

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 Maine

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 Maine during school days, with 29% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

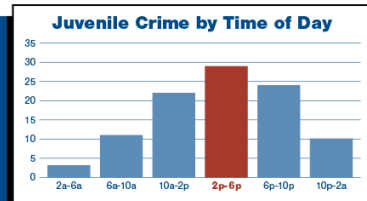
In Maine, 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 59% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 68,777 students in Maine 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 Maine

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME:
INVEST IN KIDS
TOOLKIT FOR INVESTMENT

Program Spotlight

Auburn Police Activities League (PAL) | Auburn, ME



The Auburn Police Department looked at four years of crime data and found that 23 percent of all crimes committed by youth offenders and 28 percent of all youth victims of crime in Auburn took place within an area of less than half a square mile. In an effort to transform these statistics and provide positive experiences for at-risk youth, the Auburn Police Department established the Auburn Police Activities League (PAL).

In the spring of 2013, the Auburn PAL Center opened, right at the heart of the half-square mile area identified by crime data. The Center provides educational and athletic activities for kids after school and during the summer, not to mention positive interaction with police officers. For example, in partnership with

the Auburn School Department, during the past three summers the Center has offered free breakfast and lunch each day, as well as fun and informative programs for kids such as a Science through Cooking program, which is comprised of students from Franklin-Merrill Hill Alternative School. In the program, students work with Community Resource Officer and Chef Tom Poulin. Auburn Police Chief Jason Moen encourages this work, remarking “As a police chief, I support high-quality afterschool programming because of their many proven outcomes for at-risk youth. I want to see these kids learning to cook or being tutored in math, not in the back of my squad car.”

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