

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

PROBLEM

What is the problem for Dallas County?

Leaving children and youth unsupervised, either after school from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. or when school is not in session, leads to negative behaviors such as substance abuse, delinquency, and early sexual encounters.

Why is this a problem for Dallas County?

The impact of adolescent substance abuse, juvenile crime, and teen pregnancy and parenting put a heavy financial and social burden on the community. Youth who become involved in alcohol and illicit drug abuse and juvenile crime, and those who become teen parents have a high rate of truancy, school failure, drop out, in ability to enter the workforce. Often they become a burden on the health care system, the justice system, and the welfare system, and not responsible, self-sufficient tax paying citizens.

What needs to be done to alleviate this problem?

To alleviate the problem, youth who are at high risk of becoming involved in substance abuse, juvenile crime and early sexual encounters need to be assessed to determine individual needs, and referred to programs that will not only supervise these youth during the after school hours when most of the undesirable behavior occurs, but also provide therapeutic and rehabilitative services.

Impact for Dallas County

Through this type of therapeutic and rehabilitative intervention, Dallas County should expect lower rates of adolescent substance abuse, juvenile crime, and teen pregnancy and the resulting social and economic benefit.

SUPPORTING STATISTICS

According to *Beyond ABC: Growing up in Dallas County* (Children's Medical Center, 2002), the lack of after-school programs for children and youth poses a safety threat to children and the entire community. There are an estimated 218,473, or 53.57%¹, of all children in Dallas County who can be identified as "economically disadvantaged" as defined by qualification for the free or reduced price lunch program. Many of these youth, particularly those ages 13–17 who remain unsupervised during after school hours, are in need of counseling, academic assistance and guidance to deter them from a destructive path. Children who live in poverty, who are experimenting with alcohol, inhalants and illicit drugs (44%),³ and who are suffering from high levels of anxiety and emotional distress (16%)⁴ need to be supported by programs that address risk factors and enhance the protective factors these youth experience. Trained professionals can best provide the counseling, education, and guidance needed by these at-risk youth to deter them from a path of truancy, school failure, and juvenile crime. Lack of sufficient funding is a key barrier limiting the availability of after-school programming that is therapeutic and skill based.

DATA CHARTS

RISK FACTORS FOR CHILD ENDANGERMENT, SCHOOL DROP OUT, AND JUVENILE CRIME

Risk Factors	1998	2000	2002
% of Youth Living in Poverty	20% ²	19.6% ²	22% ²
% of Youth from single parent homes	Not Available	27% ³	Not Available
% of Youth with minimal English proficiency	14% ²	15.5% ²	19.2% ²
% of Youth reporting alcohol and or drug use	31.9% ⁴	44.0% ⁴	44.8% Marijuana ⁴ 83.4% Alcohol ^{5,6}
# of Youth Referred to DCJD	10,777 ⁵	10,913 ⁵	9,814 ⁵

CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

School Districts

Many Independent School Districts (ISDs) provide after school programs in elementary school settings at selected sites serving hundreds of youth at little or no cost to the student; however, there are very few opportunities for youth over the age of 12 during after-school hours. In the years 2002- 2004 Carrollton-Farmers Branch schools and Dallas ISD schools Greiner, Holmes, Hood, Storey, and Zumwalt have after-school programs for middle school students with an academic focus. There are very few programs for children aged 13 and above that provide therapeutic activities rather than just academic programming. Richardson ISD is an exception to this general rule. RISD has after-school programs in all their middle schools, and Youth Services Council provides assistance for at-risk youth in Richardson ISD.

