



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

Care Arrangements: In the *America After 3 PM* survey, Illinois 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 Illinois children, 65%, spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian, 26% of Illinois'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 10% of Illinois's K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend 8 hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages 3.5 days per week for 1.9 hours per day.*
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (9%), sibling care (11%) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (15%).

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- More than 18% 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, 28% 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-three percent of Illinois parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.*
- In Illinois, the top 3 reasons cited for selecting an afterschool program are convenient location, child enjoyment, and affordability.*
- Parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: by having fun, academic enrichment, by staying safe and out of trouble, improved social skills, by having help completing homework, and improved physical activity.

Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In Illinois, YMCAs are the largest provider of afterschool programs. Public schools, private schools, religious organizations, and Boys and Girls Clubs round out the top five providers of afterschool programs in the state.*
- On average, Illinois families spend \$21 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.