



JEWISH FUTURES:

Holding Hope

**Exploring Hope: Insights and
Applications from the M² Hope Study**

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AGENDA

- Share Insights from The Hope Survey
- Experience a resource about hope
- Consider the implications for our work

STAND UP IF YOUR PRIMARY WORK IS IN A:

DAY SCHOOL

SYNAGOGUE

JCC OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

SUMMER CAMP

UNIVERSITY OR TEEN PROGRAMMING

OTHER EDUCATIONAL SETTING

STAND IF YOUR WORK PRIMARILY SERVES:

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

TEENS

ADULTS & LIFELONG LEARNERS

YOUNG ADULTS

MULTIGENERATIONAL COMMUNITIES

WHAT IS ONE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE FINDING HOPE AT THIS MOMENT?

SCAN BELOW OR GO TO: [BIT.LY/MENTI-HOPE](https://bit.ly/MENTI-HOPE)

ACCESS CODE: 1353 6889



Understanding Hope

Theoretical Framework

Hope as Active Process (C.R. Snyder)

1

Agency

The motivation and will to take action—believing you can move forward

2

Pathways

Finding ways to reach your goals, including alternative routes when blocked

RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS

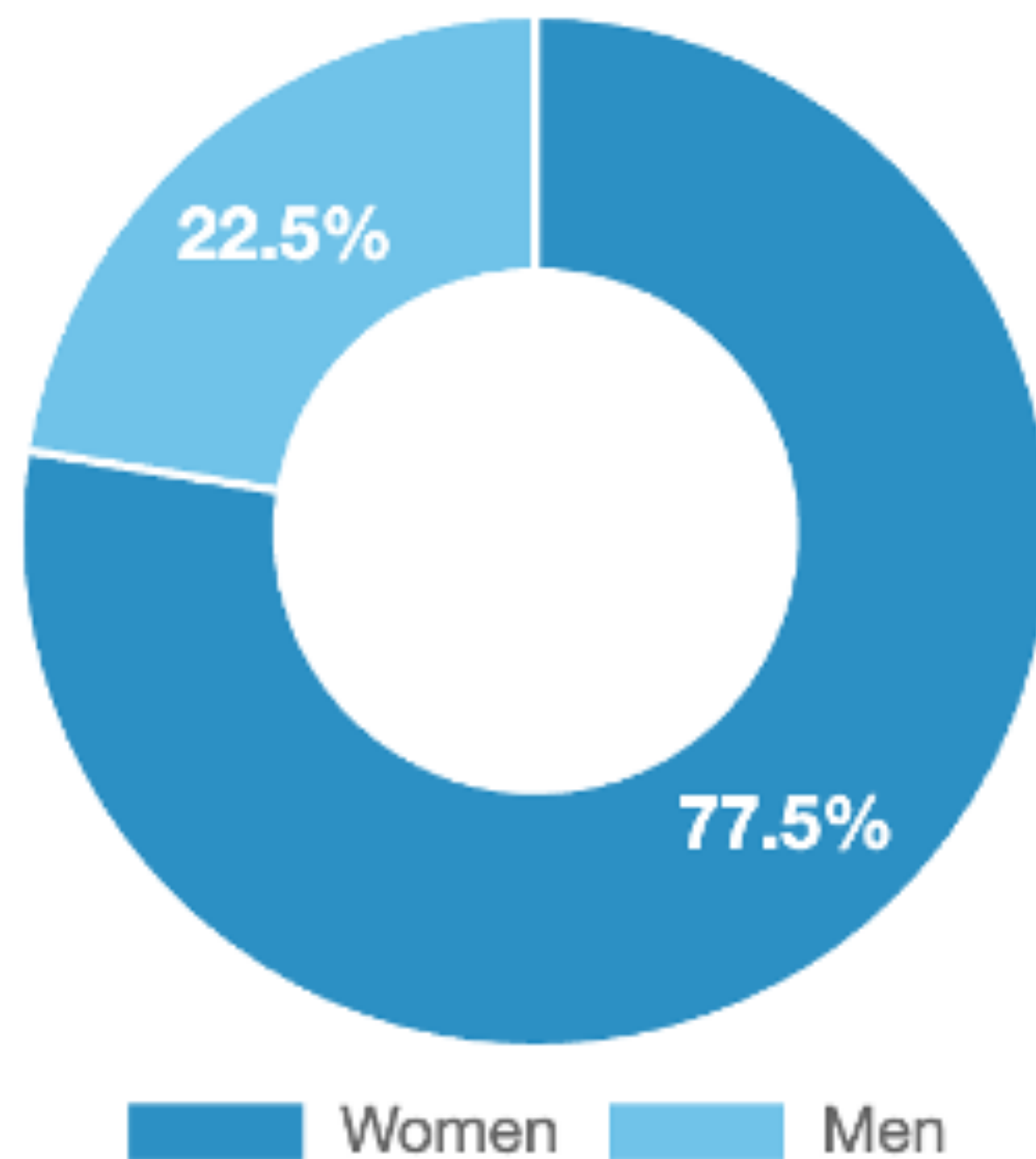
*"Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; **hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better**. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one."*

