

A Profile of U.S. Children with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents

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Executive Summary

The research literature finds that growing up with unauthorized immigrant parents puts children at a disadvantage. Over the past decade, immigration reform that would provide a pathway to legal status for these parents stalled in Congress several times, and recently a federal appeals court upheld a lower court opinion suspending the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)—an Obama administration initiative to extend work permits and a temporary reprieve from deportation to unauthorized immigrant parents. Absent major policy changes, millions of children will continue living in mixed-status families with at least one citizen or legal immigrant child and at least one parent who is an unauthorized immigrant.

Drawing on innovative Migration Policy Institute (MPI) assignments of unauthorized status to noncitizens using U.S. Census Bureau data, this fact sheet examines the number, characteristics, and socioeconomic status of children in these mixed-status families, both those who are U.S. citizens and those who are not.

There were 5.1 million U.S. children under age 18 living with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent during the 2009-13 period examined (MPI pooled five years of Census Bureau data to develop the most accurate estimates possible). The vast majority of these children—79 percent, or 4.1 million—were U.S. citizens. The share of children who were themselves unauthorized rose with age: from 3 percent for ages 0-2, to 17 percent at ages 5-11, and 41 percent for ages 15-17.

Children of unauthorized immigrants are more exposed to a number of risk factors than children of immigrants generally and all U.S. children, including:

- **Lower preschool enrollment.** Children ages 3-4 with unauthorized immigrant parents were less likely to be enrolled in preschool: 37 percent versus 45 percent among children of immigrants generally and 48 percent for the entire U.S. child population.
- **Linguistic isolation.** At all ages, children with unauthorized parents were more likely to be linguistically isolated, in other words living in a household lacking English proficiency among household members ages 14 and older. Overall, 43 percent were linguistically isolated, compared to 24 percent for all children of immigrants and 6 percent for all U.S. children.
- **Limited English proficiency.** Children ages 5 and older with unauthorized immigrant parents were more likely than children of immigrants generally and the

overall U.S. population to be Limited English Proficient (LEP) themselves (27 percent versus 16 percent and 3.4 percent respectively), a gap that closed with age.

- **Poverty.** Three-quarters of children with unauthorized immigrant parents had family incomes below the threshold for free and reduced price school lunches: 185 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). In contrast, 51 percent of children of all immigrants and 40 percent of the entire U.S. child population lived in families with incomes below this threshold.
- **Reduced socioeconomic progress.** In contrast to the experience of U.S. children generally, children with unauthorized immigrant parents did not experience falling poverty as they made the transition from childhood to adolescence, a finding that reinforces the impact of parental legal status on socioeconomic integration.

Eighty-six percent of these children would have a parent eligible for the DAPA program as proposed by President Obama in November 2014. Twenty-six states challenged the DAPA program in federal court and won an injunction suspending its implementation; the injunction is unlikely to be lifted until summer 2016 at the earliest. MPI analysis shows that 42 percent of all children of unauthorized immigrants lived in the 26 states joining the legal challenge. As appeal to the injunction awaits a likely Supreme Court review, some of these states are implementing policies that could compound the negative effects of parental unauthorized status on children. Texas, for example, has restricted unauthorized immigrants' ability to obtain birth certificates for their newborn U.S.-citizen children. North Carolina has enacted legislation restricting the use of foreign IDs to access government benefits or services. If other states follow suit, the well-being of children in mixed-status families could become even more precarious.

I. Introduction

The research literature indicates that growing up with unauthorized immigrant parents places children at a disadvantage. For instance, parents' unauthorized status is associated with lower child cognitive development and educational progress across the early and middle years due to lower incomes, fewer family resources for child supervision and care, and the lack of autonomy associated with the low-skilled jobs such parents often perform.¹ Older children of the unauthorized complete significantly fewer years of formal schooling than those with legal immigrant parents. Differences in educational attainment are observed even among children born in the United States to unauthorized immigrants.²

Barring major policy changes, the development of these young children will take place in families disadvantaged by parental unauthorized status. Current U.S. immigration policies offer few avenues for parents to resolve their status. Over the past decade, immigration reform that would provide a pathway to legal status stalled in Congress several times. In early 2015, a federal court in Texas, later upheld by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, blocked implementation of the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) initiative that would extend work permits and a temporary reprieve from deportation to unauthorized parents of U.S.-citizen and legal immigrant children.

This fact sheet employs U.S. Census Bureau data to examine the number, characteristics, and socioeconomic status of children, both U.S. citizen and noncitizen, who have unauthorized immigrant parents. The analysis below explores the prevalence of mixed-status families (those with unauthorized immigrant parents and U.S.-citizen children), updating the literature examining them. Indeed, as the data described below show, having a parent who is unauthorized is strongly associated with child poverty and limited English skills among both adults and children in the family.

Data and Methods

The estimates in this fact sheet are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009-13 American Community Survey (ACS), with immigration status assigned based on responses to another Census Bureau survey, the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The ACS has detailed information on immigrants, including their citizenship, period of entry, and country of birth, but not their immigration status. The SIPP includes immigration status data but has a much smaller sample—one that is representative at the national level but not adequate for detailed state or local analysis.

In consultation with demographers, MPI has developed an innovative method to link the immigration status information in the SIPP to the more comprehensive data in the ACS. Jennifer Van Hook at The Pennsylvania State University advised in the development of the methodology, and James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar at Temple University conducted the analysis. They used a statistical technique known as multiple imputation to link the two surveys and assign immigration status to noncitizens in the ACS based on the status of noncitizens with similar characteristics in the SIPP. MPI researchers provided guidance on properly assigning legal permanent resident (LPR), temporary legal immigrant, and unauthorized status.

Using this method, immigrants are disaggregated into naturalized citizens, noncitizens who are legally present (including legal permanent residents and those with temporary visas), and unauthorized immigrants. Children of unauthorized immigrants reside with at least one unauthorized parent; these children are further disaggregated by their own immigration status: citizen, legally present, or unauthorized.

For more on the methodology, see Jeanne Batalova, Sarah Hooker, and Randy Capps, *DACA at the Two-Year Mark: A National and State Profile of Youth Eligible and Applying for Deferred Action* (Washington, DC, Migration Policy Institute, 2014), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/daca-two-year-mark-national-and-state-profile-youth-eligible-and-applying-deferred-action; and Jennifer Van Hook, James D. Bachmeier, Donna L. Coffman, and Ofer Harel, "Can we spin straw into gold? An evaluation of immigrant legal status imputation approaches," *Demography* vol. 52, no. 1 (2015): 329-54.

