

Antisemitic attitudes among migrants and muslims living in Germany 2021 – 2023: Challenges for the democratic state?

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People, Policy, and Practice in Tumultuous Times“
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Germany records sharp rise in antisemitic incidents

Rise in antisemitism 'brings Germans back to most horrific times'



BERLIN (AP) — A group tracking antisemitism in Germany said Tuesday that it documented a drastic increase of antisemitic incidents in the country in the month after [Hamas attacked Israel](#) on Oct. 7.

The RIAS group said it recorded 994 incidents, which is an average of 29 incidents per day and an increase of 320% compared to the same time period in 2022. The group looked at the time period from Oct. 7 to Nov. 9.

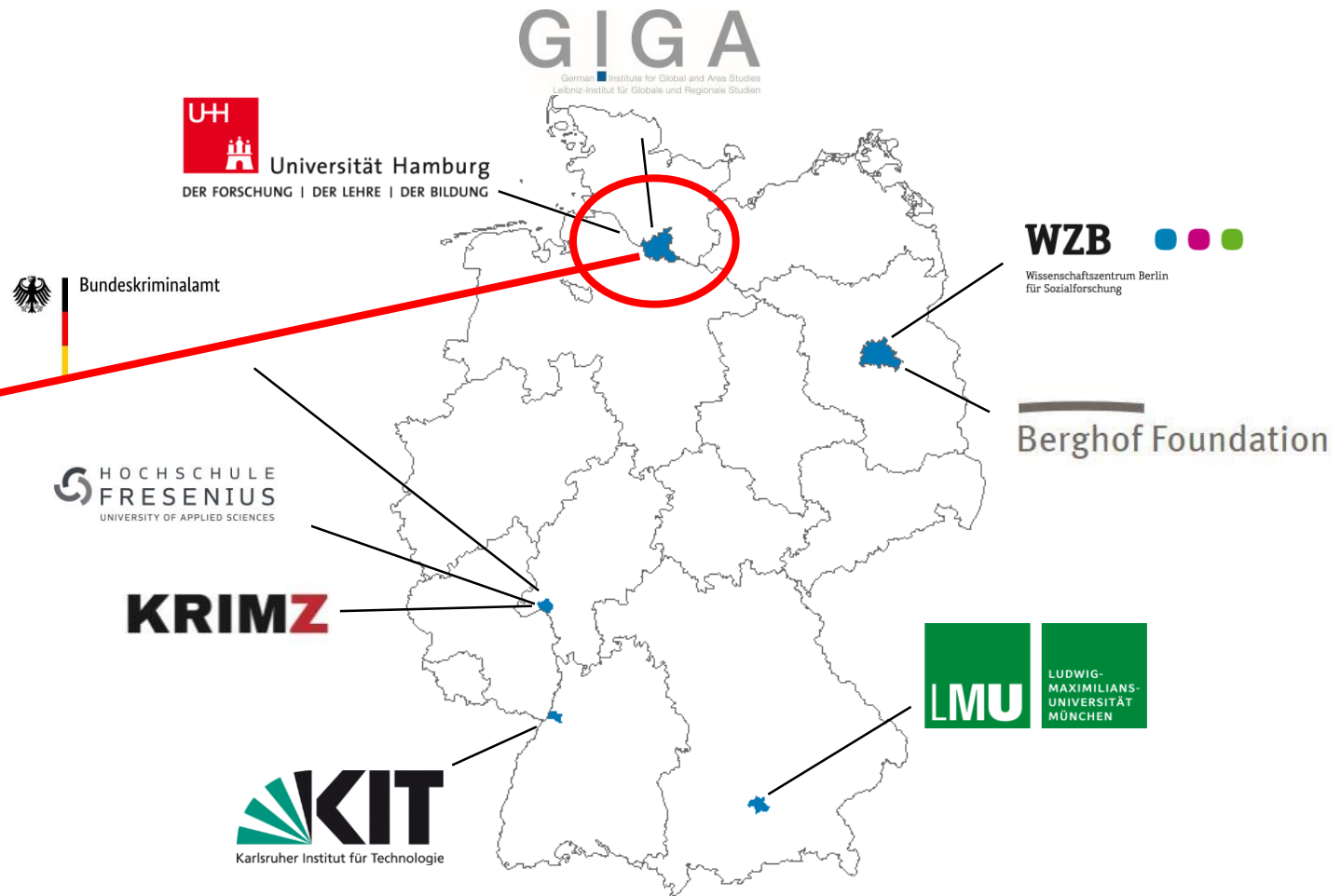
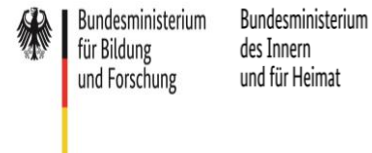
Among the 994 antisemitic incidents, there were three cases of extreme violence, 29 attacks, targeted damage to 72 properties, 32 threats, four mass mailings and 854 cases of offensive behavior.



MOTRA - Monitoring System & Transfer Platform Radicalisation

German research consortium
funded by the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research and the
Federal Ministry of the Interior.

<https://www.motra.info>



MiD
Menschen in Deutschland

JuMiD
Junge Menschen in Deutschland

MiDInt
Menschen in Deutschland: International

The Study „People in Germany“ (*Menschen in Deutschland MiD*)

MiD

Menschen in Deutschland

- Wave 1: **March - June 2021** (N = 4483)
- Wave 2: **March - June 2022** (N = 4319)
- Wave 3: **March - June 2023** (N = 4253)
- Wave 4: **April - July 2024** (N = 4399)

<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de>

Research Interest:

Analyses of the prevalence, social distribution, risk factors and time trends of:

- political extremist attitudes (anti-democratic, right-wing extremism, Islamism)
- intolerance and group-related prejudices (xenophobia, islamophobia, antisemitism)
- attitudes towards politically motivated violence

Method:

- Annually repeated, representative surveys of persons aged 18+ living in Germany.
- Randomsample of the general population (n≈2000), plus additional oversamples of Muslims (n≈1000) and non-Muslim Migrants (n ≈ 1000).

