

# **Civic Service for Arabs**

## **Findings of Attitude Surveys of Arab Public and Leaders in Fall 2007**

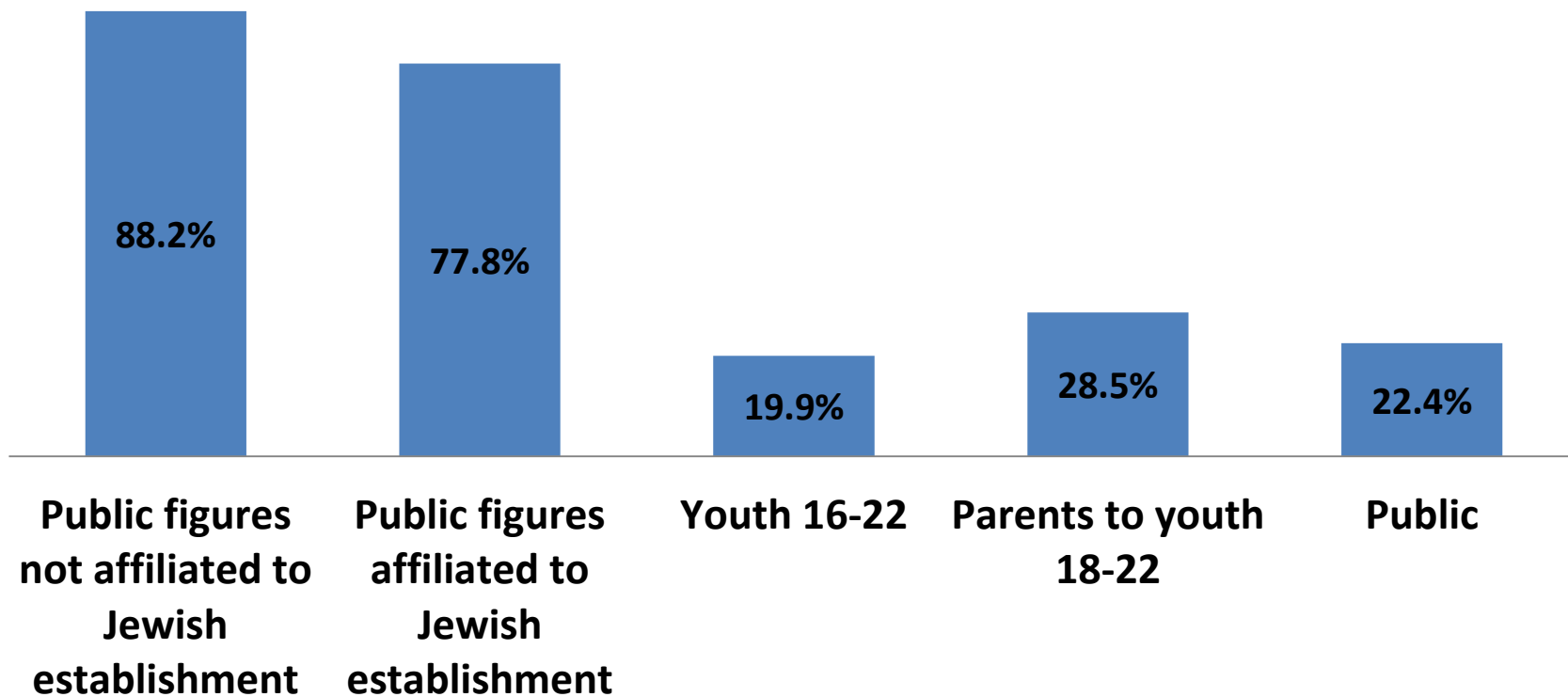
**Prof. Sammy Smooha**  
**The Jewish-Arab Center, University of Haifa**  
**The 8<sup>th</sup> Herzlia Conference, January 23,**  
**2008**

# Arab Public Opinion Surveys

- State-wide representative, telephone surveys of the Arab public and leadership (without the Druze)
- Data-collection: October-November 2007, Statistical Consulting Unit, the University of Haifa
- With participation of Dr. Nohad Ali, the University of Haifa and Yizrael Valley College
- The population survey (910 respondents)
  - Public (23 years and older) (500)
  - Parents to children 18-22 years old (204)
  - Youth 16-22 years old (206)
- The leadership survey (78 respondents)
  - Public figures affiliated to Jewish establishment (27)
  - Public figures not affiliated to Jewish establishment (51)

