

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.¹

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 Arkansas

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 Arkansas during school days, with 25% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

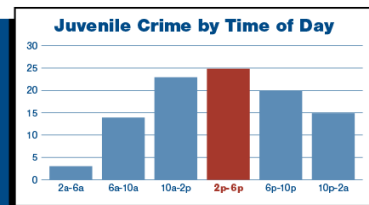
In Arkansas, 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 55% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

With 190,563 students in Arkansas 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 Arkansas

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Program Spotlight

The Station | Northwest Arkansas



Photo Source: Getty Images

The Teen Action and Support Center (TASC) was formed in 2005, following a community needs assessment demonstrating a growing demand for teen support services in Northwest Arkansas. In an effort to generate a wide network of supports for teens, TASC established a space called The Station—a collaborative of afterschool programs where teens have access to resources provided by TASC, Washington County Juvenile Court, Tech Hogs Robotics' STEM program, and Stitches. The collaborators at The Station offer arts, cultural, and music programs, as well as entrepreneurial education, counseling, and other community engagement opportunities for teenagers. The Station staff welcome all teens to engage in afterschool enrichment activities, but in particular, help remove the barriers to participation that exist for at-risk youth. By meeting teens “where they are” and addressing their individual needs, The Station activates the potential of at-risk youth resulting in lower dropout rates, improved grades and school attendance, and lower rates of substance misuse and abuse.

One example, Girls Circle, is a structured afterschool support group for girls offered by the Washington County Juvenile Court at The Station. This therapeutic prevention and intervention program targets the specific developmental needs of girls, helping to divert them away from risky behaviors. According to TASC's 2017 Impact Report, only 4 percent of girls have reoffended during or since completion of the Girls Circle program. The Washington County Juvenile Court also runs diversionary programming through the Youth Reporting Center at The Station. Court-mandated teens attend the Reporting Center's afterschool program from 4-8 p.m. every day, with the opportunity to interact with counselors, learn from job trainers, and engage in a wide variety of art and music programming. According to TASC, teens reporting to The Station are significantly less likely to re-offend when compared to other teens involved in the juvenile justice system across the county.



Afterschool Alliance

afterschoolalliance.org

Source

¹ 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

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