

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 Kentucky

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

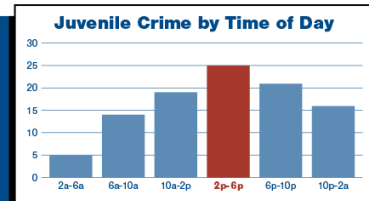
In Kentucky, 76% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 62% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

With 265,184 students in Kentucky 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 Kentucky

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
TOOLKIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Program Spotlight

Harlan County Boys and Girls Club | Harlan County, KY

As the opioid epidemic swept over eastern Kentucky, rural Harlan County was no exception. In 2001, as the community began dealing with the ramifications of rising rates of prescription drug misuse and abuse, a group of parents interested in creating a safe environment for youth afterschool came together to form the Harlan County Youth Sports League. As one of the only afterschool programs in the area, the program quickly realized the need to expand its services, chartering as a Boys and Girls Club in 2003. Since the outset, Harlan County Boys and Girls Club has been intentional in their work to break the cycle of addiction. Initially, youth programming focused on education and prevention efforts, such as helping youth learn how addiction affects their families and friends. However, after a wave of parent overdose deaths, the Club adapted its programming to include additional support services, like one-on-one mentoring and grief counseling, to help youth identify healthy ways to cope with the traumatic effects of the opioid crisis.

Program Director Kateena Haynes says that over the years, she has seen a reduction in the misuse of prescription drugs among students; however, there is still a strong need to support children in the community impacted by the opioid epidemic. The Club partners with the local police department to ensure that youth have this strong support system. Harlan City Police Officer Will Clogston says, “Building relationships with youth and combating our drug problem are the two most important things we can do as law enforcement officers...The Boys and Girls Club is breaking down barriers between young people and law enforcement.” Teens, parents, and program staff agree on the positive impact of police engagement in Club activities, saying that they feel like police officers are invested in the community as a whole, and care about the wellbeing



Photo Source: Harlan County Boys and Girls Club

of youth. One parent remarked, “My child ... wanted to be an officer when he grew up. After some bad choices by family members leading to police being called, that dream changed. He began to associate police with bad things happening. After attending summer camp this summer and interacting with law enforcement ... his dream is back. He wears his junior badge proudly and plans to be a police officer when he grows up.”

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