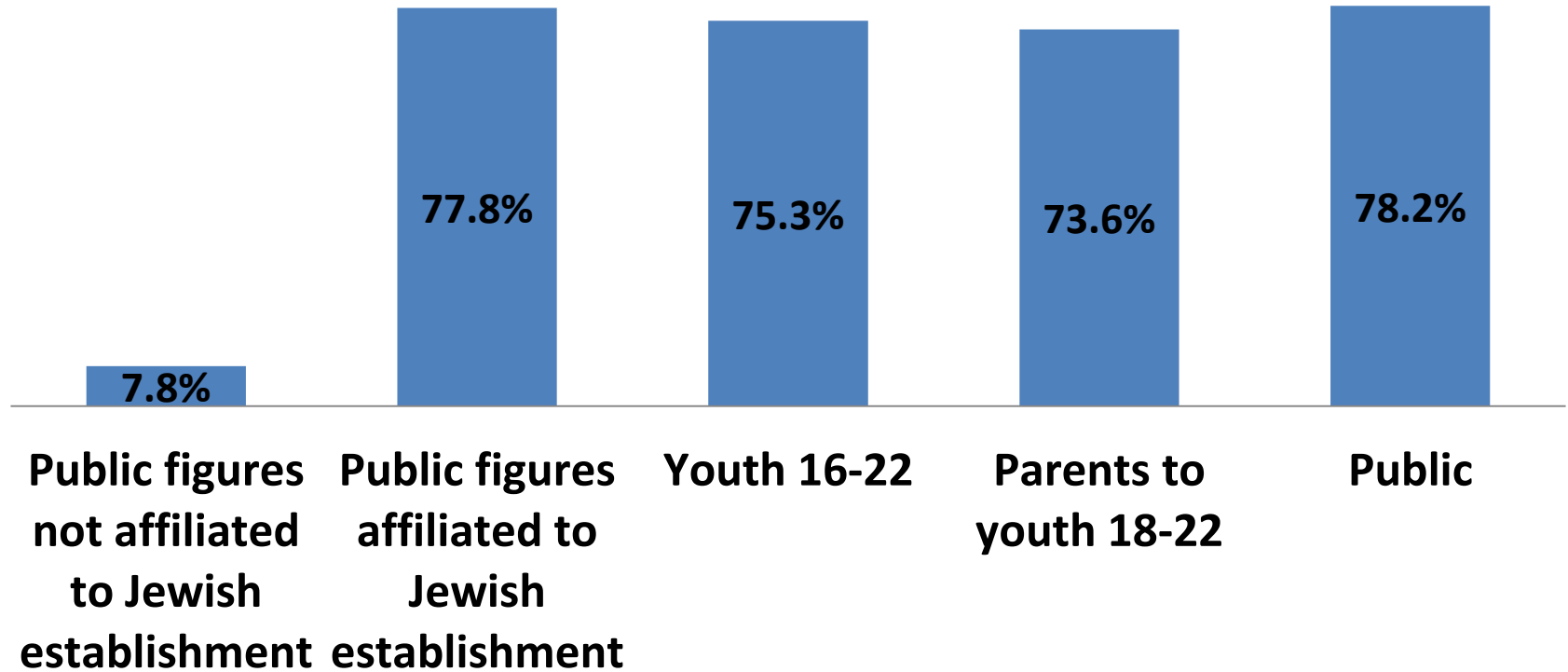
# Exposure to Information about Civic Service

