

2014
NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY
of
IRANIAN AMERICANS

Commissioned by
**Public Affairs Alliance of
Iranian Americans (PAAIA)**
& Conducted by
George Mason University



2014 National Public Opinion Survey of Iranian Americans

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Photo: Khaju Bridge, Isfahan, Iran



2014 NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY OF IRANIAN AMERICANS

About the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans

The Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonreligious organization that serves the interests of Iranian Americans and represents the community before U.S. policymakers and the American public at large. We work to foster greater understanding between the people of Iran and the United States, expand opportunities for the active participation of Iranian Americans in the democratic process at all levels of government and in the public debate, and provide opportunities for advancement for our next generation. Our mission is to:

- Encourage constructive relations and enhance mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and Iran.
- Build an influential voice for the Iranian American community through networking, electioneering, and public advocacy.
- Position the next generation of Iranian Americans for success by supporting them with opportunities for advancement, mentorship, and continued learning.
- Give back to America as it has given to us.

About This Survey

First released in 2008, PAAIA gathers accurate demographic and attitudinal information about the Iranian American community by conducting scientific public opinion surveys of Iranian Americans, an undertaking that is unprecedented for our community. These annual public opinion surveys are an integral component of better understanding the Iranian American community and having its voice heard through the availability of ongoing scientific data. These invaluable surveys were the first of their kind and have been presented to the U.S. Congress, U.S. Department of State, the media, and the general public to wide acclaim.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2014, the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA) commissioned George Mason University to conduct its sixth scientific national public opinion survey of Iranian Americans to gather accurate attitudinal and demographic information about the Iranian American community. The 2014 survey follows similar surveys previously commissioned by PAAIA. The survey's margin of error is +/- 5%, consistent with previous surveys.

PAAIA 2014 SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The results of the 2014 PAAIA survey indicate that Iranian Americans continue to retain close ties to the people of Iran. **Eighty-two percent (82%)** of the respondents stated that they still have family living in Iran. **Forty-one percent (41%)** said they have a sibling there, and **sixty-five percent (65%)** stated they have aunts, uncles, and/or cousins who live there. A total of **fifty-one percent (51%)** indicated that they communicate with family members in Iran at least several times per month. A smaller but still substantial **twenty-eight percent (28%)** stated that they travel to Iran at least once every two to three years.

Overall, Iranian Americans find issues that affect their daily lives and are not specific to the Iranian American community to be most important to them. However, this is closely followed by issues that impact them as Iranian Americans (U.S.-Iran relations, internal developments in Iran, and domestic issues involving Iranian Americans). When asked about issues of importance to them as Iranian Americans, an overwhelming **seventy-eight percent (78%)** said they believe it is important to facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the United States and Iran. A similar number believe it is important to ensure that the image of Iranian Americans accurately reflects their values and accomplishments. A **sixty percent (60%)** majority believe it is important to help Iranian Americans get elected to political office and increase the political influence of Iranian Americans in the U.S.

Iranian Americans want to see change in Iran. More than **two-thirds** believe that Iran should be a secular democracy. In contrast, only **nine percent (9%)** believe that any form of an "Islamic Republic" would work well in the country. From a list of seven issues relating to U.S.-Iran relations, the largest number of respondents, **sixty-seven percent (67%)**, cited the promotion of human rights and democracy as the most important. Promoting regime change in Iran came in second, chosen by **thirty percent (30%)**.

While Iranian Americans want to see a democratic Iran that respects human rights, they differ on how this can be achieved. **Forty-nine percent (49%)** said that diplomatic negotiations with Iran would be in the best interests of the United States, while **forty-six percent (46%)** said the same about "promoting human rights and democracy." Only **six percent (6%)** said that military action against Iran would be in America's best interest.

An overwhelming majority of Iranian Americans—**eighty-three percent (83%)**—said they strongly or somewhat support the establishment of a U.S. Interests Section in Iran that would provide consular services and issue U.S. visas. This is in keeping with the fact that **fifty-eight**



percent (58%) said they have traveled to Iran at least once and with the continued close ties they maintain with family and friends living there.

A majority of those surveyed, **fifty-two percent (52%)**, said they approved of President Obama's handling of Iran's nuclear program. **Forty percent (40%)** said that they approved or strongly approved of the initial agreement between the P5+1 and Iran.



**83% supported the
establishment of a
U.S. Interest
Section in Iran**

Nearly two-thirds of Iranian Americans surveyed, **sixty-two percent (62%)**, would support the removal of sanctions on Iran if the Iranian regime reached a permanent agreement with the U.S. and the international community concerning its nuclear program. In the event nuclear negotiations with Iran fail, **sixty-six percent (66%)** would favor continued diplomatic overtures, while **thirteen percent (13%)** would support military strikes. **Fifty-one percent (51%)** would support a policy of containment. Nearly half (**49%**) of Iranian Americans would oppose the passage of additional sanctions if negotiations with Iran fail, while **thirty-four percent (34%)** would support such measures.

Iranian Americans are divided in their assessment of the 2013 election of Hassan Rouhani as Iran's president. A majority—**fifty-four percent (54%)**—said that they believe Rouhani's election will improve Iran's relations with the United States and the European Union. **Thirty-one percent (31%)** believe his election will improve human rights in Iran, while **thirty-eight percent (38%)** believe the situation will remain unchanged. When asked whether they have felt more comfortable traveling to Iran since Rouhani's election, a plurality—**thirty percent (30%)**—said that the election has made no difference in this regard, while **twenty percent (20%)** said they feel more comfortable about going back to Iran and an equal percentage said they do not. **Twenty-five percent (25%)** said they do not travel to Iran.

II. REPORT AND SURVEY FINDINGS

Publicly launched in April 2008, PAAIA is a national organization aspiring to build on the tremendous individual achievements of Iranian Americans across all walks of life in the United States to create a truly representative, nationally recognized voice to further empower Iranian Americans in the public arena.

To truly represent the community, however, it is important that we move past personal opinions and establish the facts as to who Iranian Americans are and what issues are important to them and explore their views on domestic and international issues that impact their day-to-day lives in the United States.

To that end, as one of its very first undertakings, in August 2008 PAAIA commissioned its first nationwide scientific public opinion survey of Iranian Americans. To our knowledge, this was the first ever national survey of its kind that was specifically focused on Iranian Americans, shedding much needed light on the demographics and attitudes of our community. Subsequent national public opinion surveys of Iranian Americans were conducted in 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2013. The survey results have been presented to the United States Congress, the White House, the media, and the general public to wide acclaim.

In continuing to serve as an accurate source of information about the Iranian American community, PAAIA, through George Mason University, has once again taken the lead by conducting its sixth nationwide scientific survey of Iranian Americans. The 2014 survey explores the attitudes and views of Iranian Americans on the issues they consider most important, including the community's links to Iran, discrimination against Iranian Americans, U.S.-Iran relations, and President Obama's handling of Iran.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings of PAAIA's 2014 Public Opinion Survey of Iranian Americans are as follows:

IRANIAN AMERICANS' LINKS TO IRAN

Iranian Americans retain close ties to family in Iran. In the 2014 survey, eighty-two percent (82%) said they had relatives or close friends who lived there at least three months per year. Forty-one percent (41%) and twenty-one percent (21%) reported having siblings and grandparents, respectively, living in Iran, while a large majority, sixty-five percent (65%), stated they had cousins, aunts, and/or uncles who did so. Forty-seven percent (47%) said they had close friends who lived in Iran.

According to the 2014 survey results, Iranian Americans communicate with family in Iran relatively frequently, consistent with results found in previous surveys. Six percent (6%) of respondents said they communicated with family in Iran daily and nineteen percent (19%) several times per week. Twenty-six percent (26%) reported communicating with family in Iran several times per month. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of Iranian Americans surveyed communicated with family in Iran only several times a year, and twenty-one percent (21%) said they never communicated with relatives in Iran. Overall, respondents' reported contact with Iran dropped slightly from the 2013 survey figures.