The fact sheet also focuses on how many children might have parents protected from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program implemented in 2012, and the proposed DAPA program, which was announced by President Obama in November 2014 but suspended because of a legal challenge filed by 26 states.³

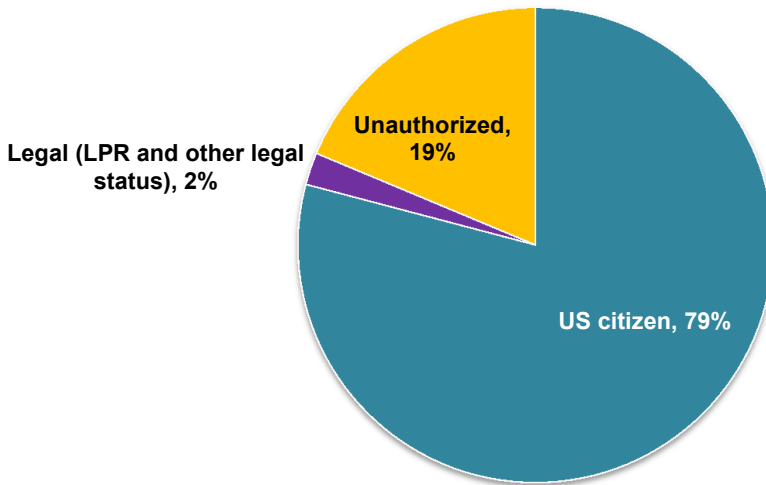
After a brief review of methods, the fact sheet describes the citizenship and immigration status of children with unauthorized immigrant parents, and then addresses their age structure, variations in status by age, school enrollment patterns, and distribution across states. It then explores the English proficiency of parents and children, family incomes, and parental eligibility for the DAPA and DACA programs (see Appendix tables for numbers by state). A com-

panion spreadsheet offers detailed estimates of this population for 102 major counties.⁴

II. Number and Characteristics of Children with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents

Authoritative estimates by several organizations indicate there are between 11 million and 11.5 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States.⁵ The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimates that there were 5.1 million children under age 18 with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent in the 2009-13 period, representing 30 percent of all children of immigrants and 7 percent of the total U.S. child

Figure 1. Citizenship and Immigration Status of Children (under age 18) with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents, 2009-13



Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2009-13 American Community Survey (ACS) pooled, and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) by Colin Hammar and James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania University, Population Research Institute.

population. The great majority, 4.1 million (79 percent) of these children were U.S. citizens—mostly by birth, but in rare cases by naturalization (see Figure 1).⁶ An estimated 959,000 (19 percent) were themselves unauthorized, and 113,000 were legally present—including legal permanent residents (LPRs) and those with temporary visas.⁷

A. Age Distribution of Children

The children of the unauthorized are slightly

more concentrated in the early years, when compared to other U.S. children (see Table 1).⁸

B. Variations in Child Immigration Status by Age

Older children are more likely to be unauthorized, while younger children are more likely to be U.S. citizens. During the 2009-13 period, the share of children with unauthorized immigrant parents who were themselves unauthorized rose from 3 percent for ages 0-2 to 17 percent

Table 1. Age Distributions of Children (under age 18) by Parental Nativity and Legal Status, (%), 2009-13

Ages	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population
0-2	18	16	16
3-4	13	12	11
5-11	40	40	39
12-14	15	17	17
15-17	13	16	17

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

for ages 5 to 11, and to 41 percent for those ages 15-17 (see Figure 2). Children in early education programs and elementary schools who have unauthorized immigrant parents are for the most part U.S. citizens and therefore eligible for health care and other public benefits. Older children enrolled in middle and high schools, however, are more likely to be doubly disadvantaged by their own unauthorized status and that of their parents, complicating access to benefits, inhibiting parental engagement in school, and potentially limiting economic opportunities, aspirations, daily routines, and social networks.⁹

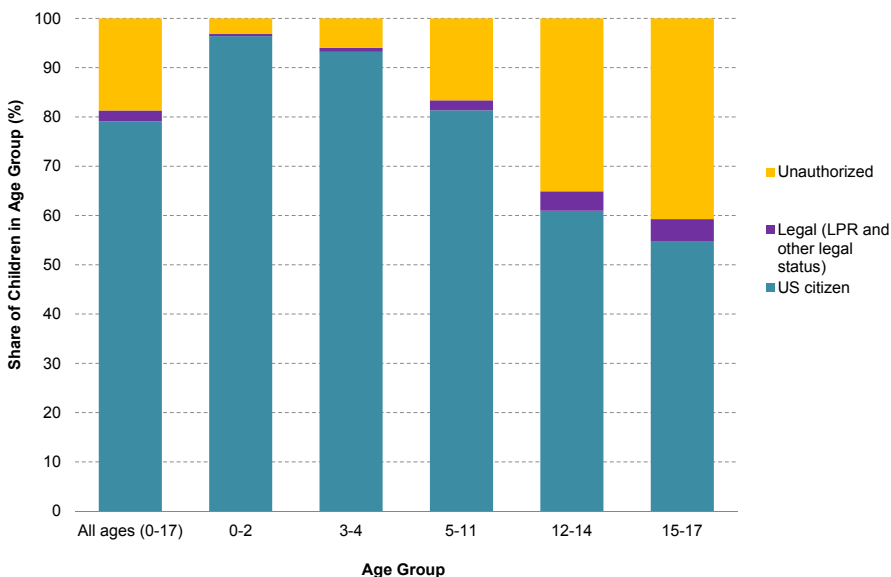
C. English Proficiency of Unauthorized Immigrant Families and Children

Forty-three percent of children with unauthorized immigrant parents were linguistically isolated, i.e., they lived in households where no one age 14 or older spoke English very well. By contrast, only 24 percent of all children of immigrants and 6 percent of the total U.S. population under age 18 were linguistically

isolated. Fifty-two percent of children of the unauthorized ages 0 to 4 were linguistically isolated, compared to only 13 percent of those ages 15 to 17 (see Figure 3). (At older ages, the children themselves often speak English; as a result the household is no longer classified as linguistically isolated.) Linguistic isolation represents an important risk factor for child development, as parents without strong English skills generally fare poorly in the U.S. labor market and have difficulty navigating institutions such as public schools, preschool programs, and health and social service providers.¹⁰

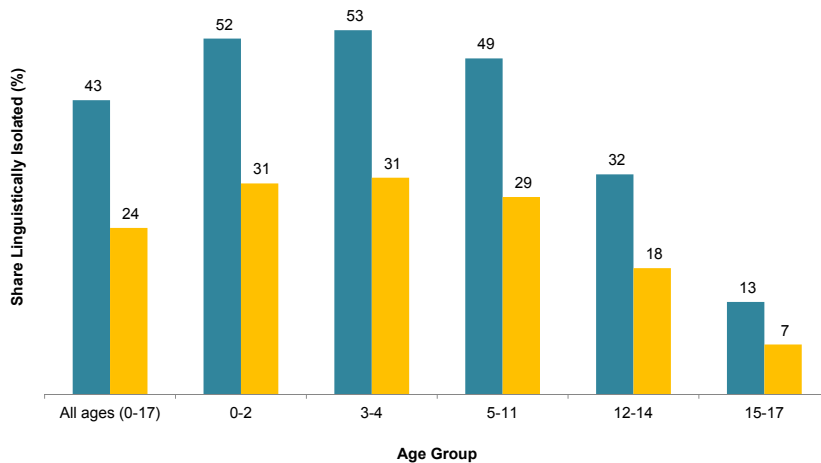
English proficiency can have a significant, enduring impact on children’s school performance, later socioeconomic status, and integration into U.S. society. When it comes to English proficiency, the immigration status of the child appears to matter more than the status of the parents. Across all age groups, U.S.-citizen children with unauthorized immigrant parents were less likely to be LEP than noncitizen children (see Figure 4).¹¹ Further, the LEP rates of citizen children declined as they aged, while rates for noncitizens did not.

