

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 South Carolina

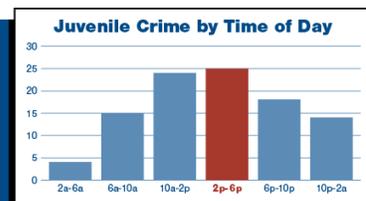
Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in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

In South Carolina, 77% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 64% 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 330,964 students in South Carolina 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 South Carolina

- 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

Carolina Teen Center | Summerville, SC



Founded in September 2012, the Carolina Teen Center is a teen afterschool center (TASC)—part of a network of daily afterschool programs funded by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) designed to reduce the risk of incarceration for participating youth. TASCs help build resiliency skills, offer academic support, provide opportunities to work on career readiness skills, and are shown to reduce recidivism, decrease absences and suspensions, and increase student academic performance. According to the SCDJJ, compared to the average \$426 a day it would cost to incarcerate each youth, TASCs are able to provide comprehensive and preventative programming for just \$1 a day per participant. There are currently 45 sites around the state that have been designated as TASCs.

Operating out of Summerville, the Carolina Teen Center offers this crime-reduction programming in tandem with

anti-bullying, childhood obesity, and other prevention services. Youth ages 12-17 can participate in a mentoring program, nutritional counseling, trauma-informed expressive arts, tutoring services, and more. The Center partners with the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and other community organizations to provide, at no cost to participants, comprehensive programming that keeps them safe and cultivates the program's values of stewardship, empowerment, engagement, and dedication (S.E.E.D.). Through their Carolina Family First Program, wrap-around services are provided to families to help them learn how to manage conflict, work through emotions, and grow as a unit. In 2017, the Carolina Teen Center was named the Teen Afterschool Center of the year by the SCDJJ for its exceptional work in prevention and engaging the community.

Source

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe)

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