

Evangelical Views on Immigration

Sponsored by the Evangelical
Immigration Table and World Relief

February 2015

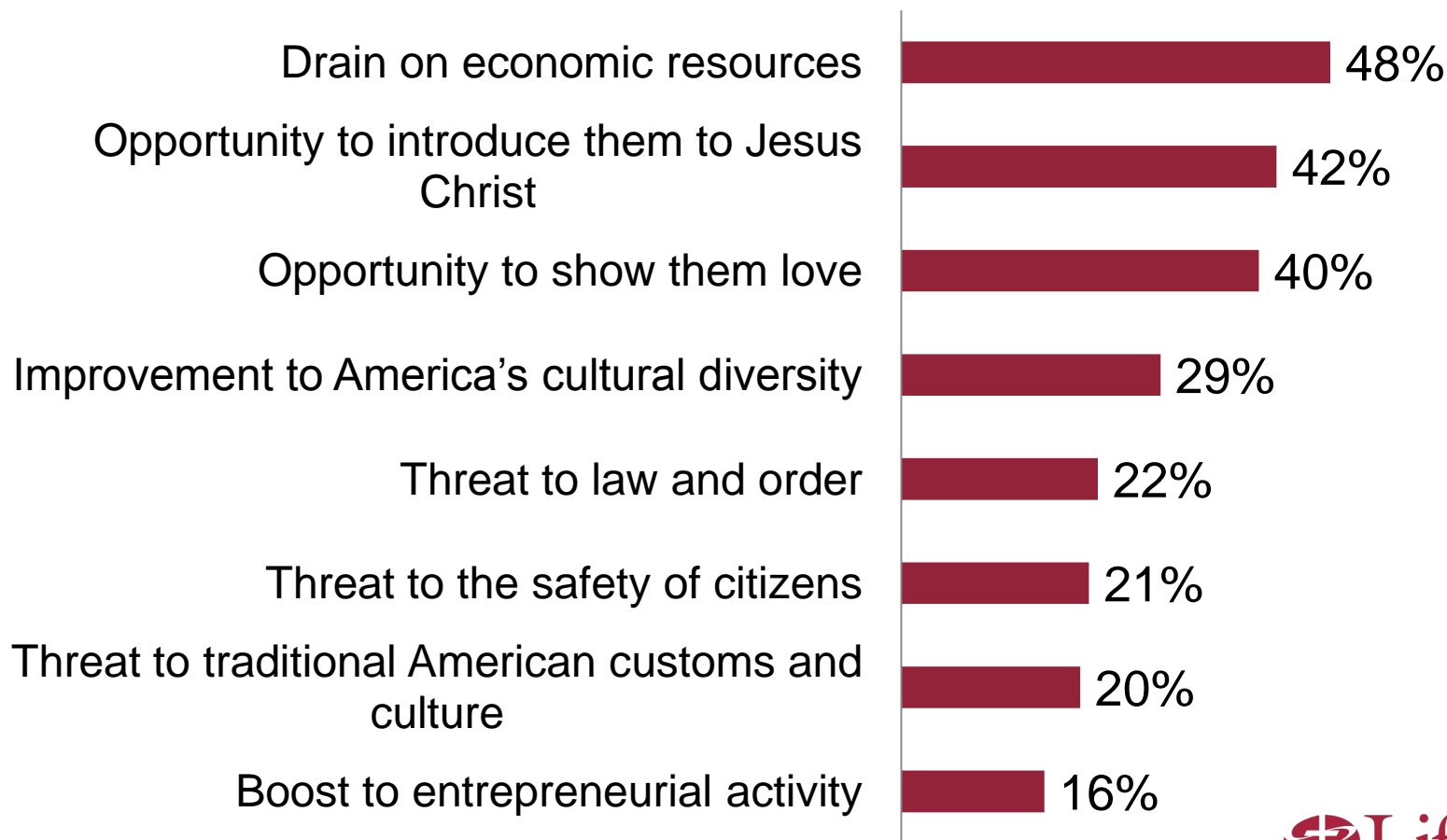
Methodology

- ❑ A demographically balanced online panel was used for interviewing American adults between February 17-27, 2015
- ❑ Quotas were used to balance gender, ethnicity, age, region, and education
- ❑ Respondents were screened to only include those who consider themselves an evangelical, a born-again, or a fundamentalist Christian. This report refers to these as “evangelicals.”
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys

Survey Responses

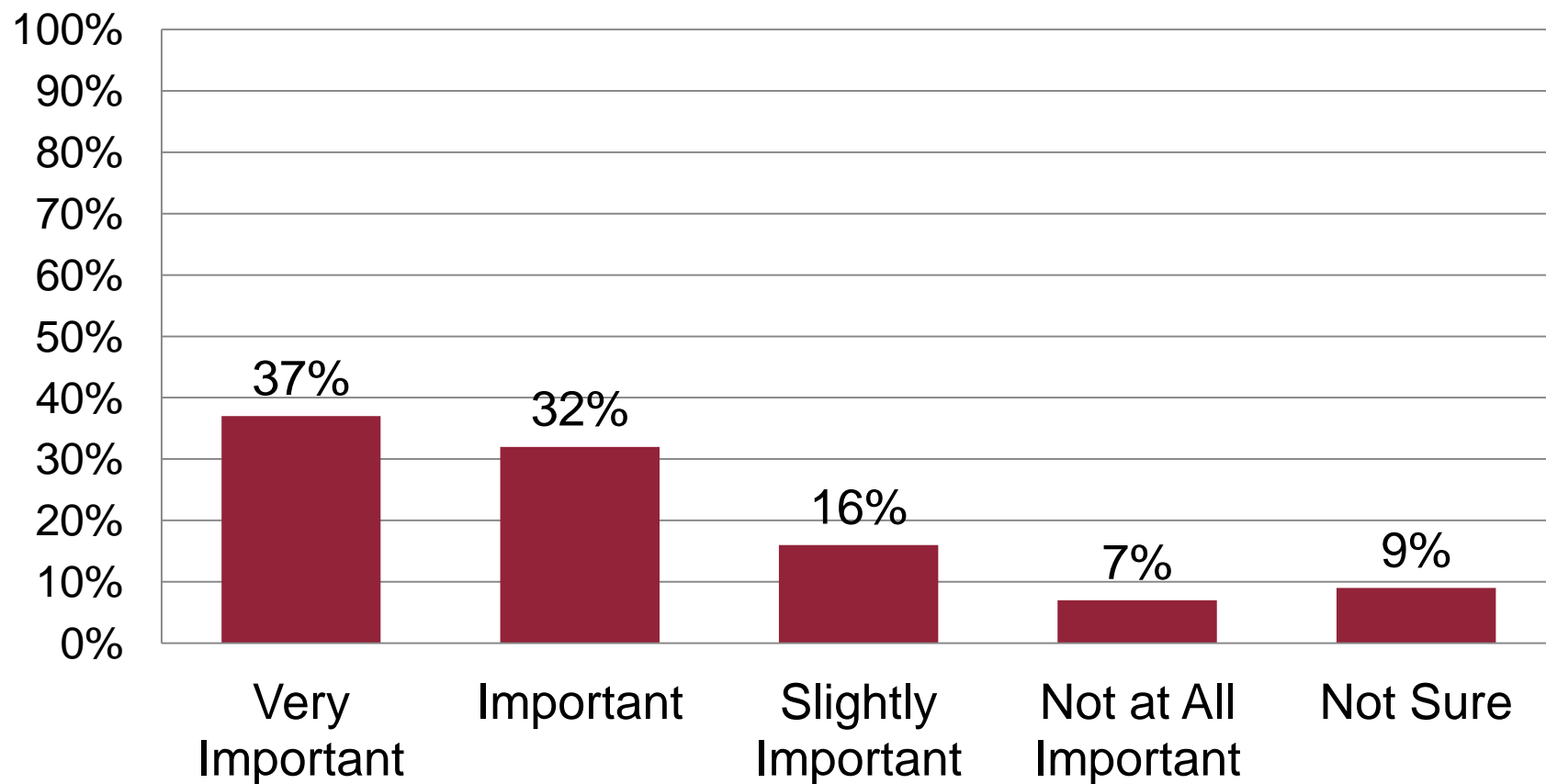
Almost half of Evangelicals (48%) believe the number of immigrants are a drain on economic resources

The number of recent immigrants to the United States are a/an . . .



