Jewish Federations of North America

The Peoplehood Paradigm-Part One

The Bilateral Relationship Between American and Israeli Jews

Findings from two parallel surveys of American and Israeli Jews

Research Purpose

1. Identify where U.S. and Israeli Jewish communities are aligned and where they differ

2. Create a foundation for more empathetic conversations and stronger relationships

About This Survey

Two parallel studies, commissioned by Jewish Federations of North America, to understand where American and Israeli Jews converge and diverge on questions of peoplehood.

U.S. Study

Burson

2,836 Jewish respondents • May – June 2026

- National survey of U.S. Jewish life, third wave since October 7th
- Text-message recruitment, weighted to be representative
- Standard quantitative questions, plus a new open-ended qualitative tool: AI-guided follow-up probing (two to four rounds per respondent), then AI-assisted grouping into themes

Israel Study

Rosner

1,323 Israeli Jewish adults • May 2026

- National survey of Jewish Israelis, conducted by Shmuel Rosner in parallel with the U.S. study
- Drew on the Madad Israeli panel and a Haredi panel
- Shared questions from the U.S. survey where appropriate, adjusted where the U.S. framing didn't apply

Questions about data or methods: Research@JewishFederations.org

Releases posted on the Berman Jewish DataBank

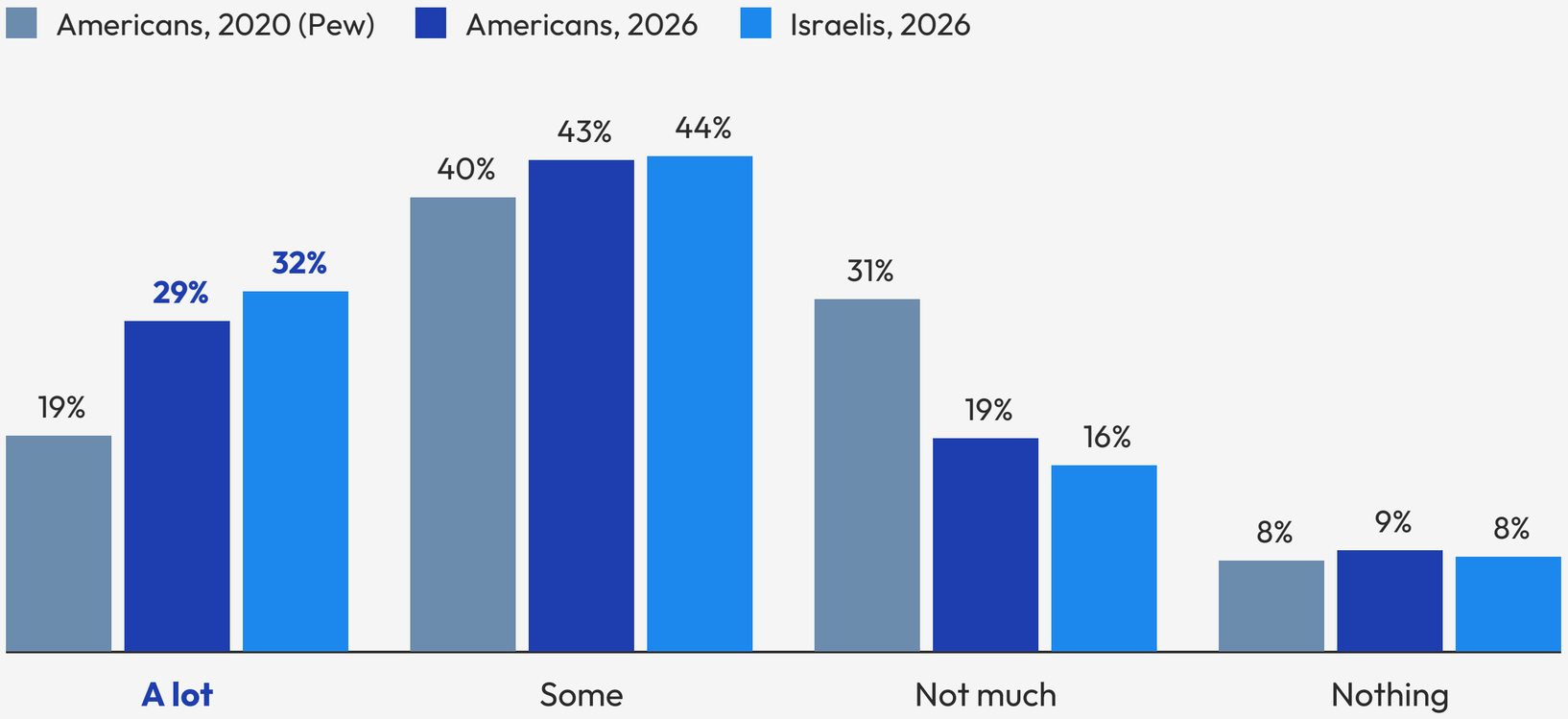
Part One

The Rise in Peoplehood

The Rise in Peoplehood

Since 2020, American and Israeli Jews are more likely to say they have a lot in common with one another

"How much, if anything, do you feel you have in common with Jews in [other country]?"



Americans who feel they have a lot in common with Israeli Jews

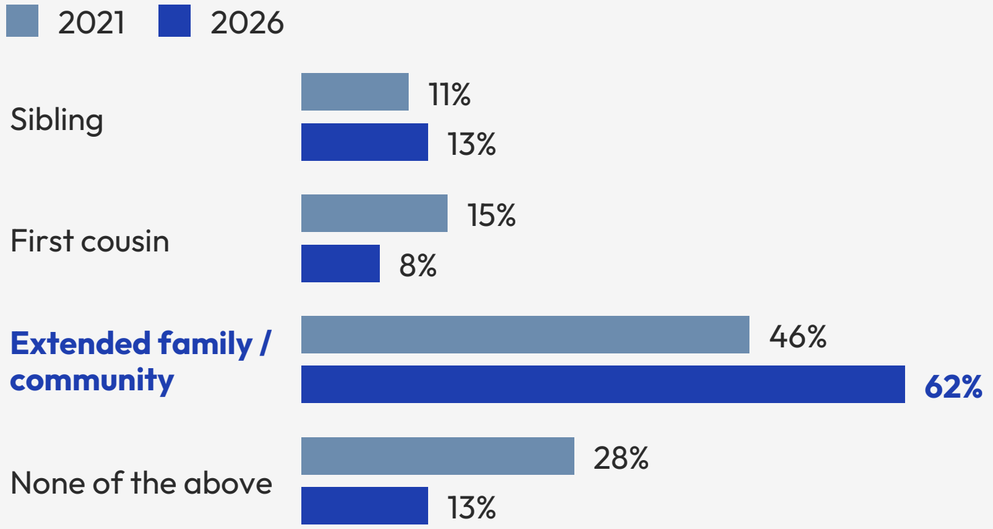
19% → **29%**

2020 to 2026

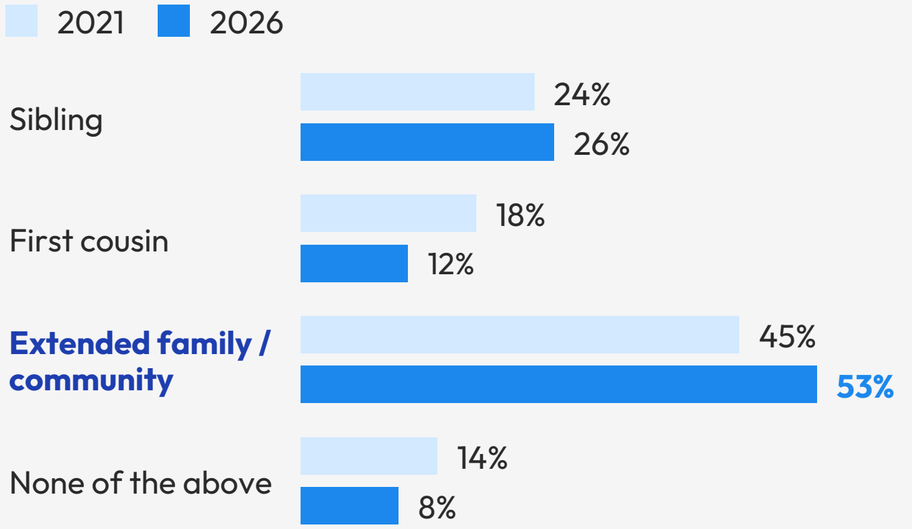
American and Israeli Jews increasingly see one another as family or community

