

American Christian Views on the Israel-Hamas War

A SURVEY OF 1,252 AMERICAN CHRISTIANS

Sponsored by The Philos Project

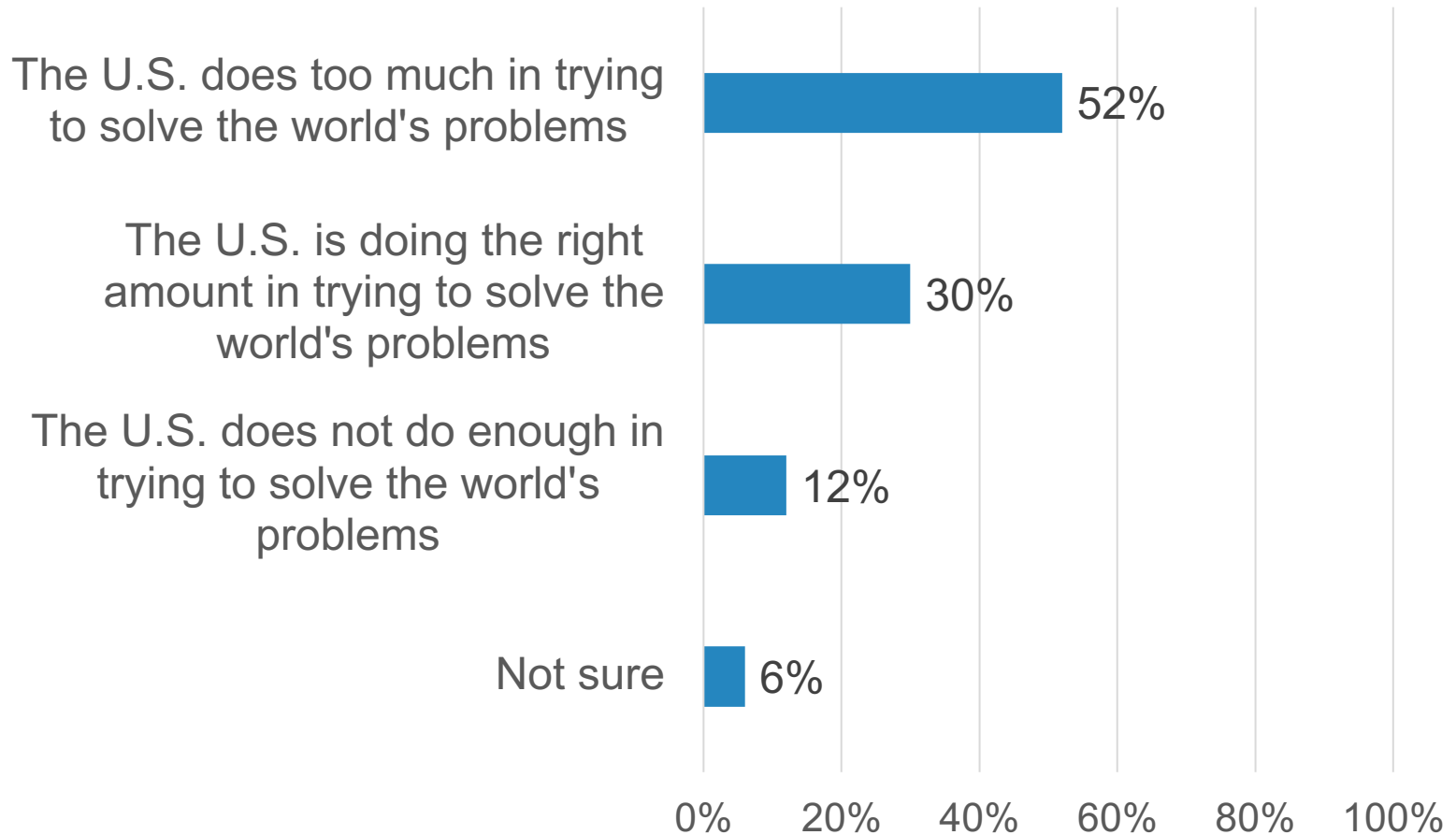
Lifeway **research**

Methodology

- The online survey of 1,252 American Christians was conducted November 14-21, 2023, using a national pre-recruited panel
- The project was sponsored by The Philos Project
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Catholic/Roman Catholic, Protestant/non-denominational, or Orthodox Christians
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and religion to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,252 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed $\pm 2.9\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

52% say that the U.S. does too much to try to solve the world's problems

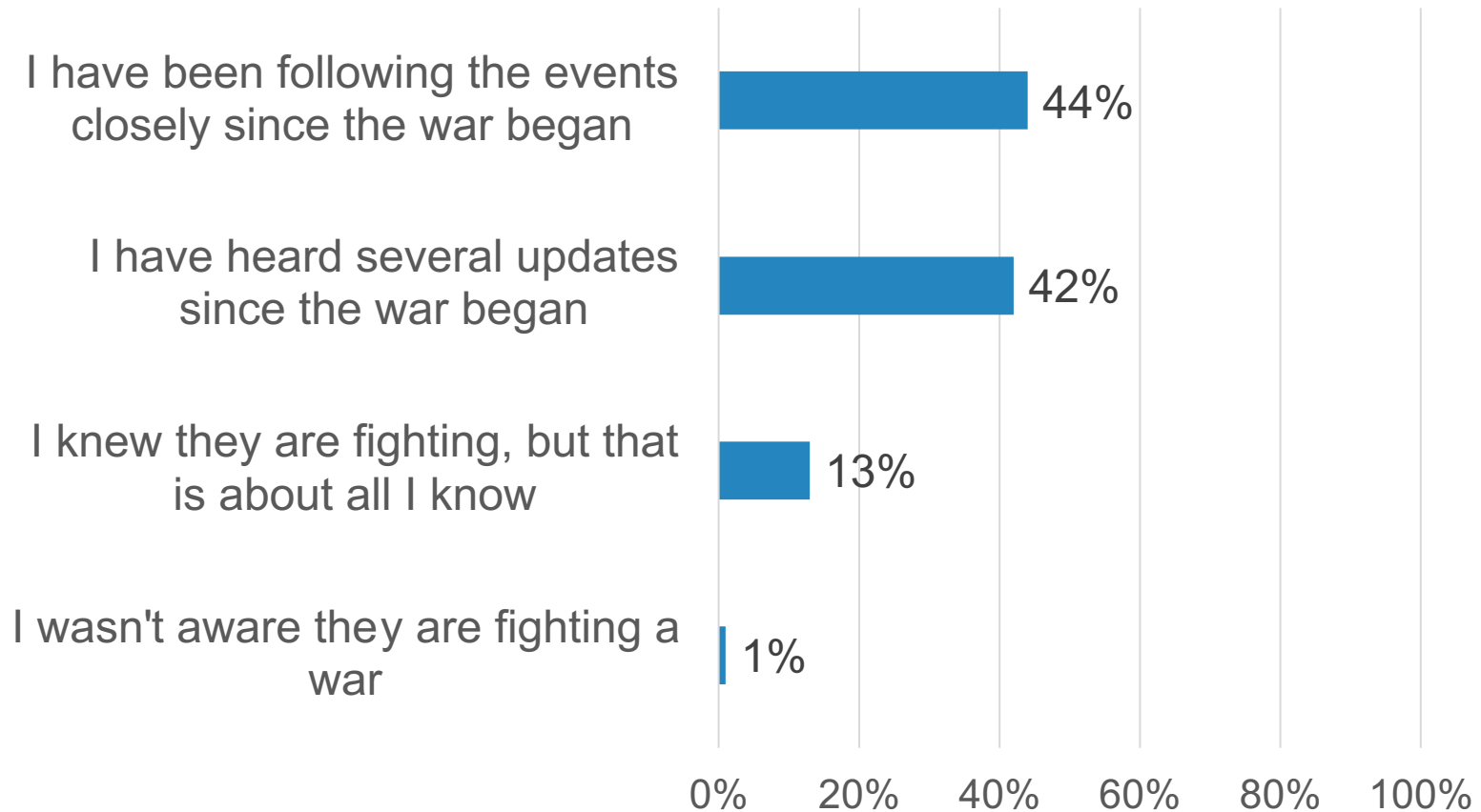
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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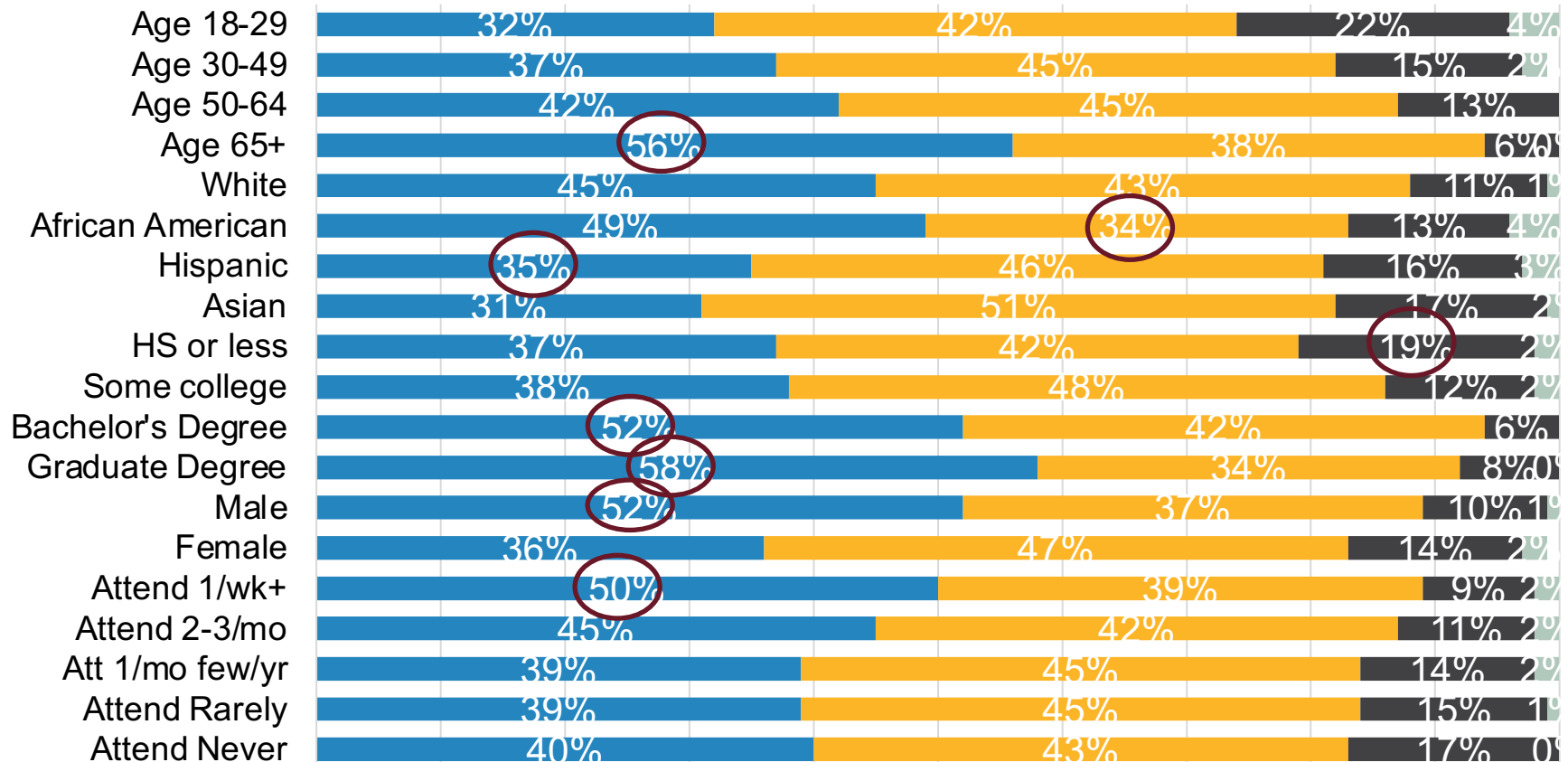
86% have followed the events of the current war between Hamas and Israel closely or have heard several updates

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Awareness of the war, by Demographics



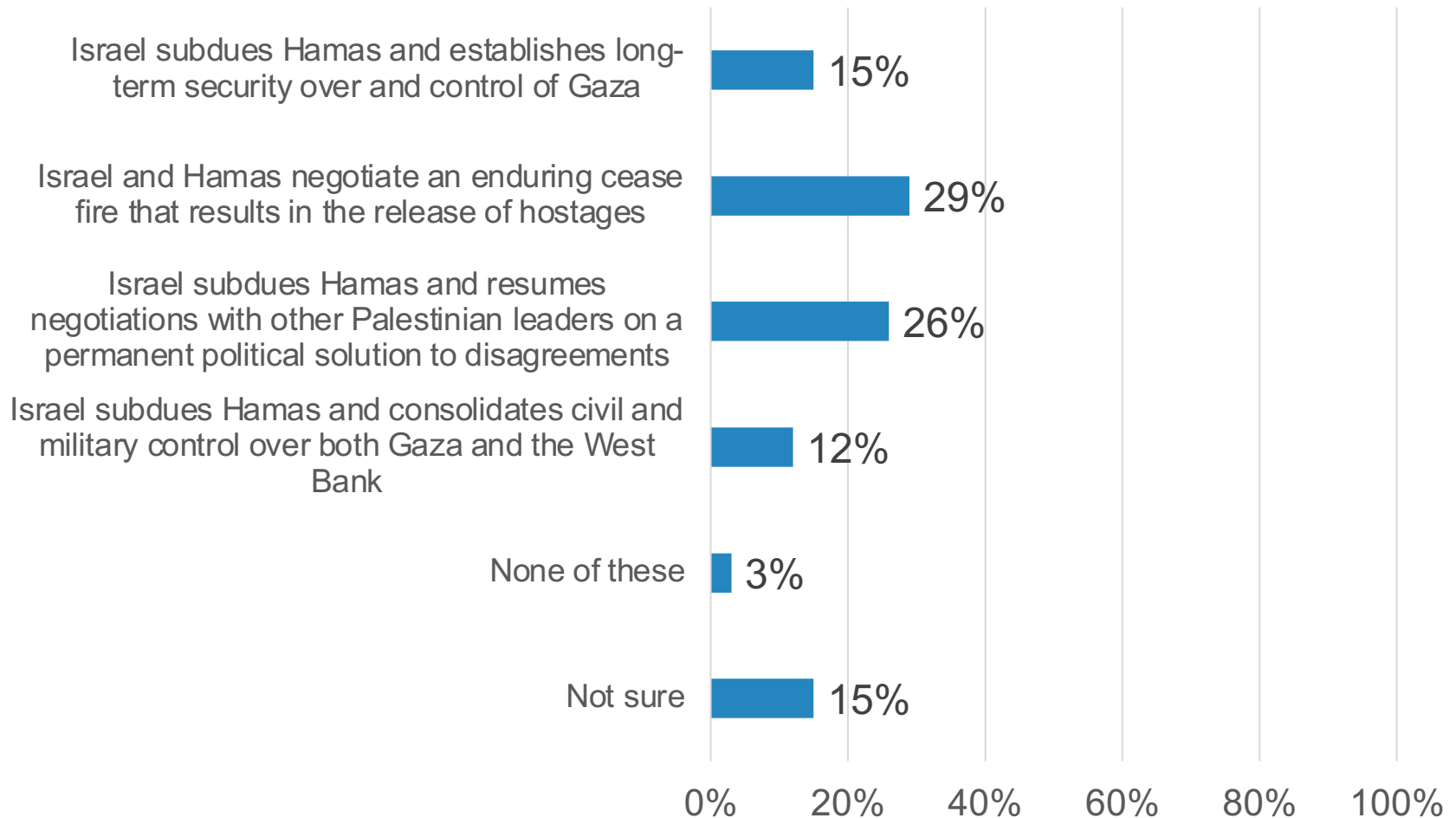
- I have been following the events closely since the war began
- I have heard several updates since the war began
- I know they are fighting, but that is about all I know
- I wasn't aware they are fighting a war

 = statistically different from others in the category

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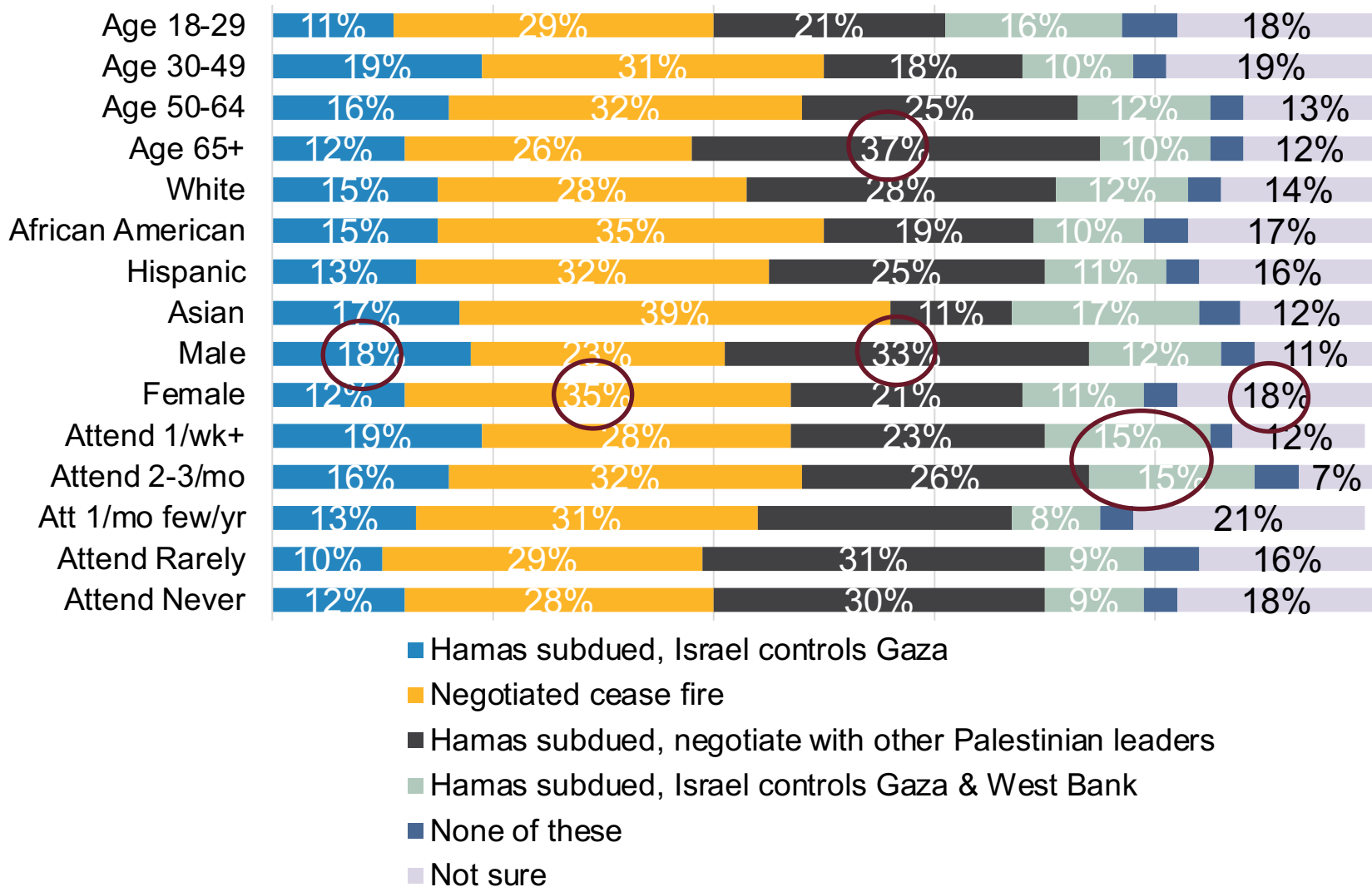
56% believe the optimal outcome would be an option that involves negotiations; 53% support an option that involves subduing Hamas

