



# Crime and Immigration: Socialization and Acculturation of Russian Immigrants in Israel

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- Immigration to a new country is mainly considered a process of sociocultural adaptation, which is complex in itself.
- In addition, its direction is influenced by several factors. On the one hand, adaptation is influenced by attitudes among the host population towards immigrants, as well as the policies pursued by the government of the receiving country with respect to immigrant integration.

On the other hand, the process of adaptation is also affected by the type of immigration involved - whether it is economic migration or refugee flight - and by the immigrants' personal characteristics, including age, skills and educational level.

Between 1989-2007 close to 1.1 million citizens, mostly Jews, have immigrated from the Former Soviet Union to Israel. This wave of immigration has constitute at its peak close to twenty percent of the entire State of Israel population.

This Russian wave of immigration is considered to be perhaps the most successful one in the history of immigration to Israel since 1948.

Despite the fact that some empirical findings attest to the success of this wave of immigration, for example:

As of 2010, more than 66% percent of the immigrants have expressed a high degree of satisfaction from many aspects of their life in israel.

“The massive Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union to Israel since the summer of 1989 does not attest to Israel’s greater appeal. FSU Jews are uprooted from their home against their will by surging anti-Semitism, they are prevented from entering the United States (after the latter, bowing to Israeli pressure, ceased to recognize them as political refugees), and they find their way to Israel for lack of any other option as actual refugees.”

"One of the most important and successful chapters in the Israeli History"



According to the Israeli Bureau of statistics around 5 years after this wave of immigration has almost exhausted itself, in 2001, 60% of those above 15 were with post high school education, compared to 40% in the general Jewish population.

# Unemployment Rates of Immigrants and Native Israelis

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b><u>men</u></b>								
Native israeli	7.5%	7.1%	7.7%	6.7%	5.2%	4.8%	5.2%	5.8%
Russian immigrant	40.7%	28.5%	19.9%	15.0%	9.0%	7.1%	7.7%	7.0%
<b><u>women</u></b>								
Native israeli	11.0%	11.0%	11.5%	10.0%	9.1%	7.4%	6.8%	7.0%
Russian immigrant	52.9%	50.3%	38.4%	28.5%	21.5%	17.6%	11.8%	10.4%

Close to 24 years since the beginning of this wave of immigration and about 17 years since this wave of immigration has reached its peak of almost 1 million immigrants, it seems that the integration is not full and consistent with the U model—a drop in status at the first stage and a return to the original status after several years.

Two thirds from the immigrants have expressed satisfaction from life in Israel and from their absorption into the Israeli society. They indicated that they would have repeated their decision to day to immigrate to Israel. High level of satisfaction was expressed especially among immigrants at the age group of 18-29 ( especially females and especially Those who were 60+).

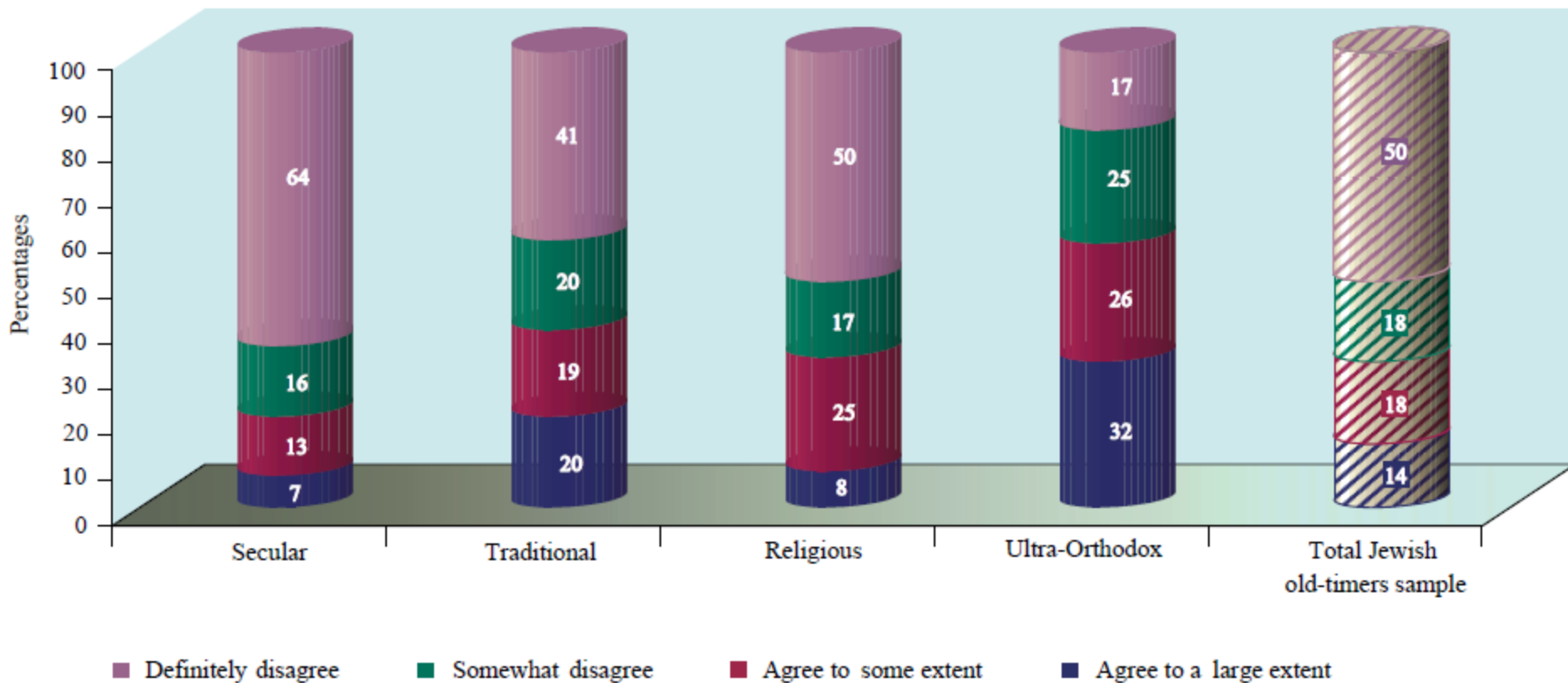
Participants have indicated that compared to their situation prior to immigration, improvement has occurred in income, housing and education.

- The sense of Israeli identity is getting stronger both among the Jewish and the non-Jewish Russian immigrants.
- Employment is almost full among the immigrants at the age group of 25-59, with the exception of females age 45-59.

