

# Religious Situation in Finland: Recent Trends and Developments

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# Statistics on religious communities

# The membership shares of the folk churches and registered religious communities, 1920–2017.

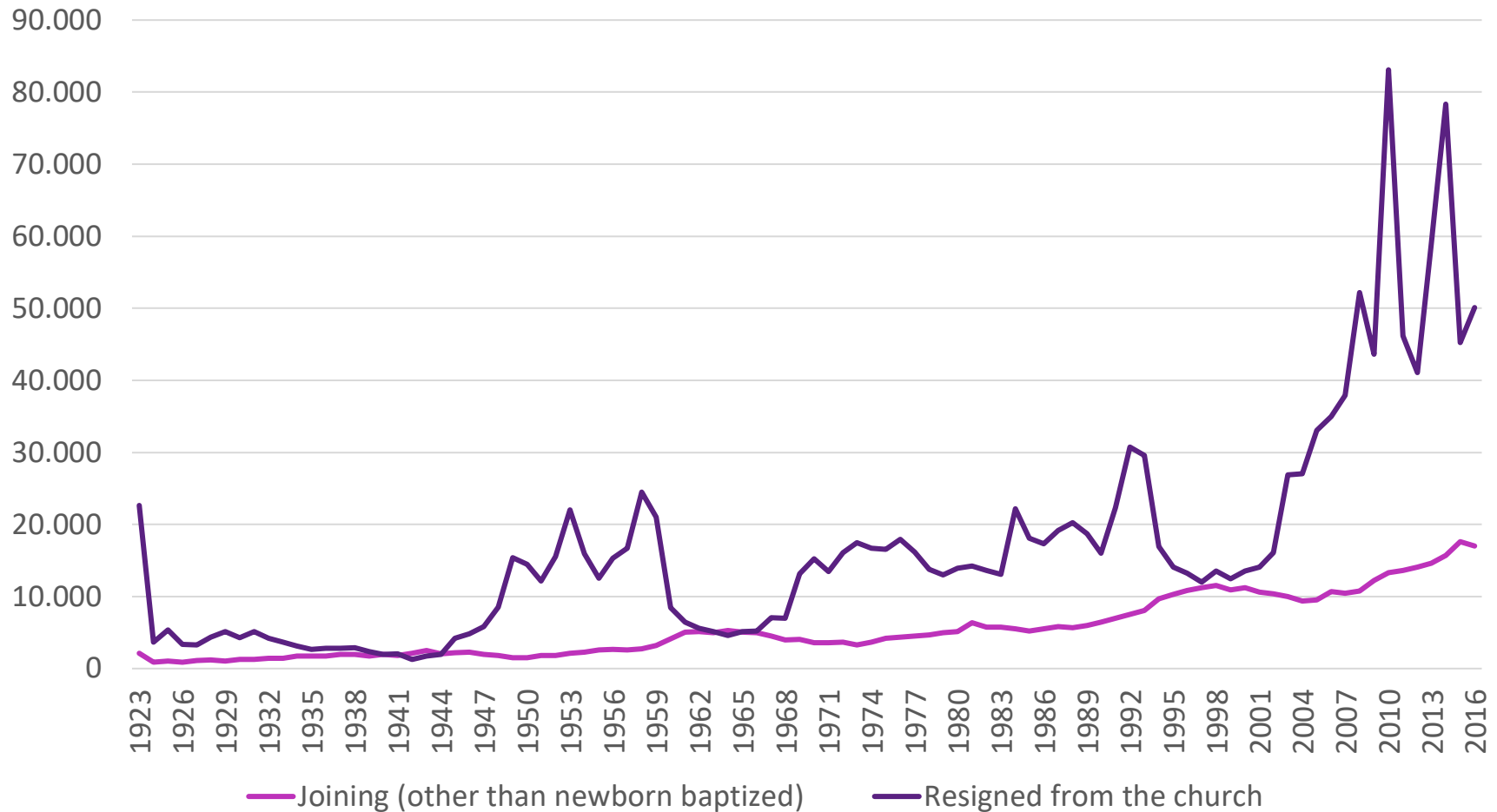
(Source: Statistics Finland)



