

# **FAST FACTS**

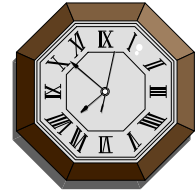
*Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service*

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## After School and Weekend Hours of Library Media Centers in Colorado Public Schools, 1997



Time is precious during the school day, whether one is a student, a teacher, a staff member, or an administrator. All too often sufficient time cannot be found to visit the school library media center (LMC) during regular school hours. What's a person to do? One commonly used alternative is the local public library; but in many small and outlying communities public libraries are open even fewer hours than LMCs. Besides, few public libraries anywhere in the state develop staff and collections with the intention that they serve as adequate substitutes for their school counterparts. Ideally, then, students, teachers, and others—including parents—would be able to visit their school's LMC at some time beyond the regular school schedule, either after school on weekdays or on the weekend. Of course, such "after hours" access requires a variety of resources, including staff, funding, training, and a secure facility. The number and schedule of such hours will vary based on the school and the community.



The majority of Colorado's LMCs are open some time after school hours and on weekends, but larger schools and those serving larger enrollments are likelier to open "after hours."

### Highlights

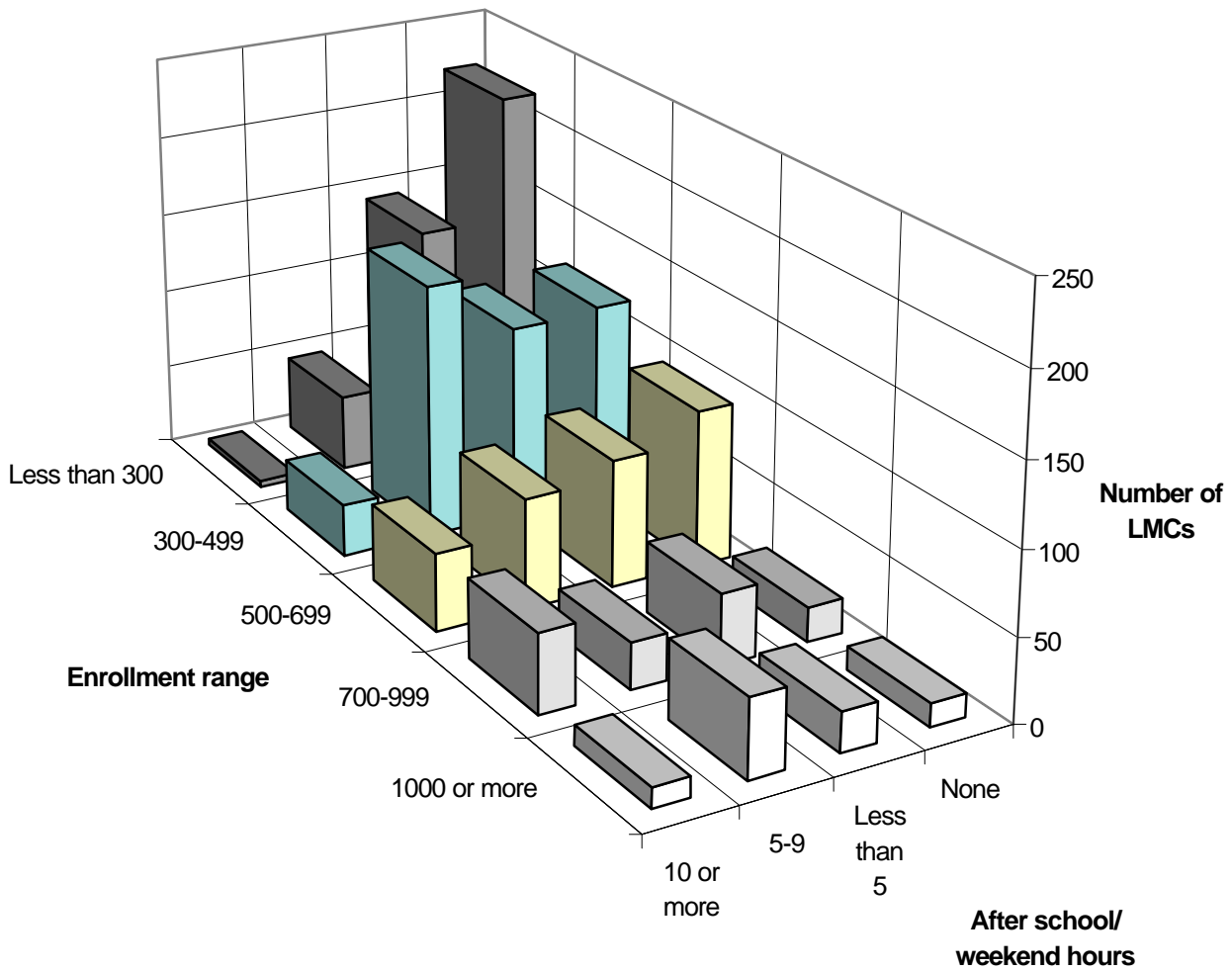
- Two out of three Colorado LMCs are open some hours after school hours and on weekends.
- One out of 10 LMCs is open 10 or more hours per week after school hours and on weekends. A quarter are open 5-9 hours per week, and almost a third are open up to five hours per week "after hours."
- Three out of four elementary schools have library media centers that are never open after school hours or on weekends.
- Almost half of schools serving enrollments of less than 300 have library media centers that are never open after hours.

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### After School/Weekend Hours of Library Media Centers in Colorado Public Schools by Enrollment Range, 1997



### After School/Weekend Hours of Library Media Centers in Colorado Public Schools by School Level, 1997

