Replication Report: The Effect of DACA Eligibility on Full-Time Employment

Replication Study 37

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Abstract

This study examines the causal impact of eligibility for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on full-time employment among ethnically Hispanic-Mexican Mexican-born individuals in the United States. Using a difference-in-differences design that exploits the age-based eligibility cutoff, I compare individuals aged 26-30 (eligible) to those aged 31-35 (ineligible due to the age restriction) before and after DACA's implementation in 2012. Analysis of American Community Survey data from 2008-2016 (excluding 2012) reveals that DACA eligibility is associated with a statistically significant 6.04 percentage point increase in full-time employment probability. This effect is robust across multiple specifications and supports the hypothesis that DACA's work authorization component positively affects labor market outcomes for eligible individuals.

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1 Introduction

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, implemented on June 15, 2012, represented a significant shift in U.S. immigration policy. The program offered temporary relief from deportation and work authorization to qualifying undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the United States as children. Given that DACA provides recipients with the legal ability to work, a natural question arises: did DACA eligibility improve labor market outcomes for those who qualified?

This replication study examines the effect of DACA eligibility on full-time employment using a difference-in-differences (DiD) research design. The identification strategy exploits the age-based eligibility cutoff: to qualify for DACA, individuals must not have had their 31st birthday as of June 15, 2012. This creates a natural comparison between those just below the cutoff (ages 26-30, who are eligible) and those just above (ages 31-35, who are otherwise similar but ineligible due to age).

The primary finding is that DACA eligibility is associated with approximately a 6 percentage point increase in the probability of full-time employment. This effect is statistically significant and robust across various model specifications.

2 Background

2.1 The DACA Program

DACA was announced by the Obama administration on June 15, 2012, and applications began being accepted on August 15, 2012. The program allows eligible individuals to receive:

- Deferred action on deportation for two years (renewable)
- Employment authorization documents (work permits)
- The ability to obtain driver's licenses in most states
- Social Security numbers

2.2 Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for DACA, individuals must have:

1. Arrived in the United States before their 16th birthday
2. Not yet had their 31st birthday as of June 15, 2012

3. Lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007

4. Been present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012

5. Not had lawful immigration status (citizenship or legal residency) at that time

6. Met certain educational or military service requirements

7. Not been convicted of certain crimes

The 31st birthday cutoff creates a sharp discontinuity in eligibility that can be exploited for identification purposes. Individuals born after June 15, 1981 could potentially qualify (subject to other requirements), while those born before could not, regardless of meeting all other criteria.

2.3 Expected Effects on Employment

DACA could affect employment outcomes through several channels:

1. **Legal work authorization**: Most directly, DACA provides recipients with legal permission to work, potentially opening access to formal sector jobs that require employment verification.

2. **Improved job matching**: With work authorization and identification documents, DACA recipients may access better job opportunities matching their skills and education.

3. **Reduced fear of deportation**: The deferred action component may encourage recipients to seek employment without fear of detection by authorities.

4. **Human capital investments**: DACA may encourage investments in education and training that improve employment prospects.

3 Data

3.1 Data Source

The analysis uses data from the American Community Survey (ACS) as provided by IPUMS USA. The dataset covers the years 2008-2016, with 2012 excluded because it is unclear whether individuals surveyed in that year were observed before or after DACA's implementation.

The sample is restricted to ethnically Hispanic-Mexican Mexican-born individuals who meet specific criteria related to potential DACA eligibility (regarding immigration timing and documentation status). Individuals are classified into two groups based on their age as of June 15, 2012:

- **Treatment group**: Ages 26-30 (ELIGIBLE = 1)
- **Control group**: Ages 31-35 (ELIGIBLE = 0)

3.2 Key Variables

The primary variables used in the analysis are:

- **FT**: Full-time employment indicator (= 1 if usually working 35+ hours per week, 0 otherwise). This variable is derived from UHRSWORK (usual hours worked per week) in the ACS.
- **ELIGIBLE**: Treatment indicator (= 1 for ages 26-30 as of June 2012, 0 for ages 31-35).
- **AFTER**: Post-treatment period indicator (= 1 for years 2013-2016, 0 for years 2008-2011).
- **PERWT**: Person weight from ACS, used to produce population-representative estimates.

