

Trends in Jewish and Arab relations in Israel following the Iron Swords War

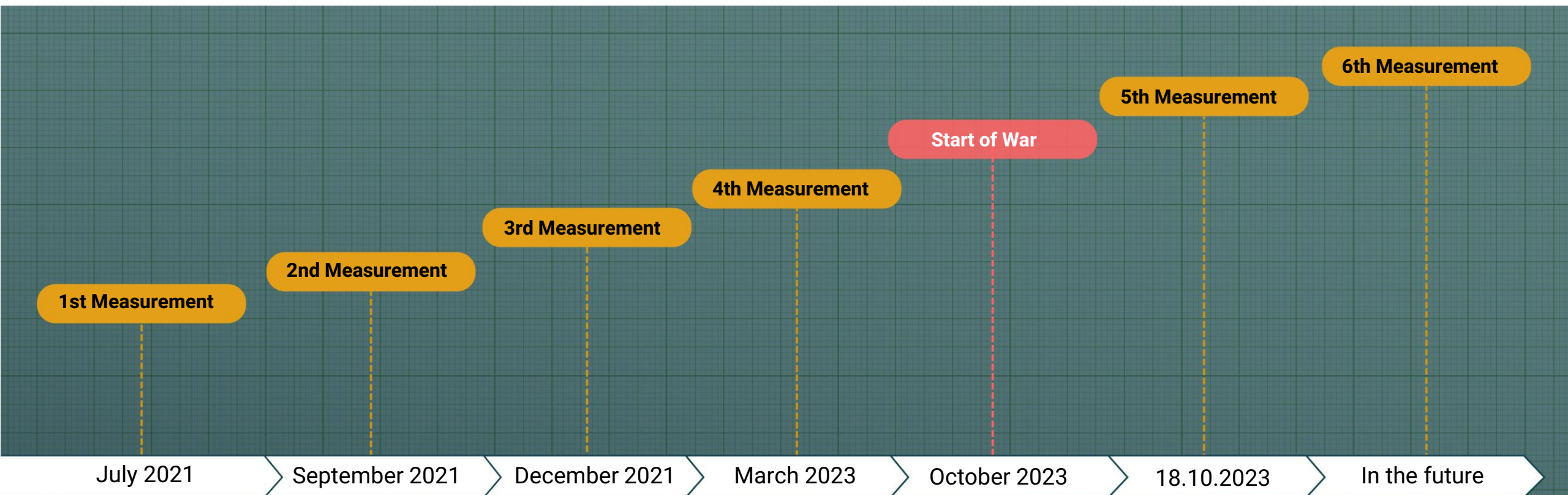
Research team:

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This longitudinal study aims to examine the relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel, including their perceptions, attitudes and feelings, as well as to identify trends in changing relations between the groups before, during, and after the Iron Swords War when the time comes. The findings of the current study are based on samples of the populations during March 2023 as well as October 2023, approximately one week after the outbreak of the war.



* For a description of the sample of the 5th measurement, see the last slide



קרדיט: Shatil Stock

Main Findings

- * The findings of the present study show that since the beginning of the war, Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel have been experiencing common psychological-social processes, and at the same time, each group deals with the situation in a different and unique manner.
- * Since the outbreak of the war, both groups feel a real threat, stemming from the fear of the other side. Jews and Arabs alike hold the misconception that the other side is interested in violence, a perception that may preserve and even intensify the sense of threat. Furthermore, they assume that chances for violent incidents breaking out between Jews and Arabs, are high.

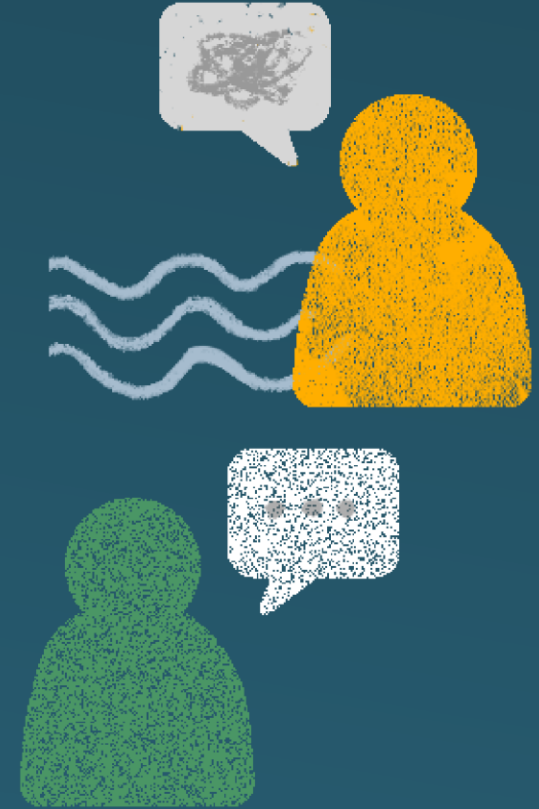
Alongside the common process experienced by Jews and Arabs following the war, each group deals with the situation in a different manner.



Among Jews, perceptions have become more extreme, in terms of feelings and behavioral intention towards Arabs, while among Arabs a more stable trend is evident. While the Jewish public shows great support for the policy of allowing personal arms to strengthen the sense of personal security, among the Arabs there is very little support for this.



The research findings show that Jews believe that the Arab citizens are the main factor responsible for the escalation between the groups in the future, while the Arabs believe that the cause of this is the current government led by Netanyahu. These differences in perception between the groups can explain the difference in the way each of the populations copes following the war.



Possible explanations for the feelings, perceptions and attitudes that remain relatively stable over time among the Arab public in Israel:

- * Fear of expressing their true opinion in polls.
- * Fear of supporting actions against the Jewish public.
- * A sense of empathy and identification with the Jewish public.
- * An identity challenge especially regarding the Palestinian ethnic component.