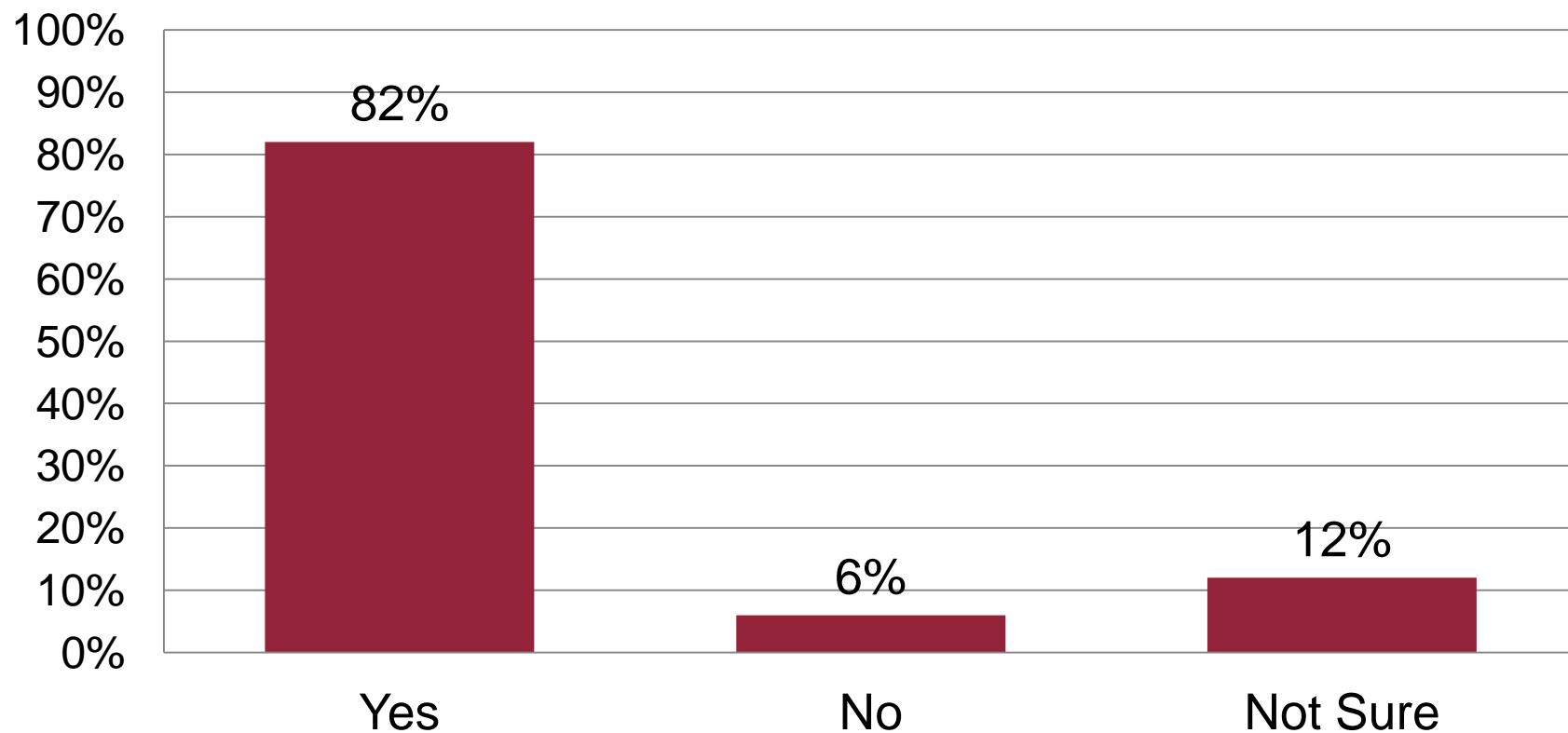
Q: "Which of the following reflect your beliefs? The number of recent immigrants to the United States are...(select all that apply)"

Nearly 7 in 10 Evangelicals (68%) believe it is important for Congress to pass significant new immigration legislation



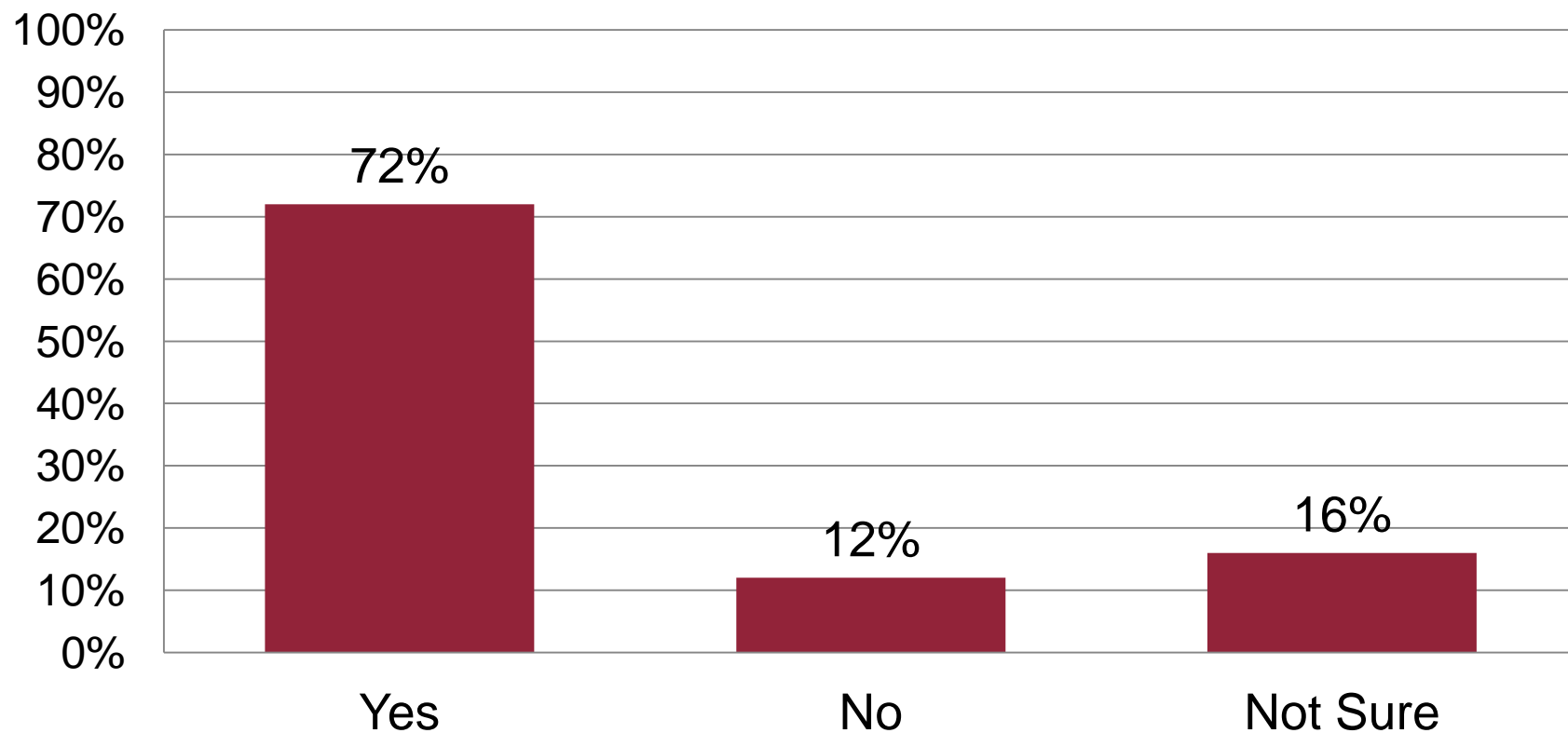
Q: "How important is it to you that the Congress pass significant new immigration legislation this year (2015)?"

8 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should respect people's God-given dignity



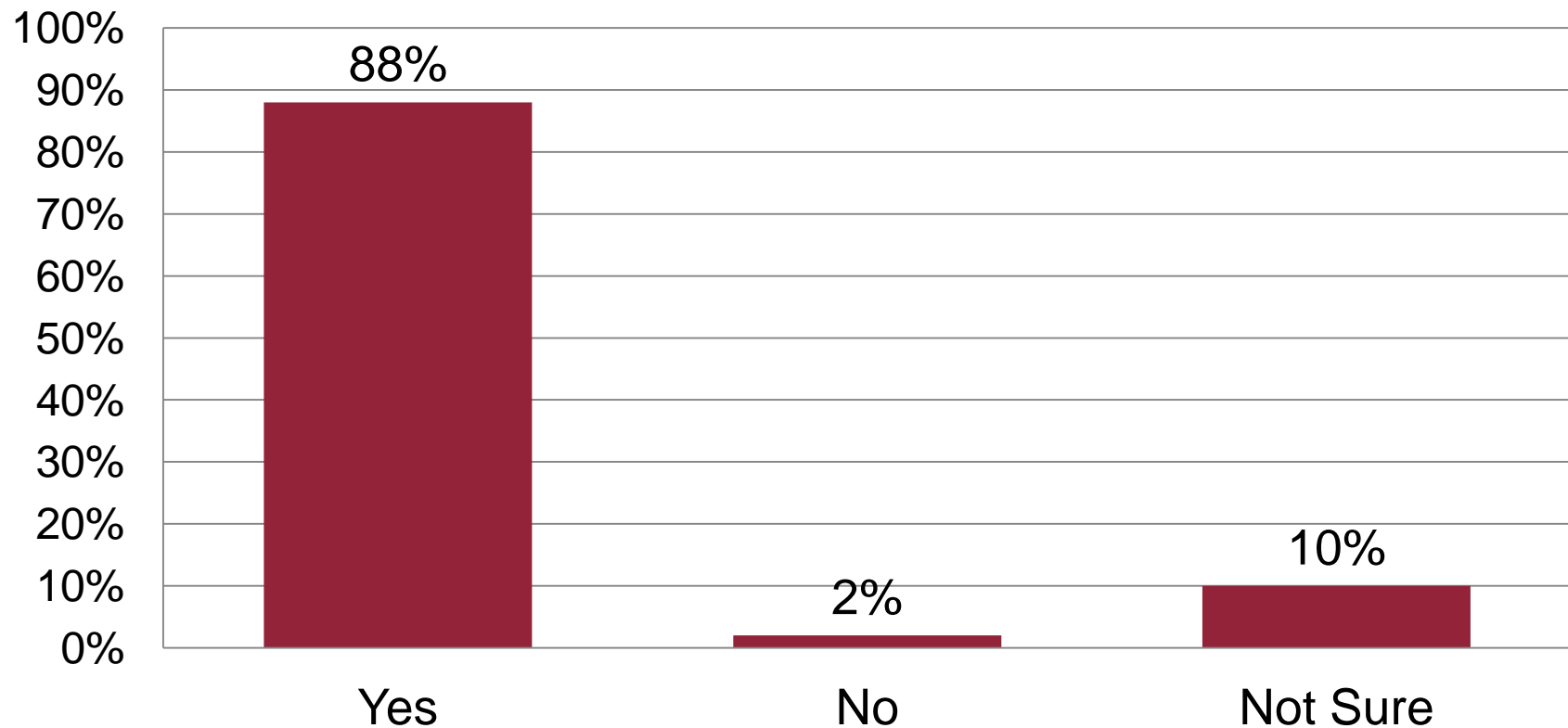
Q: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should respect the God-given dignity of every person?"

