“Voices of Syria” Project

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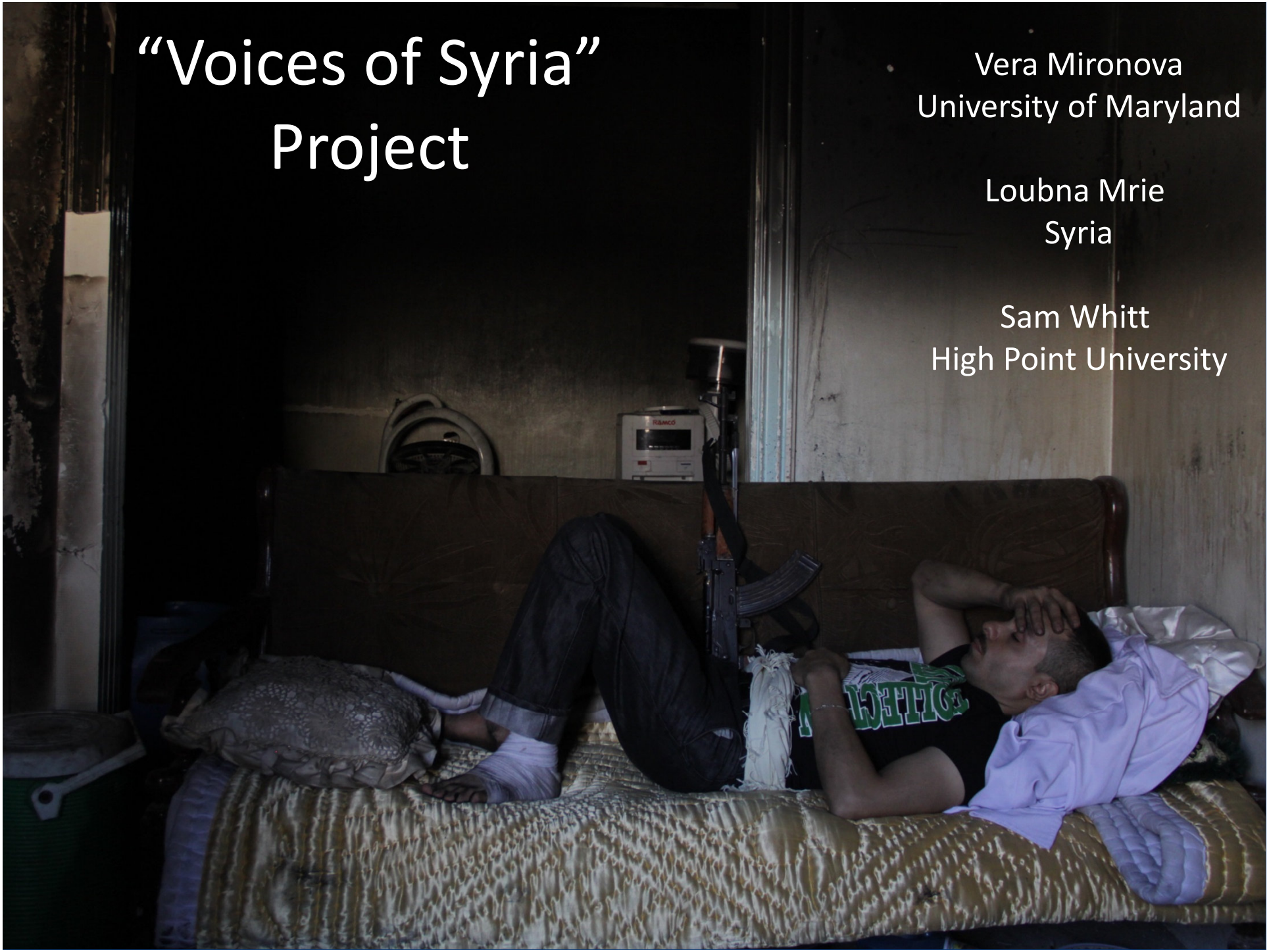


Overview

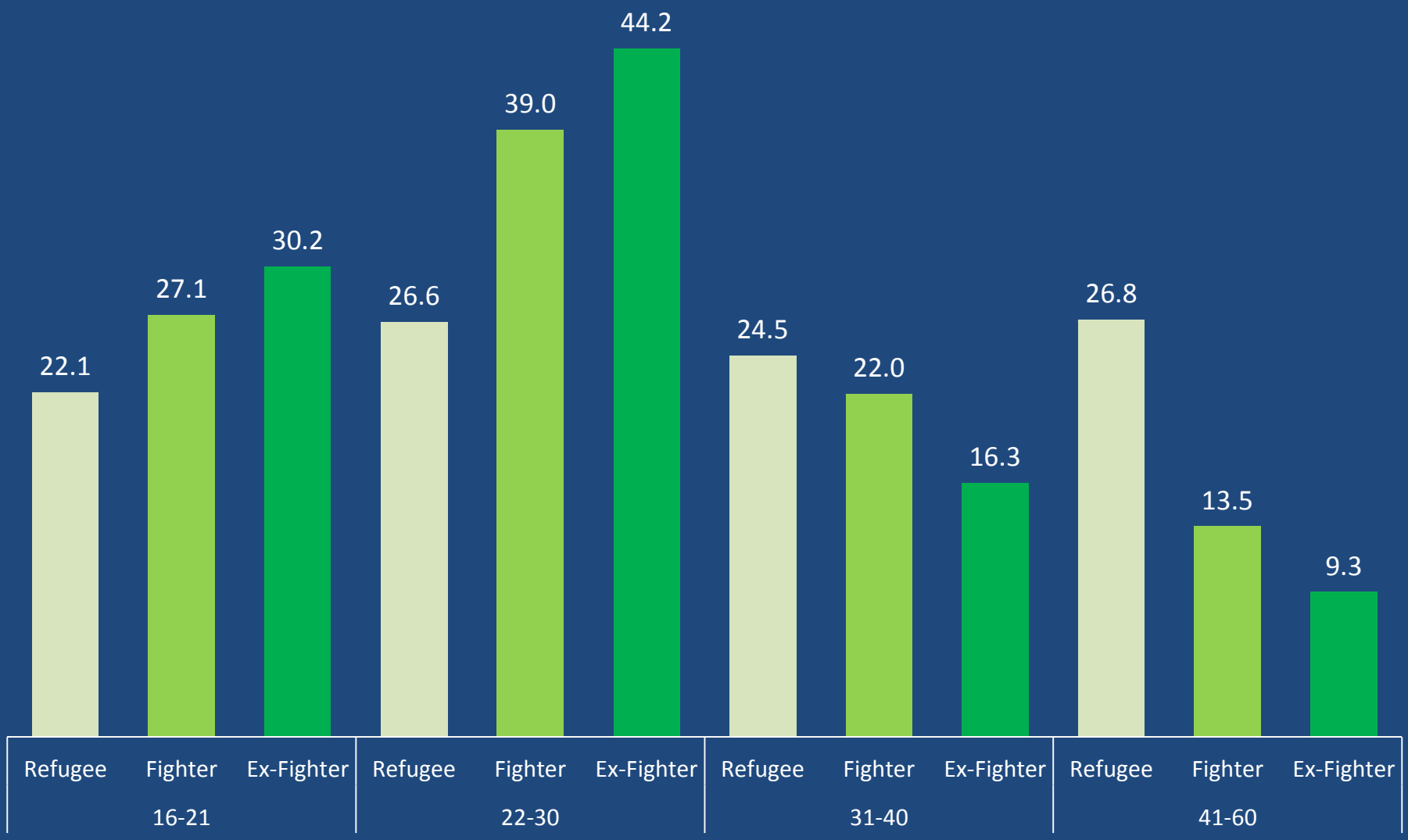
- Presentation includes recent interviews of ex-combatant Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebel fighters now living in Turkey.
- We compare attitudes and opinions of former FSA fighters to active FSA fighters inside Syria, non-combatant refugee populations currently living in Turkey.

Methodology

- Unknown population parameters and security concerns preclude random sampling
- We rely on non-probability, cluster sampling
- No more than 5 per cluster, 1 per household
- Interviews in Aleppo and Idlib (August-December 2013)
- Interviews in Turkey (January 2013- April 2014)
- N = 250

Demographics

Respondents Age Group



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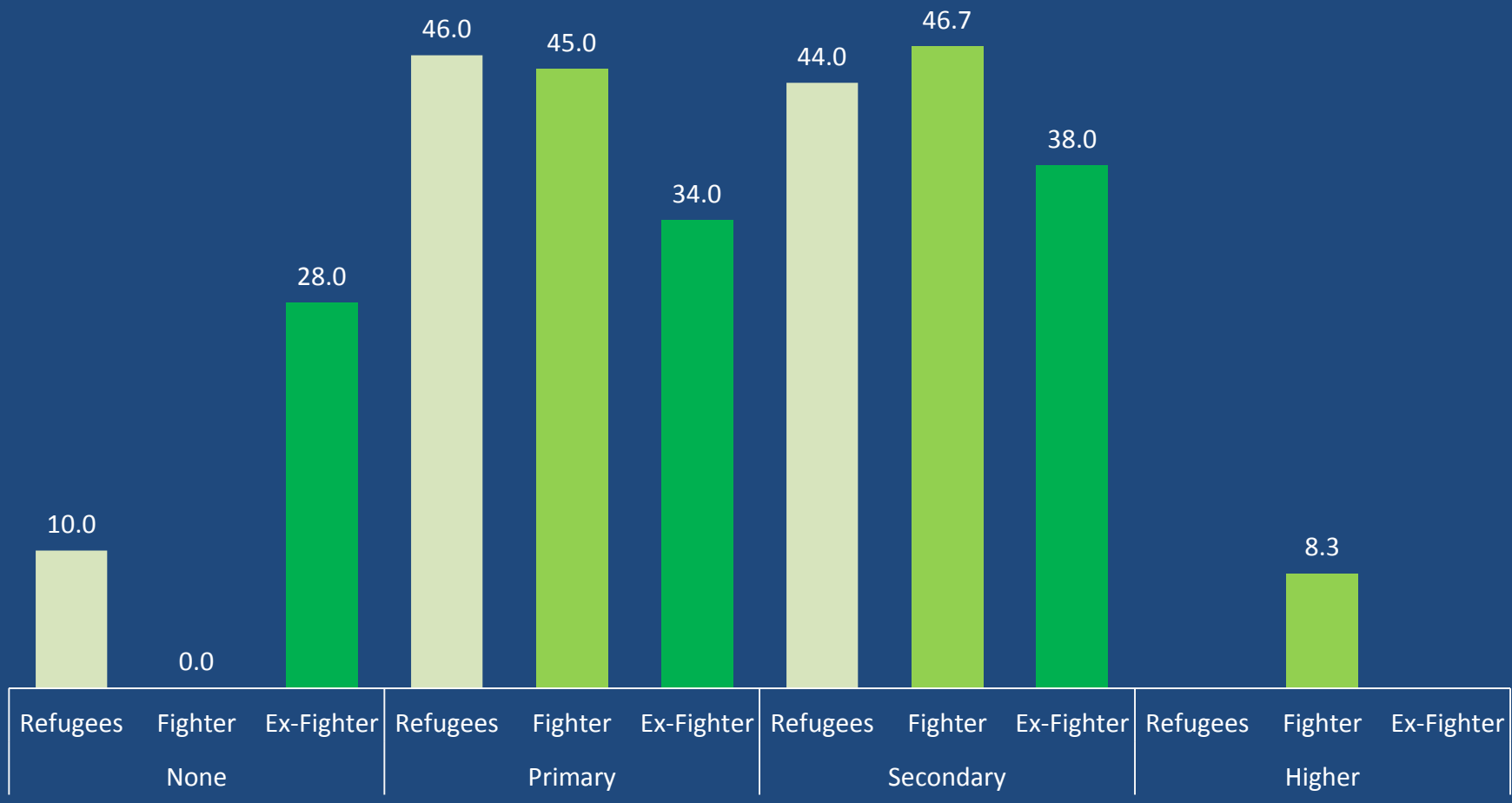
Respondents Education Levels



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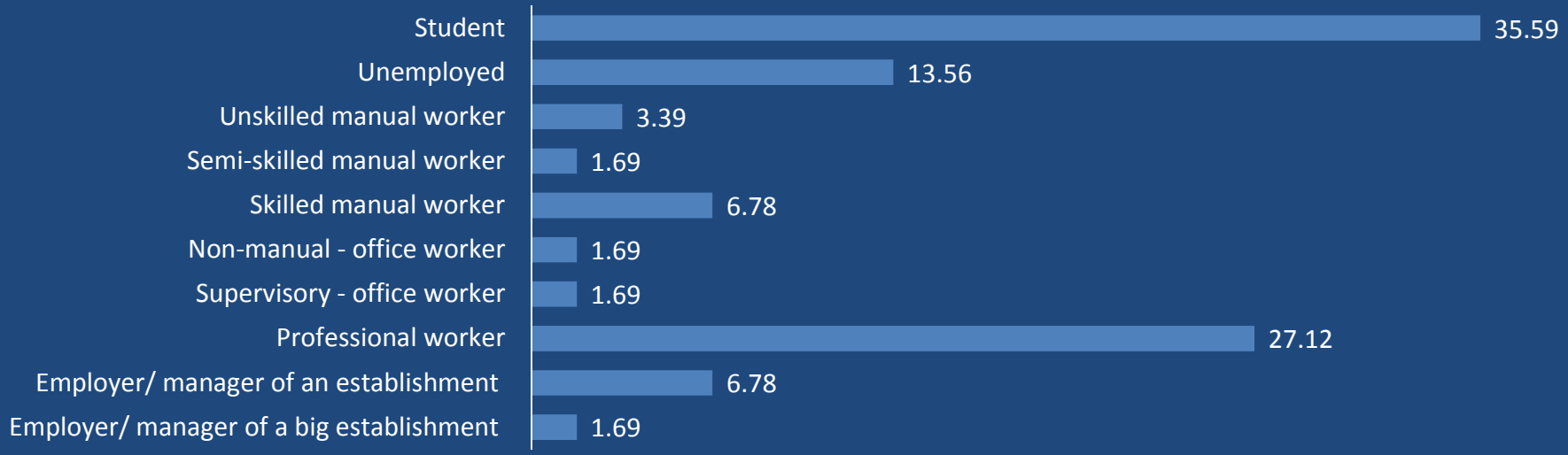
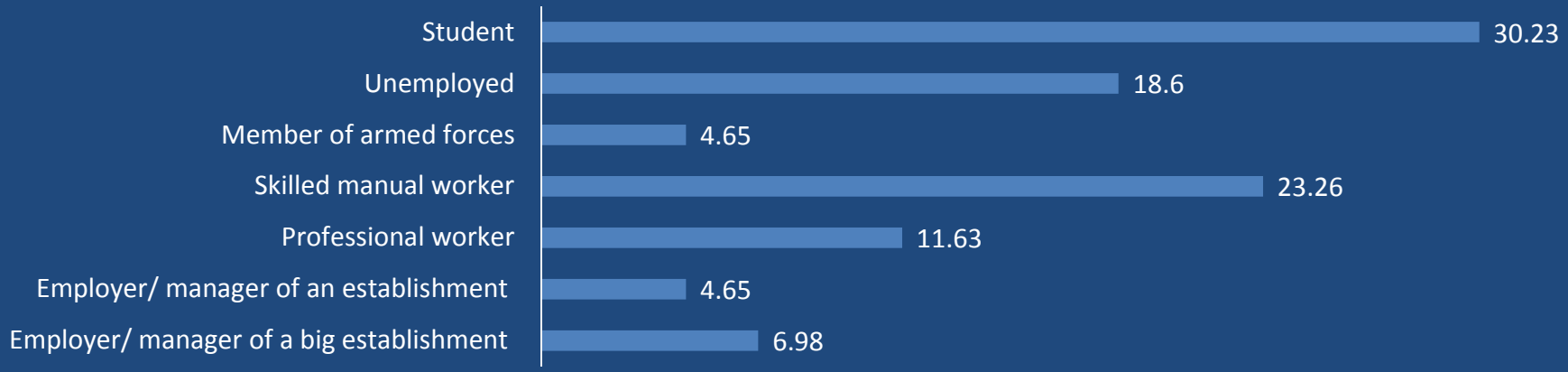
Occupation Before War (Fighters)

Q: What type of work were you doing before the war began ?



Occupation Before the War (Ex-Fighters)

Q: What type of work were you doing before the war began ?



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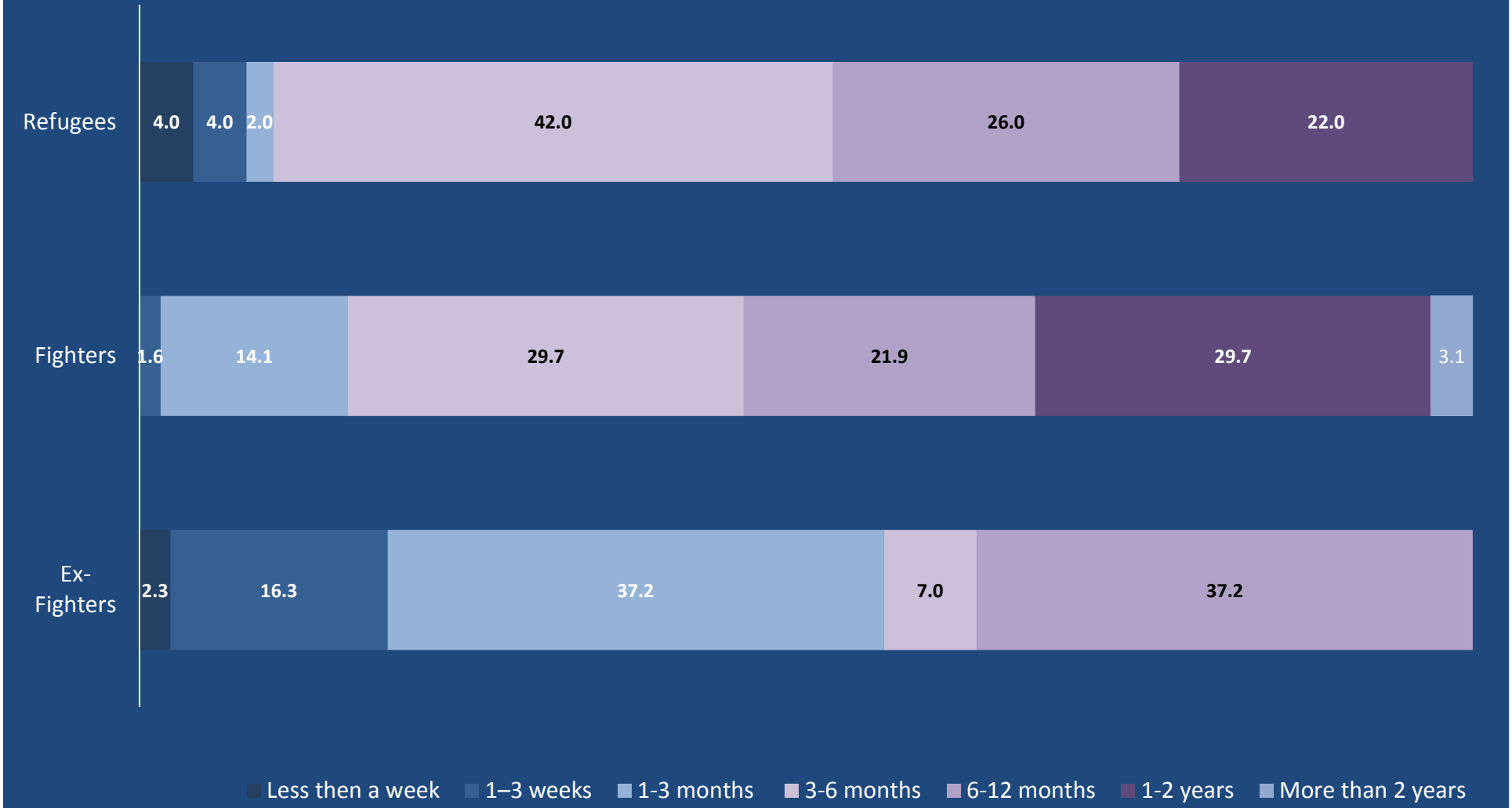
Displacement

Time at Current Location

Q: How long have you been in the location where you are currently living/seeking shelter?



