

# American Views of Homosexuality

Survey of Over 2,000 American  
Adults

# Methodology

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- ❑ The online survey of adult Americans was conducted September 23 – 26, 2011
- ❑ A sample of an online panel representing the adult population of the US was invited to participate
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region, party, age, race, religion, gender and education to more accurately reflect the population

# Methodology Continued

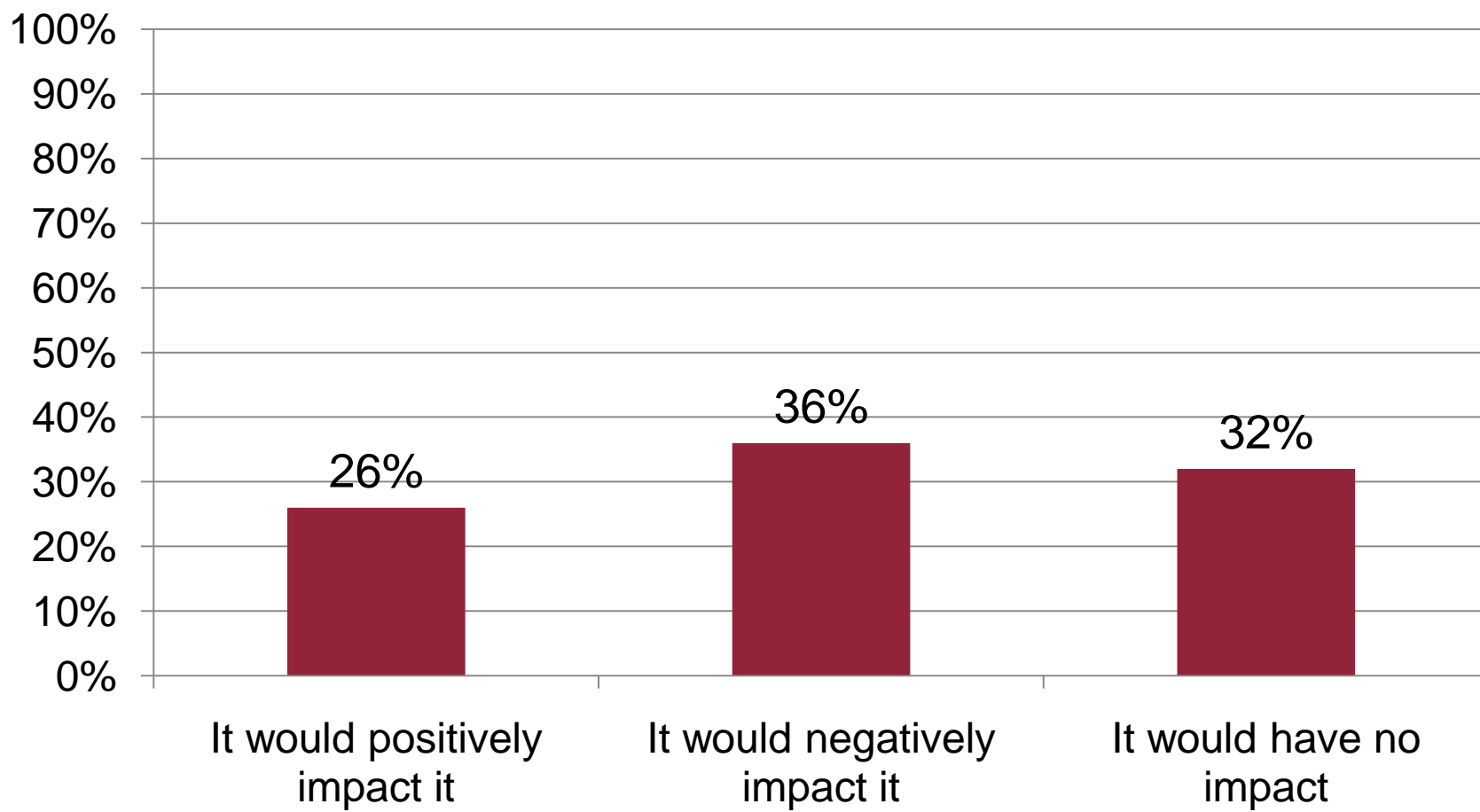
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- ❑ The completed sample is 2,144 online surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 2.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses

