The Profile of the Suicide Terrorist: An Empirical Analysis of Palestinian Terrorism in Israel

*nssc.haifa.ac.il/files/The%20**profile**%20of%20**suicide**%20**terrorist**.ppt*

Suicide Terrorism - Definition

- Operational method in which the very definition of the attack is dependent upon the death of the perpetrator.

Suicide Terrorism - Advantages

- The terrorist himself chooses the time and place of action, according to the prevailing circumstances.
- Simple and low cost operation - requiring no escape routes or complicated rescue operations.
- There is no danger of the terrorist being captured and giving away important information.
- Immense impact on the public and the media.

Comparative and Theoretical Aspects

Suicide Terrorism

- In the Palestinian context most terrorists are males, but regarding the LTTA and the PKK they are mostly females. (Gunartana, 2000).
- The age of the terrorists is between 17-27. (Joshi, 2000).

Non-Suicide Terrorism

- Terrorists are both male and female (Miller, 1977)
- Left-wing terrorists are mostly young, whereas in the right-wing, age is more varied (Neidhart, 1992).

Comparative and Theoretical Aspects

- Mostly unmarried and religious. (Ganor, 2000)
- Low SES (Ergil, 2000)
- In the Palestinian context most terrorists are fundamentalists, but in the PKK and the LTTE all are nationalists. (Joshi, 2000; Ergil, 2000)

- Mostly unmarried and secular. (Miller, 1977)
- Partial university education and upper class families. (Miller, 1977)
- Marxist and revolutionary ideologies. (Miller, 1977).

Hypotheses

H1- The suicide terrorist is expected to be unmarried and significantly younger, compared to the non suicide terrorist.

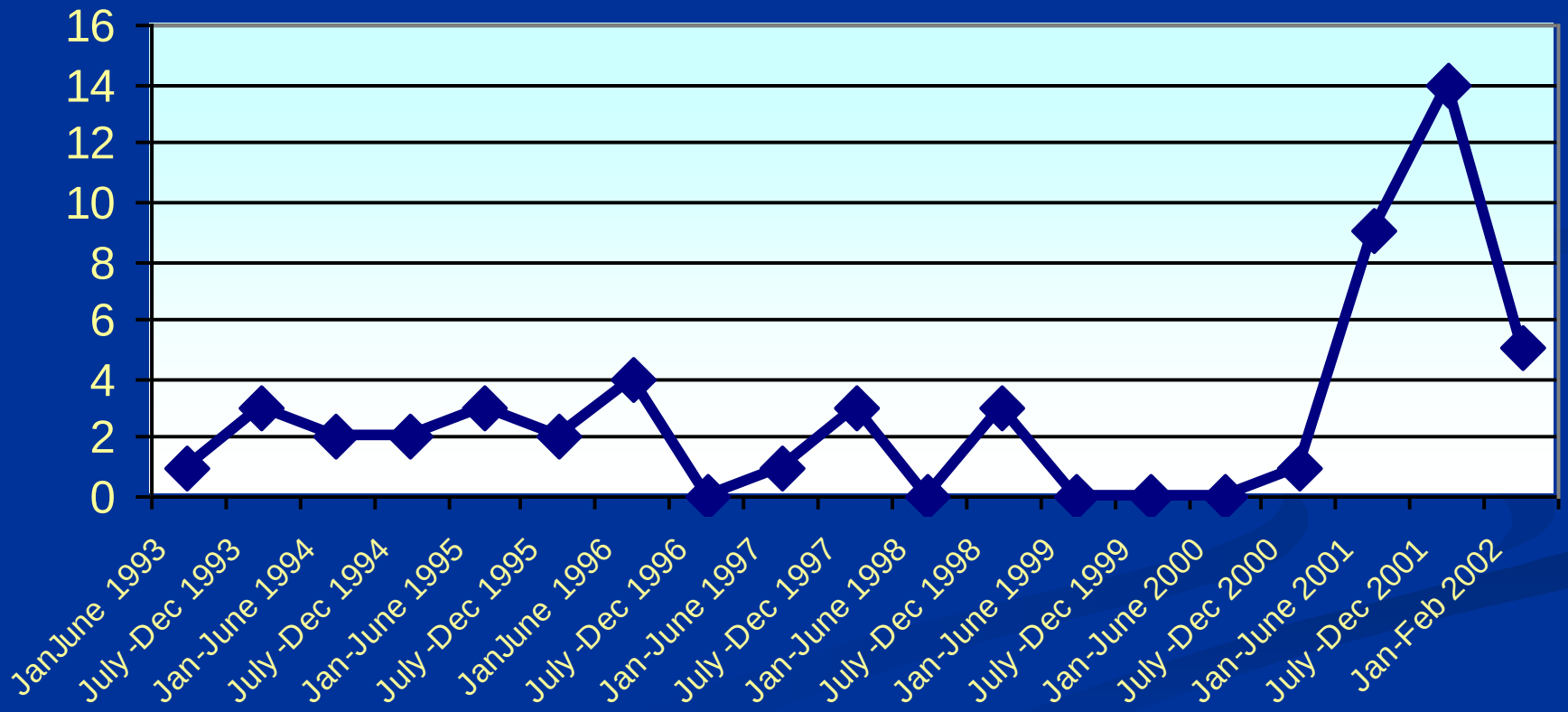
H2- The SES of suicide terrorist is expected to be significantly lower than that of non suicide terrorist.

H3- The suicide terrorist is expected to have a more religious background (religious education and ideology) than the non suicide terrorist.

