

THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT



CHIP50 The new home of the COVID States Project

www.chip50.org

THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT: A 50-STATE SURVEY REPORT #108: JEWISH AMERICAN VIEWS ON THE 2024 ELECTION (PART II)

USA, October 2024

Allison Wan, Northeastern University
John Wihbey, Northeastern University
James Druckman, University of Rochester
Alexi Quintana, Northeastern University
Matthew A. Baum, Harvard University
Roy H. Perlis, Harvard Medical School
Katherine Ognyanova, Rutgers University
Mauricio Santillana, Northeastern University
Ata Uslu, Northeastern University
Hong Qu, Northeastern University
David Lazer, Northeastern University



Northeastern University
Network Science Institute



HARVARD Kennedy School
SHORENSTEIN CENTER
on Media, Politics and Public Policy



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL



RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT

Report of October 18, 2024, v.1

The Civic Health and Institutions Project
and
The COVID States Project

A joint initiative of:

Northeastern University,
Harvard University,
Rutgers University,
University of Rochester

This report is based on work supported by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

This research was partly supported by a grant from the *Knight Foundation*.

We also received generous support from the *Russell Sage Foundation*.

The project was also supported by the *Peter G. Peterson Foundation*.

Data collection was supported in part by *Amazon*.

Our work was made possible through the continued financial and logistic support provided by *Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and University of Rochester*.



Northeastern University
Network Science Institute



COVER MEMO

The Civic Health and Institutions Project

The COVID States Project

Partners:

Northeastern University, Harvard University/Harvard Medical School, Rutgers University, and University of Rochester

Authors:

Allison Wan (Northeastern University); John Wihbey (Northeastern University); James Druckman (University of Rochester); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University); Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Mauricio Santillana (Northeastern University); Ata Uslu (Northeastern University); Hong Qu (Northeastern University); and David Lazer (Northeastern University)

Note on methods:

Between August 30, 2024 and October 8, 2024, we collected a total of 27,993 responses from individuals age 18 and older across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The surveys were conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample. Extensive data quality checks were employed. The sample included 907 Jewish respondents and 27,026 non-Jewish respondents. Jewish respondents answered all questions. For some questions, all non-Jewish respondents were asked. For other questions, only a smaller, randomly selected subsample of the non-Jewish participants were asked. Non-responses were excluded from the calculation of reported percentages. The non-Jewish sample was weighted to reflect the US population with regard to gender, race, age, region, urbanicity, and education. The Jewish sample was weighted to the US national Jewish population on gender, race, age, region, and whether the respondent was a religious or non-religious Jew, based on reports by the Pew Research Center and American Jewish Population Project. More information on methodology is available at www.chip50.org/survey-methodology.

Contact information:

For additional information and press requests, contact:

- David Lazer at d.lazer@neu.edu
- James Druckman at jdruckma@ur.rochester.edu
- Matthew A. Baum at matthew_baum@hks.harvard.edu
- Katherine Ognyanova at katya.ognyanova@rutgers.edu
- Roy H. Perlis at rperlis@mgh.harvard.edu
- Mauricio Santillana at m.santillana@northeastern.edu

Or visit us at www.chip50.org or www.covidstates.org.

Jewish American Views on the 2024 Election (Part II)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- American Jews expressed acute concern over issues of antisemitism in the United States, with 54% saying it is a “very serious” problem compared to only 27% of non-Jews who held the same view.
- On the issue of Islamophobia, Jewish Americans voiced much more concern than non-Jews, with 40% saying it is a “very serious” problem compared to only 25% of non-Jews expressing such high levels of concern.
- When asked whether they would support restrictions “prohibiting speech that opposes Israel’s existence as a Jewish state” on college campuses, Jews were significantly more likely to support such speech bans, with 39% of Jews and 21% of non-Jews strongly or somewhat in support.

Introduction

Following [Part I of this report](#), this second report explores the views and preferences of a national sample of American Jews on issues of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and campus speech restrictions, following the U.S. college protests throughout 2024.

