



# New Jersey



In 2009, the percentage of New Jersey children participating in an afterschool program increased to 14 percent from 12 percent in 2004, and the average time per week spent in an afterschool program reached 11 hours, among the highest in the nation that year. In 2014, although New Jersey's afterschool program participation moved up to 16 percent, it slipped further behind the national average, and the average time children spend in afterschool programs dipped to 6.58 hours per week, contributing to its fall out of the top 10 states for afterschool. Unmet demand for afterschool programs continues to grow in New Jersey, increasing from 28 percent in 2004 to 36 percent in 2014.



New Jersey

DEMAND

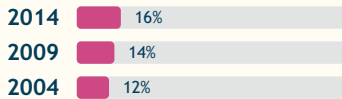
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## Children in Afterschool

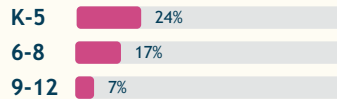
### Afterschool program participation in New Jersey



231,279 children in 2014

In 2014, 16% of New Jersey's children participate in an afterschool program, compared to 14% in 2009 and 12% in 2004.

### Children in an afterschool program, by grade



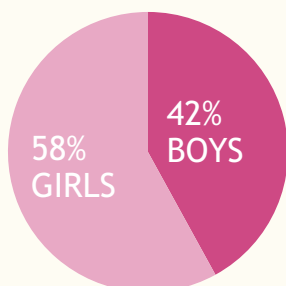
In 2014, 24% of New Jersey's children in grades K-5 participate in an afterschool program, compared to 17% in grades 6-8 and 7% in grades 9-12.

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



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 68% of New Jersey'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 (8%); sibling care (16%); and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (28%).

### Average weekly cost of afterschool programs

2014



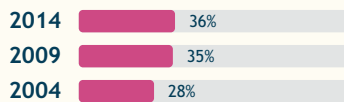
The average weekly cost only includes parents who report that they pay a fee for their child's afterschool program.

## Children Unsupervised After School & Unmet Demand

Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available

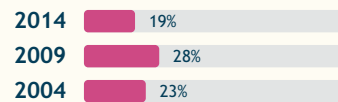
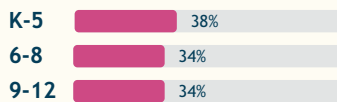
Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available, by grade level

Children unsupervised after school



422,067 children in 2014

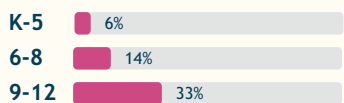
In 2014, 36% of New Jersey's children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available, compared to 35% in 2009 and 28% in 2004.



267,945 children in 2014

In 2014, 19% of New Jersey's children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

#### Children unsupervised after school, by grade



In 2014, 6% of New Jersey's children in grades K-5 were unsupervised after school, compared to 14% in grades 6-8 and 33% in grades 9-12.

#### What barriers to afterschool program enrollment are New Jersey families facing?

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

- Preference for alternative activities
- Lack of a safe way for child to get to and come home from afterschool programs

#### 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.

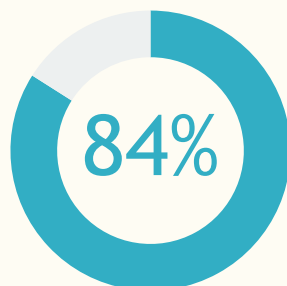
## Parent Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs -

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

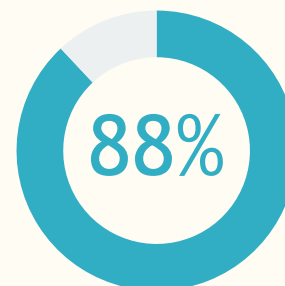


In 2014, 87% of New Jersey's parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program, compared to 95% in 2009 and 91% in 2004.

#### 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

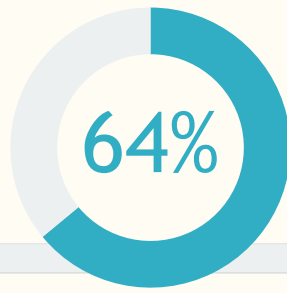
- Homework assistance
- Opportunities for physical activity
- STEM learning opportunities

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

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

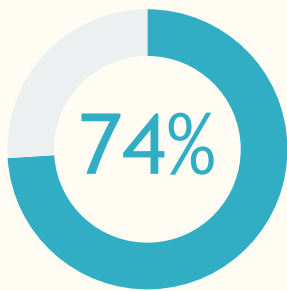
- Location is convenient
- Quality of care
- Is a safe haven

- Beverages, snacks and/or meals
- Opportunities for reading or writing



- The hours meet parents' needs
- Knowledgeable and well-trained staff

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. YMCAs
3. Boys & Girls Clubs

## Public Support for Afterschool Programs

82%

of New Jersey parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 21% report receiving government assistance with the cost of afterschool.

78%

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

73%

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

## Footnotes

In New Jersey, 320 households and 1,636 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 New Jersey is 1,410,236, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in New Jersey After 3PM.



Afterschool Alliance

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