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of those surveyed in 2014 said that they visited Iran at least once every two to three years, similar to the thirty-one percent (31%) who said so in 2013. The number who reported in 2014 that they never returned to Iran since leaving, Thirty-seven percent (37%), was significantly higher than the twenty-five percent (25%) in 2013 who said they had never gone back to the country.



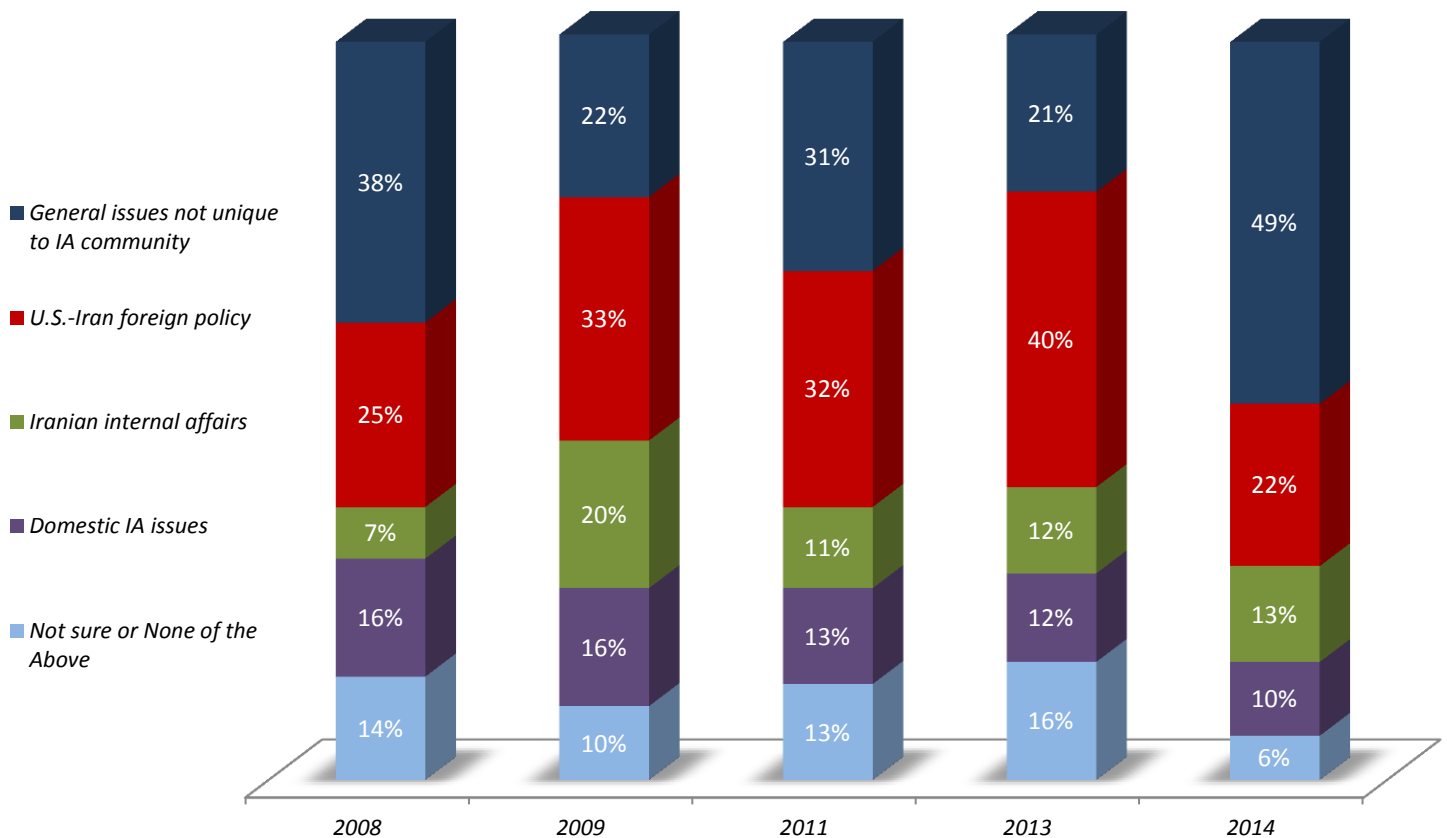
Iranian Americans retain close ties to family in Iran. Fifty-one percent report that they communicate with family members there at least several times per month

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO IRANIAN AMERICANS

Nearly one-half (49%) of Iranian Americans maintain that issues common to Americans in general, not specific to Iranian Americans, are most important to them. However, this is closely followed, with forty five percent (45%), by issues that impact them as Iranian Americans (U.S.-Iran relations, internal developments in Iran, and domestic issues involving Iranian Americans). This represents a reversal of the 2013 survey, in which issues affecting their lives in the U.S. were selected by twenty-one percent (21%). In this respect, the 2014 results are similar to those of the 2008 survey, in which the largest number, thirty-eight percent (38%), chose issues concerning their lives in the U.S. which are not particular to Iranian Americans.

In 2008, local issues dominated Iranian American concerns. However, foreign policy issues moved to the top as a result of the upheavals that erupted in Iran and the government crackdown that followed the 2009 elections.

Figure 1 – Issues of Importance to Iranian Americans

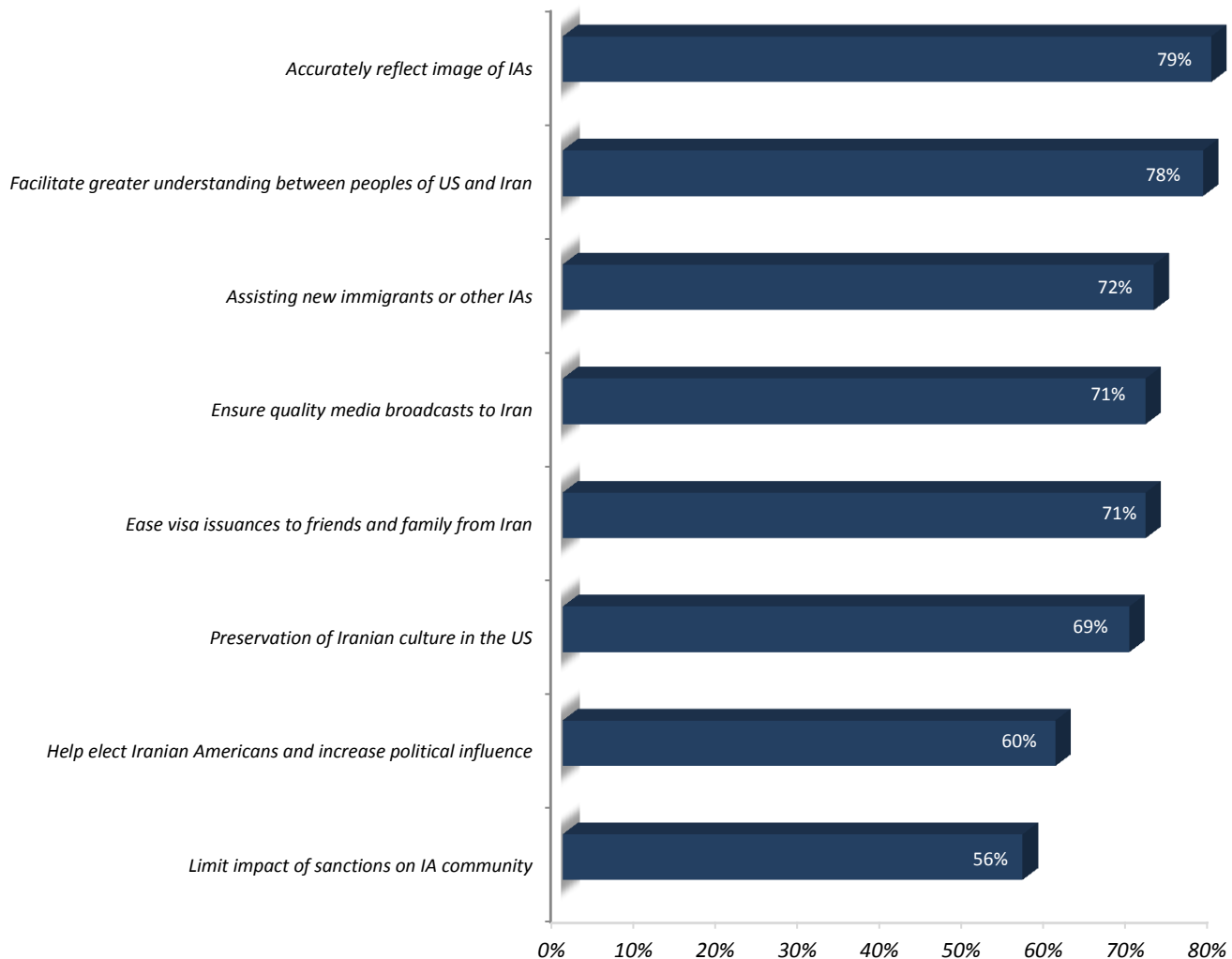


IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES IMPACTING IRANIAN AMERICANS IN THE U.S.