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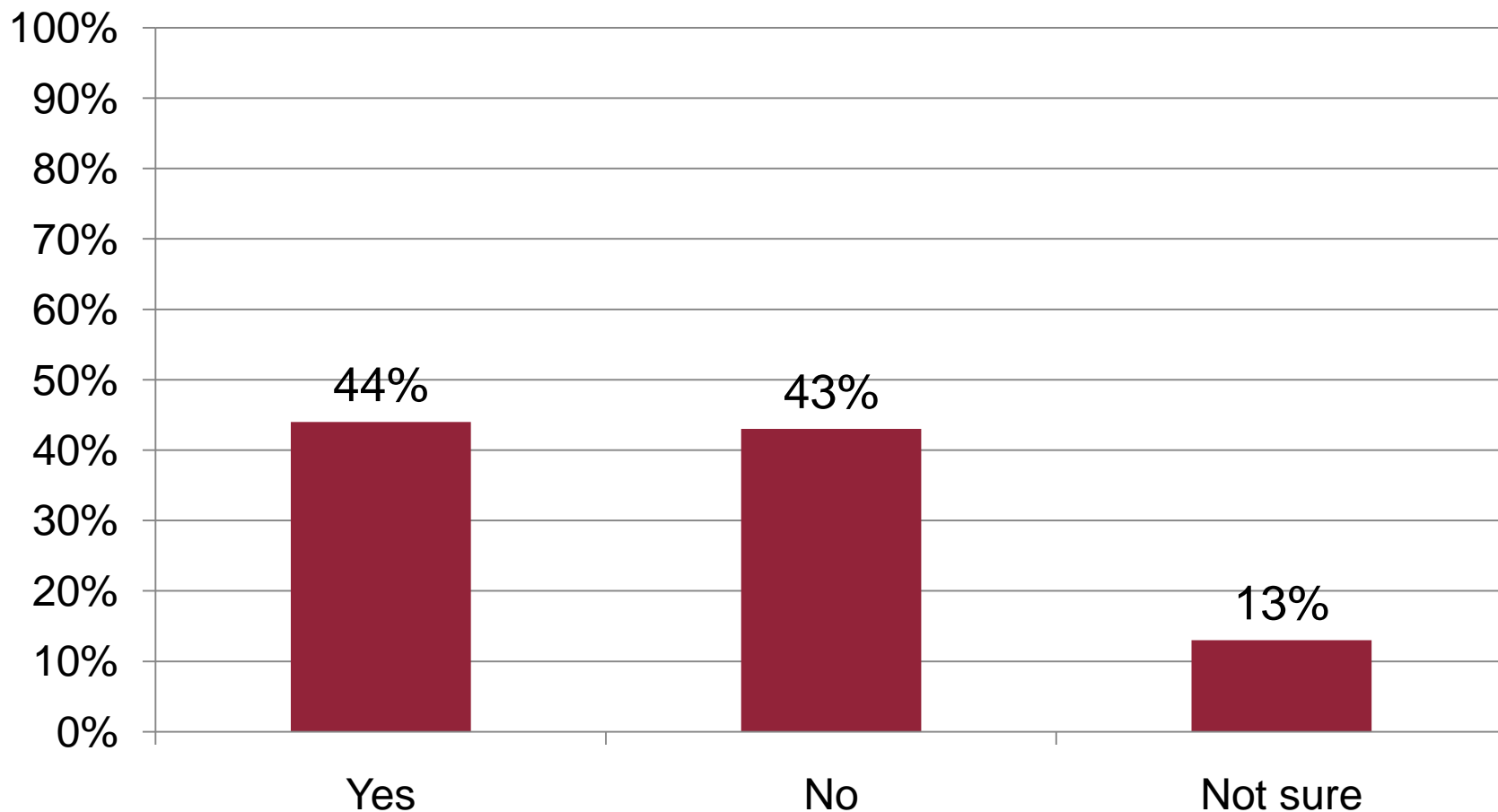
# American responses to visiting or joining a church that teaches homosexuality is a sin are split among the three options but lean negative.



