



# The Presbyterian Panel

*Listening to Presbyterians*



**REPORT**

## INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE AND OTHER TOPICS THE NOVEMBER 1999 SURVEY

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ One in twelve members and one in ten pastors have at some time in their lives experienced rape or another form of sexual abuse.
- ✓ Overall lifetime rates of physical abuse, including sexual abuse, are 12% of members and 18% of pastors.
- ✓ Women, especially women clergy, are more likely than men to report experience with abuse.
- ✓ Reported lifetime rates of emotional abuse are somewhat greater than reported rates of physical abuse.
- ✓ Majorities of pastors and other clergy know a congregant or other counselee who has experienced interpersonal violence, most frequently child abuse or partner abuse.
- ✓ Panelists reach a near-consensus that people who abuse come from all walks of life and may be “responsible adults in their communities.” They hold various opinions, however, on the likelihood of finding abusers among “people with strong religious views.”
- ✓ Most panelists *agree* that physical abuse often leads to self-blame but that such feelings are usually misdirected.
- ✓ A majority of male members and male elders view physical punishment of children as appropriate, although only a minority of laywomen and pastors of both genders hold this view.
- ✓ Few panelists believe that there are any circumstances where it is okay for one spouse to physically hurt the other.
- ✓ Majorities agree that interpersonal violence is an appropriate topic for congregations to address.
- ✓ Panelists hold many of their opinions on abuse issues intensely, to an extent atypical of most other issues examined by the Panel.
- ✓ Large majorities in every sample describe their overall health as *excellent* or *very good*.
- ✓ Most panelists’ perceived health status has stayed the same since the identical question was asked on a February 1997 Panel survey. Of those whose reported health has changed, more show a decline than an improvement.
- ✓ Large majorities of clergy and large minorities of laity report praying *more than once a day*.
- ✓ Most members and elders feel “loved and cared for” by their fellow congregants.
- ✓ Only a minority of members and elders report talking to their pastor about “private problems and concerns.”
- ✓ Half of members, elders and specialized clergy, and two-thirds of pastors, have a pet in their households, often a dog or cat. Among pet-owning households, more than one-half have a cat and six in ten have a dog. One in ten pet-owning households have fish or birds.
- ✓ Large majorities of panelists rate as *about right* the three-year Panel term of service, the quarterly mailing frequency, and the 6-8 page length of each questionnaire.
- ✓ Majorities of panelists have shared a Panel *Summary* (of results) with someone else, often someone in their household.

## OVERVIEW

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders (lay leaders), and ordained ministers. Ministers are split into two groups for analysis, based on current call: *pastors*, serving in a congregation, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years.

These pages summarize major findings from the thirteenth and final survey completed by the 1997-1999 Panel. An attached data appendix presents the percentage distribution of responses to each question for the four Panel groups.

Response rates, by sample, are: members, 63%; elders, 66%; ministers, 65%.

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**Additional Copies:** Additional copies of this *Report* may be so purchased for \$5 from PDS—call 800-524-2612 and request item number 65100-99262. Copies of a four-page *Summary* of results are available for \$1 each directly from Research Services. Call for information on quantity discounts (888-728-7228 ext. 2040).

**Panel on the Web:** A catalogue of Panel topics, and *Summaries* of recent surveys, are available on-line at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) web site: <http://www.pcusa.org>. Open the alphabetic list and select *Presbyterian Panel*. Or select *Research Services* to learn more about our work.

# EXPERIENCE WITH VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

## **Personal Experience with Physical and Sexual Abuse**

- ✓ Relatively few panelists have personally experienced one or more types of physical abuse during their lives. All single-category rates are below 10%, as Table 1 shows.

**Table 1**  
**Reported Lifetime Experience with Physical and Sexual Abuse**

	Members		Elders		Pastors		Specialized Clergy	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
<b>Type of Physical or Sexual Abuse—General</b>								
rape by spouse . . . . .	0.4	2	1.5	10	0.4	3	1.2	4
rape by acquaintance . . . . .	2.3	13	1.8	12	2.1	14	1.5	5
rape by stranger . . . . .	0.4	2	0.5	3	0.6	4	0.6	2
<i>subtotal, rape*</i> . . . . .	2.7	15	3.7	24	2.6	18	3.2	11
physical abuse as a child . . . . .	4.6	26	2.9	19	7.8	53	6.8	23
sexual abuse as a child . . . . .	5.0	28	3.6	24	5.9	40	8.5	29
<i>subtotal, child abuse*</i> . . . . .	7.7	41	6.2	41	11.8	80	13.6	46
physical abuse, partner . . . . .	3.0	17	3.0	20	3.4	23	4.1	14
physical or sexual abuse, older person . . . . .	—	0	0.3	2	0.1	1	—	—
<i>Total, General*</i> . . . . .	11.7	66	10.7	70	15.2	103	19.2	65
<b>Type of Physical or Sexual Abuse—Church Related</b>								
physical abuse by a minister . . . . .	—	0	0.2	1	1.6	11	1.5	5
sexual abuse by a minister . . . . .	0.5	3	0.5	3	3.3	22	4.1	14
<i>subtotal, abuse by minister*</i> . . . . .	0.5	3	0.6	4	4.1	28	5.0	17
physical abuse by other church staff . . . . .	—	0	—	0	0.6	4	0.9	3
sexual abuse by other church staff . . . . .	—	0	0.3	2	1.2	8	0.9	3
<i>subtotal, abuse by church staff*</i> . . . . .	—	0	0.3	2	1.6	11	1.5	5
physical abuse by church volunteer . . . . .	0.2	1	—	—	0.4	3	0.9	3
sexual abuse by church volunteer . . . . .	0.2	1	0.3	2	0.4	3	1.8	6
<i>subtotal, abuse by church volunteer*</i> . . . . .	0.2	1	0.3	2	0.9	6	2.4	8
<i>Total, Church Related*</i> . . . . .	0.7	4	1.1	7	5.5	37	7.1	24

\*Totals and subtotals may be less than the sum of included categories because some individuals reported an experience in more than one category.

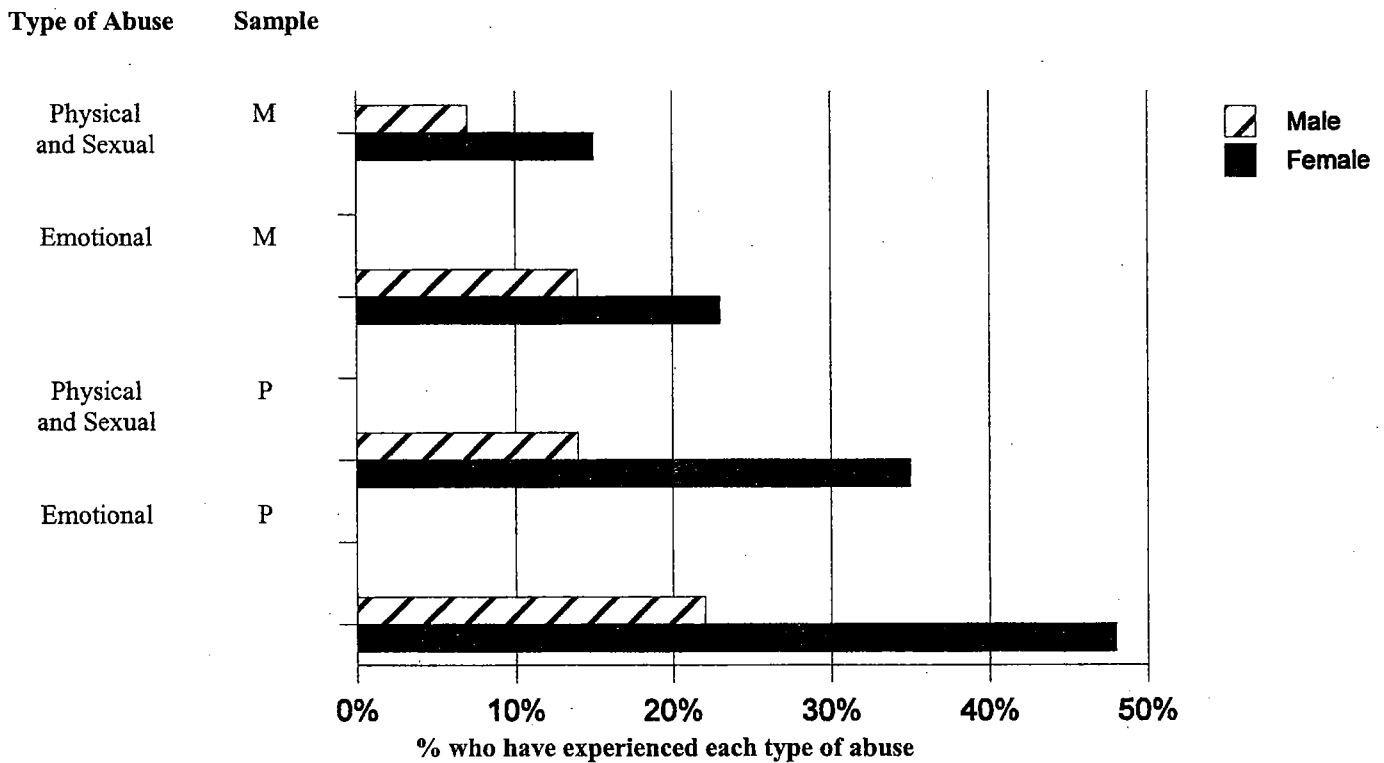
## EXPERIENCE WITH VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

- ✓ In all samples, fewer than 10% report any abuse when they were children.
- ✓ A small number of panelists have experienced violence or abuse of more than one type. Among members, for example:
  - 1% have experienced *both* rape *and* another type of sexual abuse
  - 2% have experienced *both* physical *and* sexual child abuse
- ✓ Combining individual categories, we find that, among members and pastors:
  - the percentage who have experienced some form of sexual abuse, whether as children or as adults, *not* including rape, is: members, 6%; pastors, 9%
  - the percentage who have experienced *either* rape *or* another form of sexual abuse: members, 8%; pastors, 10%
  - the percentage who have experienced any sort of physical or sexual abuse, including rape: members, 12%; pastors, 18%

### Male-Female Differences

- ✓ For almost all types of abuse, female panelists are more likely than male panelists to report past experiences. This gender differential is especially noticeable among clergy, as Figure 1 shows for pastors. But the same broad pattern is found in all four Panel groups.

