

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. Some droplets are at the top, some at the bottom, and some on the right side. They have highlights and shadows, giving them a 3D appearance.

“ASK FOR RAIN”

(ZACHARIAH 10:1)

The Beginning Of A New Season

ZACHARIAH 10:1

Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field. (ESV)



ZACHARIAH 10:1

I, the LORD, am the one
who sends storm clouds
and showers of rain
to make fields produce.
So when the crops need rain,
you should pray to me. (CEV)



DORMANT VEGETATION

In the winter or in a draught, some plants die but others simply *go to sleep*—they lay dormant in the ground, they hibernate.

“Nearly all plants go dormant in winter—whether they're growing indoors or out in the garden. This period of rest is crucial to their survival in order to regrow each year. While plant dormancy during cold conditions is important, it may be equally important during times of stress.” (www.gardeningknowhow.com)

REVIVING A DORMANT PLANT

In the spring, rain, longer daylight, and warmth “awaken” plants to the new season and they flourish again!



BEFORE AND AFTER



DORMANT VEGETATION

During a spiritual winter in Israel, when Elijah was discouraged and ready to die (1 Kg. 19:4) believing he was the only servant of God left (1 Kg. 19:10). But God told him:

“YET I HAVE RESERVED SEVEN THOUSAND IN ISRAEL, ALL WHOSE KNEES HAVE NOT BOWED TO BAAL, AND EVERY MOUTH THAT HAS NOT KISSED HIM.” (1 KINGS 19:18)

DORMANT VEGETATION

When Paul first arrived in Corinth, he was met with great opposition (Acts 18:6). But God told him:

^{9B} “DO NOT BE AFRAID, BUT GO ON SPEAKING AND DO NOT BE SILENT, ¹⁰ FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND NO ONE WILL ATTACK YOU TO HARM YOU, **FOR I HAVE MANY IN THIS CITY WHO ARE MY PEOPLE.**” (ACTS 18:9B-10)

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

The Pew Research Center conducted a “Religious Landscape Study” of the SF Bay and here is what they found:

Religious composition of adults in the San Francisco metro area

Christian

48%

▶ Evangelical Protestant	10%
▶ Mainline Protestant	6%
▶ Historically Black Protestant	4%
Catholic	25%
▶ Mormon	1%
▶ Orthodox Christian	1%
Jehovah's Witness	< 1%
▶ Other Christian	1%

Non-Christian Faiths

15%

Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	2%
Hindu	5%
Other World Religions	1%
▶ Other Faiths	3%

Unaffiliated (religious "nones")

35%

Atheist	5%
Agnostic	10%
▶ Nothing in particular	20%
Don't know	2%

“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Belief in God among adults in the San Francisco metro area

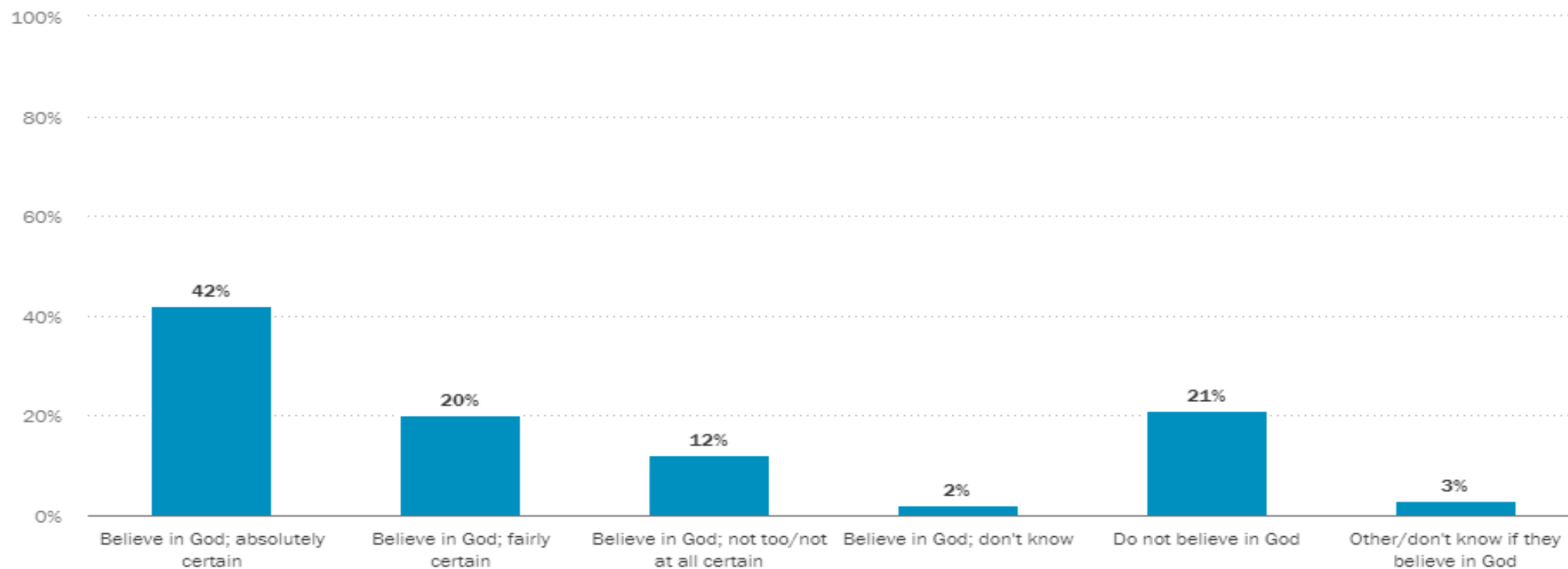
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who say they...

Chart

Table

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Sample size = 485. Visit [this table](#) to see approximate margins of error for a group of a given size. For full question wording, see the [survey questionnaire](#).