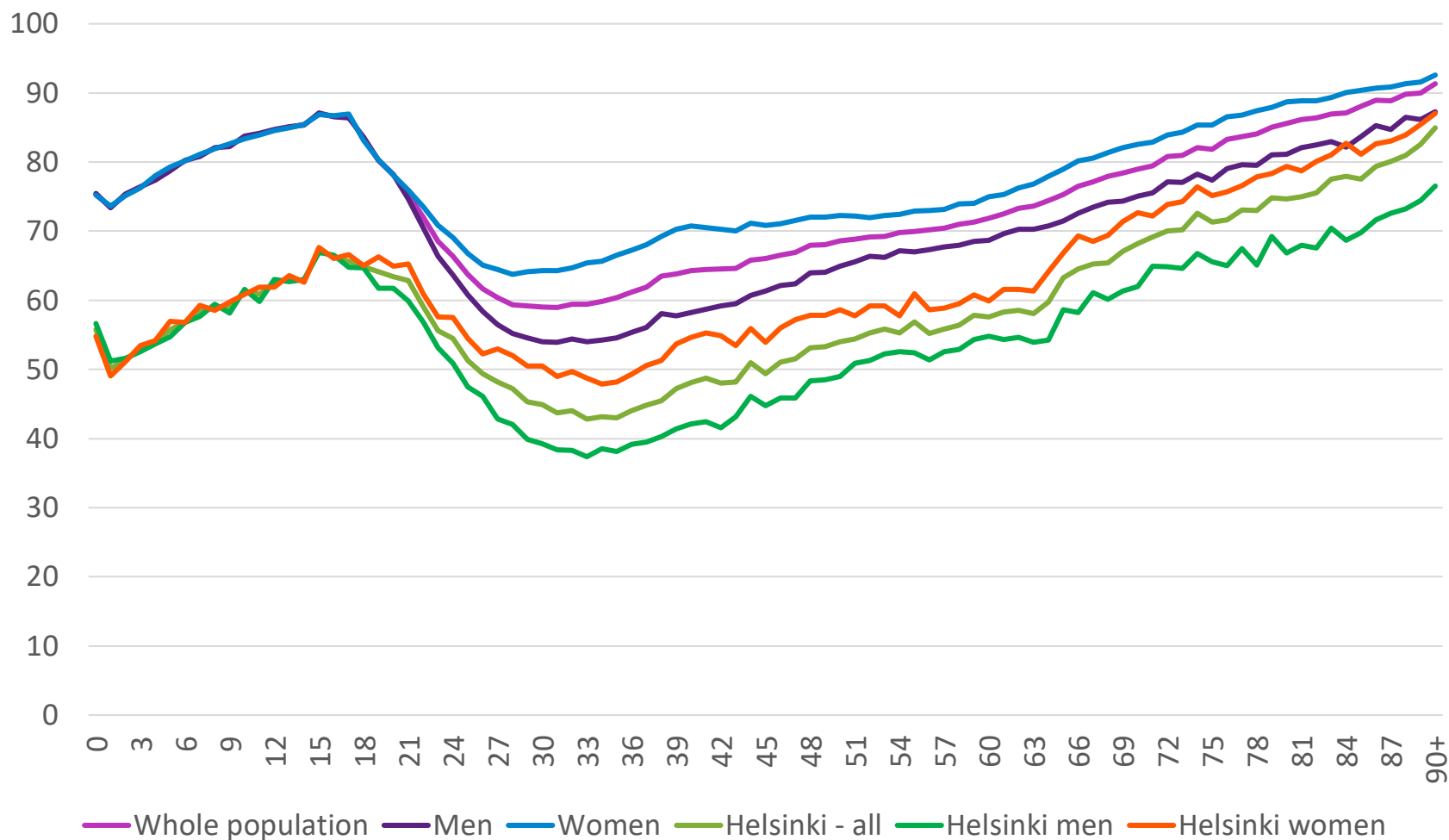
| Year | Evangelical<br>Lutheran<br>Church | Orthodox<br>Church | Registered<br>religious<br>communities | Non-affiliated |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1920 | 98,1                              | 1,6                | 0,3                                    | 0,0            |
| 1930 | 96,3                              | 1,9                | 0,3                                    | 1,5            |
| 1940 | 95,9                              | 1,8                | 0,3                                    | 2,0            |
| 1950 | 95,1                              | 1,7                | 0,4                                    | 2,7            |
| 1960 | 92,4                              | 1,4                | 0,6                                    | 5,5            |
| 1970 | 92,4                              | 1,3                | 0,6                                    | 5,2            |
| 1980 | 90,3                              | 1,1                | 0,7                                    | 7,8            |
| 1990 | 87,9                              | 1,1                | 0,8                                    | 10,2           |
| 2000 | 85,1                              | 1,1                | 1,1                                    | 12,7           |
| 2010 | 78,3                              | 1,1                | 1,4                                    | 19,2           |
| 2015 | 72,9                              | 1,1                | 1,6                                    | 24,3           |
| 2017 | 70,9                              | 1,0                | 1,7                                    | 26,3           |