**Figure 1**  
**Male-Female Differences in Reported Abuse**



M = Members    P = Pastors

## EXPERIENCE WITH VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

### ***Personal Experience with Physical and Sexual Abuse in the Church***

- ✓ Physical or sexual abuse of any kind at the hands of a minister, other paid church professional, or volunteer, is reported infrequently by all samples (see Table 1). Where differences are found, rates are higher among the clerical samples than among the lay samples.
- ✓ Overall, less than 1% of members and less than 6% of pastors have experienced abuse from a minister, other church professional, or church volunteer worker (see Table 1).

### ***Personal Experience with Emotional Abuse***

- ✓ Emotional or verbal abuse is reported at somewhat higher rates than physical or sexual abuse. For example, emotional or verbal abuse is reported:
  - during childhood by 7% of elders and 20% of specialized clergy
  - from a partner by 10% of elders and 13% of specialized clergy
- ✓ Lifetime rates of emotional and verbal abuse of all types total 18% among members and 26% among pastors.
- ✓ Many of the same individuals who have experienced emotional abuse have also experienced physical or sexual abuse. Among members, two-thirds of those who report physical or sexual abuse also report emotional abuse. Viewed the other way, around one in five members who report emotional abuse also report physical or sexual abuse.

### ***Secondary Experiences with Violence and Abuse***

- ✓ A majority of members and elders know someone—family member, close friend, or member of their church—who has experienced interpersonal violence or abuse. In all samples the most commonly reported of these “secondary experiences” is with childhood “emotional/verbal abuse”: 25% of members and elders, and 42% of pastors and other clergy, report knowing a friend, family member, or other church member who has experienced this.
- ✓ The percentages of panelists who know someone personally who has experienced physical or sexual abuse of one type or another varies from type to type, and—especially between the laity and the clergy—from sample to sample. To illustrate, the percentages of elders and specialized clergy who report secondary experiences of each type of abuse involving family or close friends or church members are:
  - secondary child physical abuse: elders, 17%, specialized clergy, 34%
  - secondary child sexual abuse: elders, 16%, specialized clergy, 35%
  - secondary partner physical abuse: elders, 17%; specialized clergy, 32%
  - secondary elder abuse: elders, 4%, specialized clergy, 11%

### ***Secondary Experiences of Ministers as Counselors***

- ✓ Most pastors and other clergy report knowing a parishioner or a counselee who has experienced interpersonal violence. The secondary experiences reported by most clergy in both groups are “child emotional/verbal abuse,” reported by 72% of pastors and 60% of specialized clergy, and “partner abuse,” reported by 73% of pastors and 58% of specialized clergy.
- ✓ In their role as counselors (whether to parishioners or others), majorities of pastors and specialized clergy report encountering at least one person who had experienced these types of abuse:
  - childhood physical abuse: pastors, 63%; specialized clergy, 53%
  - childhood sexual abuse: pastors, 62%; specialized clergy, 53%
  - physical abuse of a partner: pastors, 62%; specialized clergy, 53%

## OPINIONS ON VIOLENCE ISSUES

*Note: Opinions were gathered via responses to 37 statements. To each, panelists could select one of five responses: strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, uncertain. For ease of description, in the discussion that follows, agree refers to the total of agree and strongly-agree responses, and disagree refers to the combined disagree and strongly-disagree responses.*

### Who Abuses? Who is Abused?

- ✓ Panelists by and large believe that people who abuse others come from various walks of life (see Table 2):
  - Large majorities in all samples *agree* that: “some people who abuse are responsible adults in their community” (members, 92%; pastors, 95%); and that “abusive people come from all the different economic groups” (members, 99%; pastors, 98%).
  - However, there is no consensus on the relationship between faith and abuse, especially among laity: only 49% of members, 47% of elders, 22% of pastors, and 14% of specialized clergy *agree* that “people with strong religious beliefs are less likely to abuse.”
  
- ✓ Panelists believe that child abuse is more often than not a problem involving adults who already know the child, but are less sure about prior acquaintance elder abuse, at least in the specific case of children abusing parents:
  - Large majorities in all samples *disagree* that “children are sexually abused most often by strangers”: members, 82%; pastors, 93%
  - But only minorities in each sample *agree* that “abusers of elderly persons are most often their adult children”: members, 45%; pastors, 45%
  - Still, most panelists are willing to *agree* more generally that “in our society today there are many elderly persons emotionally abused by their adult children”: members, 81%; pastors, 81%

**Table 2**  
**Opinions on Factual Issues: Members and Pastors**

Statement	Members		Pastors	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Abusive people come from all the different economic groups . . . . .	99%	1%	98%	2%
Some people who abuse are responsible adults in their communities . . . . .	92%	4%	95%	2%
In our society today there are many elderly persons emotionally abused by their adult children . . . . .	81%	4%	81%	6%
Abusers of elderly persons are most often their adult children . . . . .	45%	21%	45%	23%
Children are sexually abused most often by strangers . . . . .	7%	82%	2%	93%

### Blame

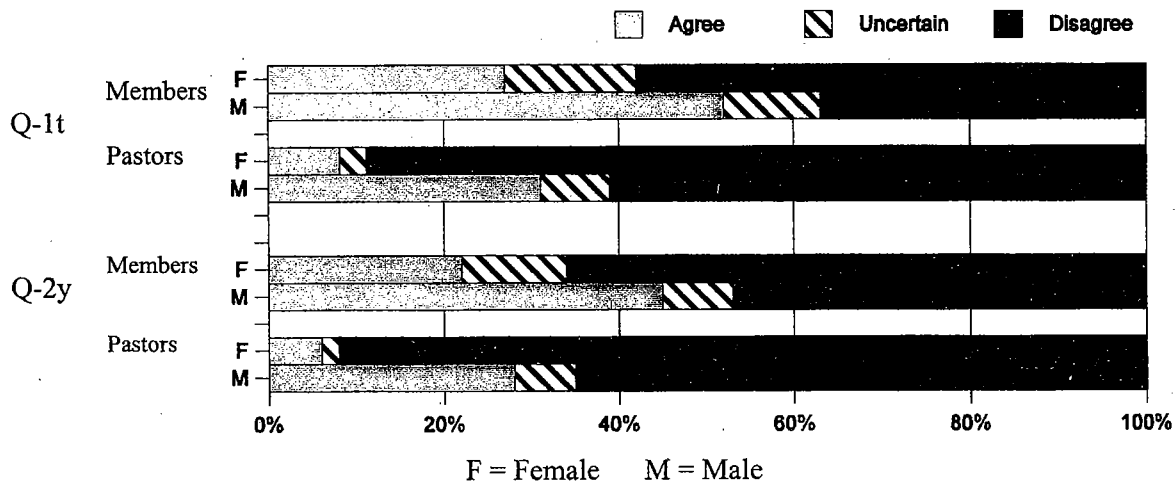
- ✓ Panelists believe that abuse often leads to self-blame, but that such feelings are usually misdirected:
  - Most panelists *agree* that “victims of sexual abuse often blame themselves for the abuse”: elders, 85%; specialized clergy, 97%.
  - Large majorities in every sample *disagree* (most *strongly*) that “when a woman is raped, it is probably her fault”: elders, 95%; specialized clergy, 95%.
  - Similar percentages *disagree* that “in some cases where women are physically abused by a spouse, they deserve it”: elders, 91%; specialized clergy, 95%.
  - Large majorities *disagree* (most *strongly*) that “elderly persons who are physically abused usually deserve it”: elders, 95%; specialized clergy, 99%.

## OPINIONS ON VIOLENCE ISSUES

### Faith, Child Abuse, and Child Discipline

- ✓ Large majorities of panelists *agree* (84% or greater) that “a pastor should always report child abuse.” Few—7% or less in every sample—*disagree*.
- ✓ Panelists are divided on the appropriateness of Christians punishing children physically. While overall more reject than favor physical punishment, the patterns are very different when we look at them by gender (see Figure 2). In all samples, more men than women favor physical punishment, and among the laity, a majority of men do so.

