

PewResearchCenter

Israel's Religiously Divided Society

A presentation for the Inter-Agency Task Force
on Israeli Arab Issues

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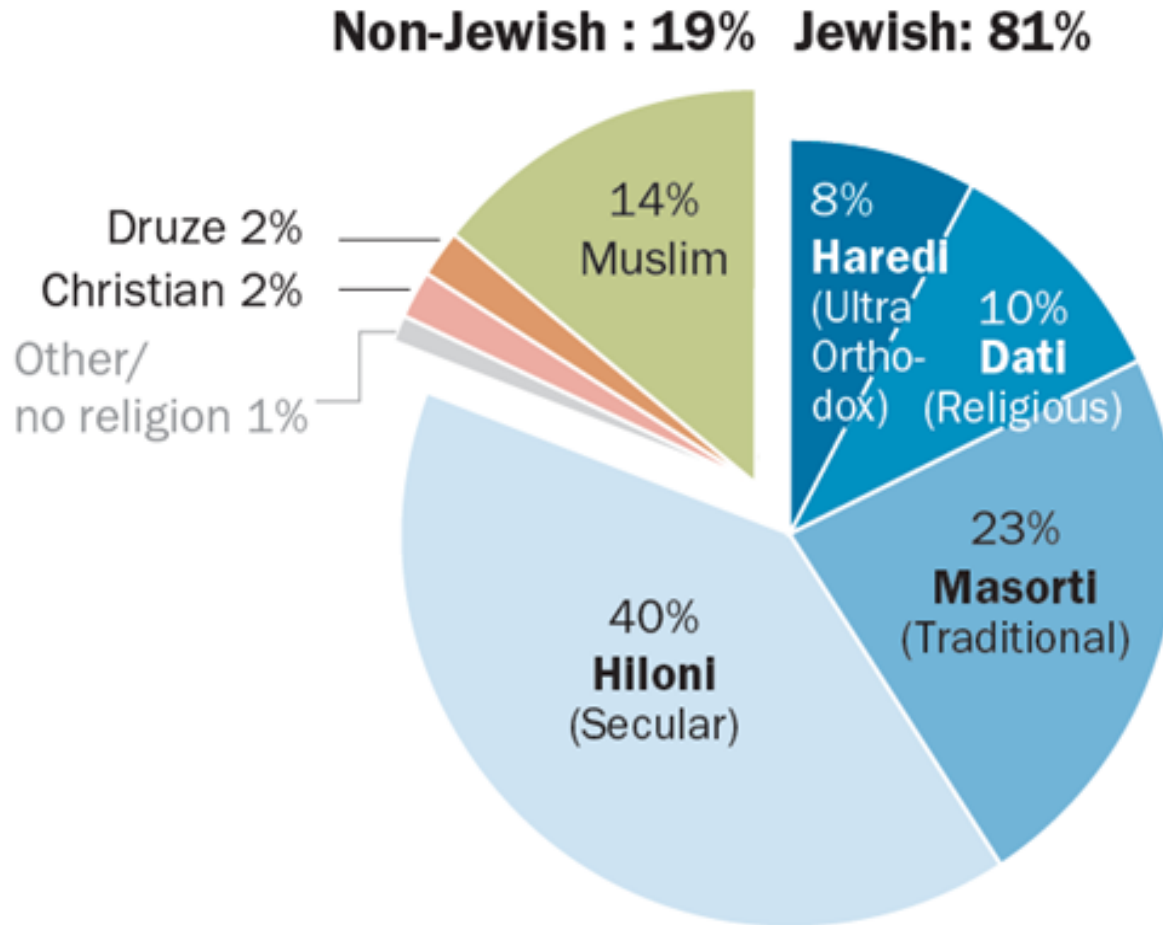
Director of Religion Research

About the Survey

- **5,601 Israelis interviewed face-to-face, at the respondent's residence**
- **Respondents selected through random sampling within neighborhoods (statistical areas all across the country)**
- **Interviews conducted in Hebrew, Russian, Arabic from October 2014 to May 2015**
- **Oversamples of Arab Christians, Druze, Haredim, Jews in West Bank, Arabs in East Jerusalem**
- **Follows the Central Bureau of Statistics' definition of the Israeli population, including Jews living in the West Bank as well as Arab residents of East Jerusalem**

Israel's diverse religious landscape

% of Israeli adults who identify as ...

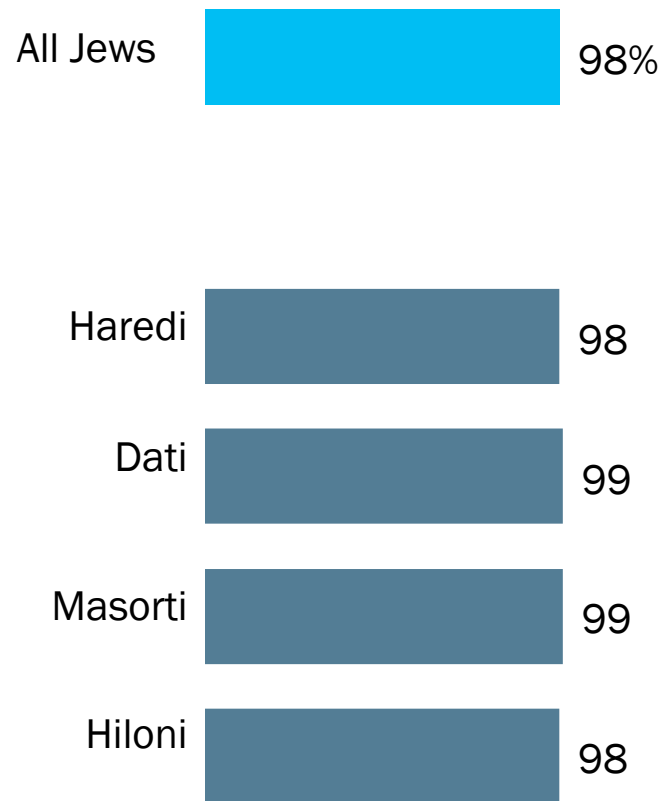


Israeli's Religiously Divided Society

JEWES AND ARABS ON RELIGION AND POLITICS

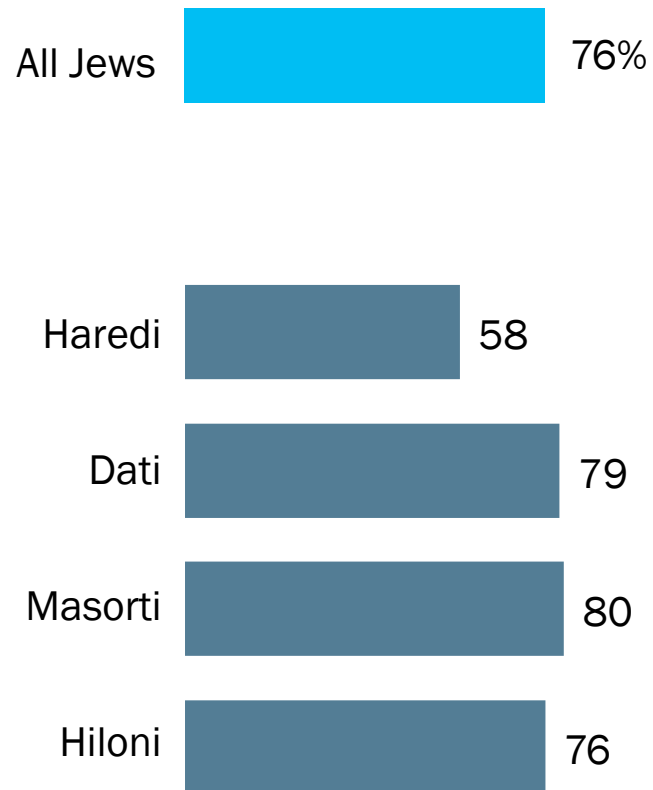
Israel seen as a Jewish homeland

% of Israeli Jews who say Jews around the world should have the right to make aliyah to Israel ...



