

American Views on Personal Identity and Disappointments

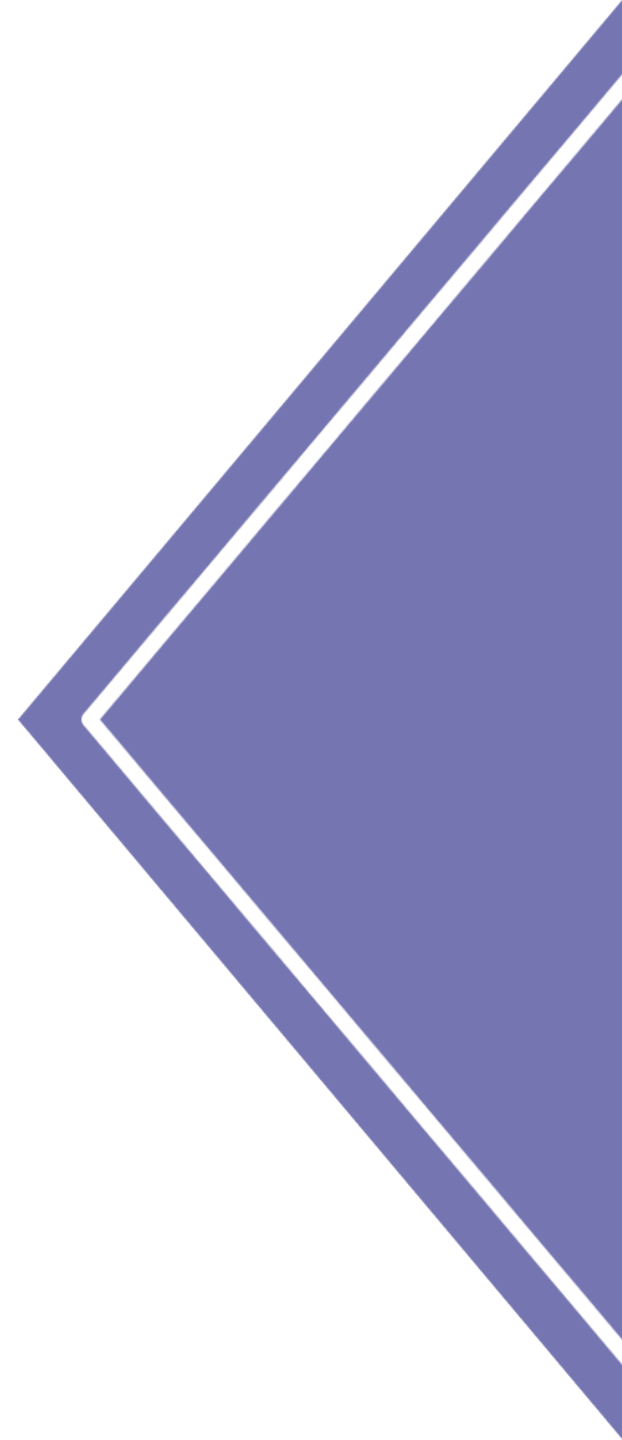
Representative Survey of 1,010 Americans

Methodology

LifeWay Research conducted the study September 21-23, 2018. The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who select to participate, but do not already have Internet access, Ipsos (formerly GfK) provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection.

Sample stratification and base weights were used for gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, metro/non-metro, home ownership, education, and income to reflect the most recent US Census data. Study specific weights included for gender by age, race/ethnicity, region, and education to reflect GSS 2016 data. The completed sample is 1,010 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Survey Responses



“When you think about who you are, what are the first three things that come to mind?”

Percentage of Americans

- 25% Parent
- 12% Intelligent/Smart
- 11% Job/Profession
- 11% Caring/Compassionate
- 10% Husband
- 10% Considerate/Kind
- 10% Dependable/Reliable/
Loyalty/Trustworthy
- 8% Wife
- 8% Friend
- 8% Hardworking
- 8% Honest
- 8% Christian
- 7% Female
- 6% Good person
- 6% Loving
- 5% Age
- 5% Hobbies/Interests
- 5% Male
- 5% Determined
- 5% Grandparent
- 5% Happy

“When you think about who you are, what are the first three things that come to mind?”

