



Survey of Jewish Life since October 7: Israel Conversations

Findings from a poll of Americans – General Public and Jewish Americans

March 5– March 25, 2025



About This Survey

Objective: Provide local Federations, national and local Jewish partner organizations, and philanthropists with actionable insights to effectively respond to evolving needs and trends in Jewish communities. Compare to findings from a [similar study conducted in March 2024](#).



March 5 -March 25, 2025



Text message recruitment



1877 Jewish

3921 Non-Jewish

5798 Total Respondents



**Weighted to be
representative of the
US population and
Jewish community**

For questions about the data or methods, contact Research@JewishFederations.org.

This presentation and all future releases will be posted on the Berman Jewish Databank (www.jewishdatabank.org)

We are grateful for the support for this survey from:



The Surge



Since October 7, we've witnessed a remarkable rise in engagement across the Jewish community — a phenomenon we've called The Surge*.

The data is clear: **people are showing up**. But this moment is fleeting, and the time to act is now.

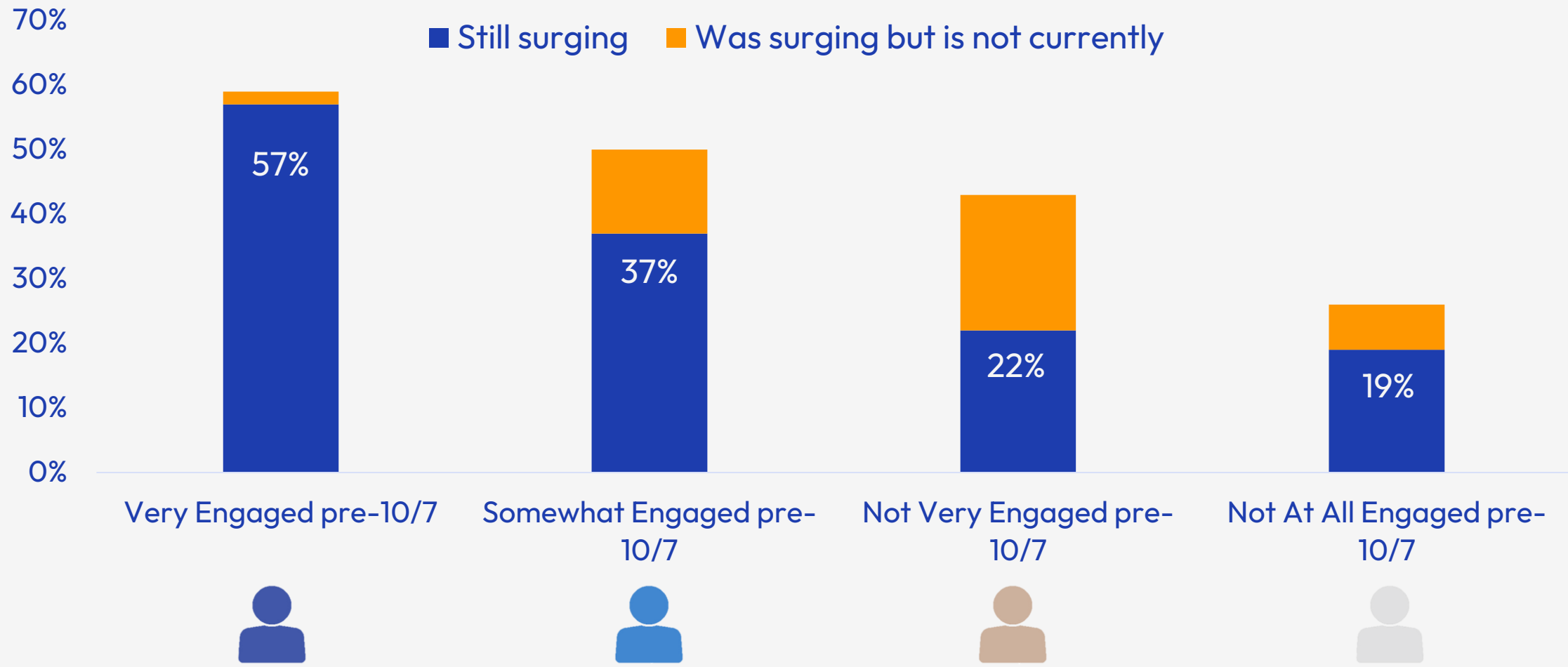
- How might we sustain this momentum and turn interest into lasting connections?
- How much we remove barriers to engagement to fully seize this phenomenon?

