



U.S. Public Perceptions of the Israel-Hamas Conflict

*Prepared for the Jewish Federations of North America
& Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish
Organizations*

November 13, 2023





Inside

Methodology

Reactions to the crisis and responsibilities of each actor

Perceptions of Israel and Hamas

America's response: foreign policy and domestic antisemitism

Jewish Federations of North America & Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Poll

Survey Methodology



This survey was conducted online within the United States from November 11-12 among 1,331 adults by public opinion firm HarrisX. The sampling margin of error of this poll is plus or minus 2.7 percentage points. The results reflect a nationally representative sample of registered voters. Results were weighted for age, gender, region, race/ethnicity, income, where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population.

Note: Some percentages on the following slides may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding
Note: "T2B" or "Top 2 Box: refers to the combination of the top two responses. "Example- Very Likely+ Somewhat Likely= Likely"

Sample size:



1,331
U.S. Adults

Sampling margin of error:



2.7%

Key groups sample size:

Age Group	Sample Size	MoE (+/-)
18-24	153	7.9%
25-34	169	7.5%
35-44	245	6.3%
45-54	209	6.8%
55+	555	4.2%



Inside

Methodology

**Reactions to the crisis and
responsibilities of each actor**

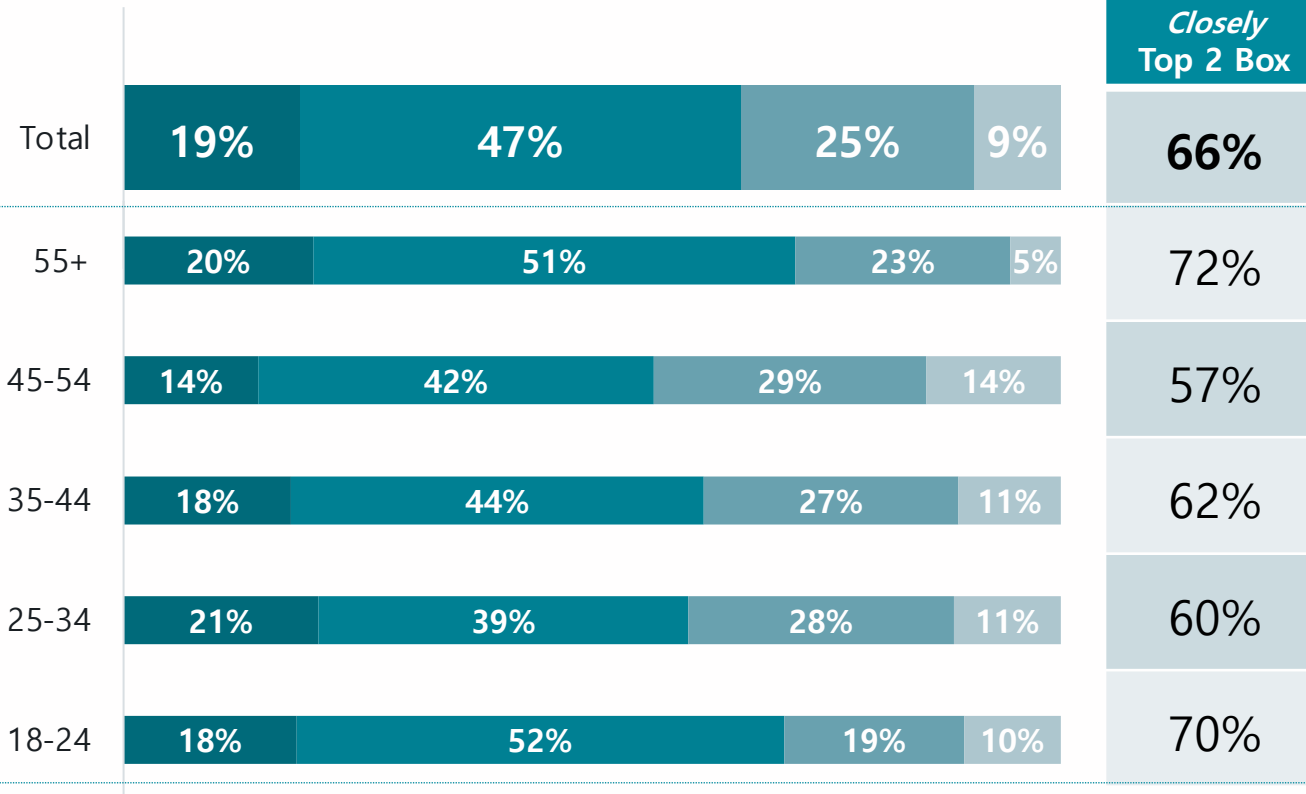
Perceptions of Israel and Hamas

America's response: foreign policy
and domestic antisemitism

2 in 3 Americans are paying at least somewhat close attention to the conflict in Israel, and over 4 in 5 agree the recent Hamas attack was an act of terror.

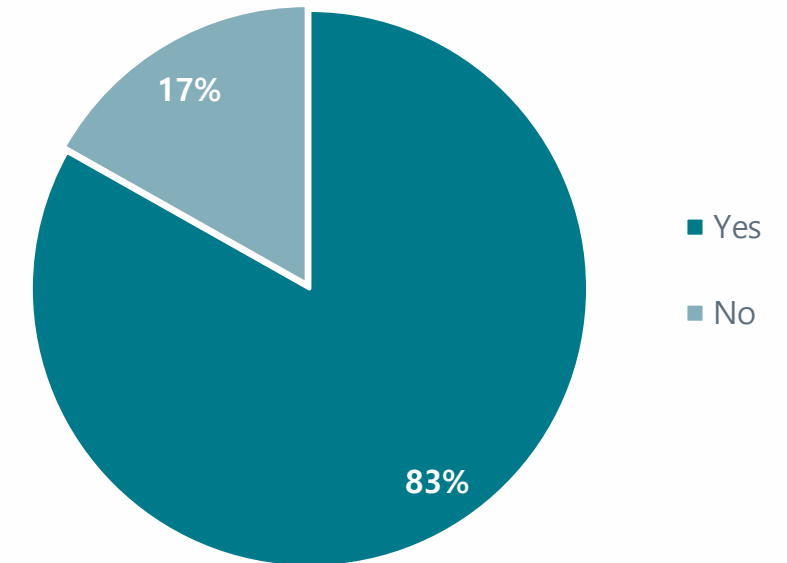
How closely are you paying attention to the Israel-Hamas war?

Very closely Somewhat closely Not very closely Not at all



Do you think the recent attack on Israel was a terrorist attack or not?