**Figure 2**  
**Opinions on Faith and Child Discipline**



Q-1t. My faith tells me that parents have a right to physically discipline their children by spanking or whipping.

Q-2y. My faith tells me that if parents spare the rod, they will spoil the child.

### Husbands and Wives

- ✓ Few panelists approve of husbands or wives physically hurting each other. For example, 95% of members, elders, and specialized clergy, and 96% of pastors, *agree* that “it is never okay for a husband to slap his wife.”
- ✓ Almost as many (elders, pastors, and specialized clergy, 89%; members, 90%) *disagree* that “there are times when it is okay for a wife to slap her husband.”
- ✓ Panelists, especially the laity, are split on the relative roles of men and women in a marriage: About as many members *disagree* (50%) as *agree* (44%) that “my faith tells me that men are to be the head of the household.” The division among elders is a bit wider—54% *disagree*, 41%, *agree*.
- ✓ Among both groups of clergy, the differences are larger still, with large majorities rejecting a model of marriage that puts men over women: 67% of pastors and 80% of specialized clergy *disagree* that “my faith tells me that men are to be the head of the household.”
- ✓ Both laity and clergy in large numbers reject a more specific statement on conjugal relations: 95% of members and specialized clergy, 96% of pastors, and 97% of elders *disagree* that “a husband has the right to have sex with his wife whenever he wants it.”



## OPINIONS ON VIOLENCE ISSUES

### Worship

- ✓ Small majorities of members (58%) and elders (56%) *agree* that “litanies in worship should include victims of interpersonal violence.” More clergy are supportive of this practice: pastors, 83%; specialized clergy, 89%.
- ✓ Most panelists believe that “worship should include sermons on interpersonal violence.” *Agree* responses total 74% among members, 73% among elders, 87% among pastors, and 88% among specialized clergy. (Most of the difference between lay and clerical responses is not due to higher opposition among the laity but a higher level of *uncertain* responses.) A similar pattern of response obtains for the statement, “I think worship should include sermons on elder abuse.”
- ✓ Around nine in ten members and elders and even more pastors (94%) and specialized clergy (95%) *agree* that “worship should include prayers for victims of interpersonal violence.”

### Churches and Congregations

- ✓ Panelists in all samples believe that churches have a role to play in matters of interpersonal violence:
  - *Disagree* responses total 87% (members) and 89% (elders) to this statement: “Interpersonal violence is a private family matter and should not be a concern of my congregation.”
  - Pastors and other clergy even more forcefully express the need for a church role. Majorities of both groups *disagree* with this statement, most *strongly*, and the combined responses total 96% among specialized clergy and 98% among pastors.
- ✓ Nine in ten panelists (or more) in every sample *agree* that “our congregation should be provided with resources to educate us about interpersonal violence.” Slightly fewer in every sample, ranging from 76% of elders to 91% of specialized clergy, *agree* that “the church should provide training in how to recognize signs of abuse in others.”
- ✓ Pastors are evenly divided over whether or not “the clergy in my congregation are adequately trained to respond effectively to incidents of interpersonal violence.” Exactly the same percentage, 45%, respond *agree* to this statement as respond *disagree*. Specialized clergy, in contrast, are more likely to respond in disagreement (51%) than agreement (28%). Members and elders are more likely to respond *agree* (more than one-third do) than *disagree*, but the most frequent response among both groups of laity is *uncertain* (members, 50%; elders, 43%).
- ✓ Few panelists in any sample *disagree* that the clergy in their congregations “have responded in a helpful way to persons involved in interpersonal violence.” But majorities of both members and elders respond *uncertain*. Overall, around a third of members, 80% of pastors, and 64% of specialized clergy respond *agree*.
- ✓ More panelists *agree* than *disagree* that “Christians too often use the Bible to justify abuse”:
  - members: 41% *agree* and 30% *disagree*
  - pastors: 61% *agree* and 28% *disagree*

### Abuse of Older Persons

- ✓ Is abuse of older persons a problem in the United States? Most panelists think so. In all, 77% of elders, 81% of members and pastors, and 86% of specialized clergy *agree* with this statement: “In our society today there are many elderly persons emotionally abused by their adult children.”

## OPINIONS ON VIOLENCE ISSUES

- ✓ Panelists believe that individuals have a responsibility to report possible elder abuse that comes to their attention. Overall, 98% of members, 95% of elders, and 97% of both clergy samples *agree* that “visitors with homebound older adults or those in nursing homes should report observed or suspected abuses.”
- ✓ There is a consensus among panelists that “abused older adults should tell about the abuse to their pastor.” *Agree* responses are 90% or more in every sample.
- ✓ Majorities believe that “worship should include sermons on elder abuse” (members, 68%; pastors, 77%).

### INTENSITY OF OPINIONS

In the last several years, the Panel has asked several hundred questions of the *agree-disagree* type. Most of these have included options that allow panelists to express gradations of opinion (e.g., *strongly agree*, *agree*, *strongly disagree*, and *disagree*, as on this survey). In almost all instances, the less intense response (*agree* or *disagree*) is selected by more panelists than the more intense one (*strongly agree* or *strongly disagree*).

Responses to several questions on the current survey run counter to this pattern. A complete list follows, indicating which Panel groups exhibit the exceptional pattern:

Item	Atypical Responses
Fathers should remain with their families even if they are physically abusive	elders, pastors, specialized clergy <i>strongly disagree</i>
My faith tells me that men and women should be equal partners in a relationship	pastors, specialized clergy <i>strongly agree</i>
It is never okay for a husband to slap his wife	all groups <i>strongly agree</i>
When a woman is raped, it is probably her fault**	all groups <i>strongly disagree</i>
There are times when it is okay for a wife to slap her husband	all groups <i>strongly disagree</i>
Elderly persons who are physically abused usually deserve it	all groups <i>strongly disagree</i>
Abusive people come from all the different economic groups	pastors, specialized clergy <i>strongly agree</i>
Interpersonal violence is a private family matter and should not be a concern of my congregation	pastors, specialized clergy <i>strongly disagree</i>
In some cases where women are physically abused by a spouse, they deserve it	all groups <i>strongly disagree</i>

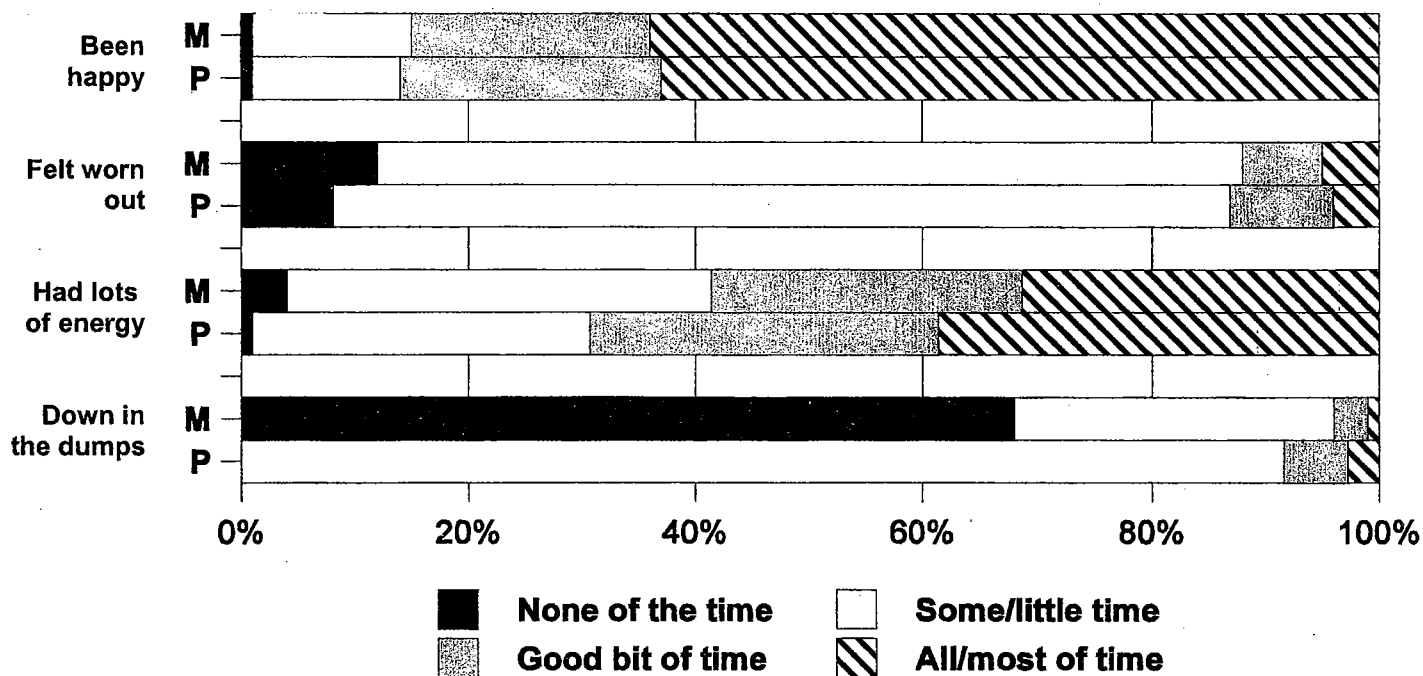
\*\*Panelists' opinions are most intense on this question: “When a woman is raped, it is probably her fault.” More than twice as many members and elders chose *strongly disagree* as *disagree*. Among pastors and specialized clergy, the ratio was even greater: in both samples, 83% responded *strongly disagree*.

