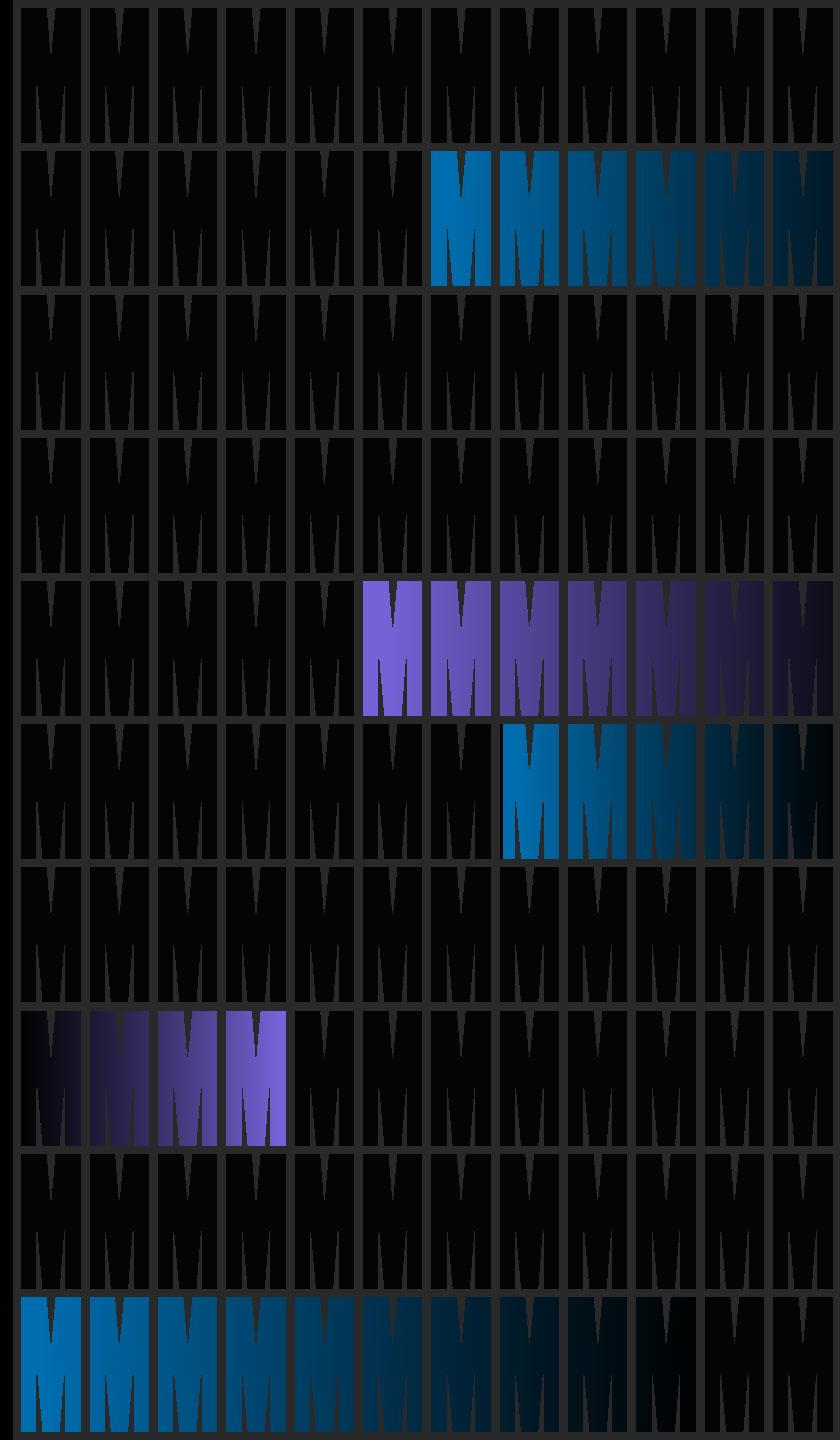


LOCATING THE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY:

DEMOGRAPHY AND ATTITUDINAL PROFILE

10 November 2024 |

Andrew Markus





RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY: STREAMS, END OF GROWTH?

ETHNICITY, AGEING

IDENTITY, VALUES

ISRAEL CONNECTEDNESS

OCTOBER 7

SOURCES

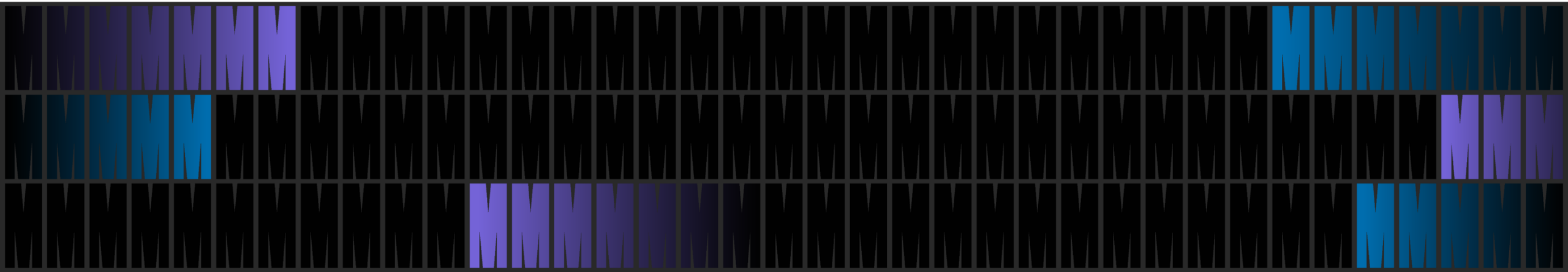
David Graham and Andrew Markus, *Gen17 Australian Jewish Community Survey*, 2018

