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Influence of the DREAM Act and the DACA Program on Undocumented and Documented Immigrants During the Census Process

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2022

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Abstract

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Rhefinette Jones-Smith

Dissertation Submitted in Partial
of the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
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May 2022

Abstract

A collective group of scholars have researched the flaws of the immigration system and possible benefits to be gained from reformation with the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The purpose of the quantitative study was to statistically determine if the temporary resolutions to the immigration system problems influenced the participation of the immigrant communities in the U.S. Census. The theoretical focus selected for this study was the assimilation and accommodation theories with the causal decision theory as a conceptual foundation. The research questions concentrated on the DREAM Act and the DACA program's influence on the decisions made by the immigrant communities ($N = 1110$) to respond to the census-taking process. Quantitatively, the regression research design that was used allowed the independent variables to predict the impact on the dependent variable by means of the G*Power analysis application to the secondary data. The findings indicated that the DREAM Act and the DACA program did have an impact on the responsiveness of the immigrants but can be used to make a positive contribution to the U.S. immigration system modernization process. The contribution of the immigrants, documented or undocumented, should not be discounted when it comes to the progression of the United States. The implications for positive social change are empowering the immigrant communities and heightening the potential for transitioning from being an unauthorized immigrant to becoming an authorized citizen.

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Dedication

I dedicate this completed study to my parents, family, and friends who provided me with the light needed to continue my journey for a better future when I could see only the present.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Despite the participation of the immigrant communities in the census-taking process that aids in the collection of statistical data used for distributing government funds, the defects in the U.S. immigration system that have been identified and debated are slow to be remedied. A collective group of scholars has researched the flaws of the immigration system and possible benefits to be gained from reformation by means of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The purpose of this quantitative study was to statistically determine if the DREAM Act and the DACA program had an influence on the participation of documented and undocumented immigrants in the 2010 Census and the subsequent American Community Survey (ACS) pre- and post- immigration relief mechanisms such as DREAM Act and DACA. The findings were able to indicate if the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an impact on the responsiveness of the immigrants in which the results may be able to make a positive contribution to the U.S. immigration system modernization process. Also, the results may be used to provide protection for a vulnerable classification of people who have entered the country in hopes for a better way of life. The potential implications for social change include empowering the immigrant communities and heightening the possibility for transitioning from being an unauthorized immigrant to becoming an authorized citizen.

Background

The 2010 United States Census Bureau (2014a) recorded a total of 971,777 residents in Montgomery County, MD of which 493,012 individuals were representatives of the minority population which was a fraction of the count noted for the United States according to both the 2010 census and the 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey that totaled over 39 million foreign-born people (United States Census Bureau, 2014b). Montgomery County has been noted as one of the largest counties in the state of Maryland and within the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area (MontgomeryPlanning.org, 2011). Because of the size of the county, the U.S. Census Bureau selected Montgomery County to implement a year 2014 project, the ACS, which was the vehicle to collect pertinent data for the purpose of allocating over “\$400 billion of federal and state funds to specified infrastructure, programs, services, and investments within community areas” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014b, para. 1). The survey had been unsystematically distributed to over 3 million addresses to be generalized as a representation of American households. For this study, a larger sample size comprised of the individuals who were born in countries other than the U.S. and counted in the population of the DMV (over 13% in the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland and over 11% in the state of Virginia) was used to increase the reliability of the study by means of a generalization of the participation of immigrants in the census-taking process (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). A former director of Research and Planning had been quoted as describing the ACS as being “...vital to economic development and for wise government and business decision-making [as well as being] ...an improvement over the

census long form because it provides small-area information annually instead of once a decade” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014c, p. 1). Nonetheless, how many of the minority residents who were counted in the 2010 census were undocumented immigrants and participated based on the hopes of becoming an American citizen by means of the DREAM Act or the reform of the U.S. immigration system or were counted in the American Community Surveys after the 2010 census based on the implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program? This quantitative study was among the first scholarly investigations to determine if public policy, undocumented immigrants, and the census are influenced by one another and can provide an answer to the above research question.

Problem Statement

In the United States, there is a problem with recognition in the immigrant communities which includes documented and undocumented immigrants. Immigrants are participating in the U.S. Census and the ACS, which involves the collection of valued statistical data that has been used for the distribution of government funding. Despite the participation of the immigrant communities in the census-taking process, the defects in the U.S. immigration system that have been identified and debated by the Senate, the House, and the executive branch are slow to be remedied. Policy makers are slow to recognize the contribution of the immigrant communities (Garcia et al., 2013; The White House, 2014). The lack of reform has negatively impacted the immigrant communities. Some of the documented immigrants who have family members of various generations and the existing undocumented immigrants residing in the country are affected by the

defects of the immigration system. The identified defects prolong both documented and undocumented immigrants' possibilities of becoming U.S. citizens (The White House, 2014). Immigrants are operating in the shadows due to the threats of detention and deportation as well as the perceptions of legal vulnerability (Brabeck & Xu, 2010). Some of the general public believes that immigrants merely have to apply to get a green card for citizenship. However, that is not true. There are several obstacles that exist and will discredit the belief of such simplicity. First, the U.S. immigration policy has guidelines that limit authorized entry into the country for specific individuals and families (Immigration Policy Center, 2013a). Second, the immigrant communities are required to participate in the census-taking process under constitutional law but are not allowed legal status in society (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014a). Third; the DREAM Act revisions have been proposed but not enacted (Dream Act of 2009, 2009). Fourth, an executive order such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program had to be executed to assist in the restructuring of the immigration system due to no agreement reached on the DREAM Act (Department of Homeland Security, 2013).

Past and current literature have failed to address a connection between undocumented immigrants and the participation in the census-taking process and/or the contribution made by undocumented immigrants to the appropriation of federal dollars. This quantitative study investigated the influence that the DREAM Act and the DACA program will have on the immigrant communities will help to identify and to understand the needs of the undocumented immigrants and their contribution to society.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the quantitative research was to bring attention to the contribution of the undocumented immigrants during the time period pre and post the immigration policies and/or executive orders by means of the census-taking process. Also, the research can assist in the progression, creation, and implementation of revised immigration policies and procedures that would improve the transition for undocumented immigrants from illegal to legal status. If the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an influence on the participation of undocumented immigrants in the 2010 Census and the subsequent American Community Surveys (ACS), then the impact of both immigration policies and/or executive orders could provide an alternative method for negotiating the benefits of the DREAM Act, to be enacted and provide an extension for the DACA program for the undocumented recipients, and continue to branch off into other feasible programs such as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) [Wong et al., 2014; USCIS, 2015]. The Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program is an extension of the DADA program which provides the same immigration reliefs to the parents of undocumented youths. The parents must similarly meet the guidelines specific to the DAPA program to receive approval. The program was introduced in November 2014 and is also referred to as the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (USCIS, 2015).

Research Question and Hypothesis

Do the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an influence on the participation in the census-taking process by the documented and undocumented immigrants?

H_0 : The DREAM Act and the DACA program will not have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

H_a : The DREAM Act and the DACA program have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

Theoretical Foundation/Conceptual Framework

Assimilation is a concept credited to a Swiss psychologist by the name of Jean Piaget who utilized the concept in his explanation for cognitive development (Gilles, 2014). The concept or “a symbol that represented a behavioral phenomenon” (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008, p. 24) was later developed into a theory, assimilation theory, that can be used to characterize the behavior of immigrants in the United States. Scholars have concluded that the history of immigration and the assimilation theory focused on the process in which integration yielded positive and not so positive results for the future generations who wish to emulate the receiving societies (Alba et al., 2011; Brown & Bean, 2006; Greenman & Xie, 2008; Xie & Greenman, 2011). What if the assimilation theory could be associated with other theories in order to gain positive results for immigrants and their future generations? Due to the evolution of the

assimilation theory, Piaget found that both assimilation and accommodation theories work together in the purest forms (Wachtel, 1980). As a result of the identification of the purest form, the theoretical focus selected for this study was the assimilation and accommodation theories created by Piaget (1952; 1954). The assimilation theory provided an explanation for the adapting behavior of the undocumented immigrants. The accommodation theory provided the reasoning behind making behavioral changes by the undocumented immigrants which were to be inclusive in the census-taking process rather than hiding in the shadows (Wachtel, 1980). Scholars have concluded that the history of immigration and the assimilation theory focused on the process in which integration yielded positive and not so positive results for the future generations who wish to emulate the receiving societies (Alba et al., 2011; Brown & Bean, 2006; Greenman & Xie, 2008; Xie & Greenman, 2011). This decision-making process can lead to a foundation that can be grounded by the causal decision theory (CDT).

The conflicts in the standing immigration system have created reasons for the development of solutions, whether temporary or permanent, in order to make the transition from immigrant status to citizenship much easier. CDT has given reason to look at the facts as they are presented. The Development, Relied, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) has been on the table for approval since 2001 to the present date as a permanent option and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has been implemented as a temporary solution by the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security with the approval of President Obama in 2012 in order to help alleviate some dysfunction of the immigration system (Department of Homeland

Security, 2012). Also to benefit all people, participation in the U.S. Census is required by all individuals whether documented or undocumented in order to get an accurate count of the population in the country. The accuracy will aid in the distribution of government funding for community services and investments. The question answered with the outcome of the study was, “Does the possibility of the enactment of the DREAM Act or the DACA program have an effect on the responses from the documented and undocumented population in the 2010 Census?” or “What was the relationship between the initiated DACA program and the participation in the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) project between naturalized citizens and noncitizens?” The expectation was that the independent variables (DREAM Act and DACA program) will have an influence on the dependent variable (the participation in the census-taking process) based on the stats of participation. The assimilation and accommodation theories offered the reasoning behind the motivating factor or factors involved when decisions are made based on CDT by immigrants. These immigrants wanted to be inclusive in the inhabited areas in which they have chosen to reside and to participate in a decision making process as a citizen or potential citizen of the United States.

