

Domestic Violence and the Church

Survey of Protestant Pastors

Sponsored by Autumn Miles

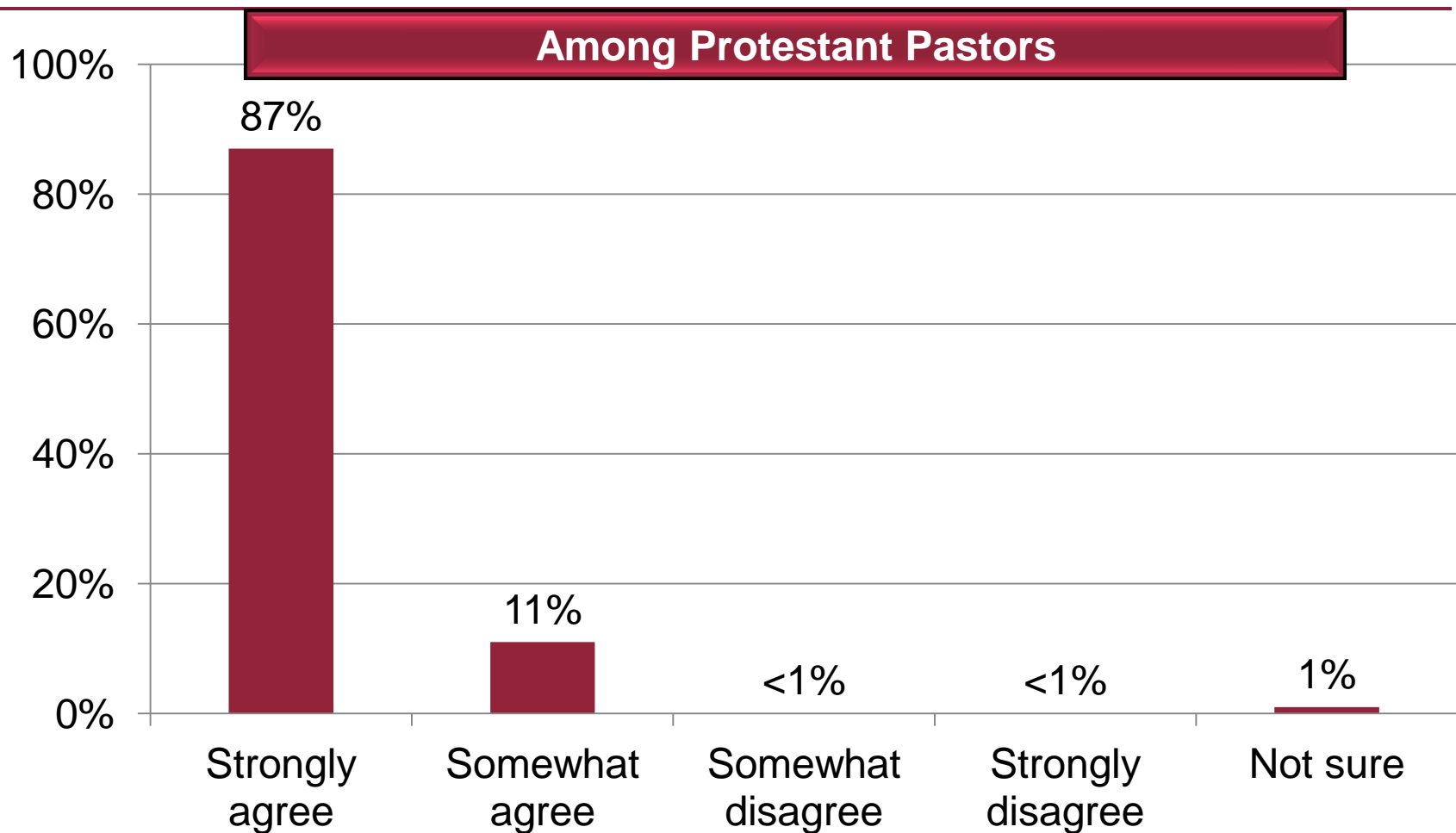


Methodology

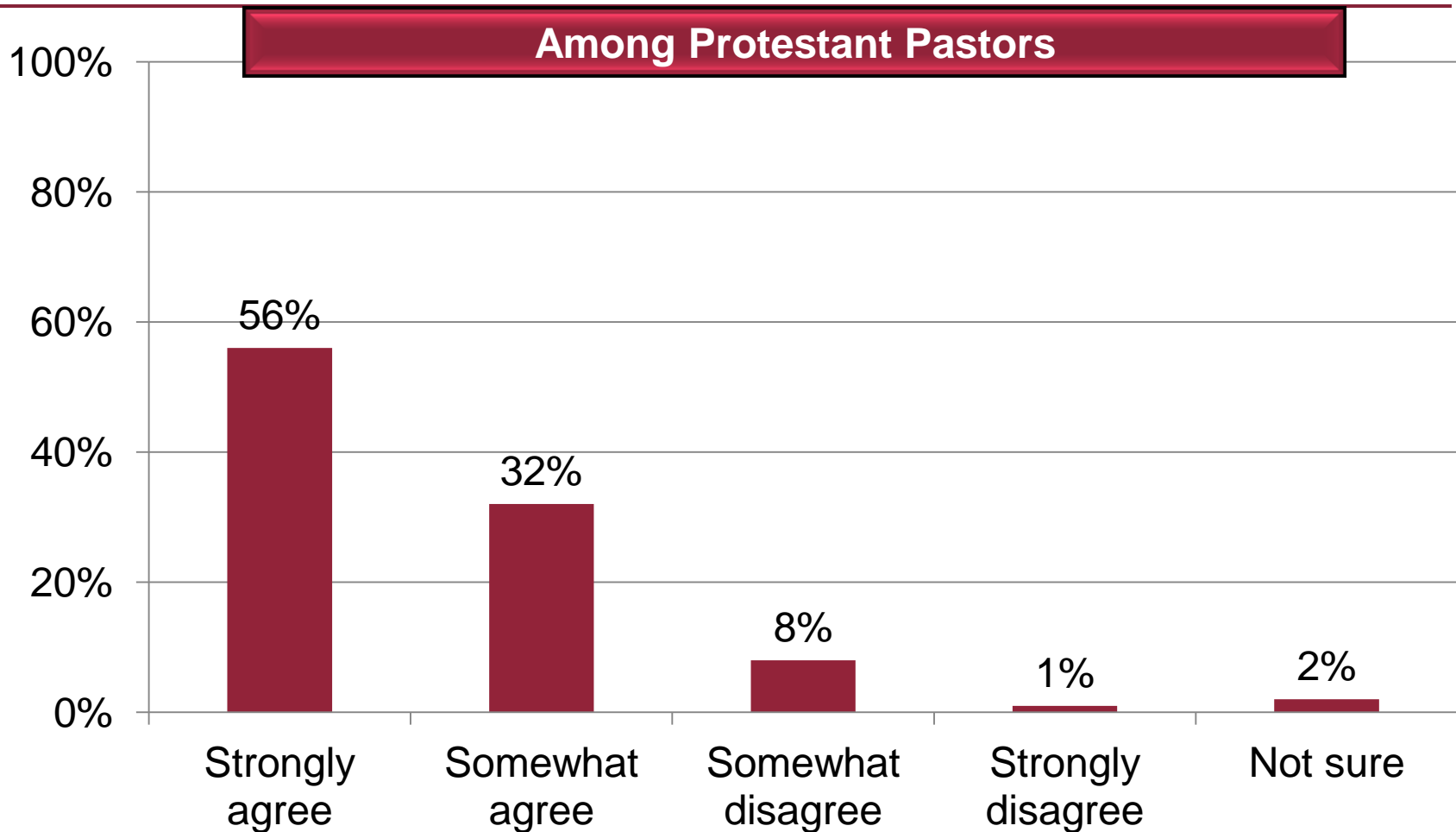
- ❑ The study was sponsored by Autumn Miles.
- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 22 – September 16, 2016
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

98% say a person experiencing domestic violence would find their church to be a safe haven

