

Results from Tom K. Wong¹ et al., 2020 National DACA Study

Survey fielded 8/18/20 to 9/10/20
(*n* = 1,157)

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¹ Tom K. Wong is associate professor of political science and founding director of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego.

Methodology

The questionnaire was administered to an online panel of DACA recipients recruited by the partner organizations. Several steps were taken to account for the known sources of bias that result from such online panels. To prevent ballot stuffing—one person submitting multiple responses—the authors did not offer an incentive to respondents for taking the questionnaire and used a state-of-the-art online survey platform that does not allow one IP address to submit multiple responses. To prevent spoiled ballots—meaning people responding who are not undocumented—the authors used a unique validation test for undocumented status. Multiple questions were asked about each respondent’s migratory and DACA application history. These questions were asked at different parts of the questionnaire. When repeated, the questions were posed using different wording. If there was agreement in the answers such that there was consistency regarding the respondent’s migratory history, the respondent was kept in the resulting pool of respondents. If not, the respondent was excluded. In order to recruit respondents outside of the networks of the partner organizations, Facebook ads were also used. Because there is no phone book of undocumented immigrants, and given the nature of online opt-in surveys, it is not possible to construct a valid margin of error.

Economic Integration

Check all that apply. After my DACA application was approved, I...

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Got my first job	.....	55.2%	45.8%
Got a job with better pay	.....	63.2%	69.8%
Got a job that better fits my education and training	.....	52.6%	55.9%
Got a job that better fits my long-term career goals	.....	54.5%	59.4%
Got a job with health insurance or other benefits	.....	59.0%	65.5%
Got a job with improved work conditions	.....	52.8%	58.2%
Started my own business	.....	6.1%	7.0%
Obtained a professional license	.....	16.7%	18.3%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me become financially independent	.....	83.7%	86.9%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped my family financially	.....	83.5%	84.4%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me take care of an elderly parent or relative	.....	29.6%	33.2%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me pay for childcare*	.....	50.3%	50.0%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me pay for medical expenses	.....	53.9%	56.7%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me pay for tuition**	.....	86.4%	86.5%
I was able to move into better/improved housing	.....	53.2%	60.4%
Got my first credit card	.....	70.1%	69.6%
Opened a bank account	.....	54.3%	45.4%
Opened a retirement account	.....	37.0%	42.1%
Bought my first car	.....	65.1%	68.0%
Bought my first home	.....	20.4%	25.2%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. * *n* = 320 for all respondents with children and *n* = 308 for all respondents 25 years and older with children. ** *n* = 352 for all respondents currently in school and *n* = 193 for all respondents 25 years and older and currently in school.

Are you currently employed?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	88.5%	89.1%
No	.....	11.5%	10.9%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

..... **Please indicate your average hourly wage OR annual salary.**
 (n = 1,024, which represents the 88.5% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25
Average hourly wage	.....	\$24.88	\$27.17
Median hourly wage	.....	\$21.88	\$24.00
Average annual earnings	.....	\$47,979	\$52,164
Median annual earnings	.....	\$42,000	\$46,080

Note: n = 786 for respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. Figures exclude the bottom 1st and top 99th percentiles.

..... **On average, how many hours do you work per week?**
 (n = 1,024, which represents the 88.5% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25
Average hours worked per week	.....	38.8	40.6
Median hours worked per week	.....	40.3	40.0

Note: n = 786 for respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. Figures exclude the bottom 1st and top 99th percentiles.

..... **Were you employed before DACA?**
 (n = 1,024, which represents the 88.5% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	45.3%	56.1%
No	.....	54.7%	43.9%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. n = 786 for respondents 25 years and older and currently employed.

..... **Please indicate your average hourly wage OR annual salary before DACA.**
 ($n = 417$, which represents the 42.3% of respondents who are currently employed and were also employed before DACA)

			>= 25
Average hourly wage	.....	\$11.77	\$11.89
Median hourly wage	.....	\$11.00	\$11.00
Average annual earnings	.....	\$22,594	\$22,832
Median annual earnings	.....	\$21,120	\$21,120

Note: $n = 441$ for respondents 25 years and older, currently employed, and were employed before DACA. Figures exclude the bottom 1st and top 99th percentiles.

..... **On average, how many hours did you work per week before DACA?**
 ($n = 464$, which represents the 45.3% of respondents who are currently employed and were also employed before DACA)

			>= 25
Average hours worked per week	.....	35.8	36.2
Median hours worked per week	.....	40.0	40.0

Note: $n = 441$ for respondents 25 years and older, currently employed, and were employed before DACA. Figures exclude the bottom 1st and top 99th percentiles.

Education

Check all that apply. After my DACA application was approved, I...

