

Views on Ethnicity and the Church

From Surveys of Protestant Pastors
and Adult Americans

Protestant Pastors Views on Ethnicity and the Church

Survey of 1,007 Protestant Pastors

Methodology

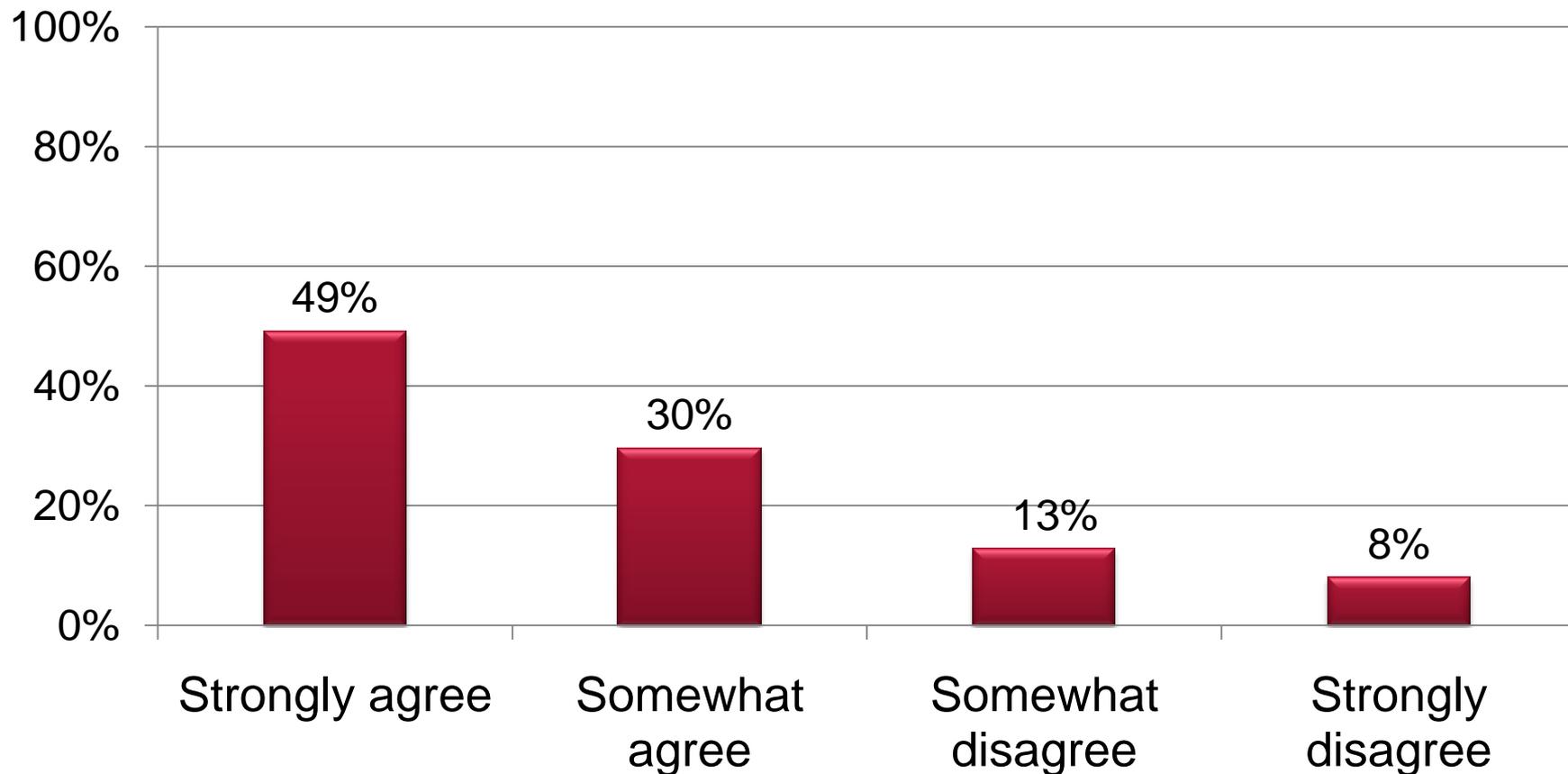
- ❑ The telephone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted in September 4 – 19, 2013
- ❑ The calling list was randomly drawn from a stratified list of Protestant churches. Up to six calls were made to reach a sampled phone number
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted to reflect the geographic distribution and denominational groups of Protestant churches

Methodology Continued

- The completed sample is 1,007 phone interviews and provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

