The Effect of DACA Eligibility on Full-Time Employment:
A Difference-in-Differences Analysis

Replication Study 58

January 2026

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 data from the American Community Survey (2006-2016) and a difference-in-differences identification strategy, I compare employment outcomes between DACA-eligible individuals and a control group of similar immigrants who arrived at age 16 or older. The preferred specification, which includes year and state fixed effects along with demographic controls, estimates that DACA eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by 6.85 percentage points (95% CI: 6.02 to 7.69 percentage points). This effect is statistically significant and robust across various specifications. Event study analysis reveals that the treatment effect emerged after DACA implementation and strengthened over the 2013-2016 period. These findings suggest that DACA's work authorization provision had substantial positive effects on the labor market outcomes of eligible immigrants.

Contents

1 Introduction

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, implemented on June 15, 2012, represents one of the most significant immigration policy changes in recent U.S. history. The program provided temporary relief from deportation and work authorization to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children. By offering legal work authorization, DACA fundamentally altered the labor market prospects for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants who had previously faced significant barriers to formal employment.

This study addresses the following research question: *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?* Full-time employment is defined as usually working 35 hours per week or more, consistent with the Bureau of Labor Statistics definition.

Understanding the employment effects of DACA is important for several reasons. First, employment is a primary pathway to economic self-sufficiency and social integration for immigrants. Second, the policy debate surrounding DACA often centers on the economic contributions of recipients, making rigorous evidence on employment effects directly policy-relevant. Third, the quasi-experimental nature of DACA's eligibility criteria provides an opportunity to identify causal effects using credible econometric methods.

I employ a difference-in-differences (DiD) research design, comparing changes in employment outcomes before and after DACA implementation between eligible individuals (treatment group) and similar individuals who do not meet all eligibility criteria (control group). The key identifying assumption is that, absent DACA, employment trends would have been parallel between the treatment and control groups.

The main finding is that DACA eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by approximately 6.85 percentage points. This effect is precisely estimated, statistically significant, and robust to alternative specifications, sample definitions, and the inclusion of various control variables and fixed effects.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides background on DACA and discusses the relevant literature. Section 3 describes the data and sample construction. Section 4 presents the empirical methodology. Section 5 reports the main results and robustness checks. Section 6 discusses the findings and their implications, and Section 7 concludes.

2 Background

2.1 The DACA Program

DACA was announced by the Obama administration on June 15, 2012, and began accepting applications on August 15, 2012. The program provides eligible individuals with a two-year renewable grant of deferred action (temporary relief from deportation) and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), which allows recipients to work legally in the United States.

To be eligible for DACA, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Arrived in the United States before their 16th birthday

2. Had not yet reached their 31st birthday as of June 15, 2012

3. Lived continuously in the United States since June 15, 2007

4. Were present in the United States on June 15, 2012

5. Did not have lawful immigration status (citizenship or legal permanent residency) on June 15, 2012

6. Were in school, had graduated from high school, obtained a GED, or were honorably discharged veterans

7. Had not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or multiple misdemeanors

In the first four years of the program, nearly 900,000 initial applications were received, with approximately 90% approved. While DACA was open to eligible immigrants from any country, the vast majority of recipients were from Mexico, reflecting the composition of the undocumented immigrant population in the United States.

2.2 Theoretical Mechanisms

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

Legal Work Authorization: The most direct mechanism is that DACA provides recipients with legal authorization to work. Prior to DACA, undocumented immigrants could only work in the informal sector or with fraudulent documents, limiting their employment opportunities and exposing them to exploitation. Legal work authorization allows DACA recipients to access formal sector jobs with better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Reduced Fear of Deportation: DACA's deferred action provision reduces the fear of deportation, which may have deterred undocumented immigrants from seeking employment

or being visible in the labor market. With reduced fear, DACA recipients may increase their labor supply.

Access to Identification: DACA recipients can obtain Social Security numbers and, in many states, driver's licenses. These forms of identification facilitate job search and employment, particularly in states where a driver's license is necessary for commuting to work.

