

2023 Israel Hamas War Sentiment Survey

Findings from a poll of Americans – General Public and Jewish

October 29-November 1

Methodology

What Did We Do

American adults told us how they're feeling and what they need in this moment of war

- Text-based survey
- October 29th–November 1st
- Jewish and non-Jewish
- Across the country
- Diverse community sizes
- All ages and stages

Survey Methodology

- Goal: Understand the sentiment and needs of American Adults, Jewish and non-Jewish, so that Federations & partners can better serve their local communities.
- JFNA Conducted a national survey in the US October 29th-November 1st
- SMS text-based study fielded by Benenson Strategy Group
- Random sample US Adults and Jewish Americans using Civis Analytics data set
- Sample stratified by the estimated number of Jews within 5 miles of a Zip Code to analyze differences by local Jewish population size and Civis' prediction of how likely someone was to be Jewish
- Responses Weighted to Represent American Jewish Adults & the general adult population
- Jewish Adults: 2199
- Total Respondents: 3777

Local Feelings

78% of Jews

say their local Jewish community is doing a good job addressing the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

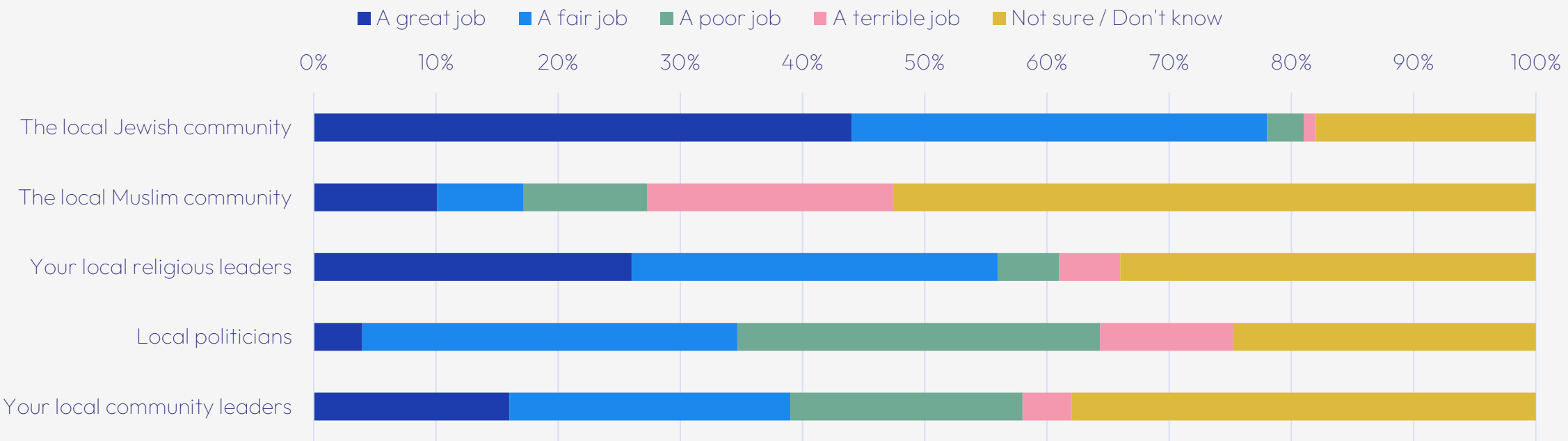
30% of the American public agree

For both, the Jewish community gets the highest approval rating of 5 groups tested including local politicians, community leaders and religious leaders.

Perception of Leadership Response: Jewish

Jewish respondents report their local Jewish community is doing a good job responding to the war. They feel more negatively about the job of local politicians and community.

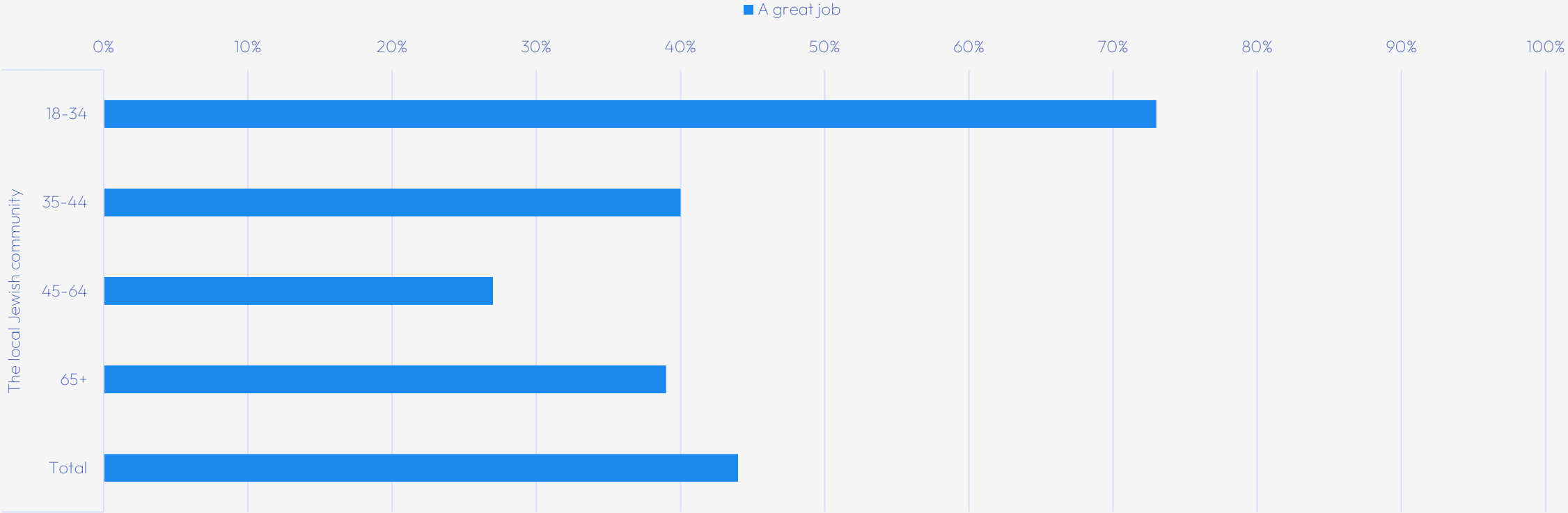
How well or poor of a job are the following doing in addressing the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas?



Perception of Leadership Response: Jewish

Younger Jews are more positive about the Jewish community's response than older Jews.

How well or poor of a job are the following doing in addressing the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas?
The local Jewish Community



Communication

People feel empathy for both Israelis and Palestinians, with greater empathy for Israelis

95% of Jewish Americans

80% of the general population

feel empathy for Israelis

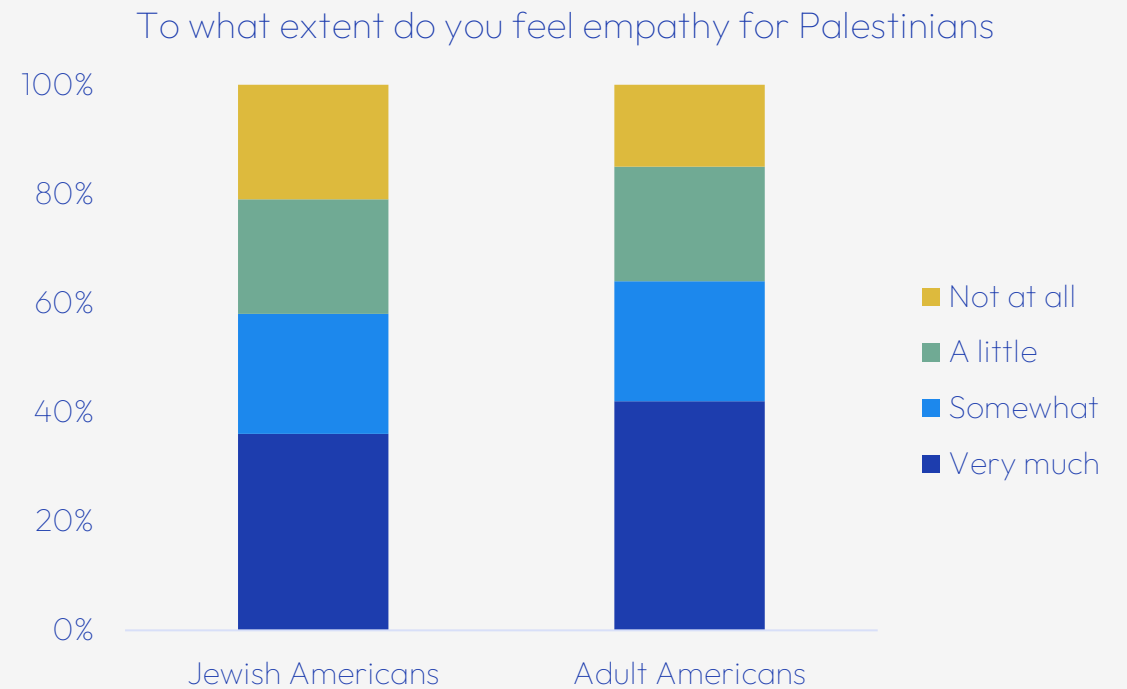
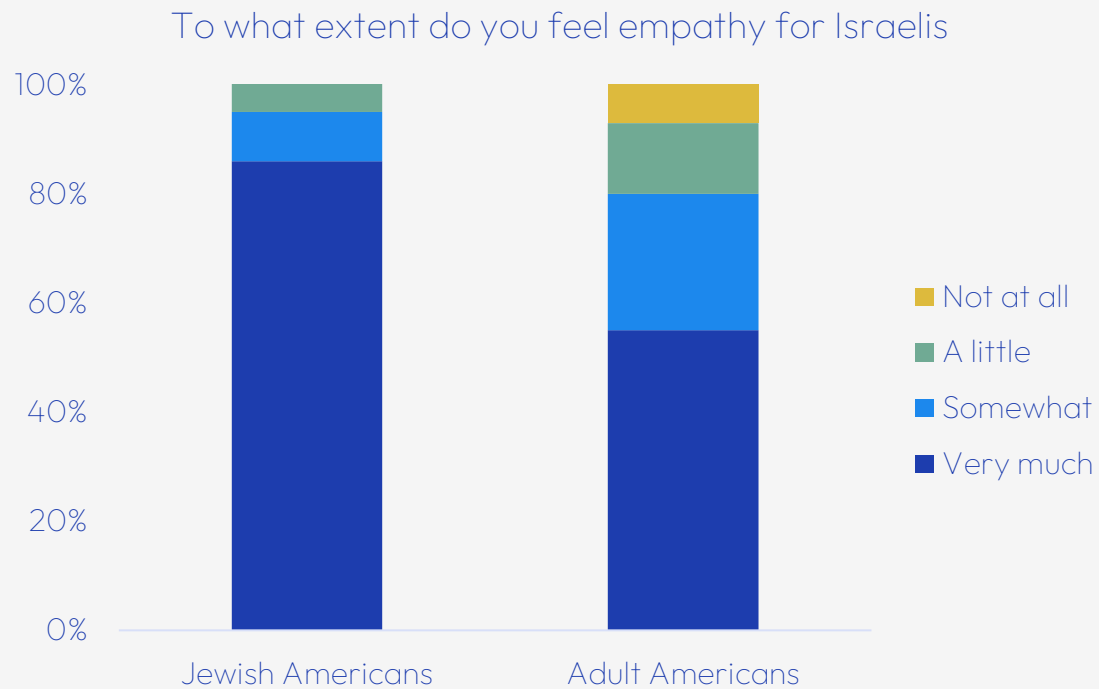
58% of Jewish Americans

64% of the general population

feel empathy for Palestinians

Where Does Empathy Lie?