Our Study's Focus

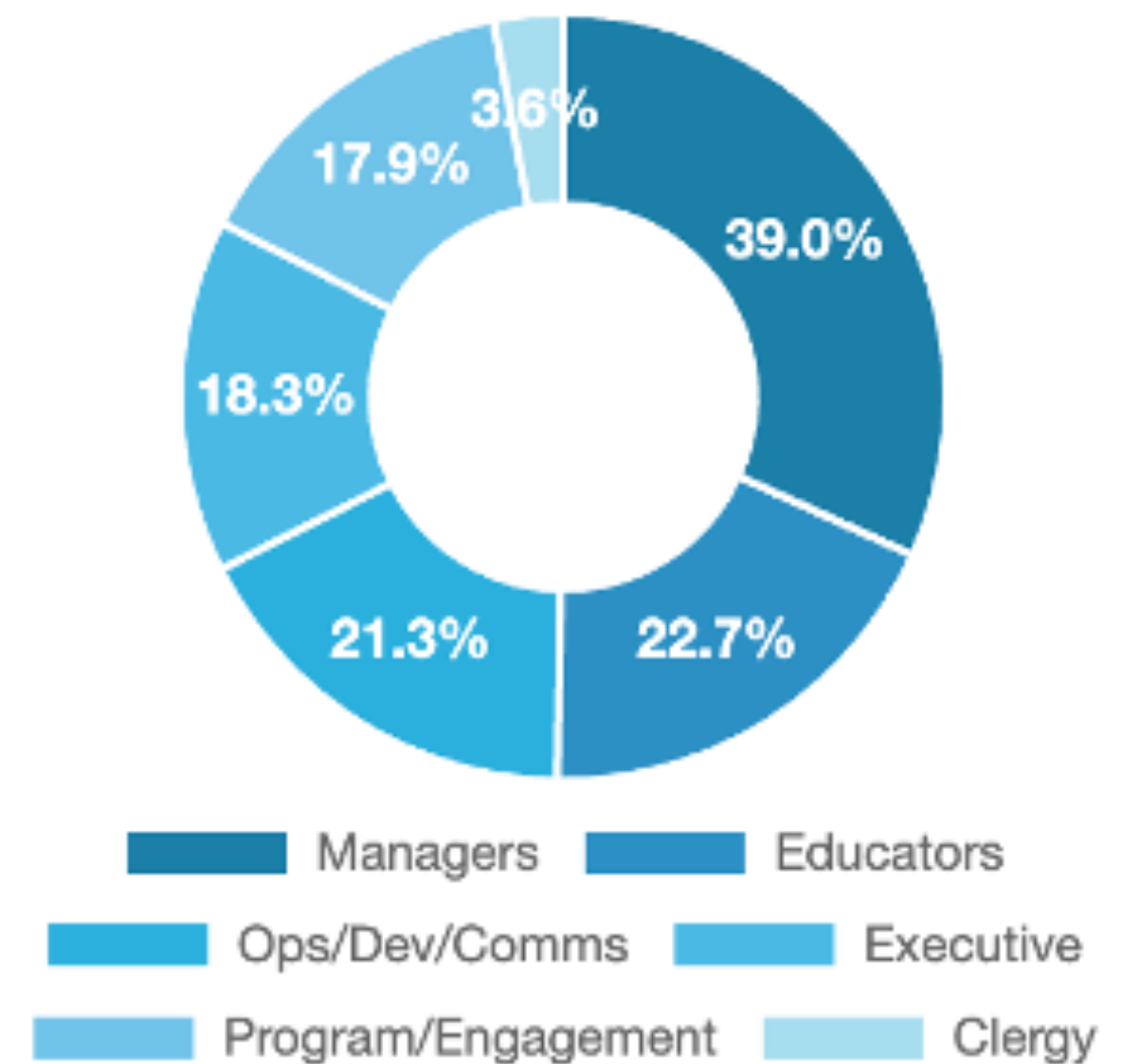
This hope study is **action-oriented**—helping individuals and organizations **create pathways** to sustain Jewish professionals through crisis.

