

# American Views of Mental Health Issues

Survey of 1,001 American Adults



# Methodology

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- ❑ The telephone survey of adult Americans was conducted September 6-10, 2013
- ❑ Interviews were conducted in either English or Spanish
- ❑ Both listed and unlisted numbers were called and approximately 20% of the sample was reached by cell phone
- ❑ Responses were weighted by age, gender, education, race/Hispanic ethnicity, region and CBSA market size more accurately reflect the population

# Methodology Continued

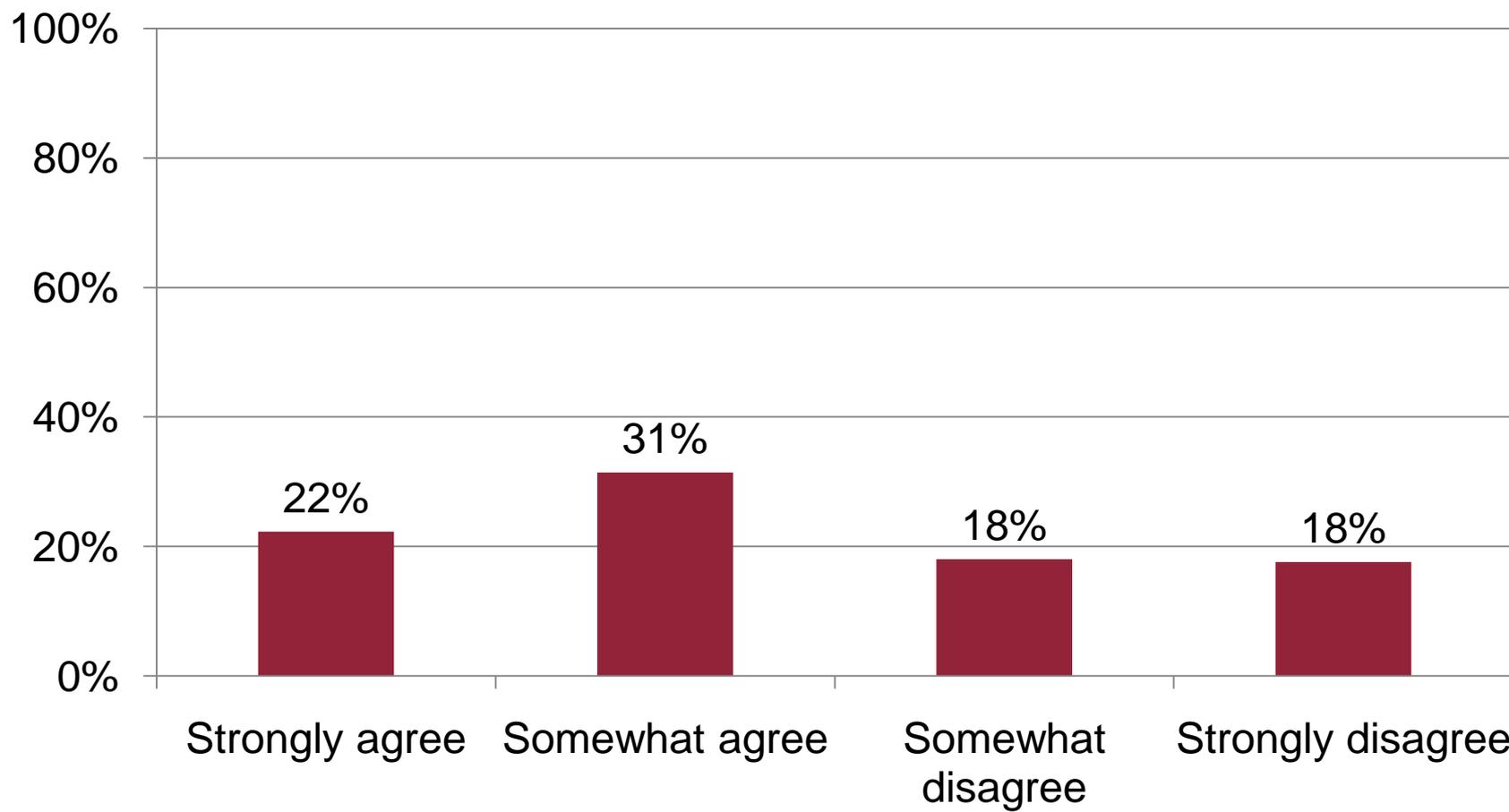
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- ❑ The completed sample is 1,001 phone surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points.
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses

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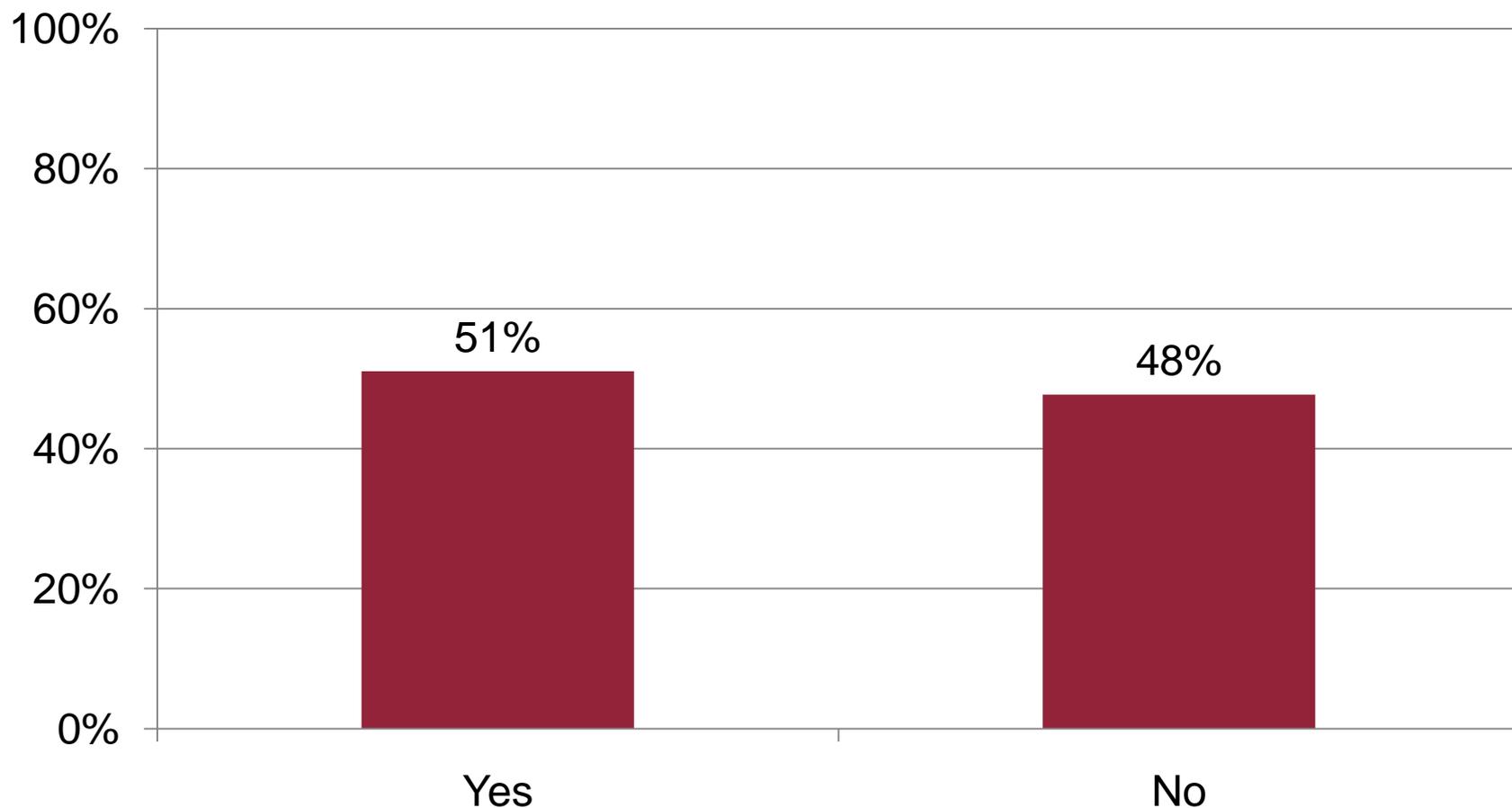
# Slightly more than half of Americans feel Christians churches should do more to prevent suicide in America.



11% Don't know / Not sure

Q: "Christian churches should do more to prevent suicide in America today."