Nature of the Study

The nature of the study was quantitative in approach with a quasi-experimental design due to the absence of random assignment of the documented and undocumented immigrants who are the participants of the research (Trochim, 2006a). The approach and design chosen helped to yield the statistical significance for the influence or no influence that the DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) has on the participation in the

census-taking process (DV) by documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants (Table 1).

Table 1

Populations of Immigrants Pre and Post DREAM Act and DACA Program

Area	Documented Immigrants			Undocumented Immigrants		
	Years					
	2000 ^a	2008-2012 ^b	2010 ^c	2000 ^a	2008-2012 ^b	2010 ^c
District of Columbia	38	31	32	22	51	25
Maryland	235	364	373	284	433	275
Virginia	233	412	423	338	481	210
N =	506	807	828	644	965	510

Note. Numbers listed in thousands and rounded to the next highest thousand.

^aThe census year of 2000 notes the number of respondents to the annual questions before the DREAM Act originated.

^bThe census period from 2008 to 2012 records the time after the DREAM Act was established, during enactment consideration or lack of consideration but before the DACA program was implemented. ^cThe census year 2010 summarizes the participation statistics from the last format for an annual questionnaire as well as before the DACA program.

The logistic regression testing procedure measured the significance of the hypotheses and determined if the testing model was or was not a good fit to answer the research question (“Logistic Regression,” 2014).

(Central Research Question) Do the DREAM Act [independent variable (IV)] and the DACA program (IV) have an influence on the participation in the census-taking process [dependent variable (DV)] by the documented and undocumented immigrants?

(Null Hypothesis, H₀) The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will not have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

(Alternative Hypothesis, H_a) The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

A factor considered that may have an influence on the answer to the research question was *fear* and was broken down into two components: fear of detention and fear of deportation (Brabeck & Xu, 2010). Brabeck and Xu (2010) also used a quantitative research design that focused on both the components of fear and was used for the study. Gonzales et al. (2014) offered the assimilation aspect for the quantitative study with the measurement of approved DACA applicants and their decision to integrate. Weeraratne and Massey (2013) provided a statistical method, causal-comparative correlational study that also focused on assimilation and can be used as an alternative research method to test reliability and validity.

Definitions

American Community Survey (ACS): An annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that aids in the distribution of government funding according to the needs of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014b).

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): A program implemented in 2012 by President Obama and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (Department of Homeland Security, 2012, 2013; Kim, 2012).

Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA): An extension of the DACA program that provides the similar immigration reliefs to the parents of undocumented youths. The program was introduced in 2014 and is also referred to as the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2015).

Documented immigrant: An immigrant who has enter the United States from another country and has gone through the immigration system and gained legalization or authorization to remain in the states. Also synonymous with the terms *authorized immigrant, legal immigrants, and naturalized (U.S.) citizen* (Pew Research Center, 2015; U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act): An act that was created in 2001 and has continued to be an item of debate by legislators seeking to improve the current immigration system (Department of Homeland Security, 2012; DREAM Act, 2009).

DMV: The acronym for the District of Columbia, the state of Maryland, and the state of Virginia.

Foreign-born/foreign-born population: “Foreign born refers to people who are not U.S. citizens at birth. This includes naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (immigrants), temporary migrants (such as foreign students), humanitarian migrants (such as refugees and asylees), and persons illegally present in the United States” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015, p. 1).

Immigrant: “According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), immigrants are foreign-born persons who obtain legal permanent residence in the United States. DHS is responsible for publishing immigration statistics based on administrative data, such as the number of persons obtaining legal permanent resident status, refugees and asylees, naturalizations, nonimmigrant admissions, and enforcement actions” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015, para. 3).

Naturalization: The process in which a foreign-born individual must go through in order to become a U.S. citizen (USCIS, 2015; U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Naturalized citizens: “Legal immigrants who have become U.S. citizens through naturalization” (Pew Research Center, 2015, p. 1) or “all persons who were granted lawful permanent residence; granted asylum; admitted as refugees; or admitted as nonimmigrants for a temporary stay in the United States” (Hoefler et al., 2012, p. 2). Also terminology used by the U.S. Census Bureau to denote documented immigrants (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

Noncitizen/Not a citizen/Alien: “Any person not a citizen or national of the United States” (Department of Homeland Security, 2015; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2015). Also, terminology used by the U.S. Census Bureau to represent an undocumented immigrant (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013, 2014).

Undocumented immigrant: An immigrant who has not entered the United States legally and has not gained legalization or authorization to remain in the states as a citizen (Schmid, 2013). Also term used synonymous with “unauthorized (resident) immigrant who are foreign-born non-citizens (that) are not legal residents and (who) have enter the U.S. without inspection or were admitted temporarily and stayed beyond the required departure date” (Hoefler et al., 2012, para. 2/p. 2).

Assumptions

The study focused on the assumption that the motivating factors for the participation by undocumented immigrants were the fear of being held in detention and/or the fear of being deported from the country and separated from relatives if

determined to be a nonparticipant. A second assumption was that the documented and undocumented immigrants who participated in the census-taking process identified themselves truthfully at the time of the survey because of the confidentiality guidelines of the U.S. Census. A third assumption was that the survey and the methodology used by the U.S. Census Bureau meets the criteria for validity and reliability. A final assumption was that there will continue to be flaws in the U.S. immigration system and that there will continue to be undocumented immigrants who are affected by those flaws in the immigration system.

Scope of Delimitations

Having worked as a field representative (previously known as an enumerator) with the U.S. Census Bureau, I wondered why undocumented immigrants would willingly respond to the survey questions. Also, why would undocumented immigrants take the risk of detention and deportation? I then thought that a probable reason behind the participation was for the benefit of the household, to include their children who were either born in the U.S. or their children who are now in the system of society, and/or for the communities in which they live. Communities, cities, counties, and states would receive a just share of federal dollars with an accurate head count when the distribution of funds is based on the population. These federal funds would be able to either full pay or supplement expenditures generated by the fulfillment of the needs of the inhabited areas. Based on that logic and because some of the undocumented immigrants have come out of the shadows to be counted in the U.S. Census, more questions have been formulated. Is there any truth to that logic? Have the immigration policies been a major influence on the

behavior or choices made by documented and undocumented immigrants? The study was conducted to answer the research question, “Do the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an influence on the participation in the census-taking process?” The scope and delimitations of the study concentrated on the research problem, purpose, and question by using participants who are categorized as documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants and who have been or will be recipients of the services provided by the U.S. immigration system. The secondary data utilized in the study reflected the times pre- and post-DREAM Act and DACA program to determine statistical significance of the hypotheses. The government seat (Washington, DC) and the two states (Maryland and Virginia) that makeup the eastern area known as the DMV was used as a confined area that was an adequate sample size for the purpose of the study.

The philosophical framework selection for the study was the assimilation and accommodation theories to address the concept of integration, and the causal decision theory provided the foundation and explained both positive and negative effects on the decision-making process applied by the immigrants during the time periods pre and post the DREAM Act and the DACA program. The logistic regression was the method of choice for determining how the nominal/dependent variable (participating in the census-taking process) was affected by the first measurement/independent variable (DREAM Act), the second measurement/independent variable (DACA program) (McDonald, 2015).

Limitations

The study utilized secondary data previously collected, verified, calculated, and evaluated by the U.S. Census Bureau and Pew Research Center. The U.S. Census Bureau made the secondary data available at no cost, provided a representation of the targeted population which increased external validity, and increased the level of statistical precision. The secondary data gathered only represented those participants who actually took part in the census-taking process, including documented immigrants or undocumented immigrants, even though the census procedure is mandated by constitutional law. Participation by all inhabitants of the United States is required and respondents are randomly selected for generality purposes (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

Significance

This quantitative study has the likelihood to reinforce the positive attributes of the DREAM Act for further negotiation potential and to amplify the future development of strategic methods to integrate the concerns of the benefactors of the DACA program, whether documented or undocumented immigrants. The statistical significance of the findings can demonstrate how immigration policies and programs can be used to increase the competency of the assimilation theory directly associated with the accommodation theory which can possibly have a direct effect on the decision-making process of documented and undocumented immigrants. The research was able to identify the significance with the probability of a theoretical association between theories. Also, the creation and implementation of temporary remedies for a failing immigration system can

still yield positive outcomes for the financial stability of communities when all or at least the majority of the population is counted (Kossoudji, 2013).

This research will fill the gap in the field of immigration policy and administration by outlining the contribution that undocumented immigrants who reside in the DMV region are actually making toward the welfare of their communities by means of participating in the census-taking process. Even though the DREAM Act has not yet been enacted, the DACA program provides a blueprint for the creation and implementation of practices, policies, and/or programs that will assist undocumented immigrants with the transition from illegal to legal citizenship status (Kossoudji, 2013) (Wong, Kerwin, Atkinson, & McCarthy, 2014). In addition, the study will promote the future assessment and development of policies and procedures that will be viable for reconstruction of the U.S. immigration system at the federal, state, and local levels of government.

