

# 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 Dakota

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 Dakota during school days, with 24% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

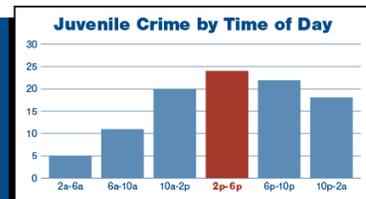
In South Dakota, 78% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 59% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 36,409 students in South Dakota 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 Dakota

#### 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

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire | Sioux Falls, SD



Central to the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire is building strong relationships between adult mentors and young people to create an environment where young people feel safe and supported. The organization serves more than 1,800 children from four weeks to 18 years across 10 sites in Sioux Falls, South Dakota—with approximately 1,400 students in elementary, middle, and high school. Through the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire’s afterschool programs, students receive a healthy snack and one-on-one tutoring, as well as access to a STEM lab, an arts studio, a workforce education center, and a recreation space. Programming runs the gamut, from performing arts to a “fix-it” club, where students have worked on repairing a popcorn machine that was then donated to the organization.

Programming also addresses troubles and hardships that students in the program face, providing one-on-one

counseling services, an opioid prevention program called Positive Action, and Youth for Unity—a space that brings together students, families, and outside partners to discuss culture, empathy, tolerance, and acceptance. Through the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Mentoring Program, an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant, the organization is able to maintain low student-to-staff ratios to provide students with the individualized attention that they need. The program also works to build positive relationships between youth in the program and local law enforcement, bringing in community police officers once a week to meet and engage with students in a positive setting. In the most recent survey of students, the program found that 89 percent of students reported that they feel safe in the program and 89 percent said that they feel respected by their peers.