Figure 2. Immigration Status of Children (under age 18) with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents, by Age Group, (%), 2009-13



Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

Figure 3. Linguistic Isolation among Children of Immigrants (under age 18), by Age Group and Parental Legal Status, (%), 2009-13



Note: Linguistically isolated children live in households where no members ages 14 or over speak English very well.

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

Similarly, among all children of immigrants (regardless of parental legal status), noncitizen children had higher LEP rates than U.S.-citizen children, with noncitizens showing no gains in proficiency after age 12. One explanation for the better outcomes for citizen children is that, unlike their noncitizen counterparts, they were born in the United States and likely spent their entire school careers in U.S. schools. Noncitizen children are more likely have received some schooling outside the United States in languages other than English.

D. Family Income

Another common risk factor among children of the unauthorized is their families' low incomes, which have been associated with poor health outcomes, developmental delays, and low school achievement.¹² Three-quarters of children with an unauthorized immigrant parent lived in families with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2009-13—the threshold for the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs. By contrast, 51 percent of children of immigrants

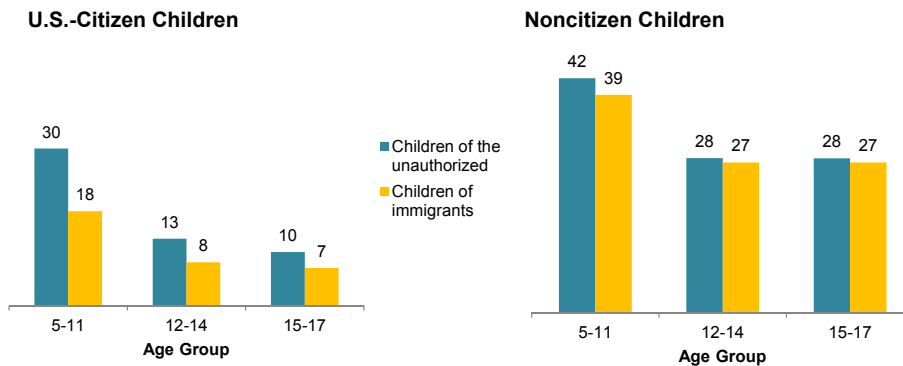
overall and 40 percent of all U.S. children lived in families with incomes below this threshold.

In the general population, poverty fell substantially as children aged, but it remained stubbornly high among children in both immigrant and unauthorized immigrant families (see Figure 5). Declines in poverty from younger to older age groups were much smaller for children of the unauthorized (3 percent) and children of all immigrants (4 percent) than for the entire U.S. child population (11 percent). Thus children of the unauthorized were not only much more likely to experience poverty, but also less likely to see it decline across childhood and through adolescence.

E. Preschool Enrollment among Young Children

Enrollment in preschool can help offset some of the income, English language, and parental status disadvantages faced by young children in unauthorized immigrant families. The preschool enrollment of children ages 3 to 4 with unauthorized parents (37 percent), however, lagged the enrollment of children of all immigrants (45 percent) and the total U.S. child

Figure 4. Limited English Proficiency of Children (ages 5-17), by Parental Legal Status and by Child Age and Citizenship, (%), 2009-13



Note: Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than “very well” as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau.

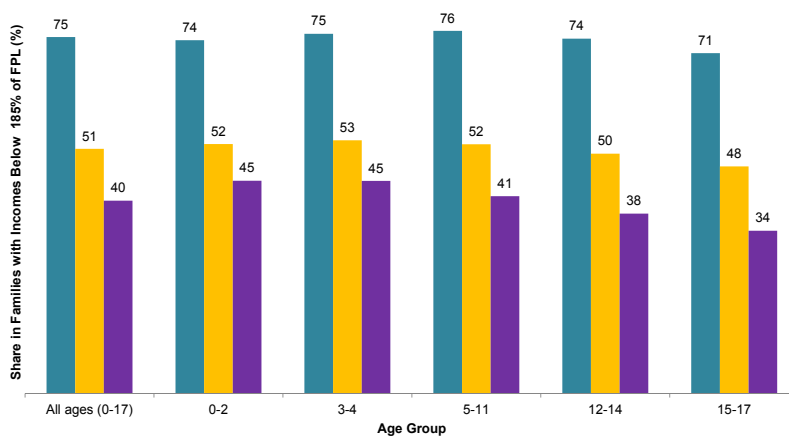
Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

population (48 percent) (see Figure 6).¹³ A recent report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) found a wide difference in the achievement test scores of immigrant children who arrived before age 6 between those who attended preschool education and those who did not. Using tests administered to children at age 15 by the OECD Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), analysts found a gap of 150 points or the equivalent of four years of schooling be-

tween children who had and had not attended preschool.¹⁴

Except for enrollment in preschool at ages 3-4, the children of the unauthorized were for the most part fully enrolled in school (with rates exceeding 95 percent during the elementary, middle, and high school years). However among 15- to 17-year-old unauthorized immigrant children with no parents in the household, the enrollment rate fell to 71 percent.

Figure 5. Children in Low-Income Families (under age 18), by Age Group and by Parental Nativity and Legal Status, (%), 2009-13



Note: “Low-income families” had annual incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, which was \$23,550 for a family of four in 2013.

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

These unauthorized youth lived with unrelated adults or other youth, and were more likely to be in the labor force.

F. State Distribution of Children with Unauthorized Parents

Children of immigrants, including those with unauthorized immigrant parents, are highly concentrated in a handful of states. The top five immigrant-receiving states—California, Texas, New York, Illinois, and Florida—accounted for 60 percent of children of unauthorized immigrants. California alone was home to 29 percent and Texas 16 percent (see Table 2). In California, Texas, and Arizona the children of unauthorized immigrants made up 17, 13, and 10 percent respectively of the entire state child population—the highest shares in the country. Children of unauthorized immigrants comprised 30 percent or more of all children of immigrants in almost half (24) of the states, with North Carolina having the largest share, at 47 percent. (See Appendix, Table A-1 for more states.)