Prevalence of antisemitic attitudes

(MiD 2023; n=4205)

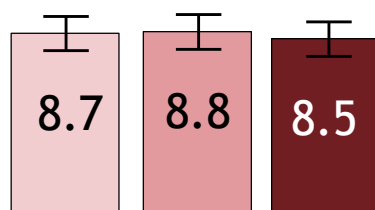
	strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree	Mean	SD
Jews have too much influence in Germany.	65.1%	26.4 %	6.1%	2.4%	1.46	.72
Jews cannot be trusted.	77.9%	17.5%	2.8%	1.8%	1.29	.61
<i>Antisemitism (Scale)</i>					1.37	.61

Rates of agreement to the single items 2021 - 2023

(„somehow agree“ and „strongly agree“ combined)

2021
2022
2023

2021
2022
2023

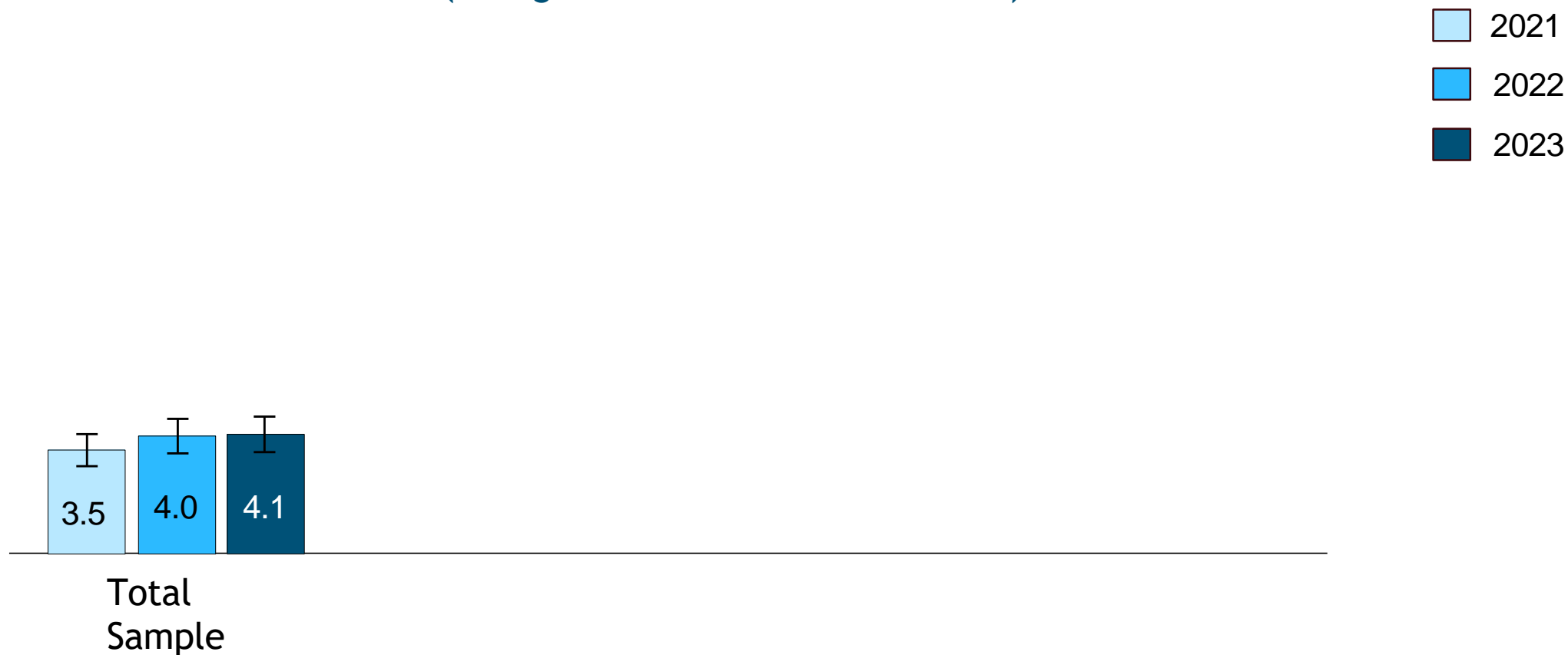


Jews have too much influence in Germany.

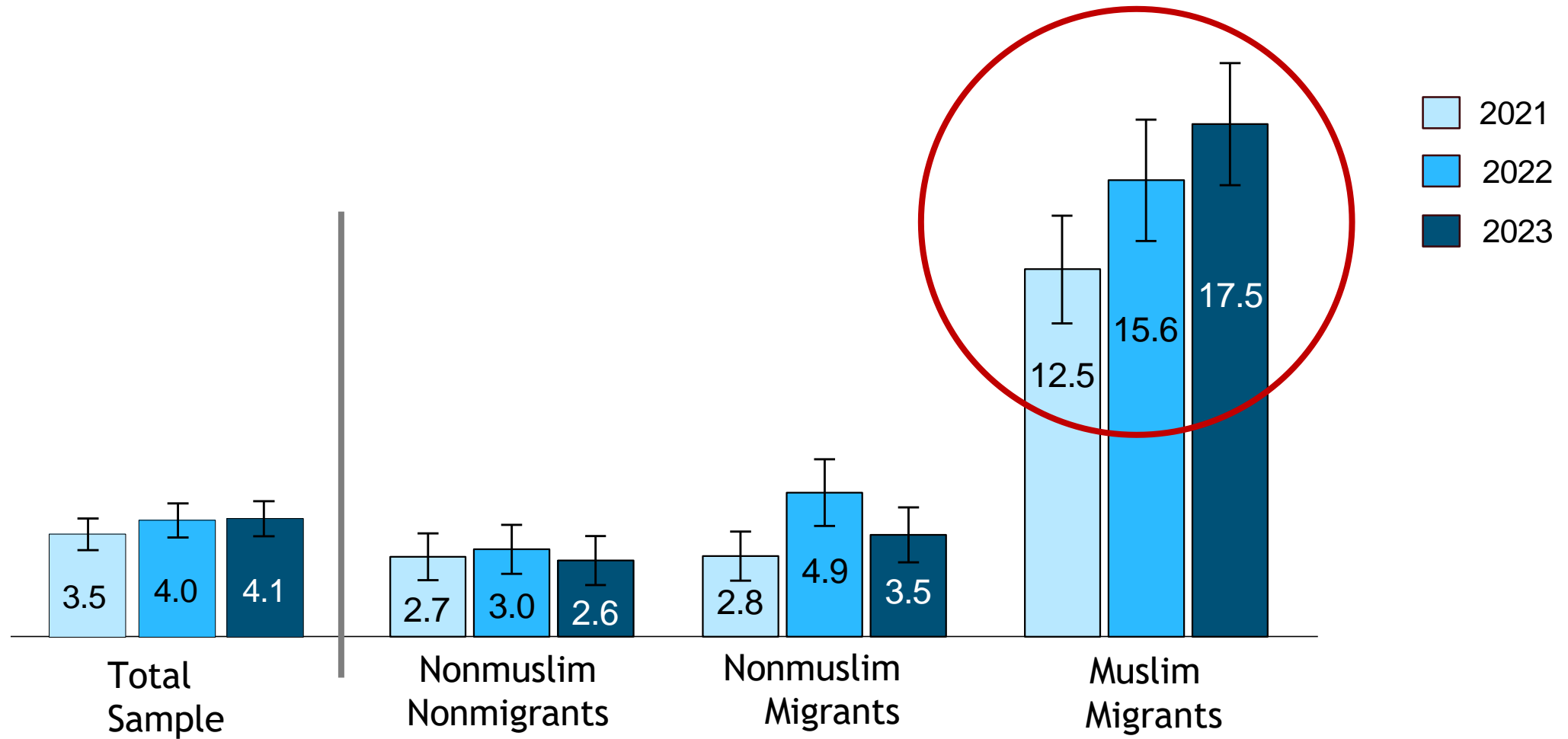
Jews cannot be trusted.

