

# Attitudes towards Syrians in Turkey-2017

Emre Erdoğan & Pınar Uyan Semerci

**Istanbul Bilgi University-Center for Migration Research**

March 12, 2018 Ankara

**German Marshall Fund-Discussion on Turkish Perceptions of Syrian Refugees**

# Anti-immigrant attitudes

Most frequently been studied in the “developed” Western world, in countries such as Denmark, England, U.S.A., and Canada (Freeman et al., 2013).

Diversified immigration patterns:

Many migrants do not end up in the “West” or “North”. “East” to “East” and “South” to “South” migration is possible (Kleemans and Klugman, 2009).

Populism

Radical Right

Islamophobia

Terrorist attacks

## Threat as the Key Factor-Fear

Economic: Competition for scarce resources

Symbolic: Threat to the cultural values of the host country

Physical: Threat to the bodily existence

# Contact

Positive: true/intimate acquaintances

Negative: if acquaintances are casual

Security: Terrorism and Everyday Violence

People are less threatened by true/intimate acquaintances but feel more threatened and less secure by the frequency of casual contact.

Scapegoating

# Method and the Field

November 17- December 20, 2017

F2F interviews with 2004 people (18+ population of Turkey from 16 cities in rural and urban regions)

Under the assumption of SRS, margin of error is +/-3%

Survey conducted by Infakto RW

4 Focus groups in Istanbul- supporters of political parties (AKP, CHP, HDP and MHP-each separately)

Funded by the *Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation*  
- a project of the *German Marshall Fund*

Quotes- Focus  
Groups:  
*Their sufferings  
should not  
cause us to  
suffer*

I am from Antep, Kilis, very close to Syria. Everywhere is Syrian in Kilis. For example our relatives own a shop, they own houses, they pay taxes but when Syrians own shops, they do not pay taxes. They rent house and they receive salary. They are paid and they have more rights than we have, I see them as a major problem. (CHP)

In our own country now we are second class citizen. They all came and settled here, they benefit from all services. Wages are paid to them, we are trying to live with minimum wages. (HDP)

My personal view, I donot want them. I see that after they arrive, number of divorces increased. I witnessed with some of my friends. They left their wives and get Syrians. Unemployment also increased. Monthly payment to them, they are all taken from us. (AKP)

Quotes- Focus  
Groups:  
*Their sufferings  
should not  
cause us to  
suffer*

Doctors also give the Syrians as examples. As there is not vaccination, the illnesses are more contagious, even doctors are uneasy. In Southeast there emerges a disease, which has disappeared for the last three generation' (AKP)

Our citizens are unemployment, ok they are also human, I am not saying these for discrimination, we are sorry particularly for children and women, but they have more opportunities in education, in material benefits, they are positively discriminated... I donot know they will be more crowded (HDP)

Syrians live more luxurious lives...they consume more...Turks are thinking five hour even buying one, shall I buy this, may I find cheaper but they directly buy, I men, they do shopping so easily, 5 or 6 they just buy. I cannot stand, I leave, I mean I have to think twice in order to get a present to my kid or to my nephew, they leave the shops with full bags so easily. (MHP)

