



**YOUTH PARTICIPATION
IN SELECTED AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
IN THE GREATER FORT WORTH AREA
DURING SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013**

**Prepared for
The City of Fort Worth
Parks and Community Services Department**

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS IN THE GREATER FORT WORTH AREA

The City of Fort Worth's Parks and Community Services Department is leading the Fort Worth SPARC afterschool initiative as part of a multiyear capacity building grant from The Wallace Foundation. The goal of the initiative is to increase access to and participation in high quality afterschool programs for children and youth in the greater Fort Worth area. Having reliable data about existing youth programs occurring after school is a key building block to support that goal.

Scope of the Report

In the fall of 2011, a group of afterschool providers and interested community members were invited to join a Data Task Team to determine a list of data elements that would form the foundation of an inventory of afterschool programs. At the end of 2012-13 school year, members of the Task Team provided detailed data about the locations where programs had been offered and the number of children and youth served.

The scope for the 2012-13 pilot data collection effort was limited to the following:

1. Comprehensive programs that offered a variety of activities at each site and operated for three or more days a week
2. Organizations who operate programs at multiple sites within the greater Fort Worth area
Contributing organizations:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth	Fort Worth Parks and Community Service Department
Camp Fire USA-First Texas Council	Northwest Independent School District
Castleberry Independent School District	United Community Centers
Clayton YES!	YMCA
Fort Worth Independent School District	
3. Data on activities that occurred only in the afterschool hours, not activities offered before school, during school breaks, holidays, weekends or summers

The time period covered was the 2012-2013 school year for the school-based programs and September through May for the year round community-based programs. In addition to average daily attendance and overall enrollment, providers were asked for aggregated demographic information such as gender, age, grade level, race, ethnicity, and subsidies granted. Only aggregated data was collected, not any information on individual children. Also, included in this report are some results from a snapshot of average daily attendance for a week in February 2012 collected previously.

Not all organizations were able to provide all the information requested in the pilot, but the tables and charts in the report contain as much information as was available. As the data collection tools and processes become more streamlined, requests for information to other afterschool service providers will be forthcoming.

Enrollment and Attendance Rates

Over the course of the 2012-2013 school year, 29,095 children and youth were enrolled in afterschool programming at schools and community centers operated by the organizations in the study. The total average daily attendance for the year was 12,260 at those same facilities.

To understand the data in the report, it is important to be aware of the different ways participation data can be collected and to know that each measures a different set of information. Several kinds of measurements are used in this report for different time periods, so they should not be used to compare year over year results.

Common participation measurements include:

- a snapshot in time for a particular day, week or month (used in a February 2012 study that is cited)
- total enrollment for all participants who register to attend a program during a certain period (used in the pilot)
- average of daily attendance for certain periods of time (i.e., school year 2012-2013; used in the pilot)
- dosage, a fairly new term, which indicates participation rates above a minimum amount (i.e., number of children attending programs 30 days or more; not used in the pilot.)

Readers will need to note that the 2012 data cited represent a “snapshot” of a particular week in February, a month with typically high overall participation rates. However, the pilot project for school year 2012-2013 includes two measurements: average daily attendance covering a nine-month period, which includes significant seasonal variations in participation rates, as well as total enrollments of youth who participated at any time during the school year. The difference in number of participants shown in the report is a function the distinct ways of collecting data and does not reflect lower participation rates or suggest a decline of interest in afterschool programming from year to year.

Average daily attendance figures reported were generally about 50-70% lower than the total enrollment figures. There are many reasons for this and significant differences are to be expected. Percentage rates vary by type of provider, program structure, time of the year, types of activities offered, mobility of families and interest by children and youth. Programs for elementary school children whose families use afterschool programs for child care have lower attrition rates than programs for middle school and high school youth. Older youth often make their own decisions about participation, unlike the younger children.

With comprehensive programs, there is generally one provider at each location that is responsible for all activities and coordination of any single focus or “partial service” providers that may operate under its umbrella. This practice avoids duplication in accounting for youth participation within each location.

Providers operated a total of 228 programs either in community settings, at private schools or within area public school districts. Of these sites, 196 (86%) were located at schools and 32 (14%) were at community-based sites. Two area school districts, Everman and Lake Worth ISD, did not report comprehensive afterschool programming in their schools.

A summary of programs at school campuses and in the community is listed below. A more detailed table of youth participation rates in particular school districts are on the next page.