Prevalence of manifest antisemitic attitudes 2021 bis 2023

Dichotomization of the antisemitism scale,
Scale values above 2.8 = 1 (strong/manifest antisemitic attitude)

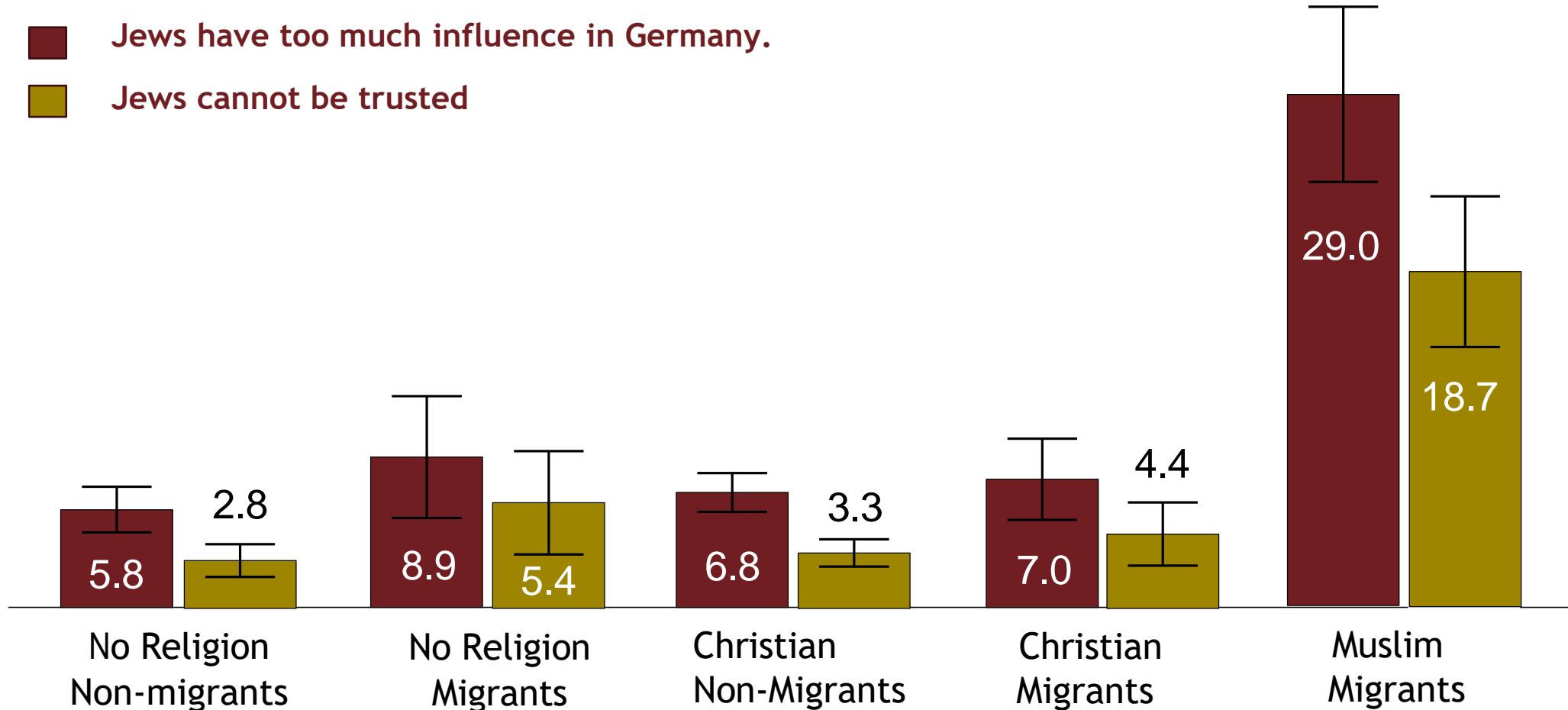


Prevalence of manifest antisemitic attitudes in subpopulations 2021 - 2023



Prevalence of antisemitic attitudes 2023 by Religion and Migration Background

(single Items; „somehow agree“ and „strongly agree“ combined)



Multivariate Analysis I:

Regression of Manifest Antisemitism on Religion/Migration, Collective Marginalisation, Economic Deprivation, and Conspiratorial Mentality

AV = Antisemitism

Age

Gender (male = 1)

Education (high = 1)

Relig./Migration (no Relig/ no Migrat. = 0)

No Religion, Migrant

Christian, Non-Migrant

Christian, Migrant

Muslim, Migrant

Collective Marginalisation

Economic Deprivation

Conspiratorial Mentality

Collective Marginalisation (7 Items, Scale 1 - 4)

Here where we live, people like me are ...