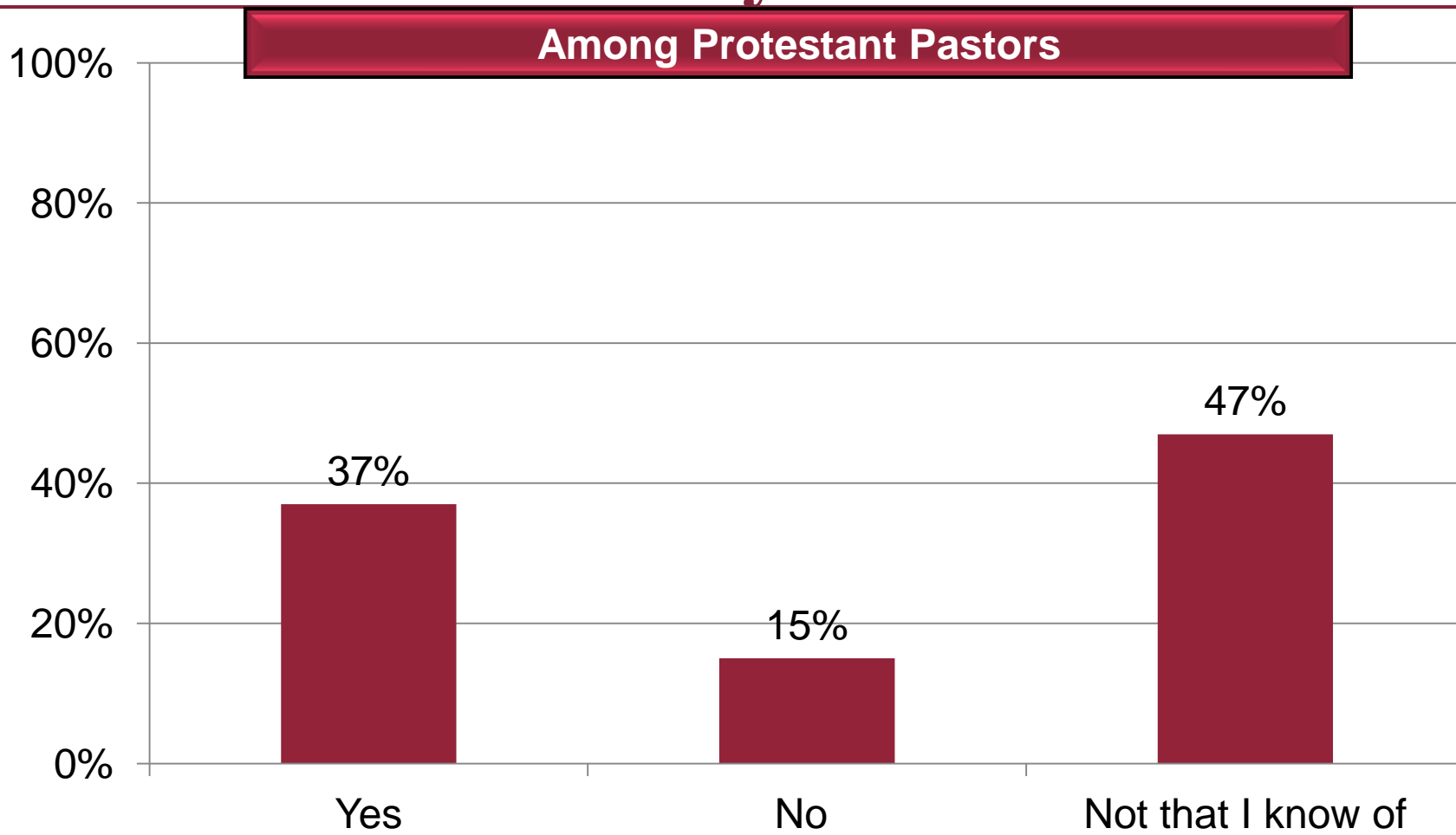


89% regularly communicate that specific behaviors related to domestic violence are not OK



