

# 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 New York

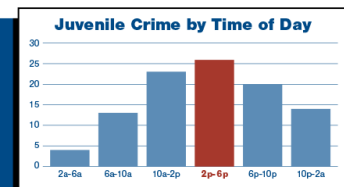
Nationally, the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime during school days. At the time of data collection, New York did not have statewide-level 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 worthwhile to note that over the course of the next few years, New York will transition over to a National Incident-Based Reporting System state and data will be available in the future to determine the day and time of juvenile crime in the state.

It is known, however, that in New York, 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 70% 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 1.2 million students in New York 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

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center | Elmira, NY



The Wings of Eagles Discovery Center serves approximately 3,000 students each year, which includes participants in weekly afterschool programming, the Summer of Innovation program, field trips, and other programming. The Discovery Center's STEM programming allows students at risk of failure to get tutoring and exposure to much needed science and math curriculum. This same group of students gets an intensive four-week program during the summer to continue to hone much needed 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. During their Summer of Innovation program, youth in grades Pre-K through 12 have the opportunity to explore unique topics through courses ranging from makerspaces and engineering, to forensics and rocketry. Students not only learn hands-on technical skills, but also build on social and emotional competencies, such as team building, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. One example of success from this program is a female student who had taken their rocketry camp many times; she ended up going to Clarkson

for rocketry and credits Wings of Eagles for her love of science. Afterschool and summer learning outreach is one of Wings of Eagles' most important projects and services to the community. It keeps kids engaged in creative academic challenges while keeping them out of trouble. Serving students of all backgrounds, 75 percent of their population comes from Elmira in the form of afterschool outreach. In reflecting on why this programming was so important to this community, Wings of Eagles President Mike Hall remarked, "Think about the Elmira City School District. Two-thirds of kids graduate. That means a third don't...The second problem is childhood obesity and the third is drug use or a criminal record. Seventy percent of young people are not qualified to serve in the military. That's an alarming statistic. We as a nation in each community need to do everything we can to help better prepare young people with skills of critical thinking on a technological basis."

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)