

Muslim-Jewish Relations in the U.S.

March 2018

INTRODUCTION

Overview

FFEU partnered with PSB Research to conduct a survey of Muslim and Jewish Americans.

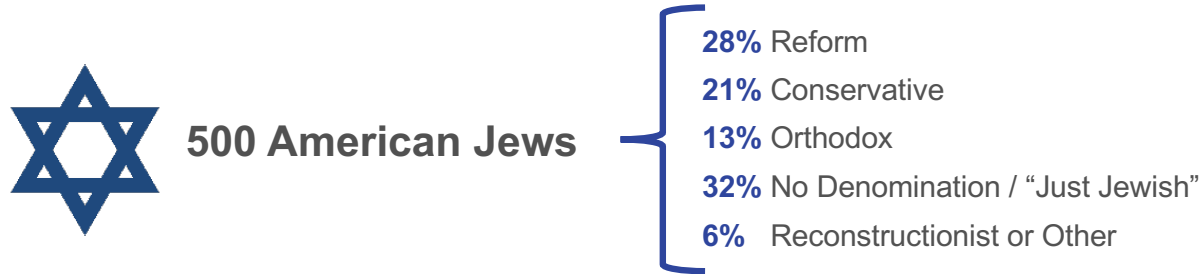
This national benchmark survey measures opinions and behaviors of Muslim Americans and Jewish Americans, including

- Points of commonality and areas of difference between the two communities
- Perceptions of and interactions with people of the other faith
- Perceptions of domestic and international political issues where these religious beliefs are a factor

INTRODUCTION

Methodology

PSB conducted 1,000 online interviews nationwide between January 9th-24th, 2018.



Throughout this presentation we often cite these subgroups:	
Jews who interact with Muslims "frequently"	Muslims who interact with Jews "frequently"
N=127	N=218

Urban Jew	Suburban Jew
N=146	N=315

Urban Muslim	Suburban Muslim
N=227	N=232

KEY FINDINGS

In their values and lifestyles, American Muslims and Jews find many commonalities – values such as the importance of family, making the world a better place, and respect for others are priorities for both faiths, while other tenets – like daily prayer and certain holy texts – are generally more important to Muslims than Jews

American Muslims and Jews who interact often with the other faith are more likely to see the similarities between the religions and communities

- Those who interact with the other faith are more likely to say that the two faiths are more similar than they are different, and interaction with the people of the other faith is connected to a more inclusive and progressive view of the other religion

While both groups feel they have experienced discrimination, they both particularly acknowledge the obstacles faced by Muslims

- Muslims are more concerned about the safety of their families and religious freedom than their Jewish counterparts are
- While Jews are more likely to find anti-Semitism among Muslims, both groups believe anti-Muslim sentiment exists among some Jews

Both faiths see the importance of working together to combat discrimination, and are optimistic that America can be more tolerant

- Jews and Muslims both see the potential positive impact that could be made by Muslims speaking out against extremism

Despite commonalities, geopolitical issues create divides, but Muslims and Jews who interact with the other faith are more likely to see the potential for peace

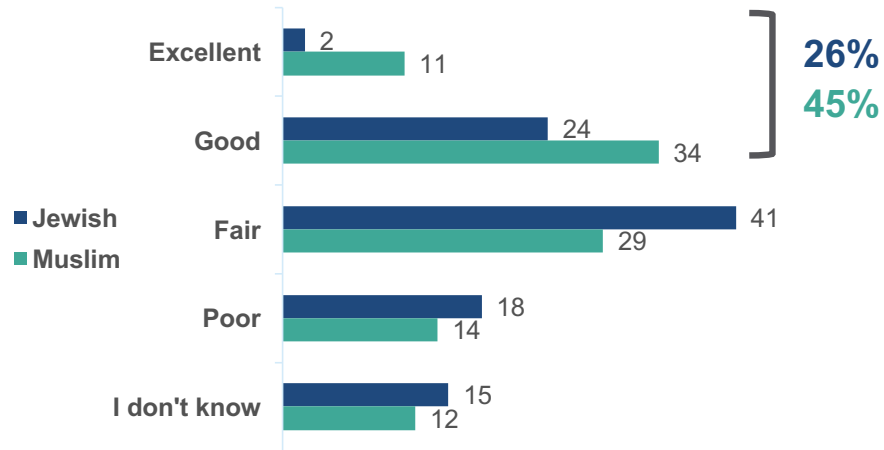
INTERACTING & COMPARING EXPERIENCES

INTERACTION

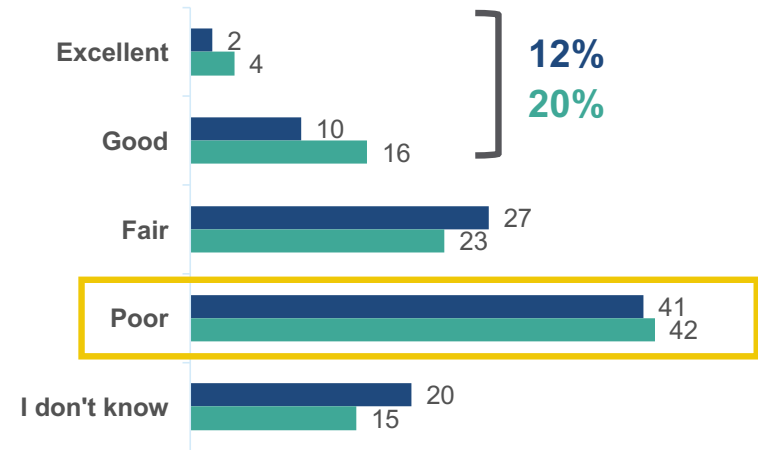
American Muslims and Jews believe their relationship is mostly positive, but that the media's depictions are more negative

How would you describe the relationship between Muslims and Jews in the U.S. today?

20% of Muslims who interact with Jews frequently say the relationship is "excellent"



How would you say the media describes the relationship between Muslims and Jews in the U.S. today?



COMPARING EXPERIENCES

Jews and Muslims find common ground in certain religious values: family and making the world a better place

Which of the following things would you say are most important to your religious tradition?

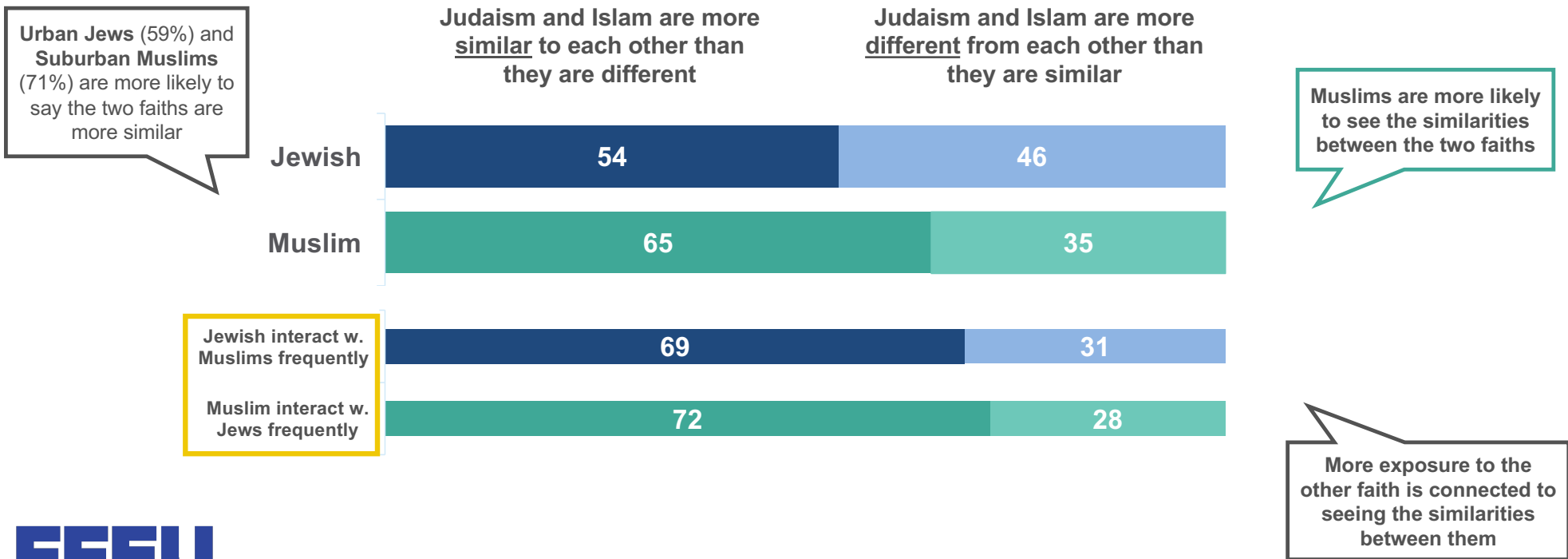
Rank	Jewish	%	Muslim	%
1	Family	54	Daily prayer	52
2	Making the world a better place for everyone	42	Family	37
3	Pride in your faith	34	Making the world a better place for everyone	34
4	Respect for your neighbor	23	Fasting	32
5	Rituals	21	Holy texts	22
6	Community events/gatherings	15	Pride in your faith	21
7	Oral tradition	12	Donating personal wealth / charitable giving	21
8	Daily prayer	11	Respect for your neighbor	19
9	Donating personal wealth / charitable giving	11	Restrictions on certain foods	15
10	Holy texts	9	Rituals	8
11	Restrictions on certain foods	8	Special clothing or ways of dressing	6
12	Volunteerism	8	Volunteerism	5
13	Fasting	5	Oral tradition	4
14	Special clothing or ways of dressing	1	Community events/gatherings	3

Fasting, daily prayer, and holy texts are more important to Muslims' traditions than they are to Jews.

