



A Snapshot of the Hispanic Community After 3PM

Each day in America, millions of kids go home to an empty house after school. In recent years, the growth of quality, affordable afterschool programs—programs that keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families—has begun to offer parents of these children positive alternatives. Over the past five years, afterschool programs have played an increasingly important role in providing valuable after school opportunities in the Hispanic community.

In 2009, the Afterschool Alliance conducted a household survey of nearly 30,000 families to learn how many children are in afterschool programs, how many are unsupervised after school and how these numbers compare to five years ago. Building upon and updating a similar study conducted in 2004, *America After 3PM*, sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, gives the most comprehensive and accurate picture to date of what this nation's youth are doing each day after school. The study included a specific focus on minority populations and how they are utilizing afterschool programs.

After School Care Arrangements

- Hispanic children are more likely to be in afterschool programs than other children. **Twenty-one percent (2,365,860)** of Hispanic children are enrolled in afterschool programs – at schools, community centers, churches or elsewhere. By comparison, 15 percent of all children participate in afterschool programs.
- **Twenty-one percent (2,320,796)** of Hispanic children have no adult supervision after school and are responsible for taking care of themselves during the afternoon hours.

Economic Impact

- Hispanic parents are feeling the impact of the economic downturn more severely than parents in general. More Hispanic parents agree that the current economic conditions have impacted their after school care arrangements, with **55 percent** reporting that the economy has impacted how they care for their children after school (compared to 41 percent overall) and **60 percent** stating that it has affected their ability to pay for care (compared to 46 percent overall).
- More than one third (**35 percent**) of Hispanic parents say their children are spending less time in the care of someone other than a parent after school this year compared to last, which is somewhat greater than the 31 percent reported by parents overall. The primary reason for less outside care is that the parent is no longer working outside the home.

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- Demand for afterschool programs is great in the Hispanic community. Parents of Hispanic children *not currently* in afterschool programs are much more likely than other parents to say that they would enroll their children in quality afterschool programs, if programs were available. **Forty-seven percent** of Hispanic parents (**4,218,666**) say they would enroll their children if programs were available compared to 38 percent of parents in general.
- Hispanic parents are also more likely than the general population to say that there should be “some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities for them to learn.” **Ninety-six percent** of Hispanic parents agree compared to just 91 percent agreement in general.



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Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs

- Hispanic parents are largely satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends with **93 percent** of Hispanic parents reporting program satisfaction compared to 89 percent overall.
- Hispanic parents cited child enjoyment (**64 percent**), convenient location (**59 percent**) and affordability (**55 percent**) as their top three reasons for selecting an afterschool program.

Barriers to Enrolling in Afterschool Programs

- After lack of need, the predominant obstacles to enrollment for Hispanic parents include cost, preference for alternative activities and transportation.

National Comparison and Trends – 2004 to 2009

	2009		2004	
	Hispanics %	National %	Hispanics %	National %
Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs	21	15	15	11
Percentage of Kids in Self Care	21	26	22	25
Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program	93	89	88	91
Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available	47	38	44	30

According to U. S. Census data from 2007, the total Hispanic school-age population is 11,266,000, which is the foundation for all projections in “A Snapshot of the Hispanic Community After 3PM”.

America After 3PM was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Between March and May 2009, 29,754 parents/guardians responded to survey questions about their after school child care arrangements during the 2008-2009 school year. RTi, a market research firm, conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance. Additional information from America After 3PM is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.