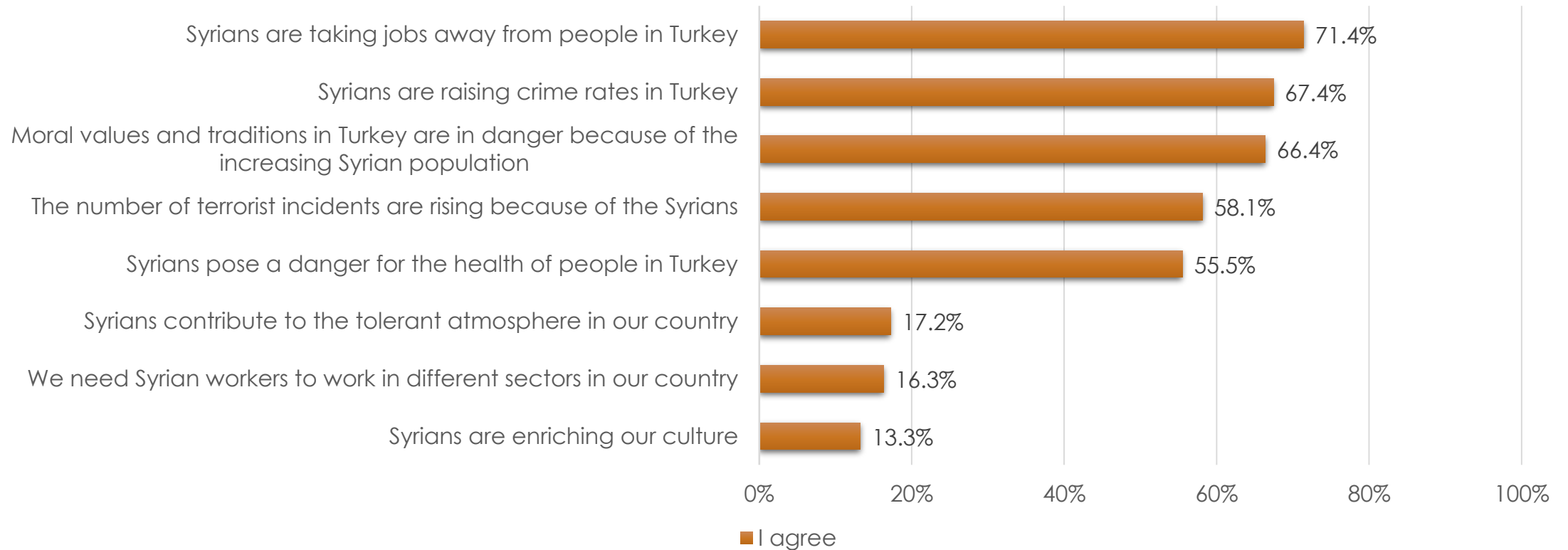
# Demographics

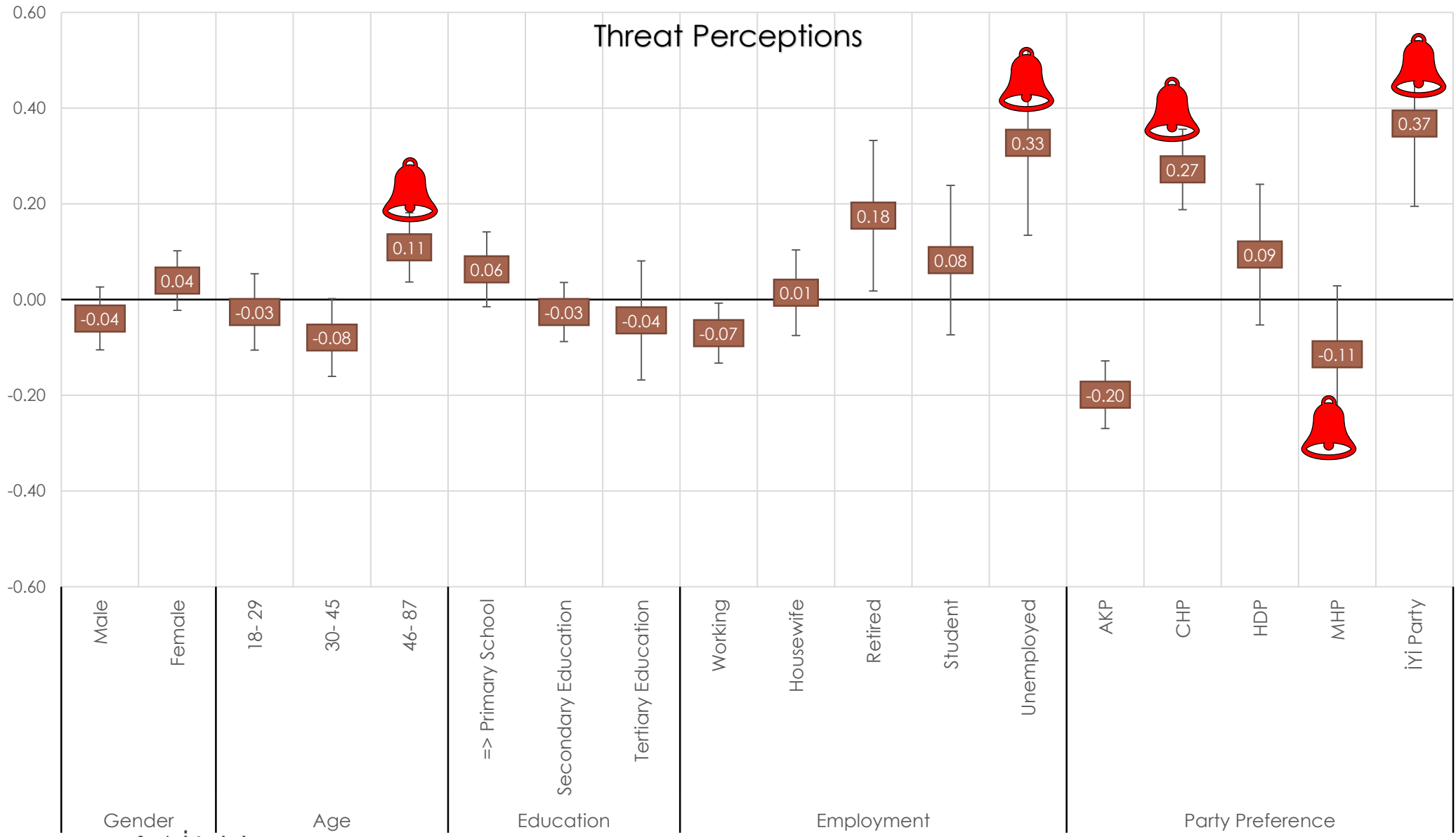
<b>Gender</b>	Male	48.9%
	Female	51.1%
<b>Age</b>	18- 29	29.3%
	30- 45	37.0%
	46- 87	33.7%
<b>Settlement</b>	Urban	87.0%
	Rural	13.0%
<b>Education</b>	Primary school and lower	33.3%
	Secondary education	51.4%
	Higher education	15.2%
<b>Employment status</b>	Employed	54.9%
	Housewife	27.0%
	Retired	6.3%
	Student	7.5%
	Unemployed	4.3%

