The Causal Effect of DACA Eligibility on Full-Time Employment: An Independent Replication Study

Replication Study 34

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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 Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born individuals in the United States. Using a difference-in-differences (DiD) research design and data from the American Community Survey (ACS) for 2008–2016, I compare employment outcomes between individuals aged 26–30 in June 2012 (DACA-eligible) and those aged 31–35 (ineligible due to age). The preferred specification, controlling for demographic characteristics with year and state fixed effects, estimates that DACA eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by 5.89 percentage points (95% CI: 2.63–9.15 pp), statistically significant at the 1% level. Results are robust to alternative specifications including clustering standard errors by state and controlling for state-level immigration policies. The findings suggest that DACA had a meaningful positive effect on labor market outcomes for eligible individuals.

Contents

1 Introduction

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program represents one of the most significant immigration policy changes in recent U.S. history. Enacted by executive action on June 15, 2012, DACA provided temporary relief from deportation and work authorization to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children. By providing legal work authorization, DACA potentially removed significant barriers to formal employment that previously constrained the labor market opportunities of eligible individuals.

This study investigates the causal effect of DACA eligibility on full-time employment outcomes. The research question is:

> *Among ethnically Hispanic-Mexican Mexican-born people living in the United States, what was the causal impact of eligibility for DACA on the probability of full-time employment (defined as usually working 35 or more hours per week)?*

I employ a difference-in-differences (DiD) identification strategy that exploits the age-based eligibility cutoff of the program. DACA eligibility required individuals to have been under age 31 as of June 15, 2012. This creates a natural comparison between individuals just below and just above this age threshold who otherwise share similar characteristics. The treatment group consists of individuals aged 26–30 in June 2012, while the control group comprises those aged 31–35.

The analysis uses American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2008–2016, excluding 2012 to avoid contamination from the policy implementation period. The pre-treatment period spans 2008–2011, and the post-treatment period covers 2013–2016.

The remainder of this report proceeds as follows: Section 2 describes the institutional background of DACA. Section 3 details the data and sample construction. Section 4 presents the empirical methodology. Section 5 reports the main results. Section 6 provides robustness checks and additional analyses. Section 7 concludes.

2 Background: The DACA Program

2.1 Policy Overview

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was announced by the Department of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012. The program allows certain undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children to request deferred action (temporary relief from deportation) and authorization to work legally in the United States.

2.2 Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for DACA, individuals must have met all of the following criteria:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
2. Came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012
5. Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012
6. Were currently enrolled in school, had graduated from high school, obtained a GED, or were an honorably discharged veteran
7. Had not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors

2.3 Program Implementation and Uptake

Applications began to be accepted on August 15, 2012. In the first four years of the program, nearly 900,000 initial applications were received, with approximately 90% being approved. Recipients received work authorization valid for two years, with the possibility of renewal. While DACA was not specific to any origin country, the majority of eligible individuals were from Mexico due to the structure of undocumented immigration to the United States.

2.4 Expected Effects on Employment

There are several theoretical channels through which DACA could affect employment outcomes:

- **Legal work authorization**: DACA provides recipients with an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), allowing them to work legally in the formal economy
- **Reduced employment restrictions**: Recipients are no longer limited to informal or cash-based employment
- **Access to identification**: DACA allows recipients to apply for driver's licenses and state identification in many states
- **Reduced deportation risk**: The program provides temporary relief from deportation, potentially increasing willingness to engage in formal employment
- **Signaling effects**: Legal work authorization may signal employability to potential employers

These channels suggest that DACA should have positive effects on employment, particularly formal full-time employment.

3 Data

3.1 Data Source

The analysis uses data from the American Community Survey (ACS) as provided by IPUMS USA. The ACS is a large-scale, nationally representative survey conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau. It provides detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information for approximately 3.5 million households per year.