*JFNA's National Survey, March 2025: 5798 Total Respondents; weighted to be representative of the US population and Jewish community



Last year we saw that 43% of the Jewish community was seeking to or engaging more in Jewish life.

Today, 31% of the Jewish community is Surging.





Key Take Aways: Israel Conversations

- A majority of Jewish individuals surveyed report high levels of pride in Israel's global contributions and strong emotional attachment, reflecting a strong connection between their Jewish identity and their view of Israel.
- Building on this sense of pride offers an opportunity to deepen engagement with Israel-related programming and dialogue that reflects a community's values and perspectives.
- Creating a multitude of spaces that reflect the diversity of perspectives within the community offers the opportunity to strengthen connections to Israel while allowing people to navigate complex and sometimes divisive issues.



Jews are very supportive of Israel; many find it difficult to support the government at this time.

88% It is important to me that Israel is both a Jewish and democratic state.

71% I feel emotionally attached to Israel.

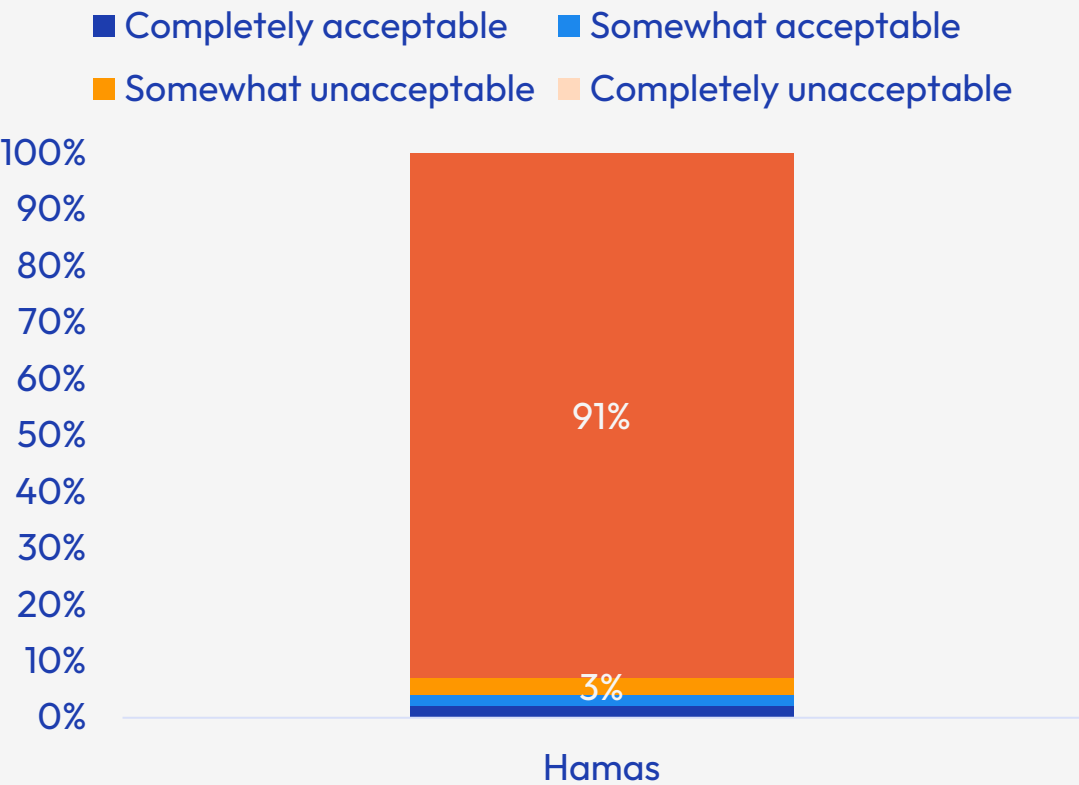
60% In general, Israel makes me proud to be Jewish.

