



## TRIP Snap Poll V: IR Scholars React to Proposed Nuclear Agreement with Iran

April 9, 2015

Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project  
Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations (ITPIR)



<http://www.wm.edu/trip>

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**Methodology:** We attempted to contact all international relations (IR) scholars in the U.S. We define IR scholars as individuals who are employed at a college or university in a political science department or professional school and who teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders.

The poll was open April 6-7, 2015. Of the 4,169 scholars across the U.S. that we contacted, 921 responded. The resulting response rate is approximately 22.1 percent, and the margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.85% percent. See the final page of this report for a detailed breakdown of the demographic characteristics of respondents compared to the population of IR scholars identified by the TRIP project. In terms of tenure status and university type, our respondents are statistically indistinguishable from the general population of IR scholars in the U.S. However, men are slightly over-represented in our sample compared to women.

## Introduction

By Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, Ryan Powers, and Michael J. Tierney

We are pleased to share the results of the fifth Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Snap Poll. With support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, we field Snap Polls several times a year. Our polls provide real-time data in the wake of significant policy proposals, during international crises, and on emerging foreign policy debates. In this poll, we asked about the proposed nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran, specifically the effects on regional stability, the likelihood of Iranian compliance, and the role of sanction threats in the negotiations. A related essay identifying some interesting patterns and raising new questions is published on [ForeignPolicy.com](http://ForeignPolicy.com).

### How TRIP Snap Polls work

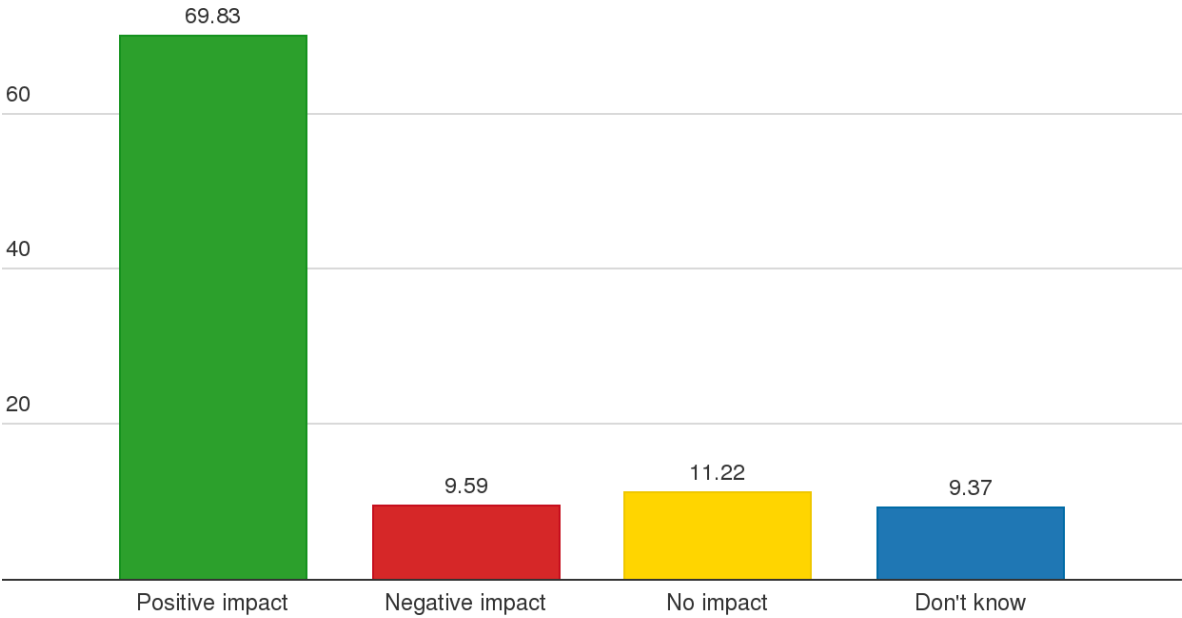
TRIP Snap Polls survey all IR scholars in the United States. To be included in our sample, individuals must be employed at a U.S. college or university in a political science department or professional school and teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders. To date we have identified 4,169 individuals who fit these criteria. The Snap Poll was open for 51 hours from 12:00am EST Monday, April 6 to 11:59pm PST Tuesday, April 7. In this poll, 921 scholars responded to at least one question, a response rate of approximately 22.1 percent with a margin of error of +/- 2.85%. The number of responses to each question is listed below. See the final page of this report for a detailed breakdown of the demographic characteristics of respondents compared to the population of IR scholars identified by the TRIP project. In terms of tenure status and university type, our respondents are statistically indistinguishable from the general population of IR scholars in the U.S. However, men are slightly over-represented in our sample compared to women.

