

Summertime in America for Latinx Families and Communities



Introduction

Although the official start of summer is not yet here, conversations about what the summer of 2021 will look like for children and families have long been underway to help young people recover as the pandemic’s impact continues to stretch out across the country. The report, *Time for a Game-Changing Summer, With Opportunity and Growth for All of America’s Youth*, released in May 2021, finds that as participation in summer programs prior to the pandemic was on an upwards trajectory, there remained a significant number of children missing out. For every child in a summer learning program in 2019, another would have been enrolled in a program if one were available.

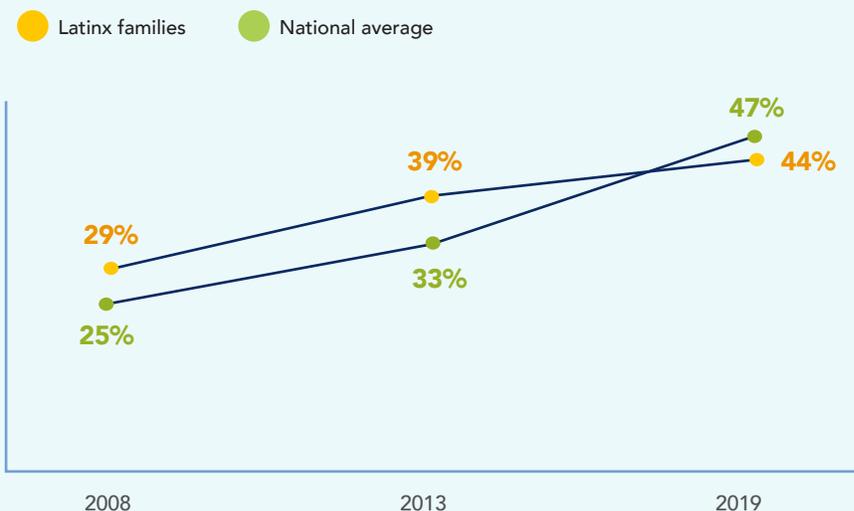
Among Latinx or Hispanic families, the demand for summer programs, both met and unmet demand, is also strong. Half of Latinx or Hispanic children were in a summer program in 2019, or would have been enrolled in a program if one were available to them.¹ For Latinx families, the summer is viewed as a time for infinite possibilities, where in addition to high demand for summer programs there are also high expectations for their children’s summer programs. The value of summer programs among Latinx families remained steadfast during the pandemic, with 4 in 5 Latinx parents agreeing with the statement that, “all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.”

Upward trajectory for participation in summer programs

The current edition of America After 3PM finds that the highest percentage of Latinx families report at least one child participated in a summer learning program in 2019 compared to previous years of the study. Forty-four percent of Latinx families report a child was involved in a summer program, an increase from 39 percent in 2013 and 29 percent in 2008. This translates into more than 2.7 million Latinx children (19 percent) who took part in a structured summer experience—which includes participation in a summer learning program, sports program, summer camp, summer school, or summer job or internship, and is different from child care—during the 2019 summer. The percentage of Latinx families reporting that they had a child in a summer program was greater than the national average in previous

Figure 1: Summer participation was on an upward trajectory

Percentage of families reporting at least one child attended a summer program



¹ “Latinx” and “Hispanic” are used interchangeably throughout this brief to reflect the survey questionnaire answer option of “Latinx or Hispanic.” “White” is capitalized for the purposes of this brief as referring to a racial and ethnic group of people.



Figure 2: During the 2019 summer, Latinx children took part in a wide range of structured summer experiences

Percentage of children taking part in various structured summer experiences



editions of the survey, however, for the first time the national average is now above that of Latinx families (47 percent vs. 44 percent) (Figure 1).

The growth in participation may be explained by the share of Latinx parents satisfied with their child's structured summer experience. More than 2 in 3 Latinx parents (67 percent) report that they were extremely satisfied with their child's structured summer experience. In total, 96 percent report that they were satisfied overall.



