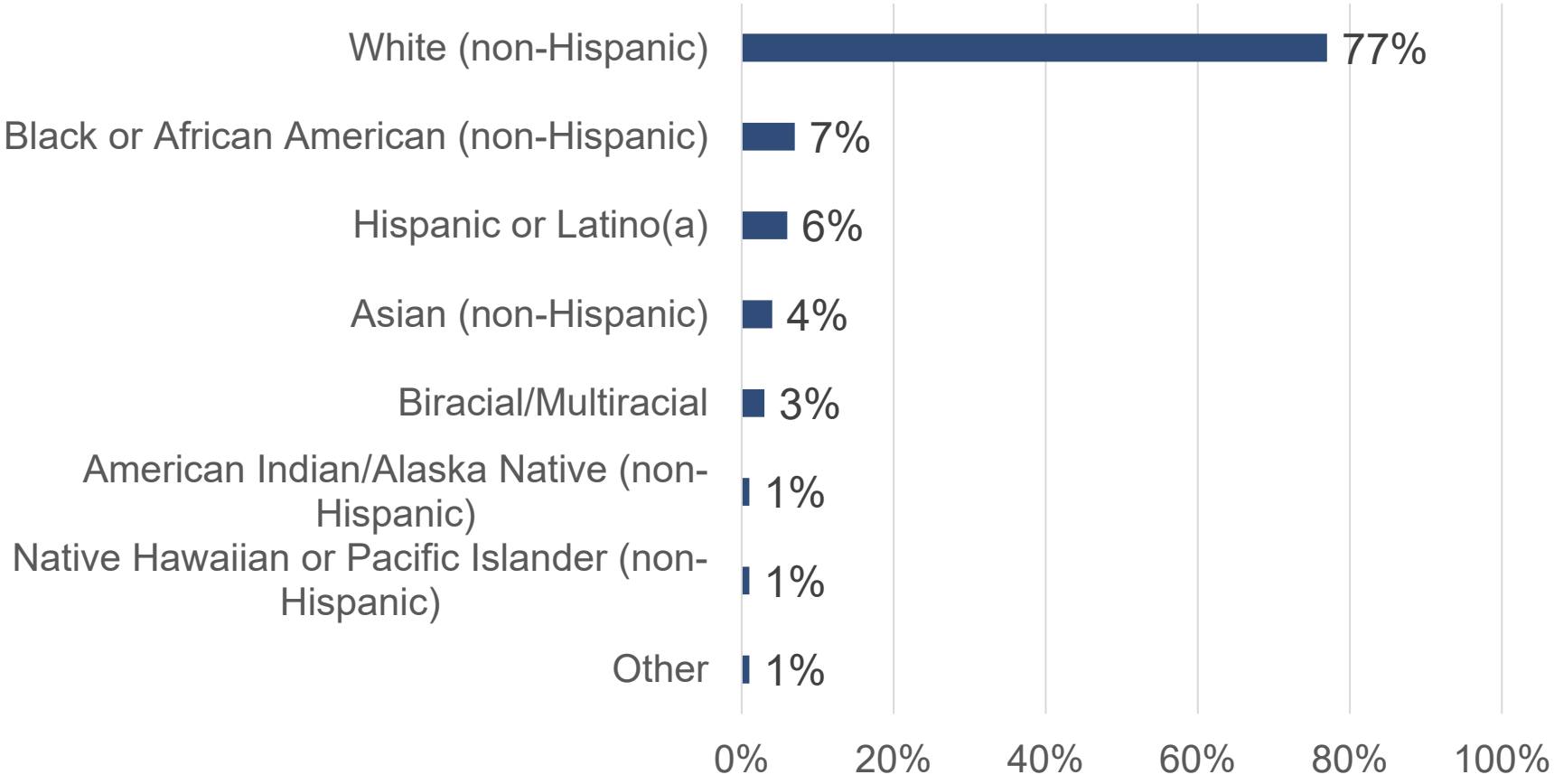


Lifeway Research

Q36 “Of the above regular participants, what number are in each of the following age groups?” n=894

Average percentage of regular participants of each ethnicity

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

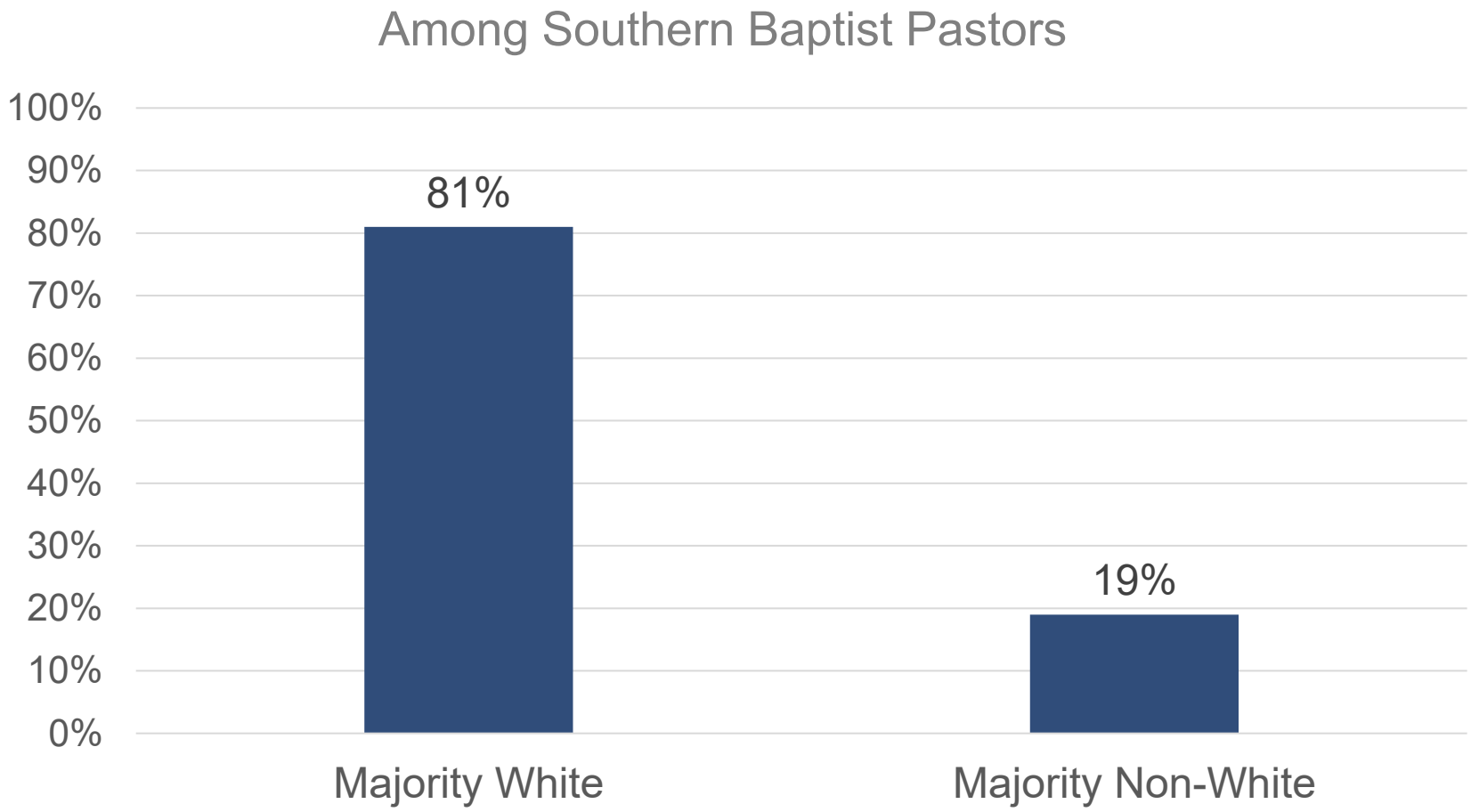


Note: The survey was only offered and completed in English which may impact these totals

Lifeway Research

Q37 Of the above regular participants, what number are in each of the following categories?" n=859

81% of SBC congregations are majority white



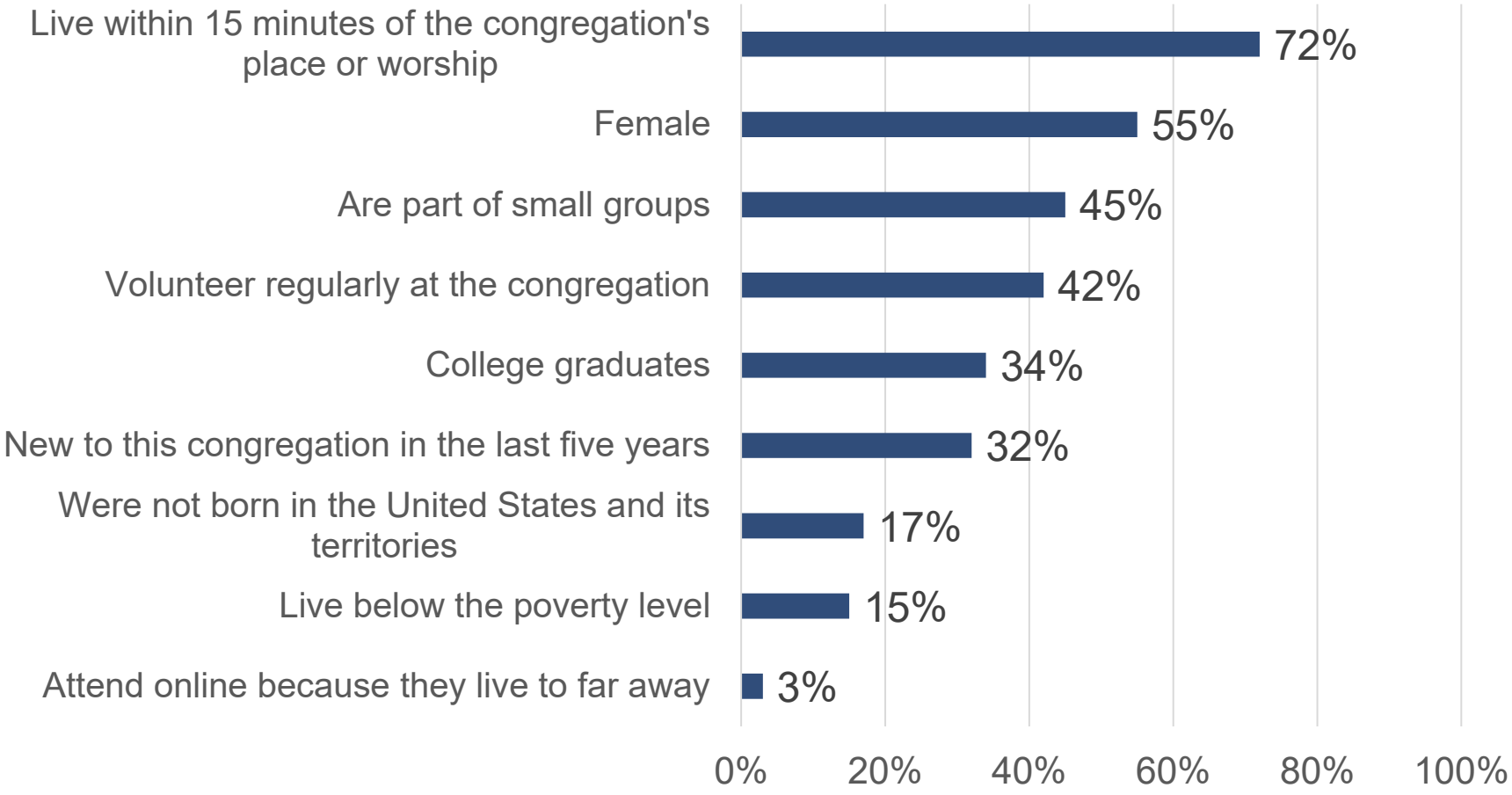
Note: The survey was only offered and completed in English which may impact these totals

Lifeway Research

50% or more of regular participants are white. n=859

Average percentage of regularly participating adults in each category

Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Note: The survey was only offered and completed in English which may impact these totals

Lifeway Research

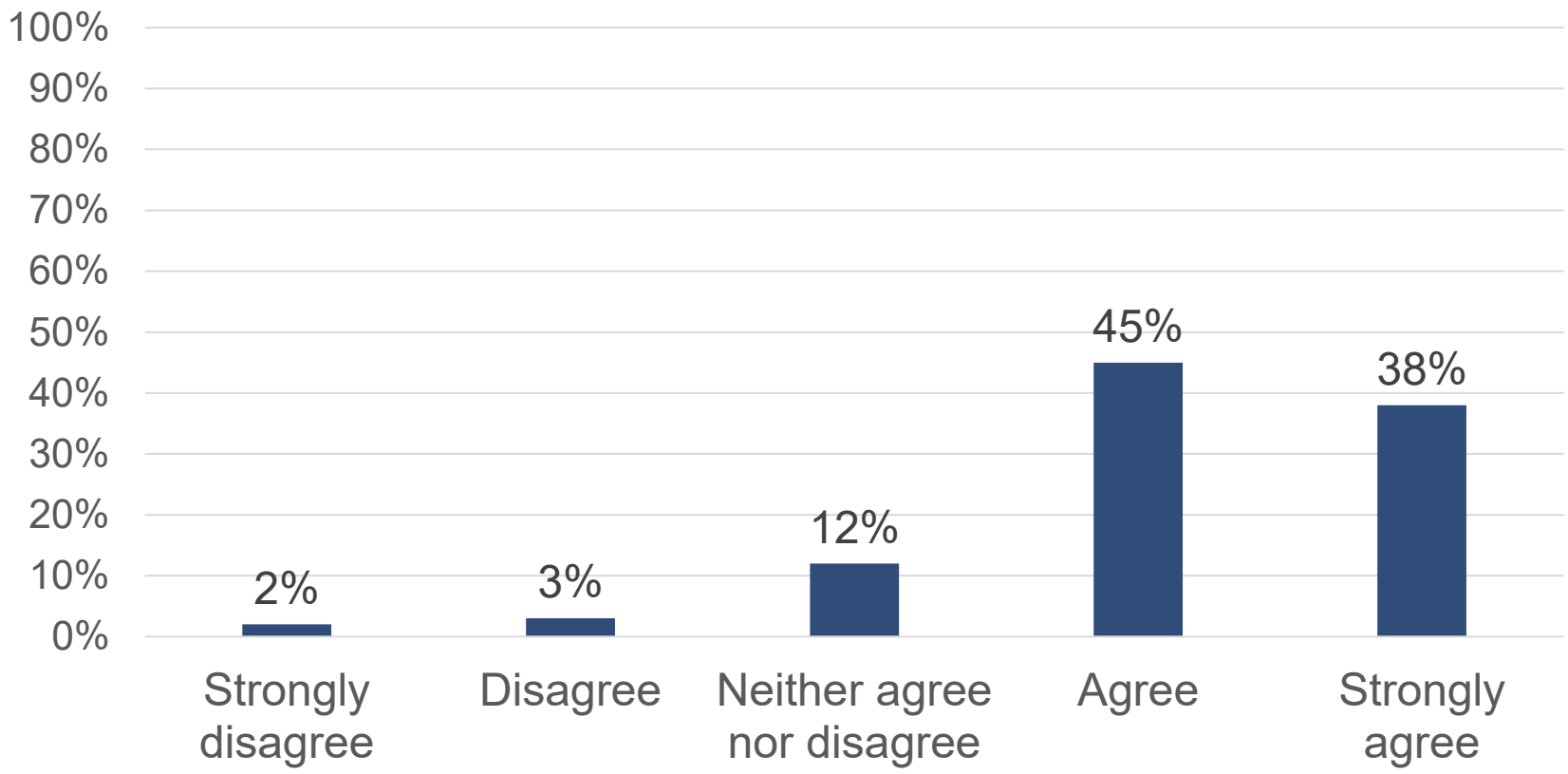
Q38 “Of all regularly participating adults (age 18 and over), what percent would you estimate:” n varies between 777-822

Mission and Identity

Lifeway Research

83% agree their congregation has as a clear mission and purpose

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

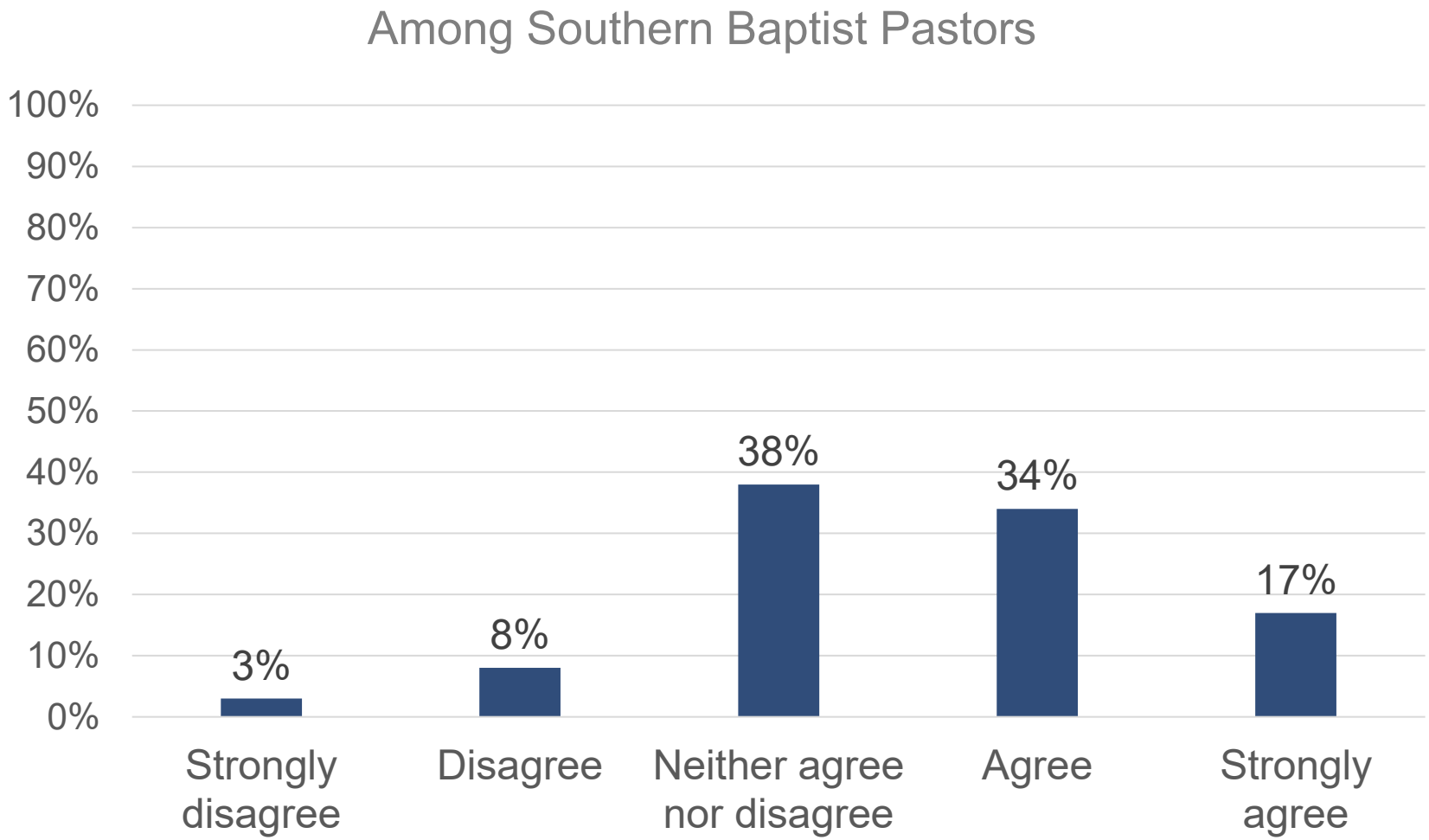


Pastors at churches with average attendance of more than 250 are the most likely to Agree (94%)

Lifeway Research

Q39_1 “Our congregation has as a clear mission and purpose”” n=899

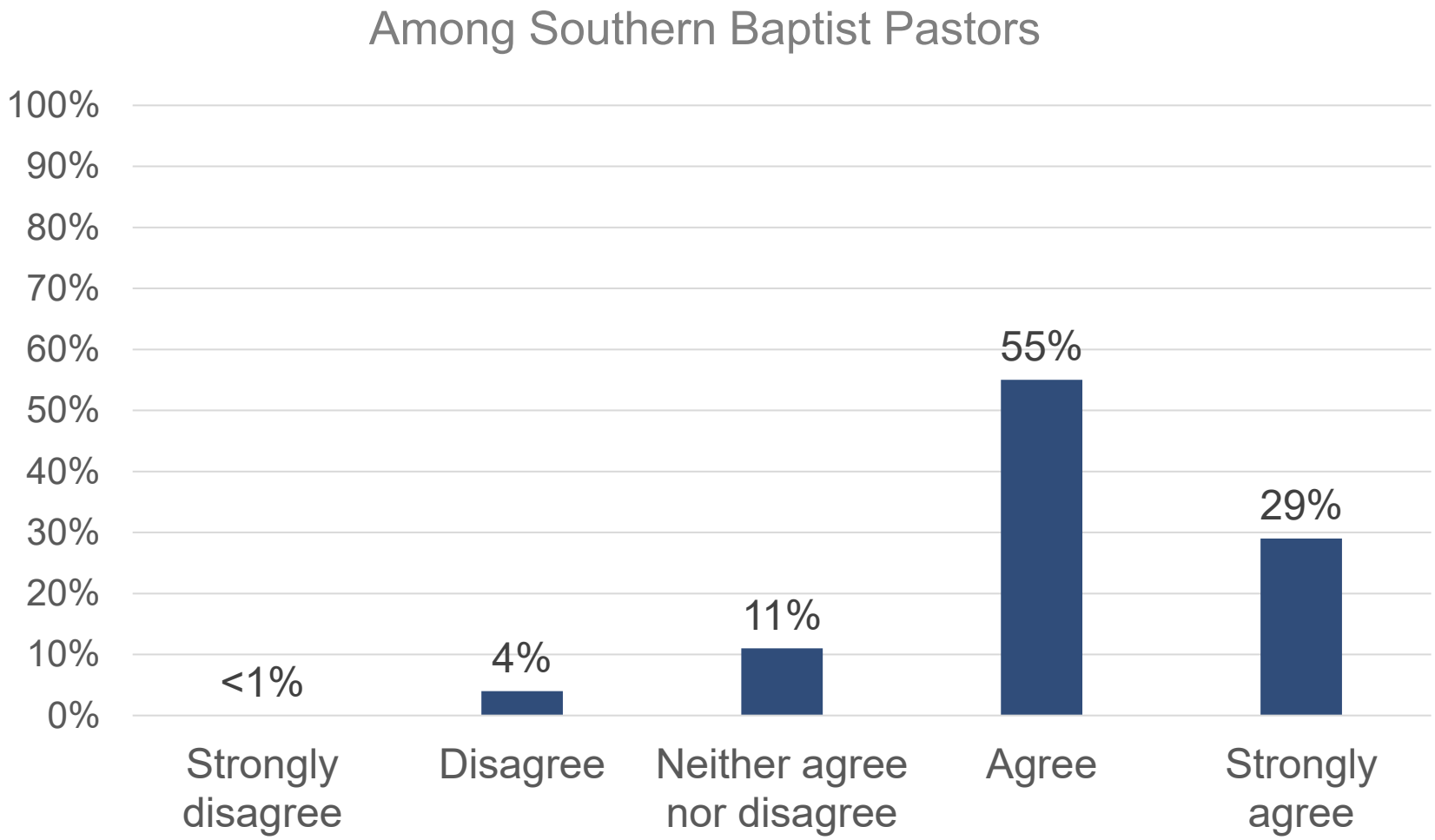
51% agree their congregation is striving to be diverse (e.g. racially, ethnically, socio-economically)



Lifeway Research

Q39_2 “Our congregation is striving to be diverse (e.g. racially, ethnically, socio-economically)”” n=897

84% agree their congregation is good at incorporating new people into the congregation

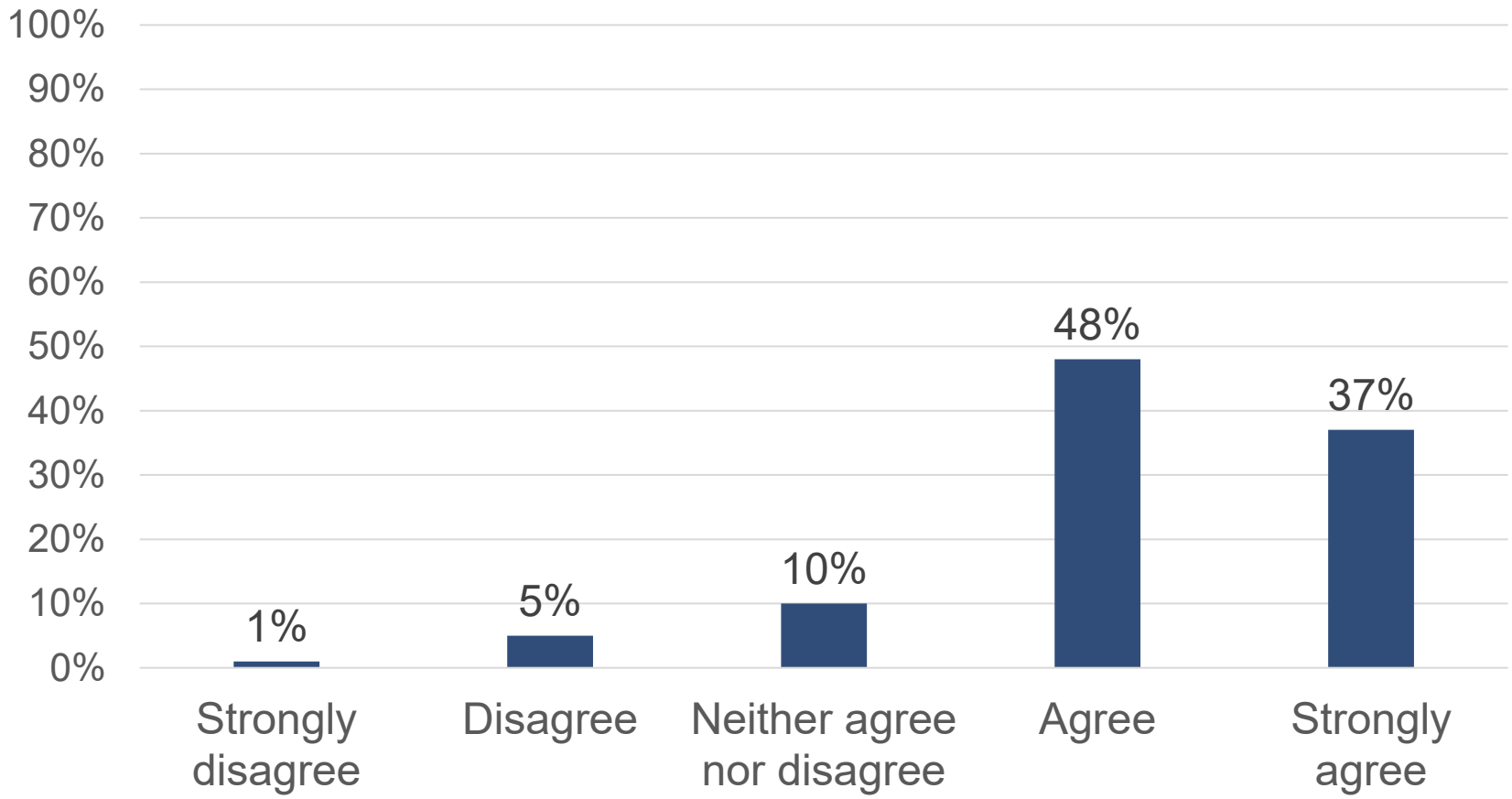


Lifeway Research

Q39_3 “Our congregation is good at incorporating new people into the congregation”” n=898

84% agree their congregation is actively looking for new members

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

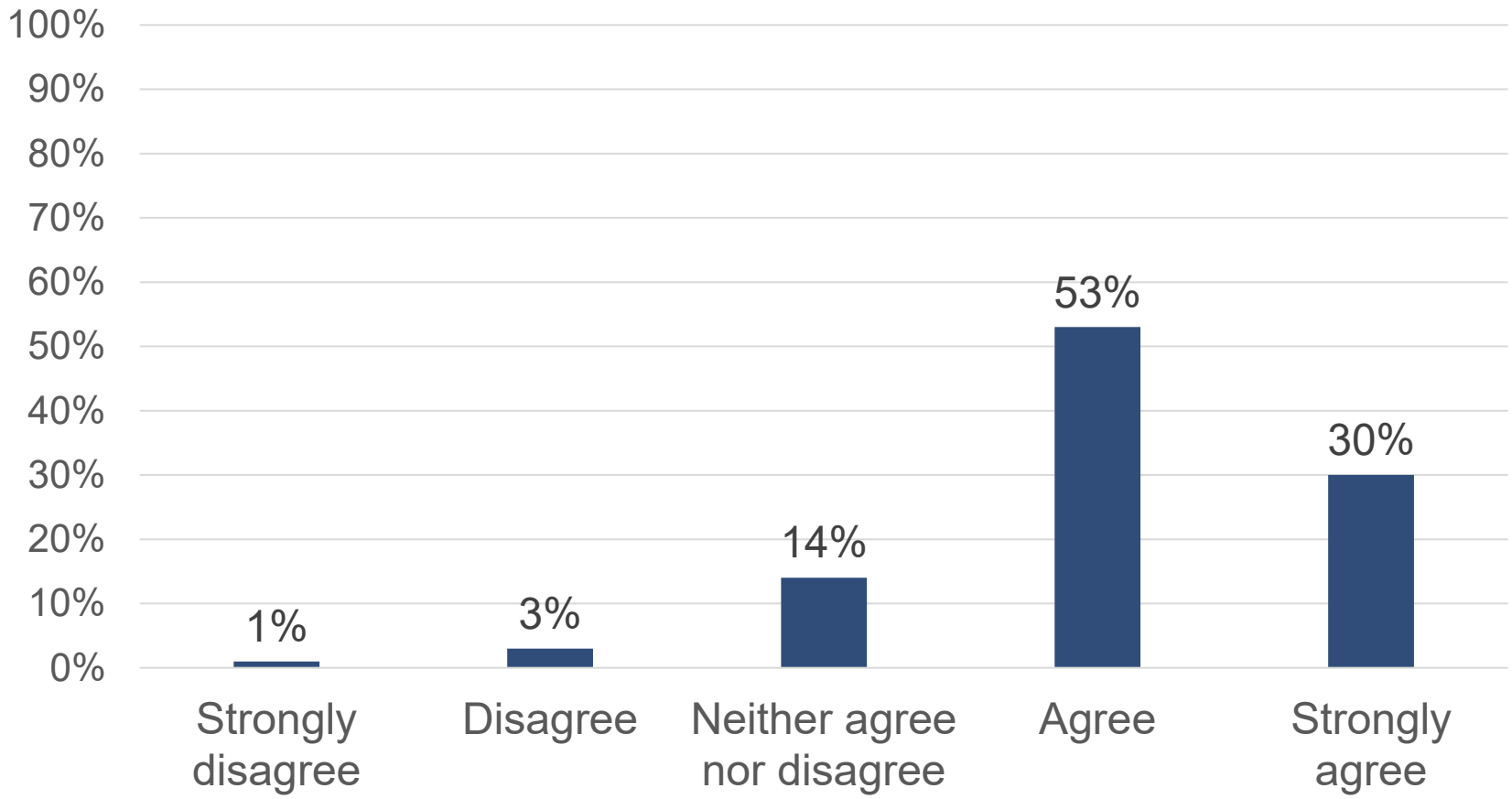


Lifeway Research

Q39_4 “Our congregation is actively looking for new members” n=898

83% agree their congregation is spiritually vital and alive

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

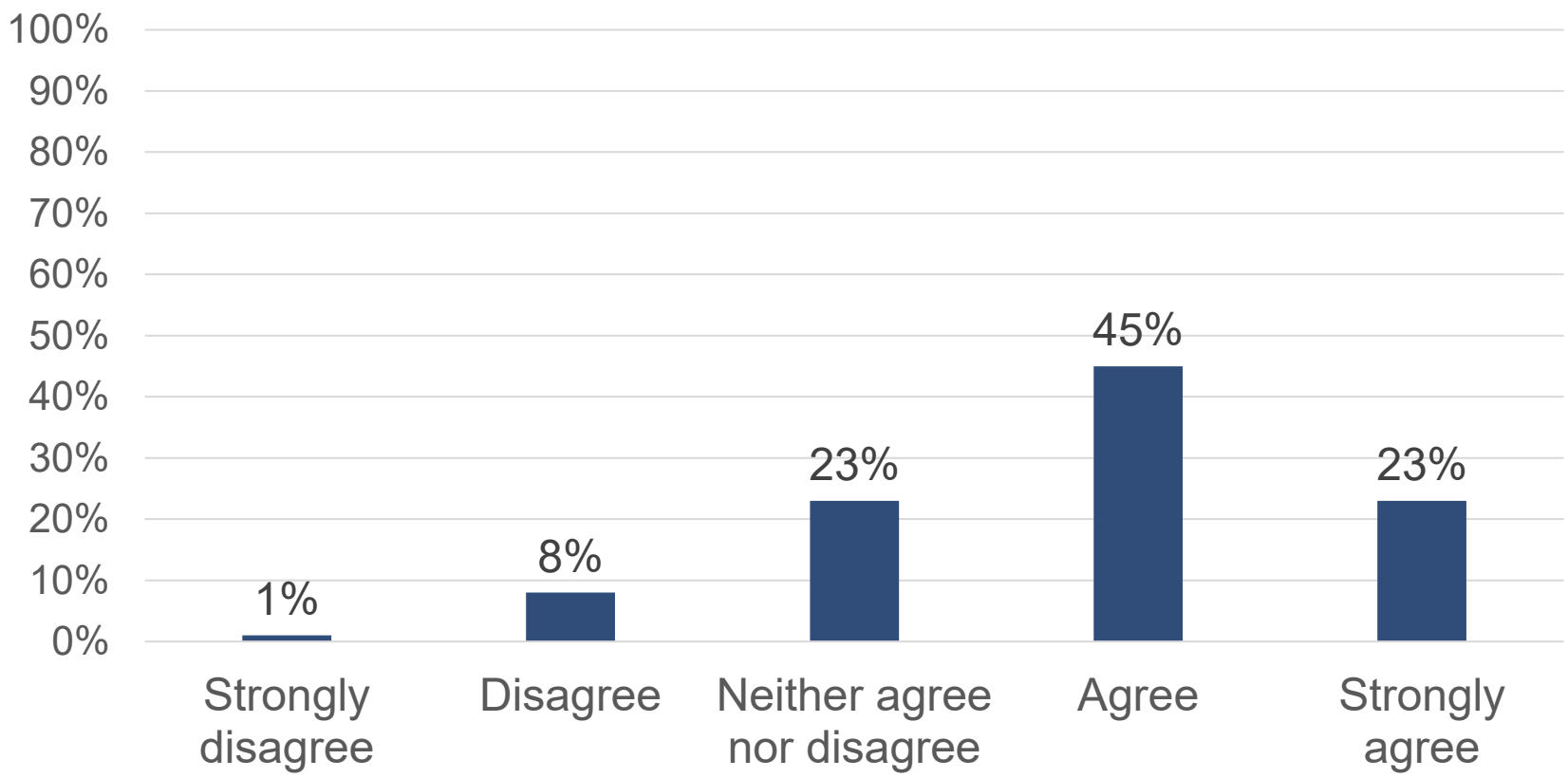


Lifeway Research

Q39_5 “Our congregation is spiritually vital and alive”” n=901

68% agree their congregation is willing to change to meet new challenges

Among Southern Baptist Pastors



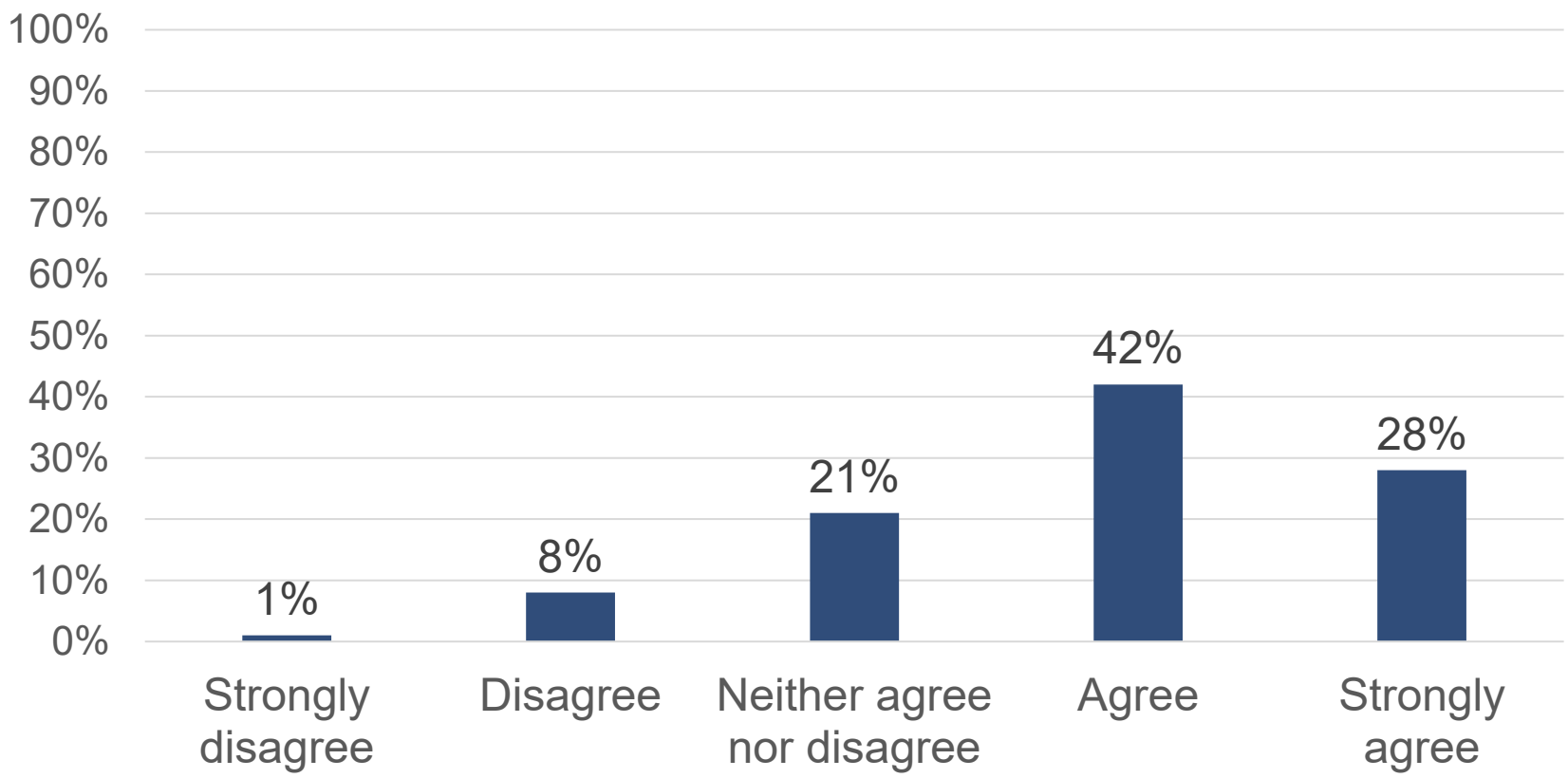
Pastors at churches with average attendance of more than 250 are the most likely to Agree (87%)

Lifeway Research

Q39_6 “Our congregation is willing to change to meet new challenges”” n=900

70% agree their congregation is actively involved in their local community

Among Southern Baptist Pastors



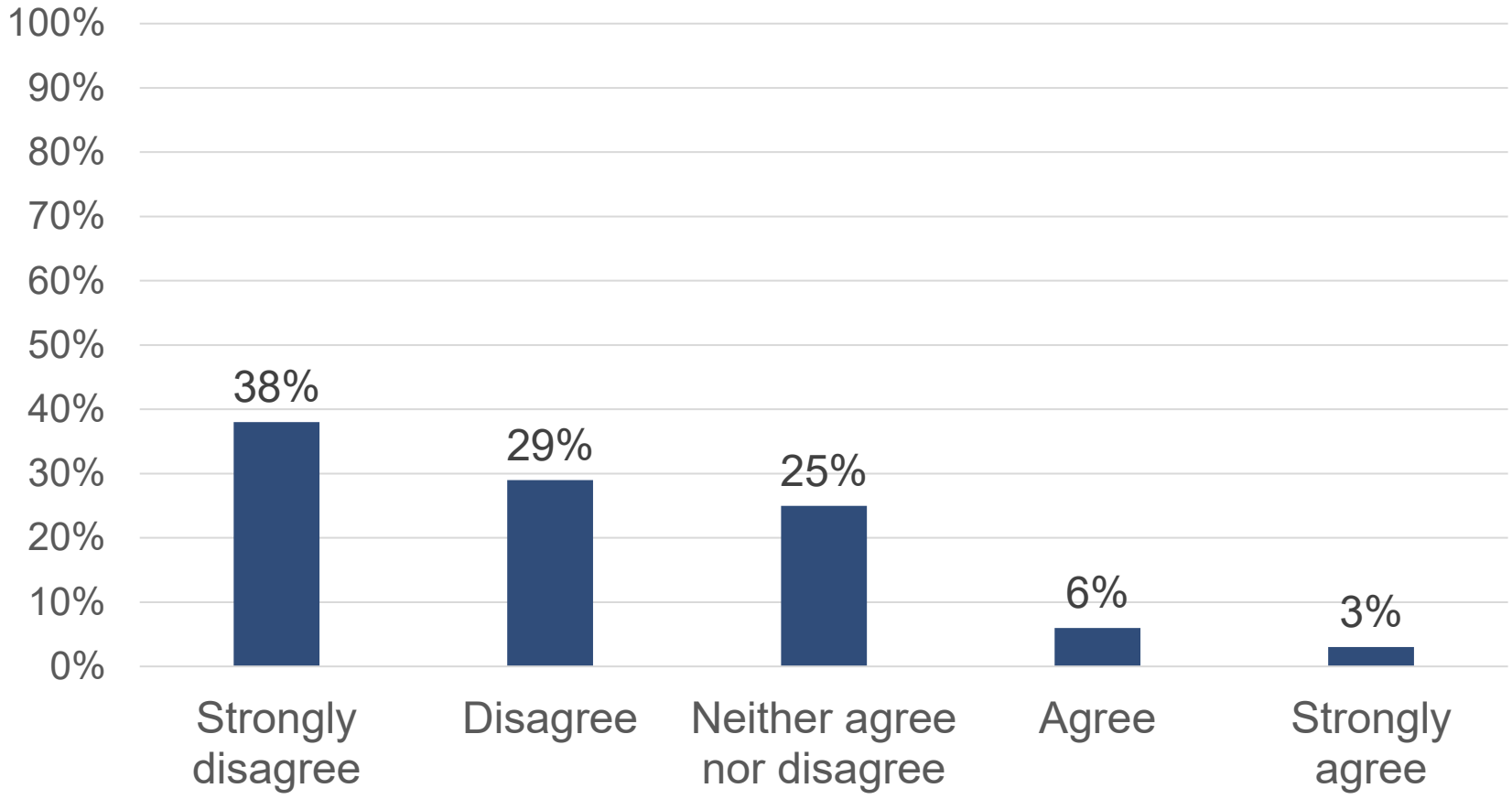
Pastors at churches with average attendance of more than 250 are the most likely to Agree (87%)

Lifeway Research

Q39_7 “Our congregation is actively involved in our local community”” n=899

8% agree their congregation is prioritizing environmental and climate change/ creation care issues

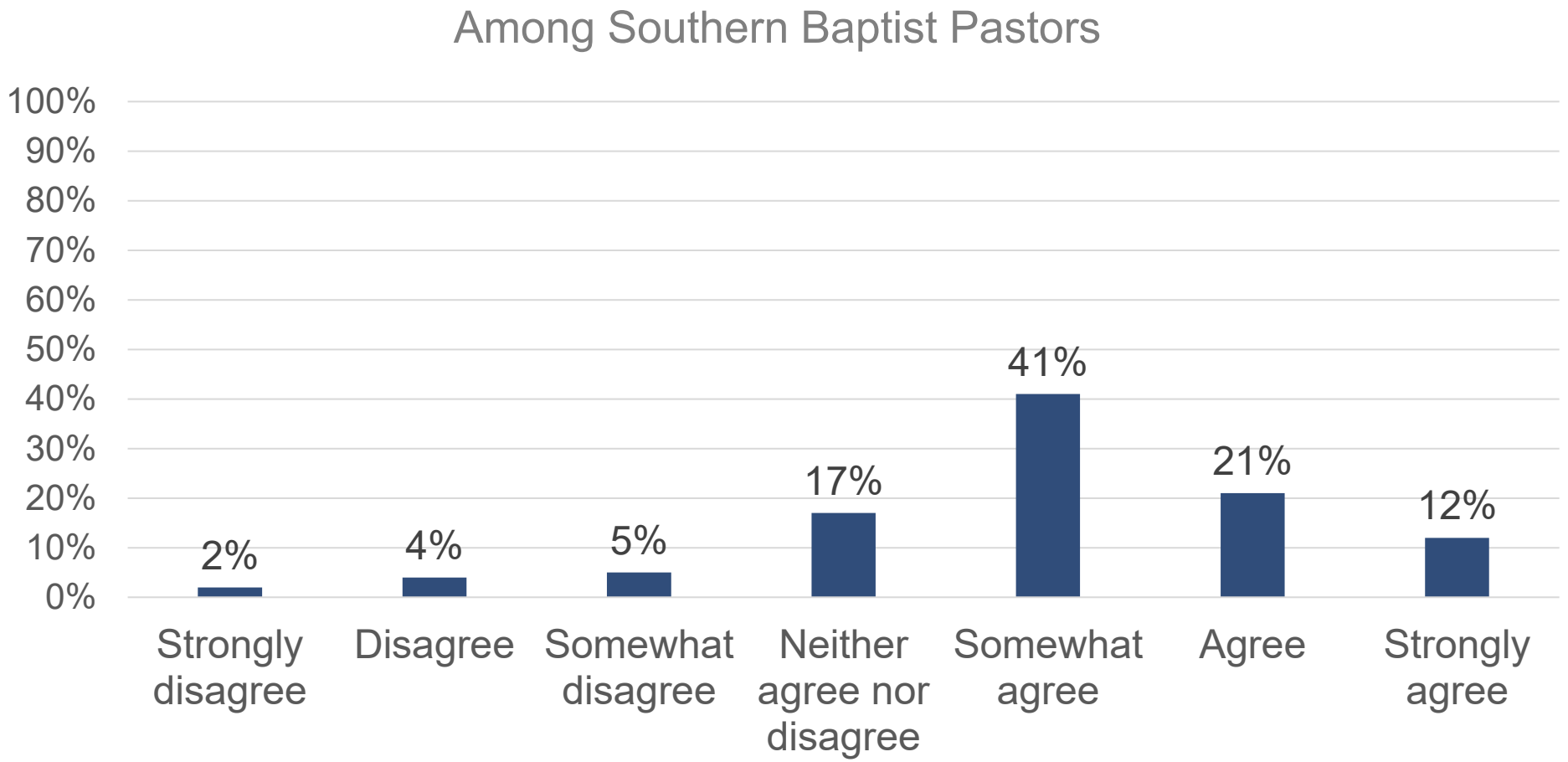
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q39_8 “Our congregation is prioritizing environmental and climate change/creation care issues”” n=891

73% agree “We are thinking in new ways about our future and direction.”