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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Optimal Outcome, by Demographics

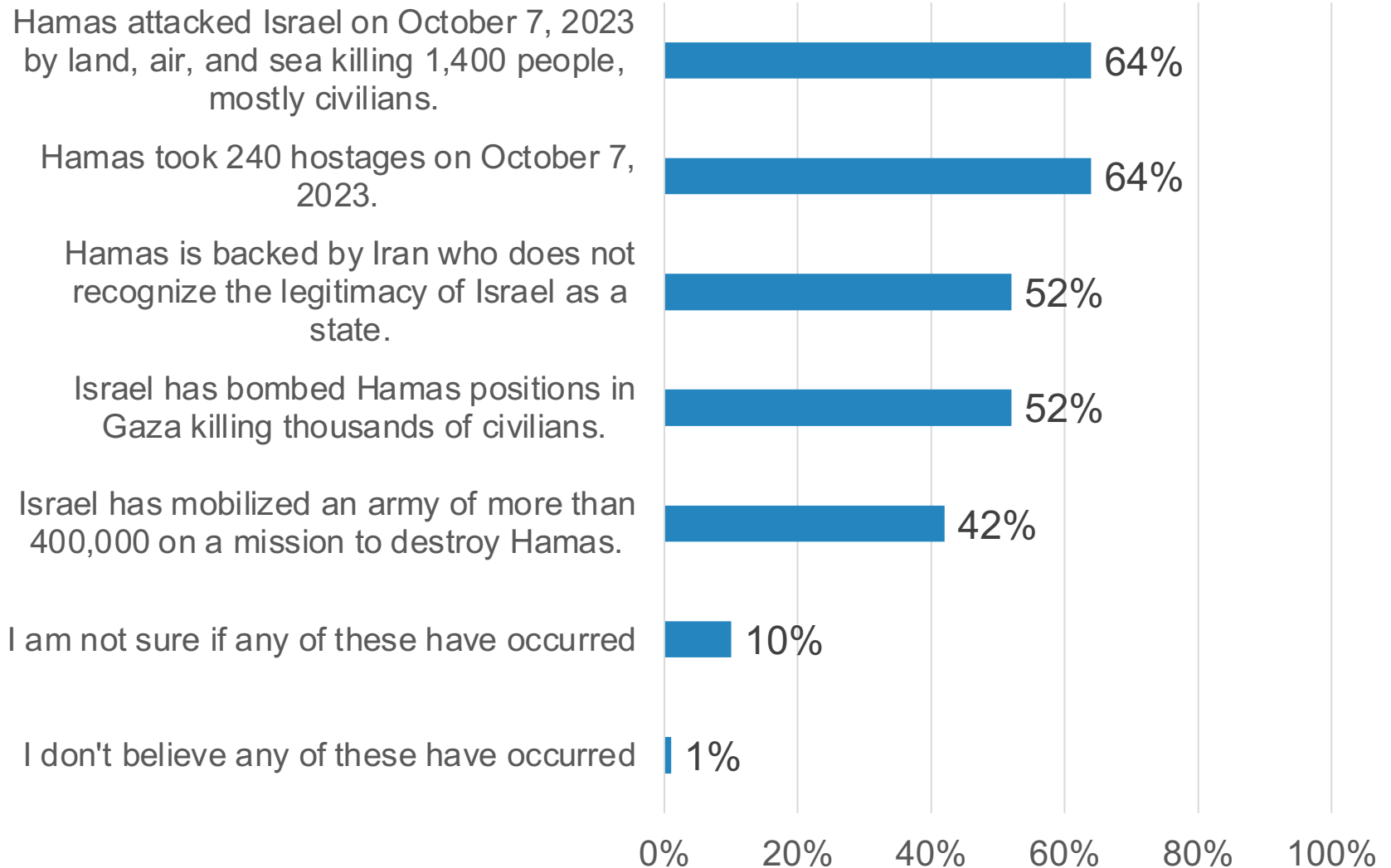


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Q9: "What do you believe would be the optimal outcome to the current war between Hamas and Israel? (Select one)" n=1,252

“Which, if any, of the following events have you both heard of and believed occurred?”

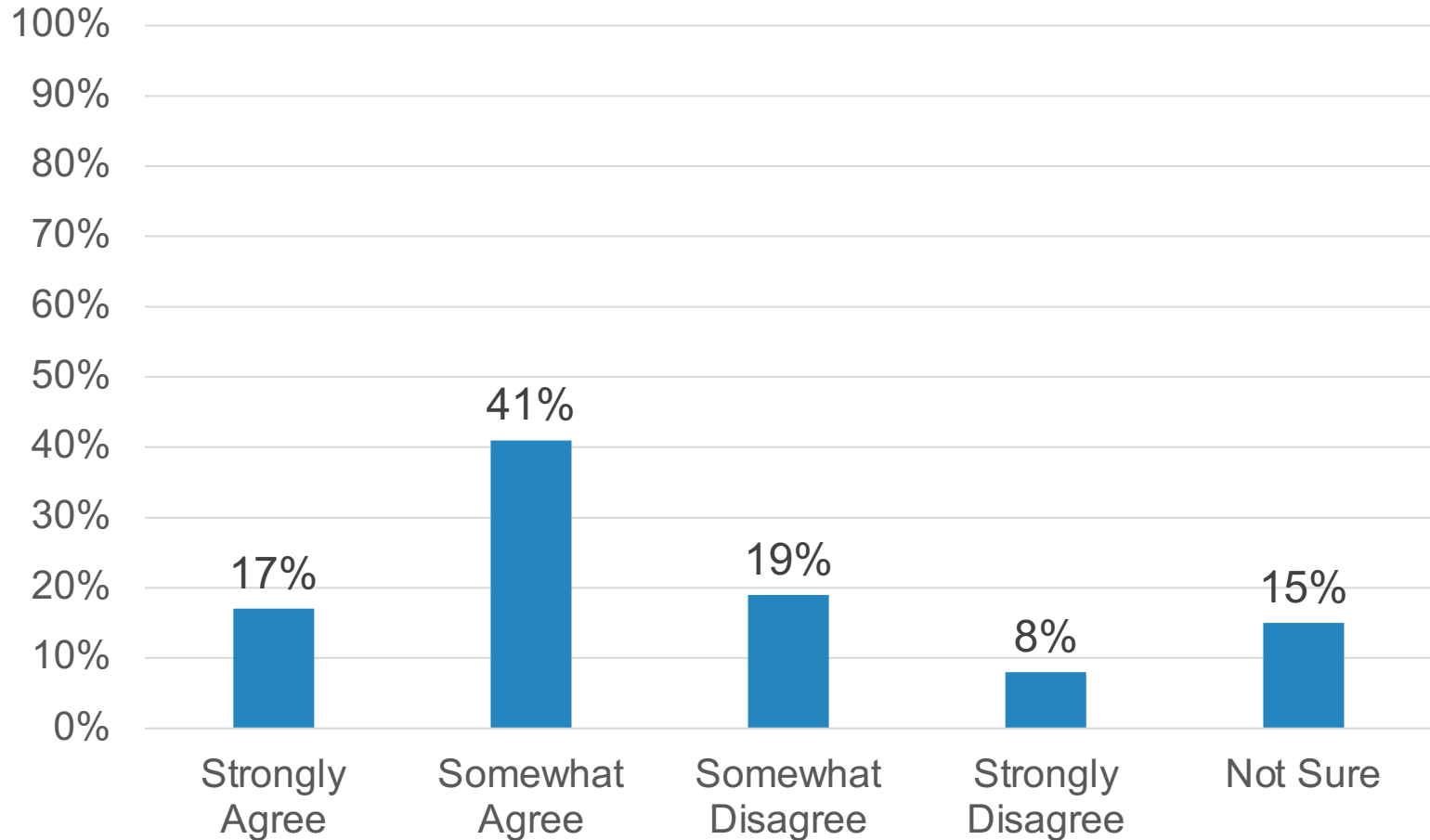
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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59% agree news stories often over-simplify reasons for events in the war

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

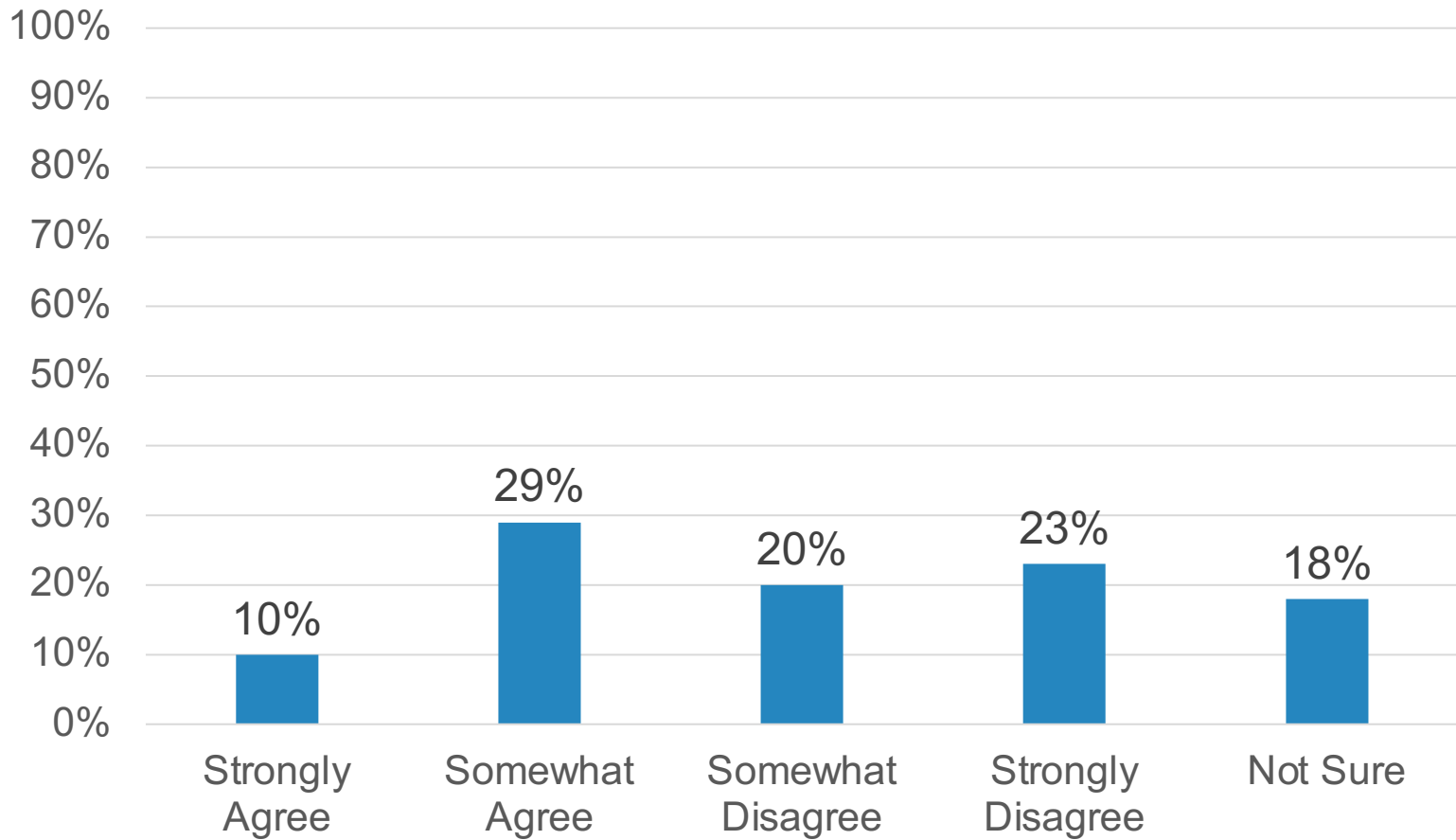


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Q11: "News stories of events in the Israel-Hamas war often over-simplify why the events occur." n=1,252

39% agree the armed rebellion of Palestinians is a natural response to being mistreated by Israel

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

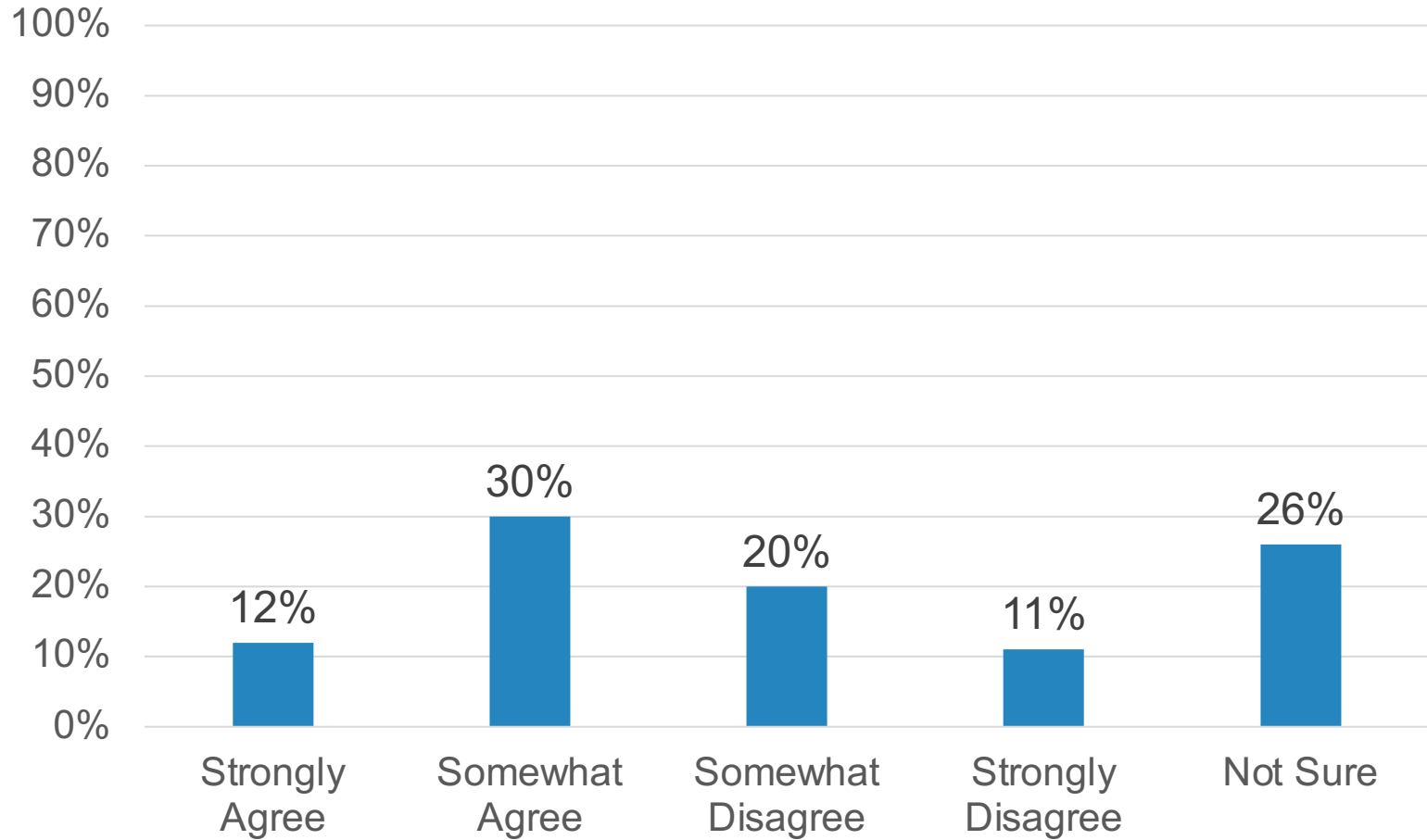


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Q12 "The armed rebellion of Palestinians against Israel is a natural response of people who have been mistreated by the state of Israel." n=1,252