Parent satisfaction is high.

96% of Latinx parents are satisfied with their child's structured summer experience.

Non-STEM specialty camps or programs are the most common structured summer experience among Latinx children (9.7 percent), followed closely by voluntary summer programs (7.6 percent). Less common summer experiences include STEM camps (3.3 percent), summer school for credit or enrichment (3.1 percent), a summer job or internship (2.2 percent), and mandatory summer school (1.7 percent).

Compared to the national average, Latinx children are slightly less likely to be in the structured summer experiences asked about, with the exception of STEM camp (Figure 2).

Among Latinx families with a child in a structured summer experience, most reported that their child was in one type of summer activity (59 percent), while 24 percent report that their child took part in two types of activities and 17 percent say that their child took part in three or more types of structured summer experiences. More than 5 in 6 (87 percent) Latinx families with a child in a structured summer experience report that their child was in a voluntary summer program or specialty camp or program, including STEM, arts, drama, or sports camps or programs.

On average during the 2019 summer, Latinx children participated in summer activities between 4.1 and 5.9 hours a day, from 3.6 to 5.1 weeks during the summer. Not including summer jobs or internships, Latinx children on average spent the most time in voluntary summer programs (5.9 hours a day for 4.6 weeks) and the least amount of time in summer school for credit or enrichment (4.1 hours a day for 4.2 weeks).

Community-based organizations, city or town facilities including parks and recreation departments, and schools are the most common providers of voluntary summer programs and non-STEM specialty camps or programs. There is very little difference where Latinx children participate in structured summer activities

compared to children overall, however, Latinx families reporting that their child participates in a non-STEM specialty camp at a city or town facility is statistically higher than parents overall (34 percent vs. 25 percent).



Structured summer experiences by the numbers

Voluntary summer programs	Non-STEM specialty camps or programs (e.g., arts, sports, drama, etc.)	STEM camps	Summer jobs/ internships	Optional summer school	Mandatory summer school
4.6 Average number of weeks	4.1 Average number of weeks	3.6 Average number of weeks	5.1 Average number of weeks	4.2 Average number of weeks	4.1 Average number of weeks
5.9 Average hours per day	5.2 Average hours per day	5.7 Average hours per day	5.5 Average hours per day	4.1 Average hours per day	4.7 Average hours per day
\$178.60 Average weekly cost*	\$196.10 Average weekly cost*	\$283.30 Average weekly cost*	N/A	\$178.40 Average weekly cost*	N/A
Top 3 Locations	Top 3 Locations	Top 3 Locations	Top 3 Locations	Top 3 Locations	Top 3 Locations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community-based organization (34%) City or town facility (33%) School (27%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> City or town facility (34%) School (26%) Other (19%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> College or university (37%) School (32%) City or town facility (15%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> School (35%) Other (33%) Community-based organization (20%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> School (70%) Other (12%) Museum or science center (9%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> School (55%) City or town facility (29%) Other (11%)

*Among parents who report that they pay a fee



High hopes for the summer

Hispanic parents' expectations for their child's summer are high, in particular compared to parents overall and to White parents, and when compared to their priorities for the school year. In the America After 3PM survey, parents were asked to say how important a series of items were in determining what their child did during the summer. Among the 16 items asked about, Hispanic parents were

statistically more likely than White parents to say that more than half of the items asked about were extremely important in their selection of a summer activity, including convenient hours, physical activity, building life skills, and the program providing a variety of activities.

