

# Evangelical Views on Immigration Study

A SURVEY OF AMERICANS

Sponsored by the Evangelical  
Immigration Table and World Relief

Lifeway **research**

# Methodology

- The online survey of 1,007 Americans was conducted August 8-19, 2022, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, and education to more accurately reflect the population
- The survey was completed by people who self-identified as evangelical or qualified as evangelical by belief.
- The completed sample is 1,007 surveys
- 512 surveys were completed by those with evangelical beliefs; 911 were completed by self-identified evangelicals
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed +3.1% This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to an online survey by Lifeway Research of 1,000 self-identified evangelicals February 17-27, 2015

# Definitions

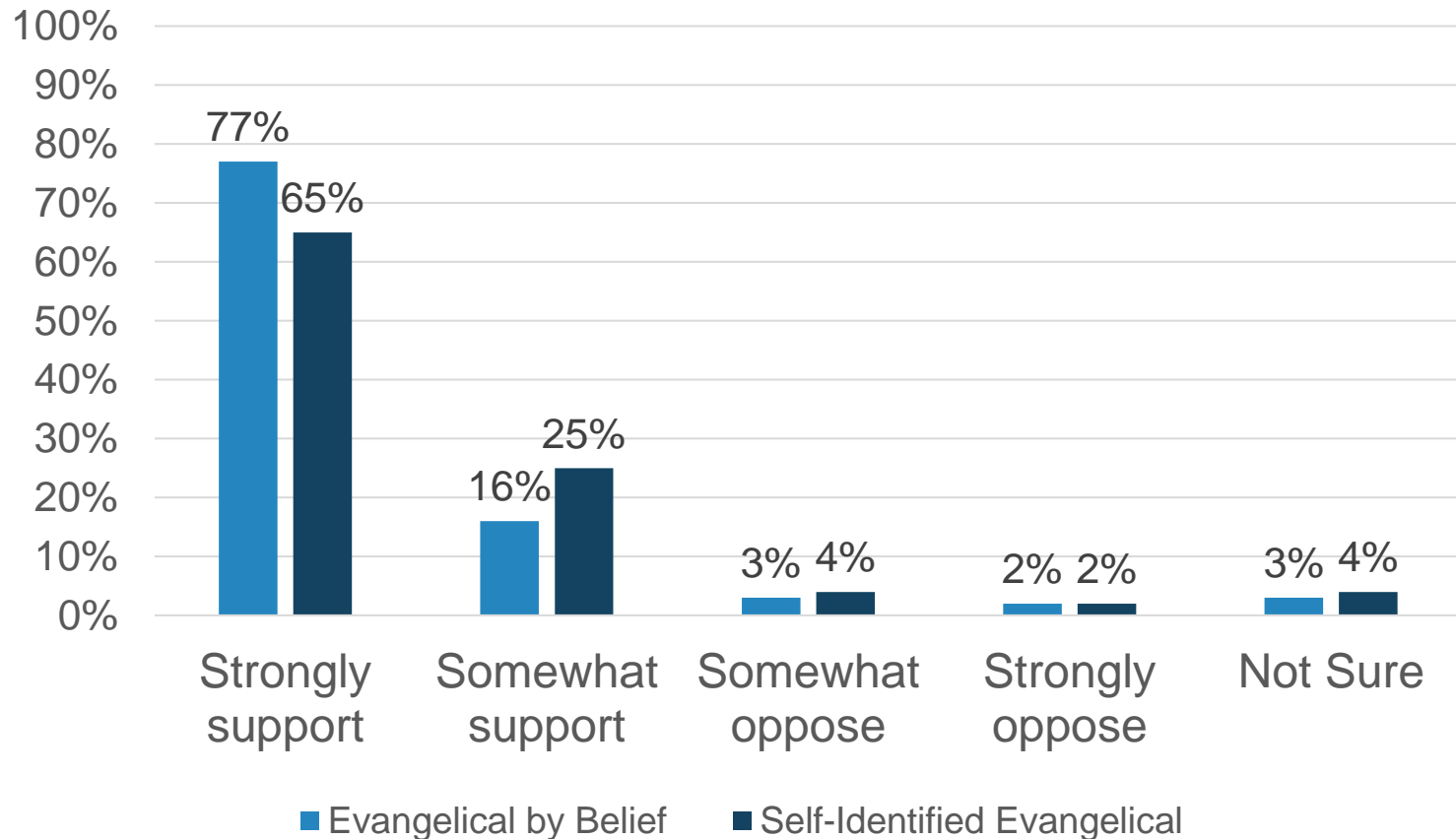
- **Self-Identified Evangelicals** are those who consider themselves an evangelical, a born-again, or a fundamentalist Christian
- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level 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

# **Evangelical Immigration Table**

## **Policy Views**

# Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to strongly support respecting the God-given dignity of every person than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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Q16\_1: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Respect the God-given dignity of every person**" n= 512 (EVB), 911 (SIEV)

# More Self-Identified Evangelicals support the immigration reform principle of respecting the God-given dignity of every person than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

**2015: 82%** answered Yes, they believe immigration reform legislation should **respect the God-given dignity of every person**

**2022: 90%** Strongly/Somewhat support this principle for immigration reform legislation:  
**Respect the God-given dignity of every person**

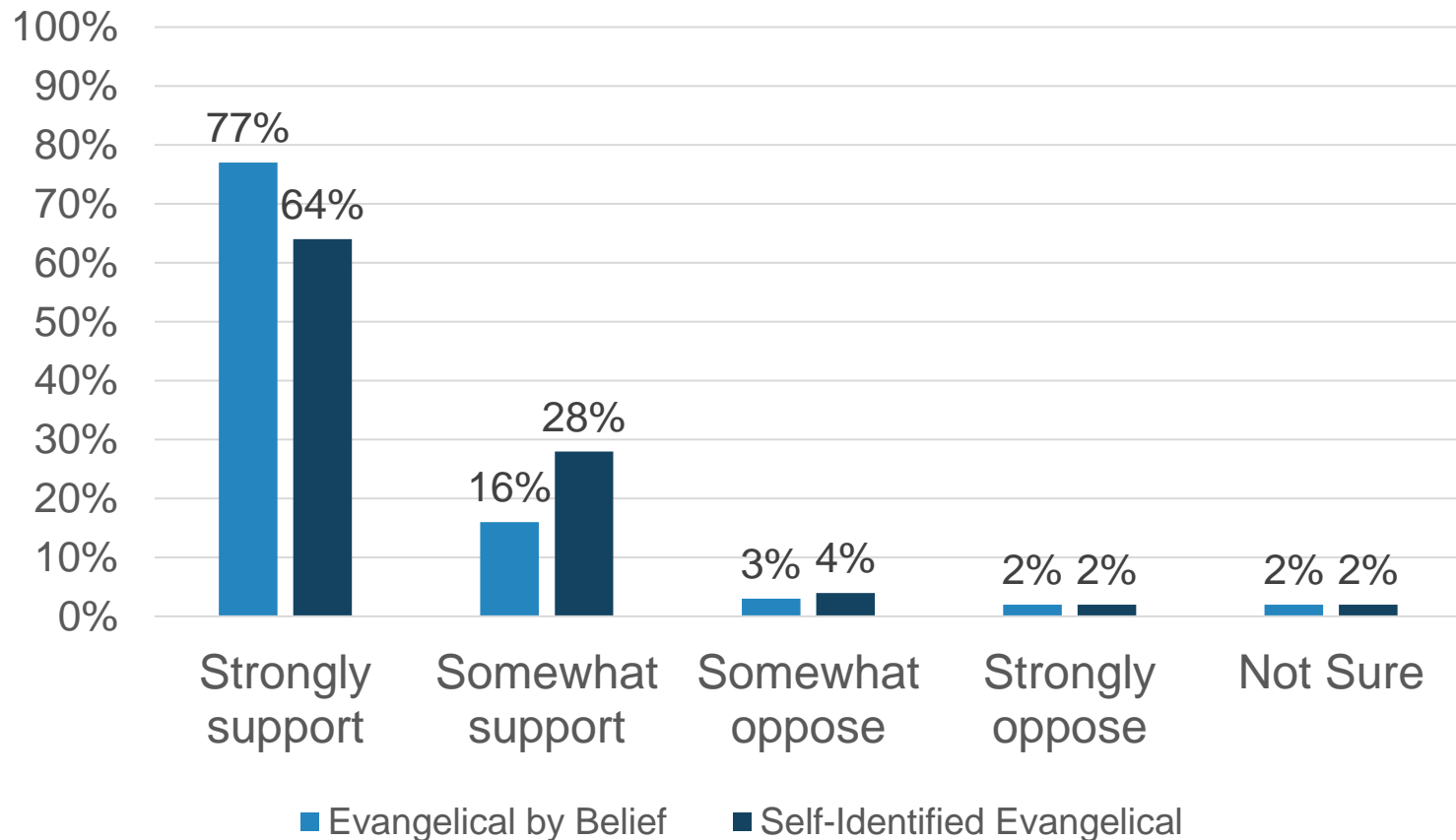
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2015: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should respect the God-given dignity of every person?"

2022: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Respect the God-given dignity of every person**"

# Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to strongly support protecting the unity of the immediate family than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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# More Self-Identified Evangelicals support the immigration reform principle of protecting the unity of the immediate family than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

**2015: 72%** answered Yes, they believe immigration reform legislation should **protect the unity of the immediate family**

**2022: 92%** Strongly/Somewhat support this principle for immigration reform legislation:  
**Protect the unity of the immediate family**

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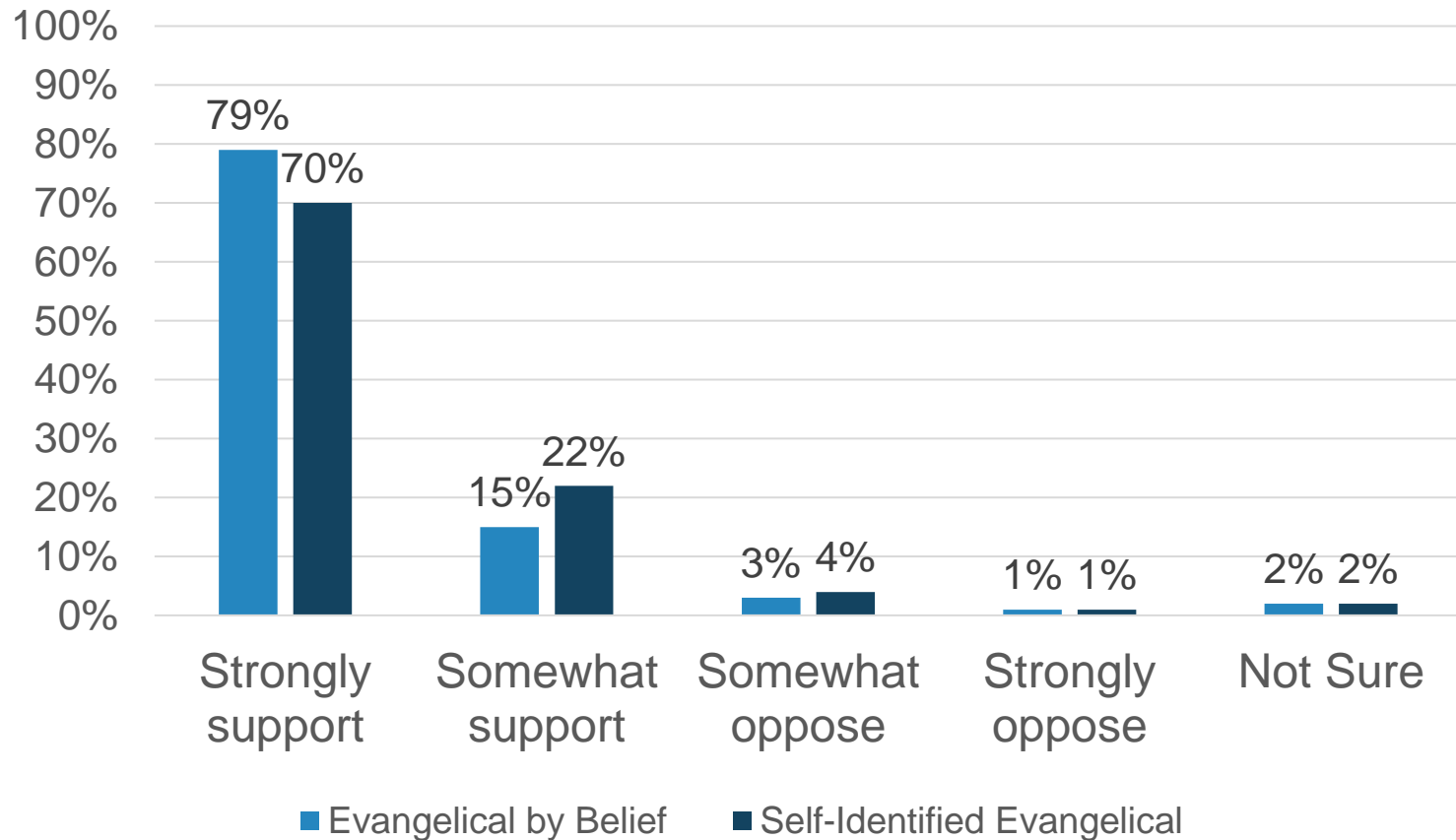
2015: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should protect the unity of the immediate family?"