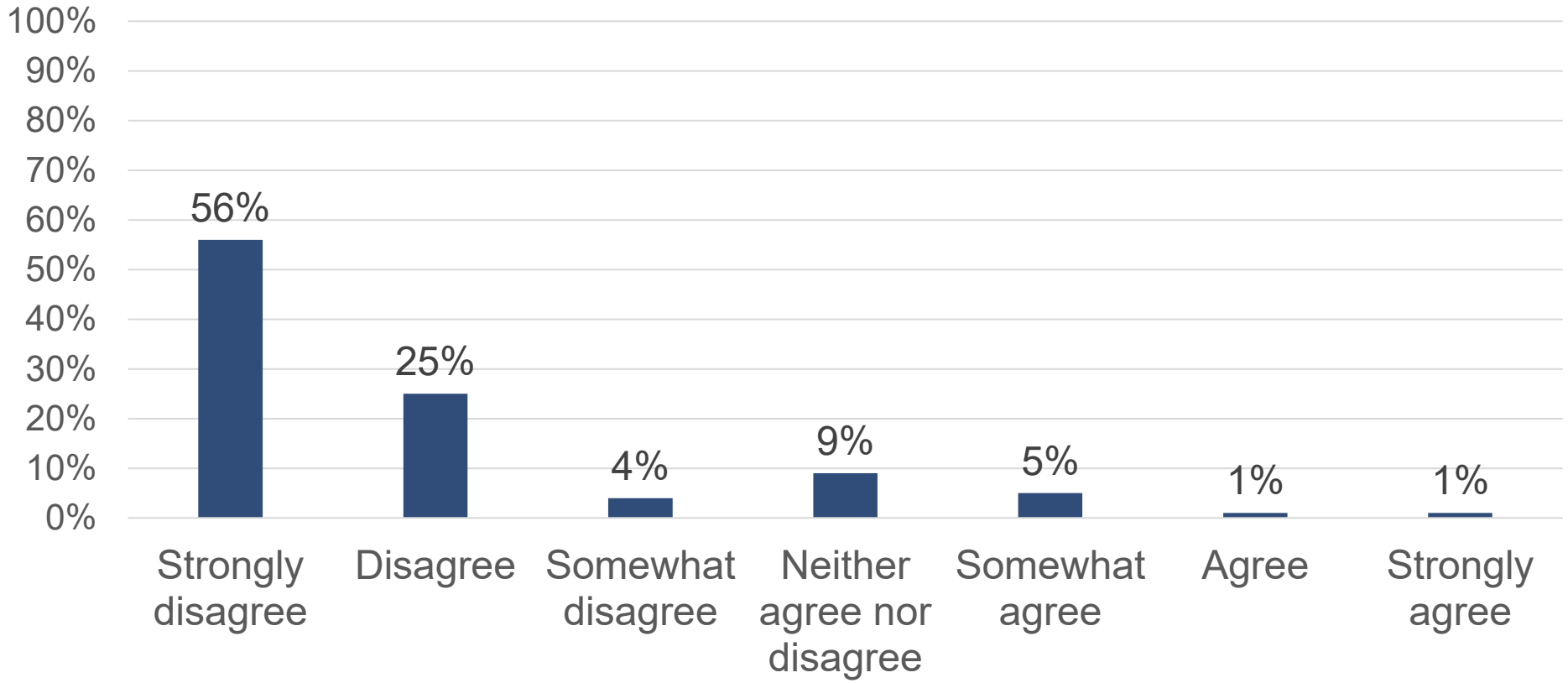


Lifeway Research

Q40_1 “We are thinking in new ways about our future and direction.”” n=894

6% agree “We are considering merging with another congregation.”

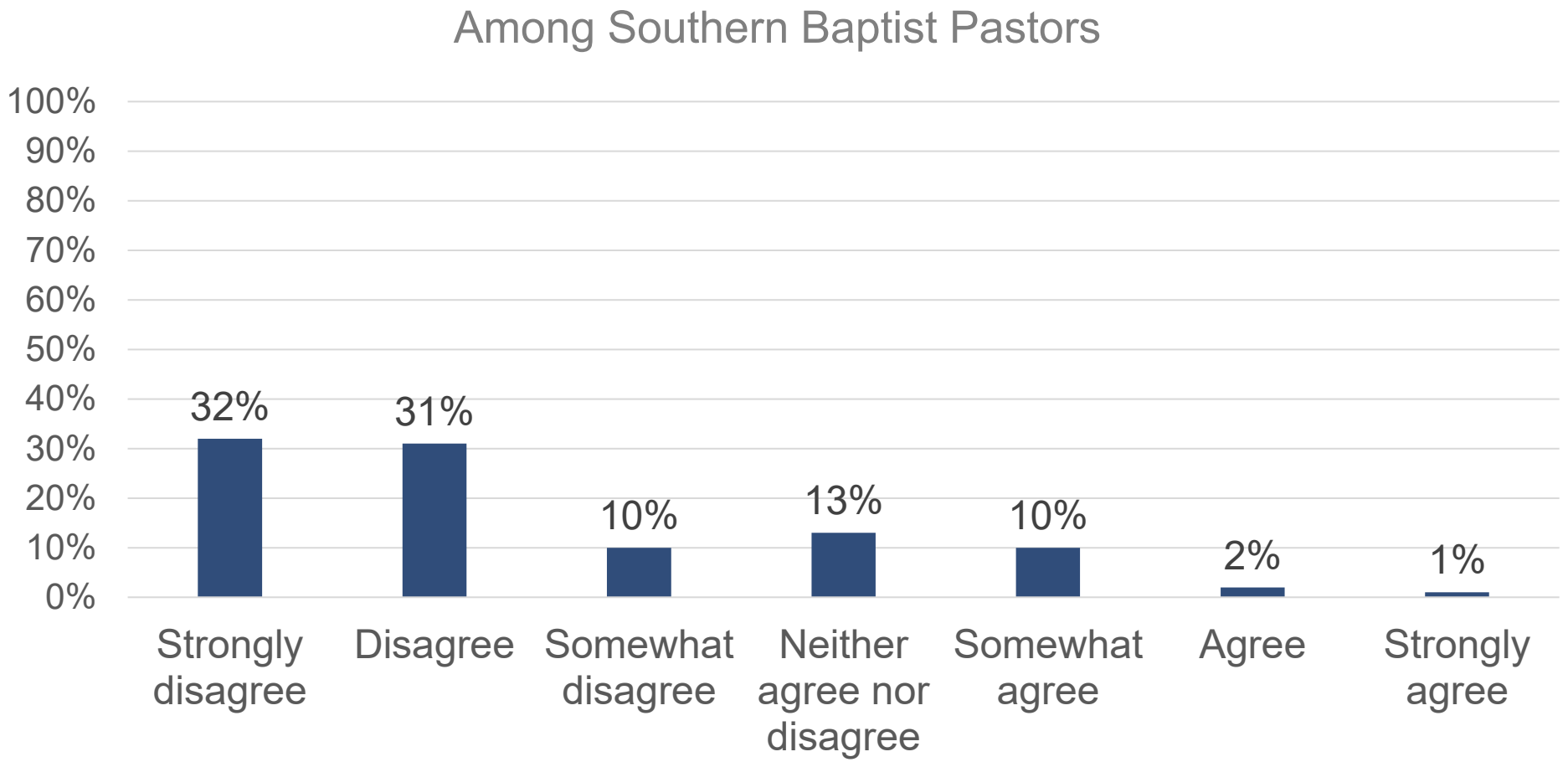
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q40_2 “We are considering merging with another congregation.”” n=897

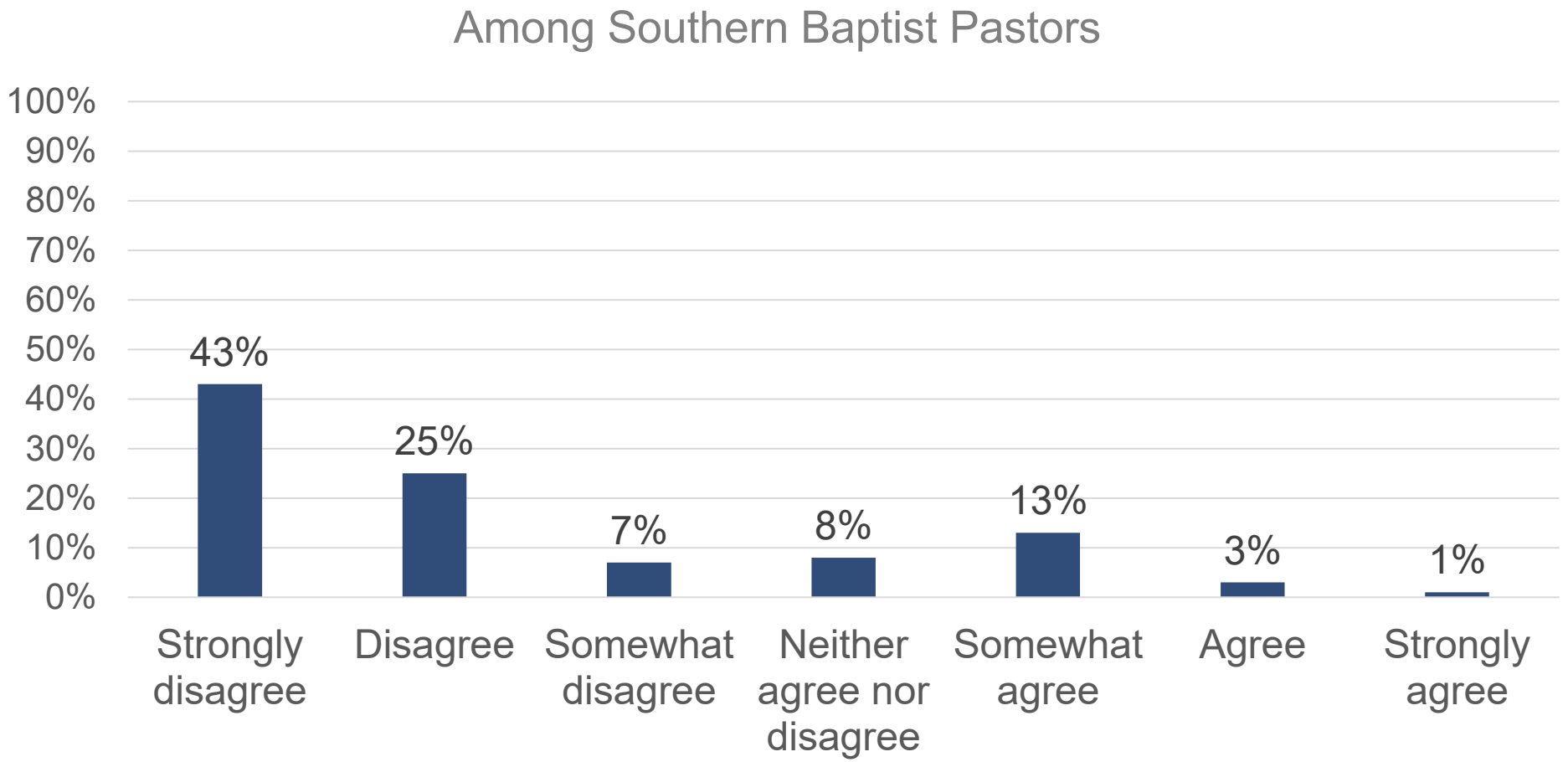
14% agree “We are struggling to maintain community between congregational members.”



Lifeway Research

Q40_3 “We are struggling to maintain community between congregational members..”” n=895

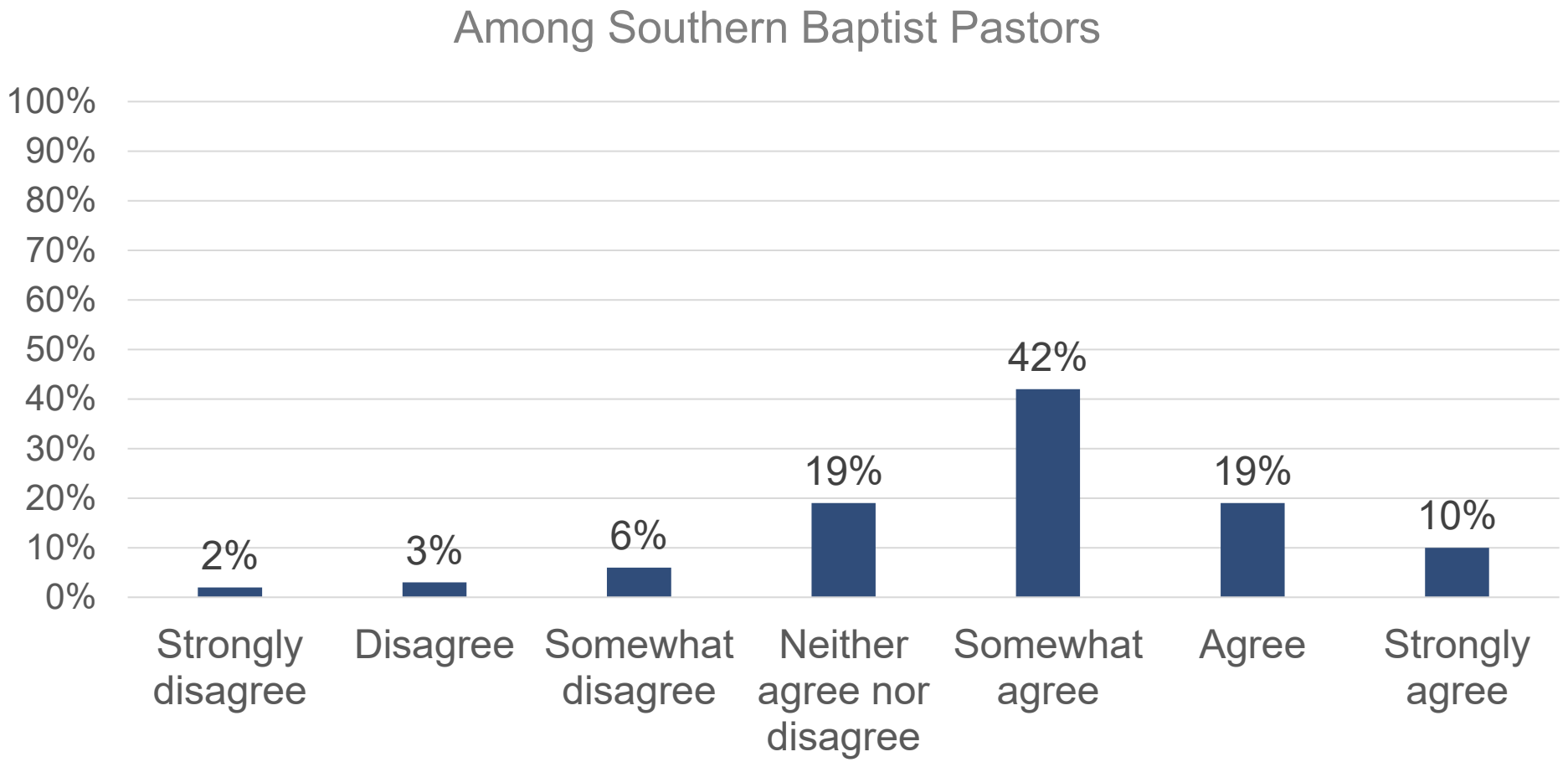
17% agree “This congregation’s continued existence is threatened.”



Lifeway Research

Q40_4 “This congregation’s continued existence is threatened.”” n=895

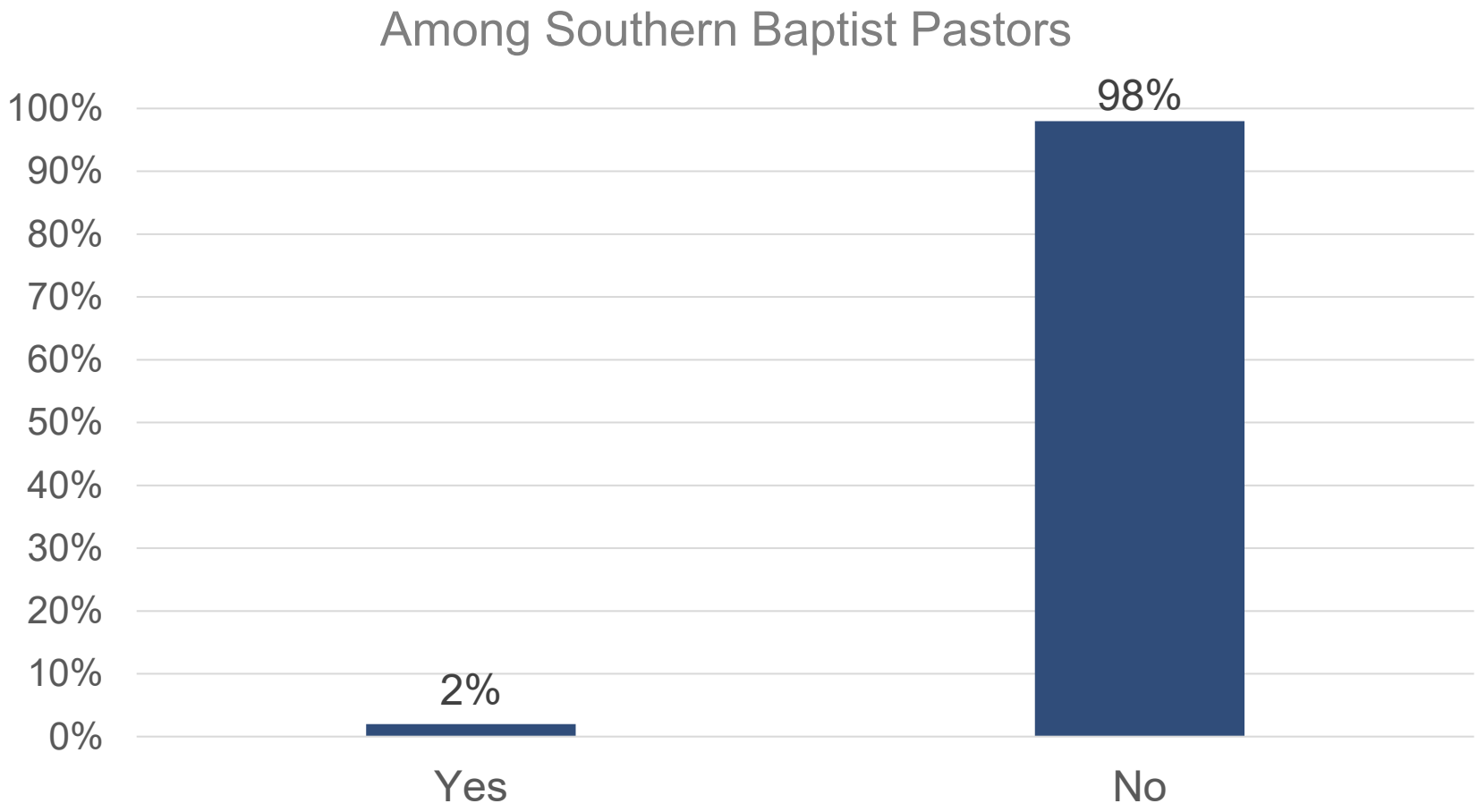
71% agree “This congregation is identifying and embracing new opportunities for ministry.”



Lifeway Research

Q40_5 “congregation is identifying and embracing new opportunities for ministry.”” n=895

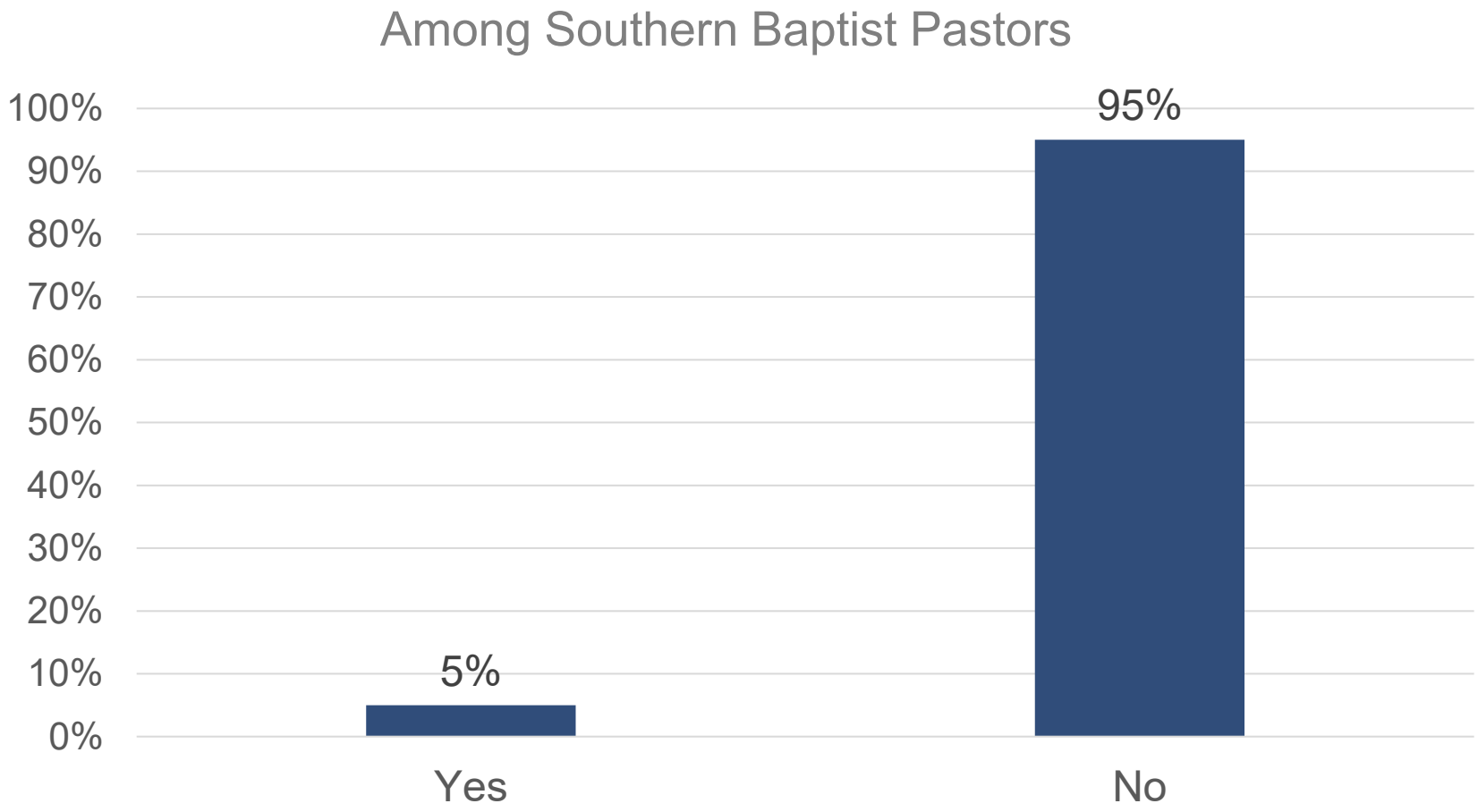
Merged with another congregation since 2020



Lifeway Research

Q41_1 “Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Merged with another congregation**” n=892

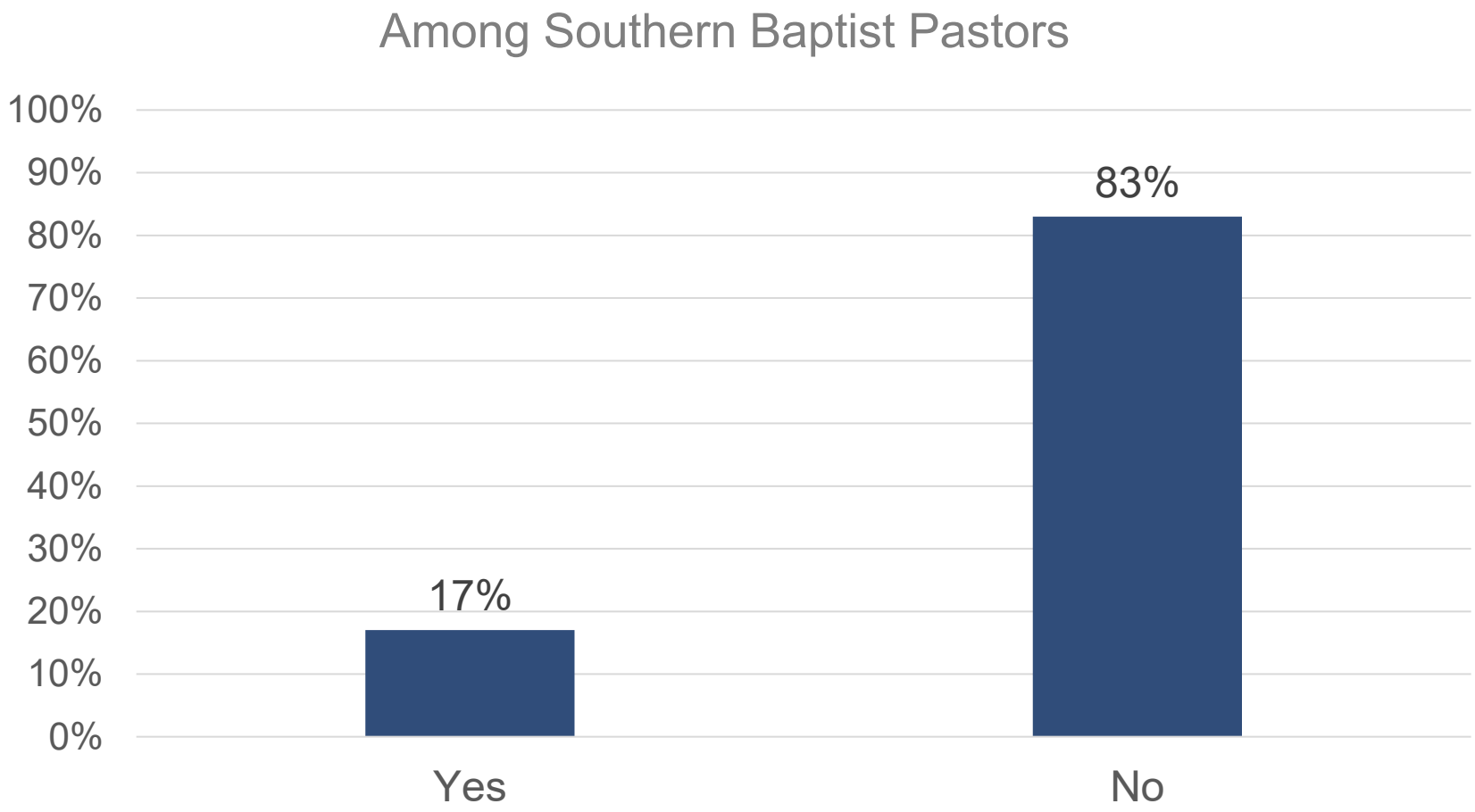
Split into two or more congregations since 2020



Lifeway Research

Q41_2 "Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Split into two or more congregations**" n=890

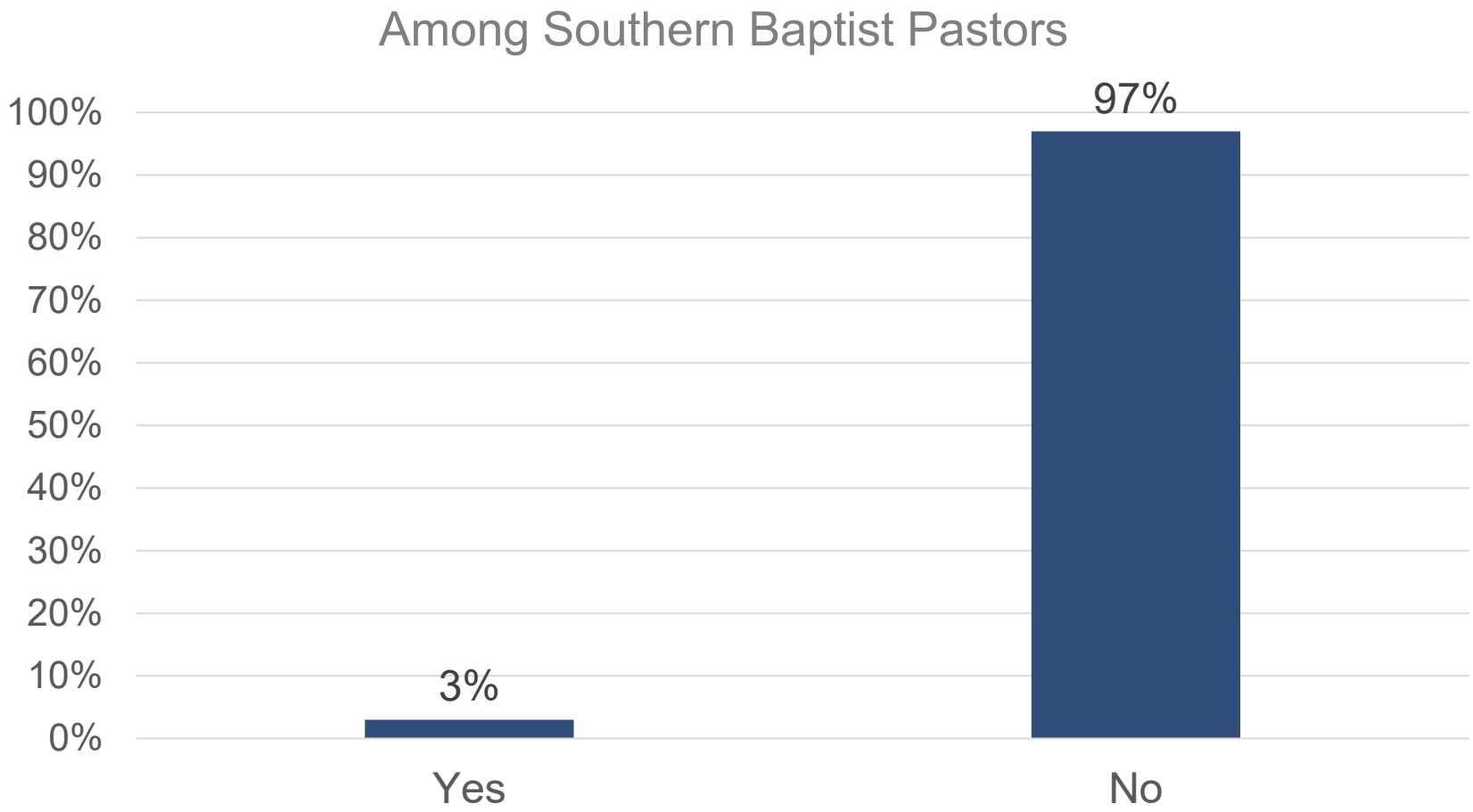
Help start or plant a new congregation since 2020



Lifeway Research

Q41_3 "Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Help start or plant a new congregation**" n=890

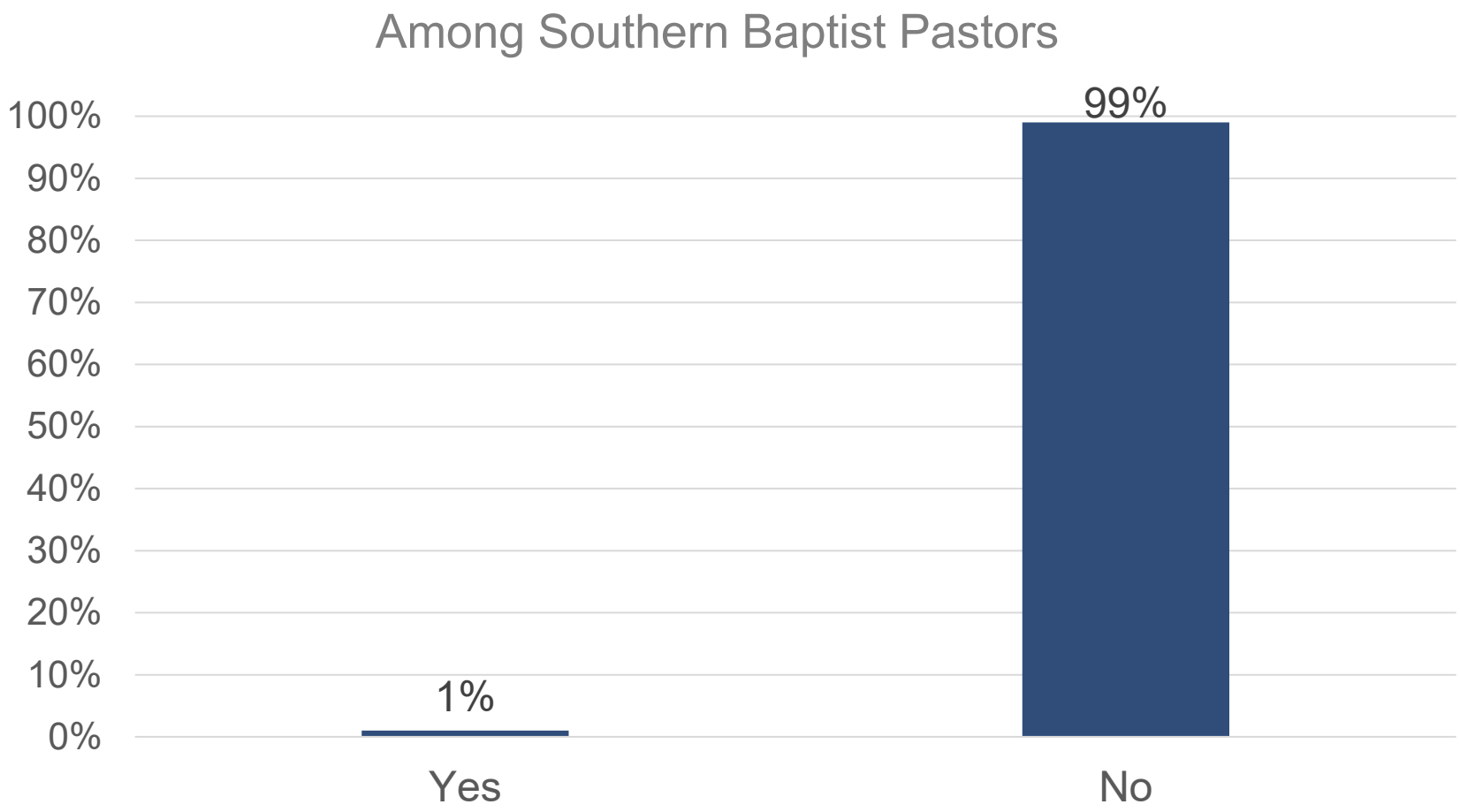
Opened a satellite or branch location(s) since 2020



Lifeway Research

Q41_4 Respondents were asked: "Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Opened a satellite or branch location(s)**" n=892

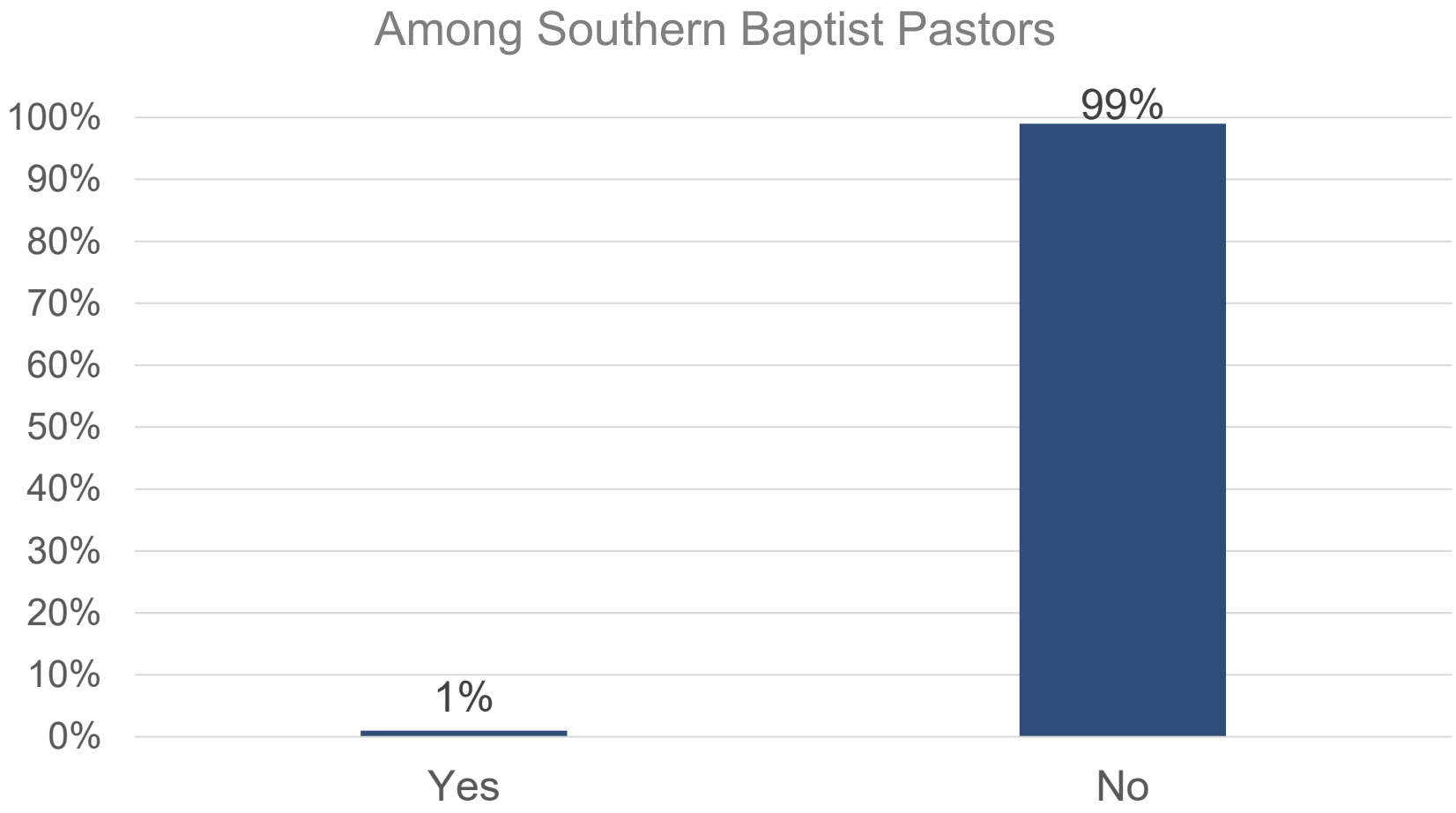
Changed denominations since 2020



Lifeway Research

Q41_5 "Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Changed denominations**" n=888

