

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 Nebraska

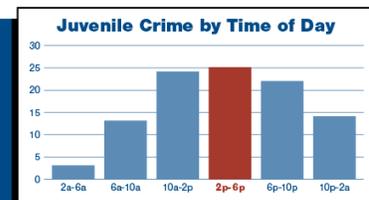
Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Nebraska during school days, with 25% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

In Nebraska, 61% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 56% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

With 81,887 students in Nebraska 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 Nebraska

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Program Spotlight

Police Athletics for Community Engagement (PACE) | Omaha, NE



In the spring of 2005, Omaha Police Gang Officer Antonio Espejo realized that arresting current gang members was not addressing the main sources of the city's juvenile crime issue. As a proactive measure to deter gang involvement, Officer Espejo volunteered to launch an inner-city sports league. What initially began as an afterschool soccer program with six teams is currently more than 100 teams coached by volunteer police officers under the name PACE (Police Athletics for Community Engagement). PACE, a no-cost afterschool program, serves approximately 4,000 young people and has expanded to include baseball, flag football, CrossFit, Christmas programs, and ACT preparation.

Since the program's inception, the Omaha Police Department reports a shift in gang activity where PACE is active. Officers have noted a 93 percent decrease in gang graffiti and the absence of gangs that were formerly active in the area. Over the years, PACE alumni have returned to volunteer to coach in the program, while others are studying to join public service themselves as police and fire professionals. This year, the Omaha Police Department hired their first PACE alumni, who is now going through the police academy and coaches at PACE. Omaha Deputy Chief Ken Kanger reflects, "Most kids encounter police during some of the most difficult times of their lives. Afterschool programs start the narrative earlier, in a positive fashion, and are the key for sustained success for our kids."

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