43% agree most of the Palestinian people in Gaza have supported Hamas' fight

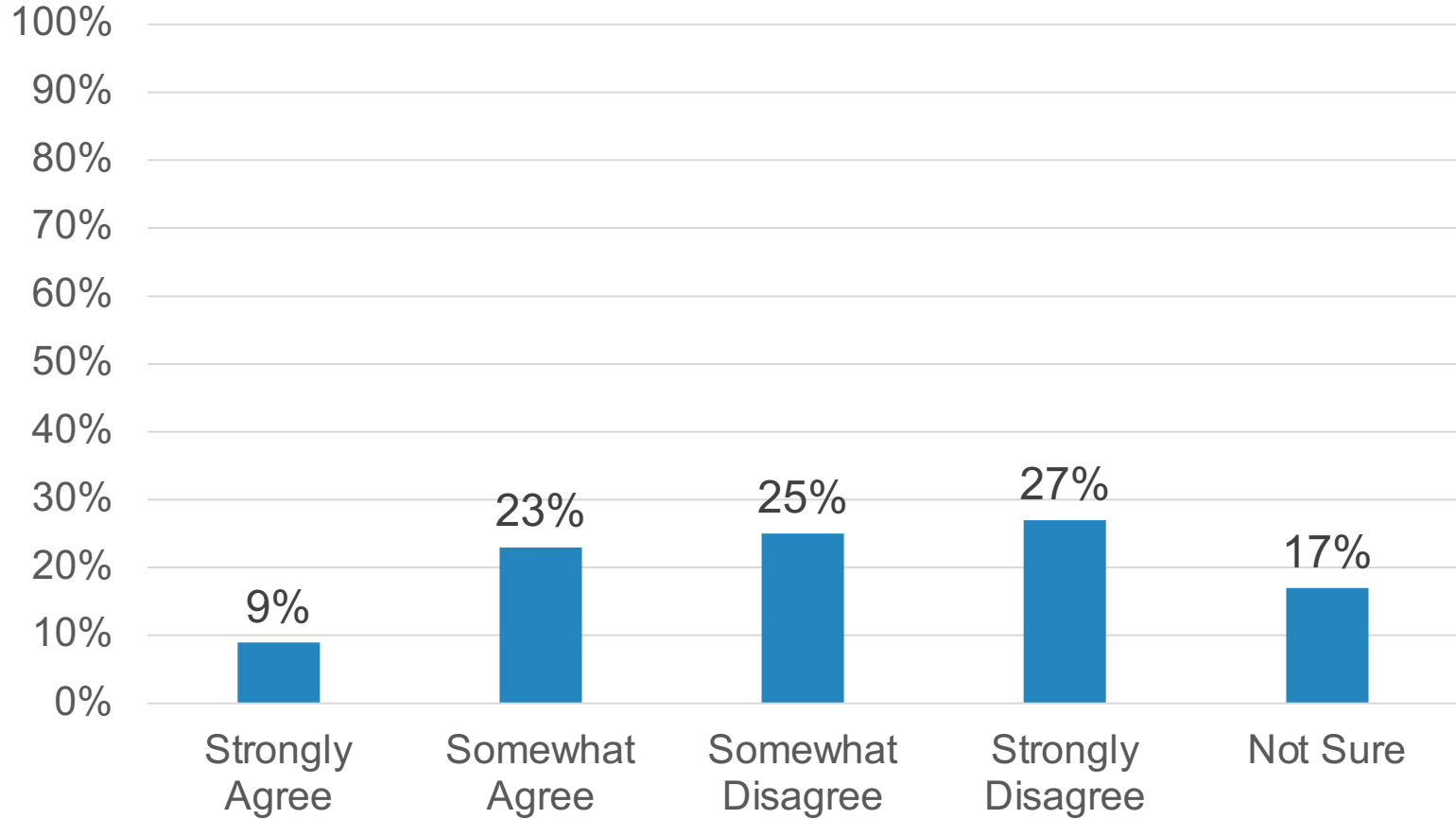
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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31% agree the Palestinian people in Gaza are responsible for the attacks carried out by Hamas

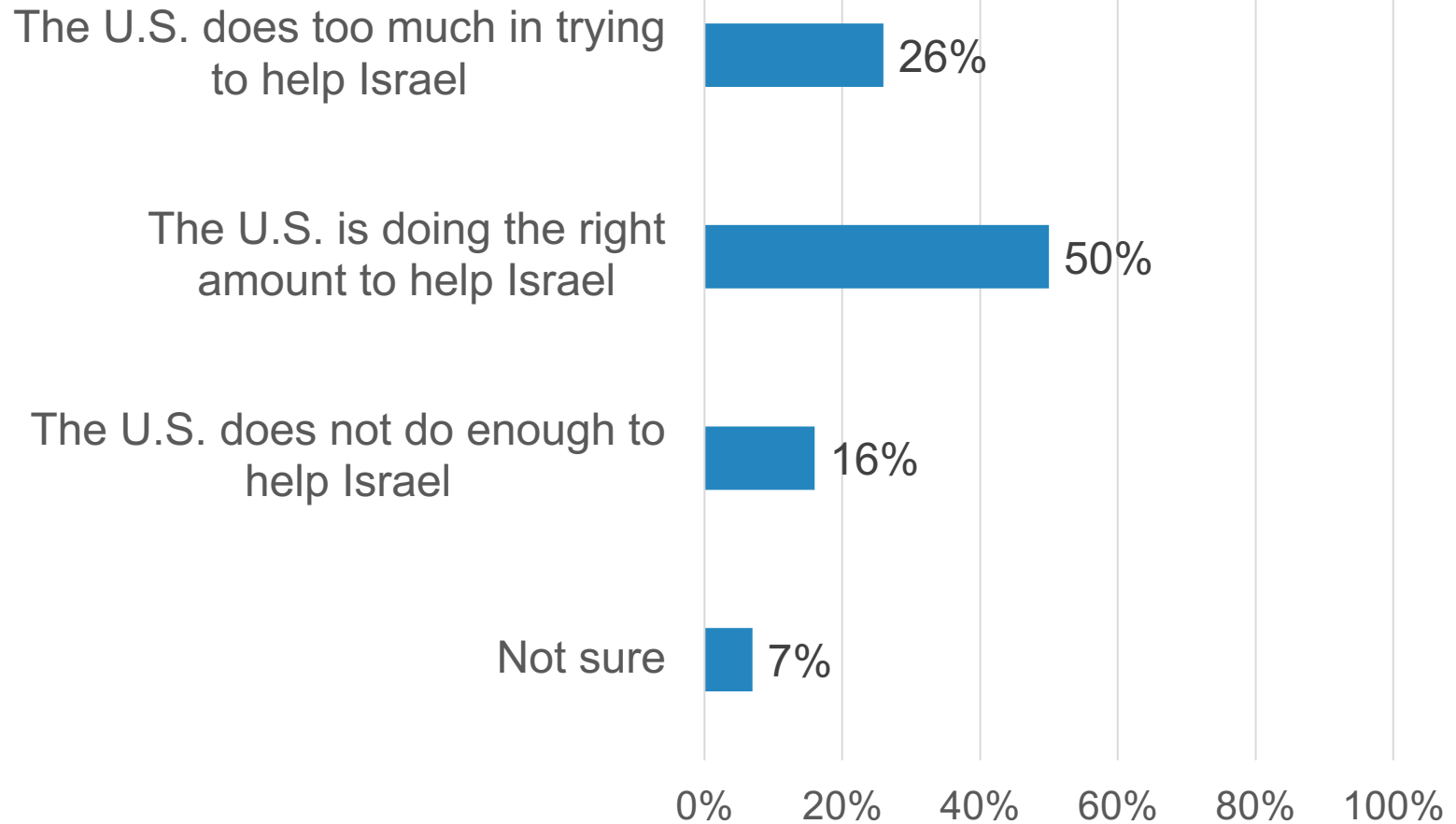
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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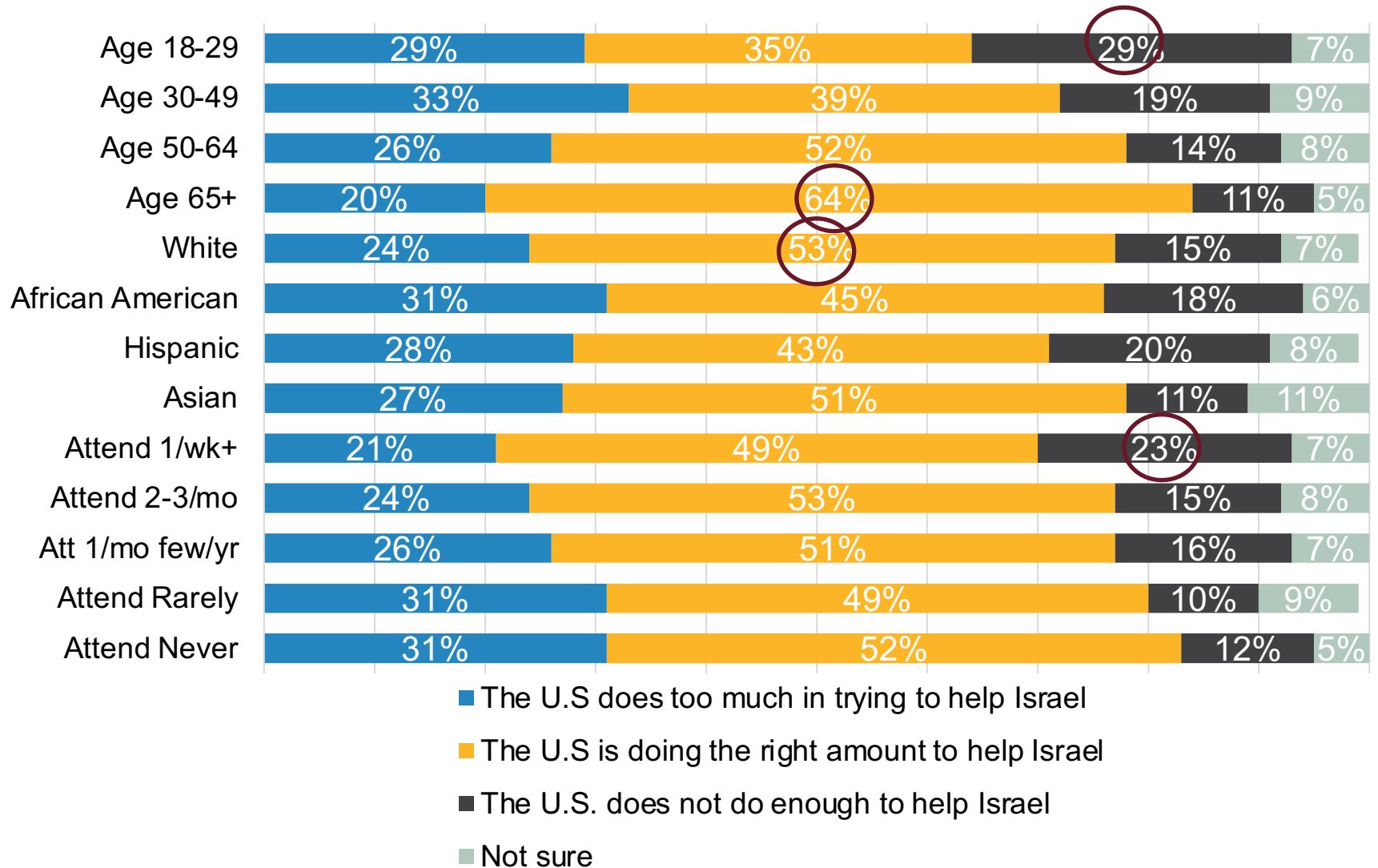
50% say that the U.S. is doing the right amount to help Israel

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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American Involvement, by Demographics

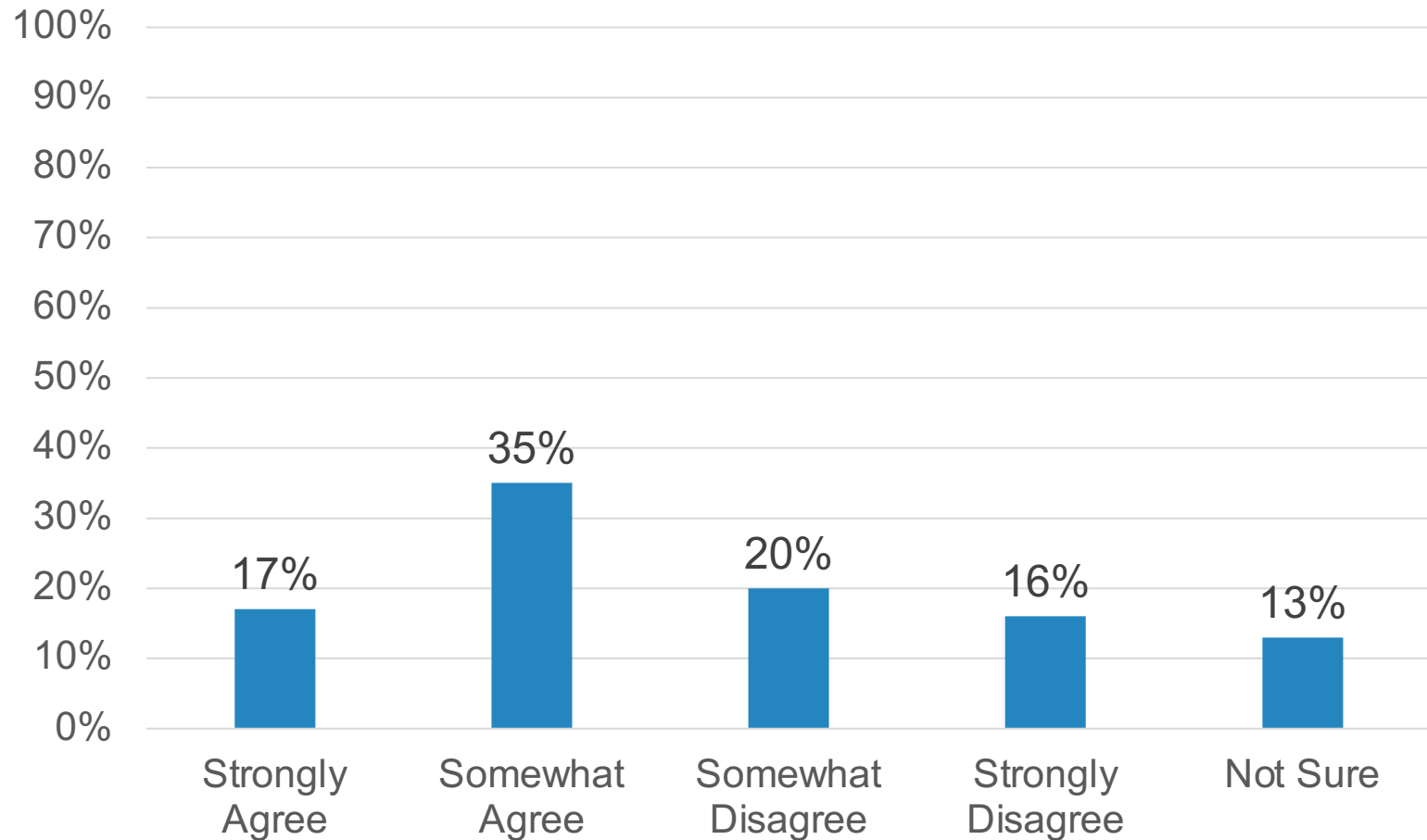


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52% agree Israel appears to consider civilian casualties justified in pursuit of military goals

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

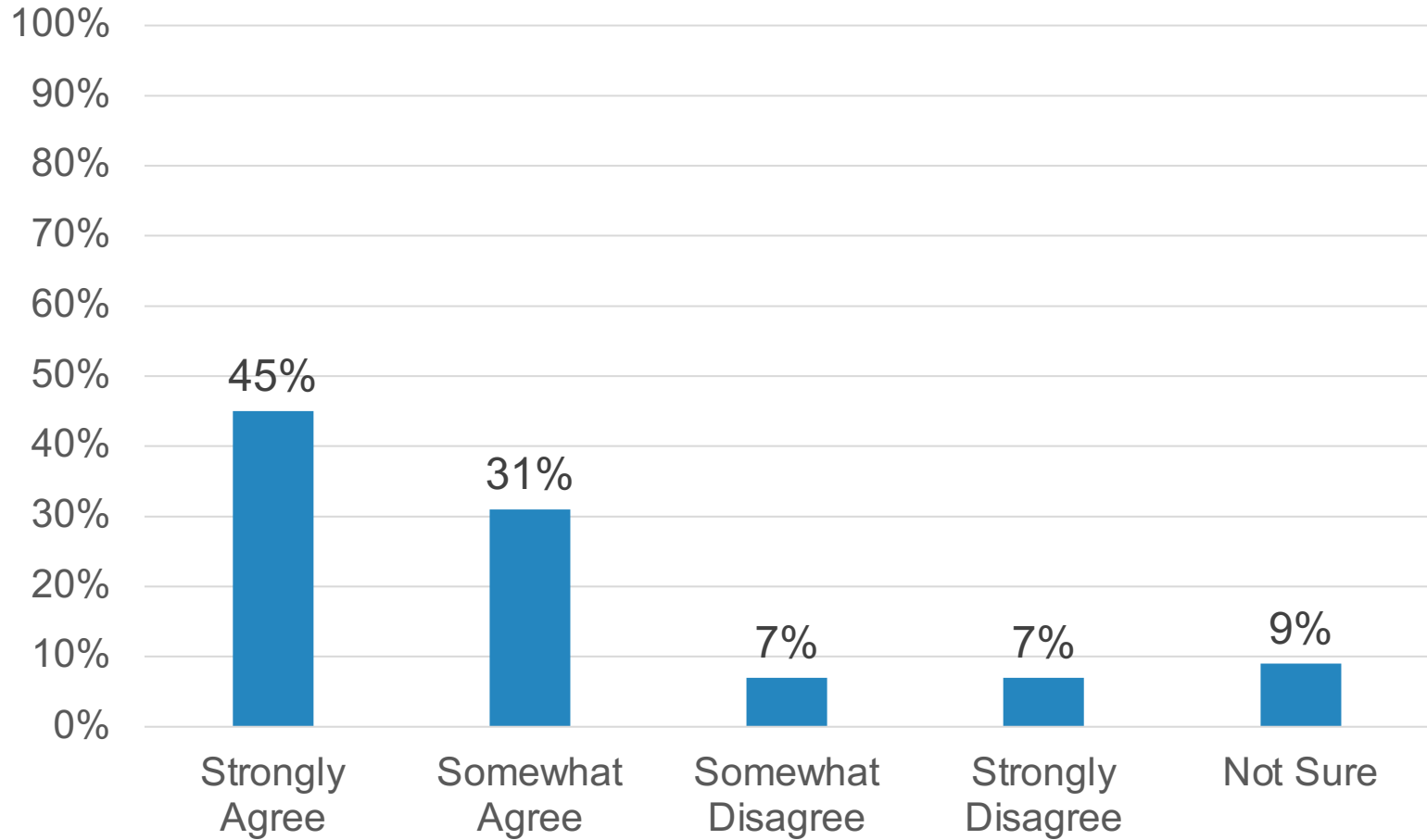


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Q16 "Israel appears to consider civilian casualties justified in the pursuit of its military goals." n=1,252

77% agree Hamas appears to consider civilian casualties justified in pursuit of military goals