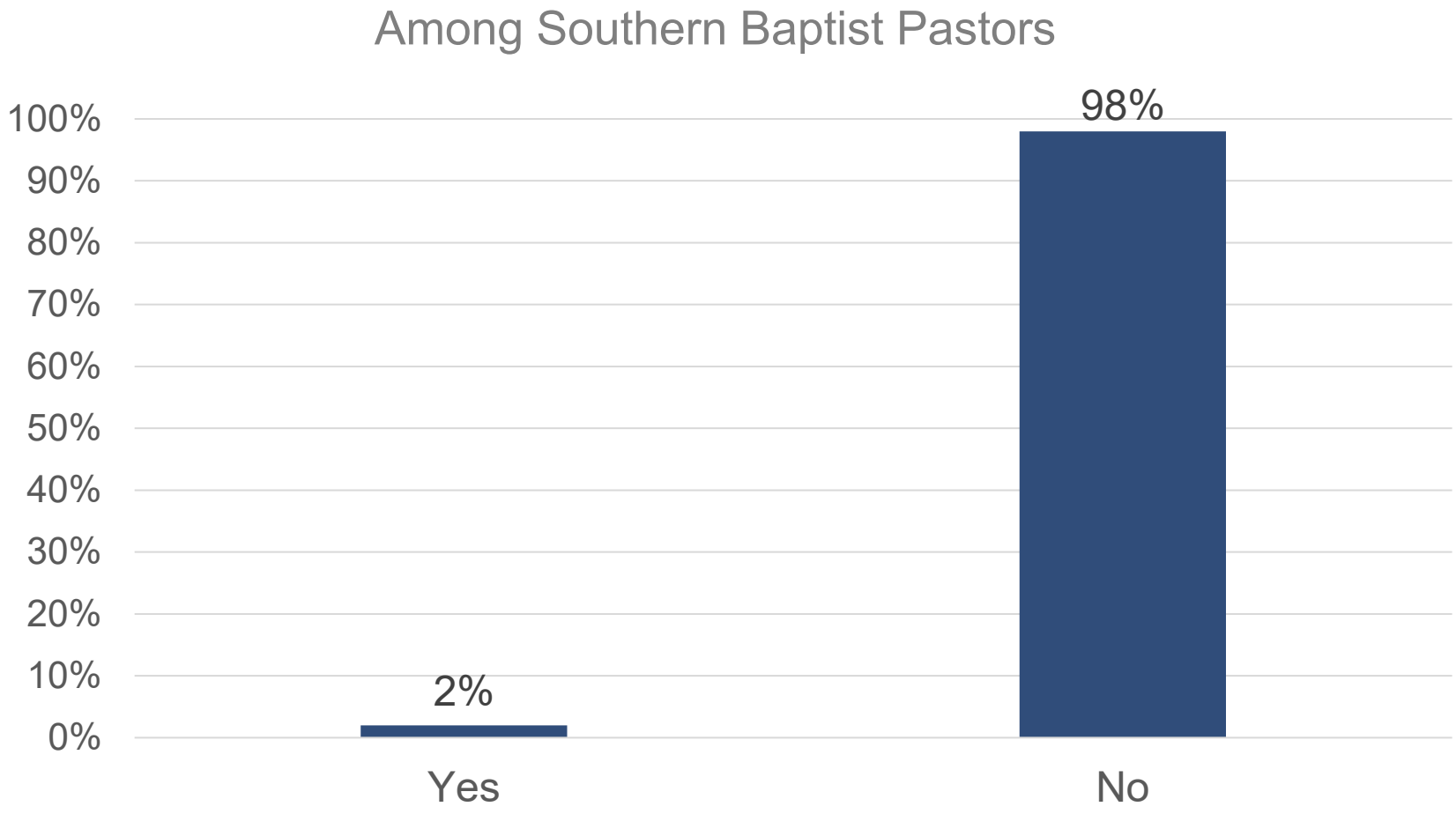
Left a denomination (to become independent or unaffiliated) since 2020



Lifeway Research

Q41_6 "Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Left a denomination (to become independent or unaffiliated))**" n=890

Joined a denomination (no longer independent or unaffiliated) since 2020



Lifeway Research

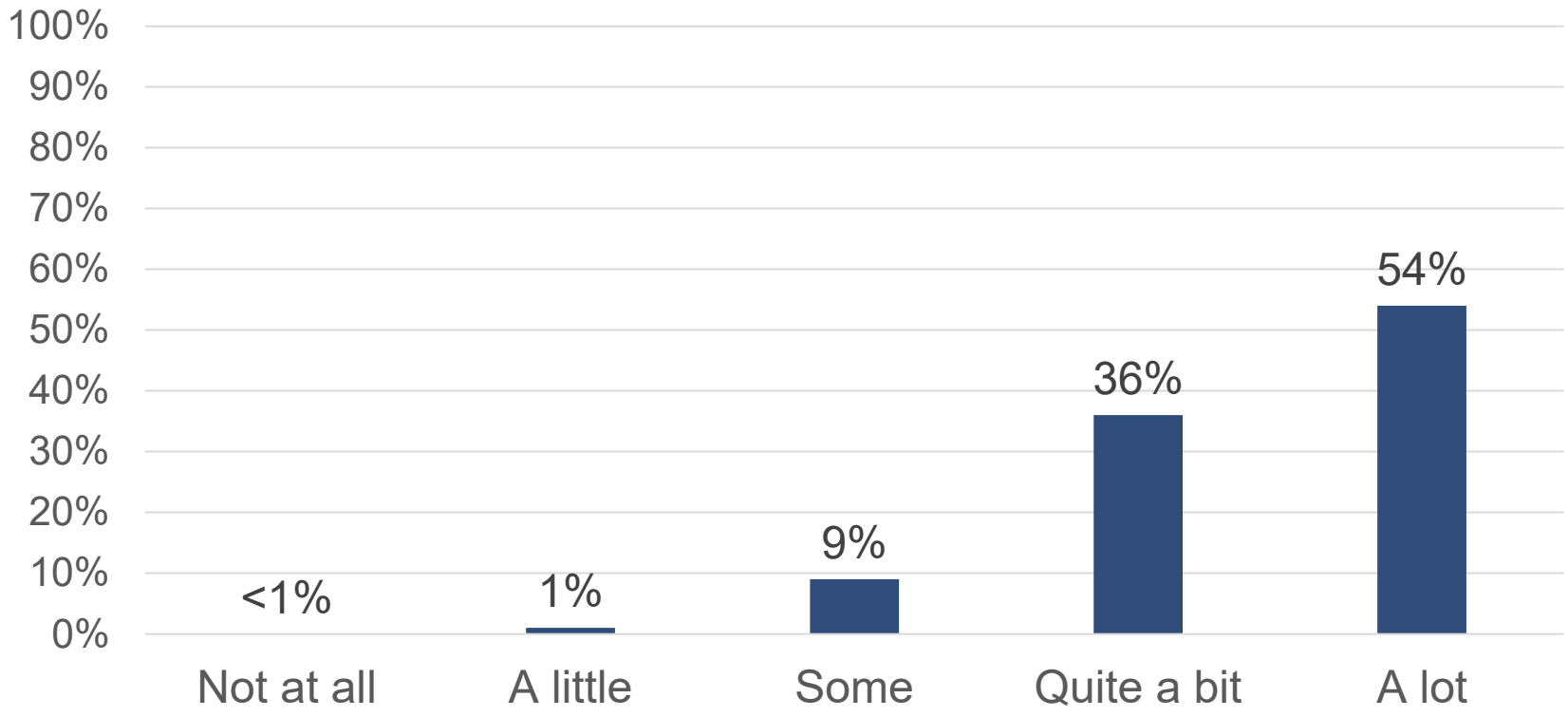
Q41_7 "Since 2020, has your congregation experienced any of the following? **Joined a denomination (to become independent or unaffiliated)**" n=890

Programs

Lifeway Research

Emphasize personal religious practices (e.g., prayer, meditation, scripture study, devotions)

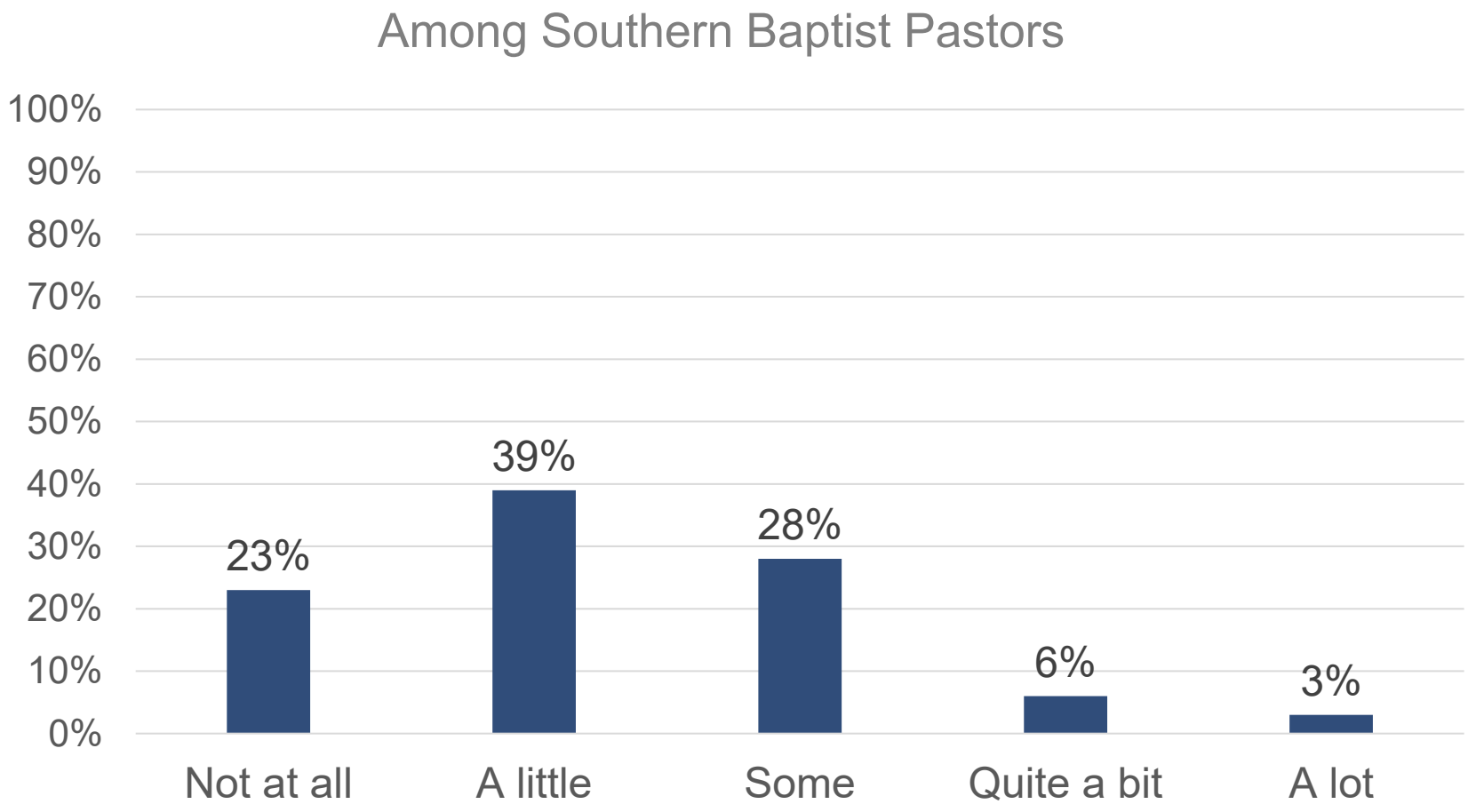
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q42_1 "How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? **Personal religious practices (e.g., prayer, meditation, scripture study, devotions)**"" n=888

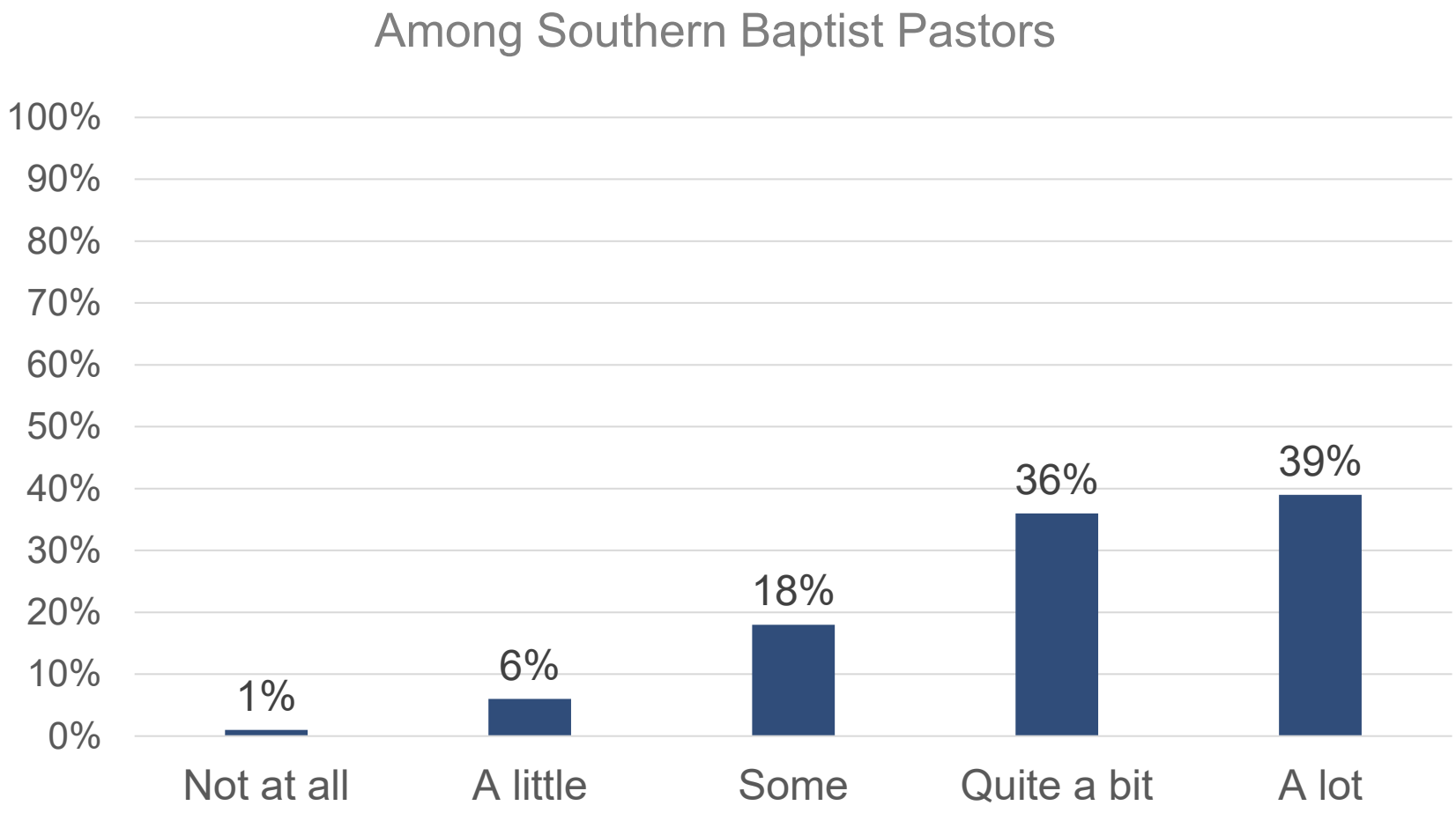
Emphasize fasting



Lifeway Research

Q42_2 “How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? **Fasting**”” n=884

Emphasize talking about one's faith with those who are not part of your congregation

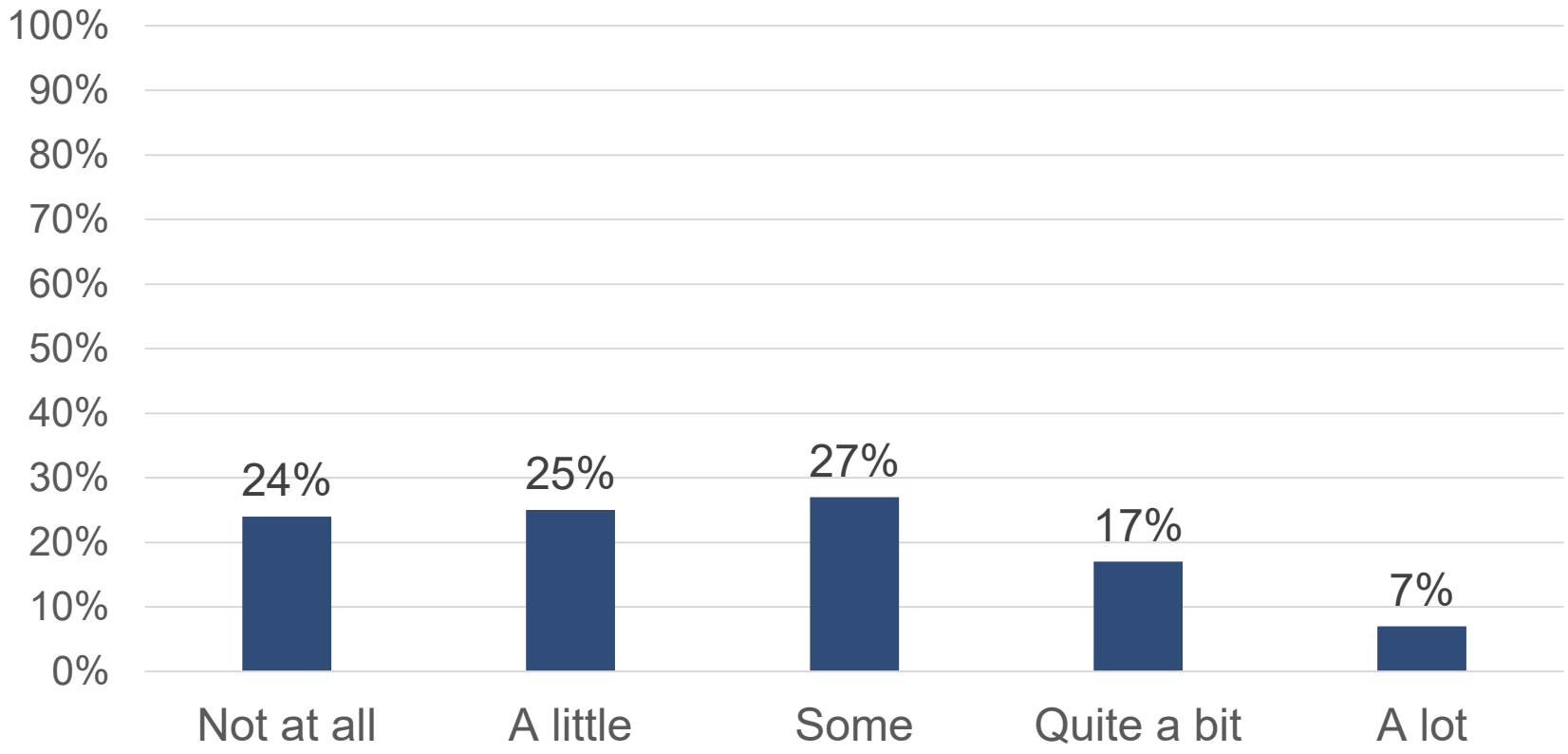


Lifeway Research

Q42_3 "How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? **Talking about one's faith with those who are not part of your congregation**"" n=887

Emphasize observing special practices or restrictions on one's holy days (e.g., keeping the Sabbath day holy)

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

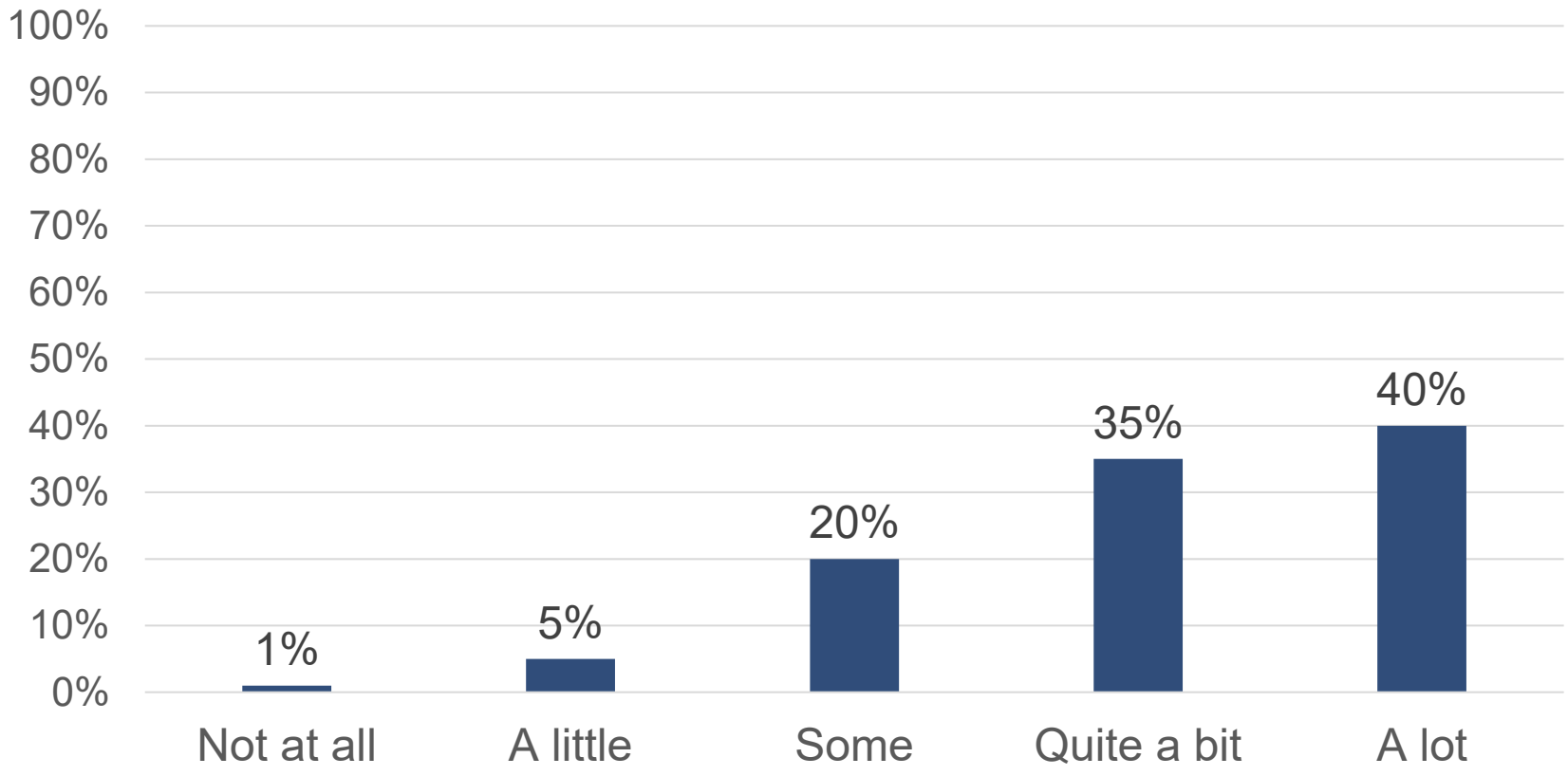


Lifeway Research

Q42_4 "How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? **Observing special practices or restrictions on one's holy days (e.g., keeping the Sabbath day holy)**"" n=885

Emphasize parents talking with children about faith

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

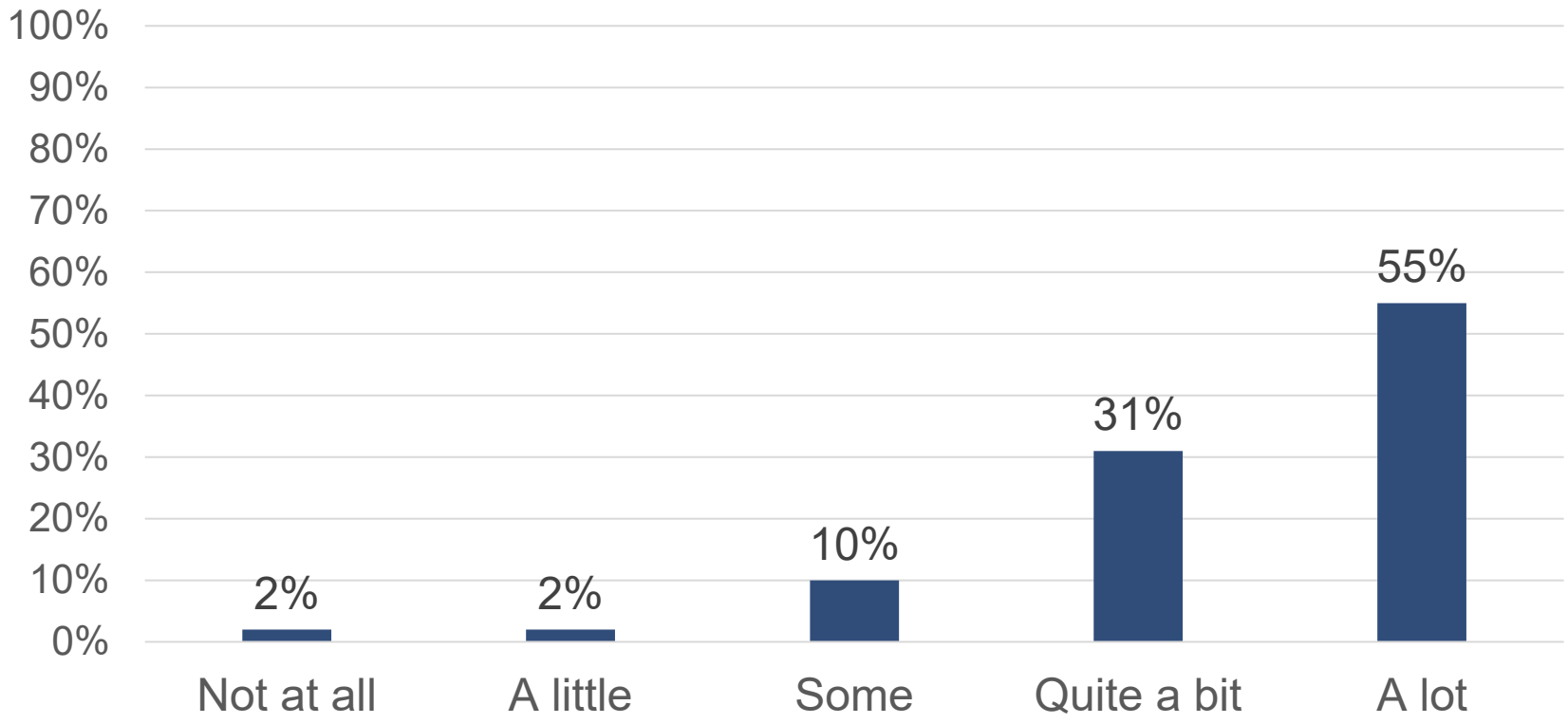


Lifeway Research

Q42_5 “How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? **Parents talking with children about faith**”” n=884

Emphasize living out one's faith in all aspects of one's daily life (e.g., work, family, civic engagement)

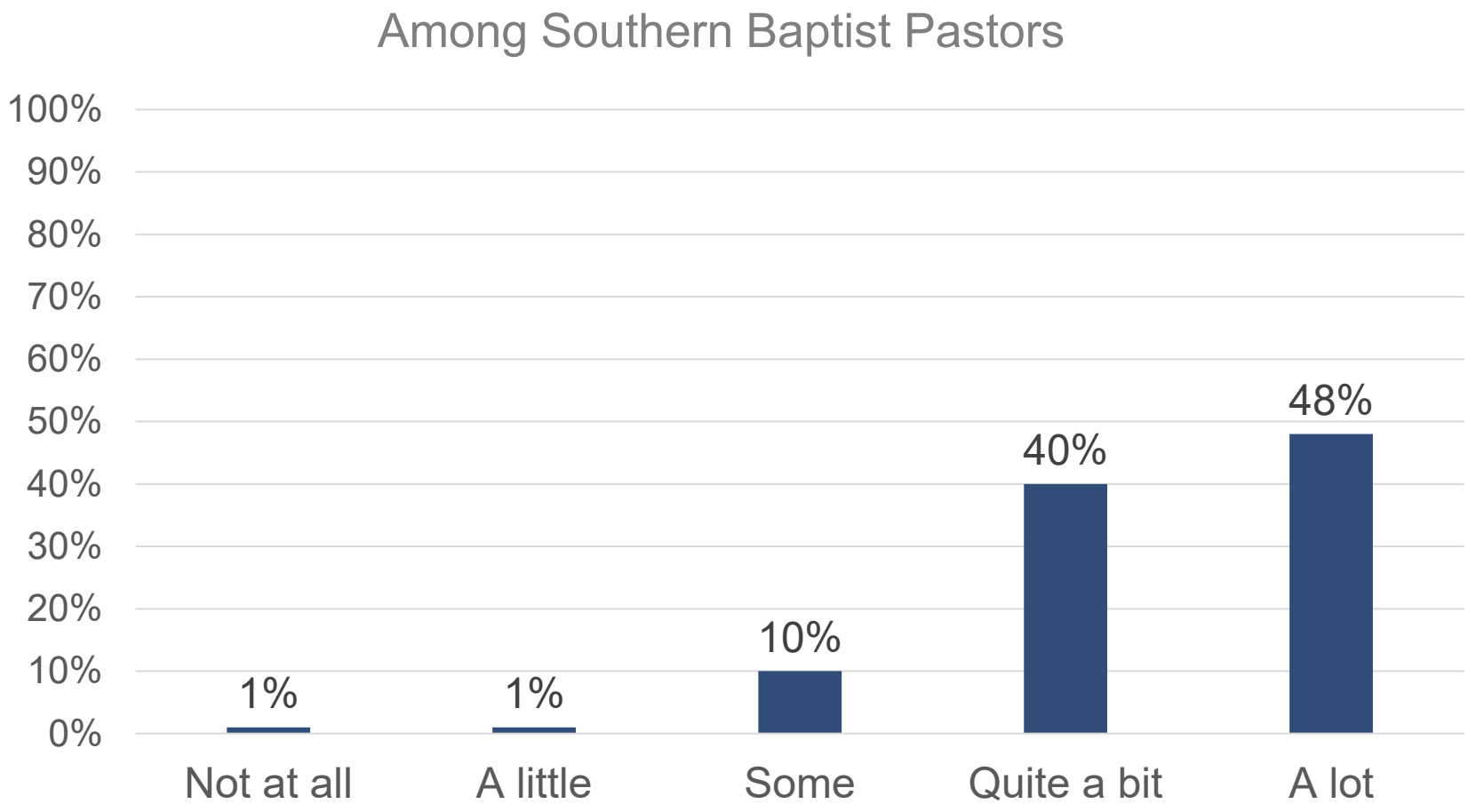
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q42_6 "How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? **Living out one's faith in all aspects of one's daily life (e.g., work, family, civic engagement)**" n=888

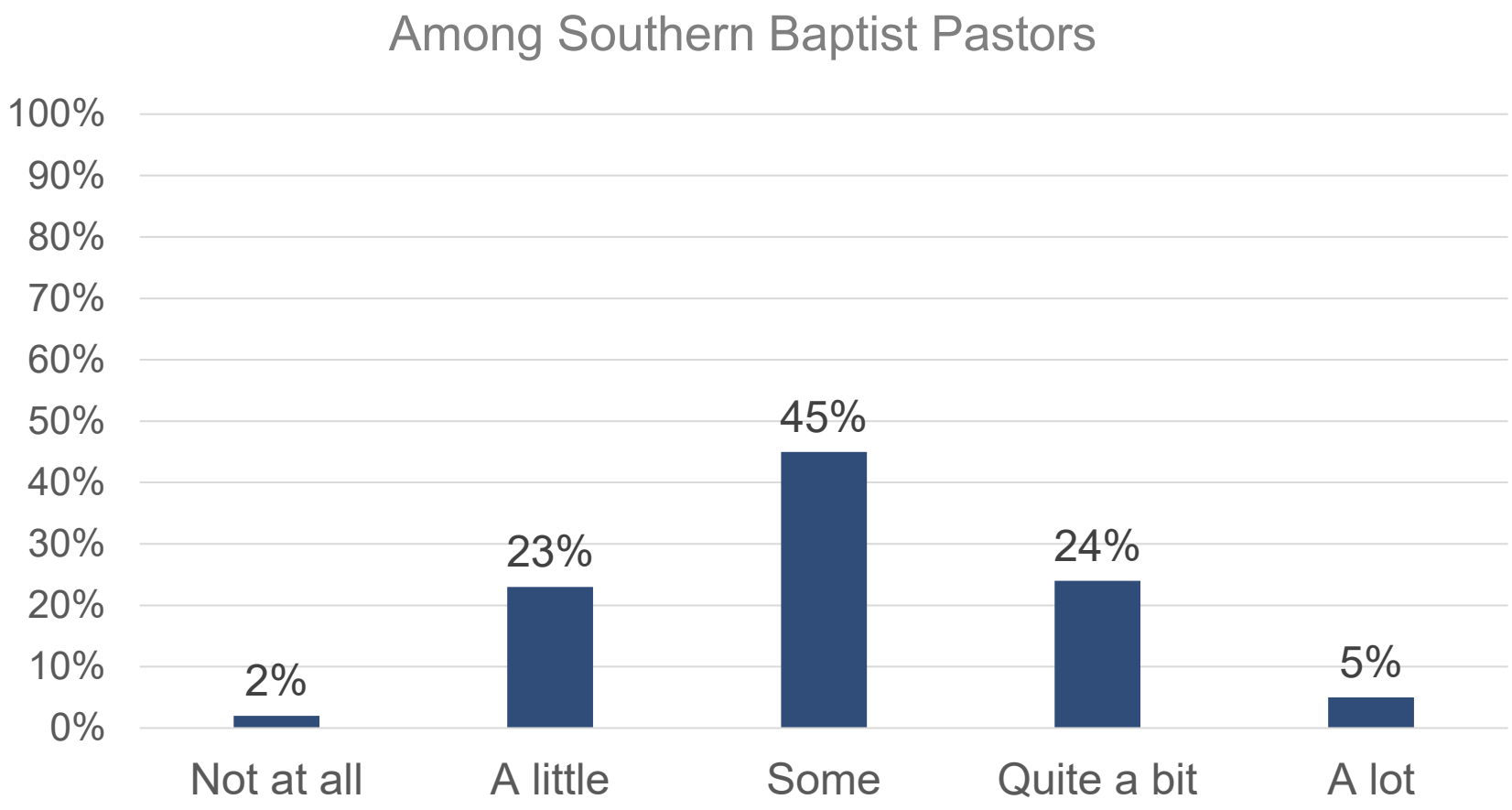
Emphasize regular worship attendance



Lifeway Research

Q42_7 "How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices?
Regular worship attendance" n=887

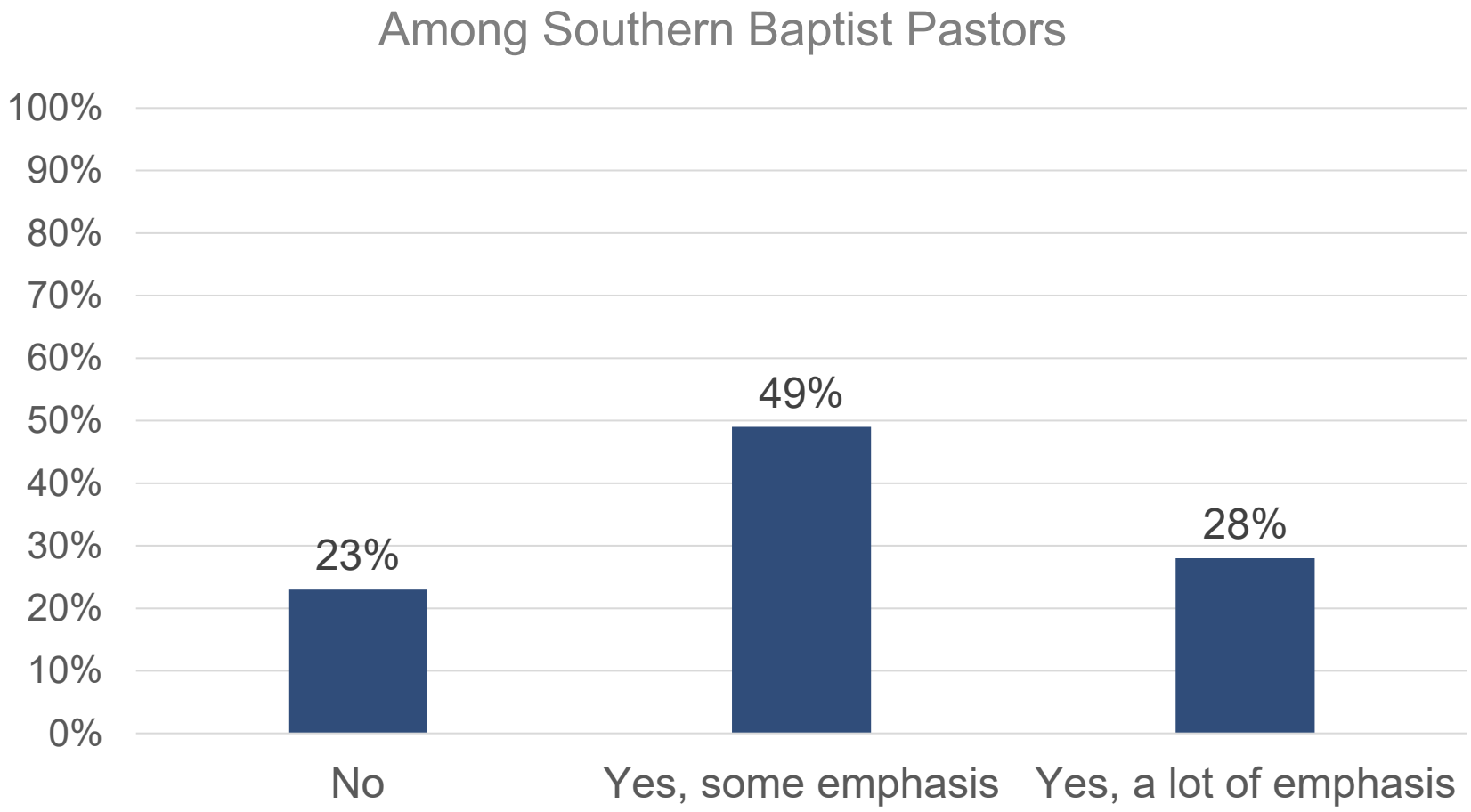
“Overall, to what extent are your congregation’s regularly participating adults involved in recruiting new people?”