Andrew Markus, *Crossroads23 Surveying Australian Jews on Israel*, 2023

Adina Bankier-Karp & David Graham, *Australian Jews in the Shadow of War: Main Survey Findings*, 2024

David Graham, *The Jewish Population of Australia: Key Findings from the 2021 Census*, 2024

Andrew Markus, *The Jewish Population of Victoria: Key Findings from the 2021 Census*, forthcoming



RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA

	1986	2006	2021 (enumerated)
CHRISTIAN	73%	64%	44%
NO RELIGION	13%	19%	39%
NOT STATED	12%	12%	7%
BUDDHISM	0.5%	2.1%	2.4% (616k)
HINDUISM	0.1%	0.7%	2.7% (684k)
ISLAM	0.7%	1.7%	3.2% (813k)
JUDAISM	0.4%	0.0%	0.4% (100k)

Table 3: Streams of Judaism, estimated numbers of adults and proportions, Australia, 2017*

SELF-IDENTIFIED STREAM OF JUDAISM	ESTIMATED MINIMUM (NUMBER)	ESTIMATED MAXIMUM (NUMBER)	ESTIMATED PROPORTION	USA
Strictly Orthodox/ Hareidi	3,400	4,200	4%	9%
Modern Orthodox	14,100	15,400	18%	Orthodox
Traditional	23,700	25,400	30%	
Conservative	2,600	3,300	3%	17% Conserv.
Progressive	8,800	10,000	11%	37% Reform
No-denomination, just Jewish	9,300	10,500	12%	32%
Secular	16,200	17,600	21%	
Mixed religion (Jewish and another religion)	800	1,200	1%	4% Other
Total	78,900	87,600	100%	Pew: 2020

~50%

~10%

~30%

* The lower and upper bounds are 95% confidence limits

JEWISH POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA

	VIC	NSW	QLD	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	TOTAL
1947	14,910	13,194	1,011	528	2,294	123	7	26	31,951
1954	24,016	19,583	1,340	454	2,555	158	8	54	47,964
1961	29,932	24,026	1,334	722	2,782	136	23	111	58,842
1971	30,117	25,971	1,491	985	3,102	98	46	252	62,009
1981	30,017	25,176	2,021	1,137	3,156	145	68	420	62,063
1986	32,358	28,197	2,631	1,144	3,919	159	108	501	68,946
1991	33,862	29,614	4,278	1,304	4,221	200	143	530	74,095
1996	37,294	32,850	3,062	1,152	4,671	167	111	498	79,805
2001	39,069	34,488	3,271	1,054	5,042	161	121	503	83,709
2006	41,109	36,716	3,732	1,056	5,294	232	118	574	88,831
2011	45,149	39,728	4,441	1,087	5,853	248	146	675	97,327
2016	42,256	36,902	4,389	1,030	5,425	250	118	647	91,023
2021	46,645	40,249	4,815	1,145	5,669	376	163	886	99,956

**HOLOCAUST
SURVIVORS**

RUSSIAN

SOUTH AFRICAN

STABLE

Table 11. Jewish population by country of birth and state of residence, shaded cells indicate highest row, 2021*

Estimated Jewish population	Country of birth	Victoria	New South Wales	Western Australia	Queensland
65,364	Australia	51%	38%	5%	4%
15,370	***** South Africa	29%	57%	10%	3%
8,078	Israel	48%	35%	6%	7%
4,558	England	33%	41%	11%	10%
3,189	USA	39%	40%	5%	9%
2,741	***** Ukraine	58%	39%	<1%	2%
1,713	***** Russian Federation	63%	34%	<1%	2%
1,332	***** Poland	73%	23%	<1%	3%
1,115	New Zealand	41%	33%	6%	17%
1,058	***** Hungary	32%	61%	1%	4%
114,739*	Total Jewish population	46%	40%	6%	5%

