



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

Care Arrangements: In the *America After 3 PM* survey, Connecticut 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 Connecticut children, 64%, spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian, 26% of Connecticut's K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves. These children spend an average of nearly 7 hours per week unsupervised after school.*
- In contrast, only 14% of Connecticut's K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend 10 hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages 3.8 days per week for 2.2 hours per day.*
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (10%), sibling care (9%) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (12%).

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- Nearly 14% 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, 22% 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

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

Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In Connecticut, public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. YMCAs, YWCAs, cities or towns, and religious organizations round out the top five providers of afterschool programs in the state.*
- On average, Connecticut families spend \$22 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.