Lifeway Research

Q43 “Overall, to what extent are your congregation’s regularly participating adults involved in recruiting new people?” n=888

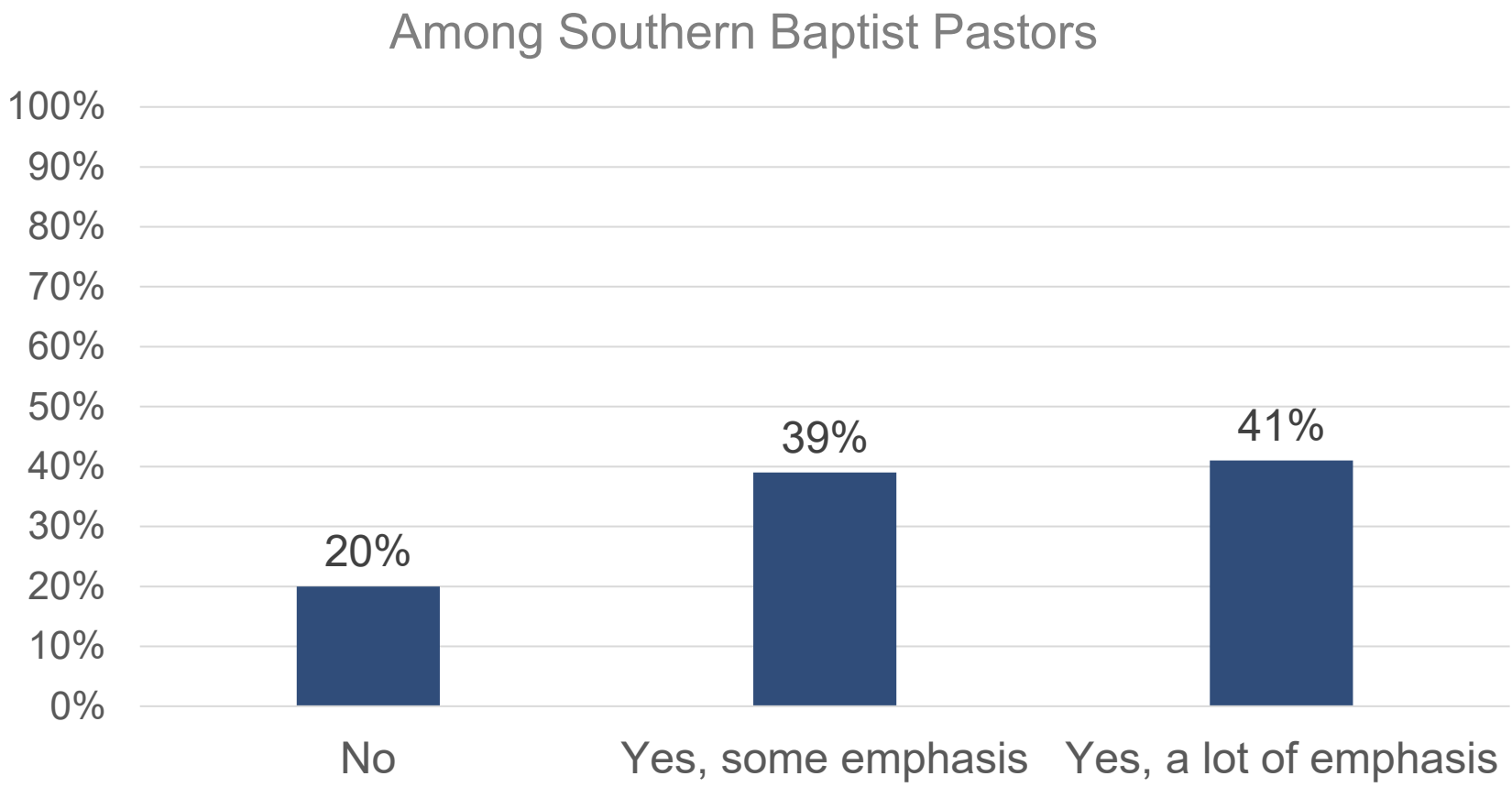
Have or emphasize prayer or meditation groups



Lifeway Research

Q44_1 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity?
Prayer or meditation groups" n=882

Have or emphasize small groups

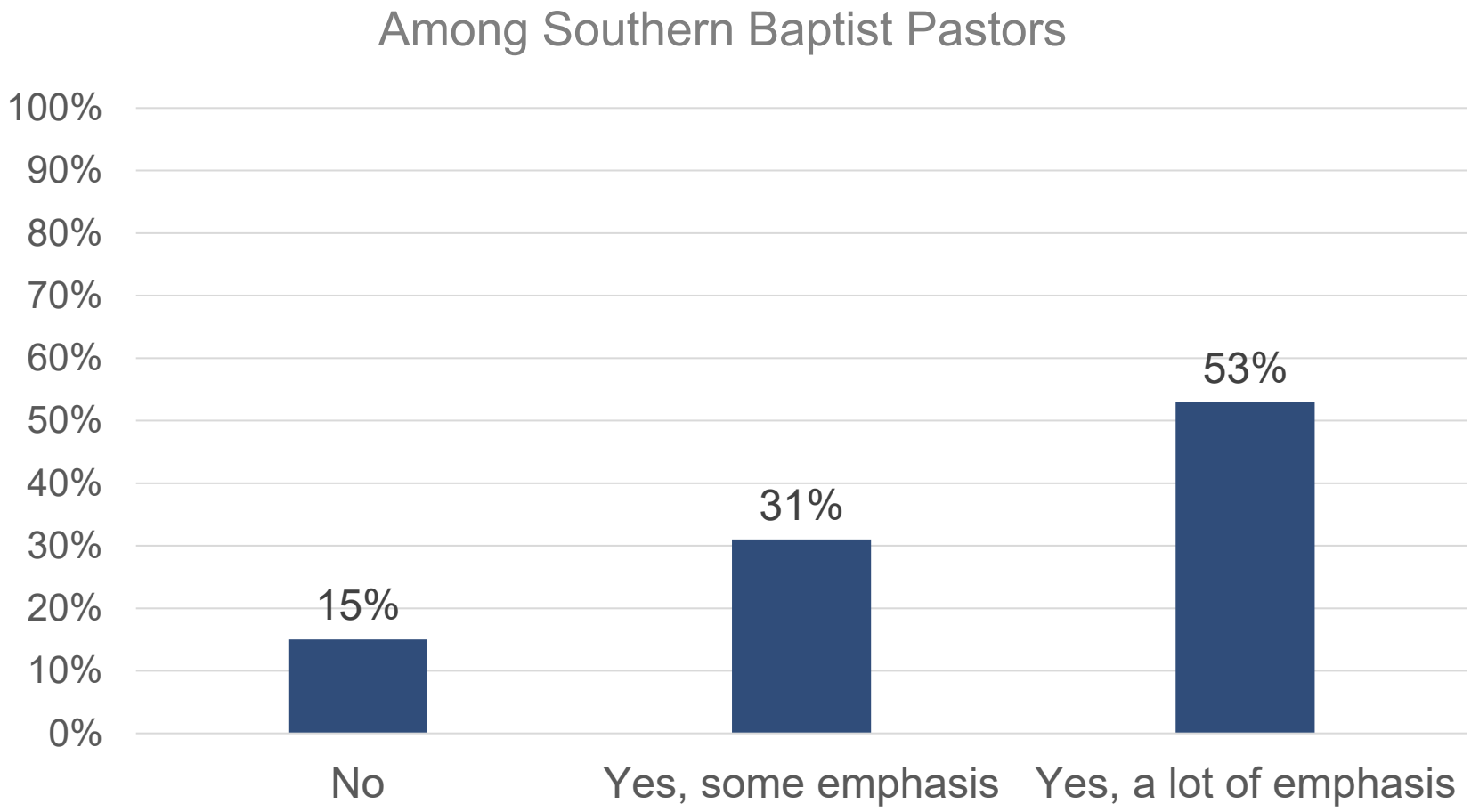


Pastors at churches with average attendance of more than 250 are the most likely to select “Yes, a lot of emphasis” (75%)

Lifeway Research

Q44_2 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? **Small groups**” n=878

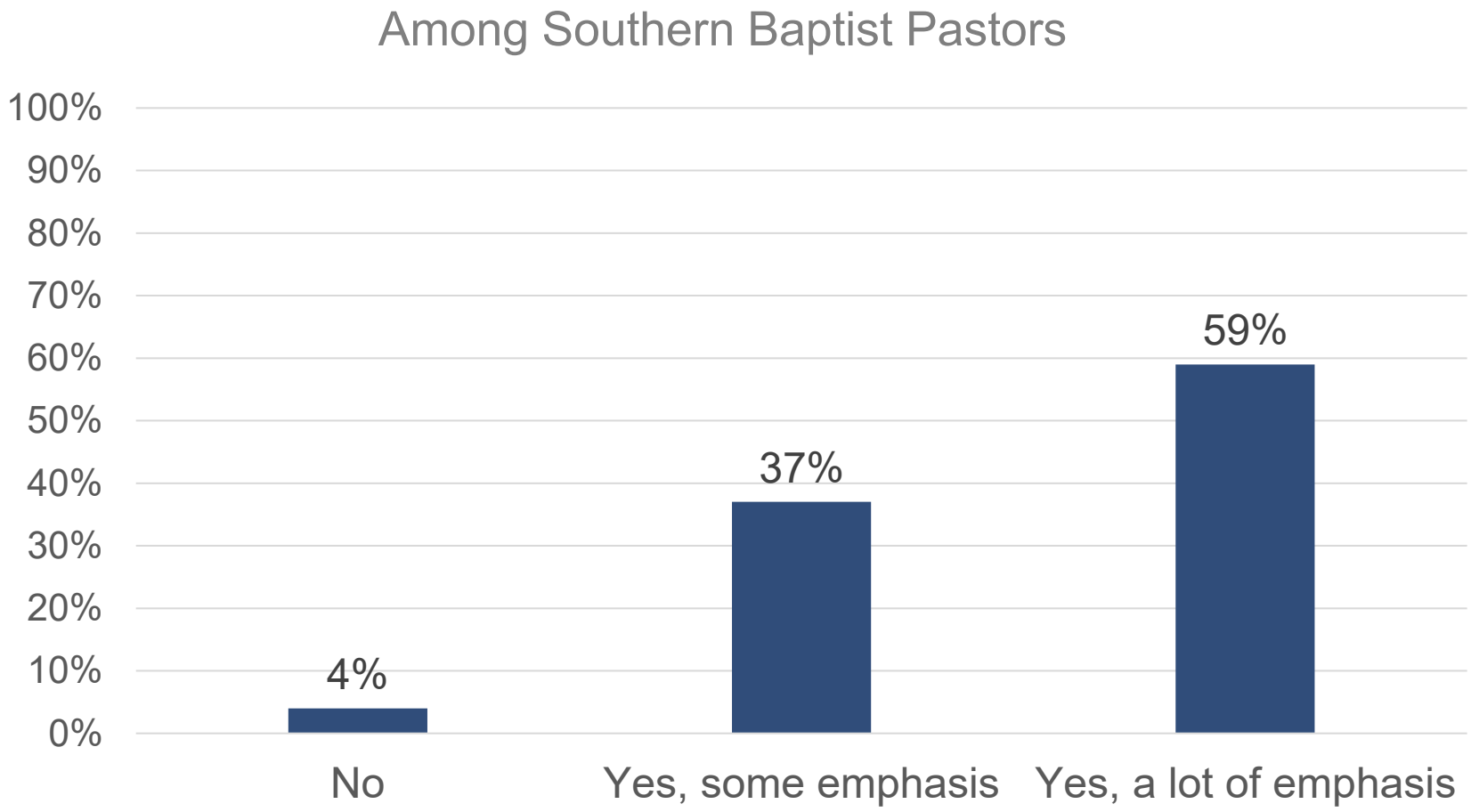
Have or emphasize religious education for children (e.g., Sunday School)



Lifeway Research

Q44_3 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity?
Religious education for children (e.g., Sunday School)" n=883

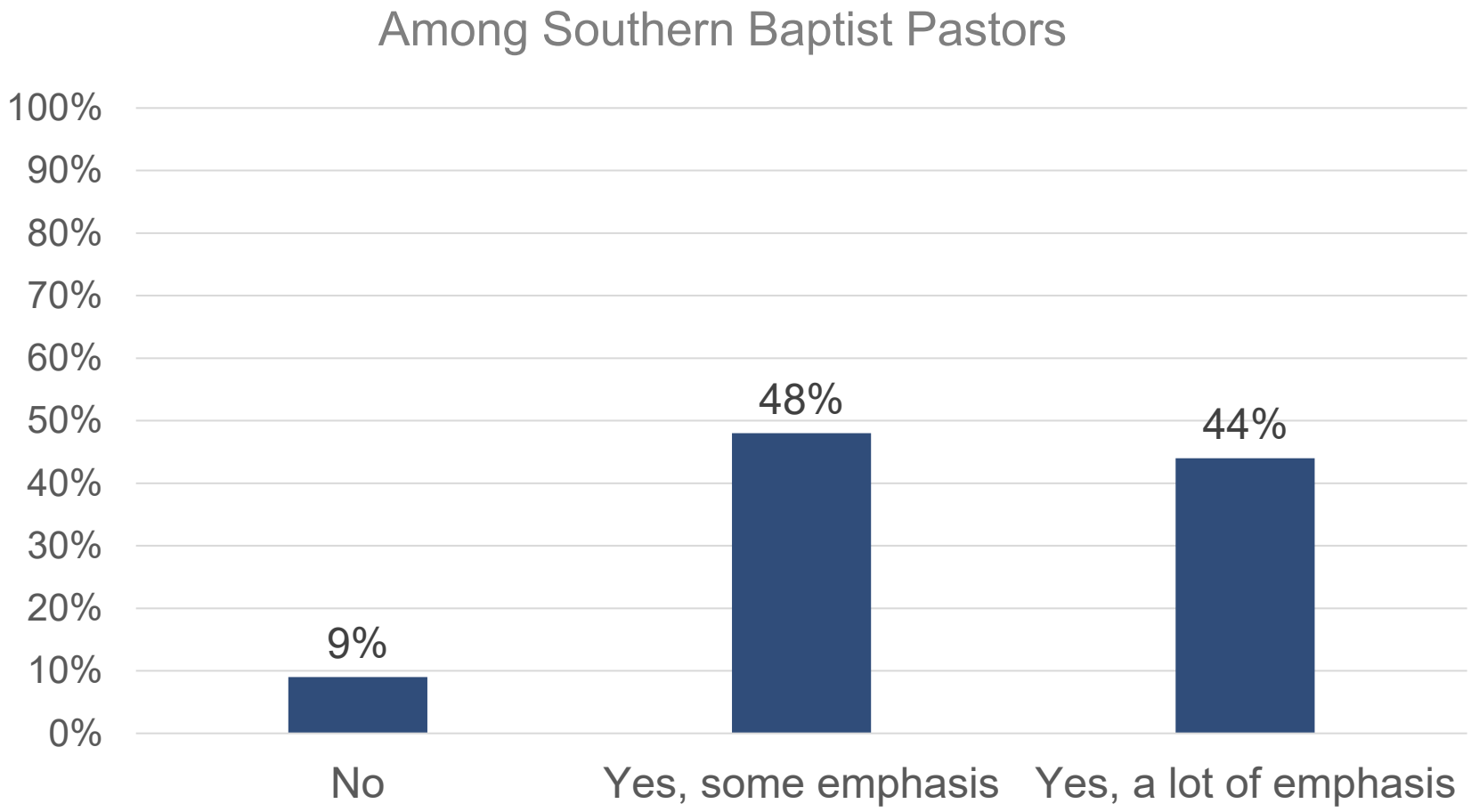
Have or emphasize religious education for adults (e.g., Scripture studies)



Lifeway Research

Q44_4 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity? **Religious education for adults (e.g., scripture studies)**" n=886

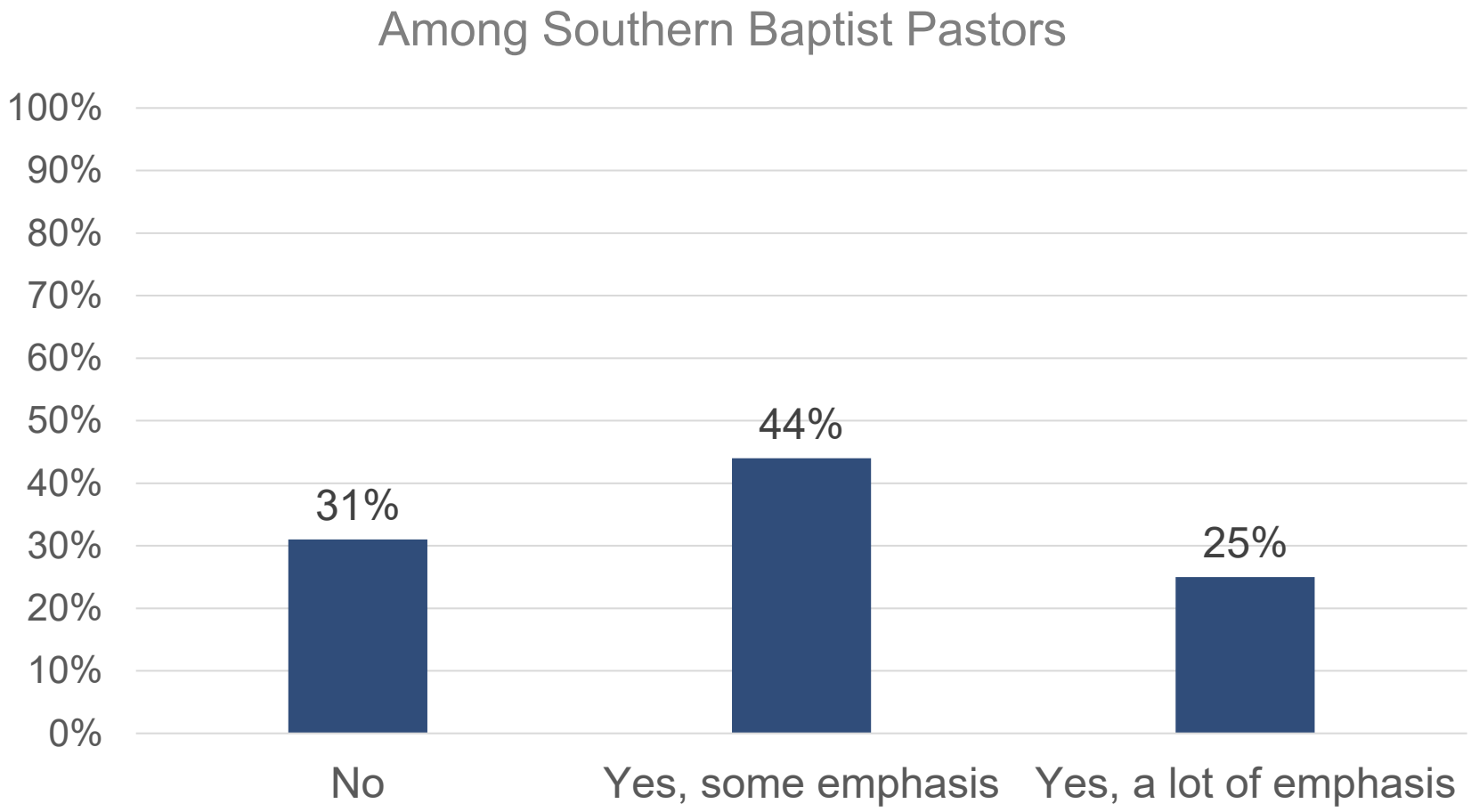
Have or emphasize fellowship/community-building events



Lifeway Research

Q44_5 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity? **Fellowship/community-building events**" n=884

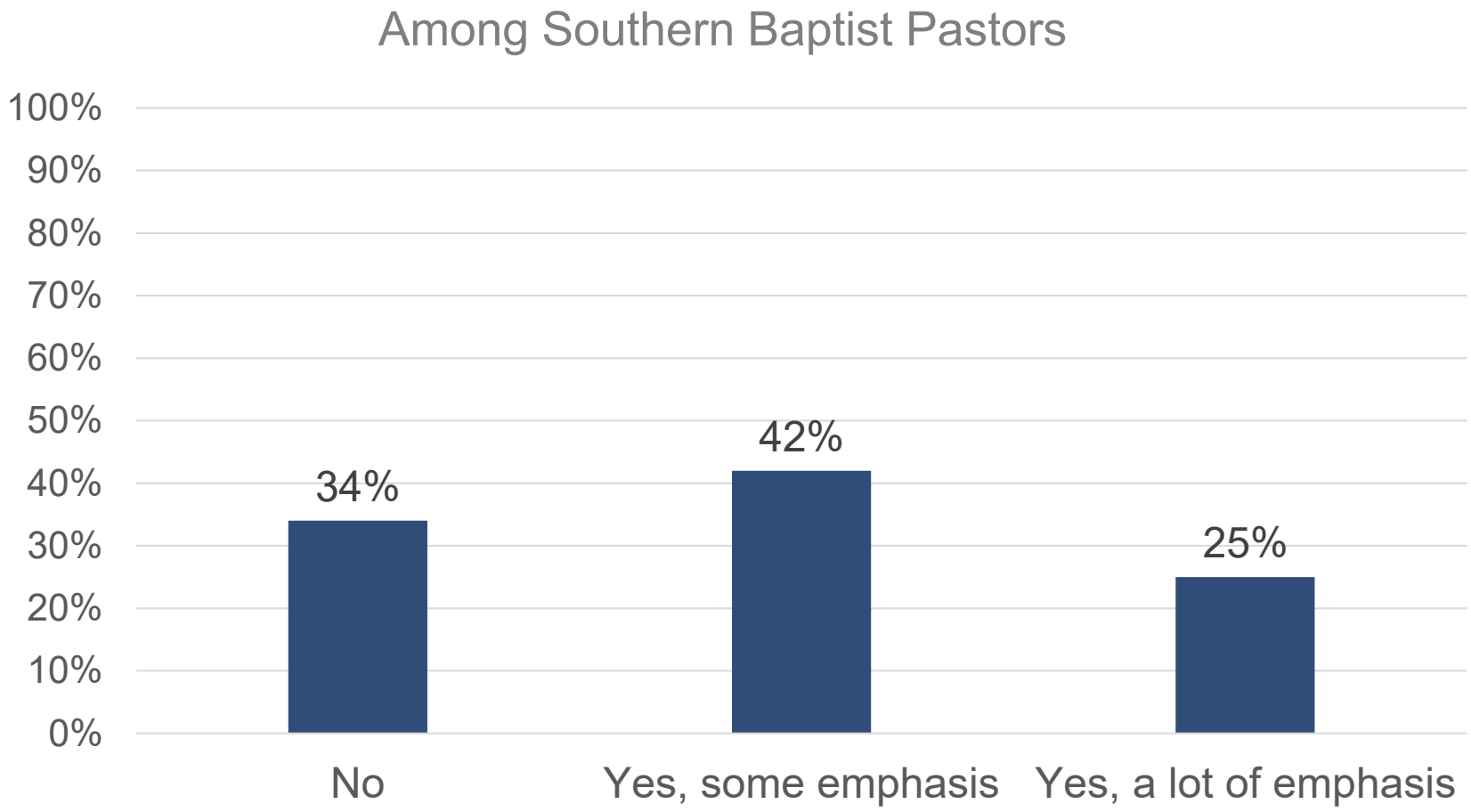
Have or emphasize music program (choir, orchestra, band, etc.)



Lifeway Research

Q44_6 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity? M**usic program (choir, orchestra, band, etc.)**" n=884

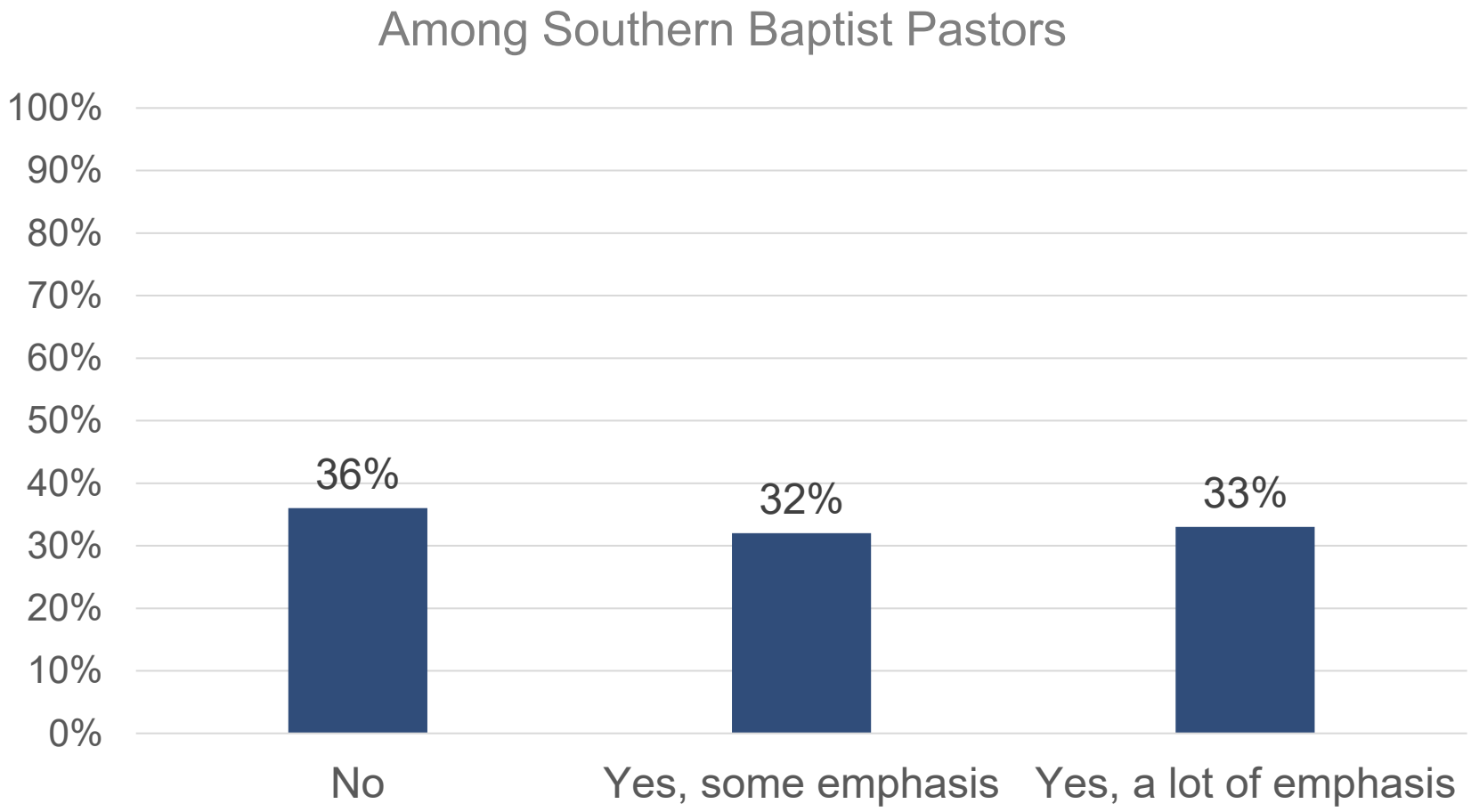
Have or emphasize community service activities (e.g. health clinic or food pantry)



Lifeway Research

Q44_7 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity? Community service activities (e.g. health clinic or food pantry)" n=880

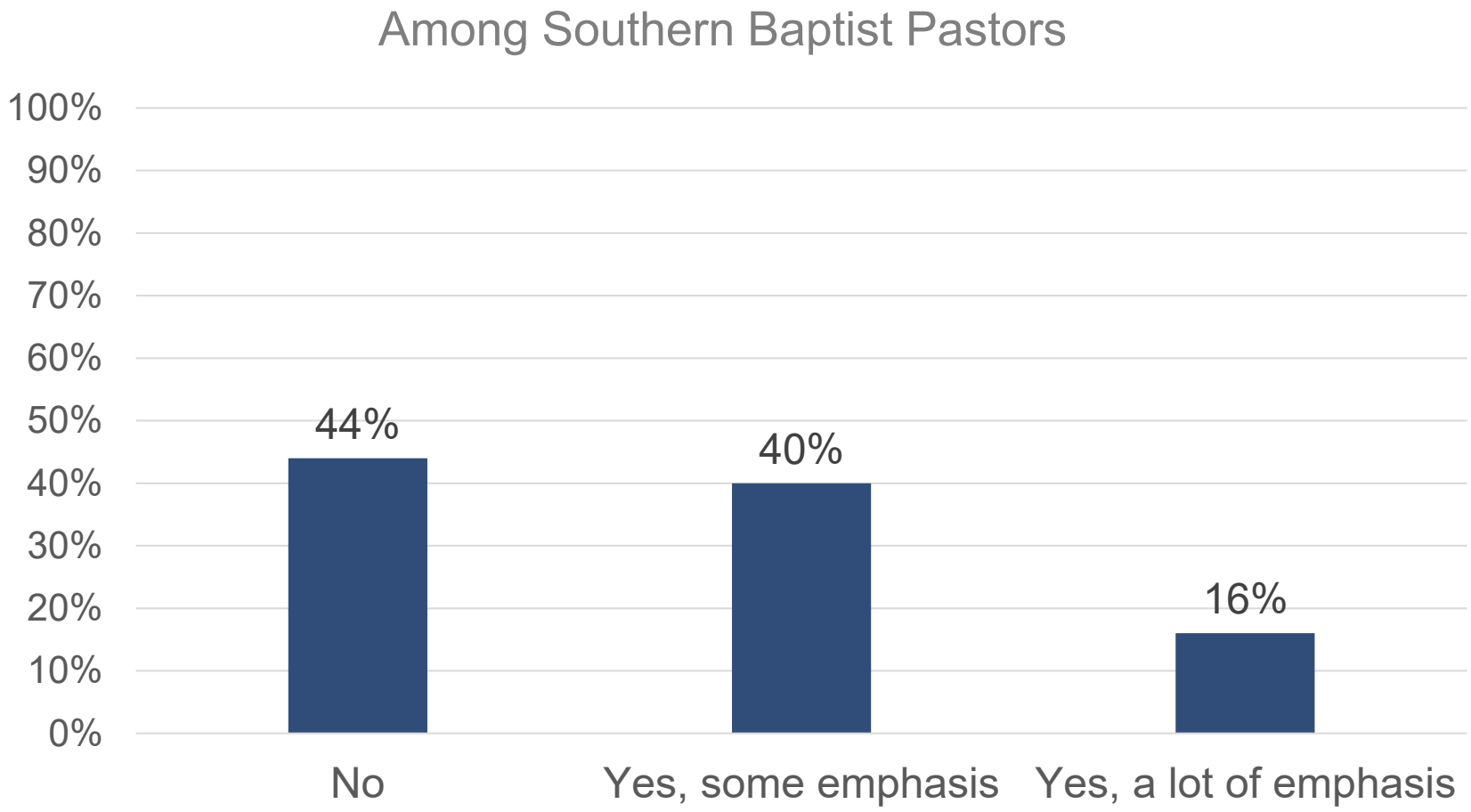
Have or emphasize youth (13-17) activities or programs



Lifeway Research

Q44_8 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? Youth (13-17) activities or programs” n=884

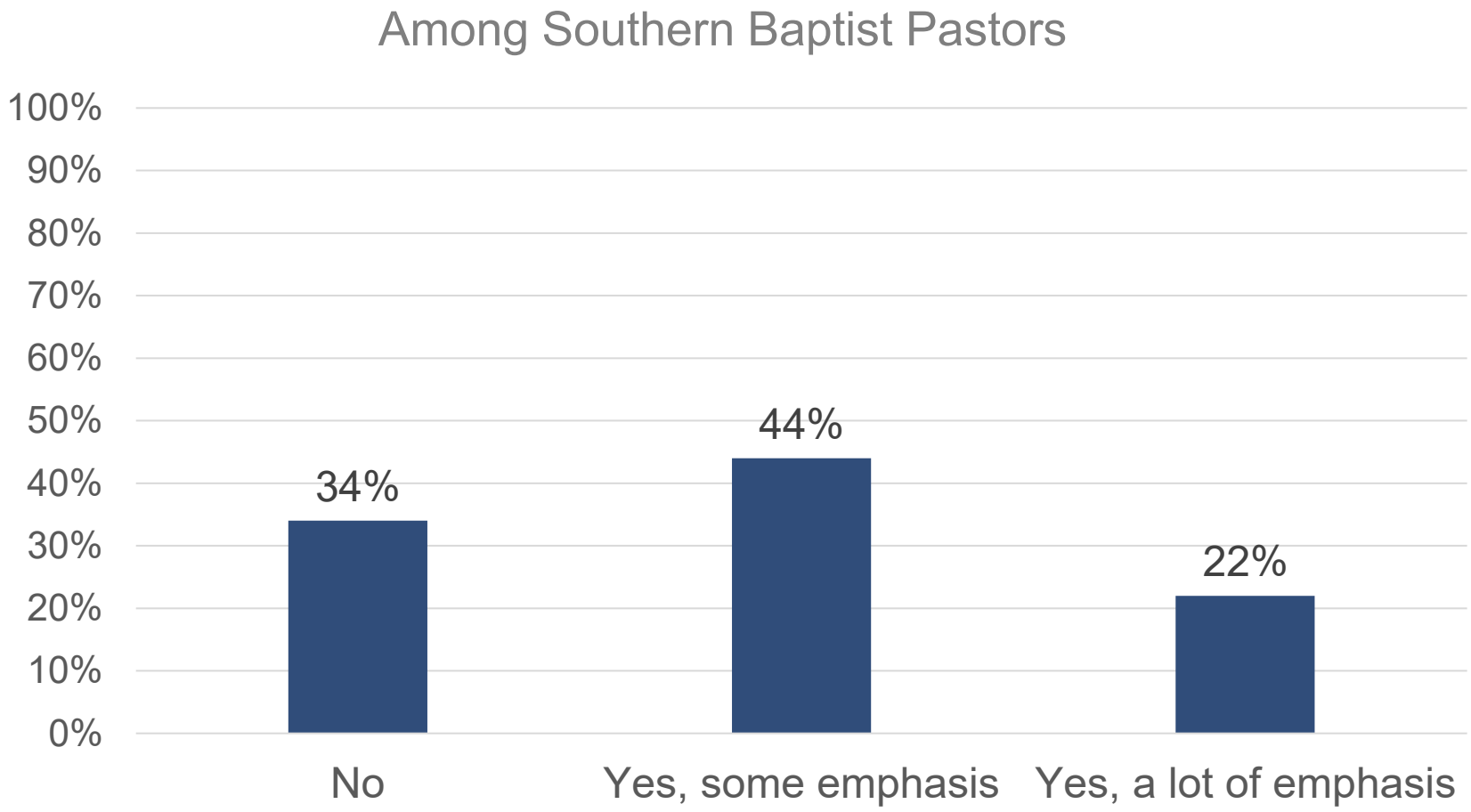
Have or emphasize young adult (18-34) activities or programs



Lifeway Research

Q44_9 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? Young adult (18-34) activities or programs” n=883

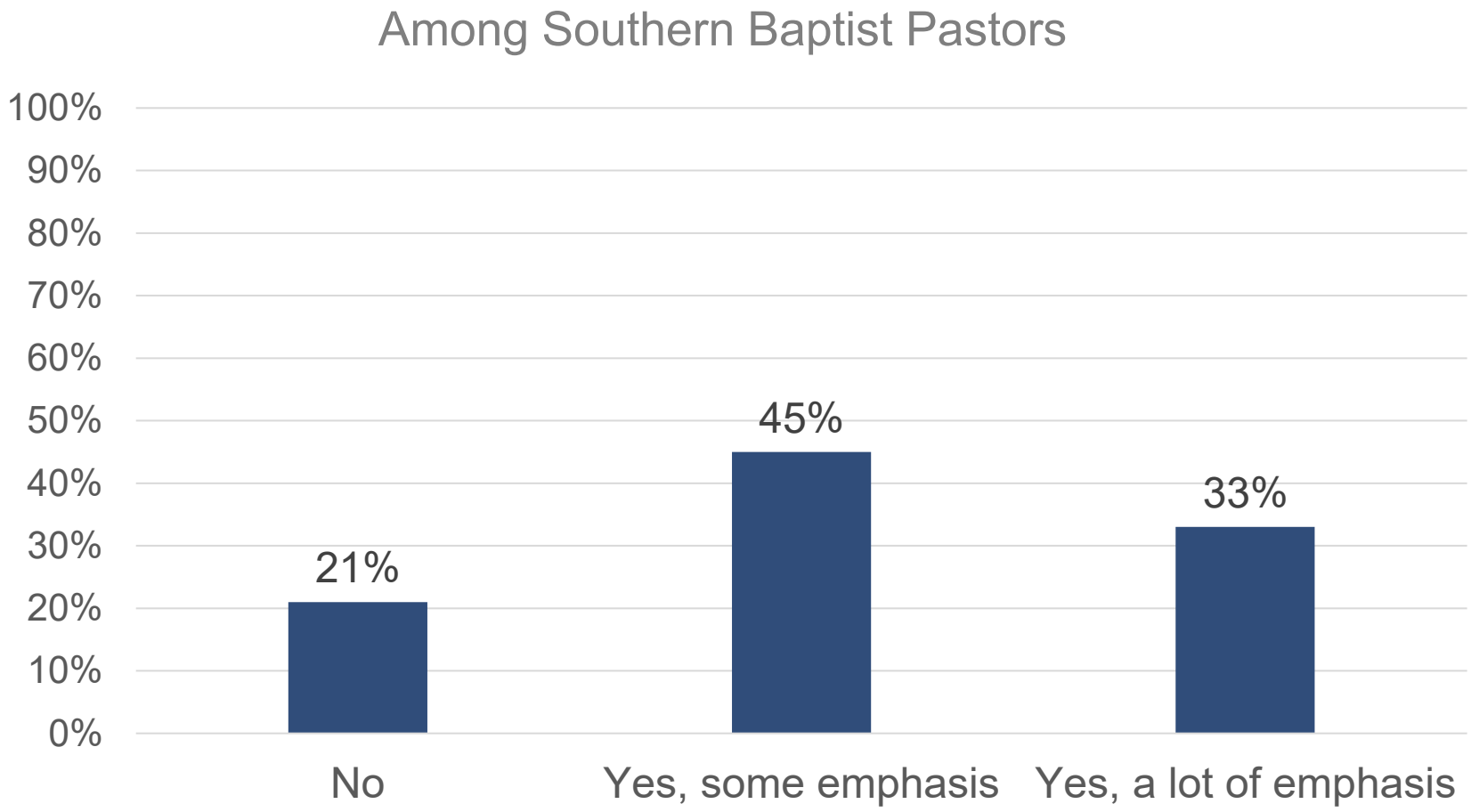
Have or emphasize senior (65+) activities or programs



Lifeway Research

Q44_10 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? Senior (65+) activities or programs” n=883

Have or emphasize global ministry activities (service/mission trips/special donations)

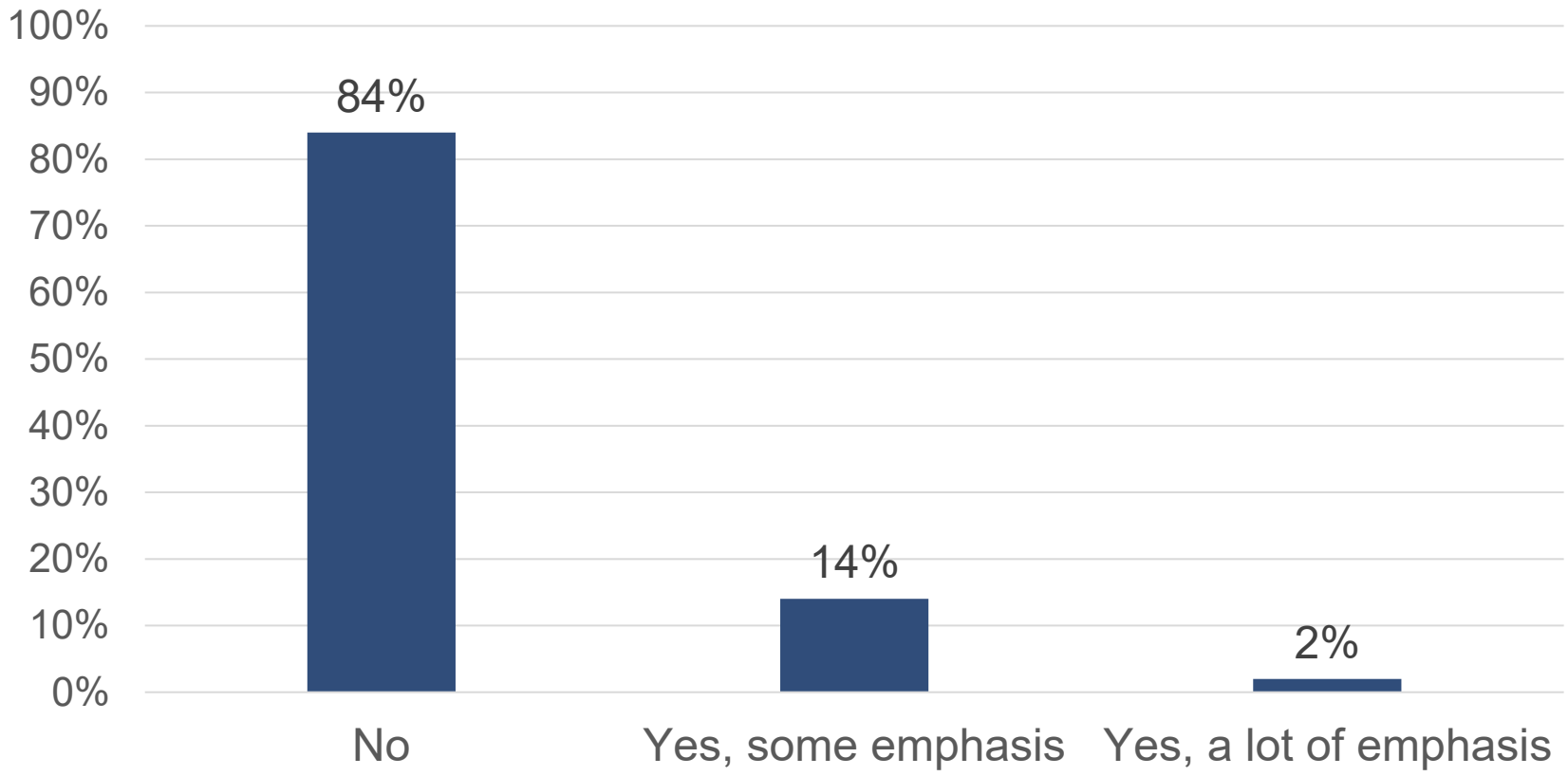


Lifeway Research

Q44_11 "Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If "Yes," how much emphasis is given to the activity? Global ministry activities (service/mission trips/special donations)" n=882

Have or emphasize social justice/ advocacy groups

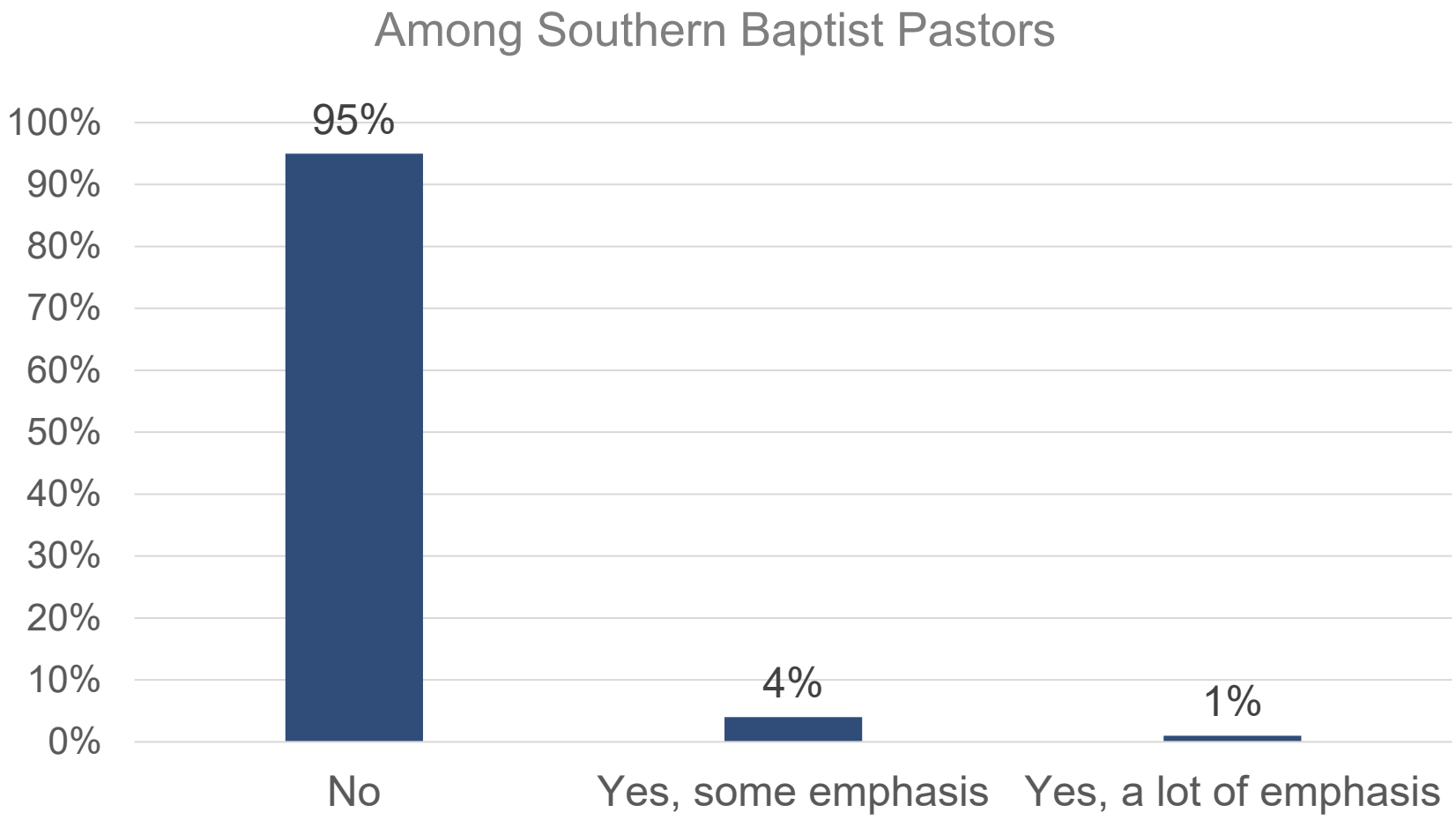
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q44_12 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? Social justice/advocacy groups” n=882