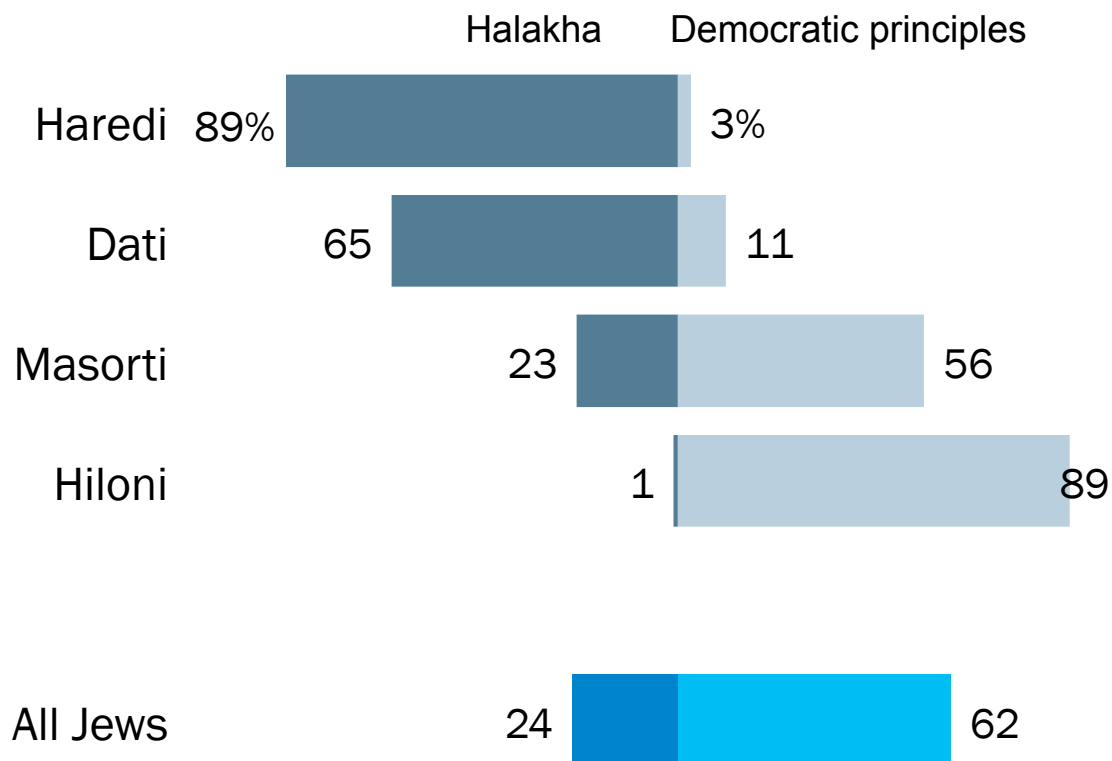
Jewish state and democracy seen as compatible

% who say Israel can be both a democracy and a Jewish state ...



Religious law vs. democratic principles

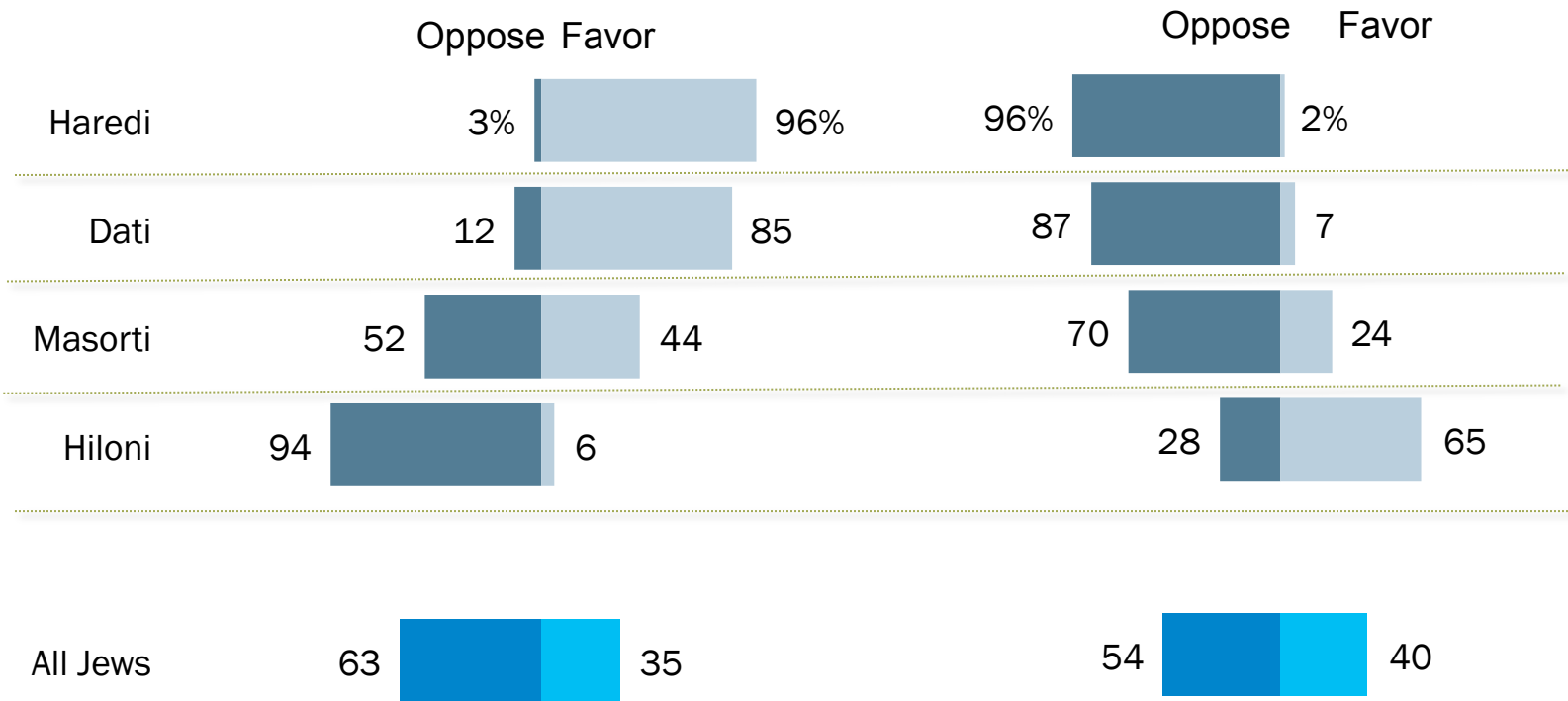
If there is a contradiction between halakha and democratic principles, which should be given preference?



Sharp disagreements among Jews on public policy issues

% of Jews who favor/oppose shutting down public transport in the entire country on Shabbat ...

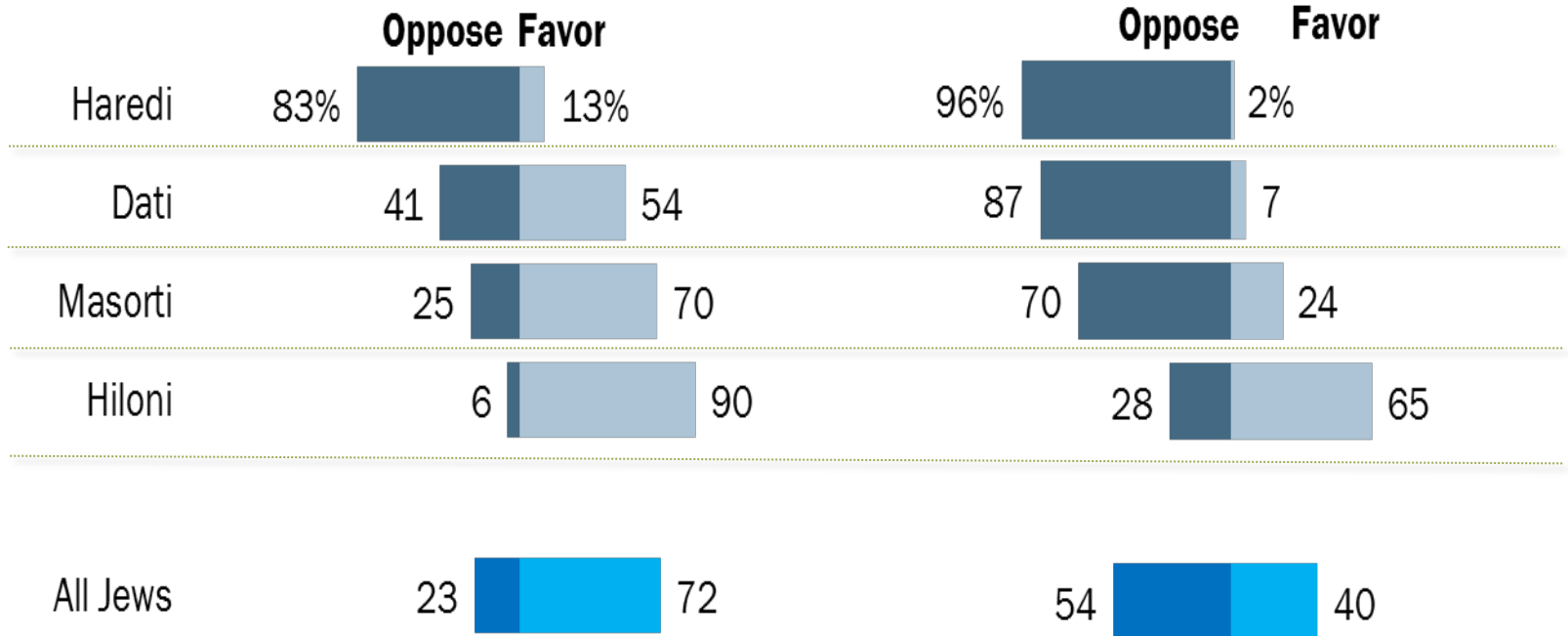
% of Jews who favor/oppose allowing Conservative and Reform rabbis to conduct marriages in Israel ...



