DACA at Four: Estimating the Potentially Eligible Population and Assessing Application and Renewal Trends
Presenters

Margie McHugh, Director, National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, MPI

Randy Capps, Director of Research, U.S. Programs, MPI

Faye Hipsman, Policy Analyst and California Program Coordinator, MPI
Logistics

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Core Elements: MPI DACA Analyses

- **Population profiles:** periodic updating of national, state and local estimates of potentially eligible applicants; creation of web tools to provide speedy public access.

- **Program implementation:** tracking of initial and renewal application and adjudication processes and associated issues/insights.

- **Educational success:** research and local capacity-building to support progress towards diplomas, certificates and degrees.
Agenda for Today’s Discussion

➢ **Analysis of the DACA population**
  - Updated estimates
  - National application and renewal rates
  - Application and renewal rates by state and country of birth

➢ **Recent DACA policy developments**

➢ **DACA’s impacts on recipients**
Randy Capps is Director of Research for U.S. Programs at the Migration Policy Institute. His areas of expertise include immigration trends, the unauthorized population, immigrants in the U.S. labor force, the children of immigrants and their well-being, and immigrant health-care and public benefits access and use.

Dr. Capps, a demographer, has published widely on immigrant integration at the state and local level. He also has examined the impact of the detention and deportation of immigrant parents on children.

Prior to joining MPI, Dr. Capps was a researcher in the Immigration Studies Program at the Urban Institute (1993-96, and 2000-08).

He received his PhD in sociology from the University of Texas in 1999 and his master of public affairs degree, also from the University of Texas, in 1992.
Acknowledgments

- James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar at Temple University, Philadelphia analyzed the data on legal status of immigrants that provide the basis for these estimates.

- Jennifer Van Hook at Pennsylvania State University advised in developing the methodology.

- Ariel Ruiz and Bárbara Gómez-Aguiñaga at MPI assisted with analysis of initial and renewal application rates.
The DACA Program

Provides work authorization and relief from deportation for 2-year periods for youth:

• Age 15+
• Under age 31 as of June 2012
• Arrived in the United States before age 16
• Unauthorized and present in U.S. as of June 2012
• Resided continuously in the U.S. since June 2007
• Have high school diploma/equivalent, or be enrolled in school or an adult education program
• Can pass a security, criminal background check

Source: USCIS, “Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process”
MPI’s Methodology to Estimate Eligible Populations

- Used MPI’s unique assignments of unauthorized status to noncitizens in the most recent data:
  - The U.S. Census Bureau 2014 American Community Survey (ACS).
  - Assignments based on legal status recorded in the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

- Aged forward the population:
  - Unauthorized youth ages 13 or 14 in the 2014 ACS are two years older as of 2016, so counted as eligible. (Minimum age for DACA is 15).

* Could not model criminal convictions or adult education program enrollment.
Three DACA-Eligible Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Potentially Eligible</td>
<td>1,932,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediately eligible youth (ages 15-34)</td>
<td>1,307,000</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth who did not appear to meet education criteria (ages 15-34)</td>
<td>398,000</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children eligible in the future (under 15)</td>
<td>228,000</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau pooled data from the 2010-14 American Community Survey (ACS) with legal status assignments by James D. Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University.

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As of March 2016, USCIS had accepted 819,512 initial DACA applications.

- 728,285 (89 percent) were approved.

MPI calculated two national application rates:

- 63 percent of immediately eligible unauthorized youth, who met all criteria we could model (1.3 million)
- 48 percent of the broader group that includes the immediately eligible plus those who did not meet the education requirements (1.7 million)

### Initial Application Rates by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Immediately Eligible</th>
<th>Immediately Eligible and Eligible But for Education</th>
<th>Applications Accepted by USCIS</th>
<th>Application Rate Using Immediately Eligible (%)</th>
<th>Application Rate Using Immediately Eligible and Eligible But for Education (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Total</td>
<td>1,307,000</td>
<td>1,705,000</td>
<td>820,000</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>379,000</td>
<td>499,000</td>
<td>231,000</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>177,000</td>
<td>234,000</td>
<td>134,000</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>76,000</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>68,000</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>46,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau pooled 2010-14 ACS data, with legal status assignments by Bachmeier, Hammar, and Van Hook; USCIS, “Data Set: Form I-821D Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” multiple quarterly reports.
# Initial Application Rates by Country of Birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>Immediately Eligible</th>
<th>Immediately Eligible and Eligible But for Education</th>
<th>Applications Accepted by USCIS</th>
<th>Application Rate Using Immediately Eligible (%)</th>
<th>Application Rate Using Immediately Eligible and Eligible But for Education (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>822,000</td>
<td>1,136,000</td>
<td>634,000</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>93,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notes:* Totals may not add up due to rounding. Percentages are calculated on unrounded numbers and may not match those calculated based on the rounded numbers.

*Sources:* MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau pooled 2010-14 ACS data, with legal status assignments by Bachmeier, Hammar, and Van Hook; USCIS, “Data Set: Form I-821D Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” multiple quarterly reports.

