



News Release

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Contact: [Lisa Lederer](mailto:lisa.lederer@afterschoolalliance.org), 202/371-1997

More Than Three in Five Hispanic Children Whose Parents Want Structured Summer Learning Programs for Them Are Missing Out, New Study Finds

Parents of Hispanic Children Who Are Enrolled Give Their Summer Programs High Marks

Washington, D.C. – Finding affordable summer programs for their children is a struggle for Hispanic families across the United States. The parents of approximately 6.2 million Hispanic children want a structured summer program for them that offers a safe environment, knowledgeable and caring staff, and opportunities to build confidence and support their child’s mental health and well-being. But just 2.3 million of those children are enrolled. The barrier causing the others to miss out, most often, is cost.

[Summertime for Hispanic Families](#) finds that 62% of Hispanic children whose parents want summer programs for them are not enrolled; that compares to 57% of Black children and 51% of U.S. children overall. It also finds that an overwhelming majority of Hispanic parents who *were* able to enroll their child in a summer program (96%) are satisfied with it, and 90% of the country’s Hispanic parents favor public funding for summer learning. Summer programs are defined in the study as enrichment or sports programs, summer camps or school, or a job or internship.

The Afterschool Alliance released the study today. It is based on a survey conducted by Edge Research of 30,515 U.S. parents of school-age children who live in their households, including 4,781 Hispanic parents.

“It is unacceptable that more than 3 in 5 Hispanic children whose parents want summer learning experiences for them are missing out,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “A mere 17% of the country’s Hispanic children are participating in structured summer experiences. That’s a missed opportunity to give the next generation a safe place to go, with fun, enriching activities that build confidence and skills, during the months when schools are closed. Finding affordable summer programs for their children is an enormous, sometimes insurmountable challenge for working families in the United States, but we can change that by investing in these programs at the federal, state, and local levels, with support from businesses and philanthropy. Children will be more successful, families more economically secure, and our economy stronger when we ensure there are affordable summer programs for everyone. There’s no time to waste.”

Other findings from the new study:

Affordability is the most common barrier preventing Hispanic families from enrolling their child.

- 38% of Hispanic families who do not have a child in a summer program cite cost as a contributing factor.
- 20% cite issues with programs' location or transportation.
- 15% report that information on summer programs is not easy to find.
- 14% say summer programs are not available in their community.

Hispanic parents prioritize academic and other supports in summer programs more than parents overall.

- More than half of Hispanic parents (54%) prioritize opportunities for reading and writing, compared to 40% of parents overall.
- Similarly, more than half (53%) prioritize preventing summer learning loss over the summer, compared to 43% of parents overall.
- Nearly half of Hispanic parents (48%) prioritize college or career exploration, including certifications and technical schools, compared to 37% of parents overall.
- Nearly three in four Hispanic parents (74%) prioritize opportunities for their child to build confidence, compared to 66% of parents overall.
- A much greater percentage of Hispanic parents (53%) prioritize snacks and meals, including healthy options, than parents overall (42%).

Hispanic parents appreciate and want more funding for summer programs.

- 96% of Hispanic parents, and 96% of parents overall, report being satisfied with the summer program their child attends – but more Hispanic parents (68%) than parents overall (63%) report being extremely satisfied.
- Nearly nine in ten of the country's Hispanic parents (88%) agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.
- 90% of Hispanic families favor public funding for summer learning opportunities, including 93% of Hispanic parents who are Democrats, 90% who are Republicans, and 89% who are Independents. Fifty-eight percent of Hispanic parents *strongly* favor public funding.

This is the Afterschool Alliance's fifth national household survey. It includes 30,515 U.S. parents or guardians with a school-aged child living in their household, including 4,781 Hispanic households. Conducted in English and Spanish, it used a mixed-mode methodology to reach as many households as possible. Data were collected from January 31 to April 21, 2025. The margin of error for the child- and household-level data is +/- 1.42 percent. Previous *America After 3PM* household surveys were conducted in 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2020.

The summer findings are based on research funded by The Wallace Foundation.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

About The Wallace Foundation

Wallace is an independent, nonpartisan research foundation, with a mission to help all communities build a more vibrant and just future by fostering advances in the arts, education leadership, and youth development. We collaborate with grantees and research partners to design and test innovative approaches to address pressing problems in the fields we serve. The evidence-based insights we share—searchable online and free of charge—support policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to improve outcomes, enhance community vitality, and help all people reach their full potential.