



America After 3PM

Demand Grows, Opportunity Shrinks



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.

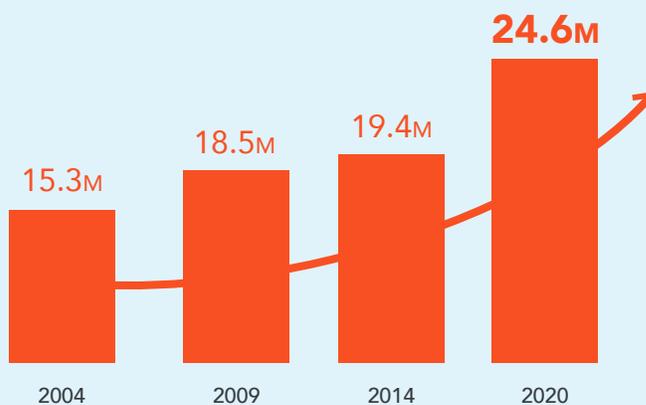
America After 3PM found that **for every child in an afterschool program, 3 are waiting** to get in, with **7.7 million** children alone and unsupervised after school.



The number of students left without afterschool is up by 60%

There are now 24.6 million children (50%) who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them. Since the first America After 3PM survey conducted in 2004, the number of children unable to access afterschool programs has grown by more than 9 million children.

Unmet demand for afterschool programs by year



Demand surges as parents see key benefits from afterschool

Children in afterschool programs are:

	Interacting with peers and building social skills	90%
	Receiving healthy snacks or meals	70%
	Getting help with homework	73%

	Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities	73%
	Taking part in physical activities	85%
	Building life skills	68%

Programs earn a 94% satisfaction rate and high marks from parents in critical areas, including:

	A safe environment	92%
	Knowledgeable and caring staff	89%



Parents report that afterschool programs are a lifeline for working families:

78%	of parents with a child in an afterschool program agree that the program helps them keep their job or work more hours
83%	of parents overall agree that afterschool programs provide working parents peace of mind

7.8 million

Number of children in afterschool programs

5.6 hours

Average hours per week children spend in an afterschool program

3.7 days

Average days per week children spend in an afterschool program

\$99.40

Average weekly cost of afterschool programs*

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

33%

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

76%

Percentage of afterschool programs located in a public school building

Afterschool in America



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

A significant percentage of parents report challenges to enrolling their child in an afterschool program. For example, **nearly 3 in 5** parents said that the cost of 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:

Programs are too expensive



No safe way for their child to get to and from programs

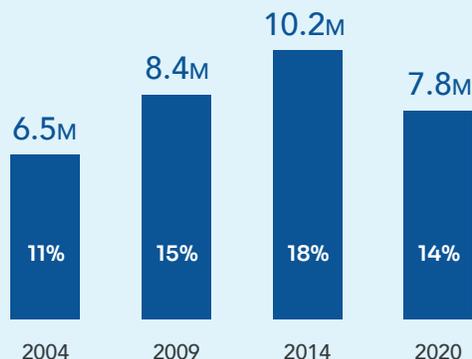


Lack of available programs



As high levels of parents reported barriers to participation, afterschool program participation saw a decrease compared to the last America After 3PM survey in 2014.

Afterschool program participation by year



There is significant bipartisan support for greater investment in afterschool

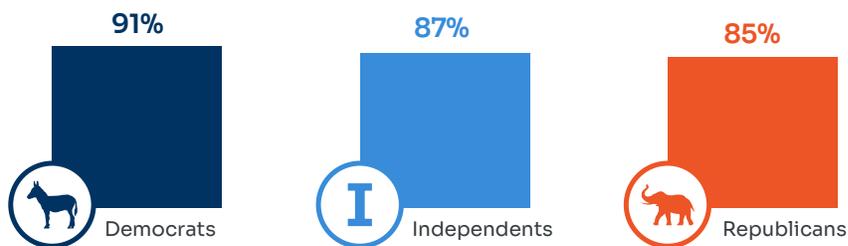
To help ensure that all children who want to participate in an afterschool program are able, greater investment in afterschool is needed.

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, parents nationwide 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.

87% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities



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. Projections for child-level data represent the 57.4 million children and youth in the United States based on numbers from the Census Bureau's October 2018 Current Population Survey.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: <http://www.aa3pm.co/>.

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