When it comes to the importance of issues impacting Iranian Americans in the U.S., the largest number of Iranian Americans polled, an overwhelming seventy-nine percent (79%) said they believed it is important to ensure that the image of Iranian Americans accurately reflects their values and accomplishments. A nearly identical number—seventy-eight percent (78%)—stated that it is important to facilitate greater understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and Iran. Seventy-two percent (72%) said that assisting new immigrants or other Iranian Americans is important, while seventy-one percent (71%) indicated that making visa issuance to family and friends in Iran less difficult and ensuring quality media broadcasting to Iran is important.

Sixty percent (60%) of those surveyed in 2014 said that it is important to help elect Iranian Americans to public office and increase the political influence of Iranian Americans in the U.S. A majority—fifty-six percent (56%)—said in 2014 that it is important to limit the impact of U.S. sanctions against Iran on the Iranian American community.

Figure 2 – Importance of Issues Impacting Iranian Americans in the U.S.



DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF ETHNICITY OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

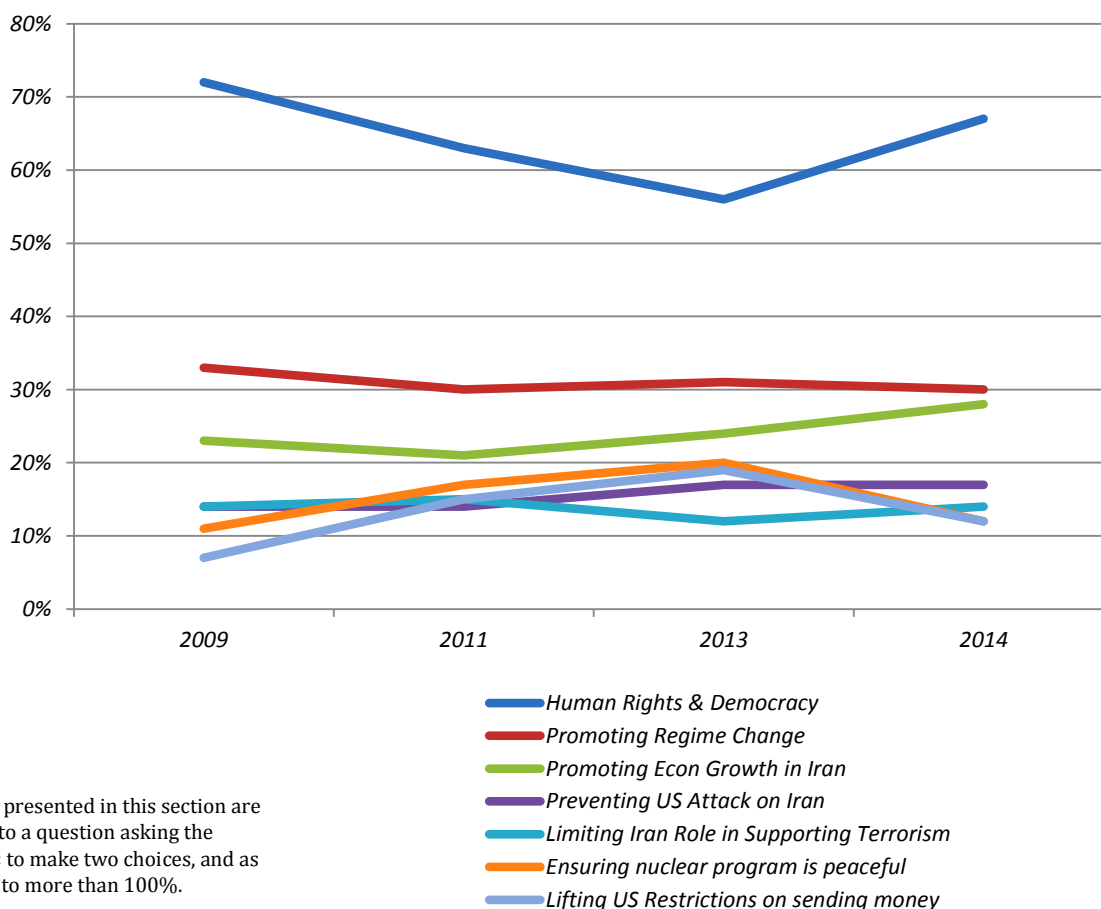
A large minority of Iranian Americans polled in 2014—forty-four percent (44%)—said that they have experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity or country of origin. Fifty-five percent (55%) said that they had not experienced any discrimination.

The 2013 survey also addressed the issue of discrimination, but in 2013 respondents were asked if they or any other Iranian American they knew had experienced such discrimination. In that year, the results were more closely divided—and reversed. Fifty percent (50%) said that they or another Iranian American they knew had been discriminated against because of their ethnicity or national origin, while forty-eight percent said they had not.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES RELATING TO U.S.-IRAN RELATIONS

As seen in **Figure 3**, sixty-seven percent (67%) of Iranian Americans surveyed in 2014 cited the promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran as one of the two most important issues relating to U.S.-Iran relations (respondents were asked to choose two issues). This figure represents a substantial increase over the fifty-six percent (56%) who said this in the 2013 survey, but is more similar to the results of previous years. The issue selected by the second largest percentage of respondents in 2014 was promoting regime change in Iran, with thirty percent (30%) citing it as one of the two most important. This was virtually the same as the figure for 2013--thirty-one percent (31%). The promotion of economic growth in Iran was the third most popular at twenty-eight percent (28%), similar to the 2013 survey results*.

Figure 3 – Most Important Issues Relating to U.S.-Iran Relations



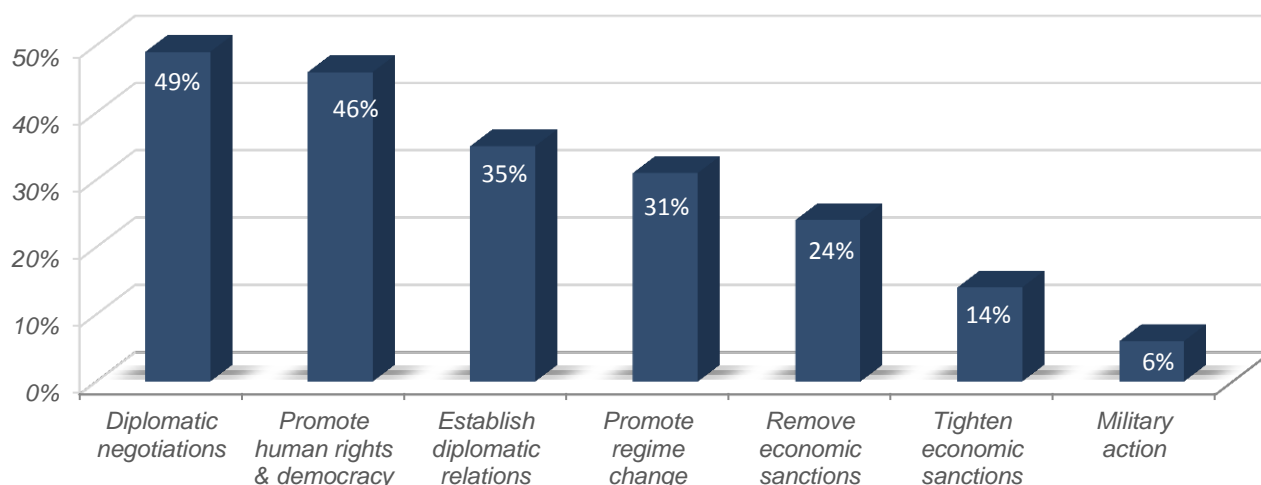
*The results presented in this section are in response to a question asking the respondents to make two choices, and as such add up to more than 100%.