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Pursued educational opportunities that I previously could not	.....	66.6%	60.4%
I haven't pursued more education yet, but I plan to	.....	26.7%	30.8%
I don't plan to pursue more education	.....	4.6%	5.4%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

Are you currently in school?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	30.4%	21.9%
No	.....	69.6%	78.1%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

..... What degree are you currently pursuing?

(*n* = 352, which represents the 30.4% of all respondents who are currently in school)

			>= 25
GED or equivalent	.....	—	—
High-school diploma	.....	—	—
Trade/technical/vocational degree or certificate	.....	7.7%	10.9%
Associate's degree	.....	15.9%	16.6%
Bachelor's degree	.....	47.4%	31.6%
Master's degree	.....	19.6%	26.9%
Professional degree above a master's degree	.....	2.3%	3.1%
Doctorate degree	.....	7.1%	10.9%
No response	.....	—	—
Bachelor's degree or higher	.....	76.4%	72.5%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 193 for respondents 25 years and older and currently in school.

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If you are currently enrolled in school, what is the highest degree you have received thus far?

(*n* = 1,157)

		>= 25
GED or equivalent	2.6%	2.8%
High-school diploma	15.8%	14.5%
Trade/technical/vocational degree or certificate	5.9%	6.6%
Associate's degree	14.3%	12.9%
Some college	18.6%	16.9%
Bachelor's degree	30.8%	31.2%
Master's degree	10.5%	13.0%
Professional degree above a master's degree	0.9%	1.1%
Doctorate degree	0.7%	0.9%
No response	—	—
 Bachelor's degree or higher	 42.9%	 46.2%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for respondents 25 years and older.

Potential Risks of Deporting DACA Recipients

Check all that apply. In my country of birth...

(*n* = 1,157)

		>= 25
The quality of life I would be able to provide for myself and my family would be better than in the U.S.	3.8%	3.6%
I would be concerned about the physical safety of myself and my family	81.6%	80.9%
I would be concerned about homelessness for myself and my family	40.9%	41.7%
I would be concerned about food insecurity for myself and my family	57.6%	56.6%
I would be concerned about the quality of healthcare for myself and my family	78.8%	78.3%
I would be concerned about the quality of education for myself and my family	72.9%	69.9%
I would be concerned about not knowing the language well enough	32.1%	29.5%
I would be able to get a job with better pay than in the U.S.	2.4%	2.2%
I would be able to get a job that fits my education and training	11.3%	10.7%
I would be able to get a job that fits my long-term career goals	7.5%	7.0%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

Do you have an immediate family member, meaning a parent, sibling, spouse, or child, who still lives in your country of birth?

(*n* = 1,157)

		>= 25
Yes	29.1%	32.5%
No	70.9%	67.5%
No response	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

Inclusion and Belonging

Check all that apply. After my DACA application was approved, I...

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Have become more politically active	.....	46.1%	42.4%
Have become more involved in my community	.....	52.0%	49.4%
Am no longer afraid because of my immigration status	.....	63.1%	62.0%
Feel more like I belong in the U.S.	.....	63.0%	63.8%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

Check all that apply. After my DACA application was approved, I...

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Got a driver's license for the first time	.....	82.0%	81.7%
Got a state identification card for the first time	.....	60.1%	57.7%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

Do you have an immediate family member, meaning a parent, sibling, spouse, or child who is a U.S. citizen?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	76.6%	77.6%
No	.....	23.4%	22.4%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

Do you have children?

(n = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	27.7%	34.9%
No	.....	72.3%	65.1%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. n = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

..... **Do you have U.S. citizen children?**

(n = 320, which represents the 27.7% of all respondents who have children)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	99.7%	99.7%
No	.....	—	—
No response	.....	0.3%	0.3%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. n = 308 for all respondents 25 years and older with children.

Are you currently married?

(n = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	28.2%	34.2%
No	.....	71.8%	65.8%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. n = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older.

..... **Is your spouse a U.S. citizen?**

(n = 326, which represents the 28.2% of all respondents who are currently married)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	61.0%	57.9%
No	.....	38.7%	41.7%
No response	.....	0.3%	0.3%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. n = 302 for all respondents 25 years and currently married.

Survey Experiment

c_0 : How likely are you to do the following?

t_1 : If you no longer had DACA, how likely are you to do the following?

($n = 1,157$)

	c_0	t_1
	Likely/Very Likely	Likely/Very Likely
Report a crime that you were a victim of to the police	76.5%	45.9%
Use public services (e.g., go to City Hall) that required you to give your personal contact information	64.2%	21.4%
Do business (e.g., open a bank account, get a loan) that required you to give your personal contact information	90.9%	32.9%
Participate in public events where police may be present	57.3%	25.3%
Place your children in an after-school or day-care program*	66.5%	41.4%
Report wage theft or other abuses by your employer if needed	78.3%	28.7%
Continue your education if needed**	100.0%	43.1%
Pursue new educational opportunities if needed	94.9%	27.5%
Seek testing or treatment for COVID-19 if needed	90.0%	50.7%

Note: respondents were randomized into one of two conditions: c_0 or t_1 .

