

Afterschool in New Mexico

Demand Grows,
Opportunity Shrinks



America After 3PM

America After 3PM is the nation's most comprehensive look at how children spend their time during the hours after school. Conducted roughly every five years, the 2020 report is the fourth edition of the survey. Previous reports were issued in 2004, 2009, and 2014.

America After 3PM serves as a resource for policy makers, educators, parents, and advocates on afterschool program participation, demand for afterschool programs, expectations and benefits and programs, and children who are alone and unsupervised during the after school hours.

America After 3PM 2020 is made possible by the generous support of the New York Life Foundation, Overdeck Family Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Altria Group, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Methodology Statement

America After 3PM includes data from 31,055 households. In New Mexico, 462 households and 371 children were screened for this study.

A minimum of 200 interviews were completed in every state and the District of Columbia online and supplemented by phone. Respondents are parents or guardians with a school age child in their household. The survey was offered in both English and Spanish. Interviews were completed January 27th-March 17th, 2020.

An Advisory Committee comprised of afterschool and research experts provided input on the design of the survey instrument.

5 Big Takeaways

- 1.** Unmet demand for afterschool has reached an all-time high
- 2.** Demand surges as parents see key benefits from afterschool
- 3.** Cost and access block participation, pointing to lack of affordable programs
- 4.** Inequities evident – barriers higher for families with low income
- 5.** Parents show strong support for expanding afterschool opportunities

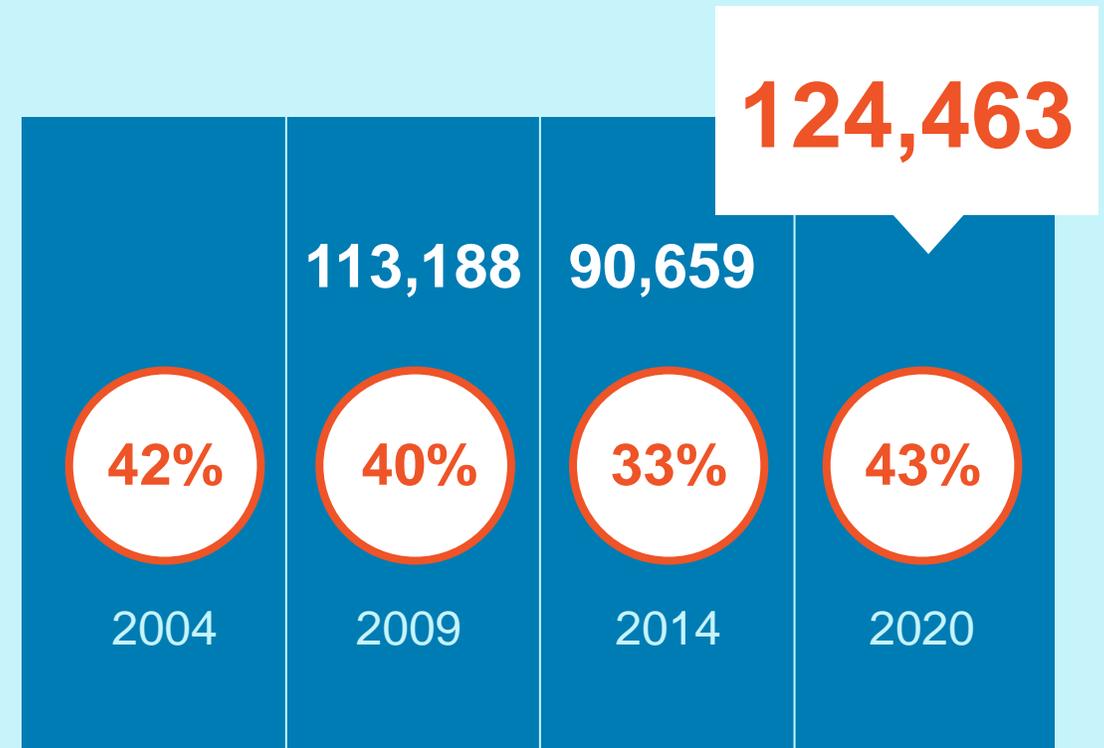
1.