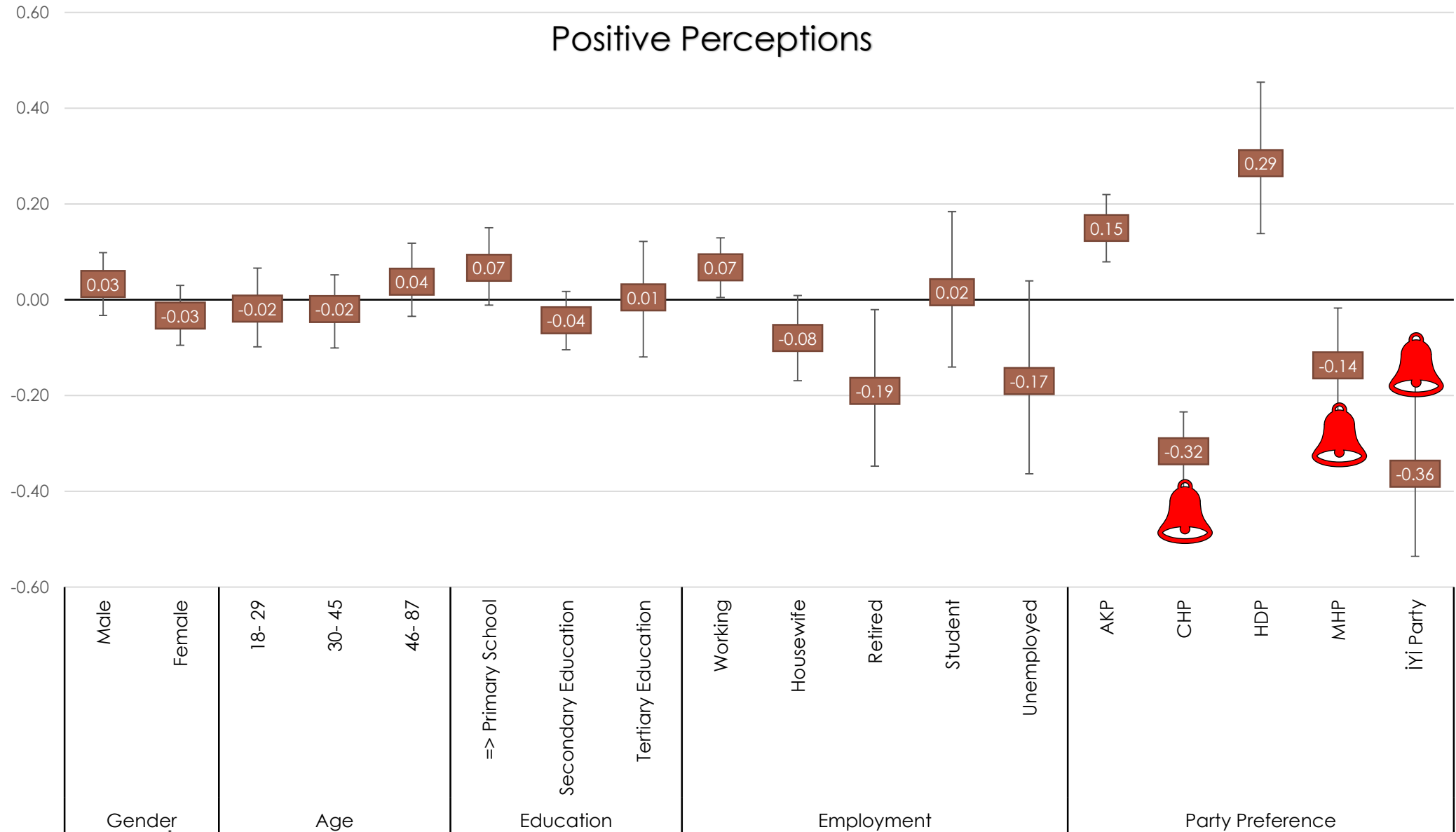


# Threat and Positive Perceptions

## % of "I agree" Answers

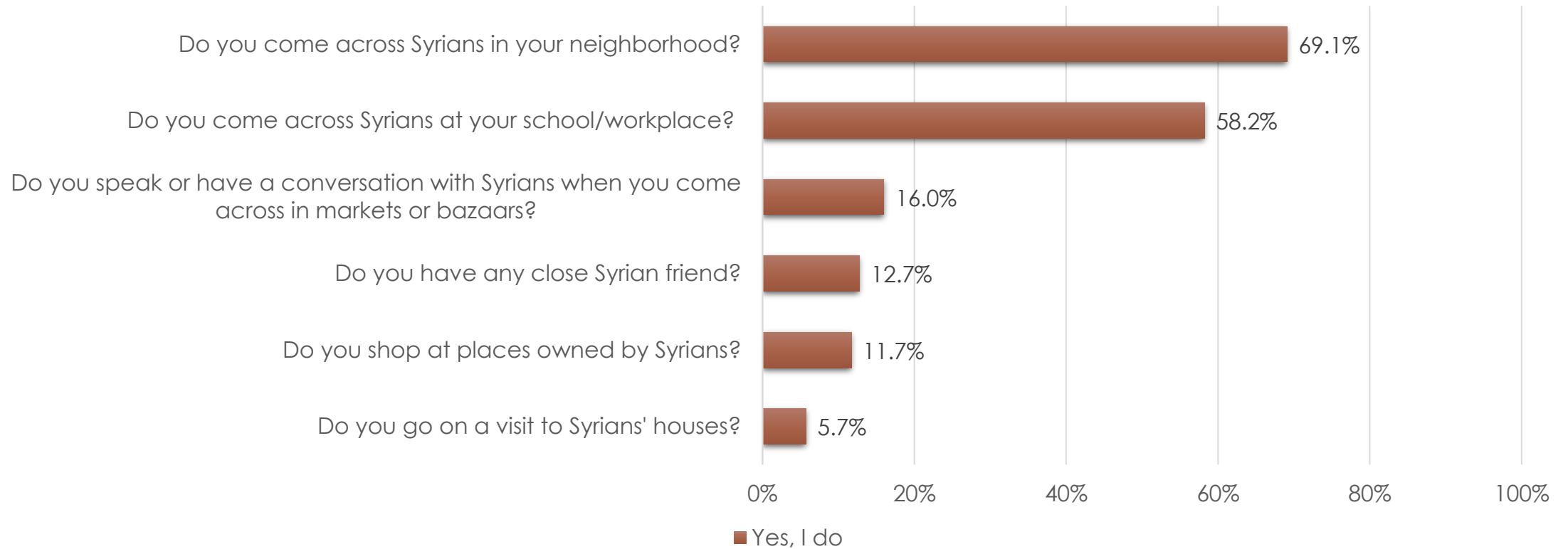