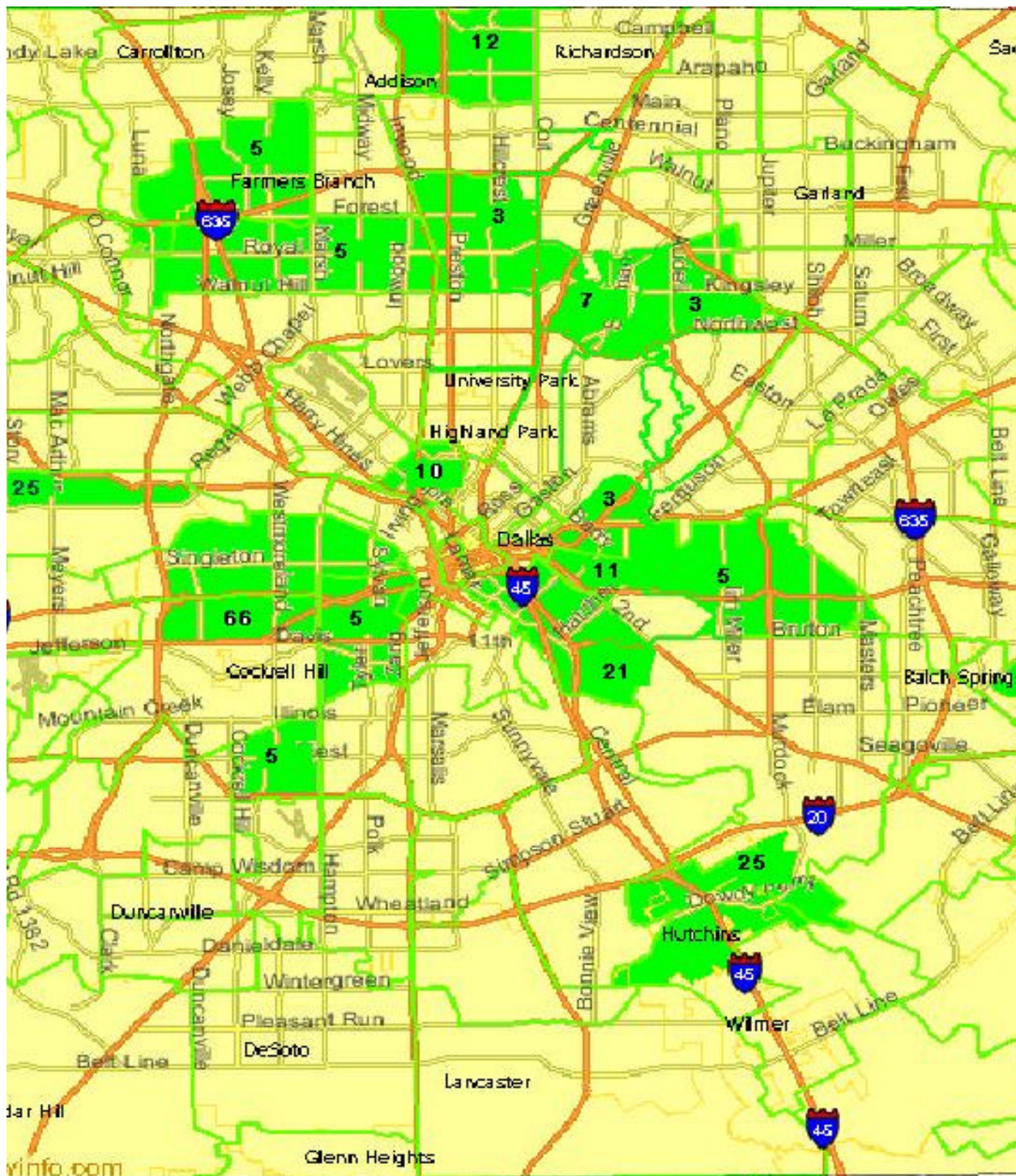
Many of the local school districts provide extensive academic and recreational after-school programs for elementary and middle school students. Dallas ISD has slots for 30,000 children and youth in school-based programs and in community-based programs in partnership with such organizations as the YWCA, YMCA, Arts Partners, Dallas Parks and Recreation, Junior Players, Young Audiences, Camp Fire, Girl Scouts, and special 21st Century programming. These programs serve as great prevention programs for a good portion of our school children. The gap in programming is after school programs that have rehabilitative components. After-school programming is needed for the kids who are not adapting well to their home and/or community to divert them from a path to the juvenile justice system.

The list below reflects districts that report providing services. Although it is possible that districts who failed to respond to our survey regarding provision of after school services actually do provide services in some form, this list reports the responses to our survey.

School Districts, Number in Need, and Public Elementary and Middle Schools Providing After-School Programs

Dallas County ISD	# of Economically Disadvantaged Students	Dropout Rate	Elementary After-school programs	Middle/High School After-school Programs
Carrollton-Farmers Branch	9,447	3.5%	2 schools for K - 5	0
Cedar Hill	1,686	3.2%	NR	RN
Coppell	255	1.1%	0	0
Dallas	124,518	6.3%	Various on campus & community-based tutoring and recreational programs	Various on campus & community-based tutoring & recreational programs for some middle schools
DeSoto	2,657	3.4%	0	0
Duncanville	4,340	1.7%	NR	NR
Garland	18,039	3.1%	NR	NR
Grand Prairie	11,319	7.0%	NR	NR
Highland Park	0	2.2%	0	0
Irving	18,473	3.5%	NR	NR
Lancaster	1,854	2.3%	Various community-based services used	Various community-based services used
Mesquite	10,242	3.2%	11 Title I school day integrated program	City Recreation Centers
Richardson	13,537	4.2%	Various services	Youth Services Council-600; Middle School Students 1,400
Sunnyvale	28	NA	0	0
Wilmer Hutchins	2,078	18.2%	NR	NR
TOTAL	218,471			

Source: Data compiled by After-school Sub-committee based on Texas Education Agency data and telephone survey, May 2003. NR – no response



Number of slots in After School Programs that offer therapeutic or rehabilitative programming for youth ages 12-17 in Dallas County