Empowerment made attainable through mutual collaboration and power sharing can help promote social changes for the immigrant communities (Callahan et al., 2012). Recognition for the contribution to the workforce in the United States is a start. The economic progression gained, based on the cost-benefit ratio, has been supplemented by undocumented immigrants (Kossoudji, 2013). The undocumented immigrants can even extend their contribution in the work environment by bringing uniformity to the competitive field as “legalized workers” with “fair wages” (Kossoudji, 2013, p. 4) being paid. The social changes can encourage compliance in the census-taking process, increase knowledge about the purpose for participating in the allocation of government funding by

way of being counted, and lessen the time of the transitioning period from an unauthorized immigrant status to an authorized citizen of the United States.

Summary

The undocumented immigrants have been counted in the population of many U.S. communities. The inclusion of the undocumented immigrants in the census process has assisted the municipal, local, and state governments to receive federal funding, which has been utilized for economic development, investments, and improvements to the quality of life (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014b). One of the ways in which the undocumented immigrants could have been included in the statistical data collected was by coming out from their self-protective shields of nonexistence and participate in the census-taking process. Why would the undocumented immigrants risk the legal enforcement of detention and/or deportation? This study was conducted to investigate the possibility of the immigration policy and program (the DREAM Act and the DACA program) having an influence on the decisions made by the undocumented immigrants to participate in the census and/or ACS. This study is unique in the sense that there has not been any quantitative research to determine the impact of immigration policies, pre- and post-DREAM Act and the DACA program, on the census participation by documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants.

The next chapter, literature review, is arranged for the available scholarly documentations of related evidence to be divided into sections: immigration and policy, DREAM Act and DACA program, U.S. Census and ACS, theory, and research in order to compensate for the existence of a sizeable gap in the research. The literature found will

be used to offer an understanding of each section for the background of the study, to explain how the study would contribute to filling the future needs of the field of study, and to aid in the creation of feasible solutions for a deteriorating immigration system.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Immigrants have participated in the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) which involves the collection of statistical data used for the distribution of government funding for many years. The problem with the contribution of the immigration communities that includes documented and undocumented immigrants is that the recognition has gone unnoticed. The purpose of the research was to bring attention to the contribution of the undocumented immigrants by means of the census-taking process and subsequently bring about development, creation, and implementation of revisions to the immigration policies and procedures that would enhance the transition for undocumented immigrants from illegal to legal status. The research problem and the research purpose are specific in nature and lacked little to no academic evidence available to substantiate the argument. The literature search strategy implemented entails the use of the Walden University databases, the U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research Center, Immigration Policy Center, Immigration Policy Council, Google Scholar, and peer-reviewed articles. There was no current research or dissertations located that addressed the specific research problem. Therefore, the literature review is broken down into subjects as to facilitate the progression of the argument and the development of the findings. The division of the literature review consists of four parts to aid in the discussion: (a) immigration and policy, (b) DREAM Act and DACA program, (c) U.S. Census and ACS, and (d) research.

Literature Search Strategy

The literature search strategy implemented entailed the use of the Walden University databases, the U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research Center, Immigration Policy Center, Immigration Policy Council, Google Scholar, and peer-reviewed articles. There was no current research or dissertations located that addressed the specific research problem. Therefore, the literature review is broken down into subjects as to facilitate the progression of the argument and the development of the findings.

Theoretical Foundation

Consensus among scholars have concluded that the history of immigration and the assimilation theory focused on the process in which integration yielded positive and not so positive results for the future generations (Alba et al., 2011; Brown & Bean, 2006; Greenman & Xie, 2008; Xie & Greenman, 2011). But what if the assimilation theory could be associated with other theories like accommodation theory with a conceptual theory foundation of causal decision theory?

Piaget (1952; 1954) found that both assimilation and accommodation theories work together in the purest forms. The assimilation theory explains the adapting behavior by the undocumented immigrants and the accommodation theory provides the reasoning used for making the behavioral changes by the undocumented immigrants that participated in the census-taking process (Wachtel, 1980). As for the decision-making process of immigrants and their future generations, Greenman and Xie (2008); Brown and Bean (2006); Alba, Kasinitz, and Waters (2011); and Xie and Greenman (2011) have agreed on the fact that integration has created both positive and negative effects which

led to the weight of the options by means of probability and utility or causal decision theory (CDT) (Weirich, 2012). What if the assimilation theory could be associated with other theories in order to gain positive results for immigrants and their future generations? Figure 1 shows a possible interaction of the three theories and the flow of the decision-making process when participation in the census-taking process is done by documented and undocumented immigrants.

Figure 1

The Interaction Between the Assimilation Theory, Accommodation Theory, and the Causal Decision Theory



Conceptual Framework

The CDT provided the assimilation and accommodation theories with a foundation based on the use of one's beliefs in order to make decisions that would yield future positive outcomes or expectations. The CDT was utilized as a foundation for decisions made based on beliefs of the undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process so that they would gain positive results such as being instrumental in creating a method that will assist them in becoming American citizens (Cantwell, 2013; Joyce, 1999). Due to the inconsistencies in the immigration system, different programs have been initiated to facilitate a more flawless transition for immigrants from undocumented to documented status. The DREAM Act (Development, Relied, and Education for Alien Minors Act) been tabled for approval since 2001 to the present date and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has been implemented

by the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security with the approval of President Obama in 2012 to help alleviate some dysfunction of the immigration system (Department of Homeland Security, 2012). Also to benefit all people, participation in the U.S. Census is required by all individuals whether documented or undocumented in order to get an accurate count of the population in the country.

Literature Review

Immigration and Policy

The U.S. immigration system has been referred to as being an arena for discord between the public, the legislators, the politicians, and the immigrants who are directly affected by such behavior (Ewing, 2012; Immigration Policy Center, 2009; Kalhan, 2010). A detailed timeline provided the populating process of the country by immigrants and the reasoning behind the creation of the policies used to control the migration of various settlers from other lands. Immigrants have come to America for many reasons with one reason being in hopes to satisfy a dream for a better or different life than what was tolerated in their country of origin during that time and space. America was recognized as a land that extended an open invitation and was welcoming to all travelers who wished to call their settlement home. It was not until the late 1800s that restrictions were enforced for certain immigrants which changed the belief for a better or different life to a factual statement meaning that the country will no longer welcome all who wish to stay. The process of elimination lead to the phraseology of being authorized immigrants or unauthorized immigrants. Authorized immigrants were given permission

to enter the country and become citizens while unauthorized immigrants who entered into the country were not approved based on the orders written as a policy (Ewing, 2012).

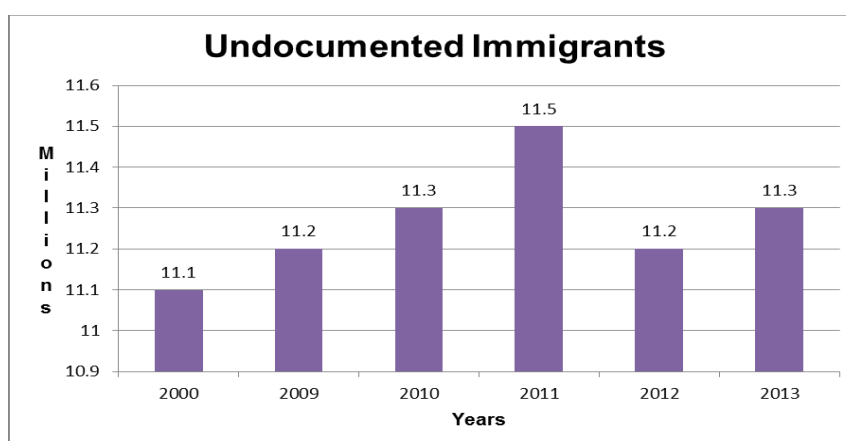
Immigration policies have been recorded as being in existence since the late 1700s up to the present time to accommodate the migration of various individuals who were foreign to America but who want to make the country their home (Immigration Policy, 2013). Throughout the times from beginning to now, the immigration policies consisted of rejections for identified individuals based on nationalities, professions, mental capacities, moral beliefs, health, economical contribution, lineage, statistical percentages, and the safety of the country. The policies became a means of controlling the population and identifying authorized immigrants, unauthorized immigrants, and subsequently the visiting immigrants (also known as non-immigrants) who were only to be in the country on a temporary basis. Statistics have shown that the number of immigrants has decreased from “14.8 percent before restrictive laws to 14.7 percent during the restriction period and then to 12.5 percent by the year 2009” (Ewing, 2012, p. 4).

The immigration policies and procedures have been revised to facilitate the changes and demands of the growing society created initially by settlers from other countries seeking various freedoms. The history has been noted as far back as the 1400s from Asia which had no restriction for the process of entry into the country to the late 1800s leading up to the present time for the sake of the security of the country. Today, the policies seem to be focused on the unauthorized immigrants with a negative connotation warranting no need for reforming a system that is sustaining the test of time.

Two immigration policies, the DREAM Act and the DACA program, have been policies established in order to address the changes in and the needs of the immigrant population (Ewing, 2012). The undocumented immigrant population has fluctuated during the time period of the DREAM Act and the DACA program. When the time periods pre- and post- the DREAM Act and the DACA program are reviewed (Figure 2), year 2011 had the highest number of undocumented immigrants recorded, which substantiates one of the reasons for the need to resolve some issues with a defective immigration system.