Disagreements on public policy issues (contd.)

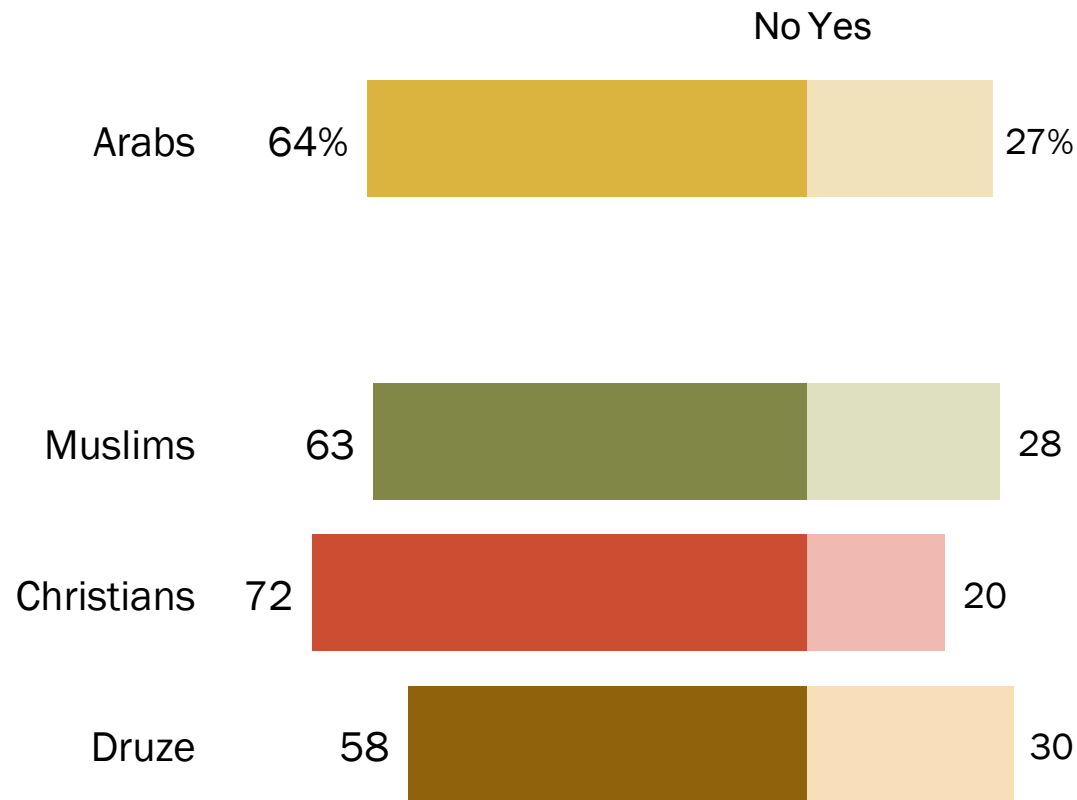
% of Jews who favor/oppose conscripting Haredi men to serve in the military ...

% of Jews who favor/oppose allowing Conservative and Reform rabbis to conduct marriages in Israel ...



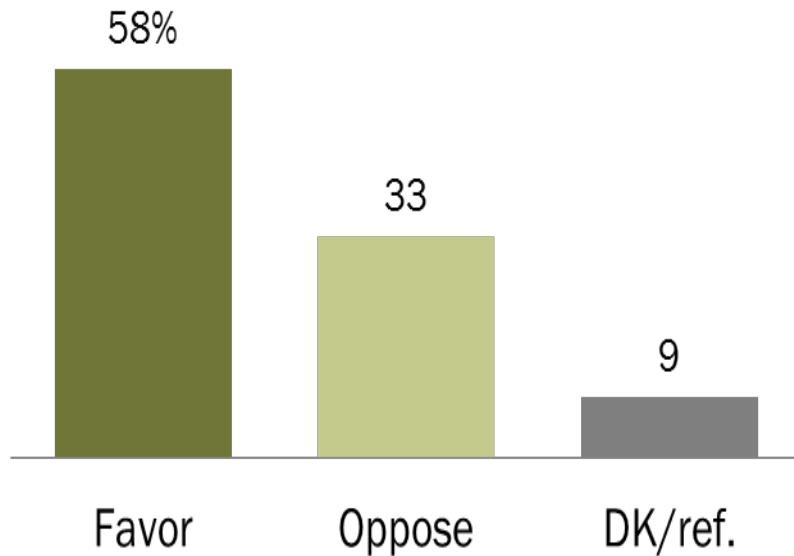
Most Arabs say Israel cannot be both a democracy and a Jewish state

% in Israel who say Israel can be a democracy and a Jewish state at the same time ...

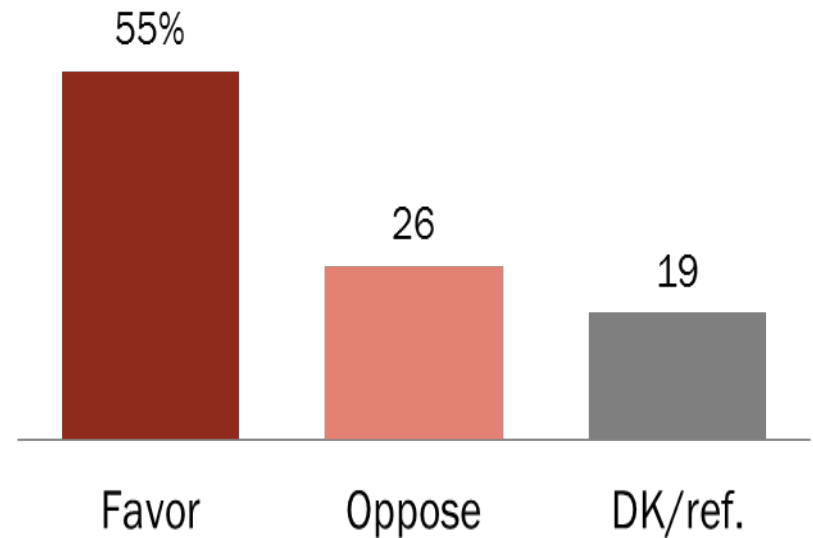


Support for religious law among Muslims/Christians

% of Muslims who favor making **sharia** official law of the land for Muslims in Israel ...