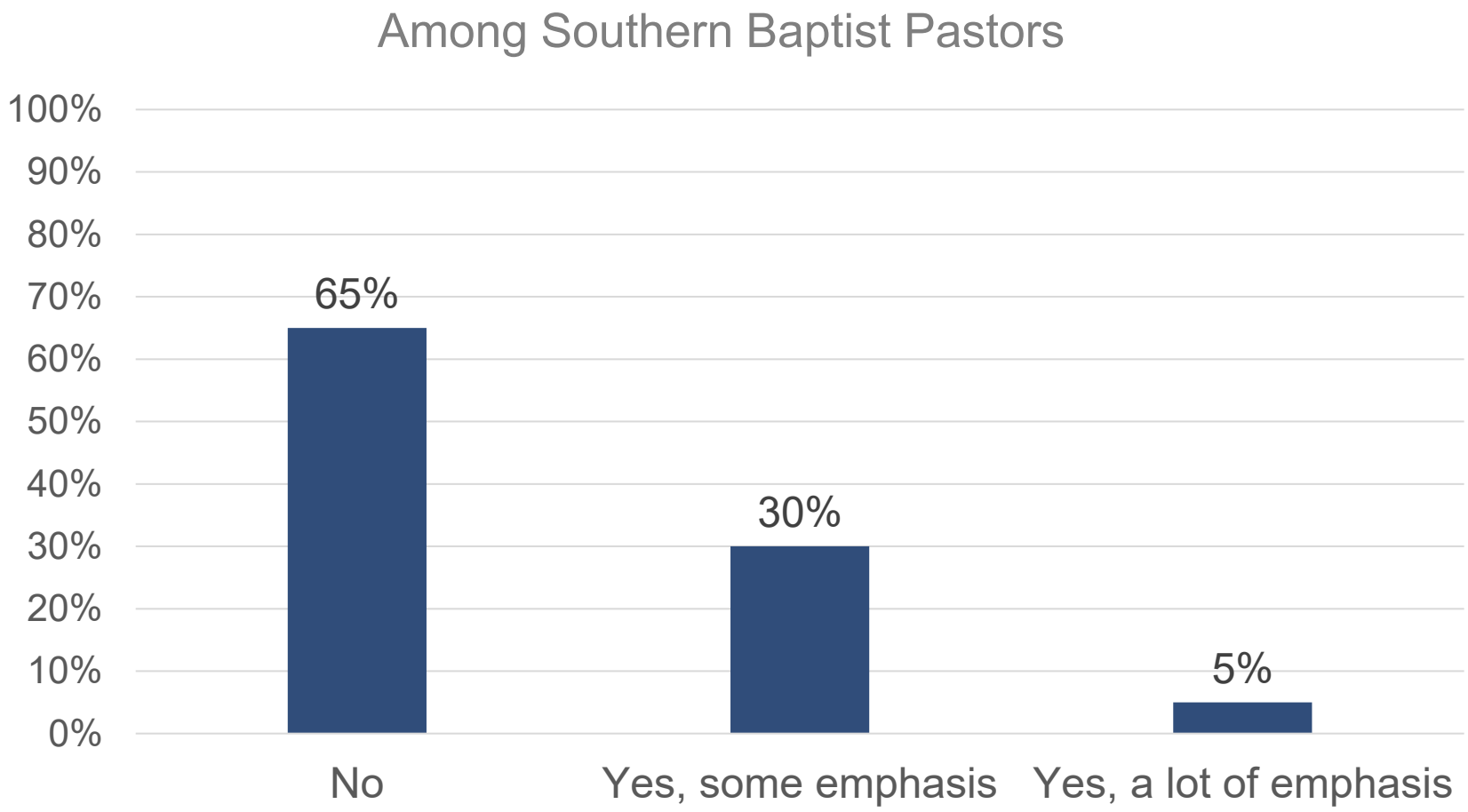
Have or emphasize environmental and climate change activities



Lifeway Research

Q44_13 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? Environmental and climate change activities” n=881

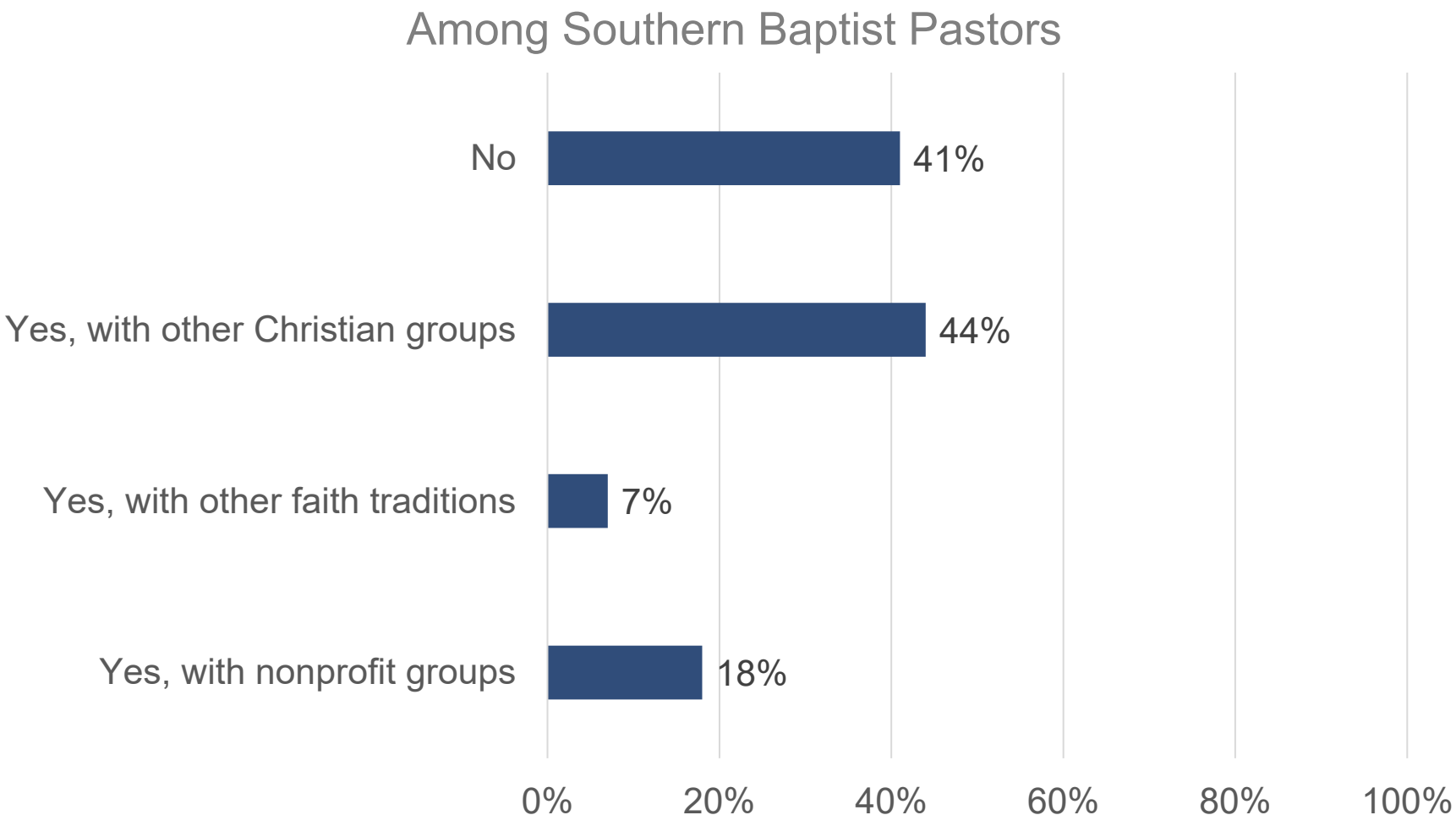
Have or emphasize special needs ministries



Lifeway Research

Q44_14 “Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? Special needs ministries” n=880

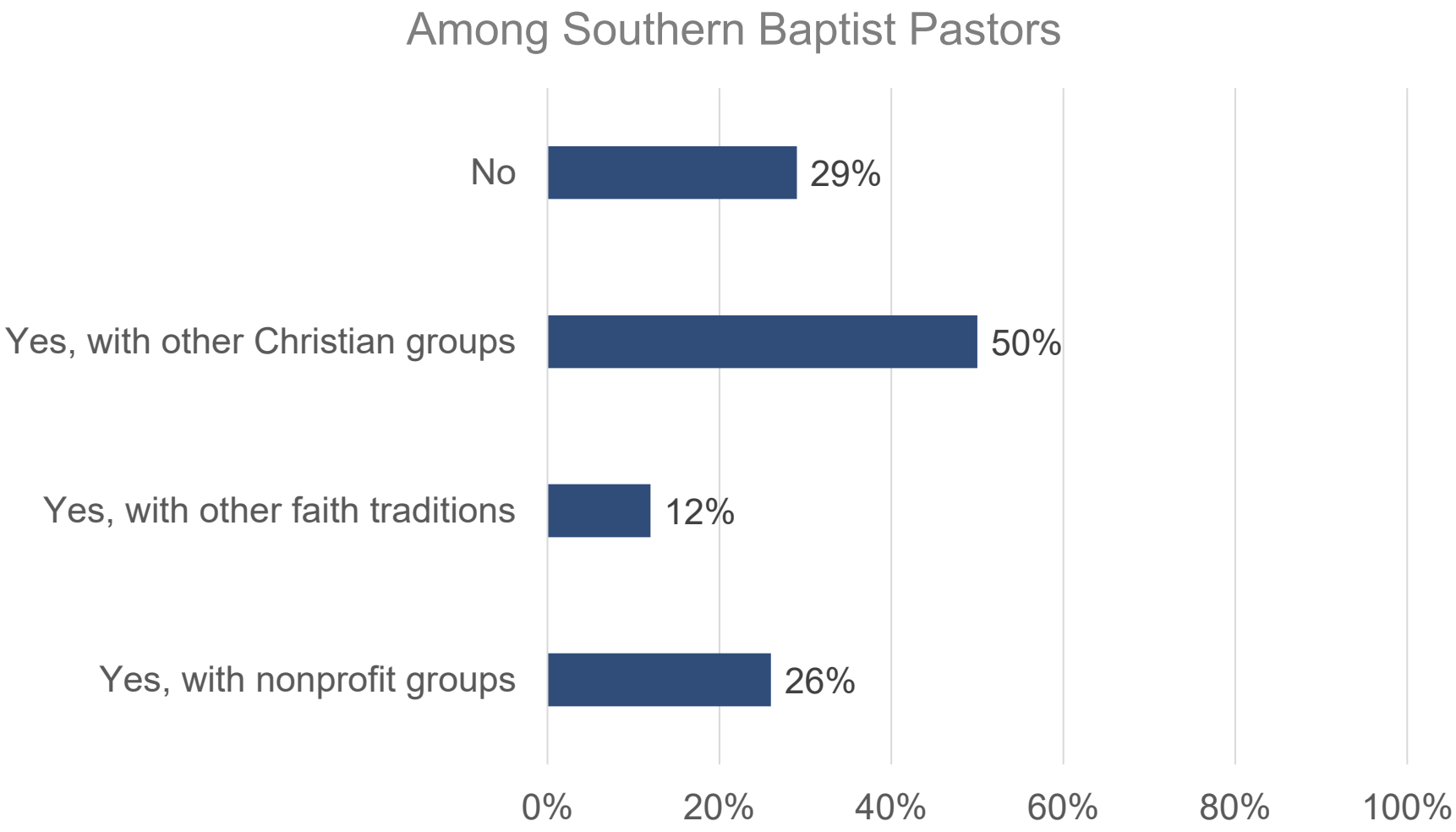
"During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in educational or social activities with other groups?"



Lifeway Research

Q45_1: "During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other groups? (Check all that apply.)
Educational or social activities" n=881

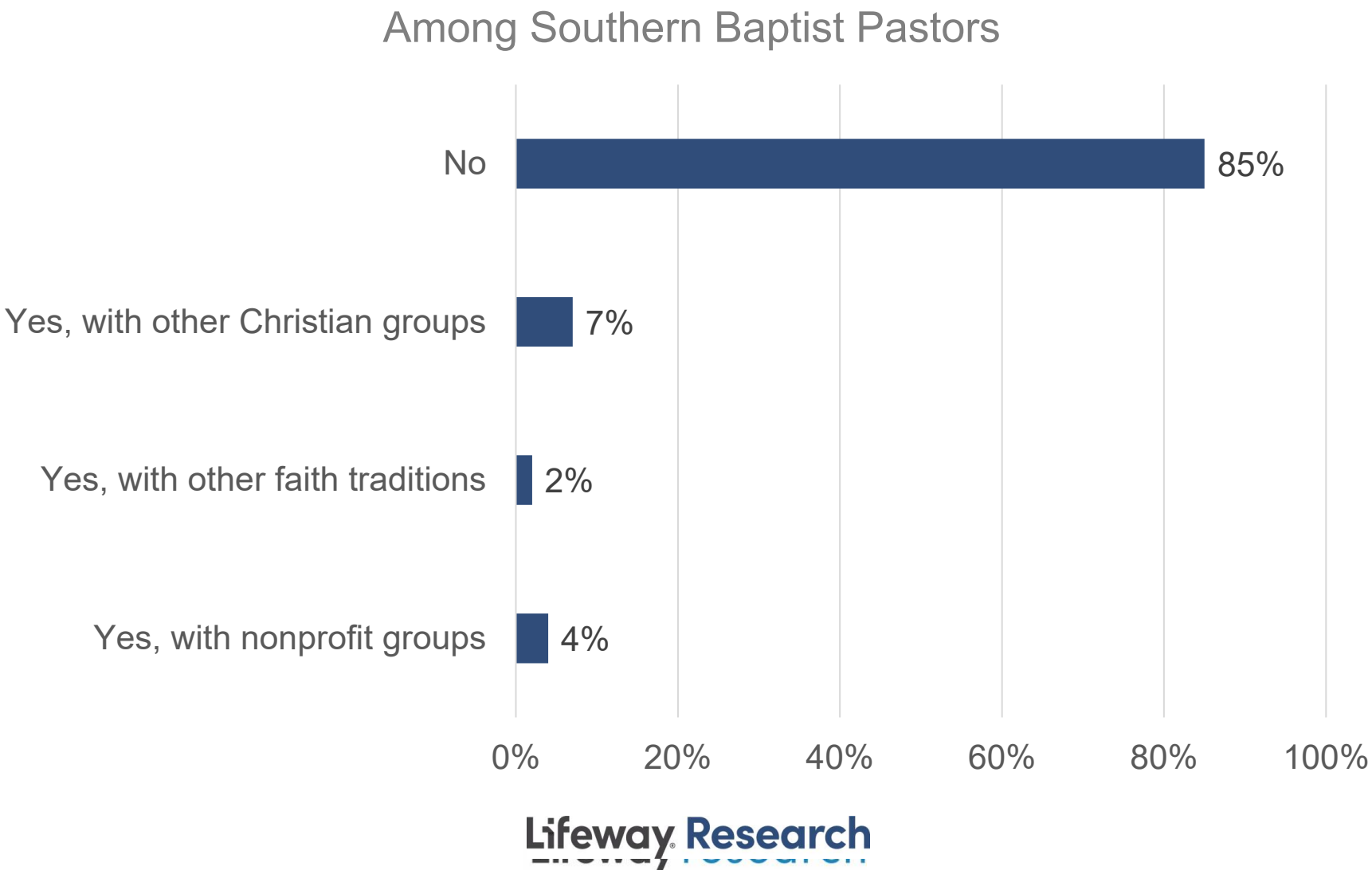
"During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in community service activities with other groups?"



Lifeway Research

Q45_2: "During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other groups? (Check all that apply.)
Community service activities" n=881

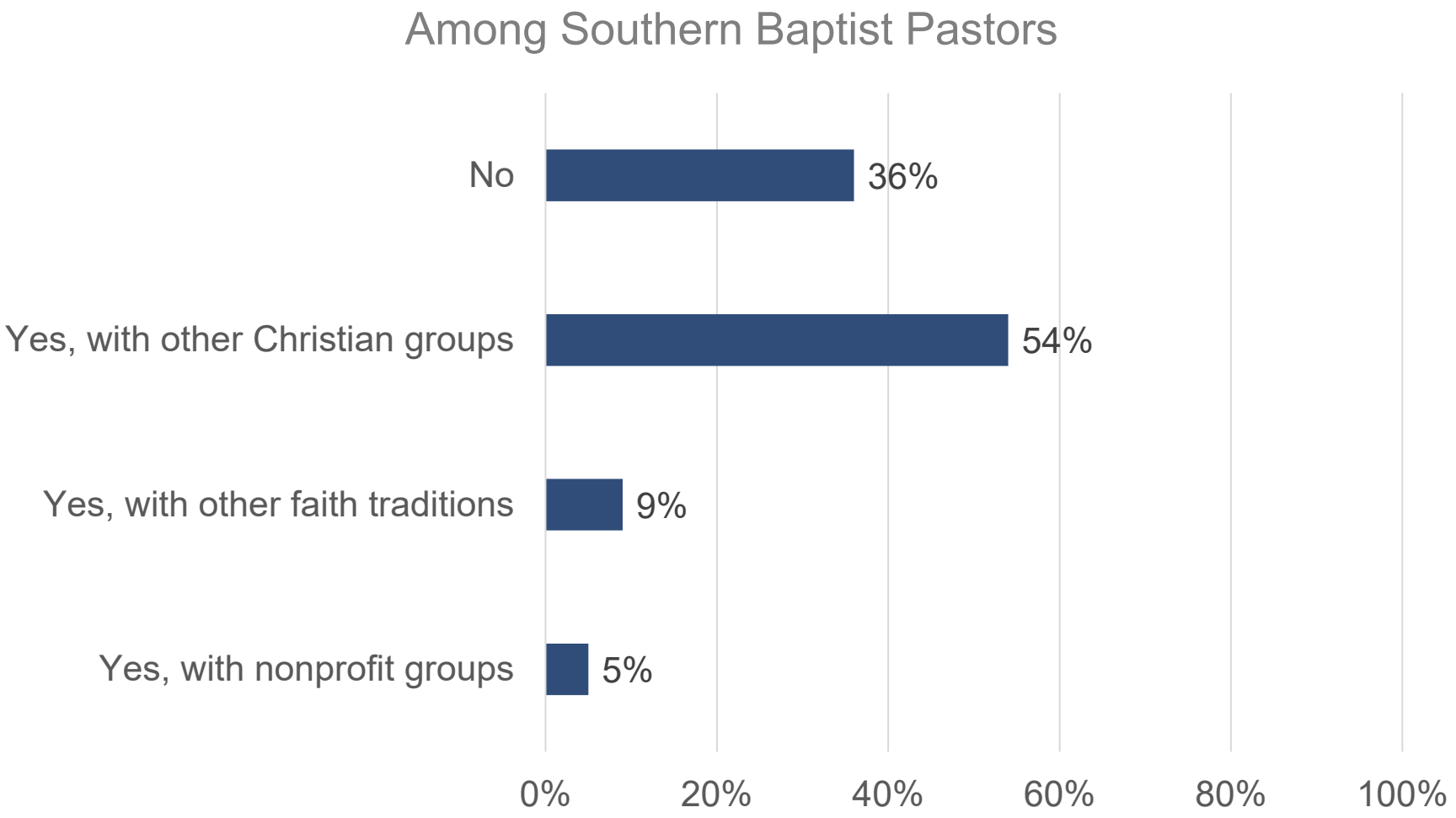
“During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in social justice activities with other groups?”



Lifeway Research

Q45_3: “During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other groups? (Check all that apply.)
Social justice activities” n=881

“During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in worship services with other groups?”



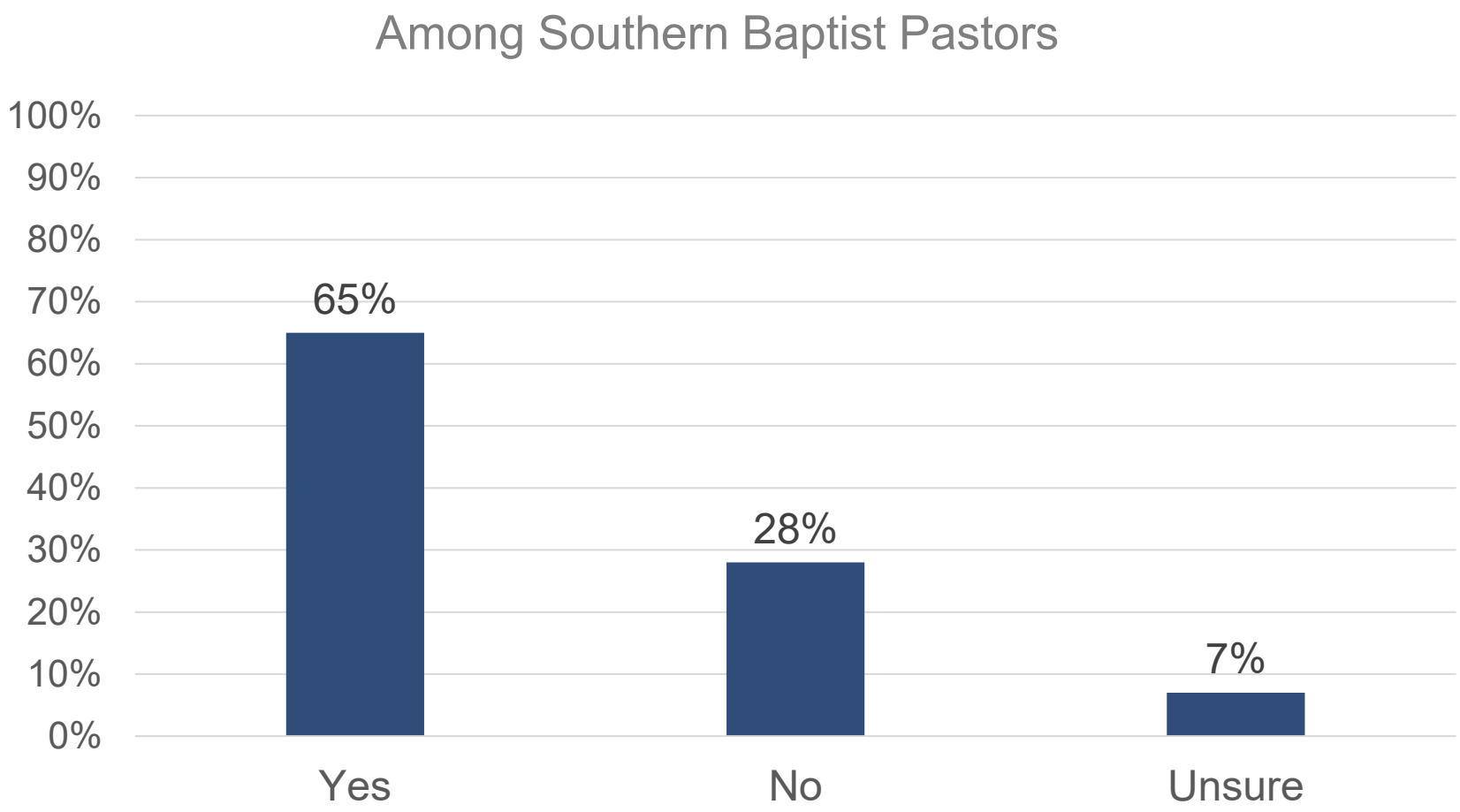
Lifeway Research

Q45_4: “During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other groups? (Check all that apply.) **Worship services**” n=881

Experience during COVID-19 pandemic

Lifeway Research

“Did this congregation stop meeting in person due to the pandemic?”

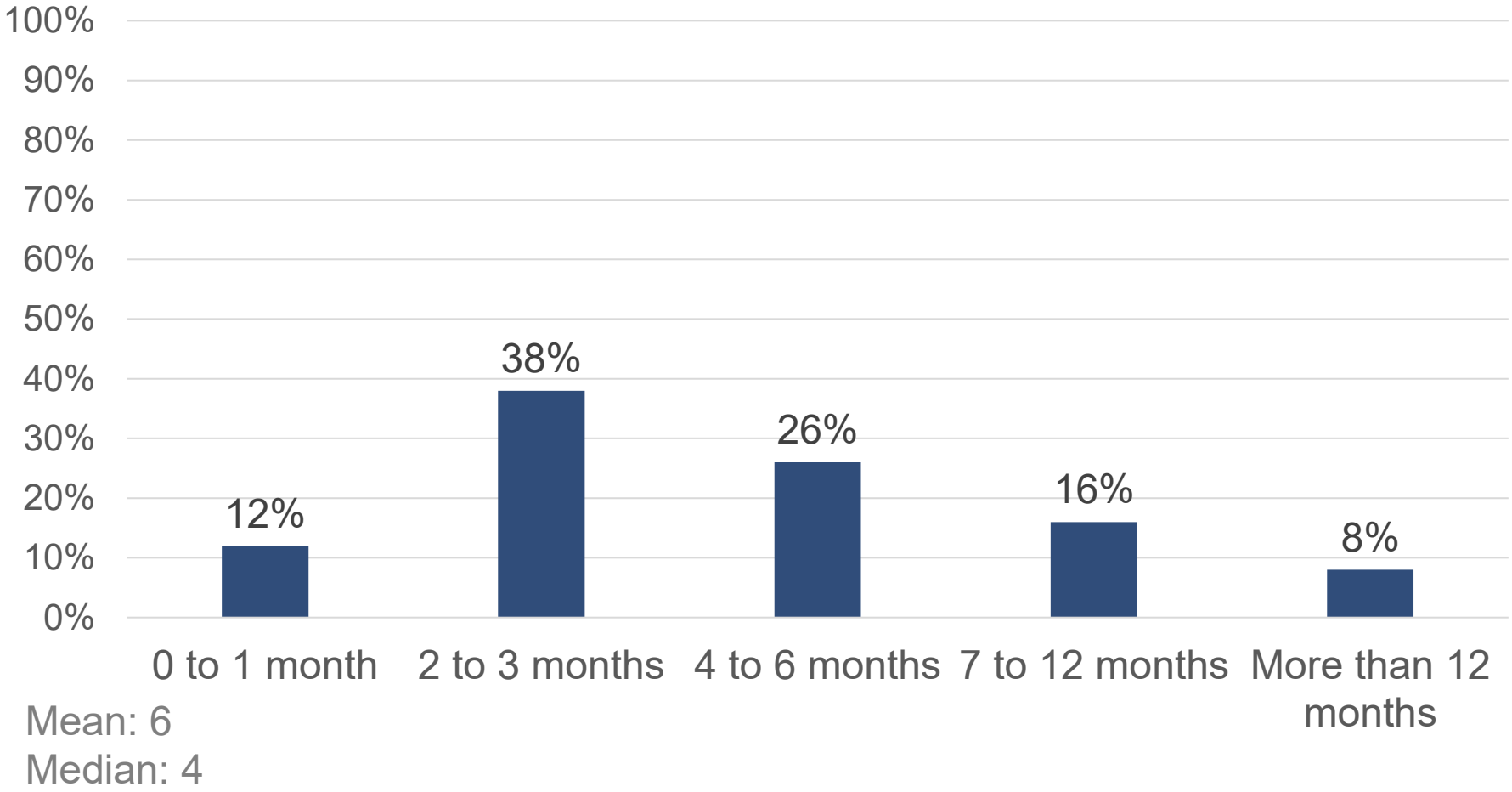


Lifeway Research

Q46 “Did this congregation stop meeting in person due to the pandemic?” n=869

“Approximately, for how many months were the normal rhythms of this congregation disrupted until returning to normal or a “new normal”?”

Among congregations that stopped meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic



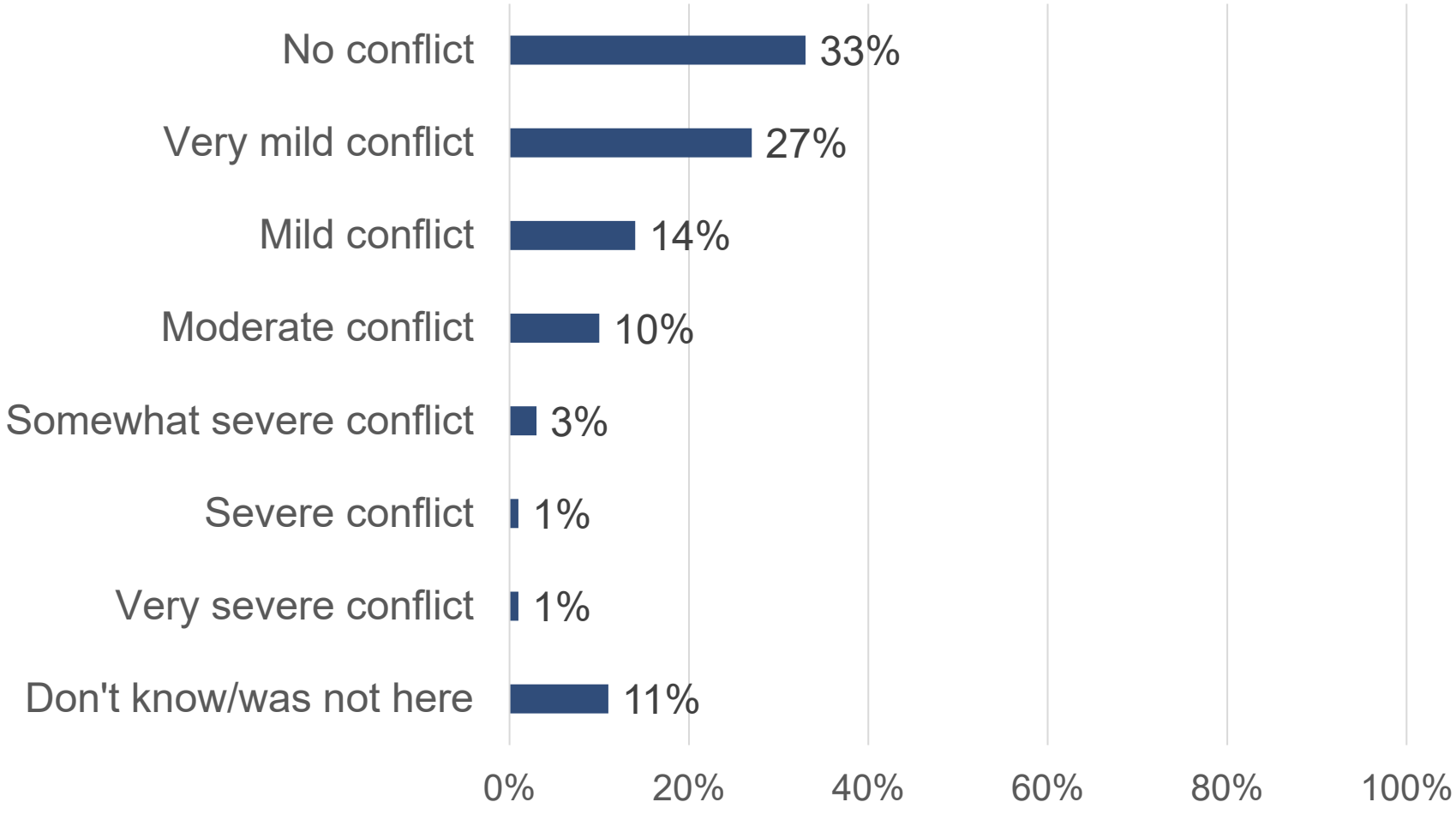
Mean: 6
Median: 4

Lifeway Research

Q47 “Approximately, for how many months were the normal rhythms of this congregation disrupted until returning to normal or a “new normal” (i.e. remained closed for in-person gatherings, opened-closed-open-closed, opened but with limitations)?” n=573

“How would you describe the level of dissent and/or conflict within the congregation regarding the congregation’s COVID response?”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

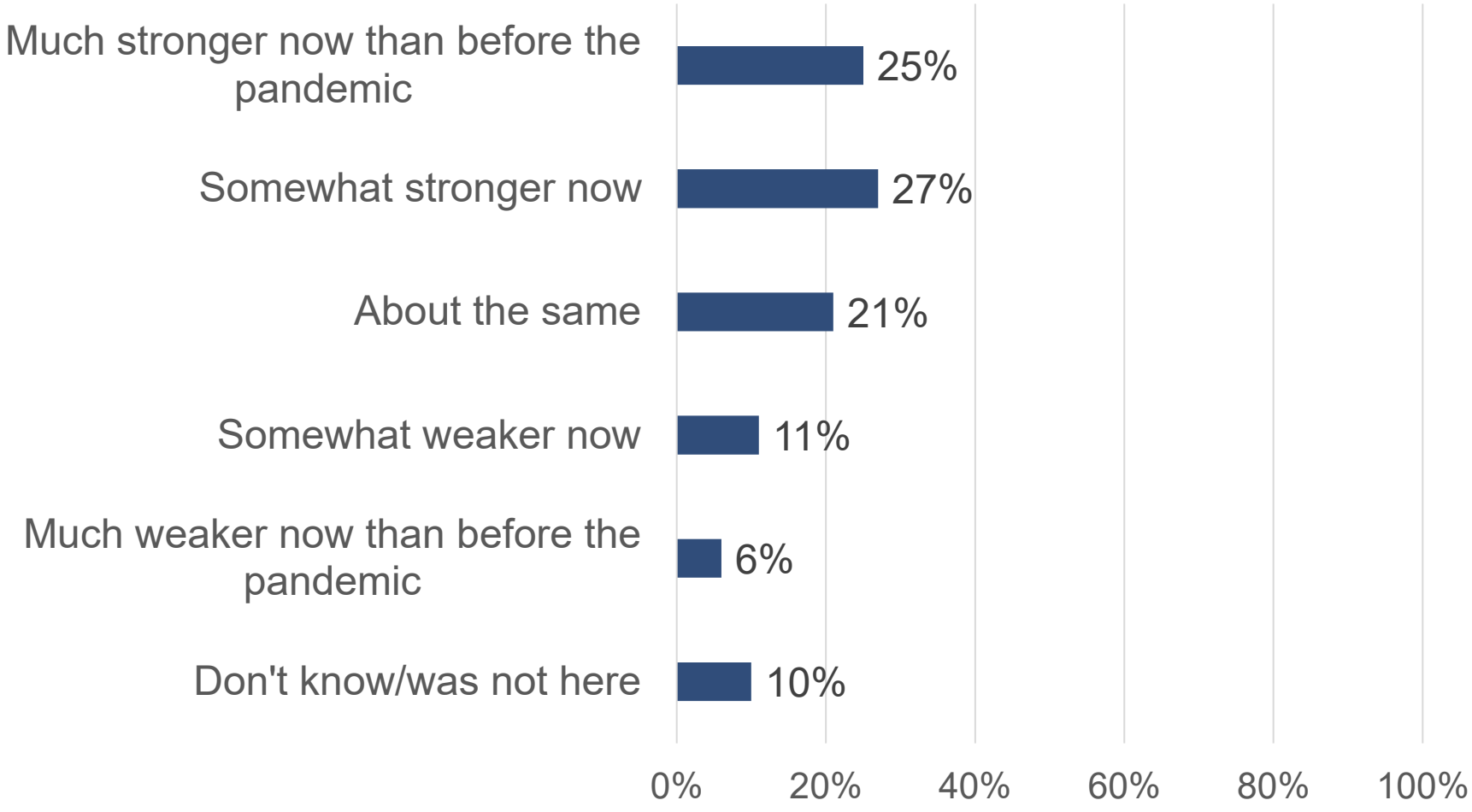


Lifeway Research

Q48: “How would you describe the level of dissent and/or conflict within the congregation regarding the congregation’s COVID response (e.g. mask-wearing, vaccine distribution, closing/opening of congregational facility)?” n=866

“All things considered, how would you compare the overall vitality and strength of your congregation before the pandemic and now?”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors



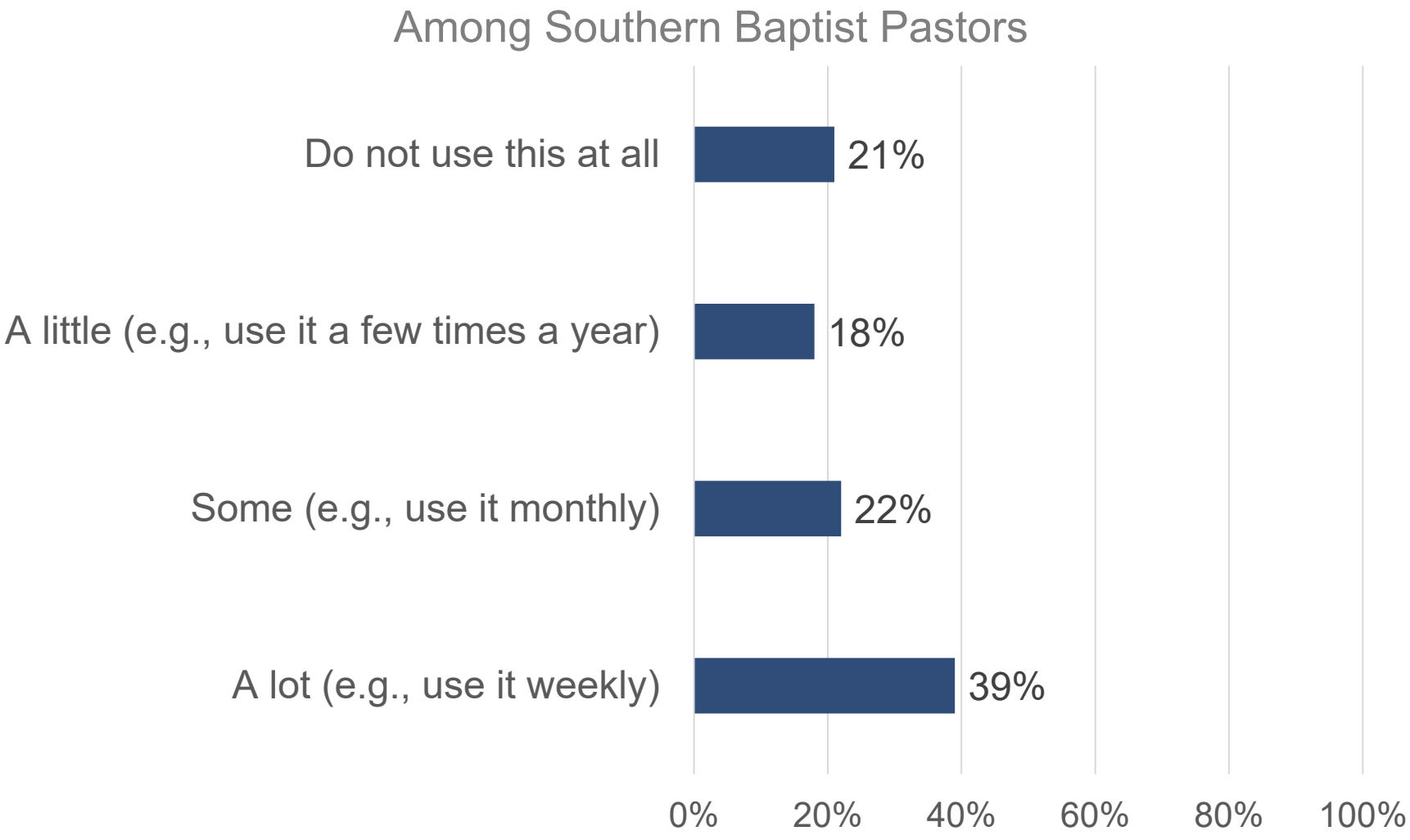
Lifeway Research

Q49: “All things considered, how would you compare the overall vitality and strength of your congregation before the pandemic and now?” n=869

Technology

Lifeway Research

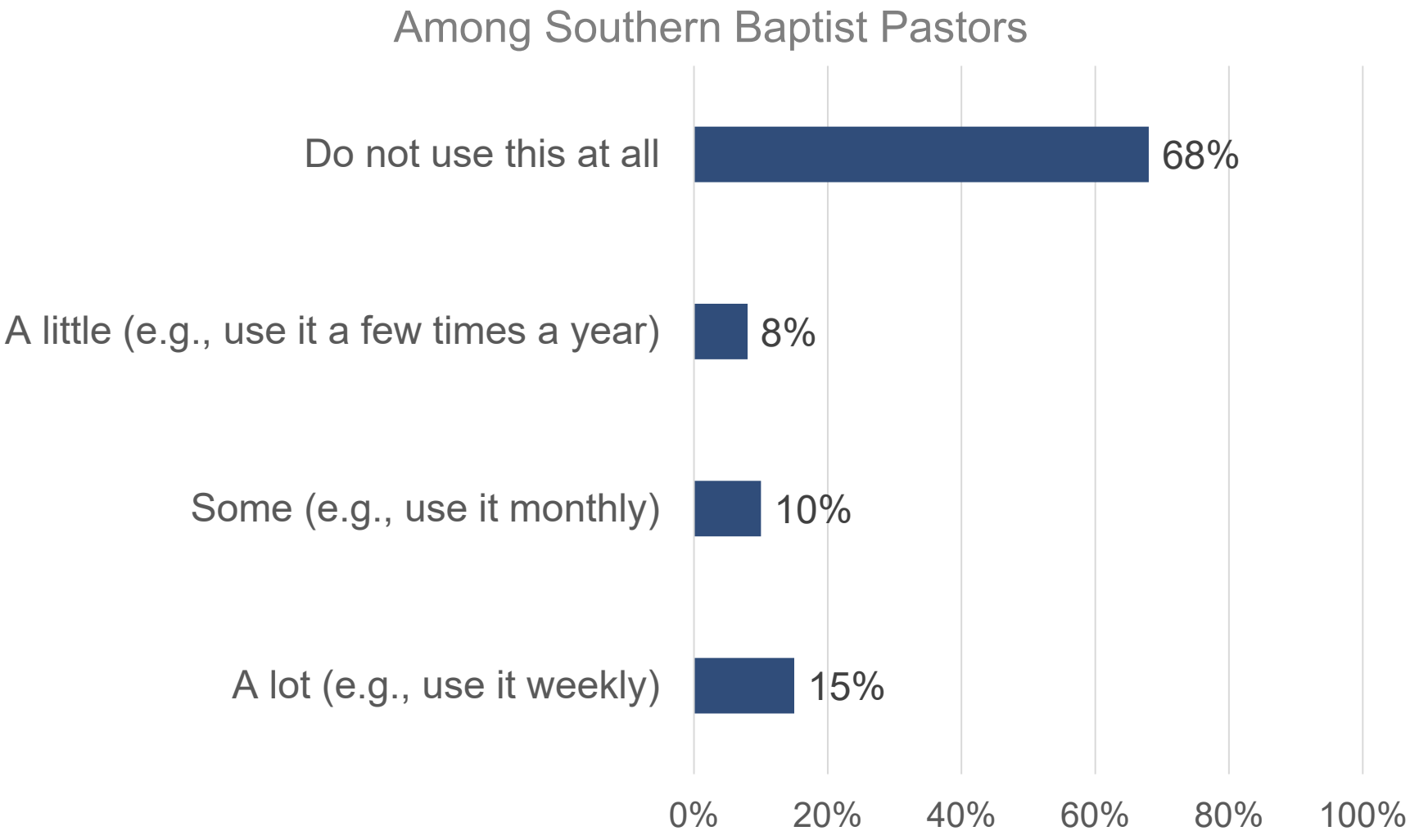
Email communication



Lifeway Research

Q50_1 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? **Email communication**" n=875

