

**EMBARGOED FOR 1 PM,  
Wednesday, May 19, 2004**



## **America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America Key Findings**

- Only 11 percent of the nation's K-12 youth are in afterschool programs.
- Younger children are much more likely to be in afterschool programs. Of the afterschool program participants, 66 percent are kindergarten through fifth grade, 15 percent are in grades 6-8, and 8 percent are in grades 9-12 (11 percent of children in afterschool are in unidentified grades).
- Demand for afterschool programs is great. The parents of 30 percent of children not currently participating in afterschool say they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available.
- Twenty-five percent of K-12 youth care for themselves in the afternoons. Older children are more likely to spend time unsupervised. Of the children reported to be in self-care, 11 percent are in grades 1-5, 34 percent are in grades 6-8 and 51 percent are in grades 9-12 (4 percent of children in self care are in unidentified grades).
- African American and Hispanic youth spend more time unsupervised than other children.
- Demand for afterschool programs is much higher for African American and Hispanic families. Fifty-three percent of African American parents and 40 percent of Hispanic parents say they would enroll their children in an afterschool program, if a program were available. Twenty-three percent of Caucasian parents say the same.
- Ninety-one percent of parents of children in afterschool programs are extremely or somewhat satisfied with those programs.
- Public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. YMCAs, religious groups, Boys and Girls Clubs and private schools round out the top five providers.
- On average, families spend \$22 per week per child for afterschool programs.
- The top three reasons parents cite for selecting an afterschool program are cost, convenience and child enjoyment of program.
- Parents of children not currently in afterschool programs believe their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: fun/personal enjoyment, staying safe and out of trouble, providing academic enrichment, improving social skills and improving physical health and fitness.

*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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*