

# From a Time of Risk to a Time of Opportunity

## This is Afterschool



The hours after the last school bell rings and before parents typically return home from work is a time of endless opportunities and potential for young people. It can be a time of learning and growth, when kids explore new topics in fields like science, technology, engineering, and math; discover new interests; and develop their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills alongside supportive mentors. It can also be a time of risk, as an October 2019 report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a membership organization of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and other law enforcement leaders, found.



**9 in 10 adults agree that afterschool programs are important to their community**

Although juvenile crime has dramatically decreased in the past decade, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks* determined that nationally, the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak time for juvenile crime.<sup>1</sup>

In the U.S., for every 1 young person in an afterschool program that inspires learning, provides enriching activities, and keeps them safe, there are 2 more who are waiting to get in. Public support for afterschool is high, with 9 in 10 adults agreeing that afterschool programs are important to their community, but there are not enough programs today to meet the needs of all children and families. The new Fight Crime: Invest in Kids data is further evidence of the need to do more to help ensure that all youth are able to take advantage of the benefits and supports that afterschool programs provide.

### Juvenile Crime in Alabama

Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Alabama during school days, with 36% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

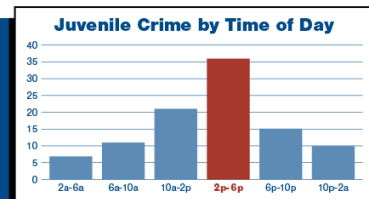
In Alabama, 77% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 63% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 274,742 students in Alabama waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.*

### 2 to 6 p.m.: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Alabama

#### Quality Afterschool Programs:

- 📍 Reduce Crime
- 🎓 Boost Academics
- 👍 Improve Behavior
- ❤️ Lead to Healthier Habits
- 💰 Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS  
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

## Program Spotlight

That's My Child | Montgomery, AL



From a young age, That's My Child founder and executive director Charles Lee was involved in drug and gang-related activities that were leading him down a path toward prison. At a crossroads, Lee decided to turn his life around, and become a positive force and role model for the youth in his community. Lee began coaching basketball in his Montgomery neighborhood, but quickly realized that youth needed more support, such as a safe space that they could consistently turn to stay off the streets and away from violence. In 2012, Lee launched That's My Child, a free afterschool arts program at the Chisholm Community Center, and reached out to local college instructors to lead dance, poetry, creative writing, and visual arts activities. Growing to meet demand, That's My Child has since moved into its own building, is now open until 7 p.m. every day after school, and has expanded its programming to include academic enrichment, sports, and entrepreneurship,

as well as career readiness training through employment at That's My Dog, Jr., a restaurant run entirely by That's My Child teen participants.

As part of its effort to keep kids safe and on the right track, That's My Child works in close cooperation with the local police department, inviting police officers to regularly engage in program activities with students, like a friendly Cops versus Youth basketball game. Lee notes that youth and police get to know each other on a first name basis, helping to bridge the gap between youth and police, and foster trust and mutual respect. Montgomery Chief of Police Earnest Finly expresses support for the police department's partnership with That's My Child, saying that police interactions with youth, "...will build relationships, will lead into schools, and will lead into their homes in a positive light."



**Afterschool Alliance**

[afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org)

Source

<sup>1</sup> Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. (2019). *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*. Retrieved from [www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe](http://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe)

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)