

# 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 Missouri

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

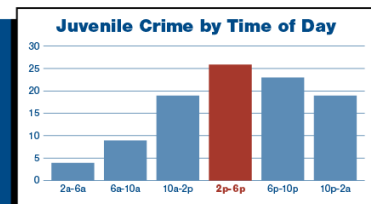
In Missouri, 73% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 63% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 263,077 students in Missouri 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 Missouri

#### Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME:  
INVEST IN KIDS  
TOOL FOR PROGRESS

## Program Spotlight

Greene County Juvenile Justice Center | Greene County, MO



Each year, the Greene County Juvenile Office receives between 1,400 and 1,600 referrals for delinquency violations and status offenses. As a strategy to prevent formal involvement with the juvenile court system and ultimately reduce recidivism for youth involved in less serious offenses—such as truancy or first-time offenders, the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center has created a series of diversionary programs for youth. Afterschool programs like GEMS (Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits), which focuses on building strong and confident girls, and the Homework Assistance Program, which provides tutoring and additional enrichment opportunities, promote positive youth development and community engagement.

The newest afterschool program, a 4-H Club, grew out of a partnership between the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center and University of Missouri Extension. Students court-ordered to attend the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA), a community-based treatment program, attend school at GCYA during the day and have the opportunity to participate in the 4-H Club after school. The variety of activities offered in the afterschool program include sewing, gardening, robotics, cooking, and leadership building. Greene County Commissioner Harold Bengsch spoke to the economic benefit of keeping youth out of trouble, saying, “Preventing only one person from being incarcerated in our jail at the current cost of \$63 per day, we would recoup the \$16,000 county investment in this venture in 254 days.”

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)