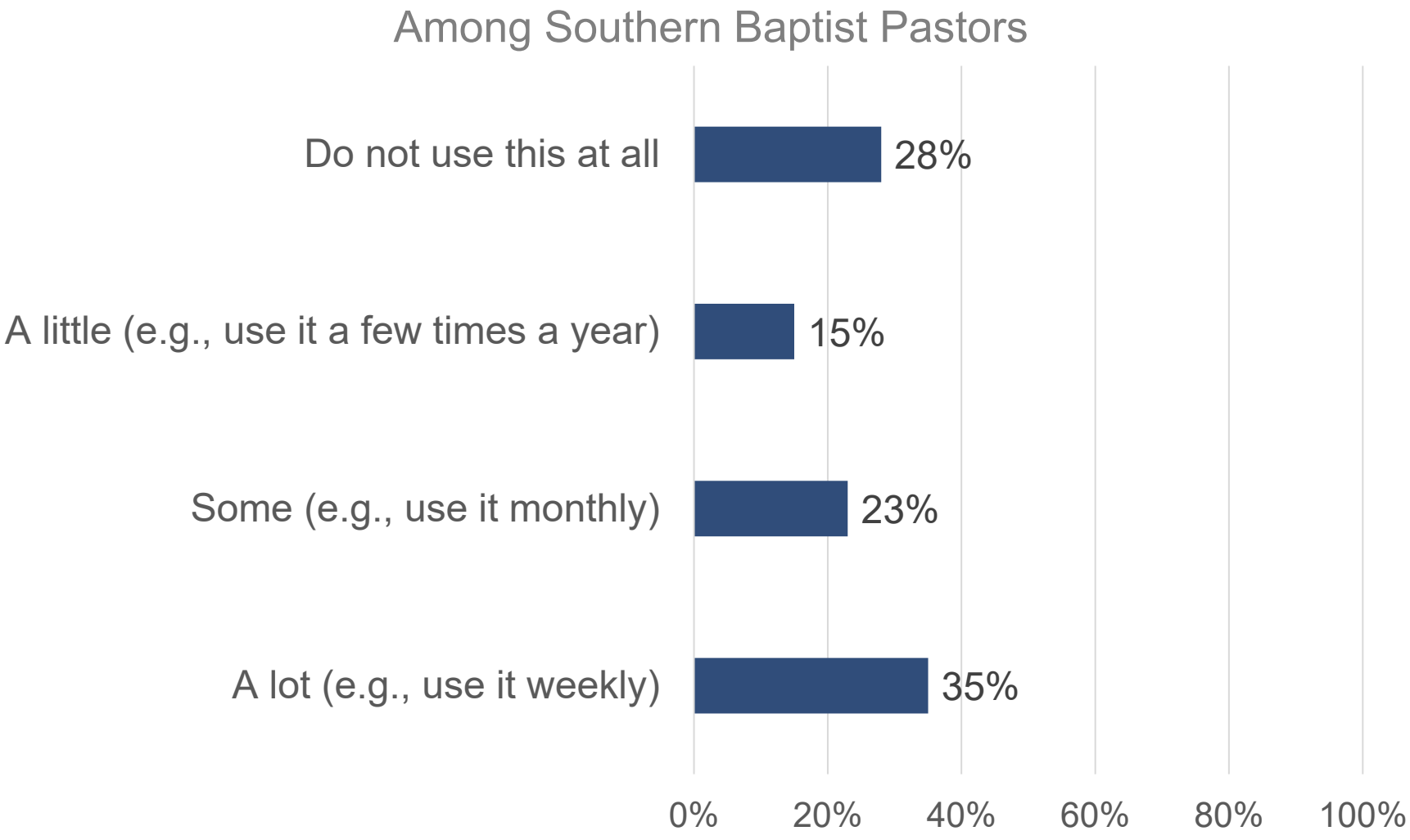
E-newsletter



Lifeway Research

Q50_2 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? **E-newsletter**" n=863

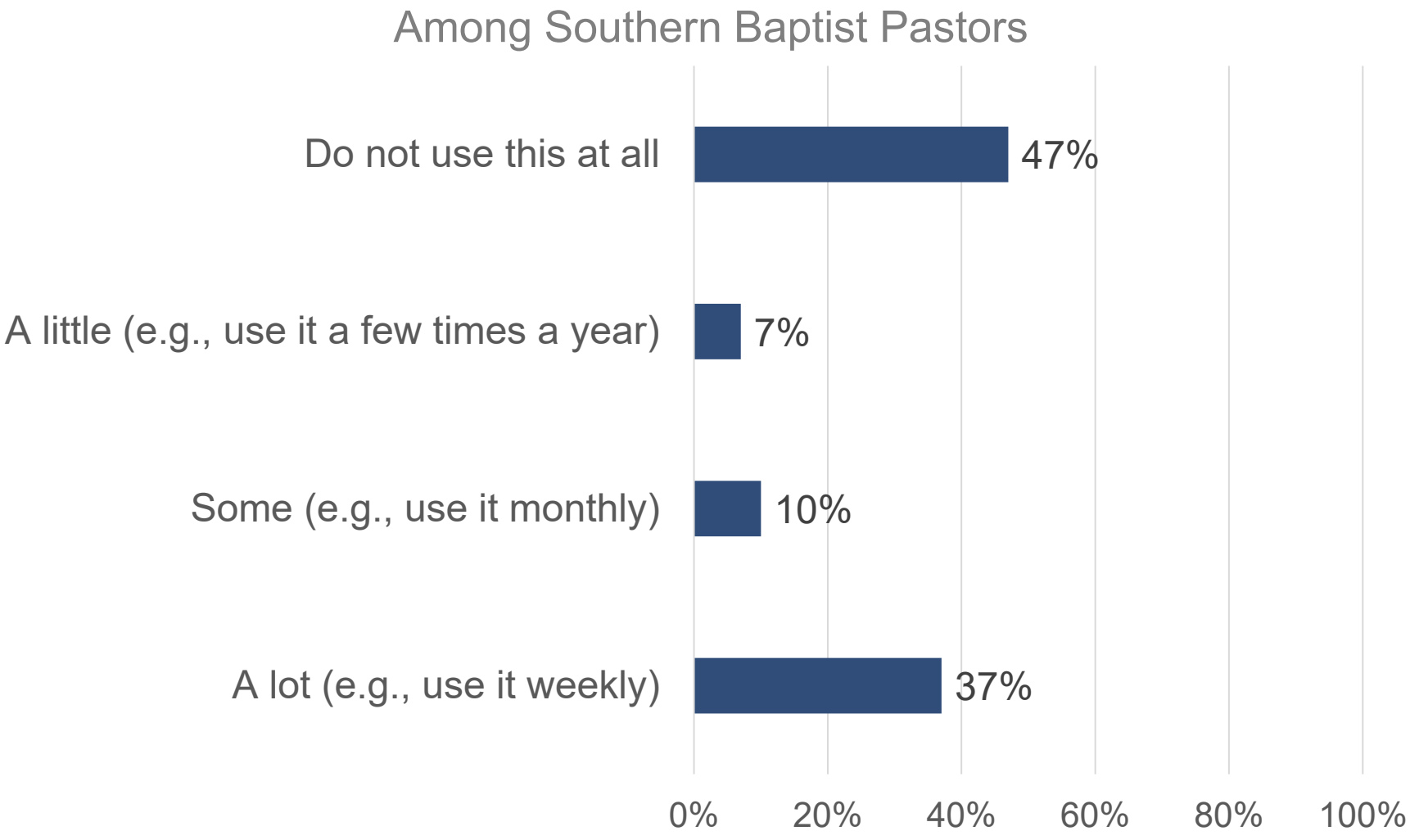
Website



Lifeway Research

Q50_3 “How often does your congregation use the following technology? **Website**” n=868

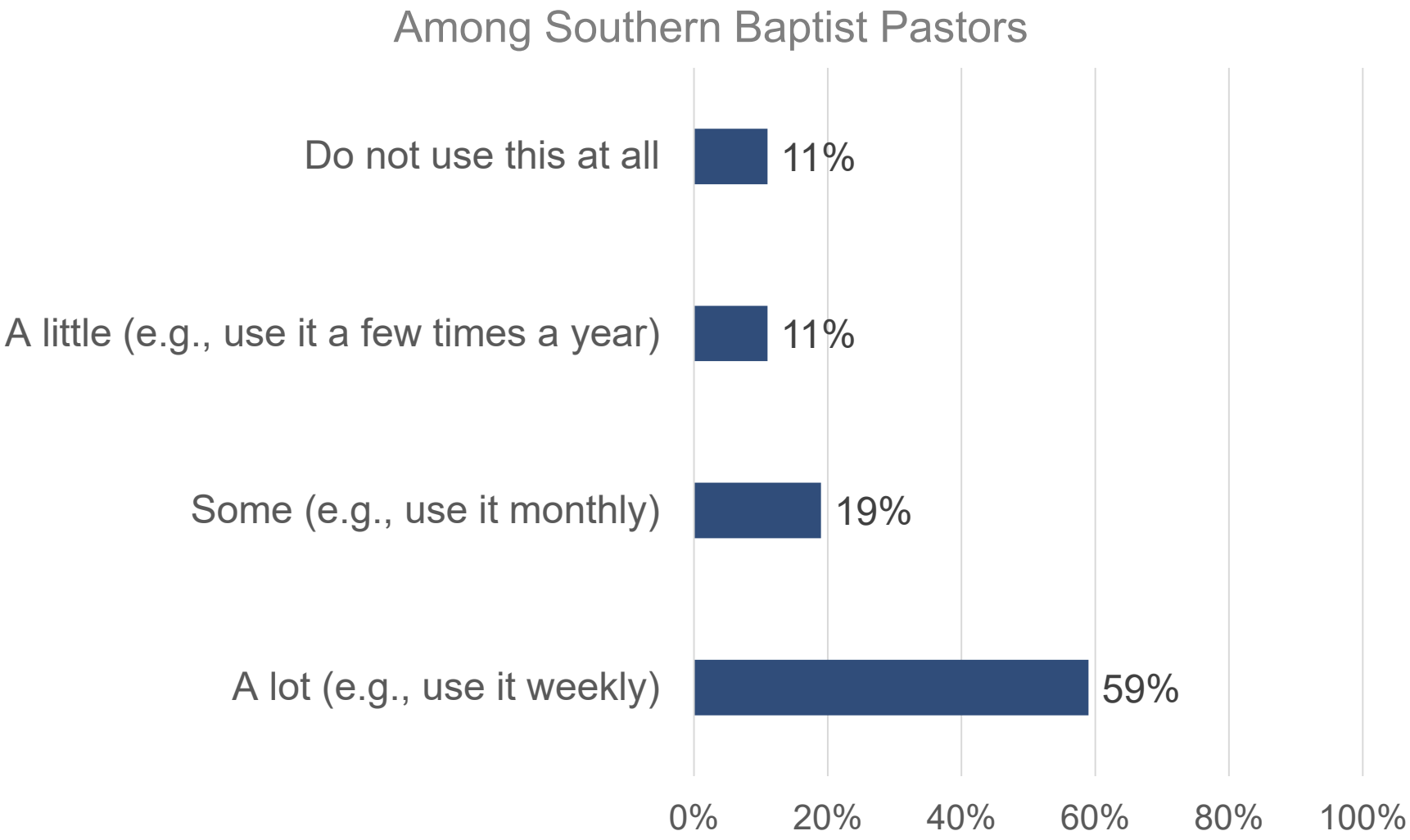
Electronic/ ACH/ online giving



Lifeway Research

Q50_4 “How often does your congregation use the following technology? **Electronic/ACH/online giving**” n=867

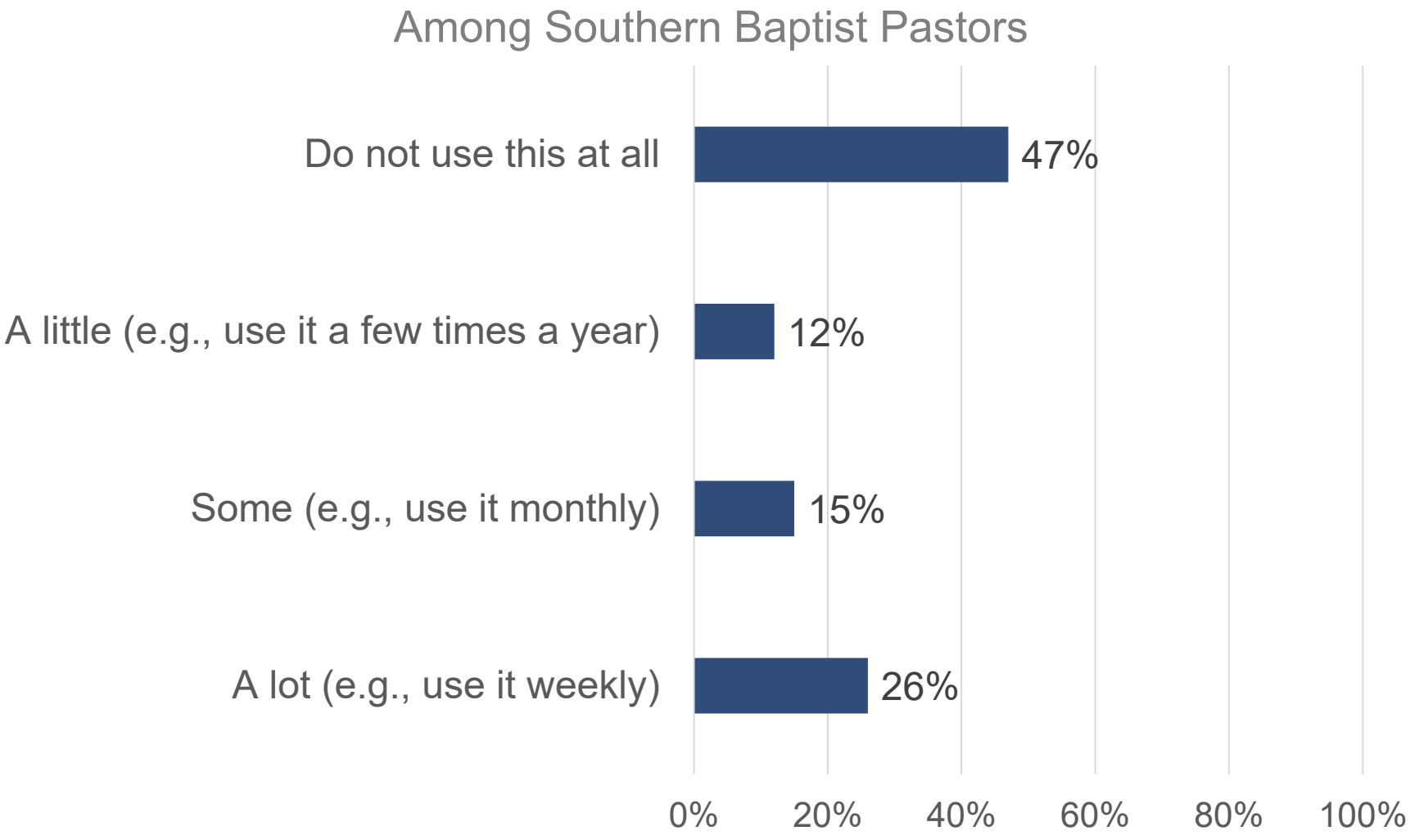
Facebook



Lifeway Research

Q50_5 “How often does your congregation use the following technology? **Facebook**” n=877

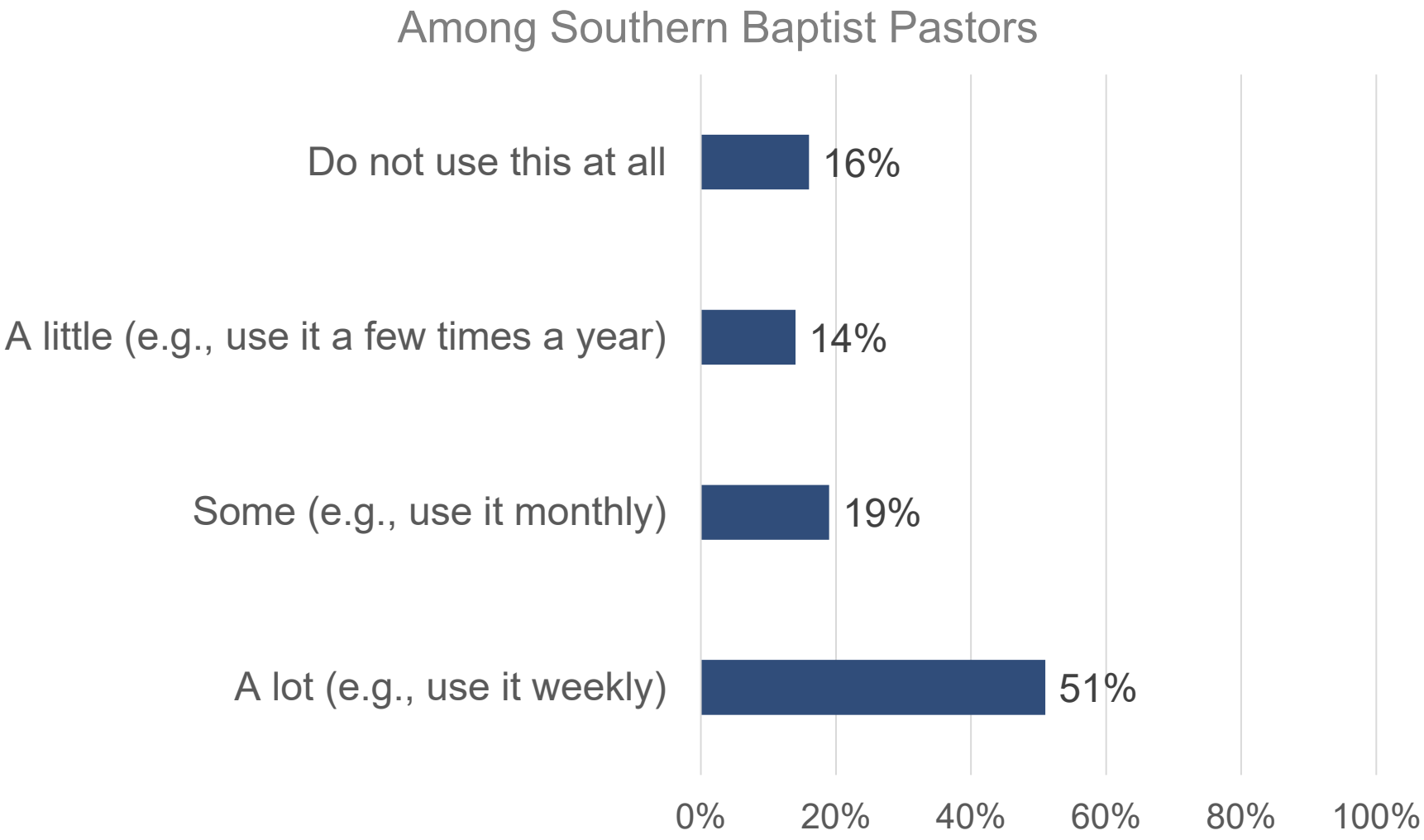
Other social media sites



Lifeway Research

Q50_6 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? Other social media sites" n=860

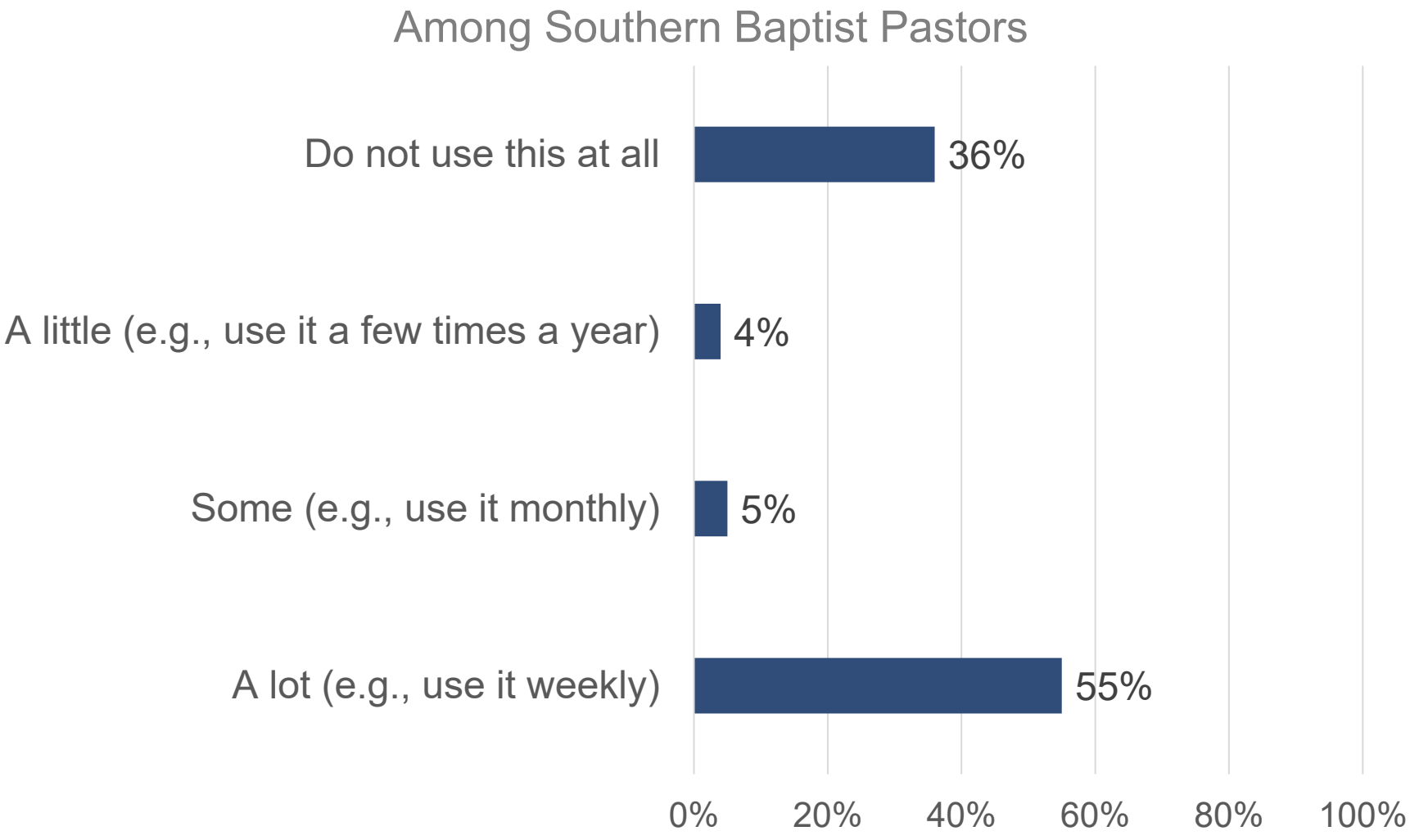
Texting and/or messaging apps (e.g., WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger)



Lifeway Research

Q50_7 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? Texting and/or messaging apps (e.g., WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger)" n=873

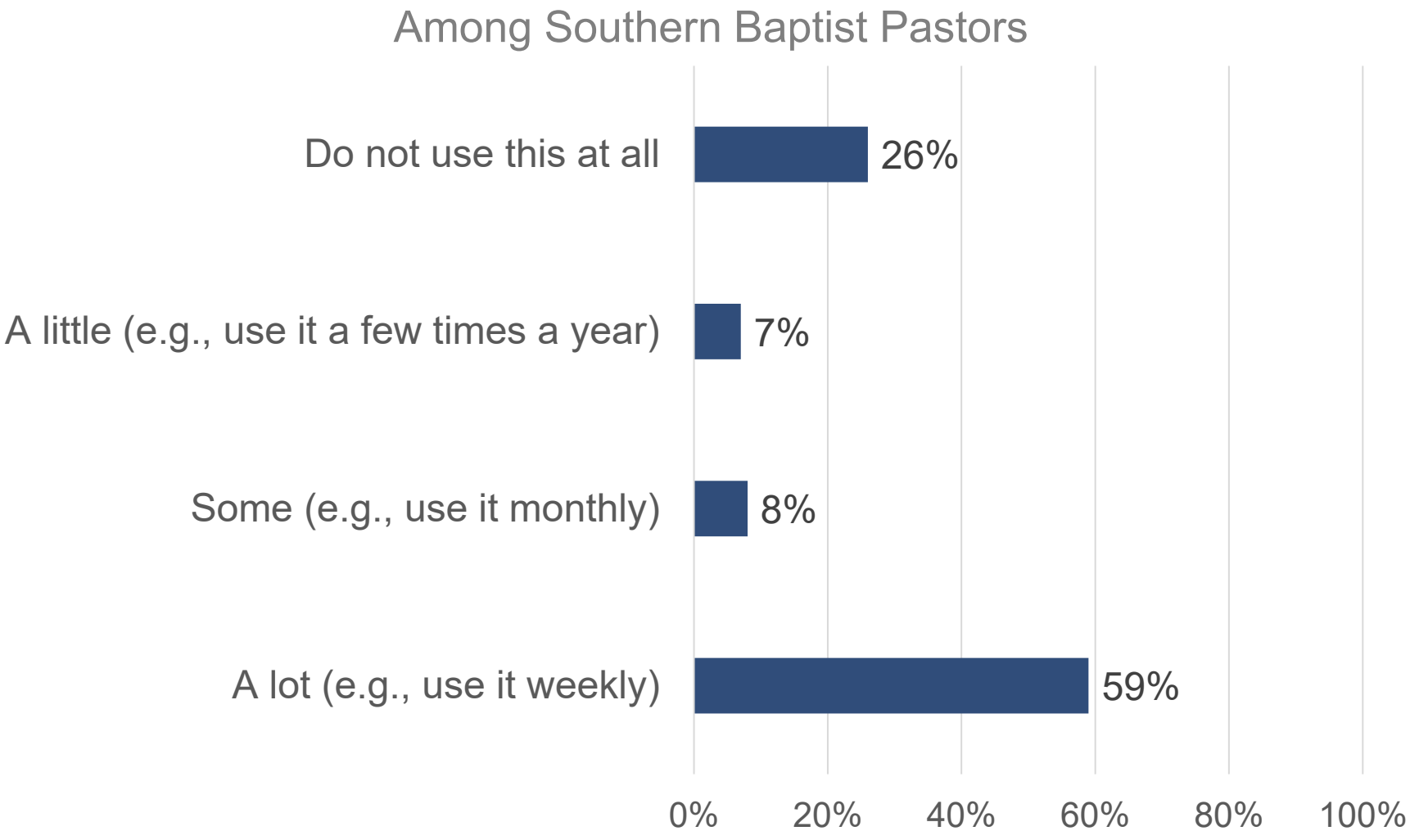
Livestreaming of worship services/sermon



Lifeway Research

Q50_8 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? Livestreaming of worship services/sermon" n=876

Video projection during worship services

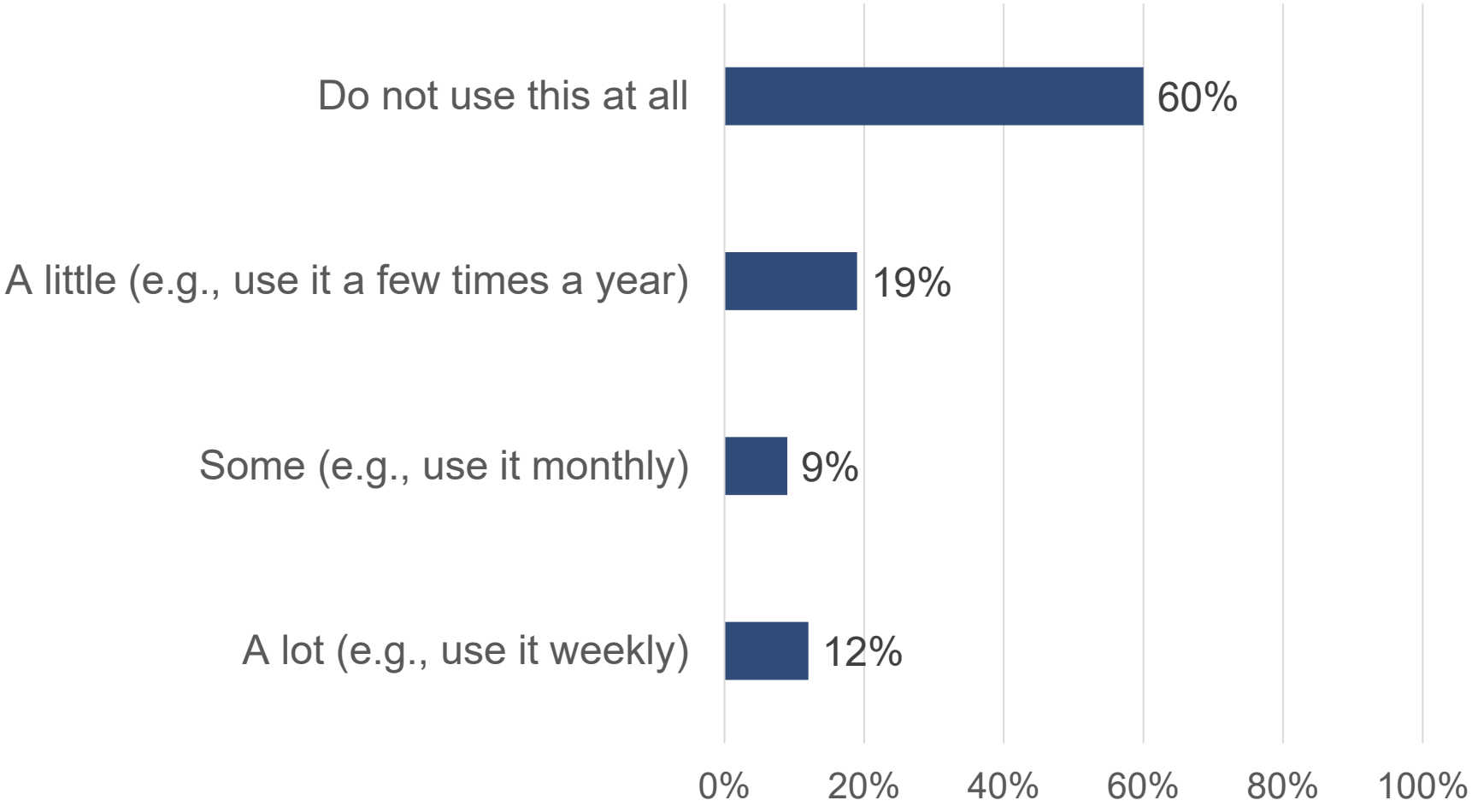


Lifeway Research

Q50_9 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? Video projection during worship services" n=878

Online meetings (e.g., Zoom, Skype, GoTo Meeting)

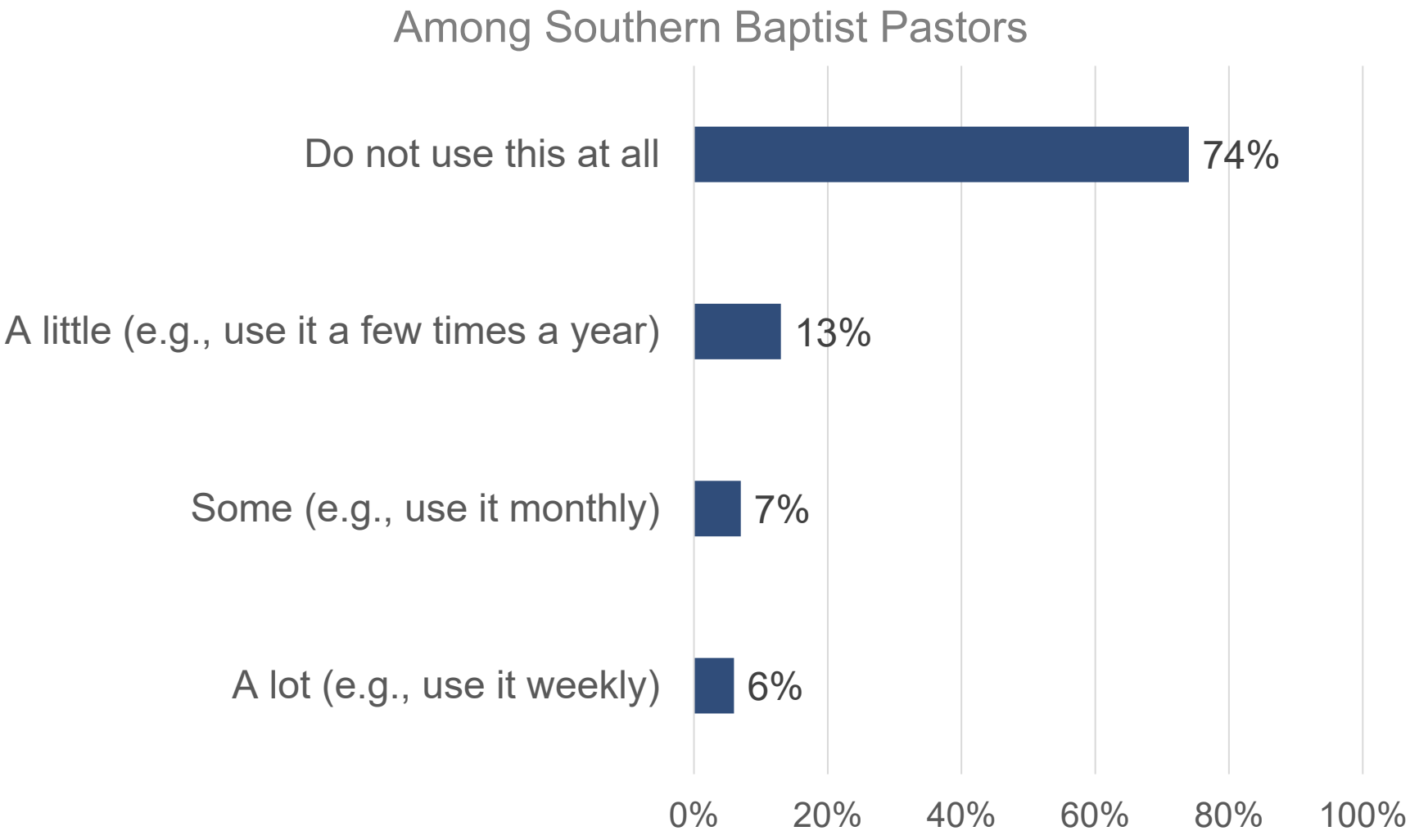
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q50_10 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? Online meetings (e.g., Zoom, Skype, GoTo Meeting)" n=876

Generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT)

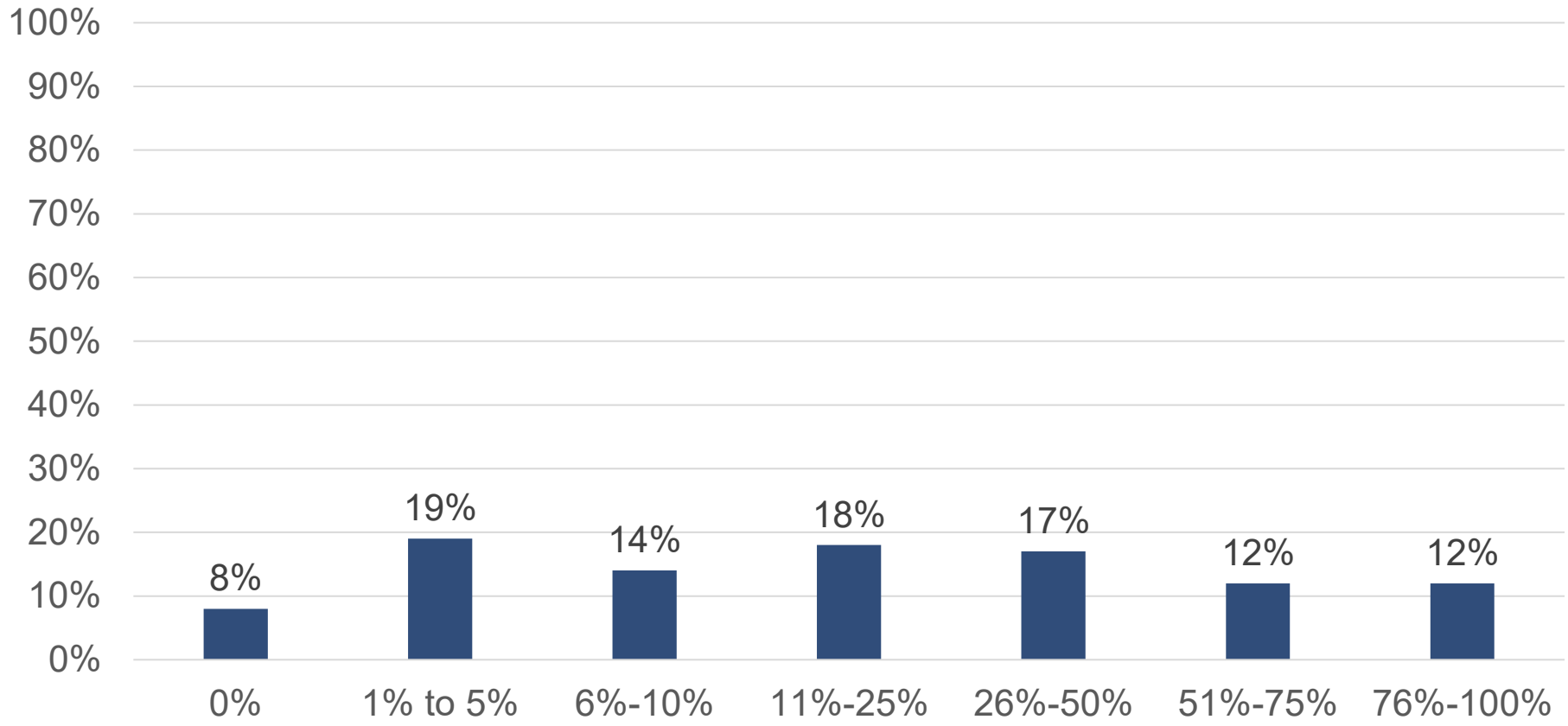


Lifeway Research

Q50_11 "How often does your congregation use the following technology? Generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT)" n=873

“Approximately what percentage of your regular monthly giving is received through online giving?”

Among congregations that use electronic giving



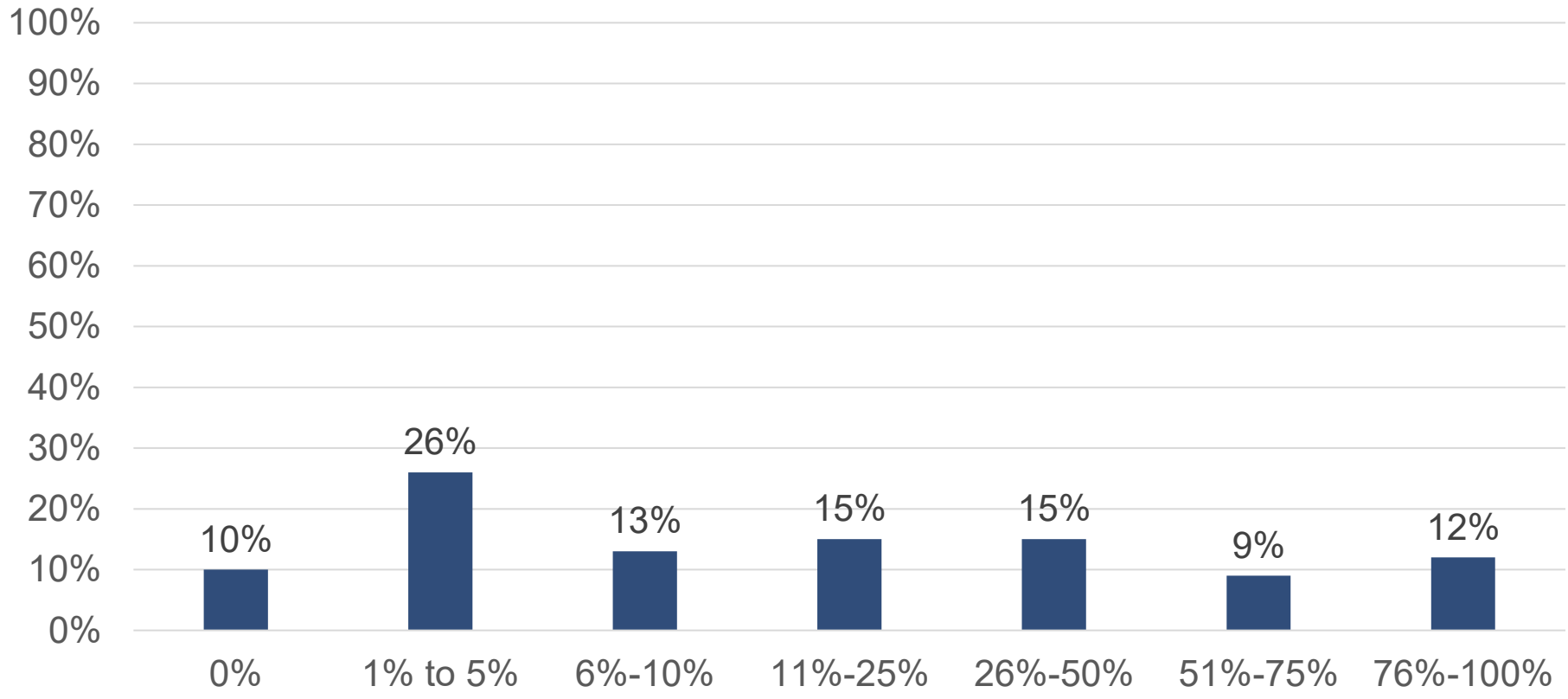
Mean: 31%
Median: 20%

Lifeway Research

Q51 “Approximately what percentage of your regular monthly giving is received through online giving?” n=415

“Approximately what percentage of your participants donate online?”