ENUMERATED VICTORIAN JEWISH POPULATION BY AGE, 2021

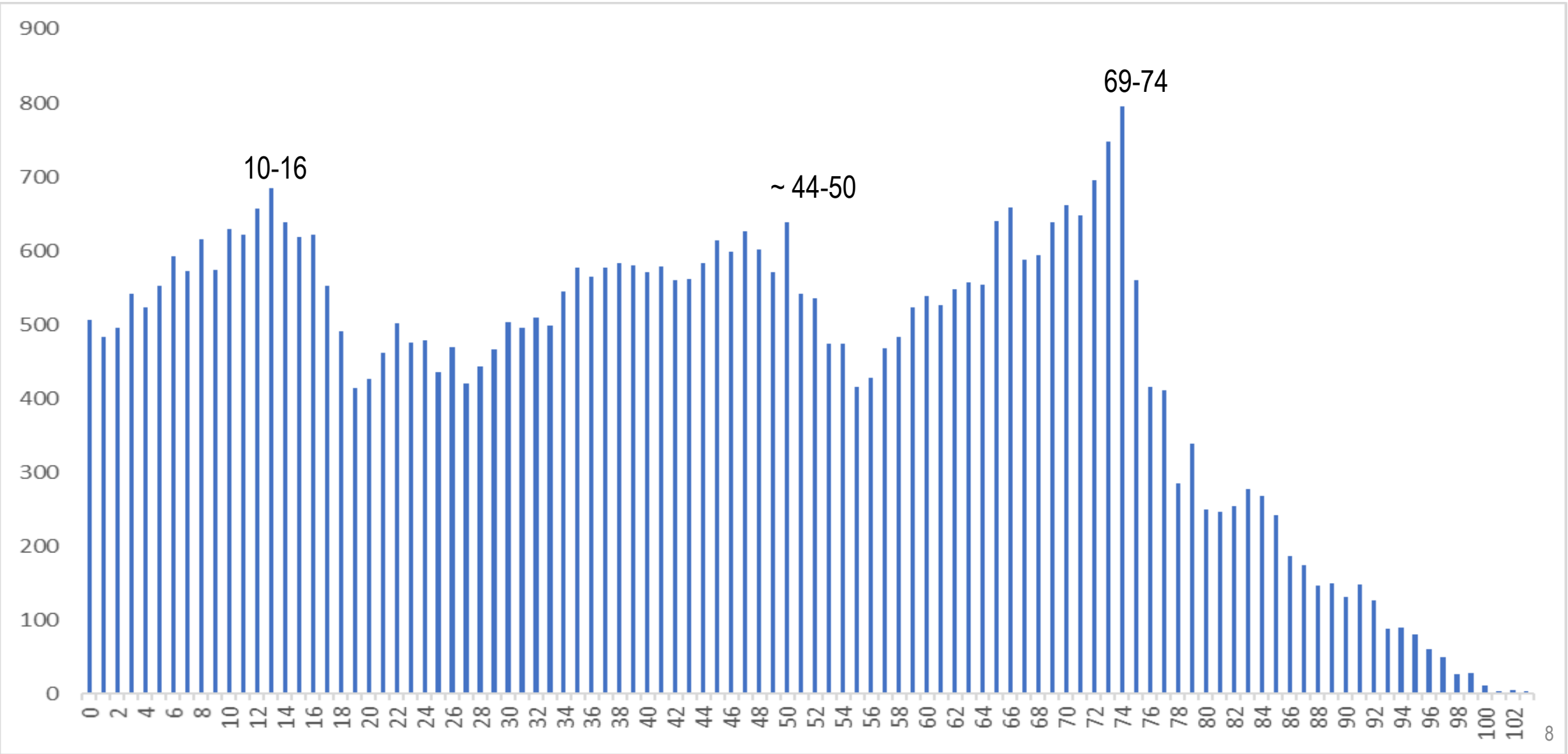
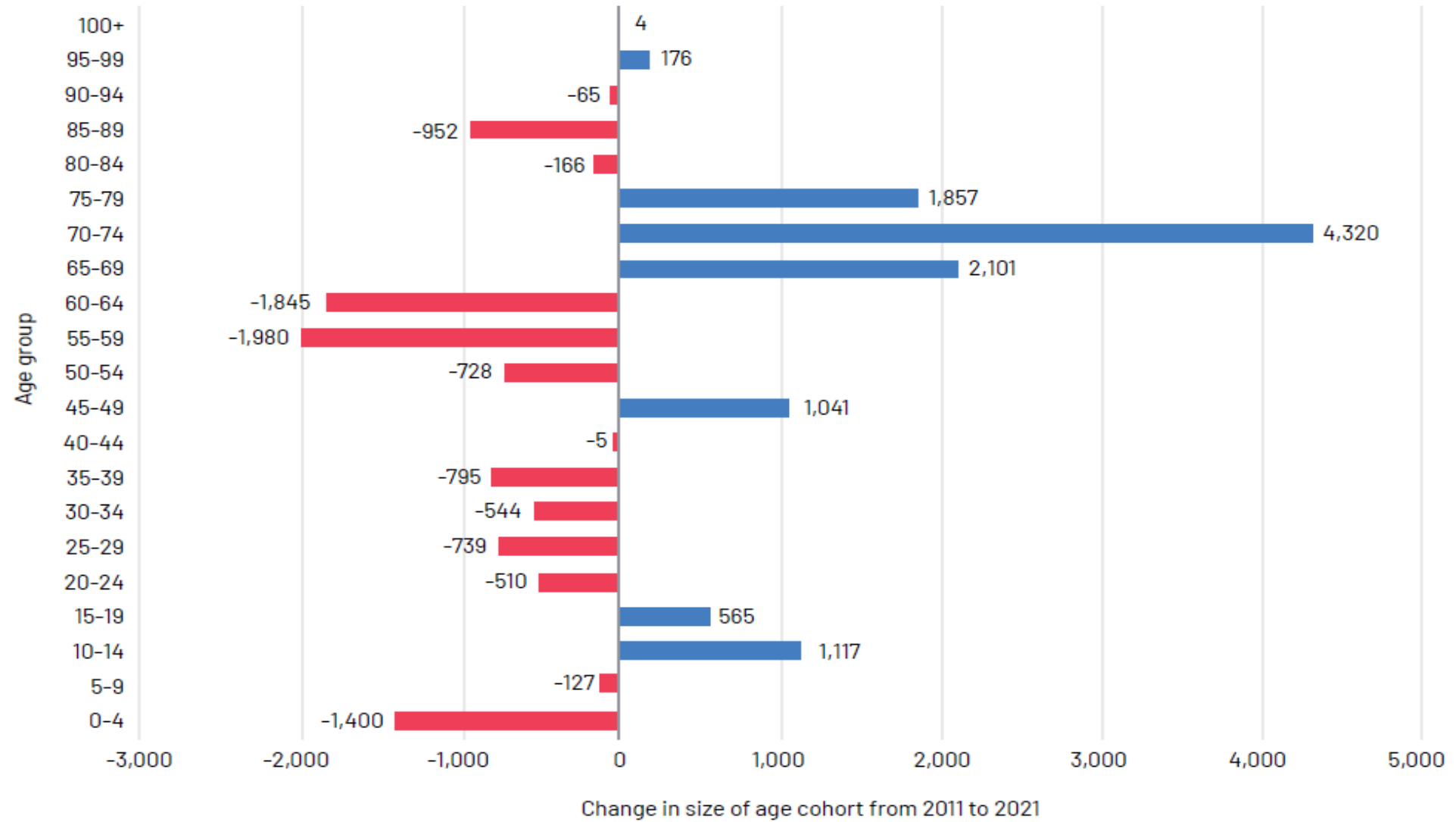


