

The Israel-Hamas War

Research Report: IHS-001 | November 10, 2023

Research Question

After decades of back-and-forth conflicts, with Israel generally getting the upper hand but failing to stem the growth of terrorist cells in Palestine, on October 7th, 2023, at around 6 am, Hamas militants launched a sneak attack, murdering over 1,400 Israelis (including children), injuring over 4,500, and taking over 200 Israelis as hostages (Hutchinson, 2023). In response to these attacks, the Israeli government formally declared war against Hamas. The war has led to the estimated deaths of over 10,000 Gazans. Because this new escalation to war is barely a month old, we should expect these statistics to be revised and updated over time; we are amidst the fog of war. Nevertheless, it is clear that relations between Israel and Palestine have reached a new low, and that war is underway. In light of this, in this report, we ask: What do Americans think about this conflict and how accurate are they about the known facts?

Methodology

Data Source

- Israel-Hamas War Study (“HIS,” collected on October 16th, 2023 by survey company 1Q)

Data Quality Control

- All participants in this dataset passed fraud, duplication, and bot checks.

Participants

- All participant details can be found on the [supplemental document](#).

Measures

- Target Questions (1-8 answer categories ranged from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree; 9-10 ranged from 0 to 100):
 1. “Hamas had a moral obligation to attack Israel on October 7, 2023.”
 2. “Most Israelis Support Hamas.”
 3. “It is important that the United States provide financial resources to help Israel eliminate Hamas in Palestine.”
 4. “The United States has a moral obligation to take in refugees from Gaza.”
 5. “The Jewish people have no historical claim to land in the Middle East.”
 6. “The founding charter of Hamas (the ruling government of the Gaza Strip in Palestine) called for the destruction of Israel.”
 7. “In conflicts, Israelis generally kill far more Palestinians than Palestinians kill Israelis.”
 8. “The Israeli government advocates for white supremacy.”
 9. “If you had to guess, about what percentage of Palestinians support a cooperative two-state solution (i.e., political coexistence) with Israel?”
 10. “If you had to guess, about what percentage of Palestinians support Hamas as their ruling government?”
- Political Orientation: Respondents were asked, “Where would you place yourself on the political continuum?”
- Generation (categorized based on age, the following breakdown was used):
 - GenZ – born between 1995 and 2012; Millennials – born between 1980 and 1994; Generation X – born between 1965 and 1979; Boomers – born between 1946 and 1964.

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Summary of Findings

1. Most Americans disagreed that Hamas had a moral obligation to defend itself on October 7th.
 - However, over a third of GenZ and about a fifth of Millennials believe Hamas had a moral obligation to attack [see Figures 1-2].
 2. Americans mostly understand that Israelis are not supportive of Hamas.
 - 30% of GenZ, however, thought that most Israelis support Hamas [see Figures 3-4].
 3. Liberals and Conservatives agreed the United States should provide financial assistance to help Israel eliminate Hamas. A majority of political moderates and Millennials disagreed [see Figures 5-6].
 4. A majority of liberals believe that the United States has a moral obligation to take in refugees from Gaza. A majority of moderates and conservatives disagreed [see Figures 7-8].
 5. Regardless of age or political orientation, most Americans agreed that Jews have a historical claim to land in the Middle East [see Figures 9-10].
 6. Most Americans, regardless of age or political orientation, understood that the founding charter of Hamas called for the destruction of Israel [see Figures 11-12].
 7. Many Americans did not understand that Israel-Palestinian conflicts tend to be asymmetrical in death count: a majority of conservatives and moderates, as well as a majority of Americans across generational groups (with the exception of GenZ), did not know that Israel kills far more Palestinians in conflicts than Palestinians kill Israelis [see Figures 13-14].
 8. 43.4% of GenZ and 33% of Democrats agreed that Israel is a “white supremacy” [see Figures 15-17].
 9. Liberals and younger respondents were the least accurate group when asked to guess the percentage of Palestinians supporting a two-state solution with Israel [see Figures 18-19].
 10. Americans, regardless of age or political orientation, tended to overestimate Palestinian support for Hamas [see Figures 20-21].
- Have an interpretation? Share it here: research@skeptic.com

References

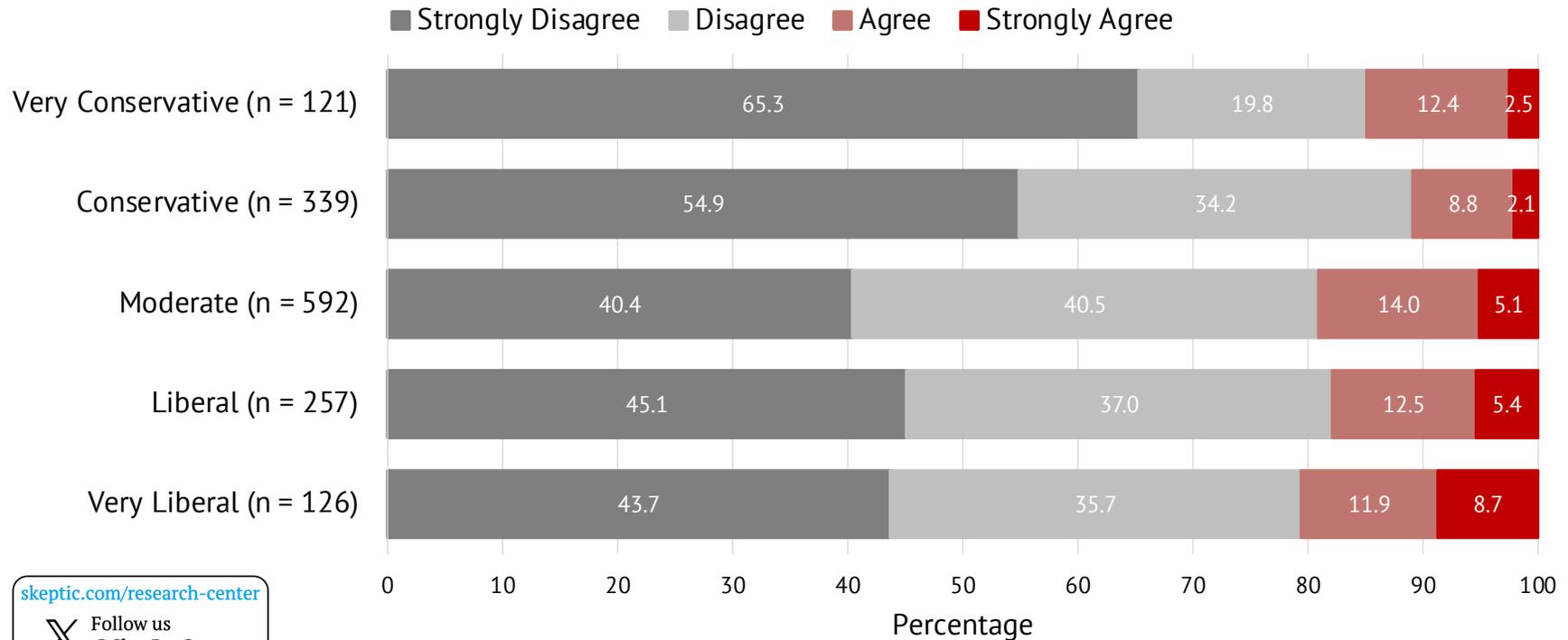
- Hutchinson, Bill. 2023. Israel-Hamas conflict: Timeline and key developments. ABC News. URL: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/timeline-surprise-rocket-attack-hamas-israel/story?id=103816006>

Figures begin on the next page...

Figure 1

" Hamas had a moral obligation to attack Israel on October 7, 2023 to defend itself."

Agreement x Political Orientation



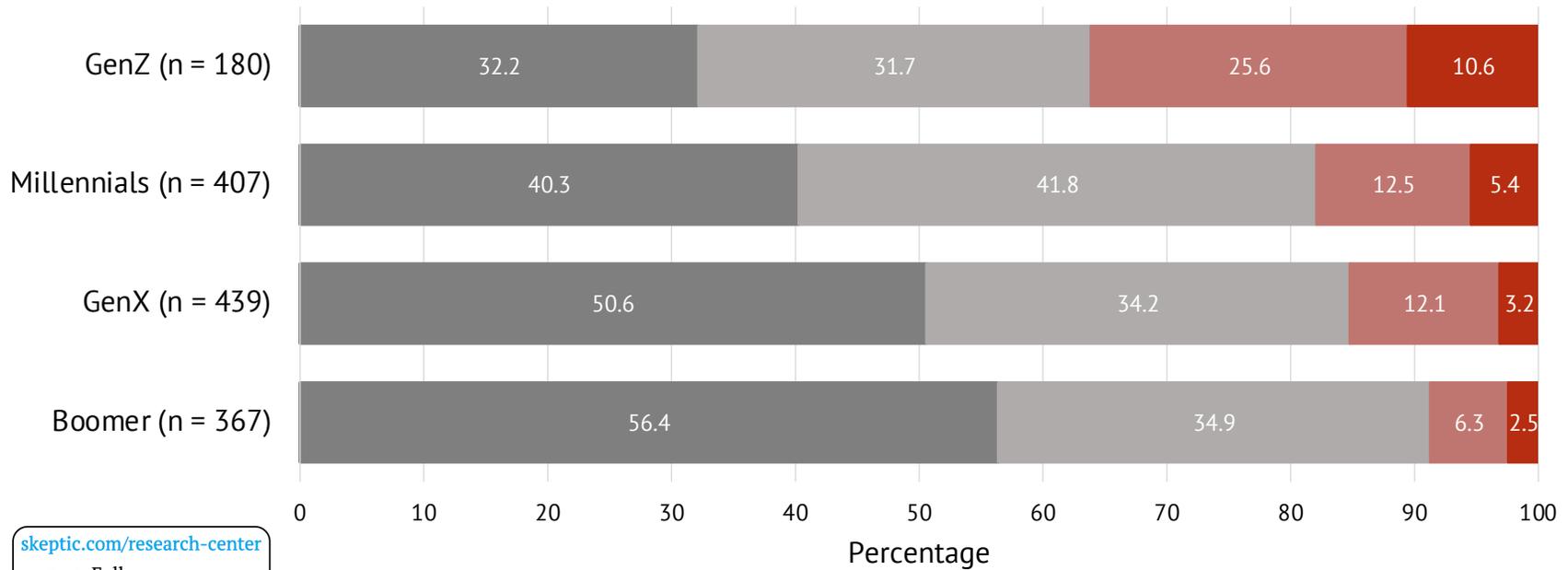
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1435 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 2

" Hamas had a moral obligation to attack Israel on October 7, 2023 to defend itself."

