

# 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 Georgia

Nationally, the 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 during school days. At the time of data collection, Georgia did not have statewide-level data that included details needed to determine when crime peaked and if crimes took place on a school or non-school day, such as the time, the day, or the day of month of the offense. It is worthwhile to note that in June 2018, Georgia became a National Incident-Based Reporting System state and has until January 2021 to transition from summary-based to incident-based reports of Uniform Crime Reporting data, where data will be available in the future to determine the day and time of juvenile crime in the state of Georgia.

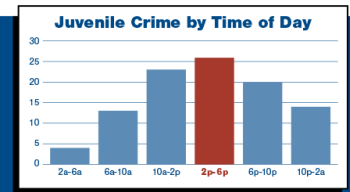
It is known, however, that in Georgia, 79% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 67% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 590,278 students in Georgia 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 the U.S.

#### 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

At-Promise Youth and Community Center | Atlanta, GA



The At-Promise Youth and Community Center was established in 2017 by the Atlanta Police Foundation as part of a citywide initiative to reduce juvenile crime and improve officer-youth relations. The Center provides diversion and preventive services through a collaboration between six Atlanta youth-serving agencies. Youth can be referred to the Center by the Atlanta Police Department, the Fulton County Juvenile Court, Atlanta Public Schools, and community members. Situated within the same building, CHRIS 180, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta Police Athletic League, Raising Expectations, and Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta collaborate to deliver services that include behavioral health assessments and educational supports, sports, music, arts, and leadership programming opportunities. Since opening its doors, the At-Promise Center has served more than 700 youth.

The At-Promise Center and its collaborative nature is non-traditional in its essence; the day-to-day programming is equally unique. During the day, the Center provides GED preparation and support services to youth who have dropped out of or been suspended from school, creating a safe and engaging environment for young people who might otherwise engage in

risky behaviors. Through an assessment, youth have the option to be placed in more structured programs after school that range from a yoga class engaging kids in self-awareness to a financial literacy class that discusses budgeting and personal financing. Another unique aspect of the At-Promise Center is the daily presence of police officers who are there to engage and mentor youth in the program. Young people connect with officers in a humanizing and honest setting, and officers have the chance to build relationships that allow them to better understand and want to invest in these young people's futures. Providing this safe space and sense of support has had a clear impact on the surrounding community. The recidivism rate for youth in the At-Promise Center's pre-diversion and diversion programs is 3 percent, compared to a national average of more than 70 percent. 96 percent of participating high school seniors graduated and 89 percent of students who applied for jobs have successfully found employment. According to Aparicio (AP) Thompson, Director of CHRIS 180 at the At-Promise Center, providing this safe place to be who you are without judgement is a critical factor in the success they have seen. "We don't care how you came to us initially, we care about how you leave us and that you leave better than you came in."

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)