Percentage of Americans

- 4% Ethnic Group/Race
- 4% Sad/Lonely
- 4% Funny
- 4% Appearance
- 4% Independent
- 4% Myself
- 3% Strong
- 3% Logical/Practical
- 3% Family
- 3% Introvert
- 3% Son
- 3% Human
- 3% Daughter
- 2% Retired
- 2% Unique
- 2% Marital status
- 2% Energetic/Fun
- 2% Religious/Spiritual
- 2% Artistic/Creative
- 2% Helpful
- 2% Child of God
- 2% Awesome/Great

“When you think about who you are, what are the first three things that come to mind?”

Percentage of Americans

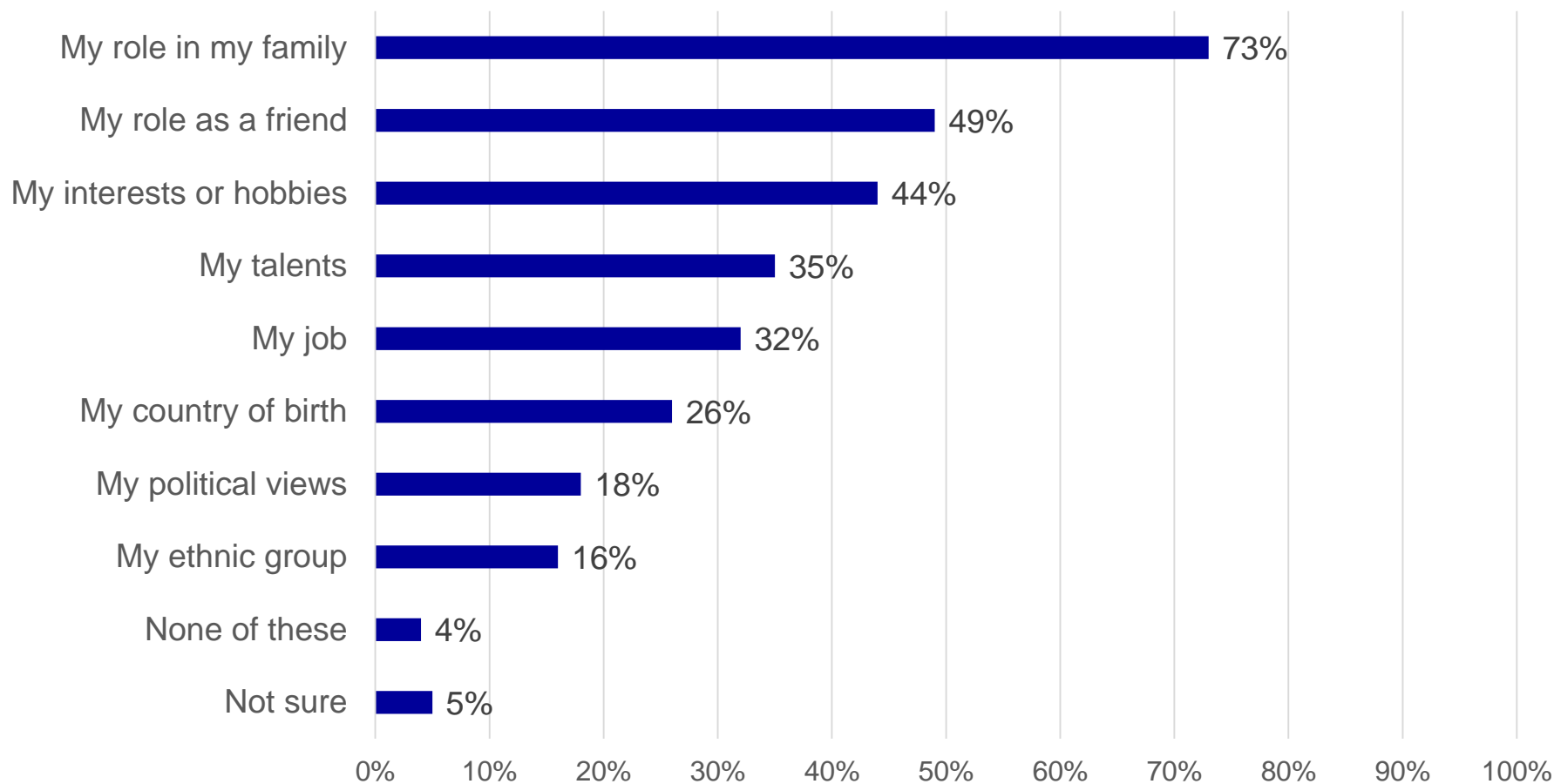
- 2% Generous/Giving
- 2% American
- 2% Sister
- 2% Anxious
- 2% Easy going
- 2% Leader
- 2% Humble/Respectful
- 1% Quiet
- 1% Opinionated/Stubborn
- 1% Blessed
- 1% Overweight
- 1% Athletic
- 1% Adventurous/Curious
- 1% Gay
- 1% Patient
- 1% Organized
- 1% Skilled in business/finance
- 1% Student
- 1% Open minded
- 1% Healthy
- 1% Brother

