The State of Afterschool in Wyoming[[1]](#footnote-1)

* 15% (xxx,xxx) of Wyoming’s K-12 children participate in afterschool programs, compared to 19% in 2009. On average, afterschool participants spend 5.7 hours per week in afterschool programs and participation averages 4 days per week.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* 22% (xxx,xxx) of Wyoming’s K-12 children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., for an average of 6.8 hours per week.
* Most families piece together a variety of afterschool solutions, with 78% of Wyoming’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 (4%), sibling care (12%) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (19%).[[3]](#footnote-3)

[CREATE TABLE COMPARING WYOMING AND NATIONAL, 2014 AND 2009: Percentage of children in afterschool programs; Percentage of children in self care; Percentage of children who would participate if an afterschool program were available]

**What is the Demand for Afterschool in Wyoming?**

* 46% (xxx,xxx) of all Wyoming children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community. This is an 18 point increase from 2009.

**What Are Wyoming Parents Saying About the Quality of Afterschool Programs?**

* Overall, Wyoming parents are satisfied with their afterschool program:
  + 67% are satisfied with their afterschool program overall
  + 68% are satisfied with the afterschool program’s safe environment
  + 66% are satisfied with the afterschool program’s quality of care
* Wyoming parents cited quality of care (92%), child enjoyment (90%), and the afterschool program is a safe haven (85%), and as their top three reasons for selecting an afterschool program.
* 83% of parents surveyed in Wyoming agree that there should be “some type of organized activity or place for children and teen to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn.”

[CREATE TABLE COMPARING WYOMING AND NATIONAL, 2014 AND 2009: Percentage of parents extremely/somewhat satisfied with afterschool program overall; Percentage of parents extremely/somewhat satisfied with afterschool program quality of care]

**How Do Wyoming’s Children and Families Benefit from Afterschool?**

* 97% of parents said their afterschool program offers opportunities for physical activity, 72% said their afterschool program offers opportunities for reading or writing and 71% said their afterschool program offers music or art.
* 77% of parents agree that afterschool programs can help excite children about learning.
* 72% of parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership and critical thinking.
* 72% of Wyoming parents agree that afterschool programs can help reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, such as commit a crime, use drugs or become a teen parent.

**What Barriers to Afterschool Program Enrollment Are Wyoming Families Facing?**

* After lack of need, the predominant obstacles to enrollment include preference for alternative activities, lack of a safe way to get to and come home from afterschool programs, and inconvenient location.

**Snapshot of Afterschool Programs in Wyoming [CREATE SIDEBAR WITH THIS INFO]**

* In Wyoming, public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. Boys & Girls Clubs and local government round out the top three providers of afterschool programs in the state.
* 83% of afterschool programs in Wyoming are located in a public school building
* XX% of Wyoming’s children in afterschool programs are boys and XX% are girls.
* XX% of Wyoming children in afterschool programs qualify for the federal free and reduced price lunch program.
* On average, Wyoming families who pay for afterschool spend $62 per week for afterschool programs.
* 74% of Wyoming parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.
* 85% of Wyoming parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 5% report receiving government assistance with the cost of afterschool.

[CREATE TABLE COMPARING NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF KIDS IN WYOMING BY GRADE LEVEL (K-5, 6-8, 9-12). Percentage of children in afterschool programs/Number of children in afterschool program; Percentage of children in self care/Number of children in self care; Percentage of children who would participate if an afterschool program were available/Number of children likely to participate]

1. In Wyoming, 202 households and 409 children were screened for this study. Among those households, 28 percent qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program, 9 percent identified as Hispanic/Latino and 0 percent identified as African-American/black. According to the Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics data for 2011-2012, the total school enrollment in Wyoming is XX,XXX, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Montana After 3PM. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The maximum amount of time in after school care arrangements is limited to 15 hours per week, reflecting the hours of 3 p.m to 6 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Parents were able to select multiple regular care arrangements for their child, which accounts for cases where after school care arrangements may total more than 100 percent. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)