Figure 2

Population of Undocumented Immigrants Pre-DREAM Act (2000), Post-DREAM Act, and Both Pre- and Post-DACA Program (2009 to 2013)



First, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act which is identifiable by the acronyms as the DREAM Act was created in 2001 and placed on the Senate calendar in 2002 as a policy modification for the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The 1996 Act applied constraints on the criteria for “higher education benefits obtainable by unlawful aliens based on State residence” (S.

1291, 2001-2002) and helped to promote fears of uncertainty such as detention and deportation (Kim, 2012). The DREAM Act would give the authority of decisions to the attorney general, assign the attorney general the responsibility to maintain and disclose the status of the applications submitted, address the need for retraction of deportation enforcement, and aid in the conversion to citizenship by means of a “permanent resident status” (S. 1291, 2001-2002) if the six conditions stated in the act were satisfied by undocumented immigrants. In spite of the DREAM Act still remaining on the legislative roll as an unenacted bill as of January 2016, some states have adopted the name and established their own version of the act so that the needs of their qualified population would be able to benefit from the educational and economical advancements. These states are California, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, and Utah (National Immigration Law Center, 2015). Second, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is an executive action implemented by the administration of President Obama in 2012 to assist undocumented youth applicants (who meet the guidelines) with the transition to citizenship status by mean of granting a temporary work permit and alleviating the deportation enforcement period as a source of reprieve (Batalova et al., 2013; Wong et al., 2014; USCIS, 2015).

Weeraratne and Massey (2013), Schmid (2013), Brabeck and Xu (2010), and Kossoudji (2013) are scholars who have all referenced the positive attributes to be gained by operating an immigration system with an enacted DREAM Act and/or the DACA program. The advancements toward legalization means becoming a citizen of a country that you have resided in since you were a youth; pursuing lawful employment and paying

taxes; qualifying for financial assistance for advanced education and healthcare; and receiving a driver's license would help to alleviate the fears of raids, detention, and deportation. Brabeck and Xu (2010) utilized literature that provided the foundational information with material from authors as early as the 1980s while the later to current references (based on the publication with 2010 date) contributed the existing conditions relating to the sample population, the issues of detention and deportation, and the perspectives of legal vulnerability. The problem and purpose of the study was clearly stated with ample supportive literature. The three hypotheses included controlling variables, were also clearly stated, and noted how the third hypothesis was created to reflect the reviewed literature. The DREAM Act and the DACA program were two policies that were created to facilitate a less problematic transition from an unauthorized immigrant status to a citizenship status (Immigration Policy Center, 2009).

DREAM Act and DACA Program

The history behind the DREAM Act as well as immigration reform and the implementation of the DACA program has been received with mixed reactions. The DREAM Act originated to be a part of the reformation efforts of the U.S. Immigration System but the DACA program was introduced to fill the gap for the inability of the DREAM Act being enacted into law (DREAM Act of 2009, 2009; S. 1291, 2001-2002). The DREAM Act has been in existence since 2001 but has never been enacted. The act has been reintroduced multiple times with multiple revisions and still, at the end of 2015, the act has not yet been accepted into law. President Obama has been able to circumvent the continuous controversial positions of both the Senate and the House of

Representatives about the DREAM Act as of 2011 with the DACA program to show a progressive approach to immigration reform along with national security in 2012. The DACA program was presented to the public with a focus on the immigrant communities which aided in the resurrection of hope in the American Dream and revitalization for the DREAM Act (Kim, 2012; USCIS, 2015).

Also, the belief was that the DREAM Act and the DACA program were established to reconcile with the immigrant communities due to the mistrust of the words from the policy-makers, mainly the President in 2012, and to help relieve or alleviate the fears of detention and deportation (Espejo, 2013). Motomura (2012) provided advantages and disadvantages of legalizing the DREAM Act for the intended purpose of promoting a revised immigration system attempting to catch up with the changing times and population. The motivating factor of positioning themselves (unauthorized immigrants) and their children who were brought to the U.S. as youths would be to not have to exclude their children who were born in the U.S. from possible citizenship. Therefore, the risk would be worth taking as noted by Motomura. On the other hand, the DACA program was introduced as a plausible way to address the presence of youths of undocumented immigrants in the U.S., to “transform the immigration enforcement system” (Department of Homeland Security, 2013, para. 1), and to uphold national security. There were between 900,000 to 1.9 million eligible applicants in the U.S. beginning August 2012 when the DACA program was implemented. The DACA program, unlike the DREAM Act, does not provide permanent citizenship. An approved applicant must reapply for renewal after the initial two-years have expired (Singer &

Svajlenka, 2013; Batalova, Hooker, Capps, Bachmeier, & Cox, 2013). Findings have shown that benefits have been gained within the one year that the DACA program was implemented. Among the almost 2,400 participants responding to the research survey, over half gained new job positions to include internships and driver's licenses; almost half secured social security cards, personal banking products, credit, and salary increases; and almost a quarter of the group obtained healthcare (Gonzales, Terriquez, & Ruszczyk, 2014). Overall, the benefits from the DREAM Act and/or the DACA program may have an impact on the participation of documented and undocumented immigrants in the census data collection process. Hence prompting the research question, "Does the possibility of the DREAM Act becoming a law to initiate immigration reform and the execution of the DACA program have an effect on the responses from the documented and undocumented immigrant population of the DMV in the 2010 census and subsequent ACS?"

President Obama created an executive order to initiate changes in the DACA program to originally begin on February 18, 2015 but the actions were suspended on a temporary basis due to an injunction initiated by the federal court on February 16, 2015. President Obama has continued to make adjustment to the immigration policies based on the changing needs of undocumented immigrants by revising the DACA program with an executive order as of November 20, 2014. Due to the controversial positions of the political parties, a federal injunction was ordered for a provisional hold to be placed on the changes to the DACA program just two days before the scheduled implementation date on February 18, 2015. The modification briefly consisted of:

1. The acceptance of any current aged immigrant who entered the country before the age of 16 and resided in the country on a continuous basis since January 1, 2010.
2. The extension of the approval timeframe for the DACA and work programs from two years to three years.
3. The creation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program (also known as Deferred Action for Parental Accountability) for immigrant parents who have resided in the country on a continuous basis since January 1, 2010 and who have passed required background checks.
4. The usage of provisional waivers by specified relatives and inclusion of the specified relatives.
5. The reconsiderations for the visa programs.
6. The promotion for citizenship education and public awareness.
7. The usage of credit by naturalization applicants as an optional fee payment method (USCIS, 2015a).

Today, the saga continues with the political disagreements between the decision-makers and the recipients of said decisions. Pew Research Center used the US Census Bureau data to formulate statistics about the second-generation adult children of immigrants “socioeconomic attainment such as income, homeownership, economic success, and educational attainment” comparative to their parents of the first-generation of immigrants (Pew Research Center, 2013). Almost 50% of the second-generation

population consisted of Hispanic and Asian American and are noted as assimilated with the western culture based on their ability to communicate well in the English language, to befriend and/or marry outside of family ethnicity, and to display behavior associated with the term “typical American” (p. 7). Statistics and/or statistical predictions have shown that from 2013 to 2050 the progression of the workforce, more than 90%, will be attributed to the inclusion of the first and second-generation immigrants which can increase an additional 84 million totaling 160 million immigrants working in the US and a 37% makeup of the population (Pew Research Center, 2013).

U.S. Census Bureau and ACS

At the end of the 1700s, the U.S. Census Bureau began to collect a count of the residents per households. The collection process was first conducted by the U.S. Marshals who only solicited the basic information that identified each individual. Also at the same time of the start of the population counting practice by the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Congress established rules and regulations for the requirements to become a citizen of the country (US Census Bureau, 2016; USCIS, 2012; 2015b). Just as immigration policies continued to progress, so did the census policies and procedures. The 1800s brought about uniformity to the questions asked and the census workers changed from the US Marshals to trained personnel. The 1900s revised the documents distribution and collection method from only a door-to-door visit to an optional mail-in procedure. By the end of the 1900s and beginning of the 2000s; the questionnaires became shorter, the tabulation process was updated with computers, and the Internet was on the forefront for household usage and census compliance. Now in the 21st century, an

annual census has replaced the decennial census for a more up-to-date statistical perspective by mean of a rotational process from a smaller sample population that meets the generalization criteria. The statistics are available annually, “3-year estimates” or “5-year estimates” (US Census Bureau, 2016a; 2016b).

The U.S. Census Bureau collected data by means of the ten-year census process and the annual American Community Survey (ACS) to help substantiate the necessity of restructuring the immigration system for both citizens and potential citizens of the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). For an adequate sample size, census data from an eastern tri-state area that included the capitol of the country was used; the District of Columbia, the state of Maryland, and the state of Virginia also known as the DMV. Singer and Svajlenka (2013) were able to divide the DACA applicants by states which included the states of Maryland and Virginia (Table 2).