Among U.S. Adults

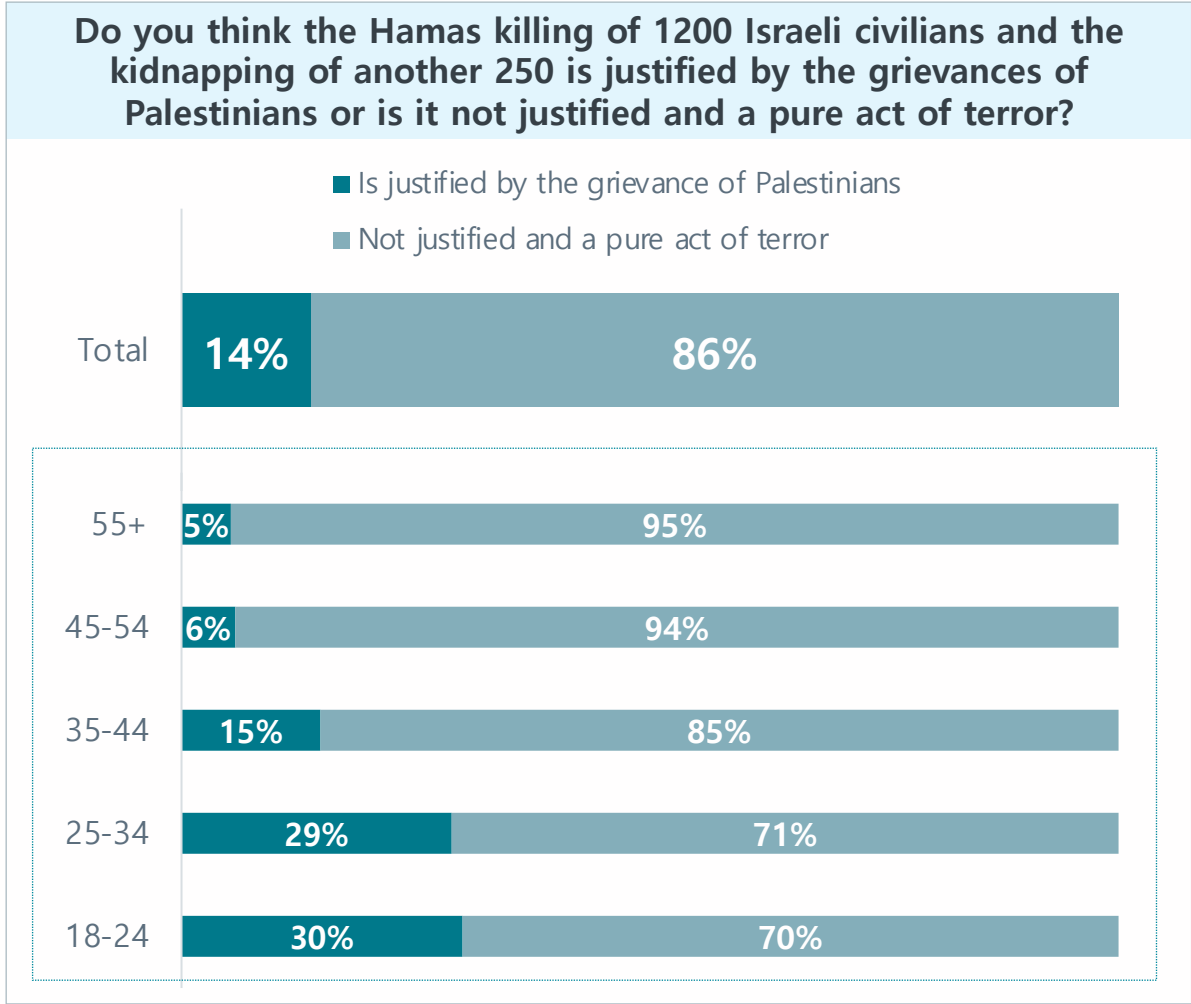
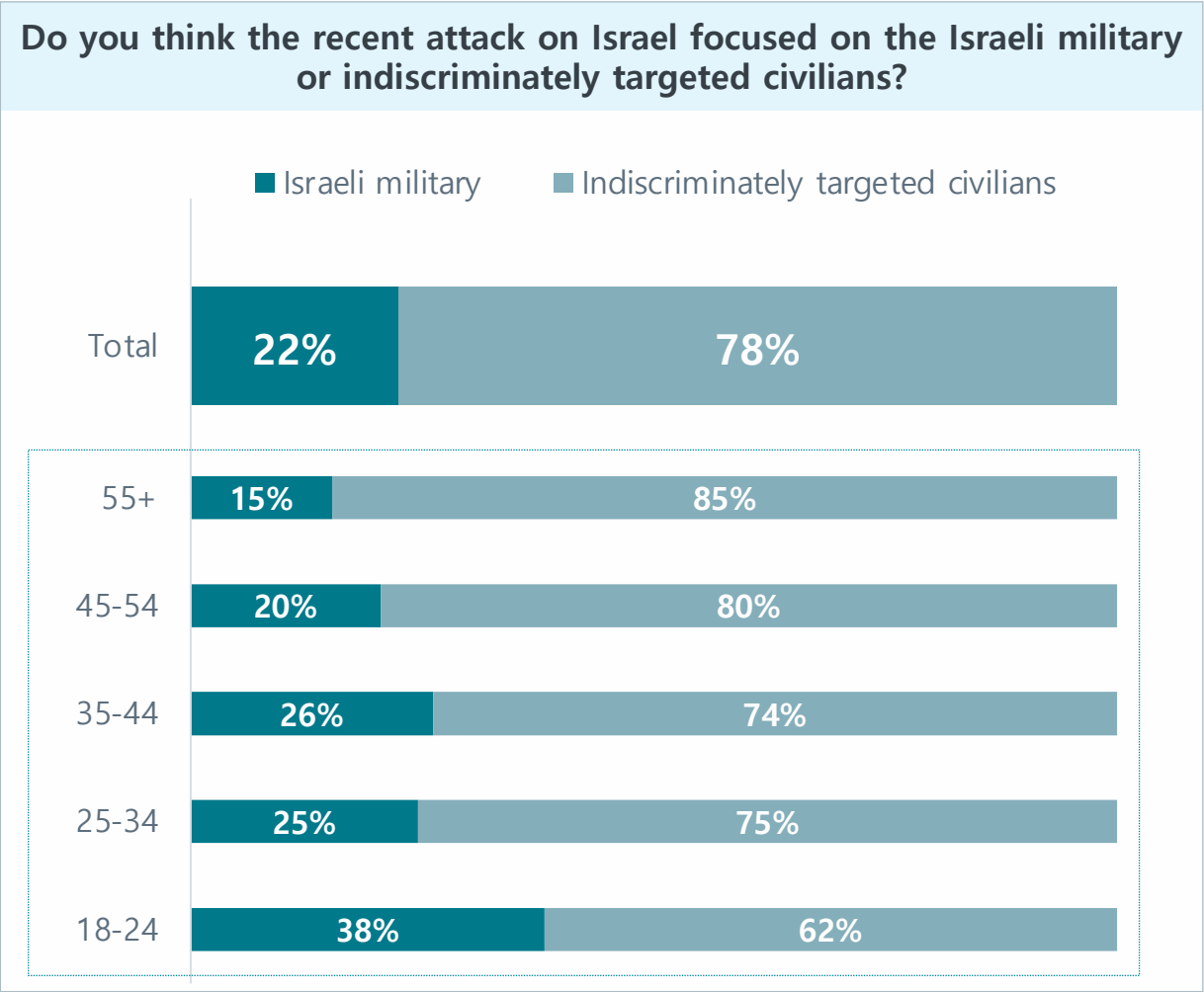


% who say 'Yes'

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
64%	76%	84%	83%	92%

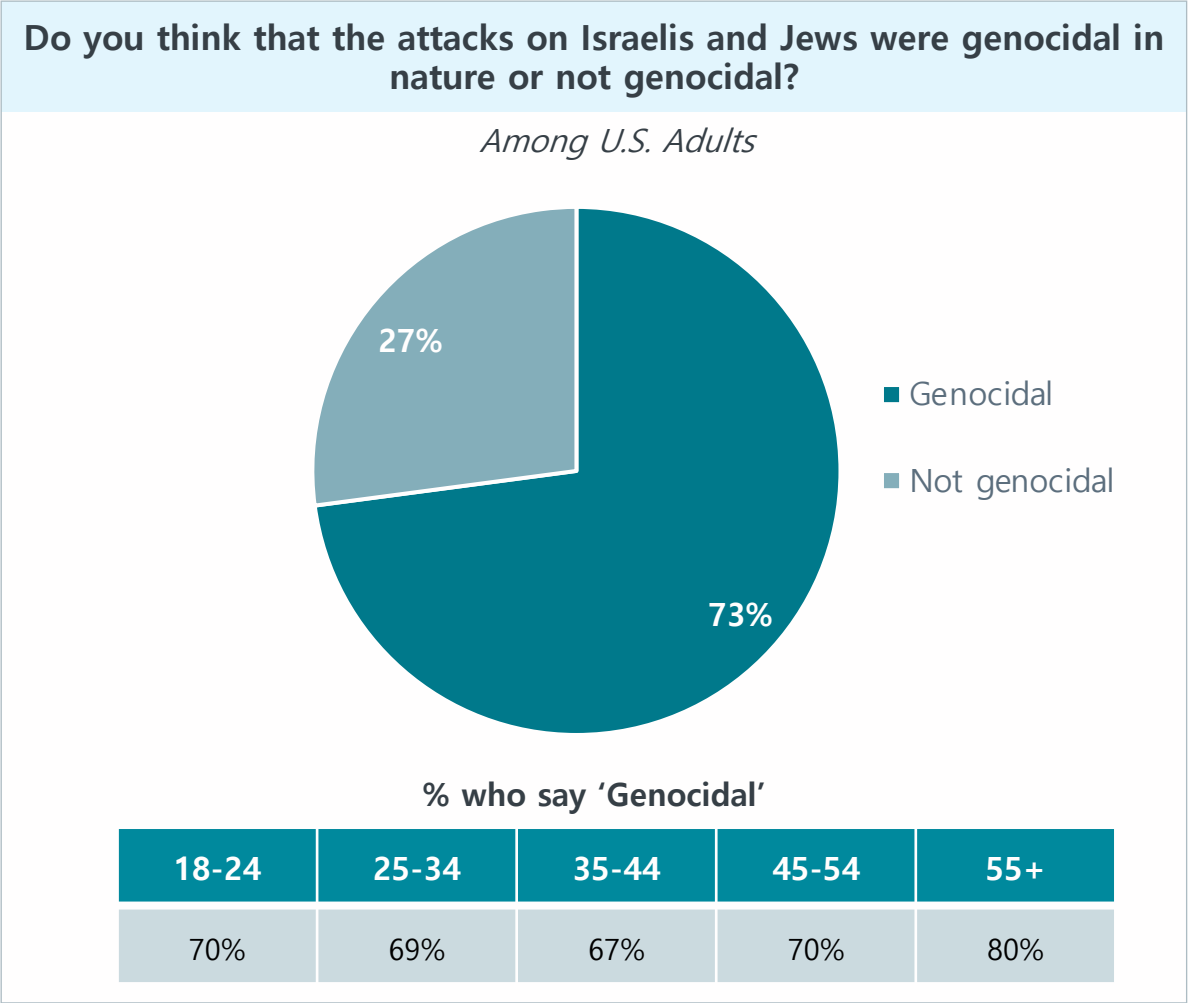
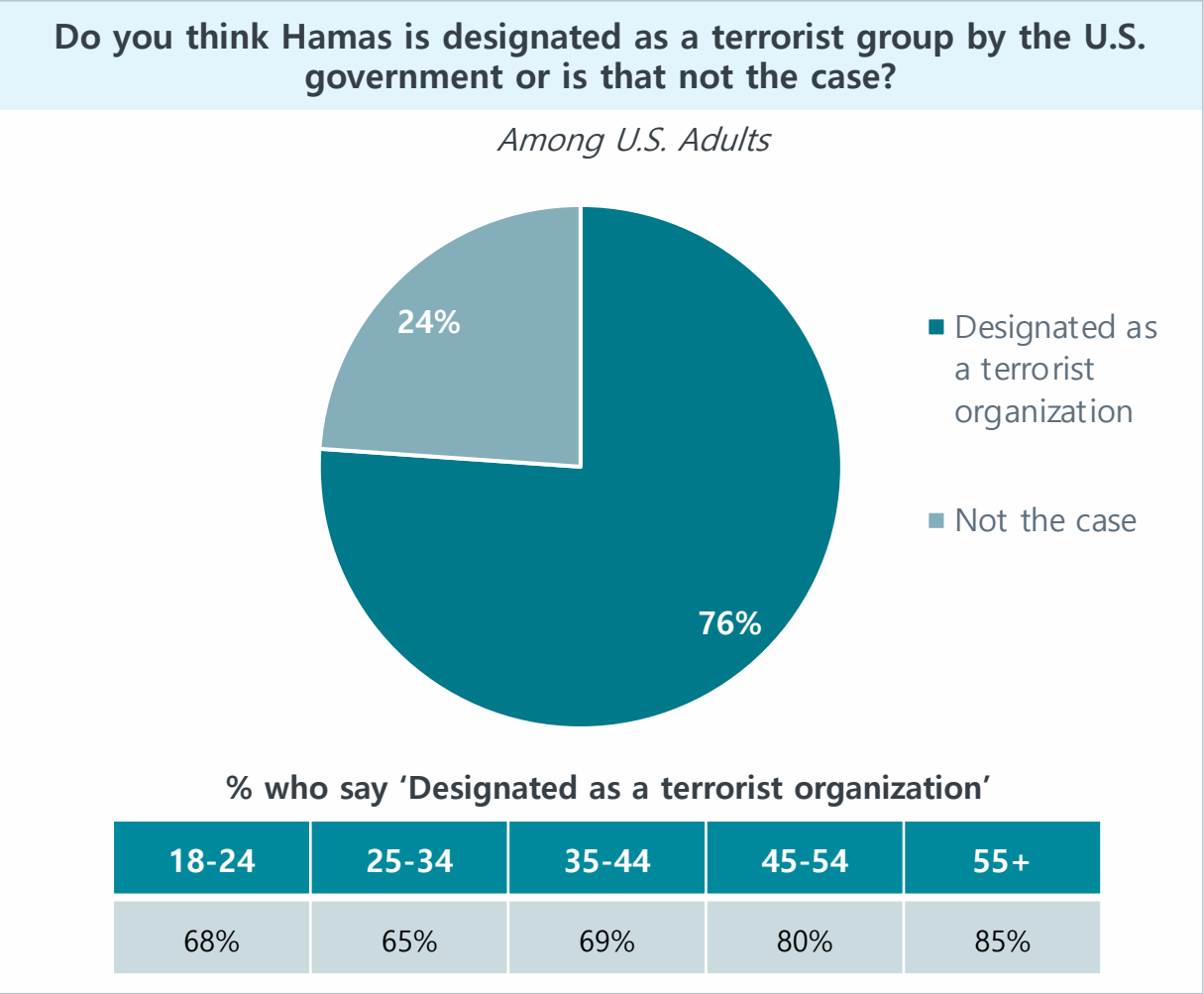
Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)
ISRQ1. How closely are you paying attention to the Israel-Hamas war? | ISRQ2. Do you think the recent attack on Israel was a terrorist attack or not?