People feel empathy for both Israelis and Palestinians, with greater amounts for Israelis from all Americans including Jews.



63% Jews & 59% Americans

Still believe a way can be found for Israel and an independent
Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other

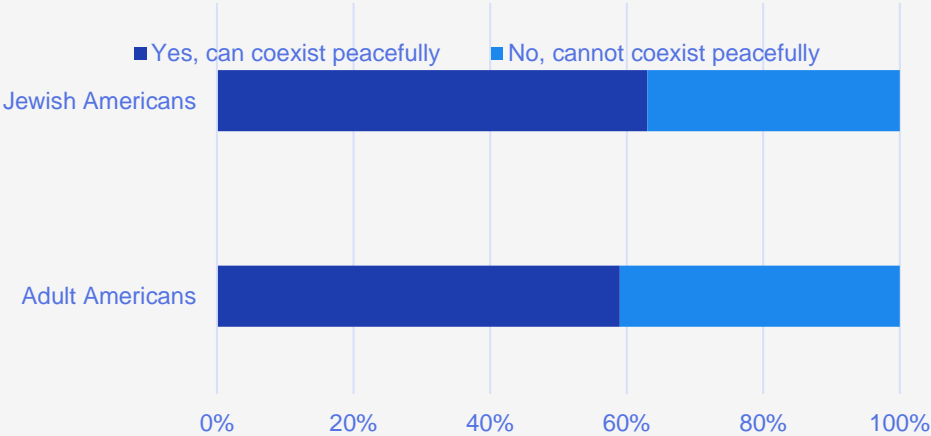
Those who DO NOT believe peace is possible, say Hamas is most to blame

50% Jews & 49% Americans

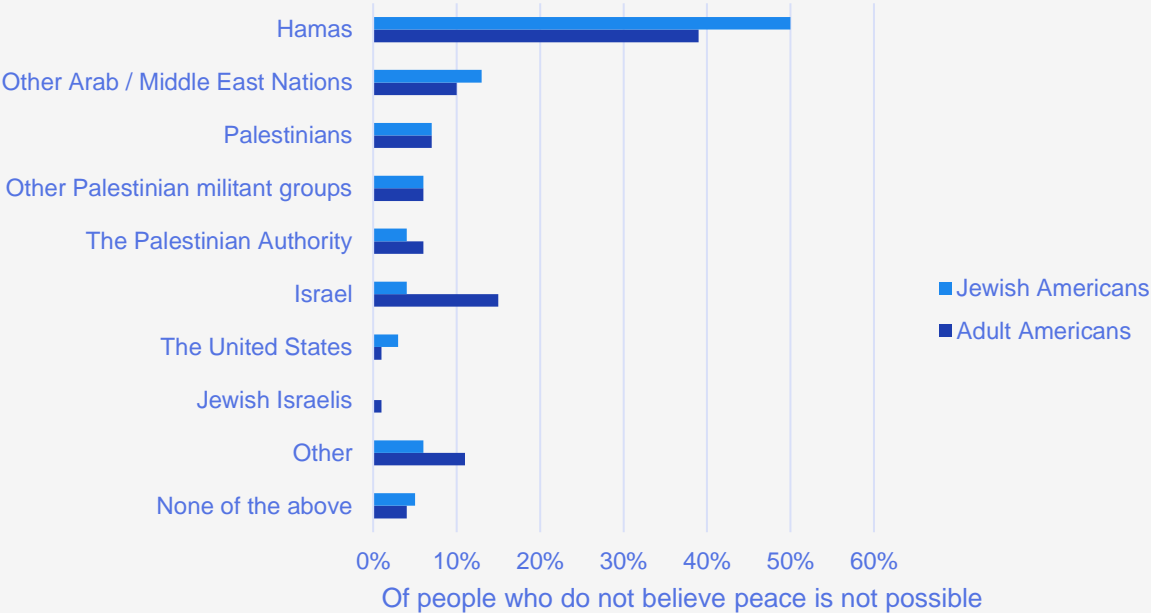
People Still Believe Peace is Possible

There has been no change since 2020 on more than half of Americans including Jews feeling that peace is possible.

In your opinion, do you think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other?



Which of the following do you think is most to blame for Israel and Palestine not being able to coexist peacefully?



87% Jews & 59% Americans

Feel it is important for the US Government to provide military aid for Israel.

Antisemitism & Security

70% of American Jews

feel less safe than they did a few months before

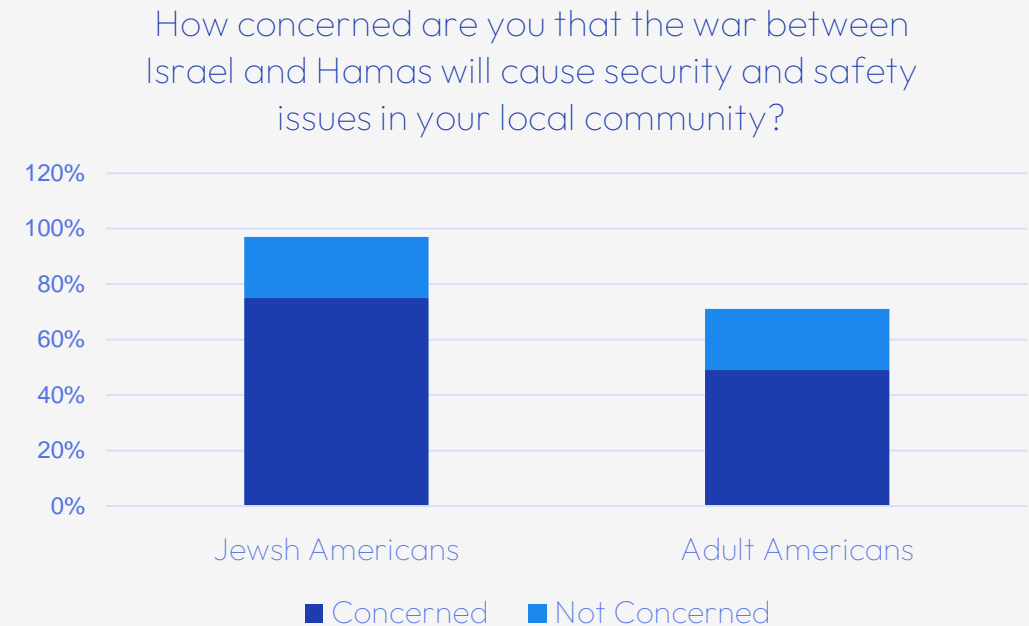
0% said they feel safer

Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

Jewish Americans are concerned that the war will cause security issues in their local communities.

75% of Jewish Americans are concerned that the war will affect their security.

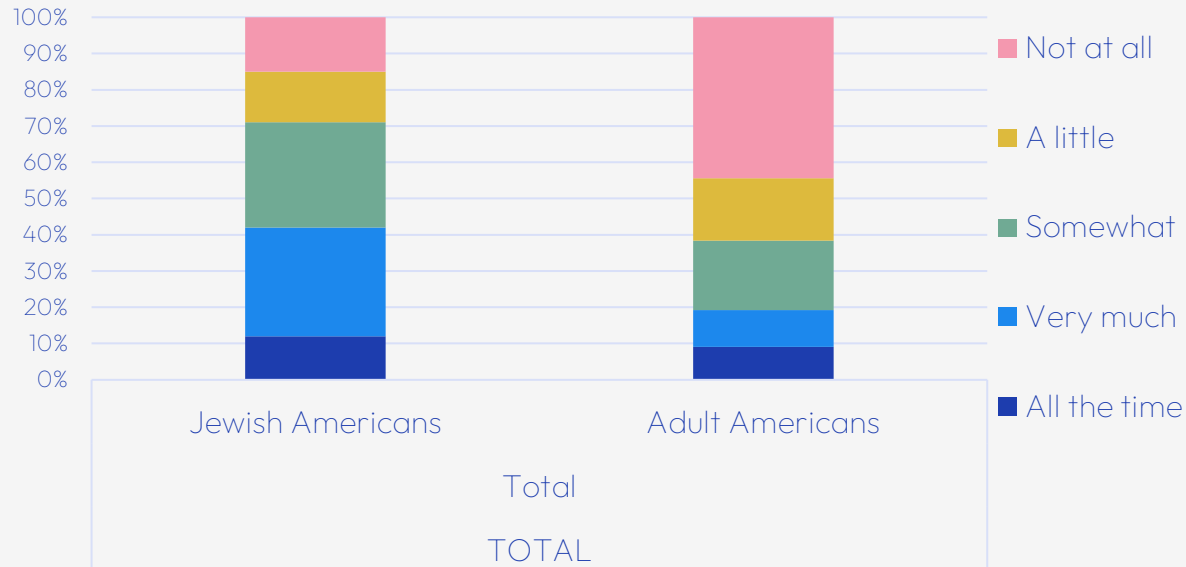
49% of the general public is likewise concerned.



Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

Jewish Americans are worried about their safety and see antisemitism rising in their local communities. All Americans also see rising levels of local antisemitism.

In the past month, how often have you been worried about your personal safety because of your race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or other defining personal characteristics?

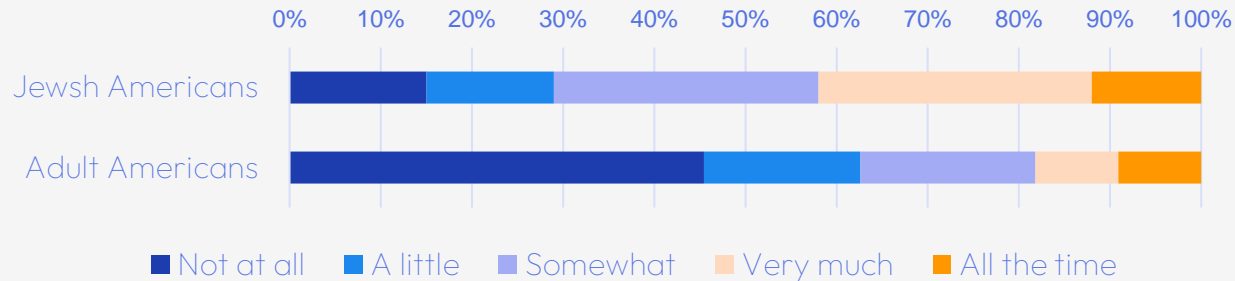


2x as many Jews worry very much about their personal safety compared to the general public.