*Other, I don't know, and None of the above not shown

COMPARING EXPERIENCES

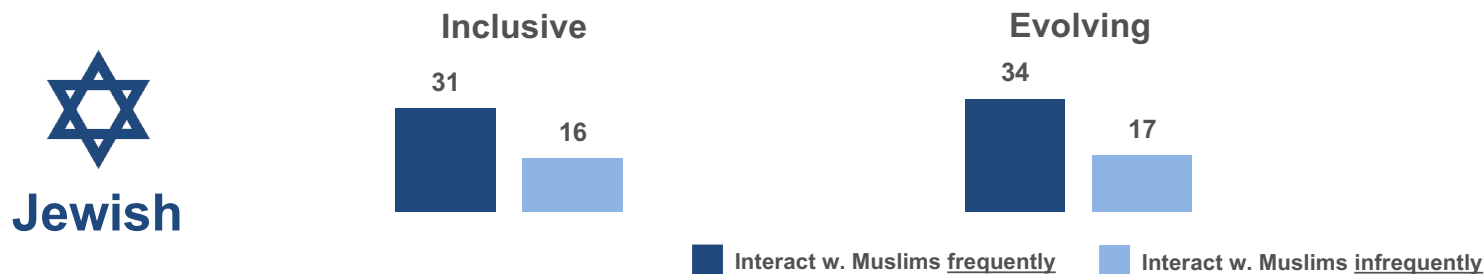
Majorities of both faiths recognize the similarities between them – and this only increases with exposure to the other



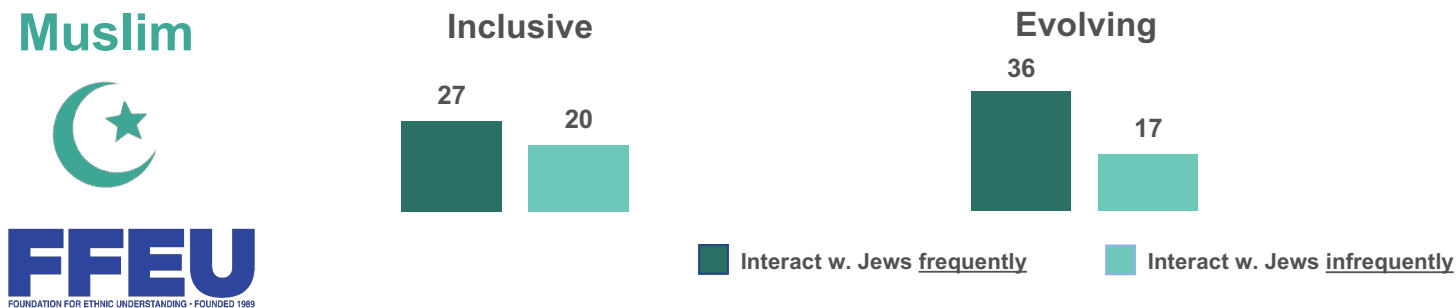
COMPARING EXPERIENCES

Those with more exposure to the other faith are more likely to see it as inclusive and progressive

Islam is more...



Judaism is more...

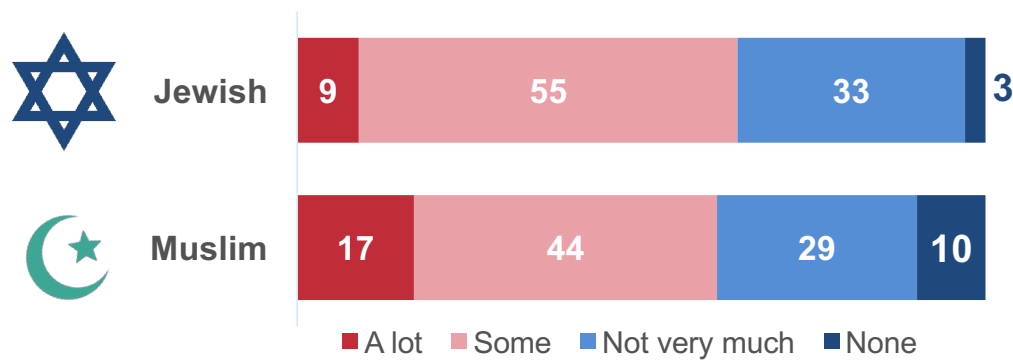


DISCRIMINATION

DISCRIMINATION

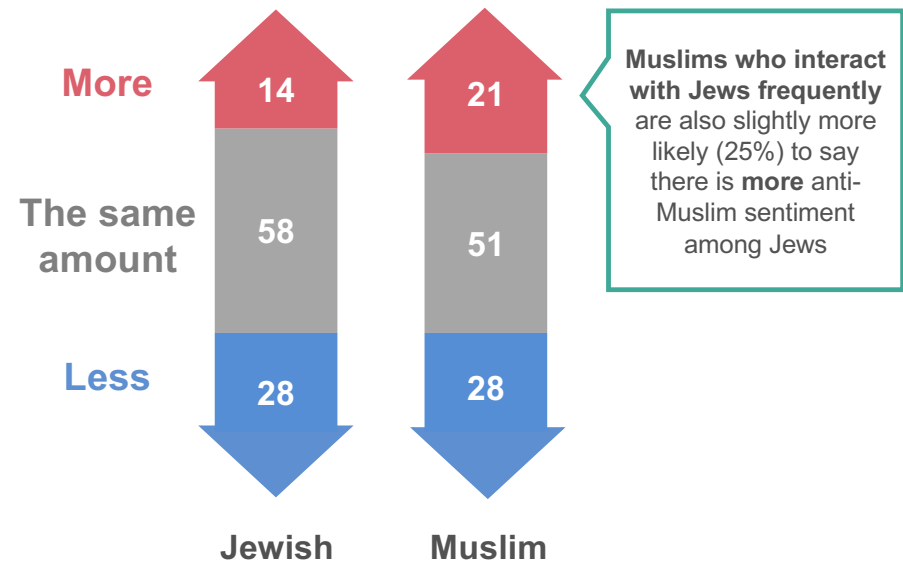
Despite their similarities, both faiths acknowledge that there is some anti-Muslim sentiment in the Jewish American community

How much anti-Muslim sentiment is there in the Jewish community?



Muslims who interact with Jews frequently are slightly more likely (20%) to say there is "a lot" of anti-Muslim sentiment among Jews

Do you think there is more, less, or the same amount of anti-Muslim sentiment in the American Jewish community as there is in the U.S. population overall?

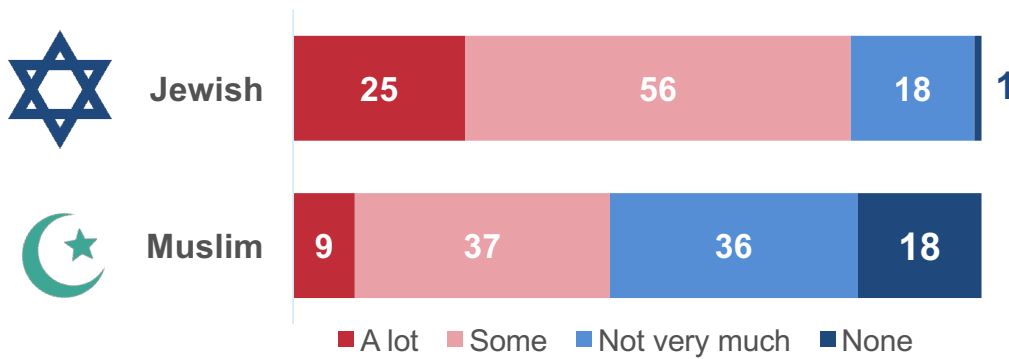


Muslims who interact with Jews frequently are also slightly more likely (25%) to say there is more anti-Muslim sentiment among Jews

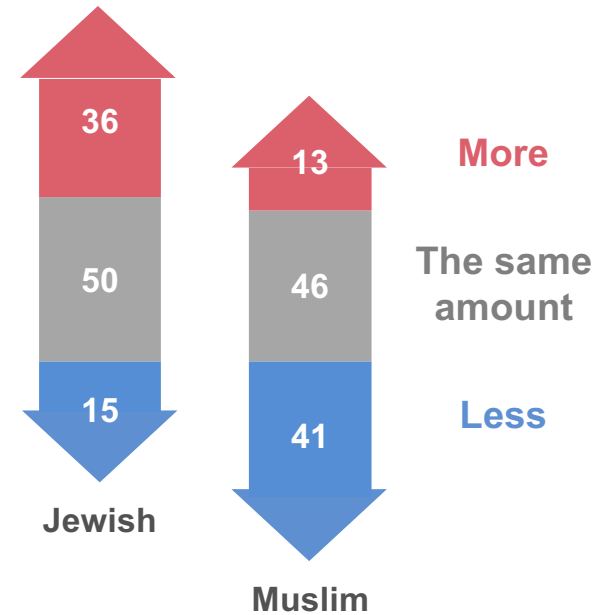
DISCRIMINATION

Most American Jews believe anti-Semitism in the Muslim American community exists, but Muslims are less likely to feel this way

How much anti-Semitism do you think there is in the American Muslim community?



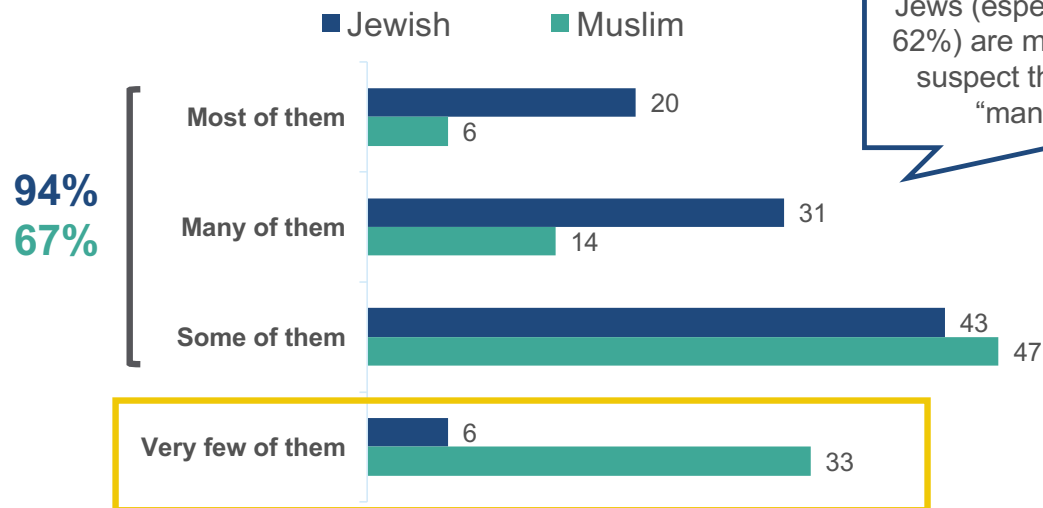
Do you think there is **more**, **less**, or the same amount of anti-Semitism in the American Muslim community as there is in the U.S. population overall?