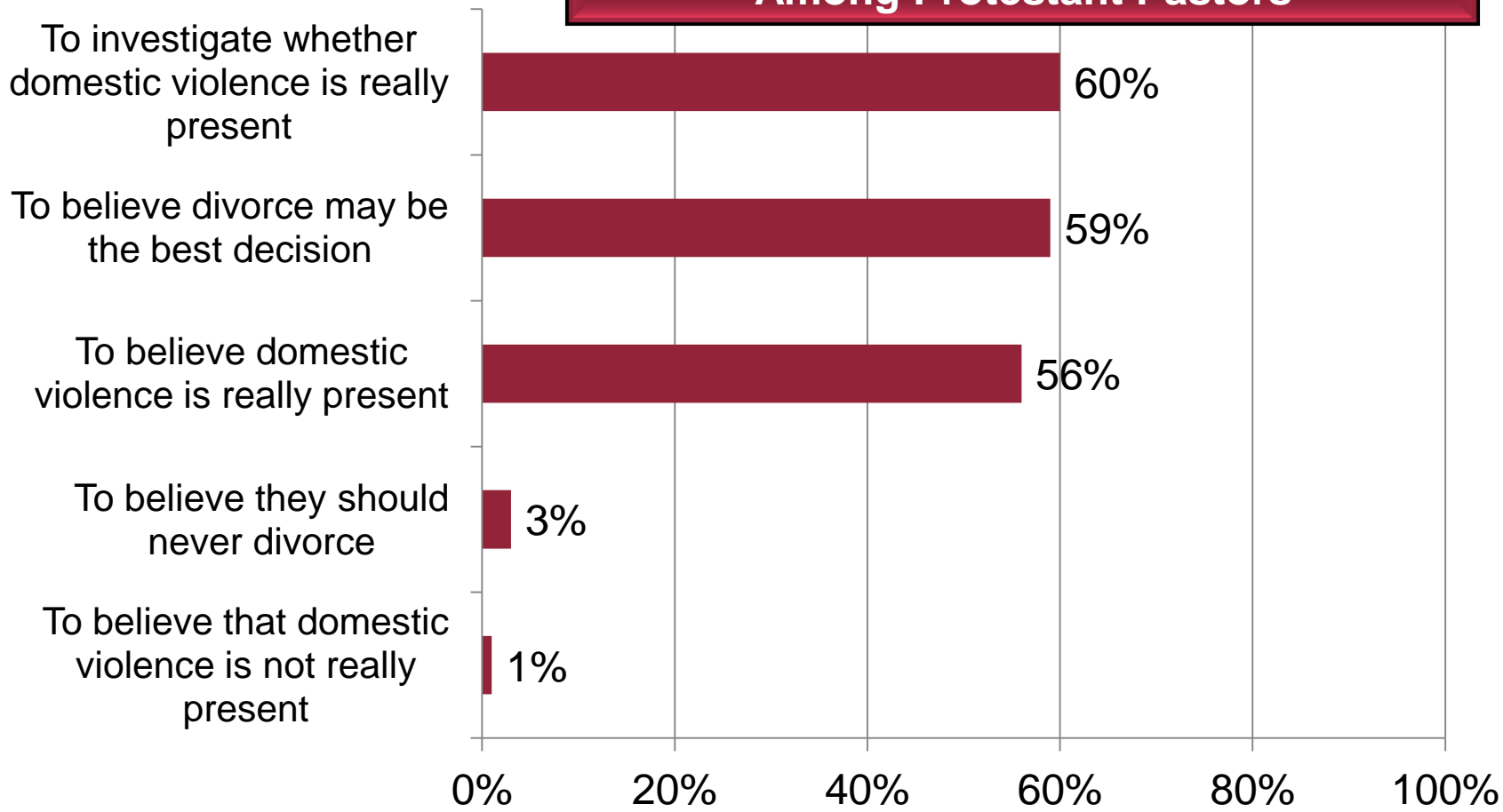
Q: "Our church regularly communicates that specific behaviors related to domestic violence are not OK."

37% know of an adult in their church who has experienced domestic or sexual violence in the last 3 years



“If someone in your congregation files for divorce and cites domestic violence as the reason, what would your response likely be?”