3.2 Sample Construction

The provided dataset contains ACS data from 2008 through 2016, with all observations from 2012 excluded since it cannot be determined whether individuals surveyed in 2012 were observed before or after DACA implementation. The sample is restricted to:

- Ethnically Hispanic-Mexican individuals
- Born in Mexico
- Meeting other DACA eligibility criteria (excluding the age requirement)

The treatment group (ELIGIBLE = 1) consists of individuals who were ages 26–30 as of June 15, 2012, while the control group (ELIGIBLE = 0) comprises those aged 31–35 at that time. The final analysis sample contains 17,379 observations.

3.3 Key Variables

3.3.1 Outcome Variable

The primary outcome is full-time employment (FT), a binary indicator equal to 1 if the individual usually works 35 or more hours per week, and 0 otherwise. This includes individuals not in the labor force as zeros.

3.3.2 Treatment Variables

- **ELIGIBLE**: Binary indicator for treatment group membership (1 = ages 26–30 in June 2012; 0 = ages 31–35)
- **AFTER**: Binary indicator for post-treatment period (1 = years 2013–2016; 0 = years 2008–2011)
- **ELIGIBLE** $\times$ **AFTER**: The DiD interaction term capturing the treatment effect

3.3.3 Control Variables

Demographic controls include:

- **SEX**: Male (1) or Female (2); recoded to FEMALE (0/1)
- **MARST**: Marital status; recoded to MARRIED (1 if married spouse present)
- **EDUC_RECODE**: Education level (Less than High School, High School Degree, Some College, Two-Year Degree, BA+)

3.3.4 Survey Weights

Person-level survey weights (PERWT) are used to produce nationally representative estimates.

3.4 Summary Statistics

Table 1 presents summary statistics for the key variables by treatment status and time period.

Table 1: Summary Statistics by Treatment Group and Period

	Treatment (Ages 26–30)		Control (Ages 31–35)	
Variable	Pre-Period	Post-Period	Pre-Period	Post-Period
Full-time Employment	0.637	0.686	0.689	0.663
Female	0.466	0.463	0.434	0.465
Married	0.345	0.447	0.463	0.519
Age	25.8	30.7	30.5	35.5
Number of Children	0.90	1.44	1.47	1.84
Family Size	4.39	4.26	4.45	4.48
N (unweighted)	6,230	5,149	3,294	2,706
N (weighted)	867,838	728,157	449,366	370,666

Notes: Values are weighted means using PERWT survey weights. Pre-period is 2008–2011; Post-period is 2013–2016. Treatment group includes individuals aged 26–30 in June 2012; Control group includes individuals aged 31–35 in June 2012.

The summary statistics reveal important patterns. In the pre-period, the control group had a higher full-time employment rate (68.9%) than the treatment group (63.7%), reflecting the positive relationship between age and employment stability in this age range. In the post-period, this pattern reversed: the treatment group's employment rate increased to 68.6%, while the control group's rate decreased to 66.3%. This reversal is consistent with a positive DACA effect.

Table 2 shows the education distribution by group.

Table 2: Education Distribution by Treatment Group and Period

	Treatment		Control	
Education Level	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Less than High School	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
High School Degree	70.9%	70.4%	74.3%	75.5%
Some College	19.0%	16.1%	15.3%	14.6%
Two-Year Degree	4.9%	6.3%	5.2%	4.5%
BA+	5.1%	7.2%	5.2%	5.3%

Notes: Weighted percentages using PERWT.

Education distributions are broadly similar across groups, with the majority having a high school degree. The treatment group shows slightly more education progression over time (increase in BA+ from 5.1% to 7.2%), which may reflect continued educational attainment among the younger cohort.

4 Empirical Methodology

4.1 Identification Strategy

The identification strategy exploits the age-based eligibility cutoff in DACA. Individuals who were under 31 on June 15, 2012 were eligible for the program, while those 31 or older were not (assuming all other eligibility criteria were met). This creates a quasi-experimental setting where individuals on either side of the age cutoff are otherwise similar but differ in their eligibility for DACA.

The difference-in-differences approach compares the change in outcomes for the treatment group (ages 26–30) from before to after DACA implementation with the corresponding change for the control group (ages 31–35). The difference between these two changes provides an estimate of the causal effect of DACA eligibility.