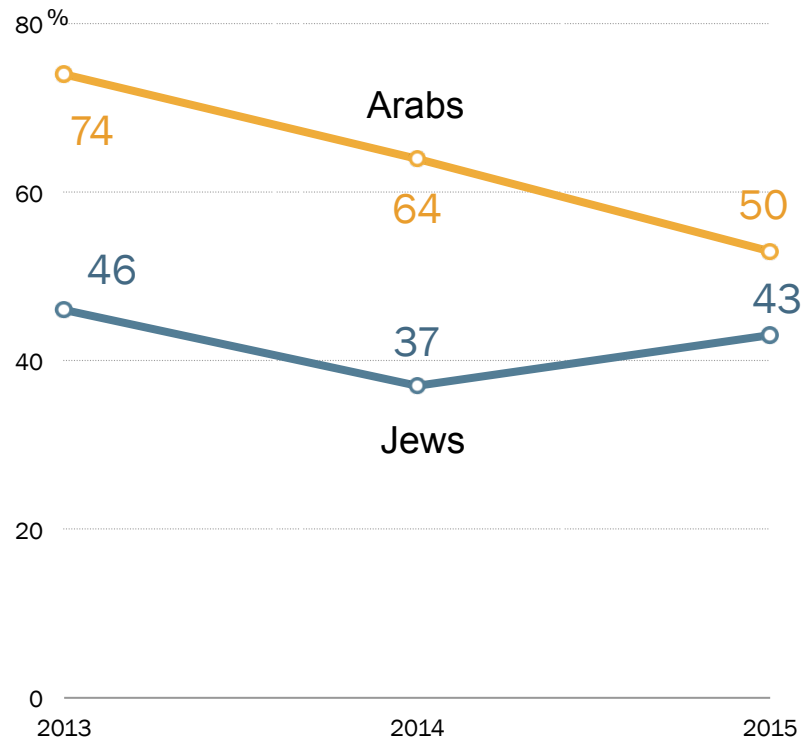


% of Christians who favor making **Bible** official law of the land for Christians in Israel ...



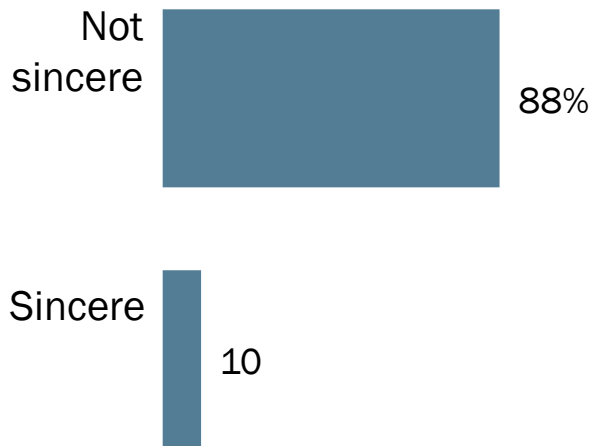
Among Arabs, declining belief in possibility of two-state solution

% who say a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully ...

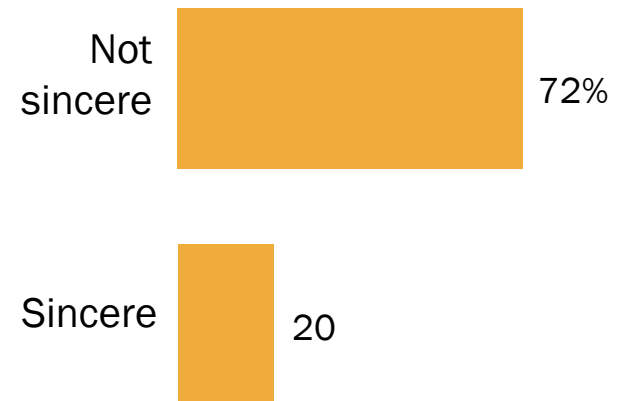


Are leaders sincerely seeking peace?

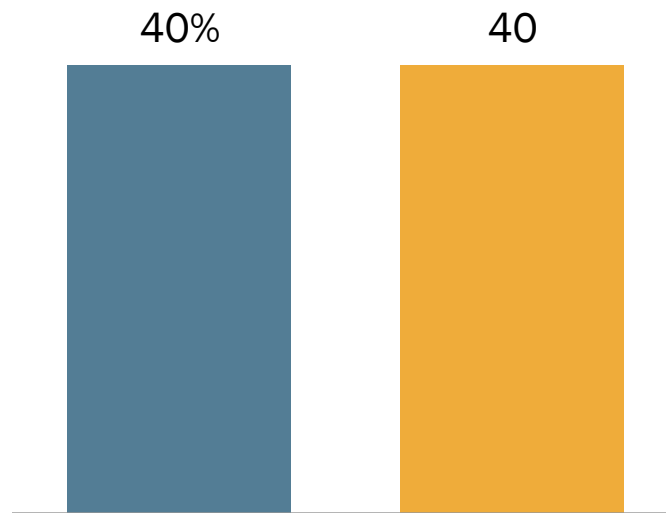
% of Jews who say Palestinian leadership is sincere/not sincere in its efforts toward peace



% of Arabs who say the Israeli government is sincere/not sincere in its efforts toward peace



Mutual doubts about sincerity of leaders in peace process

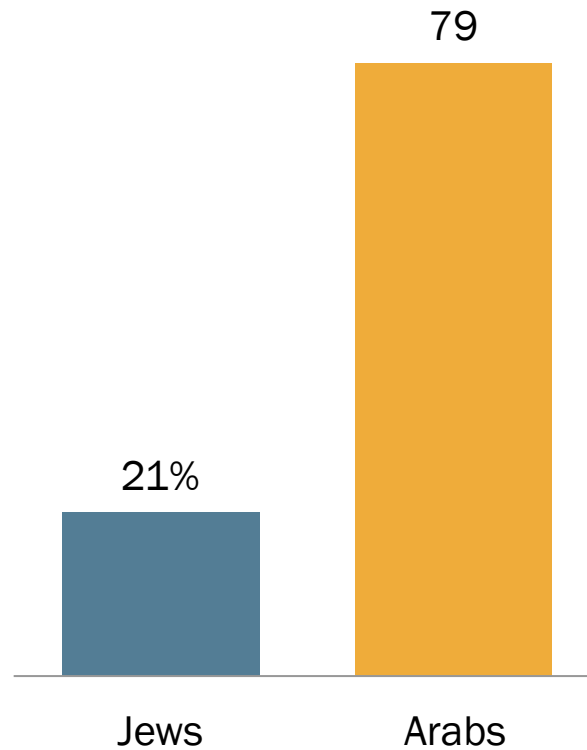


% of **Jews** who say *Israeli government* is not making a sincere effort toward peace

% of **Arabs** who say *Palestinian leadership* is not making a sincere effort toward peace

How much discrimination do Muslims face in Israel?

% who say Muslims face a lot of discrimination in Israel ...



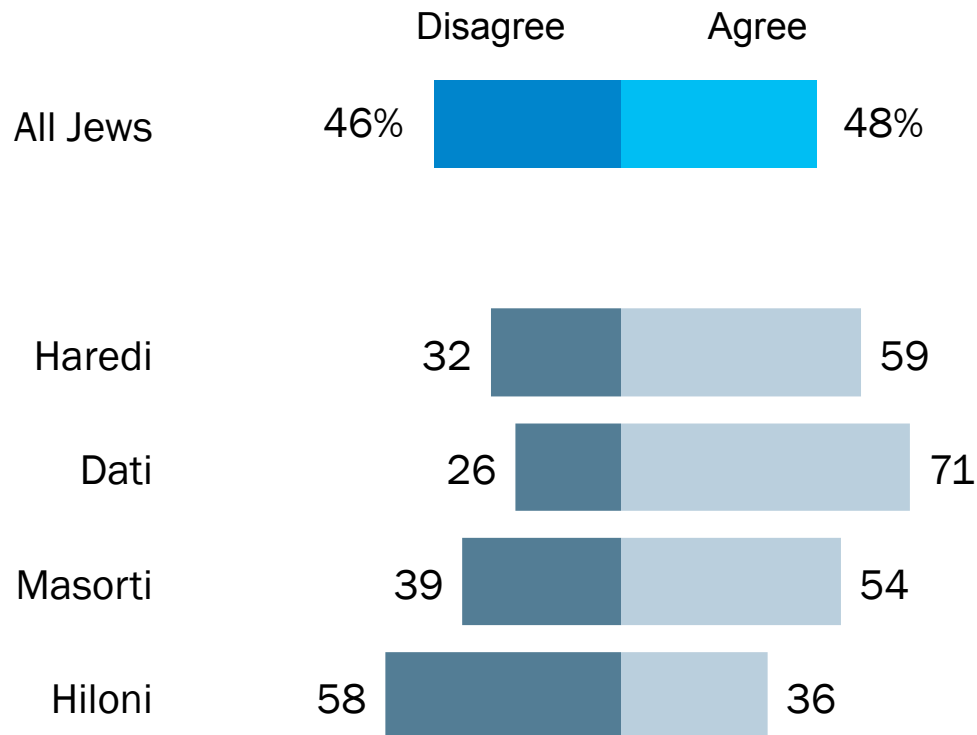
Arabs more inclined to see discrimination throughout Israeli society

% of Jews and Arabs who say each group faces a lot of discrimination ...