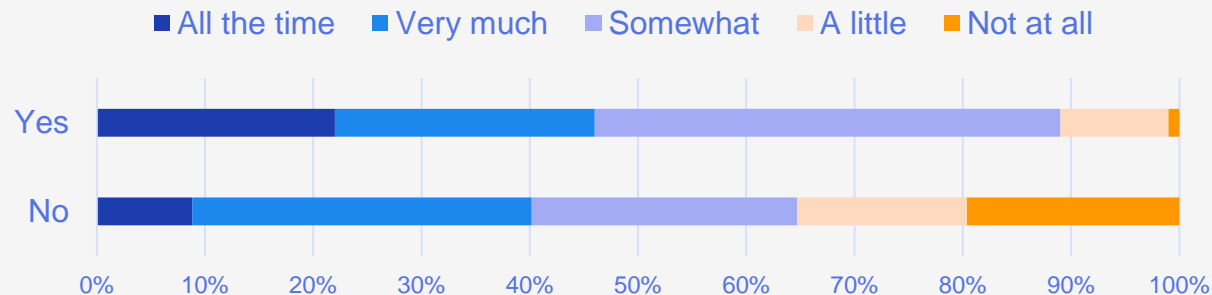
Wearing Distinctive Jewish Items

Jewish Americans are concerned for their personal safety, even more so when they are easily identified.

In the past month, how often have you been worried about your personal safety because of your race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or other defining personal characteristics?



If yes to wearing a Jewish symbol, are you more worried about your personal safety...?

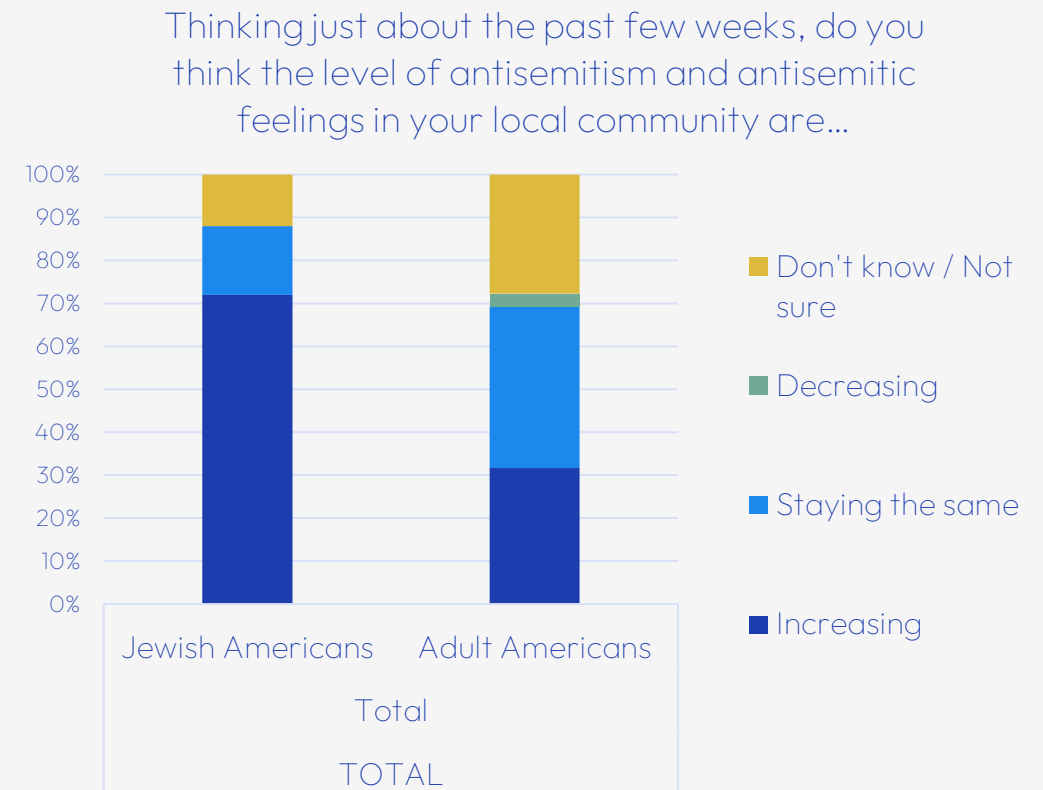


Jews who wore “distinctively Jewish” items were 2x as likely to report being concerned for their safety “all the time” as other Jews.

Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

Jewish Americans are worried about their safety and see antisemitism rising in their local communities. The broader population also sees rising levels of local antisemitism.

72% of Jews
32% of the General Population
believe levels of
antisemitism and
antisemitic feelings in their
local community are
increasing.

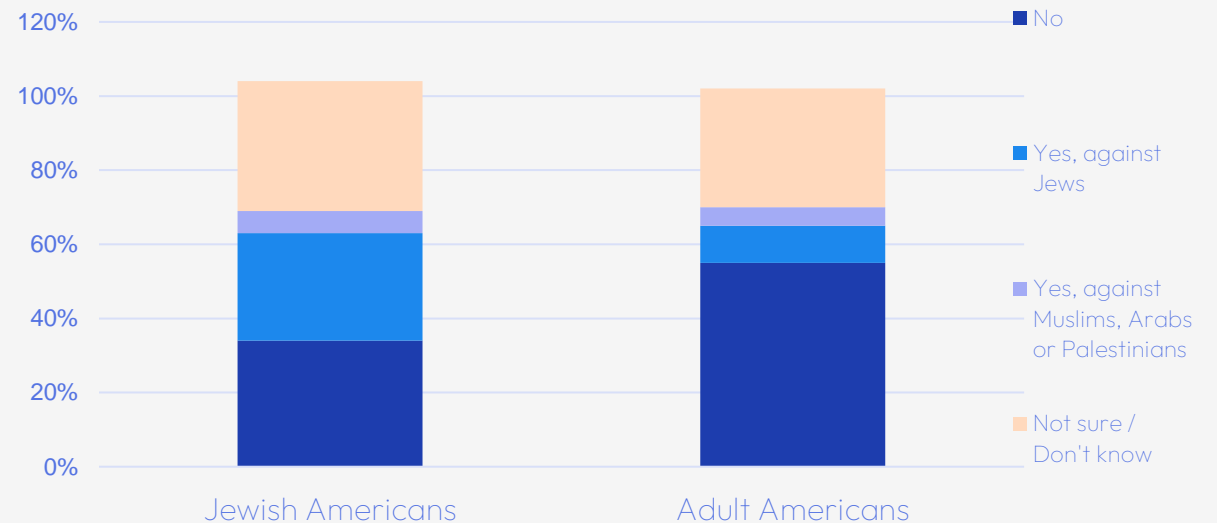


Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

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29% of Jews say their communities have experienced antisemitic hate or violence since the war.

Since the war between Israel and Hamas started, has there been any physical acts of violence or acts of hate related to parties to the conflict that you know occurred in your local community?



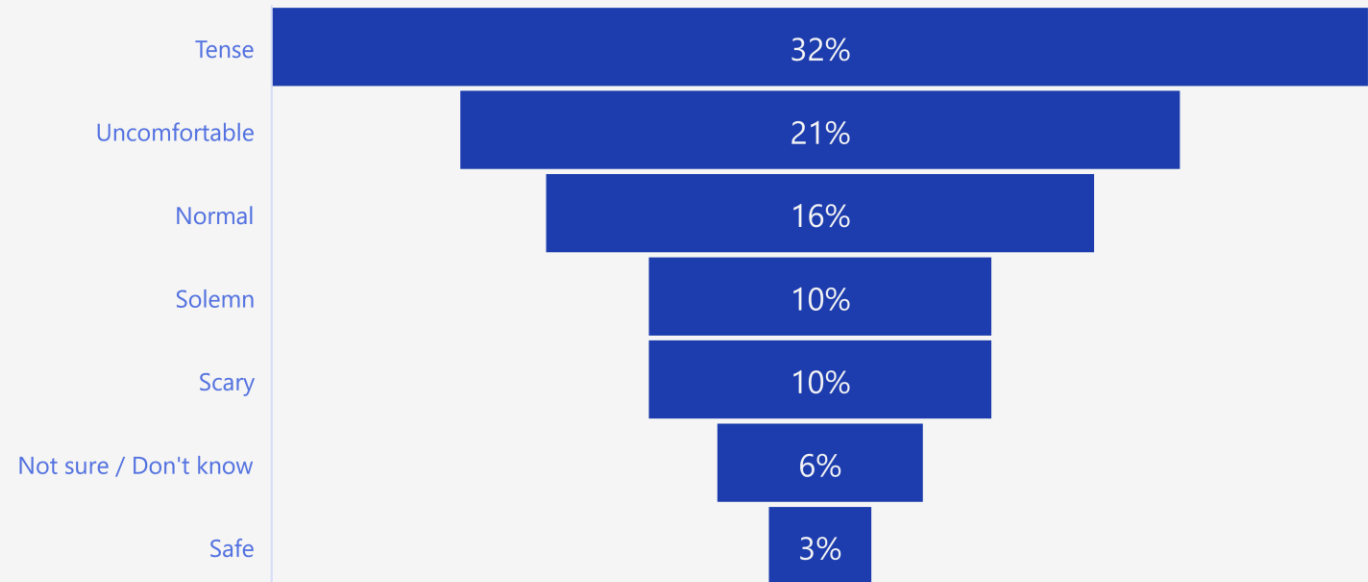
Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

Jewish adults are seeing rising tension in their local communities.

Jewish adults are feeling “tense” and “uncomfortable.”