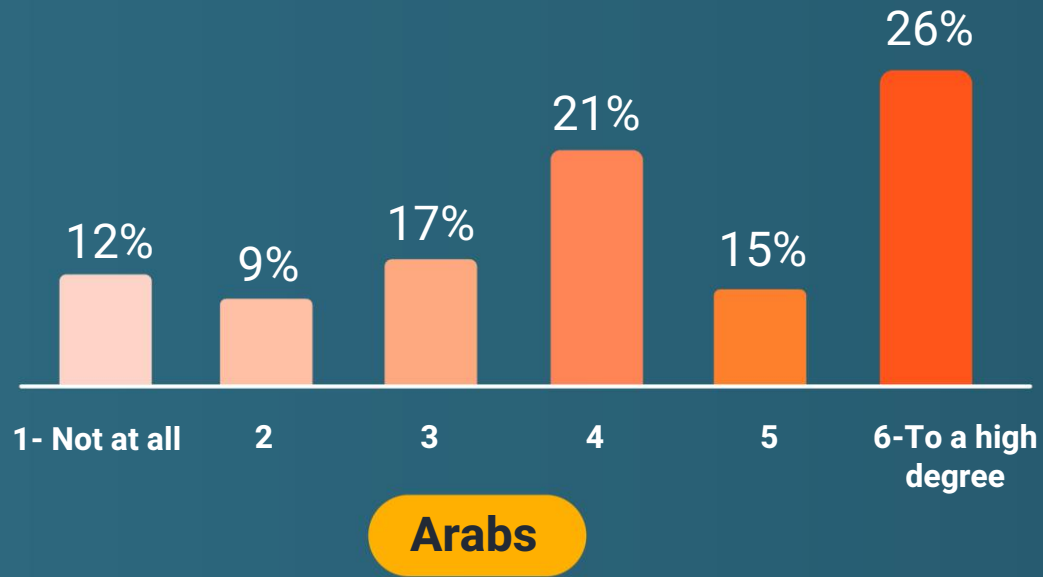


Finally, research findings point to the importance of maintaining daily encounters between the members of the two groups. These encounters can exist as part of school life, continued work on joint projects and tasks together at the workplace, receiving and providing service, mutual help, hosting each other, and even saying good morning at the workplace or when passing each other on the street. All of these have the power to reduce concerns about the other group and the perception of the threat.

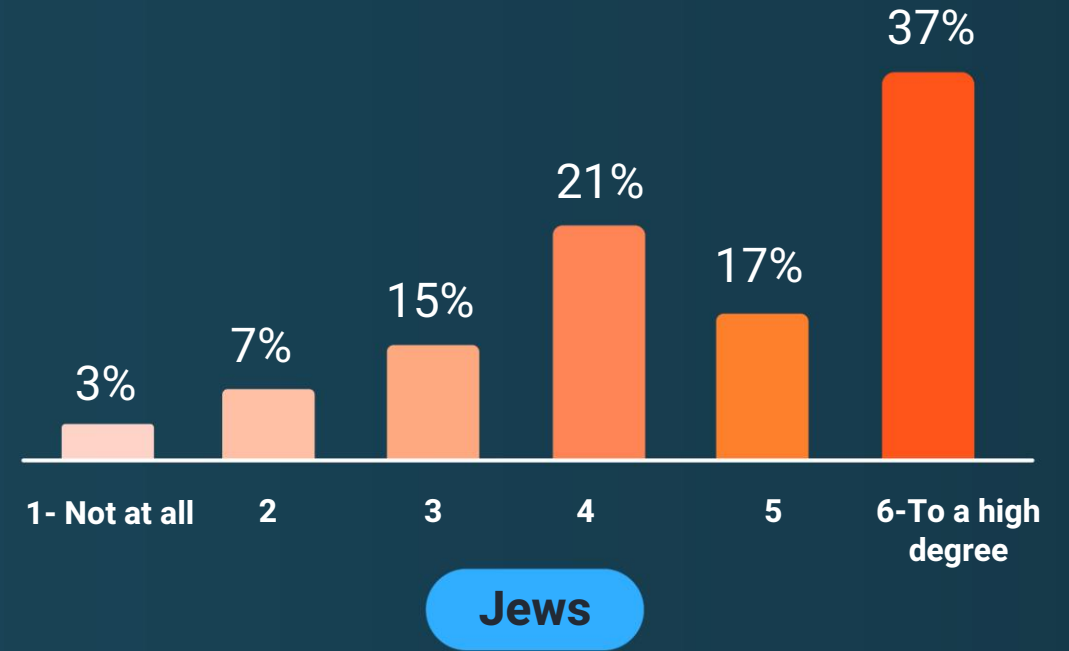
Jews and Arabs feel a significant threat

75% of Jews perceive Arab society as threatening the security of the Jewish people to a medium-high degree. Over 60% of Arabs think they are threatened by being a minority in a Jewish country to a medium-high degree.

Arab citizens of Israel are threatened by being a minority in a Jewish state



In general, the Arab population threatens the security of the Jewish people in Israel



Jews and Arabs hold a misconception about the other side regarding support for violence

These days, Jews and Arabs are against violence between the groups, **yet** each side suspects the other of supporting violence

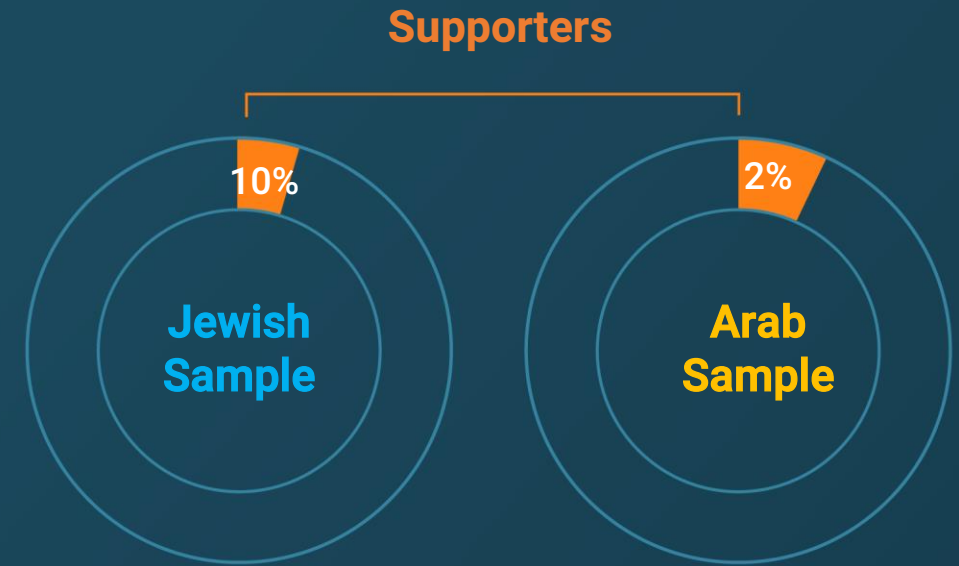


While only 10% of Jews support violence against Arabs, Arabs think that 50% of Jews support it.

