

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 Utah

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 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Utah during school days, with half of all crimes taking place during this time period. 25% of crimes occurred between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 25% of crimes occurred between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

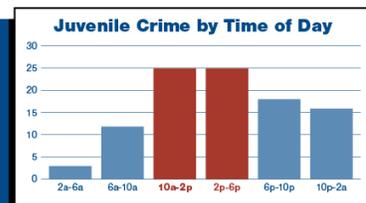
In Utah, 81% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 56% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 5 more would participate if a program were available.

With 257,482 students in Utah waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.

The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Utah

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

Promise South Salt Lake | South Salt Lake, UT

Promise South Salt Lake began in 2012 as a citywide initiative to better the entire South Salt Lake community by approaching issues with holistic, community-based solutions that considered all aspects of the lives of young people and their families. Spearheaded by Mayor Cherie Wood, Promise South Salt Lake operates 14 neighborhood centers in partnership with numerous stakeholders including the South Salt Lake Recreation Department, Police Department, Community Development Department, Urban Livability Department, and United Way. The neighborhood centers carry out Promise South Salt Lake's mission to create a positive community environment that meets their three guiding goals around the education, safety, and health of their residents. One of the main features of these neighborhood centers is afterschool programming, which began in 2007, but was formally incorporated into the city-based initiative in 2012.

From athletics programs, such as boxing offered in collaboration with the South Salt Lake Police Athletic/Activities League, to arts and technical programs such as woodshop, cooking, and hula dance, the neighborhood centers offer a variety of afterschool programming options that create spaces to engage youth in learning and keep them safe after school. According to the 2014 Promise South Salt Lake afterschool program report, between 2011 and 2013 there was a 50 percent increase in the number of surveyed 3rd through 6th grade program participants indicating, "I am confident I can use strategies to get out of peer pressure" with regards to smoking, drinking, and marijuana use. Surveyed school day teachers also noted that 69 percent of afterschool program participants improved or greatly improved their classroom behavior as a result of afterschool program participation. Based on a 2015 analysis, the risk of gang involvement for South Salt Lake's



eighth graders dropped from 25.6 percent to 7.2 percent since the time that South Salt Lake afterschool programming began in 2007, and the city's overall juvenile crime rates between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. dropped 64 percent during that same timeframe. Chris Snyder, former Chief of Police of South Salt Lake, agrees about the positive impact of afterschool programs saying, "I believe that providing safe places and enlisting caring adults who address South Salt Lake youths' academic needs, social and civic development, and physical fitness/healthy lifestyles issues through quality afterschool programs have made a big difference in the lives of our city's youth and in the overall climate of our community."

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