



## CHURCH RESEARCH

# STUDY OF WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD AN ABORTION & THEIR VIEWS ON CHURCH



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# CARE NET<sup>®</sup>

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**COMPASSION | HOPE | HELP**



## VISION

Care Net envisions a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families.

## MISSION

Acknowledging that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection, Care Net offers compassion, hope, and help to anyone considering abortion by presenting them with realistic alternatives and Christ-centered support through our life-affirming network of pregnancy centers, organizations, and individuals.

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# Study of Women Who Have Had an Abortion and Their Views on Church

**Commissioned by:**

CARE  NET<sup>®</sup>  
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**Conducted by:**

 **LifeWay**<sup>®</sup>  
**RESEARCH**  
*Biblical Solutions for Life*

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# Methodology

- ❑ **A demographically balanced online panel was used for interviewing American women between May 6-13, 2015**
- ❑ **Quotas and slight weights were used to ensure the sample matched national totals for ethnicity, age, income, and region**
- ❑ **This nationally balanced sample was screened to only include those women who indicated that had ever had a pregnancy termination/abortion medical procedure**
- ❑ **The completed sample is 1,038 surveys**

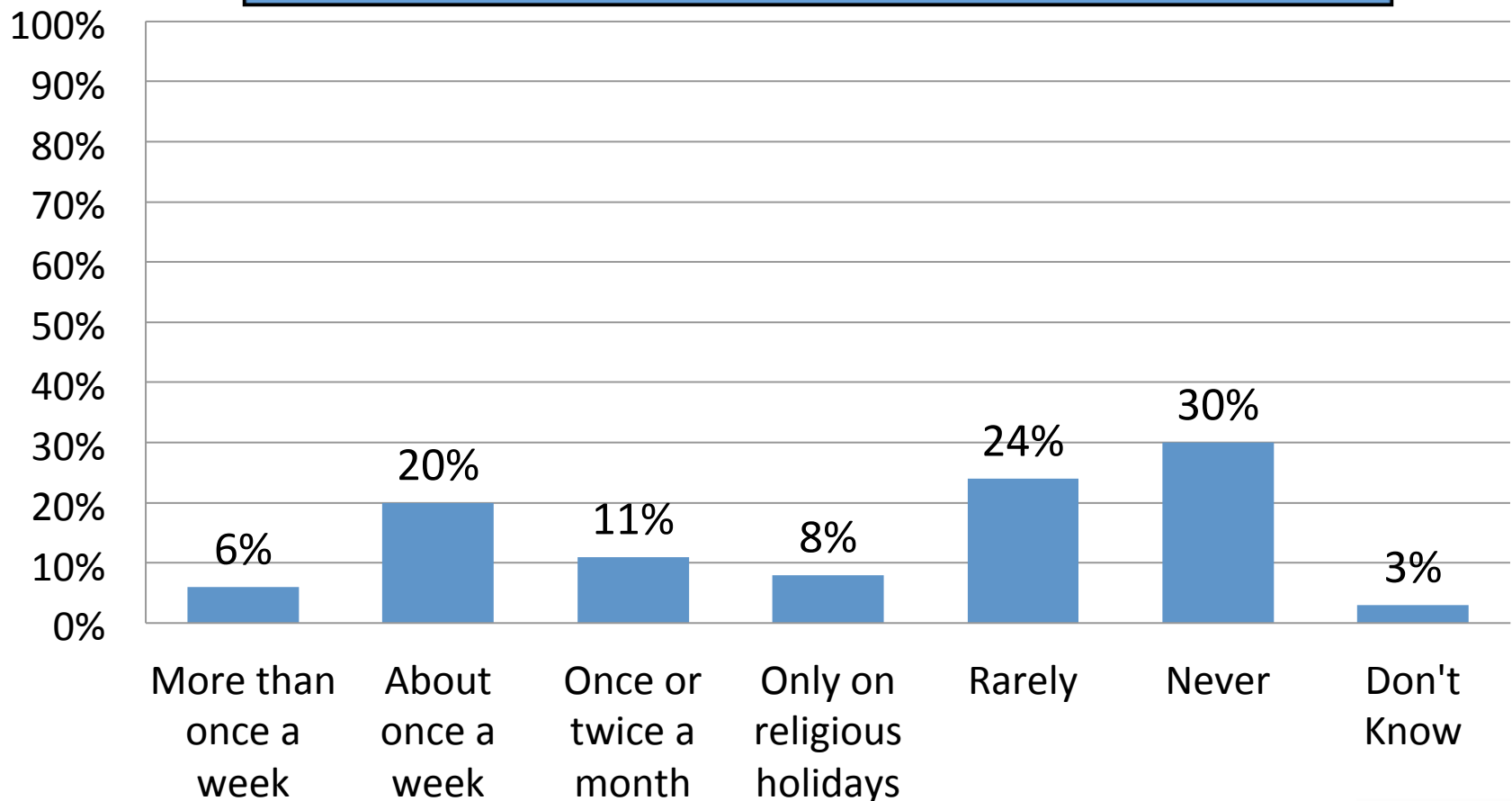
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# Survey Responses



# More than 1 in 3 (36%) women were attending a Christian church once a month or more at the time of their first abortion

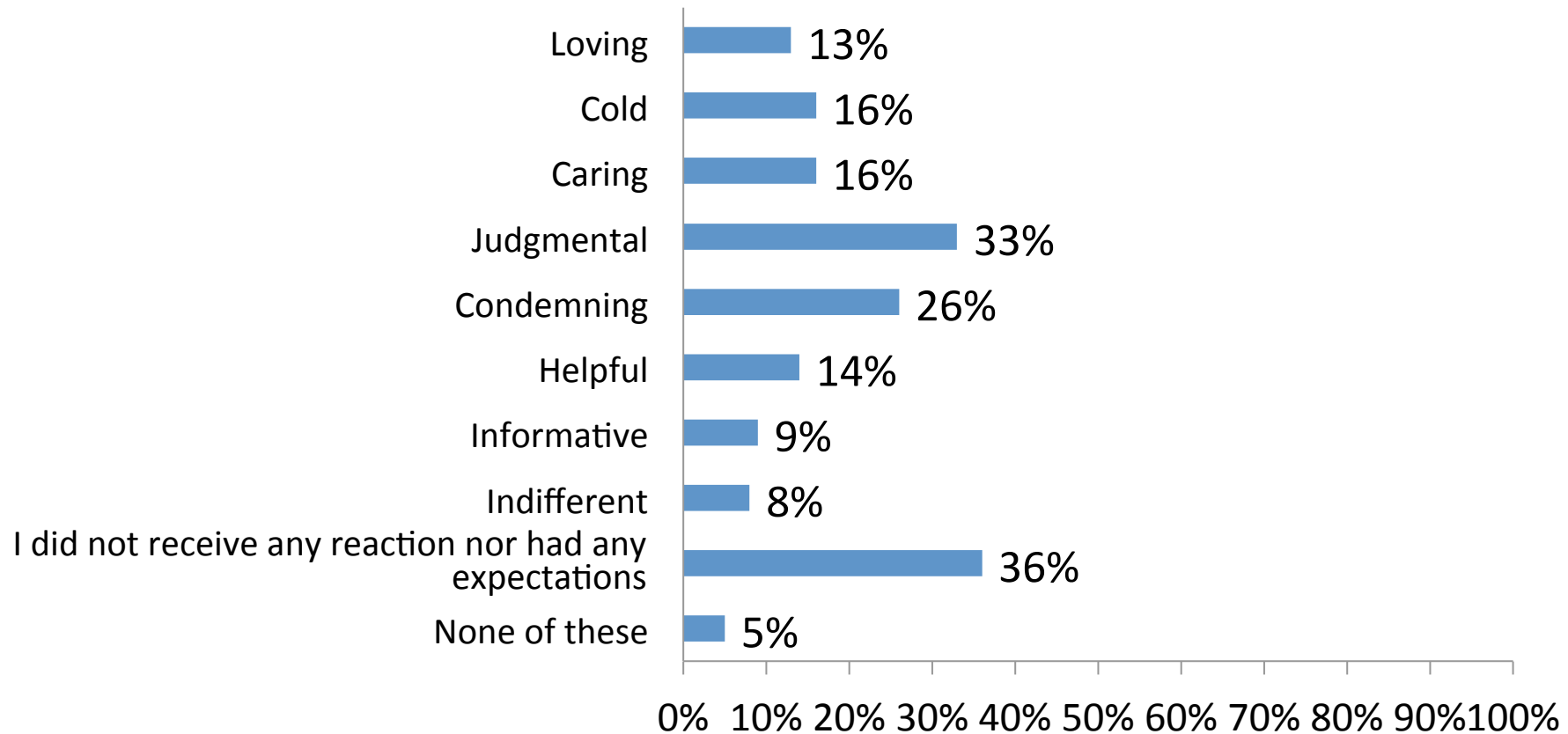
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "At the time of your first pregnancy termination/abortion how often are you attending religious services at a Christian church? (Select One)"

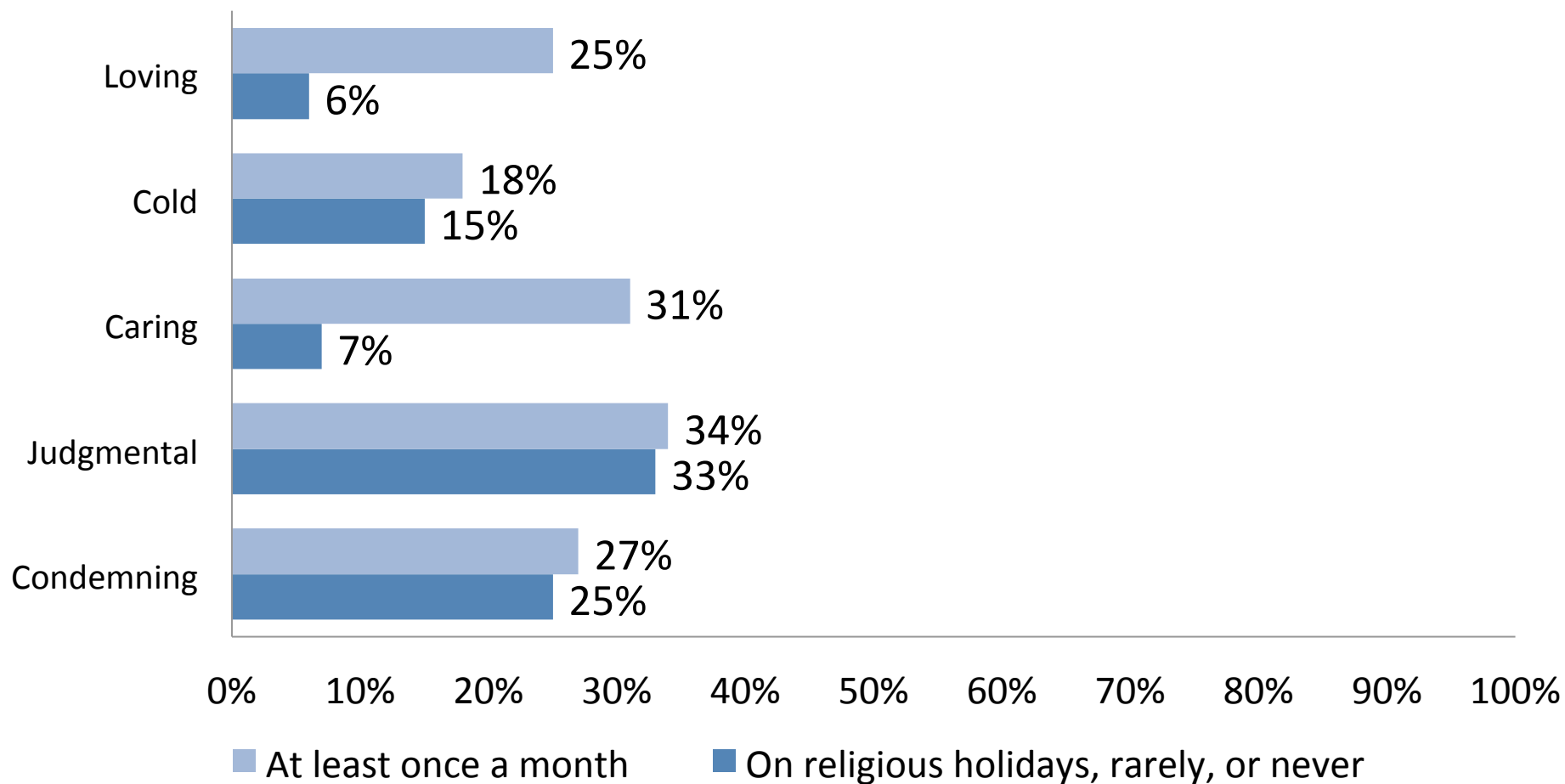
# As women considered their abortion decision, the most typical reactions/expectations were judgmental or condemning

The reaction I received or expected was...