Concerns About Immigration Enforcement

How often do you think about the following?

(*n* = 1,157)

“Being detained in an immigration detention facility”

		>= 25	w/children
A few times an hour	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%
About once an hour	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%
A few times a day	10.9%	10.7%	13.8%
About once a day	19.7%	18.1%	20.0%
Less than once a day	45.6%	45.7%	42.5%
Never	20.2%	21.8%	20.6%
No response	—	—	—
About once a day or more	34.2%	32.5%	36.9%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 320 for all respondents with children.

“Being deported from the U.S.”

		>= 25	w/children
A few times an hour	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%
About once an hour	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%
A few times a day	14.5%	13.9%	19.1%
About once a day	25.2%	22.8%	24.1%
Less than once a day	42.3%	44.3%	38.1%
Never	13.2%	14.1%	13.4%
No response	—	—	—
About once a day or more	44.5%	41.5%	48.5%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 320 for all respondents with children.

“A family member being detained in an immigration detention facility”

		>= 25	w/children
A few times an hour	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
About once an hour	2.4%	1.9%	2.8%
A few times a day	19.5%	17.6%	23.1%
About once a day	29.0%	27.4%	29.4%
Less than once a day	30.6%	33.0%	22.8%
Never	13.5%	15.1%	16.9%
No response	—	—	—
About once a day or more	55.8%	51.9%	60.3%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 320 for all respondents with children.

“A family member being deported from the U.S.”

		>= 25	w/children
A few times an hour	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
About once an hour	2.4%	1.9%	2.8%
A few times a day	18.1%	16.6%	21.6%
About once a day	30.7%	28.8%	31.3%
Less than once a day	31.0%	33.6%	23.8%
Never	12.8%	14.2%	15.6%
No response	—	—	—
About once a day or more	56.2%	52.3%	60.7%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 320 for all respondents with children.

“Congress passing a new law that provides legal status for undocumented youth”

		>= 25	w/children
A few times an hour	8.6%	8.4%	10.9%
About once an hour	5.6%	5.6%	7.8%
A few times a day	26.4%	26.9%	30.6%
About once a day	30.9%	30.6%	30.0%
Less than once a day	22.4%	22.1%	15.6%
Never	6.1%	6.4%	5.0%
No response	—	—	—
About once a day or more	71.5%	71.5%	79.3%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 320 for all respondents with children.

..... **How often do you think about the following?**

(*n* = 320, which represents the 27.7% of all respondents who have children)

“Being separated from my children because of deportation”

A few times an hour	16.6%
About once an hour	4.4%
A few times a day	28.4%
About once a day	27.2%
Less than once a day	15.9%
Never	7.5%
No response	—
About once a day or more	76.6%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

“Not being able to see my children grow up because of deportation”

A few times an hour	15.9%
About once an hour	4.7%
A few times a day	28.1%
About once a day	24.1%
Less than once a day	17.2%
Never	10.0%
No response	—
About once a day or more	72.8%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Impact of DHS Memo

On July 28th, 2020, major changes were made to the DACA program. One major change includes granting 1 year of protection from deportation and work authorization per renewal instead of 2 years of protection from deportation and work authorization per renewal. Which of the following concerns do you have about this change?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Having only 1 year of DACA makes me more vulnerable to deportation	.....	62.7%	60.8%
Having only 1 year of DACA makes it more difficult for me to keep my job*	.....	56.1%	59.3%
Having only 1 year of DACA makes it more difficult for me to stay in college**	.....	40.0%	36.2%
The cost of applying to renew my DACA every year would be too much for me to afford	.....	65.7%	61.4%
I am concerned this means that the DACA program will be changed again	.....	72.3%	72.6%
I am concerned this means that the DACA program will end	.....	74.7%	74.2%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. * *n* = 1,024 for all respondents currently employed and *n* = 786 for all respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. ** *n* = 269 for all respondents currently in college and *n* = 140 for all respondents 25 years and older and currently in college.

Thinking about your most recent DACA renewal, how many months did it take for your DACA renewal application to be approved?

(*n* = 1,157)

Less than 1 month	.....	10.9%
1 month	.....	23.3%
2 months	.....	25.9%
3 months	.....	18.4%
4 months	.....	8.3%
5 months	.....	4.8%
6 months	.....	3.8%
7 months	.....	1.1%
8 months	.....	0.9%
9 months	.....	1.1%
10 months	.....	0.7%
11 months	.....	0.3%
12 months	.....	—
Longer than 12 months	.....	0.5%
No response	.....	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

COVID-19

Check all that apply. During the COVID-19 pandemic...