Building on CHIP50’s February 2024 report, [“How Do Americans Feel about Israel, Palestine, Jews, and Muslims?”](#), the current report, based on a national survey fielded in August 30 to October 8, 2024, compares the responses of American Jews (n=907) to non-Jews among the full national sample of all U.S. persons (N=27,933).

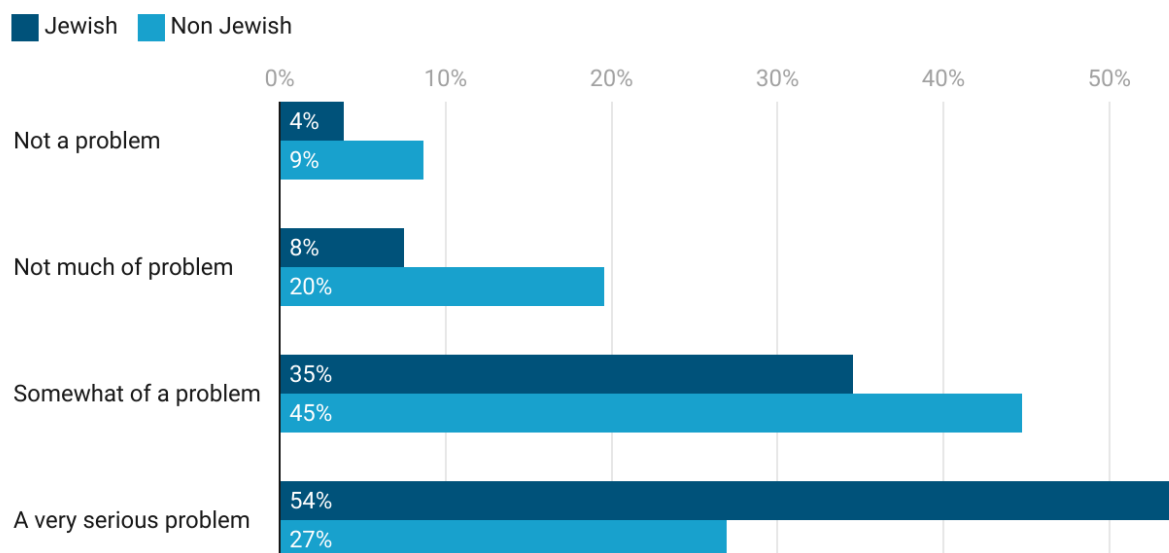
This method allows for a deeper look at the distinctive concerns of persons of Jewish faith and descent, relative to the wider pool of non-Jewish American respondents.

The following are key highlights from the survey. A full data table of relevant findings is available in the Appendix.

Concerns over Antisemitism

American Jews expressed acute concern over issues of antisemitism in the United States, with 54% saying it is a “very serious” problem and 35% saying it is “somewhat” of a problem. This compares with only 27% of non-Jews characterizing antisemitism as a very serious problem, and 45% saying it is somewhat of a problem. Overall, nearly 3 in 10 non-Jews (29%) believe that antisemitism is either not much of a problem or not a problem at all.

How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? Antisemitism



National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 1.

