

REPAIR THE WORLD

VOLUNTEERING+ VALUES: A REPAIR THE WORLD REPORT ON JEWISH YOUNG ADULTS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

- Repair the World is a 2-year old organization whose mission is to make service a defining element of American Jewish life, learning and leadership.
- It was founded on the notion that commitment to civic engagement and social responsibility is central to what it means to be a Jew in the 21st Century. By amplifying noble and enduring Jewish traditions – passion for a caring society, justice, freedom and equal opportunity for all – we can build a stronger, more pluralistic Jewish community and make greater strides in repairing a broken world.
- Young adults are a major area of focus for Repair, and we work with a wide variety of secular, Jewish and interfaith partners to engage them in effective models of service—on campuses, in local communities, and around the world. The Study provides us with important data on their attitudes, behaviors and interests.

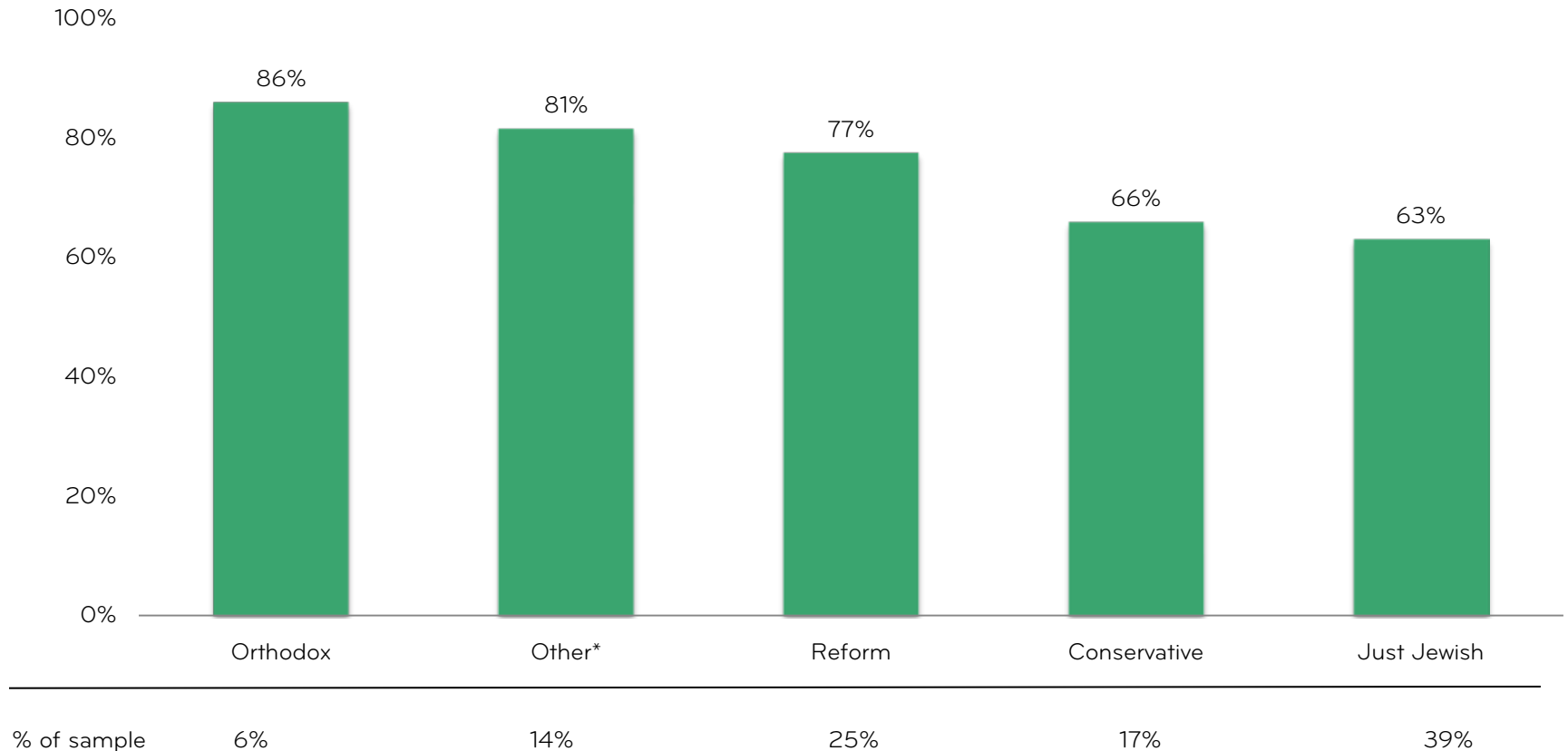
II. METHODS

How was the data collected?

- A diverse sample of Jewish young adults ages 18-35
- Sample included applicants to Taglit-Birthright Israel and members of Knowledge Networks' online panel
- 85% conducted online, 15% by phone
- 951 completed surveys
- Overall response rate is 45%

