

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 Delaware

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

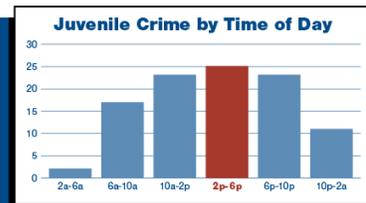
In Delaware, 71% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 62% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 48,140 students in Delaware 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 Delaware

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

4-H Mentoring Program | Dover Air Force Base, DE



Photo Source: Delaware 4-H

For the past eight years, the Delaware 4-H Mentoring Program has partnered with the National 4-H Council's Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Mentoring Program on an effort to establish connections between risk, high-risk or underserved young people and caring adults and build protective factors to prevent their involvement in the juvenile justice system. Based on the Dover Air Force Base, the project combines mentoring and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), as youth engage in deliberate science work—from coding to robotics—all designed to spark an interest in STEM where kids can explore, learn, and engage in hands-on activities. The mentor-to-youth ratios are intentionally kept low, as approximately 60 youth are paired in small groups with staff members that remain a consistent figure in their lives. The first half of the daily three-and-a-half-hour program is dedicated to homework help, recreational time, and a snack, and the latter half is allocated to the 4-H enrichment programming. Youth not only have the opportunity to explore their scientific curiosities through STEM learning, but also get to engage with their community through service learning projects as they develop

social and emotional competencies, including teamwork, communication skills, and resiliency.

Because the program is located on a military base, the youth center has a unique role to play in the community—for many youth, the center serves not just as a place to go after school, but as a second home that provides resources and supports when they face difficult challenges, such as the deployment of parents or family members. Delaware 4-H has had a very strong partnership with the military base for 9 years. Staff who serve as mentors are dedicated to working with the military community, as many have personal ties to the military; many mentors grew up in military families and some are previous members of the military. “This has been an outstanding initiative for our Delaware 4-H Program” said Doug Crouse, State 4-H Program Leader for the University of Delaware. “It has allowed our youth development program to provide support to military families at the Dover Air Force Base while allowing us to implement practices that help provide positive outcomes and further align research and evidence of effective mentoring.”

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



Afterschool Alliance

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