“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Importance of religion in one's life among adults in the San Francisco metro area

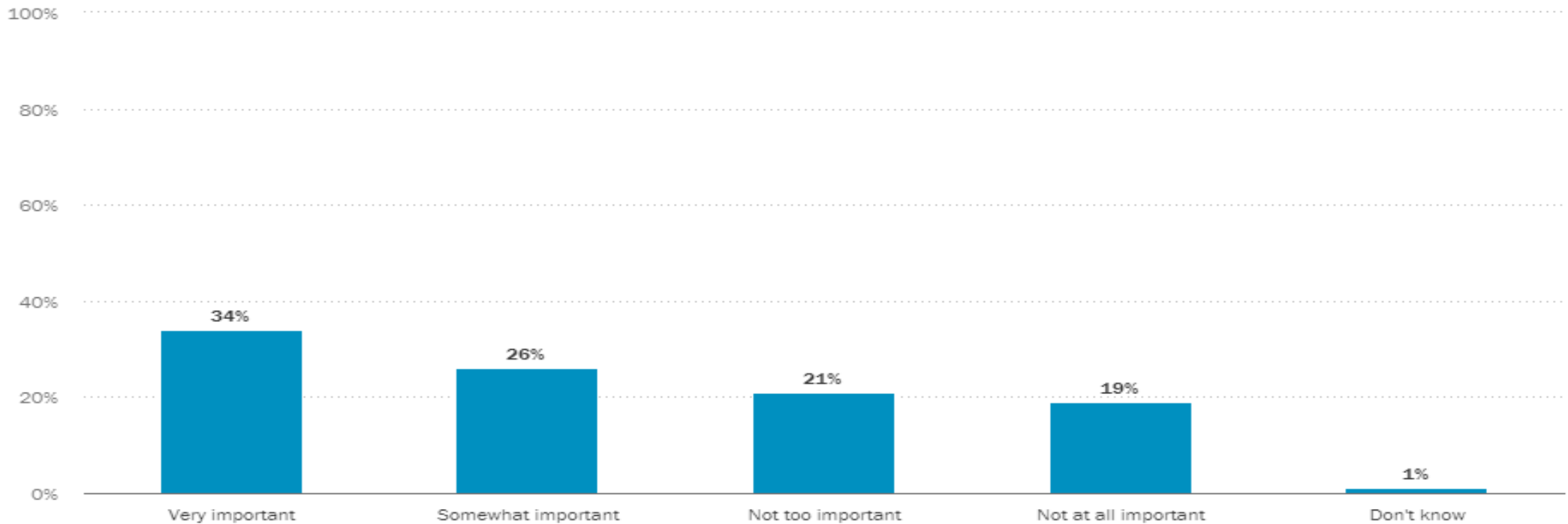
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who say religion is...

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Attendance at religious services among adults in the San Francisco metro area

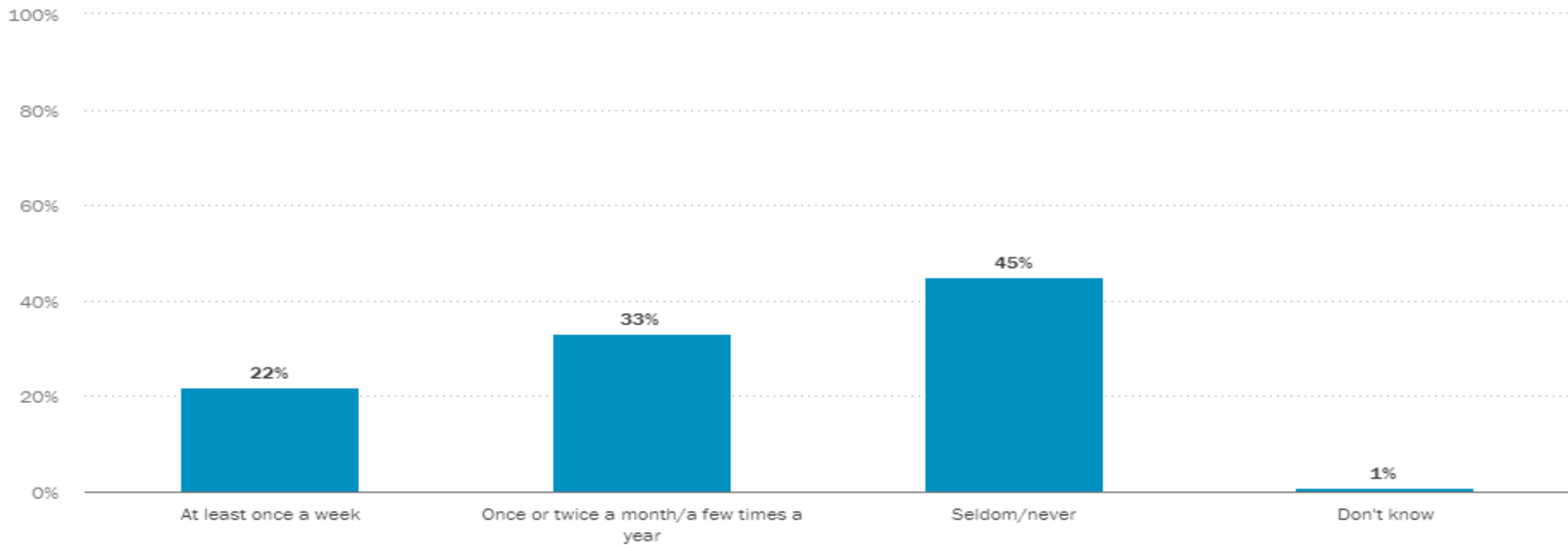
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who attend religious services...