2022: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Protect the unity of the immediate family**"



# Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to strongly support respecting the rule of law than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



Lifeway research

# More Self-Identified Evangelicals support the immigration reform principle of respecting the rule of law than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

**2015: 88%** answered Yes, they believe immigration reform legislation should **respect the rule of law**

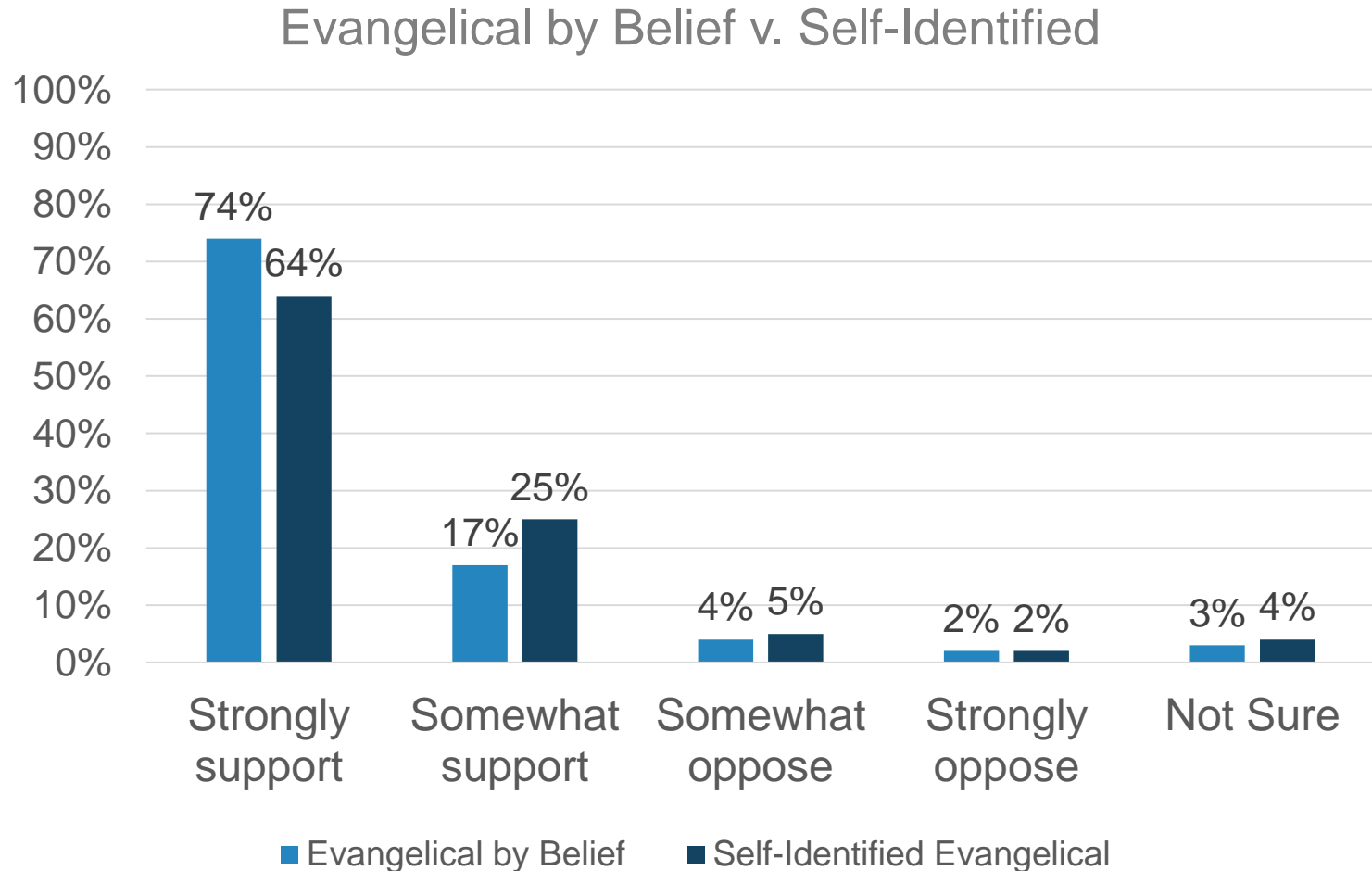
**2022: 92%** Strongly/Somewhat support this principle for immigration reform legislation:  
**Respect the rule of law**

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2015: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should respect the rule of law?"

2022: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Respect the rule of law**"

# Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to strongly support guaranteeing security of borders than Self-Identified Evangelicals



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Q16\_4: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Guarantee secure national borders**" n= 512 (EVB), 911 (SIEV)

# Self-Identified Evangelicals strongly support the immigration reform principle of guaranteeing security of national borders similar to 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

**2015: 86%** answered Yes, they believe immigration reform legislation should **guarantee secure national borders**

**2022: 89%** Strongly/Somewhat support this principle for immigration reform legislation:  
**Guarantee secure national borders**

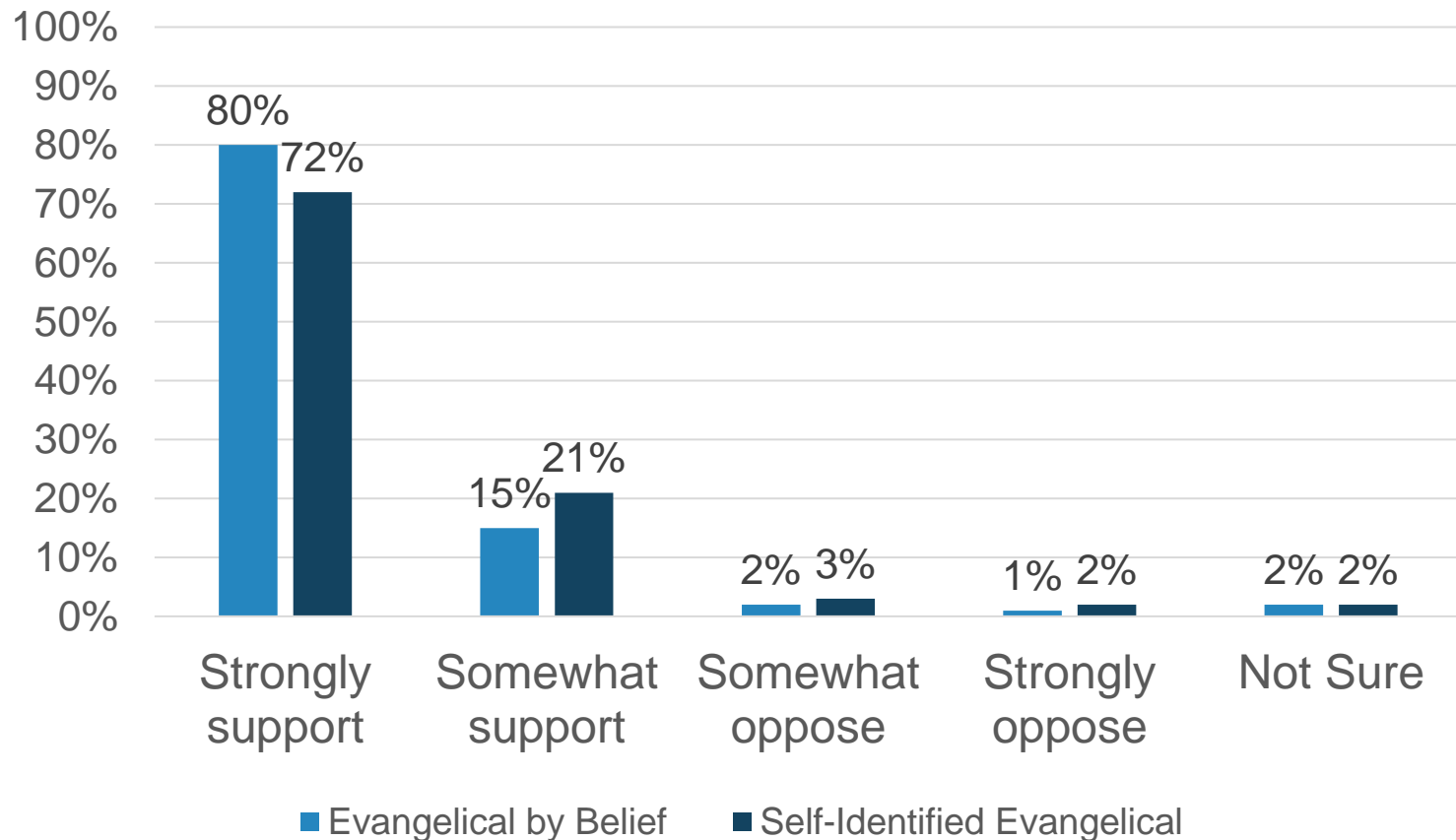
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2015: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should guarantee secure national borders?"

2022: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Guarantee secure national borders**"

# Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to strongly support ensuring fairness to taxpayers than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



Lifeway research

# More Self-Identified Evangelicals support the immigration reform principle of ensuring fairness to taxpayers than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

**2015: 90%** answered Yes, they believe immigration reform legislation should **ensure fairness to taxpayers**

**2022: 94%** Strongly/Somewhat support this principle for immigration reform legislation:  
**Ensure fairness to taxpayers**

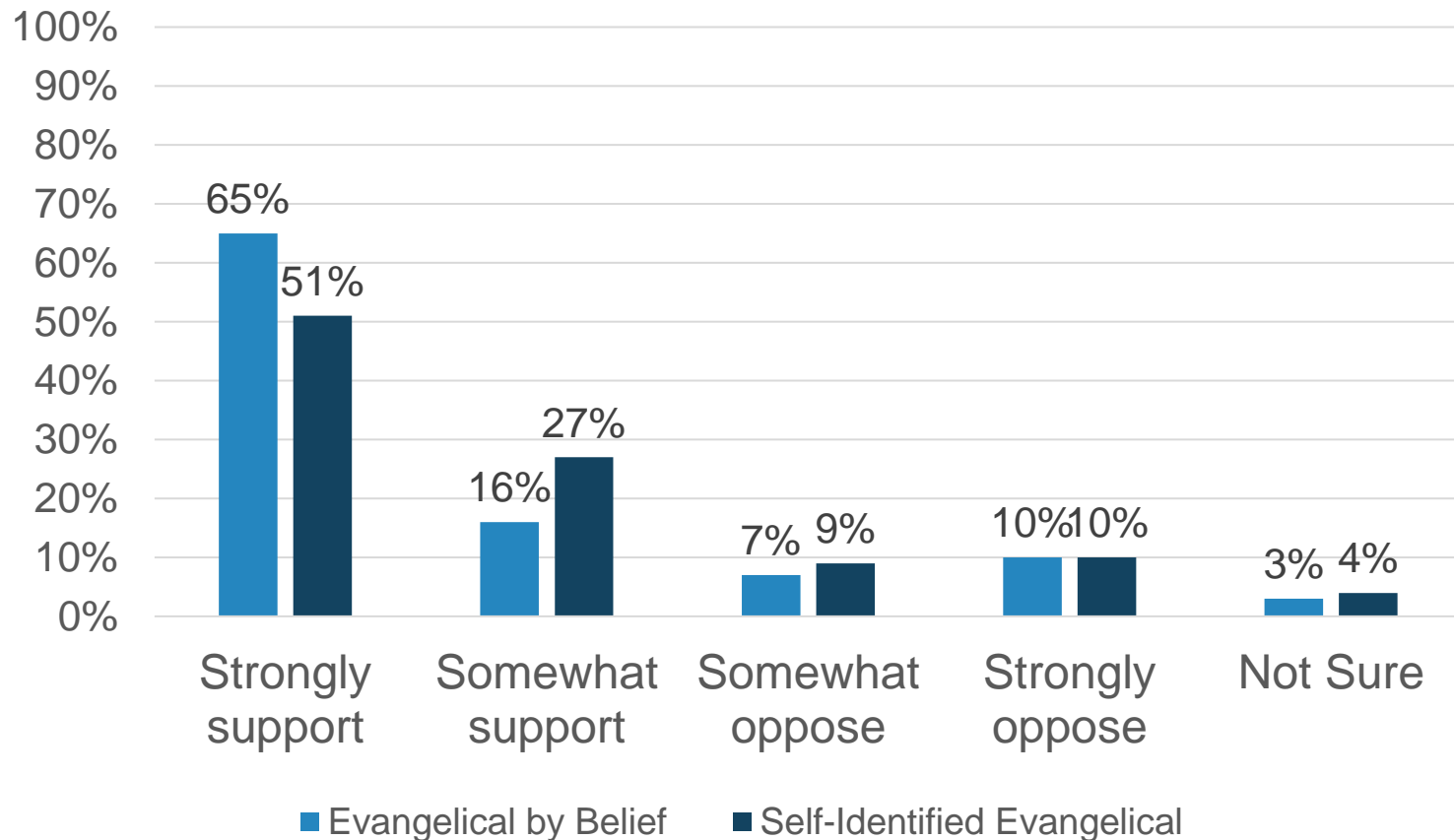
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2015: "Do you believe immigration reform legislation should ensure fairness to taxpayers?"

2022: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? (Select one response for each row) **Ensure fairness to taxpayers**"

# Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to strongly support a path to citizenship than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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# More Self-Identified Evangelicals support the immigration reform principle of establishing a path to citizenship than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

**2015: 61%** answered Yes, they believe immigration reform legislation should **establish a path toward citizenship for those who are here illegally, are interested, and meet certain qualifications for citizenship**

**2022: 77%** Strongly/Somewhat support this principle for immigration reform legislation: **Establish a path toward citizenship for those who are here illegally, are interested, and meet certain qualifications for citizenship**

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2015: "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?"

