

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 New Mexico

Nationally, the 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 during school days. At the time of data collection, New Mexico did not have statewide-level data that included details needed to determine when crime peaked and if crimes took place on a school or non-school day, such as the time, the day, or the day of month of the offense.

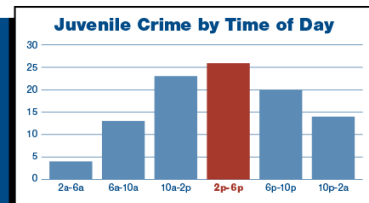
It is known, however, that in New Mexico, 75% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 48% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 90,659 students in New Mexico 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 the U.S.

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- 🔑 Reduce Crime
- 🎓 Boost Academics
- 👍 Improve Behavior
- ❤️ Lead to Healthier Habits
- 💰 Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME:
INVEST IN KIDS

Program Spotlight

Farmington Public Library | San Juan County, NM

The Farmington Public Library in San Juan County, New Mexico supports local 21st Century Community Learning Centers—after school and summer learning programs that serve high-needs communities and receive federal support through the 21st CCLC initiative—through their partnerships in schools and their out-of-school-time programs that they offer at the library. Working in this capacity, they recognized the ways that youth face an increased risk of juvenile crime and victimization in the out-of-school-time hours. In response to their discovery, the program took intentional measures to help combat those risks. For example, the program has developed a partnership with the Farmington Police Department. Farmington Police Chief Steve Hebbe and many of his officers regularly engage with programming offered at the library, in particular working to build students' literacy skills. Police officers attend the library's weekly story time, reading a story to kids and emphasizing the importance of reading. They also disseminate the library's summer reading brochures at "Free Library" stations that are positioned throughout the community. This work has helped to increase registration for the library's reading program throughout the entirety of San Juan County. According to Chief Steve Hebbe, "[The] Farmington Police Department values opportunities for kids in our community to learn and have meaningful things to do outside of school. We are glad to be partnering with the Farmington Public Library to inspire our kids to read at a young age."

Promoting youth voice and agency, and fostering a stronger connection to the community is another facet of the library. Once a month, as part of the after school programming offered at the Farmington Public Library, a group of youth from across San Juan County gather for the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council (MTAC) to discuss and solve issues facing teens in the community, including drug use, safety, and gang violence.



Officers join in these important conversations to show support and answer questions as these young people strive to make their community safer. Youth that participate in the program gain experience in public speaking, collaboration, critical thinking, and mutual respect in working toward a future in which they want to live.

Source

¹ Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. (2019). *From Risk to Opportunity: After school Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*. Retrieved from www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-after-school-programs-keep-kids-safe



Afterschool Alliance

afterschoolalliance.org

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality after school programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org