Q: "At that same time, which of the following describes the reaction you received or would have expected to receive from a local church as you considered this decision? (Select all that apply)"

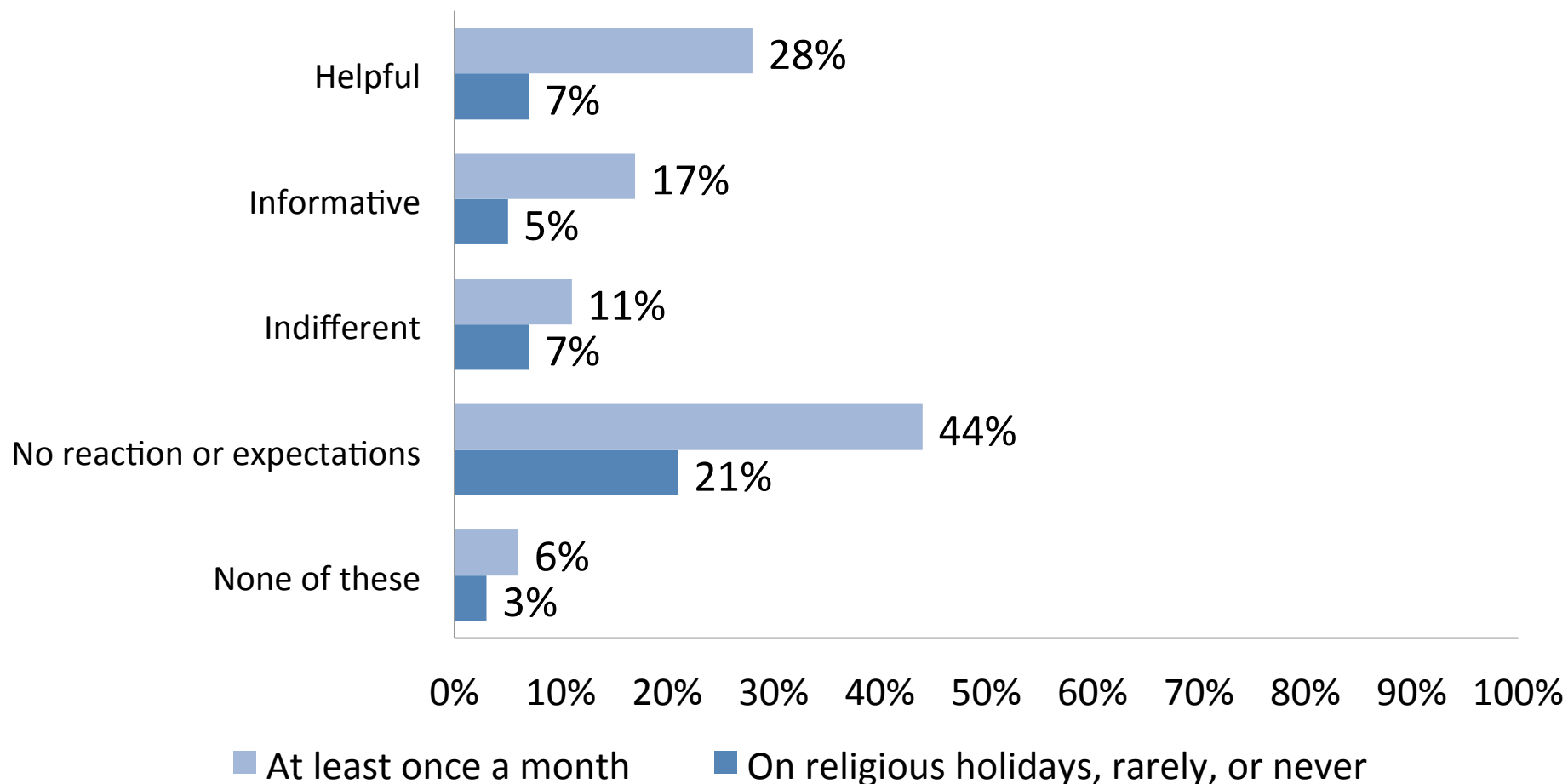
# Reactions and expectations from a local church by church attendance at that time



Q: "At that same time, which of the following describes the reaction you received or would have expected to receive from a local church as you considered this decision? (Select all that apply)"

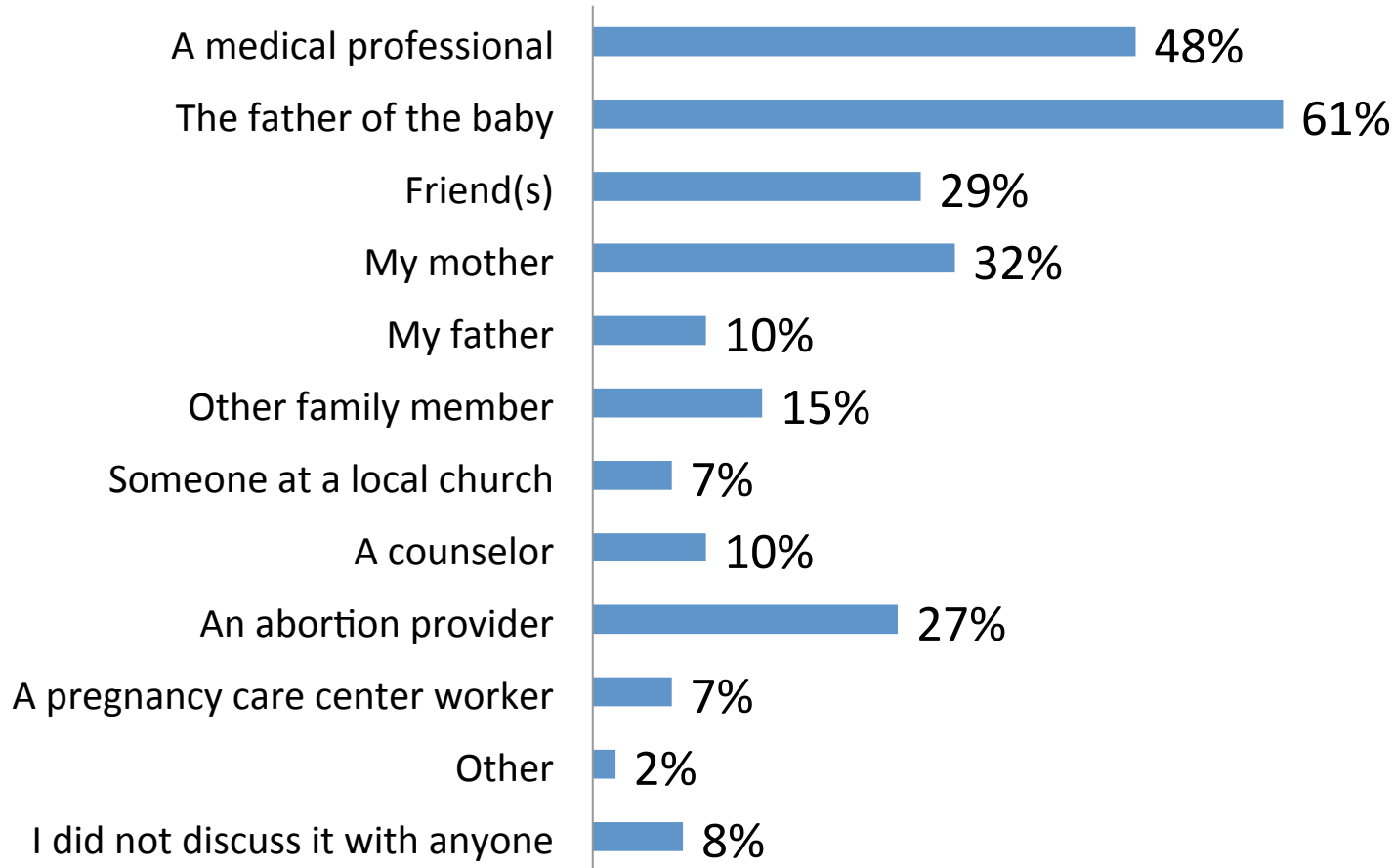


# Reactions and expectations from a local church by church attendance (cont.)



Q: "At that same time, which of the following describes the reaction you received or would have expected to receive from a local church as you considered this decision? (Select all that apply)"

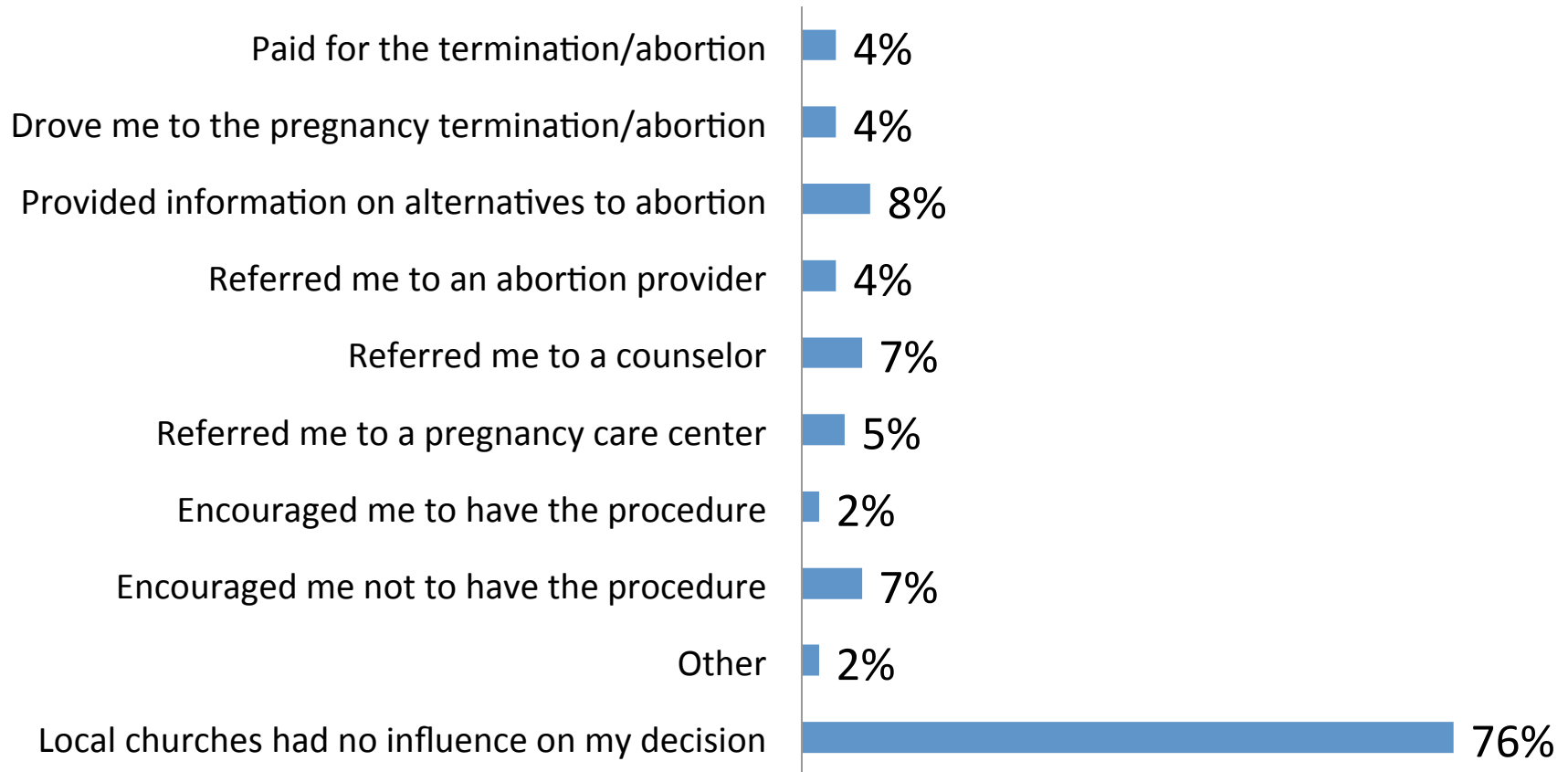
# Women are most likely to discuss their decision to terminate their pregnancy with the father of the baby or a medical professional



Q: "With whom did you discuss this pregnancy termination/abortion decision? (Select all that apply)"