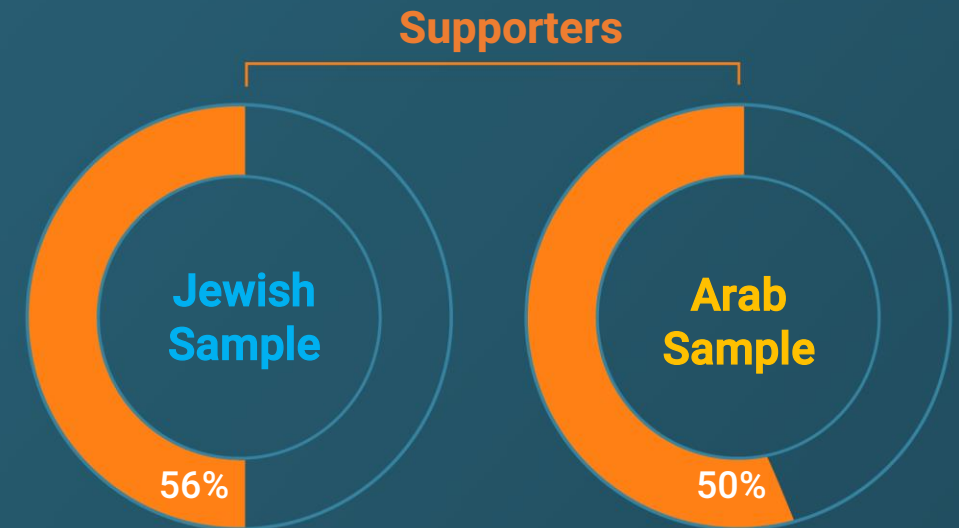


While only 2% of Arabs support violence against Jews, Jews think that 56% of Arabs support it.

Are you supportive or opposed to incidents/attacks by [the in-group] on [the out-group]?



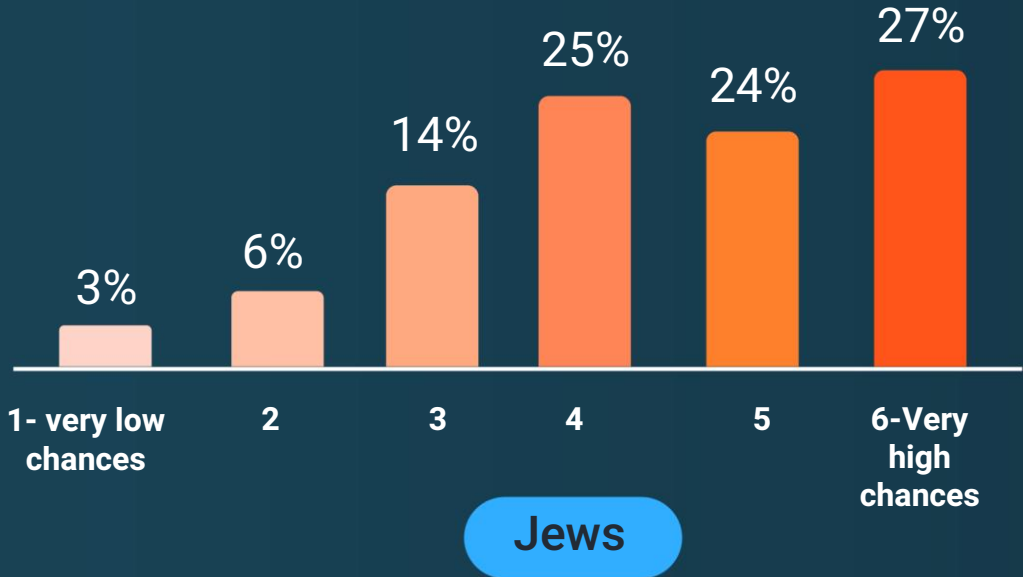
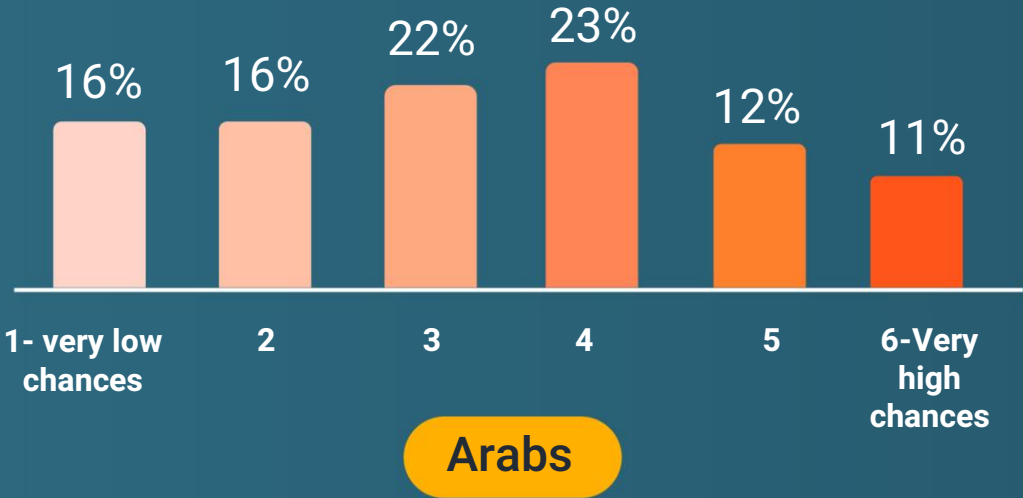
What part, in your view, of [the out-group] Israeli citizens support violent incidents/attacks by [the out-group] on [the in-group]?



Approximately one week after the outbreak of the war, Jews and Arabs estimated that the chances of violent incidents between Jews and Arabs in Israel were high

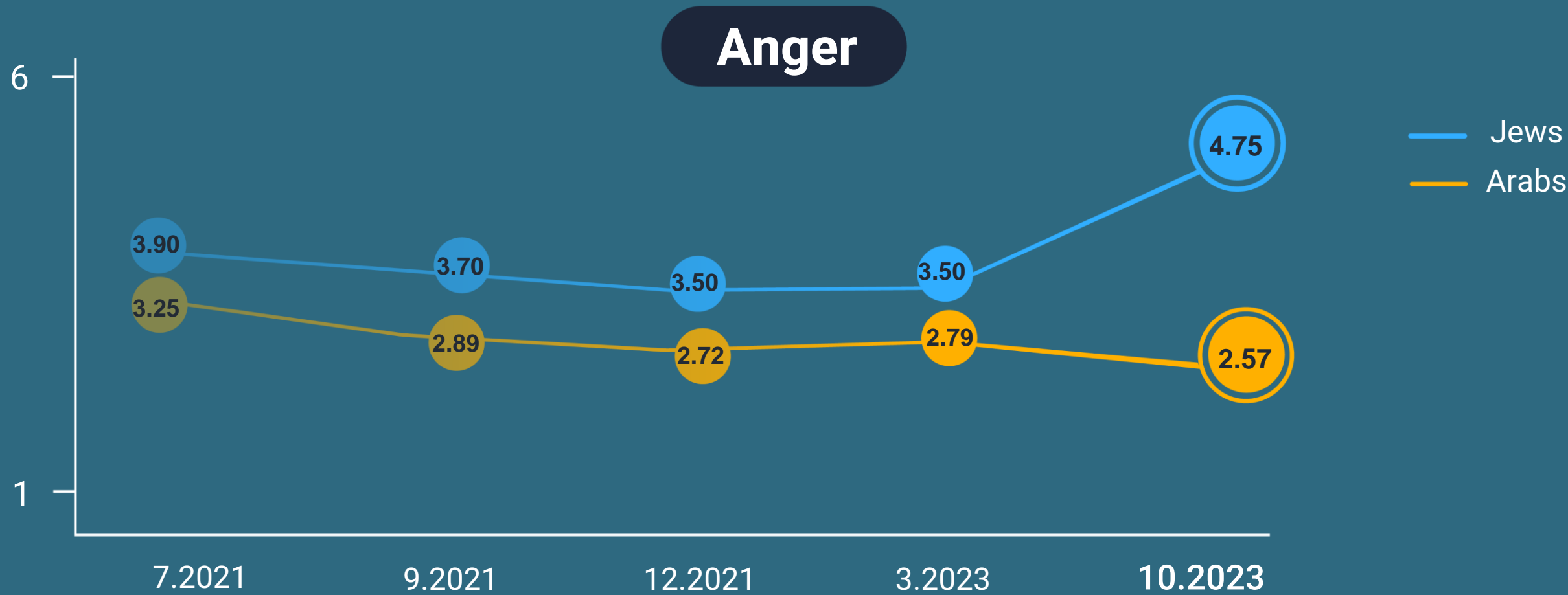
76% of Jews and approximately 45% of Arabs estimated that the chances of violent incidents are medium-high.