6% Not sure

Q: "If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?"

# There is a nearly even split among Americans as to whether homosexuality is a sin.



Q: "Do you believe homosexual behavior is a sin?"

# Comparison between beliefs about homosexual behavior and impact on visiting or joining a church.

Do you believe homosexual behavior is a sin?

Would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision to visit or join?	Yes	No	Not sure
It would positively impact it	54%	2%	8%
It would negatively impact it	6%	74%	12%
It would have no impact	36%	21%	54%
Not sure	4%	3%	25%

**“If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?”**

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- Americans age 18-29 (19%) are the least likely to state it would impact their decision positively.
- Americans age 65+ are the most likely (35%) to state it would positively impact their decision and the least likely (29%) to state it would negatively impact their decision.
- American in the Midwest (29%) are the least likely to say it would negatively impact their decision.
- American in the West (25%) are the least likely to say it would have no impact.



**“If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?” continued**

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- Americans with a college degree are
  - Less likely to state positive impact (23% to 27%)
  - More likely to state negative impact (45% to 31%)
  - Less likely to state no impact (27% to 35%)than American with no college degree.
- Men when compared to women are more likely to state it would impact their decision positively (29% to 22%) and less likely to state it would impact their decision negatively (34% to 38%).

**“If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?” continued**

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- Americans who consider themselves to be a born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian are
    - More likely to state positive impact on decision (57% to 13%)
    - Less likely to select negative impact on decision (10% to 44%)
    - Less likely to state no impact on decision (29% to 39%)
- compared to Americans who do not.

**“If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?” continued**

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- Americans who never attend a place of worship are the
  - Least likely to state positive impact (3%)
  - Most likely to state negative impact (72%)
  - Least likely to select “depends on the religion” (4%)
- Americans who attend a place of worship weekly+ are the most likely to select positive impact (56%) with those attending weekly (34%) the next most likely.
- Americans who attend weekly+ (21%) and weekly (24%) are the least likely to select negative impact.
- Americans who attend weekly+ (18%) and never (16%) are the least likely to select no impact on their decision.

**“If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?” continued**

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- Americans in rural areas (38%) are the most likely to select positive impact on their decision.
- Americans in large (44%) and small (43%) cities are more likely to select it would impact their decision negatively compared to those in suburbs (32%) and rural areas (26%).
- Americans in suburbs (37%) are the most likely to select it would have no impact on their decision.

**“If you were considering visiting or joining a church, would knowing that the church taught that homosexual behavior was sinful impact your decision positively or negatively or have no impact?” continued**

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- Americans in rural areas (38%) are the most likely to select positive impact on their decision.
- Americans in large (44%) and small (43%) cities are more likely to select it would impact their decision negatively compared to those in suburbs (32%) and rural areas (26%).
- Americans in suburbs (37%) are the most likely to select it would have no impact on their decision.

# “Do you believe homosexual behavior is a sin?”

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- American in the Midwest are the least likely to say “No” (35%) and the most likely to say “Not sure” (18%).
- Americans with a college degree are less likely to say “Yes” (35% to 49%) and more likely to say “No” (52% to 38%) compare to American with no college degree.
- Men are more likely than women to say “Yes” (47% to 40%) and less likely to say “Not sure” (11% to 15%).

# “Do you believe homosexual behavior is a sin?” continued

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- Americans who consider themselves to be a born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian are
  - More likely to select “Yes” (82% to 29%)
  - Less likely to select “No” (14% to 51%)
  - Less likely to select “Not sure” (5% to 20%)compared to Americans who do not.

# “Do you believe homosexual behavior is a sin?” continued

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- Americans who never attend a place of worship are the
  - Least likely to select “Yes” (8%)
  - Most likely to select “No” (88%)
  - Least likely to “Not sure” (4%)
- Americans who attend a place of worship weekly+ are the most likely to select “Yes” (71%) with those attending weekly (55%) the next most likely.
- Americans who attend a place of worship weekly+ are the least likely to select “No” (17%) with those attending weekly (30%) the next least likely.
- Americans in rural areas (59%) are the most likely to select “Yes” and the least likely to select “No” (26%).



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