69% I sometimes find it hard to support actions taken by the Israeli government.

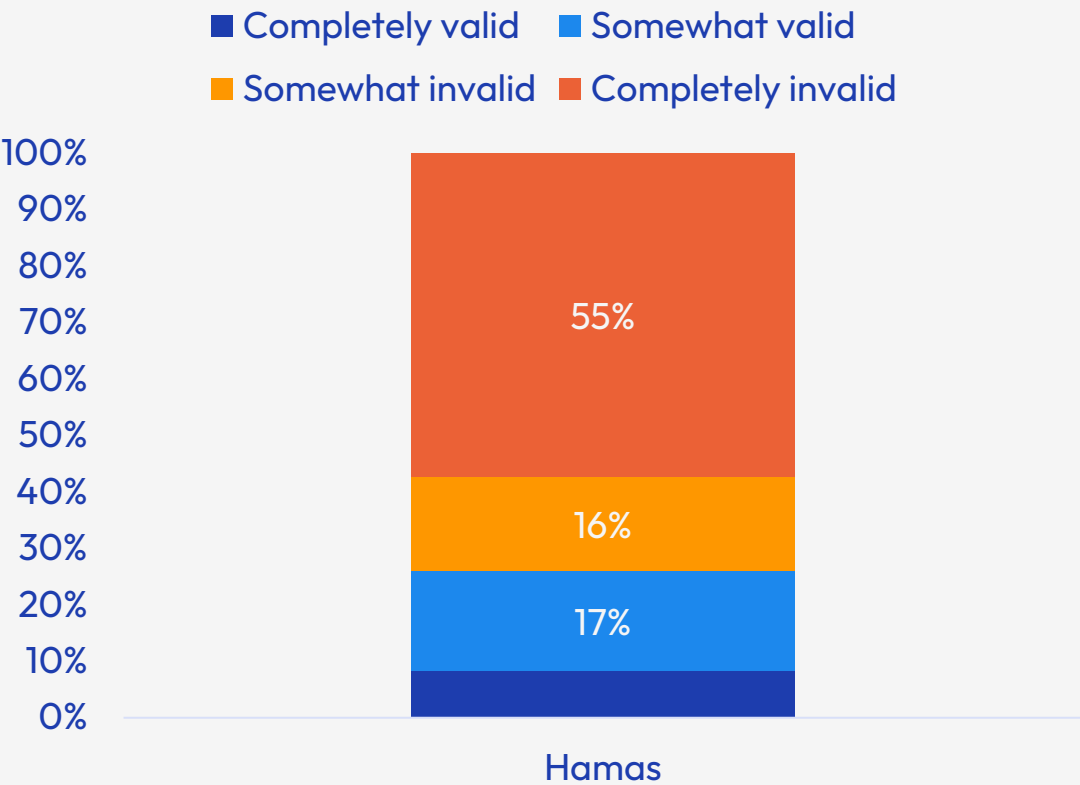


94% of Jews agree the way Hamas carried out its 10/7 attack was unacceptable, and the majority do not think Hamas has valid reasons for fighting Israel

Do you think the way Hamas carried out its attack on Israel on Oct. 7 was...



Do you think Hamas' reasons for fighting Israel are...

