

Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab: Restoring Historical Iowa Polls



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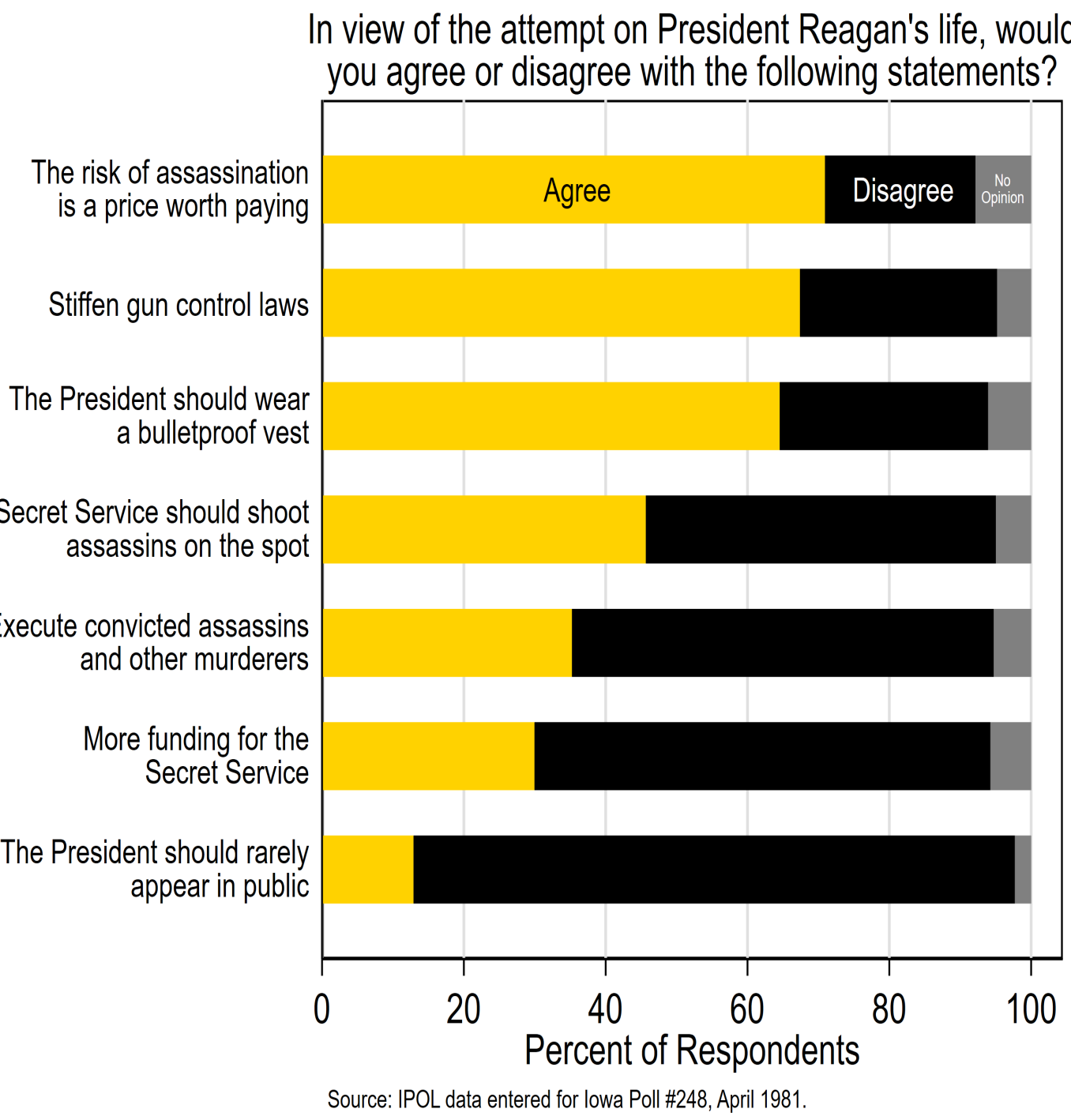
Attempts on the Presidents Life

71% of respondents agreed the risk of assassination is a price worth paying

46% agreed the Secret Service should shoot anyone on the spot anyone who shoots at the president

