North Carolina Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation

NORTH CAROLINA EUGENICS AND THE ROLE OF THE FOUNDATION

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www.sterilizationvictims.nc.gov
Information Hotline: 1-877-550-6013
Overview

- Eugenics in America
- NC’s Eugenics Laws
- The Eugenics Board of NC
- Repeal of Eugenics Laws
- State Efforts
- Establishment of the Foundation
## Eugenics in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is Eugenics?</th>
<th>What is Sterilization?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developed in the late 1800s</td>
<td>Medical procedures that leave a person unable to conceive children</td>
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- Developed in the late 1800s
- Selective breeding of humans and animals to rid the population of characteristics deemed unfit

- Medical procedures that leave a person unable to conceive children
Eugenics in America

1907: INDIANA
First U.S. State to pass sterilization law
Eugenics in America

Buck v. Bell 1927

Historic U.S. Supreme Court Decision upheld sterilization laws in U.S. States

States increasingly pass laws to carry out sterilizations

Ruling never overturned

L-R: Carrie Buck and mother at Virginia insane asylum
Eugenics in America

By 1935: 25 states have sterilization laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States with sterilization laws now in effect</th>
<th>States with bills now pending —</th>
<th>Bills vetoed since 1907</th>
<th>States in which bills have never been introduced</th>
<th>Amendments now pending</th>
<th>Amendments passed within one year —</th>
<th>Amendments killed within one year —</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
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</table>
North Carolina’s Eugenics Laws

1919: FIRST STERILIZATION LAW ENACTED

NO DOCUMENTED STERILIZATIONS UNDER THE 1919 LAW

CHAPTER 281, PUBLIC LAWS OF NC, SESSION 1919
North Carolina’s Eugenics Laws

1929: 2\textsuperscript{nd} STERILIZATION LAW PASSES

49 PEOPLE STERILIZED UNDER THIS LAW

CHAPTER 34, PUBLIC LAWS OF NC, SESSION 1929
North Carolina’s Eugenics Laws

1933: 1929 STERILIZATION LAW STRUCK DOWN

NC SUPREME COURT STRIKES LAW
1. LACK OF NOTICE OF HEARING
2. LACK OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

CHAPTER 34, PUBLIC LAWS OF NC, SESSION 1929
North Carolina’s Eugenics Laws

1933: 3rd Sterilization Law Enacted

Legislature re-drafts sterilization legislation that includes:

- Notice of Hearing
- Right to Appeal
- Creation of Eugenics Board of NC

Article 7, Chapter 35, NC General Statutes, Session 1933
1937: STERILIZATION HOSPITAL STAY LAW ENACTED

TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF INDIVIDUALS INTO STATE HOSPITALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STERILIZATION

CHAPTER 221, NC GENERAL STATUTES, SESSION 1937
Eugenics Board of NC Members:

Commissioner of Public Welfare
Secretary of State Board of Health
Chief Medical Officer of State Hospital
Chief Medical Officer of Institution for Feebleminded
NC Attorney General

Board reviewed petitions for sterilization and authorized sterilization procedures 1933 - 1977
Eugenics Board of NC

Total Sterilizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Sterilizations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1929-1935</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935-1940</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1950</td>
<td>1606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1960</td>
<td>2983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1968</td>
<td>1687</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969-1974</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7528</td>
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Eugenics Board of NC

![Chart showing sterilization data by decade and race]

- **Total Sterilizations**
- **White**
- **Nonwhite**

Decades:
- 1929-1935
- 1935-1940
- 1940-1950
- 1950-1960
- 1960-1968

Hue Representation:
- Blue: Total Sterilizations
- Red: White
- Green: Nonwhite

Repeal of Eugenics Laws in North Carolina

1977:
EUGENICS BOARD OF NC ABOLISHED

1977-2003:
INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION LAWS REMAIN IN GENERAL STATUTES
State Efforts in 2002-2003

- Governor issues apology to victims
- Governor establishes Task Force to review NC’s Eugenics program
- Involuntary Sterilization laws removed from General Statutes
State Efforts Post 2003

- Eugenics Exhibit travels state
- NC House Select Committee appointed to review compensation for victims
- $20,000 recommended per victim; no funds appropriated
- Eugenics Board Historical Marker erected
- Foundation established
Establishment of Foundation

- Established by Governor Bev Perdue to provide justice to victims of NC’s Eugenics Board

- General Assembly provided non-recurring $250,000 appropriation in FY 2009-2010 for the Foundation to carry out its duties

- Functions as a clearinghouse to assist victims

- Provides staff support to Gubernatorial Task Force for Sterilization Victims (2011)
### Efforts 2010-2011

- Division created in Department of Administration
- Staff hired
- Clearinghouse Search Procedures developed
- Clearinghouse Information line launched
- Clearinghouse information distributed to public agencies throughout NC

### Clearinghouse Verifications

#### Oct 2010 – Feb 2011

Phone Inquiries: 70  
1st Party: 44  
3rd Party: 18  
Other: 8

Verifications: 26  
Matches: 5  
(7 since March 2010)
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For more information,

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Visit
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