



# PAAIA

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
ALLIANCE OF  
IRANIAN AMERICANS

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## NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

# 2019

OF THE IRANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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Since 2008, PAAIA has commissioned nationally recognized pollsters to survey Iranian American attitudes on important topics ranging from domestic issues to foreign policy preferences. The first of their kind, these national public opinion polls raise the voice of the Iranian American community by presenting accurate scientific data to policymakers and the media in order to better their understanding of Iranian Americans. PAAIA uses the results of these annual surveys to inform our policy stances as we advocate on behalf of the Iranian American community.

# Executive Summary

From August 5–17, 2019, Zogby Research Services conducted a national telephone survey of 400 Iranian Americans on behalf of PAAIA; this year’s survey results are presented below.

A few strands emerge from the responses that are worth highlighting. The tensions in both the wider U.S. society and between the United States and Iran are clearly being felt by the Iranian American community. Respondents share their concerns about discrimination and personal safety, opposition to the travel ban, and fears about a potential U.S. military conflict with Iran. When contemplating priorities and goals, the community advocates for deeper political participation within the United States, including electing Iranian Americans to office and increasing the capacity to influence policy.

A brief summary of the findings includes the following points:

- Connections between the Iranian American community and Iran are strong, with 41% communicating with family and friends in Iran at least several times a week. This communication has been transformed over the last decade, from reliance on phone calls to the utilization of a wide variety of services and apps like Skype, Telegram, and Whatsapp as well as social media networks to keep in touch.
- The experience of and concern about discrimination based on their ethnicity and country of origin remains high among Iranian Americans. More than six in 10 have either faced discrimination themselves or know another Iranian American who has had this experience. More than seven in 10 are concerned about increasing discrimination because of the current political climate in the United States. Worse still, 61% of respondents are concerned about their personal safety and the safety of other Iranian Americans.
- There is strong opposition to the travel ban, with 70% saying they or their family and friends have been impacted by it. The most frequently experienced impacts are preventing attendance at family events and gatherings for family emergencies (53%), preventing tourism (52%), and separating families or keeping them apart (44%).
- There is a strong desire for building political power and influence in the community. When asked about goals for their community’s civic or advocacy organization, the top choice is enhancing Iranian American participation in U.S. politics and increasing the influence of the community. Among issues affecting their community in the United States, Iranian Americans rank “helping Iranian Americans get elected to political office and increasing the community’s political influence” at the top.
- The U.S.-Iran relationship has become the most important issue for the community, rising above domestic issues facing Iranian Americans (like civil rights) as well as those facing all Americans (like jobs or health care). And foreign policy including the U.S.-Iran relationship is ranked first among issues the community will consider when voting in federal elections, outranking the economy and jobs, national security, education, and health care.
- Almost seven in 10 of the survey respondents say they will probably (19%) or definitely (50%) vote for the Democratic candidate for president in 2020, while 21% say they will probably or definitely vote for President Trump’s re-election. These numbers mirror the ratings of Trump’s handling of U.S.-Iran relations, with 22% saying it is excellent or good and 77% saying it is fair (9%) or poor (66%).
- Promoting human rights and democracy in Iran and lifting the U.S. trade embargo continue to be the issues related to U.S.-Iran relations of most importance to the community. Preventing a U.S. military strike ranks

third. Promoting regime change is the number one issue for Republican respondents but ranks near the bottom for Democrats.

- There is significant concern among Iranian Americans about a military conflict between the United States and Iran, with 64% saying they think it is more likely than not. Only 9% would support U.S. military strikes on Iran, and the opposition to or indecision about such an action is rooted in concern about potential civilian casualties (83%) and the belief that strikes will be ineffective and encourage Iran to develop nuclear weapons (63%).

# Results

## I. Connections and Communications with Iran

Do you have family in Iran?					
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Yes	93	90	88	84	84
No	7	10	11	15	15
Not sure	-	-	1	1	1

More than nine in 10 Iranian American respondents in this year’s survey say they have family in Iran.

How frequently do you communicate with your family and friends in Iran?					
	2019	2017	2016	2015*	2011*
Daily	15	8	6	7	5
Several times a week	26	17	26	21	24
Several times a month	26	30	32	32	33
Several times a year	14	16	17	19	22
Less frequently*	10	16	12	16	15
Not at all*	10	13	9	5	2

*Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.  
\*In 2011 and 2015 surveys, these options were “rarely” and “never.”*

Communication with family and friends in Iran is at a higher level in this year’s survey. More than four in 10 respondents are in contact at least several times per week, including 15% who say they communicate daily. An additional one-quarter (26%) are in touch with family and friends in Iran several times a month, and 14% say they communicate several times a year. Only 20% are either infrequently in contact or do not communicate with family or friends at all.

