



MUSLIM AMERICANS: *Faith, Freedom, and the Future*

Examining U.S. Muslims' Political, Social, and Spiritual Engagement 10 Years After September 11

August 2011

مرکز غالوب أبو ظبي

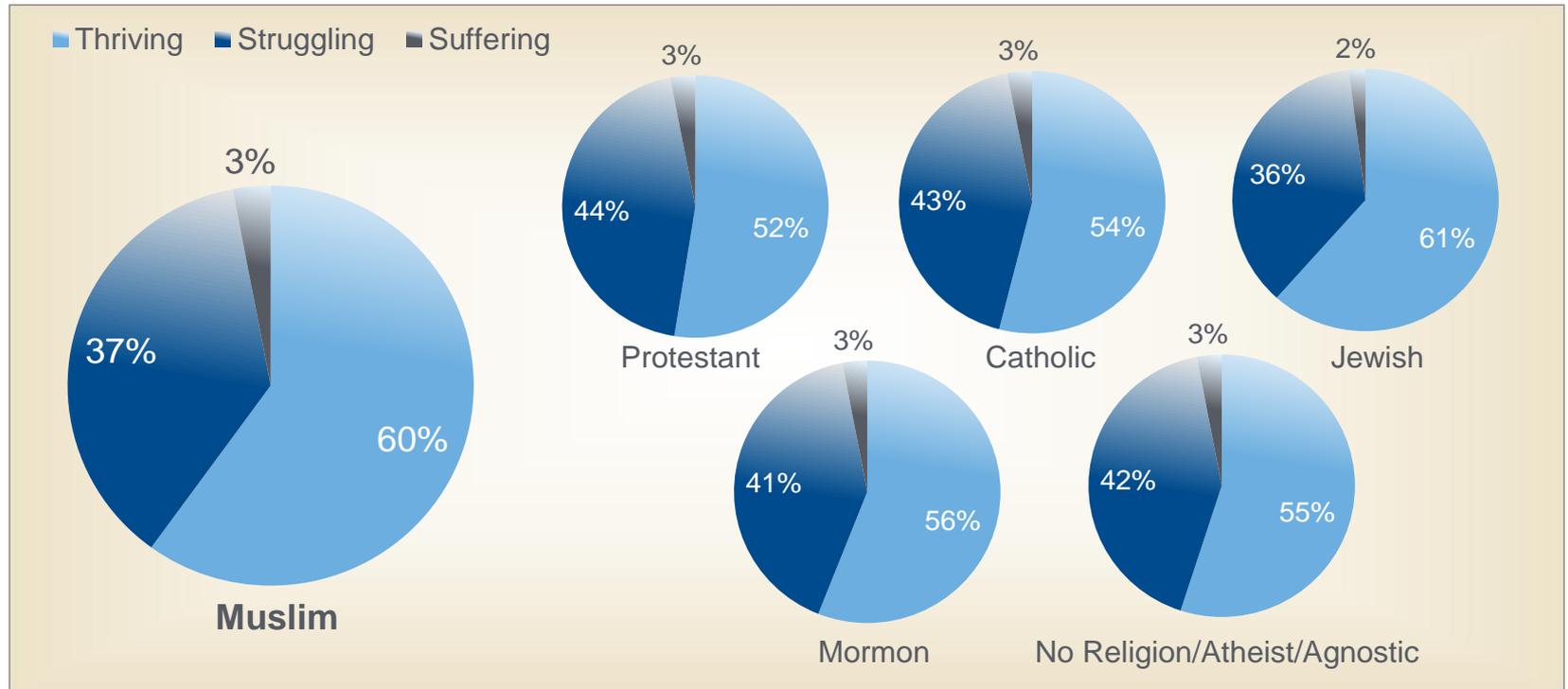
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Key Findings

- **Muslim Americans generally feel better off and more hopeful than they were in 2008.**
- **Muslim Americans are the most likely major faith group in the U.S. to reject violent attacks against civilians.**
- **Muslim Americans are among the most critical of the institutions and interventions associated with counterterrorism.**
- **Muslim Americans express loyalty to their country, but face distrust from a significant minority of their fellow citizens.**
- **Muslim Americans' religious commitment is associated with better emotional health and more social and political integration.**
- **Muslim Americans are often closest to Jewish Americans in their political and social views.**

Muslim Americans as Likely as Other Faith Groups to Be Thriving

Please imagine a ladder with steps numbered from zero at the bottom to ten at the top. Suppose we say that the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you, and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time, assuming that the higher the step the better you feel about your life, and the lower the step, the worse you feel about it? Which step comes closest to the way you feel? Just your best guess, on which step do you think you will stand in the future, say about five years from now?



Certain Factors Increased Likelihood of Thriving for Muslim Americans

Muslim Americans “Thriving”

Confident in the FBI

Attend mosque at least once a week

Strongly identify with the U.S.

Strongly identify with those worldwide who share their religious identity

College educated

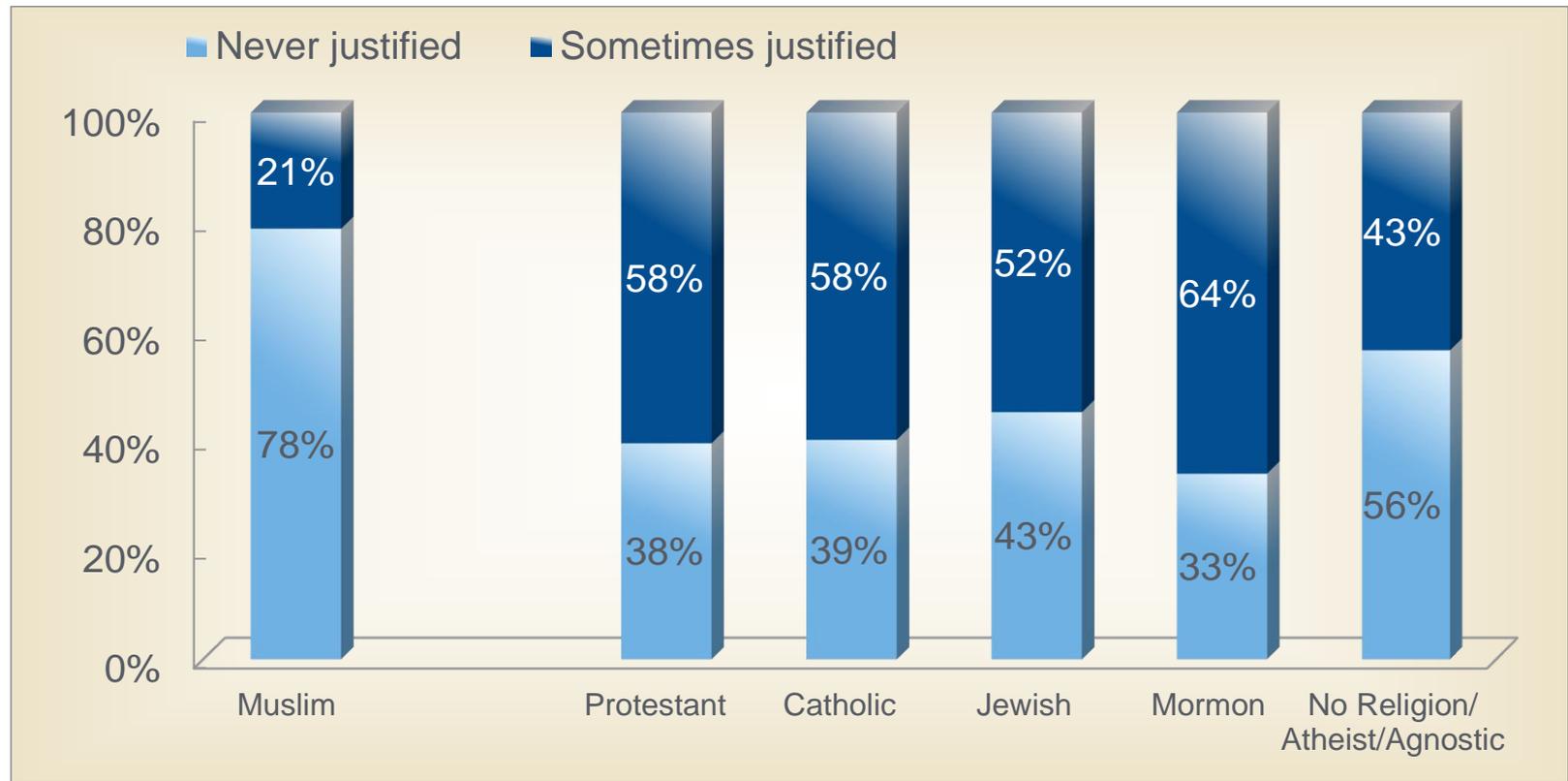


Rejection of Terrorism

Muslim Americans most likely major U.S. religious group to reject violent military or individual attacks on civilians