7 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should protect the unity of the immediate family



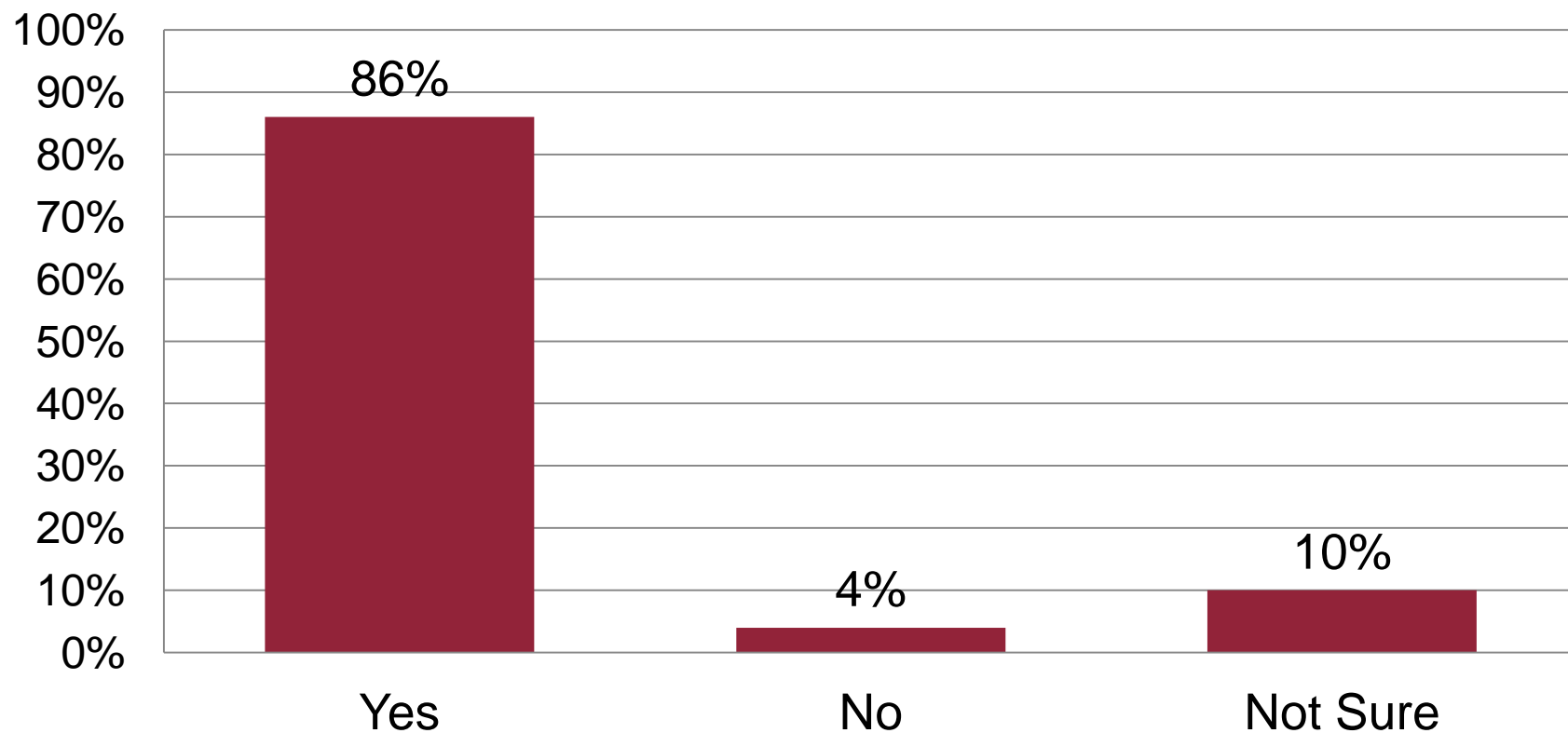
Q: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should protect the unity of the immediate family?"

Nearly 9 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should respect the rule of the law



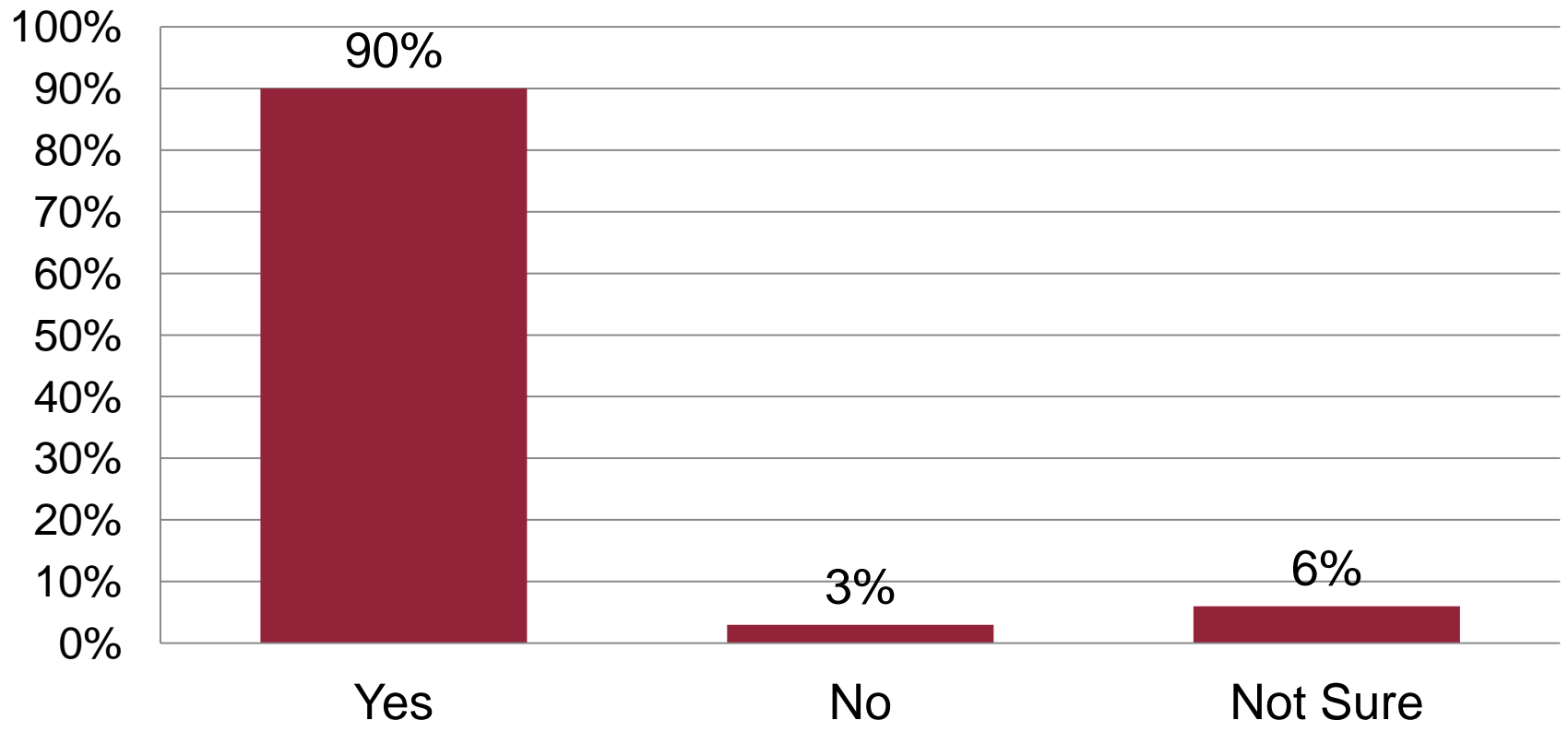
Q: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should respect the rule of law?"

