

Summer: The Forgotten Period

Summer is the most dangerous time of the year for children living in the DREAM communities:

- They are more at-risk of being victims of violent crime,¹
- They have a higher likelihood of unintentional injury and death,²
- They are at significantly greater risk of stress, risk-taking behavior, and substance use.³

Because these children spend more hours on their own and begin self-care at younger ages than other children, they are at increased risk of harmful outcomes.⁴

In order to prevent the dire social and financial consequences that result from a lack of supervised summer programming, we must target the summer time.

Parents are also concerned about the summer. In response to the statement “briefly describe the need for scholarship [for summer camp],” reported from the Templeton Court Apartments Scholarship Assistance Application (made possible by a one-year grant from HUD for the summer of 2001), mothers provided the following assertions:



“Cary’s counselor from the elementary school strongly recommended that Cary be part of a summer program.”

“Wayne needs structured activity during the summer. His school year has gone very well and there is the concern that unstructured time at Templeton Court during the summer will not be good.”

“Barbara has requested to go to overnight camps and this (scholarship) will give her the opportunity to be involved with fun, organized activity during the summer while she is out of school.”



Serious, extended, and well-coordinated summer intervention is needed to give these children healthy starts. DREAM is ready to step up to the challenge...

1 Pederson, DeKanter, Bobo, Weinig, & Noeth, 1998
2 The National SAFE KIDS Campaign
3 Dwyer, et. Al., 1990
4 Petit, et. Al., 1997