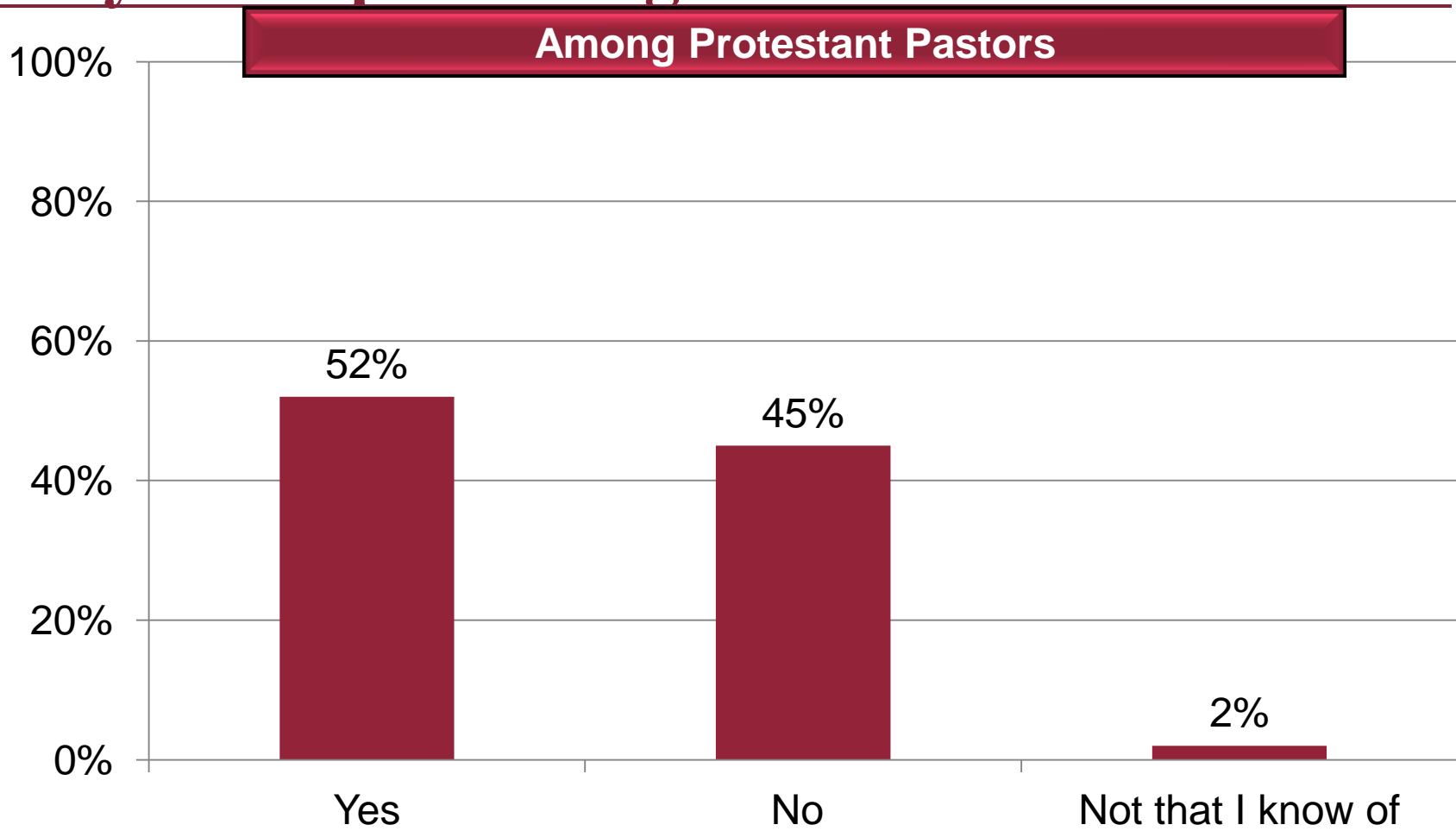
Among Protestant Pastors



Not sure 5%

Q: “If someone in your congregation files for divorce and cites domestic violence as the reason, what would your response likely be? (Select all that apply)”