- ...not acknowledged for their achievements.
- ...often not valued much by others.
- ...disadvantaged with regard to social benefits.

Economic Deprivation (Index 0 - 6)

Probability of economic problems/restrictions in various areas of life in the near future...:

6 areas of individual economic problems, eg.:

- Problems to pay my rent
- Loss of Job
- Problems paying for food

Conspiratorial Mentality (Scale 1 - 4)

5 Items, eg:

- There are secret organizations that have great influence on political decisions.
- The media and politicians are in cahoots.
- Studies that prove climate change are mostly falsified

Multivariate Analysis I: Hierarchical OLS-Regression

AV = Antisemitism	Modell 1	Modell 2
Age	-.043	.069 **
Gender (male = 1)	.013	.009
Education (high = 1)	-.193***	-.142 ***
Relig./Migration (no Relig/ no Migrat. = 0)		
No Religion, Migrant		.052 *
Christian, Non-Migrant		.007
Christian, Migrant		.058 *
Muslim, Migrant		.369 ***
Collective Marginalisation		
Economic Deprivation		
Conspiratorial Mentality		
R ²	3.7%	13.8%

Standardised Effect-Sizes (Beta), robust SE

= $p < .05$, * = $p < .01$, * = $p < .001$.

Multivariate Analysis I: Hierarchical OLS-Regression

AV = Antisemitism	Modell 1	Modell 2	Modell 3
Age	-.043	.069 **	.095 ***
Gender (male = 1)	.013	.009	.021
Education (high = 1)	-.193***	-.142 ***	-.094 ***
Relig./Migration (no Relig/ no Migrat. = 0)			
No Religion, Migrant		.052 *	.046
Christian, Non-Migrant		.007	.024
Christian, Migrant		.058 *	.043
Muslim, Migrant		.369 ***	.307 ***
Collective Marginalisation			.135 ***
Economic Deprivation			.150 ***
Conspiratorial Mentality			
R ²	3.7%	13.8%	18.5%

Standardised Effect-Sizes (Beta), robust SE

= $p < .05$, **= $p < .01$, *= $p < .001$.

Multivariate Analysis I: Hierarchical OLS-Regression

AV = Antisemitism	Modell 1	Modell 2	Modell 3	Modell 4
Age	-.043	.069 **	.095 ***	.085 **
Gender (male = 1)	.013	.009	.021	.029
Education (high = 1)	-.193***	-.142 ***	-.094 ***	-.050 *
Relig./Migration (no Relig/ no Migrat. = 0)				
No Religion, Migrant		.052 *	.046	.018
Christian, Non-Migrant		.007	.024	.012
Christian, Migrant		.058 *	.043	-.005
Muslim, Migrant		.369 ***	.307 ***	.238 ***
Collective Marginalisation			.135 ***	.037
Economic Deprivation			.150 ***	.063
Conspiratorial Mentality				.356 ***
R ²	3.7%	13.8%	18.5%	27.6%

Standardised Effect-Sizes (Beta), robust SE

= $p < .05$, *= $p < .01$, *= $p < .001$.

Interim conclusions and follow-up questions

- There are significantly higher rates of Anti-Semitic attitudes among Muslims compared to other religious groups and other migrant groups.
- These differences cannot be explained by higher socio-economic deprivation or by their increased experiences of collective marginalization among muslims living in Germany.
- The increased conspiratory mentality of muslims can explain these differences of antisemitic attitudes between muslims and other groups only in part.
- Even after statistically controlling for all these factors, a significantly higher prevalence of anti-semitic attitudes can be found among Muslims in comparison to Christians and to people without a religious affiliation.

Follow up Questions:

- Are there effects of specific religious characteristics on antisemitism?
- Are such effects of religious characteristics on antisemitic attitudes different between Muslims and other religious Groups (Christians)?
- Are there internal differences within the group of Muslims that might be important to be considered for the prevention of Anti-Semitism among Muslims living in Germany?

Analytical Strategy

Inclusion of of different dimensions of religiosity and attachment to religion into the multivariate models to explain anti-semitic attitudes.
Comparing separate models for Christians and Muslims.

5 Dimensions of Religiosity as additional independent variables/predictors

- Degree of individual faith (**spiritual dimension of religiosity**)
- Importance of religion in everyday life (**centrality of religion**)
- Frequency of prayer (**individual religious practice**)
- Frequency of attending a church/mosque (**collective religious practice**)
- Rigidity in dealing with religious traditions, rules and prohibitions(**fundamentalism**)

OLS-Regression of antisemitic attitudes on different dimensions of religiosity: Christian respondents only

AV = Antisemitism	Modell 1	Modell 2	Modell 3	Modell 4
Age	.090 *	.141 ***	.135 ***	.122 **
Gender (male = 1)	.031	.052	.052	.038
Education (high = 1)	-.177 ***	-.057	-.060	-.054
Migration (Migrant = 1)	.078 *	-.007	-.006	-.012
Collective Marginalisation		.024	.024	.012
Economic Deprivation		.079	.077	.065
Conspiratorial Mentality		.365 ***	.364 ***	.331 ***
Individual religious faith			-.066	-.060
Centrality of religion			.072	.010
Individual religious practice			.008	-.013
Collective religious practice			.009	-.005
Religious fundamentalism				.164 **
R ²	5.0%	20.3%	20.6%	22.2%

Standardised Effect-Sizes (Beta), robust SE

= $p < .05$, *= $p < .01$, *= $p < .001$.