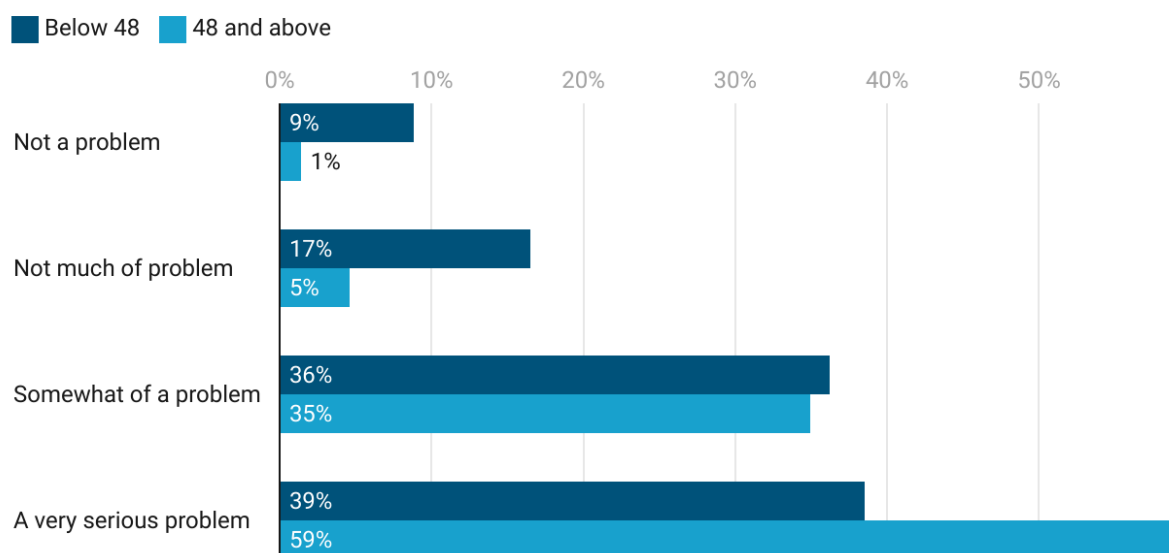
Comparing Younger, Older Jews on Antisemitism

We also investigated how older (age 48 and above) and younger (below 48) American Jews view the issue of antisemitism in U.S. society. (Age 48 is the median age in the entire sample.) Overall, older Jewish respondents were much more concerned, with 59% calling it a “very serious” problem; this compares with only 39% of younger Jews expressing similar views. Fewer than 1 in 10 older Jewish respondents thought antisemitism was not a problem or not much of a problem, while more than a quarter of younger Jews (26%) had similar doubts about the significance of such discriminatory views.

These numbers are suggestive of a generational difference in views of the seriousness of antisemitism. This may reflect a generational shift (cohort effects), or reflect age effects, where older people have had more opportunity to experience antisemitism, and younger Jewish people may shift their beliefs about the seriousness of anti-Semitism as they get older.

How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? Antisemitism

Jewish respondents only.



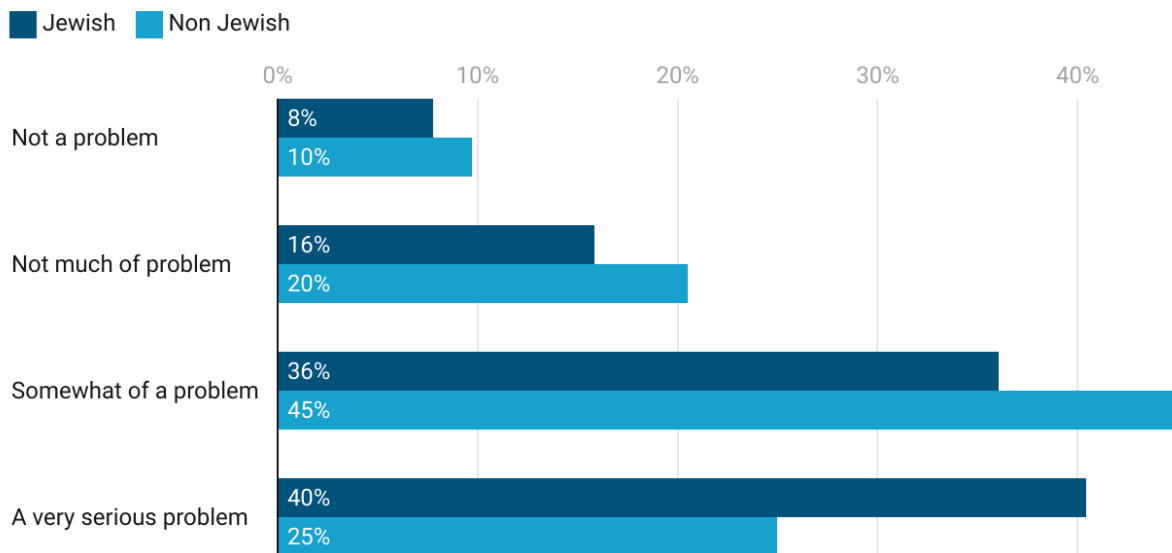
National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 2.