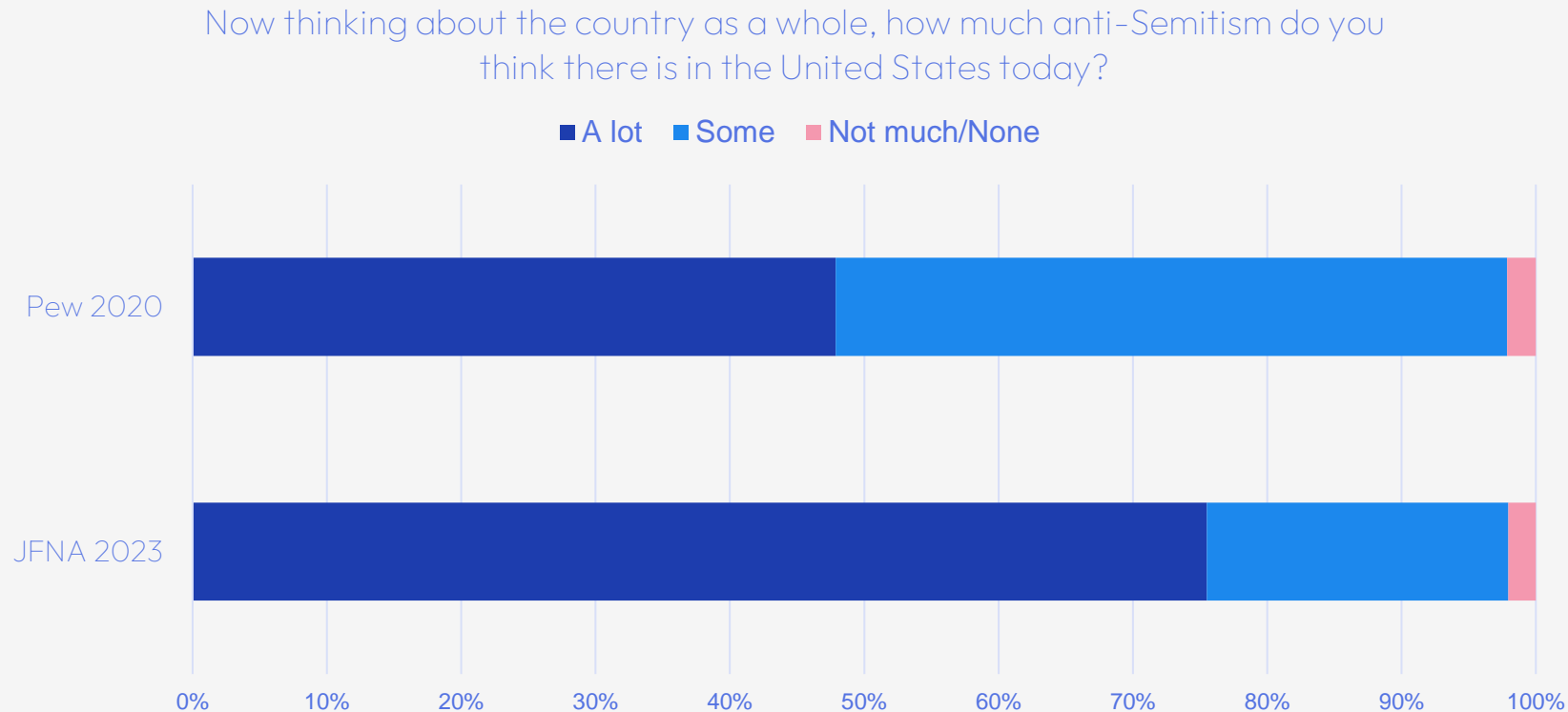
They are less than half as likely to describe the climate as “normal.”

How would you describe the climate, or how things feel for you personally, in your local community since the war between Israel and Hamas started?
The climate feels...



Antisemitism on the rise

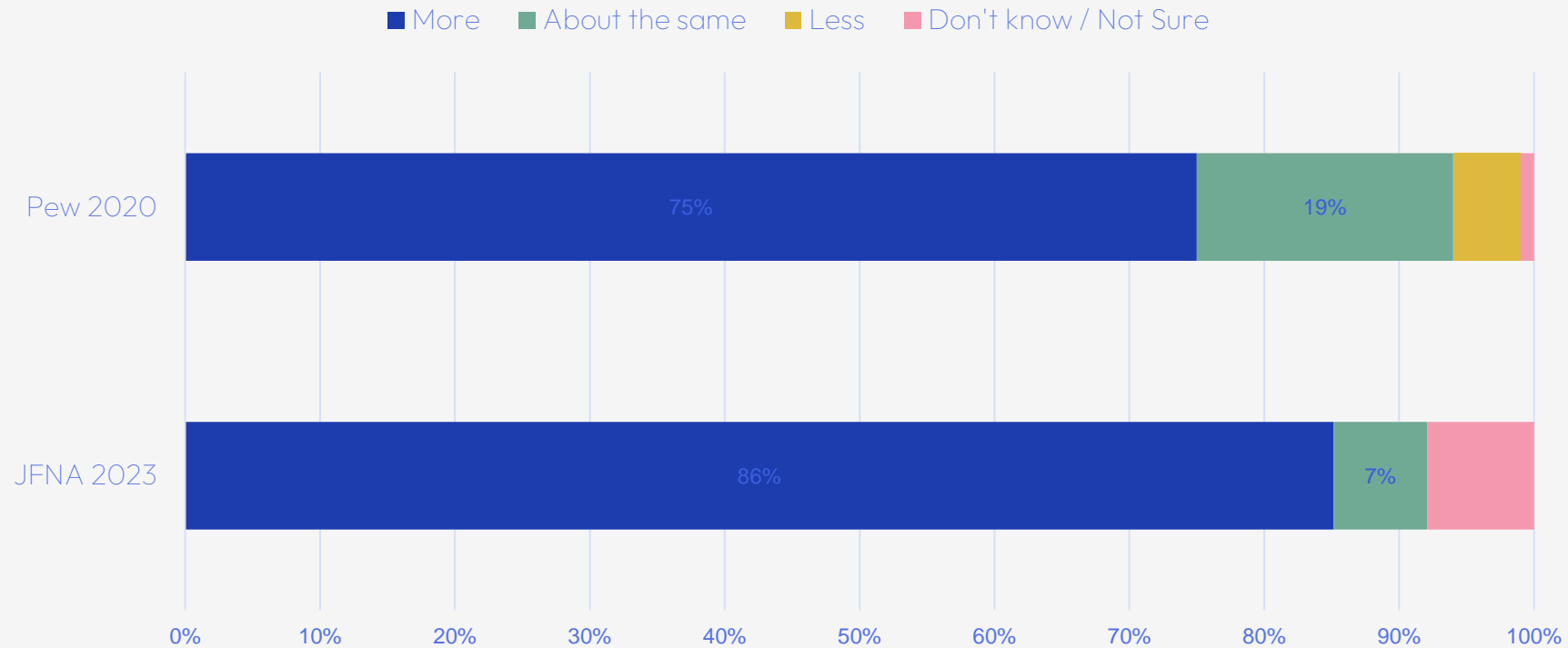
There has been a precipitous rise in Jewish Americans who believe that there is “a lot” of antisemitism, as opposed to “some.”



Antisemitism on the rise

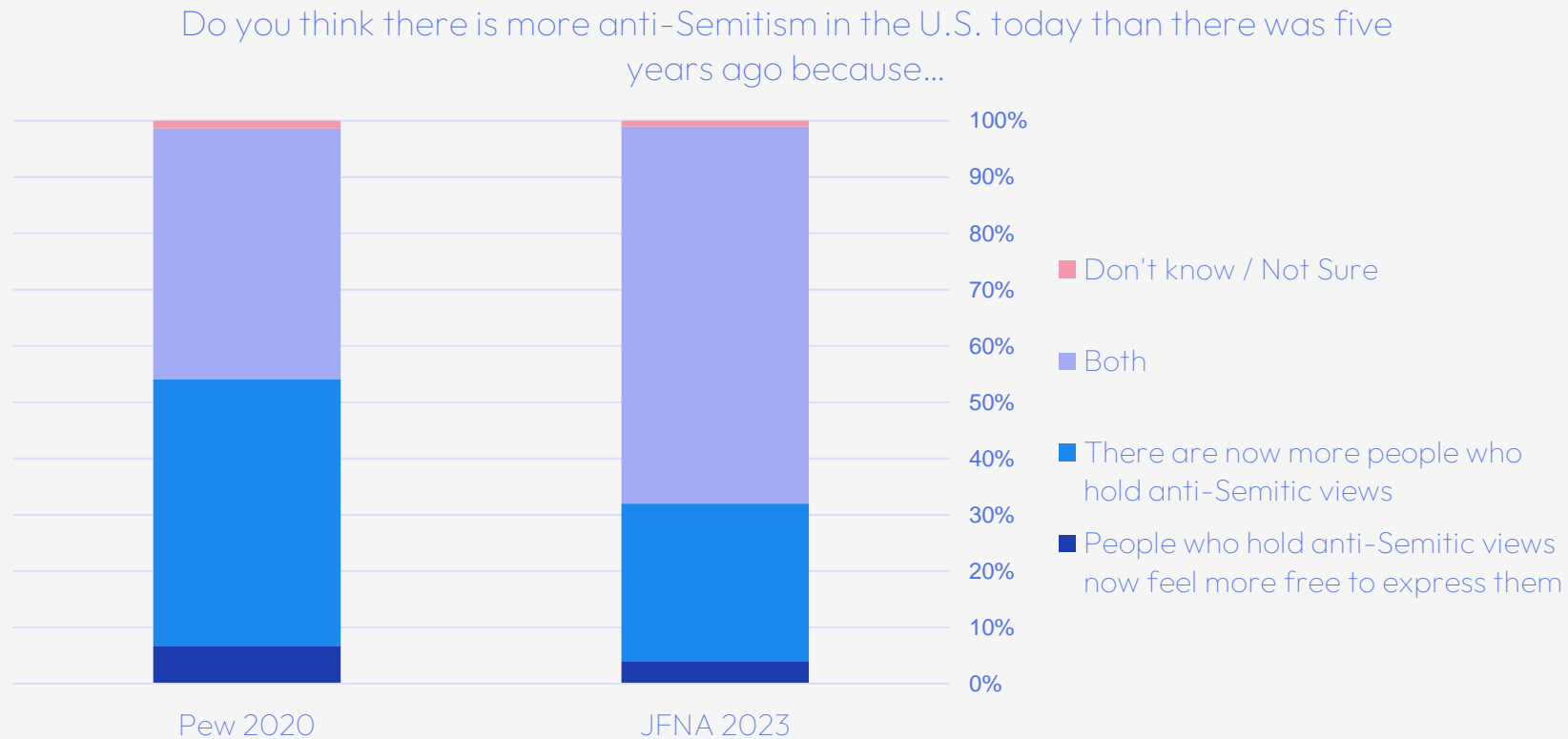
More Jewish Americans think that antisemitism has grown than in in the past.

And compared with five years ago, do you think there is ...



Antisemitism on the rise

Jewish Americans think that there are both more people who hold antisemitic views and that those people feel freer to express those views.



72% Jews & 32% Americans

Report an increasing levels of antisemitism and antisemitic feelings in their local community.

2x

As many Jews worry very much about their personal safety compared to the general public.