Percent having sufficient or a lot of information



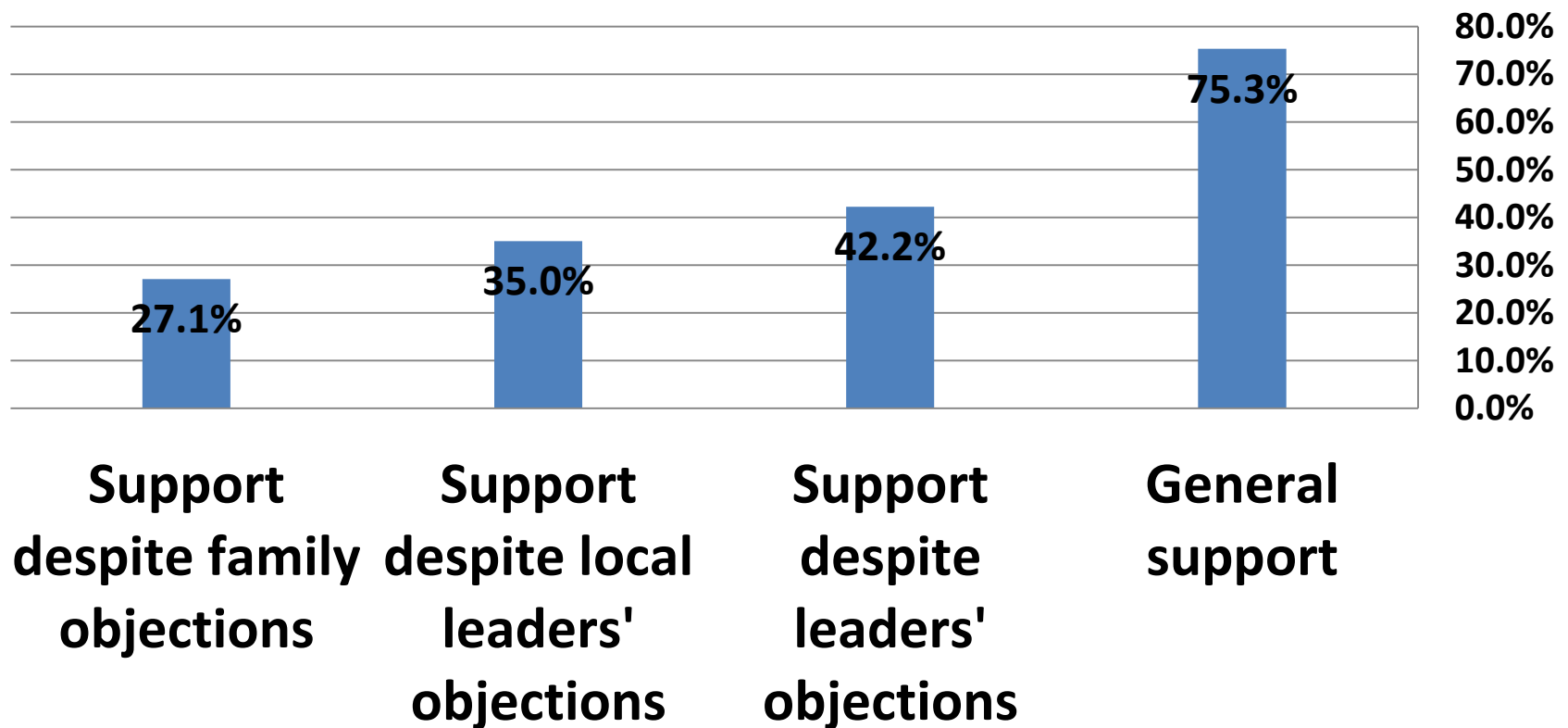
# Support of Civic Service

Percent supporting



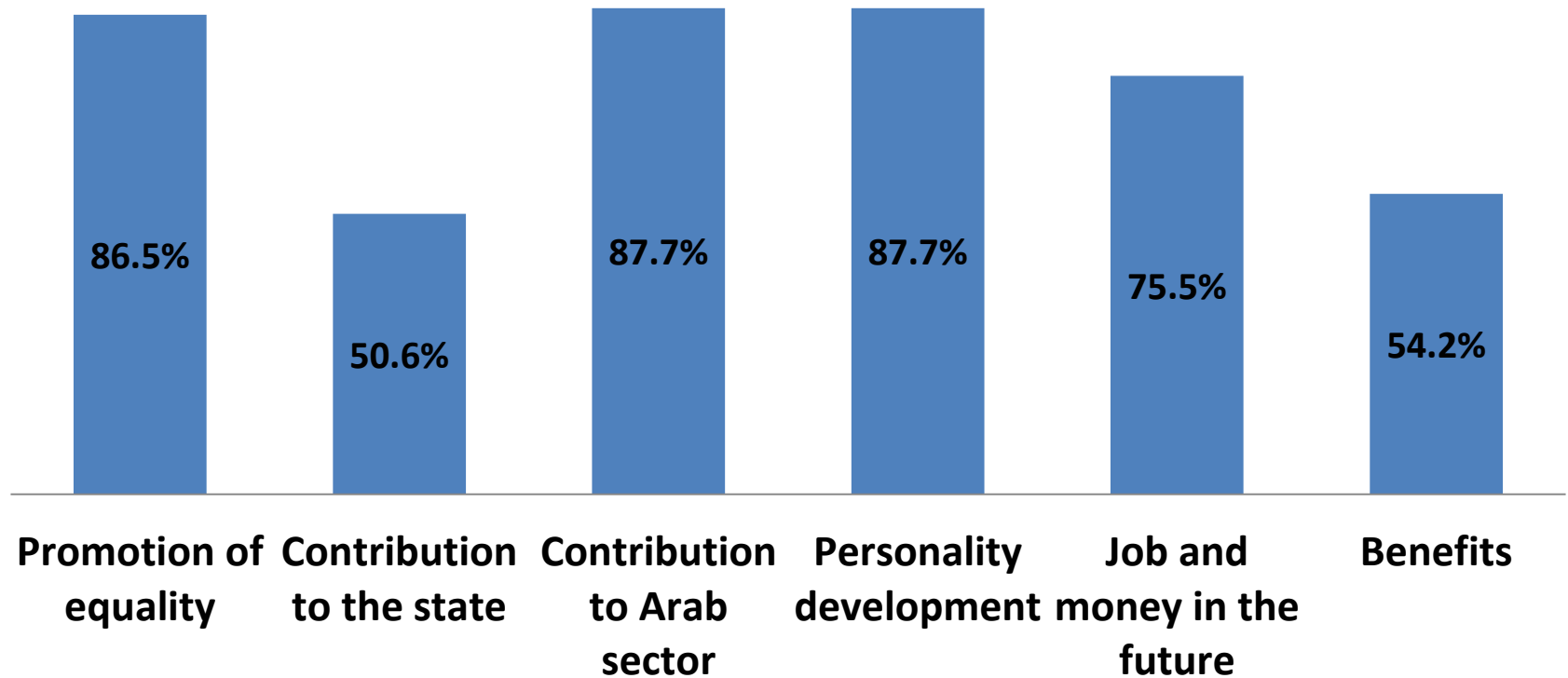
# Arab Youth's Support of Civic Service despite Objections