RESPONDENTS

Gender Distribution

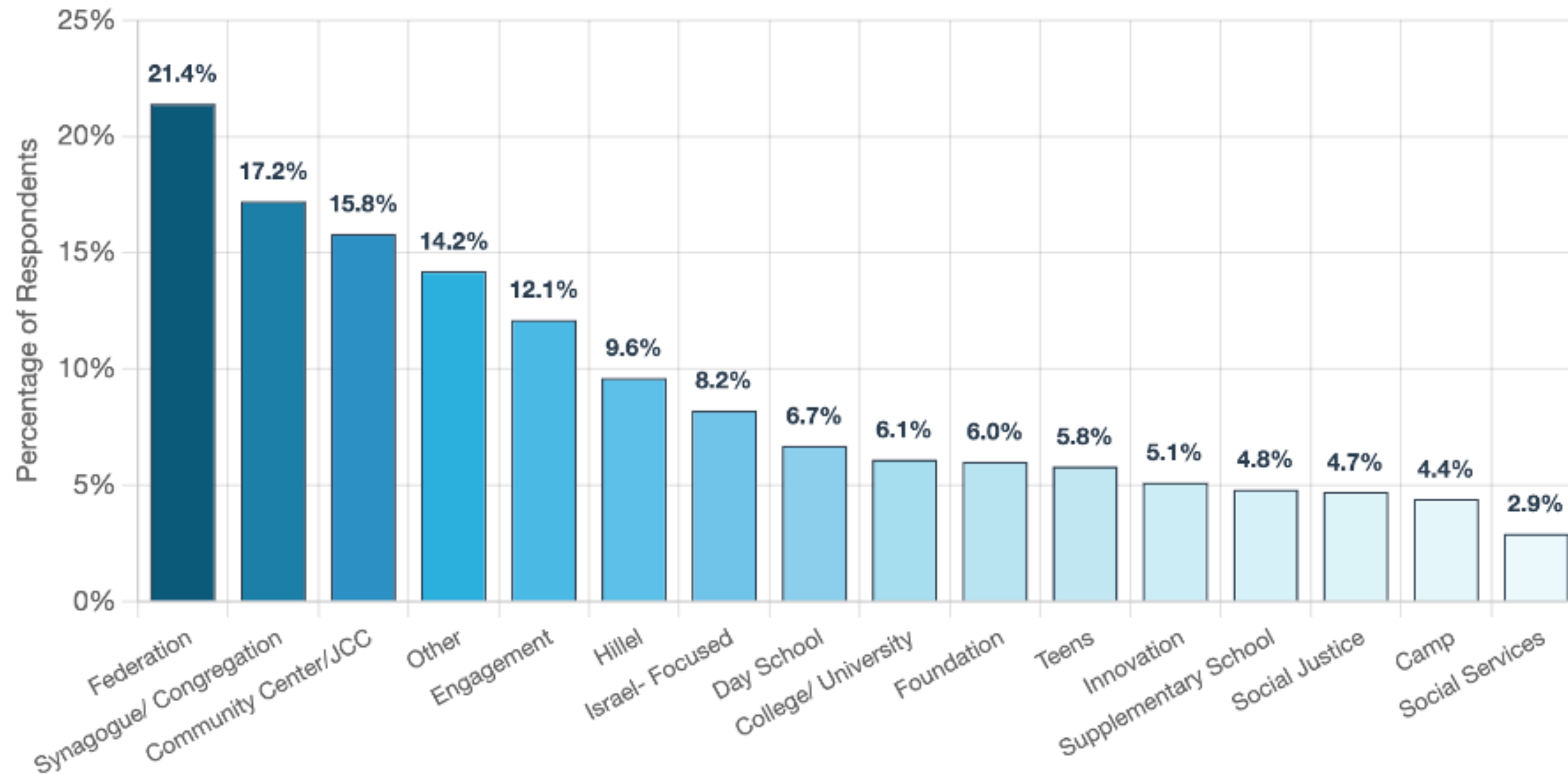


Professional Roles



Organizational Affiliation of Respondents

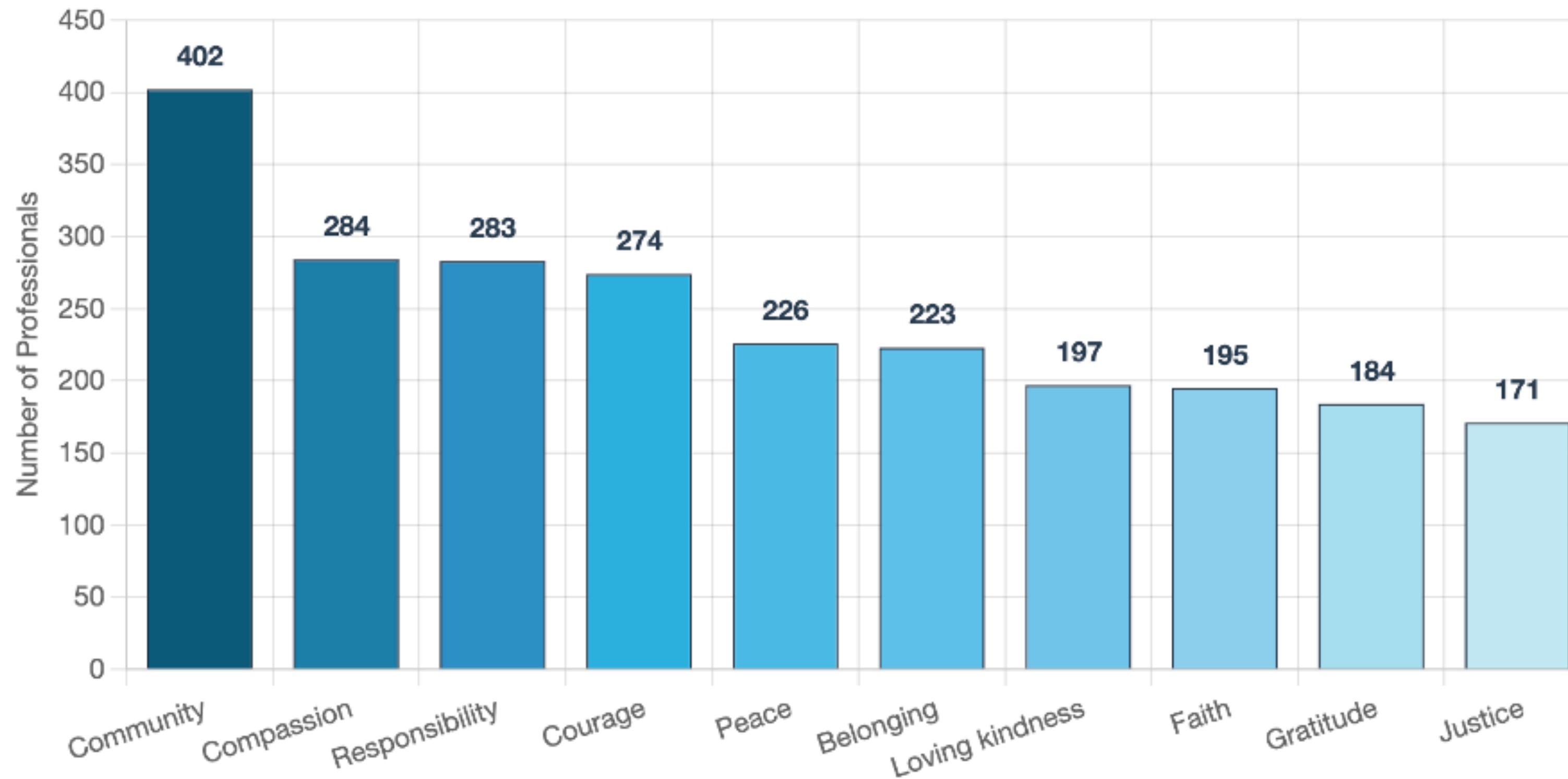
Broad representation from federations to synagogues to specialized organizations



ASSOCIATIONS WITH HOPE

Top 10 Values Associated with Hope

Number of professionals who selected each value (out of 950 respondents)



HOW ARE WE FEELING?