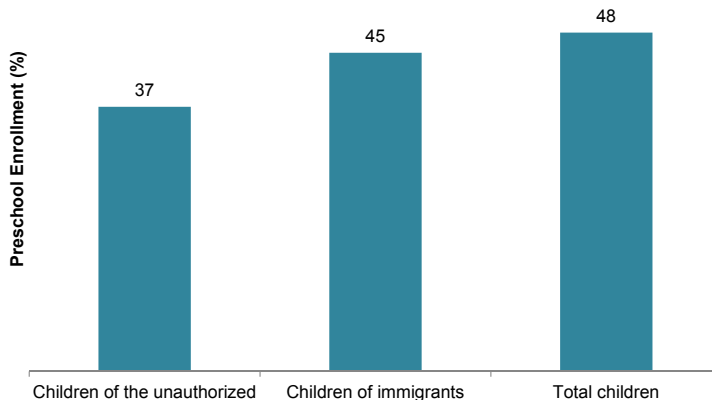
Of the ten states with the largest populations of children with unauthorized parents, half (Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina,

and Arizona) joined the federal lawsuit that blocked the DAPA program as it was on the verge of being implemented. Together 42 percent of all children of the unauthorized lived in the 26 states signing onto the lawsuit (see Appendix Table A-1 for numbers by state).¹⁵

Another way to sort states is by the share of children of immigrants with unauthorized parents. Using this metric, all ten states with the highest shares of children of immigrants with unauthorized immigrant parents joined the DAPA lawsuit: North Carolina, Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Idaho, and Texas. Most are located in Southeast and South; many are “new-growth” states that saw rapid rises in legal and illegal immigration over the past two decades.¹⁶ Thus participation in the lawsuit to stop DACA may signify a backlash against unauthorized immigrant families in those states where this population has grown most rapidly or represents the greatest share of all immigrant families.

III. Eligibility for Deferred Action Programs

Figure 6. Preschool Enrollment of Children (ages 3 to 4), by Parental Nativity and Legal Status, (%), 2009-13



Notes: Preschool programs may include Head Start, prekindergarten programs in public schools, or other center-based child care. The ACS data employed do not provide details on the types of preschool programs attended.

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

Table 2. Ten States with Largest Populations of Children of Unauthorized Immigrants (under age 18) and their Shares of Overall Immigrant and Entire Child Populations, (%), 2009-13

State	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants as Share of...	
				Children of All Immigrants (%)	Total Child Population (%)
United States	5,127,000	17,317,000	70,596,000	30	7
California	1,481,000	4,475,000	8,827,000	33	17
Texas	834,000	2,289,000	6,608,000	36	13
New York	293,000	1,449,000	4,112,000	20	7
Illinois	249,000	794,000	2,969,000	31	8
Florida	215,000	1,175,000	3,820,000	18	6
Georgia	188,000	467,000	2,373,000	40	8
North Carolina	179,000	381,000	2,176,000	47	8
New Jersey	168,000	697,000	1,970,000	24	9
Arizona	149,000	463,000	1,559,000	32	10
Washington	109,000	415,000	1,524,000	26	7

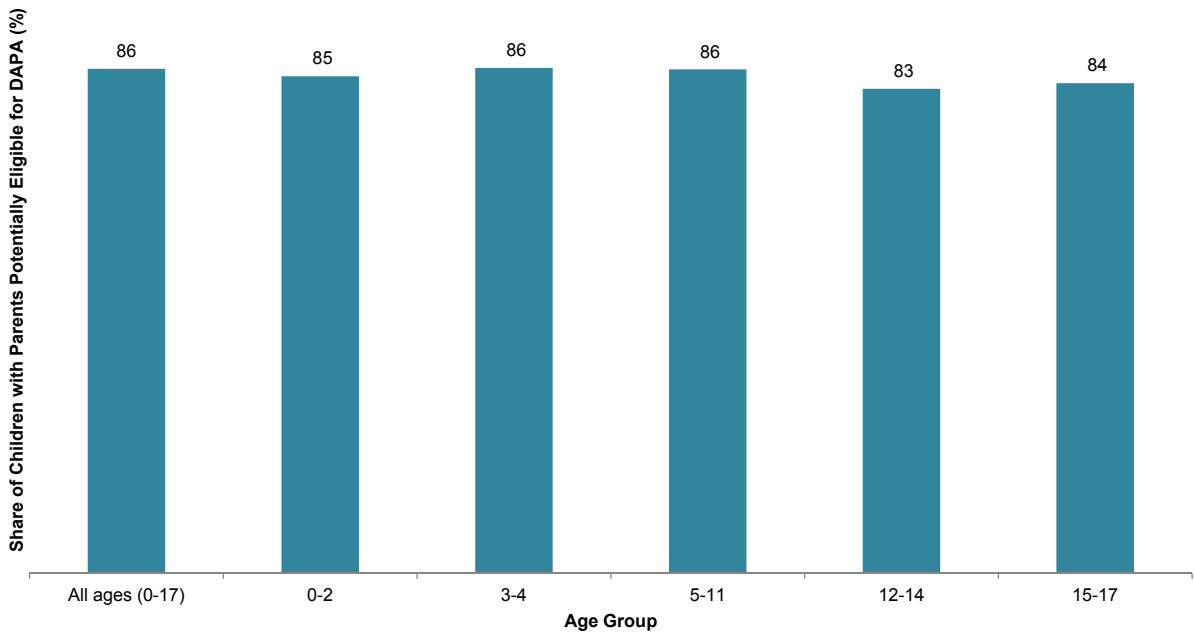
Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

A. Parental Eligibility for DAPA

The DAPA program, if implemented, would have a potentially broad reach to mixed-status families. Unauthorized immigrants who are parents of citizens or LPRs and who have five years or more of continuous U.S. residence could qualify (provided they meet other criteria). According to MPI's analysis, 86 percent of children of the unauthorized, or 4.4 million children, have parents who would potentially qualify.¹⁷ The share of children with DAPA-eligible parents is high at all ages, ranging from 83 percent to 86 percent of children depending on the age group (see Figure 7). DAPA's broad reach across all age ranges—including older ones—indicates that many families with older unauthorized immigrant children also contain younger citizen children, adding another layer of complexity to these mixed-status families. By removing the potential threat of parental deportation and improving parents' employment prospects via work authorization, DAPA could be highly protective for both younger and older children.

At the same time, lack of parental legal status continues to put millions of children at risk for deportation of the household head. Some states that signed onto the lawsuit to suspend DAPA are developing policies that could also have negative effects on children with unauthorized immigrant parents. For instance, Texas in 2015 limited the types of identification that parents can use to obtain birth certificates, with the result that some unauthorized immigrant parents are unable to obtain certificates for children born in Texas.¹⁸ Though implemented so far in just a handful of counties along the Texas-Mexico border, this policy has the potential to bar access of Texas-born children with unauthorized immigrant parents to schooling, health care, and other basic benefits and services. Also in 2015, North Carolina enacted legislation that prohibits state and local government agencies from accepting identification documents from foreign governments (typically consular documents known as *matricula consular*)—often the only form of ID that unauthorized immigrants have.¹⁹ The result of the North Carolina law could be that parents who are unauthorized are unable to prove residence or otherwise docu-

Figure 7. Children (under age 18) with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents Eligible for DAPA, by Age Group, (%), 2009-13



Note: The shares of children with parents eligible for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program displayed here exclude a small number of children with one parent eligible for DAPA and the other immediately eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

ment eligibility for health care and other benefits for their U.S.-born children. It is unclear whether similar efforts to limit the benefits and services available to children in unauthorized immigrant families will spread to other states.

