

Churchgoers Views – Alcohol

Representative Survey of 1,010
American Churchgoers

Methodology

LifeWay Research conducted the study August 22 – 30, 2017. 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 agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, GfK provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection.

Methodology

For this survey, a nationally representative sample of U.S. Protestant and non-denominational adults (18 and older) which attends religious services once a month or more often was selected from the KnowledgePanel®.

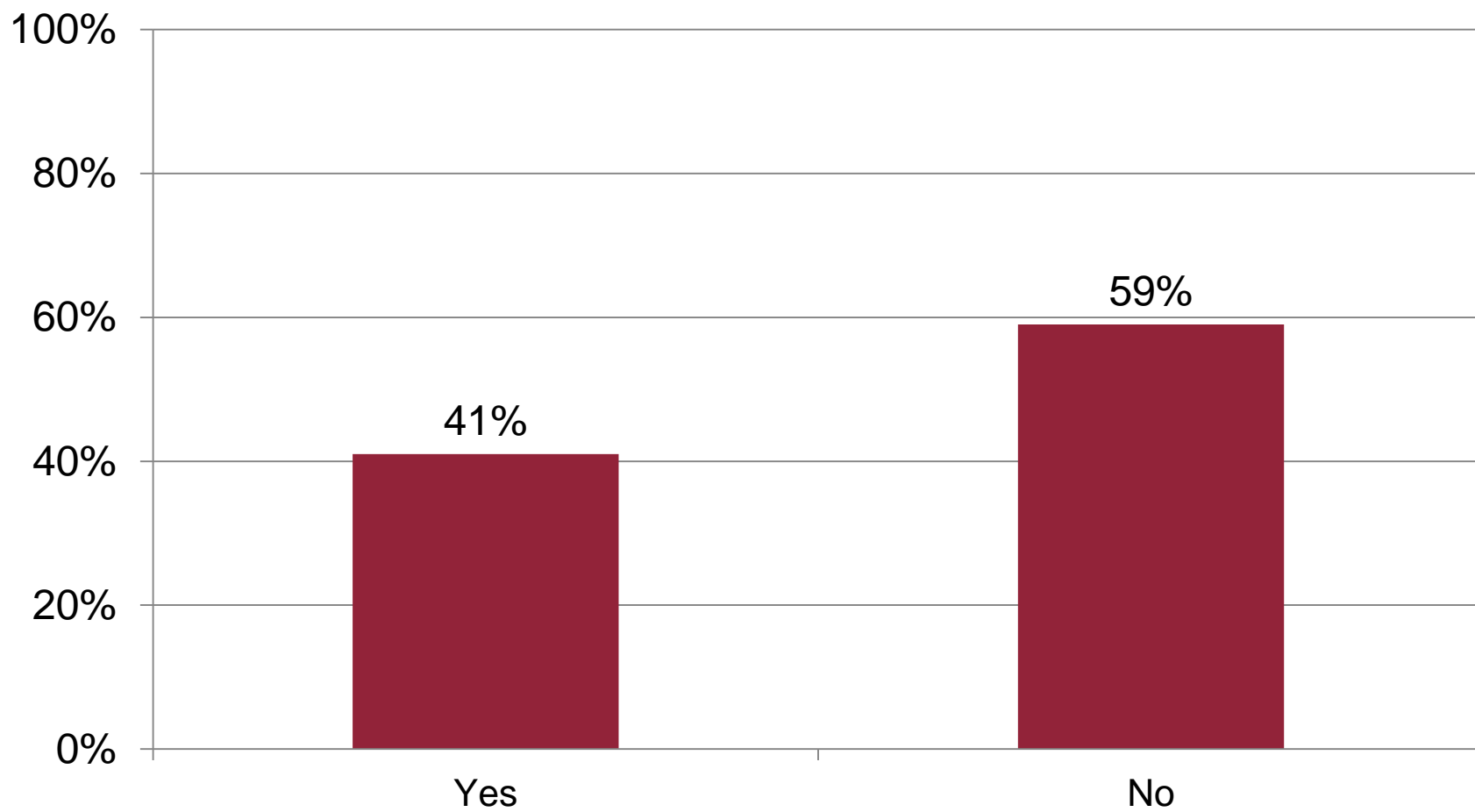
Sample stratification and base weights were used for gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, metro/non-metro, home ownership, education, and income to reflect the most recent US Census data. Study specific weights included for gender by age, race/ethnicity, region, and education to reflect GSS 2016 data. 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.

Methodology - 2007

- Phone survey conducted April-May 2007
1,004 Protestant laity
- Sample sizes for total laity and pastors provide 95% confidence that sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$
- Laity sample consists of adults (18 and over) who attend church at least 5 times a year and whose religious preference is Protestant