There is widespread agreement that the attacks were unjustified and indiscriminate in their violence.



Base: U.S. Adults (n= 1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)
 ISRQ3: Do you think the recent attack on Israel focused on the Israeli military or indiscriminately targeted civilians? | ISRQ4: Do you think the Hamas killing of 1200 Israeli civilians and the kidnapping of another 250 is justified by the grievances of Palestinians or is it not justified and a pure act of terror?

Three-quarters of Americans identify Hamas as a terrorist organization, and a similar number identify the Oct. 7 attacks as a genocidal attack towards Jews.

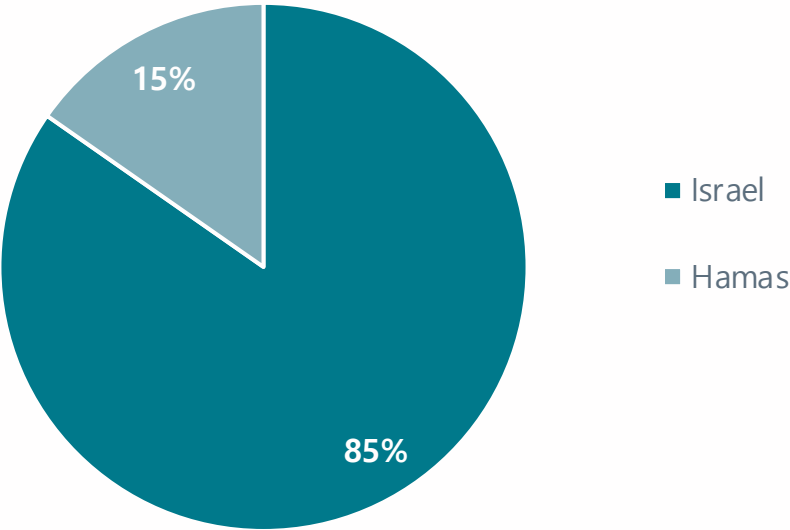


Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)
 ISRQ5: Do you think Hamas is designated as a terrorist group by the U.S. government or is that not the case? | ISRQ6: Do you think that the attacks on Israelis and Jews were genocidal in nature or not genocidal?

Americans side with Israel and say Israel has a responsibility to protect their citizens from terrorism.

In this conflict do you support more Israel or more Hamas?

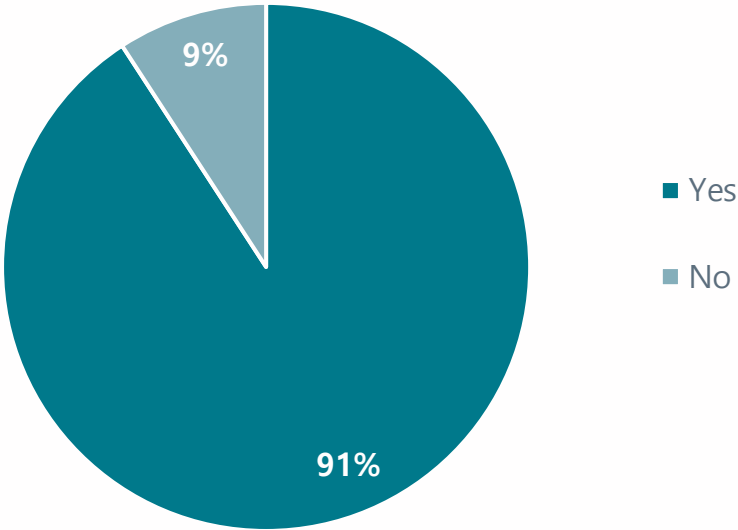
Among U.S. Adults



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Israel	66%	72%	83%	89%	95%
Hamas	34%	28%	17%	11%	5%

Does Israel have a responsibility to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks and rockets by retaliating against Hamas terrorists or not?

Among U.S. Adults



% who say 'Yes'

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
81%	86%	86%	92%	97%

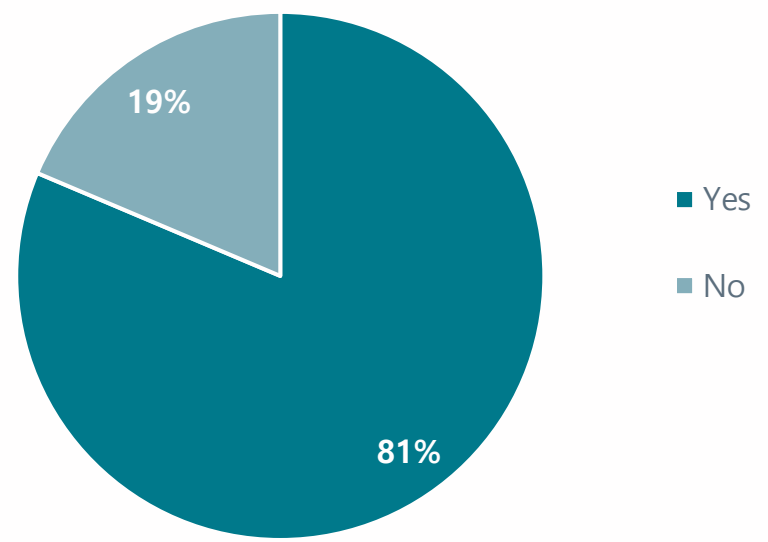
Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)
 ISRQ7: In this conflict do you support more Israel or more Hamas? | ISRQ8: Does Israel have a responsibility to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks and rockets by retaliating against Hamas terrorists or not?

There is almost universal consensus that Israel has a responsibility to bring back its abducted citizens from Gaza, and strong consensus that Israel have a right to defend itself by launching air strikes on terrorist targets in Gaza.