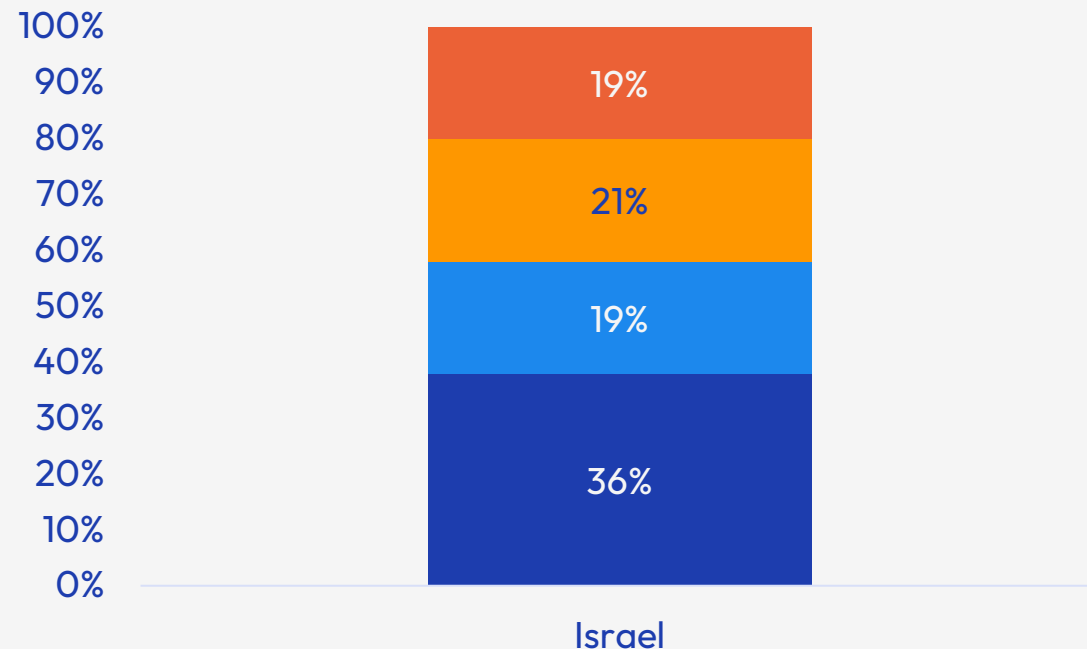




87% of Jews think Israel has valid reasons for fighting Hamas, and over half think it is carrying out its response in an acceptable way.

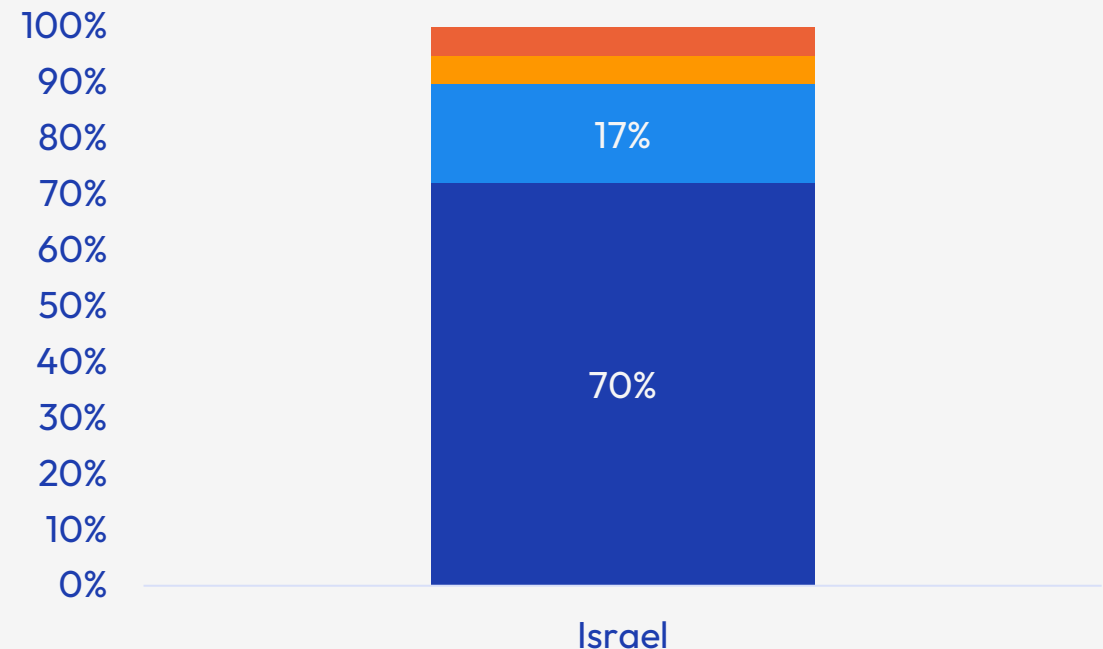
Do you think the way Israel is carrying out its response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack is...