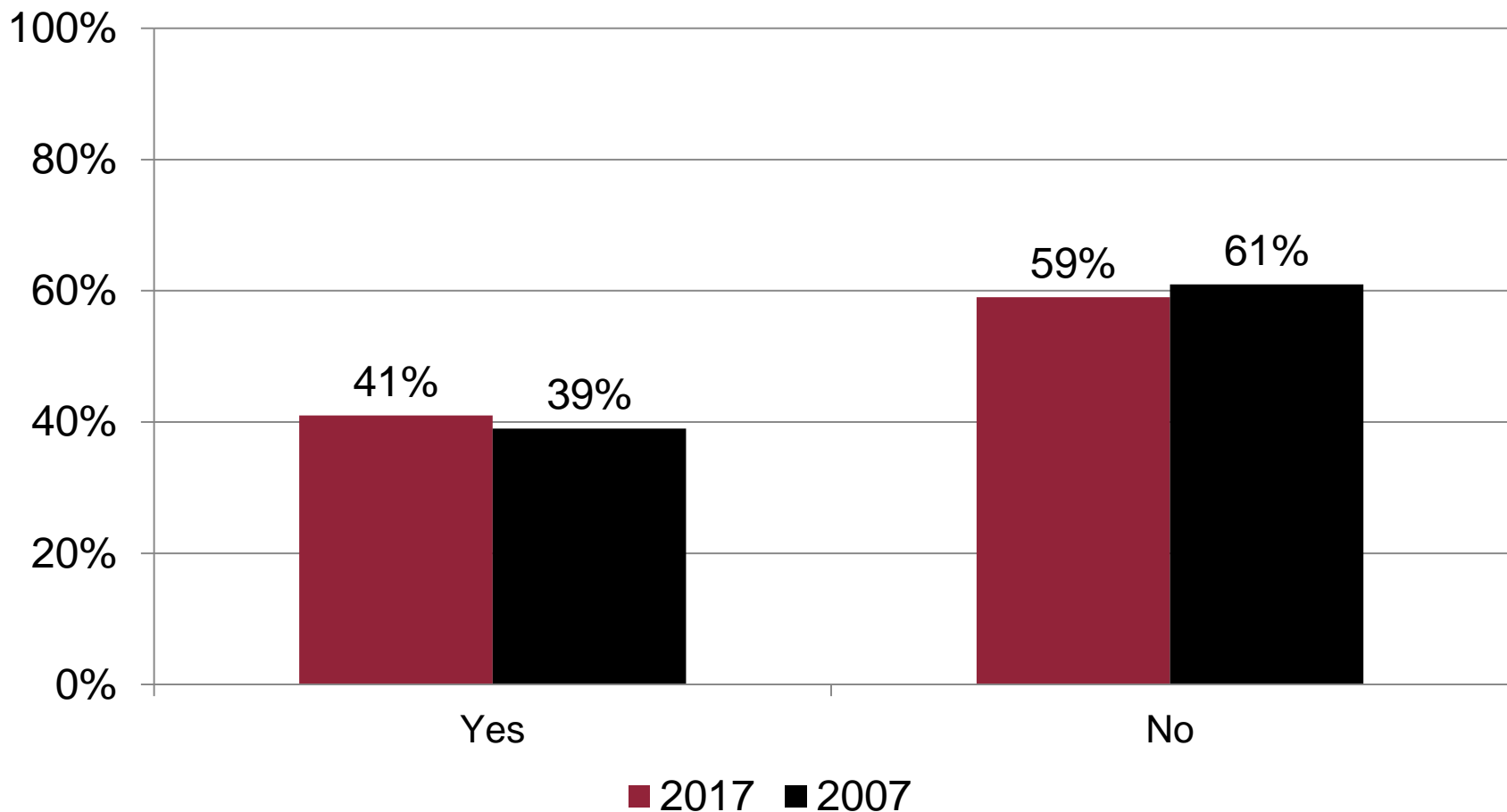
Survey Responses

59% do not drink alcohol

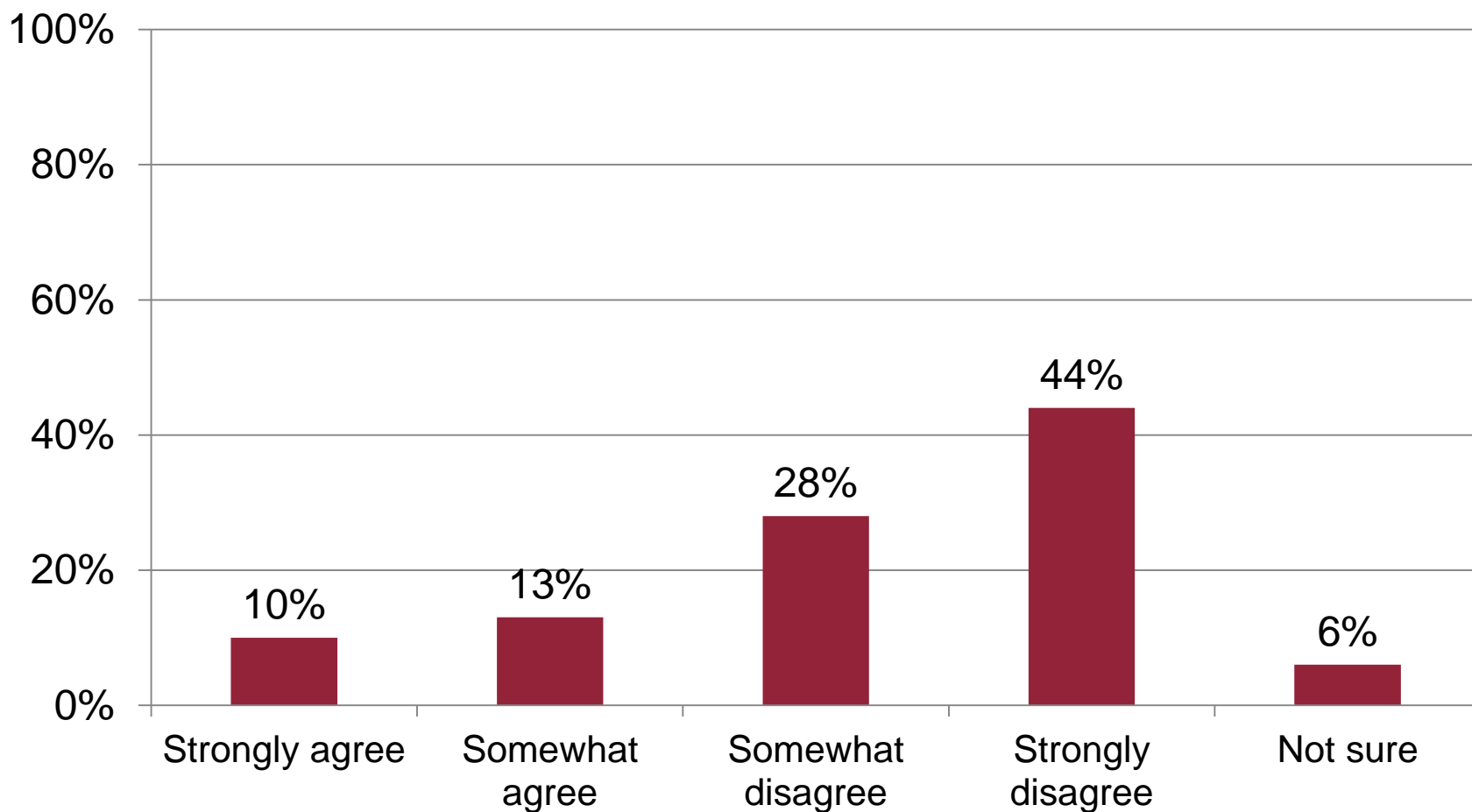


Q7: "Do you drink alcohol?" n=1008

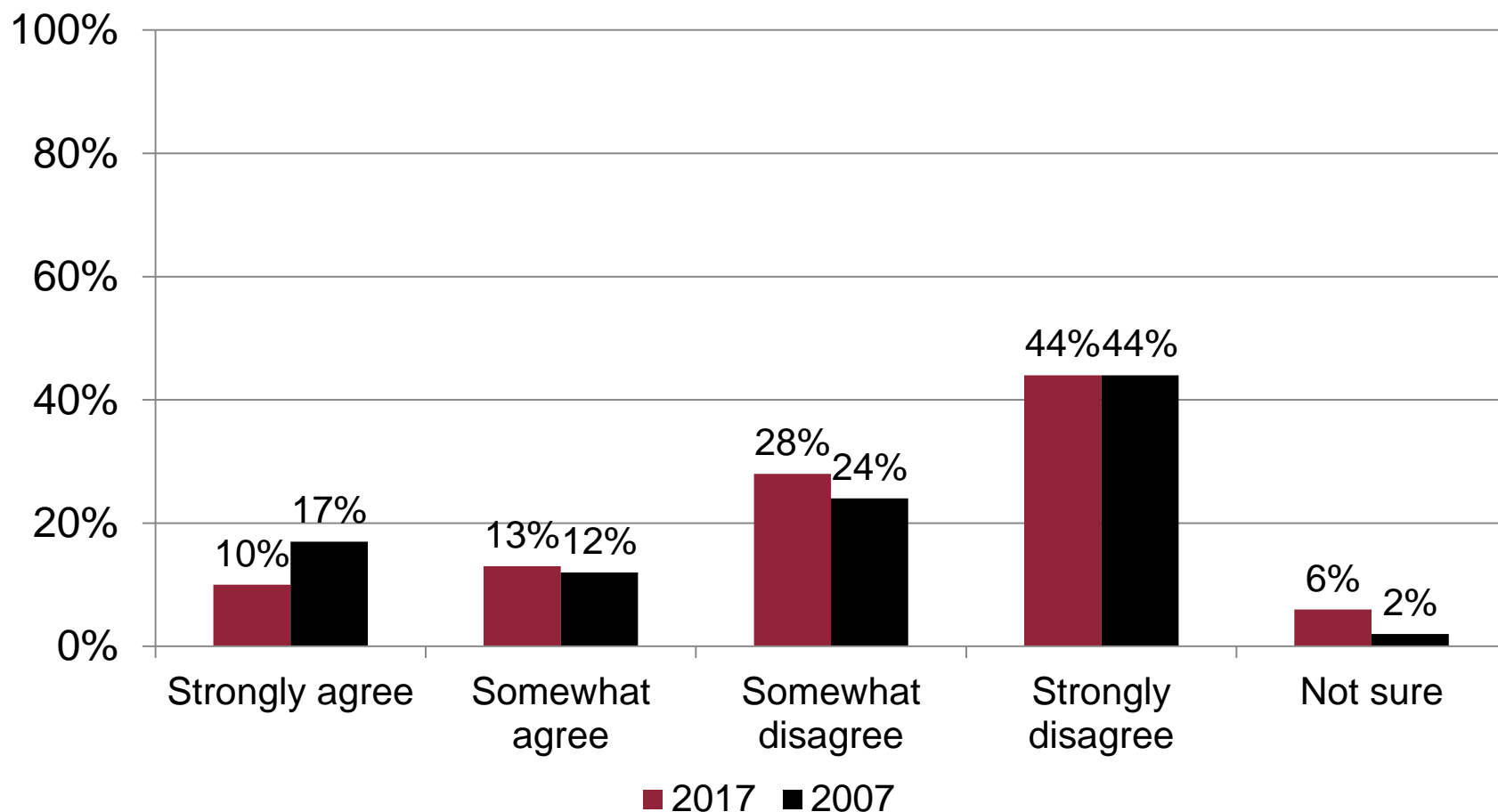