III. BEHAVIORS & ATTITUDES

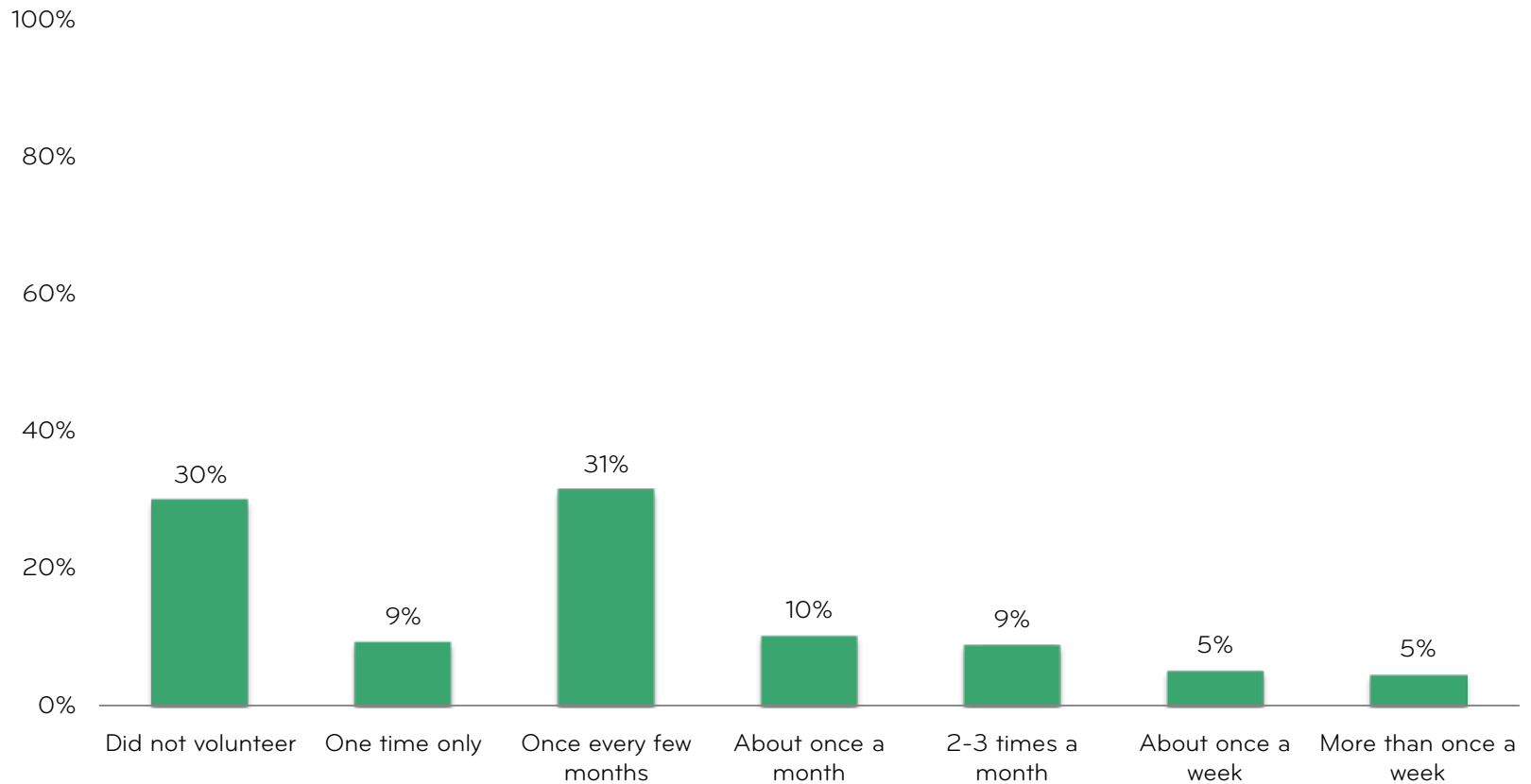
Most Jewish young adults volunteer



*Includes those who indicated they identify as Reconstructionist as well as those who wrote in identities not included in any of the other choices