- 13% of the immigrants age 18+ have indicated that they consider leaving Israel, 25% among males age 30-44 and 22% from the males age 25-29. Major reasons for considering this were, financial, employment and security reasons.
- Comparing their situation in Israel to their situation prior to immigration, immigrants have emphasized the negative change in their occupational status, job security and health. Only 20% have succeeded to integrate in occupation not different than their occupation prior to immigration.

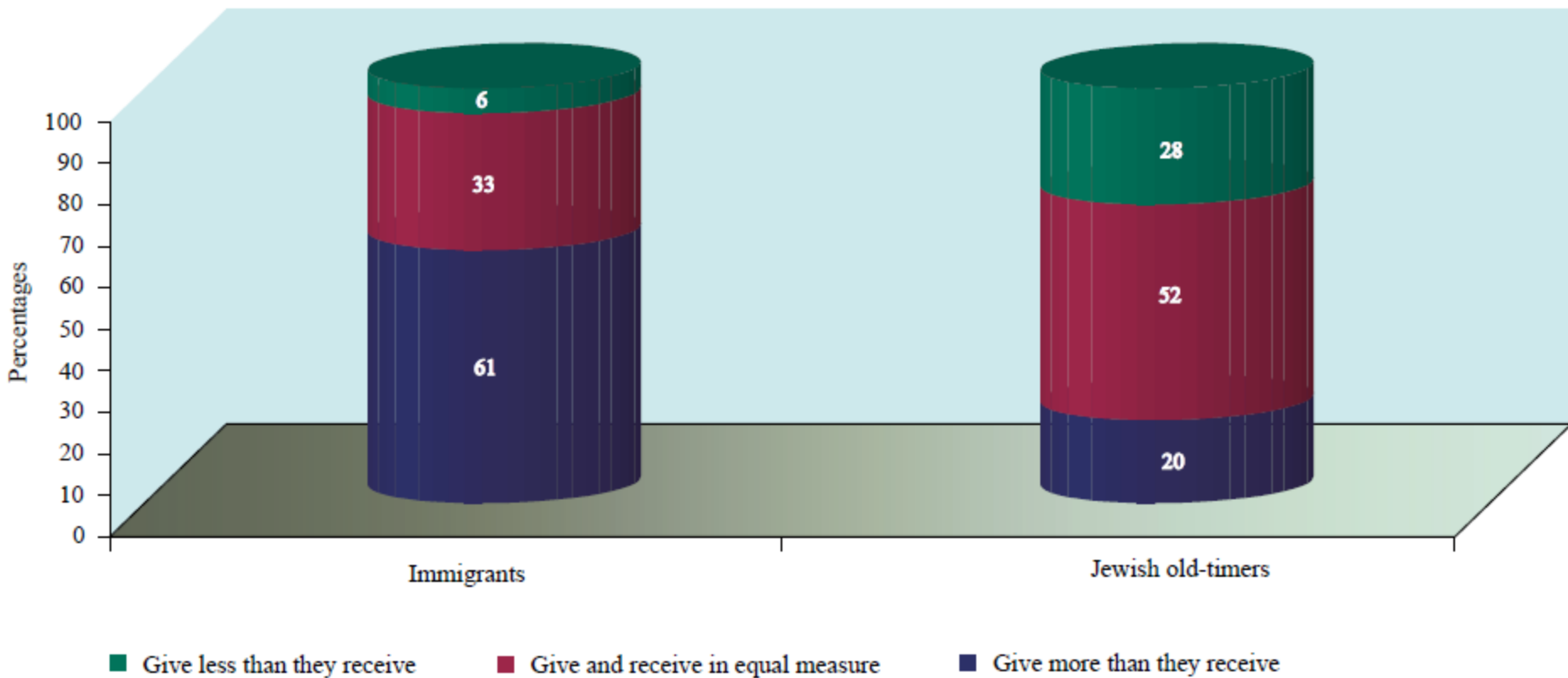
## Jewish Old-Timers' Attitude toward FSU Immigration

"Looking back, it would have been better if FSU immigrants had not come at all"  
(Jewish old-timers sample only; according to degree of religiosity; percentages)



## Relations between the Absorbing Society and the Immigrants

“If you were asked to evaluate the contribution of FSU immigrants to Israeli society and to the State of Israel, you’d say that the immigrants –”  
(percentages)