Percent supporting



# Arab Youth's Reasons for Supporting Civic Service

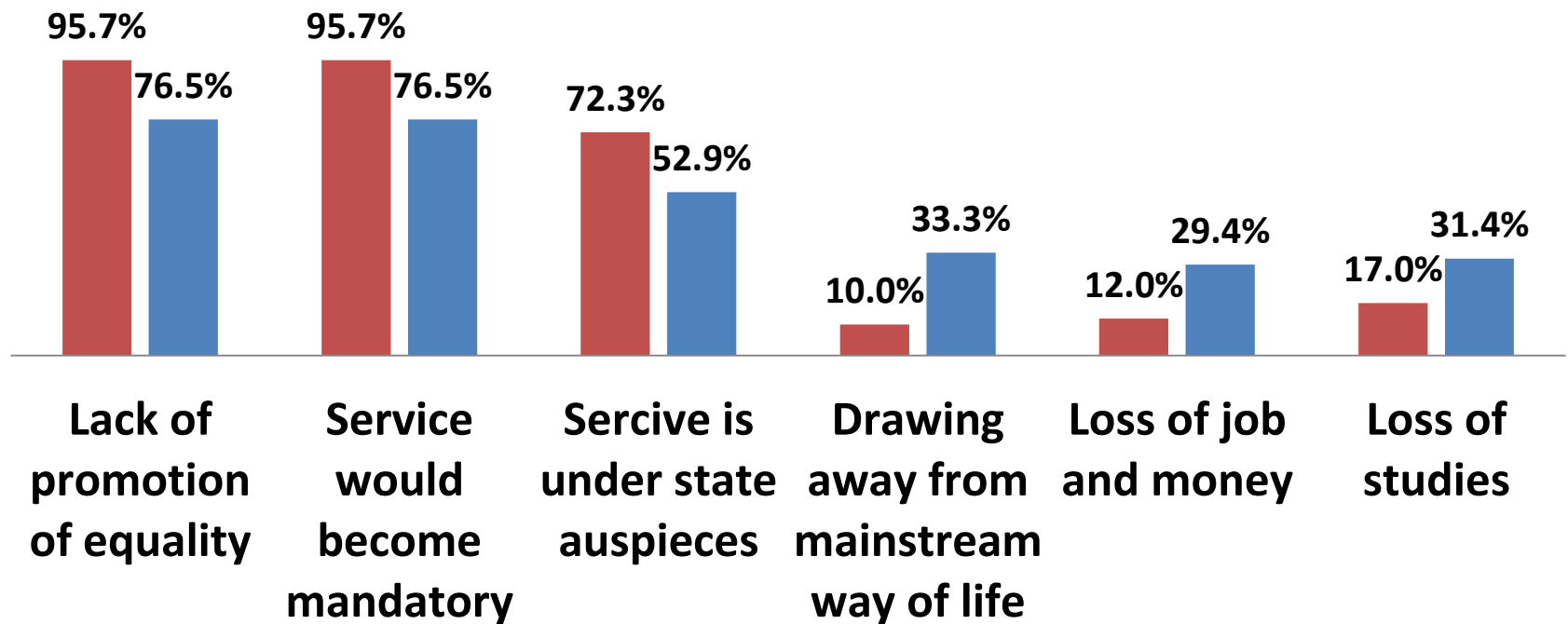
Percent indicating as reason for support



# Youth's and Leaders' Reasons for Objecting

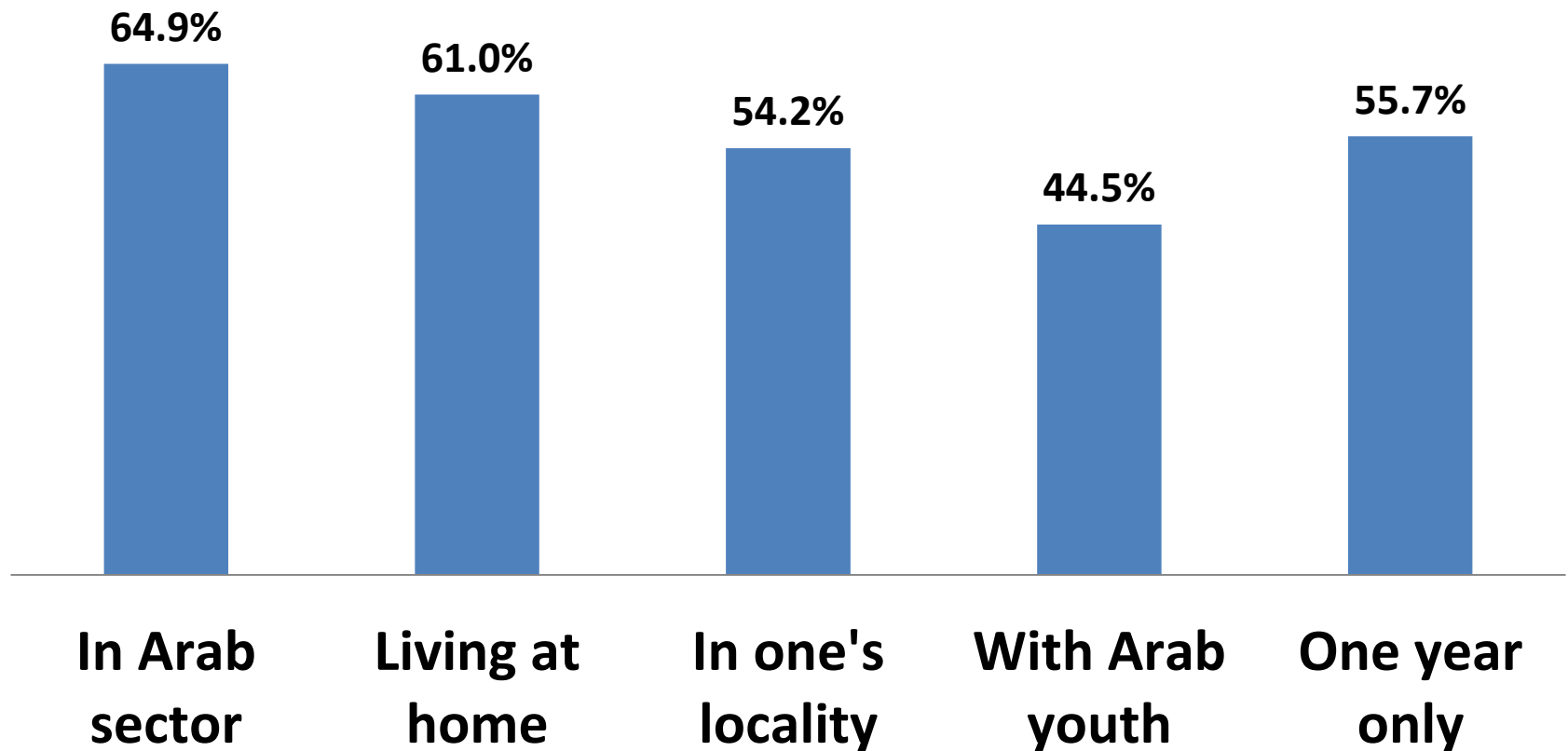
Percent indicating as reason for objecting