DISCRIMINATION

Most of both faiths see at least some connection between anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli sentiment

How many Americans who are **anti-Israel** do you think are also **anti-Semitic**?



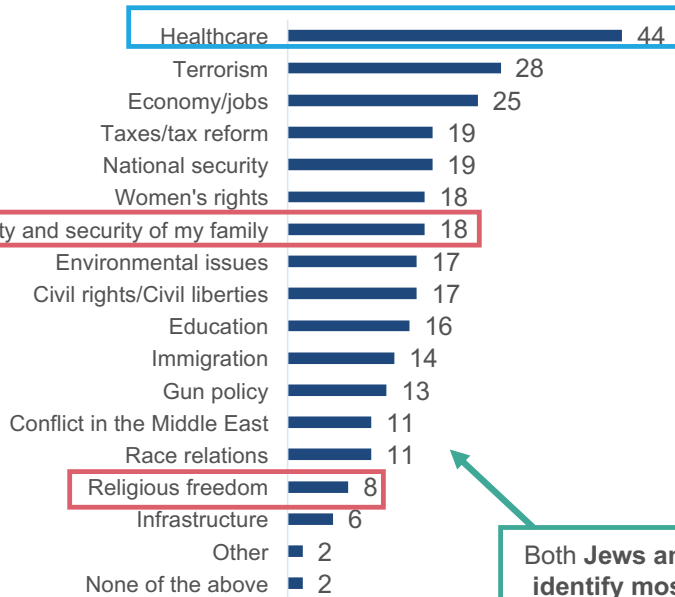
DISCRIMINATION

Muslims fear for the safety and security of their families, and are concerned about religious freedom – Jews less so

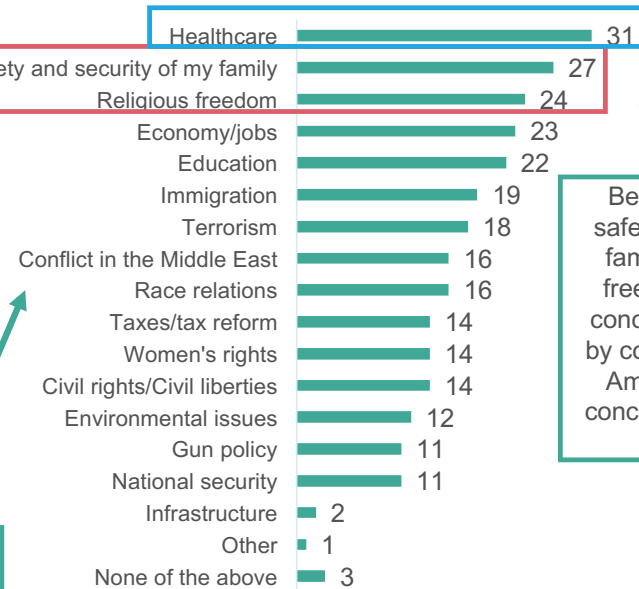
What are the issues that are of most concern to you right now?

You may choose up to 3 answers.

Jewish 



Muslim 



Both **Jews and Muslims who identify most strongly with their religion** are more likely to be concerned about conflict in the Middle East (21%)

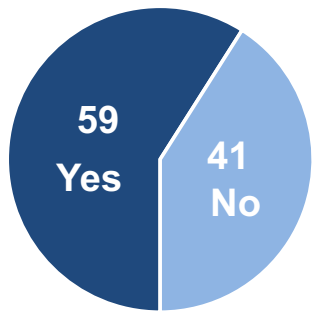
Behind healthcare, safety and security of family and religious freedom are the top concerns for Muslims; by comparison, Jewish Americans are less concerned about these issues

DISCRIMINATION

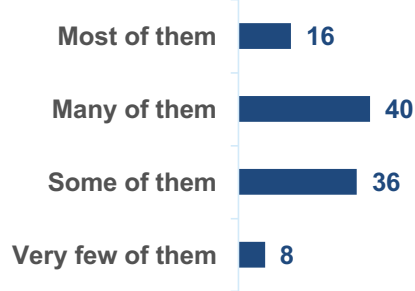
Majorities of both faiths agree they have been discriminated against – personally, and as a people – based on religion

Jewish 

Do you feel that you have ever been discriminated against because of your faith?

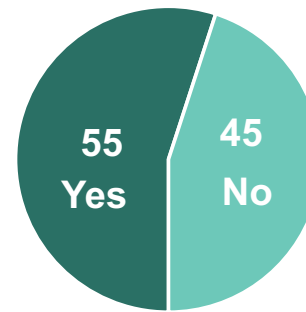


In your opinion, how many Americans who share your faith would you estimate have been discriminated against because of it?

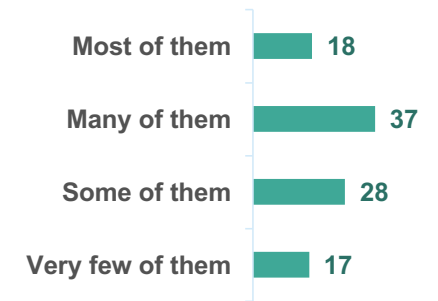


Muslim 

Do you feel that you have ever been discriminated against because of your faith?



In your opinion, how many Americans who share your faith would you estimate have been discriminated against because of it?

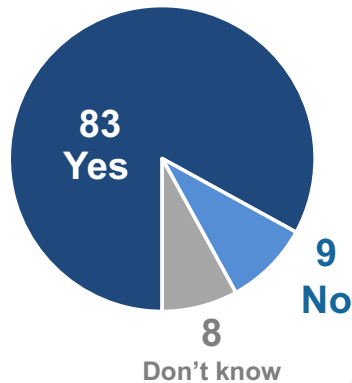


DISCRIMINATION

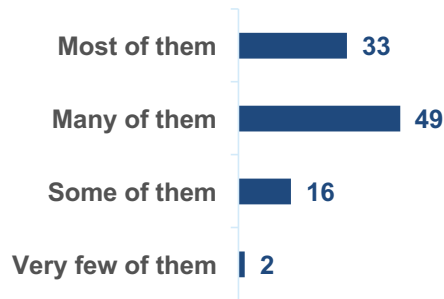
American Jews are more likely to think that Muslims experience discrimination than the other way around

Jewish 

Do you think that American Muslims have been discriminated against based on their faith?

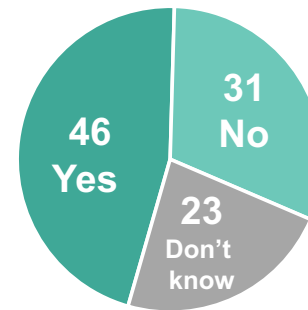


(IF YES) In your opinion, how many of them would you estimate have been discriminated against because their faith?
(n=415)

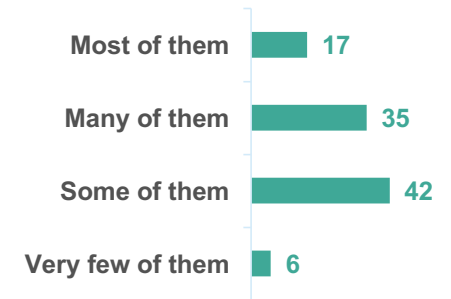


Muslim 

Do you think that American Jews have been discriminated against based on their faith?



(IF YES) In your opinion, how many of them would you estimate have been discriminated against because their faith?
(n=230)



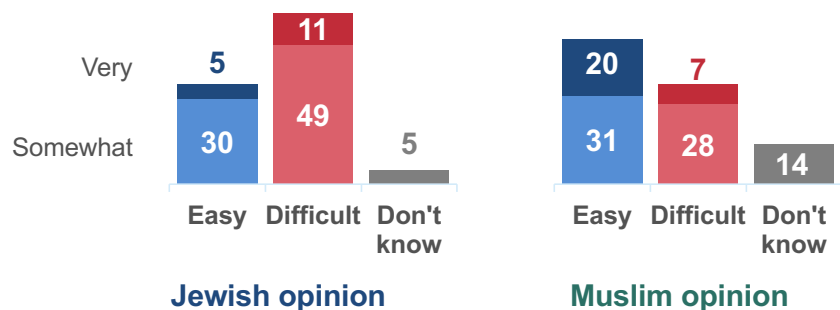
While **Urban Jews** are more likely to think Muslims have been discriminated against (88%), **Urban Muslims** are less likely to say that Jews have been discriminated against (41%).

DISCRIMINATION

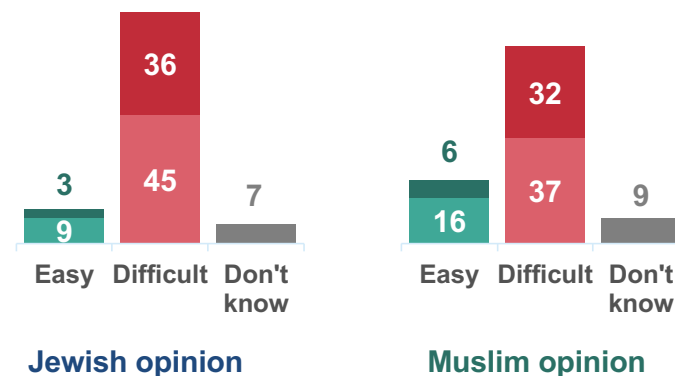
Both faiths tend to agree that Muslims have faced obstacles to gaining acceptance



In your opinion, how easy or difficult has it been for Jews to gain acceptance in American society?



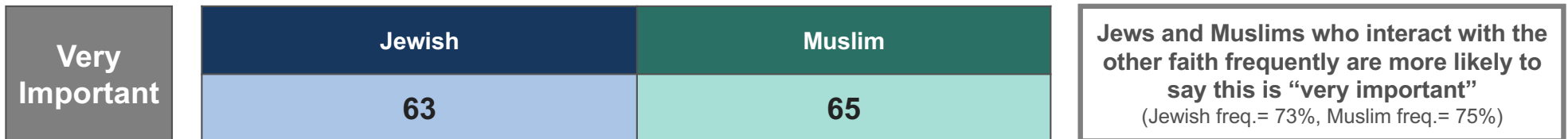
In your opinion, how easy or difficult has it been for Muslims to gain acceptance in American society?