# Joining and leaving the ELCF 1923-2015

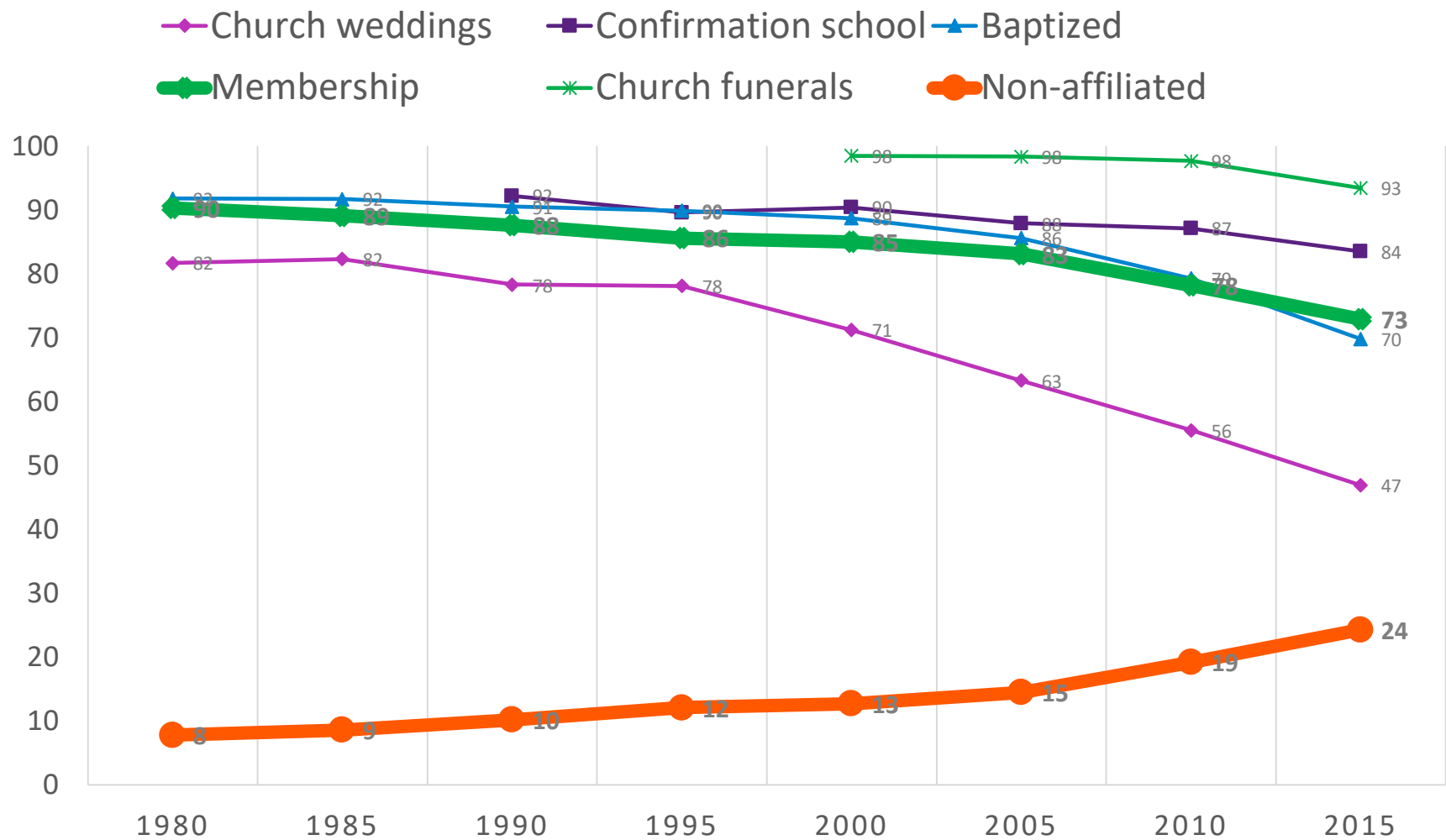
## Anschliessen und verliessen



# The shares (%) of men and women belonging to ELCF<sup>+</sup> by age, 2015. Total population and Helsinki.



# The shares of Church membership and Church rites, 1980–2015



# Herausforderungen

- Mitgliedschaft (Prozent, Beteiligung, Ökonomie, Altersgliederung, Geographie...)
  - Taufe und Taufpaten unterstützen; Gottesdienst
- Kirche und Religion in der Öffentlichkeit
  - Zusammenarbeit mit Schulen, Kindergarten, Krankenhäuser
  - Religionsunterricht in die Schulen
- Homosexualität und kirchliche Trauung (standesamtliche Trauung möglich seit einige Jahren)
- Die Zentralverwaltung vermindern, auch die Zahl der Angestellten
  - Zusammenarbeit Zentralverwaltung-Diözese-Gemeinde



# Development of membership in Christian Churches, 2000–2017 (Source: Statistics Finland)

|                                | 2000             | %              | 2017           | %              | Change %     |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Evangelical Lutheran Church    | 4 409 576        | 85,1 %         | 3911260        | 70,9 %         | -11 %        |
| Orthodox Churches              | 56 807           | 1,1 %          | 61441          | 1,1 %          | 8 %          |
| Evangelical Free Church        | 13 429           | 0,3 %          | 15397          | 0,3 %          | 15 %         |
| Catholic Church                | 7 227            | 0,1 %          | 14034          | 0,3 %          | 94 %         |
| Pentecostal Churches           | 20               | 0,0 %          | 9936           | 0,2 %          | *            |
| Seventh-Day Adventist Churches | 4 316            | 0,1 %          | 3362           | 0,1 %          | -22 %        |
| Baptist Churches               | 2 436            | 0,0 %          | 2505           | 0,0 %          | 3 %          |
| Methodist Churches             | 1 260            | 0,0 %          | 1434           | 0,0 %          | 14 %         |
| Other Lutheran Churches        | 1 033            | 0,0 %          | 927            | 0,0 %          | -10 %        |
| Other Christian                | 28               | 0,0 %          | 991            | 0,0 %          | 3439 %       |
| Anglican Church                | 95               | 0,0 %          | 173            | 0,0 %          | 82 %         |
| <b>TOTAL CHRISTIANS</b>        | <b>4 496 227</b> | <b>86,8 %</b>  | <b>4021460</b> | <b>72,9 %</b>  | <b>-11 %</b> |
| <b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>        | <b>5 181 115</b> | <b>100,0 %</b> | <b>5513130</b> | <b>100,0 %</b> | <b>6 %</b>   |

\* Finnish Pentecostal Church was registered only in 2003, hence the rapid change in membership statistics.