61% selected “No” in 2007, compared to 59% in 2017



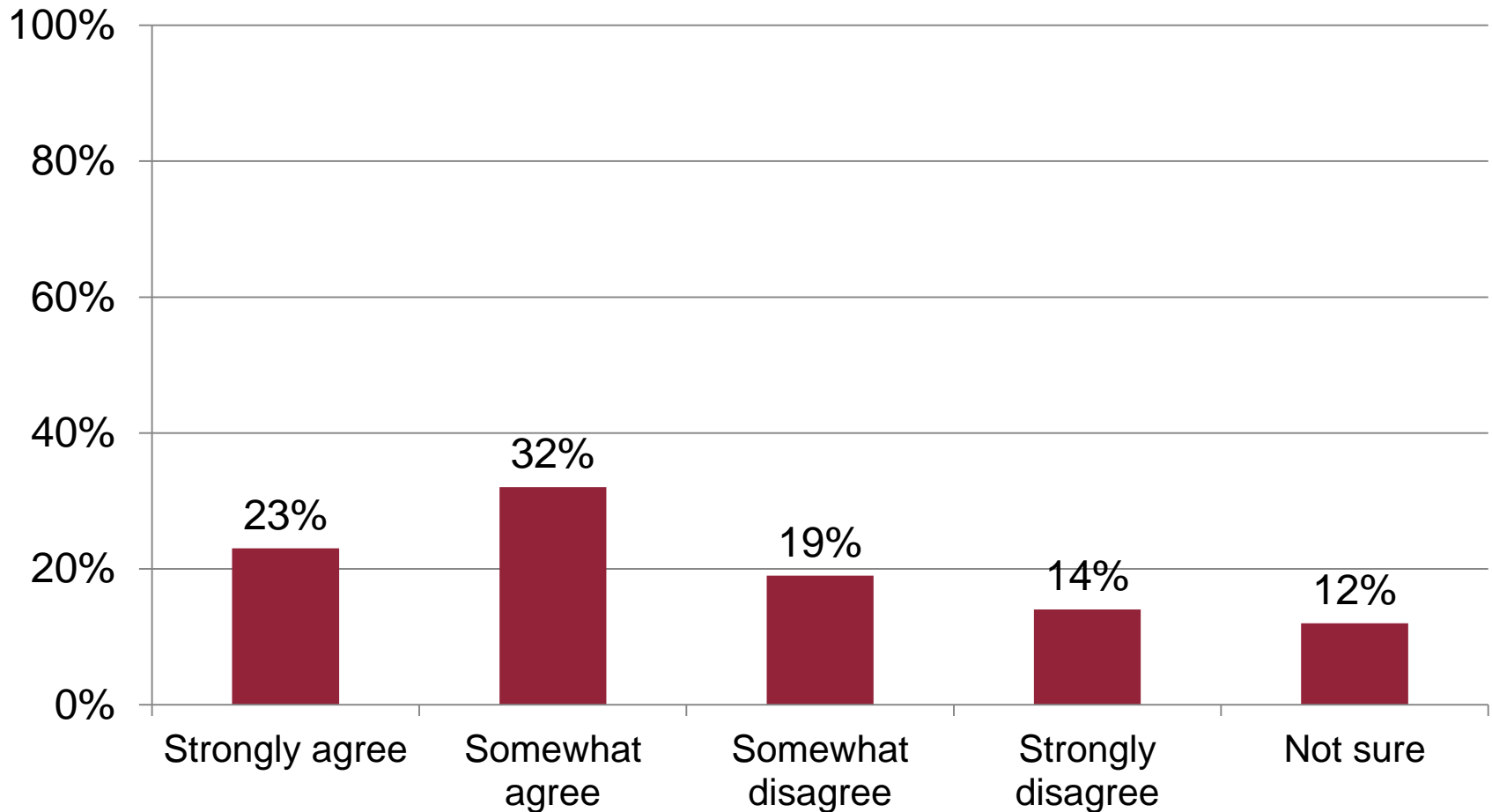
23% agree that Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol



In 2007, 29% agree that Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol, compared to 23% in 2017

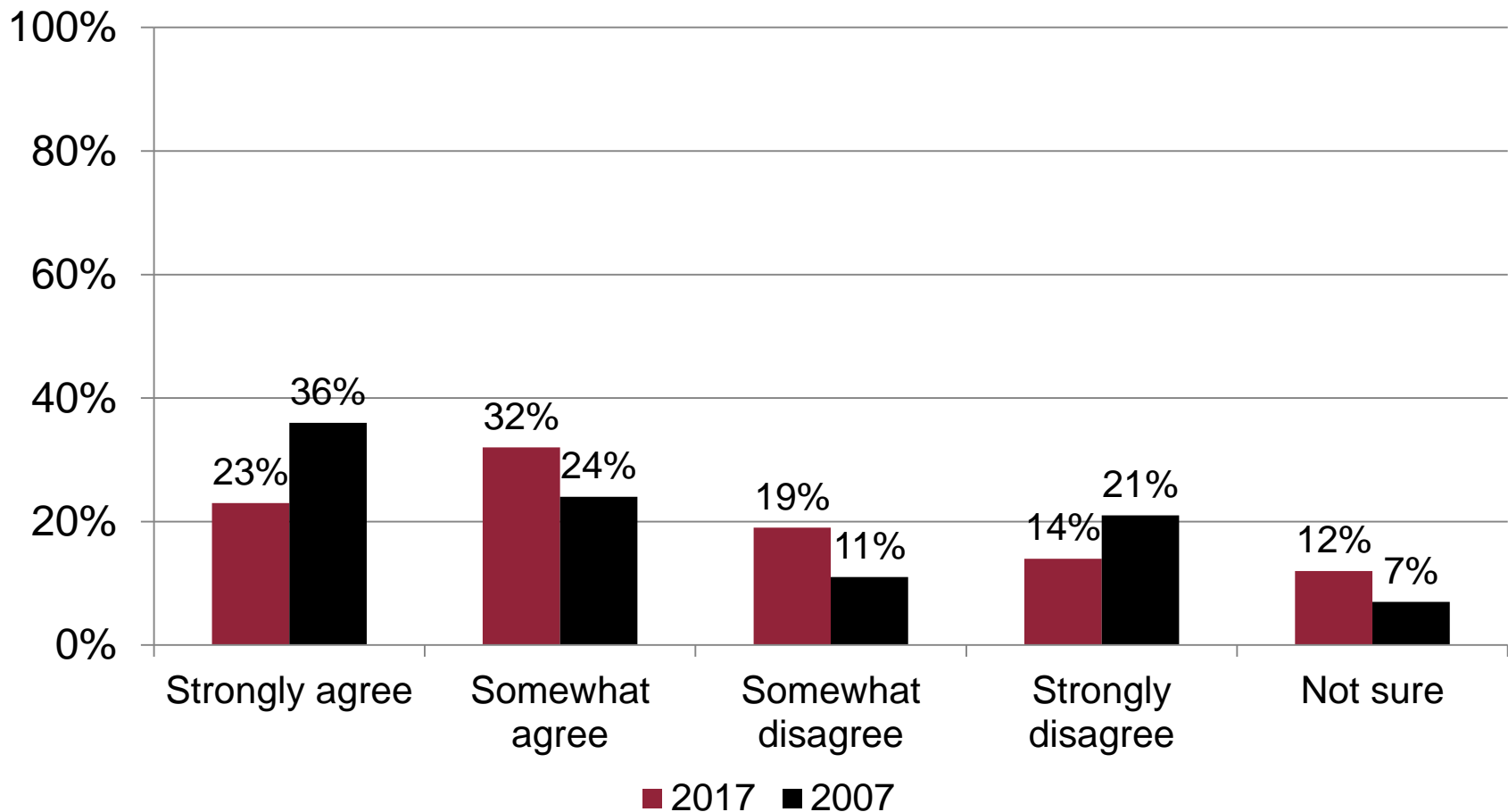


55% agree that Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin

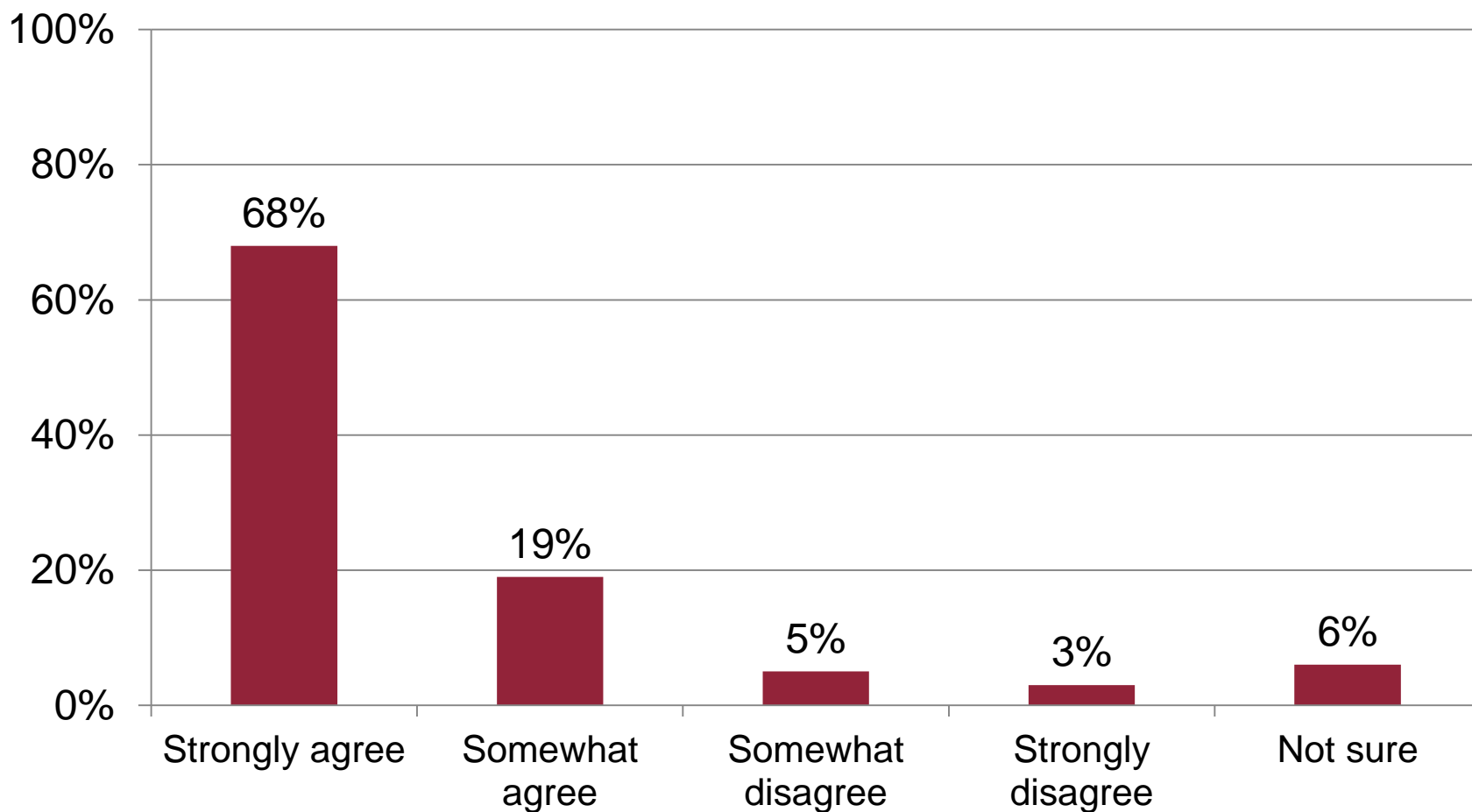


Q9: "Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin." n=1003

Those that agree that Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin dropped from 60% to 55%

