

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 North Dakota

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 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in North Dakota during school days, with 24% of crimes occurring during this time period. However, it is worthwhile to note that the 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. window has the second highest peak, with more than 1 in 5 juvenile crimes occurring during this time (22%), just 2 percentage points lower than the 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. timeframe.

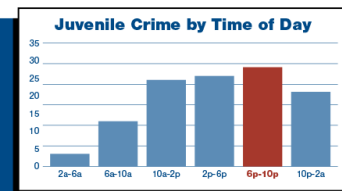
In North Dakota, 77% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 71% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 26,857 students in North Dakota waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.

The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in North Dakota

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

The Day Report | North Dakota

The Day Report is an afterschool program run by North Dakota's Lutheran Social Services for youth ages 13 to 17 that have a history of delinquent offenses and are currently involved in juvenile court. Through funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant and a partnership with the North Dakota Juvenile Court and Division of Juvenile Services, Lutheran Social Services has been able to support youth referred to the program for the past 20 years. The Day Report accepts both short and long-term referrals, and accommodates the schedules of those who have jobs and/or struggle with transportation limitations. The program runs five days a week during the school year and summer break, and offers programming focused on education, skill building, and community service.

When youth arrive, they leave their phones at the door, making the space conducive to engagement and learning. They start off with a snack, have a recreation break, and then jump into the daily program. A primary focus is providing educational supports. Youth are given time for homework and tutoring, with access to computers and Wi-Fi to ensure they have the tools necessary to complete their assignments. The Day Report also provides the space for youth to build life skills, build job readiness skills, and strengthen a self-selected focus area. The self-selected area of focus is tailored to each young person's individual needs, whether that be budgeting and time management or friendships and positive decision-making. The Day Report's programming also includes a community service component. Program participants have partnered with local churches to help with gardening; worked with a local food pantry to assist with organization, preparation, and delivery of food boxes; and volunteered their time with the Salvation Army. In a self-reporting questionnaire measuring coping strategies of



participants, Lutheran Social Services found that after entering the program, students reported an increase in time spent on homework completion, time spent talking to family and parents, overall physical activities, and positive thinking, as well as a decrease in behavioral problems. In 2019, Day Report served 14 youth with a total of 755 contact hours—averaging 53 hours of contact with each young person.

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