“When you think about who you are, what are the first three things that come to mind?”

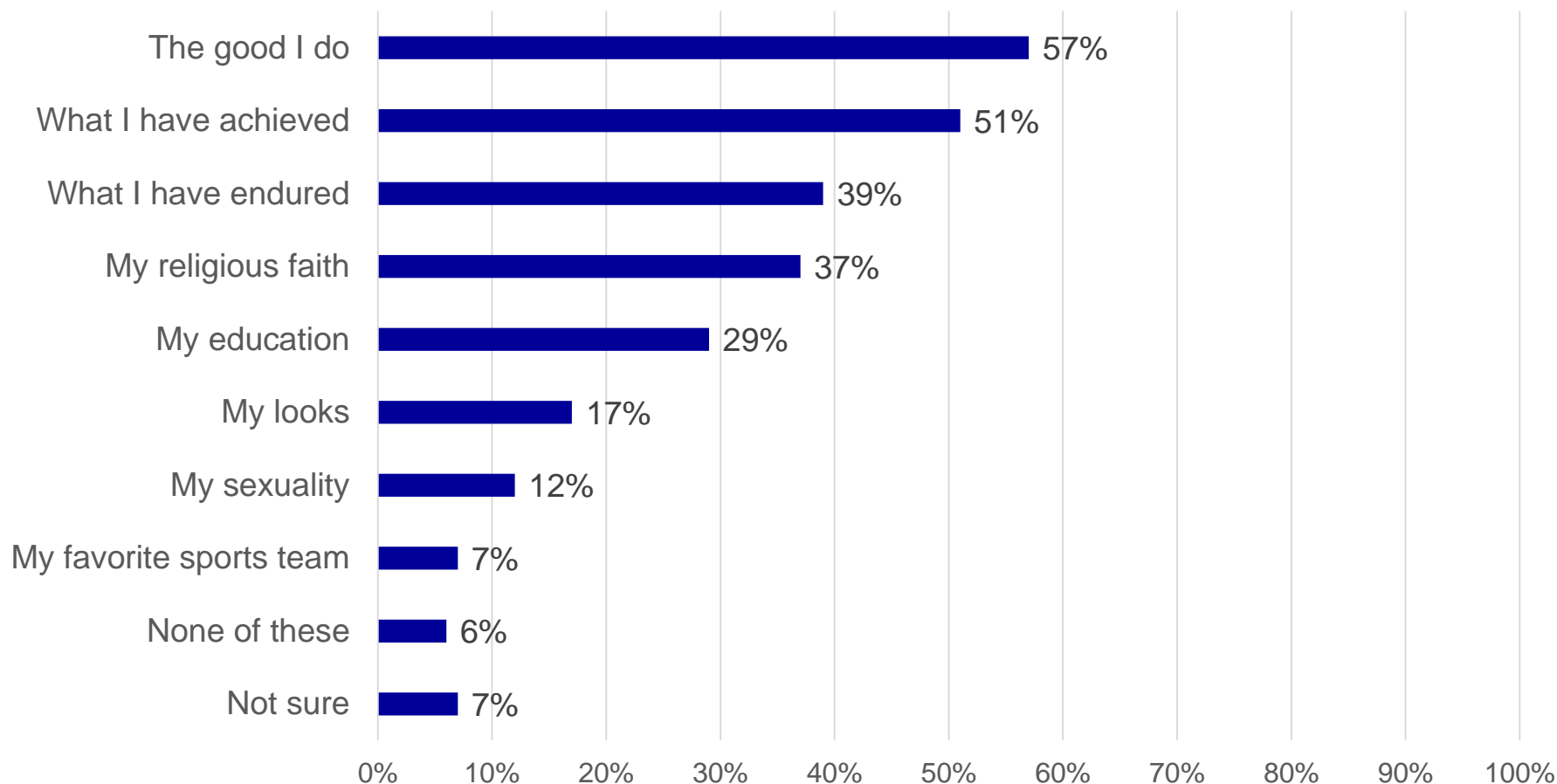
Percentage of Americans

- 1% Advocate/Volunteer
- 1% Positive
- 1% Political views