Frequency of Feelings Over Past Four Weeks

Percentage reporting each frequency category (N≈770-780)

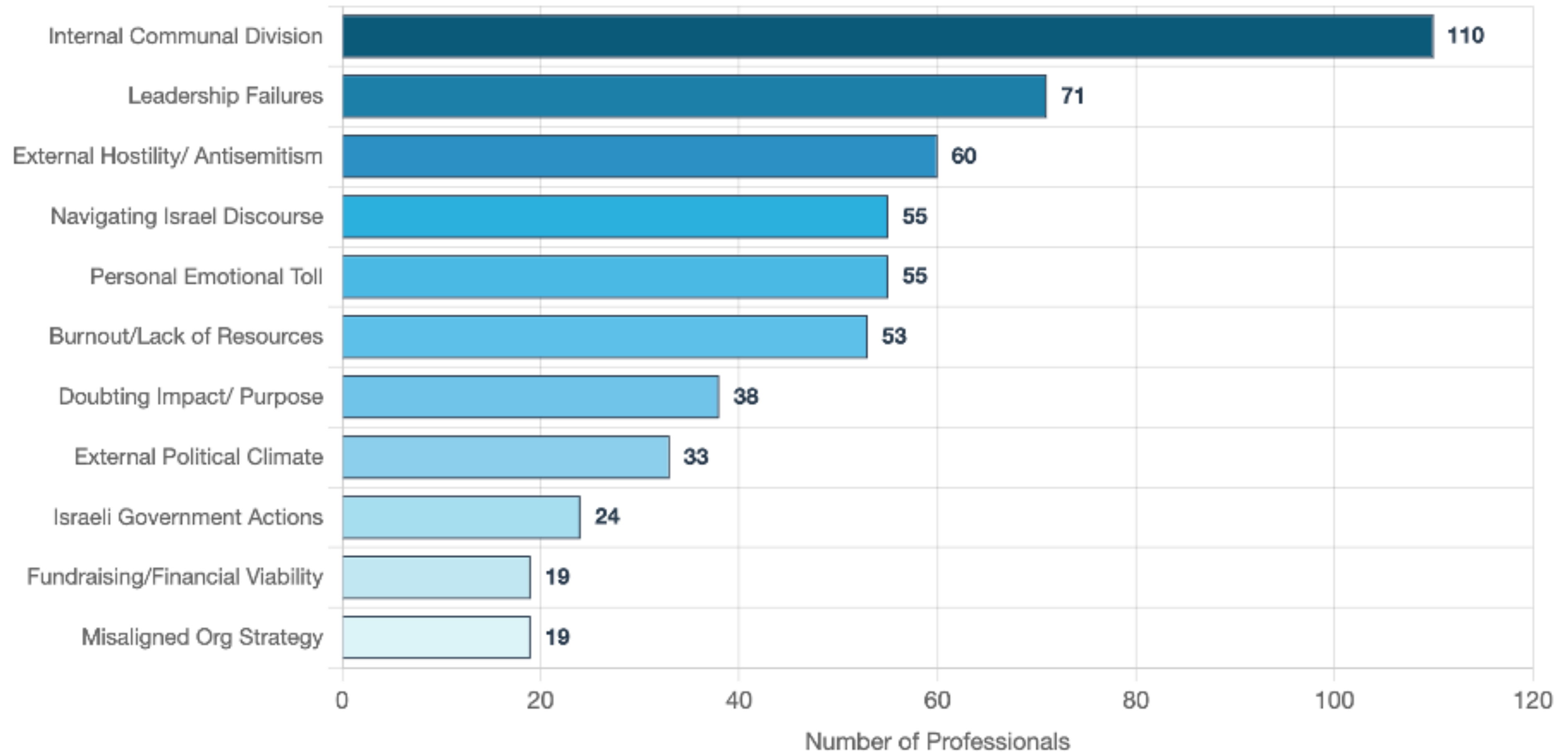


PATHWAY TO RESILIENCE



Professional Challenges Cited by Respondents

Most frequently cited challenges to professional hope and purpose (N=548)



Greatest Challenges to Hope

Voices from Jewish Communal Professionals

”

INTERNAL COMMUNAL DIVISION

*The greatest professional challenge... is **witnessing the deepening fractures within the Jewish community**, particularly the inability of Jews with differing perspectives to come together in conversation, mutual respect, and solidarity. In a time when our values and safety are being tested globally, **the lack of a shared space for honest, compassionate dialogue**, even across disagreement, feels particularly painful.*