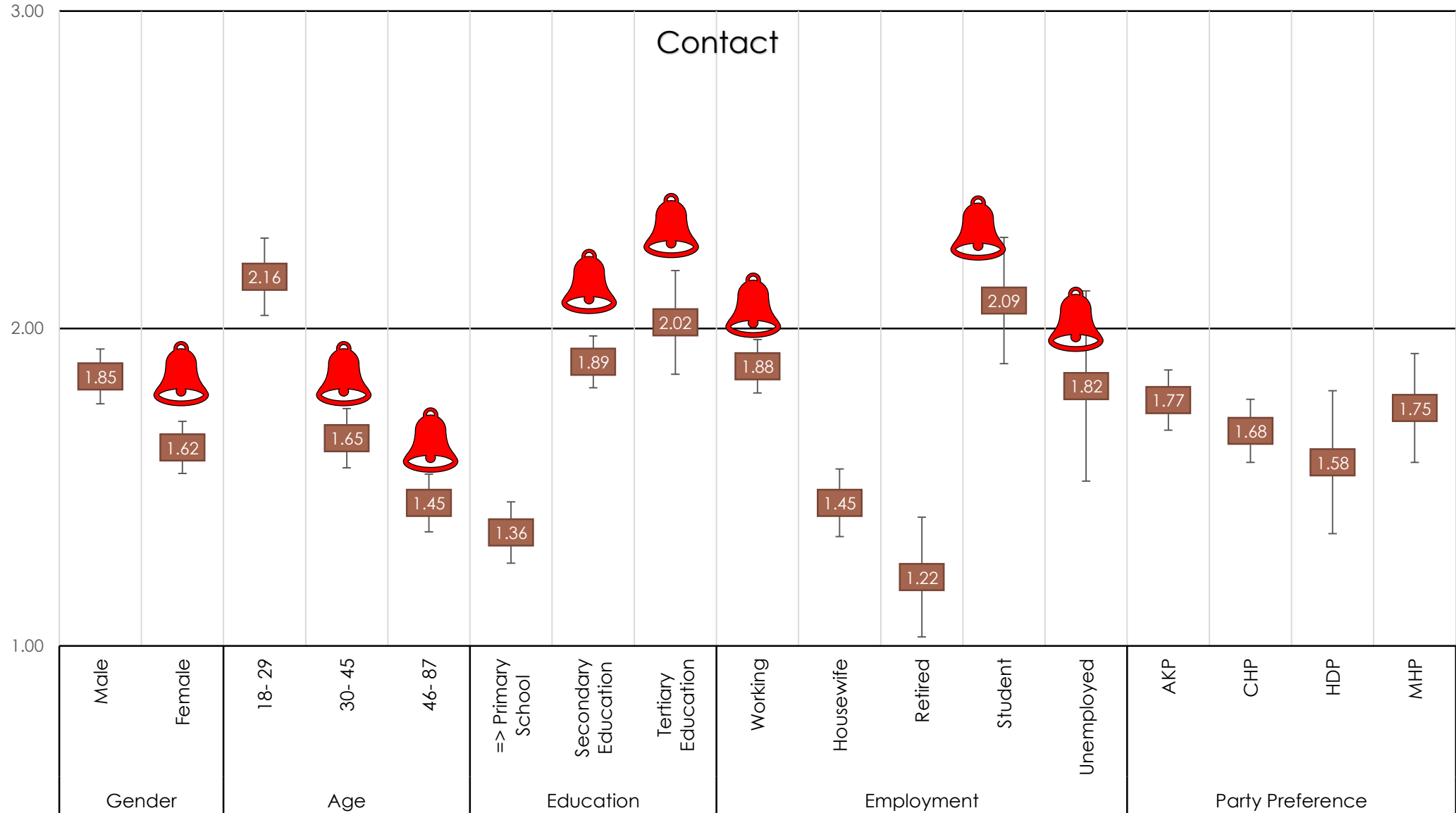




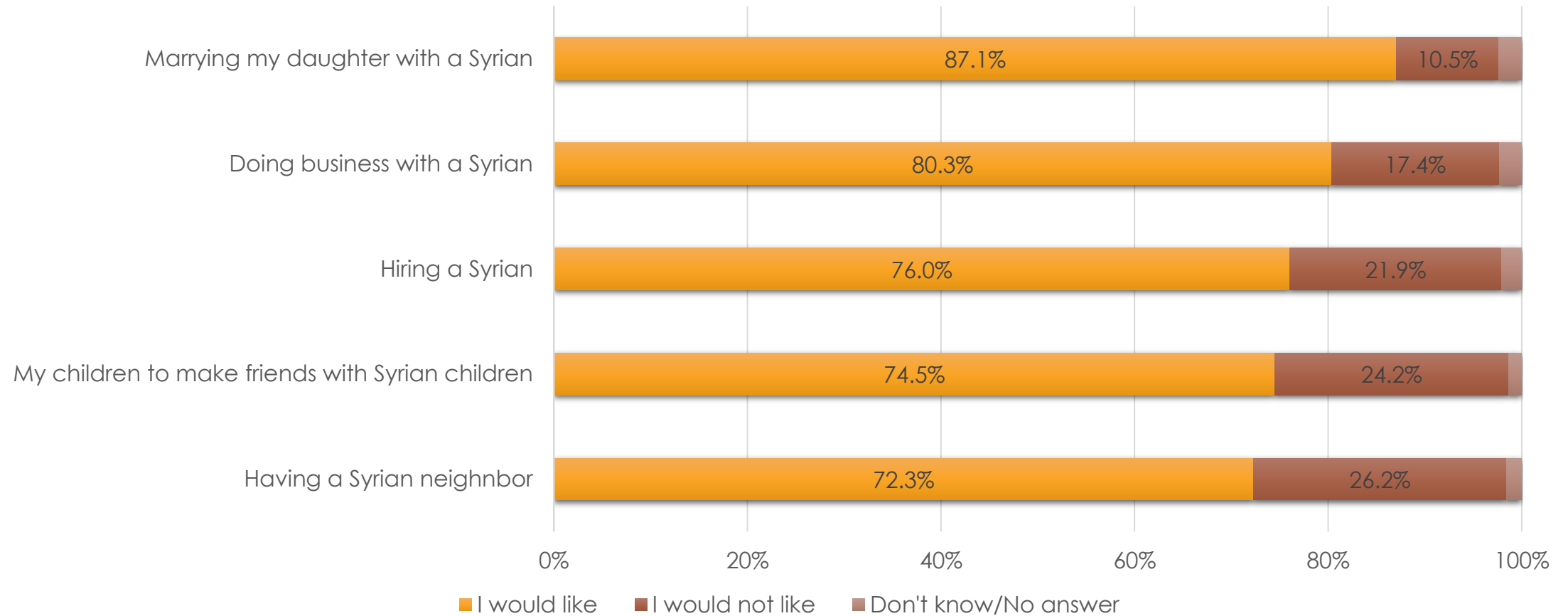
# Contact with Syrians

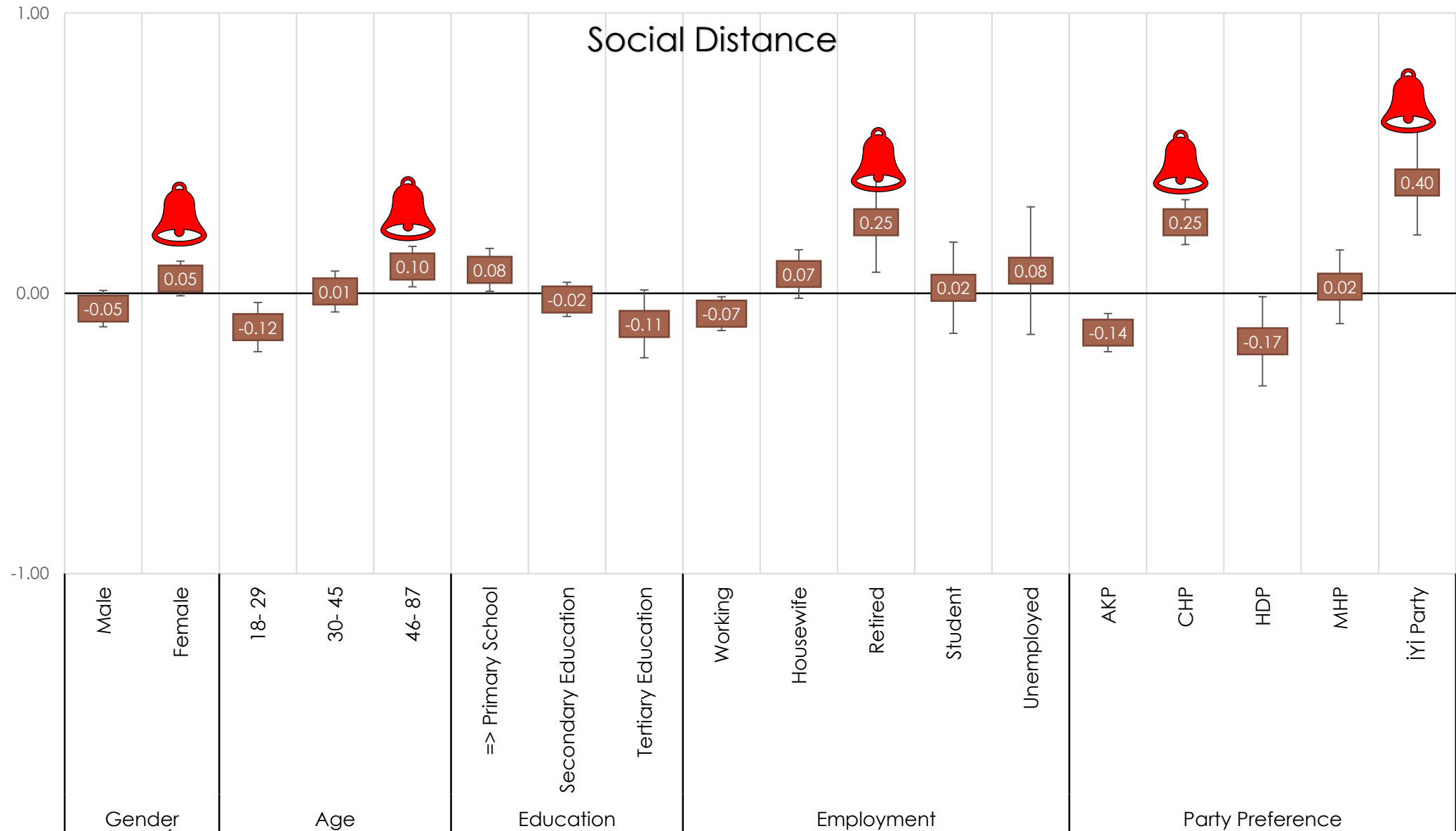
## Yes, I do (%)