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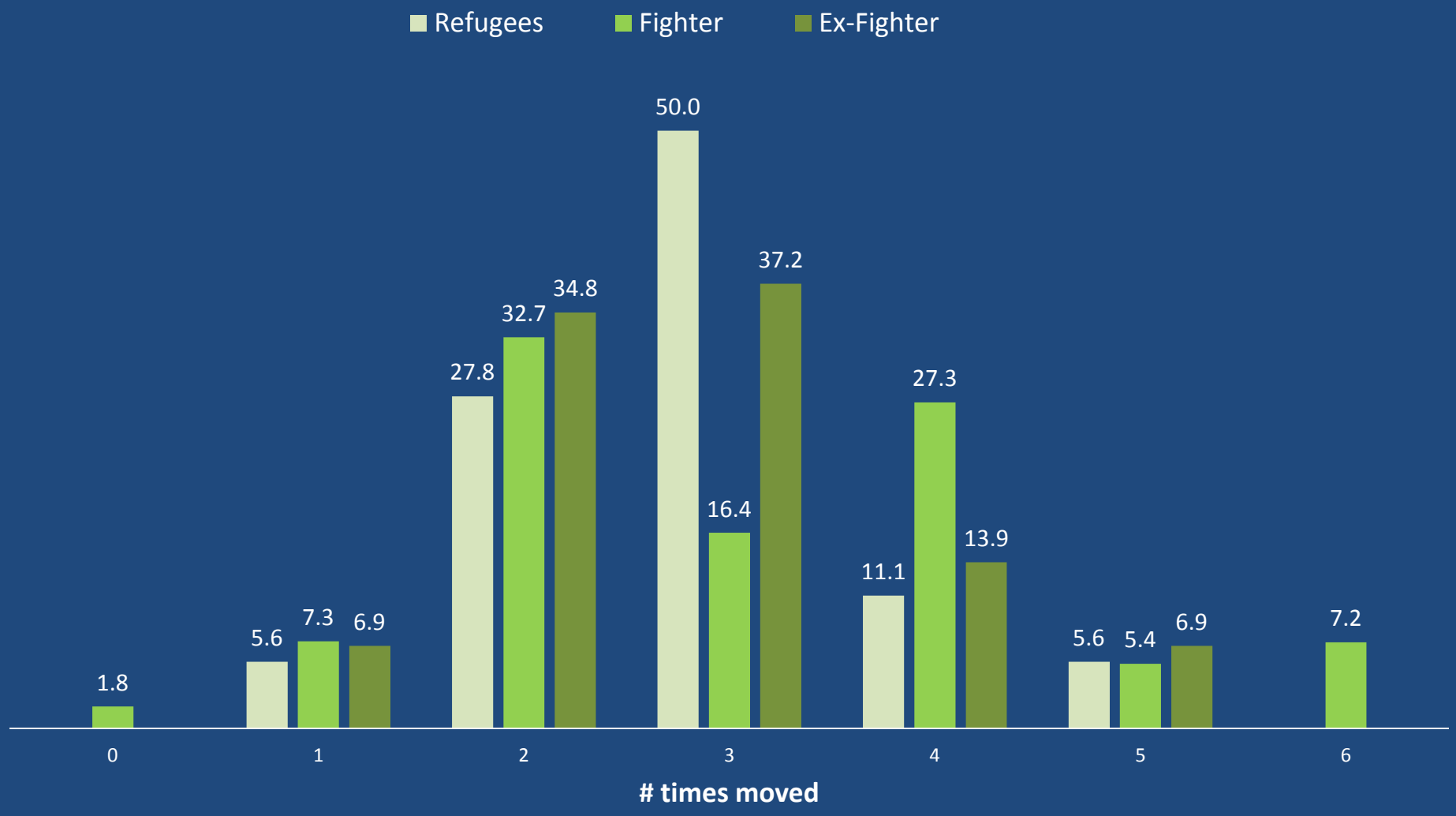
Displacement by Conflict

Q: How many times have you moved since the war began?



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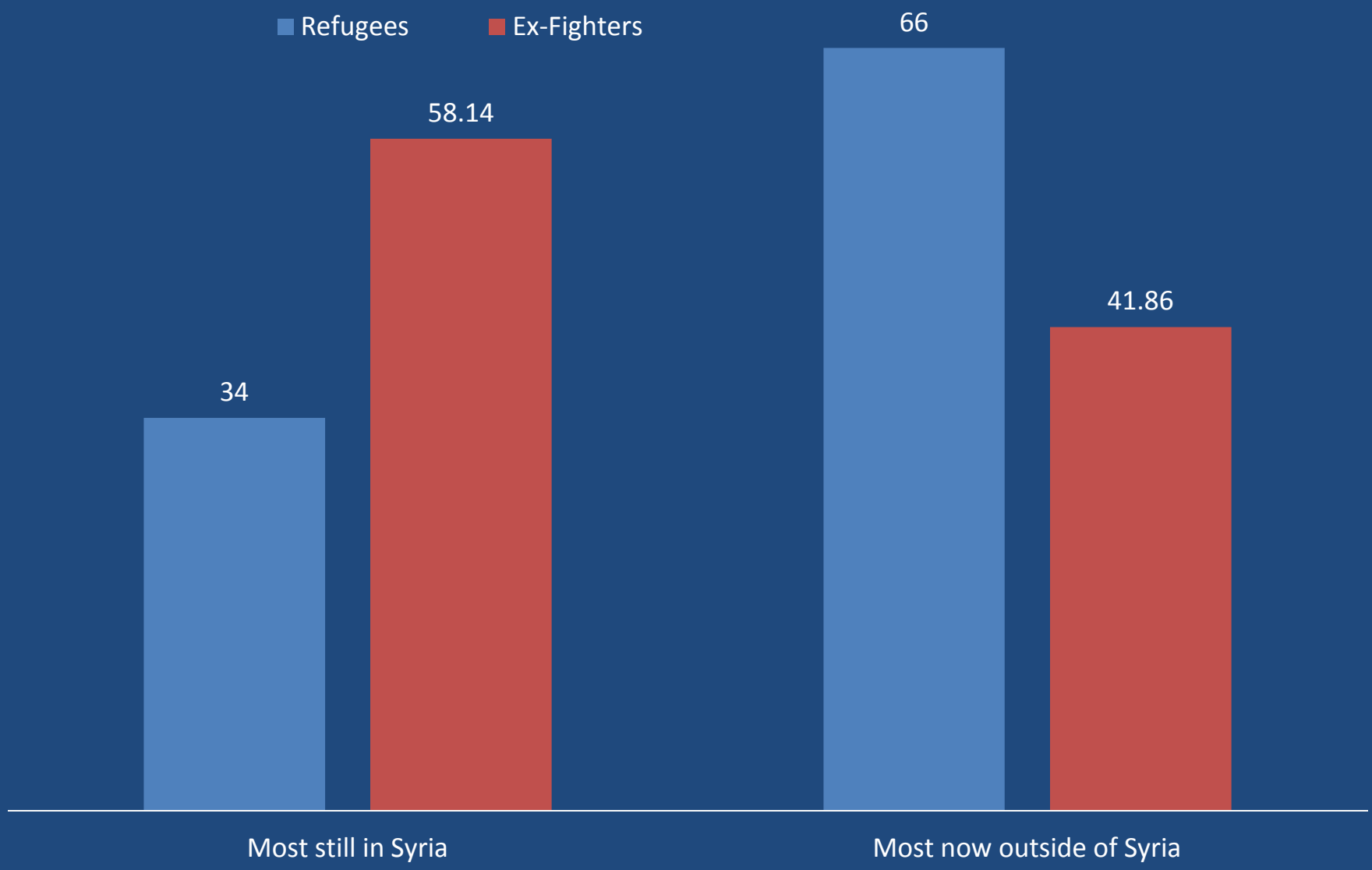
Displacement of Family Members

Q: Where are most of your immediate family members now ?



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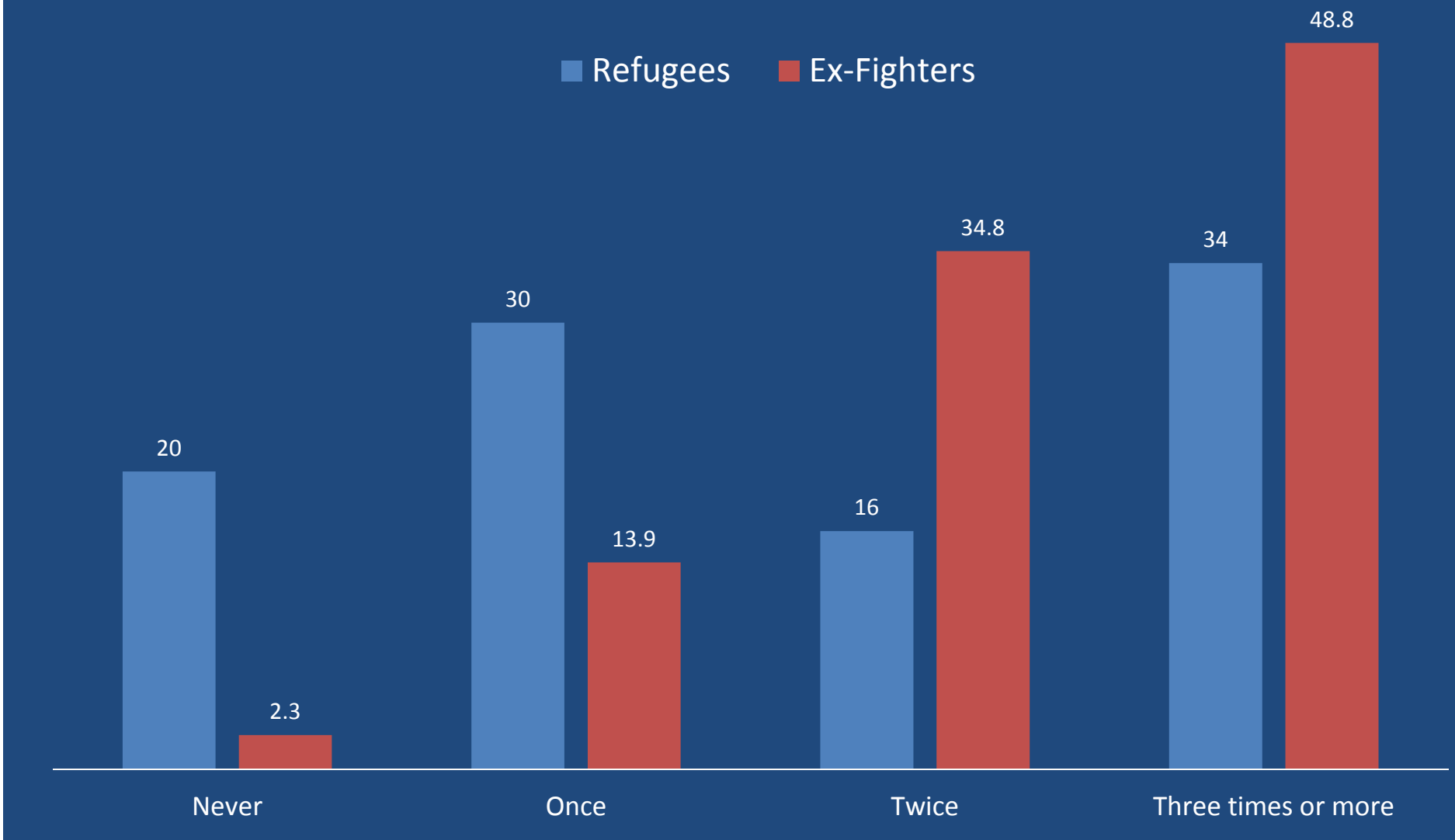
Cross-Border Migration

Q: How often have you returned to Syria ?



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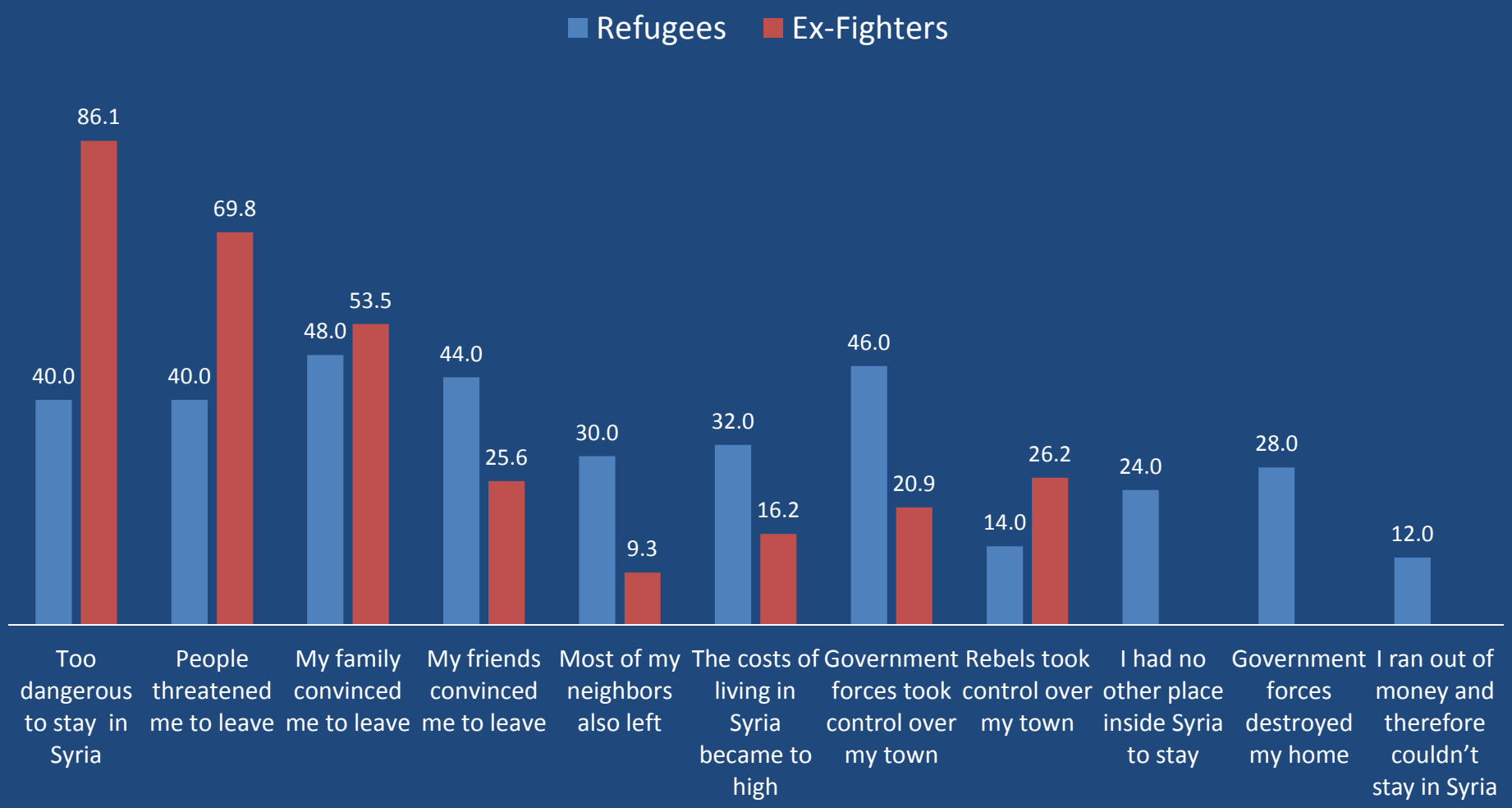
Self-Reported Reasons for Leaving Syria

Q: Why did you decide to leave Syria? (Indicate all that apply)



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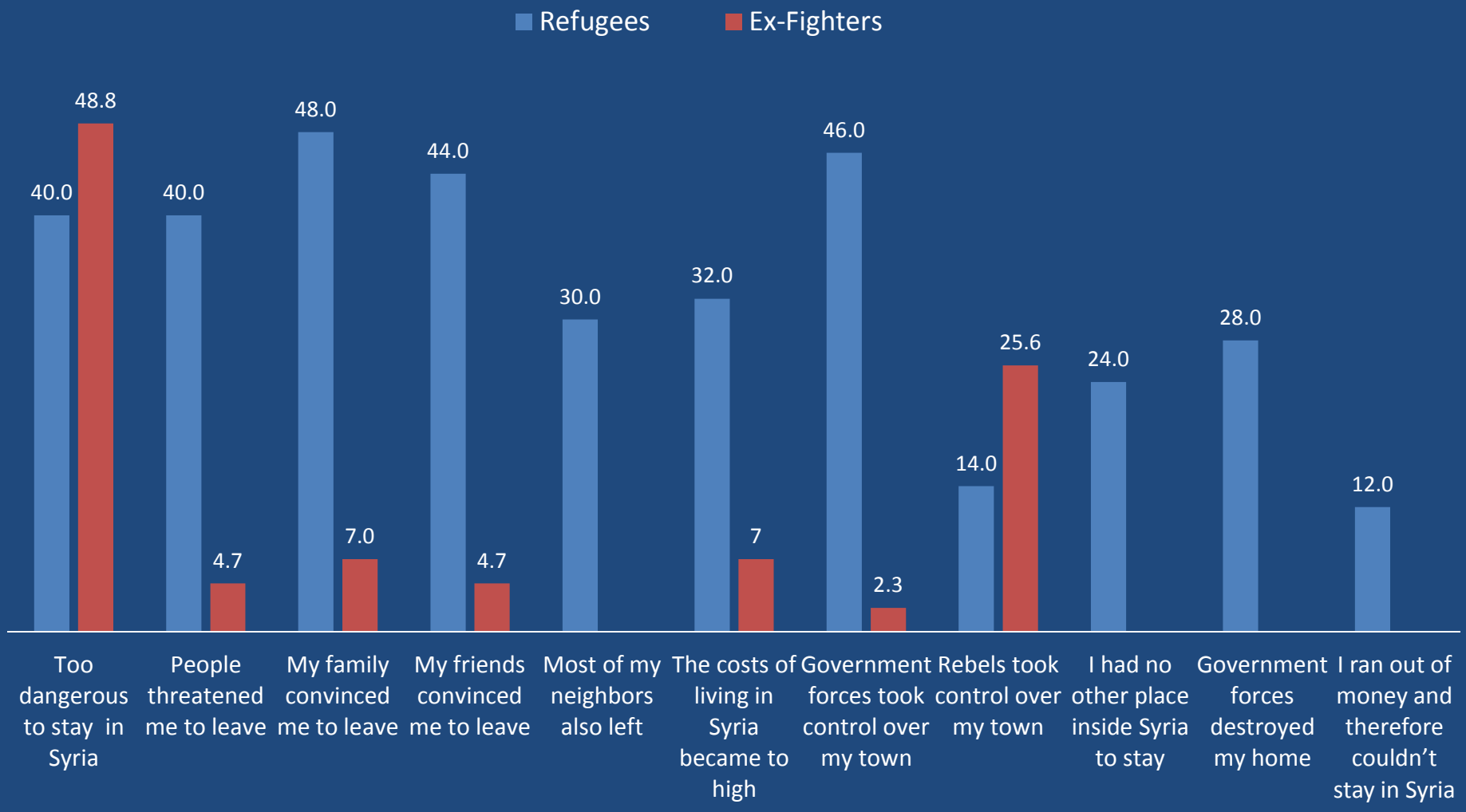
Self-Reported Main Reason for Leaving Syria

Q:What is the most important reason for you to leave Syria ?