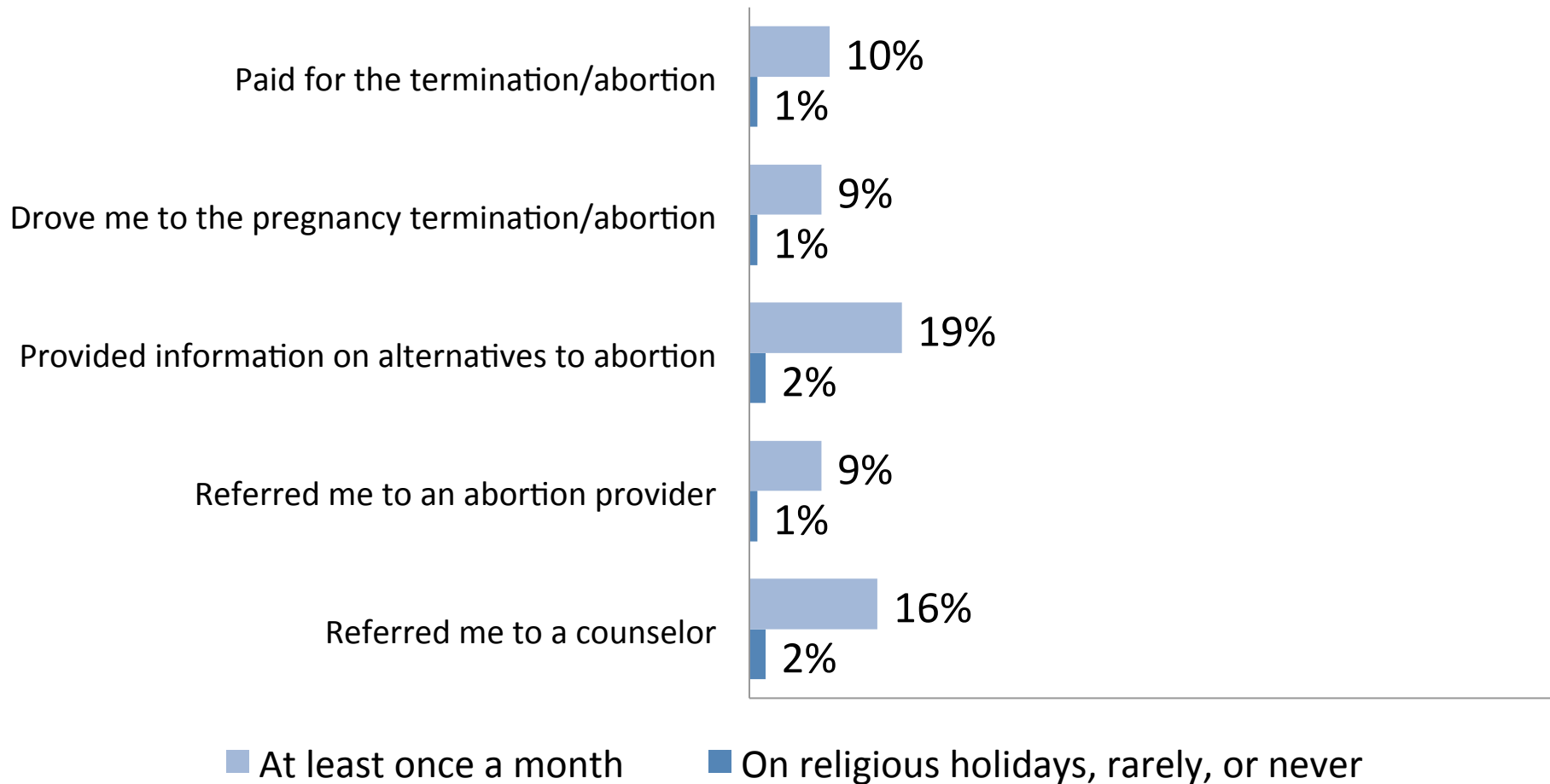
# Three in four (76%) women indicate local churches had no influence on their decision to terminate their pregnancy

## A local church...



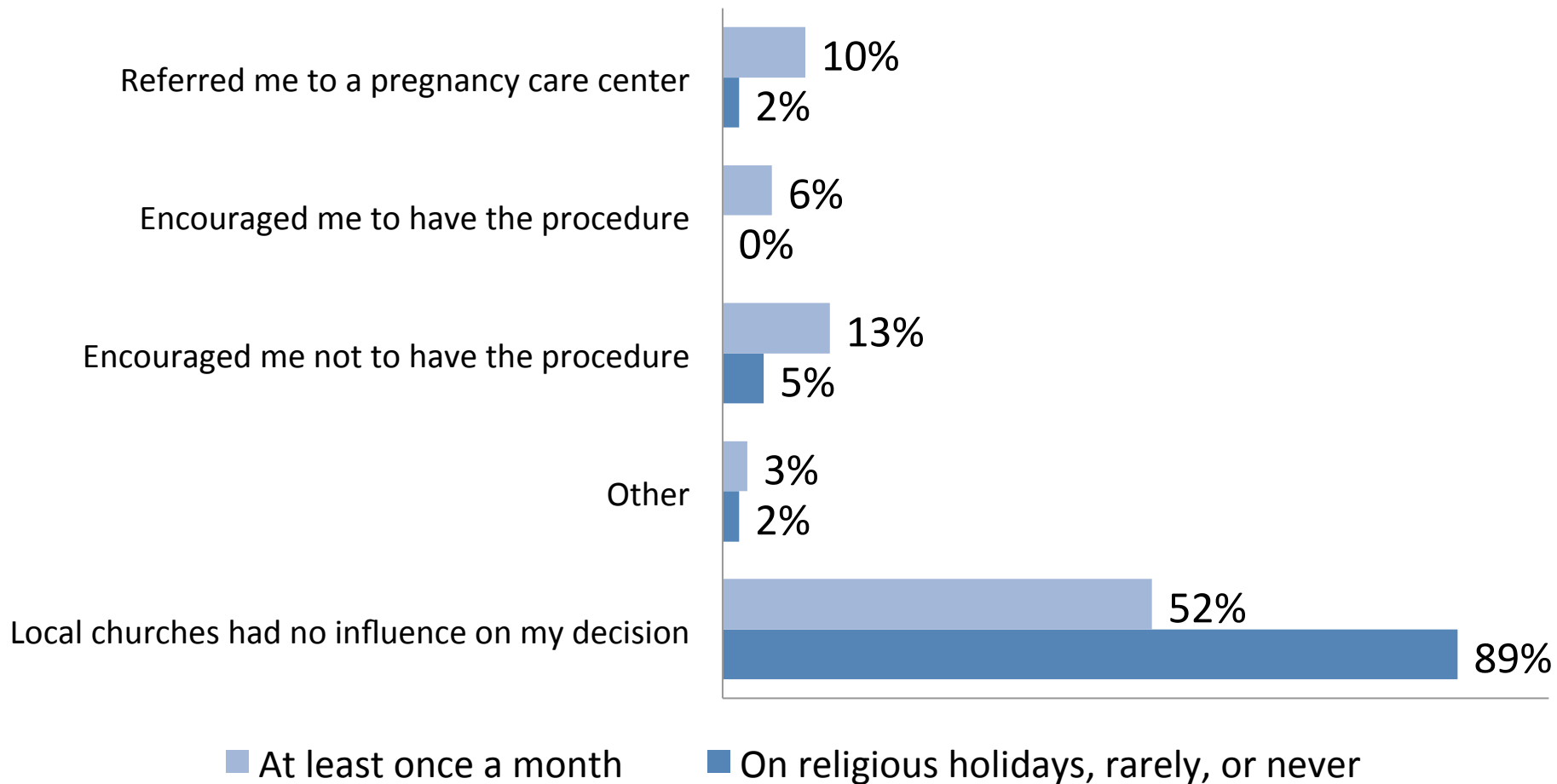
Q: "Did a local church influence your decision in any of the following ways? (Select all that apply)"

# Local church influence by church attendance at that time



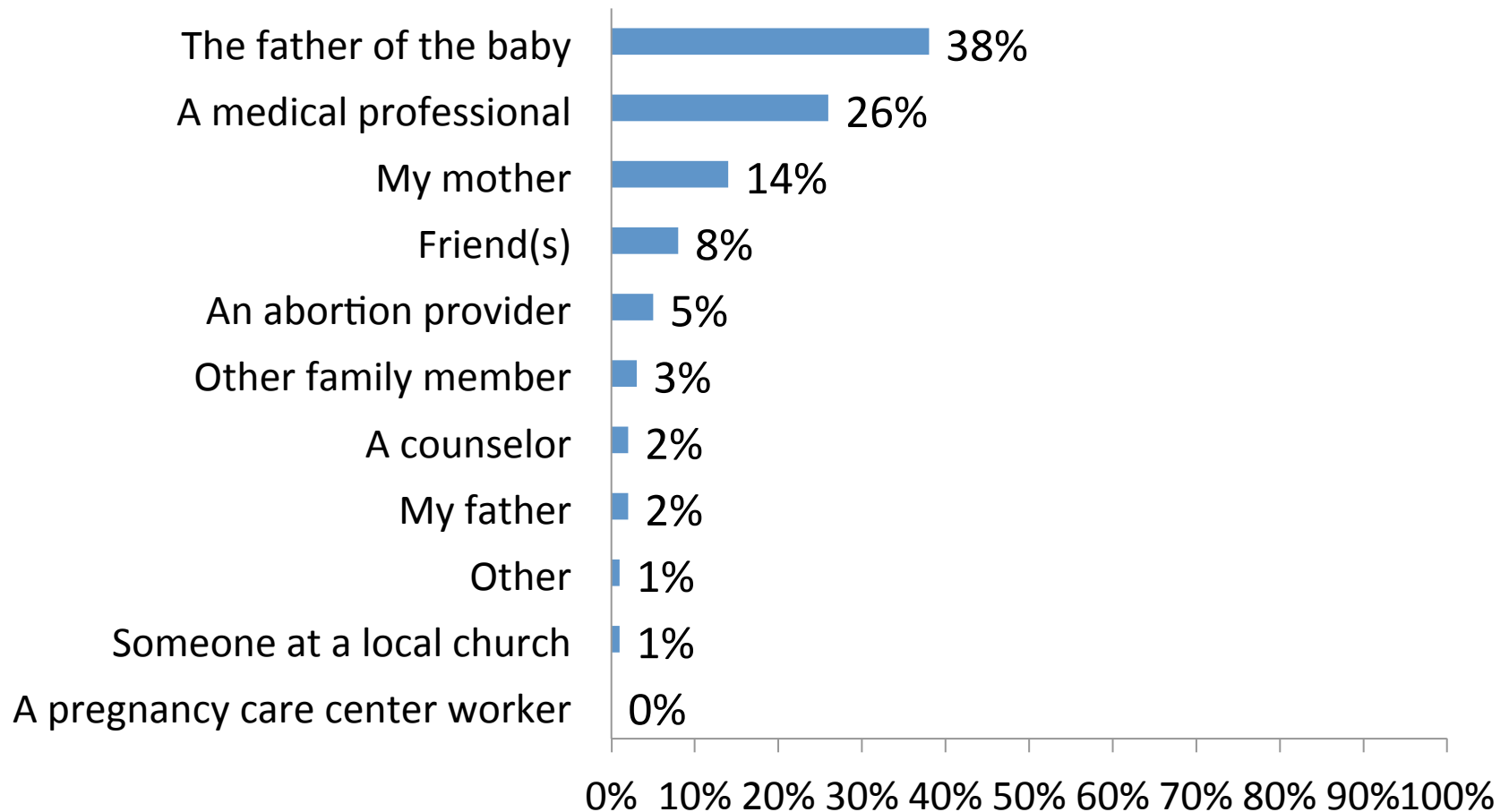
Q: "Did a local church influence your decision in any of the following ways? (Select all that apply)"

# Local church influence by church attendance (cont.)



Q: "Did a local church influence your decision in any of the following ways? (Select all that apply)"

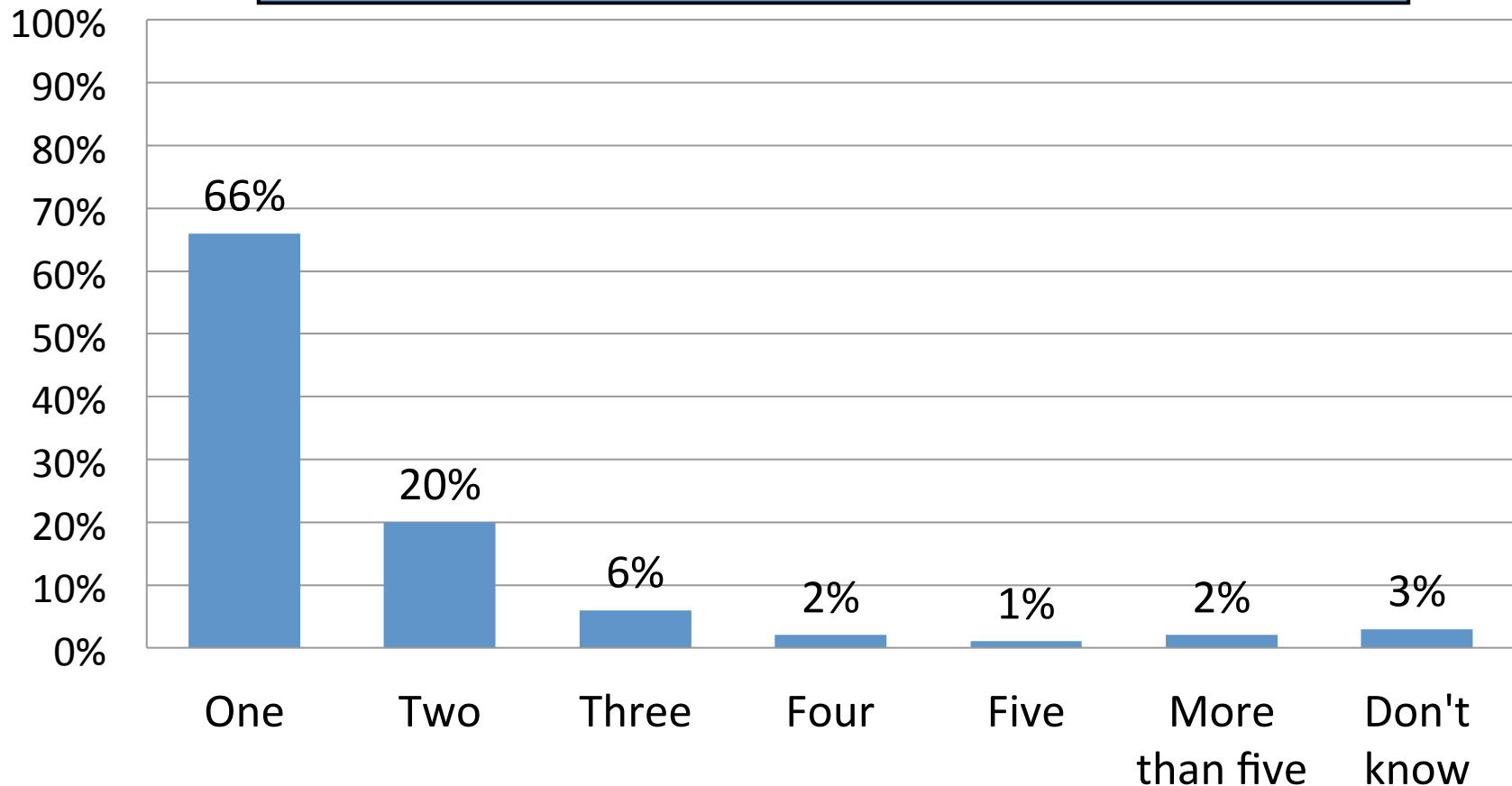
# Nearly 4 in 10 (38%) women indicate the father of the baby was most influential on their abortion decision