Unmet demand for afterschool
has reached an all-time high

Unmet Demand for Afterschool Skyrockets

More than **124,000 New Mexico** children would enroll in an afterschool program, if one were available. This is the highest demand in the history of America After 3PM, and marks an increase of more than 11,000 children since 2009

Unmet demand for programs has **increased** since 2004



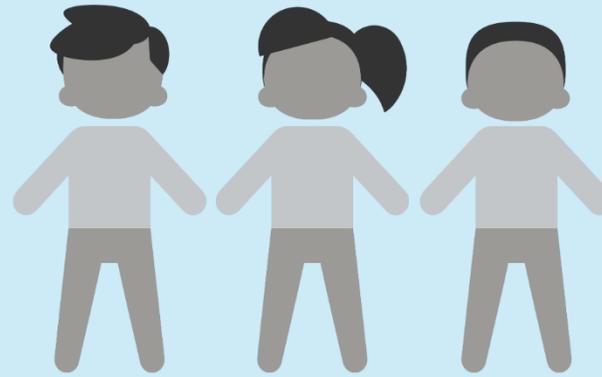
More Students Than Ever Are Missing Out



For every child in afterschool in New Mexico, **3 are waiting** for an available program.



Enrolled



Waiting

Groups with Greatest Unmet Demand

| GRADE LEVEL | LIKELY TO ENROLL |
|------------------|------------------|
| Elementary (K-5) | 43% |
| Middle (6-8) | 55% |
| High (9-12) | 34% |

| RACE | LIKELY TO ENROLL |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| White | 43% |
| Black | 58% |
| Hispanic | 40% |
| Asian | 28% |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 100% |
| Native American | 41% |

| FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCH | LIKELY TO ENROLL |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Qualify | 52% |
| Do Not Qualify | 48% |

Who's Alone After School in New Mexico?

The number of children alone and unsupervised during the hours after school reached its lowest level:

59,758 children in 2020

Down from the peak of **75,844** children in 2009

Since 2014, the number of unsupervised elementary schoolers decreased:

4,369* elementary school students in 2020

*A decrease of **3,878 students** since 2014



2.

Demand surges as parents see
key benefits from afterschool

Benefits Afterschool Programs Offer Students

Kids in afterschool in New Mexico enjoy a wide range of benefits:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|---|------------|
|  | Interacting with peers and building social skills | 88% |  | Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities | 64% |
|  | Receiving healthy snacks or meals | 73% |  | Taking part in physical activities | 78% |
|  | Getting help with homework | 65% |  | Building life skills | 56% |

Benefits Afterschool Programs Offer Parents

Parents in New Mexico agree with the benefits afterschool programs provide to families:

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|---|---|------------|
|  | Helps working parents keep their job | 85% |  | Provides kids opportunities to learn life skills, like the ability to communicate and work in teams | 83% |
|  | Keeps kids safe | 75% |  | Allows kids to build positive relationships with caring adults and mentors | 79% |
|  | Gives working parents peace of mind | 86% | | | |

Parent Satisfaction Hits All-Time High



92% of New Mexico parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

Extremely Satisfied

2020: 56%

2014: 50%

Total Satisfied

2020: 92%

2014: 92%

3.