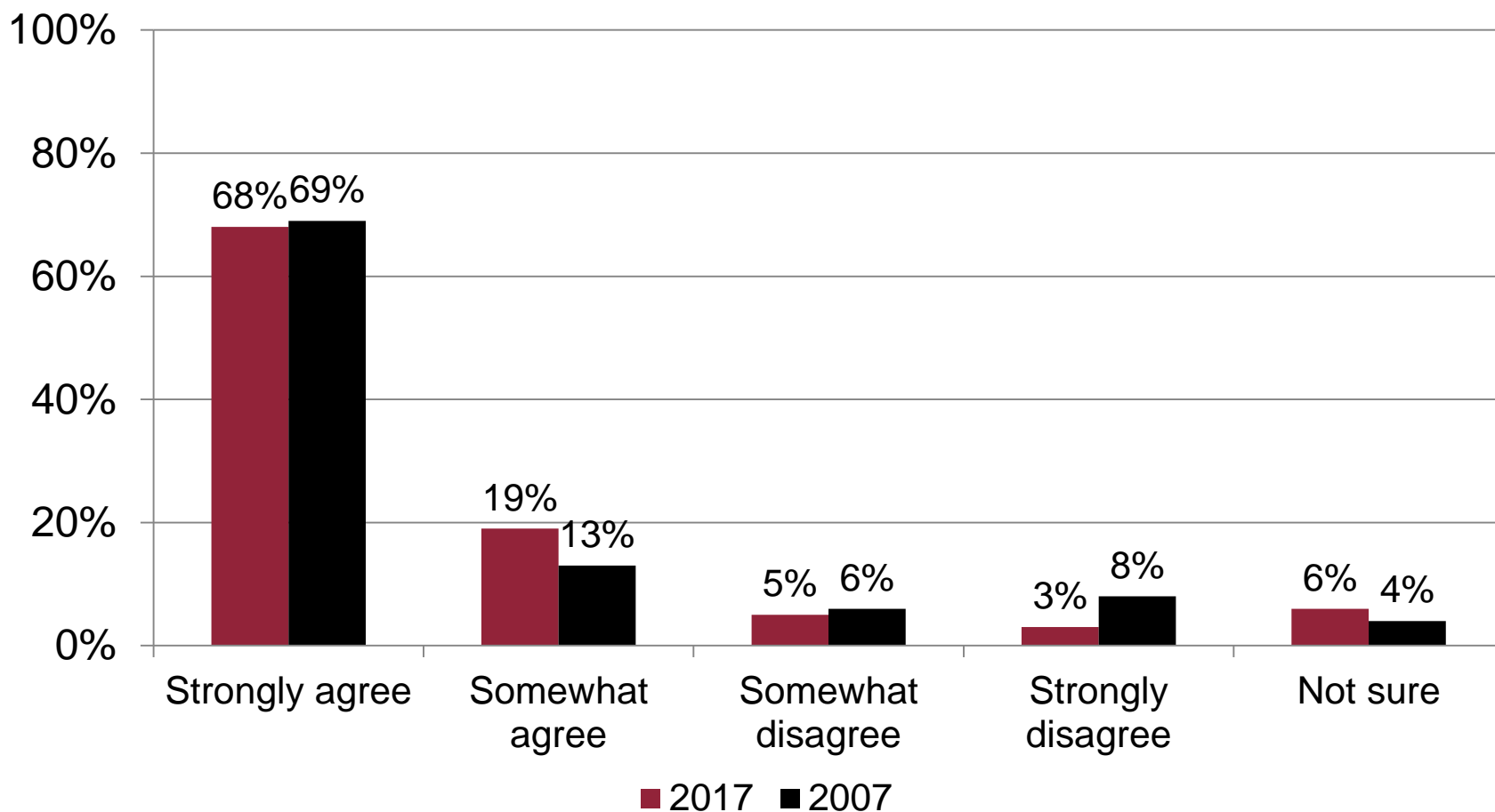


87% agree that Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk

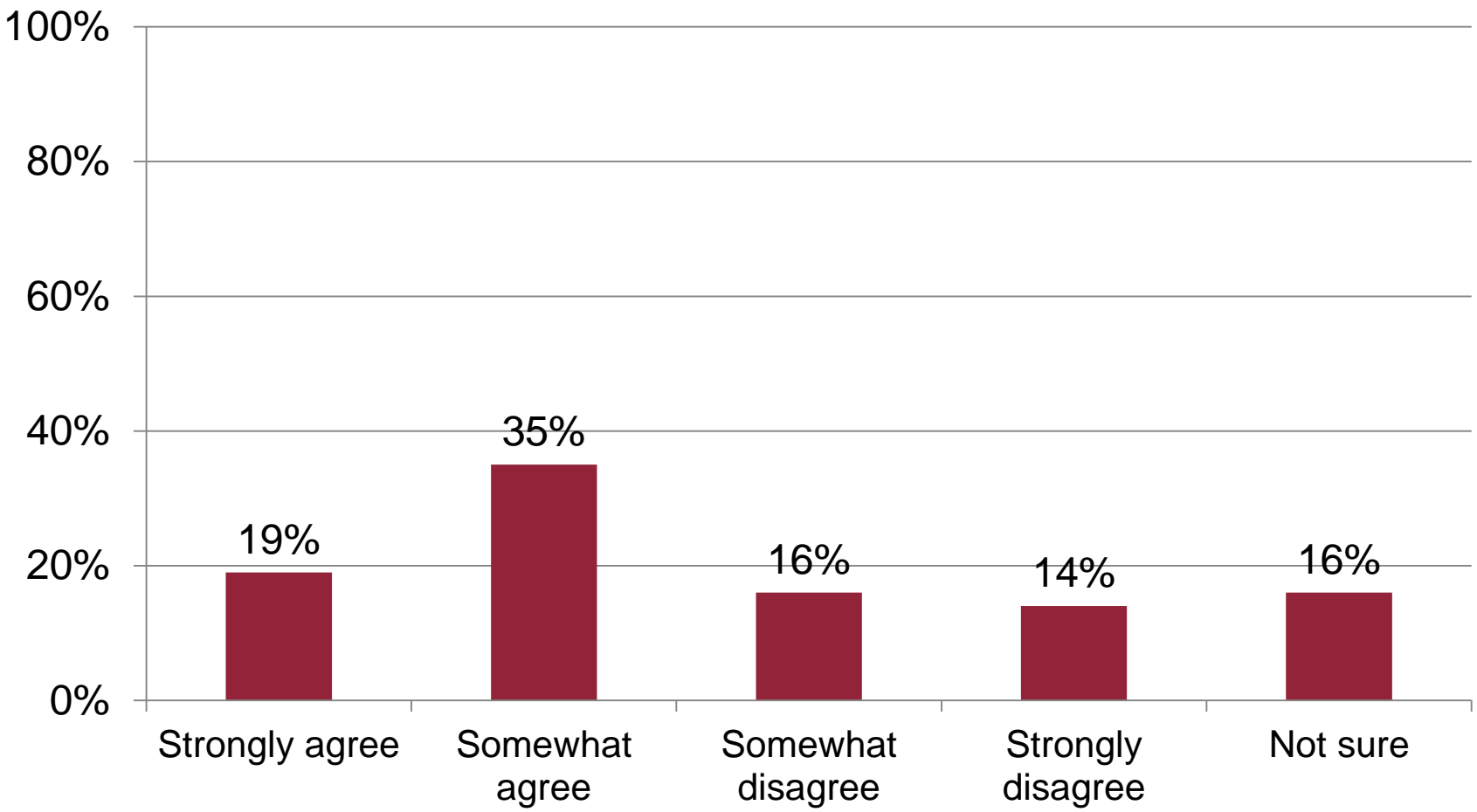


Q10: "Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk." n=1007