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR SUMMARY OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION			
Locations	Number of Locations	Average Daily Attendance	Overall Enrollment
Schools	196 (86%)	10,600	22,432
Community Sites	32 (14%)	1,660	6,663
Total	228	12,260	29,095

2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR SUMMARY OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT SELECTED AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AT SCHOOL LOCATIONS											
	SNAPSHOT, FEBRUARY 2012* (Reported rates for short periods are higher than long periods.)					SCHOOL YEAR 2012-13					
School District	School population in 2011-12	Total number of schools in district	Number of schools in afterschool programs	Average Daily Attendance (ADA) SNAPSHOT	% of ADA per total school population	School population in 2012-13	Number of schools with afterschool programs	Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for SCHOOL YEAR	Overall ENROLLMENT	% of ADA per total school population	Providers
Aledo ISD	Not collected					4,712	4	130	181	3%	Camp Fire
Azle ISD	Not collected					5,912	2	29	55	0.5%	Northwest YMCA
Birdville	Not collected					24,119	4	95	152	0.3%	Clayton YES
Castleberry ISD	3,660	5	3	212	6%	3,808	3	173	850	0.05%	21st Century
Crowley ISD	15,012	24	15	541	4%	15,000	14	408	558	3%	Ryan YMCA
Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD	17,108	22	11	337	2%	17,674	13	593	847	3%	Northwest YMCA
Everman ISD	5,325	11	0	0	0%	5,385	0	0	0	0%	No provider
Fort Worth ISD	82,853	142	108	11,903	14%	83,355	109	7694	17,834	9%	*Multiple Providers
Keller ISD	33,017	38	24	1,004	3%	33,254	24	769	1081	2%	Clayton YES
Lake Worth ISD	3,142	5	0	0	0%	3,243	0	0	0	0%	No provider
Northwest ISD	16,556	27	16	480**	3%	17,752	16	548**	550**	3%	Champions
White Settlement ISD	6,384	10	3	89	1%	6,514	3	66	135	1%	Westside YMCA
Charter/Private	Not collected					***	4	95	189		Clayton YES
Total School Sites***	183,057	284	180	14,566		220,728	196	10,600	22,432		

*FWISD numbers include free programs in Fort Worth After School, as well as fee-based programs operated by others on school campuses. Providers include Camp Fire, Clayton YES!, Parks & Community Services Department and YMCA Eastside, Northwest, Ryan, Southwest and Westside. Some sites are operated by the schools themselves.

**Northwest ISD numbers are based on an estimate for 2012 and on a snapshot for 2012-13.

*** School population numbers for private schools were not available.

Community-based Locations

Community-based programs play important role in afterschool programming and last year engaged 1,600 youth on an average daily basis. Enrollment totaled 6,663 during the school year for the Boys & Girls Clubs, Camp Fire's Diamond Hill Station, United Community Centers and the City of Fort Worth's afterschool programs at community centers.

Community agency and City Facilities	February, 2012		School Year 2012-2013		
	Number of Sites Reporting	Snapshot of Participation	Number of Sites	Average Daily Attendance	Total Enrollment
Boys and Girls Clubs	6	879	6	797	5,488
Camp Fire USA	1	27	1	20	33
Parks & Community Services Dept.	19	987	19	576	777
United Community Centers	3	245	3	178	205
YMCA Facilities	2	61	3	89	160
Totals	31	2,199	32	1660	6,663

The Boys & Girls Clubs represent 83% of all enrollments in the community-based sites and 50% of the average daily attendance. The community-based programs varied greatly by number of program participants, which reflect the size of facilities and the nature of the activities offered. The largest site had an average daily attendance of 238 and the smallest had five participants.

Next year the initiative will ask other community-based providers to report their participation numbers. Thus, an increase in number of youth engaged, particularly in non-school sites, is expected to rise.

Participant Demographics

The following statistics are based on enrollment data submitted from 209 of the 228 programs in the study.

Gender

Most programs serve about equal numbers of girls and boys. In aggregate, the ratio of girls to boys is 49% to 51% respectively.

Use of Program Subsidies

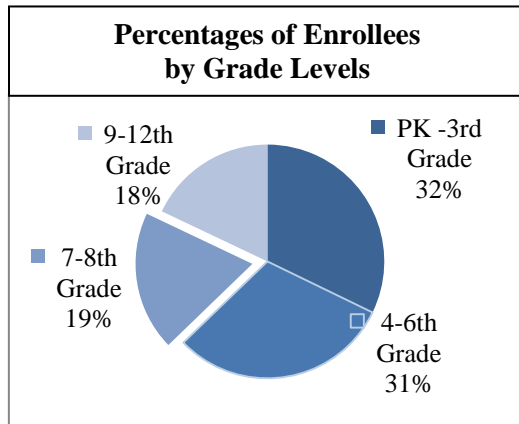
Funding for afterschool programs come from program fees provided by the parents and/or from a number of public and private funding sources. An estimated 88% of all enrollments were at programs that subsidized participation to help low-income families have access to the enrichment opportunities for their children.