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Frequency of prayer among adults in the San Francisco metro area

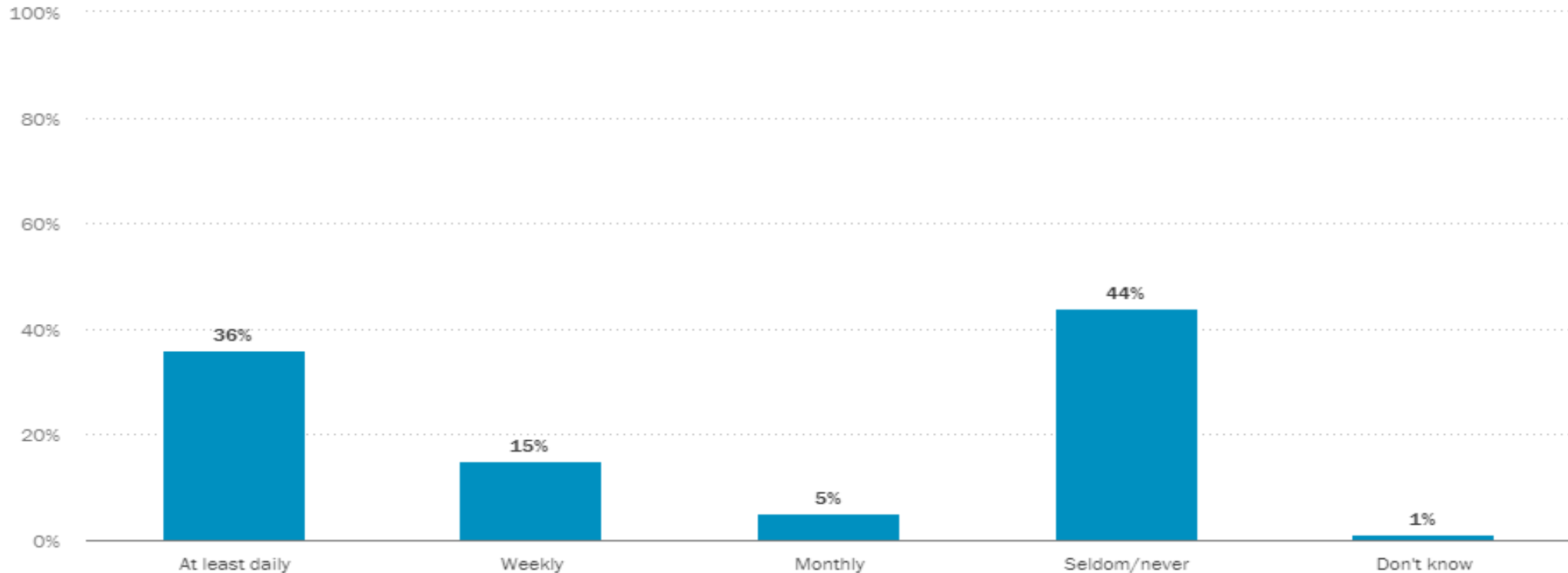
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who pray...

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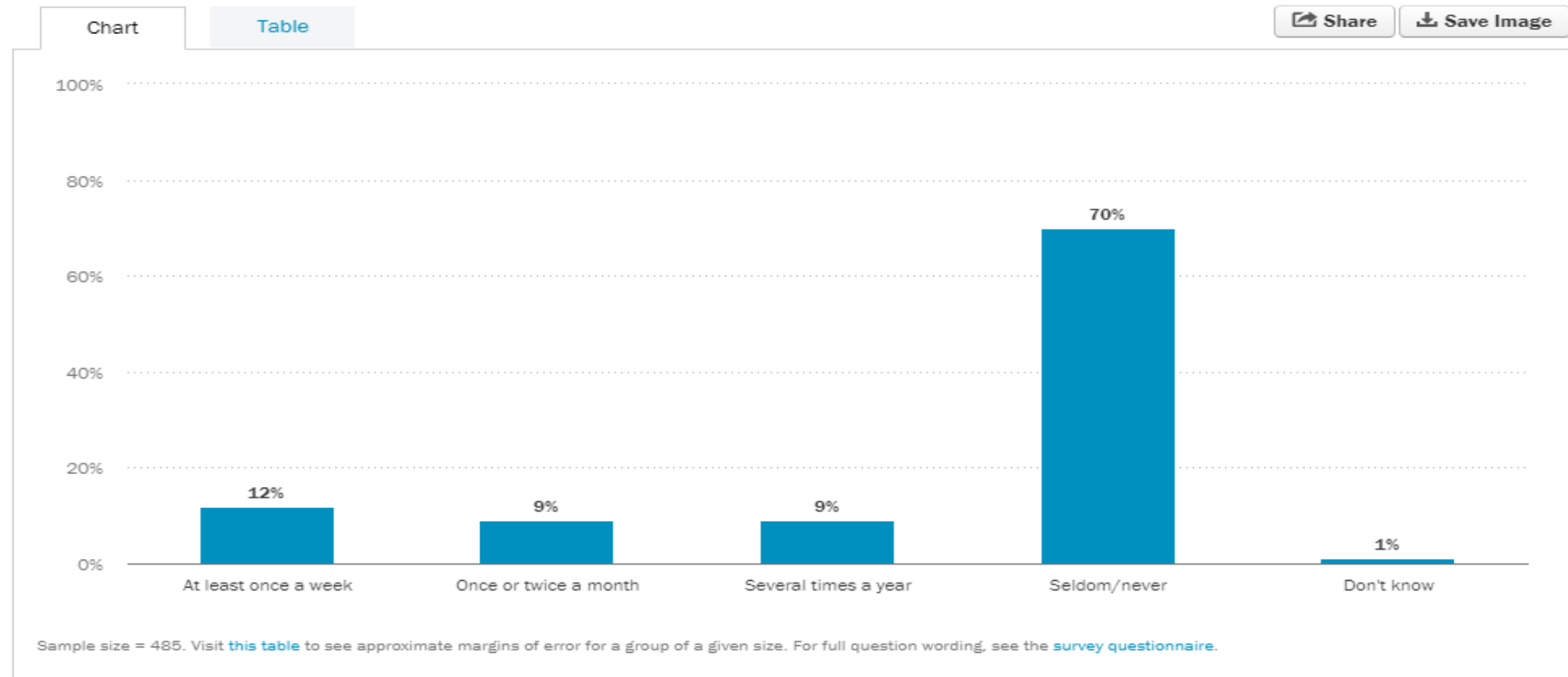


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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Frequency of participation in prayer, scripture study or religious education groups among adults in the San Francisco metro area

% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who attend prayer group...