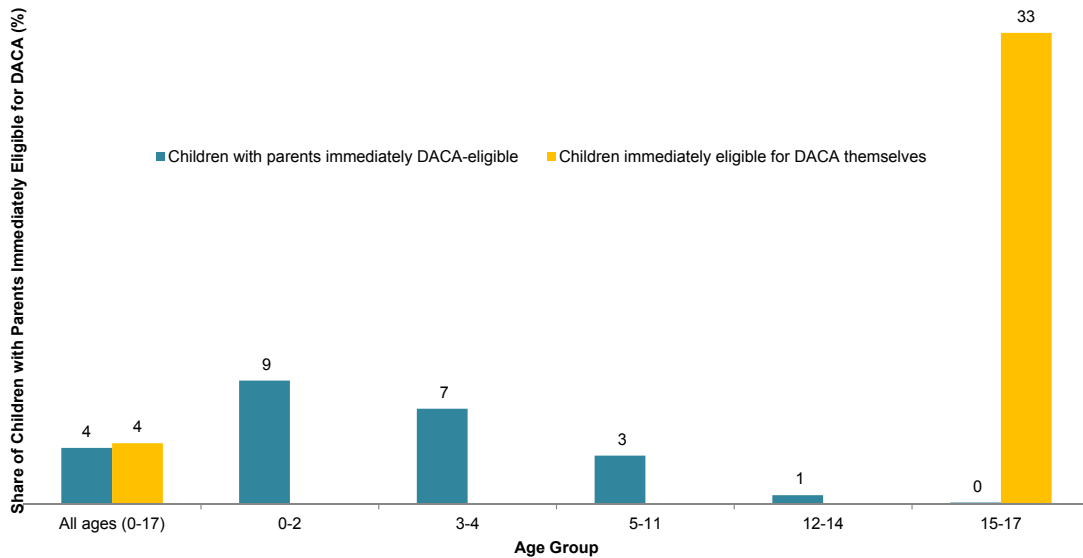
B. Child and Parental Eligibility for DACA

The DACA program announced in 2012—for unauthorized youth who entered the United States before age 16 and are enrolled in school or meet educational attainment and other requirements—remains in force but expansions announced in 2014 alongside DAPA have been suspended by the courts.²⁰ Unauthorized immigrant youth who have been in the United States for at least five years, arrived in the country before age 16, and who are in high school or have graduated are potentially eligible for DACA.²¹ About one-third (219,000)

of unauthorized immigrant children ages 15 to 17 were immediately eligible for the DACA program in 2013; younger children do not qualify until they reach age 15. Like DAPA, the DACA program extends relief from deportation and work authorization to beneficiaries. Researchers have documented the substantial benefits that DACA provides in terms of better jobs, improved access to education, and access to other benefits such as driver’s licenses.²²

Additionally, 202,000 children across all age ranges (4 percent of children of the unauthorized) had parents who would qualify for DACA under current rules.²³ Parental DACA eligibility was higher for younger children, and so the share of children with parents eligible for DACA or DAPA was about 10 percentage points higher (93 percent versus 83 percent) among those ages 0-4 than among those ages 12-17 (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Children (under age 18) Immediately Eligible for DACA and with Parents Immediately Eligible for DACA, by Age Group, (%), 2009-13



Notes: Immediately eligible DACA youth and parents met all the requirements for the program including school enrollment or a high school diploma or equivalent. An additional small number of youth and parents (fewer than 100,000) could qualify for DACA if they enrolled in an adult education program; the number enrolling in such a program is not recorded in the ACS data employed. *Source:* MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

IV. Conclusion

Using innovative demographic techniques for assigning legal status to examine the number of children with unauthorized immigrant parents, their citizenship and legal status, other sociodemographic characteristics, and distribution across states, this analysis explores the reach of President Obama’s deferred action programs to the parents of U.S.-citizen children.

The number of children under age 18 living in families with unauthorized immigrant parents is substantial: 5.1 million during the 2009-13 period surveyed, with 4.1 million being U.S. citizens. The penetration of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program would be quite wide when it comes to this population: 86 percent of such children, of all ages, have parents who would be eligible for relief from deportation as well as work authorization according to the criteria set out in the November 2014 executive action announcement.

Migration Policy Institute analysis of the age distribution of children with unauthorized immigrant parents shows that most (71 percent) were under age 11; 28 percent were ages 12–17. Institutionally, this age distribution means that outreach programs to enroll parents who could potentially benefit from DAPA or a legalization program enacted by Congress would likely reach the greatest numbers through elementary schools and preschool programs, though sizeable numbers also attend middle and high schools.

Not surprisingly, children in families with unauthorized immigrant parents have more exposure to a number of risk factors than children of immigrants generally and all U.S. children. One such factor—linguistic isolation (which takes into account parental English proficiency)—declines as these children age. Another—low incomes—does not decline as children make the transition from childhood to adolescence, in sharp contrast to the experience of U.S. children generally.

Finally, when it comes to the state distribution of children with unauthorized immigrant parents, this analysis finds that many are concentrated in states that challenged the proposed DAPA program in court. Indeed the ten states whose children of immigrant populations had the highest ratios of those born to unauthorized immigrant parents joined the legal challenge to the administration’s plan, as did five out of ten states with the largest overall unauthorized populations. Regardless of the

legal merits of the case, the suspension of the DAPA program has meant that large numbers of children continue to experience the well-documented disadvantages that flow from living in families with unauthorized immigrant parents. And as states such as Texas and North Carolina directly or indirectly further restrict the rights and benefits for children with unauthorized immigrant parents, even if U.S. born, those in mixed-status families may indeed face further disadvantage.

Appendix

Table A-1. Children (under age 18) of the Unauthorized and Their Share of Children of Immigrants and All Children by State, and State Involvement in DAPA Challenge, 2009-13

State	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants as Share of..		State Joined Lawsuit to Suspend DAPA
				Children of Immigrants (%)	Total Child Population (%)	
United States	5,127,000	17,317,000	70,596,000	29.6	7.3	
Alabama	32,000	76,000	1,058,000	41.6	3.0	X
Alaska	2,000	19,000	179,000	9.4	1.0	
Arizona	149,000	463,000	1,559,000	32.1	9.5	X
Arkansas	32,000	73,000	669,000	44.3	4.8	X
California	1,481,000	4,475,000	8,827,000	33.1	16.8	
Colorado	90,000	261,000	1,186,000	34.5	7.6	
Connecticut	30,000	180,000	775,000	16.5	3.8	
Delaware	10,000	33,000	194,000	30.3	5.2	
District of Columbia	8,000	24,000	99,000	32.6	7.8	
Florida	215,000	1,175,000	3,820,000	18.3	5.6	X
Georgia	188,000	467,000	2,373,000	40.3	7.9	X
Hawaii	7,000	83,000	282,000	8.7	2.6	
Idaho	21,000	56,000	412,000	36.4	5.0	X
Illinois	249,000	794,000	2,969,000	31.4	8.4	
Indiana	48,000	142,000	1,529,000	34.1	3.2	X
Iowa	20,000	66,000	699,000	29.9	2.8	
Kansas	36,000	100,000	688,000	35.5	5.2	X
Kentucky	21,000	65,000	956,000	32.4	2.2	
Louisiana	18,000	61,000	1,048,000	29.8	1.7	X
Maine	3,000	16,000	260,000	16.4	1.0	X
Maryland	90,000	321,000	1,287,000	28.0	7.0	