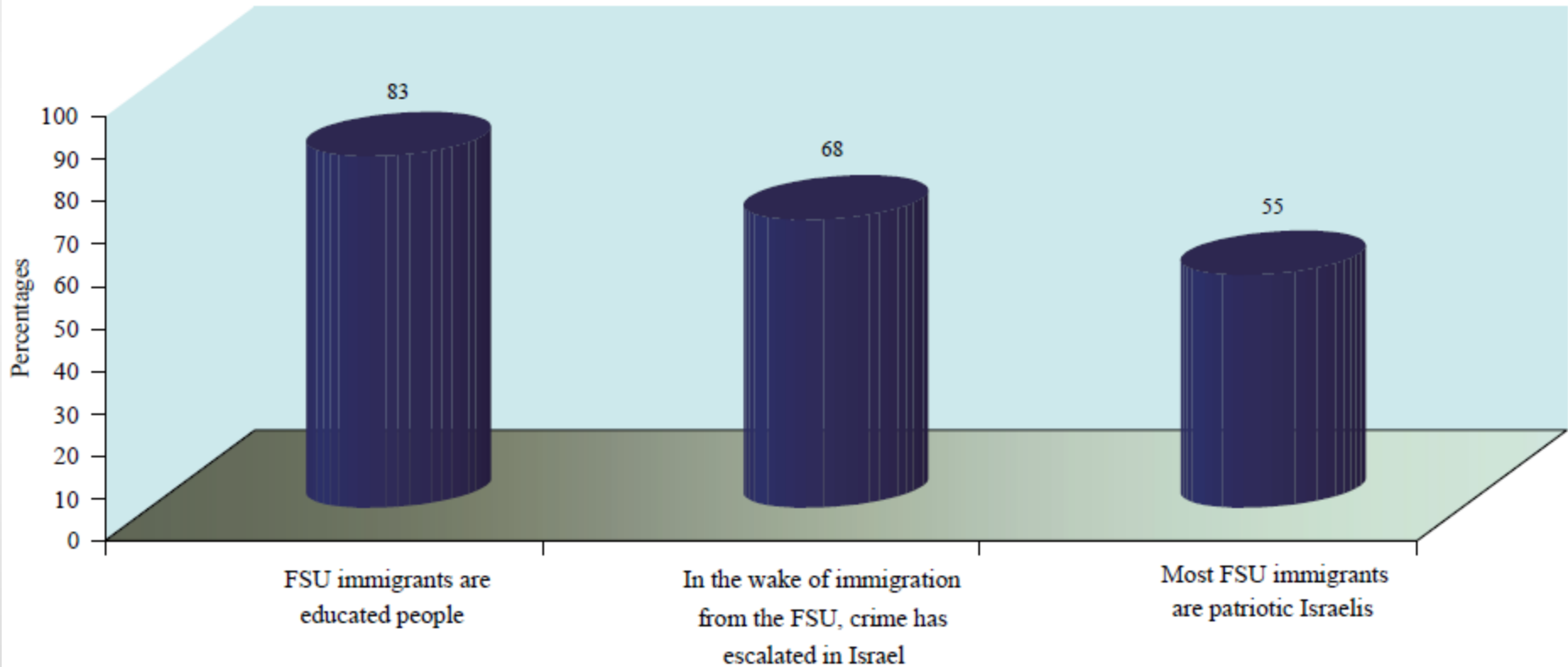
## Stereotypes of FSU Immigrants

**"In the wake of immigration from the FSU, crime has escalated in Israel"**

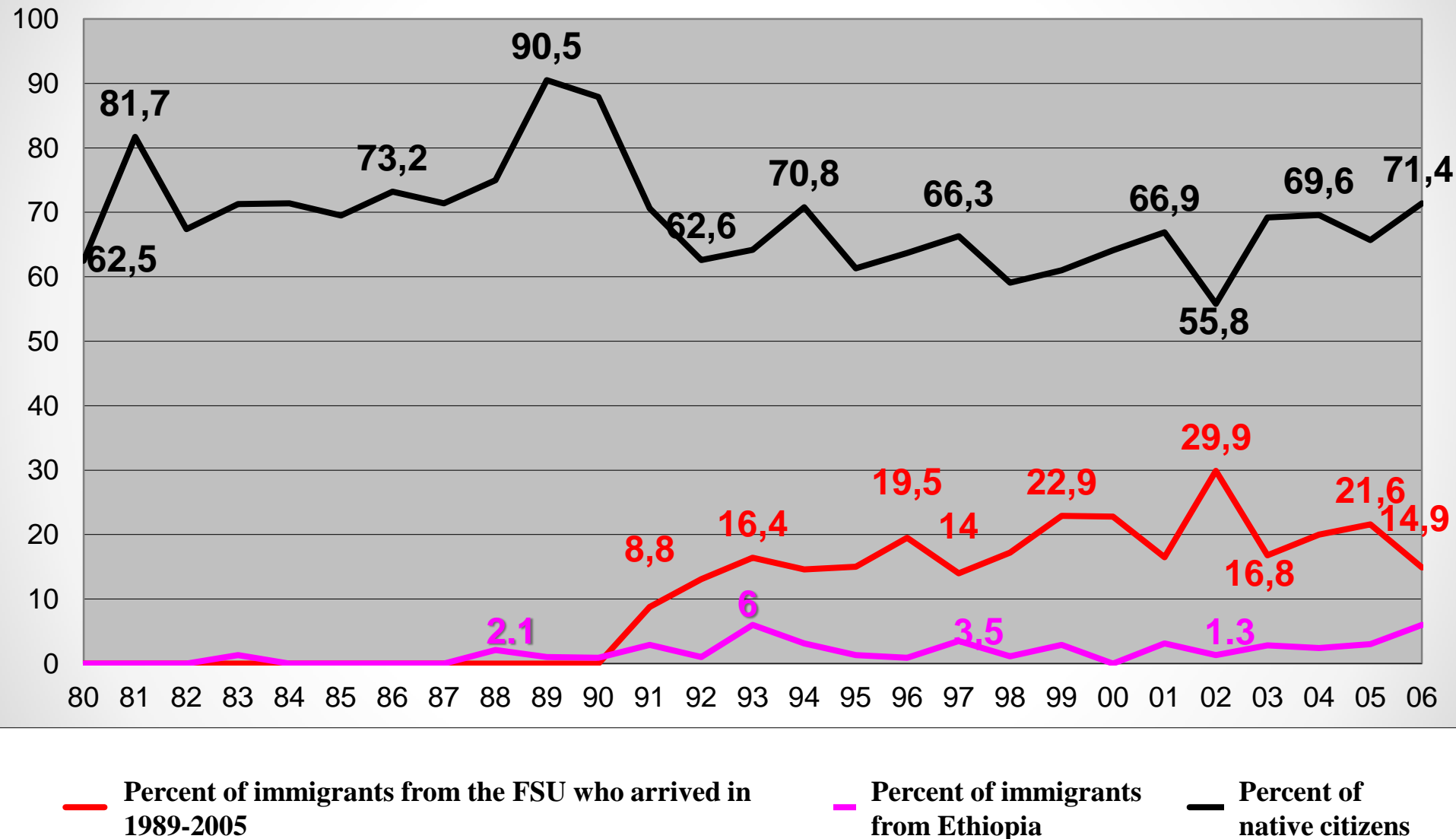
**"FSU immigrants are educated people"**