Does Israel have a right to defend itself against attacks by launching air strikes on terrorist targets in heavily populated areas?

Among U.S. Adults

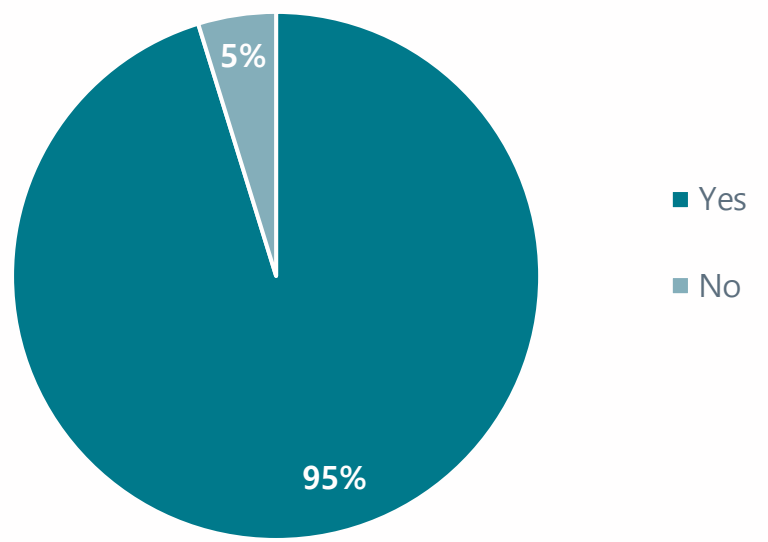


% who say 'Yes'

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
63%	70%	80%	89%	90%

Does Israel have a responsibility to bring back it's abducted citizens home from Gaza or not?

Among U.S. Adults

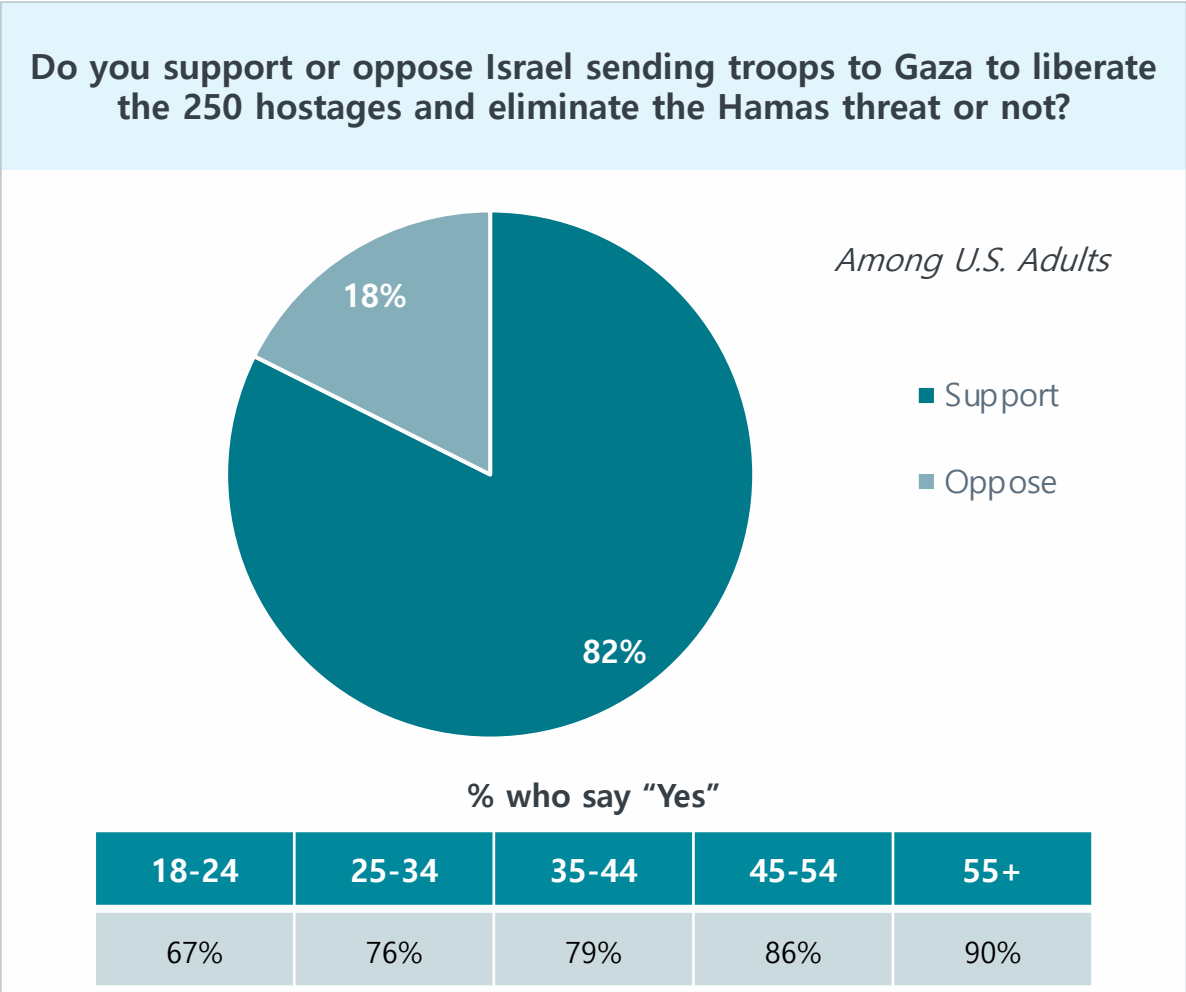
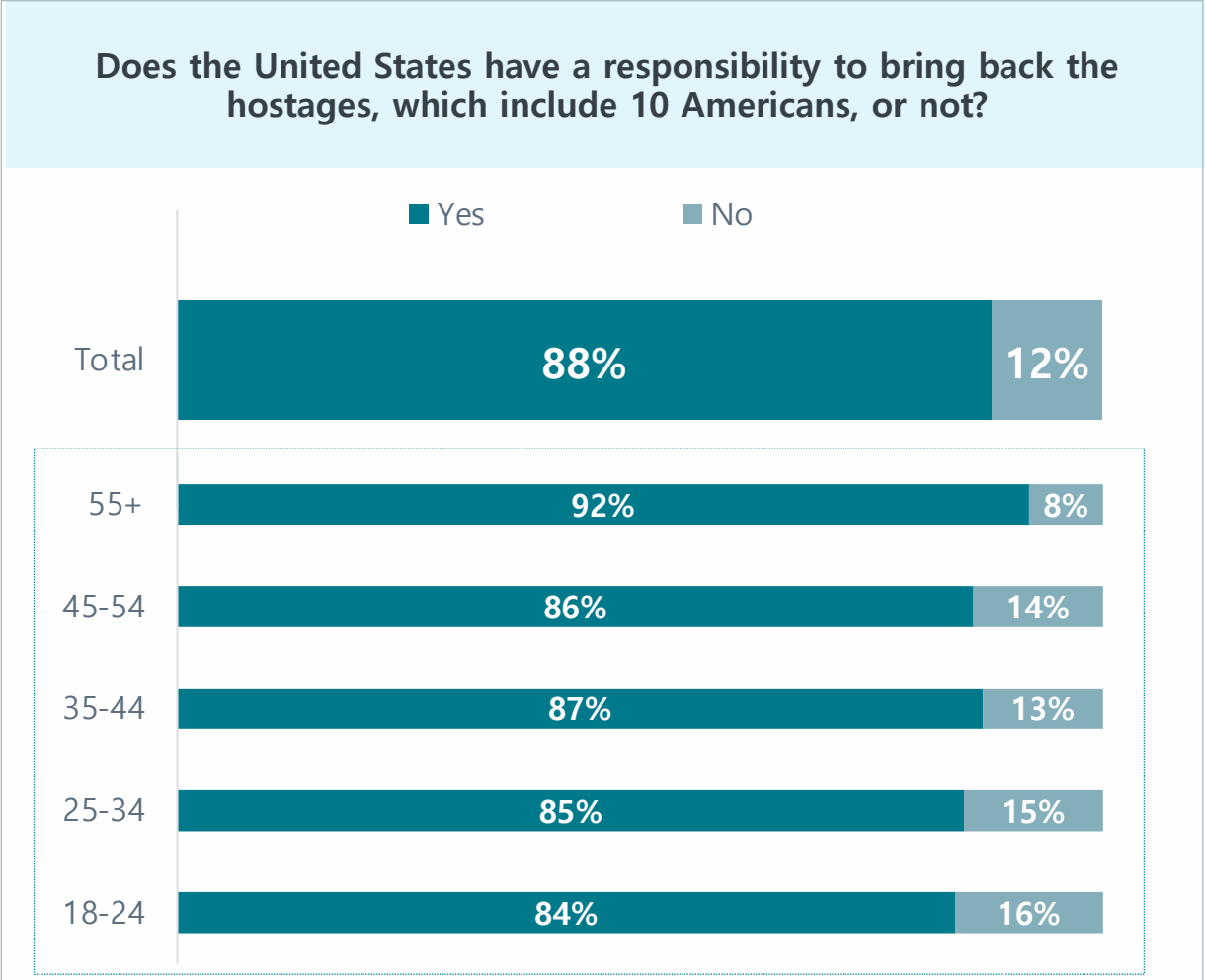


% who say 'Yes'

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
87%	95%	94%	96%	98%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)
ISRQ9: Does Israel have a right to defend itself against rocket and terror attacks on its cities by launching air strikes on terrorist targets in heavily populated areas with warnings to those citizens or does it not have the right to launch such attacks? ISRQ10: Does Israel have a responsibility to bring back it's abducted citizens – mostly innocent children, women and the elderly - home from Gaza or not?