Looking at subgroups of respondents, we find that among those whose families emigrated after 1990, 57% are in contact at least several times a week, compared to 33% of those whose families emigrated in 1990 or prior. Those ages 35 to 44 are far and away the most communicative; 74% of this age group report communication at least several times a week.

How do you communicate with your family and friends in Iran? (Choose all that apply.)					
	2019	2017	2015	2011	2009
I write letters	12	5	2	4	7
I send emails	41	23	44	32	40
I call them	74	66	89	72	88
Internet telephone and video chat services (e.g., Skype, Google Hangout)	66	42	49	9	4
Mobile communications applications (e.g., Telegram, Viber, Whatsapp, WeChat, etc.)	69	43	52	n/a	n/a
Social media and social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	57	42	51	25	14
Other	<1	2	1	-	-

Among those who do communicate with family and friends in Iran, phone calls are still the most commonly used mode of communication (74%). Close behind calling are mobile communication apps like Telegram and Viber, which

are used by 69% of respondents, and Internet chat services like Skype, which are used by 66% of respondents. These two modes of communication have seen the greatest growth since the 2017 survey, with increases of 26 and 24 points, respectively. More than half of Iranian American respondents (57%) also say they use social media and social networks like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to communicate with family and friends in Iran. Email is utilized by 41% of respondents to keep in touch. Just 12% report that they write letters to family and friends in Iran.

Not surprisingly, age is the most significant variable in terms of mode of communication, with older respondents being more likely to make phone calls (85% of those 55 and over vs. 56% of those 18-34) and younger respondents being more likely to utilize Internet chat services (76% of those 18-34 vs. 50% of those 55 and over).

## II. Iranian American Experience

**Have you or another Iranian American you know personally experienced discrimination in the past because of your ethnicity or country of origin?**

	2019	2018		2017		2016	2015
		Have you personally...	Have any Iranian Americans you know...	Have you personally...	Have any Iranian Americans you know...		
Yes	63	49	67	56	63	48	43
No	33	51	30	44	26	49	54
Not sure	4	<1	3	1	11	3	3

*Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.*

*In 2017 and 2018, this was asked as two separate questions: "Have you personally experienced..." and "Have any Iranian Americans you know experienced..." In 2015 and 2016, this question was asked in the same format as this year's survey.*

Almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) say that they themselves or another Iranian American they know have experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity or country of origin. The significant increase in reported discrimination between 2016 and 2017 continues to be sustained, with the 2019 results in line with the 2017 and 2018 findings.

Those who report discrimination either personally or for another Iranian American are more likely to be younger (18-54: 74% vs. 55+: 48%), have a family that emigrated more recently (since 1990: 73% vs. 1990 or before: 59%), or identify as a Democrat (71% vs. 47% of Republicans).

**Because of the current political rhetoric and policies regarding immigrants, Muslims, and Iranians, and the tense relationship between the United States and Iran, are you concerned about...**

	2019	
	increased discrimination against Iranian Americans?	your personal safety and the safety of other Iranian Americans?
Yes	71	61
No	26	36
Not sure	3	3

About seven in 10 respondents (71%) are concerned about increased discrimination against Iranian Americans given the current environment in the United States, including political rhetoric and actual policies directed at immigrants, Muslims, and Iranians, as well as the tense relationship between the United States and Iran. This figure represents a slight downtick since 2018 and 2017, when 77% and 83% respectively were concerned about

increased discrimination, though it is still almost two times the level of concern expressed in 2015 (39%).

In addition, and more troubling, 61% of Iranian American respondents are concerned about their personal safety and the safety of other Iranian Americans in light of the current climate in the United States.

With respect to concern about increased discrimination, those with the highest levels of concern are women (82% vs. 62% of men), those 18-44 (82% vs. 61% of those 45+), and Democrats (86% vs. 40% of Republicans and 65% of independents/unaffiliated).

In terms of safety, concern is highest among women (73% vs. 50% of men), younger respondents (78% of those ages 18-44 vs. 46% of those 45+), Muslims (76%), Democrats (74% vs. 42% of Republicans), and those whose families emigrated more recently (since 1990: 78% vs. 1990 or prior: 55%).

