

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 Oklahoma

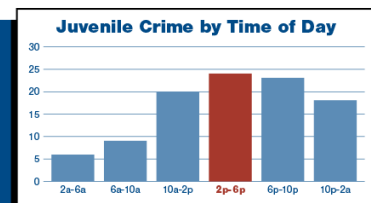
Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Oklahoma during school days, with 24% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

In Oklahoma, 73% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 57% 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 230,198 students in Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma

- 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

Oklahoma City Police Athletic League (PAL) | Oklahoma City, OK



Photo Source: Council for a Strong America

According to Deputy Chief Paco Balderrama, Oklahoma City is “a big, small town,” where its citizens, police officers, and businesses are invested in its success. This strong community bond is evident through the community support for the Oklahoma City Police Athletic League (PAL), a year-round afterschool program that serves more than 3,200 children, many of whom are from low-income families. The Oklahoma City PAL is a partnership between the Oklahoma City Police Department and the Oklahoma City Public School System and staffed by four full-time officers, twenty part-time police

volunteers, and approximately 500 non-police volunteers who serve as coaches and mentors.

Chief Balderrama, who is a part of Oklahoma City PAL leadership, explained that his involvement in the program is not just another assignment, and emphasized PAL’s important role to create an opportunity for kids to experience something positive and build relationships with the police, all while allowing officers to give back, stating, “This is not just another assignment. The Oklahoma City PAL creates so many positive opportunities for our city’s youth.”



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