Safety of environment (86 percent) and knowledgeable and caring staff (84 percent) stand out as the factors that are of most

importance to Hispanic families when deciding what their children will do during the summer (Figure 3). At the same time, there are large differences between Hispanic and White parents reporting that college or career exploration (52 percent vs. 32 percent), programming to reduce risky behaviors (56 percent vs. 38 percent), and STEM learning opportunities (52 percent vs. 35 percent) are of extreme importance to them (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Safety and staff quality are key drivers in summer program selection, but convenient hours, physical activity, opportunities to build life skills, and a variety of activities are also priorities for Latinx parents

Percentage of Latinx parents reporting the select following items were extremely important in choosing what their child does over the summer



Figure 4: For Hispanic parents, academics and programming to reduce risky behaviors are of much more import compared to White parents

Percentage of Latinx and White parents reporting the select following items were extremely important in choosing what their child does over the summer



Comparing priorities for the summer and the school year, Latinx parents were more likely to say almost all factors asked about were extremely important in selecting what their child

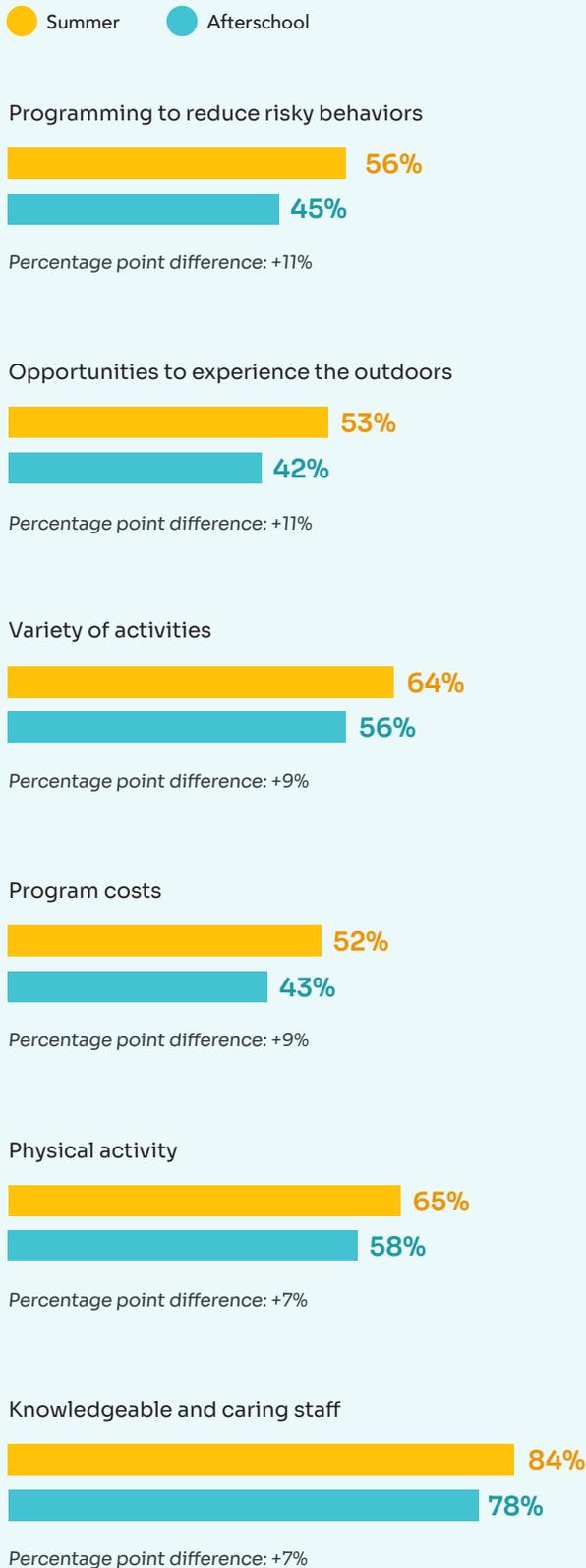
did during the summer than when selecting an afterschool program. The largest differences in priority include programming to reduce risky behaviors (56 percent vs. 45 percent),

opportunities to experience the outdoors (53 percent vs. 42 percent), variety of activities (64 percent vs. 56 percent), and program costs (52 percent vs. 43 percent) (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Latinx parents' priorities for the summer look different than the school year