"Using the metaphor of a family, do you consider Israeli Jews as your… ?" (U.S.) • "Which is closest to your view of the Israeli – U.S. Jewish relationship as a family metaphor?" (Israel)

American Jews on Israeli Jews



Israeli Jews on American Jews



2021 data: American Jewish Committee, Survey of American Jewish Opinion

American and Israeli Jews affirm one another as part of a shared Jewish people

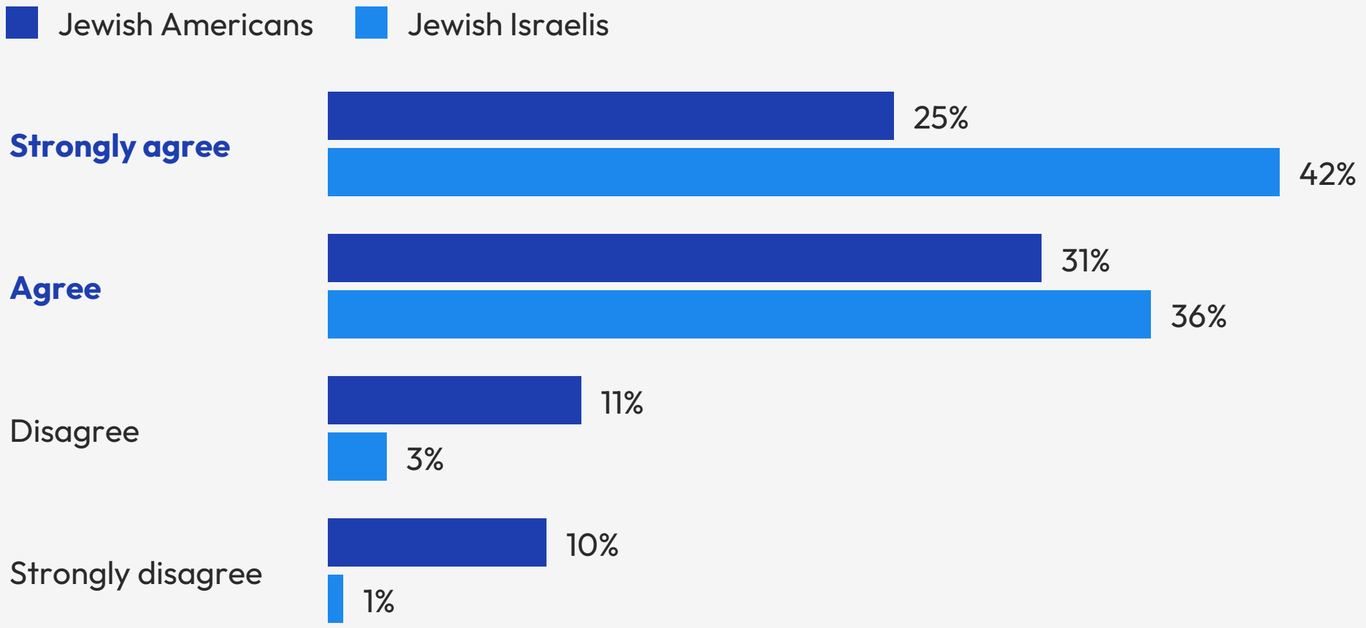
"Jews around the world, regardless of where they live, share a common fate and must act accordingly."