Figure 11. Change in size of each age group from 2011 to 2021, Australia's Jewish population (estimated)*



* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained). See Appendix 4

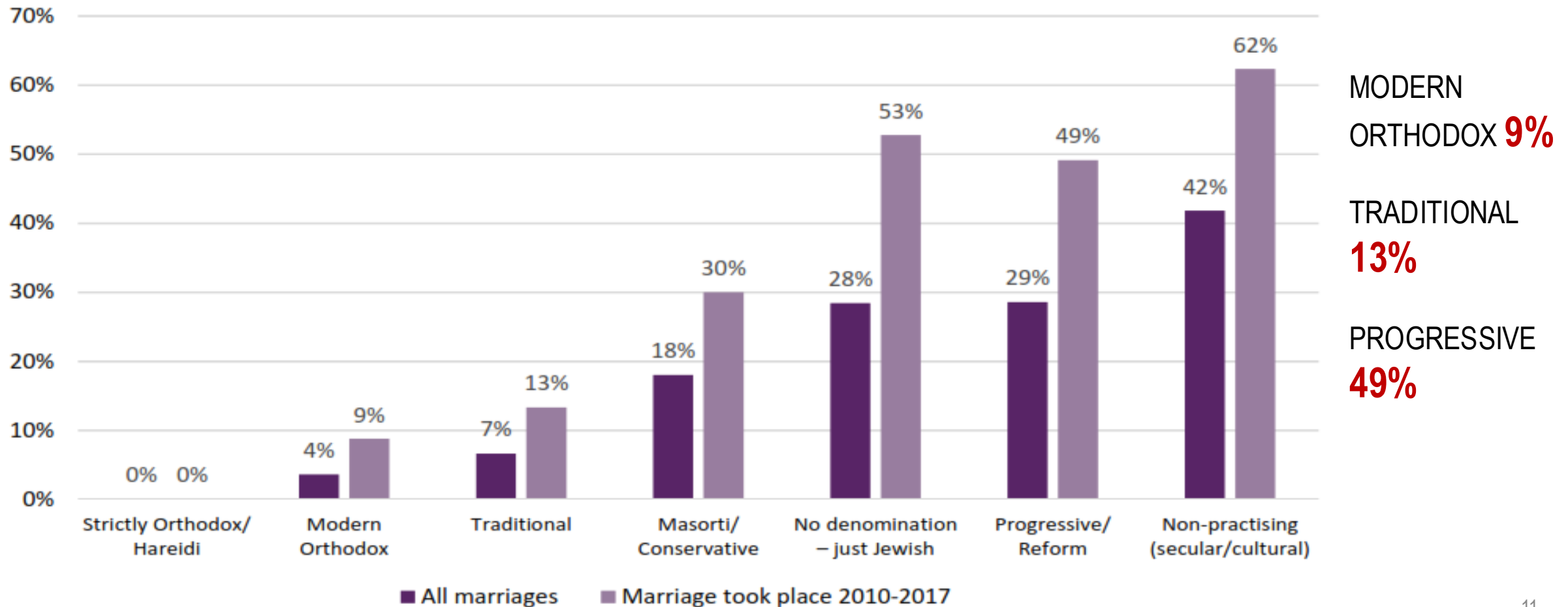
JEWISH IDENTITY – GEN 17 (2017)