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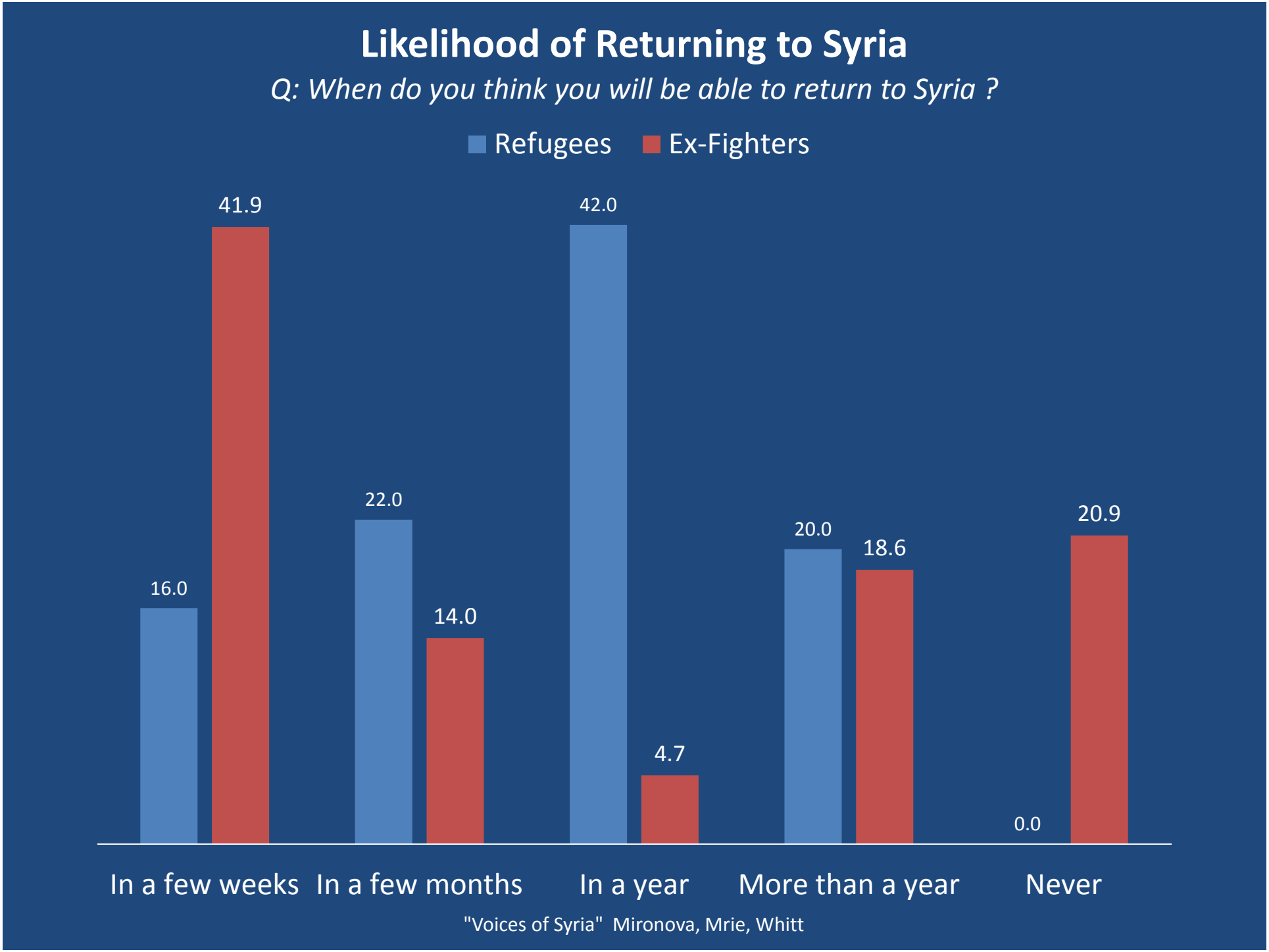
Likelihood of Returning to Syria

Q: When do you think you will be able to return to Syria ?



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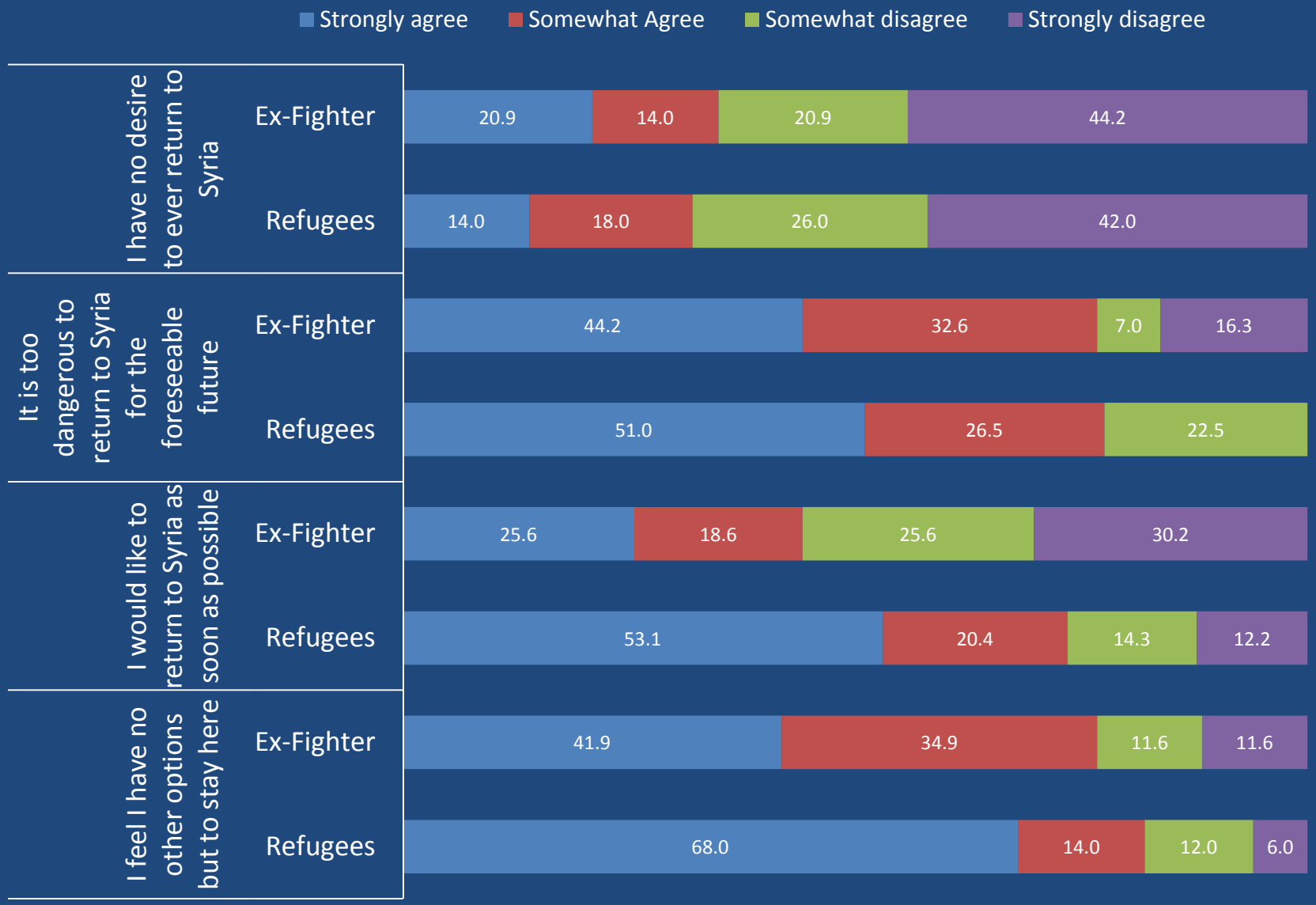
Expectations of Returning to Syria

Q: Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree of disagree with the following statement?



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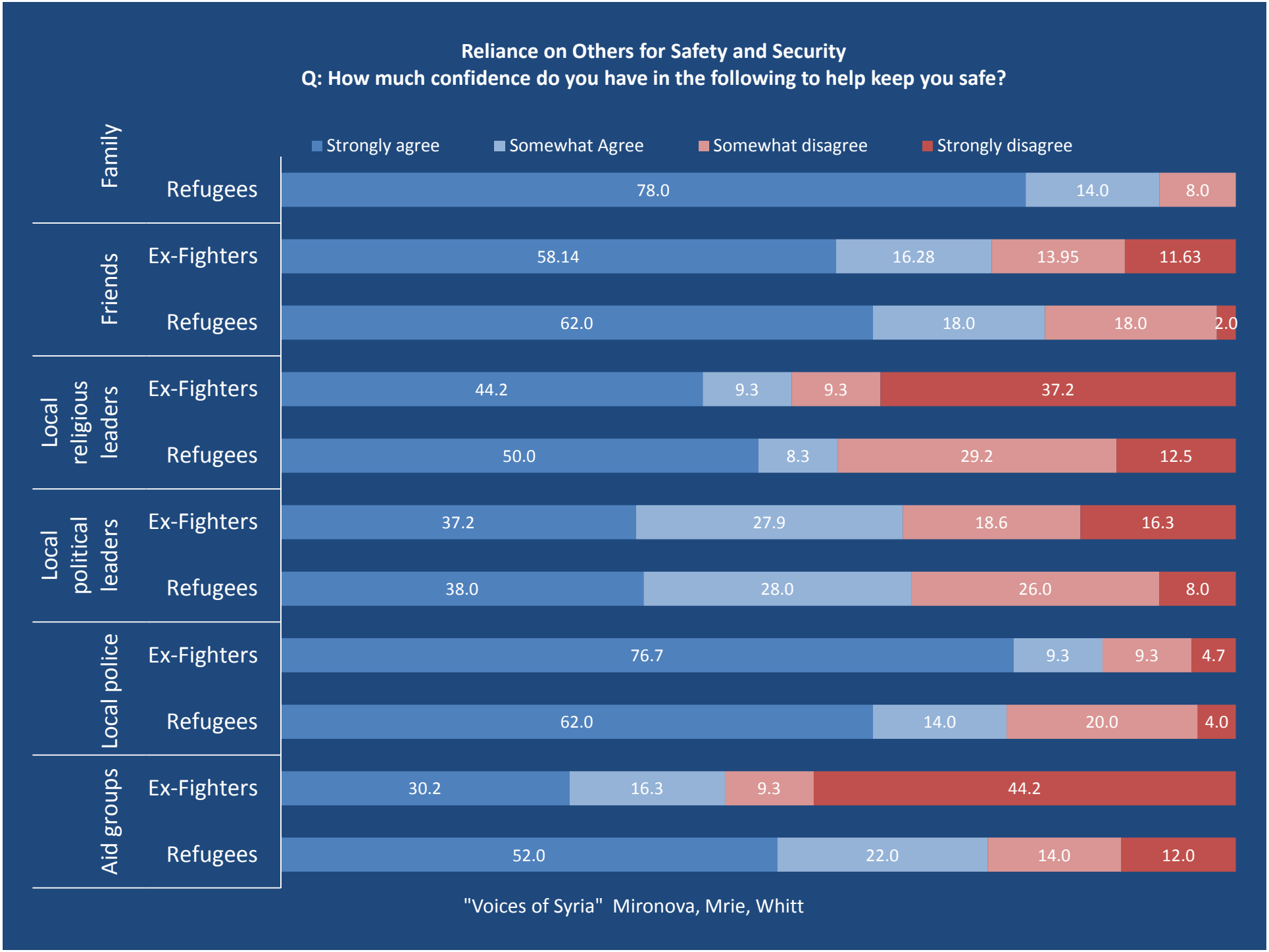
Safety and Security


Reliance on Others for Safety and Security
Q: How much confidence do you have in the following to help keep you safe?
Strongly agree
Somewhat Agree
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree
Family
Refugees
78.0
14.0
8.0
Friends
Ex-Fighters
58.14
16.28
13.95
11.63
Refugees
62.0
18.0
18.0
2.0
Local religious leaders
Ex-Fighters
44.2
9.3
9.3
37.2
Refugees
50.0
8.3
29.2
12.5
Local political leaders
Ex-Fighters
37.2
27.9
18.6
16.3
Refugees
38.0
28.0
26.0
8.0
Local police
Ex-Fighters
76.7
9.3
9.3
4.7
Refugees
62.0
14.0
20.0
4.0
Aid groups
Ex-Fighters
30.2
16.3
9.3
44.2
Refugees
52.0
22.0
14.0
12.0
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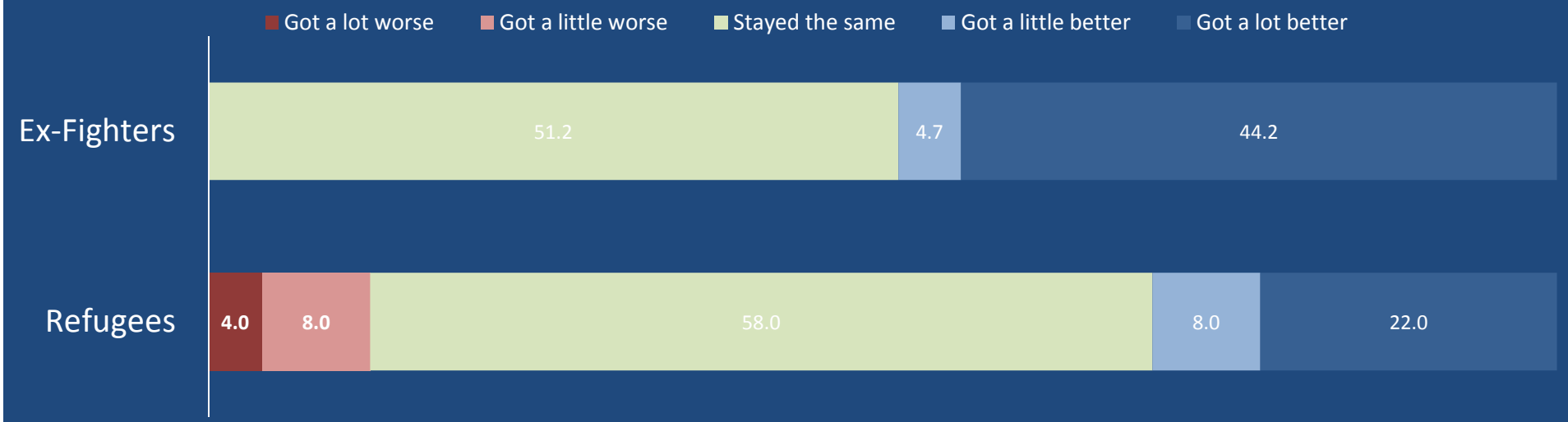
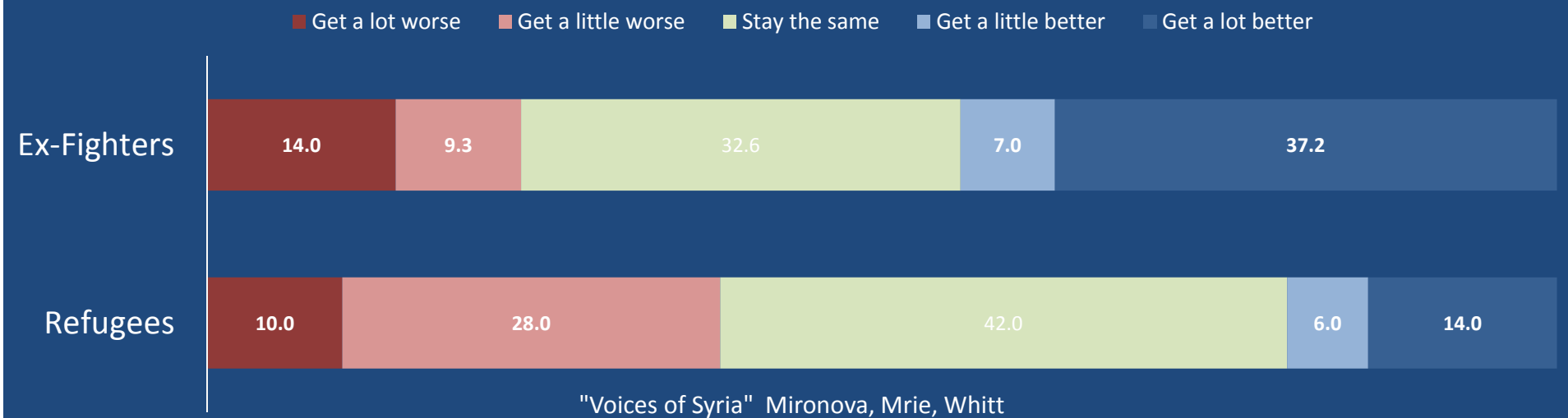
Assessment of Current Conditions

Q: Compared to 12 months ago, do you think conditions here have:



Expectations for the Future

Q: And over the next 12 months, do you expect conditions here to ... ?