■ Youth ■ Leaders



# Arab Youth's Preferences of Type of Civic Service

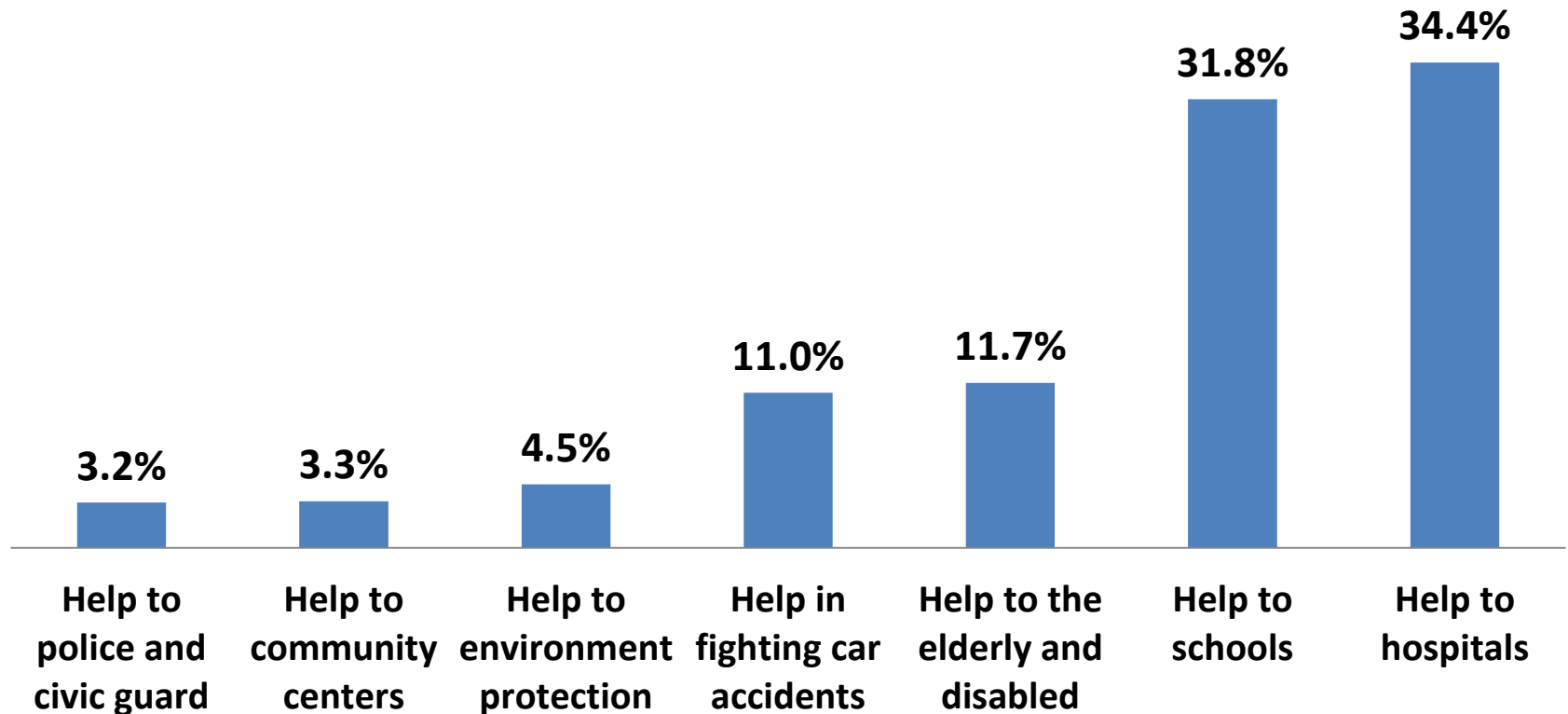
