



More Parents Report Enrolling Children in Summer Learning

With increased awareness of the problem of summer learning loss, new research from the forthcoming *America After 3PM* report demonstrates expanding support for summer learning programs among parents.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORT:

Participation in summer learning programs is up.

33%

33% of families report that at least one child participated in a summer learning program in summer 2013. This is up from 25% of families in summer 2009.

Demand is high for summer learning programs this year.

51%

More than half of families (51%) surveyed in the spring of 2014 say they want their children to participate in a summer learning program this summer.

Support for public funding of summer programs is up from five years ago.

85%

85% of parents support public funding. This is up from 83% in 2009 – a statistically significant increase.



Additionally, fewer than 1 in 10 parents oppose public funding for summer learning opportunities.



However, cost data raise concerns about equity.

While 13% of families report their summer program was offered at no cost, the average weekly cost for summer programs in 2013 was \$250. That puts summer learning opportunities out of reach for far too many children and families.*

* 10% of family income is considered the benchmark for affordable child care (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). In 2013, the median weekly income for a full-time worker was \$776 (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Even in a household with two full-time workers earning the median income, the average cost of a summer program still far exceeds the benchmark for affordable care. For a single parent earning the median income, the cost of a summer program is nearly one-third of weekly salary (32%).

SOURCE: Data presented here are from the forthcoming 2014 *America After 3PM* report, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, Samuels Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. In October, an in-depth report on afterschool programs, including details on how participation and demand for afterschool vary among income levels, ethnicity, state of residence and more will be available. In addition, for the first time ever, data on participation in STEM, as well as detailed information on physical activity, in afterschool will be included in the report.

The Afterschool Alliance contracted with Shugoll Research to collect the data for *America After 3PM*. 13,709 households completed in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels, with the goal of at least 200 completed interviews in every state and the District of Columbia. In states where this goal could not be reached using online panels, random digit dialing was used to complete supplementary telephone interviews. In order to participate, respondents had to live in the U.S. and have a school age child in their household for whom they are the guardian. The online interview took approximately 15 minutes to complete. All interviews were completed between February 28 and April 17, 2014. Data are weighted on race and income within state, state population and the rate of afterschool program participation.