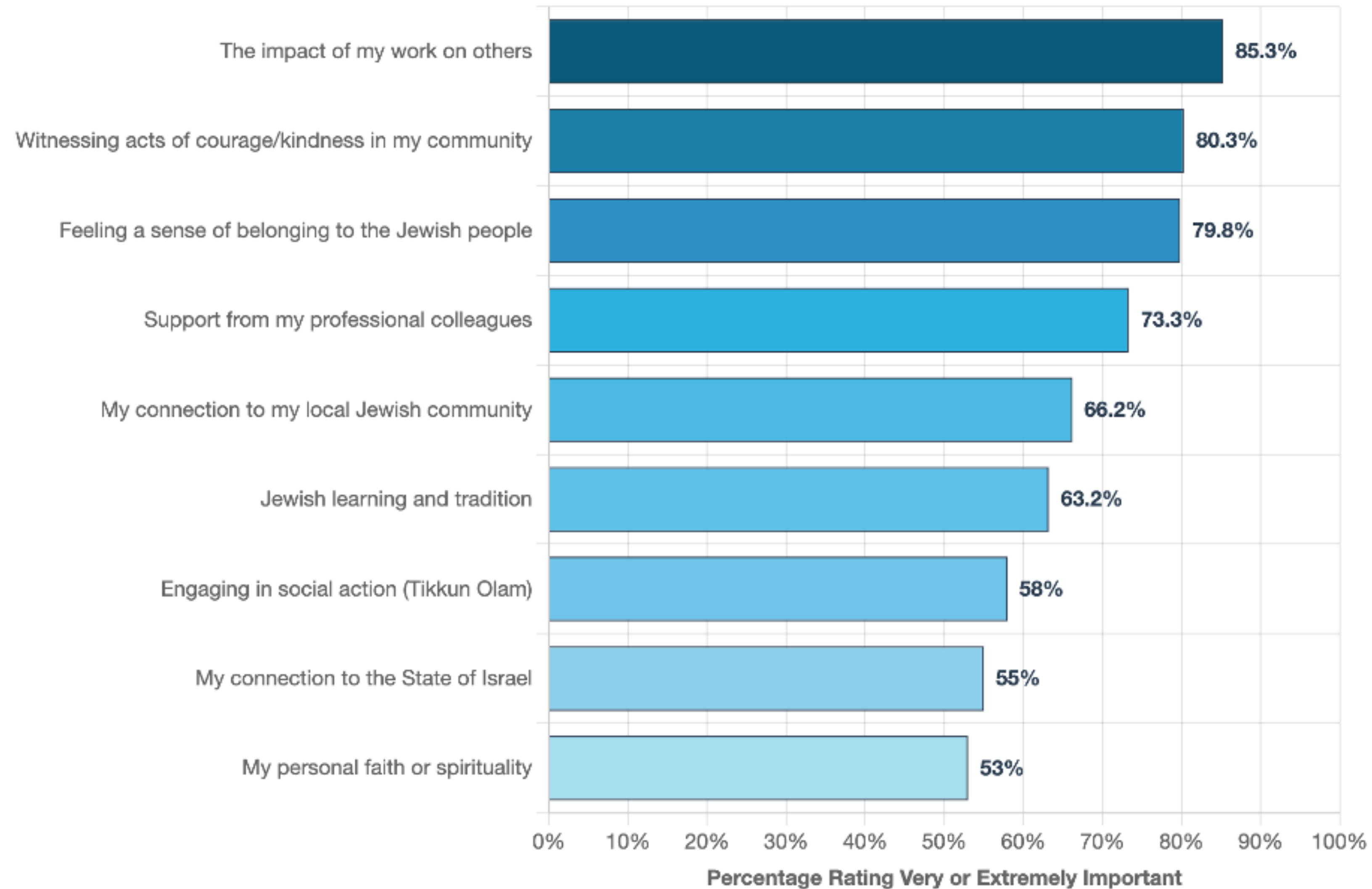
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EXTERNAL HOSTILITY

*Antisemitism is clearly an issue, but for me the challenge to my sense of hope isn't the hatred/violence towards Jews as much as it's **the normalization/excusing/silence surrounding it**.*

