

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 Ohio

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 Ohio during school days, with 28% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

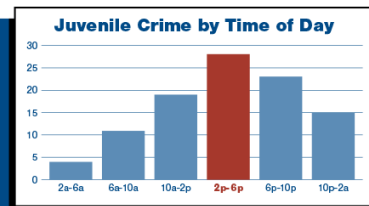
In Ohio, 78% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 68% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

With 846,248 students in Ohio 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 Ohio

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Program Spotlight

YMCA's Positive Alternative Learning for Students (PALS) and Truancy Program | Central Ohio



The YMCA of Central Ohio provides a positive environment for youth during the out-of-school hours during the school year and over summer breaks to explore new things, discover their passions, and grow academically and socially. Typically, this development happens after the school day ends, but through their Positive Alternative Learning for Students program and Truancy program (PALS), this YMCA is providing an engaging and encouraging space during the day for youth in grades 6 through 12 who have been suspended from school for three, five, or ten days. The Truancy program helps students and families understand what truancy is and what the consequences of chronic truancy are, while the PALS program offers daily academic curricula and mentorship from supportive staff. The programs jointly offer the opportunity for these youth not only to continue to focus on their education, but also to build resiliency skills and social and emotional competencies

that positively support their development and lead to increased communication skills and sense of responsibility.

At the YMCA of Central Ohio, they believe that these young people are not “at-risk,” but rather “that every child is of promise.” Through this partnership with Columbus City Schools, Southwestern City Schools, the Ohio Department of Education, Key Bank, the Department of Public Safety, and the Columbus Police Department, communities have seen a marked improvement for both the youth and the city. As youth are kept engaged during an otherwise unstructured break in their days, city data since 2008 has shown that crime has decreased during the school hours, including a 53 percent decrease in auto theft, a 27 percent decrease in home burglary, and a 17 percent decrease in assault with weapons.



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