

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 North Carolina

Analyzing data obtained from law enforcement partners in the state, 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 North Carolina during school days, with 29% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

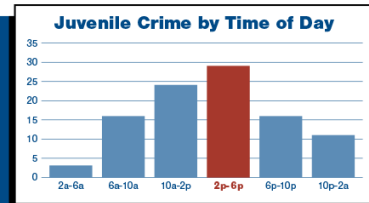
In North Carolina, 80% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 68% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

With 523,140 students in North 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 North Carolina

Quality Afterschool Programs:

- Reduce Crime
- Boost Academics
- Improve Behavior
- Lead to Healthier Habits
- Save Money



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Program Spotlight

Morehead City Police Department (MCPD) | Morehead City, NC



The Morehead City Police Department (MCPD) prioritizes its relationships with the city's youth through a variety of programs including afterschool tutoring, two summer camps, and an internship program. Chief Bernette Morris started the afterschool tutoring program in 2006 to connect with kids and help them stay on a successful path. When school is in session, MCPD offers a free tutoring program for students in elementary, middle, and high school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Students in the program are given a healthy snack,

as well as help on homework assignments from officers.

Providing a safe, accessible, and welcoming environment has been the focus of the program since its inception. In addition to tutoring, MCPD offers two sessions of summer camps--one for middle school and one for high school students. The camps are free for the students and run by School Resource Officers to expose kids to a variety of law enforcement topics, including how to take fingerprints.



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