## OTHER TOPICS

### Health Issues

- ✓ Around a fourth of panelists rate their current health as *excellent*, ranging from 22% of members and elders to 28% of pastors. Most of the rest choose *very good* to describe their health. Fewer than 10% rate their own health as *fair* or *poor*.
- ✓ Responses to more specific items on perceived health confirm the positive general evaluation, as Figure 3 shows.

**Figure 3**  
**Self Ratings of Recent Health/Mood**



M = members  
P = pastors

- ✓ When asked to describe the most recent major problem or challenge faced, such as a death in the family, a divorce, an illness, a severe financial loss, or troubles with a friend, the responses tend to cluster in a few broad categories:
  - health (members, 57%; pastors, 36%)
  - family/children (members, 29%; pastors, 21%)
  - work (members, 10%; pastors, 14%)
  - social activities/friends (members, 8%; pastors, 21%)
- ✓ Panelists worked through their problems or challenges in various ways, but some broad response patterns appear:
  - many looked to God for “strength, support, and guidance” (combined *a great deal* and *quite a bit* responses were 79% for members, 90% for pastors)
  - most looked for “a lesson from God in this problem,” but few did so *a great deal* (members, 14%; pastors, 22%)
  - few gave any thought to Satan’s involvement (90% of members and 87% of pastors responded *not at all* to this possibility)
  - few “questioned the power of God” (*not at all* was the response of 85% of members, 79% of pastors)

TRENDS IN HEALTH

Many of the health questions asked in this survey were repeated from an earlier survey (February 1997) completed by the same set of panelists. The results provide an opportunity to look at trends in health over a period of almost three years.

1. Same People Compared

Almost everyone rated their health similarly in 1997 and 1999. Only a minority gave different responses on the two surveys, and most changes are the minimum possible, from one category to an adjacent one. Of the panelists who did change, more showed a decline rather than an improvement in their health rating. Overall, among members:

- 57% reported the same health status on both surveys
- 27% reported a less positive health status in 1999 than they did in 1997 (but only 14 people, or 3%, changed to a non-adjacent category, most of them from *excellent* to *good*)
- 16% reported a more positive health status in 1999 than they did in 1997 (but only 6 people, or 1%, changed to a non-adjacent category, most of them from *good* to *excellent*)

2. Continuing Panelists vs. Dropouts

Not everyone who completed the February 1997 survey (the second of the Panel) also completed the November 1999 survey (the thirteen and last). Interestingly, those who failed to respond to the latter survey had provided lower average self-ratings of health to the former survey, as Table 3 shows. The differences are subtle, but significant: half of the small number of panelists who responded *fair* or *poor* in 1997 failed to respond to the November 1999 survey. While not definitive, this result suggests strongly that health factors are a major reason some individuals dropped out during the three-year term of the Panel.

Table 3  
Health Ratings on February 1997 Survey  
by Completion/Non-completion of November 1999 Survey

	Completed only 2/97	Completed 2/97 & 11/99
<b>Overall Health on 2/97 Survey:</b>		
excellent .....	26%	26%
very good .....	33%	40%
good .....	27%	26%
fair .....	12%	6%
poor .....	2%	1%
chi square = 13.853, p < .01		

## OTHER TOPICS

### Prayer

- ✓ Three in four pastors and two in three specialized clergy report that they pray *more than once a day*, compared to 43% of members and 41% of elders who pray that frequently. Almost every one else in each sample prays either *once a day* or *two or more times a week*. Only 1% (or less) report *never* praying.
- ✓ Around one in ten panelists in every sample are *very satisfied* with their prayer life; another four in ten are *satisfied*.

### Doubts about Faith

- ✓ Most panelists have at least occasional doubts “about the things you learned in church,” but for most respondents such doubts occur *once in while* (e.g., elders, 71%) rather than *fairly often* (8%) or *very often* (3%).
- ✓ Four in ten members (40%) and elders (43%) and one in five pastors (22%) and specialized clergy (21%) *never* have “doubts about your religious or spiritual beliefs.” At the other extreme, 10% of members and pastors, 8% of elders, and 19% of specialized clergy have such doubts *very often* or *fairly often*.
- ✓ Panelists are less likely to have doubts “whether your prayers make a difference” than that “solutions to your problems can be found in the Bible.” Among members, for example, 49% *never* have doubts about prayers making a difference, but only 33% *never* have doubts about the Bible as a problem-solver. Combined *fairly often* and *very often* responses for members are 10% and 16%, respectively, on these two items.

### Congregational Care and Support

- ✓ More than three in four members (77%) and elders (86%) report that they felt “loved and cared for” either *very often* or *fairly often* by other members in their congregation over the past year. But fewer (members, 40%; elders, 51%) report talking to fellow congregants about their own “private problems and concerns.”
- ✓ Majorities of members and elders report listening to other members share religious experiences over the past year. Most such conversations were occasional, however. Overall, 10% of members report listening to faith-sharing by other members *very often*; 28%, *fairly often*; 44%, *once in a while*; and 18%, *never*.
- ✓ Only a minority of members report talking to their pastor about their own “private problems and concerns,” and most report doing so *once in a while* (32% overall) rather than *very often* (4%) or *fairly often* (11%). Elders are a bit more likely to have such conversations with their pastor, but most of theirs are infrequent as well.
- ✓ Of members who have talked individually with their pastor, responses vary as to how frequently the pastor “expressed interest and concern in your well-being in those conversations.” Responses range from 19%, *very often*, and 29%, *fairly often*; to 31%, *once in a while*; 15%, *never*; and 6%, *don't know*.
- ✓ Few members (8%) or elders (13%) report that their pastor has “been critical of you and the things you have done” during the past year. Almost all of these reports were of the *once in a while* variety.

### Church Attendance

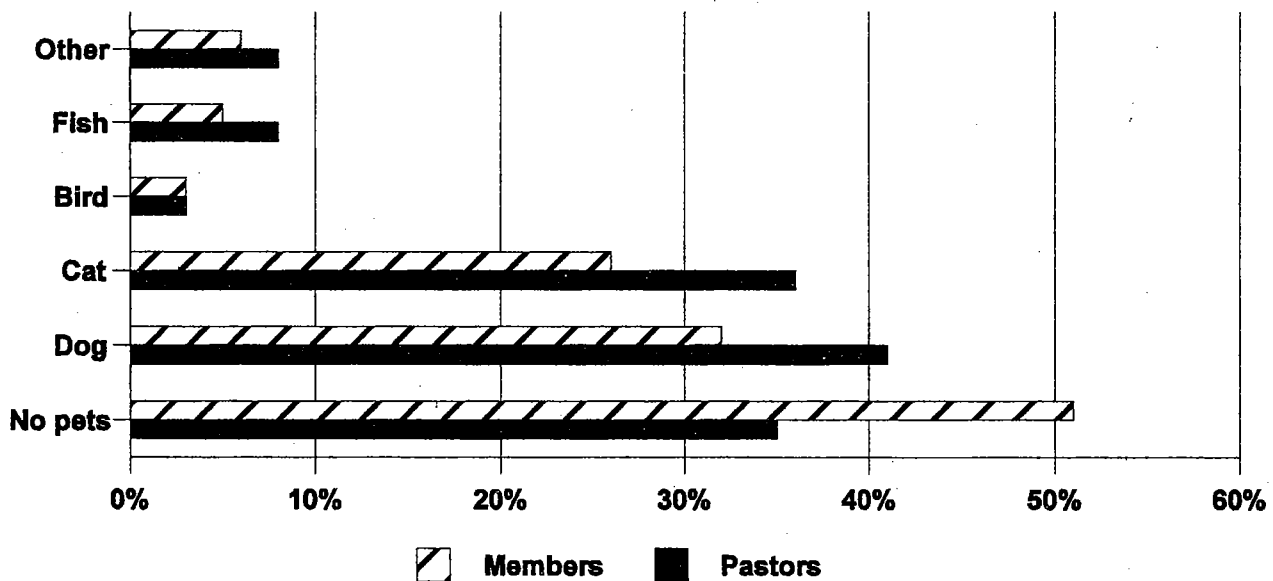
- ✓ Three in ten members (30%) and almost four in ten elders (37%) report attending Sunday worship *every week*. Even more report attending *nearly every week* (members, 43%; elders, 51%). Only 8% of members, and 1% of elders, report attending less often than once a month.