- 1% Tired
- 1% Angry/Rude
- 1% Animal lover
- 1% Nature lover
- 1% Caregiver
- 1% Bored
- <1% Poor
- 2% Don't know/None

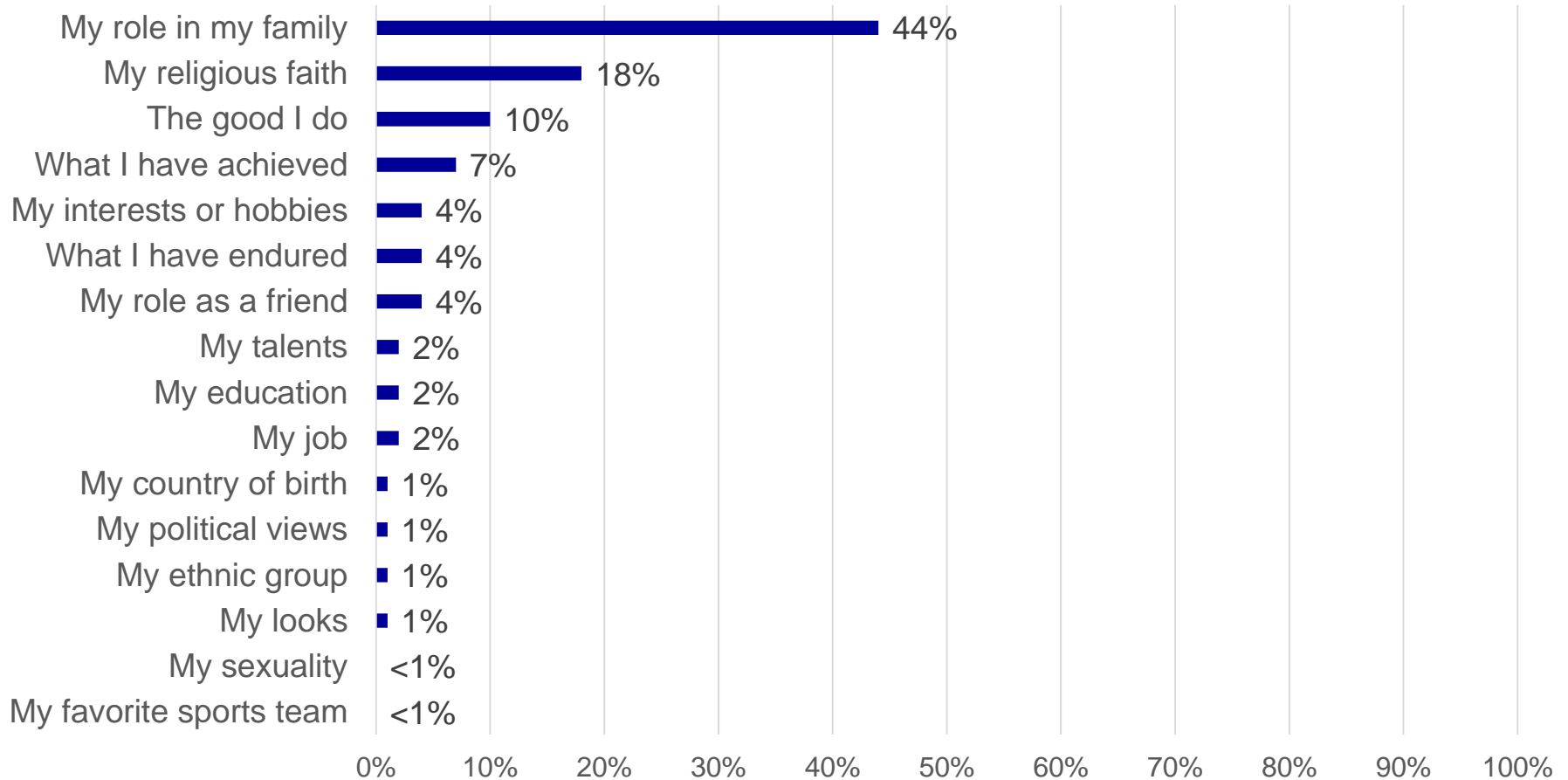
“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”