# Survey Results

**Question 1:** What impact will the nuclear agreement signed by Iran and the P5+1, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have on regional stability in the Middle East?

Response Option	Count	Percent
Positive impact	641	69.83%
Negative impact	88	9.59%
No impact	103	11.22%
Don't know	86	9.37%

What impact will the nuclear agreement signed by Iran and the P5+1, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have on regional stability in the Middle East?



N = 918

Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

**Question 2 (if answered “Positive impact” to Question 1):** Why do you believe the agreement will have a positive impact on regional stability in the Middle East? Please select all that apply.

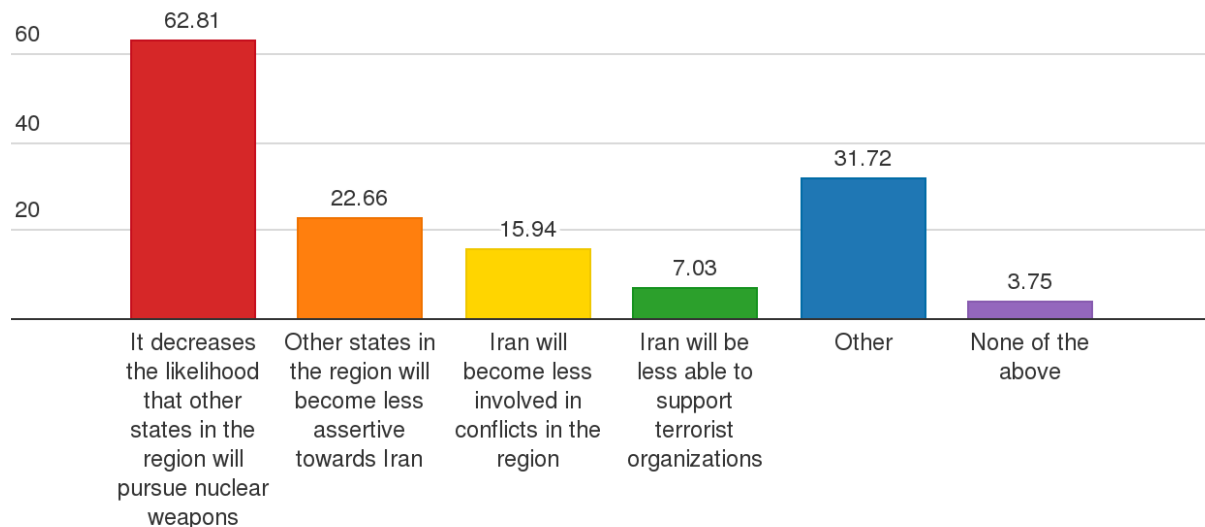
Response Option	Count	Percent
<b>It decreases the likelihood that other states in the region will pursue nuclear weapons</b>	402	62.81%
<b>Other states in the region will become less assertive towards Iran</b>	145	22.66%
<b>Iran will become less involved in conflicts in the region</b>	102	15.94%
<b>Iran will be less able to support terrorist organizations</b>	45	7.03%
<b>Other (please explain)*</b>	203	31.72%
<b>None of the above</b>	24	3.75%

\* Answers written into the “Other” response option highlighted three lines of reasoning for believing the deal will have a positive impact. One was that improved U.S.-Iranian relations would reduce the risk of foreign involvement in the region. Another was greater Iranian integration into regional and international communities. Also cited was the positive impact on Iran’s domestic political and economic situation.

## Why do you believe the agreement will have a positive impact on regional stability in the Middle East?

If answered "positive impact" to "What impact will the nuclear agreement signed by Iran and the P5+1, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have on regional stability in the Middle East?"

Select all that apply.