## OTHER TOPICS

### Pets

- ✓ Around half of members (49%), elders (52%), and specialized clergy (54%) share their households with a pet, typically a dog or cat. The rate is even higher among pastors (65%). (See Figure 4.)
- ✓ Among households with pets, in all samples slightly more than one-half include one or more cats. Even more, around six in ten, include one or more dogs. These figures overlap, since around one-third of dog-owning households also have one or more cats, and more than four in ten cat-owning households also have one or more dogs.
- ✓ Three-fourths of dog-owners have only one dog, and one-half of cat owners have only one cat. Most of the others have two. Overall, the average number of dogs in dog households is 1.3, and the average number of cats in cat households is 1.8.
- ✓ Few pet households have animals other than cats or dogs. Around one in ten have fish—usually several—and around one in twenty have a bird or birds.
- ✓ Other pets in panelists' households include various reptiles (snakes, lizards, turtles), rodents (gerbils, rabbits, chinchillas, hamsters), and larger mammals (donkey, horse, fox, deer, pig). At least one person reported a pet spider, and one, a pet amphibian, in this case, a newt.
- ✓ Pet ownership rates among Presbyterian members and elders are similar to those in the U.S. population generally. In 1999, a Gallup Poll found that 54% of respondents had either a dog or a cat (or both).

**Figure 4**  
**Pets in Presbyterian Households**



## OTHER TOPICS

### Panel Evaluation

- ✓ About three in four panelists in each sample find the three-year term they served as panelists *about right* in length. Among the rest, more view the number of years as *too many* (e.g., 23% of members and 14% of pastors so responded) rather than *too few* (2% and 6%, respectively).
- ✓ More than eight in ten panelists in each sample find the four surveys per year *about right* in number. Among the rest, more find four annual surveys to be *too many* (e.g., 12% of members and 9% of pastors so report) rather than *too few* (2% and 3%, respectively).
- ✓ In every sample, around three in four panelists find the 6-to-8-page length of Panel surveys *about right*. Almost all of the rest find the number of pages per survey to be *too many* (e.g., 25% of members and 20% of pastors).
- ✓ A large majority of panelists in every sample (e.g., members, 79%; pastors, 89%) have at least occasionally shared a copy of a Panel *Summary* with someone else. The most common recipient is another person in their own household. More than one-third of members and elders report having shared a *Summary* with someone in their household *very often* or *fairly often*. (These percentages would be even higher if we took out the responses of the 15% of members and 10% of elders who live alone.)
- ✓ Relatively few lay panelists share Panel *Summaries* with anyone outside their household, whether friend, relative, fellow church member, or pastor. Elders are a bit more likely to share with other people at their church, although their rates are about the same as members' for sharing with friends or relatives.
- ✓ Clergy are more likely than laity to share a Panel *Summary* with someone else, especially someone in their congregation. More than one-third of pastors (37%) and 21% of specialized clergy report sharing a *Summary* with someone else at church *very often* or *fairly often*.
- ✓ A majority of pastors at least occasionally have shared a Panel *Summary* with their congregation's newsletter editor, although only 21% report having done so *very often* or *fairly often*. Nine in ten members (94%) and elders (88%) have *never* shared a Panel *Summary* with their church's newsletter editor.

# THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

## INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE—THE NOVEMBER 1999 SURVEY

### APPENDIX

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of questionnaires mailed .....	896	1,008	1,556
Number of questionnaires returned .....	563	664	1,016 *
Percent returned .....	63%	66%	65%

\* Of the 1,016 minister surveys, 676 are from pastors; 340 are from specialized clergy

Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking the appropriate box.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
<b>a. Persons who physically abuse are violent in all their relationships</b>				
strongly agree .....	6%	6%	4%	8%
agree .....	30%	30%	24%	21%
disagree .....	41%	47%	49%	51%
strongly disagree .....	8%	6%	15%	14%
uncertain .....	14%	12%	8%	7%
<b>b. Fathers should remain with their families even if they are physically abusive</b>				
strongly agree .....	1%	2%	1%	1%
agree .....	2%	3%	2%	4%
disagree .....	47%	44%	42%	40%
strongly disagree .....	47%	46%	51%	49%
uncertain .....	4%	5%	6%	6%
<b>c. People with strong religious beliefs are less likely to abuse</b>				
strongly agree .....	9%	7%	2%	2%
agree .....	40%	40%	22%	12%
disagree .....	32%	35%	50%	48%
strongly disagree .....	8%	8%	20%	31%
uncertain .....	11%	10%	6%	6%
<b>d. My faith tells me that men and women should be equal partners in a relationship</b>				
strongly agree .....	45%	47%	64%	69%
agree .....	48%	47%	34%	30%
disagree .....	5%	4%	2%	*
strongly disagree .....	1%	1%	*	—
uncertain .....	1%	2%	1%	1%
<b>e. I think worship should include prayers for victims of interpersonal violence</b>				
strongly agree .....	21%	20%	34%	42%
agree .....	70%	68%	60%	53%
disagree .....	2%	5%	2%	1%
strongly disagree .....	*	1%	*	1%
uncertain .....	6%	7%	3%	4%

\* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

‡ = asked of ministers only



Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements  
(Cont.) about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking the appropriate box.

f. Some people who abuse are responsible adults in their community				
strongly agree	20%	19%	33%	33%
agree	72%	73%	62%	62%
disagree	3%	3%	2%	3%
strongly disagree	1%	*	*	1%
uncertain	4%	4%	2%	2%
g. It is never okay for a husband to slap his wife				
strongly agree	60%	60%	67%	68%
agree	35%	35%	29%	27%
disagree	2%	3%	2%	2%
strongly disagree	2%	2%	2%	2%
uncertain	1%	1%	1%	2%
h. In our society today there are many elderly persons emotionally abused by their adult children				
strongly agree	17%	15%	21%	25%
agree	64%	62%	60%	61%
disagree	4%	8%	6%	3%
strongly disagree	—	*	*	*
uncertain	16%	15%	12%	11%
i. When a woman is raped, it is probably her fault				
strongly agree	3%	2%	1%	2%
agree	*	1%	*	1%
disagree	29%	25%	15%	12%
strongly disagree	65%	70%	83%	83%
uncertain	2%	3%	*	2%
j. My faith tells me that men are to be the head of the household				
strongly agree	6%	6%	4%	3%
agree	38%	35%	24%	14%
disagree	38%	40%	36%	38%
strongly disagree	12%	14%	31%	42%
uncertain	6%	5%	4%	3%
k. There are times when it is okay for a wife to slap her husband				
strongly agree	3%	3%	6%	6%
agree	5%	5%	4%	3%
disagree	44%	42%	34%	35%
strongly disagree	46%	47%	55%	54%
uncertain	2%	2%	2%	3%

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Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements (Cont.) about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking the appropriate box.

l. Abusers of elderly persons are most often their adult children				
strongly agree	3%	4%	5%	6%
agree	42%	38%	40%	43%
disagree	20%	21%	21%	19%
strongly disagree	1%	1%	2%	1%
uncertain	34%	36%	33%	31%
m. Children are sexually abused most often by strangers				
strongly agree	1%	1%	1%	1%
agree	6%	4%	1%	1%
disagree	62%	63%	61%	56%
strongly disagree	20%	21%	32%	39%
uncertain	11%	11%	5%	4%
n. A husband has the right to have sex with his wife whenever he wants it				
strongly agree	1%	1%	1%	2%
agree	2%	2%	1%	2%
disagree	62%	60%	52%	42%
strongly disagree	33%	37%	44%	53%
uncertain	2%	1%	1%	2%
o. The church does very little to prevent abuse				
strongly agree	3%	3%	6%	12%
agree	42%	50%	51%	58%
disagree	29%	30%	35%	20%
strongly disagree	3%	2%	3%	2%
uncertain	23%	14%	4%	8%
p. Elderly persons who are physically abused usually deserve it				
strongly agree	2%	3%	1%	1%
agree	1%	1%	*	—
disagree	36%	34%	21%	23%
strongly disagree	59%	61%	77%	76%
uncertain	2%	2%	1%	*
q. Sexually abused children often deny the abuse has happened				
strongly agree	17%	15%	24%	30%
agree	71%	74%	69%	63%
disagree	2%	2%	2%	3%
strongly disagree	*	1%	1%	1%
uncertain	9%	9%	5%	4%

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Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements  
(Cont.) about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking  
the appropriate box.

r.	Withholding something from elderly persons to get them to do what you want is never abusive				
	strongly agree	1%	1%	2%	1%
	agree	4%	3%	1%	2%
	disagree	59%	57%	54%	48%
	strongly disagree	30%	34%	39%	46%
	uncertain	6%	5%	3%	2%
s.	Abusive people come from all the different economic groups				
	strongly agree	37%	37%	51%	56%
	agree	62%	60%	47%	42%
	disagree	1%	1%	1%	1%
	strongly disagree	*	1%	1%	1%
	uncertain	1%	1%	*	*
t.	My faith tells me that parents have a right to physically discipline their children by spanking or whipping				
	strongly agree	4%	4%	3%	2%
	agree	32%	34%	24%	17%
	disagree	39%	38%	43%	41%
	strongly disagree	12%	12%	23%	34%
	uncertain	14%	12%	7%	5%
u.	I think litanies in worship should include victims of interpersonal violence				
	strongly agree	4%	5%	19%	26%
	agree	54%	51%	64%	63%
	disagree	13%	14%	7%	5%
	strongly disagree	2%	1%	1%	1%
	uncertain	28%	28%	9%	6%
v.	Christians too often use the Bible to justify abuse				
	strongly agree	5%	5%	13%	17%
	agree	36%	34%	48%	57%
	disagree	25%	30%	24%	12%
	strongly disagree	5%	4%	4%	1%
	uncertain	29%	27%	11%	13%
w.	Church leaders often are not prepared to help members of their congregations who are victims of abuse				
	strongly agree	6%	6%	13%	24%
	agree	54%	58%	66%	61%
	disagree	16%	15%	16%	9%
	strongly disagree	1%	2%	1%	1%
	uncertain	23%	19%	3%	5%