**Do you support or oppose the “travel ban” established by President Trump limiting travel from seven countries, five that are predominantly Muslim including Iran?**

	2019	2018	2017
Support	16	17	13
Oppose	76	77	83
Not sure	8	6	4

*\* Wording has varied slightly each year.*

The travel ban continues to face strong opposition in the Iranian American community, with more than three-quarters saying they are opposed (76%) and just 16% saying they support it.

Only among Republicans is support for the travel ban higher (48%), while support is extremely low among Democrats (9%) and independents/unaffiliated respondents (13%).

**How would you describe the impact (if any) of the travel ban on you personally or on your Iranian American family or friends?**

	2019
Very significant impact	43
Somewhat significant impact	27
Only a minimal impact	15
No impact at all	15

Seven in 10 respondents describe the impact of the travel ban as either very (43%) or somewhat (27%) significant on themselves personally or on their Iranian American family and friends. Fifteen percent (15%) view the impact as minimal, and another 15% say there has been no impact at all. Those most likely to report a “very significant impact” are women (54%), those ages 25-44 (64%), and Muslims (58%). On the other hand, those most likely to say there has been “no impact at all” are Republicans (39%) and those ages 45+ (26%).

**If you have felt the travel ban has had an impact, which of the following have you or your friends or family experienced? (Choose all that apply.)**

	2019
Prevented attendance at family events (e.g., weddings, funerals, graduations) or gatherings for family emergencies (e.g., illness)	53
Prevented tourism or cultural experiences	52
Family members have been separated or kept apart (e.g., children, spouses, fiancés)	44
Prevented educational opportunities	37
Limited access to medical treatment	32
Lost business or work opportunities	32
None of these/no impact	18
Other	1

More than one half of Iranian Americans say that the impacts of the travel ban that they have experienced include preventing attendance at family events like weddings, funerals and graduations and at gatherings for family emergencies like illnesses (53%) and preventing cultural experiences and tourism (52%). Significant percentages also note that family members have been separated or kept apart (44%), educational opportunities have been prevented (37%), access to medical treatment has been limited (32%), and work or business opportunities have been lost (32%).

**Which of the following issues is most important to you?**

	2019	2014	2013	2011
U.S. domestic issues involving Iranian Americans (e.g., civil rights/discrimination, immigration)	22	10	21	13
Foreign policy issues involving U.S.-Iran relations	39	22	40	32
Internal affairs of Iran (Iranian government, Iranian society, etc.)	12	13	12	11
Issues that affect my life, family and community and are not unique to Iranian Americans (health care, education, jobs, etc.)	19	49	21	31
None of the above	6	4	12	7
Not sure	2	2	5	6

In the 2019 survey, the issues of most importance to Iranian American respondents reflect the current political climate in the United States. Almost four in 10 respondents (39%) indicate that foreign policy issues involving U.S.-Iran relations are most important. U.S. domestic issues involving Iranian Americans like discrimination and immigration are most important to another 22%. Personal, family and community issues like health care, education and jobs that are not unique to the Iranian American community are most important to 19%. And the internal affairs of Iran are most important to 12% of respondents.

These results closely mirror the results of 2013, but represent a significant departure from 2014, with doubling of importance for domestic issues specific to Iranian Americans like civil rights and immigration (from 10% to 22%) and foreign policy issues involving U.S.-Iran relations (from 22% to 39%). On the other hand, there is a steep decline in the importance of issues that are not unique to the Iranian American community like health care and jobs (from 49% to 19%).

There is variability among subgroups within the community on the relative importance of these issues. About one-half of older respondents (45+: 50%) and those whose families emigrated prior to 1990 (46%) say U.S.-Iran

relations are most important, while about one-quarter of younger respondents (28%) and those whose families emigrated since 1990 (24%) agree. Domestic issues directly affecting Iranian Americans, however, are most important to 33% of younger respondents (that group's top issue) but to just 12% of older respondents.