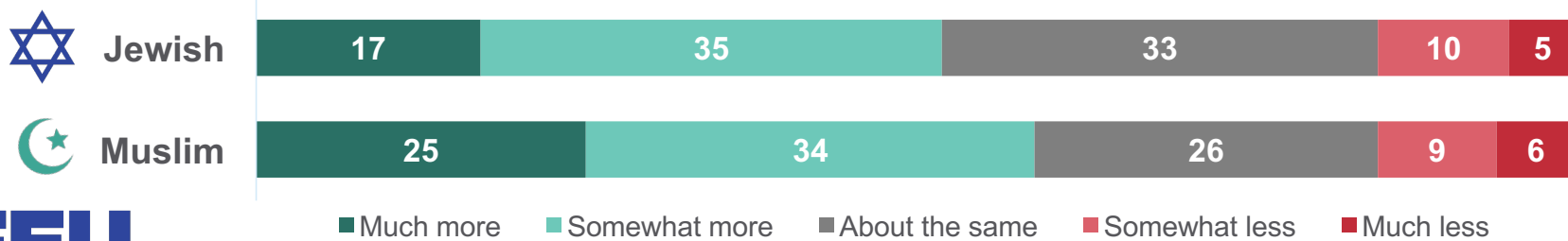
DISCRIMINATION

Both Jews and Muslims see the merits in combining forces, and are optimistic for a more tolerant future

How important do you think it is for Muslims and Jews to work together on strengthening the laws to prevent discrimination?
Showing "Very important"



Do you think the next generation of Americans will be more tolerant of different races, ethnicities, and religions, less tolerant, or about the same as Americans are today?

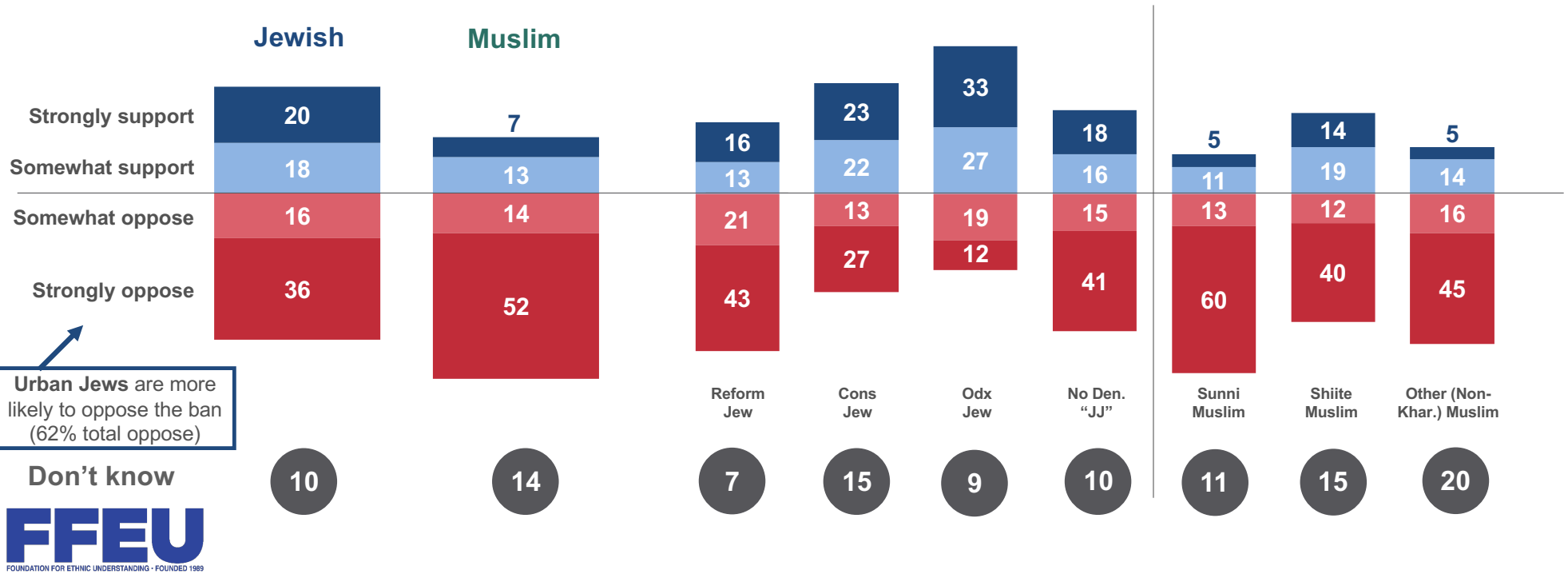


ACTIVISM & GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES

TRAVEL BAN

Majorities of both faiths oppose Trump’s “travel ban”

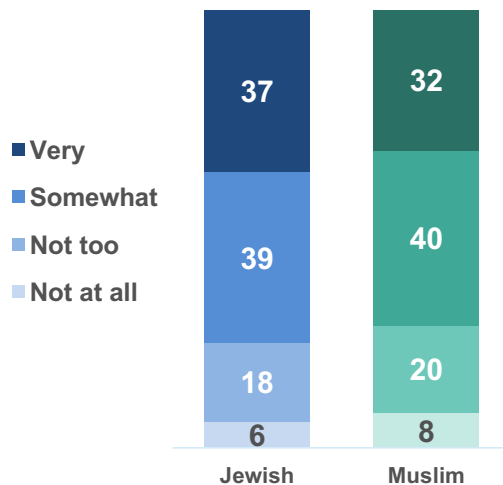
President Donald Trump has called for a selective travel ban that would indefinitely block travel (with some individual exemptions) from certain predominantly Muslim countries. **Do you support or oppose this ban?**



POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Both communities agree that Muslims speaking out can have an impact by promoting open-minded understanding

How impactful do you think Muslims speaking out against extremism could be in improving perceptions of Muslims and Islam in the United States?



Think it would be **impactful**

Why do you say that?

Jewish

“Providing opinions of individuals in that faith, from their point of view, allows sympathy and particular individuals to be more receptive to customs rather than forming a prejudice about them.”

“It is very easy for people in the United States to see acts of violence portrayed in the media... and think that such extreme behavior is endorsed by those whose religious beliefs align with attackers. By forcefully and convincingly denouncing such behavior, the Muslim community (or any community) could make it known that it does not stand for such violence.”

Muslim

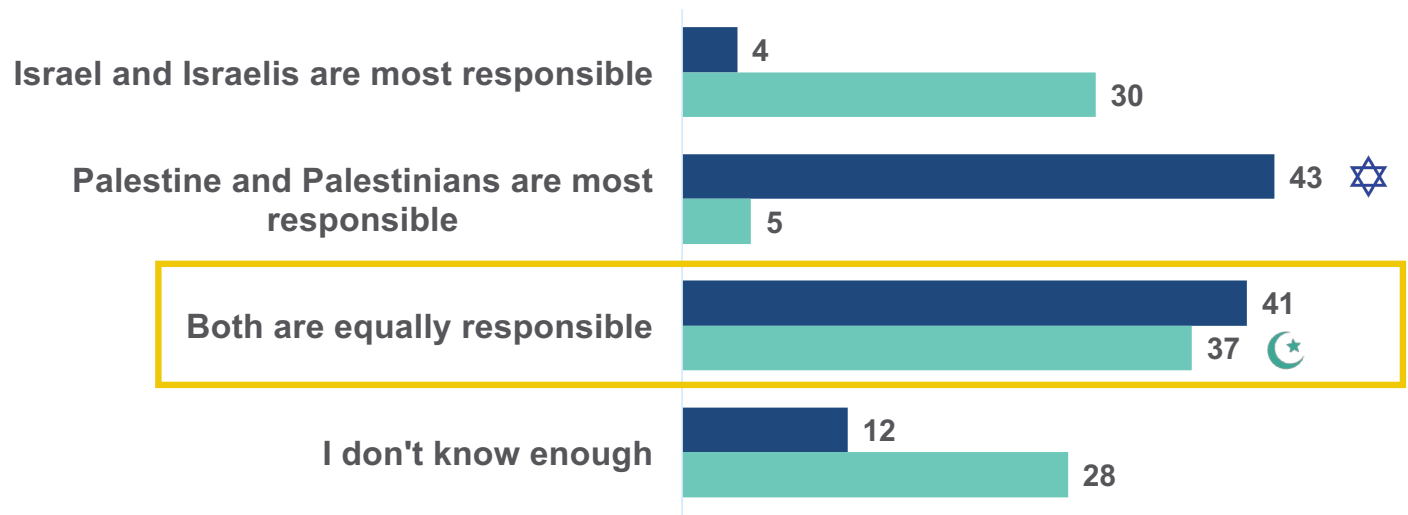
“The majority of Muslims in the US keep a low profile due to the ‘bad’ press about Muslims in general. If they spoke up and shared their beliefs, it would open up many minds.”

“Because most of the Americans think that all Muslims are terrorists which is not true. Me as a Muslim, I respect all the religions, and respect all the countries. And I believe that all humanity can live in peace. So, it is important that Muslims speak out more to explain that not all the Muslims are terrorists.”

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Sunni Muslims and Orthodox Jews are most extreme in blaming the other religion for ongoing conflicts – but most (2 in 5) of both faiths see *both* Israel and Palestine as responsible

With regard to the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, which of the following is closest to your opinion?