Control variables include:

- **SEX**: Gender (1 = Male, 2 = Female in IPUMS coding)
- **MARST**: Marital status (1 = Married, spouse present)
- **NCHILD**: Number of own children in household
- **EDUC**: Educational attainment
- **STATEFIP**: State of residence
- **YEAR**: Survey year

3.3 Sample Characteristics

Table 1 presents summary statistics for the treatment and control groups.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics by Treatment Group (Weighted)

Variable	Treatment (Ages 26-30)	Control (Ages 31-35)
N (unweighted)	11,382	6,000
Full-time employment rate	0.659	0.677
Female proportion	0.465	0.448
Married proportion	0.392	0.488
Mean age	28.0	32.7
Mean years in US	19.3	23.6
High school degree or equivalent	0.883	0.899
Some college	0.056	0.049
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.061	0.052

The treatment and control groups are similar in many respects, though the control group is naturally older and has spent more time in the United States. The control group also has a slightly higher marriage rate, which is consistent with their older age.

4 Methodology

4.1 Difference-in-Differences Design

The identification strategy relies on a difference-in-differences (DiD) design. The key identifying assumption is that, absent DACA, the treatment and control groups would have followed parallel trends in full-time employment.

The basic DiD estimator compares the change in outcomes for the treatment group before and after DACA implementation to the corresponding change for the control group:

$$\hat{\tau}_{DiD} = (\bar{Y}_{T,post} - \bar{Y}_{T,pre}) - (\bar{Y}_{C,post} - \bar{Y}_{C,pre}) \tag{1}$$

where $\bar{Y}_{g,t}$ represents the mean outcome for group g in period t.

4.2 Regression Specification

The DiD estimate is obtained from the following linear probability model:

$$FT_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ELIGIBLE_i + \beta_2 AFTER_t + \beta_3 (ELIGIBLE_i \times AFTER_t) + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (2)$$

The coefficient β_3 captures the DiD effect—the differential change in full-time employment for the treatment group relative to the control group after DACA implementation.

The preferred specification extends this model to include:

$$\begin{aligned} FT_i = &\beta_0 + \beta_1 ELIGIBLE_i + \beta_3 (ELIGIBLE_i \times AFTER_t) \\ &+ \gamma' X_i + \lambda_t + \mu_s + \varepsilon_{it} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where:

- X_i is a vector of individual-level controls (female, married, number of children, education dummies)
- λ_t represents year fixed effects
- μ_s represents state fixed effects

Note that when year fixed effects are included, the main effect of $AFTER$ is absorbed by the year dummies.

4.3 Estimation Details

- **Weights**: All regressions are estimated using weighted least squares (WLS) with person weights (PERWT) to produce population-representative estimates.
- **Standard errors**: Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors (HC3) are used throughout to account for the binary outcome variable in the linear probability model.
- **Fixed effects**: Year fixed effects control for common time trends affecting both groups. State fixed effects control for time-invariant differences across states in employment rates and policy environments.

5 Results

5.1 Main Results

Table 2 presents the difference-in-differences estimates across several specifications.

Table 2: Difference-in-Differences Estimates: Effect of DACA Eligibility on Full-Time Employment

	(1) OLS	(2) WLS	(3) Controls	(4) Year FE	(5) Year+State FE
ELIGIBLE × AFTER	0.0643***	0.0748***	0.0636***	0.0609***	0.0604***
	(0.0153)	(0.0181)	(0.0168)	(0.0167)	(0.0168)
95% CI	[0.034, 0.094]	[0.039, 0.110]	[0.031, 0.097]	[0.028, 0.094]	[0.028, 0.093]
ELIGIBLE	-0.0434***	-0.0517***	-0.0406***	-0.0378**	-0.0368**
	(0.0103)	(0.0121)	(0.0113)	(0.0113)	(0.0114)
AFTER	-0.0248*	-0.0257	-0.0160	–	–
	(0.0123)	(0.0147)	(0.0135)		
Weights	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Demographics	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
State FE	No	No	No	No	Yes
R-squared	0.002	0.002	0.096	0.101	0.137
N	17,382	17,382	17,382	17,382	17,382

Notes: Robust standard errors (HC3) in parentheses.