**"FSU immigrants are patriotic Israelis"**

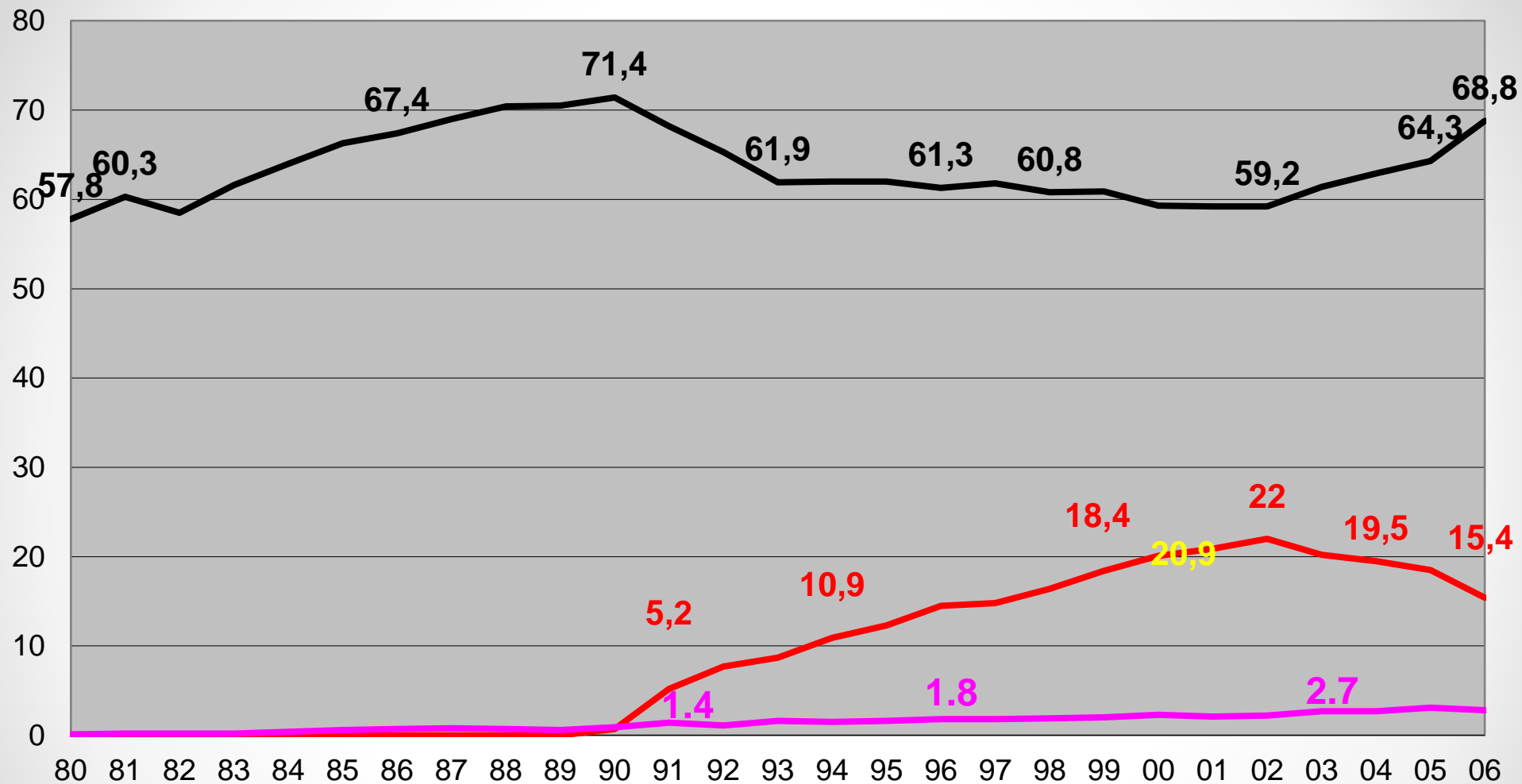
**(Jewish old-timers sample only; percentages)**



# Percentage of cases of offenses against the person (by groups of immigrants)



Percentage of cases of offenses against the body (by groups of immigrants)

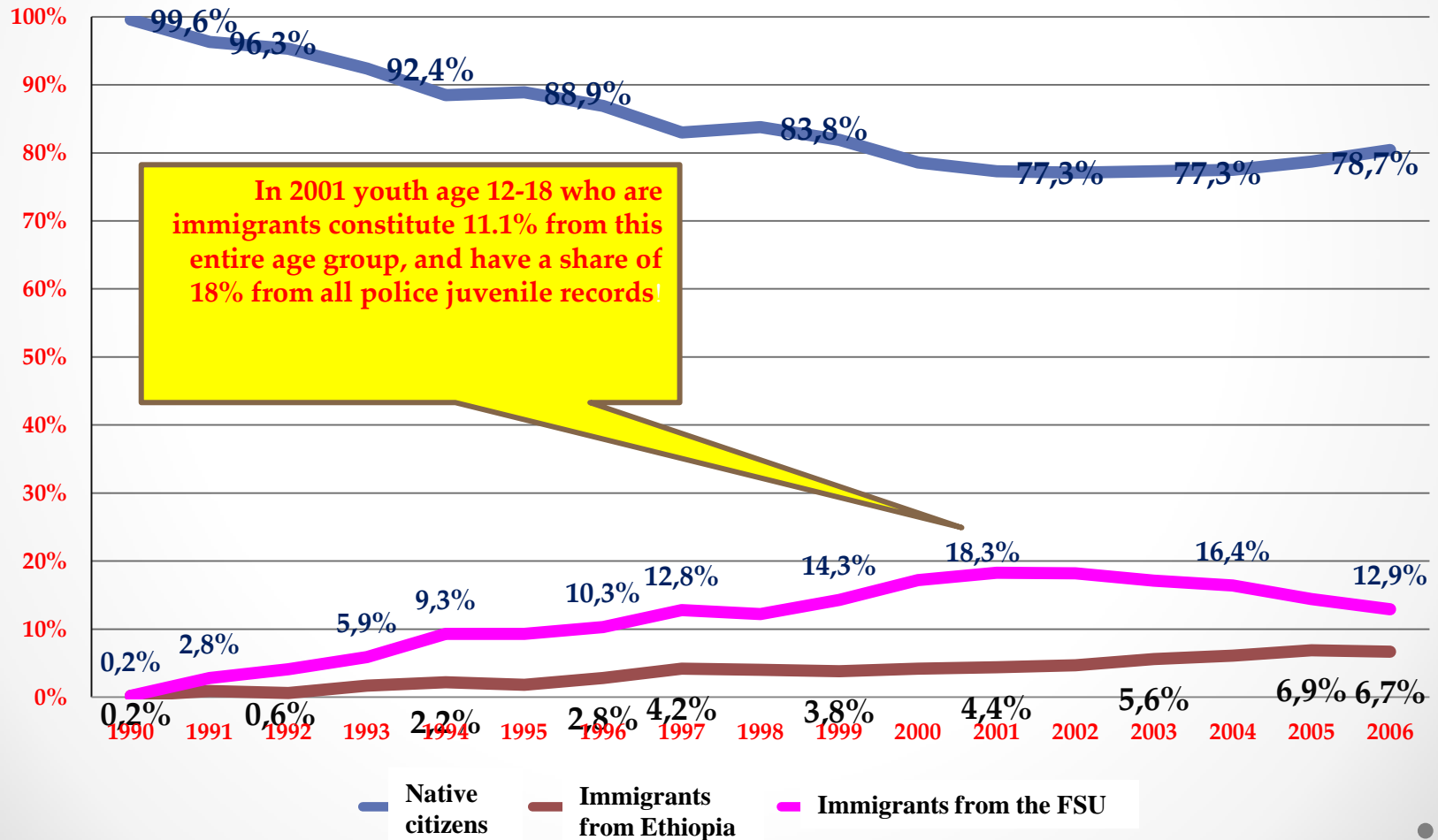


— Percent of immigrants from the FSU who arrived in 1989-2005

— Percent of immigrants from Ethiopia

— Percent of native citizens

**Distribution of criminal cases – violent offenses**  
**Juveniles 12-18**  
**Years 1990-2006**  
**By Immigrants and native citizens**