35% agreed convicted assassins and other murderers should be executed

13% agreed the President should appear in public only on rare occasions



Education Spending in Iowa

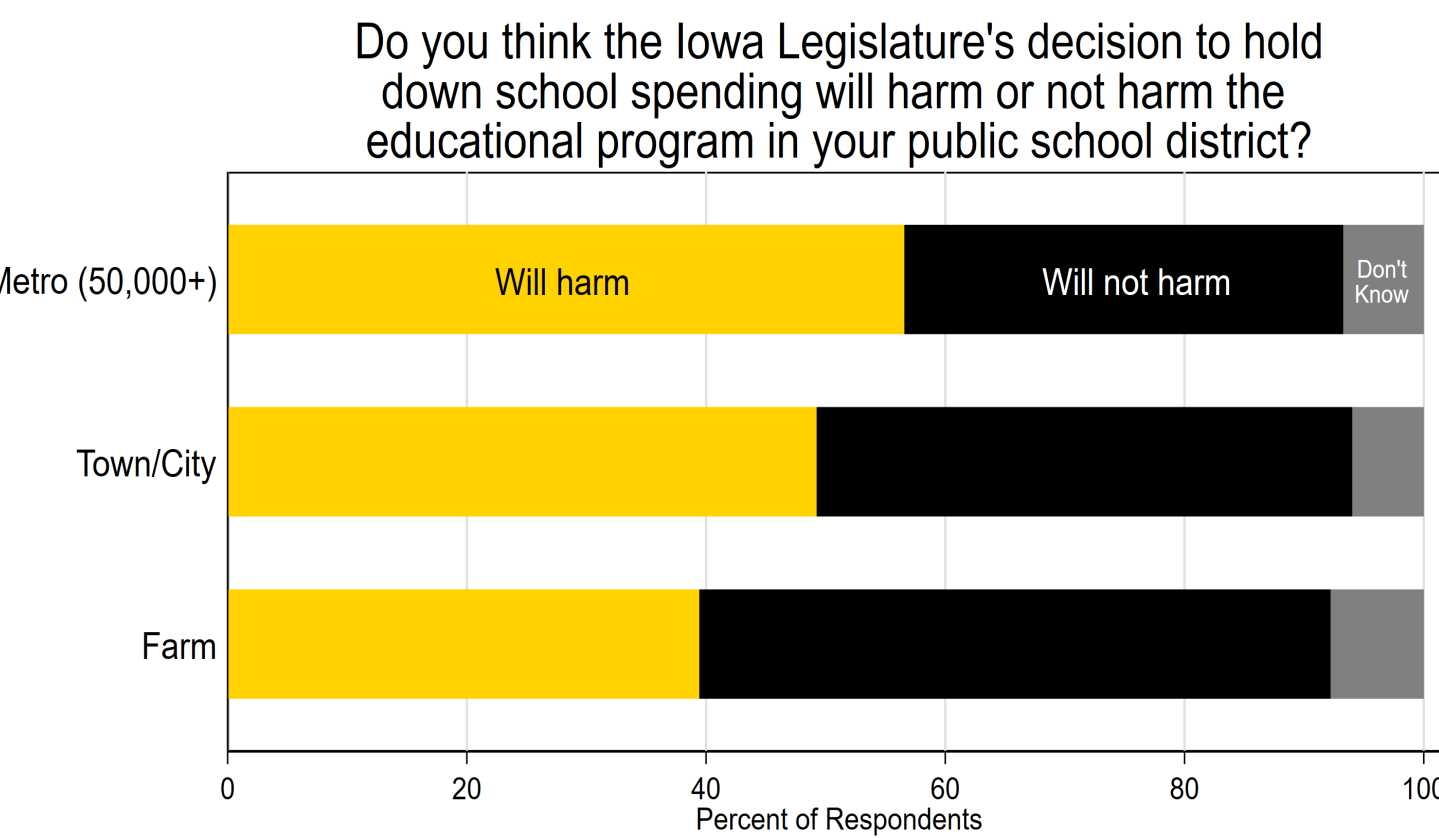
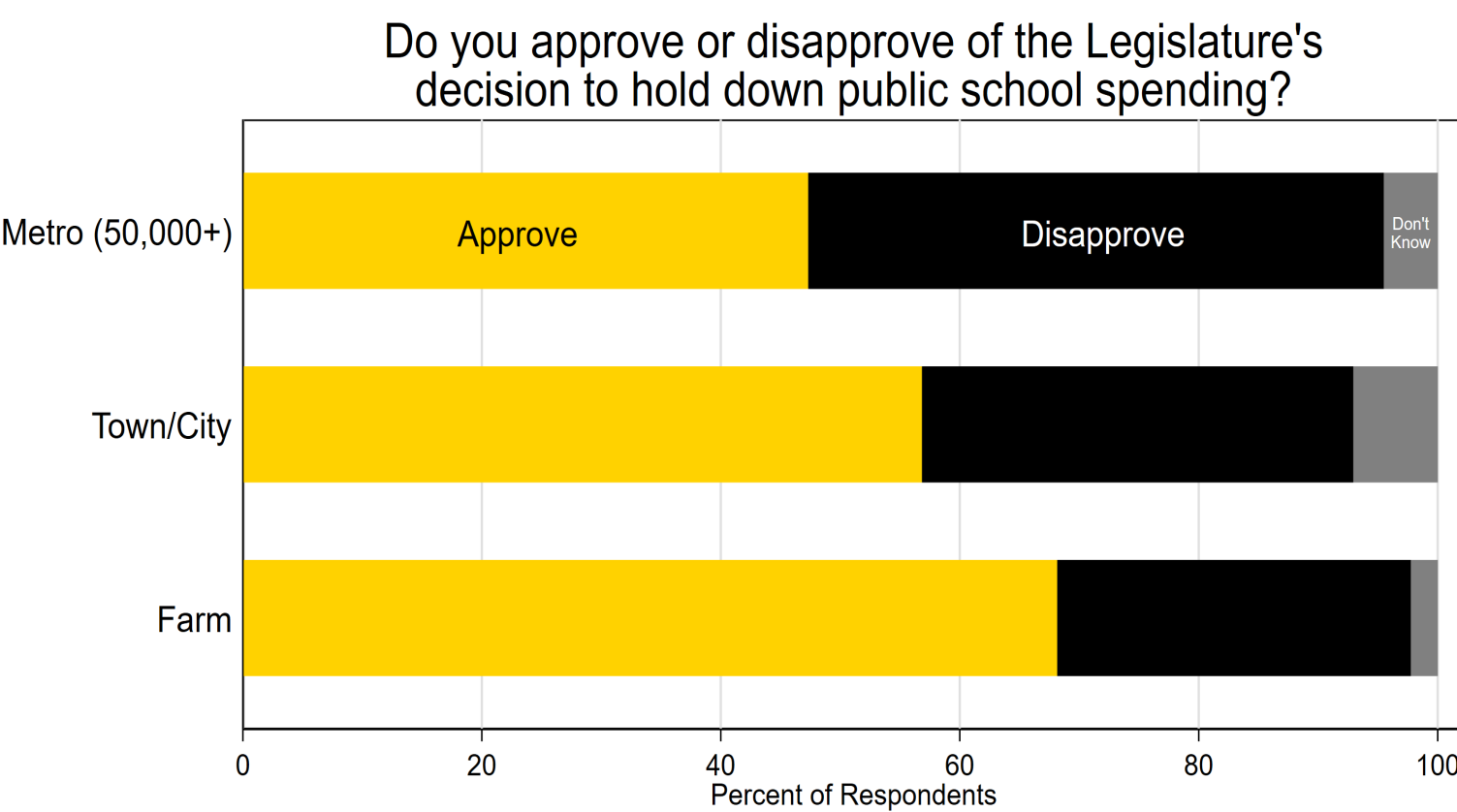
56% approved of the legislature's decision to hold down public school spending