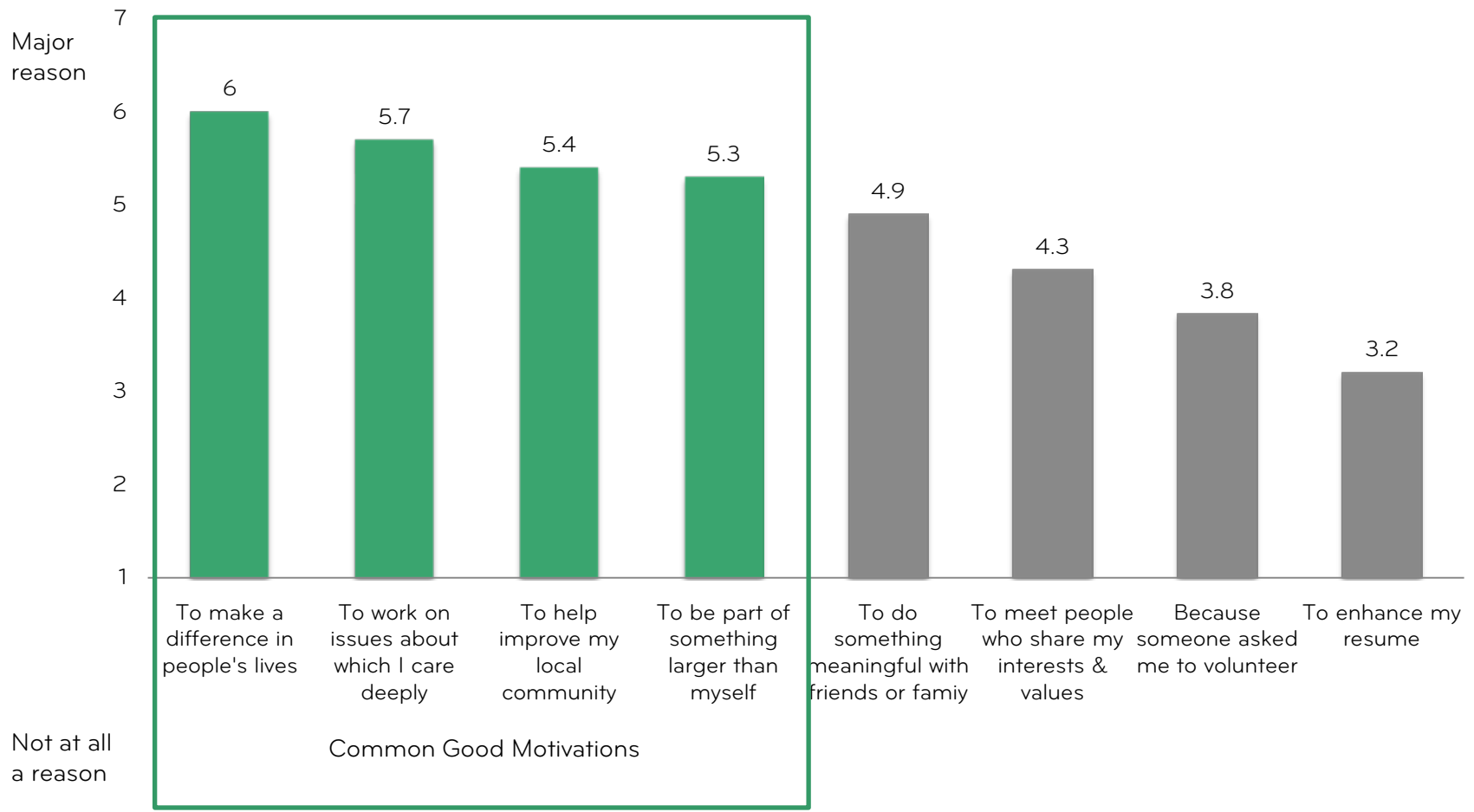
III. BEHAVIORS & ATTITUDES

For many Jewish young adults volunteering is infrequent



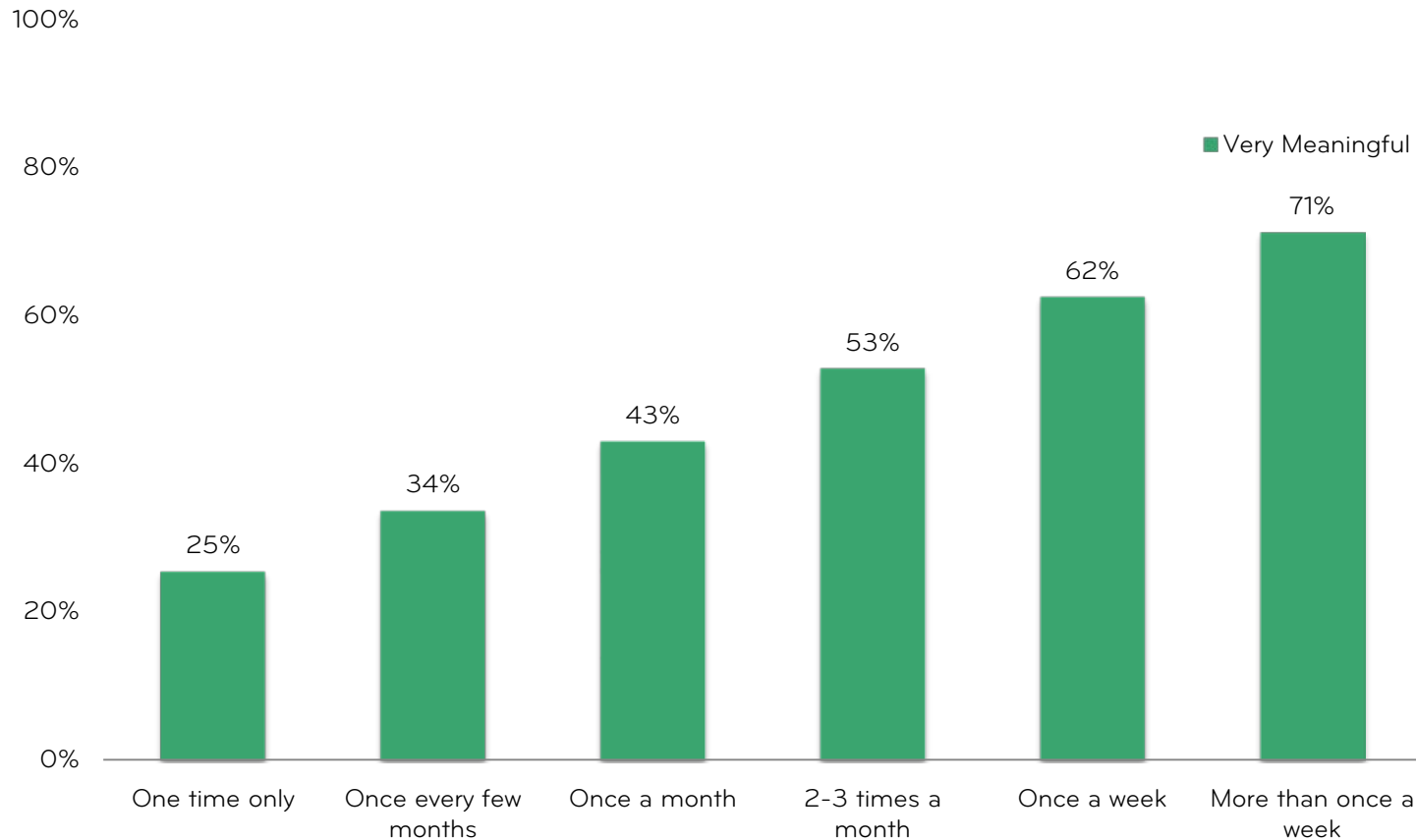
III. BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

Jewish young adults volunteer to make a difference



III. BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

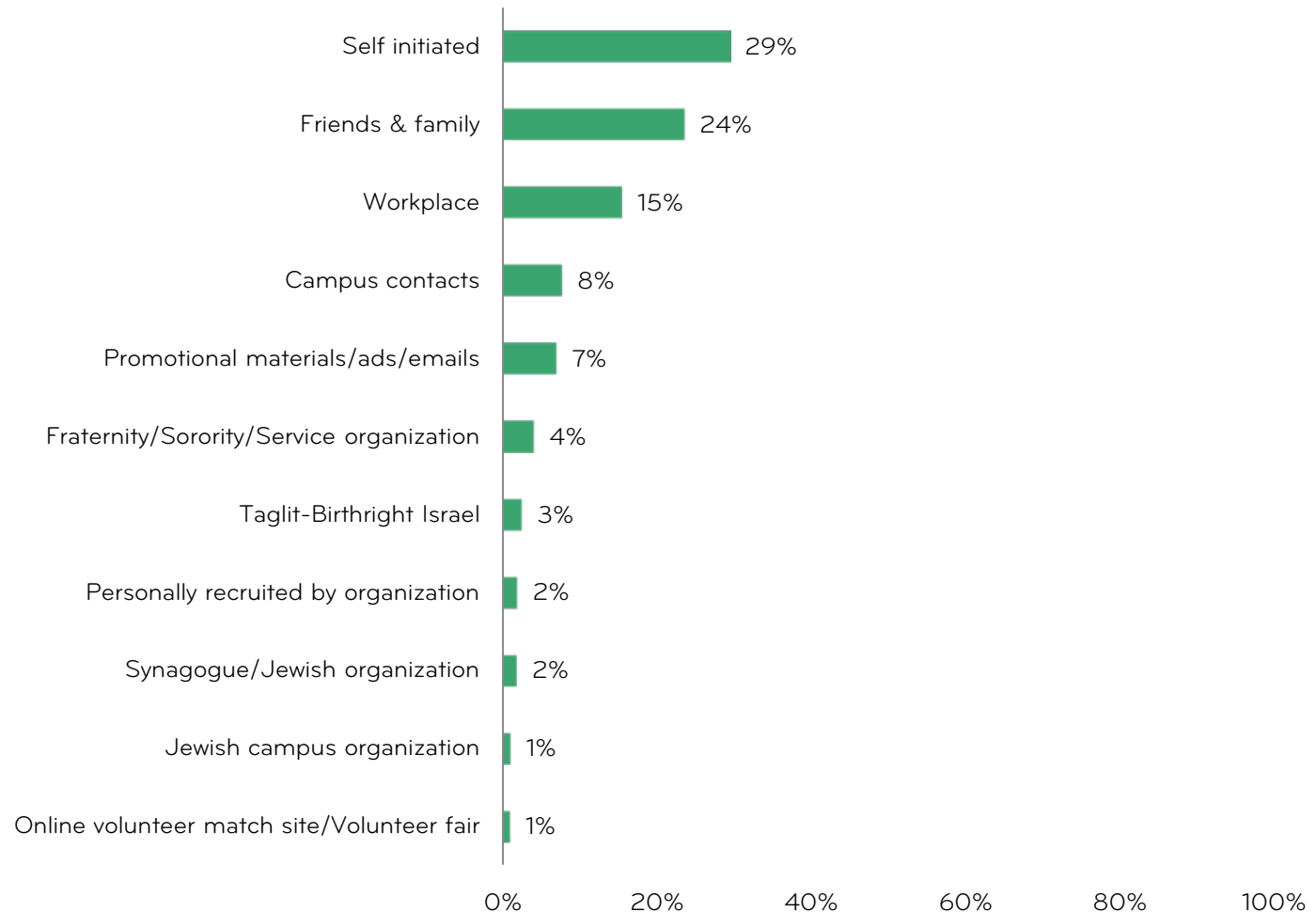
Those who volunteer more frequently find their service to be more meaningful