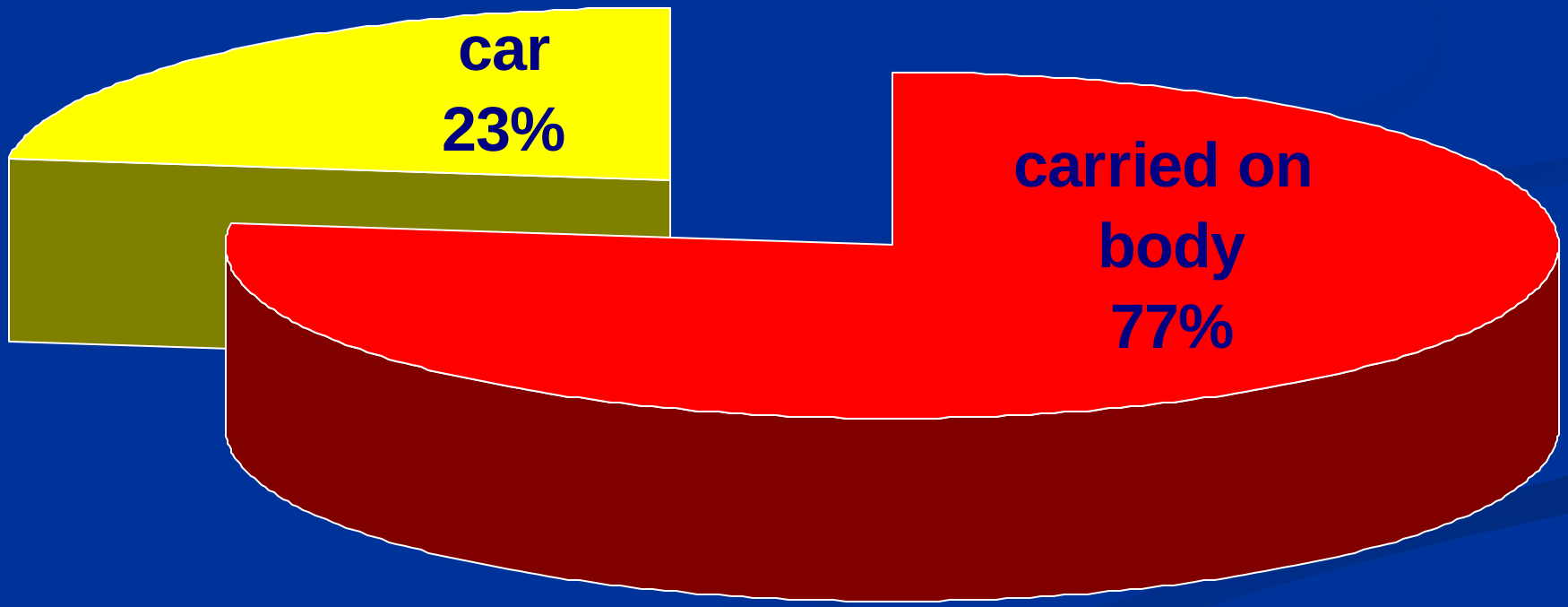
Method

- All the events that were included are defined as acts of violence that had a political goal or context and intend to create fear and threat.
- The data base includes 80 suicide terrorists and 663 non suicide terrorists.
- Data was collected mainly from the "Ha'aretz" daily and coded into a statistical software (SPSS).

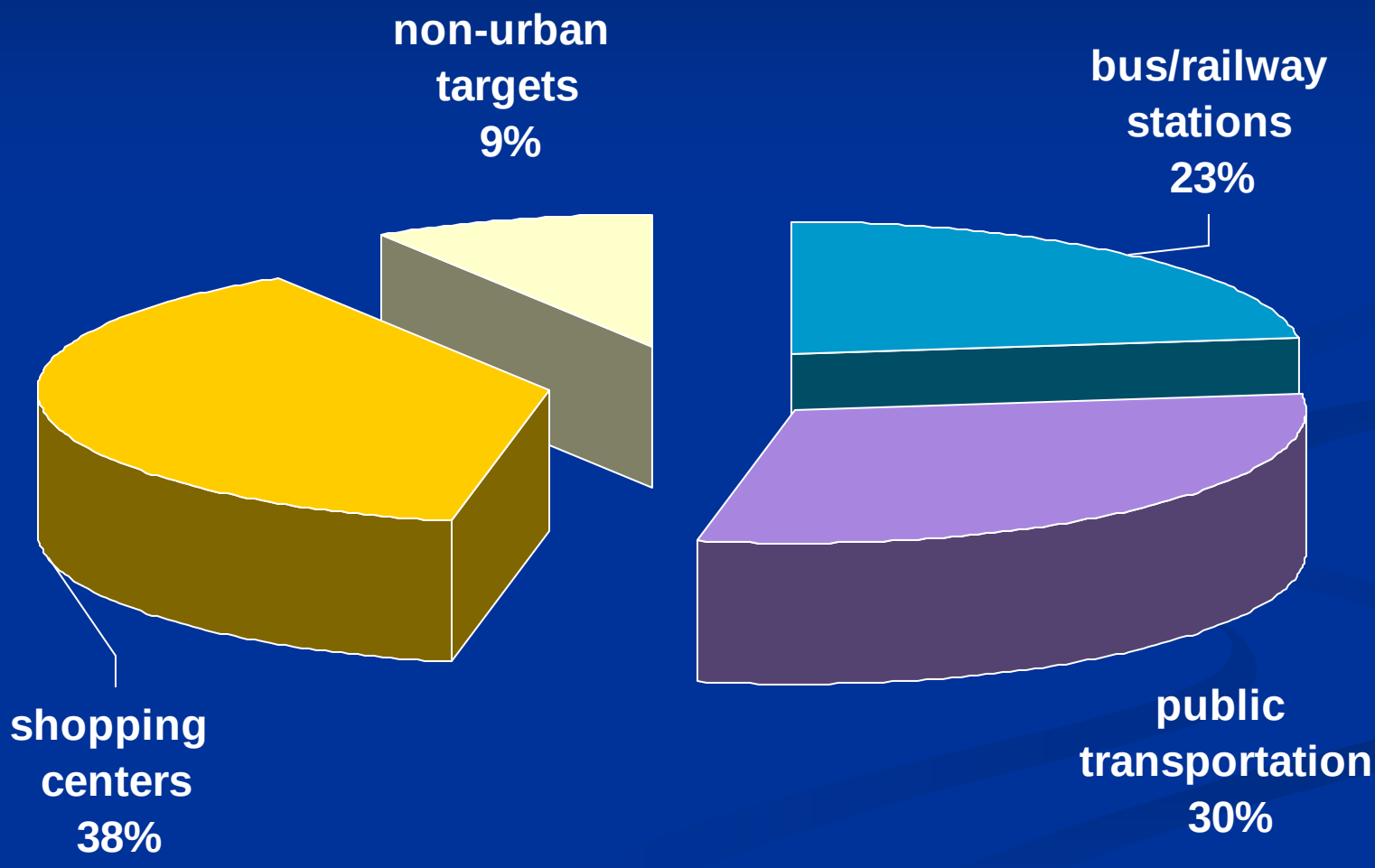
The Growth in Suicide Terrorism (1993-2002)