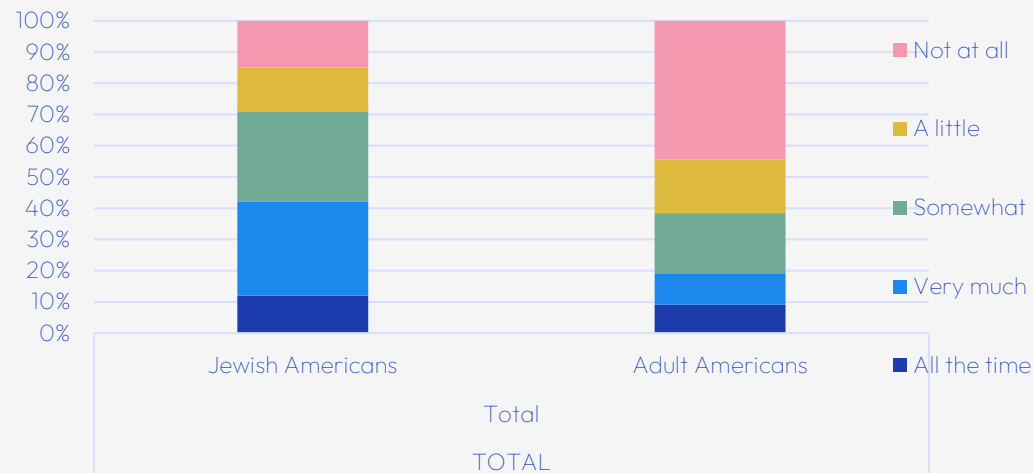
4x

Those who wear distinctive Jewish items are 4X more likely to feel unsafe than the general public

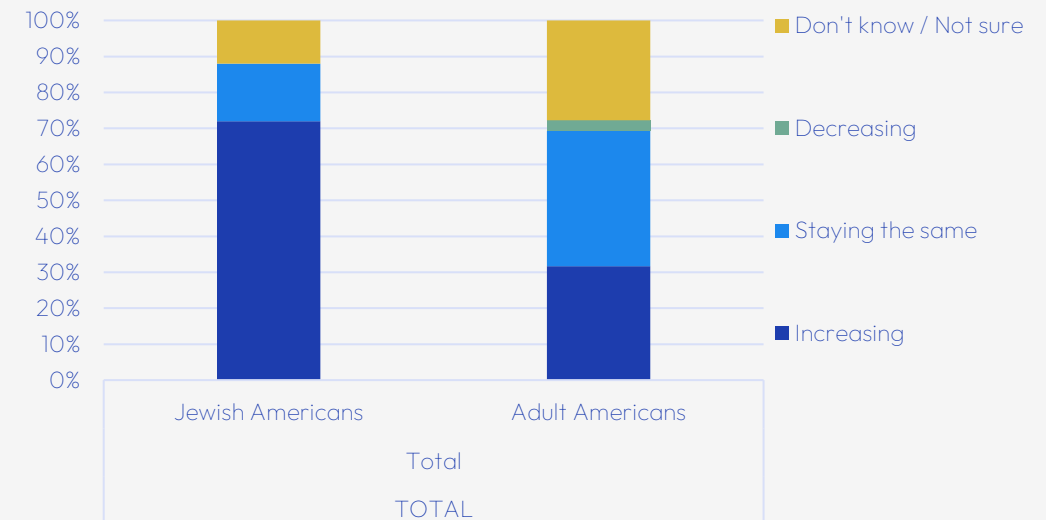
Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

Jewish Americans are worried about their safety and see antisemitism rising in their local communities. All Americans also see rising levels of local antisemitism.

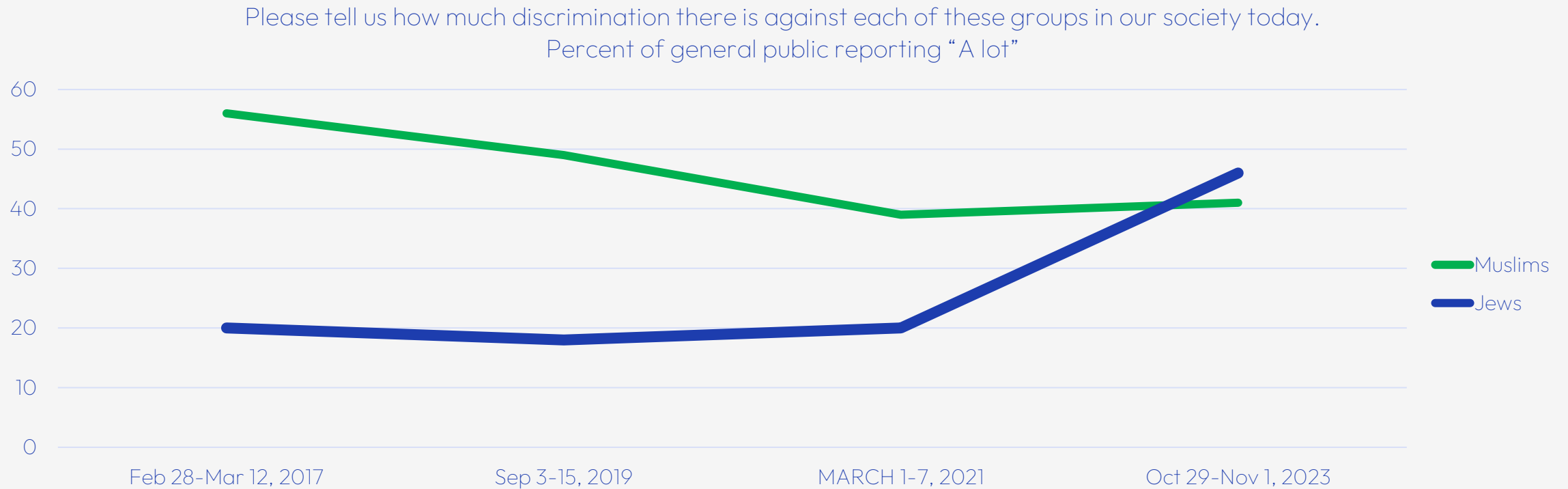
In the past month, how often have you been worried about your personal safety because of your race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or other defining personal characteristics?



Thinking just about the past few weeks, do you think the level of antisemitism and antisemitic feelings in your local community are...

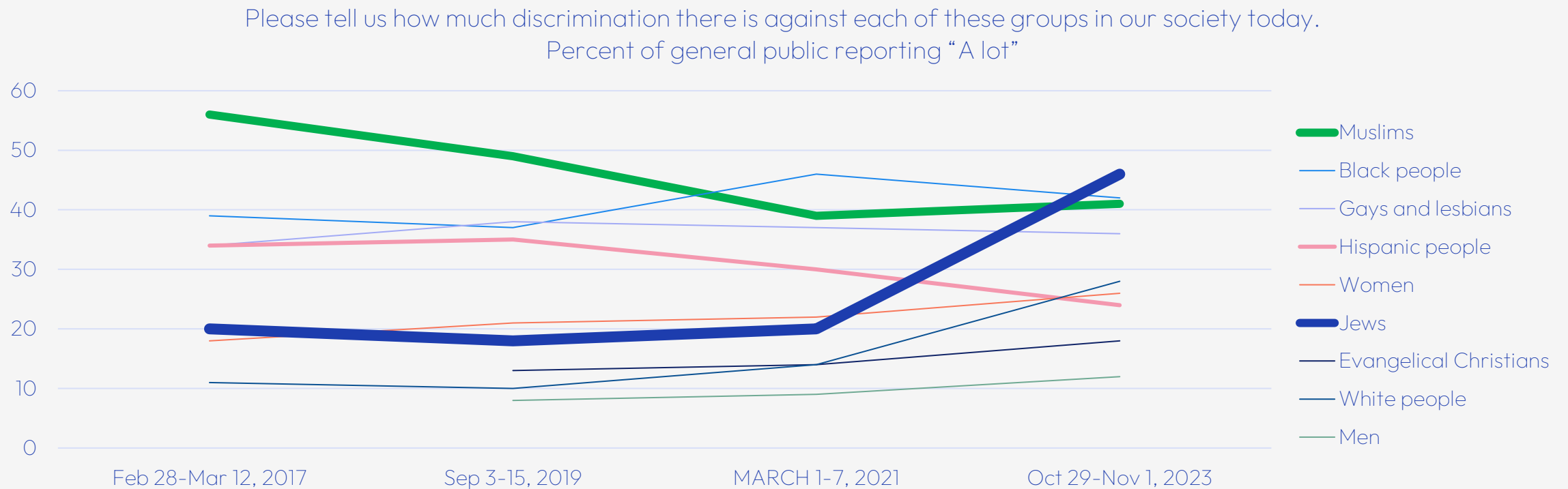


Americans have seen more than 2x growth in discrimination against Jews in the last 2 years



Perceptions of Discrimination

Over the past 18 months Americans have seen a significant increase in discrimination against Jews.

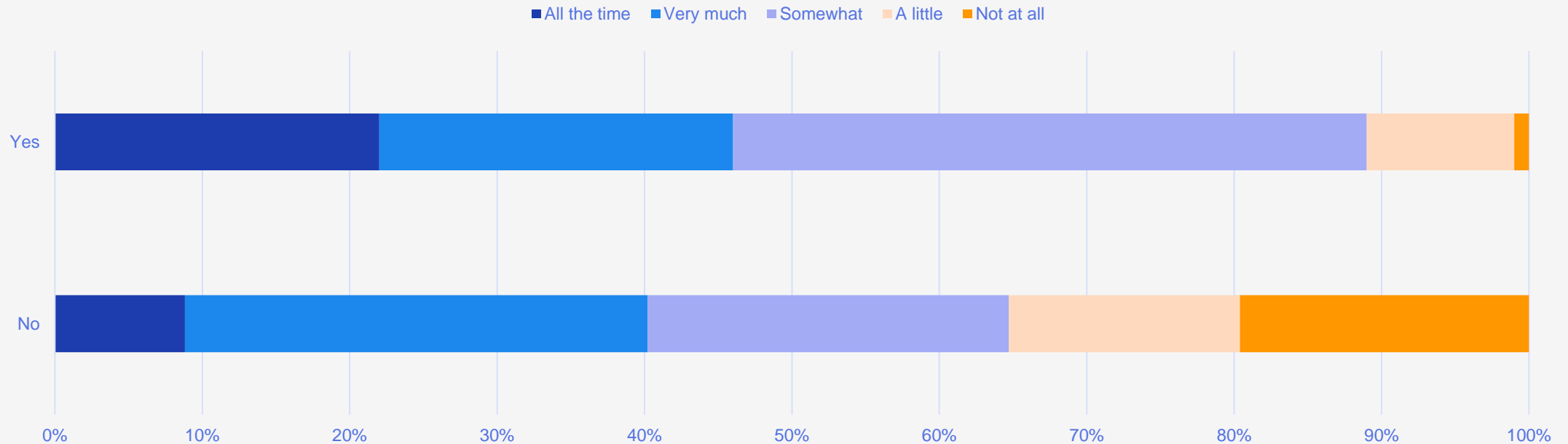


Source: 2017, 2019, 2021 - Pew Research Center

Wearing Distinctive Jewish Items

Community members who “wear something distinctively Jewish such as a kippa (yarmulke) or a chain or bracelet with a Star of David or chai symbol” are more than twice as likely to report always being concerned for their safety right now.

In the past month, how often have you been worried about your personal safety because of your race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or other defining personal characteristics?