# Development of membership in other religions, 2000–2016 (Source: Statistics Finland)

|                         | 2000             | %               | 2016             | %               | Change %     |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ISLAM*                  | 1 201            | 0,02 %          | 14 141           | 0,26 %          | 1179 %       |
| JUDAISM                 | 1 157            | 0,02 %          | 1 110            | 0,02 %          | -6 %         |
| BUDDHISM*               | 26               | 0,00 %          | 1 036            | 0,02 %          | 6877 %       |
| HINDUISM*               | 37               | 0,00 %          | 345              | 0,01 %          | 854 %        |
| INDIGENOUS AND NEOPAGAN | -                | 0,00 %          | 42               | 0,00 %          |              |
| OTHER RELIGIONS         | 22 488           | 0,43 %          | 22 454           | 0,41 %          | -1 %         |
| Bahá'í                  | 469              | 0,01 %          | 667              | 0,01 %          | 40 %         |
| Jehovah's Witnesses     | 18 492           | 0,36 %          | 17 979           | 0,33 %          | -4 %         |
| LDS-Churches            | 3 307            | 0,06 %          | 3 235            | 0,06 %          | 0 %          |
| Other                   | 220              | 0,00 %          | 573              | 0,01 %          | 175 %        |
| <b>TOTAL OTHER</b>      | <b>24 909</b>    | <b>0,48 %</b>   | <b>39 128</b>    | <b>0,71 %</b>   | <b>154 %</b> |
| <b>NON-AFFILIATED</b>   | <b>659 979</b>   | <b>12,74 %</b>  | <b>1 394 933</b> | <b>25,35 %</b>  | <b>120 %</b> |
| <b>TOTAL POPULATION</b> | <b>5 181 115</b> | <b>100,00 %</b> | <b>5 503 297</b> | <b>100,00 %</b> | <b>6 %</b>   |

\* The figure includes only registered members, total amount of people with immigrant background from Muslim countries is estimated to be c. 70,000 (1,3 %); from Buddhist countries c. 25,000 (0,5 %) and Hindus from India and Nepal c. 7,000 (0,1 %).

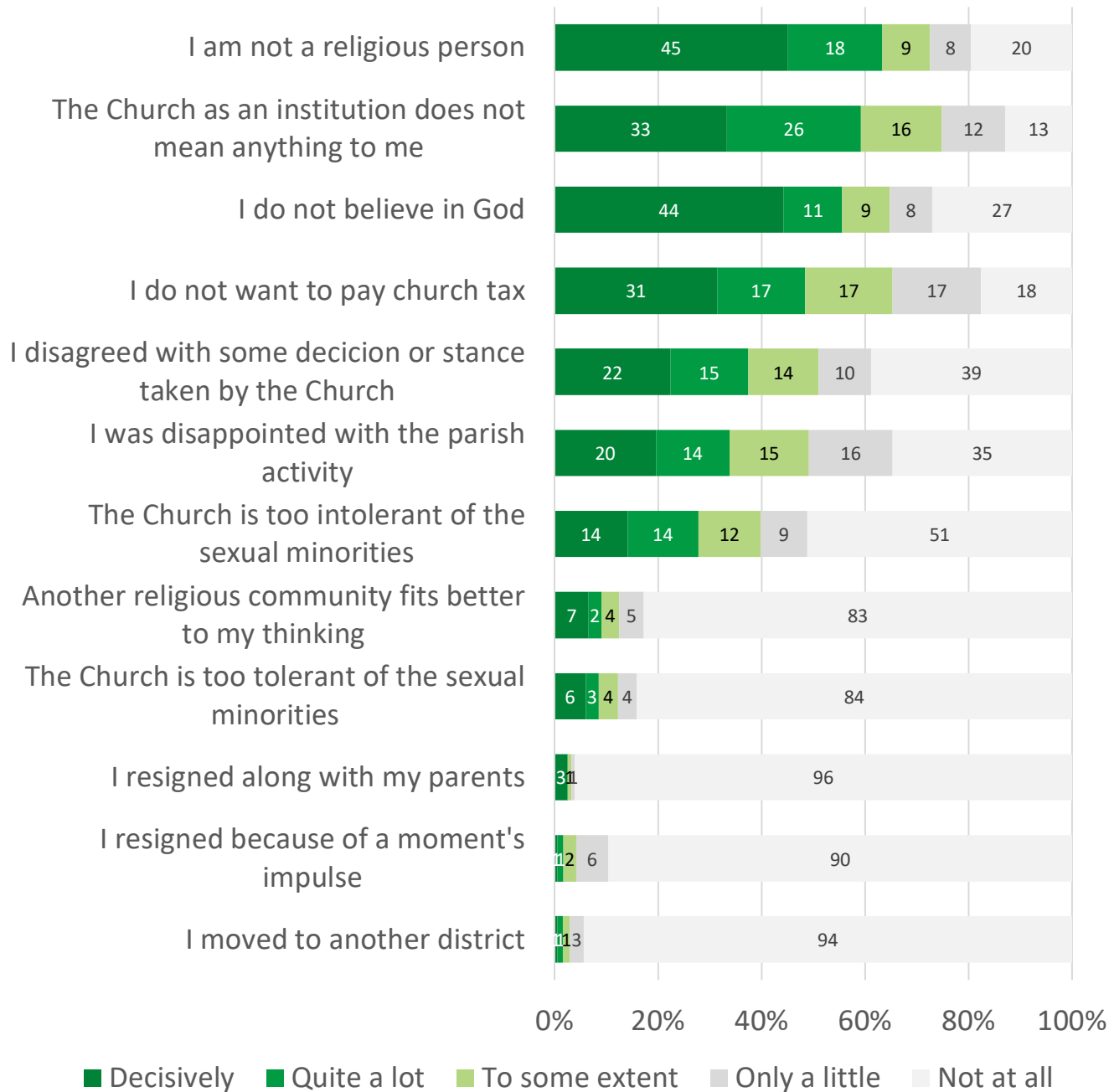


# Survey data on Finns' religiosity



# Gallup Ecclesiastica 2015 Survey

- Commissioned by the Church Research Institute
- Data collected 23.10.—2.11.2015
- Web-based data collection (CAWI) of panel consisting of more than 50,000 Finnish members, representative of Finnish population of the ages 15—79. Invitation was sent to 19,119 members.
- N=4,194 (response rate 21,9 %)
- Weighted so as to be representative of Finnish population of the ages 15—79 in terms of age, sex, area of living, and church membership.