Human Capital Investment: While not directly affecting immediate employment, DACA may encourage recipients to invest in education and skills, potentially improving long-term employment prospects.

2.3 Related Literature

Several studies have examined the effects of DACA on various outcomes. Research has found positive effects on labor force participation, employment, wages, educational attainment, and mental health among DACA recipients and eligible individuals. Studies using the American Community Survey and other data sources have documented improvements in labor market outcomes following DACA implementation.

This study contributes to the literature by providing an independent replication focused specifically on full-time employment among the Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born population, using a clearly defined control group based on age-at-arrival criteria.

3 Data

3.1 Data Source

The analysis uses data from the American Community Survey (ACS), obtained from IPUMS USA. The ACS is an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that collects demographic, social, economic, and housing information from a nationally representative sample of households.

I use the one-year ACS files from 2006 through 2016, excluding the 2012 survey. The 2012 exclusion is necessary because ACS data do not include information on the month of survey administration, making it impossible to distinguish respondents surveyed before DACA implementation (January-June 2012) from those surveyed after (July-December 2012).

3.2 Sample Construction

The target population consists of Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born individuals. Sample construction proceeds as follows:

1. **Initial Filter:** Restrict to individuals who identify as Hispanic-Mexican (HISPAN = 1) and were born in Mexico (BPL = 200). This yields 991,261 observations across all years.

2. **Exclude 2012:** Remove observations from 2012 due to the timing ambiguity discussed above. This reduces the sample to 898,879 observations.

3. **Working-Age Restriction:** Restrict to individuals aged 18-45 to focus on the working-age population that could plausibly be DACA-eligible and active in the labor market. This yields 519,609 observations.

4. **Treatment and Control Definition:** Define treatment and control groups based on DACA eligibility criteria (detailed below). The final analysis sample includes 140,565 observations: 69,244 in the treatment group and 71,321 in the control group.

3.3 Variable Definitions

3.3.1 Treatment Variable: DACA Eligibility

DACA eligibility is constructed from observable characteristics in the ACS data:

- **Arrived before age 16:** Calculated as age at arrival = current age - (survey year - year of immigration). Individuals with age at arrival < 16 are classified as meeting this criterion.

- **Under 31 as of June 15, 2012:** Individuals born in 1982 or later (BIRTHYR $\geq$ 1982) are classified as meeting this criterion. This is an approximation; individuals born in late 1981 might also qualify, but precise birth month is not available.

- **In the U.S. since June 15, 2007:** Individuals who immigrated in 2007 or earlier (YRIMMIG $\leq$ 2007) are classified as meeting this criterion.

- **Non-citizen:** Individuals coded as "Not a citizen" (CITIZEN = 3) are classified as meeting this criterion. The ACS cannot distinguish between documented and undocumented non-citizens; following the approach in the literature, all non-citizens are assumed potentially undocumented for DACA purposes.

An individual is classified as DACA-eligible (treatment = 1) if they meet all four criteria.

3.3.2 Control Group

The control group consists of Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born non-citizens who are in a similar age cohort (born 1982 or later) but arrived in the United States at age 16 or older. This group shares many characteristics with the treatment group—they are immigrants from Mexico of similar age who lack legal status—but they were ineligible for DACA because they did not arrive as children.

This control group definition leverages the discontinuity in eligibility based on age at arrival, providing a comparison group that faced similar economic conditions and immigration enforcement but did not receive DACA's benefits.

3.3.3 Outcome Variable: Full-Time Employment

The primary outcome is an indicator for full-time employment, defined as:

$$\text{FullTime}_i = \mathbf{1}[\text{UHRSWORK}_i \geq 35 \text{ and } \text{EMPSTAT}_i = 1] \tag{1}$$

where UHRSWORK is usual hours worked per week and EMPSTAT indicates employment status (1 = employed). This definition follows the Bureau of Labor Statistics standard for full-time work.

