

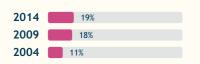


# **ERICA Massachusetts**

Two key drivers of Massachusetts' fifth place rank in to top 10 states for afterschool are the high average amount of time per week children spend in an afterschool program as well as an afterschool participation number above the national average, helping the state improve from a "state on the move" in 2009. An overwhelming percentage of Massachusetts parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program (92 percent) and support public funding for afterschool programs (89 percent), yet there remain more than 350,000 Massachusetts children not in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if a program were available to them.

#### Children in Afterschool

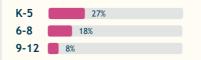
## Afterschool program participation in Massachusetts



#### 196,562 children in 2014

Participation in afterschool programs has steadily increased over the past decade. In 2014, 10.2 million children are in afterschool programs, up from 8.4 million in 2009 and 6.5 million in 2004.

Children in an afterschool program, by grade



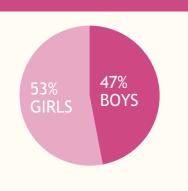
Average time per week children spend in an afterschool program

2014

9 HOUR

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 69% of Massachusetts'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 (10%); sibling care (14%); and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (33%).

## Average weekly cost of afterschool programs

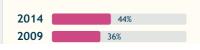
2014



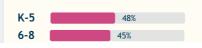
The average weekly cost only includes parents who report that they pay a fee for their child's afterschool program. One in 5 parents surveyed report receiving government assistance to pay for their child's afterschool program, at an average of \$113.20 per week.

### 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

2014	21%
2009	26%

51%

K-5 2%

6-8

9-12

What barriers to afterschool program enrollment are Massachusetts families facing?

9-12

35%

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

- The afterschool programs are too expensive
- Preference for alternative activities

2004 21%

213,966 children in 2014

The number of children alone and unsupervised in the hours after school has decreased, but 1 in 5 children still don't have someone to care for them after school.

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



Parents' overall satisfaction with their child's afterschool program has been high over the past decade, where approximately 9 in 10 parents surveyed in 2004, 2009 and 2014 report that they are satisfied.

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

- Opportunities for physical activity
- STEM learning opportunities
- Opportunities for reading or writing
- Music or art
- Homework assistance

Parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills

Top 5 factors in parents' selection of an afterschool program

- Their child enjoys the afterschool program
- Is a safe haven
- Quality of care
- Knowledgeable and well-trained staff
- Location is convenient

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





Parents agree that afterschool programs excite children about learning



Most common afterschool program providers

- 1. Public school
- 2. YMCAs
- City or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)

## **Public Support for Afterschool Programs**

89%

More than 5 in 6 parents report that they favor public funding for afterschool opportunities in communities where children and youth have few opportunities, up slightly from 83 percent in 2009. In 2014, just 20 percent of parents receive public funding to help pay for an afterschool program.

80%

81%

### **Healthy Eating and Afterschool Programs**

#### **Physical Activity and Afterschool Programs**



#### Afterschool Alliance

1616 H St., NW Suite 820 Washington, D.C. 20006 (866) KIDS-TODAY I Email us

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Afterschool updates

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