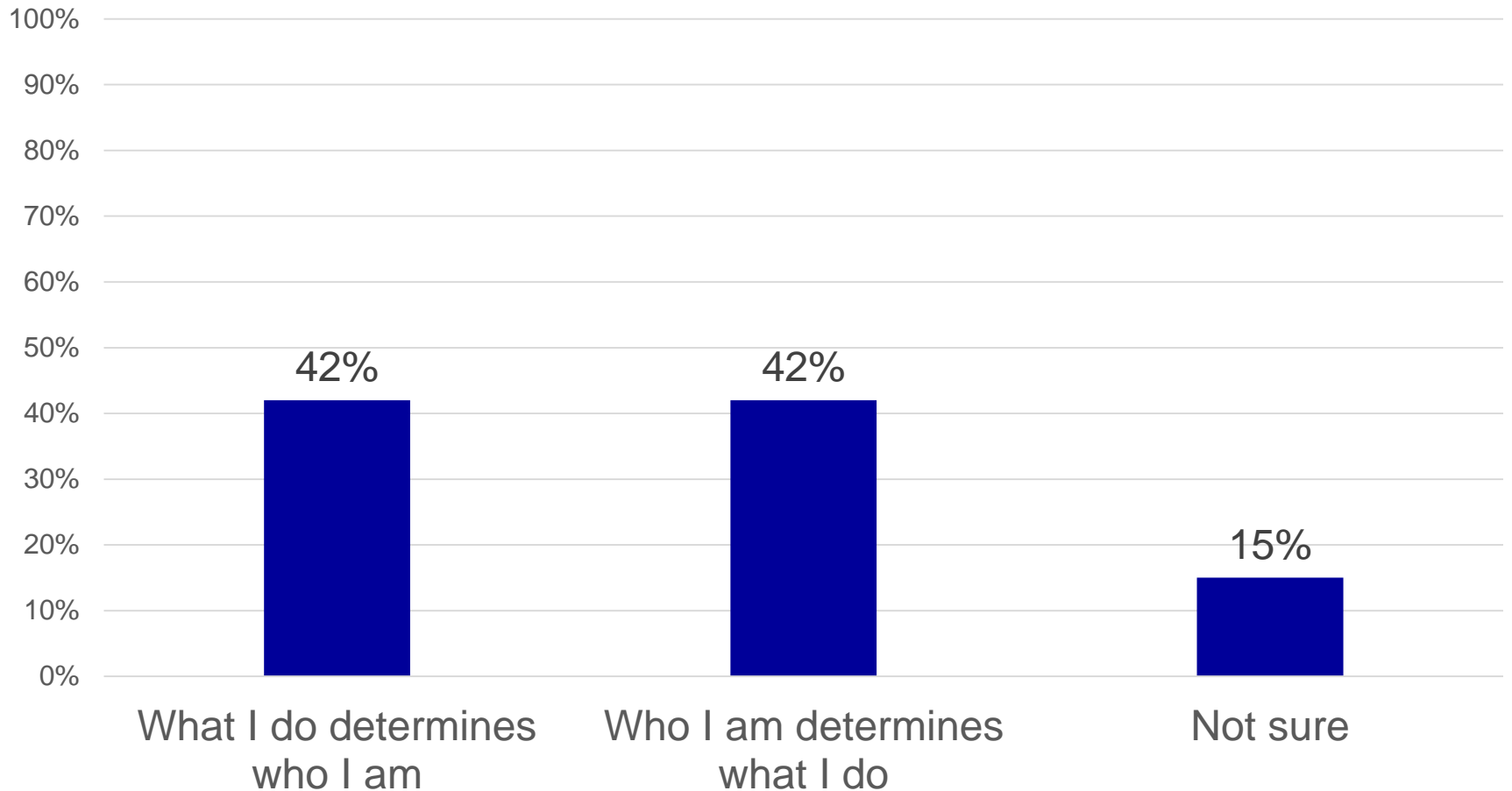
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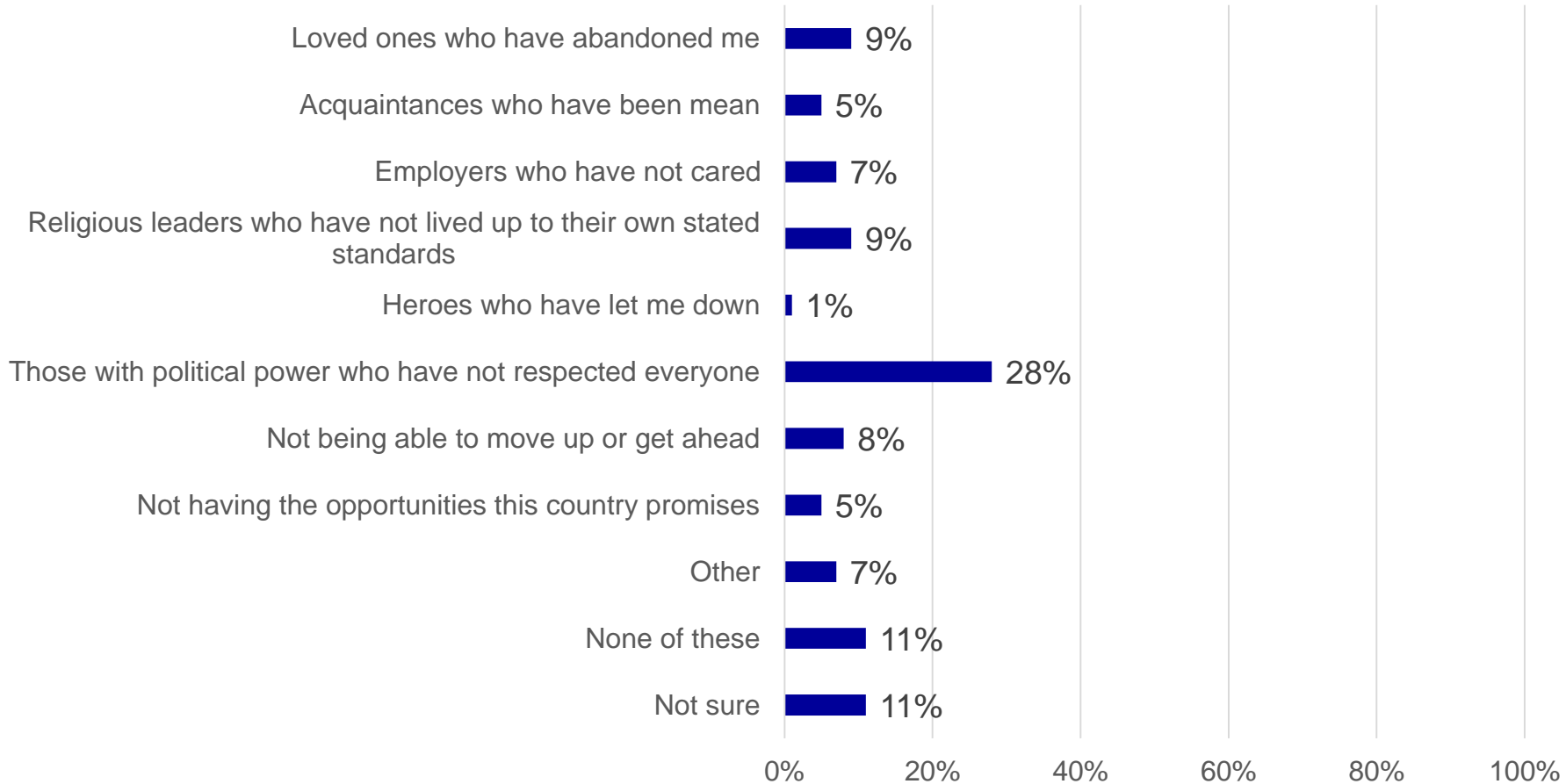
“Among things that are very important to your identity, which is the most important to you?”



