



# Undocumented College Students' Use of their School's Undocumented Student Services

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## **Important Note When Interpreting the Findings**

The findings are based on self-reported survey data collected at one point in time. We cannot make claims of causality (e.g., deportation concerns cause poor sleep quality), and students' experiences likely change over time. Further, undocumented college students are a diverse group of students. Their experiences may vary by nationality, race, religious identity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, type of college, having DACA or not having DACA, attending college in a particular state, etc. Lastly, experiences reported here may not be generalizable to the larger population of undocumented college students in the United States.

# SURVEY STUDY DETAILS

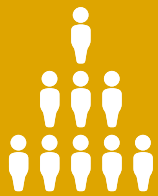
**Recruitment:** Between January and June 2019, Dr. Jennifer Kam emailed recruitment flyers to Undocumented Student Services, "DREAM" Centers, and Undocumented Student Associations at four-year colleges and community colleges in 10 states, including AZ, CA, IL, TX, and MA.

**Participant Payment:** \$10 Amazon gift cards for filling out the 25-minute online survey.

## 241

## Undocumented College Students

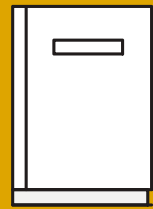
77%  
Women



90%  
Undergraduates



75%  
Four-Year College



86%  
California



80%  
Born in Mexico



49%  
University of  
California



21  
Mean Age

18-40  
Age Range

73%  
DACA



94%  
Had lived 11+ years  
in the U.S.



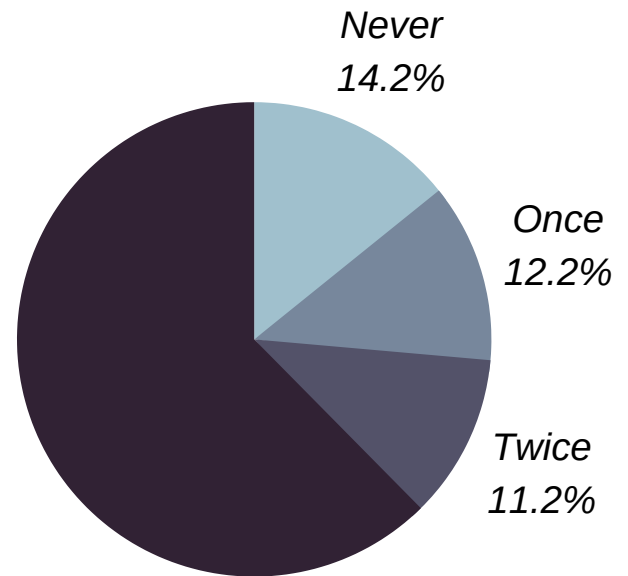
# THE UTILIZATION OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES

## 88%

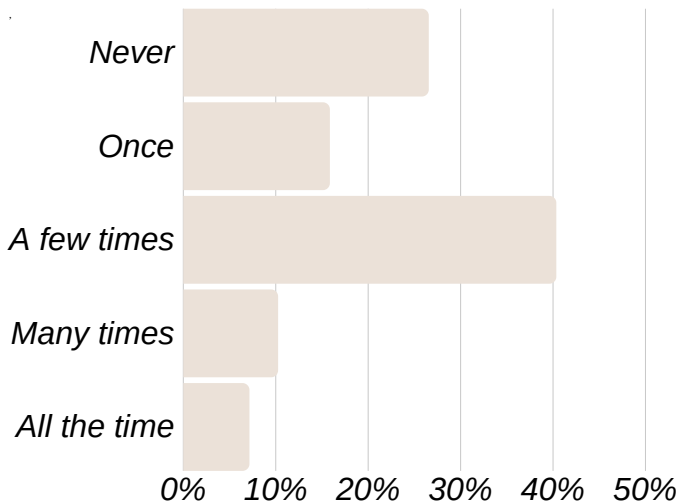
of students have a USS, "DREAM" Center, or something similar at their college.

Out of the 88%, more than 85% of the students had visited their school's USS, "DREAM" Center, or something similar at least once:

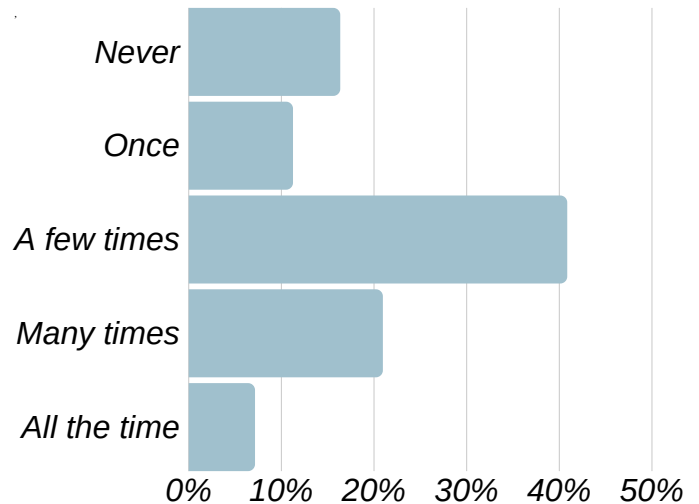
Three or more  
62.4%



How often the students had **participated in events** for undocumented students:



How often the students had **used resources provided** for undocumented students:



# REASONS WHY STUDENTS USED THEIR COLLEGE'S UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES (USS)

## Free Resources:

Students used their college's USS to obtain resources, including:



Legal Assistance

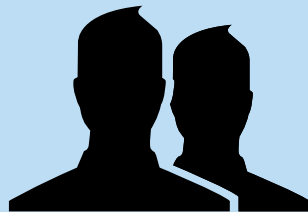
Consult with a lawyer

Obtain answers to DACA-related questions, renew DACA, or have USS pay for DACA



DACA Assistance

Receive mentoring



Mentorship



Financial Help & Scholarships

Obtain scholarships or learn about financial opportunities



Mental Health Services

Mental health and stress management support

Food stamps or food vouchers



Food Resources

Financial aid, transferring, internships, staying on track



Academic Resources



Miscellaneous

Travel, housing, etc.

# REASONS WHY STUDENTS USED THEIR COLLEGE'S UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES (USS)

## Supportive:

Students thought the services and staff were supportive, helpful, and easy to access.

## Sense of belonging:

Students wanted to connect with others in a similar position, wanted to feel a sense of belonging, or talk to people who were like them.

## Safe:

Students used USS to feel safe and secure and felt they could use the services without judgement.

## Nowhere else to go:

Students used USS because they didn't know where else to go for help or thought USS was their last source of hope.

## Reduce uncertainty:

Students used USS when they felt uncertain about the future.

## Special events:

Students used USS to attend special events.

# REASONS WHY STUDENTS DID NOT USE THEIR COLLEGE'S UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES (USS)

## Afraid, Nervous, Uncomfortable:



Students felt afraid, shy, or uncomfortable using the services.

## Busy:



Students reported having no available time, having to focus on school or work, or being too busy to use USS.

## Uninformed:



Students didn't know where USS was located, what services it provided, or whether their college had such services.

## College doesn't have a USS:



Students' colleges didn't have a USS.

## Privacy/Judgement:



Students did not want to reveal their undocumented status.

# REASONS WHY STUDENTS DID NOT USE THEIR COLLEGE'S UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES (USS)

## Not on campus:



Students did not spend much time on campus. They took online classes, which made it difficult to use their college's USS.

## Don't need it:



Students felt that they didn't need the services because they valued being able to manage on their own.

## Difficulty asking for help:



Students felt difficulty asking for help because they didn't know what kind of help they needed or what questions to ask.

## Undeserving:



Students felt undeserving of the services because they thought they had to be active in the community to use them or because they felt others needed the services more.

## DACA students only:



Students thought the services were for DACA students only.



# REASONS WHY STUDENTS DID NOT USE THEIR COLLEGE'S UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES (USS)



## Latinx students only:

Students felt the services were only meant for Latinx students.



## Incompetent:

Students felt the USS staff were incompetent, uneducated, or unwelcoming.



## Won't help:

Students didn't think the USS would make a difference or be helpful for them.



## Do not qualify for help:

Students thought they did not qualify for help.

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