

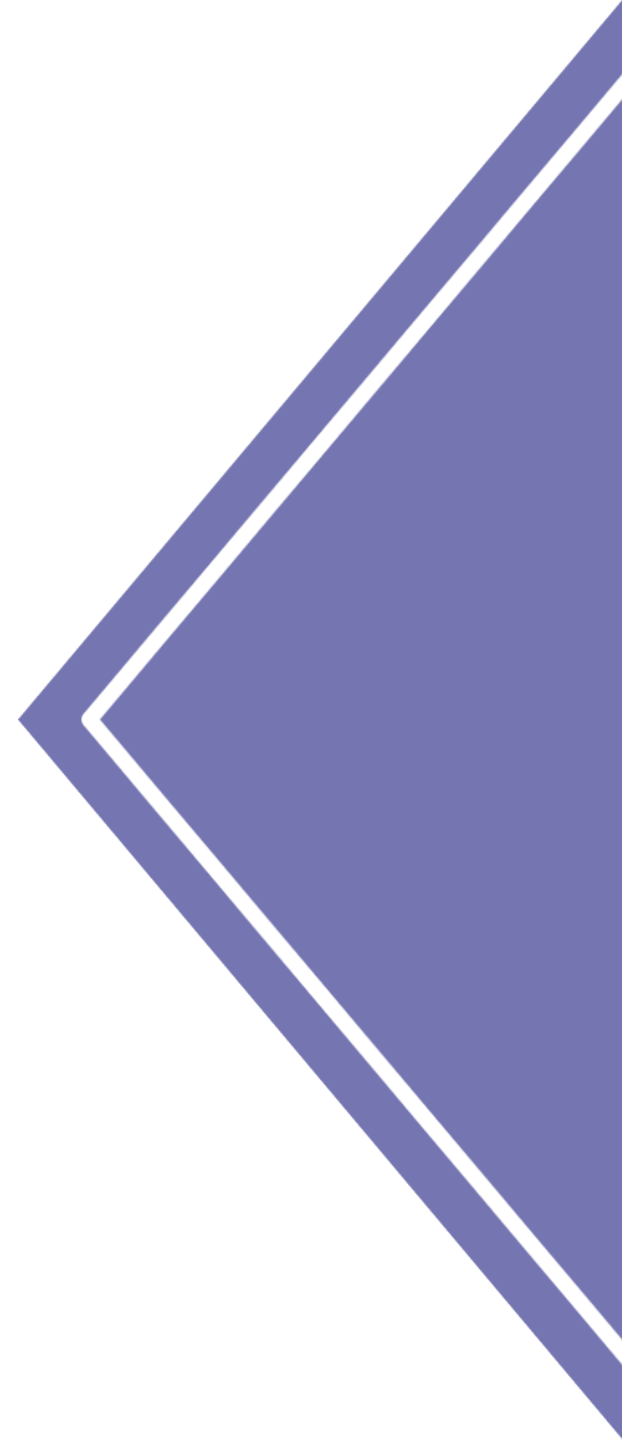
Pastors' Views on Sermon Length

Survey of American Protestant Pastors

Methodology

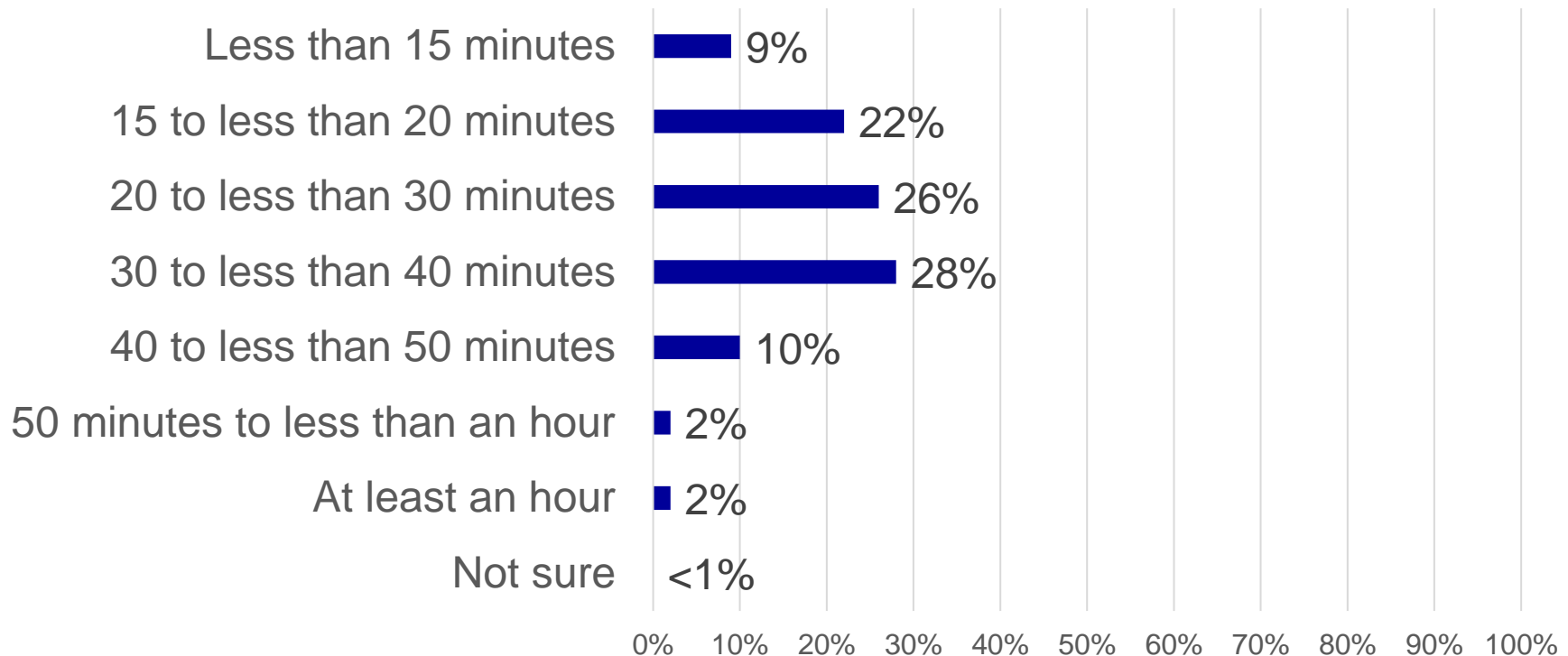
- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 -- September 24, 2019
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the 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 $\pm 3.3\%$
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses



85% say that their sermons are less than 40 minutes

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

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 pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, and self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

Ethnicity	Age	Gender	Education	Self-Identified
White	18-44	Male	No College Degree	Evangelical
African-American	45-54	Female	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
Other Ethnicity	55-64		Master's Degree	
	65+		Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

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

Region	Denomination	Attendance
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/ Church of Christ	

“How long is your typical sermon?”

- White pastors (34%) are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than African American pastors (19%) and pastors of Other Ethnicities (9%)
- African American pastors (20%) and pastors of Other Ethnicities (28%) are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than White pastors (12%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (35%) are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than pastors age 45-54 (24%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (17%) are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than pastors age 55-64 (11%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than male pastors (59% v. 26%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than female pastors (15% v. 9%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (42%) or a Doctoral degree (34%) are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than those with no college degree (10%) or a Bachelor’s degree (9%)
- Pastors with no college degree (23%) or a Bachelor’s degree (25%) are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than those with a Master’s degree (10%) or a Doctoral degree (8%)

“How long is your typical sermon?”

- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than Evangelical pastors (54% v. 17%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than Mainline pastors (18% v. 6%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (45%) and Midwest (40%) are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than those in the South (26%) and West (19%)
- Pastors in the West (22%) are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than those in the South (12%) and Midwest (14%)
- Lutherans (86%), Methodists (52%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (47%) are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than Baptists (2%), Pentecostals (3%), and Christian/Church of Christ (18%)
- Baptists (23%) and Pentecostals (26%) are more likely to select “At least 40 minutes” than Lutherans (1%), Methodists (1%), Presbyterian/Reformed (5%) and Christian/Church of Christ (9%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (43%) and 50-99 (35%) are more likely to select “Less than 20 minutes” than those at churches of 100-249 (23%) and 250+ (21%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are most likely to select “At least 40 minutes” (22%)

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