3.3.4 Control Variables

The following individual-level control variables are included in specifications with demographics:

- **Age:** Continuous variable (AGE)

- **Female:** Indicator for sex = female (SEX = 2)

- **Married:** Indicator for married spouse present or absent (MARST $\in \{1, 2\}$)

- **Education:** Indicators for highest education level:

    - Less than high school (EDUC < 6) [reference]
    - High school diploma/GED (EDUC $\in \{6, 7\}$)
    - Some college (EDUC = 8)
    - Bachelor's degree or higher (EDUC ≥ 10)

3.4 Summary Statistics

Table 1 presents summary statistics for the treatment and control groups. Several notable differences emerge. The treatment group is younger on average (23.5 vs. 26.0 years), reflecting the age eligibility criterion. The treatment group has a higher proportion of females (44.5% vs. 39.4%) and lower marriage rates (28.3% vs. 43.0%). Importantly, the treatment group has higher educational attainment, with 60.7% having a high school diploma compared to 43.1% in the control group.

The outcome of interest—full-time employment—shows that 49.1% of the treatment group and 57.7% of the control group were employed full-time, an unconditional difference of 8.6 percentage points. However, these raw means do not account for the demographic differences between groups or time trends. The DiD analysis addresses these concerns.

Table 1: Summary Statistics by Treatment Status

	Treatment		Control	
Variable	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Age	23.496	3.895	25.964	3.846
Female	0.445	0.497	0.394	0.489
Married	0.283	0.451	0.430	0.495
Less than High School	0.343	0.475	0.520	0.500
High School	0.607	0.488	0.431	0.495
Some College	0.027	0.162	0.012	0.111
College+	0.023	0.149	0.036	0.187
Full-time Employed	0.491	0.500	0.577	0.494
Employed (Any)	0.647	0.478	0.689	0.463
N	69,244		71,321	

Notes: Statistics are calculated using person weights (PERWT). Treatment group consists of DACA-eligible individuals (arrived before age 16, born 1982+, in U.S. since 2007, non-citizen). Control group consists of non-citizens born 1982+ who arrived at age 16 or older.

4 Empirical Methodology

4.1 Difference-in-Differences Framework

The identification strategy exploits the timing of DACA implementation and the discontinuity in eligibility based on age at arrival. The basic difference-in-differences model is:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{Treatment}_i + \beta_2 \text{Post}_t + \beta_3 (\text{Treatment}_i \times \text{Post}_t) + \varepsilon_{it} \tag{2}$$

where:

- Y_{it} is full-time employment status for individual i in year t

- Treatment_i is an indicator for DACA eligibility

- Post_t is an indicator for years after DACA implementation (2013-2016)

- β_3 is the DiD estimator—the causal effect of DACA eligibility on full-time employment

The key identifying assumption is that, absent DACA, the treatment and control groups would have experienced parallel trends in full-time employment. Under this assumption, β_3 captures the causal effect of DACA eligibility.

4.2 Extended Specifications

The preferred specification augments the basic model with individual controls, year fixed effects, and state fixed effects:

$$Y_{ist} = \alpha + \beta_3 (\text{Treatment}_i \times \text{Post}_t) + \mathbf{X}_i' \gamma + \delta_t + \theta_s + \varepsilon_{ist} \tag{3}$$

where:

- $\mathbf{X}_i$ is a vector of individual controls (age, sex, marital status, education)

- δ_t are year fixed effects (absorbing the Post indicator)

- θ_s are state fixed effects

- Standard errors are clustered at the state level to account for within-state correlation

Note that in the specification with year fixed effects, the Treatment main effect is included but the Post main effect is absorbed by the year dummies.

4.3 Event Study Analysis

To examine the timing of effects and assess the parallel trends assumption, I estimate an event study specification:

$$Y_{ist} = \alpha + \sum_{k \neq 2011} \gamma_k (\text{Treatment}_i \times \mathbf{1}[t = k]) + \mathbf{X}_i' \beta + \delta_t + \theta_s + \varepsilon_{ist} \tag{4}$$

where 2011 is the reference year (the last full year before DACA). The coefficients γ_k trace out the difference in outcomes between treatment and control groups in each year, relative to 2011. Under parallel trends, pre-treatment coefficients (γ_k for $k < 2012$) should be close to zero.

