America After 3PM surveyed parents across the country to examine how children spend the hours between 3 and 6 p.m.—the hours after school ends and before parents typically return home from work. It highlights the trends in afterschool program participation, documents the benefits associated with participation in afterschool programs, and measures public support for afterschool programs.

America After 3PM revealed that nationally 10.2 million children (18%) participate in an afterschool program, yet 19.4 million children (41%) would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them.

With 89% of parents satisfied with their child’s afterschool program and 75% agreeing that afterschool programs give working parents peace of mind, more work needs to be done to ensure that all children are able to take part in an afterschool program that keeps them safe, inspires learning and supports working parents.

On average, children spend 7.37 hours and 3.62 days per week in an afterschool program.
Parents are Satisfied with their Child’s Afterschool Program

- 89% are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program overall.
- 88% are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program’s safe environment.
- 88% are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program’s quality of care.
- Parents cited as their top five reasons for selecting an afterschool program: the program is a safe haven (81%), quality of care (81%), their child enjoys the afterschool program (81%), location is convenient (80%) and knowledgeable and well-trained program staff (80%).

Afterschool Programs Provide a Wide Range of Benefits to Children and Families

- 64% of parents agree that afterschool programs can help excite children about learning.
- 67% of parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership and critical thinking.
- 73% of parents agree that afterschool programs can help reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, such as commit a crime, use drugs or become a teen parent.
- The top five activities parents report are offered by their child’s afterschool program are opportunities for physical activity (80%), homework assistance (77%), opportunities for reading or writing (72%), beverages, snacks and/or meals (72%) and STEM learning opportunities (69%).

Parents Support Public Funding for Afterschool Programs

- Nationally 84% of parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 20% report receiving government assistance with the cost of their child’s program.
- Nationally 75% of parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.
- Nationally 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The percentages and projected numbers of children and families in America After 3PM are based on survey responses from parents. The Afterschool Alliance contracted with Shugoll Research to collect the data. Nationally, 30,720 households were screened, and 13,709 households completed in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and the District of Columbia, between Feb. 28 and April 17, 2014. For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM. America After 3PM is funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, The Robert Bowne Foundation and the Samueli Foundation.