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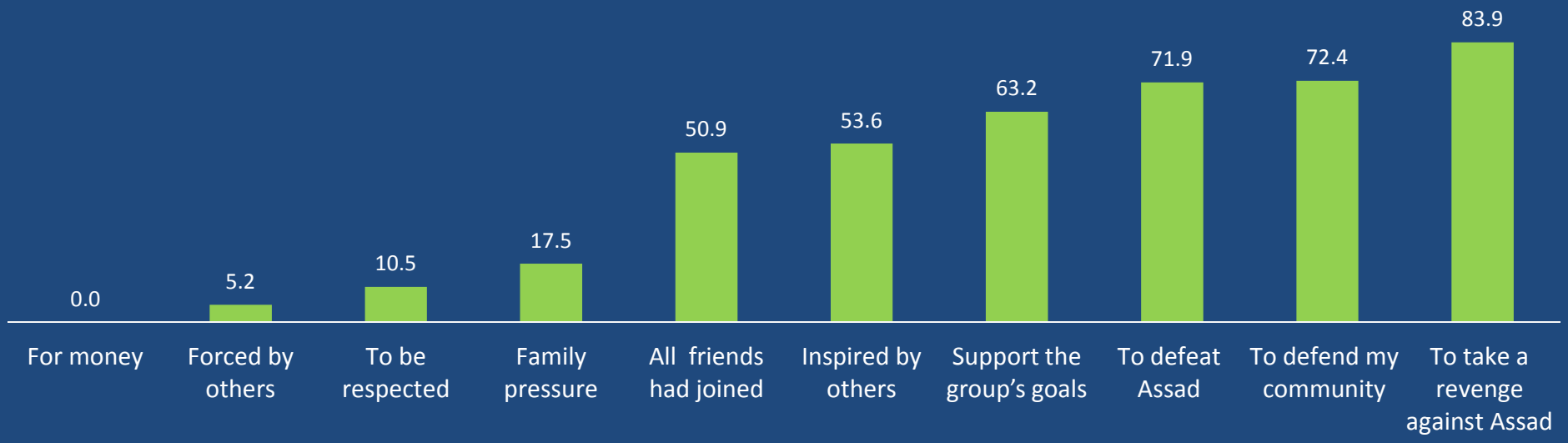
Rebel Recruitment

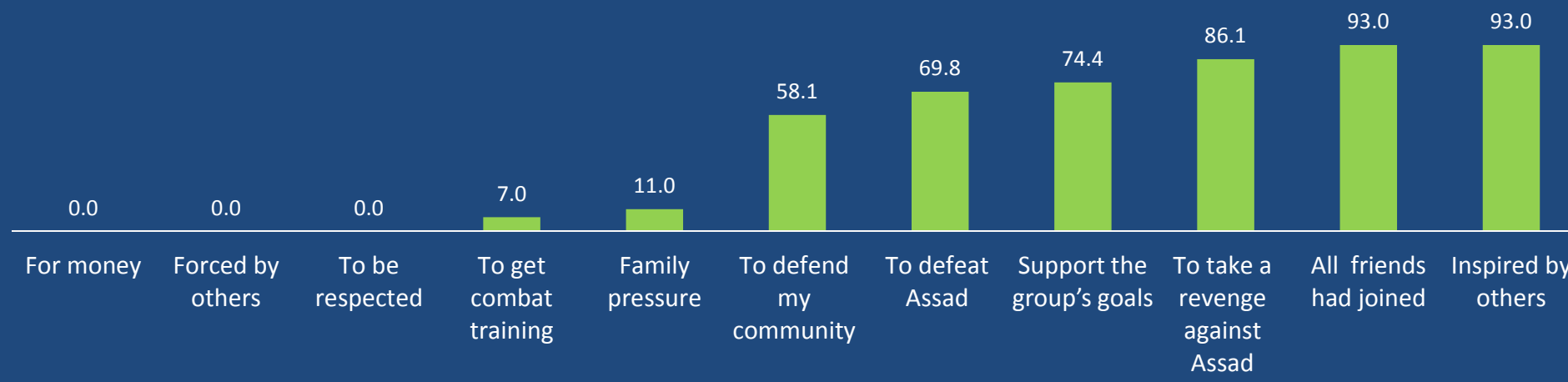
Reasons Given for Joining Rebel Groups (Fighters)

Q: If you are currently fighting or have fought with the FSA or any other group in the past, why did you join? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



Reasons Given for Joining Rebel Groups (Ex-Fighters)

Q: If you are currently fighting or have fought with the FSA or any other group in the past, why did you join? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



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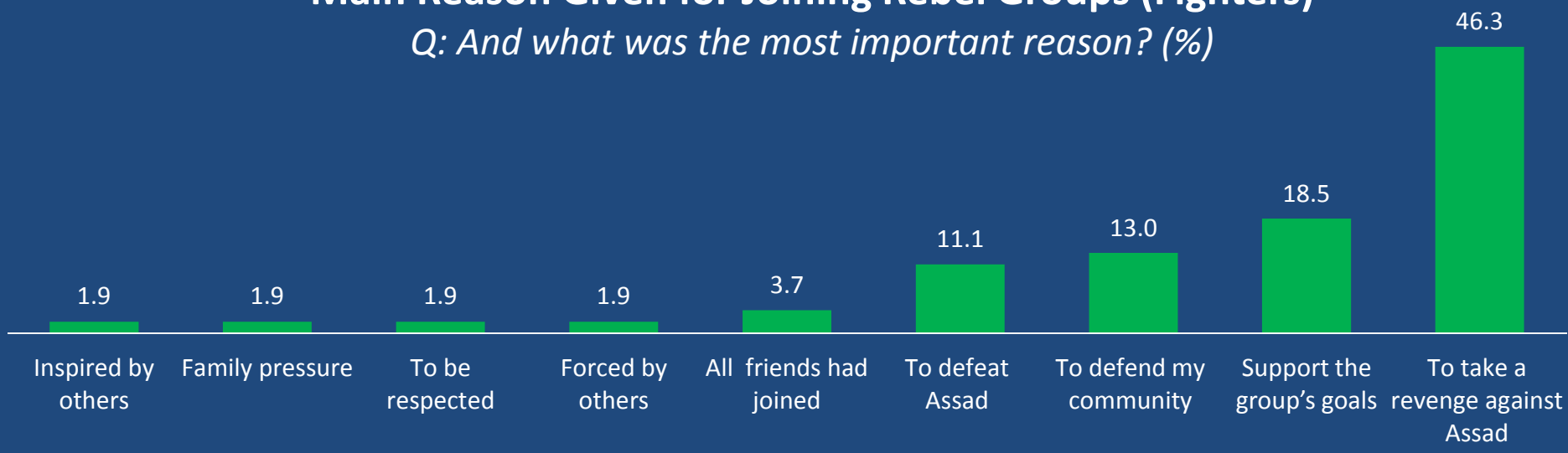
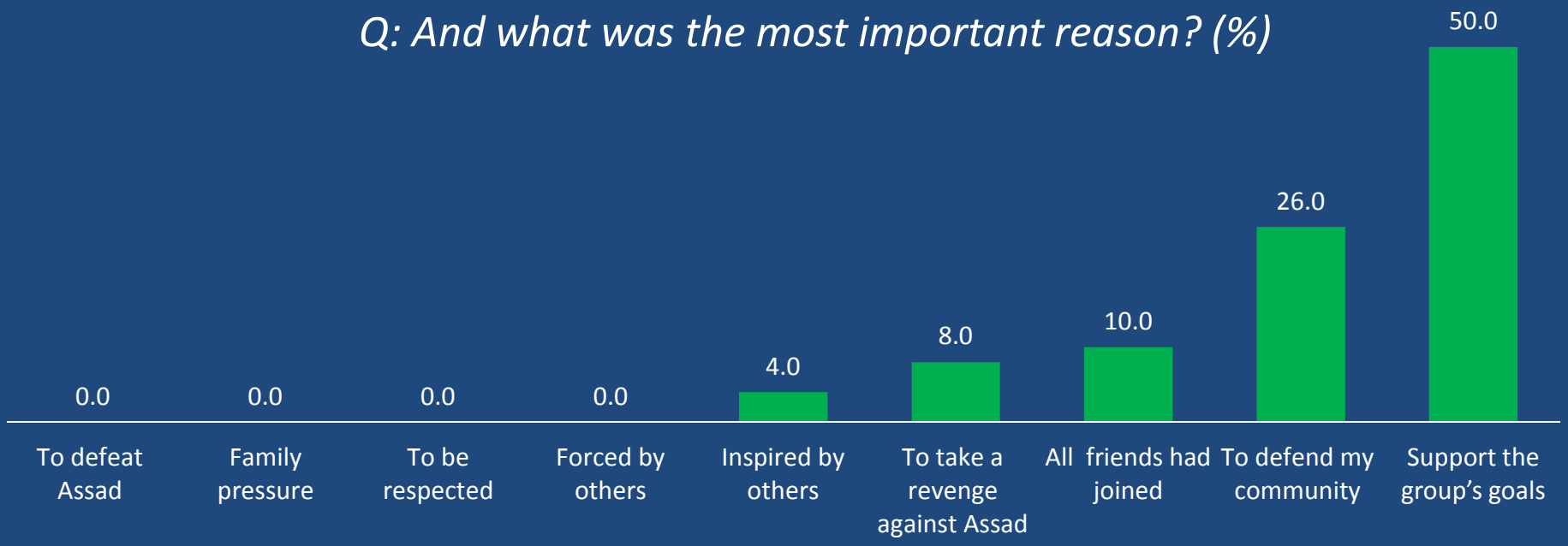
Main Reason Given for Joining Rebel Groups (Fighters)

Q: And what was the most important reason? (%)



Main Reason Given for Joining Rebel Groups (Ex-Fighters)

Q: And what was the most important reason? (%)



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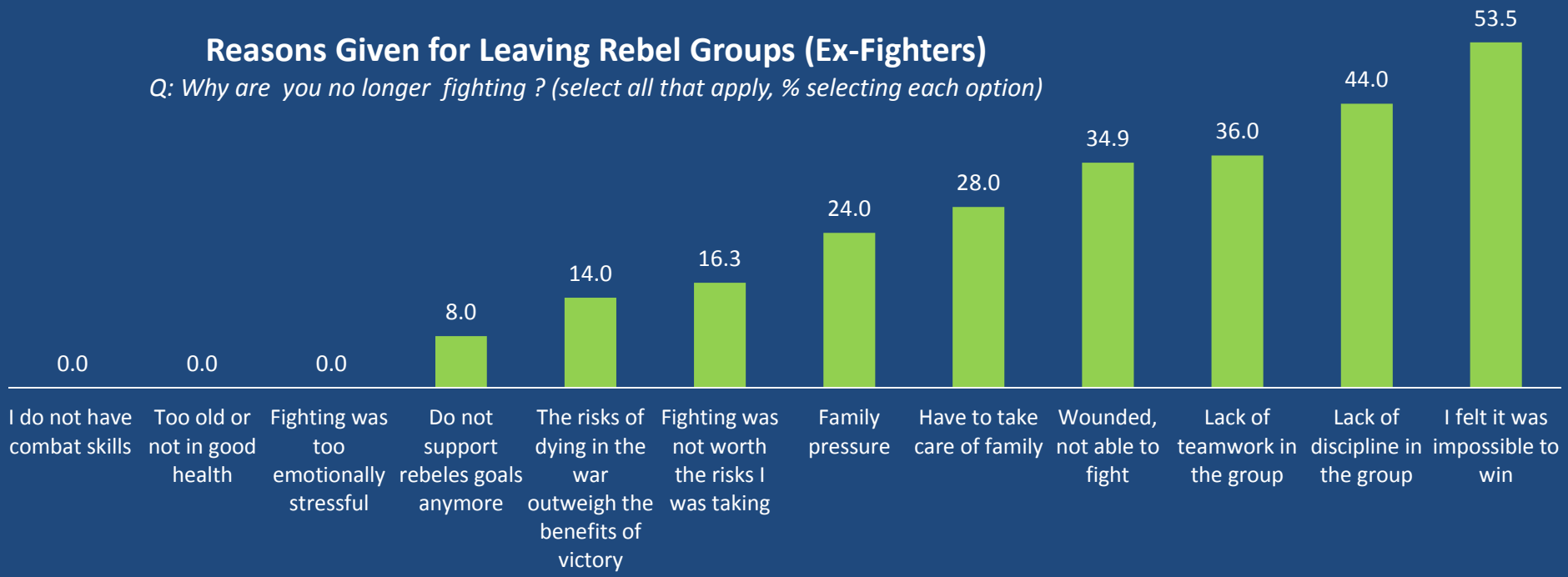
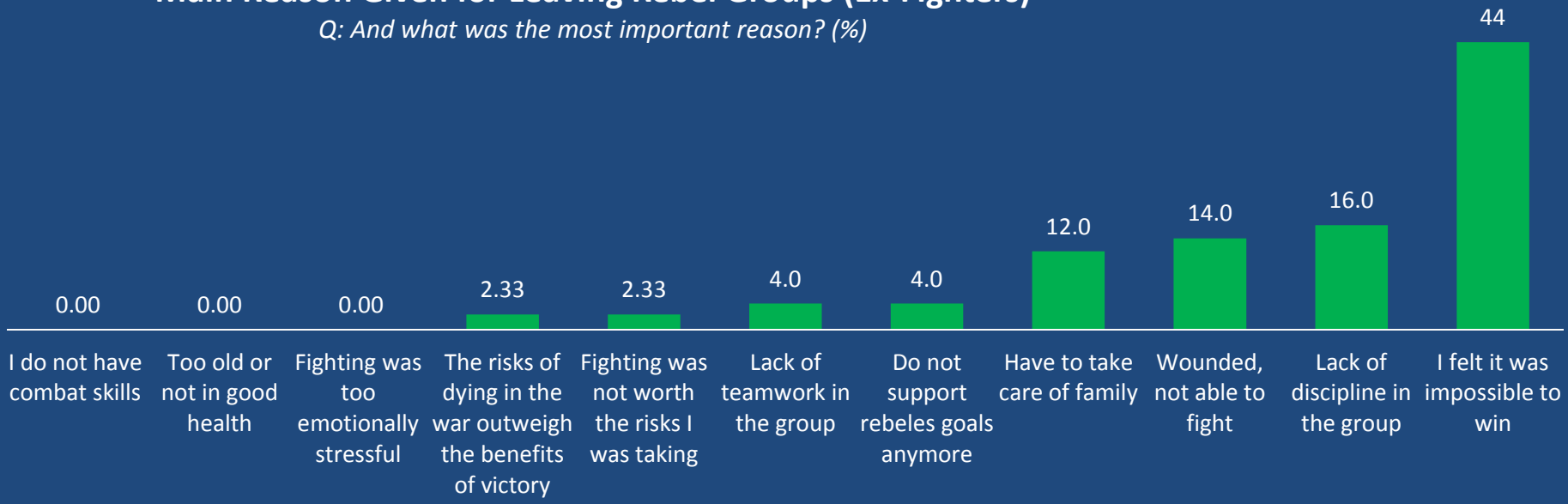
Reasons Given for Leaving Rebel Groups (Ex-Fighters)

Q: Why are you no longer fighting ? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



Main Reason Given for Leaving Rebel Groups (Ex-Fighters)

Q: And what was the most important reason? (%)



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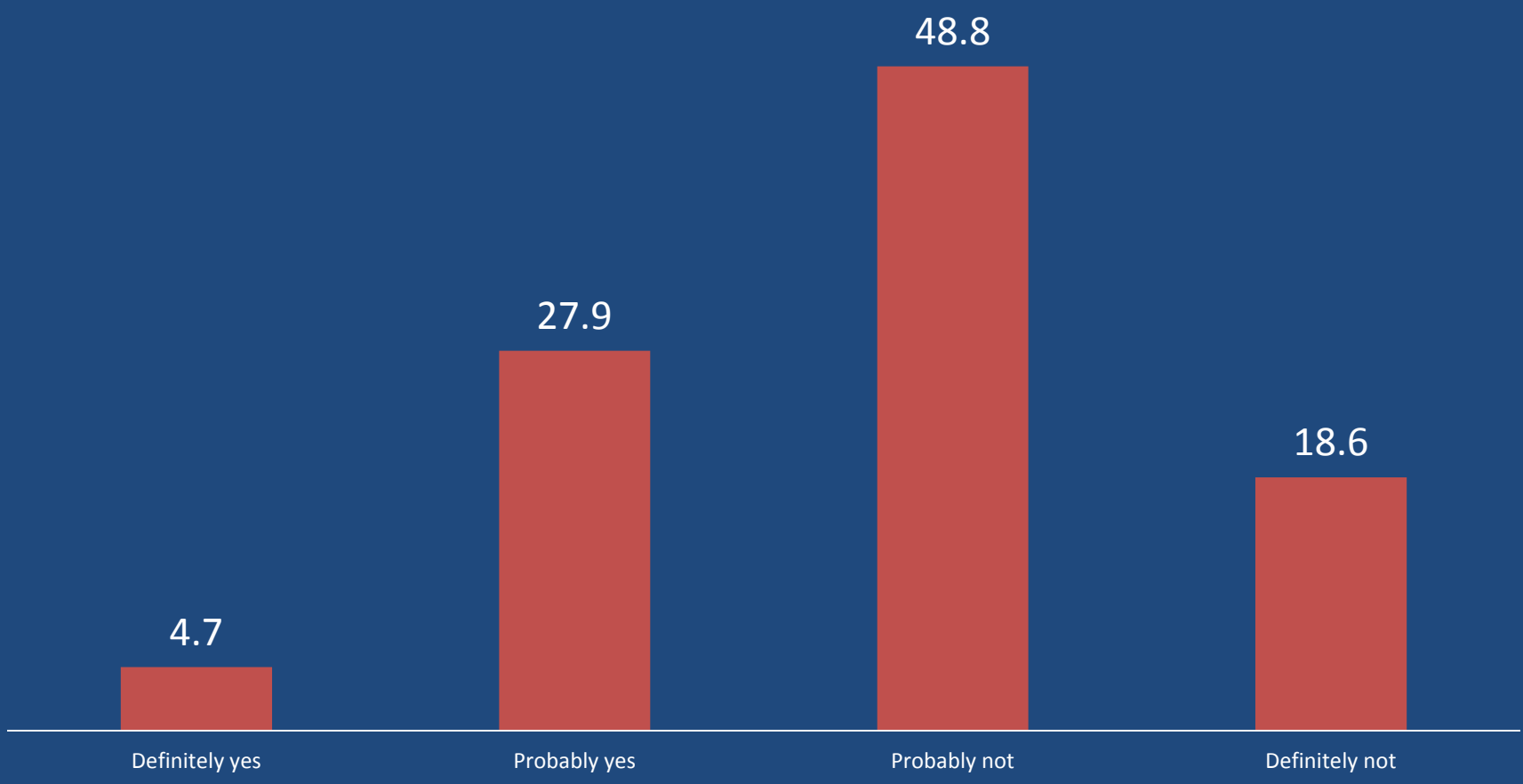
Likelihood of Returning to Combat (Ex-Fighters only)

Q: Do you think you will ever fight again ?