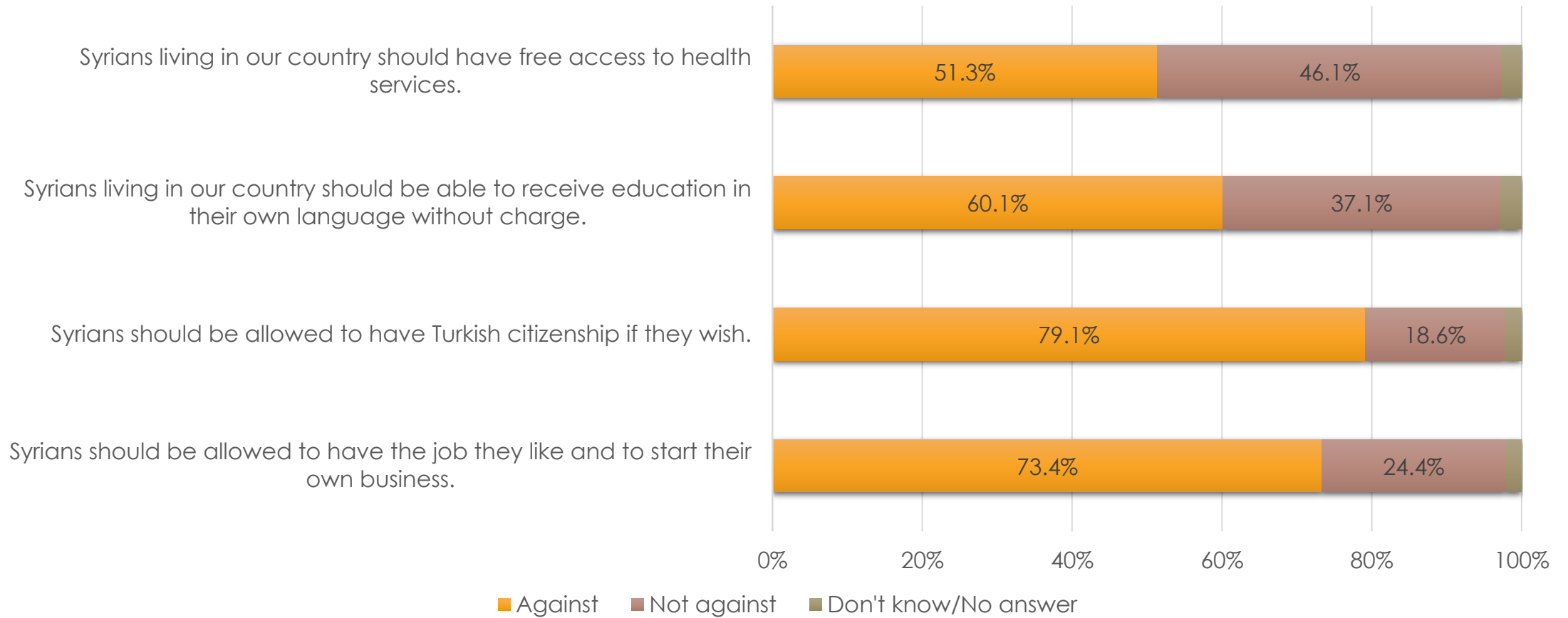


# Social Distance

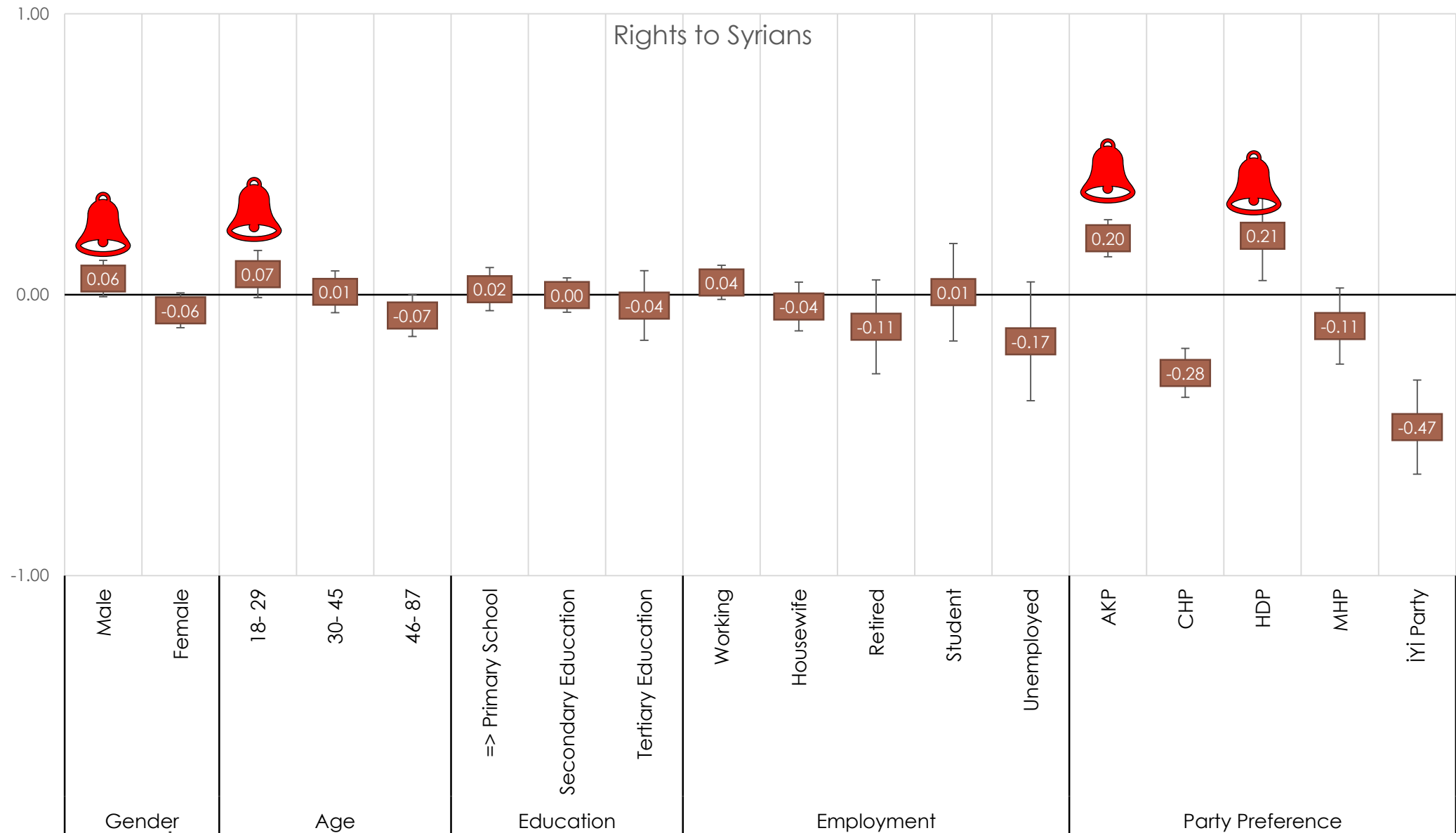




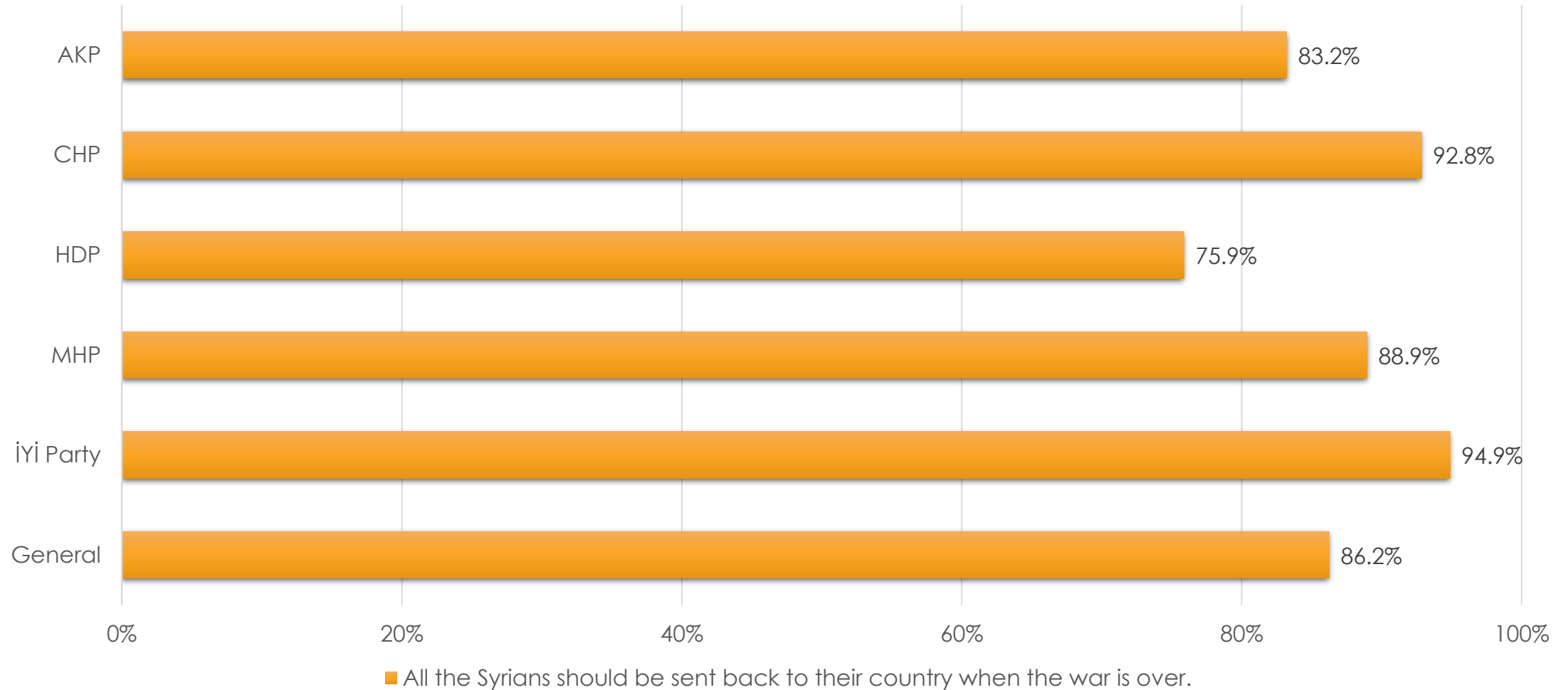