2022: "In regards to potential legislation addressing illegal immigration, how supportive are you of each of these principles for immigration reform legislation? **Establish a path toward citizenship for those who are here illegally, are interested, and meet certain qualifications for citizenship**"

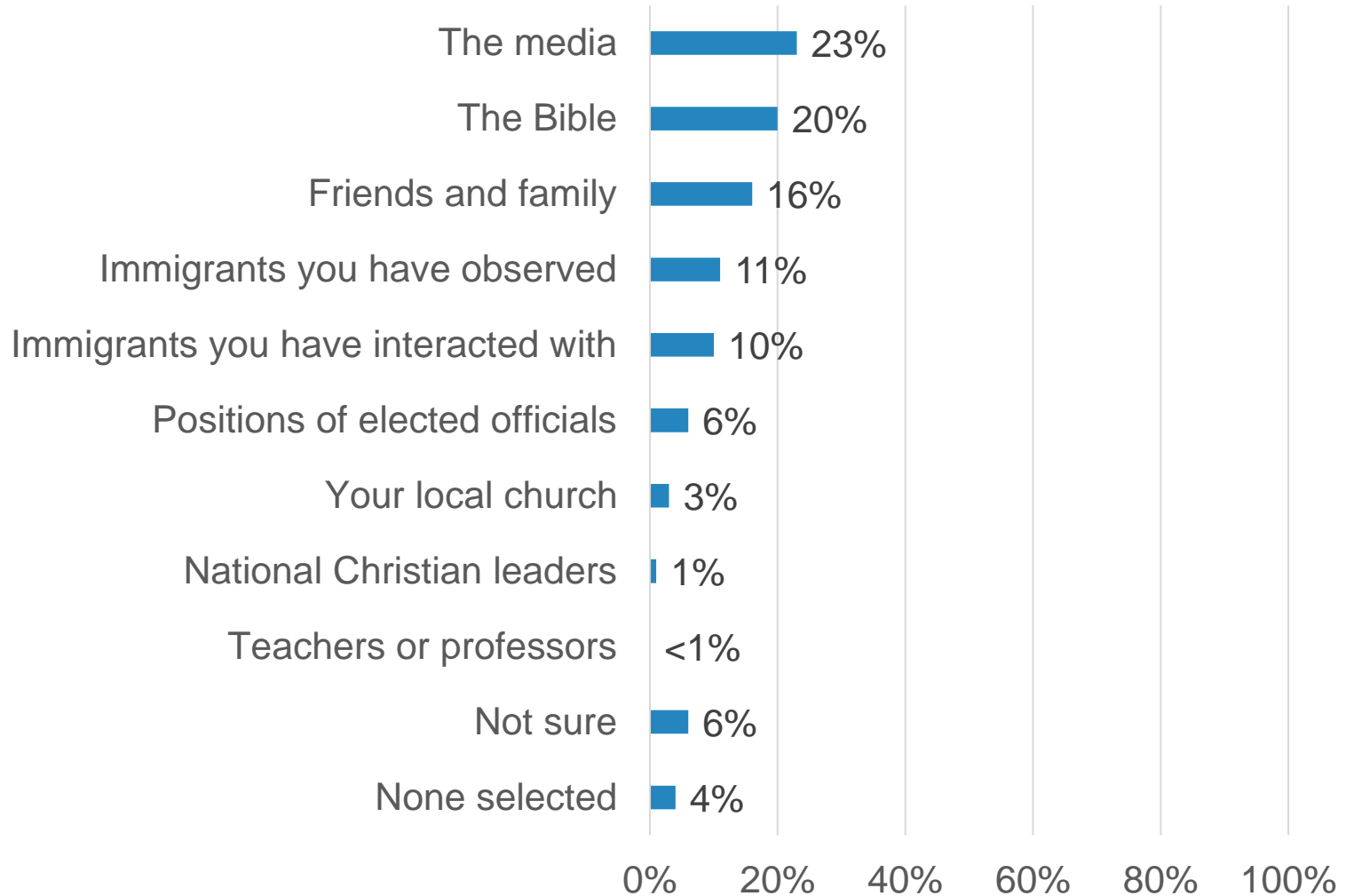


# Evangelical Immigration Table

## Bible Influence

# Influenced your thinking on immigration MOST

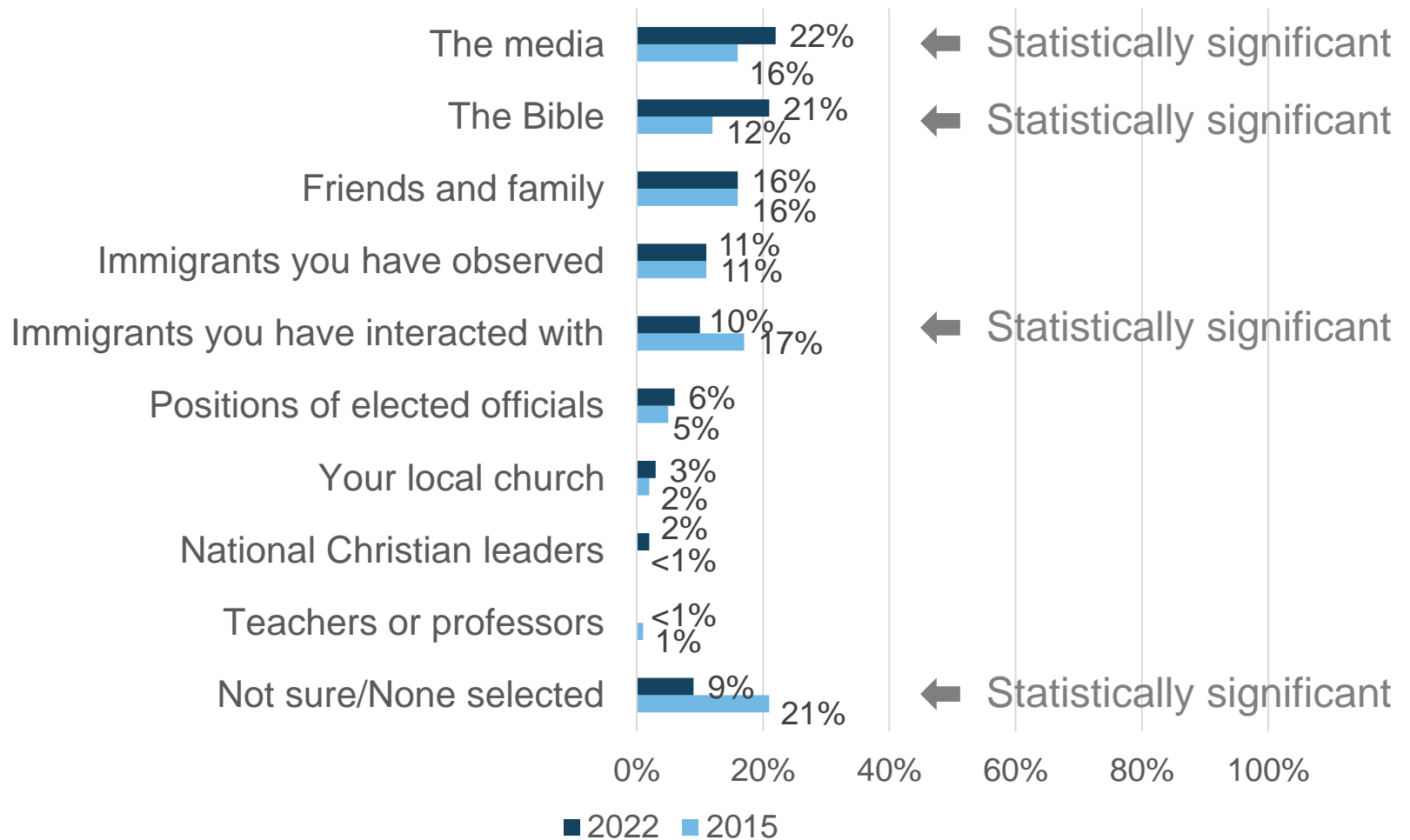
## Total Evangelicals



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# Bible and media have influenced Evangelicals more and interactions with immigrants less than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

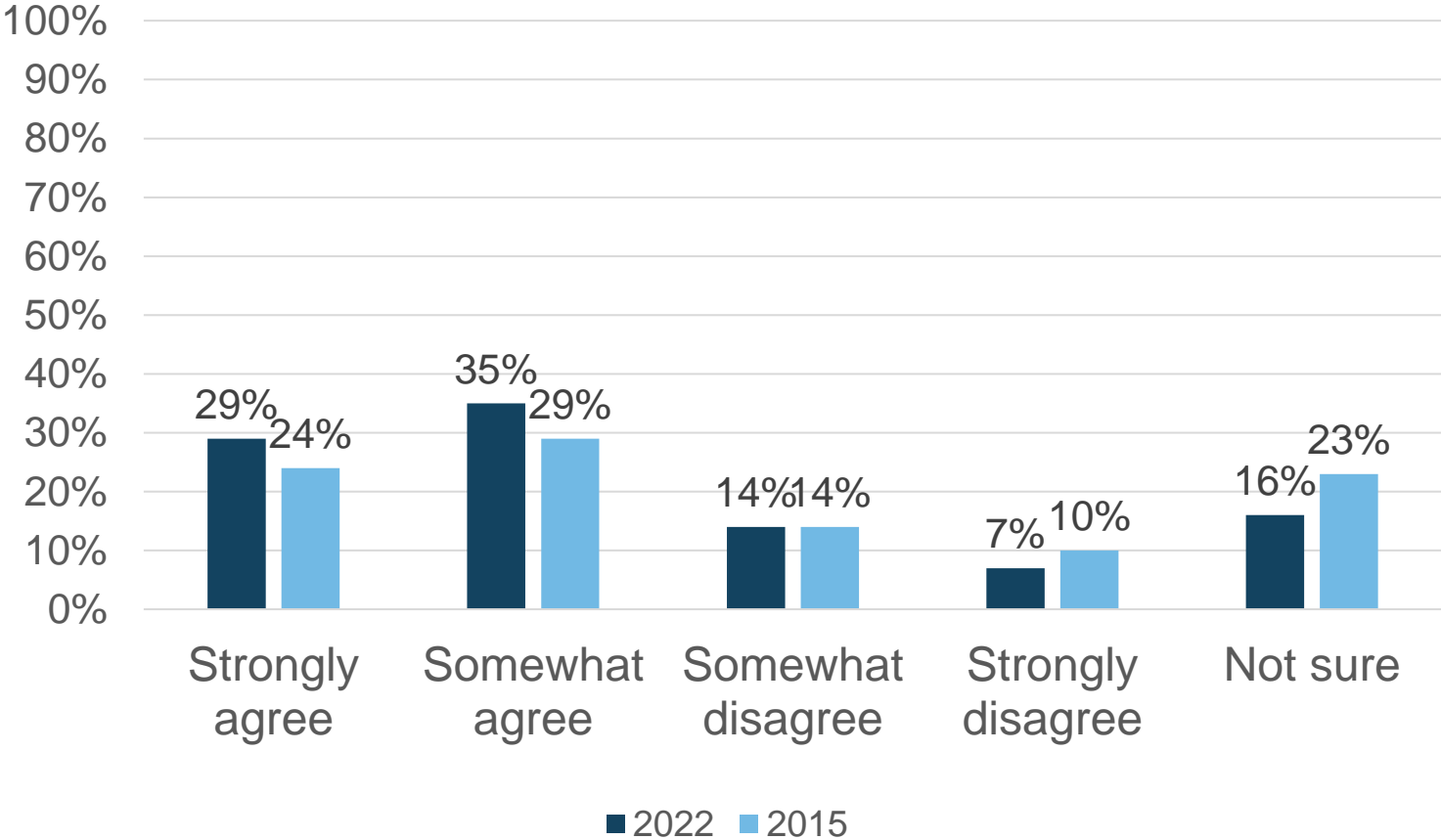


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2015: Which one of the following has influenced your thinking the most on immigration?  
 2022: "Which three of the following have influenced your thinking the most on immigration?" Includes all marked 1 as most influential

# More Self-Identified Evangelicals agree they are familiar with what the Bible has to say on how immigrants should be treated and fewer are not sure than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

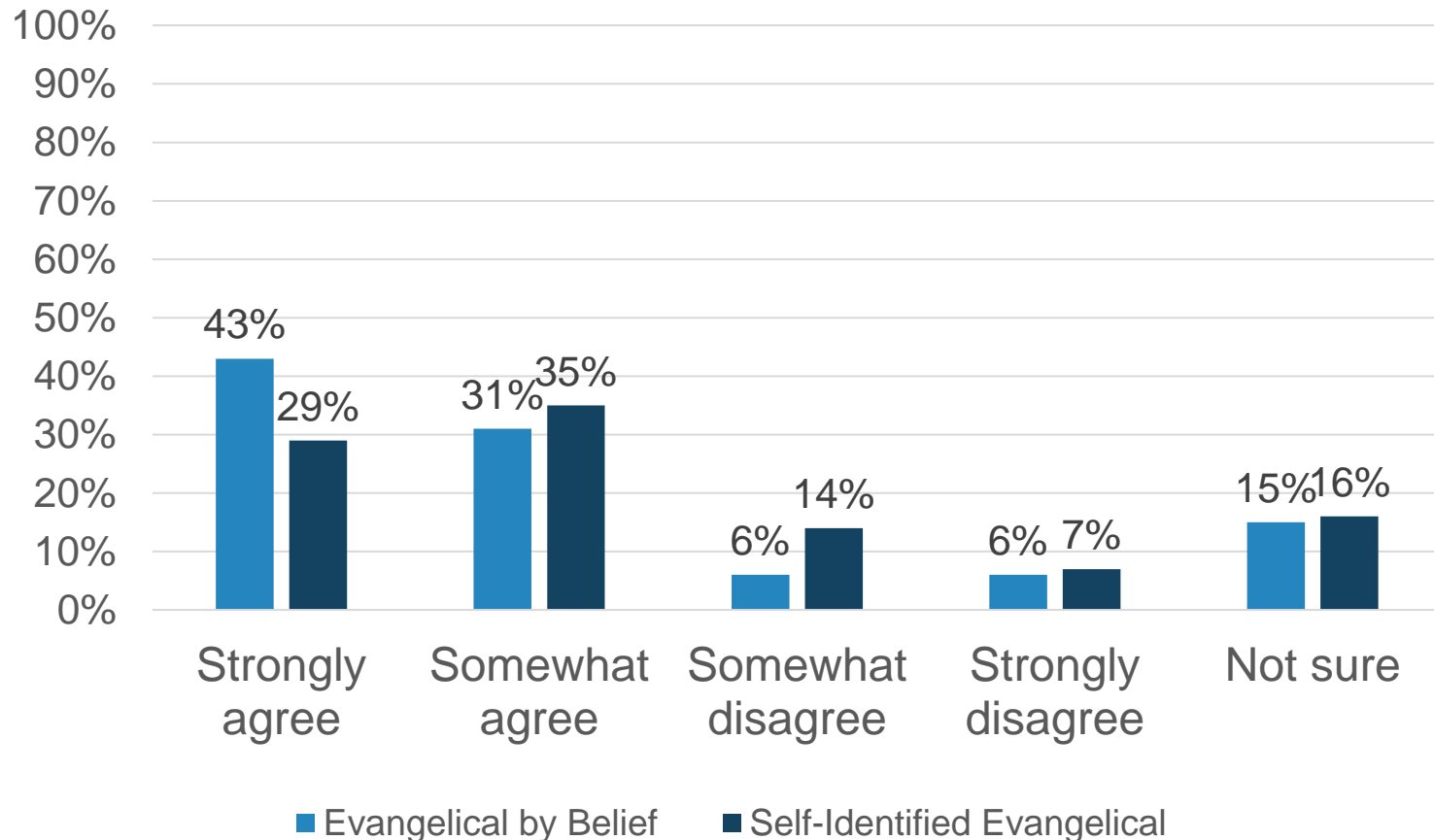


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Q25: "I am very familiar with what the Bible has to say about how immigrants should be treated."

# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to agree they are familiar with what the Bible has to say on how immigrants should be treated than Self-Identified Evangelicals (73% v. 63%)

## Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified

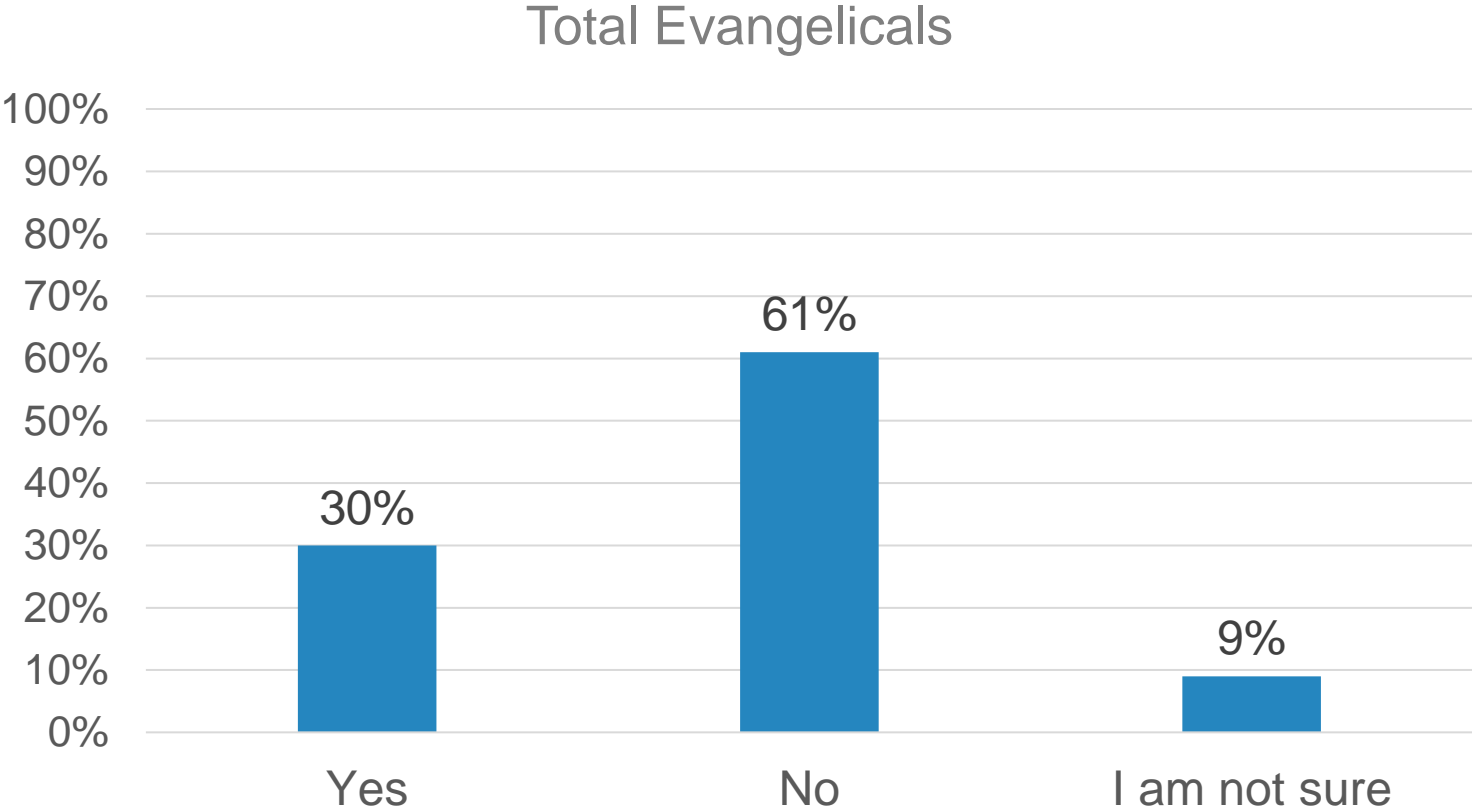


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# Evangelical Immigration Table

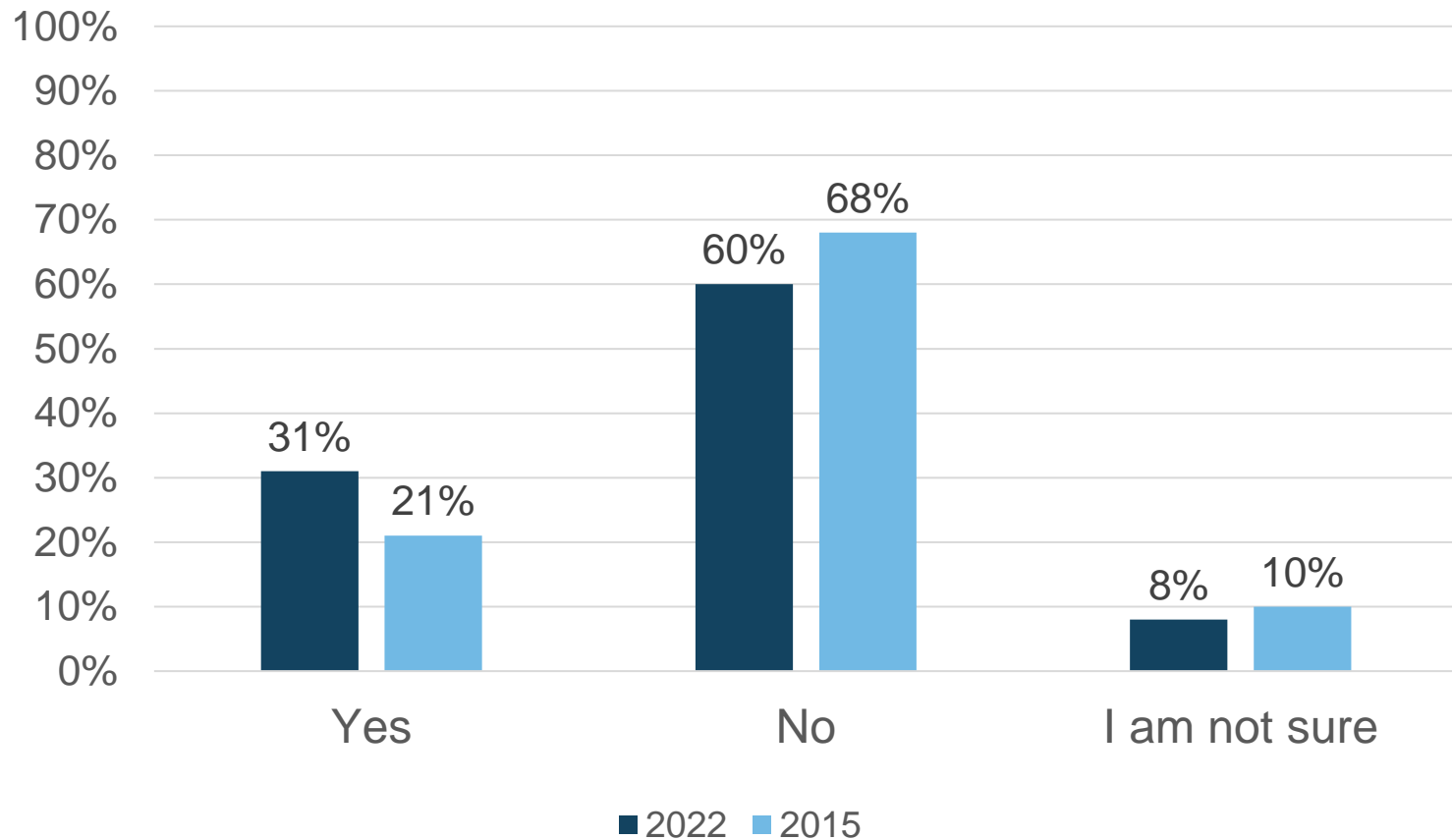
## Church Actions

# 30% have heard immigration discussions at their local church that encouraged outreach to immigrants in their community



# More Self-Identified Evangelicals have heard immigration discussions at their local church that encouraged outreach to immigrants than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

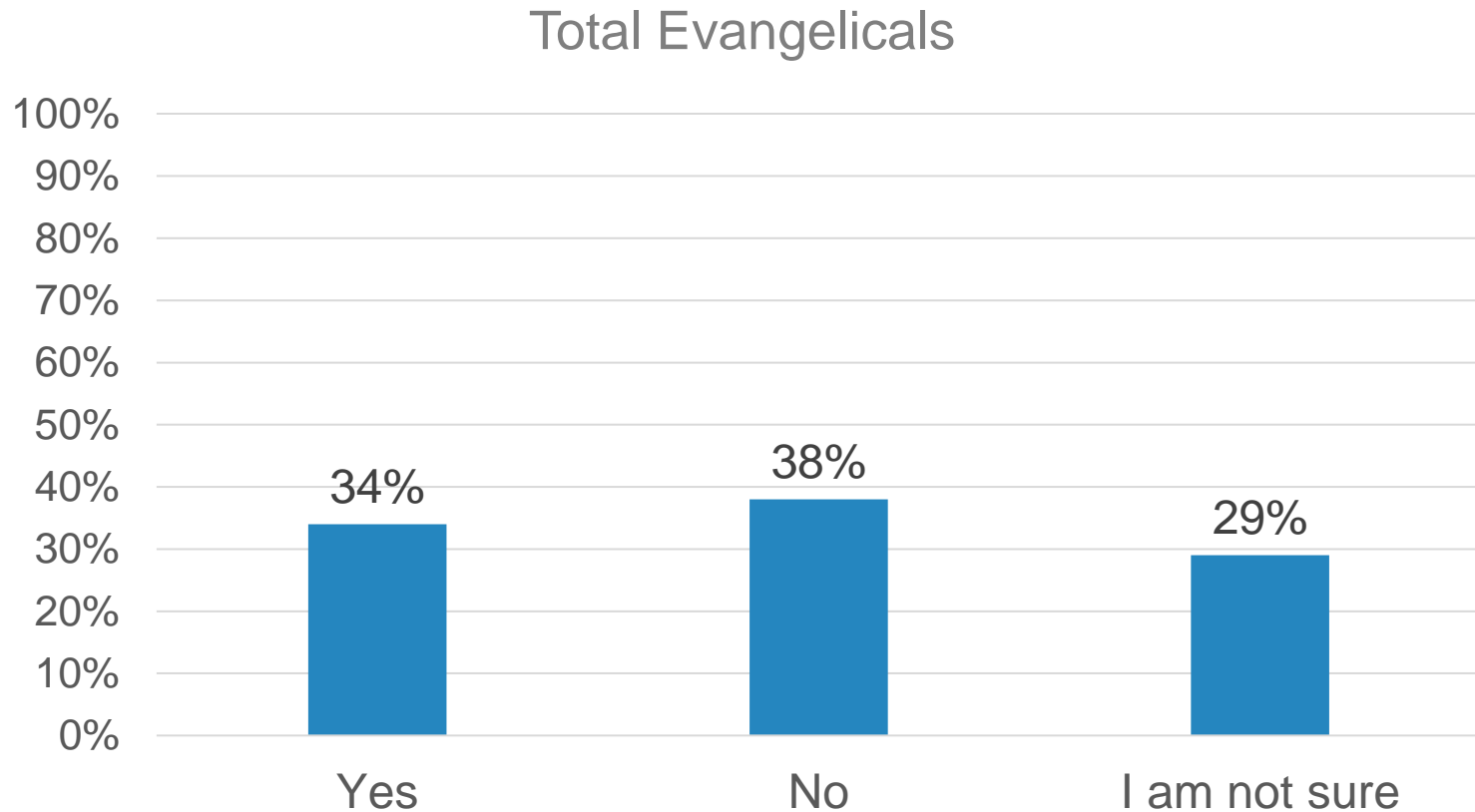


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Q22: "Have you ever heard immigration discussed at your local church in a way that encouraged you to reach out to the immigrants in your community?"



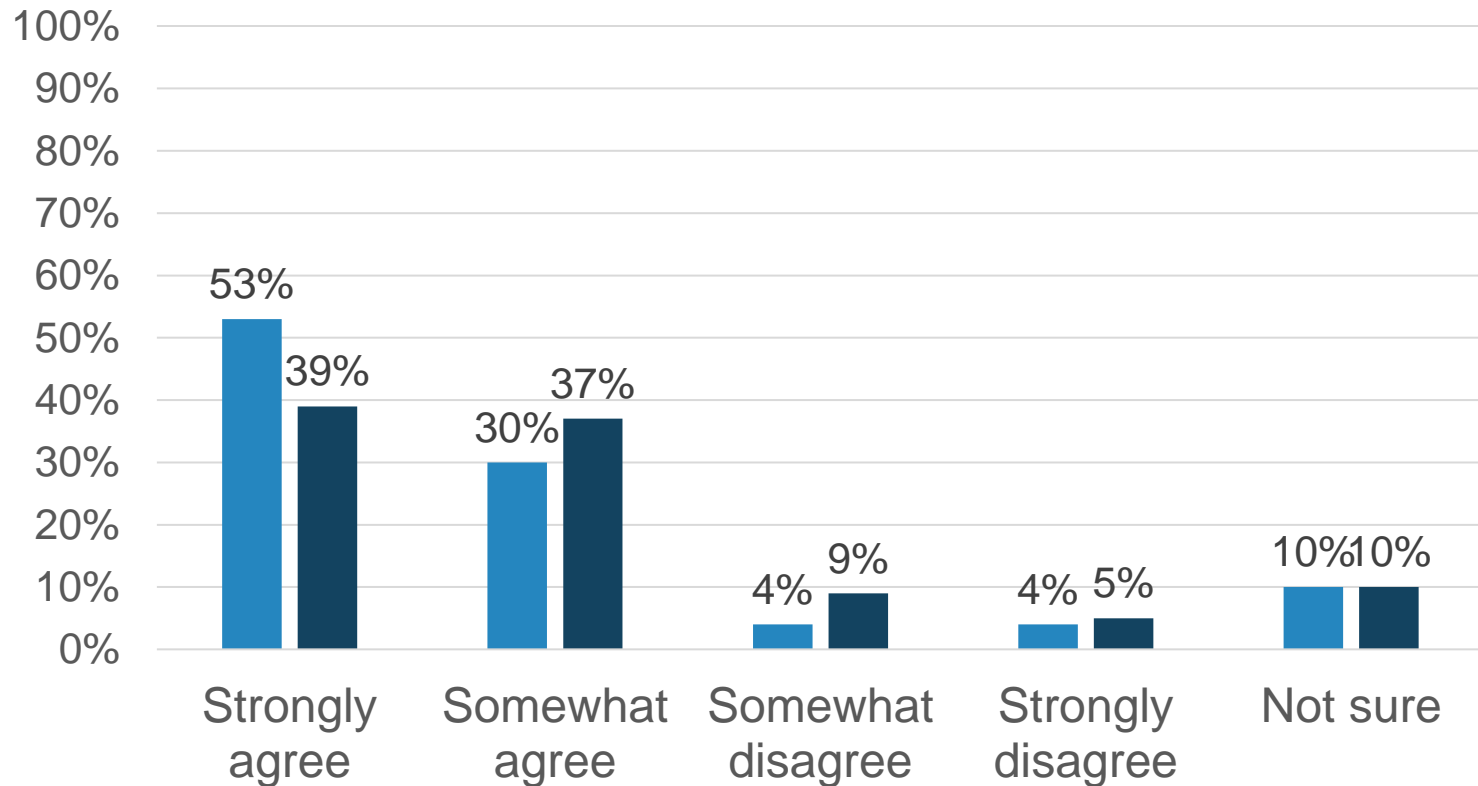
# 34% say their church has a ministry or outreach that serves refugees or other immigrants