Following the current security situation, what do you think are the reoccurrence chances that incidents of violence between Jews and Arabs in Israel such as those that occurred in May 2021?



Since the outbreak of the war, great extremism is evident among Jews in the degree of anger towards Arabs

How strongly do you feel these emotions towards the other group [Jews/Arabs] (1 - not at all, 6 - very much)



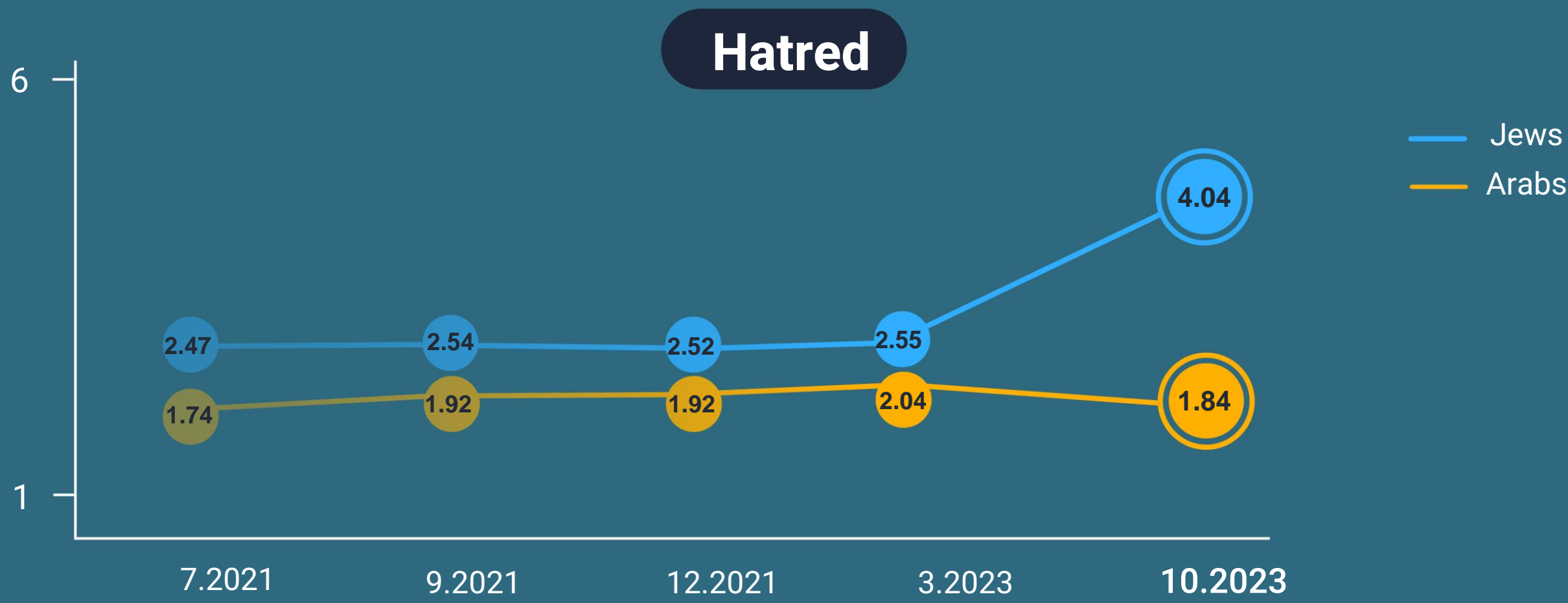
Since the outbreak of the war, great extremism is evident among Jews in the degree of fear from Arabs

How strongly do you feel these emotions towards the other group [Jews/Arabs] (1 - not at all, 6 - very much)