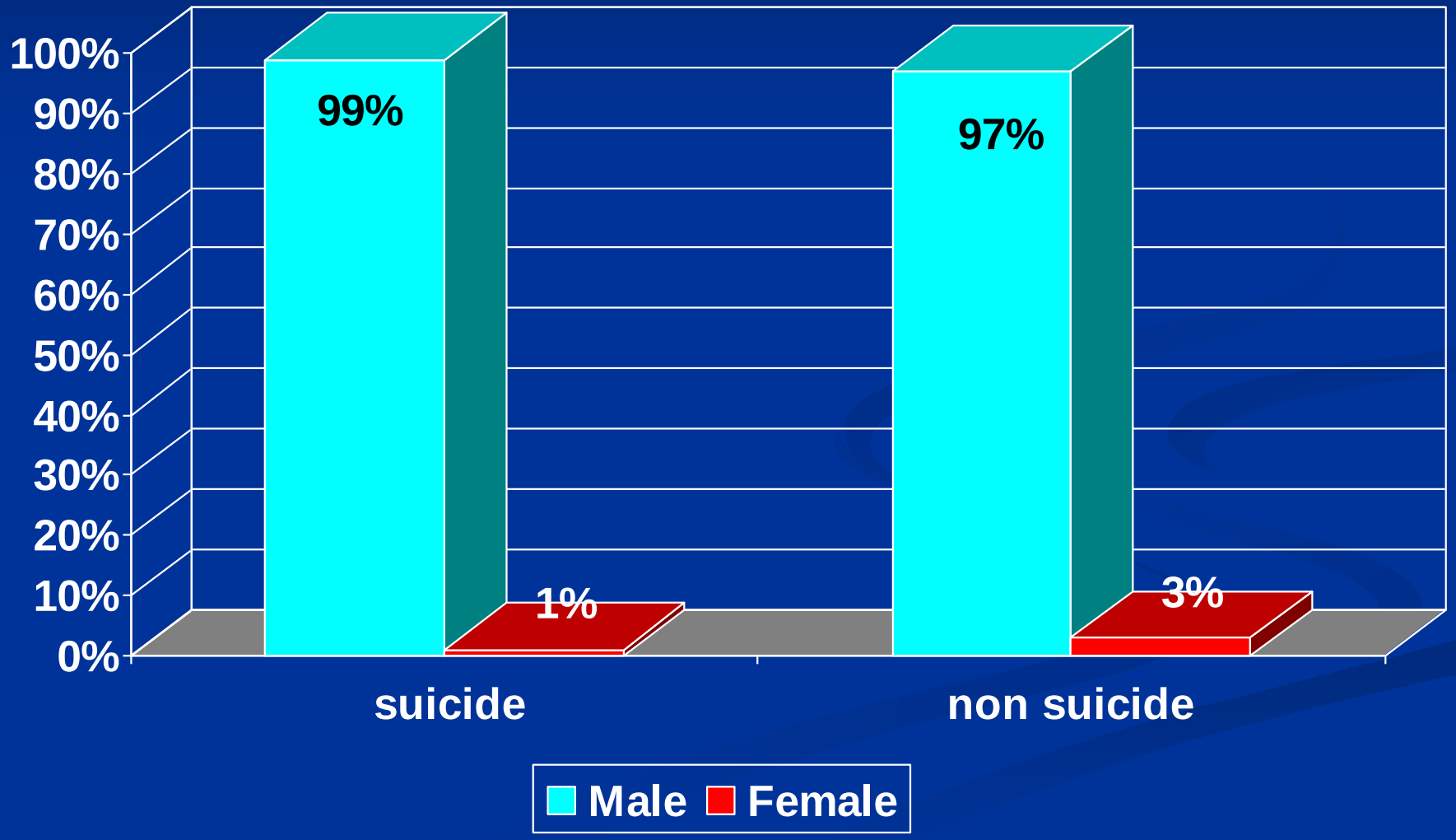
Percentage of bombs carried on the body / carried by car