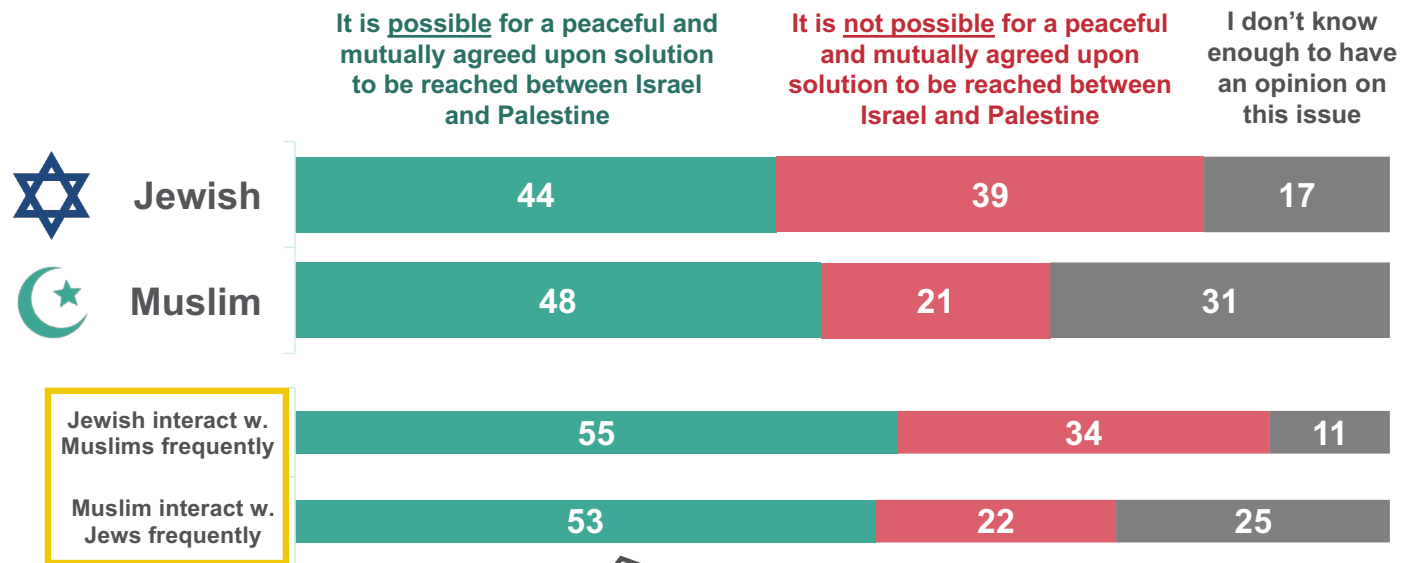
Sunni Muslims (39%) are more likely than Shiite Muslims (14%) to see Israel as solely responsible

Orthodox Jews are much more likely (63%) to see Palestine as most responsible

Urban Jews are less likely (33%) to see Palestine as most responsible

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Jews and Muslims who interact with the other faith are more optimistic about a mutual solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict



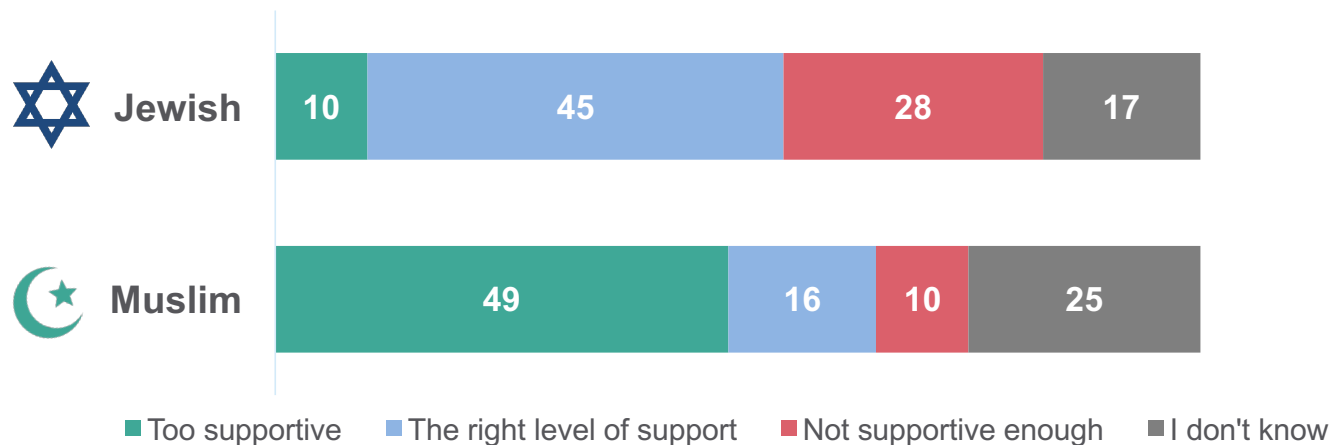
Muslims are more uncertain about possible resolution to the conflict

Americans of both faiths who interact with the other faith frequently are more optimistic that a solution can be found

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

A plurality of Jews are content with U.S. policy on Israel, but half of Muslims say the U.S. supports Israel too much

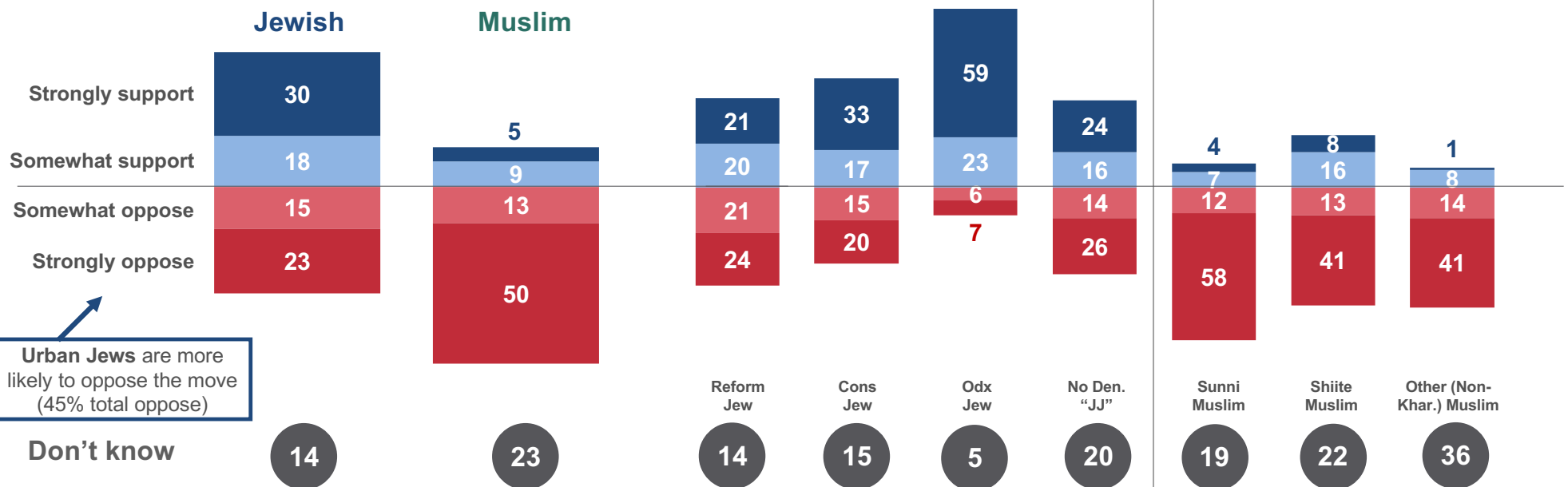
Would you say that U.S. foreign policy is too supportive, not supportive enough, or has the right level of support for the State of Israel?



ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Muslims and Jews are divided on the issue of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and even Jews are divided amongst themselves

In December 2017, President Donald Trump formally recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordered that the U.S. embassy in Israel move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. **Do you support or oppose this action?**



Urban Jews are more likely to oppose the move (45% total oppose)

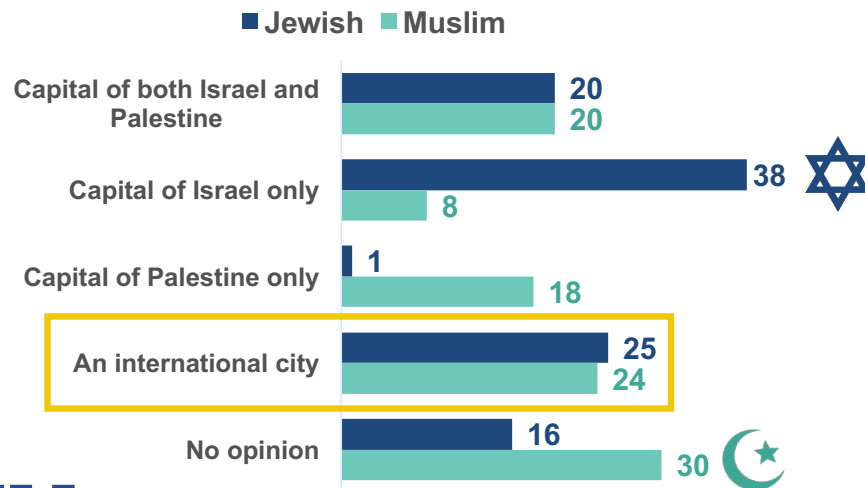


GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES

American Jews feel more strongly about Jerusalem as the exclusive capital of Israel; Muslims are more moderate

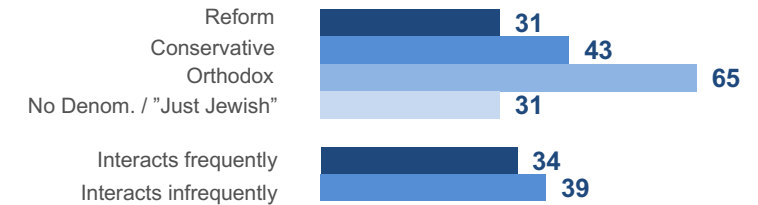
Jewish Americans tend to have a more formed opinion overall, and a plurality support an exclusively Israeli capital; however, a quarter of both Jews and Muslims would prefer an “international city” over exclusivity.

Do you think that Jerusalem should be...