Among congregations that use electronic giving



Mean: 28%
Median: 15%

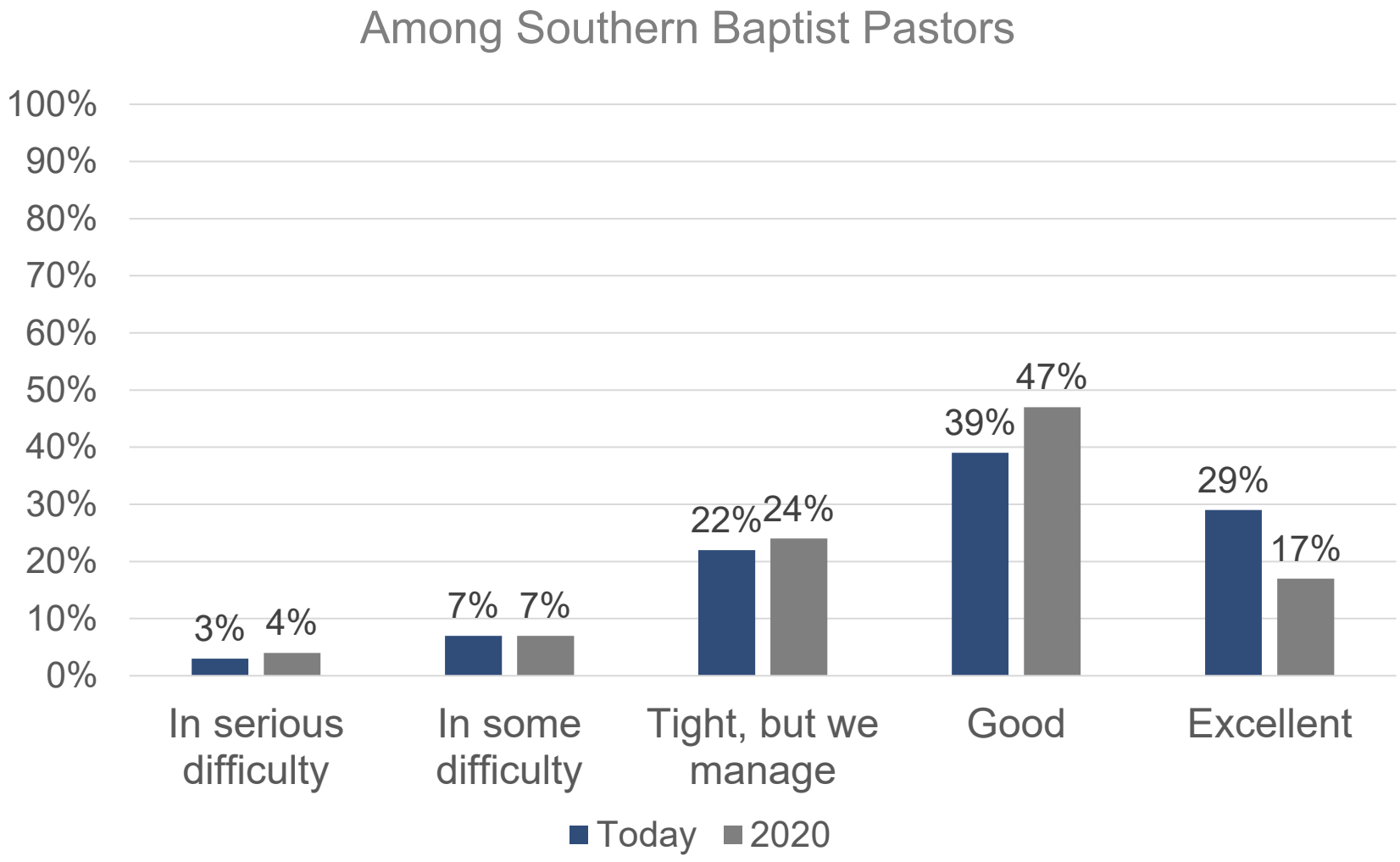
Lifeway Research

Q52 “Approximately what percentage of your participants donate online?” n=409

Finances

Lifeway Research

“How would you describe your congregation’s financial health today and five years ago?”

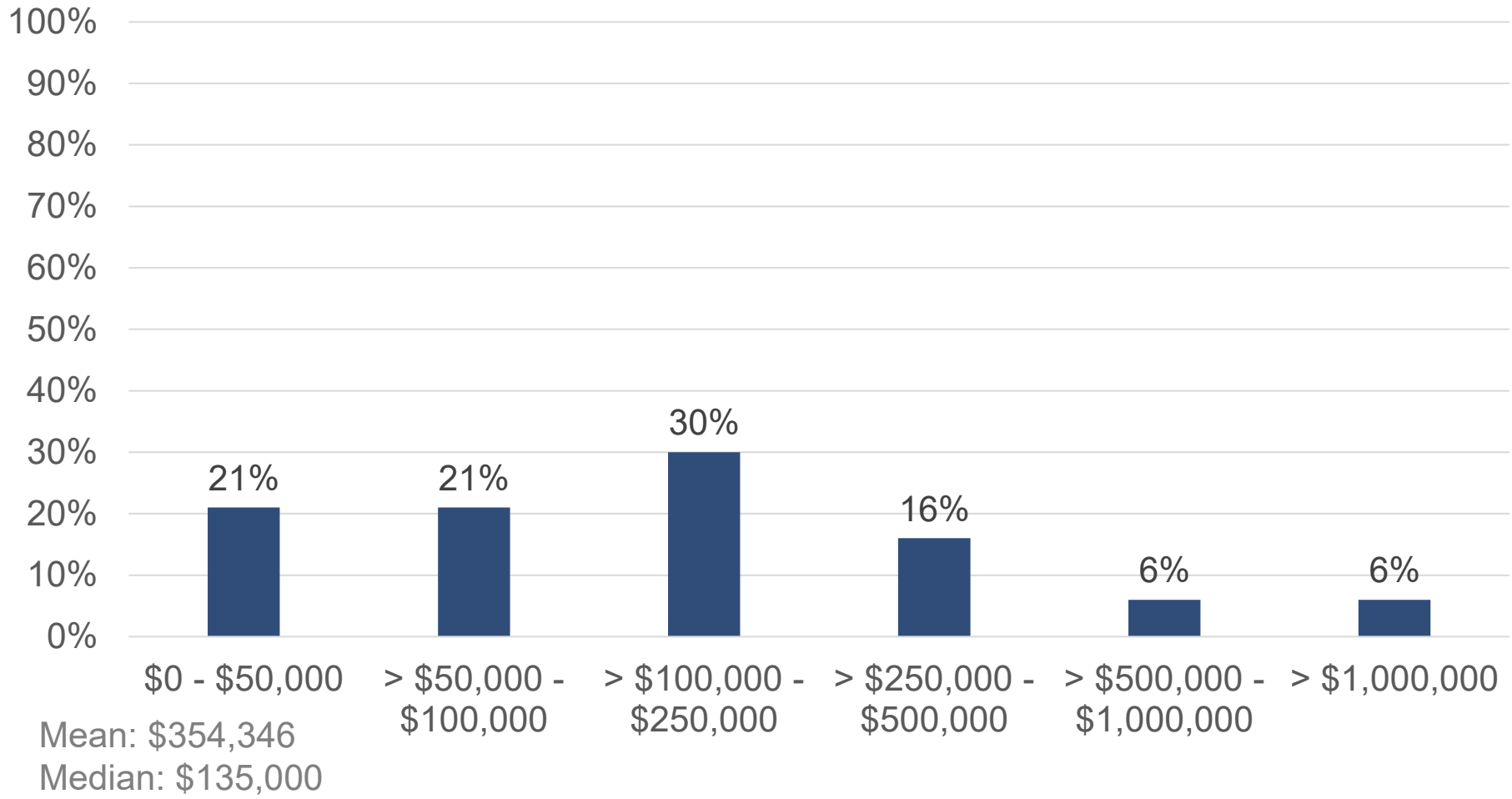


Lifeway Research

Q53 “How would you describe your congregation’s financial health today and five years ago?” Today n=850, 2020 n=825

“What was the total amount of money your congregation received from all sources in your most recent fiscal year?”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

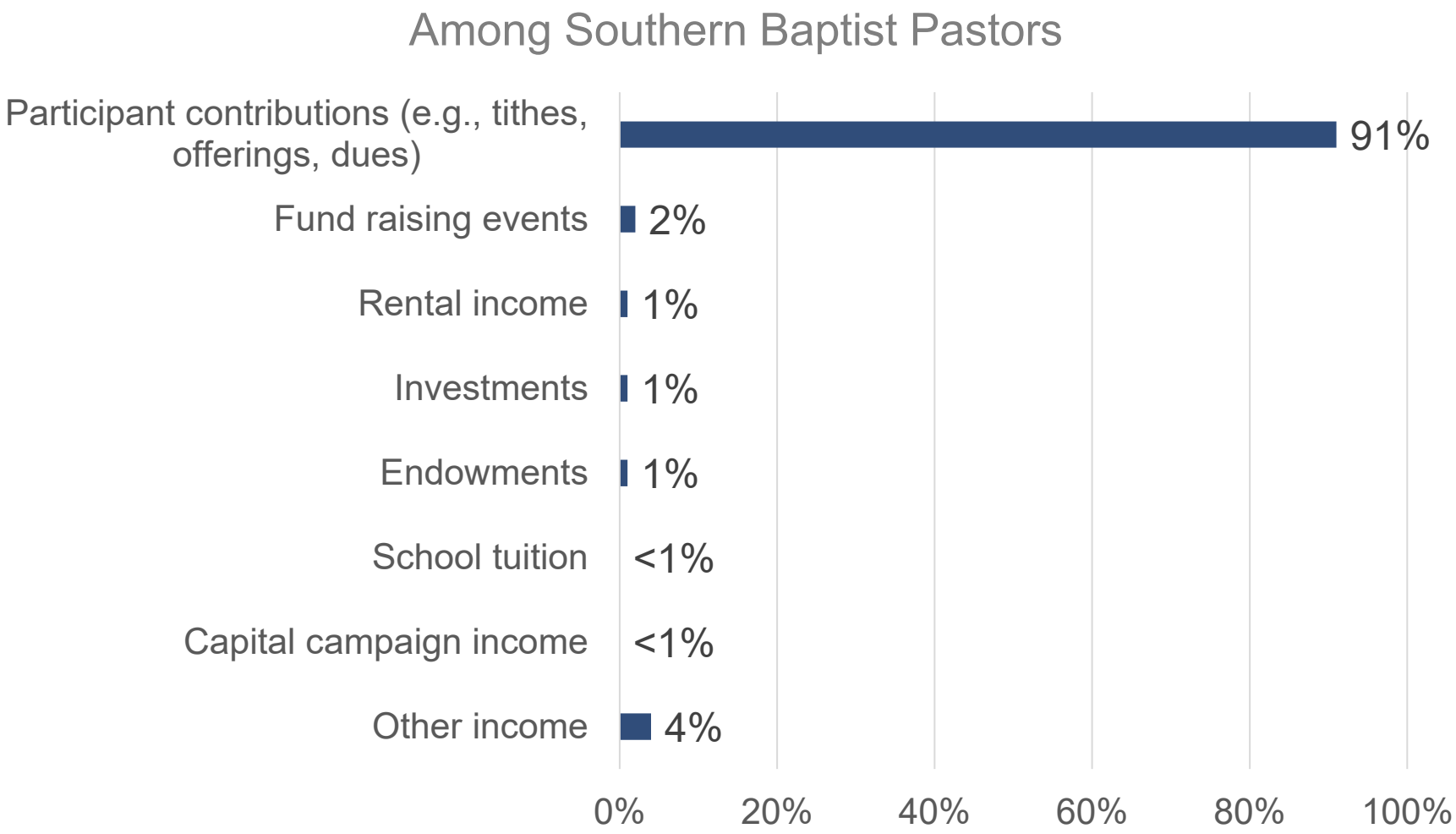


Mean: $354,346
Median: $135,000

Lifeway Research

Q54 “What was the total amount of money your congregation received from all sources in your most recent fiscal year?” n=591

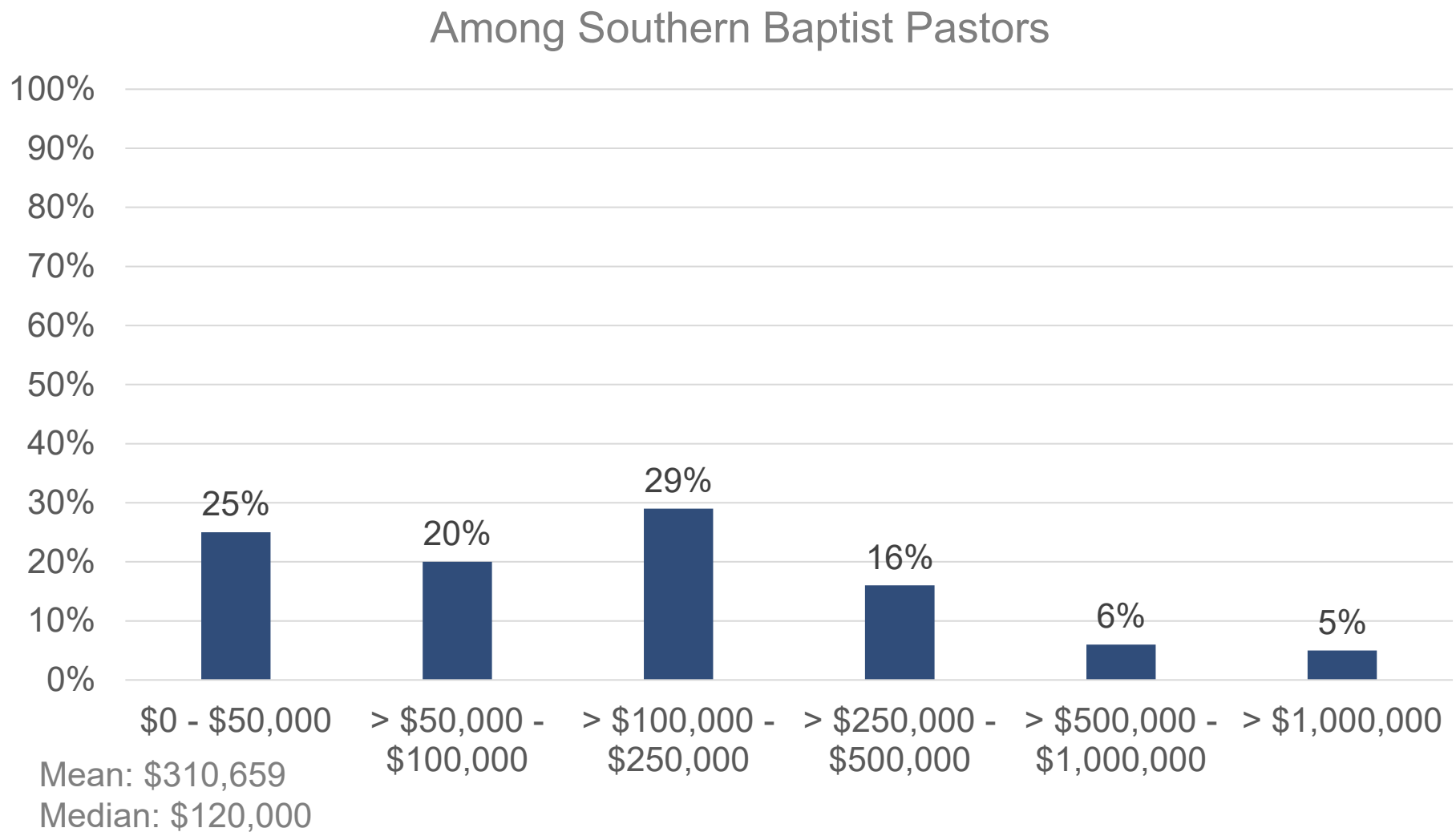
Average percentage of congregation's annual income by source



Lifeway Research

Q55 "Approximately what percentage of your congregation's annual income are from the following?" n=672

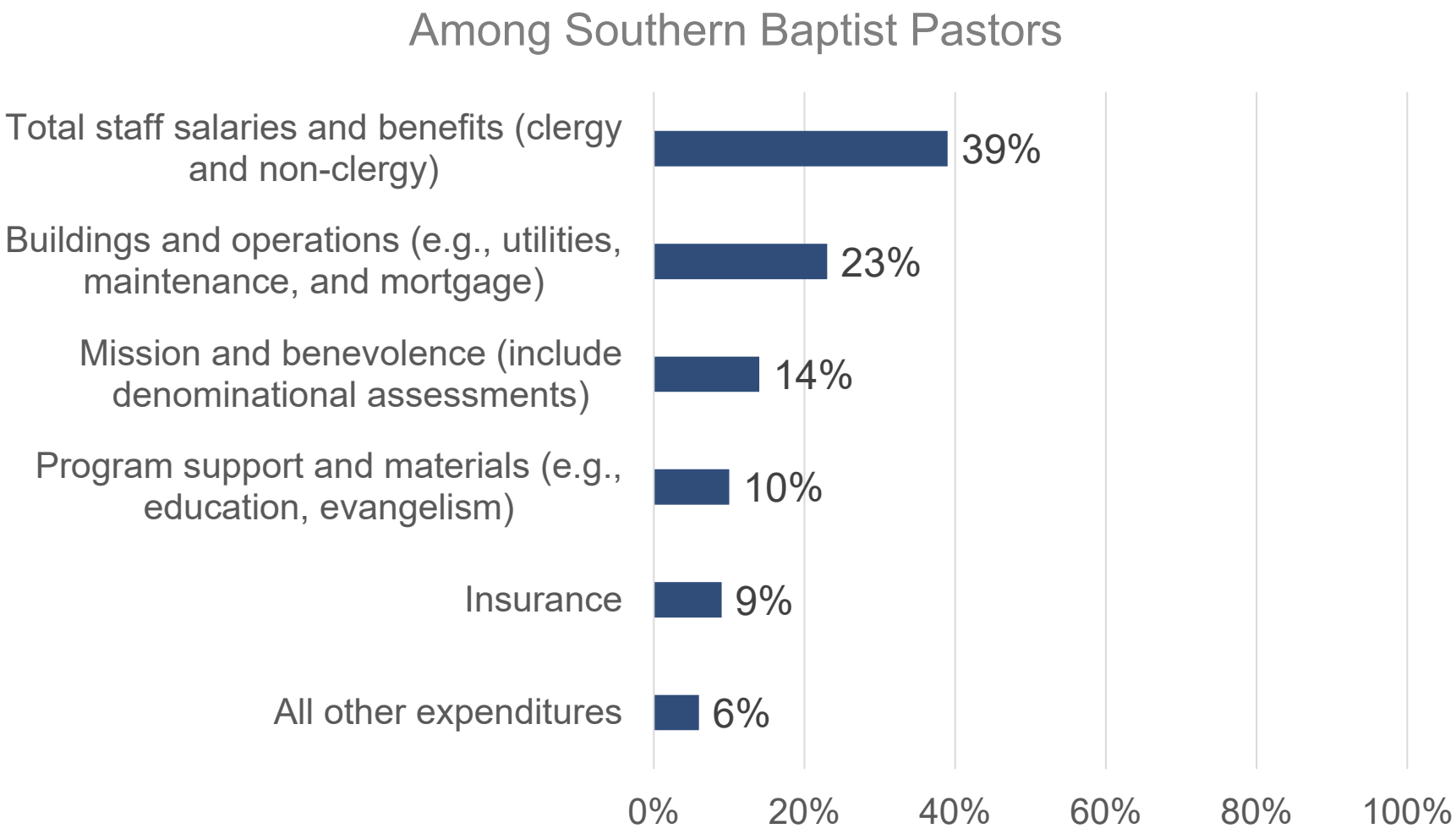
“What was the total amount of money your congregation spent in your most recent fiscal year?”



Lifeway Research

Q56 “What was the total amount of money your congregation spent in your most recent fiscal year?” n=585

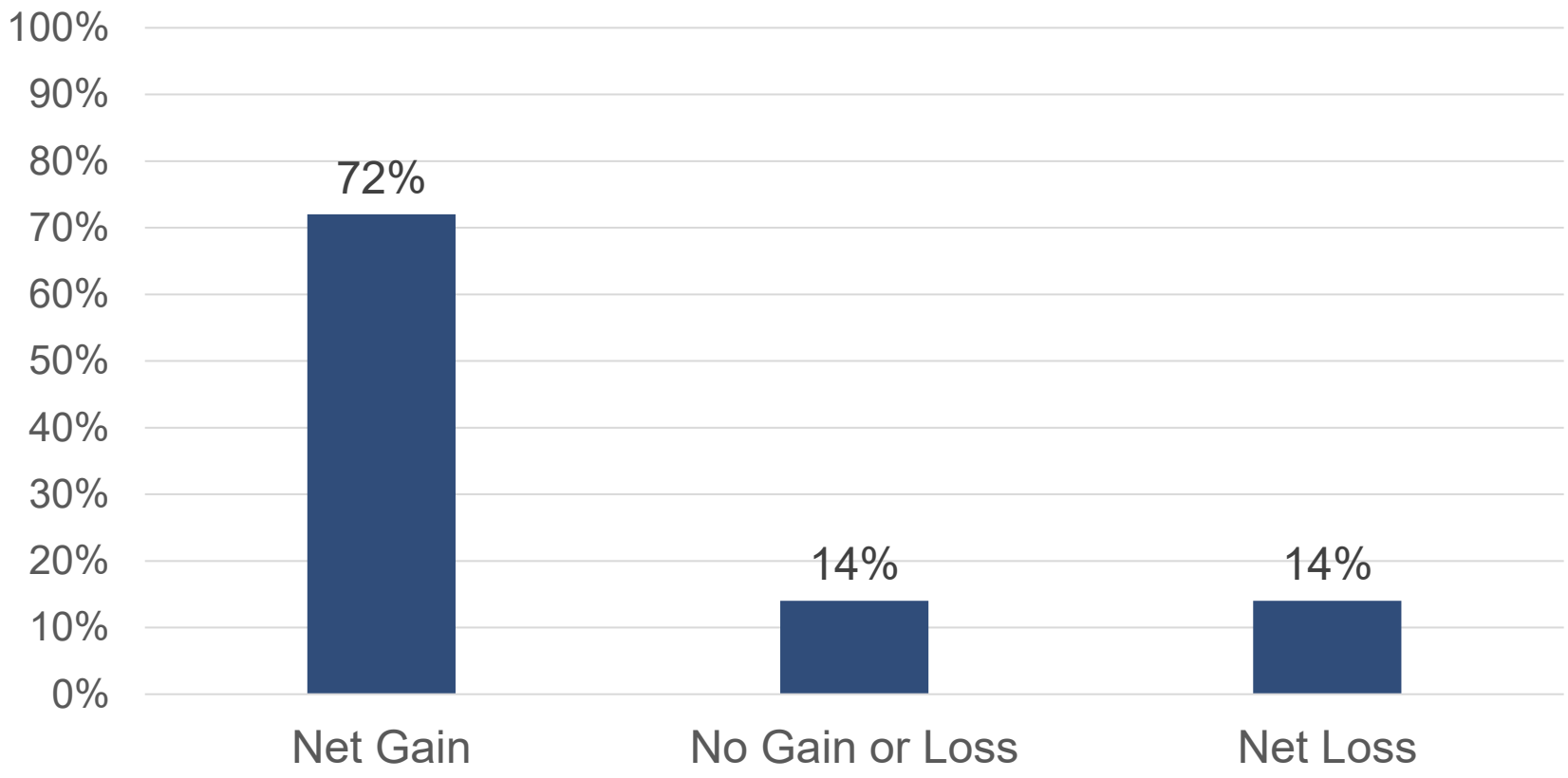
Average percentage of congregation's annual expenditures by source



Lifeway Research

Q57 "Approximately what percentage of your congregation's annual expenditures in your most recent fiscal year were for the following?" n=588

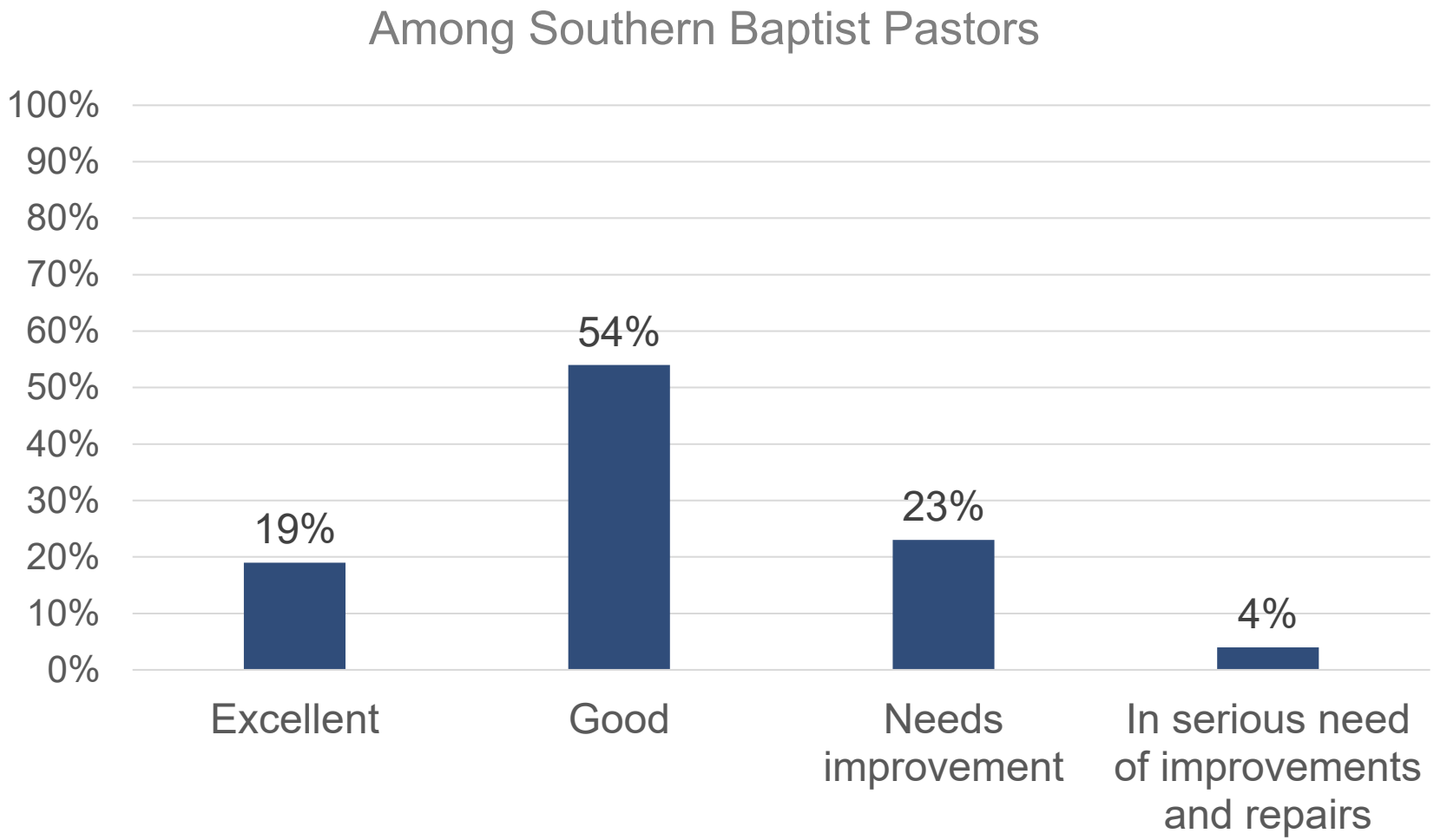
72% of congregations had a positive net income



Lifeway Research

Net Income = Total Income – Total Expenses. n=555

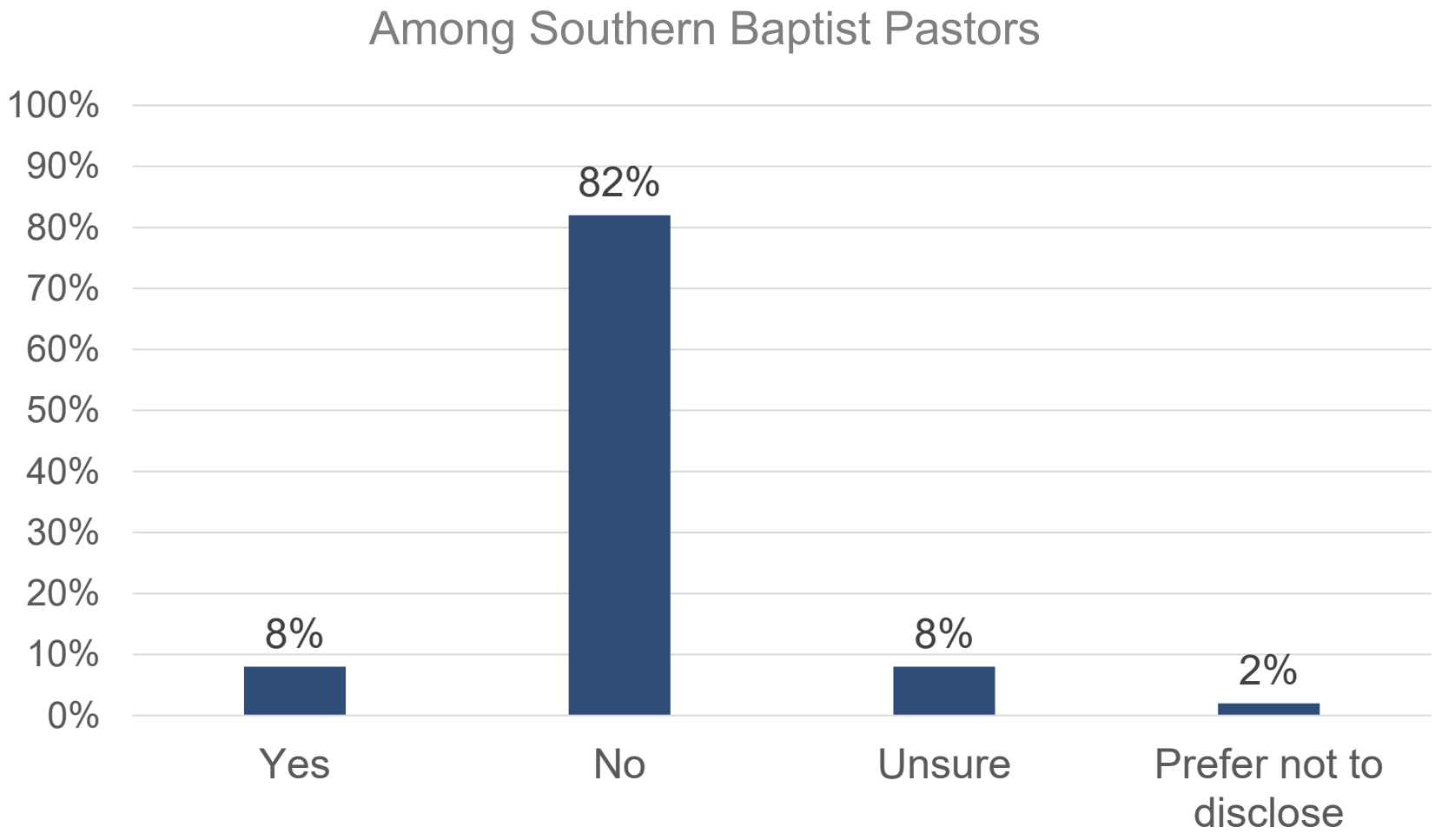
“How would you describe the overall physical condition of your congregation’s building(s)?”



Lifeway Research

Q58 “How would you describe the overall physical condition of your congregation’s building(s)?” n=824

“Did this congregation receive a PPP loan?”

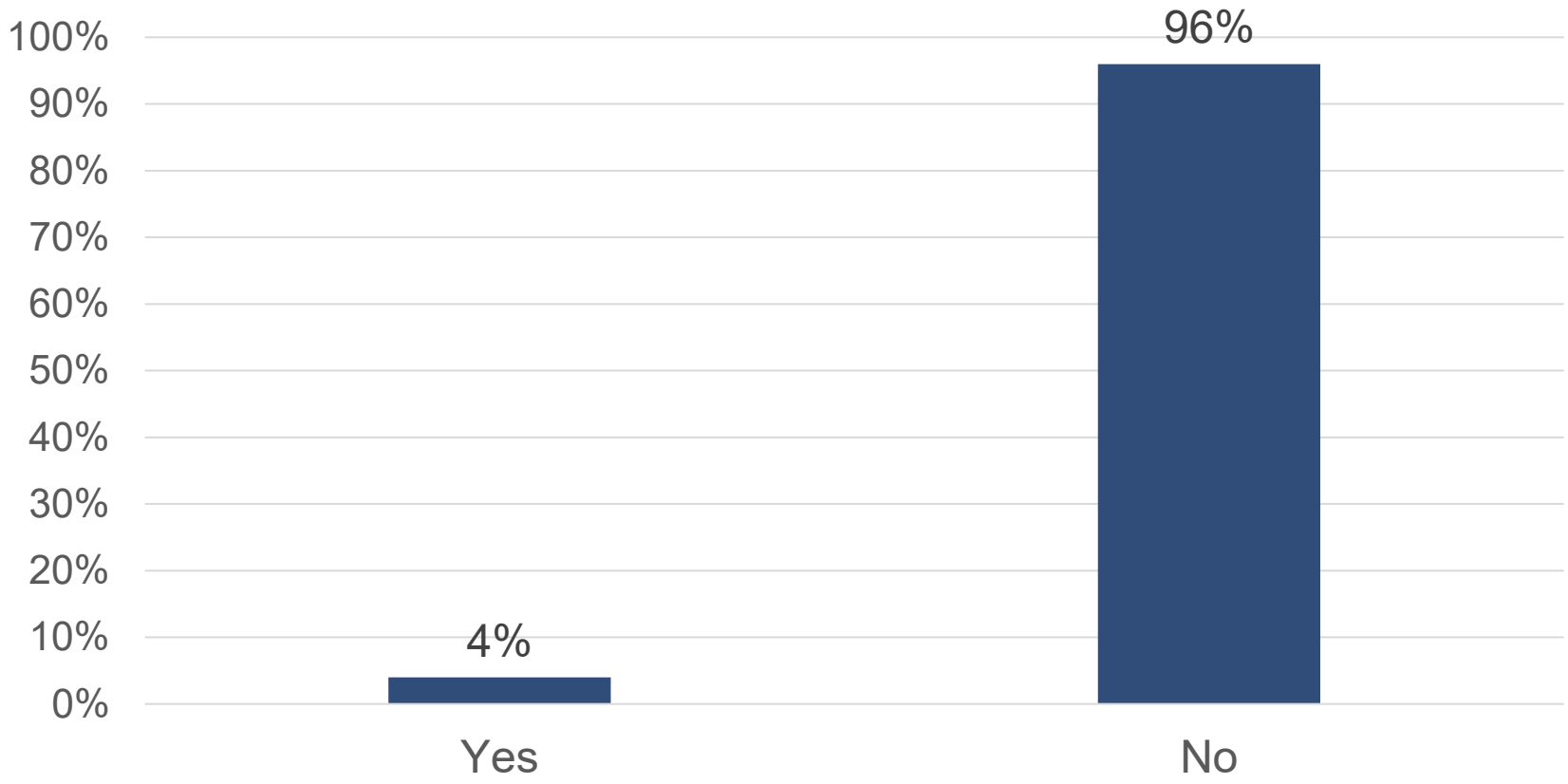


Lifeway Research

Q59 “Did this congregation receive a PPP loan?” n=824

“Does this congregation have an endowment?”

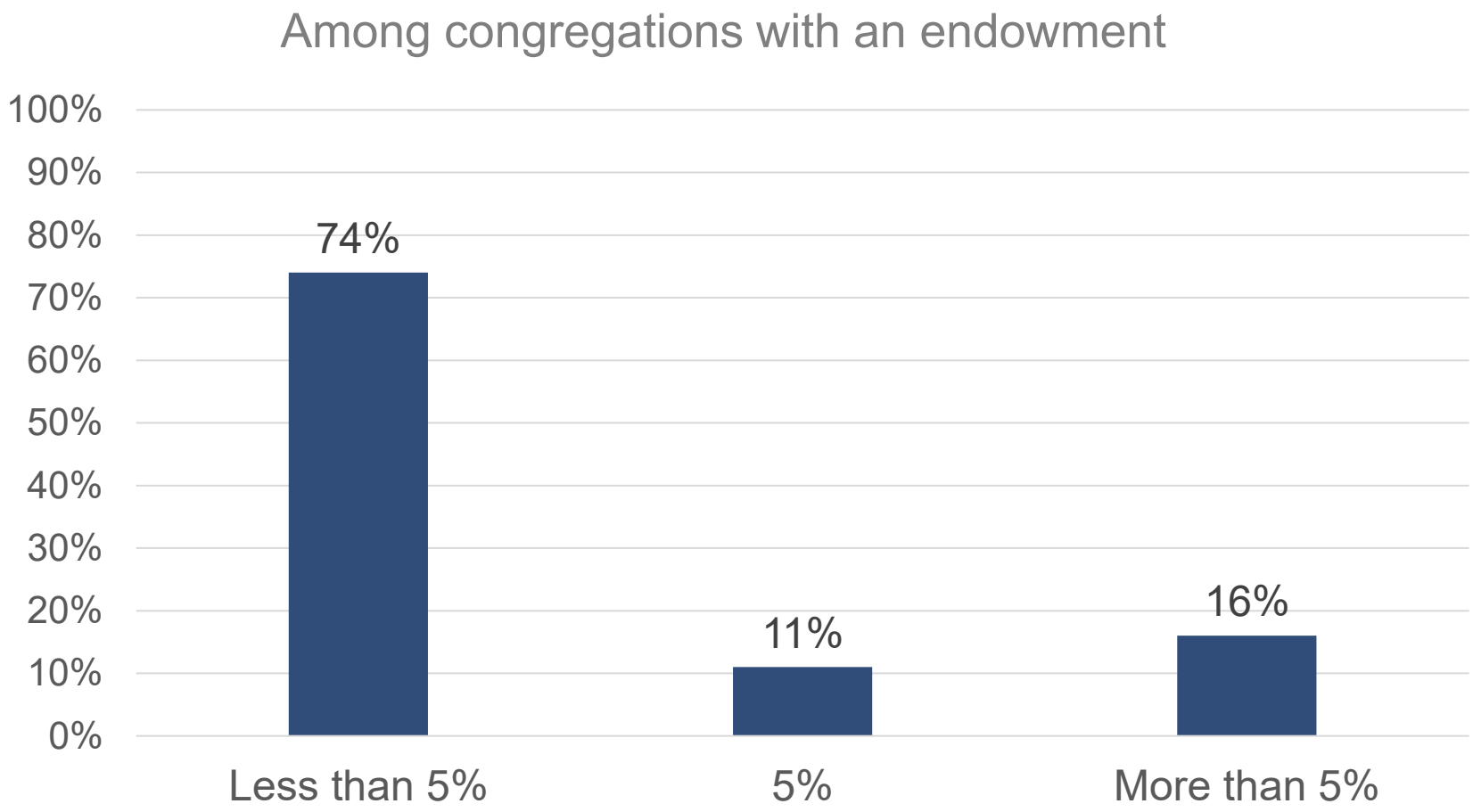
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q60 “Does this congregation have an endowment?” n=802

“What was last year's draw rate for the endowment?”

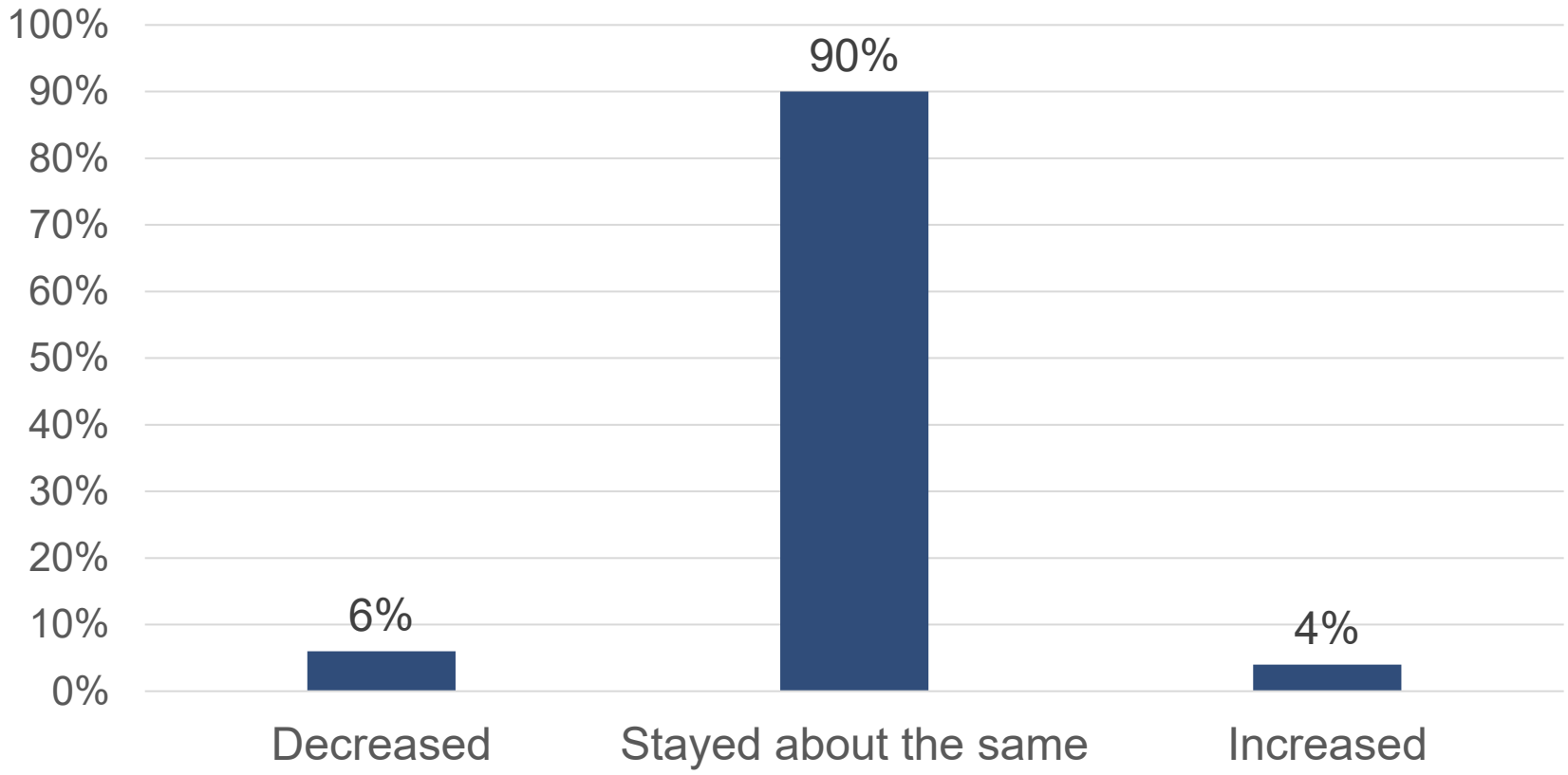


Lifeway Research

Q61 “What was last year's draw rate for the endowment?” n=35

“Has the draw rate changed in the last 5 years?”