N = 640

Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

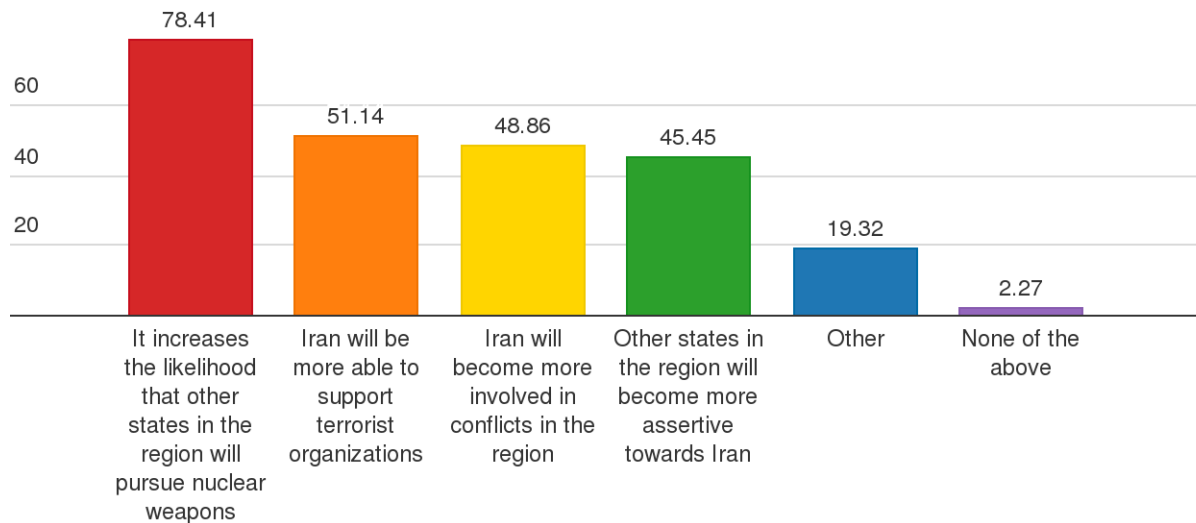
**Question 3 (if answered “Negative impact” to Question 1):** Why do you believe the agreement will have a negative impact on regional stability in the Middle East? Please select all that apply.

Response Option	Count	Percent
It increases the likelihood that other states in the region will pursue nuclear weapons	69	78.41%
Iran will be more able to support terrorist organizations	45	51.14%
Iran will become more involved in conflicts in the region	43	48.86%
Other states in the region will become more assertive towards Iran	40	45.45%
Other (please explain)	17	19.32%
None of the above	2	2.27%

### Why do you believe the agreement will have a negative impact on regional stability in the Middle East?

If answered "negative impact" to "What impact will the nuclear agreement signed by Iran and the P5+1, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have on regional stability in the Middle East?"

Select all that apply.



N = 88

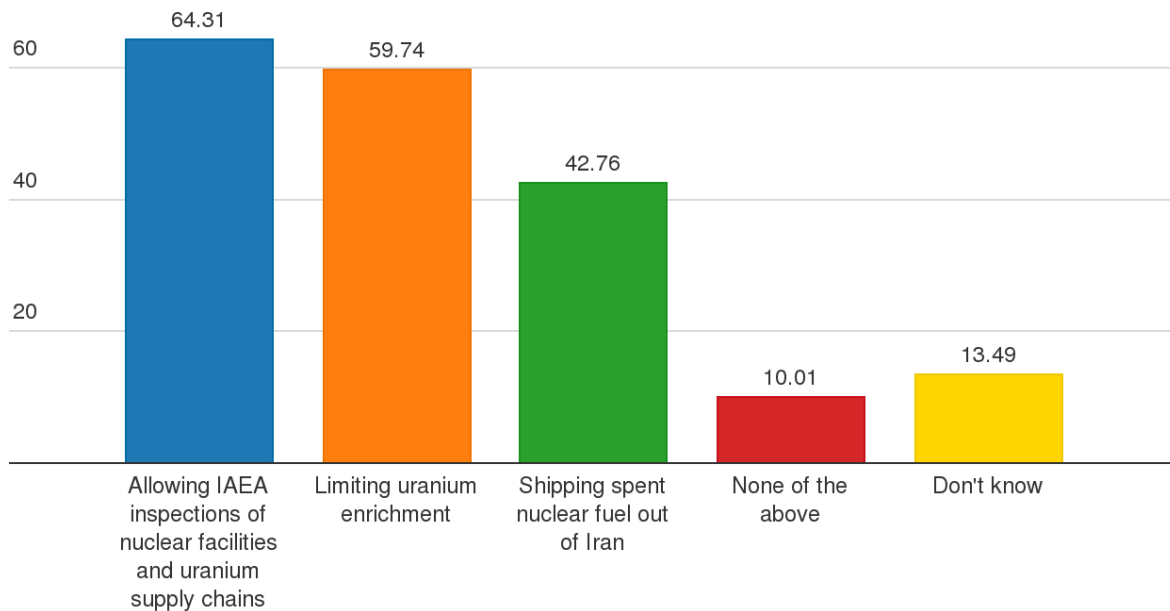
Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

**Question 4:** With which of the following obligations specified in the agreement do you believe Iran will fully comply? Please select all that apply.