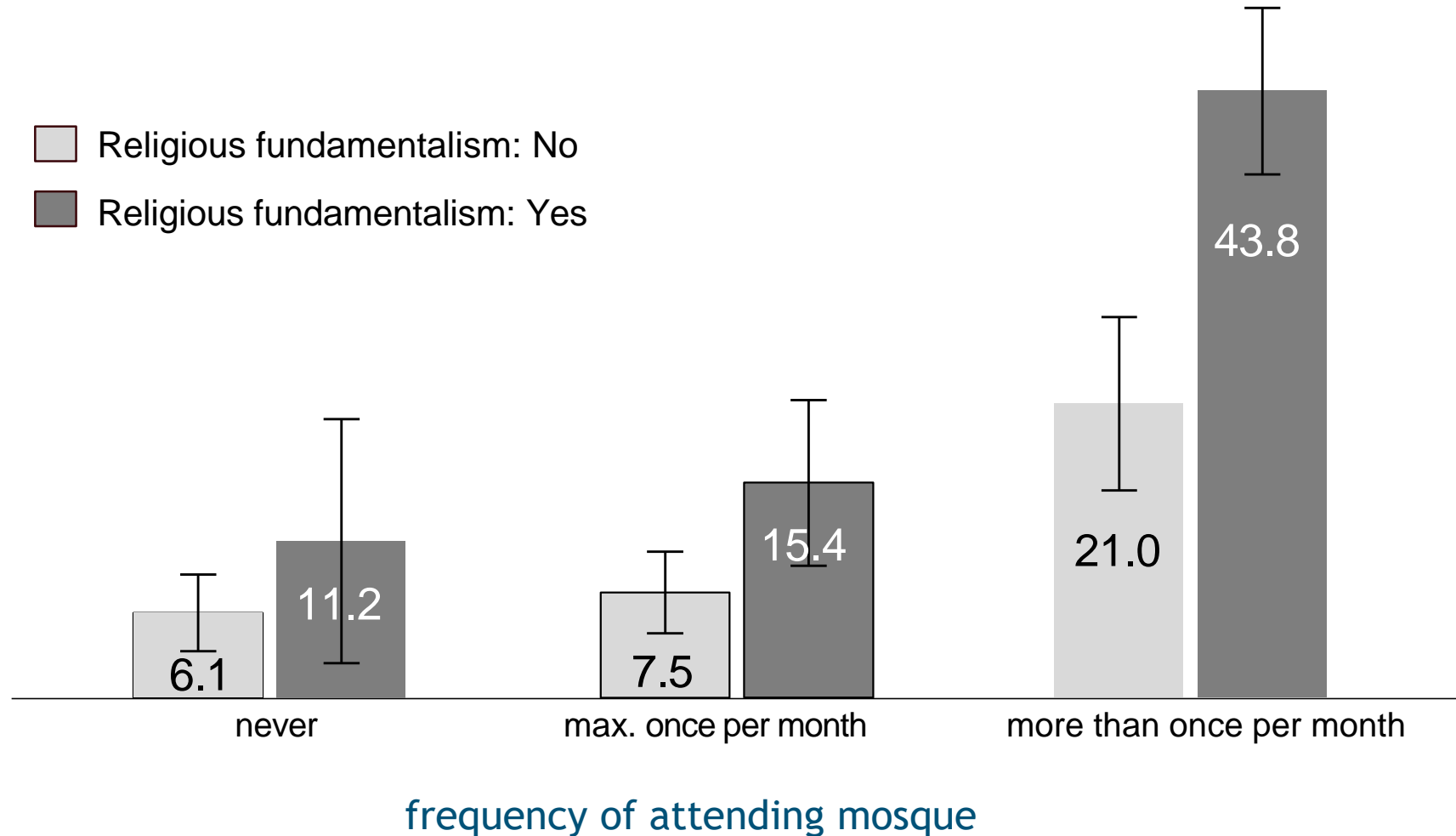
OLS-Regression of antisemitic attitudes on different dimensions of religiosity: Muslim respondents only

AV = Antisemitism	Modell 1	Modell 2	Modell 3	Modell 4
Age	.067	.041	.042	.058
Gender (male = 1)	.016	.053	-.003	-.008
Education (high = 1)	-.100 *	-.072	-.064	-.034
Collective Marginalisation		.073	.042	.031
Economic Deprivation		.045	.037	.009
Conspiratorial Mentality		.379 ***	.334 ***	.326 ***
Individual religious faith			-.029	-.068
Centrality of religion			.110	.034
Individual religious practice			-.007	-.016
Collective religious practice			.253 ***	.221 ***
Religious fundamentalism				.234 ***
R ²	1.6%	18.8%	27.9%	30.5%

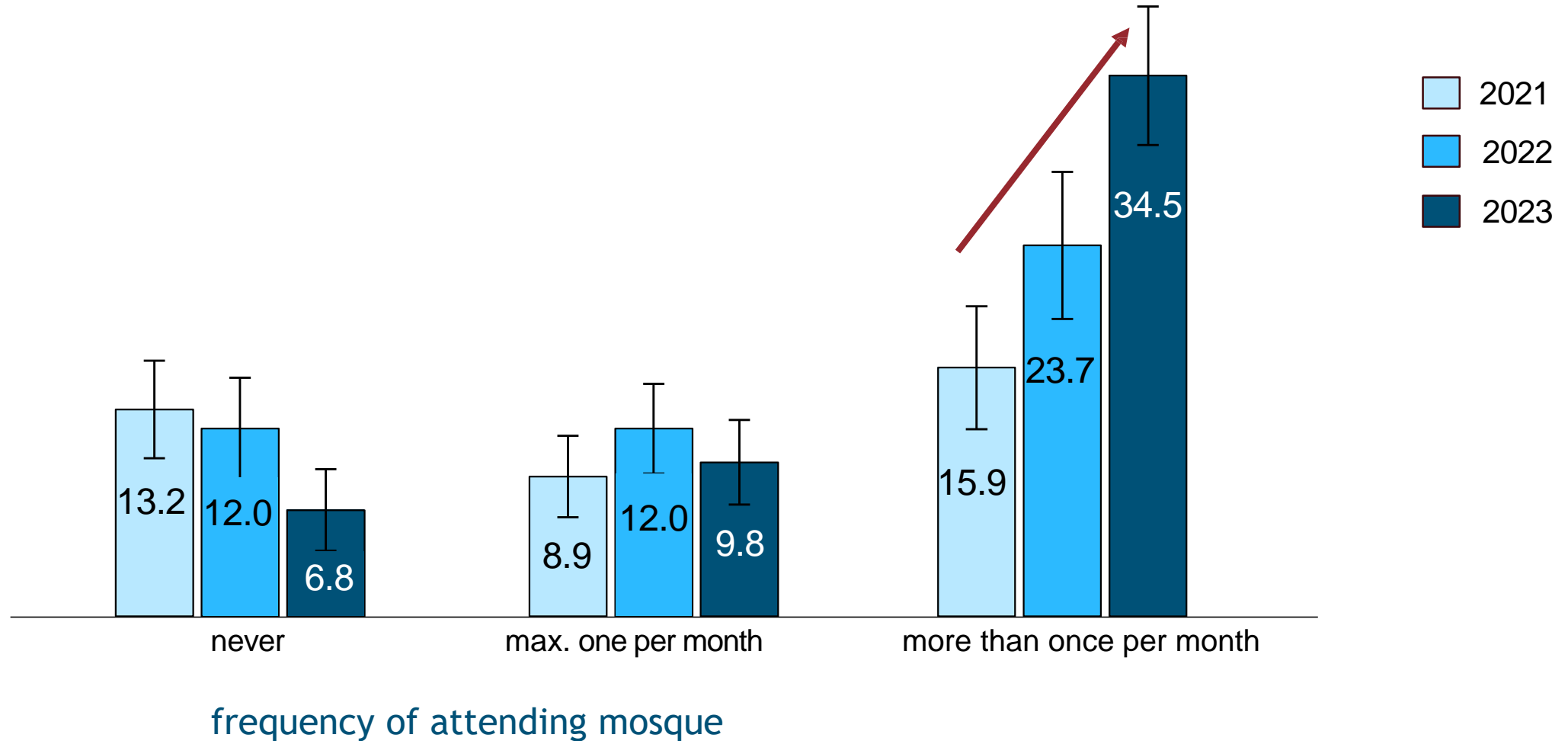
Standardised Effect-Sizes (Beta), robust SE