“Which statement better describes your opinion?”



“As you grew up and learned how society really works, what have you found the most disappointing?”



Significant Differences

Gender

Region

Age

Ethnicity

Education Level

Religion

Denomination

Evangelical Beliefs

Worship Service Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, region, age, ethnicity, and education.

Gender	Region	Age	Ethnicity	Education
Male	Northeast	18-34	White, Non-Hispanic	High School graduate or less
Female	Midwest	35-49	Black, Non-Hispanic	Some college
	South	50-64	Hispanic	Bachelor's Degree
	West	65+	Other Ethnicities	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among religion, denomination, evangelical beliefs, and worship service attendance.

Religion	Denomination	Evangelical Beliefs	Worship Service Attendance
Christian	Catholic	Yes	Once a week or more
Other Religion	Evangelical/Protestant	No	Once or twice a month
Non-religious			A few times a year
			Once a year or less
			Never

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My role in my family

- Those age 18-34 are the least age group likely to select (60%)
- Those with some college (77%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (69%)
- Non-religious are the least likely to select (63%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a week or more (75%), attend once or twice a month (79%), or a few times a year (78%) are more likely to select than those who never attend (67%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My role as a friend

- Those in the Midwest (53%) and West (52%) are more likely to select than those in the South (43%)
- Those age 65+ (55%) are more likely to select than those 18-34 (46%)
- Those with some college (57%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (53%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (41%)
- Other Religions (57%) are more likely to select than Non-religious (44%)
- Those who never attend a worship service are the least likely to select (41%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My job

- Those age 65+ are the least likely age group to select (13%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (23%)
- Those who attend a worship service a few times a year (40%) or more are more likely to select than those who never attend (29%)

My talents

- Males are more likely to select than Females (39% v. 32%)
- Those age 18-34 (39%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (31%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree are the most likely to select (49%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My ethnic group

- Those age 65+ (23%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (15%) and 50-64 (13%)
- Whites, Non-Hispanic are the least likely ethnic group to select (8%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (27%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (13%) or with some college (14%)
- Non-religious are the least likely to select (11%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a week (19%) or more, once or twice a month (28%), or a few times a year (20%) are more likely to select than those who never attend (12%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My country of birth

- Males are more likely to select than Females (32% v. 20%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely age group to select (37%)
- Christians (30%) are more likely to select than Non-religious (17%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (37% v. 24%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My interests or hobbies

- Those in the Midwest (50%) are more likely to select than those in the South (39%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely age group to select (53%)
- Whites, Non-Hispanic (47%) are more likely to select than Black, Non-Hispanics (32%) and Hispanics (38%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (35%)
- Other Religions (53%) and Non-religious (51%) are more likely to select than Christians (40%)
- Evangelicals/Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (44% v. 34%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My political views

- Males are more likely to select than Females (22% v. 15%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely age group to select (29%)
- Whites, Non-Hispanic (20%) and Hispanics (19%) are more likely to select than Black, Non-Hispanics (10%)
- Those with a Graduate degree are the most likely to select (35%)
- Other Religions (35%) are more likely to select than Christians (16%) and Non-religious (22%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My looks

- Females are more likely to select than males (21% v. 12%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely age group to select (26%)
- Black, Non-Hispanics (26%) are more likely to select than Whites, Non-Hispanic (15%) and Hispanics (15%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My religious faith

- Females are more likely to select than males (43% v. 32%)
- Those in the Midwest (42%) and South (43%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (27%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely age group to select (51%)
- Black, Non-Hispanics are the most likely ethnic group to select (55%)
- Those with some college (41%) or a Graduate Degree (43%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (32%)
- Christians (48%) and Other Religions (42%) are more likely to select than Non-religious (4%)
- Evangelicals/Protestants are more likely to select than Catholics (58% v. 34%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (81% v. 29%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a week or more are the most likely to select (81%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

The good I do

- Those age 18-34 are the least likely age group to select (47%)
- Those who never attend a worship service are the least likely to select (48%)

