

# 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 Idaho

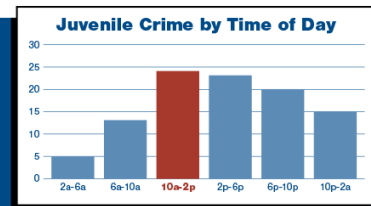
Analyzing data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting database, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Idaho during school days, with 24% of crimes occurring during this time period. However, it is worthwhile to note that the 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. window has the second highest peak (23%), just 1 percent lower than the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. window.

In Idaho, 70% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 55% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 5 more would participate if a program were available.

### The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Idaho

Quality Afterschool Programs:

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



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

*With 111,583 students in Idaho waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.*

## Program Spotlight

Our Girls | Power County, ID



Photo Source: Getty Images

Our Girls is a 12-week afterschool probation program created by Power County to redirect girls involved with the Juvenile Justice system away from risky behaviors through gender-responsive interventions. Girls referred to the program, whether through the court, Juvenile probation, law enforcement, the community, or individual families, engage in a targeted curriculum that uplifts and empowers girls to become confident and capable young women.

Our Girls is run as an intimate afterschool program with classroom sizes averaging fifteen girls (ages 12-18), held in the Juvenile Probation Department building. Program lessons are intentionally designed to address issues that girls commonly struggle with, including substance abuse and misuse, eating disorders, sexual health, and domestic violence. The wide range of creative and intellectually stimulating activities that Our Girls offers serve as an outlet to explore and work through

problems that have contributed to past negative behaviors. Open and guided discussions help girls reframe negative self-talk and body image, identify positive female role models, and ultimately build healthy relationships with peers, adults, and the community. Power County Chief Probation Officer and Our Girls Program Director Connie Woodworth notes that improving the self-esteem and self-efficacy of girls is part of what keeps them from becoming repeat offenders. She reflects that when the program first started roughly 20 years ago, there were more than 100 girls on probation that were referred to the program. Due to the reduction in juvenile crime across rural Power County, that number has decreased, with approximately three girls referred each program cycle. This reduction has allowed Our Girls to open enrollment to girls outside of the juvenile justice system who are interested in participating.



**Afterschool Alliance**

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