

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 Wyoming

Nationally, the 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 during school days. At the time of data collection, Wyoming did not have statewide-level data that included details needed to determine when crime peaked and if crimes took place on a school or non-school day, such as the time, the day, or the day of month of the offense.

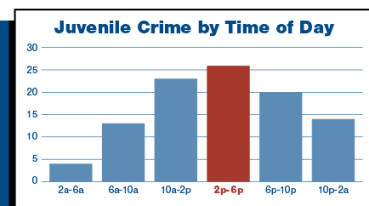
It is known, however, that in Wyoming, 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 63% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

With 34,827 students in Wyoming 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 the U.S.

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

📌 FightCrime

**FIGHT CRIME:
INVEST IN KIDS**
COUNCIL FOR CRIME PREVENTION

Program Spotlight

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) | Greater Wyoming



The Greater Wyoming Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has gone through an evolution in its programming, growing from a primarily mentorship program in 2000, to today, providing comprehensive afterschool and summer learning programs, as well as a program specifically for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. BBBS's shift in programming came about when two local juvenile probation officers who saw the value of mentorships approached BBBS to pilot a Department of Family Services program focused on supportive adult relationships. Braided with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding (21st CCLC)—federal funding to support local afterschool and summer learning programs—BBBS was able to open its first center that was aimed at substance and alcohol misuse prevention.

With continued 21st CCLC funding, BBBS has been able to expand both its programming and centers. Students in the program—which now has three sites for elementary schoolers and one for middle schoolers—receive academic help and can choose from a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts, STEM, recreation, recording and editing music, relationship classes, and life skills practice. Programming for system-involved youth has a significant service-learning component to strengthen connections between youth and the community. Once a week, BBBS meets with schools, community-based services, law enforcement, and members from the mental health community to discuss youth who have been involved with law enforcement. Members of the group develop recommendations and a plan of action to provide support for both youth and their families. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of juvenile citations in Albany county decreased by 46 percent, from 285 in 2000 to 154 in 2017.

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