Agreement x Generation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



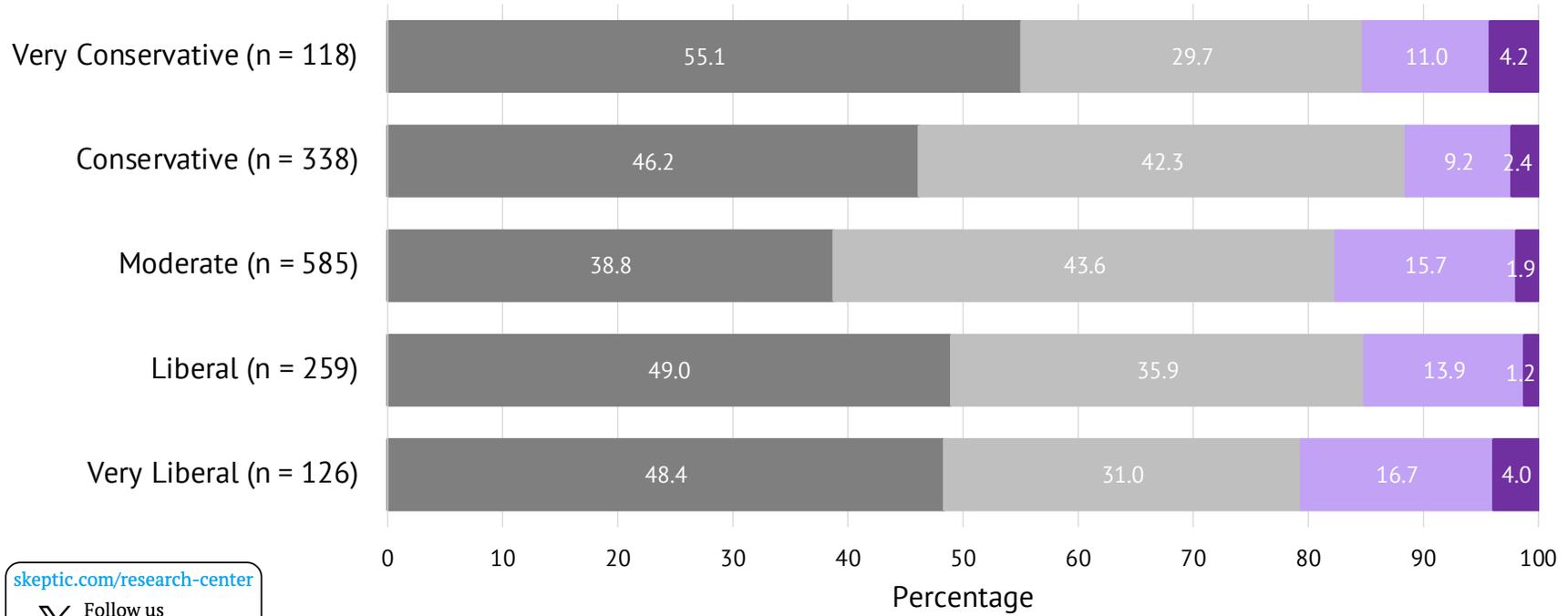
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Data Source: Israel-Hamas War Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1393 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 3

"Most Israelis support Hamas." Agreement x Political Orientation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

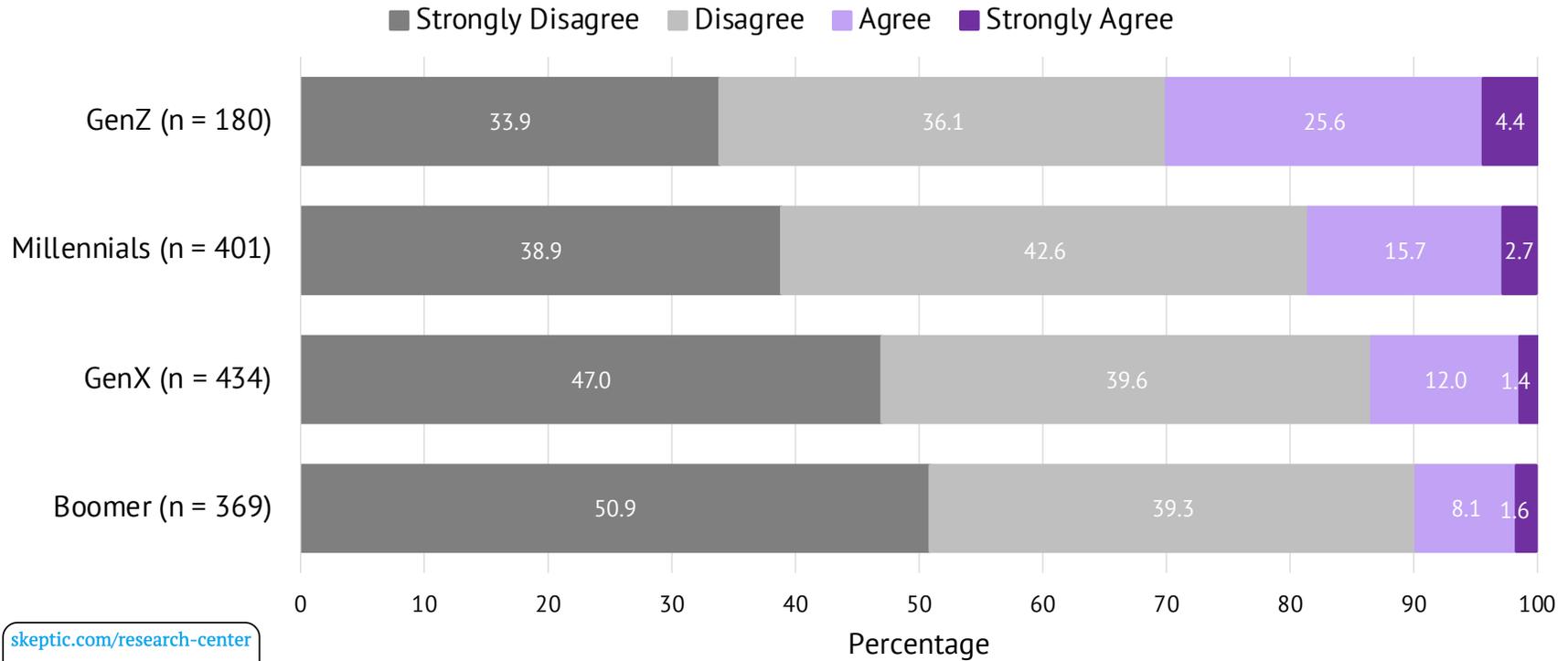


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Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1426 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 4