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## Calculation of Renewal Rates

### Total Number of Initial DACA Approvals and Renewal Requestors, FY 2012 - 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial DACA Approval</th>
<th>Timeframe to File Renewals</th>
<th>Eligible to File for Renewal</th>
<th>Renewsals Filed</th>
<th>Renewals Not Yet Filed</th>
<th>Renewal Request Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014</td>
<td>May 4, 2014 – March 2, 2016</td>
<td>580,859</td>
<td>539,008</td>
<td>41,851</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** Although USCIS started accepting DACA requests on August 15, 2012, it began approving them on September 1, 2012; thus, the first wave of renewal requests would have started in May 4, 2014, following USCIS guidelines. However, USCIS did not begin accepting renewal requests until June 5, 2014.

Renewal Rates by State

Sources: MPI analysis of data from USCIS, “Data Set: Form I-821D Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” multiple quarterly reports.

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## Renewal Rates by Country of Birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Eligible to File for Renewal</th>
<th>Renewal Requests Accepted by USCIS</th>
<th>Renewal Request Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>449,921</td>
<td>418,044</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>21,099</td>
<td>20,229</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>14,034</td>
<td>13,110</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>13,839</td>
<td>12,965</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>7,554</td>
<td>6,548</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>7,525</td>
<td>6,816</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>6,016</td>
<td>5,210</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>5,602</td>
<td>4,899</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>5,342</td>
<td>4,843</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>3,579</td>
<td>3,202</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sources:* MPI analysis of administrative data from USCIS, “Data Set: Form I-821D Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” multiple quarterly reports.
Faye Hipsman is a Policy Analyst and California Program Coordinator with the U.S. Immigration Policy Program at the Migration Policy Institute (MPI). She joined MPI in 2011 and is now based in San Francisco. Her areas of expertise include immigration enforcement and border security, state and local immigration policies, and immigration and politics.

She has published more than 50 reports, articles, and policy briefs on a wide range of immigration topics covering the United States, Mexico, and Central America. In 2016, Ms. Hipsman became an Affiliated Scholar with University of California-Hastings College of the Law. Prior to MPI, she worked as a paralegal at an immigration and nationality law firm in Boston on a variety of deportation, family-based, and employment-based cases. She has also worked at the Brookings Institution and for several immigrant advocacy and civil-rights organizations in Texas and Ohio.

Ms. Hipsman holds a BA in Latin American studies with minors in economics and history from Oberlin College.
DACA Policy Developments

- Second-time DACA renewals are beginning in August 2016.
  - 500,000 participants obtained DACA in 2012 and renewed DACA in 2014.

- DACA’s continuation may depend on the 2016 election outcome.

- A federal district court in Texas enjoined DAPA and expanded DACA in February 2015.
  - Supreme Court upheld injunction in June 2016.

- 3-year work authorization documents were issued in 2014 and 2015, causing legal controversy.

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DACA’s Impact on Participants

Employment opportunities

The findings of several small-scale early surveys indicate that DACA grantees:

• Have experienced improved employment opportunities and earnings
  • More than 75 percent reported obtaining a new job after enrolling in DACA; more than half reported obtaining a higher-paying job

• Have access to better economic opportunities, compared to their non-DACA counterparts
  • 84 percent of DACA participants reported having a job, versus 68 percent of those without deferred action

DACA’s Impact on Participants

Educational opportunities and social integration

These surveys also indicate that DACA grantees:

➢ Have returned to school, find it easier to stay in school, and can finance their education through work

➢ Experience improved social integration and civil participation.

• DACA grantees reported greater sense of freedom and belonging, as well as alleviated fears of removal.

• 99 percent of DACA grantees said they would become U.S. citizens if given the opportunity.

Sources: Jaimes Pérez (2015); Patler and Cabrera (2015).
Driver’s Licenses, IDs, and Advance Parole

- **DACA grantees are eligible for driver’s licenses in all states.**
  - Surveys show that the majority of DACA grantees have obtained a state-issued driver’s license and/or state identification card since enrolling in DACA.

- **DACA grantees are eligible to apply for Advance Parole.**
  - More than 22,000 DACA grantees have been granted Advance Parole as of December 2015.
  - Of those granted Advance Parole, almost 3,000 DACA participants were later approved for adjustment of status (a green card).

*Source:* Jaimes Pérez 2015; Patler and Cabrera 2015; Letter from Leon Rodriguez, Director of USCIS, to Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley, 2016.
DACA at Four: In Conclusion

- With the broader DAPA program suspended, DACA remains the only avenue for unauthorized immigrants to affirmatively receive deportation relief on a large scale.

- Half, if not more, of eligible unauthorized youth have applied for DACA.

- Renewal rates exceed 90 percent almost across the board, and substantial benefits have been documented.

- Going forward, outreach should focus on unauthorized youth:
  - Who could qualify by enrolling in adult education.
  - Who will age into eligibility when they turn 15 (250,000 already have done so.)
Q & A

- Use Q&A chat function on the right of the screen to write questions.

- Or you can send an email to events@migrationpolicy.org with your question or tweet to @MigrationPolicy #MPIdiscuss

- Slides and audio from today’s webinar will be available at www.migrationpolicy.org/events

- The report discussed today is available on our website:


  - The tool discussed on today’s webinar is available at: http://bit.ly/DACAstats

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Data tool, including county-level profiles for unauthorized individuals (117 counties): http://bit.ly/unauthdata


MPI resources and reports on DACA-DREAM Youth: http://bit.ly/dacadreamMPI
Thank You For Joining Us!

For more information:

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