Response Option	Count	Percent
Allowing IAEA inspections of nuclear facilities and uranium supply chains	591	64.31%
Limiting uranium enrichment	549	59.74%
Shipping spent nuclear fuel out of Iran	393	42.76%
None of the above	92	10.01%
Don't know	124	13.49%

With which of the following obligations specified in the agreement do you believe Iran will fully comply?

Select all that apply.



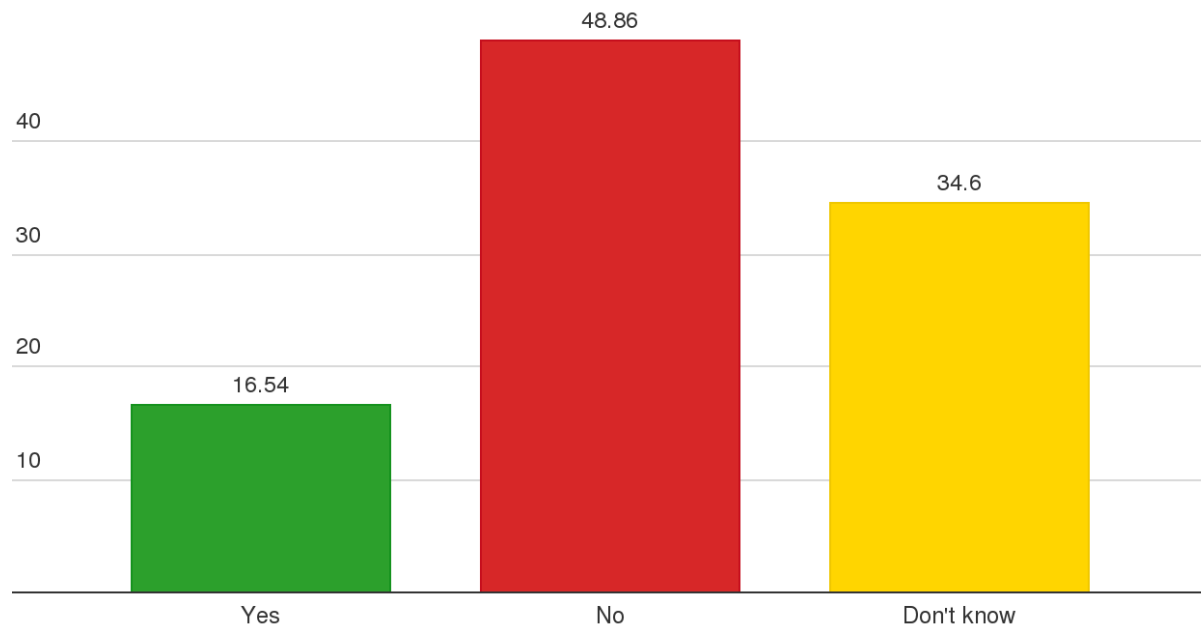
N = 919

Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

**Question 5:** Would Iran have accepted the agreement if the Obama administration had threatened to increase sanctions in the absence of an agreement?

Response Option	Count	Percent
Yes	152	16.54%
No	449	48.86%
Don't know	318	34.60%

Would Iran have accepted the agreement if the Obama administration had threatened to increase sanctions in the absence of an agreement?