Cost and access block
participation, pointing to lack
of affordable programs

Cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation

● 2014

● 2020



Programs are too expensive

49%

47%



Transportation issues, no safe way to and from program

40%

56%



Lack of available programs

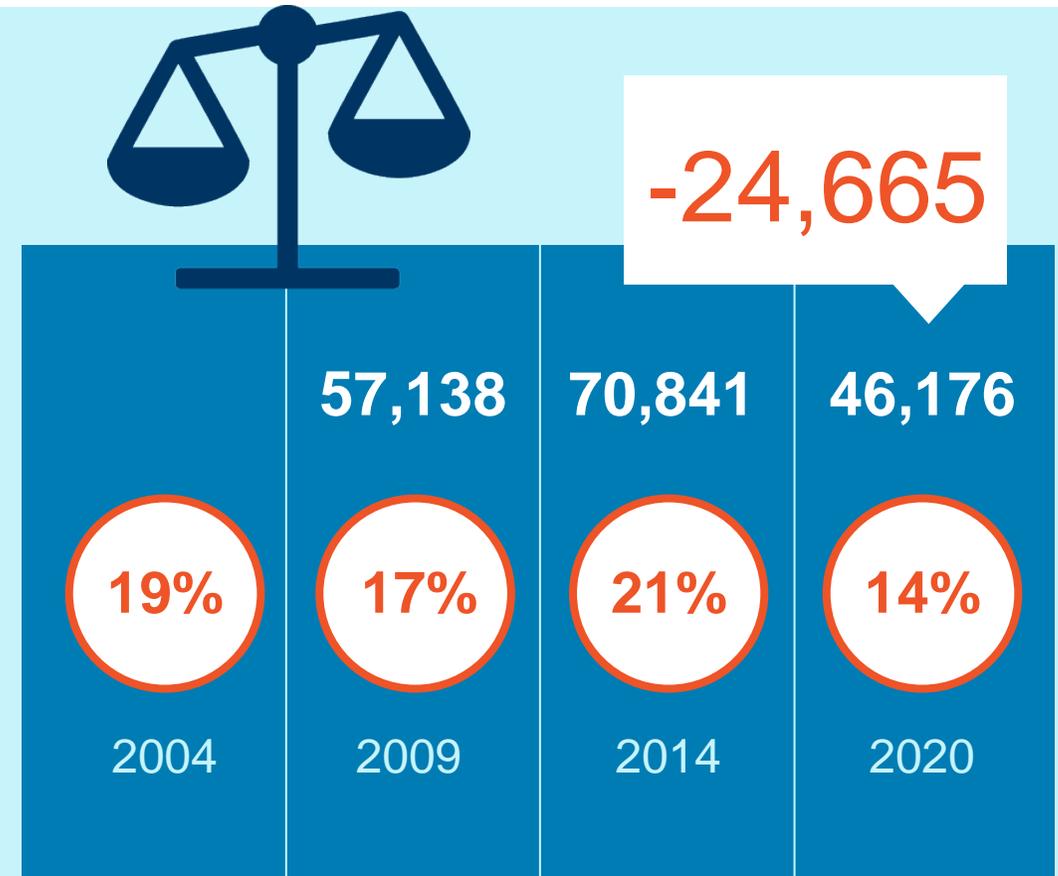
32%

32%

Afterschool Participation Declines

As high levels of parents reported barriers to participation, afterschool program participation in New Mexico saw a decrease for the first time ever.

For the first time in more than a decade, the number of kids in afterschool programs decreased.



Decline greatest among low-income families

The number of children in low-income households in afterschool fell 40%, from 4.6 million in 2014 to 2.7 million in 2020. Meanwhile the number of higher income children in afterschool decreased by a fraction of that amount; 446,000 over that same time period.