Q: "Which of these was most influential on your decision to terminate the pregnancy? (Select One)"

# Three in ten (30%) women who have had an abortion indicate they have had more than one pregnancy termination or abortion

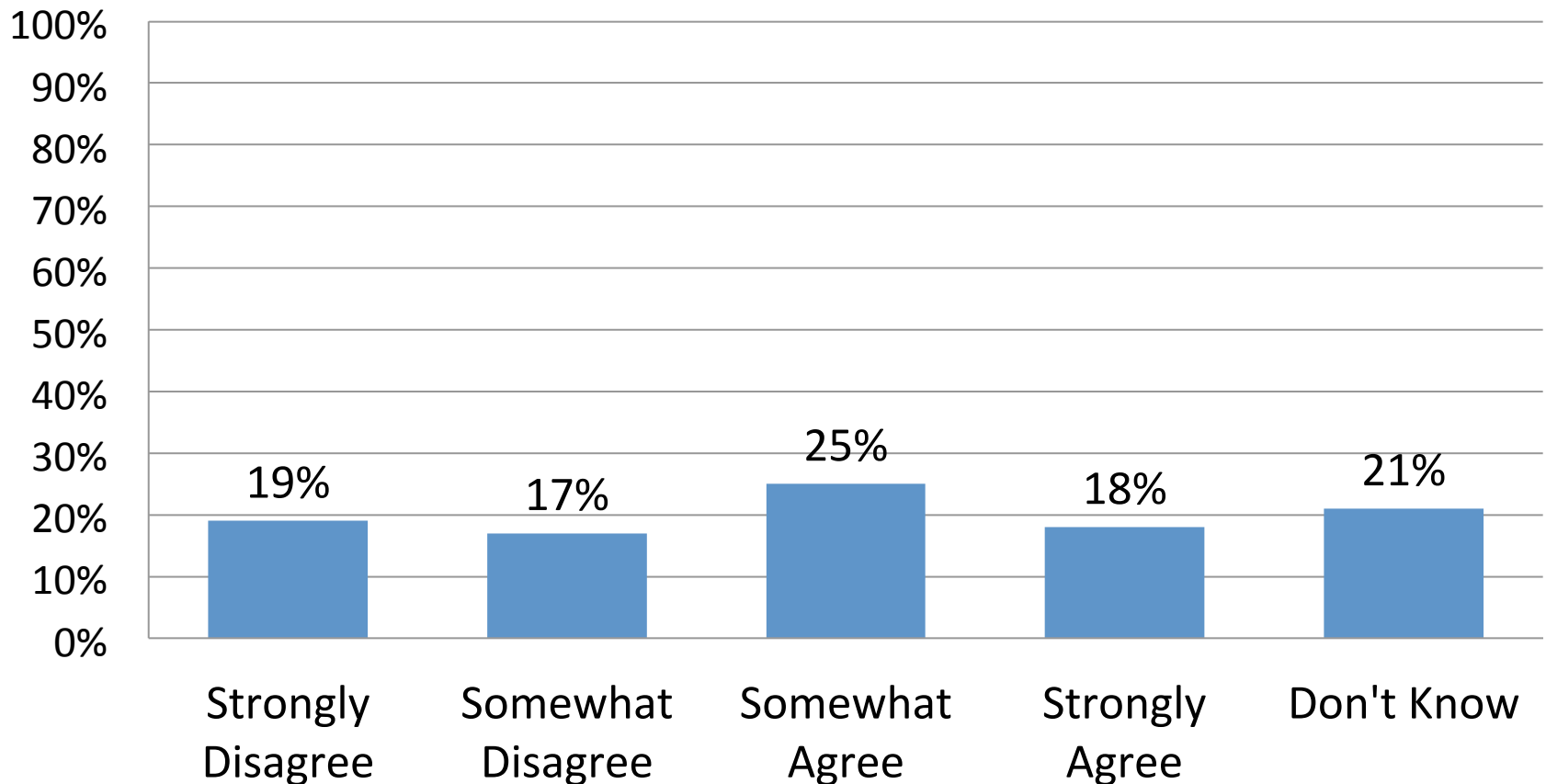
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "In total, how many pregnancy terminations/abortions have you had? (Select One)"

# More than 4 in 10 (43%) women who have had an abortion agree that it is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion

Among American women who have had an abortion

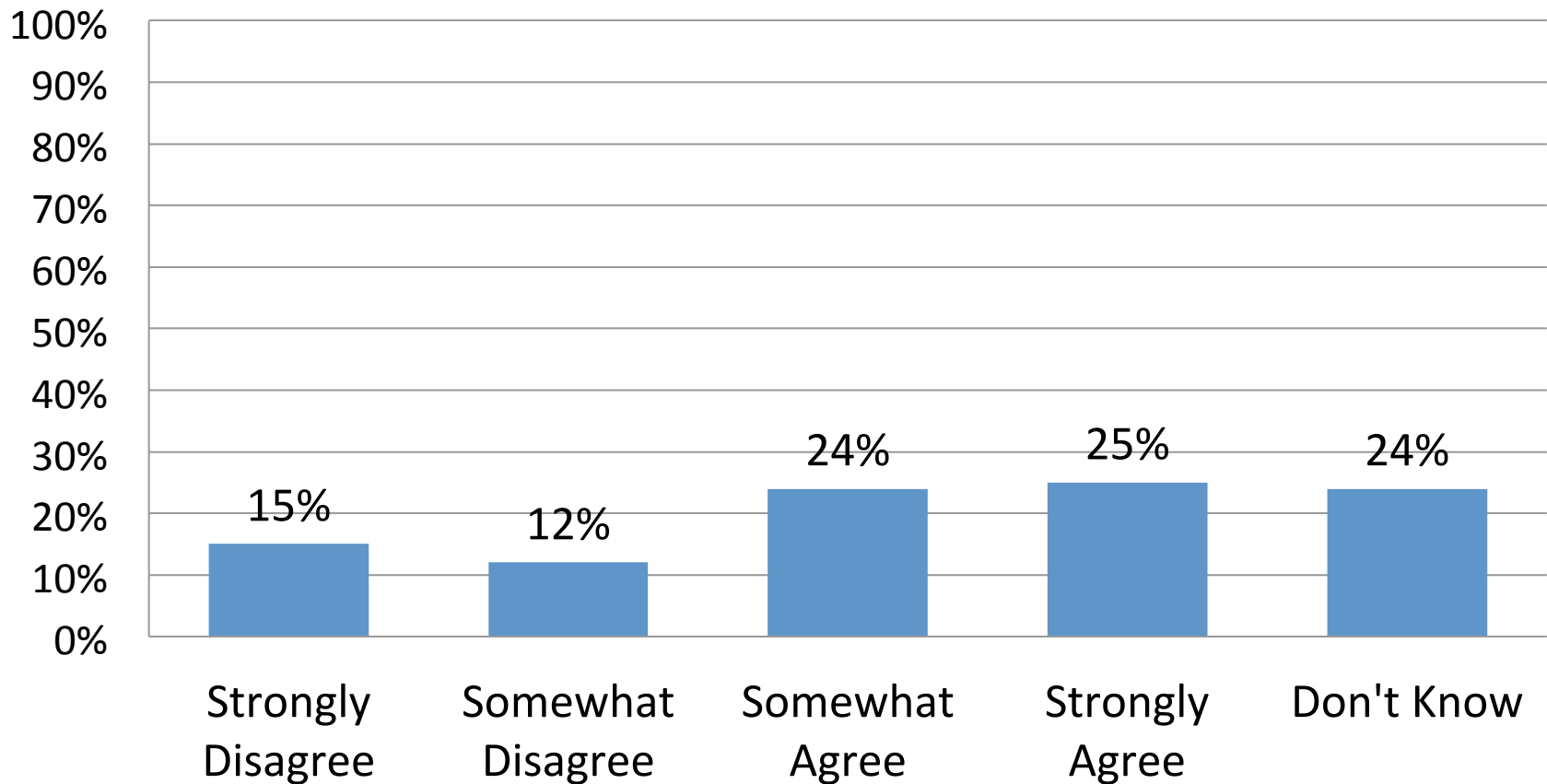


Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. It is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion."



# Half (49%) of women who have had an abortion agree that pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies

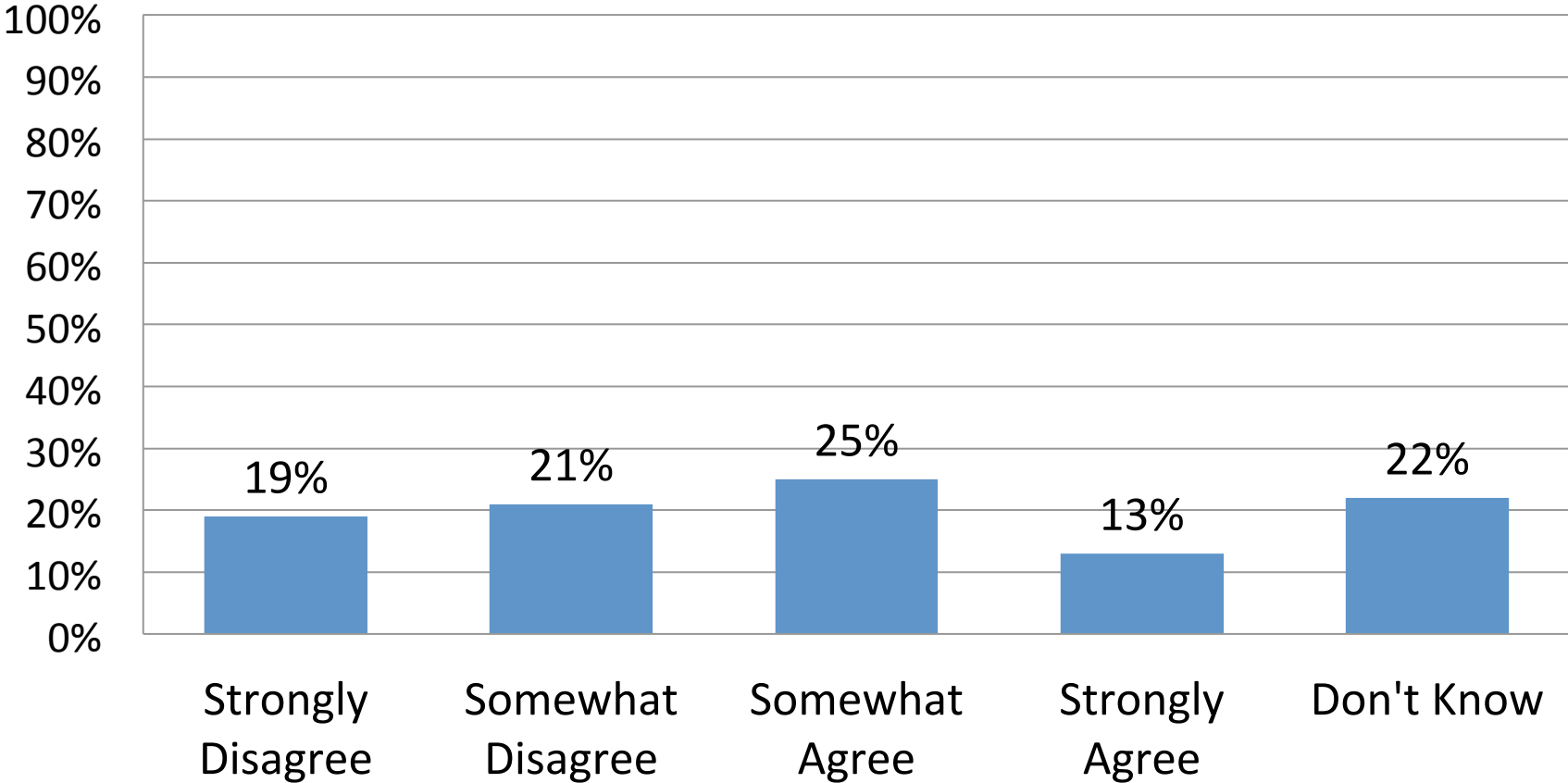
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Pastors' teachings on forgiveness don't seem to apply to terminated pregnancies/abortion."