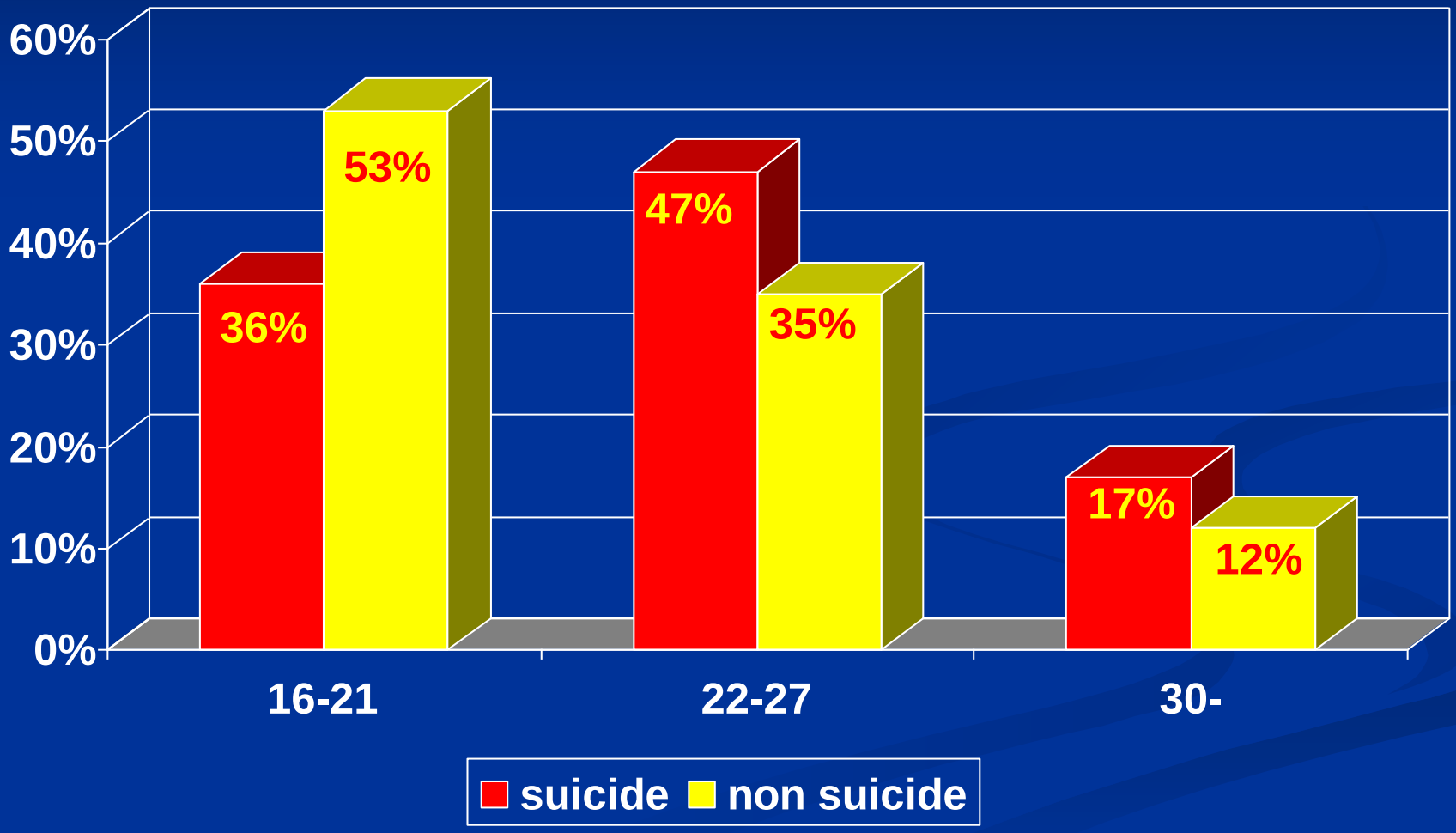
Against which targets do suicide attacks take place?