Table 4: 'How important or unimportant are each of the following to your own sense of Jewish identity?' Response: 'Very important', by self-described religious identity, Melbourne and Sydney (N=7,742)

	Total	Strictly Orthodox/ Hareidi	Modern Orthodox	Traditional	Conservative	Progressive/ Reform	No denomination - just Jewish	Non-practising/ Secular
Upholding strong moral and ethical behaviour	75%	96%	86%	79%	80%	78%	68%	60%
Remembering the Holocaust	73%	65%	75%	80%	69%	69%	71%	64%
Sharing Jewish festivals with your family	65%	94%	87%	79%	74%	64%	44%	35%
Combatting antisemitism	63%	51%	68%	71%	67%	62%	62%	50%
Group average	69%	76%	79%	77%	72%	68%	61%	52%
Belonging to a Jewish community	58%	96%	85%	71%	72%	61%	40%	25%
Feeling part of the Jewish people worldwide	57%	82%	75%	67%	66%	57%	50%	31%
Marrying another Jew	51%	99%	86%	66%	52%	33%	34%	15%
Group average	55%	92%	82%	68%	63%	50%	41%	24%

JEWISH IDENTITY – GEN 17 (2017)

Figure 9: The prevalence of intermarriage and most recent intermarriage rate by religious identification, Australia (N=3,314)



JEWISH IDENTITY – GEN 17 (2017)

Table 4: 'How important or unimportant are each of the following to your own sense of Jewish identity?' Response: 'Very important', by self-described religious identity, Melbourne and Sydney (N=7,742)

	Total	Strictly Orthodox/ Hareidi	Modern Orthodox	Traditional	Conservative	Progressive/ Reform	No denomination - just Jewish	Non-practising/ Secular
Believing in God	27%	98%	58%	27%	25%	20%	12%	5%
Prayer	15%	93%	39%	9%	13%	11%	5%	2%
Observing halacha (Jewish law)	14%	98%	41%	6%	7%	3%	3%	0%
Studying Jewish religious texts	12%	88%	31%	4%	11%	8%	4%	1%
Group average	17%	94%	42%	12%	14%	10%	6%	2%

AVERAGE

94%

42%

12%

10%

2%

JEWISH IDENTITY – GEN 17

Table 6: Patterns of Judaism, selected questions by self-described religious identity, strongest response only, Melbourne and Sydney (N=7,742)

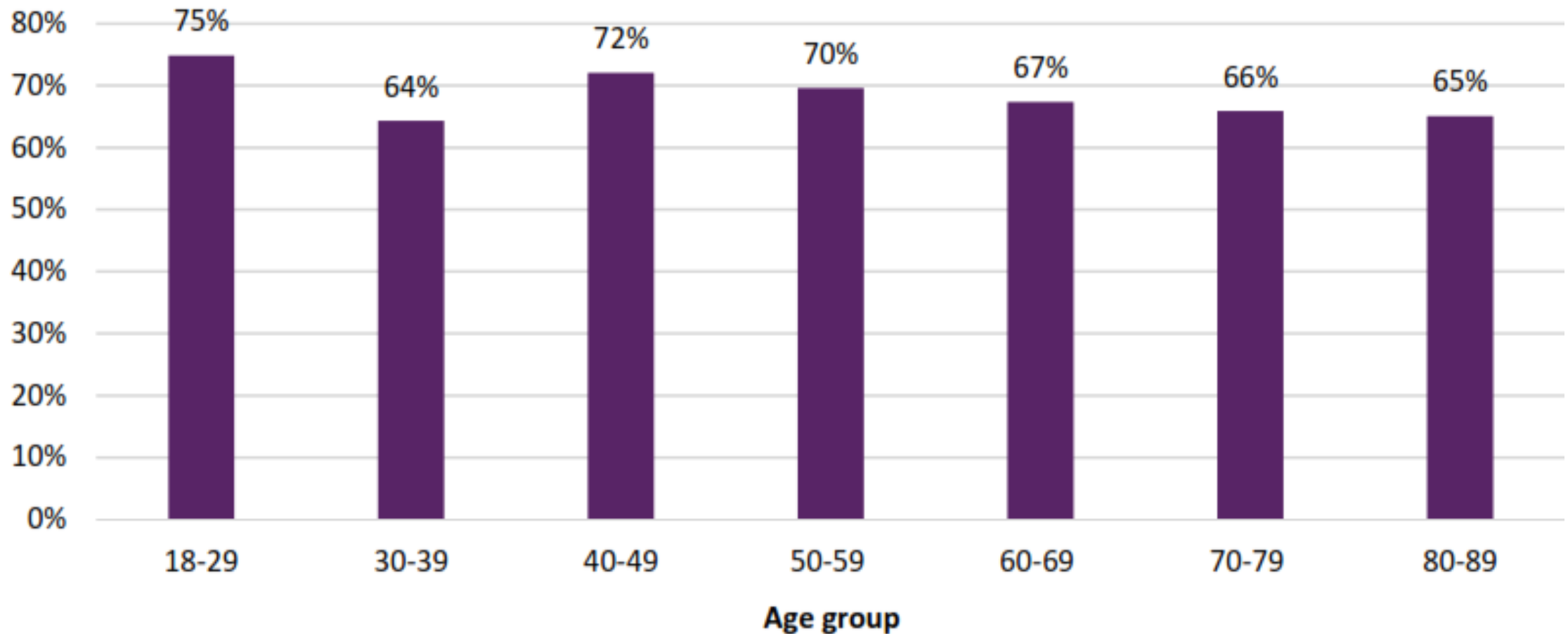
	TOTAL	Strictly Orthodox/ Hareidi	Modern Orthodox	Traditional	Conservative	Progressive/ Reform	No denomination- just Jewish	Non-practising/ Secular
Being Jewish is 'a central element of my life'	31%	96%	62%	30%	38%	23%	14%	10%
All close friends are Jewish	27%	74%	45%	32%	19%	13%	18%	11%
Very concerned about intermarriage in Australia	30%	75%	59%	39%	31%	16%	15%	8%
Feel 'very considerable regret' if own child married out	30%	73%	61%	41%	26%	14%	13%	8%
Strong preference for a Jewish Day (HIGH) School	42%	97%	73%	52%	41%	22%	25%	13%
Raising children Jewish	86%	99%	99%	99%	96%	96%	78%	58%
Children, intermarriage average	41%	86%	66%	49%	42%	31%	27%	18%
Very connected to Jewish communal life	30%	83%	57%	34%	35%	32%	14%	9%
Volunteers for a Jewish organisation at least once a week	37%	43%	40%	34%	32%	38%	36%	39%