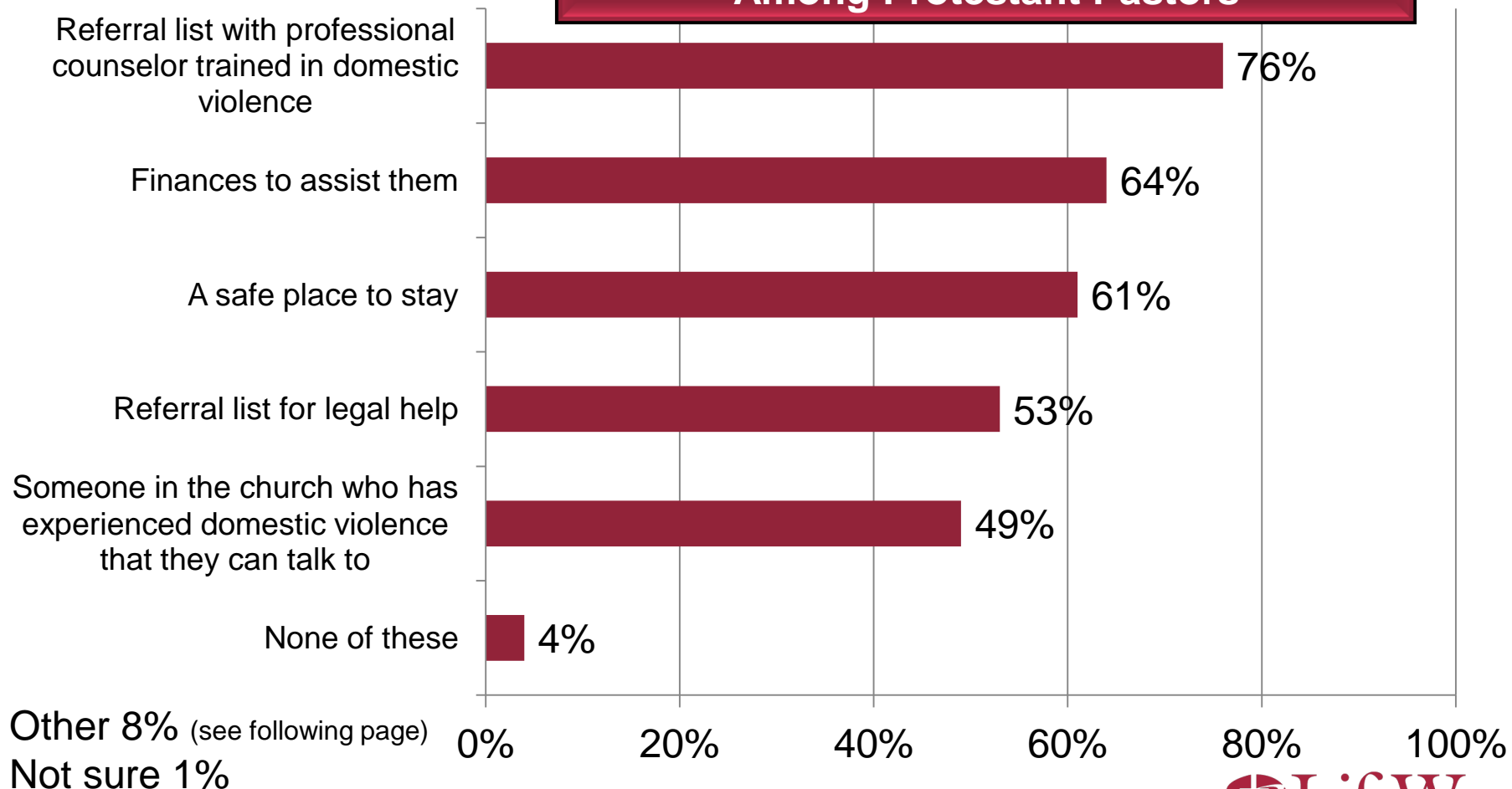
Just over half of churches have a plan in place for responding to someone sharing that they are experiencing domestic violence



Q: "Does your church have a specific plan or procedures in place for how to respond if someone shares that they are experiencing domestic violence?"

Three-quarters of churches have a referral list with a professional counselor trained in domestic violence

Among Protestant Pastors



Q: "Which, if any, of the following specific resources does your church have in place to offer someone who is experiencing domestic violence? (Select all that apply)"

Other mentions of specific church resources in place:

- ❑ Counseling (In addition to indicating a “referral list with professional counselor” it was also mentioned here and some specified counselors at the church)
- ❑ Referrals for shelter or other local churches
- ❑ Local shelters
- ❑ Referrals to county or state agencies
- ❑ Training/education
- ❑ Pastoral care and support
- ❑ Support groups

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's age and ethnicity.

Attendance	Region	Age	Pastor's Ethnicity
0-49	Northeast	18-44	White
50-99	Midwest	45-54	African American
100-249	South	55-64	Other Ethnicities
250+	West	65+	

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

Self-Identify	Denomination	Education Level
Evangelical	Baptist	No College Degree
Mainline	Christian/Church of Christ	Bachelor's Degree
	Lutheran	Master's Degree
	Methodist	Doctoral Degree
	Pentecostal	
	Presbyterian/ Reformed	

“A person experiencing domestic violence would find our church to be a safe haven”

- There were no significant differences in combined Agree percentage
- Pastors in the West (90%) and South (89%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Pastors in the Midwest (83%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (90%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than those 18-44 (85%) and 45-54 (83%)
- Pentecostals (99%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Baptists (88%), Lutherans (86%), Methodists (82%), Presbyterian/Reformed (87%), and Holiness (81%)
- Those with no college degree (92%) or a Doctoral degree (93%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than those with a Master's (84%)