**When you vote in federal elections for president or Congress, which of the following issues do you consider most important in determining your vote? (Choose three.)**

	2019	2016 rank
Foreign policy (like the U.S.-Iran relationship)	50	(2)
The economy and jobs	40	(1)
Health care	37	(5)
Terrorism and national security	29	(3)
Education	22	(4)
Immigration	20	n/a
Civil liberties	19	(8)
Women's rights	16	(9)
Taxes	16	(7)
Guns	14	n/a
Environment	10	n/a
Climate change	9	n/a
The political party of the candidate	5	(9)
Supreme Court	4	n/a
Other	1	n/a
Not sure	-	(6)

Iranian American respondents were asked to pick the top three issues they consider most important in determining their vote in federal elections for president or Congress. The top choice, selected by one-half of the respondents, is foreign policy (like the U.S.-Iran relationship), followed by the economy and jobs (40%) and health care (37%). Terrorism and national security (29%), education (22%), and immigration (20%) are the next tier of issues when Iranian Americans vote in federal elections, followed by civil liberties (19%), women's rights (16%), taxes (16%), guns (14%), and the environment (10%). Fewer than one in 10 respondents point to climate change, the political party of the candidate, and the Supreme Court as issues of significance for determining their vote in federal elections.

Comparing the current results to when we last asked this question, we find the top-ranked choice in 2016, the economy and jobs, displaced by foreign policy, which is perhaps not a surprise given the tension and uncertainty in the U.S.-Iran relationship today. In addition, health care has moved up from fifth place to third place.

**For whom did you vote in 2016 presidential election?**

	2019
Donald Trump	15
Hillary Clinton	56
Other	13
I did not vote	16

Fifty-six percent (56%) of respondents in the current survey report that they voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, while 15% say they voted for Donald Trump and 13% say they voted for someone else. The remaining 16% say they did not vote.

**If the 2020 presidential election were to be held today which of the following best describes how you would vote?**

	2019
Definitely President Trump	10
Probably President Trump	11
Probably the Democratic Party candidate	19
Definitely the Democratic Party candidate	50
Not sure	8
I would not vote	2

When asked how they would vote if the 2020 presidential election were to be held today, one-half of Iranian American respondents (50%) say they would “definitely” vote for the Democratic Party candidate and an additional 19% would “probably” vote for this individual. On the other hand, 10% say they would “definitely” vote for President Trump and an additional 11% would “probably” vote for him. The remaining 10% of respondents are either not sure or would not vote.

**What would you expect to be the two main goals of an Iranian American civic or advocacy organization? (Choose two.)**

	2019
Enhance Iranian American participation in the U.S. political process and increase the influence of Iranian Americans	50
Improve the image of Iranian Americans	39
Influence U.S.-Iran policy	36
Advocate for issues of importance for Iranian Americans in the United States	31
Preserve and promote Iranian culture and heritage	28
Not sure	8

One-half of respondents (50%) expect one of the main goals of an Iranian American civic or advocacy organization to be enhancing Iranian American participation in the U.S. political process and increasing the influence of Iranian Americans. Improving the image of Iranian Americans (39%) and influencing U.S.-Iran policy (36%) are the other most frequently mentioned goals for such an organization. About three in 10 respondents expect an Iranian American civic or advocacy organization to advocate for issues of importance for the community in the United States (31%) and to preserve and promote Iranian culture and heritage (28%).

The only significant variation by subgroup is that respondents ages 55 and over are twice as likely as younger respondents to prioritize the goal of influencing U.S.-Iran policy (54% vs. 26%)

In past surveys, this question has been posed in a variety of ways, and some of the options are not identical year to year, making direct comparison difficult. However, we can observe that increasing the political influence and participation of Iranian Americans, now the top choice, in the past has been in the second tier of priority goals. Also increasing in favor this year is influencing U.S. policy toward Iran which has previously appeared near the bottom of the list of goals expected of an Iranian American civic or advocacy organization. In corresponding decline, we find the preservation and promotion of Iranian culture and heritage dropping to the bottom of the list in this year’s survey.

**Of the following list of issues affecting Iranian Americans in the United States, which two are most important to you personally? (Choose two.)**

	2019
Help Iranian Americans get elected to political office and increase political influence of the Iranian American community	42
Make visa issuance to family from Iran less difficult and burdensome	41
Ensure Iranian Americans have access to federal and state small business programs for minority-owned businesses	35
Ensure Iranian Americans are accurately counted in the U.S. Census and annual American population surveys	34
Have Nowruz (Iranian/Persian New Year) officially recognized in the United States	19
Have Farsi included on government language testing and translation services	9
None of the above	6
Not sure	8

Given a list of issues affecting Iranian Americans in the United States, respondents were asked to select the two most important. Overall, their top two choices are helping Iranian Americans get elected to political office and increase the political influence of the community (42%) and making visa issuance to family from Iran less difficult and burdensome (41%). The next tier of important issues, selected by about one-third of respondents, are ensuring Iranian Americans have access to federal and state small business programs for minority-owned businesses (35%) and are accurately counted in the U.S. Census and annual American population surveys (34%). Having Nowruz officially recognized in the United States and having Farsi included on government language testing and translation services are the least important issues specific to the community (19% and 9%, respectively).