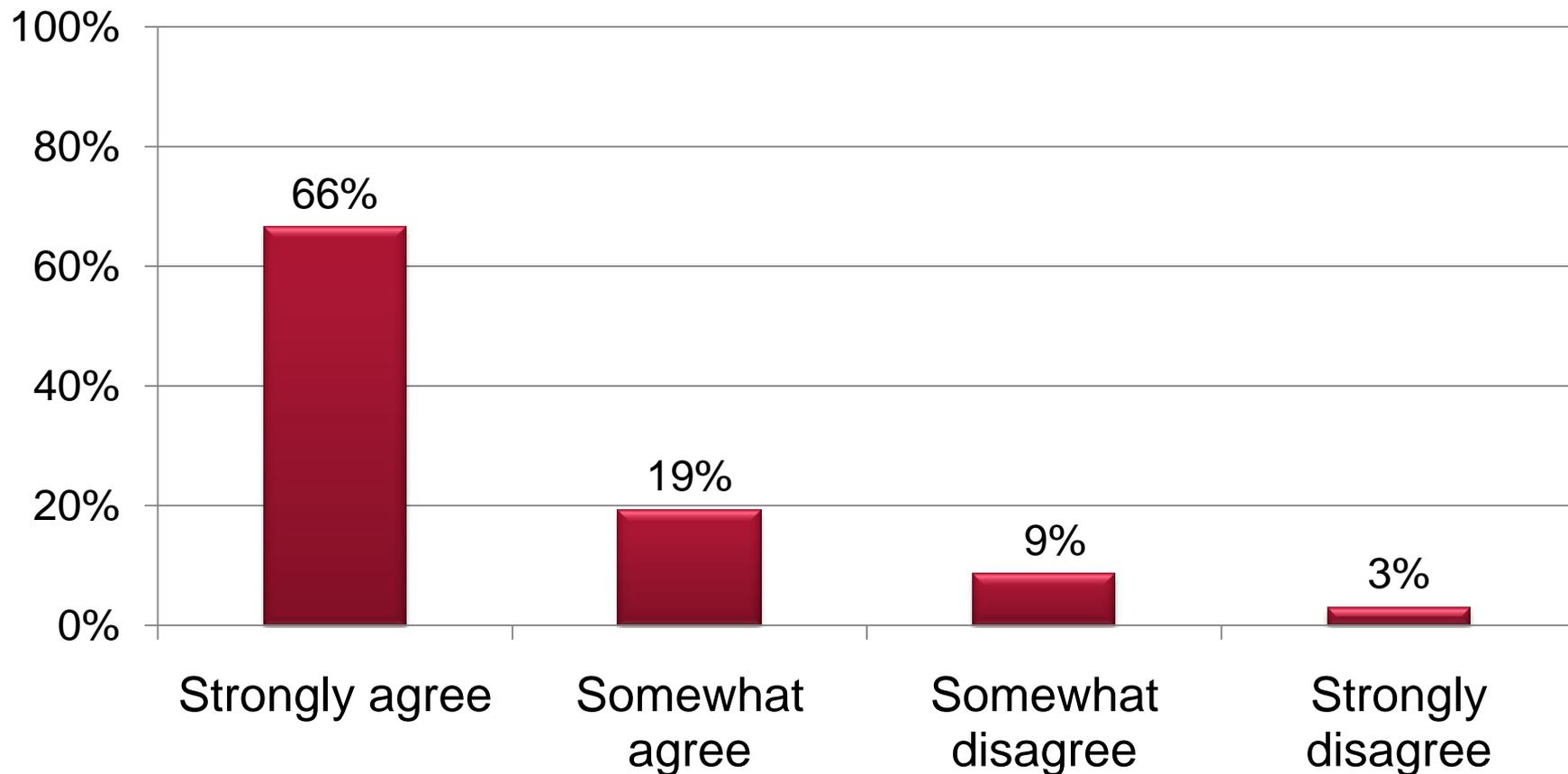
Survey Responses

Almost 80% of pastors agree the race and ethnicity demographics of their church are similar to their community.