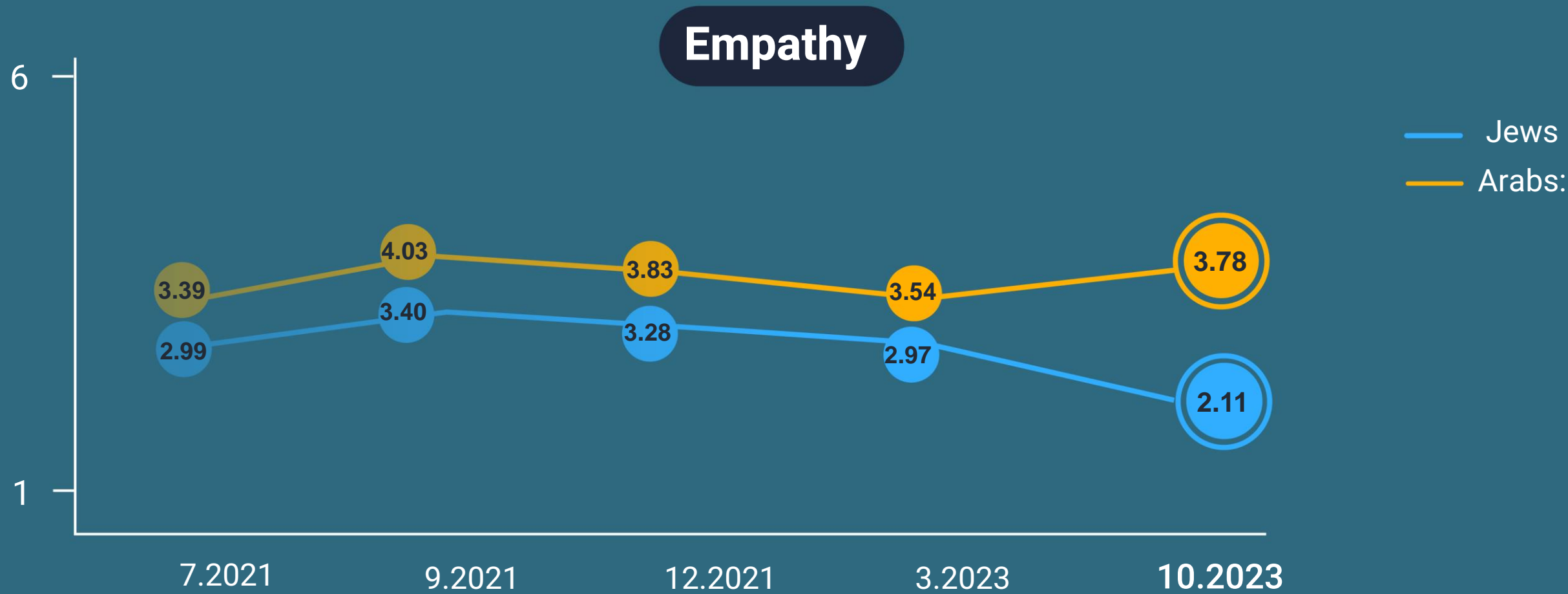
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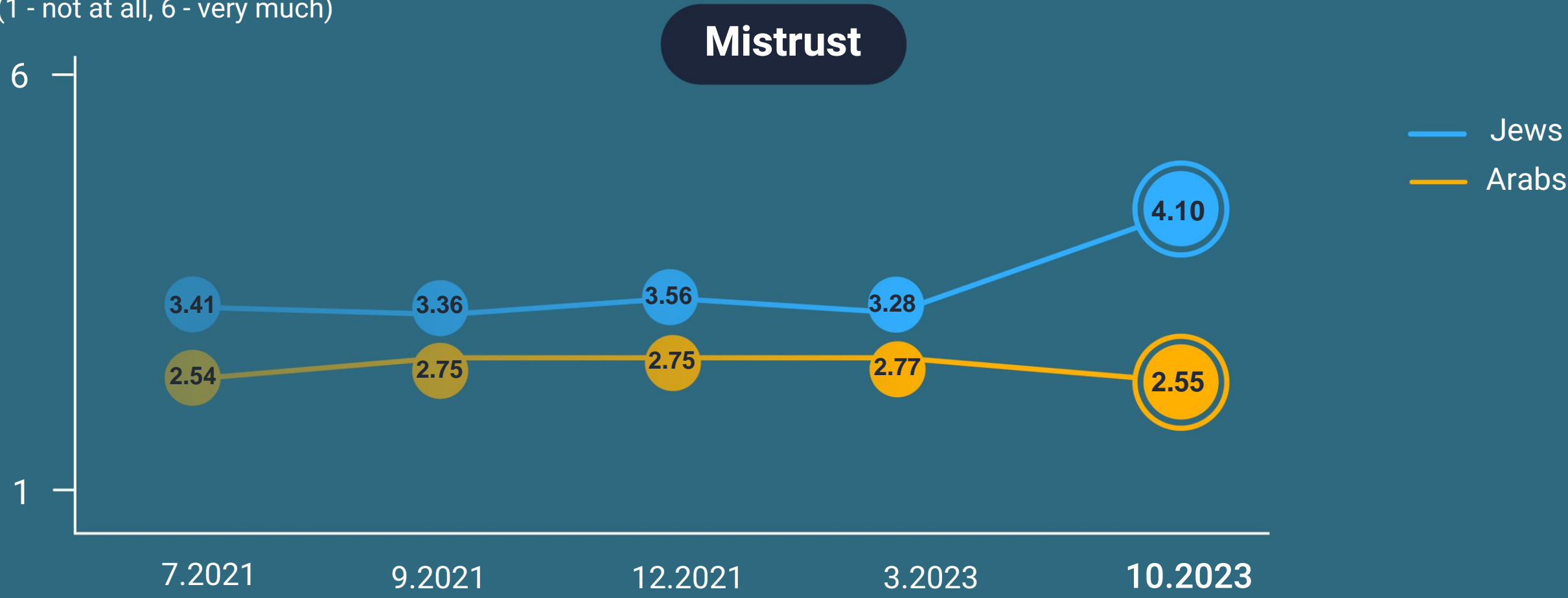
Since the outbreak of the war, there is an increase of empathy exercised by Arabs towards Jews, but a decrease in empathy of Jews towards Arabs

How strongly do you feel these emotions towards the other group [Jews/Arabs] (1 - not at all, 6 - very much)



As of October Start of War, there's been an increase in mistrust levels of Jews towards Arabs

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Generally speaking, Arabs/Jews are unreliable
(1 - not at all, 6 - very much)



Since the outbreak of the war, Jews avoid places where they may meet with Arabs

To what extent do you avoid places where you may meet [Jews\Arabs] (1 - Not at all, 6 - To a great extent)

Avoidance of meeting places with [other group]



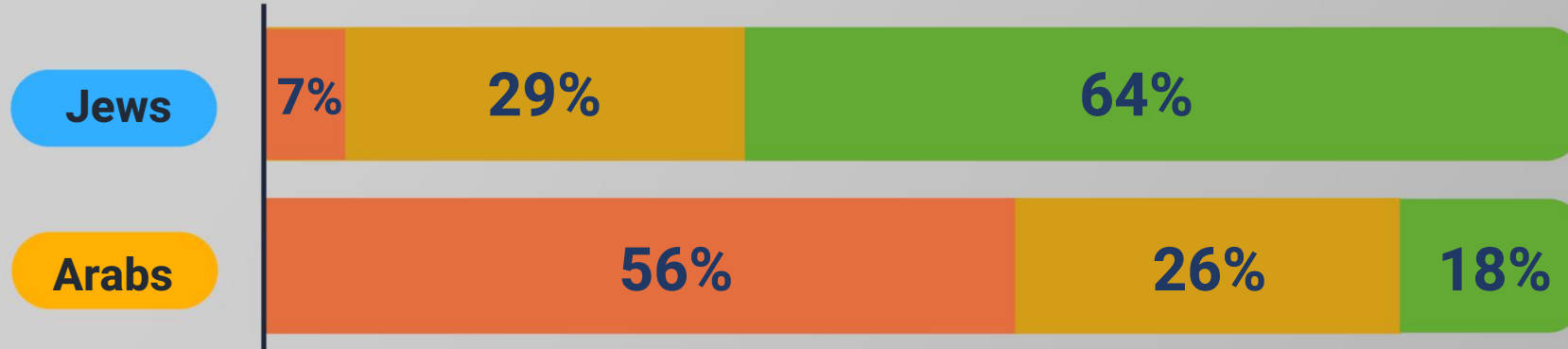
Since the outbreak of the war, there's been an increase in boycotts of Arab businesses.

