



## ***A Snapshot of Afterschool and the Hispanic Community***

Every weekday in the United States during the school year, millions of children leave school without adult-supervised activities awaiting them. In recent years, the growth of afterschool programs has begun to offer the parents of these children new alternatives – safe and educational programs, where children are under the watchful eye of caring adults. These afterschool programs play an increasingly important role in the Hispanic community. To learn how many children are in programs and how many are unsupervised after school, in 2003 with support from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, the Afterschool Alliance conducted a household survey of 30,000 families. The *America After 3 PM* survey gives the most comprehensive and accurate picture yet of what this nation's youth are doing each day after school. It finds:

- Hispanic children are somewhat more likely to be in afterschool programs than other children. Fifteen percent of Hispanic children are in afterschool programs – at schools, community centers, churches, or elsewhere. By comparison, eleven percent of all children are in afterschool programs.
- Twenty-two percent of Hispanic children have no adult supervision after school, and care for themselves during the afternoon hours.
- The parents of Hispanic children *not* in afterschool programs are more likely than other parents to say that the cost of arranging for care for their children limits their options.
- The top three reasons that Hispanic parents cite for deciding which program to enroll their children in are: affordability (73 percent cite); convenient location (71 percent); and whether children enjoy the program (70 percent).
- Overall, the parents of Hispanic children in afterschool are satisfied with their children's programs. Eighty-eight percent report being either "extremely" or "somewhat satisfied."
- Parents of Hispanic children *not* in afterschool programs are more likely than parents of other children to report that programs are not available, the hours programs are open are not adequate, or program locations are not convenient.
- Demand for afterschool programs is great in the Hispanic community. Parents of Hispanic children *not* in afterschool programs are much more likely than other parents to say that they would enroll their children in quality afterschool programs, if programs were available. Forty-four percent of Hispanic parents say they would enroll their children, versus 30 percent of parents in general.