In 2017, 87% agree that Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk, compared to 82% in 2007



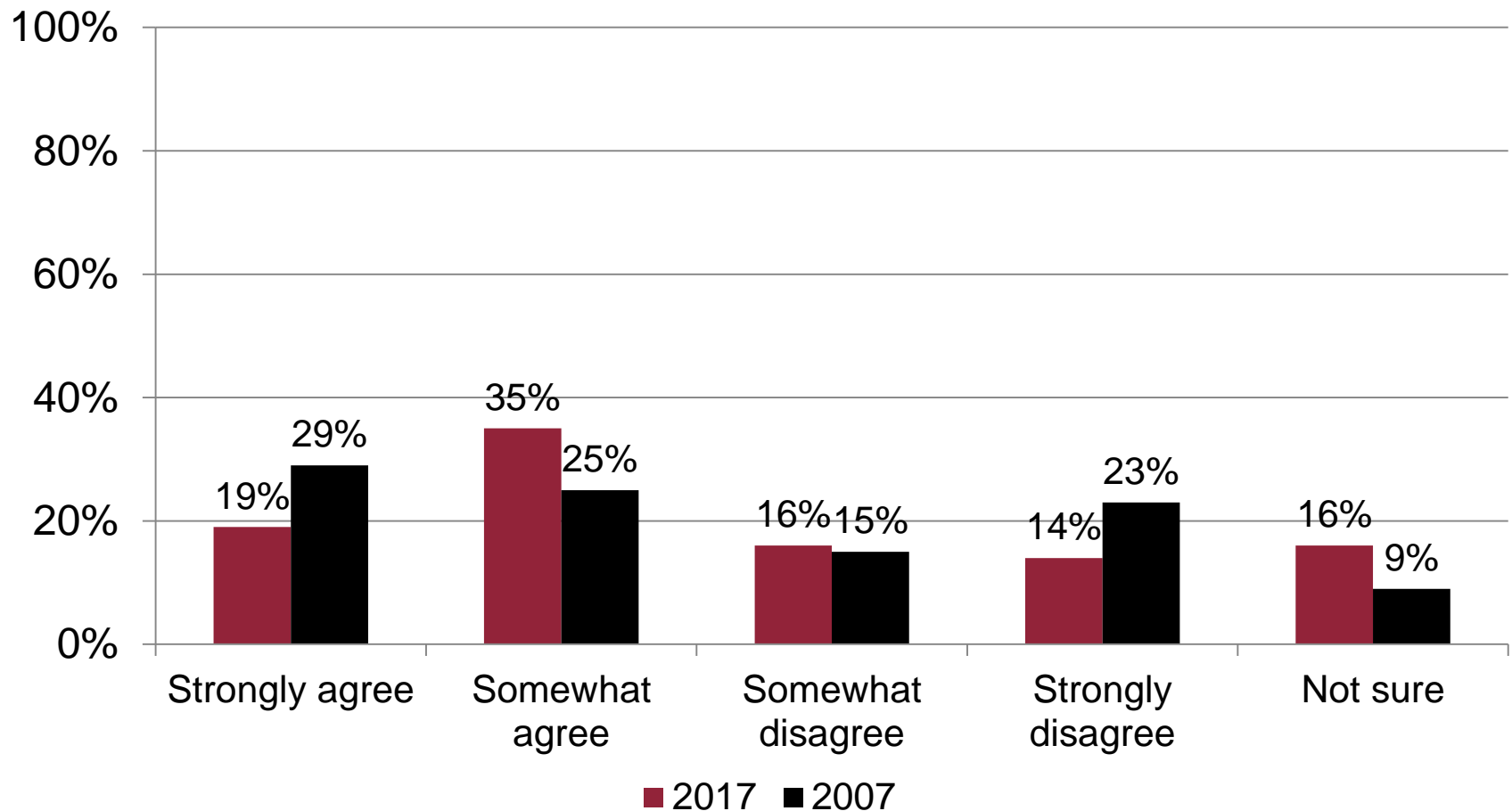
54% agree that Christians exercise biblical liberty when partaking of alcohol in reasonable amounts



