

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIVE DISEASE

Sustain and enhance existing mental health prevention and addiction support services for children and adults.

Foster achievement and self-sufficiency.

Birth to age 23

Mental Health Statistics

One in ten children has an impairing mental illness. 1 in 4 high school students reported feelings of depression severe enough to impair their daily activities.

Student Survey - Alcohol

- 47% believes there is nothing wrong with people under 21 drinking beer or wine. 33.9% are "neutral" on this subject.
- Almost 30% have consumed *more than a sip* of alcohol in the past 30 days.
- 52% say it is *easy* or *very easy* to obtain alcoholic beverages.
- 28% say they got it from a *friend over the age of 21*. 24% said they got it from a *friend under the age of 21*.

Accomplishments

To date, the Coalition to Prevent the Misuse of Alcohol has reached 2,868 middle and high school students by the "Rethink the Drink" Social Media Campaign. Another 1936 students participated in the Text Back Campaign (both Prevent and Pledge).

TEEN PREGNANCY

Provide prevention programs and services to middle and high school students and their parents.

Reduce teen pregnancy and STDs. Eliminate the risk of violence and exploitation.

Students, Grades 5-8
 Teens and Parents of Teens

Children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement, more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.

Pregnancy and Graduation Statistics

- Only about 50% of teen mothers receive a *high school diploma* by 22 years of age.
- In 2012, Bartow County had *131 teen births*, ages 15-19. This is 40.1% compared to the state rate of 33.6%.
- In 2013, 33% of Bartow County students and 22% of Cartersville City students failed to graduate on time.

Accomplishments

- Due in large part to the efforts of the Bartow County Teen Pregnancy Task Force, Bartow County's teen pregnancy rate decreased by 54% from 1994-2010.
- During the 2013 academic school year, 2406 Bartow County teens were reached through evidence-based pregnancy prevention programs and youth development activities, Service Learning Activities, Red Ribbon Week, and Puberty and STD presentations.

HOMELESSNESS

Provide support and services to homeless children and their families.

Increase academic achievement.

Homeless students in the Cartersville City and Bartow County Schools and their families

Homelessness influences every facet of a child's life — from conception to young adulthood. The experience of homelessness inhibits the physical, emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral development of children. While poverty is the leading cause of homelessness, there are other reasons why a family becomes homeless: lack of affordable housing, domestic violence, economic mobility, and teen parenting.