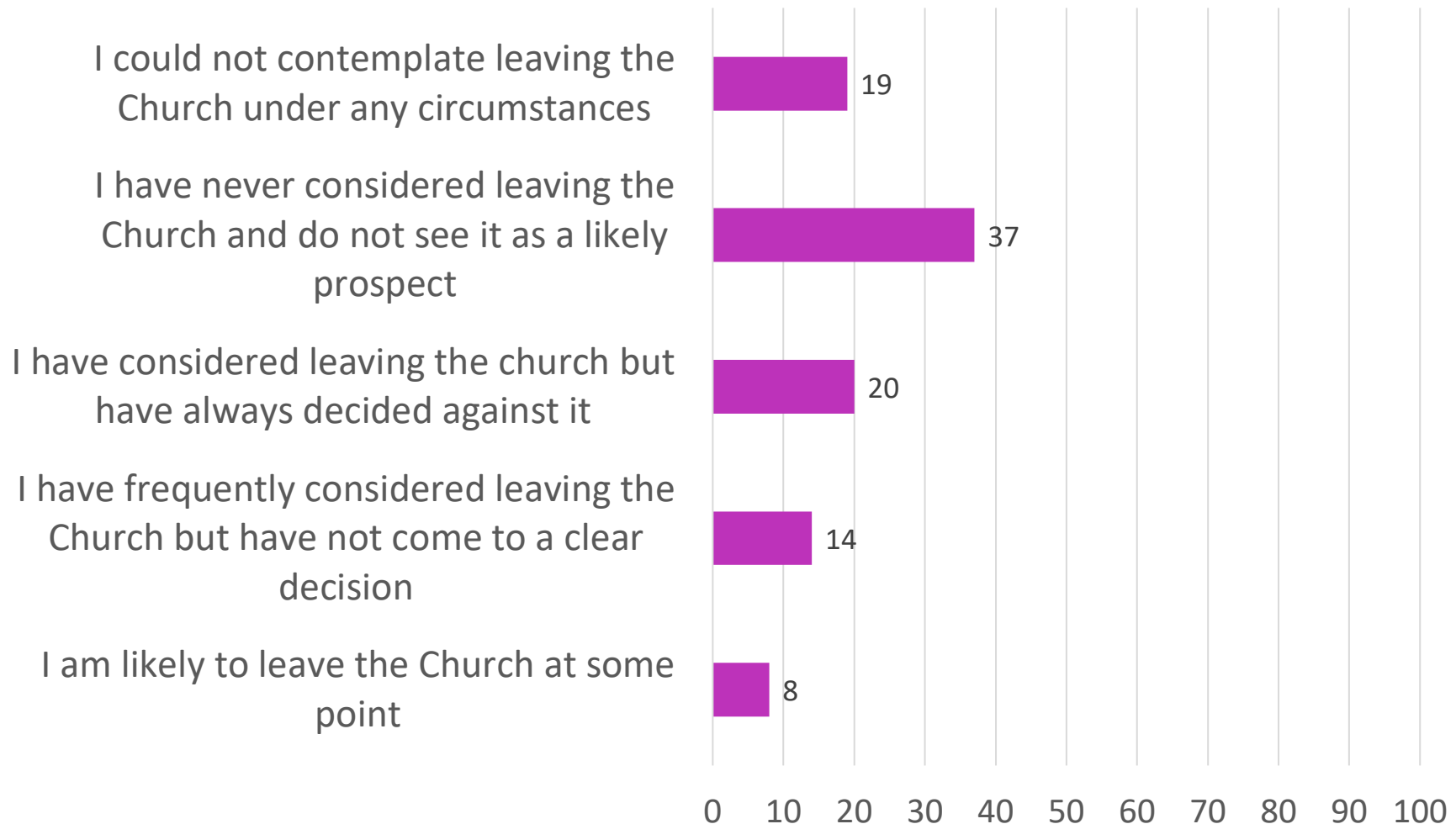


The importance  
of different  
reasons for  
resigning from  
the Church.  
Gallup  
Ecclesiastica  
2015. N=934.

# The attitudes of members of the ELCF to the idea of leaving the Church. Gallup Ecclesiastica 2015.



N=3,155.