Jewish Concern over Islamophobia

On the issue of Islamophobia, Jewish Americans voiced much more concern than non-Jews, with 40% saying it is a “very serious” problem, compared with only 25% of non-Jews expressing such high levels of concern. More than three-quarters (76%) of all Jewish respondents felt that negative views toward Muslims and Islam were either a very serious problem or somewhat of a problem. About one-quarter of Jews (24%) and one-third of non-Jews surveyed (30%) said Islamophobia is not a problem or not much of a problem.

How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? Islamophobia



National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

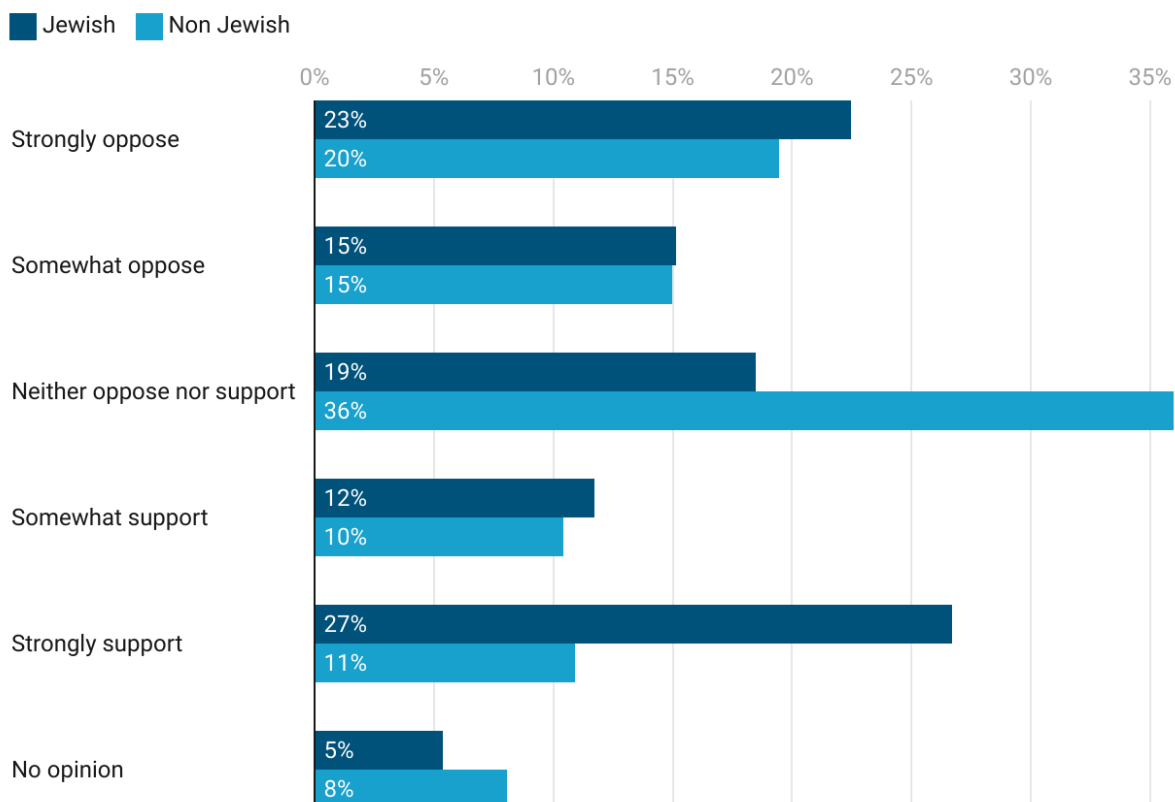
Figure 3.