“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Sources of guidance on right and wrong among adults in the San Francisco metro area

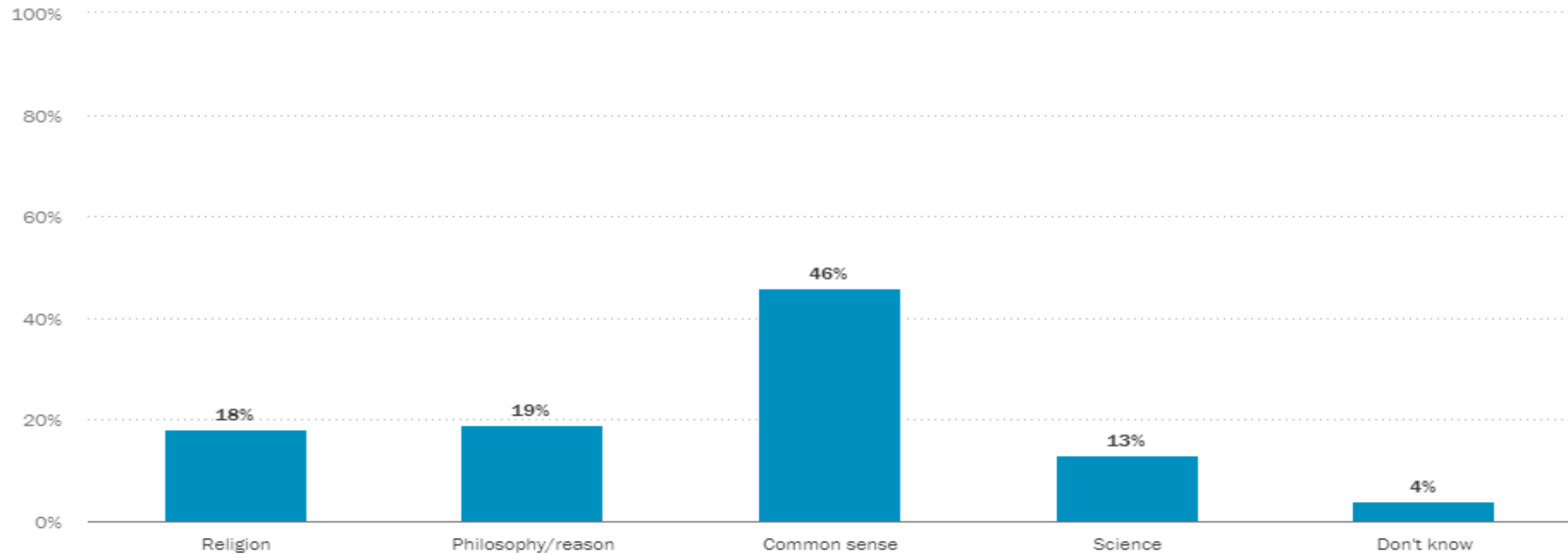
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who say they look to...most for guidance on right and wrong

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Belief in absolute standards for right and wrong among adults in the San Francisco metro area

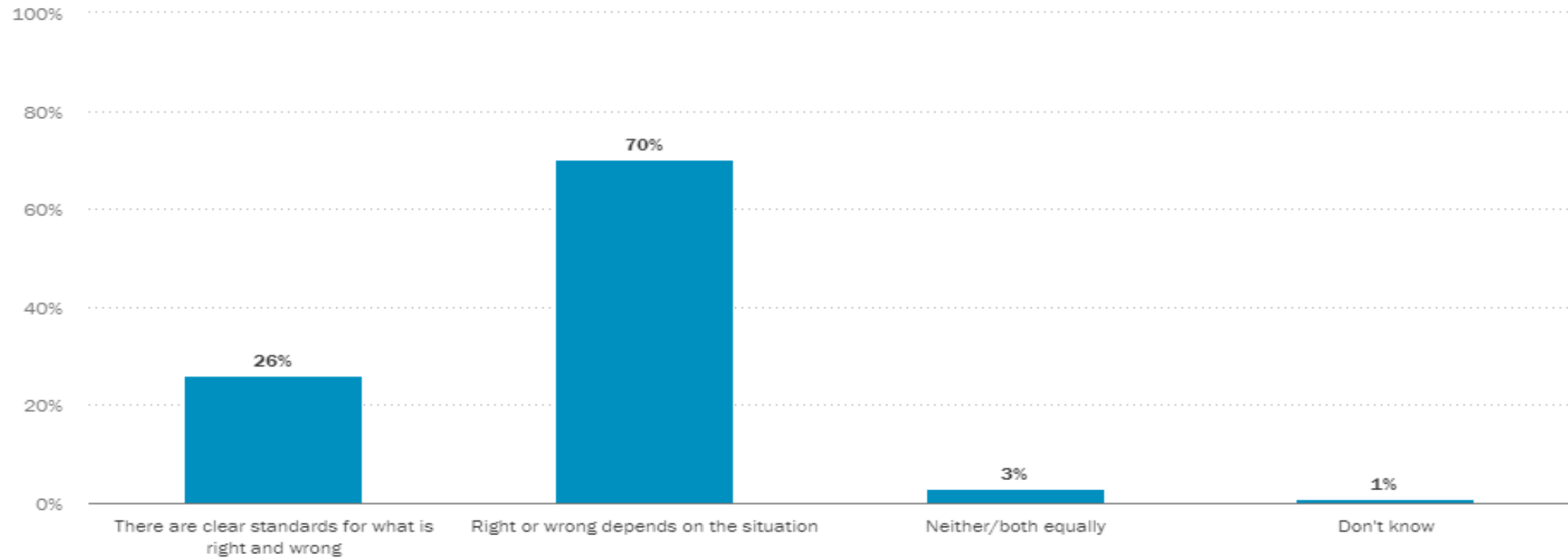
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who say...