Percentage of Latinx parents reporting the following items were extremely important in choosing what their child does over the summer and in the selection of their child's afterschool program



SUMMER IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: Families continued to need summer programming during the pandemic

In 2020, participation in summer programs was down as programs closed or cut back offerings during the pandemic, yet nearly 3 in 10 Latinx families (28 percent) report that their child participated in a structured summer experience, which included voluntary summer programs, summer school classes, specialty camps or programs, or summer jobs or internships in 2020. Among Latinx families with a child in a structured summer experience in 2020, a majority report that the experience was virtual (56 percent), 26 percent report that it was in person, and 18 percent report a hybrid model. Satisfaction with summer offerings also remained high, with 9 in 10 Latinx parents (91 percent) reporting that they were satisfied with their child's summer program.

5.3 Average weeks during the summer	4.6 Average hours per day	91% Parents satisfied with their child's primary structured summer experience
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Top 5 activities and supports parents report as extremely important in selecting their child's summer experience during the pandemic

◆ Safety and cleaning precautions against the coronavirus	74%
◆ Opportunities to build life skills	73%
◆ Safe environment	72%
◆ Knowledgeable and caring staff	67%
◆ Variety of activities	55%

Top 3 locations

◆ Community-based organization	28%
◆ School	26%
◆ City or town facility	11%



Significant unmet demand for summer programs, with challenges regarding access

Despite the growth in Latinx families reporting their child is participating in a summer program, there remains significant unmet demand for summer programs, with nearly 4.4 million Latinx children (38 percent) not in a summer program who would have been enrolled if a program were available to them. At the household level, 67 percent of Latinx families without a child in a summer program report that they would enroll their child in a program if one were available to them. While higher than the national level (57 percent), it is a decrease from 2009, when unmet demand among Latinx families was at 70 percent (Figure 6).

The cost of programs and families doing other things together during the summer are the primary reasons Latinx parents say they did not enroll their child in a summer program during 2019 (39 percent and 38 percent, respectively). Similar to the national average, 1 in 5 Latinx parents report that issues with transportation (21 percent) and not knowing what programs are available (20 percent) factored into their decision not to enroll their child in a summer program.

Comparing differences by race and ethnicity, White parents were statistically more likely than Latinx parents to say that their family did other things during the summer (42 percent vs. 38 percent), no programs or spaces in programs relevant to their child's needs or interests were available (18 percent vs. 13 percent), or summer programs were not available in their community (14 percent vs. 11 percent) (Figure 7).



SUMMER IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: Unmet demand for summer programming remains high

In the midst of the pandemic, 43 percent of Latinx families without a child in a summer program would have enrolled their child if a program were available. Concerns about COVID-19 were a factor behind a majority of Latinx parents' choice to not enroll their child in a summer program (58 percent) in 2020, although more than 4 in 10 parents (43 percent) report that the unavailability of summer programs in their community factored into their decision as well.

A summer 2020 survey of program providers found that, on average, summer programs served approximately half as many children in 2020 as they served in 2019 due to social distancing guidelines and reduced student-to-staff ratios.



Among program providers providing in-person services, 40 percent reported having a waitlist for their summer program in 2020.

In a February/March 2021 survey of program providers, most providers (79 percent) report that they plan to provide programming during the 2021 summer, and more than one-third (36 percent) say that they are most concerned about their ability to meet the demand from families.

