

# 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 Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island during school days, with 30% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

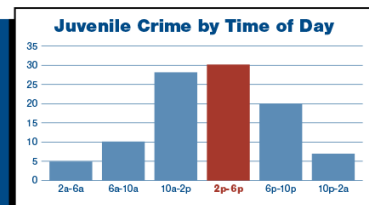
In Rhode Island, 71% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 59% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 37,471 students in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island

#### Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS  
COUNCIL FOR POLICE ETHICS AND MERIT

# Program Spotlight

Providence After School Alliance (PASA) | Providence, RI

Since its founding in 2004, the Providence After School Alliance (PASA) has led a public/private partnership that brings the Mayor's Office, the School Department, the Police Department and more than 50 community-based organizations together to create a high-quality afterschool and summer learning system focused on student success from middle to high school and beyond. Building relationships between law enforcement and students in the program has been a component of PASA programming. For example, in 2008, PASA collaborated with the Providence police chief to create a youth sports program with police officers serving as coaches and mentors, one of the many sports program options offered by PASA. With funding provided by local corporations and donors, 10 officers were able to engage youth in sports such as basketball, football, and soccer. Three years ago, the Providence Police Department and PASA teamed up with the local affiliate of One-on-One Basketball, whose professional coaches were able to provide police officers with mentoring and training on positive coaching and youth development.

PASA's sports programming helps youth build confidence, increase their physical and emotional wellbeing, and connects them with caring adult mentors, particularly at an age where play is vital and when it is developmentally important for youth to feel a sense of belonging. "Sports and youth athletics transform the lives of young people, improve their health, and are a fun way to build skills needed in life. I am proud that our officers help run sports programs in our middle schools, getting to know young people in the city as friends and fellow athletes. It is what community policing is all about," reflects Providence Police Chief Colonel Hugh T. Clements, a member of the Providence After School Alliance Board.



Photo Source: PASA

The benefits of this partnership also extend to the officers and the PASA staff, where officers become better connected with the young people of the community while receiving professional development through the coaching partnership with One-on-One Basketball. Conversely, officers provide training to PASA staff to institute safety protocols and ensure they are better prepared to handle emergencies on site—making the afterschool program safer for all participants.

## 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)



**Afterschool Alliance**

[afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org)

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)