In Their Own Words:
A Nationwide Survey of Undocumented Millennials

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Survey

• Online survey using Facebook ads and snowball sampling fielded over 2 waves in late 2013 and early 2014
• 1,472 respondents nationwide
• Validation test for undocumented status to address "spoiled ballots"
• IP address tracking to address "ballot stuffing"
Demographics

- Average and median age of survey respondents is 23-years-old
- Survey respondents represent 42 states plus Washington DC
- Race/ethnicity of survey respondents mirrors national estimates
- More female than male respondents
Education

• Reflecting the generally high educational attainment of DREAMers, 71% of survey respondents reported having some college education or reported already have a 4-year college or advanced degree

• 16% with a 4-year degree have their degrees in a STEM field
Identity & Belonging Post-DACA

- I am no longer afraid of my immigration status
- I feel more like I belong in the U.S.
- I got my driver's license/state identification card
- I still feel angry/anxious because family/friends remain undocumented
- I believe that DACA is not enough
- I have become more politically active
- I have become more involved in my community

Note: sums do not equal 100% (e.g., a person could feel no longer afraid and believe that DACA is not enough)
Economic Life After DACA

- Got my first job OR moved to a new job
- Have become financially independent
- Been able to earn more money; can help my family financially
- Got my first credit card
- Bought my first car

Note: sums do not equal 100% (e.g., a person could have bought their first car and have gotten their first credit card)
Becoming DACAmented

Applying for DACA

- I put together and submitted my DACA application on my own
- I attended a free DACA workshop or clinic
- Received free/low-cost assistance from a non-profit/legal service provider
- I paid for legal assistance (e.g., an immigration lawyer)
- There wasn’t a free DACA workshop/clinic close enough to where I live
- No non-profits/legal service providers close enough to where I live

Note: sums do not equal 100% (e.g., a person could have attended a free DACA workshop or clinic and paid for legal assistance)
Concerns About Applying For DACA

- Concerned about what would happen if DACA ended
- Concerned about letting the government know I was undocumented
- Concerned about revealing my personal information
- Concerned about revealing information about my family
- Concerned I/my family would be detained/deported
- Concerned about being denied
- I heard my information would not be used for enforcement purposes

Note: sums do not equal 100% (e.g., a person could have had multiple concerns)
Conclusion

• On balance, DACA can be viewed as an integration success story

• At the same time, more research is needed to firmly establish the positive impact of deferred action—this research can be one of the most potent arguments for comprehensive immigration reform

• The experience of the original DACA program tells us that not all who are eligible will apply—concerns about applying are likely to be exacerbated by the state lawsuit

• Implementing DAPA/expanded DACA is thus likely going to be more difficult than the original DACA program, but in this challenge lies opportunity