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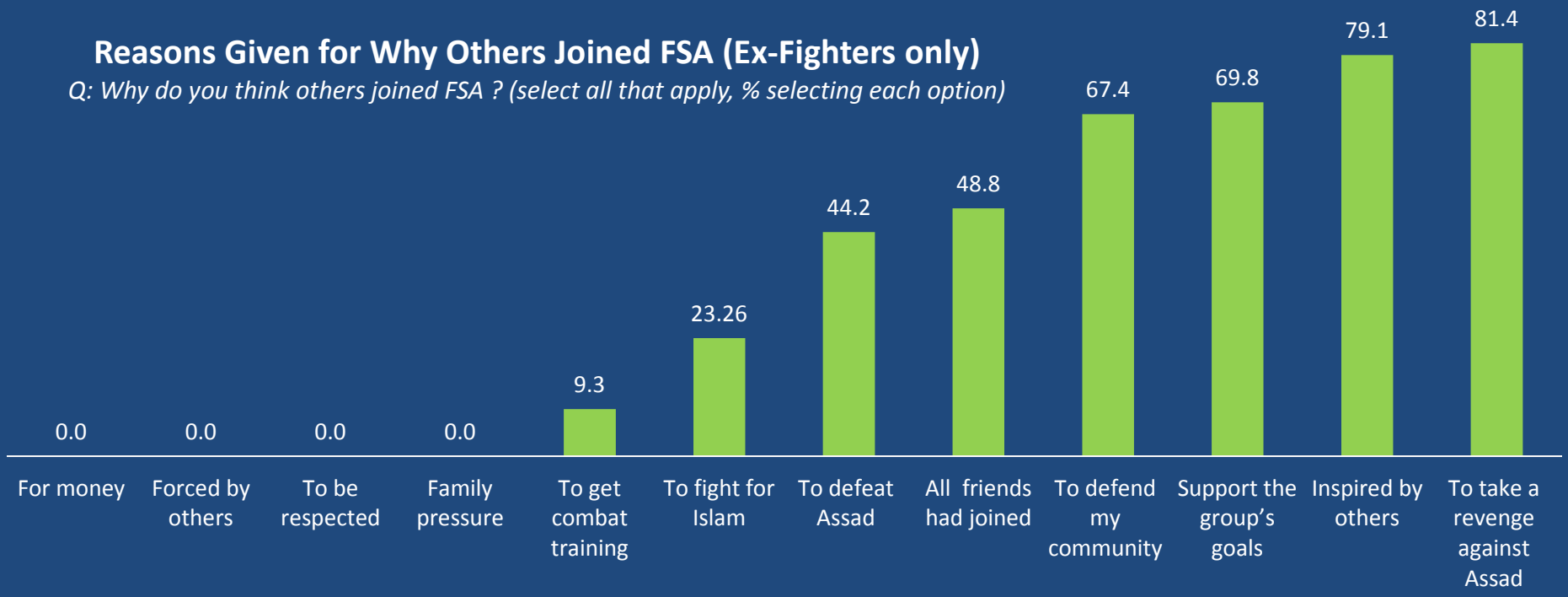
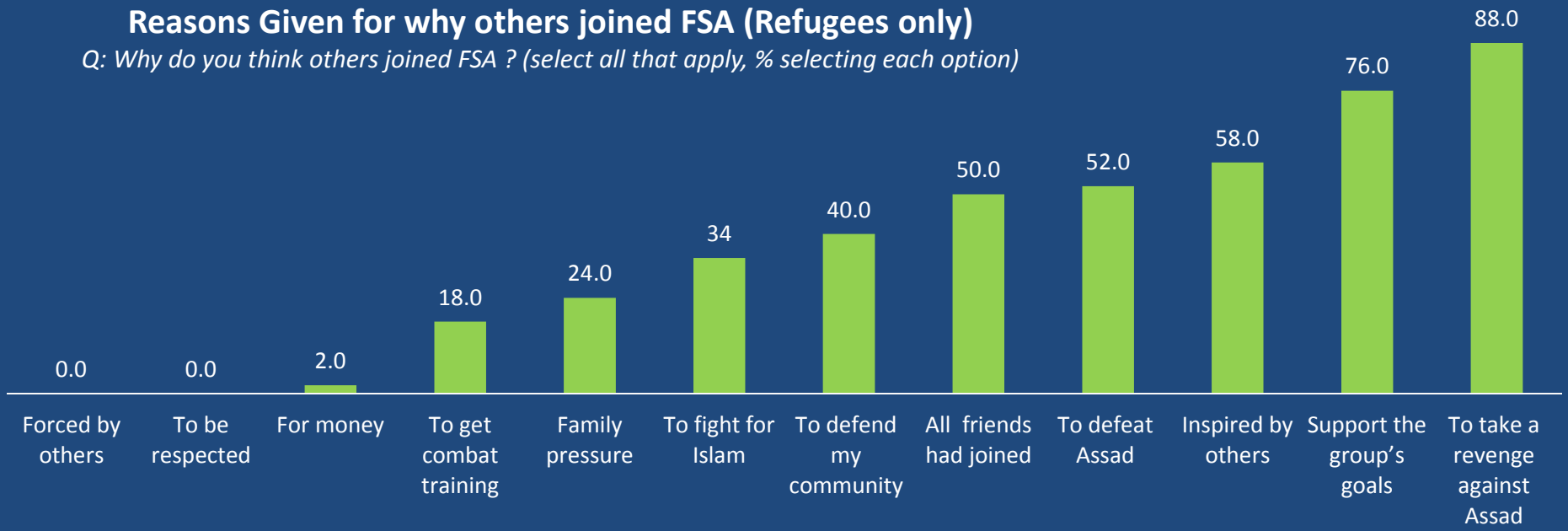
Reasons Given for Why Others Joined FSA (Ex-Fighters only)

Q: Why do you think others joined FSA ? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



Reasons Given for why others joined FSA (Refugees only)

Q: Why do you think others joined FSA ? (select all that apply, % selecting each option)



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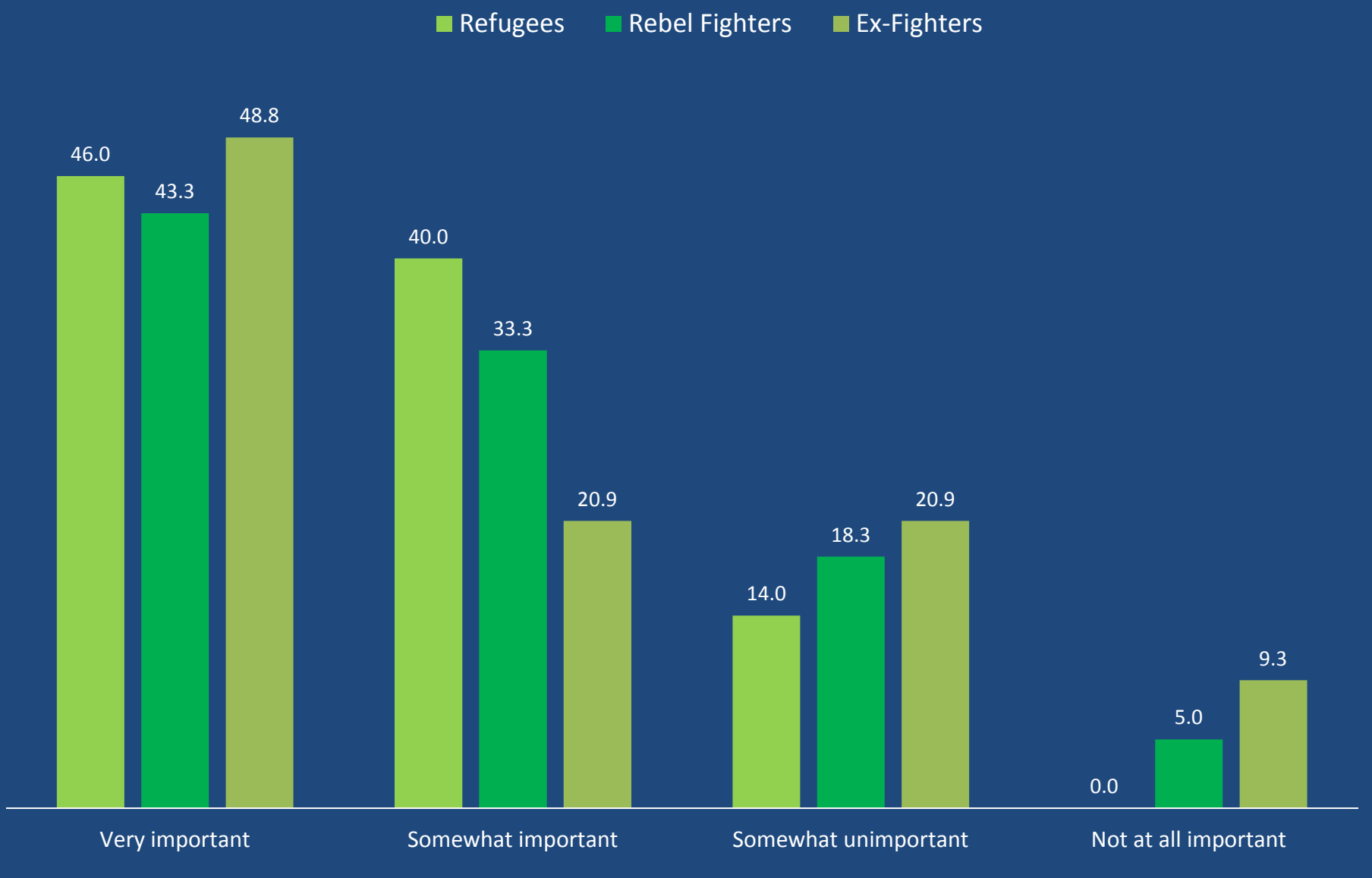
Religion

Importance of religion

Q: In general, how important are your religious beliefs to you in your daily life ?



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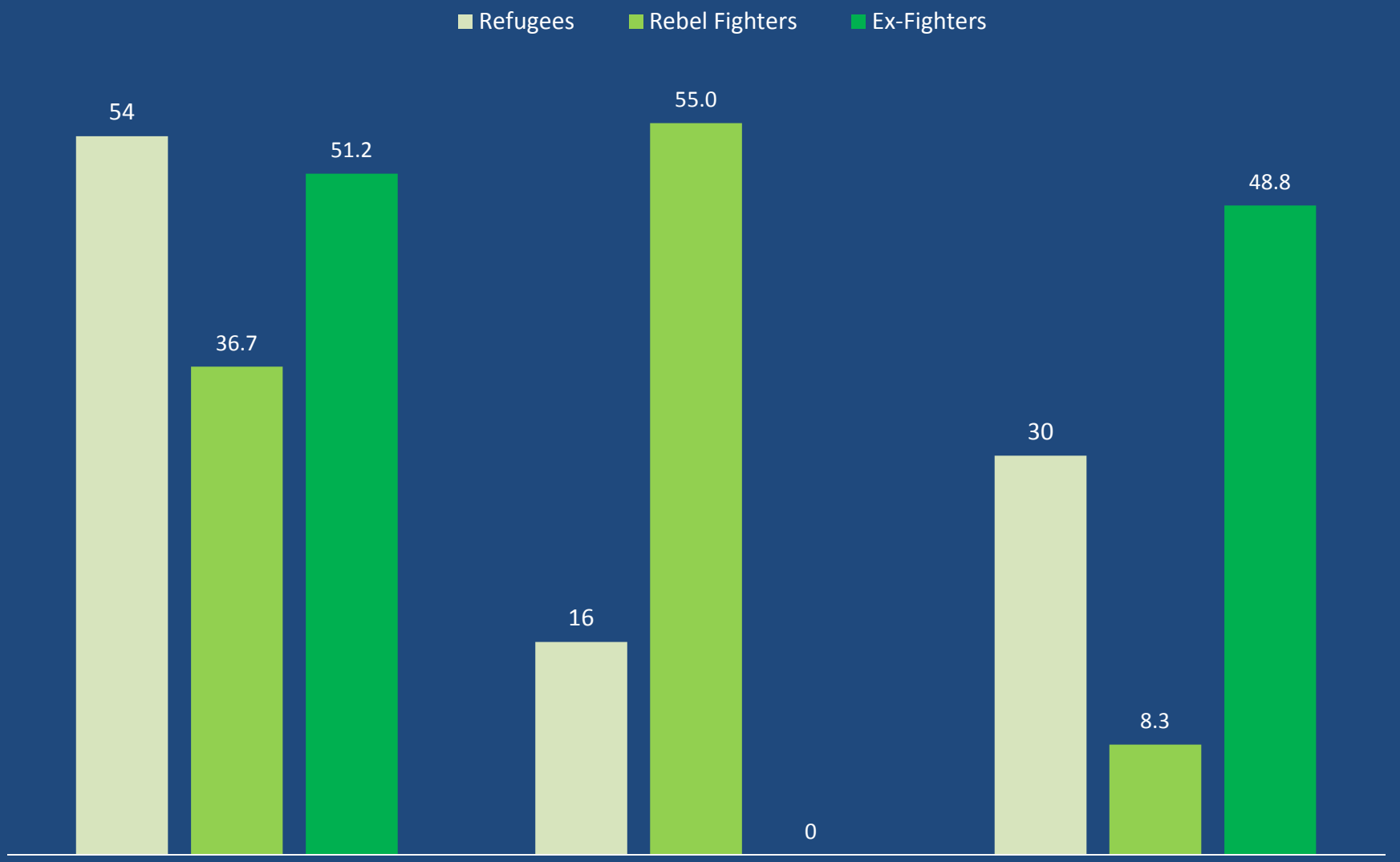
Change in Religiocity Since the Begining of the War

Q: Since the war started do you think you have become more religious, less religious, or are about the same ?



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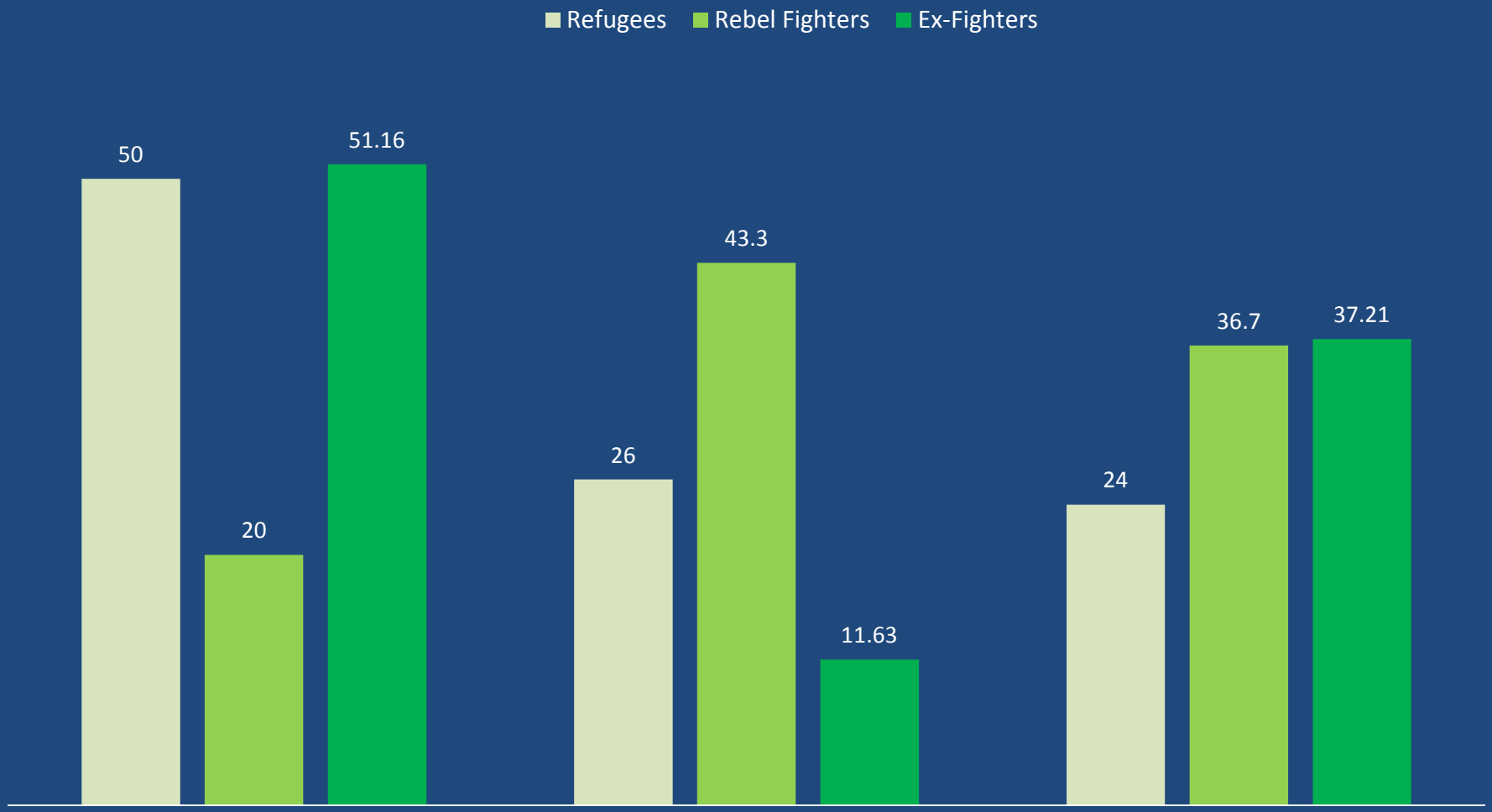
Salience of Sectarian Divisions

Q: In general, how close do you feel to people of your religion compared to other people in Syria ?



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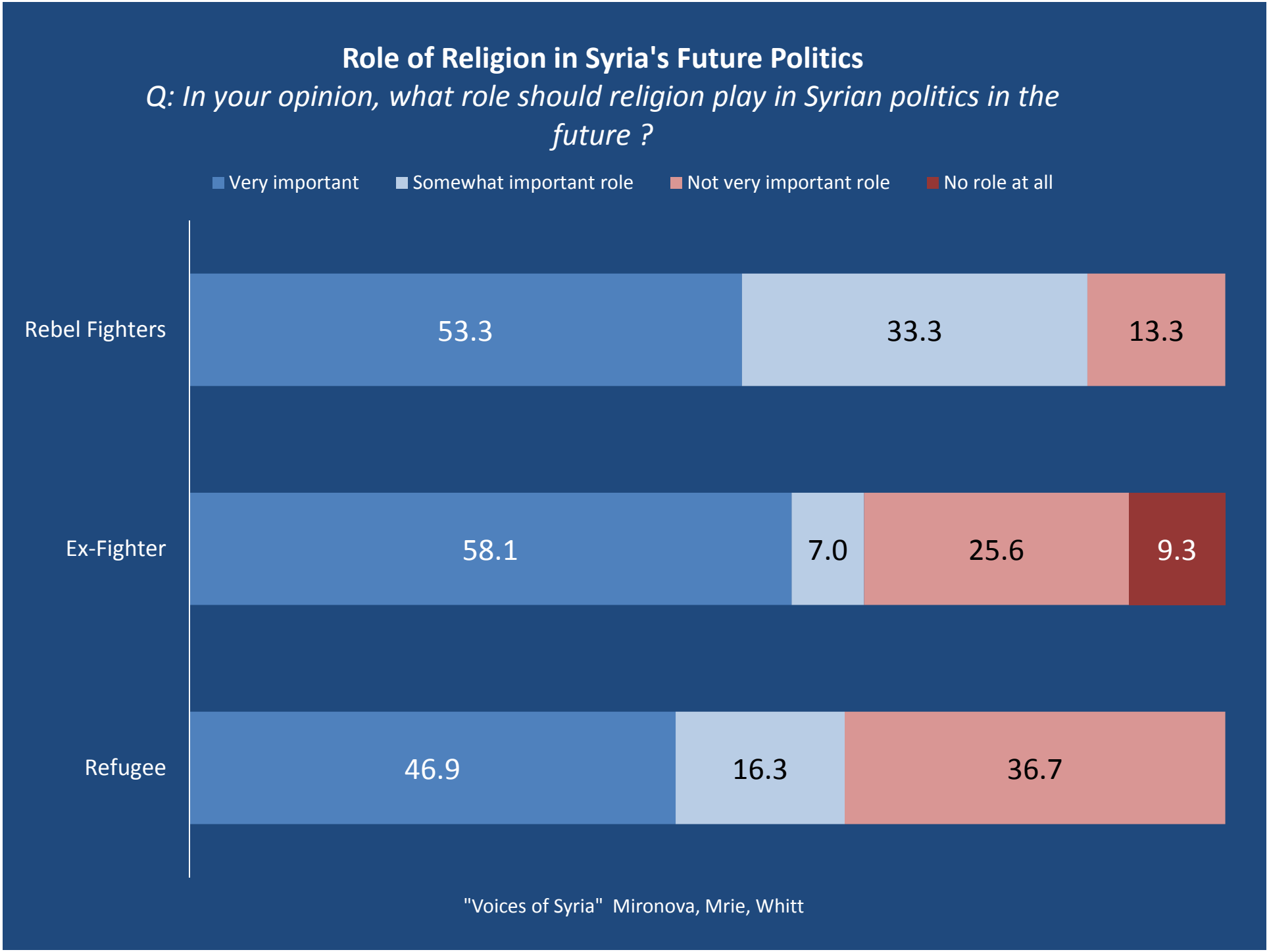
Role of Religion in Syria's Future Politics

Q: In your opinion, what role should religion play in Syrian politics in the future ?