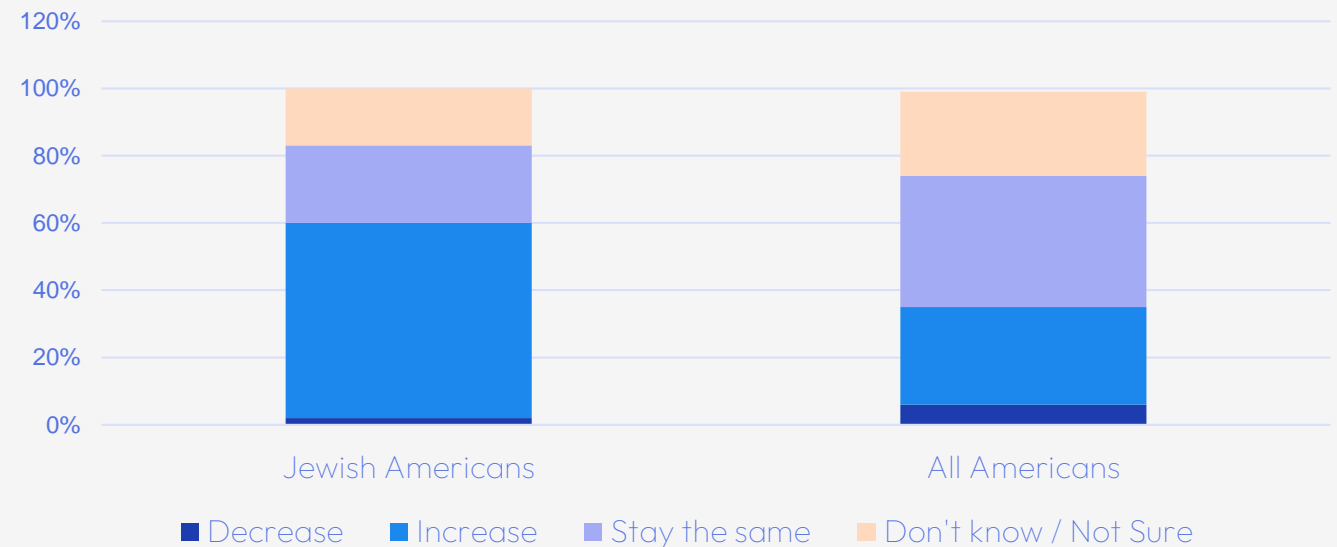


Local Antisemitism and safety concerns

Jewish Americans expect that antisemitism will continue to rise in their communities.

58% of Jews and
29% of the general
population believe
antisemitism will
continue to rise.

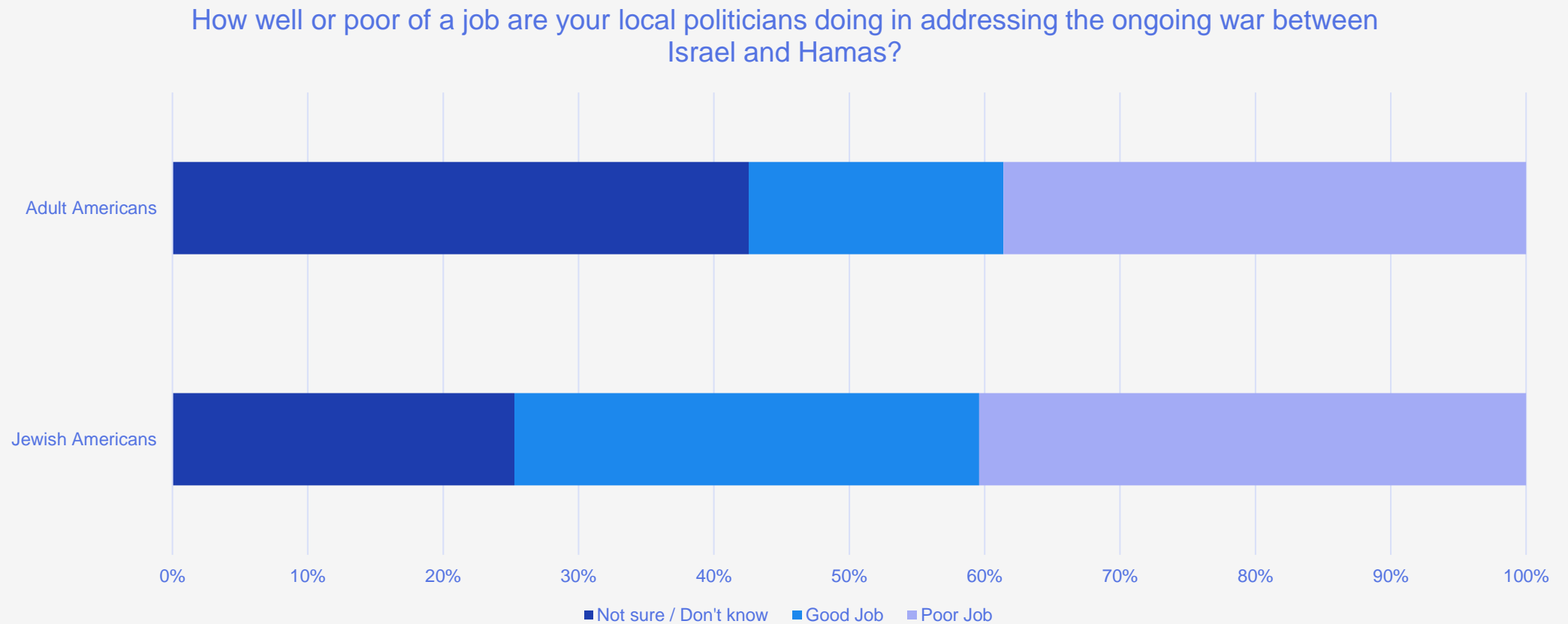
Looking ahead, do you feel the level of antisemitism and
antisemitic feelings in your local community will...



Political Perceptions

Perception of Political Leadership Response

The Jewish community is 79% more likely to say they feel their local politicians are doing a good job than the general community.



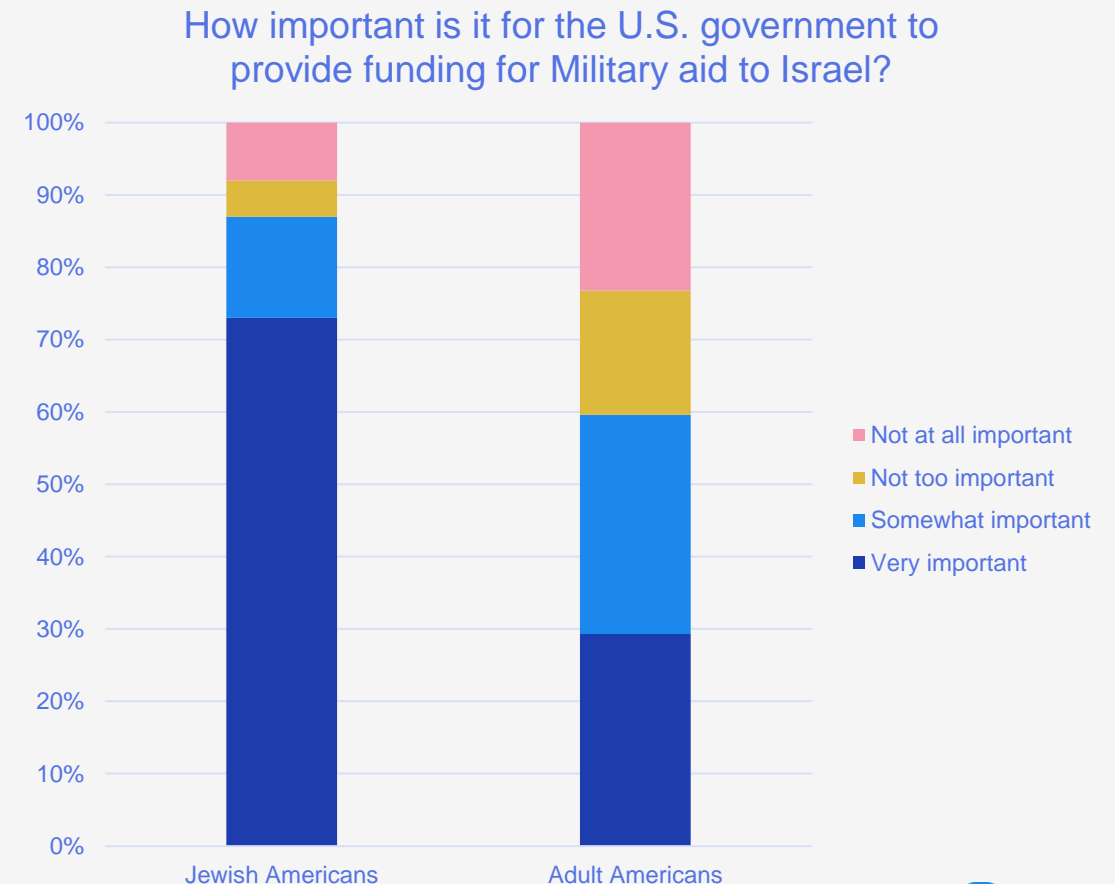
United States Military Aid

Most American Jews and a majority of the general population are in favor of US military aid to Israel.

87% of Jews

59% of the General Population

Feel it is important for the
US Government to provide
military aid for Israel.



Mental Health

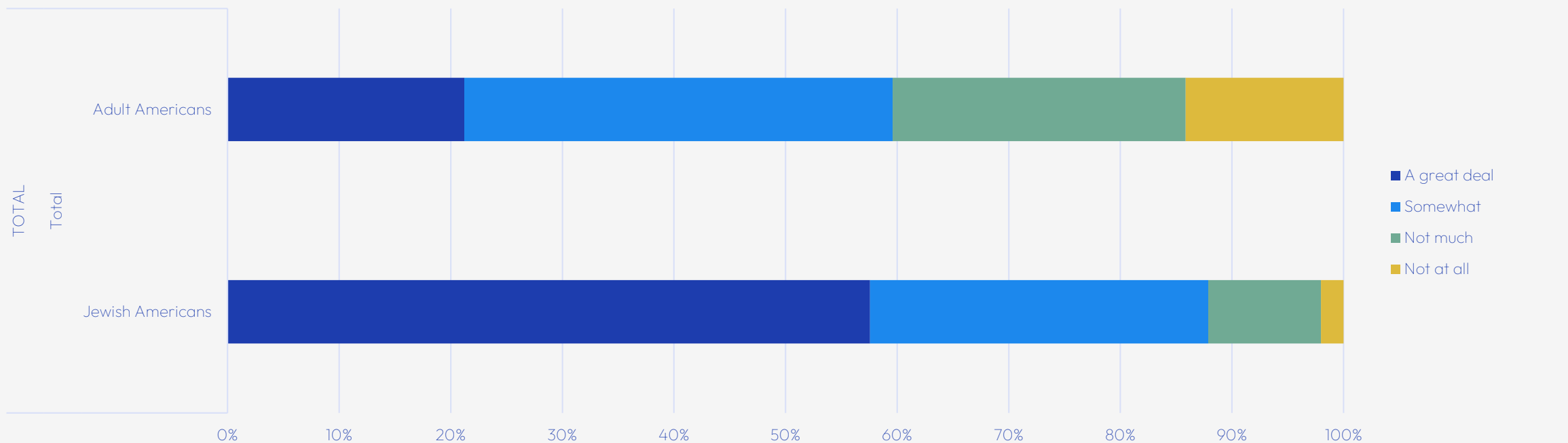
87% Jews & 59% Americans

Say that the news about the war is affecting them emotionally

The War is Taking an Emotional Toll

Nearly 90% of Jewish respondents report the war affecting them emotionally.

