

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 Michigan

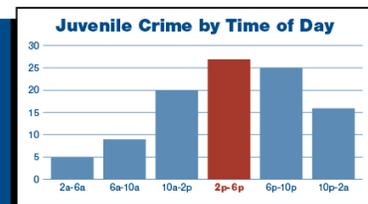
Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Michigan during school days, with 27% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

In Michigan, 74% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 62% 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 625,026 students in Michigan waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.

2 to 6 p.m.: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Michigan

- Quality Afterschool Programs:**
- Reduce Crime
 - Boost Academics
 - Improve Behavior
 - Lead to Healthier Habits
 - Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Program Spotlight

Our Community's Children (OCC) Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) | Grand Rapids, MI



In Grand Rapids, Michigan, close to 2,500 students attend an Our Community's Children (OCC) Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) endorsed afterschool program. Through the various programs, students have the ability to connect with nature through an equity lens, gain presentation and leadership skills speaking directly to leaders in the community about issues relevant to them, and immerse themselves in experiential learning opportunities to prepare them for college and the workforce, such as interview practice, site visits to local businesses and colleges, and resume and cover letter writing workshops. OCC was established in 1998, growing out of recommendations from a Child Well-Being Task Force that was set up in 1995, and is a public/private partnership between the City of Grand Rapids,

Grand Rapids Public Schools, and community partners.

Based on data collected from the Grand Rapids Police Department, students engaged in OCC's ELO endorsed afterschool programs are staying out of trouble with law enforcement. Among these students, less than 1 percent (.1 percent) came to the attention of the police through a police report. Additionally, students participating in an ELO endorsed afterschool program were much less likely to be chronically absent from school compared to non-ELO participating students, with 8.2 percent of students participating in an ELO program chronically absent from school compared to 17.7 percent of their non-participating peers.

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