Massachusetts	53,000	354,000	1,361,000	14.9	3.9	
Michigan	48,000	259,000	2,207,000	18.5	2.2	X
Minnesota	44,000	198,000	1,236,000	22.2	3.6	
Mississippi	10,000	26,000	696,000	36.8	1.4	X
Missouri	26,000	98,000	1,350,000	26.0	1.9	
Nebraska	22,000	64,000	441,000	35.3	5.1	X
Nevada	70,000	242,000	638,000	28.7	10.9	X
New Hampshire	4,000	29,000	273,000	14.5	1.5	
New Jersey	168,000	697,000	1,970,000	24.1	8.5	
New Mexico	38,000	108,000	484,000	35.3	7.9	
New York	293,000	1,449,000	4,112,000	20.2	7.1	
North Carolina	179,000	381,000	2,176,000	46.9	8.2	X
Ohio	35,000	181,000	2,576,000	19.5	1.4	X
Oklahoma	41,000	106,000	885,000	38.1	4.6	X
Oregon	62,000	192,000	831,000	32.4	7.5	
Pennsylvania	46,000	288,000	2,645,000	16.2	1.8	
Rhode Island	10,000	52,000	211,000	19.8	4.9	
South Carolina	42,000	97,000	1,016,000	42.7	4.1	X
South Dakota	2,000	10,000	194,000	20.4	1.0	X
Tennessee	57,000	146,000	1,411,000	38.9	4.0	X
Texas	834,000	2,289,000	6,608,000	36.4	12.6	X
Utah	45,000	138,000	853,000	32.4	5.2	X
Virginia	97,000	377,000	1,779,000	25.7	5.4	
Washington	109,000	415,000	1,524,000	26.3	7.2	
West Virginia	2,000	9,000	365,000	21.0	0.5	X
Wisconsin	38,000	130,000	1,277,000	29.0	2.9	X
Wyoming	3,000	9,000	130,000	34.0	2.4	

Sources: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook; U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, *Texas v. United States*, No. 15-40238, www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/15/15-40238-CV0.pdf.

Table A-2. Number and Share (%) of U.S. Citizens among Children (under age 18) with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents, by State, 2009-13

State	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	U.S.-Citizen Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	U.S.-Citizen Share of Children of Unauthorized Immigrants (%)
United States	5,127,000	4,056,000	79.1
Alabama	32,000	24,000	75.0
Alaska	2,000	1,000	73.8
Arizona	149,000	119,000	80.2
Arkansas	32,000	25,000	78.0
California	1,481,000	1,217,000	82.2
Colorado	90,000	71,000	79.1
Connecticut	30,000	22,000	73.4
Delaware	10,000	9,000	85.5
District of Columbia	8,000	6,000	73.7
Florida	215,000	164,000	76.6
Georgia	188,000	148,000	78.5
Hawaii	7,000	5,000	67.6
Idaho	21,000	16,000	79.0
Illinois	249,000	205,000	82.1
Indiana	48,000	37,000	76.0
Iowa	20,000	14,000	73.6
Kansas	36,000	27,000	76.3
Kentucky	21,000	15,000	73.0
Louisiana	18,000	13,000	74.4
Maryland	90,000	67,000	74.0
Massachusetts	53,000	38,000	72.7
Michigan	48,000	35,000	73.1
Minnesota	44,000	32,000	72.6
Mississippi	10,000	7,000	75.8
Missouri	26,000	19,000	73.4
Nebraska	22,000	17,000	77.6
Nevada	70,000	56,000	80.8
New Hampshire	4,000	3,000	73.8
New Jersey	168,000	128,000	76.1
New Mexico	38,000	28,000	73.1
New York	293,000	229,000	78.1
North Carolina	179,000	140,000	78.6
Ohio	35,000	25,000	71.7
Oklahoma	41,000	32,000	78.1

Oregon	62,000	49,000	78.7
Pennsylvania	46,000	32,000	69.2
Rhode Island	10,000	8,000	77.6
South Carolina	42,000	32,000	76.7
South Dakota	2,000	1,000	68.2
Tennessee	57,000	43,000	75.7
Texas	834,000	667,000	80.1
Utah	45,000	34,000	75.9
Virginia	97,000	74,000	76.4
Washington	109,000	85,000	77.5
West Virginia	2,000	1,000	69.8
Wisconsin	38,000	28,000	75.6
Wyoming	3,000	2,000	70.7

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

Appendix Table A-3. Number of Children (under age 18) by Parental Origin Enrolled in School, by Age Group and State, 2009-13

Geography	Ages 3-4			Ages 5-11		
	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population
United States	252,000	914,000	3,835,000	1,997,000	6,638,000	26,611,000
Alabama	<1,000	3,000	52,000	13,000	29,000	392,000
Arizona	5,000	16,000	63,000	57,000	175,000	584,000
Arkansas	<1,000	4,000	37,000	13,000	28,000	251,000
California	78,000	240,000	509,000	575,000	1,702,000	3,312,000
Colorado	4,000	13,000	67,000	37,000	104,000	457,000
Connecticut	3,000	14,000	52,000	10,000	69,000	297,000
Florida	11,000	62,000	217,000	82,000	442,000	1,427,000
Georgia	8,000	24,000	136,000	76,000	185,000	913,000
Idaho	<1,000	2,000	16,000	8,000	21,000	156,000
Illinois	12,000	43,000	179,000	99,000	310,000	1,126,000
Indiana	2,000	6,000	69,000	19,000	54,000	576,000
Iowa	<1,000	3,000	40,000	8,000	25,000	265,000
Kansas	2,000	5,000	36,000	14,000	40,000	260,000
Kentucky	<1,000	4,000	48,000	8,000	26,000	357,000
Louisiana	<1,000	4,000	64,000	7,000	23,000	397,000
Maryland	4,000	18,000	72,000	34,000	123,000	485,000
Massachusetts	3,000	24,000	88,000	19,000	135,000	513,000