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
*I lost my job due to the COVID-19 pandemic	.....	45.1%	44.8%
**My work hours were reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic	.....	24.0%	21.4%
**My pay was reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic	.....	6.3%	6.7%
**I have continued to work during the COVID-19 pandemic due to being an essential worker	.....	57.7%	59.3%
***I have continued to work during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have not been given personal protective equipment (PPE) by my employer	.....	14.0%	8.2%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years and older. * *n* = 133 for all respondents currently not employed and *n* = 96 for all respondents 25 years and older and currently not employed. ** *n* = 1,024 for all respondents currently employed and *n* = 193 for all respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. *** Among respondents who are essential workers.

Have you had difficulty paying your mortgage due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

(*n* = 280, which represents the 24.2% of all respondents who own a home)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	18.9%	18.7%
No	.....	81.1%	81.3%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

Have you had difficulty paying your rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

(*n* = 877, which represents the 75.8% of all respondents who do not own a home)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	32.4%	27.9%
No	.....	67.6%	72.1%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

Was anyone in your home who was otherwise eligible for a stimulus check and had a Social Security Number (SSN) denied a stimulus check because their spouse or parents filed taxes with an ITIN?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	24.0%	22.8%
No	.....	58.0%	61.2%
Unsure	.....	17.9%	16.0%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

Civic Engagement

Do you plan on using your voice to encourage family members and friends who can vote to do so in the November 2020 general election?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	94.4%	93.8%
No	.....	5.6%	6.2%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

Check all that apply. After my initial DACA application was approved, I...

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Have become more politically active	.....	46.1%	42.4%
Have become more involved in my community	.....	52.0%	49.4%
Am no longer afraid because of my immigration status	.....	62.1%	62.0%
Feel more like I belong in the U.S.	.....	63.0%	63.8%
Contacted or tried to contact a member of the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives	.....	33.9%	33.6%
Contacted or tried to contact a member of my state or local government	.....	30.0%	27.4%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

From what you have seen and heard, how do you feel about the Black Lives Matter movement?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Strongly support	.....	68.9%	64.7%
Support	.....	20.7%	22.8%
Neither support nor oppose	.....	9.1%	10.8%
Oppose	.....	0.4%	0.5%
Strongly oppose	.....	0.8%	1.0%
No response	.....	0.2%	0.2%
Support/Strongly support	.....	89.6%	87.5%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

During the past 12 months, have you participated in a campaign to protest the killing of unarmed Black men and women?

(*n* = 1,157)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	41.2%	37.4%
No	.....	58.7%	62.5%
No response	.....	0.1%	0.1%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 882 for all respondents 25 years or older.

In what state do you live?

(*n* = 1,157)

	Poll %
California - CA	30.1%
Texas - TX	11.5%
Illinois - IL	6.1%
New York - NY	5.6%
Florida - FL	5.5%
Arizona - AZ	4.6%
Colorado - CO	3.2%
North Carolina - NC	3.1%
Washington - WA	3.0%
New Jersey - NJ	2.6%
Georgia - GA	1.8%
New Mexico - NM	1.6%
Massachusetts - MA	1.4%
Nevada - NV	1.4%
Virginia - VA	1.4%
Oregon - OR	1.3%
Utah - UT	1.3%
Tennessee - TN	1.2%
Connecticut - CT	1.1%
Oklahoma - OK	1.1%
Indiana - IN	1.0%
Kansas - KS	1.0%
Other	9.2%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

What is your age?
 (n = 1,157)

Average	.....	28.2
Median	.....	28
18	.....	0.4%
19	.....	1.7%
20	.....	2.7%
21	.....	3.4%
22	.....	3.5%
23	.....	5.5%
24	.....	6.7%
25	.....	6.6%
26	.....	7.9%
27	.....	7.4%
28	.....	7.4%
29	.....	6.9%
30	.....	8.6%
31	.....	6.7%
32	.....	5.9%
33	.....	4.2%
34	.....	3.9%
35	.....	3.6%
36	.....	2.6%
37	.....	2.5%
38	.....	1.6%
39	.....	0.3%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

How old were you when you first came to the U.S.?
(*n* = 1,157)

Average	.....	6.6
Median	.....	6
0	.....	4.6%
1	.....	7.6%
2	.....	7.7%
3	.....	9.2%
4	.....	8.4%
5	.....	8.5%
6	.....	7.4%
7	.....	8.1%
8	.....	6.6%
9	.....	7.4%
10	.....	5.7%
11	.....	4.1%
12	.....	5.1%
13	.....	2.9%
14	.....	4.3%
15	.....	2.5%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.