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# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to agree they would value hearing a sermon on applying biblical principles to U.S. immigration than Self-Identified Evangelicals (83% v. 77%)

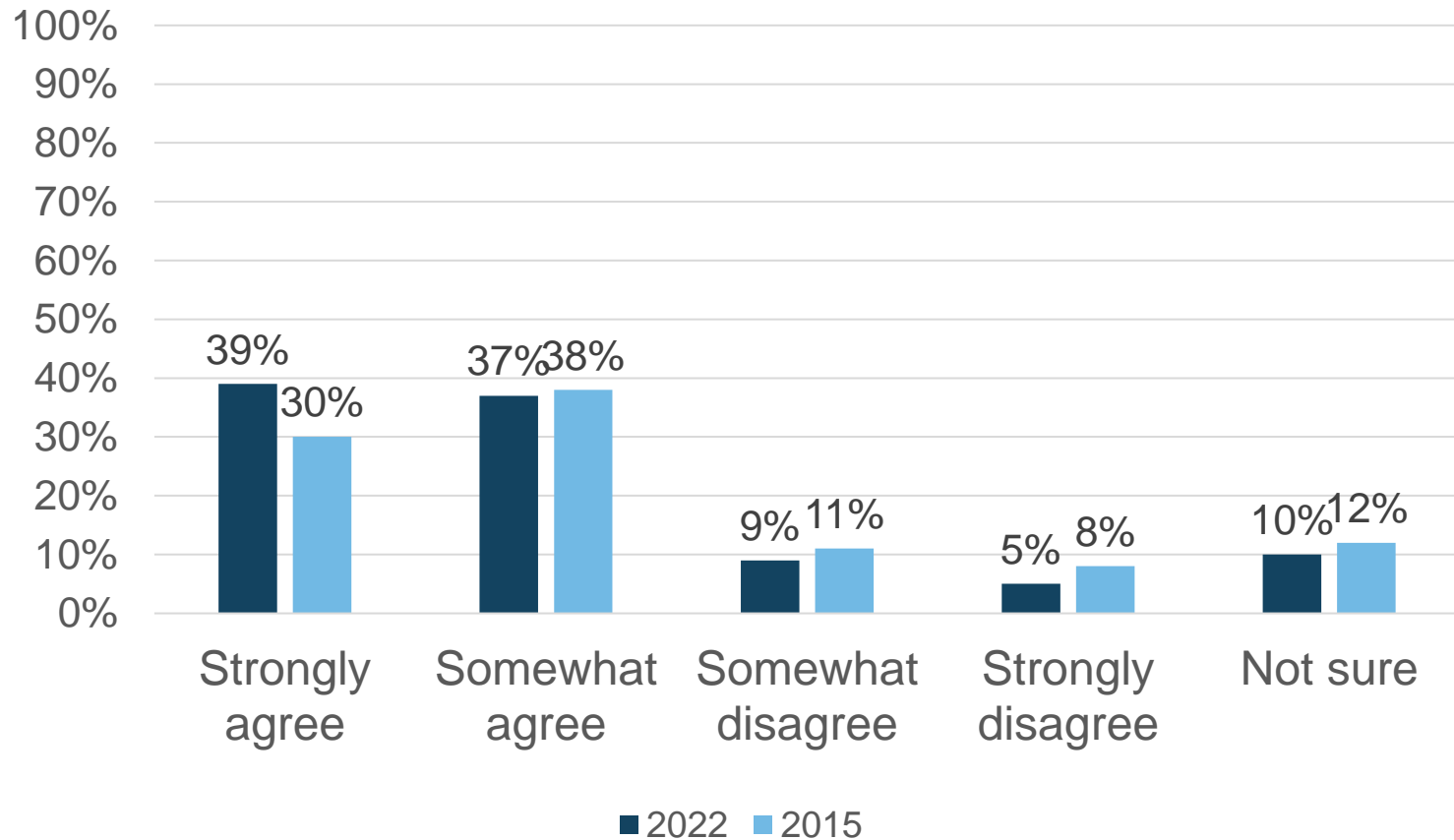
Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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# Self-Identified Evangelicals are more likely to agree they would value hearing a sermon on applying biblical principles to U.S. immigration than in 2015 (77% v. 68%)

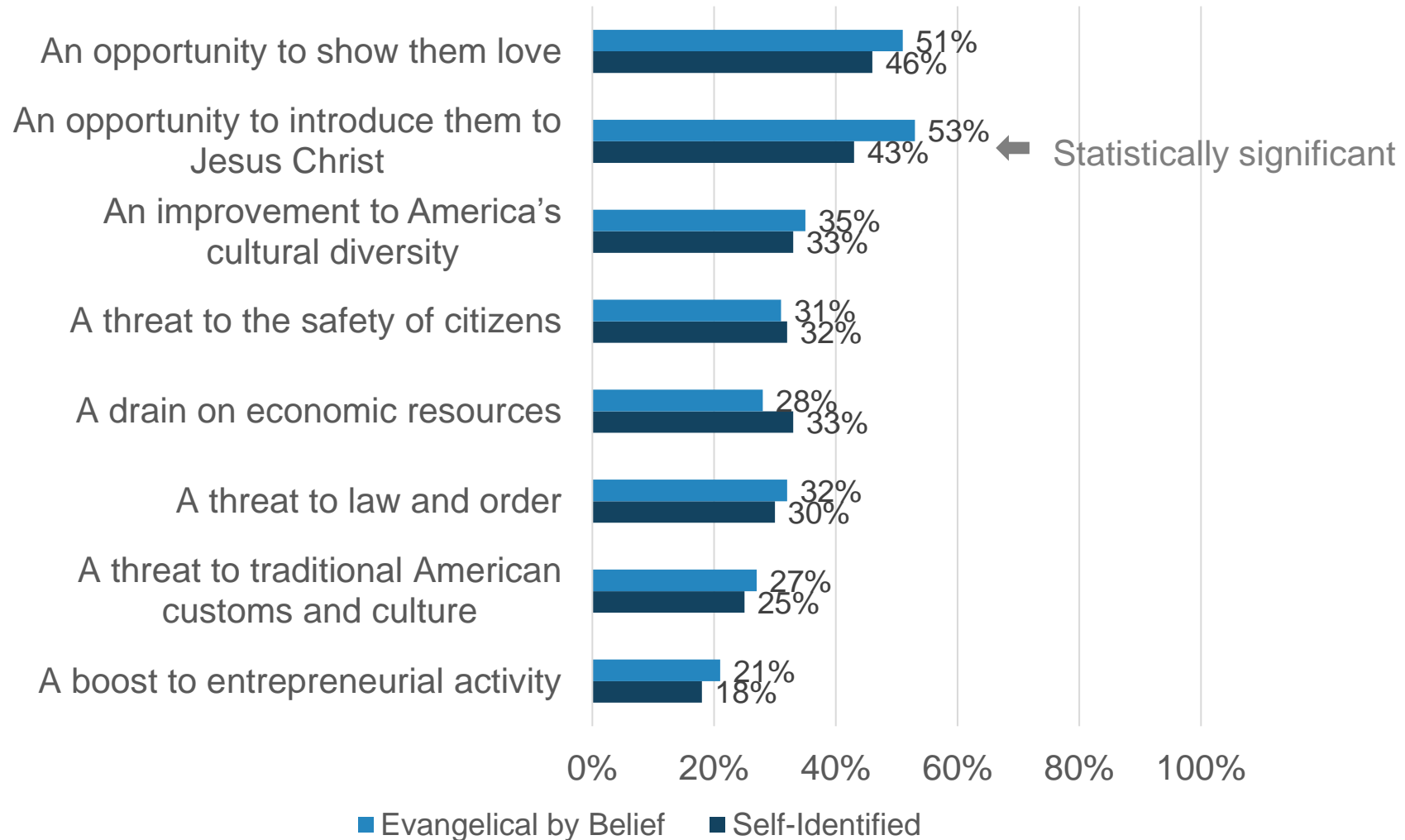
Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015



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# “The number of recent immigrants to the United States are...”

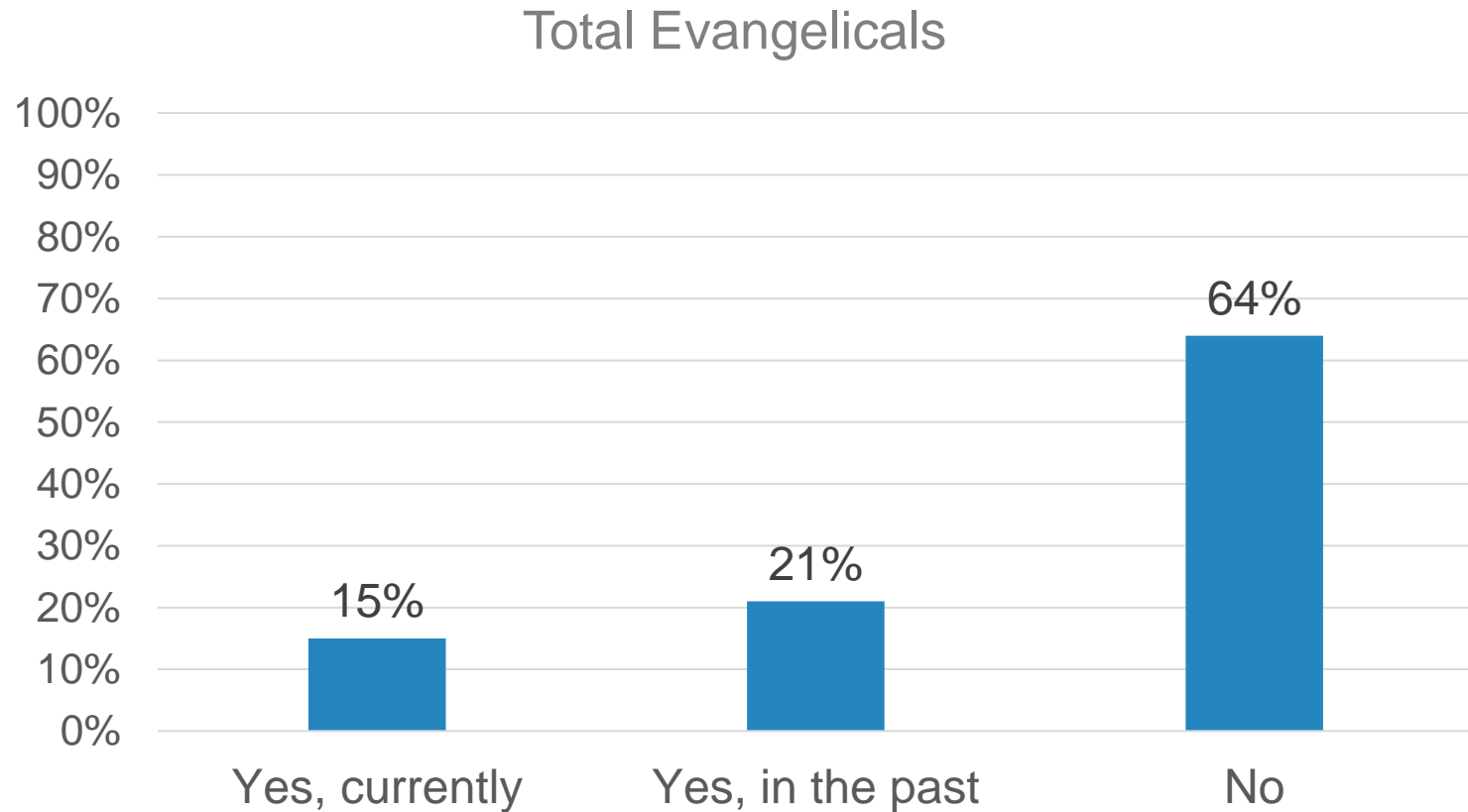
Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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Q13: “Which of the following reflect your beliefs? The number of recent immigrants to the United States are... (Select all that apply)” n= 512 (EVB), 911 (SIEV)