*Thank You for Your Attention*

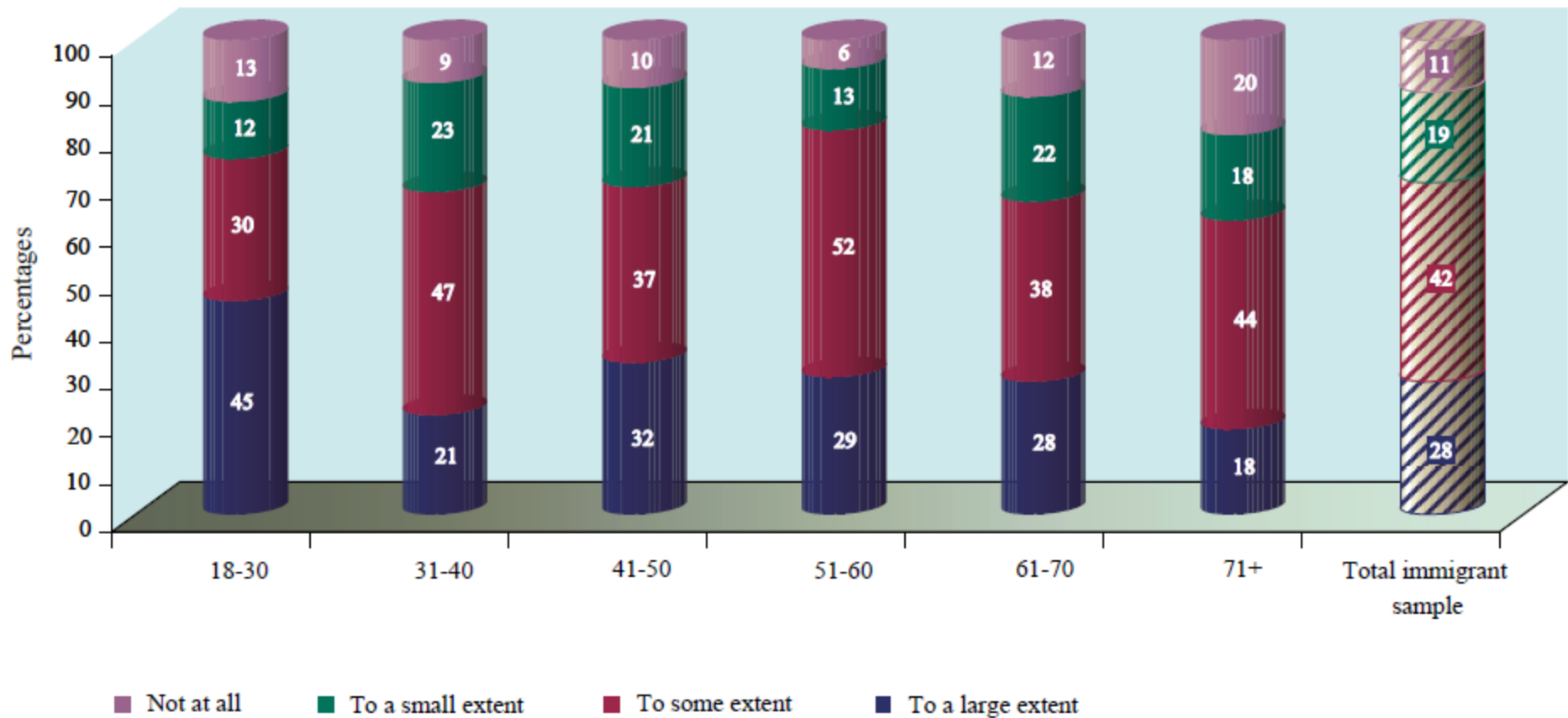




## Satisfaction with Immigration to Israel

“To what extent have you realized in Israel the aspirations and expectations you had before your immigration?”

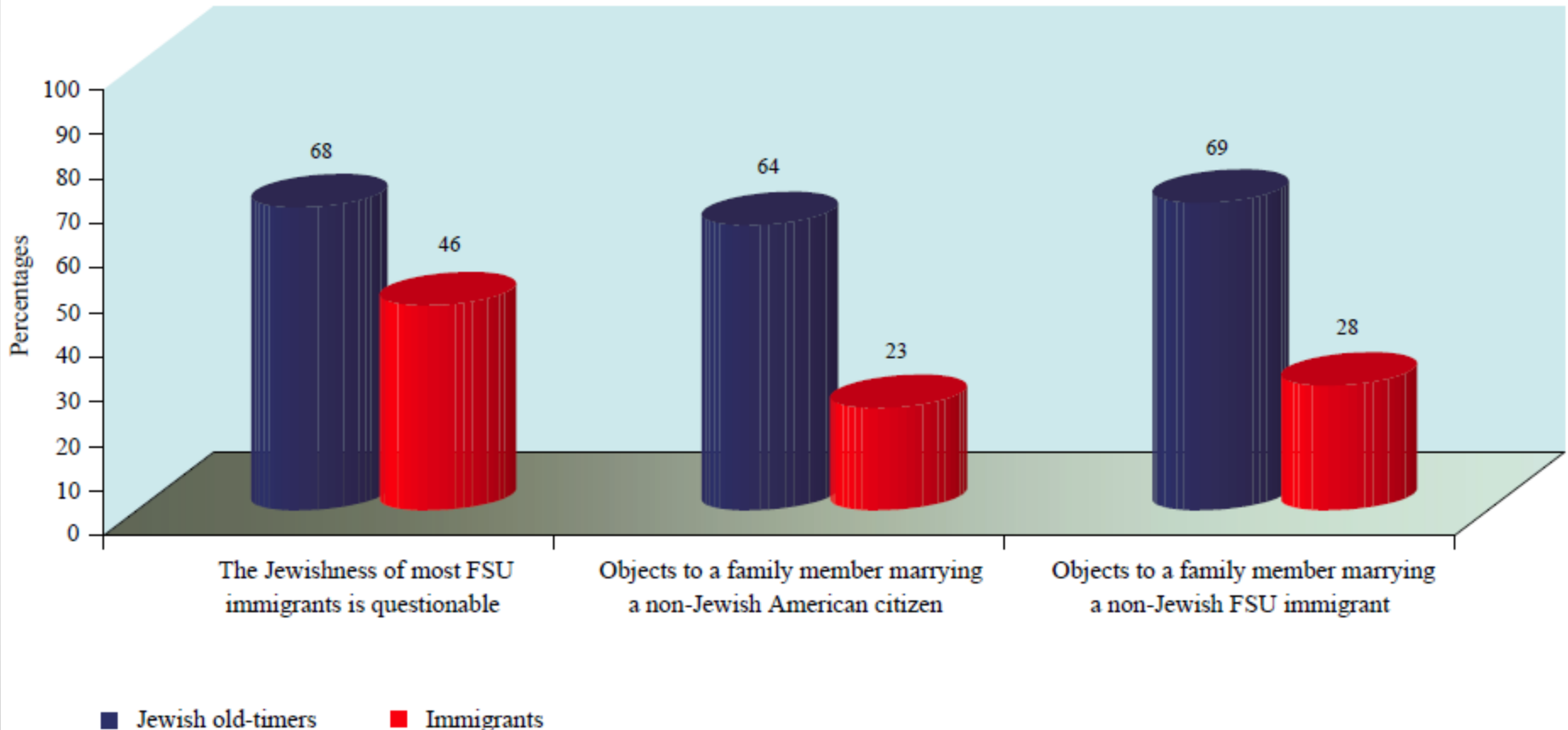
(Immigrants sample only; according to age; percentages)