Michigan	3,000	15,000	111,000	19,000	102,000	830,000
Minnesota	2,000	11,000	66,000	17,000	77,000	467,000
Missouri	<1,000	6,000	67,000	9,000	38,000	508,000
Nebraska	<1,000	3,000	24,000	9,000	26,000	169,000
Nevada	2,000	8,000	24,000	27,000	90,000	242,000
New Jersey	13,000	50,000	139,000	63,000	266,000	746,000
New Mexico	<1,000	4,000	22,000	15,000	41,000	184,000
New York	20,000	93,000	263,000	111,000	543,000	1,534,000
North Carolina	7,000	18,000	110,000	70,000	149,000	832,000
Ohio	2,000	12,000	132,000	14,000	70,000	964,000
Oklahoma	2,000	5,000	43,000	16,000	43,000	341,000
Oregon	2,000	7,000	39,000	25,000	75,000	312,000
Pennsylvania	3,000	17,000	139,000	17,000	106,000	972,000
Rhode Island	<1,000	2,000	11,000	4,000	20,000	79,000
South Carolina	2,000	5,000	57,000	17,000	38,000	384,000
Tennessee	2,000	7,000	64,000	21,000	55,000	529,000
Texas	35,000	102,000	335,000	334,000	899,000	2,537,000
Utah	<1,000	5,000	40,000	17,000	54,000	325,000
Virginia	4,000	20,000	98,000	36,000	145,000	674,000
Washington	4,000	18,000	71,000	42,000	157,000	565,000
Wisconsin	2,000	6,000	65,000	15,000	50,000	486,000

Table A-3 (Continued). Number of Children (under age 18) by Parental Origin Enrolled in School, by Age Group and State, 2009-13

Geography	Ages 12-14			Ages 15-17		
	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population
United States	761,000	2,838,000	11,760,000	639,000	2,684,000	11,404,000
Alabama	4,000	11,000	179,000	3,000	9,000	171,000
Arizona	24,000	80,000	257,000	20,000	73,000	240,000
Arkansas	5,000	11,000	110,000	4,000	10,000	103,000
California	236,000	769,000	1,468,000	217,000	774,000	1,465,000
Colorado	13,000	42,000	192,000	11,000	35,000	179,000
Connecticut	5,000	29,000	137,000	4,000	28,000	137,000
Florida	31,000	200,000	643,000	26,000	198,000	629,000
Georgia	25,000	71,000	397,000	19,000	63,000	367,000
Idaho	3,000	9,000	68,000	2,000	8,000	62,000
Illinois	37,000	129,000	502,000	31,000	120,000	492,000
Indiana	6,000	21,000	253,000	4,000	18,000	244,000
Iowa	3,000	10,000	114,000	2,000	8,000	113,000
Kansas	5,000	16,000	114,000	4,000	14,000	106,000
Kentucky	3,000	9,000	163,000	2,000	7,000	151,000
Louisiana	2,000	9,000	175,000	2,000	8,000	161,000
Maryland	11,000	49,000	214,000	9,000	44,000	211,000
Massachusetts	7,000	56,000	234,000	6,000	52,000	233,000
Michigan	7,000	43,000	386,000	5,000	37,000	381,000

Minnesota	6,000	28,000	201,000	4,000	25,000	198,000
Missouri	3,000	14,000	220,000	3,000	13,000	217,000
Nebraska	3,000	10,000	71,000	3,000	8,000	67,000
Nevada	10,000	39,000	100,000	9,000	38,000	98,000
New Jersey	24,000	113,000	339,000	19,000	108,000	331,000
New Mexico	6,000	19,000	77,000	6,000	18,000	74,000
New York	41,000	240,000	692,000	35,000	239,000	696,000
North Carolina	24,000	57,000	358,000	18,000	46,000	333,000
Ohio	4,000	27,000	438,000	3,000	25,000	431,000
Oklahoma	5,000	15,000	142,000	4,000	13,000	132,000
Oregon	10,000	31,000	138,000	7,000	26,000	131,000
Pennsylvania	7,000	47,000	451,000	6,000	45,000	459,000
Rhode Island	2,000	9,000	37,000	1,000	9,000	36,000
South Carolina	5,000	13,000	168,000	4,000	12,000	159,000
Tennessee	7,000	21,000	235,000	5,000	18,000	227,000
Texas	128,000	379,000	1,071,000	104,000	343,000	1,002,000
Utah	7,000	22,000	136,000	6,000	20,000	119,000
Virginia	13,000	58,000	293,000	11,000	52,000	284,000
Washington	16,000	65,000	251,000	13,000	61,000	244,000
Wisconsin	5,000	19,000	214,000	4,000	19,000	212,000

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

Endnotes

- 1 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Population, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, *The Integration of Immigrants into American Society*, eds. Mary C. Waters and Marisa Gerstein Pineau (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2015), www.nap.edu/catalog/21746/the-integration-of-immigrants-into-american-society; Hirokazu Yoshikawa, *Immigrants Raising Citizens: Undocumented Parents and Their Young Children* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2012).
- 2 Frank D. Bean, Susan K. Brown, and James D. Bachmeier, *Parents Without Papers: The Progress and Pitfalls of Mexican American Integration* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2015).
- 3 For a description of eligibility for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, see U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), “Frequently Asked Questions,” updated June 15, 2015, www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions. For a description of eligibility for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program, see U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), “Fixing Our Broken Immigration System through Executive Action - Key Facts,” updated August 19, 2015, www.dhs.gov/immigration-action.
- 4 For detailed estimates of this population for 102 major counties, see Migration Policy Institute (MPI), “National and County Estimates of Children (under age 18) of Unauthorized Immigrants, 2009-13,” www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Children-of-Unauthorized-CountyData.xlsx.
- 5 The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) estimates that there were 11.0 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States in 2013 based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010-13 American Community Survey (ACS); see CMS, “Estimates of the Unauthorized Population for States,” accessed July 6, 2015, <http://data.cmsny.org/>. The Pew Research Center estimates that there were 11.3 million unauthorized immigrants in 2014 based on 2009-12 ACS data; see Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, “Unauthorized immigrant population stable for half a decade” (Pew Research Center Fact Tank, July 22, 2015), www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/07/22/unauthorized-immigrant-population-stable-for-half-a-decade. The most recent estimate by DHS is 11.4 million unauthorized immigrants in 2012 based on 2011 ACS data and DHS administrative records; see Bryan Baker and Nancy Rytina, *Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2012* (Washington, DC: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, 2014), www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois_ill_pe_2012_2.pdf.
- 6 CMS estimates that in 2013, there were 4.6 million U.S.-born citizen children under age 18 living with an unauthorized immigrant parent, and 1.1 million unauthorized immigrant children under age 18; see CMS, “US-born Children of Undocumented Residents: Numbers and Characteristics in 2013,” accessed October 9, 2015, <http://cmsny.org/warren-usbornchildren/>. Pew estimates that there were 4.5 million U.S.-born children younger than age 18 living with unauthorized immigrant parents in 2013, and 775,000 unauthorized children younger than age 18 living with parents who also lacked legal status; see Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, “Number of babies born in U.S. to unauthorized immigrants declines” (Pew Research Center Fact Tank, September 11, 2015), www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/09/11/number-of-babies-born-in-u-s-to-unauthorized-immigrants-declines. These other studies use different methods to produce estimates of populations of unauthorized immigrants and their children; MPI employs the only methodology that incorporates self-reported immigration status from Census Bureau Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data in the estimates.
- 7 MPI estimates an additional 92,000 unauthorized immigrant children under age 18 lived in the United States without their parents, in households with other relatives, nonrelated adults, or other youth. Characteristics of these children could not be modeled because they were not identifiable as individuals in the SIPP or ACS data employed.
- 8 Age is grouped to roughly correlate with schooling levels: ages 0 to 2 (infancy and toddlerhood), 3 to 4 (prekindergarten or early education years), 5 to 11 (elementary school), 12 -14 (middle school), and 15 to 17 (high school).
- 9 Roberto G. Gonzales, “Learning to Be Illegal: Undocumented Youth and Shifting Legal Contexts in the Transition to Adulthood,” *American Sociological Review* vol. 76, no. 4 (2011): 602-19.
- 10 Barbara Schneider, Sylvia Martinez, and Ann Owens, “Barriers to Educational Opportunities for Hispanics in the United States” in *Hispanics and the Future of America*, eds. Marta Tienda and Faith Mitchell (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2006), www.nap.edu/read/11539/chapter/7; Maki Park and Margie McHugh, *Immigrant Parents and Early Childhood Programs: Addressing Barriers of Literacy, Culture, and Systems Knowledge* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2014), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrant-parents-early-childhood-programs-barriers.
- 11 Limited English proficiency, as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English less than “very well.”
- 12 Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Greg J. Duncan, “The Effects of Poverty on Children,” *Future of Children* vol. 7 no. 2 (1997): 55-71.