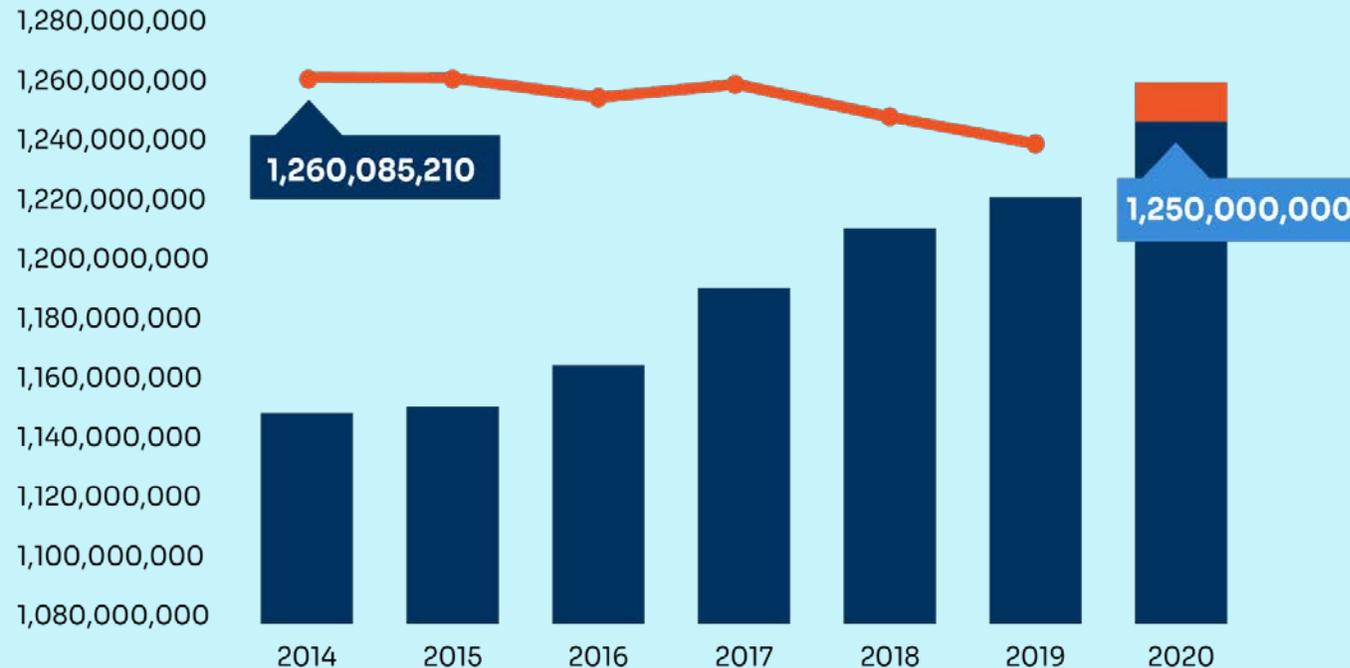


Afterschool funding has not kept up with the rate of inflation

Cost is a major driver behind the decline in participation among low-income families, and points to a lack of available affordable programs nationwide. The decline comes as public investments in afterschool programs have largely stalled and not kept up with growing demand.

Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st CCLC is the only federal funding stream dedicated exclusively to afterschool, before-school, and summer learning programs.



Adjusted for inflation, 21stCCLC funding in 2020 is actually \$10M below the 2014 level.

4.

Inequities evident – barriers
higher for families with low income

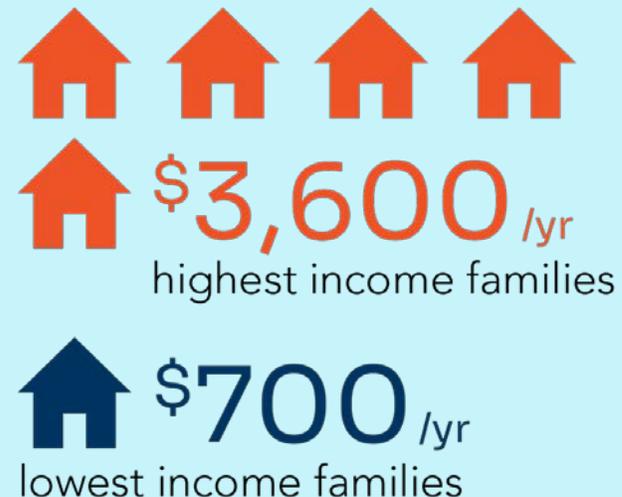
Barriers to participation are higher for low-income families

| | Higher-income household | Low-income household | Black, low-income household | Latinx low-income household |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  <p>Programs are too expensive</p> | 55% | 61% | 56% | 58% |
|  <p>Lack of available programs</p> | 40% | 44% | 47% | 43% |
|  <p>Transportation issues, no safe way to and from program</p> | 50% | 58% | 62% | 62% |

Kids from families with low-income are more likely to miss out



Families in the highest income bracket spend **5x** more on out-of-school time activities each year than families in the lowest income bracket.

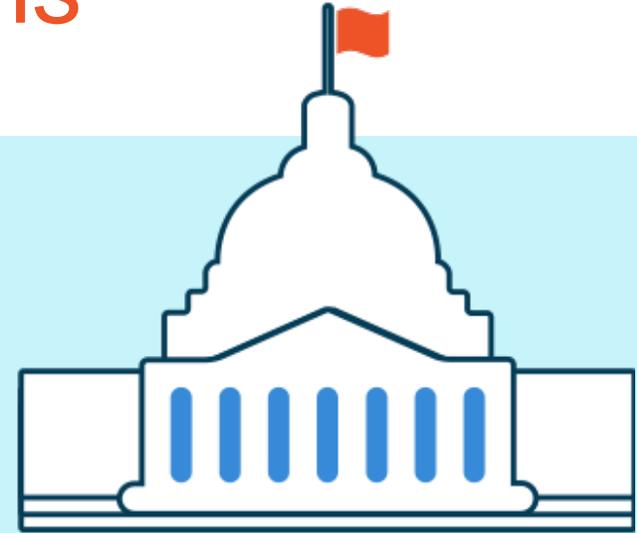


5.