# Rights to Syrians



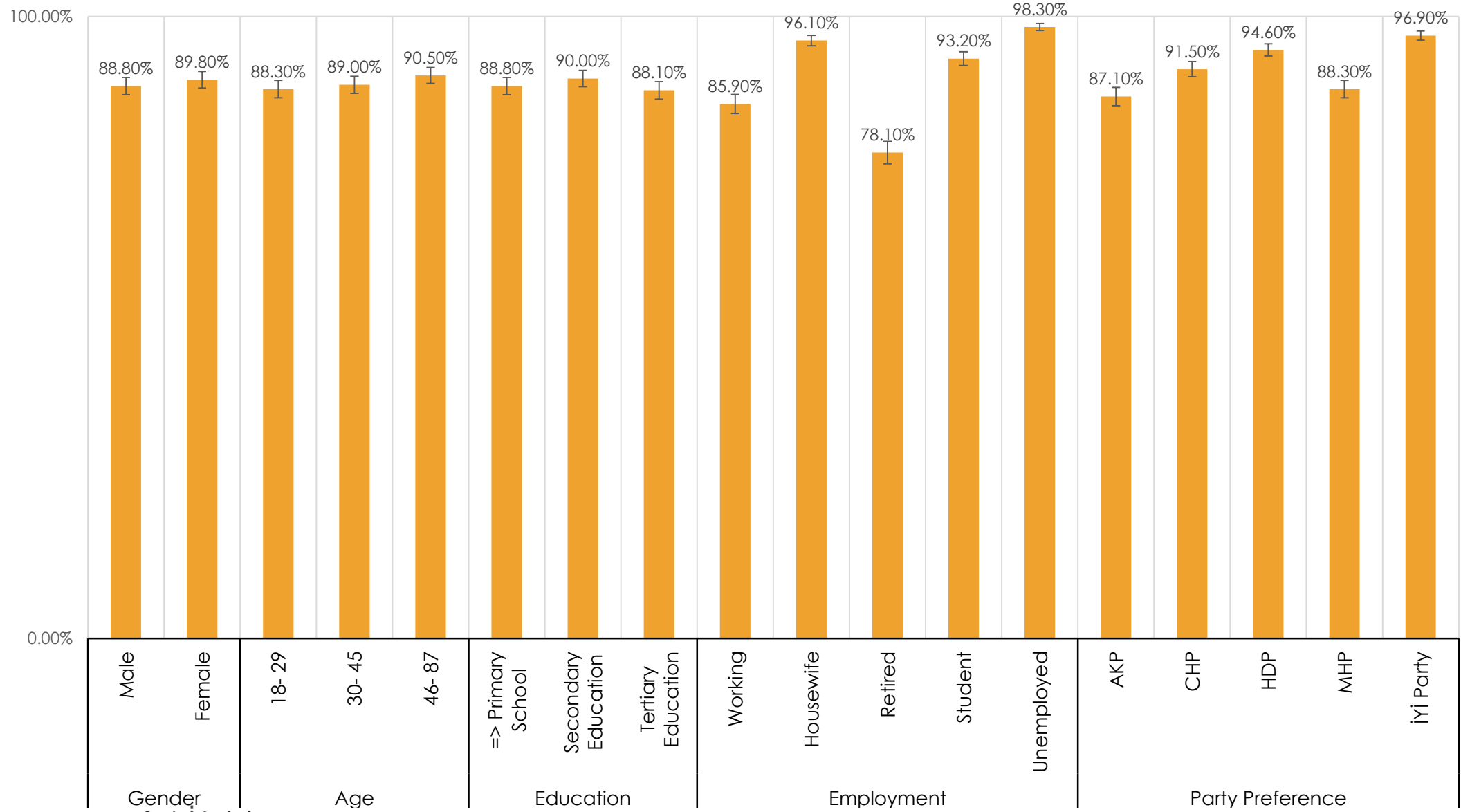




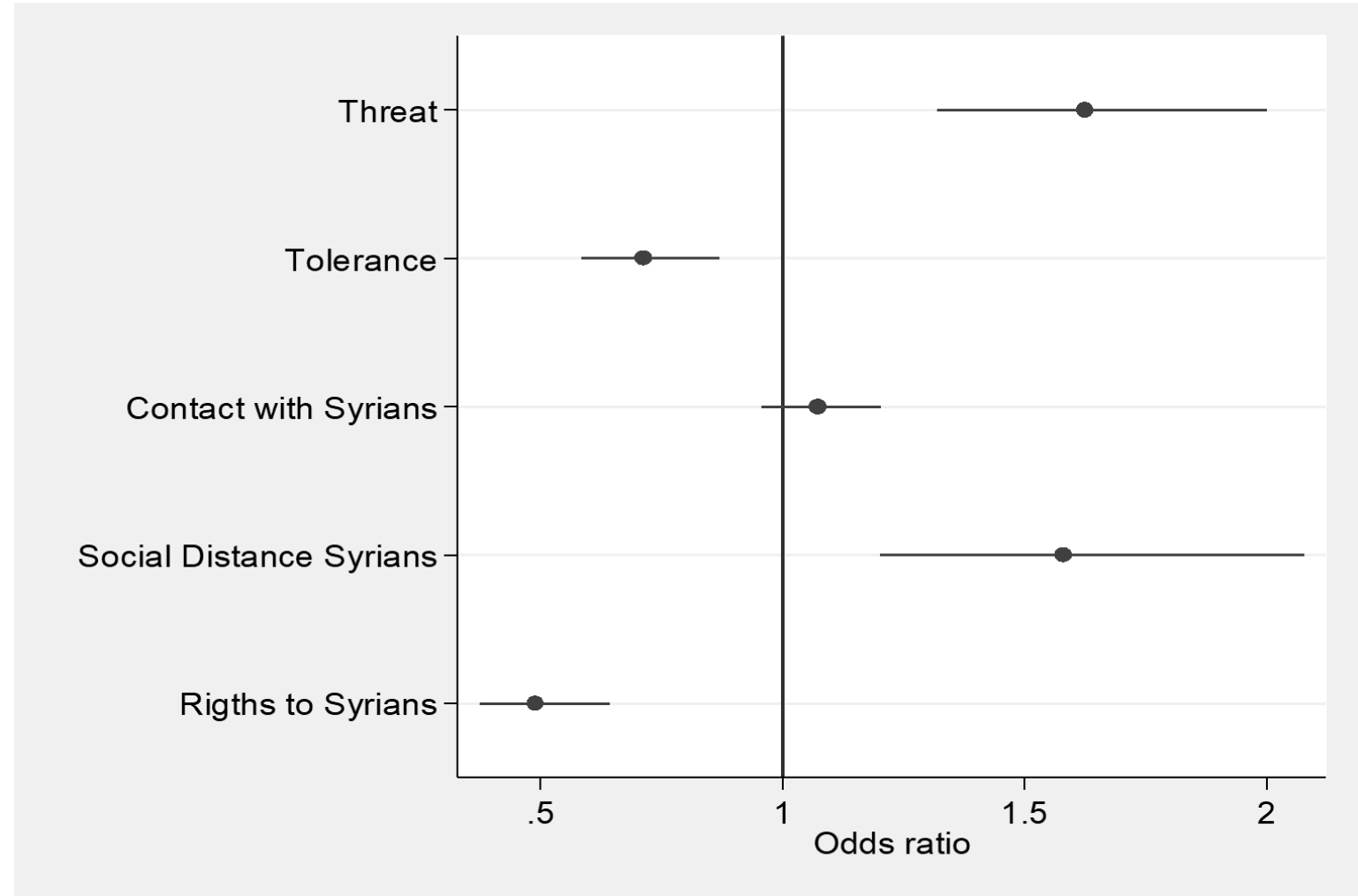
## All the Syrians should be sent back to their country when the war is over.