= $p < .05$, * = $p < .01$, * = $p < .001$.

Prevalence of manifest antisemitic attitudes by frequency of attending mosque and fundamental religiosity(MiD 2023)



Prevalence of manifest antisemitic attitudes by frequency of attending mosque 2021 - 2023



Summary I

- Prevalence rates of manifest anti-Semitic attitudes appear to have hardly changed between 2021 and 2023 when considering the German population as a whole. The prevalence rate is around 4% in each of the three survey years.
 - However, a more detailed analysis shows considerable differences between subpopulations with respect to migration background and religious affiliation.
-
- Muslims are the only group to show a significant increase in manifest anti-Semitic prejudice from 12.5% in 2021 to 17.5% in 2023.
 - In all three survey years, higher levels of manifest anti-Semitic attitudes were also found among Muslims compared to other groups. For example, the prevalence rates for anti-Semitic attitudes are increased by a factor of 4 compared to non-Muslim people who are also migrants.
 - The increased rates of anti-Semitism among Muslims cannot be explained by the effects of socio-demographic differences, migration background, socio-economic disadvantages and collective social marginalization.
 - However, there are particular religion-related factors that have significant effects on the prevalence of anti-Semitic attitudes in particular among Muslims.

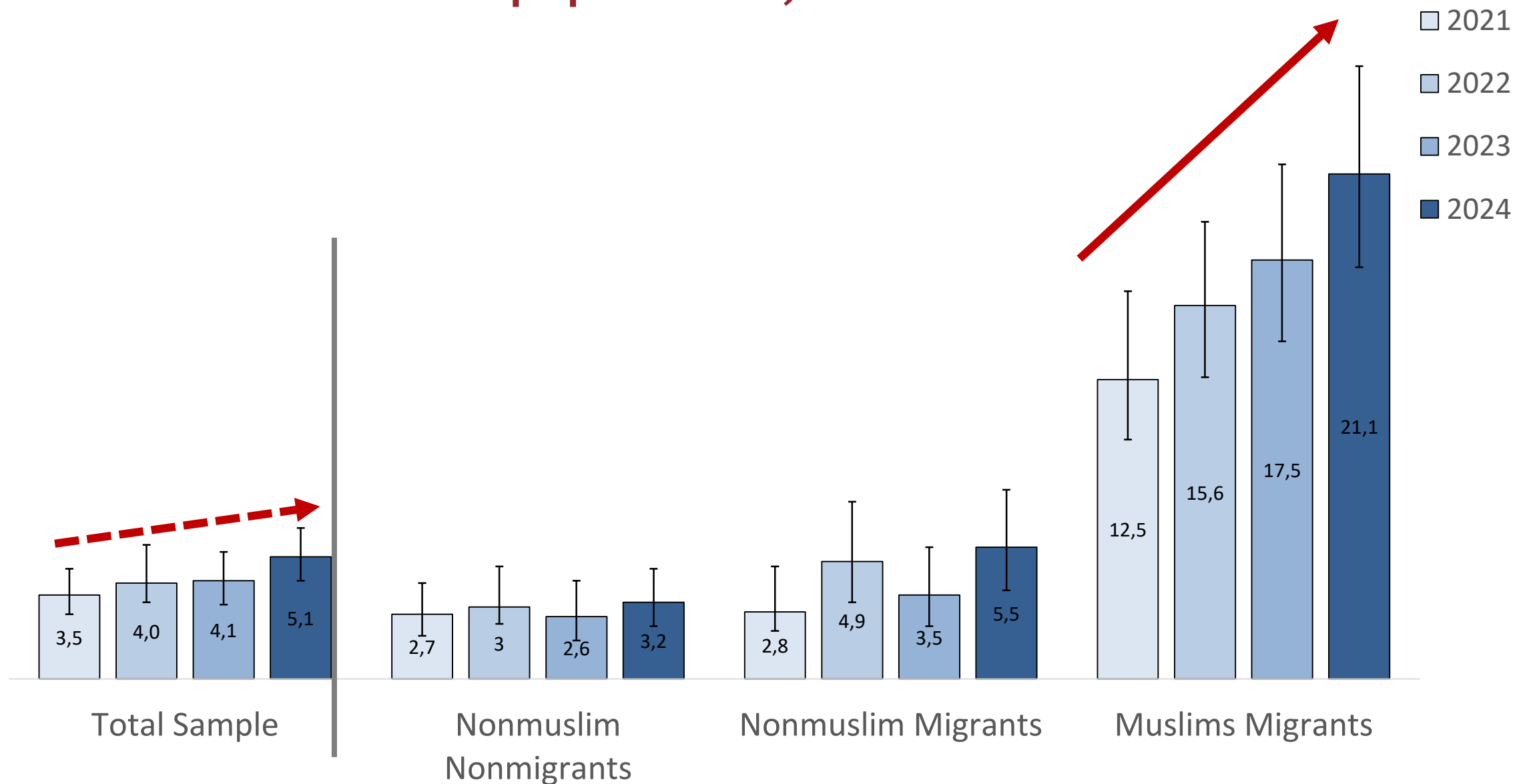
Summary II

1. For both Christians and Muslims, the intensity of individual faith, the centrality of religion and individual religious practice are not related to anti-Semitism.
2. There are multivariate stable correlations between religious fundamentalism and anti-Semitism to be found among both Christians and Muslims. However, the effect sizes in this regard are significantly higher among Muslims than among Christians.
3. Furthermore, a significant and strong effect of collective religious practice on antisemitism is only found multivariate among Muslims: the more frequently mosques are visited, the more pronounced antisemitic attitudes are.
4. Only among Muslims who frequently attend mosques is there a significant and considerable increase in anti-Semitism between 2021 and 2023, from 15.9% to 34.5%.

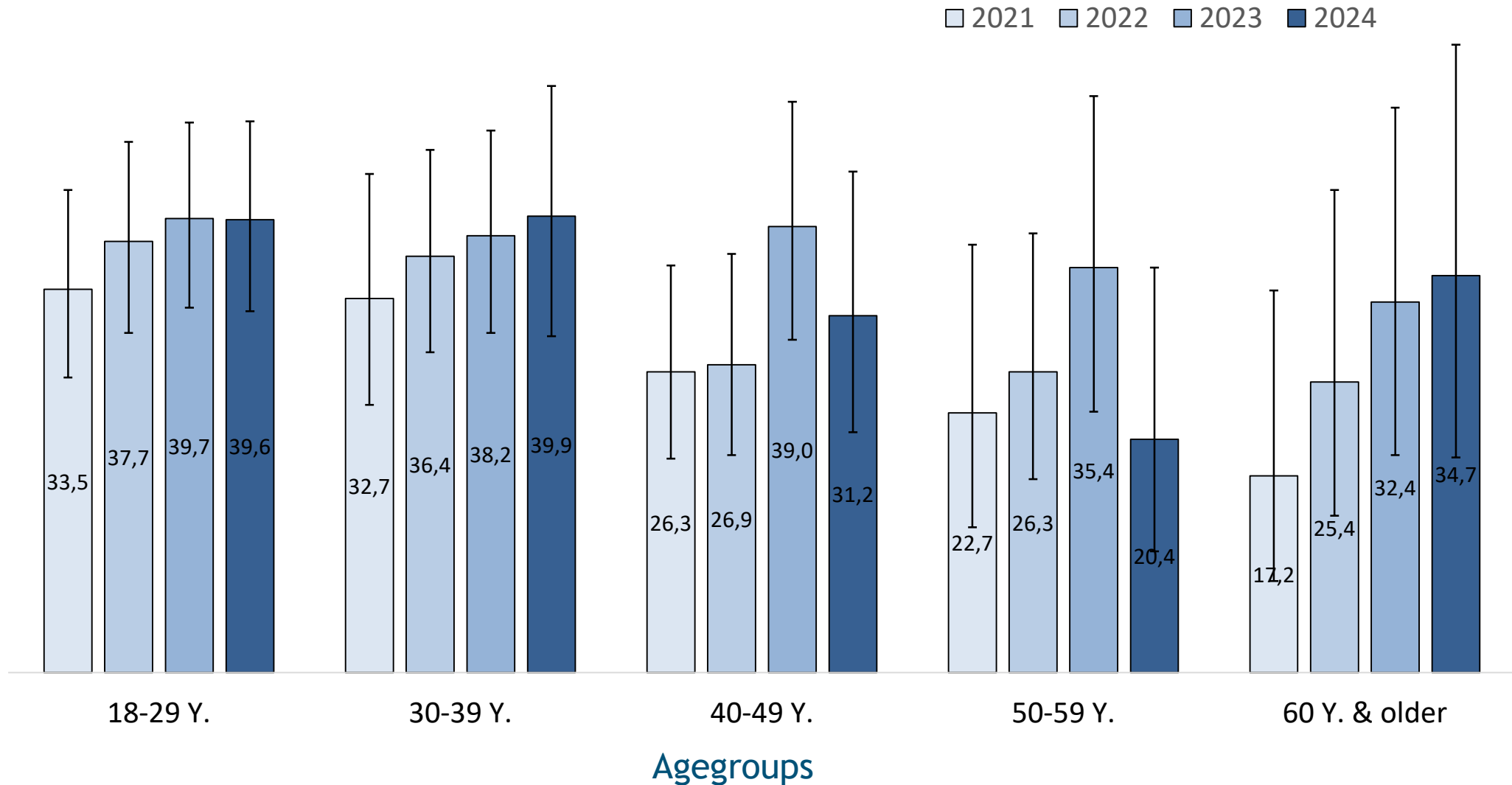
However, it should also be noted: Even among Muslims who have a pronounced fundamental religious attitude and who also frequently attend a mosque, manifest anti-Semitic attitudes are not to be found among the majority. (56.2% of them did not show manifest antisemitic attitudes).

Additional data included into the analysis (MiD Survey 2024)

Prevalence of manifest antisemitic attitudes in subpopulations, 2021 - 2024



Rates of Muslims with high religious fundamentalism by agegroup, 2021 - 2024



Thank you for your attention!