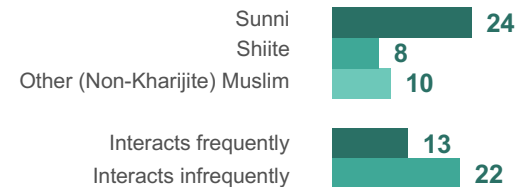
“Capital of Israel only”

Among Jewish



“Capital of Palestine only”


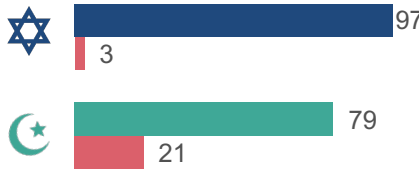
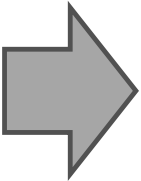
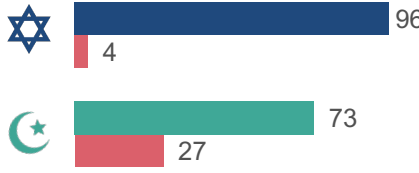
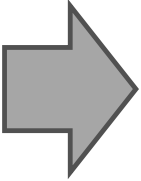
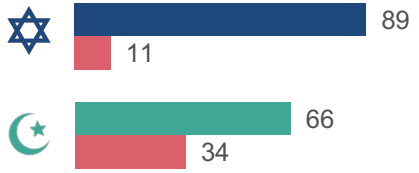
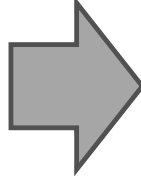
Among Muslim



APPENDIX: DEFINING TERMS


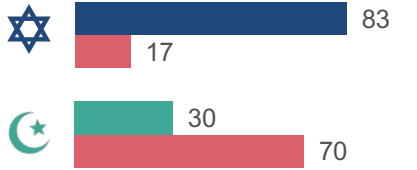
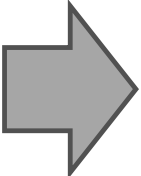
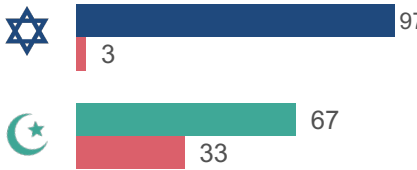
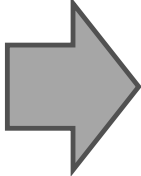
DEFINING TERMS

Most Muslims are familiar with common Jewish terms, but “Chosen people” prompts mixed responses from them

Term	How well do you understand the following terms?		<i>(If understand at least “somewhat well”)</i> To the best of your ability, how would you define this word? (Coded)
Kosher			<p>Correct 73% </p> <p>Correct 56%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct definitions from both faiths refer to food preparation, cleanliness, types of animal, and/or rules of slaughter and cooking/serving • 8% of Muslim responses incorrectly compare Kosher directly to Halal – and vice versa is noted in definitions of Halal.
Rabbi			<p>Correct 98% </p> <p>Correct 78%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is among the best known terms for Jews, but Muslims are also somewhat well aware. • 8% of Muslim responses offer mixed incorrect answers, while 10% define a Rabbi as a synonym for “God.”
Chosen people			<p>Correct 89% </p> <p>Correct 47%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost three in four Jewish responses say it means Jewish people, Israelites, or Hebrews. • While 29% of Muslims responses define this as Jewish people, Hebrews, or Israelites, about half give mixed incorrect definitions or indicate they don’t know.


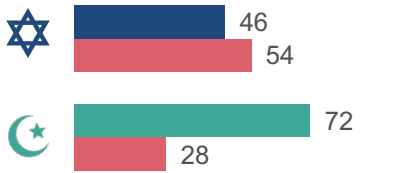
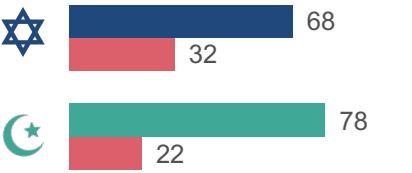
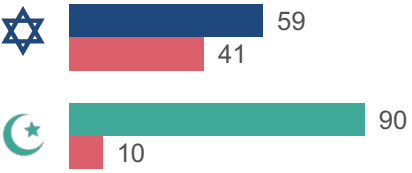
DEFINING TERMS

Yeshivas are among the least familiar concepts to Muslims, but most are familiar with Synagogues

Term	How well do you understand the following terms?		<i>(If understand at least "somewhat well")</i> To the best of your ability, how would you define this word? (Coded)
<h3>Yeshiva</h3>			<p>Correct 84% </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jews are much more familiar with this term, and 69% of responses cite religious and/or cultural instruction as part of the curriculum. 37% of Muslim responses give a mix of incorrect definitions; another 31% indicate they don't know how to define this term.
<h3>Synagogue</h3>			<p>Correct 94% </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most responses from both faiths are able to generally define this as a house of worship, ceremony, and/or prayer. 5% of Muslim responses incorrectly equate a Synagogue with a "church." Another 5% indicate they don't know.


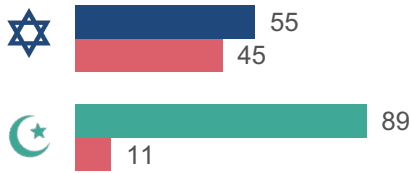
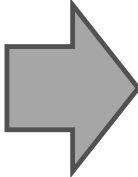
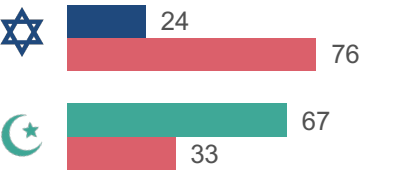
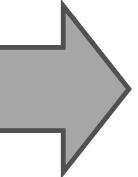
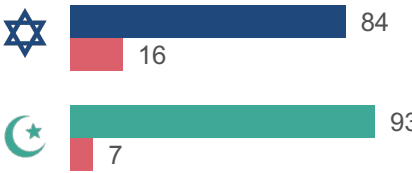
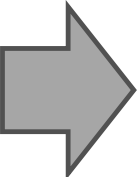
DEFINING TERMS

Jews are less familiar with terms regarding Islam – especially Jihad, which is often mistaken as a holy war

Term	How well do you understand the following terms?		<i>(If understand at least “somewhat well”)</i> To the best of your ability, how would you define this word? (Coded)
<h3>Sharia</h3>			<p>Correct 80% →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most correct responses refer to a set of laws or rules for Muslims. Incorrect definitions are mixed, but a handful of responses from both faiths (1% Jewish, 2% Muslim) say Sharia is a branch or sect of religion.
<h3>Jihad</h3>			<p>Correct 14% →</p> <p>Correct 31% →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of Jewish responses (and 37% of Muslim responses) define this as a “holy war” for Islam or something similar, a common misconception in the West.
<h3>Halal</h3>			<p>Correct 66% →</p> <p>Correct 69% →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most correct responses from Muslims specifically address diet and/or food prep, but 17% refer to the broader definition of acceptable or permitted (by God). 11% of Jewish responses (incorrectly) compare Halal directly to Kosher; 12% offer few specifics about “special food.”


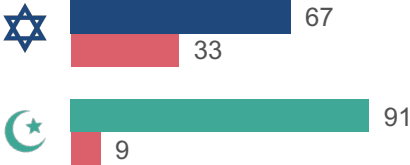
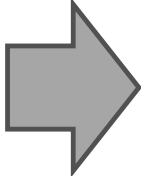
DEFINING TERMS

While Mosques are well known, Jews are less likely to be familiar with Imams or Madrasas

Term	How well do you understand the following terms?		<i>(If understand at least "somewhat well")</i> To the best of your ability, how would you define this word? (Coded)
<h3>Imam</h3>			<p>Correct 86% </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most responses from both faiths identify Imams as religious leaders or teachers. • Incorrect definitions are mixed among responses from both faiths. Some identify Imams as "holy" or "teachers" but do not offer more detail.
<h3>Madrasa</h3>			<p>Correct 79% </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understandings of "Madrasa" vary, with some responses offering literal definitions of "school" and others interpreting the religious connotations of the schools. • Incorrect answers are mixed.
<h3>Mosque</h3>			<p>Correct 93% </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majorities of responses from both faiths recognize Mosques as places of worship and/or gathering. • Muslim responses (4%) were more likely than Jewish responses (1%) to incorrectly equate a Mosque with a "church." • Other incorrect answers are mixed.

DEFINING TERMS

The term Hijab creates some confusion, especially among Jews

Term	How well do you understand the following terms?		<i>(If understand at least "somewhat well")</i> To the best of your ability, how would you define this word? (Coded)
<h1>Hijab</h1>			<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> <p>Correct 89%</p> <p>Correct 84%</p> </div> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">  </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This term creates some confusion with other garments typically worn by Muslim women, such as a Burqa or Niqab. • 5% of Jewish responses and 2% of Muslim responses incorrectly define this as a face covering. </div> </div>

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL DATA

APPENDIX

Overall, higher percentages of Muslims express connection to their faith in both their upbringing and day-to-day life

Percentage who say...	Jewish	Ref	Con	Odx	ND/JJ	Muslim	Sunni	Shiite	Other (Non-Kharijite)
	N=500	N=138	N=105	N=63	N=161	N=500	N=290	N=80	N=115
Religion is very important to them	38	31	50	88	14	71	76	68	61
Religion has a great deal of influence on their day-to-day life	23	11	26	87	7	58	63	62	44
Religion had a great deal of influence on their upbringing	40	35	50	93	18	60	65	63	44
Religion has (or will have) a great deal of influence on how they raise their family	32	26	37	83	14	58	64	51	45

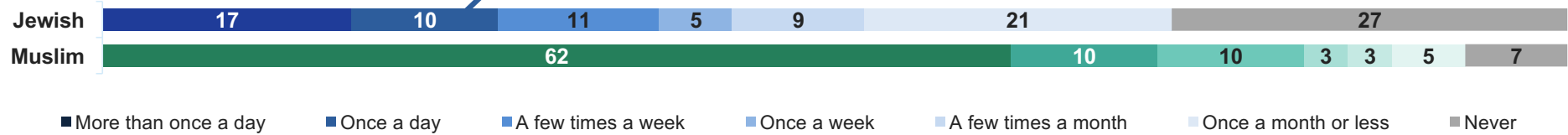
Religious education is an exception: 53% of Jewish Americans attended a religious school; just 33% of Muslim Americans attended a religious school

APPENDIX

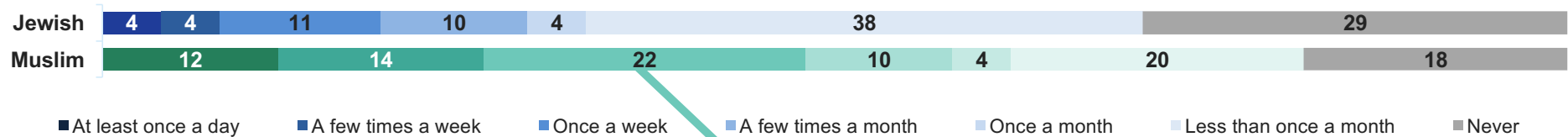
Jewish prayer and religious attendance varies; Muslims pray and attend services more frequently

How often do you pray?

