

Results from Tom K. Wong¹ et al., 2019 National DACA Study

Survey fielded 8/14/19 to 9/6/19
(*n* = 1,105)

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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* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Got my first job	.....	58.5%	42.9%	57.9%
Got a job with better pay	.....	57.6%	69.4%	52.9%
Got a job that better fits my education and training	.....	53.0%	60.1%	55.4%
Got a job that better fits my long-term career goals	.....	51.8%	61.2%	52.2%
Got a job with health insurance or other benefits	.....	53.1%	64.9%	54.8%
Got a job with improved work conditions	.....	48.1%	57.5%	49.0%
Started my own business	.....	6.2%	8.6%	3.8%
Obtained a professional license	.....	16.5%	20.3%	12.1%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me become financially independent	.....	79.4%	84.5%	87.3%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped my family financially	.....	78.5%	80.4%	73.9%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me take care of an elderly parent or relative	.....	25.2%	30.5%	23.6%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me pay for childcare*	.....	46.9%	47.9%	—***
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me pay for medical expenses	.....	47.3%	53.4%	50.9%
I have been able to earn more money, which has helped me pay for tuition**	.....	80.1%	84.3%	83.6%
I was able to move into better/improved housing	.....	45.6%	56.7%	49.7%
Got my first credit card	.....	66.4%	67.1%	72.6%
Opened a bank account	.....	56.5%	42.5%	62.4%
Opened a retirement account	.....	33.8%	39.2%	28.7%
Bought my first car	.....	59.5%	65.4%	56.7%
Bought my first home	.....	13.6%	19.2%	7.0%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. * *n* = 211 for all respondents with children and *n* = 190 for all respondents 25 years and older with children. ** *n* = 443 for all respondents currently in school and *n* = 197 for all respondents 25 years and older and currently in school. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents. *** fewer than 10 unweighted counts.

Are you currently employed?

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Yes	.....	89.2%	90.7%	89.8%
No	.....	10.8%	9.3%	10.2%
No response	.....	—	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

..... **Please indicate your average hourly wage OR annual salary.**
 (n = 986, which represents the 89.2% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25
Average hourly wage	.....	\$19.45	\$23.70
Median hourly wage	.....	\$17.00	\$20.00
Average annual earnings	.....	\$42,132	\$49,790
Median annual earnings	.....	\$38,000	\$44,583

Note: n = 634 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 = 986, which represents the 89.2% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25
Average hours worked per week	.....	37.8	40.6
Median hours worked per week	.....	40.0	40.0

Note: n = 634 for respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. Figures exclude the bottom 1st and top 99th percentiles.

..... **Were you employed before DACA?**
 (n = 986, which represents the 89.2% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25	LGBT
Yes	.....	42.3%	58.2%	43.9%
No	.....	57.7%	41.8%	56.1%
No response	.....	—	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. n = 634 for respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. n = 141 for all LGBT respondents 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	.....	\$10.46	\$10.64
Median hourly wage	.....	\$10.00	\$10.00
Average annual earnings	.....	\$21,012	\$21,860
Median annual earnings	.....	\$20,000	\$20,000

Note: $n = 369$ 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?**
 ($n = 417$, which represents the 42.3% of respondents who are currently employed and were also employed before DACA)

			>= 25
Average hours worked per week	.....	36.5	37.9
Median hours worked per week	.....	40.0	40.0

Note: $n = 369$ for respondents 25 years and older, currently employed, and were employed before DACA. Figures exclude the bottom 1st and top 99th percentiles.

..... **Does your employer know that you have DACA?**
 ($n = 986$, which represents the 89.2% of all respondents who are currently employed)

			>= 25	LGBT
Yes	.....	78.3%	76.2%	83.4%
No	.....	2.8%	3.0%	3.6%
I'm unsure if my employer knows	.....	18.5%	20.4%	12.1%
No response	.....	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. $n = 634$ for respondents 25 years and older and currently employed. $n = 141$ for all LGBT respondents currently employed.

..... **Other than yourself, how many full-time employees do you employ?**
 ($n = 68$, which represents the 6.2% of all respondents who started businesses)

Average	.....	4.5
Median	.....	2

Note: Figures are for businesses that employ at least 1 full-time employee.

Education

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

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Pursued educational opportunities that I previously could not	.....	71.2%	61.4%	76.4%
I haven't pursued more education yet, but I plan to	.....	24.4%	31.8%	22.3%
I don't plan to pursue more education	.....	3.5%	5.4%	3.8%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

Are you currently in school?

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Yes	.....	40.1%	28.2%	42.7%
No	.....	59.9%	71.8%	57.3%
No response	.....	—	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

(*n* = 443, which represents the 40.1% of all respondents who are currently in school)

			>= 25	LGBT
GED or equivalent	.....	0.5%	0.5%	—
High-school diploma	.....	0.2%	—	—
Trade/technical/vocational degree or certificate	.....	4.1%	6.6%	3.0%
Associate's degree	.....	12.6%	11.2%	4.5%
Bachelor's degree	.....	53.3%	32.5%	61.2%
Master's degree	.....	18.5%	31.5%	14.9%
Professional degree above a master's degree	.....	3.6%	4.6%	3.0%
Doctorate degree	.....	7.2%	13.2%	13.4%
No response	.....	—	—	—
Bachelor's degree or higher	.....	82.6%	81.7%	89.5%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 197 for respondents 25 years and older and currently in school. *n* = 67 for all LGBT respondents 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* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
GED or equivalent	1.9%	2.3%	—	
High-school diploma	16.5%	12.5%	14.7%	
Trade/technical/vocational degree or certificate	5.8%	6.6%	2.6%	
Associate's degree	14.6%	13.5%	15.9%	
Some college	15.3%	11.7%	15.9%	
Bachelor's degree	34.8%	36.6%	38.9%	
Master's degree	9.8%	14.5%	11.5%	
Professional degree above a master's degree	1.0%	1.6%	0.6%	
Doctorate degree	0.5%	0.7%	—	
No response	—	—	—	
Bachelor's degree or higher	45.9%	53.4%	51.0%	

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

Potential Risks of Deporting DACA Recipients

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

(*n* = 1,105)

		>= 25	LGBT
The quality of life I would be able to provide for myself and my family would be better than in the U.S.	..... 2.2%	2.4%	2.5%
I would be concerned about the physical safety of myself and my family	..... 79.7%	78.8%	79.6%
I would be concerned about homelessness for myself and my family	..... 41.3%	42.6%	43.3%
I would be concerned about food insecurity for myself and my family	..... 58.0%	56.7%	57.9%
I would be concerned about the quality of healthcare for myself and my family	..... 75.3%	76.3%	71.9%
I would be concerned about the quality of education for myself and my family	..... 76.7%	73.8%	76.4%
I would be able to get a job with better pay than in the U.S.	..... 2.8%	2.7%	3.2%
I would be able to get a job that fits my education and training	..... 12.9%	13.3%	12.1%
I would be able to get a job that fits my long-term career goals	..... 7.6%	7.4%	7.6%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

(*n* = 1,105)

		>= 25	LGBT
Yes	..... 31.4%	30.8%	31.9%
No	..... 68.6%	69.2%	68.2%
No response —	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

Inclusion and Belonging

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

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Have become more politically active	.....	46.6%	44.3%	61.8%
Have become more involved in my community	.....	56.8%	53.5%	66.2%
Am no longer afraid because of my immigration status	.....	66.7%	66.5%	66.2%
Feel more like I belong in the U.S.	.....	67.1%	68.5%	64.9%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Got a driver's license for the first time	.....	80.2%	82.4%	78.9%
Got a state identification card for the first time	.....	66.2%	63.8%	67.5%

Note: percentages do not sum to 100 as individuals may select all that apply. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25	LGBT
Yes	.....	69.9%	72.9%	31.9%
No	.....	30.1%	27.0%	68.2%
No response	.....	—	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

Do you have children?

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	19.1%	27.2%
No	.....	80.9%	72.8%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older.

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

(*n* = 211, which represents the 19.1% of all respondents who have children)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	98.6%	99.5%
No	.....	0.9%	0.5%
No response	.....	0.5%	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 190 for all respondents 25 years and older with children.

Are you currently married?

(*n* = 1,105)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	21.0%	28.5%
No	.....	79.0%	71.5%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older.

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

(*n* = 232, which represents the 21.0% of all respondents who are currently married)

			>= 25
Yes	.....	60.3%	55.8%
No	.....	39.7%	44.2%
No response	.....	—	—

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 199 for all respondents 25 years and currently married.

Concerns About Immigration Enforcement

How often do you think about the following?

(*n* = 1,105)

“Being detained in an immigration detention facility”

		>= 25	w/children	LGBT
A few times an hour	2.1%	2.2%	1.4%	3.2%
About once an hour	0.8%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%
A few times a day	17.0%	15.2%	17.5%	24.8%
About once a day	24.9%	25.2%	23.7%	27.4%
Less than once a day	40.8%	43.2%	45.0%	37.6%
Never	13.8%	12.3%	9.9%	6.4%
No response	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%	—%
About once a day or more	44.8%	43.6%	43.6%	56.1%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 211 for all respondents with children. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

“Being deported from the U.S.”

		>= 25	w/children	LGBT
A few times an hour	3.0%	3.4%	2.4%	4.5%
About once an hour	1.7%	1.6%	1.9%	3.8%
A few times a day	18.5%	16.7%	16.1%	28.0%
About once a day	27.3%	27.5%	30.8%	26.8%
Less than once a day	38.2%	39.9%	36.9%	32.5%
Never	10.7%	10.2%	11.4%	4.5%
No response	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	—
About once a day or more	50.5%	49.2%	51.2%	63.1%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 211 for all respondents with children. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

		>= 25	w/children	LGBT
A few times an hour	5.9%	5.6%	4.7%	4.5%
About once an hour	4.3%	3.0%	3.8%	7.0%
A few times a day	27.9%	23.6%	26.5%	35.7%
About once a day	28.3%	28.9%	28.9%	26.8%
Less than once a day	23.7%	26.9%	26.1%	15.3%
Never	9.3%	11.4%	9.5%	10.8%
No response	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	—
About once a day or more	66.4%	61.1%	63.9%	73.9%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 211 for all respondents with children. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

		>= 25	w/children	LGBT
A few times an hour	6.1%	5.9%	3.8%	3.8%
About once an hour	3.9%	3.0%	3.3%	6.4%
A few times a day	27.7%	22.5%	26.1%	36.3%
About once a day	28.9%	30.2%	31.8%	24.8%
Less than once a day	24.3%	27.3%	24.6%	18.5%
Never	8.6%	10.9%	9.9%	10.2%
No response	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	—
About once a day or more	66.6%	61.6%	65.0%	71.3%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 211 for all respondents with children. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

		>= 25	w/children	LGBT
A few times an hour	8.6%	8.6%	8.1%	6.4%
About once an hour	5.2%	3.9%	3.8%	6.4%
A few times a day	28.8%	27.9%	31.3%	33.1%
About once a day	29.1%	30.8%	36.0%	26.8%
Less than once a day	21.8%	21.8%	15.2%	20.4%
Never	6.2%	6.6%	5.2%	7.0%
No response	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	—
About once a day or more	71.7%	71.2%	72.2%	72.6%

Note: percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. *n* = 699 for all respondents 25 years and older. *n* = 211 for all respondents with children. *n* = 157 for all LGBT respondents.

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

(*n* = 211, which represents the 19.1% of all respondents who have children)

“Being separated from my children because of deportation”

A few times an hour	13.3%
About once an hour	4.7%
A few times a day	27.5%
About once a day	29.4%
Less than once a day	19.9%
Never	4.7%
No response	0.5%
About once a day or more	74.9%

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	.....	14.2%
About once an hour	.....	5.2%
A few times a day	.....	28.4%
About once a day	.....	23.7%
Less than once a day	.....	19.9%
Never	.....	8.5%
No response	.....	—
About once a day or more	.....	71.5%

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

In what state do you live?

(*n* = 1,105)

California - CA	.....	32.8%
Illinois - IL	.....	11.9%
Texas - TX	.....	9.2%
New York - NY	.....	5.1%
Florida - FL	.....	3.4%
Arizona - AZ	.....	2.7%
Washington - WA	.....	2.7%
Georgia - GA	.....	2.3%
Tennessee - TN	.....	2.0%
Maryland - MD	.....	1.8%
New Jersey - NJ	.....	1.8%
Virginia - VA	.....	1.7%
Colorado - CO	.....	1.6%
Nevada - NV	.....	1.6%
South Carolina - SC	.....	1.6%
Nebraska - NE	.....	1.4%
North Carolina - NC	.....	1.4%
District of Columbia - DC	.....	1.4%
Ohio - OH	.....	1.4%
Other	.....	12.1%

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

What is your age?
(*n* = 1,105)

Average	.....	26.5
Median	.....	26
18	.....	1.6%
19	.....	3.9%
20	.....	4.6%
21	.....	5.3%
22	.....	7.6%
23	.....	6.4%
24	.....	7.2%
25	.....	8.4%
26	.....	6.9%
27	.....	7.1%
28	.....	6.7%
29	.....	5.9%
30	.....	6.2%
31	.....	5.2%
32	.....	5.1%
33	.....	3.2%
34	.....	2.8%
35	.....	2.1%
36	.....	1.9%
37	.....	1.7%

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

How old were you when you first came to the U.S.?
 (n = 1,105)

Average	.....	6.1
Median	.....	6
0	.....	4.6%
1	.....	9.6%
2	.....	8.6%
3	.....	9.4%
4	.....	9.4%
5	.....	7.9%
6	.....	7.8%
7	.....	6.7%
8	.....	6.9%
9	.....	6.6%
10	.....	5.4%
11	.....	3.9%
12	.....	4.3%
13	.....	3.0%
14	.....	2.9%
15	.....	2.9%

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

What is your race/ethnicity?

(*n* = 1,105)

Hispanic/Latino	.....	91.0%
White	.....	1.2%
Black/African-American	.....	1.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	.....	5.7%
Other	.....	3.1%
No response	.....	—

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

Do you think of yourself as...

(*n* = 1,105)

Straight	.....	82.7%
Gay or lesbian	.....	6.3%
Bisexual	.....	7.6%
Transgender or gender non-conforming	.....	0.3%
Prefer not to say	.....	3.1%
No response	.....	—

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