Table 2

DACA program applicants per the states in the DMV^a

State	Country of Origin						
	Mexico	Central America	South America	Caribbean	Asia	Africa	Europe
Maryland	19%	49%	13%	3%	7%	9%	1%
Virginia	25%	43%	19%	0% ^b	8%	2%	1%

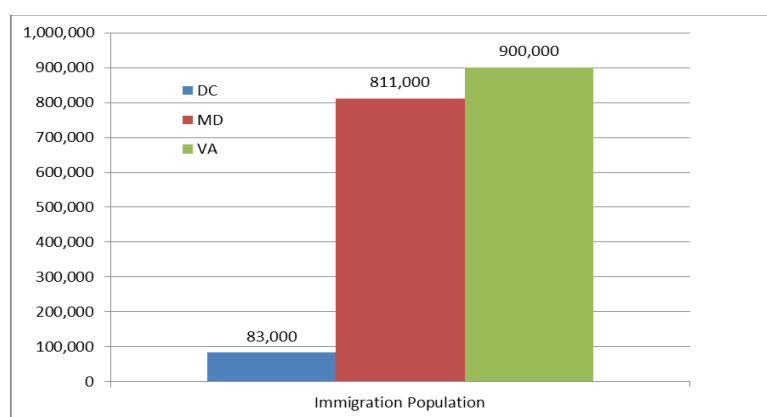
^aDistrict of Columbia is not a state and was not included in table. ^b0% represents any percentage that is less than 1% when rounded to the next whole percent.

Also, Maryland had DACA applicants with an origin from Africa in the amount of 9%. The states of the DMV also included immigrants as naturalized U.S. citizens

(documented) and not a U.S. citizen (undocumented) for the purpose of accumulating a data set large enough to meet the assumption of a quantitative regression model (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013a; 2013b; 2013c). According to the Immigration Policy Center (2013a; 2013b; 2013c); DC had an immigration population over 83,000, MD had over 811,000, and VA had over 900,000 all as of 2011 (Figure 3).

Figure 3

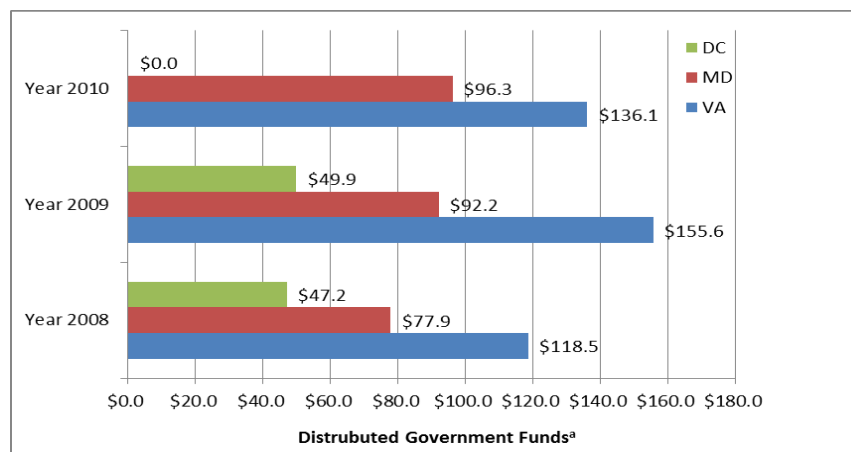
Year 2011 Immigration Population in the DMV



When consideration was given to the contribution that the undocumented immigrants provided to the district or states, the records indicated that there were billions of dollars of government funds distributed (USGovernmentSpending.com, 2015). The listing indicated distribution whether federal, state, or local was for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010 (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Contribution by Undocumented Immigrants to the Distribution of Government Funds



Between 2009 and 2012, the states of Maryland and Virginia have been noted as having increased their population of undocumented immigrants whereas the District of Columbia had little to no statistical difference around the same time periods (2007 or 2009) (Passel & Cohn, 2014). Consideration was also given to the impact that the immigration policies could have on the legislative budget. S. 534, also known as the Immigration Rule of Law Act of 2015, is an immigration system reformation plan submitted to counteract the attempt made by President Obama in November 2014 as an administrative extension to the DACA program. The extension consisted of additional years of qualification added to the approved time period for the DACA program implemented in August 2012 along with the execution of the DAPA (Deferred Action for Parental Accountability or Deferred Action for Parents of American and Lawful Permanent Residents) program for the parents of the children who qualified for the deferred actions of the DACA program or the undocumented parents who have children

that are already U.S. citizens (Congressional Budget Office, 2015; Immigration Policy Center, 2015; USCIS, 2015b). The summation of the impact of the S. 534 on the federal budget concluded that the “revenue (by approximately \$19 billion) and outlays for direct spending programs (by approximately \$13 billion)” (Congressional Budget Office, 2015, p. 1), such as revenue from social security taxes, will create an estimated loss during a 10 year period (2015-2025). The less money coming in, the less money the country would have to spend and the more budget cuts will be required. There has been a federal ruling by the courts in on February 16, 2015 preventing the execution of the revisions to the deferred actions on February 18, 2015. So, even though the 10 year period begun with 2015, the injunction ordered in February 2015 will prevent the year 2015 from being affected by the S. 534. The new application date for the immigration modifications has been changed to sometime in 2016 which are reflected in the estimations (Congressional Budget Office, 2015).

Research

The quantitative study focused on the answer in terms of statistical significance to the research question, “Do the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an influence on the participation of the U.S. Census and ACS by documented and undocumented immigrants?” Brabeck and Xu (2010) utilized a quantitative research design that concentrated on the fear factors of detention and deportation which were both elements to be considered and addressed as a possible influence on the answers received in this study. Gonzales, Terriquez and Rusczyk (2014) created a term, *DACAmented* which aided in the assimilation of approved DACA applicants. The study obtained data by the use of the

internet and executed logistic regression for the analysis process. The summation of the increases generated by the existence and utilization of the DACA program can attribute to the immigrant population participating in the census-taking process for an increase in resources within the immigrant communities (Gonzales et al., 2014). Weeraratne and Massey (2013) offered an alternative statistical method such as a causal-comparative correlational study, concentrated on assimilation, and the functioning or maneuvering within the job market. All three of the studies provided techniques that could enhance this study.

Hence prompting the question, “does the possibility of the DREAM Act becoming a law to initiate immigration reform and the execution of the DACA program have an effect on the responses to the census and ACS by the documented and undocumented immigrant population of the DMV?” The study conducted found that the research question was answered by predicting the perceptions of documented and undocumented immigrants based on the response to the data collection methods chosen by the U.S. Census Bureau. The perceptions were related to the DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV). To have an adequate sample size for generalization, the study used the participants that are immigrants from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV). Notes have been taken to address the strengths and limitations encountered by the three quantitative studies led by Brabeck and Xu (2010), Gonzales et al. (2014), and Weeraratne and Massey (2013). Based on the review of the public policy field of study, the research conducted is among the first scholarly investigations to

determine if there is a connection between immigration policies, undocumented immigrants, and the census-taking process.

Summary and Conclusion

Each section of the literature review offered an overview of the components needed to address the research problem and to validate the purpose for the study. The findings bring attention to the contribution that both documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants offer to the fiscal management of the country as well as aid in filling the gaps in the field of public policy and administration. The immigration and policy section along with the DREAM Act and DACA program section provided the history and future of the immigration system; the U.S. Census Bureau and ACS section and the theory section explained the how and why undocumented immigrants assist in the census-taking process; and the research section which presented the process in which the quantitative study was utilized to statistically answer the research hypotheses. In conclusion, the study should be able to supply a shortcut to negotiating the benefits of the DREAM Act, identifying the necessity of extending the DACA program, and strategizing a follow-up plan for the documented and undocumented recipients. The supplemental shortcut can suffice until there is a modernization of the immigration system and/or enactment of the DREAM Act which is all inclusive of the DACA and DAPA program (S. 1291, 2001-2002; USCIS, 2015).

Chapter 3: Research Method

The available literature was previously reviewed and discussed in chapter two which provided a foundation for the practicality of the research investigation. The research methodology chapter will provide a break-down of the procedures to be applied in order to examine and extend the current knowledge that will be inclusive for the intent of advancement in the field of study. The purpose of the study was to determine if the two immigration policies, DREAM Act and the DACA program, had an influence on undocumented immigrants participating in the census. Also, the purpose was to bring attention to the contribution of the undocumented immigrants by means of the census-taking process and subsequently develop and implement revised immigration policies and procedures that would enhance the transition for undocumented immigrants from illegal to legal status. Note that the study utilized secondary data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Pew Research Center therefore there is no setting to describe.

Research Design and Rationale

Do the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an influence on the participation of the U.S. Census and ACS by documented and undocumented immigrants? The selected experimental design to better answer the experimental research question is the logistic regression. The research design of regression allowed for the influence of the independent variables (documented and undocumented immigrants affected by the DREAM Act and the DACA) along with the country of origin as the control variable to predict the dependent variable (responsiveness to the census taking

process). Also, the design determined if the hypotheses have a chance of predicting the null hypothesis as nonsignificant:

Null Hypothesis H_0 : The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will not have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

or the alternative hypothesis as significant:

Alternative Hypothesis H_a : The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

The participants were grouped by the U.S. Census Bureau as naturalized U.S. citizen and not a U.S. citizen within the District of Columbia and the states of Maryland and Virginia, also known as the DMV.

Role of the Researcher

As the researcher, I had no interaction with the participants or control over the actions of the participants in this quantitative study. The possibilities of the presence of any biases or the threats of any unethical behavior were greatly reduced or alleviated all together with the use of secondary data. I was responsible for the determination of an adequate sample size to be used in the study, the interpretation of the data and statistical results, and the documentation of the outcome of the investigation (Field, 2013; Simon, 2011).