# Just over half of Americans state someone close to them has experienced mental health issues.

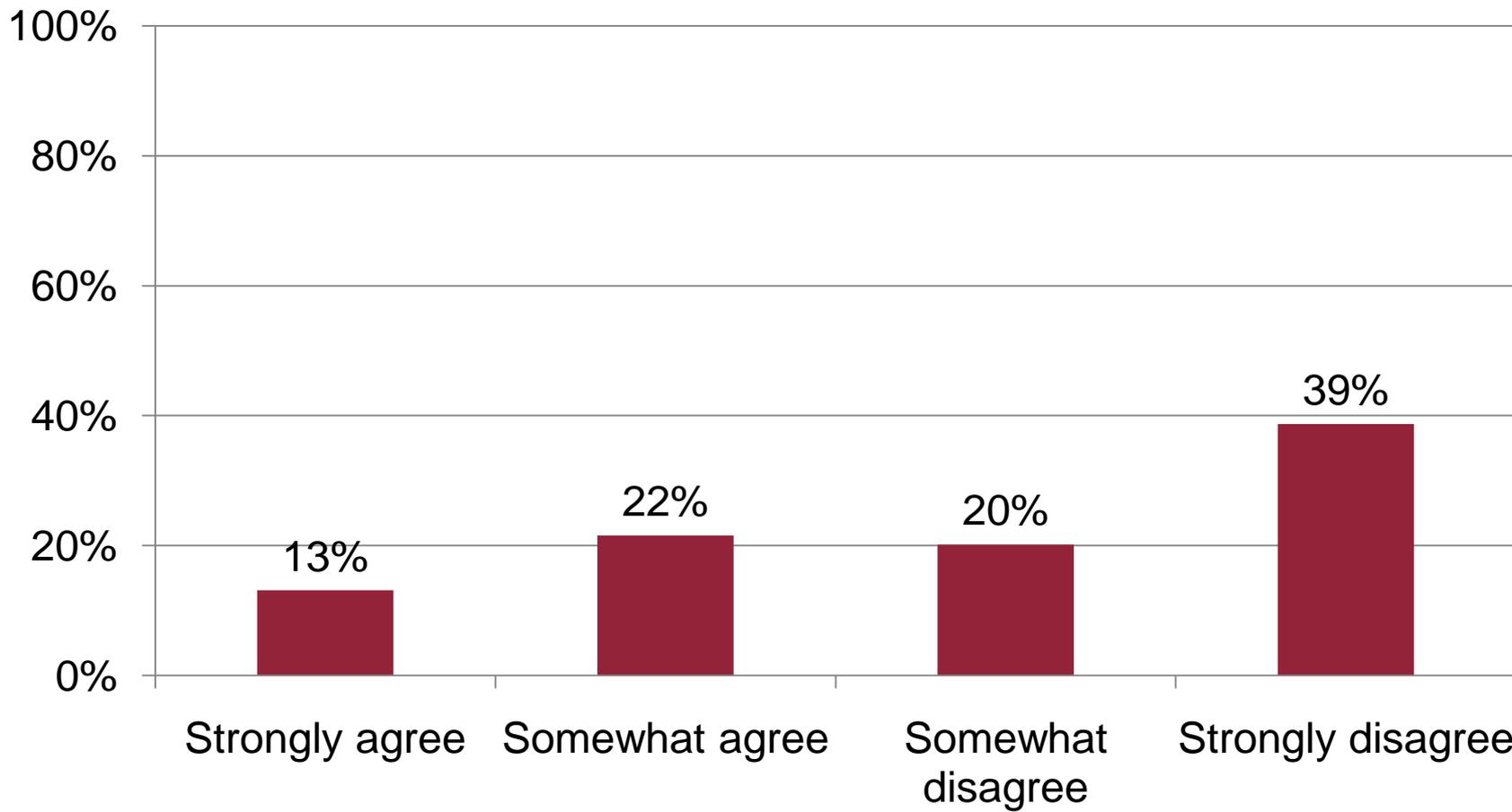


1% Don't know / Not sure

Q: "Someone close to me has experienced mental health issues."