■ Completely acceptable ■ Somewhat acceptable
■ Somewhat unacceptable ■ Completely unacceptable



Do you think Israel's reasons for fighting Hamas are...

■ Completely valid ■ Somewhat valid
■ Somewhat invalid ■ Completely invalid





Still, for 1 in 3
Jews,
conversations
about the War
are negatively
impacting
community
engagement and
belonging.

35%

feel like if they shared their
views on Israel in their
Jewish community they
would not be welcomed

29%

feel like the American
Jewish community is so
divided on the issue of
Israel and the War that
they're having trouble
finding where they belong



Jews have complex critiques of the conversation in the Jewish community on Israel.

49% of Jews feel like the American Jewish community does not allow for nuanced conversations about the War

37% of Jews are tired of talking about the politics of Israel in Jewish spaces



Jews are divided on the challenge of how the Jewish community is handling the topic of Israel.

39% of Jews feel like the American Jewish community is **too hardline** in its support of Israel

34% of Jews feel like the American Jewish community is **not strong and outspoken enough** in its support of Israel

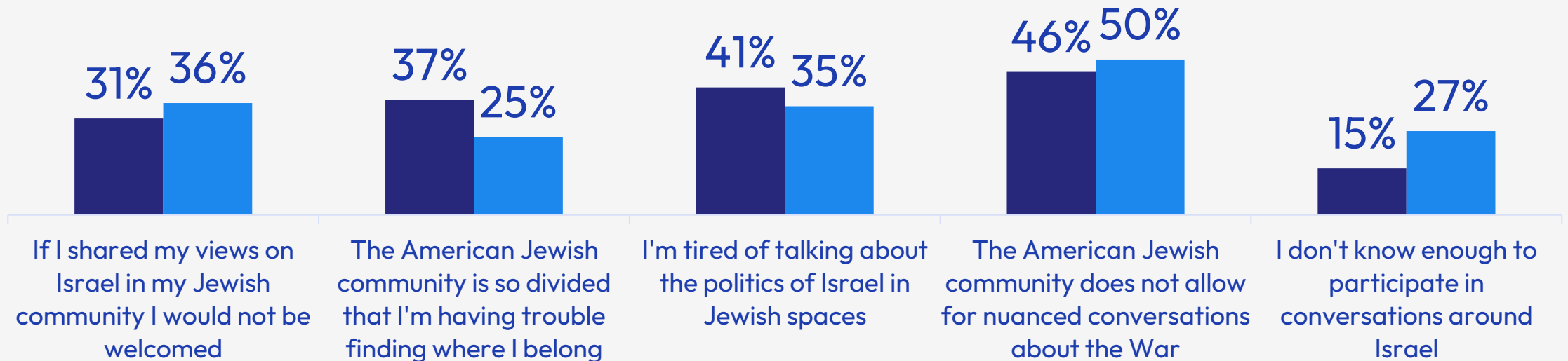


24% of American Jews
say they **don't know**
enough to participate in
conversations around
Israel.

Those struggling with conversations around Israel are continuing to surge. Even if they are tired of the conversation, they continue to seek community. **It is lack of knowledge that most keeps people away.**



■ Surging ■ Not surging





Thank You!