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| **Benenson Strategy Group** | November 7, 2023 |
| #6295 | JFNA Community Understanding Survey | |



The below findings were from a from a survey conducted between October 29th-November 1st, fielded by Benenson Strategy Group among a random sample of US Adults and Jewish Americans using Civis Analytics data set. That sample included 3,777 Americans, including 2,199 Jewish Americans. It had a margin of error of ± 1.59% for the general population and ± 2.09% for the Jewish population. A non-response analysis indicated no significant variables predicting response or non-response to the follow-up survey in demographics as well as ideology and views on the war in the original survey. The new responses were weighted to be representative of the general public and Jewish community.

Israel/ Hamas War

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| **Q13.** | In general, how much would you say you know about the history of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians? Would you say you know... |

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|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Nothing about the history | 3 | 0 |
|  | Not much | 22 | 6 |
|  | A fair amount | 48 | 35 |
|  | A lot about the history | 27 | 59 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | NET SOME/A LOT | 75 | 94 |
|  | NET NOT MUCH/NONE | 25 | 6 |

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| **Q15.** | What adjectives do you feel best describe Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7th? Please select all that apply. |

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|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=1878)* | **Jewish** *(n=1116)* |
|  | Genocide | 42 | 63 |
|  | Terrorism | 77 | 96 |
|  | Resistance | 16 | 17 |
|  | Freedom fighting | 10 | 2 |
|  | Propaganda | 13 | 19 |
|  | Fake news | 4 | 3 |
|  | Barbaric | 70 | 94 |
|  | Targeted | 52 | 73 |
|  | Proportionate | 3 | 9 |
|  | Rebellion | 19 | 19 |
|  | Self defense | 12 | 4 |
|  | Excessive | 53 | 77 |
|  | Justified | 9 | 0 |
|  | War crimes | 67 | 83 |
|  | Lynching | 18 | 38 |
|  | Massacre | 68 | 97 |
|  | Defiance | 20 | 15 |
|  | Unaware of what is happening | 2 | 0 |
|  | Other | 7 | 17 |
|  | None of the above | 2 | 0 |

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| **Q16.** | What adjectives do you feel best describes Israel's response to the attack of October 7th? Please select all that apply. |

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|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=1899)* | **Jewish** *(n=1083)* |
|  | Genocide | 27 | 36 |
|  | Terrorism | 25 | 34 |
|  | Resistance | 15 | 9 |
|  | Freedom fighting | 15 | 16 |
|  | Propaganda | 15 | 9 |
|  | Targeted | 32 | 41 |
|  | Proportionate | 21 | 18 |
|  | Fake news | 7 | 8 |
|  | Barbaric | 28 | 37 |
|  | Rebellion | 10 | 2 |
|  | Self defense | 53 | 57 |
|  | Excessive | 39 | 40 |
|  | Justified | 44 | 54 |
|  | War crimes | 35 | 32 |
|  | Lynching | 11 | 15 |
|  | Massacre | 33 | 35 |
|  | Defiance | 11 | 9 |
|  | Unaware of what is happening | 4 | 0 |
|  | Other | 9 | 9 |
|  | None of the above | 3 | 0 |

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| **Q17.** | Do you personally know someone who has been killed, hurt, or displaced because of this conflict? |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | I personally know someone | 4 | 15 |
|  | I have friends who know someone | 13 | 34 |
|  | Friends of friends know someone | 6 | 11 |
|  | I do not know have personal connections to victims | 77 | 40 |

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| **Q18.** | Is that person/people... |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=1637)* | **Jewish** *(n=1258)* |
|  | Israeli | 35 | 86 |
|  | Palestinian | 35 | 2 |
|  | Both Israelis and Palestinians | 18 | 6 |
|  | Other | 8 | 5 |
|  | None of the above | 5 | 1 |

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| **Q19.** | Do you think Israel's military response to the attack by Hamas has been... |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Insufficient | 12 | 11 |
|  | Appropriate | 36 | 59 |
|  | Excessive | 34 | 21 |
|  | Other | 6 | 6 |
|  | Not sure / Don't know | 13 | 4 |

**Q20**. To what extent do you feel empathy for:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Not at all | A little | Somewhat | Very much | Net somewhat/very much | Net a little/none |
| **Q20r1.** Israelis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 13 | 25 | 55 | 80 | 20 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 6 | 9 | 86 | 94 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q20r2.** Palestinians |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  | 15 | 21 | 22 | 42 | 64 | 36 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  | 21 | 21 | 22 | 36 | 58 | 42 |