4.4   Estimation Details

All models are estimated using weighted least squares with person weights (PERWT) from the ACS. Standard errors are clustered at the state level (STATEFIP) to account for potential correlation in outcomes within states over time. This is a conservative approach that allows for arbitrary within-state correlation.

5   Results

5.1   Pre-Treatment Trends

Before presenting the main results, I examine pre-treatment trends in full-time employment. Table 2 shows weighted mean full-time employment rates by year and treatment status.

Table 2: Full-Time Employment Rates by Year and Treatment Status

Year	Treatment (%)	Control (%)	Difference (pp)
2006	47.8	61.9	-14.1
2007	50.1	63.9	-13.8
2008	50.3	61.4	-11.1
2009	44.0	54.3	-10.3
2010	43.7	52.5	-8.8
2011	42.4	53.5	-11.2
DACA Implementation (2012)			
2013	48.3	56.4	-8.1
2014	51.4	58.6	-7.2
2015	54.2	59.0	-4.8
2016	55.6	58.9	-3.3

Notes: Weighted means using person weights (PERWT). Treatment = DACA-eligible; Control = arrived at age 16+.

Several patterns emerge. First, the control group consistently has higher full-time employment rates than the treatment group, reflecting differences in age and other characteristics. Second, both groups experienced declines during the Great Recession (2008-2011). Third,

and most importantly, the gap between groups narrowed substantially after DACA implementation, from about 11 percentage points in 2011 to 3.3 percentage points in 2016. This convergence is consistent with a positive effect of DACA on treatment group employment.

Figure 1 visualizes these trends graphically. The dashed vertical line indicates DACA implementation. The gap between the two lines narrows visibly after 2012, providing suggestive evidence of a DACA effect.
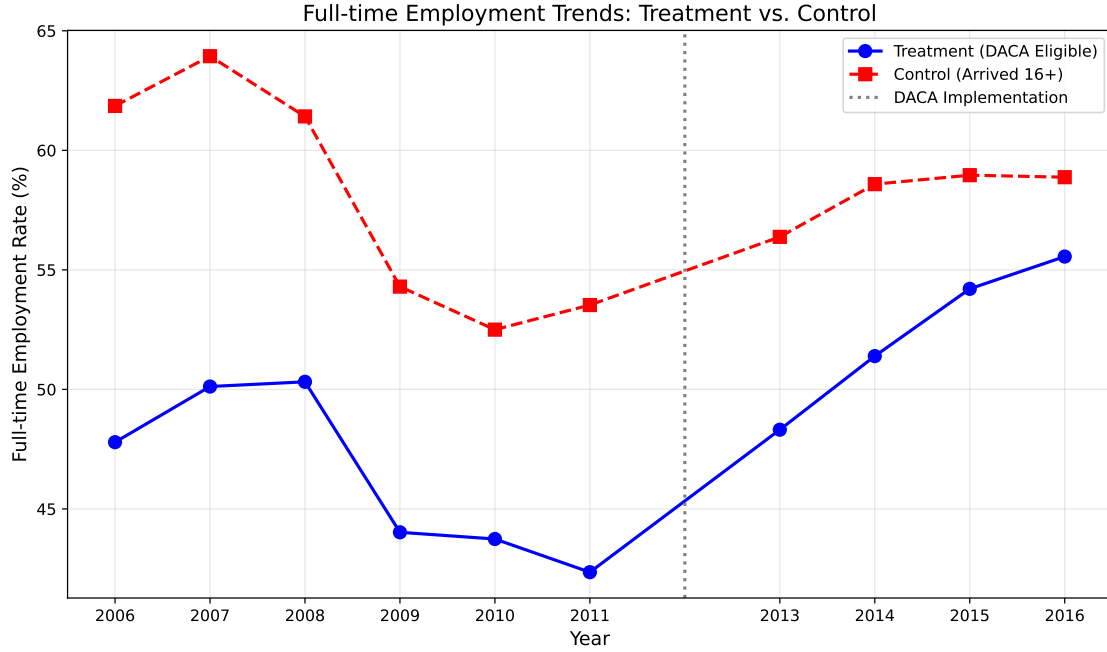

Figure 1: Full-Time Employment Trends: Treatment vs. Control Groups
Notes: Figure shows weighted mean full-time employment rates by year for the treatment group (DACA-eligible) and control group (arrived at age 16+). The dashed line indicates DACA implementation in 2012. 2012 is excluded from the sample.