*Note: Estimated probabilities
 $p < .001$

III. BEHAVIORS & ATTITUDES

Social networks are critical to young adult recruitment



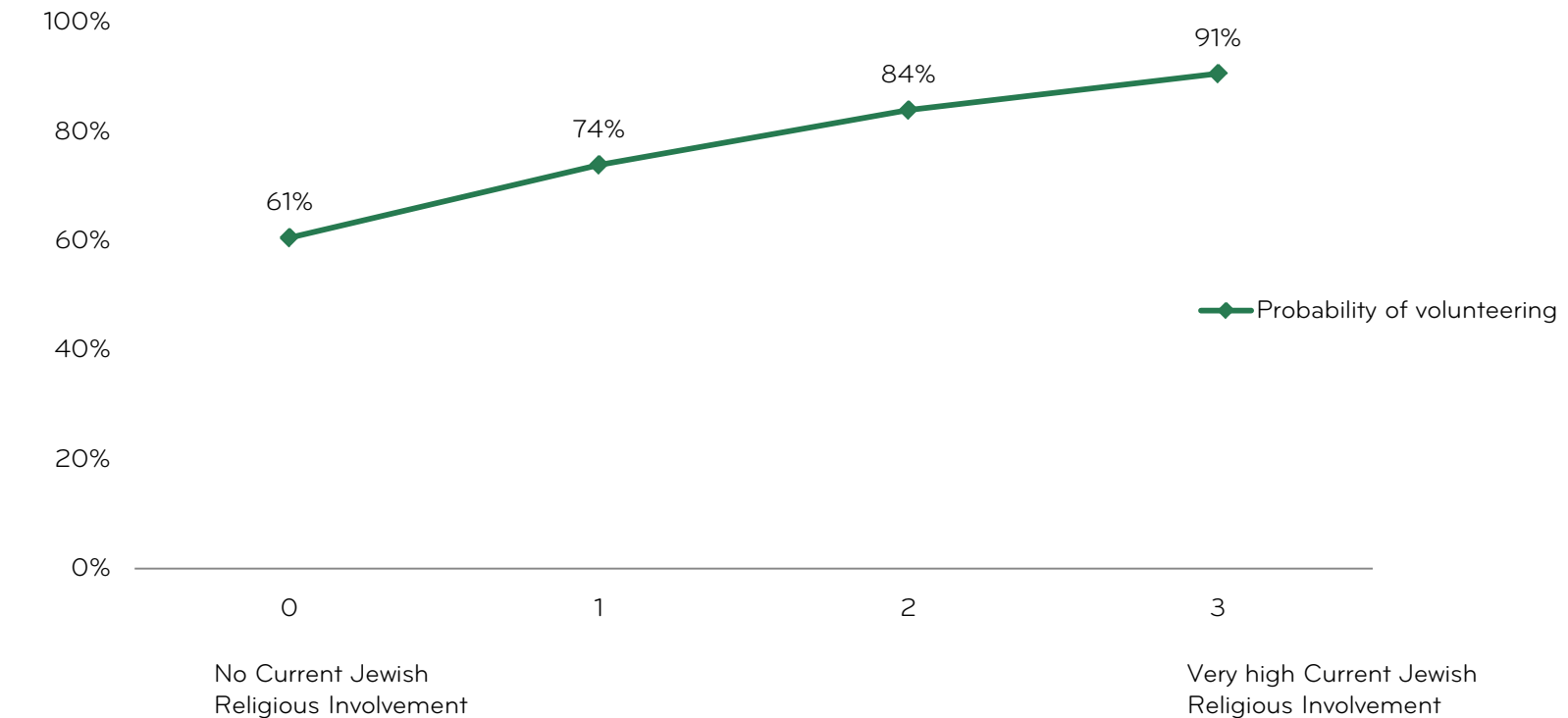
III. BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

What factors contribute to volunteering?

Factor	Any Volunteer Activity	Regular Volunteer Activity
Gender	✓	
Parental Volunteering		✓
Parental Inter-marriage	✓	
High School Volunteering	✓	
Common Good Motivations		✓
Current Jewish Religious Involvement	✓	✓

