



DACA: What You Need to Know

DACA Demographics

- Over the last decade, DACA has protected [more than 830,000](#) young people.
- DACA has enabled roughly [832,881 eligible young adults](#) to work lawfully, attend school and plan their lives without the constant threat of deportation (American Immigration Council)
 - As of December 2021, there were more than [611,000 individuals](#) with DACA.
 - [Based on a tally](#) of DACA expirations between January 2022 and December 2022, the total number of work permits set to expire this year is 301,610.
- There are approximately [80,000 new](#) DACA applications currently stalled due to Judge Hanen's ruling.
- The average DACA recipient is now [26 years old](#).
- The oldest DACA individual is [39 years old](#).
- Over the past year and a half, more than three quarters of DACA recipients in the workforce—[343,000](#)—were employed in jobs deemed essential by the Department of Homeland Security's [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#).
 - Of this, 34,000 were healthcare workers providing patient care, and
 - Another 11,000 individuals were working in healthcare settings keeping these facilities functioning.

DACA's Impact on U.S. Citizens

- [More than 1.3 million](#) people live with a DACA recipient, including 300,000 U.S.-born children who have at least one parent with DACA.
- According to a recent [2021 DACA survey](#), over 76% of DACA recipients have an immediate family member (*parent, sibling, spouse, or child*) who is a U.S. citizen.
- An estimated more than 2.5 million U.S. citizens live with DACA-Eligible young people.
- [250,000 - 300,000](#) U.S. citizen children have a parent who is a DACA recipient.
- More than 90% of recipients are employed.
- **According to American Immigration Council, within DACA-eligible individuals:**
 - 58% of recipients moved on to a job with better pay;
 - 48% moved to a job with better working conditions;
 - **53% moved to a job with health insurance or other benefits.**

DACA's impact on the economy

- [According to American Immigration Council](#) (2021):
- 53% of respondents moved to a job that "better fits [their] education and training."
- 52% moved to a job that "better fits [their] long-term career goals."
- 17% obtained professional licenses.
- The average hourly wage of respondents increased by 86% after receiving DACA, rising from \$10.46 per hour to \$19.45 per hour.

- 79% of respondents to “become financially independent” but benefited the U.S. economy by increasing their purchasing power and tax payments at the federal, state and local levels.
- 60% of respondents said they bought their first car after receiving DACA, which boosted auto sales and generated sales tax revenue and registration and title fees.
- 14% of respondents said they bought their first home after receiving DACA, which had comparable ripple effects throughout the economy.
 - Roughly 56,000 DACA recipients are homeowners who make \$566.9 million in mortgage payments each year.
 - DACA recipients who are not homeowners pay \$2.3 billion in rent each year.
- Households containing DACA recipients have \$24 billion in after-tax spending power.

Education

- [40% of DACA recipients](#) are in school, and most of these (83%) were working toward a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- [93% said](#) that because of DACA, “[They] pursued educational opportunities that [they] previously could not.”
- [46% of respondents reported](#) already having a bachelor’s degree or more education.
- **A majority of undocumented students entering higher education today are not eligible for DACA.**
 - Over [427,000 undocumented students](#) enrolled in postsecondary education. Of these students, **less than half (181,000) are DACA-eligible.**
 - **Nearly 100,000 undocumented students graduate high school annually**, but only [a quarter of undocumented students](#) graduating high school now are estimated to be eligible for DACA.
 - To see enrollment of undocumented students by state, visit the [Higher Education Immigration Portal](#).

Support for a Pathway to Citizenship

- By a margin of 83% to 12%, Americans support allowing undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children to remain in the United States and eventually apply for citizenship (Republicans support doing so by 66% to 30%.) (Feb. 2021 [Quinnipiac poll](#)).
- 80% of Americans back permanent legal status for undocumented immigrants, including a 64% majority that supports citizenship ([PRRI poll](#)).
- Recent polling [shows](#) that if the courts strike down DACA, 60% support Congress taking action to provide immigrant youth with permanent protections.

Resources

- **USCIS**—*Number of Form I 821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals -Requests by Intake and Case Status, by Fiscal Year Aug. 15, 2012 - Sep. 30, 2021*, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/DACA_performancedata_fy2021_qtr4.pdf
- **USCIS**—*Active DACA Recipients – September 30, 2021*, <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active%20DACA%20Recipients%20%E2%80%93%20September%2030%2C%202021.pdf>
- **American Immigration Council**—*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): An Overview*, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-overview>

- **CBS News**—*Biden administration assigns more staff to review DACA applications as backlog soars,*
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-daca-applications-biden-administration-more-staff/>
- **Center for American Progress**—*The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition,*
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-demographic-and-economic-impacts-of-daca-recipients-fall-2021-edition/>
- **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency**—*Identifying Critical Infrastructure During COVID-19,* <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>
- **UC San Diego and Center for American Progress**—*Results from Tom K. Wong et al., 2021 National DACA Study,*
<https://cf.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/New-DACA-Survey-2021-Final.pdf>
- **Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration and New American Economy**—*Undocumented Students in Higher Education (Updated March 2021),*
<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/research/undocumented-students-in-higher-education-updated-march-2021/>
- **Migration Policy Institute**—*How Many Unauthorized Immigrants Graduate from the U.S. High Schools Annually?,*
<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/research/migration-policy-institute-fact-sheet-on-number-of-dreamers-graduating-from-high-school/>
- **FWD.us**—*The Post-DACA Generation is Here,*
<https://www.fwd.us/news/undocumented-high-school-graduates/>
- **PRRI**—*Immigration After Trump: What Would Immigration Policy that Followed American Public Opinion Look Like?,*
<https://www.prr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PRRI-2021-Immigration-Post-Trump.pdf>
- **Quinnipiac University**—*National Poll Release: February 3, 2021,*
https://poll.qu.edu/images/polling/us/us02032021_uszn68.pdf
- **Immigration Hub**—*New Battleground Survey,*
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b60b2381aef1dbe876cd08f/t/6260036d231b2039b4f3609c/1650459501856/Immigration+Hub+-+Memo+-+2022+Poll+Results.FINAL.pdf>
- **Higher Education Immigration Portal**
<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/states/>