**CENTRAL ELEMENT
CONNECTED**

96% **62%** **30%** **38%** **23%** **10%**
83% **57%** **34%** **35%** **32%** **9%**

JEWISH IDENTITY – GEN 17

Figure 35: 'Do you consider yourself to be a Zionist?' Melbourne and Sydney by age group (N=8,047)



CROSSROADS SURVEY 2023

ZIONIST – 75%

**CONNECTED TO
ISRAEL – 84%**

OPTIMISM – 42%

SOLUTION – 63%

DEMOCRACY – 41%

JUDICIAL REFORM – 6%

Table 34 Stream of Judaism (Crossroads23 [B], percentage)

	Modern Orthodox	Traditional	Progressive/ Conservative	Just Jewish	Secular
Consider yourself to be a Zionist – yes	94	89	75	75	57
High level of personal connectedness to Israel – strongly agree or tend to agree	96	93	84	88	80
The existence of Israel is essential for the future of the Jewish people – strongly agree or tend to agree	98	96	82	87	68
Optimistic about Israel’s future – strongly agree or tend to agree	79	60	42	41	21
A viable solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict is possible – strongly agree or tend agree	43	50	63	56	70
Democracy in Israel is alive and well – strongly agree or tend to agree	68	60	41	37	19
Proposed judicial reforms are good for Israel – strongly agree or agree	35	18	6	12	5

AUSTRALIAN JEWS IN THE SHADOW OF WAR – NOVEMBER 2023

Figure 1. How closely have you been following the news about the Israel-Hamas war? – Very closely