Almost 9 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should guarantee secure national borders



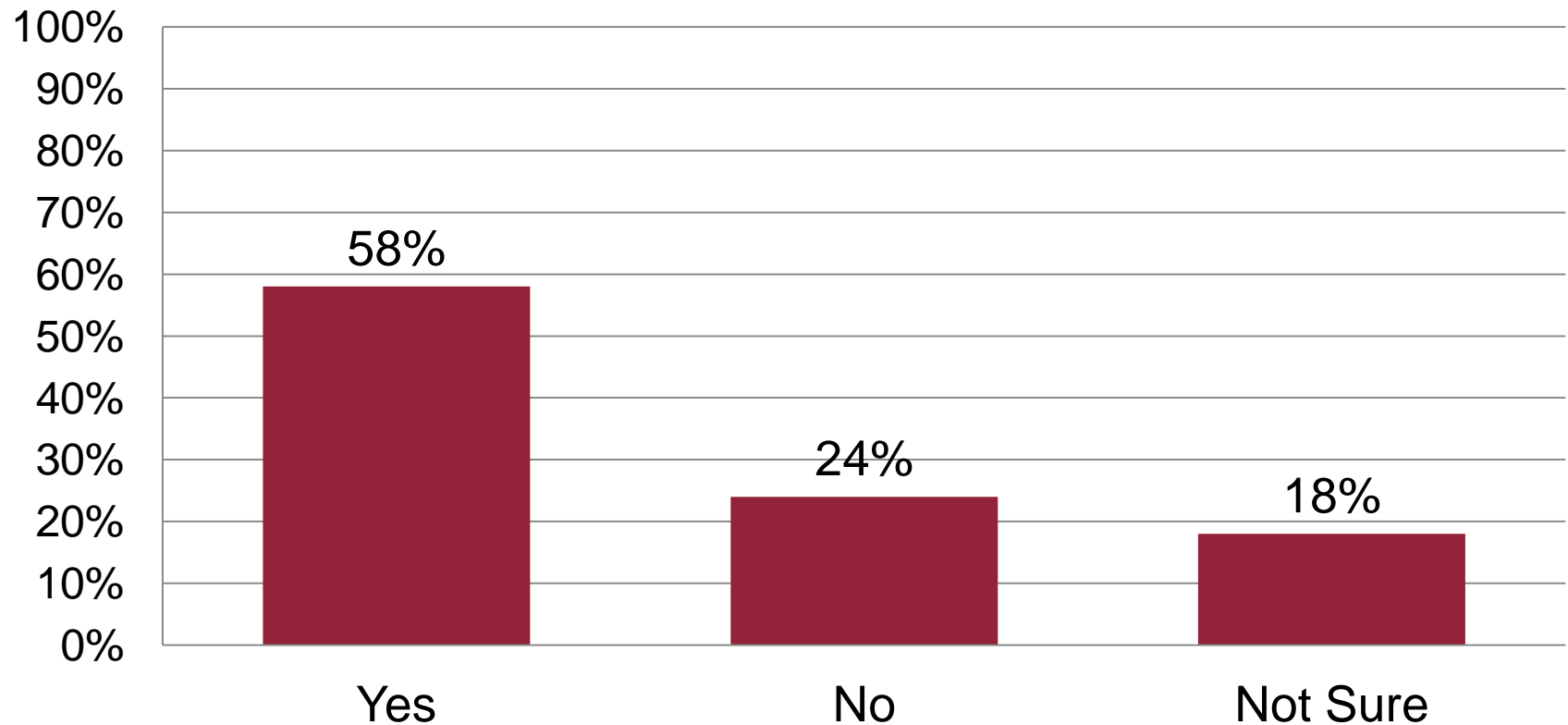
Q: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should guarantee secure national borders?"

9 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should ensure fairness to taxpayers



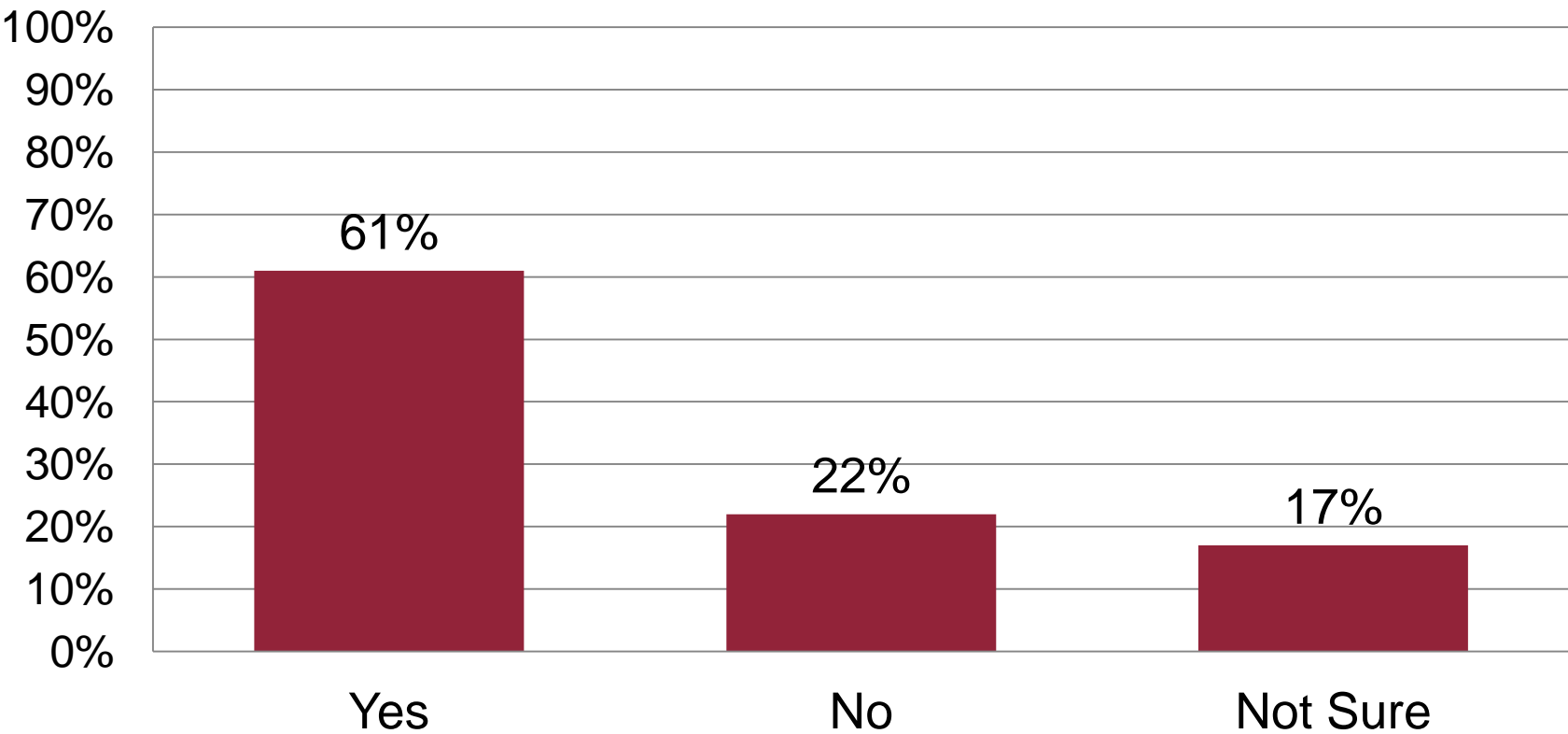
Q: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should ensure fairness to taxpayers?"

Nearly 6 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should establish a path toward legal status



Q: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should establish a path toward legal status for those currently here illegally who meet certain qualifications for residency?"

6 out of 10 Evangelicals believe immigration reform should establish a path toward citizenship



