

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 Pennsylvania

Analysing 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 Pennsylvania during school days, with 25% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

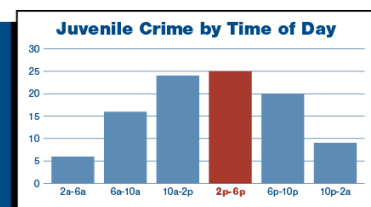
In Pennsylvania, 71% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 62% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

With 811,954 students in Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania

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

The Bridge | Philadelphia, PA



In 2011, The Bridge became one of six organizations to partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) to offer Intensive Prevention Services (IPS) programming to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. Philadelphia youth (ages 10 to 19), who have been referred by their family or the court system, can rely on The Bridge's IPS program to provide a safe environment with access to a wide range of supports such as mentoring, community service, academic enrichment, work-readiness activities, and social and emotional competency building. The IPS program values a child-specific intervention approach and ensures that afterschool programming is supplemented with in-home case management services and counseling for students and their families.

In 2014, the Philadelphia Police Department collaborated with the city's school district and DHS to launch the Police School Diversion Program as a trauma-informed approach to address the growing number of students arrested by police officers working in schools and to stem the school-to-prison pipeline. As an alternative to arrest, students in Philadelphia are referred to either The Bridge or one of the other IPS program providers. An evaluation of the Police School Diversion Program shows that student participation in an IPS program has resulted in a 71 percent drop in the number of arrests between 2014 and 2018, and that out of the 1,171 students diverted in that timeframe, 86 percent have remained arrest-free.

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



Afterschool Alliance

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