# Four in ten (39%) women agree that pastors are sensitive to the pressures a woman faces with an unplanned pregnancy

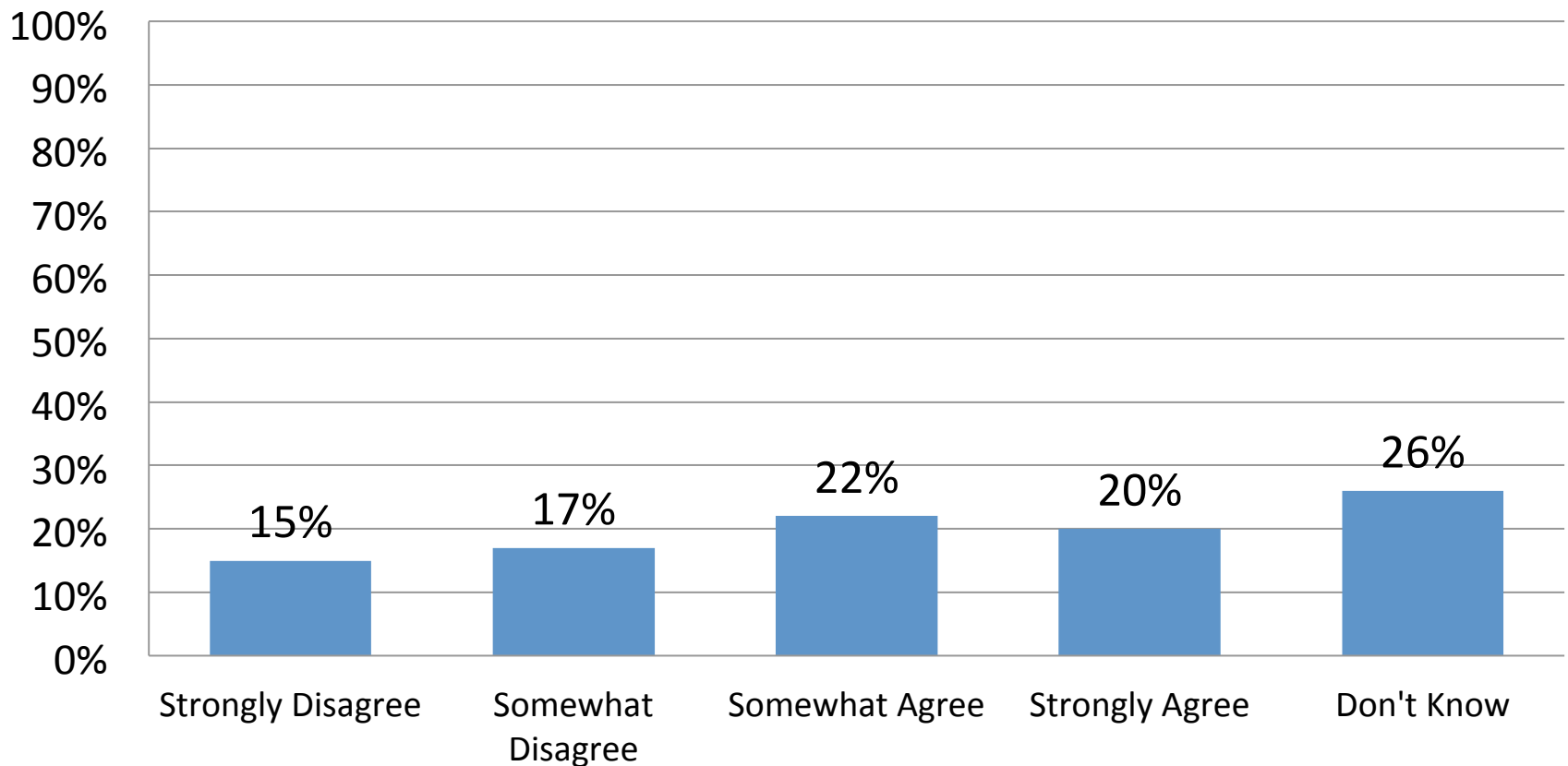
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Pastors are sensitive to the pressures a woman faces with an unplanned pregnancy."

# More than 4 in 10 (42%) women agree that pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions

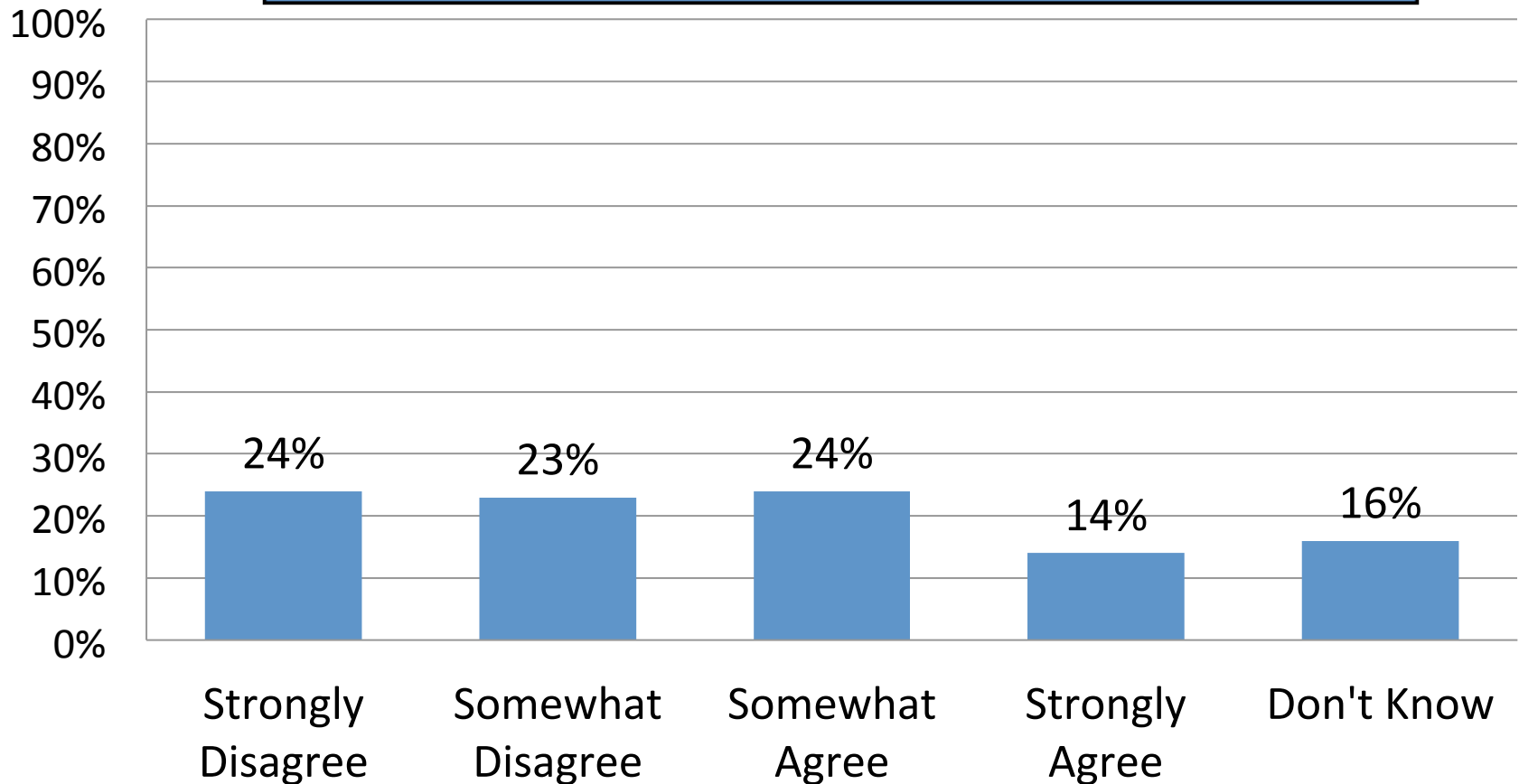
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions."

# Nearly 4 in 10 (38%) women who have had an abortion agree that churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options

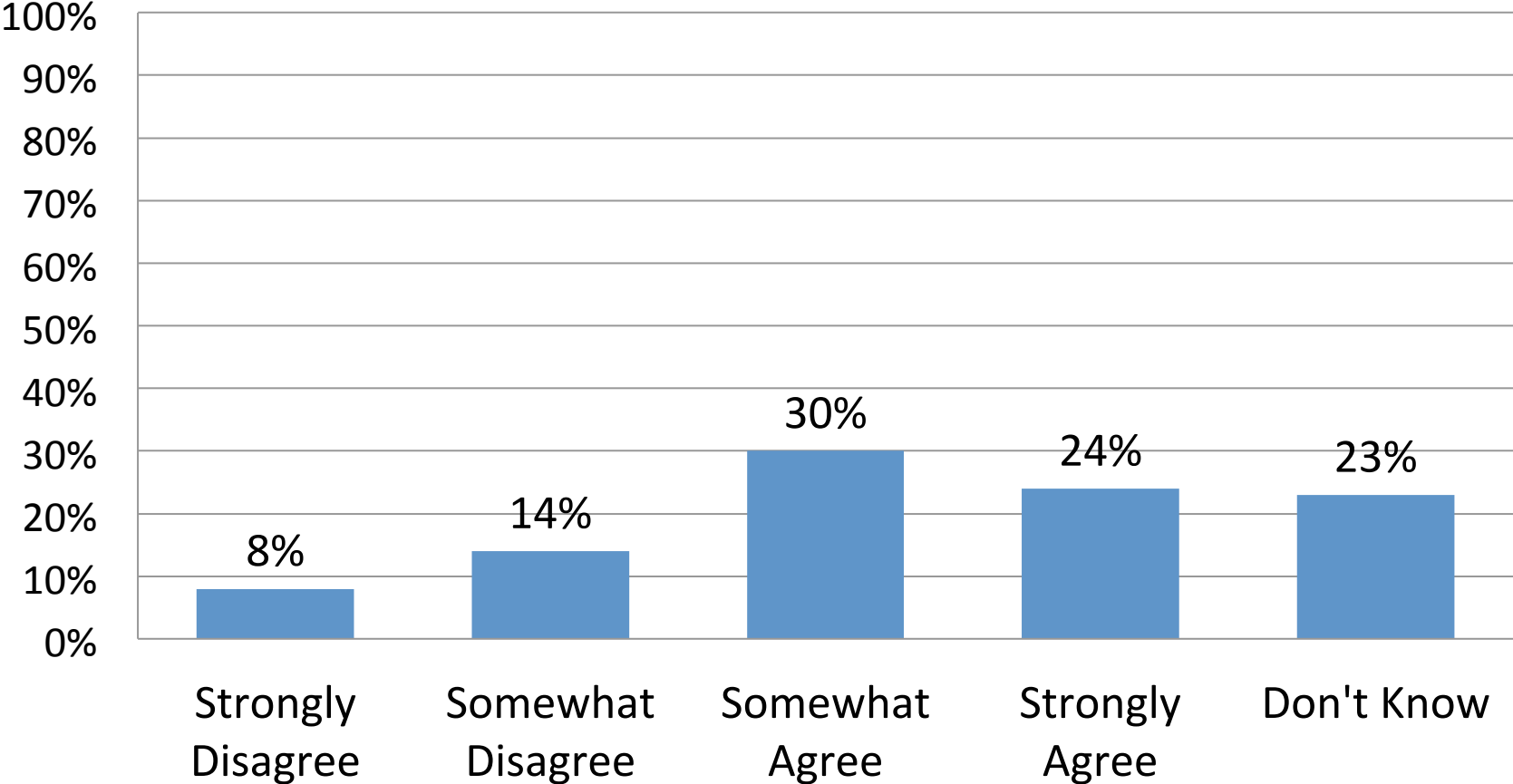
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption."