56%

of American Jews agree

78%

of Israeli Jews agree



American and Israeli Jews both see the diaspora as a legitimate form of Jewish life.

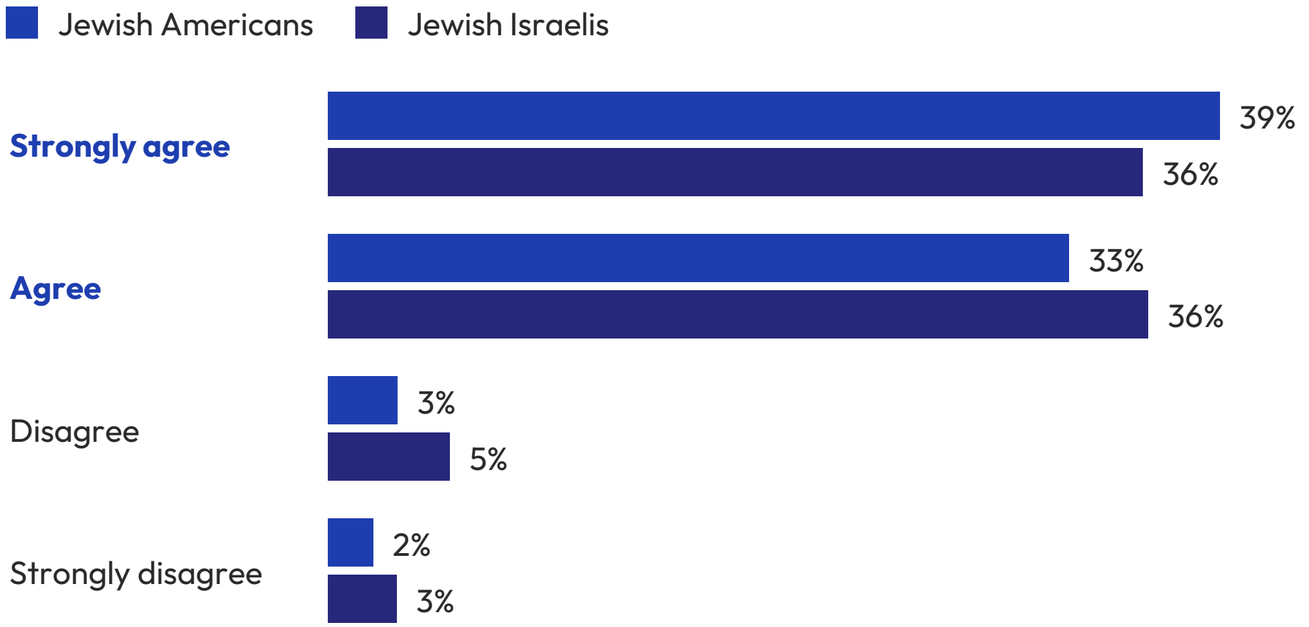
"The Jewish diaspora is a legitimate form of Jewish life, not a problem to be solved."