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| **Q21.** | How concerned are you that the war between Israel and Hamas will escalate into a wider war in the Middle East and beyond? |

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|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Not concerned at all | 4 | 1 |
|  | Not very concerned | 6 | 5 |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 35 | 39 |
|  | Very concerned | 52 | 55 |
|  | Not sure / Don't know | 3 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | NET CONCERNED | 87 | 94 |
|  | NET NOT CONCERNED | 10 | 6 |

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| **Q23.** | In your opinion, do you think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other? |

|  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Yes, can coexist peacefully | 59 | 63 |
|  | No, cannot coexist peacefully | 41 | 37 |

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| **Q24.** | Which of the following do you think is most to blame for Israel and Palestine not being able to coexist peacefully? |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=1459)* | **Jewish** *(n=821)* |
|  | Israel | 15 | 4 |
|  | Jewish Israelis | 1 | 0 |
|  | Palestinians | 7 | 7 |
|  | Hamas | 39 | 50 |
|  | Other Palestinian militant groups | 6 | 6 |
|  | The Palestinian Authority | 6 | 4 |
|  | The United States | 1 | 3 |
|  | Other Arab / Middle East Nations | 10 | 13 |
|  | Other | 11 | 6 |
|  | None of the above | 4 | 5 |

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| **Q25.** | Do you believe Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish state? |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=1878)* | **Jewish** *(n=1116)* |
|  | Yes | 76 | 91 |
|  | No | 13 | 4 |
|  | Not sure / Don't know | 10 | 6 |

General Attitudes and Feelings

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| **Q27.** | How much, if at all, is the news about the war between Israel and Hamas emotionally affecting you? Is it affecting you... |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Not at all | 14 | 2 |
|  | Not much | 26 | 10 |
|  | Somewhat | 38 | 30 |
|  | A great deal | 21 | 57 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | NET AFFECTING | 59 | 88 |
|  | NET NOT AFFECTING | 41 | 12 |

**Q33.** Thinking about the war between Israel and Hamas, how much do you think the following people in your life understand how you feel?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | They understand a lot | They understand a little | They do not understand at all | I do not know/have these people in my life | Not sure / Don't know |
| **Q33r1.** Jewish friends |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=1899)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 23 | 19 | 3 | 28 | 26 |
| **Jewish *(n=1083)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 76 | 13 | 0 | 8 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q33r2.** Muslim friends |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=1899)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 16 | 12 | 2 | 40 | 29 |
| **Jewish *(n=1083)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 27 | 18 | 8 | 26 | 21 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q33r3.** Non-Jewish or Muslim friends |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=1899)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15 | 29 | 7 | 19 | 30 |
| **Jewish *(n=1083)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 14 | 59 | 10 | 5 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q33r4.** Leadership at work or school |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=1899)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 | 18 | 10 | 19 | 43 |
| **Jewish *(n=1083)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 18 | 20 | 12 | 13 | 37 |

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| **Q34.** | How would you describe the climate, or how things feel for you personally, in your local community since the war between Israel and Hamas started? The climate feels... |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Normal | 36 | 16 |
|  | Tense | 21 | 32 |
|  | Uncomfortable | 13 | 21 |
|  | Solemn | 9 | 10 |
|  | Fun | 0 | 0 |
|  | Relaxed | 1 | 0 |
|  | Safe | 4 | 3 |
|  | Scary | 4 | 10 |
|  | Other | 2 | 1 |
|  | Not sure / Don't know | 10 | 6 |

**Q35.** Since the war between Israel and Hamas started, how has it affected your ability to share your views about what's going on there with each of the following entities? Has it been harder, easier or has there been no change?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Harder to share your views | Easier to share your views | No change | Not applicable |
| **Q35r1.** With your Jewish friends |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 17 | 11 | 39 | 33 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15 | 42 | 37 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r2.** With your Muslim or Arab friends |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12 | 8 | 33 | 46 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 34 | 7 | 27 | 32 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r3.** With your non-Jewish friends |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 14 | 12 | 61 | 14 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 30 | 17 | 47 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r4.** At work/school |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 20 | 5 | 42 | 32 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 33 | 5 | 31 | 30 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r5.** People with a different opinion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 35 | 5 | 48 | 11 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 59 | 8 | 26 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r6.** With family |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12 | 17 | 64 | 7 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13 | 36 | 49 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r7.** With non-religious organizations or groups you belong to |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15 | 5 | 48 | 32 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 28 | 4 | 39 | 29 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q35r8.** On your social media posts |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=3777)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 24 | 8 | 40 | 28 |
| **Jewish *(n=2199)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45 | 10 | 22 | 23 |