- 13 Preschool programs may include Head Start, prekindergarten programs in public schools, or other center-based child care. The ACS data employed do not provide details on the types of preschool programs attended. Child care in the homes of relatives or other family-based care is generally not included in this measure.
- 14 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and European Commission, *Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015: Settling In* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2015), 240-41, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/legal-migration/integration/docs/ec_oecd_joint_report_indicators_of_immigrant_integration_2015_en.pdf.
- 15 Although New Jersey did not join the lawsuit, its governor, Chris Christie, filed an amicus brief in support; Matt Arco, "Christie: N.J. legal action against immigration amnesty plan his 'message' to Obama," NJ.com, April 15, 2015, www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/04/christie_responds_to_latino_ally_who_accused_him_o.html.
- 16 North Carolina's immigrant population grew the fastest (551 percent) from 1990 through 2013. For data on the growth of immigrant populations in each state since 1990 and 2000, see MPI Data Hub, "State Immigration Data Profiles," www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/state-immigration-data-profiles.
- 17 Eligibility criteria for the DAPA program include five years of U.S. residence (since January 2010), having U.S.-citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) children of any age, and not having committed certain crimes or representing public-safety or security threats. Some parents are eligible for both DAPA and the DACA program; these parents are grouped in the DACA-eligible category. Shares of children with parents eligible under the 2014 DACA expansions, also enjoined in federal court, were not modelled, but the total number of unauthorized immigrants eligible for the DACA expansions is less than one-fifth of the total eligible under the original 2012 DACA program rules. See DHS, "Fixing Our Broken Immigration System through Executive Action"; MPI, "As Many as 3.7 Million Unauthorized Immigrants Could Get Relief from Deportation under Anticipated New Deferred Action Program," (press release, November 19, 2015), www.migrationpolicy.org/news/mpi-many-37-million-unauthorized-immigrants-could-get-relief-deportation-under-anticipated-new.
- 18 Manny Fernandez, "Immigrants Fight Texas' Birth Certificate Rules," *New York Times*, September 17, 2015, www.nytimes.com/2015/09/18/us/illegal-immigrant-birth-certificates.html?_r=0.
- 19 Elise Foley, "North Carolina Governor Signs Bill Targeting 'Sanctuary Cities,' Undocumented Immigrants," *Huffington Post*, October 28, 2015, www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/north-carolina-immigration-law_56311d41e4b06317991094e7.
- 20 These expansions include moving up to January 2010 the date by which eligible individuals had to be in the United States, and eliminating the requirement that eligible individuals must be under age 31; the eligibility period was also expanded from two to three years. The suspension of DAPA by the federal courts also applied to these DACA expansions; see DHS, "Fixing Our Broken Immigration System through Executive Action."
- 21 To be eligible for DACA, unauthorized youth must (1) be age 15 or older; (2) be under age 31 in June 2012; (3) have arrived in the United States by June 2012; (4) have come to the United States before the age of 16; (5) have been physically present in the United States with no legal status in June 2012; (6) have lived in the United States continuously for at least five years since 2007; (7) be enrolled in school, have earned a high school diploma or equivalent, or be honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces or Coast Guard; and (8) not have been convicted of certain crimes or otherwise pose a threat to public safety or national security. Through DACA, the federal government grants work authorization and relief from deportation for two-year periods, which can be renewed. See USCIS, "Frequently Asked Questions."
- 22 Roberto G. Gonzales and Veronica Terriquez, *How DACA is Impacting the Lives of Those Who are Now DAcamented* (Washington, DC and Los Angeles: American Immigration Council and University of Southern California, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, 2013), www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented; Tom K. Wong, Angela S. García, Marisa Abrajano, David FitzGerald, Karthick Ramakrishnan, and Sally Le, *Undocumented No More: A Nationwide Analysis of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA* (Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, 2013), www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/DACAReportCC-2-1.pdf.
- 23 The estimates here include only youth or parents immediately eligible for DACA, meaning that they meet all the requirements including age and education. A small number of parents (tens of thousands) might additionally become eligible for DACA if they enrolled in a qualifying adult education program. For more on the distinctions between individuals immediately eligible for DACA and those who would need to enroll in a program to qualify, see Jeanne Batalova, Sarah Hooker, and Randy Capps, *DACA at the Two-Year Mark: A National and State Profile of Youth Eligible and Applying for Deferred Action* (Washington, DC: MPI, 2014), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/daca-two-year-mark-national-and-state-profile-youth-eligible-and-applying-deferred-action.

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Acknowledgments

James Bachmeier and Colin Hammar at Temple University analyzed the data on the legal status of immigrants that provide the basis for the Migration Policy Institute's estimates of the unauthorized population; Jennifer Van Hook at The Pennsylvania State University advised in the development of the methodology. The authors appreciate this ongoing partnership and their critical support for MPI's work in this area.

The authors thank MPI Director of Communications Michelle Mittelstadt for her exemplary editing and Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Heimann for the layout.

The authors are also grateful to MPI's funders for their generous support of this research. MPI's U.S. Immigration Policy Program is supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy, and a donor that wishes to forego public recognition.

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Cover Design and Typesetting: Liz Heimann, MPI

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Suggested citation: Capps, Randy, Michael Fix, and Jie Zong. 2016. *A Profile of U.S. Children with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.

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