To what extent do you personally boycott places of business of [Jews\Arabs] (1 - Not at all, 6 - To a great extent)

Boycotting of Businesses [other group]



While Jews show high support for the policy of arming themselves for their personal security, Arabs support for this is very low

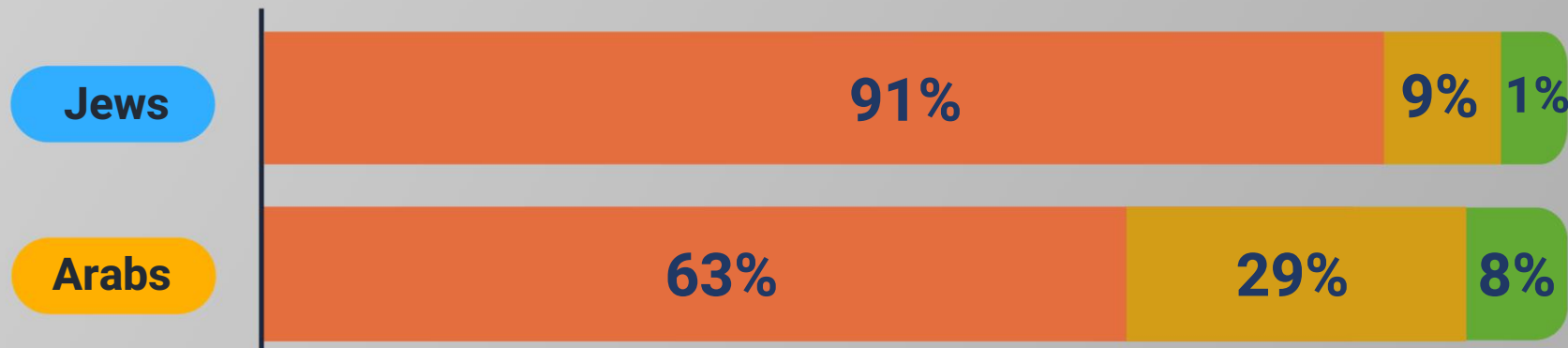


To what extent do you support Jewish citizens owning weapons for personal security?

To a low extent

Moderately

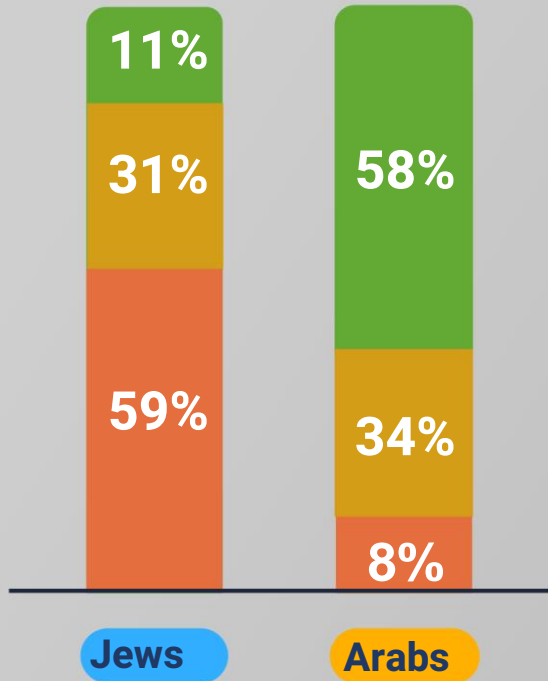
To a high extent



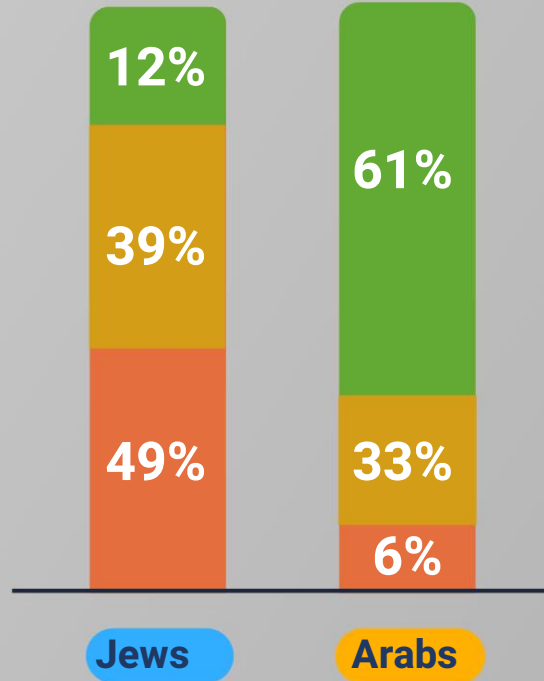
To what extent do you support Arab citizens owning weapons for personal security?

In common meeting areas (such as workplaces, academic institutions and educational institutions) Jews demonstrate a low motivation to be close to Arabs, while Arabs demonstrate a high motivation to be close to Jews

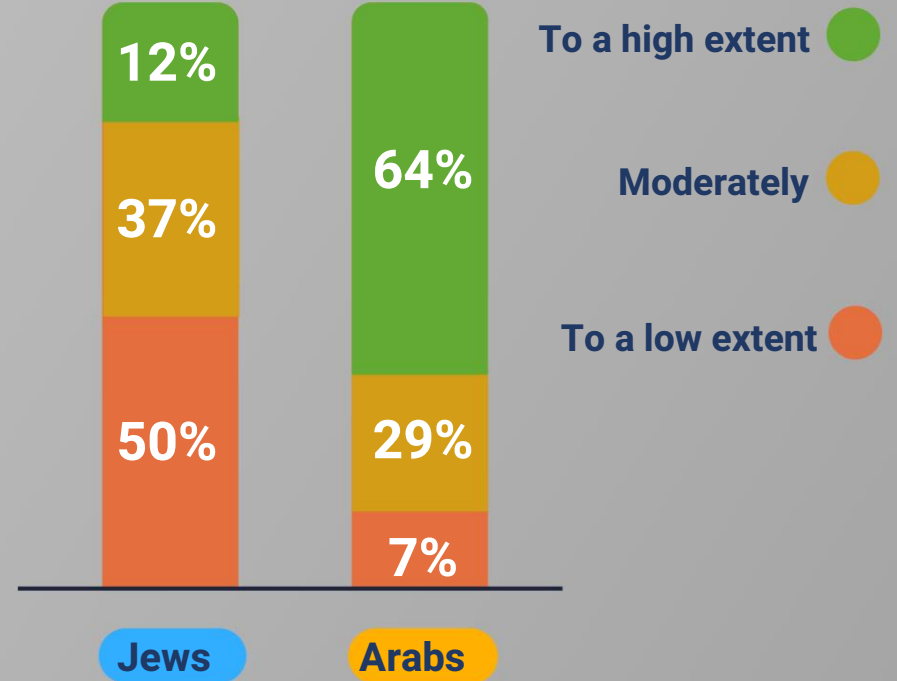
It is important to me that my children make acquaintance with the other group



