

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 Washington

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 Washington during school days, with 28% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

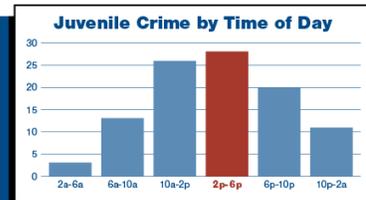
In Washington, 75% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 53% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 333,927 students in Washington 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 Washington

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

Spokane Police Activities League | Spokane, WA



Expanded learning opportunities not only provide experiences for students to learn and grow, but can support critical relationship building between youth and law enforcement. Spokane Police Activities League (PAL) was launched in 2013, and expanded in 2015, in response to the mistrust between the police department and community members, in particular young people in the community. “We cannot continue to arrest our way out of crime,” reflected Spokane Police Officer Jennifer Deruwe. “We need to help stand together with community members to build a healthier society.” Spokane PAL programs take a holistic approach to crime prevention, with the objective to engage potential at-risk youth in positive athletic, academic, and community service programs that will secure their path to a successful, healthy, and prosperous adulthood.

Spokane PAL’s programs focus on mentorship and reducing drug and gang involvement by centering their work on five core values: respect, honesty, sportsmanship, integrity, and

leadership. For instance, a summer program was created in partnership with Spokane Public Schools where school-age children were able to participate in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning opportunities and sports while building positive self-identity and stronger relationships with local police. Police officers and youth are able to engage with each other in a supportive setting that fosters both parties’ understanding of the other. One such experience is the Youth & Police Initiative (YPI), which is centered on this need to break down barriers to trust and establish common ground. YPI sessions last five days and involve a combination of programming and story sharing that reshapes the way the officers and youth view each other, creating a foundation of trust and new relationships to replace the mistrust. Since its inception, this program has graduated 223 youth and connected them to 92 different police officers.



Afterschool Alliance

afterschoolalliance.org

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

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