

From a Time of Risk to a Time of Opportunity

This is Afterschool



The hours after the last school bell rings and before parents typically return home from work is a time of endless opportunities and potential for young people. It can be a time of learning and growth, when kids explore new topics in fields like science, technology, engineering, and math; discover new interests; and develop their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills alongside supportive mentors. It can also be a time of risk, as an October 2019 report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a membership organization of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and other law enforcement leaders, found.



9 in 10 adults agree that afterschool programs are important to their community

Although juvenile crime has dramatically decreased in the past decade, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks* determined that nationally, the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak time for juvenile crime.¹

In the U.S., for every 1 young person in an afterschool program that inspires learning, provides enriching activities, and keeps them safe, there are 2 more who are waiting to get in. Public support for afterschool is high, with 9 in 10 adults agreeing that afterschool programs are important to their community, but there are not enough programs today to meet the needs of all children and families. The new Fight Crime: Invest in Kids data is further evidence of the need to do more to help ensure that all youth are able to take advantage of the benefits and supports that afterschool programs provide.

Juvenile Crime in Indiana

Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Indiana during school days, with 30% of crimes occurring during this time period. However, it is worthwhile to note that in some instances, law enforcement agencies may code a criminal activity as noon or midnight if the exact time of the offense is unknown or unclear.

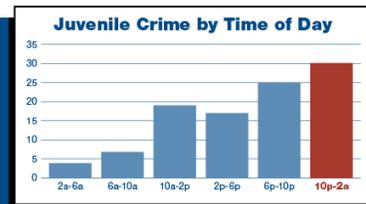
In Indiana, 76% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 61% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate if a program were available.

With 308,914 students in Indiana waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.

The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Indiana

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- Reduce Crime
- Boost Academics
- Improve Behavior
- Lead to Healthier Habits
- Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND MENORS

Program Spotlight

RightFit | Indianapolis, IN

RightFit is an afterschool program that strengthens relations between students and public safety officials, prevents childhood obesity, and mitigates the effects of food deserts in the city community. In partnership with the Indiana Public School system (IPS), the Archdiocese of Indiana, and members of the Indianapolis public safety community, RightFit runs afterschool programs in four elementary schools—two public and two Catholic—for roughly two hours, three nights a week, and serving approximately 500 youth between January and May of each year. Each program site offers homework help and tutoring, elements of physical fitness and nutrition, and an evening meal, while tailoring its programming to meet the individual needs of each school community. Public schools are also able to offer bus rides home for participants to remove barriers that might otherwise inhibit youth involvement in the program.

One key focus of RightFit is to expose kids to public safety officials in a positive, constructive environment that leads to relationship building between youth and officers. As such, members of the Indianapolis public safety community are heavily involved in RightFit programming. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the Indiana State Police, and the Indiana National Guard all partner with RightFit to serve as volunteer staff for each of the program's four sites, where they are able to provide special programming to youth. For example, the Indianapolis Metro Police Department steps in as guest presenters for the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) curriculum and a gun safety program, walking students through what they should do if they find a gun in their community. Whether the officers are serving as tutors and helping the kids with their homework, playing dodgeball to get them moving and active, or taking the time to connect one-on-one with students as mentors, this consistent contact with



public safety officers in a productive setting has a clear impact on the kids. Former IPS Superintendent, Lewis D. Ferebee remarked, “The unique collaboration between the participating organizations provides an excellent opportunity for our students to have fun, be healthy, and build positive relationships with public safety agencies and officers.” Parents and participants agree, with 88 percent of students and 71 percent of parents feeling that RightFit helped them better understand the importance of public safety, and 9 in 10 students and parents believing they felt safer because of the presence of the public safety officials at the program.

Source

¹ Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. (2019). *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*. Retrieved from www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe



Afterschool Alliance

afterschoolalliance.org

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org