"Most Israelis support Hamas." Agreement x Generation



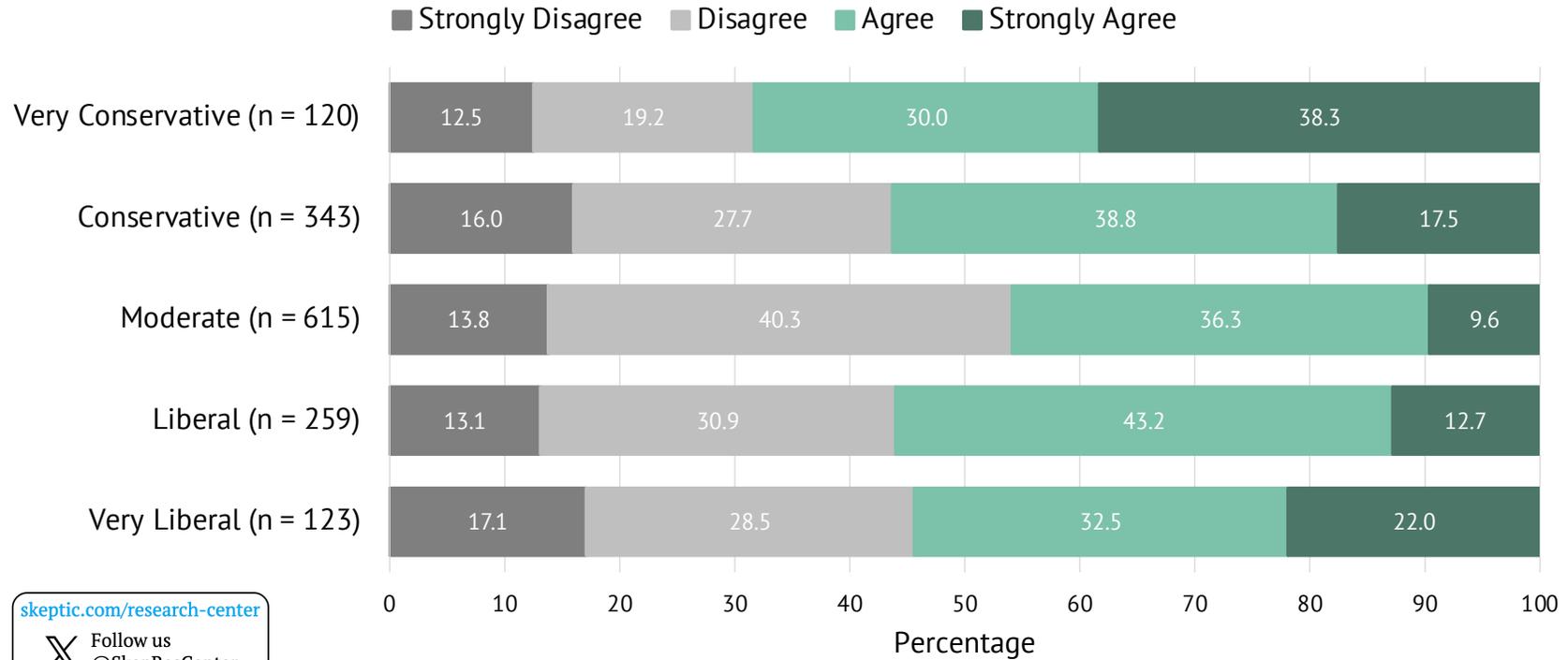
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Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1384 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 5

"It is important that the United States provide financial resources to help Israel eliminate Hamas in Palestine."

Agreement x Political Orientation



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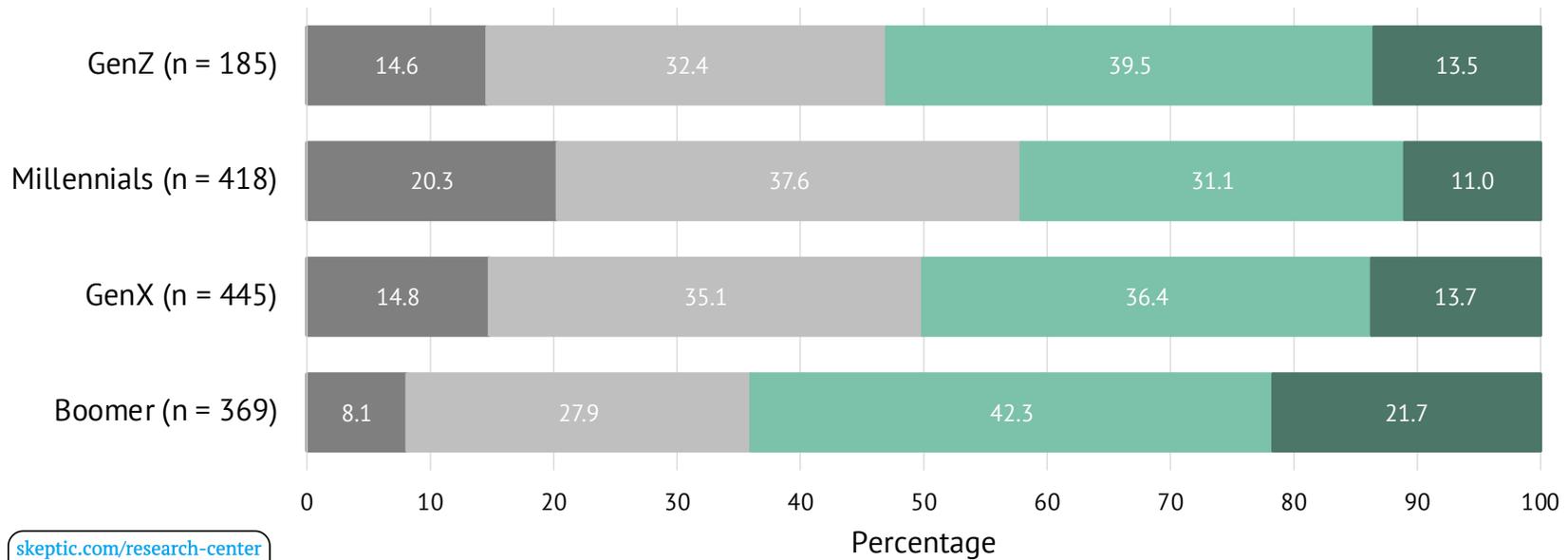
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1460 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 6

"It is important that the United States provide financial resources to help Israel eliminate Hamas in Palestine."

Agreement x Generation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



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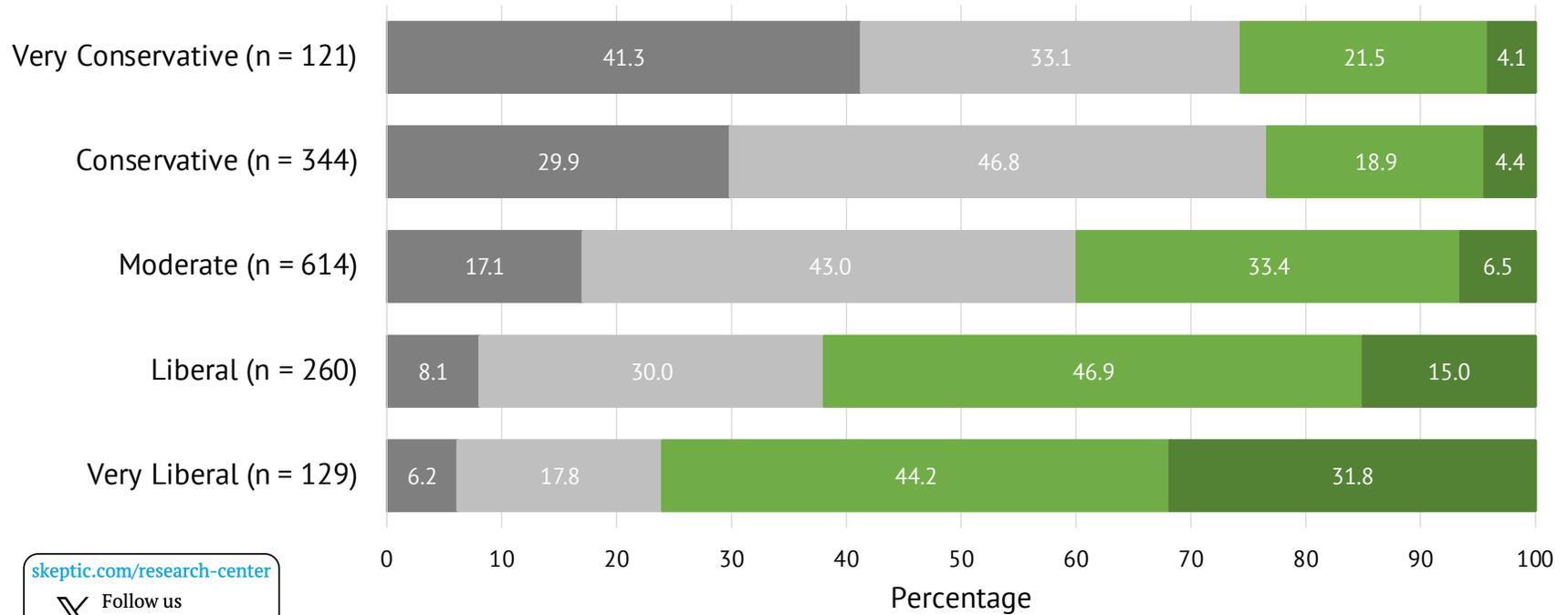
Data Source: Israel-Hamas War Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1417 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 7

"The United States has a moral obligation to take in refugees from Gaza."