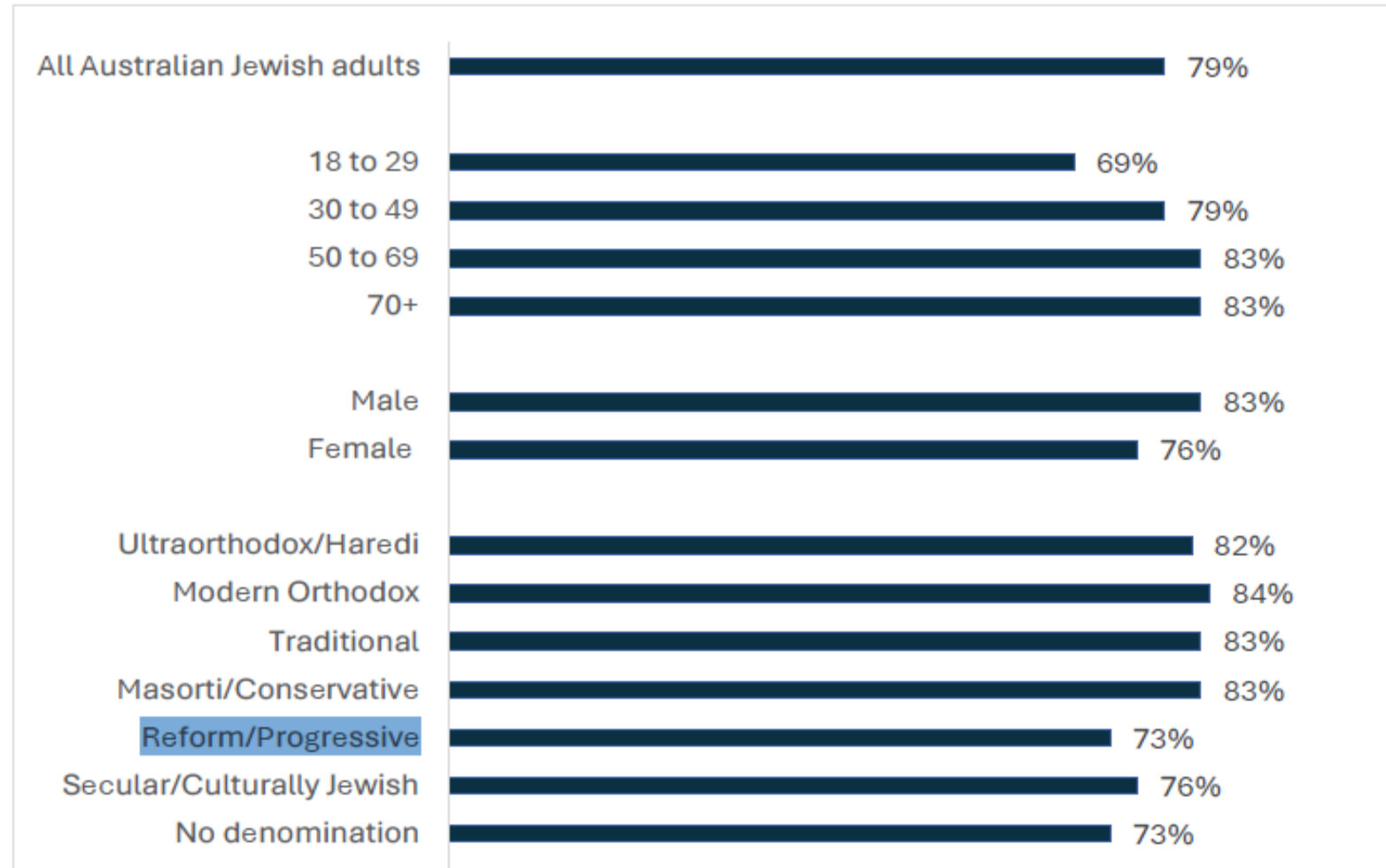
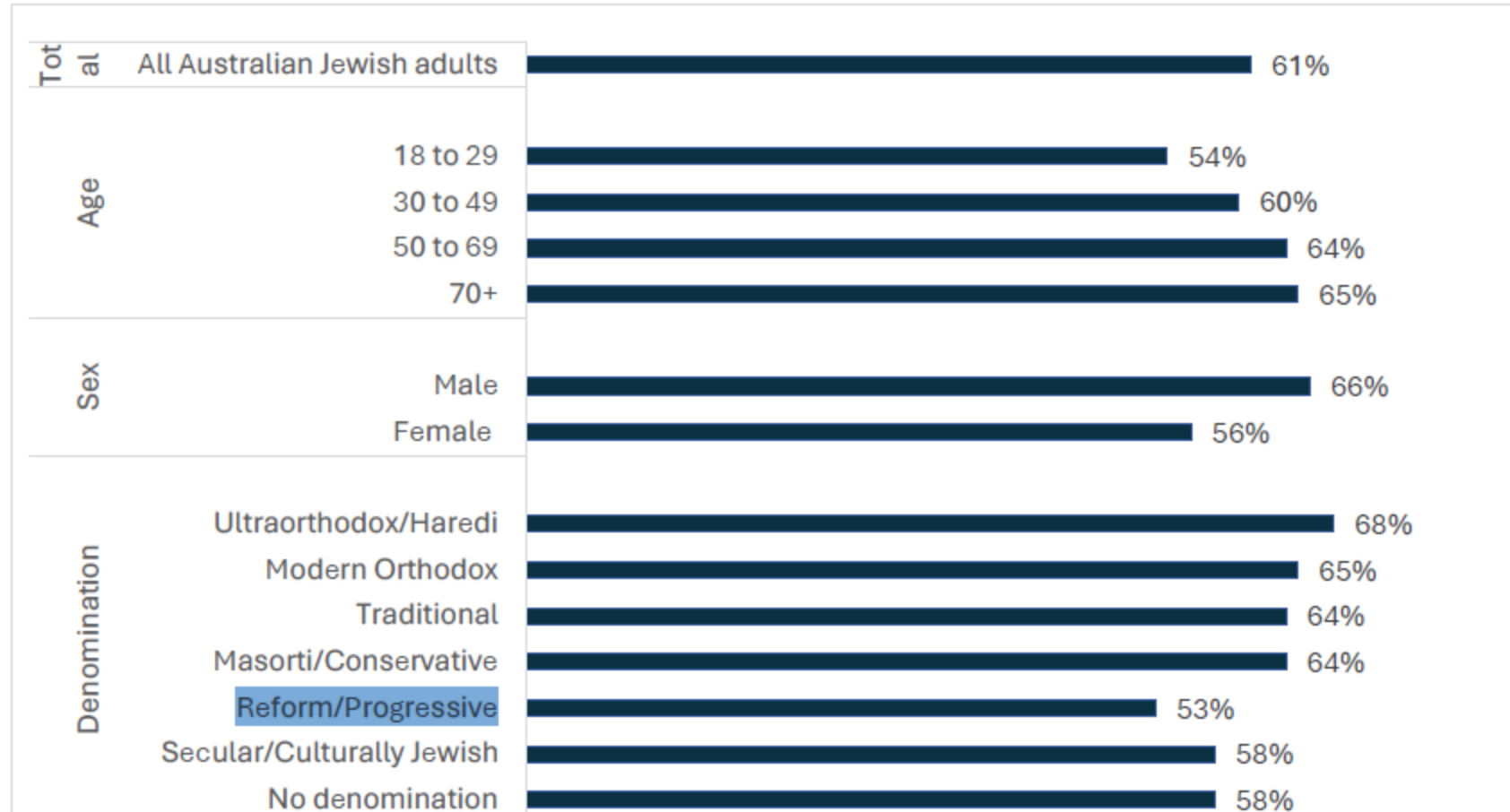