How much, if at all, is the news about the war between Israel and Hamas emotionally affecting you? Is it affecting you...



99%

Engaged Jews

76%

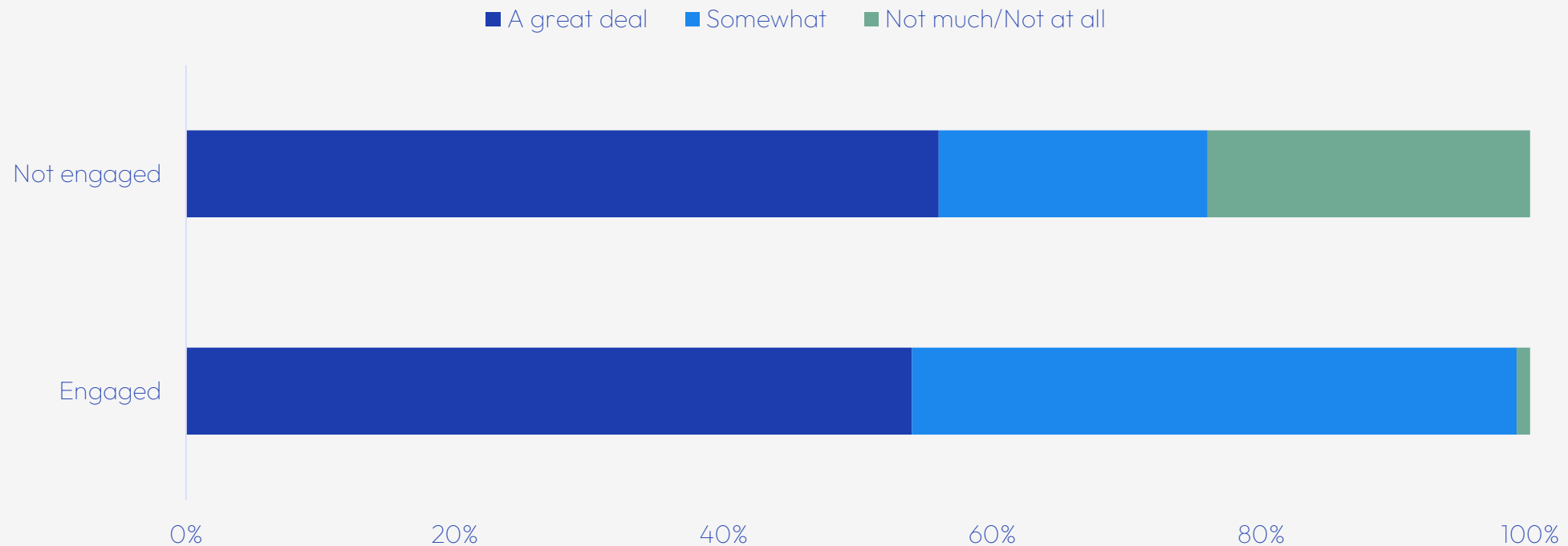
Not Engaged Jews

Are emotionally impacted by the Israel-Hamas War

Emotional Impact of War

Both engaged and non-engaged Jews are emotionally impacted by the war.

How much, if at all, is the news about the war between Israel and Hamas emotionally affecting you?

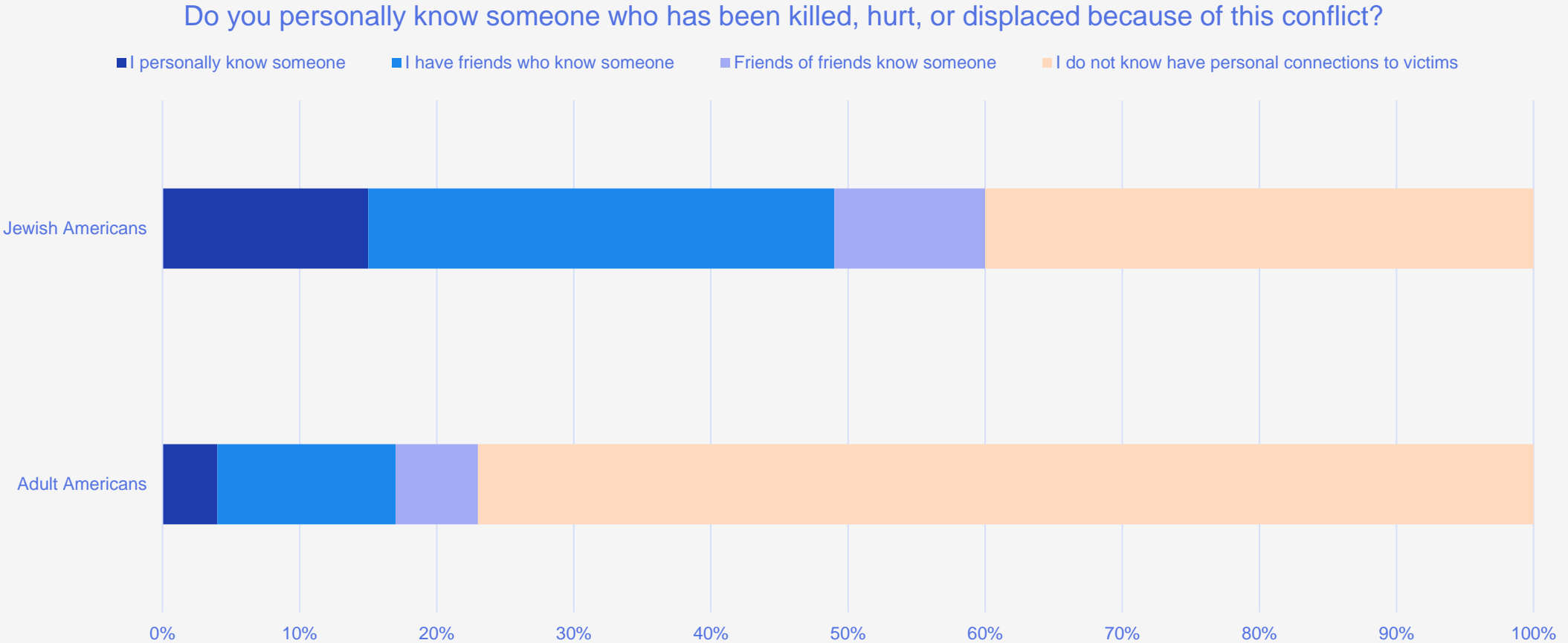


60% Jews

Are personally connected to someone killed, hurt, displaced or captured in this War.

Personal Connections to Israelis

60% of the Jewish community is personally connected to someone who has been hurt, killed or displaced



Philanthropy

\$603,000,000+

Raised to date through Federations to support
the Israel Crisis Fund

92% People who have donated

Indicate they will donate again in the next few months

29% Jewish people

indicate they have already donated to a Jewish cause since October 7th

58% those who have not donated
say they will in the next few months

37% who have never donated
say they will donate to support Israel in the next few months

Right now, donors want to give to the most immediate crisis needs in Israel over domestic needs or long-term Israel needs

68%

Emergency Medical

47%

Victims of Terror

15%

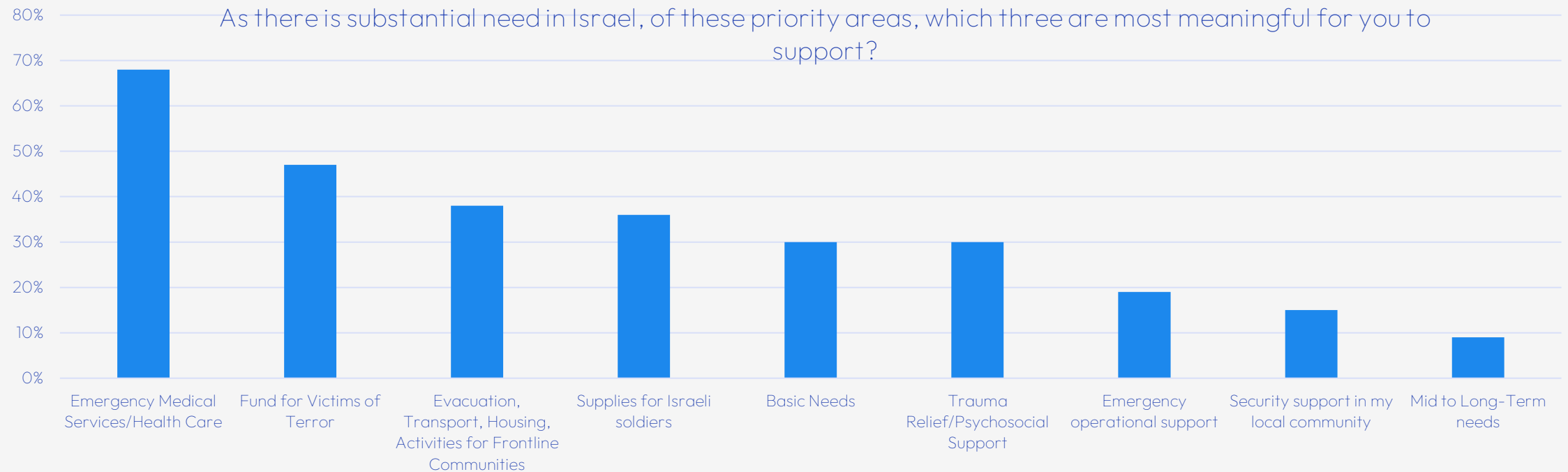
Local Security

9%

Mid to Long Term Needs

Donor Interests

Immediate needs are the most meaningful for Jewish donors in this moment. Only under 10% said mid to long-term needs are one of their top 3 priorities right now.