# 36% have been involved in a ministry that served refugees or other immigrants



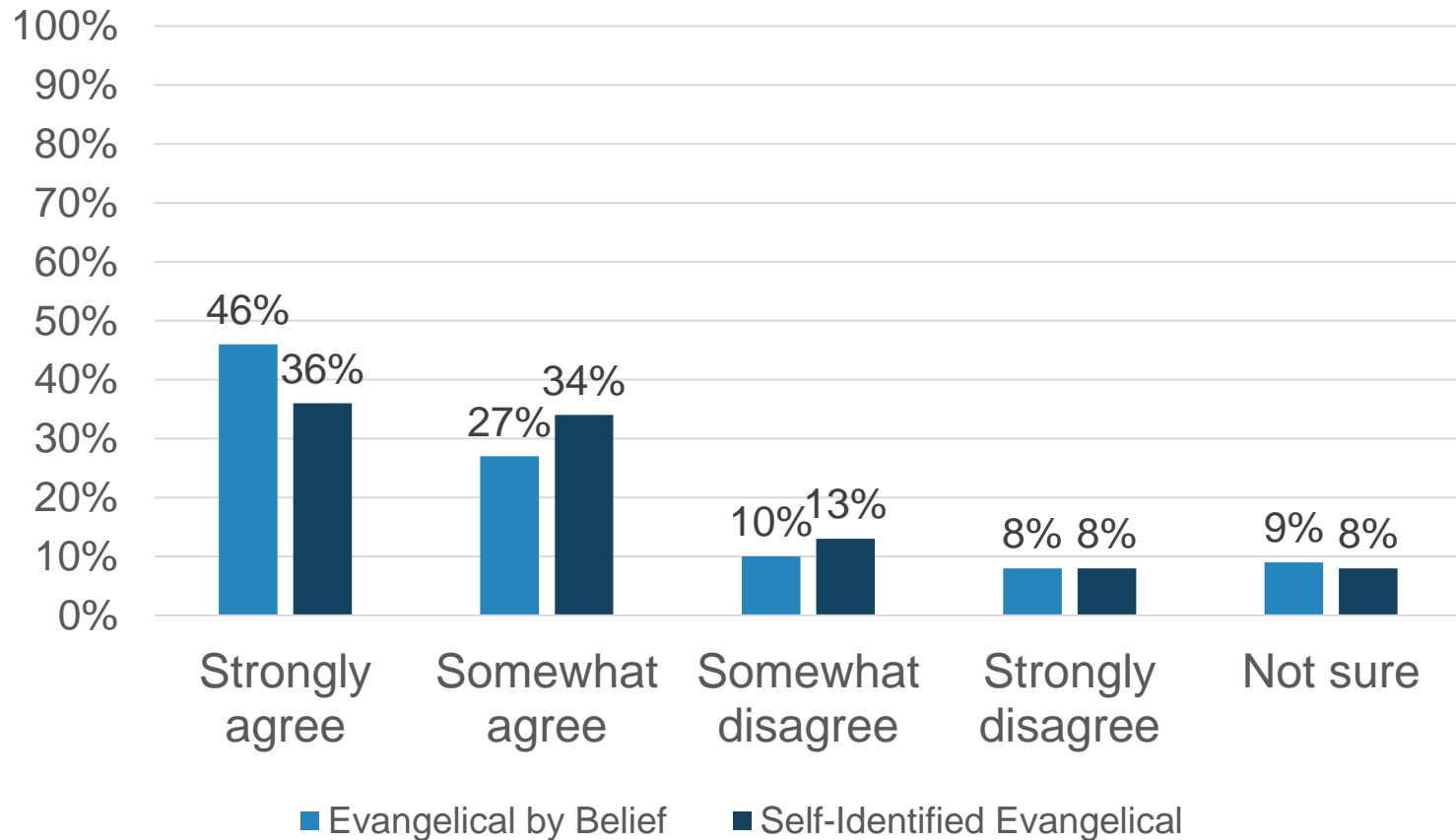
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# Evangelical Immigration Table

## Responsibilities

# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree the U.S. has a moral responsibility to accept refugees than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified

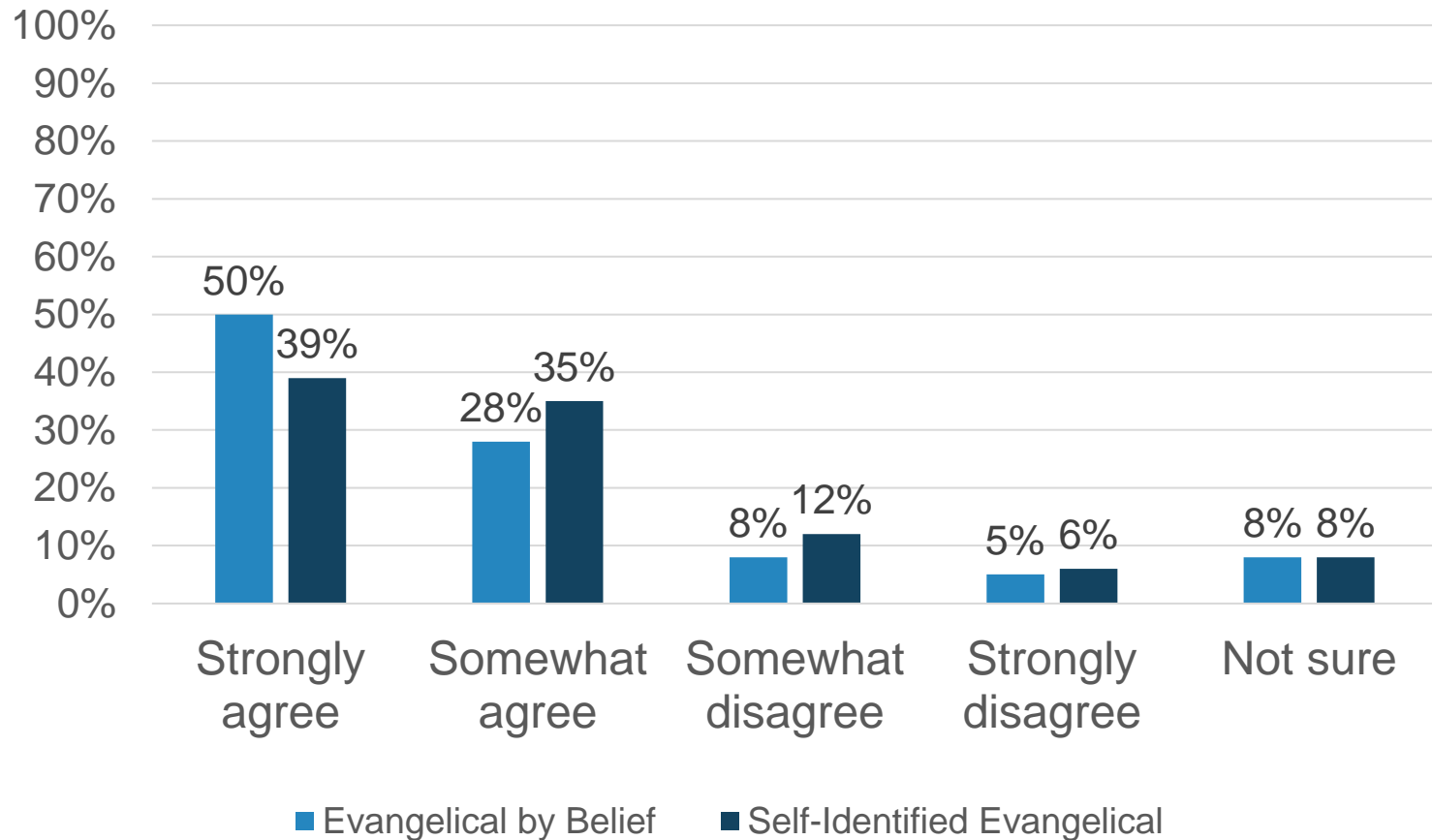


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Q27: "The U.S. has a moral responsibility to accept refugees, which U.S. law defines as someone fleeing persecution due to specific factors such as their race, religion, or political opinion." n= 512 (EVB), 911 (SIEV)

# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree the U.S. has a moral responsibility to accept refugees fleeing religious persecution than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified

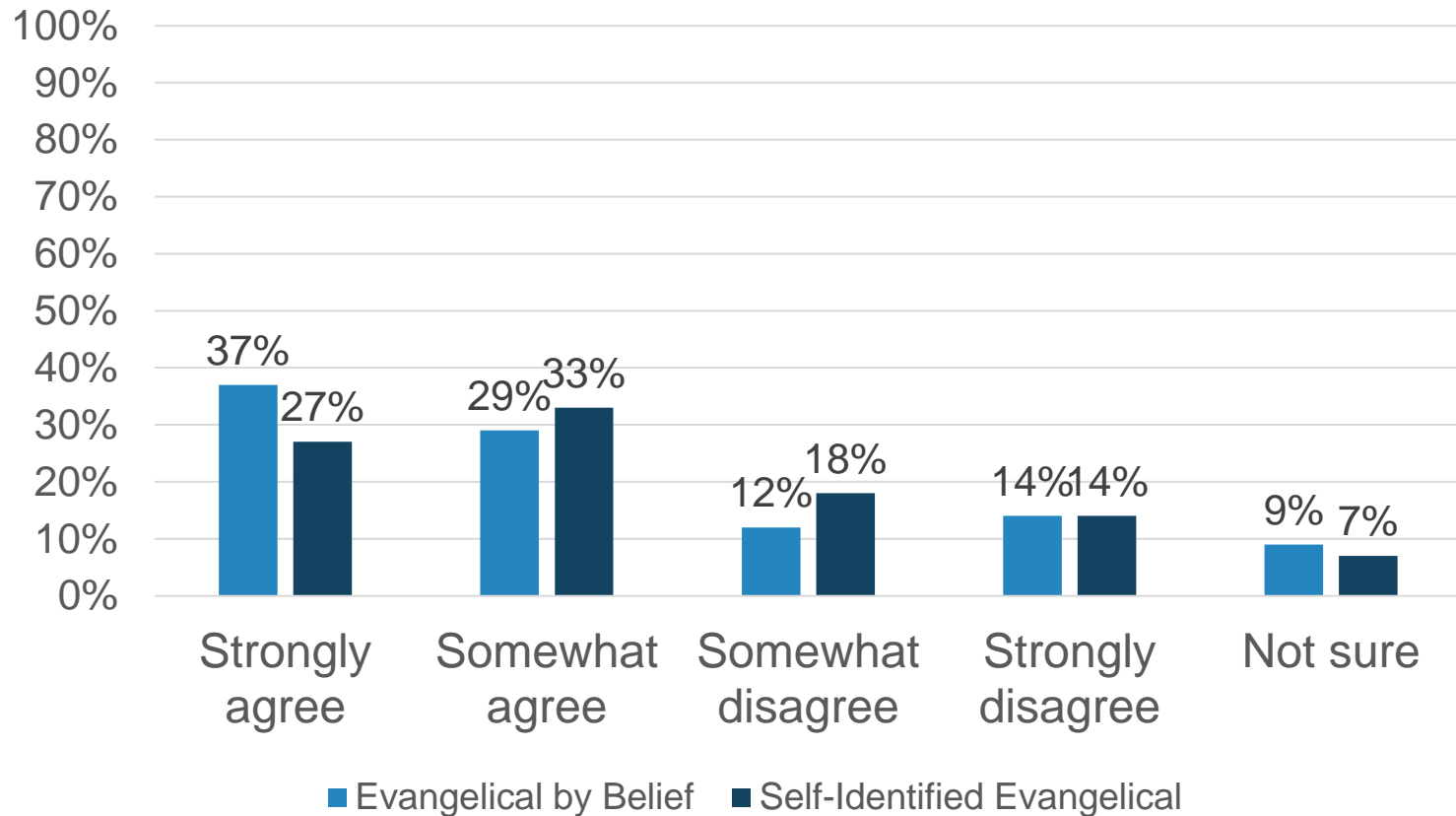


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# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree the U.S. has a moral responsibility to accept people fleeing poverty than Self-Identified Evangelicals