	Homosexuals & Lesbians	Hiloni Jews	Religious Jews	Women	Ethiopian Jews	Mizrahi Jews
All Jews	20%	9	21	25	36	21
All Arabs	34%	21	23	40	44	33

Jewish opinion evenly divided on idea of transferring/ expelling Arabs

*% of Jews who strongly disagree/disagree and strongly agree/agree with the statement
"Arabs should be expelled or transferred from Israel" ...*

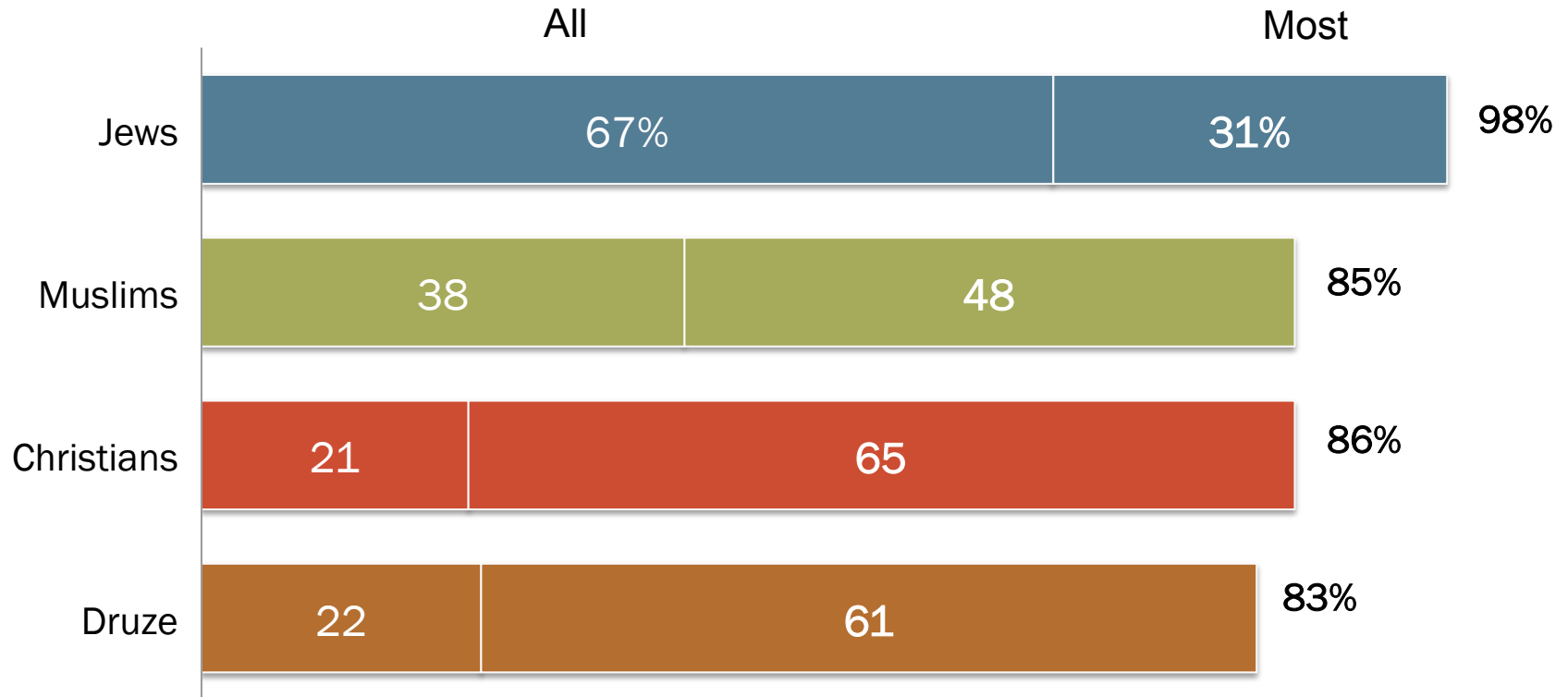


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SOCIAL DIVISIONS

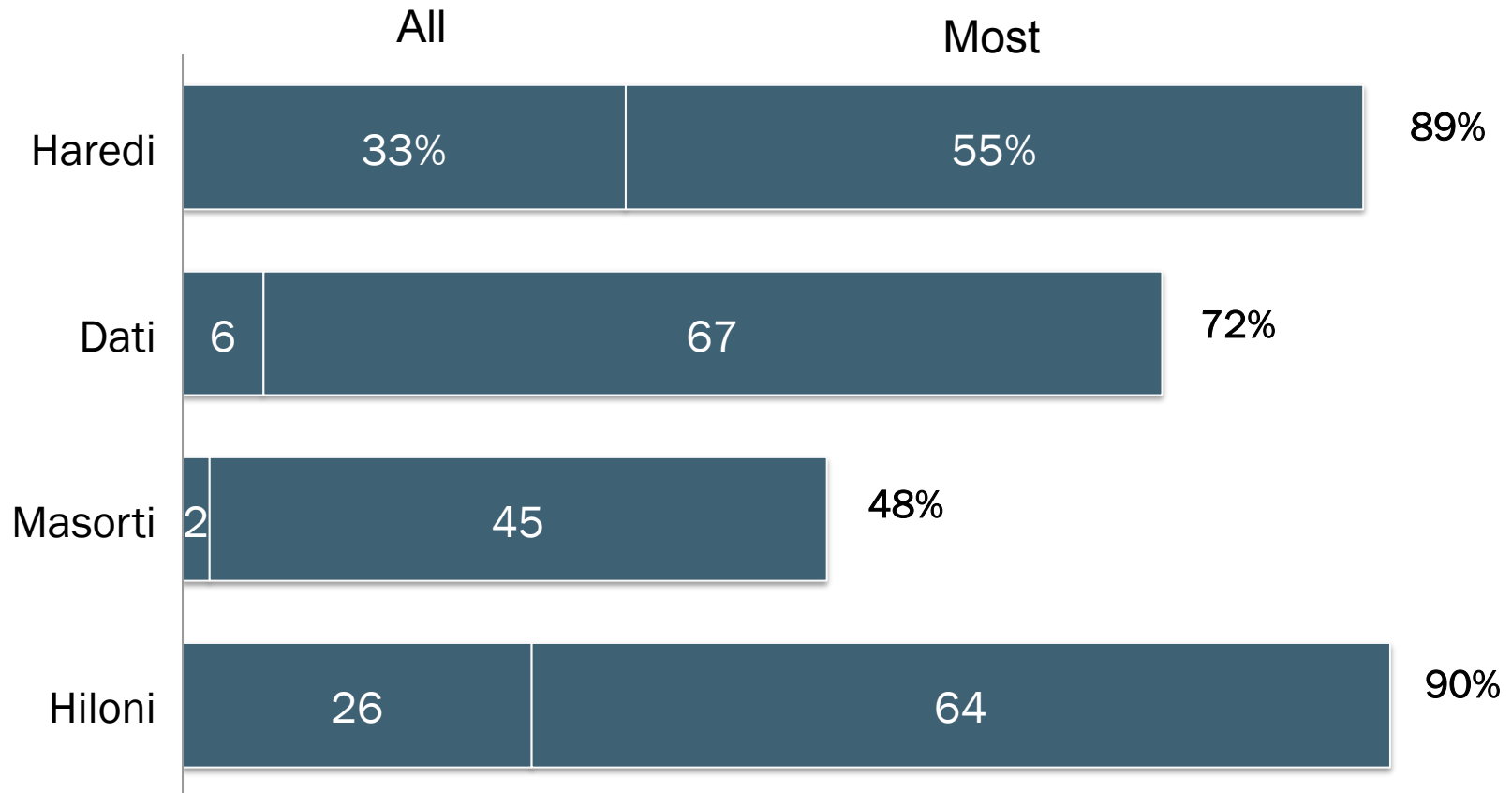
Friendship Circles

% in Israel who say ... of their close friends share their religion



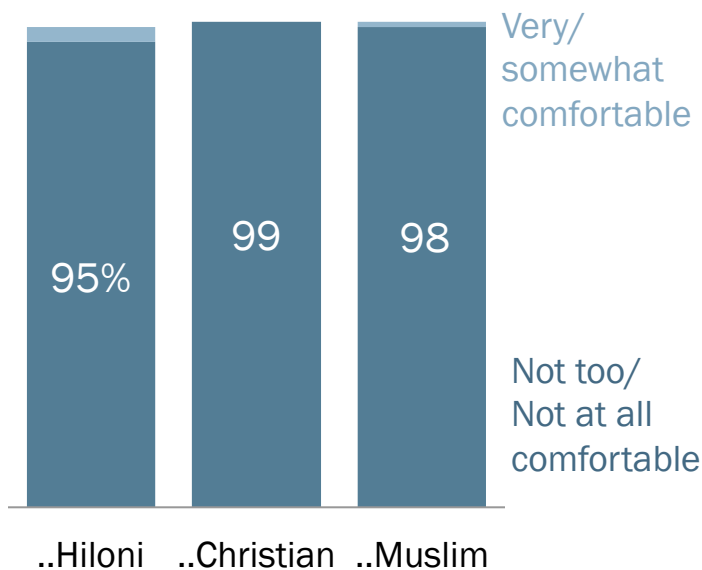
Friendship circles among Jews

% in Israel who say ... of their close friends share their religion

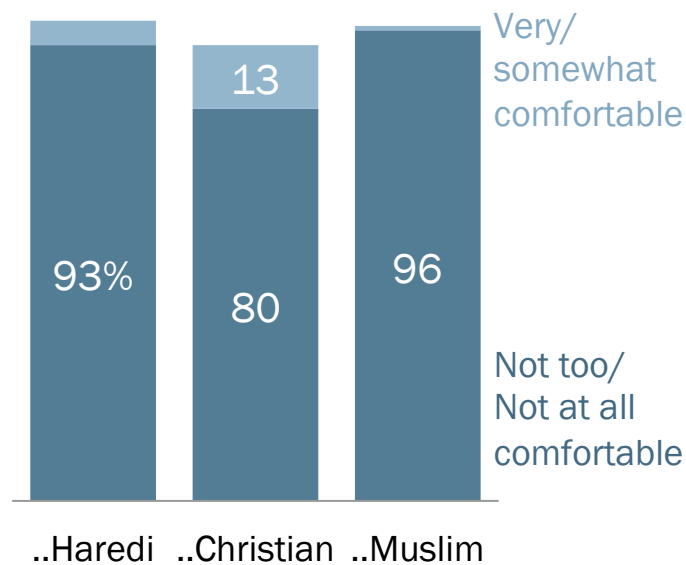


Jews uncomfortable with intermarriage

