

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 Nevada

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, Nevada 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. Based on conversations with local law enforcement and experts in the state, confidentiality issues regarding juvenile information included in some jurisdictions' raw data also led to the inability to share materials. Additionally, it was shared that after the October 1, 2017 shooting in Las Vegas, there were significant delays in processing data requests due to the resources state law enforcement and the Department of Justice dedicated to prioritize the tragedy.

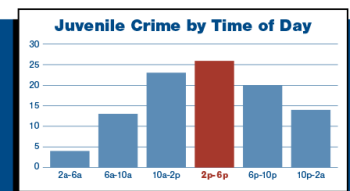
It is known, however, that in Nevada, 65% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 55% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 135,210 students in Nevada 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

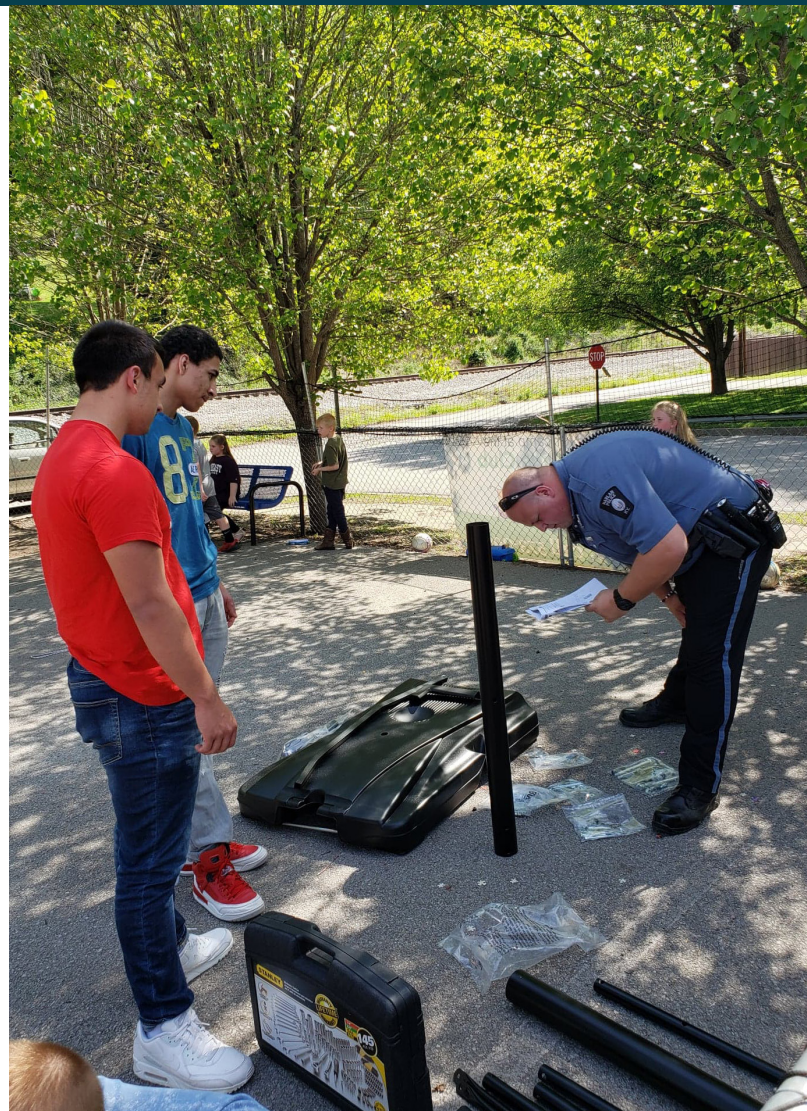
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Program Spotlight

Making A Group and Individual Commitment (MAGIC) | Nevada

MAGIC (Making A Group and Individual Commitment) is a project developed by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) to combat high levels of incarceration in the state of Nevada. The program, which meets three times a week, for a total of eight weeks, provides at-risk youth with support to avoid entering the juvenile justice system and prevent recidivism among juvenile justice-involved youth. The afterschool program, which is in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, engages youth participants who have been referred to the program in programming that builds social and emotional skills and competencies, such as learning to set goals and plan for their future, communicate in a positive and productive way, manage and resolve conflict they encounter, and make responsible decisions. Serving rural, urban, and Indian Reservation communities, MAGIC also provides participants with academic support and the opportunity to engage in a self-selected service project that helps to establish a sense of belonging and commitment in their community. Parent and family engagement is a vital component of the program—MAGIC incorporates three parent-specific trainings where families learn communication and support skills.

Quantitative and qualitative data measures have indicated that the skills and protective factors developed through MAGIC help keep youth safe and avoid risky behaviors. Participant and parent surveys have demonstrated that youth showed improvement in academic performance and behavior, a more positive view of school, increased involvement in community service or volunteer work, and a greater understanding of the negative effects of engaging in risky behaviors following their experience with MAGIC. Compared to the broader Nevada



juvenile and teen recidivism rate of 30 percent, an estimated 10 percent of MAGIC participants have had further interactions with the juvenile justice system. UNCE estimates that this has saved Nevada taxpayers at least \$5.4 million in reduced incarceration costs.



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