

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 Massachusetts

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 Massachusetts during school days, with 26% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

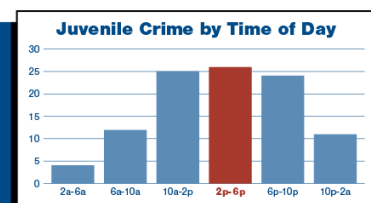
In Massachusetts, 80% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 67% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 362,312 students in Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts

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

Center for Teen Empowerment | Boston and Somerville, MA



Since 1992, the Center for Teen Empowerment, Inc. has worked with high school-aged youth and young adults, often times from low-income and high crime neighborhoods, to become change agents in their community. Through the afterschool and summer learning program, youth take part in positive social change initiatives, such as creating videos to highlight issues in the community, working with law enforcement to address community public safety, and taking part in local policy making initiatives. Youth connect with their peers, community leaders, and local organizations to build safer, healthier, and more just communities. One former youth participant remarks, “Without [Teen Empowerment], I would easily be in a gang, dead, or in prison. [Teen Empowerment] really affected the way I look at things...I stopped running around in the streets...soon I became the next guy to stand out as a positive influence.”

Teen Empowerment was established in Boston in 1992, and replicated in Somerville in 1994, in response to rising rates of youth substance abuse, gang involvement, and suicide. The promotion of youth leadership and civic engagement through Teen Empowerment’s social change initiatives has shown to be an effective strategy for violence prevention amongst Somerville’s low-income, urban youth. For example, Teen Empowerment’s youth-police initiatives generate constructive dialogue sessions between youth and police, with 80 percent of surveyed program participants believing that their work made interactions between youth and police more respectful. Moreover, an evaluation of the Somerville program conducted by Dr. Russell Schutt at UMASS Boston found the city’s high crime neighborhoods saw a 50 percent reduction in juvenile crime as a result of Teen Empowerment.



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