

SOBREVIVIENDO LA CRISIS: THE CASE OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

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Undocumented Students

- ❑ 2.4 million undocumented children and young adults under the age of 24.
- ❑ 1.8 million were enrolled in grades K-12 in 2006.
- ❑ 65,000 high school graduates a year (The Urban Institute, 2003)
- ❑ 13,000 undocumented high school graduates enroll in public colleges and universities a year (The Urban Institute, 2003)

Uncertain Outlook

- After they finish high school undocumented youth are met with extreme challenges despite having lived most of their lives in the U.S.:
 - ▣ Undocumented students do not qualify for any type of federal financial aid regardless of their academic accomplishments.
 - ▣ They can not legally work.
 - ▣ In most states they must pay international student tuition fees.
 - ▣ They may be deported at any time.

Historical & Legal context

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- In Plyer v. Doe (1982) the Supreme Court held that, while undocumented children are present in the United States they should not forfeit their education because of their parents' decision to immigrate illegally.

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Undocumented Research Study

Developing Talent

Developing Talent Study

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- Participants
 - ▣ 182 participants completed an online questionnaire
 - 66% female
 - 93% Latinas/os
 - ▣ 102 of the 182 also participated in an in-depth, one-hour interview

Student profiles

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	Community College	Four Year University
Age at time of study	20.7	20.9
Age at time of immigration to U.S.	6.8	7.6
High School GPA	3.2	3.7
College GPA	3.1	3.1
Number of AP/Honors courses	2.1	5.3
High School Hours worked/week	20.7	21.1
College Hours worked/week	33.1	26.7
Mother's Level of Education	8.2	8.5
Father's Level of Education	9.3	10.0
Number of Siblings	3.1	2.8

Student profiles

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	Community College	Four Year University
Volunteered more than 41 hrs/year in HS	39%	49%
High School Extra-curricular activity participation	79%	84%
High School Leadership role	47%	54%
High School Volunteer/Community Service	66%	74%
High School Academic Awards	71%	93%
Volunteered more than 41 hrs/year in College	24%	35%
College Leadership role	40%	44%
College volunteer/community service	61%	65%
College Academic Awards	45%	58%

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Balancing Work & School

Beatriz

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- When I was in high school I had applied to a private school. But being in the situation that I am in, and it's so expensive, I couldn't get scholarships or financial aid. So I decided to go to a community college and this is where I am. And it has been a long 4 years because stuff happens. Like with money, or you have to go to work...somehow it delays itself, but I am going to finish hopefully in one year.

Nailea

- It's been rough. I have been having to pay everything on my own. I have had to take off a couple of quarters because of no money. It's a lot harder than high school. You have to study on your own. You have to find the time and the place.

Rosa

- It's been hard. If it were up to me I would just go to college in finish my career. I hate that I have to work. I hate that I'm unable to concentrate and put one hundred percent of my effort to school because I know that if I did I would have been done a long time ago. I would have been done with my school. Probably practicing my profession. I don't come from a very wealthy family. I have no income or support from my family so I have to work. I would not just be able to go to school and finish my career. I have to come home and go to school at night.

Paulina

- I have a big set of cousins. They all pitch in. So they help me buy books. One of them works at Staples so he tries to get me my school supplies. Just here and there I applied a couple of semesters for scholarships, which won't ask for anything. But it's mainly my dad and my cousin's that help pay for books and utensils and what not. One will buy the textbooks and another will buy something else.

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Financial Concerns

Finding a way to pay for school

Financial Concerns

- Financial challenges are the most frequently cited obstacles by AB540 students.
 - ▣ Transferring to quarter-based schools will often pose hardships to AB540 students since they have to raise/save money in a shorter time span.

College Choice driven by financial concerns

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- Our study shows that Community Colleges are an important gateway to higher education for undocumented students due to their affordable tuition.
 - 46% of college students interviewed are either currently community college students or began their higher education studies at the community college level.
 - In our survey data 45% of participants also began their higher education studies at the community college.

Reducing financial burden in High School

- Taking and passing as many AP tests that they can qualify and/or have time for in order to save money and fulfill GE requirements, simultaneously.
- Dual enrollment programs with community colleges.

Student Clubs & Social Networking Sites

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- Our data suggest that AB540 student clubs play a critical role for students
 - ▣ Helps students develop connections with other AB540 clubs at 4-year universities
 - Access to peer role models who have successfully transferred
 - Students are able to share information with each other and with clubs from other colleges
 - ▣ Clubs do extensive fundraising for scholarships
 - ▣ Provides a sense of empowerment and official recognition from the institution
 - ▣ Vehicle for student activism and advocacy

Fundraising Activities

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- ❑ Food sales (tamales, burritos)
- ❑ Fundraising dinners with keynote speakers
- ❑ Book sales
- ❑ T-shirts, merchandise
- ❑ Fundraising partnerships with restaurants
- ❑ Informational play
- ❑ Scavenger hunt
- ❑ Show tapings
- ❑ Raffles
 - ❑ Businesses or individuals donate products to raffle
- ❑ Social networking websites
- ❑ Film screenings
- ❑ Art Silent auctions
 - Artists donate their art
- ❑ Car washes
- ❑ Yard sales
- ❑ Baseball game tickets

Institutional Funding

- ❑ Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are the only states that provide state funding in addition to in-state tuition to undocumented students.
- ❑ A handful of private colleges and universities provide full scholarships for undocumented students derived from private donations and unrestricted funds.
- ❑ Northern Virginia Community College has created community and privately funded scholarships for undocumented students.

Institutional Funding: Southern California

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- Santa Monica City College
 - Book voucher programs and reserves textbooks in the library.
- Glendale City College
 - Faculty have the option of a monthly deduction from their paycheck for the AB540 scholarship fund.
- Santa Ana College
 - Institutional scholarships that do not exclude undocumented students.

Contact Information

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