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Frequency of reading scripture among adults in the San Francisco metro area

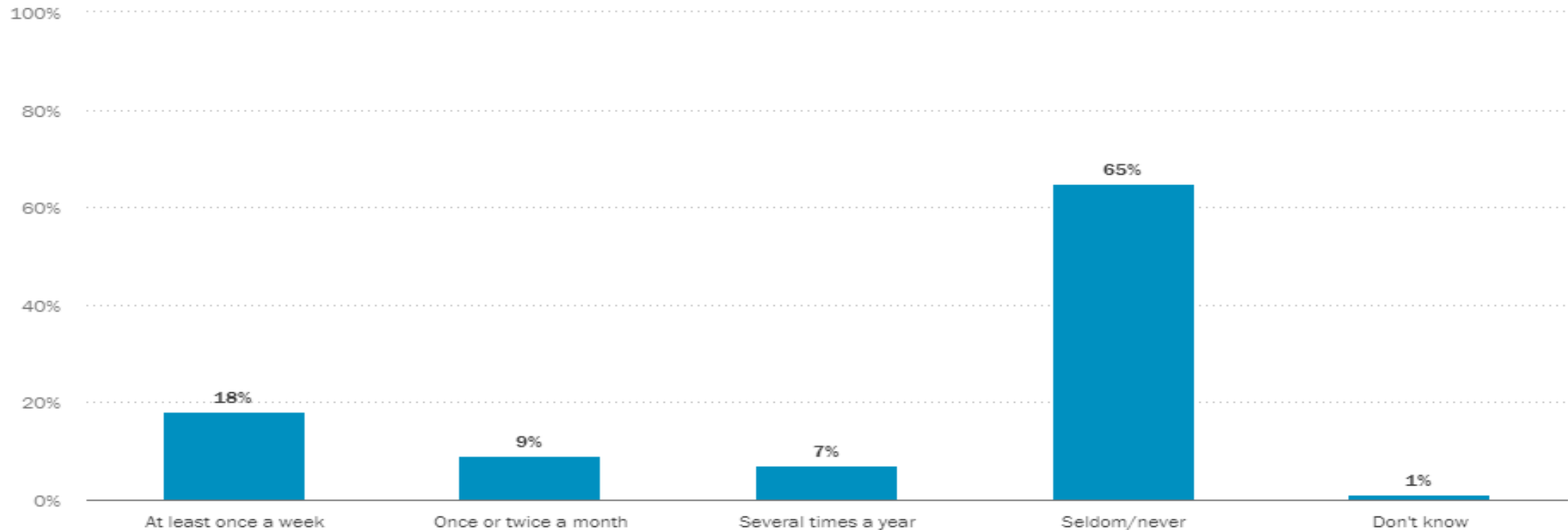
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who read scripture...

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Belief in Heaven among adults in the San Francisco metro area

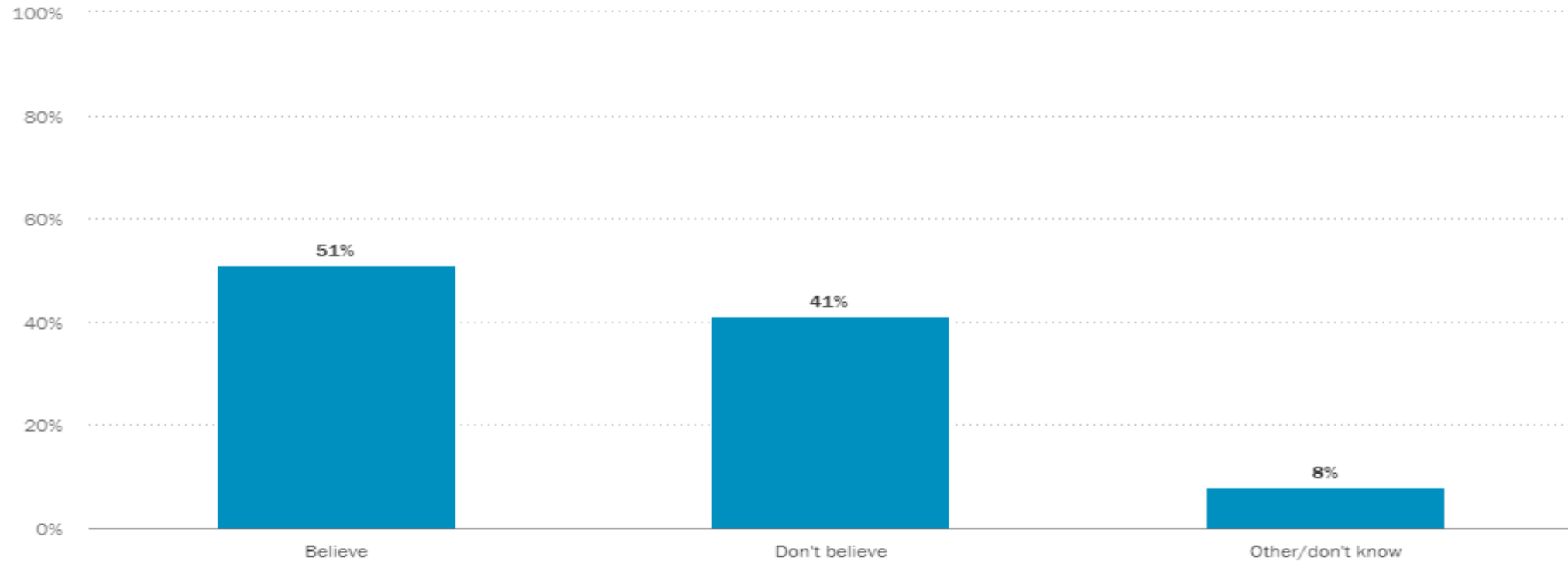
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who ...in heaven