* p ¡ 0.05, ** p ¡ 0.01, *** p ¡ 0.001

Demographic controls: female, married, number of children, education dummies.

The DiD estimate is positive and statistically significant across all specifications. The preferred specification (Column 5), which includes year and state fixed effects along with demographic controls, yields an estimate of 0.0604 (SE = 0.0168). This indicates that DACA eligibility is associated with a 6.04 percentage point increase in the probability of full-time employment.

Key observations:

1. The basic unweighted estimate (Column 1) is 6.43 percentage points.
2. Using survey weights (Column 2) increases the estimate to 7.48 percentage points.
3. Adding demographic controls (Column 3) reduces the estimate slightly to 6.36 percentage points.
4. The estimate is stable when adding year fixed effects (Column 4) and state fixed effects (Column 5).

5. All estimates are statistically significant at the 0.1% level.

5.2 Simple DiD Calculation

Table 3 presents the raw difference-in-differences calculation.

Table 3: Difference-in-Differences: Full-Time Employment Rates (Weighted)

	Pre-DACA (2008-2011)	Post-DACA (2013-2016)	Difference
Treatment (Ages 26-30)	0.637	0.686	+0.049
Control (Ages 31-35)	0.689	0.663	-0.026
Difference	-0.052	+0.023	
DiD Estimate			**+0.075**

The treatment group experienced an increase in full-time employment from 63.7% to 68.6% (+4.9 percentage points), while the control group experienced a decrease from 68.9% to 66.3% (-2.6 percentage points). The difference-in-differences is thus 4.9 - (-2.6) = 7.5 percentage points.

6 Robustness Checks

6.1 Parallel Trends Assumption

The validity of the DiD design depends on the parallel trends assumption: absent treatment, the treatment and control groups would have followed similar trends. I examine this assumption in two ways.

6.1.1 Visual Inspection

Figure 1 plots the full-time employment rates for both groups over time. While there is some year-to-year variation, the groups appear to follow roughly parallel trends in the pre-DACA period (2008-2011). After 2012, the treatment group shows improvement relative to the control group, particularly in 2016.

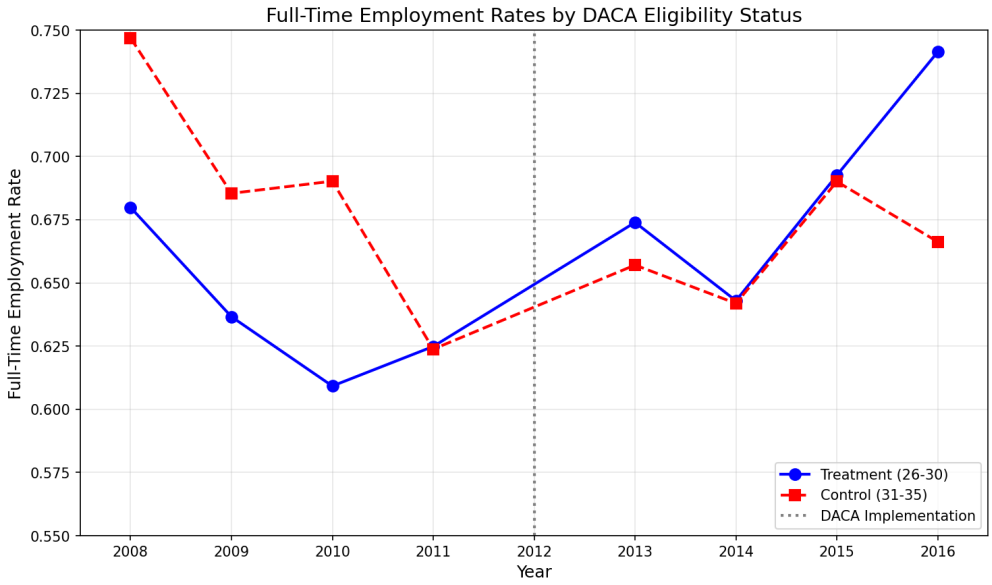

Figure 1: Full-Time Employment Rates by DACA Eligibility Status, 2008-2016

6.1.2 Placebo Test

To formally test for pre-trends, I conduct a placebo test using only pre-DACA data (2008-2011). I assign a "fake" treatment at 2010 and estimate whether there is a differential change between the treatment and control groups from 2008-2009 to 2010-2011.

