

# The Impacts of DACA on Migrant Children and Young Adults and What Actions Should be Taken

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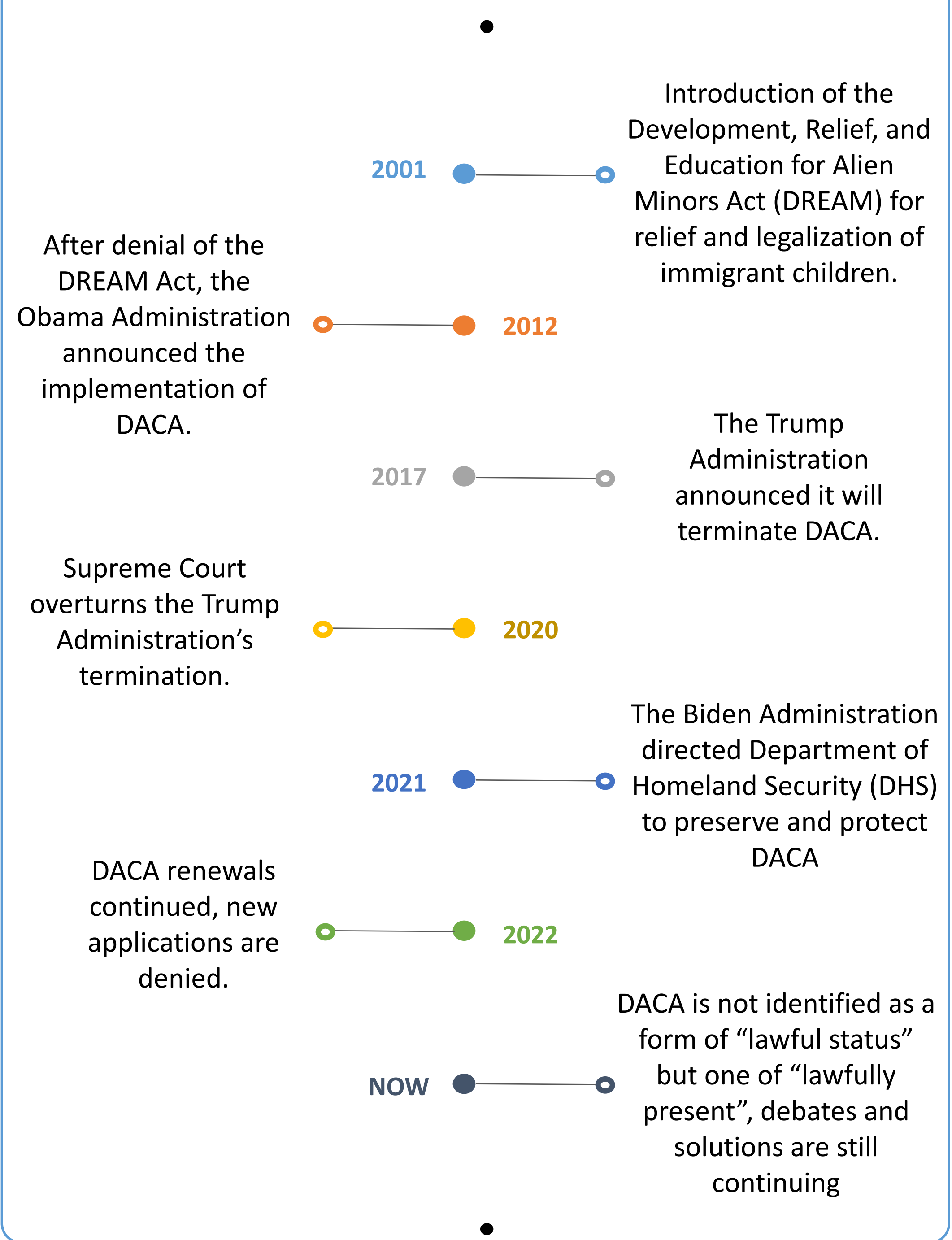
## ABSTRACT

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and ruled that the implementation of the program was illegal. Over the past 10 years DACA has affected it's recipients and their families in many ways. It is a positive force for the recipients, their families, as well as the United States' economy. Although, with the uncertainty between presidential offices and politics surrounding the program, it has impaired the community. The statistics provided is data based on DACA recipients from Mexico between the ages of 18-30 as they make up about 80% of recipients. This research provides how each presidential administration has handled DACA and how it has affected it's recipients in terms of job security, education, and their family. Affects to family include separation of children or parents resulting in trauma and other social challenges. This gives reasons as to why the program and it's recipients should be provided protection.