Americans also believe the United States has a responsibility to bring back the hostages. There is strong support for Israel sending troops into Gaza to free hostages and eliminate Hamas.



Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)
 ISRQ11: Does the United States have a responsibility to bring back the hostages, which include 10 Americans, or not? ISRQ14: Do you support or oppose Israel sending troops to Gaza to liberate the 250 hostages and eliminate the Hamas threat or not?



Inside

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Reactions to the crisis and
responsibilities of each actor

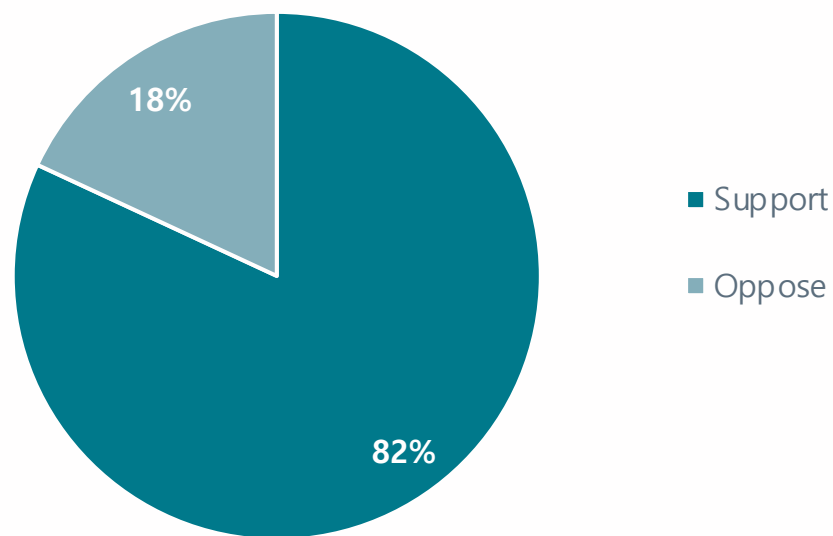
Perceptions of Israel and Hamas

America's response: foreign policy
and domestic antisemitism

Half of the public is not aware of the recent 4-hour humanitarian ceasefires introduced by Israel, but a large majority support them.

Levels of Support For Israel's Calls for Partial 4-Hour Daily Ceasefires While Continuing Military Action

Among U.S. Adults

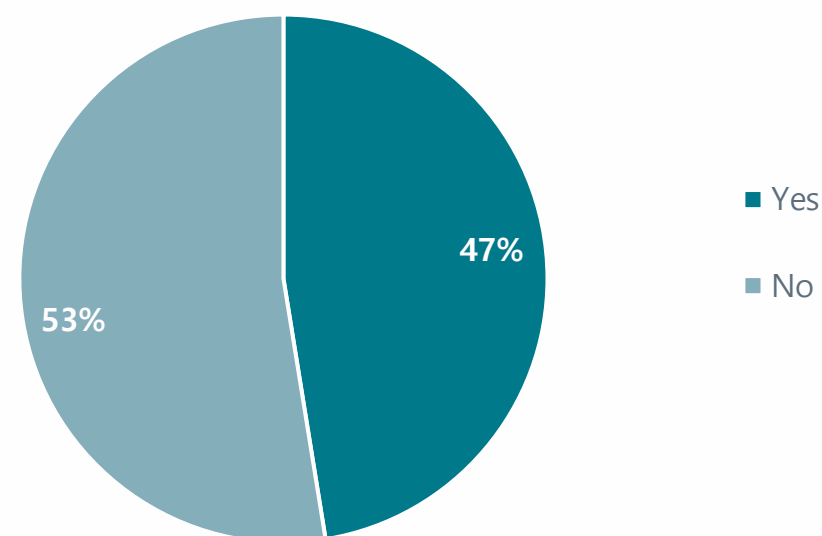


% who support

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
66%	78%	80%	87%	88%

Prior Knowledge of Partial 4-Hour Ceasefires

Among U.S. Adults



% who say "Yes"

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
32%	35%	44%	45%	60%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), 18-24-year-olds (n=153), 25-34-year-olds (n=169), 35-44-year-olds (n=245), 45-54-year-olds (n=209), 55+ year-olds (n=555)

ISRQ15. Do you support or oppose Israel calling for a partial 4-hour ceasefires each day for humanitarian reasons but continuing its military action to bring back the hostages and go after Hamas? | ISRQ16. Did you know about these partial 4-hour ceasefires or not?

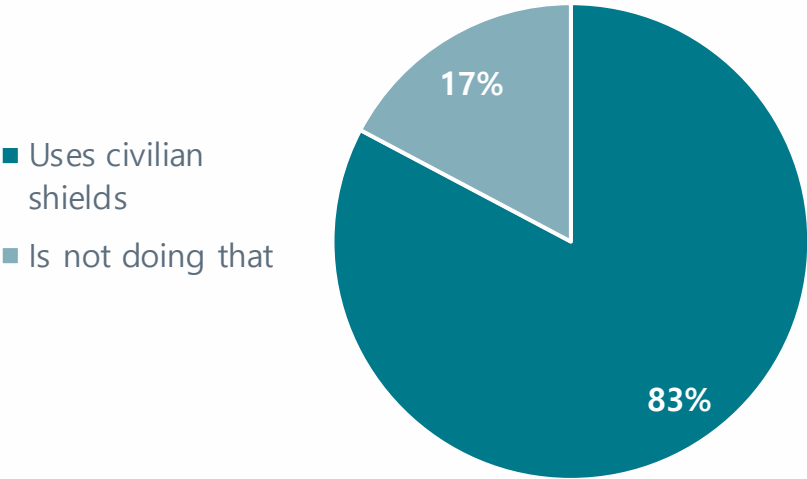
Most Americans think Hamas is a terror group not that is supported by a majority of Palestinians, and most think they use civilians as human shields, including almost two-thirds of young respondents.



Perceptions of Hamas

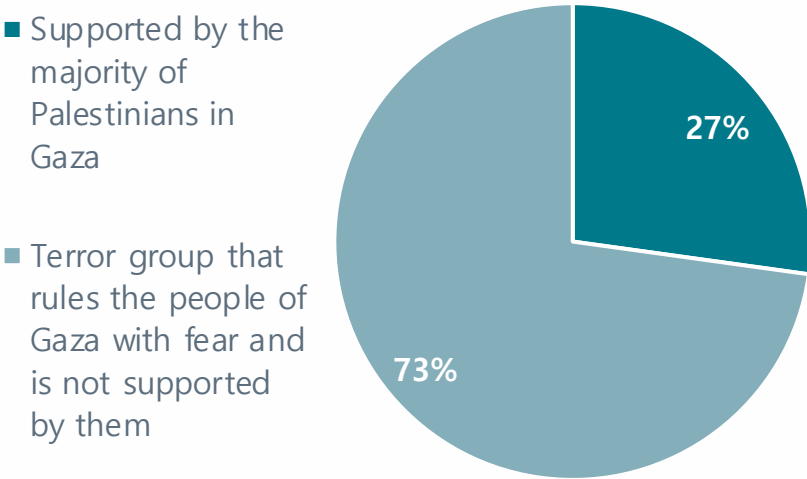
Among U.S. Adults

Does Hamas use civilians in Gaza as human shields to hide from justice or not doing that?



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Uses civilian shields	64%	71%	80%	83%	95%
Not doing that	36%	29%	20%	17%	5%