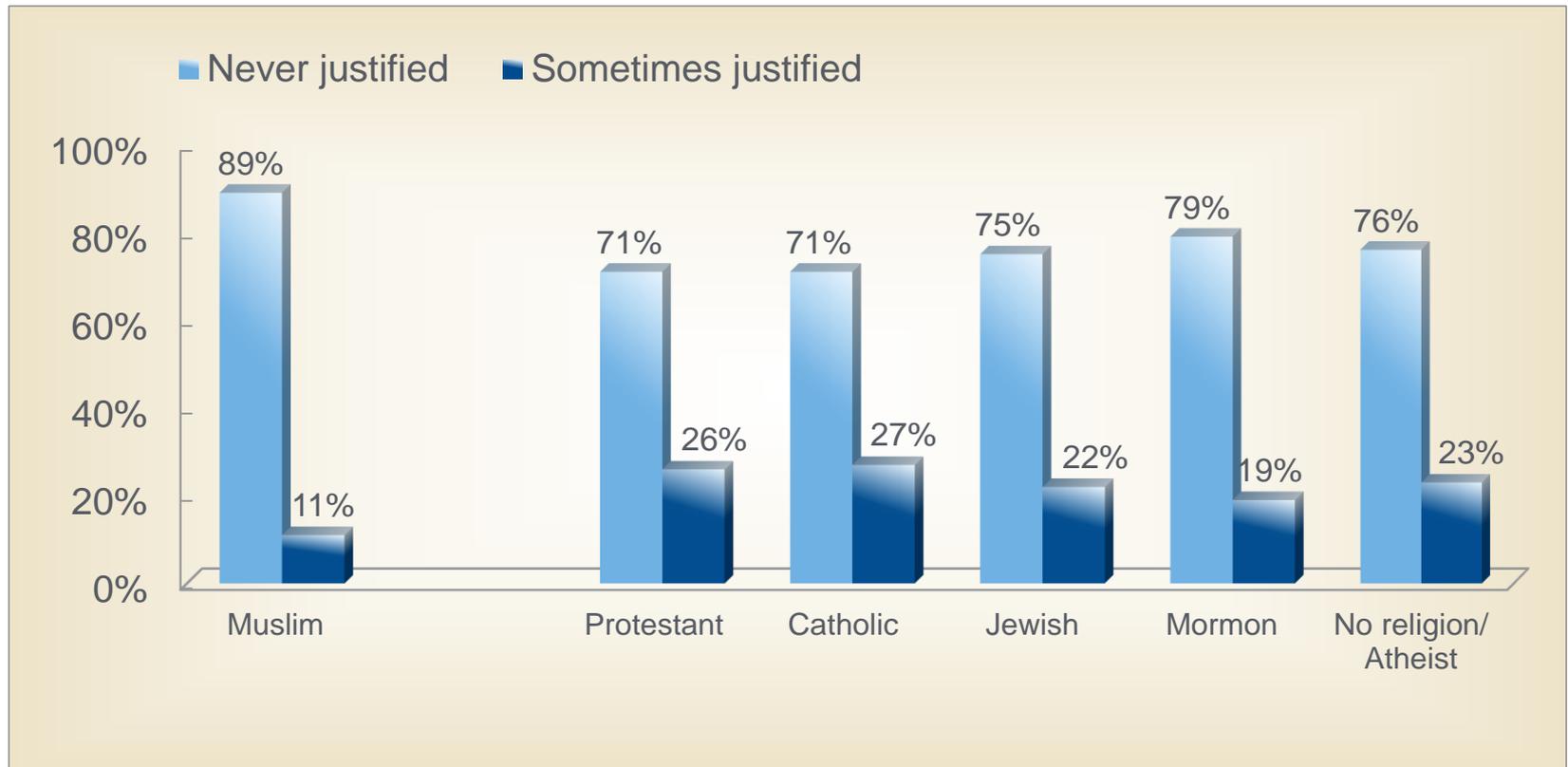
Muslim Americans Are Most Likely to Reject Violent Military Attacks on Civilians

Some people think that for the military to target and kill civilians is sometimes justified, while others think that kind of violence is never justified. Which is your opinion?



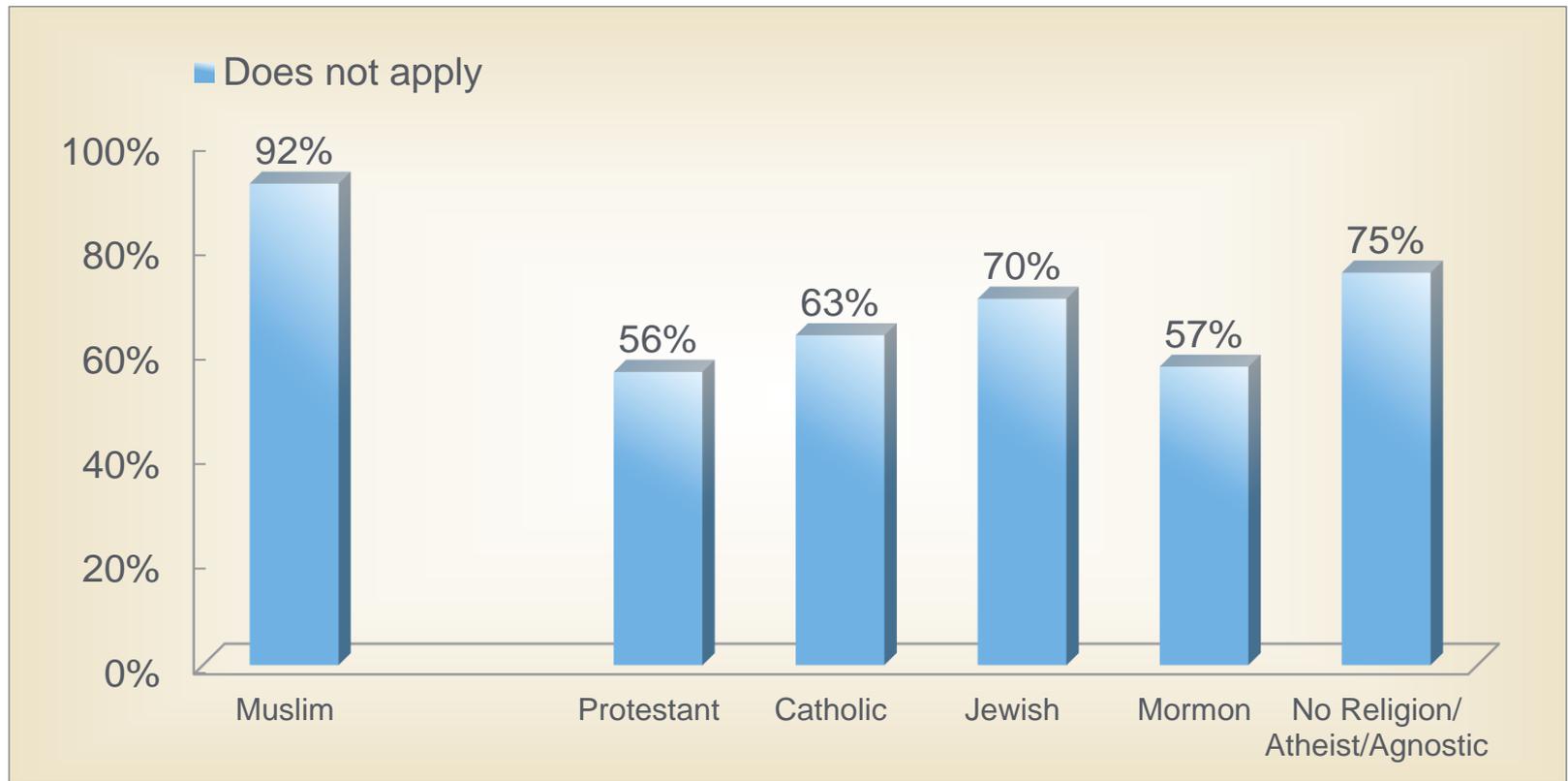
Muslim Americans Are Most Likely to Reject Violent Individual Attacks on Civilians

Some people think that for an individual person or a small group of persons to target and kill civilians is sometimes justified, while others think that kind of violence is never justified. Which is your opinion?