# Over half (54%) of women who have had an abortion agree that churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options

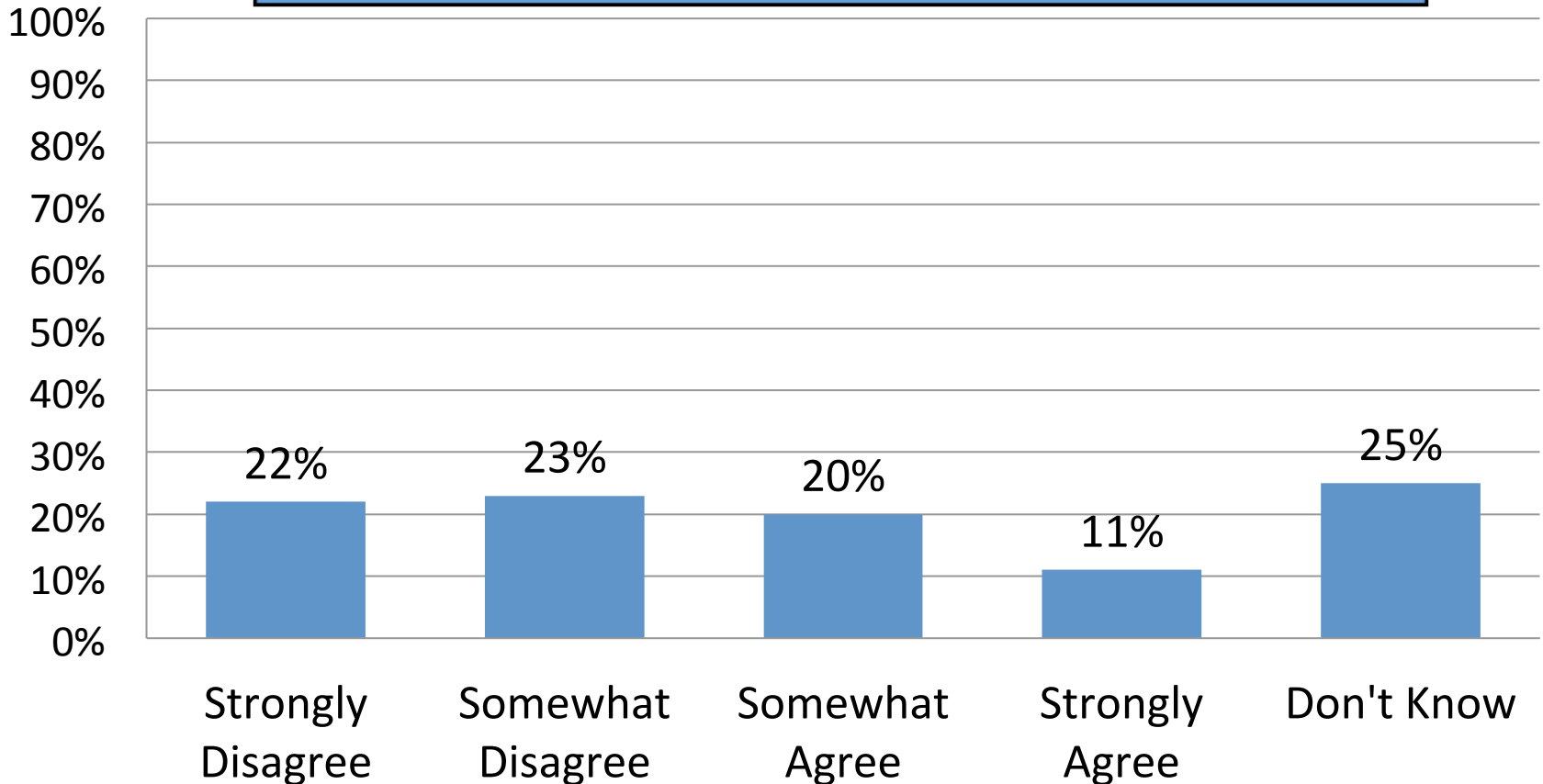
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Churches over-simplify decisions about pregnancy options."

# Three in ten (30%) women who have had an abortion agree that churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options

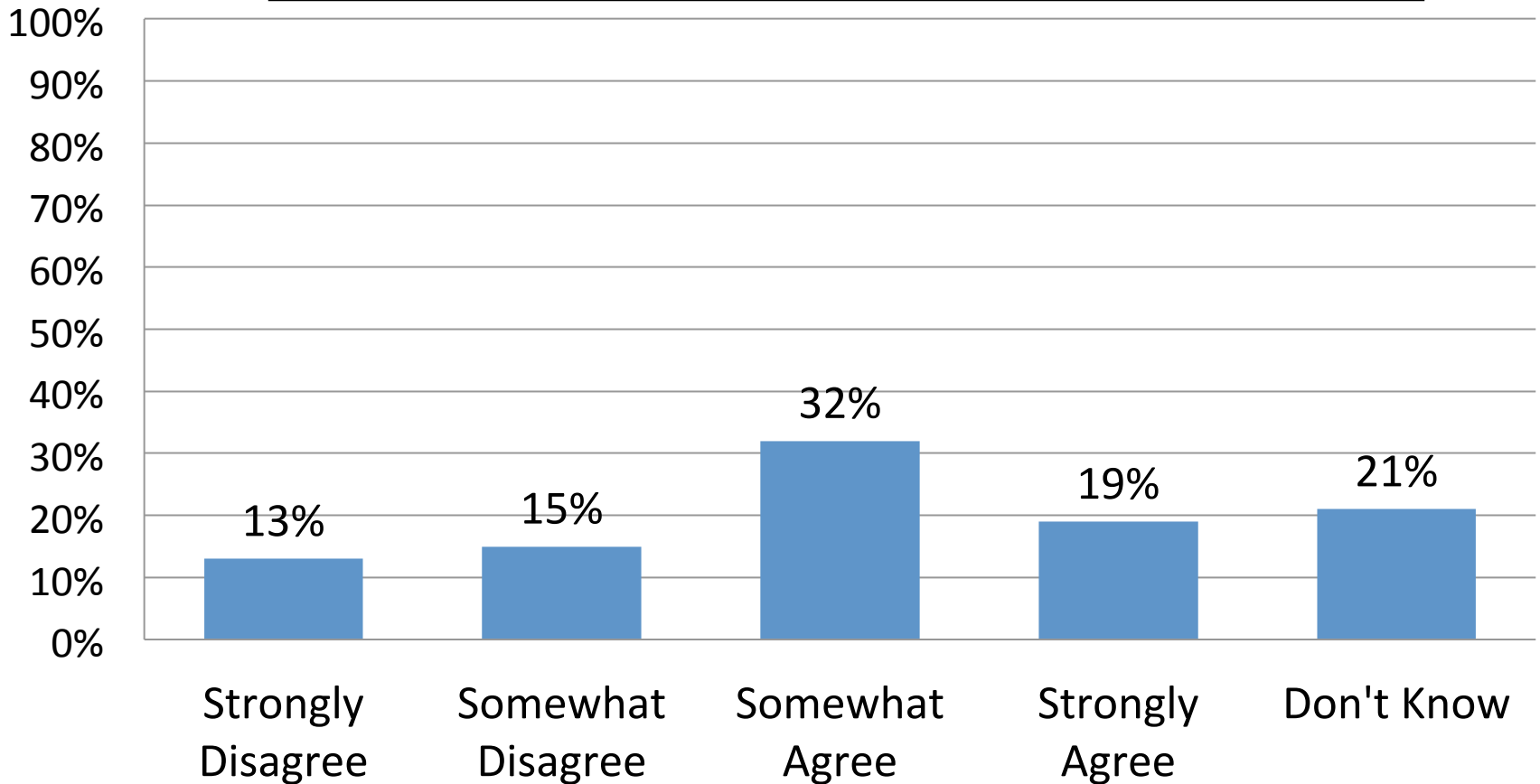
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption."

# More than half (51%) of women agree that churches are prepared to provide support to women who chose to keep a child from an unplanned pregnancy

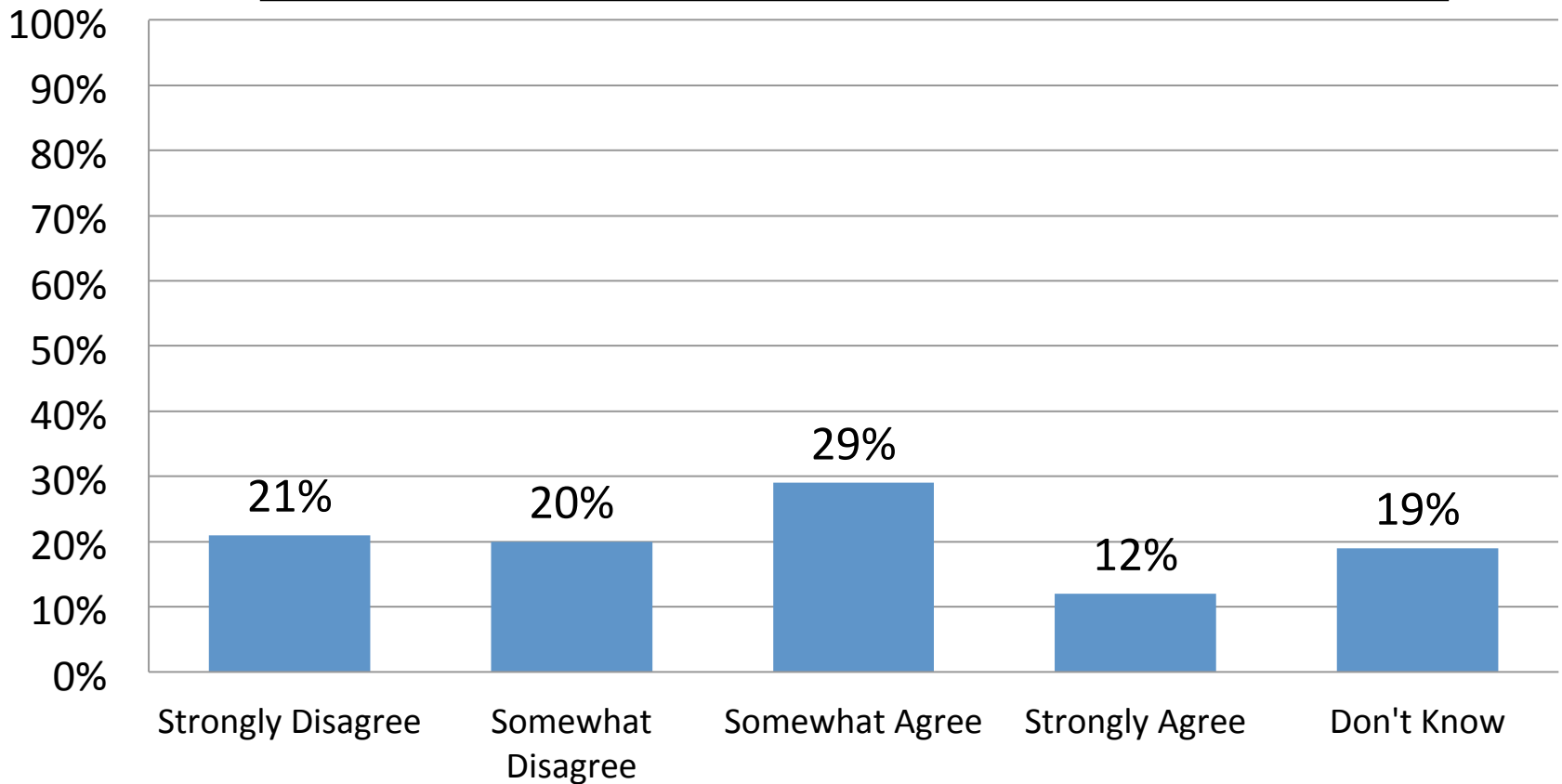
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Churches are prepared to provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to women who chose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy."

# Four in ten (41%) women who have had an abortion agree that churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies

Among American women who have had an abortion

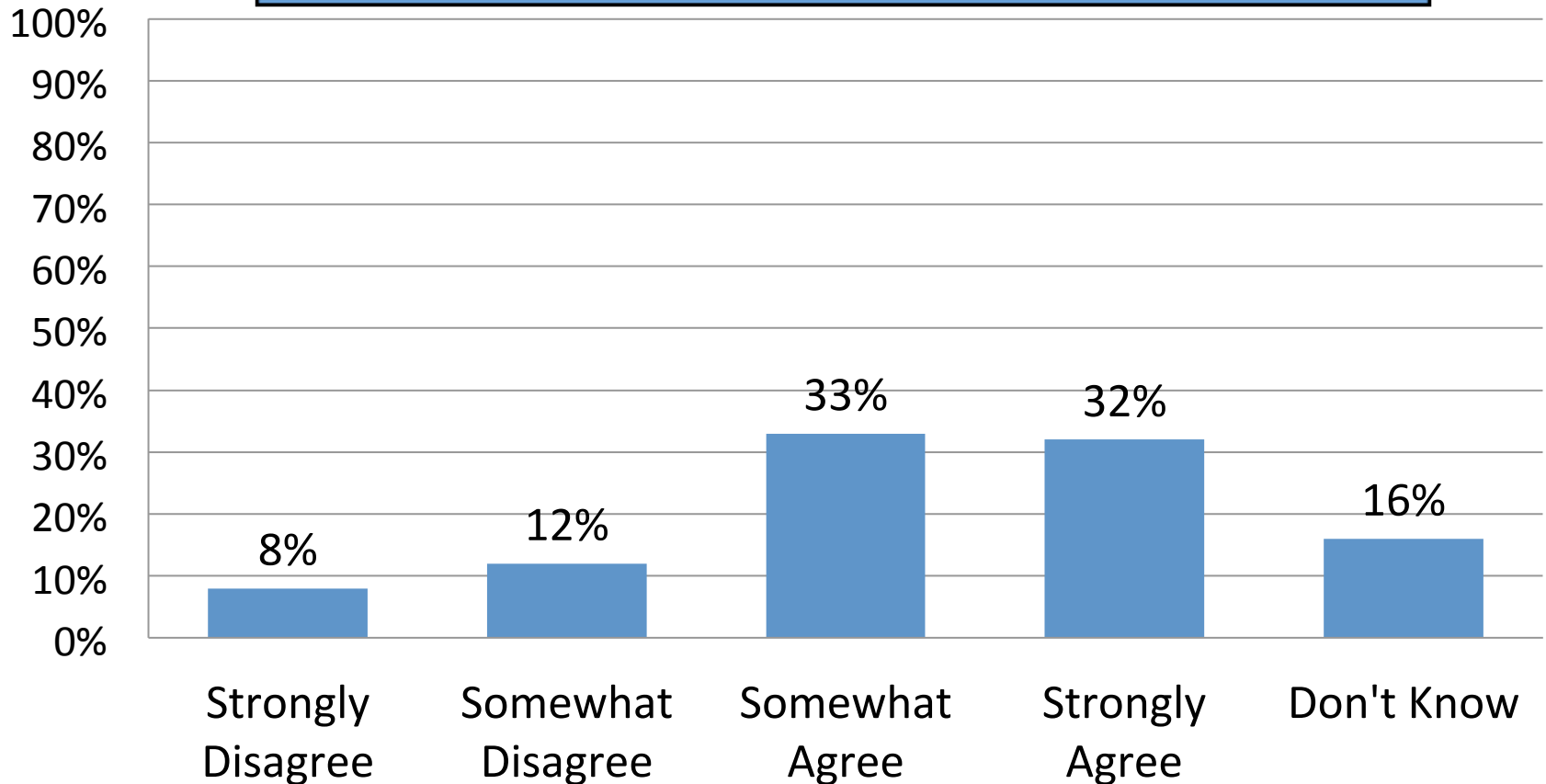


Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies."



