



Arkansas After 3PM

In 2009, Arkansas parents/guardians were asked about their children's regular participation in various after school care arrangements, with a special focus on afterschool program participation and satisfaction. The *America After 3PM* survey identified the supply of and demand for afterschool programs, as well as the major barriers to program enrollment.

After School Care Arrangements

- **26% (125,025)** of Arkansas' K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of **9** hours per week unsupervised after school.
- **12% (59,837)** of Arkansas' K-12 children participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend **7** hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages **3** days per week.
- **75%** of Arkansas K-12 children spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian.
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (**8%**), sibling care (**14%**) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (**37%**).

Notes: The maximum amount of time in after school care arrangements is limited to 15 hours per week, which reflects the after school hours of 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Care arrangements add up to greater than 100% due to multiple regular care arrangements for many children.

Satisfaction with and Support for Afterschool Programs

- **79%** of Arkansas parents are satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.
- Arkansas parents cited affordability (**67%**), child enjoyment (**58%**) and convenient location (**57%**) as their top three reasons for selecting an afterschool program.
- **89%** of adults surveyed in Arkansas agree that there should be "some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn" and **85%** support public funding for afterschool programs.

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- **44% (187,722)** of all Arkansas children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.
- Parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: by having fun, taking advantage of opportunities for community service and learning, improving their social skills and workforce skills, and being safe and out of trouble.





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Barriers to Enrolling in Afterschool Programs

- After lack of need, the predominant obstacles to enrollment include cost, preference for alternative activities and lack of transportation.

Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In Arkansas, the public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, religious organizations, private schools and the city or town round out the top six providers of afterschool programs in the state.
- On average, Arkansas families spend **\$40** per week for afterschool programs.

National Comparison and Trends – 2004 to 2009

| | 2009 | | 2004 | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Arkansas % | National % | Arkansas % | National % |
| Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs | 12 | 15 | 8 | 11 |
| Percentage of Kids in Self Care | 26 | 26 | 18 | 25 |
| Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care | 14 | 14 | 13 | 11 |
| Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program | 79 | 89 | 86 | 91 |
| Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available | 44 | 38 | 33 | 30 |

About America After 3PM

In Arkansas, 505 households were surveyed for this study. Among those households, 50 percent qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 2 percent were Hispanic and 17 percent were African-American. According to U.S. Department of Education data from 2005-2006, the total school enrollment in Arkansas is 486,478, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Arkansas After 3PM.

America After 3PM was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Between March and May 2009, 29,754 parents/guardians responded to survey questions about their after school child care arrangements during the 2008-2009 school year. RTi, a market research firm, conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance. Additional information from America After 3PM is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

