

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 Washington, D.C.

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 Washington, D.C. during school days, with 47% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

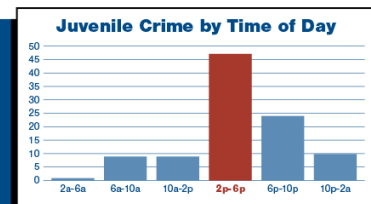
In Washington, D.C., 83% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 74% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 32,436 students in Washington, D.C. 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 Washington, D.C.

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- Reduce Crime
- Boost Academics
- Improve Behavior
- Lead to Healthier Habits
- Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME:
INVEST IN KIDS
TOOL FOR PROGRESS

Program Spotlight

Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) | Washington, D.C.



The Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) was established in 1968 in response to the lack of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for D.C.'s growing Latino community. Over the course of the organization's more than 50 years, it has expanded its programming to include job training programs, counseling services, charter schools, a residential facility, transitional living programs, and more.

For teenagers in the D.C. area, LAYC developed their DC Teen Center, which is open four days during the week after school. The Teen Center provides students a wide variety of programs on topics including leadership and advocacy, cybersecurity,

cooking and nutrition, and painting and graffiti art. Another aspect of the Teen Center is The Club, a leadership program aimed at youth either in a gang, involved with the juvenile justice system, or at risk of engaging in such activities. Helping connect youth to their community, promoting accountability, teaching conflict resolution skills, and providing supportive mentors, The Club works to help youth make positive decisions in their life. In a profile of Jeffery, an alumnus of the Teen Center and The Club, he, "...calls LAYC his second home and says that LAYC staff gave him the greatest gift, which was to listen to him and help him become a success in school and life."



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