**Q40.** How satisfied are you with how your local community or area responded to these acts of violence or hate?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | Not satisfied at all | Not very satisfied | Somewhat satisfied | Very satisfied | I don't know enough to say | Net satisfied | Net not satisfied |
| **Q40r1.** Police |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=854)*** |  |  |  |  | 16 | 21 | 37 | 8 | 17 | 45 | 38 |
| **Jewish *(n=634)*** |  |  |  |  | 7 | 15 | 42 | 18 | 18 | 60 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q40r2.** Local Jewish leaders |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=854)*** |  |  |  |  | 6 | 23 | 27 | 13 | 30 | 40 | 29 |
| **Jewish *(n=634)*** |  |  |  |  | 6 | 7 | 26 | 47 | 15 | 72 | 13 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q40r3.** Local Muslim leaders |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=854)*** |  |  |  |  | 20 | 25 | 16 | 15 | 24 | 31 | 45 |
| **Jewish *(n=634)*** |  |  |  |  | 32 | 18 | 8 | 4 | 38 | 12 | 50 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q40r4.** Other local religious leaders |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=854)*** |  |  |  |  | 13 | 34 | 27 | 7 | 20 | 34 | 46 |
| **Jewish *(n=634)*** |  |  |  |  | 15 | 17 | 33 | 6 | 29 | 39 | 32 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Q40r5.** Other local civic group leaders |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gen Pop  *(n=854)*** |  |  |  |  | 14 | 28 | 27 | 6 | 26 | 33 | 41 |
| **Jewish *(n=634)*** |  |  |  |  | 23 | 12 | 33 | 4 | 29 | **36** | **35** |

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| **Q68.** | Have you ever visited a museum about the Holocaust or taken part in other ways about learning about the Holocaust? |

|  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Yes | 70 | 91 |
|  | No | 27 | 8 |
|  | Don't know / Not sure | 3 | 1 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Q75.** | How much, if any, do you feel you have in common with Jews in Israel? |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=2199)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | A lot | 26 | 26 |
|  | Some | 39 | 39 |
|  | Not much | 26 | 26 |
|  | Nothing at all | 9 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | NET A LOT/SOME | 65 | 65 |
|  | NET NOT MUCH/NOTHING | 35 | 35 |

|  |  |
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| **Q81.** | Do you consider yourself a: |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Strong Democrat | 11 | 23 |
|  | Democrat | 21 | 23 |
|  | Strong Republican | 11 | 2 |
|  | Republican | 13 | 11 |
|  | Independent | 35 | 27 |
|  | Other | 7 | 12 |
|  | Don't know / Unsure | 2 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | NET DEMOCRAT | 32 | 46 |
|  | NET REPUBLICAN | 25 | 14 |
|  | NET INDEPENDENT | 44 | 40 |

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| **Q82.** | When it comes to political issues, do you generally consider yourself to be: |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Very conservative | 10 | 3 |
|  | Somewhat conservative | 19 | 12 |
|  | Moderate | 47 | 32 |
|  | Somewhat liberal | 10 | 32 |
|  | Very liberal | 12 | 18 |
|  | Unsure / Prefer not to answer | 3 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | NET CONSERVATIVE | 29 | 15 |
|  | NET LIBERAL | 22 | 50 |
|  | NET MODERATE | 50 | 35 |

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| **QParents** | How many children age 18 or younger live in your household? |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3606)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | 0 | 66 | 71 |
|  | 1 | 17 | 12 |
|  | 2 | 12 | 12 |
|  | 3 | 4 | 4 |
|  | 4+ | 2 | 1 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **QChildren** | How old? |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=683)* | **Jewish** *(n=373)* |
|  | 0-5 | 37 | 42 |
|  | 6-12 | 37 | 34 |
|  | 13-17 | 37 | 31 |
|  | I do not have children | 12 | 23 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Qage3.** | Age |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | Under 18 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 18-24 | 12 | 11 |
|  | 25-34 | 17 | 15 |
|  | 35-44 | 16 | 13 |
|  | 45-54 | 16 | 13 |
|  | 55-64 | 17 | 19 |
|  | 65-74 | 13 | 16 |
|  | 75+ | 9 | 14 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **QGender** | Are you... |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Gen Pop**  *(n=3777)* | **Jewish** *(n=2199)* |
|  | A man | 49 | 49 |
|  | A woman | 46 | 51 |
|  | Neither / Non-Binary | 0 | 0 |
|  | Prefer not to answer | 4 | 0 |