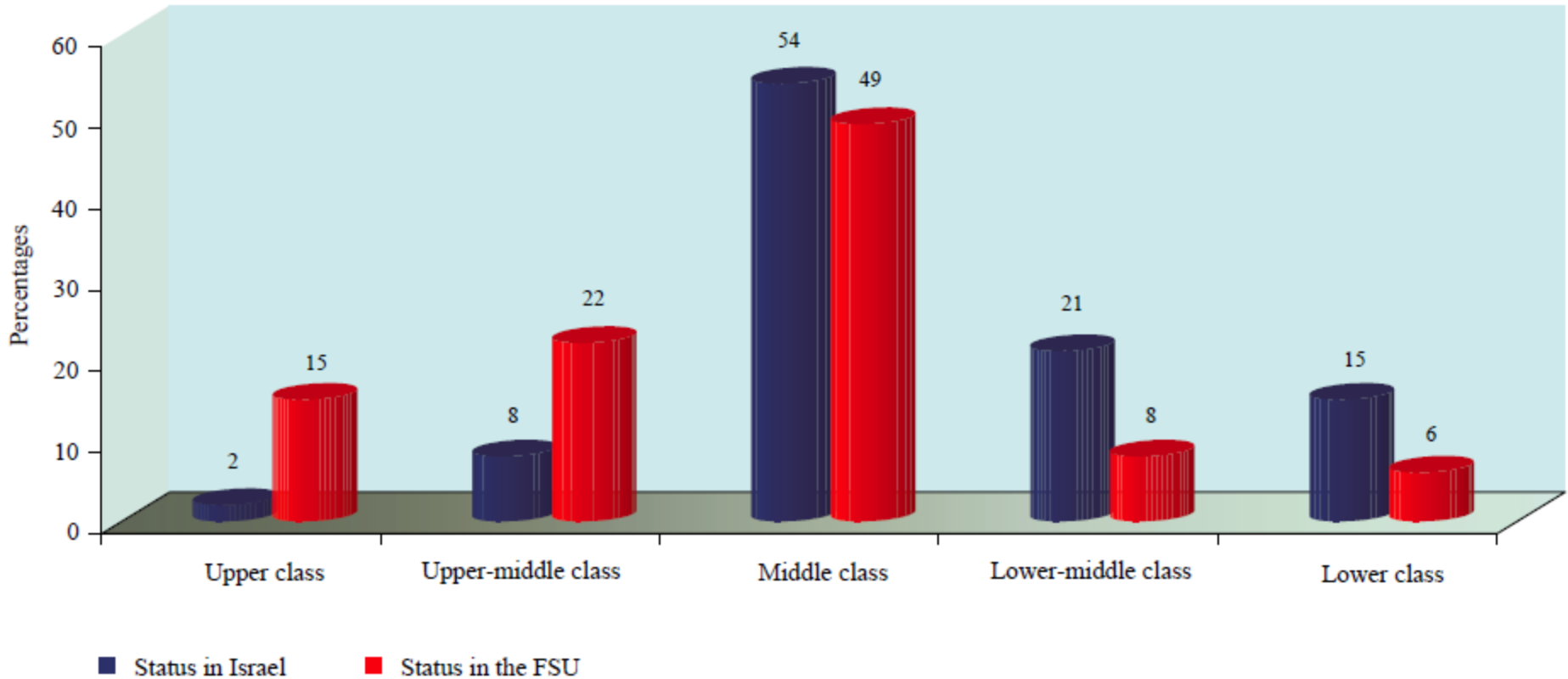
## Attitudes concerning the Jewishness of FSU Immigrants

**"The Jewishness of most FSU immigrants is questionable"**  
**"Objects to a family member marrying an American citizen who is not Jewish"**  
**"Objects to a family member marrying a FSU immigrant who is not Jewish"**  
(percentages)