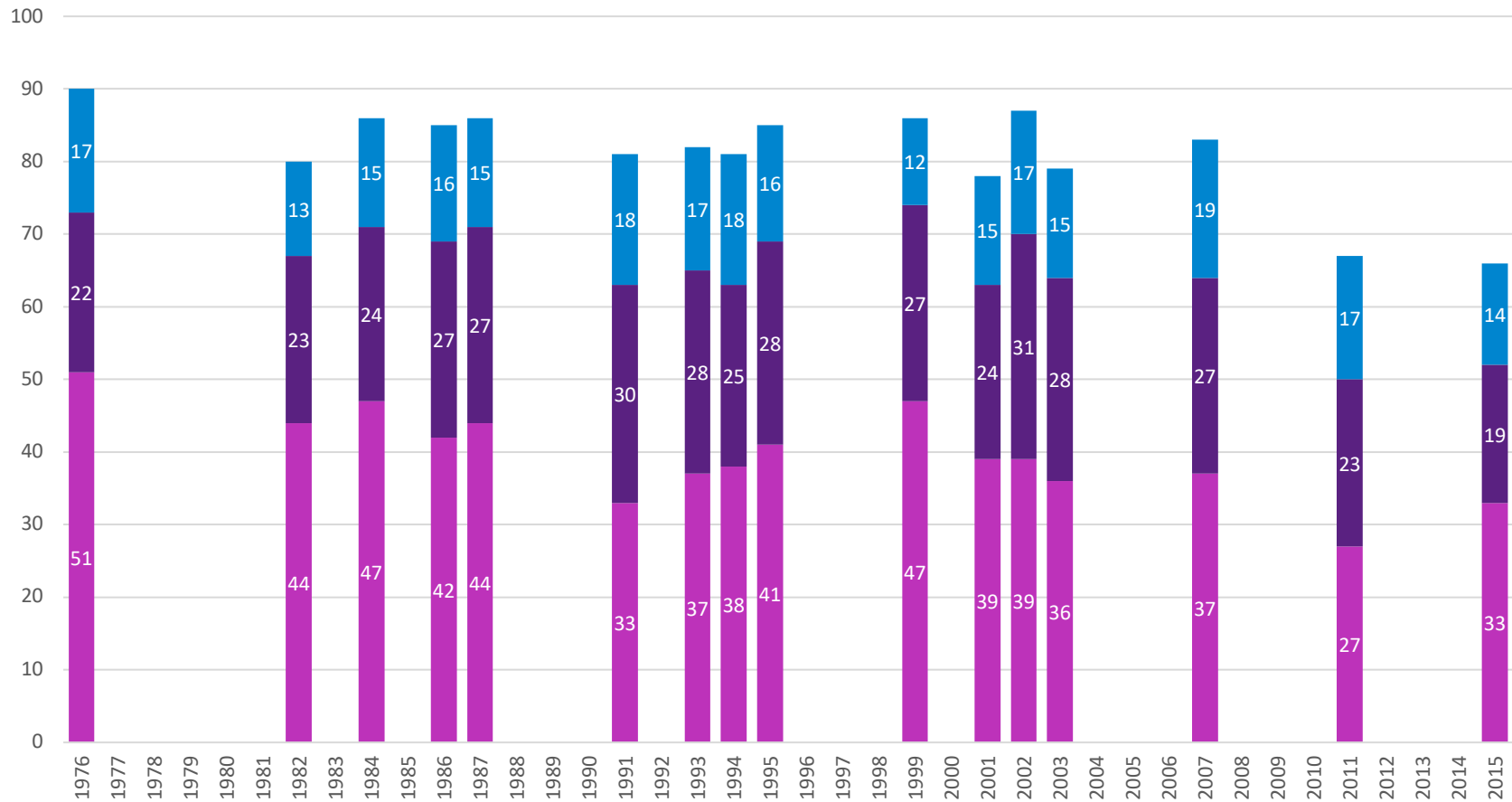


# Summary

- Even when numerous demographic, religious and values are controlled for, age remains significant predictor of likelihood of leaving the Church.
  - At young age, it is easy to see the possibility of leaving the Church, especially against the background of media attention to increasing resignations.
  - In general, the questions of worldview are significant factors in one's relationship to Church.
  - The importance of conservative religiosity has also gained in significance in recent years.