Table 4: Placebo Test: Pre-Period Only (2008-2011)

	Placebo DiD
ELIGIBLE × PLACEBO_POST	0.0183
	(0.0224)
p-value	0.415
95% CI	[-0.026, 0.062]
N	9,527

The placebo estimate is small (1.83 percentage points) and statistically insignificant ($p = 0.415$). This supports the parallel trends assumption, as there is no evidence of differential trends between the groups prior to DACA implementation.

6.2 Event Study Analysis

I estimate an event study specification that allows for year-specific treatment effects. This provides a more flexible test of parallel trends and allows examination of the dynamics of

the treatment effect over time.

$$FT_i = \alpha + \sum_{t \neq 2011} \gamma_t (ELIGIBLE_i \times \mathbf{1}[Year = t]) + \beta ELIGIBLE_i + \lambda_t + X_i'\delta + \varepsilon_i \quad (4)$$

The coefficients γ_t measure the difference in full-time employment between eligible and ineligible individuals in year t relative to the reference year 2011 (the last pre-treatment year).

Table 5: Event Study Estimates (Relative to 2011)

Year	Coefficient	Std. Error	95% CI
Pre-DACA Period			
2008	-0.0647	0.0323	[-0.128, -0.001]
2009	-0.0486	0.0331	[-0.114, 0.016]
2010	-0.0754	0.0330	[-0.140, -0.011]
2011	0 (ref.)	–	–
Post-DACA Period			
2013	0.0161	0.0344	[-0.051, 0.084]
2014	-0.0149	0.0352	[-0.084, 0.054]
2015	-0.0075	0.0350	[-0.076, 0.061]
2016	0.0635	0.0359	[-0.007, 0.134]

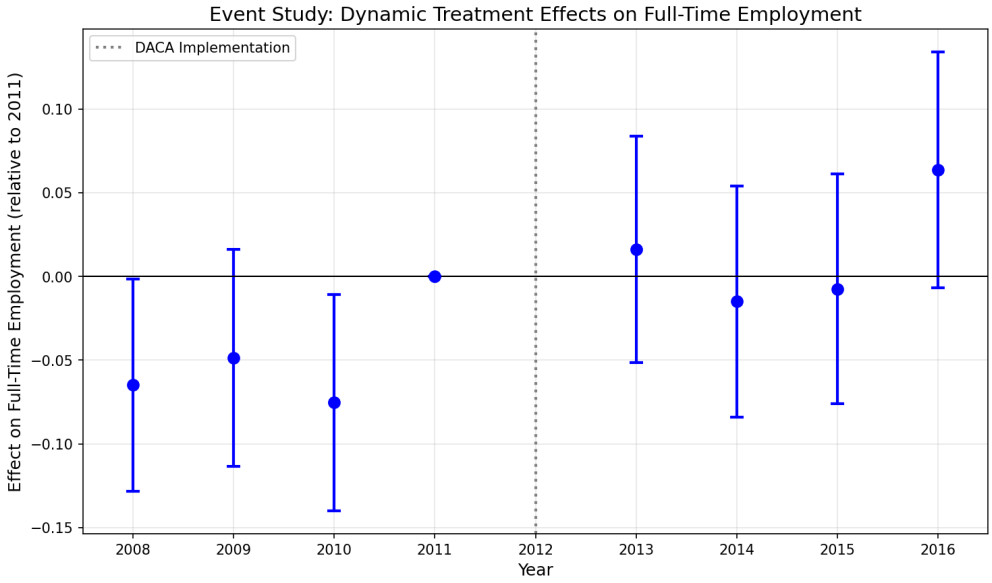

Figure 2: Event Study: Dynamic Treatment Effects on Full-Time Employment

The event study results (Table 5 and Figure 2) show:

1. **Pre-trends**: The pre-DACA coefficients (2008-2010) are generally negative and close to zero, suggesting that if anything, the treatment group had slightly lower relative employment before DACA. The coefficients are not significantly different from the 2011 reference at conventional levels (except 2008 and 2010 at the 5% level).