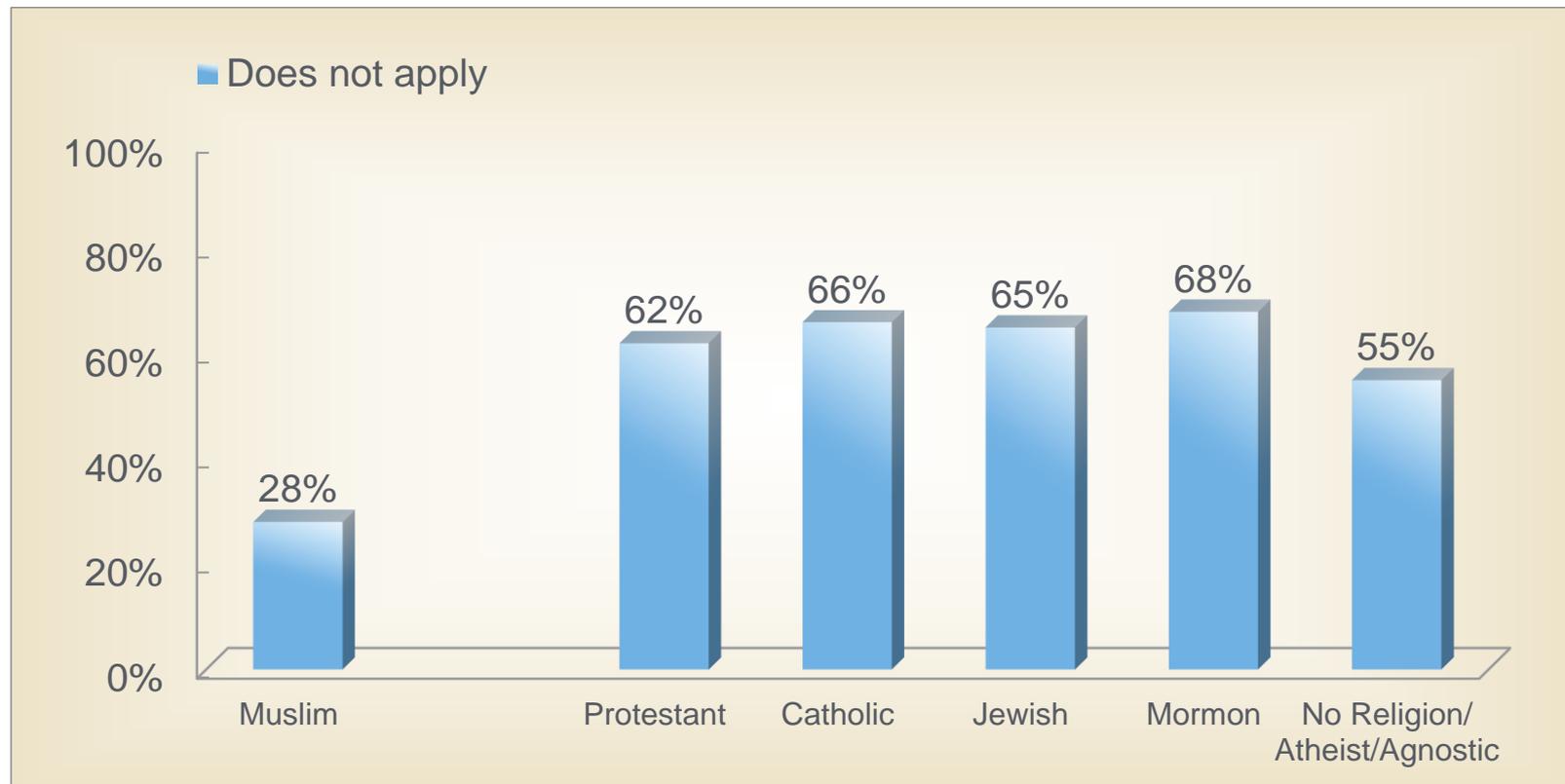
Muslims, Jews, and Those With No Religion Are More Likely to Believe Muslims Have No Sympathy for Al Qaeda

Now thinking specifically about Muslims, do you think each of the following applies, or does not apply, to Muslims living in this country? Muslims living in THIS COUNTRY are sympathetic to the al Qaeda terrorist organization?



Most Religious Groups Say Muslims Not Speaking Out Enough Against Terrorism

Now thinking specifically about Muslims, do you think each of the following applies, or does not apply, to Muslims living in this country? Speaking out enough against terrorism?





Counterterrorism

Muslim Americans are among the most critical of the institutions and interventions associated with counterterrorism

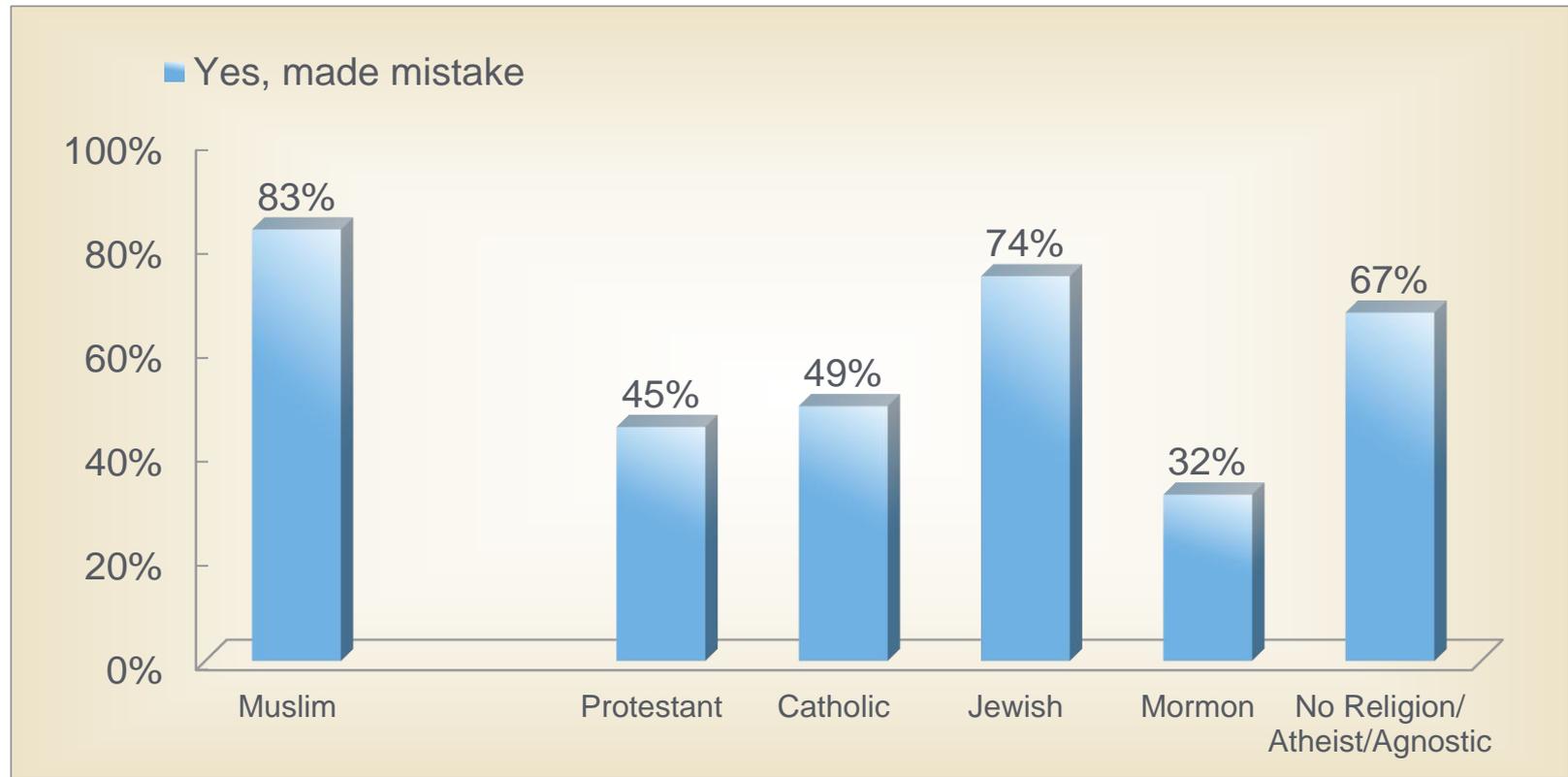
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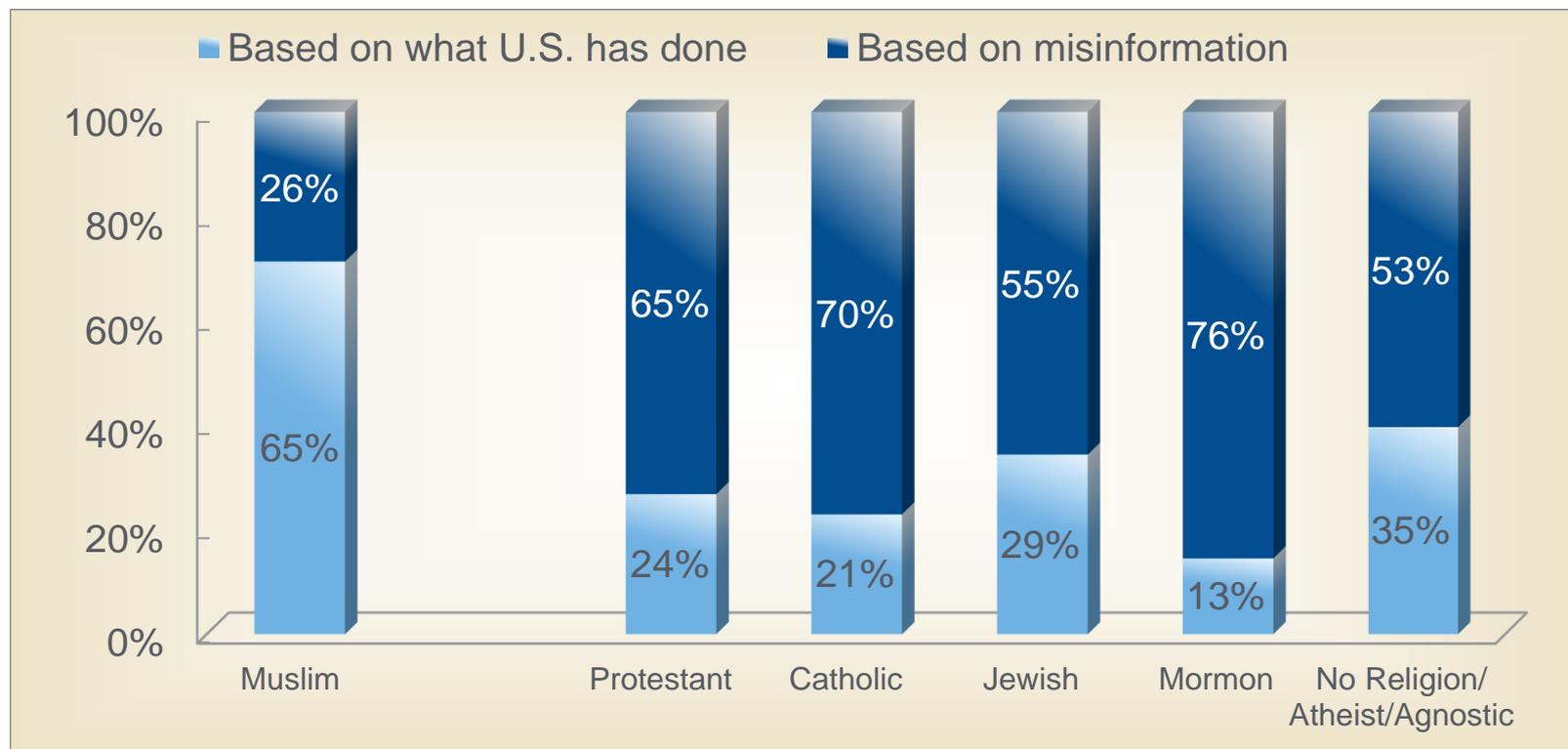
Muslim Americans Are the Most Likely to Cite Iraq War as a Mistake

In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, or not?