Percent preferring





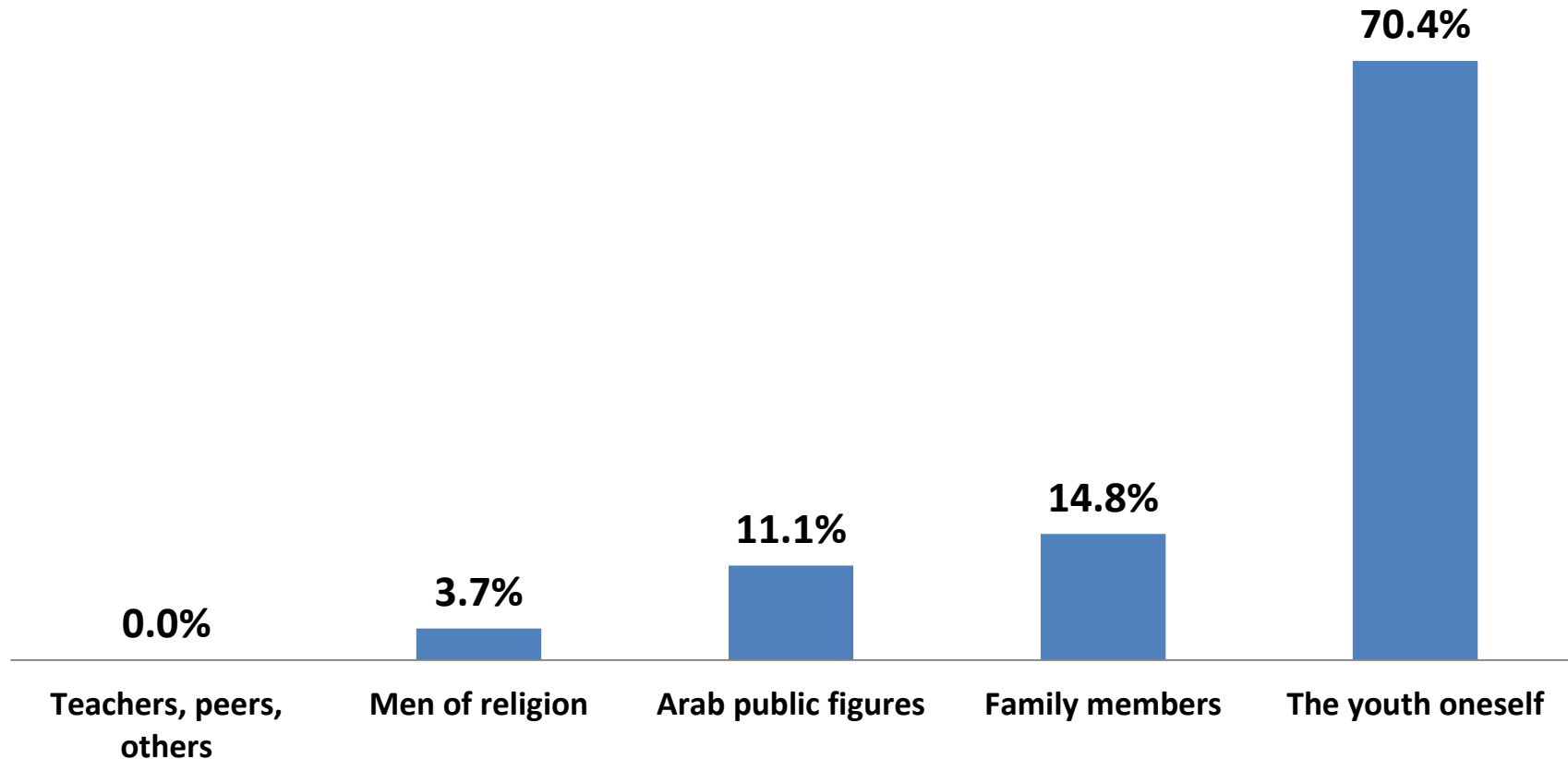
# Arab Youth's Priorities for Civic Service Activities