III. BEHAVIORS & ATTITUDES

Young adults who are more involved in religious life also volunteer more



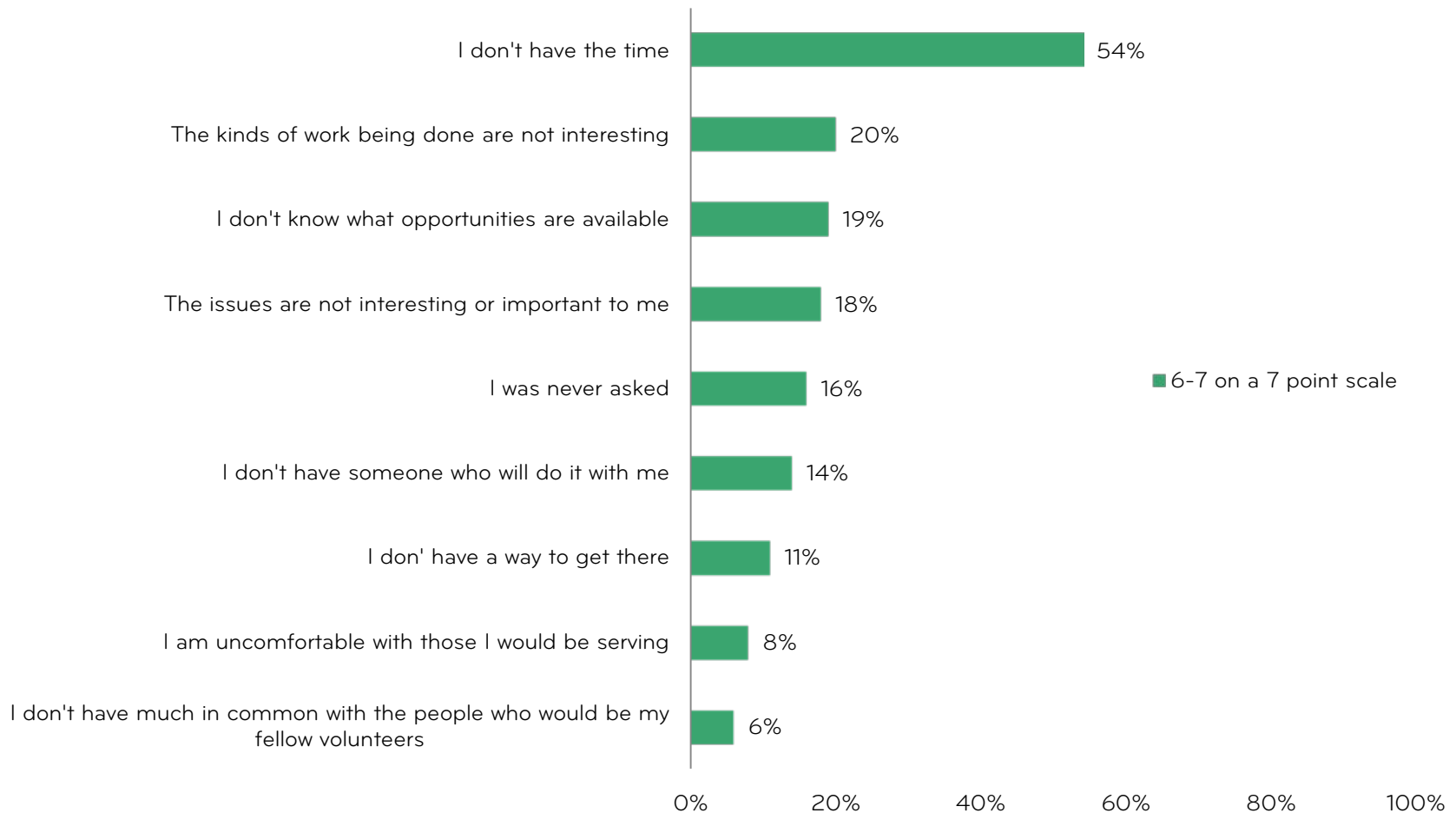
p<.001

Average Current Jewish Religious Involvement (0-3)

*Note: Estimated Probabilities

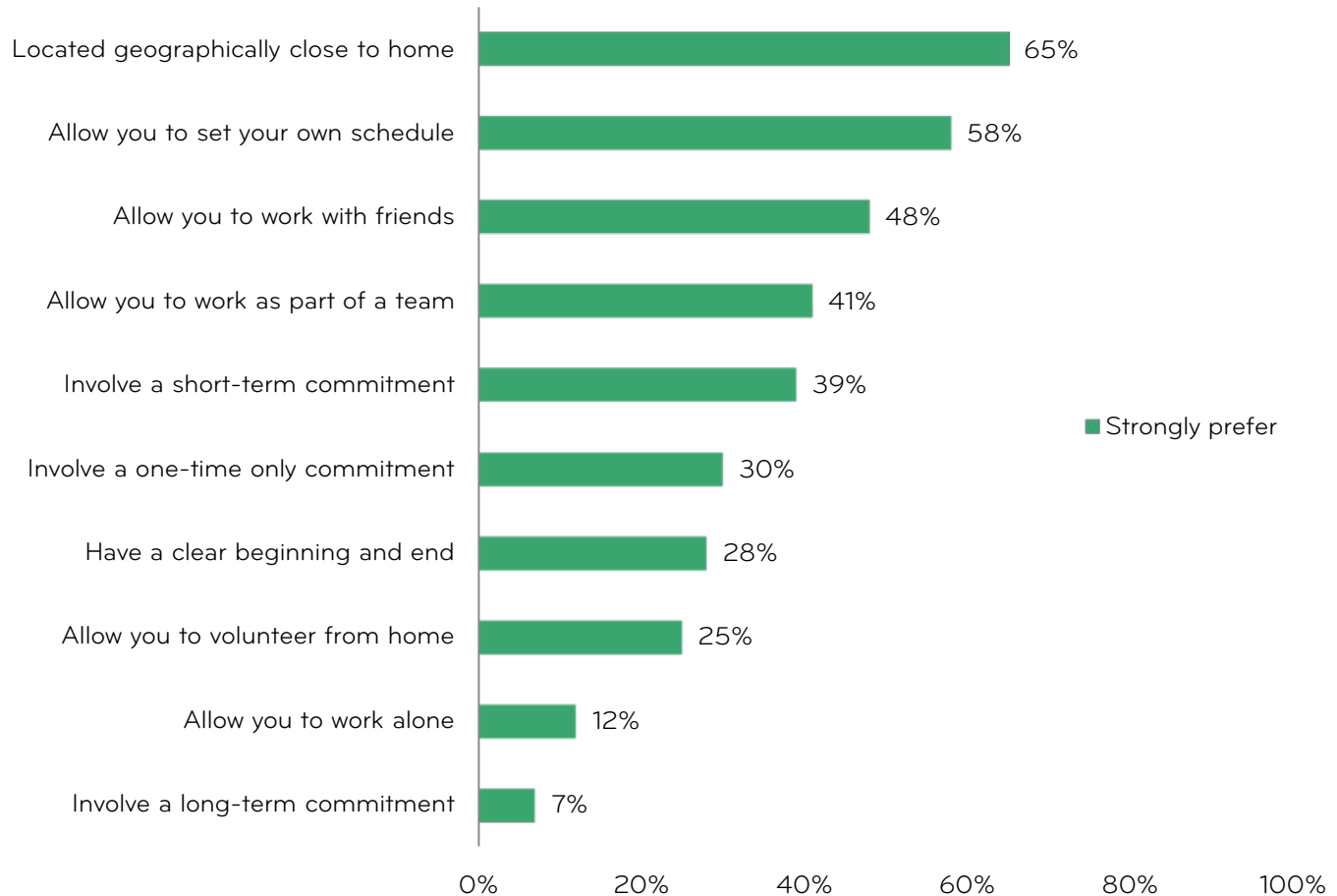
III. BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

