

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 Wisconsin

Analyzing data obtained from 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 Wisconsin during school days, with approximately half of all crimes taking place during this time period. 24% of crimes occurred between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 24% of crimes occurred between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. However, it is worthwhile to note that in some instances, law enforcement agencies may code a criminal activity as noon or midnight if the exact time of the offense is unknown or unclear. Looking at the hourly crime rate breakdown in Wisconsin, noon has the highest recorded offenses at 7%.

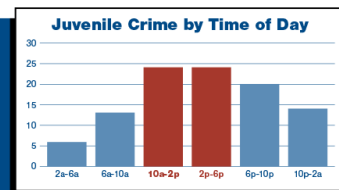
In Wisconsin, 75% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 61% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 265,984 students in Wisconsin waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.

The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Wisconsin

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- 🔍 Reduce Crime
- 📖 Boost Academics
- 👍 Improve Behavior
- ❤️ Lead to Healthier Habits
- 💰 Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

🔗 FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Program Spotlight

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Safe Places | Milwaukee, WI

Afterschool programming in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is very unique as a result of the larger school system, the large number of programs, and the collaborative partnership that Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has with community organizations. In 1998, MPS became involved with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program when the district recognized the disparity in academic achievement between lower-income and higher-income schools. Milwaukee quickly rose as an exemplary model as the school district partnered with numerous community-based organizations to expand and integrate their program offerings. Beginning with eight locations supported by 21st CCLC grants, there are currently 35 school-based afterschool programs. In addition to 21st CCLC sites, Milwaukee also has a series of Safe Places, housed in community-based organizations; this particular model was created with the intention of keeping kids off the street and engaged in learning.

When the school bell rings and youth make their way to their afterschool programs, they are greeted by a meal or a snack. Then, as per district requirements, the programs dedicate 30 minutes to homework help, followed by 45 minutes of academic enrichment. While MPS provides curricula for this enrichment, programs are able to tailor that curriculum to the particular interests, ages, and needs of the children they serve. The last period of the program is dependent upon the partnerships that each site has formed, with programming ranging from art, dance, and visual arts to scouting, STEM activities, and physical education. MPS partners with a diverse set of organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, the Children Outing Association, United Migrant Opportunities, Inc., and the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center. All partners work together, hold meetings with organizational leadership,



and convene site coordinators regularly, to ensure quality and access across the board. According to Leighton Cooper, the Coordinator of Afterschool Programs for Milwaukee Public Schools, the best approach to keep youth safe is to keep them off the streets and engaged during the critical time between 2 and 6 p.m., which is why MPS partners with so many different organizations. “Kids can vote with their feet. The more we are providing the opportunity for kids to engage with programming that’s meaningful and impactful, that’s how we ensure that kids want to engage and are kept safe after school.”

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