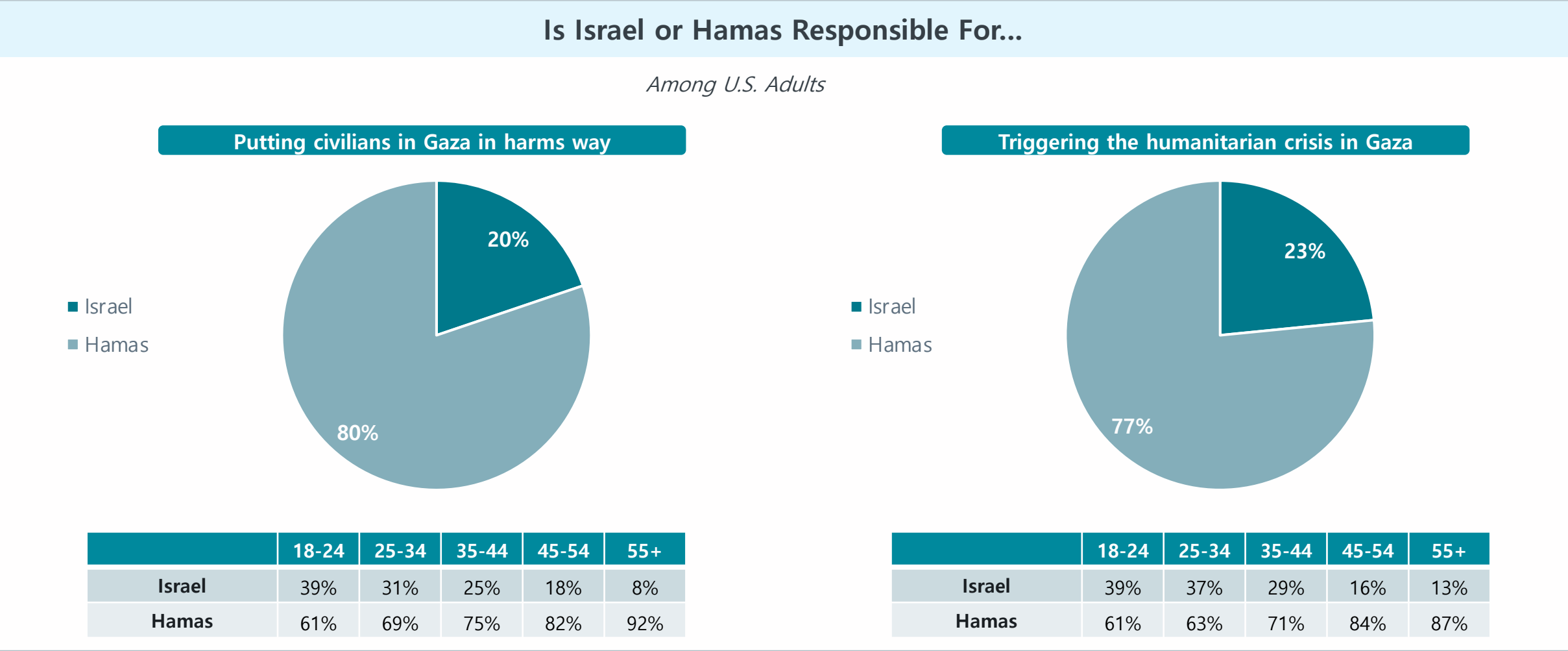
Is Hamas supported by the majority of Palestinians or a terror group that rules with force and fear and not supported?



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Supported	35%	32%	34%	23%	21%
Terror group	65%	68%	66%	77%	79%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
ISRQ17. Do you think Hamas uses civilians in Gaza as human shields to hide from justice or is not doing that? | ISRQ18. Do you think Hamas is supported by the majority of Palestinians in Gaza or is Hamas a terror group that rules the people of Gaza with force and fear and is not supported by them?
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Hamas is overwhelmingly seen as responsible for endangering civilians and starting the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.



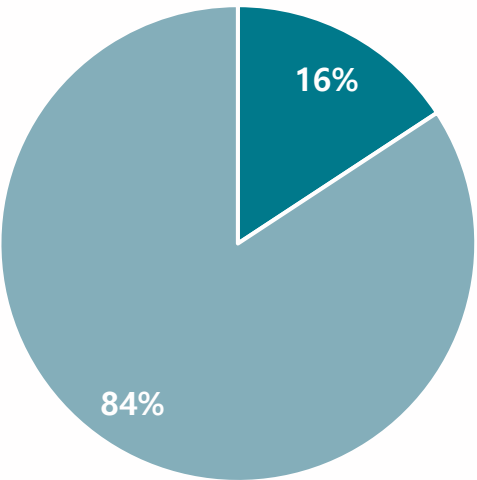
Americans perceive Hamas as repressive towards ethnic minorities, while a majority think Israel respects their rights.

Perception of Hamas vs. Israel's Treatment of Ethnic Minorities

Among U.S. Adults

Does HAMAS respect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities like Christians and Arabs or punishes them

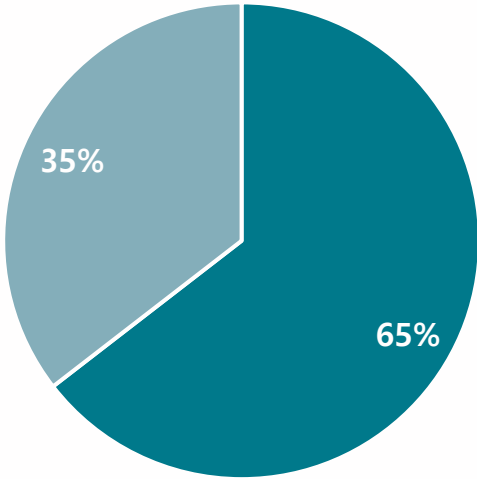
- Respect their rights
- Punishes them



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Respect their rights	34%	25%	18%	11%	7%
Punishes them	66%	75%	82%	89%	93%

Does ISRAEL respect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities like Christians and Arabs or punishes them

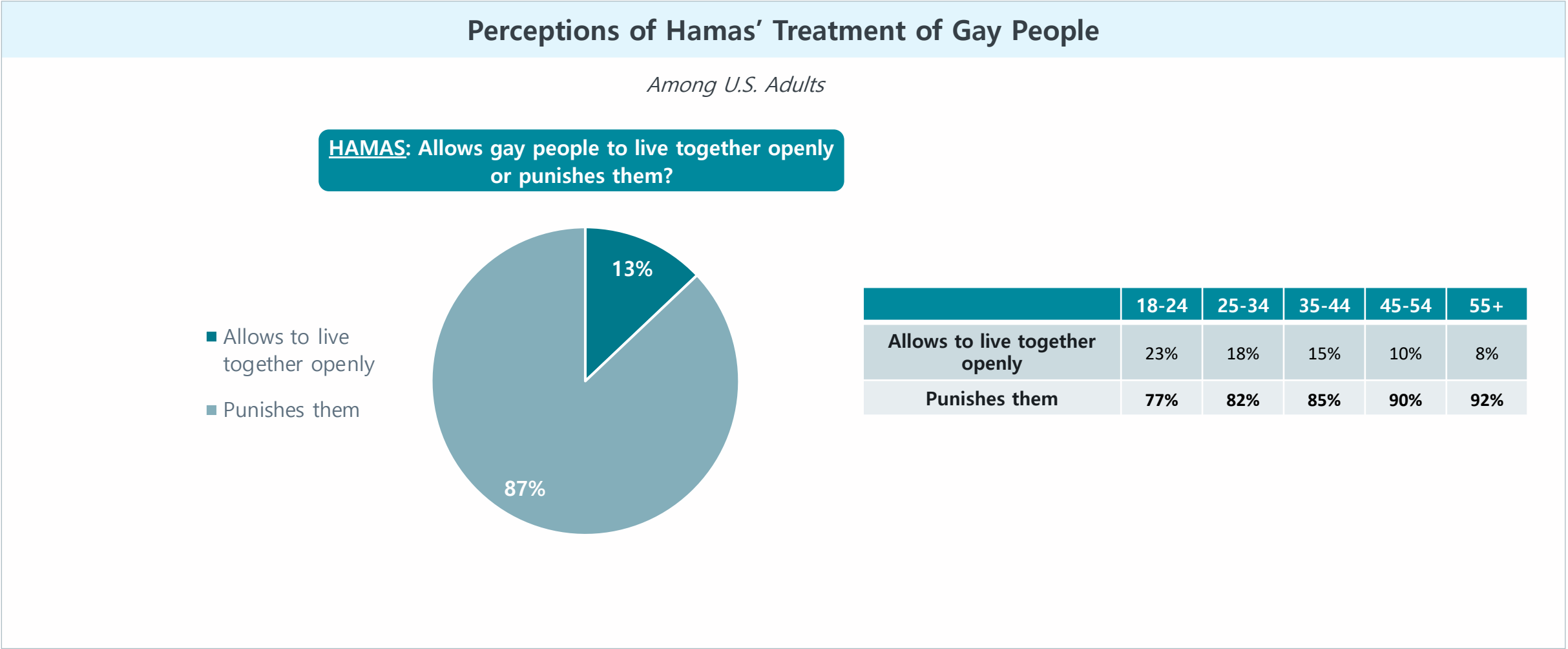
- Respect their rights
- Punishes them



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Respect their rights	44%	58%	55%	67%	78%
Punishes them	56%	42%	45%	33%	22%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
 ISRQ24. Do you think Israel respects the rights of religious and ethnic minorities like Christians and Arabs or punishes them? | ISRQ25. Do you think Israel respects the rights of religious and ethnic minorities like Christians and Arabs or punishes them?
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Few Americans think Hamas allows gay people to live openly, with strong majorities believing the regime punishes them.



Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
 ISRQ23. Do you think Hamas allows gay people to live together openly or punishes them?



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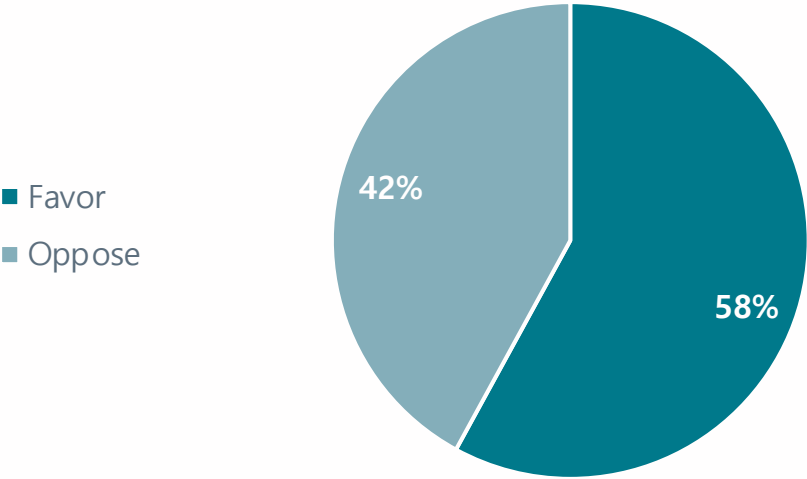
**America's response: foreign
policy and domestic antisemitism**

Nearly 3 in 5 support the \$14 billion aid package to help Israel defeat Hamas.

