



# Arkansas



Arkansas has seen a steady increase in the percentage of children participating in an afterschool program—growing from 8 percent in 2004 to 12 percent in 2009 to 13 percent in 2014. However, Arkansas’ afterschool participation rate still falls well below the national average of 18 percent. The average time Arkansas children spend in an afterschool program also falls below the national average in 2014, decreasing from approximately 7 hours per week to just more than 6 hours. Additionally, unmet demand for afterschool programs in Arkansas continues to increase. In 2004, 33 percent of children not enrolled in an afterschool program would participate if a program were available in their community. In 2014, 45 percent of Arkansas children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled if one were available.



Arkansas

DEMAND

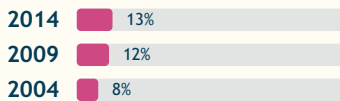
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## Children in Afterschool

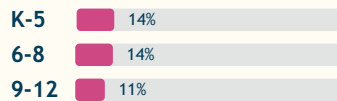
### Afterschool program participation in Arkansas



65,107 children in 2014

In 2014, 13% of Arkansas’s children participate in an afterschool program, compared to 12% in 2009 and 8% in 2004.

### Children in an afterschool program, by grade



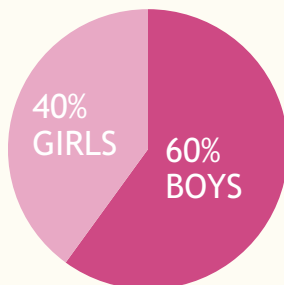
In 2014, 14% of Arkansas’s children in grades K-5 participate in an afterschool program, compared to 14% in grades 6-8 and 11% in grades 9-12.

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

2014  
**6** HOURS  
**4** DAYS

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 70% of Arkansas’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 (7%); sibling care (13%); and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (29%).

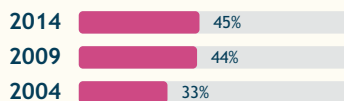
### Average weekly cost of afterschool programs

2014  
**17** \$

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

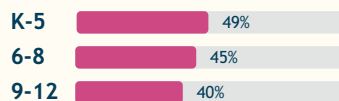
### Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available



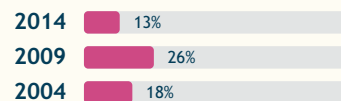
190,563 children in 2014

In 2014, 45% of Arkansas's children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available, compared to 44% in 2009 and 33% in 2004.

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



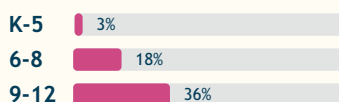
### Children unsupervised after school



65,107 children in 2014

In 2014, 13% of Arkansas'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 Arkansas's children in grades K-5 were unsupervised after school, compared to 18% in grades 6-8 and 36% in grades 9-12.

### What barriers to afterschool program enrollment are Arkansas 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 are too expensive

### Average time per week children spend alone & unsupervised after school

2014  
**8 HOURS**

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

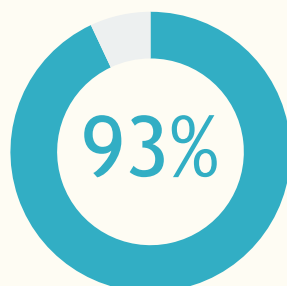
## Parent Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs -

### Parents satisfied with their child's afterschool program

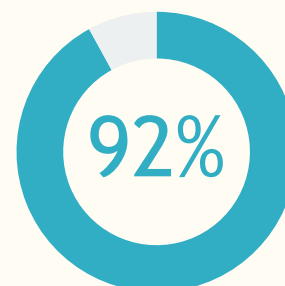


In 2014, 95% of Arkansas's parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program, compared to 79% in 2009 and 86% in 2004.

### 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

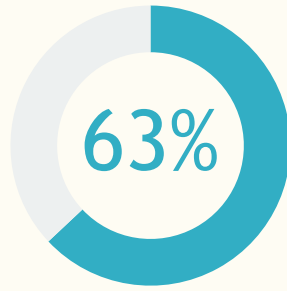


### Top 5 activities/services offered by afterschool programs

### Parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills

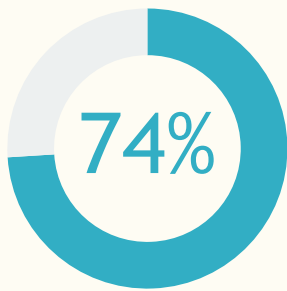
### Top 5 factors in parents' selection of an afterschool program

- Opportunities for physical activity
- Beverages, snacks and/or meals
- Homework assistance
- Music or art
- Opportunities for reading or writing



- Is a safe haven
- Quality of care
- Their child enjoys the afterschool program
- Program cost
- The hours meet parents' needs

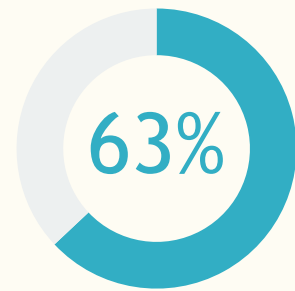
Parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors



82%

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. Boys & Girls Clubs
3. YMCAs

## Public Support for Afterschool Programs -

84%

of Arkansas parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 33% report receiving government assistance

74%

of Arkansas parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they

79%

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

with the cost of afterschool.

are at work.

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## Footnotes

In Arkansas, 200 households and 664 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 Arkansas is 489,523, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Arkansas After 3PM.



Afterschool Alliance

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