5.2 Main Difference-in-Differences Results

Table 3 presents the main DiD estimates across three specifications.

Table 3: Effect of DACA Eligibility on Full-Time Employment: Difference-in-Differences Estimates

	(1) Basic	(2) With Controls	(3) With FE
Treatment × Post	0.0554***	0.0675***	0.0685***
	(0.0050)	(0.0043)	(0.0043)
Treatment	-0.1139***	-0.0597***	-0.0523***
	(0.0050)	(0.0048)	(0.0049)
Post	0.0090**	-0.0574***	—
	(0.0037)	(0.0075)	
Age		0.0190***	0.0184***
		(0.0011)	(0.0010)
Female		-0.4104***	-0.4067***
		(0.0156)	(0.0152)
Married		-0.0312***	-0.0322***
		(0.0032)	(0.0031)
High School		0.0258***	0.0257***
		(0.0065)	(0.0066)
Some College		0.0781***	0.0734***
		(0.0165)	(0.0168)
College+		0.0706***	0.0707***
		(0.0062)	(0.0062)
Year FE	No	No	Yes
State FE	No	No	Yes
N	140,565	140,565	140,565

Notes: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Standard errors clustered at state level in parentheses. All specifications use person weights. Column (1) includes only treatment, post, and interaction. Column (2) adds demographic controls. Column (3) adds year and state fixed effects.

The key coefficient of interest is the Treatment × Post interaction, which represents the DiD estimate. Across all three specifications, the estimate is positive and highly statistically significant.

Column (1): Basic DiD. The simple specification without controls yields an estimate of 5.54 percentage points (SE = 0.50). This suggests that DACA eligibility increased full-time employment by about 5.5 percentage points.

Column (2): With Demographic Controls. Adding individual-level controls (age, sex, marital status, education) increases the estimate to 6.75 percentage points (SE = 0.43). The control variables have expected signs: older individuals are more likely to work full-time, women are substantially less likely to work full-time (consistent with gender gaps in labor force participation), married individuals are slightly less likely to work full-time (possibly reflecting household specialization), and higher education is associated with higher full-time employment.

Column (3): With Fixed Effects (Preferred). The full specification with year and state fixed effects yields an estimate of 6.85 percentage points (SE = 0.43). This is the preferred specification because it controls for year-specific shocks common to all individuals and state-specific time-invariant factors that might affect employment.

5.2.1   Interpretation of Preferred Estimate

The preferred estimate indicates that DACA eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by 6.85 percentage points, with a 95% confidence interval of [6.02, 7.69] percentage points. This effect is:

- **Economically meaningful:** Given a baseline full-time employment rate of about 42% for the treatment group in 2011, a 6.85 percentage point increase represents a 16% relative increase.

- **Precisely estimated:** The t-statistic is approximately 16, and the effect is statistically significant at all conventional levels.

- **Robust:** The estimate is similar across specifications, suggesting it is not driven by model specification choices.