Favor vs Oppose: \$14 billion aid package to help Israel defeat Hamas and other terrorists in the area

Among U.S. Adults

Favor or Oppose: \$14b aid package for Israel



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
% Favor	59%	50%	48%	51%	68%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
 ISRQ30. Do you favor or oppose the 14 billion aid package to help Israel defeat Hamas and defeat other terrorist movements in the area?

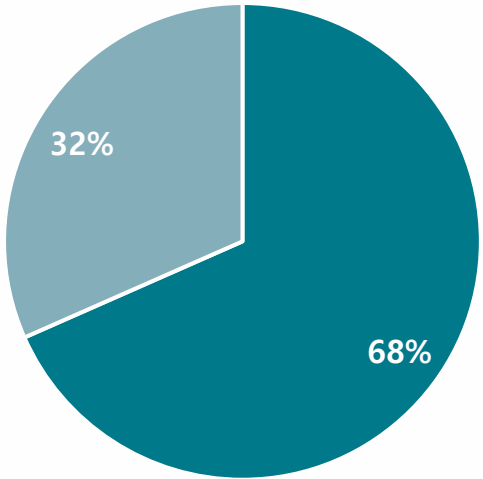
Over 2 in 3 U.S. adults believe Iran is behind the terrorist groups in the region.

Perceptions of Iran Behind the Attacks

Among U.S. Adults

Is Iran behind the terrorist attacks in the region?

- Iran is behind the attacks
- Iran is not behind the attacks

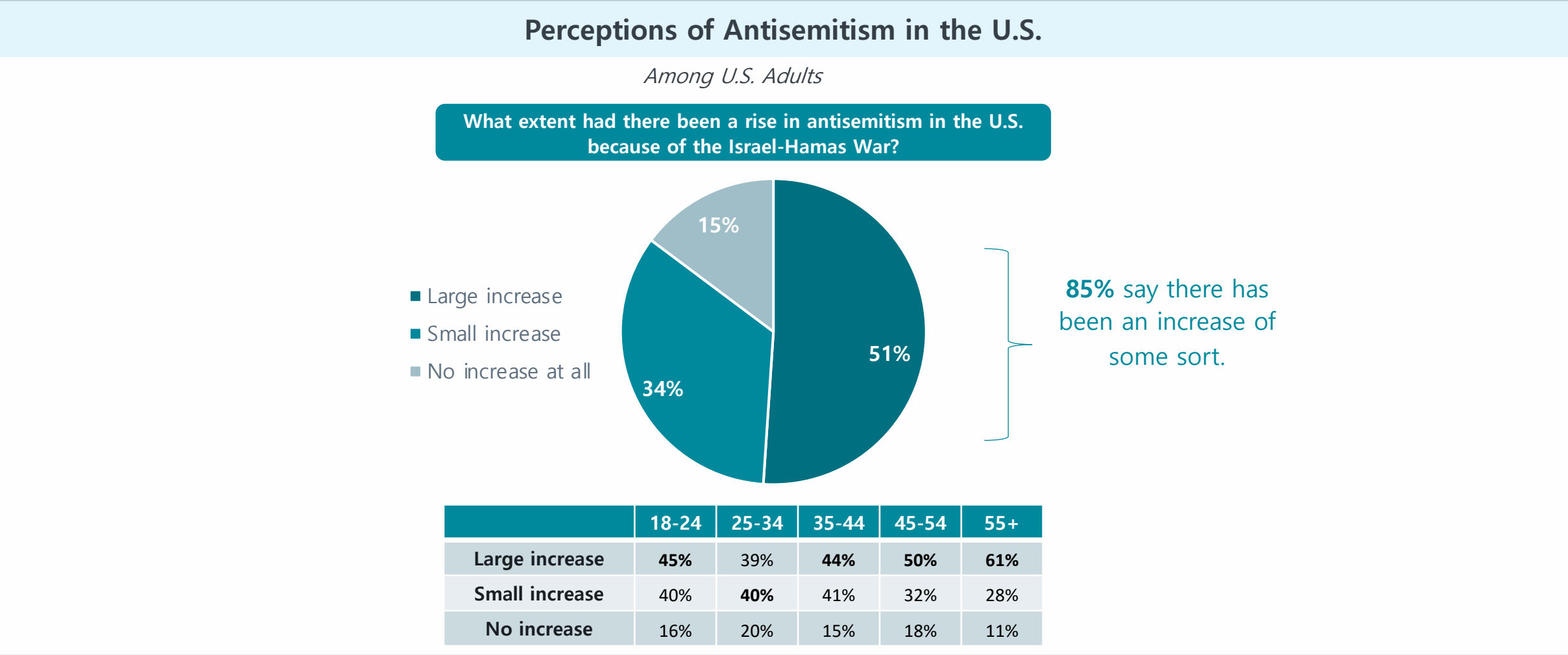


	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
% Behind the attacks	48%	47%	66%	68%	84%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
 ISRQ31. Do you think Iran is behind the terrorist groups in the region or are they not behind the terrorists and these attacks?

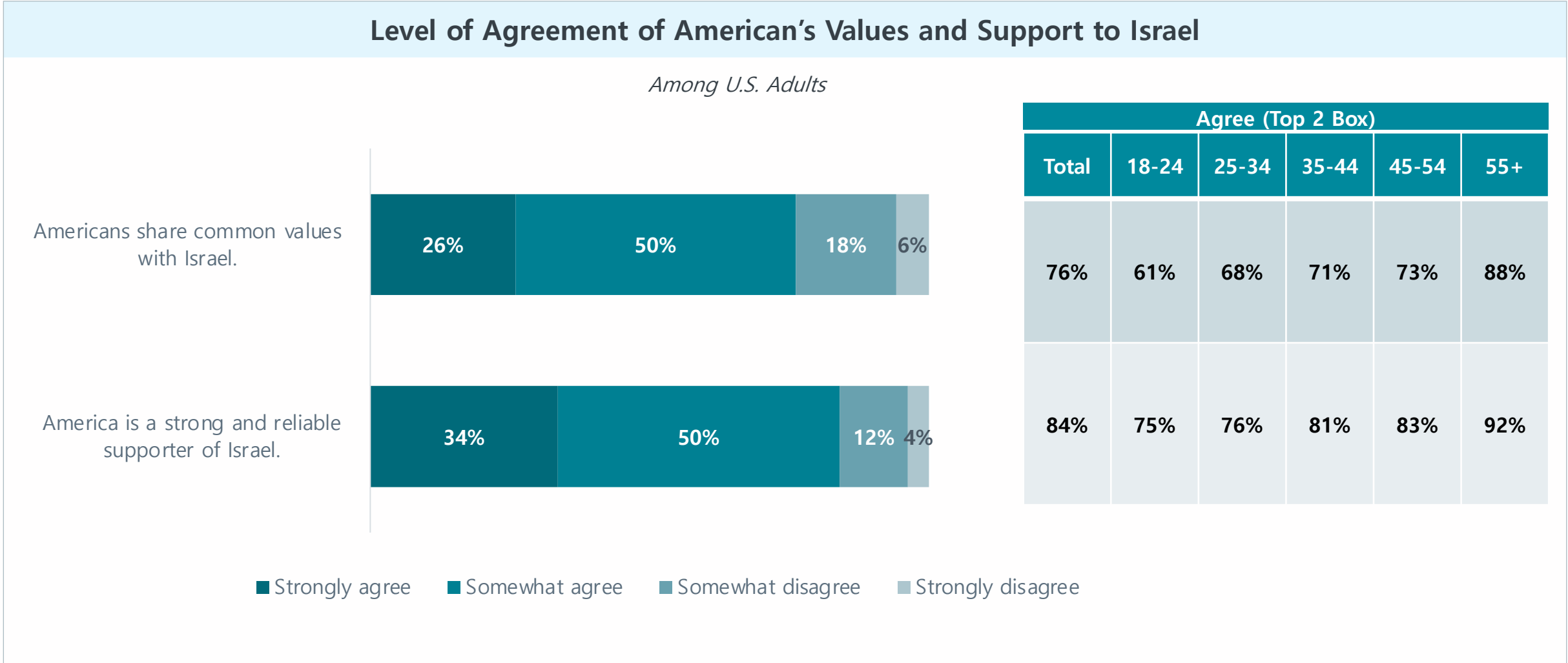
Over 4 in 5 U.S. adults feel there has been a rise in antisemitism in the U.S. because of the Israel-Hamas war.

