

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 Vermont

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 Vermont during school days, with 30% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

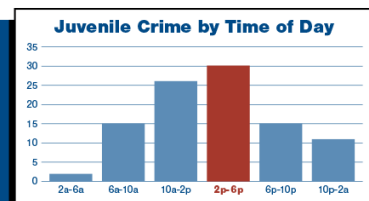
In Vermont, 81% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 66% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 22,163 students in Vermont 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 Vermont

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

Expanded Learning Opportunities | Burlington, VT

The Burlington School District's 2016-17 strategic plan identified the need to incorporate restorative practices, with the goal of creating an equitable climate and culture for students and staff that would focus on relationship building, as well as keeping students in the classroom and minimize disruptions to learning, such as suspension or expulsion. Burlington's Expanded Learning Opportunities afterschool programs—currently serving 1,600 students in the Burlington area—are a critical partner in ensuring restorative practices are well integrated into the lives of students. When the school district invested heavily in professional development for teachers and staff around the fundamentals of how to implement restorative practices, afterschool program staff were included alongside teachers, social workers, principals, and other educational staff for in-service trainings and district-wide monthly collaborative meetings to deepen the skills and understanding of restorative practices. Expanded Learning Opportunities also works with partners at the Burlington Community Justice Center for professional development centered specifically on the application of restorative practices and afterschool.

Restorative practices are a natural fit for afterschool programs, where the program's flexible structure can allow time and space for students, staff, and community members to engage more deeply with the process. According to Christy Gallese, Director of Expanded Learning Opportunities, programs are focused on preventing and repairing harm by building relationships and social capacity, improving problem solving skills, encouraging empathy, accountability, and ownership, and building interpersonal skills. Similar to the techniques employed during the school day, afterschool staff are incorporating de-escalation strategies and restorative questions when conflict arises. Youth focus on the action of doing things “with” one another



and creating a sense of inclusion and community responsibility through shared agreements. At the same time, students are able to develop their social and emotional competencies, like relationship skills, self-management, and responsible decision-making, which in turn help keep kids safe and make smart choices. “When students feel safe and feel like they’ll be heard and cared for, they’ll keep coming back and opening themselves up to trying new things,” remarked Christy Gallese. “And by having those adults that they trust in their lives, who can ensure that they are safe and healthy, they’re forming that strong relationship. The underlying foundation of restorative practices is relationship-building, and what better place for that to be happening than in afterschool?”

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