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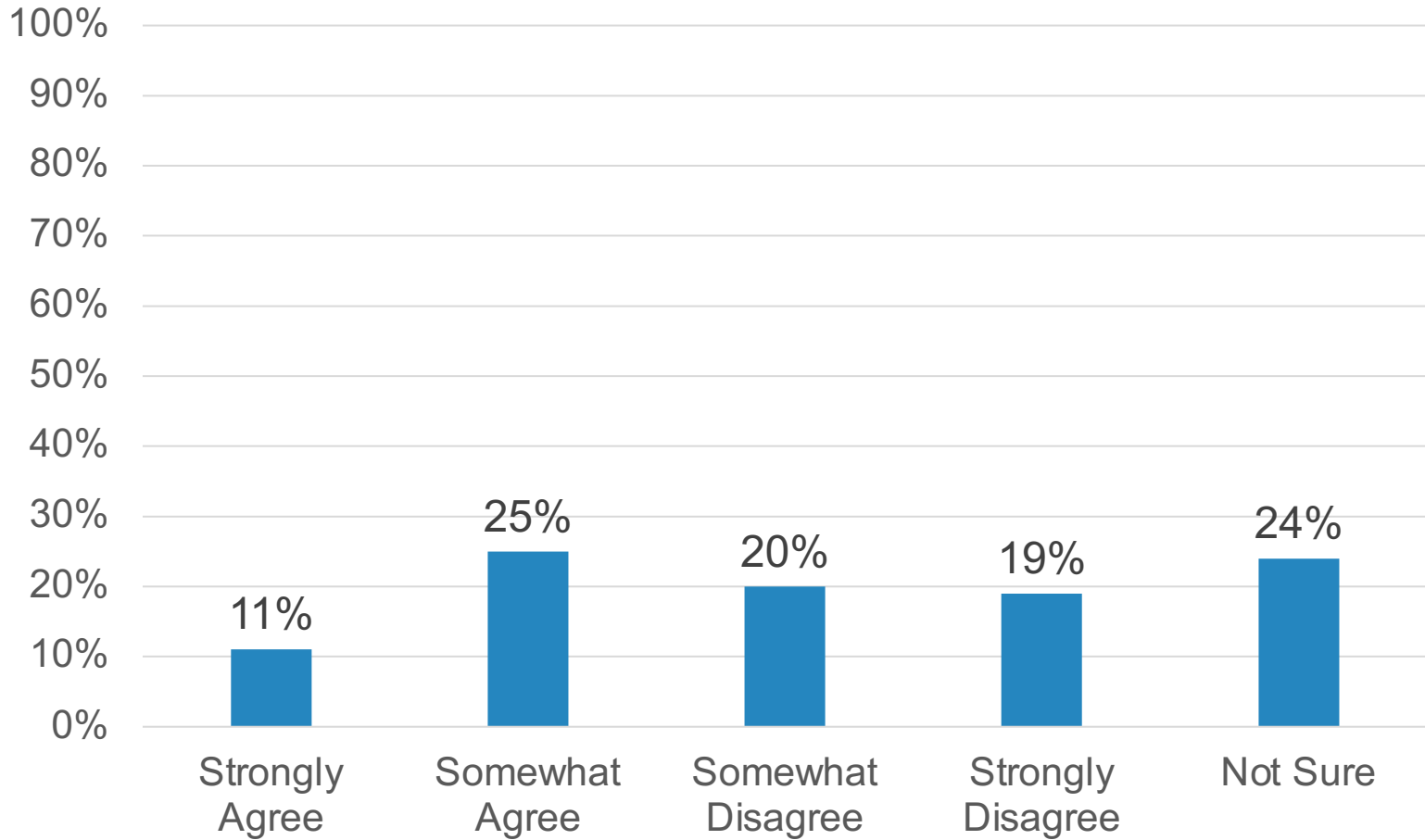


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Q17 "Hamas appears to consider civilian casualties justified in the pursuit of its military goals." n=1,252

36% agree that Israeli control of Gaza and the West Bank are an illegal occupation

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

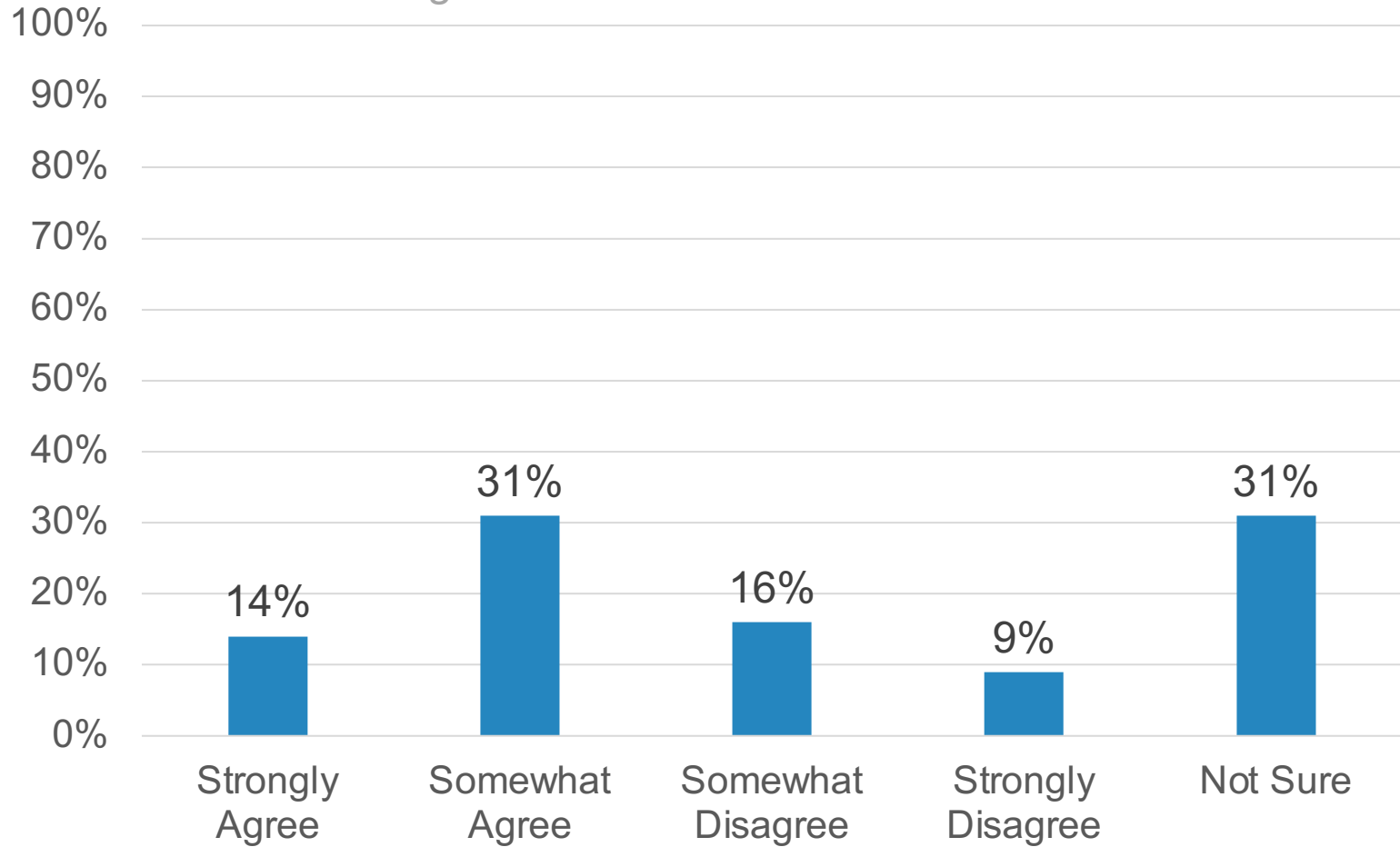


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Q18 "Israeli control of Gaza and the West Bank are an illegal occupation of another country." n=1,252

45% agree that Israeli settlements beyond agreed upon borders are illegal

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

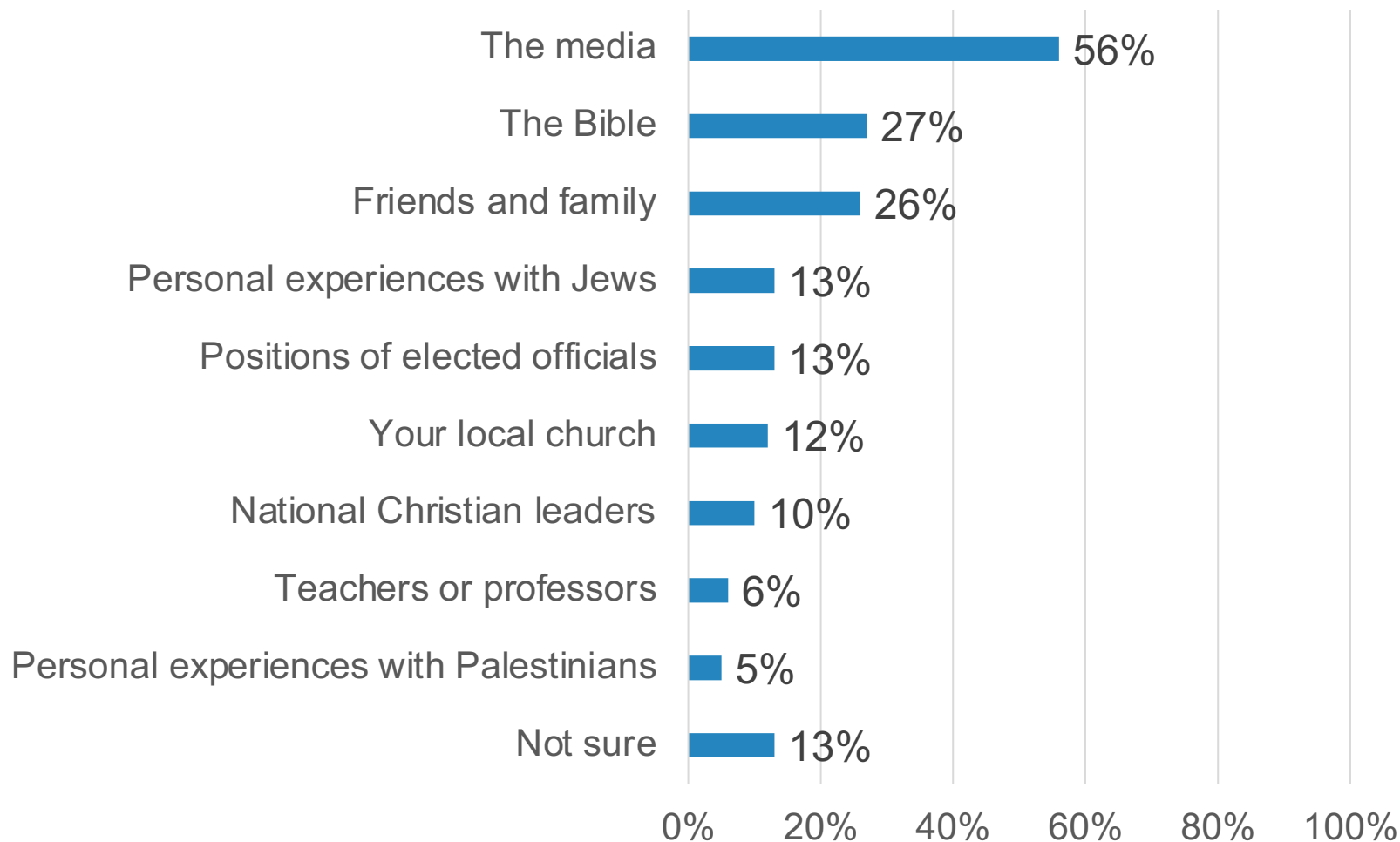


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Q19 "Israeli settlements beyond the agreed upon borders of Israel are illegal." n=1,252

“Which of the following have influenced your opinions about Israel?”

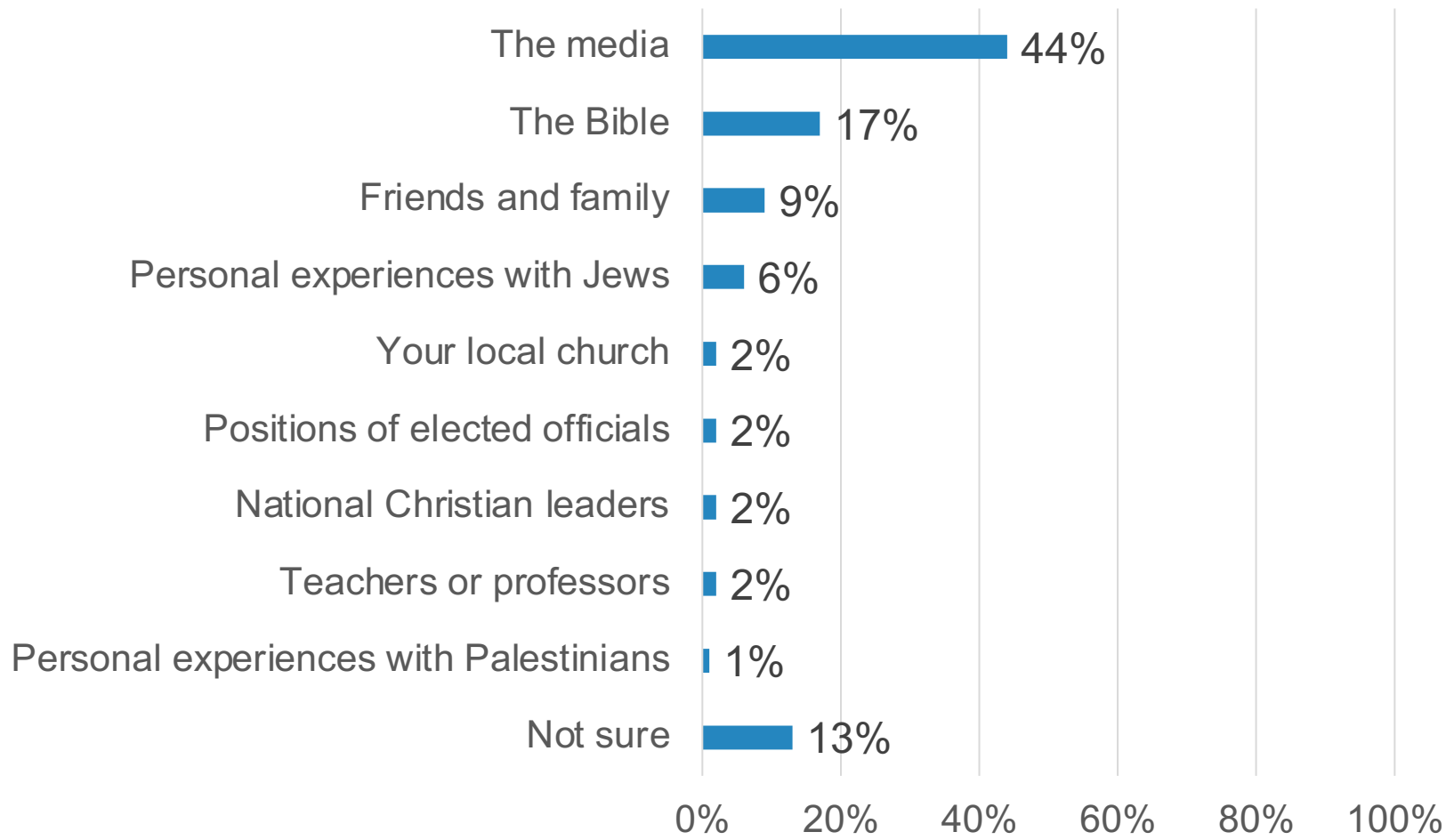
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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44% say that the media influences their opinions of Israel the most

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

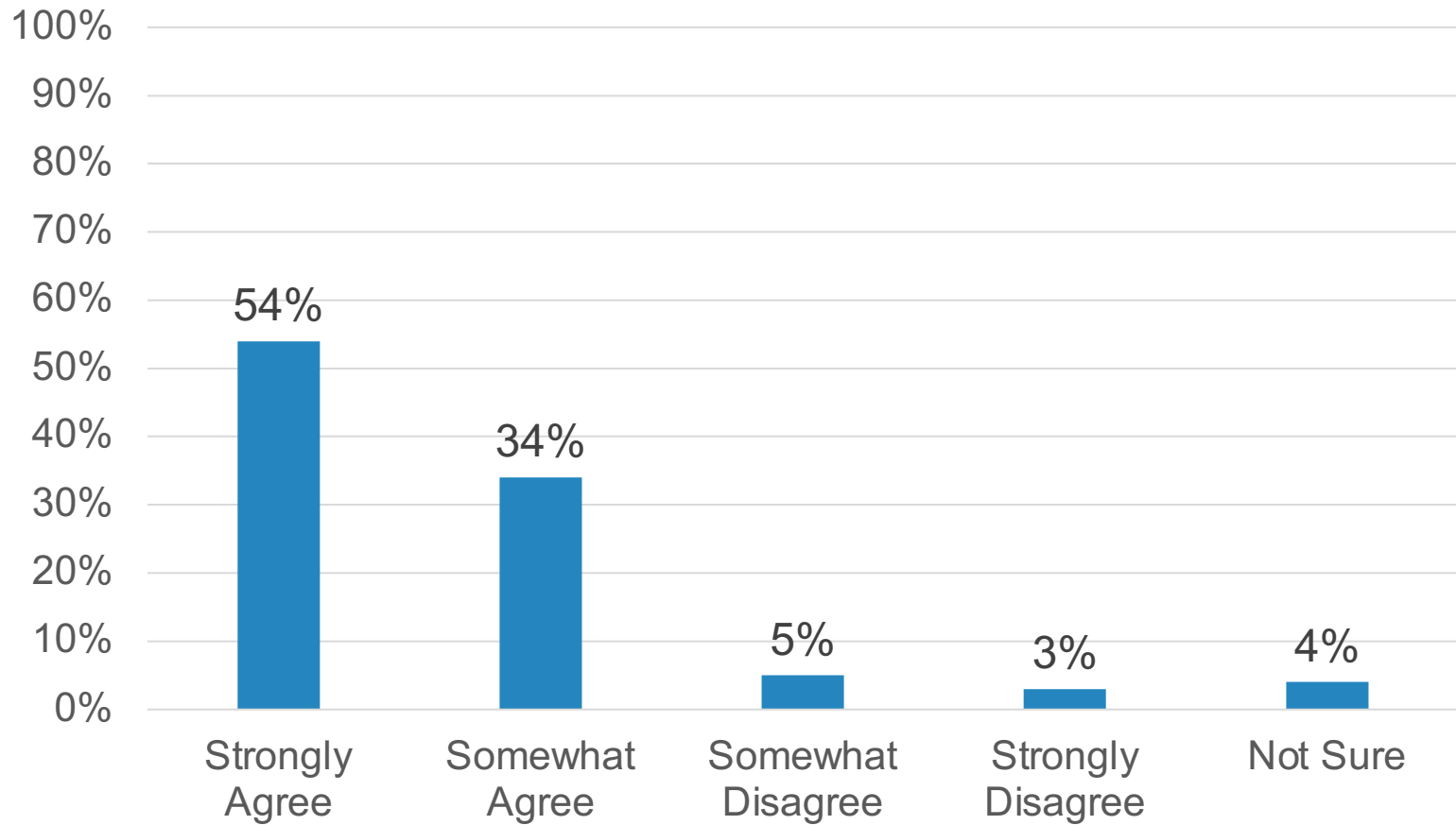


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Q21: "Which one of the following has influenced your opinions about Israel the most?" n=1,252