My sexuality

- Those age 18-34 (16%) and 65+ (16%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (7%)
- Black, Non-Hispanics (21%) are more likely to select than White, Non-Hispanics (10%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

What I have endured

- Hispanics (48%) are more likely to select than White, Non-Hispanics (36%)
- Those with some college (44%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (29%)
- Those who attend a worship service a few times a year (45%) are more likely to select than those who attend once a week or more (34%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

What I have achieved

- Other Ethnicities (59%) are more likely to select than Black, Non-Hispanics (42%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (40%)
- Other Religions (65%) are more likely to select than Christians (48%)
- Evangelicals/Protestants are less likely to select than Catholics (42% v. 60%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (38% v. 53%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a week or more are the least likely to select (40%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My favorite sports team

- Males are more likely to select than Females (9% v. 5%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (3%)

“Which, if any, of the following are very important to you in terms of your identity as a person?”

My education

- Females are more likely to select than males (32% v. 25%)
- Those age 18-34 (37%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (21%) and 65+ (25%)
- Hispanics (34%) and Other Ethnicities (37%) are more likely to select than White, Non-Hispanics (26%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (65%)
- Those who attend a worship service a few times a year (33%) are more likely to select those who never attend (24%)

“Among things that are very important to your identity, which is the most important to you?”

- Females are more likely to select “My religious faith” than males (20% v. 15%)
- Those in the South (23%) are more likely to select “My religious faith” than those in the Northeast (11%) and West (16%)
- Those age 18-34 are the least likely age group to select “My role in my family” (32%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely age group to select “My religious faith” (25%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (19%) and Black, Non-Hispanics (26%) are more likely to select “My religious faith” than Hispanics (11%) and Other Ethnicities (10%)
- Christians (23%) and Other Religions (18%) are more likely to select “My religious faith” than Non-religious (1%)
- Evangelicals/Protestants are less likely to select “My role in my family” than Catholics (39% v. 52%), more likely to select “My religious faith” (32% v. 10%), and less likely to select “The good I do” than Catholics (8% v. 15%)

“Among things that are very important to your identity, which is the most important to you?” (continued)

- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select “My role in my family” than those without evangelical beliefs (25% v. 47%), more likely to select “My religious faith” (59% v. 10%), and less likely to select “The good I do” (2% v. 11%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a week or more are the least likely to select “My role in my family” (29%) and the most likely to select “My religious faith” (50%)

“Which statement better describes your opinion:”

- Males are more likely to select “What I do determines who I am” than Females (48% v. 37%)
- Those age 35-49 (49%) are more likely to select “Who I am determines what I do” than those 18-34 (38%) and 50-64 (38%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (49%) are more likely to select “Who I am determines what I do” than those who are High School Graduates or less (39%)
- Christians (45%) are more likely to select “Who I am determines what I do” than Other Religions (33%)
- Evangelicals/Protestants are more likely to select “Who I am determines what I do” than Catholics (50% v. 41%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Who I am determines what I do” than those without evangelical beliefs (50% v. 41%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a week or more (50%) are more likely to select “Who I am determines what I do” those who attend a few times a year (39%) or never attend (35%)

“As you grew up and learned how society really works, what have you found the most disappointing?”

- Females are more likely to select “Loved ones who have abandoned me” than Males (11% v. 7%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely age group to select “Those with political power who have not respected everyone” (37%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely age group to select “Religious leaders who have not lived up to their own stated standards” (16%)
- Black, Non-Hispanics are the most likely to select (17%) and White, Non-Hispanics are least likely to select (2%) “Not having the opportunities this country promises.”
- Those with a High School graduates or less are the least likely to select “Those with political power who have not respected everyone” (22%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select “Religious leaders who have not lived up to their own stated standards” (20%)

“As you grew up and learned how society really works, what have you found the most disappointing?” (Continued)

- Other Religions (43%) are more likely to select “Those with political power who have not respected everyone” than Christians (27%) and Non-religious (27%)
- Evangelicals/Protestants are less likely to select “Religious leaders who have not lived up to their own stated standards” than Catholics (7% v. 13%)
- Those who attend a worship service a few times a year (34%) are more likely to select “Those with political power who have not respected everyone” those who never attend (24%)

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