% **Haredim** who say they would be comfortable/uncomfortable with their child marrying a



% **Hilonim** who say they would be comfortable/uncomfortable with their child marrying a



Very little religious switching (conversion)

% of Israeli adults ...

	% Raised	% Current
Jewish	80	81
Muslim	14	14
Christian	2	2
Druze	2	2
Another religion	<1	<1
No religion	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100

But some movement in and out of Jewish subgroups

% of Jews ...

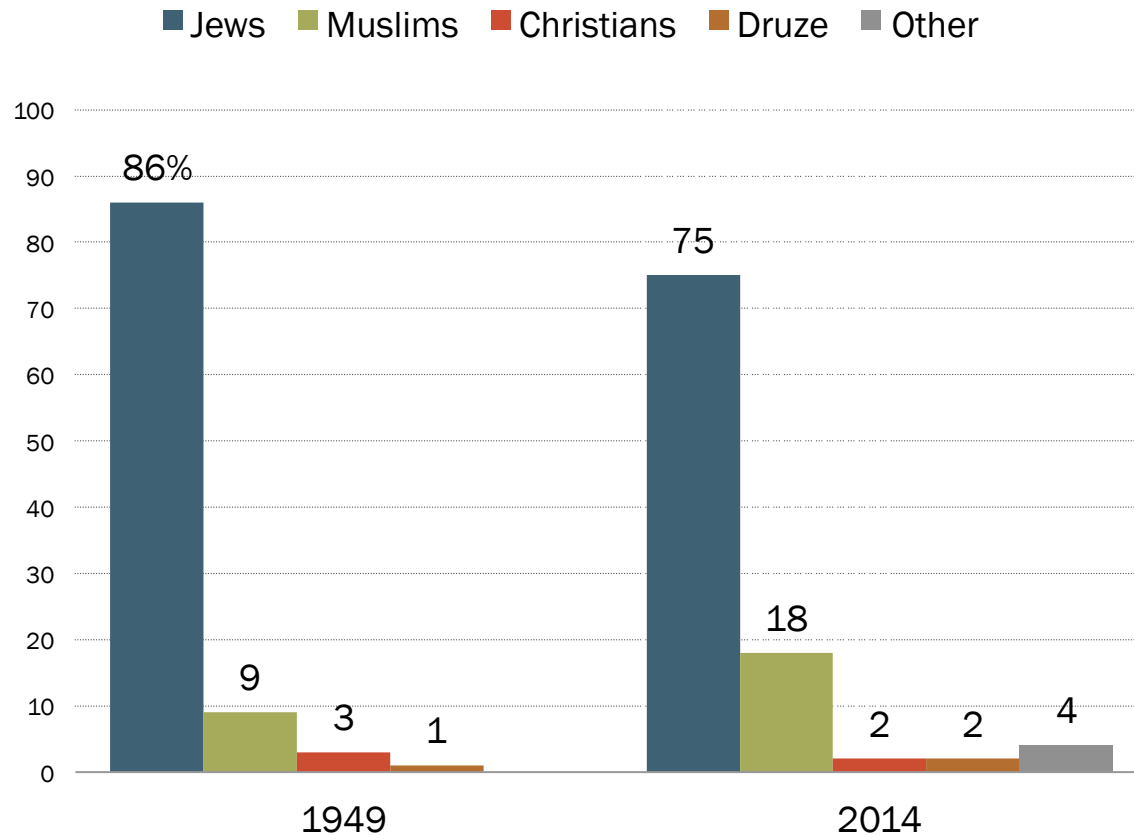
	% Raised	% Left	% Joined	% Current
Haredi	8	-<1	+2	9
Dati	19	-9	+2	13
Masorti	28	-9	+10	29
Hiloni	46	-4	+8	49

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RELIGIOUS TRENDS OVER TIME

Trend 1: Muslims rising as a share of the Israeli population

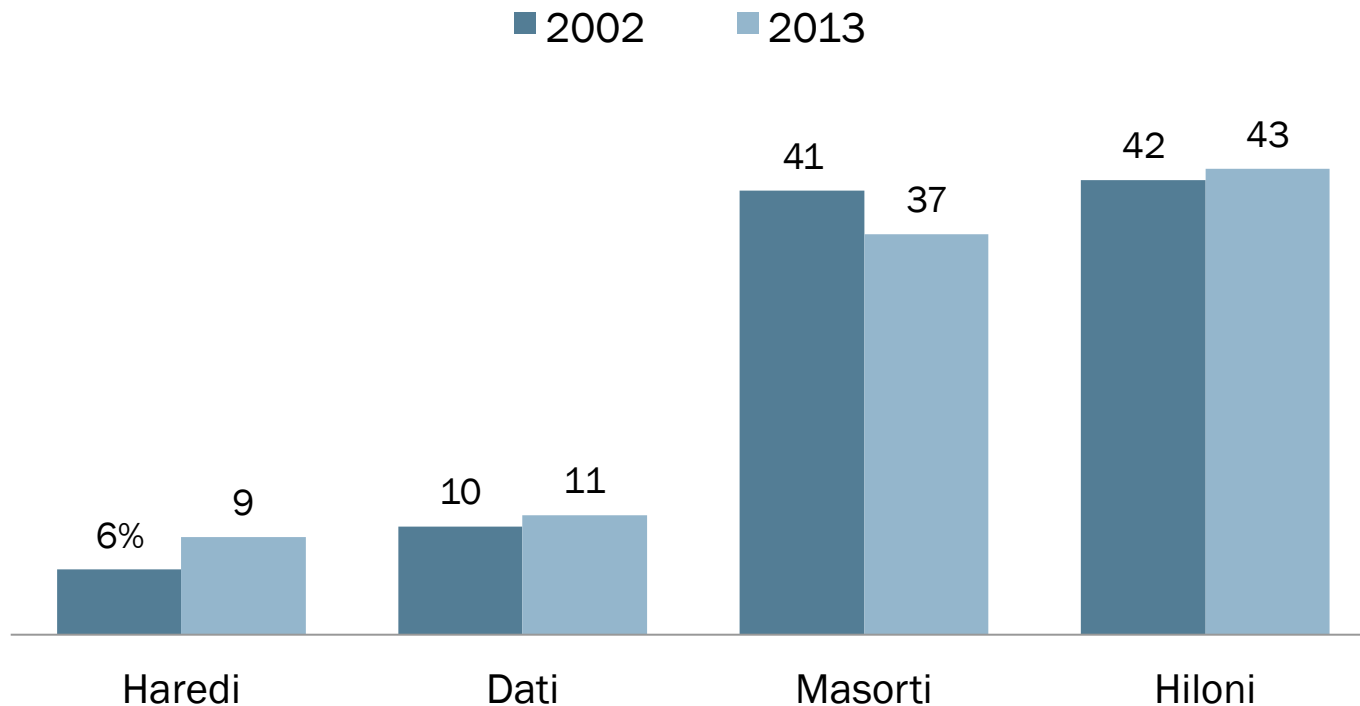
% in Israel classified as ...