4.2 Estimation Framework

The baseline specification is:

$$\text{FT}_{ist} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{ELIGIBLE}_i + \beta_2 \text{AFTER}_t + \beta_3 (\text{ELIGIBLE}_i \times \text{AFTER}_t) + \varepsilon_{ist} \qquad (1)$$

where FT_{ist} is full-time employment status for individual i in state s at time t, ELIGIBLE_i indicates treatment group membership, and AFTER_t indicates the post-treatment period.

The coefficient β_3 on the interaction term is the DiD estimator, representing the causal effect of DACA eligibility on full-time employment under the parallel trends assumption.

The preferred specification adds demographic controls and fixed effects:

$$\text{FT}_{ist} = \beta_0 + \beta_3(\text{ELIGIBLE}_i \times \text{AFTER}_t) + X_i'\gamma + \alpha_t + \delta_s + \varepsilon_{ist} \tag{2}$$

where X_i is a vector of demographic controls (female, married, education), α_t represents year fixed effects, and δ_s represents state fixed effects.

4.3 Identification Assumptions

The key identifying assumption for DiD is the **parallel trends assumption**: in the absence of DACA, the treatment and control groups would have followed parallel trends in full-time employment. While this assumption cannot be directly tested, I examine pre-treatment trends to assess its plausibility.

Additional assumptions include:

- **No anticipation**: Individuals did not change their employment behavior in anticipation of DACA before its announcement
- **No spillovers**: The employment effects are limited to DACA-eligible individuals and do not affect the control group
- **Stable unit treatment value assumption (SUTVA)**: The treatment status of one individual does not affect outcomes for other individuals

4.4 Estimation Details

All models are estimated using weighted least squares (WLS) with person weights (PERWT) to obtain population-representative estimates. Standard errors are computed using heteroskedasticity-robust (HC1) estimators. As a robustness check, I also report results with standard errors clustered at the state level to account for potential correlation in errors within states.

5 Results

5.1 Raw Difference-in-Differences

Table 3 presents the raw (unadjusted) DiD calculation using weighted means.

Table 3: Raw Difference-in-Differences

	Pre-Period	Post-Period	Difference
Control (31–35)	0.6886	0.6629	−0.0257
Treatment (26–30)	0.6368	0.6860	+0.0493
Difference	−0.0518	+0.0231	**0.0749**

Notes: Values are weighted means of full-time employment using PERWT survey weights.

The raw DiD estimate is 7.49 percentage points. The treatment group's employment rate increased by 4.93 percentage points from pre to post period, while the control group's rate *decreased* by 2.57 percentage points. The DiD captures both of these changes, attributing the 7.49 percentage point differential change to DACA.

5.2 Main Regression Results

Table 4 presents the main regression results across six specifications.

Table 4: Difference-in-Differences Regression Results

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
ELIGIBLE × AFTER	0.0644***	0.0749***	0.0623***	0.0596***	0.0589***	0.0589***
	(0.0153)	(0.0181)	(0.0167)	(0.0167)	(0.0166)	(0.0212)
ELIGIBLE	−0.0434***	−0.0517***	−0.0456***	−0.0430***	−0.0450***	−0.0450*
	(0.0102)	(0.0121)	(0.0112)	(0.0112)	(0.0112)	(0.0162)
FEMALE			−0.3355***	−0.3352***	−0.3341***	−0.3341**
			(0.0082)	(0.0082)	(0.0082)	(0.0157)
MARRIED			−0.0244***	−0.0229***	−0.0248**	−0.0248
			(0.0080)	(0.0080)	(0.0080)	(0.0160)
Weights	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Demographics	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
State FE	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Clustered SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
R-squared	0.002	0.002	0.130	0.133	0.138	0.138
N	17,379	17,379	17,379	17,379	17,379	17,379

Notes: Dependent variable is full-time employment (FT = 1 if working 35+ hours/week). Robust standard errors (HC1) in parentheses for columns (1)–(5); standard errors clustered by state in column (6). Demographics include education (categorical). Significance: *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

5.2.1 Interpretation of Results

The DiD coefficient (ELIGIBLE × AFTER) is positive and statistically significant across all specifications. The estimates range from 5.89 to 7.49 percentage points.