Parents show strong support
for expanding afterschool
opportunities

More than 9 in 10 New Mexico parents support investment in afterschool programs

92% of New Mexico parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities



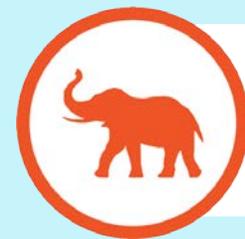
Support in New Mexico is strong and bipartisan:



97%
Democrats



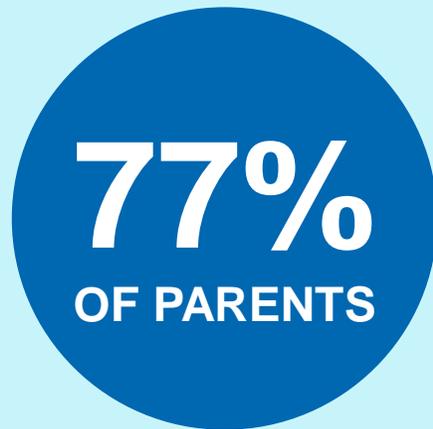
86%
Independents



93%
Republicans

Parents support additional funding for afterschool during COVID school closures

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, parents nationally continue to see afterschool programs as a resource to promote their child's growth and development while also helping parents maintain or find employment.



agreed that Congress should provide additional funding for afterschool programs to operate during virtual school days

Based on an October 2020 national survey of parents

Fall 2020 Parent Survey Findings

After COVID concerns, the main barriers to participating in afterschool remain very similar to pre-COVID.

DESPITE CONCERNS, DEMAND IS HIGH

Even amidst COVID, 49% of children would participate in a program if one were available

PARENT SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC FUNDING REMAINS VERY STRONG

85% (Oct.) vs. 87% (pre-COVID)



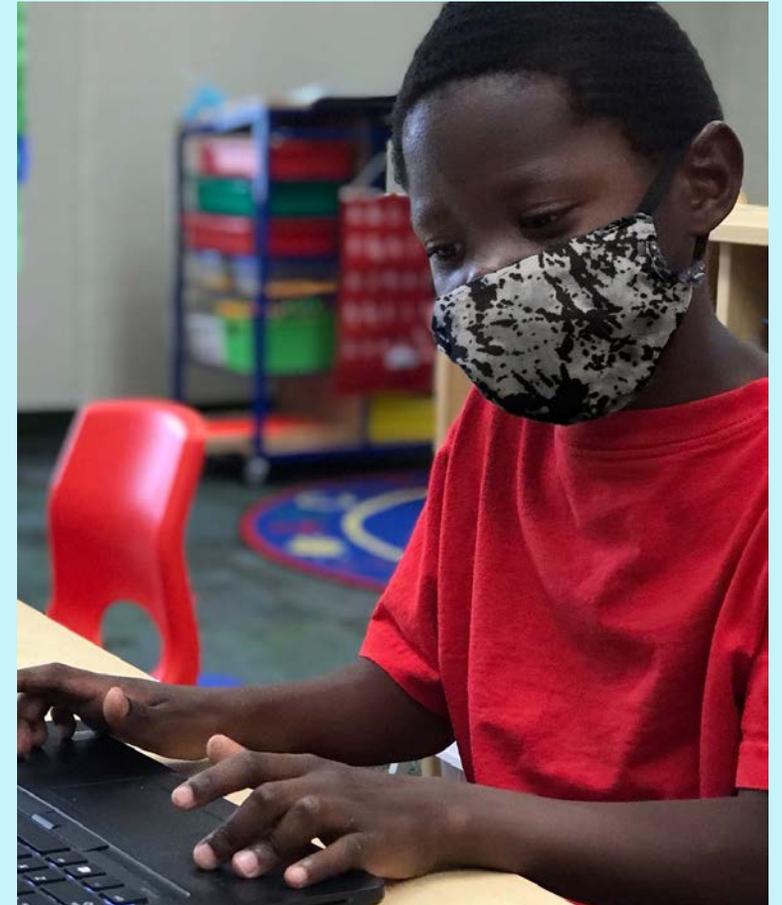
Fall 2020 Parent Survey Findings

PARENTS MANAGING, BUT WORRIED ABOUT KIDS:

- staying on track in school
- social and emotional well-being
- friendships
- screen time
- physical activity

PARENTS WANT OFFERINGS BEYOND ACADEMICS:

- physical activity
- opportunities to build life skills
- activities to excite them about learning
- social connections with peers



LEARN MORE:

www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM