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics.

Trend 2: Due to high birth rates, Haredim rising as a share of adult population (20+)

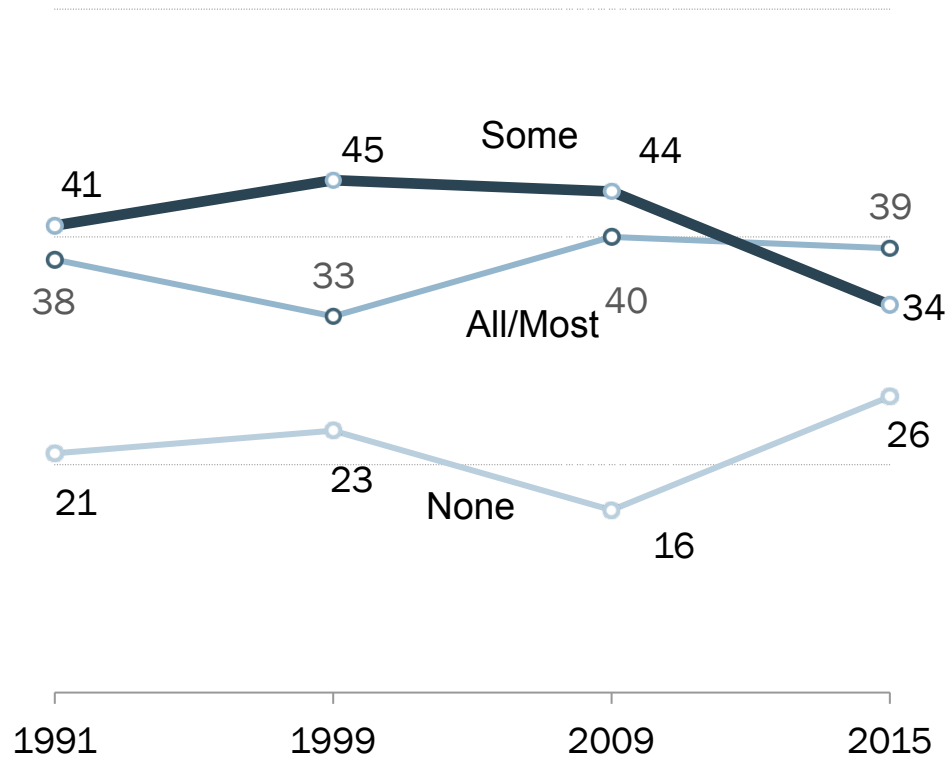
% of Jews who identify as ...



Source: Israeli Social Survey conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics among adults 20+.

Trend 3: Some decline in share of Jews with moderate levels of religious observance

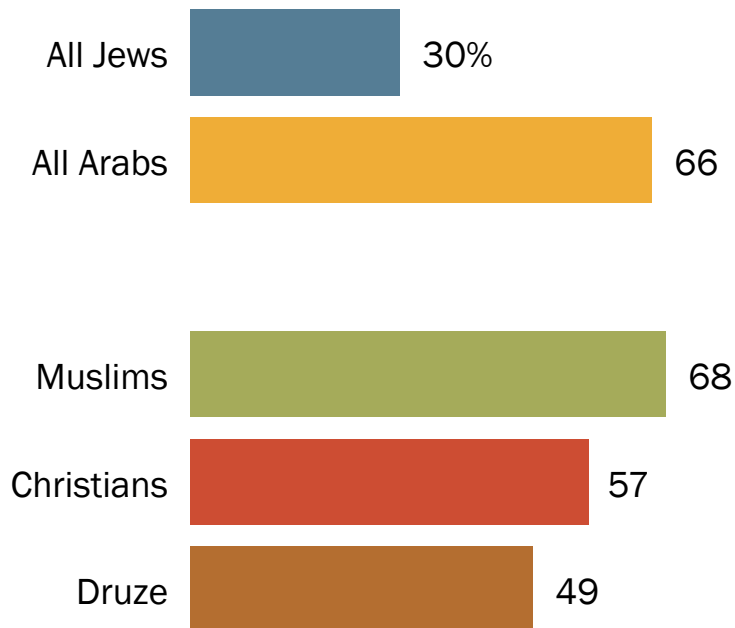
% of Jews who say they follow ... of the Jewish tradition



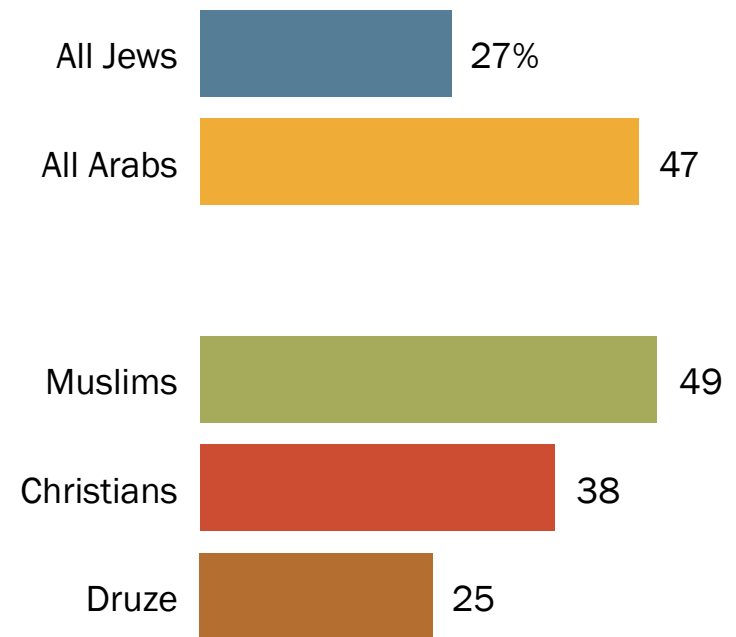
Source: 2009 data from Guttman Center for Surveys, 1991 and 1999 data from Guttman Institute.

Israeli Arabs more religious than Israeli Jews overall

% in Israel who say religion is very important in their lives among...

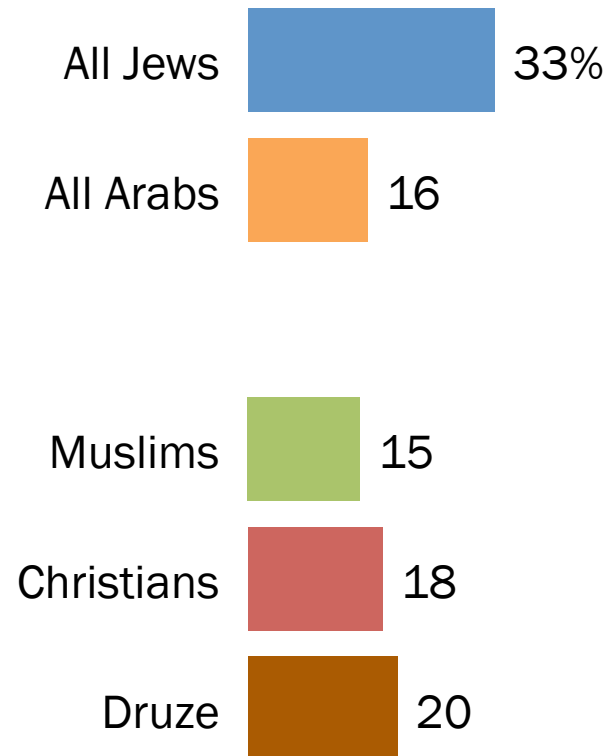


% in Israel who say they attend religious services at least once a week among...