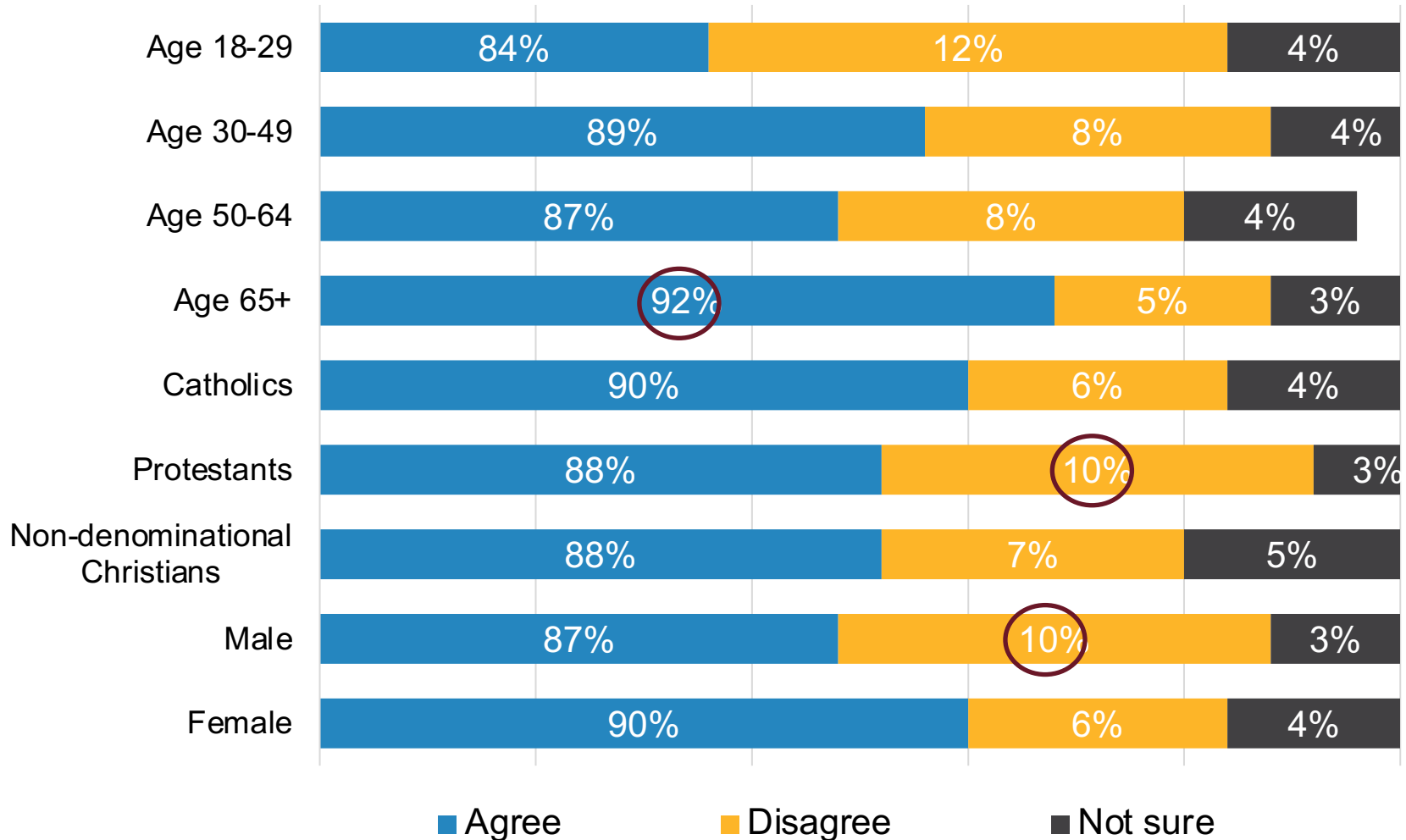
88% agree that lasting peace in the region requires a mutually agreed upon solution between Israel and Palestinians

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Lasting Peace requires mutually agreed upon solution, by Demographics

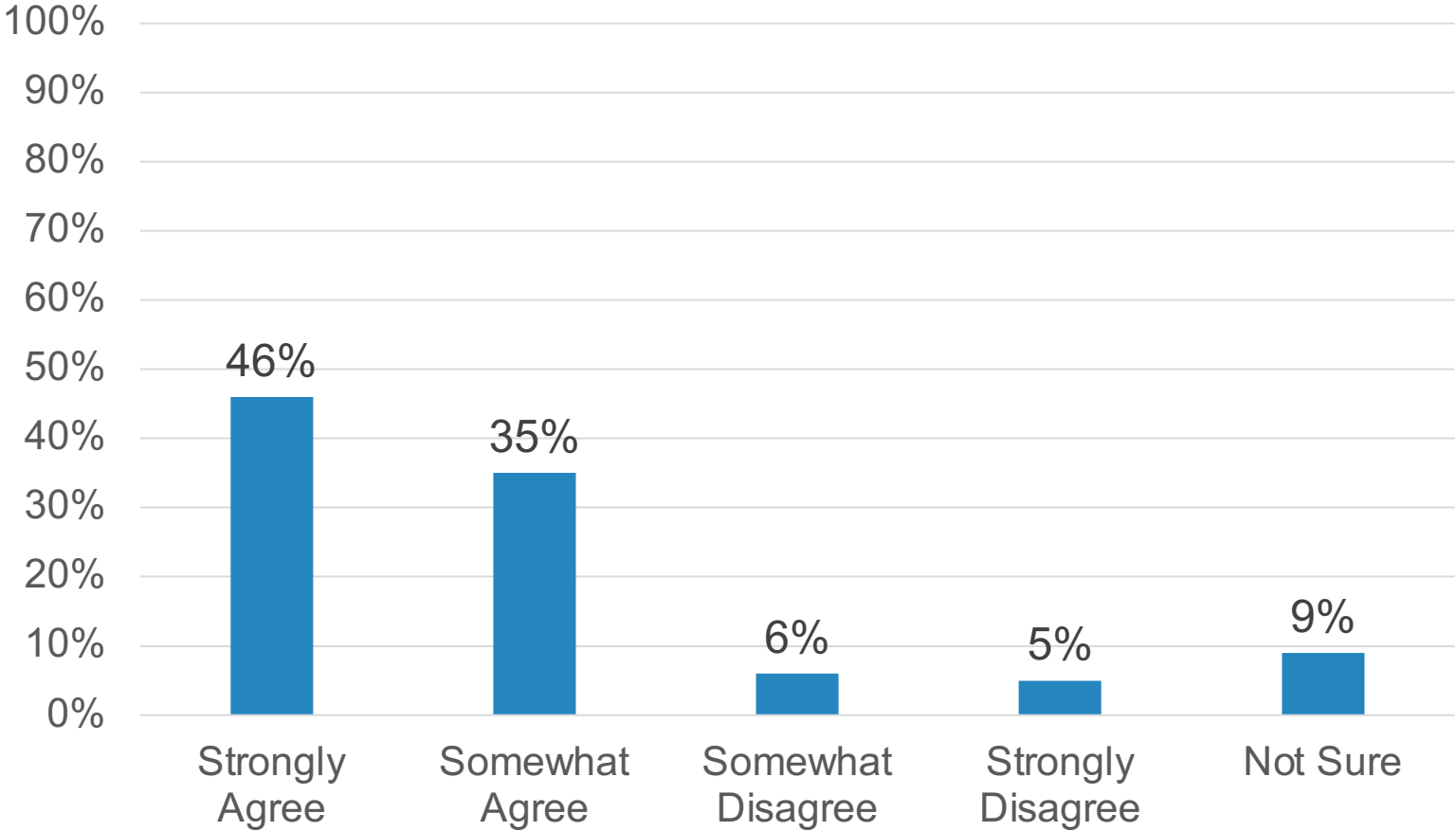


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81% support the goal of a two-state solution in which Israel and Palestine are self-governing with national borders respected by all

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

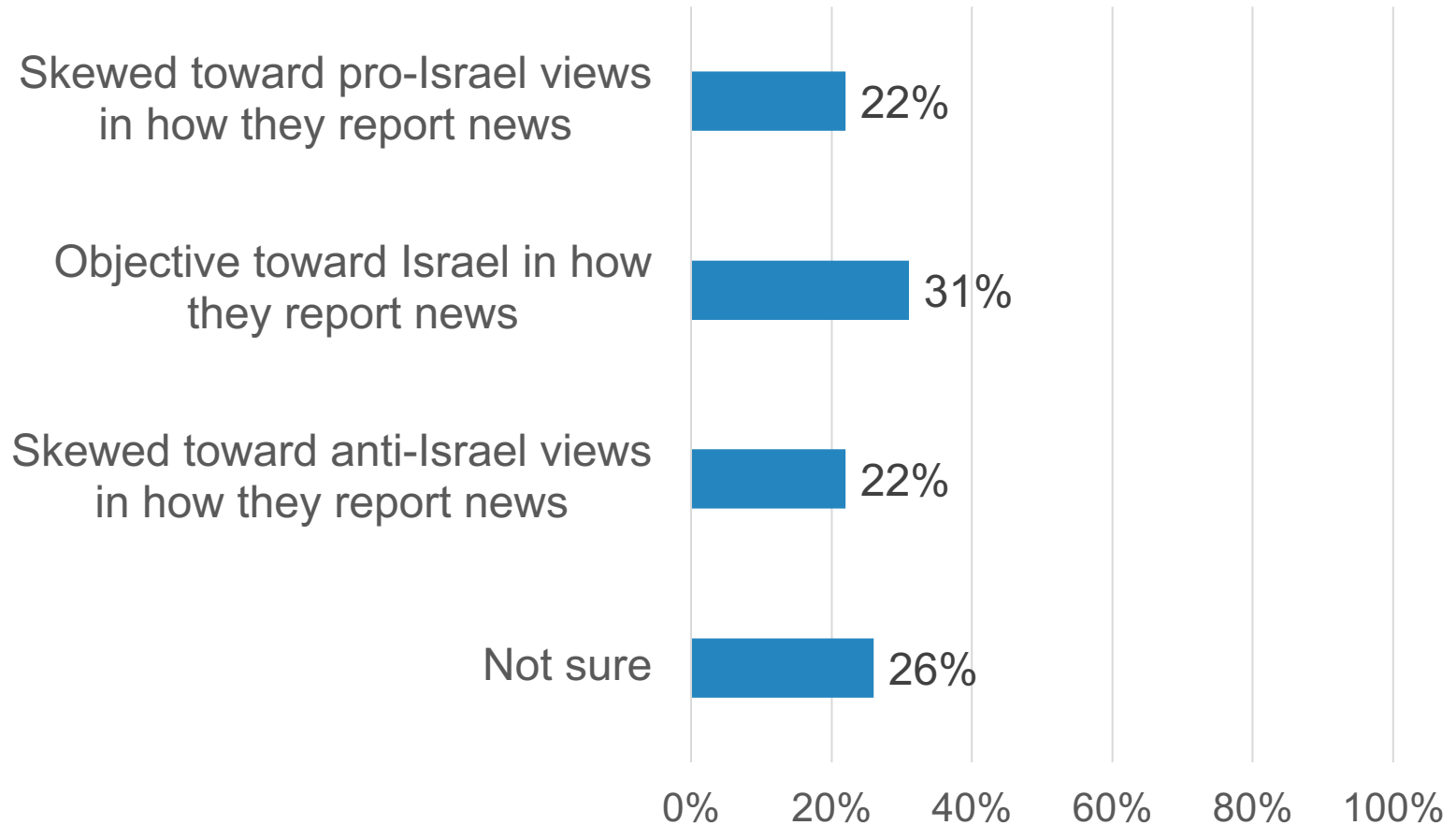


Lifeway research

Q23 "I support the goal of a two-state solution in which two states exist, Israel and Palestine, that are self-governing with national borders that are respected by all." n=1,252

44% say the main-stream media's coverage is skewed; 22% toward pro-Israel views and 22% toward anti-Israel views

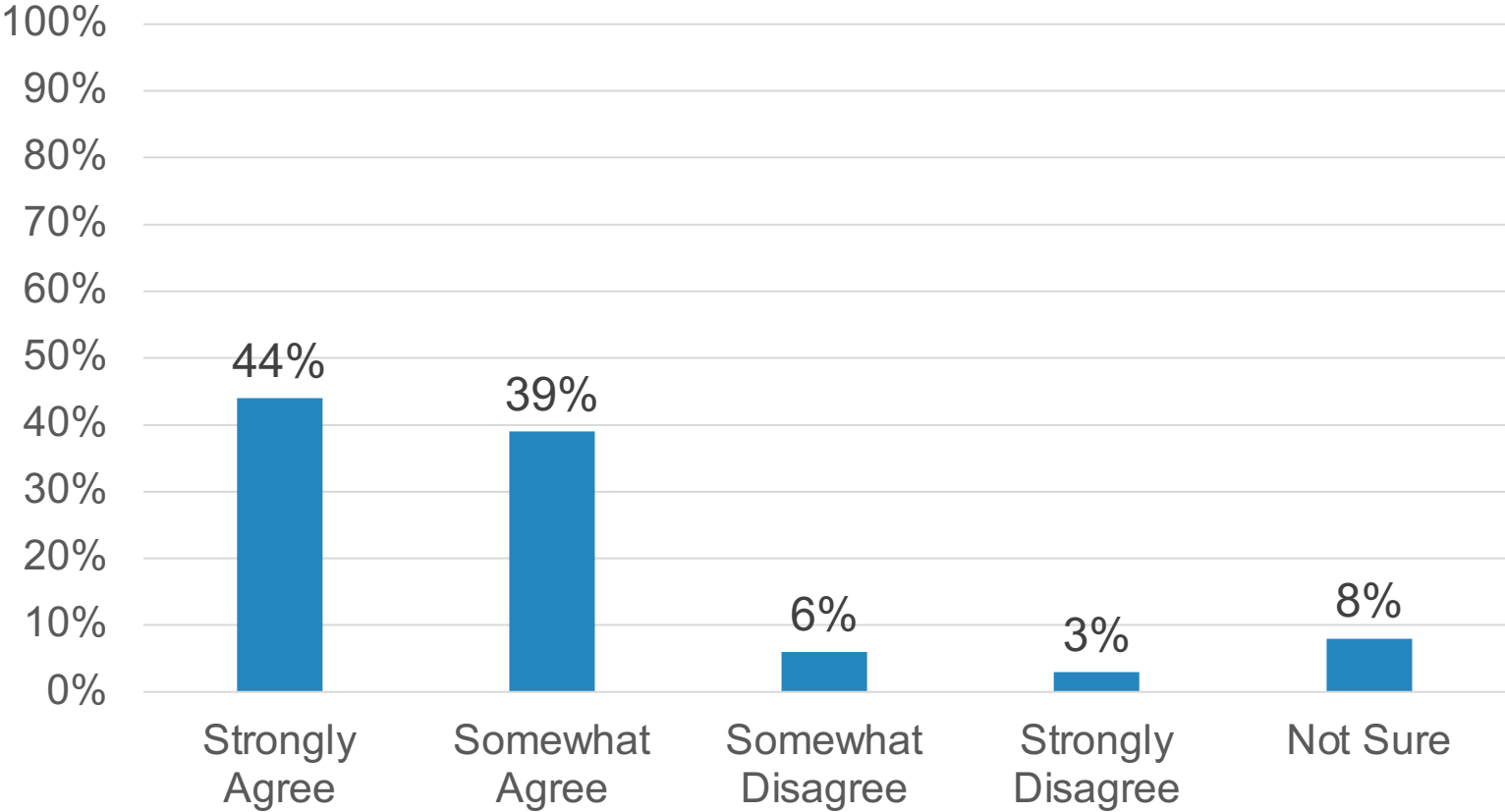
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



Lifeway research

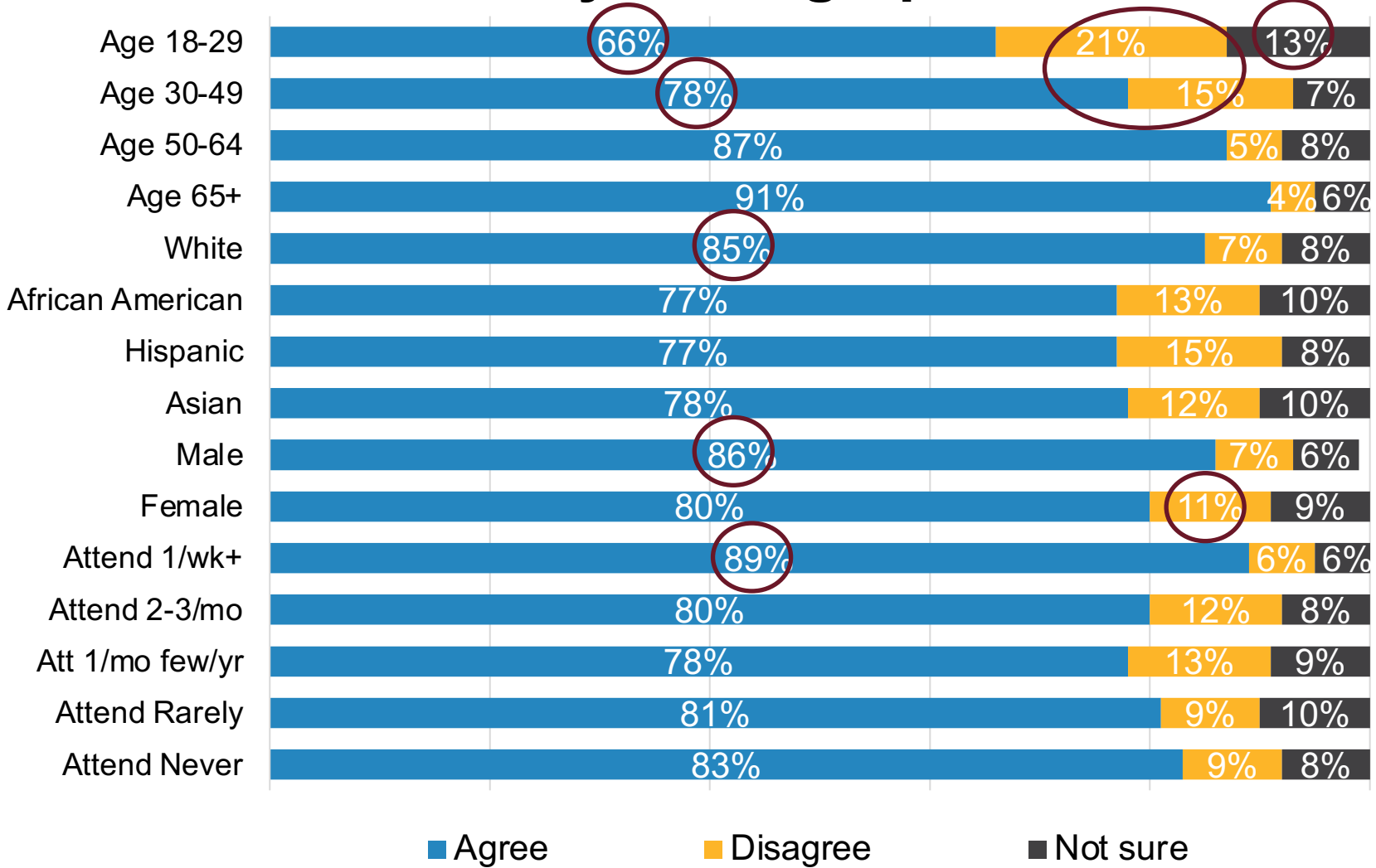
83% agree Israel must take bold measures to defend itself against Hamas' decades long campaign of terrorism