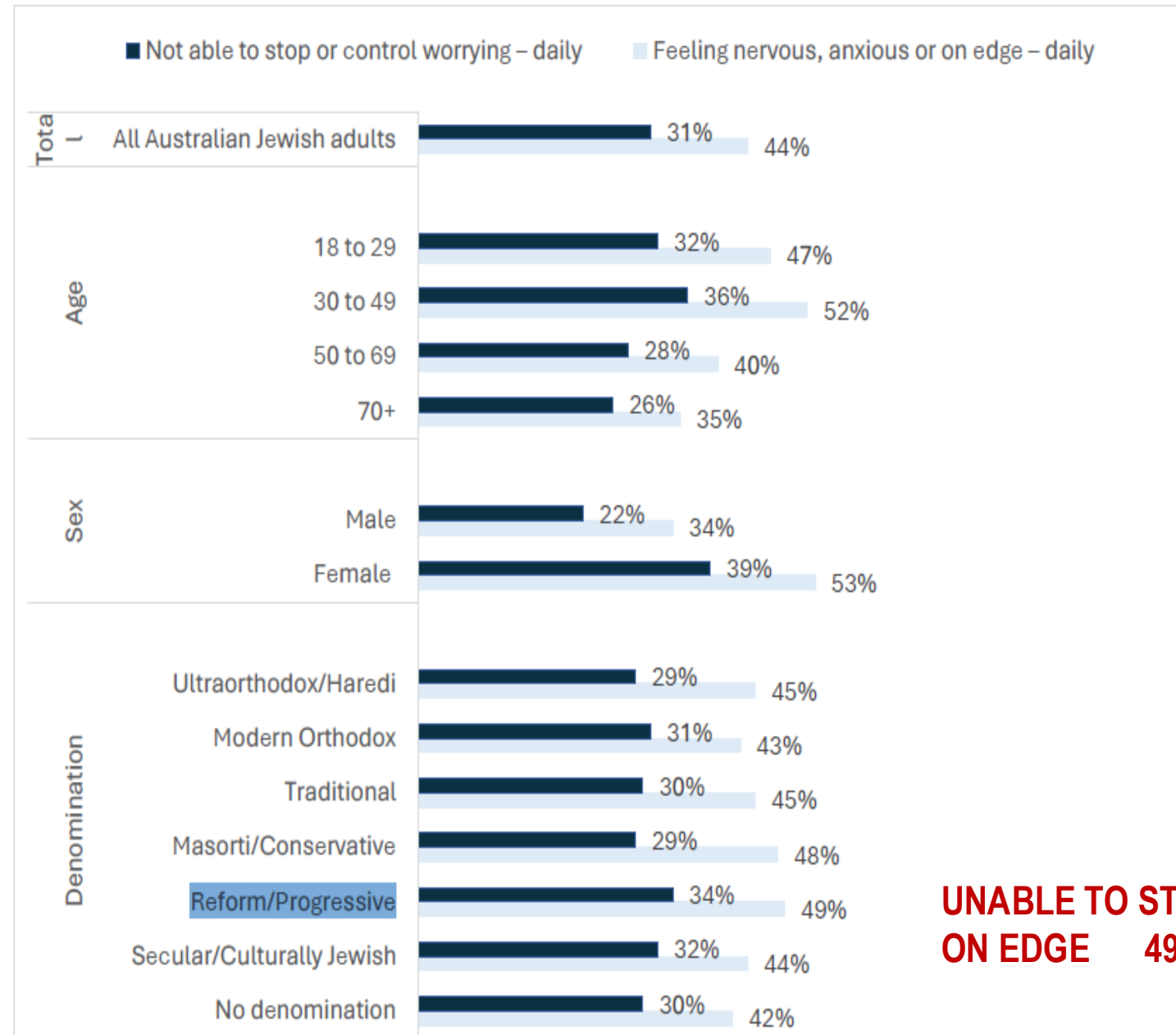
Figure 10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I feel confident that I understand the current situation in Israel – strongly agree



UNDERSTAND : NOT
50% : 50%

Figure 22. Since the Israel-Hamas war began, how often have you been bothered by ...?

NOVEMBER 2023



UNABLE TO STOP WORRYING 34%
ON EDGE 49%

THANK YOU