1% Don't know

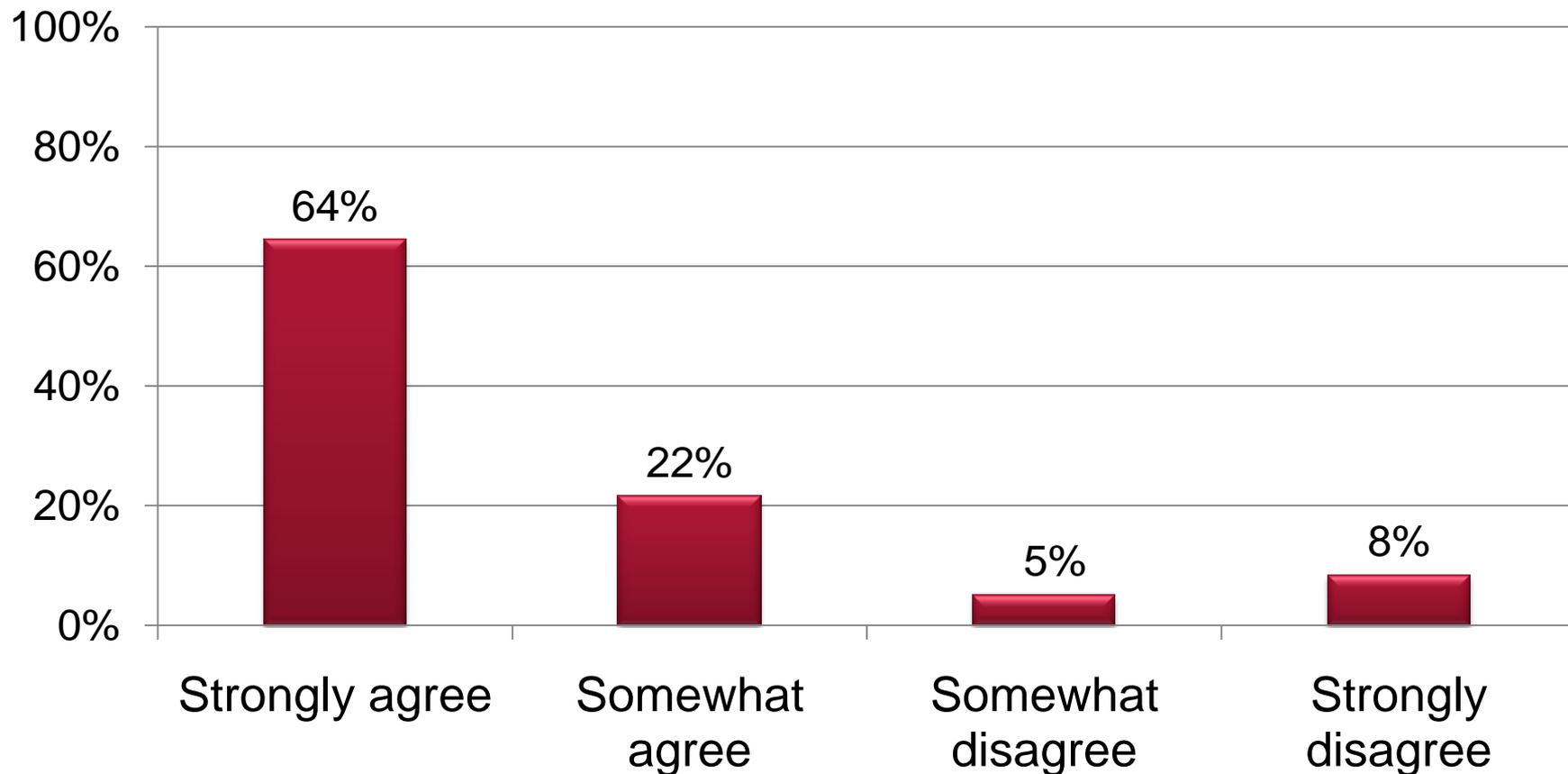
Over 80% of pastors agree every church should strive to achieve racial diversity.



3% Don't know

"Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity."

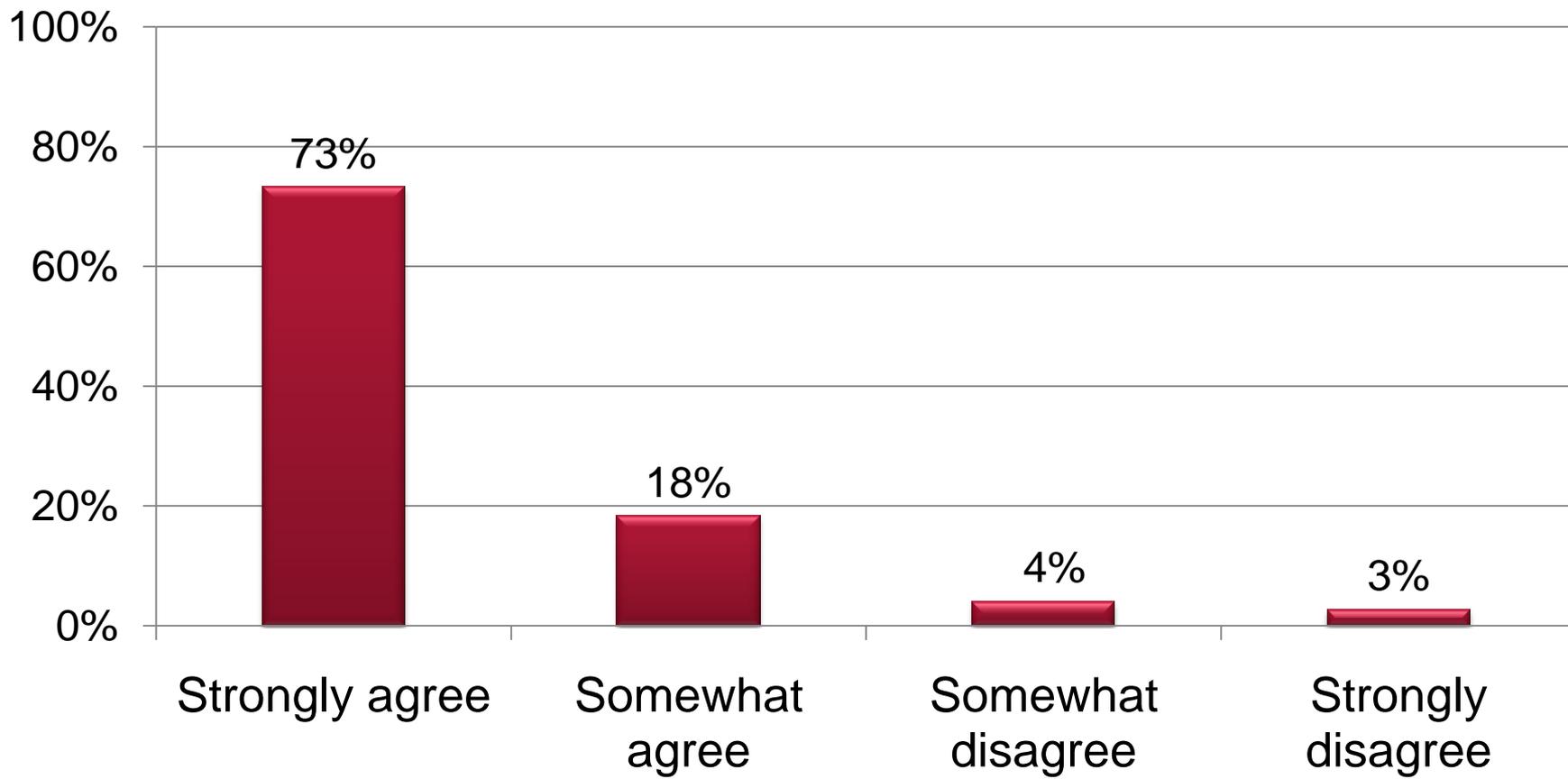
The overwhelming majority of churches are predominantly one racial or ethnic group.