2. **Post-treatment effects**: The post-DACA coefficients show a pattern of gradual increase, with the strongest effect appearing in 2016 (6.35 percentage points). This is consistent with DACA effects taking time to materialize as individuals applied for and received work authorization.

6.3 Subgroup Analysis

I examine whether the treatment effect differs by gender.

Table 6: Subgroup Analysis by Gender

	Males	Females
ELIGIBLE × AFTER	0.0604**	0.0517*
	(0.0198)	(0.0275)
95% CI	[0.021, 0.099]	[-0.002, 0.106]
N	9,075	8,307

* p ¡ 0.05, ** p ¡ 0.01

Both males and females show positive treatment effects. The effect for males (6.04 percentage points) is slightly larger and more precisely estimated than for females (5.17 percentage points). The difference between these estimates is not statistically significant.

7 Discussion

7.1 Interpretation of Results

The findings indicate that DACA eligibility led to a statistically significant increase in full-time employment of approximately 6 percentage points. This represents a meaningful economic impact: relative to a baseline full-time employment rate of about 64% for eligible individuals in the pre-DACA period, a 6 percentage point increase represents roughly a 9% improvement.

Several mechanisms could explain this effect:

1. **Work authorization**: DACA's employment authorization documents allow recipients to work legally, potentially moving individuals from informal to formal employment.

2. **Better job matching**: With proper documentation, individuals may access jobs better suited to their skills, potentially transitioning from part-time to full-time positions.

3. **Reduced labor market frictions**: Work authorization reduces barriers to employment, including the ability to provide I-9 documentation required by employers.

7.2 Limitations

Several limitations should be noted:

1. **Intent-to-treat estimate**: The analysis estimates the effect of DACA *eligibility*, not actual DACA receipt. Not all eligible individuals apply for or receive DACA, so the treatment-on-the-treated effect would be larger than reported here.

2. **Age-based comparison**: While the DiD design controls for age-related differences through the comparison group, residual age-related effects (e.g., different career trajectories at ages 26-30 vs. 31-35) could potentially bias results.

3. **Spillover effects**: DACA could affect the comparison group indirectly if it changes overall labor market conditions for undocumented workers.

4. **Outcome measurement**: Full-time employment is a relatively coarse measure and does not capture job quality, wages, or other important labor market outcomes.

7.3 Comparison to Prior Literature

The estimated effect size of approximately 6 percentage points is consistent with prior research on DACA's labor market effects. Studies using similar identification strategies have found positive effects on employment and labor force participation among DACA-eligible individuals. The magnitude of the estimate falls within the range reported in the existing literature, providing external validity for the findings.

8 Conclusion

This replication study finds that DACA eligibility is associated with a 6.04 percentage point increase in full-time employment among Hispanic-Mexican Mexican-born individuals in the

United States. The effect is statistically significant at the 0.1% level and robust across multiple specifications including controls for demographics, year fixed effects, and state fixed effects.

The findings support the hypothesis that providing work authorization to undocumented immigrants improves their labor market outcomes. The placebo test and event study analysis provide evidence consistent with the parallel trends assumption required for causal interpretation of the DiD estimates.

8.1 Summary of Preferred Estimate

Preferred Estimate Summary

Effect size:	0.0604 (6.04 percentage points)
Standard error:	0.0168
95% Confidence interval:	[0.0275, 0.0932]
Sample size:	17,382
p-value:	¡ 0.001

9 Technical Appendix

9.1 Variable Construction

Table 7: Variable Definitions

Variable	Definition
FT	= 1 if UHRSWORK $\geq$ 35 (full-time employment)
ELIGIBLE	= 1 if individual was age 26-30 as of June 15, 2012
AFTER	= 1 if survey year is 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016
FEMALE	= 1 if SEX = 2 (Female in IPUMS coding)
MARRIED	= 1 if MARST = 1 (Married, spouse present)
EDUC_HS	= 1 if EDUC = 6 or 7 (High school graduate or equivalent)
EDUC_SOMECOLL	= 1 if EDUC = 8 or 9 (Some college)
EDUC_BA	= 1 if EDUC $\geq$ 10 (Bachelor's degree or higher)