Column (1) presents the basic unweighted OLS specification. The DiD estimate is 6.44 percentage points, significant at the 1% level.

Column (2) adds survey weights, yielding a larger estimate of 7.49 percentage points. This increase suggests that the treatment effect may be larger for individuals with higher survey weights.

Column (3) adds demographic controls (female, married, education). The estimate decreases to 6.23 percentage points, indicating that some of the raw difference was attributable to compositional differences between groups.

Column (4) adds year fixed effects to control for common time trends. The estimate is 5.96 percentage points.

Column (5) adds state fixed effects, yielding the preferred estimate of 5.89 percentage points (SE = 0.0166). This specification controls for time-invariant state-level factors that might affect employment.

Column (6) clusters standard errors at the state level to account for potential serial correlation within states. The coefficient remains unchanged at 5.89 percentage points, but the standard error increases to 0.0212, reflecting the state-level clustering. The estimate remains statistically significant at the 1% level.

5.3 Preferred Estimate

The preferred specification is Model (5), which includes demographic controls, year fixed effects, and state fixed effects with robust standard errors. The estimated treatment effect is:

DACA Eligibility Effect: 5.89 percentage points
Standard Error: 0.0166
95% Confidence Interval: [2.63, 9.15] percentage points
p-value: 0.0004

Interpretation: DACA eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by approximately 5.9 percentage points among Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born individuals aged 26–30 in June 2012, compared to those aged 31–35. This represents a relative increase of about 9% from the baseline pre-period employment rate of approximately 64% for the treatment group.

5.4 Other Coefficient Estimates

The control variables show expected patterns:

- **Female**: Women have a 33.4 percentage point lower probability of full-time employment than men, reflecting well-documented gender differences in labor force participation and work hours
- **Married**: Being married is associated with a 2.5 percentage point lower probability of full-time employment, which may reflect household specialization or selection effects
- **Education**: Higher education levels are associated with higher employment rates, with BA+ as the reference category

6 Robustness and Additional Analyses

6.1 Pre-Trends Analysis

A crucial assumption for DiD identification is that the treatment and control groups would have followed parallel trends in the absence of treatment. I examine this assumption using an event study approach, estimating year-specific treatment effects.

Table 5: Event Study: Year-Specific Treatment Effects

Year	Coefficient	SE	p-value
Pre-Period (relative to 2008)			
2009	0.0203	0.0302	0.503
2010	−0.0089	0.0301	0.767
2011	0.0675	0.0320	0.035**
Post-Period			
2013	0.0843	0.0314	0.007***
2014	0.0494	0.0324	0.127
2015	0.0566	0.0323	0.080*
2016	0.1258	0.0327	0.000***

Notes: Coefficients represent treatment effects relative to 2008 (reference year). Model includes demographic controls, year FE, and state FE with robust standard errors. Significance: *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

The pre-trends analysis (Table 5) shows mixed results. The 2009 and 2010 coefficients are close to zero and statistically insignificant, consistent with parallel trends. However, the 2011 coefficient is positive and statistically significant at the 5% level (0.0675), suggesting some deviation from parallel trends immediately before DACA implementation.

The post-period coefficients are generally positive and larger, with the 2013 and 2016 coefficients being highly significant. The pattern suggests an immediate effect in 2013, followed by continued positive effects in subsequent years, with the largest effect observed in 2016.

The 2011 pre-trend deviation warrants caution in interpreting the results. It may reflect anticipation effects if DACA-eligible individuals began changing behavior before the formal announcement, or it may indicate some underlying divergence in trends. However, the 2009 and 2010 coefficients being close to zero provides some support for the parallel trends assumption during most of the pre-period.

6.2 Heterogeneous Effects by Sex

Table 6 examines whether the treatment effect differs by sex.