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Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking the appropriate box.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
<b>x. Victims of sexual abuse often blame themselves for the abuse</b>				
strongly agree	17%	15%	25%	35%
agree	68%	70%	69%	62%
disagree	4%	3%	1%	1%
strongly disagree	1%	*	1%	1%
uncertain	11%	12%	4%	2%
<b>y. My faith tells me that if parents spare the rod, they will spoil the child</b>				
strongly agree	2%	3%	3%	1%
agree	28%	31%	21%	14%
disagree	50%	49%	52%	46%
strongly disagree	9%	8%	18%	33%
uncertain	10%	9%	6%	6%
<b>z. A pastor should always report child abuse</b>				
strongly agree	29%	26%	37%	34%
agree	55%	60%	52%	50%
disagree	6%	7%	6%	6%
strongly disagree	*	*	*	1%
uncertain	10%	8%	4%	10%
<b>aa. I think worship should include sermons on interpersonal violence</b>				
strongly agree	10%	7%	17%	23%
agree	64%	66%	70%	65%
disagree	8%	9%	5%	4%
strongly disagree	1%	1%	1%	*
uncertain	17%	18%	8%	7%
<b>bb. Interpersonal violence is a private family matter and should not be a concern of my congregation</b>				
strongly agree	1%	1%	*	1%
agree	5%	5%	1%	2%
disagree	62%	60%	47%	35%
strongly disagree	25%	29%	51%	61%
uncertain	8%	5%	1%	2%
<b>cc. I think our congregation should be provided with resources to educate us about interpersonal violence</b>				
strongly agree	12%	12%	22%	32%
agree	78%	78%	72%	66%
disagree	4%	3%	3%	1%
strongly disagree	—	*	1%	*
uncertain	7%	6%	3%	2%

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Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements  
(Cont.) about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking  
the appropriate box.

dd. I personally know someone in my congregation who has experienced a form of interpersonal violence

strongly agree .....	6%	5%	23%	23%
agree .....	20%	27%	64%	51%
disagree .....	37%	34%	7%	8%
strongly disagree .....	5%	7%	1%	1%
uncertain .....	32%	27%	5%	17%

ee. I think worship should include sermons on elder abuse

strongly agree .....	7%	5%	12%	20%
agree .....	61%	59%	65%	64%
disagree .....	10%	14%	8%	6%
strongly disagree .....	2%	1%	*	*
uncertain .....	21%	21%	14%	11%

ff. In my congregation I know that the clergy have responded in a helpful way to persons involved in interpersonal violence

strongly agree .....	4%	6%	19%	14%
agree .....	25%	32%	61%	50%
disagree .....	6%	8%	5%	8%
strongly disagree .....	1%	1%	—	1%
uncertain .....	64%	54%	15%	27%

gg. I think the clergy in my congregation are adequately trained to respond effectively to incidents of interpersonal violence

strongly agree .....	3%	3%	8%	4%
agree .....	31%	32%	37%	24%
disagree .....	13%	18%	41%	43%
strongly disagree .....	2%	4%	4%	8%
uncertain .....	50%	43%	11%	21%

hh. In some cases where women are physically abused by a spouse, they deserve it

strongly agree .....	2%	2%	2%	2%
agree .....	1%	3%	*	1%
disagree .....	40%	34%	31%	25%
strongly disagree .....	54%	57%	65%	70%
uncertain .....	3%	4%	1%	2%

ii. Visitors with homebound older adults or those in nursing homes should report observed or suspected abuses

strongly agree .....	36%	32%	34%	39%
agree .....	62%	63%	63%	58%
disagree .....	*	1%	*	2%
strongly disagree .....	*	1%	*	—
uncertain .....	2%	2%	2%	2%

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Q-1. People differ greatly in terms of their attitudes toward interpersonal violence. Following are statements about interpersonal violence. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement by checking the appropriate box.

jj. The church should provide training in how to recognize signs of abuse in others

strongly agree .....	14%	14%	24%	31%
agree .....	63%	62%	64%	60%
disagree .....	6%	9%	3%	2%
strongly disagree .....	1%	1%	*	*
uncertain .....	17%	15%	8%	7%

kk. Abused older adults should tell about the abuse to their pastor

strongly agree .....	22%	20%	29%	31%
agree .....	68%	72%	67%	65%
disagree .....	2%	1%	1%	*
strongly disagree .....	*	*	—	*
uncertain .....	8%	6%	4%	4%

Q-2. Please indicate by checking the appropriate box if you have been personally touched by any of the following situations through experiencing it yourself (left column), through your relationship to a family member or close friend (center column), or, if you are a clergy person, through pastoral care (right column). Check **all** that apply.

Crisis Situation	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>a. Rape</b>				
by spouse				
primary experience (happened to me) .....	*	2%	*	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	3%	2%	10%	9%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) † .....			28%	27%
by acquaintance				
primary experience (happened to me) .....	2%	2%	2%	2%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	14%	12%	23%	26%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) † .....			48%	41%
by stranger				
primary experience (happened to me) .....	*	1%	1%	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	10%	11%	21%	19%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) † .....			42%	39%
<b>b. Child Abuse</b>				
physical abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) .....	5%	3%	8%	7%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	16%	17%	32%	34%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) † .....			63%	53%

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 ◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response  
 † = asked of ministers only

Q-2. Please indicate by checking the appropriate box if you have been personally touched by any of the following situations through experiencing it yourself (left column), through your relationship to a family member or close friend (center column), or, if you are a clergyperson, through pastoral care (right column). Check **all** that apply.

Crisis Situation	◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>b. Child Abuse (Cont.)</b>				
emotional/verbal abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) . . . . .	10%	7%	15%	20%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) . . . . .	25%	29%	42%	42%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ . . . . .			72%	60%
sexual abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) . . . . .	5%	4%	6%	8%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) . . . . .	15%	16%	32%	35%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ . . . . .			62%	53%
<b>c. Partner Abuse</b>				
physical abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) . . . . .	3%	3%	3%	4%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) . . . . .	15%	17%	27%	32%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ . . . . .			62%	53%
emotional/verbal abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) . . . . .	11%	10%	11%	13%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) . . . . .	27%	30%	36%	41%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ . . . . .			73%	58%
<b>d. Elder Abuse</b>				
physical abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) . . . . .	—	*	*	—
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) . . . . .	6%	4%	11%	11%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ . . . . .			29%	27%
emotional/verbal abuse				
primary experience (happened to me) . . . . .	1%	1%	*	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) . . . . .	11%	13%	18%	19%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ . . . . .			50%	41%

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 ◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response  
 ‡ = asked of ministers only

Q-2. Please indicate by checking the appropriate box if you have been personally touched by any of the following (Cont.) situations through experiencing it yourself (left column), through your relationship to a family member or close friend (center column), or, if you are a clergy person, through pastoral care (right column). Check *all* that apply.

**Crisis Situation**

d. Elder Abuse (Cont.)

sexual abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	—	—	—	—
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	2%	1%	4%	4%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			10%	12%

financial abuse (e.g., theft, fraud)

primary experience (happened to me) .....	1%	1%	1%	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	12%	12%	20%	22%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			52%	38%

neglect

primary experience (happened to me) .....	*	1%	*	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	13%	15%	20%	22%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			58%	47%

e. Abuse by Clergy

physical abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	—	*	2%	2%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	1%	1%	6%	8%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			10%	14%

emotional/verbal abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	3%	3%	7%	8%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	6%	7%	14%	17%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			25%	28%

sexual abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	1%	1%	3%	4%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	3%	7%	19%	20%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			31%	35%

f. Abuse by a Paid Church Professional (e.g., counselor, youth director, christian educators, etc.)

physical abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	—	—	1%	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	1%	1%	4%	4%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			7%	8%

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Q-2. Please indicate by checking the appropriate box if you have been personally touched by any of the following (Cont.) situations through experiencing it yourself (left column), through your relationship to a family member or close friend (center column), or, if you are a clergyperson, through pastoral care (right column). Check *all* that apply.