# Two-thirds (65%) of women who have had an abortion agree that church members judge single women who are pregnant

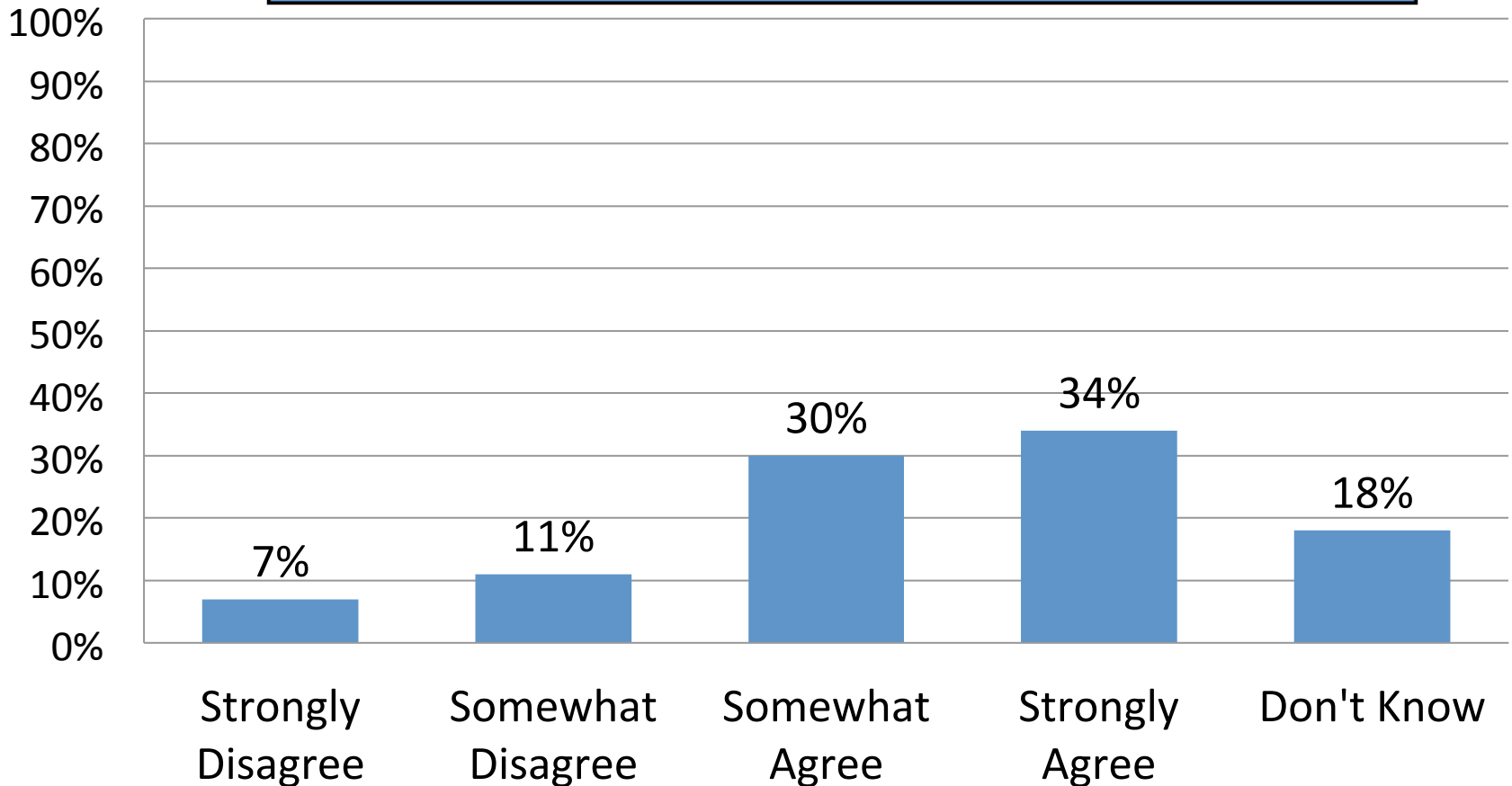
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Church members judge single women who are pregnant."

# Nearly two-thirds (64%) of women agree that church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering abortion than help her understand options

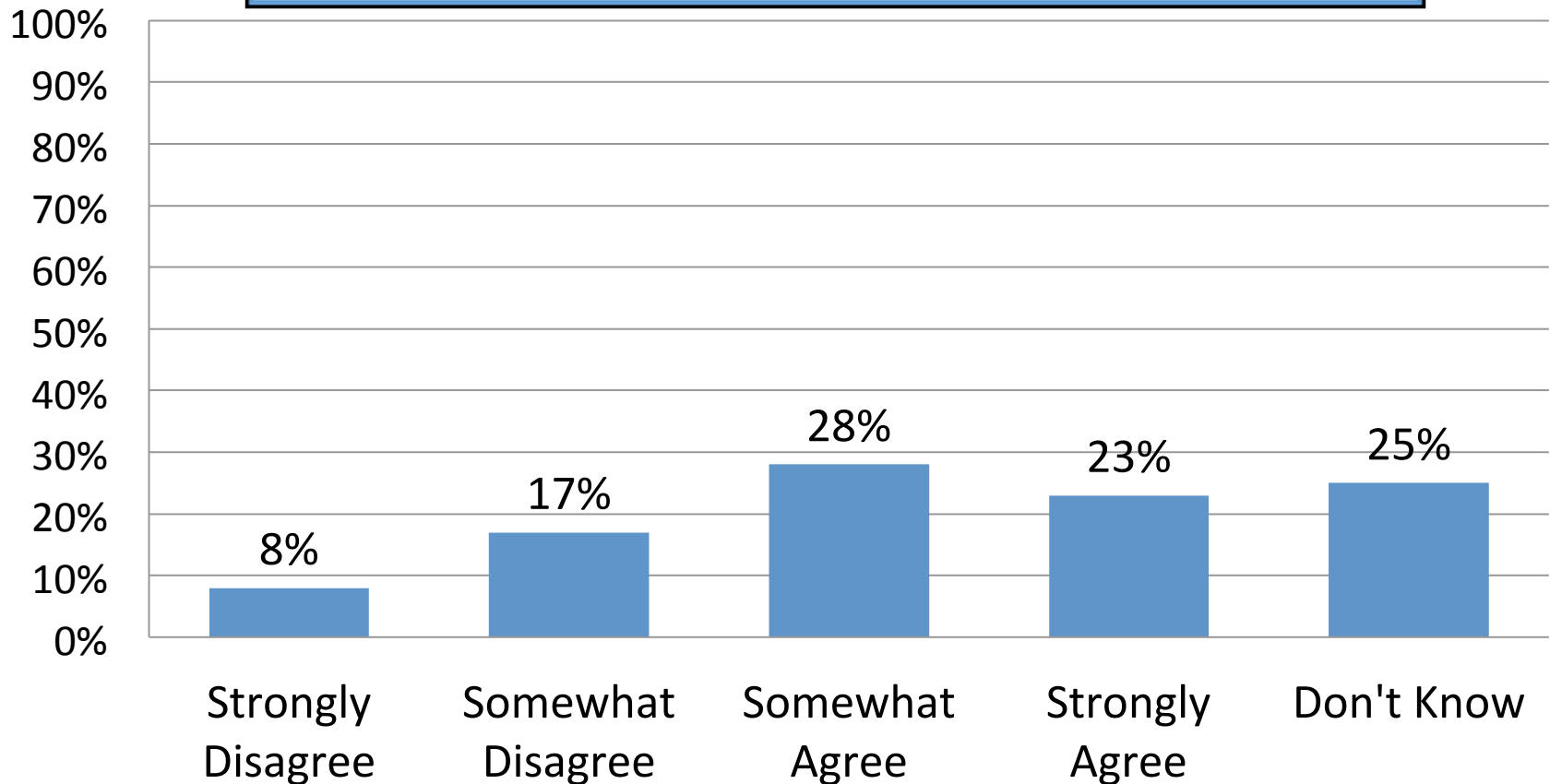
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering an abortion than help her understand her options."

# Half (51%) of women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy

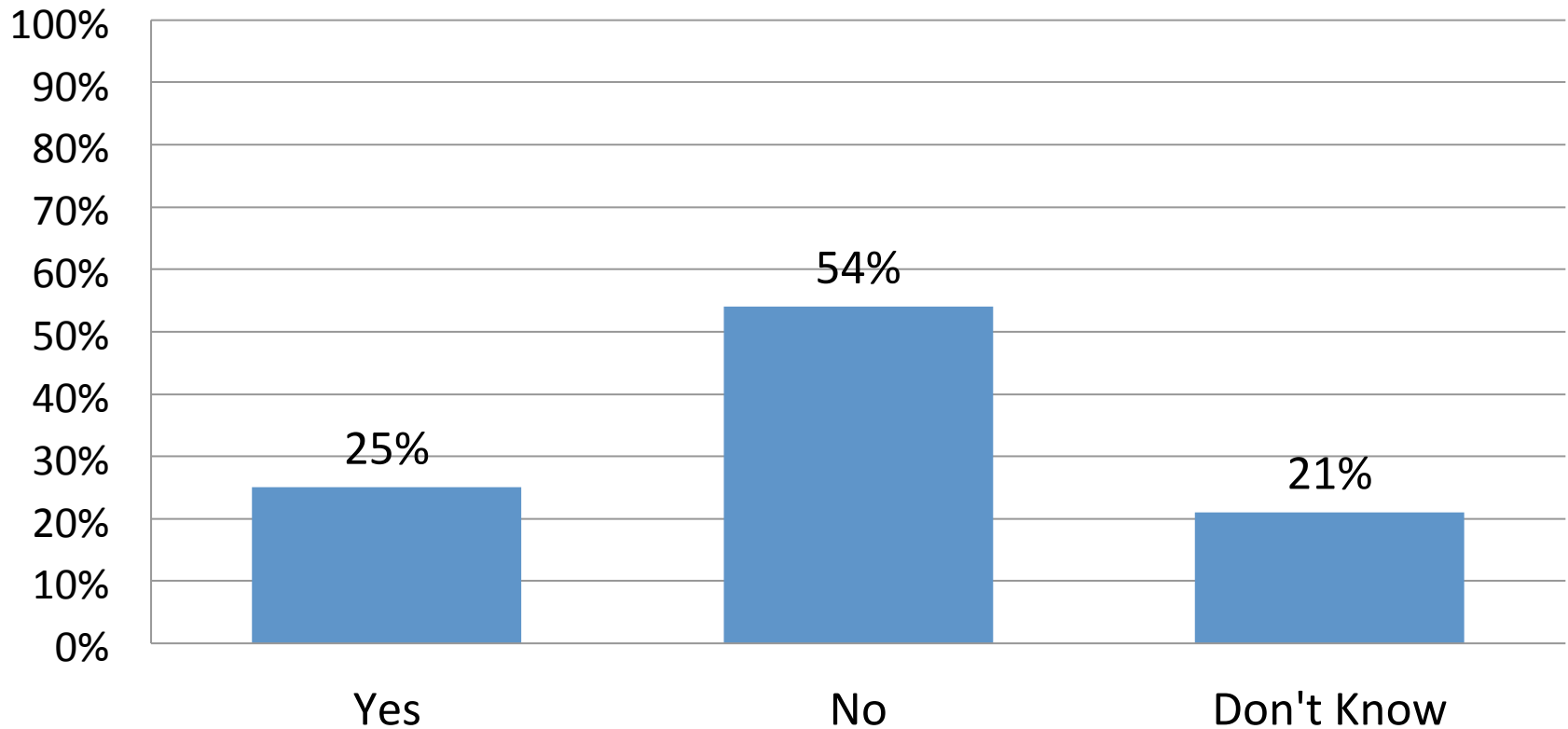
Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement. Churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy."