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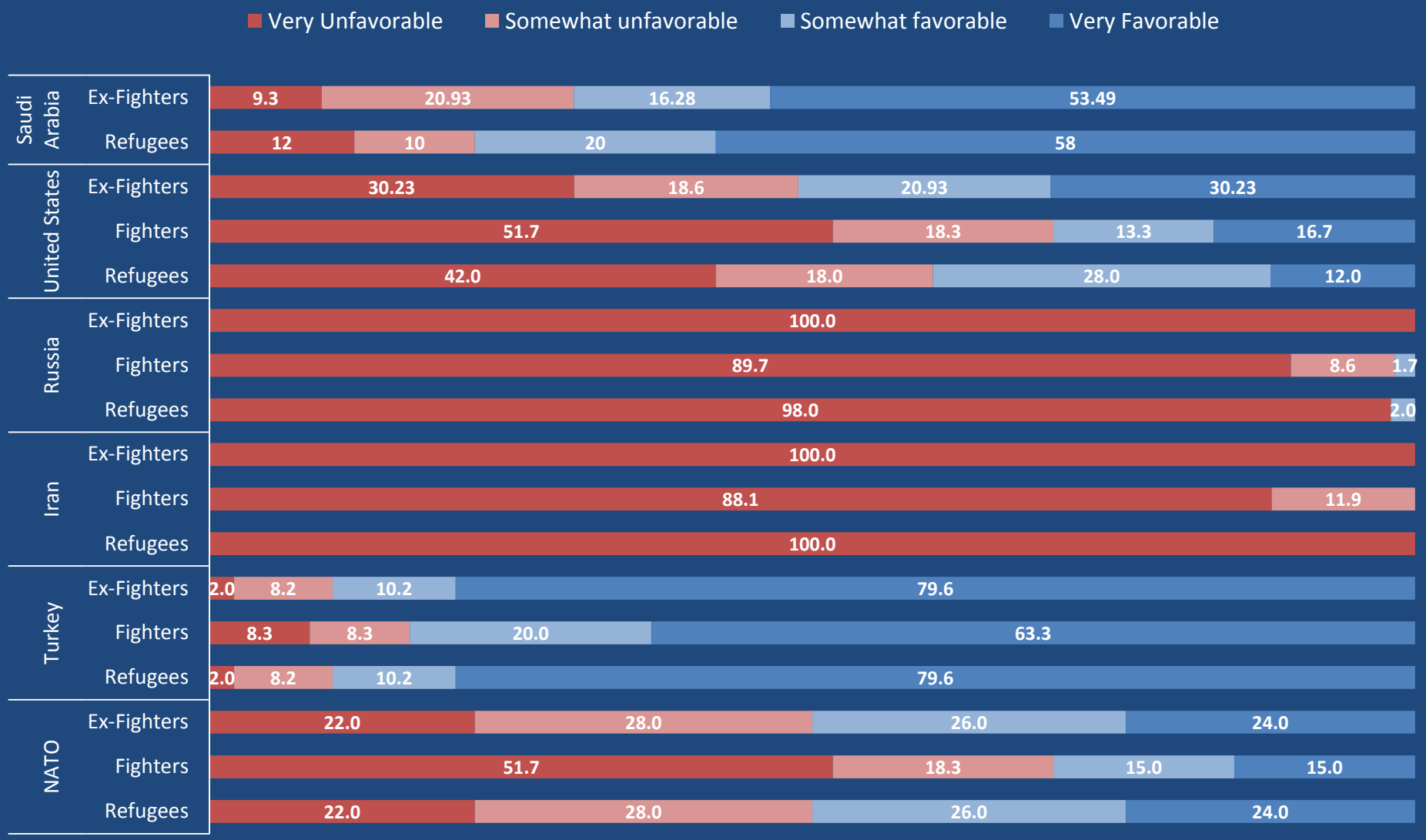
Political views

Views of Other Countries

Q: Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or vey unfavorable view of the following:



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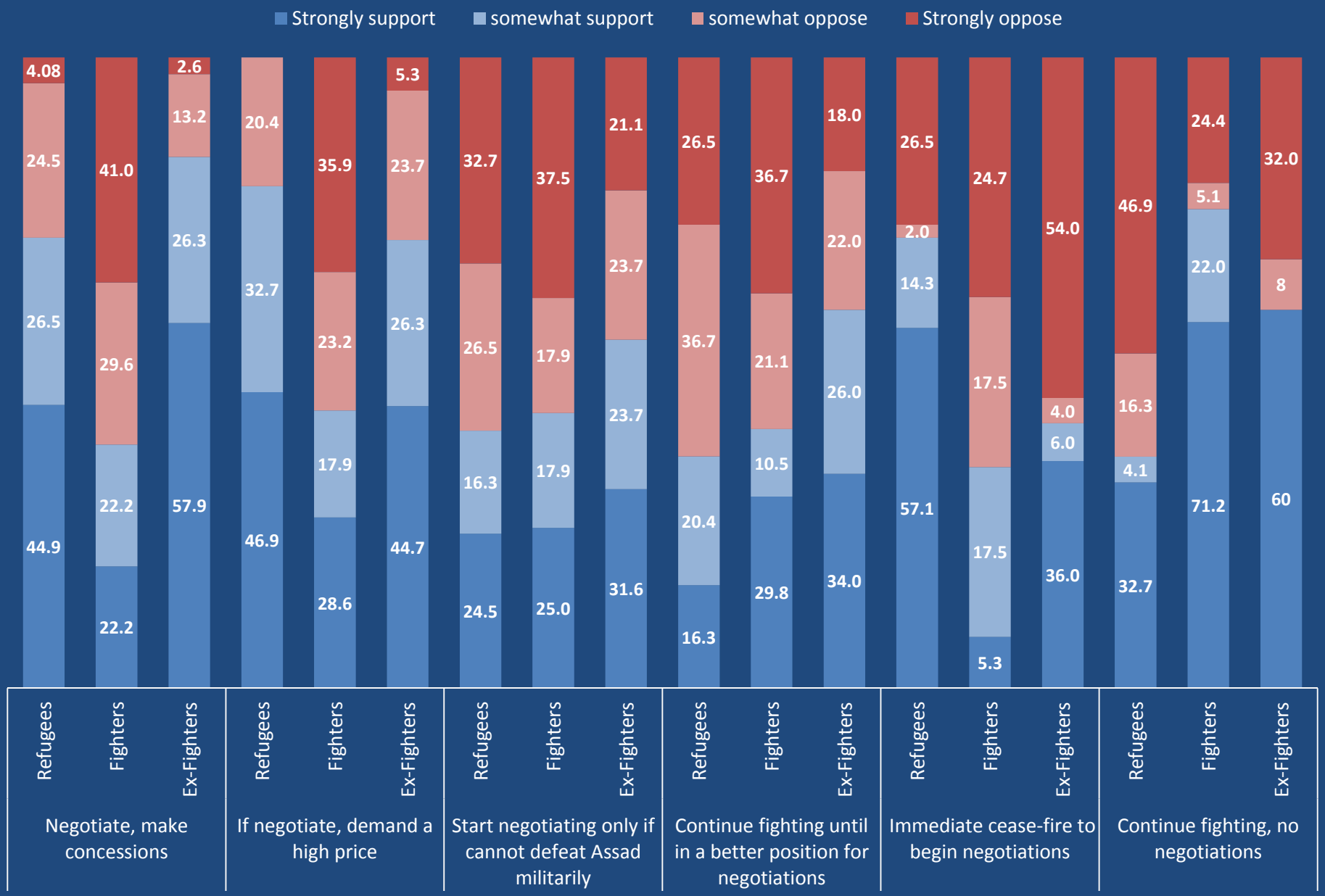
Views on Negotations with Assad

Q: Tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, or strongly oppose the following (%)



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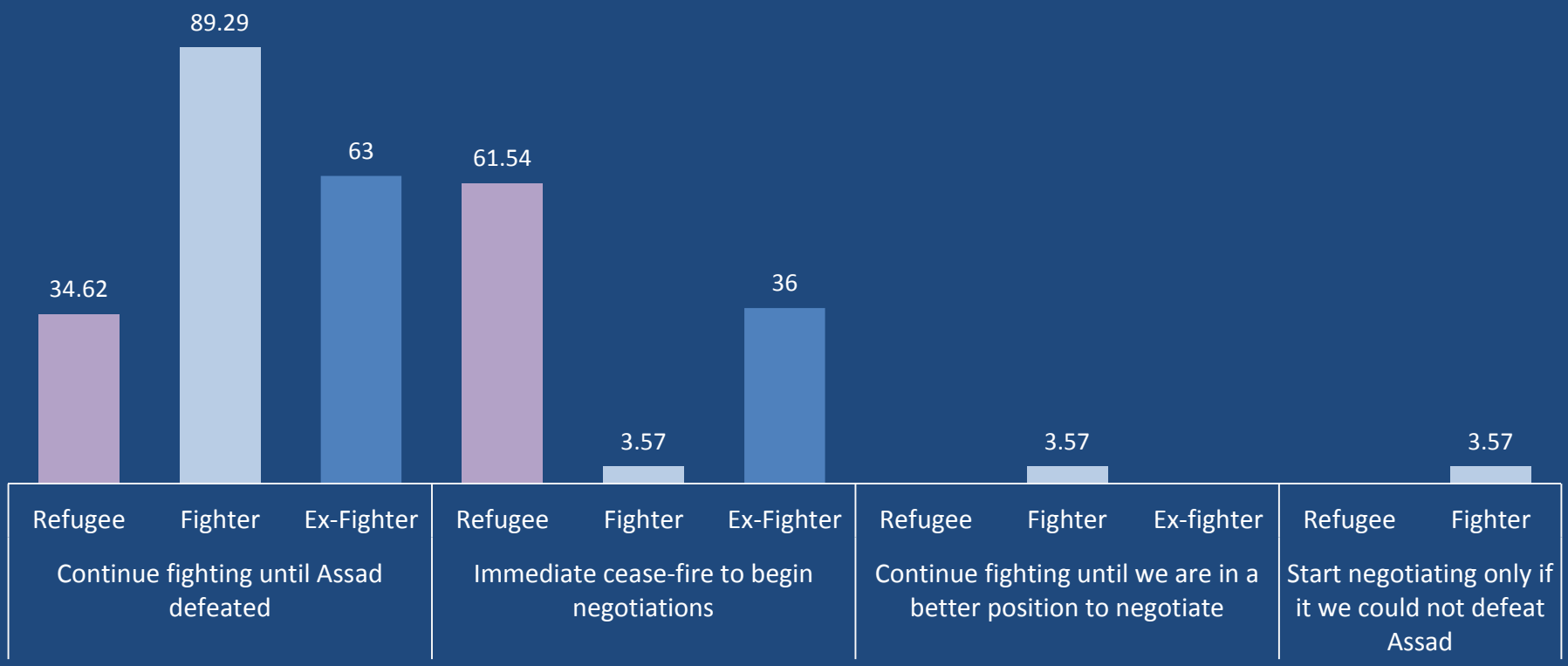
Views on negotiations with Assad

Q: Which of these options do you support the most



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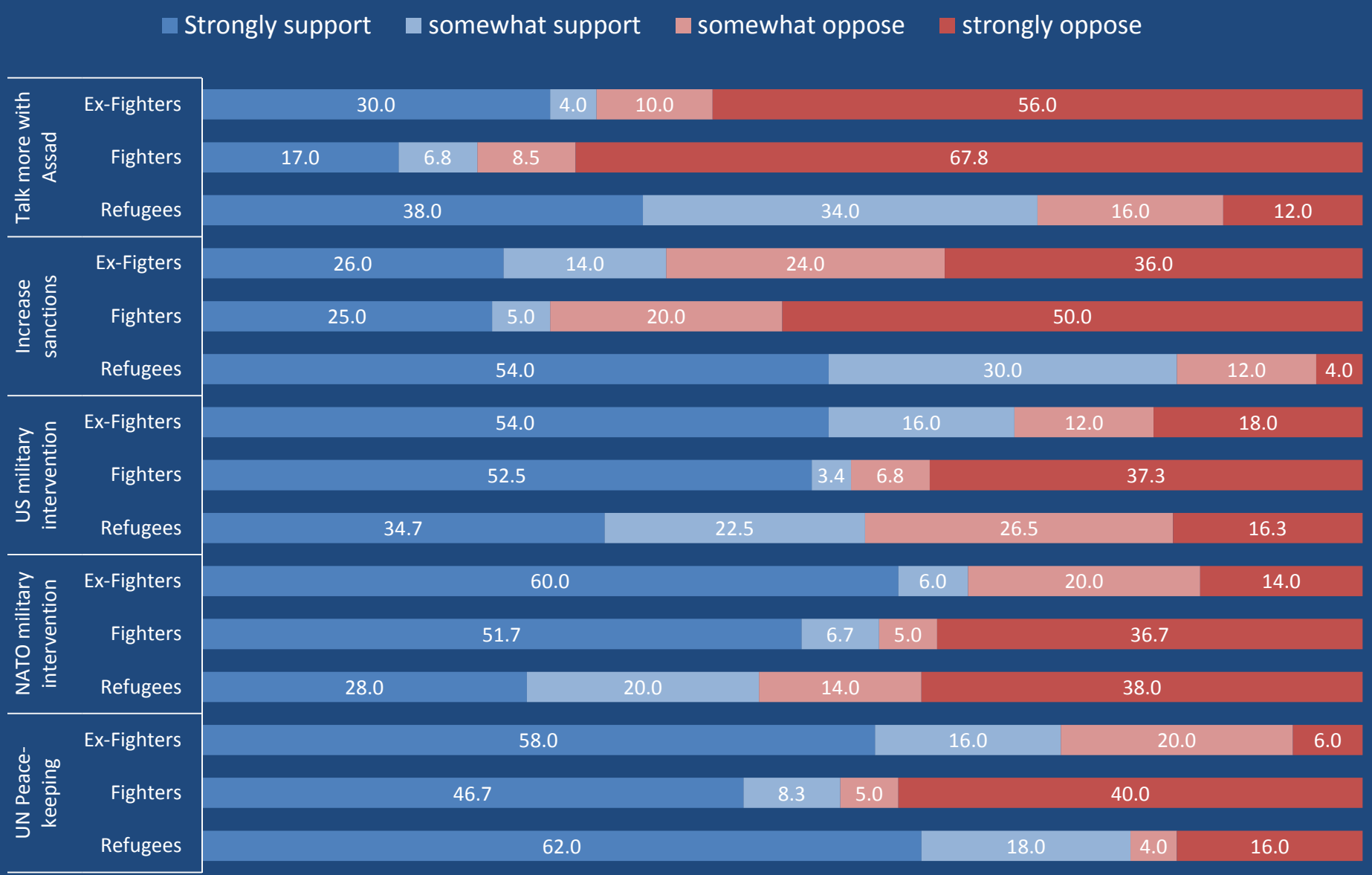
Views on Outside Intervention in Syrian Conflict

Q: There is often discussion about the role of what other countries could do to bring an end to the Syrian conflict. To what extent do you support the following? (%)



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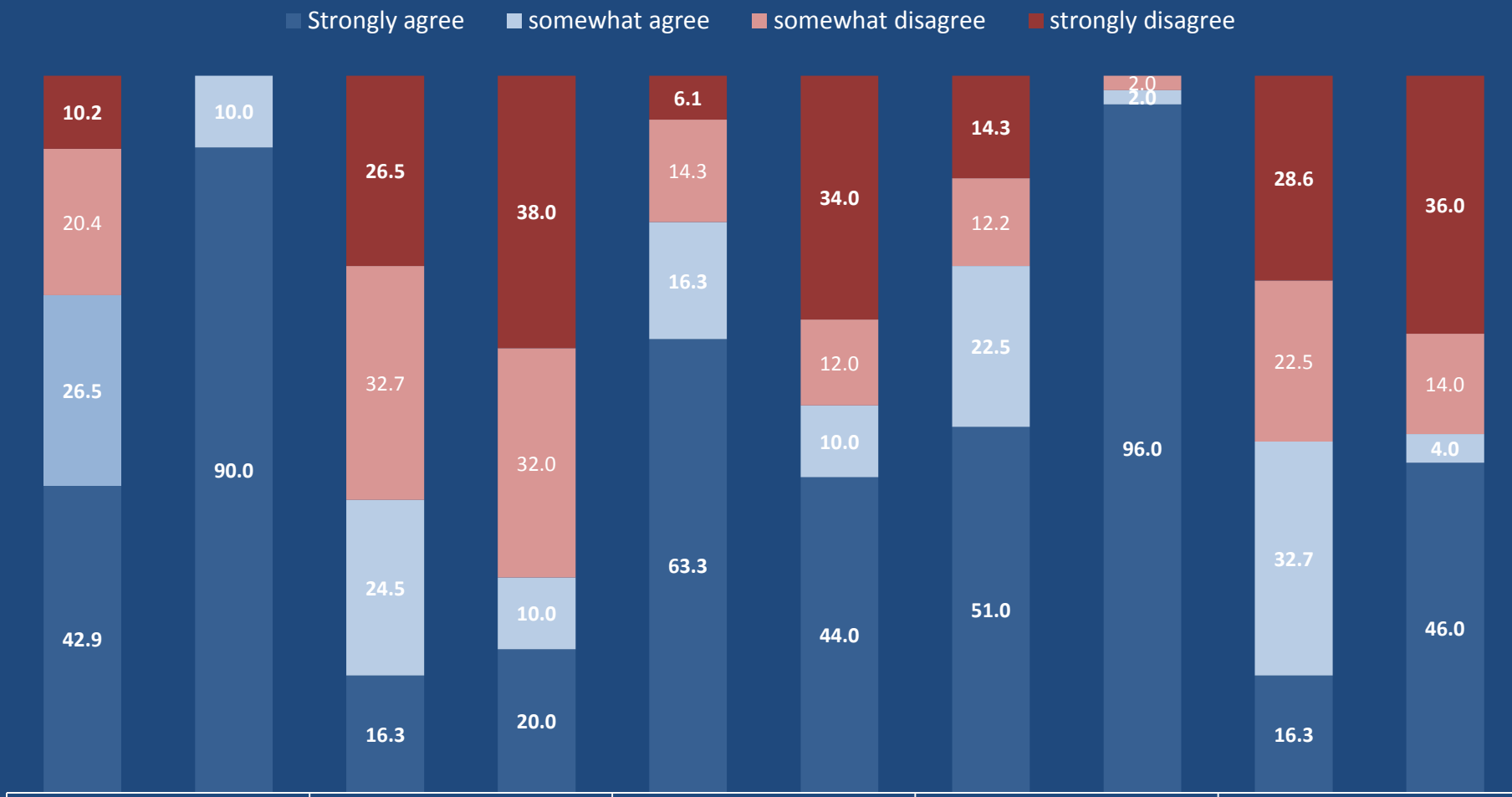
Views on Commitment to Negotiated Settlement of the War in Geneva

Q: To waht extent do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the followhing statement ?