Figure 6: Unmet demand for summer programs

Percentage of families without a child in a summer program who would enroll them if a program were available

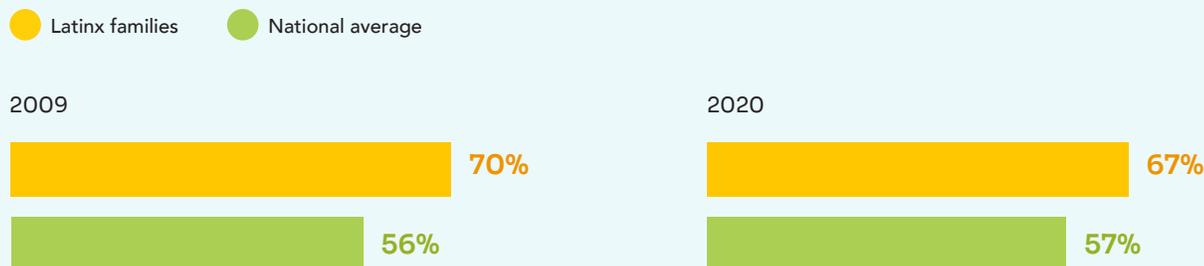


Figure 7: Top five reasons families reported why they chose not to enroll their child in a summer program

Latinx families

1	Programs too expensive	39%
2	Family does other things over the summer	38%
3	Issues with location or transportation	21%
4	I don't know what programs are available for my child	20%
5	No programs, or spaces in programs, were available relevant to my children's needs or interests	13%

White families

1	Family does other things over the summer	42%
2	Programs too expensive	40%
3	Issues with location or transportation	19%
4	I don't know what programs are available for my child	18%
5	No programs, or spaces in programs, were available relevant to my children's needs or interests	18%

Latinx parents express strong support for public funding of summer learning opportunities

Support for public funding of summer learning opportunities is extremely high among Latinx parents, with 9 in 10 Latinx parents in favor overall and 62 percent strongly in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities for young people in underserved communities. Latinx parents' in favor of public funding is statistically higher than White parents and parents overall (88 percent, all).

Support is slightly higher than the percentage of Latinx parents reporting that they were in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities in 2014 (88 percent), but has not yet reached the high of 2009, when 91 percent of Latinx parents were in favor (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Support for summer learning opportunities remains strong

Percentage of Latinx parents reporting they are in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities



SUMMER IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: 5 in 6 parents support public funding of summer learning opportunities

In an October 2020 nationwide survey of parents, 84 percent of Latinx report that they are in favor of public funding for summer



learning opportunities for students in communities that have few opportunities for children and youth, demonstrating that public support for summer programming remains high during the pandemic. The same survey finds that 4 in 5 Latinx parents agree with the statement that, "all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs."





About the survey

America After 3PM is a national survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, screening 31,055 households and having 14,393 households completing in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and Washington D.C., between January 27 and March 17, 2020. Where the minimum could not be met, supplemental telephone interviews were conducted. A total of 29,595 households, including 4,096 Latinx households, were surveyed and answered questions regarding ways in which their child or children were cared for during the summer of 2019. Data was collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. Projections for child-level data represent the 14.3 million Latinx children and youth in the United States based on numbers from the Census Bureau's October 2018 Current Population Survey.

Also included throughout this report are findings from parent and program provider surveys: two nationally representative online surveys of parents, one fielded August 4-18, 2020 of 1,071 parents of school-aged children and the other fielded October 12-29, 2020 of 1,202 parents of school-aged children; and three online program provider surveys, a survey of 1,047 afterschool and summer learning program providers, conducted July 20-August 31, 2020, a survey of 1,445 program providers conducted between September 28-October 27, 2020, and a survey of 1,235 program providers conducted February 19-March 15, 2021. All surveys were conducted by Edge Research.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: afterschoolalliance.org/aa3pm.

The America After 3PM special report, *Time for a Game-Changing Summer, With Opportunity and Growth for All of America's Youth*, is based on research commissioned and funded by The Wallace Foundation as part of its mission to foster equity and improvements in learning and enrichment for young people, and in the arts for everyone by supporting and sharing effective ideas and practices.

Data from this special report is based on the 2020 America After 3PM survey results, made possible with support from the New York Life Foundation, Overdeck Family Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Altria Group, and the Walton Family Foundation, as well as the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

