



**December
2020**

Arkansas-Mississippi Delta Region After 3PM



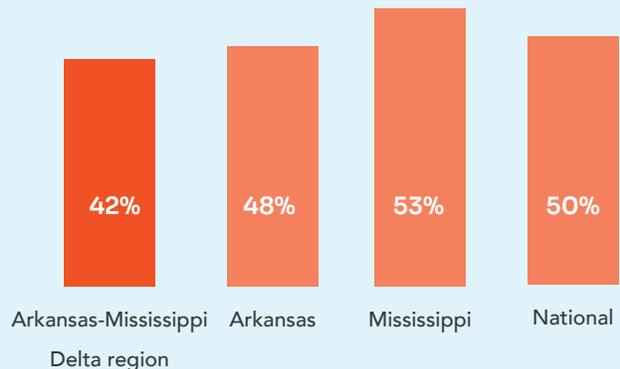
For years, afterschool programs have kept kids safe, inspired them to learn, and offered parents peace of mind that their children are constructively engaged in the hours between the end of the school day and when parents return from work.

In the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region, America After 3PM found that **for every child in an afterschool program, 3 are waiting** to get in, with **21,482 children** alone and unsupervised after school.

The number of students left without afterschool in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region is high

There are now 35,056 children (42%) in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them, compared to 48% in Arkansas, 53% in Mississippi, and 50% nationally.

Unmet demand for afterschool programs



Children in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region who are fortunate enough to take part in afterschool programs are receiving critical support

89% of the parents in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region are satisfied with their child's afterschool program. Children in afterschool programs in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region are:

	Building life skills	69%
	Getting help with homework	57%
	Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities	69%

	Taking part in physical activities	74%
	Receiving healthy snacks or meals	71%
	Interacting with peers and building social skills	87%

Additionally, parents in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region report high levels of satisfaction with supports in their child's afterschool program, including:

	A safe environment	91%
	Knowledgeable and caring staff	94%



Moreover, parents in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region report that afterschool programs are a lifeline for working families:

67%	of parents with a child in an afterschool program agree that the program helps them keep their job or work more hours
85%	of parents overall agree that afterschool programs provide working parents peace of mind

13,426

Number of children in afterschool programs

5.6 hours

Average hours per week children spend in an afterschool program

3.8 days

Average days per week children spend in an afterschool program

\$48.00

Average weekly cost of afterschool programs*

**Among parents who report that they pay a fee for their child's afterschool program*

64%

Percentage of children in afterschool who are from low-income households

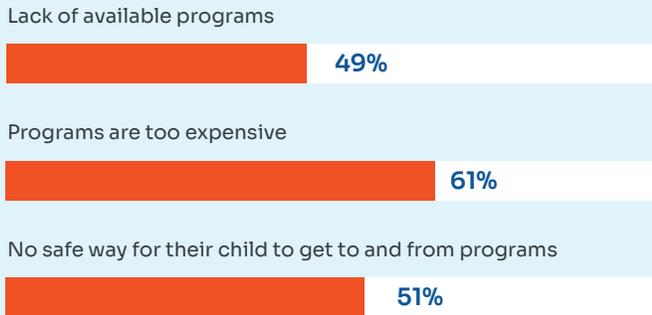
71%

Percentage of afterschool programs located in a public school building

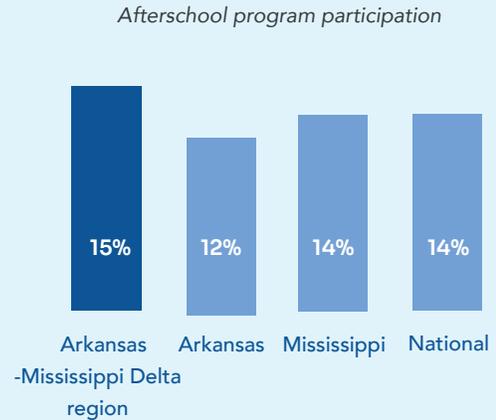
Cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation

A significant percentage of parents in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region report challenges to enrolling their child in an afterschool program, for example, **3 in 5** parents said that the lack of a safe way for their child to get to and come home from programs was an important factor in their decision not to enroll their child in a program.

% of parents reporting they did not enroll their child in an afterschool program because of the following:



As high levels of parents reported barriers to participation, afterschool program participation in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region was 15%, compared to 12% in Arkansas, 14% in Mississippi, and 14% nationally.



There is significant bipartisan support for greater investment in afterschool

To help ensure that all children in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region who want to participate in an afterschool program are able, greater investment in afterschool is needed. Support for public funding for afterschool programs in the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region is high, with **93% of parents in favor of funding** for programs that provide afterschool opportunities.

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, parents nationally continue to see afterschool programs as a resource to promote their child's growth and development while also helping parents maintain or find employment. In an October 2020 national survey of parents, **77%** agreed that Congress should provide additional funding for afterschool programs to operate during virtual school days.

Strong support for public funding across the political spectrum



About the survey

America After 3PM is a national survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, screening 31,055 households and having 14,393 households completing in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and Washington D.C., between January 27 and March 17, 2020. Where the minimum could not be met, supplemental telephone interviews were conducted. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. The percentages and projected numbers in America After 3PM are based on survey responses from parents. In the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region, 157 households and 276 children were screened for this study, with oversample specific responses collected between May 11 and June 1, 2020. Child-level statewide projections and total school enrollment numbers are based on ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs), U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018 5-Year Estimates. Total school enrollment for the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta region is 89,508.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>.

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Afterschool Alliance