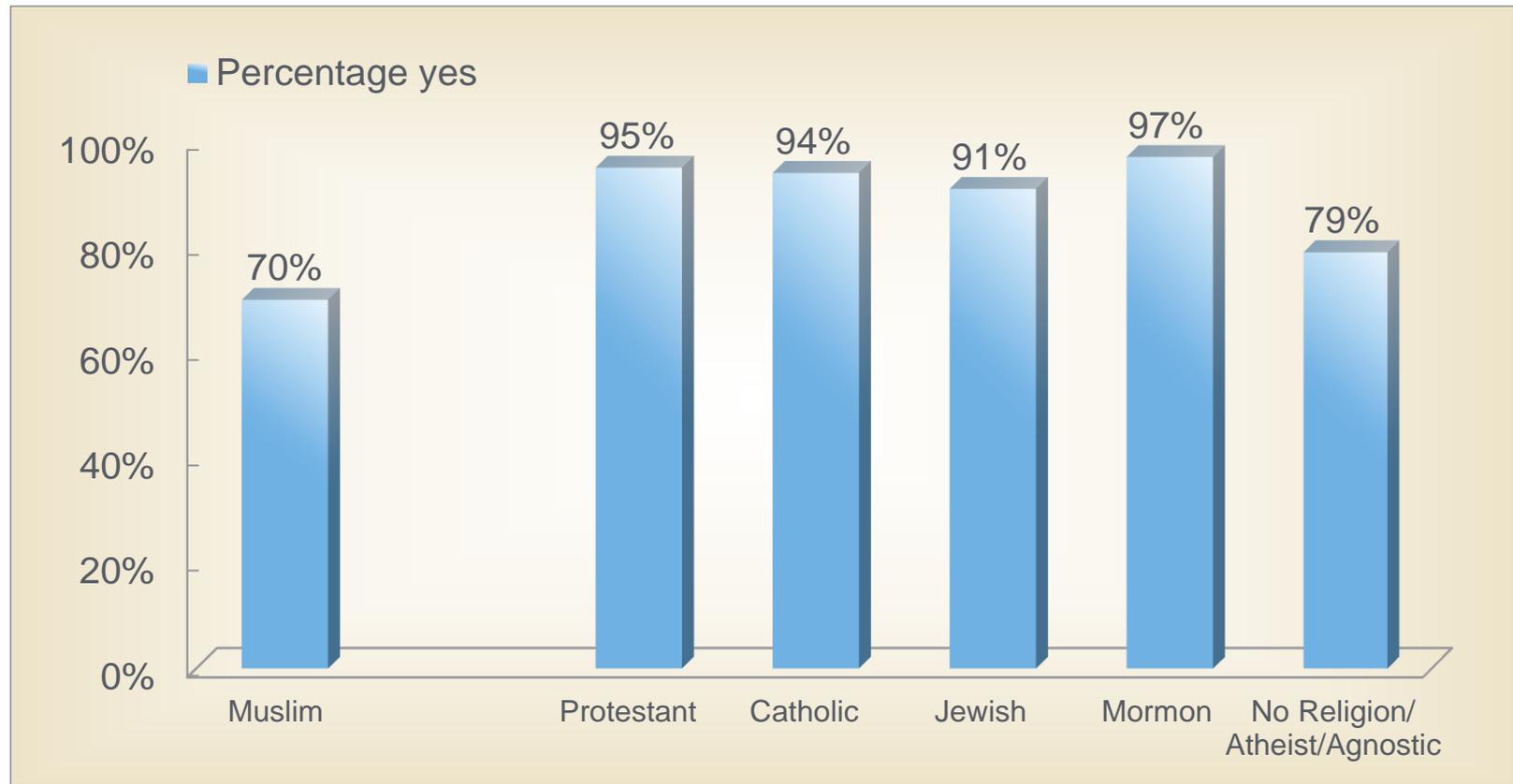
Muslim Americans Are Most Likely to See U.S. Actions as Causing Unfavorable Views of U.S. in Muslim Countries Rather Than Misinformation

Do you think the unfavorable views people in Muslim countries have of the United States are based mostly on what the U.S. has done or based mostly on misinformation provided by the media and government about what the U.S. has done? (Asked of those who said people in Muslim countries have very unfavorable, or somewhat unfavorable views of the United States.)



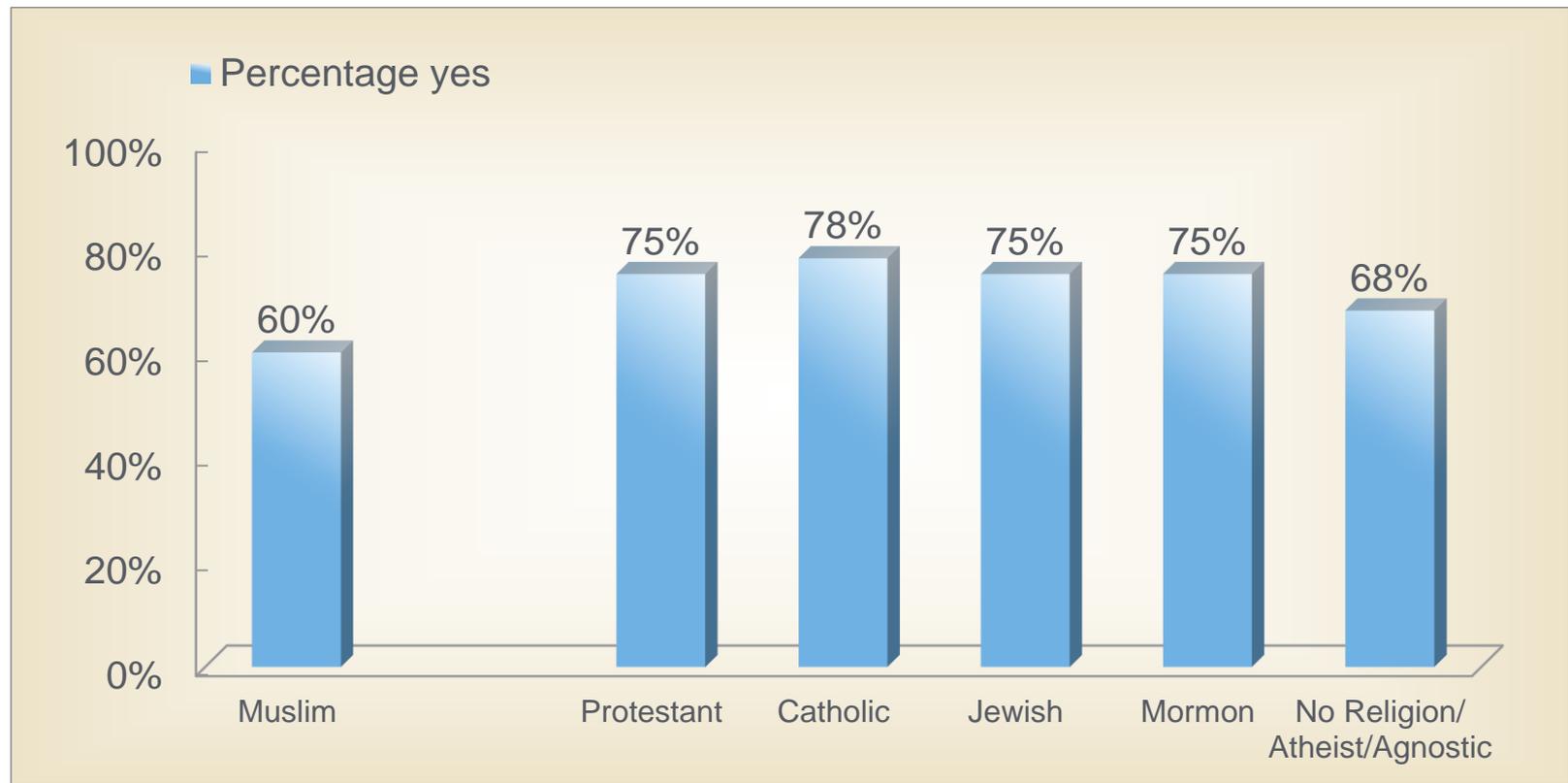
Muslim Americans Have the Lowest Confidence in Military

In the United States, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? How about the military?