# Twice as many women would not recommend to someone close to them that they discuss their decision regarding an unplanned pregnancy with someone at a local church

Among American women who have had an abortion



Q: "If you or someone close to you had an unplanned pregnancy, would you recommend they discuss the decision with someone at a local church?"

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**However, self-identifying Christians, particularly evangelical Christians, have the most favorable view of the church's role/potential role**

- **It is safe to talk with a pastor about abortion.**
  - **71%** of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - **38%** of those who are not agree
- **Pastors teach that God is willing to forgive past abortion decisions.**
  - **76%** of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - **35%** of those who are not agree

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## Self-identifying Christians, particularly evangelical Christians, have the most favorable view of the church's role/potential role (cont)

- **Churches are a safe place to talk about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion, and adoption.**
  - 70% of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - 31% of those who are not agree
- **Churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options including parenting, abortion and adoption.**
  - 59% of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - 25% of those who are not agree.
- **Churches are prepared to provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to women who chose to keep a child resulting from an unplanned pregnancy.**
  - 73% of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - 47% of those who are not agree.

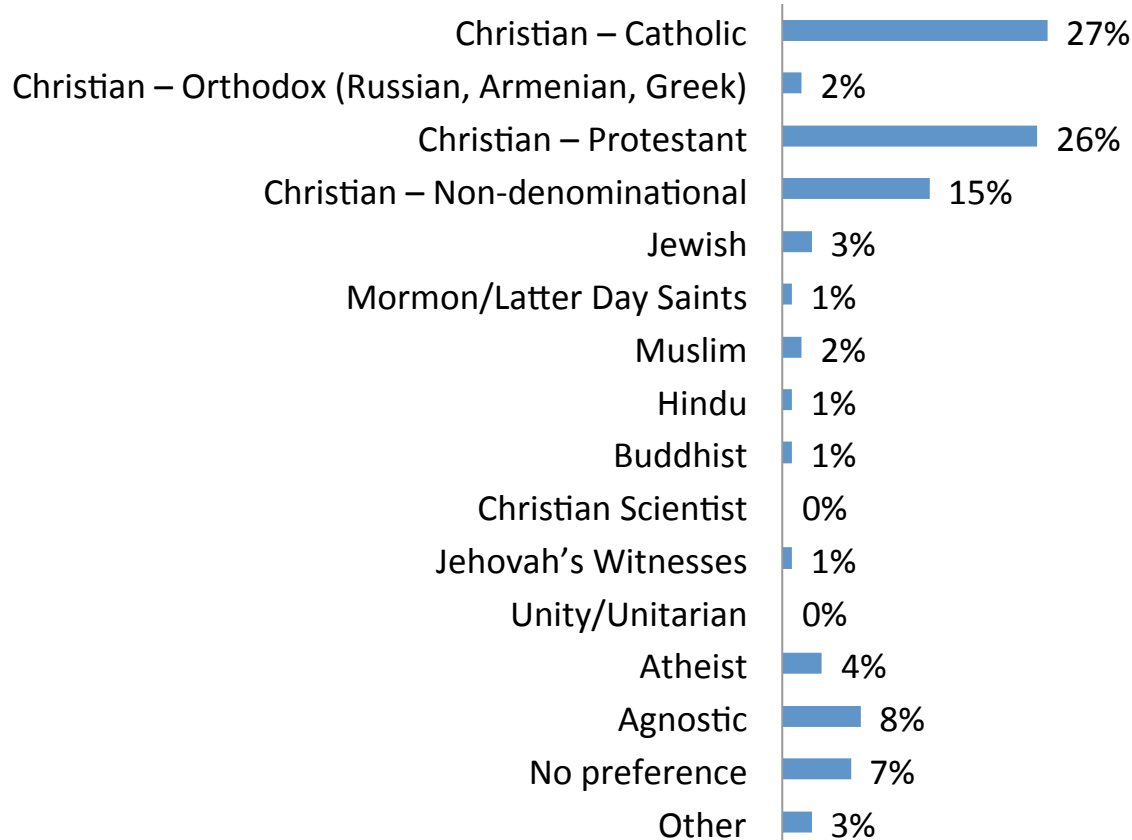
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**Self-identifying Christians, particularly evangelical Christians, have the most favorable view of the church's role/potential role (cont)**

- **Churches are prepared to help women with their decisions about unwanted pregnancies.**
  - **65%** of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - **36%** of those who are not agree.
- **If you or someone close to you had an unplanned pregnancy, would you recommend they discuss the decision with someone at a local church?**
  - **62%** of self-identified evangelical Christians agree
  - **18%** of those who are not agree.

# Seven in 10 (70%) women who have had an abortion indicate their religious preference is Christian

Among American women who have had an abortion

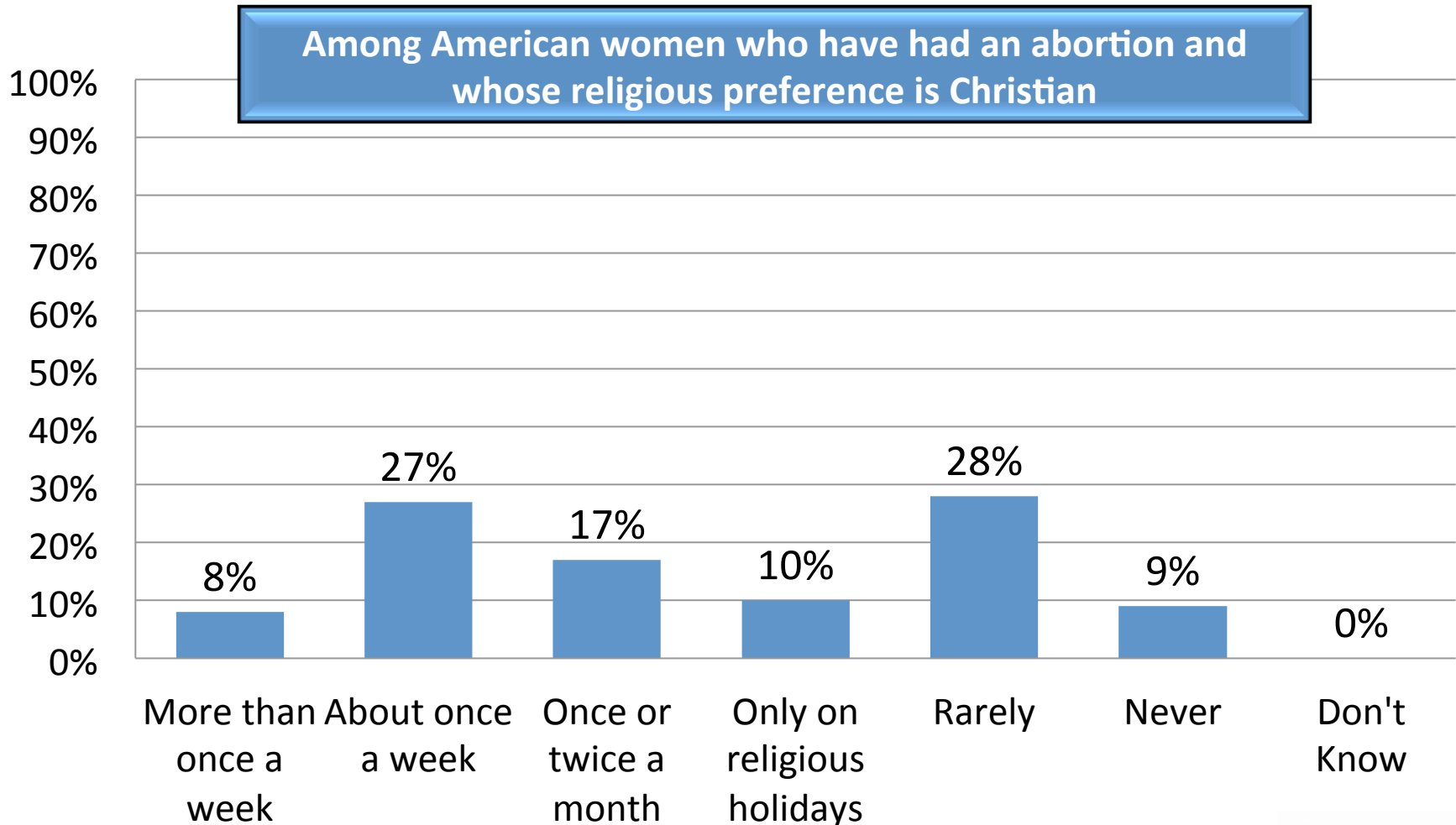


Christian – Protestant was defined as “including Adventist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Church of God, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodists, Presbyterian, etc.”

Q: “What is your religious preference? (Select One)”



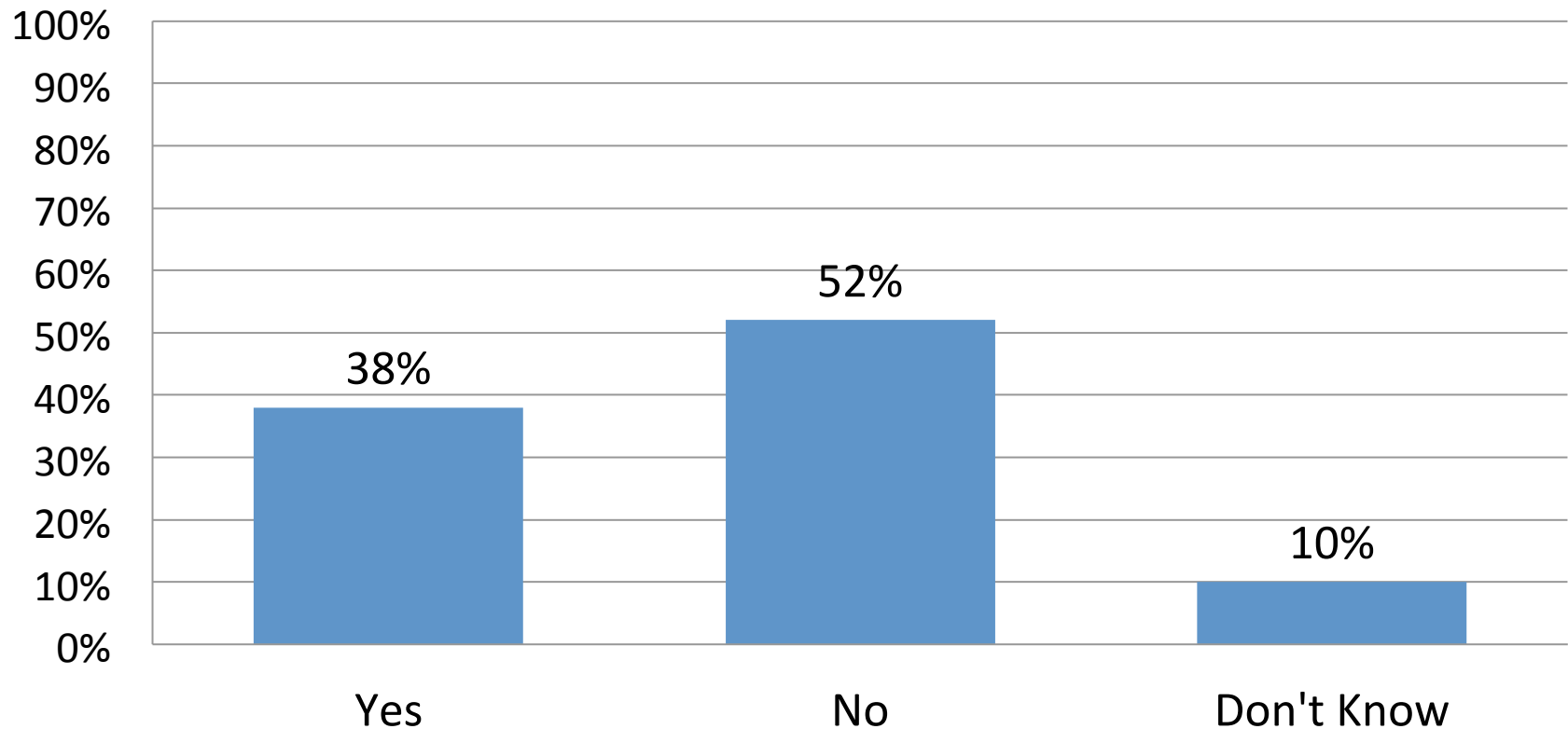
# One-third (35%) of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they currently attend church once a week or more



Q: "How often do you attend religious services at a Christian church? (Select One)" Asked of those with a Christian religious preference. n=721

# More than half (52%) of churchgoers who have had an abortion report that no one at church knows they have had a pregnancy terminated

Among American women who have had an abortion who currently attend a Christian church once a month or more



Q: "Does anyone at your church know that you have had a pregnancy termination/abortion?" Asked of those who currently attend a Christian church once a month or more. n=381