Campus Speech and Anti-Israel Rhetoric

Given the many college campus protests earlier in 2024 over Israel’s military incursion into Gaza, we also asked respondents how they viewed speech hostile to the existence of the state of Israel. When asked whether they would support “prohibiting speech that opposes Israel’s existence as a Jewish state,” Jews were significantly more likely to support speech restrictions (39% of Jews; 21% of non-Jews strongly or somewhat support.) Our findings suggest, however, that Jews are

much more likely to have an opinion on the matter either way: 36% of non-Jews indicated they neither oppose nor support speech bans, compared to only 19% of Jewish respondents who declined to take a position.

When it comes to campus protests related to Israel, do you support or oppose the following? Prohibiting speech that opposes Israel’s existence as a Jewish state.



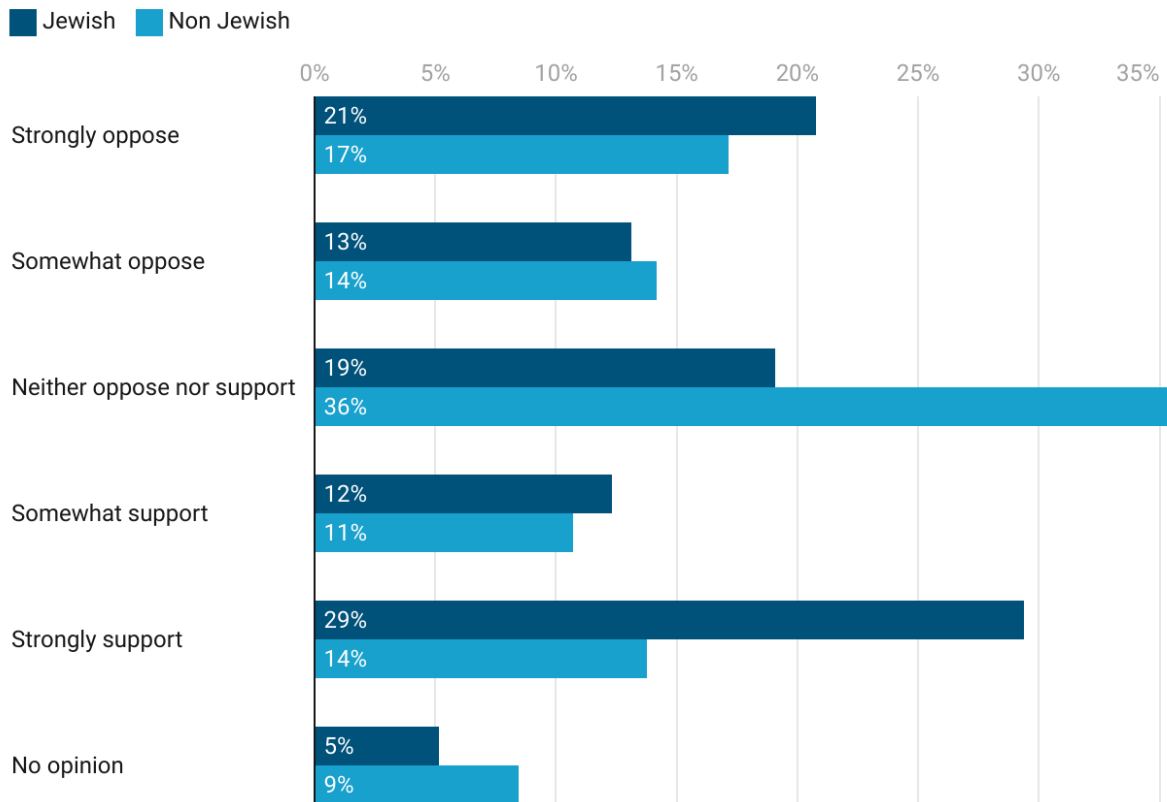
National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 4.