Community-based Programs

The need for after-school services may become even greater in FY03 with the threat of the loss of 138 slots (slots not included in the list below) due to the withdrawal of after school programming and GED preparation services by the Dallas County Juvenile Department due to serious funding deficits. At the end of FY03, there are an estimated 282 low- to no-cost slots for youth from 13-17 in community-based programs throughout the city to serve 160,000 youth in this age group, 64,000 of whom are in need of rehabilitation services. The following list indicates the zip codes in which there are after school programs that provide rehabilitative programming that have no- or low-cost slots for youth over the age of 12:

75006 – 10 slots	Bea's Kids
75061 – 25 slots	Irving Police Department
75181 – 20 slots	City of Mesquite
75204 – 10 slots	Roseland Homes Study Center
75208 – 5 slots	Girls, Inc.
75210 – 11 slots	South Dallas Cultural Center
75212 – 60 slots	Girls Inc., Marillac Social Center, Trinity River Mission
75216 – 66 slots	African American Men of Peace, Betty Lin Early Learning, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dallas, Rapture Productions, Project 75216, S.C. Joppa After School Program
75215 – 21 slots	Dallas Public Schools Extended Day Program, Exline Recreation Center, Girls, Inc.
77523 – 3 slots	Greater Dallas Community of Churches
75227 – 5 slots	Girls, Inc.
75228 – 6 slots	Shiloh Road Baptist Day Center
75229 – 5 slots	City of Dallas Community Recreation
75230 - 3 slots	Elsinore Group
75231 – 7 slots	Buckner Children & Family, Vickery Family Wellness Center
75233 – 5 slots	Girls, Inc.
75238 – 3 slots	Kid's Care Center
74241 – 5 slots	Cherry Valley Church of Christ, I Am That I Am
75248 – 12 slots	Parkhill After Hours, Westwood After Hours
Total: 282 slots for youth ages 13–17	

Data compiled by Substance Abuse Sub-committee using the Community Council of Greater Dallas *500 + Places for Kids, A Guide to Before and After School Programs in Dallas County November 2000*, updated and verified by telephone survey, May 2003.

GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY

The U.S. Center for Disease Control, Youth Risk Surveillance Report, 2001, indicates that of the 160,000 youth ages 13–17 in Dallas County, approximately 64,000 youth (40%) are in need of supervision, guidance, and/or therapeutic and other support services. These figures are based on the report of youth alcohol and drug use (44%), suicidal ideation (16%), violent behaviors (41%) and sexual behaviors (38%).

Clearly 282 slots are insufficient to supervise and provide support services for 64,000 youth who need some level of intervention. The problem is so great that after-school programs alone cannot provide the answer. Enhanced after-school programs should target those youth who are most at risk of juvenile crime and whose continued negative behaviors will most greatly impact

the community. It should also be recognized that intense prevention and intervention among children at early stages of development will help relieve some of the burden on our community and the juvenile justice system in dealing with the older youth.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal: To reduce juvenile crime by providing cost efficient non-school hour habilitation and rehabilitation programs for children and youth in Dallas County.

Objective #1: Provide skilled screening and assessment of children and youth to identify need of habilitation and rehabilitation services that can best be provided through intense after-school programming and supervision.

Objective #2: Increase low – no cost after-school programs in public schools.

Objective #3: Maintain efforts to provide prevention and early intervention services for young children to reduce the impact on the juvenile justice system in the future.

Objective #4: Increase number of community-based slots for youth 13–17.

Objective #5: Expand the character and responsibility training in the schools and in all after school programs.

Objective #6: Set up data gathering system to measure outcome of increase in services.

Budget:

An enriched After School program with assessment, individual education plan, tutoring, individual, group, and family counseling, life skills training, pre-employment training, and recreational activities cost about \$3,000 per youth for a three month program of 4 hours per day, 5 days per week including evening meal and transportation from school to facility and then home at the need of the day. This is at the rate of \$12.50/hour.

EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES

Outcome #1: Increase in number of non-school hour slots for children and youth in programs that address the risk and protective factors related to juvenile crime.

Measurement: Survey, Numeric Count

Outcome #2: Decrease in negative behaviors and resulting juvenile crime.

Measurement: Collect Data regarding reports of school violence, drug possession, teen pregnancy and truancy through school reports, police reports, arrest reports, Health Department Reports and Census, and Juvenile department reports.

Outcome #3: Decrease juvenile crime during after school hours by 20% in the areas providing programming and supervision of youth ages 13–17.

Measurement: Based on reported juvenile crime in areas where programs are placed.

REFERENCES

1. Texas Education Agency, Reduced Lunch Program Report, Dallas County, PEIMS
2. U.S. Census 2000, Texas Data Center, State Population Estimates Program
3. Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Dallas County; (Children's Medical Center 2002)
4. Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Report, 2001.
5. Dallas County Juvenile Department 2002 Annual Report
6. Texas School Survey of Substance Use Among Students: Grades 7–12, 2002, Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse