

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 Illinois

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 Illinois during school days, with 28% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

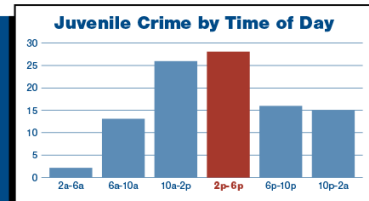
In Illinois, 79% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 66% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 741,400 students in Illinois 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 Illinois

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

BUILD | Chicago, IL



BUILD first began in 1969 as a gang intervention program serving 200 youth in one Chicago, Illinois, community. BUILD has since grown to serve more than 3,000 children and youth year-round in communities across Chicago. BUILD focuses on prevention (offering in-school and out-of-school activities that provide academic help, physical activities, mentoring and leadership development), intervention (working with youth who have already been involved in the juvenile justice system and providing an alternative to detention and/or providing supports to help them develop the social and emotional skills to make positive decisions in their life), and building futures (providing college and career preparation, youth leadership development, and physical and mental health supports).

The program specifically targets students who are getting into trouble at school, skipping school, and getting into trouble with the law, and works closely with schools, police departments, and judges. BUILD places a strong emphasis on “pro-social” activities for students, where students work on positive decision-making, setting goals for themselves, and learning the value of the community and relationships they can form within the community. Program evaluations found that 98 percent of BUILD students were promoted to the next grade, and more than 8 in 10 youth saw a decrease in risky behaviors (87 percent) and improved their conflict resolution skills (85 percent). 72 percent of youth in the restorative justice initiative avoided returning to detention.



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