Stability and Change in Afterschool Systems, 2013-2020

1. Afterschool System Coordination is Continuing

More than three-quarters of the cities with afterschool coordination in 2013 were still coordinating in 2020.

2. More Cities Have All Three Elements in Place

The proportion of cities that had adopted all three key components described in the research on afterschool systems—a designated coordinating entity, a common data system, and a framework or set of standards for program quality—grew from 29% in 2013 to 40% in 2020.
3. Fewer Cities Had Coordinating Entities, While More Had Data Systems and Quality Standards

The percentage of cities with a coordinating entity decreased from 69% in 2013 to 58% in 2020. But between 2013 and 2020, cities with a common data system increased from 40% to 63% and cities with quality standards/framework increased from 69% to 83%.

4. Financial and City/County Leader Support Linked to Greater Use of Quality Standards, Data Systems

There was a statistically significant relationship between increased funding for afterschool coordination and the use of quality standards or a quality framework in 2020. There was also a statistically significant relationship between having a high or moderate level of support from the mayor or county executive and having a common data system.

5. Strengthening System-Building: What’s Needed?

Respondents in a majority of cities expressed a desire for more resources and support in a number of areas, including effective communication with partners and the public, using data for program planning and improvement, and helping program providers collect, report and work with data.