# Belief in God among the Finns, 1976-2015

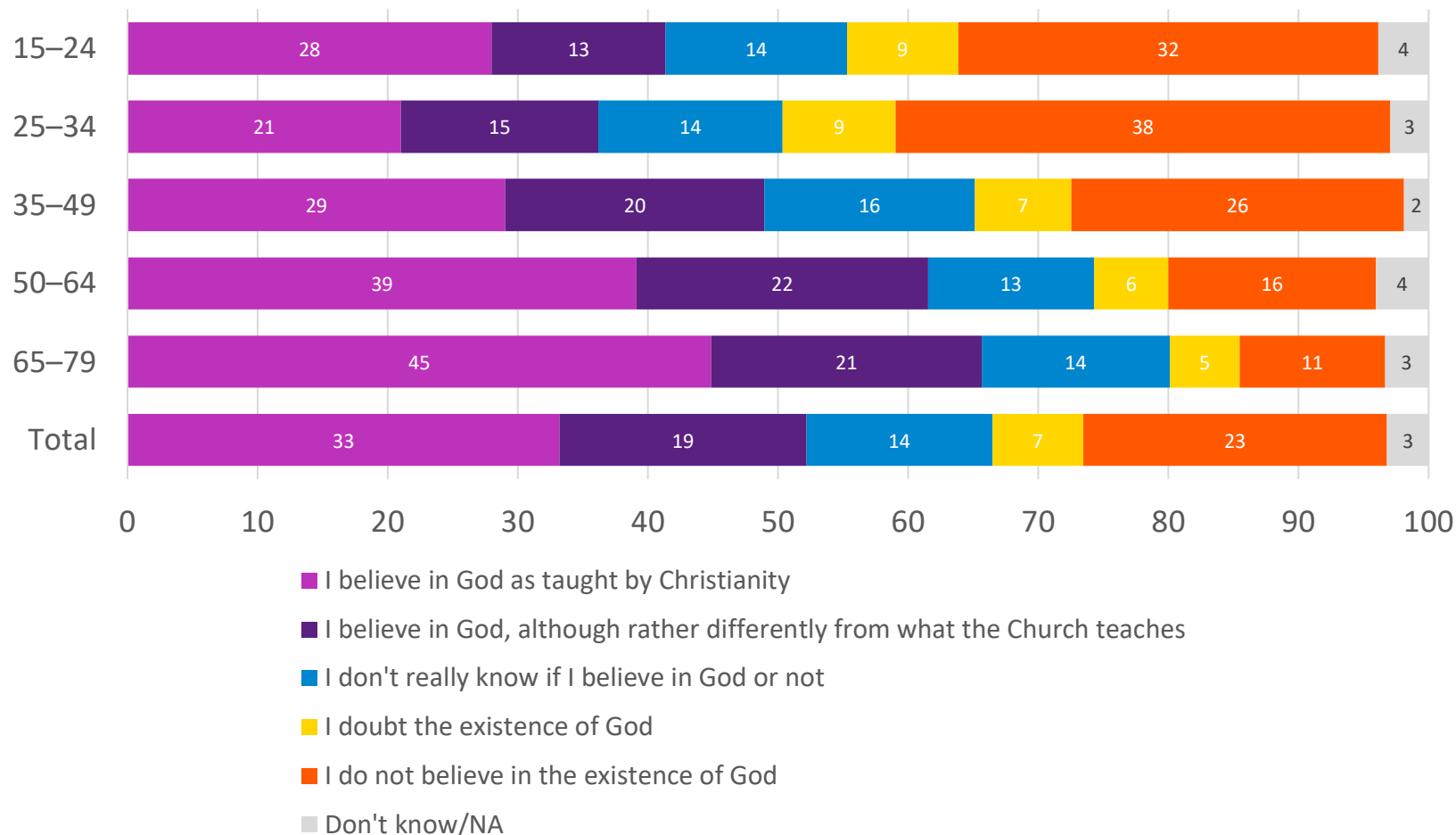


■ I don't really know if I believe in God or not

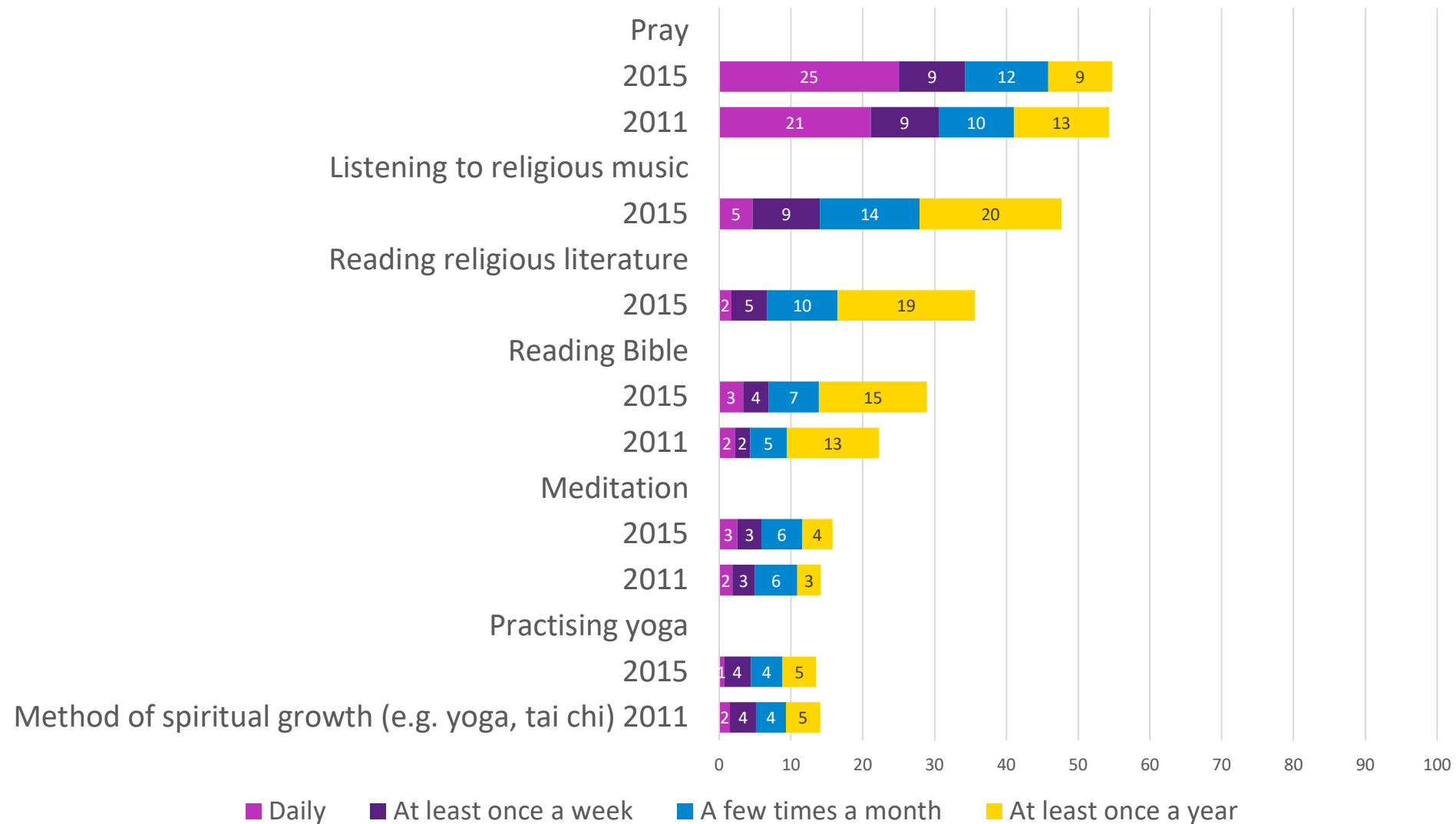
■ I believe in God, although rather differently from what the Church teaches