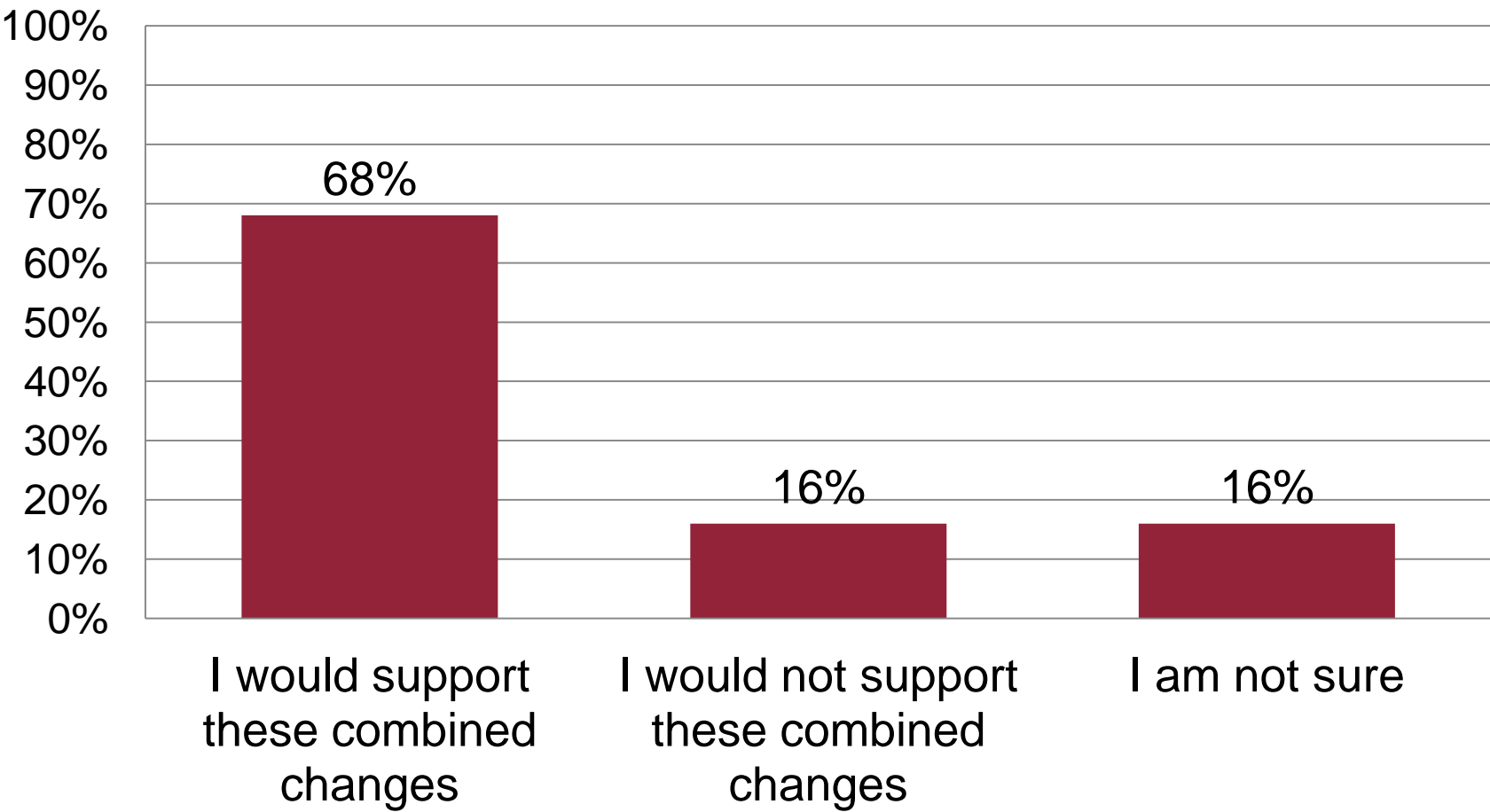
Q: “Do you believe immigration reform legislation should establish a path toward citizenship for those who are here illegally, are interested, and meet certain qualifications for citizenship?”



Please indicate if you would or would not support changes to U.S. immigration laws that would ...

both increase border security measures and establish a process so that those immigrants in the U.S. unlawfully could earn permanent legal status and eventually apply for citizenship if they pay a fine, pass a criminal background check, and complete other requirements during a probationary period.

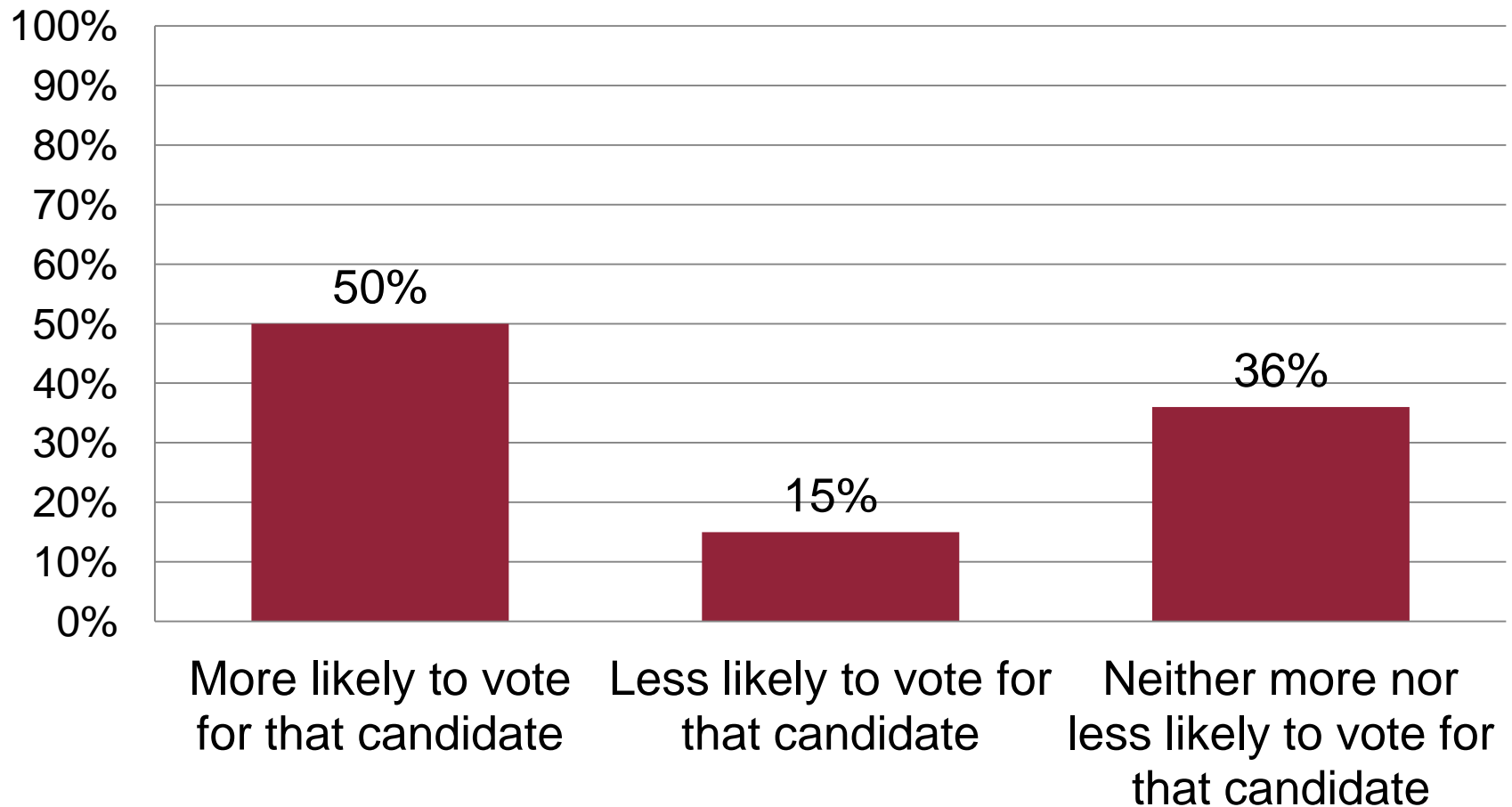
68% of Evangelicals support immigration law changes that both increase border security and provide a path to citizenship



Q: "Please indicate if you would or would not support changes to U.S. immigration laws that would both increase border security measures and establish a process so that those immigrants in the U.S. unlawfully could earn permanent legal status and eventually apply for citizenship if they pay a fine, pass a criminal background check, and complete other requirements during a probationary period."