Logistics and interest keep young adults from volunteering



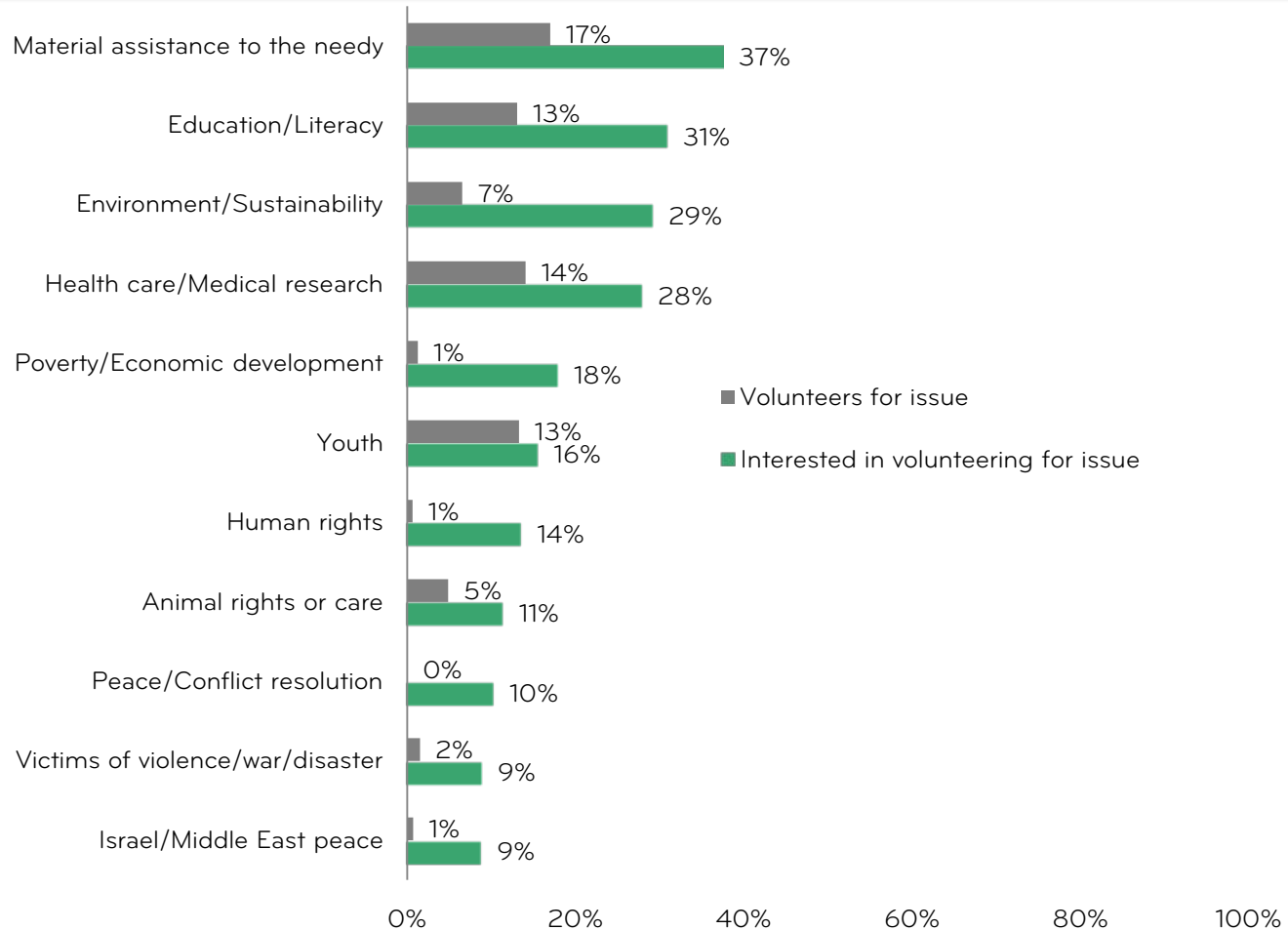
III. BEHAVIORS & ATTITUDES

Young adults prefer local, flexible options for volunteering



III. BEHAVIORS & ATTITUDES

What issues do Jewish young adults care about most?



III. BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

Only 22% volunteer with Jewish organizations

78% say it does not matter if the sponsor of their volunteer work is Jewish or non-Jewish

Most....

- Do not know what opportunities are available
- Believe that Jewish organizations are not working on the issues they care about
- Do not feel comfortable in Jewish organizational settings

III. BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

What does the data tell us about engaging Jewish young adults in service?

- Start early to build the habit of volunteering
- Expand volunteer options that relate to core concerns
- Create flexible, local options for volunteering
- Recruit through existing social networks and build new ones around volunteering
- Partner with non-Jewish organizations

