



A Preview of Arkansas Data from the America After 3 PM Household Survey on Afterschool

Care Arrangements: In the *America After 3 PM* survey, Arkansas parents/guardians were asked about their children's regular participation in various afterschool care arrangements. (Note: Care arrangements add up to greater than 100% due to multiple regular care arrangements for many children.)

- While most Arkansas children, 66%, spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian, 18% of Arkansas' K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves. These children spend an average of more than 6 hours per week unsupervised after school.*
- In contrast, only 8% of Arkansas' K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend 7 hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages 3.7 days per week for 2.0 hours per day.*
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (10%), sibling care (13%) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (16%).

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- Nearly 28% of the K-12 youth in self-care would be likely to participate in an afterschool program if one were available in the community.*
- Similarly, 33% of all children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.*

Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs

- Eighty-six percent of Arkansas parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.*
- In Arkansas, the top 3 reasons cited for selecting an afterschool program are convenient location, quality of facilities, and child enjoyment.*
- Parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: by having fun, academic enrichment, improved social skills, improved physical activity, and by staying safe and out of trouble.*

Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In Arkansas, public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. YMCAs, religious organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, and YWCAs round out the top five providers of afterschool programs in the state.*
- On average, Arkansas families spend \$11 per week for afterschool programs.*

**Caution: Small Sample Size*

Findings from the America After 3 PM household survey are based on parent/guardian responses to survey questions about after school care arrangements during the 2002-2003 school year. GE Consumer Finance and RTi-DFD conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance, with support from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. A complete analysis of state-level data and a full report from the survey will be available later this year. National data and previews of state data are available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.