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS IRAN

Iranian Americans in 2014 are divided on the question of which U.S. policies towards Iran would best serve American interests. Diplomatic negotiations was cited as being in the best interest of the United States by the largest number of respondents—forty-nine percent (49%)—followed by promoting human rights and democracy, with forty-six percent (46%), and the establishment of diplomatic relations, with thirty-five percent (35%). Regime change was the fourth most cited policy, chosen by thirty-one percent (31%), followed by removing economic sanctions, with twenty-four percent (24%). Rounding out the list were tightening economic sanctions, selected by fourteen percent (14%), and U.S. military action against Iran, chosen by only six percent (6%) of those polled.

It should be noted that in 2014, this section of the survey was done significantly differently from previous years. In 2014, respondents were asked whether each policy initiative on the list would, in their opinion, be in the best interest of the U.S., whereas in the previous surveys, those polled were asked to choose one single item from the list that they believed would best serve U.S. interests.

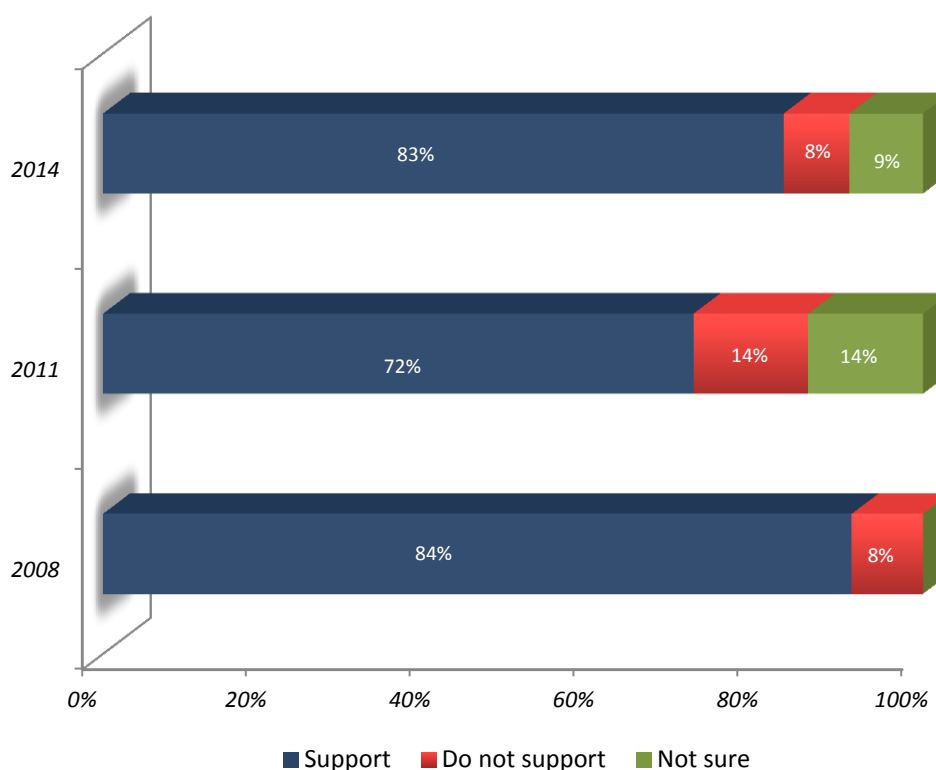
Figure 4 – U.S. Policy Towards Iran



ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IN IRAN

There is broad support in the Iranian American community for the creation of a U.S. interests section in Iran which would provide consular services and issue U.S. visas, but which would not constitute a resumption of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Iran. A total of sixty-six percent (66%) of Iranian Americans surveyed in 2014 stated that they would strongly support the creation of such an interests section, while an additional seventeen percent (17%) said that they would somewhat support it. This level of support is significantly greater than that found in the 2011 survey, the last survey in which the question was asked, in which seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents said they would strongly or somewhat support it. However, it is almost identical to the 2008 survey, in which eighty-four percent (84%) said they would do so. Only eight percent (8%) in 2014 said that they would strongly or somewhat oppose the creation of an interest section, while nine percent (9%) were not sure.

Figure 5 – Support for the Establishment of U.S. Interests Section in Iran



PRESIDENT OBAMA’S HANDLING OF IRAN AND IRAN’S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

It appears there has been a slight reduction in the favorability ratings of President Obama’s handling of Iran. Since 2013, the percentage of “excellent” ratings has fallen from seventeen percent (17%) to fourteen percent (14%), and the percentage of “good” ratings has decreased from thirty-six percent (36%) to thirty-one percent (31%). The percentage of respondents who think the president has done a “fair” job in this area has gone down six percent (6%) to twenty-six percent (26%). In contrast, the percentage of those who think he has done poorly has gone up seven percent (7%) to twenty-two percent (22%). Eight percent (8%) in this year’s survey stated they are not sure, which was not an option included in the 2013 survey.

When asked specifically about the president’s handling of Iran’s nuclear program, a majority—fifty-two percent (52%)—said they approved. This is slightly less than the fifty-nine percent (59%) that said they approved of the president’s performance on this issue in the 2013 survey. Twenty-eight percent (28%) in 2014 said they disapproved, and twenty percent (20%) were not sure.

ATTITUDES TOWARD NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

SUPPORT FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT

Forty percent (40%) of Iranian Americans surveyed in 2014 said they either strongly or somewhat approved of the initial agreement between Iran and the P5+1 (the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Russia, and China) concerning Iran’s nuclear program, while an almost equal percentage—forty-one percent (41%)—were not sure, signifying the very complex nature of the nuclear negotiations. Twenty percent (20%) strongly or somewhat disapproved of the agreement.

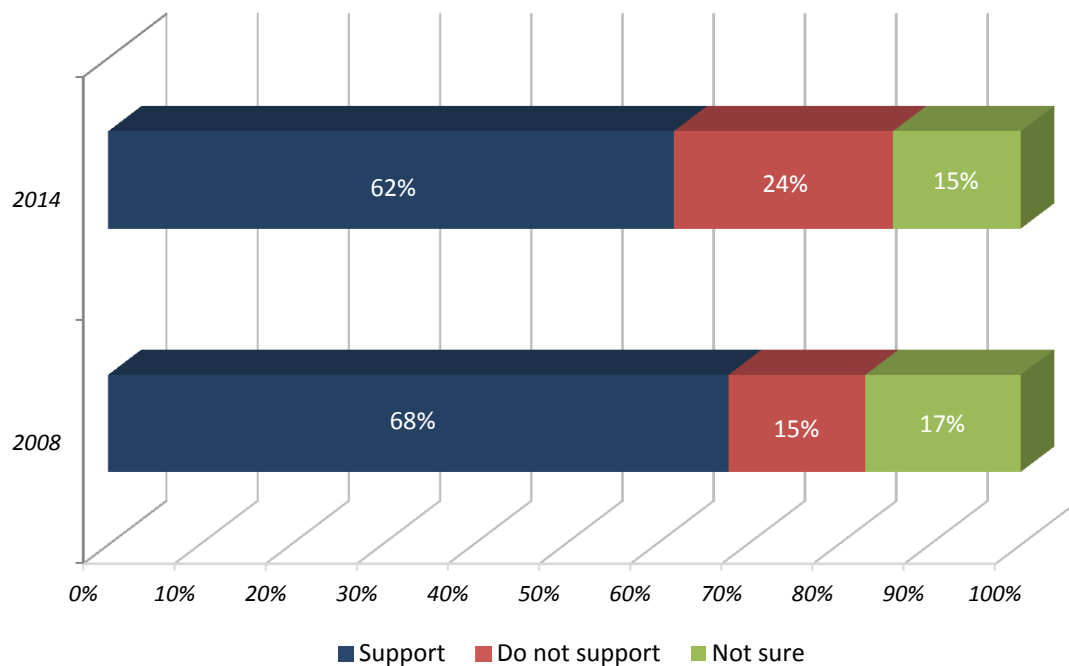
PASSAGE OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS

When asked if they support the passage of additional sanctions against Iran while Iran's negotiations with the P5+1 continue, a plurality—forty-six percent (46%)—said they strongly or somewhat opposed such sanctions, while twenty-four percent (24%) strongly or somewhat approved and thirty percent (30%) were not sure.