50% believed the decision would harm public schools

57% of respondents in metropolitan areas believed the decision would harm public schools

49% of respondents who lived in towns or cities believed the decision would harm public schools

68% of respondents who lived in rural areas approved of the legislature's decision to hold down public school spending

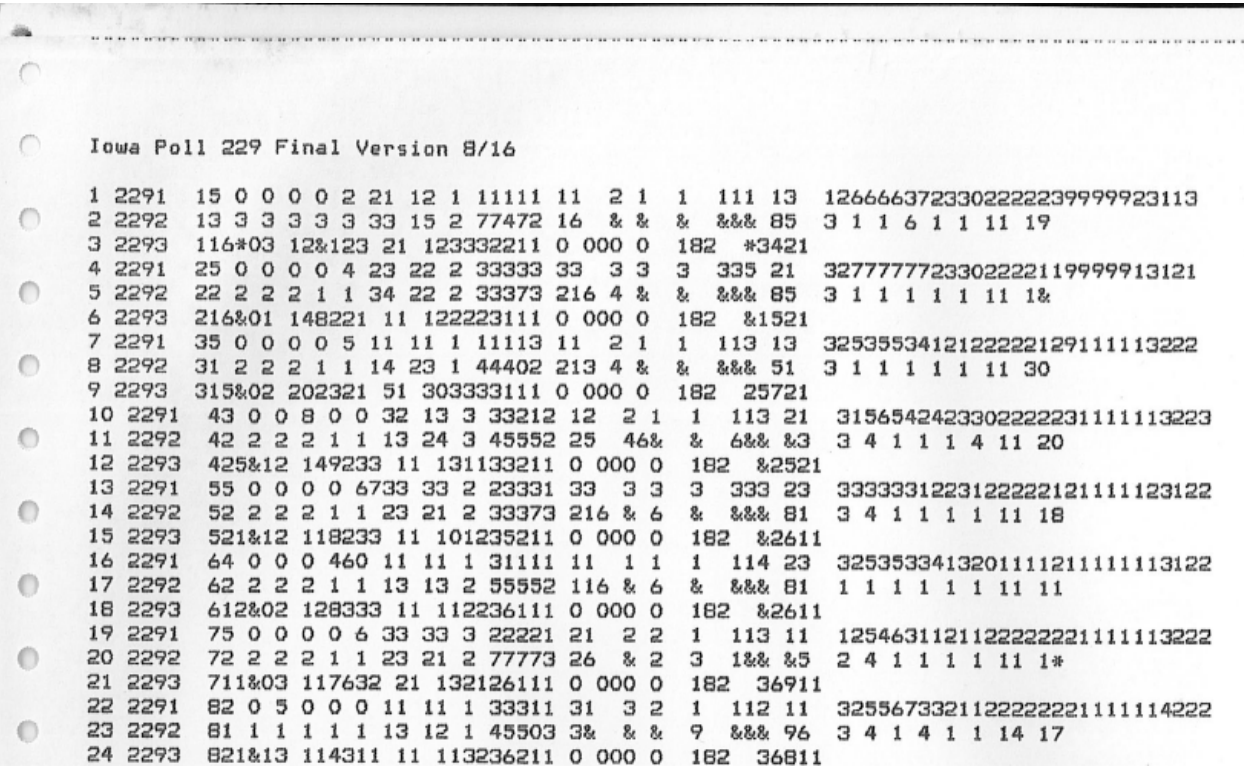


About IPOL

The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab is a research group with about 20 student associates who collaborate to study policymaking and public opinion in Iowa. Currently, the students are restoring rediscovered Iowa opinion polls from 1946 to 1981 originally conducted by the Des Moines Register to examine and compare responses to modern-day opinions.

Restoring Historical Iowa Polls

We received boxes of old Iowa Poll questionnaires and data sets from the 1940s through the 1980s from the estate of Tom Mans, UI PhD in Political Science, 1981.



Unfortunately, we were unable to retrieve the survey data from the 40 year-old tape reels.

So we double-entered it by hand from the printed copies we received, totaling about 360,000 entries.

Iowa Poll #248

Conducted by the Des Moines Register.

Completed 1011 interviews with Iowans April 20, 1981

Asked over 100 questions about Iowa politics, international issues, gun safety, personal finances, and social trust.