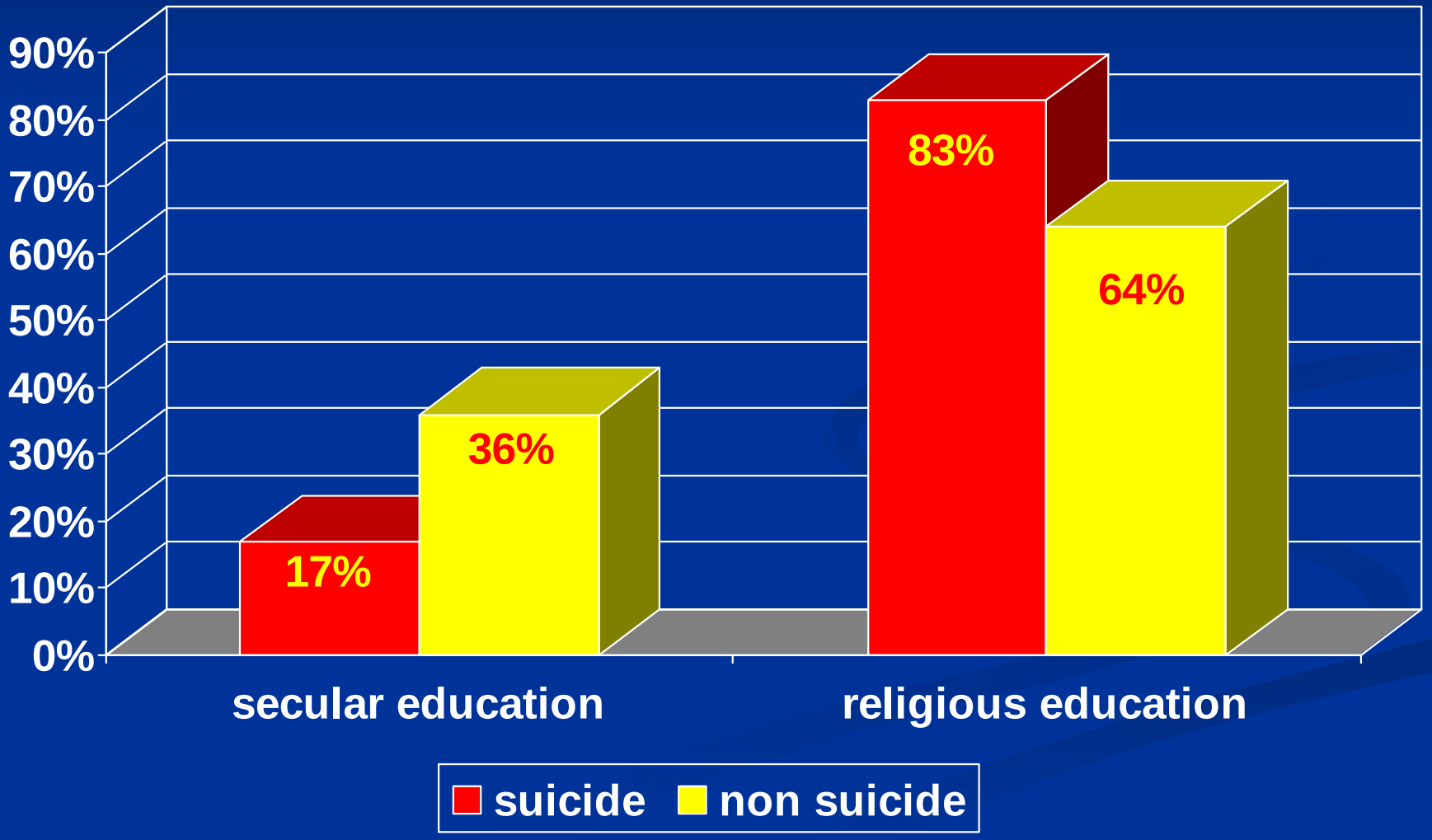
Gender of Terrorist



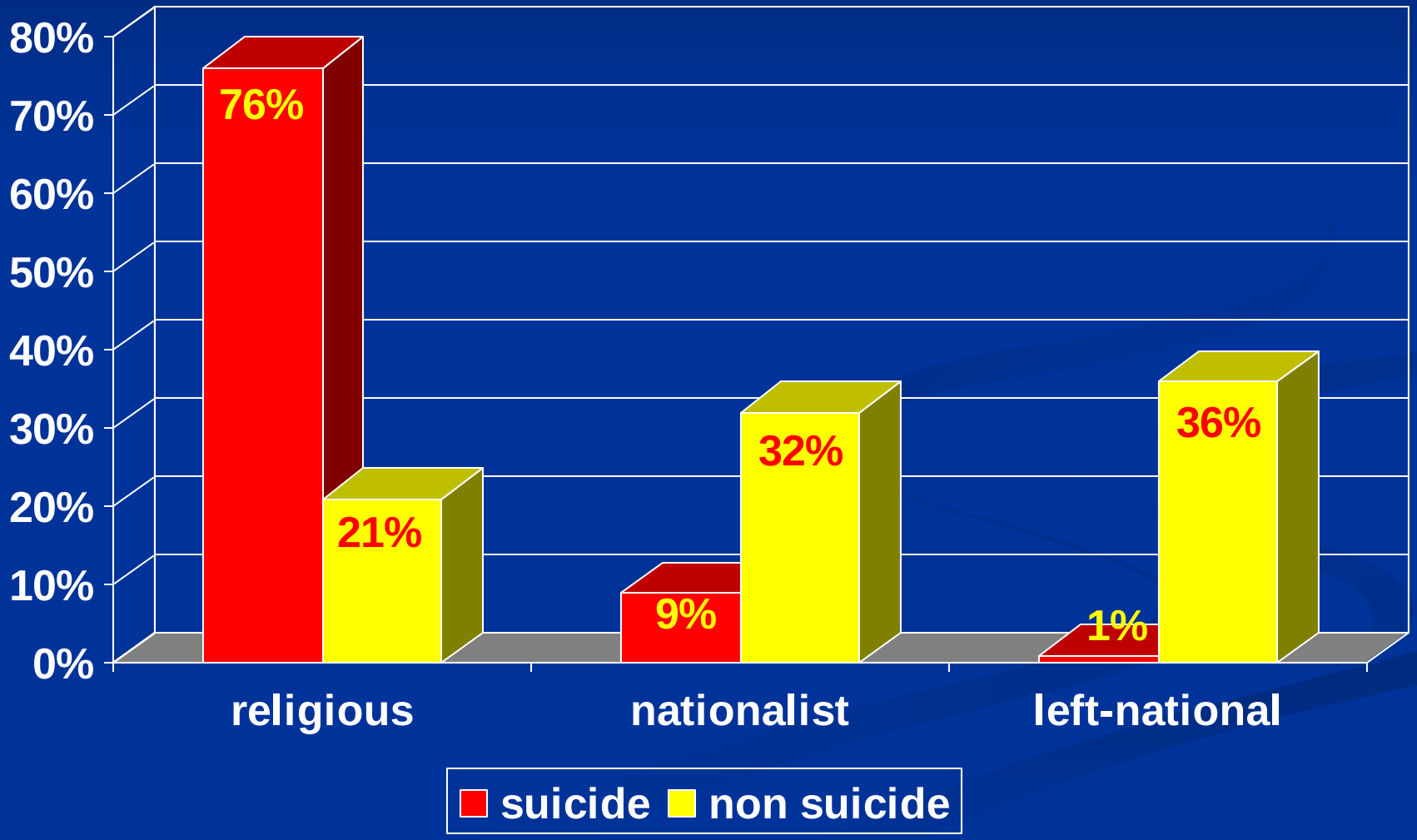
Age of Terrorist



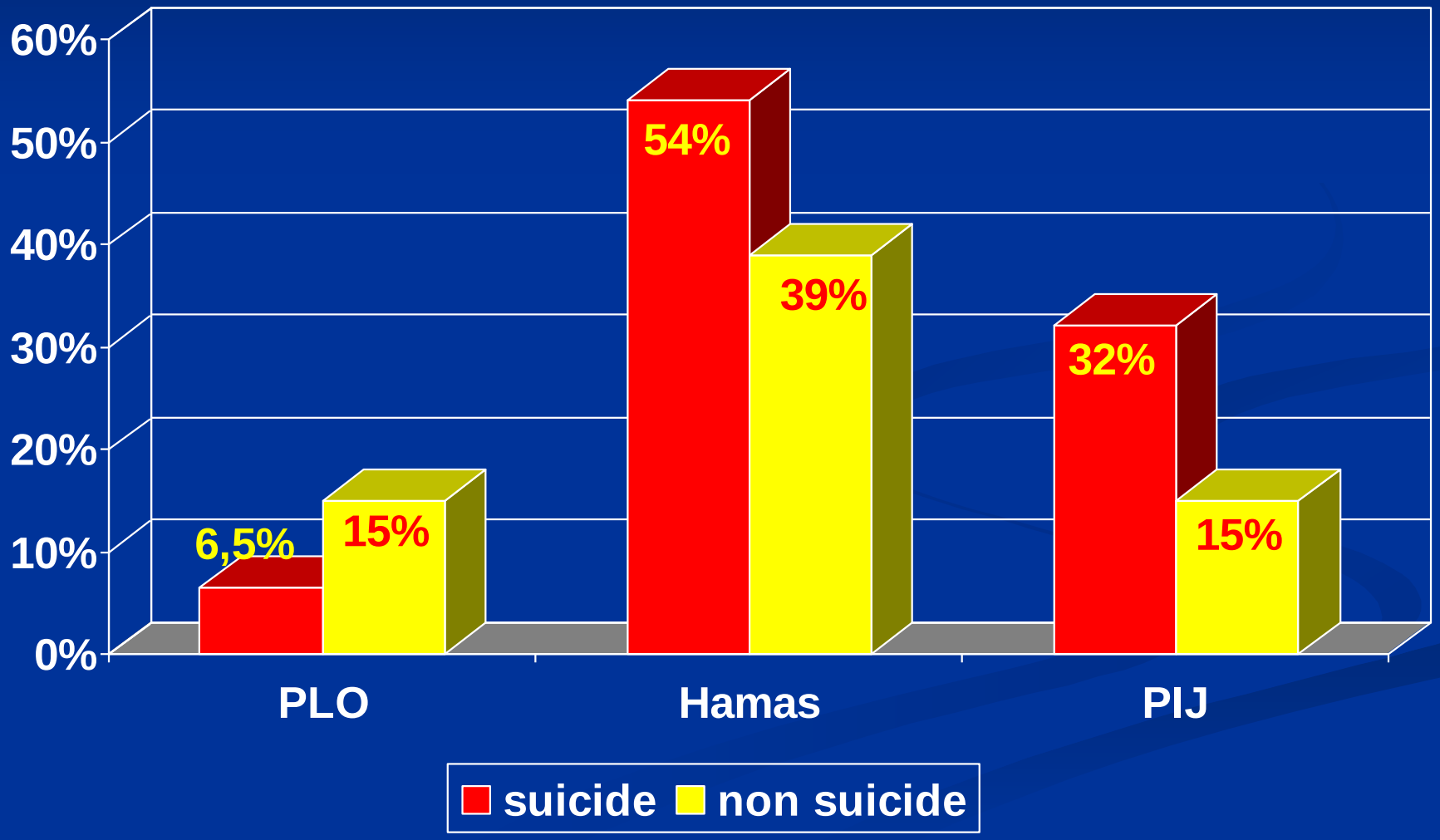
Terrorist's Type of Education