Importance of Different Sources of Hope

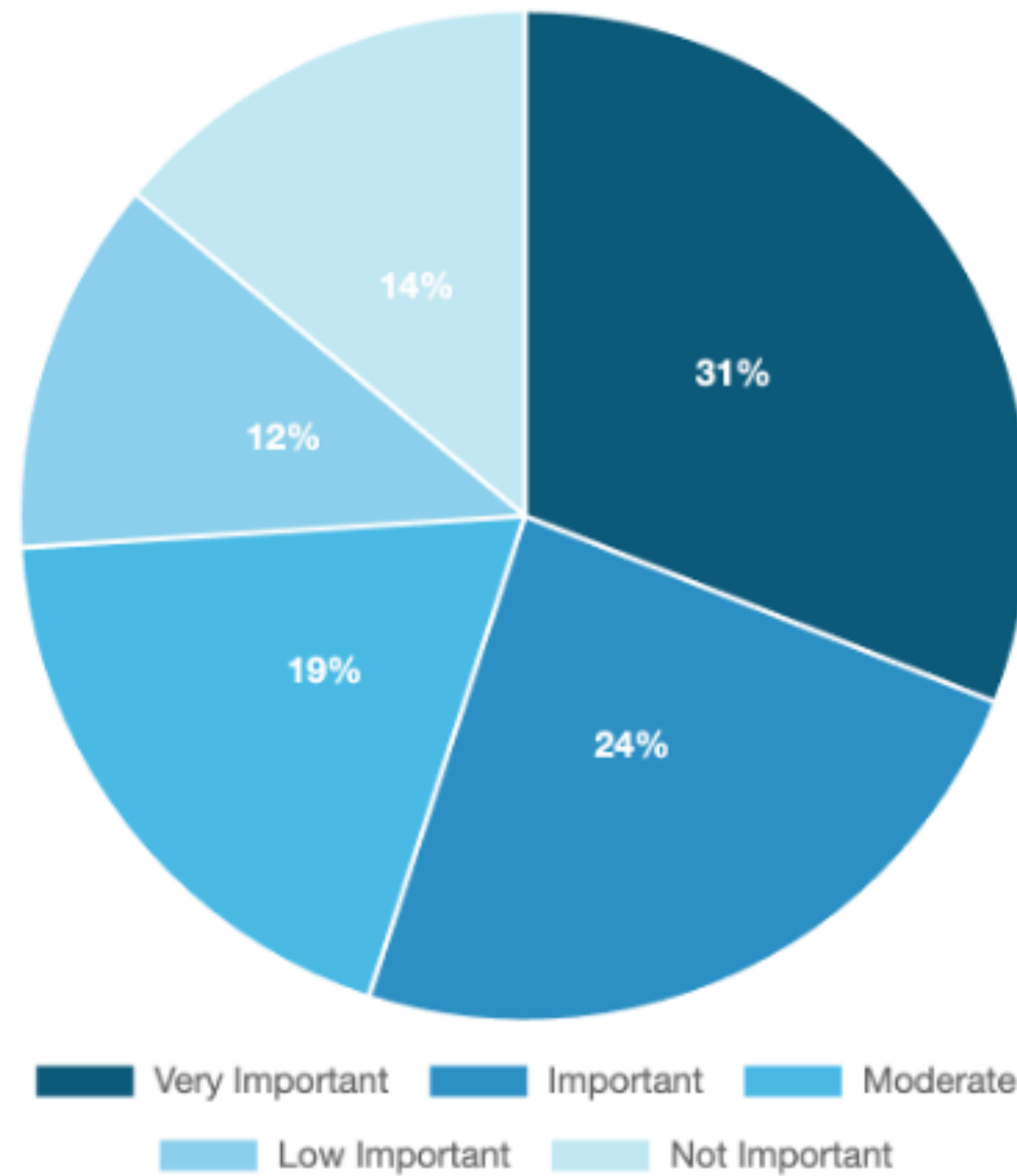
Survey of Jewish communal professionals (N=800; % based on valid responses)



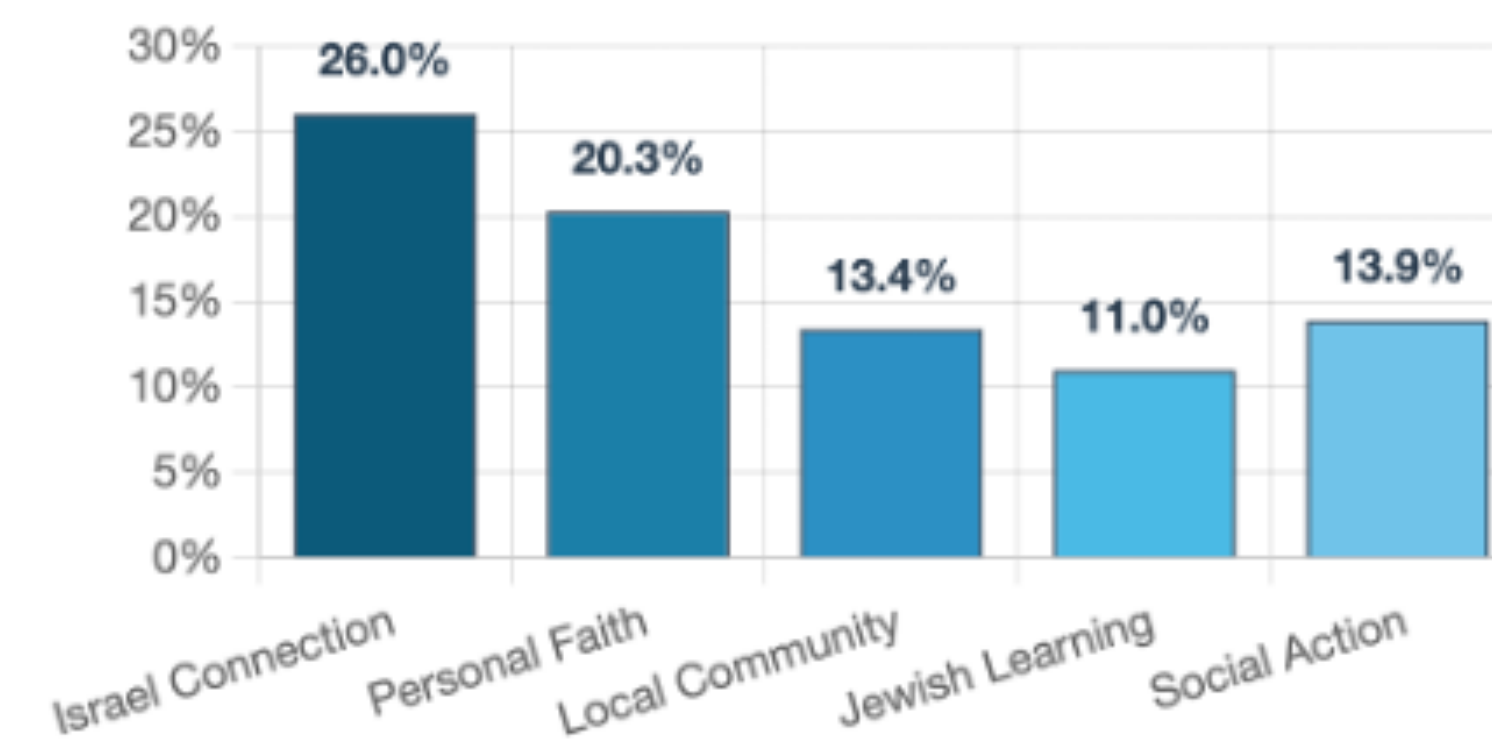
Israel Connection as Source of Hope

Connection to Israel shows highest "not important" ratings while maintaining strong support among others