# Turkish Perceptions of Syrian Refugees-2017

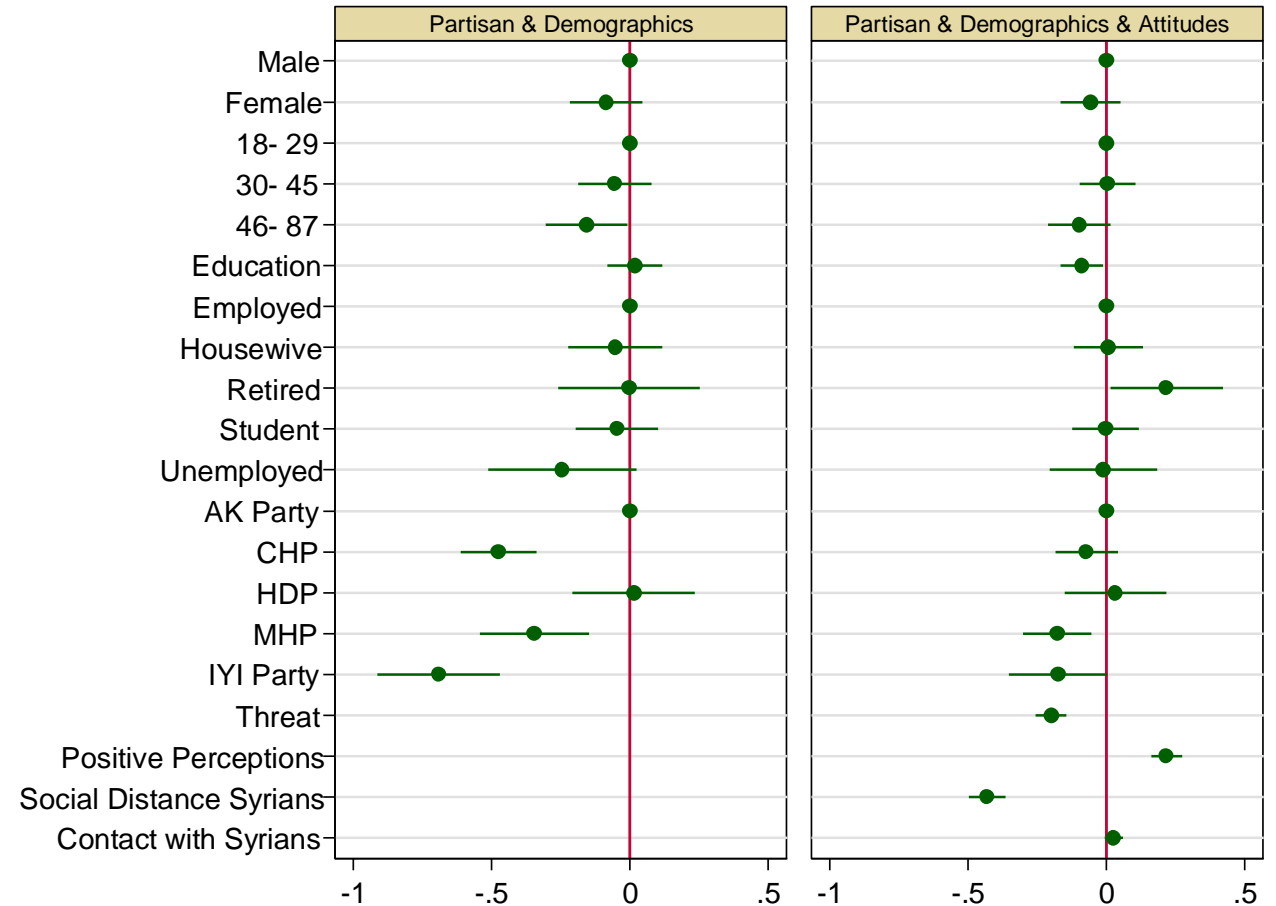


# Determinants of Opinions about Syrians' Return to Their Country

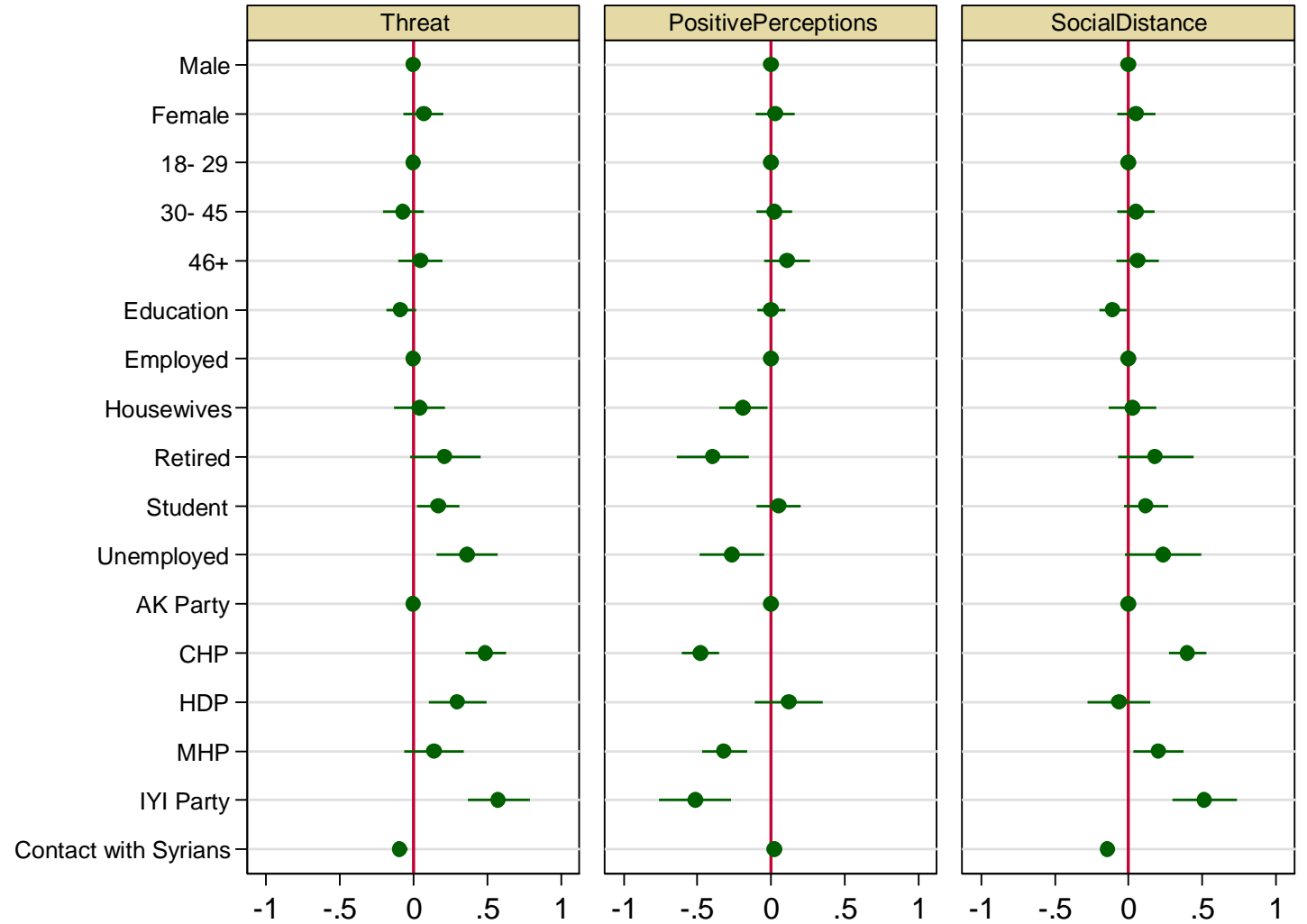


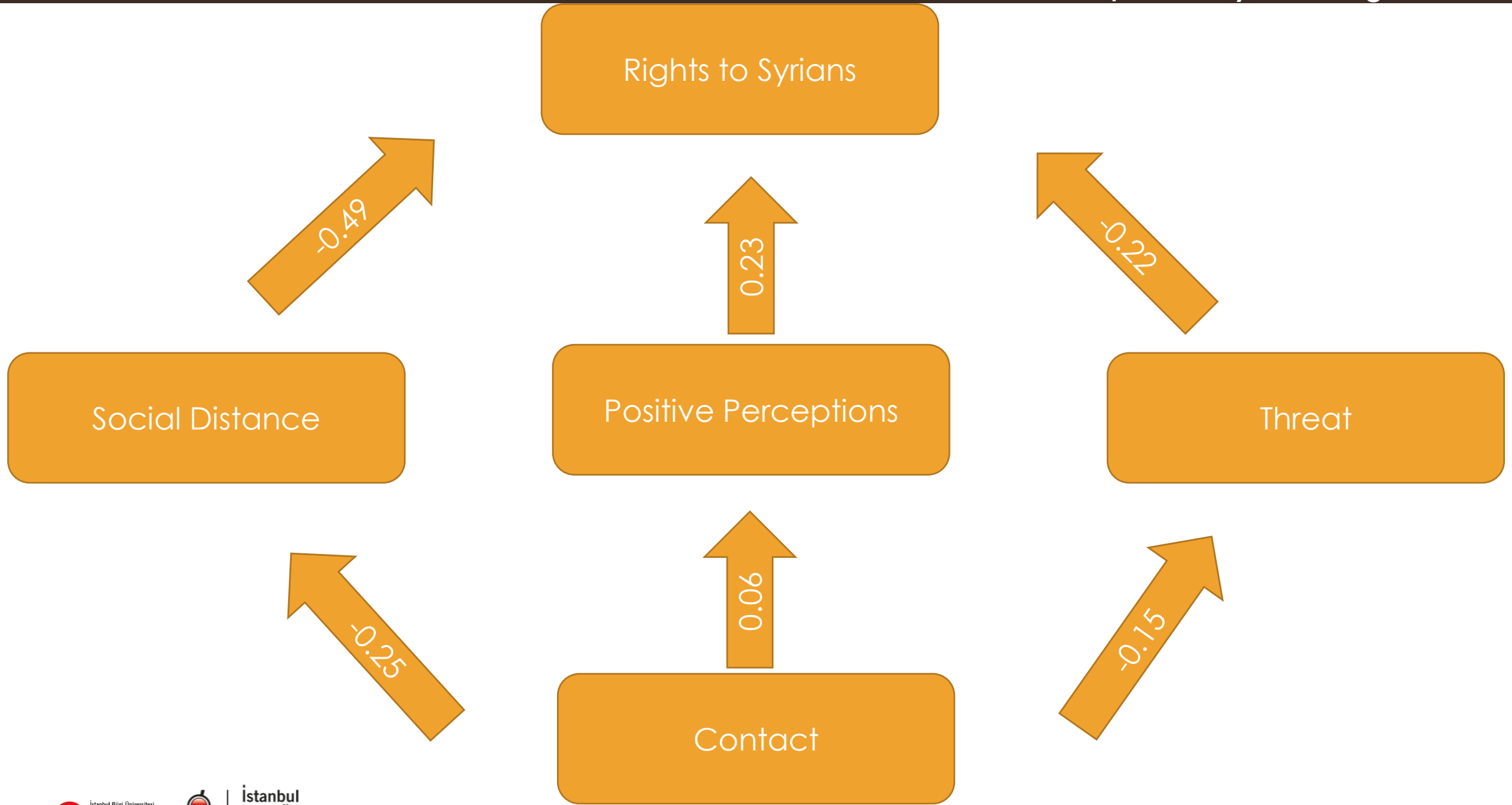
# Determinants of Rights to Syrians

- Partisanship effect seems to be powerful,
- Including attitudinal variables suppresses the effect of partisan affiliation;
- Threat, Positive Perception and Social Distance matters



# Contact matters,





## Points to discuss:

\* Importance of the right conceptualization: 'immigrant' / 'guest' / 'refugee' / 'temporary protection'

\* Importance of 'contact'

\* Projects that aim increasing the true contact

\* Populism, language of 'fear' and 'we, the people'



# Thanks and Questions



İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi  
GÖÇ ÇALIŞMALARI  
UYGULAMA VE  
ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ

**B | S | T** The Black Sea Trust  
for Regional Cooperation  
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

444 0 428 | [www.bilgi.edu.tr](http://www.bilgi.edu.tr)



İstanbul  
Bilgi Üniversitesi

LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES