

# ***DACA AT THE THREE-YEAR MARK:***

## ***New Data on Potential Applicants And Analysis of the Renewal Process***

**National Webinar**

**August 11, 2015**



# Presenters



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



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



**Angelo Mathay**, Associate Policy Analyst  
MPI National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy



# Logistics

- Slides and audio from today's webinar will be available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events>
- The report, *DACA at the Three-Year Mark: High Pace of Renewals, But Processing Difficulties Evident*, is available at <http://bit.ly/mpiDACAat3>
- Report coincides with release of updated data tool: <http://bit.ly/DACAstats>
- If you have any problems accessing this webinar, please contact us by email at [events@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:events@migrationpolicy.org) or call +1-202-266-1929.
- Use Q&A chat function on the right of the screen throughout webinar to write questions. Or send an email to [events@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:events@migrationpolicy.org) with your question.



# Agenda

- ***Analysis of DACA Population***
  - ***Topline findings***
  - ***Comparison to prior analyses (2012 vs. 2013)***
  - ***Navigation of population profiles***
  
- ***DACA Renewal Process***
  - ***Status of Applications and Adjudications***
  - ***Issues Affecting DACA Renewal Rates***



# Overall Context

**DACA has provided young unauthorized immigrants with a temporary reprieve from deportation and access to work authorization since it was first launched in 2012:**

- About 750,000 individuals had applied to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for DACA protection as of March 31, 2015.
- On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced an expansion of DACA eligibility and a new program for unauthorized parents; both have been placed on hold.
- DACA “One” and its renewal phase are continuing however, with USCIS accepting renewal applications since June 5, 2014.



# Core Elements MPI DACA Analyses

- **Population Profiles:** periodic updating of national, state and local data on number and characteristics of potentially eligible applicants; creation of web tools to provide speedy access to multiple stakeholders.
- **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.



# The DACA Program

- Provides work permit and relief from deportation for youth:
  - Age 15+
  - Under age 31 as of June 2012
  - Arrived in the U.S. before age 16
  - Unauthorized and present in U.S. as of June 2012
  - Resided continuously in the U.S. since June 2007
  - In school, have high school/equivalent, or currently enrolled in adult education program
  - Can pass a security, criminal background check

*Source:* USCIS, “Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrives Process”



# DACA-Eligible Populations

(as of 2013, one year after DACA's launch)

	Number	Share
<b>Total Potentially Eligible</b>	<b>1,988,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
Immediately eligible youth (ages 15-30)	1,164,000	59%
Youth who did not appear to meet education criteria (ages 15-30)	402,000	20%
Children eligible in the future (under 15)	423,000	21%

Source: MPI analysis of data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS), 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation by James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar of Temple University, and Jennifer Van Hook of the Pennsylvania State University's Population Research Institute.





# Characteristics of Immediately DACA-Eligible and Eligible-Except-for-Education Populations

Indicator	Immediately Eligible (1,164,000)	Eligible Except for Education (402,000)
<b>Educational attainment</b>	33%: still enrolled in school 60%: high school graduates 8%: college graduates	59%: some high school, not enrolled 41%: 8 years or less
<b>Limited English Proficiency (LEP)</b>	32%	72%
<b>Poverty</b>		
Share under 100% FPL	32%	39%
Share under 200% FPL	64%	76%
<b>Employed</b>	47%	62%
<b>Male</b>	54%	63%
<b>Spanish-speaking</b>	74%	93%



# Children Eligible in the Future

## (Under 15)

- In 2013:
  - 423,000 or 21% of potentially eligible population
  - 26% are LEP, but the other 74% are English proficient; some are bilingual
  - 80% are in families with incomes below twice the federal poverty level
- Aging into eligibility
  - Depends on staying in school
  - 2012 to 2013: dropped by about 50,000
  - Last cohort of DACA-eligible children will reach age 15 in 2022



# MPI's Methodology to Estimate Eligible Populations

- Update using MPI's innovative methodology:
  - Census Bureau's SIPP (2008) and ACS (2013)
  - "Multiple imputation" assigns legal status in ACS based on self-reported status in the SIPP
- ACS data do not account for:
  - Criminal history
  - Continuous presence in the U.S. since 2007
  - Enrollment in adult education system

*Possible over- and under-estimation*



# Differences between MPI's Estimates for 2013 and 2012

- All estimates are deflated by 6%:
  - We estimate the total unauthorized population at 11.0 million, down from 11.7 million.
  - This conforms with other estimates showing declines in the unauthorized population.
- Additionally, some of the “eligible in the future” population aged into eligibility; this group is 12% smaller in 2013 than in 2012.
  - This population is expected to continue shrinking as children age into eligibility.



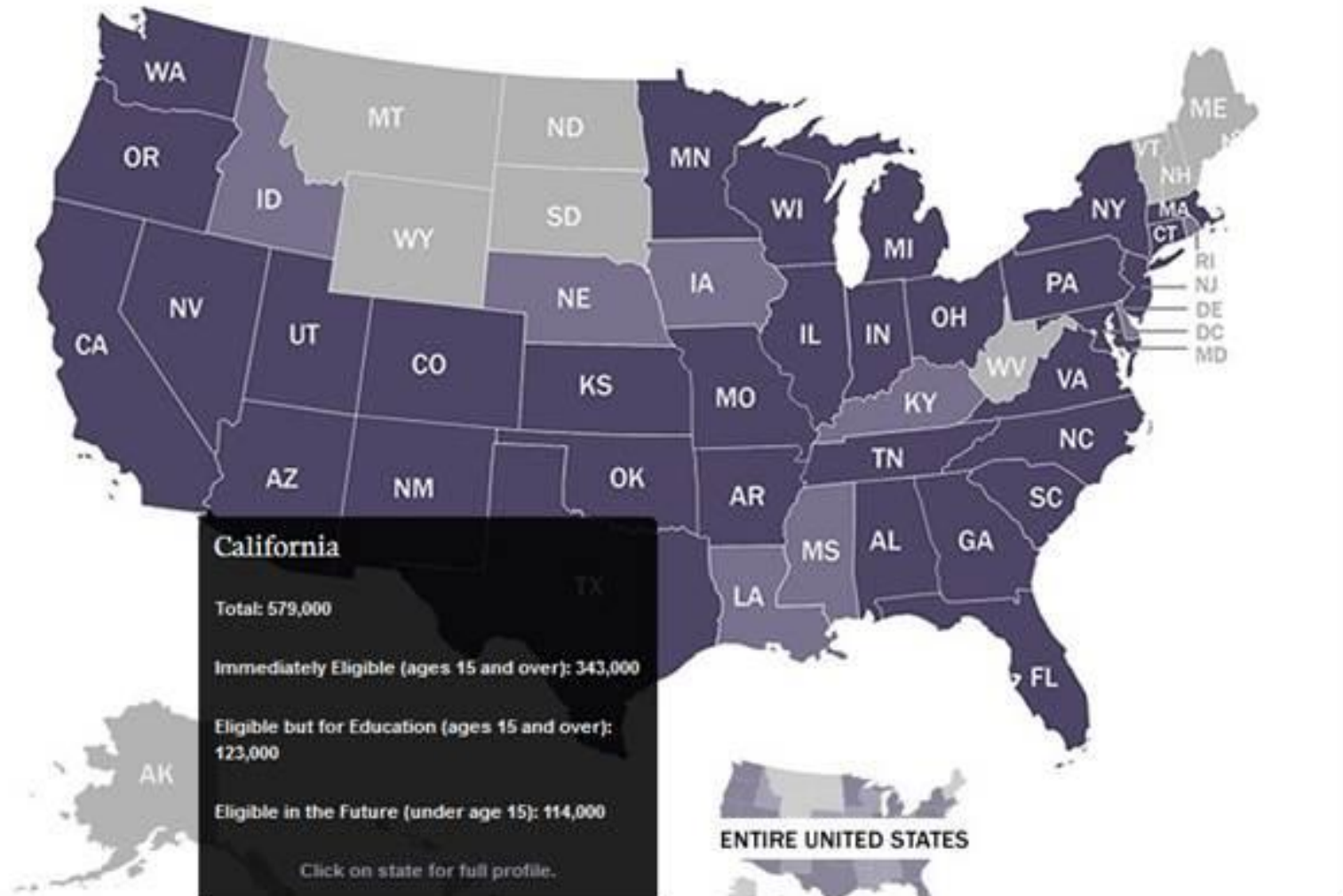
# Acknowledgments

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- 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.



# Updated MPI Online Data Tool: National and State Profiles of DACA Youth, 2013



<http://bit.ly/DACAstats>



# DACA at the Three-Year Mark



## Issue Brief

No. 11 August 2015

### DACA AT THE THREE-YEAR MARK

High Pace of Renewals, But Processing Difficulties Evident

By Angelo Mathay and Margie McHugh

U.S. IMMIGRATION REFORM

*THE ISSUE: August 2015 marks the three-year anniversary of the implementation of the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which took effect on August 15, 2012, and the one-year mark since U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began renewing applicants' grants of protected status under the program, which offers a two-year reprieve from deportation and work authorization. In order to maintain deferred action status and employment authorization, DACA beneficiaries must submit a renewal application to USCIS 120 to 150 days before their initial grant expires. Failure to submit a renewal request in timely fashion or delays in USCIS processing can result in serious consequences for applicants. This issue brief examines the status of DACA renewal applications and adjudications, the consequences of failing to renew on time, and issues affecting DACA renewal rates.*

#### I. Introduction

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided hundreds of thousands of young unauthorized immigrants with a temporary reprieve from deportation and access to work authorization since it was first launched in August 2012. DACA protection is available to individuals who were present in the United States as of June 15, 2012, had arrived before the age of 16, resided continuously in the United States for at least five years, and who meet other requirements.<sup>1</sup>

About 795,000 individuals had applied to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for DACA protection as of March 31, 2015—about half of the 1.6 million unauthorized immigrants ages 15 or older that the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimates are potentially eligible to apply as of 2013.<sup>2</sup> DACA status is granted for a two-year period, and can be renewed for an additional two years. Individuals in immigration custody who meet DACA's requirements may also apply.

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced an expansion of DACA eligibility, lifting the age cutoff to apply and moving forward the U.S. entry date to January 1, 2010;<sup>3</sup> he also extended the period of DACA and employment authorization from two years to three years.

<http://bit.ly/mpidacaat3>



# Recap: DACA Renewal Process

- USCIS released Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals related renewal instructions on June 5, 2014.
- Renewal is open to DACA recipients who:
  - Met the initial 2012 DACA program requirements
  - Have not left the United States since August 15, 2012, without obtaining advance parole;
  - Have continuously resided in the United States since submitting their most recent DACA request; and
  - Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to public safety or national security





# Status of Applications and Adjudications

## Total Number of Initial DACA Approvals and Renewal Requestors, FY 2012 - 14

Date of Initial DACA Grant	120 Day Window for Submitting DACA Renewal Requests	Approved Initial Applications	Renewal Requests Accepted through March 31, 2015	Eligible Individuals Yet to File for DACA Renewal
September 2012 – July 2013	May 4, 2014* – April 2, 2015	430,396	355,805	74,591

*Source:* USCIS, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” data for August 2012 – July 31, 2013 and USCIS, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” data for Quarter 2, March 31, 2015.

\* Note that USCIS began approving DACA applications on September 1, 2012, so a 120-day renewal window for the first wave of DACA applicants would have begun in May 2014 (i.e., 20 months later); however, USCIS did not begin accepting applications until June 5, 2014.



# Status of Applications and Adjudications

## Comparison of Initial DACA Grants and Renewal Requestors by Quarter, May 2014 – March 2015

Date of Initial DACA Grant	120-Day Window for Submitting DACA Renewal Requests	Approved DACA Initial Applicants	Renewal Requests Accepted by Corresponding Quarter
September 2012 – October 2012	May 4, 2014 – June 30, 2014	29,787	10,095
November 2012 – January 2013	July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014	146,198	105,470
February 2013 – April 2013	October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014	137,649	118,685
May 2013 – July 2013	January 1, 2015 – April 2, 2015*	116,762	120,649

*Sources:* USCIS, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” data for August 2012 – July 31, 2013 and USCIS, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” data for: Quarter 3, 2014; Quarter 4, 2014; Quarter 1, 2015; and Quarter 2, 2015.