Agreement x Political Orientation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



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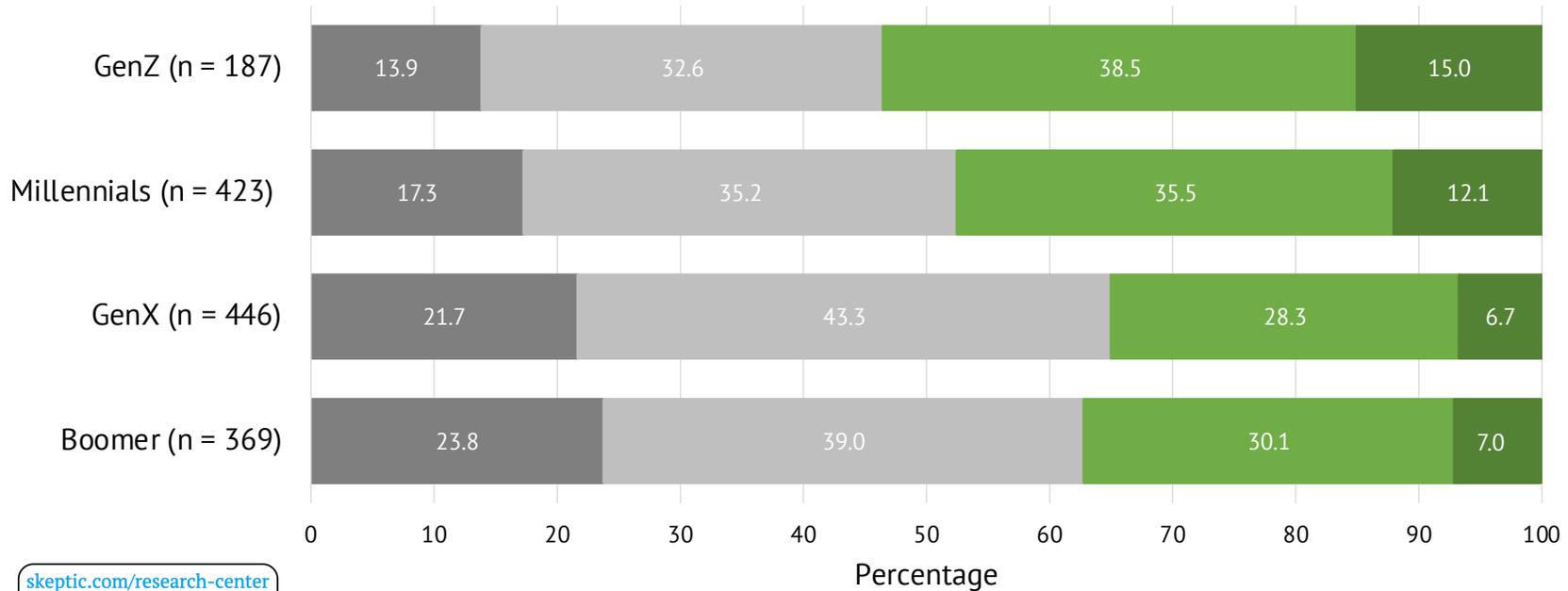
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1468 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 8

"The United States has a moral obligation to take in refugees from Gaza."

Agreement x Political Orientation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



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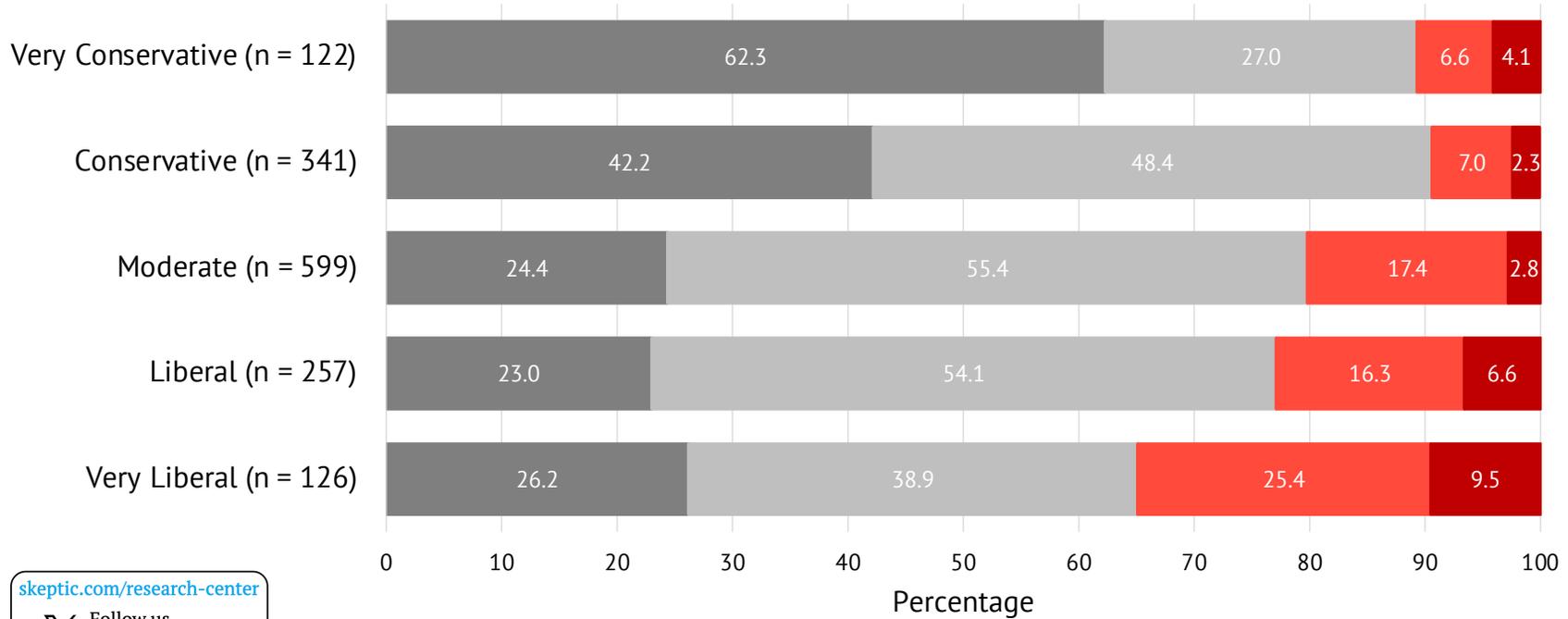
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1468 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 9

"The Jewish people have no historical claim to land in the Middle East."

Agreement x Political Orientation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



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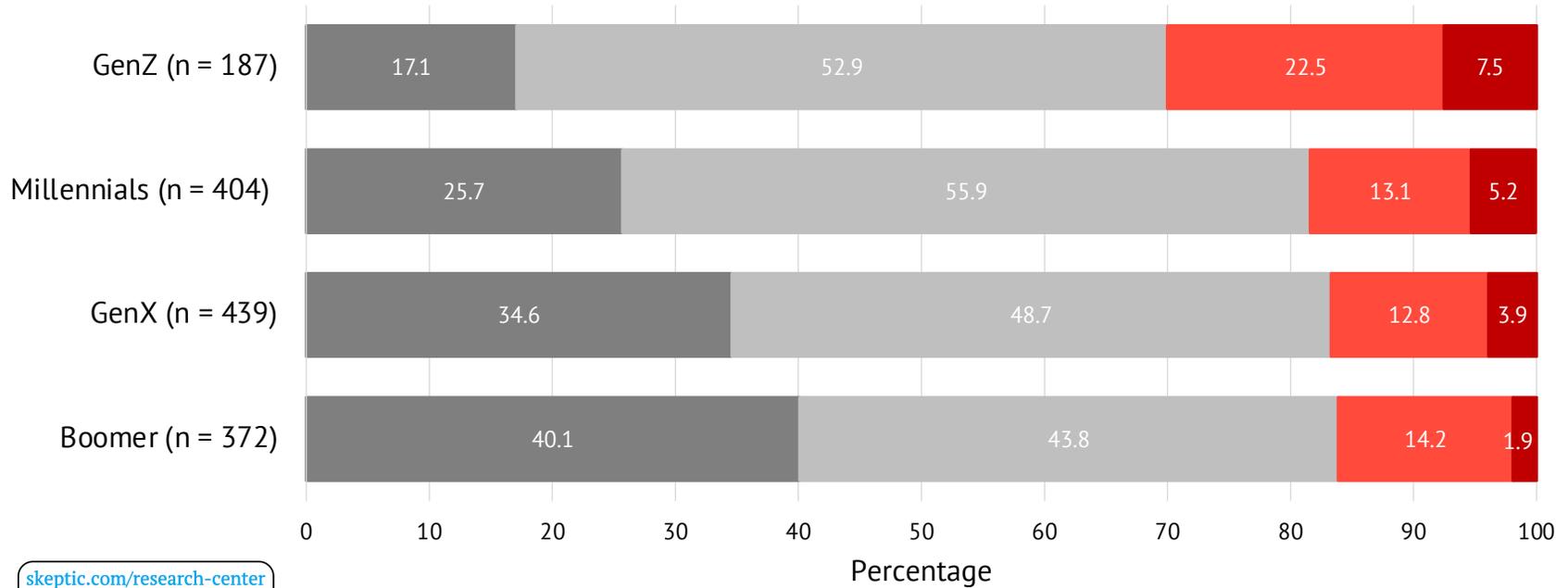
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1445 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q)

Figure 10

"The Jewish people have no historical claim to land in the Middle East."