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Lifeway research

Israel must take bold measures to defend itself, by Demographics

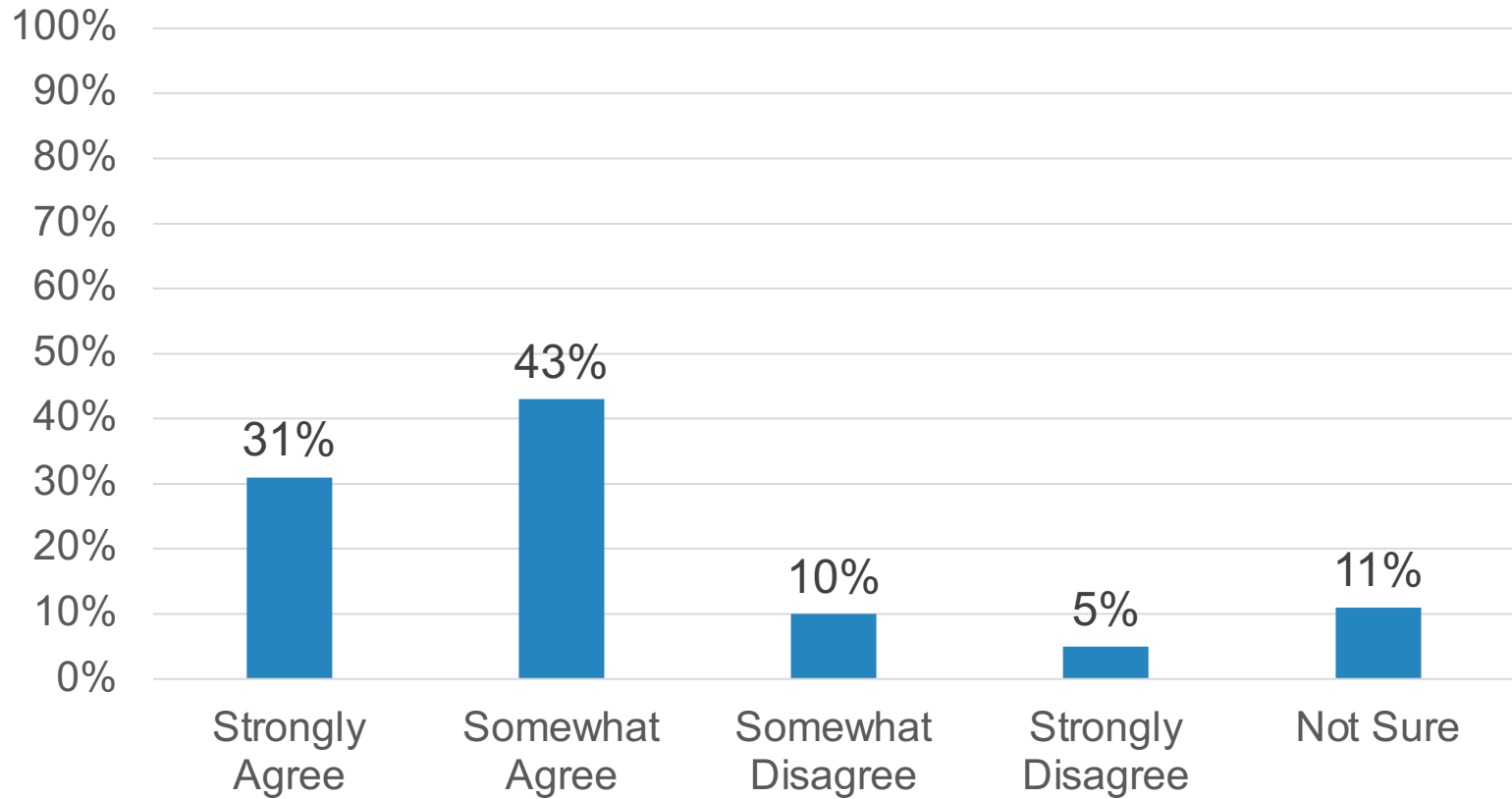


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74% agree Palestinians have the right to defend themselves and the land their families have lived on for generations

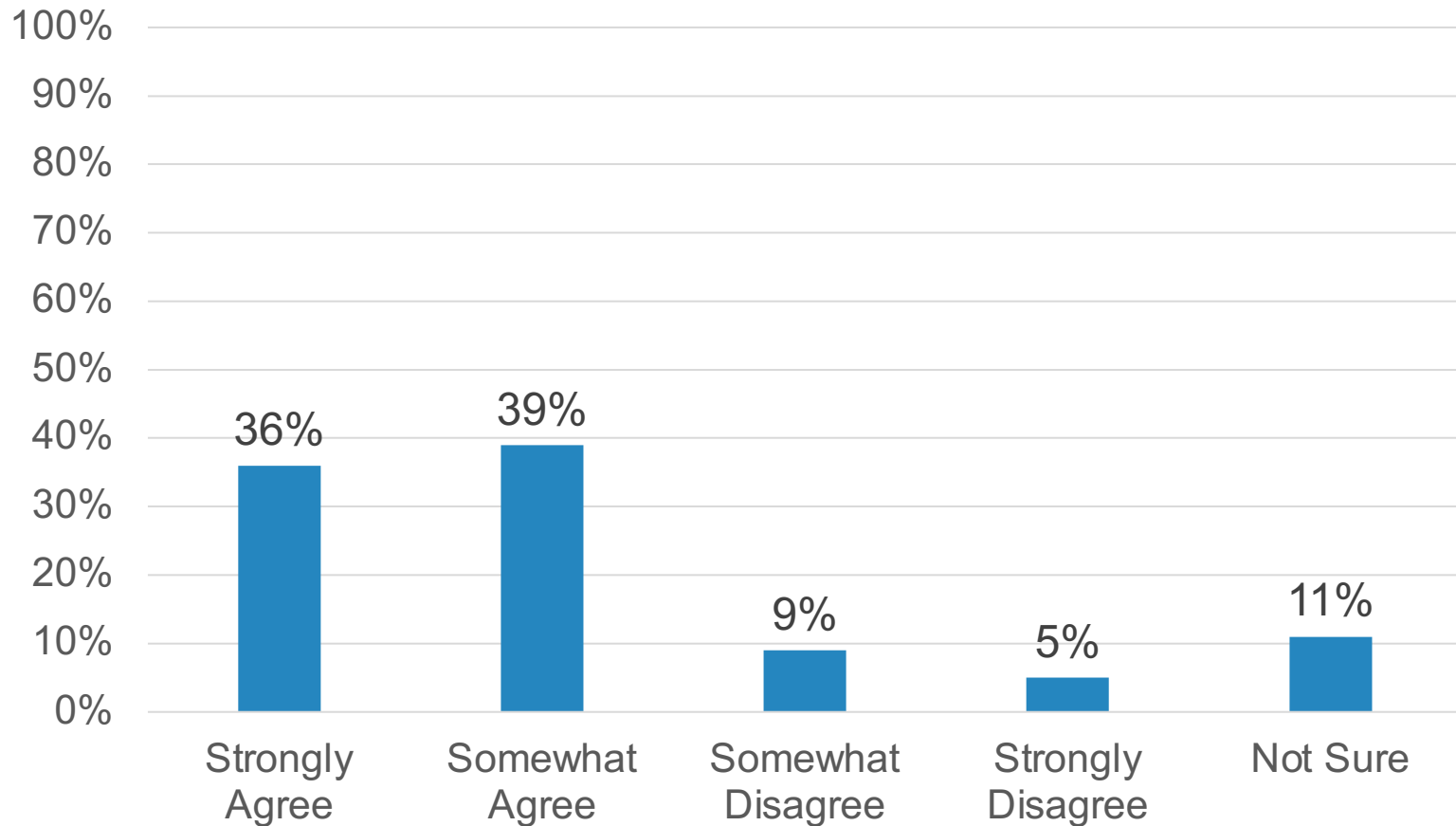
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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75% agree Hamas is an extremist group that is isolated from most other Arabs in Israel and neighboring countries

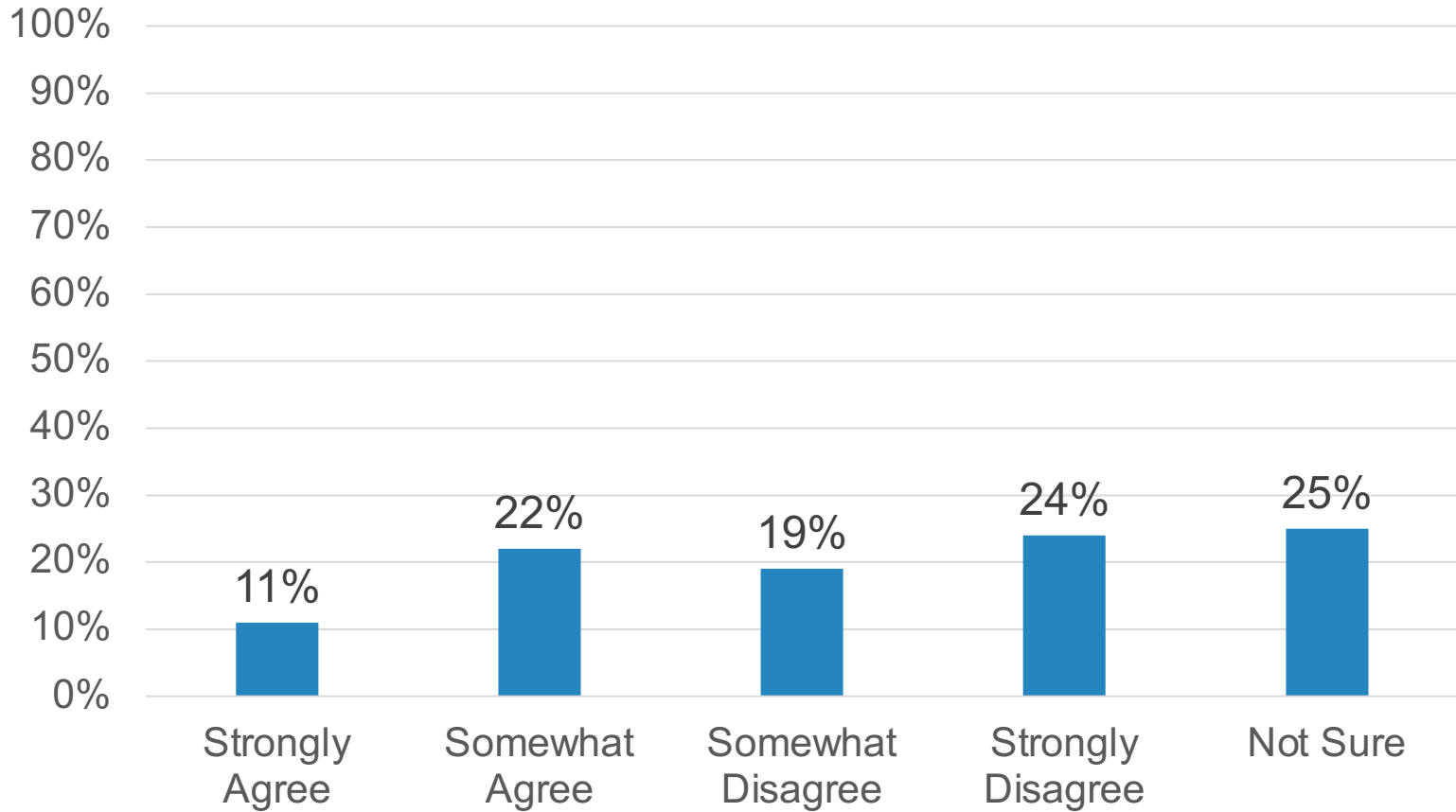
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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33% agree Israel's blockade of Gaza since 2005 has prevented Hamas from obtaining weapons to use against Israel

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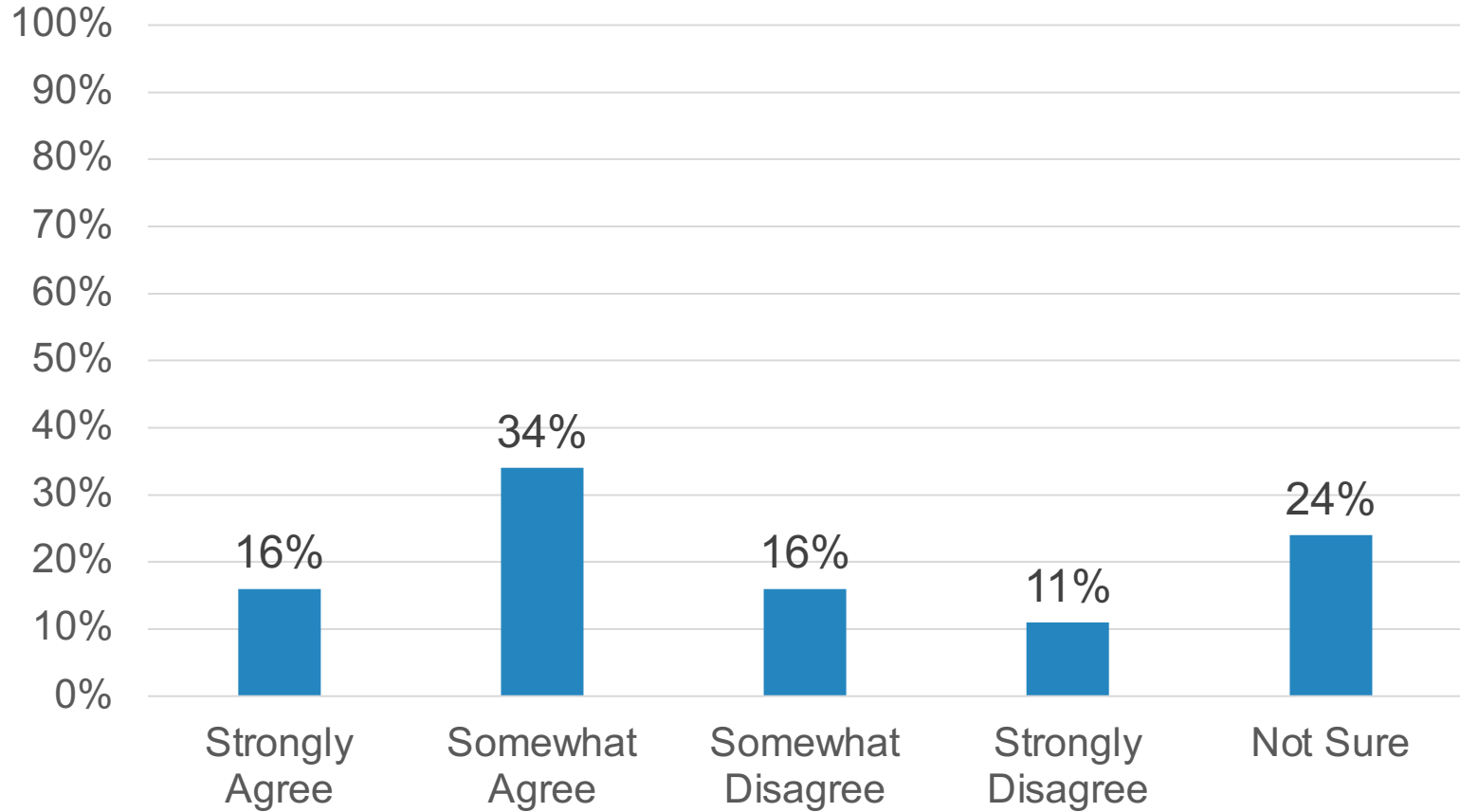


Lifeway research

Q28 "Israel's blockade of goods and people in and out of Gaza since 2005 has prevented Hamas from obtaining weapons to use against Israel." n=1,252

50% agree that Israel's blockade of Gaza since 2005 has oppressed Palestinian people who have no option of leaving

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

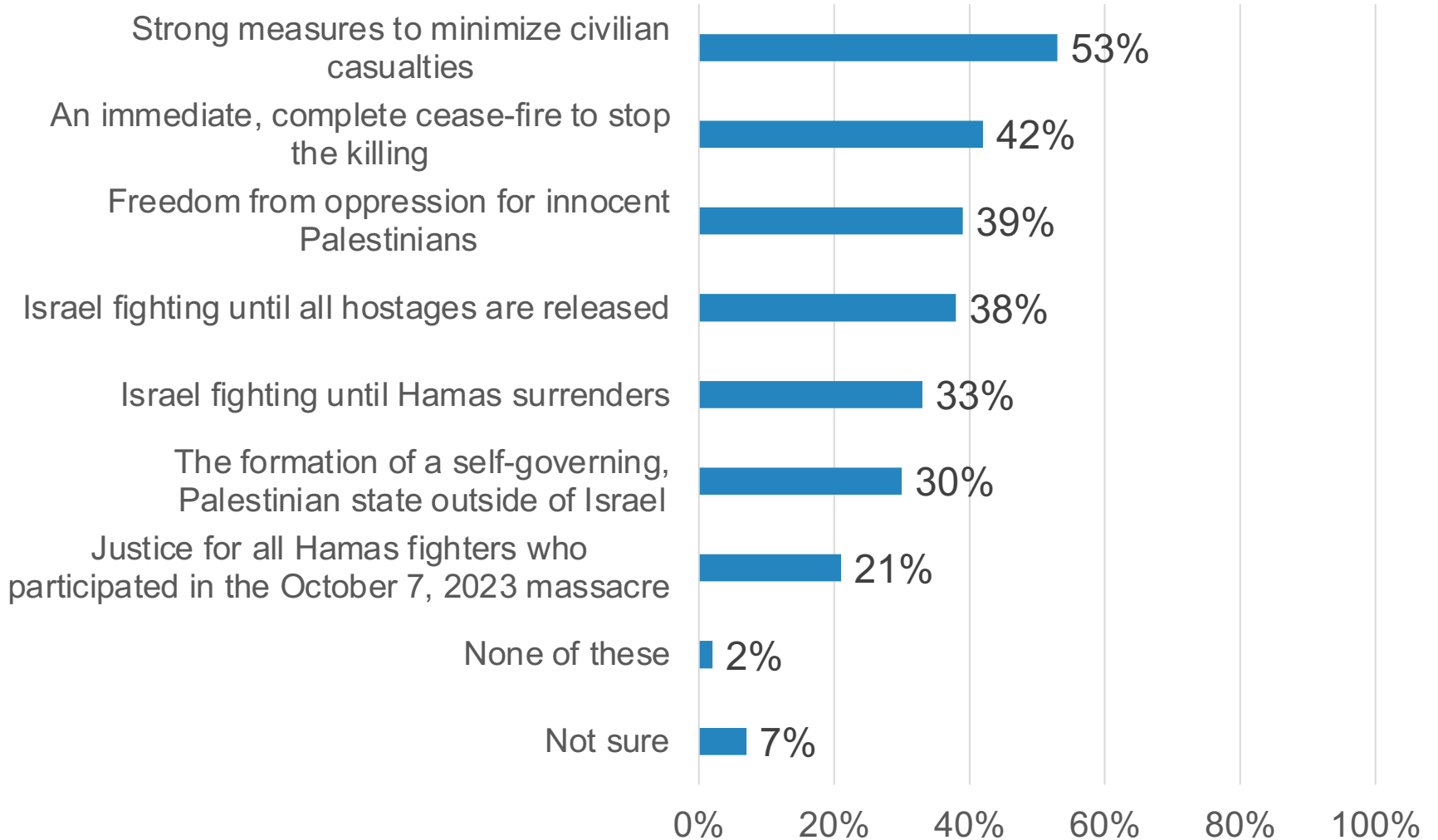


Lifeway research

Q29 "Israel's blockade of goods and people in and out of Gaza since 2005 has oppressed Palestinian people who have no option of leaving." n=1,252

“Which, if any, of the following should Christians advocate for in this war?”