**Crisis Situation**

f. Abuse by a Paid Church Professional (e.g., counselor, youth director, christian educators, etc.) (Cont.)

emotional/verbal abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	1%	1%	2%	2%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	2%	2%	9%	7%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			17%	14%

sexual abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	—	*	1%	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	2%	2%	8%	9%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			14%	18%

g. Abuse by a Volunteer Church Worker (e.g., deacon, elder, church school teacher, youth worker, etc.)

physical abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	*	—	*	1%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	*	1%	4%	3%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			8%	8%

emotional/verbal abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	2%	3%	4%	3%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	2%	3%	8%	7%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			16%	15%

sexual abuse

primary experience (happened to me) .....	*	*	*	2%
secondary experience (happened to family member, close friend or member of my church) .....	1%	1%	6%	6%
secondary experience (happened to parishioner or counselee) ‡ .....			13%	13%

**Faith and Health**

Q-3. How often do you pray? (Check [✓] the box [□] corresponding to your response.)

two or more times a day .....	43%	41%	75%	66%
once a day .....	27%	30%	16%	18%
two or more times a week (but less than daily) .....	23%	23%	7%	12%
once a week .....	4%	3%	*	1%
less than once a week .....	2%	2%	1%	2%
never .....	*	*	1%	1%

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n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q-4. About how many times a week do you pray? (Write the number on the line.)				
less than 5 times a week	23%	22%	8%	12%
5 - 9 times a week	26%	26%	12%	17%
10 - 19 times a week	27%	28%	28%	29%
20 - 29 times a week	11%	12%	25%	24%
30 - 39 times a week	4%	3%	8%	8%
40 - 49 times a week	1%	1%	3%	1%
50 or more times a week	8%	8%	15%	10%

Q-5. How satisfied are you with your prayer life? (✓ one □)				
very satisfied	10%	9%	10%	10%
satisfied	39%	36%	44%	37%
neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	33%	34%	28%	36%
dissatisfied	16%	19%	17%	17%
very dissatisfied	1%	1%	1%	1%

Q-6. In general, would you say your health is ... (✓ one □)				
excellent	22%	22%	28%	27%
very good	38%	42%	44%	41%
good	32%	28%	22%	25%
fair	7%	6%	4%	6%
poor	1%	1%	1%	1%

Q-7. These questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you *during the past 4 weeks*. For each question, please give the one answer that *comes closest* to the way you have been feeling. (✓ one □ on each line)

How much of the time during the *past 4 weeks* ...

a. did you feel full of pep?				
all of the time	2%	2%	2%	3%
most of the time	32%	36%	36%	32%
a good bit of time	29%	30%	32%	30%
some of the time	23%	23%	22%	22%
a little of the time	12%	8%	7%	11%
none of the time	2%	1%	1%	2%
b. have you been a very nervous person?				
all of the time	*	*	*	*
most of the time	3%	1%	1%	2%
a good bit of time	5%	4%	3%	2%
some of the time	20%	17%	19%	16%
a little of the time	40%	43%	50%	45%
none of the time	33%	35%	27%	35%

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Q-7. These questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you *during the past 4 weeks*. For each (Cont.) question, please give the one answer that *comes closest* to the way you have been feeling. (✓ one □ on each line)

How much of the time during the *past 4 weeks* . . .

c. have you felt so down in the dumps that nothing could cheer you up?				
all of the time . . . . .	—	—	*	—
most of the time . . . . .	1%	1%	1%	*
a good bit of time . . . . .	3%	1%	2%	1%
some of the time . . . . .	8%	8%	7%	9%
a little of the time . . . . .	20%	20%	26%	25%
none of the time . . . . .	68%	70%	65%	65%
d. have you felt calm and peaceful?				
all of the time . . . . .	3%	2%	2%	1%
most of the time . . . . .	37%	38%	34%	37%
a good bit of time . . . . .	30%	33%	38%	38%
some of the time . . . . .	21%	21%	21%	19%
a little of the time . . . . .	8%	5%	5%	4%
none of the time . . . . .	2%	2%	1%	1%
e. did you have a lot of energy?				
all of the time . . . . .	2%	2%	3%	3%
most of the time . . . . .	29%	32%	36%	31%
a good bit of time . . . . .	27%	31%	31%	32%
some of the time . . . . .	26%	23%	22%	22%
a little of the time . . . . .	11%	9%	8%	9%
none of the time . . . . .	4%	3%	1%	3%
f. have you felt downhearted and blue?				
all of the time . . . . .	*	*	*	—
most of the time . . . . .	2%	1%	1%	1%
a good bit of time . . . . .	3%	2%	3%	3%
some of the time . . . . .	18%	15%	21%	18%
a little of the time . . . . .	42%	47%	56%	52%
none of the time . . . . .	35%	35%	19%	26%
g. did you feel worn out?				
all of the time . . . . .	1%	*	*	—
most of the time . . . . .	4%	3%	4%	5%
a good bit of time . . . . .	7%	8%	9%	9%
some of the time . . . . .	33%	32%	38%	31%
a little of the time . . . . .	43%	44%	40%	47%
none of the time . . . . .	12%	12%	8%	10%

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Q-7. These questions are about how you feel and how things have been with you *during the past 4 weeks*. For each question, please give the one answer that *comes closest* to the way you have been feeling. (✓ one □ on each line)

How much of the time during the *past 4 weeks* . . .

h. have you been a happy person?

all of the time . . . . .	8%	6%	6%	4%
most of the time . . . . .	56%	62%	57%	60%
a good bit of time . . . . .	21%	21%	23%	23%
some of the time . . . . .	10%	9%	11%	11%
a little of the time . . . . .	4%	2%	2%	2%
none of the time . . . . .	1%	1%	1%	—

i. did you feel tired?

all of the time . . . . .	2%	1%	1%	*
most of the time . . . . .	6%	3%	6%	6%
a good bit of time . . . . .	12%	10%	13%	11%
some of the time . . . . .	41%	43%	44%	46%
a little of the time . . . . .	36%	41%	35%	33%
none of the time . . . . .	4%	3%	1%	2%

Q-8. How TRUE or FALSE is *each* of the following statements for you? (✓ one □ on each line)

a. I am as healthy as anybody I know.

definitely true . . . . .	22%	21%	22%	21%
mostly true . . . . .	52%	56%	58%	56%
don't know . . . . .	13%	12%	9%	10%
mostly false . . . . .	9%	8%	9%	10%
definitely false . . . . .	3%	4%	2%	3%

b. My health is excellent.

definitely true . . . . .	20%	18%	23%	23%
mostly true . . . . .	60%	66%	64%	61%
don't know . . . . .	6%	5%	3%	3%
mostly false . . . . .	11%	6%	9%	12%
definitely false . . . . .	4%	4%	1%	1%

Q-9. Now please think about the *most recent* major problem or challenge you have faced, such as a death in the family, major financial loss, serious illness to you or someone close, or a major disagreement with a close friend or relative. What was it? Please specify here: [up to 3 coded]

		+	+	+	+
		◆	◆	◆	◆
children . . . . .	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%
crime . . . . .	2%	3%	1%	3%	
family . . . . .	25%	28%	20%	20%	
finances . . . . .	6%	6%	6%	7%	
health . . . . .	57%	52%	36%	45%	
love/marriage . . . . .	10%	9%	8%	9%	
miscellaneous . . . . .	2%	5%	6%	7%	

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Q-9. Now please think about the *most recent* major problem or challenge you have faced, such as a death in the family, major financial loss, serious illness to you or someone close, or a major disagreement with a close friend or relative. What was it? Please specify here: [up to 3 coded]

	+	+	+	+
	◆	◆	◆	◆
residence .....	3%	2%	4%	2%
school .....	2%	2%	1%	*
social activities .....	8%	7%	21%	12%
work .....	10%	13%	14%	18%

Q-10. We are interested in learning more about how you responded or reacted when this most recent problem happened. Here are some things that people sometimes do to deal with difficulties like this. Please indicate how much you relied on each of them in the process of grappling with your most recent serious problem.

(✓ one □ on each line)

a. I thought about how my life is part of a larger spiritual force.	+	+		
not at all .....	18%	16%	13%	16%
somewhat .....	38%	37%	27%	28%
quite a bit .....	28%	30%	32%	34%
a great deal .....	15%	16%	28%	23%
b. I worked together with God as partners to get through this problem.		+		
not at all .....	4%	5%	2%	6%
somewhat .....	34%	28%	20%	28%
quite a bit .....	34%	37%	37%	42%
a great deal .....	28%	30%	40%	25%
c. I decided the devil made this happen.	+			
not at all .....	90%	92%	87%	91%
somewhat .....	6%	7%	12%	6%
quite a bit .....	2%	1%	1%	1%
a great deal .....	2%	*	1%	1%
d. I looked to God for strength, support, and guidance.				
not at all .....	2%	2%	1%	3%
somewhat .....	18%	16%	9%	14%
quite a bit .....	33%	32%	27%	38%
a great deal .....	46%	50%	63%	45%
e. I tried to find the lesson from God in this problem.		+		
not at all .....	24%	27%	18%	29%
somewhat .....	37%	31%	35%	31%
quite a bit .....	24%	27%	25%	25%
a great deal .....	14%	15%	22%	14%
f. I questioned the power of God.	+	+		
not at all .....	85%	81%	79%	81%
somewhat .....	10%	15%	18%	16%
quite a bit .....	4%	3%	2%	1%
a great deal .....	1%	2%	1%	1%