Acknowledgments

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Handguns

75% of respondents agreed that it should be legal for private citizens to own handguns

56% of respondents favored a strict federal handgun control law, providing registration and licensing of all handguns

28% of respondents believed that a strict federal gun control law would provide greater security for the President

65% of women believed in a strict federal gun registration law compared to only 47% of men

For both Democrats and Republicans, 75% of respondents believed that handguns should be legal for private citizens while Independents jumped to 76% of respondents

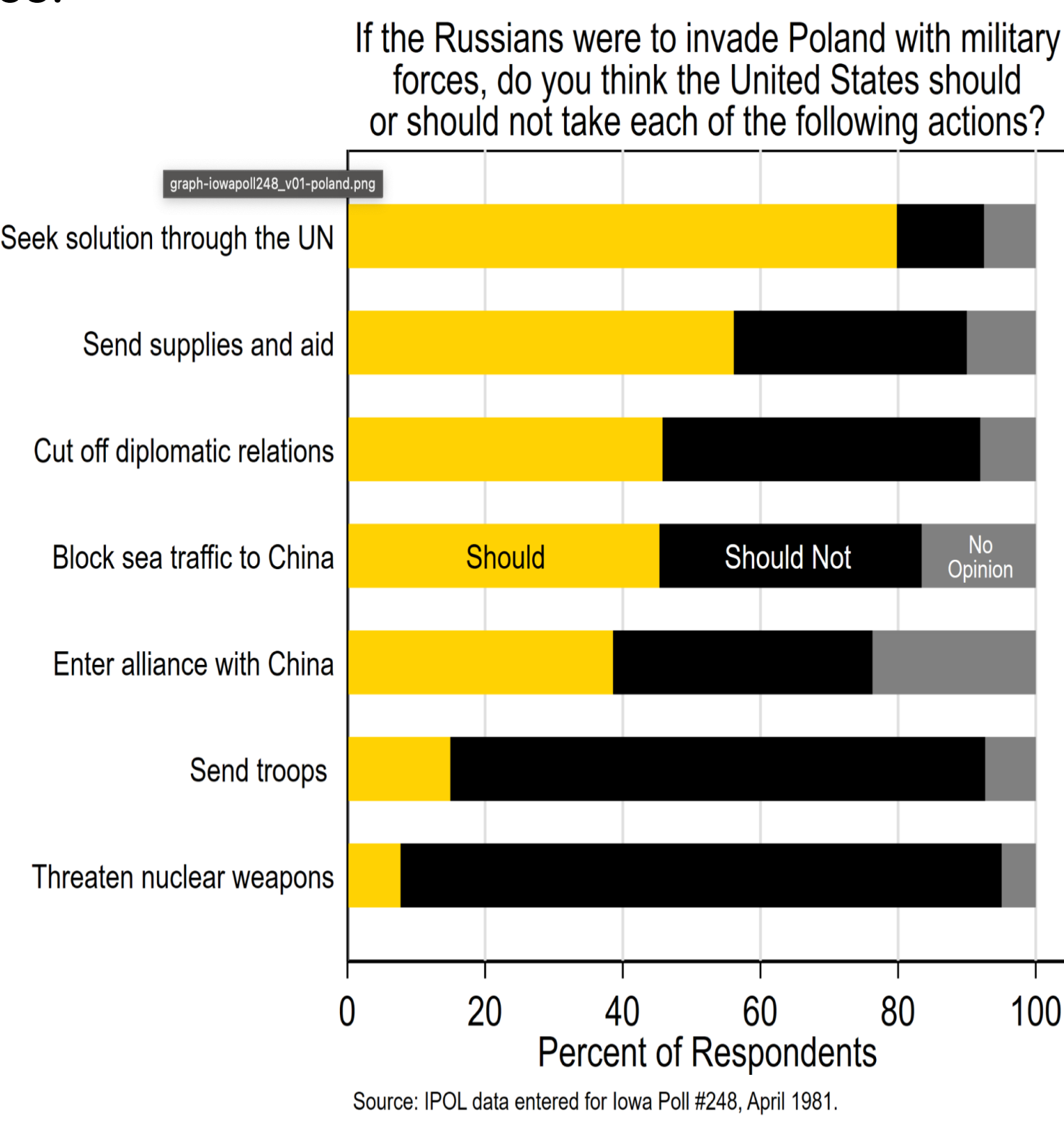
Invasion of Poland

80% of respondents agreed the U.S should seek a resolution through the United Nations

56% agreed the U.S should send military supplies and economic aid without sending troops

15% agreed the U.S should send troops to defend Poland

8% agreed the U.S should threaten nuclear weapons



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