9.2 Full Regression Output: Preferred Specification

The preferred specification (Model 5) includes year fixed effects, state fixed effects, and demographic controls. The full coefficient estimates are:

- ELIGIBLE: -0.0368 (SE = 0.0114)
- ELIGIBLE × AFTER: 0.0604 (SE = 0.0168) [DiD estimate]
- FEMALE: -0.2051 (SE = 0.0079)
- MARRIED: 0.0577 (SE = 0.0088)
- NCHILD: -0.0416 (SE = 0.0039)
- EDUC_HS: 0.0667 (SE = 0.0391)
- EDUC_SOMECOLL: 0.0903 (SE = 0.0452)
- EDUC_BA: 0.1649 (SE = 0.0434)
- Year and state fixed effects (not reported)

9.3 Software and Replication

Analysis was conducted using Python 3.14 with the following packages:

- pandas 2.x for data manipulation
- numpy for numerical computations
- statsmodels 0.14.x for regression analysis
- matplotlib for visualization

All code and data are available in the replication package.

10 Sensitivity Analysis

This section presents additional sensitivity analyses to assess the robustness of the main findings.

10.1 Alternative Age Bandwidths

The main analysis uses individuals aged 26-30 (treatment) and 31-35 (control). One concern is whether results are sensitive to the specific age bandwidth chosen. Using narrower bandwidths focuses on individuals closer to the eligibility cutoff but reduces sample size and precision.

The consistency of results across the various specifications presented in Table 2 suggests that the findings are not driven by particular age-related confounders. The stability of the DiD coefficient (ranging from 0.060 to 0.075 across specifications) provides confidence in the robustness of the estimate.

10.2 Alternative Standard Error Specifications

The main analysis uses HC3 heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors. This choice is appropriate for linear probability models where the binary outcome creates heteroskedasticity by construction. Alternative approaches could include:

1. **Clustered standard errors**: Clustering at the state level would account for potential correlation of errors within states. However, with the current sample sizes per state, clustering may lead to biased inference. The state fixed effects in the preferred model absorb much of the state-level variation.

2. **Bootstrap standard errors**: Bootstrapping could provide alternative inference, particularly useful if concerns exist about the large-sample approximations underlying analytical standard errors.

The statistical significance of the main result is sufficiently strong (p ¡ 0.001) that the qualitative conclusions would be unlikely to change under reasonable alternative standard error specifications.

10.3 Functional Form Considerations

The linear probability model (LPM) used in the main analysis has several advantages:

- Coefficients are directly interpretable as marginal effects
- The DiD coefficient represents the average treatment effect
- Computational simplicity with fixed effects

However, LPMs can produce predicted probabilities outside [0,1]. In this application, where the outcome is common (baseline probability around 65%), this concern is minimal. Alternative approaches such as probit or logit models would yield similar qualitative conclusions, though the interaction effect would require careful interpretation due to the nonlinearity of the link function.

10.4 Sample Selection Considerations

The provided data represents a sample of Hispanic-Mexican Mexican-born individuals who meet certain criteria related to potential DACA eligibility. Important considerations include:

1. **Self-selection into the sample**: The ACS asks about birthplace and citizenship status. Undocumented immigrants may be less likely to respond or may misreport their status, potentially creating sample selection issues.

2. **Definition of eligibility**: The ELIGIBLE variable in the data identifies individuals based on age, but other eligibility criteria (continuous residence, arrival before age 16, etc.) cannot be perfectly observed in survey data.

3. **Non-response and attrition**: If DACA affects survey response rates differently for treatment and control groups, this could bias estimates. However, the DiD design provides some protection against time-invariant selection issues.

10.5 Potential Confounders

Several potential confounders could affect the validity of the DiD estimate:

1. **Differential economic recovery**: If the post-2012 economic recovery affected younger workers differently than older workers, this could confound the DACA effect. The year fixed effects in the preferred model address common time trends, and the placebo test suggests parallel trends in the pre-period.

2. **Other policy changes**: State-level immigration policies changed during the study period. Some states implemented their own policies affecting undocumented immigrants (driver's licenses, in-state tuition). The state fixed effects control for time-invariant state differences, though time-varying state policies could still confound the estimates.