POST NEGOTIATIONS

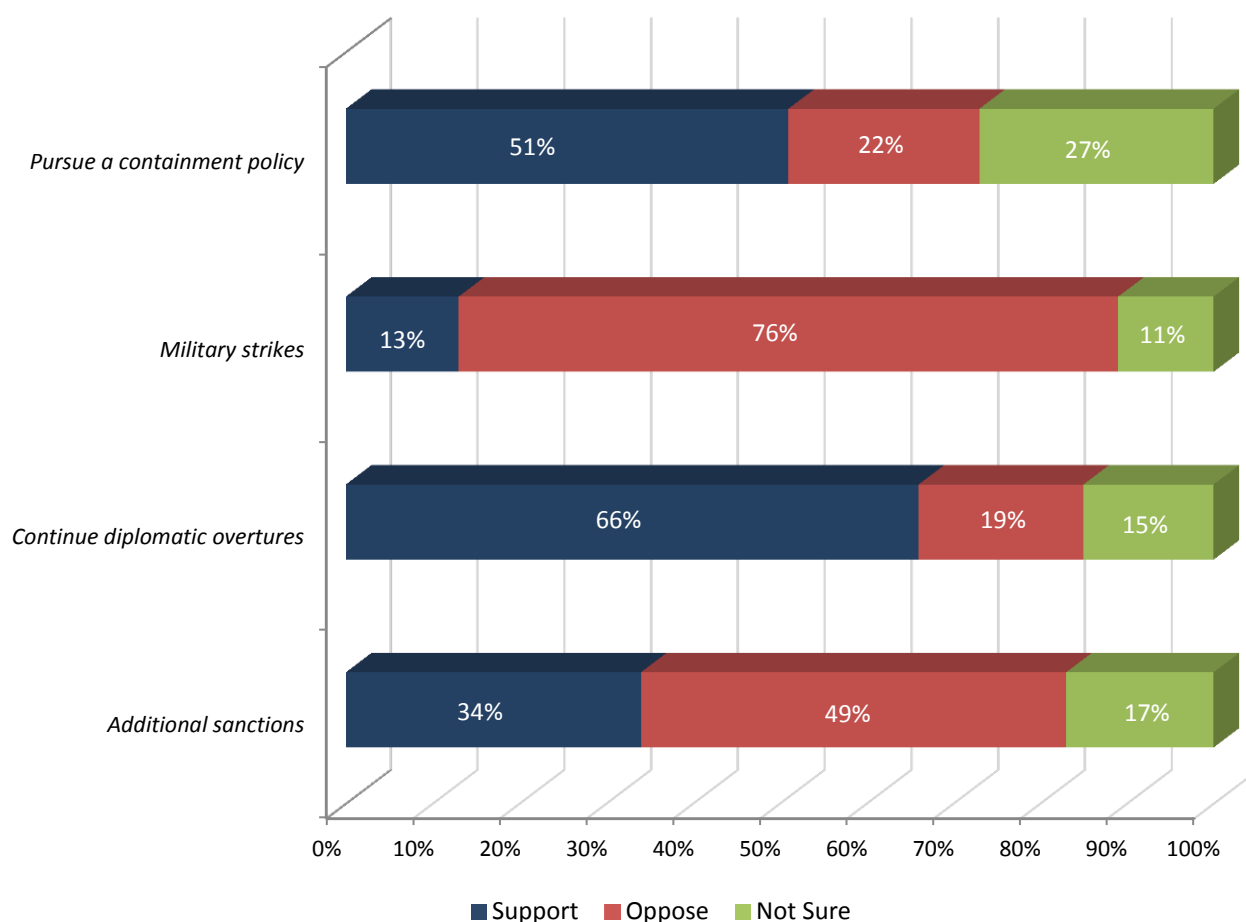
In the event that Iran reaches a permanent agreement with the U.S. and the international community concerning the nuclear issue, sixty-two percent (62%) of those polled in 2014 said they would support the removal of sanctions. This is slightly less than the sixty-eight percent (68%) who said in 2013 that they would support the removal of sanctions if an agreement was reached. Twenty-four percent (24%) in 2014 said they would not support such a removal and fifteen percent (15%) were not sure.

Figure 6 – Support for the Removal of Sanctions



If negotiations between Iran and the U.S. and international community fail, Iranian Americans are mixed on what the U.S. response should be. About two-thirds—sixty-six percent (66%)—would support continued diplomatic overtures. A smaller majority—fifty-one percent (51%)—would support pursuing a strategy of containment to deter Iran's regional ambitions and use of nuclear weapons if Iran develops them. Only a minority—thirty-four percent (34%)—would support additional sanctions, and only thirteen percent (13%) would support a military strike on Iran. An overwhelming majority—seventy-six percent (76%)—would oppose such a strike, while eleven percent (11%) said they were not sure.

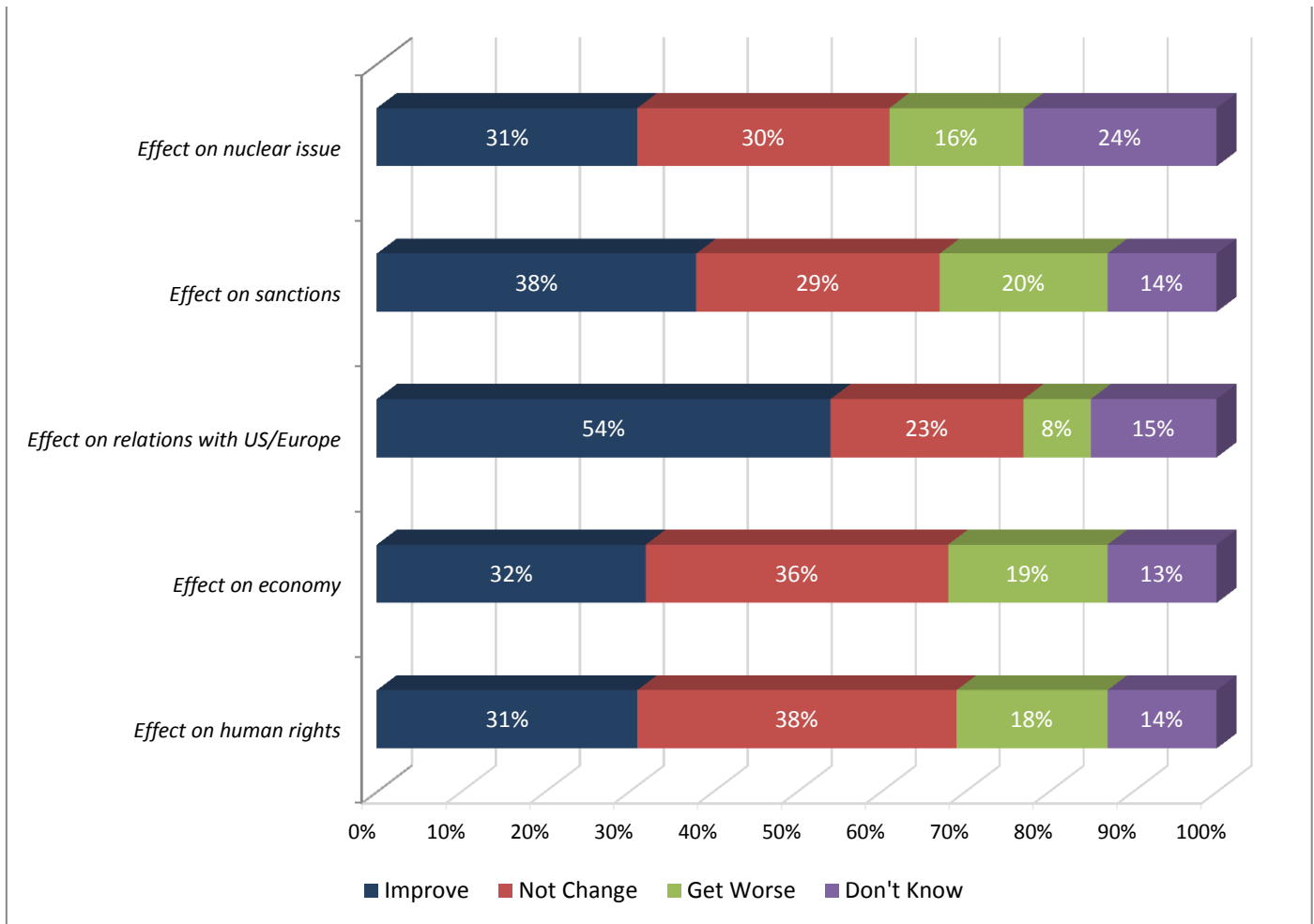
Figure 7 – Actions in the Event Nuclear Negotiations with Iran Fail