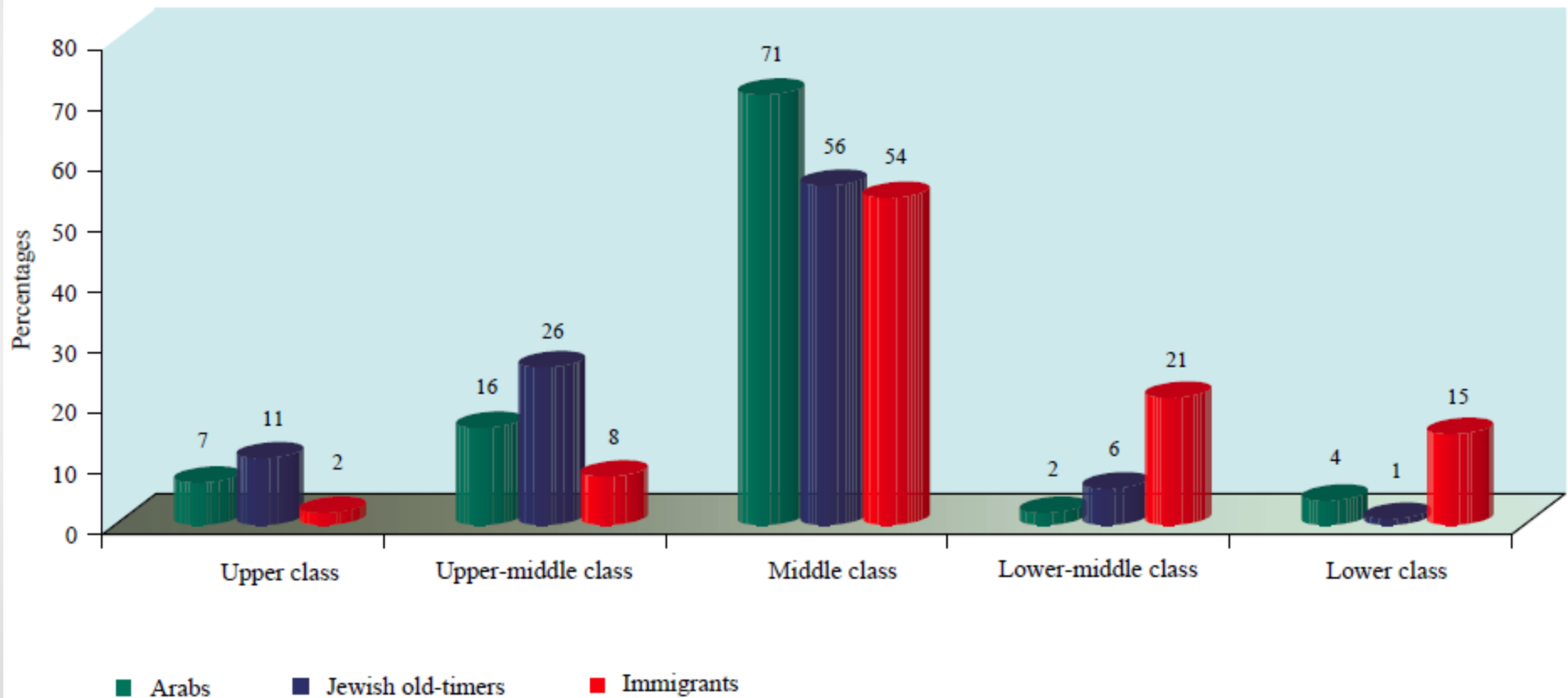
## Social Status before and after Immigration

“To what social class do you belong?”  
“To what social class did your family belong before immigration?”  
(Immigrants sample only; percentages)



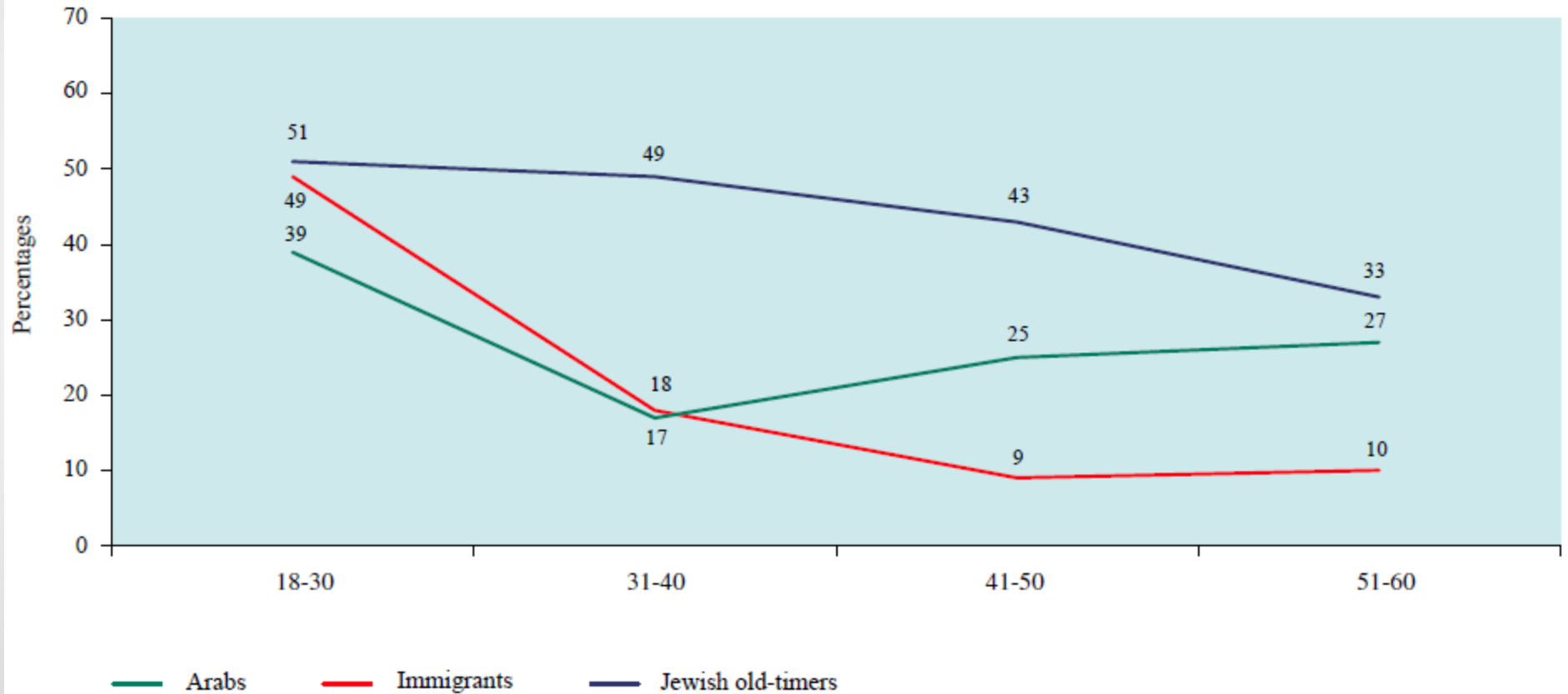
## Social Class: Self-Ascription

“To what social class do you belong?”  
(according to sectors; percentages)