Federation Awareness

Jewish Life/Engagement

The main interest areas for programming among the Jewish community are

45% Discussing antisemitism

34% Interfaith / Intercultural conversations

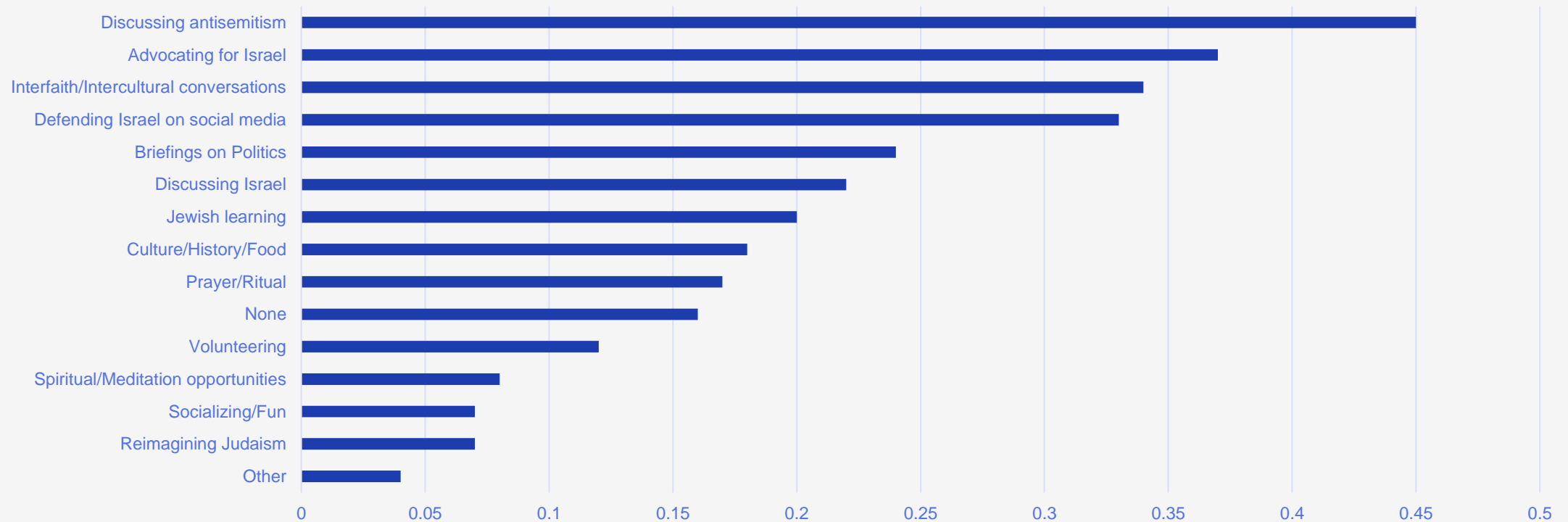
37% Advocating for Israel

33% Defending Israel on social media

Interest Areas

Three main areas of interest among the Jewish community are discussing antisemitism, Israel advocacy, and Interfaith/Intercultural conversations. They are much less interested in spirituality and socializing than in recent studies in non-crisis times.

What kind of programming would you be most interested in at the current time (choose up to 4)?



Jewish Americans are looking for opportunities for learning, expertise, and stories about Israelis in addition to wanting increased security locally

69% History of Situation

60% Stories from Israelis

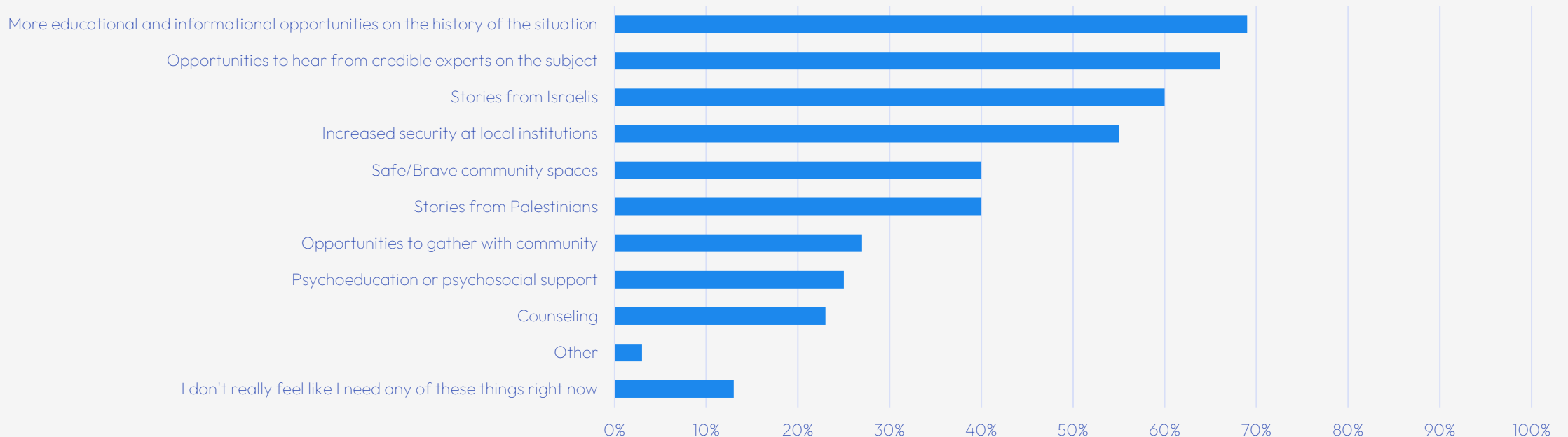
66% Hearing from credible experts

55% Increased Security

Increased Local Opportunities – Jewish

Jewish Americans are looking for opportunities for learning, expertise, and stories about Israelis in addition to wanting increased security locally

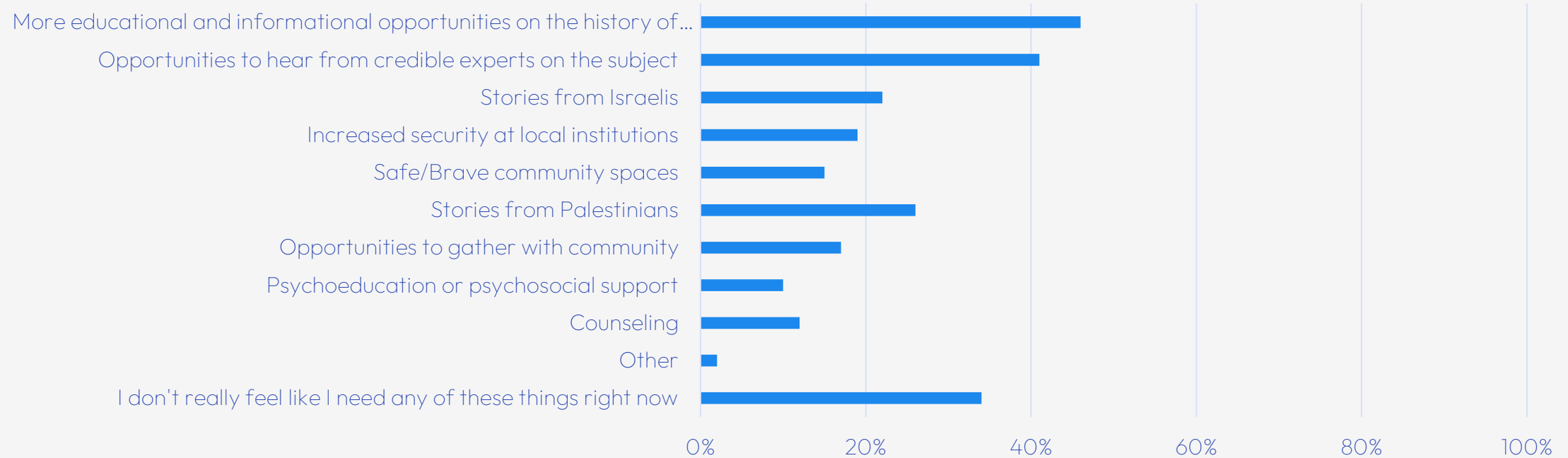
Since the war between Israel and Hamas started, would you want more of any of the following opportunities in your community or area? Please select all that apply.



Increased Local Opportunities – All Americans

While less interested overall, non-Jewish respondents also want educational opportunities.

Since the war between Israel and Hamas started, would you want more of any of the following opportunities in your community or area? Please select all that apply.





Community Relations

19%

Of the general population feel their local politicians are doing a good job responding to the war

38%

Of the general population say they are doing a poor or terrible job

18%

Of the general population feel their local community leaders are doing a good job responding to the war

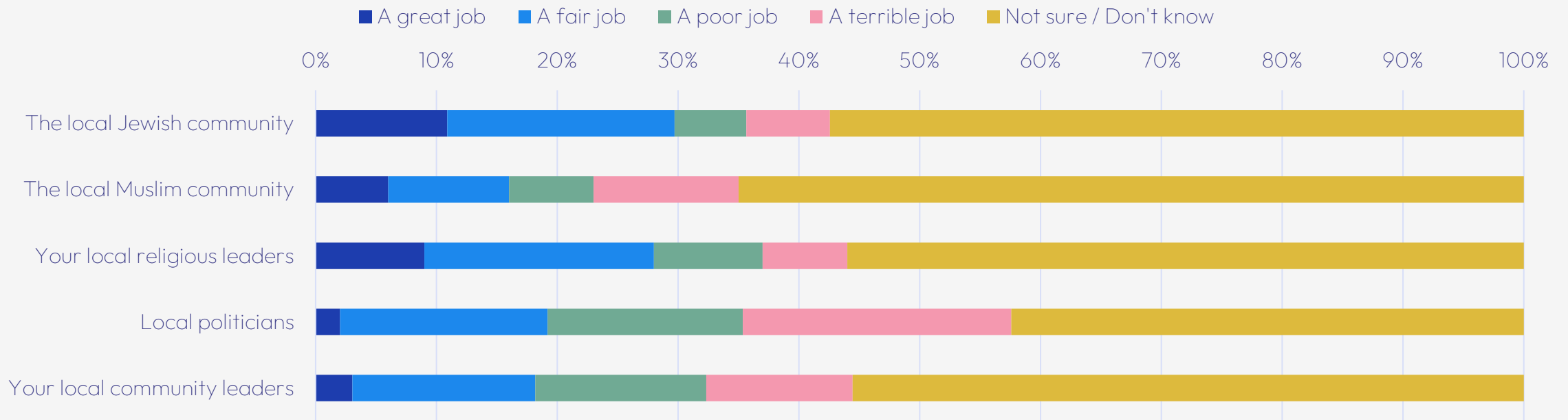
26%

Of the general population say they are doing a poor or terrible job

Perception of Leadership Response: All

Nearly 30% of adults indicate the Jewish community is doing a good job responding to the war, the highest of any measured group. They give local politicians the lowest ratings.

How well or poor of a job are the following doing in addressing the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas?



Jews say

it is harder to discuss what is happening in Israel outside of their family and Jewish friends

Talking about the War with Others - Jews

It has become harder for Jews to share their views with people with different opinions and on social media, and the same or easier with family and Jewish friends.

Since the war between Israel and Hamas started, how has it affected your ability to share your views about what's going on there with each of the following entities? Has it been harder, easier or has there been no change?