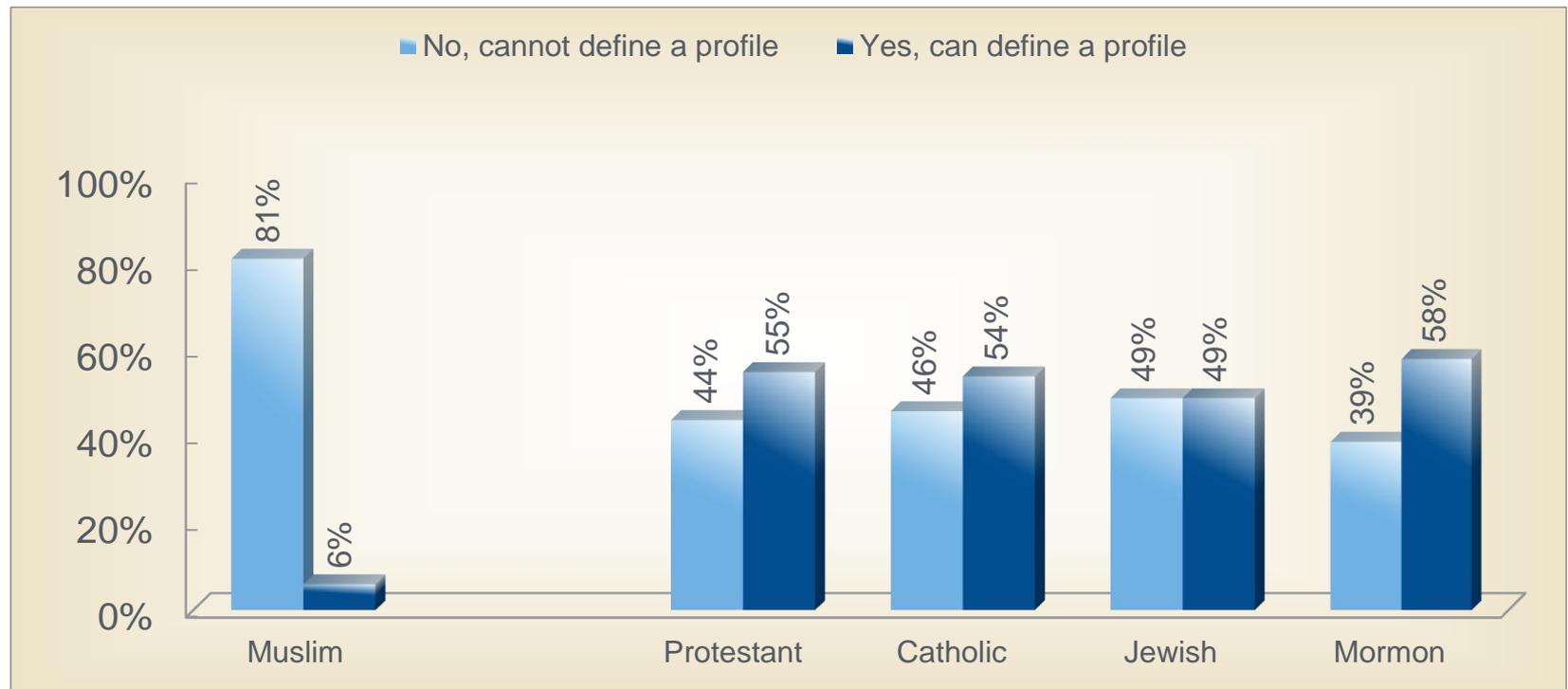
Muslim Americans Have the Lowest Confidence in FBI

In the United States, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? How about national security organizations, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation?



Strong Majority of Muslims Say It Is Not Possible to Profile Terrorists

Do you believe it is possible to profile a terrorist based on gender, age, ethnicity, or other demographics traits, OR do you believe that it is NOT possible to profile a terrorist based on gender, age, ethnicity, or other demographics traits?





Love of God and Country

Muslim Americans express loyalty to their country, but face distrust from a significant minority of their fellow citizens

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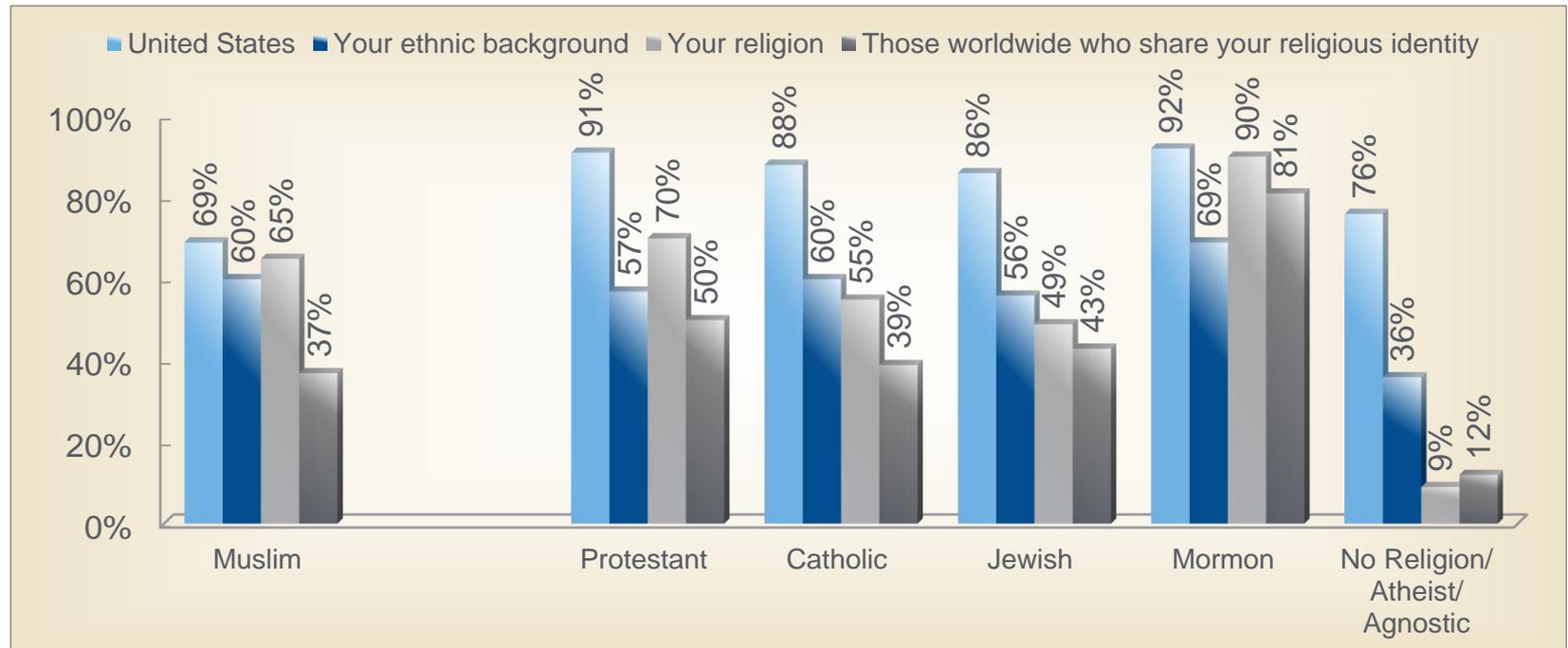
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Muslim Americans Identify With the U.S. and With Faith Equally

How strongly do you identify with each of the following groups? Extremely strongly, very strongly, moderately strongly, only a little, or not at all? (Read A-D)

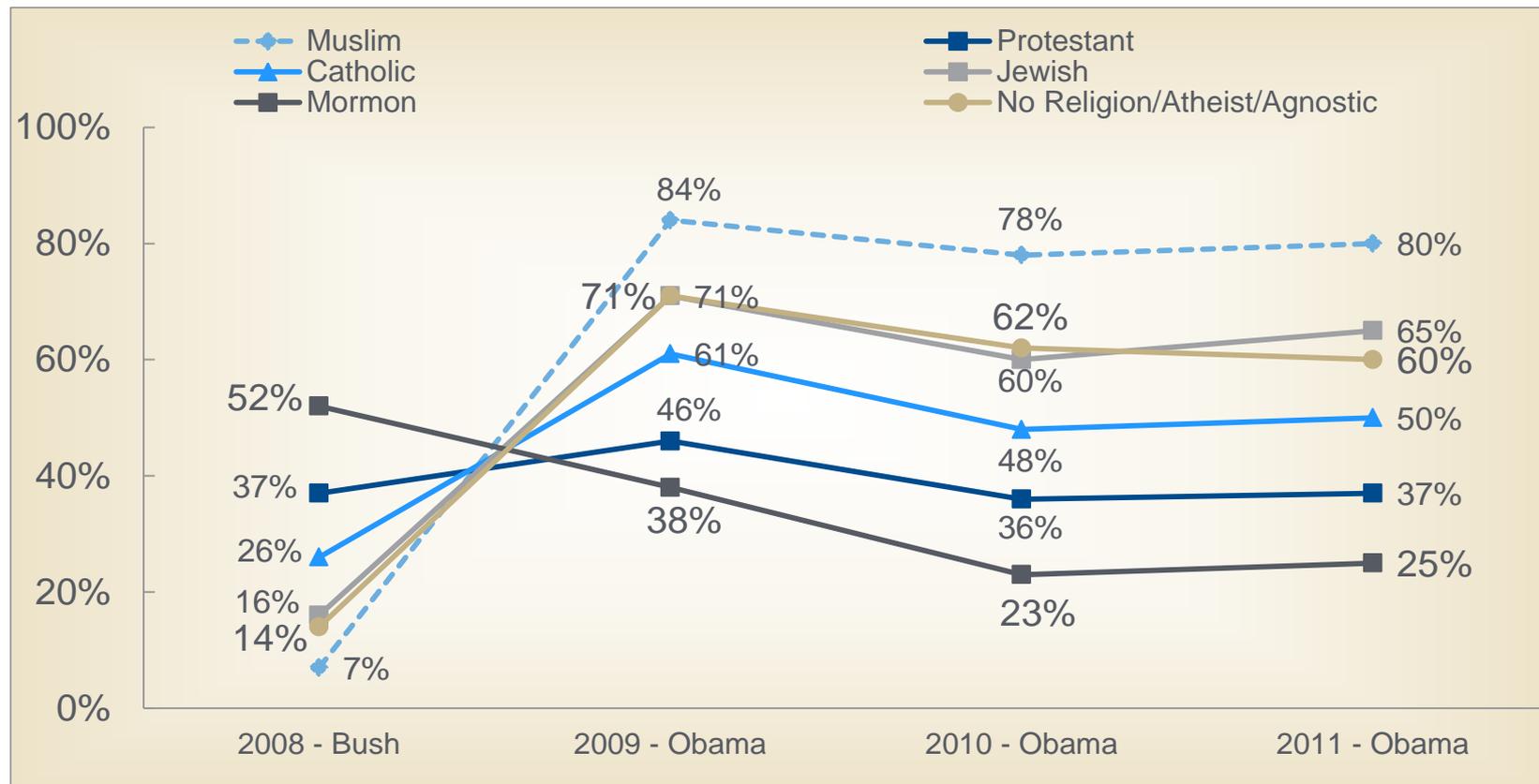
- A. The United States
- B. Your ethnic background
- C. Your religion
- D. Those worldwide who share your religious identity