Interest in learning with [the other group] in the course/program

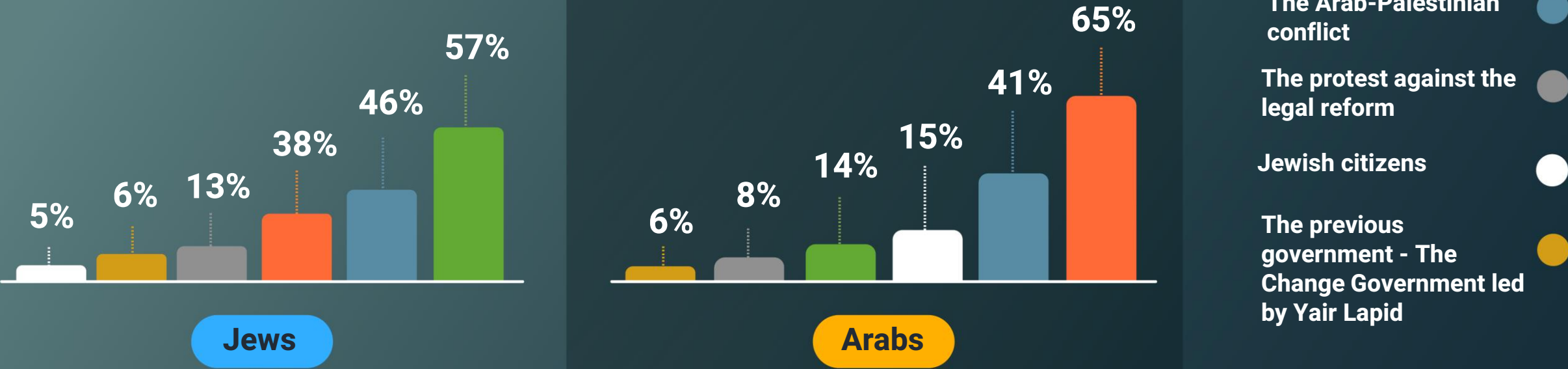


Interest in studying with [the other group] in the same course or curriculum)



A possible explanation for the differences in how each group deals is that each side blames a different major reason for future responsibility for escalation between them. Jews see Arab citizens as the major cause for any future escalation, while Arabs see the current Netanyahu government as responsible for it.

If there is soon an escalation in relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel, who do you think would be main cause of this? (You can select more than one response)



Since the outbreak of the war, Arabs have been experiencing an identity in regard to the Palestinian and Arab identity, which is reflected in a decrease in the degree of identification, but not in the Israeli identity.

The centrality of Palestinian and Arab identity has diminished. On the other hand, stability is evident in the centrality of the Israeli identity among Arabs.

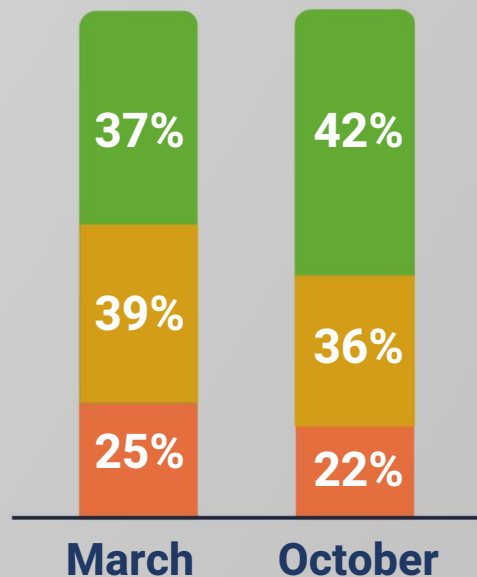
Two possible explanations for these findings:

1- Fear of expressing Palestinian and Arab identity in polls.

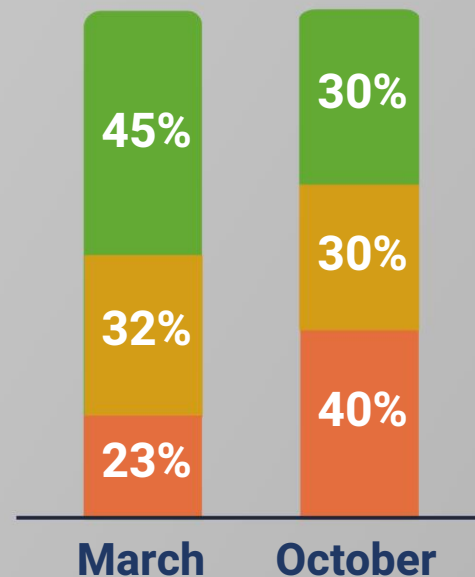
2- A real fear of expressing Palestinian and Arab identity in general.



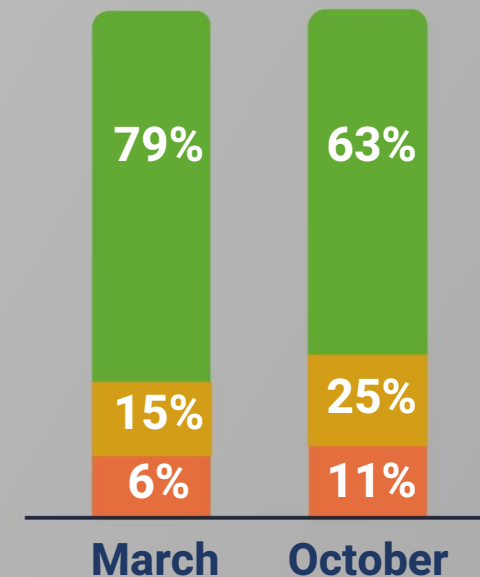
Being Israeli is an important part of my identity