Agreement x Generation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



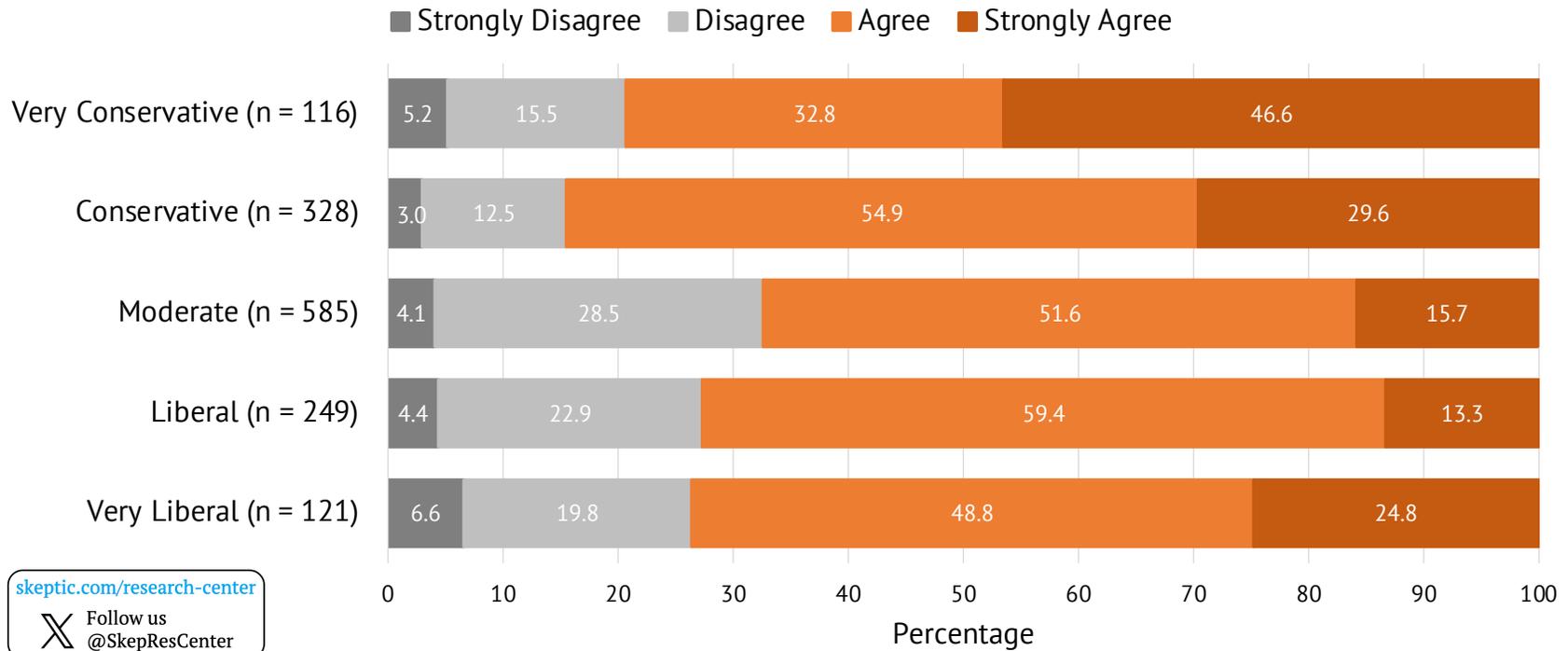
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Data Source: Israel-Hamas War Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1402 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via IQ).

Figure 11

"The founding charter of Hamas (the ruling government of the Gaza Strip in Palestine) called for the destruction of Israel."

Agreement x Political Orientation



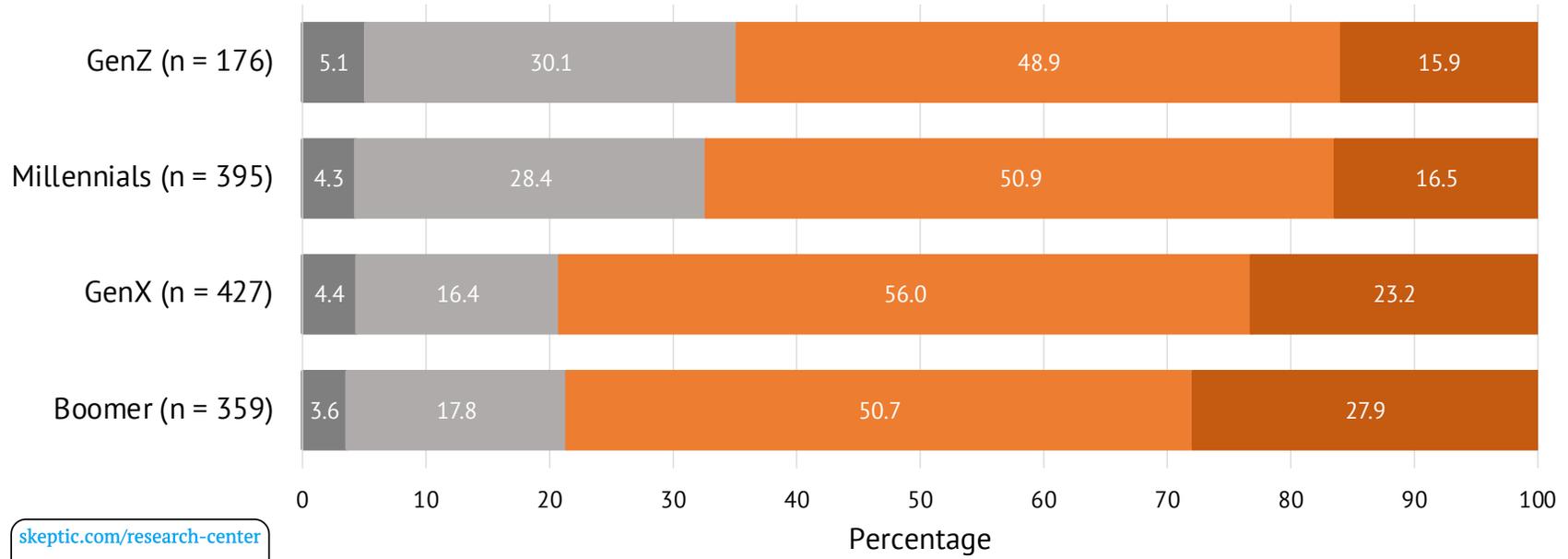
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1399 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 12

The founding charter of Hamas (the ruling government of the Gaza Strip in Palestine) called for the destruction of Israel.

Agreement x Generation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



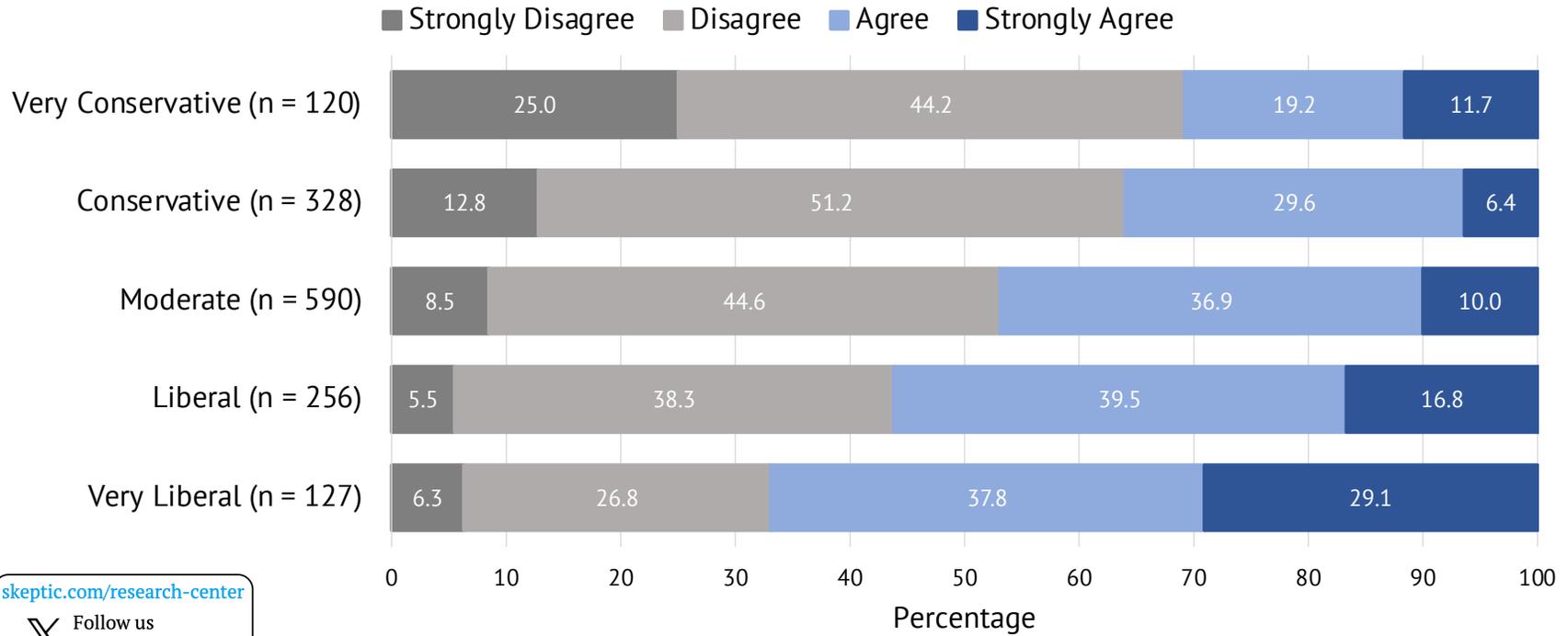
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Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1357 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 13

"In conflicts, Israelis generally kill far more Palestinians than Palestinians kill Israelis."