1% Don't know

"My church is predominantly one racial or ethnic group."

Over 90% of pastors agree churches should reflect the racial diversity of community.



2% Don't know

“Churches should reflect the racial diversity of their community.”



Significant Differences

Church Size

Region

Pastor Age

Significant Statistical Differences

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

Church Size	Region	Pastor Age
0-49 attendees	Northeast	18-44
50-99 attendees	Midwest	45-54
100-249 attendees	South	55-64
250+ attendees	West	65+

Notes:

Church Size is based on the average weekly worship attendance

Region is defined by US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among self-identifying Evangelical and Mainline pastors, and education levels.

Identification	Education
Evangelical	No college degree
Mainline	College degree

“In regard to race and ethnicity, our church looks very similar to the people who live in the community around our church.”

- No significant statistical differences across church sizes
- Pastors in the South are the least likely to Strongly agree (41%) and the most likely to Strongly disagree (12%)
- Pastors age 65+ (60%) are the most likely to Strongly agree
- Pastors age 65+ (7%) are less likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those age 18-44 (16%) and 55-64 (15%)
- Pastors age 65+ (4%) are less likely to Strongly disagree compared to those age 18-44 (9%) and 45-54 (11%)
- Self-identified Evangelical pastors are less likely to Somewhat disagree compared to Mainline pastors (12% to 20%)
- Pastors with a college degree as compared to those without one are
 - Less likely to Strongly agree (47% to 61%)
 - More likely to Strongly disagree (9% to 3%)

“Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity.”

- No significant statistical differences across church sizes
- Pastors in the South (70%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Midwest (61%)
- Pastors in the South (16%) are less likely to Somewhat agree than those in the Midwest (24%)
- Pastors in the West (12%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree than those in the Northeast (5%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (71%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those age 55-64 (63%)
- Self-identified Evangelical pastors are less likely to Strongly agree compared to Mainline pastors (63% to 70%)
- Pastors with a college degree as compared to those without one are
 - Less likely to Strongly agree (65% to 75%)
 - More likely to Somewhat disagree (9% to 4%)

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

- Pastors of churches 250+ (52%) are the least likely to Strongly agree
- Pastors of churches 250+ (29%) are more likely to Somewhat agree than pastors of churches 100-249 (19%)
- Pastors of churches 250+ (9%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree than pastors of churches 0-49 (3%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (73%) and Midwest (72%) are more likely to Strongly agree than pastors in the South (60%) and West (54%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (18%) are less likely to Somewhat agree than those in the South (24%) and West (27%)
- Pastors in the South (7%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree than those in the Northeast (2%) and Midwest (4%)
- Pastors in the West (13%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Midwest (6%)

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

- Pastors age 18-44 (8%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree than those age 55-64 (3%)
- Pastors age 65+ (12%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those age 18-44 (6%)
- Self-identified Evangelical pastors as compared to Mainline are
 - Less likely to Strongly agree (65% to 73%)
 - More likely to Somewhat disagree (6% to 2%)
- Pastors with a college degree as compared to those without one are
 - Less likely to Strongly disagree (7% to 13%)

“Churches should reflect the racial diversity of their community.”