ATTITUDES TOWARDS ELECTION OF PRESIDENT ROUHANI

Iranian Americans are divided in their assessment of the significance of the 2013 election of Hassan Rouhani as the president of Iran. A majority—fifty-four percent (54%)—said they believed Rouhani’s election will improve Iran’s relations with the United States and the European Union, while twenty-three percent (23%) believed these relations will remain the same. On other issues, opinion is even less uniform. Thirty-one percent (31%) felt that the human rights situation in Iran will improve, while thirty-eight (38%) felt the situation will be unchanged, and eighteen percent (18%) said it will get worse. A narrow plurality—thirty-one percent (31%)—said that Rouhani’s election will improve the situation regarding Iran’s nuclear program, while nearly as many—thirty percent (30%)— said it is likely to have no effect in that area.

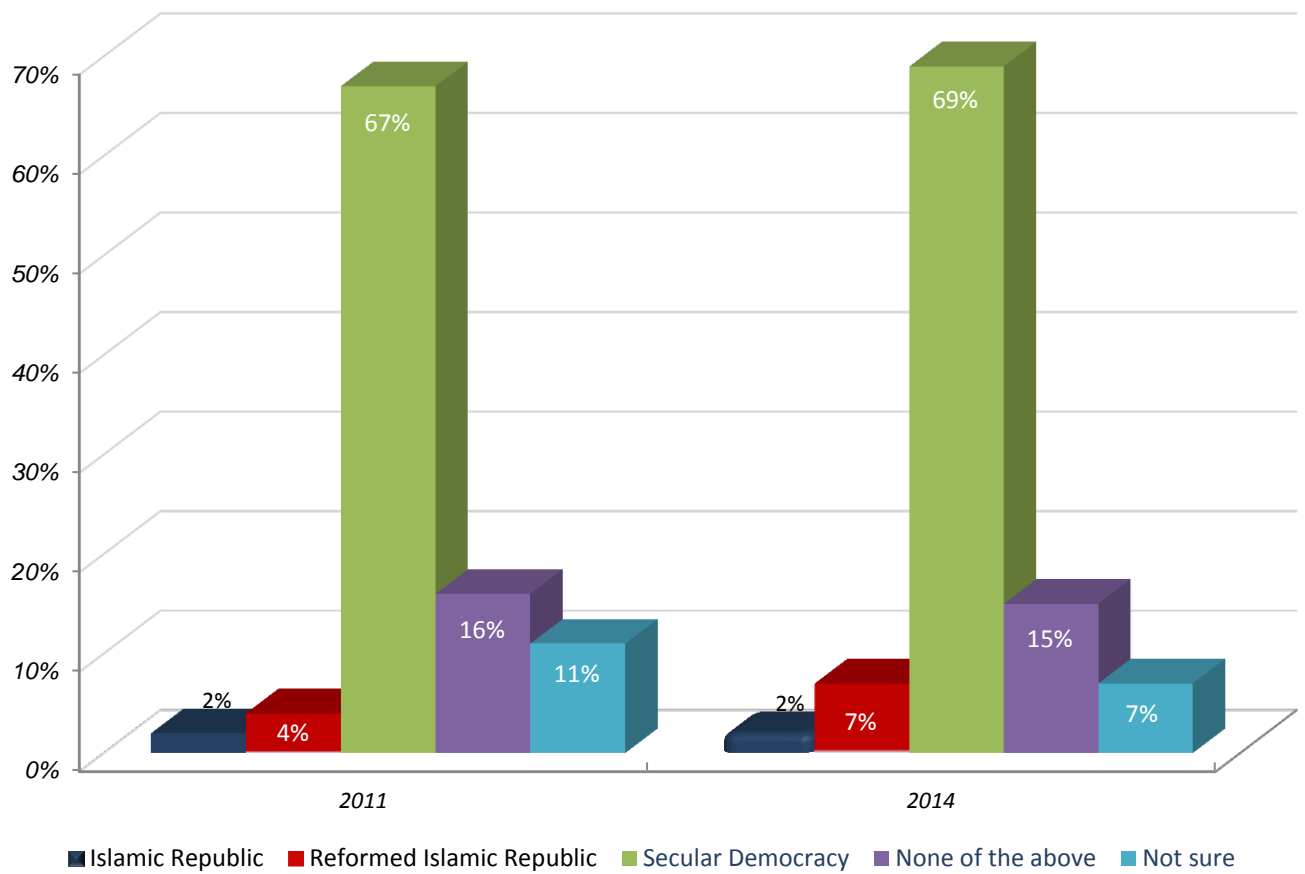
Figure 8 – Attitudes Towards Election of President Rouhani



TYPE OF GOVERNMENT IN IRAN

When asked which form of government would, in their opinion, work best for Iran, a large majority of Iranian Americans in 2014—sixty-nine percent (69%)—stated that Iran should be a secular democracy, while only nine percent (9%) believed that Iran should be any form of “Islamic Republic.” These figures are nearly identical to those from 2011, when sixty-seven percent (67%) said Iran should be a secular democracy and only six percent (6%) favored some type of Islamic republic. The election of President Rouhani has not changed the conviction of most Iranian Americans that a secular democracy is the best form of government for Iran.

Figure 9 – Types of Government in Iran



III. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

The sample of respondents in the 2014 survey was fifty-one percent (51%) male and forty-nine percent (49%) female. A large majority of the respondents - eighty-seven (87%) - were born in Iran. About one half migrated to the United States before 1978, and another thirteen percent (13%) between 1978 and 1980. Thirteen percent (13%) came between 1979 and 1980, twenty-two percent (22%) came between 1981 and 1990, and nineteen percent (19%) came between 1991 and the present.

Respondents had very high levels of educational attainment as compared to the native-born U.S. population. This year's results revealed that twenty percent (20%) reported having a 4-year college degree, and thirty-one percent (31%) of the respondents reported having graduate education or a professional advanced degree.

Iranian Americans reported their political affiliation as twelve percent (12%) Republican, thirty-three percent (33%) Democrat, twenty-three percent (23%) independent, and 26% not politically active. Those who claimed they are not politically active may reflect the fact that 30% of foreign-born Iranian Americans are not citizens of the U.S.

In addition, Iranian Americans demonstrate a multiplicity of religious preferences. Over one-third reported they were agnostic or nonbelievers, one-quarter were Muslim, one-tenth were Jewish, one-tenth Baha'i, and the remainder were from various Christian denominations.