■ I believe in God as taught by Christianity

# The Finns' belief in God in different age groups. GE 2015.



# Private religious or spiritual practice of the Finns, 2011 and 2015



# Who agrees with statements representing alternative spirituality?



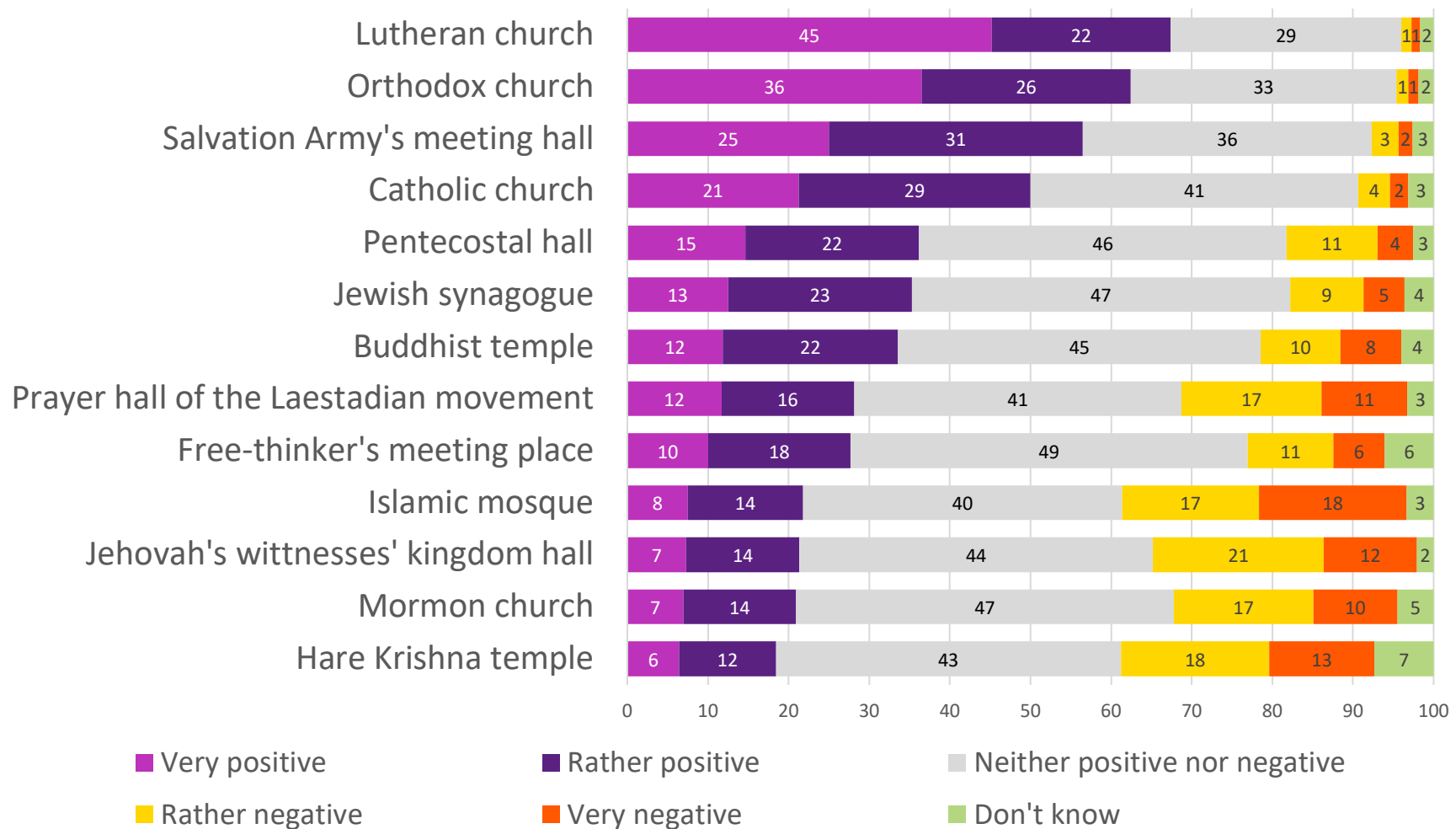
## Factors increasing likelihood

- Π Female sex
- Π Basic or middle-level education
- Π Lower income
- Π Unemployment
- Π No religious affiliation
- Π Christian beliefs

## Factors decreasing likelihood

- Male sex
- Higher education
- Middle or higher income
- Conservative religiosity
- Participation in religious services

# The Finns' attitudes toward buildings of various religions and worldviews in their neighbourhoods (Gallup Ecclesiastica 2015, N=4275)



# What explains the attitudes toward mosques?

## Factors increasing positivity

- Π Higher education
- Π Membership in revivalist movement
- Π Lutheran values
- Π Spiritual values
- Π Participation in voluntary associations

## Factors increasing negativity

- Born in the 1960s and 1970s
- Unemployment
- No religious affiliation
- Higher frequency of prayer
- Conservative religiosity
- Traditionalist values (marriage)
- National pride
- Social dominance orientation



Thank you!