Israel Connection Ratings

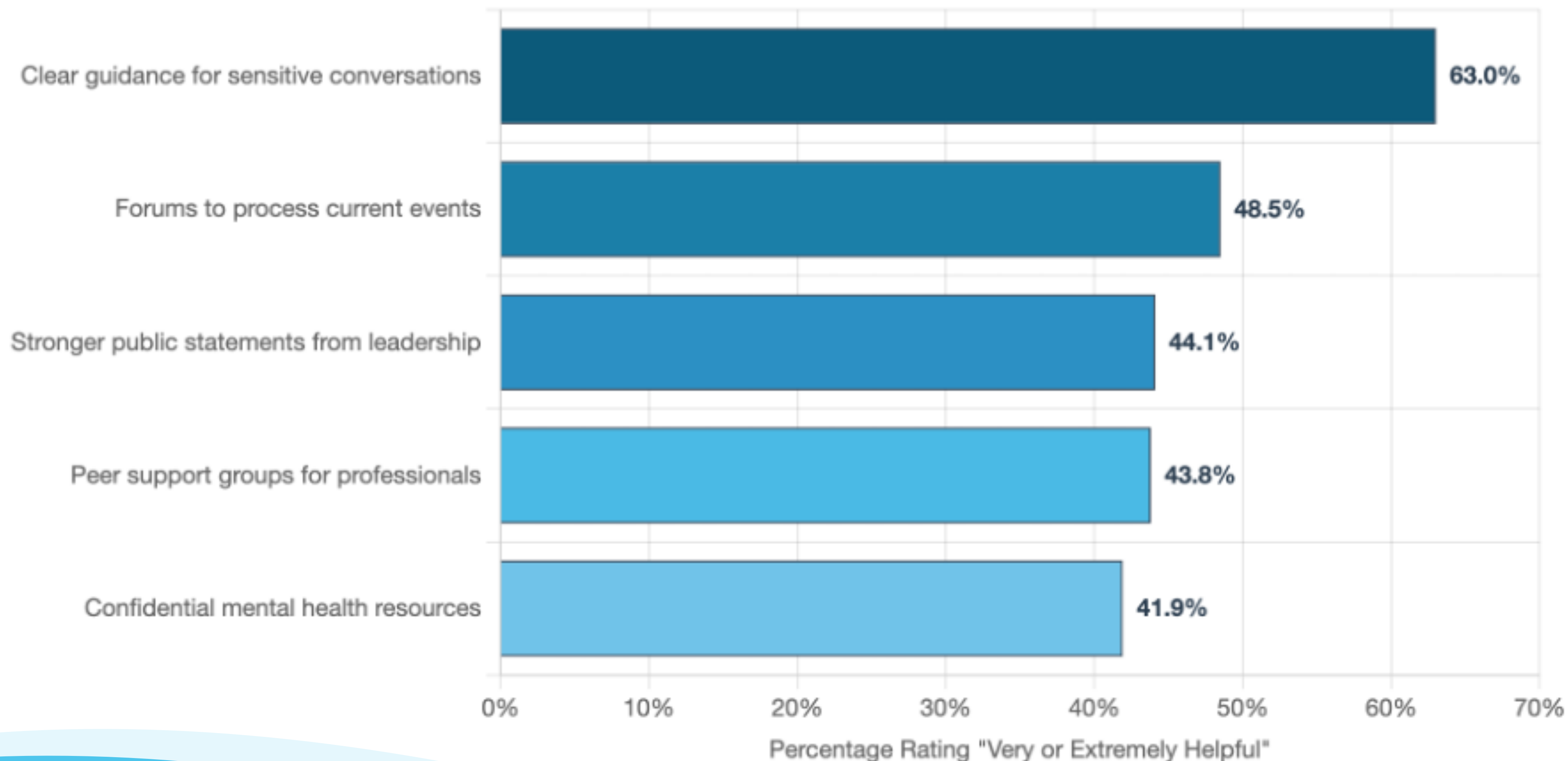


"Not Important" Ratings Comparison



Helpfulness of Different Organizational Supports

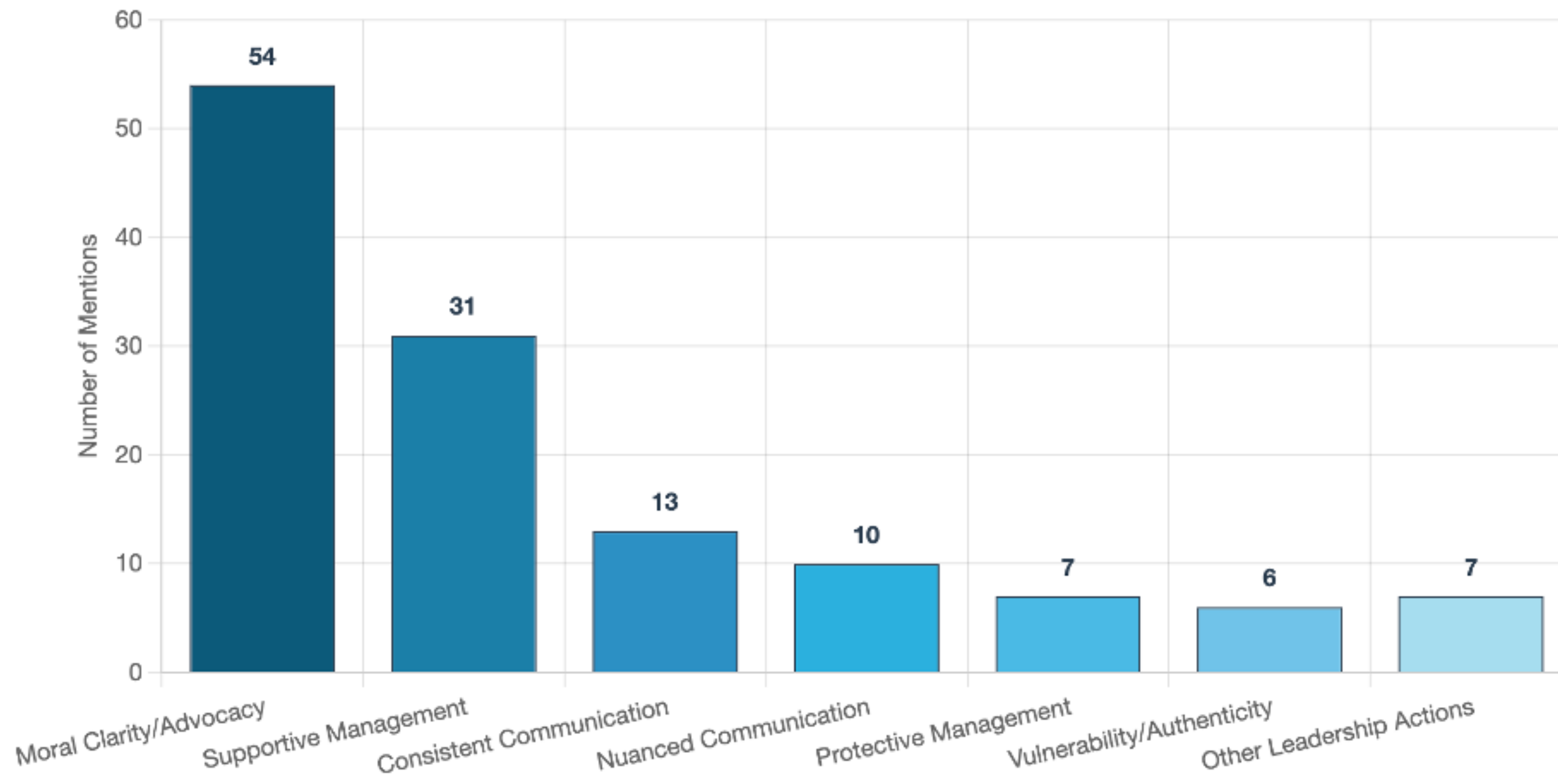
Percentage rating each organizational support as "very or extremely helpful" (N=800)



ROLE OF LEADERSHIP

Types of Leadership Actions

Breakdown of the 128 leadership-related mentions by specific action type



QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

1. From what you have heard, what jumps out or particularly resonates?
2. From your role/perspective, what pathways can you open up to bring more hope?

THE MAP

Think of this map as your guide to bridge any scenario with your lived experiences. The map will help you unpack the dilemma, name your values, and imagine your next steps. It's not just about choosing a path, it's about understanding the journey.

1. WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Look at the values on the next panel.
Which ones feel especially relevant to this dilemma or situation?

2. WHAT DIRECTION ARE YOU HEADING TOWARD?

What feelings, instincts, or beliefs are guiding you through this scenario?

3. HAVE YOU BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE?

Does this scenario remind you of a crossroads you've faced in your own life? How did you navigate it? What did you learn?

4. HOW MIGHT THIS CROSSROADS CARD GUIDE YOU?

Where is this scenario alive for you and how could it help you guide your next steps?

VALUES

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Truth |  Humor |  Justice |