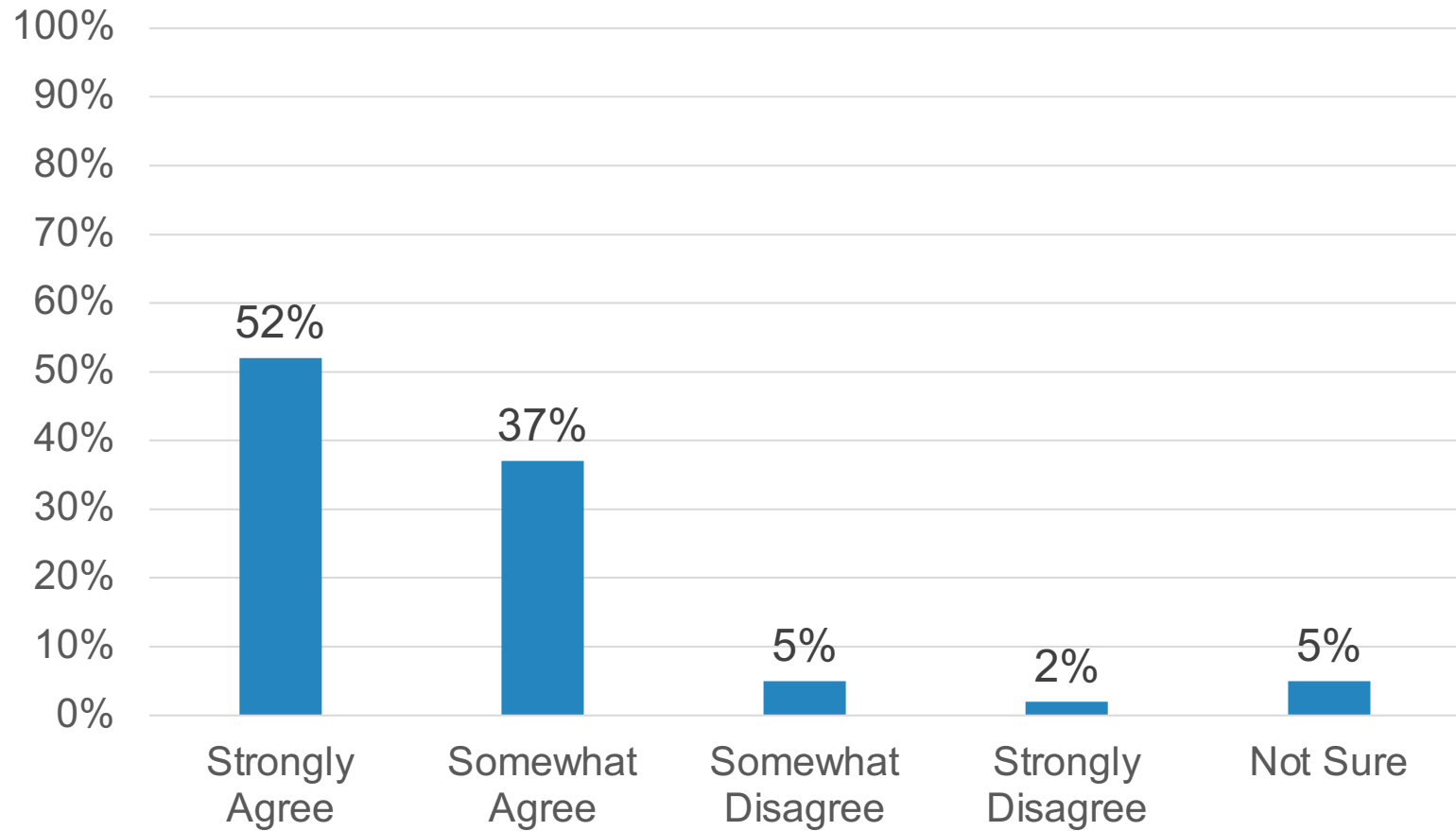
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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88% agree that Israelis have the right to determine their own statehood and government

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

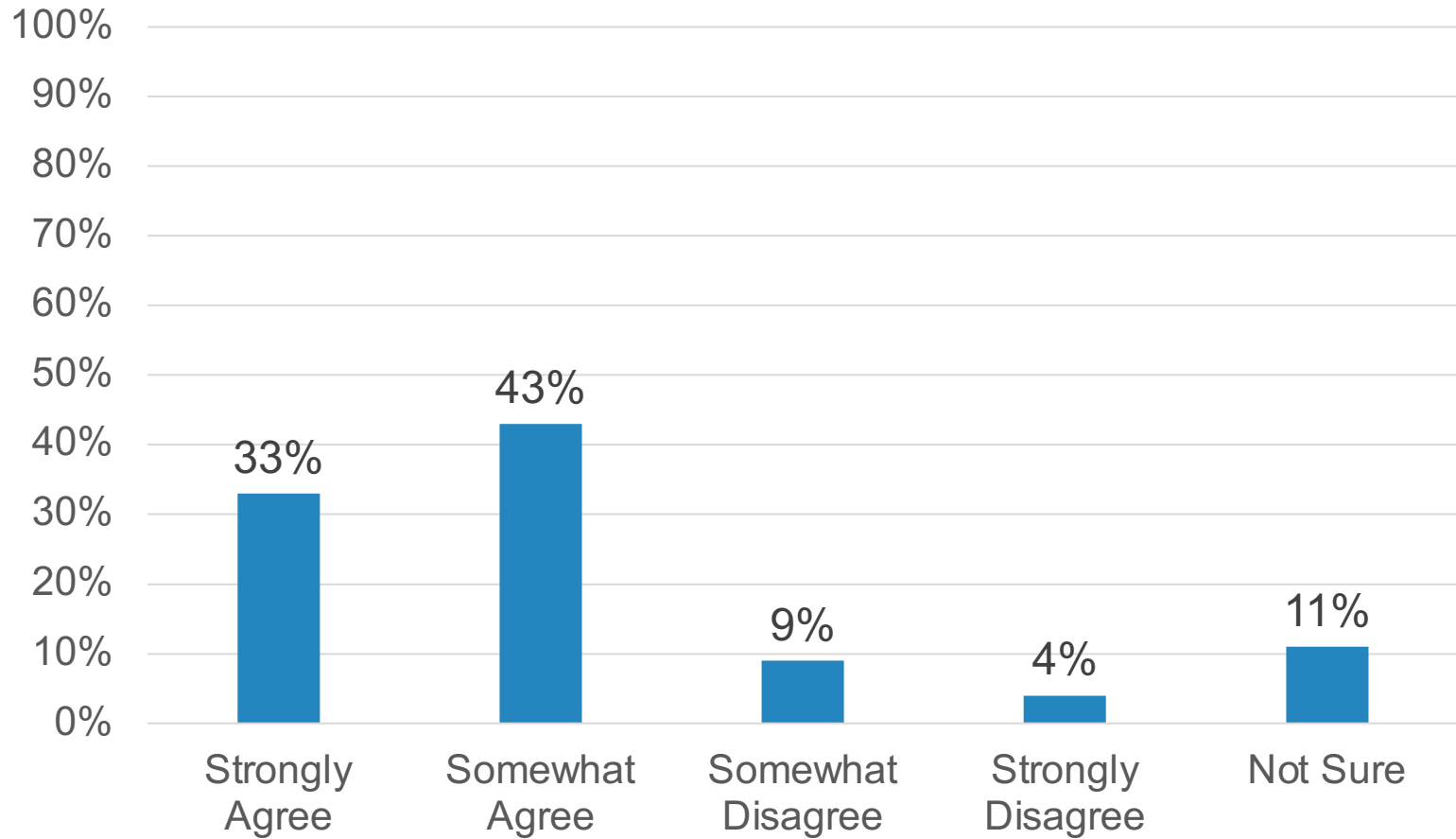


Lifeway research

Q31 "Israelis have the right to determine their own statehood and government." n=1,252

76% agree that Palestinians have the right to determine their own statehood and government

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

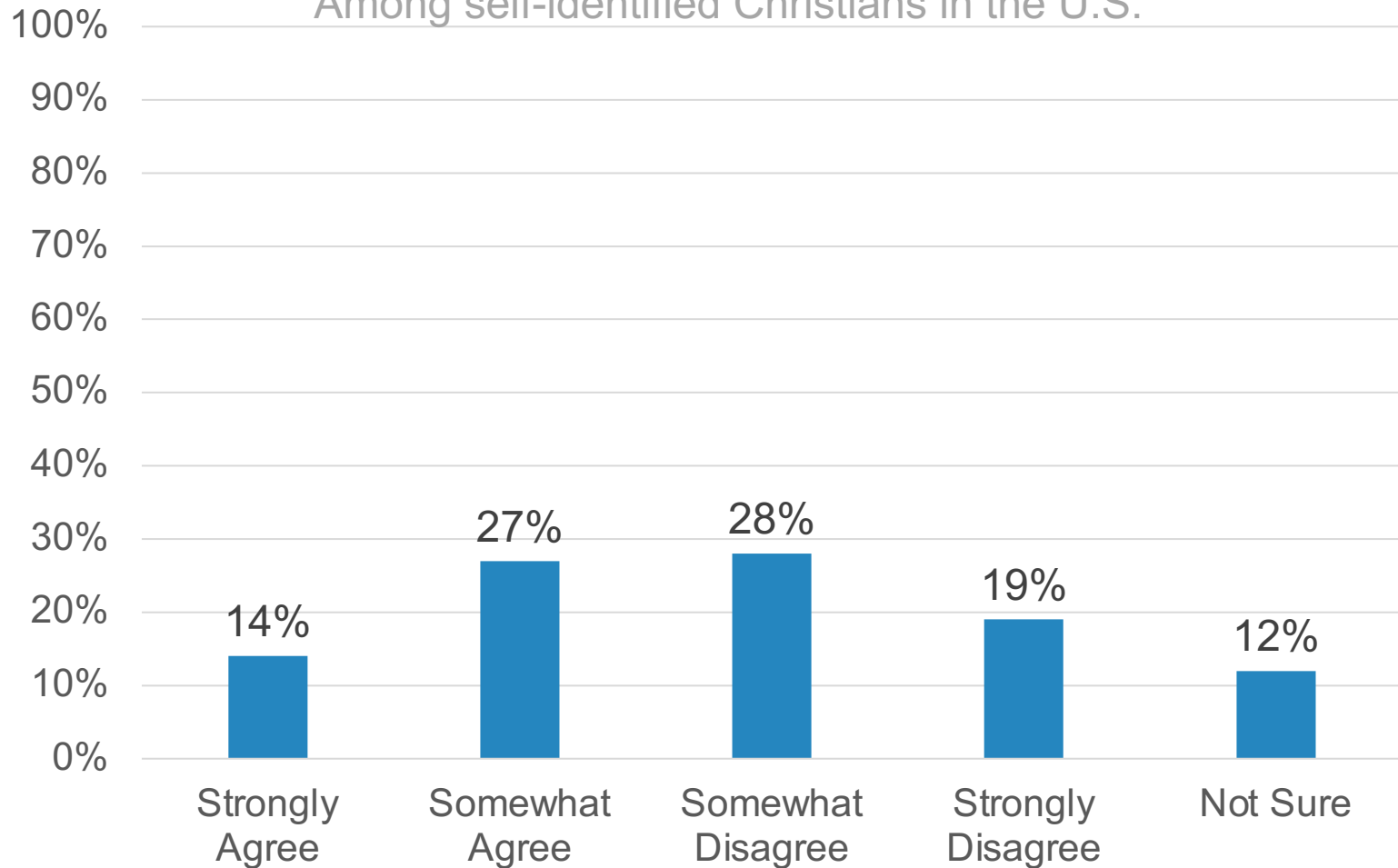


Lifeway research

Q32 "Palestinians have the right to determine their own statehood and government." n=1,252

41% agree Israel can secure a positive, long-term outcome solely through military force

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

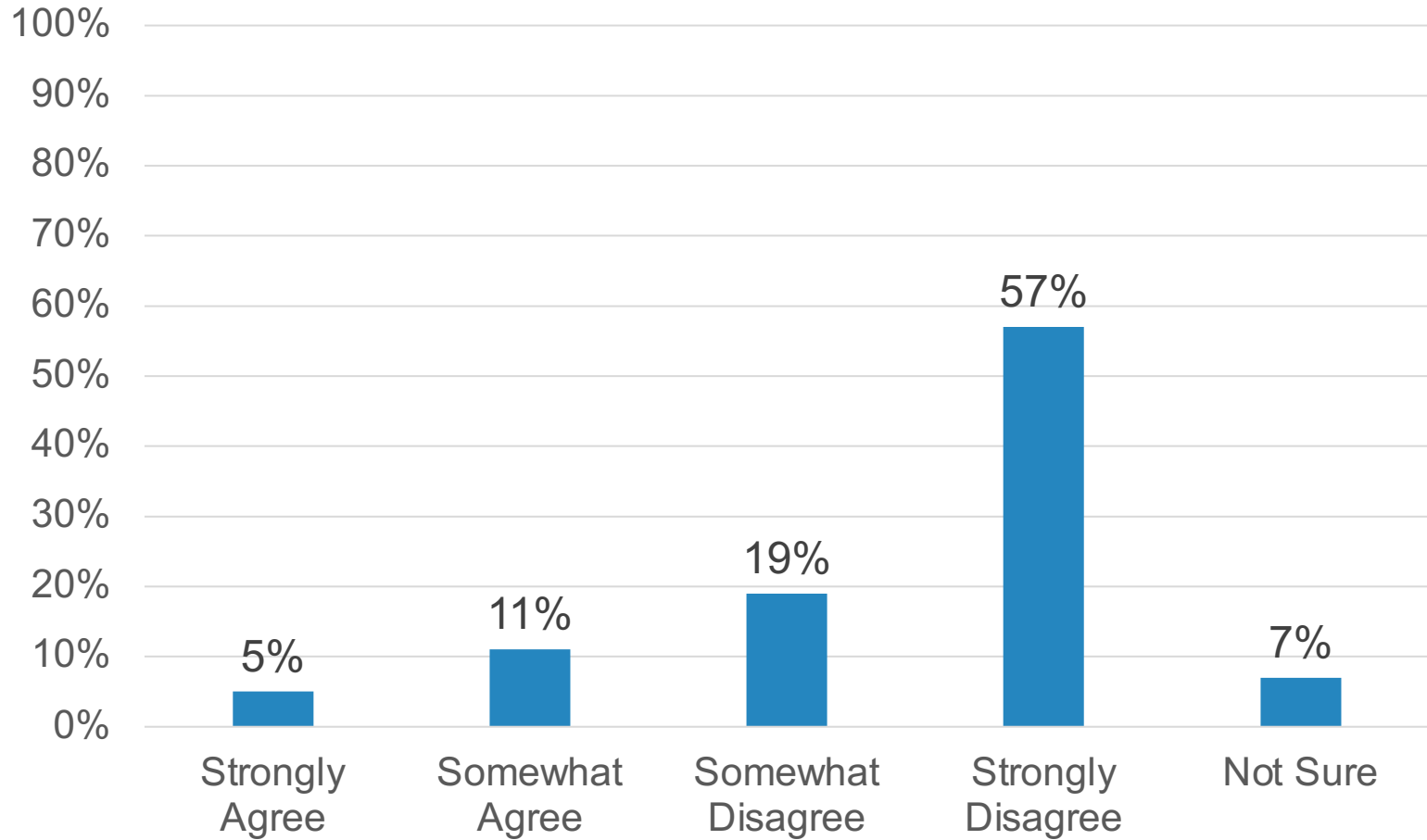


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Q33 "Israel can secure a positive, long-term outcome solely through military force." n=1,252

16% agree Palestinians can achieve their national aspirations solely through violence