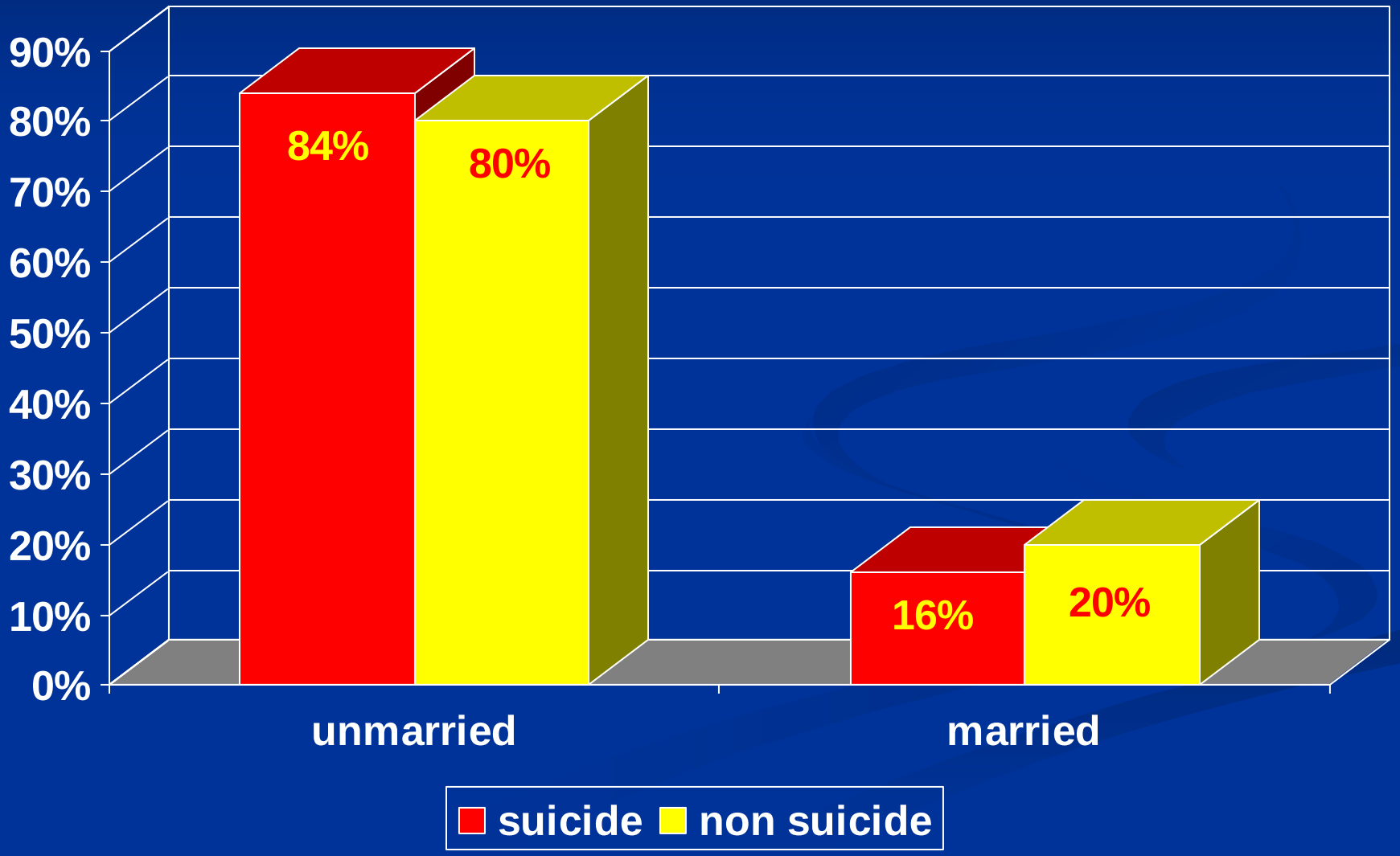
Terrorist's Ideology



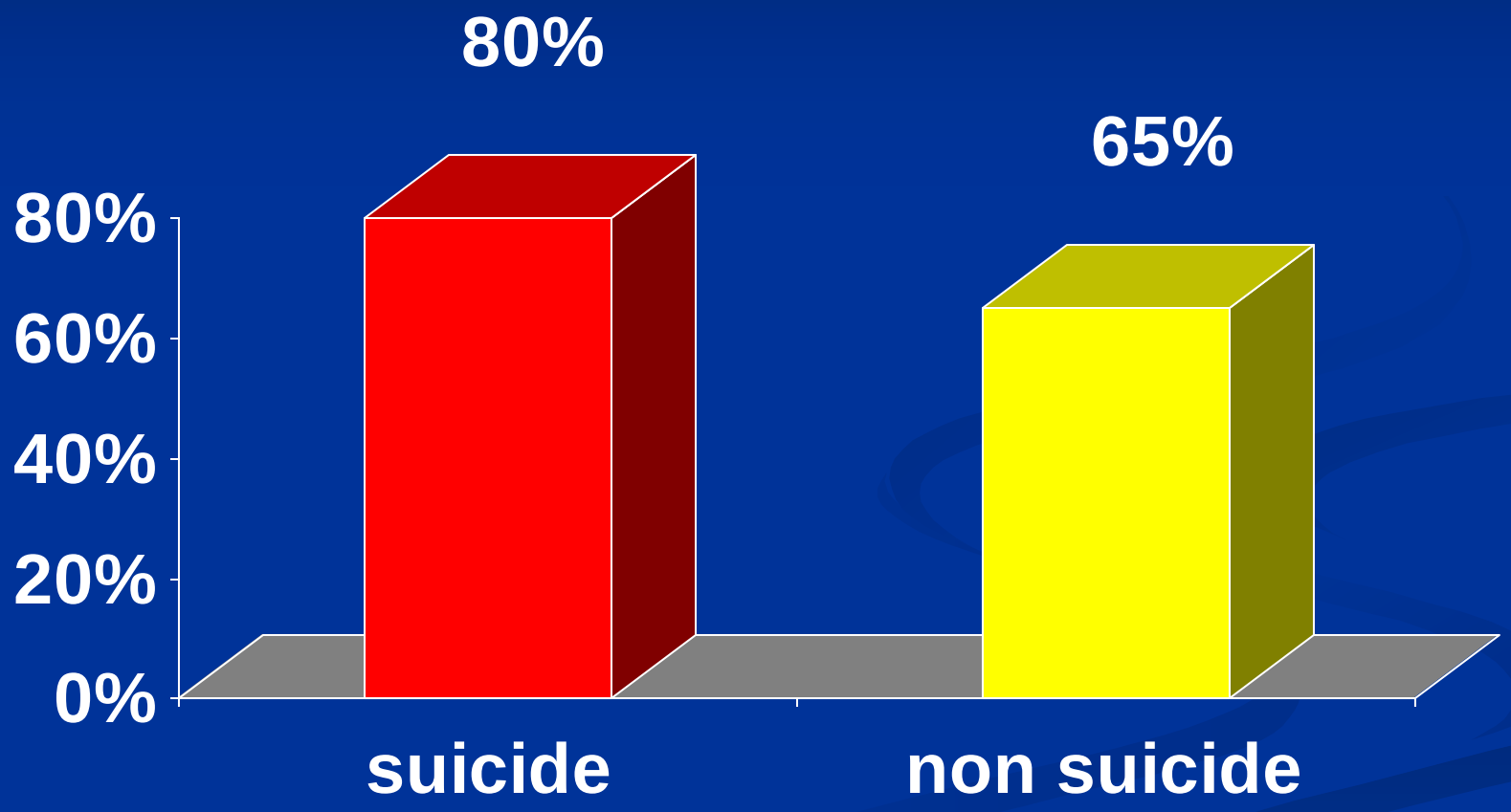
Terrorist Organizational Affiliation



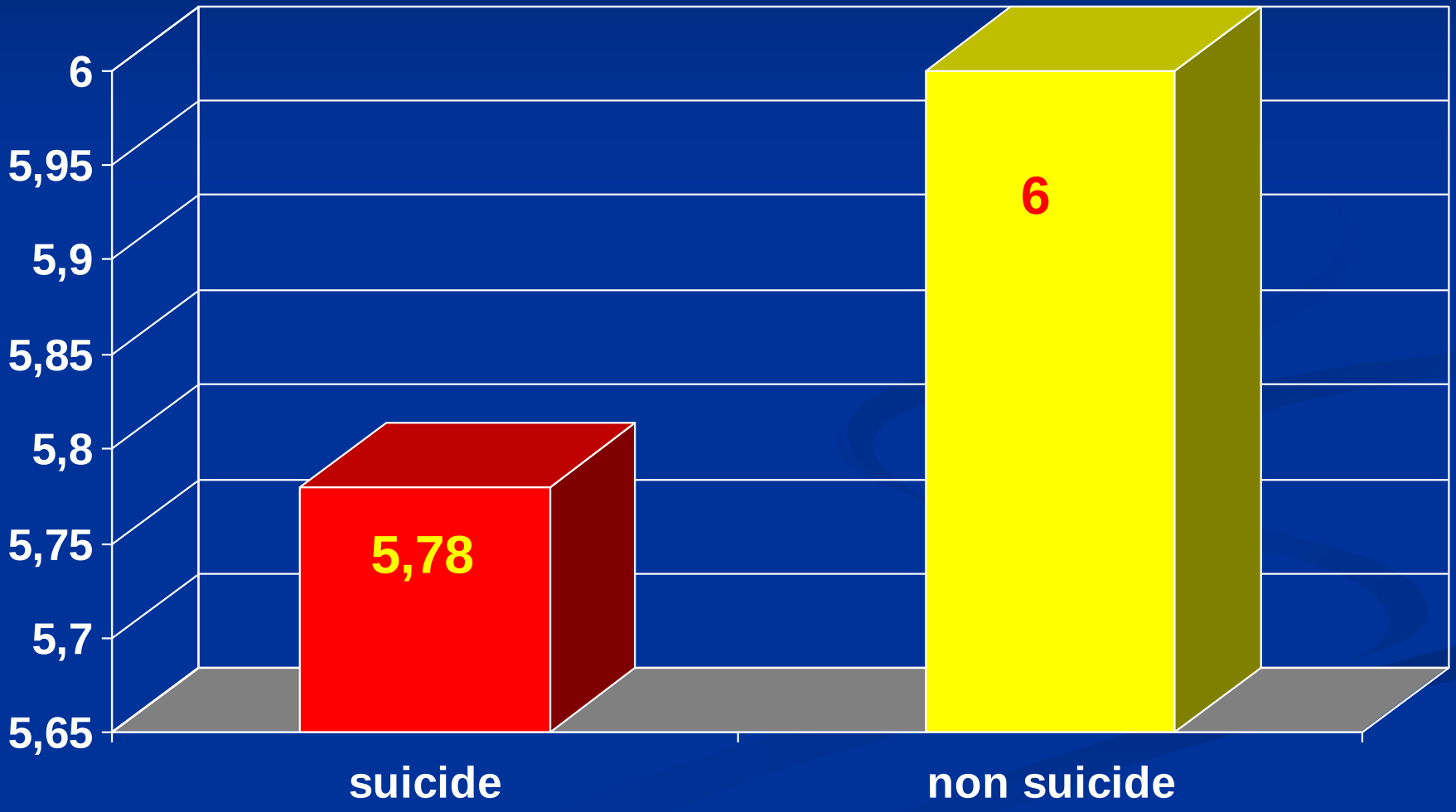
Terrorist's Marital Status



Previous Experience in Terrorist Activity



Socio Economic Status of the Terrorist's Place of Residence (average on 1-10 scale)



One Way Analysis of Variance of Research Variables

Research Variables	F / Chi-Square	Sig.
Age	3.048	.083
Gender	.533	.466
Ideology	30.465	.000
SES	5.012	.026
Marital Status	8.733	.002
First Event	2.096	.149
Level Of Education	.701	.409
Type Of Education	3.325	.05