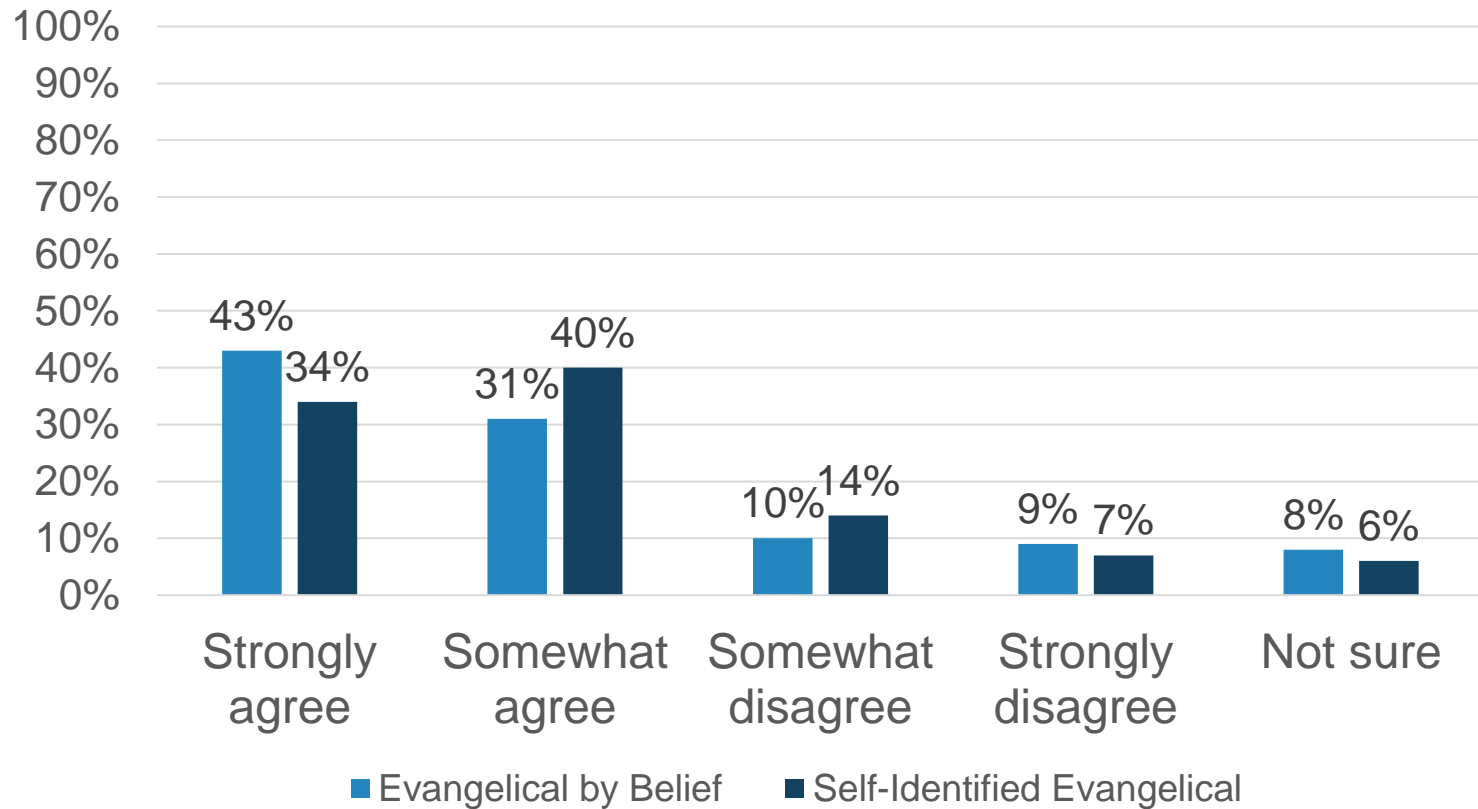
Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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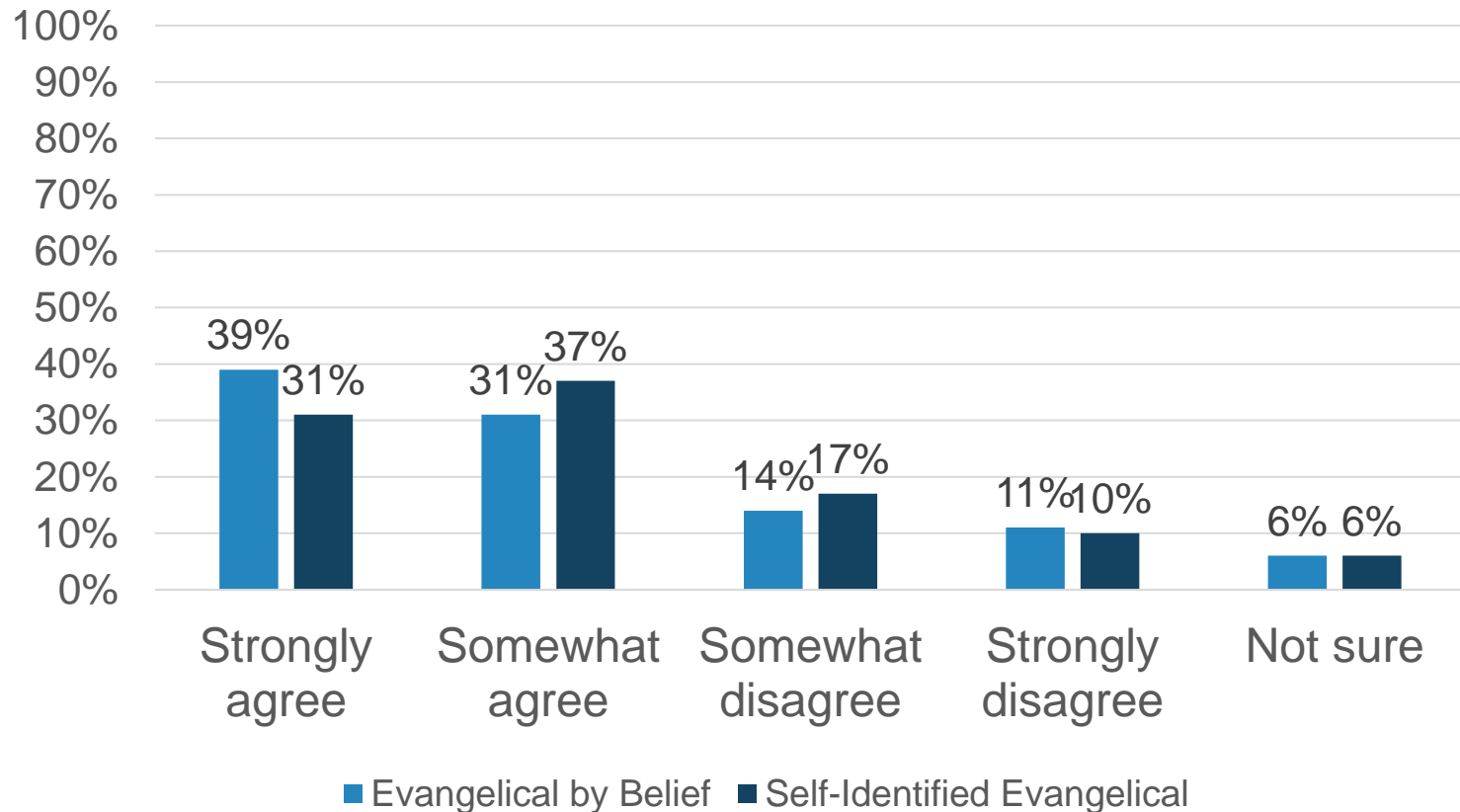
# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree the U.S. has a moral responsibility to accept people fleeing natural disasters than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree the U.S. has a moral responsibility to reunite people to close family members in U.S. than Self-Identified Evangelicals

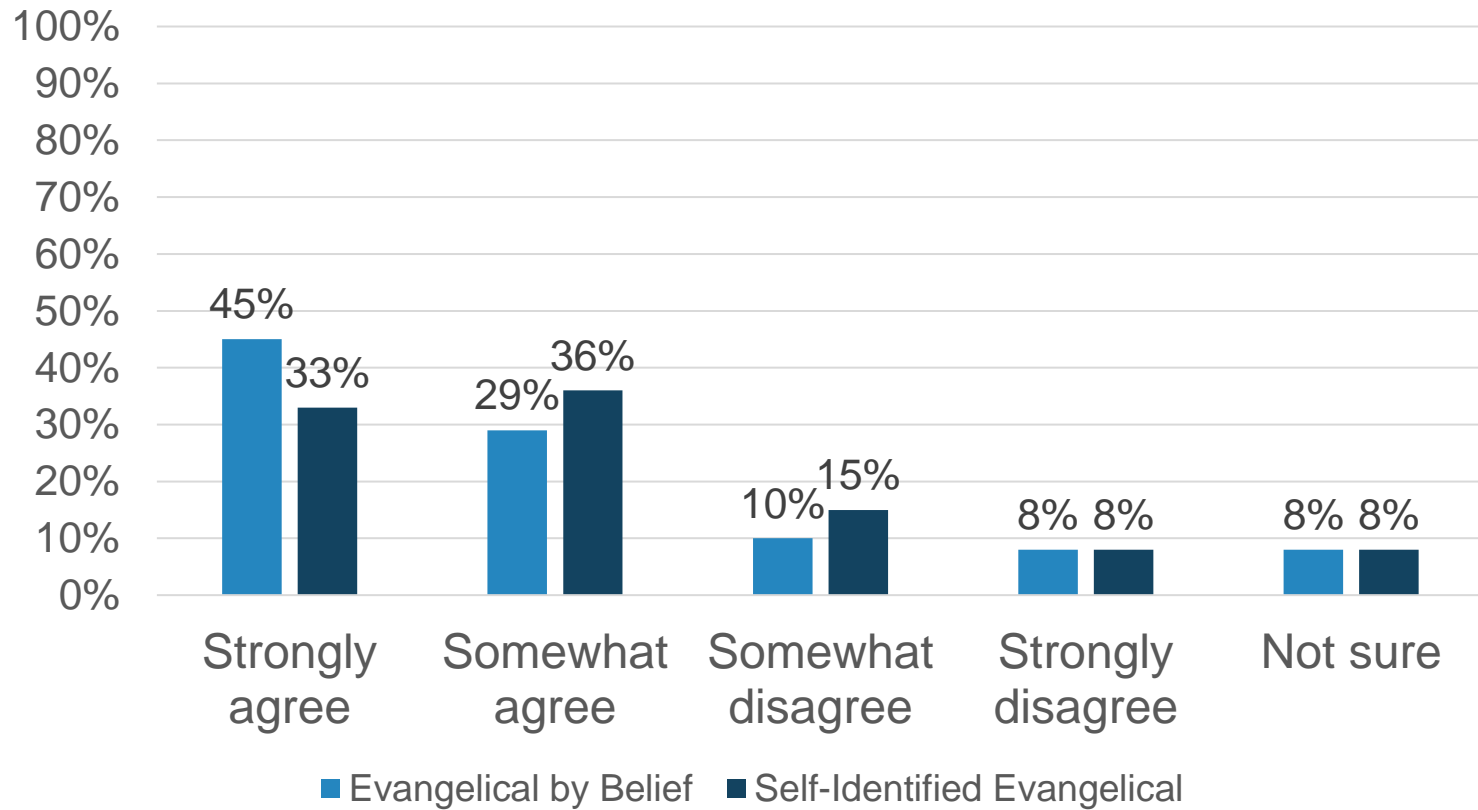
Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



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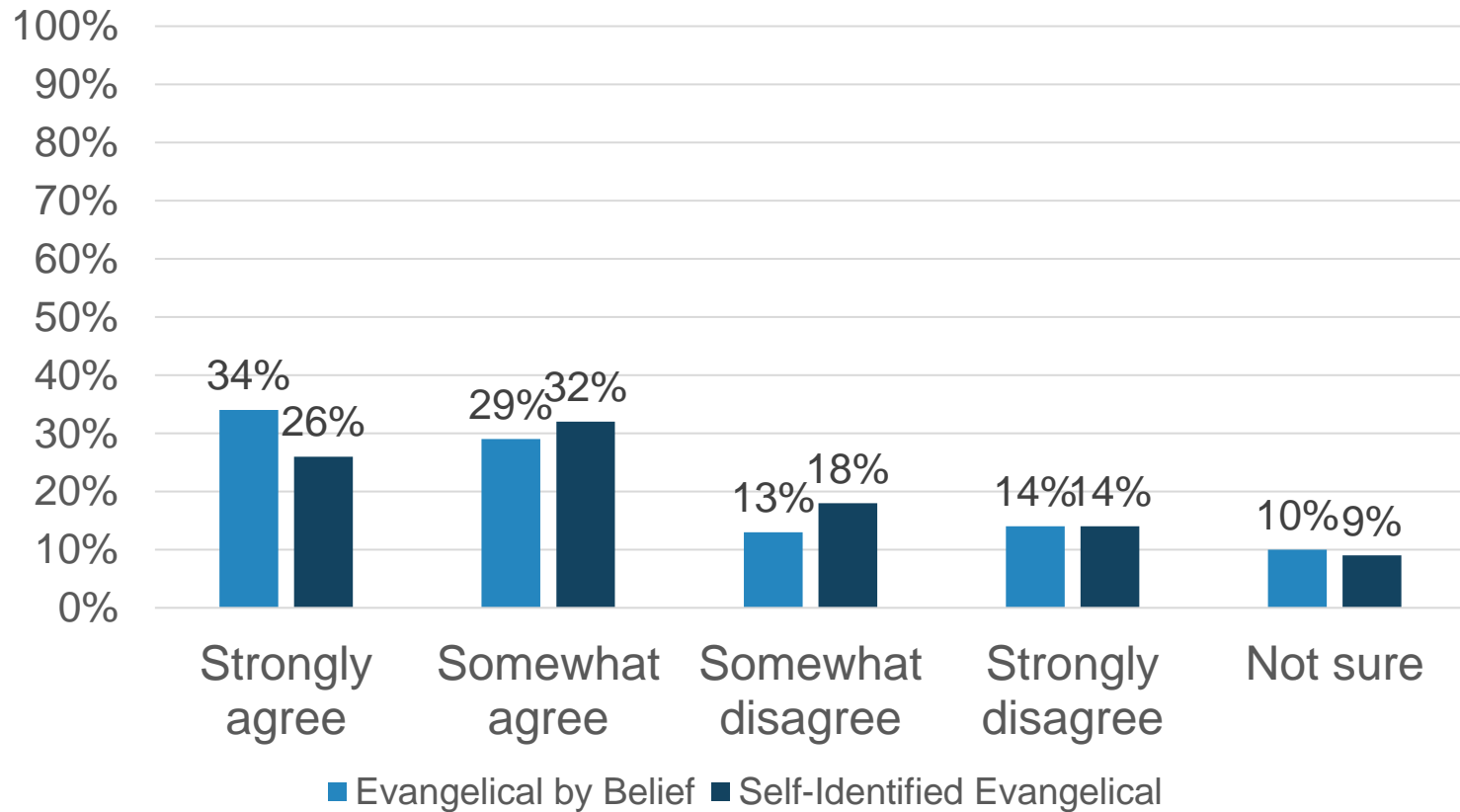
# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree Christians have a responsibility to care sacrificially for refugees than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified



# Evangelicals by belief are more likely to strongly agree Christians have a responsibility to assist immigrants here illegally than Self-Identified Evangelicals

Evangelical by Belief v. Self-Identified

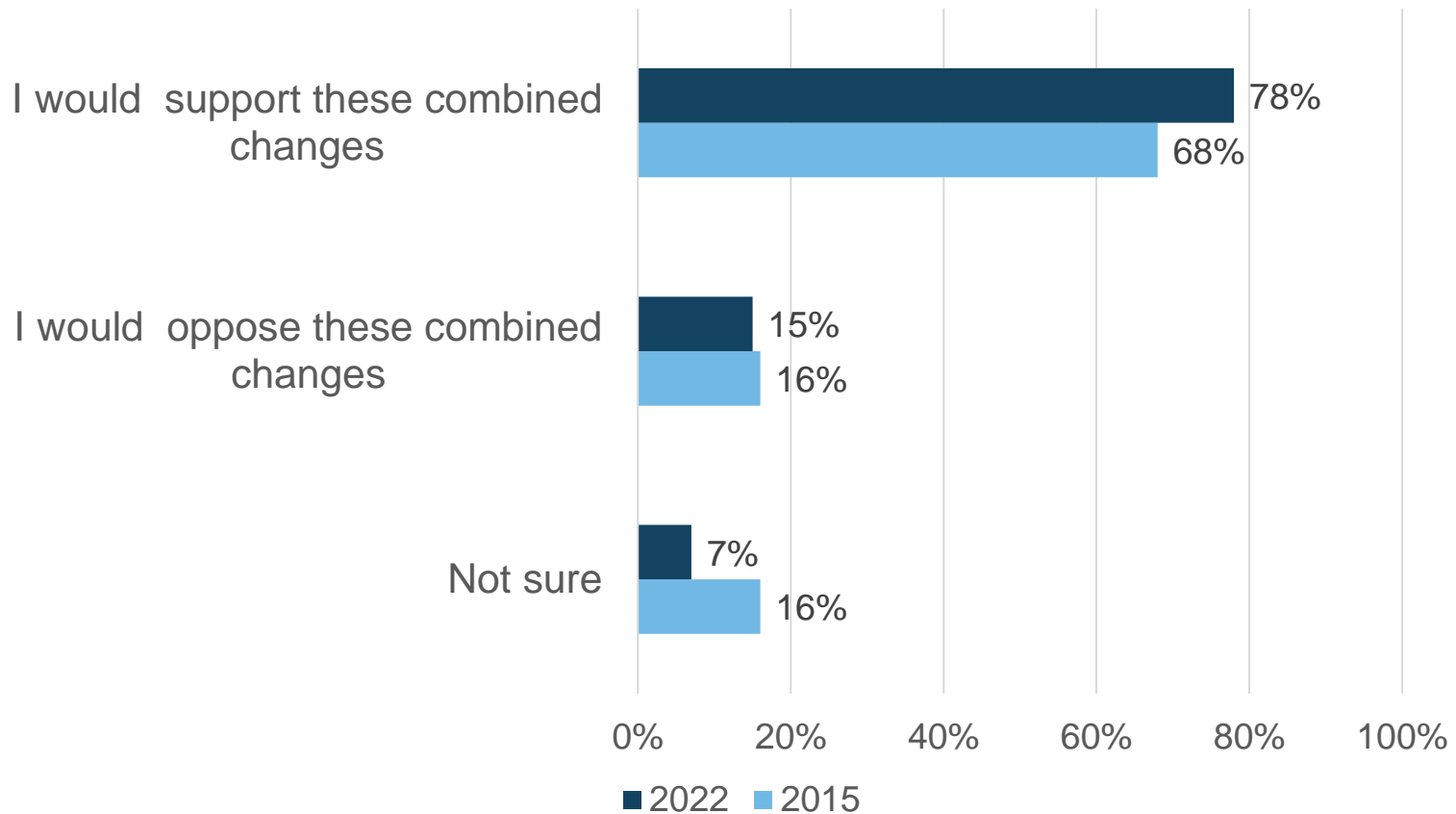


# Evangelical Immigration Table

## Public Policies

# More Self-Identified Evangelicals support combined changes to increase border security and establish a process to apply for citizenship than in 2015