Agreement x Political Orientation

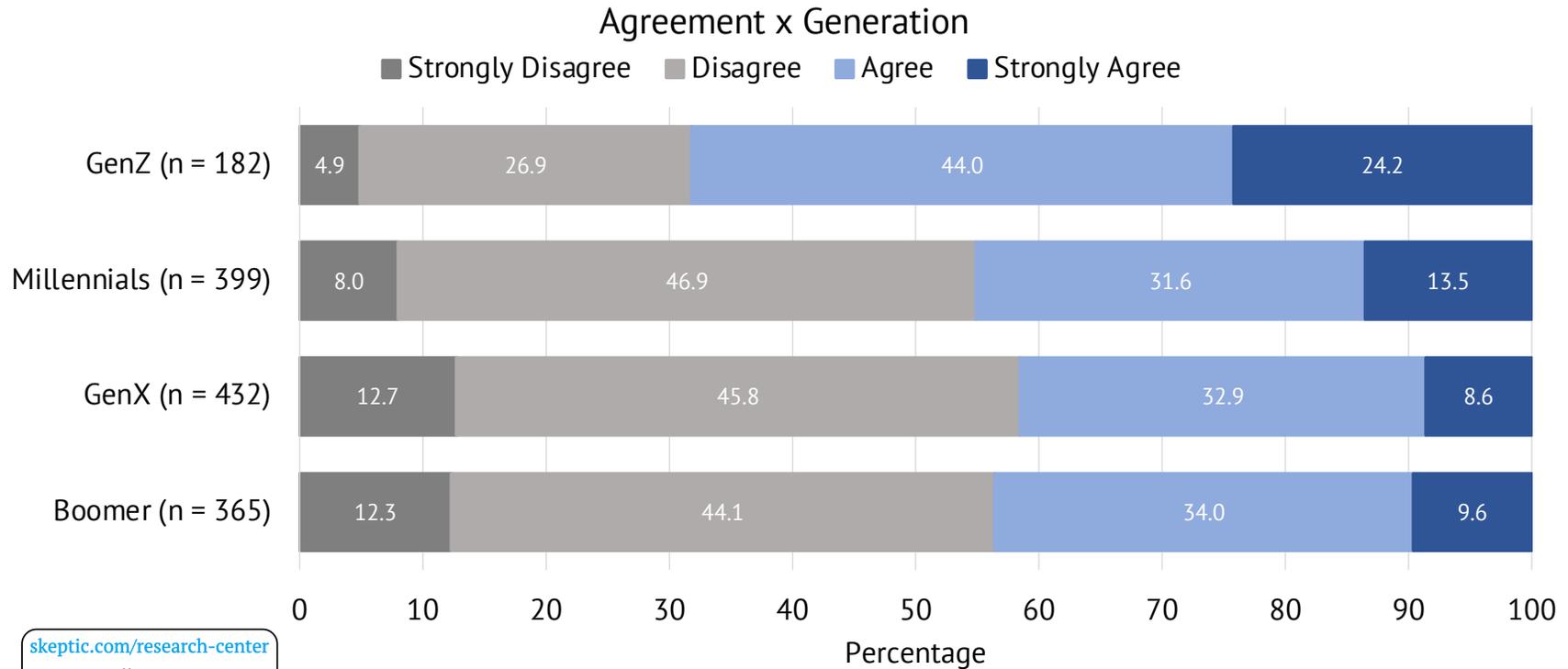


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Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1421 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 14

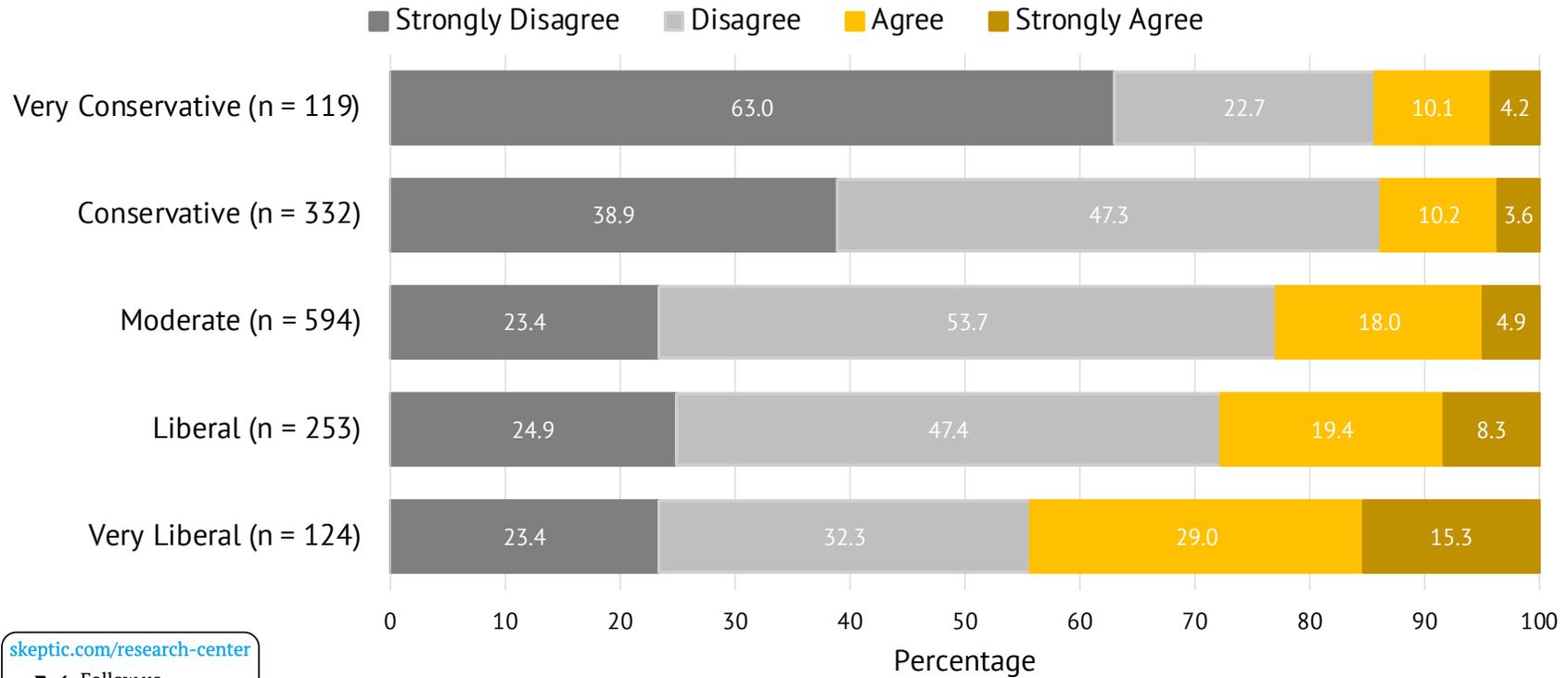
"In conflicts, Israelis generally kill far more Palestinians than Palestinians kill Israelis"



Data Source: Israel-Hamas War Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1378 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 15

"The Israeli government advocates for white supremacy." Agreement x Political Orientation



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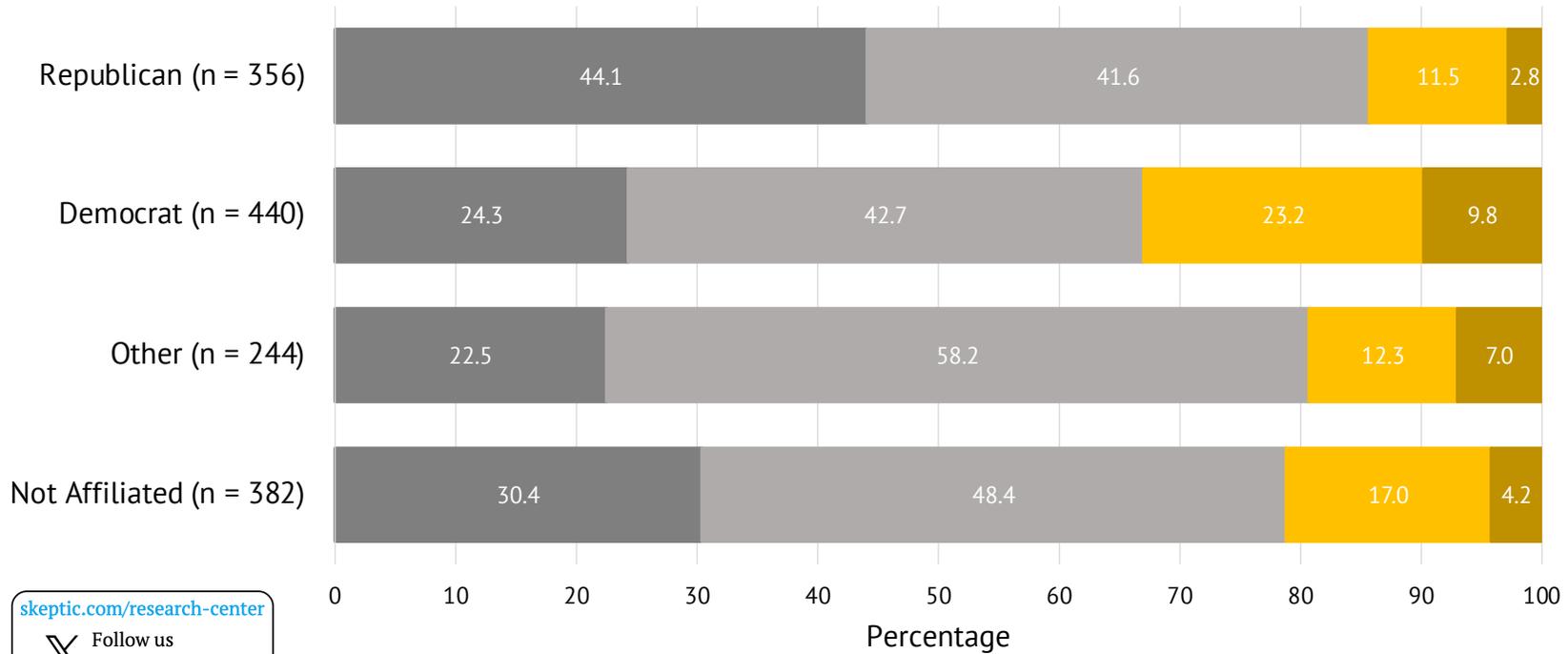
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1422 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q)

Figure 16

"The Israeli government advocates for white supremacy."

