

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 New Hampshire

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 New Hampshire during school days, with 26% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

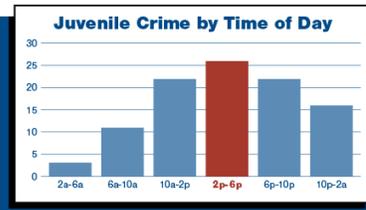
In New Hampshire, 82% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 71% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 60,756 students in New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- 📍 Reduce Crime
- 🎓 Boost Academics
- 👍 Improve Behavior
- ❤️ Lead to Healthier Habits
- 💰 Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Program Spotlight

Manchester Police Athletic League (MPAL) | Manchester, NH



The Manchester Police Athletic League (MPAL) was formed in 1992 as an afterschool program with the goal of forging strong community bonds and bringing youth and police closer together. Every day after school and throughout the summer, Manchester police officers, along with a crew of volunteer experts, provide free athletic and enrichment programs for youth living in Greater Manchester, connecting with youth as mentors and positive role models as a way to keep kids off of the streets and help them grow into healthy and productive citizens.

MPAL is housed at the Michael Briggs Community Center—furnished with a weight room, boxing gym, open mat area, commercial kitchen, game room, and homework room—making it possible for officers to offer programs that include youth sports, an ambassadors program, cooking, and homework help. For example, athletic programs like aikido,

wrestling, boxing, and jiu-jitsu take youth on a character building fitness journey where students get in shape while building qualities like self-esteem, self-discipline, respect, and humility. Meanwhile, youth in the MPAL Ambassadors program learn how to speak publicly about their afterschool experiences while gaining important life, hospitality, and career readiness skills. MPAL also hosts special events for youth and their families like the Spring Spaghetti Dinner to celebrate each year's accomplishments. One program participant's mother remarked, "Before MPAL, my oldest daughter was bullied and my youngest daughter was a bully... The programs we have participated in have made changes for me and especially my girls. We are more like a family." Former Chief of Police David Mara adds, "[MPAL] is a sanctuary, and every day, kids are in here having positive interactions with police officers."

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