Among congregations with an endowment

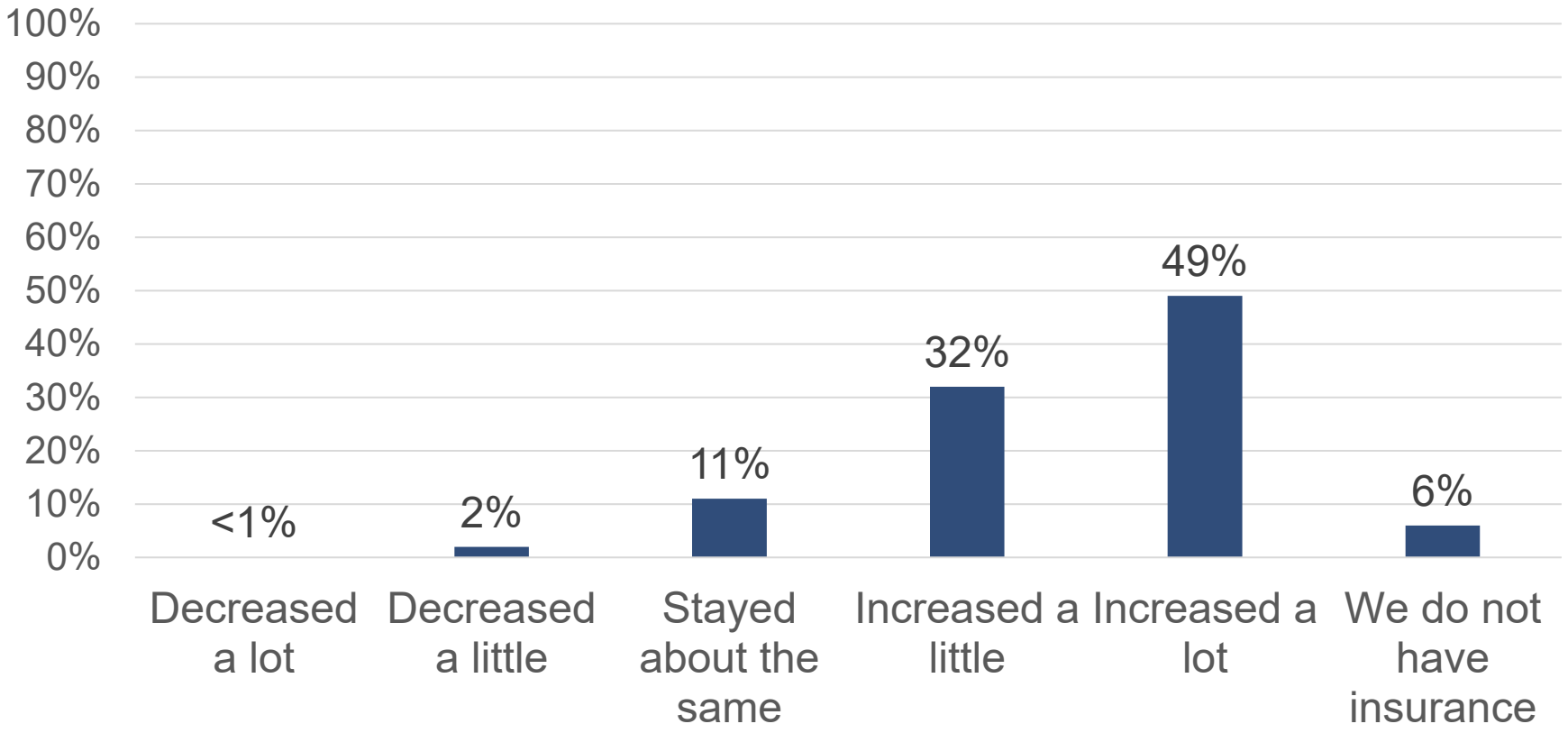


Lifeway Research

Q62 “Has the draw rate changed in the last 5 years?” n=35

“Have this congregation’s insurance costs changed in the last 5 years?”

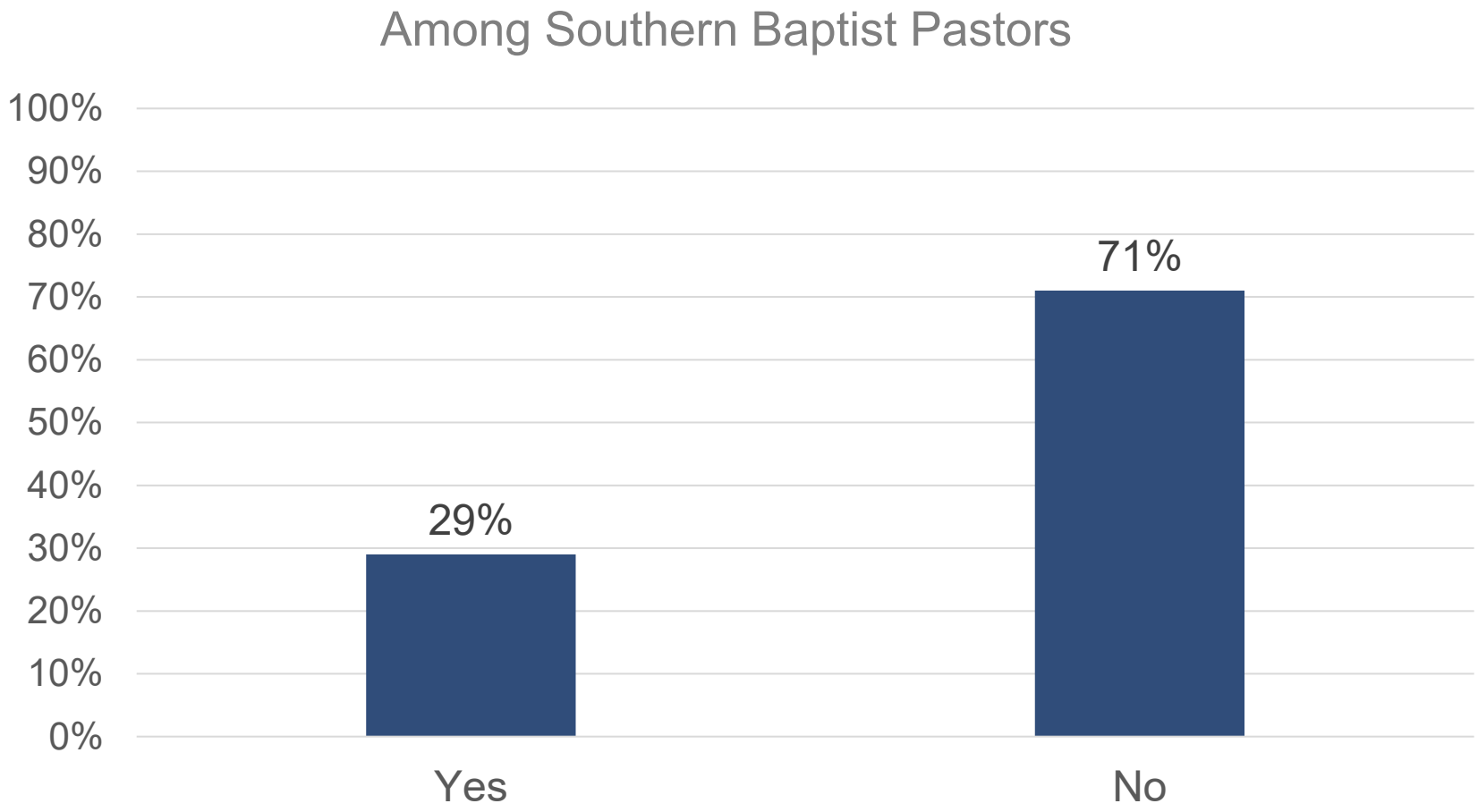
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q63 “Have this congregation’s insurance costs changed in the last 5 years?” n=807

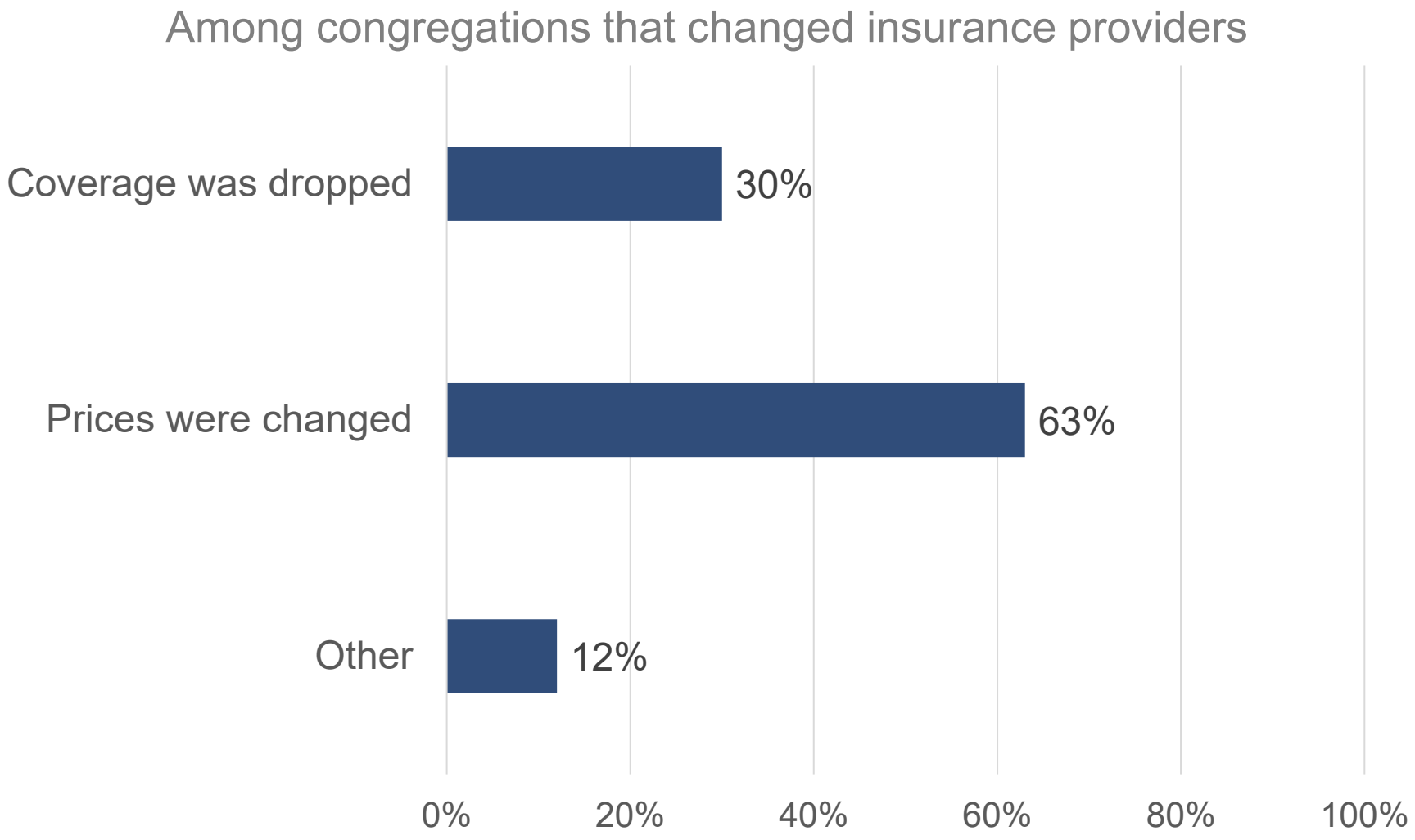
“Has this congregation changed insurance providers in the last 5 years?”



Lifeway Research

Q64 “Has this congregation changed insurance providers in the last 5 years?” n=800

“Was the change because:”



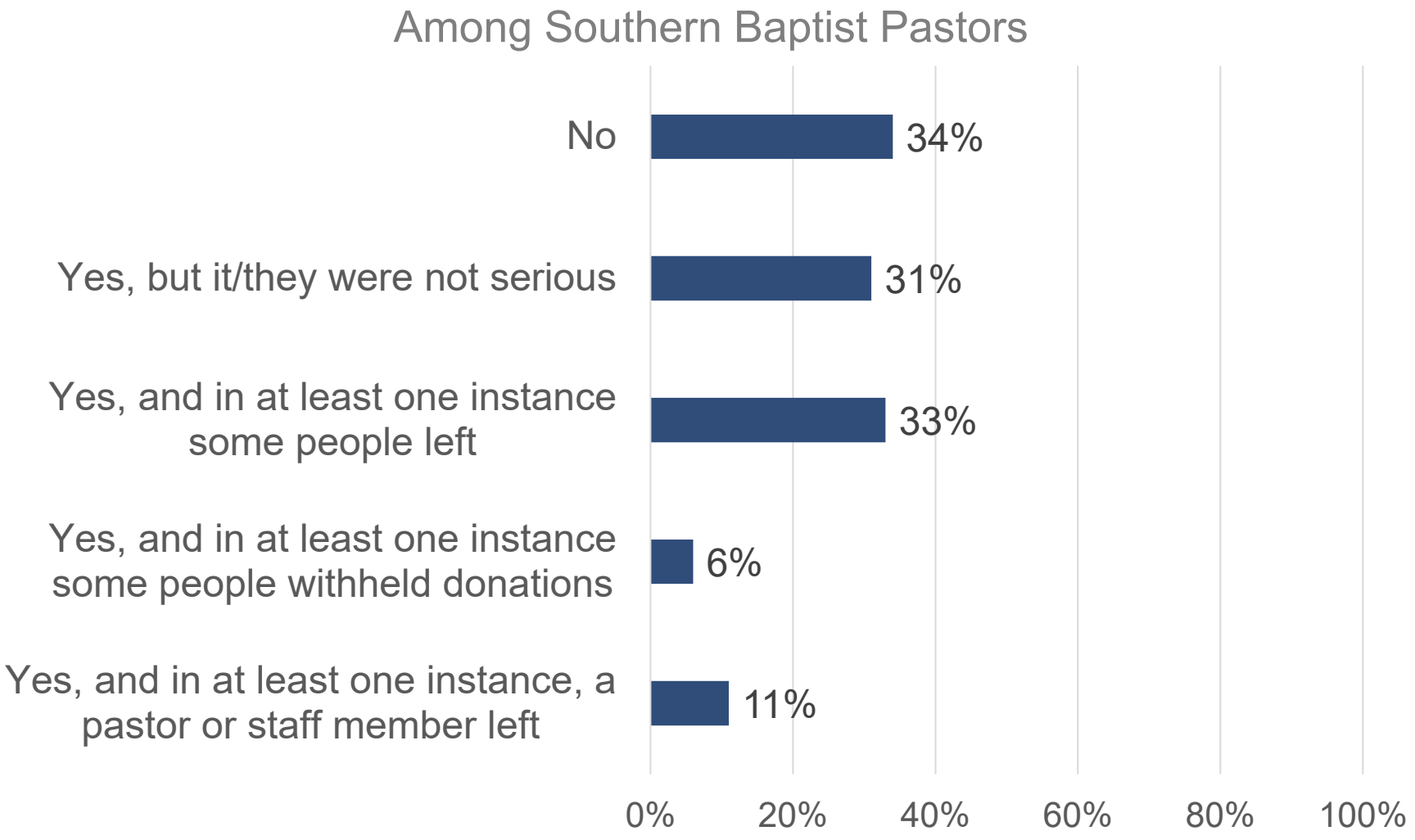
Lifeway Research

Q65 “Was the change because: (Check all that apply.)” n=247

Miscellaneous

Lifeway Research

“In the past 5 years, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts?”

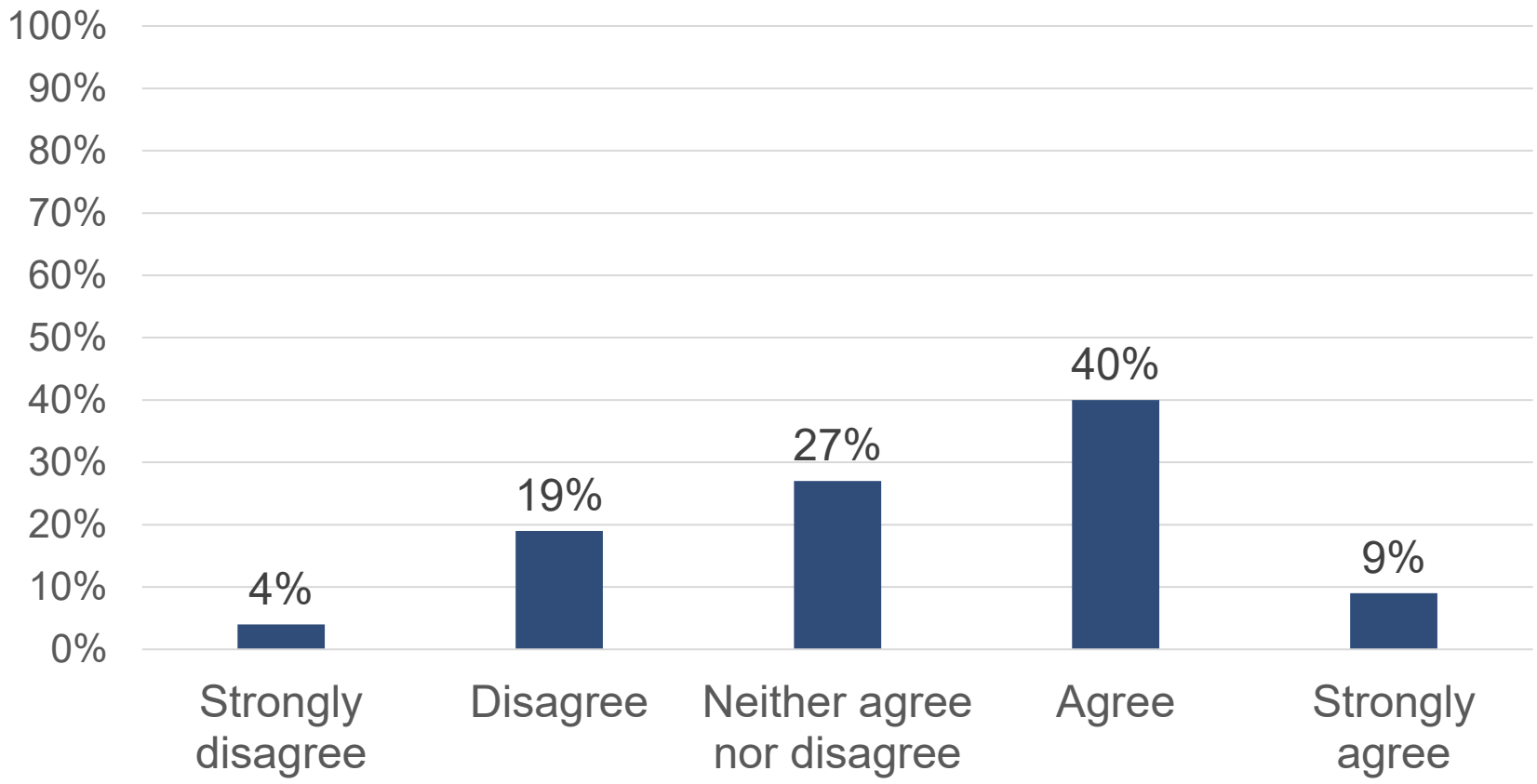


Lifeway Research

Q66 “In the past 5 years, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts? (Check all that apply.)” n=813

49% agree “Almost everyone in this congregation has the same political position.”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

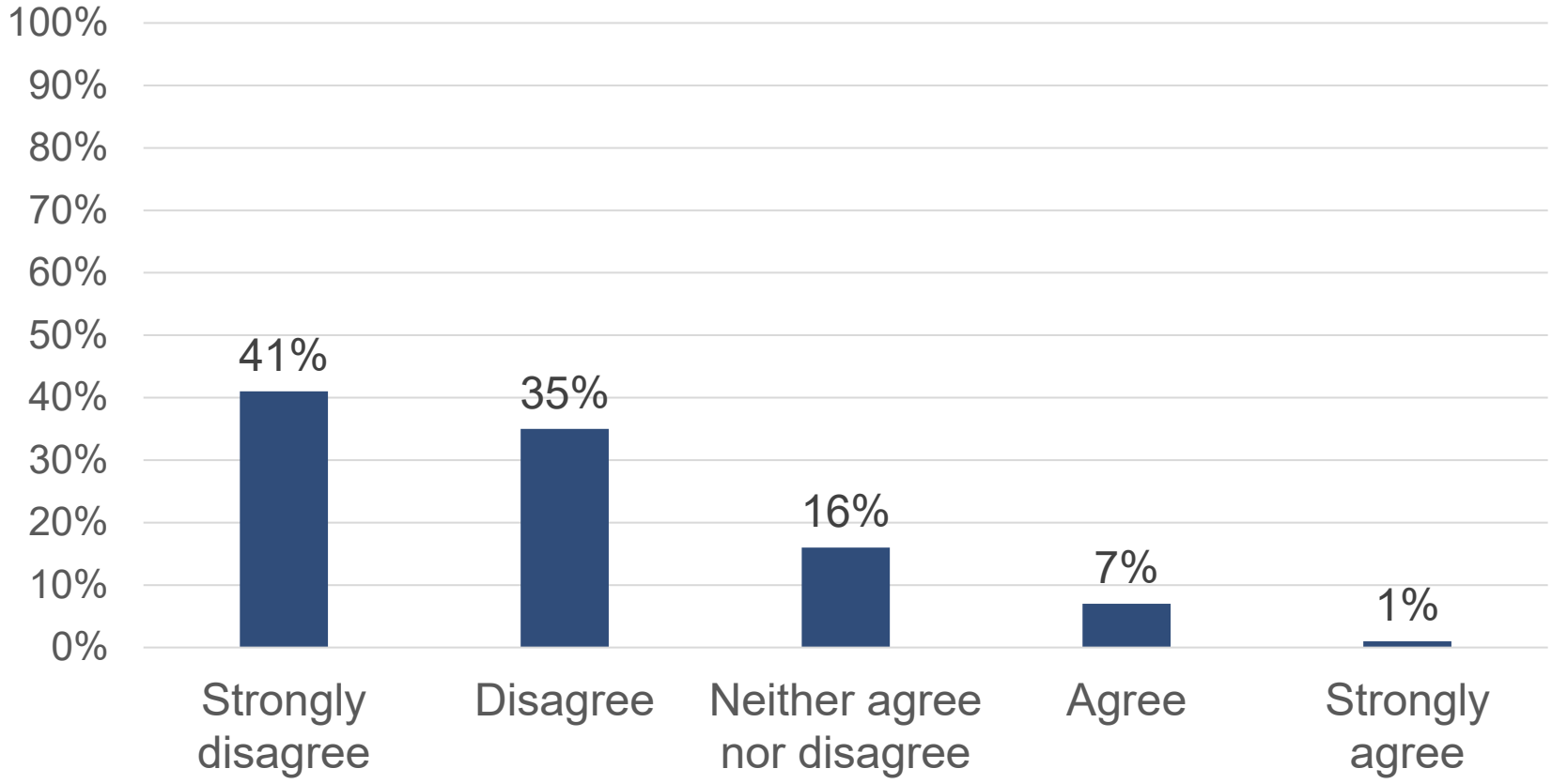


Lifeway Research

Q67_1 “Almost everyone in this congregation has the same political position.” n=808

8% agree “This congregation has experienced recent conflict over political issues.”

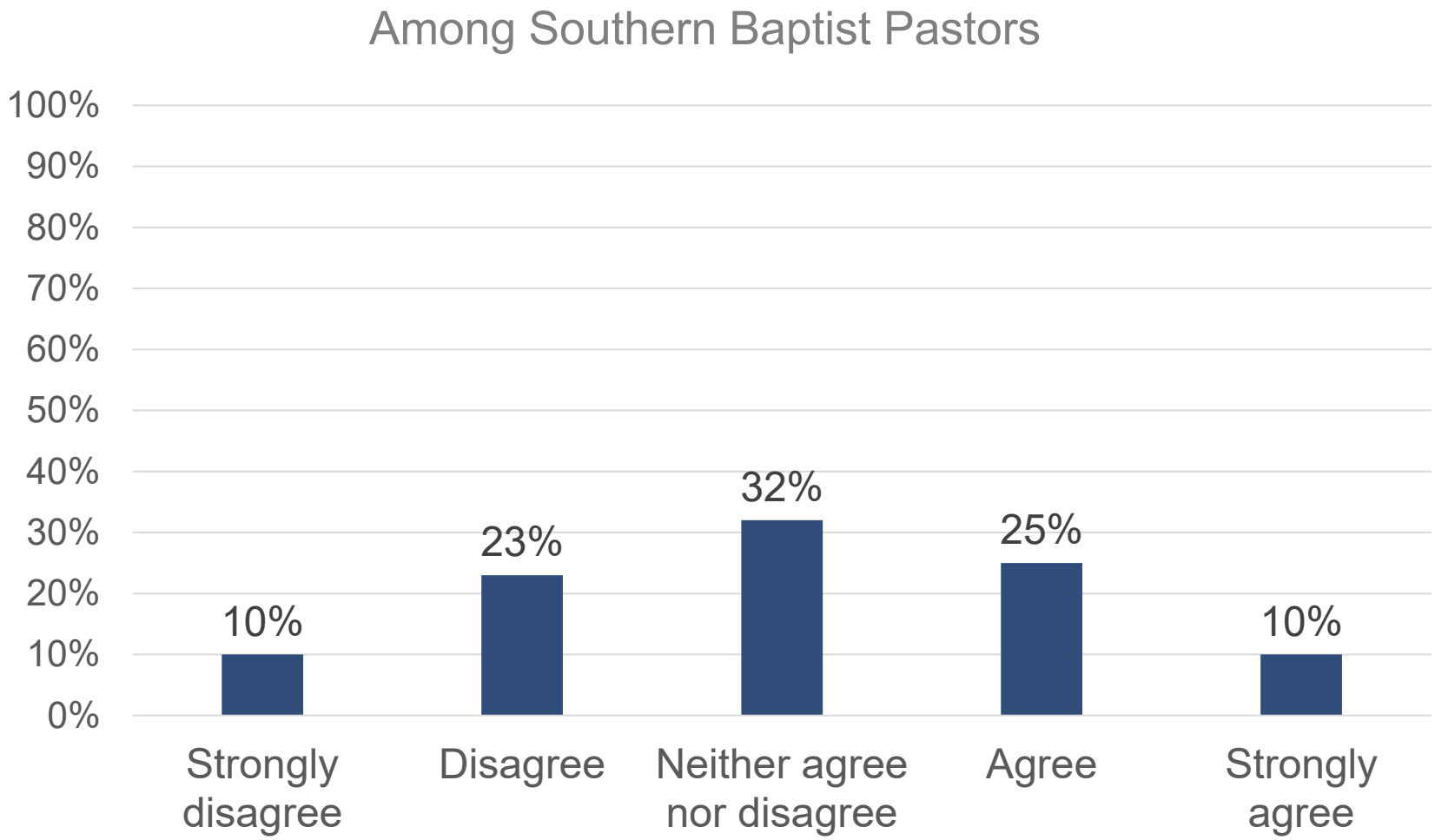
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q67_2 “This congregation has experienced recent conflict over political issues.” n=809

35% agree “This congregation avoids discussing political issues when it gathers.”

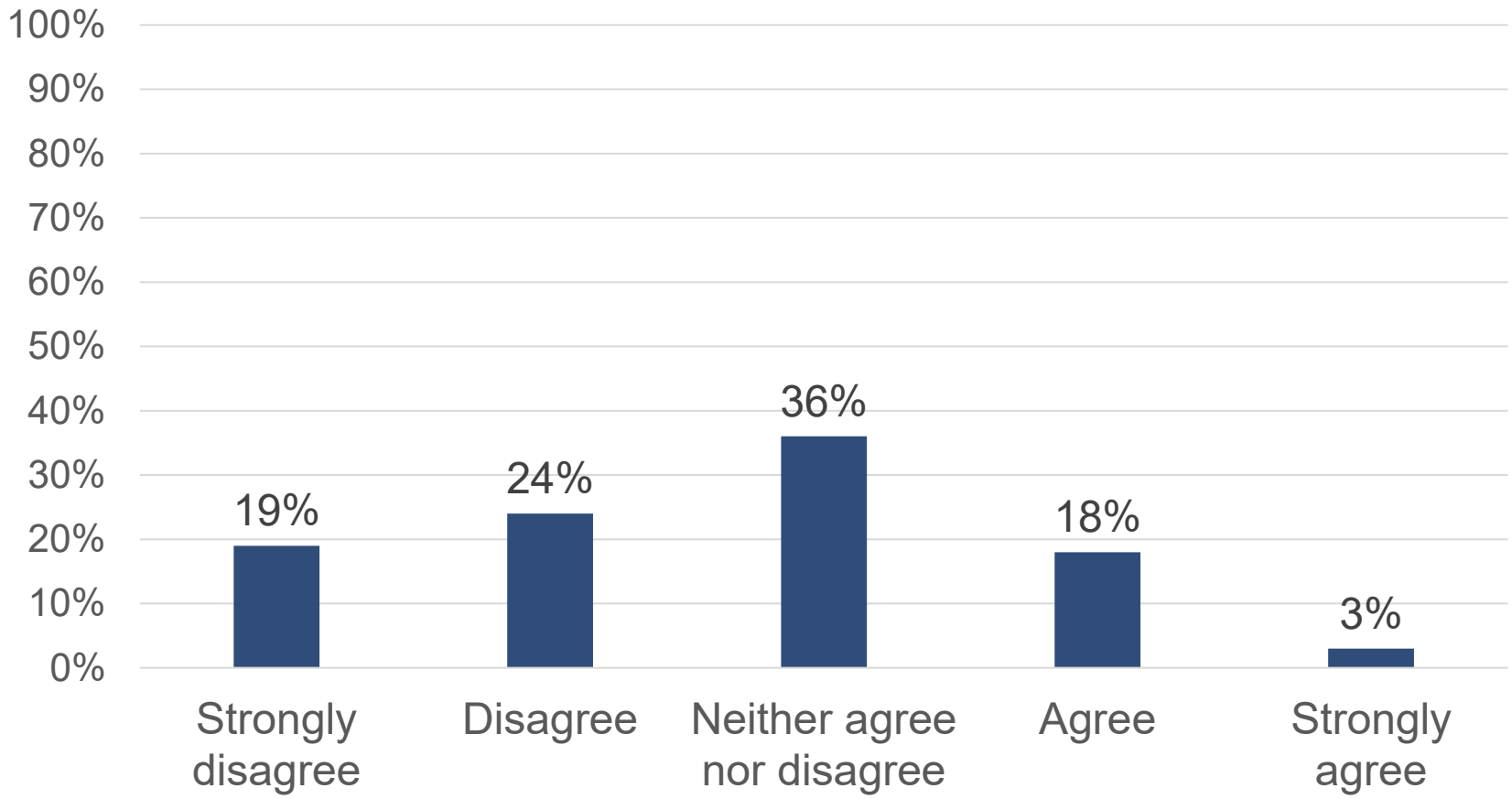


Lifeway Research

Q67_3 “This congregation avoids discussing political issues when it gathers.” n=808

21% agree “This congregation is politically active.”

Among Southern Baptist Pastors

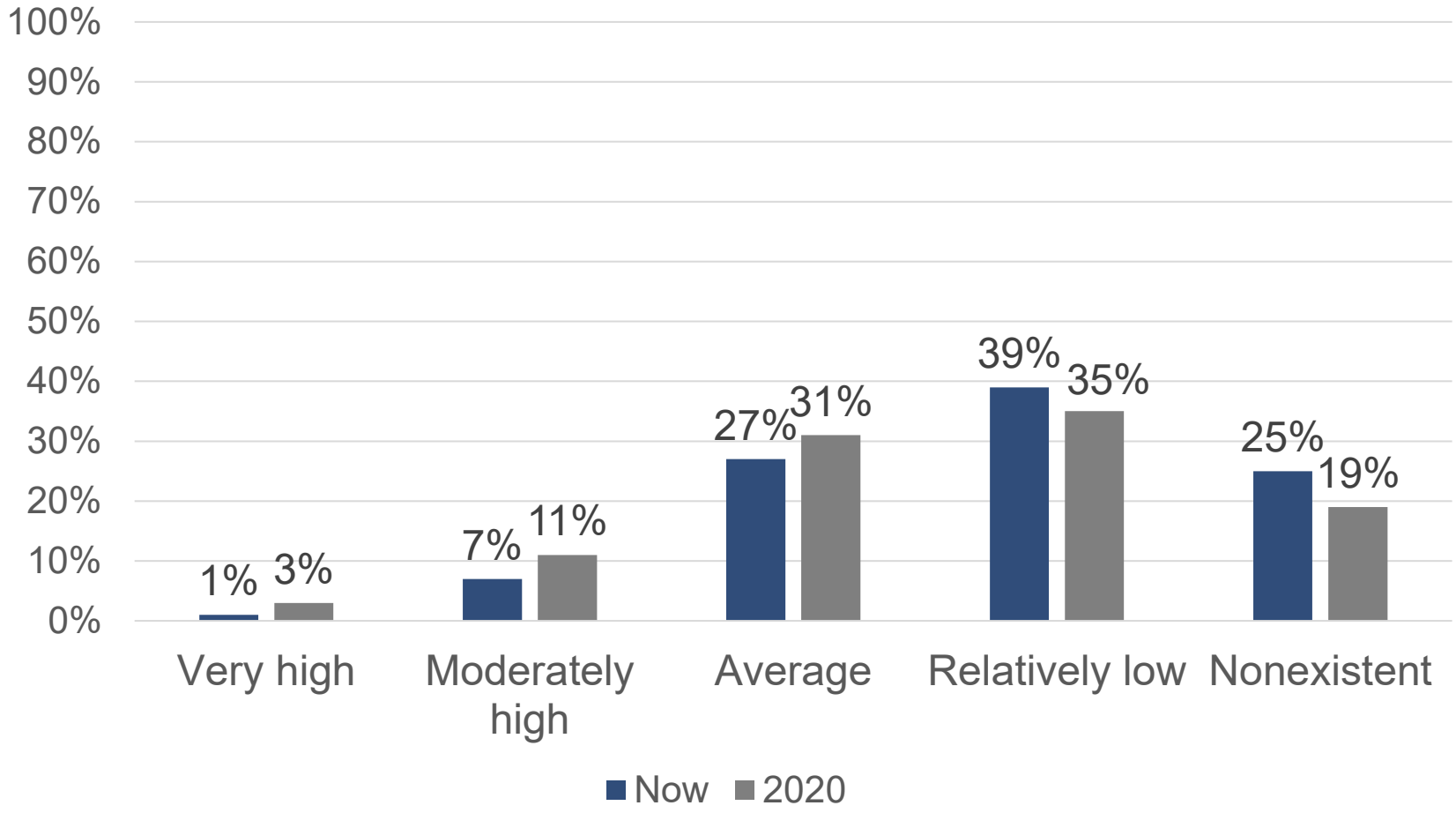


Lifeway Research

Q67_4 “This congregation is politically active.” n=802

“How would you rate the level of tension in your congregation surrounding social and political issues (excluding COVID-19) now compared to 2020?”

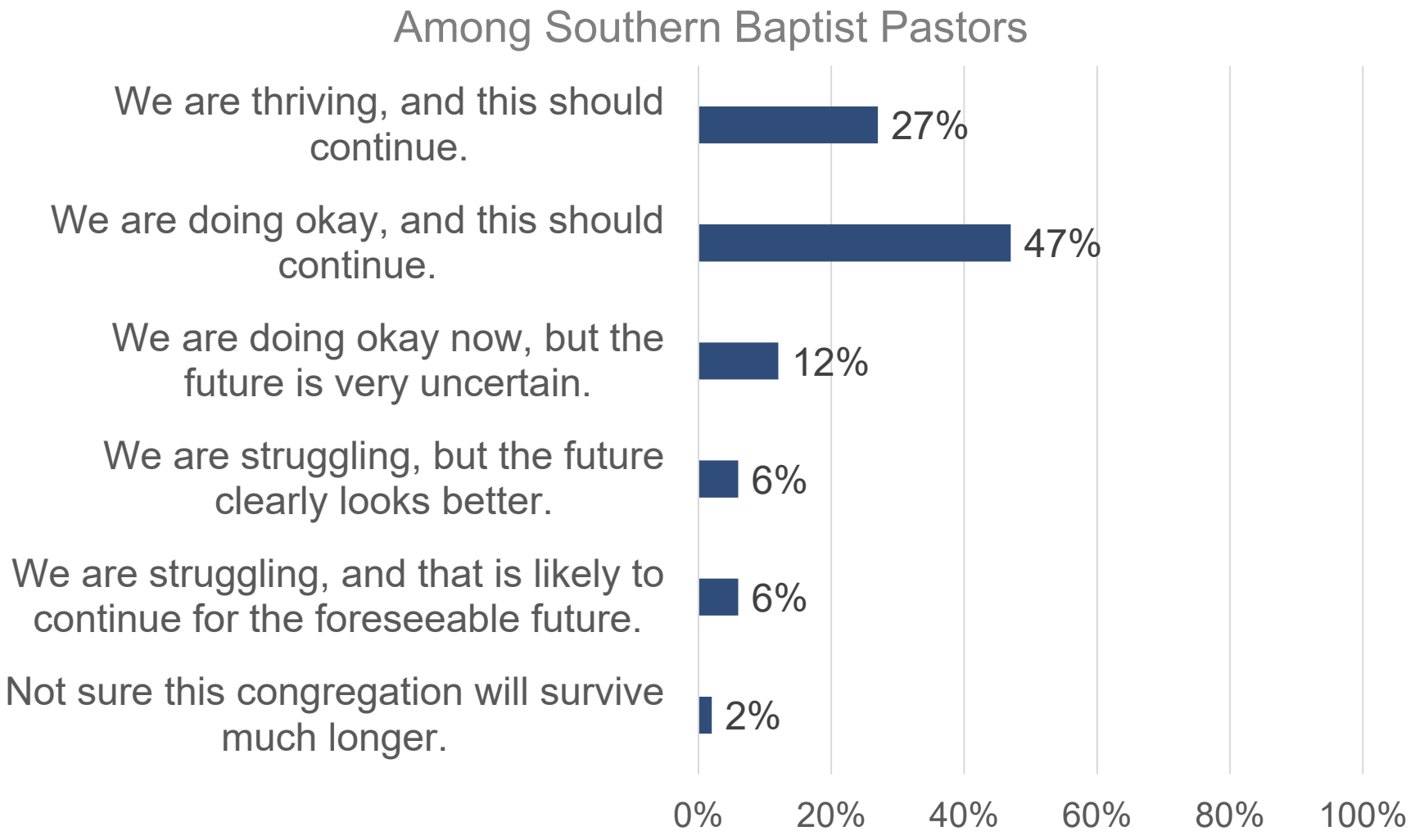
Among Southern Baptist Pastors



Lifeway Research

Q68 “How would you rate the level of tension in your congregation surrounding social and political issues (excluding COVID-19) now compared to 2020?” Now n=795, 2020 n=773

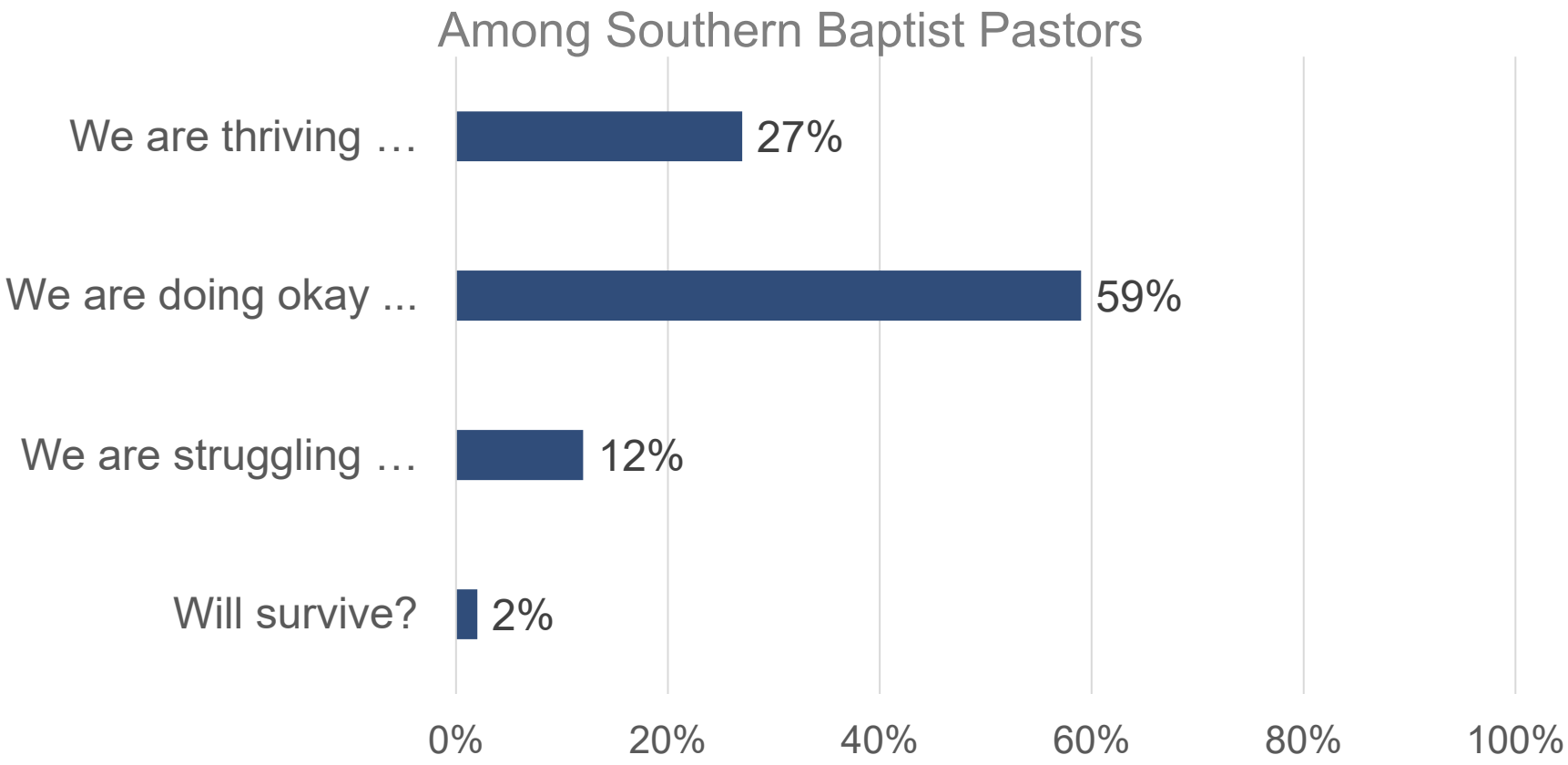
“Which of the following best describes your sense of this congregation’s future?”



Lifeway Research

Q69 “Which of the following best describes your sense of this congregation’s future?” n=821

“Which of the following best describes your sense of this congregation’s future?” *Combined Categories*



Pastors age 18-44 (40%) are more likely to select “We are thriving…” than those age 45-54 (26%), 55-64 (30%), and 65+ (18%)

Lifeway Research

Q69 “Which of the following best describes your sense of this congregation’s future?” n=821