



THE INSTITUTE FOR PRO-LIFE ADVANCEMENT

an initiative of Students for Life of America

In December 2014 and January/February 2016, Students for Life commissioned several polls with the Barna Group. The questions we asked them to research revolved around the overall millennial views of the pro-life movement, abortion, and Planned Parenthood; the use of graphic/abortion victims imagery with millennials; as well as pastor views and involvement in our movement. The following paper is a summary of the first portion of that research as well as our unique experience at Students for Life starting and leading more than 1,000 millennial-lead pro-life groups on campuses nationwide.

VIEWS OF PASTORS ON ABORTION AND INVOLVEMENT OF CHURCHES IN THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

Abortion is not a problem just outside of the church. It is a problem inside of the church.

Consider these startlingly facts:

- 54% of women who had an abortion self-identified as a Christian¹
- More than 40% of women who had an abortion reported that they were actively attending a church
- 76% of those active church-going women said that their church had no influence on their decision to abort²

From December 2015 to January 2016, Students for Life contracted the Barna Group to survey 513 Protestant Pastors (30% Mainline Protestant pastors and 70% Non-Mainline Protestant³ pastors) and 88 Catholic Priests and ask them how much they and their churches are involved in the pro-life movement as well as their thoughts on some pro-life movement tactics.

¹ <https://www.gutmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2014#full-article>

² <https://www.care-net.org/churches-blog/new-survey-women-go-silently-from-church-to-abortion-clinic>

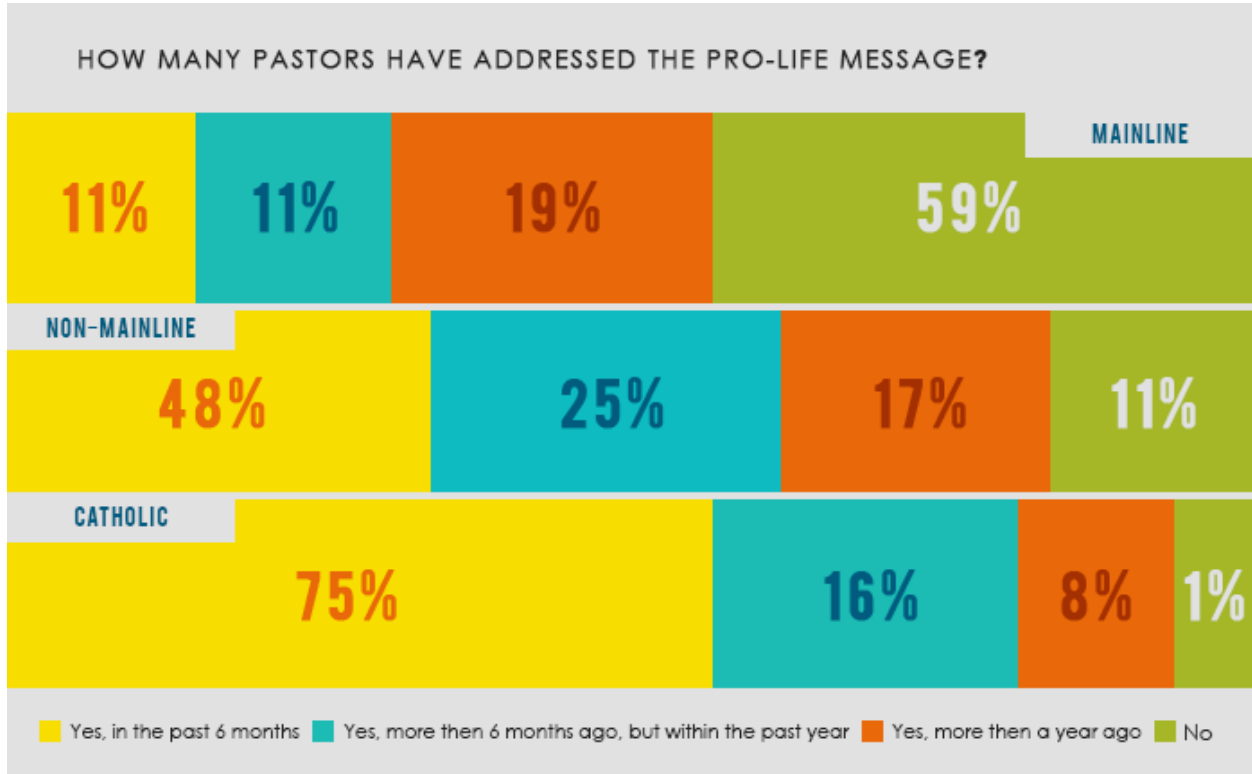
³ In this report, the reader will find data often shown by mainline versus non-mainline denomination. These affiliations are predictive of a range of perspectives and thus useful for analysis. They are defined as follows:
Mainline:

- Baptist (American)
- Church of Christ – United
- Episcopal
- Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
- Methodist – United
- Presbyterian Church – USA

Non-mainline:

- All other Protestant church affiliations, including non-denominational

When asked how often they talked about abortion in church, **73% of Non-Mainline pastors and nearly all (91%) Catholic priests have talked about the pro-life cause from the pulpit in the past year.** However, Mainline pastors rarely address the topic, with **only 41% of Mainline Protestant Pastors having talked about abortion in the last year.**



Over half (52%) of Catholic priests report having their own pro-life activities or programs in their church and 85% indicate that some of their church members are actively involved in pro-life activities.

This is in direct contrast to the non-Catholic denominations. **Only 9% combined of Mainline (2%) and Non-Mainline (7%) churches reported to have their own pro-life programs,** according to their pastors. Just over half (54%) of Non-Mainline and only 34% of Mainline pastors report their church members are involved in pro-life activities.

CATHOLICS ARE MOST INVOLVED WITH PRO-LIFE WORK