Agreement x Political Affiliation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



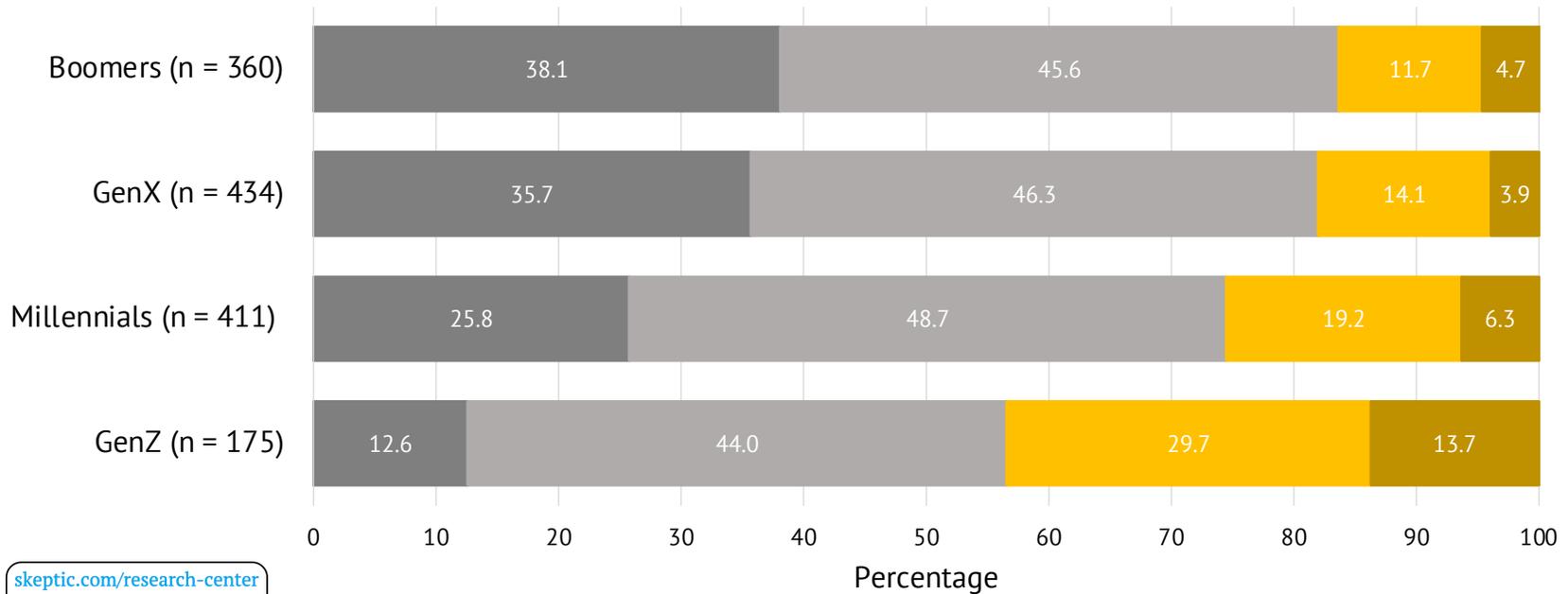
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Data Source: Israel-Hamas War Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1422 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q; <https://site.1q.com/>)

Figure 17

"The Israeli government advocates for white supremacy." Agreement x Generation

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



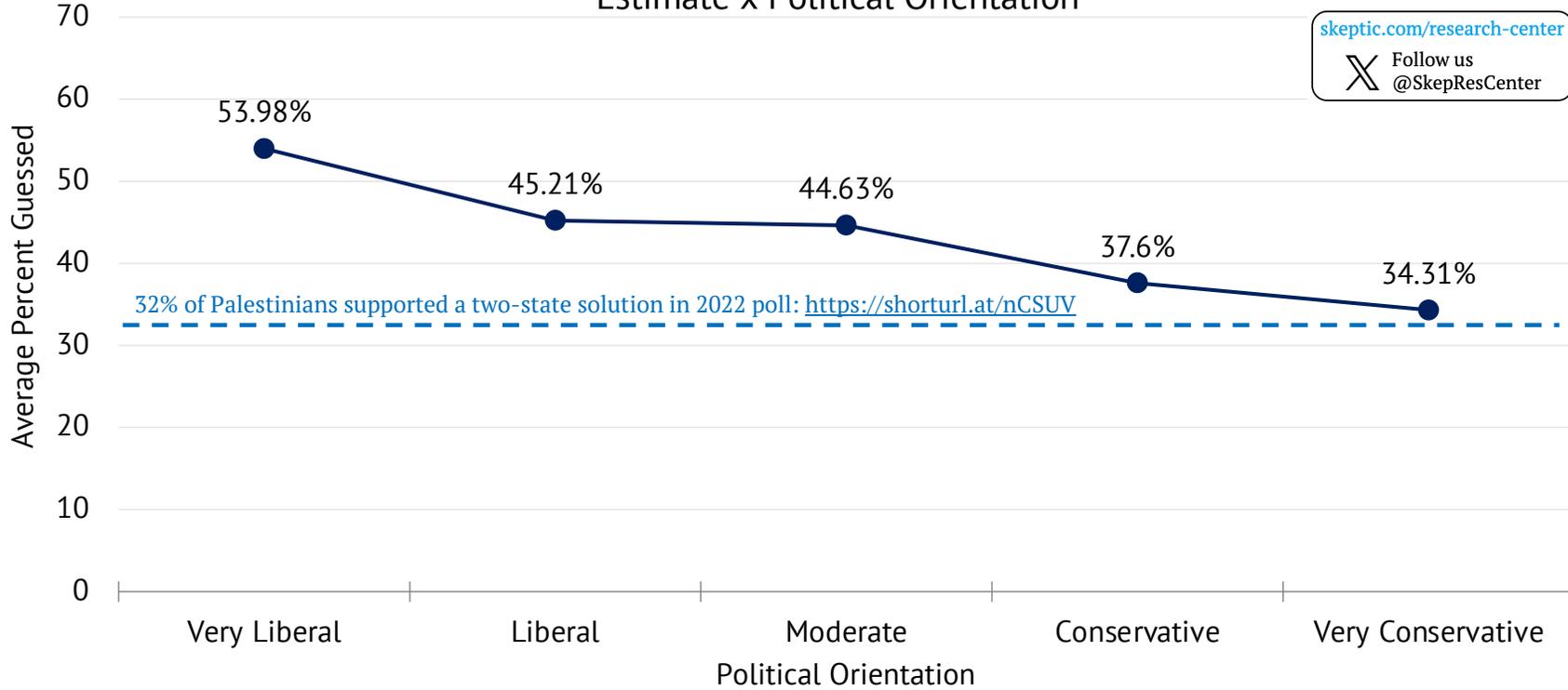
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Data Source: Israel-Hamas War Study (Margin of error +/- 2.6%; 1380 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 18

"If you had to guess, about what percentage of Palestinians support a cooperative two-state solution (i.e., political coexistence) with Israel?"

