



A Preview of New Jersey Data from the America After 3 PM Household Survey on Afterschool

Care Arrangements: In the *America After 3 PM* survey, New Jersey parents/guardians were asked about their children's regular participation in various afterschool care arrangements. (Note: Care arrangements add up to greater than 100% due to multiple regular care arrangements for many children.)

- While most New Jersey children, 65%, spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian, 23% of New Jersey's K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves. These children spend an average of nearly 7 hours per week unsupervised after school.*
- In contrast, only 12% of New Jersey's K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend 9 hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages 3.9 days per week for 2.1 hours per day.*
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (9%), sibling care (13%) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (18%).

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- Nearly 22% of the K-12 youth in self-care would be likely to participate in an afterschool program if one were available in the community.*
- Similarly, 28% of all children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.

Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs

- Ninety-one percent of New Jersey parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.*
- In New Jersey, the top 3 reasons cited for selecting an afterschool program are affordability, quality of care, and child enjoyment.*
- Parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: by having fun, by staying safe and out of trouble, by having help completing homework, improved social skills, and improved physical activity.

Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In New Jersey, public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. YMCAs, private schools, religious organizations, and Boys and Girls Clubs round out the top five providers of afterschool programs in the state.*
- On average, New Jersey families spend \$34 per week for afterschool programs.*

**Caution: Small Sample Size*

Findings from the America After 3 PM household survey are based on parent/guardian responses to survey questions about after school care arrangements during the 2002-2003 school year. GE Consumer Finance and RTi-DFD conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance, with support from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. A complete analysis of state-level data and a full report from the survey will be available later this year. National data and previews of state data are available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.