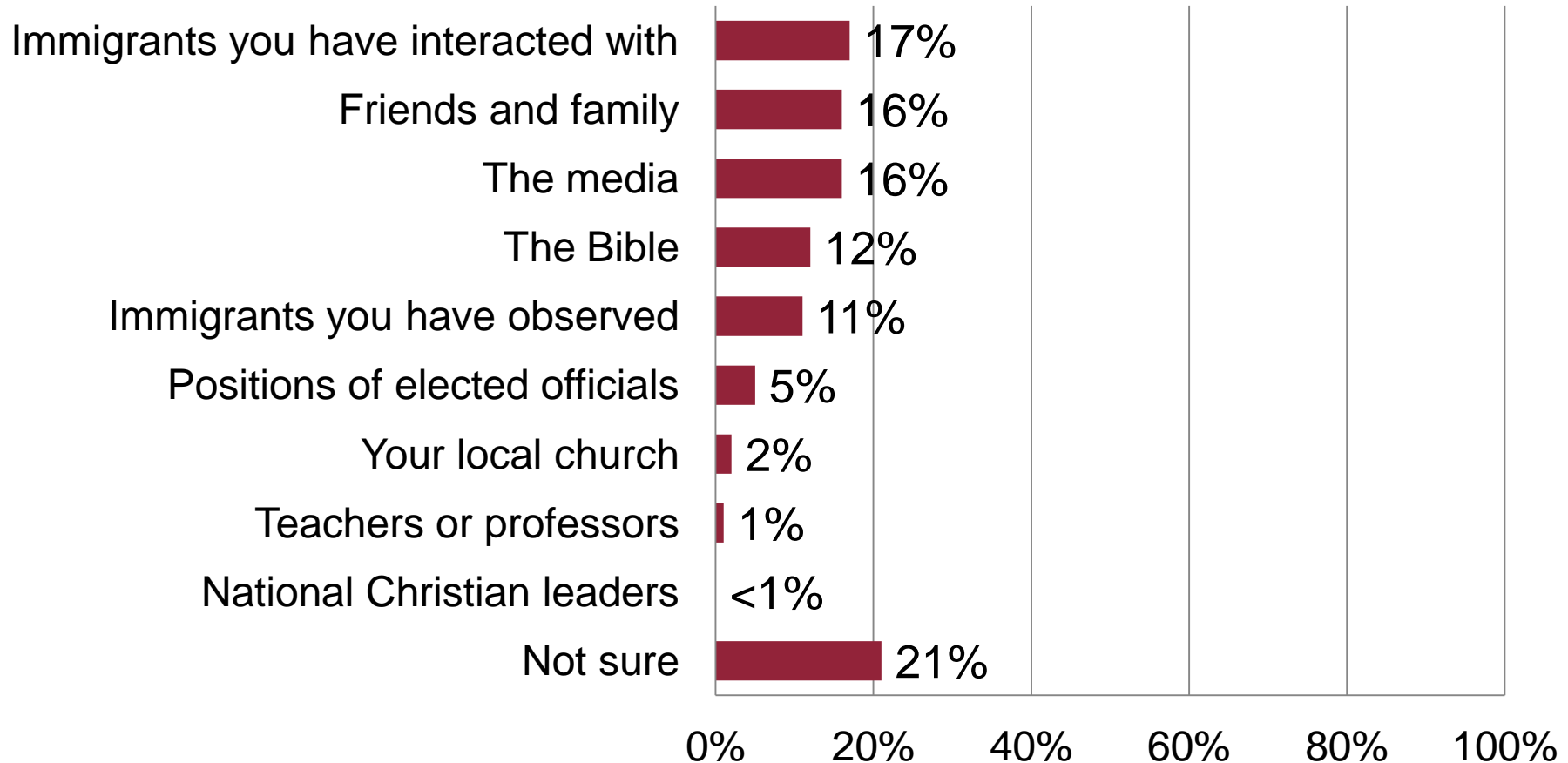


Half of Evangelicals are more likely to vote for a presidential candidate supporting both border security and a path to citizenship

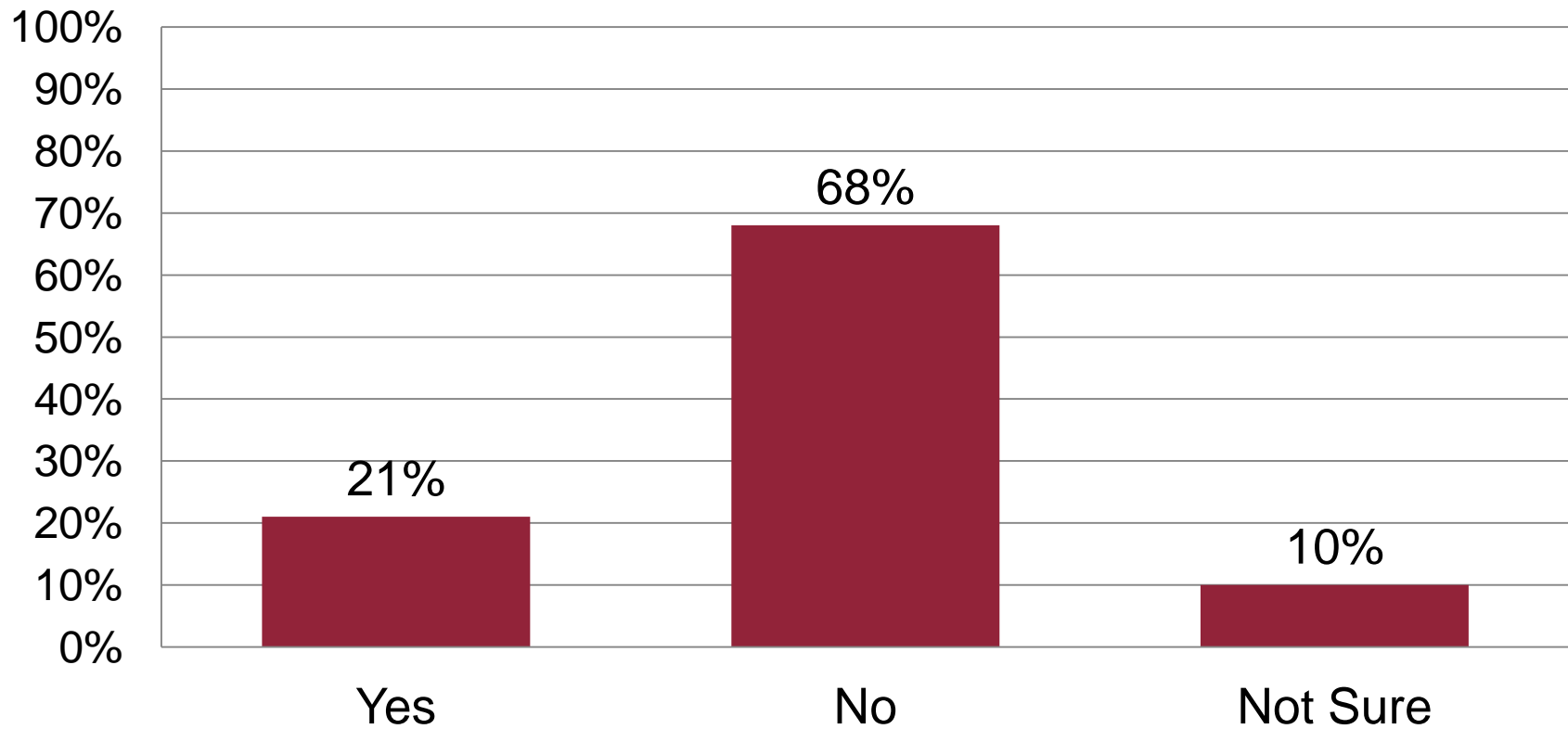


Q: "In the upcoming Presidential elections, if a candidate supported the changes described above, would you be?"

Top influencers of Evangelical thinking on immigration: interaction with immigrants, friends and family, and the media



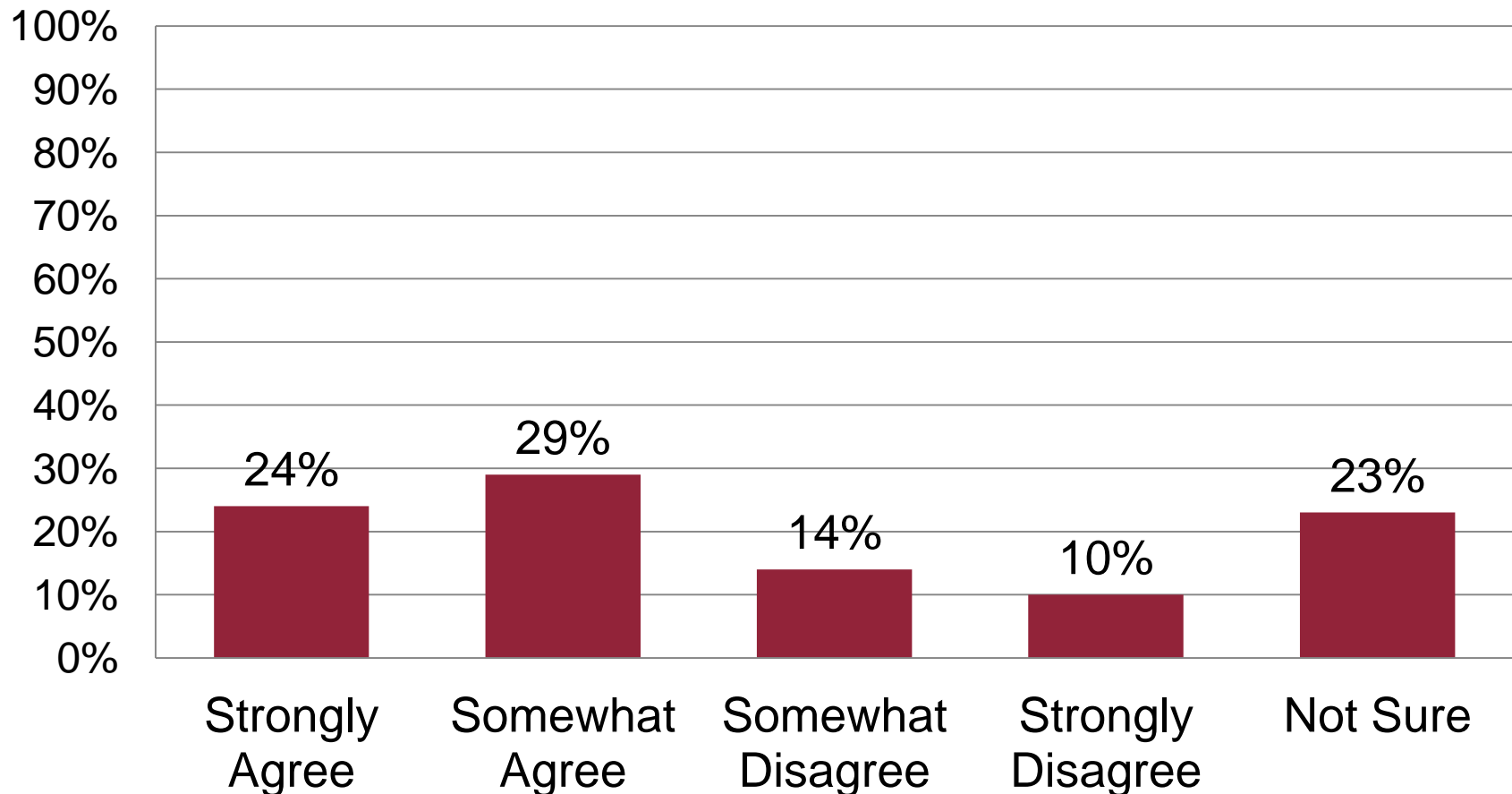
1 in 5 Evangelicals say they have ever been encouraged by their local church to reach out to immigrants in their communities



Q: "Have you ever heard immigration discussed at your local church in a way that encouraged you to reach out to the immigrants in your community?"



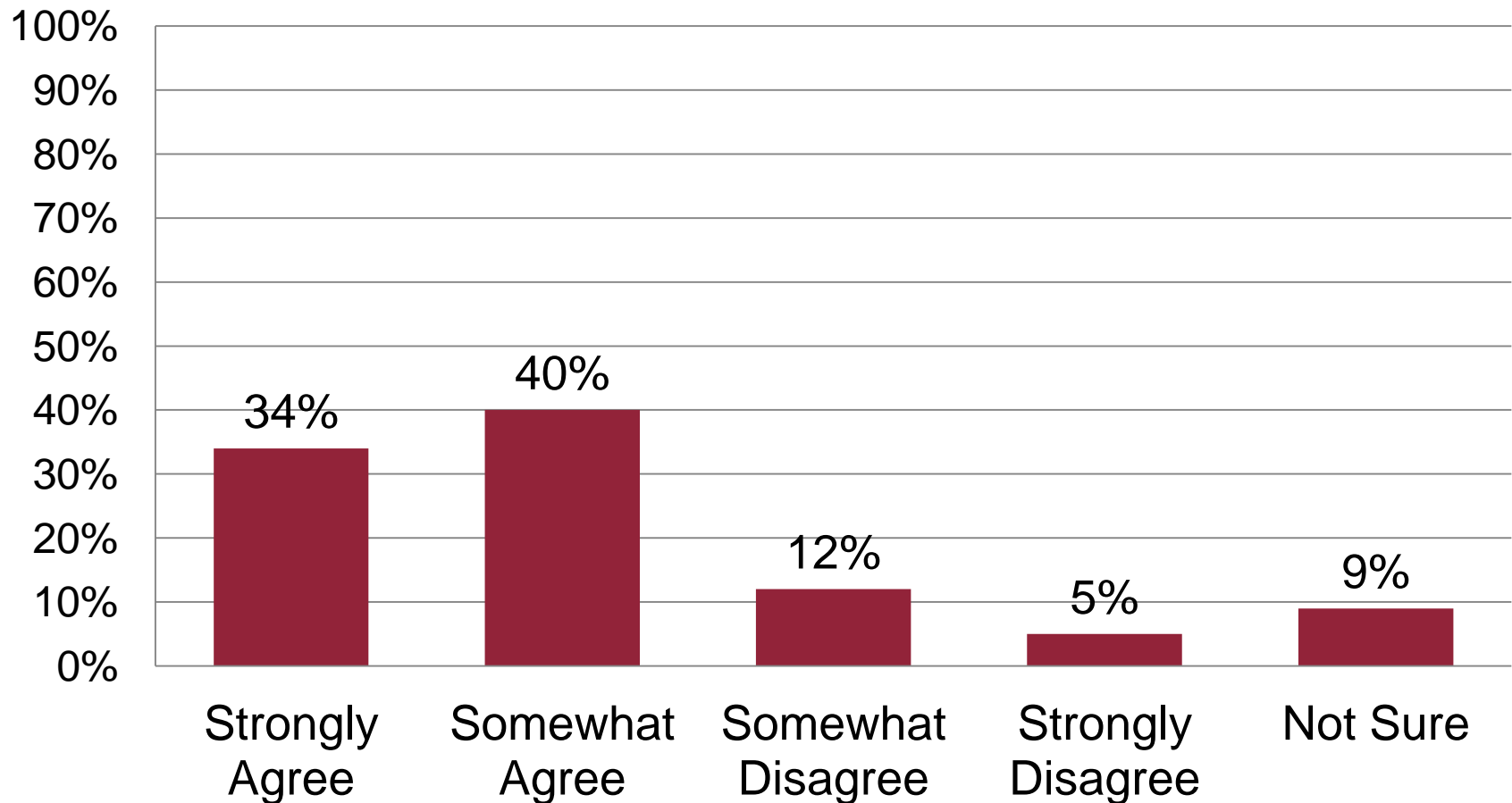
53% of Evangelicals agree they are very familiar with what the Bible says about how immigrants should be treated



Q: "I am very familiar with what the Bible has to say about how immigrants should be treated."

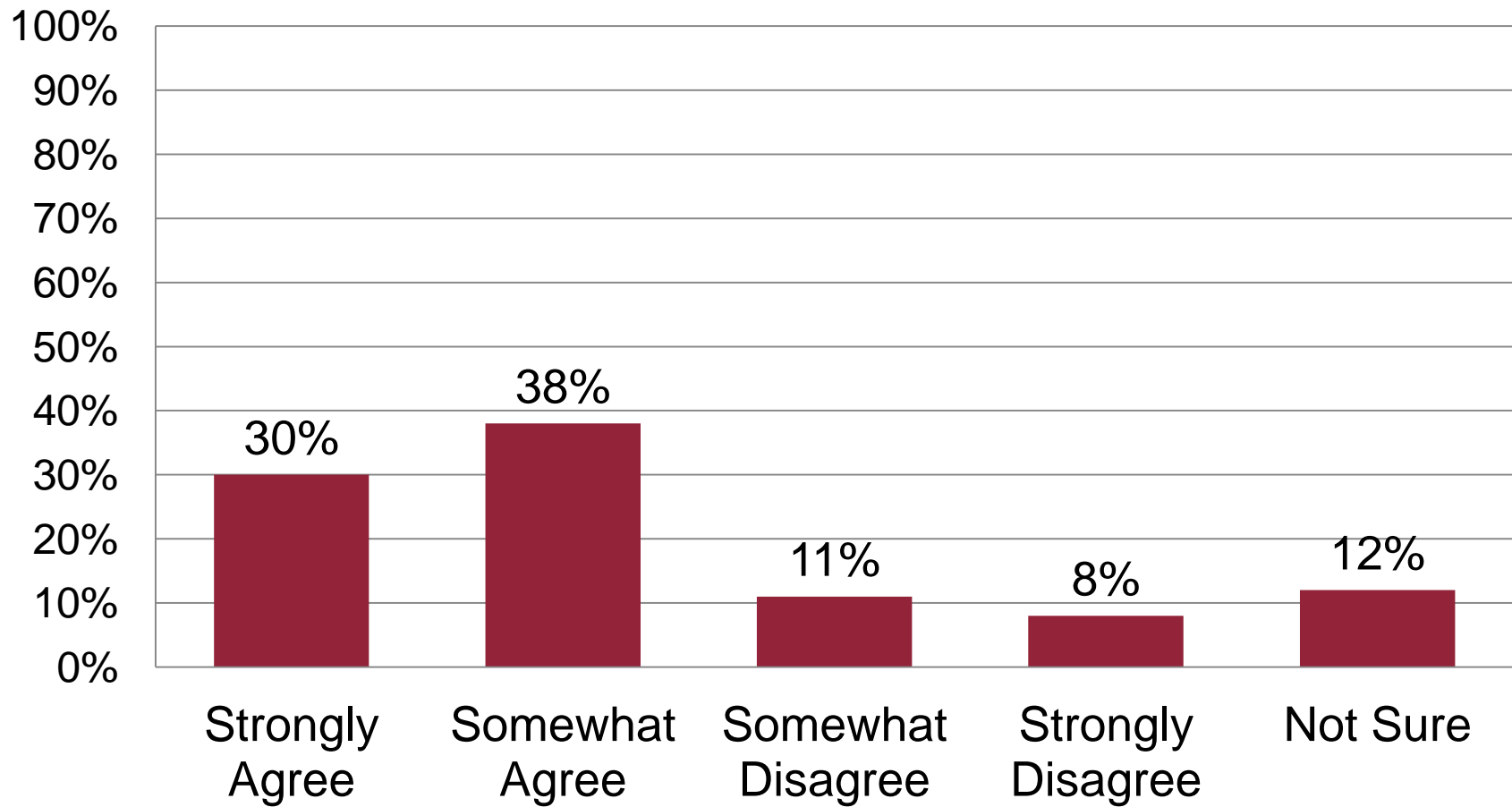


73% of Evangelicals agree that the arrival of immigrants presents a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ



Q: "The arrival of immigrants to the United States presents a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations within our own communities."

68% of Evangelicals would value hearing a sermon that taught how biblical principles and examples can be applied to immigration



Q: "I would value hearing a sermon that taught how biblical principles and examples can be applied to immigration in the United States."



Significant Differences

Gender
Ethnicity
Age
Region
Education Level

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, ethnic group, age, region of the country, and education level.

Gender	Ethnic group	Age	Region	Education Level
Male	White, non-Hispanic	18-34	Northeast	HS graduate or less
Female	Black/ African-American	35-49	Midwest	Some college
	Hispanic/Latino	50-64	South	Bachelor's degree
	Other	65+	West	Graduate degree

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

The number of recent immigrants to the United States are...