\* Data reported are through March 31, 2015. An exact count of the 120-day window would extend to April 2, 2015 for those whose initial DACA grant occurred May – July 2013.



# Status of Applications and Adjudications

## Comparison of Initial DACA Grants and Renewal Requestors by Quarter, May 2014 –

Date of Initial DACA Grant	120-Day Window for Submitting DACA Renewal Requests	Renewal Requests Accepted	Renewal Cases Approved	Renewal Cases Pending
September 2012 – October 2012	May 4, 2014 – June 30 – 2014	10,095	87	10,007
November 2012 – January 2013	July 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2014	105,470	22,393	93,080
February 2013 – April 2013	Oct. 1, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2014	118,685	125,669	86,843
May 2013 – July 2013	January 1, 2015 – April 2, 2015	120,649*	95,729*	111,519*

Sources: USCIS, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” data for August 2012 – July 31, 2013 and USCIS, “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” data for: Quarter 3, 2014; Quarter 4, 2014; Quarter 1, 2015; and Quarter 2, 2015.

\* This number is based on the federal reporting quarter that ended on March 31, 2015.



# Consequences (Immigration-Related)

- Renewal requestors affected by application processing delays and those who do not apply to renew their initial DACA grant in a timely fashion accrue time when they are unlawfully present in the United States.
- An individual begins to accrue unlawful presence when:
  - he/she is present in the United States after expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Homeland Security Secretary, or
  - is present in the United States without being admitted or paroled.
- DACA youth face unfavorable consequences if the amount of time they accrue is sufficient to trigger one of the unlawful presence bars contained in immigration law.



# Consequences (Non Immigration-Related)

- Renewal requestors whose adjudication is delayed or who fail to renew their DACA grant may also face problems in:
  - *Maintaining legal authorization to work*
    - E.g., some employers have required DACA recipients to stop working until they can provide evidence that their EAD has been renewed
  - *Applying for or maintaining health insurance, driver's licenses, and internships*



# Issues Affecting DACA Renewal Rates

- *Lack of outreach and information*
  - Fewer high-profile “mega workshops” and information sessions compared to DACA “One”
- *Confusion about the renewal process*
  - Education requirement
- *Difficulty affording the application fee*
  - \$465



# Q & A

## Use Q&A chat function to write questions

Or email [events@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:events@migrationpolicy.org) with your questions

- Slides and audio will be available at <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events>
- The report, *DACA at the Three-Year Mark: High Pace of Renewals, But Processing Difficulties Evident*, is available at: <http://bit.ly/mpiDACAat3>
- The tool discussed on today's webinar is available at: <http://bit.ly/DACAstats>



# MPI DACA-DAPA-DREAM Resources

- Data tool, including county-level profiles for unauthorized individuals (117 counties): <http://bit.ly/unauthdata>
- Detailed state-level and county-level profiles of the DACA population: <http://bit.ly/DACAstats>
- Cross-site Learning Network on DACA-DREAM Education Success
- MPI resources and reports on educational experiences of DACA-DREAM Youth: <http://bit.ly/dacadreamMPI>
- Coming soon: August 19 webinar ***The Unauthorized Population in the United States: New Data Trends***. More information available at [www.migrationpolicy.org/events](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/events)





# Thank You For Joining Us!

## For more information:

**Margie McHugh**

Director of NCIIP, MPI

[mmchugh@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:mmchugh@migrationpolicy.org)

**Randy Capps**

Director of Research, U.S.  
Programs, MPI

[rcapps@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:rcapps@migrationpolicy.org)

**Angelo Mathay**

Associate Policy Analyst, MPI

[amathay@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:amathay@migrationpolicy.org)

## Reporters can contact:

**Michelle Mittelstadt**

Director of Communications  
and Public Affairs, MPI

[mmittelstadt@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:mmittelstadt@migrationpolicy.org)

+1-202-266-1910

For additional information and to receive updates:

[www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org)

[www.migrationpolicy.org/integration](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/integration)