Self-Identified Evangelicals 2022 compared to 2015

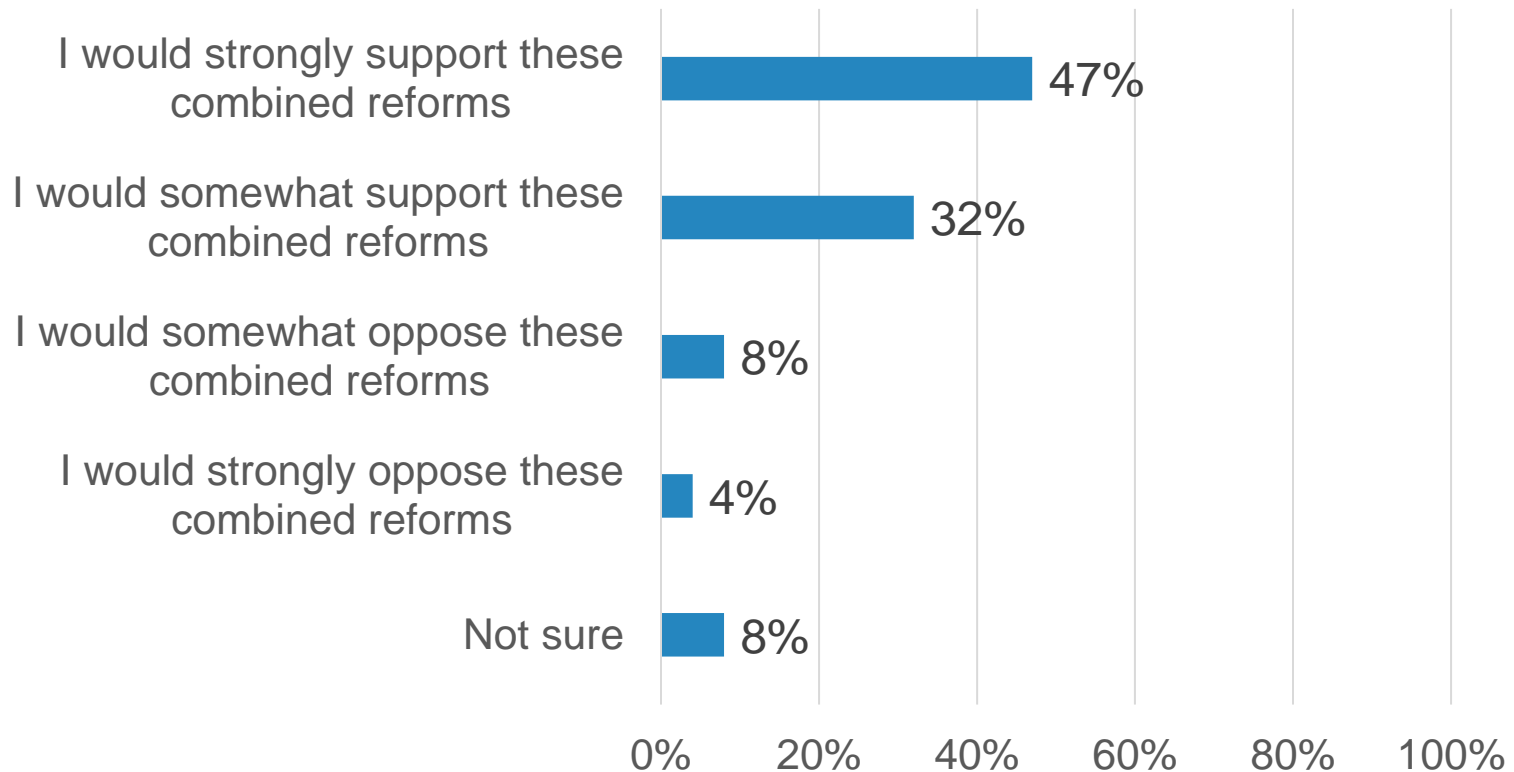


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Q18: "Please indicate if you would or would not support changes to U.S. immigration laws that would both increase border security measures and establish a process so that those immigrants in the U.S. unlawfully could earn permanent legal status and eventually apply for citizenship if they pay a fine, pass a criminal background check, and complete other requirements during a probationary period." 2022 strongly and somewhat support are combined. 2022 strongly and somewhat oppose are combined.

# 80% would support bipartisan immigration reform that strengthens border security, establishes a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and provides enough farmworkers

## Total Evangelicals



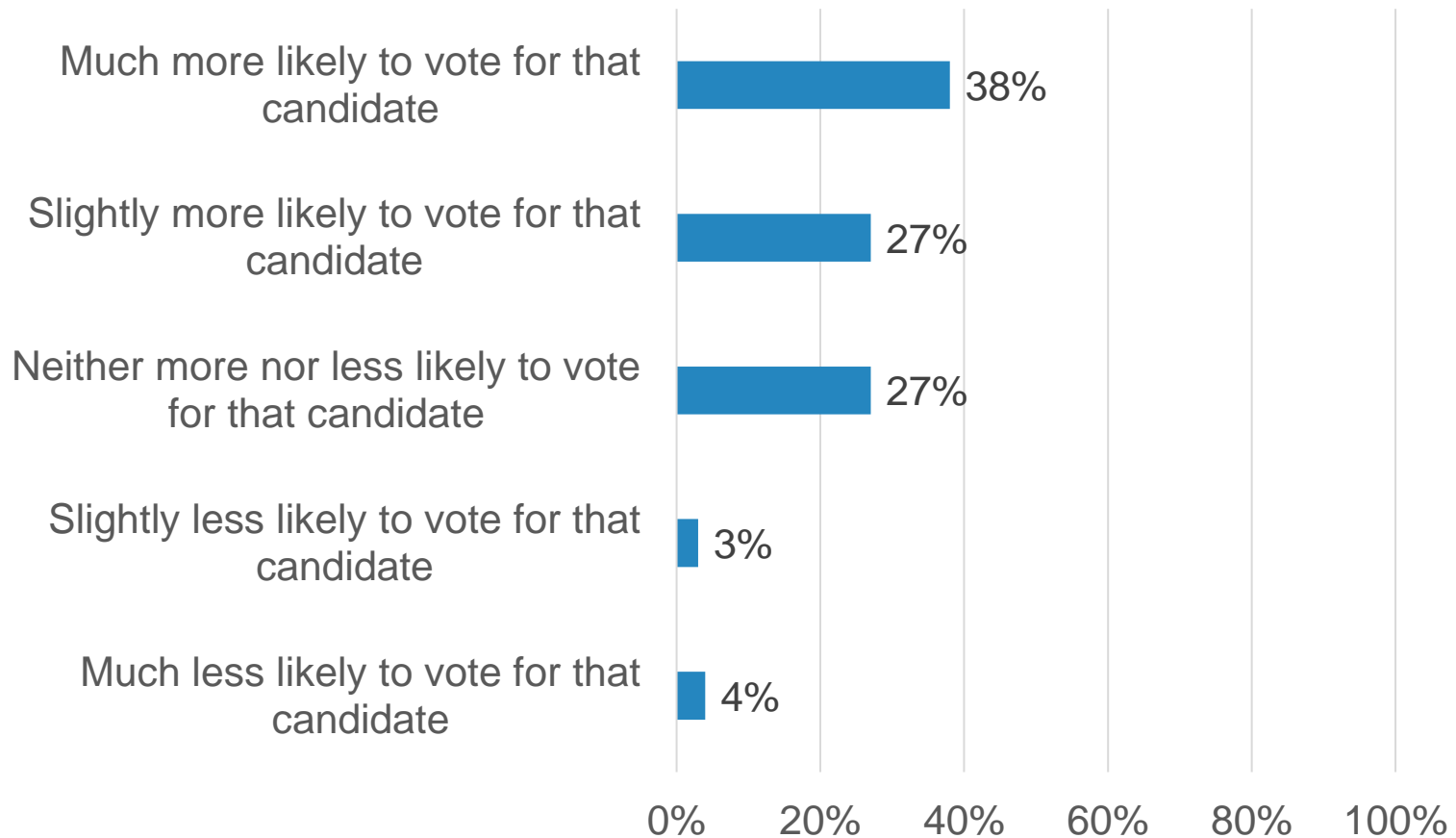
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Q19: "Please indicate if you would or would not support Republicans and Democrats working together on a combination of immigration reforms that strengthens border security, creates a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, and provides a reliable number of screened, legal farmworkers?" n=1,007



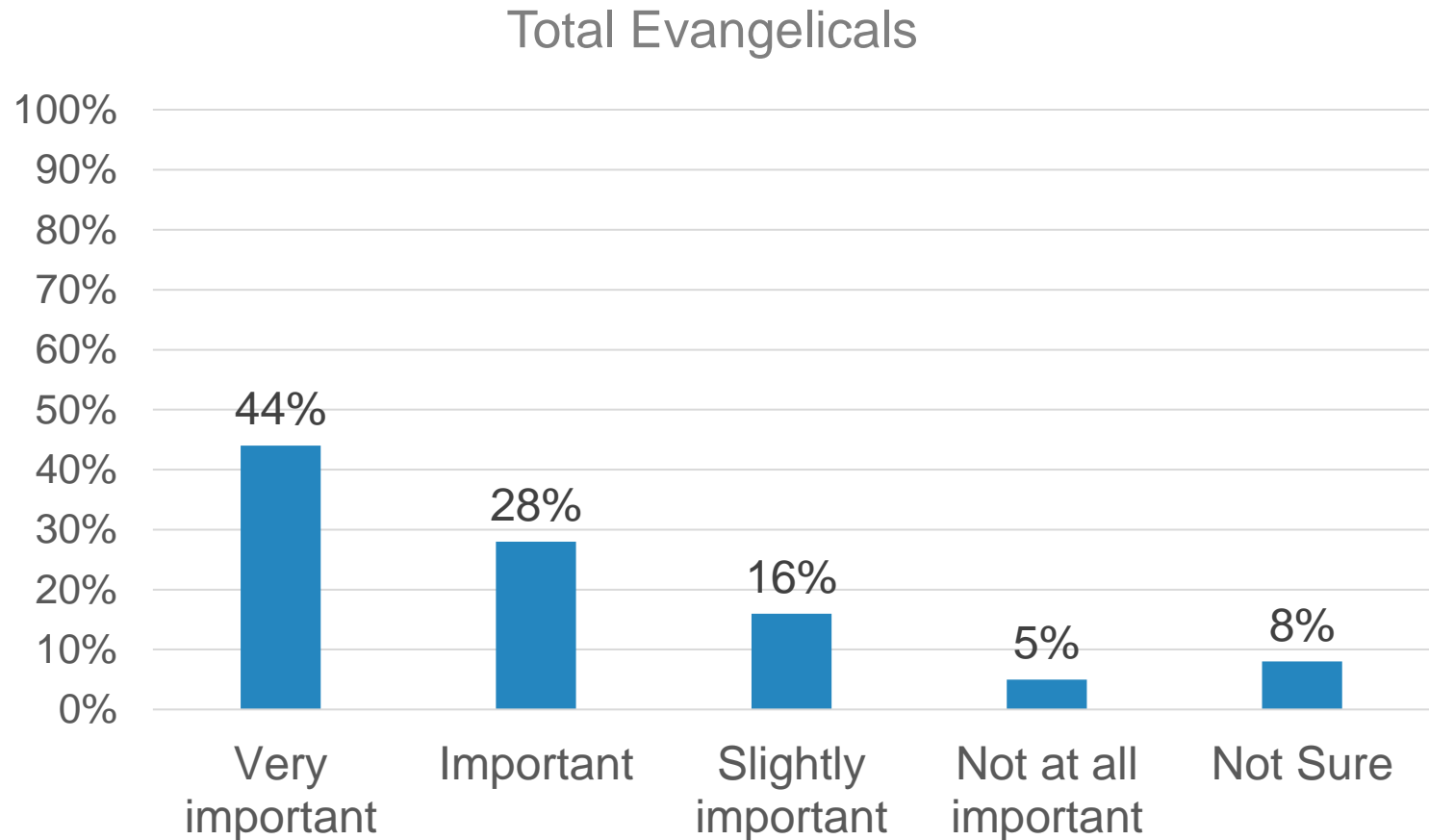
# 65% would be more likely to vote for candidates that support bipartisan changes that increase border security, establish a path to citizenship for Dreamers, and provides enough farmworkers

## Total Evangelicals



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# 71% say it is important that Congress passes new immigration legislation in 2022



Lifeway research

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