

# 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 Louisiana

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 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Louisiana during school days, with more than half of all crimes taking place during this time period. 26% of crimes occurred between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 26% of crimes occurred between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

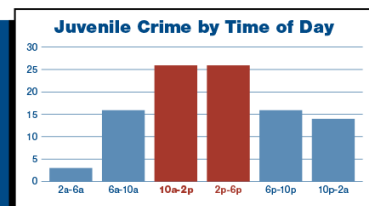
In Louisiana, 75% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 58% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 256,040 students in Louisiana waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.*

### The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Louisiana

#### Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS  
COUNCIL FOR CRIME PREVENTION

## Program Spotlight

Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) | New Orleans, LA



The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) was founded in 2004 by three former staffers at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana's Post-Disposition Project in response to the lack of services for youth transitioning out of the juvenile justice system and into the community. Since its inception, YEP has grown from a juvenile re-entry program to running 11 programs, including afterschool and summer learning programs, targeting underserved youth in the New Orleans area.

In YEP's afterschool and summer learning programs, children and teens are connected with caring and supportive mentors, receive help with homework, take part in arts and craft projects, engage in recreational activities, take field trips, and

are provided snacks and a meal. YEP also helps students build their workforce readiness skills through programs like their Teen Summer Employment Training Program and the Trafigura Work & Learn Center, where youth gain on the job experience in fields including graphic design and bike repair, and learn how to look for, apply to, and interview for a job. The program works to decrease students' involvement with the juvenile justice system. A YEP high school student, who first came to the program as an 8 year old who was having a difficult time controlling his anger, said, "Now I'm calm and collected. YEP hooked me up with a job, everything is going so well. YEP has had a pretty positive impact on my life."

### 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)