The largest age group who participated in the survey – forty four percent (44%) – were those age 35 through 54. Twenty percent (20%) were between the ages 55 through 69, while an equal fifteen percent (15%) were between the ages of 25 through 34 and seventy or more, and five percent (5%) were between the ages of 18 through 24.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALLIANCE OF IRANIAN AMERICANS (PAAIA)



PAAIA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian, independent organization that represents the interests of the Iranian American community before U.S. policymakers, opinion-makers, and the American public at large. PAAIA works to foster greater understanding between the people of Iran and the United States, expand opportunities for the active participation of Iranian Americans in the democratic process at all levels of government and in the public debate, and provide opportunities for

advancement for our next generation. For more information about PAAIA, you can visit our website at www.paaia.org.

For more information about or questions regarding this survey and its content, please contact PAAIA at info@paaia.org or at (202) 828-8370.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY-CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) is a multidisciplinary research center within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. The center draws on faculty from various disciplines—sociology, political science, psychology, communication, and others—who bring their expertise to bear on some of the most pressing social, behavior, and political problems facing contemporary society.

CSSR provides a platform that brings together social science theories and methods to conduct state-of-the-art research on important social problems and basic social science questions. Studies employ a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods including survey research, focus groups, interviews, analysis based on leading social indicators, and the exploration of virtual world environments.

CSSR is a member of the National Consortium of Social Science Research Centers and Institutes, the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations, and the Virtual Worlds Consortium.

APPENDIX

METHODOLOGY

The data used in this report were collected using a listed sample telephone survey method. To better understand the strengths and limits of this method, it is useful to review the sample design, the telephone survey process, and survey data weighting, which is used to statistically adjust the sample to bring the sample demographics in line with known population demographics.

CSSR telephone surveys were conducted using the *OnQ* survey software, which 1) manages the sample of telephone numbers, 2) provides interviewers with a survey script to read when they are on the phone, and 3) stores the responses over the course of each interview. Before working on the project, all interviewers were trained to use the *OnQ* system and were familiarized with the specifics of the survey. All CSSR interviewers are required to complete human subjects training in compliance with federal regulations. The survey instrument and process were reviewed by the George Mason University Human Subjects Review Board (IRB), which has responsibility for human subjects research conducted by Mason faculty, students, and staff, and found to be in compliance with all federal regulations. A lab supervisor was present during all interviewing shifts to provide quality control and to answer any interviewer questions.

SAMPLE DESIGN

Scientific Telephone Surveys (STS), a national vendor of residential and business telephone samples, (<http://www.stssamples.com/index.asp>), provided the telephone numbers used in the survey. CSSR obtained an appropriate list of telephone numbers for likely Iranian American households based on household surname. These telephone numbers included households with a mix of Persian, Kurdish, and other Iranian-sounding surnames. The STS sample contained a total of 9,279 telephone numbers were randomly selected from regions across the country.

TELEPHONE SURVEY PROCESS

The survey instrument was designed and administered in the English language.

A total of 29,631 phone calls were made to the sample of 9,279 phone numbers. A total of 400 interviews were conducted. The majority of calls were placed in the evening between the hours of 6 pm and 9 pm local time. Shifts in the CSSR telephone lab ran from 6 pm to midnight (ET) to permit calls to other time zones. Each phone number was allocated a maximum of nine attempts over the course of the month of April. Only after 9 attempts without a completion or rejection was the number removed from the pool.

Each call began with a screening item to ensure that the respondent is indeed an Iranian American. Survey questions were scripted so that they were provided in a consistent manner across interviewers. Completed surveys averaged between 20 and 25 minutes in length.

SURVEY DATA WEIGHTING

Non-response and coverage are potential sources of error in any survey. Even if the initial sample design calls for a random sample of a population, non-random differences in participation potentially introduce survey error. This possibility is particularly obvious with telephone surveys today, as a greater proportion of the population foregoes a landline in favor of a cell phone (coverage error), and many individuals are reluctant to answer calls that they screen and identify as not from friends or family (non-response error). Moreover, even if individuals do answer, they may be unwilling to participate in a survey

(non-response error). Many Americans feel themselves over-surveyed and, in a state of “survey fatigue,” they decline to participate, regardless of the perceived value of their responses.

If coverage or non-response errors were completely at random (that is, not correlated with any characteristics of the population in question), this situation would make surveys more costly, but would not necessarily lead to biased results. Unfortunately, however, there is good reason to believe this is not the case. Both coverage and non-response errors are typically correlated with a number of population attributes. The distributions of sample respondents typically differ from population distributions according to age, gender, and education. The average sample of survey respondents is older, female, and better educated than typical members of the population.

For this survey, selected demographic and social characteristics— gender, age, and highest level of education— extracted from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010-2012 American Community Survey (3-year estimates) for the United States were used to construct sample weights. For each characteristic, the population distribution was divided by the sample distribution to determine the extent to which the characteristic was over-represented or under-represented in the sample. The factors for all characteristics were then multiplied for each individual to yield individual weights.

After sampling, CSSR created an SPSS data file for statistical analysis of the data, and conducted appropriate analyses with the SPSS file. The SPSS file was provided to PAAIA, as well as a Microsoft Excel version of the data, and relevant cross-tabulations are found in the appendices of this report.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

I. EXPERIENCE AS AN IRANIAN AMERICAN

How often do you travel to Iran?

	2013 %	2014 %
Once a year or more often	12.5	11.1
Once every 2-3 years	18.1	16.8
I rarely travel to Iran	35.7	30.0
I've never been back to Iran since I left	24.9	36.7
I've never been to Iran	8.8	5.3
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Which of the following types of family and friends do you have living in Iran?

	2013 %	2014 %
A parent	31.8	N/A
Spouse	8.9	0.7
Children	6.1	2.0
Siblings	43.9	40.8
Grandparents	25.7	20.6
Cousins, aunts, or uncles	71.8	65.4
Other relatives	60.9	50.6
Close friends	53.7	47.0
I have no family living in Iran	13.9	18.2

How frequently do you communicate with your family in Iran?

	2013%	2014%
Daily	6.0	6.1
Several times per week	23.8	19.0
Several times per month	35.8	26.4
Several times per year	18.8	27.8
Less frequently	6.4	N/A
Not at all	9.2	20.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Item was skipped, if no family in Iran

In 2013 we asked: Have you or another Iranian American you know personally experienced discrimination in the past because of your or their ethnicity or country of origin? This wording was changed in 2014 to: Have you ever experienced discrimination because of your ethnicity or country of origin?

	2013%	2014%
Yes	50.3	43.8
No	47.5	54.5
Not sure	2.2	1.7
Total	100.0	100.00

On a scale of one to five, with one being not at all important and five being very important, how important is each of the following issues affecting Iranian Americans to you?

	Not at all important 1	2	3	4	Very important 5	Not sure	Total
Ensuring that the image of Iranian-Americans in the U.S. accurately reflects our values and accomplishments	3%	2%	11%	12%	67%	4%	100%
Facilitating greater understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and Iran	6%	2%	11%	13%	65%	4%	100%
Ensuring quality media broadcasts to Iran from the U.S.	12%	2%	10%	12%	59%	5%	100%
Preservation of Iranian culture in the U.S. and improving understanding of that culture among Americans	6%	5%	18%	13%	56%	2%	100%
Making visa issuance to friends and family from Iran less difficult or burdensome	10%	5%	8%	15%	56%	5%	100%
Assisting new immigrants or other Iranian Americans	7%	4%	14%	19%	53%	3%	100%
Limiting the impact of sanctions against Iran on the Iranian American community	12%	6%	13%	7%	49%	12%	100%
Helping Iranian Americans get elected to political office and increasing political influence of Iranian Americans in the U.S.	12%	9%	17%	12%	48%	2%	100%

2. POLICY ISSUES

Which of the following issues is most important to you?