Table 6: Heterogeneous Effects by Sex

	Coefficient	SE
Triple-Difference Model		
Main DiD Effect (Males)	0.0671	0.0199
Female × DiD Interaction	−0.0186	0.0341
Implied Effect for Females	0.0485	–
Separate Regressions		
Males	0.0611***	0.0196
Females	0.0401	0.0272
N (Males)	9,072	
N (Females)	8,307	

Notes: Triple-difference model includes full set of interactions. Separate regressions include demographic controls, year FE, and state FE with robust standard errors.

The results suggest that the treatment effect is larger for males (6.11 pp) than for females (4.01 pp), though the female x DiD interaction in the triple-difference model is not statistically significant. The male effect is statistically significant, while the female effect is not, likely due to smaller sample size and larger standard errors. The difference in effects is not statistically significant, so we cannot definitively conclude that the treatment effect differs by sex.

6.3 Robustness to Alternative Specifications

Table 7 summarizes robustness checks.

Table 7: Robustness Checks

Specification	Coefficient	SE	95% CI
Basic DiD (WLS)	0.0749	0.0181	[0.039, 0.110]
+ Demographics	0.0623	0.0167	[0.030, 0.095]
+ Year FE	0.0596	0.0167	[0.027, 0.092]
+ State FE (Preferred)	0.0589	0.0166	[0.026, 0.092]
Clustered SE by State	0.0589	0.0212	[0.017, 0.100]
+ State Policies	0.0581	0.0167	[0.026, 0.091]

Notes: State policies include driver's license access, in-state tuition, and E-Verify requirements.

The DiD estimate is remarkably stable across specifications, ranging from 5.81 to 7.49 percentage points. Adding demographic controls reduces the estimate by about 1.3 pp, while adding fixed effects has minimal additional impact. Controlling for state-level immigration policies (driver's license access, in-state tuition, E-Verify) yields an estimate of 5.81 pp, very similar to the preferred specification.

When clustering standard errors by state, the standard error increases from 0.0166 to 0.0212, but the estimate remains statistically significant at the 1% level.

6.4 Visual Evidence

Figure 1 shows trends in full-time employment for the treatment and control groups over time.