N = 919

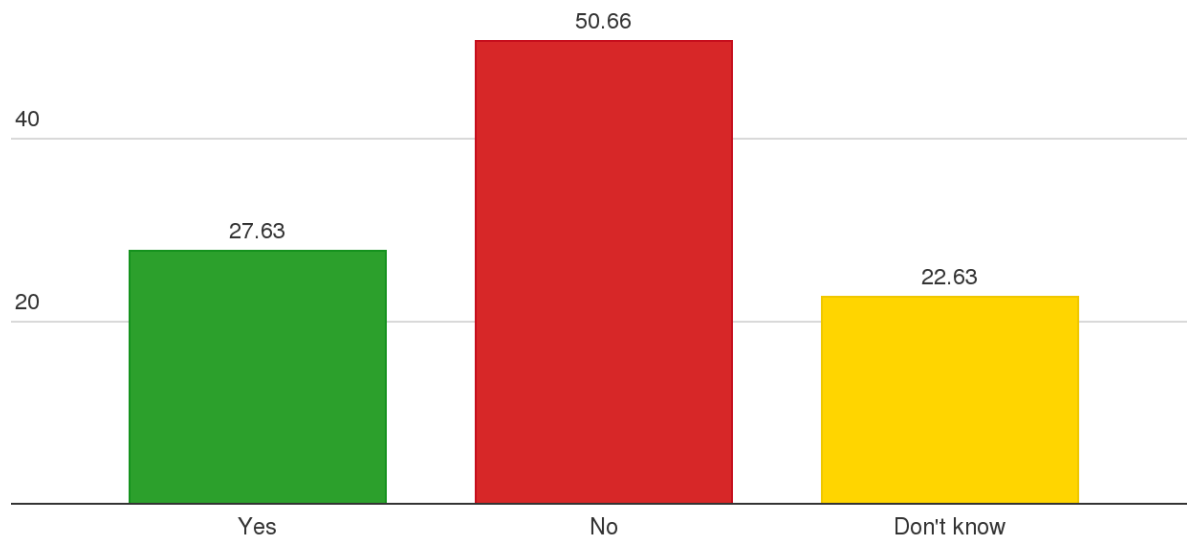
Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

**Question 6 (if answered “Yes” to previous question):** Would Iran have agreed to more concessions in the JCPOA if the Obama administration had threatened to increase sanctions in the absence of an agreement?

Response Option	Count	Percent
Yes	42	27.63%
No	77	50.66%
Don't know	33	21.71%

Would Iran have agreed to more concessions in the JCPOA if the Obama administration had threatened to increase sanctions in the absence of an agreement?

If answered "yes" to "Would Iran have accepted the agreement if the Obama administration had threatened to increase sanctions in the absence of an agreement?"



N = 152

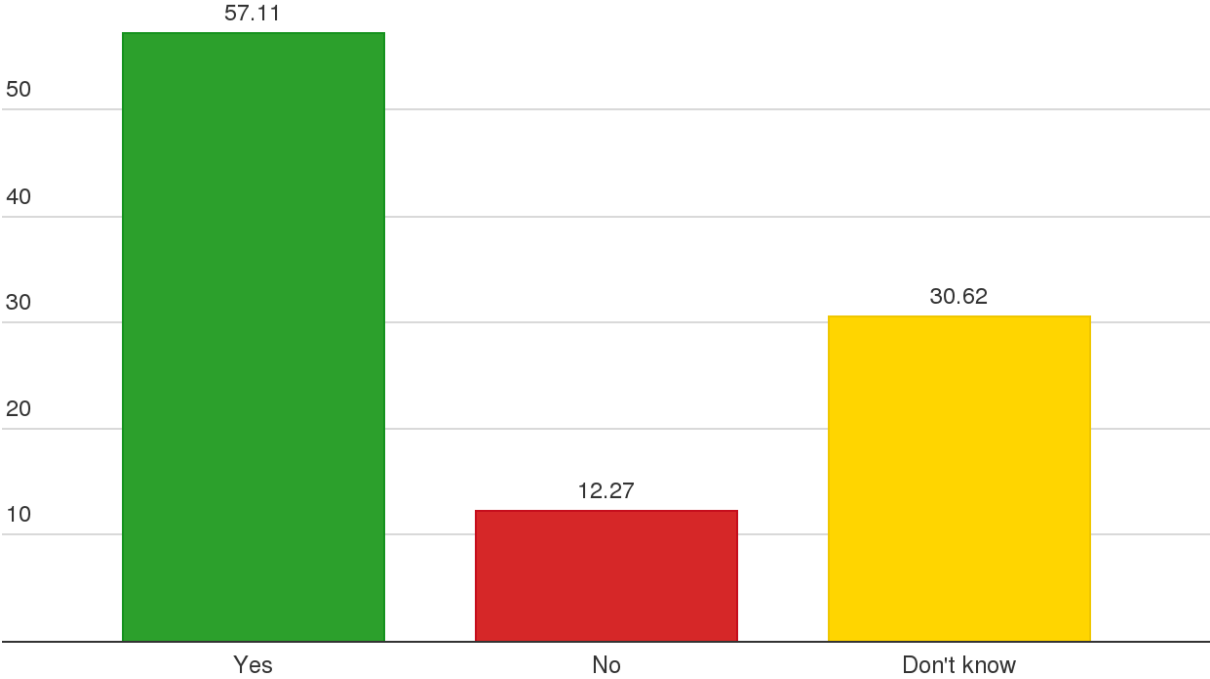
Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary



**Question 7:** Does the agreement give international inspectors sufficient ability to monitor Iranian compliance?

Response Option	Count	Percent
Yes	526	57.11%
No	113	12.27%
Don't know	282	30.62%

Does the agreement give international inspectors sufficient ability to monitor Iranian compliance?