## WHAT IS DACA?

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was established in June of 2012 by the Obama Administration, its purpose was to provide relief for eligible immigrants who came to the United States illegally as children. The program was designed to ensure DACA recipients would not be deported and will be provided a worker's permit as long as DACA status is renewed every two years.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS



## IMPACTS

**EDUCATION**  
In 2012 77% of DACA recipients had a high school diploma and 35% has some college education. Since then, as of 2022, the high school graduation rate for DACA recipients has gone up by 22% to a total of 99%. Despite not having higher education assistance, in 2022 it was recorded that the initial number of DACA recipients who have some college education went up to 47%. This number increase is not as near as impressive as the high school diploma results. This is due to the fact that there is a lack of education support for these recipients, not even scholarships are offered. Despite this, many recipients have received higher education to benefit their family and personal careers.

### 2019 DACA ELIGIBLE ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION

| PROGRAM LEVEL                 | NO. OF RECIPIENTS |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Undergraduate                 | 87.2% (158,400)   |
| Graduate/ Professional School | 12.8% (23,200)    |

**WORK/CAREERS**  
Many DACA recipients worked across all different types of careers in the United States. More importantly, many worked in the forefront during COVID-19 helping the community's people and it's economy to continue to thrive. These jobs include and are not limited to: health care aides, support, diagnosing, treatment, and other health care roles. Other occupations include education, food-related, and first-responding jobs. It should not be overlooked that DACA recipients are also part of the foundation of our country.

### 2020 DACA RECIPIENTS ESSENTIAL WORKERS

| OCCUPATION                | NO. OF RECIPIENTS |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Food services             | 76,600            |
| Health care               | 43,500            |
| Manufacturing             | 14,500            |
| Retail/ pharmacies        | 32,800            |
| Teaching                  | 15,000            |
| Transportation/ warehouse | 21,100            |
| Waste management          | 13,300            |

**FAMILY**  
In the United States there is around 700,000 people who currently are DACA recipients. With this, 1.3 million people live in households with a recipient of DACA, 300,000 of those are US citizen children of DACA recipients. If the program were to come to an end it would drastically impact over 1 million families in the country. Of those US citizen children of DACA recipients, if their DACA parents were to be deported they would face heartbreaking decisions:

- “(1) return to their country of origin and bring their children with them; (2) return to their country of origin and leave behind their children; or (3) they could risk slipping into undocumented status in the United States” (Justice for Immigrants, DACA: What It Means for Dreamers and Their Families).

Families across the nation are still at risk and face uncertainty each time the debates surrounding DACA's legitimacy is mentioned. Along with this, there is no security for DACA recipients or their families regarding possible despair.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF DACA ENDS?

- An average of 22,000 jobs would be lost each month until DACA recipients are no longer in the country.
  - Each business day for two years more than 1,000 jobs will be lost
- About 25,000 U.S. citizen children's parent and 5,000 U.S. citizens spouse and other immediate family members will be deported
  - Each day for about two years, around 1,000 U.S. citizen will face an immediate family member be at a high risk of deportation

## MONTHLY NUMBERS

### WORKFORCE LOSSES IF DACA ENDS

| OCCUPATION                   | NO. OF JOB LOSSES |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Office administration        | 2,700             |
| Food preparation             | 2,500             |
| Sales                        | 2,500             |
| Construction                 | 2,400             |
| Transportation               | 2,100             |
| Healthcare                   | 1,600             |
| Manufacturing and production | 1,500             |
| Management                   | 1,100             |
| Education                    | 800               |
| Other occupations            | 4,200             |
| <b>TOTAL JOBS LOST</b>       | <b>21,400</b>     |

## CONCLUSION

DACA recipients have been given the opportunity to remain in the United States legally and contribute as citizens. If this program were to end it would tear millions of people away from their close friends and family. This would also result in very little options for the recipients. Where it is possible they will be forced to return to the country they were born in. Although, for them it is not where they called home for many years of their life. It is not where their friends, job, and home is located. Actions should be taken to preserve this program to ensure that those who are contributing to our society have security and are not struck with uncertainty due to the lack of support, structure, and change of leadership within our government bodies. As of now, this program has provided many migrant children and young adults with the opportunity to thrive in the United States. Many have earned degrees and work essential jobs. If this program was to be no longer supported, not only would it separate hundreds of thousands of families, but it would tamper our economy, job market, small and large businesses of America, and bring distrust in officials from supporters of DACA and the dreams of future citizens. Although it is important to keep national security in mind when allowing foreigners to be citizens. It is also important to recognize the special situation DACA recipients are in and how much effort they put into being a contribution to our society.

## SOURCES

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