Much of the assistance comes from governmental sources, including the Texas Education Agency via 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, Fort Worth Independent School District, the City of Fort Worth's Crime Control and Prevention District or Community Development Block Grant or the Texas Workforce Commission via Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. Other youth were subsidized by funds raised privately by the nonprofit organizations, such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Clayton YES, United Community Centers and the YMCA.

Age and Grades of Participants

A majority of the programs are utilized by families with young children, with 63% of programs serving children in Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade. By the time that a youth reached middle school, the number of available programs was greatly decreased, although the number of youth served/grade remains comparable.

Only Boys & Girls Clubs, Castleberry and Fort Worth ISD high schools offered programs for older youth.



Note: Approximately 9% of the enrollment data collected did not include participant ages or grades.

Grade Levels of Enrollees		Count of Programs per Grade Level	
Grade PK	176	Grade PK	28
Grade K	1,148	Grade K	107
Grade 1	1,973	Grade 1	118
Grade 2	2,161	Grade 2	133
Grade 3	3,037	Grade 3	144
Grade 4	2,752	Grade 4	143
Grade 5	2,604	Grade 5	126
Grade 6	2,716	Grade 6	43
Grade 7	2,483	Grade 7	36
Grade 8	2,604	Grade 8	30
Grade 9	1,388	Grade 9	20
Grade 10	1,203	Grade 10	18
Grade 11	1,142	Grade 11	17
Grade 12	1,003	Grade 12	17
Total	26,390		

Race and ethnicity of participants

The organizations that could provide data on the race and ethnicity of participants are shown below. About 85% of participants were Hispanic or African-American.

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF ENROLLED YOUTH*									
	Number of sites reporting	Hispanic	Black/African American	White	Asian	Amer.Indian/Alaska Native	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Totals
Birdville ISD	4	19	5	86	2	1	-	-	113
Charter/Private	4	17	31	116	17	-	-	-	181
Community Based**	9	2,201	3,095	251	15	8	-	114	5,684
Fort Worth ISD***	101	9,784	5,513	1,348	404	33	26	221	17,329
Keller ISD	24	179	133	688	55	9	2	0	1,066
Northwest ISD	16	110	33	369	16	3	1	14	546
TOTAL	158	12,310	8,810	2,858	509	54	29	349	24,919
Percent of total		49.4%	35.3%	11.4%	2.0%	0.2%	0.1%	1.4%	

*Not all providers were able to report race and ethnicity.

** Boys & Girls Clubs and United Community Centers reported race/ethnicity.

***Providers at 11 FWISD sites did not report race/ethnicity.

Recommendations for Future Data Collection Efforts

A considerable amount of data was collected this year from nine service providers. Each organization ran reports internally to be able to complete the SPARC Data Collection Excel spreadsheet with the data points requested. Some organizations had comprehensive MIS systems and could do this easily, but for others it took more staff time to find and assemble the information. Even with the larger systems, some data points were not captured by their systems and so could not be aggregated for this report.

Since continuous improvement is the goal for the SPARC initiative, it is important that the Data Task Team carefully review this report and suggest changes to the data elements collected and to the process used to collect it. Some items for discussion could include:

Type of data elements collected and their usefulness

1. A clear understanding needs to be developed about which participation or demographic data elements are useful.
2. A decision needs to be made about how to account for participation for youth involved in before-school sessions, as well as sessions after school. Some children only attended in the mornings and their attendance was not captured in the inventory. One provider voluntarily submitted information about before-school programs.

Process of data collection

1. It would be very helpful to host a webinar or short training session with staff that actually complete the report to explain about how the data elements should be calculated to ensure consistency in reporting among providers.
2. It will be important to work with providers to schedule a data collection deadline that will be convenient for them and adhere to a firm cutoff for reporting.
3. Explore providing some small personal incentives, such as gift cards, for provider staff creating the reports to encourage timely submission of reports.
4. The data collection template needs to include the unique SPARC location identifier number and if the program is located at a school, the name of the school district with which it is associated.

Maintenance of confidentiality for site level data submitted

1. A promise was made when the data was collected that SPARC would not release site-level participation data without an organization's permission. This practice should be continued.
2. Aggregate information by school district and by provider was permitted.

Expanding the data collection efforts

1. The next data collection effort needs to involve the for-profit afterschool providers as well as other organizations that have ongoing comprehensive services.
2. As capacity is available, participation data from other youth development organizations that provide stand-alone youth programs needs to be added.

We are grateful to The Wallace Foundation for funding the Fort Worth SPARC initiative and to the Data Task Team members and staff who submitted the data to be included in the report. Without their support, this report would not be possible. Care was taken to be as accurate as possible with data. Should you find errors in the report, please contact Kathy.Livingston@gmail.com.