Methodology

Rationale for the Method

The population for the United States categorized as born in other countries (foreign-born) was more than 39 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2014). Therefore, the study reduced that number to a manageable fraction of over 2 million by requiring a sample population that consisted of the immigrants located in the DMV that comprised of the District of Columbia (Washington, DC), and the states of Maryland and Virginia. The 2 million plus individuals were then grouped into three disproportionate groups, one group for DC and one group for each state in the DMV. Because each group entailed the contact of possibly hard to reach individuals, data that had been previously collected, evaluated, and verified by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Pew Research Center were used as secondary data. The secondary data from the U.S. Census Bureau that contain 5 years (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012) of collected information and are also known as the “5-year public use microdata sample (PUMS); is a subset of the 2008-2012 ACS and Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) samples”; and is properly weighted, coded, and measured for sampling error (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). The secondary data from the Pew Research Center are made up of various statistical data about the documented and undocumented immigrant population in the United States from 1865 and projected to 2065 and the origin of birth for all immigrants counted (Pew Research Center, 2015; Passel & Cohn, 2014; Passel et al., 2014).

Sampling Strategy

The sampling strategy implemented by this quantitative study was the stratified random sampling, which is similar to simple random sampling except for the identification of different groups (strata) within a population. The choice of using a sampling from the different groups can either be proportionate (sampling units are of equal size) or disproportionate (sampling units not of equal size). Disproportionate sampling is more favorable when there is a need to relate two or more sampling groups or to focus on one variable in particular. Stratified random sampling also has the capability of providing a determination of probability of the IVs having an influence on the DV with the country of origin being the control variable (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The study required the choice of disproportionate sampling due to the unequal sampling units of documented and undocumented immigrants for Washington, DC, the state of Maryland, and the state of Virginia. In addition, the documented and undocumented immigrants only represented specific groups (strata) within a population of people residing in the United States.

The approximate total population as of 2011 that consisted of undocumented immigrants was recorded as 11.5 million and 11.3 million as of 2010 and continue to vary during the time periods 2000 and 2009 to 2013 which was pre- and post-DREAM Act and DACA program. As of 2011, the 2010 ACS found that the population for foreign-born totaled 33,600,000 of which 22,090,000 were documented immigrants and 11,510,000 were undocumented immigrants (Hofer et al., 2012). The U.S. Census Bureau (2014) has noted from 2008 to 2012 there were at least 13.5% foreign born

persons in Washington, DC, 13.8% foreign born persons in the state of Maryland, and 11.1% foreign born persons in the state of Virginia.

The stratified random sampling was appropriate to identify the documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants by states among the nationwide population of immigrants. The variables are: the DREAM Act (IV); the DACA program (IV); the country of origin (CV); and the participation in the census-taking process (DV). The experimental design selected for the quantitative study was quasi-experimental with the logistic regression test which was the best choice to answer the research question: Do the DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV), with the country of origin (CV); have an influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants?

The likelihood of the DREAM Act and DACA program affecting the participation in the census taking process by the chosen immigrants could be statistically calculated. Stratified random sampling also allowed the use of historical data previously collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, the ACS, and the Pew Research Center to reduce research cost and time constraints, increase levels of accuracy of the outcome from the study, decrease biases that could be made by the researcher; and reduced subsamples to gain better representation of the population for adequate generalization (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008; Laerd Dissertation, 2012).

G*Power Analysis

The factors of the statistical power for the study include sample size, alpha level, power, and effect size. The sample size to be used will be predetermined by consisting of

the total of the documented and undocumented immigrants for Washington, DC and the states of Maryland and Virginia. The alpha level to be designated will be .05 which increases the possibility of a Type I Error but decreases the risk of a Type II Error and the precision of statistical test. The application of the G*Power will involve a priori power analysis which is selected to control the alpha level (type I error) and the power level-beta (type II error), as well as define the adequate sample size. Alpha will be set at 0.05, beta will be set at 0.95, and the test will be logistic regression with two-tails. The results of the priori power analysis will determine the sample size in order to complete the study (Buchner& Erdfelder, 2010).

Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection

The researcher will not be collecting data. The study will use subjects that are documented immigrants, undocumented immigrants, and respondents to census surveys which may include anyone as young as 15 years old who have the knowledge of the household (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). Both groups (immigrants and minors) are listed as members of the *vulnerable populations* which also include individuals who are not fluent with English language and may not be able to defend their person against any violations of research ethical behavior (Walden University, 2015).

Instrumentation

The instrumentation for the study is not applicable due to the secondary data that will be used and will be secured from the U.S. Census Bureau or Pew Research Center in order to contact a population that may have been too difficult and too large to reach; will

reduce cost and time; will adhere to the federal laws, policies, and procedures; and will increase the reliability and validity of the study.

Data Analysis Plan

The final statistical results will be used in the study for examination obtained by the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences/Predictive Analytics SoftWare (SPSS/PASW) statistical analysis program so that answers can be provided for the research question:

“Do the DREAM Act [independent variable (IV)] and the DACA program (IV), with the country of origin (CV), have an influence on the participation in the census-taking process [dependent variable (DV)] by the documented and undocumented immigrants?”

and determine the statistical significance for the hypotheses:

Null Hypothesis: The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will not have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

Alternative Hypothesis: The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will have a significant influence on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) by the documented and undocumented immigrants.

The statistical test that will be used is the logistic regression design. Logistic regression is able to exam how the measurement or IVs (DREAM Act and DACA program) along with the control variable (country of origin) will affect the nominal or DV (participating in the census-taking process). In other words, the test will “predict the

probability or explain the functional relationship between variables” (McDonald, 2015). The results of this study will incorporate the fact that assignment of the probability was initially done or the decision of using the odds (odd ratio) would be more feasible. The interpretation will be an assessment based on the case model for: the Chi Square to determine if the model is a good fit; the Cox and Snell’s R-Square to determine if the logistic model can provide an explanation of variation in the DV; the Nagelkerke R-Square to see if there is a relationship between the IV and the prediction; and the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test to also determine if there is a good fit and the significance (Field, 2013; McDonald, 2015).

The use of secondary data does not require the application of data cleaning and screening procedures in this quantitative study. The secondary data that will be used has been collected, verified, calculated, and evaluated before used in the study. Also, the usage of the logistic regression analysis will allow for the adjustment for potential covariates/confounding variables such as the fear of detention and/or deportation, if needed. For example, it was advantageous for Brabeck and Xu (2010) to apply the “multiple hierarchical regression models to test the impact of both fear factors (detention and deportation) on family environment and children’s well-being” (p. 350). The results notated supporting evidence that the fear factors did have an impact on family environment and children’s well-being (2010).

Threats to Validity

The use of secondary data that had been previously collected, evaluated, and verified by the U.S. Census Bureau and Pew Research Center helped to promote the

certainty of reliability and internal validity (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.; Pew Research Center, 2015). External validity or transferability will increase with the use of secondary data collected at no cost from a targeted population (documented and undocumented immigrants located in the DMV) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The process of using secondary data will also increase the level of statistical precision (Field, 2013; Trochim, 2006b).

Potential Risks

Any potential risks will be minimized or are nonexistent by the use of secondary data. The possible concerns about the secondary data that has been previously collected, but not specifically for this study, has already addressed any issues listed on the IRB application form and is not applicable (Walden University, 2015); will be of little or no cost for securing the data, for providing “comparative and longitudinal data” (O’Sullivan, Russel, & Berner, 2008, p. 271), and for being easily replicated to check the work or provide improvements (2008). The chance of securing approval of the usage of secondary data from the members of the dissertation committee in order to conduct this quantitative investigation will increase by minimizing any potential risks (Rudestam & Newton, 2014).

Potential Benefits

The potential benefits for the participants are providing assistance for the legalization/citizenship process; stopping or reducing the fear of detention and deportation; and contributing to the improvement of the immigration policies. The potential benefits for society are contributing to the economics, our national security, and

the legalized population; decreasing the illegal workforces; and helping to keep immigrant families together which can also be beneficial for the participants.

Issues of Trustworthiness

The quantitative study will be executing a logistic regression test which allows the two measurement or IVs (DREAM Act and DACA program) along with the control variable (country of origin) to quantify the impact on the nominal or DV (participating in the census-taking process by documented and undocumented immigrants). The test will be setup to determine if there is a probability that the immigration policy/program (IVs) will or will not have an effect on the participation in the census-taking process (DV) with the country of origin being the control variable (CV). The process to collect the data, analyze the data, and interpret the findings will be essential to establishing internal validity for the study (McDonald, 2015; Field, 2013). The internal validity ties into reliability which together represents the foundation for the experiment. The structure of the testing process will be able to be recreated in order to reproduce the similar findings just as the first or previous time (Field, 2013; Trochim, 2006c).

External validity or transferability will increase with the use of secondary data collected at no cost from a targeted population (documented and undocumented immigrants located in the DMV) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The process of using secondary data will also increase the level of statistical precision (Field, 2013; Trochim, 2006b).

Ethical Procedures

The secondary data that will be obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Pew Research Center will be utilized to bypass the need to duplicate interview procedures that included identification of being authorized or unauthorized residents in the United States. The data is previously collected, assessed, and verified according to the legal requirements of participation under the authority of the Title 13, U.S. Code. The respondents were advised of the confidentiality of the information given for the survey and the execution of data swapping and the synthetic data process. In addition, the Census Bureau implemented “other disclosure avoidance measures to include top-coding, age perturbations, weight perturbation and collapsing of detail for categorical variables” (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d., p. 5).

The secondary data to be used from the U.S. Census Bureau will also allow this study to maintain anonymity and provide protection for the participants in order to show the respect for persons; to notate the safety of the participants and how the findings can be used to enhance the development of resolutions to a flawed immigration system which will demonstrate beneficence; and to reference the treatment administered in a fair and just manner to all participants for the application of the justice principle.

Summary

Overall, the possibility of approval by the IRB can be achieved by adhering to the procedures designated by the quantitative research design that reduces or alleviates the identifiable risks of invasion of privacy and defamation of character of the participants; by making sure that the benefits of the study outweigh the risks; by certifying that the

quantitative study is equitable in selecting participants which will consist of both documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants for impartiality; and by assuring that the participants of the study are volunteers and were informed of the participation (Endicott, 2010) . As far as any threats to validity and reliability, the utilization of secondary data and the logistic regression will allow for adherence to the experimental design procedures, accountability for the identification and interpretation of any other possible relationships between variables, and easy duplication of said investigation. The next chapter, results, will offer the findings from the application of the quantitative experiment design. The logistic regression will aid in a determination of the IVs (the DREAM Act and the DACA program) having an impact or not having an impact on the DV (participation in the census-taking process) during the designated years coincided with the IVs. The use of secondary data will promote the certainty of reliability and internal validity. External validity will be better justified during the interpretation of the results in the next chapter.

Chapter 4: Results

The purpose of the study was to give consideration to the possibility of assistance provided by a group of individuals and/or families that have made their way to our country and who are seeking a better way of life; the undocumented immigrants. Some of the undocumented population has come out of the shadows to participate in the U.S. census-taking process, especially during the pre- and post-timeframes of immigration policies such as the DREAM Act and the DACA program. What is the reasoning behind such action? These two immigration policies have been contemplated for enactment and executed as reasonable measures to resurrect a failing immigration system while the Census count that include the undocumented population has allowed communities, cities, and states to gain financial support from the federal government based on the number of residents. The central research question and the hypotheses are:

- Central Research Question
- Do the DREAM Act [independent variable (IV)] and the DACA program (IV) have an influence on the documented and undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process [dependent variable (DV)]?
- Null Hypothesis (H_0): The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will not have a significant influence on the documented and undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process (DV).

- Alternative Hypothesis (H_a): The DREAM Act (IV) and the DACA program (IV) will have a significant influence on the documented and undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process (DV).

The results chapter will provide a description of the data collected and any modifications required, the statistical analysis, and a summary of the analysis/investigation.

Data Collection

The data used for the study were secondary data which was readily available and previously collected, verified, calculated, and evaluated by the U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research Center, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Migration Policy Institute. The secondary data provided information on both documented and undocumented immigrants needed to complete the investigation without placing the identifiable vulnerable classes in jeopardy such as minors and/or immigrants. The secondary data also facilitated a sample population from the District of Columbia and the states of Maryland and Virginia, which when combined made up the population of interest; the documented and undocumented immigrants located in the DMV.

In order to address any other probable stimulus on the dependent variable; the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, and State of Virginia (DMV_new) and documented and undocumented immigrants (Imm_new) were added as independent variables that will be labeled as the control variables (CV) (Creswell, 2009). The data set was broken down into all of the countries of origin listed by the U.S. Census Bureau that made up each region of origin for both documented and undocumented immigrants. The

regions are divided into six sections: (a) Africa, (b) Asia, (c) Europe, (d) Latin America, (e) Northern America, and (f) Oceania. Whereas, the countries of origin consist of at least 135 named realms/lands in which each are found in only one of the six regional sections (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Binomial logistic regression permitted the adjustment for the potential covariate variables.

Statistical Analysis/Results

The binomial logistic regression (BLR) was conducted to determine if the documented and undocumented immigrants of the DMV area were willing to participate or not participate in the census taking process because of the potential enactment of the DREAM Act or the implementation of the DACA program. The DV was a dichotomous variable that had a binary outcome of either YES or NO—YES = 1, meaning there was some participation due to the IVs or NO = 0, meaning there was no participation due to the IVs.

- (DV) Participation in the census-taking process (OUTCOME)
- (IV) DREAM Act [Pre (Year 2000) / Post (Year 2010)] (PREDICTOR)
- (IV) DACA Program [Pre (Year 2012) / Post (Year 2013)] (PREDICTOR)

Modifications were made to the original two IVs, which were combined to alleviate any similarities in the regression model. The combination created the one IV named “Policies.” Adjustments were also made by adding two more IVs (DMV_new and Imm_new) to serve as control variables. As control variables, the DMV_new and Imm_new were being “held constant” while testing the other IVs’ effect on the DV and determining if the two IVs are related to the DV (Walden University, 2021). This

readjustment permitted control for the country of origin in order to help make the data used evenly proportioned for the regions used in the study such as the DMV and for the immigrant status of being documented or undocumented.

The assumptions for a BLR analysis were tested for validity and were not violated. The DV was dichotomous with a “yes” and “no” response to whether immigrants participated in the census-taking process. The three IVs were categorical and continuous. The two categorical variables were “Imm_new” with two groups—documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants—and “DMV_new” with three regions—District of Columbia, State of Maryland, and State of Virginia. The continuous variable was “Policies,” which was the combination of the DREAM Act and the DACA program measured responses to the census-taking process during the noted periods.

Block 0 and Block 1

The tables generated in the Block 0 section are generally not used in the BLR interpretations but some of the tables can be informative for comparison purposes with Block 1. The Block 0 section is sometimes considered the baseline or null model while Block 1 is considered the full or new model. The tables in Block 0 consist of information concerning the beginning of the SPSS analyzing process before any IVs have been applied to the model. Note that the Classification Table displayed in the Block 0 section will be utilized in this study for comparison purposes with the Classification Table in Block 1. This will assist in determining any improvement in the full model.

After the SPSS tests were ran, the classification table for the baseline model yielded an overall percentage of 86.0 or 86% and the new model yielded an overall

percentage of 98.7 or 99%. If there were no knowledge about the IVs and the results were based on a guess, the guess would be 86% correct (Block 0) and 99% correct (Block 1) based on the classification table. This showed that there has been an almost perfect improvement rate once all of the IVs were inputted into the BLR new model.

The classification table of the BLR full model provided the predictability of documented/undocumented immigrants participating in the census-taking process. The IVs used to measure the contribution of effectiveness to the model were Imm_new, DMV_new, and Policies. The classification table also provided the numbers based on the observation and prediction of the cases. 952 cases are observed to be NO participation and correctly predicted to be 952 cases and 144 cases observed to be YES participation and correctly predicted to be 144 cases. Whereas, 3 cases are observed to be NO participation but are predicted to be YES participation and 11 cases are observed to be YES participation but are predicted to be NO participation. The overall percentage was more than 10% higher at 98.7% which was a great improvement from the baseline model (before IVs added to model) with 86%.

Based on the Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients, the Chi square = 799.745, $df = 4$, $p < .050$ ($p = .000$) or $[x^2(4, n = 1110) = 799.745, p < 0.05 (0.000)]$. Therefore, Chi square is highly significant so the new model is significantly better, explains more of the variance in the outcome, and is an improvement when all of the IVs have been included in the new model.

The Cox and Snell's R-Square indicated that based on likelihood, 51% (Block 1) of the logistic model can explain the variation in the DV whereas the Nagelkerke R-

Square specified $R^2 = 93\%$ and the relationship between the IVs and the prediction variable. There was between 51% and 93% of the variance in the DV that is explained by the IVs in the model. The model explained 51% to 93% of the variation in the outcome of the participation or no participation of documented/undocumented immigrants in the census-taking process. The Hosmer and Lemeshow Test provided a significance of $\chi^2 = 9.042$, $p > 0.050$ ($p = 0.107$) that equated to the model having no significance and the model being a "good fit" for the variables being analyzed ("Logistic Regression," 2014).

The variables in the equation showed that DMV_new had two levels of the categorical IV to add significance to the model which were the District of Columbia ($p = .000$) and the State of Virginia regions ($p = .009$) along with the continuous IV immigration policies ($p = .000$). The third level of the DMV_new categorical IV, the State of Maryland ($p = .515$) and Imm_new ($p = .994$) both were non-significant and did not add to the prediction of the model/DV (participate).

When reviewing all of the significant IVs, the probability of the documented / undocumented immigrants being influenced to participate in the census-taking process because of:

- Being located in the District of Columbia region with a p-value of .000
- Being located in the State of Virginia region with a p-value of .009
- Being influenced by the immigration policies (DREAM Act and DACA program) with a p-value of .000

Based on the significant IVs, the NULL Hypothesis should be REJECTED. Therefore, the undocumented immigrants who resided in the District of Columbia and State of

Virginia regions were influenced by the immigration policies (DREAM Act and DACA program) to participate in the census-taking process.

A binary logistic regression analysis to investigate if the DREAM Act and the DACA program have an influence on the documented and undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process? The IVs, DMV_new and Policies, significantly added to the model. The unstandardized Beta for all the elements in the table were:

(Constant) The unstandardized Beta weight for the Constant: $\beta = -3.304$, SE = 0.400, Wald = 68.295, $p < 0.050$ ($p = 0.000$).

(Imm_new) The unstandardized Beta weight for the predictor variable (Imm_new): $\beta = -17.649$, SE = 2217.707, Wald = 0.000, $p > 0.050$ ($p = 0.994$).

(DMV_new) The unstandardized Beta weight for the predictor variable (DMV_new):

DC was $\beta = n/a$, SE = n/a , Wald = 7.906, $p < 0.050$ ($p = 0.019$);

MD was $\beta = -0.664$, SE = 0.639 , Wald = 1.079, $p > 0.050$ ($p = 0.299$);

and

VA was $\beta = -4.679$, SE = 1.712 , Wald = 7.469, $p < 0.050$ ($p = 0.006$).

(Policies) The unstandardized Beta weight for the predictor variable (Policies): $\beta = 0.091$, SE = 0.015 , Wald = 37.808 , $p < 0.050$ ($p = 0.000$).

The estimated odds ratio for the significant variables in the table were:

(DMV_new, DC) The estimated odds ratio favored no percentage [0%] [Exp (B) = [0000], 95% confidence interval (0000, 0000)] for [participate, DV] every one

unit increase of [DMV_new, DC, IV]. NOTE: IV had no OR data even though it was significant ($p = .019$).

(DMV_new, VA) The estimated odds ratio favored an [decrease] of nearly [1%] [Exp (B) = [.009], 95% confidence interval (.000, .266)] for [participate, DV] every one unit increase of [DMV_new, VA, IV].

(Policies) The estimated odds ratio favored an [increase] of nearly [10%] [Exp (B) = [1.095], 95% confidence interval (1.064, 1.127)] for [participate, DV] every one unit increase of [Policies, IV].

Based on the significant IVs, the NULL Hypothesis should be REJECTED noting that the DREAM Act and the DACA program (Policies) will have an influence on the documented/undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process. Therefore, the undocumented immigrants who resided in the District of Columbia and State of Virginia regions were influenced by the immigration policies (DREAM Act and DACA program) to participate in the census-taking process.

Also, the immigration policies alone did have an influence on the documented/undocumented immigrants and their communities to participate in the census-taking process which could have been attributed to the flow of the theoretical speculation (assimilation theory \leftrightarrow accommodation theory \rightarrow casual decision theory) and the quest for U.S. citizenship.

Summary

The analytic scenario for the binomial logistic regression was created and tested to determine if the DREAM Act and the DACA program combined (Policies) had any

influence on the documented and undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process. The statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau for the documented immigrants were used as the reference group and was coded “0” while the undocumented immigrants were the focus or response group and was coded “1” when investigating the influences of both of the immigration policies; the DREAM Act and the DACA program. The scenario also consisted of testing the immigration policies (Policies) along with the regions (DMV_new) and undocumented immigrants (Imm_new) which both could also be classified as control variables. There were 1110 cases included in the study ($N = 1110$); the confidential interval was set at 95%; and the P-value level of significance was set at .05 ($\alpha = .05$ and $p \leq .05$).

Having utilized a revised dataset to input in SPSS for the possibility of predicting the outcome of this quantitative study, the probability yielded was an understanding that the improved model was better. The investigation was able to show that the p-value was less than .05 depending on the independent/control variables that were entered. According to the statistical results in the scenario, there was an effect on the decisions made by the undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process when the two immigration policies originated and after at least one immigration policies was in reality. Hence, the DREAM Act and the DACA program did have an influence on the participation of the documented and undocumented immigrants in the census-taking process. These results lead into the next chapter about the discussion, conclusions, and recommendations for the study.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The purpose of the quantitative research was to discover whether undocumented immigrants are making a contribution to their communities by participating in the census-taking process during the time periods (pre- and post) of the immigration policies and/or executive orders. The nature of the study utilized a quantitative approach and a quasi-experimental design. The approach and design was implemented due to the absence of random assignment of the participants who were among the protected in research studies and listed as documented and undocumented immigrants and/or minors (Trochim, 2006a). Also, the study provided a means to statistically determine if the identified immigration policy and executive order actually had an influence mainly on undocumented immigrants as it related to their participation in the census-taking process. The key findings from the investigation were that there was some statistical significance found (detailed in the next section) to have registered as a chance for a change in the null hypothesis causing a rejection; the motivating factor can be assimilation and accommodation which influenced the decision-making process of documented and undocumented immigrants; and the creation and implementation of temporary remedies for a failing immigration system can still yield positive outcomes for the financial stability of communities.

Interpretation of the Findings

The past and current literature unsuccessfully addressed a possible connection between undocumented immigrants and their participation in the census-taking process or the contribution made by undocumented immigrants to the appropriation of federal

dollars based on the results from the census bureau. The findings provided the information to accept the full model to be a “good fit” for the variables with a p -value of .107 for a nonsignificant rating from the Hosmer and Lemeshow Test. All of the assumptions of a binomial logistic regression were determined not to have been violated in order to continue of the testing procedures. In Block 1 the chi-square was significant with $p = .000$ (chi-square = 799.745, $df = 4$, $p < .05$), which note that the overall model was statistically significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and substantiated that the immigration policies did have an influence on the decisions made by the undocumented immigrants to participate in the census-taking process. Also significant were the undocumented immigrants who resided in the District of Columbia and State of Virginia regions who were influenced by the immigration policies (DREAM Act and DACA program) to participate in the census-taking process and the immigration policies (Policies). The Nagelkerke’s $R^2 = .926$ or approximately 93% and provided the amount of variation in the outcome.

The findings of the research confirmed that there is a measureable percentage of influence within the immigrant communities. First, the study has assisted in the creation of a subject matter that warrants more research whereas increasing the knowledge base in the field of public policies and administrations. Second, the study can possibly assist in the progression, creation, and implementation of revised immigration policies and procedures that would improve the transition for undocumented immigrants from illegal to legal status. Third, the statistical significance of the findings demonstrate how immigration policies and programs can be used to increase competency of the

assimilation theory, accommodation theory, and causal decision theory as the theories relate to the decision-making process related to documented and undocumented immigrants.

Limitation of the Study

The limitations to the study identified during the process of conducting the research include the use of secondary data. The data were not collected specifically for the study but were secured from reliable sources and utilized based on face value only. In addition, the secondary data provided a true representation of the specified population but did not provide what could be referred to as identifiable variables that may have assisted in further categorization for controlling variables, especially with undocumented immigrants (Cheng & Phillips, 2014).

Recommendation

The recommendations to further this study are to create a research model that would increase the statistical significance and make a better fit for the data by including other factors such as the fear of detention and deportation. Another recommendation is to conduct a qualitative or mixed method study in order to have a two-way dialog with the participants for a more detailed measurement of the influence or no influence of the immigration policies and/or programs. A final recommendation is to increase the literature on this subject matter.

Implication

There have been many perspectives on the existing U.S. immigration system and the feasibility of reconstruction. Created policies and procedures are expected to uphold

the foundation of equality, respect, and the unification of the societies that make up the whole. This quantitative study will be one way to advocate the positive viewpoints of the contribution of the immigrant population. The alteration of the ways in which a failing immigration system will be able to promote social change can be initiated by the participation of these immigrants in the economics of America. By being counted, the increase in funding will endorse the support from existing citizens to become documented and encourage the undocumented to become legal in the United States. The advantages of a restructured immigration system can be made more visible by replicating the research for all those who object to a change for the betterment of society and the immigrant communities. The advantages will help to lessen the rejection of changes like the comprehensive immigration reform (CIR). The impasse continues the energy and the support diminishes while the President of the United States and his cabinet threatens to implement an executive order to move forward. It is time for our society to embrace a helping hand in order to surpass the political adversaries that are hesitant to increase the contribution to the economic system and lessen the dependency on government assistance programs. With the stroke of the pen, the president can bring about economic relief to America by legalizing approximately 11 million undocumented individuals, creating a change agent for social change within the immigration community (Hipsman & Meissner, 2013).

Conclusion

The contribution of the immigrants, whether documented or undocumented, should not be discounted when it comes to the progression of the country. United States

has been built on the foundation of the immigrant population which is to be inclusive of all those who have come to this country for a better life. These are the people who have originated from other countries that did not and may not in this lifetime provide a home of the free.

During the 44th presidential term, federal laws and an executive order could have possibly made the time frame for documented and undocumented immigrants a moment for them to consider their future while in a country with opportunities. The DREAM Act and the DACA program were means to provide a transparent process toward citizenship, family unity, and economic stability (Gubemskaya & Dreby, 2017). But from the beginning of the 45th presidential term to the ending of the year 2020, the immigration laws have changed. Executive orders and proclamations have initiated a restructuring of the existing U.S. immigration system. The policies affected include changes to the DACA program, skilled immigrants' guidelines, visa selections, exiled immigrant policy, and enforcement procedures (Waslin, 2020). The application of this study utilizing the revised immigration policies and the 2020 Census can be a greater means of a quantitative measurement of the influence on documented and undocumented immigrants. The combination of contribution and economic stability are both concepts that can provide a positive perspective of negatively labeled individuals who are seeking a better life in a new country. Why not America? After all, in 1814 Frances Scott Key did end each verse of his song which was later adopted for this country as our national anthem with these words, "...the land of the free and the home of the brave" (U.S. Army, n.d.).

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