- No significant statistical differences across church sizes
- No significant statistical differences across regions
- Pastors age 18-44 (78%) and 45-54 (78%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those age 55-64 (69%) and 65+ (69%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (22%) are more likely to Somewhat agree than those age 18-44 (15%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (6%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree than those age 18-44 (2%) and 45-54 (2%)
- Pastors age 65+ (11%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those age 45-54 (2%) and 55-64 (2%)
- No significant statistical differences between Evangelical and Mainline
- No significant statistical differences across education

American Views on Ethnicity and Church

Survey of 1,036 Americans

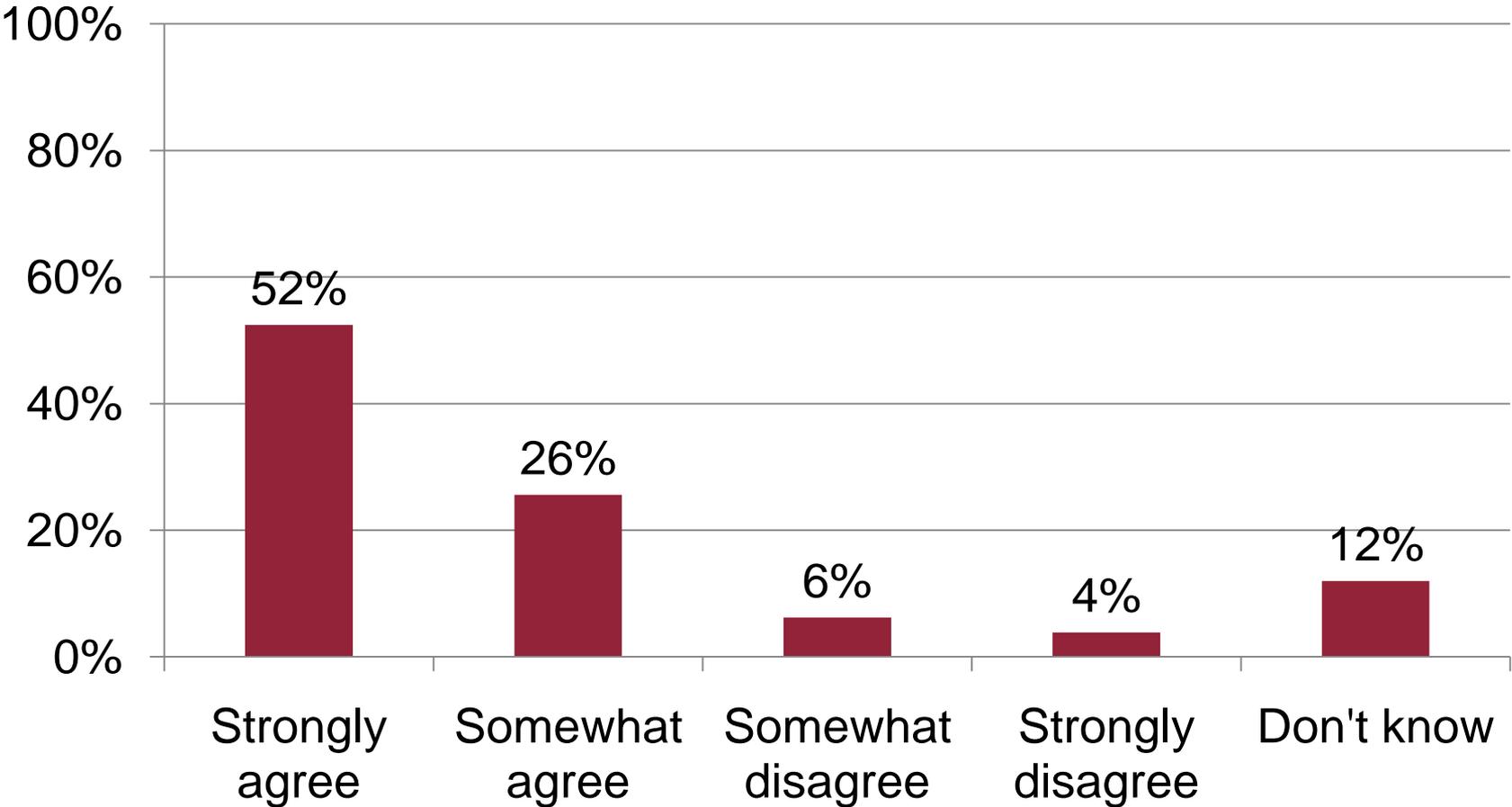


Methodology

- ❑ The online survey of adult Americans was conducted September 6, 2013
- ❑ A sample of an online panel representing the adult population of the US was invited to participate
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region, age, ethnicity, gender and income to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,036 online surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from this panel does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

