

# The Venezuelan people do not support Maduro

By Emily Kuzan and Danielle Goldfarb

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## The Takeaway:

**A large, broad-based, and consistent majority of Venezuelans believe that Nicolás Maduro: (a) should not be the President, and (b) is not the legitimate President.**

Nicolás Maduro became Venezuela's President for a second time in January, but is widely viewed as a dictator who has "crushed the economy, starved the people, strangled democracy and forced more than 3 million Venezuelans into exile"<sup>1</sup>. The US, Canada and many other countries view the opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the country's legitimate interim leader. In late April and early May, Guaidó tried and failed to oust Maduro from office. Maduro claims he has broad support and refuses to cede power. Dozens have been injured in violent clashes between opposition and pro-government forces as citizens continue to flood the streets of Caracas to support Guaidó.

How much support does Maduro enjoy and how broad-based is it? Guaidó has encouraged public employees to go on strike to undermine the government. But state employees have been told that they would lose their jobs if they do not show up to government rallies and may fear the same if they show up at anti-government rallies. The protesters are likely the most engaged Guaidó supporters.

To get a true read on what the public thinks in Venezuela beyond the protesters in Caracas, we used an innovative web-based technology that captures a broader range of voices than traditional methods. RIWI randomly engaged approximately 3,500 Internet-using Venezuelans on their views of the Venezuelan leadership from February 15 - March 18, 2019.

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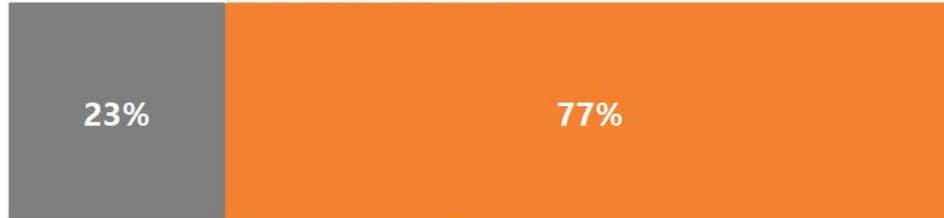
<sup>1</sup> The Economist magazine. May 2, 2019.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2019/05/04/how-to-get-rid-of-nicolas-maduro>.

The data show clearly that the vast majority of Venezuelans do not support Maduro. Three-quarters say that Maduro should not be the President:

### Venezuelans overwhelmingly oppose Maduro as President

Support Maduro | Do not support Maduro

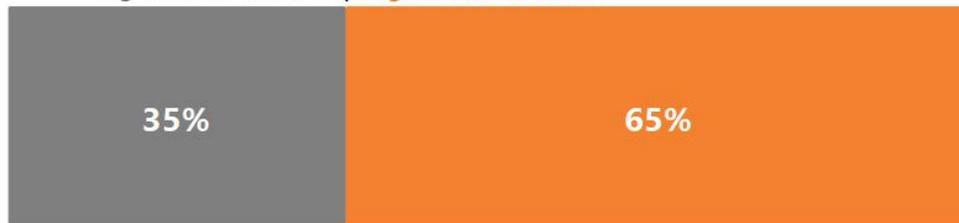


Source: RIWI data, Venezuela tracking, Feb 15-Mar 18, 2019, 3,591 Internet users. Data weighted by age and gender.

Only one third believe that Maduro is the legitimate President:

### Venezuelans do not believe Maduro is the legitimate President

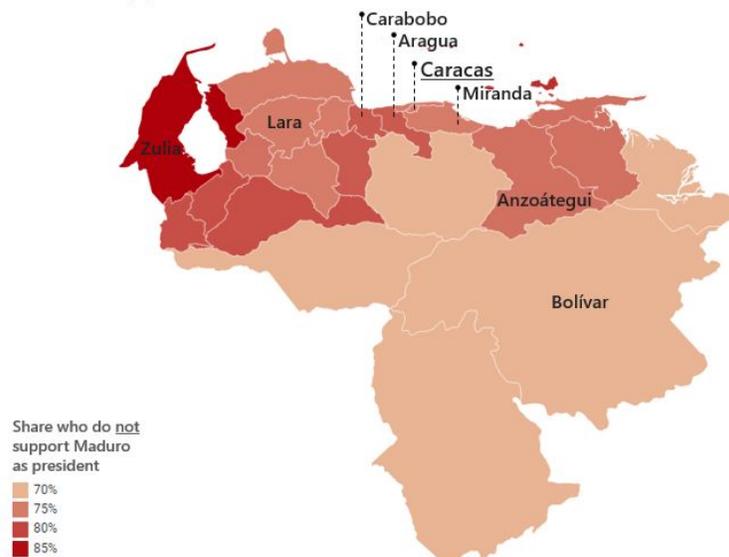
Legitimate President | Illegitimate President



Source: RIWI data, Venezuela tracking, Feb 15-Mar 18, 2019, 3,383 Internet users. Data weighted by age and gender.