Banning Hamas Support on Campus

When asked about policies banning speech on college campuses supporting the Palestinian militant group Hamas, Jewish respondents favor such a ban (41% in support, 34% in opposition); while non-Jewish respondents are against it (25% vs. 31%). Notably, Jews generally had stronger opinions on the issue either way: Some 36% of non-Jews neither supported nor opposed restrictions, compared to only 19% of Jews.

When it comes to campus protests related to Israel, do you support or oppose the following? Prohibiting speech that supports Hamas



National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 5.

Conclusion

This report finds that, on broader domestic matters, Jews expressed greater concern over antisemitism than non-Jews, but older Jewish respondents are much more concerned than younger Jews, a difference that merits investigation in future research. Jewish Americans also thought Islamophobia was a more serious concern than non-Jews did. Further, a plurality of Jews supported restrictions on college campus rhetoric and protests that are either pro-Hamas or anti-Israel, but significant numbers of Jewish respondents also opposed restrictions on speech.

Appendix A: Data Tables

Values in parentheses represent margins of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

Table 1. How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? –
Antisemitism, All Ages

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Not a problem	35	3.9% (1.3%)	282	8.7% (1%)
Not much of a problem	68	7.5% (1.7%)	637	19.6% (1.4%)
Somewhat of a problem	313	34.6% (3.1%)	1452	44.7% (1.7%)
A very serious problem	489	54% (3.2%)	878	27% (1.5%)
Total	905	100%	3249	100%

Table 2. How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? –
Antisemitism, Below Age 48

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Not a problem	35	8.8% (2.8%)	201	11% (1.4%)
Not much of a problem	66	16.5% (3.6%)	410	22.4% (1.9%)
Somewhat of a problem	145	36.2% (4.7%)	826	45.1% (2.3%)
A very serious problem	154	38.5% (4.8%)	393	21.5% (1.9%)
Total	400	100%	1830	100%

Table 3. How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? –
Antisemitism, Age 48 and Above

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Not a problem	7	1.4% (1%)	70	4.9% (1.1%)
Not much of a problem	23	4.6% (1.8%)	223	15.6% (1.9%)
Somewhat of a problem	177	35% (4.2%)	654	45.8% (2.6%)
A very serious problem	298	59% (4.3%)	482	33.7% (2.5%)
Total	505	100%	1429	100%

Table 4. How much of a problem are the following issues in the US today? –
Islamophobia

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Not a problem	71	7.8% (1.7%)	316	9.7% (1%)
Not much of a problem	143	15.8% (2.4%)	664	20.5% (1.4%)
Somewhat of a problem	327	36.1% (3.1%)	1452	44.8% (1.7%)
A very serious problem	365	40.4% (3.2%)	811	25% (1.5%)
Total	905	100%	3242	100%

Table 5. When it comes to campus protests related to Israel, do you support or oppose the following? **Prohibiting speech that opposes Israel’s existence as a Jewish state.**

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Strongly oppose	203	22.5% (2.7%)	637	19.5% (1.4%)
Somewhat oppose	137	15.2% (2.3%)	489	15% (1.2%)
Neither oppose nor support	167	18.5% (2.5%)	1172	36% (1.6%)
Somewhat support	106	11.7% (2.1%)	339	10.4% (1%)
Strongly support	242	26.7% (2.9%)	355	10.9% (1.1%)
No opinion	49	5.4% (1.5%)	265	8.1% (0.9%)
Total	905	100%	3258	100%

Table 6. When it comes to campus protests related to Israel, do you support or oppose the following? **Prohibiting speech that supports Hamas.**

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Strongly oppose	188	20.8% (2.6%)	559	17.2% (1.3%)
Somewhat oppose	118	13.1% (2.2%)	460	14.2% (1.2%)
Neither oppose nor support	173	19.1% (2.6%)	1156	35.6% (1.6%)
Somewhat support	111	12.3% (2.1%)	347	10.7% (1.1%)
Strongly support	266	29.4% (3%)	450	13.8% (1.2%)
No opinion	47	5.2% (1.5%)	277	8.5% (1%)
Total	904	100%	3249	100%