

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 Minnesota

Analyzing data obtained from law enforcement partners in the state, 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 Minnesota during school days, with close to half of all crimes taking place during this time period. 23% of crimes occurred between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 23% of crimes occurred between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

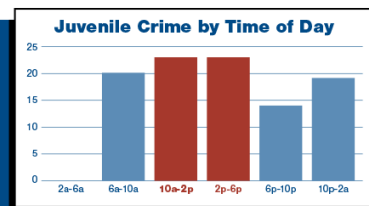
In Minnesota, 77% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 66% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 149,516 students in Minnesota waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.

The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Minnesota

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
DOING FOR OTHERS

Program Spotlight

Youth Violence Prevention Initiative | Brooklyn Park, MN



In 2008, Brooklyn Park, a suburb of the Twin Cities, saw an increase in juvenile crime during the after school hours and decided to take a neighborhood-based approach. The city voted to fund the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, a partnership between the Brooklyn Park Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department to establish youth programming in areas with the highest juvenile crime. As a part of this initiative, Zanewood Park Recreation Center received funding to provide additional free afterschool and summer programming to youth in the community, with programming available in the afternoon and evening hours.

Students attending Zanewood Park Recreation Center have the ability to take part in a mix of activities, including sports, recreational activities, arts and crafts, fitness classes, and leadership training. There is also a partnership with the police department with events such as the annual “Cops versus Teens” basketball tournament and a safety camp. Between 2008 and 2012, a study by the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth and the city’s police and parks and recreation departments found that participation in afterschool activities had grown, increasing 62 percent, while the city’s juvenile crime dropped 39 percent. Additionally, a 2018 youth survey of close to 700 Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center kids found that a majority of youth agreed that the police in their community are dependable and are helpful.



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