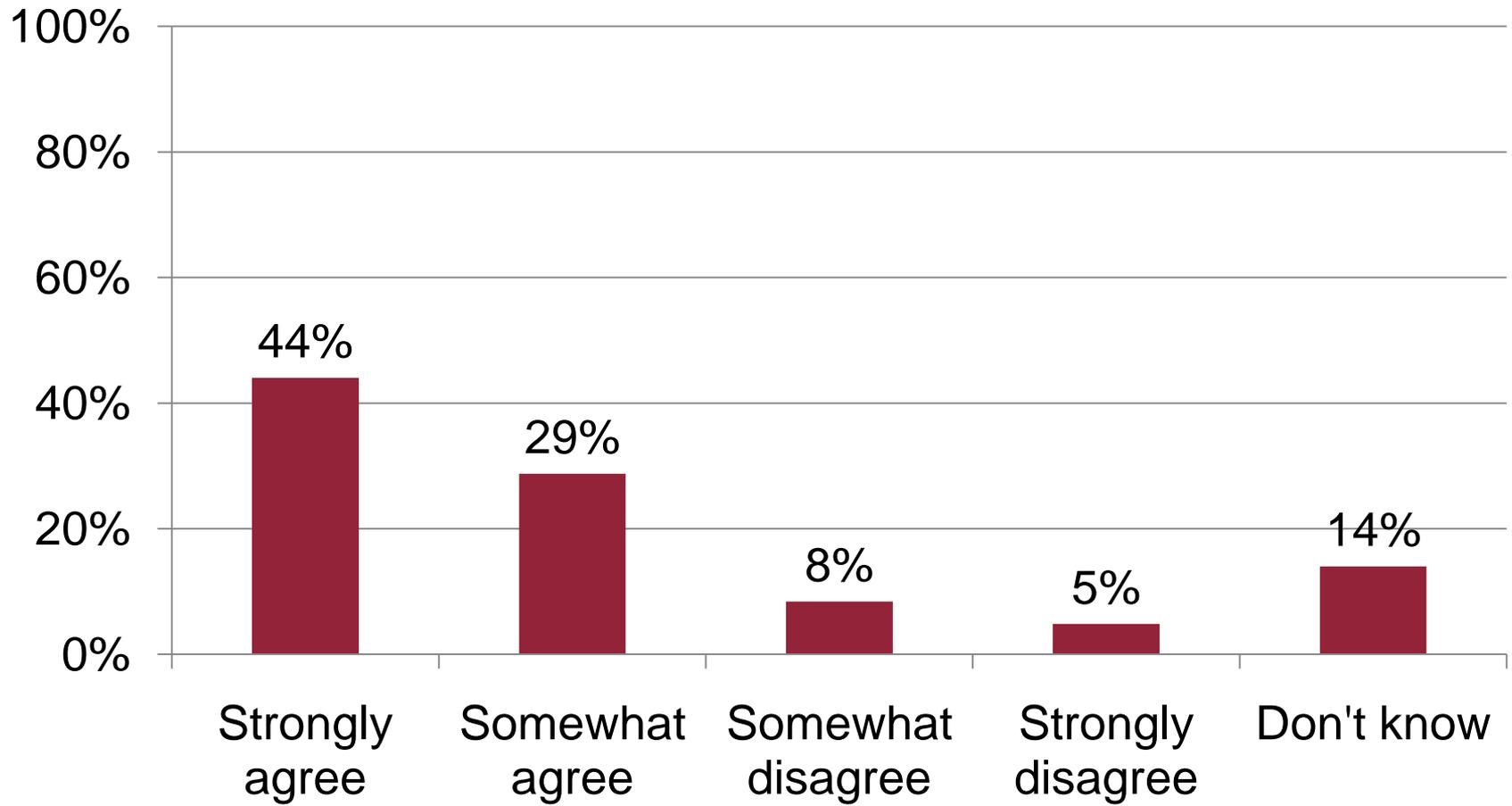
Nearly 80% of Americans agree churches should strive to achieve racial diversity.



Q: "Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity."