[Combining those saying “very strongly” and “extremely strongly” identify with...]



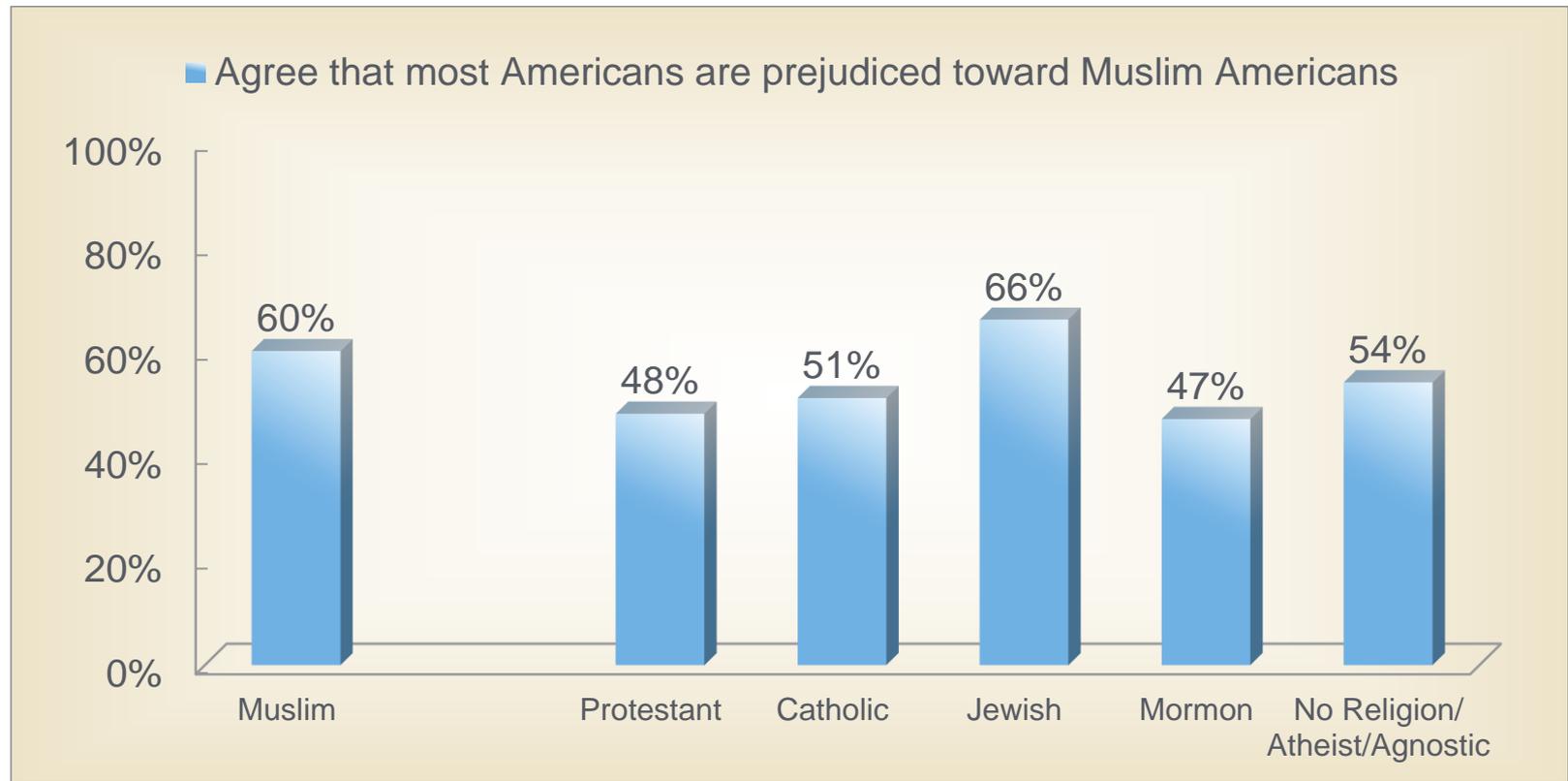
Muslim Americans Have Highest Approval of Obama With Largest Increase From Approval of Bush

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?
 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?



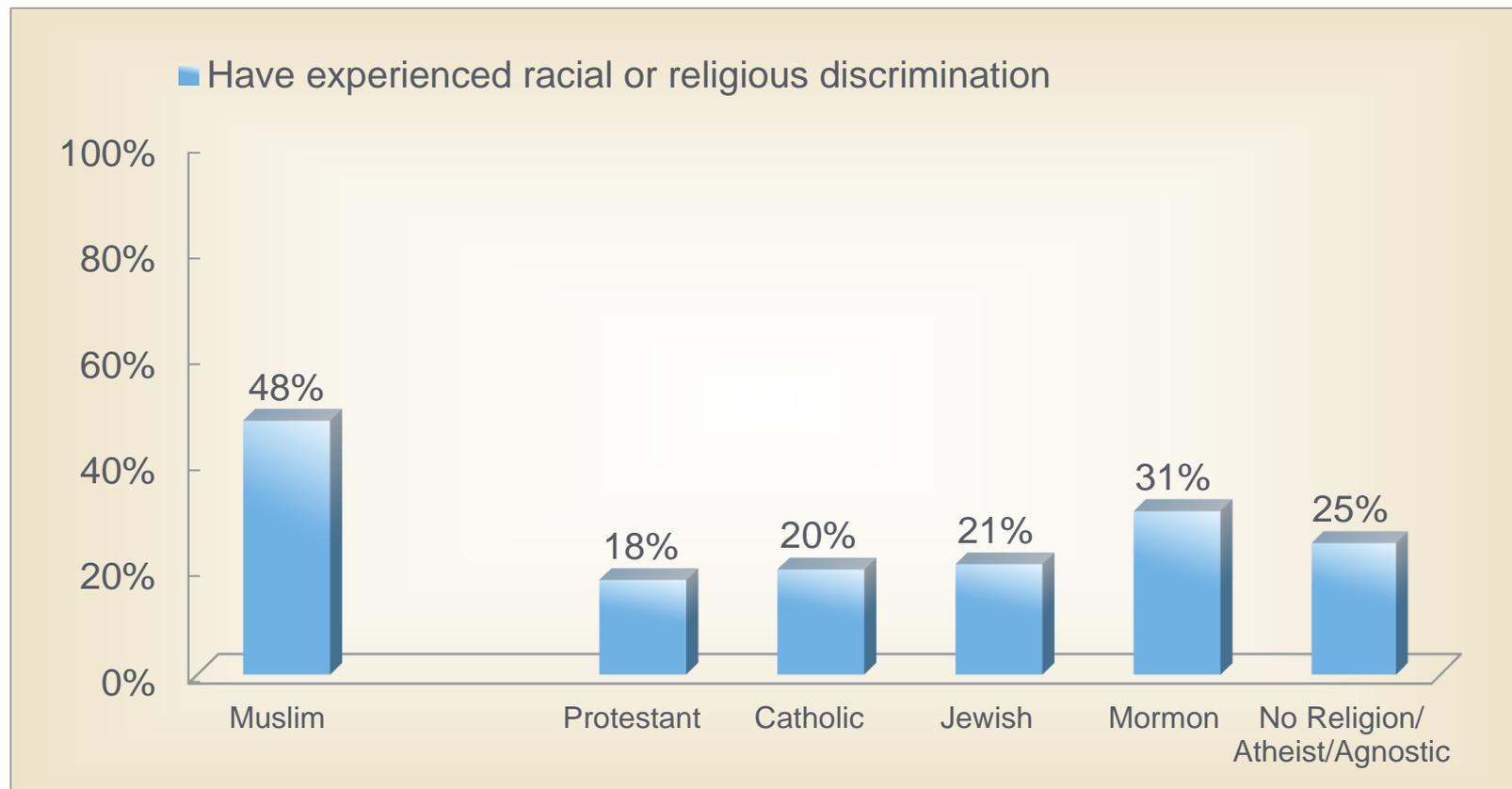
Majority of Muslims say fellow Americans harbor Prejudice toward them

I am going to read you two statements. Please tell me for each whether you agree or disagree with it. In general, most Americans are prejudiced toward Muslim Americans.