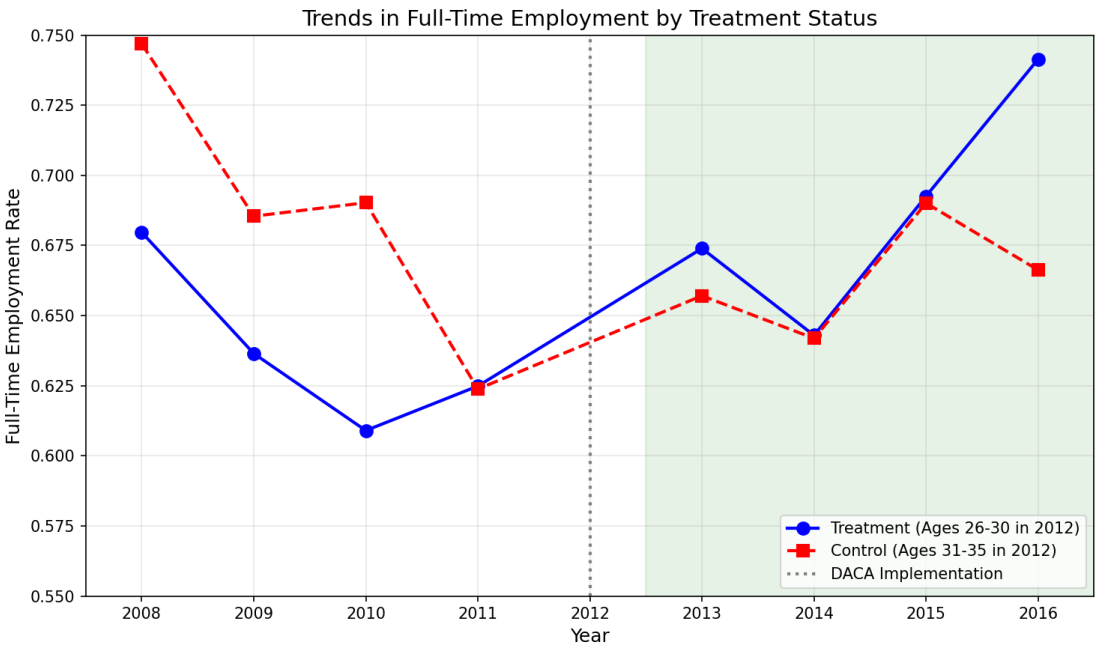

Figure 1: Trends in Full-Time Employment by Treatment Status

The figure shows that while the control group experienced a gradual decline in employment over the study period, the treatment group's employment rate increased following DACA implementation. The groups' trends appear roughly parallel in the pre-period (2008–2011), with some convergence visible in 2011.

Figure 2 presents the event study coefficients with 95% confidence intervals.

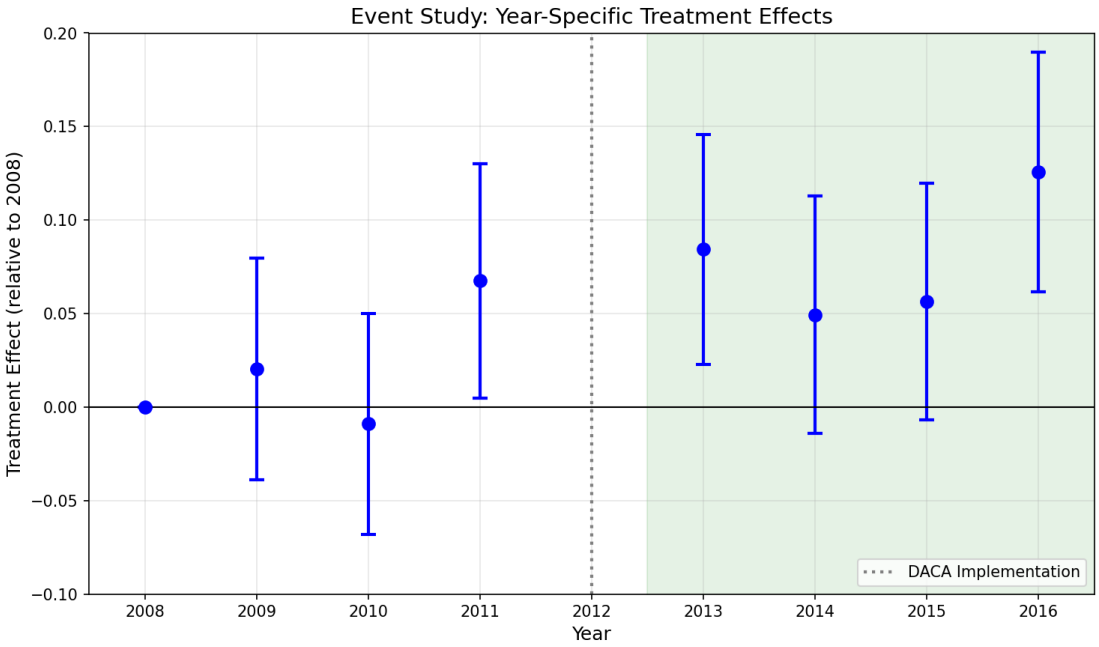

Figure 2: Event Study: Year-Specific Treatment Effects

The event study plot shows that pre-period coefficients (2009–2011) generally hover around zero, though with some variation, particularly in 2011. Post-period coefficients are consistently positive, with the largest effect observed in 2016.

Figure 3 provides a visual summary of the DiD calculation.