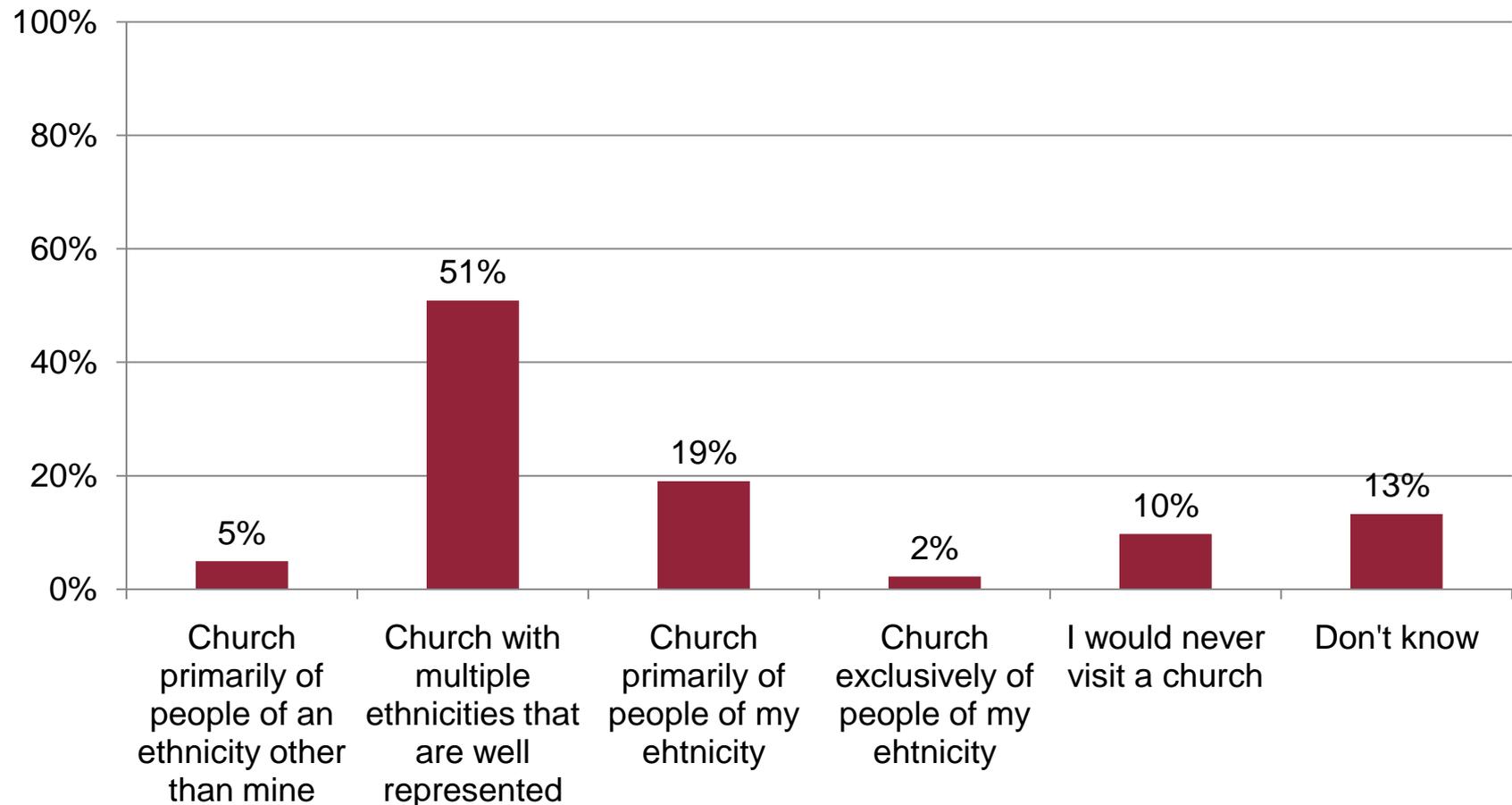


Nearly three-fourths of Americans agree churches should reflect the racial diversity of their community.



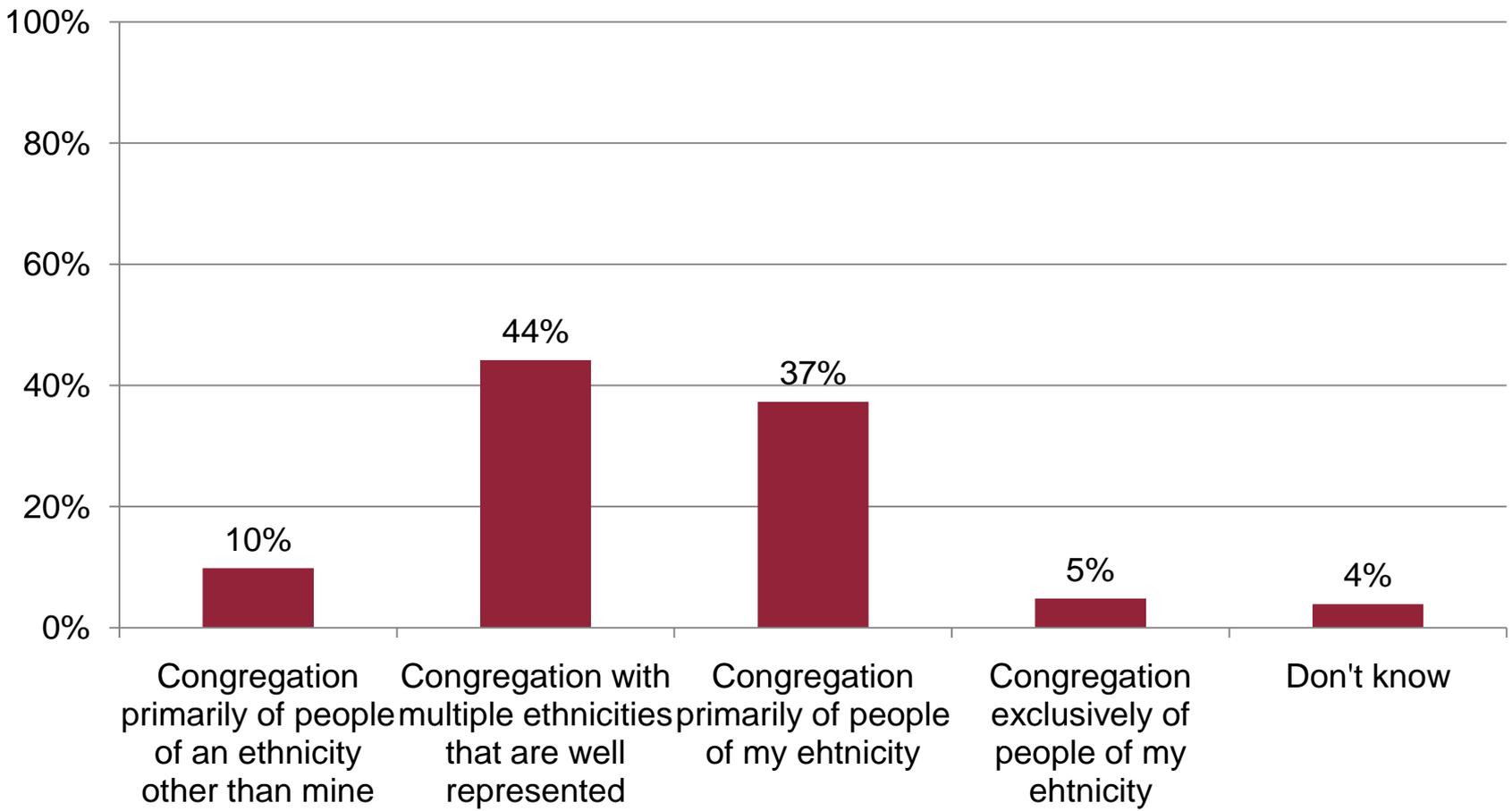
Q: "Churches should reflect the racial diversity of their community."