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Q-10. We are interested in learning more about how you responded or reacted when this most recent problem happened. Here are some things that people sometimes do to deal with difficulties like this. Please indicate how much you relied on each of them in the process of grappling with your most recent serious problem. (✓ one □ on each line)

g. I tried to give spiritual strength to other people.	+	+		
not at all .....	17%	13%	7%	13%
somewhat .....	44%	41%	26%	37%
quite a bit .....	29%	35%	40%	35%
a great deal .....	10%	11%	28%	16%
h. I sought help from God in letting go of my anger.	+	+		+
not at all .....	32%	27%	25%	29%
somewhat .....	34%	35%	31%	31%
quite a bit .....	24%	24%	29%	27%
a great deal .....	11%	14%	15%	13%
i. I felt that this problem was God's way of punishing me for my sins or lack of spirituality.		+		
not at all .....	92%	93%	93%	95%
somewhat .....	6%	6%	7%	4%
quite a bit .....	1%	*	*	*
a great deal .....	*	*	*	*
j. I wondered whether God has abandoned me.		+		
not at all .....	90%	91%	85%	86%
somewhat .....	8%	8%	14%	13%
quite a bit .....	2%	1%	1%	1%
a great deal .....	1%	*	*	*
k. I questioned whether God really exists.				
not at all .....	93%	96%	93%	90%
somewhat .....	6%	3%	6%	7%
quite a bit .....	*	1%	1%	2%
a great deal .....	1%	*	*	*
l. I expressed anger at God for letting this problem happen.		+		
not at all .....	87%	85%	69%	75%
somewhat .....	11%	13%	24%	18%
quite a bit .....	2%	1%	6%	6%
a great deal .....	*	1%	1%	1%
m. I asked forgiveness for my sins.		+		
not at all .....	24%	22%	28%	34%
somewhat .....	27%	27%	32%	34%
quite a bit .....	28%	33%	28%	25%
a great deal .....	21%	18%	11%	7%

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n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

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◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

‡ = asked of ministers only

Q-10. We are interested in learning more about how you responded or reacted when this most recent problem happened. Here are some things that people sometimes do to deal with difficulties like this. Please indicate how much you relied on each of them in the process of grappling with your most recent serious problem. (✓ one  on each line)

n. I asked God's love for me.	+	+		
not at all .....	11%	12%	13%	15%
somewhat .....	24%	24%	23%	24%
quite a bit .....	34%	33%	36%	39%
a great deal .....	31%	31%	28%	22%

Q-11. How often do you ...

a. have doubts about the things you have learned in church?				
very often .....	2%	3%	5%	10%
fairly often .....	9%	8%	14%	21%
once in a while .....	70%	71%	72%	62%
never .....	18%	18%	10%	6%
b. doubt that solutions to your problems can be found in the Bible?				
very often .....	3%	3%	2%	8%
fairly often .....	13%	13%	13%	24%
once in a while .....	51%	50%	56%	49%
never .....	33%	34%	28%	18%
c. have doubts about your religious or spiritual beliefs?				
very often .....	2%	2%	2%	3%
fairly often .....	8%	6%	8%	16%
once in a while .....	48%	52%	68%	60%
never .....	43%	40%	22%	21%
d. doubt whether your prayers make a difference?				
very often .....	2%	2%	2%	3%
fairly often .....	8%	8%	7%	15%
once in a while .....	41%	40%	56%	52%
never .....	49%	50%	35%	30%

**Members and Elders only answer Q-12 to Q-15; Ministers skip to Q-16.**

Q-12. These questions deal with relationships you've had *over the past year* with other members in the congregation you serve or attend. (In answering, please think just about members, not the pastor(s).) How often have members in your congregation ... (✓ one  on each line)

a. made you feel loved and cared for?		
very often .....	41%	48%
fairly often .....	36%	38%
once in a while .....	21%	12%
never .....	2%	1%

---

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Q-12. These questions deal with relationships you've had *over the past year* with other members in the congregation you serve or attend. (In answering, please think just about members, not the pastor(s).) How often have members in your congregation . . . (✓ one □ on each line)

b. listened to you talk about your private problems and concerns?			
very often . . . . .	14%		20%
fairly often . . . . .	26%		31%
once in a while . . . . .	43%		36%
never . . . . .	17%		13%
c. shared their religious experiences with you?			
very often . . . . .	10%		16%
fairly often . . . . .	28%		32%
once in a while . . . . .	44%		43%
never . . . . .	18%		10%
d. helped you to live according to your religious beliefs?			
very often . . . . .	12%		16%
fairly often . . . . .	35%		39%
once in a while . . . . .	35%		36%
never . . . . .	18%		9%
e. helped you to know God better?			
very often . . . . .	15%		22%
fairly often . . . . .	38%		40%
once in a while . . . . .	34%		31%
never . . . . .	13%		7%

Q-13. The contact we have with others is not always pleasant. Thinking back *over the past year*, how often have other members in your congregation . . . (✓ one □ on each line. Again, we are asking about members, not pastor(s).)

a. made too many demands on you?			
very often . . . . .	2%		3%
fairly often . . . . .	7%		11%
once in a while . . . . .	38%		52%
never . . . . .	54%		34%
b. been critical of you and the things you have done?			
very often . . . . .	2%		2%
fairly often . . . . .	3%		5%
once in a while . . . . .	29%		38%
never . . . . .	66%		56%

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Q-14. Now we'd like you to think about the *relationship* you have had with the *pastor(s)* of your congregation over the past year.

a. How often does your pastor(s) speak with you about your private problems and concerns?

very often	4%	4%
fairly often	11%	16%
once in a while	32%	43%
never	29%	24%
don't know	1%	1%
not needed	23%	14%

b. This question is about times you have talked with your pastor(s) individually. Thinking of these times, how often has your pastor expressed interest and concern in your well-being?

very often	19%	24%
fairly often	29%	33%
once in a while	31%	29%
never	15%	12%
don't know	6%	3%

c. How often has your pastor(s) been critical of you and the things you have done?

very often	1%	*
fairly often	1%	1%
once in a while	6%	12%
never	83%	75%
don't know	9%	12%

d. How often does your pastor(s) insist on having things his or her own way?

very often	6%	7%
fairly often	9%	14%
once in a while	19%	33%
never	41%	32%
don't know	25%	14%

Q-15. How often do you attend your congregation's *Sunday* worship services? (Check (✓) the appropriate )

never	1%	*
less than once a year	1%	*
about once or twice a year	1%	*
several times a year	5%	1%
about once a month	4%	1%
2-3 times a month	14%	9%
nearly every week	43%	51%
every week	30%	37%

Q16. Do you have a pet or pets in your household?

yes	49%	52%	65%	54%
no	51%	48%	35%	46%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q16a. [If "yes,"] What kinds? (✓ <i>all</i> that apply)	n=259	n=335	n=429	n=180
	◆	◆	◆	◆
dog .....	64%	64%	64%	62%
cat .....	52%	53%	56%	57%
bird .....	6%	3%	5%	8%
fish .....	10%	10%	13%	11%
other (specify): _____	12%	9%	13%	9%

Q16b. [If "yes,"] How many of each? Write the number on the line.

		Median number		
dog .....	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
cat .....	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
bird .....	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
fish .....	5.0	3.0	5.0	5.5
other (specify): _____	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

### Panel Evaluation

Q17. We asked you to serve as a panelist for a period of three years.

Did you find this number of years was (✓ one □):

too many .....	23%	20%	14%	12%
about right .....	70%	74%	74%	79%
too few .....	2%	2%	6%	4%
not sure .....	5%	4%	6%	5%

Q18. In each of the three years you served as a panelist, you were sent a total of four questionnaires. Did you find that this number of questionnaires per year was:

too many .....	12%	12%	9%	8%
about right .....	83%	85%	86%	90%
too few .....	2%	1%	3%	1%
not sure .....	4%	2%	2%	1%

Q19. Panel questionnaires are typically 6 to 8 pages in length.

Do you find this number was:

too many .....	25%	25%	20%	20%
about right .....	71%	73%	78%	78%
too few .....	*	—	—	*
not sure .....	4%	2%	2%	2%

Q-20. Would you like to receive the two remaining Panel *Summaries*; that is, the *Summary* for this survey and for the one you completed in August on the public role of Presbyterians?

yes .....	80%	83%	89%	89%
no .....	20%	17%	11%	11%

\* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

◆ = percentages may add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

‡ = asked of ministers only

**Specialized  
Clergy**

**Members Elders Pastors**

Q21. How often, if ever, have you shared or passed along a copy of a Panel *Summary* to:

a. someone else in my household				
very often .....	20%	18%	8%	14%
fairly often .....	18%	21%	18%	18%
not too often .....	20%	22%	32%	28%
never .....	42%	38%	41%	40%
b. someone else at church	+	+		
very often .....	4%	4%	7%	7%
fairly often .....	9%	13%	30%	14%
not too often .....	18%	26%	34%	28%
never .....	68%	58%	29%	52%
c. a friend or relative	+	+	+	+
very often .....	4%	2%	2%	3%
fairly often .....	9%	9%	12%	15%
not too often .....	20%	21%	30%	26%
never .....	68%	68%	56%	55%
d. (if laity) the pastor	+	+		
very often .....	3%	3%		
fairly often .....	6%	11%		
not too often .....	10%	16%		
never .....	82%	70%		
e. (if clergy) another pastor or minister			+	+
very often .....			4%	10%
fairly often .....			15%	14%
not too often .....			35%	28%
never .....			46%	47%
f. congregational newsletter editor/compiler	+	+	+	+
very often .....	1%	*	4%	4%
fairly often .....	2%	2%	17%	7%
not too often .....	4%	10%	36%	22%
never .....	94%	88%	43%	68%
g. other (specify) _____	4%	4%	8%	10%

Q-22. Please use the space below to make any other comments about these issues.

[not tabulated]

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