Study „MiD“

<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de/en/startseite.html>

Research Consortium MOTRA

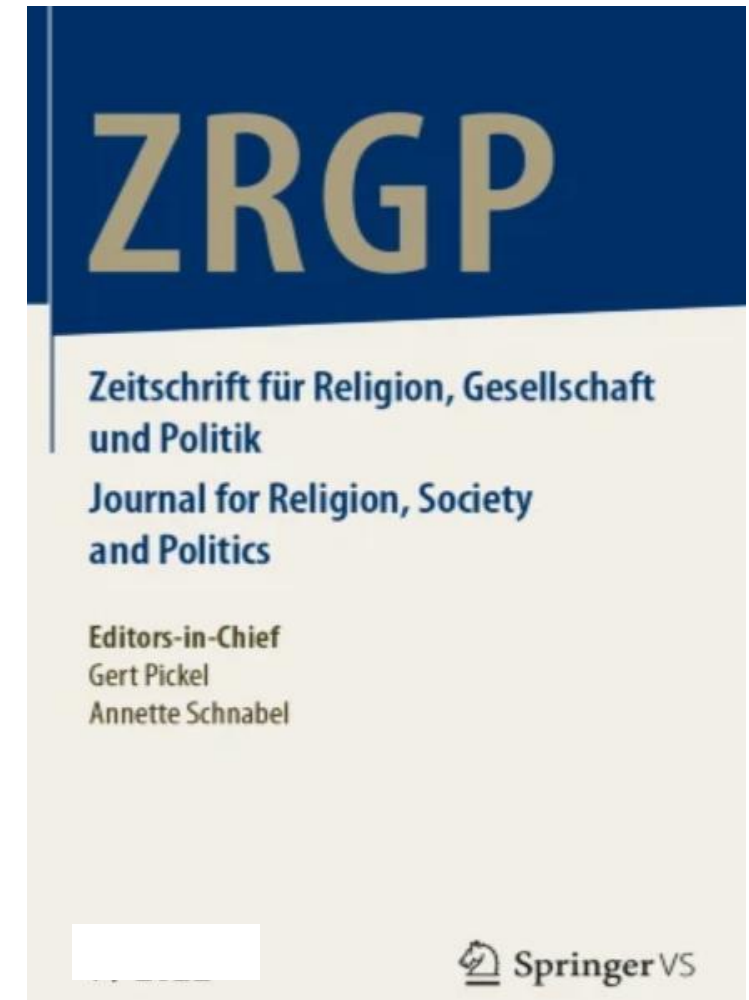
<https://www.motra.info/>

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Recent publication on the results presented today

Fischer, J.M.K. & Wetzels, P. (2024). Die Verbreitung antisemitischer Einstellungen in Deutschland: Befunde repräsentativer Befragung zu Trends seit 2021 und den Einflüssen von Migrationshintergrund, Religionszugehörigkeit und Religiosität. *Zeitschrift für Religion, Gesellschaft und Politik (ZRGP)*.

Open Access. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41682-024-00167-6>



UHH-Research Report on the Prevalence of Antisemitic Attitudes among Juveniles and Young Adults in Germany



Forschungsbericht No. 15

Antisemitismus bei Jugendlichen und Heranwachsenden in Deutschland: Zur Bedeutung von Migrationshintergrund und Religion

*Ergebnisse der repräsentativen MOTRA-Befragung
„Junge Menschen in Deutschland, 2022“ (JuMiD)*

Jannik M.K. Fischer, Peter Wetzels, Katrin Brettfeld und Diego Farren



Institut für Kriminologie an der Fakultät für Rechtswissenschaft der Universität Hamburg



Current publications on results of the MOTRA research project on the prevalence of anti-Semitic attitudes in Germany

- Farren, D., Fischer, J.M.K., Brettfeld, K., Endtricht, R., Kleinschnittger, J. & Wetzels, P. (2023). *Demokratiedistanz, extremismusaffine Einstellungen, Akzeptanz politisch motivierter Gewalt sowie Intoleranz gegenüber Minderheiten und Fremdgruppen bei Jugendlichen und Heranwachsenden in Deutschland 2022*. MOTRA-Forschungsbericht No. 10 aus dem Institut für Kriminologie an der Fakultät für Rechtswissenschaft. Hamburg: Universität Hamburg. <https://doi.org/10.25592/uhhfdm.13176>
- Fischer, J.M.K. & Wetzels, P. (2024). Die Verbreitung antisemitischer Ressentiments unter Jugendlichen und Heranwachsenden in Deutschland: Zusammenhänge mit Migration und Religion. *Monatsschrift für Kriminologie und Strafrechtsreform*. Preprint: <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/mks-2024-0022/html>
- Fischer, J.M.K., Wetzels, P., Brettfeld, K. & Farren D. (2024). Antisemitismus bei Jugendlichen und Heranwachsenden in Deutschland: Zur Bedeutung von Migrationshintergrund und Religion. UHH MOTRA Forschungsbericht No. 15 aus dem Institut für Kriminologie an der Fakultät für Rechtswissenschaft. Hamburg: Universität Hamburg. <https://doi.org/10.25592/uhhfdm.14825>
- Fischer, J.M.K. & Wetzels, P. (2024). Die Verbreitung antisemitischer Einstellungen in Deutschland: Befunde repräsentativer Befragung zu Trends seit 2021 und den Einflüssen von Migrationshintergrund, Religionszugehörigkeit und Religiosität. *Zeitschrift für Religion, Gesellschaft und Politik (ZRGP)*. Online. Open Access. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41682-024-00167-6>
- Fischer, J.M.K. & Wetzels, P. (2023) Antisemitismus in Deutschland: Notwendige Differenzierungen in der Migrationsgesellschaft. *Rechtspsychologie*, 9 (3), 346-381. <https://doi.org/10.5771/2365-1083-2023-3-346>
- Fischer, J.M.K. & Wetzels, P. (2023) Antisemitismus in Deutschland: Notwendige Differenzierungen in der Migrationsgesellschaft. *Rechtspsychologie*, 9 (3), 346-381. <https://doi.org/10.5771/2365-1083-2023-3-346>
- Richter, T., Brettfeld, K., Greipl, S., Hohner, J., Hunger, S., Kanol, E., El Masri, M. & Wetzels, P. (2022). Auswirkungen des Gaza-Krieges 2021 auf Deutschland: Eine mehrdimensionale Analyse des Radikalisierungsgeschehens. In U. Kemmesies., P. Wetzels, B. Austin, A. Dessecker, E. Grande, C. Büscher & D. Rieger (Hrsg.), *MOTRA-Monitor 2021*, (S. 222-247). Wiesbaden: BKA. <https://doi.org/10.53168>

Homepage of the Study MiD („Menschen in Deutschland“)

Research Report No. 1

"People in Germany 2021"

First wave of the German national representative survey:
Methodology, survey design and sampling

Rebecca Endtricht, Diego Farren, Katrin Brettfeld,
Jannik M.K. Fischer & Peter Wetzels



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THE STUDY

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

FINDINGS

CONTACT



<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de/en/startseite.html>

<http://doi.org/10.25592/uhhfdm.12244>