Half of Americans would be most comfortable visiting a church with multiple ethnicities that are well represented.



Q: "If you were to visit a church, which of the following describes the ethnicity of people you would be most comfortable within that church?"

4 in 10 churchgoers say they attend a congregation with multiple ethnicities well represented.



This question asked only to those who attend worship at least once or twice a month

Q: "Which of the following describes the ethnicity of the congregation at the place of worship where you currently attend?" n = 437



Significant Differences

Region

Age

Gender

Education Level

Frequency of 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 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, About once a week	Yes
Only on religious holidays	No, Don't Know
Rarely	
Never	

“Every church should strive to achieve racial diversity.”

- Women as compared to men are
 - More likely to Strongly Agree (57% to 48%)
 - Less likely to Somewhat Agree (23% to 29%)
 - Less likely to Strongly Disagree (2% to 5%)
- Americans who attend Only on religious holidays (15%) are the most likely to Somewhat Disagree
- Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are more likely to Strongly Agree (58% to 50%)

“Churches should reflect the racial diversity of their community.”

- Americans age 18-29 (33%) are more likely to Somewhat Agree than those age 55-64 (24%)
- Americans age 30-44 (2%) are less likely to Strongly Disagree than those age 45-54 (7%) and 55-64 (7%)
- Women as compared to men are
 - More likely to Strongly Agree (48% to 40%)
 - Less likely to Somewhat Disagree (6% to 10%)
- Americans who attend at least About once a week (52%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than those who attend Only on religious holidays (38%), Rarely (40%), and Never (43%)
- Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are more likely to Strongly Agree (50% to 42%)

“If you were to visit a church, which of the following describes the ethnicity of people you would be most comfortable within that church?”

- Americans in the Northeast (13%) are more likely to “never visit a church” than those in the South (8%)
- Americans age 55-64 (1%) are less likely to select “ethnicity other than mine” than those age 18-29 (8%), 30-44 (6%), and 45-54 (6%)
- Americans age 55-64 (58%) are more likely to select “ethnicities that are well represented” than those age 18-29 (47%) and 30-44 (48%)
- Men as compared to women are
 - More likely to select “ethnicity other than mine” (7% to 3%)
 - Less likely to select “ethnicities that are well represented” (43% to 58%)
 - More likely to select “primarily ... my ethnicity” (23% to 15%)
- Americans with a college degree are more likely to select “primarily ... my ethnicity” (22% to 16%)

“If you were to visit a church, which of the following describes the ethnicity of people you would be most comfortable within that church?” continued

- Americans who attend at least About once a week (10%) are more likely to select “ethnicity other than mine” than those who attend Once or twice a month (3%), Rarely (3%), and Never (2%)
- Americans who Never (14%) attend are less likely to select “primarily ... of my ethnicity” than those who attend Once or twice a month (26%) and Only on religious holidays (25%)
- Americans who Never attend are the least likely to select “ethnicities that are well represented” (31%) and most likely to “never visit a church” (37%)
- Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
 - More likely to select “ethnicities that are well represented” (60% to 47%)
 - Less likely to “never visit a church” (1% to 13%)

“Which of the following describes the ethnicity of the congregation at the place of worship where you currently attend?”

- Americans in the Midwest (14%) are more likely to select “ethnicity other than mine” than those in the South (7%)
- Americans in the Midwest (26%) are least likely to select “ethnicities that are well represented”
- Americans in the Midwest (46%) are more likely to select “primarily ... my ethnicity” than those in the West (29%)
- Americans age 18-29 (19%) are more likely to select “ethnicity other than mine” compared to those age 30-44 (7%), 55-64 (3%), and 65+ (5%)
- Americans age 18-29 (24%) are the least likely to select “primarily ... of my ethnicity”
- Men are more likely to select “ethnicity other than mine” (13% to 6%)
- Americans with a college degree are more likely to select “primarily ... of my ethnicity” (42% to 32%)

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