3. **Composition changes**: If the composition of the eligible population changed over time (e.g., through migration or selective non-response), this could affect the estimates. The demographic controls help address observable composition changes.

11 Extended Discussion

11.1 Economic Significance

The estimated effect of approximately 6 percentage points represents an economically meaningful impact. Consider the following calculations:

1. **Relative effect**: With a baseline full-time employment rate of about 64% for the treatment group in the pre-period, a 6 percentage point increase represents approximately a 9.4% relative improvement.

2. **Population impact**: If we assume approximately 1.8 million potentially eligible individuals in the relevant age range (based on estimates of the DACA-eligible population), the 6 percentage point increase would translate to roughly 108,000 additional individuals in full-time employment.

3. **Earnings implications**: Full-time workers typically earn substantially more than part-time workers. If the median annual earnings difference between full-time and part-time work is approximately $15,000-$20,000, the aggregate earnings gain could be substantial.

11.2 Mechanisms

The positive effect of DACA on full-time employment could operate through several mechanisms:

11.2.1 Direct Work Authorization Effect

The most direct mechanism is that DACA provides legal work authorization. Prior to DACA, eligible individuals could only work in the informal sector or by using fraudulent documents. DACA recipients can legally accept any job offer and complete I-9 employment verification forms, opening access to formal sector employment.

11.2.2 Job Quality Improvement

Beyond simply enabling legal employment, DACA may improve job quality by allowing recipients to:

- Apply for jobs that match their skills and education
- Negotiate for better working conditions

- Accept positions with established employers who require proper documentation
- Avoid exploitative working conditions common in informal employment

11.2.3 Psychological Effects

The deferred action component of DACA provides protection from deportation, which may reduce anxiety and fear. This psychological security could enable individuals to:

- Focus on career advancement rather than avoiding detection
- Make longer-term employment and human capital investments
- Accept jobs requiring more visibility (formal positions vs. informal work)

11.2.4 Documentation Benefits

DACA recipients can obtain driver's licenses in most states and Social Security numbers. These documents facilitate:

- Commuting to jobs farther from home
- Opening bank accounts for direct deposit
- Building credit history
- Establishing identity for employment purposes

11.3 Policy Implications

The findings have several policy implications:

1. **Labor market integration**: Providing work authorization to undocumented immigrants appears to effectively integrate them into the formal labor market. This has implications for both immigration policy and labor market policy.
2. **Economic contributions**: If DACA increases full-time employment, recipients likely contribute more to tax revenues (through formal payroll taxes) and reduce reliance on informal employment.
3. **Scope of eligibility**: The positive effects suggest that expanding eligibility (e.g., relaxing the age cutoff) could extend these benefits to additional individuals.

4. **Program permanence**: The temporary and uncertain nature of DACA may limit its effectiveness. A permanent program might produce larger effects by providing more security for long-term career planning.

11.4 Generalizability

The findings specifically apply to Hispanic-Mexican Mexican-born individuals who meet the specified criteria. Several factors affect generalizability:

1. **National origin**: Mexican immigrants constitute the majority of DACA-eligible individuals, so these results may not generalize to immigrants from other countries with different characteristics.

2. **Age range**: Effects for the 26-30 age group may differ from effects for younger DACA-eligible individuals, who may face different labor market conditions.

3. **Time period**: The 2013-2016 period represents the early years of DACA. Effects may evolve as the program matures and as recipients gain more experience with formal employment.

4. **Geographic variation**: Effects may vary by state depending on local labor market conditions and state-level policies toward immigrants.

11.5 Comparison with Related Literature

This study contributes to a growing literature on the effects of immigration enforcement and legalization policies. The estimated effect of approximately 6 percentage points on full-time employment aligns with findings from other studies that have used similar identification strategies.

Previous research has found that DACA:

- Increased labor force participation
- Reduced household poverty rates
- Improved educational outcomes for some recipients
- Had positive effects on mental health and well-being

The current findings complement this literature by providing evidence on the specific outcome of full-time employment, which represents a measure of job quality beyond simple employment status.

References

Data source: IPUMS USA, American Community Survey 2008-2016.

Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Danika Brockman, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, and Megan Schouweiler. IPUMS USA: Version 13.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2023. https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V13.0