



# RICA Mississippi



After a decrease in afterschool program participation from 2004 to 2009, Mississippi made headway in 2014; afterschool program participation increased from 11 percent in 2009 to 16 percent in 2014. However, Mississippi's afterschool program participation still remains below the national average. Mississippi parent satisfaction with their child's afterschool program's quality of care and cost also saw gains, from 80 percent to 93 percent and 73 percent to 91 percent, respectively.



Mississippi	
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**BENEFITS** 

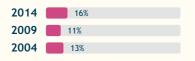
**SUPPORT** 

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#### Children in Afterschool



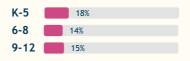
#### Afterschool program participation in Mississippi



#### 82,754 children in 2014

In 2014, 16% of Mississippi's children participate in an afterschool program, compared to 11% in 2009 and 13% in 2004.

#### Children in an afterschool program, by grade



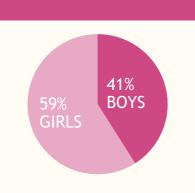
In 2014, 18% of Mississippi's children in grades K-5 participate in an afterschool program, compared to 14% in grades 6-8 and 15% in grades 9-12.

#### Average time per week children spend in an afterschool program

2014

For the purposes of this study, timing was limited to 15 hours per week in afterschool care, reflecting the hours of 3 to 6 p.m.

#### Children in an afterschool program, by gender



Most families piece together a variety of afterschool solutions, with 67% of Mississippi's K-12 children spending some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian. Other afterschool arrangements include traditional child care centers (9%); sibling care (14%); and nonparental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (26%).

#### Average weekly cost of afterschool programs

2014



The average weekly cost only includes parents who report that they pay a fee for their child's afterschool program.

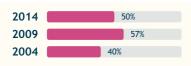
#### Children Unsupervised After School & Unmet Demand



Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available

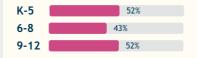
Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available, by grade level

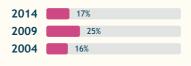
Children unsupervised after school



217,663 children in 2014

In 2014, 50% of Mississippi's children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available, compared to 57% in 2009 and 40% in 2004.

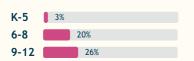




88,960 children in 2014

In 2014, 17% of Mississippi's children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

# Children unsupervised after school, by grade



In 2014, 3% of Mississippi's children in grades K-5 were unsupervised after school, compared to 20% in grades 6-8 and 26% in grades 9-12.

What barriers to afterschool program enrollment are Mississippi families facing?

After lack of need, the predominant challenges parents face enrolling their child in an afterschool program include:

- Preference for alternative activities
- The afterschool programs' locations are not convenient

Average time per week children spend alone & unsupervised after school

2014

7 HOURS

For the purposes of this study, timing was limited to 15 hours per week, reflecting the hours of 3 to 6 p.m.

## Parent Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs 😑

Parents satisfied with their child's afterschool program



In 2014, 94% of Mississippi's parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program, compared to 92% in 2009 and 87% in 2004.

Parents satisfied with the quality of care in their child's afterschool program



Parents satisfied with the safe environment of their child's afterschool program



Top 5 activities/services offered by afterschool programs

Parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills

Top 5 factors in parents' selection of an afterschool program

- Homework assistance
- Transportation
- Opportunities for physical activity
- Beverages, snacks and/or meals

- The hours meet parents' needs
- Location is convenient
- Their child enjoys the afterschool program

• Opportunities for reading or writing



- Quality of care
- Is a safe haven

Parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors



77%

of afterschool programs are located in a public school building

Parents agree that afterschool programs excite children about learning



Most common afterschool program providers

- 1. Public school
- **2.** 4-Hs
- 3. Boys & Girls Clubs

### Public Support for Afterschool Programs •

82%

of Mississippi parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 14% report receiving government assistance with the cost of afterschool. 70%

of Mississippi parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.

68%

of parents agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs.

#### **Footnotes**

In Mississippi, 200 households and 488 children were screened for this study. According to the Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics data for 2011-2012, the total school enrollment in Mississippi is 517,211, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Mississippi After 3PM.



#### Afterschool Alliance

1616 H St., NW Suite 820 Washington, D.C. 20006 (866) KIDS-TODAY I Email us The 2014 America After 3PM research and report were made possible by the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, The Robert Bowne Foundation and the Samueli Foundation.







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