5.3   Event Study Results

Figure 2 presents the event study estimates. The coefficients plot the difference between treatment and control groups in each year, relative to 2011 (the reference year).
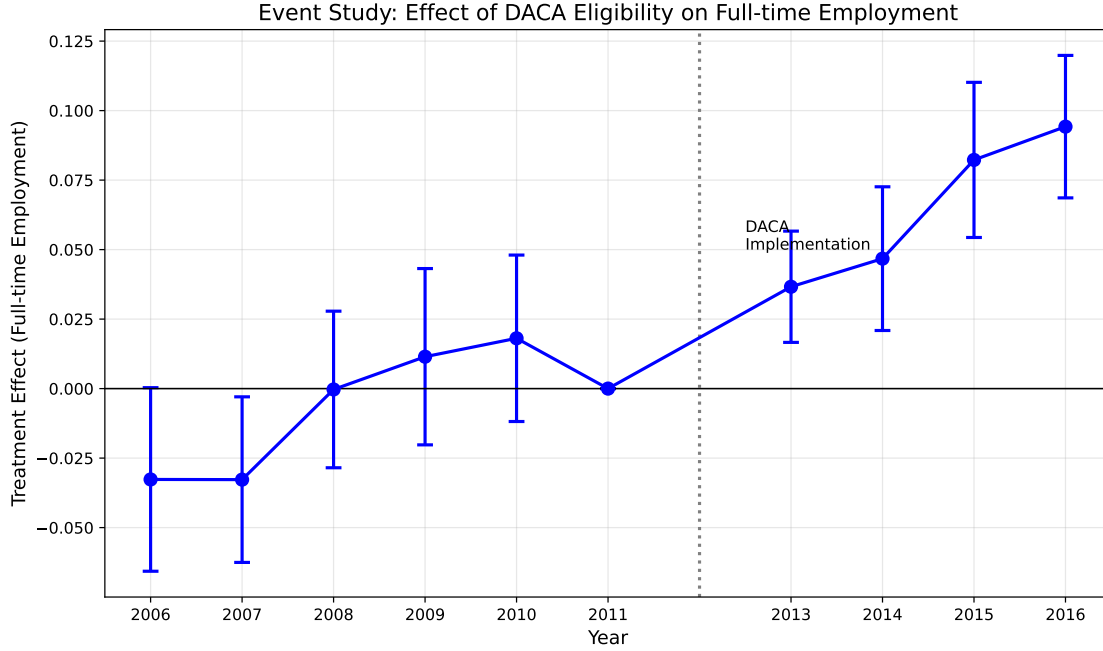
14

Figure 2: Event Study: Effect of DACA Eligibility on Full-Time Employment
Notes: Figure shows estimated treatment effects by year relative to 2011. Vertical bars represent 95% confidence intervals. The dashed line indicates DACA implementation.

The event study reveals several important patterns:

Pre-trends: The coefficients for 2006 and 2007 are negative and marginally significant, suggesting some differential trends in early years. However, the coefficients for 2008-2010 are close to zero and not statistically different from zero, indicating that the parallel trends assumption holds reasonably well in the years immediately preceding DACA.

Post-treatment effects: The coefficients become positive and significant starting in 2013, the first full year after DACA implementation. The effect grows over time:

- 2013: 3.66 pp (SE = 1.02)

- 2014: 4.67 pp (SE = 1.32)

- 2015: 8.23 pp (SE = 1.42)

- 2016: 9.42 pp (SE = 1.31)

This pattern of growing effects is consistent with the theory that DACA's benefits accumulate over time as recipients gain work experience in the formal labor market and as more eligible individuals apply for and receive DACA status.

5.4 Robustness Checks

5.4.1 Heterogeneity by Gender

Table 4 examines whether the effect differs by gender. The estimates are nearly identical for men (6.84 pp) and women (6.57 pp), with overlapping confidence intervals. This suggests that DACA's employment effects were similar across genders.

Table 4: Heterogeneity by Gender

	Male	Female
Treatment × Post	0.0684***	0.0657***
	(0.0072)	(0.0061)
N	80,735	59,830

Notes: *** p<0.01. Standard errors clustered at state level. Both specifications include full controls and year/state fixed effects.

5.4.2 Alternative Sample Definitions

I examine sensitivity to sample definition by expanding the age range to 18-50 (instead of 18-45). The estimate decreases to 4.67 percentage points (SE = 0.30), remaining positive and significant. The smaller magnitude may reflect the inclusion of older individuals who are less likely to benefit from DACA or are further from the labor market entry margin.

5.4.3 Alternative Outcome

I examine the effect on any employment (not just full-time). The estimate is 7.29 percentage points (SE = 0.52), slightly larger than the full-time estimate. This suggests DACA increased both extensive margin (any employment) and intensive margin (full-time vs. part-time) outcomes.