Being Palestinian is an important part of my identity



Being an Arab is an important part of my identity



To a high extent

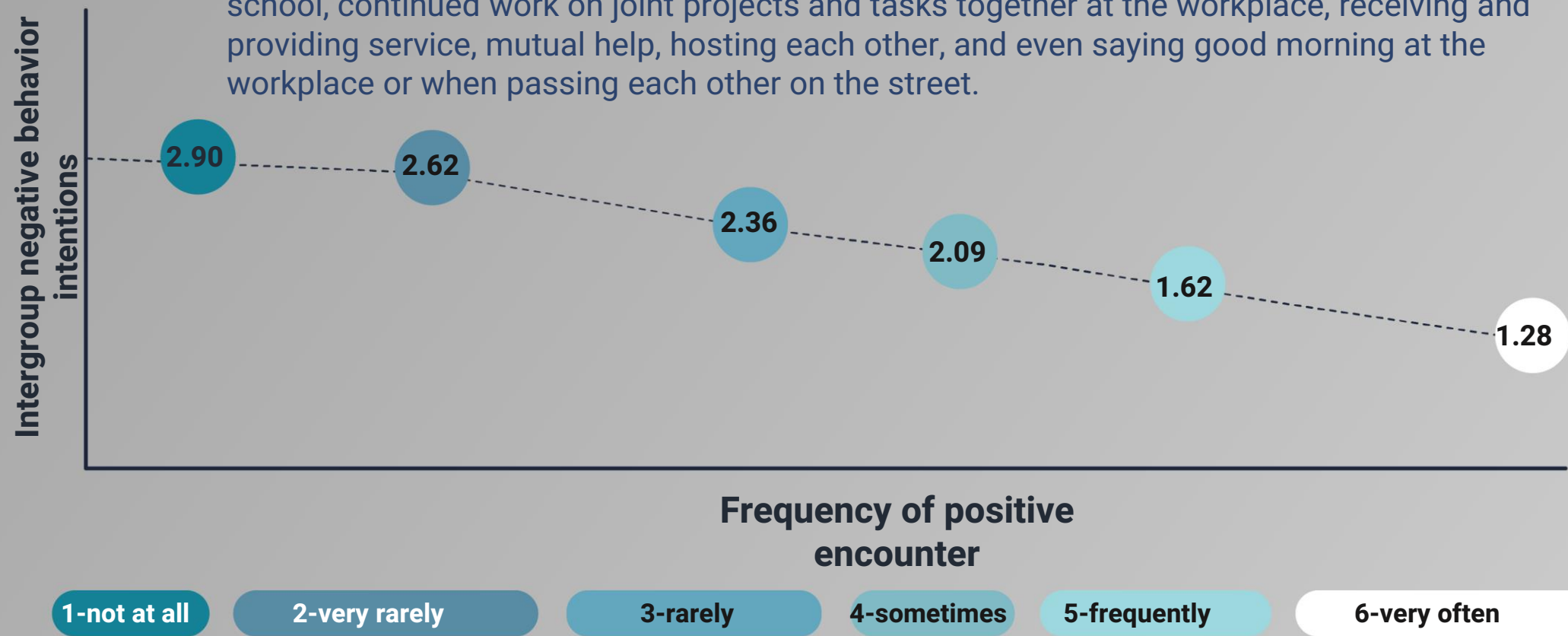
Moderately

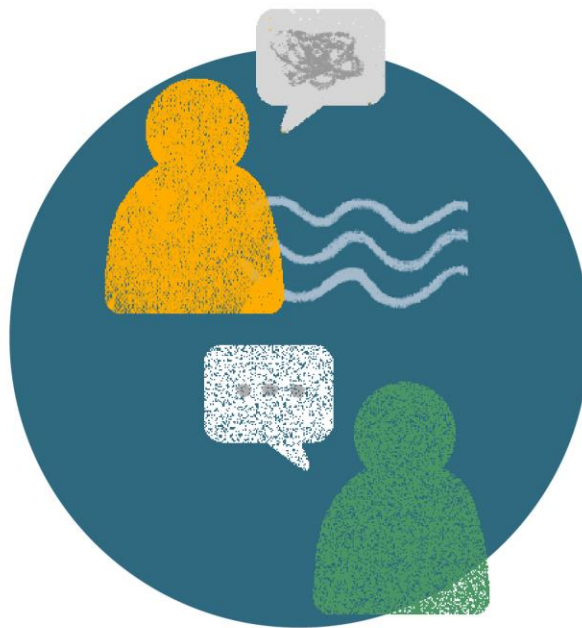
To a low extent



How can relations between Jews and Arabs be restored and the intention of negative behavior reduced?

An inverse relationship was found between the frequency of positive encounters between Jews and Arabs before the war and negative behavioral intentions. Therefore we suggest that one way to restore relations can be through preservations of daily encounters such as collaboration at school, continued work on joint projects and tasks together at the workplace, receiving and providing service, mutual help, hosting each other, and even saying good morning at the workplace or when passing each other on the street.





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علم النفس الاجتماعي للتغيير الاجتماعي

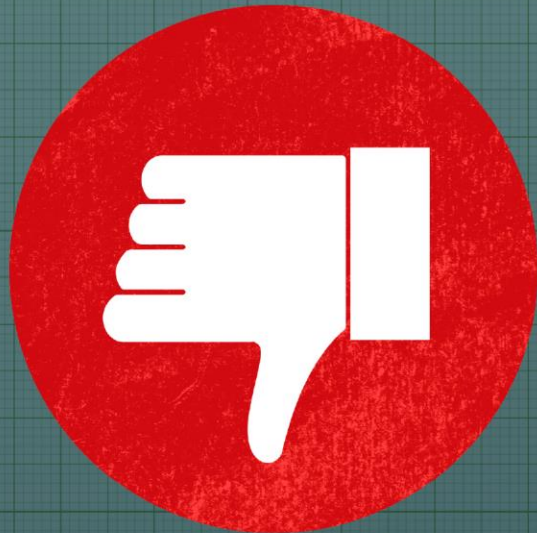


האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



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Description of the sample

An online sample that included 1044 respondents from the Israeli society and was conducted by Ipanel between 18-27/10/23

Arab Sample

501 respondents

Level of religiousness:

Do not observe religious duties at all - 14%
Observe some religious duties- 43%
Observe most religious duties- 33%
Observe all religious duties- 10%

Geographical area:

Mixed cities (Jerusalem, Ma'alot Tarshicha, Nazareth Illit, Nof HaGalil, Lod, Tel-Aviv-Jaffa, Ramla, Haifa, Acres)- 20%
Non-mixed cities- 80%

Employment Status:

Employed by a company- 69%
Self-employed- 9%
Student- 6%
Unemployed/
Not studying at the moment- 14%
Other- 2%

Gender:

Men- 51%
Women- 49%

Age:

29-18 – 31%
39-30 – 34%
49-40 – 23%
59-50 – 8%
69-60 – 3%
85-70 – 1%

Religion:

Muslim-68%
Christian-18%
Druze-14%

Jewish Sample

543 respondents

Political Ideology:

Right- 62%
Center- 23%
Left- 16%

Geographical area:

Mixed cities (Jerusalem, Ma'alot Tarshicha, Nazareth Illit, Nof HaGalil, Lod, Tel-Aviv-Jaffa, Ramla, Haifa, Acres)- 17%
Non-mixed cities- 83%

Employment Status:

Employed by a company- 68%
Self-employed- 8%
Student- 8%
Unemployed/
Not studying at the moment- 7%
Other- 9%

Gender:

Men- 49%
Women- 51%

Age:

29-18 – 30%
39-30 – 20%
49-40 – 19%
59-50 – 16%
69-60 – 13%
85-70 – 2%

Level of religiousness:

Atheist- 5%
Non-religious-14%
Traditional- 28%
Religious- 12%
Orthodox Religious -11%

* The sample is weighted according to the percentages of the population