Percent preferring a certain activity



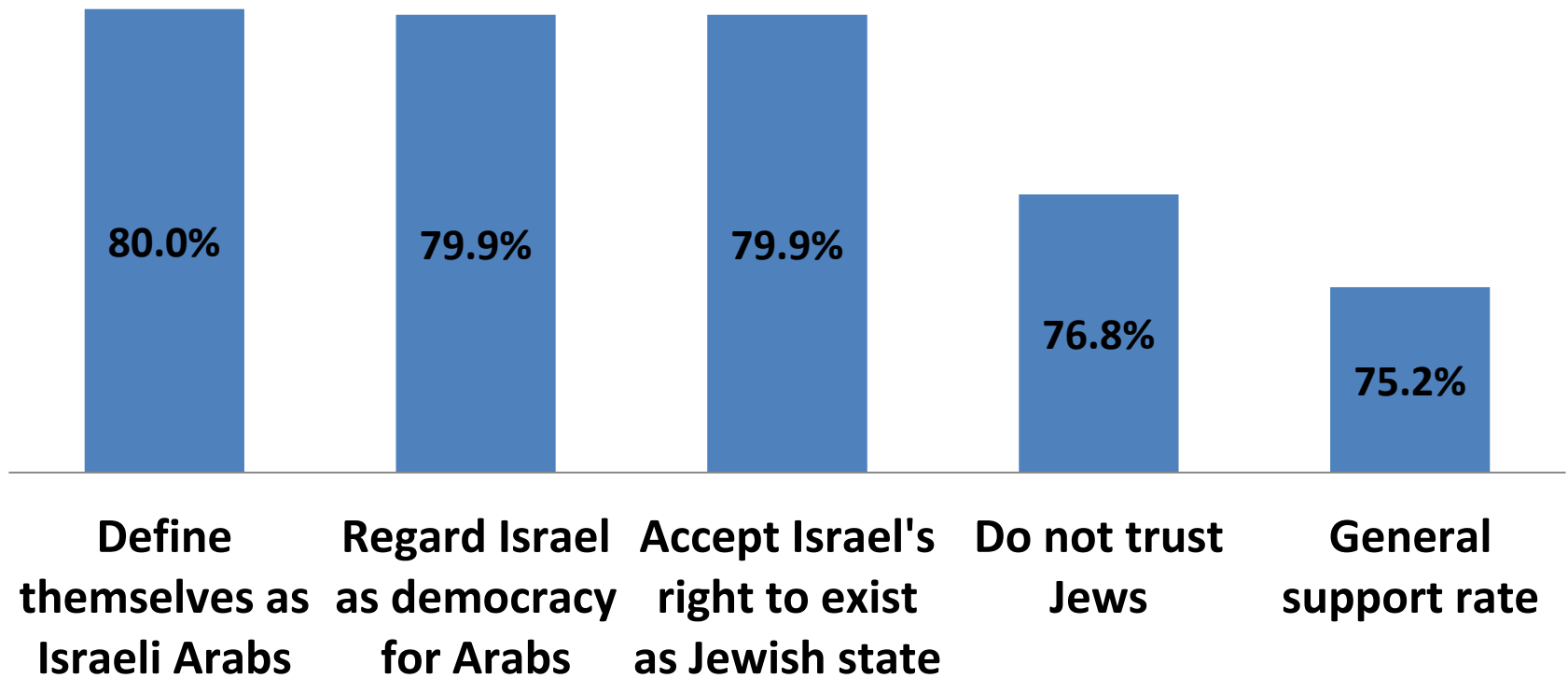
# Persons Influencing Decisions to Volunteer to Civic Service

Percent considering influentials' opinion



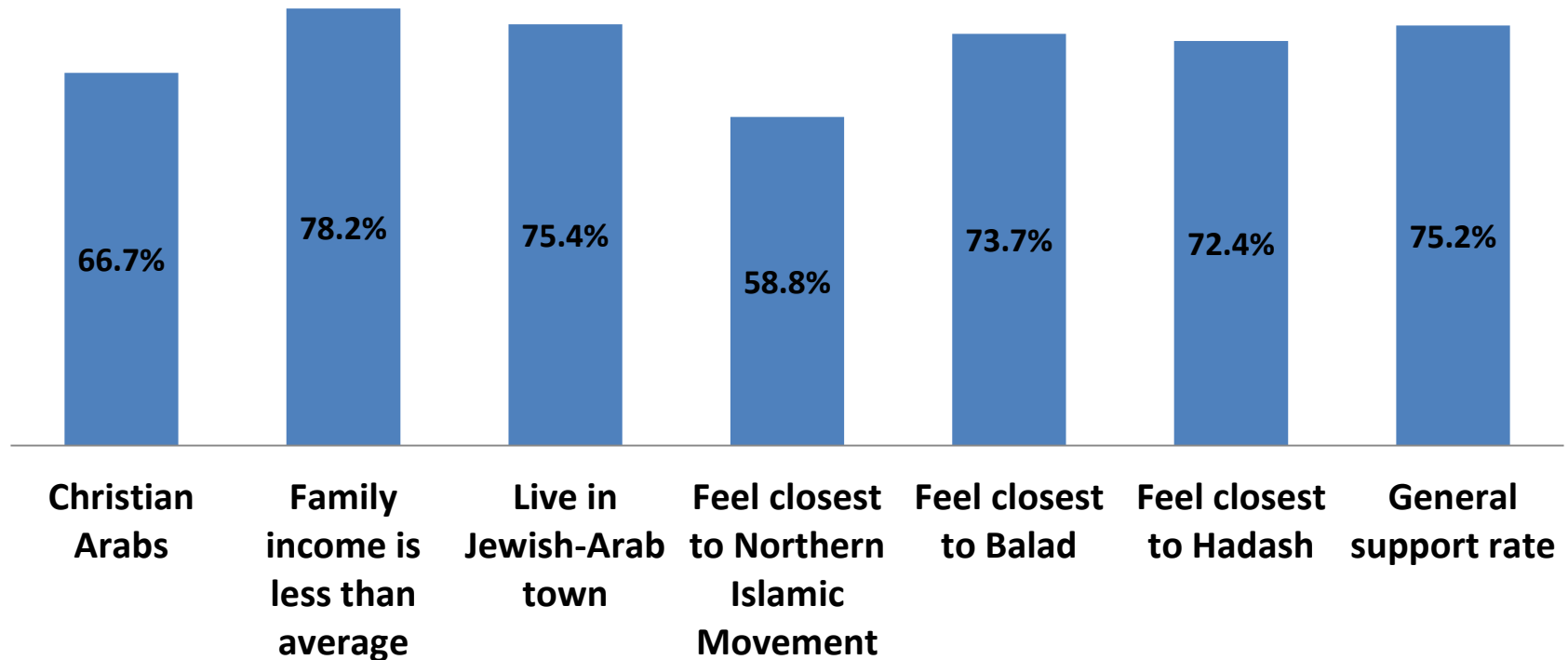
# Attitudes of Arab Youth who Support Civic Service