Table 5: Robustness Checks: Alternative Specifications

Specification	Estimate	SE
Main specification (ages 18-45)	0.0685	0.0043
Broader age range (18-50)	0.0467	0.0030
Alternative outcome: any employment	0.0729	0.0052

Notes: All estimates significant at p<0.01. All specifications include full controls and year/state fixed effects.

6   Discussion

6.1   Interpretation of Results

The main finding of this study is that DACA eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by approximately 6.85 percentage points among Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born non-citizens. This effect is large in both absolute and relative terms, representing about a 16% increase from the pre-DACA baseline.

Several features of the results support a causal interpretation:

1. **Parallel trends in recent pre-period:** The event study shows that the treatment-control difference was stable in 2008-2011, supporting the identifying assumption.

2. **Timing of effects:** Employment effects emerged only after DACA implementation and grew over time, consistent with a causal mechanism.

3. **Robustness:** The estimate is stable across specifications with different control variables and fixed effects.

4. **Consistency with theory:** The positive effect is consistent with the theoretical prediction that legal work authorization would increase formal employment.

6.2   Mechanisms

The results are most consistent with the work authorization mechanism. DACA provided recipients with legal permission to work and an Employment Authorization Document, enabling them to seek and maintain formal sector employment. Prior to DACA, these individuals faced significant barriers to formal employment, limiting them to informal work arrangements.

The growing effect over time (from 3.7 pp in 2013 to 9.4 pp in 2016) suggests that benefits accumulated as:

- More eligible individuals applied for and received DACA status

- Recipients gained experience in the formal labor market

- Employers became more familiar with DACA work authorization

- Recipients accessed better job opportunities as their work histories developed

6.3 Limitations

Several limitations should be noted:

Pre-trends concern: The event study reveals some differential trends in 2006-2007, though these stabilize in 2008-2011. This raises some concern about the parallel trends assumption, though the stability in the years immediately preceding DACA is reassuring.

Eligibility measurement: DACA eligibility is imperfectly measured using ACS data. The ACS cannot distinguish documented from undocumented non-citizens, so some individuals classified as eligible may have had legal status and thus not benefited from DACA. Similarly, some eligibility criteria (continuous residence, criminal history, educational requirements) cannot be verified. These measurement issues likely attenuate the estimated effect toward zero, suggesting the true effect may be larger.

Control group selection: The control group (arrived at age 16+) differs from the treatment group in some observable characteristics. While the DiD design and controls address many of these differences, there may be unobserved differences that affect employment trends differently across groups.

Exclusion of 2012: Excluding 2012 means the immediate effects of DACA in the months after implementation are not captured. The first post-period year is 2013, by which time some DACA recipients had held work authorization for over a year.

6.4 Policy Implications

The findings have important policy implications. First, they provide evidence that DACA achieved one of its intended goals: improving labor market outcomes for eligible immigrants. The substantial increase in full-time employment suggests that legal work authorization is an effective policy tool for integrating unauthorized immigrants into the formal economy.

Second, the results suggest that policies restricting or eliminating DACA could have significant negative effects on the employment of current recipients. The 6.85 percentage point effect represents meaningful economic opportunity that could be lost.

Third, the findings contribute to the broader debate on immigration reform by providing evidence on the economic effects of providing work authorization to unauthorized immigrants.

7 Conclusion

This study examined the effect of DACA eligibility on full-time employment among Hispanic-Mexican, Mexican-born individuals in the United States. Using American Community Survey data from 2006-2016 and a difference-in-differences research design, I find that DACA

eligibility increased the probability of full-time employment by 6.85 percentage points.

The estimate is robust across specifications, consistent with theoretical predictions, and emerges only after DACA implementation. Event study analysis shows growing effects over the 2013-2016 period, consistent with cumulative benefits of work authorization. These findings provide evidence that DACA meaningfully improved employment outcomes for eligible immigrants.