Orthodox Jews pray much more often – 78% pray at least once a day, and 76% attend religious services once a week.



How often do you attend religious services?

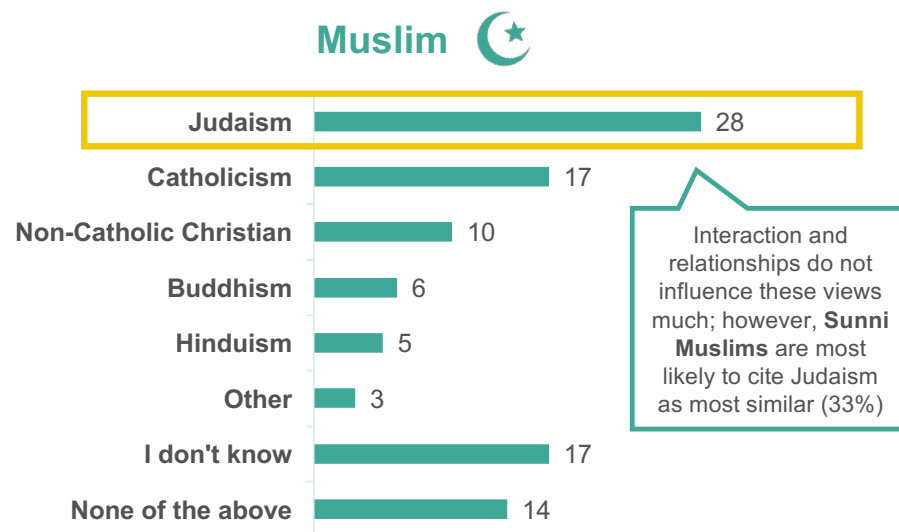
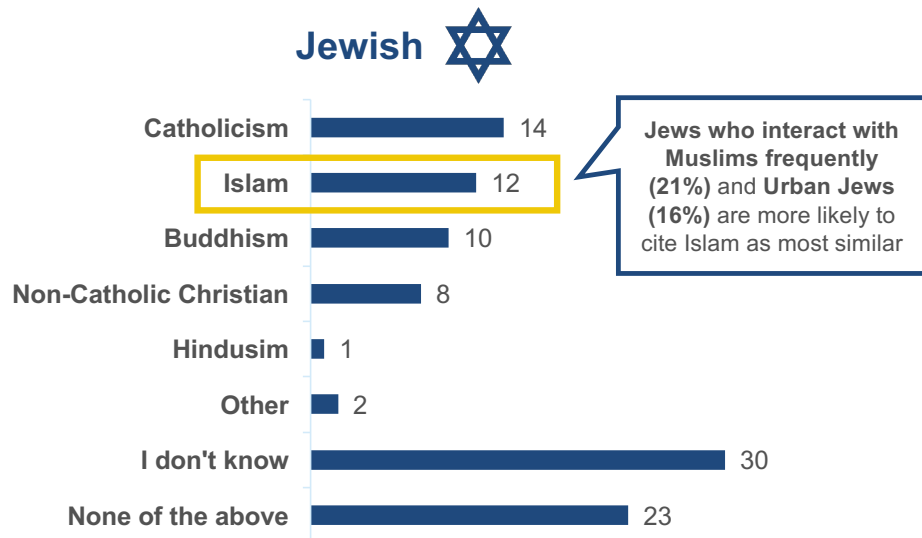


49% of Muslims who say religion is “important” attend services once a week; 29% of Jews who see religion as “important” attend as frequently

APPENDIX

Muslims are more likely than Jews to say that the two religions are most similar to each other

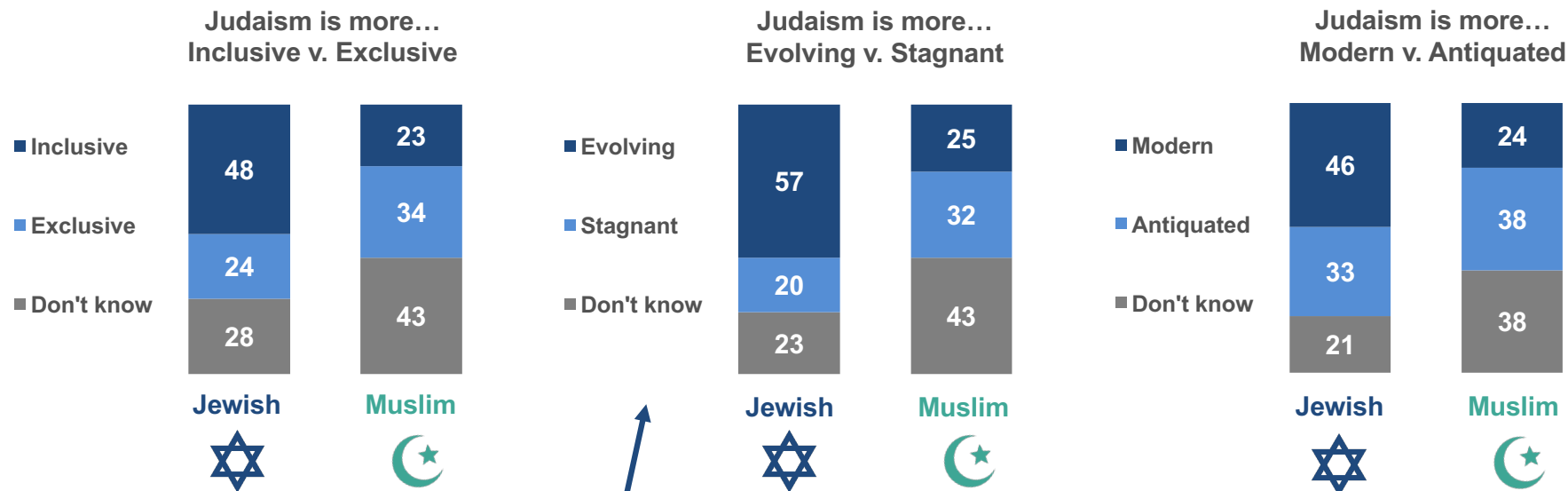
Which of the following religions do you think is the most similar to your own in its beliefs and practices? (Ranked)



APPENDIX

Jews see Judaism as more modern and progressive than Muslims do; Muslim views are more tempered

Which of the following is closer to your view?



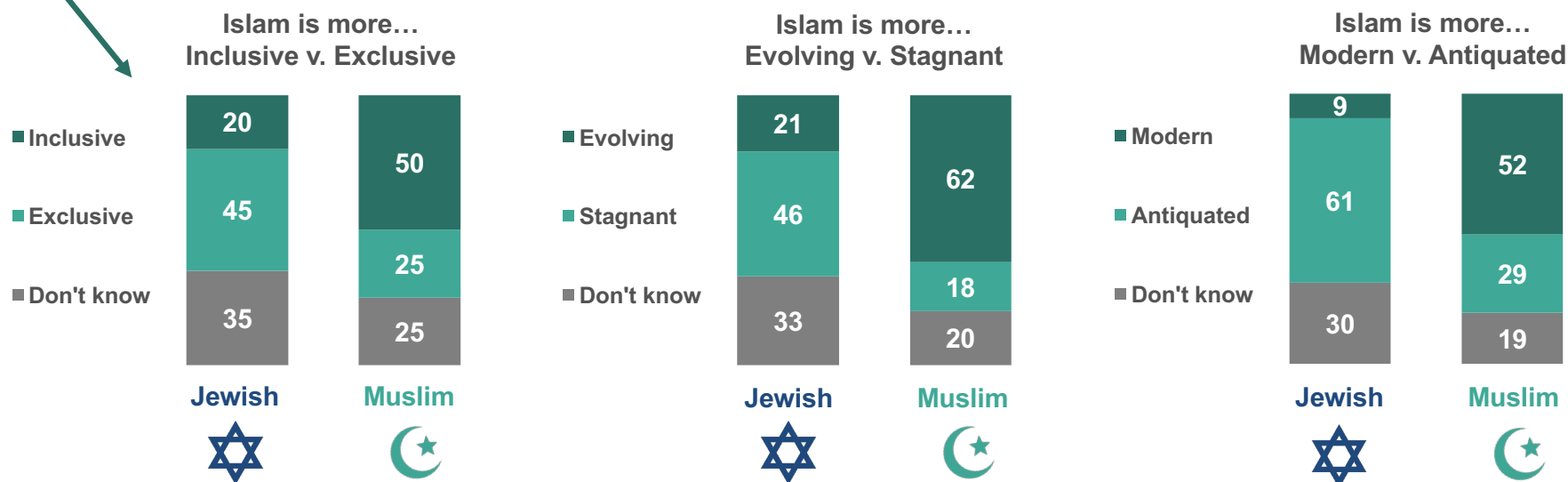
Urban Jews (64%) are more likely to see their faith as more "evolving" than Suburban Jews are (56%)

APPENDIX

Jewish Americans are more extreme in their views of Islam than vice versa; most say Islam is “antiquated”

Suburban Muslims (56%) are more likely to see Islam as more “inclusive” compared to Urban Muslims (44%)

Which of the following is closer to your view?

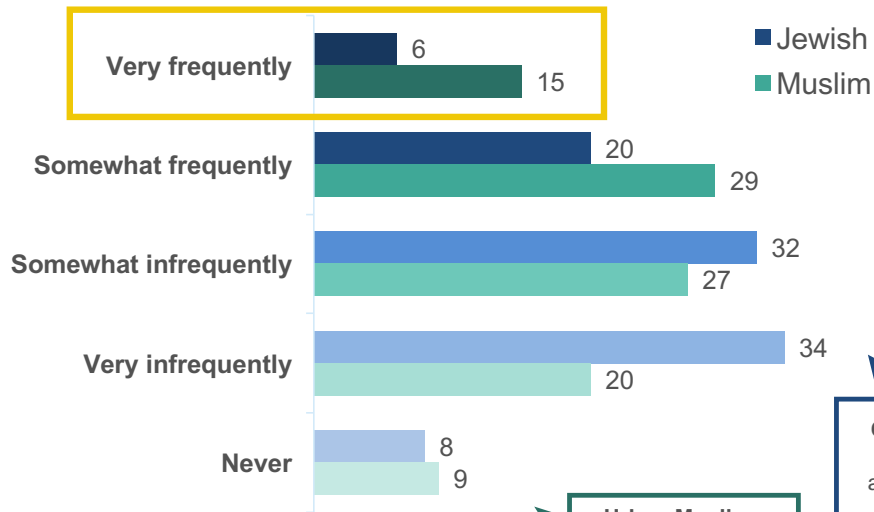


Jewish Americans tend to have more extreme views of Islam than Muslims have about Judaism

APPENDIX

Muslims have more personal connection and exposure to Jewish peers than vice versa

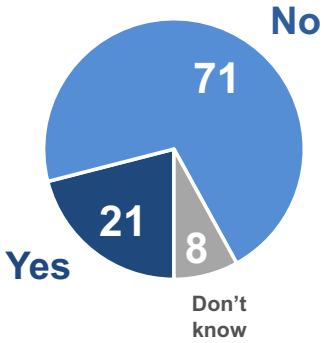
How often would you say you interact with people who are Muslim/Jewish?