- **A threat to traditional American customs and culture**
 - Men are more likely to select (28% v 12%)
 - Those age 65+ (36%) are most likely to select, followed by those age 50-64 (25%), 35-49 (16%), and 18-34 (8%)
 - Whites (25%) are more likely to select than African Americans (10%), Hispanics (10%), and Other ethnicities (8%)
- **A threat to the safety of citizens**
 - Men are more likely to select (27% v 16%)
 - Those age 18-34 (11%) are least likely to select, followed by those age 35-49 (18%). Both are less likely to select than those age 50-64 (28%) and 65+ (33%)
 - Whites (26%) are more likely to select than African Americans (11%) and Hispanics (15%)

The number of recent immigrants to the United States are...

- **A threat to law and order**
 - Men are more likely to select (28% v 17%)
 - Those age 65+ (39%) are most likely to select, followed by those age 50-64 (26%), 35-49 (19%), and 18-34 (12%)
 - Whites (27%) are more likely to select than African Americans (11%) and Hispanics (13%)
- **An opportunity to introduce them to Jesus Christ**
 - Those age 35-49 (46%) and 50-64 (46%) are more likely to select than those age 65+ (29%)
 - Those with a Bachelor's (45%) are more likely to select than those with some college (36%)

The number of recent immigrants to the United States are...

- **An opportunity to show them love**
 - Those age 65+ (29%) are less likely to select than those age 18-34 (46%), 35-49 (41%), and 50-64 (40%)
 - Those with a Bachelor's (43%) and those with a graduate degree (46%) are more likely to select than those with a HS degree or less (30%)
 - Those with a graduate degree (46%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (36%)
- **A boost to entrepreneurial activity**
 - Men are more likely to select (18% v 13%)
 - Those age 18-34 (22%) are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (15%) and 50-64 (12%)
 - Whites (12%) are least likely to select than African Americans (21%), Hispanics (23%), and Other ethnicities (22%)
 - Those with a Bachelor's (19%) and those with a graduate degree (19%) are more likely to select than those with a HS degree or less (10%) and those with Some college (11%)

The number of recent immigrants to the United States are...

- **An improvement to America's cultural diversity**
 - Those in the South (27%) are less likely to select than those in the Northeast (38%)
 - Those age 18-34 (46%) are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (26%), 50-64 (24%), and 65+ (20%)
 - Whites (20%) are less likely to select than African Americans (44%), Hispanics (47%), and Other ethnicities (42%)
 - Those with a Bachelor's (31%) and those with a graduate degree (35%) are more likely to select than those with a HS degree or less (19%)
 - Those with a graduate degree (35%) are more likely to select than those with Some college (26%)
- **A drain on economic resources**
 - Those age 18-34 (26%) are less likely to select than those age 35-49 (49%), 50-64 (59%), and 65+ (56%)
 - Whites (60%) are more likely to select than African Americans (30%), Hispanics (21%), and Other ethnicities (25%)

How important is it to you that the Congress pass significant new immigration legislation this year? (2015)

- **Percent selecting “Very important” or “Important”**
- Those age 65+ (84%) are most likely to select, followed by those age 50-64 (73%). Both are more likely to select than those age 35-49 (65%) and 18-34 (59%)
- Whites (72%) are more likely to select than African Americans (60%)
- Whites (72%) and Hispanics (67%) are more likely to select than Other ethnicities (49%)

Do you believe immigration reform legislation should...

- **Respect the God-given dignity of every person**
 - Those in the West (76%) are less likely to select Yes than those in the Northeast (88%) and South (83%)
 - Hispanics (88%) are more likely to select Yes than Whites (80%)
 - Those with a HS degree or less (74%) are less likely to select Yes than those with a Bachelor's (82%) or graduate degree (87%)
- **Protect the unity of the immediate family**
 - Women are more likely to select Yes (75% v 69%)
 - Those in the Northeast (82%) are most likely to select Yes
 - Those age 18-34 (78%) are more likely to select Yes than those age 35-49 (68%)
 - Whites (69%) are less likely to select Yes than African Americans (78%) and Hispanics (83%)
 - Hispanics (83%) are more likely to select Yes than Other ethnicities (64%)
 - Those with a Bachelor's degree (75%) are more likely to select Yes than those with a HS degree or less (64%)

Do you believe immigration reform legislation should...

- **Respect the rule of law**
 - Those age 18-34 (80%) and 35-49 (85%) are less likely to select Yes than those age 50-64 (94%) and 65+ (97%)
 - Whites (92%) are most likely to select Yes
- **Guarantee secure national borders**
 - Those age 18-34 (77%) are least likely to select Yes, followed by those age 35-49 (85%). Both are less than those age 50-64 (91%) and 65+ (95%)
 - Whites (92%) are most likely to select Yes
- **Ensure fairness to taxpayers**
 - Those age 18-34 (86%) are less likely to select Yes than those age 50-64 (93%) and 65+ (94%)
 - Whites (93%) are most likely to select Yes
 - Those with a HS degree or less (84%) are less likely to select Yes than those with a Bachelor's (92%) or graduate degree (92%)

Do you believe immigration reform legislation should...

- **Establish a path toward legal status for those currently here illegally who meet certain qualifications for residency**
 - Women are more likely to select Yes (61% v 54%)
 - Those in the Northeast (72%) are most likely to select Yes
 - Those age 18-34 (74%) are most likely to select Yes
 - Hispanics (80%) are most likely to select Yes, followed by African Americans (68%). Both are more likely than Whites (50%) and Other ethnicities (53%)
- **Establish a path toward citizenship for those who are here illegally, are interested, and meet certain qualifications for citizenship**
 - Women are more likely to select Yes (64% v 58%)
 - Those in the Northeast(76%) are most likely to select Yes
 - Those age 18-34 (72%) are most likely to select Yes
 - Whites (54%) are less likely to select Yes than African Americans (74%) and Hispanics (79%)
 - Hispanics (79%) are more likely to select Yes than Other ethnicities (61%)

Please indicate if you would or would not support changes to U.S. immigration laws that would both increase border security measures and establish a process so that those immigrants in the U.S. unlawfully could earn permanent legal status and eventually apply for citizenship if they pay a fine, pass a criminal background check, and complete other requirements during a probationary period.”

- **Percent selecting “I would support these combined changes”**
- Women are more likely (71% v 64%)
- Those age 50-64 (63%) are less likely than those age 18-34 (72%) and 65+ (73%)
- Hispanics (73%) are more likely than Whites (65%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s (70%) are more likely than those with a HS degree or less (59%)

In the upcoming Presidential elections, if a candidate supported the changes described above, would you be:

- **Percent selecting “More likely to vote for that candidate”**
- Those in the Northeast (63%) are most likely
- Those age 50-64 (43%) are less likely than those age 18-34 (53%) and 65+ (57%)
- Hispanics (62%) are more likely than Whites (47%) and African Americans (44%)

Which of the following has influenced your thinking the most on immigration? continued

- Women are less likely to select Positions of elected officials (3% v 6%), and less likely to select The Bible (10% v 15%)
- Those in the Northeast (21%) are more likely to select The media than those in the West (12%)
- Those in the Northeast(24%) are more likely to select Friends and family than those in the Midwest (14%) and South (14%)
- Those in the Midwest (17%) are more likely to select The Bible than those in the South (10%)

Which of the following has influenced your thinking the most on immigration? continued

- Those age 65+ (21%) are more likely to select The media than those age 18-34 (12%)
- Those age 18-34 (27%) are most likely to select Friends and family
- Those age 65+ (9%) are more likely to select Positions of elected officials than those age 18-34 (3%)
- Those age 50-64 (13%) are more likely to select Immigrants you have observed than those age 18-34 (7%)
- Those age 18-34 (4%) are more likely to select Teachers or professors than those age 50-64 (<1%) and 65+ (<1%)

Which of the following has influenced your thinking the most on immigration? continued

- African Americans (18%) are more likely to select The media than Other ethnicities (7%)
- Hispanics (32%) are most likely to select Friends and family
- Other ethnicities (25%) are most likely to select The Bible
- Whites (13%) are more likely to select Immigrants you have observed than African Americans (7%)
- African Americans (31%) are more likely to select Not sure than Whites (21%) and Hispanics (14%)
- Those with a Bachelor's (3%) are less likely to select Positions of elected officials than those with Some college (6%) or a Graduate degree (7%)

Have you ever heard immigration discussed at your local church in a way that encouraged you to reach out to the immigrants in your community?

- Those age 18-34 (25%) are more likely to select Yes than those age 35-49 (18%)
- Hispanics (31%) are more likely to select Yes than Whites (20%) and African Americans (16%)

I am very familiar with what the Bible has to say about how immigrants should be treated

- Those age 35-49 (58%) are more likely to agree than those age 18-34 (48%) and 65+ (44%)
- Those age 50-64 (55%) are more likely to agree than those age 65+ (44%)
- Those with a graduate degree (61%) are more likely to agree than those with a HS degree or less (46%) and those with Some college (50%)

The arrival of immigrants to the United States presents a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations within our own communities

- Those age 65+ (57%) are least likely to agree
- African Americans (65%) are less likely to agree than Whites (74%) and Other ethnicities (81%)
- Those with a HS degree or less (62%) and Some college (69%) are less likely to agree than those with a Bachelor's (78%) or graduate degree (79%)

I would value hearing a sermon that taught how biblical principles and examples can be applied to immigration in the United States

- Hispanics (72%) are more likely to agree than African Americans (60%)

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