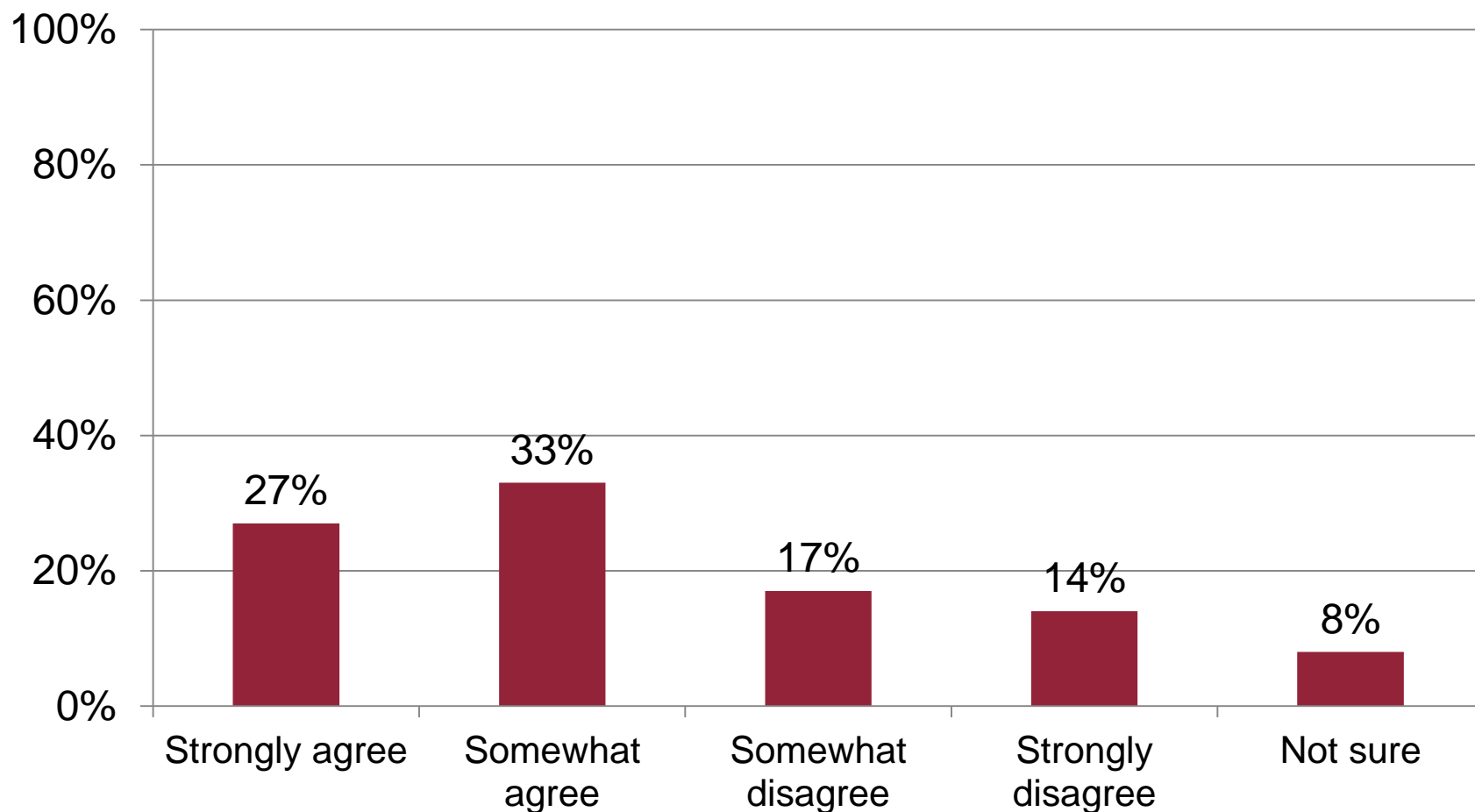
Q11: "When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty." n=1005



The number that agree that Christians exercise biblical liberty when partaking of alcohol in reasonable amounts did not change from 2007 to 2017 (54%)

