

# 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 Tennessee

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 Tennessee during school days, with 27% of juvenile crimes occurring during this time period.

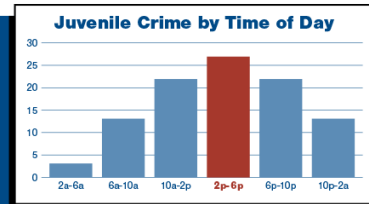
In Tennessee, 83% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 63% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

*With 263,754 students in Tennessee 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 Tennessee

#### 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

Boys & Girls Club of Tennessee Valley | Knoxville, TN



The Boys & Girls Club of Tennessee Valley has been serving youth and teens in the greater Knoxville area for 76 years. During that time the Club has grown and evolved to serve 1,400 kids daily and 9,800 youth and teens annually with three-quarters of kids coming from non-traditional households. The Club—funded partly by local, state, and federal grants including funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program—operates 17 sites that provide nutritious and healthy meals, tutoring, mentoring, academic programming, and youth sports. One reason that the program reports youth return are the relationships they are building with caring staff and volunteers, some of whom are a product of a strong relationship the Club has with the local law enforcement departments in the region. For example, several departments in the region required their cadets to volunteer at the Club sites to help build empathy in police officers for the community they will be serving, as well as humanizes officers for the kids served by the program.

The program also offers TRiO: Talent Search and Pipeline, both serving youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO serves potential first generation college students, providing academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to postsecondary education. Of the 501 who have participated, 94 percent completed the current academic grade and progressed to the next grade level and 73 percent self-reported enrollment in a post-secondary institution. The Pipeline program is designed to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete high school and enroll in health care industry-related postsecondary programs. All 313 participants completed the current academic year and progressed to the next grade, 100 percent graduated high school, and 95 percent self-reported enrollment in a post-secondary institution.



Brandon White  
Director of Education

United Way of Greater Nashville  
Brandon.White@unitedwaygn.org & 615-791-3007  
tnafterschool.org

## 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)

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)