# About 60% of Americans disagree that Bible study and prayer alone can overcome mental illness.

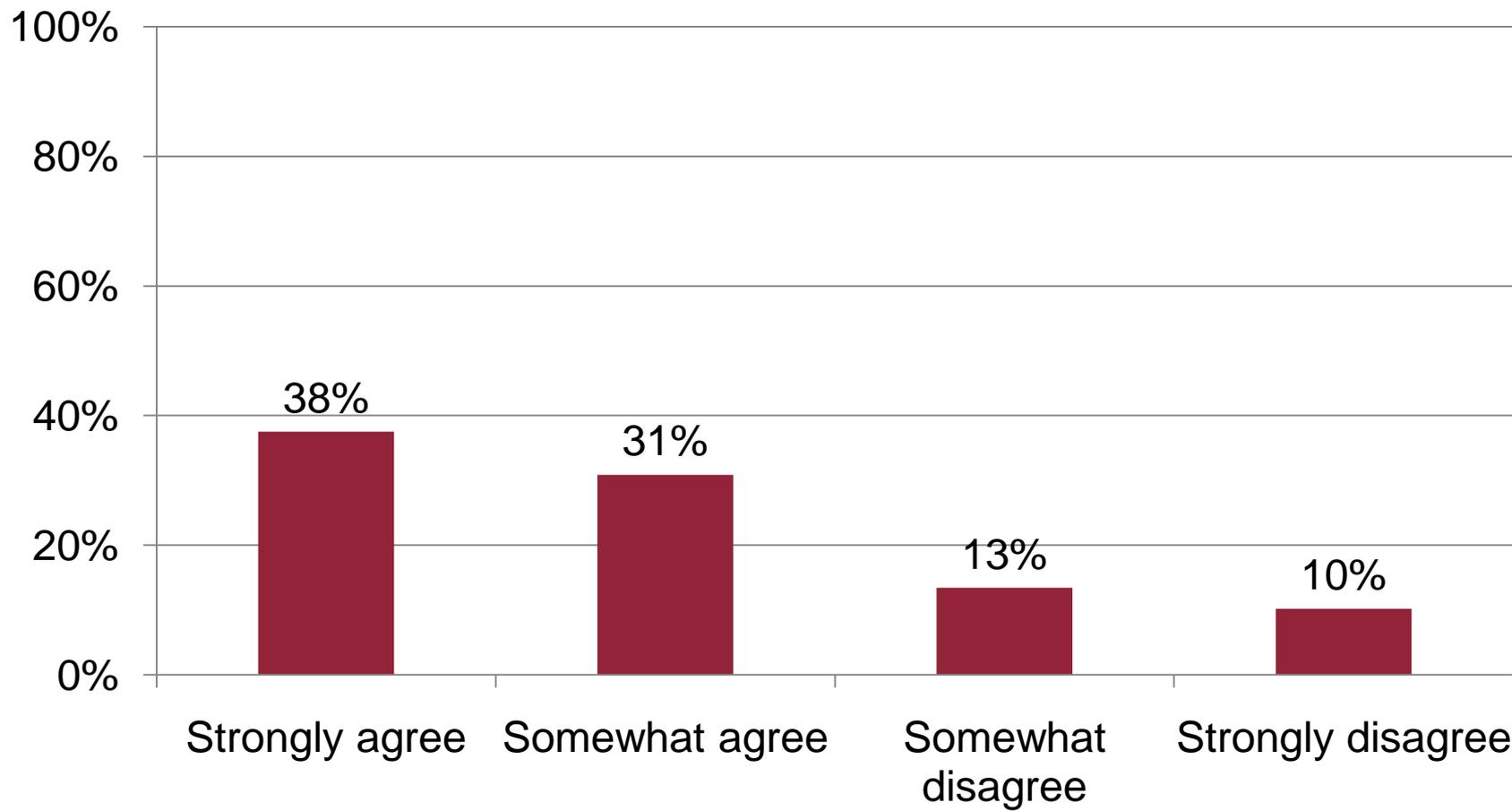


6% Don't know / Not sure

Q: "With just Bible study and prayer ALONE, people with serious mental illness like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia can overcome mental illness."



# Nearly 70% of Americans believe churches would welcome them if they had a mental health issue.



8% Don't know / Not sure

Q: "If I had a mental health issue, I believe most churches would welcome me."

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# Significant Differences

Region

Age

Gender

Education Level

Church Attendance

Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among region of the country, age, gender, and education level. Each category was divided into four groups.

| Region    | Age   | Gender | Education Level   |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------------------|
| Northeast | 18-29 | Male   | No College Degree |
| Midwest   | 30-44 | Female | College Degree    |
| South     | 45-54 |        |                   |
| West      | 55-64 |        |                   |
|           | 65+   |        |                   |

Notes:

Region is defined by US Census locations

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences in church attendance and whether they consider themselves a born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian.

| Church Attendance                           | Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian |
|---|--|
| More than once a week,<br>About once a week | Yes  |
| Once or twice a month                       | No, Don't Know                                       |
| Only on religious holidays                  |  |
| Rarely                                      |  |
| Never                                       |  |