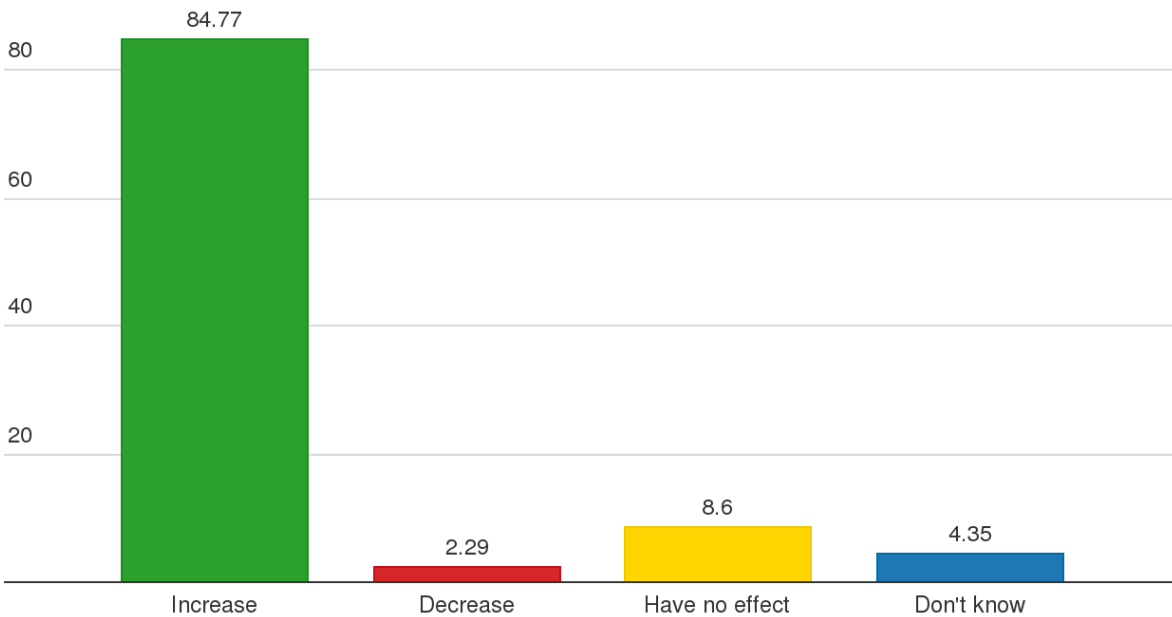
N = 921

Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

**Question 8:** If a future U.S. president were to unilaterally withdraw from the agreement, would that increase, decrease, or have no effect on the likelihood of Iran renewing its nuclear weapons program?

Response Option	Count	Percent
Increase	779	84.77%
Decrease	21	2.29%
Have no effect	79	8.60%
Don't know	40	4.35%

If a future U.S. president were to unilaterally withdraw from the agreement, would that increase, decrease, or have no effect on the likelihood of Iran renewing its nuclear weapons program?



N = 919

Source: Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project, William & Mary

## Sample vs. Population Comparison

	Respondents		Population	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Male</b>	717	78.94	2966	71.14
<b>Female</b>	204	22.15	1203	28.86
<b>Total</b>	921		4169	
<b>Fisher's exact test p = 0.0001</b>				

	Respondents		Population	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Adjunct</b>	43	4.67	221	5.30
<b>Assistant Professor</b>	208	22.61	800	19.19
<b>Associate Professor</b>	264	28.70	1119	26.84
<b>Full Professor</b>	287	31.20	1479	35.48
<b>Emeritus</b>	45	4.90	212	5.08
<b>Instructor</b>	32	3.48	167	4.01
<b>Post-doctoral Fellow</b>	2	0.22	11	0.26
<b>Visiting Instructor/Visiting Assistant Professor</b>	22	2.39	103	2.47
<b>Other</b>	17	3.18	57	1.37
<b>Total</b>	921		4169	
<b>Pearson's Chi-squared test p = 0.1591</b>				

	Respondents		Population	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>Research University</b>	517	56.13	2370	56.85
<b>Non-Research University</b>	404	43.87	1799	43.15
<b>Total</b>	921		4169	
<b>Fisher's exact test p = 0.7133</b>				