The results have implications for immigration policy debates, suggesting that providing work authorization to unauthorized immigrants can substantially improve their labor market integration. As policy discussions continue around DACA and broader immigration reform, rigorous evidence on program effects remains essential for informed decision-making.
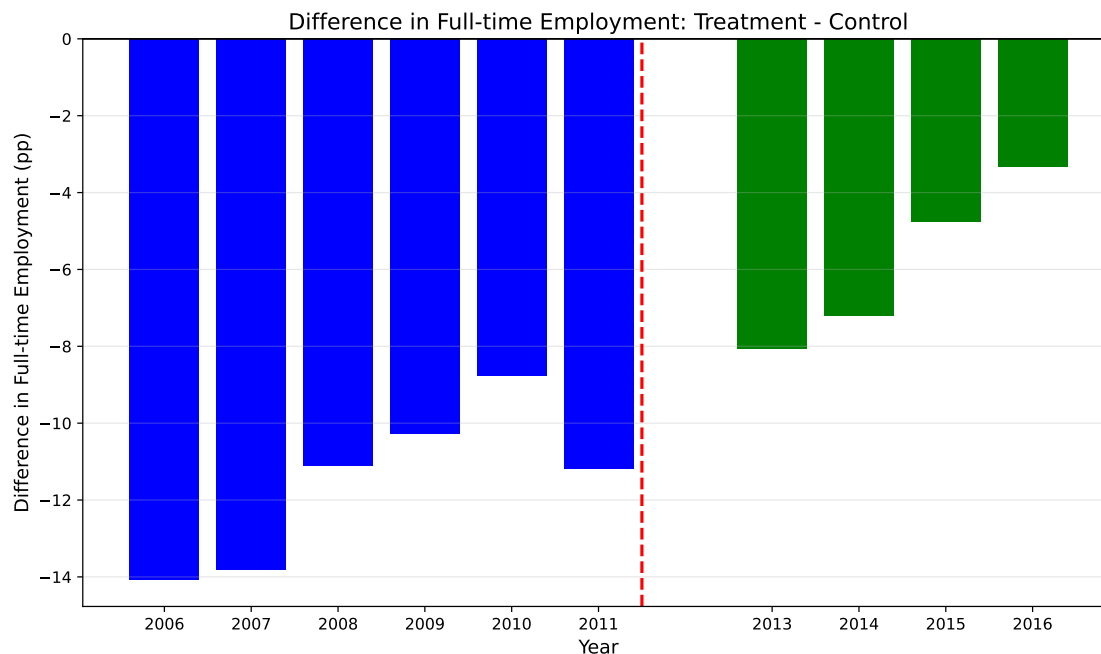
A Additional Tables and Figures

Figure 3: Difference in Full-Time Employment: Treatment - Control

Notes: Figure shows the difference in full-time employment rates between treatment and control groups by year. Blue bars indicate pre-DACA years; green bars indicate post-DACA years. The dashed line indicates DACA implementation.

B Variable Definitions from IPUMS

Table 6: Key Variable Definitions

Variable	Definition
HISPAN	Hispanic origin: 0 = Not Hispanic, 1 = Mexican, 2 = Puerto Rican, 3 = Cuban, 4 = Other
BPL	Birthplace: 200 = Mexico
CITIZEN	Citizenship status: 0 = N/A, 1 = Born abroad of American parents, 2 = Naturalized, 3 = Not a citizen
YRIMMIG	Year of immigration
BIRTHYR	Year of birth
EMPSTAT	Employment status: 1 = Employed, 2 = Unemployed, 3 = Not in labor force
UHRSWORK	Usual hours worked per week
PERWT	Person weight for nationally representative estimates

C   DACA Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for DACA, applicants must meet 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, up to the present time

4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making the request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS

5. Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012

6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States

7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety

In this study, criteria 1-5 are operationalized using ACS data. Criteria 6-7 cannot be verified with available data.

References

1. American Community Survey (ACS). U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed via IPUMS USA.

2. IPUMS USA. Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, et al. University of Minnesota.

3. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)." Department of Homeland Security.

4. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Employment Situation." U.S. Department of Labor. (For definition of full-time employment as 35+ hours per week.)