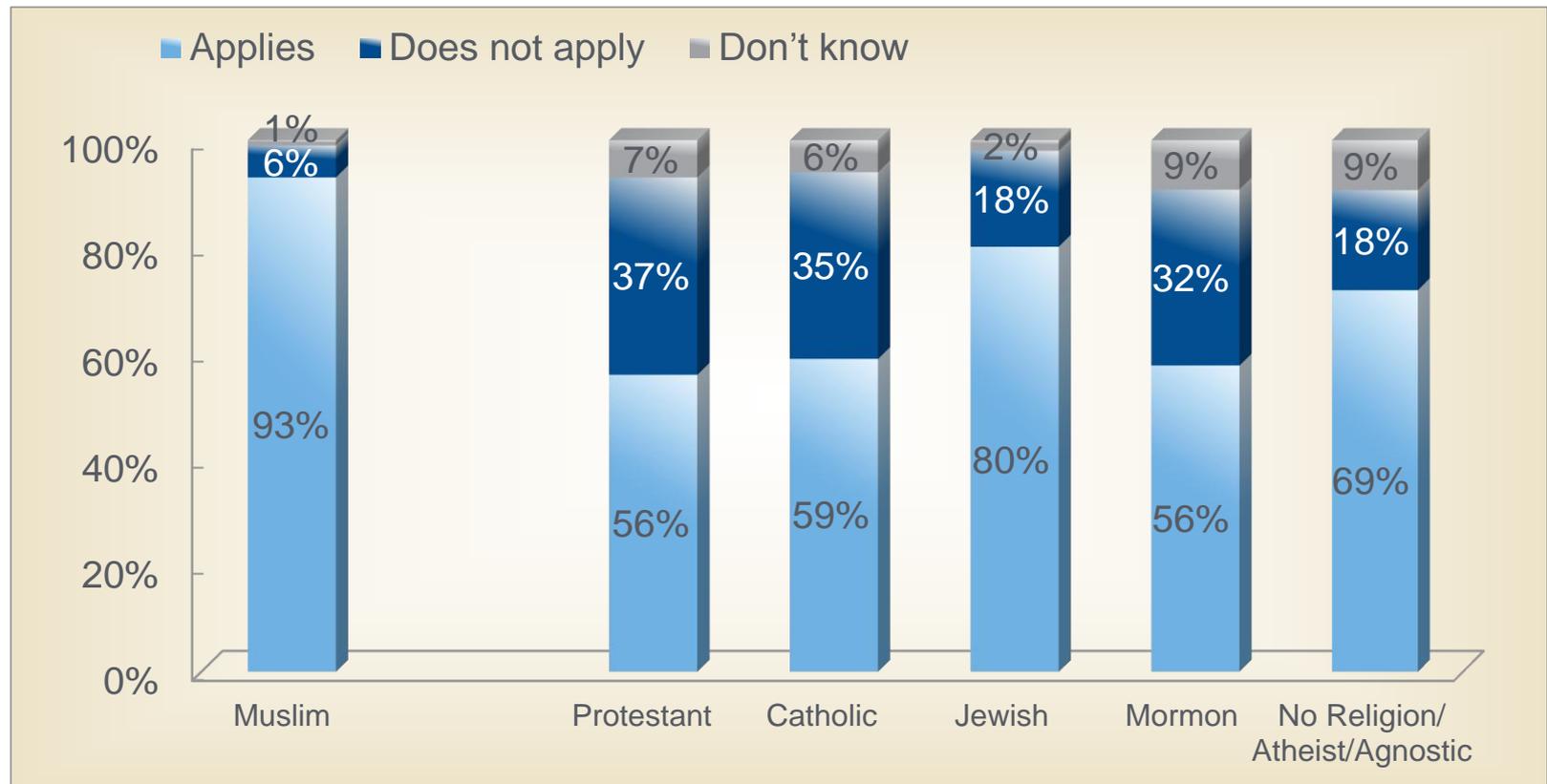
Muslims Most Likely to Say They Have Experienced Racial or Religious Discrimination

Have you personally experienced racial or religious discrimination in the past year?



Majorities of All Religious Groups Say Muslim Americans Are Loyal to the U.S.

Now thinking specifically about Muslims, do you think each of the following applies, or does not apply, to Muslims living in this country? Muslims living in THIS COUNTRY are loyal to this country?





Pluralism, Piety, and Political Participation

Muslim Americans' religious commitment associated with better emotional health and more social and political integration

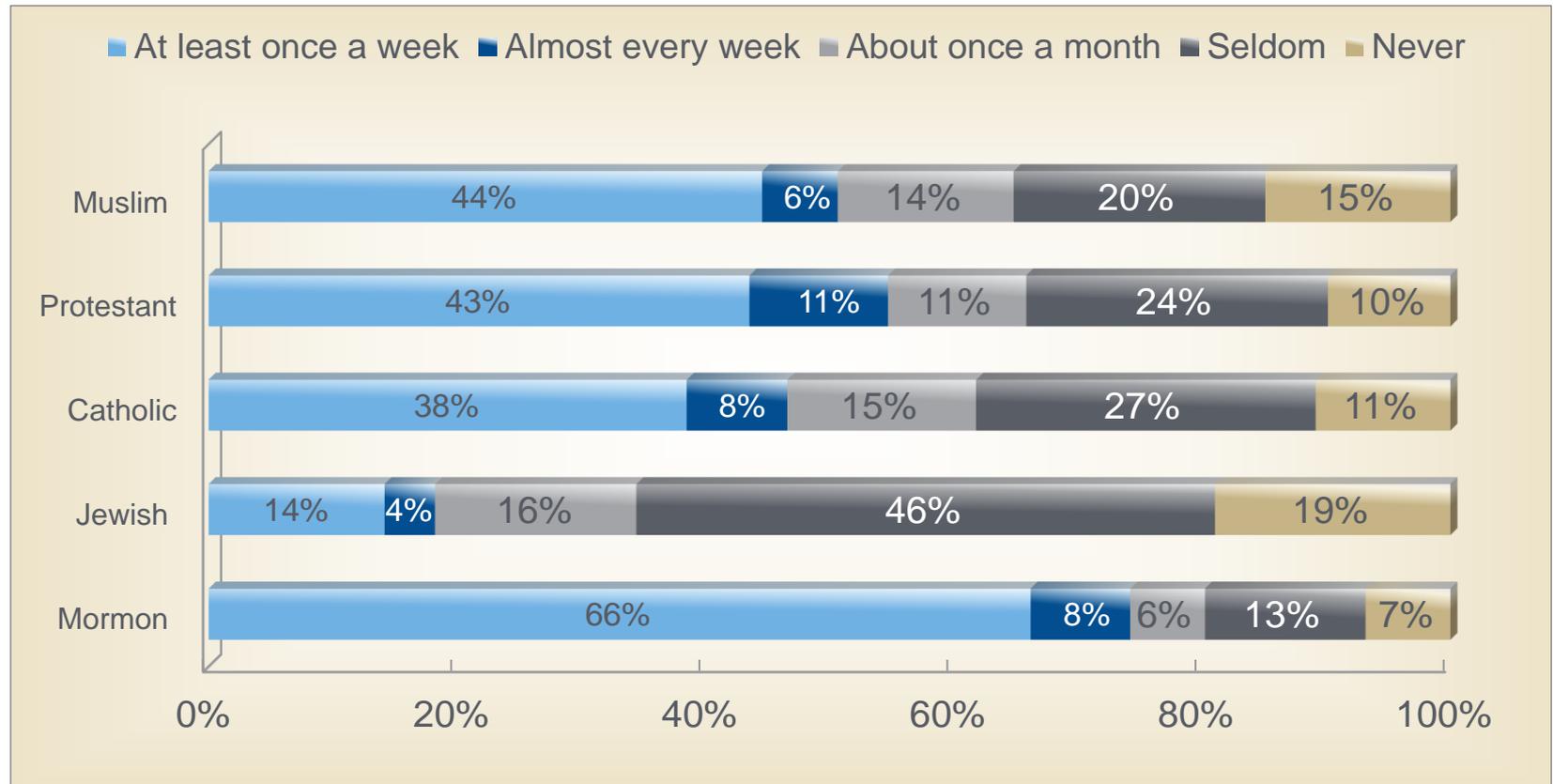
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Muslim Americans Are Similar to Protestant Americans in Their Religious Attendance

How often do you attend church, synagogue, or mosque — at least once a week, almost every week, about once a month, seldom, or never?