**With which of the following racial or ethnic groups do you most strongly identify?**

	2019
White	23
Non-white	2
Multi-racial	8
Iranian or Persian	60
Middle Eastern	5
Other	2

Sixty percent (60%) of Iranian American respondents say that the racial or ethnic group with which they most strongly identify is “Iranian or Persian.” In a very distant second place, about one-quarter (23%) say they identify as “white.” Fewer than one in 10 respondents say they identify as “multi-racial,” “Middle Eastern” or “non-white.”

There is a generational divide in these responses with younger respondents (ages 18-44) more likely to view themselves as Iranian or Persian (72%) and less likely to identify as white (12%). Among older respondents (ages 45+), one-half (50%) identify as Iranian or Persian and one-third (33%) identify as white. In addition, those from families who emigrated more recently (since 1990) are also more likely than those from families who emigrated in 1990 or before to identify as Iranian or Persian (73% vs. 55%). Finally, Republicans are twice as likely as Democrats/Independents/unaffiliated to identify as white (40% vs. 20%) and somewhat less likely to identify as Iranian or Persian (48% vs. 62%).

### III. U.S.-Iran Relations

How do you rate President Trump's handling of U.S.-Iran relations?			
	2019	2018	2017
Excellent	13	15	7
Good	9	7	4
<b>+</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>
Fair	9	11	7
Poor	66	61	75
<b>-</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>82</b>
Not sure	3	6	8

*Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.*

When asked about Trump's handling of U.S.-Iran relations, percentages are stable since last year's survey, with 22% giving positive ratings (excellent: 13%, good: 9%) and 75% viewing it negatively (fair: 9%, poor: 66%).

Political party affiliation is the only demographic variable of significance for these opinions. Among Democrats, 12% view Trump's handling of U.S.-Iran relations positively and 87% view it negatively. Among Republicans, 58% have positive and 38% have negative opinions. Independents and unaffiliated respondents are quite negative, with just 20% of each group saying Trump's U.S.-Iran policy is positive, while more than seven in 10 view it negatively.

When it comes to U.S.-Iran relations, of the following list of issues which two are most important to you? (Choose two.)				
	2019	2018	2017	2016
Promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran	54	74	63	68
Lifting the U.S. trade embargo to support economic growth in Iran	38	44	50	36
Preventing a U.S. military strike against Iran	27	n/a	n/a	n/a
Promoting regime change in Iran	25	37	28	22
Limiting Iran's role in supporting terrorist organizations or foreign military involvement	21	14	15	9
Successful negotiation of a new nuclear agreement between the U.S. and Iran	20	15	21	21
Keeping sanctions in place or tightening sanctions against Iran	8	7	8	17
Not sure	3	4	4	17

*\*Wording slightly different in 2018, 2017 and 2016.*

The top issues for Iranian Americans with respect to U.S.-Iran relations remain the same as they have been since 2016, albeit at slightly lower levels because an additional issue was added to the list ("preventing a U.S. military strike in Iran"). The most frequently cited issues are still "promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran" (54%) and "lifting the U.S. trade embargo to support economic growth in Iran" (38%). "Preventing a U.S. military strike in Iran" (27%) and "promoting regime change in Iran" (25%) are the next most important issues for respondents in this arena.

"Limiting Iran's role in supporting terrorist organizations or foreign military involvement" (21%) and "successful negotiation of a new nuclear agreement between the U.S. and Iran" (20%) are slightly less important but still noted by one in five respondents. "Keeping sanctions in place or tightening sanctions" continues to be the issue of least importance with respect to U.S.-Iran relations for Iranian American respondents (8%).

These rankings are quite consistent across different demographic groups, with one notable exception. For Republican respondents, regime change is the number one issue (57%), while for Democrats it is only considered the most important by 15%, putting it near the bottom of their concerns.