## Expectations of a Higher Standard of Living

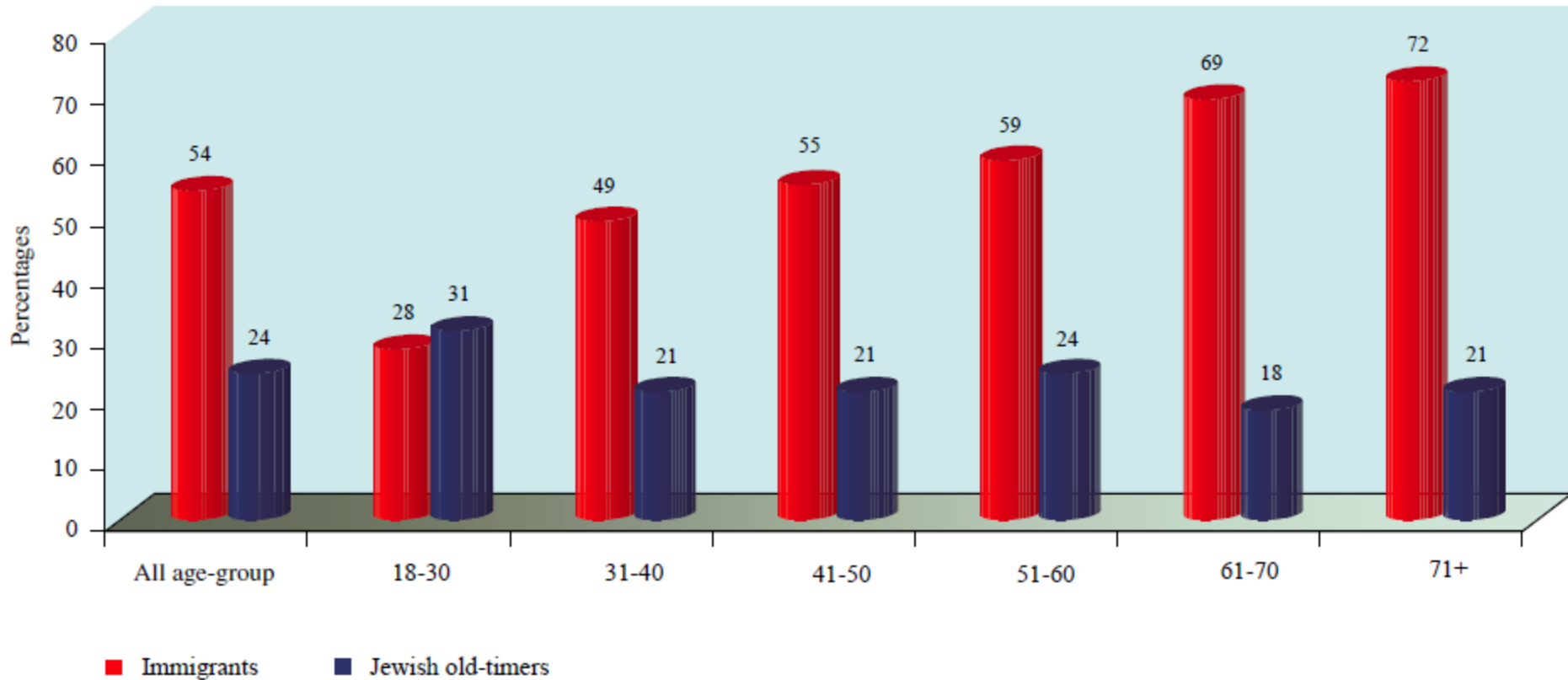
“Do you expect your standard of living to rise in the next few years?”  
Definitely yes (according to sectors; according to ages; percentages)



## Integration in Employment

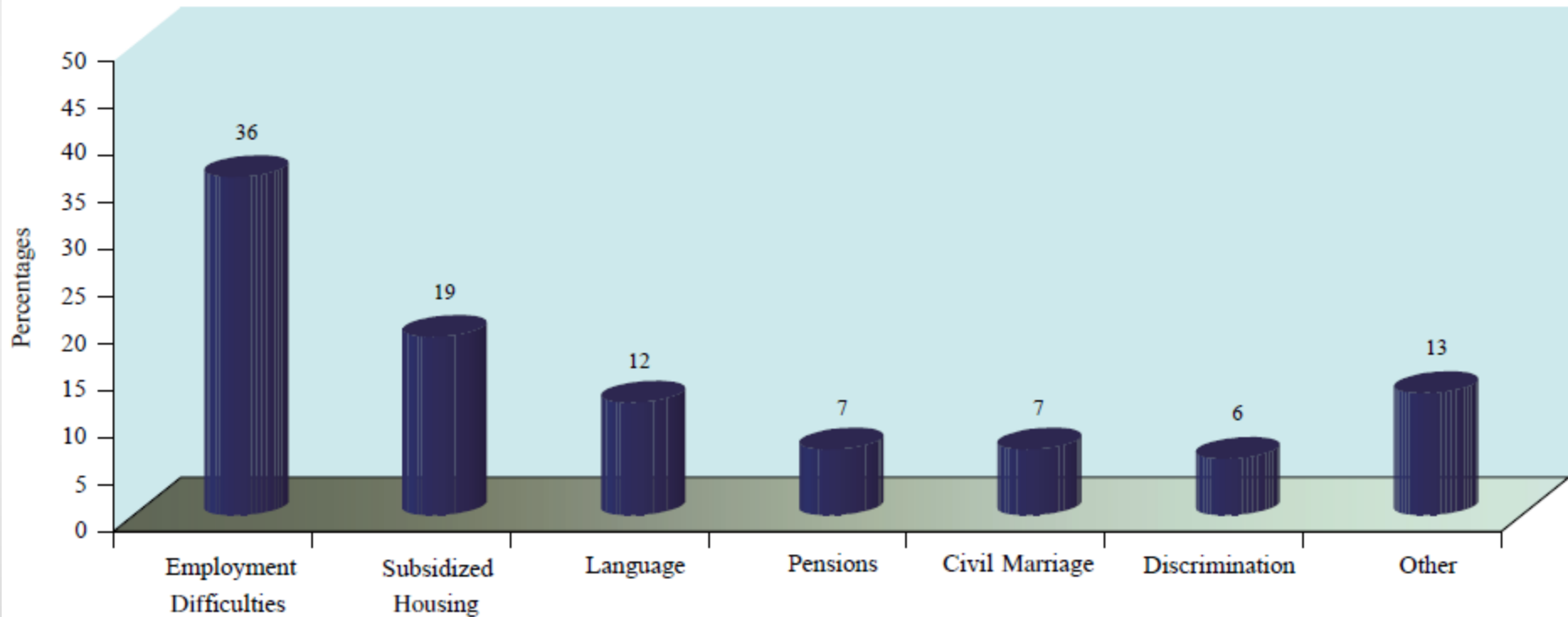
“To what extent does your level of education fit the demands of your current job?  
(last job in Israel)”

My level of education is higher than my job’s demands  
(Jewish sample only; according to age; according to sectors; percentages)



## The Main Problem of FSU Immigrants Unaddressed by the Government, according to Importance

“In your view, what is the main problem of FSU immigrants  
as yet unaddressed by the government?  
(Immigrants sample only; percentages)



## The Main Problem of FSU Immigrants Unaddressed by the Government, according to Age Groups

“In your view, what is the main problem of FSU immigrants as yet unaddressed by the government?”  
(Immigrants sample only; according to age; percentages)