Muslim Americans Who Frequently Attend Mosque Report Less Anger

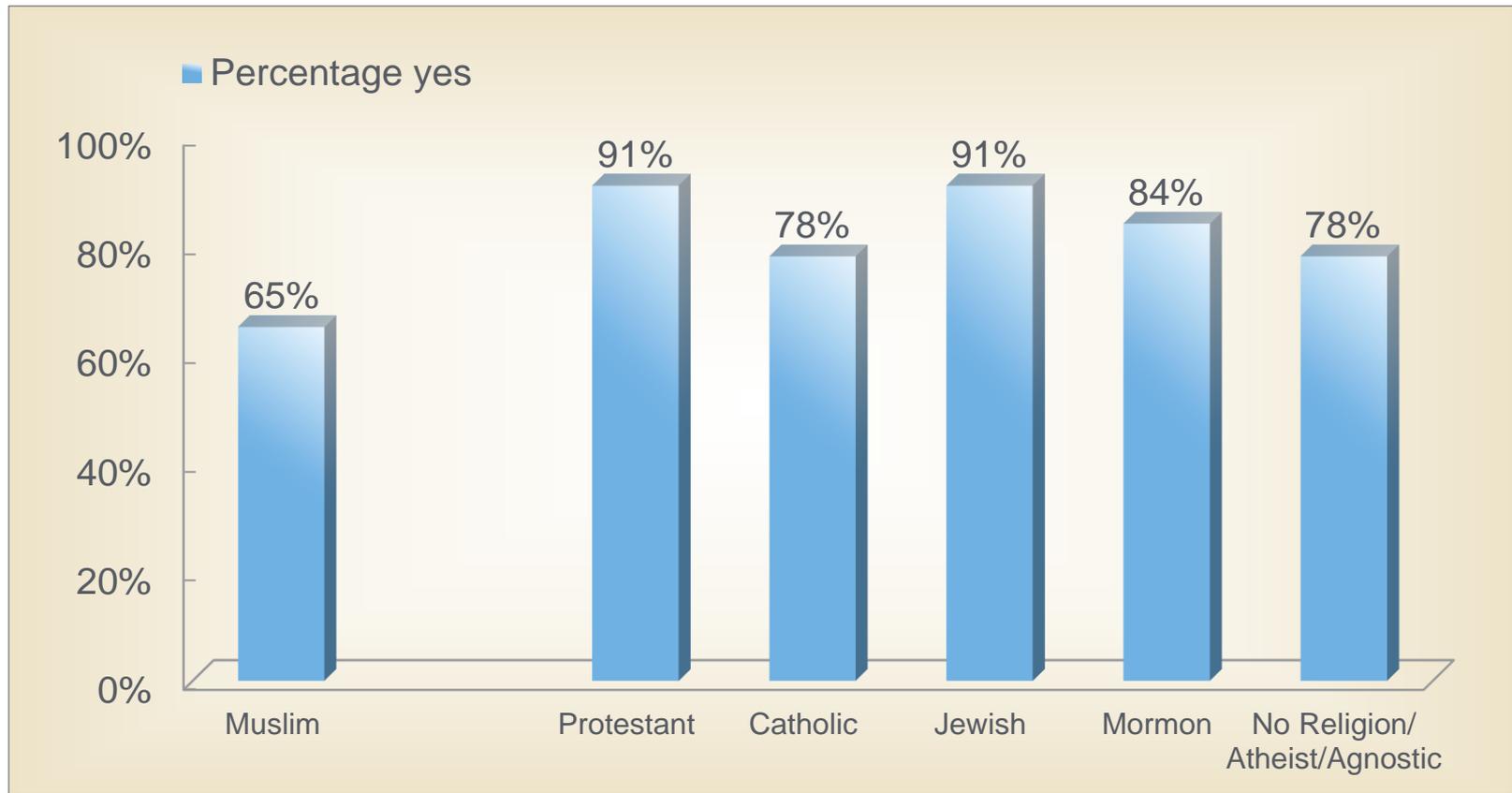
How often do you attend church, synagogue, or mosque — at least once a week, almost every week, about once a month, seldom, or never?

Did you experience the following feelings during A LOT OF THE DAY yesterday? How about: Anger



Muslim Americans Least Likely to Be Registered to Vote

Are you now registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or not?



No National Muslim-American Organization Represents a Large Percentage of the Community

Which national Muslim American organization, if any, do you feel most represents your interests? (Open ended)

| Organization Cited | % Men | % Women |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Council on American-Islamic Relations | 12 | 11 |
| Islamic Society of North America | 4 | 7 |
| Muslim Public Affairs Council | 6 | 1 |
| Other | 6 | 20 |
| None | 55 | 42 |



Children of Abraham

Muslim Americans are often closest to Jewish Americans in their political and social views

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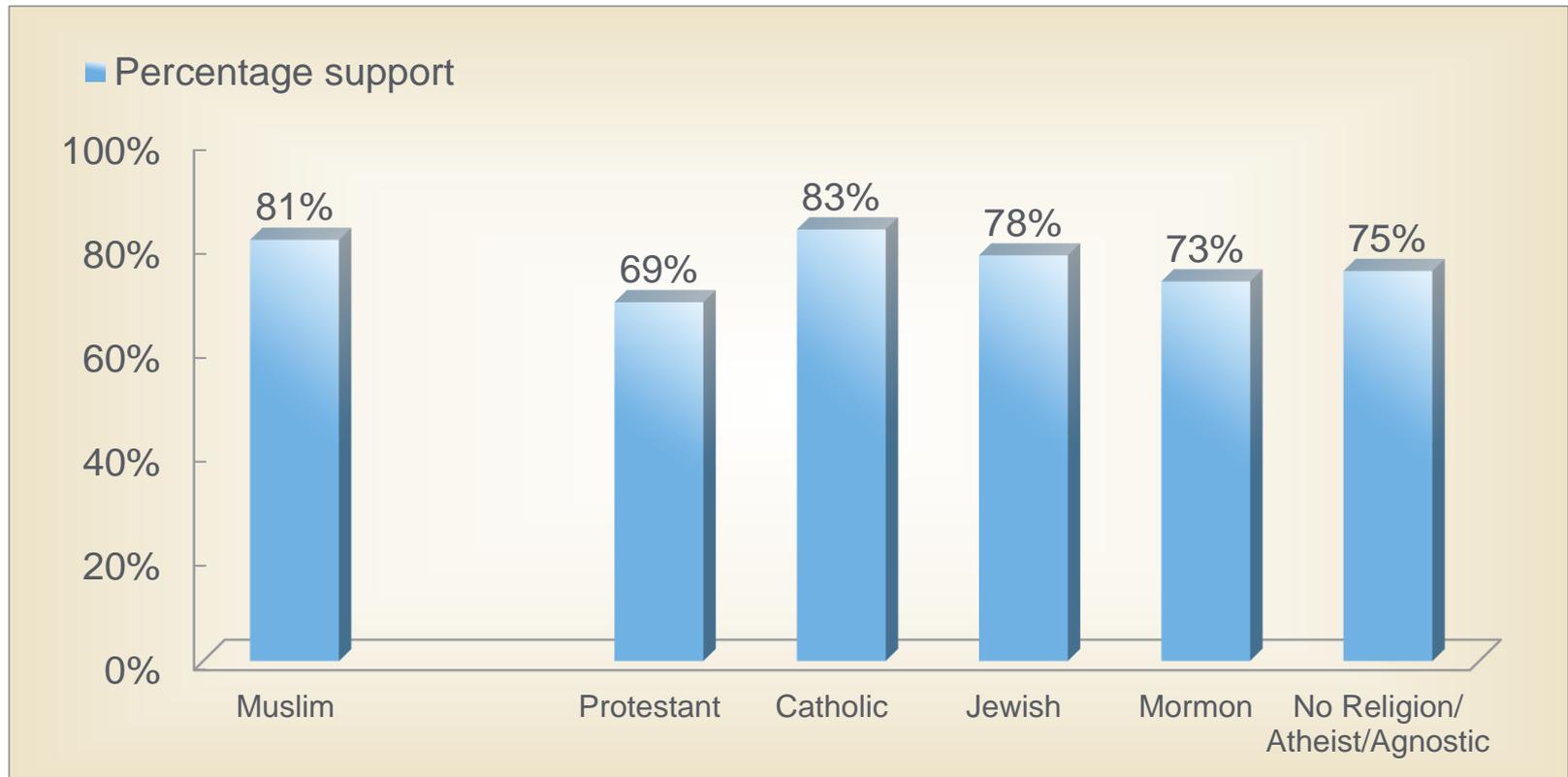
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Jewish and Muslim American Similarities

- **Jewish Americans (80%) are more likely than Catholics, Protestants, and Mormons (59% or less) to see Muslim Americans as loyal to America.**
- **In agreement with their Muslim counterparts, Jewish Americans are more likely than Catholic, Protestant, or Mormon Americans to believe Muslim Americans have no sympathy for al Qaeda.**
- **Jewish Americans (66%) agree that there is prejudice toward Muslims in the U.S. at higher numbers than do Muslims themselves (60%).**
- **Jews (74%) and Muslims (83%) are the two most likely groups to say Iraq war was a mistake.**

Most Support a Two-State Solution to Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Would you support or not support a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict? By "two-state" solution, I mean an independent Palestinian State alongside the State of Israel.





Recommendations

Gallup's analysis suggests that policymakers and civil society leaders working to improve Muslim-American inclusion in their countries should consider the following at the national, regional, and local levels.

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Government

- **Assess the degree of anti-Muslim discrimination in America.**
- **Engage and leverage Muslim Americans' expertise in the nation's foreign policy.**

Civil Society

- **Focus on the mosque as an important institution of Muslim-American mobilization.**
- **Increase opportunities for education and engagement in and among faith groups.**



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