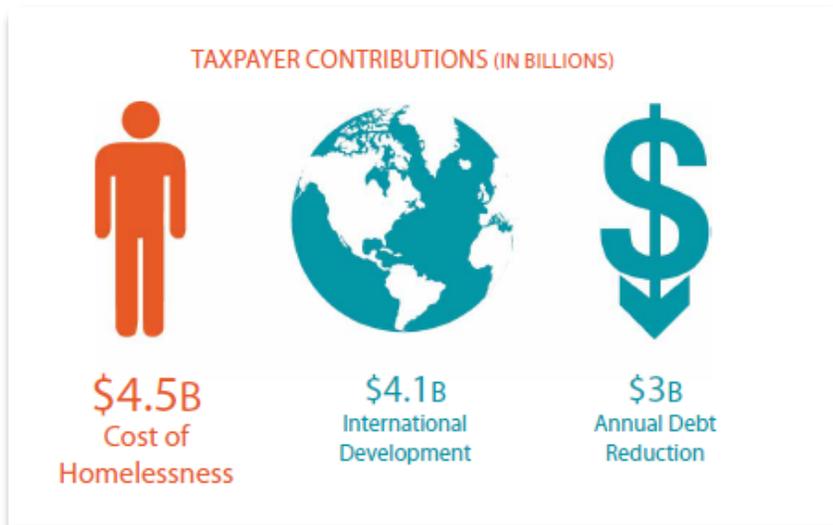
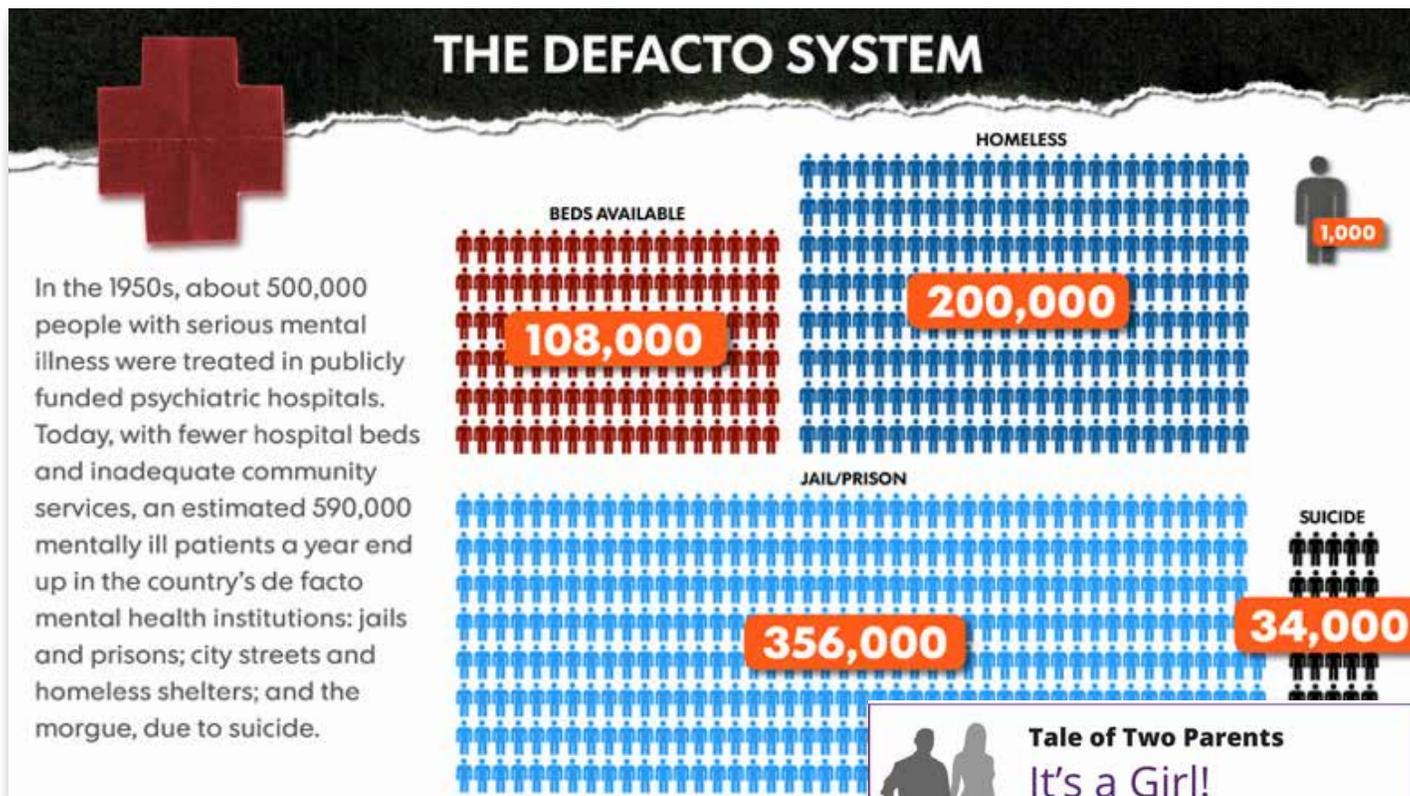
Poverty Statistics

- In 2012, a total of 8,683 students in Bartow County Schools and 2,371 students in Cartersville City Schools received *free or reduced lunch*.
- More than 700 students across the county receive a *backpack of food* each weekend.
- 23.9% of Bartow County's children are living in *poverty areas* (data reflect larger pockets in Allatoona and Adairsville).

Challenges

The Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter receives an average of 25 calls monthly from families in need of housing that are turned away due to lack of space.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT



Tale of Two Parents It's a Girl!

Jane is raised in a married, two-parent family. Compared to her peers* raised by single parents, Jane has better odds of succeeding in school, in the workplace, and in family life.

At age 30, Jane is:

- 9 percentage points** more likely to have a high school diploma or GED
- Working an average of **179 more hours per year**
- 12 percentage points** more likely to be married
- Earning an average of **\$4,735 more in annual income**
- 12 percentage points** less likely to have become an unmarried mother

*Controlling for age, race/ethnicity, mother's age at birth, mother's education, and scores on the Armed Forces Qualifying test (which measures intelligence and knowledge of a range of subjects). Based on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

AEI Learn more about how family structures economic success in America at www.aei.org/paper/for-richer-for-poorer/