|  Peace |  Tradition |  Pride |
|  Gratitude |  Faith |  Curiosity |
|  Modesty |  Growth |  Peoplehood |
|  Free Will |  Hospitality |  Freedom |
|  Happiness |  Humility |  Responsibility |
|  Knowledge |  Innovation |  Repentance |
|  Human Dignity |  Family |  Courage |
|  Remembrance |  Ambition |  Tolerance |
|  Loyalty |  Respect |  Awe |
|  Friendship |  Generosity |  Loving-Kindness |
|  Community |  Contemplation |  Belonging |
|  Rigor |  Hope |  Sanctity |
|  Integrity |  Compassion |  Joy |

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reinforce Jewish Identity Connections: Strengthen professionals' sense of belonging to the Jewish People.

Address internal division proactively through modeling and teaching dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, and community bridge-building.

Create safe frameworks for Israel conversations that allow authentic professional expression without career risk.

Provide emotional support systems that help professionals process personal impact while maintaining professional boundaries and effectiveness.

Amplify Work Impact Visibility: Help staff see clearly how their contributions matter and connect their daily tasks to larger Jewish communal goals.

Offer conversation guidance and collective processing opportunities that help professionals navigate challenges while maintaining their sense of purpose.

Invest in leadership development that emphasizes both moral clarity and interpersonal skills that support staff effectiveness.