

## DACA and Dreamers: What You Need to Know

### DACA Demographics

- Over the last decade, DACA has protected [more than 830,000](#) individuals.
  - DACA has enabled [them](#) to work lawfully, attend school, and plan their lives without the constant threat of deportation (American Immigration Council).
  - As of June 2022, there were more than [594,000 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.
- The average DACA individual has lived in the United States for about [22 years](#).
- The average DACA recipient is now [28 years old](#).
- Over [960,000](#) U.S. Citizens live with a DACA recipient.
- 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.
  - Another 11,000 individuals were working in healthcare settings keeping these facilities functioning.
- There are approximately [80,000 new](#) DACA applications currently stalled due to Judge Hanen's ruling.

### DACA's Impact on the Economy

- Local communities would instantly feel the economic effects of halting DACA.
  - An [estimated 22,000 jobs](#) would be lost each and every month for two years—about 1,000 jobs each business day.
- If DACA renewals are halted, [approximately 1,600](#) DACA recipients working in healthcare, including doctors and nurses, 800 educational professionals like teachers and teacher aides, and 600 personal care workers in child or senior care would be forced out of their jobs each month for two years.
- California and Texas would suffer the [highest number of job](#) losses if DACA ends, with an estimated 6,000 monthly job losses in California and 5,000 in Texas. In Texas, this means 400 healthcare workers and 300 teachers would be forced out of their jobs each month.
- In other top states, the monthly job losses would amount to [1,000](#) individuals in Illinois, [800](#) in New York, [800](#) in Arizona, [700](#) in both Florida and North Carolina, [600](#) in Georgia, and [500](#) in both Washington and Colorado.

### [According to the American Immigration Council](#) (2021):

- Households containing DACA recipients have \$24 billion in after-tax spending power.
- 53% of DACA holders moved to a job that “better fits [their] education and training.”
- The average hourly wage of respondents increased by 86% after receiving DACA, rising from \$10.46 per hour to \$19.45 per hour.
- 52% moved to a job that “better fits [their] long-term career goals.”
- 17% obtained professional licenses.
- 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.

### 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.

### DACA Recipients and Education

- The [overwhelming majority](#) of DACA recipients have graduated high school, and nearly half have attained some college education.
- [40% of DACA recipients](#) are in school, and most of these (83%) were working toward a bachelor's degree or higher.
- [181,624 undocumented students](#) pursuing higher education are DACA recipients or DACA eligible, and close to 13% of these students are pursuing graduate or professional degrees.
- [43% of DACA-eligible advanced degree students](#) received their undergraduate degree in STEM.
- [93% of respondents to a survey 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.
- Dreamers Without DACA:
  - A majority of undocumented students entering higher ed are not DACA eligible.
  - Nearly [100,000 undocumented students](#) graduate high school annually, but only [a quarter](#) graduating high school now are estimated to be eligible for DACA.
  - Of the [427,000 undocumented students](#) estimated enrolled in postsecondary education, a majority (245,721) do not have DACA and are not DACA-eligible.
  - To see enrollment of undocumented students by state, visit the [Higher Education Immigration Portal](#).

### Support for Dreamers

- Among 1,044 registered voters, [79% of Americans](#) would support legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children (Republicans support doing so by [76%](#)).
- **68-32%:** The new national [12,000-plus sample Midterm Election Voter Poll](#) found 68-32% support for "passing a law right after the election to provide permanent legal status to DACA recipients and Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the country as children but raised in the U.S."
- **74-21% support for legislation pairing Dreamers' citizenship with border security.** Late October [polling](#) conducted by bipartisan pollsters found that a majority of voters across the political spectrum supported legislation that would pair an earned path to citizenship for Dreamers with policies to secure the southern border. 82% of Democrats, 73% of Independents, and 58% of Republicans supported such legislation.
- 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.\*](#)
- **USCIS**—[\*Count of Active DACA Recipients – June 30, 2022.\*](#)
- **USCIS**—[\*Active DACA Recipients – September 30, 2021.\*](#)
- **FWD.US**—[\*What happens if DACA ends? – August 22, 2022.\*](#)
- **American Immigration Council**—[\*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\): An Overview.\*](#)
- **Boundless**—[\*Challenges and Opportunities Facing DACA Recipients.\*](#)
- **CBS News**—[\*Biden administration assigns more staff to review DACA applications as backlog soars.\*](#)
- **Center for American Progress**—[\*The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition.\*](#)
- **FWD.US**—[\*DACA Decade: From Students to careers and families.\*](#)
- **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency**—[\*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.\*](#)
- **Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration and New American Economy**— [\*Undocumented Students in Higher Education \(Updated March 2021\).\*](#)
- **Migration Policy Institute**—[\*How Many Unauthorized Immigrants Graduate from the U.S. High Schools Annually?\*](#)
- **FWD.us**—[\*The Post-DACA Generation is Here.\*](#)
- **PRRI**—[\*Immigration After Trump: What Would Immigration Policy that Followed American Public Opinion Look Like?\*](#)
- **Quinnipiac University**—[\*National Poll Release: February 3, 2021.\*](#)
- **National Immigration Forum**—[\*Americans Support Reforms that Address Border, Dreamers, Farmworkers.\*](#)
- **Immigration Hub**—[\*New Battleground Survey.\*](#)
- **[Higher Education Immigration Portal](#)**