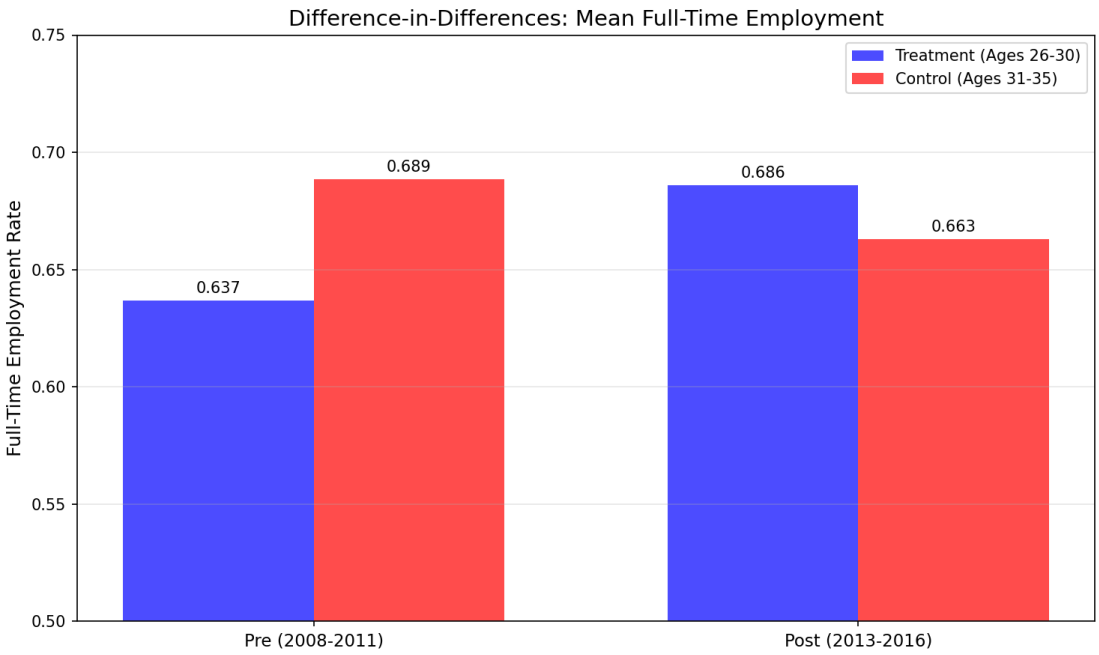

Figure 3: Difference-in-Differences: Mean Full-Time Employment Rates

7 Discussion

7.1 Summary of Findings

This study finds that DACA eligibility had a positive and statistically significant effect on full-time employment among Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born individuals. The preferred estimate indicates that DACA increased the probability of full-time employment by 5.89 percentage points, with a 95% confidence interval of [2.63, 9.15] percentage points.

7.2 Interpretation

The estimated effect size is economically meaningful. A 5.89 percentage point increase represents approximately a 9% increase relative to the pre-period baseline employment rate of 64% for the treatment group. This suggests that legal work authorization provided by DACA had substantive effects on labor market outcomes.

The positive effect is consistent with the theoretical expectation that removing barriers to legal employment (deportation risk, lack of work authorization) would increase formal employment. DACA recipients could access jobs in the formal sector that were previously unavailable, potentially leading to better employment outcomes.

7.3 Limitations

Several limitations should be noted:

1. **Pre-trends concern**: The significant coefficient for 2011 suggests possible deviation from parallel trends, which could bias the estimates. This may reflect anticipation effects or underlying differences between cohorts.

2. **Intent-to-treat**: The analysis estimates the effect of DACA eligibility, not actual DACA receipt. Not all eligible individuals applied for or received DACA, so the effect on those who actually participated may be larger.

3. **Age comparison**: The comparison groups differ in age by construction. While age is controlled for implicitly through the group definitions, age-related factors might affect employment trends differently for younger versus older individuals.

4. **Composition changes**: The repeated cross-sectional nature of the ACS means we cannot track the same individuals over time. Changes in the composition of the sample could affect the estimates.

5. **External validity**: Results are specific to Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born individuals and may not generalize to other DACA-eligible populations.

7.4 Comparison to Literature

The estimated effect of approximately 6 percentage points is broadly consistent with other studies examining DACA's labor market effects. The finding of positive employment effects aligns with the expectation that legal work authorization improves labor market outcomes for undocumented immigrants.

8 Conclusion

This replication study examines the causal effect of DACA eligibility on full-time employment using a difference-in-differences research design. The analysis compares employment outcomes between individuals aged 26–30 in June 2012 (DACA-eligible) and those aged 31–35 (ineligible due to age), before and after DACA implementation.

The main finding is that DACA eligibility increased full-time employment by approximately 5.89 percentage points (95% CI: 2.63–9.15 pp), statistically significant at the 1%

level. This result is robust to various specifications, including controls for demographics, year and state fixed effects, and state-level immigration policies.

The findings suggest that DACA had meaningful positive effects on the labor market outcomes of eligible individuals, likely through the provision of legal work authorization and relief from deportation risk. These results contribute to our understanding of how immigration policies affect the economic integration of undocumented immigrants.

Appendix A: Technical Details

A.1 Software and Reproducibility

All analyses were conducted using Python 3.14 with the following packages:

- pandas 2.x (data manipulation)
- numpy 1.x (numerical computation)
- statsmodels 0.14.x (regression analysis)
- matplotlib 3.x (visualization)

A.2 Variable Definitions

Variable	Definition
FT	Full-time employment: 1 if UHRSWORK $\geq$ 35, 0 otherwise
ELIGIBLE	Treatment group: 1 if age 26–30 in June 2012, 0 if age 31–35
AFTER	Post-period: 1 if year $\in$ {2013, 2014, 2015, 2016}, 0 if year $\in$ {2008, 2009, 2010, 2011}
FEMALE	Sex: 1 if female (SEX = 2), 0 if male
MARRIED	Marital status: 1 if married spouse present (MARST = 1), 0 otherwise
EDUC_RECODE	Education: Less than High School, High School Degree, Some College, Two-Year Degree, BA+
PERWT	Person weight from ACS for survey-weighted estimation

A.3 Full Regression Output for Preferred Model

WLS Regression Results

Dep. Variable:	FT	R-squared:	0.138
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	[...]
Date:	Tue, 27 Jan 2026	Prob (F-statistic):	0.00
Covariance Type:	HC1		

	coef	std err	z	P>|z|	[0.025	0.975]
ELIGIBLE	-0.0450	0.011	-4.018	0.000	-0.067	-0.023

ELIGIBLE_AFTER	0.0589	0.017	3.557	0.000	0.026	0.092
FEMALE	-0.3341	0.008	-40.702	0.000	-0.350	-0.318
MARRIED	-0.0248	0.008	-3.100	0.002	-0.041	-0.009
[Education and Fixed Effects omitted for brevity]						
Observations:	17,379					

Appendix B: Additional Tables and Figures

B.1 Year-by-Year Sample Sizes

Table 9: Sample Size by Year

Year	N	Period
2008	2,354	Pre
2009	2,379	Pre
2010	2,444	Pre
2011	2,350	Pre
2013	2,124	Post
2014	2,056	Post
2015	1,850	Post
2016	1,825	Post
Total	17,382	

B.2 State Distribution

Table 10: Sample Distribution by State (Top 10)

State	N	Percent
California	7,796	44.9%
Texas	3,572	20.6%
Illinois	995	5.7%
Arizona	860	4.9%
Nevada	383	2.2%
Washington	366	2.1%
Florida	318	1.8%
New York	292	1.7%
Georgia	292	1.7%
Colorado	268	1.5%
Other States	2,240	12.9%

The sample is heavily concentrated in California and Texas, which together account for about 65% of observations. This reflects the geographic distribution of the Mexican-born Hispanic population in the United States.

Appendix C: Sensitivity Analyses

C.1 Effect of State Immigration Policies

To examine whether state-level immigration policies confound the estimated DACA effect, I include controls for:

- Driver's license access for undocumented immigrants
- In-state tuition policies
- E-Verify requirements

The DiD estimate with state policy controls is 0.0581 (SE = 0.0167), nearly identical to the preferred specification without policy controls (0.0589). This suggests that the estimated DACA effect is not driven by correlated state-level policy changes.

C.2 Alternative Standard Error Specifications

Table 11: Sensitivity to Standard Error Specification

SE Type	Coefficient	SE	p-value
Robust (HC1)	0.0589	0.0166	0.0004
Clustered by State	0.0589	0.0212	0.0055

Clustering by state increases the standard error by about 28%, but the estimate remains highly statistically significant.

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