

# 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 Connecticut

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 Connecticut during school days, with 30% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

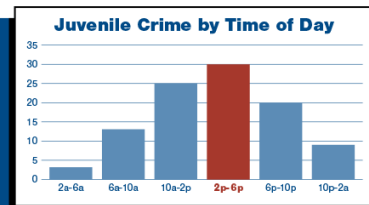
In Connecticut, 70% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 67% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 213,766 students in Connecticut 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 Connecticut

#### 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

Pathways/Senderos Center (Pathways) | New Britain, CT



Photo Source: Pathways/Senderos

For 52 weeks out of the year, Monday through Friday, New Britain youth aged 10-18 head over to Pathways/Senderos Center (Pathways) after school, during school breaks, and over the summer for comprehensive out-of-school time programming that provides engaging programming, keeps them safe, and helps prepare them for their futures. In 1993, Pathways opened its doors through the support of state funding that was specifically intended to combat Connecticut's high rates of teen pregnancy; now in its 26th year, the Center has expanded to focus on positive youth development, career readiness, and violence prevention. Students enter the program in the 5th grade and stay through their senior year of high school. During this seven-year period, they participate in age-appropriate programming that helps them grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Connections with local law enforcement and community-based organizations provide wrap-around supports that help youth in the program understand their community and feel a part of that community.

Whether working in peer groups around violence prevention, learning important job-readiness skills in a summer career prep program, or expressing themselves through art and creative expression groups, the focus for youth is on providing them a sense of constancy and developing interpersonal relationships. Investment in building relationships with the youth is what truly makes a significant impact Nick Jakubowski, co-Executive Director of Pathways, reflects. "When kids realize that they have adults that truly care about their well-being, that truly care about where they're going in the world, that's what makes a difference." And this difference in New Britain has been staggering—more than 26 years' worth of collected data has indicated the clear success of this model. All students who remain with the program graduate from high school; 91 percent of graduates enroll into post-secondary education, mostly into four year institutions of higher education; and 97 percent of graduates who are able to work are employed. Additionally, program surveys have indicated that Pathways students are less likely to take drugs or engage in violence compared to national and state data.

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)



**Afterschool Alliance**

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

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)