Perecent holding the attitude



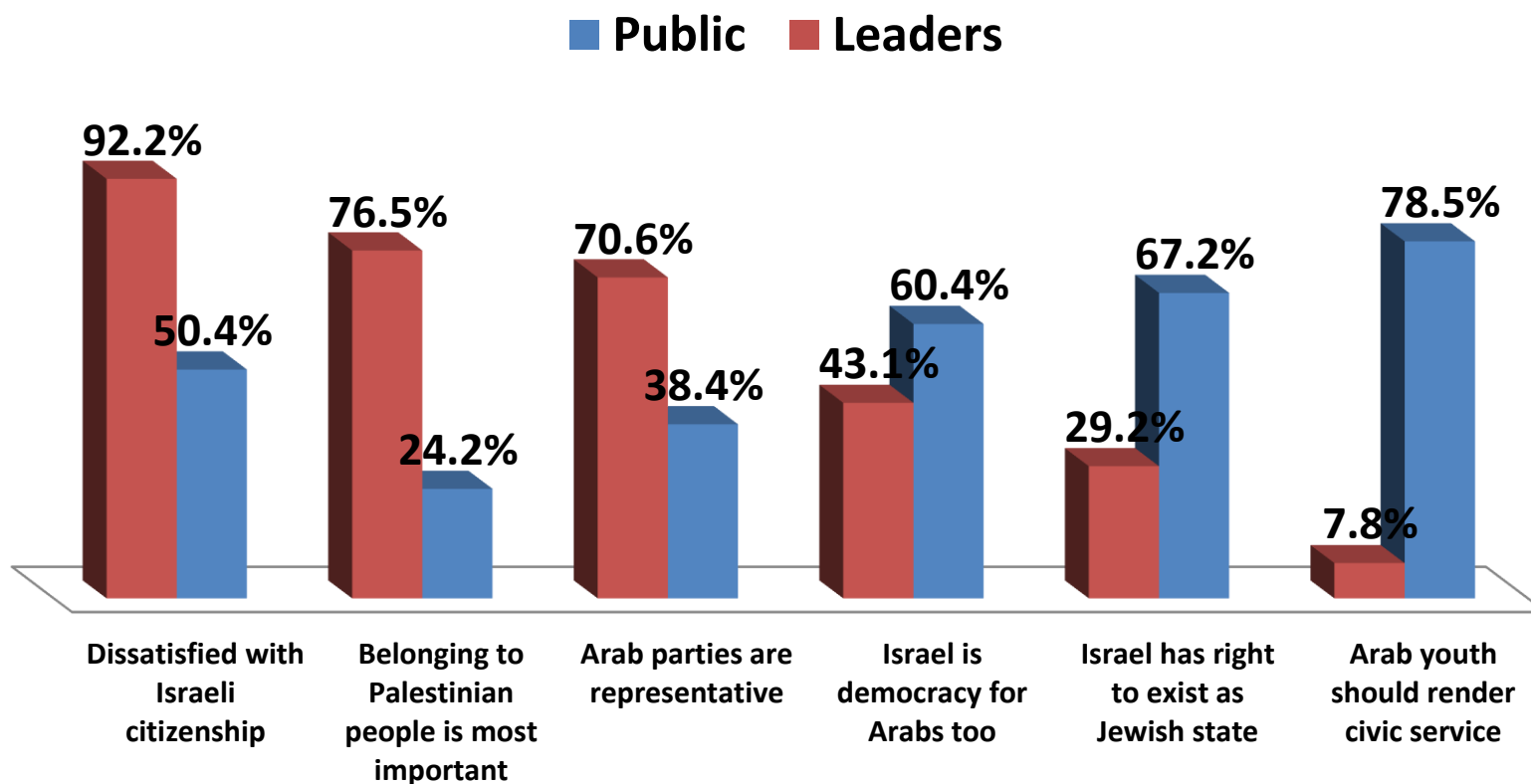
# Characteristics of Arab Youth who Support Civic Service

Percent having the characteristic



# Attitudes of Arab Public versus Attitudes of Independent Arab Leaders

Percent holding the attitude



# Conclusions

- **Civic service has become a key bone of contention between the state and the Arab leaders who are not affiliated to the Jewish establishment**
- **The majority of the Arab public is still not aware of the civic service project because of its newness**
- **The majority of the Arab public, parents to youth, youth, and leaders affiliated to Jewish establishment support civic service because of its benefits to Arab youth and sector**

# Conclusions (Continued)

- **Supporters regard volunteering to civic service as personal activity beneficial to the individual and community and to be decided personally, while opponents see it as participation in a project inimical to the Arab-national interest that requires consideration of the Arab leadership's position**
- **Arab public figures not affiliated to Jewish establishment oppose civic service because it may become mandatory, facilitate Israelization, blur the Arab-national identity and promotes reconciliation to the Jewish-Zionist nature of the state, and because they do not control and runs counter to the search after non-territorial autonomy for the Arab minority**

# **Conclusions (End)**

- **The project may succeed if accompanied by a campaign for explaining its benefits to Arab individuals and communities, if remains voluntary, if the promised benefits are delivered and if recruitment is limited to several thousands volunteers per year**
- **The campaign against the project would reduce its mass support but would not cause its downfall**