# **“Christian churches should do more to prevent suicide in America today.”**

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- Americans in the Northeast (29%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Midwest (19%) and West (16%)
- Americans in the South (35%) are more likely to Somewhat agree than those in the Northeast (26%)
- Americans in the South (11%) are the least likely to Strongly disagree
- Americans age 45-54 (26%), 55-64 (30%), and 65+ (26%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those age 18-29 (17%) and 30-44 (16%)
- Americans age 18-29 (43%) are the most likely to Somewhat agree
- Americans age 45-54 (20%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those age 55-6 (12%)
- Americans with a college degree as compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (16% to 24%)
  - More likely to Somewhat agree (40% to 30%)

# “Christian churches should do more to prevent suicide in America today.”

## continued

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- Americans who attend Once or twice a month (32%) are more likely to Strongly agree than who attend Rarely (17%) and Never (21%)
- Americans who attend at least About once a week (38%) are more likely to Somewhat agree than who attend Rarely (28%) and Never (26%)
- Americans who Rarely (24%) attend are more likely to Strongly disagree compare to those who attend at least About once a week (14%) and Once or twice a month (12%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (33% to 16%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (13% to 20%)
- Americans with a religious preference of Protestant or Non-denominational are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (29% to 20%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (12% to 19%)

# “Someone close to me has experienced mental health issues.”

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- Americans in the South (47%) are less likely to say Yes compared to those in the Northeast (56%) and West (56%)
- Americans age 65+ (37%) are less likely to say Yes than those age 18-29 (54%), 30-44 (58%), and 45-54 (57%)
- Americans age 65+ (62%) are more likely to say No than those age 18-29 (45%), 30-44 (42%), and 45-54 (41%)
- Women as compared to men are
  - More likely to say Yes (56% to 46%)
  - Less likely to say No (43% to 52%)
- Americans with a religious preference of Protestant or Non-denominational are
  - More likely to say Yes (58% to 49%)
  - Less likely to say No (42% to 50%)

# “With just Bible study and prayer ALONE, people with serious mental illness like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia can overcome mental illness.”

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- Americans in the West (28%) are more likely to Somewhat agree compared to those in the Midwest (19%) and South (19%)
- Americans in the Northeast (14%) are less likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those in the South (23%) and West (22%)
- Americans in the Midwest (46%) are more likely to Strongly disagree compared to those in the South (33%) and West (35%)
- Americans age 55-64 (8%) are less likely to Strongly agree than those age 18-29 (16%) and 45-54 (15%)
- Americans age 18-29 (34%) are the most likely to Somewhat agree
- Americans age 18-29 (29%) are the least likely to Strongly disagree
- Americans with a college degree as compared to those without one
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (7% to 16%)
  - Less likely to Somewhat agree (16% to 25%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (30% to 19%)

## **“With just Bible study and prayer ALONE, people with serious mental illness like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia can overcome mental illness.” continued**

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- Americans who attend Only on religious holidays (3%) are less likely to Strongly agree than those who attend at least About once a week (17%), Once or twice a month (17%), and Rarely (13%)
- Americans who Never (10%) attend are less likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those who attend at least About once or twice a week (26%), Once or twice a month (25%), and Only on religious holidays (24%)
- Americans who attend at least About once a week (27%) are the least likely to Strongly disagree
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (23% to 8%)
  - More likely to Somewhat agree (25% to 20%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (24% to 18%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (24% to 47%)

**“With just Bible study and prayer ALONE, people with serious mental illness like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia can overcome mental illness.” continued**

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- Americans with a religious preference of Protestant or Non-denominational are
  - More likely to Somewhat agree (28% to 20%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (26% to 18%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (28% to 42%)

# “If I had a mental health issue, I believe most churches would welcome me.”

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- Americans in the Midwest (36%) are more likely to Somewhat agree than those in the Northeast (26%)
- Americans in the West (19%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree than those in the Midwest (8%) and South (13%)
- Americans age 18-29 (49%) are the most likely to Strongly agree and the least likely to Strongly disagree (3%)
- Americans with a college degree as compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (31% to 41%)
  - More likely to Somewhat agree (40% to 27%)
- Americans who attend at least About once a week (46%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those who attend Only on religious holidays (26%), Rarely (35%), and Never (25%)
- Americans who attend Only on religious holidays (54%) are the most likely to Somewhat agree

# “If I had a mental health issue, I believe most churches would welcome me.”

## continued

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- Americans who Never (19%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those who attend at least About once a week (6%), Only on religious holidays (3%), and Rarely (10%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (47% to 32%)
  - Less likely to Somewhat agree (22% to 36%)
- Americans with a religious preference of Protestant or Non-denominational are more likely to Somewhat disagree (20% to 11%)

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