Refugee	Ex-Fighter	Refugee	Ex-Fighter	Refugee	Ex-Fighter	Refugee	Ex-Fighter	Refugee	Ex-Fighter
It is important for rebel leaders to honor all promises/commitments they make negotiating with Assad		Rebel leaders should only honor those promises/commitments that suits their interests		Rebel leaders should not honor any promises that could harm changes of a military victory		We should expect Assad to break any promises/commitments he makes with rebels		Leaders of other countries at the negotiations will ensure that Assad keeps his word	

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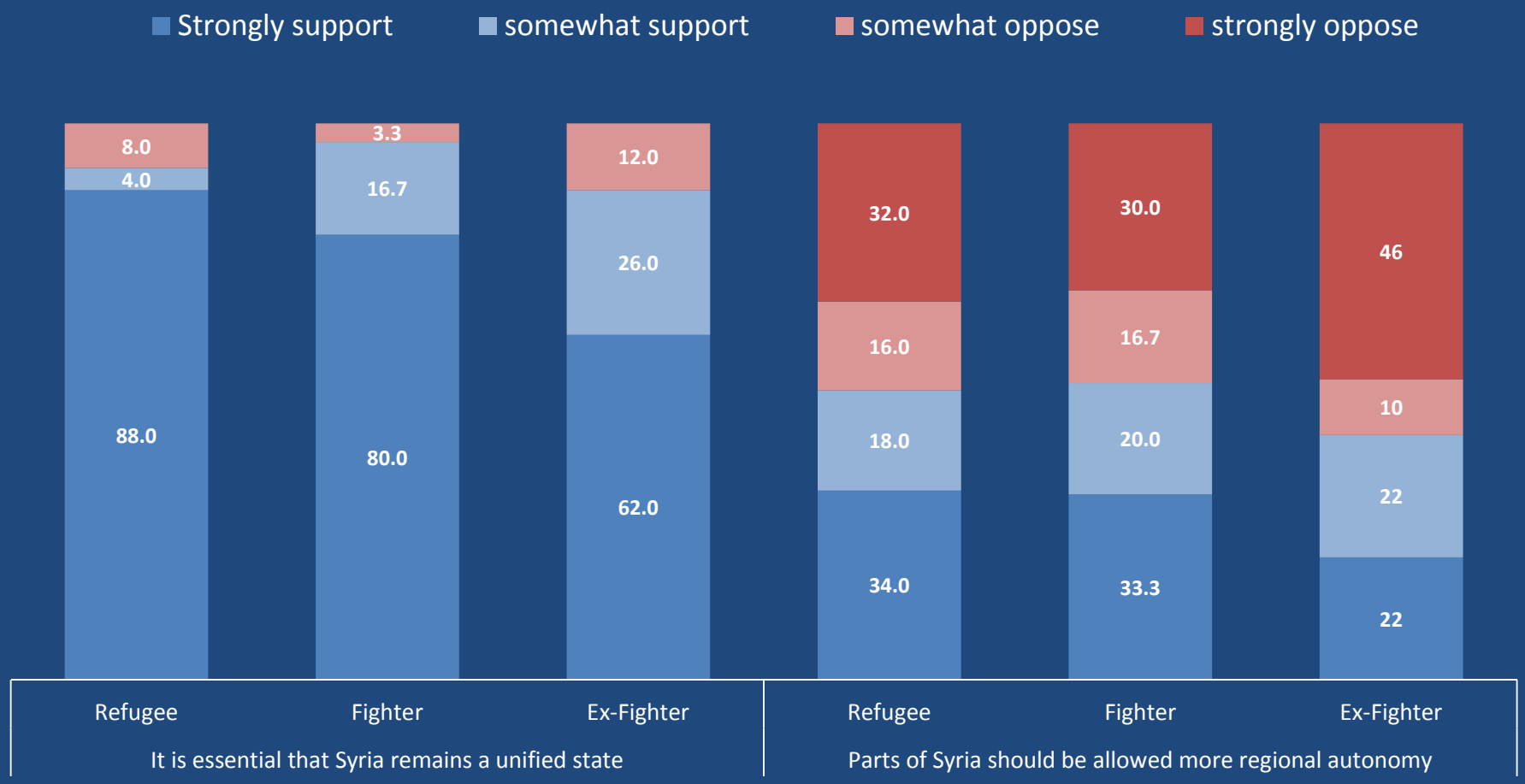
Views on Syrian Unity

Q: To what extent do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree with the following statements



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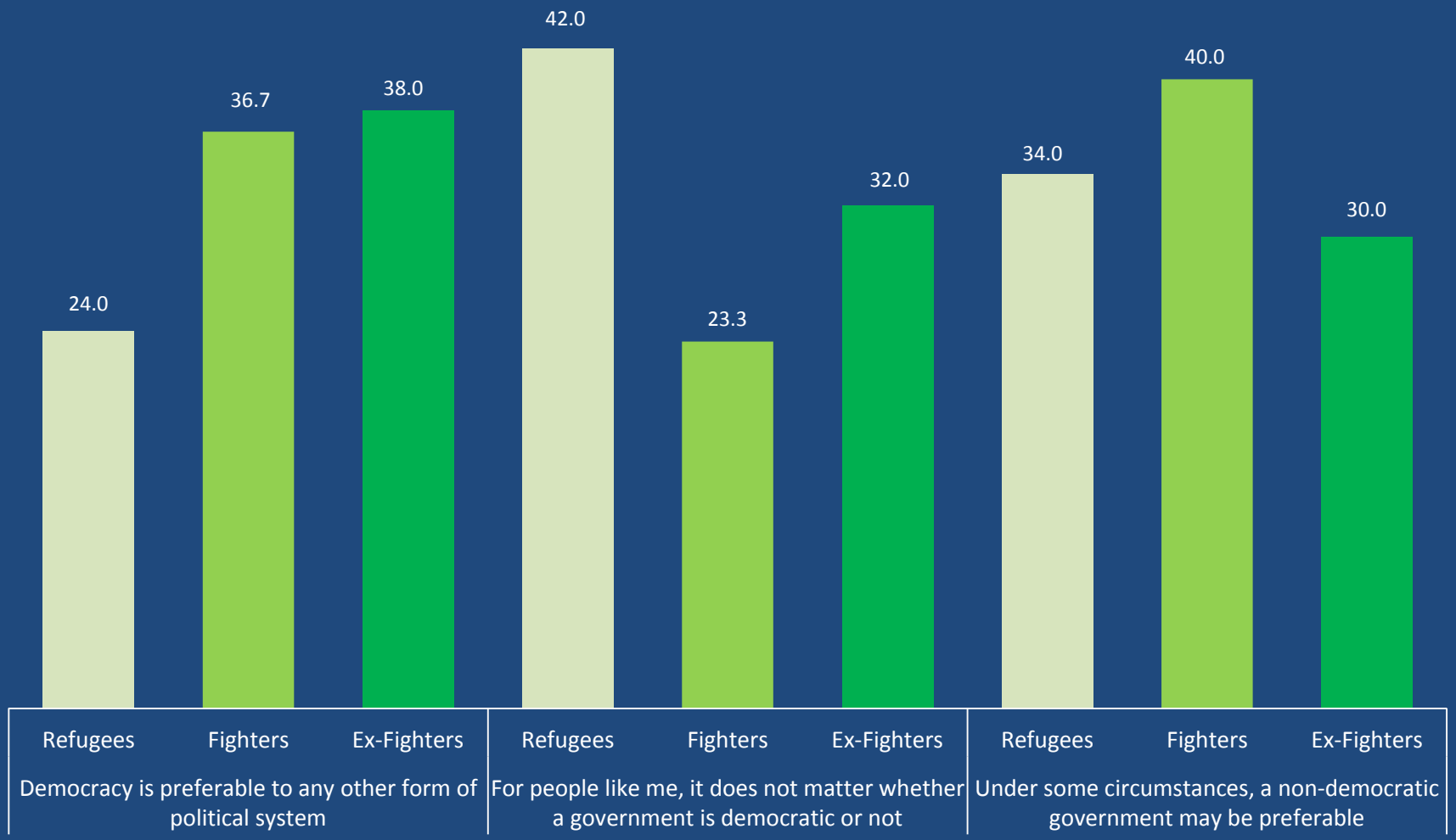
Support for Democracy

Q: Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view? (%)



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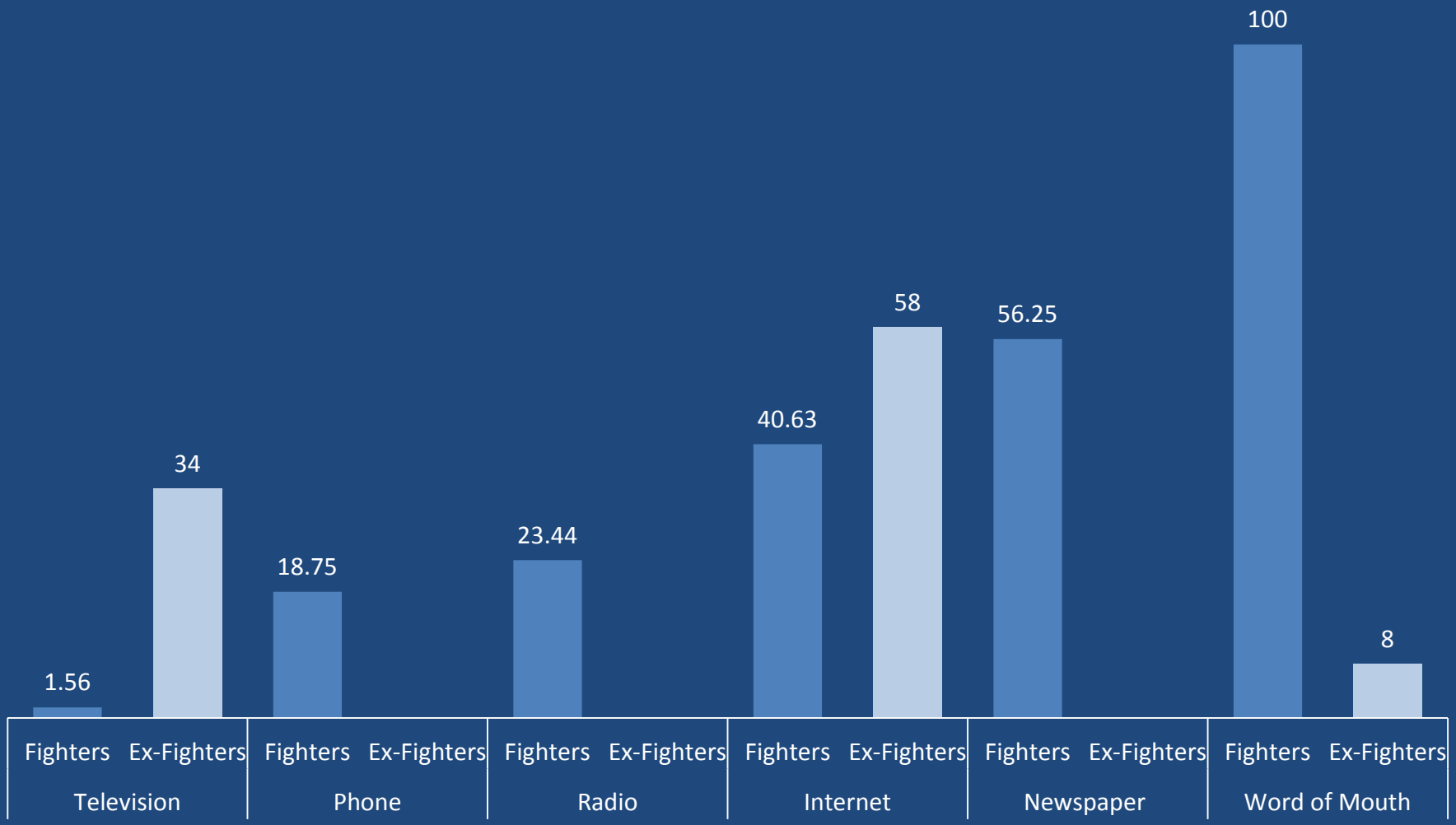
Mass Media

Sources of Information

Q: What are your most important sources of information?
(Select all that apply, % choosing each option)



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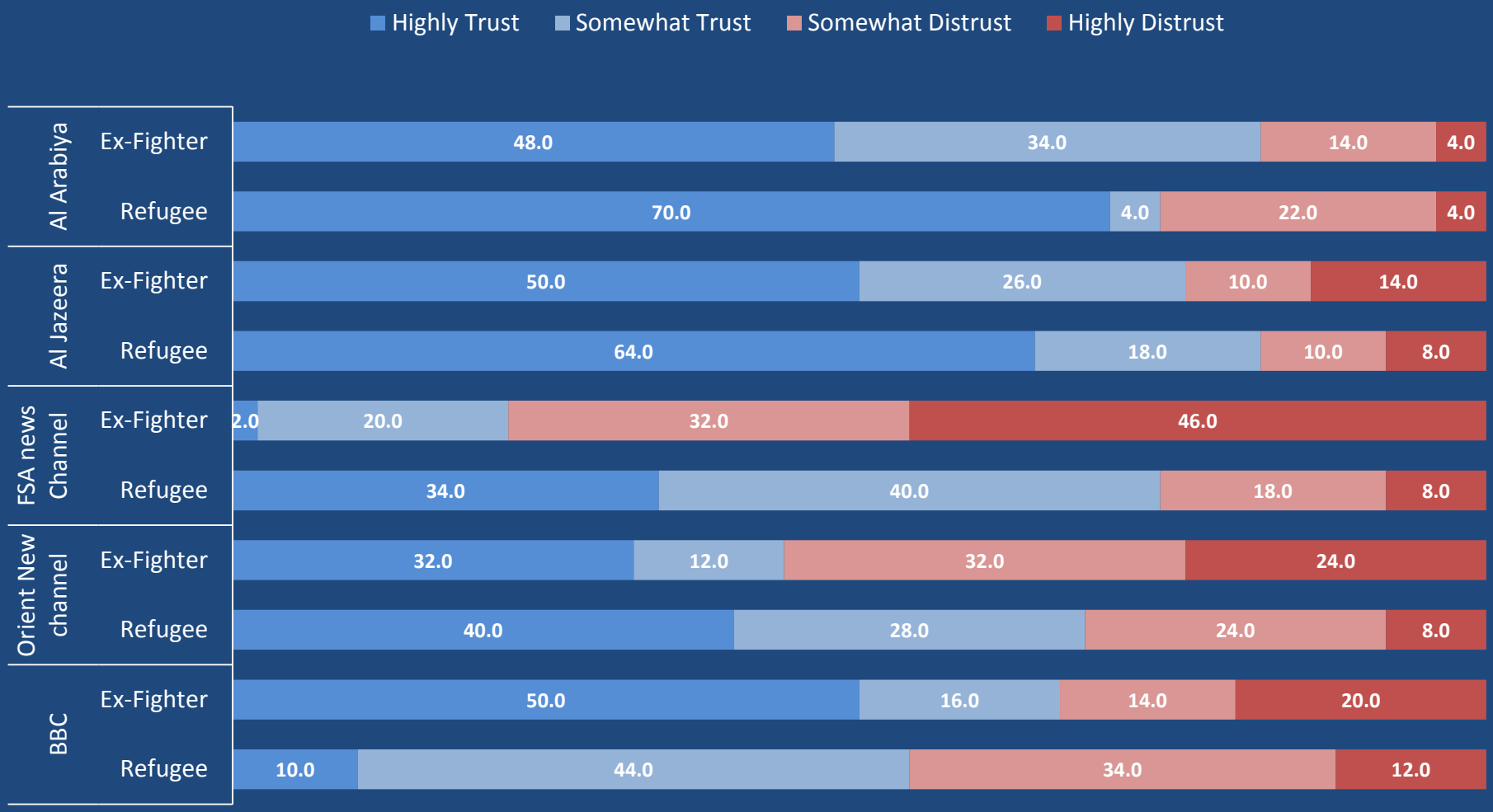
Trust in Major Media Outlets' Syria Coverage

Q: How much do you trust the following news sources for objective reporting about what is happining daily in Syria? (%)



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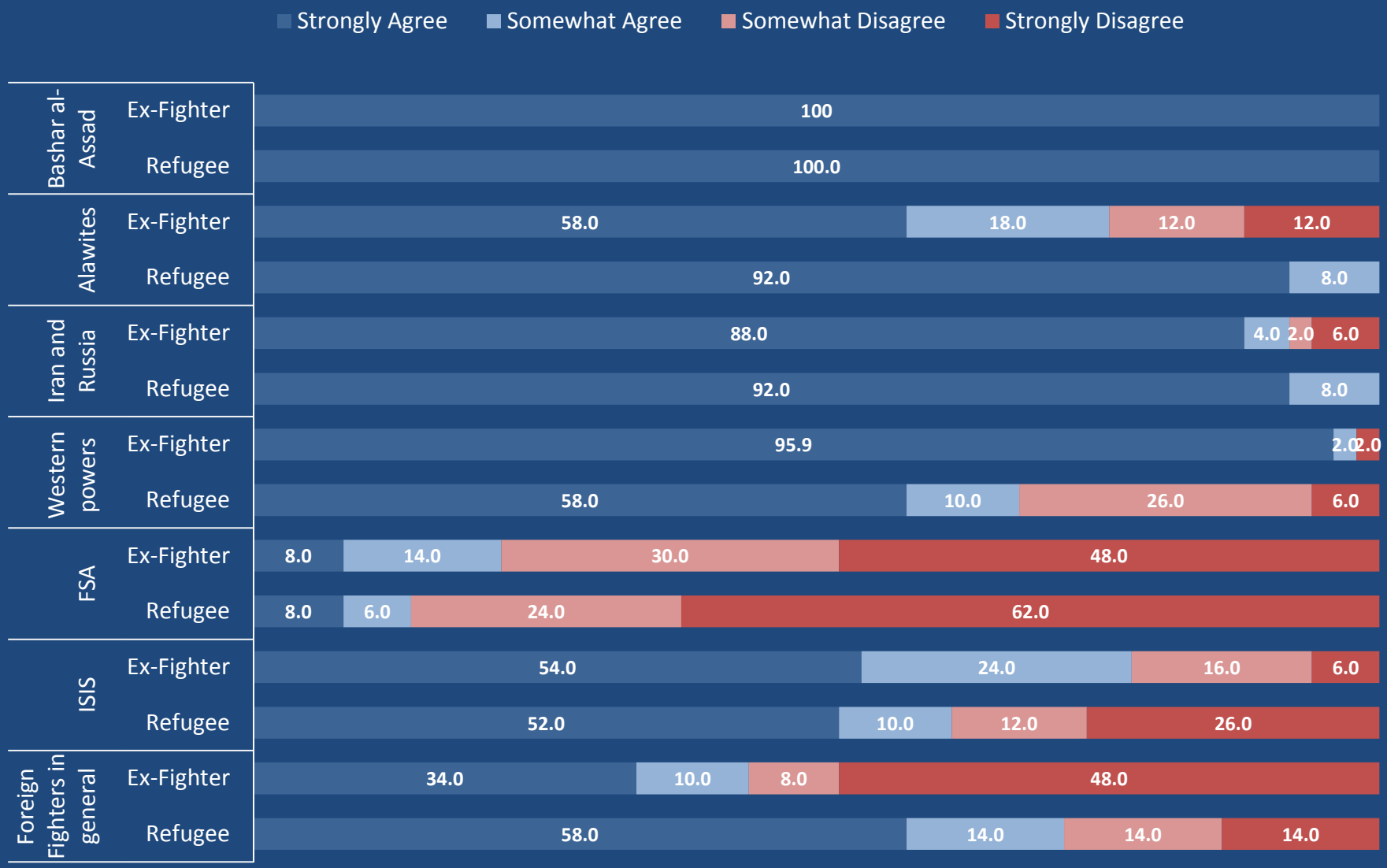
Assigning Blame for the Conflict

Assigning Blame for the Conflict

Q: In your opinion, who deserves the blame for the protracted conflict in Syria ?