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Belief in Hell among adults in the San Francisco metro area

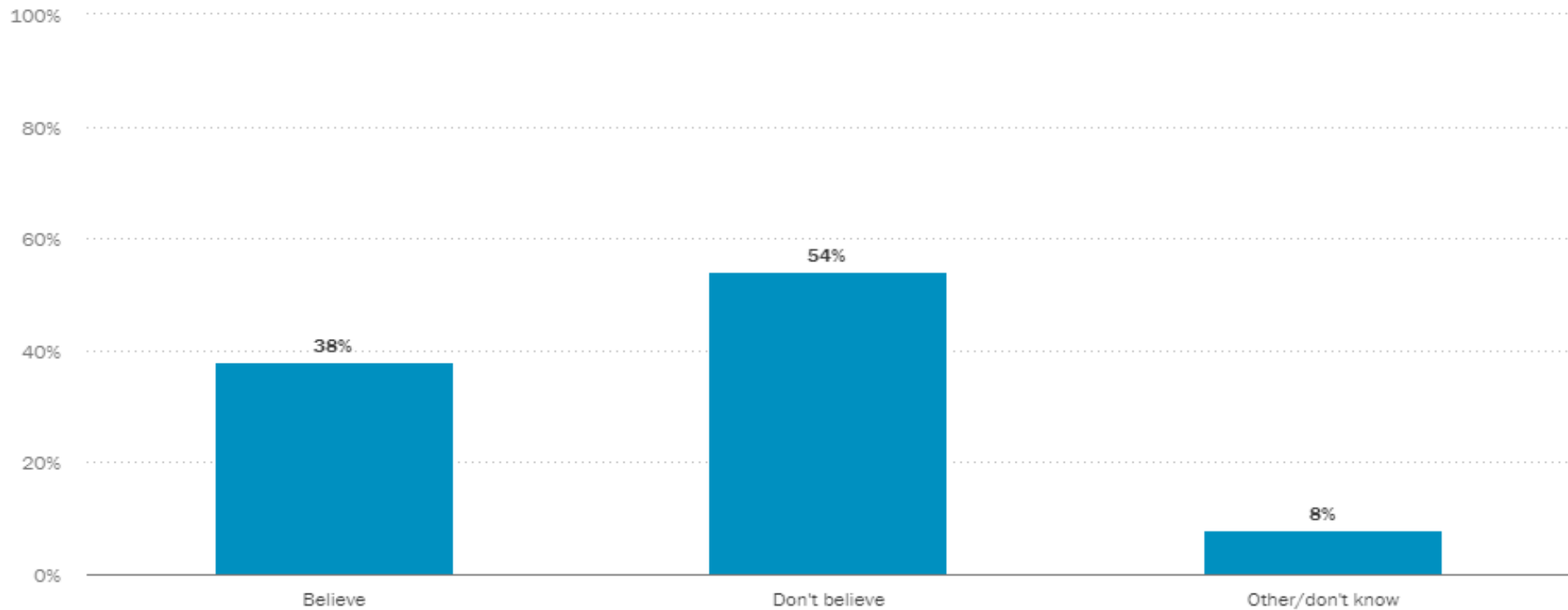
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who ...in hell

