



## Palm Beach County After 3PM

In 2009, Palm Beach County parents/guardians were asked about their children's regular participation in various after school care arrangements, with a special focus on afterschool program participation and satisfaction. The *America After 3PM* survey identified the supply of and demand for afterschool programs, as well as the major barriers to program enrollment.

### After School Care Arrangements

- **33%** (63,831) of Palm Beach County's K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of **8** hours per week unsupervised after school.
- **34%** (65,765) of Palm Beach County's K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend **9** hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages **3** days per week.
- **63%** of Palm Beach County K-12 youth spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian.
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (**12%**), sibling care (**12%**) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (**39%**).

Notes: The maximum amount of time in after school care arrangements is limited to 15 hours per week, which reflects the after school hours of 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Care arrangements add up to greater than 100% due to multiple regular care arrangements for many children.

### Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs

- **84%** of Palm Beach County parents are satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.
- Palm Beach County parents cited convenient location (**71%**), affordability (**66%**) and child enjoyment (**57%**) as their top three reasons for selecting an afterschool program.

### Need or Demand for Afterschool

- **37%** of all Palm Beach County children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.
- Parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: by having fun, improving their workforce skills, staying safe and out of trouble, improving their social skills and taking advantage of opportunities for community service and learning.

### Barriers to Enrolling in Afterschool Programs

- After lack of need, the predominant obstacles to enrollment include preference for alternative activities, cost and concerns about program quality.





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### Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In Palm Beach County, the public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. Private schools, YMCAs, religious organizations and the city or town round out the top five providers of afterschool programs in the state.
- On average, Palm Beach County families spend **\$74** per week for afterschool programs.

### National and State Comparison

	<b>Palm Beach County %</b>	<b>Florida %</b>	<b>National %</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids in Self Care</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>

### About America After 3PM

In Palm Beach County, 231 households were surveyed for this study. Among those households, 23 percent qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 20 percent were Latino and 8 percent were African American. According to U.S. Census data from 2006 estimates, the total school-age population in Palm Beach County is 193,428, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Palm Beach County After 3PM.

*Findings from America After 3PM are based on 29,754 parent/guardian responses to survey questions about after school child care arrangements during the 2008-2009 school year. The data were collected between March and May, 2009. RTi, a market research firm, conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance, with support from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Additional information from America After 3PM is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