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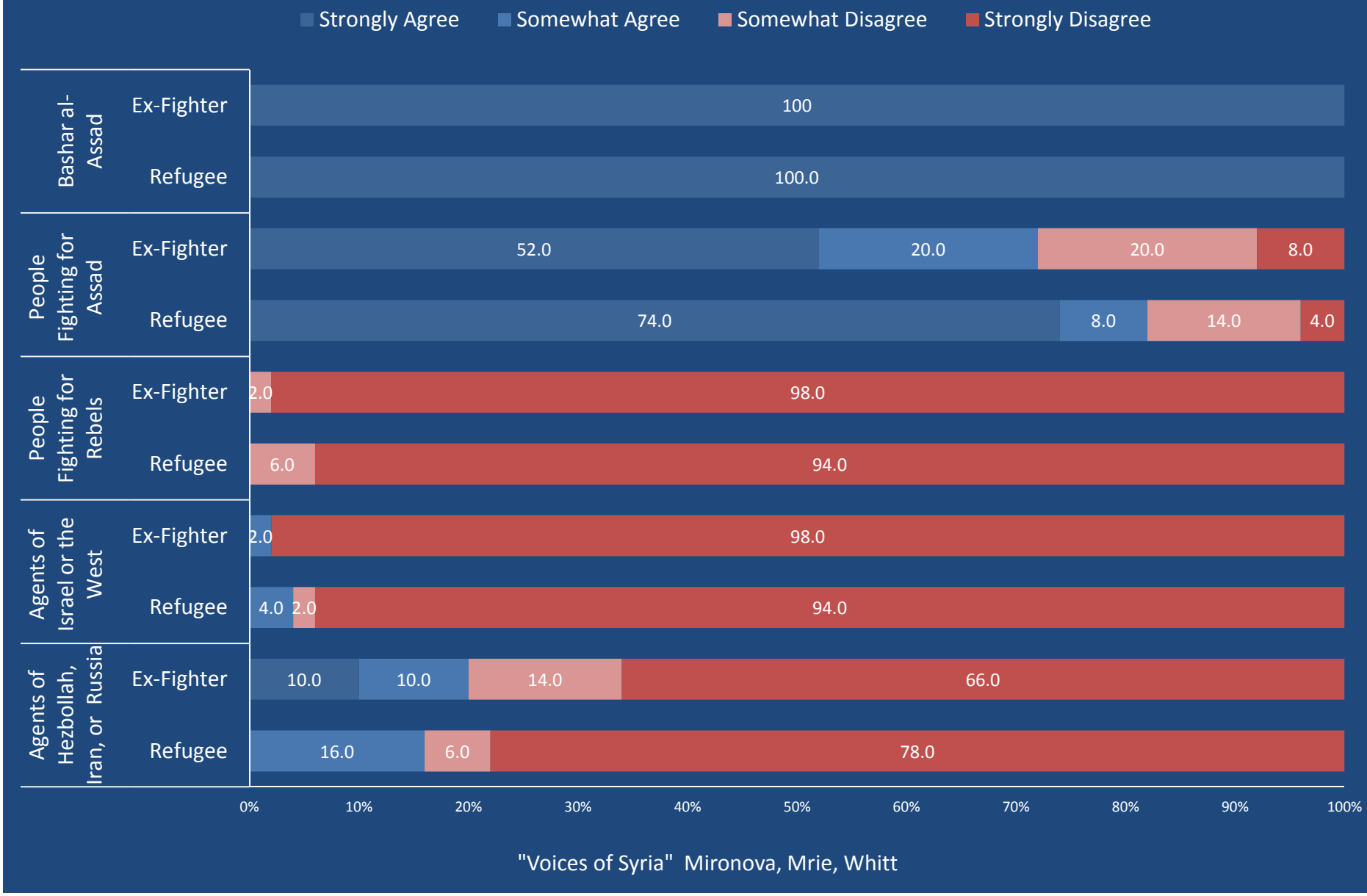
Assigning Blame for Chemical Weapons Attacks

Q: In your opinion, who is responcible for the chemical attack in Ghouta?



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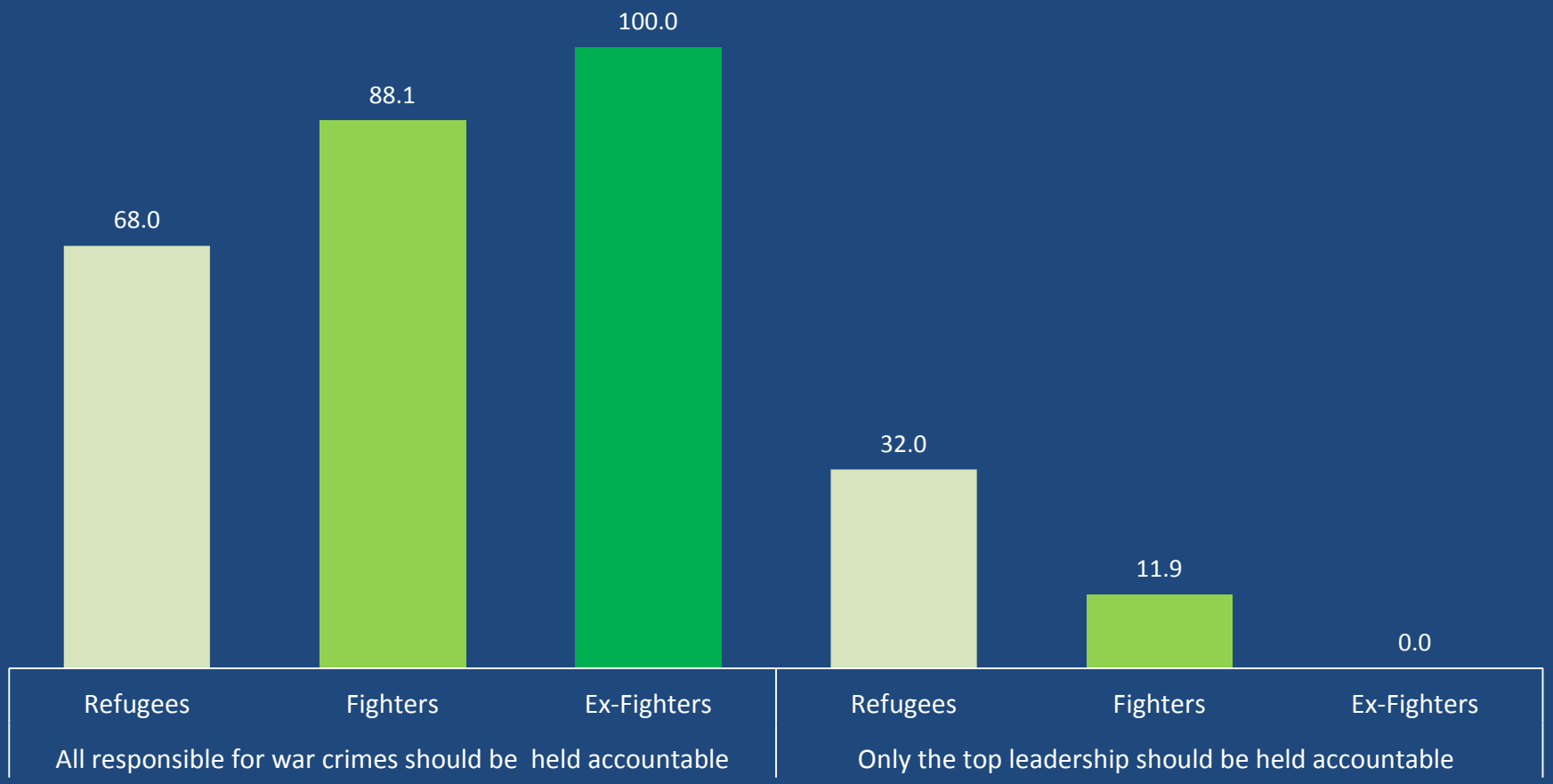
Accountability for War Crimes

Q: Which of these two statements comes closer to your own view ?



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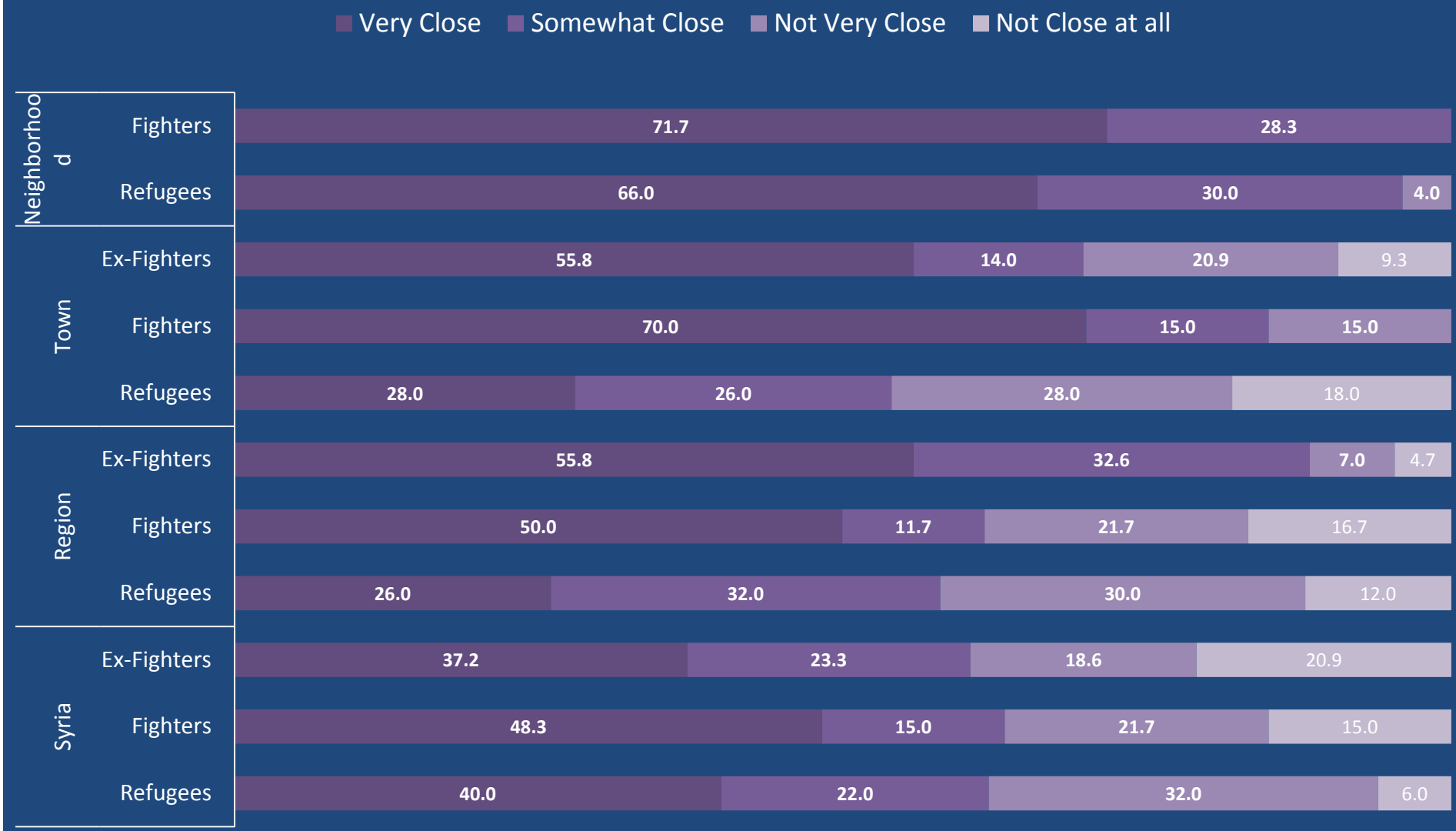
Social Capital

Social Distance by Location

Q: In general, how close do you feel to other peeople in the following locations ?



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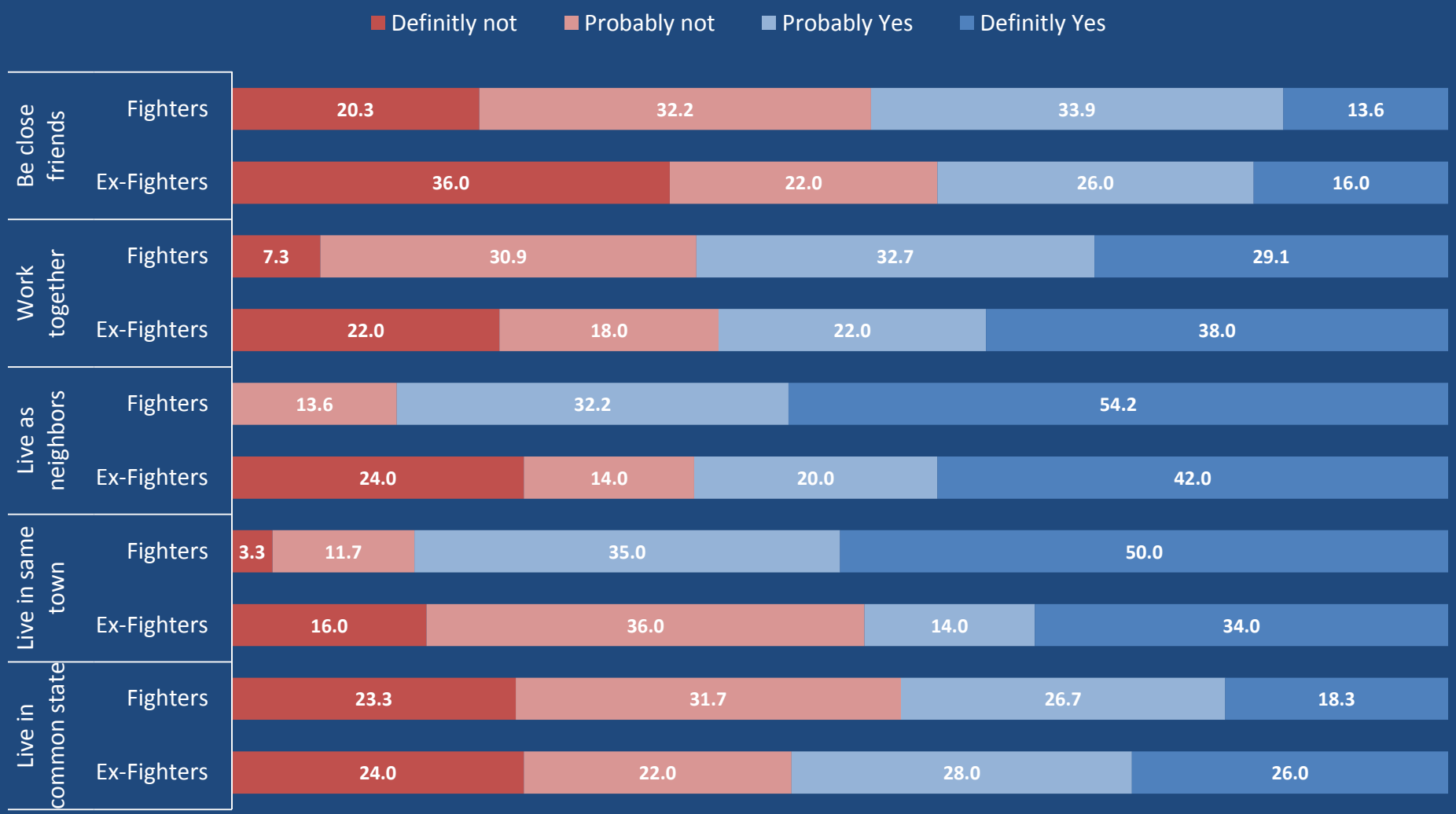
Views on Reconciliation After Violence I

Q: Giving the way things are now, to what extent do you think Syrians on different sides of this conflict willbe able to do the following:



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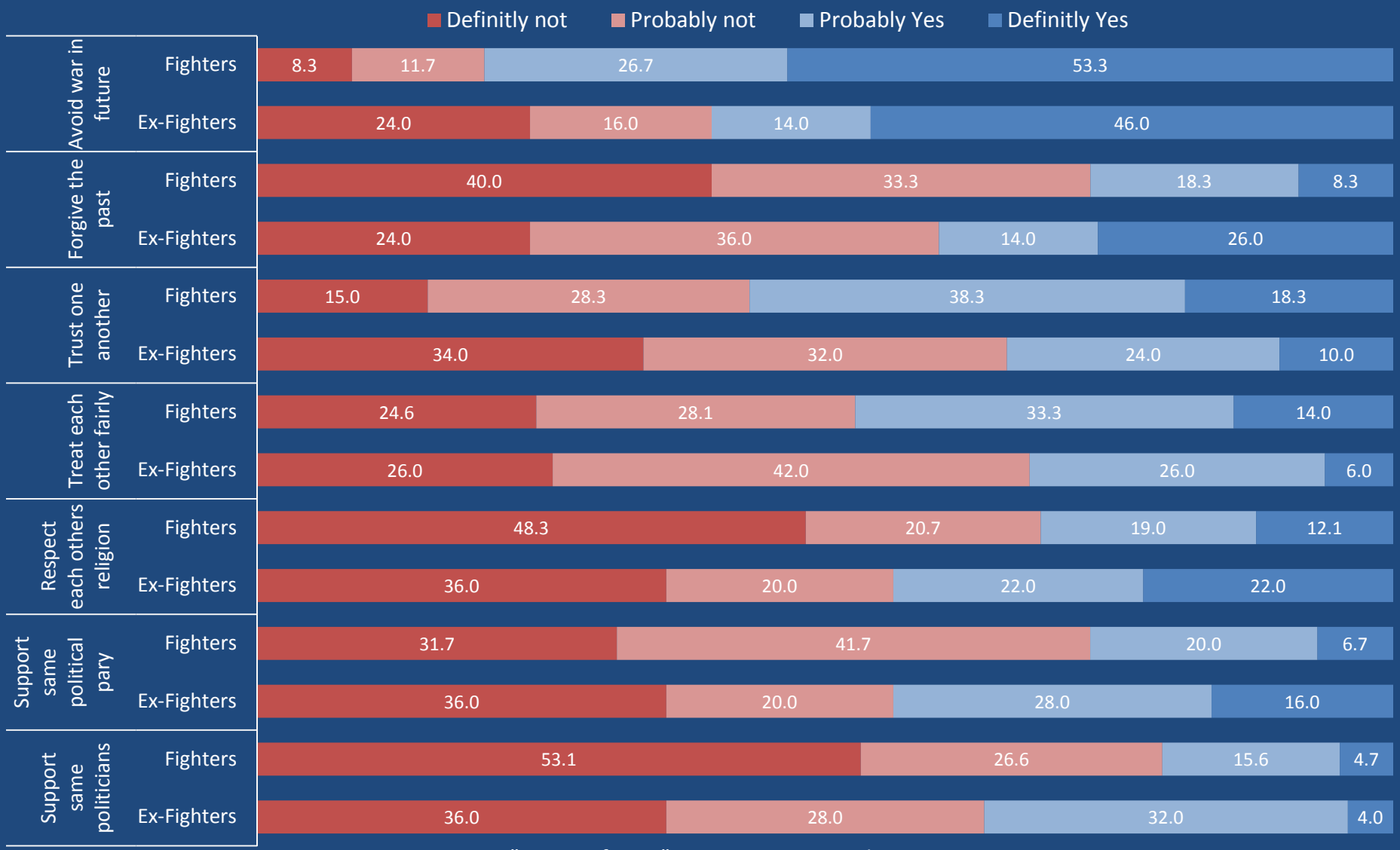
Views on Reconciliation After Violence II

Q: Giving the way things are now, to what extent do you think Syrians on different sides of this conflict will be able to do the following:



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