And this sentiment is consistent over time and across the country:

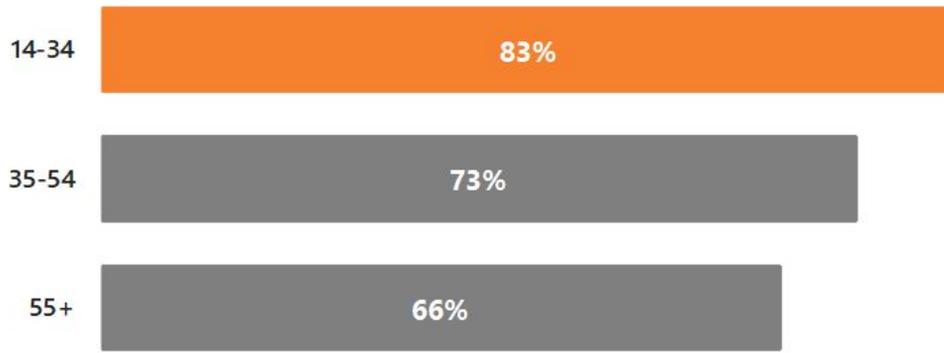
### Lack of support for Maduro across Venezuela



Note: Map shows support by administrative region. Fewer than 200 observations in Guyana, Insular, Llanos and Zulian regions. Source: RIWI data, Venezuela tracking, Feb 15-Mar 18, 2019, 3,591 Internet users. Data weighted by age and gender.

Support for Maduro does increase with age, but the majority of Venezuelans, across all ages, do not support Maduro:

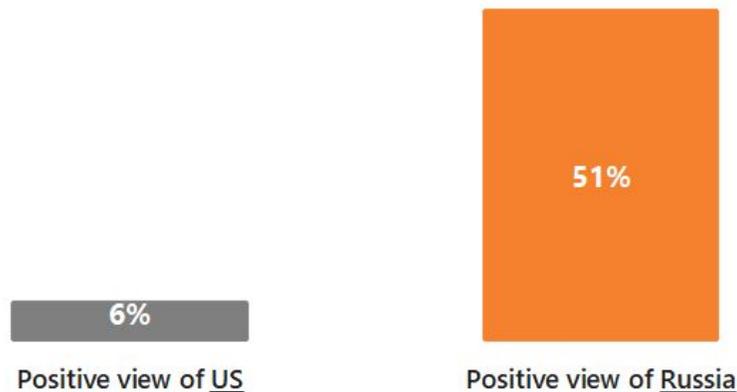
### Share who do not support Maduro, by age



Source: RIWI data, Venezuela tracking, Feb 15-Mar 18, 2019, 3,591 Internet users weighted by age and gender.

While more than 50 countries recognize Guaidó as Venezuela’s legitimate leader, Russia backs Maduro, and the data show, unsurprisingly, that those who have a positive view of Russia also support Maduro as President. By contrast, and also as expected, almost all of the respondents who have a positive view of the US oppose Maduro.

### Share who support Maduro as President



Source: RIWI data, Venezuela tracking, Feb 15-Mar 18, 2019, 2,788 Internet users weighted by age and gender.

Overall, the data show clearly that the overwhelming majority of the country does not support Maduro and do not see him as the legitimate President of Venezuela.



To access the full dataset from Venezuela, to ask questions in Venezuela in real-time, or to learn more about RIWI's real-time trackers in all countries, please contact:

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### **RIWI reaches broader set of voices**

RIWI technology is unique in that anyone using the Internet on any device in any region of the Internet-using world could be exposed to these questions, rather than traditional surveys which survey a vastly narrower group of potential respondents. In Venezuela over February 15-March 18, three-quarters of RIWI respondents responded via personal computer, one-quarter via smartphone. Seventy percent of the smartphone users who answered were using phones older than three years old. RIWI used country-specific census data to weight these data according to the age and gender characteristics of the general population.

RIWI is a global trend-tracking and prediction company that is a leader in data quality, privacy, and security (see [here](#) for more information). The technology is used extensively and under long-term agreements by the US State Department and other G7 government agencies, the World Bank, UN agencies, academics at top Universities such as Harvard and Oxford, and by global financial institutions.

RIWI emerged to solve a public policy challenge. A G-7 government agency found existing methods to track the public's response to pandemics unreliable, lagging reality, and not globally comparable. RIWI's technology responded with a highly reliable signal, available in real-time, that can be compared across countries simultaneously. Since then, RIWI's proprietary technology has continued to track epidemics including Zika and Ebola, and has been extended far beyond the field of global public health to track a broad range of social and economic issues in almost all countries and territories of the world.

For more on RIWI's award-winning technology and its applications, see: <https://riwi.com>.