

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 Texas

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 Texas during school days, with 26% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

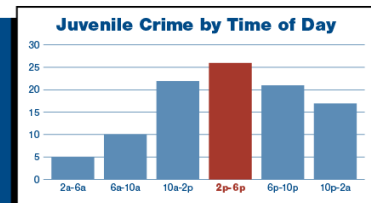
In Texas, 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 67% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 1.5 million students in Texas 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 Texas

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

Fort Worth After School (FWAS) | Fort Worth, TX



In 1998, to address the issue of high crime and gang activity in Fort Worth, a task force that included City of Fort Worth personnel, the Fort Worth Independent School District (ISD), community stakeholders, and the United Way was convened. Together, the task force established Fort Worth After School (FWAS) in the Fall of 2000 in response to the issue, funded in part through the city's crime prevention funds. The program kicked off serving 52 campuses, with 50 students at each, dedicated to creating an educational, nurturing, and safe environment where kids could avoid risky behaviors and reduce their likelihood of engaging in juvenile crime.

Now serving approximately 5,000 kids across 66 campus, Fort Worth After School continues to work with elementary and middle schools to provide comprehensive, rotating programming that covers physical enrichment, service learning, academic enrichment, social and emotional learning, and fine arts. FWAS students have engaged in a range of

activities that build critical thinking skills and encourages exploration, such as constructing cardboard boats to race in a regatta, practicing teamwork and working on future mapping projects at leadership camps, creating art to showcase in a recycled art contest, and developing virtual college and career portfolios to present to parents. This investment has made a real difference in the Fort Worth community, where reports show a distinct drop in juvenile crime and gang activity over the past five years and surveys indicate increased academic and behavioral performance of participants in school. The program reports that all students regularly participating in the program have successfully avoided interactions with the county's juvenile crime services and in an evaluation of FWAS during the 2017-18 school year, 92 percent of parents agree that the program keeps their child from getting into trouble. Additionally, the evaluation found that the greater the participation in the program, the fewer school day discipline referrals students received.

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