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

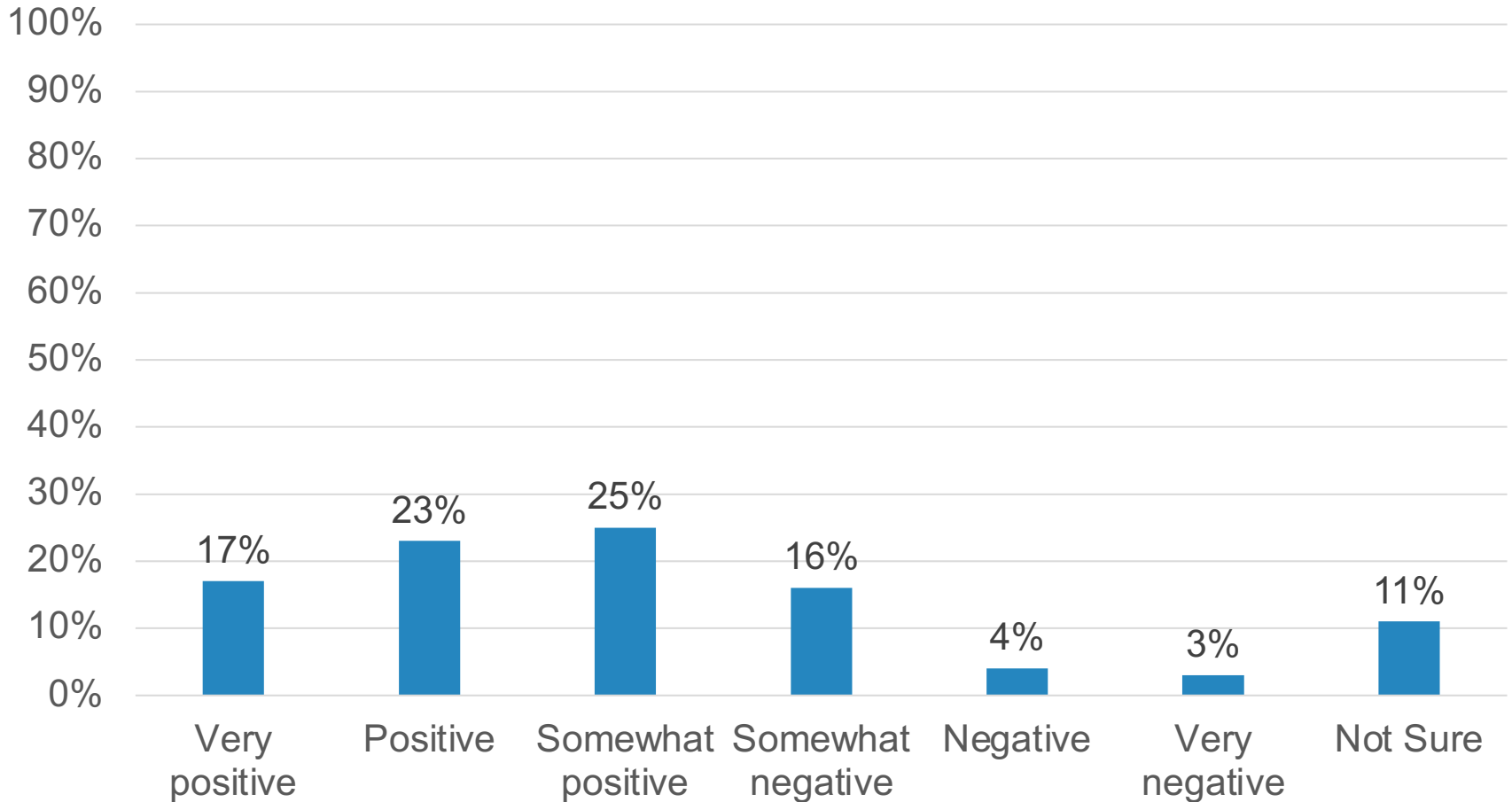


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Q34 "Palestinians can achieve their national aspirations solely through violence." n=1,252

65% have a positive perception of Israel today

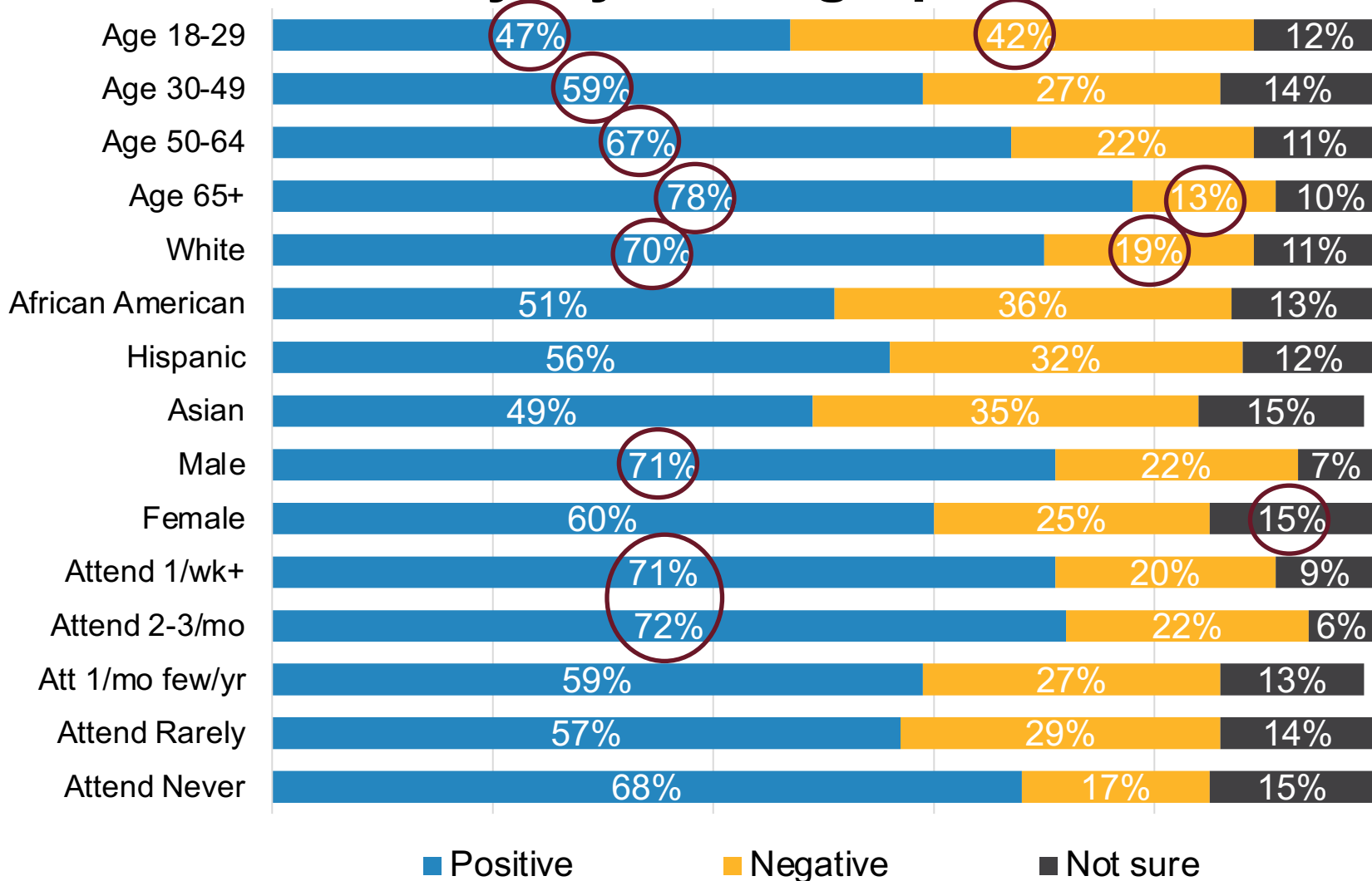
Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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Q35 "Overall, what is your perception of the country of Israel today?" n=1,252

Overall perception of the country of Israel today, by Demographics

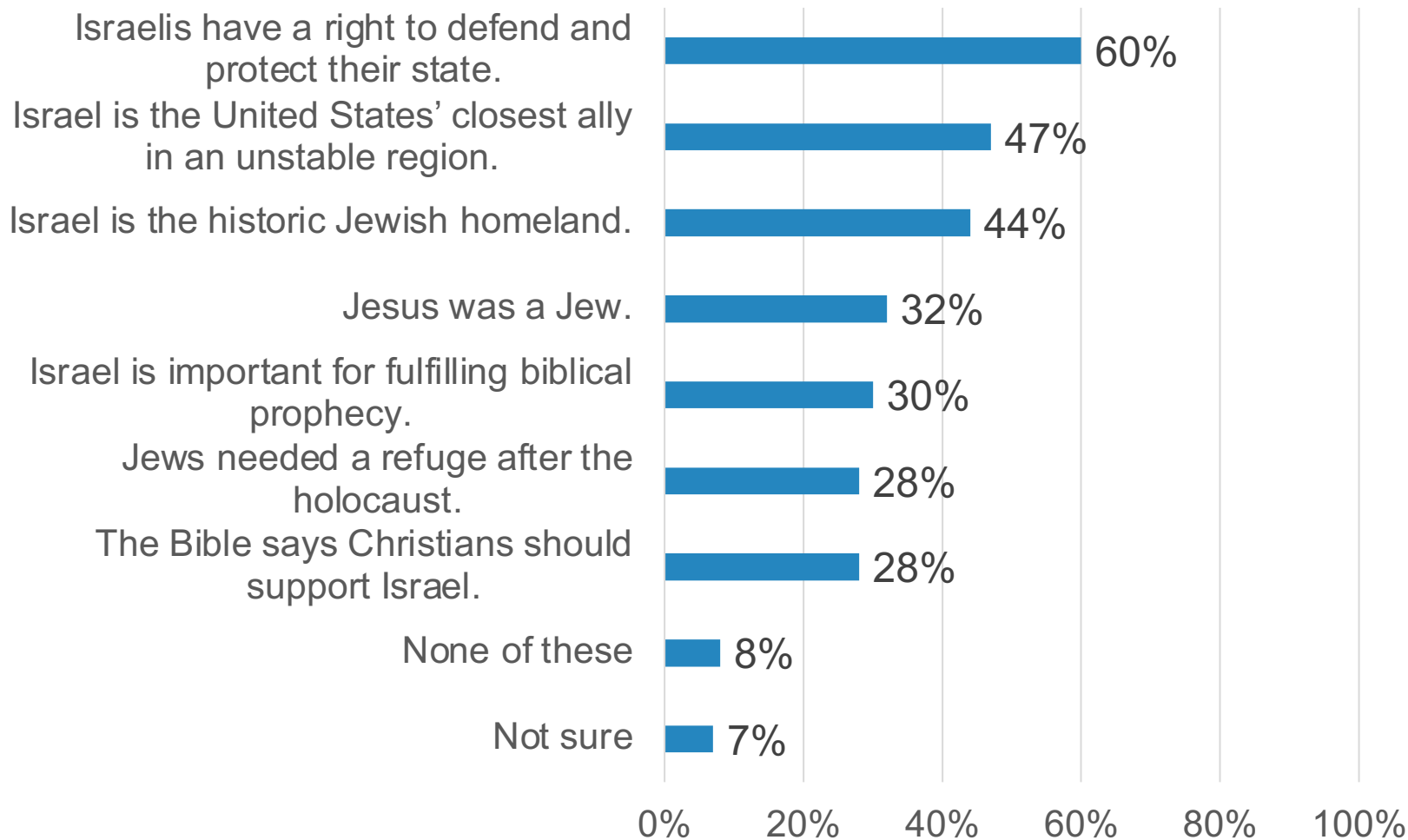


○ = statistically different from others in the category

Lifeway research

“Which of the following reasons, if any, have positively influenced your opinions about the country of Israel today?”

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.

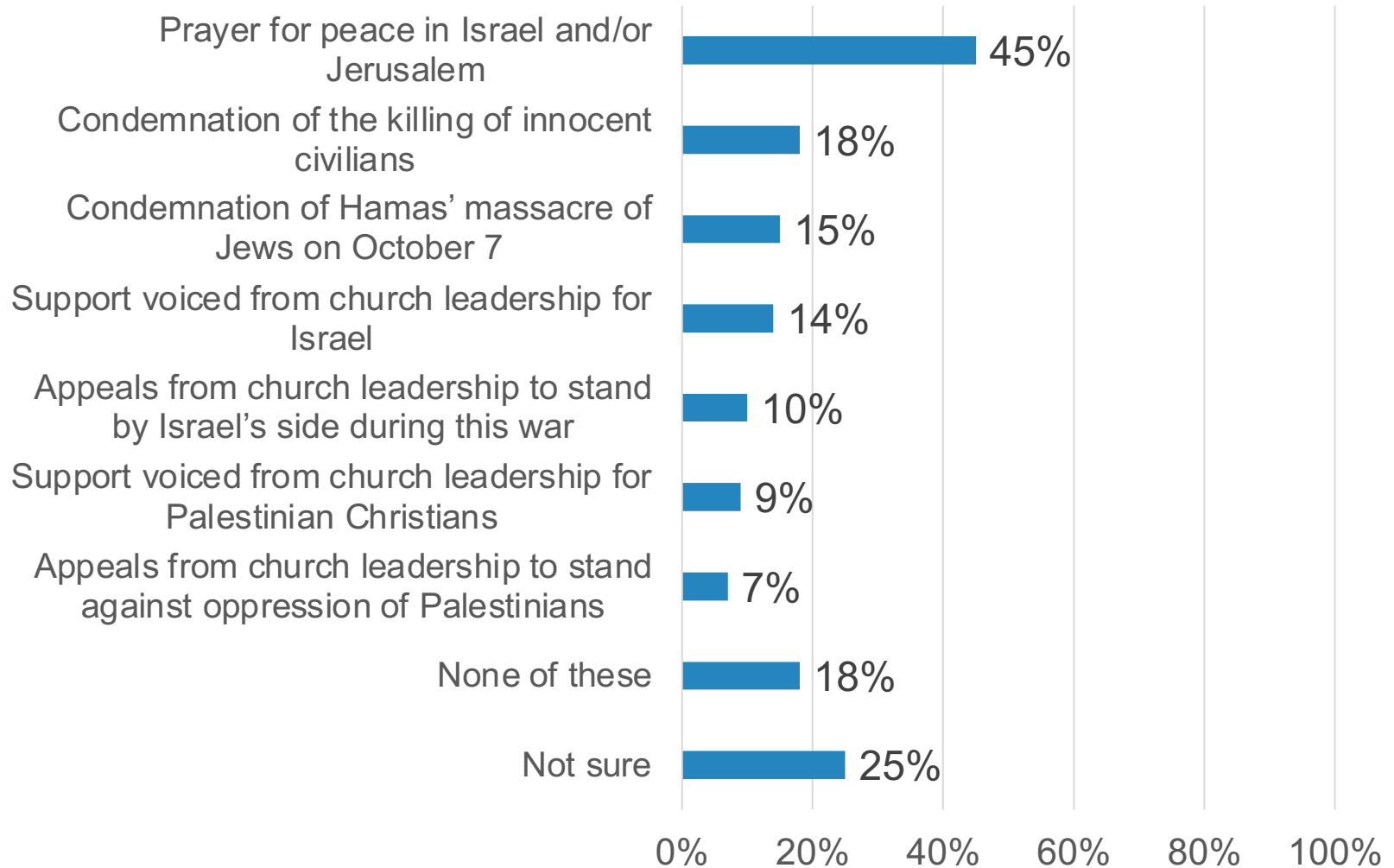


Lifeway research

Q36: “Which of the following reasons, if any, have positively influenced your opinions about the country of Israel today? (Select all that apply)” n=1,252

“Which if any of the following have occurred in your church since October 7, 2023?”

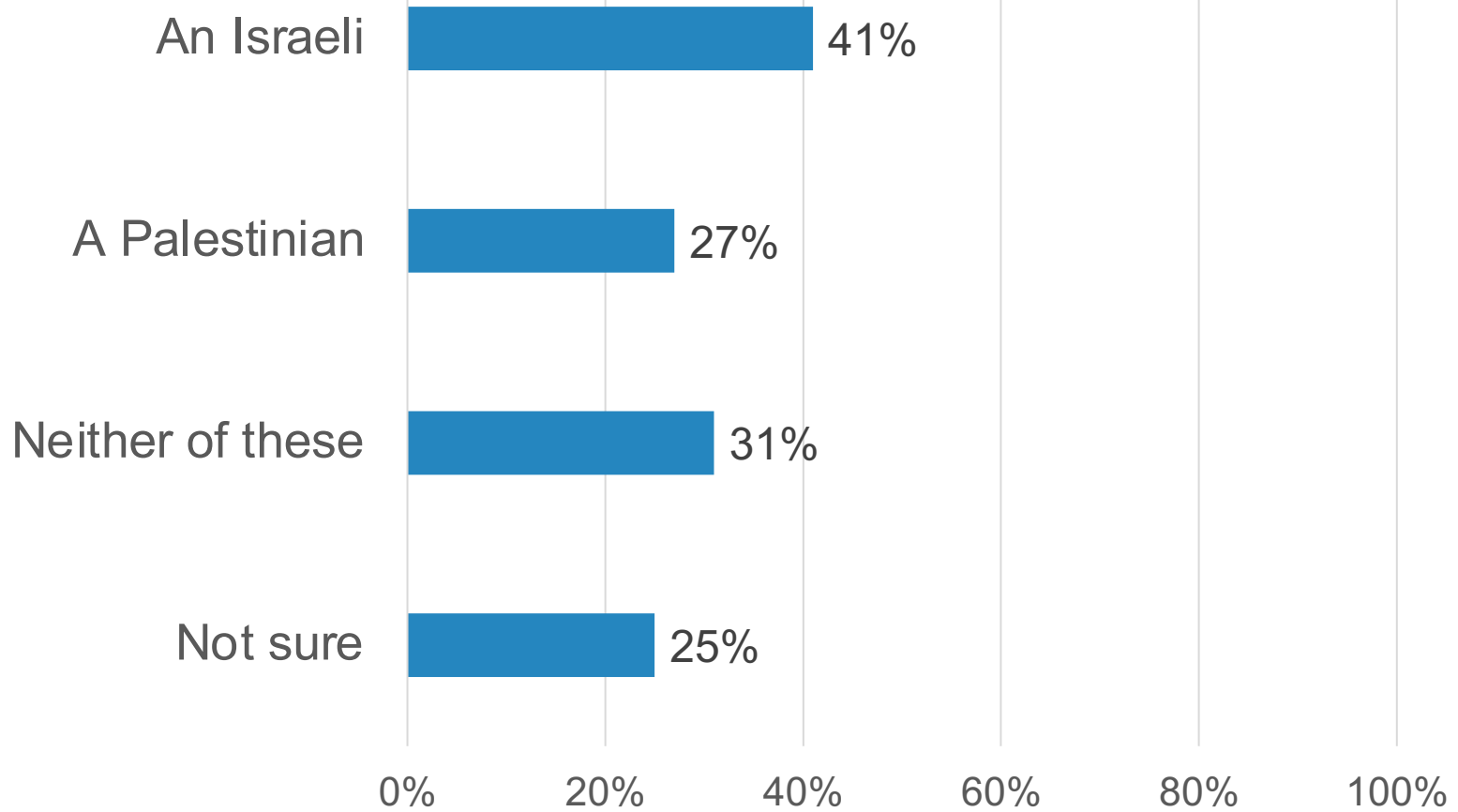
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“Have you ever met ...”

Among self-identified Christians in the U.S.



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Q40: “Have you ever met...?” n=1,252

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Region

Ethnicity

Education

Faith Preference

Worship Service Attendance

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, region, and ethnicity.

GENDER	AGE	REGION	ETHNICITY
Male	18-29	Northeast	White
Female	30-49	Midwest	African American
	50-64	South	Hispanic
	65+	West	Asian

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among education, faith preference, and worship service attendance.

EDUCATION	FAITH PREFERENCE	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE
High School graduate or less	Catholic/Roman Catholic	Once or a week or more
Some college	Protestant	2 or 3 times a month
Bachelor's Degree	Non-denominational Christian	Once a month/Several times a year
Graduate Degree		Rarely
		Never