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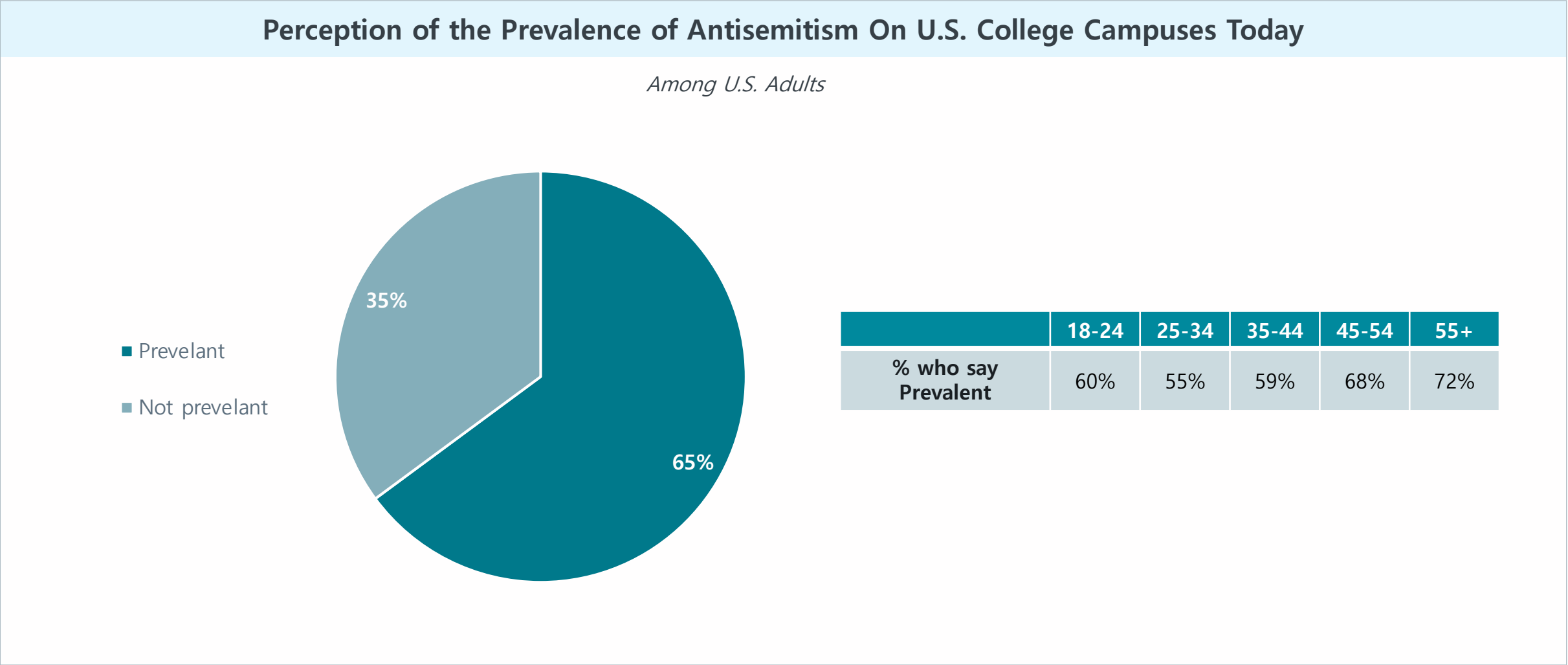


Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
ISRQ34. To what extent has there been a rise in antisemitism/ hatred of Jews in the United States as a result of the Israel - Hamas war, if any?

There is strong agreement among U.S. adults that Americans share common values with Israel, and over 4 in 5 see America as a strong supporter of Israel.



Just under 2 in 3 U.S. adults say antisemitism is prevalent on U.S. college campuses today, reaching over 7 in 10 of those aged 55+.



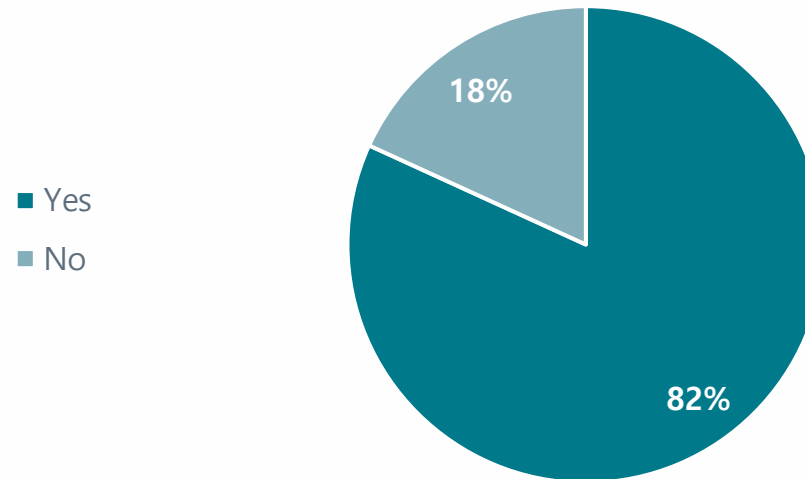
Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
 ISRQ35. Do you think antisemitism is prevalent in US college campuses today or not?

There is strong consensus that Israel is the homeland for the Jewish people.

Israel Is Seen As the Homeland for the Jewish People

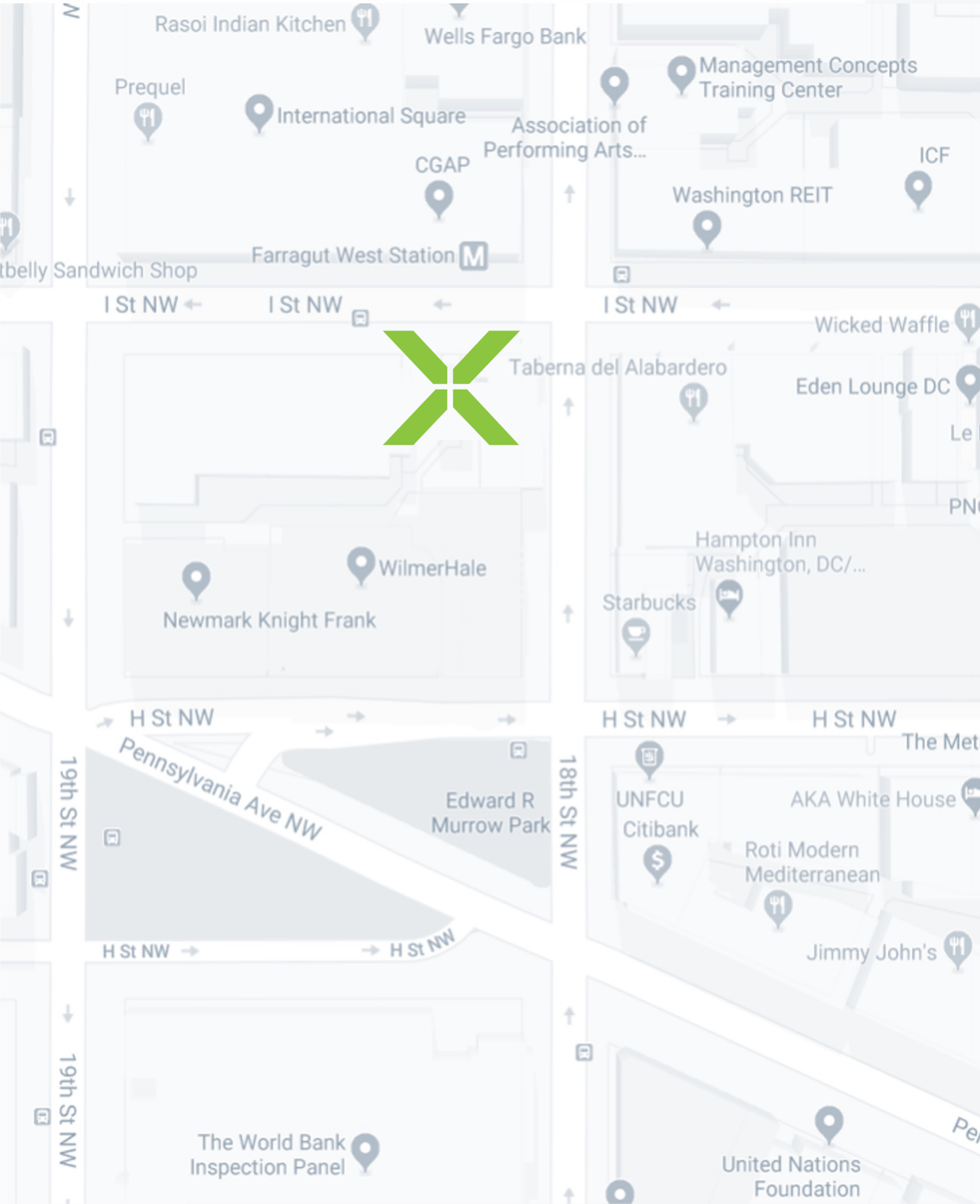
Among U.S. Adults

Is Israel the homeland for the Jewish people?



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
% Yes	63%	72%	77%	85%	93%

Base: U.S. Adults (n=1,331), Aged 18-24 (n=153), 25-34 (n=169), 35-44 (n=245), 45-54 (n=209), 55+ (n=555)
 ISRQ32 Do you think that Israel is the homeland for the Jewish people or not?



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