Estimate x Political Orientation

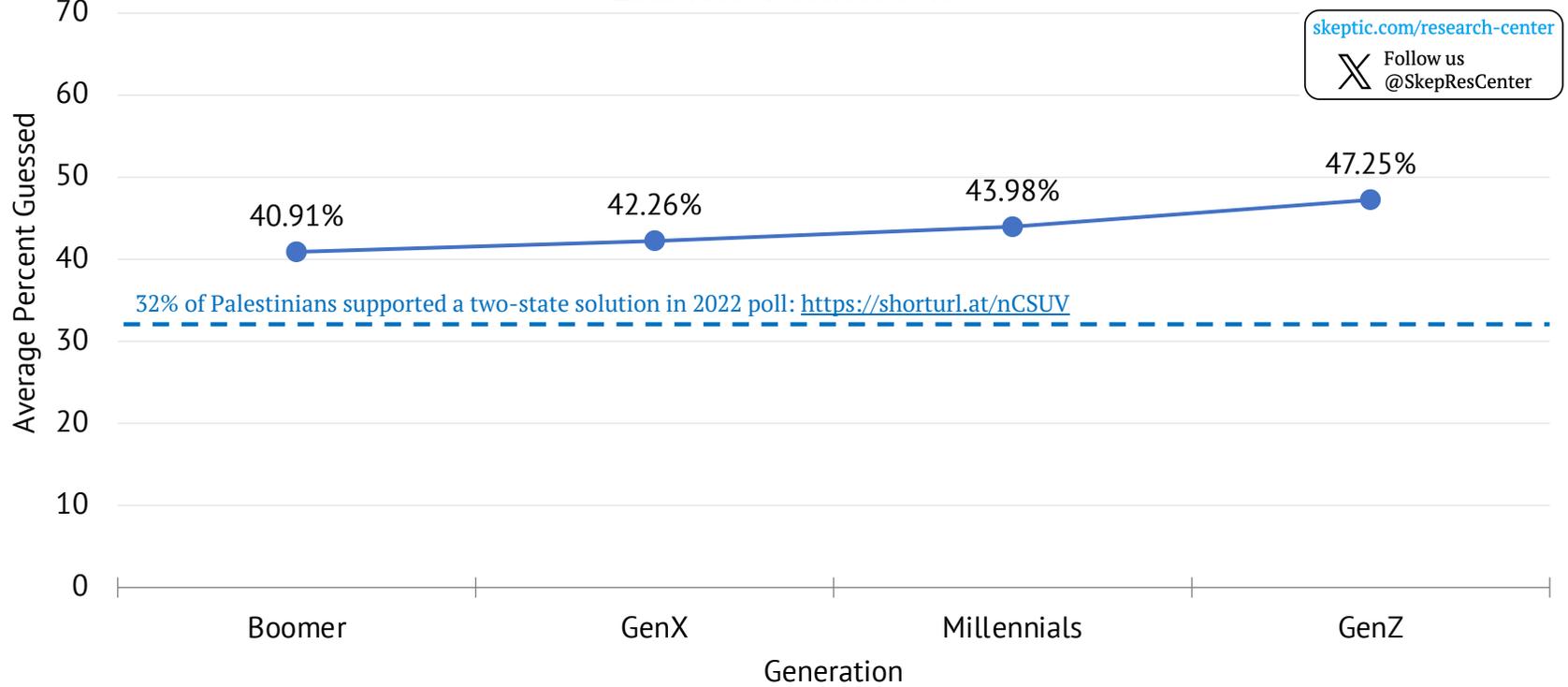


Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.5%; 1567 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 19

"If you had to guess, about what percentage of Palestinians support a cooperative two-state solution (i.e., political coexistence) with Israel?"

Estimate x Generation



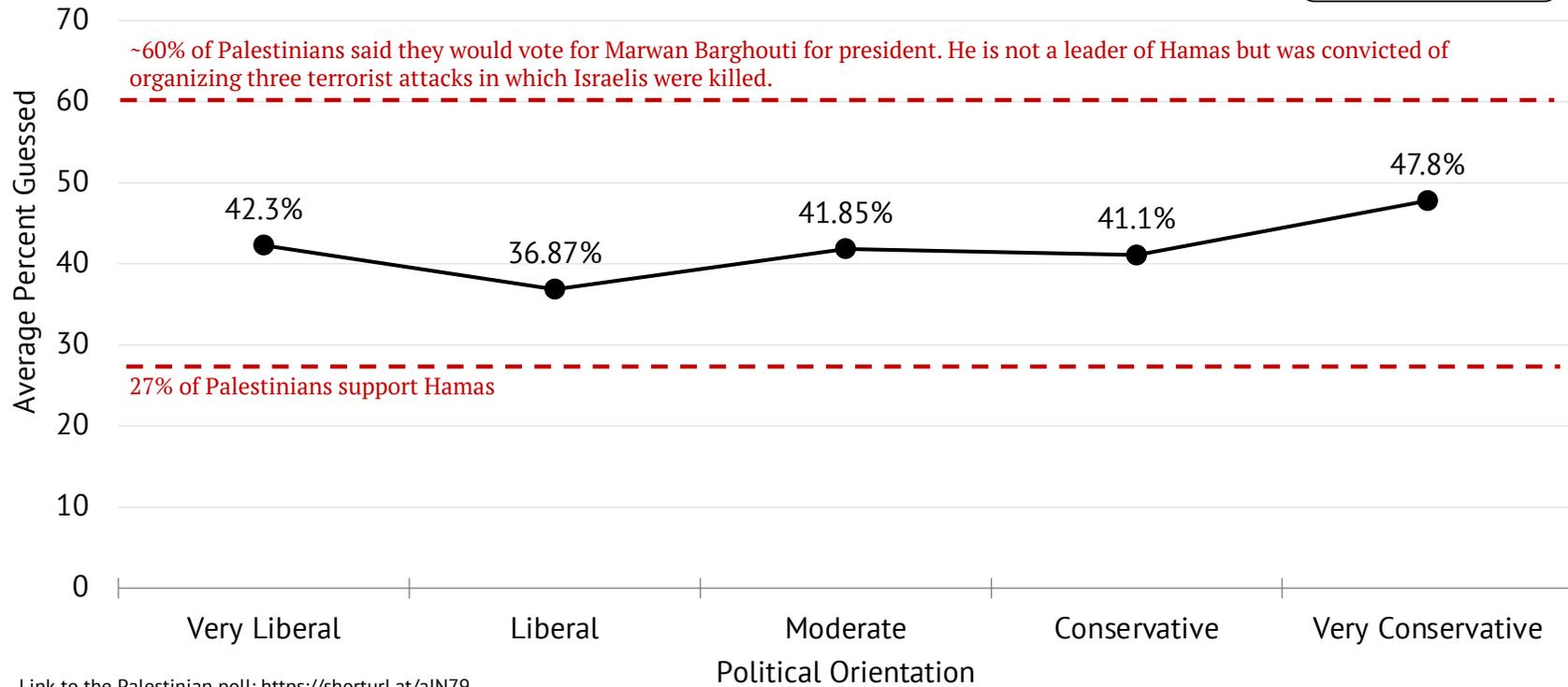
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.5%; 1523 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 20

"If you had to guess, about what percentage of Palestinians support Hamas as their ruling government?"

Estimate x Political Orientation

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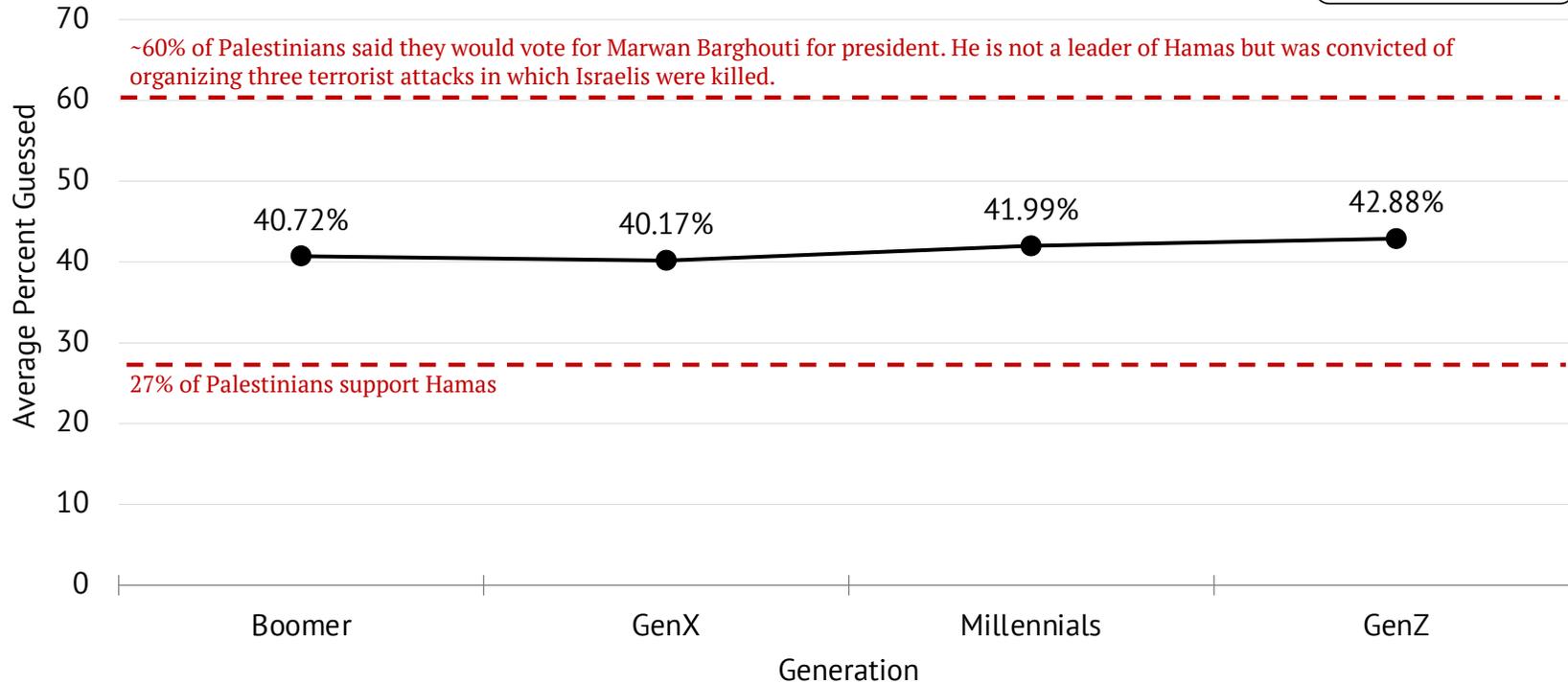
Link to the Palestinian poll: <https://shorturl.at/aJN79>

Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.5%; 1567 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).

Figure 21

"If you had to guess, about what percentage of Palestinians support Hamas as their ruling government?" Estimate x Generation

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~60% of Palestinians said they would vote for Marwan Barghout for president. He is not a leader of Hamas but was convicted of organizing three terrorist attacks in which Israelis were killed.

27% of Palestinians support Hamas

Link to the Palestinian poll: <https://shorturl.at/aJN79>
Data Source: Israel-Hamas Study (Margin of error +/- 2.5%; 1523 responses collected Oct 16, 2023, via 1Q).