72%

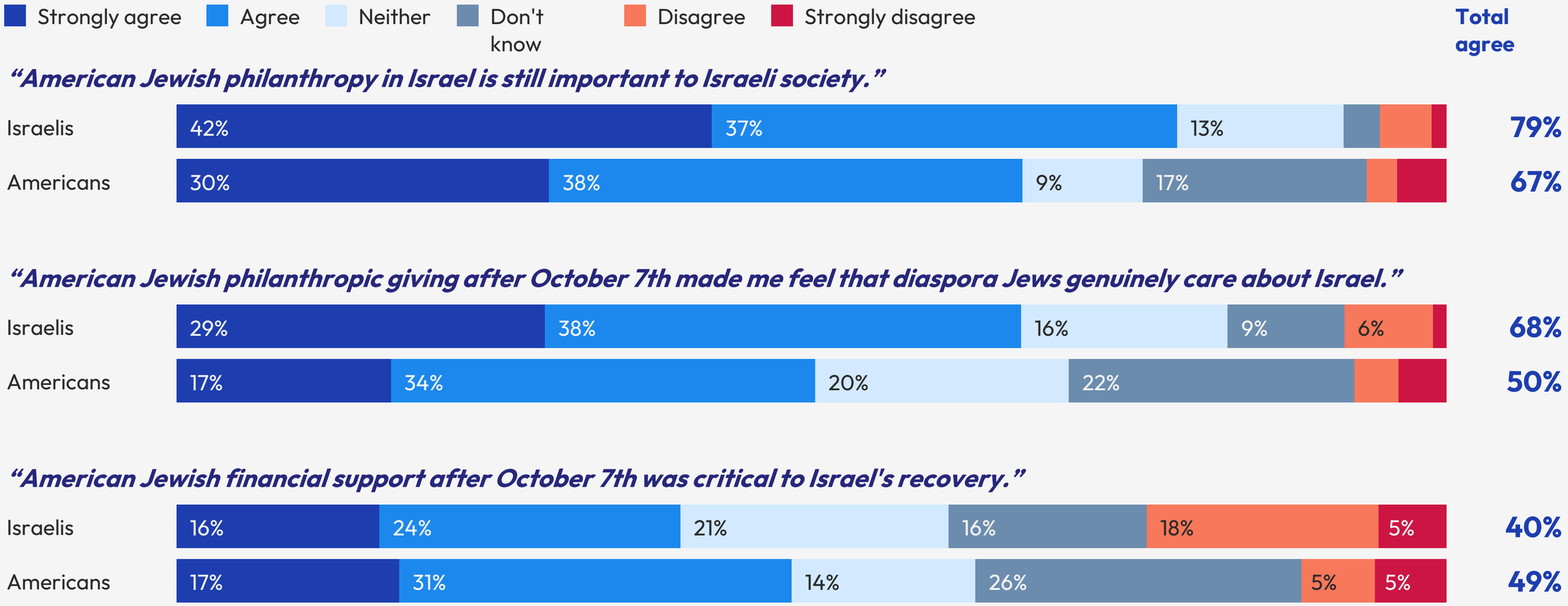
of American Jews agree

72%

of Israeli Jews agree



American Jewish philanthropy is seen as a meaningful expression of peoplehood



Trip frequency correlates with a feeling of commonality with Israeli Jews

Americans, by travel to Israel

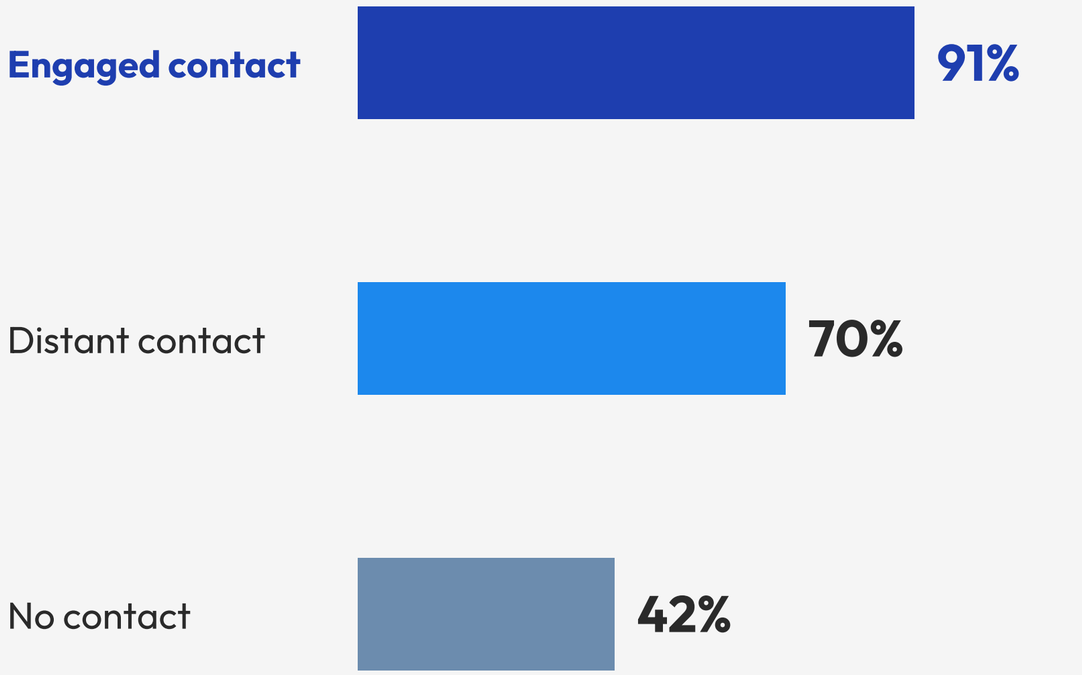
1.7x One trip to Israel

3.8x More than one trip

11.2x Having lived in Israel

More likely to feel commonality with Israeli Jews vs. those who have not traveled

Feeling commonality with Israeli Jews, by contact level



Immersion in a U.S. Jewish community correlates with a feeling of commonality with American Jews

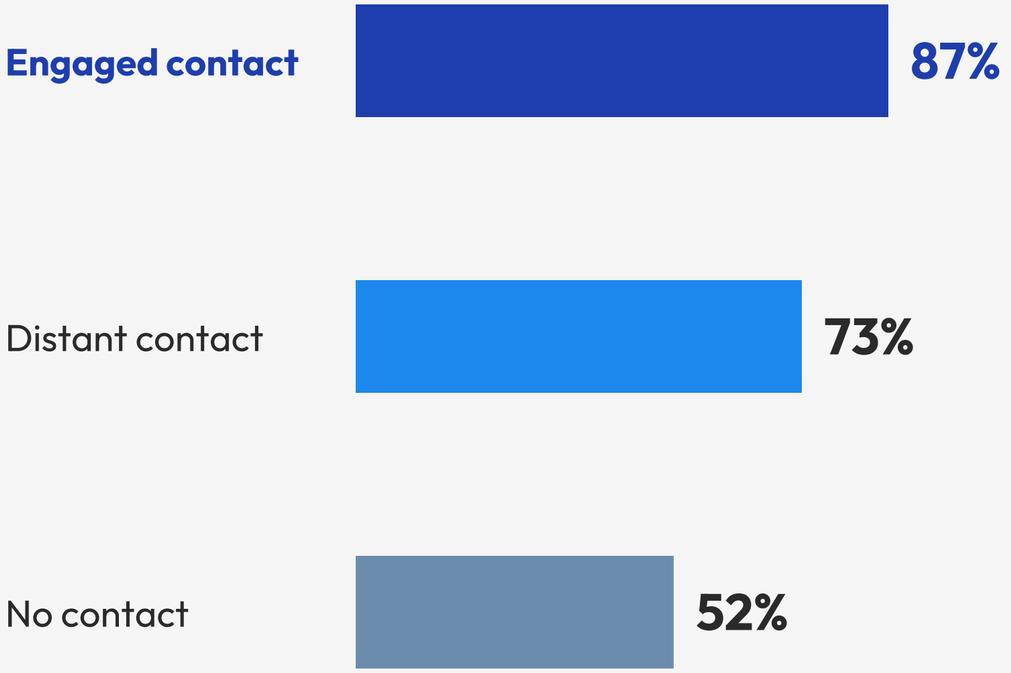
Israelis, by contact with American Jews

2.8x Joined Jewish communal activity while visiting the U.S.

2.6x Served as *shaliach* or camp staff in a U.S. community

More likely to feel commonality with American Jews vs. those who have not had these experiences

Feeling commonality with American Jews, by contact level



Why American Jews Feel Connected to Israel

Top reasons people report,
in their own words.

From our qualitative research

1. Israel as a safe place for Jews, including for me
2. Homeland of the Jewish people
3. Where our history began
4. Jews are responsible for one another
5. Religious / biblical
6. Felt more whole there
7. The Holocaust made it necessary
8. Part of my own culture
9. Pride in Israelis themselves