

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 Arizona

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

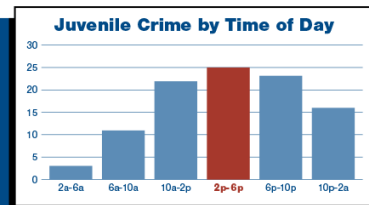
In Arizona, 72% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 61% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 318,223 students in Arizona 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 Arizona

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

Drag Racing Against Gangs and Graffiti (DRAGG) | Phoenix, AZ



Photo Source: DRAGG, Inc.

It all started with a 2006 Mustang, decked out to look like the Oxnard Police Department patrol cars. Through their work with the Police Department in Oxnard, California, Sergeants Charles Woodruff and Dan Shrub had recognized the need for positive mentors for youth in their community and decided to take action. Woodruff and Shrub obtained permission from the local school district, found funding and volunteer instructors, and opened a shop up to house an afterschool program called Drag Racing Against Gangs and Graffiti (DRAGG). Nearly 9 years later, at-risk youth participate in the program twice a week, for three hours a day, learning anything from basic automotive repair to creative car customization through hands-on experiences, special guests, presentations, and field trips to local body shops or racing events. This model was so successful while Jeri Williams was Chief of Police in Oxnard that she decided to bring the program with her when she was hired as the Phoenix Police Chief. Based at Trevor Brown High School, DRAGG-Phoenix has been in operation since 2017. Students attend the program twice a week, for three hours a day, learning about

the different aspects of the automotive industry alongside supportive mentors from the Phoenix Police Department and local automotive professionals.

The main goal, according to program co-founder Charles Woodruff, is exposure and mentorship: the automotive skills the teens learn are important, but more so are the opportunities to develop professional skills they will need regardless of the field they enter and the support systems they form through positive connections with adults who are committed and invested in their wellbeing. The one-on-one connection with youth is beneficial for the officers as well, reflects Woodruff, giving law enforcement a deeper connection with the community they are working in and the chance to make a personal, tangible impact in some of those community members' lives. "Yes, the cool mustang gets the attention of kids, but it's when you get them in the classroom after school that you can really start to teach them, and that's when you can really make a difference."