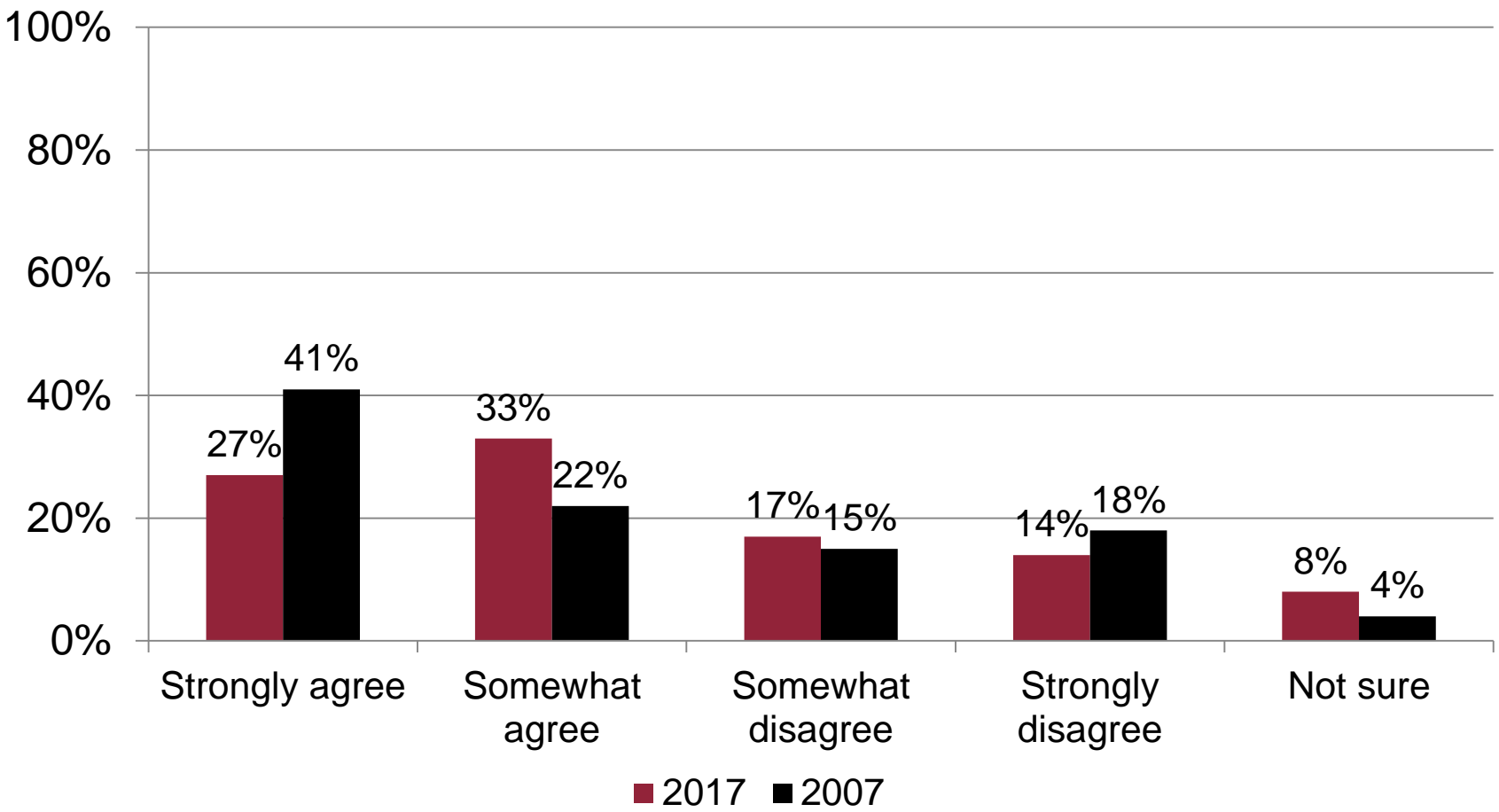


60% agree that when Christians partake of alcohol socially, they could cause other believers to stumble or be confused



Q12: "When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, they could cause other believers to stumble or be confused." n=1007

Those that agree that when Christians partake of alcohol socially, they could cause other believers to stumble or be confused dropped from 63% in 2007 to 60% in 2017



Q12: "When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, they could cause other believers to stumble or be confused." n=1007



Significant Differences

Gender
Region
Age
Ethnicity
Education Level
Church Service Attendance
Evangelical Beliefs
Church Size (Attendance)
Denomination

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among churchgoers' 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 churchgoers' service attendance, Evangelical Beliefs, church size (by attendance), and denomination.

Church Service Attendance	Evangelical Beliefs	Church Size (Attendance)	Denomination
At least once a week	Yes	Less than 50	Baptist
Once or twice a month	No	50-99	Lutheran
		100-249	Methodist
		250-499	Non-denominational
		500-999	Assemblies of God/Pentecostal
		1000 or more	

Evangelical Beliefs

- Evangelical Beliefs are defined using the NAE LifeWay Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
 - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
 - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
 - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

“Do you drink alcohol?”

- Males (48%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than females (37%)
- Those in the Midwest (48%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those in the South (38%)
- Those age 65+ are the least likely age group to answer “Yes” (32%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (47%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than Black, Non-Hispanics (32%) and Hispanics (36%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (59%) or a graduate degree (62%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those who are high school graduates or less (26%) or with some college (46%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are less likely to answer “Yes” than attending once or twice a month (37% v. 69%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are less likely to answer “Yes” than those without Evangelical Beliefs (33% v. 51%)
- Those attending a church with attendance of 100-249 (46%) and 250-499 (51%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those attending a church with attendance of less than 50 (32%) and 50-99 (36%)
- Lutherans (76%) and Methodists (62%) likely to answer “Yes” than Baptists (33%), Non-denominational (43%), and Assemblies of God/Pentecostals (23%)

“Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol.”

- Those in the South (27%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (19%) and West (17%)
- Those age 65+ (29%) are more likely to Agree than those 35-49 (20%) and 50-64 (21%)
- Hispanics (41%) are more likely to Agree than White, Non-Hispanics (20%) and Black, Non-Hispanics (22%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less are the most likely education level to Agree (31%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are more likely to Agree than attending once or twice a month (25% v. 11%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (29% v. 16%)
- Those attending a church with attendance of less than 50 (30%) are more likely to Agree than those attending a church with attendance of 1000 or more (19%)
- Baptists (32%) and Assemblies of God/Pentecostals (41%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (3%), Methodists (8%), and Non-denominational (11%)

“Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin.”

- Males (60%) are more likely to Agree than females (51%)
- Those in the Midwest (62%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (54%) and West (49%)
- Those age 18-34 are the least likely age group to Agree (45%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (60%) are more likely to Agree than Black, Non-Hispanics (43%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are more likely to Disagree than attending once or twice a month (35% v. 26%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Disagree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (38% v. 27%)
- Those attending a church with attendance of 250-499 (68%) and 1000 or more (62%) are more likely to Agree than those attending a church with attendance of less than 50 (48%) and 500-999 (42%)
- Assemblies of God/Pentecostals are the least likely denomination to Agree (36%)

“Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk.”

- Hispanics are the most likely ethnic group to Agree (96%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (90%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Bachelor’s (81%) or a graduate degree (81%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are more likely to Agree than attending once or twice a month (88% v. 78%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (94% v. 77%)
- Those attending a church with attendance of 1000 or more (94%) are more likely to Agree than those attending a church with attendance of 50-99 (87%) and 250-499 (82%)
- Baptists (89%), Non-denominational (95%), and Assemblies of God/Pentecostals (93%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (76%) and Methodists (69%)

“When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical freedom.”

- Males (65%) are more likely to Agree than females (47%)
- Those in the South (33%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the West (23%)
- Those age 50-64 (36%) are more likely to Disagree than those 18-34 (24%) and 35-49 (27%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (57%) and Hispanics (60%) are more likely to Agree than Black, Non-Hispanics (44%)
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (63%) are more likely to Agree than those who are high school graduates or less (49%) or with some college (53%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are more likely to Disagree than attending once or twice a month (32% v. 21%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Disagree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (34% v. 25%)
- Those attending a church with attendance of 250-499 (62%) are more likely to Agree than those attending a church with attendance of less than 50 (49%)
- Lutherans (68%) and Non-denominational (66%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (49%) and Assemblies of God/Pentecostals (44%)

“When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, they could cause other believers to stumble or be confused.”

- Males (66%) are more likely to Agree than females (57%)
- Those in the South (67%) and West (60%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (48%)
- Those age 65+ (35%) are more likely to Disagree than those 18-34 (26%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less (63%) or with some college (61%) are more likely to Agree than those with a graduate degree (49%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are more likely to Agree than attending once or twice a month (64% v. 41%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (74% v. 44%)
- Those attending a church with attendance 250-499 (40%) are more likely to Disagree than those attending a church with attendance of less than 50 (25%) and 50-99 (29%)
- Baptists (69%), Non-denominational (63%), and Assemblies of God/Pentecostals (81%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (27%) and Methodists (38%)

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