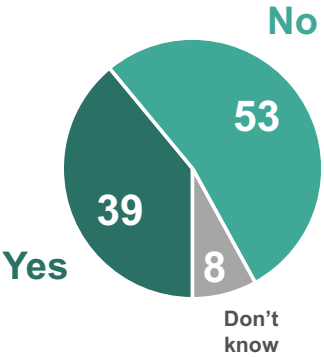
Urban Muslims are more likely to say they “never” interact with Jewish people (15%)

Orthodox Jews are most likely (34%) among major Jewish denominations/ subgroups to interact with Muslims frequently

Do you have any family members or close friends who are Muslim/Jewish?



Suburban Muslims are more likely to say they have a family member or close friend who is Jewish (44%)

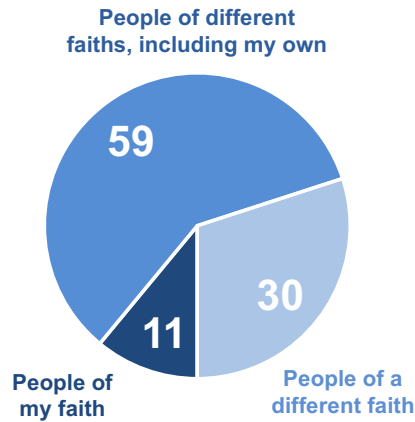


APPENDIX

Muslims are more likely to spend time around each other, but they interact with the other faith more frequently as well

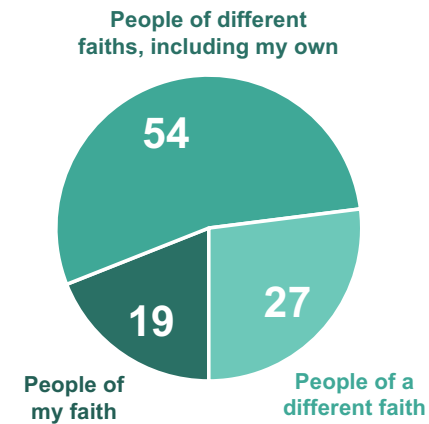
Jewish 

Which of the following would you say is closest to your day-to-day experience? I spend most of my time surrounded by...



Muslim 

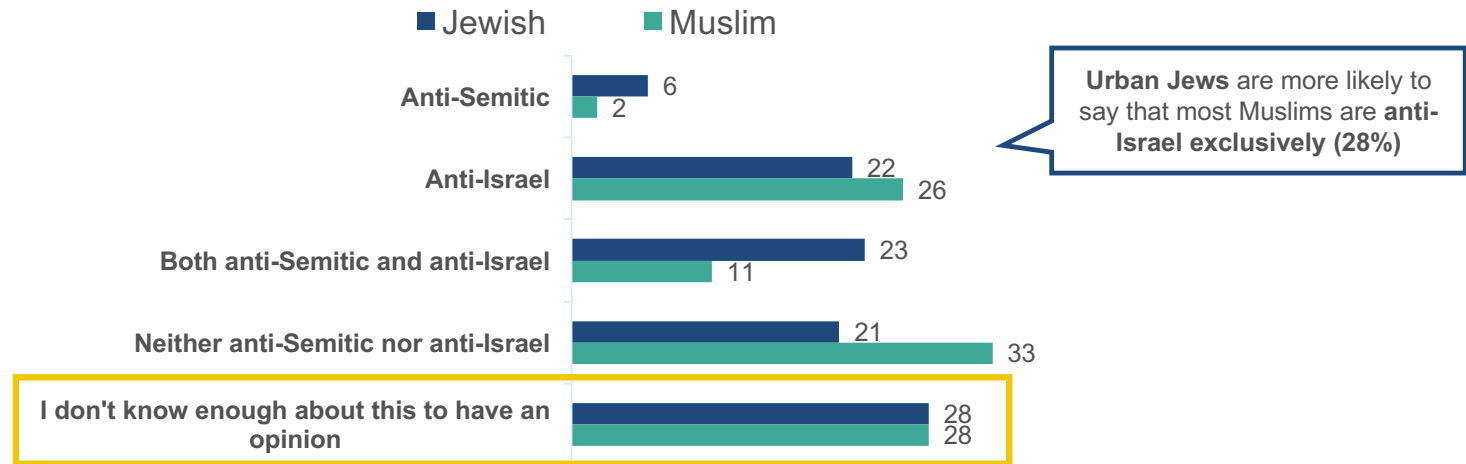
Which of the following would you say is closest to your day-to-day experience? I spend most of my time surrounded by...



APPENDIX

American Jews are more likely to believe that most Muslims are both anti-Israel and anti-Semitic

Do you think that most Muslim Americans are...



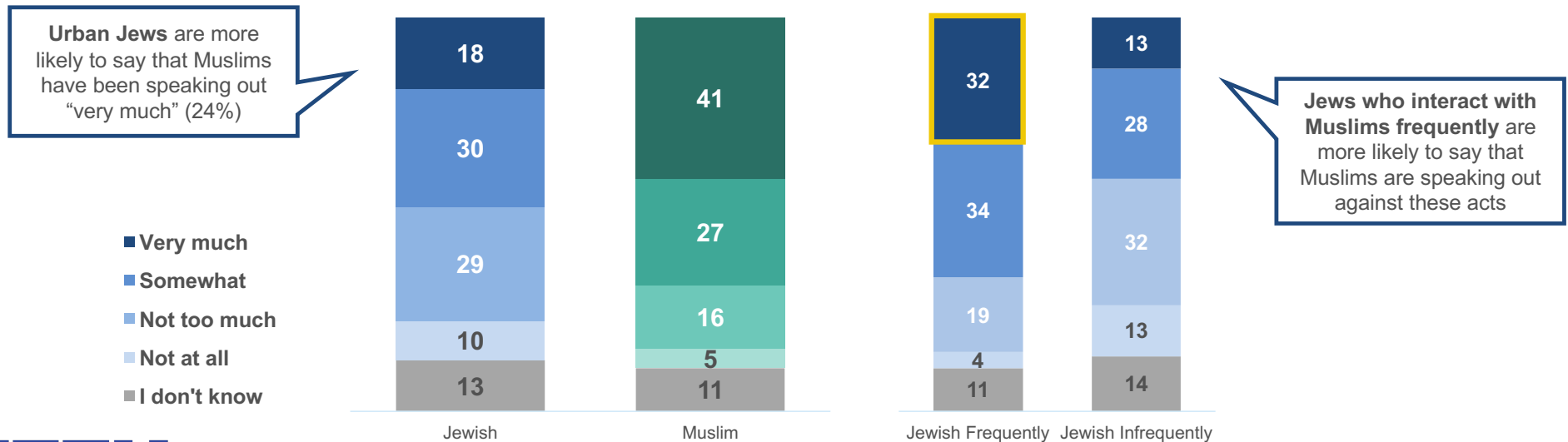
Urban Jews are more likely to say that most Muslims are anti-Israel exclusively (28%)

Jews who identify as No Denomination / "Just Jewish" are more likely to not have an opinion (38%)

APPENDIX

And a majority believe that American Muslims have been speaking out to denounce extremism

How much do you think American Muslims have been speaking out to denounce acts of extremism, fanaticism, and terrorism that have hijacked the narrative of Islam?



INTERACTION

Across different groups within the two faiths, Jews and Muslims see a more negative media portrayal of their relationship

How would you describe the relationship between Muslims and Jews in the U.S. today?	Jewish	Ref	Con	Odx	ND/JJ	Muslim	Sunni	Shiite	Other (Non-Kharijite)
	N=500	N=138	N=105	N=63	N=161	N=500	N=290	N=80	N=115
Excellent	2	1	4	1	0	11	14	10	7
Good	24	31	23	36	15	34	32	37	35
Fair	41	37	44	30	45	29	30	36	19
Poor	18	15	18	26	19	14	11	15	19
I don't know	15	16	11	7	21	12	13	2	20

How would you say the media describes the relationship between Muslims and Jews in the United States today?	Jewish	Ref	Con	Odx	ND/JJ	Muslim	Sunni	Shiite	Other (Non-Kharijite)
	N=500	N=138	N=105	N=63	N=161	N=500	N=290	N=80	N=115
Excellent	2	1	3	3	0	4	5	3	3
Good	10	11	14	12	5	16	15	18	19
Fair	27	28	25	30	28	23	20	36	20
Poor	41	40	41	46	40	42	44	38	39
I don't know	20	20	17	9	27	15	16	5	19

APPENDIX

American Jews and Muslims tend to lean more Democratic, but Muslims are less likely to align with a party

Generally, which party's candidates or policies do you tend to align with most?	Jewish	Ref	Con	Odx	ND/JJ	Muslim	Sunni	Shiite	Other (Non-Kharijite)
	N=500	N=138	N=105	N=63	N=161	N=500	N=290	N=80	N=115
Democratic	55	66	49	33	54	44	49	37	35
Republican	20	13	28	39	16	8	6	14	7
Independent	17	17	16	13	18	21	18	33	23
Other	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
I don't align with any party	7	2	8	11	9	21	22	13	22
Prefer not to say	1	1	0	3	2	6	4	4	13

Orthodox Jews are more likely to align with the Republican party, while **Reform Jews** are much more likely to align with the Democratic party