**Which outcome of renewed sanctions resulting from the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA seems more likely in your opinion?**

	2019	2018
That sanctions will produce the changes in Iranian policy that the Trump administration desires.	28	24
That sanctions will harm the Iranian people and increase support for hardliners' anti-American sentiment.	63	67
Not sure	9	9

Consistent with last year's results, the current survey finds that almost two-thirds of Iranian American respondents (63%) think it is more likely that the renewed sanctions "will harm the Iranian people and increase support for hardliners' anti-American sentiment," while about one-quarter of respondents (28%) think it is more likely that the sanctions "will produce the changes in Iranian policy that the Trump administration desires."

Only among Republicans does a majority think it is more likely that the sanctions will work as the administration intends (66% vs. 19% of Democrats and 25% of Independents/unaffiliated). Majorities in all other demographic groups agree that the sanctions are more likely to harm the Iranian people and increase support for anti-American sentiment.

**Are you worried that a U.S.-Iran military conflict is now more likely than not?**

	2019
Yes	64
No	29
Not sure	7

About two-thirds of respondents (64%) are worried that a U.S.-Iran military conflict is now more likely than not, while 29% do not agree. This fear is highest among women (73% vs. 55% of men), Democrats (73% vs. 45% of Republicans), and younger respondents (74% of those ages 18-44 vs. 56% of those ages 45+).

**Which of the following best describes your attitude toward possible U.S. military strikes on Iran?**

	2019
I would support this.	9
I might support this under some circumstances.	27
I would oppose this.	62
Not sure	2

More than six in 10 Iranian American respondents would unequivocally oppose U.S. military strikes on Iran. Nine percent (9%) say they would support such strikes, with an additional 27% saying they might support it under some circumstances.

Again, political party affiliation is the only significant demographic variable that affects these opinions, with consistency in these percentages across groups based on gender, age, length of time in the United States, income, and education. But for Democrats, 74% oppose strikes in all circumstances, while only 31% of Republicans say

the same. For Republicans, 27% say they support military strikes and 40% say they might support them in some circumstances.

**If you oppose or are unsure about U.S. military strikes on Iran, which of the following are reasons for your opposition or indecision? (Choose all that apply.)**

	2019
Concern over potential civilian casualties	83
Such strikes will be ineffective and only encourage Iran to develop nuclear weapons.	63
It is not in the political or economic self-interest of the United States.	51
It will likely only strengthen the government of Iran.	47
Other	8
Not sure	3

For those who either oppose military strikes or are unsure about them, the most compelling reason for their opposition or indecision is concern over potential civilian casualties (83%). In addition, 63% say that strikes would be ineffective and only encourage Iran to develop nuclear weapons. About half of those with opposition to or doubts about U.S. military strikes on Iran think such a course of action is not in the political or economic self-interest of the United States (51%) or that it would only strengthen the government of Iran (47%).

# Methodology & Demographics

Zogby Research Services (ZRS) was commissioned by PAAIA to conduct, in partnership with Zogby Analytics, a live operator telephone survey of 400 Iranian American adults. The survey was conducted between August 5 and 17, 2019. Samples are randomly drawn from purchased telephone Iranian surname lists. Up to four calls are made to reach a sampled phone number, respondents that were not available but qualified to respond were allowed to set appointments to be recalled within the time frame of the fieldwork. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, party, education, and religion. Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 400 is +/- 4.9 percentage points. This means that all other things being equal, the identical survey repeated will have results within the margin of error 95 times out of 100.

Subsets of the data have a larger margin of error than the whole data set. As a rule we do not rely on the validity of very small subsets of the data especially sets smaller than 50-75 respondents. At that subset we can make estimations based on the data, but in these cases the data is more qualitative than quantitative. Additional factors can create error, such as question wording and question order.

18-34	32%
35-44	16%
45-54	16%
55-64	18%
65+	18%
Male	52%
Female	48%
Income <\$50K	15%
Income \$50K-\$100K	34%
Income >\$100K	51%
East	21%
South	29%
Central/Great Lakes	12%
West	38%
Married	59%
Single, never married	25%

Divorced/widowed/separated	13%
Civil union/domestic partnership	3%
Family moved to US since 1990	30%
Family moved before 1990	70%
No college degree	15%
College degree/+	85%
Muslim	42%
Baha'i	3%
Jewish	3%
Zoroastrian	13%
Christian	12%
Agnostic	9%
Atheist	4%
Other religion	12%
Democrat	50%
Republican	16%
Independent/Unaffiliated/Minor	34%