Smaller share of Arabs than Jews have completed college

% in Israel who say they have a college degree among...

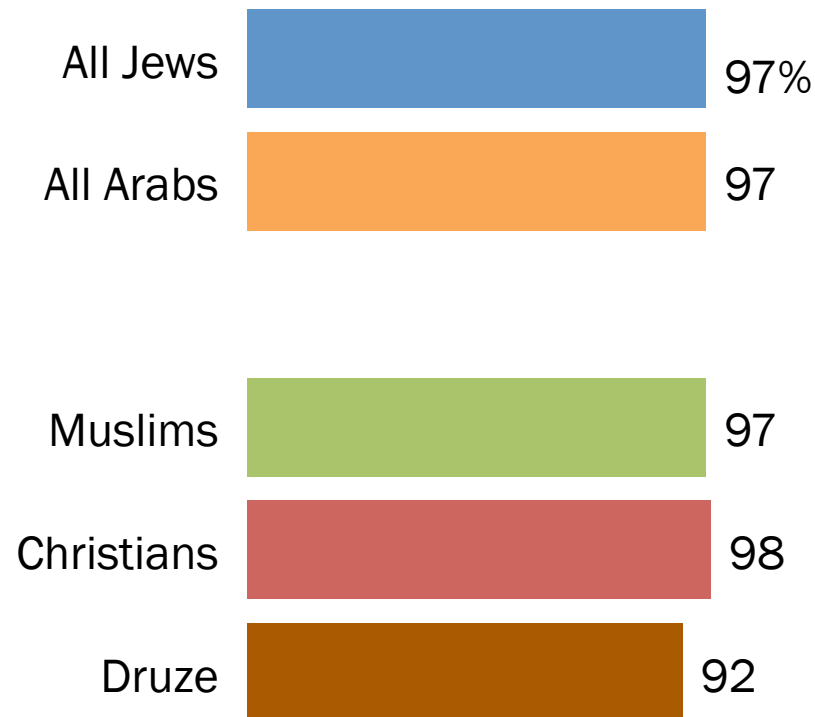


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SHARED VALUES

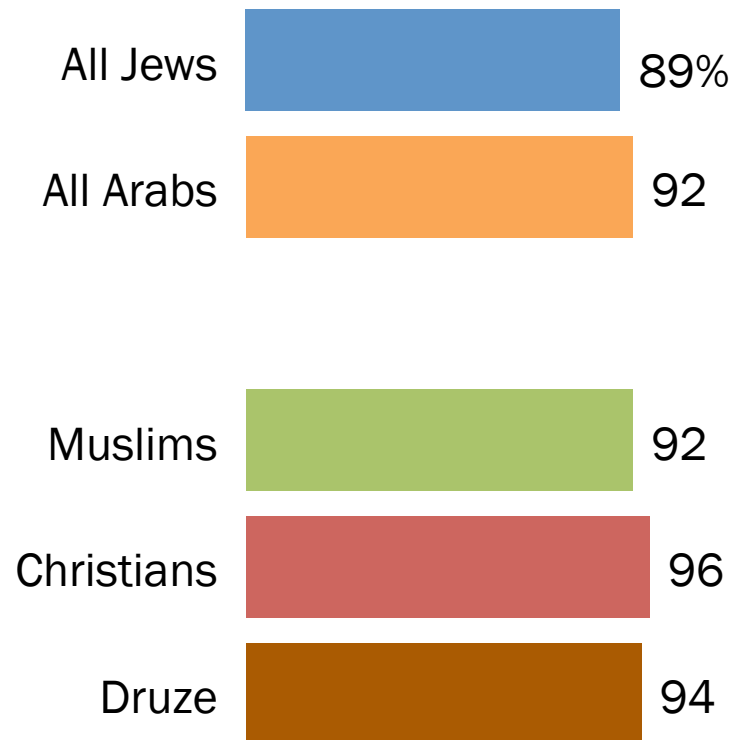
Importance of family goes across religious lines

% in Israel who say maintaining strong family relationships is very/somewhat important to them among...



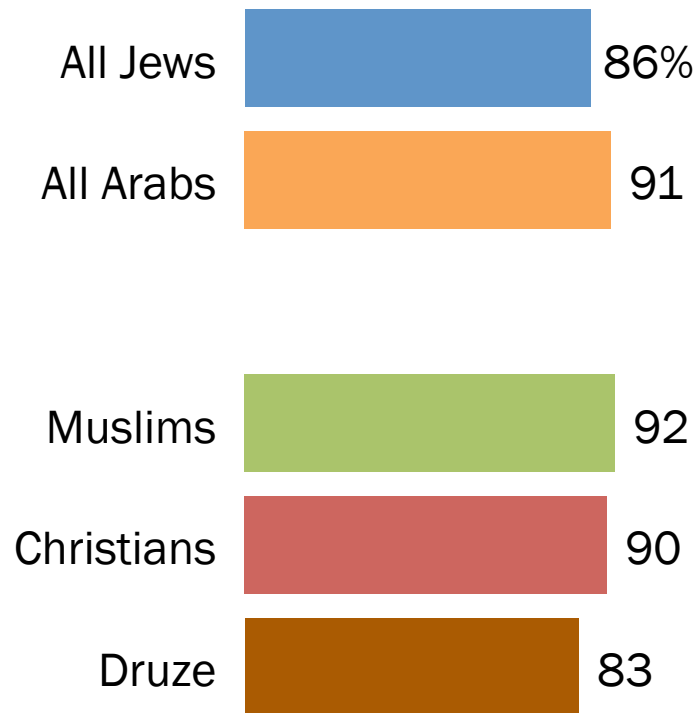
Jews and Arabs agree on importance of personal career success

% in Israel who say personal career success is very/somewhat important to them among...



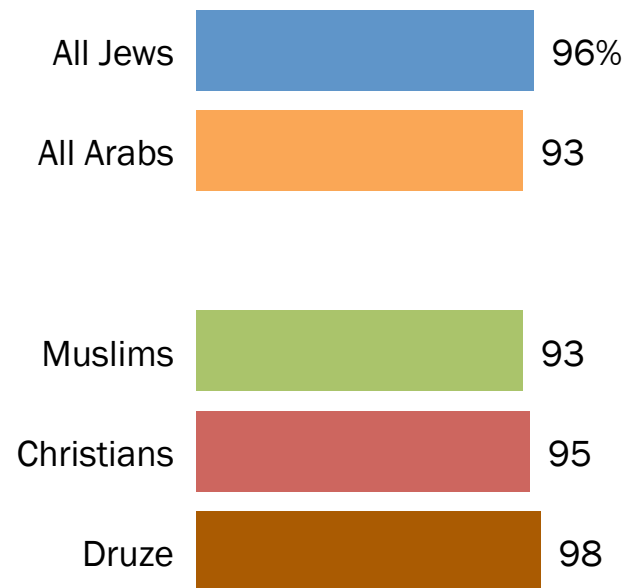
Jews and Arabs agree on importance of helping the needy

% in Israel who say helping people who are in need is very/somewhat important to them personally among...

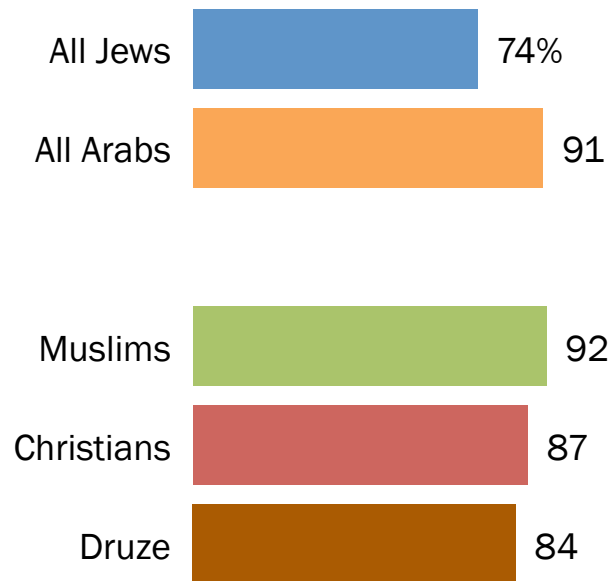


Importance of secular and religious education among Jews and Arabs

% in Israel who say giving their children a good secular education is very/somewhat important among...



% in Israel who say giving their children a good religious education is very/somewhat important among...



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