

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 Virginia

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

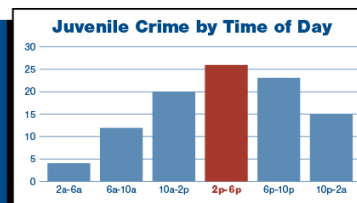
In Virginia, 78% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 61% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 390,792 students in Virginia 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 Virginia

#### 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

On the Road Collaborative (OTRC) | Harrisonburg, VA



In Harrisonburg, Virginia, On the Road Collaborative (OTRC) provides college and career readiness opportunities to underserved middle and high school students across three Harrisonburg City Public Schools. In addition to academic support, young people in the free afterschool program work on developing leadership skills, learn to make positive health decisions, and take part in 10-week long projects dedicated to introducing students to a range of career pathways. Career pathway projects have explored law, healthcare, aviation, and law enforcement, to name a few. Projects are led by local professionals to provide students with an in-depth look into the profession. For example, inside the healthcare career track, students were introduced to different healthcare professions, learning how to set a cast in orthopedics, running a relay race in physical therapy, performing an echocardiogram in the cardiac catheterization lab, and being taught about X-rays from lab technicians.

Program evaluations have found that 91 percent of students agree that “OTRC helps me think more positively about my future” and 87 percent agree that “OTRC helps me do better in school.” Harrisonburg Police Chief Eric English believes strongly in the program’s positive impact on both the students in the program and the Harrisonburg community at large, stating, “Programs such as On the Road Collaborative are not only a valuable tool for our kids, but the approach is very focused in order to guide our youth towards career paths. Anytime that programs can keep our youth occupied with positive activities is a plus as it eliminates some of the peer pressure that many of our kids face from being idle. These types of programs not only impact our youth in a positive way, but it also impacts our city by developing our youth to be leaders in the community.”

Source

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe)



**Afterschool Alliance**

[afterschoolalliance.org](http://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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)