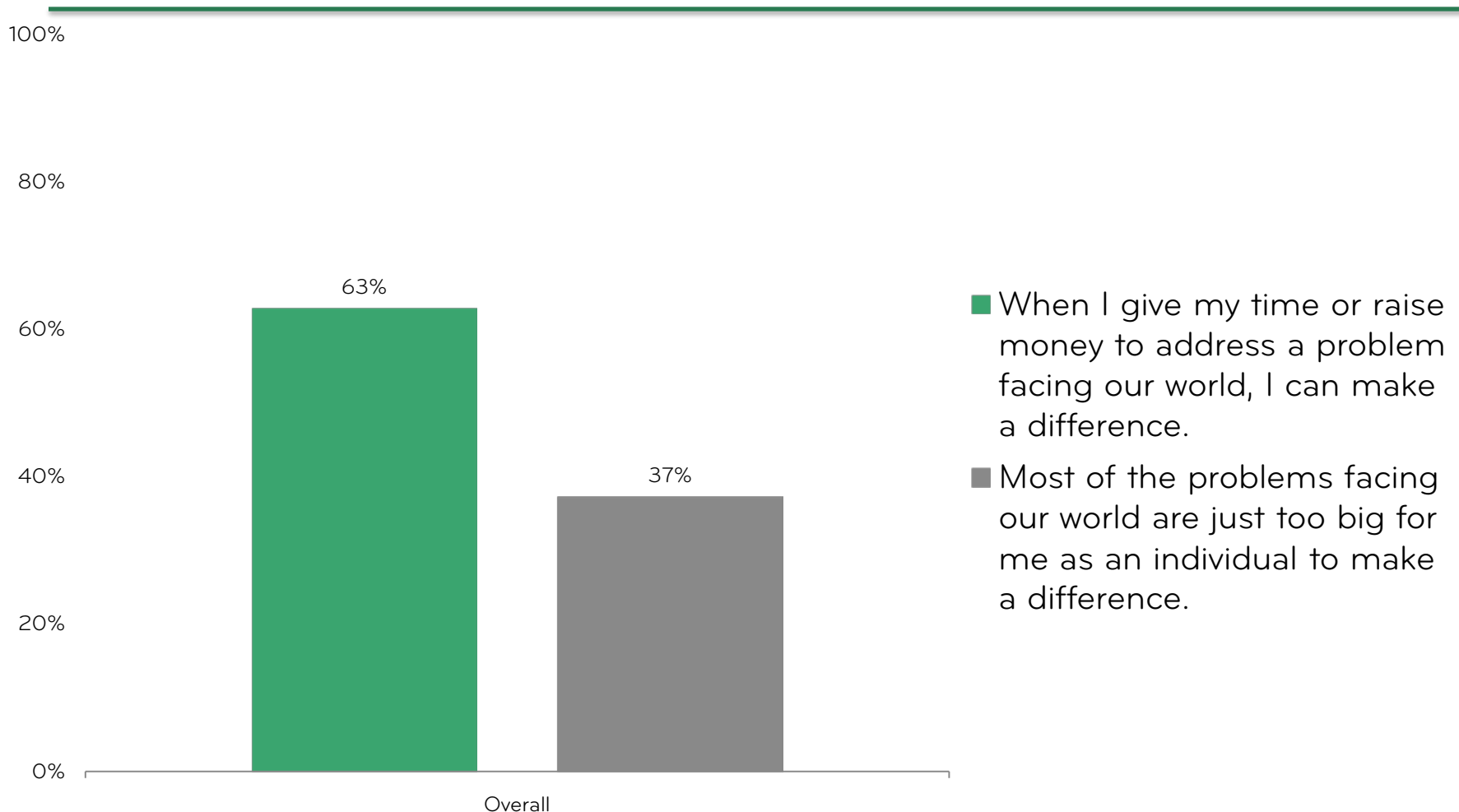
IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

How do we engage Jewish young adults in service?

- Young people believe their service can make a difference and service options should appeal to this motivation and their core interests
- Frame volunteering as an act that expresses their own values
- Wrap service in a universal context- as opposed to a parochial context
- Leverage “low-threshold” activism and their belief they can make a difference

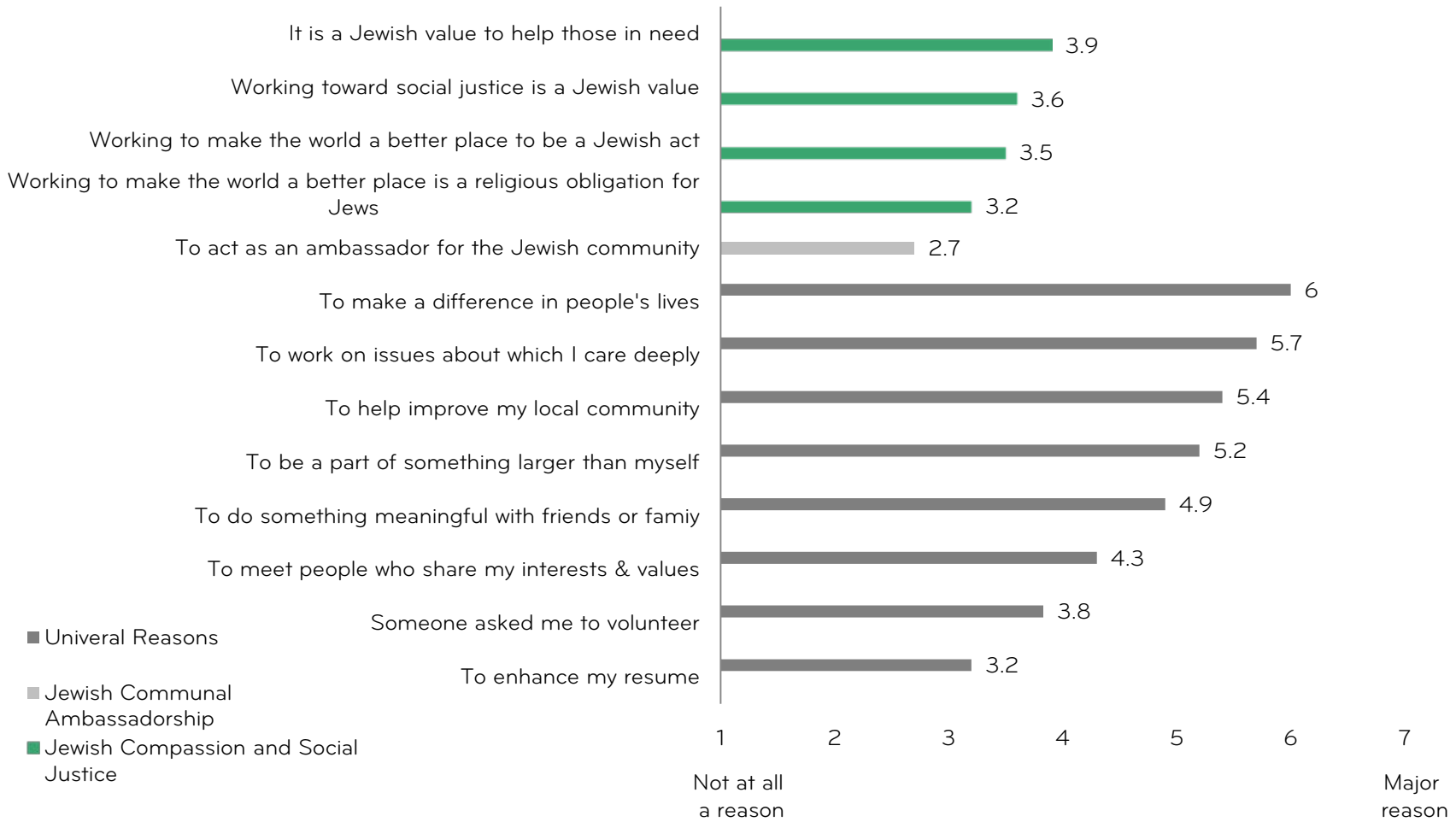
IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Jewish young adults believe they can make a difference



IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Jewish and Universal Motivations for Volunteering



IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Volunteering as an Action Based on Jewish Values

		Total	Orthodox	Conservative	Reform	Just Jewish
When I take action to make the world a better place, I usually consider it an action based on Jewish values.	Agree Strongly	10%	45%	15%	8%	7%
	Agree somewhat	17%	21%	25%	24%	11%
	Total Agree	27%	66%	40%	32%	18%
When I take action to make the world a better place, I do not usually consider it an action based on Jewish values.	Agree Strongly	44%	9%	33%	35%	52%
	Agree somewhat	29%	25%	28%	33%	30%
	Total Agree	73%	34%	60%	68%	82%

IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Preference for Recipient of Volunteer Help by Denomination/Identity

		Total	Orthodox	Conservative	Reform	Just Jewish
When thinking about volunteering, I prefer to do service that primarily helps other Jews.	Agree Strongly	4%	31%	6%	3%	3%
	Agree somewhat	12%	31%	17%	16%	7%
	Total Agree	16%	62%	23%	19%	10%
When thinking about volunteering, it is not important to me whether my service is helping Jews or helping non-Jews	Agree Strongly	63%	14%	43%	64%	68%
	Agree somewhat	21%	24%	34%	17%	22%
	Total Agree	84%	38%	77%	81%	90%

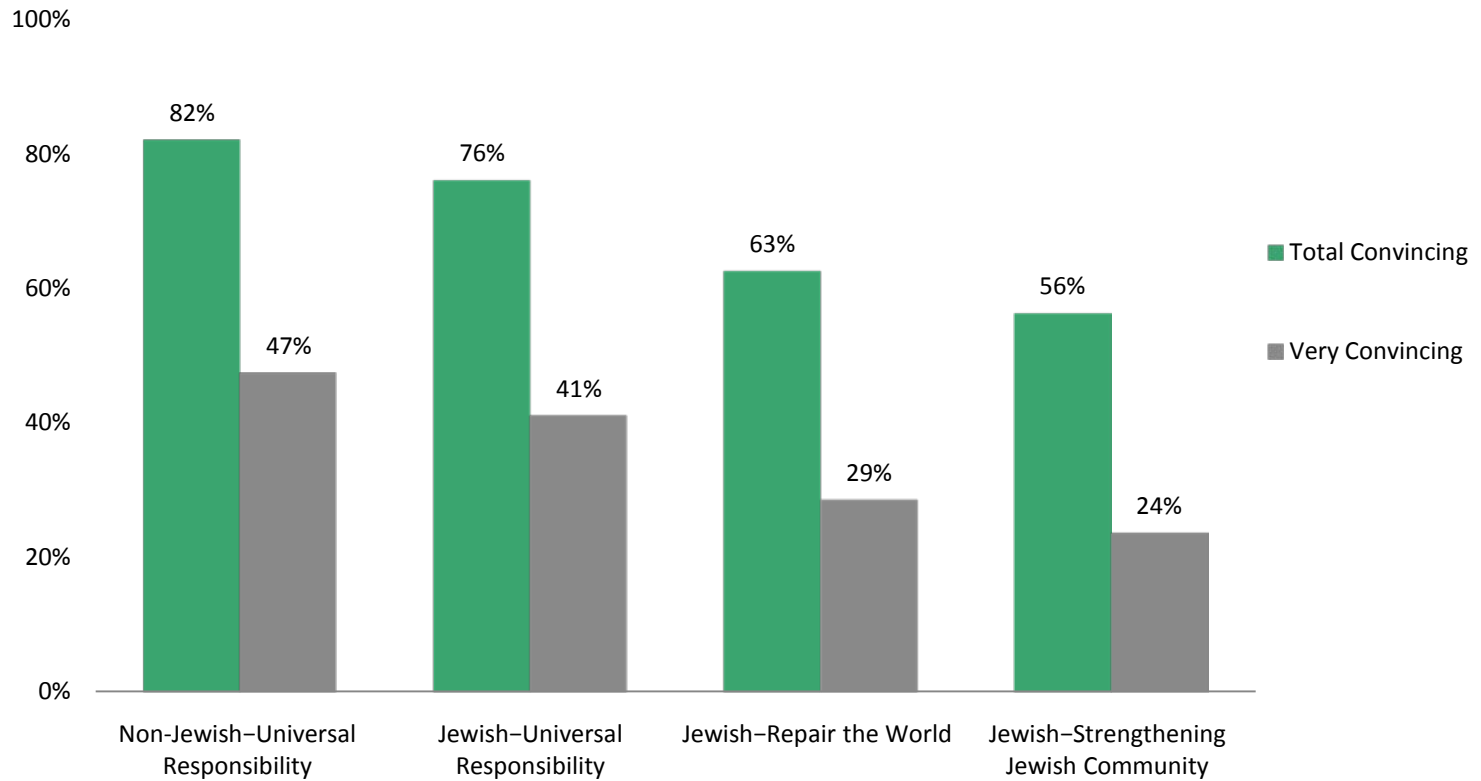
IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Messaging Frameworks

Framework	Message
Non-Jewish-Universal Responsibility	We all have a responsibility to each other. Whether it is helping the poor to make ends meet or ensuring the right of those facing discrimination, we must all pitch in and volunteer to help those who need it.
Jewish-Universal Responsibility	Jews have a responsibility to look out for those in need. As a minority that has faced discrimination and persecution throughout history, we understand the importance of helping people during difficult times.
Jewish-Repair the World	Repairing the world- also known as <i>Tikkun Olam</i> - is a guiding Jewish principle. Our religion and heritage requires that we do things that promote the welfare of society as a whole.
Jewish-Strengthening Jewish Community	A strong Jewish community is important for the prosperity of all American Jews. It is very important to contribute time to volunteer activities through or for Jewish organizations and synagogues, so we can strengthen the Jewish community.

IV. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Responses to Messaging Items



WHAT NEXT?



For Repair the World, this Study provides a key set of baseline numbers that we are committed to improving – to increase the commitment to and impact of Jewish service.

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Please email questions to be addressed during the webinar to:

questions@weRepair.org

For any additional questions or comments contact:

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