	2013%	2014%
Domestic issues involving Iranian-Americans (for example, civil rights/the impact of sanctions or immigration)	20.8	10.0
Foreign policy issues involving U.S.-Iran relations	39.7	22.1
Internal Affairs of Iran (Iranian government, Iranian society, etc.)	11.7	12.8
Issues that affect my life, family, and community and are not unique to Iranian Americans	21.3	49.0
None of the above	11.6	4.0
Not sure	4.9	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Do you consider each of the following among the top two Issues related to U.S.-Iran relations?

	2013 %	2014%
Promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran	56	67
Promotion of economic growth in Iran	24	28
Ensuring Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes	20	12

Lifting U.S. restrictions on the ability of individuals to send to and/or bring money from Iran	10	12
Limiting Iran's role in supporting terrorist organizations	12	14
Preventing an American military strike against Iran	17	17
Promoting regime change	31	30
None of the above	5	6
Not sure	0	2

Which of the following actions toward Iran do you think is most likely to be in the best interest of the United States? NOTE: THESE RESULTS ARE NOT COMPARABLE TO ONE ANOTHER AND ARE ADJACENT TO ONE ANOTHER FOR CONVENIENCE

	2014%
Military Action	6.3
Diplomatic Negotiations	48.9
Remove Economic Sanctions	23.5
Tighten Economic Sanctions	13.5
Establish Diplomatic Relations	34.8
Promote Regime Change	31.3
Promoting human rights and democracy	46.2
None of the above	2.6
Not sure	2.7

What type of government do you think would work best in Iran?

	2014%
Islamic Republic	2.1
Reformed Islamic Republic	7.3
Secular Democracy	69.2
None of the above	14.6
Not sure	6.8
Total	100.0%

Do you believe the Iranian government's nuclear program is purely peaceful?

	2014 %
Yes	21.6
No	48.1
Not sure	30.3
Total	100.0%

Do you approve or disapprove of the recent initial agreement between the P5+1, U.S., U.K., France, Russia, China, and Germany, and Iran on Iran's nuclear program?

	2014 %
Strongly approve	16.2
Approve	23.6
Disapprove	9.6
Strongly disapprove	10.0
Not sure	40.5
Total	100.0

Do you support or oppose the passage of additional sanctions while P5+1 continue to negotiate with Iran over its nuclear program?

	2014 %
Strongly support	14.9
Somewhat support	9.2
Somewhat oppose	14.0
Strongly oppose	32.4
Not sure	29.5
Total	100.0%

How do you think additional sanctions would impact the current negotiations between P5+1 and Iran over its nuclear program?

	2014 %
Strengthen U.S. leverage	16.2
Weaken U.S. leverage	11.1
Derail negotiations	28.0
None of the above	16.2
Not sure	28.5
Total	100.0%

Do you support President Obama's handling of Iran's nuclear program?

	2013%	2014%
Yes	59.0	52.3
No	19.9	27.6
Not sure	21.1	20.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the Administration's policy will be successful in countering the Iranian nuclear program?

	2013%	2014%
Yes	39.5	39.0
No	31.7	38.5
Not sure	28.8	22.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Would you support the removal of sanctions if the Iranian regime reaches an agreement with the U.S. and the international community concerning its nuclear program?

	2013%	2014%
Yes	67.8	62.0
No	15.4	23.5
Not sure	16.8	14.5
Total	100.0	100.0

In the event nuclear negotiations with Iran fail to reach an agreement, what U.S. policy would you support?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure	Total
Continue diplomatic overtures	66%	19%	15%	100%
International strategy of containment	51%	22%	27%	100%
Additional sanctions	34%	49%	17%	100%
Military strike	13%	76%	11%	100%

Do you think that the Administration's policy has been successful in countering the Iranian nuclear program?

2014%

Yes	39.0
No	38.5
Not sure	22.5
Total	100.0

Overall, how would you rate President Obama's handling of Iran?

	2013%	2014%
Excellent	16.7	13.6
Good	36.4	30.6
Fair	32.1	26.4
Poor	14.8	21.6
Don't Know	0	7.8
Total	100.0%	100.0%

3. QUESTIONS ABOUT PRESIDENT ROUHANI

How do you think the election of President Rouhani will affect each of the following (improve, leave unchanged, get worse)?

- Human rights

	2014%
Improve	30.7
Leave unchanged	37.6
Get worse	18.1
Don't know	13.6
Total	100.0

- Economic situation

	2014%
Improve	31.9
Leave unchanged	36.3
Get worse	19.3
Don't know	12.5
Total	100.0
Total	100.0

- Relations with European Union / United States

	2014%
Improve	53.6
Leave unchanged	23.2
Get worse	8.1
Don't know	15.2
Total	100.0

- Impact of sanctions on Iran

	2014%
Improve	37.5
Leave unchanged	28.5
Get worse	20.2
Don't know	13.8
Total	100.0

- The nuclear issue

	2014%
Improve	30.6
Leave unchanged	29.6
Get worse	16.3
Don't know	23.6
Total	100.0

Since President Rouhani's election, do you feel more comfortable traveling to Iran?

	2014%
Yes	19.5
No difference	30.3
No	20.3
I don't travel to Iran	24.9
Not sure	3.5
Don't know	1.5
Total	100.0

4. DEMOGRAPHICS

	American Community Survey 2010*	PAAIA 2012 (unweighted)	PAAIA 2013 (weighted)	PAAIA 2014 (weighted)
Gender				
Male	52%	59%	52%	51%
Female	48%	41%	48%	49%
Age				
18 - 24	5%	6%	6%	5%
25 - 34	14%	8%	16%	15%
35 - 54	44%	48%	44%	44%
55 - 69	23%	30%	23%	20%
70 and older	13%	8%	11%	15%
Education				
Less than BA	48%	13%	45%	48%
BA or higher	52%	82%	55%	52%

Where were you born?

	2014 %
United States	11.2
Iran	86.5
Somewhere else	1.6
Not sure	.6
Total	100.0

When did your family move to the United States?

	2014 %
After 2000	9.5
Between 1991-2000	9.4
Between 1981-1990	21.7
Between 1979-1980	12.8
Before 1978	45.9
Not sure	.8
Total	100.0

Age groups

	2014%
18-24	5.3
25-34	15.4
35-54	44.4
55-69	20.0
70+	14.8
Total	100.0

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

	2014 %
Completed high school	10.5
Some college but not yet finished	19.8
2-year college degree	17.8
4-year college degree or B.S.	20.0
Some graduate work	1.2
Completed masters or professional degree	18.0
Advanced graduate work or Ph.D.	12.7
Total	100.0

Politically do you consider yourself to be a

	2013%	2014%
Republican	7.1	12.2
Democrat	47.6	33.4
Independent	26.3	22.5
Not politically active	19.1	25.7
Don't know	0	5.2
Refused	0	1.0
	100.0	100.0

What is your religious preference?

	2013%	2014%
Muslim	33.9	24.1
Jewish	9.2	8.0
Bahai	N/A	8.0
Protestant	3.0	1.2
Roman Catholic	3.5	2.1
Atheist	8.8	7.1
Agnostic	7.8	4.7
Other	32.0	28.9
Refused	0	15.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Would you call your religious preference to be strong or not very strong?

	2013%	2014%
Strong	34.5	22.4
Moderate	N/A	25.2
Not very strong	65.5	32.8
Total	100.0	100.0

What is your household income?

	2013%	2014%
Less than \$60,000	32.9	29.3
More than \$60,000	54.3	56.9
Refused	10.7	9.1
Don't know	2.1	4.7
	100.0	100.0

What is your household income? (detailed, less than \$60,000)

	2013%	2014%
Under \$20,000	30.6	43.8
\$20,000 - \$39,000	34.1	24.7
\$40,000 - \$59,000	24.2	12.6
Refused	4.5	11.8
Don't know	6.6	7.1
	100.0	100.0

What is your household income? (detailed, more than \$60,000)

	2013%	2014%
\$60,000 - \$99,999	27.4	40.2
\$100,000 - \$200,000	23.0	30.0
\$200,000 or more	21.4	20.8
Refused	21.8	6.1
Don't know	6.4	3.0
	100.0	100.0

Are you male or female?

	2014%
Male	50.5
Female	49.5



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