“Our church regularly communicates that specific behaviors related to domestic violence are not OK”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (93%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 50-99 (86%)
- Pentecostals (95%) and Baptists (91%) are more likely to Agree than Presbyterian/Reformed (82%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (94%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Bachelor's (87%) or Master's degree (87%)

“Has an adult in your church experienced domestic or sexual violence in the last 3 years?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (65%) are most likely to select “Yes,” followed by those with attendance 100-249 (43%), then 50-99 (31%), then 0-49 (20%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (42%) and West (45%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Pastors in the South (33%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (42%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 65+ (31%)
- African-American pastors (31%) and pastors of Other Ethnicities (32%) are more likely to select “No” than White pastors (13%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (47%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with a Bachelor’s (31%) or Master’s degree (37%)

“If someone in your congregation files for divorce and cites domestic violence as the reason, what would your response likely be?”

To believe domestic violence is really present

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (65%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (57%) are more likely to select than Pastors age 65+ (46%)
- White pastors (58%) are more likely to select than African-American pastors (41%)
- Lutherans (70%), Methodists (63%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (62%) are more likely to select than Baptists (49%) and Pentecostals (40%)
- Those with a Master's degree (62%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (40%) or a Bachelor's (50%)

“If someone in your congregation files for divorce and cites domestic violence as the reason, what would your response likely be?”

To investigate whether domestic violence is really present

- Evangelical pastors (68%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (46%)
- Baptists (70%), Pentecostals (70%), and Holiness (76%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (52%), Methodists (39%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (47%)
- Those with no college degree (69%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's (58%)

To believe that domestic violence is not really present

- No significant differences

“If someone in your congregation files for divorce and cites domestic violence as the reason, what would your response likely be?”

To believe they should never divorce

- Pastors in the Northeast (7%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the South (2%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (6%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (2%) and 55-64 (2%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (9%) are more likely to select than White pastors (3%)
- Church of Christ (8%) and Baptists (5%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (<1%)
- Those with no college degree (9%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's (2%) or a Doctoral degree (2%)

“If someone in your congregation files for divorce and cites domestic violence as the reason, what would your response likely be?”

To believe divorce may be the best decision

- Pastors age 55-64 (63%) are more likely to select than those 18-44 (53%)
- Mainline pastors (72%) are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (55%)
- Lutherans (67%), Methodists (72%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (71%) are more likely to select than Baptists (50%) and Pentecostals (49%)
- Those with a Master's degree are the most likely to select (66%)

“Does your church have a specific plan or procedures in place for how to respond if someone shares that they are experiencing domestic violence?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Yes” (73%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (64%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Pastors in the South (51%) and Midwest (45%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (67%) are more likely to select “Yes” than White pastors (51%)
- Methodists (63%) and Pentecostals (66%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (52%), Lutherans (44%), Presbyterian/Reformed (45%), Church of Christ (41%), and Holiness (45%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (62%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (50%)

“Which, if any, of the following specific resources does your church have in place to offer someone who is experiencing domestic violence?”

A safe place to stay

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (68%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (55%)
- Baptists (66%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (55%) and Methodists (54%)

Referral list with professional counselor trained in domestic violence

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (92%), followed by those with attendance 100-249 (81%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (79%) are more likely to select than those 18-44 (72%)
- Methodists (85%) are more likely to select than Baptists (75%), Church of Christ (72%), and Holiness (63%)
- Those with a Master's (78%) or a Doctoral degree (84%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (68%) or a Bachelor's (67%)

“Which, if any, of the following specific resources does your church have in place to offer someone who is experiencing domestic violence?”

Referral list for legal help

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (63%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 50-99 (49%) and 100-249 (52%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (61%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the Midwest (49%)
- Mainline pastors (59%) are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (50%)

“Which, if any, of the following specific resources does your church have in place to offer someone who is experiencing domestic violence?”

Finances to assist them

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select (51%), followed by those with attendance 50-99 (61%)
- Pastors in the South (67%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the West (58%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (67%) are more likely to select than those age 65+ (58%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select (66%)
- Baptists (71%), Presbyterian/Reformed (67%), and Church of Christ (67%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (49%) and Methodists (53%)

“Which, if any, of the following specific resources does your church have in place to offer someone who is experiencing domestic violence?”

Someone in the church who has experienced domestic violence that they can talk to

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (65%)
- Pastors in the West (62%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the South (46%) and Midwest (43%)
- Pentecostals (61%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (35%), Methodists (42%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (43%)
- Those with no college degree are the most likely to select (66%)

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