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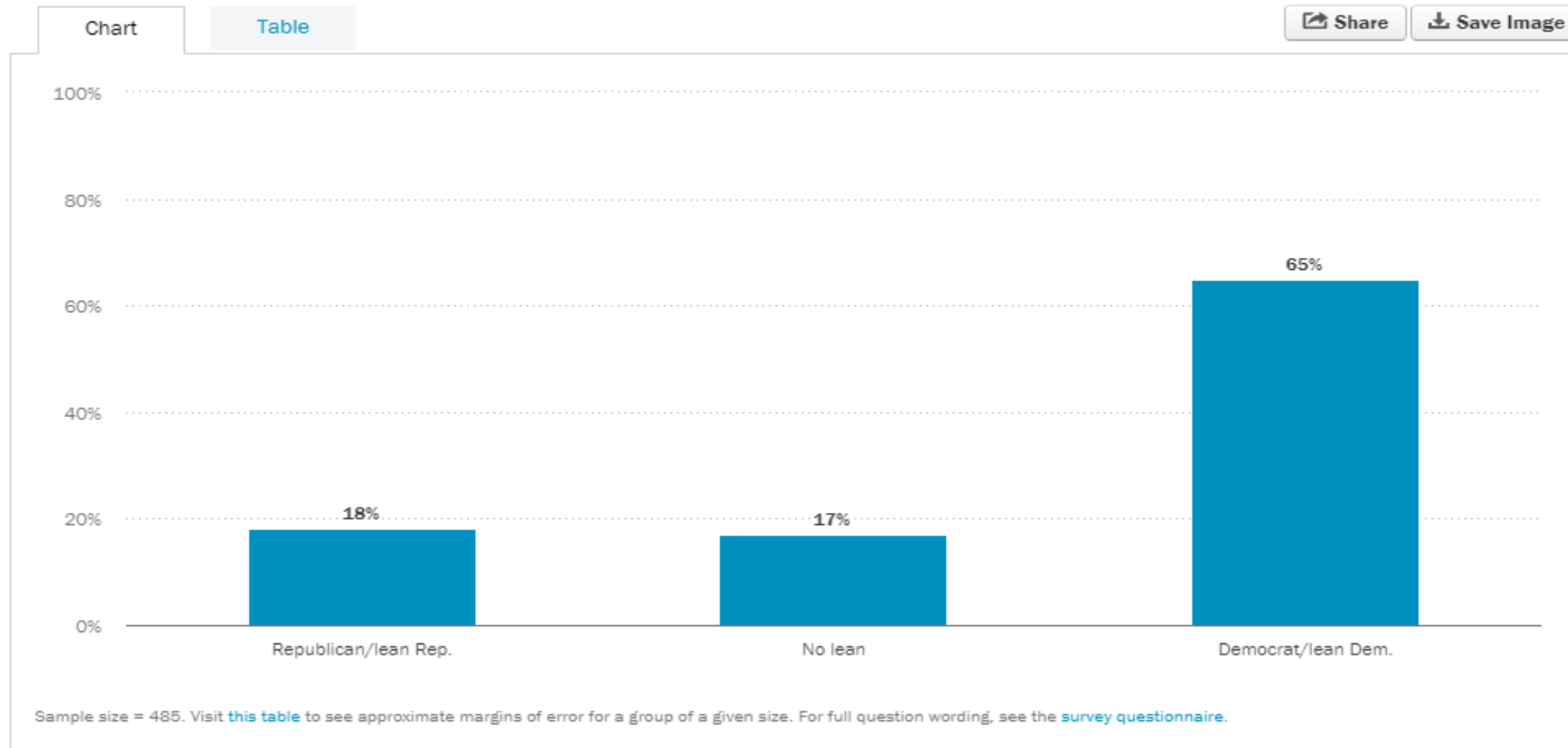


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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Party affiliation among adults in the San Francisco metro area

% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who identify as...



“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Political ideology among adults in the San Francisco metro area

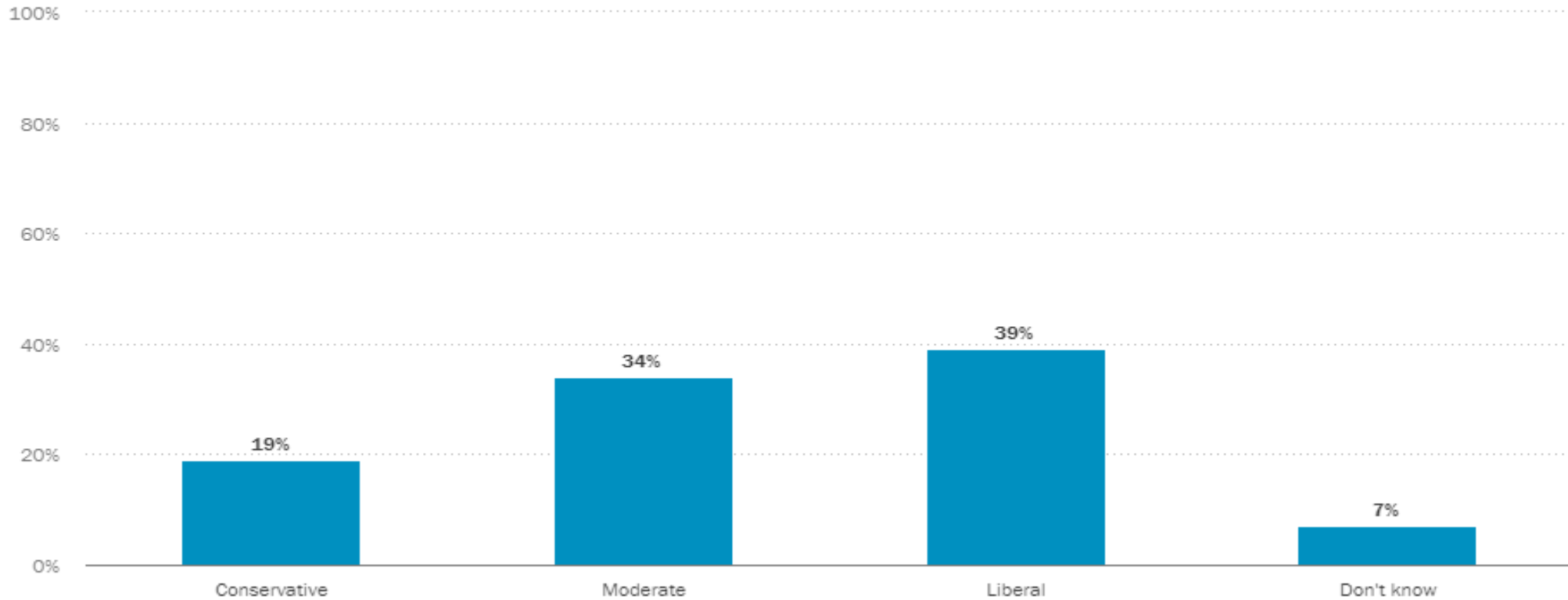
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who are...

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Views about homosexuality among adults in the San Francisco metro area

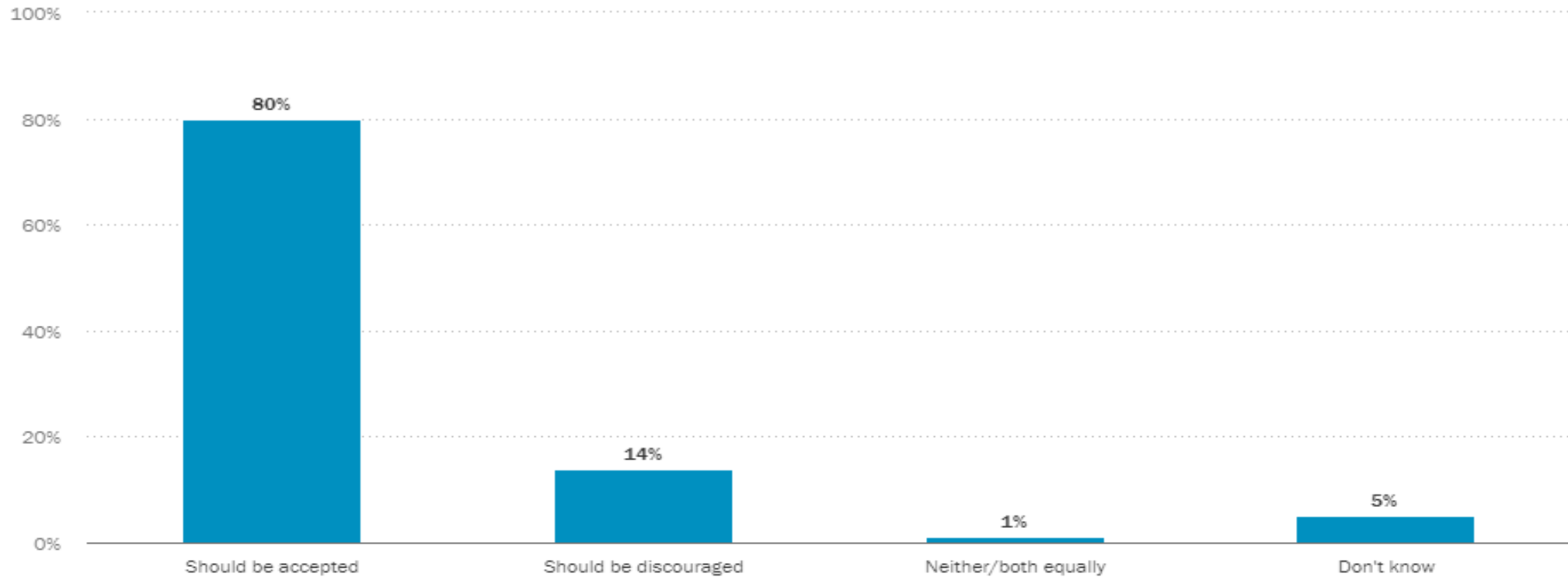
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who say homosexuality...

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“RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY” OF THE SF BAY

Views about abortion among adults in the San Francisco metro area

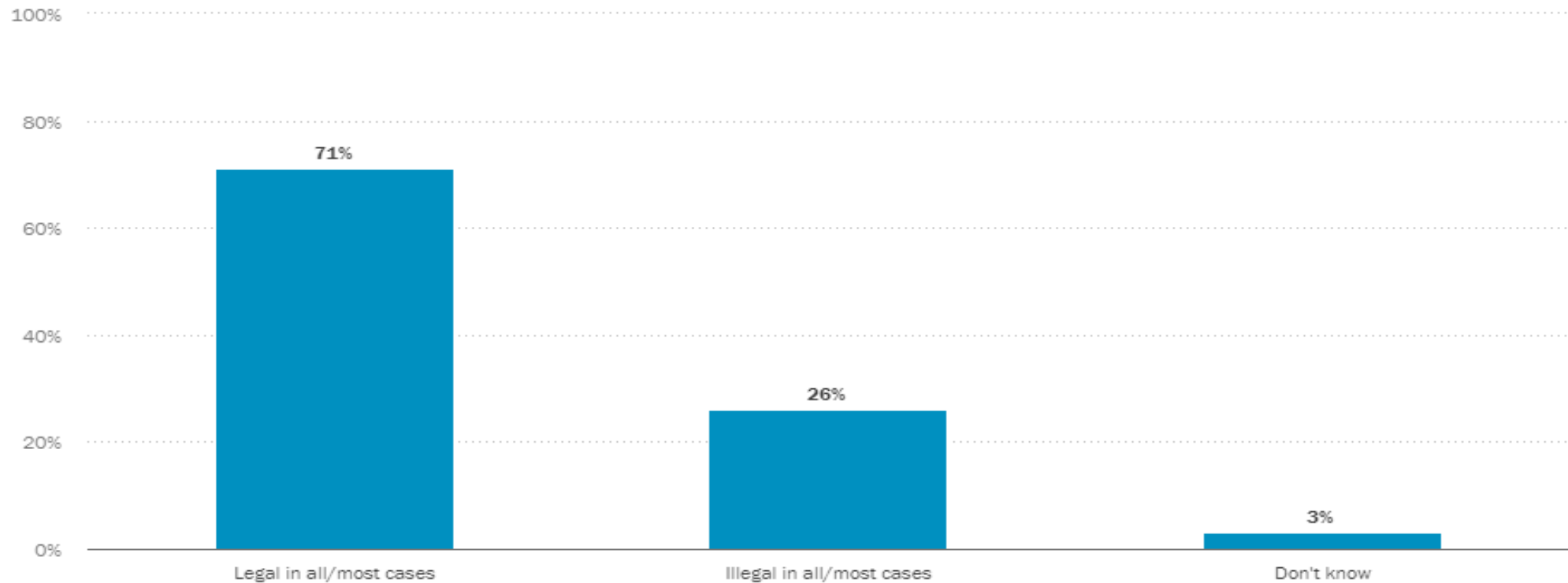
% of adults in the San Francisco metro area who say abortion should be...

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GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Regardless of our ideology, religion, political affiliation, or past sin, the Lord “not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9). “For God so loved the world!”



GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

This is where God, in his
sovereign wisdom, has
planted us and entrusted us
to bare fruit!

This is our current home and
our mission field!



ZACHARIAH 10:1

Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field. (ESV)

